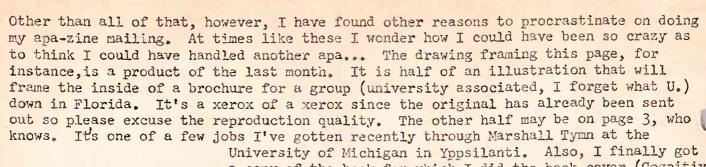


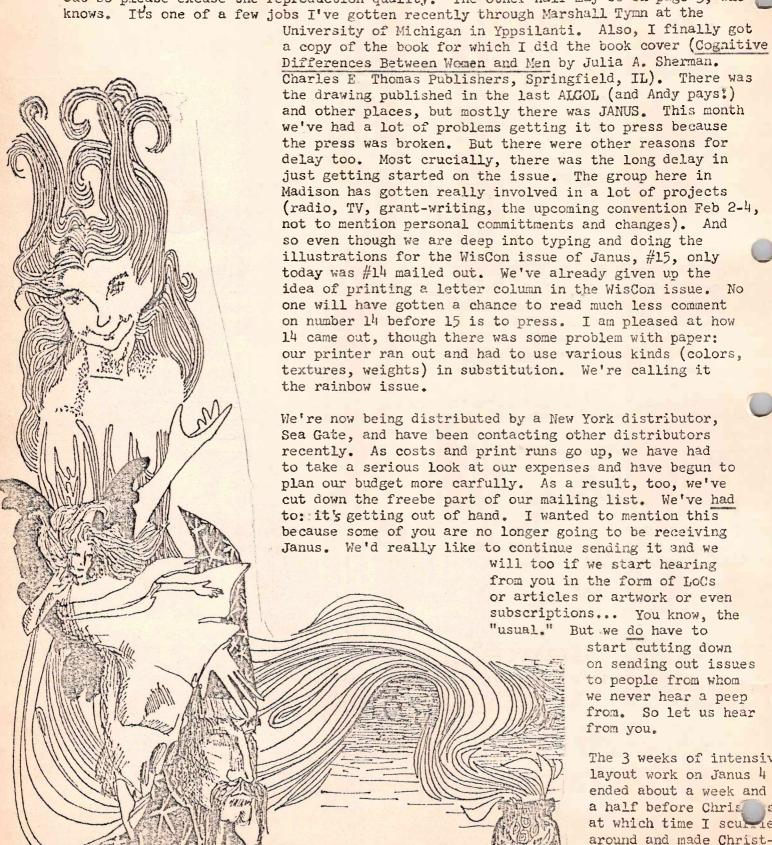
Hello. Contrary to what you might think based upon my apa-zine record recently, I am still alive. I dunno: maybe I'm not going to make it here. I keep missing deadlines, and the last few issues, I've only made it with quickie near post-mailings and mc-less zines. I feel guilty about it and maybe I should make room for some of the women on the mailing list who might make more of a wapa membership. Still, I want to try a little longer because there are so many good people here, and more, so many good people the Women's apa seems to be able to attract for me to meet.

What has been going on since ... I don't even when I last mentioned how things have been going, what I need to update. A stab in the dark, dangerous business, consider Polonious. I've been (apparently) very ill the last year. They tell me I've got a terrible iron deficiency such that my system hasn't had any iron, really, for more than a ½ year. My body simply decided one day that it had had enough of metabolizing iron from organic substances and did other things instead. Anyway a few weeks after Iguanacon I developed bad aches and pains which made getting up in the morning rather difficult in terms of walking, and even more scary: made my hands hurt so much that I couldn't write r draw. (This, temporarily and infrequently, but scary nonetheless) I thought I had arthritis, as did the doctor until

the blood test results came in and my extreme iron deficiency/anemia showed up. The actual pain probably wasn't as bad as the fear it caused in me...Well actually, I wouldn't say that, I did hurt pretty bad. But I spent the greater part of the month before I finally went to the clinic worrying and thinking dark thoughts. After the results came in I went around to friends, most of whom didn't know anything had been wrong in the first place, saying "Hey, I don't have arthritis!" Great they'd say, what else don't you have? Then I'd explain. Whew.

