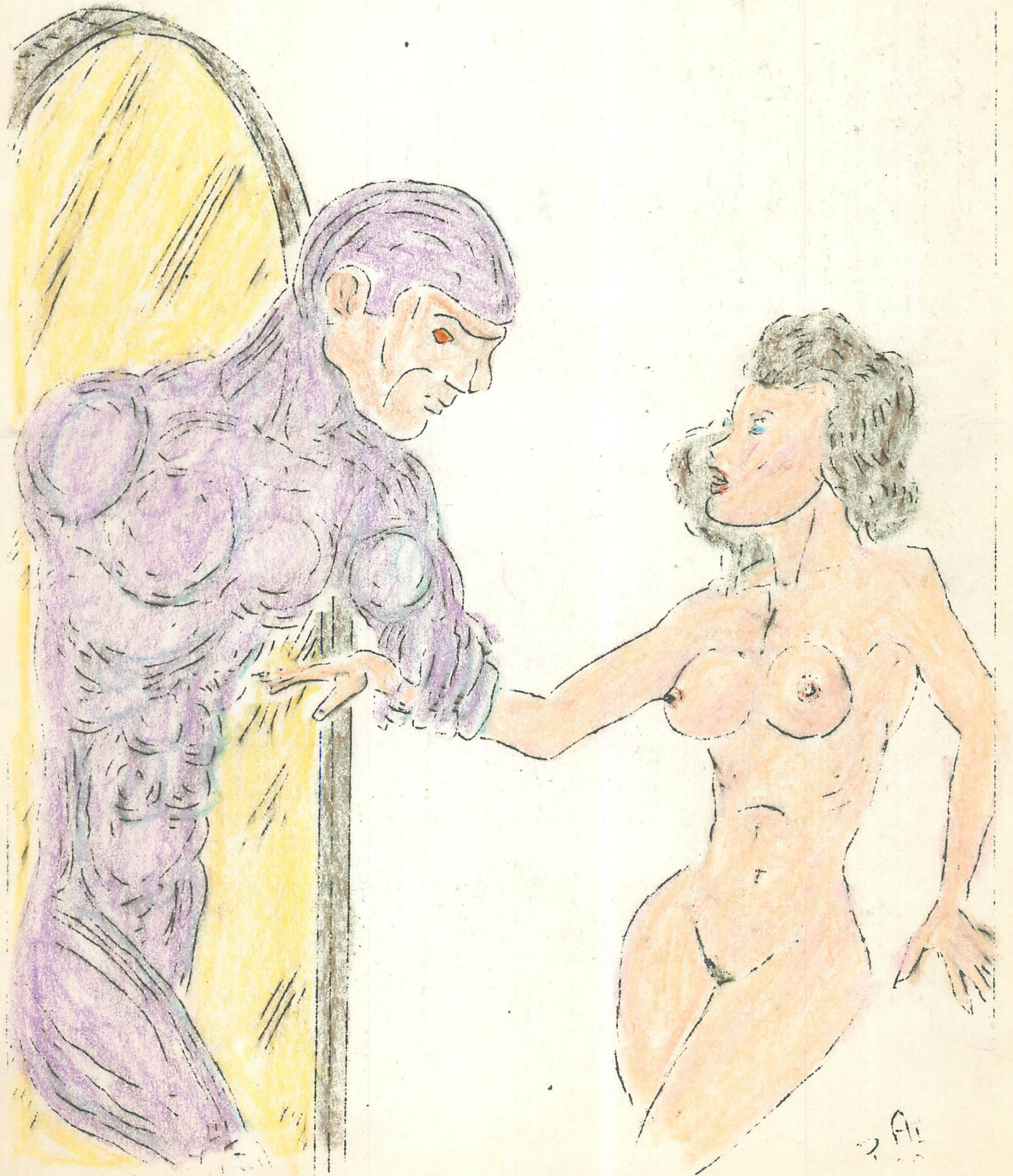


# SPACEWARD 164



104 SPECIAL WARD



SPACEWARS 164, April 1992, that's what you have fished out of this stack of byzackey newfangled wordprocessed and copier-duplicated amateur publications that you got from the SAPS OE, who in turn got this particular one from me- Arthur H Repp, 232 Grovania Drive, Bloomsburg, PA 17015-9608. I hope you realize I am using a Meyers Firstline film stencil in the Selectric, and consequently using corflin on a typer is an enterprise of timeconsuming and complex skill, which I will probably skip in all but the most serious cases of many a slip what the cortex and the typer keys. You wouldn't want your traditional fanish skills of decoding fanish types to atrophy, would you now?

