

No. 4

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# Critters



FANTAGRAPHICS BOOKS

# Critters

No. 4 Sept., 1986

## OLD FACES, NEW FACES

Fourth Issue Editorial by KIM THOMPSON

Another long editorial chat this time, edging out the letters column, but take heart—it'll be the last one in a while.

Regular readers may be surprised to notice that both our lead feature and our cover this issue are by **Critters** newcomers. I hope your surprise gives way to delight as you first feast your eyes on **KEN MACKLIN's** lovely painting, then read **TOM (Spaced) STAZER's** terrific "Zany But Deadly." I know that I was delighted when I got in each of the two pieces—they far exceeded my expectations when I commissioned them. It seems that the **Critters** trend of calling forth creators' best work continued unabated.

Letters have been coming in at a rapid clip to the **Critters** offices, and one of the main recurring themes has been the hope for a reconciliation between the irascible **JOSHUA QUAGMIRE** and yrs. trfy. in order to see the return of **Cutey Bunny** in **Critters**.

Well, it's not too likely at this stage... but consider this: Josh's own book, **Army Surplus**, has taken off like nobody's business, while **Critters** is sailing along beautifully without Josh. If he were still contributing to **Critters**, all it would mean is that (a) Josh would get out one or two fewer issues of **Cutey Bunny** a year and (b) **Critters** would have much less room to present new series. This would be a triple loss—to Josh, because his own book would be cut down to something like

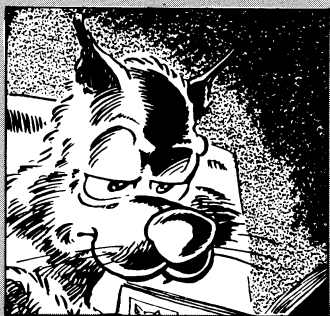
twice a year (and a low frequency like that is highly damaging in today's market); to the readers, who would be deprived of new series like Tom Stazer's "Lionheart" (which was, in fact, originally commissioned to fill a hole left in the schedule by Josh's abrupt departure); and to the many talented creators waiting in the wings.

One of the long-term ideas I've been toying with is spinning **Critters'** more successful series into their own titles (or a second title), thereby opening a slot for another talented newcomer. Of course, that doesn't mean I plan to "steal" all **Critters'** successes out of the book as they happen. For one thing, several of the artists just can't produce enough work to sustain a regular books. **STAN SAKAI**, for instance, to whom I would gladly give his own book at a moment's notice, can only produce about 10 pages every other month—so **Critters** will be his home for the foreseeable future (aside from special projects like the **Usagi Yojimbo Summer Special**, which is 3/5 reprint, anyway). At any rate, I have no intention of undercutting **Critters** by treating it like a launching pad for new series. My ideal rhythm, actually, would be to introduce a new series or creator every couple of issues, with the remainder of the book occupied by familiar faces.

A matter of some import before we move on. I'm sure most of you have followed the

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### Page 1

**LIONHEART** in:  
"Zany But Deadly"  
by **TOM STAZER**

He used to be the biggest star of the silver screen. But now he was just the flattest, and the widest too...

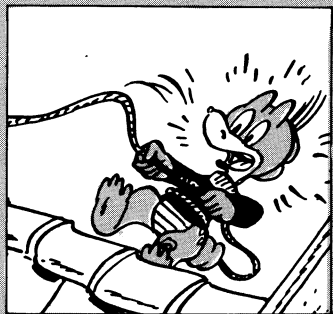


### Page 11

**BIRTHRIGHT**  
"Chapter Four"

by **STEVEN A. GALLACCI**

Prince Alton makes his move against the Tosiu, and his friends get into trouble as the revolution heats up.



### Page 19

**GNUFF** in:  
"Political Animals"  
by **FREDDY MILTON**

Gnellie can't sleep, and it's the super's fault—as per usual. And we meet Mr. Siegel, the Gnuffs' landlord.

**CRITTERS** #4, September, 1986. **Critters** is published monthly by Fantagraphics Books, Inc., and is copyright © 1986 Fantagraphics Books, Inc. All characters, stories, and art © 1986 their respective creators: Steven A. Gallacci, Ken Macklin, Freddy Milton, Tom Stazer. No portion of this magazine may be reproduced without permission from Fantagraphics Books and the creators, except for journalistic purposes. No similarity between the any of the names, characters, persons, and institutions in **Critters** and those of any living or dead persons is intended, and any such similarity that may exist is purely coincidental. Letters to **Critters** become the property of the magazine and are assumed intended for publication in whole or in part, and may therefore be used for those purposes. First printing: May, 1986. Available directly from the publisher for \$2.00 + 50¢ postage and handling: Fantagraphics Books, 4359 Cornell Road, Agoura, CA 91301.

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# ZANY BUT DEADLY!

IT'S STRANGE ... EVEN IN DEATH HE  
MAKES ME LAUGH.

I COULD REMEMBER A TIME WHEN DIZZY  
DOG WAS THE BIGGEST STAR IN COMEDY  
FILMS... NOW HE WAS JUST THE WIDEST.  
AN AIR CONDITIONING REPAIRMAN  
FOUND THE BODY A FEW HOURS AGO, HERE  
ON THE ROOF. IT DIDN'T LOOK LIKE AN  
ACCIDENT AND IT SURE WASN'T SUICIDE.

STORY & ART by  
TOM STAZER

ANY COMMENT  
FOR THE PRESS,  
SERGEANT NYAR6?

OH, HELLO LIONHEART.  
NOT MUCH TO GO ON  
YET. WE'RE TALKING  
TO THE GUARD DOG  
BUT HE SAYS NO ONE  
HAS BEEN UP HERE  
ALL WEEKEND.



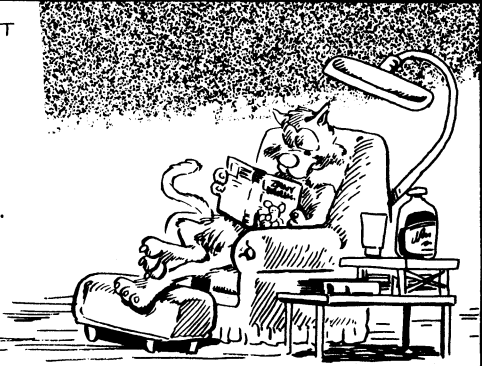
STUPID DOG. I  
MEAN, YOU DON'T  
JUST STEAMROLL  
OVER SOMEBODY  
ON THE ROOF OF  
A 12- STORY  
BUILDING AND  
DRIVE DOWN  
THE SIDE!

YEAH, HE WAS  
OBVIOUSLY KILLED  
ELSEWHERE AND  
DROPPED HERE.  
BUT, THIS IS THE  
SORT OF THING THAT  
MAKES MY JOB  
INTERESTING.



PLOTTING ASSIST:  
JOHN WILLIAMS / ANTHONY SMITH

THERE WAS DEFINITELY A STORY HERE. THAT NIGHT, AT HOME, I DUG UP MY COPY OF **ZANY BABYLON**, DIZZY'S NO-HOLDS-BARRED ACCOUNT OF HIS DAYS AT **WACKY STUDIOS**. THERE ARE SOME AWFUL GRITTY STORIES BETWEEN THESE COVERS: THE **CHIRPY** AND **KITTIKAT** MURDER/SUICIDE; **TEX THE WOLF'S** RAPE TRIAL; **SWIFTY GOMEZ'S** ADDICTION TO **SPEED**. THE BOOK LOST DIZZY A LOT OF FRIENDS, AND MADE HIM SOME ENEMIES. IT ALSO MADE HIM A PILE OF DOUGH... IT WAS THE KIND OF **SORRID TRASH** THAT SELLS MILLIONS OF COPIES; AND DIZZY'S **BIZARRE DEATH** MADE THE PERFECT ADDENDUM. BUT **ZANY BABYLON** WAS PUBLISHED YEARS AGO. IT COULDN'T BE THE MOTIVE FOR MURDER.



I NEEDED A BETTER FOCUS FOR MY ARTICLE... A LOOK AT DIZZY'S PRIVATE SIDE. FIND OUT WHAT THE REAL **DOG** WAS LIKE... INTERVIEW HIS FRIENDS. I DECIDED TO START WITH DIZZY'S CO-STAR AND ONE-TIME BEST FRIEND **QUACKY THE DUCK**... BECAUSE I KNEW WHERE TO FIND HIM.



AFTER THE DECLINE OF THE COMEDY SHORTS INDUSTRY, MOST OF THE ACTORS WERE LEFT JOBLESS. THOSE WHO DIDN'T GO INTO TV **COMMERCIALS** SETTLED INTO ORDINARY LIVES. **QUACKY THE DUCK** HAD OPENED A **NOSTALGIA SHOP** ON THE NORTH SIDE OF TOWN.



**QUACKY'S** EGO, TEMPER AND PARANOIA WERE LEGENDARY. BUT THOSE QUALITIES MAKE FOR TERRIFIC INTERVIEWS.



**QUACKY DUCK?** I'M FROM THE TIMES, AND I WAS WONDERING...

AH FER CRYIN' OUT LOUD, I JUST GOT RID OF THE COPS AN' NOW YOU WANNA WASTE MY TIME! WELL, I'M TRYING TO RUN A BUSINESS HERE, SO IF YOU WANNA TALK, YER GONNA HAFTA FOLLOW ME!



I GUESS YOU WANNA KNOW WHY DIZZY CAME TO SEE ME THE NIGHT HE WAS OFFED. I GOT NUTHIN' TA HIDE... THE DIRTY DOG CAME HERE TO **ANTAGONIZE ME** AS USUAL. HE'D BEEN DRINKING HEAVILY... SINCE HE WAS BORN. HE WANTED TO **RUB HIS GOOD FORTUNE** IN MY FACE!





THE CONNIVING CUR HAD JUST CLOSED A TWO MILLION DOLLAR CONTRACT FOR THE SYNDICATION RIGHTS TO HIS OLD WACKYTUNES.

TWO MILLION SMACKEROOS! BROTHER, WHAT A LUCKY DOG!

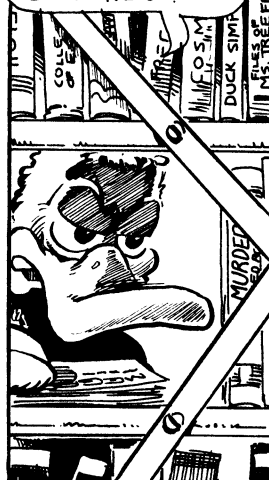


BUT DO YOU THINK I GET ANY ROYALTIES FOR MY APPEARANCES?/ OH, NO! IT'S THE SHORT END OF THE STICK FOR OL' QUACKY AGAIN!

REMEMBER "SHOOT THE DUCK"? "G-MAN QUACKY"... AND "DUCK AWAY!" DUCK AWAY IS THE BEST DAMN FILM EVER TO COME OUT OF WACKY STUDIOS!



