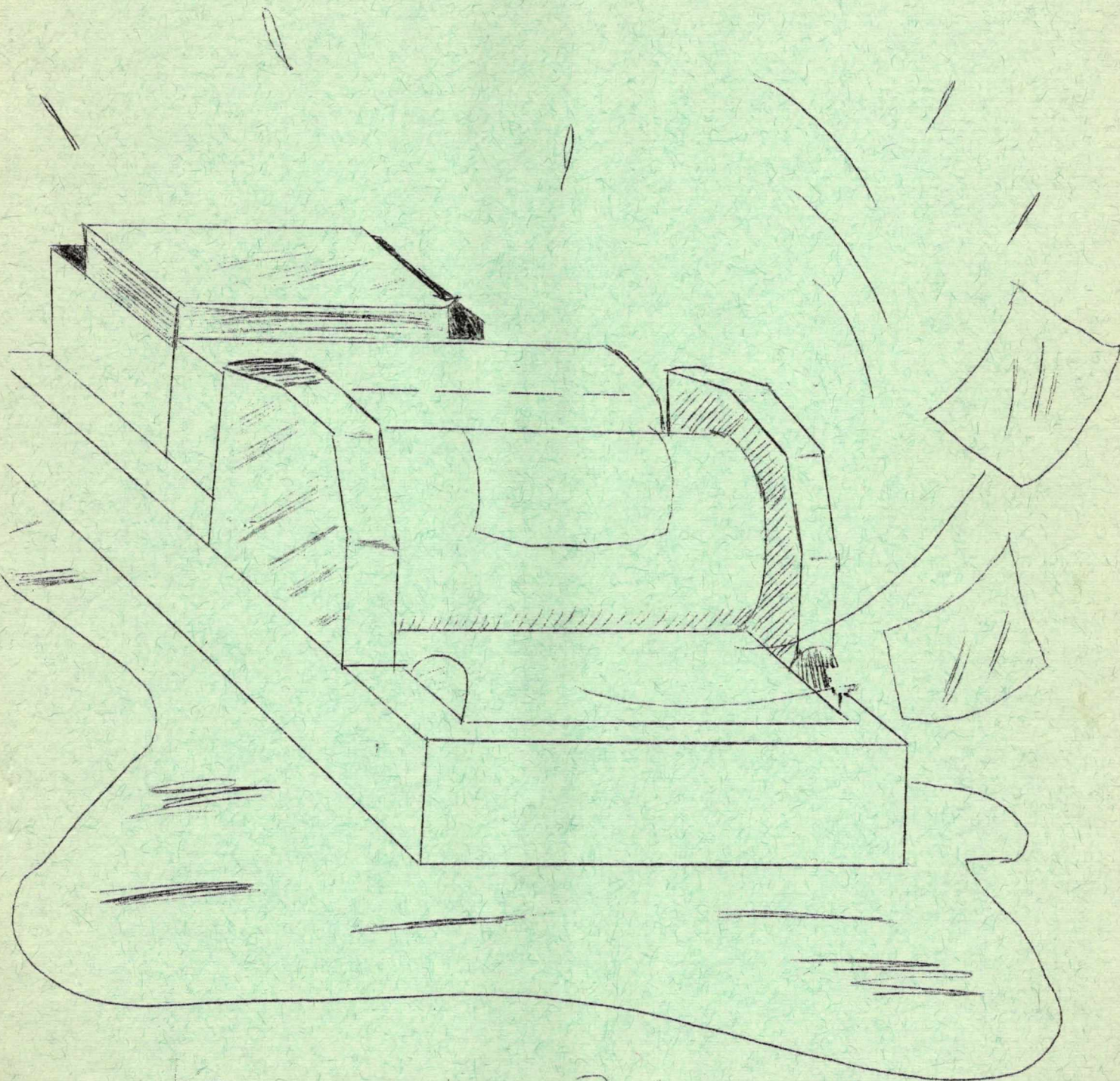


NIEKAS 3.9



"A Ditto graph Named Puddles" (?)

AVC

Greetings from that hotbed of fanac, Mayhem House. To my left Anne is Anne stencilling her cover and grotching that my typing is shaking the table while to my right Felice is stencilling Vazhenda. I just finished stencilling Felice's Felice's illos while she typed "Mayhem House" and Anne finished drawing her cover and read the most recent LOCs on NIEKAS. It is now 11 PM, Tuesday 9 June 1964 at 1360 Emerson, Palo Alto, with yhos, Ed Meskys, hacking away on Anne's 11 pitch typer. We must finish tonight, and I'm supposed to run this mess off tomorrow on Karen Anderson's Gestetner.

