

NUMBER 35 APRIL 1989
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Duck "Bill" Platypus by Kyle Rothweiler "Donut Go Gentle Into That Good Coffee"

A coffee addict, a giant donut, a rampaging radical feminist,

Smokey by Marc Schirmeister "Smokey Goes Legit"

Critters #35, April, 1989. Critters is published monthly by Fantagraphics Books, Inc., and is copyright © 1988 Fantagraphics Books, Inc. All stories © respective creators: J.P. Morgan, Kyle Rothweiler, Marc Schirmeister, and Tom Stazer. Cover © 1988 Lela Dowling, Production by Mart Khompson. No part of this magazine may be reproduced without written permission from Fantagraphics Books and the authors. No similarity between any of the names, characters, 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: November, 1988. Available from the publisher for \$2.50: Fantagraphics Books, 1800 Bridgegate St. Suite #101, Westlake Village, CA 91361.

LETTER (S)

SEND 'EM TO CRITTERS LETTERS, 1800 BRIDGEGATE STREET #101, WESTLAKE VILLAGE, CA 91361.

Matthew Kirby Wood Ridge, NJ

Dear Kim,

After reading through all the back issues I now feel that I know enough about *Critters* to write in about it. In fact, I think I burned out some major brain cells reading so many issues at once but it was worth it.

First off, a comment on the "Birthright" series. Superb, simply superb. I'm tempted to elaborate on this but, after reading the flood of letters accompanying each "Birthright" issue I doubt I could add anything that hasn't already been said.

As for Usagi Yojimbo, I've never been a fan of the current ninja/samurai craze but I do like him. Perhaps it's the novelty of using a rabbit instead of a human. Or perhaps it's because Stan's stories are so much more entertaining and (God help me) believable.

Lionheart, a cat who seems more private eye than ace reporter. And we wouldn't have him any other way. Portraying Bush and Meese as Calvin and Hobbes back in #27 was pure genius.

And let's not forget the Blue Beagle. He just keeps getting better and better, especially since he took on a political/satirical slant.

"Lizards" is something of a problem. I enjoy it and was saddened to hear of its departure from these pages. Still, it's always been a bit too esoteric for my tastes. When I read it I can't shake the feeling that some of it's going over my head, which tends to cut down on my enjoyment.

Morgan has just got to keep doing "Fission Chicken." I've been devoted to it ever since I went into hysterics over his premiere story, "The Real Awful Terror of Boogog."

"Gnuff" poses a very special problem for me. Not to slight Mr. Milton's talents, but I don't find his stories very interesting. And as for humor, I've never gotten more than a chuckle or two out of it. Still, something compels me to read on. I'm not sure if it's curiosity or a subconscious desire to get my money's worth out of this book whether I like it or not. I'll have to get back to you on this one.

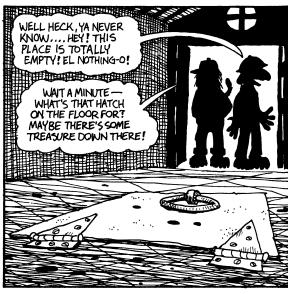
That about wraps it up for the regular features. And I can't say I have any complaints about the one-shots and shorts. However, I would like to know if and when you'll have another installment of "Teddy Payne and the Blue Bears." You don't have to include a record; I'd just like to see what the band is up to.

• Kim Thompson regrets that he can't answer your question; he's just sitting in a corner muttering "President Bush? President BUSH??!!" over and over. Merry Christmas anyway.

