



Welcome to *Union Street* #77 (Obsessive Press [JG] #179 and Peerless Press [SC] #79), the zine with the transmogrifying seasonal masthead which this month celebrates the changing of the OE. It comes to you from Jeanne Gomoll and Scott Custis, whose address is coincidentally 2825 Union Street, Madison, WI 53704-5136. Phone 608-246-8857. *Union Street* was created on a Macintosh Quadra 840av, and hardcopy was printed on a LaserWriter Select 360 printer. Text was created with Microsoft Word 5.1 and laid out with Aldus PageMaker 6.0. The *Union Street* Logo was designed with Adobe Illustrator 5.5 and Adobe Photoshop 3.0. All contents are copyrighted © by Scott Custis and Jeanne Gomoll, August 1996, for *Turbo-Charged Party Animal* APA #122. Members FWA.

Official Business

[JG & SC] We second both Julie Zachman's and Diane Martin's nominations to *Turbo*.

Motion

[SC] I move that we erase the following language from Rule #1, "..., *except for members living outside the United States who must submit at least one page of material every three months.*"

We have been over some of this ground before, but this is the first time in many years that we have no overseas members who would be immediately affected by changing this rule. The fact is, foreign members do not need the extra month to maintain their memberships. All of the overseas members we've had for years have used email to send their zines to the OE or local agents. None of them send their zines in the mail. It is too slow and expensive. They receive their apas via air mail almost as

fast as domestic members on the coasts. There is no reason to give them an extra month. Since they have the extra month, most of them have used a full three months to send zines. They don't contribute more often than they have to even though they easily could. **Andy** has objected that someday we might recruit a member who lives in Tierra del Fuego or someplace and won't be able to email a zine. Fine. I see no reason the OE and/or the membership can't grant that extraordinary individual a different minac schedule. But let's not make it automatic for everyone out of the country.

[JG] I agree. It seems counterproductive to me, to make special allowances for out-of-country folk because they cannot easily contribute to ongoing conversations, if these special allowances only encourage greater delays.

Ellen Klages

[SC] Welcome to *Turbo*. You did a good job of timing your fine debut zine so it appeared at the very front of the apa (it is generally believed that zines in the front of the apa generate more comments than zines at the back.)

Thank you for giving us such a detailed (!) description of what happened at WisCon and your recovery. Through the rest of the convention and afterwards, many many people came up to me to say, "Wow, great convention! How's Ellen Klages?" It's a relief that you are really OK.

Of course you gave us a bit of a scare. Me and my "airtight security plan" had provided for a doctor at the hotel for minor stuff and, in case of serious medical emergency, we could always call 911 and send the patient via ambulance to any of three nearby hospitals. I hadn't planned for a medical situation that was too serious for the doctor at the hotel, but not serious enough to warrant lights and sirens and lots of disruption. I frankly didn't know how to get into the emergency room at the nearest hospital.

I don't know if you remember any of this, but the crowning moment for me was standing on the street outside the Concourse hotel. You were helped into **Steve Swartz's** car. Several of us were standing around the car trying to give Steve directions, which no one actually knew (real good advice, like "Just follow the signs.") when the young woman who was driving the local horse and buggy ride strolled over and gave him correct directions. That was pretty embarrassing. Thanks for bringing that lapse in my planning to my attention so dramatically.

[JG] ...Meanwhile, I was running around the parking garage below the Concourse, looking for Scott's and my car. I had volunteered to take you to Meritor, since it looked like I was the only one who knew how to get to the emergency entrance of that hospital. But Scott and I had lent our car to Meg Hamel during the day, and couldn't find her to tell us where she'd parked it. So I started at the lowest



level, and began running upward. Needless to say, I found it only a few spaces away from the parking lot entrance on the topmost level. By the time I got to your room to pick you up, you'd been driven to the hospital already.

What a wonderful health plan you have, informal or not. Let me guess, your surgeon prunes your bushes when you're out of town, the dietitian feeds your cat, and the dentist delivers a new toothbrush every month.

