



Madison foursquare

96

This issue of *Madison Foursquare* is brought to you by Scott Custis and Jeanne Gomoll, who live at 2825 Union Street, Madison, WI 53704.

Scott@unionstreetdesign.com
Jeanne@unionstreetdesign.com

This is **Madison Foursquare #96**. *Madison Foursquare* was created using a Mac Studio with

InDesign, Illustrator and Photoshop, all CC 2024, and printed on a Ricoh Aficio CL7200 color printer.

All contents ©2024 by Scott Custis [SC] & Jeanne Gomoll [JG] October 2024 for *Turbo-Charged Party Animal #460*

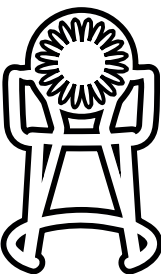
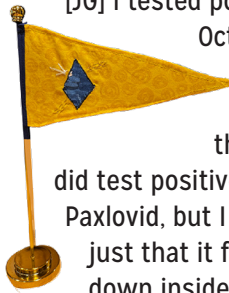
Jeanne's TurboCon

[JG] I tested positive for Covid on Wednesday of the first week of October. I'd been suffering from a severe sore throat since Sunday. I'd actually taken a Covid test that day when my throat started bothering me, but the test came back negative. And so, by the time I did test positive, I was really sick. Maybe I should have requested Paxlovid, but I decided not to. I never had difficulty breathing; it's just that it felt like there was a serrated knife sliding up and down inside my throat, my head hurt,

and I pressed ice packs on my forehead to bring down my fever. My experience was much rougher than the first time I had Covid, back in 2021. But just like that first experience, the diagnosis came at an unbelievably inconvenient time: right before a major social event. Back in 2021 we were a couple days away from hosting a 12-person Thanksgiving dinner for my family. So, of course, we had to cancel that. (My family went to a restaurant for a very untraditional steak-themed Thanksgiving celebration.) This time, Scott and I were a little more than a week away from helping to host TurboCon and feared that we might not be able to attend this thing for which we'd already spent so much time preparing. In addition, both Scott and I were irritated that we'd failed to take extra care to avoid risky situations before this big event. I think I got infected while we attended a Forward Theater play. I passed it on to Scott. We figure he was a day or two behind me. But Scott didn't get sick like I did; he was practically asymptomatic and was able to do his own plus

some of my pre-TurboCon tasks in spite of the live virus swimming in his system. I tested negative a couple days before the weekend, but still felt extremely tired and retained a nasty cough. Scott tested negative on Friday morning, the very first day of TurboCon and so we were both able to join others on a gloriously beautiful morning on the Union Terrace. That was really lovely. But I kept coughing and am still coughing and feeling exhausted, a week after TurboCon.

So, obviously I'm really glad not to have missed TurboCon, though there are a few things I wish I'd been able to do, like play croquet



Triangulador, of course.

at **JeannieBe**'s. I imagine that the croquet game officiated by **SteveSw** and amended by **JeanneBo** who substituted alternative equipment so that it resembled a tournament from *Alice in Wonderland* ... would have been quite entertaining. The traditional first game was apparently won by **Andrea** (somehow, I am not surprised), who briefly dropped by TurboCon on Friday and Sunday, each time bringing treats and side dishes with her. On Saturday morning, I would have liked to have joined the group at Collectivo Coffee and toured the farmer's market. There is no way, healthy or not, that I would have gotten up early enough on Sunday morning to tour Forest Hill Cemetery, though I bet that the fine weather, **Luke**'s and **Andy**'s commentary, and delectable coffee cake at **Hope** and **Karl**'s house made the morning a wonderful one for all participants. Basically, I wish that I'd been able to be more up-beat and sociable with my friends.

But I have one specific regret: that I wasn't able to follow through on my plan to *perform* a story, rather than read it for the Live Apa. I've become a huge fan of **Elizabeth**'s story-telling skills these last couple years. My admiration of her mastery, combined with a privately-held ambition to one day do stand-up comedy, inspired me to ask **Elizabeth** at her last house concert to help me. One of her story-telling students also performed at that house concert (very well!) and **Elizabeth** talked a little bit about a workshop she offers to young wanna-be storytellers. That got me thinking. So, I asked her if she would ever consider doing a workshop for *adult* wanna-be story-tellers. And yay! She told me at TurboCon that she's decided to set one up and I plan to enroll as one of her first (adult) students.

