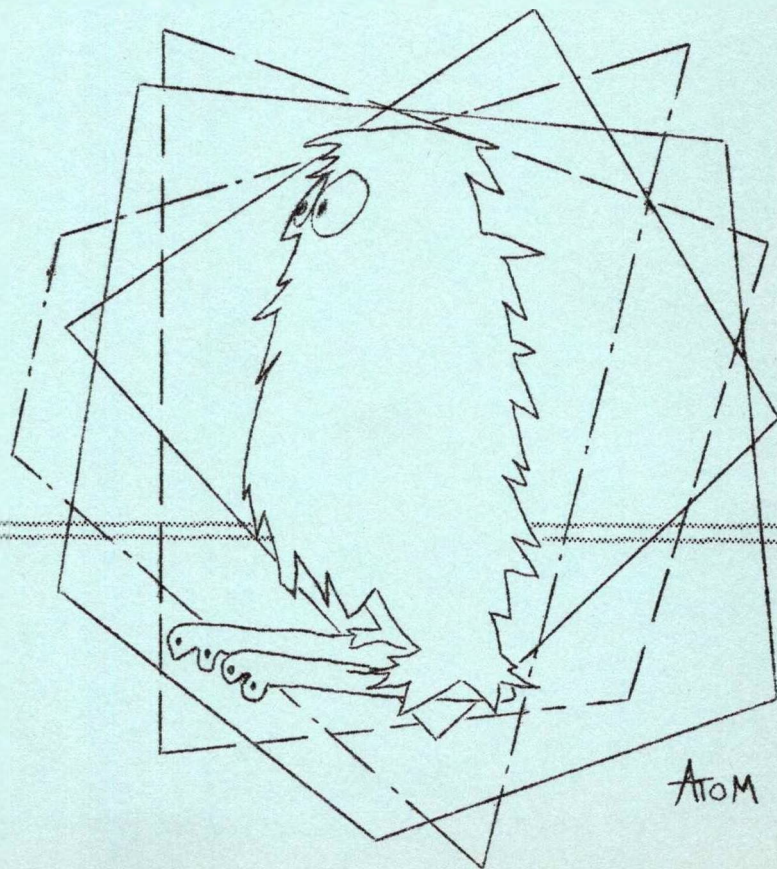
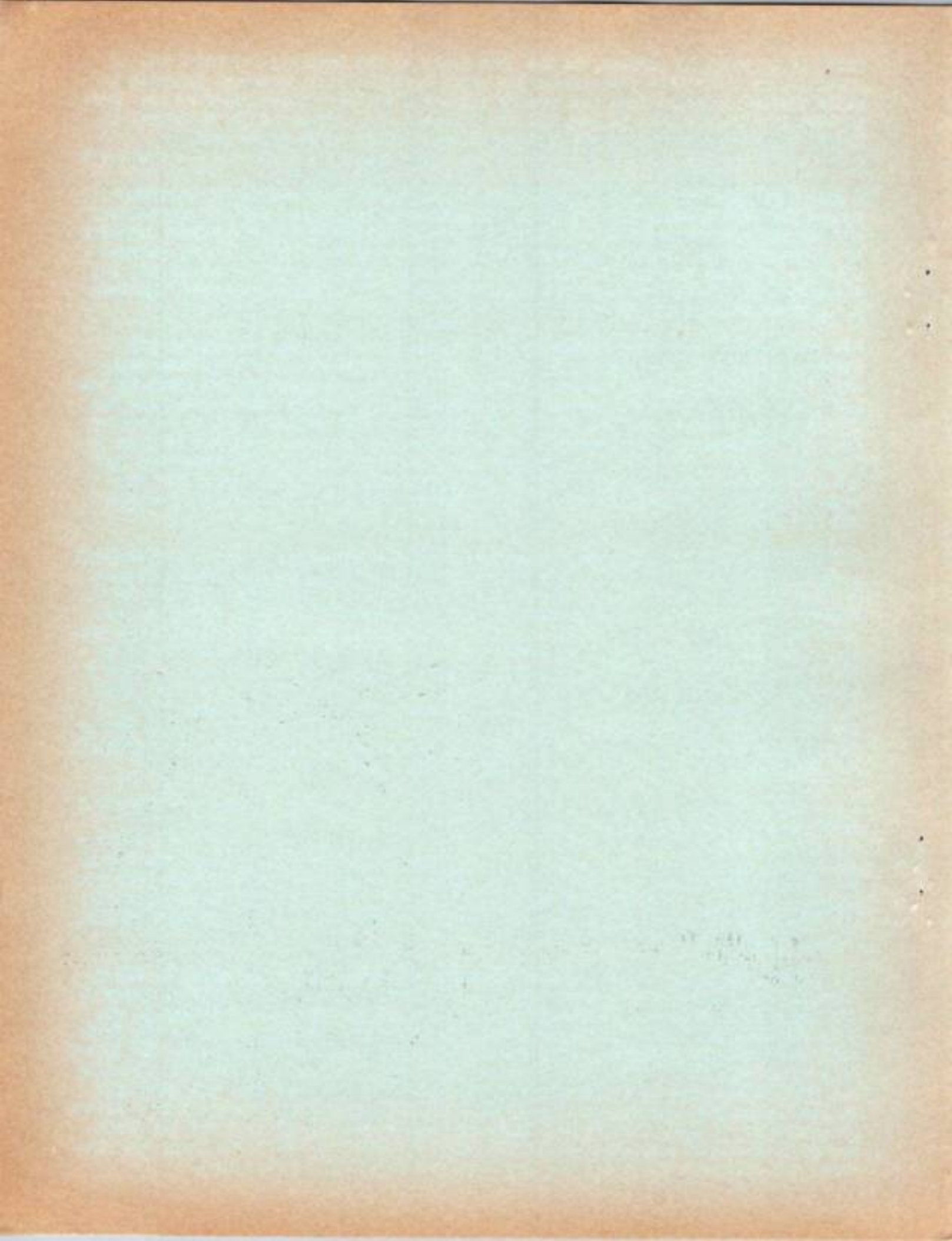


the rambling fap 38
gregg calkins
february 1966 fapa 114



ATOM



This, if my count is correct, is the 38th issue of The Rambling Fap and I am, of course, none other than your friend and mine, Gregg Calkins, although speaking in quite another typeface than has been my voice for the past dozen years or so. More on that in a moment, but to complete the colophon the address is 651 Martinez, La Habra, California 90632 and the mailing is expected to be November 1965.

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I only hope this voice cuts a good stencil. If you've been reading my huckster issues you will already have noted my intentions of buying an electric typewriter, and now you see the results. My old L C Smith standard which gave me such faithful if slightly erratic service through the years has been replaced by a much younger edition, only now the name is Smith-Corona Marchant and this is the 250 model, all electric with repeat keys and like that. It types a fine looking letter, but this is my first attempt at stencils.

For that matter, this is an unlikely time for me to be cutting stencils at all. Today is Labor Day, September 6th, and if this isn't the earliest I've ever begun work for a mailing it must be darned close. I don't even know why I'm starting now --I spent the two previous days of the weekend sitting around reading, and not the FAPA mailing at that, and the rest of the day today will be spent helping a friend move his household furnishings from his old house to the new. Just put it down to some sort of strange whim--Harry Warner would smile knowingly and murmur "old age" but it ain't so I mutter right back protestingly--and perhaps it means that this time I will put out an issue of TRF more like the one I've been intending to put out for some time.

