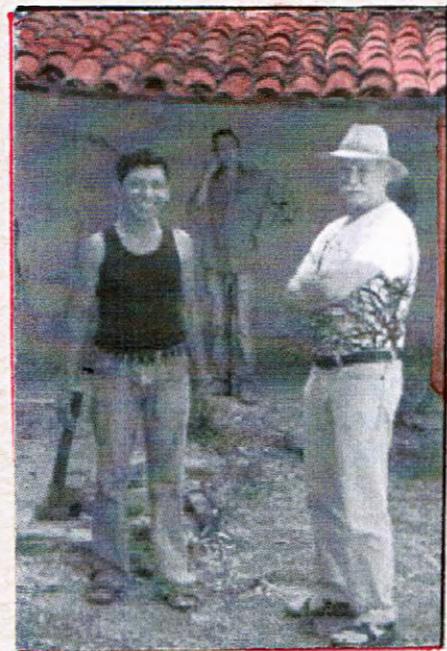


Para un buen amigo este pequeño
detalle de esta libreta. Para que
escriban sus aventuras.

Gracias Ron. por compartir lo que
sabes y habernos dado esa buena
oportunidad.

Con cariño Hamilton. Reyes.



Libro elaborado por

Taller de Gráfica
La Sirena

www.graficalasirena.com

Colaboran

Fundación
arte
sur

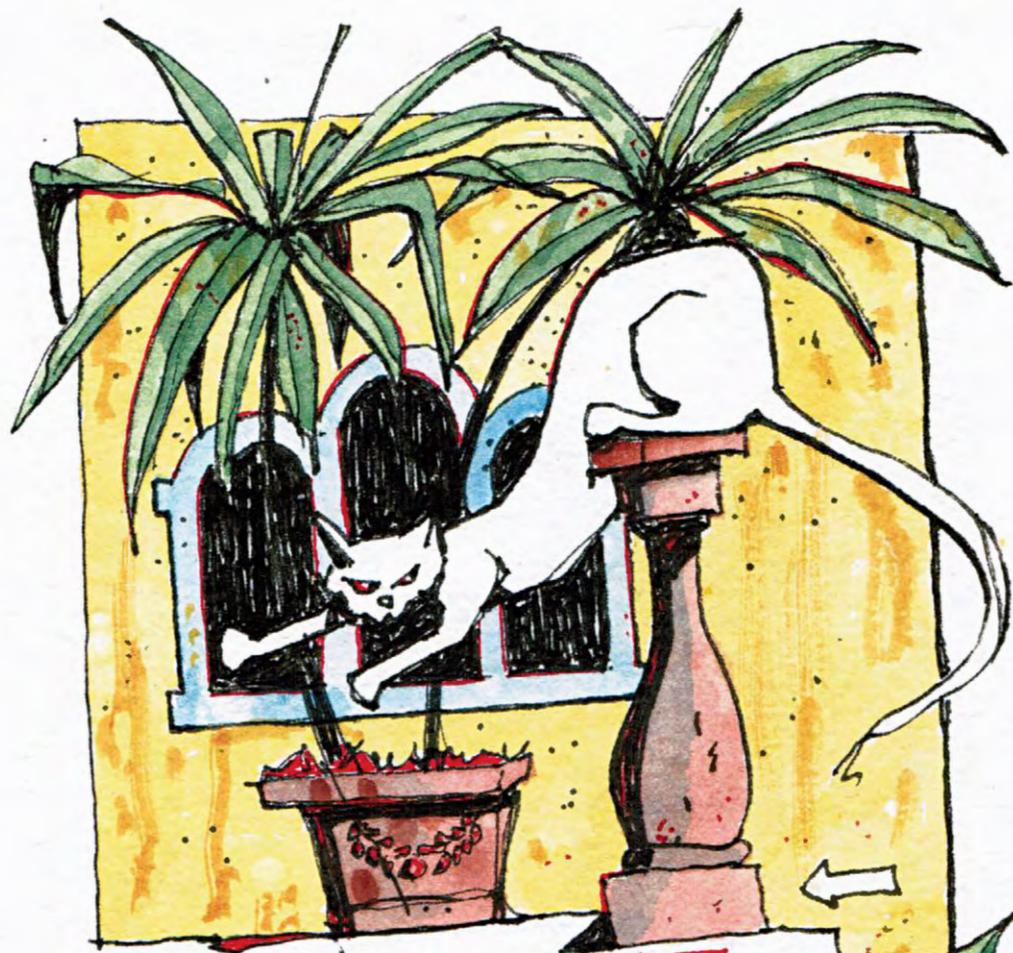
Granada - Nicaragua

CASA TRES MILENIO
SOCIEDAD

IN 2013 SARAH AND I WORKED
WITH SOME LOCAL ARTISTS
IN NICARAGUA. ONE OF THEM,
HAMILTON REYES*, GAVE ME
THIS BEAUTIFUL SKETCH BOOK
TO "ESCRIBAN SUS AVENTURAS".
HAMILTON MADE THIS BOOK,
HE MADE THE PAPER AND HE
BOUND IT.

I HAVE BEEN NERVOUS ABOUT
SPOILING IT UNTIL NOW.

↓
CARTAGENA FEBRUARY
2017



THE CAT AT CASA MARY
IS WHITE WITH PINK TOES
AND NOSE. IT REMINDS
ME OF A LARGE LAB-RAT.
WE LIKE THIS 2★, 8 ROOM
HOTEL. 'CLEAN FRIENDLY
... AND FUNKY.