But even before that, I'd hoped to tell (as opposed to read) one of my stories for TurboCon. But because of all the coughing and so much sleeping, I wasn't able to practice. Instead, I was just relieved that my voice survived reading a story on Sunday afternoon at the Old Sugar Distillery. Since TurboCon, this last week, I've been silently rehearsing *telling* my "Barbie's Inferno" story. (Silently because of all the coughing, you know.) Of course, **Pat** read that story beautifully on Saturday of TurboCon at **Julie** and **Luke**'s event. Pat wasn't the only one presenting for Saturday's Live Apazine. **Andy** and **Georgie** read pieces. **Catie** showed off one of her

marvelous cosplay creations. And **SteveVJ** presented his amazing orbital mechanics video. The huge amount of work he put into it really showed. Very impressive! But back to "Barbie's Inferno:" I really enjoyed **Pat**'s reading of it. I found unexpectedly revelatory to hear that story told in someone else's voice (plus additional amusing commentary). I was amazed at how differently I thought about the story when I stood *outside* it. If that makes sense. Several ideas occurred to me that I think would never have come to me if I'd been sitting at my computer trying to edit the text. Similarly, as I've been telling the story to myself, more embellishments and connections have caused the story to evolve in my head. So, now I'm publicly proclaiming – to all of you – that I plan to eventually sign up for and perform at an open-mike comedy slam. Watch this space.

As it turned out, "Barbie's Inferno" was much on my mind during the weekend. On Sunday in the Atrium at Olbrich Gardens, my plan was to just watch the crafters make stuff under **Elizabeth** and **JeanneBo**'s guidance, listen to the poets (**JeannieBe**, **Georgie**, **Darlene**, and **Nevenah**), listen to **Lisa** play the keyboard, and engage in as much conversation as my throat would allow. But **JeanneBo** surprised me with an assignment as she spread Lego parts over her part of the craft table. "You should make Barbie's burning house, Jeanne." It was like I was sleepwalking at first.



I'd received my marching orders and so I obediently sat down and started to arrange Lego bricks into a rectangular shape. I'd never played with Legos before, and so I had to deal with a bit of a learning curve. (Thank goodness for the tool that pries Legos apart from one another!) But in not much time I'd built a respectable small house with a front door, a pitched roof, a chimney, and a large window – big enough for Lego Barbie to lean through, waving her stiff arms, frantic to get to her wedding on time and escape a fiery death.

However, it turns out that setting Legos and a plastic Barbie on fire is more difficult than igniting Lincoln Logs using a wedding dress for kindling. And I've got to say: without a raging fire, the Lego scene ... *lacked drama*. Unfortunately, portraying this part of "Barbie's Inferno" presented



Elizabeth telling



Barbie's Lego Inferno

a challenge that Legos were incapable of meeting. I needed an entirely different material to convey the idea of “inferno.” Happily, **Elizabeth** had set out a fine selection of materials for making Apa cover art. There were rubber stamps, clip art, stickers, felt tips, crayons, and probably more materials than I noticed. Beside me, **Carrie** was building a futuristic vehicle out of Legos. Across the table, **Pat** was busy creating 23 hand-made covers for a future issue of *Turboapa*. The thing that caught my attention as I looked around me (thinking “Fire!”), was a sheet of shiny paper, gold on one side, red on the other. I cut long, uneven, feathered strips from this paper and stuck them through the door, window, chimney, on top of the roof, and around poor Barbie’s head. The effect was almost as dramatic as a real fire and just as ephemeral, but with less smoke.

