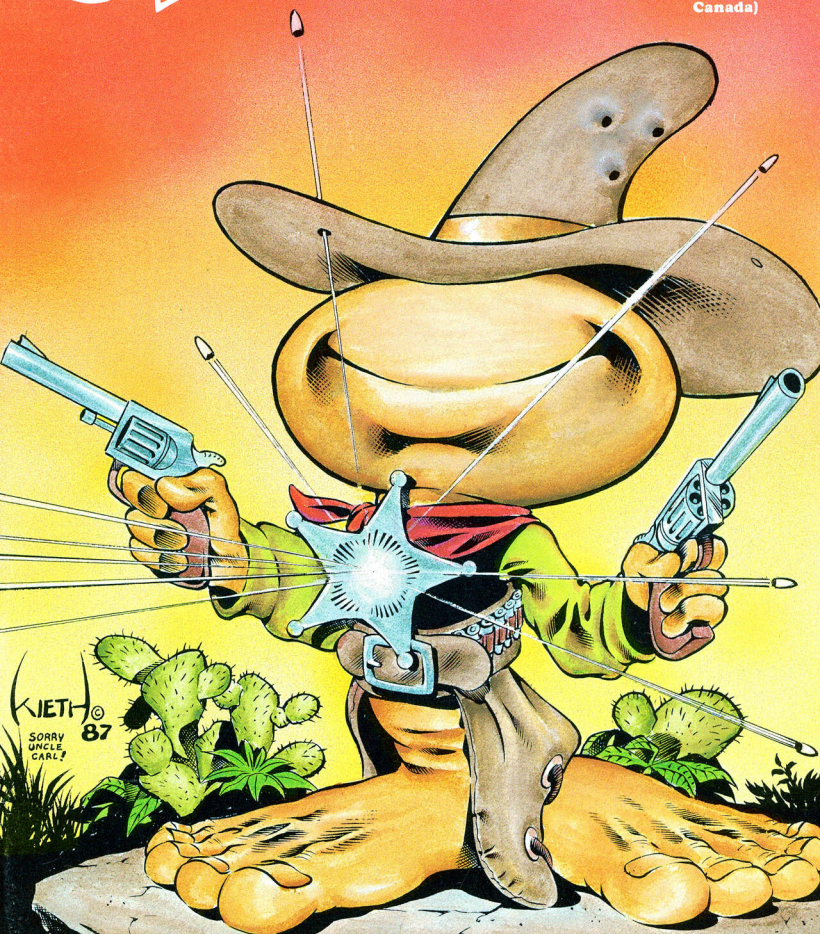


# Critters

No. 21

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(\$3.00 in  
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KIETH ©  
87  
SORRY  
UNCLE  
CARL!

FANTAGRAPHICS BOOKS

# Critters



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NUMBER 21 FEBRUARY 1988

## C O N T E N T S

**Fission Chicken** by J.P. Morgan

"Marketing Experts From Beyond, Part 3" The action-packed finale of the pulse-pounding mind-control thriller extravaganza.....1

**Lizards** by Holland & Wilber

"Afternoon Stroll" Some were born to ride, and some were born to stroll, as Dweezil and his Pop find out.....11

**Gnuff** by Freddy Milton

"The Root of All Evil" As the giant trees grow beyond all manageable levels, desperate measures become the order of the day.....17

**Pgog** by Mike Kazaleh

A satirical stab at the funny-animal comic-book market, done in tribute to the one and only Walt Kelly.....31

## EDITORIAL

So where is "SpeakingStone" this issue? I hear you ask. Bad news, I'm afraid: The ever-conscientious Reed Waller has hit some rough water in his schedule (partly caused by the long-awaited *Omaha* reprint volume), and was unable to deliver the second chapter of his epic. Fortunately, however, John Holland and Ron Wilber had just delivered a new chapter of "Lizards" for our inventory files, and it fills the space snugly—even leaving room for a one-page Mike Kazaleh gag. With a little bit of luck, "SpeakingStone" should be back next issue—but we know you'll agree it was worth the wait.

I've just put the *Amazing Heroes* funny-animal issue to bed (and at this moment, I envy it). It turned out to run some 116 pages, and is chock full of great stuff. Check it out: Interviews with Gallacci and Milton, a huge focus on the new *Mighty Mouse* Saturday-morning show, 36 cartoonists on why they draw funny-animals, Dwight Decker on Carl Barks, and much, much more. Check it out!

