

THE ADVENTURES OF **NILSON** GROUNDTHUMPER AND HERMY

No. 1
\$2.00
(\$3.00 in
Canada)

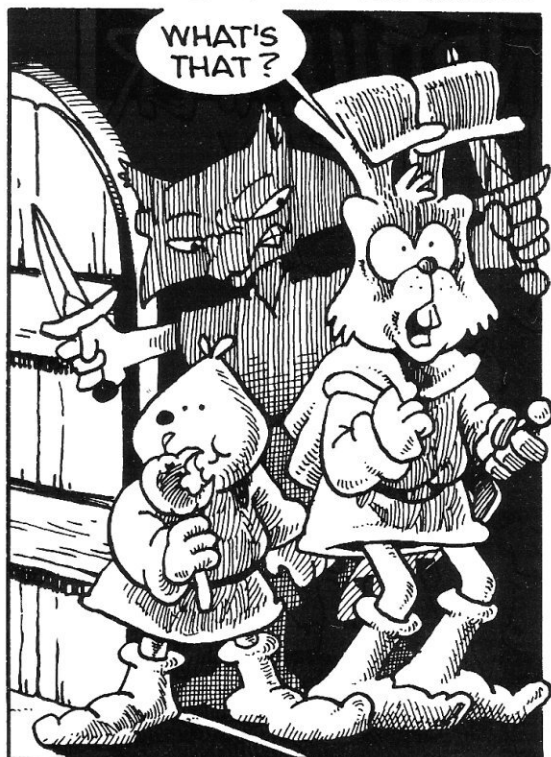
T.M.



FANTAGRAPHICS BOOKS

SAKAI
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THE ADVENTURES of NILSON GROUNDTHUMPER



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"We're Not Lost . . .
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Critters Special #1, January, 1988. Critters Special is published whenever we feel it's warranted by Fantagraphics Books, Inc., and is copyright © 1987 Fantagraphics Books, Inc. "Nilson Groundthumper" stories and all characters therein are © 1987 Stan Sakai. No part of this magazine may be reproduced without written permission from Fantagraphics Books and the author. No similarity between the any of the names, characters, persons, and institutions in *Critters Special* and those of any living or dead persons is intended, and any such similarity that may exist is purely coincidental. First printing: September, 1987. Available from the publisher for \$2.00 + 50 cents postage and handling: Fantagraphics Books, 1800 Bridgegate Street Suite #101, Westlake Village, CA 91361.

STORY
& ART ©1984 S. SAKAI

THE ADVENTURES of NILSON GRUNDTHUMPER

AT LAST!! AFTER ALL MY
YEARS OF PREPARATION!!
THE FOREST OF ELDWOOD!

NOW I'LL JUST GET MY
BEARINGS AND SOON MY
QUEST WILL BE COMPLETED!

BUT MUCH LATER...

HMM... KARET TAKE THE FOX
THAT SOLD ME THIS FALSE MAP!
DOWNTOWN BURRBANK INDEED!
I SHOULD'VE HIRED THAT
ELF GUIDE...BUT FIFTEEN
GOLD COINS *IS* A BIT STEEP...

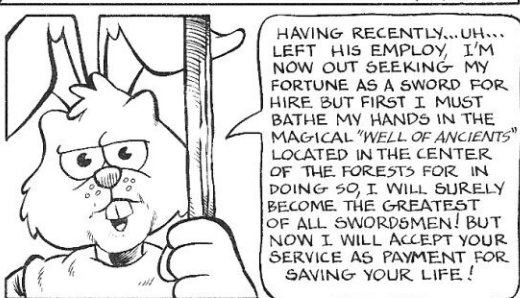
HELP!

WUZZAT?

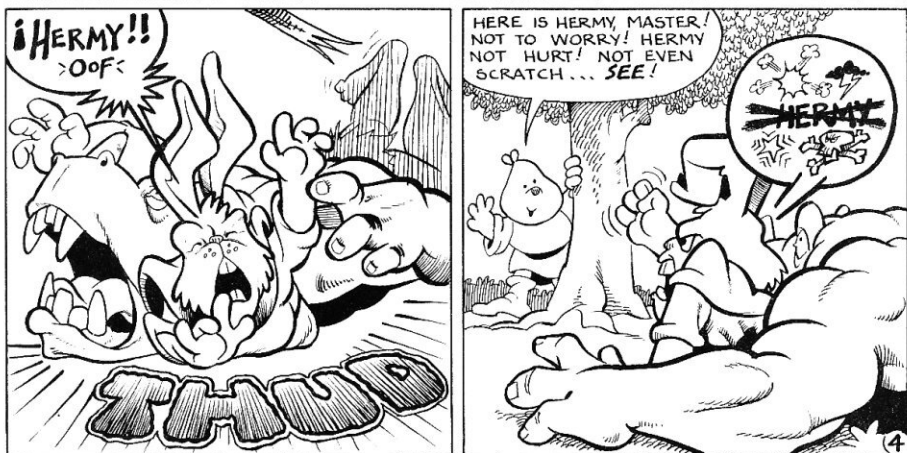
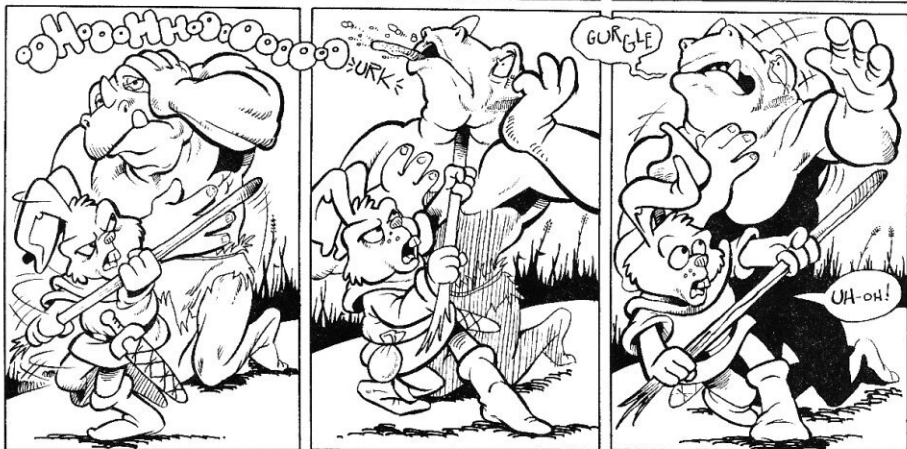
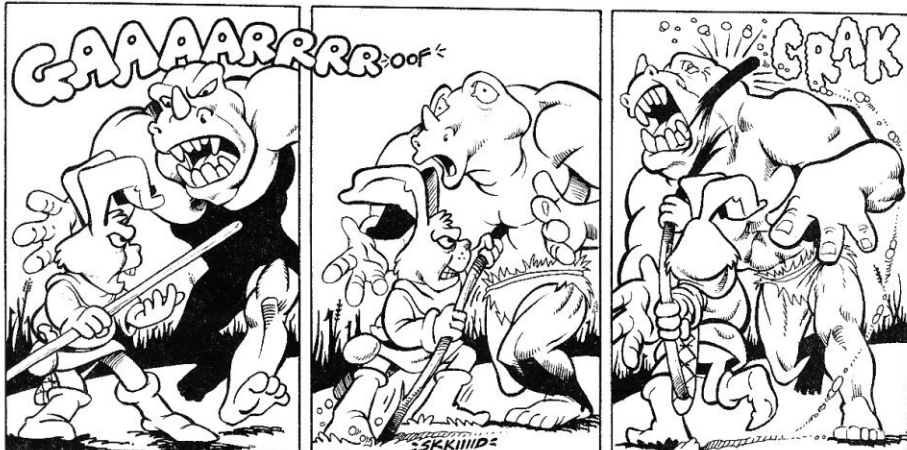
OOHH ME!
POOR HERMY
IS **BEASTIE**
GRUBS FER
SURE!



