



# Union Street

A joint zine by Jeanne Gomoll & Scott Custis

Comments for No. 140

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## © Cover

[SC] Nice cover, **Tracy**. I liked your elegant solution to the age old problems with gluing things to the cover. Tying the glow-in-the-dark objects on must have been time consuming, but it's effective.

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## © Karen Babich

[SC] Excellent comment and critique to **Hooper** on his ska article. Which reminds me that I forgot to send him a blank tape.

In your comment to **Georgie** about your apa covers, I always liked them and I am glad they were finally able to be used. Knowing you, Karen, I was reasonably sure that an opportunity to use them as a "minac butt saver" would come around again someday.

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## © Vicki Rosenzweig

[SC] Sorry about your TAFF loss, but I am glad that it won't prevent you from getting to the UK this year. I look forward to reading about your trip to Corflu.

Thanks for the information about Mary Robinson, I knew her name was familiar to me from somewhere.

I've been meaning to ask you how you feel about your tattoo now that you've been living with it for awhile. Still think it was a good idea? Still getting comments on it?

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## © Georgie Schnobrich

[SC] The boar's head cake must have been spectacular. Even without a scanner, the picture was still clear enough to communicate the complexity of the job. Very cool. I would like to see a photo album of your cake designs someday.

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## © General

[SC] This is month is a "Scott only" issue of *Union St.* Jeanne is buried in preparations for WisCon 22 programming and, of the two of us, I am the one who is moderately free to write a zine. Originally I had planned to include a con report on Minicon 33, which we greatly enjoyed, but for various reasons the scattered notes I have managed to scribble down thus far are not in readable condition yet. I expect to have it ready for you next month and, by delaying, Jeanne might even get a chance to add a few of her impressions as well.

First I want to include a note we just received from **Bill Dyer**. He is departing *Turbo* temporarily, but I fully expect to lure him back sometime down the road.

*After giving it quite a bit of thought, I have come to the decision that I can't devote the time and thought necessary to submit a worthy zine. I'm working too many hours, I'm in a new relationship, I've just moved to a new apartment (365 N Colony Dr. Apt GB, Saginaw MI 48603, same phone #), though it's only about 100 yards from the prior place, I'll be weeks putting things back in order. So, in order not to inflict overly lame zines on the fine folks in Turbo I feel I must drop out for now, with the hope of being put back on the Wait List in the future when my life is more organized. I hope to keep in touch with Turbans through email, I'll miss the group mix the zine provides though. My best to all, feel free to let others know why I dropped.*

—Bill

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This issue of *Union Street* is brought to you by Jeanne Gomoll and Scott Custis, who live at 2825 Union Street, Madison, Wisconsin 53704. 608-246-8857. ArtBrau@globaldialog.com. *Union Street* #95, Obsessive Press #205, Peerless Press #97. *Union Street* was created using a Macintosh Quadra 840av, Pagemaker 6.0, Illustrator 7.0, Photoshop 3.5, and a Laserwriter Select 360. Display font is Elroy. All contents copyright ©1997 by Scott Custis and Jeanne Gomoll, April 1998 for the *Turbo-Charged Party Animal* #142.



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 © Andy Hooper
 

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[SC] A year ago at Christmas time, Jeanne's parents got me a book as a present. The book was Jon Krakauer's *Into Thin Air*. Jeanne and I and several friends and co-workers found his depiction of the tragic events surrounding a for-profit expedition up Mt. Everest utterly fascinating. We have been talking about it, checking out TV specials and books on the subject and waiting for the release of the IMAX film shot by a crew summiting Everest immediately behind the doomed expedition. In addition, Jeanne and I have seen both the Hollywood Tibet movies this year, *Kundun* and *Seven Years in Tibet*. So this whole region of the world has been on our minds a lot in the last year when along came your absorbing article about yet another famous and mysterious element of this area. I savored it.

I have never taken Yeti stories very seriously before. The scant depictions I've seen have been very melodramatic or silly, but your article puts the issue in a whole new light. Thanks for doing such a thorough piece. I am looking forward to the next installment of wild man myths next month.

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 © Michael Shannon
 

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[SC] Congratulations to you both on your wedding. Thanks for the lovely pictures, they turned out quite well.

Congrats to you also on continuing the flying thing. I expect that you will finish up completely yet this year. Then what? Did you ever work out a deal to buy a plane with your friends? I expect you will want to spend some more time practicing locally before you set out on a long trip, but when you're ready where do you think you'd like to fly to first?