—ED



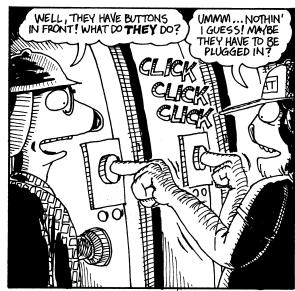










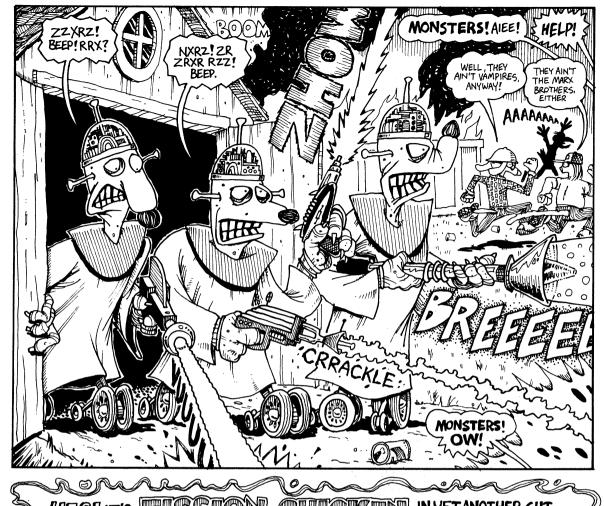






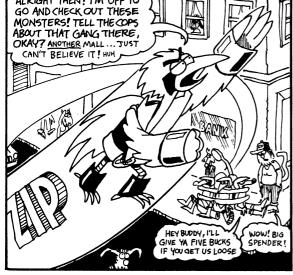




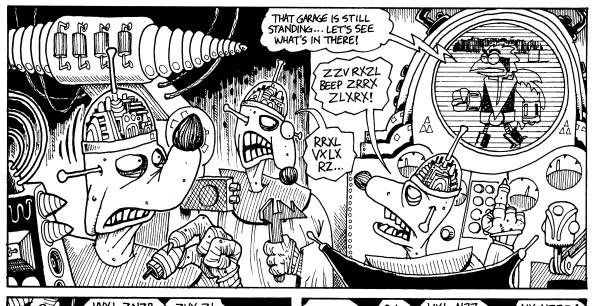






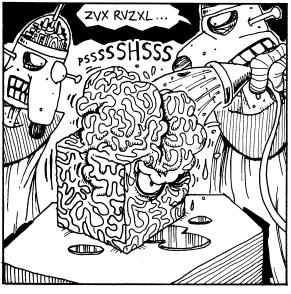


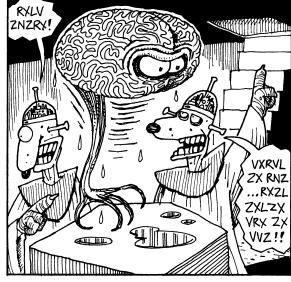








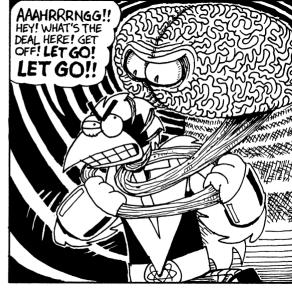










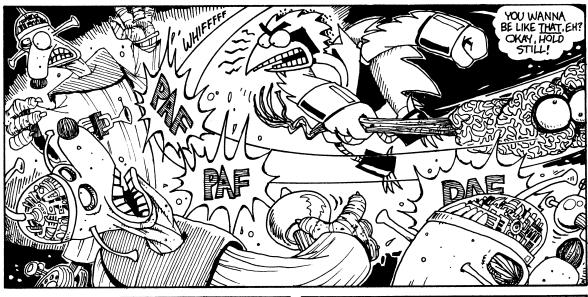












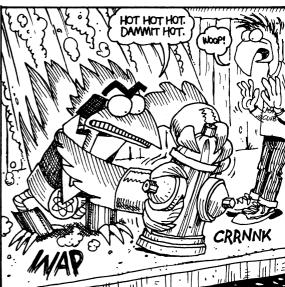




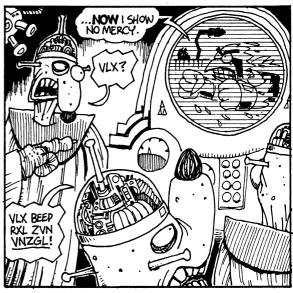










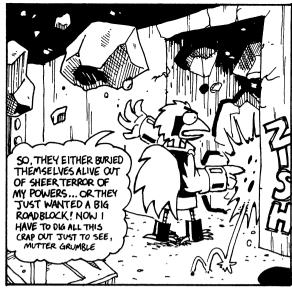






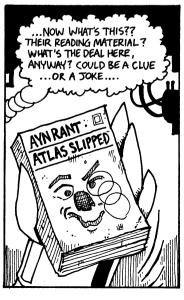


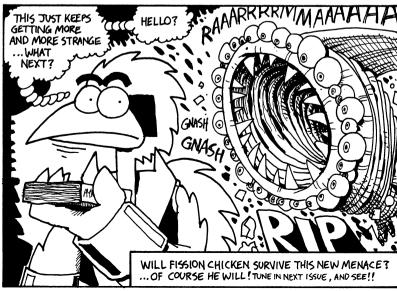


















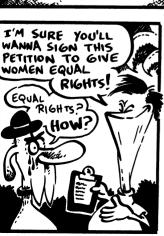


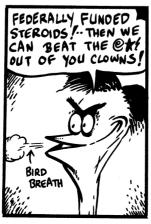


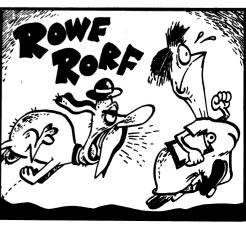


















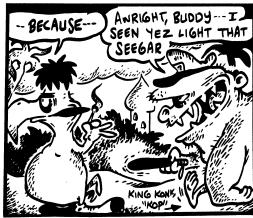


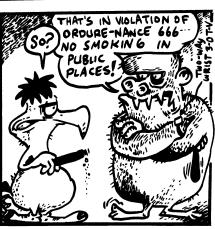


































































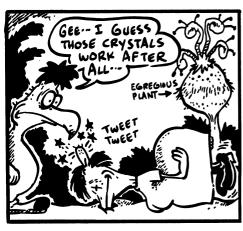


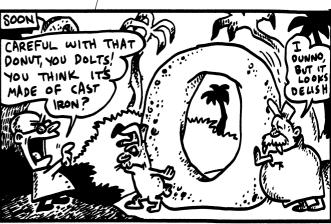






































IT HAS BEEN SAID THAT MY CURIOUSITY SOMETIMES OVERWHELMS MY BETTER INSTINCTS... THIS IS A STORY ABOUT ONE OF THOSE TIMES.