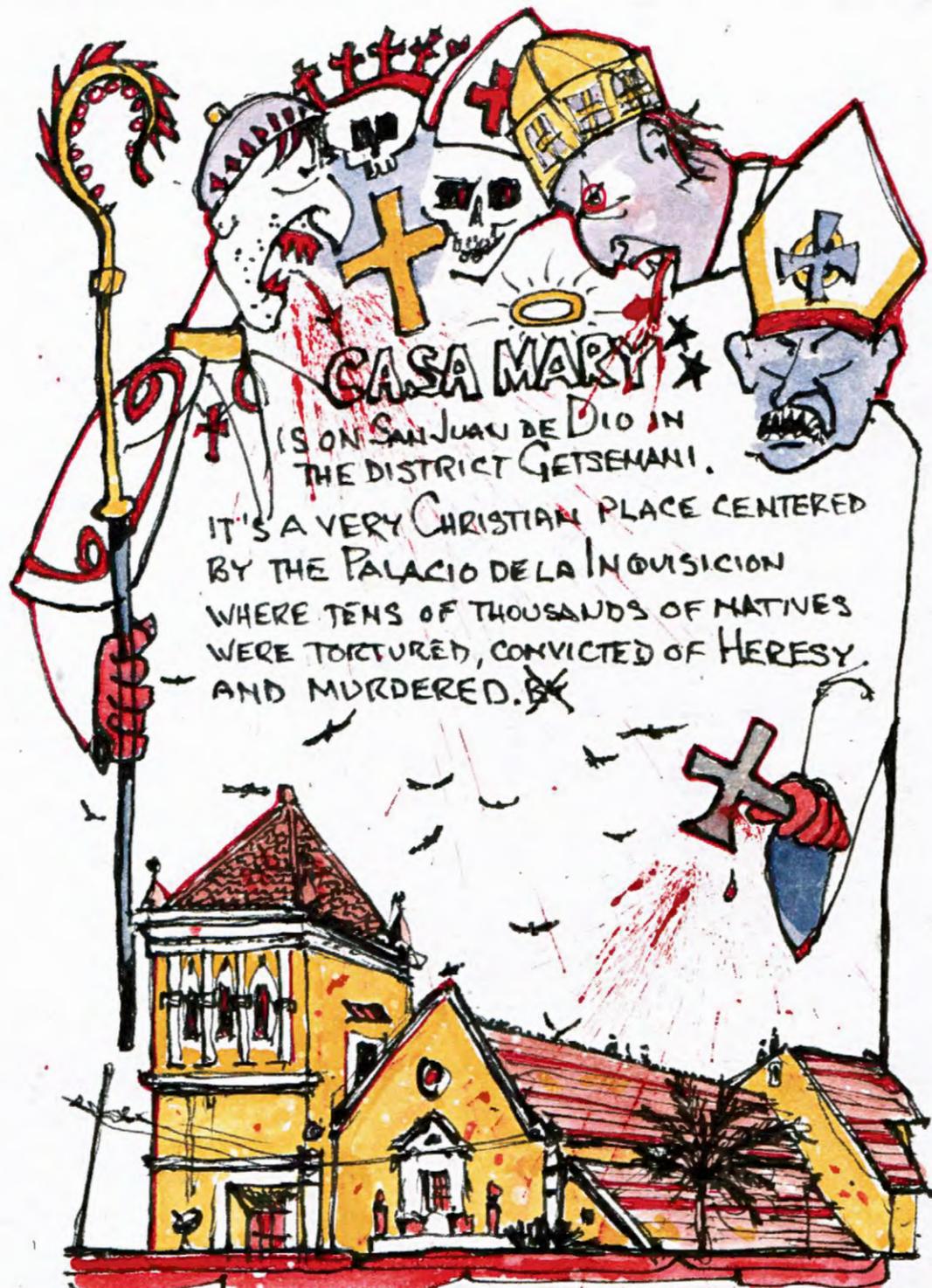


LIKE SOAP BUBBLES FLOATING
IN THE AIR
AMONGST THE VULTURES,

HAMILTON'S HAND MADE PAPER
HAD A STRANGE AND WONDERFUL EFFECT
ON THE SKY BLUE WASH



SAN JUAN DE DIOS CON BUITRE



CASA MARY

IS ON SAN JUAN DE DIO IN
THE DISTRICT GETSEMANI.
IT'S A VERY CHRISTIAN PLACE CENTERED
BY THE PALACIO DE LA INQUISICION
WHERE TENS OF THOUSANDS OF NATIVES
WERE TORTURED, CONVICTED OF HERESY
AND MURDERED.

PERHAPS THE BURNING HEAT IS AFFECTING ME.



NICE START BUT....
MY MODEL WALKED AWAY.

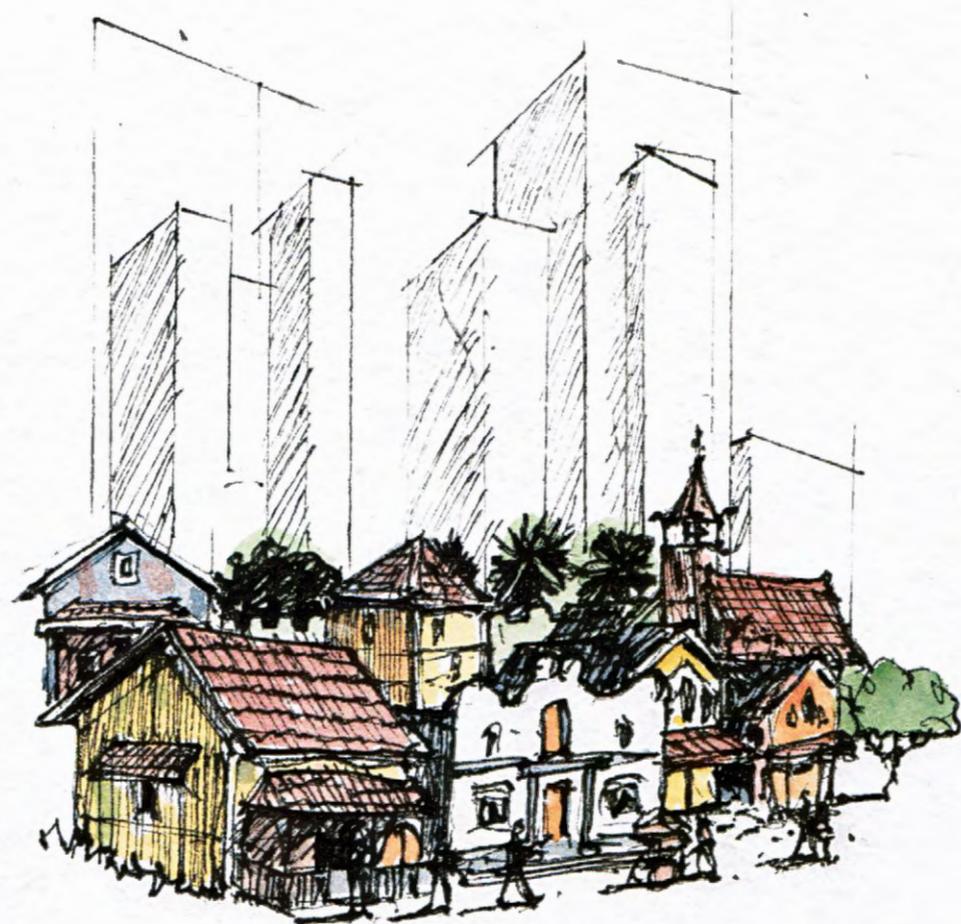
Eat like an Indian

Hi Sheila.

Thinking we might enjoy some tandoori or biryani for dinner we secured a perfect window table at Las Indias. It turned out we were mistaken but it was a lucky mistake. They serve typical Columbian Indian food. Served on a flat black stone, the appetizer consisted of a single cold new potato the size of a golf ball split in four and dressed with unfamiliar but delicious spices and oil. A sort of grilled and buttered polenta topped with chopped tomato, garlic, roasted red peppers and onions followed this. And, so it went, a delightful evening.

Hope you are happy and well.

Love, Renaldo and Sarita





OVERLOOKING SIMONE BOLIVAR PARK
..... ENJOYING DOS CERVEZAS NEGRA



I Googled the answer to this mystery quotation:

"A rifle does not fit into a chicken that a mother can take to her imprisoned son!" This observation was so obvious but timely a few days ago, the director of the Venezuelan Observatory of Violence, Roberto Briceño Leon.

It came to the case of the discovery in the prison Caracas El Rodeo I, within the area of the inmates, an arsenal of a military detachment: 5 shotguns, 7 rifles, 20 pistols, 8 hand grenades and 5,000 cartridges, as well as 45 kilos of cocaine and 12 marijuana plus 100 mobile phones and three computers.



"GUN FIRE DOESN'T
FIT INSIDE
A CHICKEN"

THIS MESSAGE ON CERAMIC TILE,
SET IN A WALL ON CALLE DE LA
SIERPE, GIVES ME THE OPPORTUNITY
TO SHOW OFF MY TRANSLATION
SKILLS.

* SNAKE STREET.

APOLLO PARK.



Vulture in the Bougainvillea

There is a vulture living in the Bougainvillea that hangs over the balcony across the street. The houses and shops here are generally two stories high, often with flower-draped balconies jutting over the narrow streets. It's very pretty. As a student of architecture you should be aware of the implications of these protrusions for 17th century Columbian architects. First of all, only Catholic families were allowed to have balconies. Although they bestowed status, they had a secondary function. When the moon is dark, witches are said to fly through the streets and they are not simply cruising the hood. It is more like a game of quidditch. These witches come smokin' down the street at ballistic speed so as not to be seen doing what witches do. The main difference is one of style. Here they ride with the bristles forward (I learned this from a painting in the museum).

Naturally, the balconies are a hazard and sometimes their long dresses get snagged. In this town in the 16th century a woman seen with a torn dress could be accused of being a witch. The trial was by dunking her under water. If she drowned, sadly it proved her virtue but if she survived she was obviously a witch and burned at the stake. Not all witches convicted here were women.