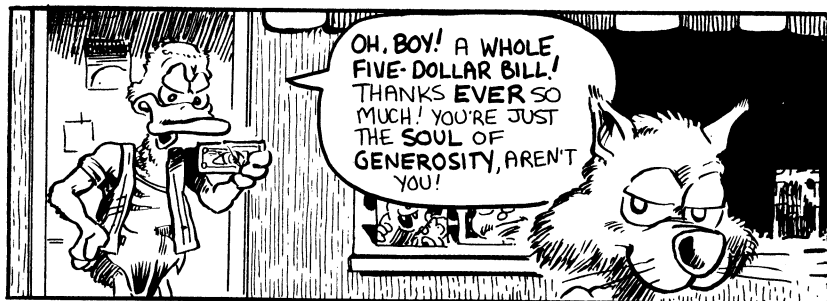
I'M TELLIN' YA, IT'S A CRIME THE WAY DIZZY AND HIS PIG PAL HAVE SWINDLED ME OUT OF MY DUES! PORKPIE GETS HIS PERCENTAGE NOW THAT HE OWNS THE STUDIO. THE HALF MILLION WOULD'VE SAVED HIS ASS FROM THE CREDITORS... DIZZY WAS ON HIS WAY THERE TO GIVE OLD FATBOY THE GOOD NEWS!



DID DIZZY SAY WHERE ELSE HE WAS HEADED?

NAH, BUT I THINK THAT HE SPENT THE EARLIER PART OF THE EVENING AT ERHARDT BLOWHARD'S BAR.

THANKS QUACKY. HERE, FOR YOUR TIME.



OH, BOY! A WHOLE FIVE-DOLLAR BILL! THANKS EVER SO MUCH! YOU'RE JUST THE SOUL OF GENEROSITY, AREN'T YOU!

MY CURIOSITY WAS REALLY PIQUED NOW... I DECIDED TO HEAD FOR BLOWHARD'S PLACE, DOWNTOWN. WITH LUCK I MIGHT LOCATE SOME OF DIZZY'S DRINKING BUDDIES TO TALK TO. BESIDES, I FELT LIKE A DRINK.

THE GREAT OBNOXIOUS FOWL, ERHARDT BLOWHARD, IS ANOTHER RELIC OF THE WACKYTUNES ERA, AND HIS BAR ATTRACTS A VARIETY OF HAS-BEENS AND NEVER-WILL-BES. I LOCATED A FEW OF THE REGULARS AND ORDERED UP A ROUND OF DRINKS.

DANKE!... I SAY DANKE SHÖN!... I VILL HAFF YOUR DRINKS AT VONCE!

ANYWAY, DIZZY DIDN'T REALLY HAVE ANY CLOSE FRIENDS, HE JUST CAME BY OCCASIONALLY TO GET RIPPED AND TELL DIRTY JOKES.



HE KNEW GREAT DIRTY JOKES.

WELL, THAT NIGHT DIZZY WAS REALLY PUTTIN' ON A BUZZ... HE DISAPPEARED INTO THE HEAD A HALF-DOZEN TIMES. I THINK HE WAS OFF-BASING.

SERIOUS STUFF.



HEY, DIZZY WAS A  
SERIOUS PARTIER!

YEAH, HE WAS REALLY HAVING  
A GOOD TIME, UNTIL... HEH, HEH,  
UNTIL HIS OLD BUDDY  
SHOWED UP.

"OLD BUDDY"?

HIM. THE SKUNK.

MR. L'AROMA? I'M A  
REPORTER AND I WAS  
HOPING I COULD TALK  
TO YOU ABOUT DIZZY  
DOG... I'M WRITING  
AN ARTICLE, SORT  
OF A TRIBUTE.

DIZZY WAS THE  
MEANEST DOG WHO  
EVER LIVED! I'LL  
NEVER FORGIVE HIM.  
I'LL... NEVER  
FORGET HIM.

SO, YOU WANT A GOOD  
STORY, MR. REPORTER?  
I'VE GOT A STORY  
FOR YOU, ONE LITTLE  
PIECE OF HISTORY  
YOU WON'T FIND IN  
ZANY BABYLON.

LET ME  
TELL YOU  
HOW DIZZY  
DESTROYED  
CINEMA'S  
GREATEST  
LOVER!

...IT WAS THE SPRING OF  
'53. I HAD JUST ENDED  
MY FIVE-MONTH MARRIAGE  
TO THAT GREAT COW,  
CLARABELLE. I HAD  
BEGUN TO FEEL THAT I  
WOULD NEVER MEET  
THE WOMAN FOR ME.

THEN, ONE NIGHT, AS I SAT AT THE BAR,  
SHE WALKED INTO MY LIFE. I HAD NEVER  
SEEN SUCH A FASCINATING WOMAN.  
OUR EYES LOCKED... SHE WINKED AT  
ME... I WAS ALIVE AGAIN!

WE SPENT THE REST OF THE  
EVENING TALKING, LAUGHING,  
AND WALKING THROUGH THE  
PARK. THIS WAS THE LOVE  
I HAD ONLY DREAMT OF.  
THEN, AS MIDNIGHT CAME,  
I TOOK HER TO MY HOUSE.

SO, MY LEETLE  
MAMMAL, YOU  
WILL JOIN ME  
FOR ZEE  
NIGHTCAP?

HEEHEEHO  
HOOHOOHoo!  
YOU  
MAN  
YOU!

I DREW HER  
LITHE BODY TO  
ME AND GAVE  
HER THE MOST  
PASSIONATE  
KISS I COULD  
DELIVER!

SMORP!



...IS EXQUISITE... NO?



EH, ...MORE LIKE EXCREMENT, DOC!

NYUK NYUK NYUK



AH-HAHAHAHHA! YOU FELL FOR IT LIKE A TON A' BRICKS! WHAT A JOIK, WHAT AN IM-BEE-SLE, WHAT AN ULTRA MAROON!

HAHAHA HA



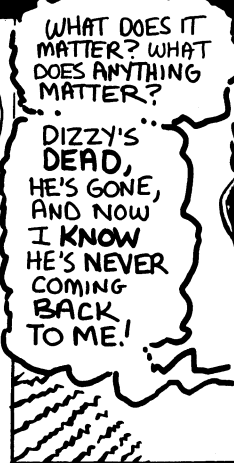
DIZZY LAUGHED HIMSELF DOWN THE STREET AND OUT OF MY LIFE. IF HE WOULD'VE PAUSED TO LOOK BACK, HE'D HAVE SEEN THE TEAR ROLLING DOWN MY CHEEK.

I HAD NEVER BEEN KISSED LIKE THAT BEFORE!

THEN, DIZZY BEGAN TO SPREAD VICIOUS RUMORS ABOUT MY MANHOOD. I COULDN'T GET A FEMALE CO-STAR FOR MY NEXT FILM... MY CAREER DIDN'T LAST LONG AFTER THAT...

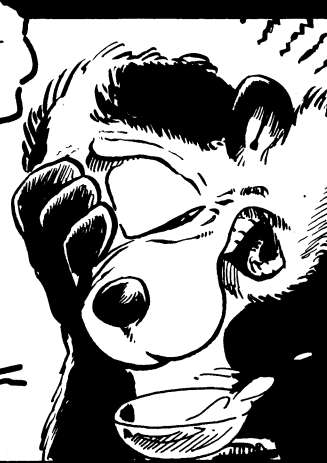


I'M SORRY... I DON'T HAVE TO PRINT THIS IF YOU DON'T REALLY WANT ME TO...



WHAT DOES IT MATTER? WHAT DOES ANYTHING MATTER?

DIZZY'S DEAD, HE'S GONE, AND NOW I KNOW HE'S NEVER COMING BACK TO ME!

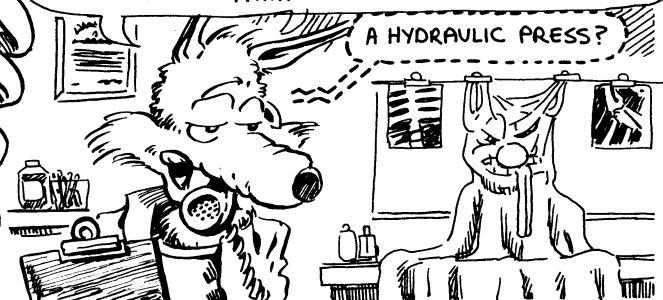


BEFORE LEAVING, I CHECKED IN WITH WILLY AT THE MORGUE. WILLY ALWAYS HAD THE INSIDE STORY ON CELEBRITY AUTOPSIES.



WHAT HAVE YOU GOT FOR ME, WILLY?

THIS DIZZY LED AN INTERESTING LIFE... ACCORDING TO HIS MEDICAL HISTORY, HE'S BEEN DROPPED SIX STORIES, RUN THROUGH A CANNING FACTORY, AND HIT BY MORE FALLING TREES THAN I'D HAVE THOUGHT POSSIBLE. AND YOU KNOW WHAT IT TOOK TO KILL HIM?



A HYDRAULIC PRESS?



...YEP... PRETTY GRISLY  
THIS DIZZY THING, PRETTY  
GRISLY. MAKE YOU SICK  
TO YOUR STOMACH, I  
MEAN SICK.

YES, I'M  
SURE.

I CAN STILL SEE  
HIM... THE BUGGED-  
OUT EYES, THE  
HORRIFIED GRIMACE.  
AND THEN THE RAIN  
HAD GOT TO HIM, SO  
HE WAS KIND OF  
WRINKLED UP...  
CURDLE YOUR BLOOD.

IT  
WOULD.

I UNDERSTAND  
THE BODY WAS  
DISFIGURED...  
KNIFE WOUNDS,  
CIGAR BURNS...  
DIZZY MIGHT'VE  
BEEN SEXUALLY  
ABUSED! KILLER  
MUST BE A REAL  
SICKO!

STOP IT! STOP!  
NONE OF THAT'S  
TRUE, NONE OF IT!  
BARKY WAS  
SHOT, AND  
THAT'S ALL!  
HE DIDN'T  
SUFFER!

YES, BUT HOW  
WOULD YOU  
KNOW THAT?

I... UH, READ  
THE P-PAPERS!

WE ONLY JUST FOUND OUT  
THAT DIZZY WAS SHOT. IT  
WASN'T IN THE PAPERS.  
LET'S NOT WASTE TIME  
HERE, PIG. WHAT REALLY  
HAPPENED?

OH, GOD, IT'S  
ALL FALLING  
APART... WHAT  
HAVE I DONE?  
I DIDN'T WANT  
TO KILL HIM,  
I DIDN'T PLAN  
IT! IT JUST...  
HAPPENED.  
HE WAS ONE  
OF MY FRIENDS.

DIZZY DID COME TO SEE ME SATURDAY NIGHT...  
HE WAS PRETTY STONED. HE FOUND ME OUT IN  
THE WAREHOUSE.

HEY PORKPIE, WHERE  
ARE YOU? IT'S YER  
OLD PAL DIZZY!

YOU IN HERE, PIG?

SSOO-OOEY!  
HAHA-HA!

...WONDER WHERE THAT  
PITIFUL PORKER HAS  
GOT OFF TO...

H-HELLO,  
DIZZY! WHAT  
BRINGS YOU  
HERE?

HEY, THERE Y'ARE,  
CHUBS! WATCHOO  
UPTOO...