Before we get into discussion of SAPS NGR 178, I will fulfill and wipe off my "things ya gotta do" list, the long-ago got to give you the recipe for Emma's Big Buns, I've tested this recipe twice myself, as well as giving copies to other nonprofessional cooks who reported that their attempts were likewise successful...

### EMMA'S BIG BUNS

(From the Harrisburg Patriot-News, 2/24/91). Emma runs a cafe in Farragut C Iowa which is said to be famous for these buns. They are big. One bun and a cup or two of coffee will provide a filling breakfast for most anyone.

Dough 1 pkd (1 tblsp) yeast  
1/2 cup warm water  
4 tblsp (1/2 stick) margarine, melted  
1 cup warm potato water OR 1/4 cup dry instant mashed potatoes plus 1 cup water  
1/3 cup sugar  
1 teaspoon salt  
1/2 cup dry nonfat milk  
2 eggs, lightly beaten  
4 to 5 cups flour

Dissolve the yeast in 1/2 cup warm water, in a large (8 qt) mixing bowl. Add, stirring after each, the melted margarine, potato water (or instant potatoes & water), sugar, salt, dry milk, eggs and 4 cups flour. Mix with electric mixer or wooden spoon until it forms a ragged dough (if necessary add extra flour 1/2 cup at a time until a soft workable dough is formed).

Knead in the bowl or on a floured board for 5 minutes.

Filling 1 cup white sugar  
1/4 cup brown sugar  
1 tblsp cinnamon  
2 or 3 tblsp soft margarine

Glaze 1-1/2 cups confectioners sugar  
Juice of 1 lemon  
1 or 2 tblsp water if needed to make a smooth spreadable glaze.

Form the dough into a ball and place in a bowl (the one you mixed it in is fine: just rinse out, wipe dry and grease it). Let rise in a warm place until doubled (1 or 2 hours).

Grease baking pans (Two 9x12x3" pans or equivalent)

Turn risen dough out on floured board, knead 1 minute, and roll out into a rectangle about 1/2" thick.

Spread the dough with the soft margarine. Mix the other filling ingredients together and sprinkle on the dough. Roll up like a jellyroll and cut into 1-inch slices (about 16, depending on how long the rolled-up dough is).

Place the slices in the greased pans, allowing room for them to expand during the second rising.

Cover pans loosely and let rise until doubled (about 1 hour).

Preheat oven to 350° and bake 35 to 40 minutes until nicely browned on top.

While the rolls are baking, make the glaze by beating the lemon juice and confectioners sugar together with a little water if necessary to make a smooth spreadable glaze.

When rolls are done, spoon glaze on top (in the pans).

Makes about 10 BIG buns. Great eaten warm from the oven, but they are good cold, too.

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\* MAILING COMMENTS \*  
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\* SAPS Mlg 178 \*\*  
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SPECTATOR 178 (OE): Ya ought to put the date of the mailing somewhere in the heading, to save future historians having to check to make sure what the mailing deadline months were in 1992. ## 1040 is an appropriate number of points to specify for the Pillar Poll, since I fear your rules for voting are about as complicated as the IRS instruction booklet for their 1040/ I'll try. however...