All I've managed for some time now have been mailing comments, except for occasional special issues, but now and in the future I'd like to adopt a more general format. First a bit of an editorial or whatever you wish to call the above, followed by an article or bibliography or some other bit of work written either by me or any interested contributor, followed by mailing comments and, if I should receive any letters, a column of sorts. This issue the 'special feature' will be an art folio by TRF's most constant and consistent artist, Bill Rotsler, and I must confess that I have had the drawings on hand for several years now looking for a convenient spot to publish them. It finally arrived and I'm grateful for your patience, Bill...I may be slow but I'm also sure. Contributions in the future are open to all, but of course I am partial to those who contributed to the old OOPSLA! as did Dean Grennell and Bob Tucker and Walt Willis...as, indeed, who wouldn't be?

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Time passes. The date is now December the 29th, 1965

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Those four months went by in a hurry. I may have expected this to be in the November mailing when I cut that first set of mailing comments but I'm a little late now. However, I have no doubts about the February mailing. It's either February or fail and I have no intention of getting out of FAPA at this time. Not with that waiting list...whew!

No, indeed. I bought a new quire of stencils yesterday and enough paper to see me through this issue (or so I hope--the issue is rather large for an average issue of TRF and I don't know quite how much paper I'll need just yet) and I intend to run this off over the coming holiday weekend. Preferably on Friday, prior to the football games and the hangovers. I'm sure about the former and historically the latter is a good, safe bet. I may have to drink to forget, particularly since I'm rooting for UCLA in the Rose Bowl against Michigan State. As you read this the game will be long since over and so you already know how I came out, but I must admit I have a premonition. I mean, I voted for Goldwater, rooted for the Yankees and the Cards, and on last week's memorable football weekend I cheered on the North team, the Blue team, the Baltimore Colts and the San Diego Chargers, all of whom lost.

More time passes. The Robe Bowl game is over and won. By UCLA. Except for one of the finest displays of guts football I have ever seen, I don't know how they ever did it. I mean, I pulled for them all the way...

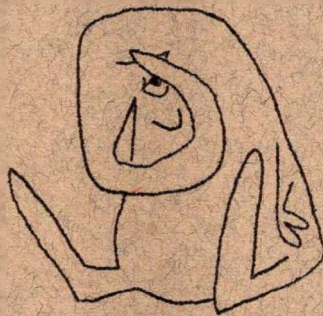
Have I mentioned that we're moving once again? We have a one-year lease on this house which will be up the first week in April and the landlord has already notified us that he wants the house back. They decided they didn't like their new place and want to come back here to their old house so that puts us out looking again. We may even buy this time. Rentals are not easy to find in this country, and I haven't heard a word about a transfer for me this year so I've about decided "what the hell" and we'll take our courage in both hands and buy something.

At least I have reduced my overlarge collection a bit, notably among the items I feel I will never read again and, indeed, seldom feel even the urge to unpack. Now I am down to several large bookcases and I wish I had the tools to convert them to their own packing crates. I envision the perfect bookcase as having slightly recessed shelves and vertical grooves down the inside of the upright sides so that a front piece could be dropped down in from the top to provide a solid front to the bookcase when moving. To move simply pack with paper or excelsior until the books were held firmly and then slip in the front, perhaps fastening it in with a screw or two. Of course it would be heavy to move and accordingly it would have to be very sturdily built and not too large, but think...no more housework chores of unloading all of the books from the shelves, wrapping them and packing them in box after cardboard box, sealing same, and then the inverse of the process on the other end. The bookcases would be particularly valuable for moving pulps and other magazines, too.

For fanzines and other items to which I like to have at least limited access even if I can't put them all out on my shelves, I have resorted to fibreboard single drawer filing cabinets. They are moved as individual drawers and aren't too awfully heavy, but the fibreboard won't take much and some day I'd like to replace them with some old wooden drawers...one of these days.

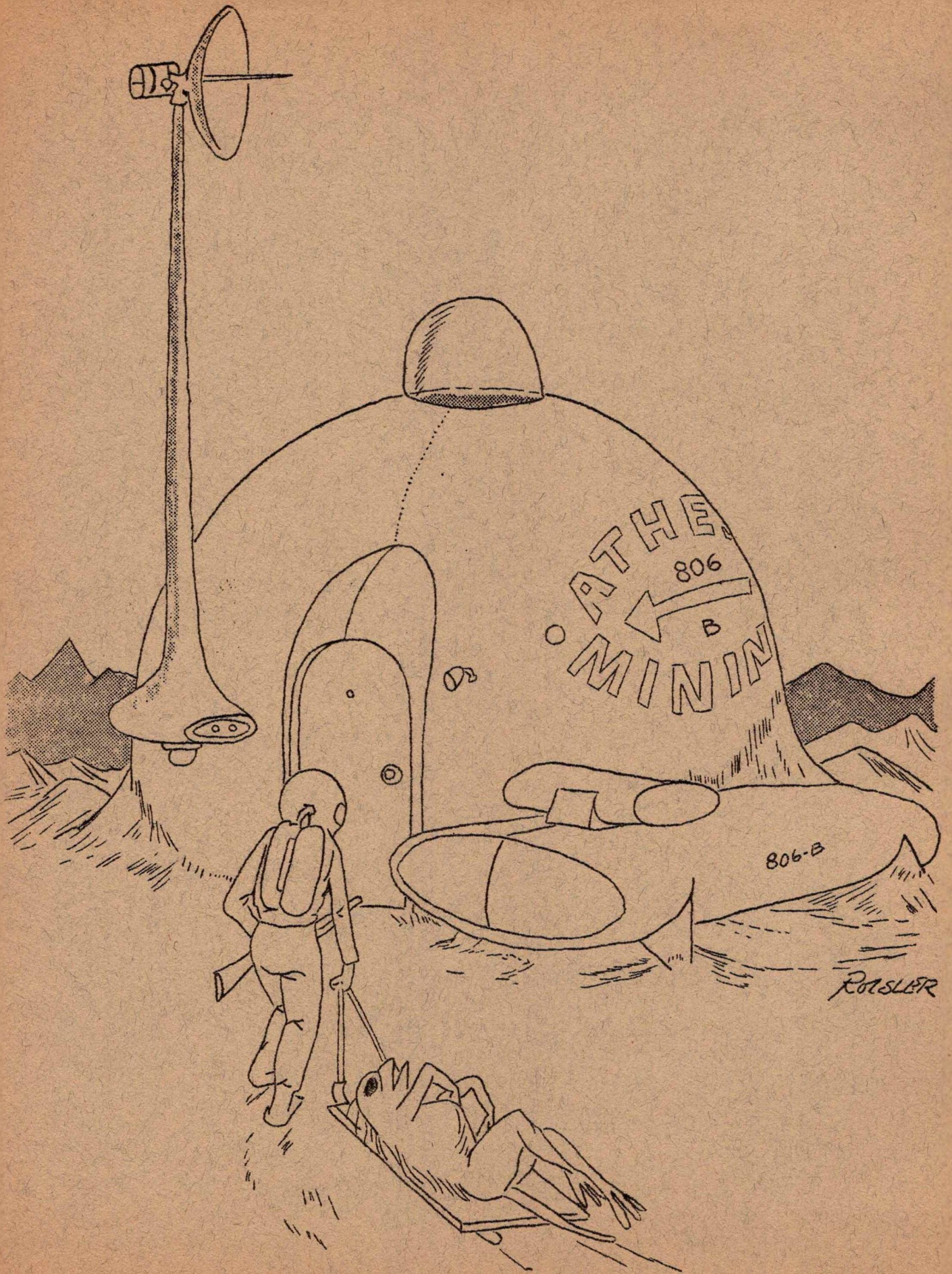
Meanwhile the Watts riots are a thing of the past but they have aroused in me a desire to own a Walther P-38 that has long lain dormant. You are probably aware that the riots produced a tremendous run on handguns and indeed all types of guns by the anxious citizenry wishing to preserve their own lives and property in the likely event that the undermanned police force couldn't cover everything at once, and following this came the usual wave of fuzzy-thinking political action towards new gun laws aimed at preventing the private citizen from owning any guns at all. That seems to have passed, but in its wake I've just about decided that if I want to buy any more guns for my own collection before next summer's anticipated (at least by me) riot then I had better do it now while the doing is good. I'm still kicking myself, tho, for my stupidity last fall. Just after the riots were over I happened to stop in at a Santa Monica gunshop just to look around and in chatting with the owner I learned that their stock of handguns had been almost totally depleted. He had, however, a very fine and beautiful Walther P-38 left over at a reasonable price, a gun I have long wished to own, but alas I felt I was just too broke at the time to afford the luxury now that the immediate danger was past. A week later I had finally convinced myself that I could borrow the money or something but by that time the gun was gone. Rats! A lesson in procrastination...