I feel really lucky actually. This is the second time something really awful might have happened with regard to my health and it turned out that the problem was comparatively minor. A few years ago I had to have a tumor removed from my neck which I had been told was 99% probabability, Hodgekin's (sp?) disease. Turned out that it was a nerval cyst (something that the doctor hadn't even considered as a possibility) and resulted only in my left larynx being paralized when the cyst was removed and my voice acquiring a rather breathy quality. And now this arthritis-turned-mere-irondeficiency thing. I no longer pop massive amounts of aspirin to combat pain, and the only thing that seems to be left yet is infrequent knee pain, ankle swelling and general joint weakness. But the doctor said it would all only go away gradually so that's OK.





The 3 weeks of intensive layout work on Janus 4 ended about a week and at which time I sculled around and made Christmas cards (maybe a xerox

on page 4) and did my Christmas shopping in two short evenings, quickest I ever did it. Then sat down and did the two brochures I had promised I would do before Christmas. Somewhere in there, I did some drawings for the WisCon flyer, which you still haven't received I would bet because we have hit a major fowl-up with University bureaucracy. (We're haveing it printed through the University which sponsors our convention.) In case you get this post-mailing before that brochure, and don't know that WisCon will be on Feb 2-4, 1979 at the University Center in Madison, Wisconsin with GoH's Suzy McKee Charnas and John Varley and Gina Clarke, and would like more information, like about the hotel (Campus Inn), rates, huckster room, Art Show, or whatever, write us and we'll get you whatever you need.

WISCON 3 P.O. Box 1624 Madison, WI 53701

By the way, Vonda McIntyre, Liz Lynn, Susan Wood, George R. R. Martin, Gene Wolf, plus a whole lot of WAPA peole will be there. There will be lots of feminist oriented programming, and for all you Canadians, why don't you consider coming south for the winter? The rest of you: If we can take the cold, you can take it. I hope I see a lot of you here.

Now, I'm working on Janus 4 art and getting both my work and the organization together for the WisCon art show. Should be good.

I'm also putting a lot of energy intensively looking for a graphics job. I mean a paying job. I'm still doing clerical work (right now for Kelly, for the past months working at the State Disability Insurance Bureau) and I am sick of it. I think in recent months I've found a lot of confidence in my abilities as an artist, enough to believe and more importantly, to be able to convince others that my apprenticeship work with Janus and freelance work qualifies me for a job without necessarily having had formal training. I've got applications all over Madison. I would like to also have applications in all over

the Seattle area too, but employment information for that area seems rather difficult to get her in Madison. I keep trying though. But if I do get one of the jobs here (some of them look very good indeed), I guess I will be staying in the Midwest for a while longer.

And of the books that I've read that have really impressed me the ones that stand out are A WOMAN'S ROOM (forgot the author), Liz Lynn's A DIFFERENT LIGHT, the two anthologies: Virginia Kidd's MILLENIAL WOMEN and Pamela Sargent's NEW WOMEN OF WONDER (which inspired an article I'm very satisfied with in the latest issue of Janus called "The View From Rapunzel's Tower"), the script of the film WORD IS OUT (read it especially for the section written from the point of view of the filmmakers but also for futher details from the "characters" which got edited out of the final version of the film), Thomas Berger's ARTHUR REX (with, I swear, a feminist slant on the King Arthur legend. I'll write about it somewhere, somehow, but I'd love to hear other of your reactions.), Tiptree/Sheldon's newest anthology and novel, and most recently read for me: Joanna Russ' EXCELLENT EXCELLENT EXCELLENT extraordinary novel, THE TWO OF US. Read it, read it. That too I have to write about or I will bust. And then right after that, I read Russ' KITTANNANY. which I'm sure I've misspelled, but I'm famous for that. But that too is wondrous: a rewritten child's rite-of passage fairy tale. Read it.



So y'see, I haven't been missing mailing for lack of life (or even iron). I've been popping iron pills madly and luckily haven't been suffering any bad effects from them like sick stomach or such, but it doesn't seem to have given me a lot of new energy like I'd hoped. Maybe there's a limit.

Things have been going well and smoothly for me emotionally, maybe because the people I feel a lot of passionate love for are saftly tucked a couple thousand miles away west of here, and the entanglements here in town I only allow during intermissions, so to speak. Lots of wonderful, supportive, warm friendships though, and I feel generally exhuberant about the friends I have.

Besides a lot of movies (Madison is good for those)
(I loved SUPERMAN, the world's fastest typist) I
think I've given you the highlights of recent times.
Now I should do some mailing comments. I won't promise
you that there will be alot or that I will get to all
of you, --my membership is at stake after all, time
is fleeting: To The Rescue!-- but I'll try.