A word of explanation about the fractional NIEKAS. I'm afraid it's all my fault. Yasee, I'm taking this here course in computer programming and the final exam was yesterday and I also had to write a subrouting in machine language as a take-home part to the final and I got quite loaded down with my regular work and.... Anyhow you get the idea. I just didn't have the time for a full sized NIEKAS even tho I do have a fair amount of material on hand for it. (In my possession are: an article by John Baxter, a tape of Tony Boucher's annual talk before the Little Men reviewing the previous year's stf books with permission to publish, Halevy's "Tolkien Glossary" (continued from the now defunct RHODOMAGNETIC DIGEST), an article by Liz Lokke, and Halevy just borrowed my copy of Tolkien's new book, Tree & Leaf, in order to write a review of it.) This, and hopefully more, will eventually appear in NIEKAS #9.

But in the meantime both Anne and Felice owe pages so that they must have something in this mailing and I do hate the very thought of completely missing a mailing. So, NIEKAS 8.9.

Whenever you N'APAns do finally see #9 I'm afraid that you'll have to put up with most of the enclosed material for a second time. I want to include it in the general circulation copies and do not want to go thru the variant editions nonsense. (I had had enuf of that with POLHODE 3 back in the 7th or 8th mailings.)

As for the when of #9, because Felice volunteered to type most of the stencils and Phil Salin volunteered to handle the mimeography it should be ready only a few weeks after the mailing deadline. Much as I object to post-mailings on general principle I will postmail unless something happens to greatly delay the issue. I contemplated skipping this quarter completely but don't want to lose my record of regular publication. When I write people asking for material it is something I can point to and hence promise them that their material will appear soon after submission and not 4 or 5 years later (Hi, Norm Metcalf...Walter Breen.)

Anne just pooped out and went home, and Joe Rolfe got home from teaching a night course in Electrical Engineering. And still we press on.

Actually, even this small issue would be impossible were it not for the tremendous amount of work put in on it by Anne and Felice. I am afraid that they are taking the zine over. (Afraid? Hell, no! So much the less work for me!)

So this is N'APAs 21st mailing and it comes of age. Shall we hold a Bar Mitzvah (or \forall however that's spelled...there's no time to Poorf read this page, damit!)? It's hard to imagine that I've been with this group for almost 5 years. I joined in late June 1959, just a few weeks after the first mailing. N'APA saw my first fanzine, POLHODE # 1, and I have had something in every mailing since the 5th. (That's no record--Gem Carr never missed one and Bruce Pelz missed only one.)

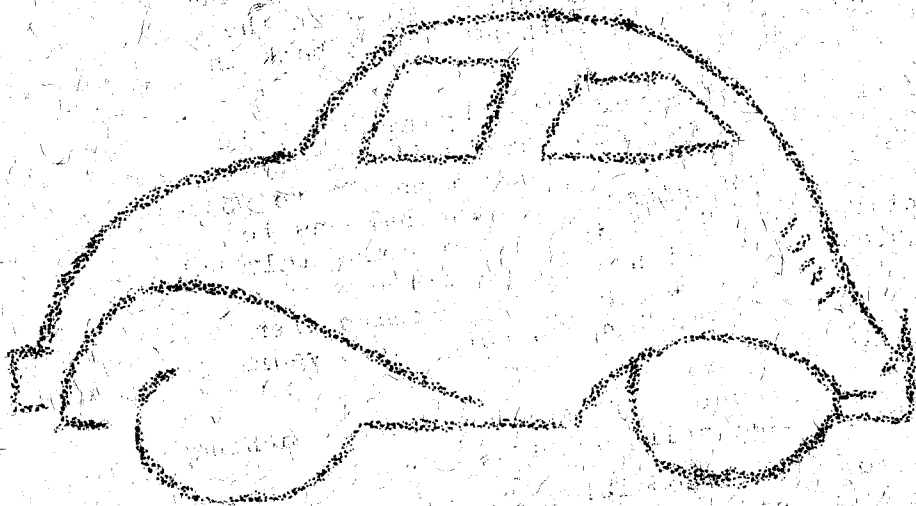
This is NIEKAS 8. published by Ed Meskys (L71, Box 808, Livermore 94551) Felice Rolfe & Anne Chatland for the 21st N'APA mailing, June 1964.

MAILING UNCOMMENTS FROM MAYHEM HOUSE

BOOTS AND SADDLES, FRENCH STYLE

Mesdames et Messieurs, bonjour. I had intended to devote these uncomments to reviews of fan fiction, so as to make up somewhat for last time's complete disregard of N'APA. Unfortunately, I've just spent several days -- nay, weeks -- with Messieurs Porthos, Athos, Aramis and D'Artagnan. In our home library we have the Heritage Club edition of THE THREE MUSKETEERS and its sequel, TWENTY YEARS AFTER. One Friday evening, desperately in need of reading material, I took up THE THREE MUSKETEERS in spite of having read it before....It was Tuesday before anybody here got a decent meal.