Meanwhile, again, I am in the process of acquiring another hobby. Involuntarily. You see, my wife's father is a coin collector and has been for a long time. I knew of this shortly after I married my wife but I manfully resisted and refused (rather impolitely and to my regret) even to look at his collection on the two occasions I had the chance--he lives in Butte, Montana--just so I wouldn't get interested. I mean, how many hobbies can a man afford? Especially an expensive one like coins? Especially since collecting has also been one of the chief things attracting me to science fiction. But, alas, I'm weakening by the moment...and perhaps next time, if you ask me nicely, I'll even tell you a little bit about my collection...



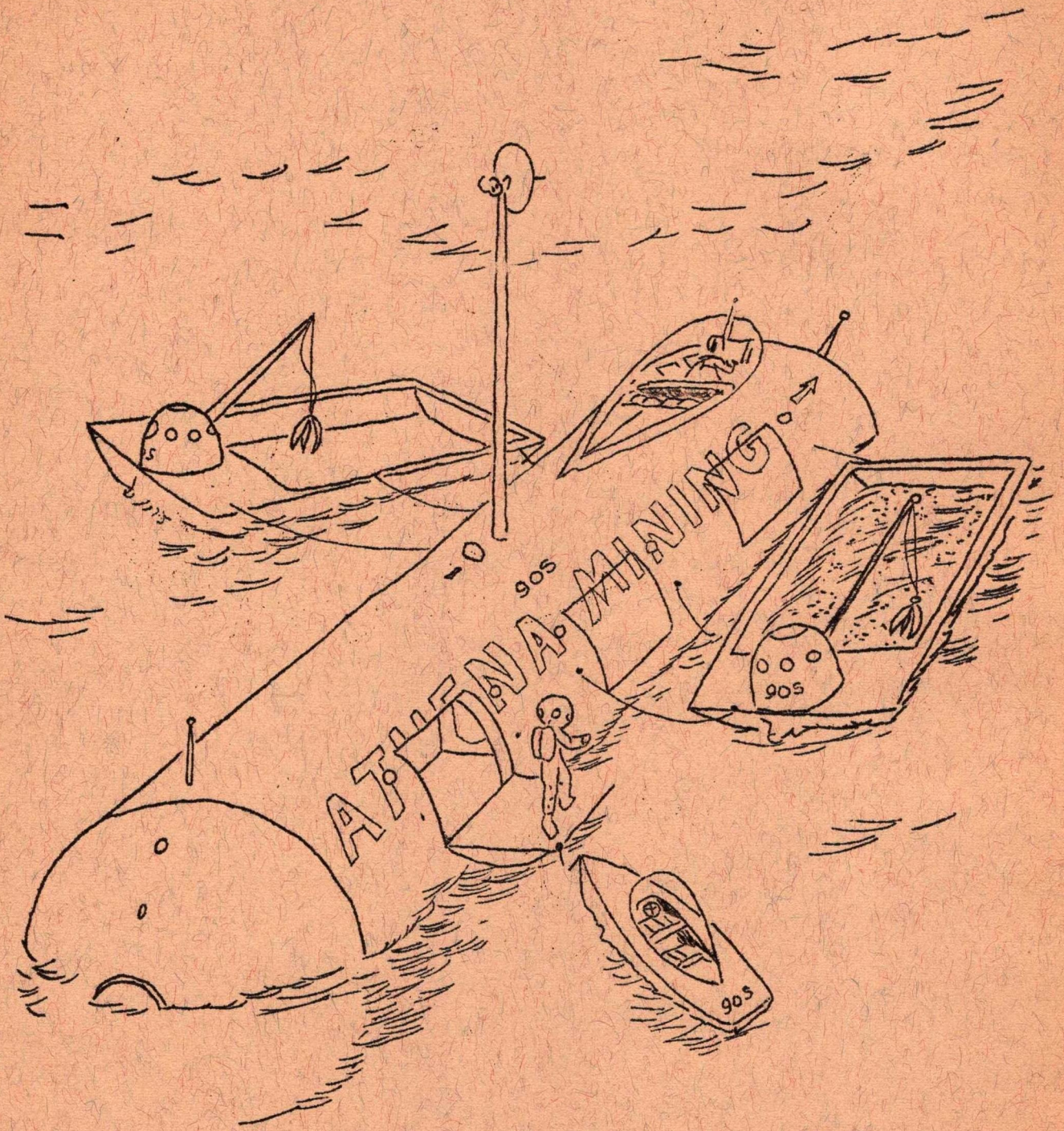
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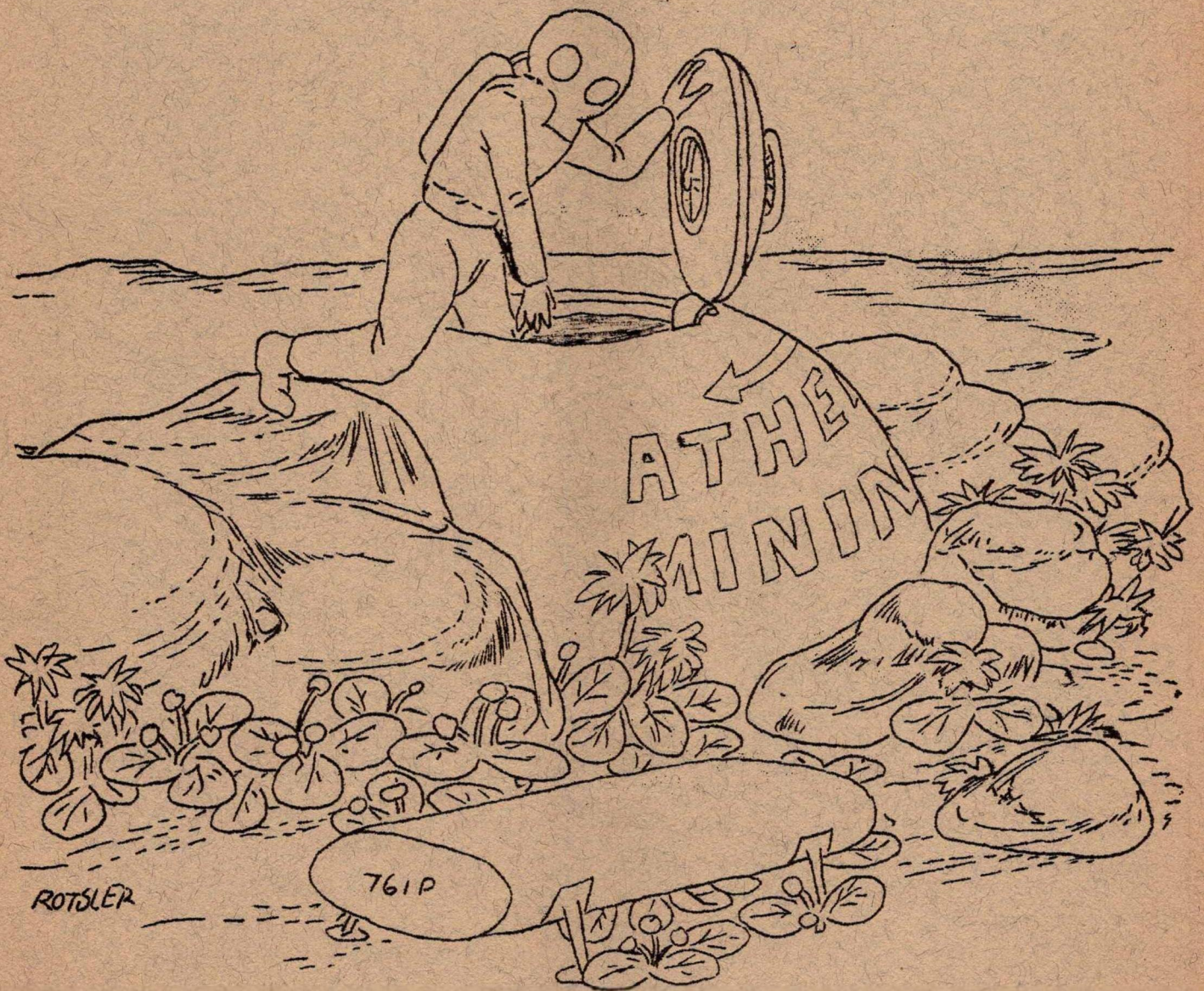