Me S

SUSAN BREAD & ROSES In talking about your 30th birthday crisis you mentioned your first-year students, for whom "hippy" is "a term of contempt." I've been noticing

such strange signs of my age, myself. Hearing the term "generation gap" or at least equivalent, and no doubt more up-to-date terms to describe the differences between the student of the 60's as oppossed to that of the 70's. A friend and I had just gone to see Richard Dreyfuss' film THE BIG FIX and found ourselves laughing alone in the theatre at jokes which because of their heavy references to the 60's culture were being reacted to as obscure "in" jokes by the rest of the audience (judging from comments heard as we left the theatre). After that we had a conversation about the college students now (which could be titled, 'God they're conservative:"), exchanging anecdotes, weird reactions to ourselves and lifestyles that were disaproved of not for the familiar reasons of latter days (i.e., for being radical/dangerous) but instead as being immature/unresponsible. And being disapproved of as such by younger people, younger women than our-

selves whoch are busily engaged and engaged in plans for their upcoming marriages. I worry about the things we've accomplished being discarded (not rejected actually, but simply discarded) as anachronistic.

I hope you are serious about writing about your reactions to Iggy's WomanSpace for Janus...It would be neat to print that in the WisCon issue, but by now it's probably or hopefully to press already.

(no this isn't my Christmas card design...why don't you try the next page...)



iling comments*more mailing comments*more mailing comments*more mailing comments*more mailing comment

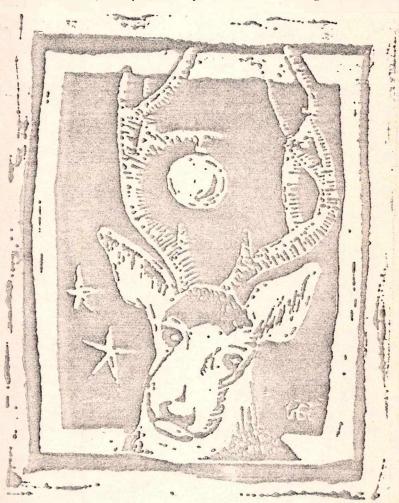
goodness, goodness, goodness (as a little 4-year old cousine of mine exclaimed as he opened each of his christmas presents): I am doing this whole thing 1st draft, typing right on to final copy. You may either chortle or praise the final results, but that is the reason for the uncertainty of what artwork gets placed where. This is the page with the Christmas card xerox. It is a copy of the original blockprinted card: Happy Holidays everyone.

REBECCA LESSES EMBLEMS OF A SEASON OF FURY I liked this statement of yours: "I don't think we should use 'male' as a description for behavior we don't like (as has

seemed to happen around here) because it's behavior that can occur among both sexes and for which there is no biological reason to lable male or female." Similarly, I am seeing that my habit of using terms relating or connotating another person's youth to put them down or discredit them, is wrong and unfair. But back to sexual ad hominem (sp?), I wonder if we were all told (in a situation analogous to the sanitarium experiment where the management was told there were some healthy inmates "planted" among the inmates) that everyone we knew was possibly in sexual disquise and that in order to distinguish women from men we could no longer rely on visual signals, outward appearances. We would, instead have to judge them by their behavior and words. I think it would be a really crazy situation. Somehow (Avedon ...) I can't really believe that a lot of people would have found Jessica's behavior as typically "male" had she not made those revelations to us. For myself, there are a lot of women that I know who have learned suppossedly "male" behaviors (in the academic world, in business, etc.) surprisingly easily and I would have a most difficult time distinguishing them if it were not for other cues than simply those of behavior. ... Which may not be too bad a thing actually (learning other behaviors, I ean) -- because it means the opposite process is also possible: i.e., men can learn the stereotypically "female" modes of behavior too.

BETH SCHWARZIN BITCHES & SAD LADIES WOMAN ON THE EDGE OF TIME is a novel by Marge Piercy. It's an excellent novel, get it. read it. Your

confusion might have resulted in the fact...
er, from the fact, rather, that sections
of it have been published as short stories
in AURORA: BEYOND EQUALITY and 2078: AN
AMERICAN TRICENTENNIAL. It's about a
Chicano woman incarcerated in a sanitarium
who escapes (actually or in her imagination



--its never made exactly clear, and it doesn't really matter, "and failing that, imagine," you know) to a future world that has eliminated institutionalized sexism. Piercy's writing is captivating and it's really too bad the book was never really considered of by the of community, it deserved consideration for a Hugo, I thought.