Mindful of the struggle it had been to regain the real world -- wondering, indeed, if I really had -- I carefully avoided any further Dumas until after my final exams. (About 10 minutes after.) Immediately upon finishing I repaired to the Palo Alto Public Library, an institution which consists of beautiful buildings containing rude librarians and very few books. I expected little. I found a marvel. Did you know that there is a further séquel? It's called THE VICOMTE DE BRAGELONNE, or TEN YEARS LATER. The subtitle is a little confusing; THE VICOMTE is set ten years later than TWENTY YEARS AFTER -- de Bragelonne is Athos' son. This book also differs from the first two in that it doesn't have a happy outcome, and it's longer -- to be precise, five volumes of fine print! (I believe it leads to THE MAN IN THE IRON MASK.)



This is a bug.
It is not an insect-type bug.
It does not have six legs.
It does not have any legs at all.
It is called a bug because it bugs
the hell out of Detroit.
Color it inexpensive.

I must confess that my heart warms more to the daring young D'Artagnan than to the wily old D'Artagnan, and that de Bragelonne is too honorable and too pure by half to be entirely interesting. Even so, I strongly recommend all three to the sword and sorcery fan. You won't find any sorcery, but there is plenty of swordplay and affaires d'honneur.

By the by, you may notice on these pages a couple of excerpts from the Mayhem House Coloring Book. There may or may not be more later, according as I get or don't get any ideas. The original impetus came from a Programmer's Coloring Book, which remarked that "a computer is a machine which is dumber than a human, but smarter than a programmer."

EN GARDE

You who aren't interested in fan fiction will want to skip this section, since these are the fan fiction reviews I mentioned.

"The Screen Scene" -- Dian Pelz. This one-pager shows a breadth and depth of erudition seldom demonstrated in fandom; or to be more direct, it is funny as hell. It is fiction, Dian?

"Year of the Earthman" -- Morgan. A moving story, with pictures well drawn, words well chosen. I can only pick one fault with it, and that is perhaps a matter of definition; how could the Earthman be fertile, if he was a robot?

"Kathy's" -- Koch, I think. This is immature in plot and in phrasing. Too many unexplained gimmicks and events, although since this is only Part I, they may be cleared up in Part II to come. One serious complaint; too many thoughts in one sentence. That's OK occasionally, in chit-chat such as this column, or in a stream-of-consciousness passage in a story. Overdone, however, it derails the reader's attention. Why did you shift back and forth between first-person narrative and third-person?

Note: When I say immature, it isn't necessarily a condemnation. (Not unless you're gray-haired and still write like a teenager.) It's something that time cures, of course -- but a little conscious effort can hasten the cure, and that's why I bring it to your attention.

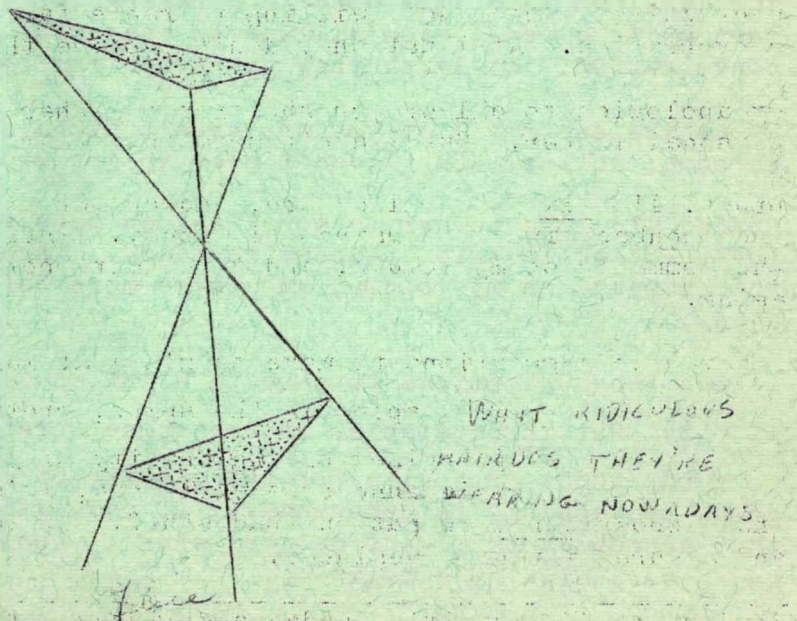
"The Shadow Slayer" -- Katz. My comments on this will be somewhat restricted, since I don't have pp. 34-35 or the end of the story. From what is here, however, it seems to be a standard sword and sorcery tale, with many of the faults of that type. To be specific, the sorcery is used both for setting up artificial dangers and for knocking them down again -- something I find most unconvincing. (As a matter of fact, that was one of my major gripes about Heinlein's GLORY ROAD.) In addition, although "The Shadow Slayer" is fairly long for a fanzine story, it gives the impression of having been pushed too fast in order to fit the space available. In short, not bad, but not real good. Stay with it, Arnie.