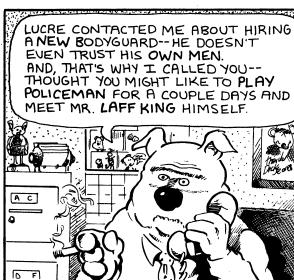
IT BEGINS WITH A PHONE CALL FROM MIKE BARRIER, TOP DOG AT SCRUTINY SECURITY SERVICE.

LAST YEAR A MAJOR CLIENT OF HIS WAS ACCUSING HIM OF THEFT, UNTIL I BROKE A STORY ON THE REAL CULPRITS. MIKE SAID HE OWED ME.

I DIDN'T ARGUE.











LIONHEART

THAT WAS OKAY-- I WAS GOING TO BE PAID PLENTY. TRUE MOVIE MAGAZINE HAS A STANDING OFFER OF FIVE GRAND FOR AN INSIDER'S STORY. IF I COULD SOMEHOW WRANGLE AN INTERVIEW, I COULD ASK FOR THREE TIMES THAT.



STORY & ART by TOM STAZER ... ALL OF IT IS @ 1988.

RICH and STOPP

LUCRE'S BEEN PRESS SHY FOR YEARS, BUT HE USED TO LOVE PUBLICITY.

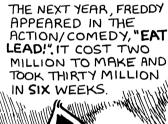
TEN YEARS AGO HE WAS A MEMBER OF THE **FUNNY ANIMALS**

COMEDY TROUPE, WHERE HE GAINED NOTORIETY FOR HIS WILDLY POPULAR

CHARACTER, THE HUNCHBACK LOUNGE SINGER.



FOR A WHOLE SUMMER. IN 1981, EVERY PARTY I WENT TO HAD SOME DRUNK RUNNING AROUND BENT OVER, SINGING WITH A LISP.





IT WAS FOLLOWED BY
THE INNOVATIVE
"EAT LEAD II."
WHICH GROSSED ABOUT
TWO HUNDRED
MILLION DOLLARS.

LUCRE NOW HAD THE CLOUT TO PRODUCE, WRITE AND DIRECT HIS NEXT STARRING VEHICLE.

