

Union Street

A joint zine by Jeanne Gomoll & Scott Custis

☉ Movies and Books

[SC] In 1998, Jeanne and I went to 49 movies. We saw most of them together, although Jeanne went to *Beloved* and *Meet Joe Black* without me and I went to the re-release of Orson Wells' *Touch of Evil* without her.

As is the usual frustration, we missed some movies that had very short runs or ran during a time when we were busy or out of town. A few movies we skipped intending to see them on video later (*Smoke Signals* comes to mind.) Also, some films that are technically from 1997 didn't reach us until January or February (and the same with movies that will be Oscar contenders for 1998 that have not opened here yet.) But we did see a lot of stuff and herewith is my list of ten movies I liked the best of the films I saw last year roughly in order starting with my favorite:

1. *The Truman Show*
2. *Primary Colors*
3. *Jackie Brown*
4. *Dark City*
5. *Ronin*
6. *Elizabeth*
7. *Shakespeare in Love*
8. *The Spanish Prisoner*
9. *Wag the Dog*
10. *Saving Private Ryan*

Notice that I make no claim to listing the "best" movies of the year, only the ones I liked the most.

The film I thought was the biggest letdown of the year was the Cohn brothers' odd *The Big Lebowski*. I went in with the highest expectations, but for the first time I saw a film where John Goodman was just not funny. I did like parts of it, but my overwhelming impression at the end was of disappointment. The flat out worst and most offensive movie I saw all year (and it is embarrassing to admit that we were ever attracted enough to see it) was the howlingly bad *Kippendorf's Tribe*.

On the subject of movies, I thought 1998 was a fairly typical year for movies in most respects, but one

☉ Official Business

[JG] I second Tom Havighurst's nomination of Jane Kurtz.

☉ General Business

[SC] The first order of business is to announce that it is our pleasure to introduce **Maureen Kincaid Speller's** first contribution to *Turbo Apa* this month. We will be acting as Maureen's email and copying agent. Welcome Maureen.

In my opinion, the apa is about to begin another exciting period of growth and change. **Jae** has been busy signing up (or re-signing in some cases) some very interesting and promising contributors. I am really looking forward to the work of new contributors like **Maureen, Ulrika** and **Jane Kurtz**, as well as the return of good friends **Bill Bodden, Martin Smith** and **Nevenah Smith**. Three cheers for the Pirate Queen.

The second order of business is to thank you one and all who made it to our New Year's Party. We had the largest turnout ever, more food than could be consumed by an army and a totally insane explosion of noise at the appointed second followed by a rousing rendition of "Auld Lang Syne." Those apans in attendance thoroughly deserved the title of Party Animals. Look for a full listing of our predictions elsewhere in this zine. (They were packaged with treats and handed out to attendees on New Year's Eve.)

thing stood out for me. It was an unusually good year for political movies. I saw four good to excellent political films when we are normally lucky to see one. This year I saw and liked *Primary Colors*, *Wag the Dog*, *Bulworth*, and *The Big One*. All dealt with political themes with intelligence, humor and insight.

In contrast, I regret to admit that I read only 18 books (mostly novels) in 1998. A really pathetic number and a clear indication that I have not been able to wrestle enough time out of my schedule to devote to reading.

[JG] I dislike making top ten lists, but I would probably have put *Pleasantville* in mine, way up near the top. I was also way more impressed by *Babe, a Pig in the City* than Scott was. I also really liked *Dangerous Beauty*, *A Bug's Life*, *Living Out Loud* and *Ever After*. Still, I'd have a hard time taking films off Scott's list, so you can see why I avoid doing top-10 lists. So, for my "Books Read in 1998" list, I'll just use asterisks to mark the ones I recommend.