"Food Bin" -- Evers. A short gimmick story, and unfortunately the title gave away the gimmick.

No poetry here, for the excellent reason that I don't know a thing about it. Don't take these remarks too much to heart; I can't write worth a damn myself; but you do want some notice taken of your work, don't you?

CORNE DE BOEUF

...which is an exclamation used by Porthos in THE VICOMTE, and while I'm reasonably sure that my instinctive translation of it as "corned beef" is inaccurate, I do hope that if it has a more embarrassing meaning nobody will tell me.



I don't know about the rest of you, but I'm enjoying Phil Kohn's contributions immensely.

Another zine I enjoyed was Richard Mann's. Your editorial nattering, sir, was enjoyable, and delightfully free of the adolescentisms one expects from the high school fan. (See, I'm not always indulgent.) Three personal comments:

1. You asked why do the kids at your school score high on intelligence tests? Probably because the tests are highly biased towards exactly the kind of experience that service brats get plenty of, since they're continually shifted from place to place.
2. I recently subscribed to Recreational Mathematics Magazine, and don't entirely agree with you -- it's too number theoretic; I like analysis better. I wish it lent itself more to this kind of fun -- and if any of you mathematicians in the woodwork know of a mag where it does, let me know!
3. To the very good question from your mother, "is fandom limiting?", the answer is "it depends". Of course there are people who quit everything (even sf) in order to concentrate on fanning. But I think that the main reason so few other references show up in fanzines is that we don't think our readers would be interested. Meskys has written quite a bit about Gilbert and Sullivan and opera excursions, but most of our non-sf activities don't show up in print. For example, I mentioned THE THREE MUSKETEERS earlier because I thought it might be of interest, but didn't mention that it had led me to read the two volumes of Durant's HISTORY OF CIVILIZATION which deal with that period. (THE AGE OF REASON BEGINS and THE AGE OF LOUIS XIV.)

By and large, the fans I know are less homogeneous and thus represent, as a group, a larger range and depth of cultural interests, than the other two major in-type groups I'm in contact with. My husband is a "rising young executive/engineer", and he teaches at Foothill College part time, so we touch on both the industrial and academic worlds. The industrial social group is extremely limited and quite shallow in its interests. (Collectively, they bore me to tears, although individually they're widely-educated people. It's beyond my understanding.) The "academicians" might seem to offer greater diversity, but actually they segregate themselves by department, and there's little to choose between the two. The fans, on the other hand (and living in the San Francisco area, I'm able to meet quite a few), seem willing to range far and wide in their interests and in conversation. At least they don't confine themselves to shop talk.

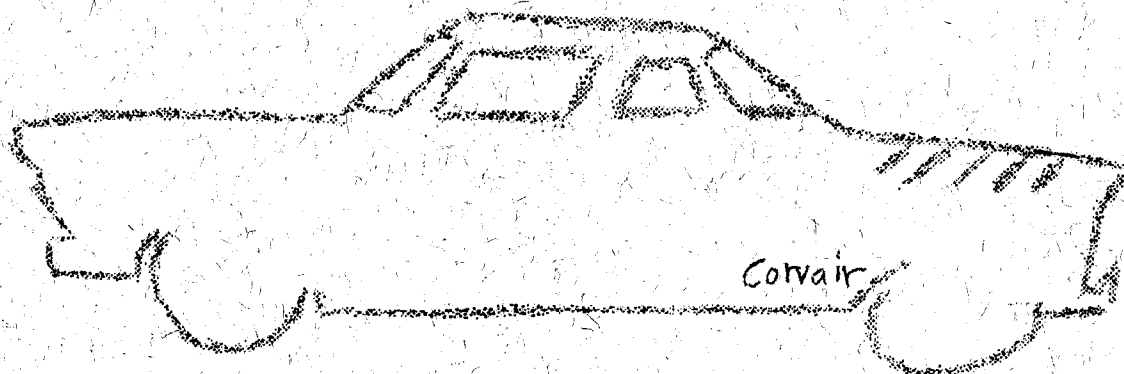
My apologies to all of you who aren't Richard Mann. Originally I meant to do by personal letter. But I don't seem to get around to it, do I?