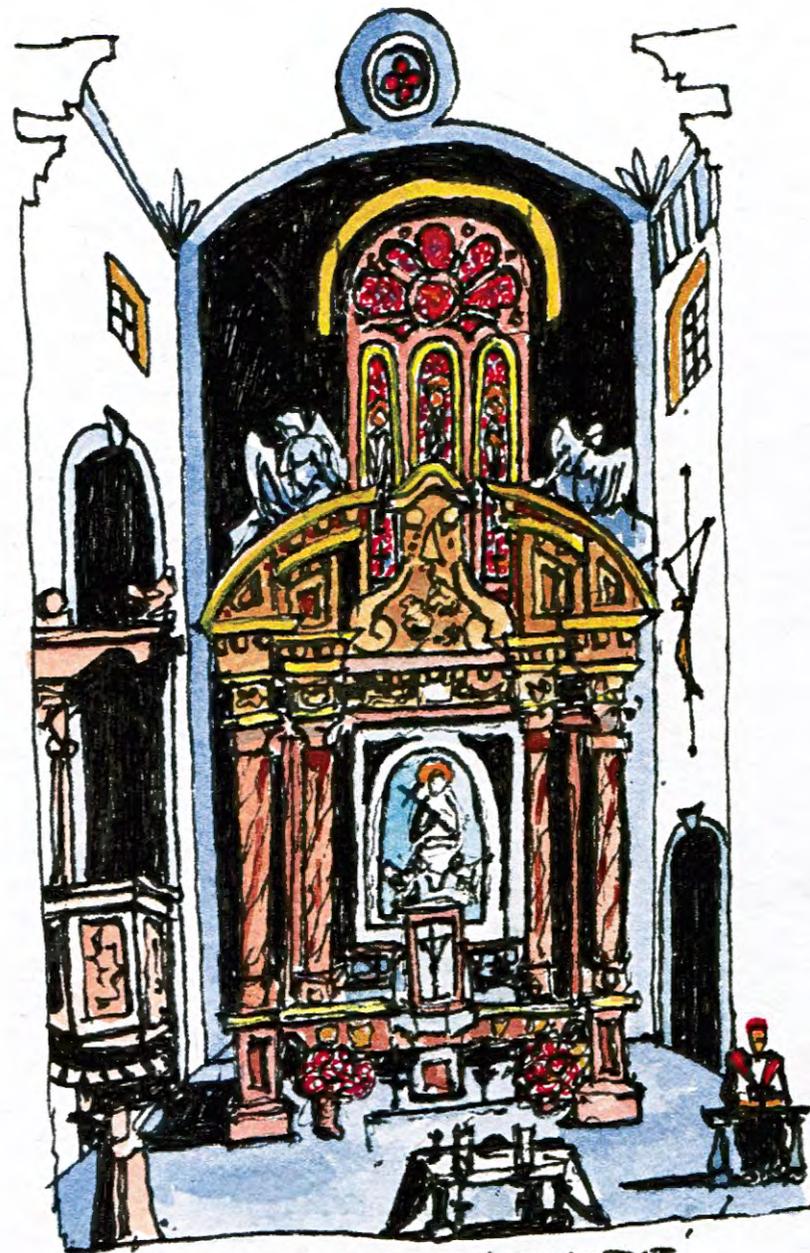
Every home was obliged to display three flags and some places still embrace the tradition; one indicating your religion, one for your country of birth and one declaring your occupation. This made it easy for the authorities to locate 'persons of interest' in troubled times.

I wish you success in being embraced by the University of your choice.

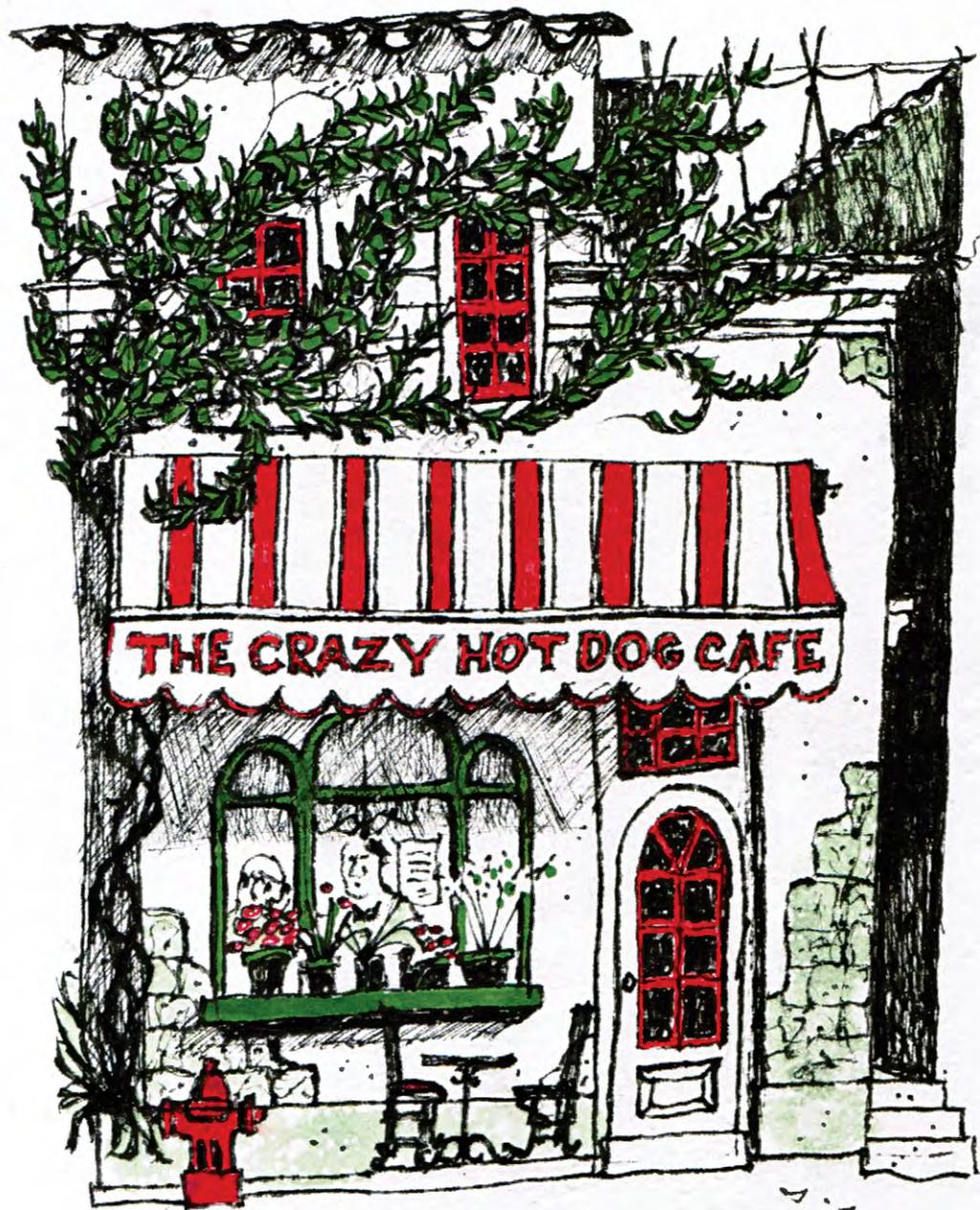
Love, Granddad







...AND, THE MEEK SHALL INHERIT...