I THINK I'VE FOUND MY GUIDE!

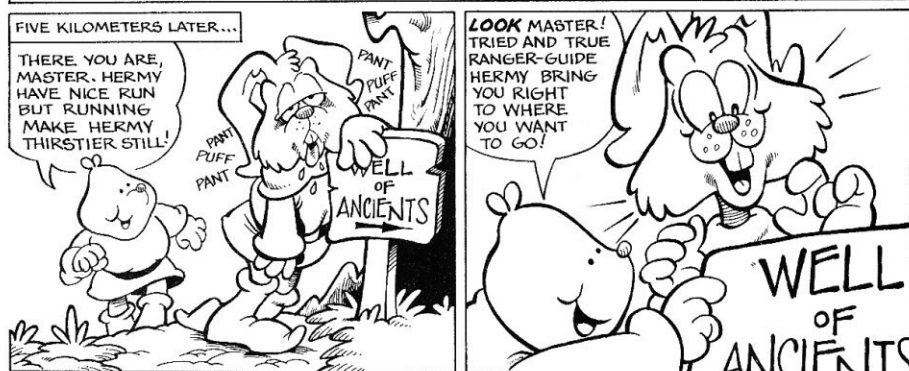
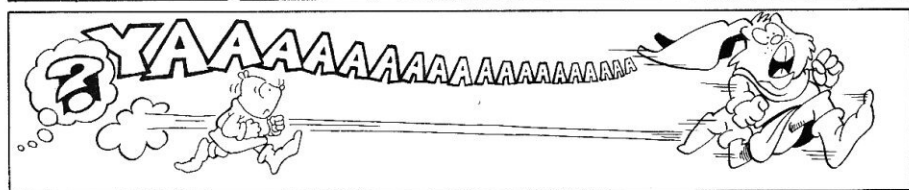










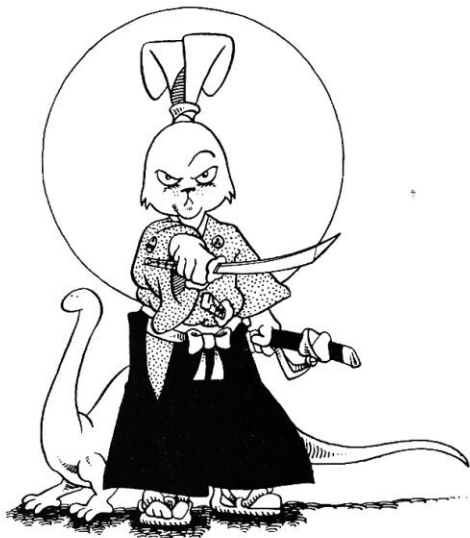


DON'T MESS WITH THE RABBIT!

His name: Usagi Yojimbo.
His profession: ronin
(masterless samurai).
His skill with swords: has to
be seen to be believed.

He's Stan Sakai's *other*
classic hero, and he's on
display every two months in
his own book. With funny-
animal back-ups from
people like Dennis Fujitake,
Don Dougherty, and Scott
Shaw! and Mark Evanier.

From Fantagraphics Books,
of course. See the inside
back cover for details.



SOMEWHERE BETWEEN
THE MAGICAL KINGDOM
OF OZ AND A REALLY
DAMP TURKISH PRISON
IS A LAND THEY CALL
"THE BLUES." AND
THERE'S ONLY ONE BEAR
THAT LIVES THERE.

TEDDY PAYNE AND
THE BLUEBEARS.

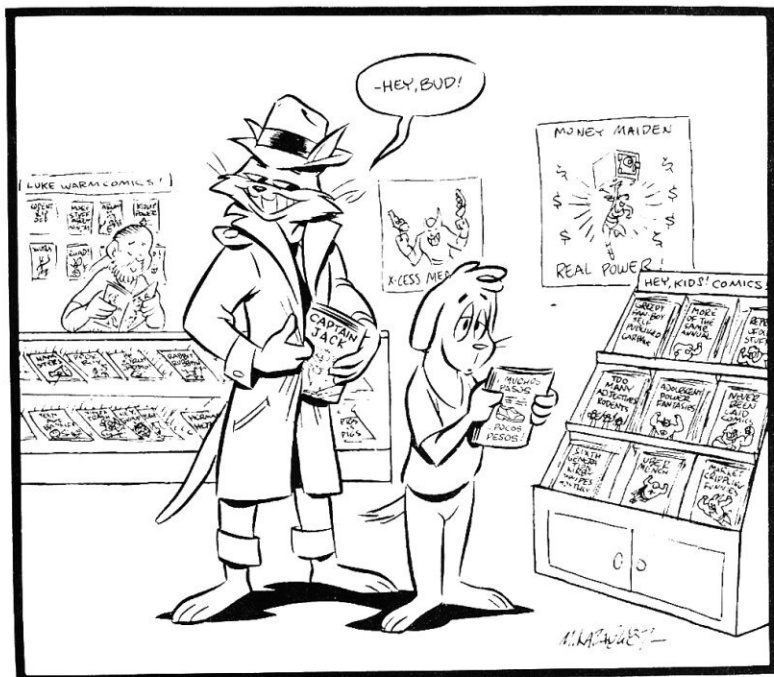
FUZZY WUZZY LITTLE
TWELVE-BAR LEGENDS.

AVAILABLE ON THE
F.B.I. MUSIC AND NOISE
LABEL. SAFELY HIDDEN
IN THE RECESSES OF
THE TWENTY-THIRD
ISSUE OF **CRITTERS**.

SPECIAL GUEST ARTIST:
ALAN MOORE AND THE
SINISTER DUCKS.

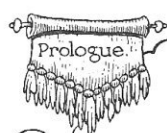
COMING FOR CHRISTMAS.

AT LAST! A comic you can TRUST!



YES! We could only be talking about **The Adventures of Captain Jack!** For **Captain Jack** is not merely a shoddy attempt at taking your hard-earned cash! Goodness, no! It's all that and much more! Within its thrill-packed pages you'll see funny-animal adventure as only **MIKE KAZALEH**, the self-proclaimed master of comic art, can draw them!

HUMOR • ACTION • DRAMA • ROMANCE
IN EACH AND (ALMOST) EVERY ISSUE OF
THE ADVENTURES OF CAPTAIN JACK!