Bruce, I'd like to write more, and on more varied subjects (and thank you.) But the feedback in this business is lousy. Three months before I can read most of the comments on my column, and three more before I can talk back...it's discouraging.

I have two suggestions to make to N'APA at large, and especially to Pile 1;

- a) Put three staples in the spine, pretty please?
- b) Don't apologize for the quality of your material or repro. If it's good, the apology is unnecessary; if bad, it's redundant, because we all know that nobody wants to put out bad stuff. Apologies are embarrassing to read, and a sure sign of a beginner.

Benjamin: "Mommy, it's sunday and winday outside!"



This is a VW.
 It is a VW that looks like a Chevy.
 It is the world's longest, lowest,
 widest VW.
 Color it imitation.

NUMBER, PLEASE

The Pacific Telephone and Telegraph Company has been trying to switch this area to all-digit dialing, and there is considerable resistance locally. The S. F. Chronicle ("The Voice of the West", it says in fine print) printed the following story awhile back. An anti-digit dialler signed his check to P T & T with his phone number -- typed. The company returned it to him "for signature." Still rebellious, he wrote in the number by hand and sent it back. At that point the joke backfired; P T & T accepted the check and his bank honored it.

The Rolfs feel that if you can't fight 'em, join 'em. We make our checks out to 7 8 & 8.

There are pitfalls for the fan, too, if names ever really are suppressed in favor of numbers as some fear. We'd not only have to recognize our favorite author by his number, but also by pseudonumber, or nombre de plume. (Is that good French?) Many old-line fans would have to scramble for appropriate nicknames; Wally Wastebasket Weber would have it easy, we could just call him 13 -- but what about Ron "Squirrel" Ellik?

My husband has a natural solution to this problem. His initials are j j, and any electrical engineer will tell you that that is -1.

Anne has just reminded me that the following unlikely-looking things are perfectly good numbers:

$$* \quad \lim_{x \rightarrow 1} \frac{(x-1) \ln x}{\sin^2 (x-1)}$$

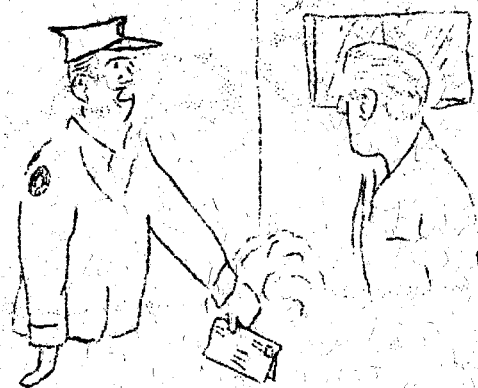
$$** \quad \int_0^{+\infty} x^2 e^{-x} dx$$

Aren't you glad you found out?

* = 1

** = 6, or 3!; it's the gamma function for $\alpha = 3$.

A T S A K I M A S



"I don't care if it is a postmailed NIEKAS;
you don't get it unless you pay the 2¢ postage
DUE."

As the title of this fanzine suggests, this is not quite NIEKAS. NIEKAS 9, including this material as well as Bumblejimas, Vazhenda, various articles and a different, offset cover which couldn't possibly arrive from New York in time to meet the deadline, will be postmailed. Ed is in the middle of some exams, while Felice -- well, I've lived at Mayhem House long enough to know that there are really some times -- ! However, she is still contributing her material now, although she probably hasn't had time enough to do much of the other editing -- i.e., chasing down articles and the like.

Since both of us owe pages this time, I looked through the mailing (I hope to heaven I have the right mailing!) to see what would be most interesting. This, naturally, is the section on mailing comments, which for NIEKAS 8.9, follows below.

EXCALIBUR 6 (Len Bailles and Arnold Katz) I noticed right off (at least in my copy) that your repro is much better than you say it is. Perhaps your apologies serve as a charm to ward off typos, smudges, show-through and the like. Please tell us

if it works. Felice does a very good job as Chief Proofreader, but even so she occasionally misses some good ones. Another question, too -- whatever is a grottled greep? Ow, ow, ow! On some of the colors in EX this time, although after seeing that purplish magenta stuff Ed has for NIEKAS 9 (You can't say I didn't warn you!) I can't really complain about this. ## I also think the girl on the cover is a prize example of wishful thinking. I noticed too that the man was not nearly so well drawn (Meow! But what do you expect?)