Late on Sunday afternoon and early evening, as we told stories, ate pizza (and so much pie!), and sat around talking with one another at the Old Sugar Distillery, I was not alone in feeling exhausted. Most of TurboCon’s attendees got their first chance to enjoy one of **Elizabeth**’s storytelling performances. I read my story, “Maze of Terror and Thrills,” and then a few other folks stepped up to the Live Apa podium (e.g., a cocktail table). **JeanneBo**, and **Julie** read amusing stories. And **Luke** bravely accepted lovely compliments and one lewd anecdote as his guest-of-honor tribute. (I hope Luke will tell you the story of how he was chosen as TurboCon guest-of-honor via fannish spelling bee.) But by 9 pm and general acclamation we all voted to prematurely adjourn TurboCon in order to get some rest. We dropped the last TurboCon event,



which had been intended to include a champagne toast to Scott’s and my 40th anniversary at our house. Scott and I were fine with the change. Sleep beckoned.

Happy Anniversary, sweetie.

And a heartfelt thank-you to all of you who joined us for TurboCon. It was a wonderful weekend!

Scott’s TurboCon

[SC] On Sunday afternoon of TurboCon, somebody said to me, “What a great idea for a con. An invite-only gathering of only people we already knew and already liked.” I hadn’t thought of it like that. TurboCon happened and I think it went well. At my count, about 31 people showed up at one point or another over the weekend, with probably the biggest crowds at **Luke** and **Julie**’s BBQ dinner on Saturday and the pizza and pie palooza on Sunday, but all the events were well attended.

Thank you to so many people who volunteered help everywhere, from making food to doing programming, driving folks around, carrying stuff, and providing moral support. It felt like everyone was ready to pitch in. I have to give special shout outs to **JeannieBe** who handled an uncertain and evolving situation at her house with grace and patience and also organized the poetry reading on Sunday. **Luke** and **Julie** provided a superb indoor gathering space just when we needed it on a rainy Saturday evening and successfully managed an amazingly complex dinner order situation. Then Luke led a cemetery walking tour the next morning. **Hope and Karl** gamely opened their home up to an unknown-sized crowd for coffee, tea, and coffee cake after **Luke**’s tour.

Thanks to everyone who donated money; we are okay in that department now. The primary expenses had to do with renting the Atrium space at Olbrich Gardens on Sunday, beverages and supplies, the van to cart stuff around town and a few food items. As part of our 40th anniversary celebration, Jeanne and I sponsored the pizza and Old Sugar Distillery venue because our original plan was to cater food for the whole evening at our house, but there were just too many people to seat and feed with the possibility of poor weather.

I had so much fun. I hope y’all did too. That said, I have no plans to do it again. I like retirement. I suggested a few times over the weekend that maybe we should talk about adopting an SF convention, or two (maybe one in the Midwest and one on the west

coast), as potential gathering spots for apa members to meet in person for a dinner out or even a party, like WisCon once was. I'm absolutely planning to show up for **Andy** and **Carrie's** TurboCon in Seattle next summer. A few people were calling it TurboCon 2, which I don't much like because it implies there will continue to be more of them, which I'm not at all sure will happen. I would prefer we call it *TurboCon the Sequel*, or *The Return of TurboCon* or maybe *TurboCon: It's Alive!*

So many good friends, so little time. **JeanneBo** probably made me laugh out loud more in one weekend than I have done in ages. It was a treat spending time talking with people I knew only slightly before, but feel I know a little better now. I'm looking at you **Catie** and **Alan Rosenthal**. And connecting with old friends I miss from far away like **SteveSw**, who drove alone back and forth from the west coast to be with us. Thank-you guys and so many more of you for a great time!

Comments

Cover

[SC] Lovely covers, Jeannie. I liked your color choices. I was trying to read the word on the side of the boat. Is it "Outremer" as in the brand of boats? The back cover seemed more sinister with the light on in the sand castle, the dark holes with tiny white lights in the sand and the tree shaped like a hand. Intriguing.

[JG] A lovely front cover. But a nightmarish and disturbing Salvador Dali-inspired back cover. My interpretation of the juxtaposition is a bifurcated vision of the future – depending on which way the election goes. Did I get that right?

Walter Freitag

[SC] First, let me congratulate you on finding Addie. She sounds wonderful.

You wrote about the situation with Barbara with great love, empathy, patience and wisdom. I am so sorry you both are going through this, but you seem to have the ideal temperament and perspective for this challenge. You wrote beautifully. Thank you for sharing this news with us. I would appreciate any updates you feel up to sharing, whenever you are ready. Wishing you all the best and take care.

