

FISSION CHICKEN

CRITTERS
No. 39

\$2.00
(\$2.50 in
Canada)



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J.P.
MOR
GAN

FANTAGRAPHICS BOOKS

Critters

FEATURING

FISSION CHICKEN

J.P. Morgan's "Fission Chicken" was hatched in *Critters* #15 (an issue that also featured the *Critters* debut of Tim Fuller's Blue Beagle) with a story that satirized the Care Bears. Four months later, Morgan launched into an epic 27-page story starring his favorite villains, the Vortoxians (a.k.a. "The Marketing Experts from Outer Space") which appeared in #19-21. After a short Christmas tale (which introduced the wicked P.U. Evolcraft) in #23, Morgan returned to the Vortoxians for a post-script to the "Marketing" saga (#24). The Vortoxians also appeared in Fission's longest story to date, "They Saved Walt's Brain" (#27-28, 30), but were absent from "The Chicken Duplicators" (#32-33), "They Came From Beneath Someone's Garage" (#35-36), and "Toilets of Terror" (#38), in which Fission faced off against nuclear power, the ghost of Ayn Rand, and...uh, well, giant toilets. But now the Vortoxians are back...

Fish is scheduled to star in his own mini-series later in the summer, and his first five *Critters* adventures will be reprinted in a *Usagi Yojimbo* Book-sized paperback this fall.

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Send to:

CRITTERS LETTERS

7563 Lake City Way, Seattle, WA 98115

So here we are with our first solo-feature issue. What can I say except that I'm delighted to start off with J.P. Morgan's hilarious hero, and that I hope all you regular Critters readers have followed us into this new, strange venture. Sorry there weren't any letters last issue, but the last-minute addition of Mel. White's story squeezed out the section. Keep on writing! Just because an occasional issue doesn't feature a lettercol is no reason not to let us know what you think!

—Kim Thompson

Dear Kim,

Yeah, yeah, I know it's been a long time since the last time I wrote. I guess you've heard all the excuses, so I won't bore you with any excuses.

In part, I'm writing you this letter to let you know that I'm still reading *Critters*. Contrary to popular belief, I *do* read other features in *Critters* than "Birthright." On this note, I'd like to tip my hat to my friend, Mark Martin, for immortalizing my family name back in his piece in issue #30. I would also like to give a very belated "thanks, ya ain't so bad yourself" to Mike Higgs for his kind words back in issue #26.

Anyway, to the point. I can easily say that, as any funny-animal fan would, that *Critters* is the bastion of the genre. Since #1, I can without a doubt say that *Critters* has consistently lived up to, and sometimes even surpassed, my expectations. But, alas, I have one quibble.

If any of us were to go back and read *Critters* #1, we would read three serious, well-executed funny-animal stories. "Birthright," a story of political conflict; "Usagi Yojimbo," a story done with a touch of humor, but basically with an air of maturity; and a work reminiscent of nuclear warfare by Joshua Quagmire. So, if one were to read this first issue of *Critters*, as I did, he or she would get the sense that the funny animal genre had finally burst through the stereotypical waka-waka humor that has pervaded it since the days of Disney.

With this fresh on our minds, we now pack up the latest issue of *Critters*. In this issue, we see several stories, all well-executed and well-presented, but unfortunately returning to a cartoony parade of Disneyesque humor strips. Now, I have no quibble with humorous funny-animals. I love humor, and I sincerely believe that humorous storytelling can only truly work to its fullest through funny-animals. However, I cannot help but feel that *Critters* has lost something. I am not saying that this is *not* the way Anthropomorphics should be done, but it is not the *only* way. Funny-animals are ideal for humor, but take on another cap-

titating dimension when used in a more serious manner. Why do you think "Birthright" was so popular?

Well, that was my soapbox for this letter. Sure enough, though, *Critters* is one of the few comics that I still buy monthly, and I am sure that if will continue to carry the best in the business, but I feel that if funny-animals as a genre is ever to break away from and transcend the stereotypes built around it, it must surpass what is expected of it.

I finish with the traditional "keep up the good work!" And as a condolence, I join you in your grief over the election. At least the political satirists are gonna be happy for the next four years.

Eric Blumrich
Fayetteville, TN

Dear Kim,

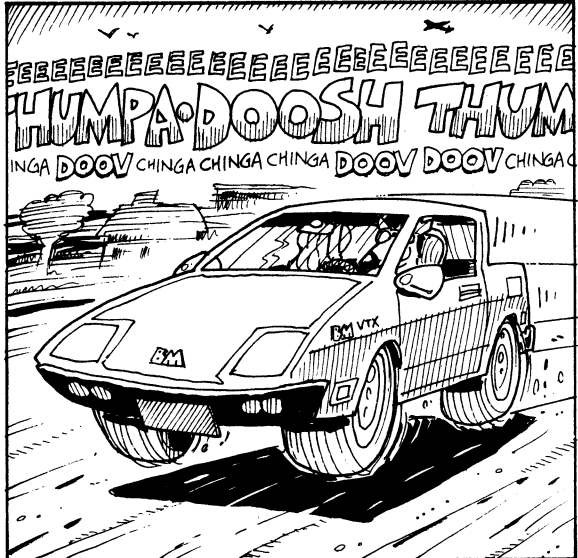
Why haven't I written, you may wonder. Well, lately I've been busy. But before that I was waiting to see what response my "anti-Omaha" letter would generate. Far from being "nervous about expressing my opinion," I thrive on controversy, and was hoping for some really rabid, snotty responses. (In the past I've seen some real phonies. They rail against artistic subtleties and implied nudity—what most of us call "good taste"—and literally demand *skin*. Oh, they use the stock phrases: "We're all adults here," "The human body is beautiful," "Sex is perfectly natural," but you can read the drool between the lines.)