THE CITY
OF A THOUSAND
TOADS! THAT'S
WHERE WE BEGIN
OUR LIFE OF
FREELANCE
ADVENTURE,
HERMY!

YES,
MASTER
NILSON!

COME ON, HERMY.
LET'S GO MEET
OUR DESTINY!

MASTER
NILSON!
DON'T STEP
IN THE...



YUCK! ANIMALS SHOULDN'T
BE ALLOWED ON THESE
ROADS! THEY STIR UP
THE MUD AND EVERY-
THING!

SCRAPE!
SCRAPE!
SCRAPE!

BLECH! ...AND
EVERYTHING!



HERMY, GET THE CAPE OFF THAT
OLD SCARECROW SO'S I CAN
WIPE OFF MY SHOES!

PER SURE,
MASTER
NILSON!



HEY, THIS ISN'T HALF BAD! ON
SECOND THOUGHT, I'LL JUST KEEP
IT MYSELF! SURELY, THIS IS A
GOOD OMEN, HERMY, NO DOUBT
WE'LL BE HIRED AS BODYGUARDS
FOR SOME RICH MERCHANT AS
SOON AS WE
ENTER THE
CITY!

HERMY
DID GOOD?

COME ON, HERMY!
LET'S GO MEET OUR
DESTINY!



SCARECROW

THE ADVENTURES OF MILSON GRUNT THUMPER

AND
HERMY

FIVE WEEKS
IN THE CITY OF
A THOUSAND
TOADS AND NOT
ONE JOB
OFFER!

THIS SWORD FOR
HIRE BUSINESS IS A
LOT HARDER THAN WE
THOUGHT, HERMY!

UGLY
BARBARIAN.

PSST! HEY,
YOU! I HEARD
WHAT YOU
SAID!

C'MERE I HAVE A
JOB FOR YOU!

FOLLOW
ME!

THESE TWO SHOULD
FIT IN MY PLANS
PERFECTLY!

YOU GUYS
INTERESTED
IN A BIT OF
THIEVERY?

SURE,
WHO
ISN'T?

HERMY
ISN'T,
MASTER.

SHHH...
HERMY.

SLIPKNOT,
MASTER THIEF,
AT YOUR
SERVICE...



I'VE BEEN WATCHING
YOU TWO EVER SINCE
YOU ENTERED
THE CITY...



...AND YOU
LOOKED LIKE
EXCELLENT
CRIMINAL
MATERIAL.

WHAT'RE
YOUR
NAMES?



I'M NILSON GROUNDTHUMPER
AND THIS IS MY COMPANION,
HERMY!

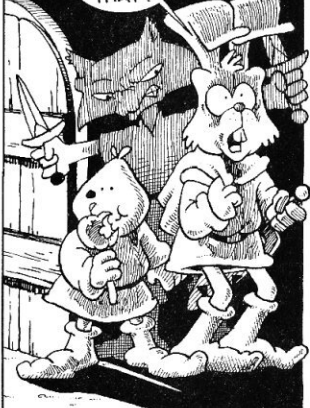
H'LO.



COME IN HERE.
I'VE GOT JUST
ONE MORE
QUESTION
TO ASK...

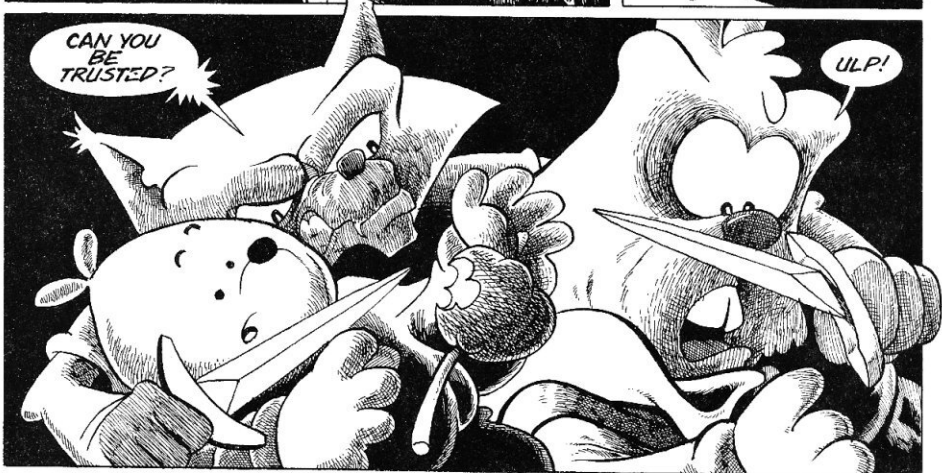


WHAT'S
THAT?



CAN YOU
BE
TRUSTED?

ULP!





OF COURSE! WE'RE TRUSTWORTHY THIEVES! WE CAN EVEN GIVE YOU REFERENCES!



OKAY, BUT ONE WRONG MOVE AND YOU'RE BOTH DEAD MEAT!

Y-YES, SIR!



HA! THE FOOLS SHOULD ASK IF I CAN BE TRUSTED...



...I'VE DOUBLE-CROSSED SO MANY PEOPLE IN THE CITY OF A THOUSAND TOADS THAT I'VE BEEN FORCED TO RECRUIT STRANGERS TO HELP ME PULL MY JOBS!

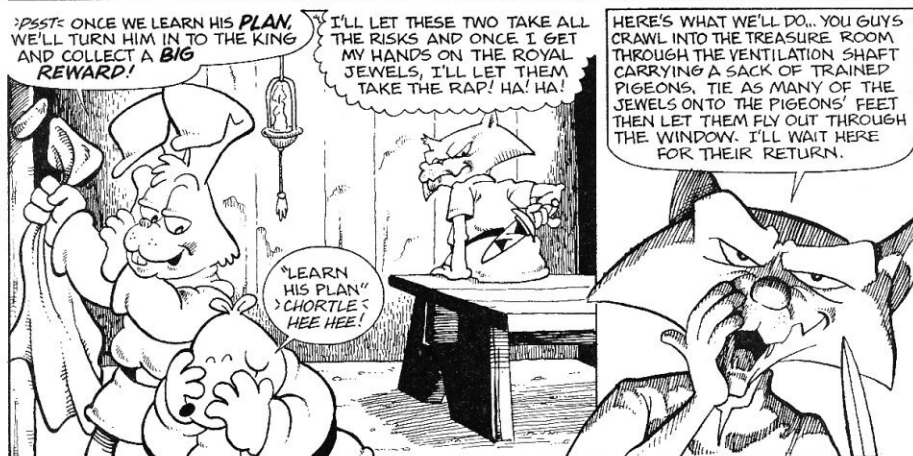
SO WHAT'S THE DEAL, SLIPKNOT?



OKAY, HERE'S THE CAPER... WE'RE GOING AFTER THE CROWN JEWELS OF KING KILBUN. INTERESTED?

HA! JUST THE KIND OF JOB WE'RE SUITED FOR!

ER... MIND IF I HANG MY CAPE?

