





NUMBER 28 SEPTEMBER 1988

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EDITORIAL

A thoroughly unexpected honor has been bestowed upon Critters, as the prestigious Library Journal has named our little funny-animal anthology one of the 24 best magazines in America. Special thanks go to longtime Critters booster Fred Patten, who wrote the original article in Magazines for Libraries that brought our title to the attention of Bill Katz (an appropriate name in this context, all things considered)!

All I can say is that we'll strive hard to merit this honor with future issues. Thanks to Bill and Fred, and to all Critters contributors, past, present, and future!

On another subject entirely, it is completely coincidental that this issue contains two satires of Oliver North and two satires of Walt Disney. It does lend a nice symmetry to the whole thing, though, doesn't it?

—KIM THOMPSON

LETTERS

The Krazy Kiwi

Auckland, New Zealand

Dear Kim,

I have not been a follower of *Critters* or many of the funny-animal comics. In many cases it is a case of shelling out \$4N.Z. for perhaps four to eight pages out of the whole comic.

Critters #23 carried a \$10N.Z. price tag (a curse upon exchange and air-freight rates!), but it was on my list for one very important reason—for several years I have been trying to get ahold of the Sinister Ducks' record, with stuff-all luck.

Ty Templeton appears to be a man of many talents, only some of which are comics related. "Right to the Blues" was lovely, both story and song, and should the Bluebears appear again I would buy whatever it is they're in (or recorded on, even).

"Gnuff" is another strip I was very much taken with, one I had not actually made an effort to read before (I hang my head in shame, I abase myself before you and beg forgiveness) and I'm sorry I haven't. It is reminiscent of some Donald Duck or Mickey Mouse stories I remember reading when a little younger, even the drawing seems Disneyish in style—a compliment not a complaint.

Of the two (essentially) wordless stories Sakai's Usagi Yojimbo was the one I preferred. There's only so many versions of the man-bites-dog story, although this was a good one, but the last panel of the Usagi Yojimbo story had me giggling through the next story. It was the look on his face, y'see.

Like I said at the beginning, I don't usually get anthologies, funny animal or otherwise, but if this issue is representative of the others, qualitywise, then I may just become



OUR NEW SPOKES DUCK!

IMPERIALIST DOGS! WE'RE FREEING THIS

LIT ME? I WASN'T 2 IN D.C. WHERE ALL THE ACTION WAS...

OPPRESSED DUCK IN THE NAME OF THE PELICAN LIBERATION ARMY!

GENCE AGENCY BOTH

DO BETTER IN OPINION POLLS. BUT THIS IS A PLIBLIC RELATIONS PROBLEM, PLIRE AND SIMPLE! OUR ONLY HOPE 15 TO CREATE

> BOUT THIS TIME THE TERRORISTS FLEW IN

AND THE BIRD SHIT

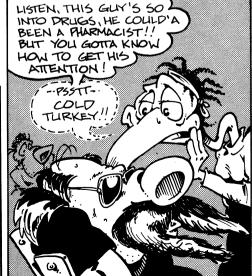
HIT THE FAN.



