

John J. Roman
369 Thomas Clapp Road
Scituate, Massachusetts 02066

January 2, 1979

Ms. Marian Taylor
New York Times Syndication Sales Corp.
Special Features
200 Park Avenue
New York, New York 10017

Dear Ms. Taylor

The enclosed submission is the result of a collaborative effort between Mr. Jean Shepherd and myself in the formulation of a daily and Sunday commentary comic strip, utilizing the material and format popularized by Mr. Shepherd in his books, articles, television shows, and his very successful daily radio commentaries, heard nationwide on the CBS Radio Network.

While this submission serves only as a basic sample to the strip, it truly demonstrates the applicability of Mr. Shepherd's humor to a comic strip format. Considering the volume of material Jean Shepherd has produced in the past years, and having reviewed its adaptability to this feature, we've concluded that years of material lie in wait for utilization for this strip. And in comparison to other strips on the market, we feel that none offer the one to one bond between character and reader as Mr. Shepherd has proven so successful on his television shows, and as we have skillfully adapted to this cartoon conception. Also, Shepherd has cast aside the nonsense gag that so many cartoonists rely on in favor of something to say...his commentaries on life today...and his nostalgic tours of yesterday.

Ms. Taylor, should Special Features find favor with this submission, I would delight in the opportunity to speak with you in regard to how we can add the "Jean Shepherd" comic strip to your list of features. I can be reached at either of these numbers: (617) 545-6514 or 545-4300.

Sincerely yours


John J. Roman

li/encl.

AMERICAN SYNDICATE INC.

May 18, 1979

John J. Roman
369 Thomas Clapp Rd.
Scituate, Mass. 02066

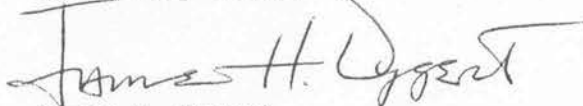
Dear Mr. Roman:

If you have not already placed Jean Shepherd's new comic strip with another syndicate, we would be interested in receiving additional information regarding your proposal as offered in the note accompanying the samples you sent us last month.

We also will be pleased to furnish you with whatever information you require about us.

We hope we will hear from you further.

Yours very truly,



James H. Dygert
President

JHD:sd

AMERICAN SYNDICATE INC.

May 25, 1979

John J. Roman
369 Thomas Clapp Rd.
Scituate, Mass. 02066

Dear John:

Enclosed is a copy of our contract as it might be filled out for the Jean Shepherd comic strip, per our telephone conversation of Wednesday.


As you can see, it is not a complicated contract.

The main point, it seems to me, is whether you think a small syndicate like us can satisfy you and Jean with regard to promotion and sales effort. I can come up with some special approaches for something like this, aimed, for instance, at breaking into a few big pace-setting papers, but there's no way we can match the resources of the big syndicates right now.

In any case, I'm going to bounce the thing off a couple of editors I can trust and whose judgement is reliable, to see what kind of response I get. Then I might be able to come up with more specifics on what we might do in the way of promotion and sales effort.

Let me know your further thoughts on it, and Jean's.

Best regards,


James H. Dygert
President

JHD:sd

AGREEMENT

The following is the mutual understanding of an agreement between AMERICAN SYNDICATE, INC. (Syndicate) and Jean Shepherd and John J. Roman (Artists) dated _____.

1. The Syndicate shall have the exclusive right of syndication of the Artists' feature the Jean Shepherd Comic Strip at a frequency of six times per week. The Artists shall provide to the Syndicate six panels per week at least one week in advance of the week scheduled for mailing.

2. The Syndicate has the exclusive right of syndication for sale to newspapers in the United States, Canada and the world for a period of one year commencing with the date hereon and renewing automatically for like periods. Either party may cancel this agreement upon 90 days notice to the other party. It is understood that this agreement may be cancelled at any time by mutual consent of both parties in writing, regardless of any other conditions outlined or understood herein.

3. The Artists grants to the Syndicate exclusive rights for the duration of this agreement for the exploitation or commercial use of the feature for any form of mass media.

4. It is understood that nothing herein contained shall prevent the Artists from placing the feature for publication in magazines other than magazines sold or distributed as part of or in connection with a newspaper.

5. It is understood that this contract does not limit anything the Artists shall produce ~~for~~ under prior contracts.

6. The Syndicate shall collect and keep the first \$500 gross income from the feature. Thereafter the income will be divided equally between the Syndicate and Artists.

7. The Syndicate assumes all other responsibility and expense for reproducing, distributing and promoting the feature.

8. Payments to the Artists will be determined from income within a calendar month and will be paid to the Artists within Thirty (30) days after the calendar month. The Syndicate shall keep appropriate books and records of all funds received, which the Artists shall have the right to examine.

Artists

Date _____

James H. Dygert
President, American Syndicate, Inc.

Date _____

JEAN SHEPHERD

By Jean Shepherd

I HAVE A FRIEND WHO IS A REALLY ESOTERIC FILM COLLECTOR. NOW...HE DOESN'T COLLECT OLD GRETA GARBO MOVIES,...OR OLD BOGART FILMS. NOOO

HE COLLECTS **EDUCATIONAL** FILMS! HE LOVES 'EM!...HE SITS THERE AND WATCHES FILMS LIKE..."HOW TO USE A HAND SAW" AND "HOW TO CALL THE FIRE DEPARTMENT"!

BUT MY FAVORITE OF ALL IS **THIS ONE**, WHICH WAS PUT OUT BY THE NAVY,... "HOW TO SUCCEED WITH BRUNETTES"!

...HEH, HEH...
PLAY IT AGAIN, SAM!



JEAN SHEPHERD

By Jean Shepherd

...SHEPHERD?...DID YOU HEAR WHAT THAT MAN SAID?...HIS SON IS A **FINALIST** IN THE **SOAP BOX DERBY!**...WOW...A **FINALIST!!**

...FOR THREE YEARS, WHEN I WAS A KID, I STRUGGLED WITH TWO FRIENDS TO BUILD A **RACER!**...BUT IT WASN'T UNTIL **YEARS LATER** I REALIZED THAT THOSE KIDS WHO **WON** DIDN'T BUILD THOSE **RACERS THEMSELVES!**...

...THEY ALL HAD DADS WHO RAN **MACHINE SHOPS**,... OR WERE **ENGINEERS!**... BUT **WOW...A FINALIST.**

SEE YA LATER, SHEPHERD. ...GOTTA GET BACK TO THE **MACHINE SHOP!**



JEAN SHEPHERD

By Jean Shepherd

...I HEARD A NUTRITIONIST SAY ONCE THE ONE THING ABOUT ANIMALS IS THEY **KNOW** WHAT TO EAT! THEY'LL ONLY CONSUME THINGS THAT ARE **GOOD** FOR THEM.

IF **THAT** ISN'T A LOT OF **PAP!** FLICK, DO YOU REMEMBER **HANK?** ...THE **GERMAN SHEPHERD?**

SURE DO!...USED TO COME IN HERE AND WOULDN'T LEAVE 'TILL I GAVE HIM A SNOOT FULL OF THE BEST **BOURBON** I'VE GOT!