Kim Nash

[SC] "I wonder what would happen if we suggested moving WisCon to Milwaukee." Actually Jeanne and I were talking about something like that after WisCon 20 when interest in putting together #21 seemed at its lowest. We wondered, since there were so many excited folks at #20, that maybe WisCon could best maintain its focus and level of excitement if we offered it to other fan groups to do, like Worldcon or the Tiptree Award or Potlatch. That way the con would be done every year by a group of excited and enthusiastic feminist fans and the local group would only have to get up for it every few years. I still think it's not a bad idea.

Michael Rawdon

[SC] Very fine follow up submission. Your choice to plunge back in rather than wait for initial feedback is a good one. Settle right in, Michael, and make yourself to home. You're doing a great job. I particularly like the fact that you voted last month. New people often elect to sit out Official Business for awhile, but I don't think this issue is too hard for a new member to grasp.

There used to be a little sidewalk stand on the square that sold biegnets. I have no idea how authentic they were, but they were very good. I miss that stand.

Re your comment to me on driving. You would rather drive in Boston!? I've driven in New York City, Chicago, LA, Austin and San Francisco. I have been in London. I would much rather drive in any of those cities than Boston. I was in Boston a few years ago. I watched traffic. I thought it was scarier than hell. I am not saying they are incompetent. I am saying that their priorities regarding a place in traffic verses life and limb are different than mine.

[JG] You picked two of my favorite books to review. I'm quite a bit more enthusiastic about both of them than you are.

You are right about how Le Guin's *The Left Hand of Darkness* is being read differently as time goes on, although she got criticized immediately after its publication by some who felt her use of the male generic confounded her characterization of the Gethenians as neuters. At the time, Le Guin

disagreed with those critics, but Le Guin now says that using the male generic pronoun was a mistake. In fact, in the 25th anniversary edition of *The Left Hand of Darkness*, she re-writes several chapters using different pronouns. Chapter 1 is re-written two different ways: one with invented pronouns and another with feminine pronouns. Chapter 9 is re-written with alternate pronouns (that is, neuter pronouns for people in somer, gendered pronouns for people in kemmer). Reading these chapters supports my opinion that pronouns are incredibly important in that they can completely rearrange assumptions in our minds. When James Tiptree, Jr. was assumed to be a man, Robert Silverberg called her writing "ineluctably masculine," and the participants in a feminist discussion group (*Khatru 2/3*) attacked Tiptree for a complete lack of understanding of the concept of motherhood. So too, I think, do readers make enormous assumptions when they are confronted over and over again with pronouns that seemingly identify gender. No matter how often the author might assure you that the characters are genderless, the pronouns wield a huge amount of power. *The Left Hand of Darkness* would have been an entirely different book with a change of pronouns: not because Le Guin's would have written a different book, but because we would have *read* a different book.

Le Guin says this about the first chapter, re-written with feminine pronouns: "I [*changed*] all pronouns for Gethenians in somer to the feminine. But ... I also feminized the personal nouns—king becomes queen. lord becomes lady. This latter change has a very powerful and I think revealing effect: It shows that the feminine noun is as domineering as the masculine pronoun....When all is made feminine, it is as untrue to Gethenian reality as when all is made masculine. In both cases, it's too easy."

She also writes of the re-written kemmer scene: "I've never seen so clearly how I was controlled, when I wrote the book, by the hidden force, the real dominance, of that false-generic 'he.'"

So, while *The Left Hand of Darkness* was an amazingly important book to me when it was published in 1969 for the ideas I'd never encountered anywhere else (simply the fact that gender might not define a person, or in Le Guin's words, "a vision of genderless justice or the dream of two as one"); it is now important to me on a whole other level, a deeper level. It illuminates how deeply rooted so many of our gender assumptions are in society and in my own mind.

I love *Red Mars* in a very different way. (Ironically Le Guin doesn't like Robinson's *Mars* books,

and so it's no surprise, I guess, that I think of her writing so differently from Robinson's.) I love the complexity of the three *Mars* books, especially the complexity of Robinson's take on political power in urban communities. That's not a very common subject in most SF. It seems to me that most SF that considers the birth of a new society or the colonization of a new planet have mostly taken extremely simplistic approaches, in comparison to Robinson's. You refer to Robinson's use of the "Great Man" theory of history, but by the end of the trilogy, Robinson seems to be saying that this interpretation of history is mostly illusory; that it's far more complex than that. And as political/social descriptions get more complex throughout the trilogy, so too do the characterizations. Characters start out stark and archetypal, and as we get to know them through their actions in the trilogy, reveal surprising depths, complexity and contradictions.