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 © Angie Moore
 

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[SC] Welcome to *Turbo* apa. You wrote very nice intro. piece. It is a pleasure to meet you and Brenton Jay and to have you aboard.

It's always good to find a place in the world to settle down that really agrees with you, like Austin does for you. I think Austin is a very lovely city and would be perfect for us if it didn't get so unbearably hot in the summer and it wasn't in the middle of the Texas. Jeanne's sister Julie lives in Austin and we have been down to visit several times. I look forward to meeting you sometime.

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 © Lisa Freitag
 

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[SC] Regarding your comment to **Jim Brooks** about sending your zines to me marked "Scott Custis, O.E.E.", well I'm asking now. What did O.E.E. stand for?

I thought your observation about *Starship Troopers*' popularity today compared with *Stranger in a Strange Land*'s popularity in the sixties was shrewd. People are far more interested and supportive of military adventures these days than in sexual liberation. I think that is reflected in the movies as well. Can you image how tough it would be to sell the idea of a movie adaptation of *Stranger* to movie executives these days? Selling them a gazillion dollar splatterfest story was easy. Sex themes are often scarier than violence when it comes to movie projects.

We would love to have you all come to our New Years Party. You can count on us doing it again next year.

The trouble with having a good argument in the apa over abortion is that many of us remember having a bitter argument about it in these pages with the late Ross Pavlac not too long ago. Jeanne is not able to take up your challenge this month, but I would like to offer this response in her place for now.

Language is a powerful thing and the anti-abortion people have been very quick to grasp that principal. They have carefully chosen terms that are intended to elicit strong responses in people and to frame the issue in their own terms. Like abortion being "murder" and, following from that, how can anyone be really blamed for fighting against something they believe is murder?

As you know, abortion can't be murder unless you believe that fetuses are people. Their whole philosophy evolves from that idea. If you reject that idea, then it is easy to reject all the silly rhetoric that spews from it. Just because they believe it, doesn't give them the right to act out violently against others who have not broken the law. No religion has the right to act out violently against others just because their religion leads them to believe they should. Think for a minute what a war zone we'd be living in America if every religious person acted out against others as their beliefs dictate. As members of a large, diverse and open society, we must all subscribe to a common rule of law to be able to live with each other. If you throw that idea away and allow people to act however their beliefs dictate, you are inviting chaos. Remember the other side of the coin, some religions preach that illness should be treated with prayer, not medicine. It was not that long ago that Jeanne and I watched a story on *60 Minutes* about a couple who refused medical treatment for their teenage child. The child eventually died of a medically treatable disease. Who is the murderer now?



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**© Vijay Bowen**

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[SC] Congratulations on the new job with the nice salary boost. I liked your method of reciting your activities in January and early February. A busy and very interesting month you had.

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**© Pat Hario**

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[SC] In your comment to **Georgie**, you responded in part to the question I posed to **Lisa** above. How does the dilemma of a child dying in the care of parents who refuse medical treatment (that would have saved it) differ with regards to alien cultures? Your points about your desire to give an alien culture more credibility in such a decision and your wariness of the arrogance of humans were well stated.

I have not yet seen the *Babylon 5* episode you described, but I expect we have it on one of our tapes. We have been taping the daily rebroadcasts as you have, but we hope to watch them all this summer when we have a bit more time. My impression of the episode as you described it was that the story cheated a little by not allowing the doctor to realize that a likely response to his action was that the parents might kill the child. It might have made a big difference to him if he had known that the child would likely die either way. So I wonder if what we are really dealing with is human arrogance or human ignorance.

On the other hand, I never take alien cultures seriously in *Star Trek* or *Babylon 5* or other TV, movie and much written SF. I almost always assume that aliens are stand ins for unusual or unfamiliar human cultures or exaggerated human traits. I see this episode as not about real aliens, but about those human cultures that believe that illness, even in children, should not be treated by medicine. So I am not inclined to give them more credibility for their beliefs just because they have funny make-up. Since I believe we are really talking about humans after all, I believe as you do that children should have access to medical treatment until they are old enough to refuse it as adults.

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**© Jae Adams**

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[SC] "Buryin' Bill at Forest Hill" was a very good piece. I really enjoyed it. Thanks.

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**© Jim Frenkel**

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[SC] Thanks for the reading recommendations. As I write this I am hip deep in Sheri Tepper's *Gibbon's Decline and Fall* and I'd like to finish at least one other

WisCon related book before the con. Maybe I can get to one of your recommendations this summer. We have the Carter book already and I have been hearing good things about Baxter for a while, too.