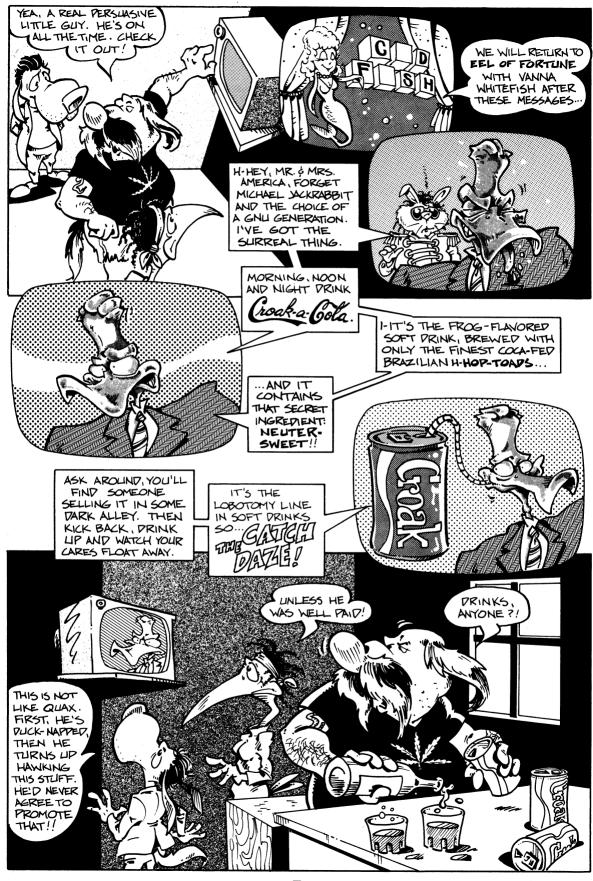
















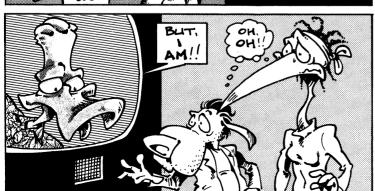




OH, OUT PAST THE EIGHT MILE LIMIT. THIS IS THE REFINERY RIG FOR CROAK-A-GOLA. THEY GET FREIGHTER LOADS OF FROGS AND DISTILL THEM INTO POP. THEN THEY PIPE IT ALL INLAND FOR DISTRIBUTION. COLDFINGER HAS QUITE A SET UP!







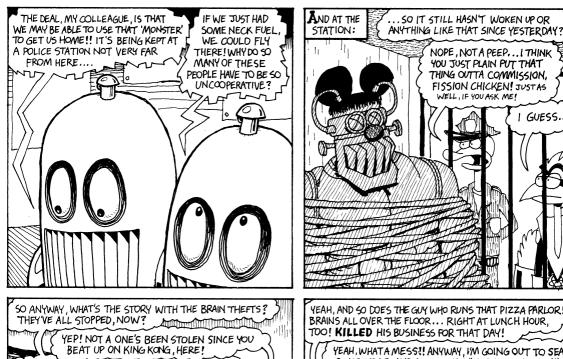


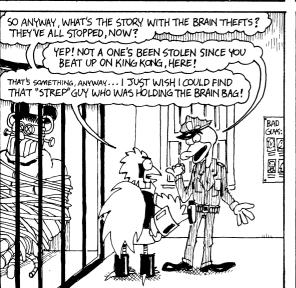


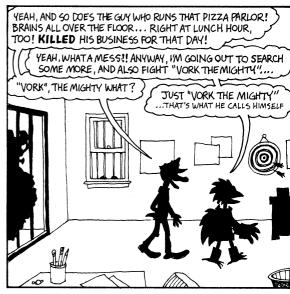






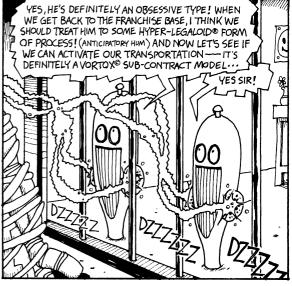




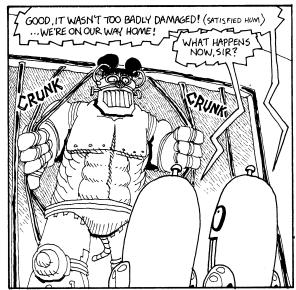


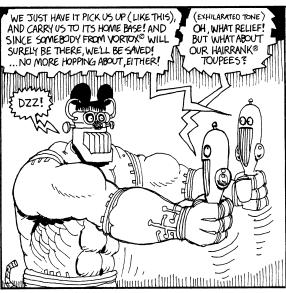
I GUESS.