And of course, as do most people who have read the *Mars* books, I admire the huge amount of research and love that went into these books in terms of sheer information about Mars and theories of terraforming. (A mind-boggling fact: Robinson earned a degree in English literature, not any science.) Robinson does his homework. Every once in a while, I run across an article about something or other that I thought he made up in the *Mars* trilogy or the *Three Californias* trilogy. Nope, it turns out it already exists or soon will....

Having read the whole *Mars* trilogy, *Red Mars*, *Green Mars*, and *Blue Mars*, I find it almost impossible to discuss just one. Like the *Three Californias* trilogy, Robinson is one of the few authors that I can think of (along with Suzy Charnas, perhaps) who has mastered trilogies as an art form (as opposed to a marketing ploy). Each of his trilogies, both the *Mars* trilogy and *Three Californias* trilogy are more than the sum of their parts. The thematic interweaving that goes on between books in Robinson's trilogies makes them both masterpieces.

When *Red Mars* first came out, a few of us in the Madison group read it and I was really surprised by how *varied* our reactions were to it. Everyone identified with or liked different characters. And it catalyzed some extremely interesting conversations about the morality of terraforming and about the ecology movement in general.

I know I will be reading both Robinson's trilogies again. These are landmark books in my life. But, you know, none of the *Mars* books is first and foremost important for their story-lines. Robinson makes this point fairly blatantly in *Red Mars*. In the very first chapter he lets us know that Boone will be killed at the end of the novel, and all the way through

the book we anticipate this happening. (This is not to say that nothing *happens* in the book that surprises us, but it defuses the desire to know "how-will-the-story-end." Robinson is clearly saying that's not what's important to him.)

Re your comment to **Scott**, I also dislike how few motorists in town use their blinkers. I've deduced some "rules" that seem to be at work here:

Preservation of Blinker Fluid Rules

1. Do not waste blinkers. Every car has a limited number of blinks available to it in its lifetime, and if you use your turn signals too often, you may one day *run out!* Turn signals are a motorist's most valuable resource next to gasoline.
2. Never use turn signals if there are no other cars in sight. Pedestrians and bicyclists can't hurt you, so why waste blinks on them?
3. Never use blinkers if you have the right of way. If everyone has to wait for you anyway, why bother letting them know which way you are going?
4. Other motorists should be able to read your "car language." If your wheels are sort of turned in the direction of your intended turn, or if you are slowing down in the lane next to another car, the other drivers should be able to figure out which way you want to turn. It's their fault if they misjudge you. There's no reason to waste turn signals on these dimwits.
5. If you're in a hurry, never use turn signals. Confused motorists, bicyclists and pedestrians will tend wait or stop if they're uncertain about what you are going to do, thus opening up opportunities for you to swerve around or turn in front of them.

I share your disgust with Wall Street opinion that low unemployment is acceptable, even desirable. It goes further than complacency, though—the idea that, as you say, "We've gotten this far, and that's good enough." It's worse: I think that for Wall Street, a healthy economy actually depends upon a certain level of poverty. We blame the poor for being poor, but at the same time, the economically powerful absolutely require a certain percentage of our population to be poor. We should all be outraged at the morality of this mechanism and work to change it.

You wonder about the title of Tommy Thompson's book, *Power to the People*. Weirdly, Thompson compares himself and his administration to the Progressive Movement in the book. It's the Big Lie technique, I think.



Georgie Schnobrich

[SC] Marvelous cover Georgie. Thank you.

Thanks also, on behalf of the entire WisCon committee and then some, for your comments on WisCon 20. It was nice catching sight of you rushing through the halls now and then.

A Home For the Terminally Fannish sounds quite pleasant. I could imagine Dr. Bill being in charge of Entertainment or Amusement for which medication would be a subcategory within his department.

Re Martha Stewart. I have nothing against her personally either. I think the problem is with the Martha Stewart *hype*. You know, she is everywhere. Her ever-presence drives people nuts because it sort of underlines how little time (and money) most people have in their lives to devote to doing the sort of stuff she does. She needs *a* show, *a* book, or *a* column. But she is a whole industry that is hard to ignore. That makes her irritating and a target. I thought the tide would turn when she did the excellent American Express commercial where she ended up lining the bottom of her pool with cut up credit cards. She showed that she had a sense of humor about herself.

