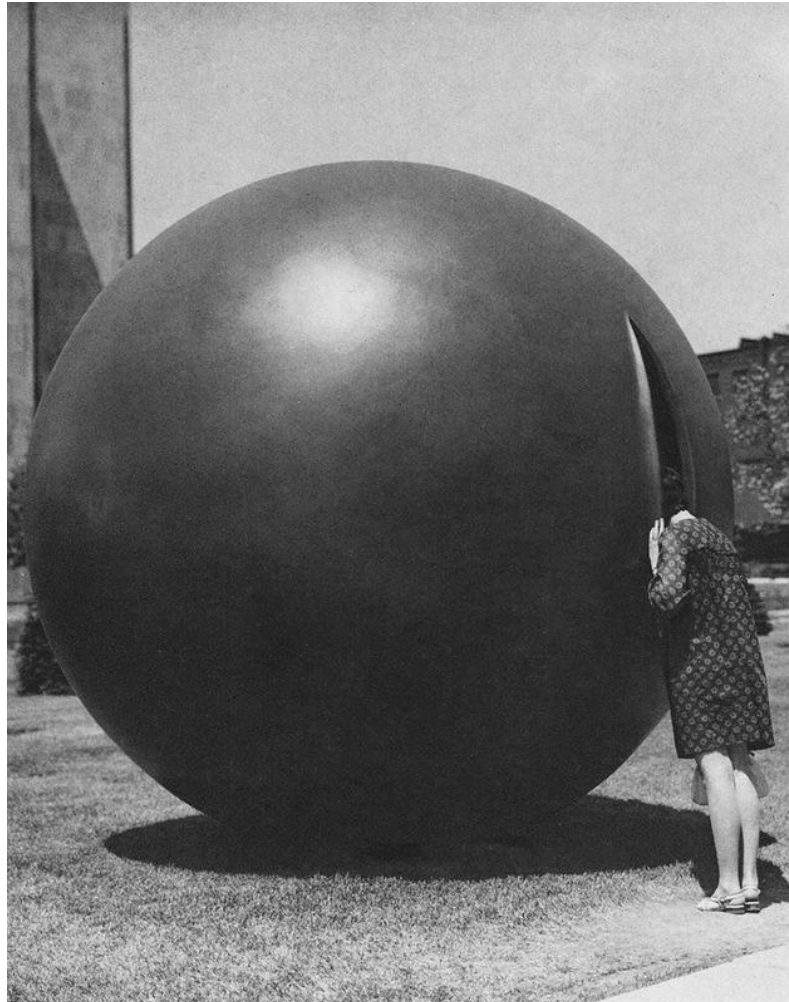


# Xotquid



Meptang, the creature from Planet Zontamk, had never thought of himself as a carnivore. Back on his home world, he eschewed *lakmorp* (i.e., animal flesh pudding). But after he'd been on Earth for a couple of days following his posting there as a Foreign Service Observer, he began to have second thoughts. For one thing, curious Earth beings would walk right up to his camouflaged environmental pod and peer in. For another, their heads smelt just like *xotquid*, that most delectable of savory snack foods. And, not unimportantly, their heads detached so darned easily! It was one, two, "pop" – and suddenly Meptang was in comestible heaven!