[JG] What a moving and emotional description of yours and Barbara's current life. You have all my sympathy and my admiration for how you are caring for Barbara, as well as yourself.

Greg Rihn

[SC] Re *King Lear* and *The Virgin Queen Entertains Her Fool*, you made a very good point about the similarity in the characters in both plays by the actors Jim DiVita and Josh Krause. You pointed out that the roles and the actors' portrayals were different, still I wonder if they sometimes struggled to not get their lines mixed up when they were switching back and forth from one play to the other. It's one thing to play a major role in one show and a minor role in another or play a sympathetic character in one show and a villain in the other but to play a monarch's fool (or loyal first Lord) in two different shows in the same season must get confusing.

Re Walz's suit, he wears his suit much like I do, like it's obviously not my first choice of attire. Blue suit with brown shoes might be a Midwestern tip-off, but wearing a red tie so it dangles well below the belt buckle (Trump) is bad form in any part of the country.

[JG] I totally agree with you about how impressive APT's *The Virgin Queen Entertains Her Fool* was. Since it was a world premier performance, I'm really looking forward to seeing future versions as the author re-works it. But even if the text remains the same, I think it's an important, brilliant creation, beautifully conceived and acted by an incredibly talented cast. (Once again, I feel so grateful to live close to APT and able to see so many of the plays.) I also thought Tracy Michelle Arnold's performance was marvelous, especially the way she shifted constantly on her throne, unable to find a comfortable position to relieve her pain. That felt so *familiar*.

Re your comment to **Lisa** and your depressing literature class... I had to laugh. I also took an English class whose syllabus contained those titles. But the conversations with my classmates and the professor's lectures that placed the fiction in context with historic realities, made unforgettable impressions on me, and certainly had a role in radicalizing me. I definitely got more out of the experience of reading + lecture + discussion than I would have if I'd read those books on my own.

Georgie Schnobrich

[SC] Thank you for the lush book reviews.

I did not know about the scornful attitudes directed at crossword puzzles that you mentioned. Most of the crossword fans I know are still quite proud of conquering the NYT puzzle every day. I enjoy a crossword puzzle now and then. I have not been caught by the Wordle passion on FB, my weakness is for jigsaw puzzles. I can lose hours on those.

Kamala did a very fine job on Trump in their (apparently only) debate. Laughing at him and



punching his buttons to prompt him to go on off-the-cuff rants were excellent tactics. I think more coverage of Trump at rallies slurring his words, lying and making no sense would also be good. Fox regularly cuts away from his speeches,

which helps him, I think. The more people see Trump, the better they remember why they disliked him.

[JG] What a great line for a book review: “If you can imagine riding a hoverboard through a cocktail party in a verdant conservatory by the sea, you can probably enjoy the book.” You and I talked a bit at TurboCon about intellectual changes that accompany aging, and I can say without doubt that *your* discernment and expression have become more brilliant and nuanced and entertaining with every year that I’ve known you. Thank you so much for your comments on your recent reading! It is always a pleasure to read your words.

In my opinion, the best response to Trump and Vance’s attack about what Harris supposedly “failed” to accomplish as vice president was supplied by a college student following the Walz-Vance debate. Jacob



Soboroff interviewed Marcus (along with a bunch of other students) on MSNBC and I applauded the kid. I predict great things for him. Marcus’ expression showed that he was feeling really frustrated by some of what he’d heard

during the debate, and held his hand to his forehead as if he was in pain when Soboroff asked him about the moment in the debate when Vance demanded that Walz explain why Harris had not already accomplished her goals while she was vice president. The student shook his head and launched into an eloquent and dramatic

argument for why this was such a dumb accusation. “... if anybody took high school civics class, they’d know what the vice president can do and what the vice president can’t do. I wanna make a quick point. Neither candidate on that stage talked about what executive action they’re gonna take on day one to do what they want, nor were they asked, because they know that they can’t. That’s not how the vice presidency works. You don’t get to do what you want. You do what the president delegates you to do.” Soboroff said, “One day, Marcus is gonna be all of our teachers in civics class.” Yay, Marcus!

As for the color distribution on August’s cover art: I picked out a range of colors from one of my favorite Triangulador pieces and used them to color the objects in my cover. I should credit Triangulador with the harmony created by the palette.