VOICE FROM THE PAST (Carr): I see by Smithsonian Magazine that the National Air and Space Museum in D.C. is exhibiting Star Trek memorabilia through Sep 7, 1992. Religion in Schools: Apparently to lawyers or school officials, only Christianity and Judaism are religions; other faiths are merely pagan beliefs. ## Environmental concern: Small item in the paper the other day mentioned that the European countries are hastily cooperating to pass stricter regulations to ban ozone-depleting chemicals, since one of their leading scientists predicted that a hole in the ozone layer may open up directly over Europe as early as this summer. The U.S. isn't in much of a hurry to do anything about this particular hazard as yet. Reminds me that back about 1965 or so I read a news story about a duPont Co. executive testifying to Congress that no action should be taken on the report of an American scientific panel that chlorofluorocarbons were depleting the ozone layer. "Let's just study the problem for a few years," he advised. So I got his address out of Who's Who and wrote him a letter saying maybe he wasn't worried about the problem but I wouldn't want my two young sons to grow up in a world where they had to live indoors because of the radiation danger outside. He replied that he had several grandchildren and wouldn't think of doing anything that would endanger them...I wonder if he still thinks he made the right decision back then? ## Labgguage: In the Sunday newspaper supplement USA Today, youngsters are often quoted saying "is like" in place of "say": "As soon as I get home from school Mom is like 'Go do your homework' "-- I have never heard anyone, child or adult, actually say that. I wonder if it's simply a regional (NY or CA) idiom, or something written into articles by an editor who wants to give a more "youthful" sound to adolescent speech? ## Boarding houses: The closest equivalent I know of around here are group homes, usually for the elderly or retarded who don't need constant medical attention, but are not capable of living on their own. And there are also some seady motels which rent rooms by the week or month, to transient laborers or people whose home has burned down, etc. I think the real boarding houses have evolved into the B&B's where tourists can stay overnight and not have to go hunting for a restaurant for breakfast.

SPAGHETTI (N.Rapp): How about the check-overdraft affair as an encore to the Thomas confirmation hearings? When our current bunch of Congressional clowns get thrown out of office, they can always go on to careers in show business. ## You like nice furry tarantulas? Back at Oro Grande, we used to have one that would come out and sit on the barracks steps at sunrise, and if anyone approached him, he'd do like pushups on all 8 furry legs while he glared at you with his 8 beady eyes. How about scorpions? ## Deer hunting: A year or two ago they threw a big scare into the hunters by reporting that a deer killed in the southern part of the state was found to be rabid. The hunters were all out buying surgical gloves to wear if they had to touch a deer carcass. ## Jeez, way back in January you're talking about spring flowers, and here it is the 14th of March, and we had a sprinkling of snow this morning and 14° when I looked at the thermometer before going to work. (But the pussywillow buds are showing white fluff, and the flowering quince buds have a touch of pink at their tips, so maybe you'll eventually get your springtime. ## Speaking of things you can't find the title to, reminds me of the book we found to send my sister for Christmas: it's titled Sinkin Spellis, Hot Flashes, Fits and Crafins by Ernest M. Mickier (Ten Speed Press, Berkeley, 1988) and you're wrong, what it is is a cookbook. According to the blurb, the author previously ~~had~~ wrote The White Trash Cookbook, and both of them feature Southern home cooking, full of saturated fat, empty calories, and all the other ingredients that make food taste like what Mother used to make. Unfortunately, it was the last copy on the shelf at Friar Tuck, otherwise we'd have gotten a copy to inspire ourselves... W;h'a's a well house? Jeeze, as a country girl you oughta know that! It's like a springhouse only without the spring.

KEY HOLE #7 (That Weber Bunch): , Hey, howcum Wally can get the whole family ~~do~~ *the work for W's* help with his SAPSzine, and when I tried that, Mike wouldn't help with mine or Nancy's, he joined SAPS and published his own. You must have a bigger cat-o-nine-tails than mine, Wally. ## Jeez, a typer (wp? computer?) with built-in checkmarks. Now that's effete! How do you manage to get the stapled SAPSzines into the machine to checkmark the margins? ## ## Nancy got the cookbook credit because she cut the stencils -- at least she thinks she did. Some of them were from a Christmas recipe book Steve talked her into helping him publish a few years back. He was going to sell copies of it to earn money to buy Xmas presents. He even rented a PO Box for replies to his advertisement. I'm not sure if he broke even or not; he doesn't seem to want to talk about the project. ## Wally, in the pages of your zine I just came across a slip of (my) scratchpaper with totally enigmatic notations on it. The handwriting is mine, but they are incomprehensible, I think. Oh hell, judge for yourself:

WEBER -- TACKETT

Quint (Tackett Family Name)

Quints (D'onne)

Dr. Dafoe, Alan

Onward, onward, Arms against Dafoe!

