

# Union Street

A joint zine by Jeanne Gomoll & Scott Custis

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## Comments on No. 148: Business

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[SC] So far I think you are doing a great job, **Jae**. I support all the candidates for apa membership, Ulrika, Maureen and Nevenah. I think it was good to finally start dropping members who couldn't make the deadline. This is ultimately a healthy thing for the apa. If we end up short a few memberships, we'll still survive. We could always simply choose to reduce copy count back to 25 until such a time as we get a full waitlist again.

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### © Jae Adams

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[SC] Beautiful work on the cover, Jae, and a perfect choice for a quote.

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### Georgie Schnobrich

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[SC] Don't you think Hurricane Georges is close enough to Georgie to qualify for the famous hurricane Grace?

I also went to Mad Media Con for a day and I had a good time. Harlan Ellison was enjoying being a star, but he was also a lot of fun. Steven Furst astonished me by how young and how thin he really was, he was also pretty funny in sort of a I've-made-these-same-jokes-at-quite-a-few-other-cons way. I didn't get a chance to see enough of Neil Gaiman, as it turned out. I didn't realize quickly enough how interesting he would turn out to be. I won't make that mistake again.

The programming rooms were very warm and humid, but since the panelists seemed determined to carry

on, the least I could do was watch. Having the con suite and art show in the other hotel was a problematic decision I thought, but as it turned out, the walk back and forth was a relief from the heat of the main hotel.

I got a real laugh out of their con suite. For starters, it wasn't in the main hotel. You had to walk across two parking lots to get there. It consisted of a closet stuffed full of bad food. The routine was to stand in line, fill a plate and then leave to eat in the hotel's lobby area. One reason I don't think I would be a success working on a media con is that, had it been my decision, I would have elected to clear out one of the three video rooms or boot out some of the gamers to make space for a proper con suite. Obviously I have the wrong priorities.

I did eventually discover that the cool, quiet bar in the center of everything was empty (not a big surprise at an American media con) which about a half dozen of us put to good use for a rowdy hour or so before I went home.

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### © Lisa Freitag

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[SC] Regarding your comment to me/essay on our perception of safety in our society, I think you make a lot of very good points. I want to define a little what I mean by my phrase "hyper-violent modern America." I think we are a violent nation compared with other modern industrial nations on the planet. The little risk we do run from violence is much greater than people experience elsewhere. However I also think that America is violent in its attitudes as much as its actions. We are a nation that continues to nurture a culture of violence as a solution to problems and as an appropriate response to real or perceived injury. Look at movies, TV and the best seller lists. Listen to popular music. Violence is nearly worshipped. I am often frankly amazed that we don't have a higher murder and assault rate than we already have. Gun ownership is considered a sacred right. The popularity of the death penalty is enormous. Our military is immense even though no other national power on the planet could seriously challenge us militarily. Violence is embedded in nearly every step of our history.



I agree with you that the threat of violent crime is exaggerated and that people are more often fearful of crime than they need to be. But I also feel sometimes that non-criminal Americans, entranced by visions of stylized Hollywood violence, are primed, cocked and ready to fire at the first provocation.

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© **Pat Hario**

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[SC] All Hail SF<sup>3</sup> President Pat. I wonder if I can find a copy of "Hail to the Chief" in time for the next SF3 Board meeting. As your loyal Vice President I promise to stay the traditional course of VPs, I will attend State Funerals, sleep through all the committee meetings and generally screw off.

Regarding your comment to **Clay** about apa writing, although I think you are doing a fine job with your zine, I understand the feeling of being dissatisfied with an apa contribution. I have often felt, as you put it, that "*I sometimes feel that my zines consist of platitudes without saying anything real.*" It really is hard to "open up" here and I think most of us have had the experience of pouring out something important and failing to get the response we wanted. Humor is easier. I would like to write some stand-alone essays for the apa, but I somehow never end up with enough time. At least I think it is about time. I suspect the real problem is that I am scared of doing something that will compare very badly with essays by any number of other writers in this apa. We gotta keep working in it, Pat. For what it's worth I don't think we have been wasting our time. I think we've both improved as apa writers. It isn't a bad thing that we'd like to keep on practicing.