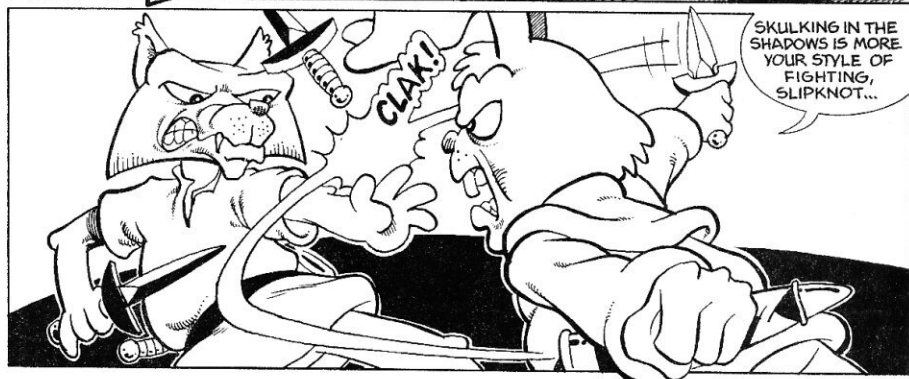


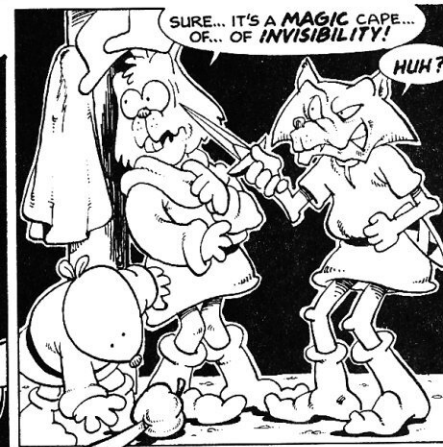
PSST! ONCE WE LEARN HIS PLAN, WE'LL TURN HIM IN TO THE KING AND COLLECT A BIG REWARD!

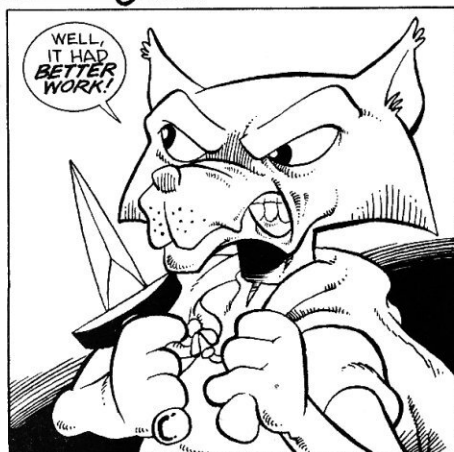
I'LL LET THESE TWO TAKE ALL THE RISKS AND ONCE I GET MY HANDS ON THE ROYAL JEWELS, I'LL LET THEM TAKE THE RAP! HA! HA!

HERE'S WHAT WE'LL DO... YOU GUYS CRAWL INTO THE TREASURE ROOM THROUGH THE VENTILATION SHAFT CARRYING A SACK OF TRAINED PIGEONS. TIE AS MANY OF THE JEWELS ONTO THE PIGEONS' FEET THEN LET THEM FLY OUT THROUGH THE WINDOW. I'LL WAIT HERE FOR THEIR RETURN.

"LEARN HIS PLAN" > CHORTLE > HEE HEE!







OF COURSE! THAT'S BECAUSE YOUR EYE BALLS ARE *INVISIBLE* TOO! EVERYONE KNOWS THAT *INVISIBLE EYES* CAN SEE *INVISIBLE THINGS*! THAT'S HOW GHOSTS CAN RECOGNIZE EACH OTHER IN HAUNTED HOUSES!

HUH? OH YEAH! I-I FORGOT.

WELL, SINCE YOU CAN SEE YOURSELF, THAT *PROVES... EEOUCH*!

...THAT I'M *INVISIBLE*!

YEAH!

MUMPH-

YOU DID?!

HA! I'VE NEVER BEEN *INVISIBLE* BEFORE! I FEEL *POWERFUL*! NO VAULT IN THE CITY WILL BE *SAFE* FROM MY THIEVERY!

RIGHT! NOW WE'LL BE ABLE TO STEAL THE CROWN JEWELS WITH NO TROUBLE, YOU BEING *INVISIBLE*!

HEH! HEH! CHORTLE! I GET IT NOW, MASTER! IT'S A *TRICK*!

SURE! SLIPKNOT IS *INVISIBLE*! WHERE IS HE? WHERE IS HE? HA! HA! *OWCH!*!

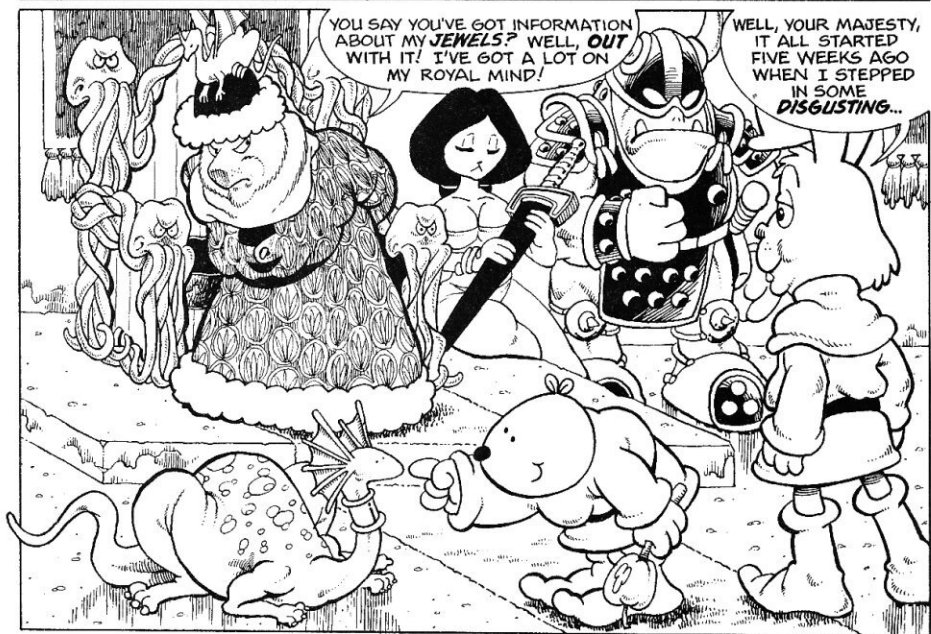
SMACK!

SHADDAP!

HA! WHO NEEDS YOU TWO? WITH THIS MAGIC CAPE, I'LL BECOME THE *TERROR* OF THE CITY! HA! HA! HAAA!

WHEW! I THOUGHT WE WERE GONERS FOR SURE!

BYE, BYE, MISTER KLIPSNOT!



...AND THEN I PULLED THE OLD "CAPE OF INVISIBILITY" TRICK ON HIM AND HE FELL FOR IT! NO DOUBT HE'S ROTTING IN YOUR DUNGEON AT THIS VERY MOMENT! HA! I'M SURE THAT ANY REWARD YOU GIVE US WILL BE MORE THAN GENEROUS!

GIGGLE!

WHAT?!