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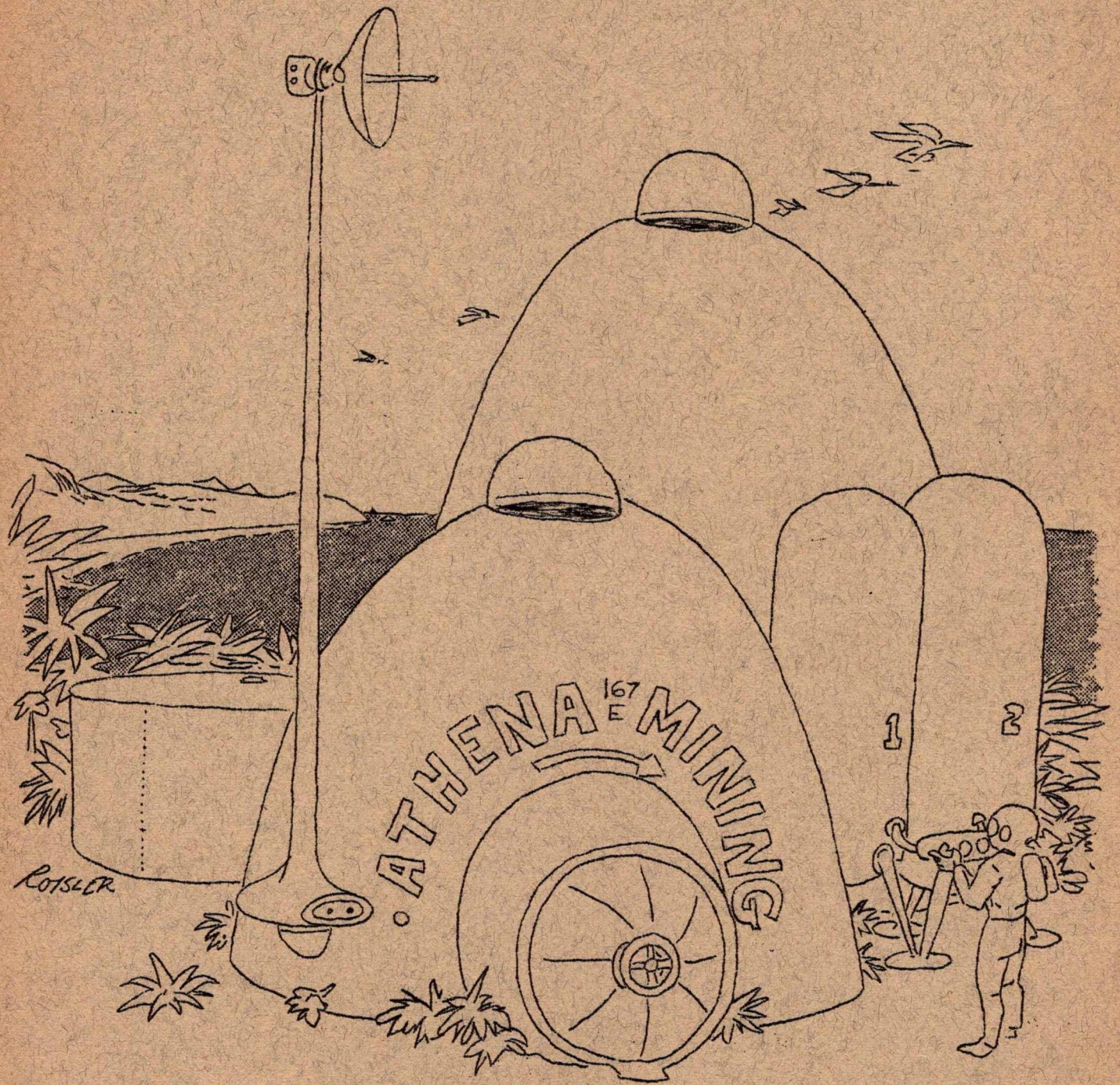
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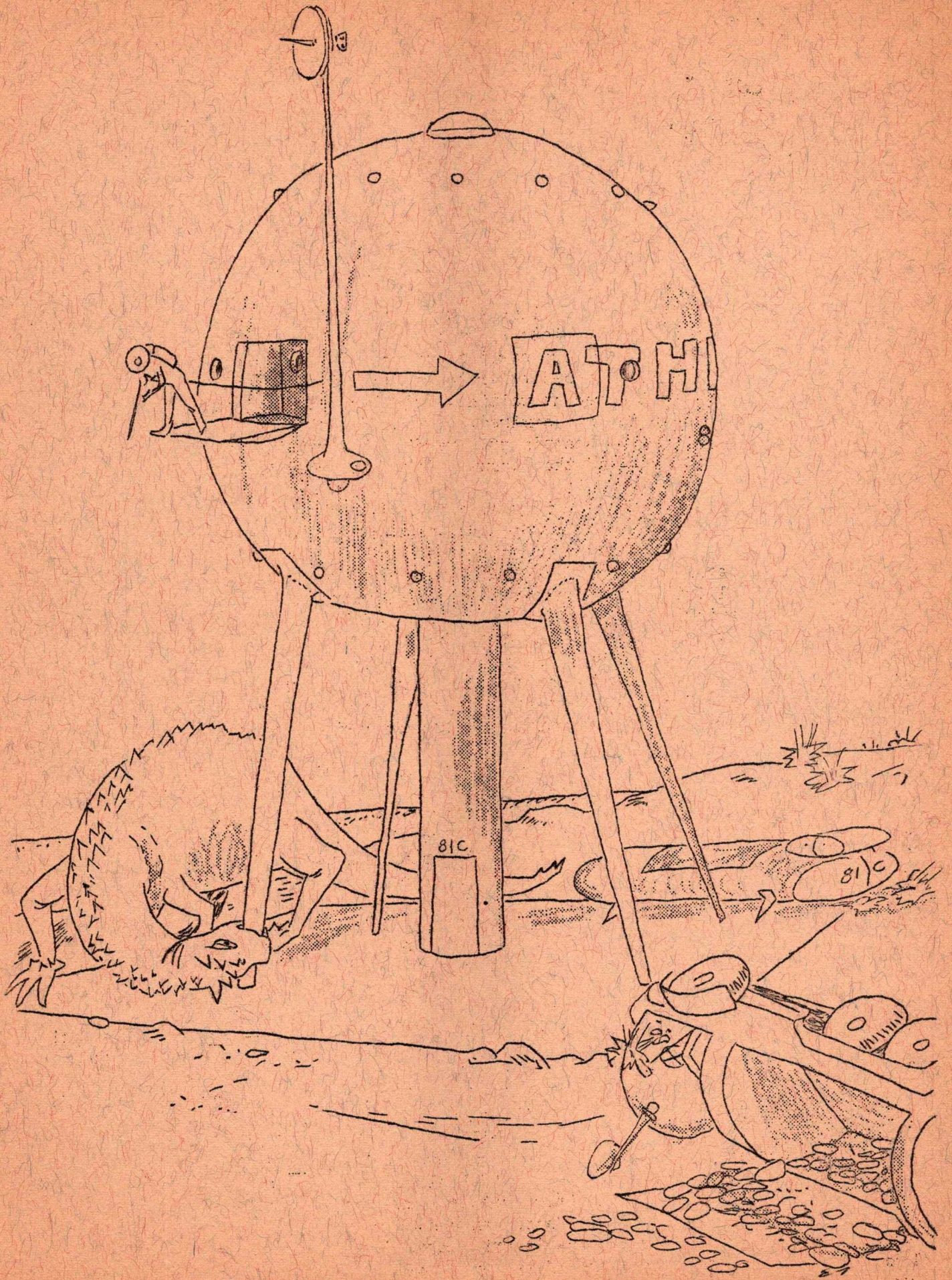