Forward, forward, the lilly banners go!

Roy cuts down flowering shrubs.

(He's a lilly banner).

I hazard a guess that this was a plot outline for a SAPS saga which never got written; or else I was stretching the limits of the beer consumption as I read thru the 178th Mailing. ## Gee, it's fun peeking thru the Keyhole and seeing what goes on in the Weber household! ## Andrea: jol ylchu', quAtaHv1S wa' ram loS SaD Hugh SljaH qetboqh loD...

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The right to charge enormous S&H is the right to be free...  
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LUCUBRATIONS 20 (Rocky Willson): I've run across several instances recently of newly-graduated young people sounding hurt that after all that work to get the degree that was supposed to be a ticket to a good job and lots of money, they find there's no demand for their services these days. Some said they were applying to graduate school because there didn't seem to be any suitable work to be had; others were working at jobs far below the level they'd expected to find. Obviously you found yourself a way to earn a living instead of just sitting around with a hurt look. What makes the difference, more reliance on your own efforts during your earlier years, or more self-confidence, or...? ## Multiplication of imaginary numbers: I should look this up instead of probably putting my foot in mouth, but I'd say  $i \times i = -1$  (by definition of  $i$  ( $i^2 = -1$ ), therefore  $i^2 =$

-1.

TYPING PRACTICE #\_\_\_ (Lyndon Baugh): (Do we get to fill in the issue number of our choice? ## I have a vague memory of glimpsing the palatial interior of the Huntington Beach Library on TV a few months back -- on the Travel Channel, perhaps, which I seldom watch intentionally but sometimes pause at to guess what country is being displayed, while clicking up and down the channels in search of something more worthy of viewing.

BASINGSTOKE #70 (Carol Ballard): To solve your problem of writing 4-digit years on a computer, start a campaign Right Now to establish an arbitrary symbol (?) might be a good choice, which will stand for "20" and then you could write 2001 as ?01 -- it would take only a little getting used to and once accepted, only Old Fogies and fundamentalist Christians would object to it. ## Tsk, you and Wrai shouldn't flip a coin to decide who goes to SAPS parties: take a few jud. lessons and then you can flip Wrai ## Recipes: We also collect lots more than we ever try, which reminds me that yesterday Nancy made chicken enchiladas from a recipe she found in the newspaper. They were good but somehow not up to my memories of those I used to get at a little cafe in San Antonio (across the alley from the Alamo it was, or rather a couple blocks down a side street) back in the Fifties. Anyone in SAPS know a good TexMex recipe for them? ## "Funny how one can start something for pleasure and then discover that it has become a duty." -- you mean, like joining SAPS? ## Uh, if someone learned English as a written language and then heard it spoken, they'd be confused indeed by the way groups of letters like "ough" are pronounced all sorts of ways, as in cough, ought, rough, drought, slough, etc. It's an interesting idea, tho(ugh). ## Property values: Hey, I was told on TV that all those Chinese millionaires fleeing Hong Kong before it goes back to China are over in Seattle buying property like mad. Or have they gotten all they need by now? ## The Michigan equivalent of Basingstoke would be Ypsilanti, where their biggest insane asylum used to be (probably still is). Around here it'd be Danville, which has a State Hospital that's half empty these days since they turn mental cases out to wander the streets instead of institutionalizing them. "Ypsilanti" would be a good fanzine title, as well as a suitable word to sooth someone with tho, like Basingstoke, it could be taken as a threat instead of a pacifier. ## Recycling cans: I cut the ends out (nearly), push them down into the can, put it on a board or old rug and stomp on it to flatten it; I take about a 50-lb box of them to the recycling point every couple of months. Biggest problem is that they no longer accept newspaper, and it accumulates far too fast to put in the trash at \$1 a bag for pickup. So when the pile gets too high, I cart it out to the burn barrel and spend an hour or two burning it a few pages at a time. The municipal authorities keep saying eventually the recycled paper market will open up again when papermills able to use it are built, but that'll be several years in the future, I suspect. ## Why not call a frog pond a "prince pool"? ## Warped pans: Does anyone else have trouble with those square flat skilletts?