OH, NOTHING.  
C'MON LET'S GET  
OUT OF HERE.



NAH, I KINDA LIKE IT HERE ... BRINGS BACK  
THE MEMORIES, YA KNOW... ≡ SNIFF ≡ ALL  
MY GREAT FLICKS ≡ SNIFF ≡ AND THE  
FANS. ≡ SNIFF- SNIFF ≡

GOSH, DIZZY  
ARE YOU CRYING?



≡ SNIFF ≡ ARE YOU KIDDING?  
NO, I SMELL GASOLINE.  
≡ SNIFF ≡ YOU SMELL  
LIKE GASOLINE, P.P.!

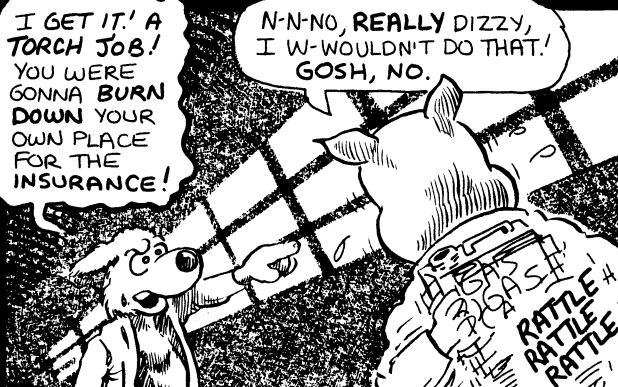
D-D-DON'T BE  
RIDICULOUS.  
YOU'RE HAVING A  
H-HALLUCINATION  
OR SOMETHING.

AND WHAT'S WITH THE STUTTERING,  
PORKPIE? YOU NEVER DID THAT  
BEFORE ... WHAT ARE YOU UP TO?



I GET IT! A  
TORCH JOB!  
YOU WERE  
GONNA BURN  
DOWN YOUR  
OWN PLACE  
FOR THE  
INSURANCE!

N-N-NO, REALLY DIZZY,  
I W-WOULDN'T DO THAT!  
GOSH, NO.



YOU CAN'T DO IT,  
PORKPIE, YOU  
CAN'T JUST  
INCINERATE  
MY LIFE! YOU  
UNDERSTAND?  
THE MEMORIES  
IN THIS PLACE  
BELONG TO ME!



REMEMBER THIS ANVIL?  
IT'S THE ONE I DROPPED  
ON QUACKY'S FOOT IN  
THE MAD MALLARD!

...AND HERE'S  
THE ROCKET  
HELMET FROM  
ZIP, ZOOM, BANG!

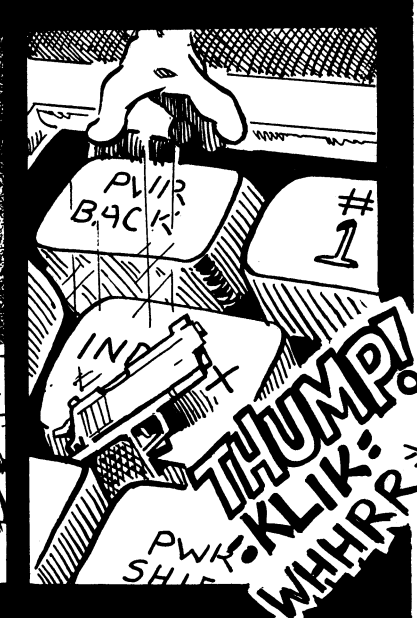
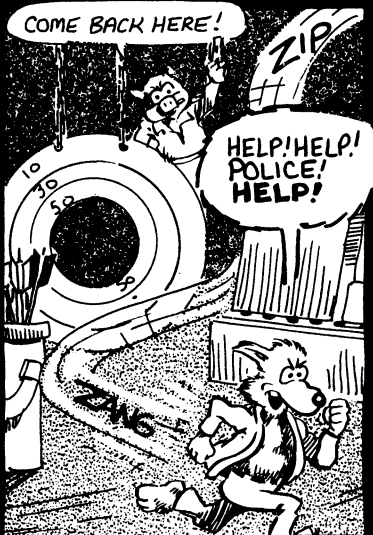
THAT WAS MY QUALITY  
TIME FATSTUFF. I WAS  
HAPPY, THEN... INSANELY  
HAPPY...

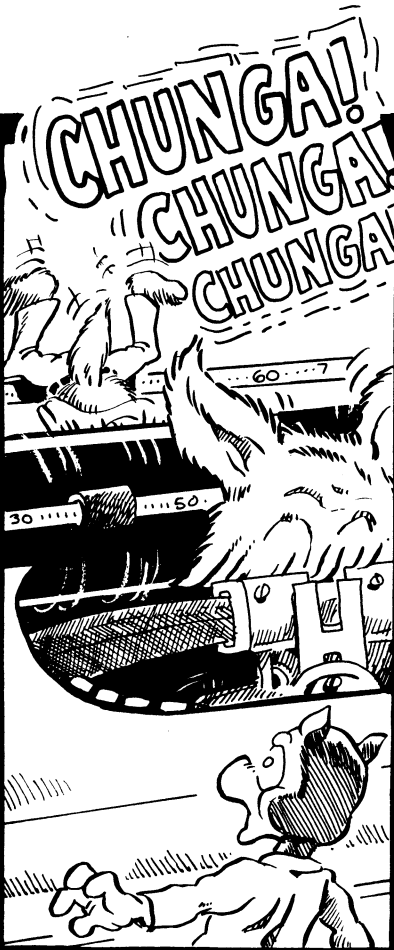
AND NOW?

YOU THINK  
YOU'RE GOING TO  
DESTROY IT?



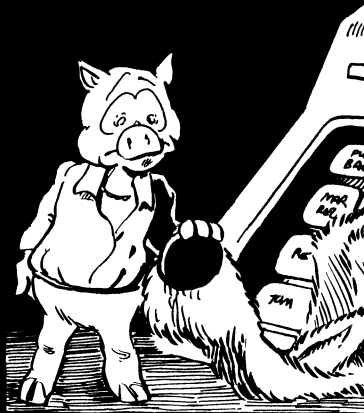




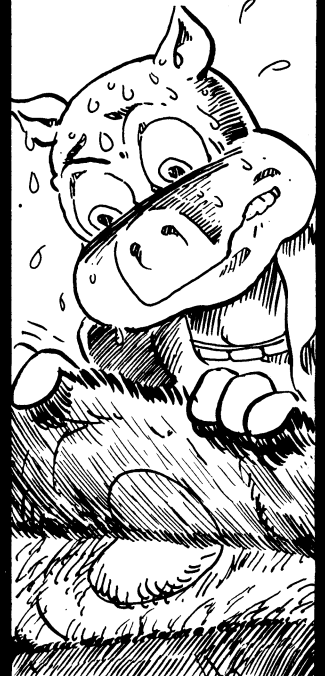


YOU MUST UNDERSTAND, I DIDN'T STOP TO THINK WHAT I WAS DOING ... I WAS IN SORT OF A **TRANCE**. I HAD JUST MURDERED MY OLDEST PAL ... AND I WAS STUCK WITH A **CORPSE** THE SIZE OF A **BUS**.

I HAD TO GET RID OF THE **BODY**, I LOOKED AROUND, AND THEN IT **HIT ME**. I COULD DROP **DIZZY MILES** AWAY WITHOUT **EVER** LEAVING THE **WAREHOUSE**.

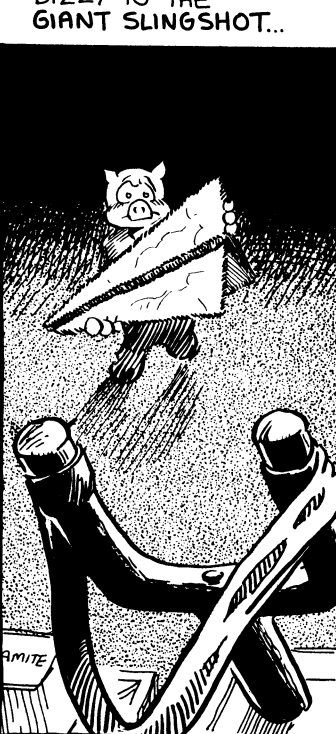


... IT WAS THE MOST **MACABRE** THING I HAD **EVER** DONE...



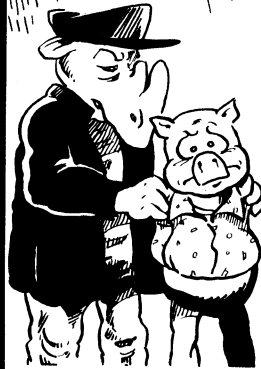
AND WHEN I HAD FINISHED MY **GHASTLY** TASK, I CARRIED **DIZZY** TO THE **GIANT SLINGSHOT**...

...AND SAID **GOOD-BYE** TO MY FRIEND FOR THE LAST TIME.



COME ON, **PORKPIE**. LET'S TAKE A LITTLE TRIP **DOWNTOWN**.

**STOP THE PRESSES**, **ARTIE**, I'VE GOT A **HELL OF AN EXCLUSIVE**...

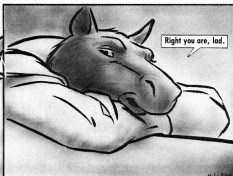


I PHONED IN MY STORY, A **BLACK COMEDY** AS **BIZARRE** AS ANY OF **DIZZY'S** SCREEN ESCAPADES. SOMEHOW, THOUGH, HIS STRANGE DEATH SEEMED **ODDLY FITTING**... **DIZZY** HAD **LIVED**... AND **DIED**... **BIGGER** THAN **LIFE**.

**The End**

The country of Shantos has suffered occupation by self-proclaimed Tosiu "peacekeeping" forces now for ten years. In that time, the economy has been plundered and the population suffers endless petty abuses. Various factions are now preparing to attempt to oust the Tosiu.

## BIRTHRIGHT

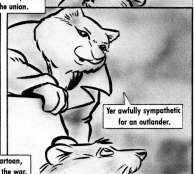




There are quite a few of us who still remember.



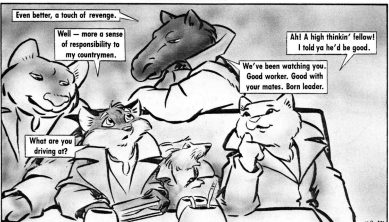
Yer a smart one, eh?



We're members of the "special" department of the union.

Yer awfully sympathetic for an outlander.

I'm really a Shartoon, orphaned during the war.



Even better, a touch of revenge.

Well — more a sense of responsibility to my countrymen.

Ah! A high thinkin' fellow! I told ya he'd be good.

We've been watching you. Good worker. Good with your mates. Born leader.

What are you driving at?

You've had a good look at that book, haven't you? The Iosiu thought it would illustrate the futility of revolution.



They didn't seem to pay attention to the descriptions of pre-invasion life.

And didn't think we'd see through the weak propaganda lines.

A lot of people are reading it.



And they're going to want to make changes. You can be a part of it. ?

Sure.



Ah, Ms. Shodi, how has your day been?