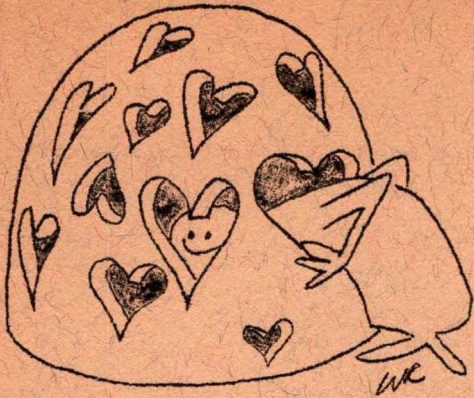
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111th and 112th mailings

MC'S

THE FANTASY AMATEUR 111
(Officialdom)

Two mailings behind this time and it always seems appropriate to begin with the FA. I doubt if I've gone on record earlier and somehow I also doubt if I sent Bob Pavlat the letter I fully intended to write, so I'd like to state here and now that I thought his ruling re the recent waiting-list blackball was masterful and a thing of beauty to be both studied and admired. ## Am I getting out of touch with mainstream fandom here in the Elephant's graveyard? Of a waiting list of 57 names I "recognize" only 29 or so--and that assumes Dave Van Arnam is who I think he is...

KIM CHI
(Ellington)

I was interested in your comment to McPhail to the effect that the primary attraction the army-as-a-career has to offer is very complete security. One of the several factors which kept me from becoming a career Marine was the fact that any type of rank or position you might achieve during a lifetime was constantly open to destruction by either accident or the sometimes meaningless whims of your superior officers. I saw sergeants busted to privates for overlooking a salute and I know of one private who drew a stretch in the brig and a corresponding loss of pay for being two hours AOL when his bus was late. Of course they still had a place to sleep and three meals a day (except while in the brig, of course) if that is what you mean by very complete security, but personally I found it a potentially rather precarious existence.

SELF PRESERVATION
(Hoffwoman)

I'm sorry I didn't note that mention of yours in LIGHTHOUSE to the effect that you didn't have any copies of FANHISTORY. I sold the three issues to Tom Perry in Omaha not too long ago and of course I would have sent them to you if I had known. I still have all of my QUANDRY's, however. It would be interesting, wouldn't it, to know how many copies of our old fanzines were still in one piece somewhere and how many times they had changed hands. ## The headache and stomach misery people are mostly pretty bad when it comes to tv commercials, but I always liked the Alka Seltzer about "no matter what shape your stomach is in" wherein they show short film clips of all sorts of stomachs (external) doing all sorts of actions.

VANDY
(Coulsons)

You were right, Buck, and several other people pointed it out to me as well but I disremember their names just now--I did miss the point in "The Man From UNCLE" those first few shows. I am one of the apparently very few people who would have liked the show to have been done along serious lines and for the first few episodes I thought the show was trying and failing miserably. I still don't watch it, though...even as satire it just plain isn't that good. ## Pity the man with the collector instinct. I have a partial case--I don't collect everything I run across but everything I do collect I must have as a complete set. This can become very difficult and in recent years I've found it more practical to sell off some items rather than to try to complete them. Other collections still have me on the fence, though--for instance, a partial set of Walt Disney's Comics and Stories. I can't bring myself to part with them so far and yet I know in my heart that ~~it's/they~~ I'll never complete them and if I did it wouldn't really satisfy me, so here I sit.

SERENADE
(Bergeron)

Rightly or wrongly, Dick, I feel that the granting of a FAPA membership to an individual carries with it, as I said, a certain amount of support and prestige. Perhaps you don't agree with this, and as you pointed out perhaps I also could not find more than fourteen Fapans who think so, but it still remains my opinion. Am I supposed to change it because you disagree with me or because I am in the minority? Since I doubt that you would insist on the change and since my opinion remains what it was, I would still prefer not to have Walter among the membership. To the cynical it may seem naive for me to admit that I am proud to be a member of FAPA and that moreover I have a certain amount of respect if not liking for all of FAPA's membership...or had until recently. I'd like to retain the pride but I hate to think what would happen to it if Walter were to be picked up at the next convention. Q: Isn't he a member of your organization, FAPA? A: (shamefacedly) yes. Q: Did you know he had this type of tendency? A: Oh, we had been told by other members but of course nothing had been proven in a court of law, you see, and naturally since his actions were not concerned with fantasy amateur publishing we felt it was none of our business anyhow... You won't agree with that, Dick, but it is still MY opinion. ## Since I seldom read the FAPA bundle within a month or so of its arrival date, quite often I find myself reading things out of chronological order, particularly by reading postmailings first, and although I'm not positive now that this was the case I am pretty sure that I read Marion's poll before I ever heard of Speer's. That being the case, my supposed sense of humor had little chance of recognizing it as a spoof and I took it at its face value. ## Oh, I didn't get rid of everything, Dick. When I decided to part with my old fanzines and sf I was hard put to draw a dividing line between what I would keep and what I would sell but it finally came down to a compromise between reason and sentiment. My reason said to get rid of everything that was extremely unlikely ever to be read again but sentiment wouldn't allow such a sweeping decision. I have a bound set of OOPS and naturally I kept my copies of QUANDRY and WARHOON as well as a certain but limited number of others. But chiefly I needed to get rid of the bulk of it and I felt that most items would be better in the hands of someone likely to read them rather than sitting somewhere in a box in my garage.