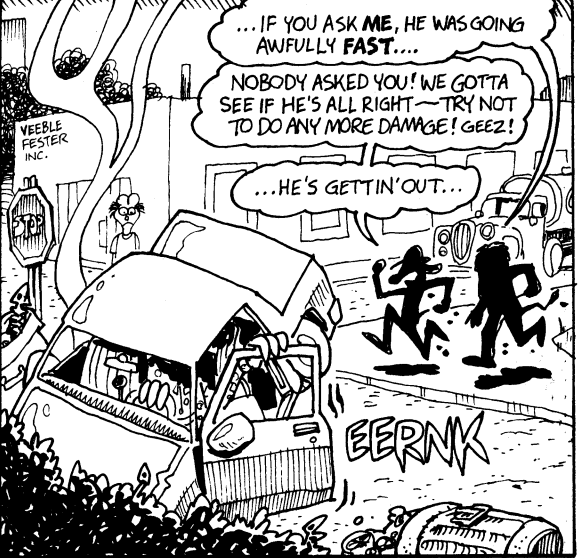
But nno-o-o-o, I didn't rile the sex-freaks. All I got was a very reasonable response from John Holland. ("All I got?" All I got was noticed by one of my favorite critter-creators, that's all!) But hey, read my first letter again, John. I never denied "the beauty, the wit, the grace, the wisdom" of *Omaha*. On the contrary, I acknowledged them. I just did not, do not, will not *personally* approve of the graphic sex and nudity. I won't buy it, but I will admit that it's all-around better than some of the nastier stuff we've seen: *Void Indigo*, Howard Chaykin's sleazifying of *Blackhawk*, and some of the worst of Bruce Jones's psychosexual tits-and-gore extravaganzas.

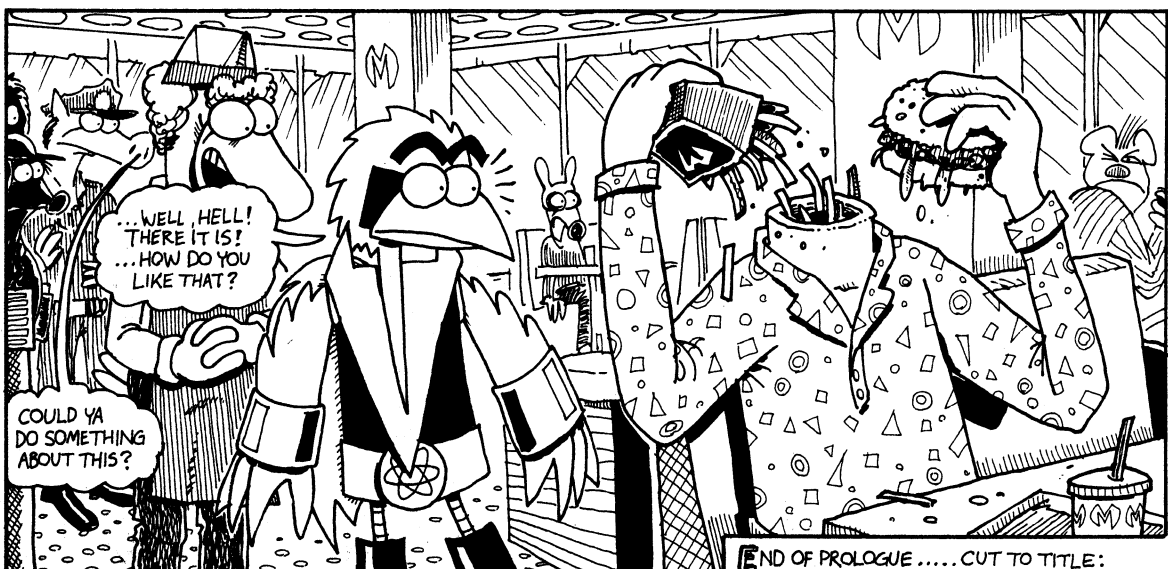
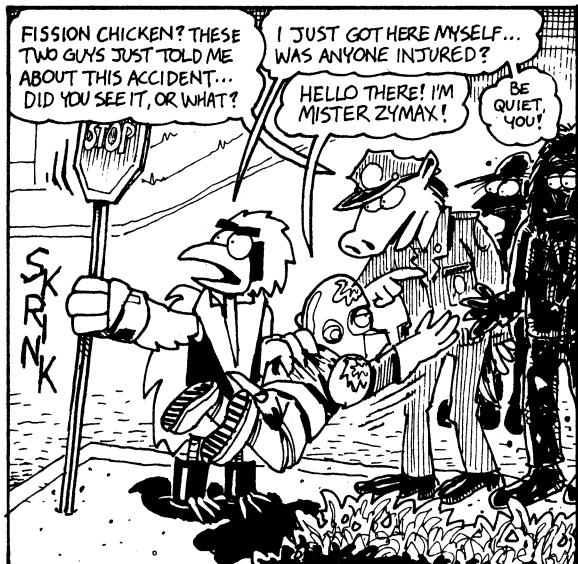
Even over my own personal standards, I would support my local retailer's right to sell *Omaha* and other similar (and dissimilar) adult titles—to *adults*! I'd write them all manner of letters against any attempt to ban them locally. But I'd probably also be the first one to rap him in the snoot if he left them out on the racks for eleven-year-olds to flip through.