In your comment to Jane about "having

someone say, 'obviously smoking is more important than I am' is like having a lover say 'if you loved me, you would " -- you call it "emotional blackmail in both cases." I've seen resentment (towards myself whenever I make the slightest comment on smoking) from friends, and for the most part I don't say a lot anymore. But sometimes I think I should. How am I going to feel when (not if) some of those friends start dying and I think that maybe if they had more people supporting a decision to quit, or even hassling them about it, they would have avoided cancer. Connected to that -- I have seen that x-smokers are usually "allowed" more by smokers. I mean, smokers will generally not get so uptight about a no-longer smoking person prostelatizing their new opinions, as compared to someone who "has never done it." There is certain irony about it all. But anyway, what I mean to say, is that most of us nonsmokers, besides a lot of newly found assertiveness with regard to our rights to breath non-smokey air, feel a lot of concern for our friends who smoke, and want to do what we can if it will help.

ANNELAURIE LOGAN Congrat-ALL HOMAGE TO THE ulations TRIPLE GODDESS on the MSUEACT vote... it sounds as if the whole thing

JANUS 14 (free plug)

was a great experience.

You mentioned the Woodham-Smith book FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE, and from the way you described it, the biography sounds very much like the feeling I got from the part of an episode of the Florence Nightingale TV-biography that was (is still?) shown on PBS. Do you know if the TV drama is drawn from the book you were talking about? Did you, or did anyone else see the PBS show in its entirety? Was it as good as the bit I saw seemed to promise? Thanks for the suggestion about the book though. It was impossible for me to see the show because it was broadcast on Wednesday evenings when Madstf has its weekly meetings, but I was really intrigued about Nightingale from the small part I viewed. I suspect that I will like her a great deal.

I agree with you entirely about love being a state one chooses (from your comment to Margaret). I've found that simply saying the words "I love you" (when I think I ought to say them, not schuch when I really feel them) will actually bring about those feelings. Saying I love a man as I make love to him especially: I can feel the emotions coming into being within me. Alternately -- not saying the words, purposefully witholding the words, gives me a tremendous feeling of control and power in a relationship. Also saying "I hate you," can make the worst argument more horrible because saying the words makes the anger permanent, makes everything almost impossible to undo. Maybe I'm more sensitive to saying things (but I know alot of people who also feel this way), but knowing this about myself, makes me very very wary of saying things about my feelings that I haven't thought through first. Makes me scared of screaming arguments. Makes me scared of playing romantic games.

And ditto too on the subject of polygamy, etc. as a valid alternatives to monogamy. More and more every day I can see that I'd feel really restricted and unhappy to have to find and live with one choice, no returns. No lay-away plan even.

And in revenge for your female ditto machine joke: How do you know when an elephant has her period? Your mattress is gone and there's a nickle on your dresser.

I do admire the way you continuously do such thorough mc's.

Yes, indeed there is a lot of age-gap between ly brother Danny (age 8) and myself (age 27). When he was born some people wondered if I was the mother, people who hadn't seen my mother in previous months I should note. And now, since I no longer live in my parents home, (happy day), visiting there makes me feel kind of like a visiting aunt when we interact. Not like a sister. Maybe we'll become friends someday (as I have with my younger sister, Julie, age 16), but now, we don't know each other very well. I'm not the mothering kind with children though (or cats, etc.), and I have never been tempted to taken on the other mother role with him, except sometimes when I find vself obnoxiously bossing him around.

CANDICE MASSEY WILDFIRE

Are you going to be at WisCon?

In a comment to Jan, you talked a bit about the aspirations you/we have for the apa, and that's something I thought of some in considering ether I really have time to do this, whether here's simply too much else in the way of committments that are going to have to come first. So I thought about what I expected originally: a romantic (since I wasn't acquainted with apas at all) version of another group journal, THE THREE MARIAS. Very literary, everyone contributing their journal-type writing to build something more than the single journals. Maybe that is what we're doing, but sometimes I've been discouraged about what gets dwelt on, what gets ignored in the building process, and mostly how much gets lost by the turnover process (both of people and conversation). Now it's more usual that I write wondering what will catch at the memories or consciousness of others, what will continue on in the back and forth writing process. Did you ever have a "magic crystal set" when you were a kid?