I enjoyed your comment to **Andy** describing the contractor who employed fans for a job. Congratulations on the new furnace and central air. We have also thought of replacing our old furnace and getting central air, but the summer has been so cool and pleasant that we haven't talked about it much lately. But as I am writing this, the weather is beginning to warm up. We may be start talking about it again, after all.

YCT Bill and **Julie** about your cake. My plan at the auction was to cut and serve the cake at the Dead Dog party Monday night. Monday morning, Jeanne and I hurriedly got our stuff packed to check out of our room and had a couple friends help us carry everything down to our car. I know the cake was in the pile of stuff to take. In fact, I think I picked it up as we were leaving the room. Much later, when I finally made it to the Dead Dog after moving the dreaded art panels in the rain with **Tom Havighurst** and **Sandy Taylor**, Julie asked me about the cake. I began a search that took about 45 minutes and included our car, the parking garage, the HQ room and even our hotel room (it hadn't been cleaned yet)—but I could not find the cake. Julie was very disappointed and I was utterly confused. I mean, I remembered taking it. Somewhere between our room and the car, it disappeared. The next day, after all the rest of the WisCon stuff was cleared out of the hotel, I finally asked the front desk if they found a cake (it was quite distinctive and easy to describe.) Yes, they had. They said they found it in our hotel room! The only thing I can figure is that I remember picking it up in my only free hand Monday morning, I must have set it back down (possibly in the closet) to pick up something else just as we went out the door, and left it. If it was in the closet, I might have missed seeing it when I went through the

room later. I think the cleaning staff was getting set to eat it when I claimed it, there was a slight indent in one corner of the frosting. I took it home and we shared it with our houseguests, Bill Hoffman and Rose Cain, with ice cream. In spite of the detour, it was still very good.

[JG] It struck me, as I was reading your zines, Georgie, how really *good* you are at colorful metaphors: "Vampire Knife," "spiritual vitamin deficiency," Forrest's "override button," marriage as a lobster pot, "When it looks like society is going to send you to bed without dinner..." fannish energy as demolition skills, a "foolish inconsistency" as dessert, "Work Poisoning, a result of sustained toxic overload of body and spirit," and "furnace-ectomy" — all in just one issue of your zine. No wonder your zines are such fun to read! Have you ever heard what Suzette Haden Elgin has to say on the subject of metaphors? She thinks their use is the most powerful use of language (in that the use of metaphors is the easiest way to actually change people's minds).

I agree with you that nursing home life is a scary prospect. Comparing such a life to a freshman dorm is, in fact, an overly generous metaphor, I think. At least with a randomly chosen, college dorm roomie, you could have expected this person to have completed high school, and be interested, on some level, in education. A nursing home roomie will be randomly chosen from a much bigger population than a college class. Your suggestion of a "Home for the Terminally Fannish," made me think about what kind of nursing home I would prefer: Maybe one built near a library, with one of the primary recreational opportunities advertised being reading groups.... (That doesn't sound too unlikely, either. Sounds like a marketing niche, to me: nursing homes advertised according to interest groups. There might be a Hacker Home, a Feeding Frenzy, Reading Rooms, Liquor Lounge, a Pool Hall, etc., etc....)

Is it de rigeur to hate Martha Stewart?? I'm aware of the jokes about her. (There is, in fact a new book out, a parody, in which a jello recipe begins, "First, render a cow's bones...") But I didn't realize that she attracted out-and-out hostility. I guess I can believe it, though. I think that anyone that can do something or make something from "scratch," attracts a bit of anger from time to time. I sense some hostility, sometime, about baking desserts from scratch and some of my design projects (gifts, holiday cards, etc.). (Obviously it's a rather silly reaction: we all choose to prioritize our time according to our own desires. That someone else makes time to make treats for their guests from scratch, shouldn't make anyone feel guilty because they've chosen to use their time to do something else. But

then that's probably human nature. It's easy to be convinced that others are judging us by their standards.) And you're right, there are many people in this area who could out-shine Martha in single areas. The incredible thing about Martha, though, is that she seems to be able to do it ALL. As Scott says, she's an industry. I watched one of her (daily!) shows on TV a while ago and my jaw gradually dropped as the show proceeded through a gardening, cooking, and a home crafting demonstrations. Then there was a little commercial for a cake decorating kit of Martha Stewart's design. The scene showed her packing a kit into a box, wrapping it in brown paper, and in the next scene, there was Martha, driving the delivery truck down the road.... I think the amusing thing about Martha Stewart is imagining how much a shambles the rest of her life must be if she is putting *this much time* into the stuff we see on her TV shows, books and magazines.