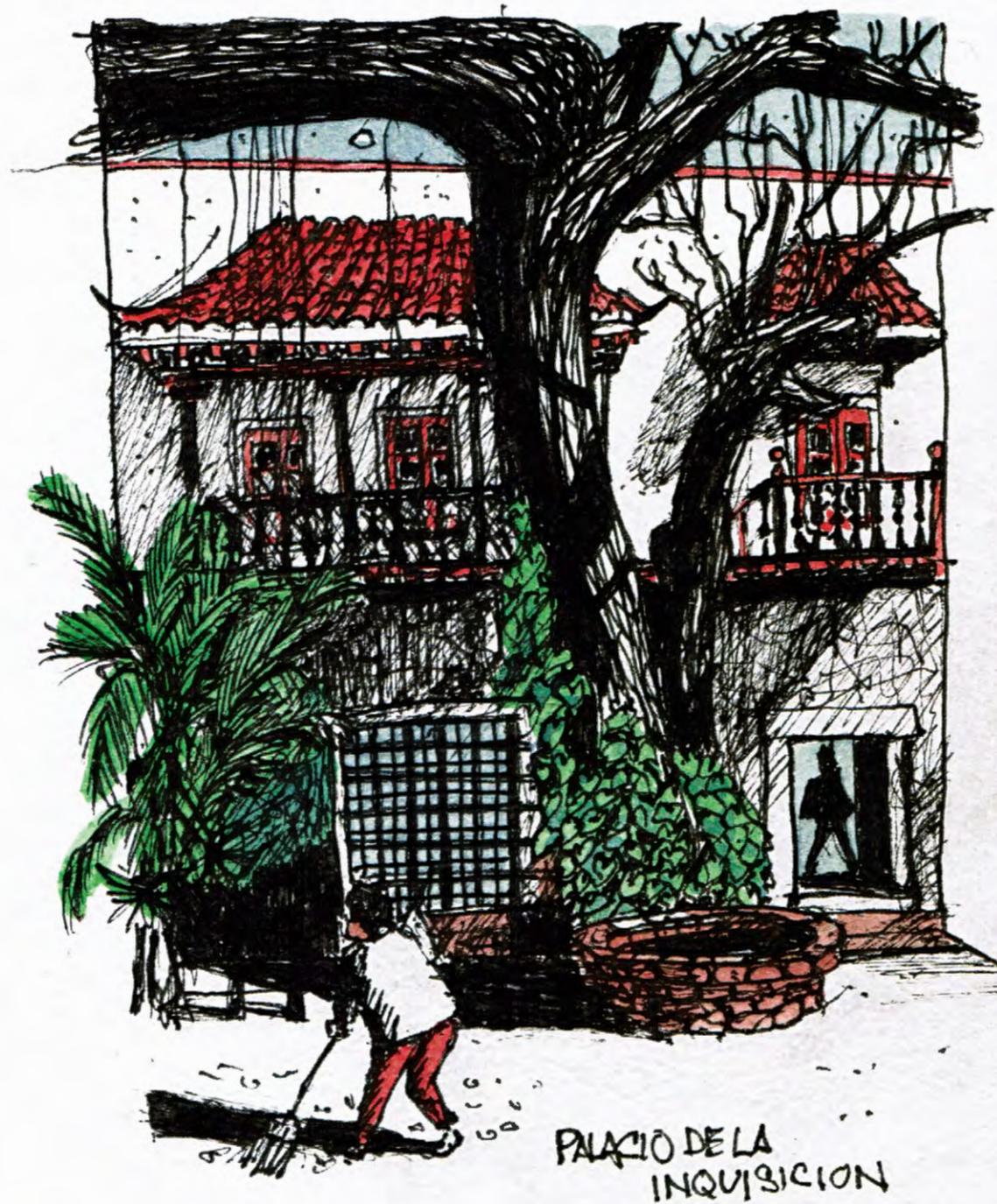


Dear Councillor

Hi Lloyd.

First they indict you, then they torture you, then they try you, and execution follows. That's the order I learned today at Cartagena's Palacio de la inquisition. This is a note of caution Lloyd, in the event that President Trump orders the reinstatement of these laws. There are several charges a heretic like you might have to deal with. They are in order: Jew, witch, witch doctor, solicitor, blasphemer, or reader of forbidden books. Now, I'm not saying that your ass might be at risk here but a casual glance at the list looks a lot like your resume to me.

With deep concern, Ron



Drawing the Equator

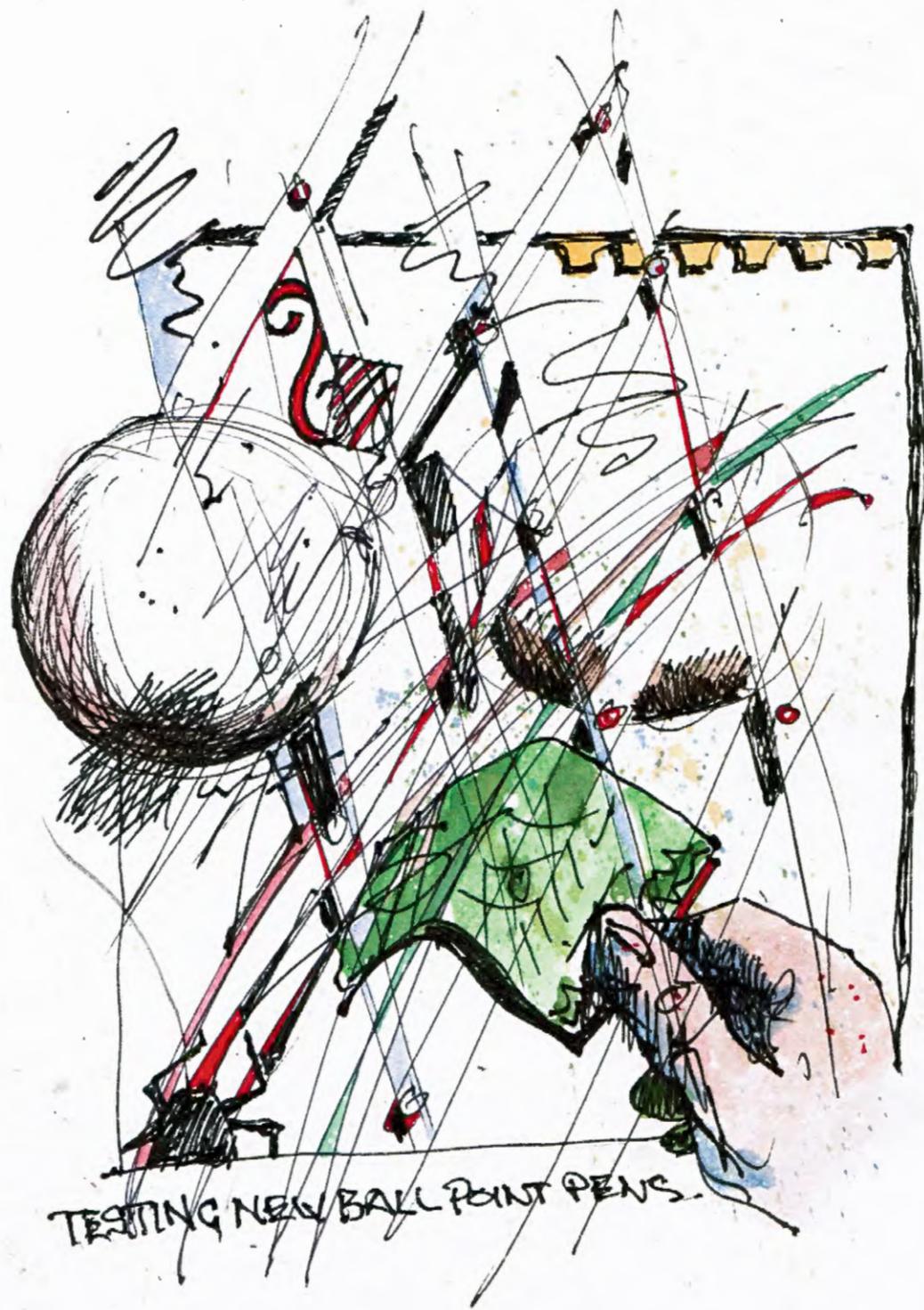
Dear Emory.

