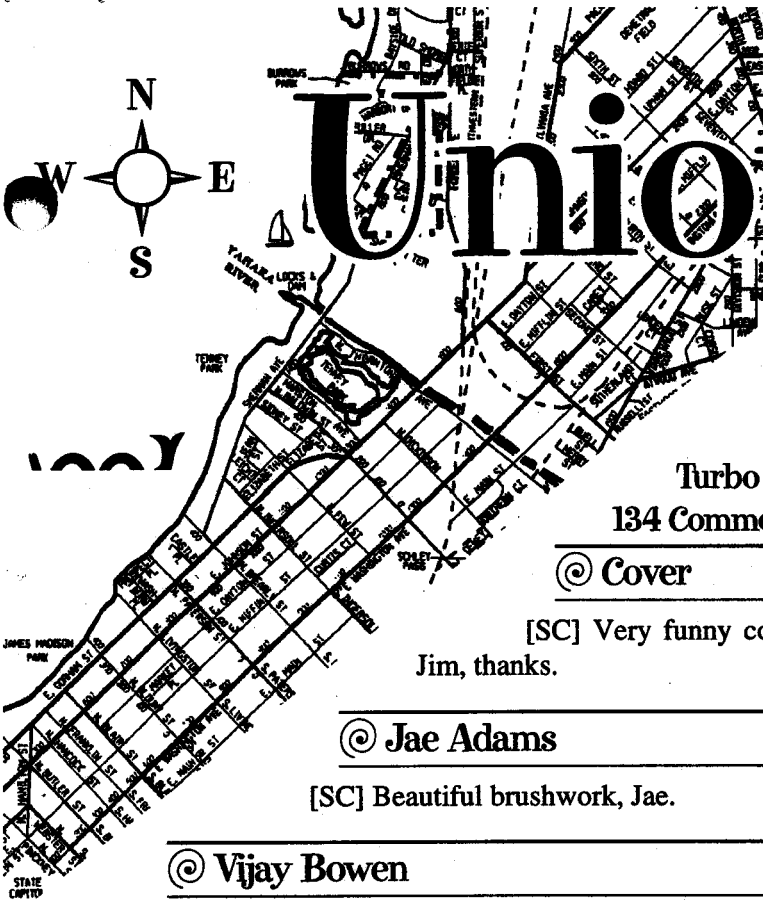


# Union Street

A joint zine by Jeanne Gomoll & Scott Custis



Turbo No.  
134 Comments

© Cover

[SC] Very funny cover,  
Jim, thanks.

© Jae Adams

[SC] Beautiful brushwork, Jae.

© Vijay Bowen

[SC] In a comment to me you said, "Actually, tea is for conversations with family; beer is for light-hearted how-to-improve-the-world conversations; wine is for potential seductions/sensual encounters." Substituting coffee for tea above, I agree with your statement as far as it goes. Your family conversations may be mellower than mine, but for me it wouldn't be the same visiting back home without everyone feeling over stimulated, hypersensitive and edgy from too much coffee. In recent years I have come around to the idea that wine is also the perfect beverage for dinner with a few very close friends. It is classier, subtler and friendlier than anything else (also why it's so popular with lovers?) Beer is still the beverage I think of when it is time to really unwind, be gregarious and open to adventure. Ideally in a comfy bar or patio.

© Bill Bodden

[SC] You talked about the nasty new loitering ordinance passed by the city council. You wrote, "Crime in Madison is very low. Violent crime rates for the city are well below the national average, and yet when people are polled, their number one concern is: crime." Yes. I believe the media is largely responsible for

this. TV news (the source of news for most people) is dominated by crime news because it is attention-grabbing, full of lurid visuals and easy to report (i.e. the reporters don't have to think or understand anything complex to talk about it.) Not only the news, but movies, books and TV are heavily dominated by crime and mayhem to the point where folks living in cities are practically afraid to step out to get their mail.

"Our problem isn't drugs; our problem is too many people allowing someone else to do their thinking for them." I couldn't agree with you more.

© Heather Aynne Brooks

[SC] Congratulations on the promotion, although a few weeks in the Big Chair might have convinced you by now that expressions of sympathy are more in order. I remember fondly my days as a supervisor, fondly because those days are long gone. I have the two years of experience for my resume, which is handy, but no burning desire to go down that road again.