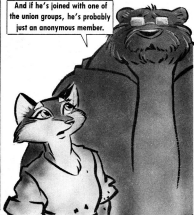
Oh, asite from vatching chiltren an' tozen assault rifles refurbished, nothing much.

No vert yet on Alfion?

No.

But in this case, no news is good news. If he was picked up — we'd hear about it immediately.

And if he's joined with one of the union groups, he's probably just an anonymous member.



Can't we get one of the old ministers?

Come on now, who else has the public recognition?

Money? Since when did that take precedent over proven leadership?

He couldn't lead a dance.

And why should I give up my control of the district?



If I can't get a seat, you can kiss the plumbers good-bye.


Now wait a minute! Isn't what we need the image of a single leader? All the real decisions are still going to be made by the committee? Right?

So we need a name that will bring the people out as much for the movement as any personal appeal.



Someone with ties to pre-Tasiu Shartoa and who would encourage national pride.






So, imagine this, one of Kashoka's family comes back from exile to help rid the homeland of the occupation forces.




The exact text can be worked out to best effect.

He makes no claim for the crown, he only wants freedom for the people.

Uh-huh. And where are we going to get this?



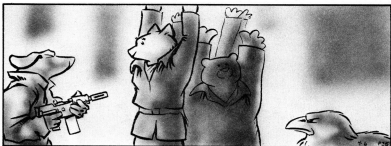
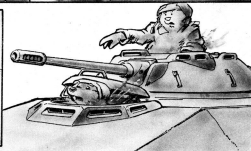
Well, many of you know I was orphaned during the war.



None know my real name, Alfon Kashoka, son of Prince Anton of Shartoa!



Got 'em perfect.





It's Alfon!



Tuvan, Alfon is here!  
An' he goes to fight!

Huh! So it seems!



Come, we can't be  
caught on the street.



Hey! You! Yes! You!



47136





# Freddy Milton's Familien Gnuff

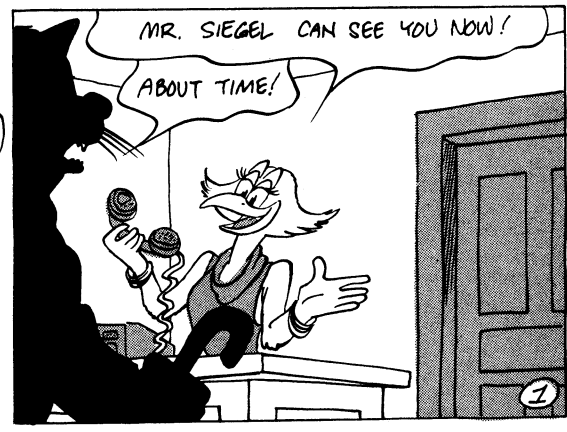
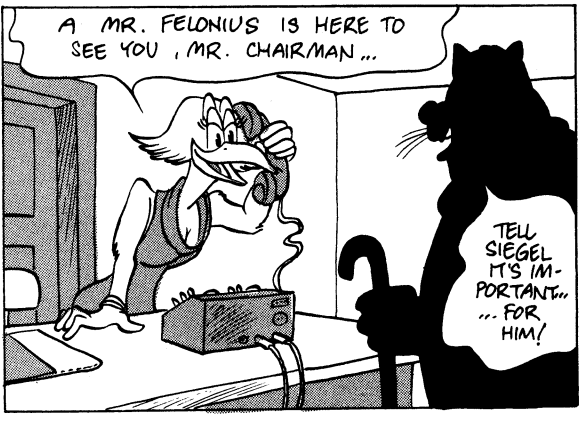
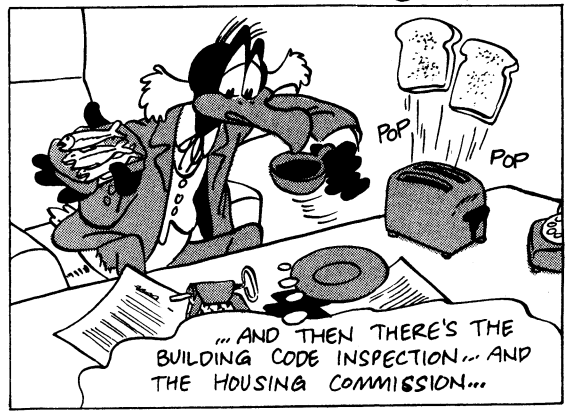
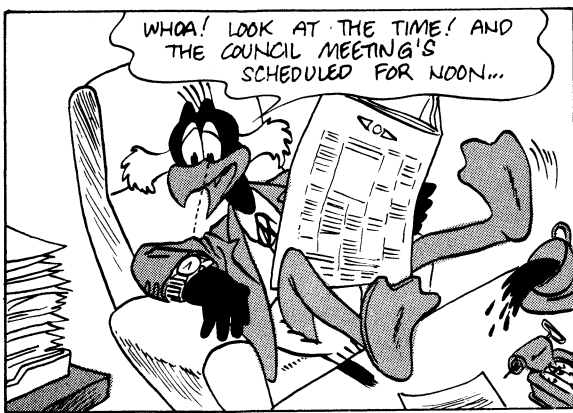
## "POLITICAL ANIMALS"

THE GNUFFS HAVE MOVED INTO A HOUSE OWNED BY CITY COUNCIL CHAIRMAN SIEGEL...

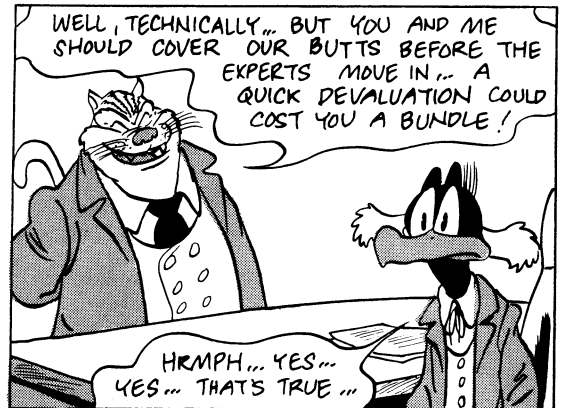
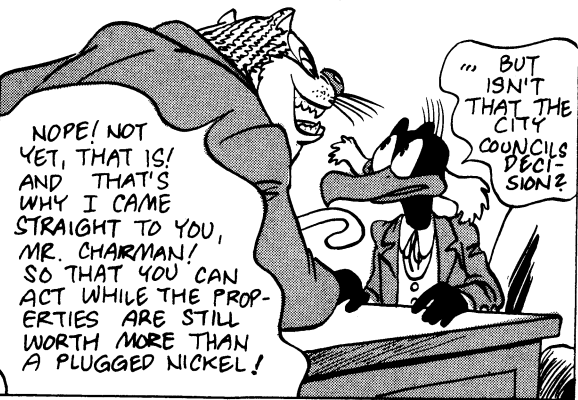
AHA! LOOKS LIKE YESTERDAY'S SPEECH WENT OVER WELL...

DESERVEDLY SO, I MUST SAY...