NOT FIFTEEN MINUTES AGO, MY TREASURE VAULTS WERE LOOTED BY SOME PHANTOM THIEF! AND YOU DARE STAND BEFORE ME AND SAY YOU MADE IT POSSIBLE?

GUARDS!
GIVE THEM
THEIR
REWARD!

HERMY DOESN'T LIKE THIS REWARD, MASTER NILSON. MAYBE WE SHOULD HAVE KEPT THE MAGIC CAPE SO WE COULD SNEAK OUT OF HERE, INVISIBLE LIKE.

BUT IT WAS A TRICK, HERMY! A TRICK! THE MAGIC CAPE DOESN'T WORK!

...OR DOES IT?

Modern Romance ...

in DOG BOY



STEVE LAFLER

Please send me the following issues of *Dog Boy*! I've enclosed \$2.25 for each.

- ☐ #1 ☐ #2 ☐ #3 ☐ #4
☐ #5 ☐ #6 ☐ #7 ☐ #8

Also, I'd like to subscribe to *Dog Boy* for the next six issues. I've enclosed \$9.00 (\$10.50 outside U.S. and Canada). I'm over 18, never fear!

Send orders to: Fantagraphics Books,
1800 Bridgegate Street #101, Westlake
Village, CA 91361.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____

STATE _____

ZIP _____

THE ADVENTURES OF
NILSON
GROUNDTHUMPER
AND HERMY

HEY! LET
US OUT! THERE'S
BEEN A MISTAKE!
WE DIDN'T LOOT
YOUR STUPID
TREASURY!

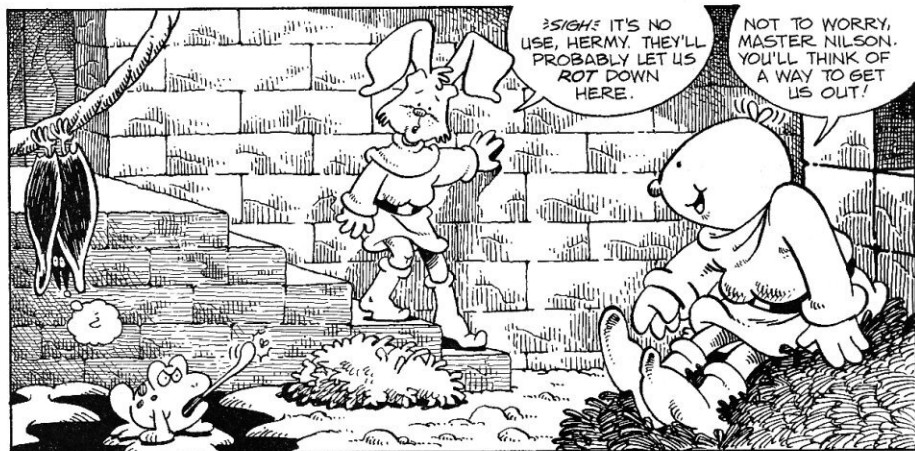
WE'RE
NOT THIEVES!
WE'RE NOT
SMART
ENOUGH!

DO WE
LOOK LIKE
THIEVES?

DO WE
ACT LIKE
THIEVES?!

DO WE
SMELL LIKE
THIEVES?!
HUH?! DO
WE?!

GAME
OF
DEATH!



3SIGH3 IT'S NO
USE, HERMY. THEY'LL
PROBABLY LET US
ROT DOWN
HERE.

NOT TO WORRY,
MASTER NILSON.
YOU'LL THINK OF
A WAY TO GET
US OUT!

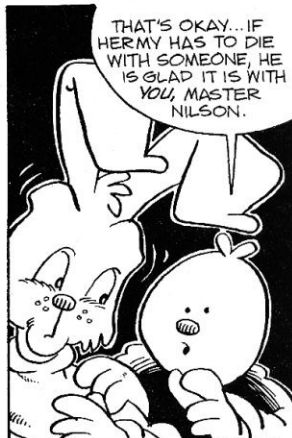


I ONLY WISH
I COULD, MY
FRIEND... BUT
THE FACT IS
I GOT US INTO
A TERRIBLE
MESS!

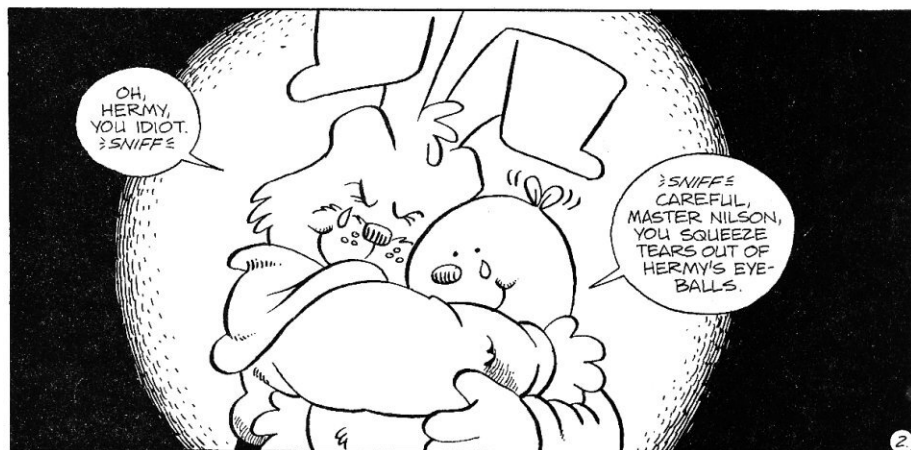


WHY DID I EVER THINK I
COULD BECOME A SWORD
FOR HIRE? NOW MY BLUNDER
WILL COST US OUR
LIVES!

I'M
SORRY,
HERMY.

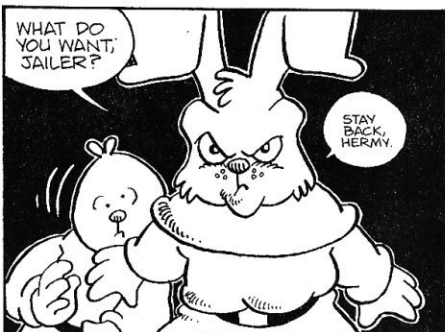


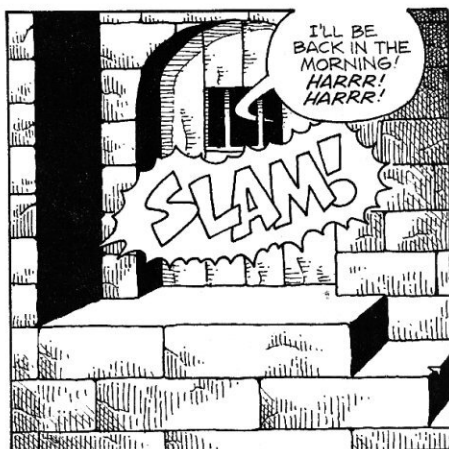
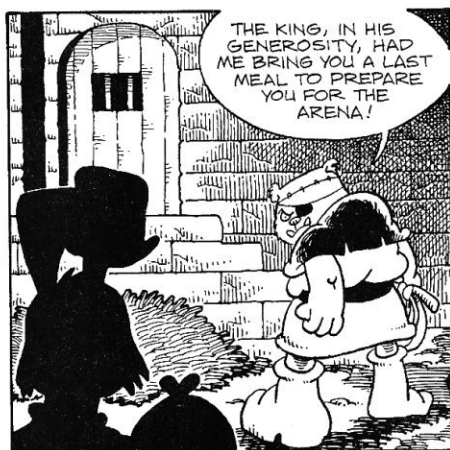
THAT'S OKAY...IF
HERMY HAS TO DIE
WITH SOMEONE, HE
IS GLAD IT IS WITH
YOU, MASTER
NILSON.