I loved your report to **Andy** on the fannish work group. It made me want to see a series of cartoons showing the difference between fannish workers and the traditional kinds. What would the fannish guy say to passers-by on his/her lunch break? (Obviously they wouldn't whistle at women.) This needs to be investigated further. I'd like to see a longer article about this group.

In a comment to **Vijay**, you say: "*Society assumes that women who permit men to brush or lean against them without moving away are inviting sexual contact of some sort.*" No kidding. Last week, Scott and I went to a Rep Theater show at the Isthmus Playhouse. The seats are carpeted benches with short backs, arranged amphitheater-style around a small central stage. Seating is fairly comfortable, though my legs almost touch the back of the seats in front of us. As it turned out, the guy in front of us sat with his elbow swung on top of and beyond the back of his seat. His elbow jabbed my knee and I reflexively moved away. But I couldn't move my leg without crowding the people next to me or making myself uncomfortable, so the next time he removed his arm from the seat back in order to clap, I carefully stationed my legs straight in front of myself and refused to budge when his elbow swung back and jabbed my knee. He was forced to move his elbow slightly. However, he didn't remove it entirely, and from time to time his elbow brushed my knee. Well, after the performance, he turned around and I got the oddest look from him. I could have sworn he thought we had been playing the upper arm equivalent of "footsie," and when he realized I wasn't paying any attention to him, (I was talking animatedly to Scott about the show), he looked positively annoyed.

You write to **Nevenah**, "*I'd like to think that when the baby boom gets old, sheer numbers will make it acceptable to be old, but I doubt it.*" Actually, what I think is happening, is that boomers are trying to redefine the concept of youth. According to a poll I read recently, 70 or 80% of all boomers think they look younger than most of the people their age, obviously a statistical impossibility. But it says a lot about some of the myths of our generation.

Great zine, beautiful *Turbo* cover, Georgie. (Are you going to put the four drawings together as a series or mosaic and sell them?) And great work too, on the WisCon 20 Souvenir Program Book cover. What a lovely piece of work that was! There's always something so disarmingly REAL about the people you draw. Their eyes seem alive (even when they're not hand-colored!).

Nevenah Smith

[SC] It sounded like you were actually having fun writing your zine. I sure had fun reading it.

Johnny's family sounds utterly fascinating. You could spend some years learning about these folks. Marty Scorsese? Cool. I am a big fan of his stuff. We were just watching a 60 Minutes interview with him a few weeks ago which included a walk through his old neighborhood. Even cooler that Johnny counts Carmine Galanti and Aunt Vita in the family. It'd be tough to avoid constantly asking questions about these people. And the Brooklyn branch too. With this big family all around, why does Johnny want to leave New York?

YCT **Pat** on drive-in theaters, I agree that it would be a shame to see them die out. I had many good times at drive-ins. I can't remember a single movie I saw at one. Your comment confused me a little. You say the first movie you saw on your own was the horror double feature. Did you mean that you saw it at a drive-in? When you were 7 or 8? How did you manage that?

So whereabouts is Maspeth?

[JG] You mentioned being pleasantly surprised by something Anne Harris wrote in her acknowledgments. I just finished reading *The Nature of Smoke* — advance uncorrected proofs which **Jim Frenkel** gave me a week before WisCon. ("How did you like the book?" he asked at WisCon. I gave him a withering stare, and have just now gotten around to it and liked it very much.) I can't find any acknowledgments in it. Was something added in the for-sale version? Or are you talking about a new book?

Sandra Taylor

[SC] The move went pretty well I thought. You all were kind enough to have plenty of pizza (fuel) and beer (oil) for us moving machines. Nice place. What does all



of Larry's paranoid energy get focused on now?

