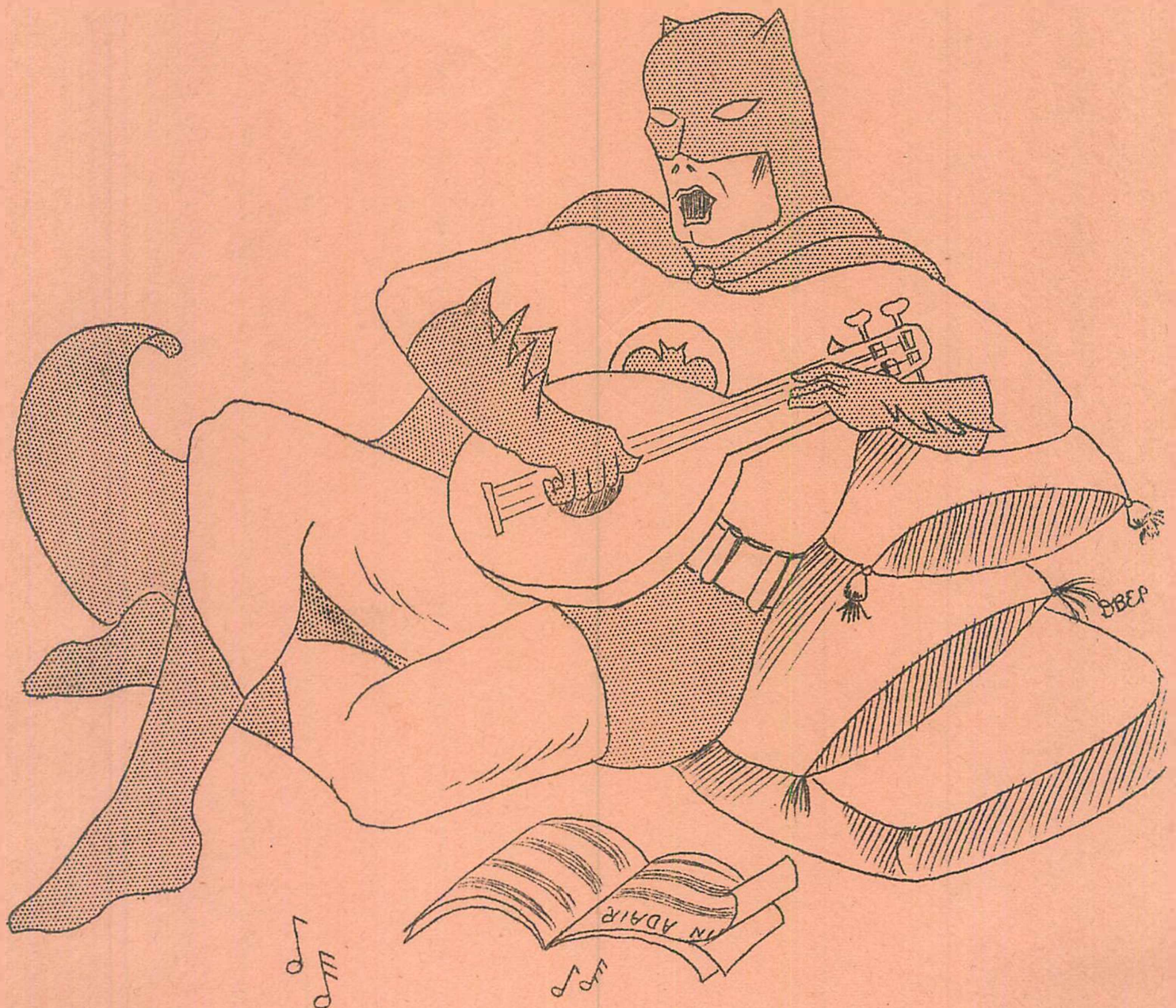


RACHE 20



♪ "What's this dull town to me?..."

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"Though he may be less humble..."

Today is 3 January 1966. Happy New Year. Last night Fred Patten called and said the mailing would be going out this Thursday, so I suppose I had best do up this zine at long last; apparently there will be a December mailing after all.

As you may recall from the AMATEUR last mailing, I'm the new OE of this august organization. I should like to present my credentials to those of you unfamiliar with fandom outside the NFFF and N'APA: I am right now OE of both SAPS and FAPA, being in my fifth year as SAPS OE and my third year as FAPA OE. I do intend to drop the OEsip of SAPS at the end of the term (April), though I shall continue with the OEsip of FAPA during my term as N'APA OE. I collect OEsips, and less than a pair isn't worth ~~opening~~ calling a collection. Anyway, for the first half of this year I shall be putting out one APA mailing each month, with SAPS in January, FAPA in February, N'APA in March, SAPS in April, and FAPA in May, N'APA in June.