SYNAPSE
(Speer)

Fantastic! I refer to Moby Dick and Son of Moby Dick being back-to-back serial numbers. Did you get the original in North Bend or elsewhere? I had a Model 77B for many years--two of them, in fact. The first one I left behind for the Utah Science Fiction League when I joined the USMC. The second I bought in Santa Monica, I believe. I was saddened when a critical part broke and could not be replaced and my efforts to improvise only led to more problems.

THE BULL MOOSE
(Morse)

Reading this (v3#3) it suddenly occurs to me that while I remember reading the letter you mention I don't remember writing an answer and yet I don't have it in my "things to be done" file either. Perhaps it got lost in the move, but I hope I answered. I thought it was quite interesting and I think FAPA would have enjoyed it, but perhaps enough has been said on the subject and it was best to put in a letter. I had to agree with you fully. One of the toughest decisions an individual can make is to decide whether or not to involve himself in a situation he finds distasteful and yet which he cannot in good conscience ignore. Increasingly in recent years it has been popular to ignore the good conscience and you read about people being raped in city streets while watchers fear to get involved, or policemen being attacked by gangs while the good citizens hustle away to their hidey holes.

JESUS BUG
(Main)

I find myself with no particular comments but this is too good-looking a fanzine to ignore completely. Very nicely done.

LIGHTHOUSE
(Carr)

Could you possibly enlarge on the Kuttner excerpt on the bottom of page 15? I'd like to know more of what they were talking about--or he, rather--and why, and of course since I don't remember now quite when Kuttner died it would be interesting if you could include something on that too.

HORIZONS (Warner) Not to knock your mailing comments, Harry, but I must say again for the umpteenth time that I am forever impressed with your ability to take the friendly things of everyday life and set them down in print as "Fortytude" and "Great Scott" and "Hagerstown Journal" and make them far and away the highlights of the magazine and quite often the entire bundle. In other FAPazines I almost invariably enjoy the mc's more than the other contributions because I get more of the impression of the personality of the editor therein, but in HORIZONS the Real Harry Warner doesn't really come through until the first half-dozen pages are gone. ## Well, I'm only 30, almost 31, so I suppose it's a bit early for me to speak of getting old, but I do know for sure that I am getting older! Physically I suppose I'm in as good shape as ever with the notable exception of my first year or two in the Marine Corps when I was 18 or 19 and getting plenty of hard exercise daily, or, if not, at least it makes a pleasant delusion. With one notable exception--a good night's sleep is much more important than it used to be. Time was when I could stay up all night and not be overly tired the next day, and indeed I went through one notable stretch of college life when for more than a month I went with no more than three hours sleep a night and often none at all. I could no more do that now than I could sprout pinfeathers and fly. Let me miss an hour's sleep and I'm hard to get up the next morning. Two hours and it takes extra coffee to keep me going all day long. Three hours and I can't sit down and watch slides in a darkened room or sit through a long meeting without suffering the tortures of the damned trying to keep my head on my shoulders rather than on the table. Four hours and I ache in every joint, especially the legs, plus all of the above. Five hours becomes too terrible to contemplate, and I'm sure that a whole night without sleep would see me crumple into dust with the dawning sun.

SERCON'S BANE (Swamp Fox) I don't know if the S-T will accept my word or not, Buz, but for the record I'd like to say that you are absolutely correct in stating that the joint publication of FAPazines by you and your charming spouse is not a gimmick but a bonafide fact. I can vouch for it. I wish I could get my wife to assemble and staple and stack and things like that. ## Good to see you at the con--wish we'd spent more time together, but you know how Burbee and I are when there's a poker game going. I got lucky the first night and won \$20 or so but I understand Burb went back again the next night and did even better. Curiously, the rat didn't invite me to go back with him the second time...

CAC (Rogers & Metcalf) I'm afraid the Defenders will still argue that it isn't "proof" but the feelings of Alva Rogers and his impressions concerning Breen are pretty weighty in my opinion. It is still only my personal preference, and apparently an unpopular one to boot, but I want no part of Walter, anywhere, and that includes FAPA. Unfortunately for me, as with a few other things in this world, I'll have to learn to live with it.

ASP (Donaho) "...however, various people have pointed out that it's no one's business or right to make a decision for someone else about who he is going to associate with. This is a perfectly valid point." Bullshit!

NULL-F (White) Against my better judgement you manage to irritate me sometimes. I mean, I keep telling myself that the opinions of such a self-evident ass are hardly worth getting excited about, but still you get through to me on occasion. After reading your comments to me this time, however, I feel I may have discovered a partial solution. My reactions are simply the normal response of a pretty dense, awfully simple or awfully naive person to your overwhelming omniscience and your simple, clear, easy-to-understand Utterances of Truth. After you discuss a matter, Ted, I just hate myself for being so incompetent and it is really this self-hate I mistake as irritation towards you. ## Pardon me for getting confused, but I thought you were going to run for FAPA office yourself and straighten out all the recent miscarriages of justice by FAPA officialdom. Or did you decide too many people still remembered your last term of office?

THE FANTASY AMATEUR 112
(Officialdom)

This is the August mailing coming up, I'm sure of that, but I've come to the conclusion that some of the things I've commented upon previously were not only from the 111th but some were even from the 110th and others were postmailings. ~~##~~ Damn, I just discovered I hadn't voted yet. I'll mail it today and hope, even though it seems to me I read something recently to the effect that that September 30th deadline wasn't legal. ~~##~~ I'll be go to hell...here I sit cutting stencils and reading FAPazines when at this moment there is a fine old jazz-bash going on over at Charles Burbee's place in Whittier and I had completely forgotten about it until just now reading Burbee's name in a FAPazine. I think I just left...

TTTR
(Cox & Jacobs)

Uh, I don't mean to be contradictory, Lee, but I wouldn't say I really attended the Westercon. I mean, I didn't pay my dues or membership fee or whatever they're calling it now...I just showed up to visit Buz and Elinor and stick around with Burbee for the poker game later on. I did meet a few people I had never met before, notably Roy Squires and the Benfords and Alva and Sid Rogers, and I did see Harlan Ellison for the first time since the Chicon II many years ago, but otherwise I wasn't really "there" in the fannish meaning of the word. Almost wish I had been, though--I had a good time that evening.

WRAITH
(Ballard)

Two issues of WRAITH a year...that's not enough! But you're not alone, Wrai...I'm still quite a bit behind my long-standing FAPA goal, too. I knew from the first that I would never become a FAPA publishing giant so I decided to compromise at attempting to put the annual page requirements into each bundle and come up with 32 pages a year. At present I've been a member of FAPA for fourteen years or 44 mailings, not counting this one, and have produced a total of only 333 pages for an average of...no, that can't possibly be right. Make it 54 mailings for an average of slightly over 6 pages per mailing. But anyhow, I'm ready for more and longer issues of WRAITH.

SERCON'S BANE
(A Seattle Fan)

Hey, I envy you that 30 inch waist...right now I'm trying somewhat unsuccessfully to keep it to a 36 inch waist. What I'd really like to do, though, is get under 200 lbs and stay there! But I meant to comment on your Green Lake strolls and the fact that you found they had built up your stamina quite a bit. I believe you started on them before I left Seattle, didn't you? Anyhow, a few months ago I happened to take stock of myself and discovered that since I had given up golf this spring (courses too crowded and play too slow here in Southern California to make it enjoyable for me, plus no good 18 hole course readily available at anything like a reasonable price) I was getting a sum total of absolutely NO exercise whatsoever. I'd get up in the morning, walk out to the car, drive to the office, walk into the building, repeat on the way home and sit around all evening and all weekend, reading. So I found a few other guys at work and we started playing tennis on weekends, and then this summer the baseball league I had founded three years ago before leaving for Seattle was still going and even expanding (softball, not baseball) so of course I played in that (slow pitch league, I was pitcher the last part of the season, won 7 lost three, and we won the "pennant") but at best all of these things are not very satisfactory since they all entail putting out a great deal of energy for a very short period of time and then doing nothing again the other days of the week. So, remembering your Green Lake Strolls, I've started walking to and from work every day. It's about a mile and a half one way and I make it easily in 20 minutes counting the stops at traffic lights. I haven't been doing it long and right now the chief drawback to the whole project is the twenty extra minutes I have to get up early in order to have time to walk, but I think I can notice results even so.