- * *Was*, Geoff Ryman
- Wicked: The Life and Times of the Wicked Witch of the West*, Gregory Maguire
- * *Children of God*, Mary Doria Russell
- * *The Moon and the Sun*, Vonda N. McIntyre
- * *Black Glass: Short Fictions*, Karen Joy Fowler
- The Child Garden*, Geoff Ryman
- * *Gibbon's Decline and Fall*, Sherri Tepper
- Solution Three*, Naomi Mitchison
- * *Letters to Alice on First Reading Jane Austen*, Fay Weldon
- The Waterworks*, E. L. Doctorow
- * *The Family Tree*, Sherri Tepper
- Swordspoint*, Ellen Kushner
- * *The Conqueror's Child*, [not yet published] Suzy McKee Charnas
- * *Hand of Prophecy*, Severna Park
- * *The Porcelain Dove*, Delia Sherman
- * *Thomas the Rhymer*, Ellen Kushner
- * *Speaking Dreams*, Severna Park
- * *A Widow for One Year*, John Irving
- * *Trying to Save Piggy Sneed*, John Irving
- The Shapes of their Hearts*, Melissa Scott
- * *The Dazzle of Day*, Molly Gloss
- * *God's Fire*, Patricia Anthony
- * *Dark Water's Embrace*, Stephen Leigh
- * *The Blue Place*, Nicola Griffith
- Commitment Hour*, James Alan Gardner
- * *Halfway Human*, Carolyn Ives Gilman
- * *Antarctica*, Kim Stanley Robinson
- * *Vast*, Linda Nagata
- * *The Calcutta Chromosome*, Amitav Ghosh
- * *Beloved*, Toni Morrison
- Brown Girl in the Ring*, Nalo Hopkinson

- * *The Queen of Whale Cay: The Authentic Story of "Joe" Carstairs, Fastest Woman on Water*, Kate Summerscale
- Siblings*, Nick Kelsh and Anna Quindlen
- Wizard and Glass*, Stephen King
- * *Ella Enchanted*, Gail Carson Levine
- * *Into the Forest*, Jean Hegland

© Vicki Rosenzweig

[SC] What is the likelihood that your grandmother will go on-line? My father and two of his sisters (my aunts) are all on-line now, and they are all in their seventies and early eighties. It seems that email is a quick, easy (easier than writing by hand if you have a touch of arthritis) and cheap (cheaper than phone calls) means of keeping in touch. Old folks can surprise us.

Is an Ikea a big furniture store?

[JG] Not having a page on the Internet yet, I can only comment on your dilemma about your web page, in a theoretical manner, but that doesn't stop me.... I'm sure there will be things on my own web page, when and if it eventually goes up, that I'd rather my parents didn't see. But, as a result of an incident that occurred several years ago, I doubt that I will edit my web page for fear of the wrong relative seeing it. Several years ago I donated some money to N.O.W. and signed a petition to protest an anti-abortion measure that had just passed in the Wisconsin Legislature. On Mother's Day, my name was printed (among hundreds of other names) in the major Wisconsin newspapers, including one to which my parents subscribe, *The Milwaukee Journal*. Mom would never have noticed my name on that list, but several friends and relatives telephoned and helpfully enlightened her about her daughter's printed fame. Subsequently, I received an angry phone call from Mom ("How dare I do such a thing on *Mother's Day of all days!!*"), but I did not apologize. I might apologize for instigating a loud argument in my parents' house, but I feel I have to let go of fears that my parents will discover I have views of which they disapprove — outside of their house. My dad, after all, has shown up unexpectedly at WisCon and has heard me speaking on panels. And if they spent only a little time searching, they could easily find some of my essays published in quasi-professional and professional publications that contain opinions that I would probably not mention at my parents' dinner table. I think they're very aware that some subjects get side-stepped at home, at their desire, and that they explore my other environments at their own risk.

© Lisa Freitag

[SC] “Gomers in the House of God” was a powerful, thought-provoking and awesomely well written piece. What do you think should have been done with Mrs. Lillian (ignoring the law, current medical practice and doctors oaths)?

Your comment that gomers are produced by good medical care is the unfortunate reality of scientific progress. We can’t know or solve everything at once, so as medicine moves slowly forward, people are caught in the middle between dying off of relatively simple ailments that medicine learns to defeat, but unable to relieve the suffering from the far more complex problems of old age and mental illness. To cure Mrs. Lillian’s urinary tract infections so she could continue to live in such an awful state seems really cruel. But who could be expected to undertake the responsibility of deciding that she ought to be euthanized in the absence of friends or family?

Jeanne and I saw the Jack Kevorkian piece on *60 Minutes* and he made his goals and objectives completely clear. He demanded to be arrested so that the issue of doctor assisted suicide could be decided in court in the broadest possible sense. He is a true ideologue, a true radical for his cause. He doesn’t care what happens to him as long as he forces society to deal with his issue. He stated that his plan, should he be convicted of murder and sent to prison, was simply to starve himself to death. I am utterly convinced that he would follow through with that plan. The media’s response to him is to mostly ignore the uncomfortable and complex issues he raises in favor of simplistically depicting him as “Dr. Death” in cartoons and Jay Leno jokes.