With all this training for the job, you'll find I have a couple attributes not present in the incumbent N'APA OE: I'm mean, mostly. I get a great delight out of dropping people who don't fulfill the requirements -- and this includes getting zines in on time. I recall with great glee the time Ed Baker's car came to a screeching halt outside my place on a SAPS deadline night, and Baker leaped out and ran through the door full-tilt with his requiredac -- just as the clock struck midnight. Another minute or two more and we'd have had a vacancy on the roster. And whoever thinks I'm kidding can wait and try getting his zines in after the deadline next time.

One further item of policy: I have no intention of splitting the N'APA from the NFFF by editorial fiat. On the other hand, I do not believe in the NFFF Directorate sticking its nose into N'APA affairs, so anyone in correspondence with Hamlin can advise him that the status will remain quo as long as he keeps his big typer shut; if he wants to run N'APA he can get back in and run for OE.

Just for formality's sake, my view of the pros and cons on this question should be entered: Pro NFFF: If N'APA broke away, it would be "just-another-APA," and since the contents are demonstrably poorer than the other APAs of equal longevity, there would be no reason for its existence -- especially since there would be a long waiting list if the NFFF-membership requirement were eliminated. Con: The NFFF has done absolutely nothing for the APA, and has absolutely no financial (or other) claim on it; actually, N'APA, which has lured quite a few neofans into the NFFF so they could join the APA, has a better claim on its "parent" org than vice versa. Averaging these out, I wind up believing that N'APA should stay a NFFF APA, but the NFFF should not try to interfere with the workings (or any other part) of N'APA. Stet.

I shall ignore any 103%-NFFF types who try to argue these statements, as they are carefully considered opinions and I don't consider the problem worth spending more time to revise these opinions.

Like I said: Happy New Year.

OTHER THINGS YOU CAN DO WITH
YOUR MIMMO

Last week in APA L (Distribution 63) Dian and I did up a bunch of identification/membership cards for various things, such as Acolyte Cards for Jayn Ellern's coterie of fans, Satellite Cards for Bjo's entourage, Beard Approval Cards for Rotsler to sign (he's head of the Beard Approval Board), Expert Snogger Cards which need four signatures of attestation (wives and steadies not counted), etc. Besides the copies for APA L, we ran 20 extras on blue cardstock, and cut them out for "official" copies, thinking a couple might want one or two of them for a gag. The result was slightly flabbergasting.

We were giving out Acolyte and Satellite cards right and left -- a few characters took one of each, and tried to get both signed. The bearded types wanted their beards approved, even though they were told Rotsler wouldn't be back in LA for several weeks. And the Snogger cards were distributed to male and female alike. One of the latter got 8 signatures that same night, from fans remembering past experiences.

The ones who didn't get their Snogger cards signed the night of the meeting had more chances to do so over the weekend, when we held a three-day New Year's Party wherein a good time was had by all. Unfortunately for the distribution of one of the other cards -- a Fan Drunk Bureau Registration -- the Chairmen of the Bureau weren't in much of a condition to determine what kind of drunks people had been, so the cards were held over till the next party.

The sixth card (and, so far, the last) is membership in the Resident Bitches Association. Only one member is admitted from any one city. Right now we have members in Pasadena, Long Beach, and Santa Monica, California, and other openings will be filled as requested. First application gets the post, though when we had a second application from Long Beach we considered having a Bitching Contest to determine who was entitled to the position.

Other cards are available too, for a return envelope and stamp.

Our next project may be more cards -- someone was demanding one for Apprentice Snoggers, since they couldn't get anyone to sign for them as Experts -- or it may be some Organizational letterheads and Formal Announcements. I want to get out the Serendipity Association stationery out so I can write some of these idiots on TV who constantly get facts wrong (like the one who talked of the Kraken as having 10 tentacles).

As exemplum gratia, here is the form for the Divorce Announcement:

MR. AND MRS. GEORGE FAZZBAZZ

HEREBY ANNOUNCE WITH VINDICATION

THE D I V O R C E

of their son RICHARD FAZZBAZZ
from That Bitch selma poltergeist
on Friday, October 13, 1966

Wild Celebration to follow at their home.

RSVP