...LIKE I SAID,... THEY **KNOW** WHAT'S **GOOD** FOR THEM.



JEAN SHEPHERD

By Jean Shepherd

SAY, **FLICK!** DO YOU REMEMBER A GIRL BY THE NAME OF **JOSEPHINE COSNOWSKI?**

DO I EVER!! BOY, ...YOU HIT THE **JACKPOT!** A **POLISH GIRL!**

A **PRIME UNIVERSAL BELIEF** IN THE DAYS OF OUR YOUTH WAS THAT **POLISH GIRLS** FROM **EAST CHICAGO** WERE **FANTASTIC!**

THEN ONE DAY AN **EAST CHICAGO POLISH GIRL** MOVED IN RIGHT NEXT DOOR TO **ME!**... ..A **NEW ERA** HAD **BEGUN.**



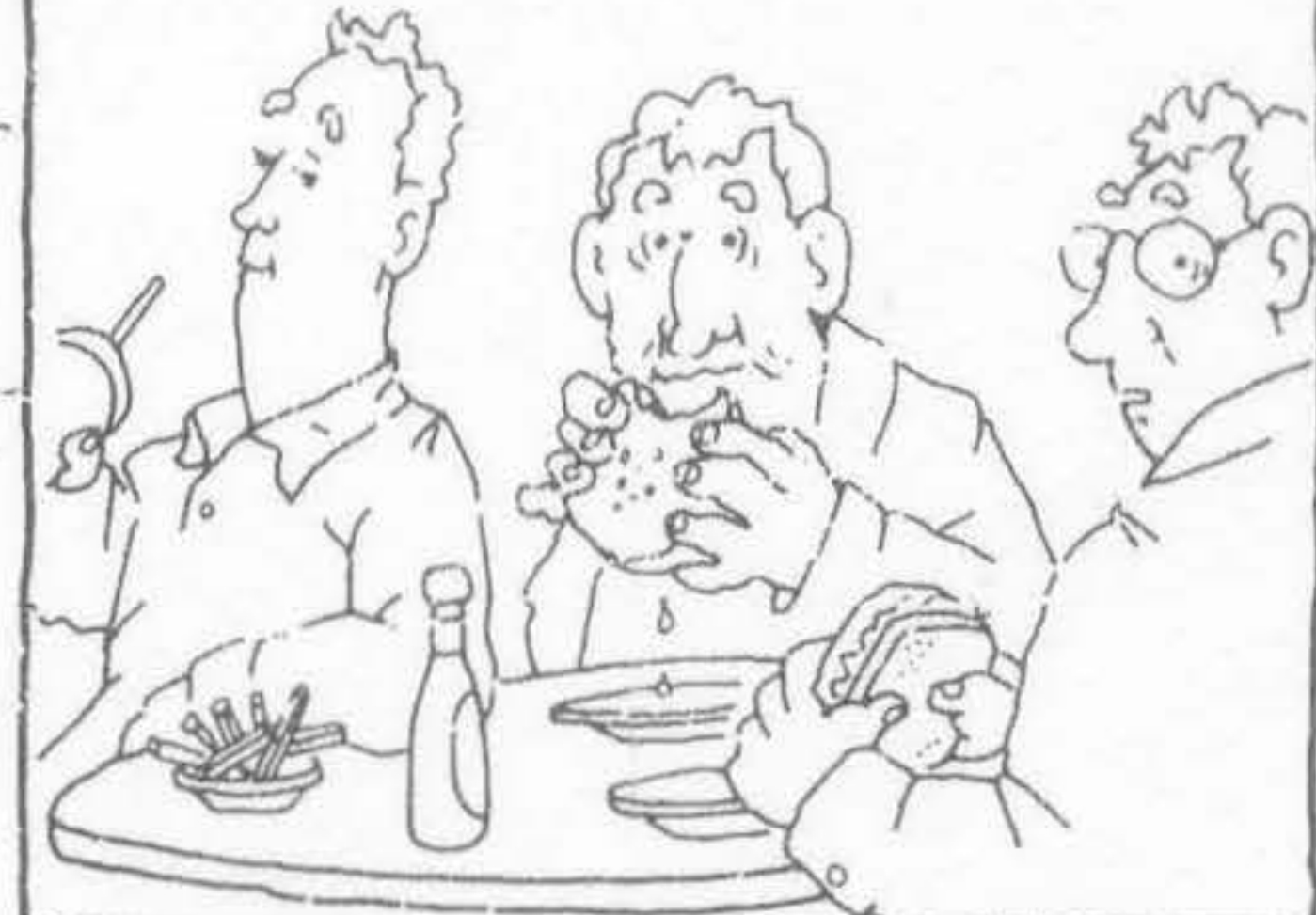
JEAN SHEPHERD

By Jean Shepherd

YOU GUYS KNOW THE OLD **BUMPUS HOUSE?**...WELL, A **POLISH FAMILY** FROM **EAST CHICAGO** MOVED INTO IT,..... ..AND THERE'S A ...**GIRL.**

I REMEMBER ONE DAY ON MY **PAPER ROUTE** ONE OF THEM **BUMPUS HOUNDS** **BIT** ME SO HARD I THOUGHT I'D **DIE!** WHY, THAT **MUTT.....**

A GIRL!??



JEAN SHEPHERD

By Jean Shepherd

YOU SURE ARE **LUCKY** LIVING RIGHT NEXT DOOR TO A **POLISH GIRL!**

FLICK, SCHWARTZ, KISSEL, AND I PRETENDED THERE WAS NOTHING AT ALL UNUSUAL IN THE FACT THAT WE HAD PARADED PAST **JOSIE'S** HOUSE **TWELVE** TIMES IN THE LAST **TEN** MINUTES!

WE PEERED UP AT THE HOUSE, HOPING FOR A GLIMPSE, AND WHEN WE **FINALLY** SPOTTED HER I DIDN'T SAY ANYTHING,... ..BUT I **KNEW** WHAT I HAD TO DO....