There are plenty of streets in Latin American cities that are mostly just high walls and doorways and so, perfect for graffiti. Happily the walls here are not topped with razor wire or broken glass and the graffiti is of the best sort. No tags here. The subjects are political or humorous or love fantasies and the artists highly skilled. There are many clever images that take advantage of cracks in the walls, clumps of weeds or broken plaster. I bought three drawing pens to bring with me on this trip. They are a new technical type called LE PEN. I can't say that I like them; I burned through them in a few days. After forty minuets of drawing the line starts to grey out and I must draw slower in order to maintain the density and, drink cervezas to ward off frustration.

The local beer is world class and costs only 3,500 compared to water 2,500 or freshly squeezed before your eyes juice 2,000.

I bought a ballpoint this morning but drained it on my first drawing. A search through a crowded market that was a lot like a video game was rewarded by a pair of Faber Castell Roller 0.7's, 8,500 Columbian Pesos, that should do nicely. I wonder, it's 30 degrees here, as usual, and maybe that affects the viscosity of the ink? It could be why pens don't last.

Drive safely, love, Dad





Surprising Shit

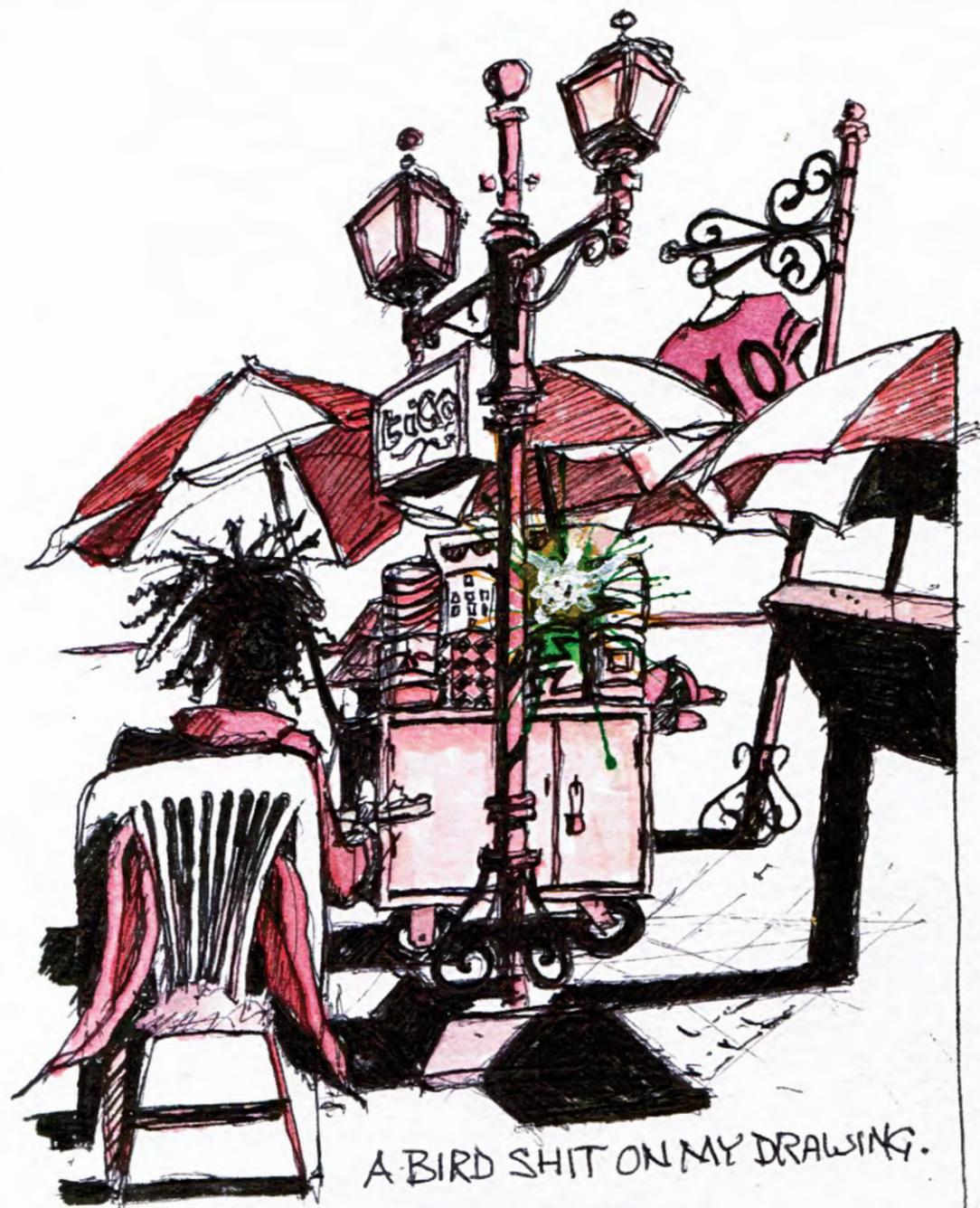
Dear Rashmi.

Casa Mary makes us a nice breakfast on the flower draped rooftop terrace each morning. Fresh fruit, coffee and eggs with cadmium yellow yolks are always included. As a demonstration of the high standard of hygiene, our lovely waitress wears a paper mask as required by the hotel; however, she wears it around her neck, finding it uncomfortable in the traditional position. After breakfast we strike out to see the sites and sketch. Everything inside the walls of this city, founded in the fifteen hundreds is an easy walk.

Here we don't look for something to sketch, we search for a shady place to sit and then draw what is in front of us. This morning I found a stone bench under a spreading tree looking out at a vendor's cart covered in bright baskets and bags. I just finished the drawing and was looking it over with a critical eye when, SPLAT! A hot gob of bird shit landed right in the middle of the page.

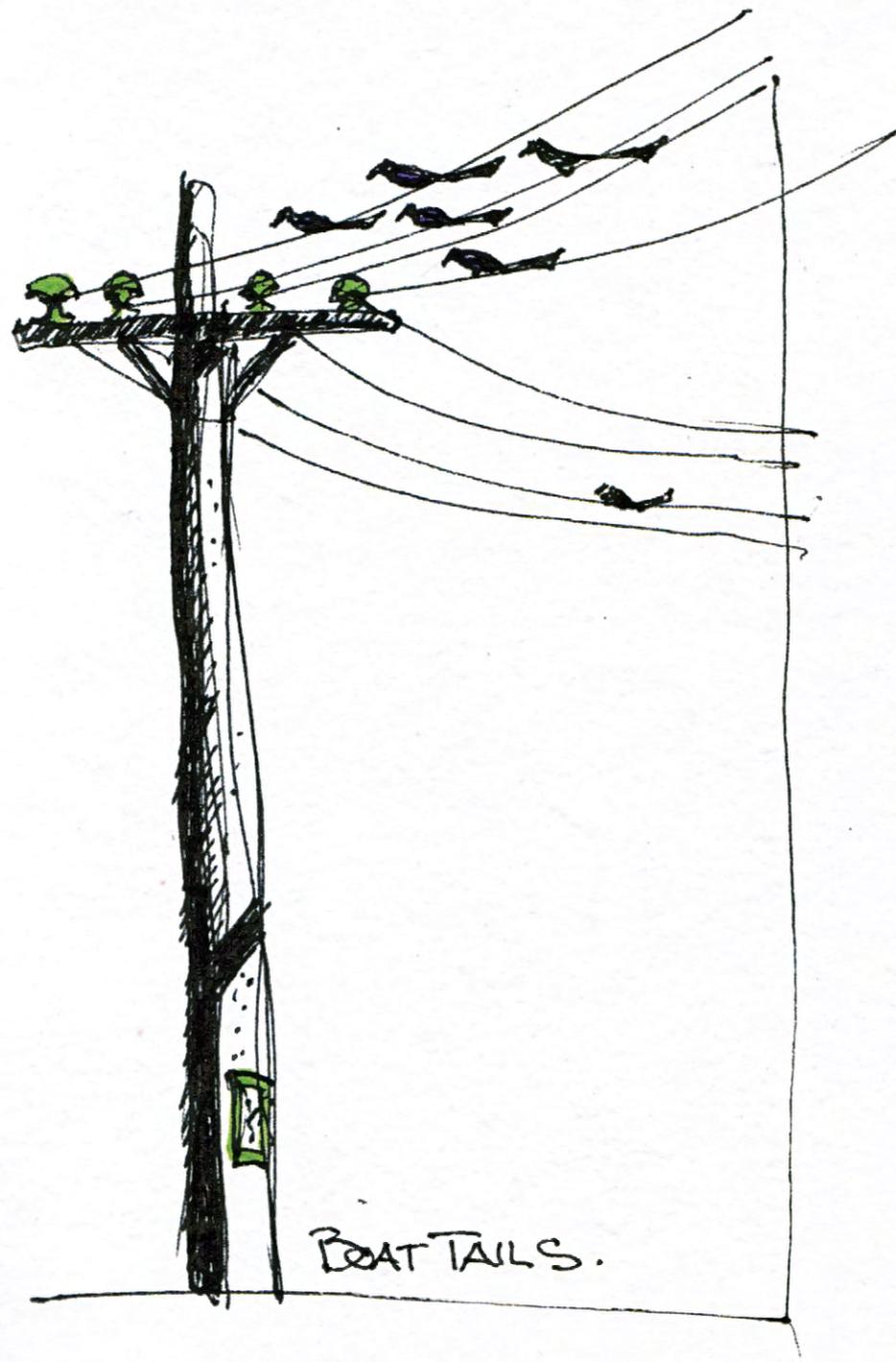
We are looking forward to your birthday dinner in Beaverton soon after we return.