Carrie Root

[SC] Nice photos once again. I don’t think I have ever tasted a ground cherry. Congratulations on getting the *Turbo* spread sheet started. Nice job scanning the covers. Carry on by all means (as always, no pun intended).

Re your comment to me, I consider my to-read shelf a work-in-progress. Lately I have been adding new books to the shelf which is not helping, as you pointed out. It may be time for another big culling as there are a number of books I grabbed when Jeanne cleaned out her shelf that I probably won’t actually read. Yes, face it I must... I know I will be happier when they’re gone.

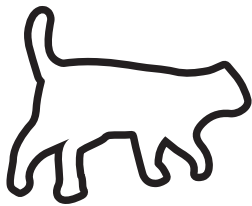
Re your comment to **SteveVJ**, about my comment on his hernia tourniquet. I meant “break a leg” in the theatrical sense of wishing him luck.

This month I read *The Devil & Sherlock Holmes* by David Grann (most famous for *Killers of the Flower Moon*). This book was published in about 2010 and is a collection of stories Grann published in magazines in the previous decade. Like most collections, it’s a mixed bag. I think the most engaging pieces were about the likely execution of an innocent man by the state of Texas (the story behind the 2018 movie *Trial by Fire*), a story on New York City’s amazing water system and the rise of the prison gang, The Brand (aka the Aryan Brotherhood). Interesting but less fascinating to me were stories on baseball player Rickey Henderson, and prolific bank robber and escape artist Forrest Tucker. None of it was boring, but in some cases I had to spend some time looking up what happened

in the 20 or so years since these stories were originally published.

Re your comment on...

[JG] The objects in my August cover were supposed to represent the most frequent and referenced commentary and essays from ALL *Turbo* members (at least as far as I could remember without actually doing a survey), not just my own contributions. You can tell that they don't illustrate just my own stuff, at minimum, by the fact that there is a cat included in the



collage, a subject that you may have noticed I tend to avoid. Rather than do a key, maybe I should start using individual drawings as appropriate illustrations whenever I write, "re your comment on..."

I am amazed that it took me

so long to realize that I couldn't really put garden tours on the TurboCon schedule because by mid-October most of the gardens would be in the process of dying... **Diane** finally pointed out the sad fact to me and asked me to remove the item from the schedule. Duh!



Andy Hooper

[SC] Thank you for the thoughtful response to me about apa comments. One of the things that drive me to write comments to people is to let them know that I'm reading their stuff, and to express appreciation for writing or art that I particularly liked or admired. Maybe some long-time fanzine writers do not look for, or need, comments but in my experience most people like getting feedback on their efforts.

I found some of Pat Cashman's antics as Professor Farndark of *Peculiar Playhouse* to be pretty funny, but I thought there was something rather fascinating about that picture of Cashman on page 3. *Fred Crisman, Vol. 1: Cave of the Space Nazis* sounds like a hoot. I wonder if it will ever show up on YouTube or somewhere.

Re yct **Carrie**, Naomi Kritzer went to West High in Madison? Wow.

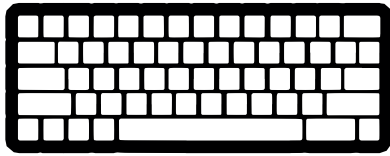
Great batch of LOC's. Jerry was interesting on a number of topics. If he finds a book-length monograph on *Little, Big*, I'd like to know. After two readings of it in the last two years, I'm ready for an organized analysis. Re the amusing Steven Bieler, if given a choice I'd rather be thought of as a "distant fathead" than a fan in "plumage." Thanks for the kind words from William Breiding. If *Atlas Shrugged* doesn't inspire a rant, he must be dead.

[JG] Thanks for your comments about my artwork for the August *Turbo* cover. I think you are right about previous covers I've done that used multiple images to represent members or a range of subject matter. That's the kind of image that naturally occurs to me when illustrating any kind of anthology, and I



am definitely an illustrator at heart. I guess my cover art for the current issue of *Turbo* also fits the mold. And I just completed a piece of collage artwork for Geri Sullivan's *Idea* which features caricatures of the contributors and references to the subject matter of their articles. You will probably get to see it in a few months.