JEAN SHEPHERD

By Jean Shepherd

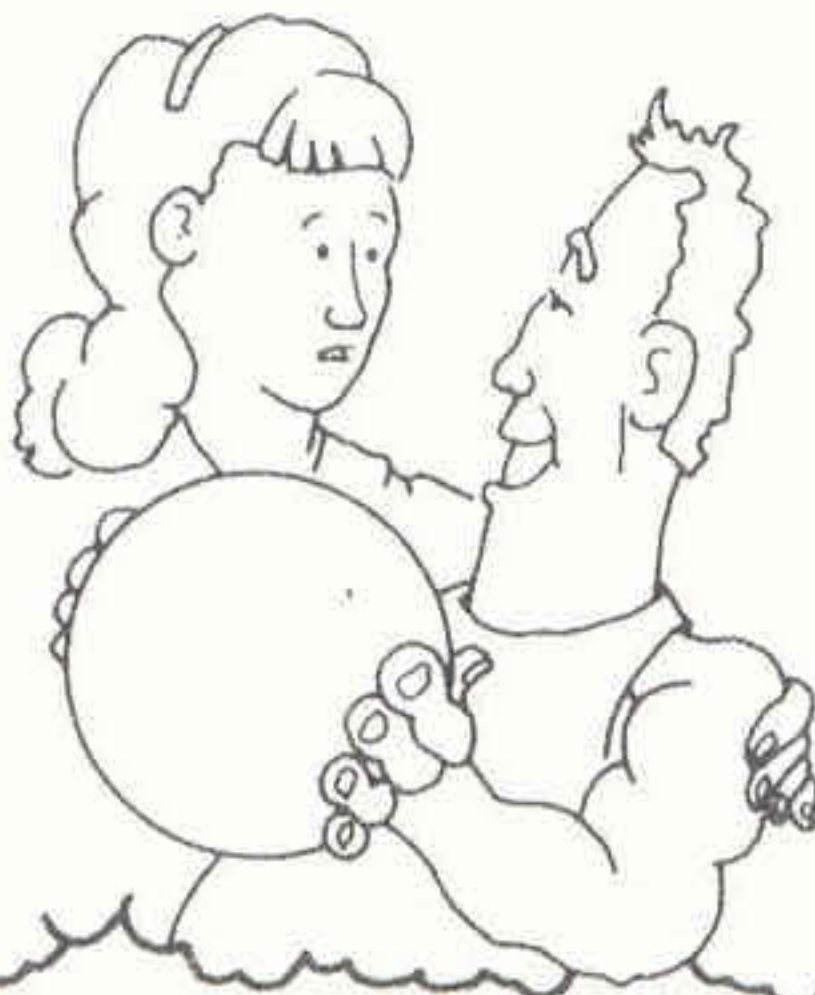
EVERY NIGHT ON MY WAY HOME FROM PULASKI'S STORE, I IMAGINED HOW I WOULD MEET JOSEPHINE.....

...SHE'D FALL OFF A LADDER....AND I'D CATCH HER!...

...I'D DRIBBLE A BASKETBALL IN THE GYM,...CRASH INTO THE STANDS AND LAND IN HER LAP!

..OR A BUS WOULD RUN UP THE SIDEWALK WITH A CRAZED DRIVER AT THE WHEEL,... AND I'D SCOOP HER UP JUST AS THE WHEELS WERE ABOUT TO.....

...MEN THINK THESE THINGS.



john roman

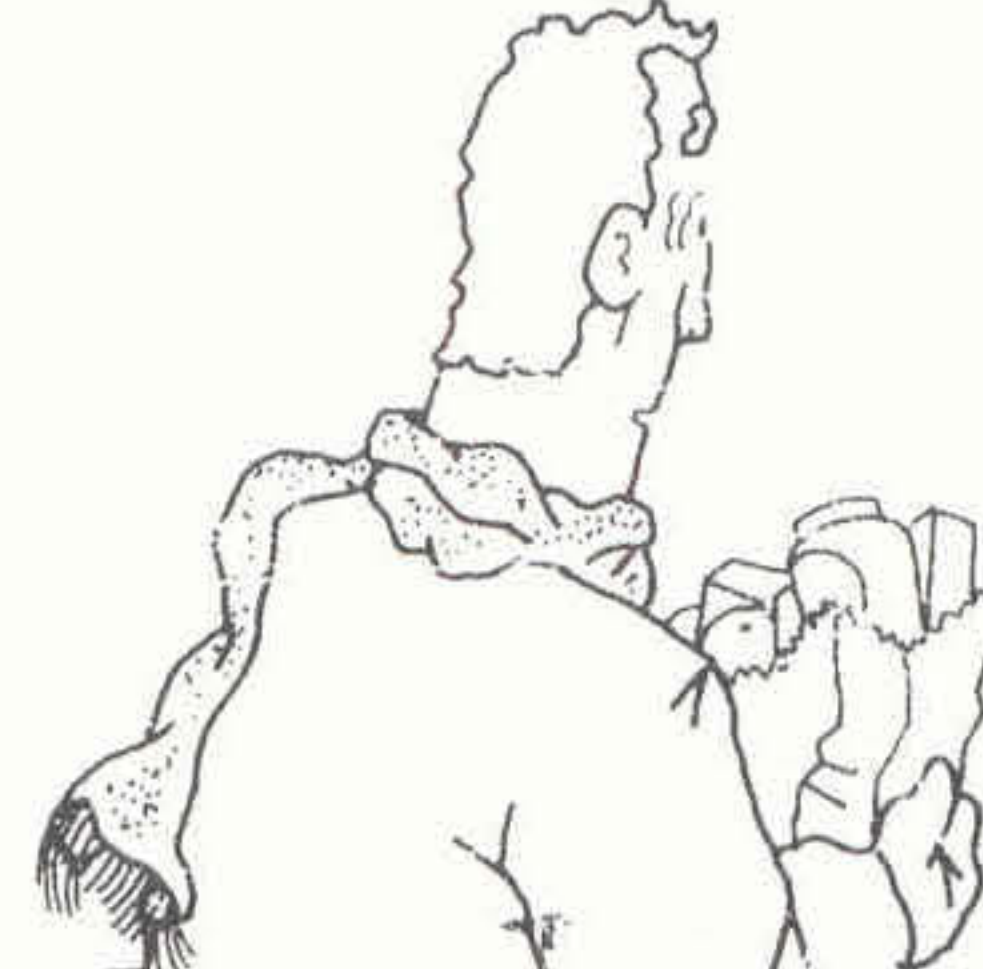
JEAN SHEPHERD

By Jean Shepherd

I WAS ABOUT HALFWAY ACROSS THE VACANT LOT, HEADING HOME FROM PULASKI'S STORE, WHEN I THOUGHT I COULD SEE A BEAR AHEAD OF ME!

I DUG DEEP INTO MY POCKET FOR MY SCOUT KNIFE, AND EDGED FORWARD!

...IT WAS JOSEPHINE! I ALMOST FAINTED!...THESE MOMENTS ARE KNOWN TO ALL MEN: THE ELECTRIC INSTANT OF MANIFEST DESTINY: AHAB SIGHTING MOBY DICK, TRISTAN MEETING ISODOL, ... JOHN MEETING YOKO!



john roman

JEAN SHEPHERD

By Jean Shepherd

UH...WHAT'S YOUR NAME?

I DIDN'T WANT TO TIP MY HAND AND LET HER KNOW I'D BEEN STALKING HER FOR DAYS!

MY NAME IS JOSEPHINE!..WE JUST MOVED IN FROM EAST CHICAGO!..SAY, WOULD YOU LIKE TO GO TO A PARTY?

GOOD GOD! ...NO GIRL EVER ASKED ME TO A PARTY BEFORE...