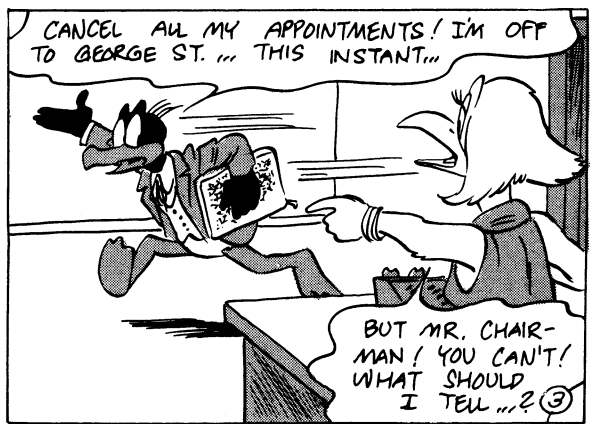
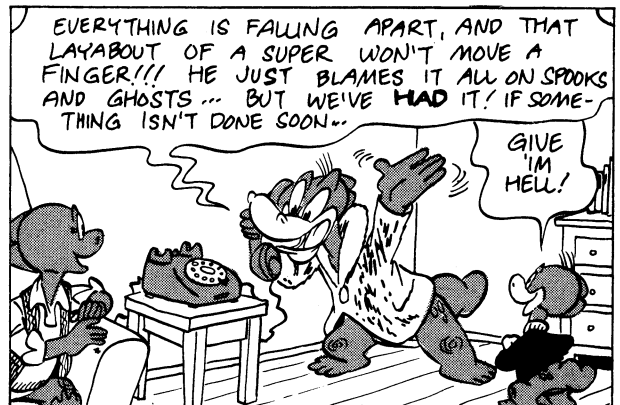
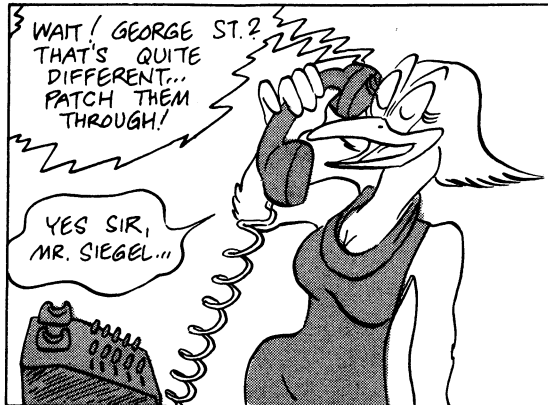
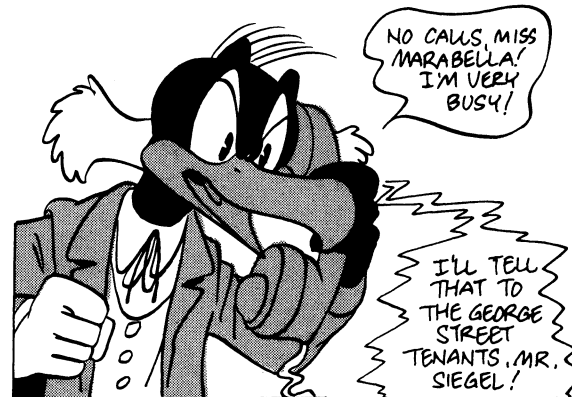
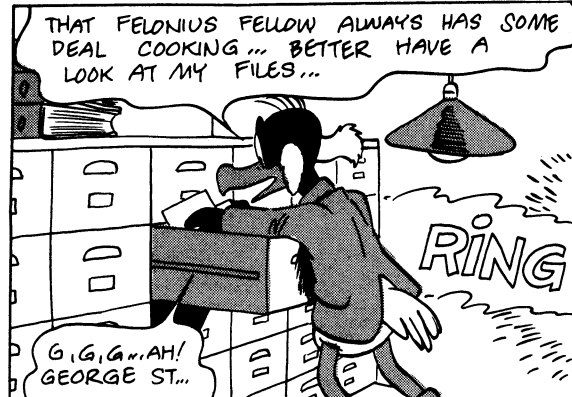
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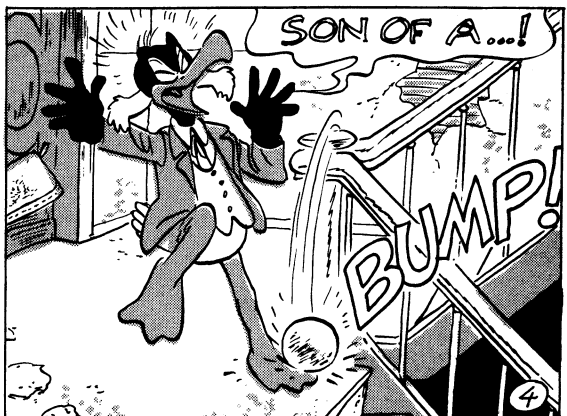
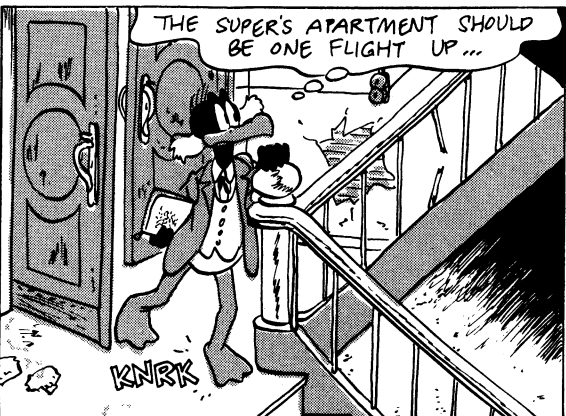
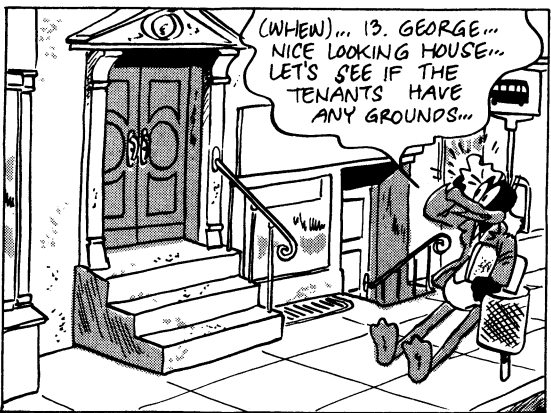
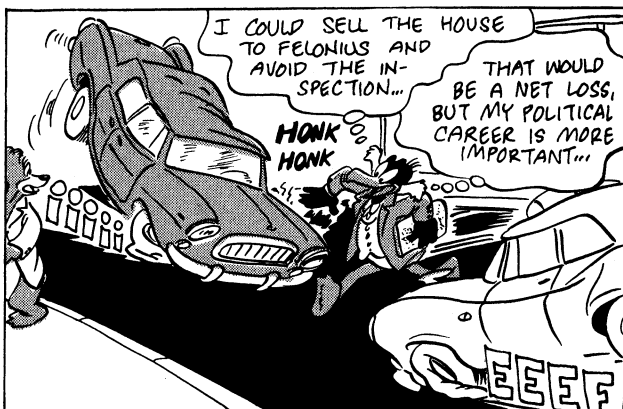
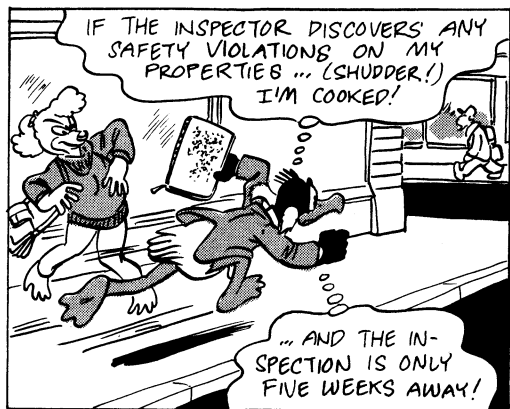
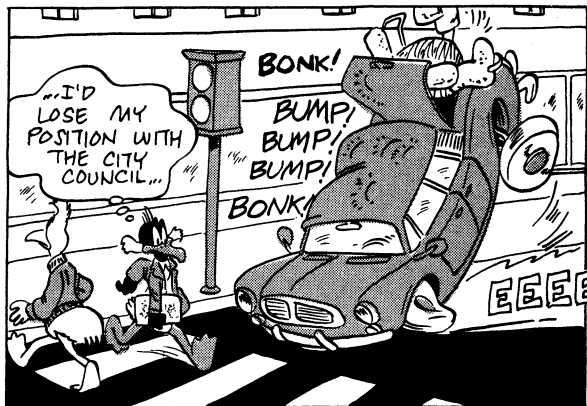
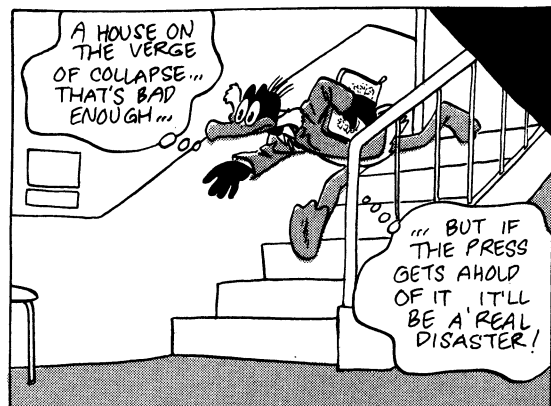


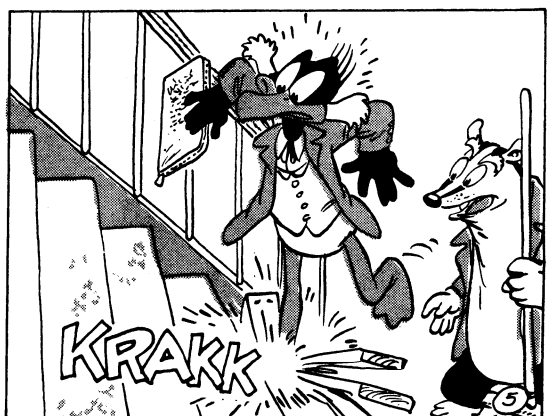
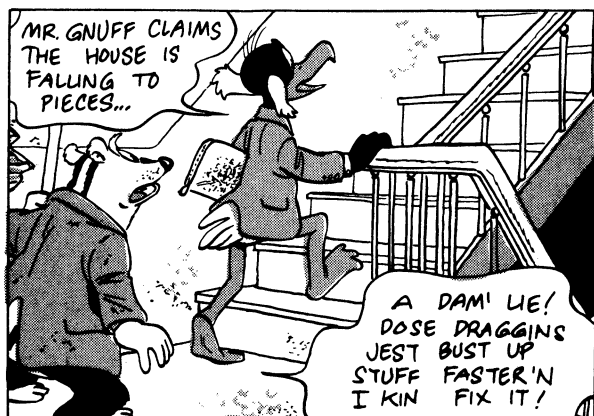
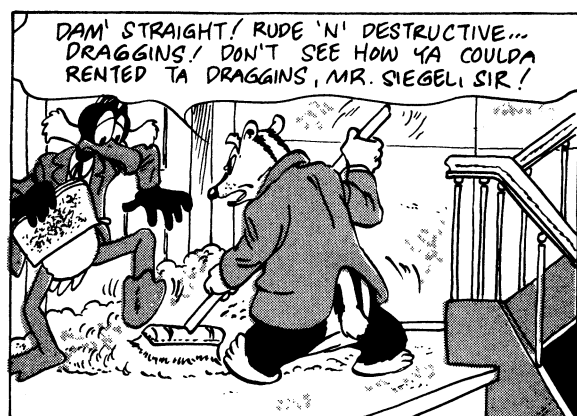
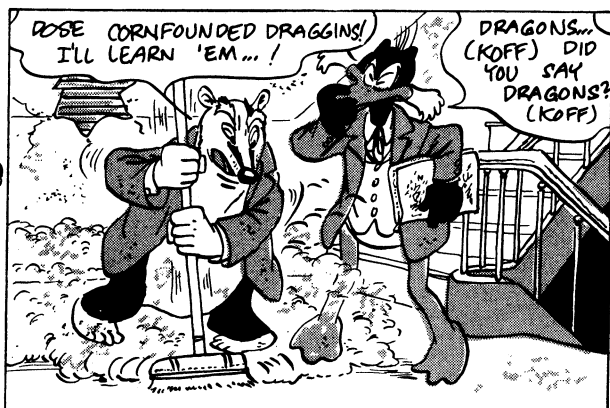
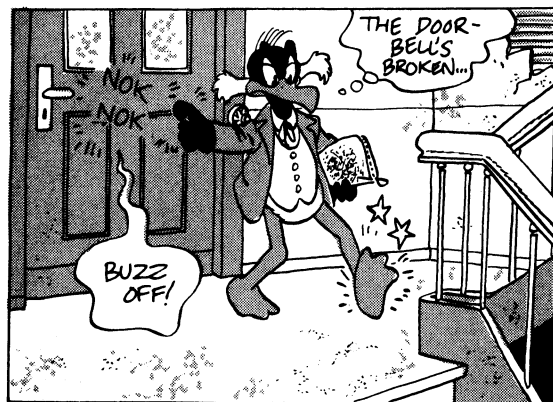
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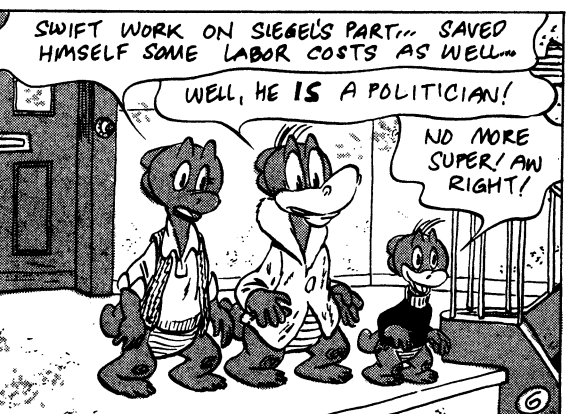
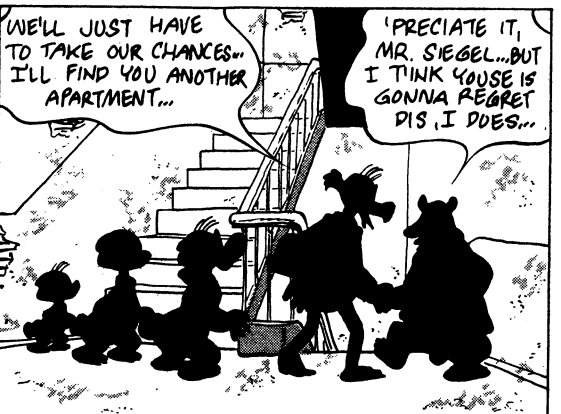
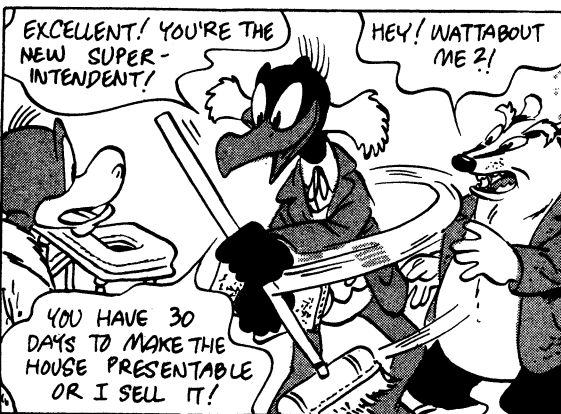
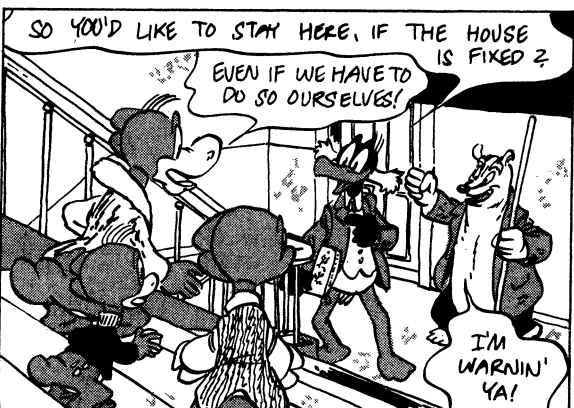
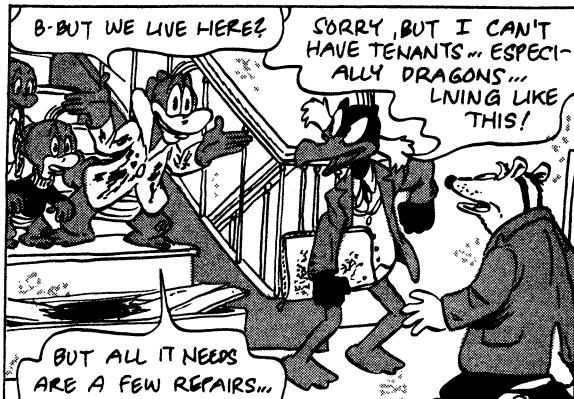
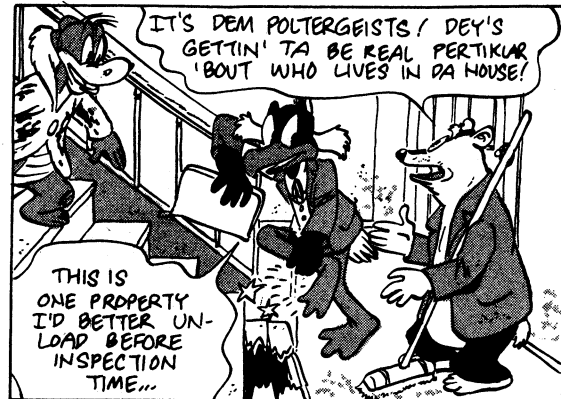