VANDY
(Coulsons)

Gee, I'm sorry to hear about Buck and Honeywell...and just when I'd concluded that the camera I really wanted and might possibly be able to afford was a Honeywell Pentax Spotmatic. But I hate to buy something made by a bunch of no-goodnicks like that. Sure hope the new job turned up and all is settled down again. If not, why not try coming west?

SYNAPSE This brought on by your comments on ASP last mailing re the income tax:
(Speer) "the most recent boost in military pay...caused the average service member to shoot into a new tax bracket, actually causing him to lose pay." I've seen this same argument presented so often that it sometimes amazes me that the average Joe manages to get his forms filled out and paid knowing so little of what he was doing or what it was all about. There seems to be this feeling that you can have your income raised to the point where you actually lose money on it, and yet I'm sure that most of the people who hold this feeling are also aware that their taxes are a percentage of their income. Since even the highest percentage is less than 100% (although it's too damned close to it) no matter what tax bracket their raise forces them into they will still receive an incremental increase. ¶ I suppose taxes are necessary and as I've often heard from people coming from other parts of the world and even the US I'd rather pay the taxes and have the benefits (I'm speaking of sanitation and the fire department and a police force and things like that) than do without both. But I have two major grotches with the IRS, neither one of which will ever affect me personally and yet anger me because I feel they are unjust and probably even unethical. One is the inheritance tax taxing money upon which income tax was paid when the money was earned. Dammit, I feel that once a guy has earned his money he should be able to give it to whomsoever he damn well pleases. My other grotch is on the side of Sgt York, who originally got into trouble over taxes when he split his money down the middle and gave the government their half and he kept his half. Only trouble was the government wanted still more. I say when your taxes get to the point where the government is getting more of your earnings than you are, well, I don't rightly know what 'ism' it is but it damned sure isn't capitalism. ¶ Man, do you ever need to get your automatic slip-sheeter fixed...the offset this time was something terrible. Either that or do like I do and switch to an especially absorbent paper.

ASP I've read only two pages so far but already you've made two very fine
(Donaho) comments, Bill--the first to Harry Warner re Martin and the second to Charles Wells re Breen. The position you stated for the Breen blackball, namely that we objected not to Walter's writings but rather to Walter himself as a FAPA member having his name on the roster, was precisely the position I took.

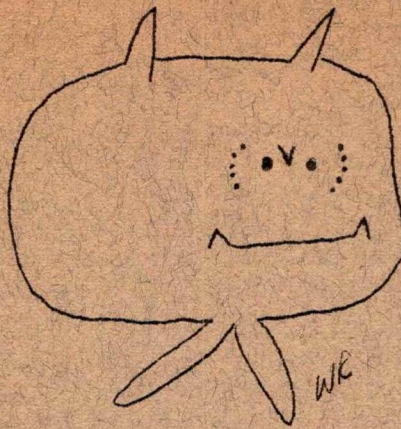
NLEKAS I hate to comment so briefly on such a major effort, but all I
(Meskys & Rolfe) have to say at the moment is that I found the Bok discussions very interesting and extremely well written.

LIGHTHOUSE "The Ace Tolkiens" was the first thing I've ever read by or about
(Carr) Wollheim with favor and approval. I'd heard the clamor about the so-called 'pirate' editions, of course, and wondered what it was all about, but this explains it all to my satisfaction. I think it was pretty smart on Wollheim's part and that Tolkien should feel pretty lucky things worked out for him as well as they have. ¶ I'm sorry that OOPSLA! isn't still around in 1965, Terry, but thank you very much for calling it one of the top fanzines of the day. Actually I never think of OOPS as having folded but merely longer between issues than usual, but alas I fear the facts are more cruel than that. Still, who knows?

BLEEN I loved your line: "My left ear serves little purpose, save to give my
(DAG) head a more symmetrically balanced appearance." I can sympathize with you slightly from my personal experience. My last year of graduate school threw me into rather close contact with a fellow student from South Korea, a very pleasant Colonel or something in their Army, somewhat older than the run of the mill geophysics student, and, as far as I was concerned, totally incomprehensible. So help me, try as I might I couldn't understand more than one word out of every ten he spoke and after about three months of some extremely uncomfortable conversations consisting of lots of talk on his part and lots of inane smiles on mine I eventually took the only civilized course left to me and started avoiding the guy. If you have anything like the trouble understanding the world that I had understanding him then I can truly say I very truly feel for you.

WARHOON
(Bergeron)

You are right in concluding that two members can claim activity credit for the same eight pages, one person as the writer and the other as the editor or publisher. Perhaps three persons, if you split up the editor and publisher. Why does this seem a fantastic notion to you? We have come in recent years to think of activity as meaning some form of original writings on the part of the member but in the strict sense it also means artwork and editorial contributions as well as the act of publishing itself. Haven't we had an argument or two in FAPA over this duality of credit recently? ## I've come to suspect, Dick, that you aren't really interested in whatever issues may lie behind the Breen Boondoggle but for some time now have been amusing yourself with arguments over trivia, particularly when you can get someone aroused over some hint or inference you have made without having said anything actually. It's only my opinion, of course, and as subject to error as are all of my opinions, but it seems to me to be more and more commonplace to find you answering "But I didn't say so-and-so!" in answer to some persons passionate reply--and not just FM Busby, either--and lo and behold a close examination will find you perfectly correct. And yet these people all were stirred up by you somehow. I'm sure you can come up with several obvious and simple answers designed to illustrate why it is you are continually being misunderstood by these people but I think you are far too good as a writer for it to be anything but deliberate on your part. ## But to give in to you: what did I mean by saying that Breen's value as a writer was "unproven"? Well, let's say Walter writes something and you say it's good and I say it isn't. Does this prove it to be good or bad? I say it is unproven. But now suppose a second person agrees with you and not with me? Still unproven, I say. At what point does it become proven? Six to one? Two hundred to fourteen? One thousand to seven? I say as long as there is at least one dissenting vote then it is clearly "unproven" in the case of something as intangible as the value of a person's writings. But you have been quite concerned in the past with the matter of proof --tell me, Dick, what do you consider to be "proof"? Of anything...Walter's alleged guilt or his value as a writer or whatever you choose. ## Yes, I still have on hand several small Bergeron illos you sent me in days long ago and I fully intend that you shall see them in print real-soon-now. ## No, what I said was that the reason for the secret ballot was to prevent undue pressure from being brought to bear upon the voters by any strong faction within the electorate. This pressure can be brought to bear not only prior to the actual vote, which you seem to feel is the only time of any importance, but after the vote as well, as the pro-Breeners have shown to such good advantage, and I feel this is just as serious as before. ## It's true we seem to have disagreed more than agreed in recent times, doesn't it? Still this doesn't keep me from recognizing that you are an unusually talented person or that WARHOON is an exceptional fanzine, and I like to pass out the egoboo accordingly. Our long-time...well, friendship is the word that I would normally use without thinking about it...also enters into it, I suppose. I'm slow to gain friends and extremely tenacious when it comes to giving any of them up, as least as far as my attitude towards the other is concerned. And it doesn't bother me that you are, as you say, always in a head-to-head with one of my favorite other people --both of you are individuals subject to your own actions. And as for our own disagreements, I like to think that they are of the intellect and therefore subject to reason and argument, tolerance and compromise and therefore the healthy variety of disagreement, not the unhealthy kind. I regret that we always find ourselves disagreeing in print because I never feel I can fully explain myself in writing. I'd like to meet you at a convention some weekend...I'll wager we agree on more things than may be apparent at the moment. But even if this were not so I still can't feel that to disagree is to be disagreeable. ## Thank you for your comment that you find me one of FAPA's most genial members...I appreciate it more than you may think. I've had the feeling in recent years that I am missing some of the genial good humor I used to pride myself on having in my youth, and this bothers me. Of late, though--very recently, I mean--it seems to be returning and I have high hopes that my recently acquired ability to be easily irritated is due purely to personal problems and is just a passing phase. I trust so. I liked myself better, personally, back in the days when I was my good old happy-go-lucky self...