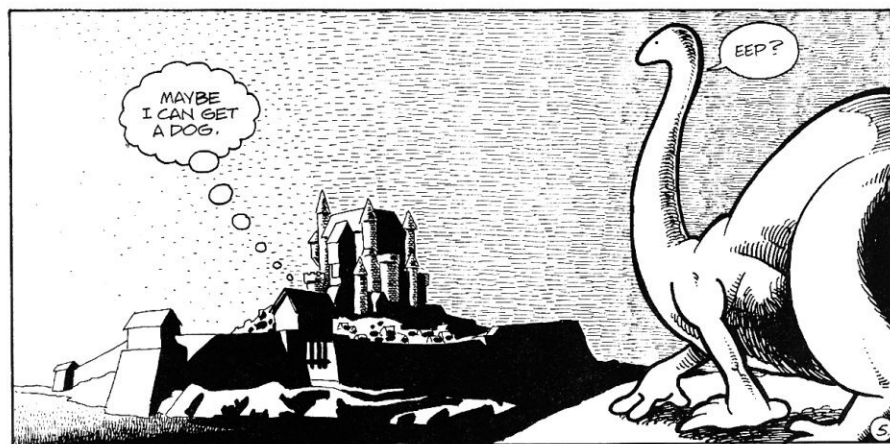
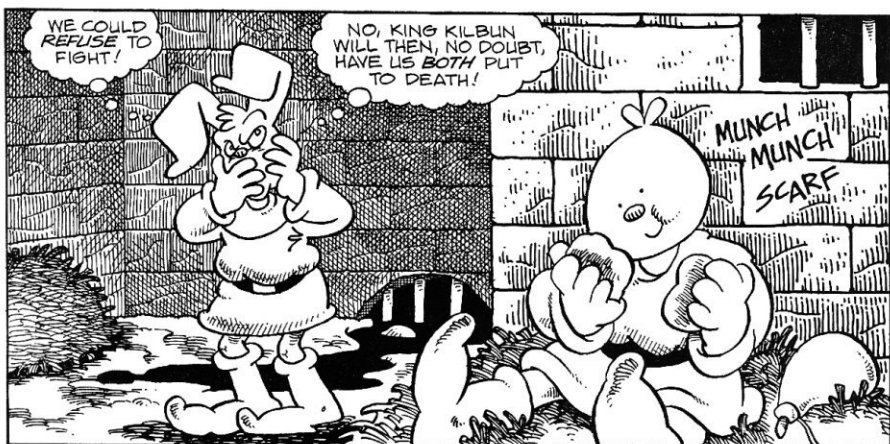


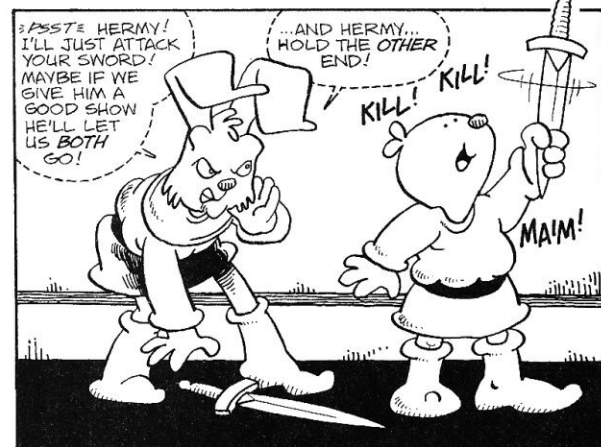
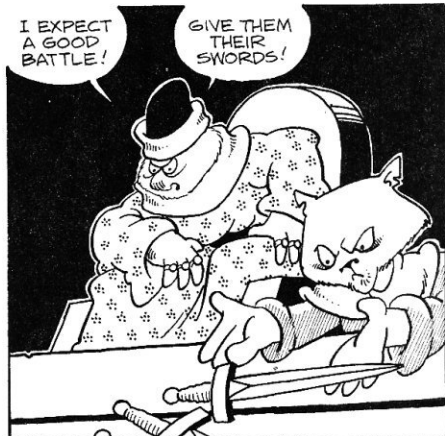
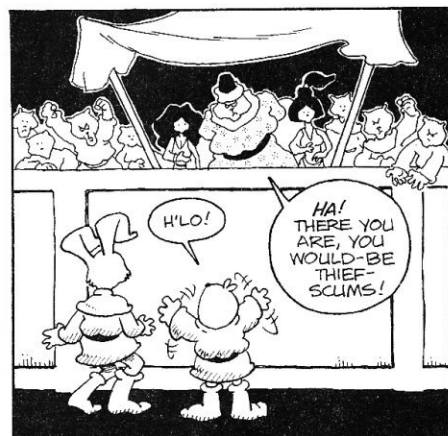
OH,
HERMY,
YOU IDIOT.
3SNIFFE

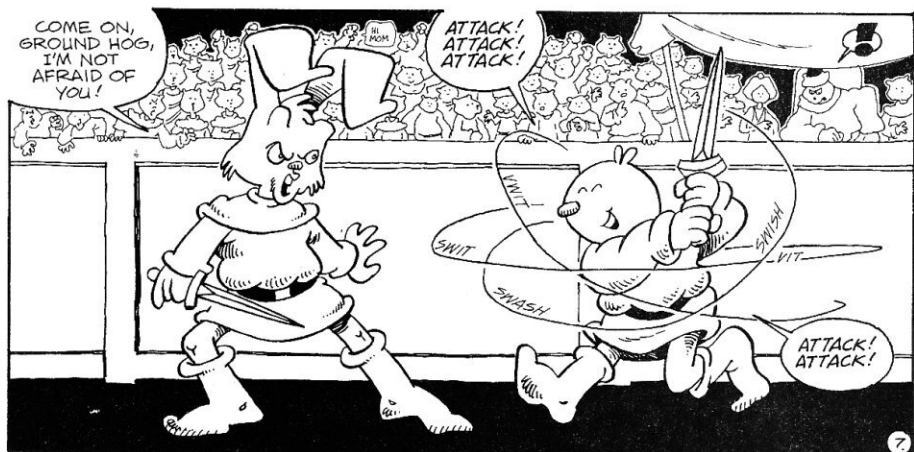
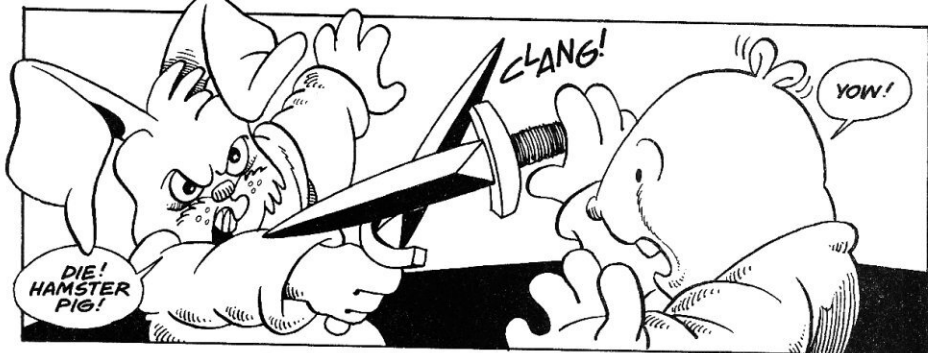
3SNIFFE
CAREFUL,
MASTER NILSON,
YOU SQUEEZE
TEARS OUT OF
HERMY'S EYE-
BALLS.

