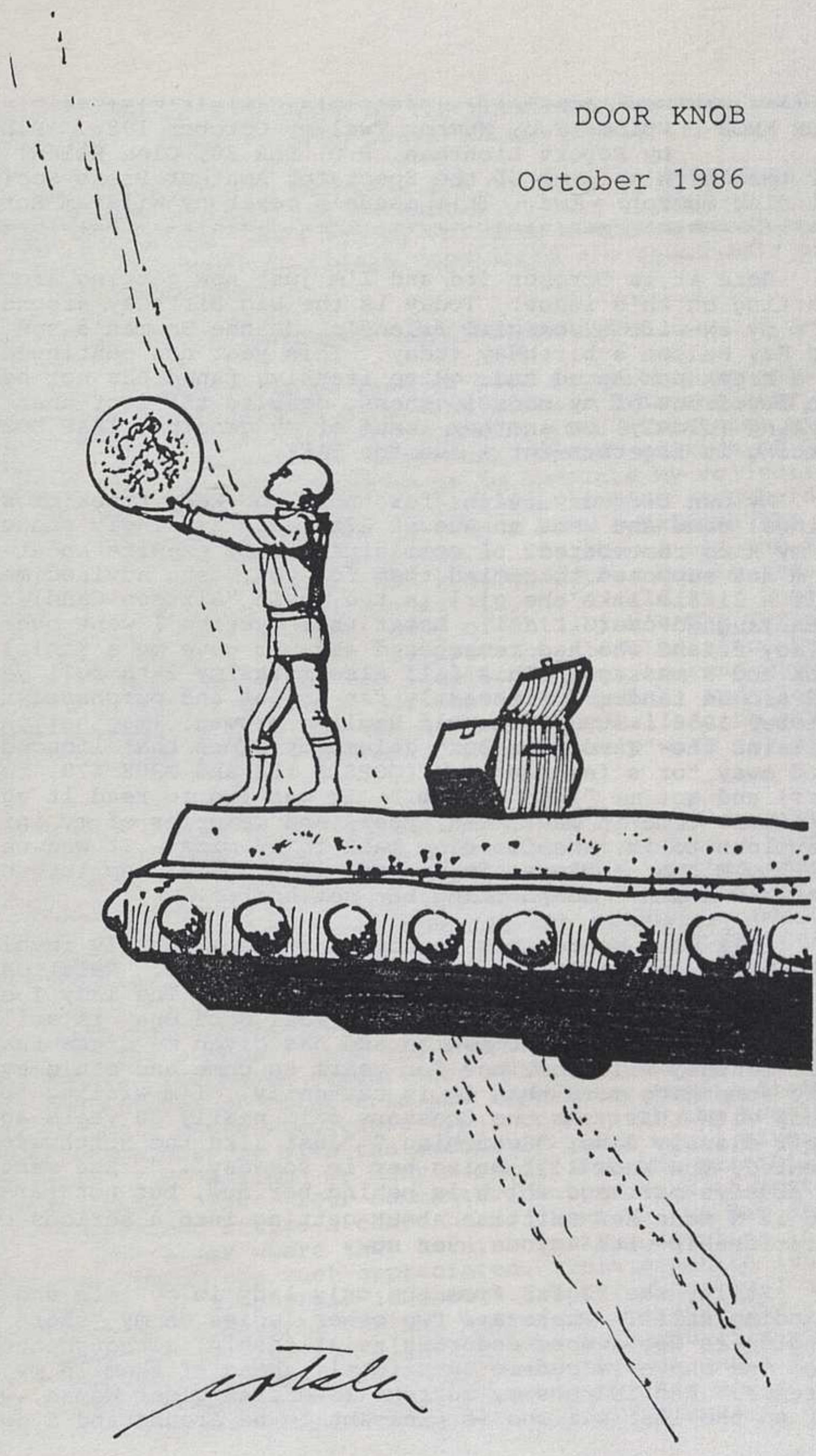
DOOR KNOB

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friend, and who is well aware of the possible temporary nature of our situation. (Have to keep these things straight!)

As to the above, in general, I'm counting my blessings that I have this much variety and potential in this aspect of my life. Other than the above, work and my children continue to be constants in my life and all things considered are reasonably under control and satisfying.