BAYTA 2 (Bill Bowers) The repro here, too, was very good, especially for a rush job. Do you have some special gimmick, incantation, or the like? If so, please

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let us know. You know Ed and corflu, whose odor I dislike almost as much as does John Michael (the Rolfes' cat). ((You'd dislike it even more if it were smeared on your nose, the way you did to J.M. --FR)) ## I'm not particularly sympathetic with the problem you describe in determining the matter of originality in your own writing. After all -- how far are you going to carry this? The conscientious composer finds himself in much worse straits. Almost any given theme can be found, whole or piecemeal, somewhere in the works of the great prolific classical (including baroque and romantic) composers, usually Bach, Haydn, or Mozart. I'll never forget how surprised I was when I found a quite modern jazz theme in the bass voice of a dismembered Bach fugue. About all I can suggest is the avoidance of blatant copying.

DUBHE (E. Joseph Baker) There wasn't much in this small issue that I could comment on here. About all I can say is that I liked the description of Washington D.C., as far as it went -- the description, I mean.

GEMZINE 4/39 (G.M. Carr) Please tell me more about Phil Kohn's being like an extra-terrestrial -- I'm fascinated. ## Your mailing comments deserve all the praise my "Gollum" cover received. I only hope that if I go in for this writing of "Atsakimas" as regularly as I do for Vazhenda, that I eventually do as well.

THE BOOK OF THE UNDEAD 2 (Phil Castora) If you are interested in a cure for the Lord-of-the-Rings insanity, I suggest hand-coloring a large batch of four-color covers in order to have them "as perfect as possible" for the mailing, with all of three days to finish them up. ## If the radio programs you mentioned are being broadcast anywhere near San Francisco (AM or FM), please tell me where on the dial to find them and when.

SON OF NEOFAN (Owen M. Hannifen) Thanks for the information. I'm sorry there wasn't more of it.

ALCHERA 1 (Ronald Hicks) Welcome to N'APA, and congratulations for a nicely done first zine. I like the title especially, once you explain what it means. I can see how you would have difficulty getting artwork, and the only really essential stuff is a cover. Covers like the one on Niekas 8.9 are not particularly hard to do -- offset ones that have to be sent to New York are something else again. These simpler ones involve a working out on plain 8½ by 11 paper, retracing and an electronic stencil made at the Gestetner firm in San Jose ((Which she decided not to do; instead she stencilled herself. --FR)) which costs around \$3.50. The paper can be purchased in San Francisco in quite a variety of colors. If you want me to do a cover like this for ALCHERA 2, please let me know -- and soon -- what sort of a picture of the dream time and place you have in mind and what color paper you want, as well as how many copies are needed. I will send the completed covers -- done probably on a Gestetner -- and will definitely need help on the postage, especially if I am sending the things to Okinawa or some such distant place. If you don't care for my stuff I suggest you write to Bjo Trimble, whose work is a good deal better than mine and who also likes to help out neofen. She has said that she stencils such work, as does Arthur Thomson, of 17 Brockham House, Brockham Drive, London S.W. 2, Great Britain. (He signs his work ATom; Bjo simply as Bjo, while I use my initials AYC -- this so that you can tell quickly whose stuff is whose among us, anyway. Jack Harness and Frank Wilimczyk are also excellent artists, as is Dick Schultz; however, I don't know whether or not they do work for neofen.

INTERIM 2 (Mark Irwin) "...Falsh Gordon Serials"? What a lovely type! I wonder if anyone collects such things. ## I am relatively safe from my Twonky, since it seems to spend more time in the repair shop than in my living room. I bought it last September from the Sylvania Employee Store at a respectable discount, took it home, hooked it up and watched it discontinuously for ninety minutes, after which the yoke went out and took the horizontal control with it. This took seven weeks to get fixed. (I understand that a new picture tube takes six months to arrive from New York. I can't for the life of me see why.) After some five months of cautious operation (I never ran the thing for

more than ninety minutes at a time at the most), it got sick again, although not as badly as the first time. This time it ran for seven minutes and then cut out with a horrifyingly visible arc to its metal chassis and an impressive little fire. It's back again, carefully insulated on a wooden stand. In all fairness to Sylvania, I must say that this model has been discontinued, since apparently everyone who got one had some trouble with it.

HIPPICALORIC 7 (Ted Johnstone) An electric dittograph named "Puddles"? Why? The implications are ghastly. ##Do any of these eligible males in L.A. ever come to the Gilbert and Whzzisname parties up here? If so, where are they?

MENACE OF THE LASFS 88 (Bruce Pelz) I wish I had been at that party (meeting?) although I probably would not have done any howling. I hope that's not a prerequisite; I don't do it very well. ##I think a fanzine named No Award is quite reasonable; after all, this one, when translated from the Lithuanian, comes out as Nothing 8.9, which is quite an interesting philosophical concept.