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© **Tracy Benton**

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[SC] Wow, great recap of your activities in August and September. I had to laugh at your tale of nearly missing Green Bay and then having to cross the big bridge at the Port of Green Bay. We had nearly the same experience, only I don't have the excuse for missing the turn due to sleep. Jeanne was driving. I was navigating. I lobbied to take that route because I thought it might be quicker than our usual way around Green Bay get to Door County. Suddenly I thought I could see Lambeau Field from the highway. I was right. We started talking about it. I forgot to look for the exit and we proceeded some distance North before realizing that we had missed our turn. When we finally got back on track, Jeanne was none too happy when we got to the bridge. She has a strong phobia of roads and bridges where the view of the road is cut off. I think we pulled off the highway and she made me drive over the bridge.

I have mixed memories of Sturgeon Bay. Jeanne

and I spent a pleasant afternoon there once when the air conditioning in our car broke down while we were vacationing in Door County so we took it to the dealer in Sturgeon Bay. The afternoon was pleasant because while the car was getting fixed, we hung out at the Cherryland Brewing Co for a tour, food and beer tasting. I also remember a trip to Sturgeon Bay many years ago that was a rather wild weekend drinking spree. But that is a story to tell some other time.

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© **Michael Rawdon**

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[SC] It's always exciting when someone announces that they are entering the market for a house. My advice is to try to have fun (I think looking at houses is fun) and don't get in a hurry to make a decision. Jeanne and I looked for several months. After we had looked at dozens of houses and really grasped what we wanted in a house, we were ready when the right one came along. The only reason you might hurry through the decision is if money is really tight and you are afraid you'll get shut out of the market if you don't move on something quickly. I can't believe that is going to be a problem for you, so take your time.

I may still have a home buyers guide to house inspection around here somewhere. It is a short, to-the-point book if you want to borrow it.

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© **Tom Havighurst**

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[SC] I enjoyed your trip report to London. I envy your travel writing style. You have a good sense for avoiding what isn't interesting and focusing instead on things that you had strong opinions or feelings about. You sometimes chose to write about fairly trivial events that left a strong impression on you and that is more interesting than saying you looked at Buckingham Palace but didn't feel anything about it. I often find it hard to edit myself in such a way that the really important stuff is left. I also liked how you wrote about John and Kristin (particularly John.)

One of these days I will buy you a beer and you can tell me about Amsterdam, if you can remember anything.

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© **Steve Swartz**

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[SC] It is so good to hear from you.

I am afraid that your description of Seattle's "seasons" does nothing much for me. I like more dramatic seasonal changes. There is something invigorating about living in a climate that can actually be physically dangerous in its intensity from time to time. Weather out here can be beautiful, pastoral and life-affirming or ugly, brutal and life-threatening. I prefer that level of variety to



merely different combinations of warm/cool, sun/rain.

I wouldn't miss mosquitoes however.

One thing I always wanted to ask you about your condo and those nasty repairs, was it not possible to find out about these problems before you purchased it? Did all this come about only after you bought it? It seems like you barely closed on the condo before you were having to deal with this situation. They weren't withholding information from you, I hope.

So how is the roommate thing working out with Mr. Fanning?

Just to let you know, we will be at Potlatch this year. Are you going?

So you liked Simmons' Hyperion/Endymion series? I really liked the first book, but had trouble getting into the second. I may be willing to try again if the series gets better further on. Could you run a short list of the best books you were referring to as being fun? I would like to have some ideas for some novels of this sort as a change of pace. I have been reading very little lately. I find that working the day shift has not been good for the amount of reading I get done. I tend to read only on the bus or at breaks. So often in the evenings I am doing other stuff and reading just isn't getting done. I am often lucky to get through the Borders book discussion book every month. I would like to do more reading, so getting recommendations is a good thing, especially if the stuff you are enjoying right now is not terribly heavy.