Keep writing Candice.

With regards to "George" -- well, George road my apazine that had references to him it. A long involved accident, boring to go into. But he did. He didn't recognize himself, and chortled about the type of man who did that sort of thing. Sheech.

BARBARA JONES
ASHES OF ROSES

Where does your title come from? Sounds vaguely familiar.

I listen/read all these cat anecdotes, even admire friends' slides and pocketbook photos of their cats, restrain myself from sneering and all the time making dead cat jokes, but I must protest you trying to make some kind of women-cat correlation. (actually I find that I draw the line at talking to cats ... A friend asked me to do this in a car once when I was holding her cat (in a travel box) on my lap and the cat started getting nervous. I stopped, considered what I had to say to a cat and decided nothing, and that no I did not want to talk to her cat.) So: you ask "will the true connection between women and cats ever be disclosed?" Well I've got an answer for that but I think that here, as in Madison, and it seems in all of fandom, I am in a distinct minority, so I will be polite and not say it. I will threaten you all though with printing my dead cat comic strip in the next apa-mailing if any of you go too far

KAREN PEARLSTON You sound so dramatic RISING saving. "I tried and

You sound so dramatic saying, "I tried and tried to be gay and I just couldn't make it." I'm

glad you feel good about what you're doing now, but no need to shut out any options just because of what you want to do now.

FRAN SKENE VENUE IN CONJUNCTION Liked "Dreamboat", thanks.

I really enjoyed OUTRAGEOUS too. It's funny that film and WORD IS OUT (for the

androgynous male character -- the one who rode the ferris wheel and talked about dressing his Ken Doll in a Barby Doll tu-tu) have caused me to reevaluate my ideas about drag queens. I find myself far more sympathetic. (PI, by the way, means Politically Incorrect)

D I just saw the Tall
FACETS OF FACETIOUS: Blond Man with One
or the SERCON SIRCON Black Shoe, finally.
Have been meaning to
see it ever since

I saw your pseudonym, asked a friend about its origin, and heard references to it ever since. a crazy film. Appropo.

Why is it that I always enjoy your zine so much but never know how to reply. I giggle and chortle and smile, but nothing constructive comes out. Probably your insidious plan: make us all guilty for enjoying you but not be able to think up a snappy come-back, not even days and days later when it usually pops up. Which would be ok for apa-writing: witty replies coming in delayed action I mean. Its all those words you put together than have never been together before. Sparks.

Thanks.

LISA MASON
THE CRYSTAL:Zero

Tell me more about the artists' apa. (WHAT AM I SAYING? SHUT UP, FOOL!)

Well, I don't promise anything, but I'd like to see it. Who's in it? Have you anything to do with the funny animals cartoonist apa out of Minneapolis? I was going to join it: there was an awful lotof really good experimentation going on in that, but bottom line I didn't have enough time to try to be a funny animal artist/cartoonist: that really isn't my style. Oh, it's called VOOTIE.

I see you almost moved to Madison. Well if you do anyway, or visit, look me (us) up. Madstf I mean. There is a very active D&D group here too though I'm not involved in that.

JANET SMALL CARDBOARD REPLICA Thanks for the 2nd anniversary membership chart. Is our turnover rate

usual for apas? Seems kind of high.
Looking at that was one of the reasons
I am making this heroic attempt to make
up on my mc record: seems a shame to
mess up my fine record and get kicked
out for lack of minac.

I've been meaning for a long time to tell you that I appreciate your careful, clear explanation of your views oppossing abortion. Not, I'm afraid, that you have changed my mind with regard to my own views. But I think that you are in the minority of those opposing abortion whose motives I am not suspicious of.

ANNA VARGO BACHELOR'S HALL

You say there are four Mid-Western

mysogynist females. I fluctuate between wondering whether I should ask only 4 or lock my door (or confess), but the MidWest is a big place, maybe I'm safe. Sorry for the flippancy, I'm influenced by the nearness of the comment to D.



I like your solution to Gor freaks, kill them, they secretly "want it," have fantasies about it no doubt. Still flip.

Everyone seems to have appreciated the update bio in my Shorlines/Obsessions. Come to think of it, now that I have faces for most of you in my head, I'd appreciate some background (again in most cases) from the rest of you. If you feel like it.