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**© Karen Karavanic**

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[SC] In your comment to us, thank you and we hope to see you at our party next year. Also, we have some Extra Dry and Brut Champagne left, so I could sure take you up on your offer to come by and help us get rid of it. Maybe after WisCon?

Thanks for responding to our questions about the conference. Bad news about women in the CS field however. A lower number of women in CS than physics? Oh my.

Good comment to **Heather** about Walmart. I don't shop there either for lots of reasons of which the Dennis the Menace t-shirt incident was one. Walmart has so much national clout selling CD's now that they can, and have, tried to influence and edit music lyrics on the CD's they "agree" to sell.

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**© Heather Brooks**

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[SC] Four days of church? Bummer. I was under the impression you were going to an SF convention.

I think it must be written in a secret airline manual somewhere that new travelers or folks who haven't flown in many years are entitled to a nightmare flight. Tough luck. The first time I flew, I was going to California. The trip went smoothly but I was quietly terrified when they had to "de-ice" our plane before a take off out of Denver where the weather was snow mixed with icy rain. A few years ago on my father's first plane ride since WW 2, a snow storm on his return trip diverted them to an alternate airport after a rocky ride, plus the subsequent hassles trying to get the rest of the way back home after they landed.

Very sad news about your friend Mike. Sorry.

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**© Bill Humphries**

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[SC] Keep us posted on any job change. Being independent has its ups and downs, as I am sure you are aware, but if it would be healthy for you, you should sure go for it.

I didn't find the Potlatch hotel "creepy" so much as just, well, odd. I liked the location a lot, but I as I look back now at the hotel I am mostly remembering trains and rain.



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 © Kim and Kathi Nash
 

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[SC] Kathi, I was amused by your basement adventures but I somehow found myself feeling a bit sorry for poor Kelly.

Kim, you are dead right about working 60-80 hours a week in business for yourself. Beware. But I think your book search idea is a neat one and I hope you can work out a reasonable business that you'd really like.

I am glad you are getting apans to start thinking about the next OE. The apa should be looking at making a decision shortly after WisCon. It'd be nice if candidates started speaking up now.

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 © Clay Colwell
 

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[SC] I really liked your "Vehicular Villainy" piece. It goes that way with cars sometimes. I have been working some overtime at work the last couple months and I was just getting caught up with some large bills when we drove up to Minicon in Minneapolis and, along the way, a passing car kicked up a small rock and knocked a crack in our windshield. A car owner can always count on the car coming up with some expensive need just when you think you're financially caught up. I could turn this problem over to our insurance company of course, but insurance is for catastrophic or immediate problems, not this kind of pesky extra expense. Oh well, overtime is still available.

## Comments on No. 141

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 © Cover
 

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[SC] Very classy work, **Jae**, and a great quote. Thanks.

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 carl juarez
 

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[SC] Very interesting piece on downloading consciousness. I also tend to think of my "center" as being in the front part of my brain, but this may have something to do with the fact that the sources of sight, sound and smell are close by. I wonder if blind or deaf people identify their conscious "center" in the same place.

The idea of the effect of downloading ourselves to machines without a sense of proprioception has never occurred to me and I agree that the result would be difficult to predict and could be catastrophic. (I remember as a kid watching *Star Trek* when it first began, the transporter stuff started bothering me the more I saw it, especially when episodes started featuring transporter

problems. Today I think of transporting as a convenient plot device but a repulsive means of travel.)

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 © Bill Humphries
 

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[SC] Nice bit on your skiing trip to Royal Gorge. We saw the excellent piece in the *Wisconsin Journal* featuring Julie's family. Cool.

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 © Michael Shannon
 

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[SC] I can really sympathize with your wanting to own rather than rent. It would be tough for me to go back to renting again, even though our house has sometimes felt like the movie *The Money Pit* to me. Good luck on the house hunt and feel free to give us some details as it is progressing. I like house hunting stories.

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 © Vijay Bowen
 

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[SC] You asked whether men have any clothing size hassles comparable to women buying bras. I always find these kind of questions difficult to answer because too often I end up saying "Well, no." Followed by a lot of yelling about how men are such "wimps" or "whiners."

So anyway the answer to your question is, ah, well, no. (All you men out there insert fingers in ears at this point.)