Thanks also for the recommendation on the Ehrenrich book. It sounds very interesting. I have been a fan of hers for a long time.

Your comments brought lots of hoots and laughter out of me. I was particularly amused by your comments to Richard Russell and Heatherayne Brooks.

In your comment to Michael Rawdon you write, "*Don't you think that 'Jeanne and Scott' and 'Hope and Karl' are both dominance ordered?*" I can't speak for Karl, but I know that MY masculinity was SO VERY threatened. I immediately stomped off to the hardware store and bought power tools until I felt better.

In your comment to me, you assume that I could follow your "high moral example." The peaks aren't a problem, its the valleys your moral example plunges to that are a challenge. I don't know that I could sink so low as to root for the Buckeyes, for example.

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© Andy Hooper

[SC] Thank you for the very pleasant travel piece on your trip to Las Vegas. I expect it has changed some since the last time I was there. I haven't seen the Strip since 1964. I was eight. It was a brutally hot summer day and my family was on a cross-country car trip to Los Angeles

to visit my grandparents. I remember we had been on the road driving through the desert for a long time when my father announced that it was our job to look for eating establishments in Las Vegas while he negotiated "traffic." Well, we drove all the way down the Strip gawking at the casinos and failed to notice any cafes. Dad grumbled and complained about having to turn the car around and go back, but he'd obviously been gawking too because in the heat of the early afternoon there was almost no other traffic to worry about. It is odd that the only time I ever feel like I recognize Las Vegas is in old movies. The Vegas I've seen in more recent movies, TV and ads never looks familiar to me. I suppose I should go back someday and see what it looks like now. I'll be careful not to embark on any really long hikes while I'm there.

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© Julie Zachman

[SC] In your comment to Georgie you write, "*I hadn't known Scott Custis likes to sunbathe on the square in the nude.*" Ahem. Check your glasses or get some magnifying glasses and look again. I am not nude. I'm even wearing my socks.

Great zine. Many interesting and insightful comments.

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Comments for issue No. 149

© Julie Zachman

[SC] Lovely cover, Julie. Very classy, thanks.

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© Michael Shannon

[SC] Nice travel piece on your sudden trip to England. I can't believe we've let more than ten years go by without returning to Great Britain ourselves. I loved it there. When you wrote about how different the landscape looked from the air as you were flying in, I was reminded that I had the same impression as we flew in on our trip. The farm fields were small and divided up with hedges and stone fences, but there were also other subtler differences in color and organization. Flying over the US, it often appears that farmland was divided up in big neat rectangular patches by a god with a giant ruler. But in England, the fields appear to be laid out in a nearly haphazard fashion.

I was amused, but not surprised, by your encounter with the Laphroig scotch. I think it's not uncommon in the beer and liquor industry to keep the best stuff in country and export the lesser quality product. I have heard and read of other peoples' experiences that mirror yours. Certainly whether it's checking out scotch or fine English ales, I will be sure to spend some quality time in a good



pub on our next trip over there.

Regarding your section on The Trial, do you think he was guilty? How did he kill her and why?

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© **Hope Kiefer**

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[SC] Congratulations to Joy on her pregnancy. The circumstances sound complicated, but sometimes that's how it goes. I hope it all works out.

Thank you for the Forrest update. I have a grand-nephew with some problems that remind me of Forrest's difficulties. Eventually he was admitted to an inpatient program for a few days until they could work out a medication formula for him that appears to be working well. I haven't got a lot of details on this, but I think there is reason to be optimistic that the right medication could help Forrest as well.

And before it gets any later, thanks a million to you and **Karl** for throwing the Halloween Party. I had a very good time.