I agree with you that what he is doing is “terribly, urgently important.”

[JG] Excellent essay on “gomers,” Lisa. I dislike the way Dr. Kevorkian is treated so often as a morbid joke. I too, think he and people like him are headed in the right direction and, unfortunately, have a long way to go, before we all have the choices we deserve to have at the end of our lives. My family’s experiences around the time when my brother Rick died of AIDS has a lot to do with my strong feelings on this matter. It’s rather sad that it would be a stupid thing (legally) for me to talk much about Rick’s choices and our support of those choices, at the end of his life. I know that there are lots of people who would have useful things to say about euthanasia, but who feel compelled to be silent for the same reason I do. In the gaping silence, all we hear, therefore, are the jokes.

© Georgie Schnobrich

[SC] I haven’t had much experience with self-improvement presentations at work. Such things are available for sign-up, but as yet I haven’t been required to attend one. Lucky me, it seems.

I agree with you that the imminent death of books is somewhat exaggerated. The characteristics of books like portability, readability and data containment are probably nearly replaceable by computers right now. But there are other characteristics books have that are more subtle and less easily replaced. Their look and feel, the art of beautiful binding or attractive page layout and design, and how nice they look together on a shelf or shelves. It is fun to shop for books in a bookstore. I think if I had a database of all the novels published in the last 200 years, I would find myself less excited about scrolling down a list and choosing something from there than I currently find picking a book off a shelf, holding it, looking it over and finally sticking it into my backpack. I find myself much less interested in shopping for books on-line, for example, than I am in a visit to a bookstore, even though I know there is a greater variety on-line.

An author can sign a book, but how can she sign a database?

Books will be around for a while longer I think. Even after all the practical characteristics of books have been replaced I think it will take the dying off of a generation or two of people who grew up with books before there is any real chance of their disappearance.

[JG] Excellent comments about the fantasy world in which motivational speakers seem to live. I’ve struggled to stay awake through my share of these speeches and each time have wished for Archie McFee fake eye balls that I could paste over my closed eyes. The reason motivational speeches persist, I suspect, is that employers, owners and corporate executives operate on the theory that the big lie *works* most of the time. They might be perfectly aware that the assumptions of their motivational speakers do not match the realities of their employees. But in fact, it is the assumptions that are being taught more than the techniques. If it is repeated often enough that successful people all live in suburbs, drive cars, and care more about their jobs than their private lives — then a certain number of people will dutifully shift their lives around to match those assumptions. Suzette Haden Elgin points out that one of the most effective ways of changing someone’s viewpoint isn’t to argue directly that they should change their mind about something, but to imbed an assumption into a statement and to suggest that that idea is already generally believed by everyone.

"Wouldn't it be great," you asked, "if we could be who we are, but have one facet of our personality a mirror that we could turn toward our co-workers, so they could look at us and see themselves? It would keep them happy and us out of trouble." Actually, I think a lot of traditionally "successful" people do that all the time. They're constantly testing the waters to see if their audience likes or doesn't like what they're saying and adjusting their manner accordingly. The problem with behaving this way, is that the "mirror" isn't a detachable tool; its part of one's personality. People who vary their manner too often to match their audience tend to forget what they really think and who they really are. It's too easy to become what you pretend to be, I think.

I wasn't cheering for winter to come on time; in fact I was hoping it would delay even longer than it did. I loved being able to bicycle to work all the way through the second last week of December. It turned out I only had to buy two monthly bus passes in 1998! Now that the snow's here, it just keeps coming, doesn't it? The first big blizzard, the day after New Year's Day, kept Scott and I from visiting his family in Iowa as planned. It also kept us busy shoveling. The snowblower failed to work when we needed it most to get rid of that 12-15 inches of snow. The next time it snowed only a couple inches, the snowblower started up like a charm. One doesn't look for irony from a snowblower.

© Tracy Benton

[SC] Viva Las Vegas. I hope you have a great time and write all about it for us. I have to admit that Vegas holds almost no interest for me as a vacation destination, though I would consider going through it if it was reasonably close to something else I wanted to see or do.

[JG] Another adverse effect for festive holiday lights left on in the office: unacceptably merry janitorial staff?