Love, Dad and Sarah



SAN DIEGO CONVENT.





BOAT TAILS.



THE WHITE DOG WITH ONE HUGE EAR.
THEY SAY HE CAN HEAR RAINBOWS.
HE HOWLS WITH DELIGHT



Photographer's Dream

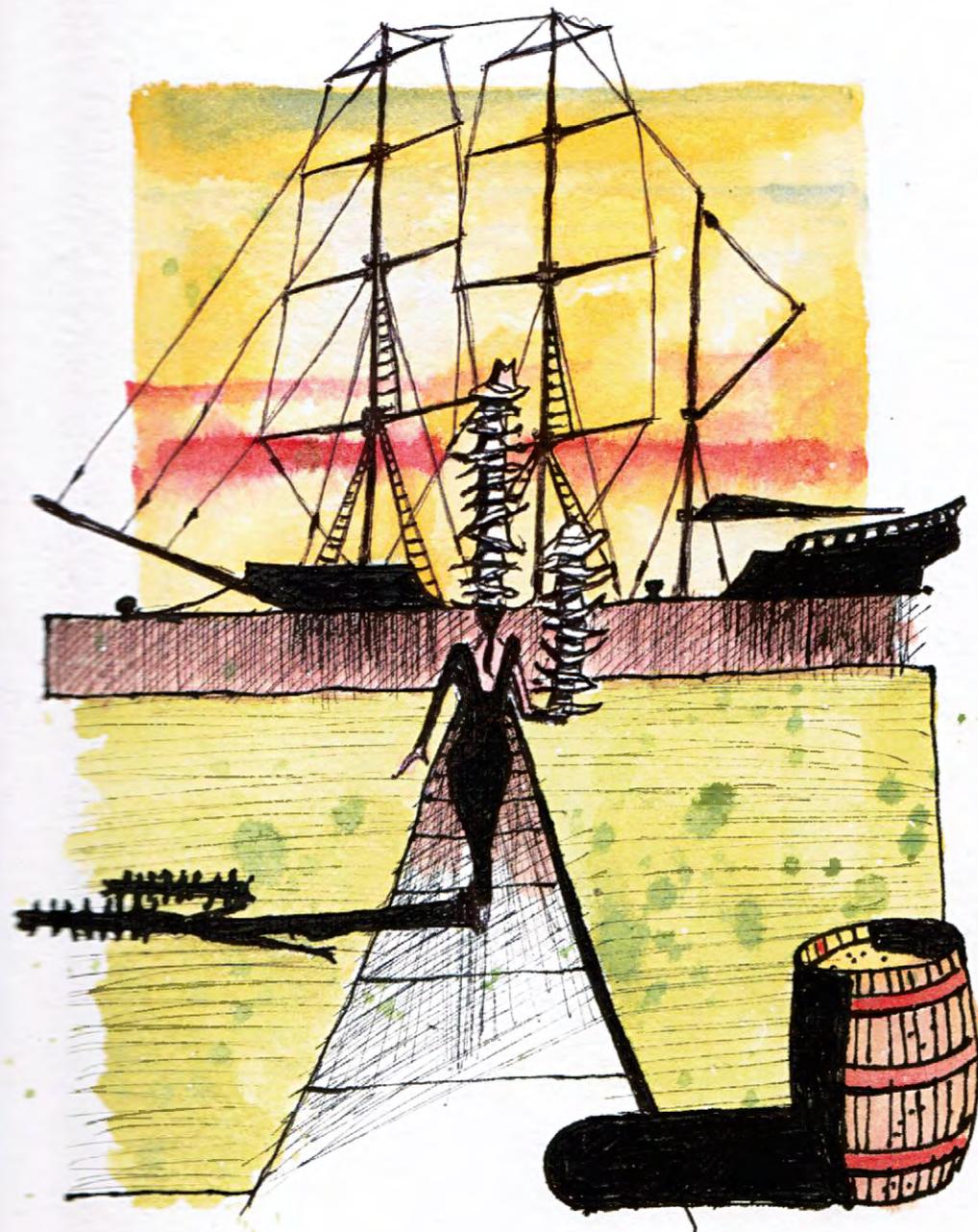
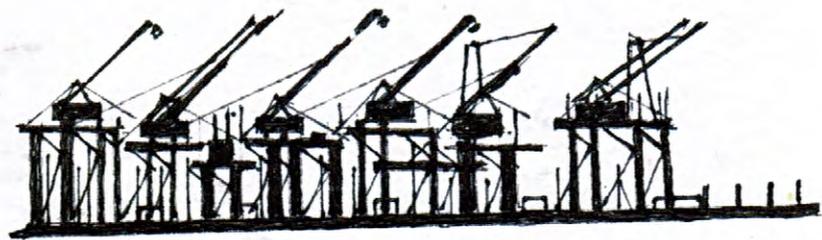
Dear old Das.