[JG] So, is the reason you got a new entertainment center that it's easier to do that than remove all the books I packed onto the bookshelf on which you used to keep electronics?

Jae Adams

[SC] Great pieces on WisCon.

Re: *Independence Day*, I think you are on to something with this connection to our national guilt over using the bomb in Japan. I haven't had many "bad dreams" that had happy endings, however. Possibly we are looking to justify our continued maintenance of the nuclear bomb arsenal in the light of the collapse of our only viable earthbound enemy. We might need the nukes to fight aliens. Or perhaps it is a dream of the kind of President and leadership we'd like to have. Free of a pesky Congress and Supreme Court, our dashing young leader could jump into a fighter plane and blow away our problems quickly and accurately. When we were first told that the aliens were just scavengers who went from planet to planet destroying or enslaving the populace, sucking the natural resources dry and moving on, I asked myself, "Who does that sound like?" Hundreds of years of white European colonization? Modern day multinational corporations traveling from country to country exploiting a region then abandoning it when it is sucked dry? Doesn't it sound a bit like us? And the treatment of women in this movie is really pathetic. It's a bad film. Cool explosion sequences though.

YCT Andy, "*Both Scott and Tracy have been all too consistent, and astonishingly lacking in whim or caprice.*" I think everyone would grow tired of an OE with an abundance of "whim and caprice" pretty quickly.

I also enjoyed your piece on the Shakespeare controversy. I had no idea there was one.

[JG] I have the same reaction as Scott to your use of the word "nightmare" in connection to *Independence Day*. This is a wet dream, not a nightmare, in spite of the fact that the images might be viewed as nightmarish from another perspective. This movie is a dream of a culture which does not wish to acknowledge the horror of total nuclear war and still thinks that such a war can be "won," even if it occurs on our own soil. I've had dreams which felt extraordinarily good while I was dreaming them, but horrified me when I woke up. Perhaps *Independence Day* is like that.

Nonetheless, I think this movie's use of nuclear destruction by Americans to win the war at the last possible moment (which is the myth of Hiroshima) is very significant, especially considering how wildly popular the film has become.

Tracy Benton

[SC] Unless I miss my guess, I expect a number of apans will take some time to point out calculation errors in your chart. I wouldn't want to miss the boat on that, so here's mine. Since Swartz was obviously my puppet master for the last two years, he shouldn't get points back for following my policies since they had to have actually been *his* policies to begin with. I couldn't very well have policies of my own. He should not earn five points back and should finish behind Nash, the way I figure it. Of course by the time you read this it will be too late to change your vote (naturally I had to consult Steve before making this decision too.)

[JG] I don't think Scott's very happy about being called a puppet, even in jest.

I notice you listed Jane Austen's *Sense and Sensibility* on your list of books read. I just started reading it. It's embarrassing to admit, but I've been convinced to return to Austen by the movies. Within the last month, I've seen Emma Thompson's *Sense and Sensibility* (and read her screenplay and diary, too), the 6-episode A&E version of *Pride and Prejudice*, and *Persuasion*. Without a doubt, I will see *Emma*, soon. I read someplace that Jane Austen is Hollywood's current, favorite writer.

It's embarrassing to admit that it took a movie to make me want to read an author like Austen, but I'm glad of the second chance. I tried to read Austen in high school (*Pride and Prejudice*), but I completely missed the point back then. I not only missed the fact that Austen was criticizing her restrictive culture and economy that forced so many hard choices on women and made such a necessity of marriage, but I also missed Austen's wit. Reading S&S with this new perspective is a real revelation for me, and *fun*, too. I picked up two really nice hard-cover volumes at Borders that include all Jane Austen's novels, and I'm planning to read them in order. Well, I may skip *Northanger Abby*. I read that in the proper spirit in college (as a satire of gothic novels), and still didn't think much of it.

I'm really looking forward to immersing myself in Austen. Just hope I don't start talking like Miss Manners.

You write, "*Your WisCon backlash is not so negative as mine!*" Actually, for the first time in my fannish life, I don't think I experienced any backlash, which is amazing considering what a huge amount of work this convention took. A lot of people have assumed that my attitude after the con was a sort of burn-out, but really, I was just bummed out that so few people seemed to feel the huge sense of renewal of energy I felt as a result of the con, and that we might end up not even *doing* WisCon 21. I am

really glad that Diane and Jim have volunteered to do W21. I will be doing programming for W21.