Speaking of Carl Barks, special thanks to Sam Kieth for this issue's very strange but terrific cover. Sam is one of the most talented new artists around, and I recommend picking up *The Wandering Stars* for a look at what he's capable of on a major scale. Beats *Adolescent Radioactive Whatchamacallits* all to heck, for one thing.

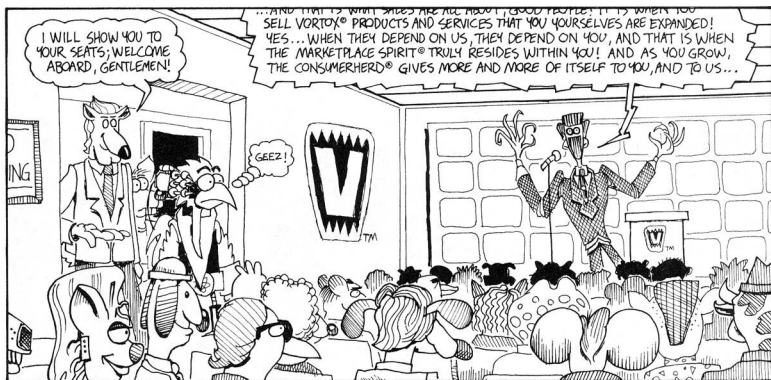
Next issue features the return of The Blue Beagle, in "Watchdogs," a unique story that satirizes (among other things) Max Headroom, Pee-wee Herman, the comic-book censorship controversy, and some DC superhero comic the name of which eludes me. As a special bonus, we're running this issue with two different covers—a "straight" *Critters* cover, and a satirical one (see below), both by Tim. All this, plus the conclusion of the "Gnuff" serial, and (keep your fingers crossed) "SpeakingStone." What could be more exciting than that...I mean, other than the upcoming Christmas special?

—KIM THOMPSON



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# FISSION CHICKEN VS. THE MARKETING EXPERTS FROM BEYOND PART 3!

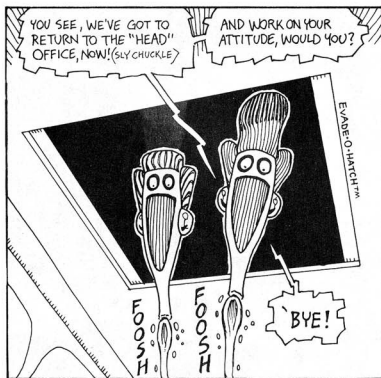
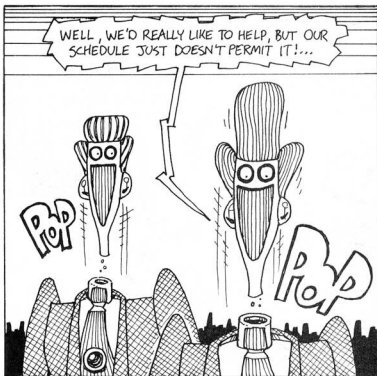


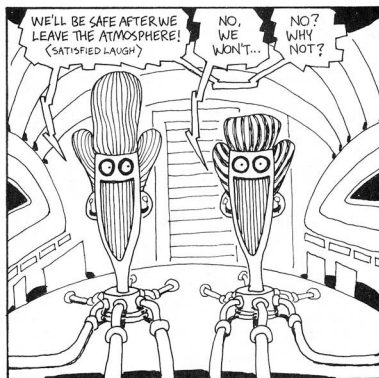
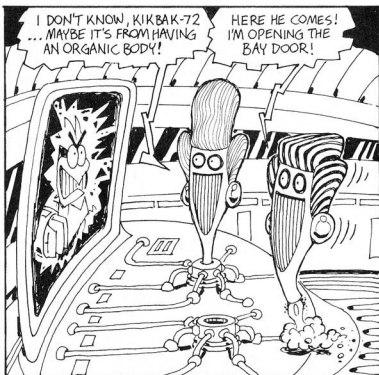
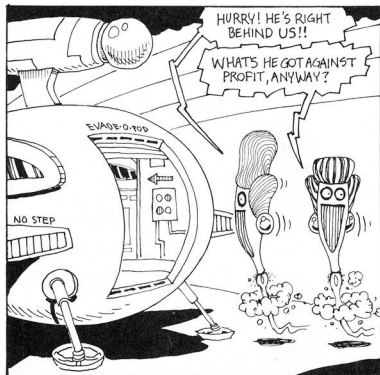