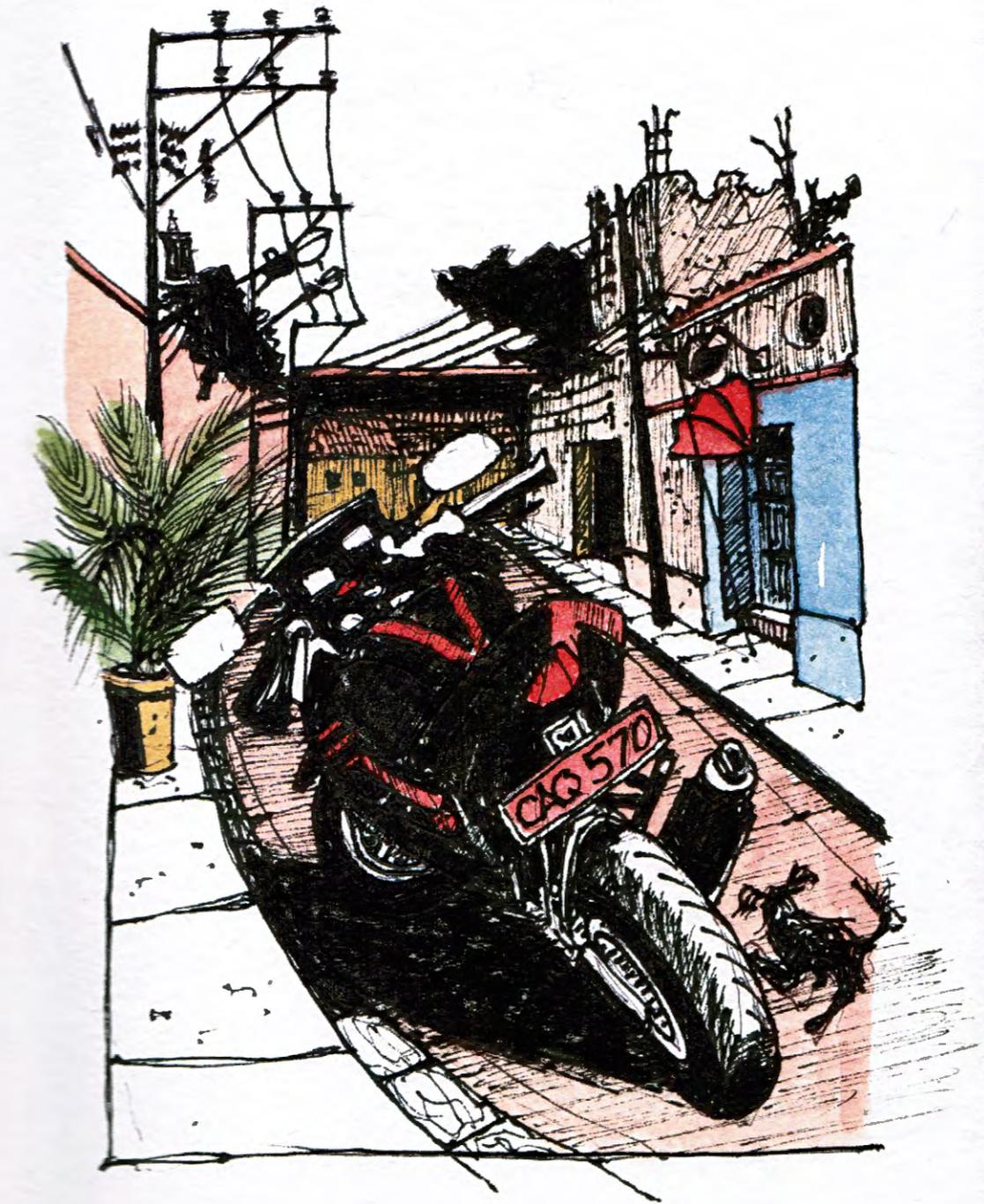
There are beautiful women with hats stacked high on their heads, dogs wearing dresses and colourful carts piled with fruit. In the evening, crowds gather in the square in front of the church to dance and play. Unicycles, jugglers, jesters, rappers, mimes and break-dancers politely take turns. Not much is expected if the odd hat gets passed. The ancient walled city of Cartagena has a well deserve UNESCO World Heritage designation. You might consider leading your photography students here; it is ten times easier than India. Even vegetarians are welcomed here.