Recently at my job, I had a reminder why being a supervisor isn't all power and glory. We were hiring to fill a vacancy a few weeks ago. They interviewed some good candidates (I know because they do a computer demo for them next to my cubicle.) They eventually worked down their choices to a man who was recently laid off from his state job in another agency, and a woman from the Department of Corrections, both were lateral transfers (in the same pay grade as our position.) I was told the story of what happened by my leadworker.

They finally chose the man, Dan, and my supervisor Mark called him up to offer the position. Dan accepted. Then, out of the blue, the personnel department (insisting that this was the opinion from "downtown") stepped in and told Mark that we couldn't hire Dan after all because Dan had only recently been upgraded to our pay status, and was still on probation when he got laid off. Mark was understandably not happy to have to call Dan back and

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Union Street #90  
Obsessive Press (JG) #198  
Peerless Press (SC) #92

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give him the bad news. Then he called up the woman, Lisa, and offered the job to her. She accepted.

Dan, meanwhile, wasn't going to take this news lying down. He called his former boss for a second opinion. The boss could see no reason why Dan's probationary status would make any difference. Dan then went "downtown" and confronted the personnel gurus. They gave in to him and called our supervisor Mark to tell him that he had to take Dan after all. This was clearly personnel's screw up and Mark told them OK, just let him know when they broke the news to Lisa. He hung up. They called back. They told Mark that, indeed, Mark would have to call Lisa.

Mark left work early that night looking unhappy. My leadworker told me that Mark told him he was headed to Smokey's to meet his brother. Mark told his brother he would be easy to find, look for a pathetic drunk in the corner.

Cool email address. Are you the 14th Margarita on Juno, or is that how many you order after a bad day at work?

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### © Clay Colwell

[SC] In your comment to me, Triangle Square? Really? I like that.

In your comment to **Jim Nichols** you talked about the difference between Wile E. Coyote and Curly the Stooge. I think I have always viewed the Stooges simply as clowns without makeup. It's an old vaudeville style of physical humor that was well past its day even when I was a kid. But it was still funny to us kids. I haven't seen an episode of the Stooges in many years, and I have no idea if I would still think it was funny (I doubt it.) I'd probably be more amused at the nostalgic feelings it would inspire in me. But I'm quite confident that I will still laugh at old Road Runner cartoons. Cartoons are a far superior medium for funny mayhem.

In your comment to **Michael Rawdon**, you mentioned the case of the soldier who was outed by the Fire Marshall from the soldier's videos. This is a sad case. So was the one I saw on *60 Minutes* a week ago where an Air Force officer's career was ruined when an ambitious subordinate falsely accused him of having a sexual relationship with a female officer who was not his wife. The list of sad cases in the military goes on and on. I feel real bad for these people, but I was lucky to have a father who explained to me that serving in the military was not like having a job. When you are in the military, they own you. It is strictly hierarchical, it is not an institution that is about fairness or individual rights. The welfare of the institution always comes first. If it's all part of "the job" to be ordered to kill or die on demand, then why should

it possibly matter if a few individuals are merely abused or disgraced for the perceived benefit of the rest of the institution?

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### © Pat Hario

[SC] Very entertaining vacation tale. It all sounded very relaxing. Too bad it had to be bookended by less pleasant events.

[JG] Since I'm the person most responsible for overzealous sanding which opened up that hole in your door, I apologize for having been indirectly responsible for your bee sting. Ouch. I know how that can hurt. A bee stung me last summer and it took a whole week for it to stop hurting. Nice graphics, by the way. How do you get that thick border with uneven thicknesses on different sides??

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### © Andy Hooper

[SC] I enjoyed your piece on good old Howard Waldrop. He is such an interesting guy. I will always remember how delightful he was last year at Potlatch reading one of his new stories. I would love to hear him read again. Think we can lure him back into town the next time Potlatch is in Seattle?

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### © Karen Karavanic

[SC] Welcome to *Turbo*. I hope you have fun here. I thought your intro zine was very good.

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### © Hope Kiefer

[SC] With regard to your comment to me on fear of flying—I can imagine as a travel agent you would encounter all sorts of odd ideas about flying. At least I'm not superstitious. There is just something about big jet airliners that I don't feel right about on an elemental level. I see how helicopters work, and ultra lights and balloons. But big jetliners just don't look like they have any business being off the ground. I have had the physics explained to me, which is interesting. But abstract physics theories don't comfort me much when I am sitting inside the damn plane. I always start looking forward to the appearance of the drink cart.