Vijay Bowen

[SC] How is the job hunt going? Or are you going to hold off on that project for awhile?

[JG] Don't be so sorry, Vijay! Given that I was able to give a far more elaborately detailed version of what we could have done (than what we would have done), I'm sure someone could write a far more elaborately funny version of what might have happened at the apricot feeding (than what would have happened). If that makes any sense.

Clay Colwell

[SC] Thank you for the con report. I think I saw you come in on Friday night, but I had no idea what you had gone through to get to us. I'm sure glad you made it OK and I am looking forward to the next installment of your report.

I hadn't heard about how dry it was down your way until I saw your zine, then I started noticing stories about it on the news. Do they have you on water rationing yet?

Re communication, this sort of thing happens with Jeanne and I once in awhile. One of us (usually me) will have some confusion over some minor thing and the more time I take struggling with the words to explain my confusion, the more frustrated she gets. Yeah, I've been there. It can happen to couples who have been together for years.

Bill Dyer

[SC] Re: union stuff, I believe the situation you describe is the first of its kind I've seen in awhile. Here in the state of Wisconsin, professionals have their own unions. Nurses have their own union, I think, and the other professional staff (social workers, psychologist, etc.) are in a different union and the support staff are in yet another union. Having all of us lumped together would have created some problems too because, obviously, we all have different priorities. Is it possible to split off and form your own union?

If you're stuck with the others, then it looks like you'll have to learn to live with the beast. I hate to say it, but it sounds like your union had a chance to meet the needs of the rabble (my word) and failed. Blaming them for their lack of involvement is not reasonable. They obviously felt left out and without a voice for a long time before hatching the plan to depose your group altogether. You can't fix that kind of animosity overnight.

Hope Kiefer

[SC] *"I also feel,...that the OEs ship should be a declared amount of time; two years being my best sugges-*

tion." When I initially decided to stand for OE, I thought I would offer a "vote of confidence" every year so folks could signal to me they were ready for a change of leadership. I thought that was reasonable since I was making a few changes that might irritate a lot of folks. I never did it because I was afraid I would vote myself out by announcing the confidence vote and the usual half-assed number of respondents would total less than half the membership. I think if I had ever sensed a growing dissatisfaction with how I was doing things, I would have offered a vote of confidence. But I received very few complaints.

Your idea has some merit. This might be a good thing to consider as a tradition rather than a rule proposal (since we already seem to experience a natural change in leadership every 2-3 years). I don't think I want to vote any "removal of OE" machinery into the rules, but trying to encourage a tradition of voting for OE (or to retain the current OE) every two years is a good idea.

Re: the baby thing, I am not expecting a zine from you in August, but I sure am looking forward to some good news from you.

Pat Hario

[SC] I am very glad that you are feeling better about the apa and your contributions to it. I have always been a fan of your zine. The proof is the fact that you more consistently succeed in getting comments from me than almost anyone else.

Good, clear-eyed comments to **Bill Bodden**. The only ones I saw last month.

YCT **Tom** on advertising, I did some trashing of advertising in our zine last month too. But I have to admit that I have had more than a few good laughs at radio, TV and print ads over the years as well as some "Wow, how did they do that?" responses. Some of the cleverest people in the entertainment business create these things and sometimes the results are pretty impressive. I liked the Infinite ads because they seemed so ridiculous that they could only be a sort of parody of car ads. Imagine the sales pitch they had to make to convince the brooding car execs. to agree to an expensive car ad without showing the car. I just think that is gutsy. And honest in a funny way. That is, after all, what they are really selling. Image, not car.

[JG] I'm glad too, that you're feeling better about the apa. I really enjoy reading your stuff. Thanks for the colophon notice.

Bill Humphries

[SC] Re: uncivil liberties, good for you. You did good and you should be proud of yourselves. I think in a similar situation, I would have been more reluctant to get in this person's face personally by stepping in her way as



she came up the line. That is what they pay security to do. I would have reported her, and accompanied the security guy to identify her, too. It's too bad you felt threatened enough by her to leave the park but, for what its worth, you did everyone else there a public service.