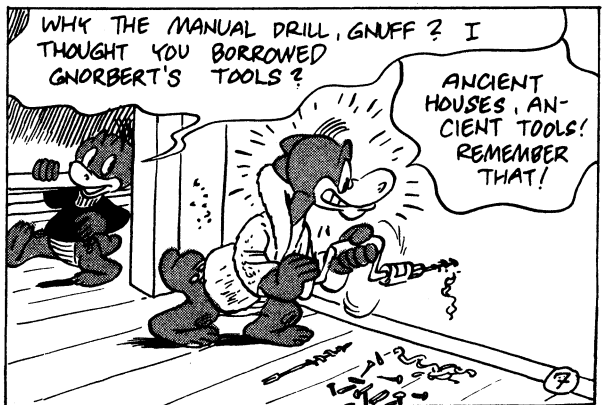
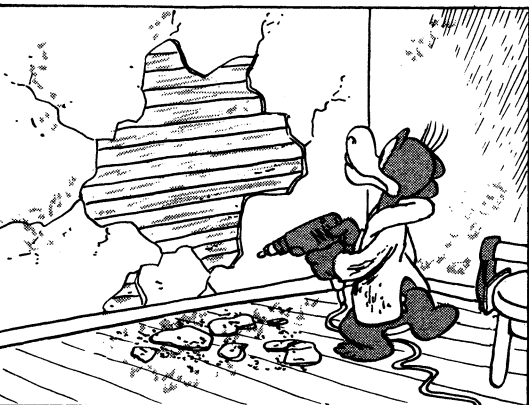
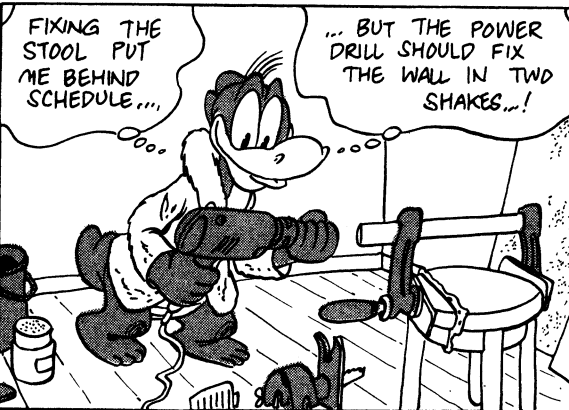
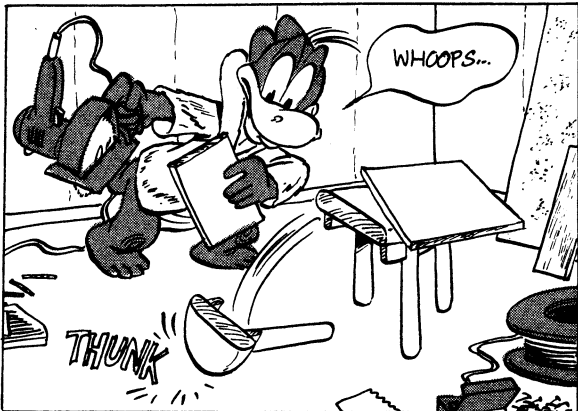
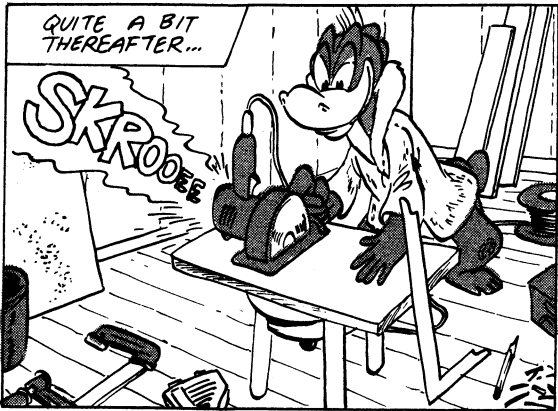
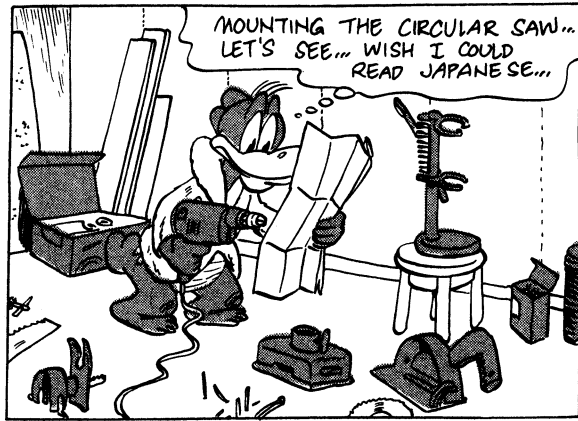
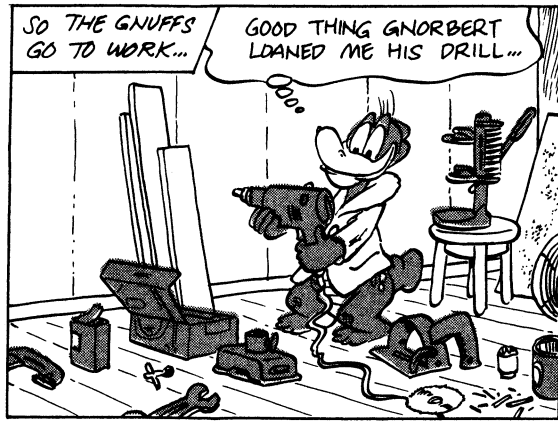




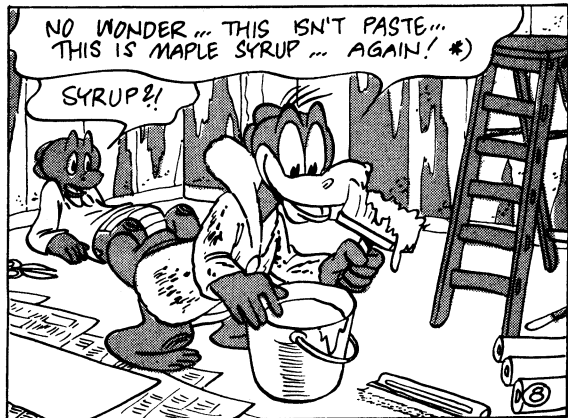
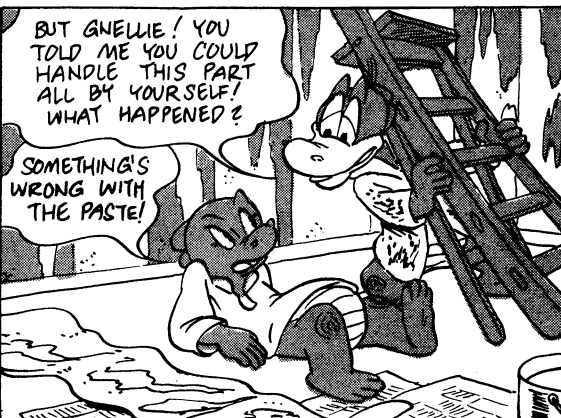
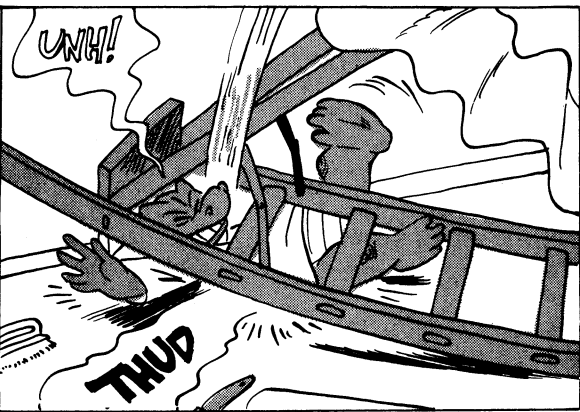