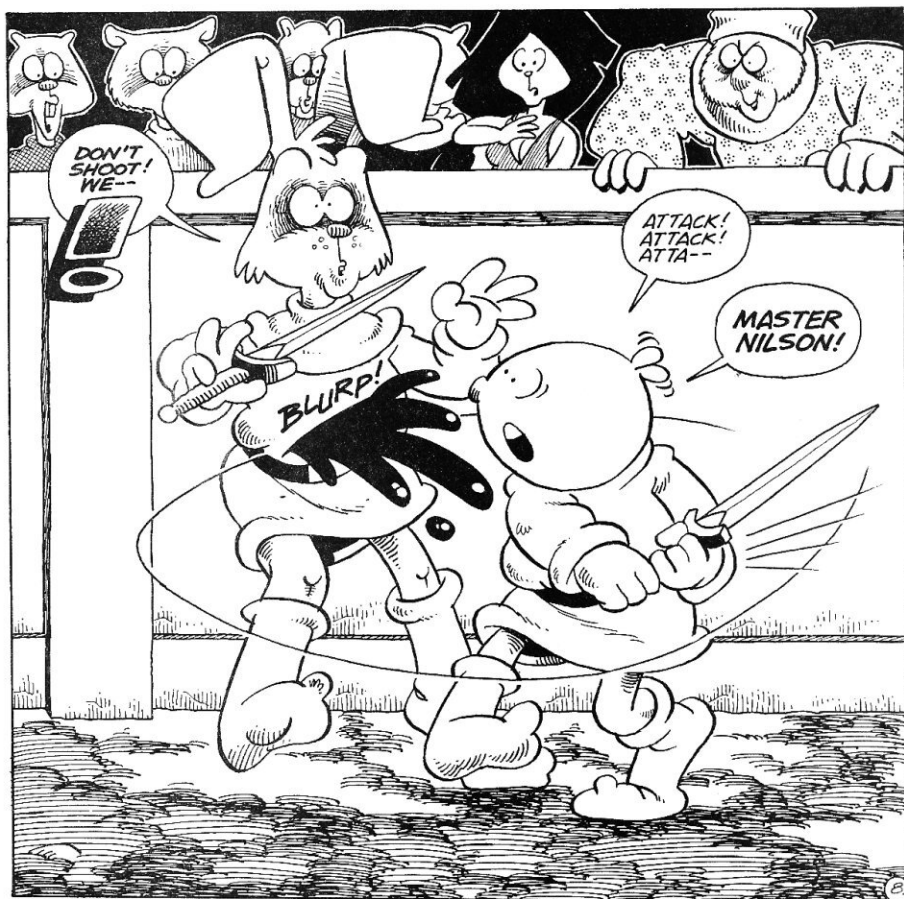


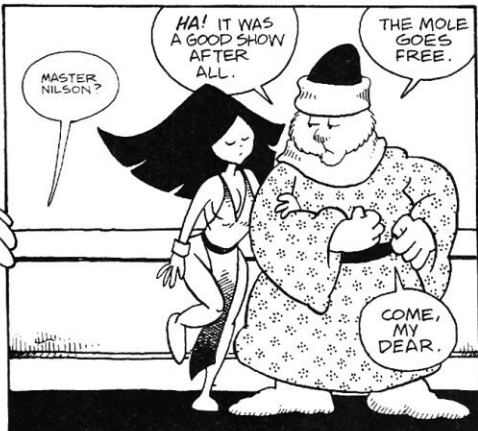


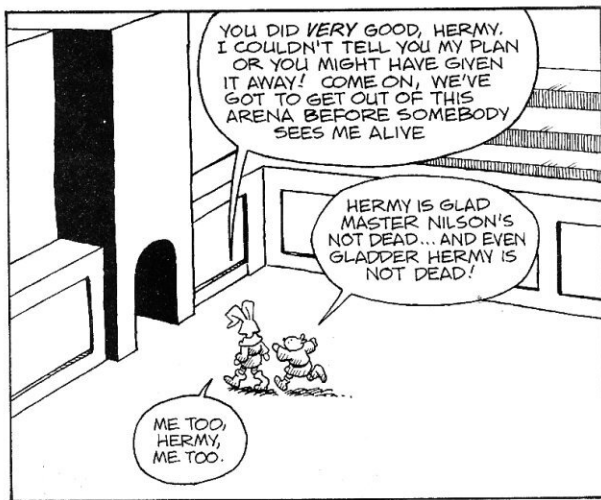






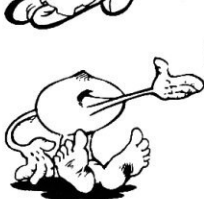






Welcome to the Fantagraphics

MENAGERIE



ADVENTURES OF CAPT. JACK

Adventures of Captain Jack #3: Part 2 of "Sat. Night": Herman and Beezlebub visit the netherworld.

Adventures of Captain Jack #4: Maniacal astronauts and a batty back-up strip.

Adventures of Captain Jack #5: "Farmer Fred, I'm In Love With Your Daughter" Part 1: Arrival on Janet's planet. (This is the one that drove the distributors nuts around the country.)

Adventures of Captain Jack #6: Part 2: Herman and Janet decide to go away together.

Adventures of Captain Jack #7: Part 3: Beezlebub intrudes in Herman and Janet's relationship.

Adventures of Captain Jack #8: A daring escape, the Captain in drag, and more.

Adventures of Captain Jack #9: Pool hustling with Saturated Fats, and the conclusion of the storyline!

CRITTERS

Critters #4: *Gruff* and *Birthingright* continue, *Lionheart* premieres, and the first Ken Macklin cover painting!

Critters #5: *Birthingright* continues, the first *Gruff* novel concludes (with a cover), plus Stan Sakai's *Nilson Groundthumper*!

Critters #6: *Usagi Yojimbo* tale with cover, *Birthingright* concludes, and the first *Firecracker Jack* by Mark Armstrong!

Critters #8: Jack Bunny by cover artist Mark Armstrong, Templeton Kelly tribute, and *Lionheart* begins.

Critters #9: Halloween issue with Gnuff behind a mask, *Lionheart's* nightmare, and Dog Boy.