ZAP (Robert Briggs): As I commented recently in another apa, requiring a license to have children is a possible solution to overpopulation, theoretically, but (a) if the government can't even pass a reasonable set of rules for when a (mentally-deficient) fetus can be aborted, over the protests of the fundamentalist and Catholic lobby, what chance would childbearing license legislation have? Unless, of course, the Imperial Presidency eventually becomes an Imperial Dictatorship, as in Peru as I write this... Even in our present political system, and if a majority of the citizens wanted it, you know as well as I do that it would contain pages of fine print exempting such worthy citizens as politicians, millionaires, religious objectors, clergymen, etc. It's anyone's privilege to create a sciencefictional universe, but actuality usually brings it down with a thud. (Case in point: AG Clarke, in his early writings about communications satellites, foresaw their bypassing propaganda, censorship, and any other bar to worldwide communication of ideas. It didn't quite work out that way. Shockley's basic idea is OK, human genetic improvement is a worthy goal, but it's nothing that the part of the populace below the cutoff point to obtain a childbearing license would ever vote for, so the only way to implement it in a democracy is by trickery on the part of the officials who know what its consequences in the daily lives of the citizens will be. Although the Jesuit motto has always been that ends justify means, that's a dubious philosophy to apply indiscriminately. ## Fine essay on dinosaur predation; it complements other mentions I've seen recently of deducing predation based on calculating the speed at which dinosaurs were moving, from the tracks they left. That was in Scientific American about 6 months ago, I believe. ## The SW cover in Mig 177 was from an early issue, back in the 40's. Ray Nelson was the artist. ## Dick Lynch spent several hours and a handful of longdistance calls verifying the correctness of your statement about who originated the "filk song" typo; what enabled the question to be settled was the fantastic circumstance that Wrai happened to have a copy of SPECULATOR for the early mailing to which Lee had submitted Philosophical Foundations of Modern American Folk Music, which Wrai, OE at the time, rejected as being too risqué for that era. I managed to find a copy of the zine from the 60th Mig when OE Wrai included it, apparently because community standards had broadened in the interim. But since Wrai had sent the rejected copies back to Lee, our deduction was that none of them had been published to general fandom until 1960, so the term must have originated with Jacobs. The misattribution to Nancy in Fancy II was an error, but I don't know where Eney got it from. One possibility is my own earlier glossary 101 Facts of Use to SAPS which Eney used as one of his sources. I haven't located a copy of it so far to check whether I defined "filk song" there, possibly erroneously. At least the info in the new edition of A Wealth of Fable will be correct!

YEZIDEE: (Diane Crayne): A fascinating account of your jury duty. Was it worth the trouble and lost time it took to serve? ## Rules of evidence is a real can of worms: Federal and Supreme Court decisions often clarify, or else muddle what's permissible or not in midstream. And a good many cases get sent back for re-trial if an appeals court throws out evidence the original trial judge permitted the jury to consider. ## I noticed "Friendly Plastic" mentioned in the ad of a local crafts shop. I probably wouldn't have bought it anyhow (that sort of craftwork is out of my line) but thanks for the warning anyhow. (What I'm looking for right now is a supply of seed beads for Indian beadwork; I got the idea of making a beading loom for Heidi -- or rather, giving a supply of beads to Steve and letting him make her one (he made himself one when he was a teenager and turned out some belts and stuff on it. Anhow, the shop has probably 50 different kinds and sizes of craft beads, but seed beads only in black, and you can't do Indian bead designs with only that! (Also still working on the elusive concoction of hecto ink, but that's a whole other story. Steve helped me acquire an assortment of aniline-derived staining solutions, but alas, the concentrations are too low for them to work as hecto ink; I'm currently evaporating one of them to concentrate the dyd; will report on the results of future attempts when they occur. Probably need a grimore and maybe an alembic or two...