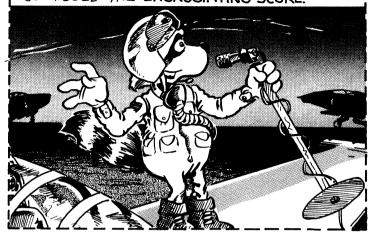
YOU'VE PROBABLY HEARD OF "DAMN THAT RACCOON!" IT OPENED IN MARCH 1984, AND IT'S STILL PLAYING IN SHOPPING MALLS ACROSS THE PLANET.



BUT THEN, SIX MONTHS LATER, THE FLOP: A MUSICAL REMAKE OF THE GRAPES OF WRATH.

FREDDY WAS MORE CAREFUL WITH HIS NEXT FILM; SO CAREFUL THAT HE WENT TWO YEARS AND THIRTY MILLION OVER BUDGET.

THE RESULT WAS "THE SOARING OF BUDDY SAWBUCK", A BROODING, NEUROTIC, FOUR-HOUR ENDURANCE TEST WHEREIN FREDDY PORTRAYED A BRILLIANT YOUNG COMIC WHO ABANDONS HIS CAREER IN ORDER TO PURSUE HIS AMBITIONS AS A TEST PILOT; HE ALSO COMPOSED THE EXCRUCIATING SCORE.



ONE REVIEWER DESCRIBED
THE MOVIE AS "MORE
UNPLEASANT THAN HAVING
YOUR TONGUE SLAMMED
IN A CAR DOOR"

OTHER CRITICS WERE
LESS KIND.

EXCLUSIVE SHOWING
BUDDY SAWBUT

FOR THE LAST YEAR AND A HALF, HE'S BEEN WORKING ON HIS NEW FILM, SHROUDED IN ABSOLUTE SECRECY. HE PROMISES A MEGAHIT, BUT THERE ARE RUMORS OF DISCORD ON THE SET; ONE DIRECTOR HAS BEEN FIRED, AND LUCRE HAS A REPUTATION AS A HOT-TEMPERED EGOTIST.