And therein lies a major problem. Any good store owner can and will keep the rug-rats from buying the racy stuff. But

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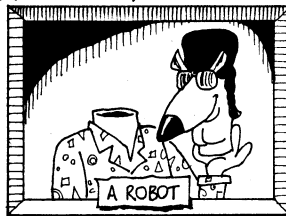
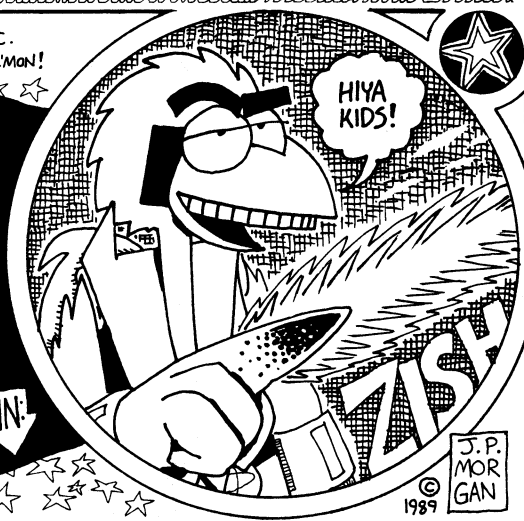




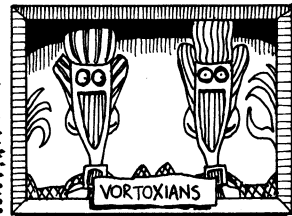
...JOIN US NOW FOR EXCITEMENT AND THRILLS, ETC.
AS THE CHICKEN OF WRATH BATTLES UNTOLD EVIL! C'MON!

YES, IT'S

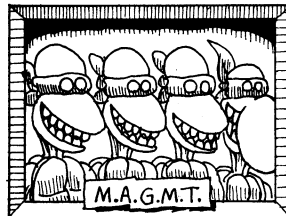
FISSION CHICKEN



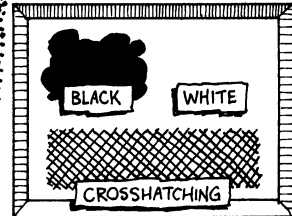
THE



HOMOGENIZATION



RAII



HEY, LOOK!! IT'S THE **FISSION CHICKEN** THEME SONG!! WOW!
(SUNG TO THE TUNE OF "YANKEE DOODLE":)

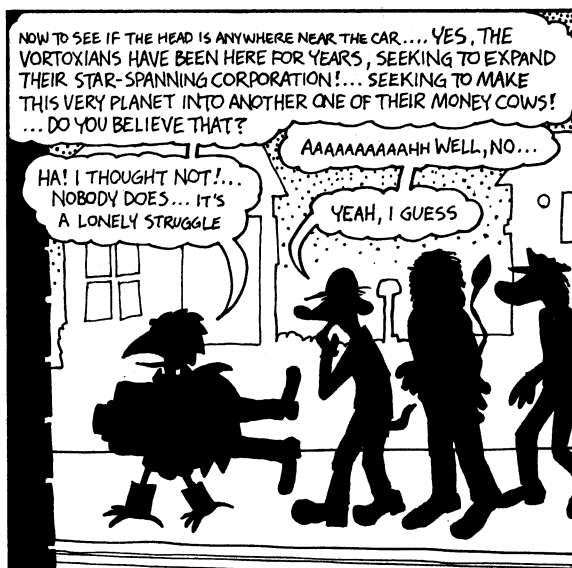
FISSION CHICKEN IS THE CHAMP
OF ALL THE ACTION ACES;
HE'LL SEIZE THE VILLAINS LIKE A CLAMP
AND SMASH THEM IN THEIR FACES!