Re your comment to **Lisa** about your chosen process for reading the apa, I now wonder about other members' processes. Scott and I generally drive over to **Jim** and **Diane's** house to participate in the collation party, or pick up our apa very soon after it is collated. During the car ride home, I read aloud comments directed at Scott or I ... and we talk. Once we get home, Scott takes possession of the apa and over the course of a couple weeks, reads it all the way through, and then goes back, zine by zine, typing mailing comments. I think he saves especially long or "meaty" zines to comment on last. He then hands the apa over to me and emails his comments to me. Sometimes he also writes an essay, trip report, or book review, but he works on those while I'm doing my comments. My process is to open Scott's document in MS Word on my computer and add each of my [JG] comments after his [SC] as I read the apa from front to back. If something sparks a comment from me, I put down the apa and type out my thoughts, just as I am now, as I read the first page of the mailing comments section in *Captain Flashback*. (Which is slightly inconvenient since you frequently drop



paraphrases of this sentiment: "...when we get together at TurboCon," while I am reading this during the week

following that event, too late to take you up on your suggestion.) I usually do this over the course of one or two days, full immersion. I write general material if I'm in the mood and then Scott sends me additional text which I fold into our zine. I do a spell check on the whole thing and then lay it out using InDesign, inserting some of the photos and images I saved into a folder during the previous month. And I choose my colors-of-the-month from whatever image I choose for page one. (I enjoy this part a lot.) Scott reads the finished zine, offers suggestions, and does some proofreading. And then I print out the copies, ready for collation, and we're ready to do it all over again. Ah, the retired life.

I love the idea that the powerful woman who functioned as inspiration to my 6-year-old self has manifested herself in Kamala Harris. It's delightful to imagine that the many women who have inspired me over my lifetime sending back their energy to my youthful self, living in the 1950s, urging me to be brave. Thanks for that idea, Andy.

Re your comment to **JeannieBe** about the most well-compensated poet ... the name that popped into my head was Dr. Seuss.

Steven Vincent Johnson

[SC] Interesting review of *Imminent*, though I found it all kind of vague. I often think the U.S. military loves the UAP hunt as a great public distraction from the kind of terrifying weapons development they're doing.

[JG] Congratulations on the premiere of your orbital mechanics video at TurboCon! Great job.

Jim Hudson & Diane Martin

[SC] You guys have had some struggles these last couple months, but things have got to start getting better, yes? On the other hand, with the election still in front of us, maybe we will have to hold off on a big sigh of relief until after November 5.

Jim, how did you like *Three Body Problem*? It's Netflix, we could do it if it's good.

[JG] I'm glad you were able to get to a few TurboCon events. I hope you continue to feel better each day Diane.

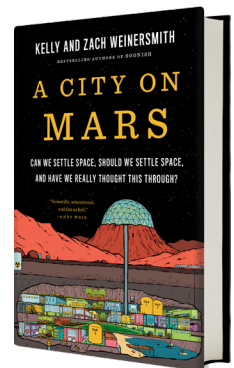
Pat Hario

[SC] RCT **Catie** on social media, I'm on Facebook mostly because my family regularly post photos and updates there (I cringe a little when they post a lot of pictures of their kids.) I scroll Reddit but I have not joined any sub-Reddits and I don't have an actual account. I have an account on local Nextdoor, which is sometimes useful, sometimes batshit crazy. I usually look at You Tube for how-to information. I rarely post anywhere or even comment. I just don't trust social media enough to put much about myself out there.

Re your comment to **Andy** about criminal-trial watching, maybe you should have been a criminal lawyer. An undergrad degree in English would have been fine preparation for a move into law. I think we have two lawyers in the apa, maybe they can answer your questions.

Re your comment to me about license plates, I have no idea if cops are having trouble with all the different plate designs, but I would not be surprised. It used to be that each state had one distinct design, now there must be hundreds.

[JG] Re your comment to **Andy** in which you say how interesting the law is ... you might be interested to read *A City on Mars*, by Zach and Kelly Weinersmith, for the several chapters on how space law might or might not evolve. There are several sets of international law whose structure might be borrowed to create space law (Antarctica, Ocean), but whatever way we eventually go will have a huge effect on the future. There are strong proponents and opponents to every option, based on the potential for profit, of course. I think I may have mentioned this book to you already and you may have already declared your interest. Just one more reason go look it up.