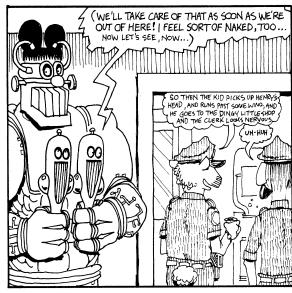


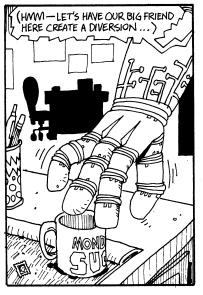


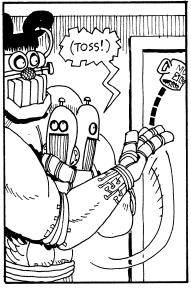






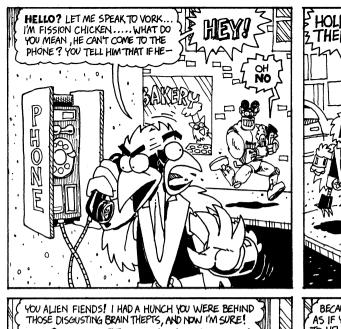




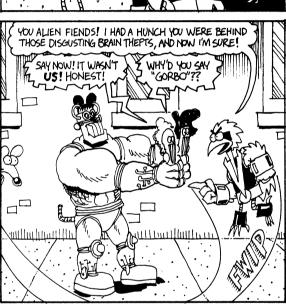


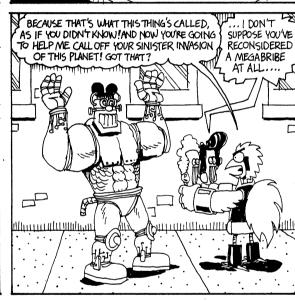














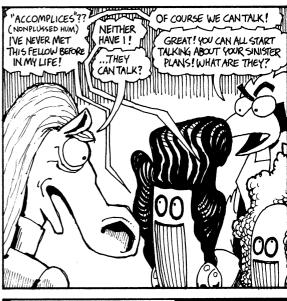








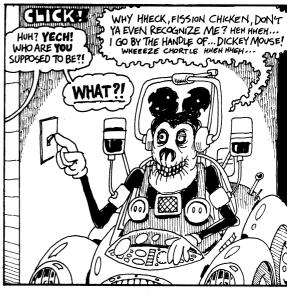




















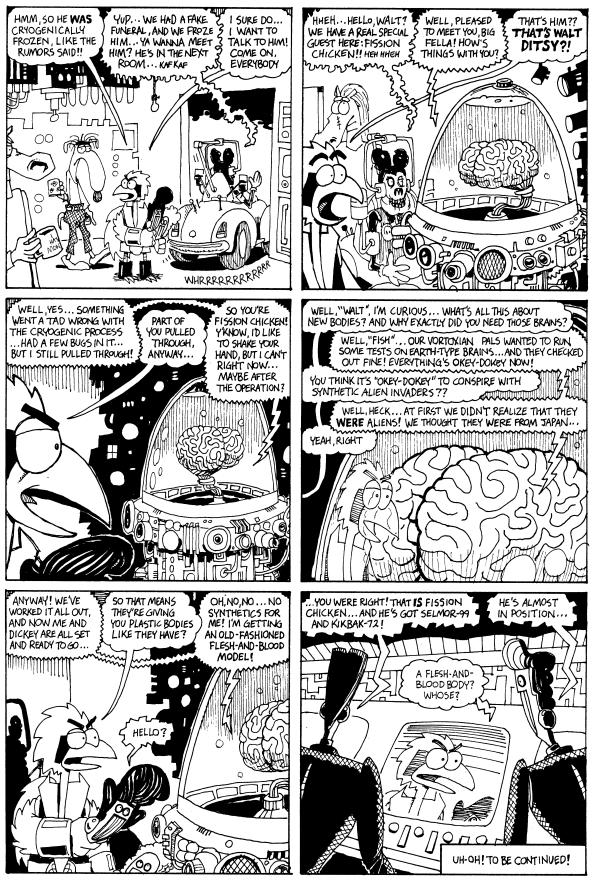
THE DEAL? WELL, SEE, I'LL TELL YA... SOME TIME