Critters #10: *Usagi Yojimbo* cover and story, plus the continuations of *Gnuff* and *Lionheart*.

Critters #11: Special Christmas issue, featuring the conclusions of *Usagi Yojimbo*, *Gnuff*, and *Lionheart*, plus work by Mike Kazaleh, J. Holland and Ron Wilber, Mark Armstrong, Ty Templeton, Sam Kieth, Steve Lafler, and Ken Macklin. 68 pages!

Critters #12: *Birthingright* returns, with a cover by Gallacci, plus Reed Waller and Kate Worley, and Sam Kieth!

Critters #13: *Gnuff* cover and 16-page chapter, plus *Birthingright*, *Surfin' Neanderthals* by Mark Armstrong.

Critters #14: *Usagi Yojimbo* story and cover, plus *Birthingright* and *Gnuff* continue.

Critters #15: *The Blue Beagle* and *Fission Chicken* both debut, and *Birthingright* races on!

Critters #16: The conclusion to *Gnuff*, another *Nelson Groundthumper*, and *Birthingright* reaches a climax.

Critters #17: *Lionheart* returns in a two-part Canadian adventure, plus the conclusion of *Birthingright*.

Critters #18: *Leggo Lamb* by Jim Engel premieres. Also, the conclusion to *Lionheart*, and *Blue Beagle*.

Critters #19: *Gnuff* returns in a tale of nature gone wild, plus *Sam* and *Max*, *Freelance Police*, *Dragons*, and *Fission Chicken*.

Critters #20: *Speakingstone* by Waller and Worley returns, plus *Gnuff* and *Fission Chicken*.

Critters #21: *More Gnuff*, *Speakingstone*, *Fission Chicken*—32 pages worth—plus a Sam Kieth cover!

Critters Special #1—Nelson Groundthumper and Hermy: Both the *Albedo* stories, plus a new 10-page strip!

DOG BOY

Dog Boy #1: Journey off into surreal experiences with "Werewolf Bikers" and more!

Dog Boy #2: Sir Isaac Newton guest stars as reality unravels.

Dog Boy #3: Dog Boy shows how to publish your own comic book.

Dog Boy #4: Dog Boy goes to Hell, plus Dog Girl invades the White House. Guest starring Reagan!

Dog Boy #5: An experiment misfires, and Dog Boy and Benb combine to form... Dog! Oh no!

Dog Boy #6: "Drinkin' Man's Blues," with a striking painted cover.

Dog Boy #7: He be Doog Boog. Jazzy issue exploring Dog Boy's multiple personalities!

Dog Boy #8: Alfred Koot starts a new newspaper, Dog Girl goes graffiti-crazy, and more!

HUGO

Hugo #1: Milton (*Midnite*) Knight's feline "Meets the Baron."

Hugo #2: Hugo becomes a cartoonist and gets into deep trouble.

Hugo #3: Hugo is abducted by mermaids and fights sharks.

MYRON MOOSE

Myron Moose Funnies #1: Lots of goofy snot jokes, plus parodies of Dr. Seuss' and Uncle Wiggly books.

Myron Moose Funnies #2: Parodies of Batman, Mickey Mouse, The Spirit, and lots more.

Myron Moose Funnies #3: "Comic Book Fans," and more silly snot.

USAGI YOJIMBO

Usagi Yojimbo #1 (2nd printing): Usagi journeys tells how he became a samurai. Plus: Dennis Fujitake!

Usagi Yojimbo #2: Usagi goes into training and has his first duel. Plus: A new strip by Dave Thorne.

Usagi Yojimbo #3: The continuation of "Samurai," and a "Croakers" strip by Don Dougherty.

Usagi Yojimbo #4: The conclusion to Usagi's origin, and the first half of a penguin strip by Gary Kato.

Usagi Yojimbo #5: A one-issue tale of silk, treachery, and greed, and the end of the penguin tale by Kato.

Usagi Yojimbo #6: Usagi battles a water elemental, plus "Digger Duckbill" by Shaw and Evancier.

BOOKS, MAGAZINES, AND OTHER STUFF

Usagi Yojimbo Book One: Every *Usagi Yojimbo* story before *Usagi #1* collected in one handy 160-page volume, with a new Stan Sakai cover.

Amazing Heroes #9: Behind the scenes of DC's *Captain Carrot* comic with Scott Shaw! and Roy Thomas.

Amazing Heroes #42: Funny-animal issue with Joshua Quagmire cover and interview. Plus: Arn Saba on Neil the Horse and Dave Sim on Cerebus!

Amazing Heroes #111: Ty Templeton (of *Critters*) interviewed. It's funny.

Amazing Heroes #129: Interviews with Steven A. Gallacci and Freddy Milton, "Why I Draw Funny Animals" by various, plus more!

The Comics Journal #73: Carl Barks featured, with long retrospective.

The Comics Journal #82-83: Mammoth interview with Dave (*Cerebus the Aardvark*) Sim.

The Comics Journal #99: Long interview with Arn (Neil the Horse) Saba.

Anything Goes! #3: Featuring a full-color Captain Jack story by Mike Kazaleh, *Cerebus* vignette by Dave Sim, and *Cerebus* cover by Neal Adams.

Anything Goes! #6: Cover painting by Stan Sakai of *Usagi Yojimbo*, worth the cover price.

NEMO #21: 28 pages of Jack Kent's classic *King Aroo* strip—a treat for classic funny-animal lovers!

PLEASE SEND ME THE FOLLOWING BACK ISSUES.

All are \$2.25 apiece unless otherwise indicated.

Capt. Jack: ☐ #3 ☐ #4 ☐ #5 ☐ #6 ☐ #7 ☐ #8 ☐ #9

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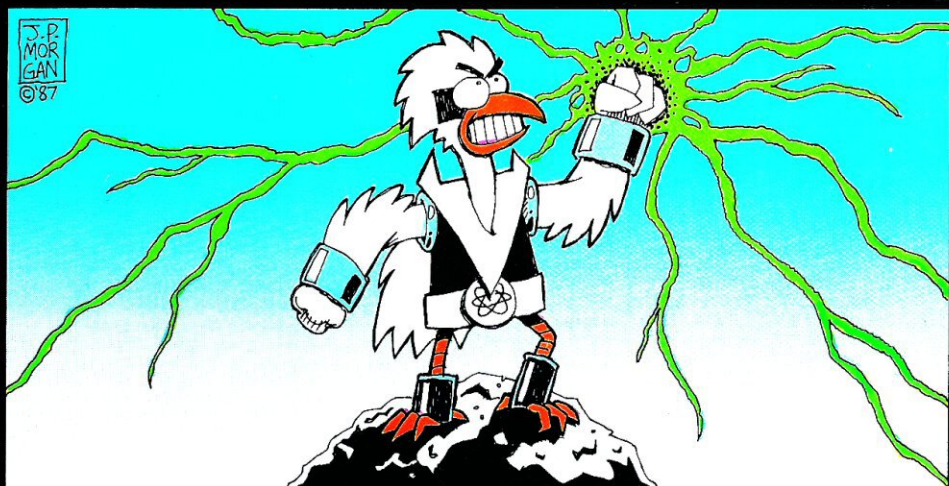
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