I liked *A Bug's Life*, too. Coincidentally, I watched a video of *Bambi* not long after seeing the Pixar film, and I found the comparison between early Disney and recent Pixar amazing for improvements that electronic animation have brought and also what has been lost. *Bambi* includes lots of scenes in which forest animals gambol about in the meadows. Even though I think the art in *Bambi* is gorgeous, my eye was constantly snagged by the unreal stillness of the grasses and flowers. Flora was drawn on dozens of cells, each arrayed in layers around the various "moving" cells which mostly included Bambi and his forest friends. But in spite of the complexity, it was static in a way I

never noticed any of the previous times I saw this movie. My expectations have been raised by electronic animation. On the other hand, the painterly aspects of *Bambi* gave it a beauty and feeling of high art that I haven't seen in computer-created animation yet. *Bambi's* world is painted with water color washes, visible paint brush strokes that makes it less than a reflection of a forest than a painting of it. Modern animation strives, still, for a reflection of reality (or as close as can be gotten to a reflection).

A digression: I watched *Bambi* with Scott's 3-year old grand-niece. Kamry. His family, I think, was amused that she and I seemed to be enjoying it on a similar level. But they gradually forgot about Kamry and I out there in the living room watching the video together as they got into their card game, and they missed her reaction to the sequence when all the forest animals start falling in love. Kamry had gotten used to the rhythm of the movie, which was that a series of Bad Things happens to Bambi, who manages to survive them all. In fact, Kamry thought this falling in love bit was just one more in a series of Bad Things. I fell in with her interpretation. As Flower (the skunk) and Thumper (the rabbit) fell in love, Kamry and I waved bye-bye to them. Then Bambi fell in love with Felice, and Kamry reacted in the same way as when Bambi's mother died. I had to talk her out of her fear. Gradually she came around. "But *why* are they falling in love? What will they do?" "They're becoming really *good* friends," I said. Later, when Felice gave birth to a fawn, Kamry ran out to the kitchen to tell her mom that Bambi's *good* friend had had a baby. No one seemed to know how to answer Kamry. I quietly remained in the living room.

Back to *A Bug's Life*. I agree, it's an interesting film about the triumph of the individual over conformity. *Antz* was supposed to work on that level too, but in the end, turned out to completely endorse conformity. The Woody Allen ant learned that ants' natural tendency to work together in common tasks (even if they have no comprehension of their common goals or ultimate meanings) is, in fact, a good thing ... as long as the main character dictates the goals and understands the meanings. Thus, conformity is good as long as one is not the spear carrier.

Sorry the Memorial Union Tudor dinner was such a dud. I read a similar review to yours in the *Capitol Times*, by someone whose feelings were tempered not by the music but by the wassail. Apparently, when everyone was lined up at the hors d'houvres table, there was no line at all at the wassail table. Apparently, the reviewer tanked up and didn't mind that the food was so mediocre.

There are only two kinds of Romance, unrequited or unobtainable!?! Whew, does that mean you think it's impossible to find romance in a long-term relationship? That's a pretty depressing scenario. Once you get married or commit to a partner, say good-bye to romance? I definitely disagree. *Babylon 5's* last episode may have lacked something, but it wasn't because romance is intrinsically impossible for a devoted couple.

© Andy Hooper

[SC] Thanks for the update on your physical health. It was good news that was very welcome.

Congratulations also the news that you will soon be an uncle (again?) But a hearty "BOO" for stealing Packers coach Mike Holmgren from us (although that is technically a 1999 development.)

I would love to see your finished list of the 100 Most Evil Americans of the 20th Century.

[JG] I'm glad to hear that you feel confident about being able to keep your diabetes in check. Good for you!

I know what you mean about sometimes too hastily deleting email because its subject line makes it look like spam. We had to ask a relative of Scott's to stop typing his subject lines in all caps with a multitude of exclamation points. I kept deleting his mail without opening it first.

The panel on the post-Romantic impulse sounds like a good idea! **Jae, Georgie** ... are you there? You should propose it to WisCon 23 programming chair, Debbie Notkin.

© Jae Adams

[SC] Thanks for the really marvelous report of your trip to Britain. I look forward to more installments.

Regarding your comment to me, I am flattered. Thank you.

See you at Potlatch.

[JG] I am confused, I have always been confused about this term pre-Raphaelite, to designate artwork created in the late 1800s but described as being prior to a Renaissance painter. Can you explain?