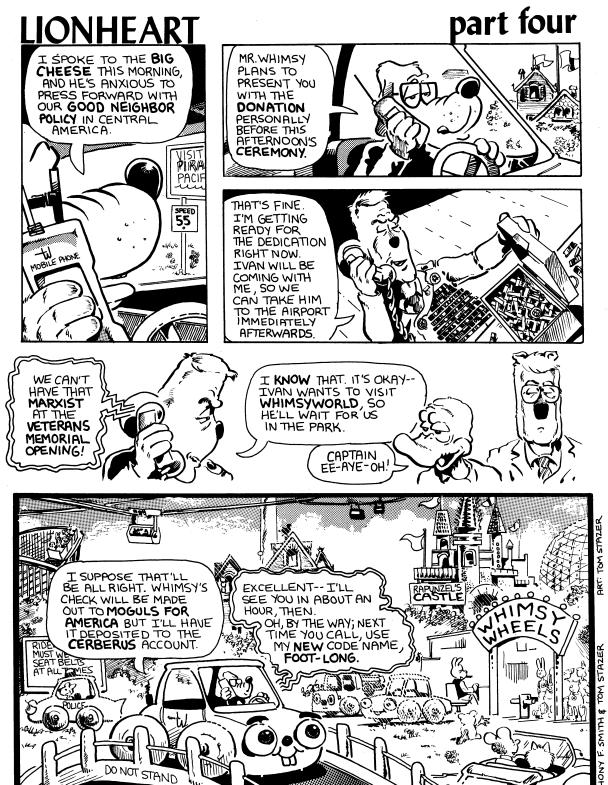


ONLY REWARD

HATE

MONDA



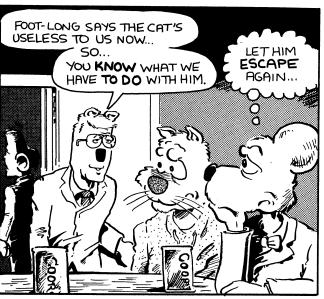


Whitney Business

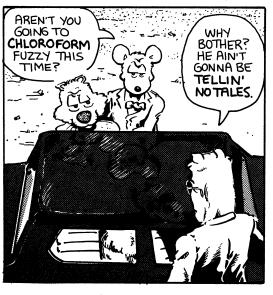














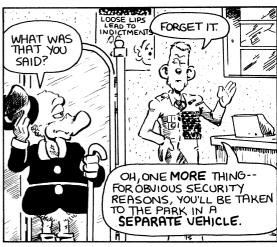


BACK INSIDE ...











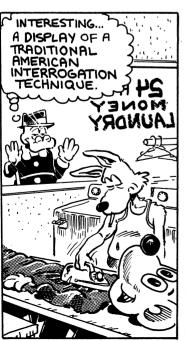








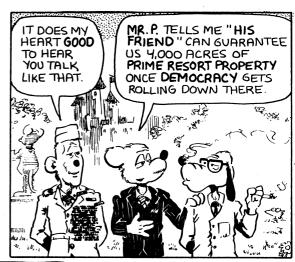












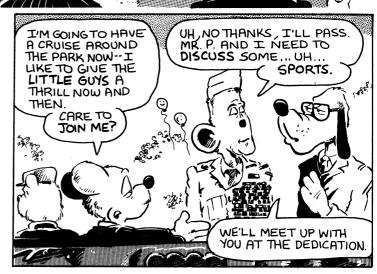


OH, BY THE WAY, COLONEL ... YOU'D SAID THAT YOU COULD GIVE ME A PERSONAL TOUR OF THE WHITE HOUSE ... PERHAPS THIS WEEKEND? HMM, WELL-- I WISH YOU'D GIVEN ME MORE NOTICE --MY TOUR SCHEDULE IS A BIT OVERBOOKED RIGHT NOW.





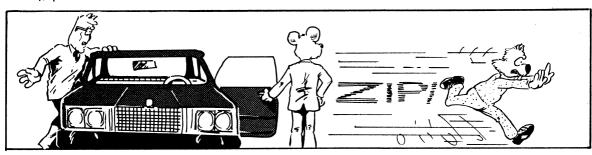




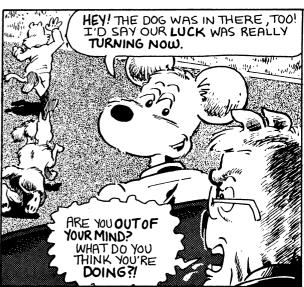


















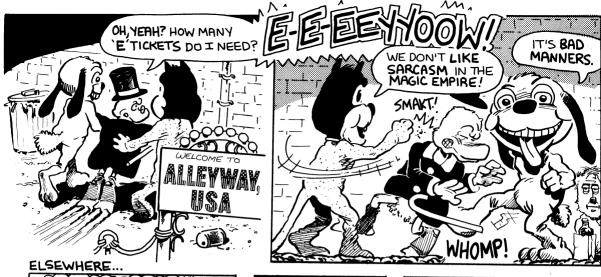












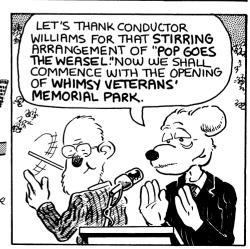






















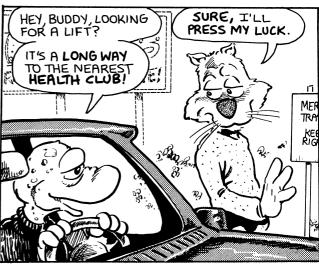


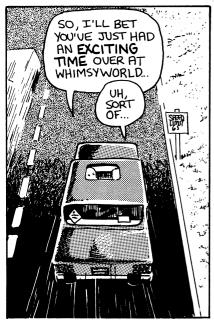














(CONTINUED FROM INSIDE FRONT COVER)

a regular to it, on top of Capt. Jack, Uncle \$crooge, and Omaha, oops, and Fusion, too, being the other anthropomorphic adventures I get.