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© **Georgie Schnobrich**

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[SC] What a marvelous Halloween report. I think it is one of the coolest events I have heard of. It is not something I would do, but I sure like reading about your doing it. This was also the first I have heard of your monthly reading and eating group, also a good idea and far more attractive to me as something that I could imagine myself trying.

Regarding your comment to **Lisa** on the prevalence of bad news stories, I agree with you. Studies of TV news shows reveal that stories containing violence and mayhem are a very important element of nearly every broadcast. If there is no violence to report locally, they will go out of town or around the country to find something. There is usually little context or analysis, just a few facts and lurid pictures. Naturally people think the world is an extremely dangerous place, even though violent crime rates have been declining for years. I know people who are afraid to venture to downtown Madison. That is ridiculous.

I think crime news should be reported, but it should be done carefully and with some analysis so viewers can gain perspective instead of inspiring knee-jerk responses in people. I also think TV news should focus on hard news for the whole show instead of switching from a gory murder story or car accident to a long feature on some bumpkin who collects salt and pepper shakers.

Incidentally, we gave up on depending on TV news several years ago. Watching it was driving us crazy. We get a daily newspaper now. If we hadn't done that, I think I would have kicked in the TV set by now.

Regarding John Glenn, I don't object to sending an elderly person to space to conduct an experiment, but sending Glenn was so obviously a publicity stunt by NASA to suck up to Congress and the public that it was embarrassing. Reportedly, Glenn did not spend nearly as much time getting physically prepared for this trip as an astronaut normally would. It would have made a lot more sense to me to find someone his age in better physical shape and put that person through a proper, extensive preparation routine and skipped the publicity circus.

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© **Lisa Freitag**

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[SC] Thanks for the lovely travel piece on Nebraska. I like Nebraska's big sky. I like driving along the Interstate watching a distant storm develop from the highest point of the anvil cloud formation all the way to the ground. You can watch the whole thing move and see the lightening and the rain and imagine the wind blowing, all the while you are driving along still in sunlight.

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© **Jim Nichols**

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[SC] Congratulations on getting the pump. By now you must be pretty well used to it. How is it working out? Congratulations also on turning 40. Really. Being 40 isn't so bad.

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© **Pat Hario**

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[SC] Your Dining With Pat piece was very amusing. For what it is worth I will be glad to testify publicly here on your behalf that you can indeed cook and bake. I have seen it. I have tasted it. It is so. Actually, the pork roast with pineapple chutney sounds real good. Aren't you curious how it would have tasted with the correct meat? You should try it sometime.

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© **Bill Humphries**

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[SC] Thanks for being so straightforward about bringing us up to speed on The Situation with you and Julie. This is a truly sad and difficult time for you both. From our vantage point 2000 miles away we can do little but wish you the best and hope for an ultimately positive outcome.

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© **Heatherayne Brooks**

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[SC] Cars can be so much fun. I can't match your tale of woe, but be assured that you are not the only one with car problems. Our car has been running fine for quite awhile until it sensed that we had paid off our joint credit card bill. Then it sprung an antifreeze leak. It was man-



ageable until the day before we took it in for repairs (a Sunday). The leak started causing the engine to smoke, so we were forced to rent a car for a day so we could meet our commitments that couldn't be canceled. After the car was finally (and expensively) fixed, I found out the rear tires were dangerously worn, resulting in the purchase of a new set of tires. When I got out of the tire shop with the car ready to go at last, I realized that our radio antenna had disappeared.