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### © Diane Martin

[SC] Polydactyl cats?

Your construction stuff is all very exciting, Diane and fun to read about too. Of course Jeanne and I are a tad envious. I came home from our last tour of your place and I had to squint at our house for a few minutes before I

could see it beneath the layer of needed improvements and repairs that I mentally superimposed all over it. It's so nice to have an old house so we always have grist for conversation (plans, projects, repairs, worries, etc., etc., etc.)

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© Lynne Ann Morse

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[SC] I find your dispatches from your new home to be enormously interesting. It is the sort of radical move that Jeanne and I often speculate about when we travel. Plus the whole idea of living in Ireland is cool. Keep us posted, please.

"*Left is safe, right is dangerous.*" it makes a good mantra for politics too.

The acting sounds like fun. Interesting to think of an American accent being in demand.

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© Michael Rawdon

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[SC] In your comment to me on downtown Madison, I think our discussion is even more interesting in light of the recent Isthmus report on development downtown. There is a boom in new apartment and condo construction that may actually threaten to overdevelop the area. Downtown isn't dying, it couldn't be more alive. Not just business development, but housing. That can't all be credited to the convention center, of course (though I don't think all the attention has hurt.) But I think the center has helped spur some of this new activity. I have not seen so much excitement downtown in the ten years I have lived in Madison.

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© Vicki Rosenzweig

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[SC] In your comment to me responding to my question about what evidence of concern about the Chinese takeover of Hong Kong you noticed on your trip, you wrote, "*Four if we count the reporter who asked our opinions about the tour of Government House, and about the takeover, which we cheerfully gave:...*" What is/was your opinion about the takeover and did the reporter have a reaction to it? I also found it interesting that their concern about a possible curtailment of free speech prompted them to curtail their own opinions before any new policy even existed. I'd call that a troubling development.

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© Georgie Schnobrich

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[SC] Very amusing experiences you had at the State Fair. Clydesdale Bill the backup Apocalypse mount and the Demon Cows were hilarious. Your little fan group

must have been a pretty wild gang. Way too much imagination to be real adults, I think.

Your concluding piece on women and clothing brings up an interesting point that I hope will get picked up for discussion. Which is it, should women celebrate the freedom to dress however they please or should women ban together to put a stop to fashion demands that objectify and sometimes physically hurt women? I don't know. Normally I'd support freedom whether it's good for you or not, but in this case it is not clear whether a predatory fashion industry and sexist media don't hide behind freedom while ultimately hurting women. I don't think legislation is part of the issue here, what I want to know is, is it acceptable or unacceptable to oppose fashion that ultimately hurts women?

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Comments on Turbo No. 135

[SC] Thanks to **Jim Frenkel, Hope Kiefer, Bill Humphries, Jim Nichols, and Michael Rawdon** for writing about their experiences at Worldcon in San Antonio.

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© Party Announcement

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[SC & JG] Once again it is time to mark your calendars for our annual New Year's Eve Bash, December 31, 8 pm, our house. A formal invitation with all the details will be pubbed here next month.

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© Cover

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[SC] Marvelous cover once again Georgie. Your work gives the apa such an elegant appeal.

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© Jae Adams

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[SC] Very nice travel piece about your family vacation trip around Southern Wisconsin, Iowa and Illinois. I used to live in Davenport and I have known several people who worked at the Rock Island Arsenal, but I never went to see the museum there. Sounded great.

Lost Nation? You really did travel off the beaten path. That's near my old stomping grounds. I have long forgotten how the town wound up with their mysterious name, but it hardly stands out in a state with town names like Confidence, Thirty and What Cheer.

[JG] I've often felt similar feelings toward my mom as you report. ("*...This part of me that is her has no knowledge of other parts of me, which is emotionally problematic, as I am otherwise various & imaginative.*") I don't ever think of the pseudo-me that she draws out to be *her*, however. I more often feel that

it is the me that existed when I last lived in my parents house, still rebelling against a the distorted image she projected upon me. Sort of like a previously saved, corrupted version of myself; I keep wanting to boot up the upgrade and more and more often these days, I am successful.