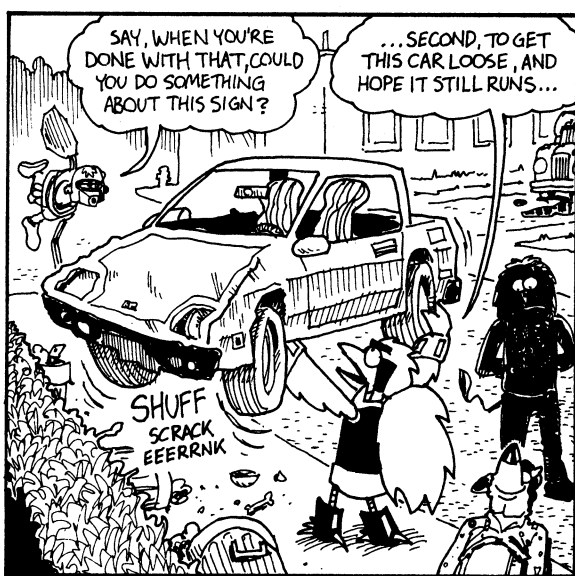


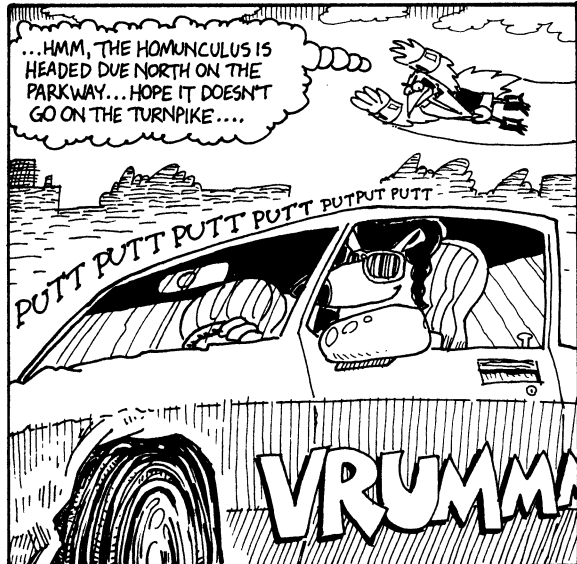
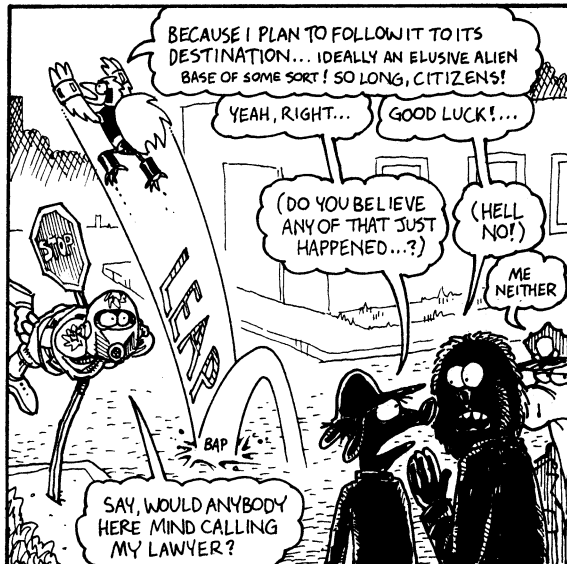
FISSION CHICKEN, MAKE THEM RAY
FISSION CHICKEN, BASH THEM
ZAP THEM WITH YOUR POWER RAY
AND WITH A BOULDER MASH THEM!

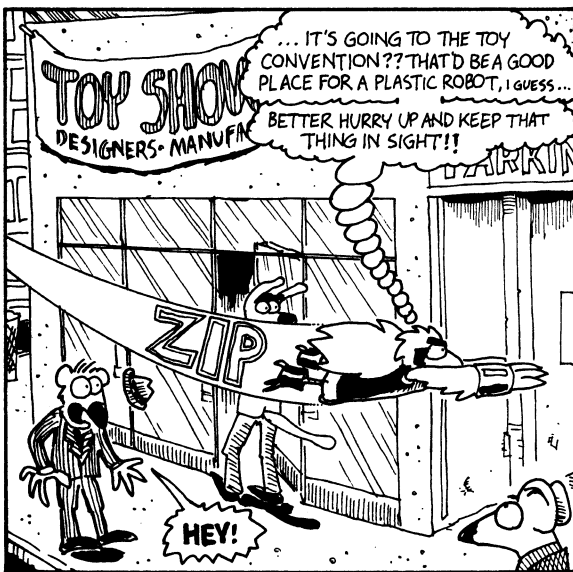
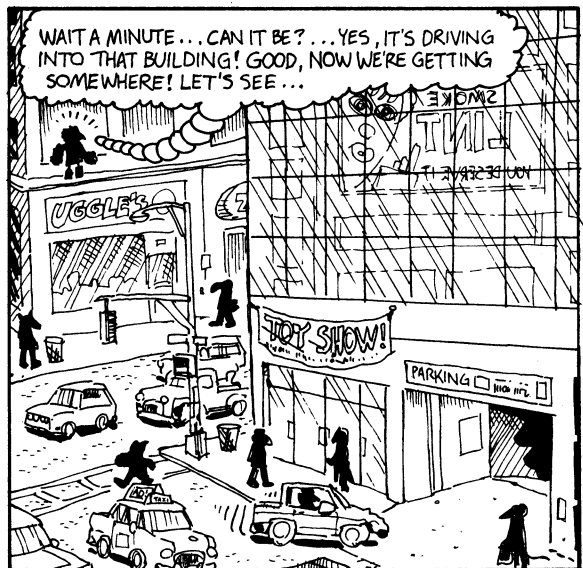


SING 100 TIMES DAILY.