In one part of your zine you allude to your tendency toward sarcasm rather than direct response to provocation. In another part of your zine you demonstrate, with "nashing of teeth!" Perhaps you should be more blatantly obvious on this point of apa deadlines. I fear that your sarcastic subtleties may be taken as jokes rather than warnings. Sometimes you have to be a Pirate Queen: Do this, or else walk the plank!

© Michael Rawdon

[SC] I mostly agree with your assessment of *Babylon 5*, though I liked Captain Sheridan a little more than you did.

[JG] You say you are unsure of how I was disagreeing with your comment to **Vicki** regarding the environment. You said that we shouldn't be too concerned with the loss of any single species. I argued that environmentalists, are not so concerned with any single species as with the effect its loss has on a system. A forest ecosystem or a meadow ecosystem cannot survive the loss of too many of its component parts (flora, fauna, climate, geology) without changing, and sometimes changing drastically. The extinction of a certain number or crucial components will result in the destruction of the system. For instance, if global warming causes temperatures to raise high enough and fast enough, ecosystems that flourish at certain latitudes will simply die out; they will not merely move north with warmer temperatures because the distance between its current location and acceptable climatic environment will be too far away. The result in some cases, will be the loss of a whole network of interconnected plants and animals. Or, take the case of the rainforest in Brazil, which is being wiped out by slash and burn agriculture. We're not talking about the loss of a few species of trees and animals. We are talking about the loss, in a very short time, of an entire ecosystem. Yes, systems destroyed by global warming or slash-and-burn agriculture will be replaced by other systems. (I assume this is what you mean by moral relativism: who are we to judge whether the new systems are better or worse than the systems they replaced?) But what is sure is that the replacements systems are getting more and more simple, less and less diverse. Prairies that once contained hundreds of grass species per acre have been replaced by monocrops (corn, wheat, etc.) that stretch across thousands of acres. Forests that once contained dozens of species of trees, hundreds of species of bushes, and supported a huge variety of fungi, grasses, flowers, insects, and mammals, have been replaced by "plantation" forests with one tree type and one canopy layer for easier harvesting by lumber companies. With the loss of a single species or the loss of a whole ecosystem, the world and humanity lose data, lose possibilities; we lose potential. We lose potential drugs, potential food sources; we lose things we don't even know we will need. Eventually we could make our world poisonous for human beings. Moral relativism again: who cares? Humans can be replaced by something

that finds the new world a paradise. That's what happened when the oxygen-based environments replaced the carbon-dioxide environments. If there had been intelligent life on the planet back in those days, the shift would have looked like the most awful pollution imaginable: corrosive oxygen literally burning up the world as it had been.

So why should human beings care about the changes they are causing in the world around them? Because we can see, in the long run, they will work against the very survival of the human race. That's not an objective reason only if your point of view is other than human.



Actually, a woman named Monica Monica (her actual birth name, given to her by her father, who really really liked the name Monica) is running for Congress and even without any political experience is expected to have a good shot at winning. Just because of her name.

© Vijay Bowen

[SC] Thanks for keeping us informed about your curious activities. I kept thinking as I was reading along, that I believe you are going to be a very big (and a very unusual) hit with British fandom on your TAFF trip. Congratulations.

It is good news that you and Mark are working things out. Good luck to you both.

[JG] Congratulations on winning TAFF! I hope you have a wonderful trip!

© Jim Frenkel

[SC] Wow, cool story about your trip to the Stony Brook forum anniversary. Thanks for sharing it with us.

© Tom Havighurst

[SC] I agree that Jane will make a fine apa member. Good idea to think of bringing her onboard just as she is leaving town so we can all keep in touch with her.

Too bad that party turned out to be such a drag. Nothing worse than being the only wildman at a boring party. Thanks for the comments on Reptile Palace Orchestra. I have heard they are good.

I got a laugh out of the "Junior Manager's Kit." Who would do that to a kid?

[JG] I'm glad you feel comfortable about being honest in *Turbo*, and that *Turbo* gives you a place you can be less guarded.

I noticed all the molded plastic stuff in the stores, too. Actually, it started before Halloween. I think it has something to do with the suddenly recognized niche market of exterior house decorating, e.g., Santas and witches and other creatures cluttering rooftops and lawns temporarily in the appropriate seasons. Yuch.