Suzette Haden Elgin would be really interested to hear about that semiotician who addressed you all on how "*the symbolic and gestural parts of writing can be analyzed.*" She's always on the lookout for material like that.

Fascinating notes on the brushwork class (from which Scott and I gained the character, Mindfulness). I am not sure what you mean when you say it was so hard. Do you mean the difficulty stemmed from re-learning habits of creating strokes? Were there subtleties of line that were hard to see and reproduce? Or something else?

As for the WisCon concom lacking a "*basic level of friendly process that can make even business meetings a welcome chance to see one's friends and spend a little joy along the way,*" well, I think if you came to a meeting, you might not feel that way. The most recent W22 meeting at Hope's house was remarkably friendly, relaxed and party-like.

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### © Tracy Benton

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[SC] I thought your piece on your aunt Dorothy was quite moving.

Corflu and WisCon (and Potlatch) are different in fundamental ways that go beyond attendance, I agree. A shrinking WisCon forces the committee to make tradeoffs to accommodate size and a shrinking pool of volunteers. I just hope that in these circumstances, the committee feels free to focus on what they want to do more than attempt to be all things to all people.

I am not sure if I agree with you about pie vs. ice cream, so yes, I believe I will take you up on your offer (oh boy!)

Your comment to Pat on Animated Anastasia was perfect. Are you chomping at the bit to see what they do with it? I remember being curious about *The Hunchback of Notre Dame*. Afterward I couldn't help thinking that the cool animation didn't quite make up for changing the story.

[JG] Great essay title: "Three Tall Women." I have a much different reaction to Diana's death than you. See my comments to Barb Jensen on this.

I like your essay on women's clothing. It's a good thing for me, too, that I don't deal with customers who freak out when they meet a woman not

wearing nylons because I'd freak out a lot of people. Maybe I already do, but that's their problem.

You ask me why I keep books if I never reread them? It's not that I *never* reread books, just very, very seldom. (Joseph Heller's *Catch 22* probably holds the record for most frequent re-reading by me. I think I've read it 5 or 6 times.) My rule on keeping books is that if I can't imagine ever wanting to reread a certain book or would never recommend it (and lend it) to someone else, then I get rid of it. This rule keeps books in my collections that I frequently end up referring to in the course of writing book reviews, articles and correspondence ... even essays in apas. For instance, last month, I finished an essay about WisCon and feminist SF that is actually going to be printed as the introduction to Helen Merrick's and Tess Williams' anthology, *Women of Other Worlds.*, and I was very lucky to have the books I needed on hand on my bookshelves. On the other hand, I've never collected for any "completist" reasons. I may have most of Melissa Scott's books, for example, but I have already gotten rid of her dreadful *Star Trek* novel. And if a book languishes too long on my to-read shelf, I am apt to get rid of that too.

You also asked whether I found it frustrating not to be able to explain to an animal what it did wrong and have it never do that thing again. I assume you were referring to my exasperated description of Elk's dog, Rosey, and her accidents while she was staying at our house. Dogs are capable of learning what behaviors are wrong. I thought Rosey was well aware of the wrongness of pissing on couches. The fact that she pissed on the couch *while Scott was in the very same room* indicated to me that she either didn't care anymore or that she was having physical problems that prevented her better judgment from controlling her actions. I got frustrated because it meant that for the rest of the week I needed to keep a really sharp eye on her, like a little kid that you have to watch all the time. When I was working in my office, I tended to keep her in there with me, with the doors closed. She didn't like that, but that's how it goes. Recently, however, I found out that Rosey has the same problem at home, and since she pisses on the couch while Elk is away, she never gets punished for it. So it's no wonder that she didn't realize our couches were to be treated any different. So in this case, my frustration transfers from Rosey to Elk. If we get a dog someday, I *will* expect that we will be able to train that dog not to ruin the furniture.

The Doonesbury storyline about Alex's Beanie Baby collection must have been running while Scott

and I were on vacation. But you're right! There's a Doonesbury site on the web, very similar to the Dilbert site, with archives. I did a quick search and caught up on the episodes I missed. Thanks!