113th mailing

MC'3

THE FANTASY AMATEUR 113
(Officialdom)

Thanks for the phone call last week, Lee--I don't believe I've ever used a phone patch before, and my Dad has been a ham all of his life. It's a bit frustrating, though, to be able to talk only in separate intervals. I found myself trying to answer you while you were still on the air, and then when it was finally my turn I couldn't always remember exactly what I wanted to say. Come back to LA soon and we'll call up an all-night poker game in your honor. ~~for~~ OOOG! Calkins Feb 8 DA...good thing I'm well on my way to taking care of this little item. Should reach 17 or 18 pages this time, which will make it my largest single issue since...well, let's see, in the August 1957 mailing I had a 20-pager and that was the largest ever. I had 32 pages in that mailing but in several publications. Counting pages per mailing, if I hit 20 pages this issue it will be my largest contribution to any single mailing since August 1961, the 96th mailing. ~~for~~ Poor Phil Harrell still isn't a member yet. It's been a long haul, Phil.

DIFFERENT
(Moskowitz)

I found this very interesting and entertaining and in addition I thought it provided a rather penetrating insight into the minds and egos of the people involved. I'd like very much to read the other correspondence mentioned on page 7 between Gernsback and Bates regarding "The Triggered Dimension" but I don't suppose you could get permission to publish it. Also, I thought your abrupt and questions-unexplained ending to the Gernsback letter on page 9 was just as frustrating as what Gernsback was writing about Bates' yarn.

POOR RICHARD'S ALMANAC
(Brown)

I classify this line under the DEPARTMENT OF THINGS I DIDN'T KNOW UNTIL YOU TOLD ME: "I like Bob Pavlat...but jezuzgawdalmighty, he sure has made a mess of things."

Oh, is that so, now?

TANKUS
(Felz)

In commenting on Willis' installment, I want to say that I think he has caught very well that special part of the relationship between Elinor and Buz Busby...the balance between Buz's forceful frankness and Elinor's deep empathy and the fact that they do complement and deserve each other. They make a very well balanced couple even though individually they are miles apart.

NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION
(Lyons)

It's only a one-line comment but I think you'll see the humor in it, Howard: my wife and I are thinking of buying our first house this spring...

DAMBALLA
(Hansen)

One of the real joys of reading is the chance to reread an old favorite...I say this even if my tastes don't agree much with yours. I do plan to reread "Lord of the Rings" one of these days to see if it isn't one of the books I will appreciate more the second time than the first, and one of these days I must return and finish my complete Sherlock Holmes, but I can't quite see tackling any of them again after that. But now take "The Caine Mutiny" or "Prince of Foxes" and I can't even tell you how often I have read and reread them. The latter is just about my all-time favorite historical novel and it is just about due to be reread again this year, come to think of it. As a child I read and reread

my Tarzan books at least half a dozen times each, but that is something I don't really dare to do again now, much as I'd like to do so. I'm afraid that I have changed too much (perhaps not all for the better) since those days and I really don't want to take a chance with all of those happy memories. One set of memories that I think I can chance again one of these days, though, are those deriving from my complete set of Famous Fantastic Mysteries and Fantastic Novels...my first two real sf pulps (fantasy if you insist) before I knew of anything else but Burroughs, and long my favorite magazine. I still intend to bind these Real Soon Now and as soon as I do I'll work my way through them again. ## Oh, yes, while agreeably disagreeing with you I'd also like to say that I couldn't quite hack the Fu Manchu series, either (or Sumuru, similarly) because I never could quite figure out why a person as supremely capable as Fu (or S) kept losing at the end of each book. They were just too unbelievably powerful to keep finishing second every time.

SYNAPSE Regarding your comments to Pournelle: our government has never admitted (Speer) that it is important to beat the Russians to the moon, all right, but I don't think there is much question that it is. The worth of the moon as a colony or mineral producing claim doesn't even enter into it. The war we are fighting with Russia, however "cold" we may choose to call it at the moment, is not one of acreage or mineral wealth but the control of mens minds and ideas. The propaganda value of being first to win the race to the moon--a race that our government would like to pretend doesn't exist because we started so far behind in it, but one which we will all of a sudden recognize once we win it--and the effect it will have on the minds of men will be incalculable. ## I also think that the idea that the moon isn't much more (if any) inhospitable or hostile than Antarctica is extremely well taken and I'll be glad to debate the point with you if you like. ## Your off-set problem is pretty bad. I had a lot of trouble even with this paper when I was using blue ink, which I preferred, but since I switched to black I haven't had much difficulty. (I hope this page when printed doesn't make a liar out of me...)

BOBOLINGS I found your discussion of box-training your kittens pretty amusing, (Pavlat) Bob. I've always been luckier than that, though. Not long after the kittens were born I just made sure a box was available to them and after that the mother cat took care of the entire process. She took care of whatever accidents there may have been (we didn't observe the evidences of any) and that was that. Pretty good deal, I thought.

MASQUE You've said some pretty true things in the past, Bill, but oh how I (Rotsler) liked your four-liner on the fifth page: "I often dream of love. Love-ly dreams they are, too. But sometimes I could just scream! They never finish right!" Describes last night for me to a tee...

HORIZONS How did you like the World Series this year, Harry? I must admit that (Warner) I watched it with mixed emotions. Neither one of my favorite teams made it...I'm a Yankee fan in the AL and Cardinals in the NL...and tho I'm more in favor of the NL rather than the AL, for some reason I have never liked the Dodgers, probably for their futile-seeming punchless attack. But those last weeks of the season more or less made a Dodger fan of me against my will--people with that much guts and desire deserve to win--and then when the Series came around the Minnesota people beat their own drums so loudly that I could hardly wait to see them wrapped around their own drumsticks. Sandy finally did it--but I hate to think where the Dodgers would finish without him. ## Today is January 1st and I have just finished watching the three top unbeaten football teams in the nation get their comeuppances. About Arkansas and LSU I really couldn't get very excited, but I was for Nebraska all the way and a little disappointed when they lost. But oh! how I enjoyed seeing underdog UCLA put on one of the defensive displays of the year and stop the unstoppable Big 10 running game in its tracks. They produced some of the most exciting third and fourth down plays and goal-line stands that I have ever seen in college football. I can hardly wait to read tomorrow morning's papers and see how the local sportswriters justify having given up on UCLA weeks ago...