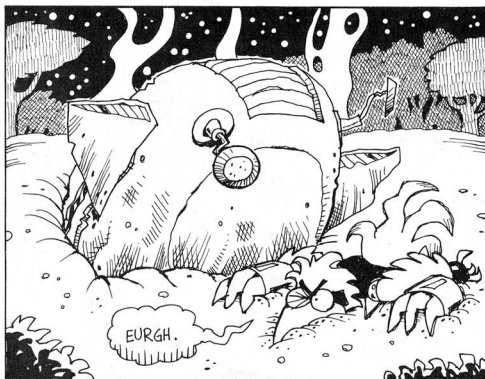
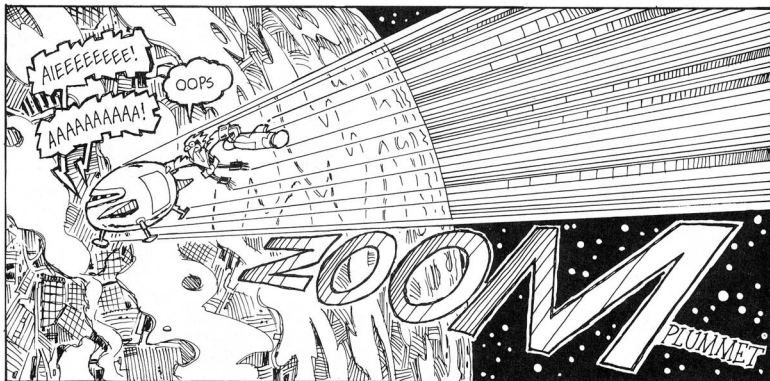
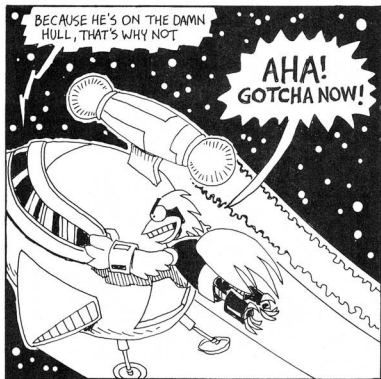




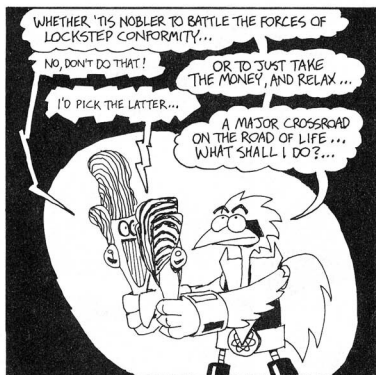
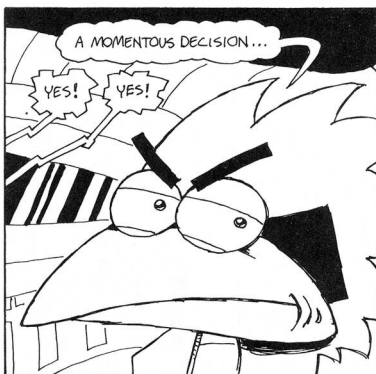
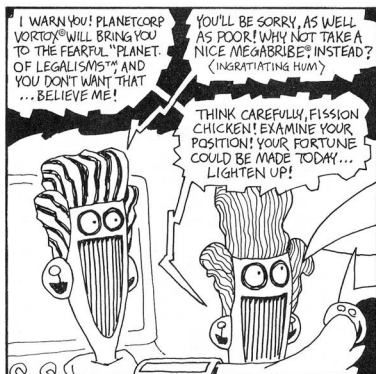