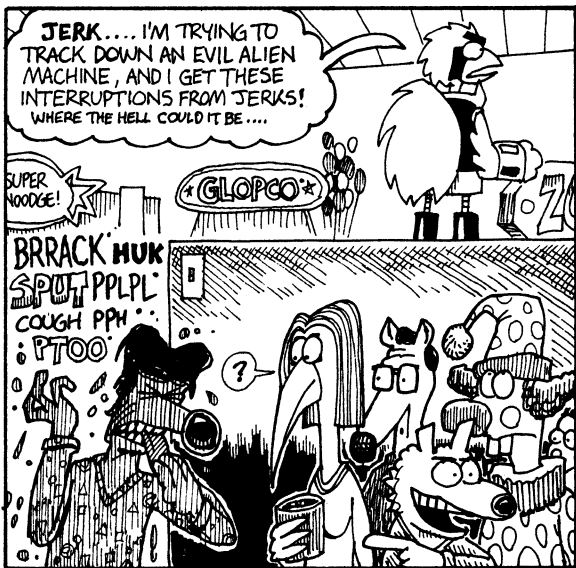
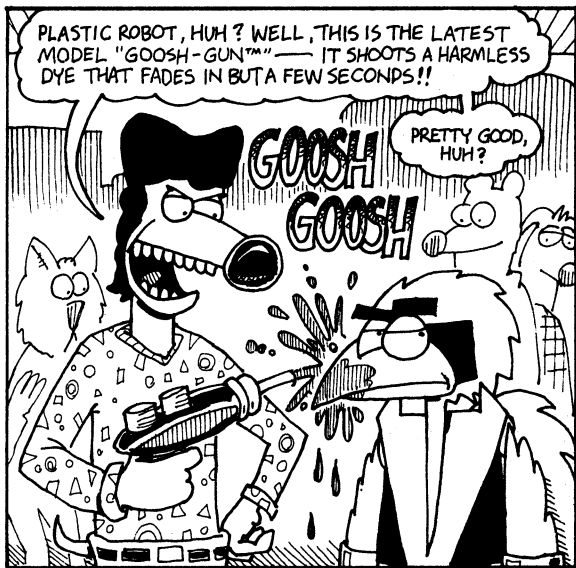


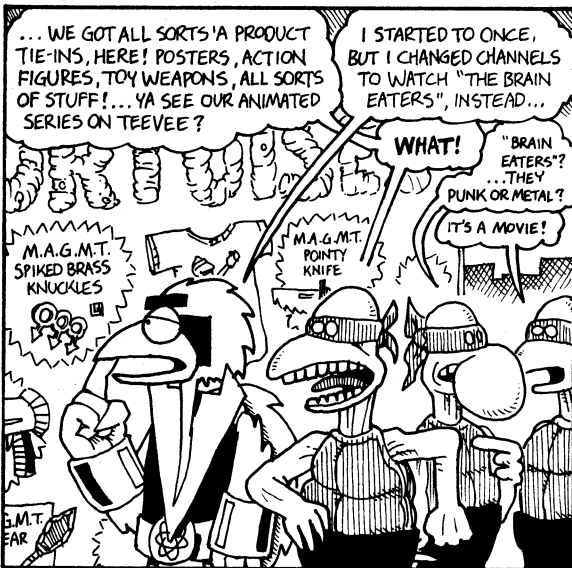
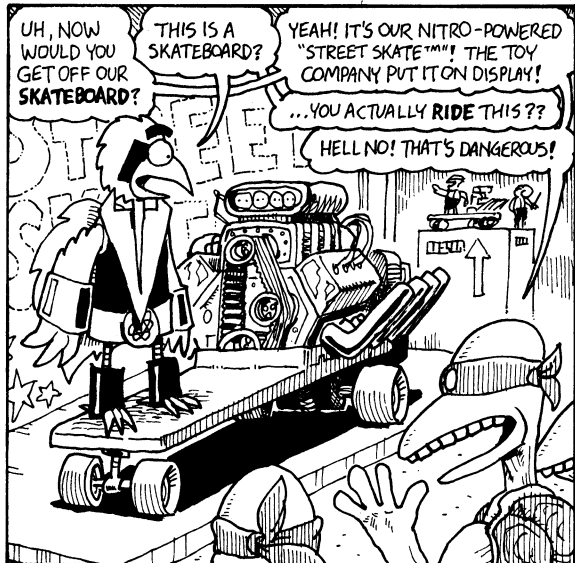




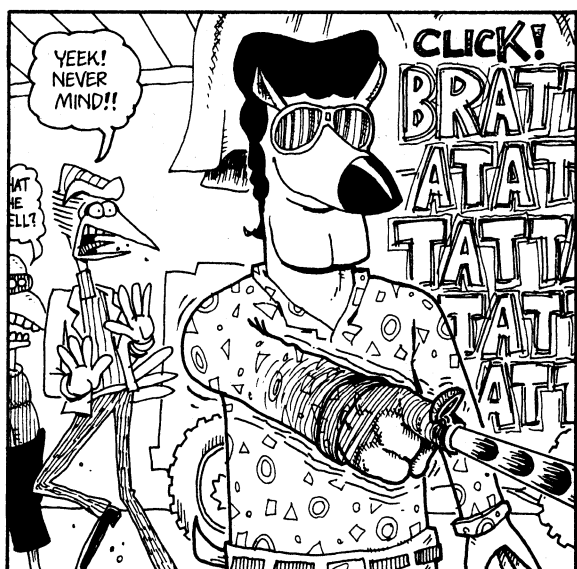
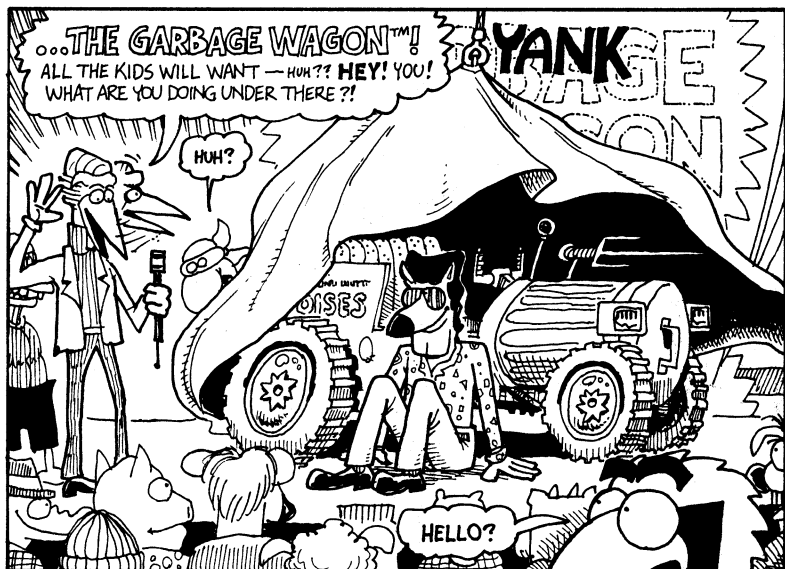