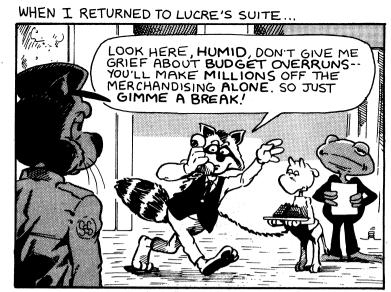








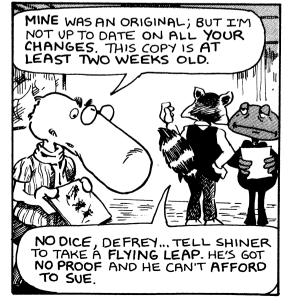








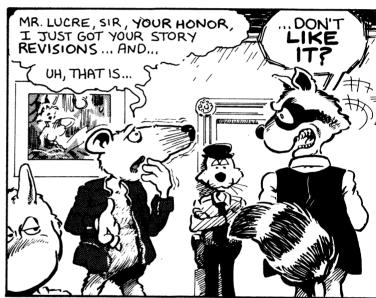


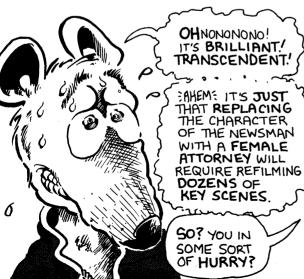




















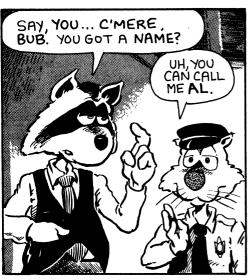
























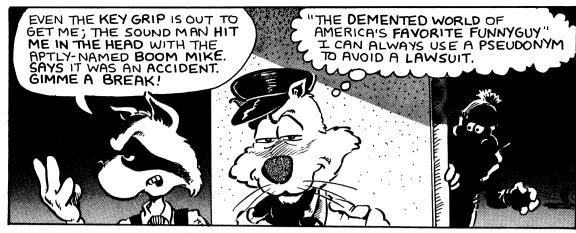












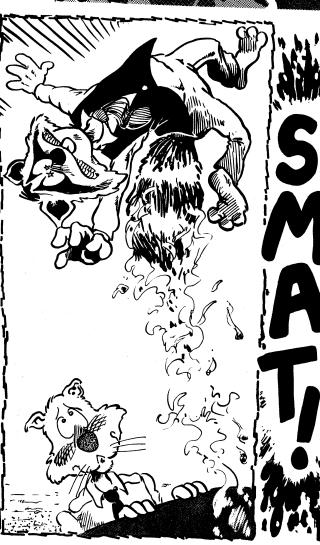








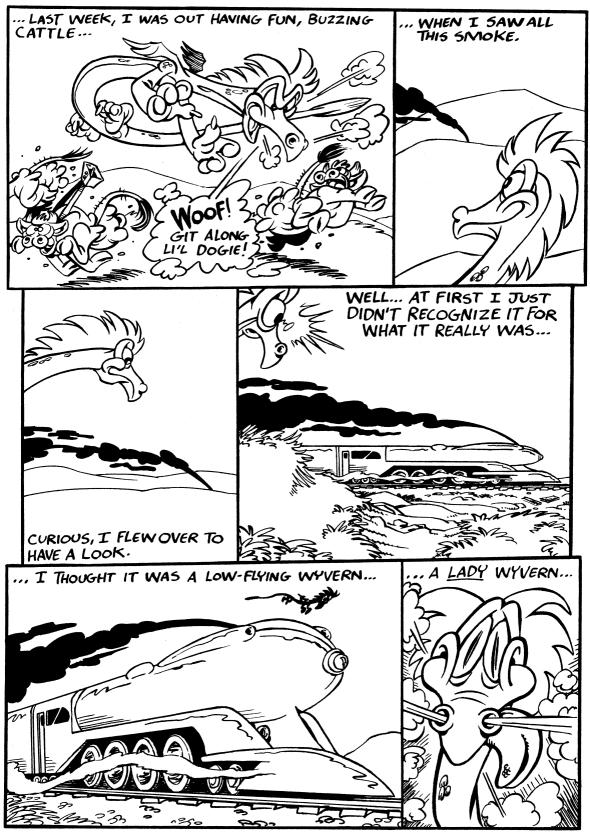


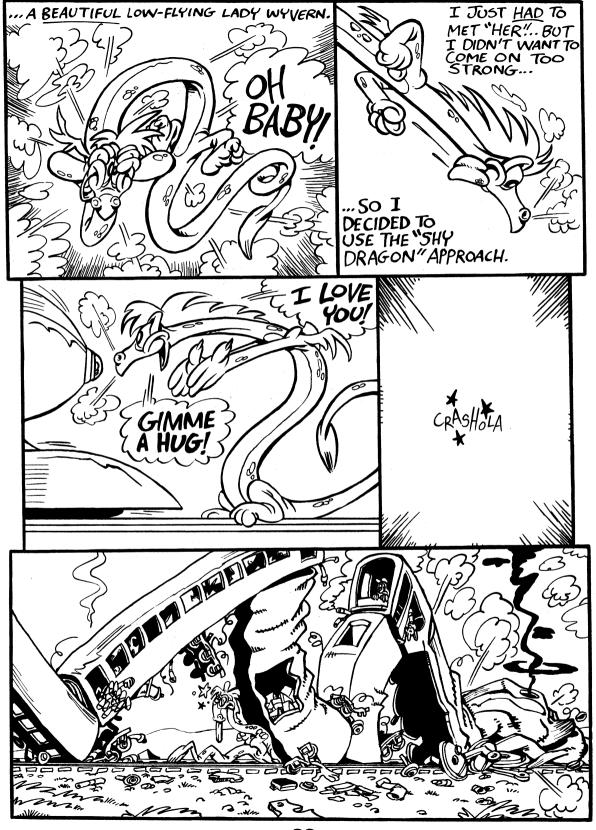




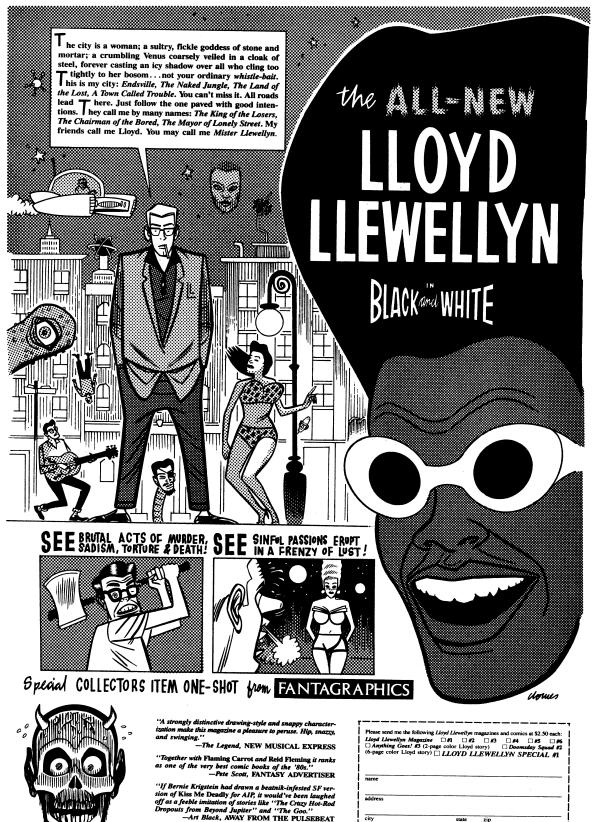
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"...like the efforts of a death-row inmate who was asked to be funny."

—R.A. Jones, AMAZING HEROES

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



Adventures of Captain Jack #11: Jack meets up with the mob.

Adventures of Captain Jack #12: The grand finale of the series, as things will never be the same.

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 Armstrono!

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 #11: AVAILABLE AGAIN! Big 64-page Christmas issue, with Sakai, Milton, Armstrong, Stazer, Templeton, Kieth, and a cover by Macklin. Critters #12: Birthright returns, plus Waller/Worley's SpeakingStone, 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. (Also available: non-cover-parody version.)



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—plus a flexidisc with songs performed by Templeton & Alan Moorel

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 "Miami Vice"/Coke parody, plus Lionheart and Fission Chicken.

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



Critters #30: Mark Martin cover and story, plus Angst, Fission Chicken, and Gnuff returns.

Critters #31: Gruff cover featured, plus Lizards, Blue Beagle, and a Steve Bissette one-pager.

Critters #32: Lizards continues with a cover, Gnuff, and a new Fission Chicken story—plus DeStefano!

Critters #33: Fission Chicken "Chicken Duplicators" cover, Gnuff concludes, and Angst.

Critters #34: Blue Beagle returns, the premiere of Kyle Rothweiler, and a Hallowe'en horror tale.