...EXCEPT HELEN WEATHERS ONCE BUT THAT DIDN'T COUNT 'CAUSE SHE WAS FAT.



john roman

JEAN SHEPHERD

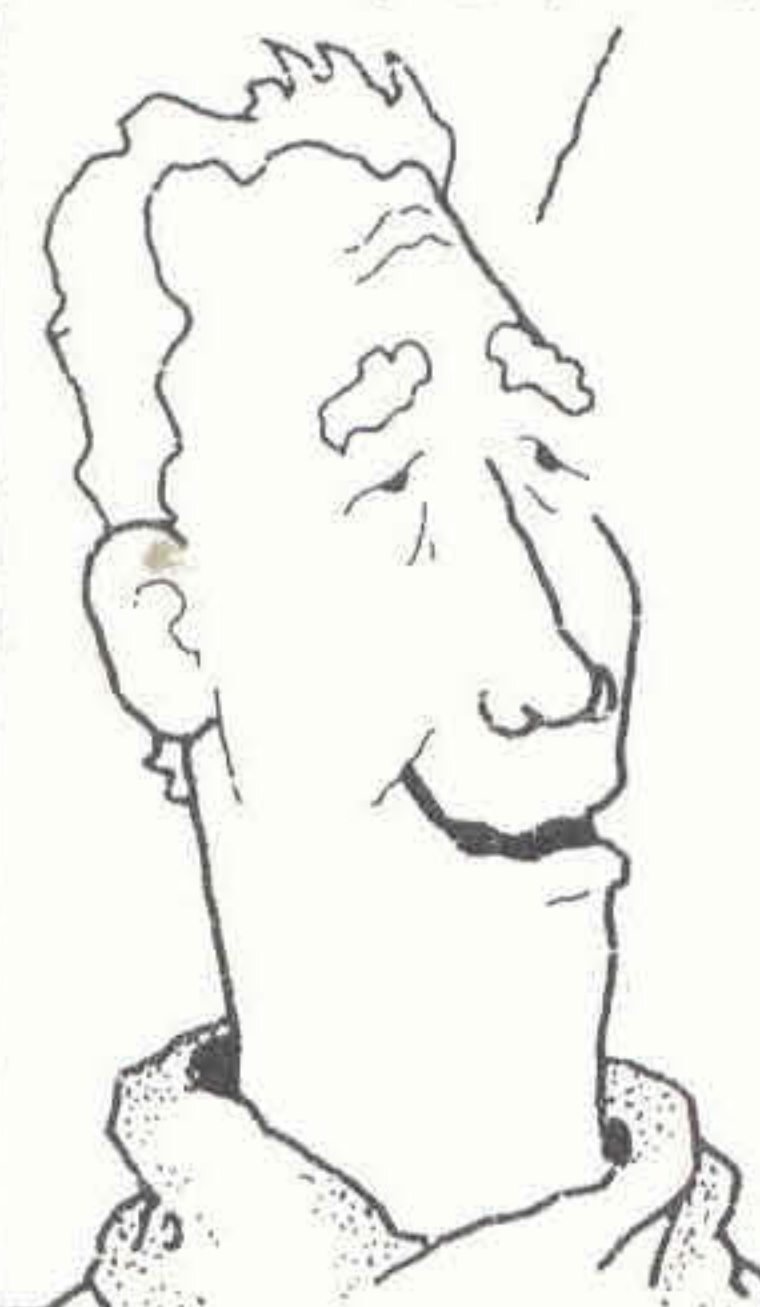
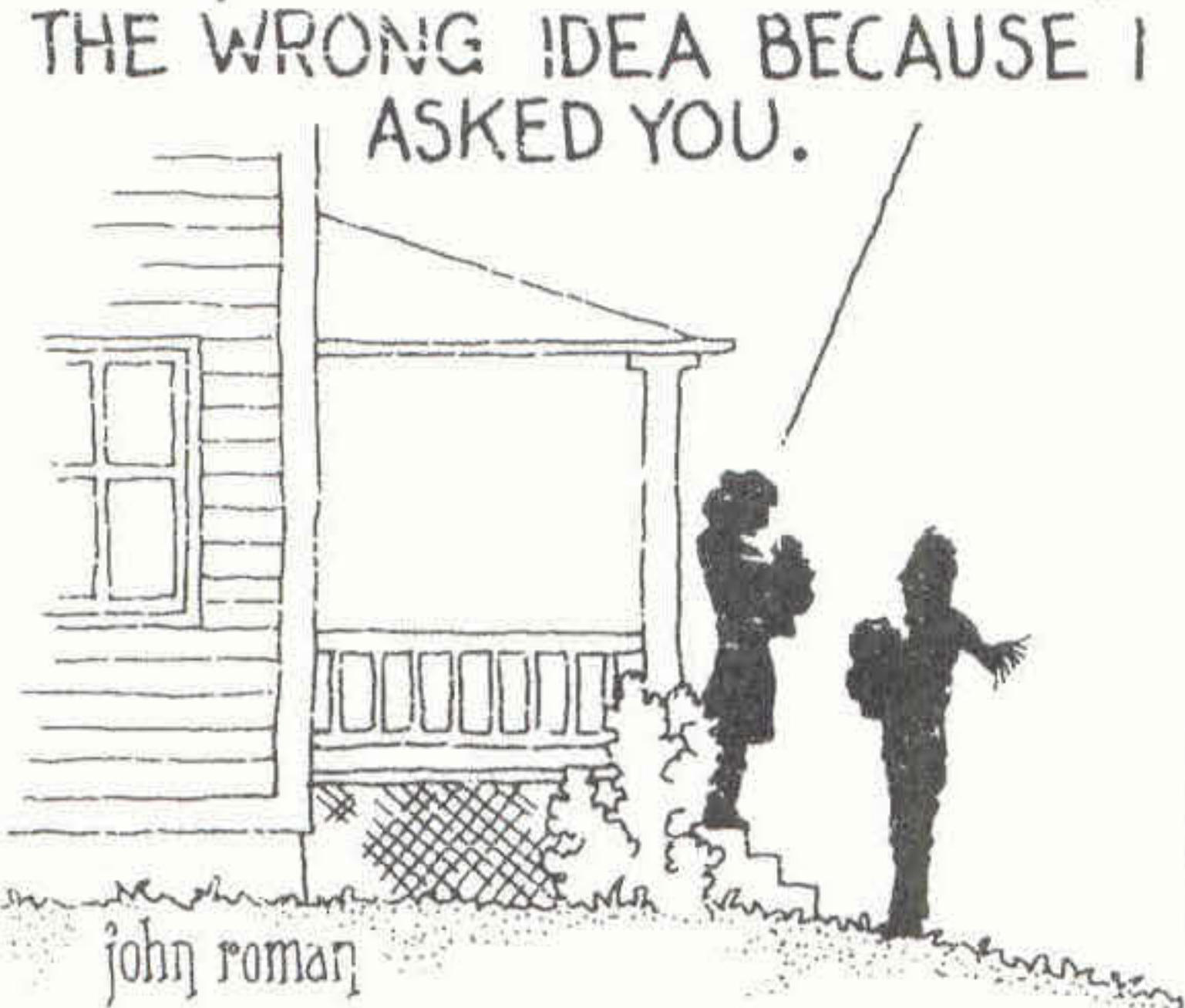
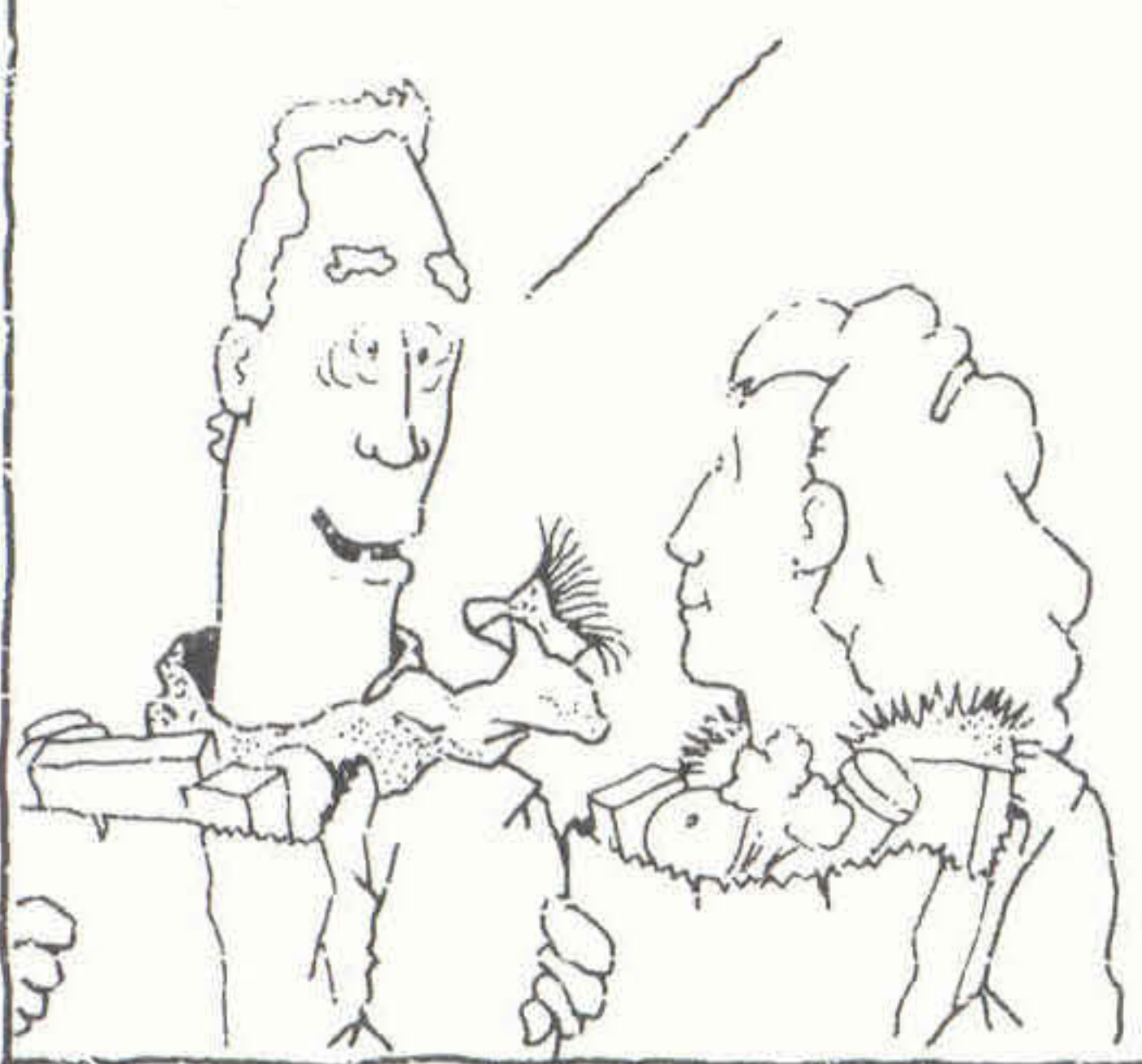
By Jean Shepherd