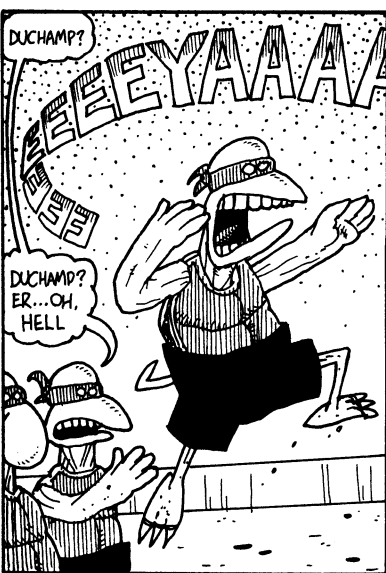
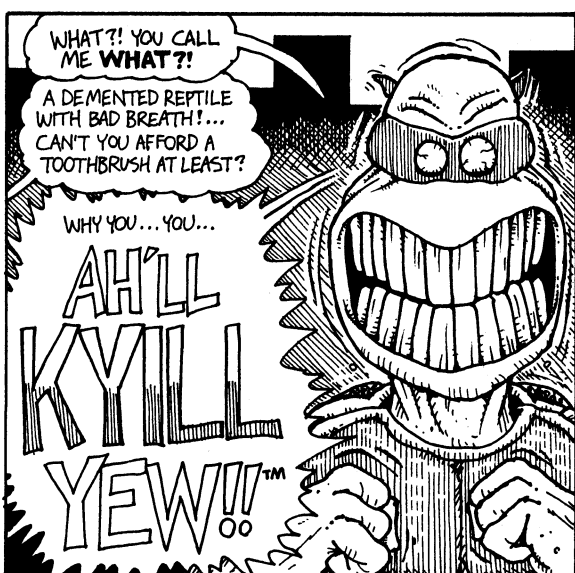
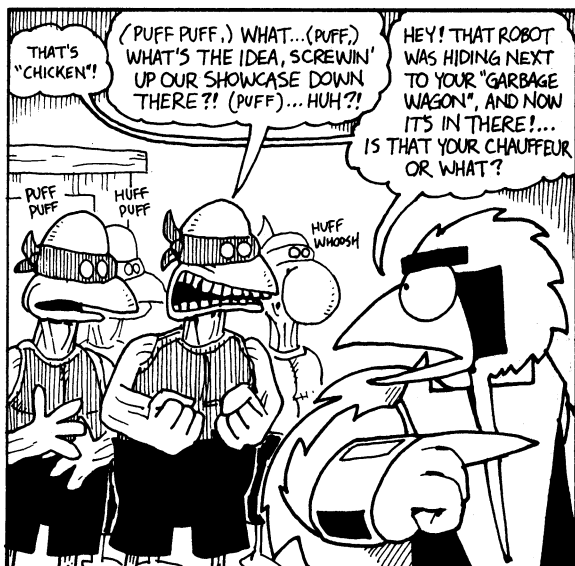
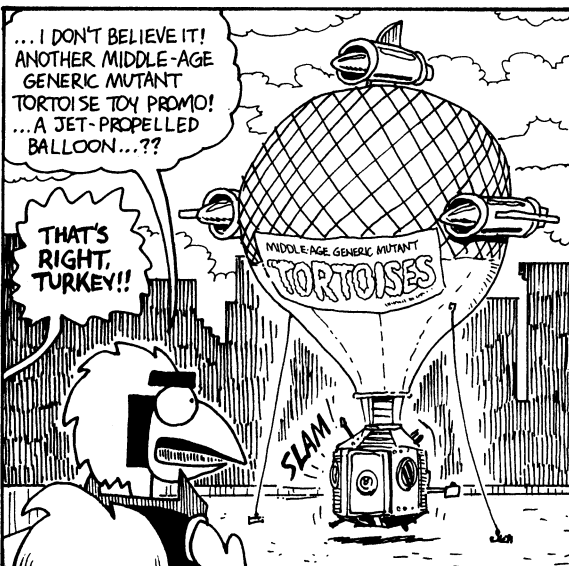