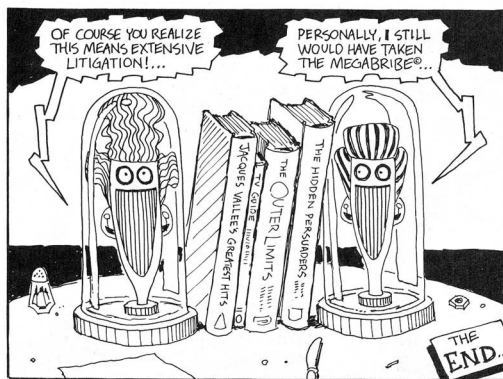








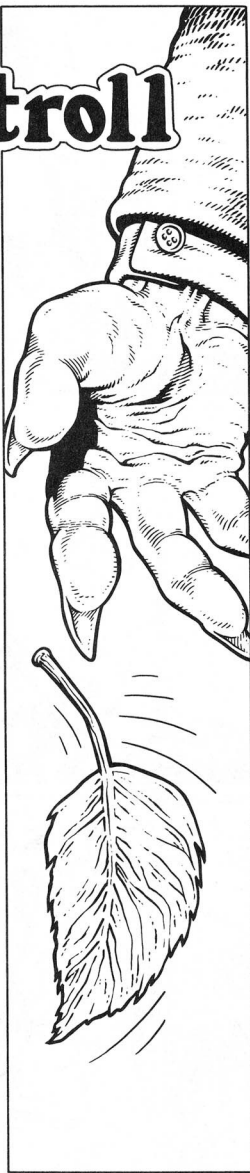
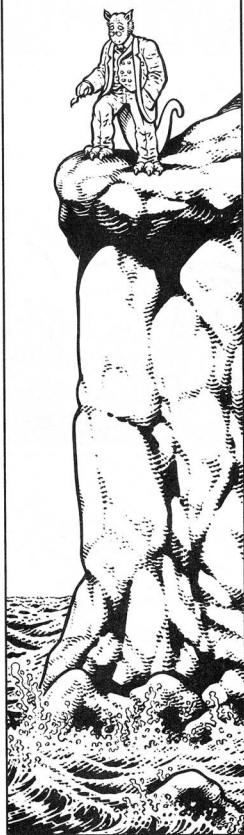


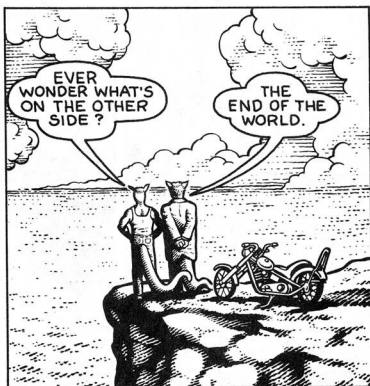
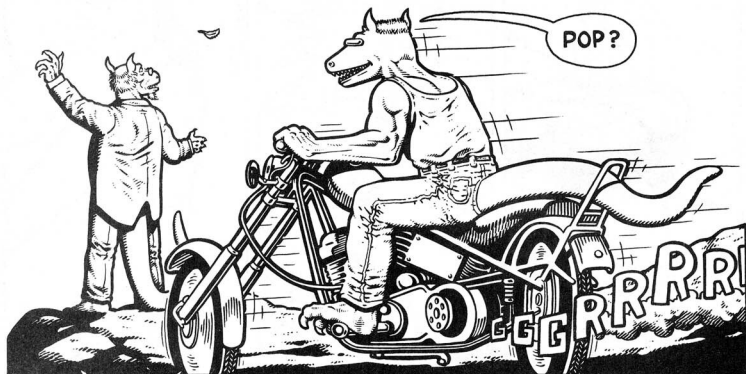
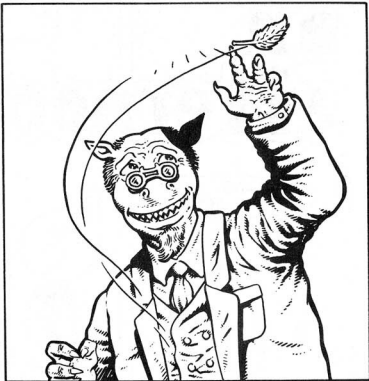




# an afternoon stroll

© J. HOLLAND - STORY  
✦ R. WILBER - ART • 87

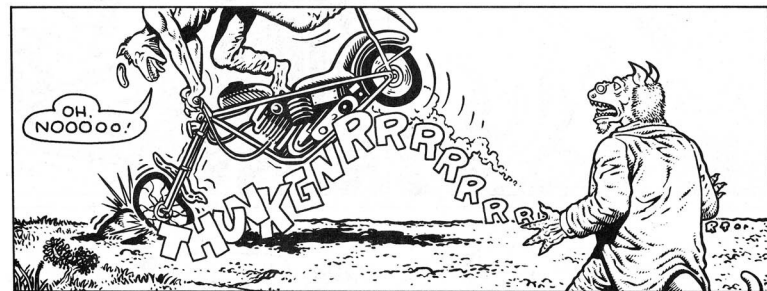
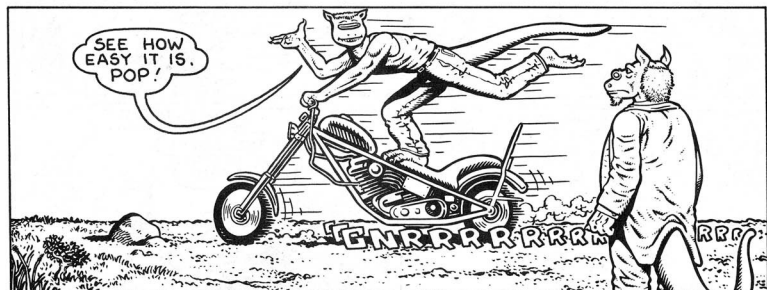