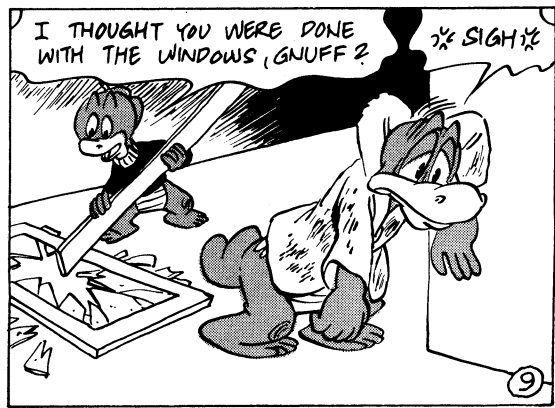
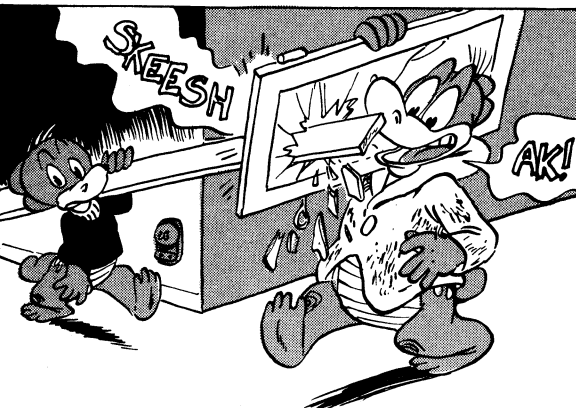
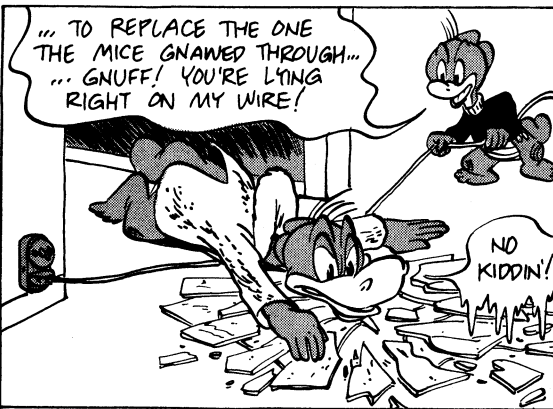
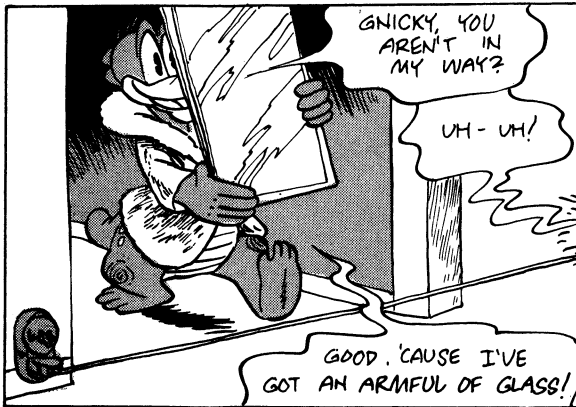
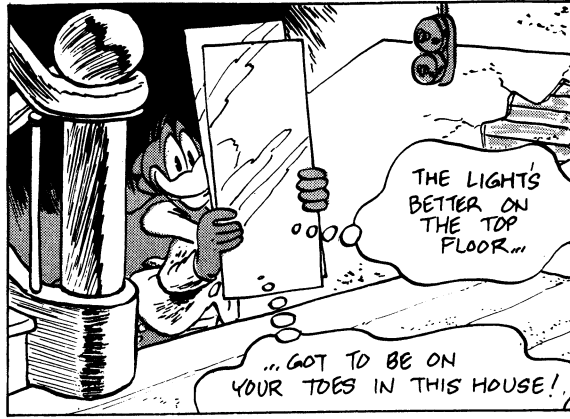
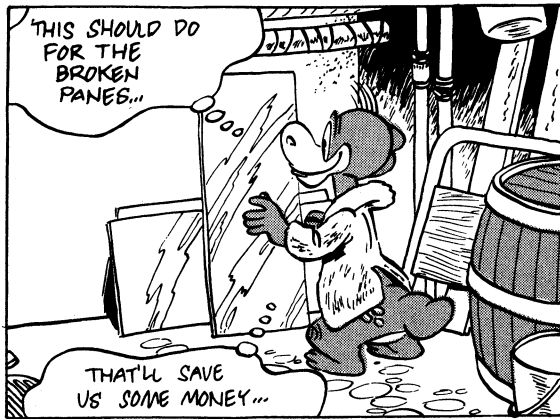


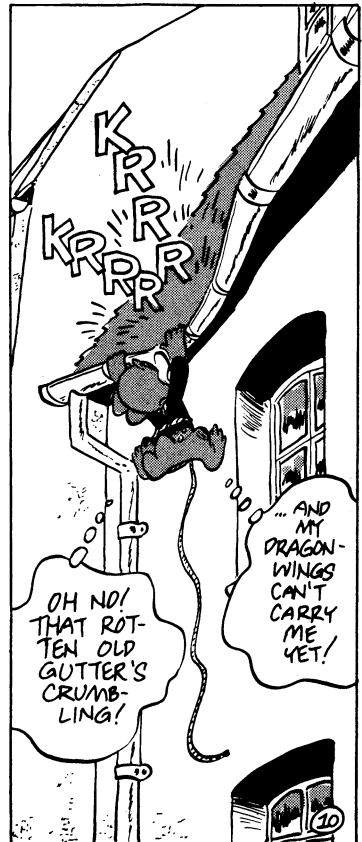
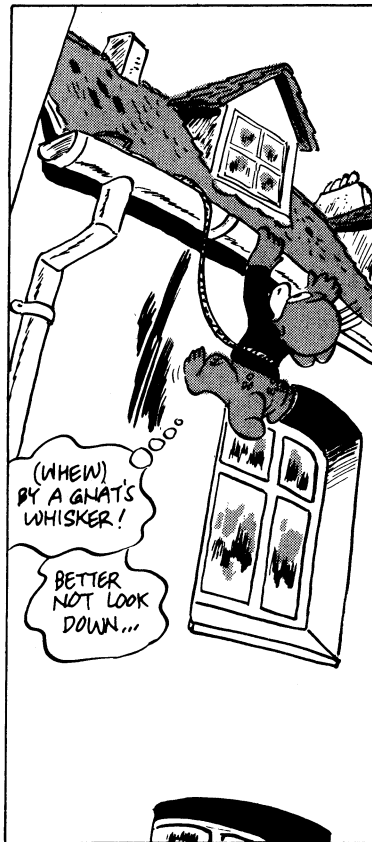
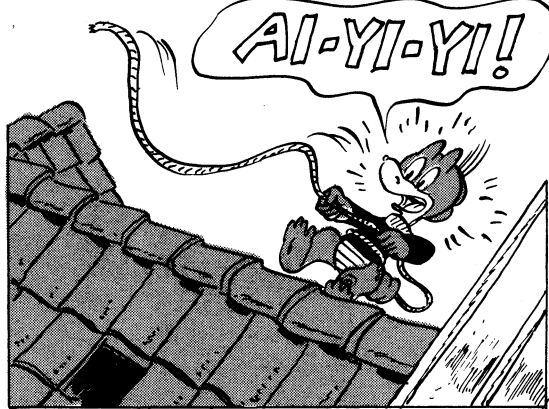
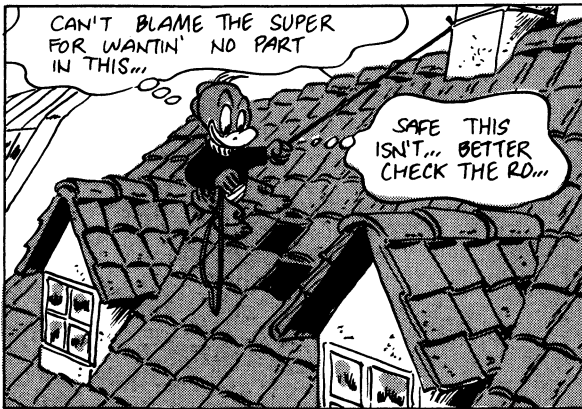
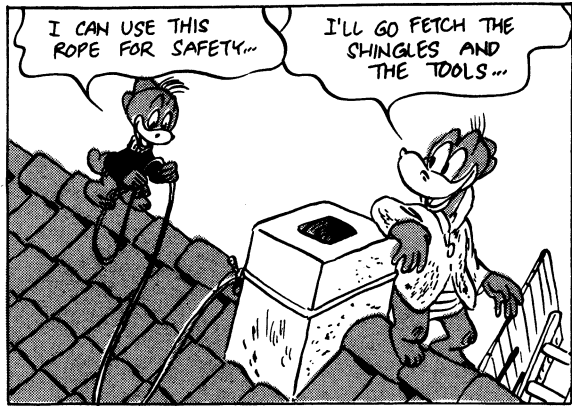
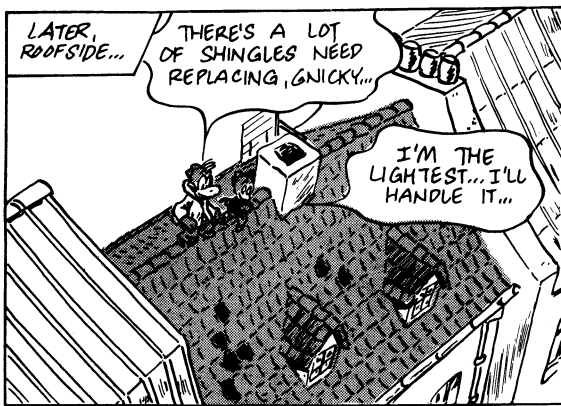


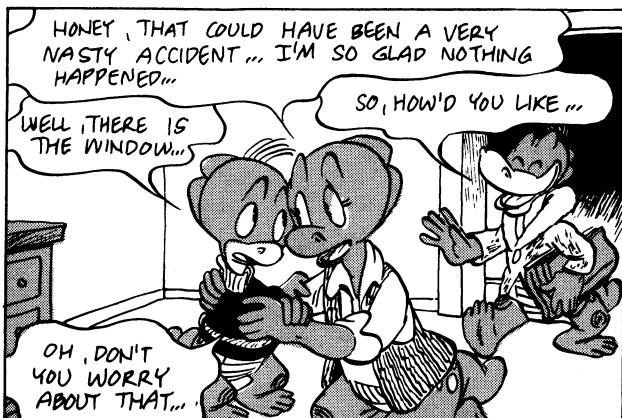
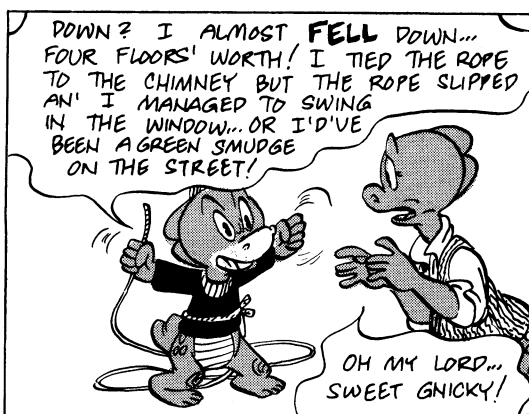
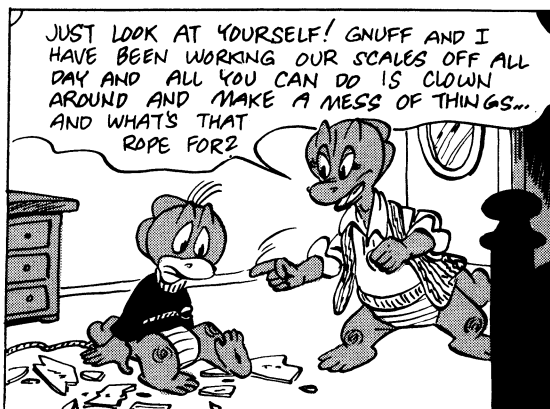
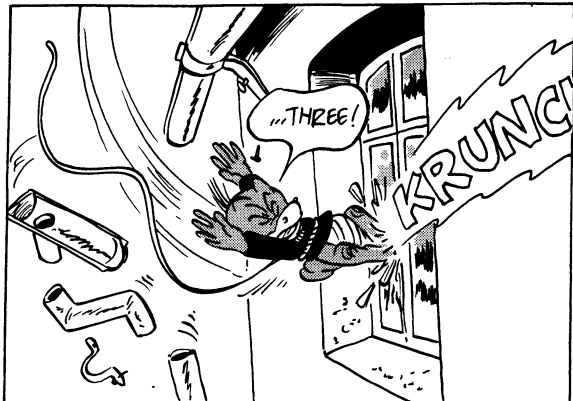


\*) SEE "CRITTERS" #2









NEXT: WHERE'S GNICKY?

ongoing battle between JACK KIRBY and the Marvel Comics Group over the possession of Mr. Kirby's original art. (For those of you who haven't, I recommend a quick perusal of **The Comics Journal** #105, which devotes most of its pages to the conflict—including a savagely eloquent editorial by FRANK MILLER on the subject.)