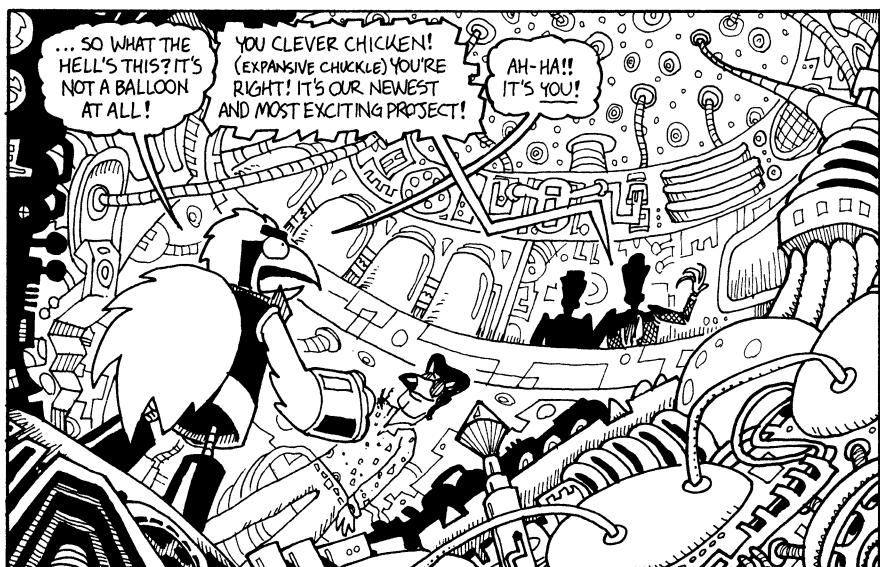
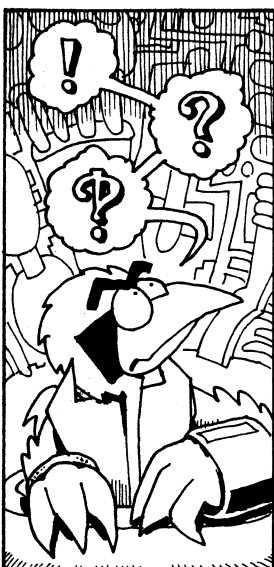
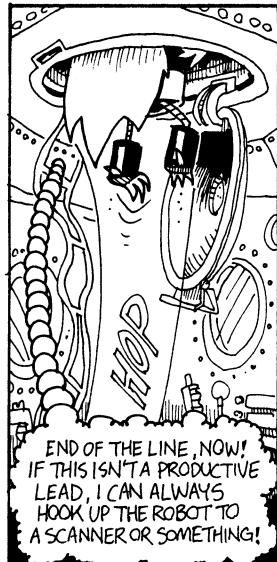
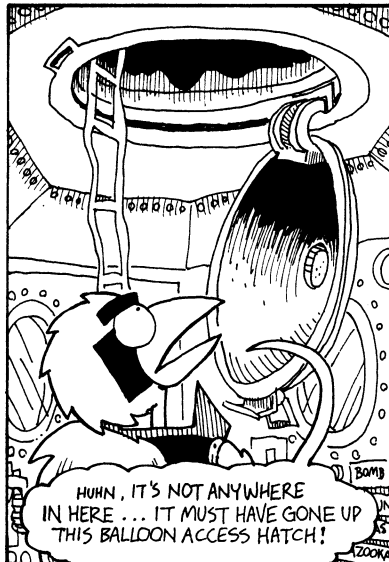




K Z C







YOU SEE, WE SENT THIS YUPPOID-UNIT® TO YOUR AREA TO ATTACK YOU, THEN LEAD YOU HERE! BUT, ITS CAR CRASHED... RATHER FORTUNATELY WHERE YOU CAME UPON IT!

YEAH? AND NOW YOU'VE GOT THEM EATING FAST FOOD?

(AMUSED LAUGH,) OH, THAT'S JUST SECONDARY PROGRAMMING: I.E. TO WAIT IN A McDUNGALL'S™ AND ACT INCONSPICUOUSLY... WHICH IT DID, TO THE BEST OF ITS SCRAMBLED PROGRAM!

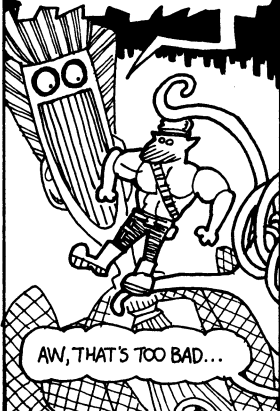


RIGHT, A LUCKY ACCIDENT... SO WHY ARE YOU HIDING INSIDE A BALLOON WITH ALL THIS JUNK? FOR THAT MATTER, HOW'S IT STAYING UPRIGHT?... ANTIGRAVITY PODS?

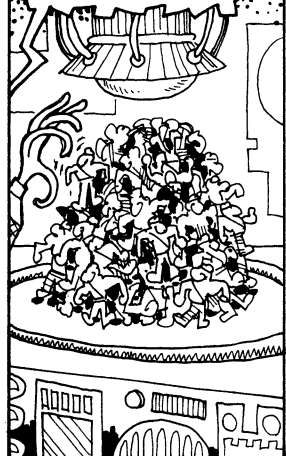
OH, YOU ARE CLEVER! YES, THIS "BALLOON" IS HELD UP IN JUST THAT WAY... AND IT COMES WITH CUSTOM EXTRAS, TOO! (INSINUATING CHUCKLE!) SHOW OUR GUEST-UNIT THE TOY DEMO, KIKBAK-72!