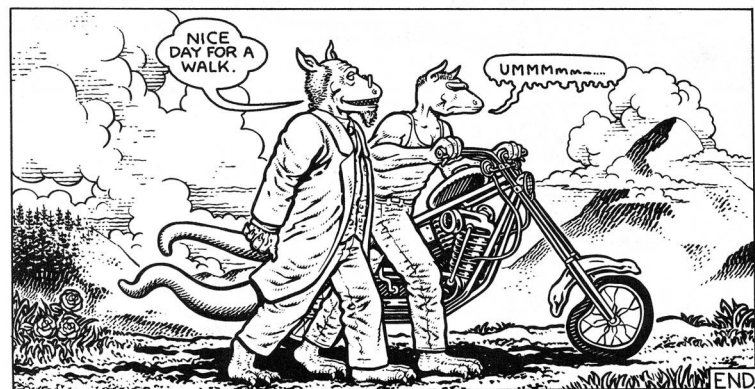
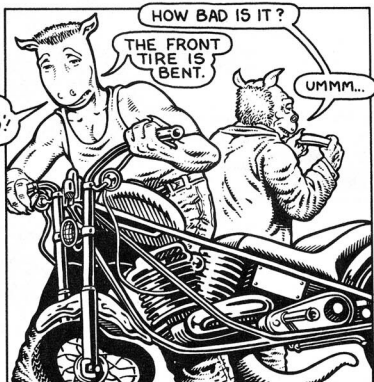












# Freddy Milton's Gnuff

ART &  
STORY  
FRED  
MILTON

"THE ROOT OF  
ALL EVIL"

CITY GARDENER GNUFF  
HAS A GROWING  
PROBLEM...

ARE THOSE REALLY THE TREES YOU  
PLANTED LAST WEEK, MR. GNUFF?

YEP! I DID JUST  
WHAT YOU TOLD ME,  
MR. SIEGEL!

©MILTON

YOU CAN SEE THEY'RE GROWING SWELL,  
SO DO I GET TO KEEP MY JOB AS CITY  
GARDENER?

WELL... I JUST DIDN'T  
REALIZE THEY COULD  
GROW **THAT** FAST!

THEY'RE ALREADY MUCH TALLER THAN  
THE OTHER TREES ON THE STREET!

MAYBE IT'S  
SOMETHING IN  
THE AIR THAT'S  
DOING IT...?

DID YOU GIVE THEM TOO MUCH FERTILIZER?

I DIDN'T GIVE  
'EM ANY  
FERTILIZER  
AT ALL, MR.  
SIEGEL...

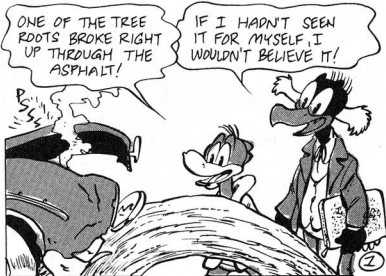
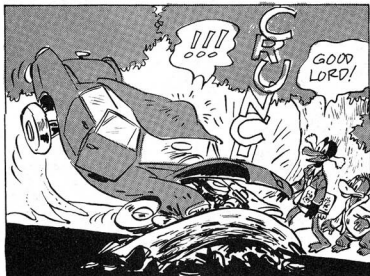
SUDDENLY...

?!!!

CRACK

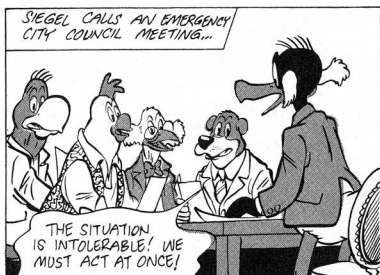
ONE OF THE TREE  
ROOTS BROKE RIGHT  
UP THROUGH THE  
ASPHALT!