What it boils down to is that Marvel is acting in a horrendously ungrateful manner toward the gentleman who co-created virtually every major character in the Marvel universe. Not only does Mr. Kirby get zilch for all the millions Marvel makes off the series he co-conceived, but Marvel is using a paltry 88 pages of original artwork in an attempt to bully Mr. Kirby into signing a document that would forfeit all possible rights he could have to anything he created for Marvel, in perpetuity.

A slew of comics professionals—including such luminaries as Bill Sienkiewicz, Alan Moore, Jim Starlin, Neal Adams, Dave Stevens, Garry Trudeau, and literally dozens of others—have signed a petition demanding that Marvel return Kirby's art. **The Comics Journal** is also circulating a petition for comics fans to sign, which is reproduced on this page.

This is your chance to make a difference. Make a Xerox of the petition (you don't want to cut up the last page of "Gnuff" on the opposite side of the sheet, do you?) or type up a copy of it and send it in. It'll cost you a total of about 30 cents, and it will be another step toward helping a man who has given more to comic books than anyone else in the world get his due. We owe it to Jack. Send in the petition today.

**P**lug time! Of course, we'd like you to spend as much money as possible on all those terrific Fantagraphics Books comics (all advertised on the last two pages of this issue), but if by chance you have any pennies left after that, you might want to check out these two titles produced by this issue's contributors:

You can buy yourself a copy of the latest issue of **Albedo**, #7, for \$2.00, sent to Thoughts & Images, P.O. Box 19419, Seattle, WA 98109. In addition

# JACK KIRBY PETITION

**I, the undersigned, believe that Marvel Comics should place no conditions upon the immediate return of Jack Kirby's original art. I regret Marvel's shameful treatment of and ingratitude toward its most inspired, imaginative, and productive founding father, without whom there might not be a Marvel Comics today. Furthermore, I wish to express my appreciation and love for Jack Kirby, who, by his unparalleled talent and his life-long devotion to comic book art, enriched the lives of comics readers everywhere.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
(signed)

\_\_\_\_\_  
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**The  
Comics  
Journal**

4359 Cornell Road, Agoura, CA 91301

to the usual great stuff by STEVEN A. GALLACCI and DEAL WHITLEY, that issue features a sensational cover by Ken Macklin to boot! (Also available are issues 3, 5, and 6.)

And Tom Stazer is still selling copies of **Spaced**, his very funny and entertaining science-fiction title. If you enjoyed "Zany But Deadly," send him \$2.60 for the latest issue of **Spaced**, made out to Unbridled Ambition, P.O. Box 500202, Houston, TX 77250-0202.

No other American editions of FREDDY MILTON stuff for the nonce, but we'll have some

related news on "Gnuff" next issue.

**M**apping out future issues of **Critters**, here's what you can expect:

Next issue, #5, features the climax and conclusion to the "Gnuff" serial, with an extra-long segment and full-color cover by Freddy Milton. After that, the Gnuffs will be taking a break for a couple of issues—but never fear, they will be back [see below]! That issue also includes a "Nilson Groundthumper" story by Stan Sakai. Now, a lot of people (myself included) have

puzzled over how Stan can tell such a good, solid story in 10 pages; well, in this case, he tells one in four! And rounding off the issue is the penultimate chapter of Steve Gallacci's "Birthright."

**Critters** #6 features the return of Usagi Yojimbo in a new story; the conclusion to "Birthright," with a full-color cover painting by Gallacci; and, I'm very proud to say, the first story by MARK ARMSTRONG for **Critters**, featuring his character Jack Bunny (whom some of you may remember from a **Charlton Bullseye** of a few years back—the same one that featured the first color Neil the Horse story). I've been a fan of Mark's work for years (Gallacci and I have even gone so far as to follow **Peter Porker, Spectacular Spider-Ham**, just for his marvelous drawings), and I'm delighted to have him join our merry crew.

If anything could make me happier than a Mark Armstrong story, it would be a full-color airbrush Mark Armstrong cover, and that's just what we have fronting **Critters** #7—accompanying the conclusion to the "Jack Bunny" story. Also in that issue is another "Usagi Yojimbo" (two in a row!), and the first chapter of a new "Lionheart" serial by Tom Stazer.

Still following me? I've got these suckers planned out! **Critters** #8 sees the return of "Gnuff," in a new serial called "Animal Graffiti." (Oh, by the way, the first serial was called "The Gnuffs Move In"; forgot to mention that.) The issue also includes the second chapter of the "Lionheart" serial, and a short story by—oh, we'll surprise you.

**Critters** #9 will cover-feature the "Lionheart" serial; issue #10 will cover-feature another "Usagi Yojimbo" story; and issue #11 is our extra-special Christmas issue, with more features than you can shake a stick at, including the conclusions to both the "Lionheart" and the "Gnuff" serial.

Hey, what a coincidence—all this chatter wound up right next to our subscription page. Funny how that worked out. Don't let me stop you...

**N**ext issue, I'll be printing some letters (honest, I will—so keep on writing!). See you then!

**CREDITS:** "Zany But Deadly" was written and drawn by Tom Stazer, with some plotting assistance by John Williams and Anthony Smith. "Birthright" was written and drawn by Steven A. Gallacci, with typesetting provided by Western Type. "Gnuff" was written, drawn, toned, and re-lettered by Freddy Milton; the translation was by Kim Thompson. The cover is a painting by Ken Macklin. Separations provided by Impact Productions. The CRITTERS logo was designed by Freddy Milton and rendered by Ingo Milton. Printed at Port Publications. Production by: Tom Mason, art director, and Dave Nelson, production assistant. **CRITTERS** is edited by Kim Thompson for FANTAGRAPHICS BOOKS.

## SUBSCRIBE TODAY!

That's all very nice, but what about Usagi Yojimbo? Is Prince Alfon's attempt doomed to failure? What is it that's bedeviling the Gnuffs in their house? Can Tom Stazer really sustain a 40-page "Lionheart" novel? If all these animal-related questions are bothering you, you have no option but to subscribe to **CRITTERS** and every issue will be delivered to your doorstep!



Begin my subscription to **Critters** with the next issue off the presses! I enclose a check or money order for \$9.00 for the next 6 issues (outside U.S., \$11.00 in U.S. funds).

☐ Also, send me a copy of **Critters** #3, which I missed. I've enclosed \$2.50 (\$3.00 outside U.S.).

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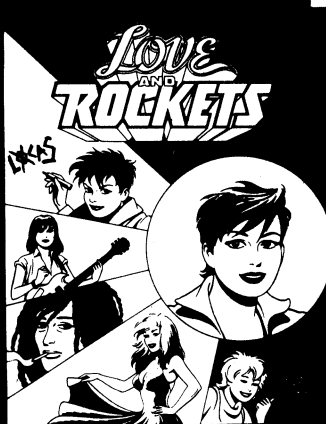
(Please make check or money order payable to CRITTERS. Allow 6-8 weeks for your first copy to arrive. All copies mailed in protective envelopes.)

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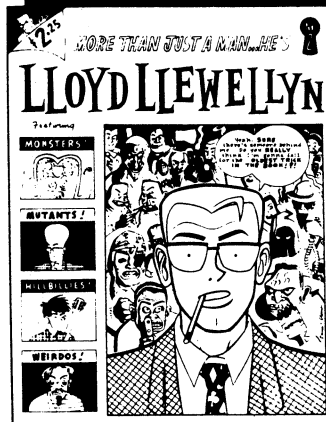


**LOVE AND ROCKETS:** No doubt: the indispensable comic of the '80s! GILBERT and JAIME HERNANDEZ's bi-monthly title features the continuing series "Locas Tambien," "Mechanics," "Heartbreak Soup," and much more! (\$9.95 for six issues)

## ABOUT COMICS



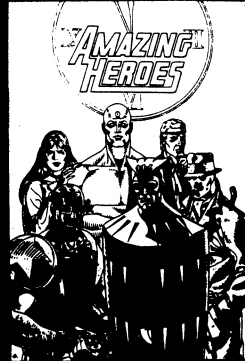
**THE COMICS JOURNAL:** A hard-hitting magazine of news and opinion, invaluable for anyone who takes comic books and comic strips seriously. One hundred pages of news, reviews, features, and interviews—every month! (\$14.95 for nine issues)



**LLOYD LLEWELLYN:** The coolest of the hip, DANIEL CLOWES's retro-new wave detective confronts hillbillies, hotrodders from Mars, giant robots, mad scientists, and dangerous dames in this deadly serious spoof! (\$9.95 for six issues)



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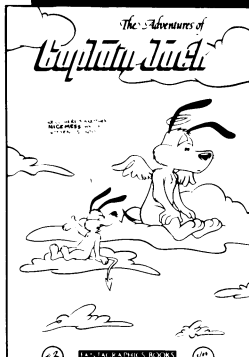
**AMAZING HEROES:** The TV *Guide* of comics: a comic book sized magazine that previews upcoming comics (often with exclusive artwork and interviews), looks back at classic series, reviews current comics, answers readers' questions, and more! 84 pages every other week! (\$24.00 for 12 issues)

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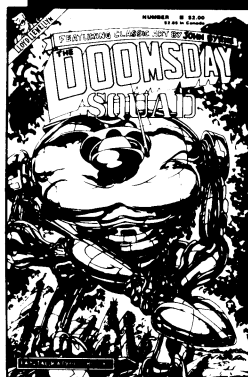
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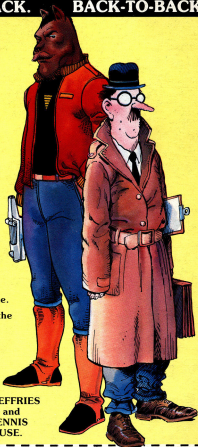
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