IMK (Irvin Koch) Very nice repro for a first zine -- if Ed and I can do as well for NIEKAI (that's NIEKAS plural, although you'd better ask Ed if you want to be sure. My Lithuanian is ~~Yimilid~~ nonexistent.) we will be quite satisfied. As far as the telepathic Kathy is concerned -- I'd almost like to see Security get a headache like that. I wasn't told the last time my lock was changed.

PHIL KOHN SAYS (Phil Kohn) I found this mc-letter one of the most interesting things in the mailing. However, I see nothing extraterrestrial in your viewpoints. ##I would like to see you define some of your terms much more rigorously (look who's talking) in your discussion of religion. For example, what do you mean by meekness, meanness, poor in mind? Sex, self and mind are evil only when you make them that way, something that has nothing to do with God. I hope you're not confusing selfishness and self -- I can't be sure from what you've written here. I'd also like to know what got you so deeply interested in this subject -- after all, the usual attitude is one of apathy. Wherever did you find the "hate yourself" doctrine? I have yet to see it anywhere. I could go on and on about most of your comments and spend an entire Atsakimas here. However, I still have a goodly pile left, and must get on with it.

MICKEY 3 and MICKEY 3½ (John Kusske Jr.) I really couldn't let your remarks about women pass without comment. For one thing, I detect a certain tongue-in-cheek attitude under those fierce words, especially those in which you advocate the abolition of the entire sex if possible. (How would you like to be abolished?) Seriously, much of the specifically feminine stupidity is feigned, due to the only partially mistaken idea that this is attractive to men. I have a very clear memory of the young male classmate in calculus who sincerely thought that the nicest thing he could say to me was that I looked as if I were majoring in home economics rather than in math. What on earth are we women to be? As it stands, we're damned if we are and damned if we aren't -- stupid, at least according to you. ##I was quite unable to find a theorem in that geometric illo on the sixth page of MICKEY 3. If there is one there, it must be from some straight Euclidean geometry which I have forgotten by now. I think I'd recognize Desargues' Theorem, especially after Felice's illos in NIEKAS 6.

WAFE 1 (Kent McDaniel and Arnold Katz) Arnie, you must be desperate for mailing comments. I wish you would combine all your fanzines into one big zine, and swipe the nearest TIGHTBEAM stapler if necessary. ((Amen factorial. -- FR)) (I would like to get my typewriter off the kitchen table, where it is presently making this part of my housekeeping very awkward indeed.) ##I agree with your views on not blasting neos, Kent, and my first Vazhenda, where I lit into Judi Sephton for this is an example of how much. However, I think I went too far with Judi myself; I know I went too far when I took on G.M.Carr in NIEKAS 8. I understand she has something to say about that in this coming mailing.

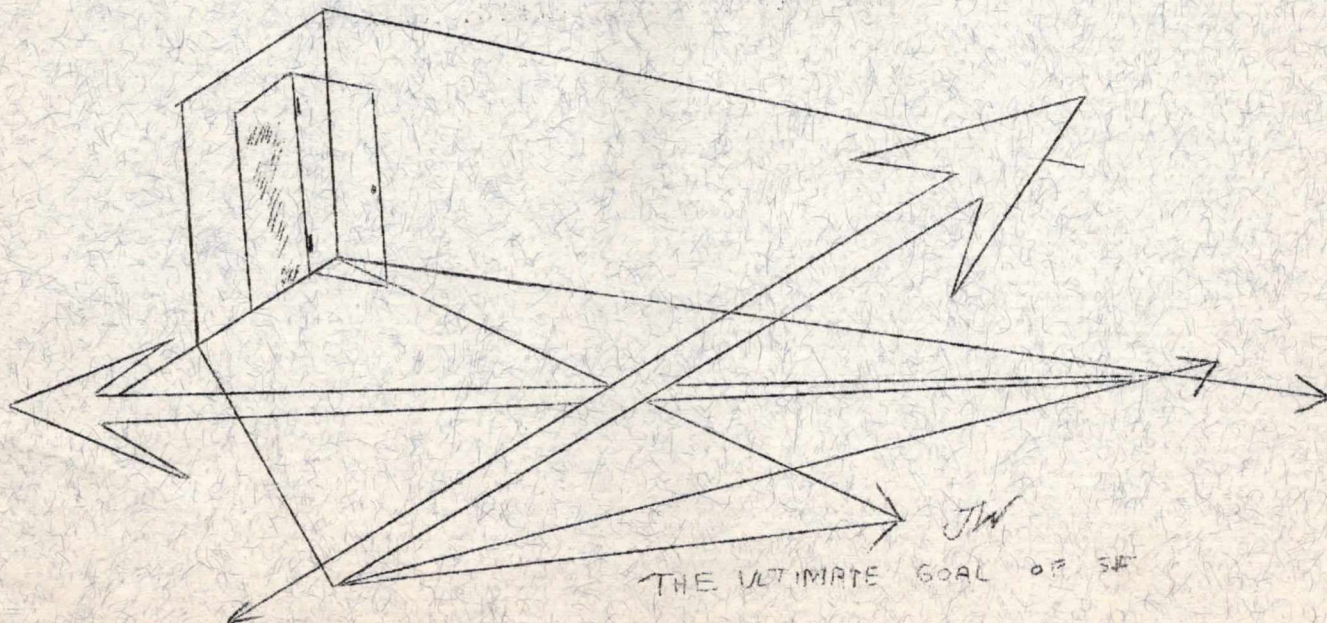
THE ROMAN 1 (Richard R Mann) I enjoyed your description of your unusual home. Some of it sounds incredible to a native of north-western Montana, but this is no fault of yours. I wonder if a hurricane wind sounds like the blizzard ones that come screaming through Hell-Gate Canyon into Missoula in midwinter.##I hope you won't be disappointed in this small semi-issue of NIEKAS. "iekas 9 will make up for it -- that I believe I can promise you. We figure on about 50 pages, and the cover.