After only a few months of use ours start warping. I've even tried turning one over on a block of wood and beating it flat with a ballpeen hammer, but that is only a temporary cure. ## Manual typers: In the middle of the Lucubrations m'e's on the previous page I had to switch from the Selectric to this manual Remington because my electric L'Smith is down, too. It took me a couple days of typing (making corrected copies of lots of stuff I had kicking around in much-amended draft form) to get used to a manual again, before I dared put it on stencil and try to get this zine done in time for deadline. The Selectric is in the shop, and I don't know how long it'll take for repairs (the nearest IBM service center is in Scranton; the local representative sends portable stuff there to be worked on). The clutch mechanism which turns the power from the output shaft of the motor into intermittent movement of the drive belt pully went kaput, it shouldn't be too expensive (he said hopefully), just replace a bottlecap-size piece of plastic. I was delighted to discover how easy it is to remove the case of the Selectric to determine what's wrong, instead of having to guess at it as with most other makes of typer. ## Taxes: Yes, we got a reduction of our assessment by convincing the appeals board that most of the acreage they were calling "tillable" was either a 20° hillside, suitable only for woodlot, or occupied by the septic system drainfield, or scraped down to subsoil in order to construct the sandmound. Taxes this year were required to be the same dollar amount as last year, by the reassessment law. But that changed so that next year instead of the former 30% of market value they'll be figured on 50%, and the millage, which was previously at the legal limit, is now down much below, giving the County and the School District room to jack the rate up every year. (A class action suit is still pending to correct the worst inequities in the reassessment, but it may be years before anything results from that. One hopeful sign is that the State legislature is considering new laws to set a statewide salary schedule for teachers, as well as limiting their right to strike -- prompted by citizen outrage over their tactic of "selective strikes" in which they all show up in the morning and then the teachers at one or more schools strike instead of working that day. There are too many pupils with both parents working these days, so no one is at home once the kids go off to school, for the public to tolerate that.

OUTSIDERS #133 (Wrai Ballard): Have you checked out the possibilities of radio talk shows for your Dad? In most large cities there is at least one all-talk station. What I'm thinking of is that lots of radios have pushbutton tuning, which he could do himself. (Of course, if Seattle doesn't have an all-talk AM or FM station, going from TV to radio would be a step downhill instead of an improvement! ## Does the public library have books on tape (or even on CD)? ## Don't complain about your cookbooks, Wrai: I sent my sister one called the Southern White Trash Cookbook... ## Recently our cable company added C-Span to their repertoires, and we spend lots of time watching the House of Representatives make work to fill their time and other educational stuff like that. There's also a CNBC channel which is mostly financial news during the day, but after ten p.m. it has panel discussions of erotic topics and other fascinating stuff. (Last night it was Dick Cavett and Walter Matthau discussing the etymology of "fuck" among other things -- referring to it as "the F-word" of course). ## Discrimination: The latest issue of Township News, a magazine covering topics of interest to local officials, explains that the state's new anti-discrimination law now covers anyone selected for a board or committee, as well as employees of the municipality. Their interesting thing about this is that the law lists among those groups not to be discriminated against are the mentally retarded. (This is the Federal law, the Equal Opportunities for Individuals with Disabilities Act of 1990, commonly known as the ADA, or Americans With Disabilities Act.) Now it's legal to be a stupid politician! ## Age discrimination: Trivial Pursuit is the best means of telling the young from the old. Only those who have reached a certain maturity can recall when Thailand was named Siam and Log Cabin Syrup was instantly identifiable because it came in a tin ~~can~~ container shaped like one.