A PARTY?... A PARTY?... WHY, WHY,... SURE, UH... JOSIE.

I DON'T KNOW ANYBODY AROUND HERE,.... I HOPE YOU DON'T GET THE WRONG IDEA BECAUSE I ASKED YOU.

HEH...HEH...WHY, OF COURSE NOT!

I COULDN'T BELIEVE IT!..POLISH GIRLS REALLY WERE EVERYTHING I'D HEARD! AT LAST!..LIFE HAD BEGUN.



john roman

JEAN SHEPHERD

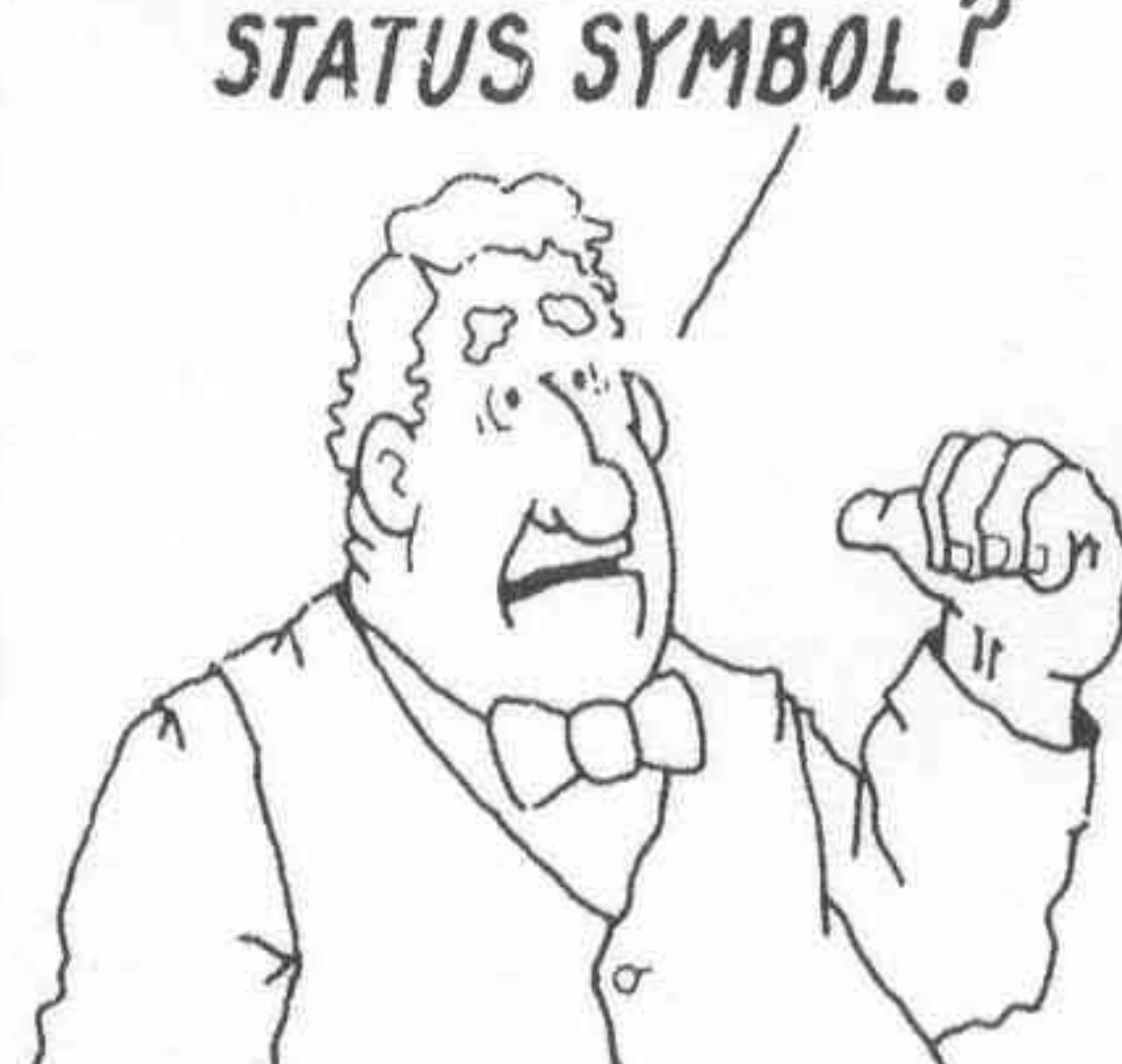
By Jean Shepherd

THE TOUGHEST PART OF DATING WHEN I WAS A KID WAS GETTING THE OLD MAN TO LET ME BORROW THE CAR!