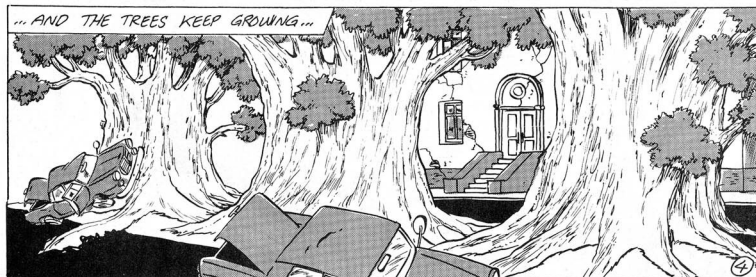
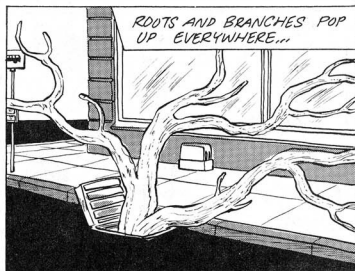
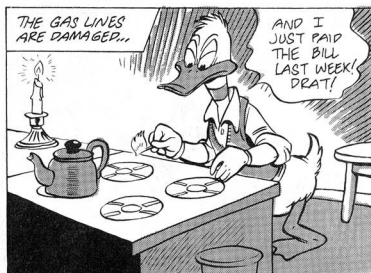
IF I HADN'T SEEN  
IT FOR MYSELF, I  
WOULDN'T BELIEVE IT!



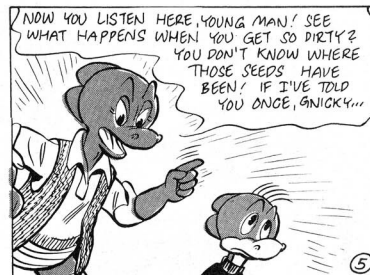
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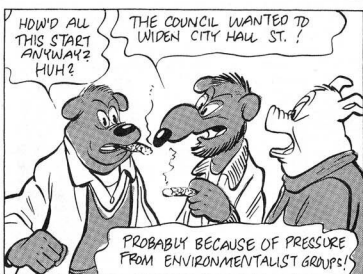
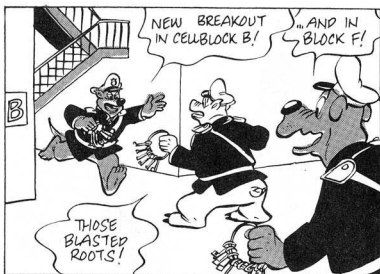
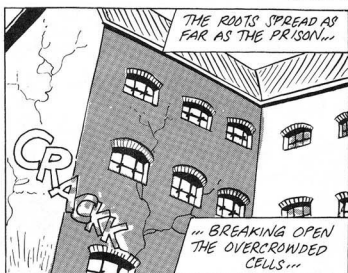
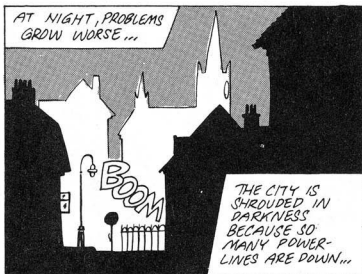


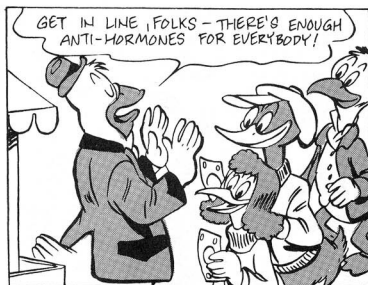


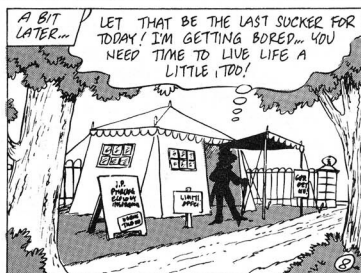


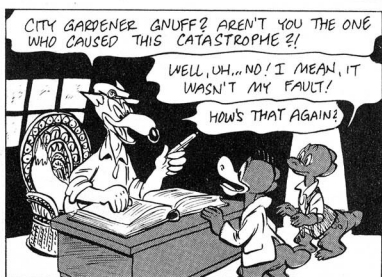
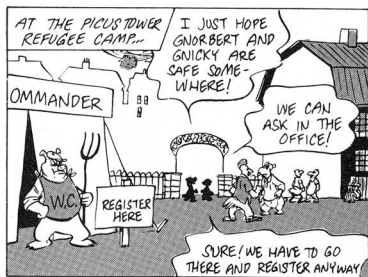