© Clay Colwell

[JG] What Arctic blast? The blast you get in Texas isn't from the Arctic. You should refer to the "Wisconsin blast," or perhaps the "Illinois Blast," or the "Iowa Blast."

© Kim & Kathi Nash

[SC] Sorry about missing the birthday bash. This is the first one I have missed in a long time. We had a prior commitment, but confusion about the date of your party contributed to my failure to realize we had a conflict in time to send my regrets. Hope you had a good time and I look forward to being there next year.

[JG] December 21? The day *before* the apa deadline? Did many people show up for your party?

© New Years Predictions

You will be abducted by aliens and asked to explain the US impeachment trial.

You will volunteer to chair WisCon 24.

You will win the Publisher's Clearinghouse Sweepstakes and Ed McMahan and the cameras will catch you wearing nothing but a silk teddy and bunny slippers.

Your life story will be made into a movie-of-the-week, starring Beavis and Butthead.

60 Minutes will produce an expose on how much television Americans watch and will ask you if they can film you as an example.

You will find religion and join a Y2K survivalist cult in Spooner Wisconsin.

You will win an online contest and the prize will be a walk-on role — as one of the newly discovered foureyes species — in the season premiere of *Crusade*.

You will be removed as judge in the 1999 Great American Home Brewers competition when it is discovered that you thought it was a *root beer* brewing contest.

Reggie White will sack you in West Towne's parking lot, but no one will believe you.

Your name will be used by Sherri Tepper in her new 1999 novel as a disposable, male character who is bent on having a *big family*.

You will throw your hat into the next city council race, vowing to represent the gender-bender vote.

You will volunteer your kitchen for a Bill Hoffman feeding frenzy.

You and a friend will win a top prize at the worldcon masquerade for your explicit, K/S portrayal of Londo and J'Kar.

You will take over management of a Madison restaurant in the new year and volunteer the place for all future Madison SF meetings.

It will be a bad year for you. Harlan Ellison will turn on you when you ask him a question about a *Babylon 5* plot hole.

You will publish a great new web page but forget its address.

Scott Custis will publish your driving record on the Internet.

You will be fined in 1999 for perjury — pretending to hate puns. All your hopes for a presidential nomination will be dashed.

Your plane to Australia will drift off course and you will spend worldcon weekend eating whale blubber in Yakutsk, Siberia.

You will volunteer to be the next OE of the *Turbo-Charged Party Animal*.

Nevenah Smith will drive to Madison just so she can help you move in 1999.

In the midst of tornado warnings you will drive GoH Mary Russell from the Concourse to the airport, and run out of gas on route.

Your beanie-baby obsession will get out of hand. You will be caught selling books to support your habit.

Ellen Klages will auction your personal diary at the next Tiptree auction. Kenneth Star will buy it.

Ellen Klages will auction off your virginity at the next Tiptree auction. Someone very gullible will buy it.

Your best friends will organize an intervention after you confess that you respect the writing of Camille Paglia.

The only plague of locusts ever recorded in the city of Madison will sweep through town on the afternoon you go sailing with Barb Gilligan.

You will party till dawn, help pick up party debris, and join other New Year's Eve party survivors in an early morning breakfast.

An ozone hole will open directly over Madison. You will get rich selling Frank Lloyd Wright, prairie-style visors.

You will ride up to Minicon with Cathy Gilligan and Greg Noggle, and inexplicably find yourself in Oostberg.

You will urge Madison Fandom to bid for a worldcon. They will send Vito and Raoul to deal with you.

You will disguise yourself as South Park's Kenny at Hope and Karl's 1999 Halloween party. Be careful. Be very careful.

Good news — you will win an all-expenses-paid trip to the Rosebowl. Bad news — your seatmate on the plane to Pasedina will be Mark Neuman who will explain why all Madisonians are idiots.

In a classic "wag the dog" move during your scandal-ridden stint as SF³ board member, you will commit all of Madison fandom to jihad against Minnstf.

A new officer will be added to the SF³ board; you will be elected as official "intern."

You will request grace from the Pirate Queen OE of *Turbo* apa. Jae will demand Richard Russell's head in return.

You will buy a Volkswagon Beetle and apply for a new vanity license plate: "Y2K."

Eugene Parks will be elected Mayor of Madison and will appoint you as his etiquette advisor.

You will take over Dick Russell's TV show, *Sass*. Your first guest will be Minnesota governor elect, Jessie "The Body" Ventura, who will convince you that if a pro wrestler can find political success, so can an SF fan.