Catch you in thirty, maybe.

• Thanks for taking the plunge even at the outrageous exchange rates, uh, "Krazy Kiwi." (Does this mean every English-speaking country in the world is going to end up with a funnynationalistic-pseudonym letterhack? Will we soon see letters from the Australian Kooky Kangaroo and the Irish Puzzled Potato? What hath the Maple stirred up?)

Benjamin Urrutia

Salt Lake City, UT

Dear Critters,

I just loved #24 to pieces! Fred Milton's music critics on page 9 are a strikingly welldrawn piece of social satire. Morgan's Fission Chicken spreading open the hideous mouth of the protoplasmic monster Kakamookie on page 25 was horribly hilarious. And the Holland-Wilber Dragons-and-Indians are simply delightful. The artwork is first-rate, but what I like best is how friendly and at ease reptilians and humans are with each other, without the slightest hint of racial animosity or self-consciousness.

• You hated the editorial and the back-issue page, didn't you? *Sigh* But I appreciate your trying to spare my feelings.



Marc Crisafulli Gaithersburg, MD

Dear Mister Thompson,

Critters #20 was my first read of this book, and I can guarantee now that I've discovered it, it'll be on my MUST-BUY list every time. Freddy Milton and William Van Horn are sheer geniuses, to put it mildly.

I've enclosed some cartoons...are they up to anthropomorphic standards?

Again, the magazine is great, and I'll see ya next month!

 Well, at least one of them is. Not that the other one isn't fine, but I'm running out of room.-KT

Niall MacConnaill

Hull, Quebec, Canada

Mr. Thompson, Are you still printing artwork from fans (following the letters page's format change in #22)?

--KT

Look around you, son!

"GRAPHIC LETTER" STARRING DANNY FURKIN with the Help of Claude L. Medearis



Claude L. Medearis

El Cajon, CA

Did you ever have one of those days when you can't even control your own characters?

Anyway, as we were saying before all the foolishness started, we like Critters because

there's always something to like. As long as you keep turning out such a

good book, I'll read a bit more. PS: I'll see if I can get everyone to hold still for a group portrait.

ŒŽ,

ELSE

TUBE Penny-Anter Batrob TOINELLA GIDGE DANNY FURKIN CRABB) PCLONI FFICIAL NEASEL) NEKO "NERVOUS NELLIE" NAKAJIMA

WHEN YOU NEED A HERO-

CALL SOMEONE

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!

Adventures of Captain Jack #10: Jack and the crew return to Detroit and discover lots of unpaid bills.

CRITTERS

Critters #4: Gnuff and Birthright continue, Lionheart premieres, and the first Ken Macklin cover painting!

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

Critters #6: Usagi Yojimbo tale with cover, Birthright 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: Hallowe'en issue with Gnuff behind a mask, Lionheart's nightmare, and Dog Boy.

Critters #10: Usagi Yojimbo cover/ story, plus Gnuff and Lionheart.

Critters #12: Birthright returns, plus Waller/Worley, and Sam Kieth!

Critters #13: Gnuff cover, plus Birthright and Mark Armstrong.

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



Critters #15: Blue Beagle and Fission Chicken, and Birthright races on!

Critters #16: Gnuff ends, another *Nilson Groundthumper* story by Sakai, and *Birthright*!

Critters #17: *Lionheart* returns, 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, plus Sam and Max, Freelance Police, Lizards, and Fission Chicken.

Critters #20: SpeakingStone by Waller/Worley, Gnuff and Fission Chicken.

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

Critters #22: Watchmen cover parody for Blue Beagle story, plus Gnuff, Fission Chicken, and Ambrose.

Critters #23: Christmas issue with Gnuff, Lizards, Fission Chicken, Lionheart, as well as strips by Marc Schirmeister, Sam Kieth, Tim Fuller, Mike Kazaleh, Bob Conway, Ty Templeton and Anthony Van Bruggen —plus a flexidisc with songs performed by Templeton & Alan Moore!

Critters #24: Gnuff continues, plus Lizards and Fission Chicken.

Critters #25: The return of Lionheart, plus Gnuff and Angst.

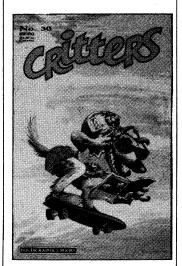
Critters #26: Angst cover by Van Horn, plus *Gnuff* and *Lionheart*.

Critters #27: Stan Sakai cover and Nilson Groundthumper story, plus Lionheart and Fission Chicken.