Critters #35: Lela Dowling cover, Fission Chicken and the beginning of a new Lionheart tale.

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

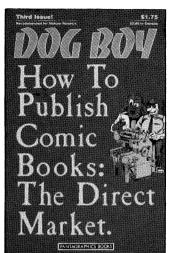
DOG BOY

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

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 #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 goofy snot jokes, plus parodies of Dr. Seuss and Uncle Wriggly books.

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

Usagi Yojimbo #8: "A Mother's Love," plus Tom Luth's "Rockhoppers."

Usagi Yojimbo #10: "Blade of the Gods," plus a Usagi/Leonardo the Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtle tale by Peter Laird!

Usagi Yojimbo #11: Saga of a tea cup, plus a "Catnippon" back-up by Sergio Aragones.

Usagi Yojimbo #12: "The Shogun's Gift," plus Tom Stazer's "Lionheart" in an eight-page hostage story.

Usagi Yojimbo #13: First chapter of "Dragon Bellow Conspiracy," plus Shaw! & Evanier's "Digger Duckbill."

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. A great buy!

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, the new *Mighty Mouse* show!

All this plus a "Why I Draw Funny-Animals" essay section by various cartoonists, and more!

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

Christmas With Superswine #1:

Gary Fields's Pig of Power in a seasonal one-shot. Not for those fond of Yuletide cheer!

The Comics Journal #82-83: Mam-

moth interview with Dave (Cerebus the Aardvark) Sim.

The Comics Journal #99: Big interview with Arr (Mail the Harre) Sales

view with Arn (Neil the Horse) Saba, among other things.

Doomsday Squad #5: Features a

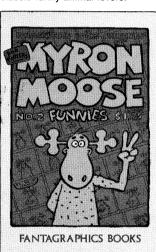
spectacular full-color Captain Jack story by Mike Kazaleh! Anything Goes! #3: Featuring a full-

color Captain Jack story by Mike Kazaleh, a 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

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



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