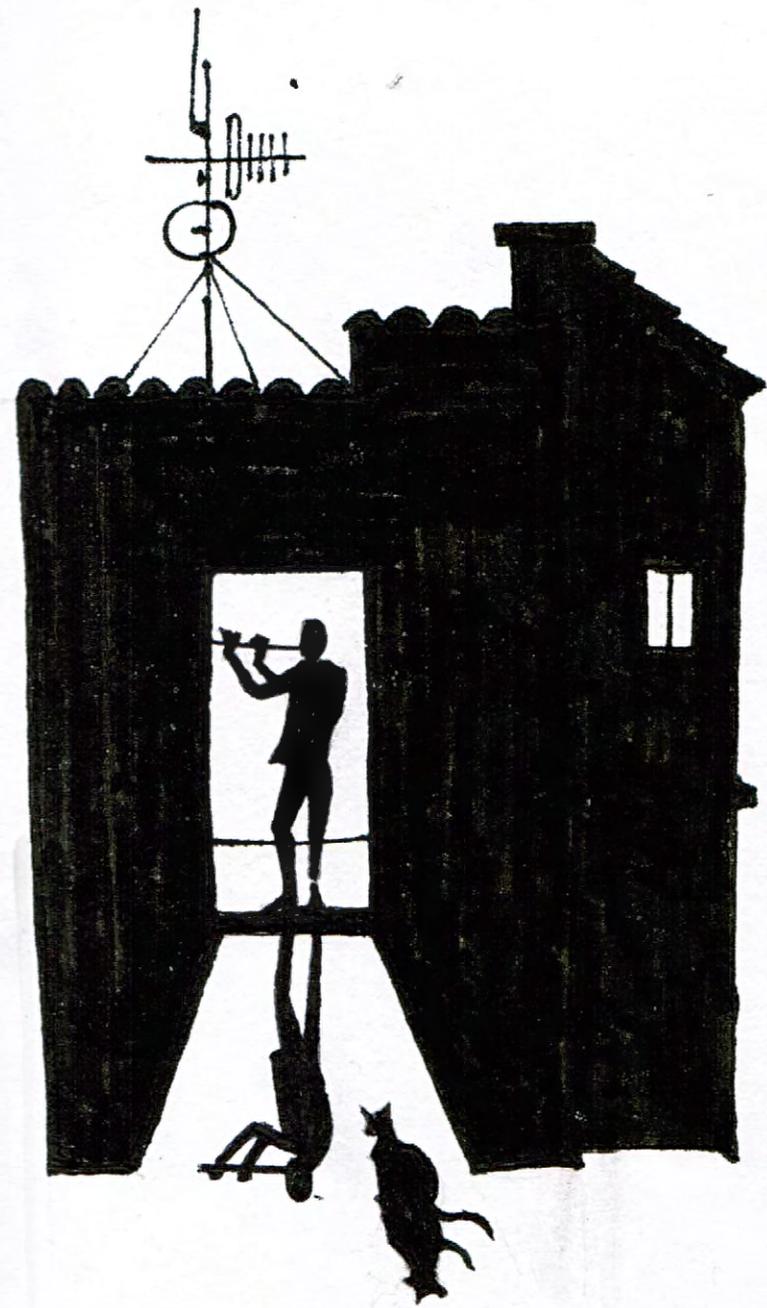
Jia Ganesha, Ron

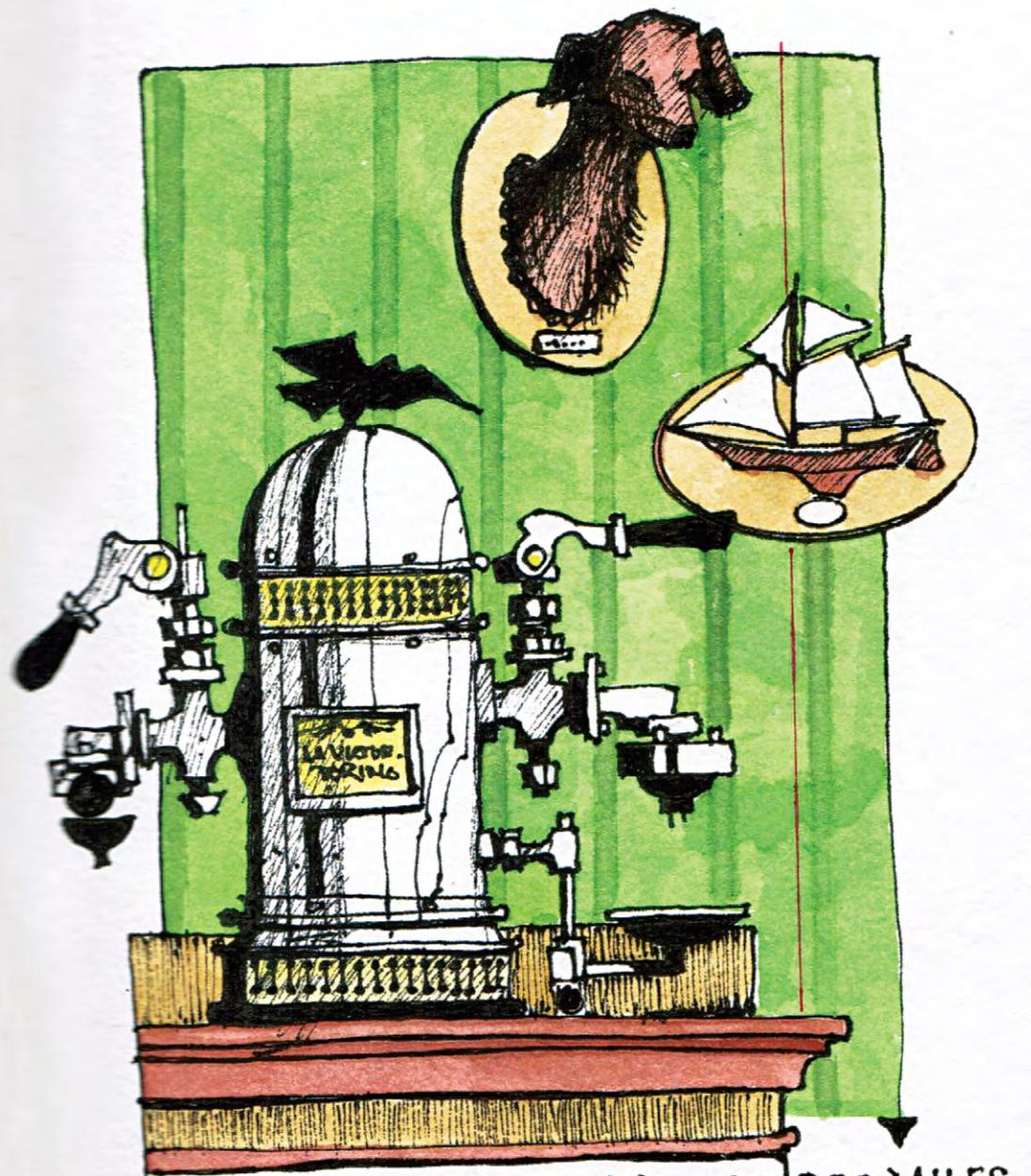
DOG IN DRAG











NAVY MASCOT TRAVELLED 100,000 MILES
BY SHIP.

THE STREETS ARE SCRUBBED.
THE GARBAGE IS PICKED UP
EVERY DAY!



Shade Structure

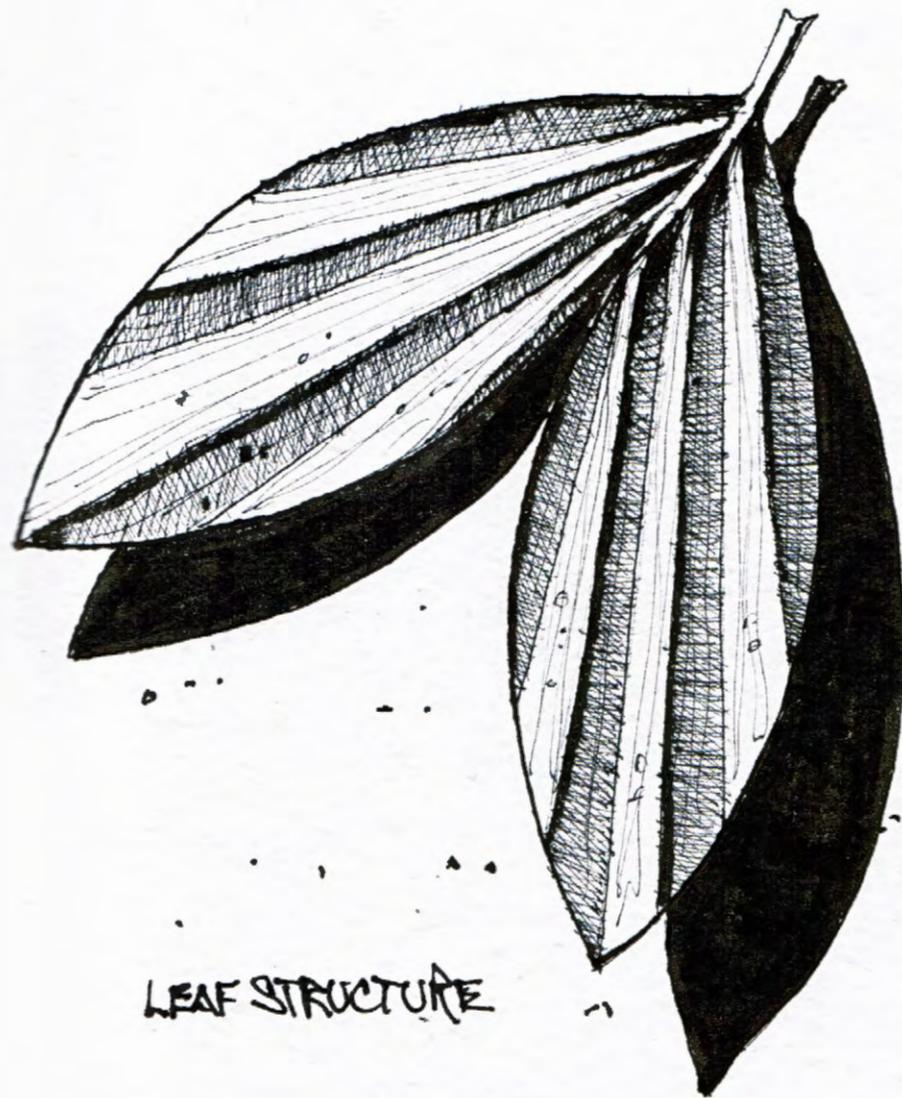
Dear Paul.

There is a very unusual plant here in the land of perpetual sunshine; it has a fascinating bifurcated leaf that is pleated like an accordion with dichotomic venation. The structure is worth studying and, it may hold the secret to making large steel shade structures at reasonable cost for your courtyard project (sketch appended). I'm looking forward to the experiments.

If you visit an inexpensive little restaurant outside the city wall where local workers dine, the menu reads like an organ donor form. "Would senor like to try some carotid glands, liver, heart, pancreas, tripe, boiled or fried? Or, would you prefer something from our ear, nose and throat column?" What kind of wine goes with deep fried pig's ear? That said, that type of widely enjoyed native cuisine is rare downtown but not in the marketplace. Mostly, the fare is extraordinary with no shortage of interesting restaurants. There is one exception and that is the Columbians' interpretation of Chinese food. Have you ever enjoyed boiled rice topped with potato chips?

Many of the beautiful old colonial buildings are being completely renovated; it is a booming place. Architecture seems so easy where there is plenty of stone and tile and no danger of snow or engineers.

See you soon, Ron







AMERICA FIRST

SEARCHING FOR BETTER RECEPTION.....



Here and Now

CARTAGENA:

Hi Nora, hi Greg.

No mosquitoes, no drugs, no beggars (compared to Toronto), friendly people, great food, no night strolling fears, clean, inexpensive room. The evening street life is viral, dancing, music, twerking in the square, mimes, jugglers and jesters. We are becoming accustomed to the noise. A small bottle of water costs 2,500 and a modest bottle of wine is 25,000. Interestingly, water is more expensive than Coke... so, what are they putting in the Coke?

We have covered all the museums, galleries and historic sites and so, we get up in the cool of the morning and head out with our water bottles and sketchbooks. Went to mass this morning. And, when the sermon was finished, everyone smiled and shook hands with everyone in reach! Then, the collection plate was passed. Dang! Caught with no small change, Sarah tossed 20,000 into the bag-on-a-stick. At the end of the service I was cursed by a couple of needy people with hands extended but, all I had in my pocket was a 100,000 bill. You can be a millionaire in Columbia for \$532 Canadian.

Love, Ronnie and Sarah