On to the usual "selected" MAILING COMMENTS:

Devore: Interesting to read of your activities in acquiring collections and your comments on want lists. I have a very brief want list myself which I'd like to enlist your assistance with: I'd like to get a copy of the paperback reprint edition of Sam Moskowitz's The Immortal Storm so as to complete my collection of fan history books. Naturally I'd love the earlier ASFO hardcover, but the last time I saw that in a book catalogue the bookseller wanted something like $75.00 for it. I saw the reprint edition listed not all that long ago, too, but by the time I phoned the dealer to inquire about it, he'd sold it. Besides this, I'd like to get a decent copy of Phil Dick's The Variable Man and Other Stories (I have the 1957 Ace first edition, but it's in very bad condition, too fragile to open to read without pages falling out; I'd settle for the 1976 reprint) and also of his Best of Phillip K. Dick, the 1977 Del Rey/Ballantine paperback with introduction by Brunner. Can you help with any of this?

Warner: I like manual typewriters, too, and in fact still have a Hermes 2000 at home which I've used to produce a number of issues of this publication. I recently found a curious correcting ribbon for it (a ribbon with a black print strip and a white correcting strip) and this has made its use in correspondence more satisfactory. I'd like to get a correcting IBM Selectric II, but they've held their price and still run $500 or so in reconditioned condition. That's just high enough that it makes me feel like holding out for a word processing computer. Recently I got a Macy's credit card and they often run sales on some pretty decent electronic typewriters with daisy wheel type elements. My sources of opinion in the typewriter repair field tell me not to buy a cheap electronic typer because of the problems they say would crop up with the amount of use I would give a typewriter. I'm "saving" my Macy's credit for the possibility of such a purchase. >><< Your comments about smokers at restaurants in Hagerstown strike a chord here. Down in the Bay Area, there are some areas where they have nonsmoking sections in restaurants, which are much appreciated. This practice isn't, unfortunately, so widespread in Sonoma County. Usually I ask the host or hostess to seat me (or us) away from smokers, and if a smoker subsequently sits too close, I have no compunctions about using a menu or newspaper to fan the smoke back in their direction. Fandom is probably the only place in my life where I'm somewhat tolerant of smokers. Bay Area fandom is full of 'em and

if I'm going to socialize, I have to accept it for the sake of companionship. >><< Your comments to Redd about how you don't like basketball, either, struck home. I've never really been fond of the game, at all, partially because I find it boring but perhaps more because back in high school, during my neofan days, I used to get summoned into the athletic department office on a regular basis to be hassled to play for the school. You see, I was (and am) quite tall (6'4") and after my freshman year I became the object of many coach's desire for school greatness in the basketball department. It used to piss them off, seriously, when I would tell them to buzz off.

Stefl: If $800 a month before taxes, etc., is "Good Money" around your area, you must live in a very depressed area. That's somewhat less than $4.00 an hour and out here in California you can make that much money schlepping burgers at a fast food joint or at any number of other menial jobs. I can well see, in this light, how it would seem peculiar to you my reporting a take-home of $640 a month from welfare payments and food stamps compared to your husband's $584 a month take-home from his job. Here in Sonoma County the average pay at most jobs is less than that in places like San Francisco and Oakland, but at least I only have to commute to Santa Rosa (and that over a lovely country road most of the way) instead of devoting three hours of my day getting to and from the Bay Area in rush hour traffic. My gross and net pay up here are around twice Ed's; if I wanted to commute to San Francisco I could add $400 to $700 per month to that doing the same work I'm doing up here. To me it's not worth it. And when I reflect on the money I was making back in the '60s compared to now considering inflation, I consider my pay rather lame.

Carol Crawford: I never knew your brother, Kent. His suicide was making waves in fandom around the time I entered it, and while I saw some of his writing in the fanzines of that era I never had any interaction with him. I do remember sending a copy of the very first fanzine I ever published to him, just before news of his death came out in the newszines, and it came back marked "Deceased" by, I suppose, your mother.

Kristi: Congratulations on your job at The Magus. It's been eight years since I was last in Seattle but at that time I stopped in at The Magus because I was in town selling books for The Farm and it was, after all, a bookstore. I recall enjoying myself there. >><< I loved "Room With a View" and so did any number of my friends who saw it. The other night I saw a wonderful film, "A Great Wall," filmed mostly in China, which I would wholeheartedly recommend you see if it shows up in your area. In a lighter vein, I enjoyed "Howard the Duck" which was true to the comic and had the added attraction of being partly filmed in Petaluma, a town near here.

Have a good holiday season; see you in January.

--Robert Lichtman