Critters #28: Blue Beagle in a Miami Vice/Coke parody, plus Lionheart and Fission Chicken.

Critters #29: The climax to Lionheart, plus Lizards and Fission Chicken, and a one-page Captain Jack.

Critters #30: Mark Martin cover and story, plus *Angst*, and *Gnuff* returns in the "The Big Sneeze."



Critters Special #1—Nilson 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!

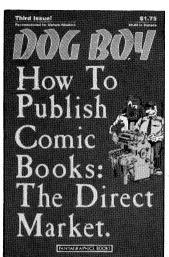
Dog Boy #2: Sir Isaac Newton guest stars as reality unravels.

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...Dogb! Oh no!

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

Dog Boy #7: Jazzv issue exploring Dog Boy's multiple personalities!



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

Dog Boy #9: Dancing with the cats, Dog Girl in jail, Benb goes crazy! Dog Boy #10: The epic conclusion

of the saga! Breathtaking lunacy!

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

☐ 9-issue subscription to *The Comics Journal*: \$25.00

NEMO (\$4.00): □#21

Anything Goes: □#3 □#6

Myron Moose Funnies #2: Parodies Batman, Mickey Mouse, Spirit, 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.

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.

Usaqi Yojimbo #6: Usagi vs. a water elemental, plus two more Usagi tales!

Usagi Yojimbo #7: Usagi makes a friend, plus Phil Yeh! Usagi Yojimbo #8: A difficult assign-

ment for Usagi, plus Tom Luth's "Rockhoppers. Usagi Yojimbo #9: The return of the Blind Swordspig, plus a tale by Todd

Kurosawa. Usagi Yojimbo #10: "Blade of the Gods," plus a Usagi/Leonardo the T-M-N-Turtle tale by Peter Laird!

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. Plus a funny-animal pictorial.

Amazing Heroes #42: Funny-animal issue with Joshua Quagmire cover (of Critters) interviewed. It's funny. Amazing Heroes #129: Interviews with Steven A. Gallacci and Freddy Milton, "Why I Draw Funny Animals" by various, the new Mighty Mouse show, plus more!

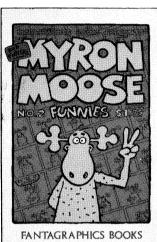
Amazing Heroes #111: Ty Templeton

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: Big interview with Arn (Neil the Horse) Saba.

The Comics Journal #120: Disney issue; interviews with Floyd Gottfredson, Ward Kimball, and Art Babbitt.



Anything Goes! #3: Featuring a fullcolor 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

and Canada, please add 15% to cover addi-

tional postage.

goofy snot jokes, plus parodies of Dr. Seuss and Uncle Wriggly books.	and interview. Plus: Arn Ša the Horse and Dave Sim or		classic King Aroo strip—a treat classic funny-animal lovers!
PLEASE SEND ME THE FOLLOWING All are \$2.25 apiece unless otherwise i			
Capt. Jack: #3 #4 #5 #6 #7 #8 #9 #10 Critters: #4 #5 #6 #8 #9 #10 #12 #13 #14 #15 #16 #17 #18 #19 #20 #21 #22 (parody cover) #22 (normal cover) #23 (\$4.25) #24 #25 #26 #27 #28 #29 #30		name	
		Critters Special: □#1 Hugo: □#1 □#2 `□#3	
Dog Boy (\$2.00): □#1 □#2 □#3 □#4 □#5 □#6 □#7 □#8 □#9 □#10 □#1-10 package (15.00)		city	
Myron Moose (\$2.00): □#1 □#2 □#3		state	zip
Usagi Yojimbo:		NOTE: You must be 18 years or older to order Captain Jack, Dog Boy, Hugo, or Myron Moose.	
☐ 6-issue subscription to Usagi Yojimbo			
Amazing Heroes (\$3.00): □#9 □#42 □#111 □#129 □ 12-issue subscription to <i>Amazing Heroes</i> : \$25.00		Send all orders to Fantagraphics Books, 1800 Bridgegate Road, Suite 101, Westlake Village, CA 91361. Outside U.S.	
Comics Journal (\$3.50): □#73 □#82			

FISH POLICE. HAIRBALLS



A heartwarming tale of

a gun,

a six-pack, and a fish . . .

... but not necessarily in that order.

This graphic novel re-presents issues #1 through #4 in color for the very first time — an obsolute must for the <u>Fish Police</u> completists and the perfect companion to Comicos new Fish Police series Introduction by Harlan Elison.

COMICO THE COMIC COMPANY