MARGARET HENRY IN MY OWN WORDS Your story of the American Dream couple sound like a couple of examples I used to hold in my head to draw

out whenever I started to doubt my decision not to committ myself to a traditional marriage. This is what it's like really, I'd remind myself. I did that with children too: bring out the memories of the time my brother Danny was born and I was about 19 or so and did a lot of the work taking care of him. is what it's really like I would remind myself. The romanticisim of a newborn baby disappears, puff. And then I've got the memory of the time my roommate's cat seemed enraptured with the pasttimes of knocking all the books off my bookshelf (only my shelf, not Dave's) and shitting on my bed. So whenever I think such and such a cat is nice animal, I remember. Useful techni

I'm getting un-serious, and don't really mean to imply that I've made life decisions in the same way I've formed my "unlike" of cats. It's just that I'm getting anxious to finish this and am perhaps filling pages just to fill pages. Better I should just stop.

... But almost done.

REBECCA JIRAK WEEPING WILLOW Hello....Good-by. My that was quick.

I once, briefly, a long time ago, wove an incredible lie for a lover. About myself, a strange background. It was fun. But dangerous, because it made reality and in the end a real continuance of our relationship impossible. I blew up one day that he'd never caught on, that I'd done it all in the first place, and told the truth all at once and made him feel silly to have believed me. That ended that. I'd advise (if you want that) not to do that sort of thing, it hurts everyone and leads nowhere.

What good fanzine called Jimeax?

Hope you feel better soon. Will you even get this mailing comment?

I think I received more but all the postmailings I have at hand now is Christine's Costumes and Changes of Self, and so appologies to others, but I suppose you will have your revenge on this postmailing.

CHRISTINE PASANEN COSTUMES AND CHANGES OF SELF

Well it was great meeting you Chris ... and wonderful to be asked to be a GoH at ArmadilloCon!

Thank you again! You will hopefully have gotten a long-delayed letter from me by now so I'll assume you've got all of that news.

How is your story doing on the market?

I loved the letter: Oh the pitiful women who let their bra straps show! I've often noticed that I usually preferred he women in the "before" pictures in the glamour magazines more than the "after" photos. And I know I that preference would probably be 100% if they didn't photograph the poor "befores" just after they'd disembarked from 50-mile bicycle trip (before they showered) and had been

told that their entire immediate family had been murdered by the crazy next door. After which, just for good measure, the photographer told them they looked ugly.

Talk to you soon.

That, I believe, is all. Would you believe that when I started this, I harbored the criminal desire to get a head start and illicitly comment on the most recent mailing as well? I've got check marks all over it and I still would like to, but now it's 9 pages later and my energy flags. Still I've got this xerox of a definition out of a Medical Dictionary that I meant to talk about in connection with Jane's essay and questionnaire. Remember when you used to look up the word "sex" and close the dictionary in disgust because you were looking for INFORMATION? Well, look at it again now that you know the basics, and check out how complicated it all gets ...

- 1Cuwage mestic s., usiness buildings, factoage from Ga ries, or institutions. Septic s., sewage under-30 going anaerobic putrefaction. sex (seks) [L. sexus]. The fundamental distinction. ınd found in most species of animals and plants, based on the type of gametes produced by the individual or the category into which the individual fits on the basis of that criterion; ova, or macrogametes, 3sa− n of are produced by the female, and sperm, or microgametes, are produced by the male, the union of tion these distinctive germ cells being the natural prerequisite for the production of a new individual (sexual reproduction). chromosomal s., the category (male or female) into which an individual tures ining. is placed, determined by the presence or absence of the Y chromosome in the spermatozoon uniting basis ms of with the ovum at the time of conception. genetic s., chromosomal s. gonadal s., the sex as determined on the basis of the gonadal tissue acid. l. Pirpresent, whether ovarian or testicular. morphological s., that determined on the basis of the te bentains morphology of the external genitals. nuclear s., the sex as determined on the basis of the A carpresence or absence of sex chromatin in the s united somatic cells. psychological s., that determined by the gender role assigned to and played two: an by the growing individual.
sexdigitate (also diff-tat) [I are six 1 digitus ride in

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And that is all for now. Signing off on recycled paper, and noting that all artwork included in this OBSESSIONS is mine and copyrighted c 1978 by Jeanne Gomoll

See you at Wis Con-