JUPITER JUMP #9 (Mark Manning): Long ago, Howard suggested a viscous animal as a deterrent to people who let their dog run loose. Catch it, paint it with mimeo ink, and tell it to go home, he advised. I've often been tempted to put it into practice. ## Ethnic insults: When I was a kid, Brazil nuts were commonly known as "niggertoes": what, if anything, do people call them nowadays? On talk shows, people often grope for the correct term to refer to a Negro; several times lately I notice they settled on "persons of color", which I'd always thought was obsolescent Southern aristocracy speech. There was an amusing (for someone not involved) incident last night on CNBC: a meeting of ~~Japanese~~-American Citizens' League officials with a Korean-American group in the same city (LA, I think). What the JACL wanted was for the Korean-Americans to cooperate with them in a campaign against Japan bashing, which has resulted in a wave of vandalism and assaults against Asiatics in that area. As the leader stated at the outset, most of the attendees were third-generation American-born, and of various Asian ethnic descent, but to Caucasians who couldn't tell the difference they were all targets of bigotry. One of the Korean-Americans answered by a question about what the Japanese-Americans were doing to stop Japan from exploiting American workers, and in a few moments the two groups were insulting each others' ancestry and characters. Of course, the Black and Jewish factions in New York City didn't set a very good example during the weeks preceding the election there, either... ## Actors' first names: How about adding PeeWee Reese to your list? I suppose the entertainment industry has some sort of registry like thoroughbred racing does, to keep the same name from being given to more than one individual. That is probably the original inspiration for Abbot & Costello's "Who's on First?" routine. ## Breen's attorney being named Lincoln Mintz: Bravo, Mark, for the #1 bon mot of the year at which all the rest of us gazed unseeing. ## Columbia House: Nancy got them to cancel her membership after scribbling demands for such all over three or four return cards, but not before she got a counteroffer from them: they said she could have several free CD's if she'd only withdraw her resignation. She wouldn't... ## Did you ever get a reply to your change-of-address notice to Security P. Bank? ## Weber's dog door: This is fascinating. How do you go about assembling a dog door? I assume the first step would be to flatten the dogs in some sort of press to achieve a uniform thickness for the panels? Getting them to fit together properly would, if you'll permit, really be a bitch, wouldn't it? ## Hearing aids: Mine is supposed to have an induction pickup to use while phoning but I could never detect any difference whether that function was on or off, so I just jam the receiver against aid, ear & all and (according to complaints from Nancy if she's on the other phone) breathe loudly into the transmitter. ## Your hecto gel formula is close to the one I used just the other day to pour a pad for testing (unsuccessfully) the analine stains mentioned earlier: Glycerine, 12 oz; Gelatin, 2 oz; Water, 7½ oz; Sugar, 2 oz. Mine came from Henley's Formulas for Home and Workshop, a 1979 reprint of a 1907 handy guide to such stuff. The general formula for hecto ink is: Analine dye, 10 pts; Alcohol, 10 pts; Glycerine, 10 pts, Water, 50 pts. The formula for blue ink adds 1 pt dilute acetic acid to the basic mix. (I guess vinegar would qualify). I have one bottle of commercial hectoink left, Heyer's black. It has an acidic smell, so perhaps they used some in their mix. I think I've already said, in correspondence to you, Mark, that these might not work for dittomasters; you'd have to convert them into marker or carbonpaper form. (Inspired by what I just said, I looked up "Carbon paper" in the Henley volume index, and sure enough: "The pigments used are fine soot or ivory black, indigo carmine, ultramarine and Paris blue, or mixtures of them. The pigment is intimately mixed with grain soap, and then rubbed on thin but strong paper with a stiff brush. Fatty oils, such as linseed or castor oil, may be used, but the grain soap is preferable." It then goes on to describe a "manifolding composition" which it says will make at least 50 copies on damp paper "in the usual way," whatever that is. If you want the complete instructions, let me know and I'll copy them out for you (Mark or any other home experimenter in SAPS who is interested). ## Philosophy: I must Contradict (23), (24) and its subsets. It is obvious that if Soskey were to attend a horse race it is entirely probable that he might have a math book in his pocket, in which case (23) and (24.b) at least would be perfectly valid. Fine zine