SPINA 1 (Creath Thorne) I liked your mathematical puzzle, and would like to see you figure out an equivalent puzzle using complex numbers; i.e. numbers of the form $x + iy$, where x and y are real numbers, y is never zero, and i , of course, is the square root of minus one.

DYNATRON 20 (Roy and Christal Tackett) I'm not really cheating here; I got a defective copy of Dynatron (one with completely blank pages), and as soon as I get hold of a good one, I'll be able to comment. I don't think that all the copies are this bad, since the repro on the pages I do have is quite good. I know, of course, that these things just happen every so often even to the most careful people.

RACHE 13 (Bruce Pelz) I find that I don't quite agree with your opinions on the Egoboo Poll. Deserved or not, an Egoboo Poll is useful, at least for some people; I know that I was inspired, at least in part, to go on to a (hopefully) better and more ambitious offset cover. Even if this last one is a failure, I will have learned more from it than I would from a succession of "cat covers", as on NIEKAS 5. My continued study with Jerry Kolden has done quite the reverse of giving me a swelled head; the more I work with him the more I realize how little I really do know about art. ##Generally speaking, though, Bruce, easy does it on most of the relatively inept N'APAns. The very fact that they are inept keeps them from damaging N'APA, which for that matter is nowhere near that fragile. All right -- so some people do get some recognition they don't deserve. That isn't going to hurt you, and it might help them. If on the other hand, they merely get swelled heads and don't significantly improve their work, all they'll ever do is put crud in mailing after mailing, which is a nuisance and nothing more. Any neo who is going to amount to anything will recognize such crud for what it is very quickly on his own, merely by contrasting it with the quality material. ##As an afterthought, I am trying to moderate some of my own more intemperate comments. I don't intend to write any more fiery Vazhendans. They have a way of looking ridiculous after awhile, for one thing. ##These comments are the result of the impression you conveyed to me in RACHE. That impression may be more or less wrong; I rather expect you to say something of the sort next time around.

I can't procrastinate any longer. Cover, here I come!



THE GRAZZDIPPLE BONK

carlton 1 frederick

WHEN PUBBING A ZINE
SERCON OR OBSCENE
AVOID AT ALL COSTS THIS FIX
NOW HEED WHAT I SAY
KEEP MESKYS AWAY
'CAUSE MESKYS AND CORFLU DON'T MIX

WHEN NEFFERS ASSEMBLE
IT MAKES TRIMBLE TREMBLE
WHEN MESKYS COMES IN THEY'RE IRATE
THE LOCS ARE FEROCIOUS
'CAUSE THE GOOFS ARE ATROCIOUS
FOR MESKYS DRINKS CORFLU AND STRAIGHT

NOW IT'S BOURBON NO MORE
THAT SENDS ED TO THE FLOOR
FOR CORFLU'S A PERFECT ERASER
HE QUAFFS IT ALL DOWN
AND WITH HARDLY A FROWN
DRINKS MIMEO INK AS A CHASER

FROM MACHINES HIERONOMOUS
TO "CORFLU ANONOMOUS"

WE CHRONICLE ED MESKYS' DESSENT
PLEASE THINK OF OUR STENCILS
TAKE UP SMOKING PENCILS
WE IMPLORE YOU ED MESKYS, REPENT!