SAME HERE! ...SAY,.. REMEMBER BACK THEN HOW THE AUTOMOBILE USED TO BE THE STATUS SYMBOL?

NO MORE, FLICK!..THE ENERGY CRISIS HAS MOVED ALL THAT STATUS INTO KITCHEN APPLIANCES!

REALLY?? YOU MEAN KIDS TODAY BORROW THE MICROWAVE FOR THEIR BIG DATES?



john roman

JEAN SHEPHERD

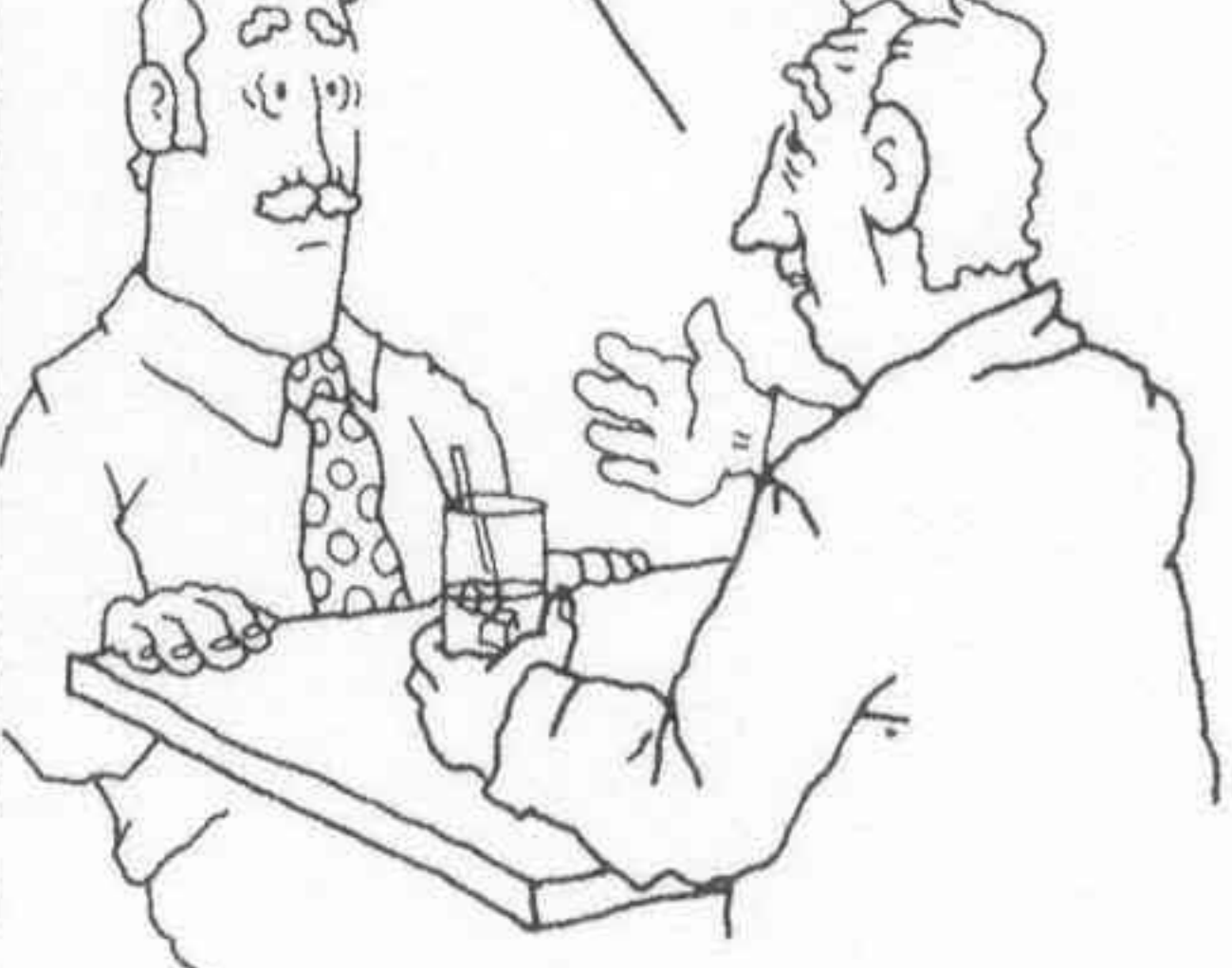
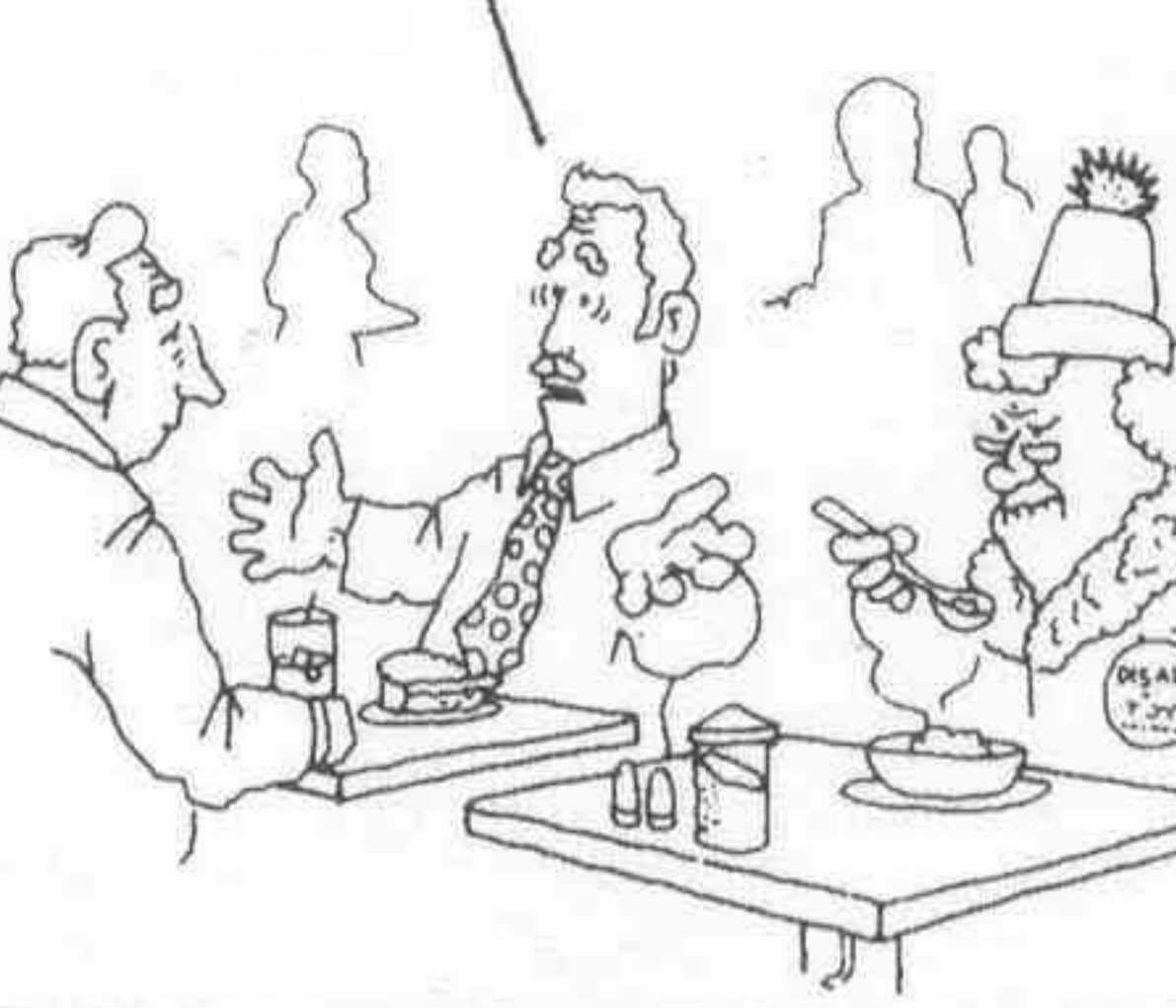
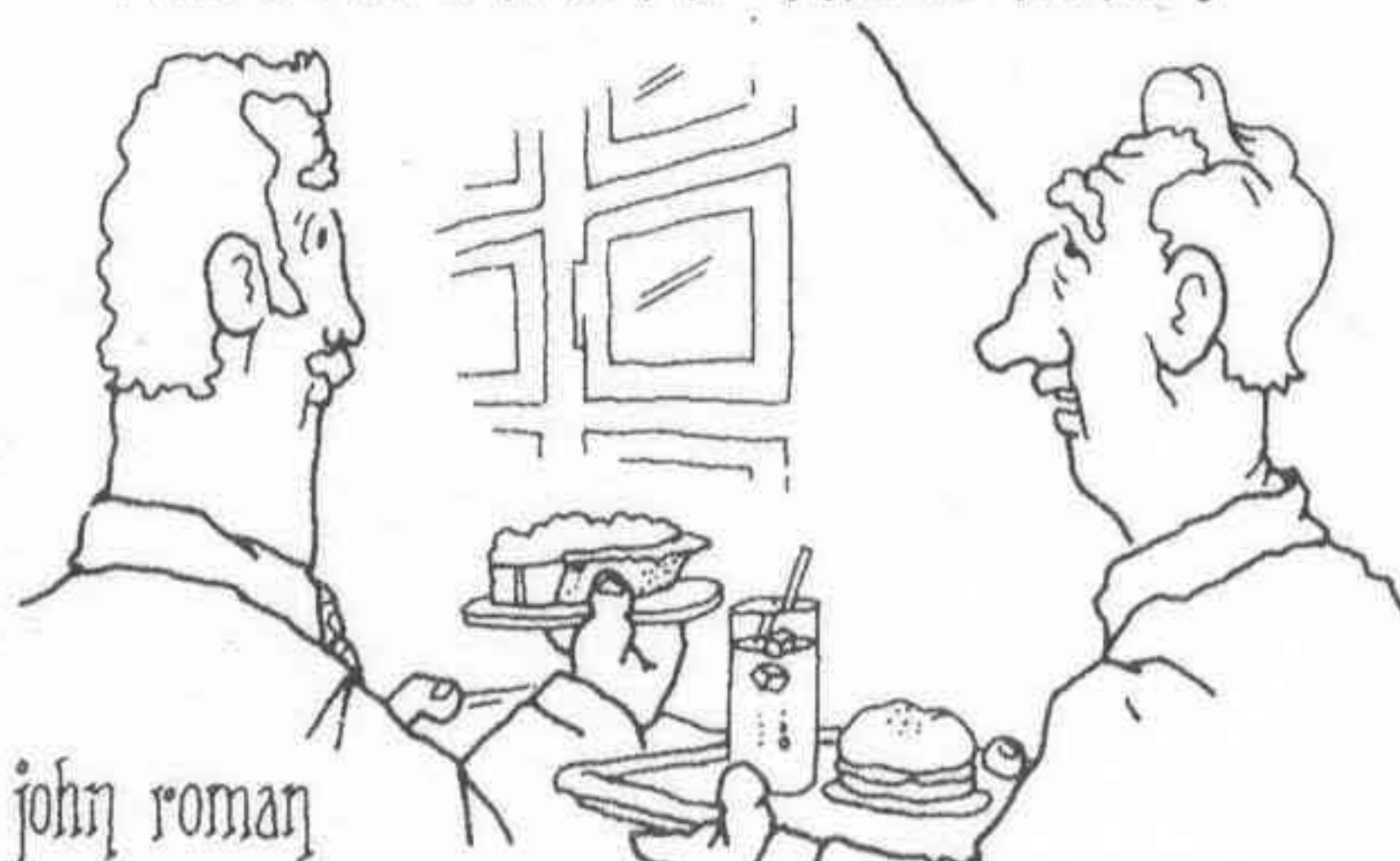
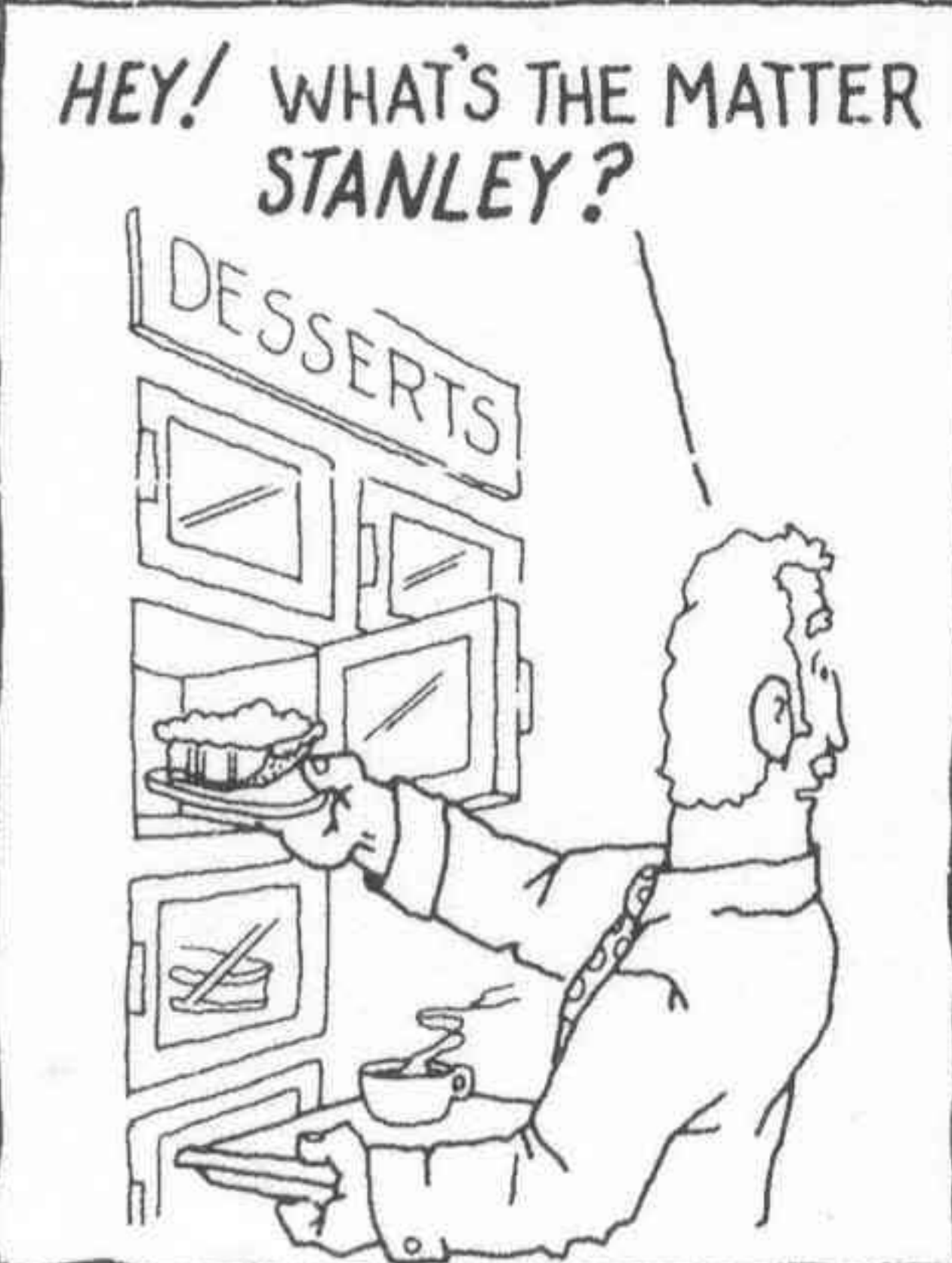
By Jean Shepherd