Now that we've had the first geezer in space, NASA will select *you* as the first geek to ride the space shuttle.

This year you will manage to obtain one of the extremely rare Monica Lewinsky Beanie Babies. Its tag will warn, "Do not dry clean."

Your invention of zinagra will prove a boon to limp fannish publishing output in 1999.

You will volunteer to be a UN weapons inspector in Iraq, but will be rejected because you can't tell the difference between a weapon of mass destruction and a Ho Ho.

You will urge SF³ to get its share of the tobacco settlement. "What share?" SF cubers will ask. "Well, think of all the fans who *might* have attended our meetings at Nick's if smoking had been prohibited!"

Your image will appear on the newly minted \$3 bill. Unfortunately the Treasury Department will trace the bills to your color xerox machine.

At an Academy Award party you will confess that your favorite 1998 film was *The Waterboy*. You will get spammed.

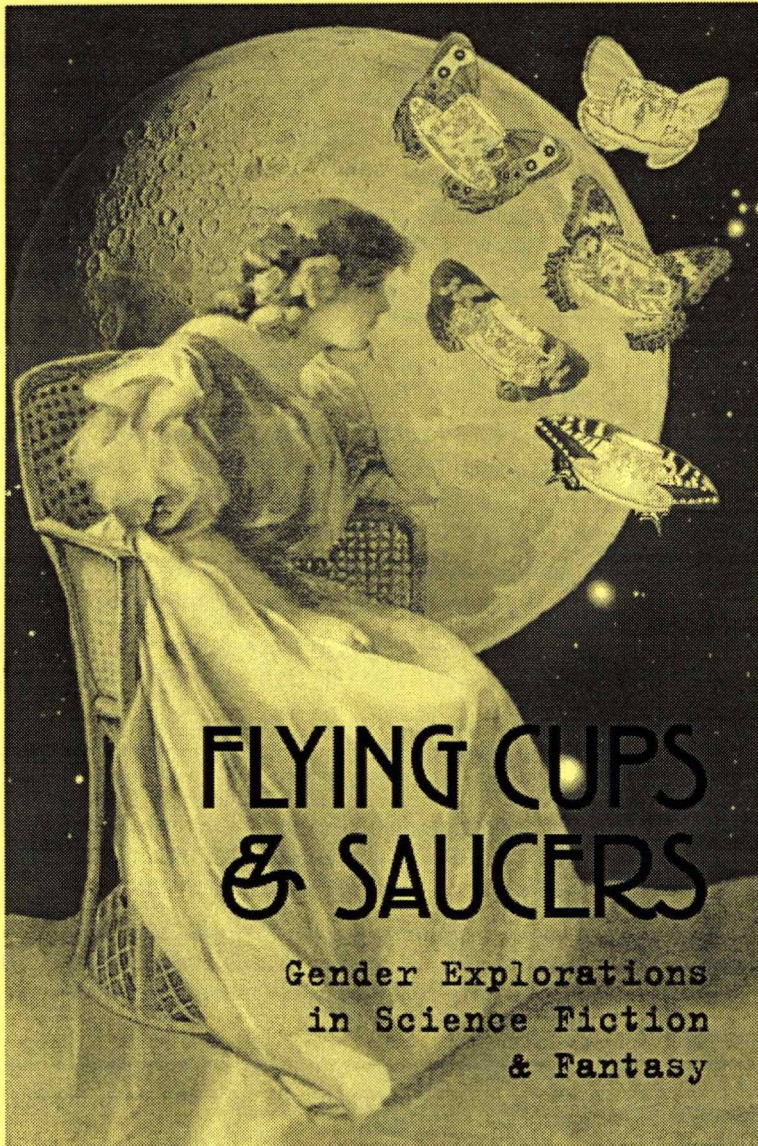
You will end up using your NBA season tickets as bookmarks.

DNA tests will prove conclusively that you are a descendant of L. Ron Hubbard.

You will miss *Star Wars*' premiere because of WisCon. You will miss seeing it in the next few weeks because of pneumonia. A car accident will prevent you from seeing it before it leaves town. You'll finally rent the video but discover that your friends have spoiled the story for you.

Attempting to prove malicious prejudice against his company, Bill Gates will ask that you be called as a witness and interrogated about the Microsoft jokes you posted on the Internet.

—Happy New Year!
Jeanne & Scott



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