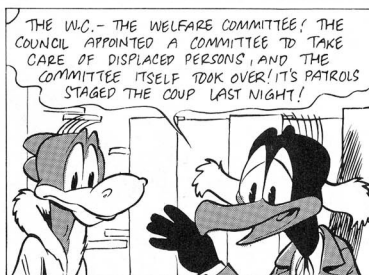




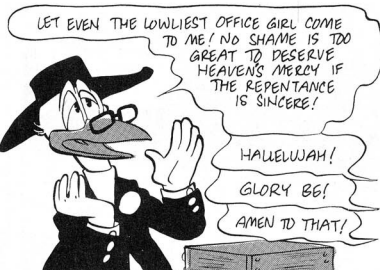
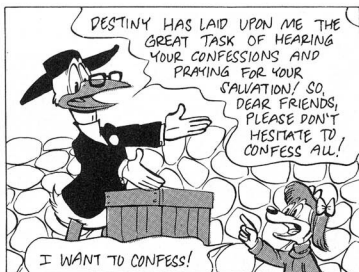
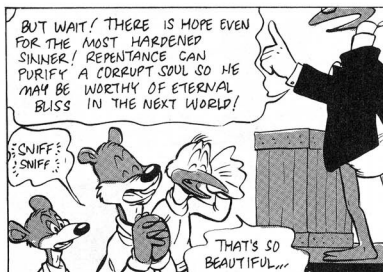


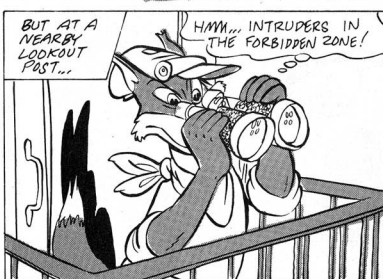
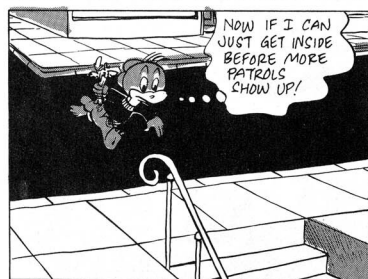
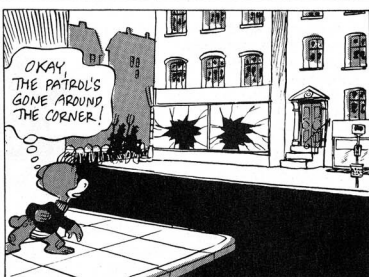
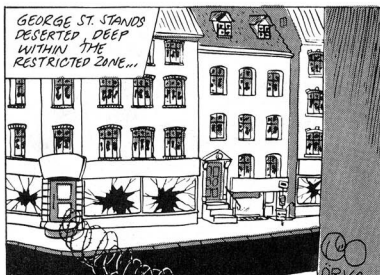


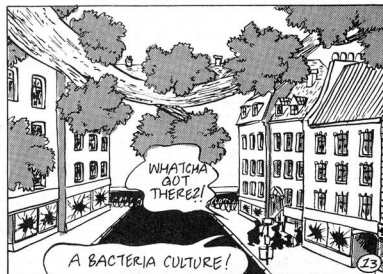
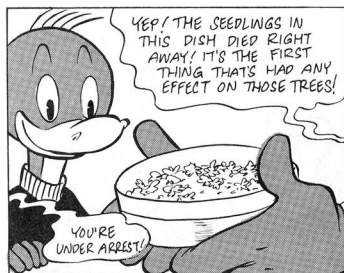


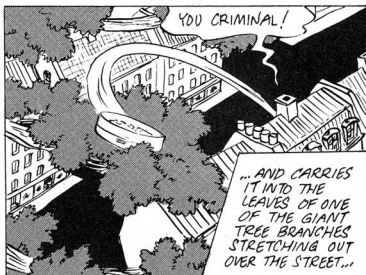
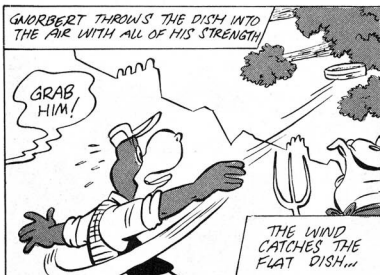












(CONTINUED NEXT ISSUE)



# 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:** *Gnuff* and *Birtright* continue, *Lionheart* premieres, and the first Ken Macklin cover painting!

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

**Critters #6:** *Usagi Yojimbo* tale with cover, *Birtright* 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:** *Birthright* returns, with a cover by Gallacci, plus Reed Waller and Kate Worley, and Sam Kieth!

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

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

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

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

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

**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**—*Nilson Groundthumper* and *Hermey*: 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... Dogb! 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 Knot 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 Evanier.