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© Clay Colwell

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[SC] In your comment to **Georgie** on movies regarding seeing them in the theater vs. at home on video ("*I've never seen Prospero's Books. I've always wanted to, but I fear it won't translate well from movie-screen-size to TV-size.*"), I completely agree. This feeling partly fuels our tendency to see a lot of films in the theater. Jeanne and I often look at what movies are showing in town and choose based on what we are most impatient to see. We also place a high priority on a movie we are interested in that we fear will translate poorly to TV if we elect to rent it later. Even so, our work schedules and the rapid influx of new films in town occasionally frustrates us. We missed Greenaway's newest film *The Pillow Book* when it briefly ran here. I remember seeing *The Cook, The Thief, His Wife and Her Lover* at a local theater and I thought it was one of the lushest movies I'd ever seen. I was completely absorbed in it. Jeanne, unfortunately wasn't with me. Months later, Jeanne and I rented it on video and watched it at home. Jeanne found it interesting and entertaining, but even on our 27 inch TV, I felt the movie lost a lot of it's power.

[JG] I think the idea that different sexual practices = evil can't be blamed on the Bible, though that best seller certainly does its part in shoring up the notion. Its a fairly common human reaction based on ignorance and low self esteem and one that shows up in nearly every culture and every religion.

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© Bill Dyer

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[SC] In your comment to **Lisa**, you mentioned that the Klan was coming back to Saginaw. I hope you managed to go down and take a few pictures. I'd be very interested to hear what happened and see pictures.

You also wrote, "*We, as a nation, lack focus. We have great resources but are divided and divisive.*" This is partly due to a failure in leadership, in my opinion. Rudderless leadership could be blamed on a fickle, self-absorbed and spoiled electorate, but I also believe that powerful forces of wealth and privilege enjoy the status quo just fine and work hard to keep it in place.

[JG] Your comment to **Tracy** about the seeming "cuteness" of bears vs. the fact that they're the largest predator in North America, reminded me of the recent film, *The Edge*, which is about three guys in the wilderness being stalked by a ferocious bear.

The movie was well done; the bear was incredible and never reminded me of a teddy bear.

I'm actually getting a lot more optimistic about Apple's future than I was a couple months ago. It helps that I am a subscriber to Guy Kawasaki's MacEvangelist list with plenty of news about what's going on and counter-arguments to the almost entirely negative (and frequently erroneous) press Apple has gotten this year.

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© Lisa Freitag

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[JG] It must have been a scary time for you alone at home with William when the sirens sounded and the storm struck. I remember that storm; we heard about it on the news that night, and about the tornado sighted at the Minneapolis airport. (The newscasters said it didn't touch down, but looking straight up, people found themselves looking up *into* a tornado!) We had some pretty wild storms around then too, but not as bad as you got up there. In another apa (mostly west coast members), I described a violent storm blowing in over Lake Mendota, and several of the apa members were aghast that I hadn't been cowering in the basement. It's funny how mostly blasé most of us in the Midwest are about violent thunder storms. The smell of ozone is so exhilarating, it makes me want to be out in the weather. I wouldn't even mind seeing a tornado sometime, from a distance, anyway.

Thanks for the book reviews. I think I'll have to go find *Good Omens*.

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© Hope Kiefer & Karl Hailman

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[JG] I really like the Room of One's Own's new space. It's much roomier, lots more comfortable. And it's great having a coffee shop there. I look over catalogs ROOO gets and make recommendations for SF purchases; this is something that Karen Axness used to do and ROOO doesn't have any other SF fans on staff. I used to pick up the catalogs and take them home to look them over. These days I just wander over to a table with them and sip some tea while I make little checkmarks in the margins of the catalogs. What an idyllic activity!

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© Tom Havighurst

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[SC] I enjoyed your piece on the wedding in Iowa, but I really wanted to thank you for writing about Mad Media. I am glad they are enjoying success and I wish them well.

[JG] It sounds as if you have mixed feelings about the wedding you attended in August, but I can't figure out just what parts made you feel uncomfortable. Seeing old friends in new light? Changes in yourself?

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© Bill Humphries

[JG] Thanks for the news about the Wisconsin campus being the number one activist campus in the US (according to *Mother Jones*). I've got the feeling that, considering the times which aren't too rebellious, that isn't saying a whole lot. "Berkeley didn't make the top ten. Posers." *Funny*.

And thanks, too, for the book list. I recently bought Amitav Ghosh's *The Calcutta Chromosome*. I'm looking forward to SF with a different slant.