Andrea Connell

[SC] I think your wasp sting story sums them up perfectly. Wasps are jerks. At least with bees you usually have to bother them before they sting you. A wasp will go for you out of sheer nastiness. Your praying mantis solution is excellent. I would have tried to find the wasp nest and mount a risky, possibly clumsy, attack.

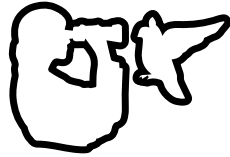
Drunk pan-fishing? There's a story there somewhere. We passed on APT's *Much Ado...* this year, though I heard good things about it. *Ma Rainey* was also good, too bad you got rained out. Did you read *Demon Copperhead* for your "other" book club, or are you a fan of Barbara Kingsolver? It's on my shelf for later this winter.

[JG] Your battle strategy against wasps read as if it were a chapter in Sun Tzu's *The Art of War*. Love it!

Luke McGuff

[SC] A bat walk? As in "same bat time, same bat uh...hibernaculum?" doesn't roll off the tongue as nicely. Still cool though.

I really like "Swift Night Out", you described it to me before starting one of our rides then I got to read about it again in your zine and I think it's just such an amazing thing to have witnessed.



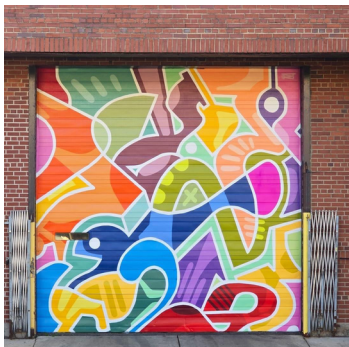
Re your comment to me, I'm sorry it was challenging to stay closer together during our ride around Lake Monona, but having to dodge all those runners made it hard to coordinate. Hopefully the next time we go that way it will be much less busy, it's really a nice ride.

Thanks for your comments on the Hugo winner *Some Desperate Glory*, which I just acquired. I'm tempted to read it after you and **Steve S.** praised it, but I think I will hold off to see if our book group selects it for next year. It's out in trade paperback so it's eligible.

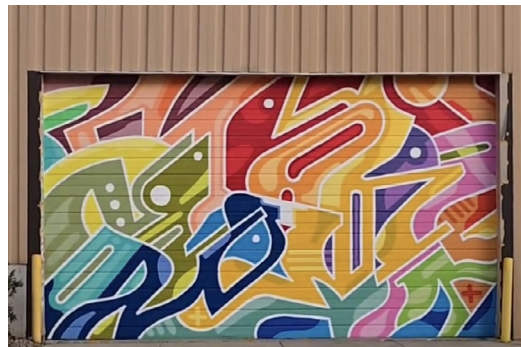
[JG] Thanks so much for your detailed response to my question about what exactly an invasive species is. I didn't realize it was such a complex and current controversy.

Are you checking out transfer opportunities with the UW and State employment? I hope you don't have many more winters to survive in your current position!

Really lovely description of the Swift Night Out! Thank you.



Triangulador garages



Karl Hailman & Hope Kiefer

[SC] **Karl**, congratulations on the aurora sighting. I would like to see one someday (I might be a little more motivated after seeing my first total eclipse this year.) I liked your comment to **JeanneG.** about the lack of passion for the Otherwise award.

Hope, I never thought of you as a dog person. How nice. Get a dog, please. I love other people's dogs.

I liked your piece on the Harris rally at the Coliseum. That must have been exciting with 12,000 other people and a pretty good cast of speakers (Gov. Evers can be a little "low energy" sometimes, but likeable). We did not hear about the rally until we were driving through town and saw signs and busses for students loading up for it. At that point, we didn't even know where the rally was happening. Which reminded me of Julie McGuff's birthday party down at the Memorial Union when Biden was in town, somewhere, and we were trying to avoid getting caught in a traffic snarl.