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© **Jim Brooks**

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[SC] Regarding your comment to **Michael Rawdon**, I don't think there is much room in the Starbucks universe for smoking in coffee houses anymore. The days of grungy smoke-filled coffee places serving straight brew to beret wearing, goateed patrons in black shirts and ray bans are gone. Yuppies don't dig anything about that scene except the black shirts. And they want their coffee to come loaded with steamed milk and cocoa. \*Sigh\*

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© **Cathy Gilligan**

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[SC] See my comment to **Heatherayne** about cars, but I have a lawnmower story, too. As we all know, we had a late fall. I kept my lawnmower gassed up and ready to go until the last time I mowed in late October. The mower badly needed some work and new parts, but I nursed it all through the summer so I could take it in and get it all fixed up this winter. A few days after I finished the last mowing I threw it in the car and fought rush hour traffic on the beltline after work to take it all the way across town to the one dealer I knew who worked on my brand of mower. They informed me that they weren't taking lawnmowers now, they were taking snow blowers. Excuse me! What kind of sense does that make? You don't want your snow blower in the shop when it could snow any minute, you want it fixed during the summer when you don't need it. The winter is the time to fix your lawnmower because if it takes a couple weeks to get parts, you don't have to wait while the grass is growing up to your ass. Am I missing something here?

Nevertheless, he told me he'd see me and my mower in March.

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© **Diane Martin**

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[SC] You did a fine job updating us on what is going on with you and, yes, it was all quite interesting. It is a relief that after the long hard summer of Laura's illness, things are looking up for you and you seem to be getting more satisfaction out of work and parenting and, most curiously, acting. I didn't know you did any acting in college and your renewed interest is something that came as a surprise to me. What a neat thing. Please keep us informed.

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© **Kim and Kathi Nash**

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[SC] Too bad you didn't video tape old Kim flailing and yelling with the possum on his chest. That's about the only thing that could have been funnier than your description of the action.

Keep in mind next time you go hunting for a possum to feel its fur, they have lots of sharp little teeth and they will use them if they have to. Kim was lucky.

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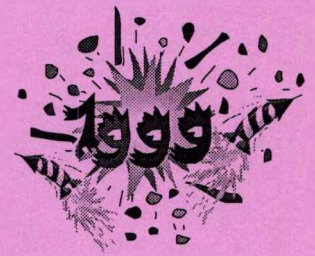
© **Vijay Bowen**

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[SC] Hang on Vijay. Stay with us. Write more as soon as you can.

Another Year...

Another  
**PARTY!**



8 pm til ??, Thursday night, New Year's Eve

Jeanne & Scott's house, 2825 Union St.

Formal/festive attire encouraged

...but not required

We will have snacks and beverages (root beer, beer, hot cider, & champagne) and will welcome your treats to our table. Let us know what you're bringing ahead of time.

**EXPECT: LOTS OF FUN, GAMES  
& SURPRISES**



608-246-8857 ✨ Arlbrau@globaldialog.com ✨ RSVP, please



Please accept with no obligation, implied or implicit our best wishes for an environmentally conscious, socially responsible, low stress, non-addictive, gender neutral, celebration of the winter solstice holiday, practiced within the most enjoyable traditions of the religious persuasion of your choice, or secular practices of your choice, with respect for the religious/secular persuasions and/or traditions of others, or their choice not to practice religious or secular traditions at all . . .

and a fiscally successful, personally fulfilling, and medically uncomplicated recognition of the onset of the generally accepted calendar year 1999, but not without due respect for the calendars of choice of other cultures whose contributions to society have helped make America great, (not to imply that America is necessarily greater than any other country or is the only "AMERICA" in the western hemisphere), and without regard to the race, creed, color, age, physical ability, religious faith, choice of computer platform, or sexual preference of the wishee.

(By accepting this greeting, you are accepting these terms. This greeting is subject to clarification or withdrawal. It is freely transferable with no alteration to the original greeting. It implies no promise by the wisher to actually implement any of the wishes for her/himself or others, and is void where prohibited by law, and is revocable at the sole discretion of the wisher. This wish is warranted to perform as expected within the usual application of good tidings for a period of one year, or until the issuance of a subsequent holiday greeting, whichever comes first, and warranty is limited to replacement of this wish or issuance of a new wish at the sole discretion of the wisher.)