Scott and I just read Jon Krakauer's *Into Thin Air*. What an amazing book! I was most struck by Krakauer's extreme honesty. He didn't really dispel the criticism he received after the disaster about the effect his failure to offer assistance had in the deaths of several of the climbers. And I admired him for using such a public forum to try to get what happened down as honestly as he could ... even to the point where I found I disliked him sometimes. Examples: his pride in the fact that he carried oxygen canisters back down with him rather than littering the mountain; the way he pushed ahead of other climbers and patted himself on the back for trying to help the sherpas a little when he (usually) made it to the next camp ahead of the others; *versus* his blindness to the predicaments of his fellow climbers. I get the feeling this book was a sort of exorcism for Krakauer. But it was also an amazing description of what it is like to climb so high into the atmosphere.

I envy your opportunity to hear Stan Robinson read from his new book, *Antarctica*. I'm looking forward to reading it. (And what a funny image: that traveling to Mars in a spaceship would be like spending 6 months in a Motel Six.)

The book we used most often at that DGEF conference was Lynda Weinman's *Designing Web Graphics.2*. I haven't got a web page up yet.

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© Barb Jensen

[JG] Scott and I hoped we'd be able to make it, but it's now clear we won't be able to travel up to Minneapolis for Non-a-ReinCONation. We have tickets to the second part (*Peristroika*) of the play, *Angels in America* the Sunday of N-a-R weekend, not that we specifically tried to get busy that week-

end. Scott and I have been interested in seeing that play for over a year now and were surprised to find out that — because we'd bought tickets to a play at Milwaukee Rep last year — we were among the few offered the chance to buy a pair of tickets to the two-part *Angels*. The Milwaukee Rep produced the first part (*Millennium*) and the Milwaukee Chamber Theater will be producing the second part. Scott actually bought tickets for us for my birthday, but we had to take the dates they gave us and be happy about them. Which we mostly are, except for the fact that we're going to miss a fun weekend up in Minneapolis. *Millennium* was fantastic — a cultural, historical, soap operish, fantasy of AIDS in America. It's more universal than that, though: this play is about America as seen through the searing lens of how we as a country and as individuals have confronted the AIDS crisis. I think it will end up becoming a classic American play. Anyway, we're both really looking forward to the second part, with its different director, actors and staging.

Thanks for all the lovely writing about Judith Merrill. And thank you too, for having worked with WisCon 20 to get Judy to Madison. I've heard from so many people who attended that convention and met Judy for the first time there, that meeting her was one of the great highlights of their time at WisCon. In fact, it turns out that WisCon 20 meant a great deal to Judy, as well. She apparently talked about it frequently with her family. After her death, her daughter told us that it had been such a highlight of her last years that they were asking anyone who wished to send flowers or make a donation in Judy's name to the James Tiptree, Jr. Award fund.

Scott and I heard the news of Princess Diana's death outside a McDonalds in Estes Park, Colorado, when we noticed the headlines in a newspaper during our vacation. I was rather surprised that the news media continued their blanket coverage even a week later after we'd arrived home again. I was stunned to hear so many people claiming to feel a personal connection with Diana. I remembered my own reaction to her death, "Oh, how sad. Now we'll never find out what happens with her life!" and started to think about Diana's actual connection to most people in the world. Her death will change the lives of only a few of us, yet everyone seems to feel some degree of loss. I think that connection is very much like the one millions of people feel toward an actor who plays the main character of an incredibly popular TV series. It's as if we all saw the cliffhanger, finale episode of the show "Diana's Life," at the end of the last season and have been waiting to find out

what would happen next. We've been hearing rumors that she would become engaged to a new prince, possibly a sleazier prince than her last one, but in any case the possibilities for a riveting new season full of more ups and downs for our heroine, Diana, were promising. And suddenly this. The season is canceled, and unlike real TV actors, Diana won't reincarnate into a different sitcom. We knew Diana no better than we know sitcom actors, and like them, frequently get the person mixed up with the role they play. I think that for most people, our sense of *story* is what hurts, and probably what will make some writers millions of dollars as they compete against one another to write the best "might have been," or "what really happened" conclusion to Diana's story.

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© carl juarez

[SC] Welcome. It is a very fine thing to have you aboard *Turbo*. I hope you have fun.