In response to your comment to me on beer vs. root beer floats. I like root beer floats. I can eat one very happily alone at home. I don't need any company or the TV or radio to be playing. I would be quite happy in a quiet room with no distractions other than my yummy treat. Beer, in my opinion, is best enjoyed in the company of others. Visiting at someone's home, at a party, at a pleasant bar or restaurant, beer goes well with people. I rarely drink if I am alone at home. But when I'm feeling social, beer is often present.

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 © Tracy Benton
 

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[SC] "*So I'm in and plan to stay in,...*" Good, that is what I want to hear. However you manage to do it, Tracy, is fine with me so long as you stay with us.

Thanks for the compliments on our New Years Party and your suggestion about changing our breakfast place is a very good one. We have only two difficult criteria to satisfy for the breakfast place, that it be close and open.

Unfortunately Jeanne is not able to contribute this issue, but I feel your comment to her about the WisCon packet stuffing deserves a response. The stuffing went very smoothly last year. In fact we had so many people



show up that we were in danger of stepping on each other. All the stuff showed up on time and Richard was set up and ready to go. It sounds like you are remembering WisCon 20 when poor Meg Hamel relied on the printer to deliver the program books and they failed to show up until very late. That was not really anyone's fault except the printer and since then, Beth, our publications person the last two years, has been carefully reminded each year by the committee to pick up the program books and pocket programs herself and bring to the hotel for the stuffing.

The idea is to get the stuffing done in plenty of time for EVERYONE to get a chance to "hobnob with the authors down at ROOO" if they choose. This is an important event for our writers and it is entirely appropriate that Jeanne, as convention chair or head of programming, attend. I have been at the packet stuffings for the last three years until the bitter end (I also usually end up helping move art panels the same evening) and I can tell you from experience that it is likely to run smoothly this year as well.

I loved your method of reporting on Potlatch. I was nodding and chuckling all the way through it.

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### © Michael Rawdon

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[SC] You and I had a similar reaction to *Dark City*. I liked it, but I can't say I loved it. In its way, it was more serious and "darker" (thematically) than a lot of Hollywood SF. Coming out of the theater, Jeanne and I both felt that the story seemed rather old fashioned, like they translated to the screen a story that was written in the fifties or early sixties.

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### © Julie Zachman

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[SC] Good comments on Kathleen Willey and Monica Lewinsky. For what its worth, I thought Willey was believable on *60 Minutes* too, but I don't think anything is going to come of it now.

How did your jazz show performance go?

Regarding your comment to Bill Bodden, "*But maybe after a few years in the APA I'll start worrying about whether I'm tripping anyone's trigger too. And whether I'm submitting often enough, and commenting enough and writing enough original material....*" I hope not, Julie. I hope you don't worry about any of that stuff but just write what you can when you feel like it. Some months are going to be better than others, but that's how it is for all of us. We want you to stick around with us.

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### © Ruth Merrill

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[SC] I like the Nerdic-rack joke. I am finishing only my second year ever of working in an office on a computer for a living. I can see what it is doing to me in the mirror every day and a foldable aerobic muscle-building machine/torture device might be the answer I deserve.

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### © Hope Kiefer and Karl Hailman

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[SC] I am glad you decided to stay with us in *Turbo*.

Hope, I am sorry to hear about the problems you are having with Forrest. I hope the tougher measures are effective.

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### © Jim Brooks

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[SC] I loved your "Scenes From a Vacation." I don't think I can decide on which scene is my favorite, but I laughed the loudest at the last one about the woman hockey player Karyn Bye from River Falls.

Regarding your comment to **Georgie** about plumbers. My dad always said that you only have to know two things to be a plumber. How to screw and that shit flows downhill.

I found your comment to **Jae** about old photographs very touching.

**Steve** run for OE again? You really think so?

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### © Mike Peterson

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[SC] It was fun to finally meet you at the book exchange. You got to meet several apans that day. I suppose we seemed like quite a bunch of odd balls, but being in the apa this long, you must have expected that about us by now. Wait till you meet the rest of us.

"A Morality Tail" was a real treat. Your drawings are very funny.

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### © Jae Adams

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[SC] Thank you, thank you, thank you for the wonderful trip/con report. I enjoyed every word at the same time I was green with envy. Your work on the FAAN certificates must have been impressive, it earned you an enthusiastic mention in David Langford's *Ansible*, "The FAAN trophies were too tasteful ever to make the grade as Nova Awards, being certificates with nifty calligraphy by Jae Leslie Adams." Cool.

—Scott Custis  
19 April 1998