## 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 Carot* 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.

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Critters Special: ☐ #1 Hugo: ☐ #1 ☐ #2 ☐ #3

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Myron Moose (\$2.00): ☐ #1 ☐ #2 ☐ #3

Usagi Yojimbo: ☐ #1 ☐ #2 ☐ #3 ☐ #4 ☐ #5 ☐ #6

☐ Book One: \$10.00

☐ 6-issue subscription to *Usagi Yojimbo*: \$9.00

Amazing Heroes (\$3.00): ☐ #9 ☐ #42 ☐ #111 ☐ #129

☐ 12-issue subscription to *Amazing Heroes*: \$25.00

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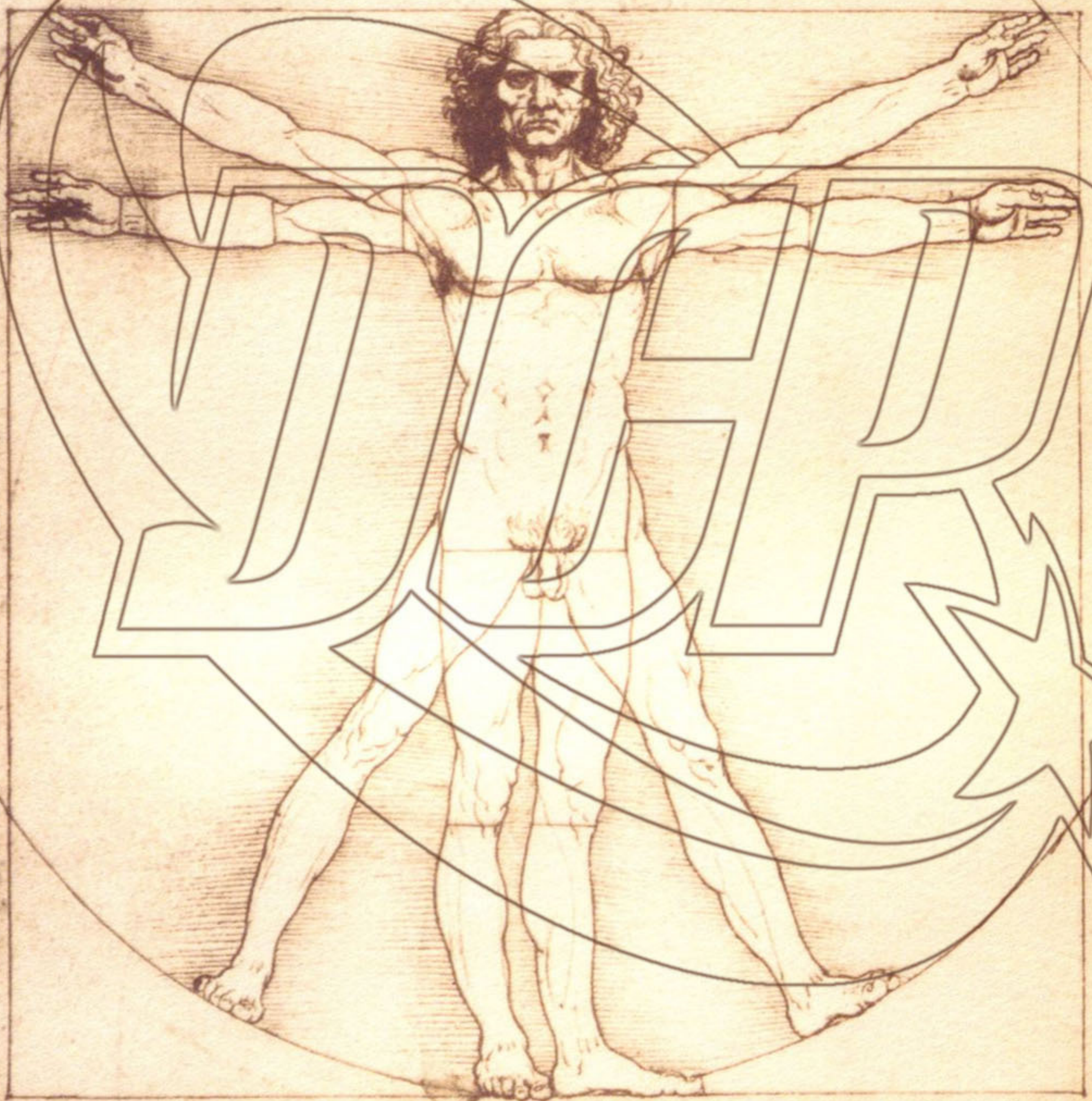
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