[JG] I'm so glad that Hope got a chance to see Kamala when she visited Madison. Scott and I drove through the traffic before the event on our way down to Whitewater to join the slightly smaller audience hearing **Elizabeth's** storytelling at a house concert. I remember seeing Obama when he spoke in Madison years ago, and can still feel the uplifting sense of excitement that surged through the crowd. Both Harris and Obama were mostly preaching to the choir here in deep blue Madison, so neither one of those speeches had a primary goal of converting folks, but fit into the genre of pre-game pep talks. Rallying the troops...

Wow. By this time next month, we will know how the election turned out.



My niece, Sara and her husband, Casey, in Madeleine Island forest. Such a romantic wedding!

What's New

WisCon Update



[JG] WisCon sent out an update about 2025. Apparently, they were unable to attract volunteers to chair WisCon, so they have decided to run a virtual convention and named it “WisCONline 2025.” In a subsequent email they pleaded for volunteers for a list of concom positions that seemed to encompass chairs and staffs for most, if not all, departments. Scott and I are really curious about the current relationship between WisCon and the Concourse Hotel.

“The WisCon Convention Committee is pleased to announce that we will be having an online convention in 2025!”

“What will WisCONline 2025 look like? In addition to being fully online with no in person presence, we are currently looking at changes to WisCon to make it more sustainable for our volunteers. This means WisCon may appear to “shrink”, but if we offer less (for example, fewer panels), it’s because our focus is on quality and maintaining WisCon’s values.

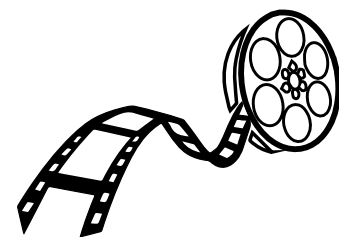
“While we can’t give exact details this early, more than ever, the capacity WisCon has to do the things we all love will depend on having volunteers step up. We’re committed to avoiding the past burnout we’ve seen come from volunteers taking on too many roles.

“When is it? It will take place Memorial Day weekend as always! (May 23-26, 2025, with some programming possible Thursday evening and Tuesday morning.)

“Why online only? Unfortunately, we weren’t able to recruit key volunteers in time to make an in-person con viable. We’re excited, however, to use this opportunity to explore what we can do to engage and reach our community in ways we can’t usually.”

Viewing

[JG] Once again, I am reporting only on streaming shows, no movies in theaters. There are some intriguing movies about to open, so next month we expect to get back to the theaters. But for now, I only have a very few brief comments. Deadline looms.



Wolfs (Apple TV) We enjoyed this buddy movie more than we thought we would. It has a darker, more introspective vibe to it. Brad Pitt and George Clooney were obviously having a lot of fun. If you see it, let me know if you were reminded of *Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid*.

The Instigators (Apple TV) This one overlaps *Wolfs* in that both are buddy films, with the main characters (Matt Damon and Casey Affleck) starting out as enemies and becoming friends. We liked it.

Colin from Accounts (Paramount) Fun series, recommended. *Colin from Accounts* is an Australian romantic dramedy television series created and written by husband-and-wife team Patrick Brammall and Harriet Dyer, who also star as the show’s main characters, Gordon and Ashley. It reminded me of another series, *Catastrophe* in which the couple (also real world partners) meet under cute, but potentially really bad circumstances. We watch them fall in love. Colin, by the way, is the dog that was run over in the first episode and survives in a little animal wheel chair.

Moonflower Murders (PBS) This is the second adaptation of the 2020 mystery novel of the same name by British author Anthony Horowitz and the second novel in the Susan Ryeland series. I was very impressed by the cast who all played three parts each: There are 3 fictional worlds: (1) the novel, made from (2) the actual case from the past, and (3) a current case involving a new generation. Wow. Great fun.

Uglies (Netflix) I remember liking Scott Westerfeld’s YA series much more than I ended up liking this movie. Both are set in a futuristic dystopia with enforced beauty standards. I suspect that the next two books of the trilogy will not be adapted. I don’t know if my reaction is due to a bad production or because the theme no longer interests me.





TURBOCON

TURBOCON

TURBO-CHARGED PARTY ANIMAL APA OCTOBER 2024 #460



Johannes Kepler

1571-1630

Mathematician, Astronomer, and Scientist

Contributed to the laws of planetary motion




TURBOCON