[JG] Howdy, Carl. I like the image of you designing stuff for Microsoft on a Mac. In fact, I hear this story a lot: from people touring through Windows offices or that IBM companies and stumbling upon the art department filled with Macs. I just got a copy of a Wall Street sort of study of Return on Investments that showed Macs to be so superior to Windows in creative environments that they advised any administrator that attempting to switch a Mac office to Windows is "a breach of fiduciary responsibility—and a career altering decision." I.e., You could get **FIRED!** Their standards for superiority were all financial — much greater profit margins, better pay-back times, greater efficiency, and better bottom line. I'm keeping this for when I do my annual defend-the-Mac show and come up against bureaucrats who are convinced I don't know what bottom line means.

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© Karen Karavanic

[SC] We are looking forward to getting to know you too. You're at Richard's place? Right across the street from the OE, and with a Kinko's only a block away? This *Turbo* apa thing could almost be called convenient for you. I hope it becomes addictive as well.

[JG] A short zine, but elegantly written. Most entertaining! Congratulations on passing your prelims. How long do comp sci theses usually take to write?

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© Ruth Merrill

[SC] Wow, very impressive zine. Great pictures and other cool stuff. You wrote, "*I tried to write by hand last month and ended up not even finishing the job.*" When I was in school I thought writing was a chore. I liked the creative act of writing, but handwriting or typing out my ideas was always frustrating because I tend to do a lot of rewriting and editing as I write. I usually don't go on more than a sentence or two before going back and rewriting until it sounds OK. That made writing before home computers a messy chore. I couldn't write a paragraph without lots of scratched out words and arrows inserting and moving things. I often think that if I had had a computer with modern word processing software when I was younger, I might have tried to pursue some sort of writing-related career (not that I was bound to be successful, I just enjoy writing.)

[JG] **Pat Hario** and I went to see *The Company of Men* at the Majestic last month. It was not an altogether pleasant experience, but I'm glad to have seen it. I think you're right about one of the themes being men's behavior in cut-throat corporate environments: the film's title can be read in a couple ways. After everything I'd heard about the film, I was surprised to discover that Chad's ultimate victim wasn't the woman, but Chad's boss. Destroying the woman was only the means to the end for Chad. And the end was destroying his boss and taking his job. ...Which made the victimization of the woman even more disgusting — because it was only a minor, thoughtless act for Chad on his way to the top. We never get to see what Chad feels about what he's doing: he's always acting the winning part. Even when he's alone and the camera focuses on his face and eyes, nothing shifts, life is a game and the game is everything. Brrr.

I laughed out loud at the image of **Hope** and **Karl** living in far away cities, Placard and Palatino.

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© Lynne Ann Morse

[SC] In your comment to me you wrote, "*Since starting to wear contacts, I've developed quite a fascination with the way appearances and perceptions change.*" Really? Tell us more.

On beer, I was talking about different social occasions that tend to call for certain sorts of beverages. See my comment to **Vijay** above for a few more examples. Let me say here that when I invite someone to have a beer with me, I am leaving the door open for whatever. We might just have a beer and go on our way, or we might



hang out for a while and have several beers. The decision to get a little drunk together is (for lack of a better word) a bonding kinda thing. Always has been for me anyway.

American corporate beer, like cigarettes, is facing a grim market situation in the US. The market here is stagnant. Real growth opportunities exist overseas. So big corporate beer is trying to muscle it's way into foreign markets. You would think that Europeans and the British have too much pride and good taste to switch to bland American beer, but the beer companies are rich and underestimating their marketing savvy is foolish. Couple this with advantages from new trade agreements and US beer will start becoming more common over there. My advice is to fight it when you can by supporting local brewers.

[JG] I hope you're feeling good about your move to Ireland. We're looking forward to reports of your new home.

The aesthetics test isn't on line as far as I know. I got it from Scott who was given it in booklet-form from a job counselor several years ago. I may still have a Xerox of the test, but I don't know off-hand where I might have put it. If I find it, I will send you a copy.

The Roger Black quotes from last month all came from the same book, which I'm afraid I've misplaced and can't remember the title, but I'm now reading his new book *Web Sites that Work*, and have just started to find some good quotations from that book. Like...