HEY! WHAT'S THE MATTER STANLEY?

WELL, JEAN..THIS PAST CHRISTMAS WAS THE YEAR OF THE BATTERY-OPERATED TOY...AND I JUST SPENT FORTY DOLLARS ON BATTERIES TO REJUVENATE MY KID'S TOYS.

IT WASN'T LIKE THAT IN OUR YOUTH, STAN! WHAT EVER HAPPENED TO THE GOOD'OL SIX-SHOOTER?

OH,..IT'S STILL AROUND, ..ONLY TODAY IT'S BATTERY OPERATED!



john roman

JEAN SHEPHERD

By Jean Shepherd

WEAPONRY! ARMAMENTS!...IMPLEMENTS OF WAR! IT'S ALL A GOVERNMENT PLOT TO PREPARE THE INNOCENT FOR WAR!...DISARM THE TOY INDUSTRY!!!

...AS IF THE TOY INDUSTRY HAS ANY CONTROL OVER THE HUMAN DESIRE TO OWN WEAPONRY....

I CLEARLY REMEMBER, IN THE DAYS OF MY YOUTH MY INSATIABLE QUEST TO OWN A RED RYDER B-B GUN!

I'D THINK ABOUT A RED RYDER AIR RIFLE IN ALL MY WAKING HOURS....I DREW PICTURES OF IT EVERYWHERE! ...IN INDELIBLE INK.

JEAN SHEPHERD

By Jean Shepherd

I IMAGINED INNUMERABLE SITUATIONS CALLING FOR THE INSTANT AND IRREVOCABLE NEED FOR A BB GUN!...

...FENDING OFF MARAUDERS THAT ARE CREEPING TOWARD OUR KITCHEN!...
 ...MOWING DOWN MASKED BANDITS THAT ARE ATTACKING MY FATHER!...
 ...OR DEFENDING ESTHER JANE ALBERRY FROM ESCAPED CIRCUS TIGERS!

THERE WAS NO QUESTION ABOUT IT. ...A RED RYDER BB GUN WAS AN ABSOLUTE NECESSITY!!

JEAN SHEPHERD

By Jean Shepherd

CASUALLY... CAREFULLY... I BOOBY-TRAPPED THE HOUSE WITH COPIES OF THE RED RYDER BB GUN ADVERTISEMENT.

MY MOTHER, GRABBING FOR HER COPY OF SCREEN ROMANCES FOUND HERSELF READING A RED RYDER SALES PITCH.

... AND MY FATHER FOUND HIMSELF, FOR THE FIRST TIME IN HIS LIFE, ... IN ALIEN LITERARY WATERS.

JEAN SHEPHERD

By Jean Shepherd

THEN CAME MY FIRST DISASTROUS MISTAKE.
 WHAT DO YOU WANT FOR CHRISTMAS?
 A RED RYDER BB GUN!

OH NO!... YOU'LL SHOOT YOUR EYE OUT!
 THE BOOM HAD BEEN LOWERED, ... AND SANTA WAS MY LAST HOPE!
 I WANT A RED RYDER BB GUN, SANTA!

HO, HO, HO, HO, ...YOU'LL SHOOT YOUR EYE OUT, KID!

JEAN SHEPHERD

By Jean Shepherd

DID YOU KNOW THAT A 1937 PACKAGE OF UNOPENED LUCKY STRIKE CIGARETTES IS WORTH SEVENTEEN BUCKS TODAY?

THAT'S RIGHT!...AND THERE ARE PEOPLE WHO COLLECT THIS STUFF! ...THIS CAN OF 1932 MOTHER'S OATS GOES FOR A HUNDRED TWENTY FIVE BUCKS!

WHY, YOU COULD PROBABLY RETIRE ON WHAT YOU COULD GET FOR AN UNOPENED CAN OF 1927 ANN PAGE BEANS!
 HI JEAN!...CIGARETTE?

NO THANKS, CHARLEY. GOT ONE ALREADY. ...HEH, HEH... SOMEONE LEFT A WHOLE UNOPENED PACK OF LUCKIES ON THAT TABLE BACK THERE!

JEAN SHEPHERD

By Jean Shepherd

...I'M TORN BOTH WAYS BY THIS SUDDEN POPULARITY OF MY FAVORITE FAIRY TALE, ... "THE WIZARD OF OZ"!!

...BACK WHEN I WAS A KID, I USED TO READ OZ LONG BEFORE IT WAS POPULAR. ...BUT SOME OF MY FAVORITE CHARACTERS HAVE NEVER APPEARED IN THESE RESURRECTIONS OF THE LAND OF OZ.

CHARACTERS LIKE, ...OZMA, THE WADDLE BUG, ...TIK TOK! ...I DON'T KNOW, ...OZ JUST ISN'T THE SAME WITHOUT THEM.

AND WHAT ABOUT PUMPKIN HEAD? HE WAS A VERY IMPORTANT CHARACTER!!!