RETRO #94 (FM Busby): Well, the Rolling Road shops could have been on wheeled undercarriages (like unto mobile homes nowadays) and shift from one section to the next of the main road on guiderails. Making a 180° turn would be a bit complicated, but not impossible. I don't think the Rolling lanes going in opposite directions were adjoining, more likely had a median strip between like superhighways. I doubt that an unshielded passenger on a Rolling Road could move as fast as a Volvo on I-80, tho: too much wind resistance. ## ct Nicki re relationship: Hey, why don't the anthropology guys apply their knowledge to current social manipulation (they could hardly make it any worse, could they?) and push us into an extended-family clan system where everyone would have a family totem and have totem animals we couldn't eat except on special occasions, and practice exogamy, and all sorts of keen stuff like that? (I wanna be in the Beaver ~~Patrol~~ Clan, of course). Social historians all shake their heads over the crumbling of the Extended Family and now the Nuclear Family, but no one does much to find a substitute for them. ## Mimeo: Nancy uses newfangled Type-With-Ribbon stencils, Buz. They're supposed to be writ thru a ribbon. I imagine an electric typer with a film ribbon would sharpen the result; will have to test it when/if my Selectric gets back from the repair shop. (Nancy is a tru-Old Fashioned-fan traditionalist: she won't even touch pseudopod to an electric LCSmith with a moving carriage, let alone a golfball machine.) ## Rocky's battle for college credit: In addition to ex post facto he should threaten to file a discrimination complaint because he's a minority (male). ## yct Wrai on quickaging: Don't forget the young couple in Beetlejuice, either. ## yct Carol on theory vs. practice: 35 years afterward I can see the funny side, but it wasn't amusing at all when as my first task after being officially graduated as a guided missile electronics repairman, my new platoon leader had a couple of us wire the van he used as Hq during field exercises so that it would have lots of lights and outlets for radios & stuff, but they'd all go out when the door opened so blackout conditions would be preserved. Somebody had scrounged a big coil of fine heavy-gauge, thickly-insulated wire, and we spent a couple of days installing the system. What we didn't find out until we demonstrated our craftsmanship to the Lieutenant was that the stuff was swiped from the motor pool and was high-resistance sparkplug wire. It worked fine for about two minutes and then smoke started pouring from every fixture in the van... ## Clarence Thomas: Did you notice the backpage news item a couple weeks ago which said a decision Thomas wrote while on the Appellate Court bench had just been released. Its effect was to slightly curtail womens' rights in some sort of workplace litigation. The interesting part was that it had been completed just before or during his Senate hearing, but had not been released at that time so it wouldn't influence his confirmation or rejection. Do you share my feeling that we are increasingly being manipulated by faceless bureaucrats we never voted to give power over us? ## Someone in APA69-C defined Mother Theresa as a person who visits African nations whose major problems are overpopulation and AIDS, and tells them it's a sin to use condoms... ## Incidentally, an article in the Reading PA Herald 9 Feb 92 reports that President Bush has been taking the drug Halcyon, which the writer claims may explain a lot of his garbled speechmaking and abrupt changes of mood, as satirized by Garry Trudeau in "Doonsbury" shortly thereafter. I'm not particularly enthralled to learn the Chief Executive may be stumbling around in a drug-induced stupor while his gang of intimates and advisors run the country for him.

MEMORY LANE #29 (Elinor Busby): I got my first (civilian) drivers license at age 35, in Alamogordo, having been informed by the buddies who were teaching me the rules and stuff that the New Mexico cops were very strict in their testing. When I got there, however, the one cop on duty gave me the written test which I passed easily, and then said he couldn't leave the office and there was no one else there to administer the road test, so he'd just credit me with having passed it! I didn't take an actual road test until about 5 years afterward, to get a Maryland license upon returning from Italy. ## The anti "double-dipping" pension restrictions were aimed, I think, at retired tenerals and admirals whose monthly retirement income is perhaps greater than my annual income. But they forgot to put a "floor" in there to exempt the hoi polloi. Last year I managed to stay within the SS outside income limit, for the first time. OUT OF SPACE & TIME, to coin a phrase, so this is it until July... Cheers!