*"Nobody reads anything. At least not everything. The only person that will read every word of what you've written is your mother. Everybody else is too busy."*

*"We increasingly see—on the Web and in print—designers running amok and putting the type in yellow on an orange background, or worse. You can't read it; there's not enough contrast between the figure and the ground. . . . Why do the designers do it? Because it's easy to do and they labor under the misconception that they must be novel. (Sorry, illegible design has been around for years.)"*

*"A man who would letterspace lowercase would shag a sheep."*—Frederic Goudy

Well I don't think I'm that brave for telling the story about my social blunders at the DGEF conference. I didn't feel any pain. Even at the time, I thought it was pretty funny. After all, these were

people I'd probably never see again. But thank you for the complement.

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### © Kim & Kathi Nash

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[JG] Have you seen the movie, *In and Out*? There's a scene in it when a young Hollywood starlet, finding herself in a primitive hotel in the midwest, tries to make a phone call on a rotary phone. Just like Liana, she attempted to push the spaces within the dial. Funny.

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### © Mike Peterson

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[SC] Welcome to the apa. Very good first zine. Impressive job on the maps. I don't envy you writing on an old typewriter. I don't think I could stand to do it like that anymore.

I enjoyed the way you introduced yourself to us. Nicely written. There has been some joking about *Turbo* turning into *EpicApa*, but really that is the way things go sometimes. It is common for *Turbo* to experience a sudden influx of members who all met at a convention or are new friends of a member who moved to a different part of the country or work together. We welcome good apa candidates and we trust our members' judgment for bringing in promising contributors.

I was particularly amused by your description of your dogs. More dog stories would be very good, and will help to balance out this apa's apparent fixation on cats.

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### © Michael Rawdon

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[SC] In your comment to **Bill Bodden** about the loitering ordinance, I think complaints about State Street may have contributed support to the ordinance, but my understanding was that the police department was the prime advocate in their effort to crack down on drug trafficking in places like the Allied Drive and Worthington Park. I believe the first arrest under this new ordinance was in the Allied Drive area.

Well stated comment to **Georgie** about making places "safe" for kids.

[JG] Which other writers were discussed at that Worldcon panel, "Creating Wonderful Characters and then Killing Them Ruthlessly"? Did the name Dan Simmons come up? He's killed off his main character (or the character I *thought* was the main character) in the middle of at least two of his novels. A most disconcerting experience. Mary Russell at least warned us from the beginning not to expect anyone but Emilio to survive.



I'd heard a couple years ago that they were getting ready to make Brin's *The Postman* into a film, and when *Il Postino* came out, I thought at first, that was it. Then, when the real news of the SF version started leaking out, I noticed at least one reviewer anxiously wondering why anyone would want to re-make such a perfect film as *Il Postino*. I'm looking forward to the new film; I think the Brin novel could be made into a good movie.

Congratulations on the bike commuting! I've been riding to work regularly since 1979 — resorting to buses when it gets icy in the winter and during rainstorms. I love it. Of course, as we discussed before, commuting from the east side is a little less rigorous than commuting anywhere on the west side.

Re your comment to **Bill Dyer**, I don't think it was stupid of Apple to pull out of the clone business so much as they made a really bad business decision to lease out their OS so cheaply. It makes a lot of sense to stop when they realized that the clones were not enlarging the market, but were simply taking business away from Apple.

Before Melissa Scott's, I only read *Star Trek* novels by Vonda MacIntyre. I'm not at all interested in reading novelizations of any TV show or movie for its own sake; I've only been interested when I know and like the author's other work. Vonda's ST novels are very good: she goes so far beyond what is

possible in the TV show that she creates a greater world than we know through the show. Melissa's take on *Voyager* was not good and I'll never read another of her novelizations.

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© **Georgie Schnobrich**

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[JG] I'm glad you liked *Contact*. Me too. However, the movie hedged on whether Ellie's experience was truly subjective. The president's assistant and the FBI guy and WE know it was not subjective, because we know that the tape of static she brought back with her was a lot longer than the "instant" she was supposedly gone.

Your font is called "Corinna" because it's a copy of the original Korinna. Weirdly, you can't copyright type designs, so there are hundreds of rip-offs, some not very well done, most in truetype not postscript. Yours looks pretty well made.

If *Black Wine* happens to win the Tiptree next year, I'm afraid you're not going to be very inspired by the cover, which is beautiful, but not very cake friendly. It's black on black with a bit of silver....

Ah, yes, "tasteful white space." That brings back memories!

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© **Michael Shannon**

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[SC] Congratulations on the wedding announcement.

—Jeanne and Scott, October 1997