On Being OE

[SC] Well, it was a lot of fun. I never grew tired of doing it. I never felt "fed up." Some years down the road, if there was a serious need, I might consider doing it again. I agree with **Andy**, that there are quite a few of you who are not only qualified to do it, but would do it well and enjoy it.

Now is a particularly good time for me to stop. My new schedule has put a special emphasis on weekends, since that is the only time Jeanne and I spend together. Committing one weekend a month to doing the apa feels like more of an imposition on our scarce time together. I am also a bit burned out from the last two years' work on WisCon 20. I am not to the point where the mention of WisCon and *Turbo* together prompts me to run off screaming, but I am cutting back on my immersion in each. I am working on WisCon next year, but in a smaller role and I am continuing in *Turbo*, though no longer as "Godking."

I made a number of changes to the apa that I am happy with. The revolving alphabetical listing of zines on the contents page was Jeanne's idea and has worked out very well. The addition of the Roster page, I think, has proven handy. One motion passed during my tenure, a small change to the rules insuring that cover artists get minac credit for their efforts. It was my idea and I'm happy with it. All other motions proposed during this period failed.

The most controversial policy I implemented during my tenure concerned the dreaded Grace provision vaguely alluded to in Rule #6. For those of you who are new to *Turbo*, Grace is an extension to the minac rule. If you are on MustWrite for this month, you can ask the OE for "Grace" for a month if you have a "satisfactory explanation" why you can't get a zine in by the deadline. This has plagued past OEs who always had to decide every month whether to extend Grace to folks who gave them all sorts of excuses for not making deadline. I decided early on that I wouldn't do this and specified the three possible reasons I might accept to grant an extension. 1) If you wound up in the hospital that month. 2) A family member or very close friend died. 3) Natural disaster such as flood or fire destroyed your home.

The result of this policy was that I dropped seventeen people from the membership for failure to make minac during my "reign." I wound up granting Grace only four times. Not bad. I quickly eliminated the Grace space

from the contents page so new folks wouldn't even tend to think about it as a possibility. Eventually, even some of the hard-core, last-minute writers stopped asking me about the possibility of getting Grace if their zine didn't make it in the mail on time. They knew the answer was always, "No." This made being OE a lot more fun. I didn't have to feel like I was responsible for keeping people in, or throwing people out of, the apa.

Not that I didn't help people who got in deadline trouble now and then. But the solution always had to involve their getting some kind of zine to me in time.

My policy was good, but not perfect. If I were going to run for OE again, my policy would be to not grant Grace at all. The truth is that I granted Grace only four times in three years, but I don't think I ever granted it for exactly the reasons I specified above. Last month **Cathy Gilligan's** brother (only in his 30's) suddenly had a stroke. He didn't die, he had a stroke. Now, I was not about to tell Cathy or anyone else that she couldn't have Grace because he was only in intensive care instead of dead. I also didn't count on my own errors, which led to my needing to give an extension to **Lisa Frietag**. **Bill Bodden** was left suddenly without means to produce a zine, but it wasn't a natural disaster. Lilian Edwards had an accident that prevented her from using the computer for a few weeks, but I don't know if she actually went to the hospital. The trouble with setting a policy like this is that reality doesn't like to cooperate.

I hated being put in the position of having to decide if your excuse was good enough. I believe people who have families, lives, important and/or demanding jobs, school, etc. should just assume that they will get into trouble with the *Turbo* deadline now and then and should be prepared for it. Either have a generic substitute zine ready to hand in, or just be resigned to sit on the Waitlist for awhile. If you are important to the community and a good contributor, folks will support your return. If there is no Grace, then the waitlist will turn over faster and you will get back in sooner. Personally, I have no trouble with fine writers and good friends like Bill Hoffman, **Nevenah Smith** or Lynn Morse cycling through the list over and over. I like having them here when they are here. And I like them a whole lot more if I don't have to listen to them tell me their troubles every few months over the phone (and they like not having to beg for Grace, I'm sure.)

Oh well, **Kim Nash** says I was too "mean." He may be right. It is a good time for a change.

Next month I hope to do my last annual apa statistics for the year ending this month. I may also print the interlineos from all the contents pages with sources (as many as I remember.) And other stuff. Stay tuned.

—Scott & Jeanne, 14 August 1996