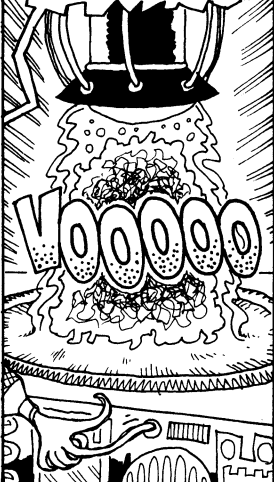
(AHEM:) PLEASE OBSERVE, MR. CHICKEN! A "LAMBO"™ ACTION FIGURE! ... QUITE POPULAR A FEW SEASONS BACK... BUT ALAS, NO LONGER A SURGE-SELLER®!



... BUT IT'S QUITE EASILY REMEDIED! WE PLACE IT IN A PILE OF IDENTICAL ACTION FIGURES...



... TURN ON THE HANDY SWITCH...



... AND "VOILA"! DO YOU KNOW WHAT WE HAVE NOW?



(BRIEF DISARMING LAUGH) ... NO, MR. CHICKEN — WE HAVE A BIG PILE OF MIDDLE-AGE GENERIC MUTANT TORTOISE™ ACTION FIGURES! IT'S MUCH EASIER THAN MELTING AND RECASTING, WOULDN'T YOU AGREE?

THE MIRACLE OF THE AGE!! IS THAT ALL YOU WANTED TO SHOW ME?

OH, BUT THERE'S MORE! TAKE IT AWAY, SIR



KIKBAK-72 HAS JUST SHOWN YOU A COMMON RETRO-FACTURING® TECHNIQUE OF OURS, MR. CHICKEN... AND WE'RE HERE TO APPLY IT ON A MUCH LARGER SCALE!

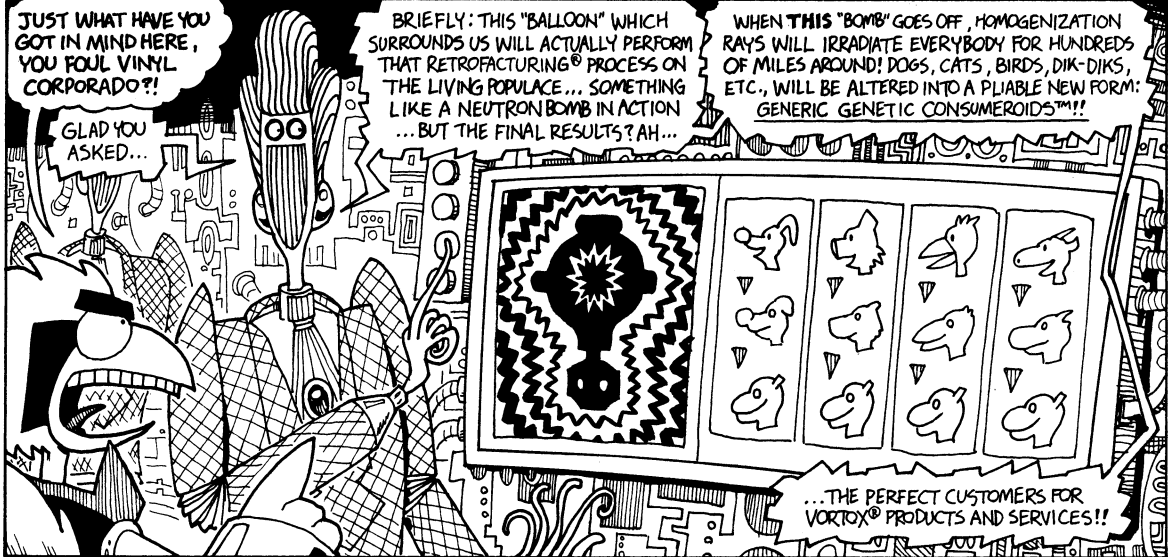
YOU ARE, ARE YOU?... JUST HOW LARGE? EH?!

(DRAMATIC PAUSE)... WELL, WOULD YOU BELIEVE THE ENTIRE POPULATION OF THE TRI-STATE AREA...?

WHAT?!

AHH, I KNEW YOU'D BE PLEASED!





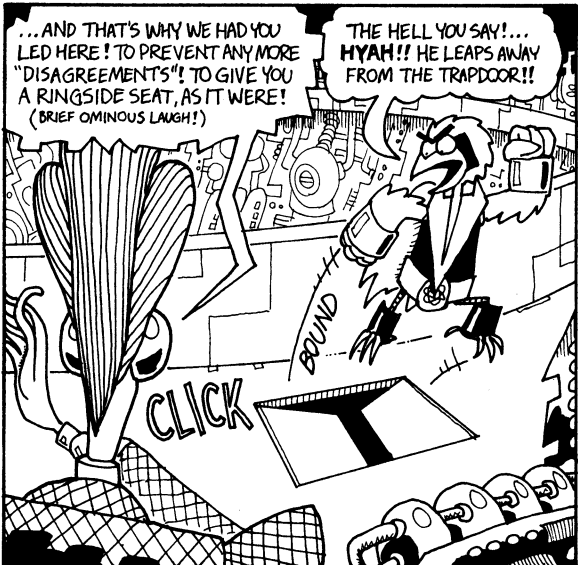
JUST WHAT HAVE YOU GOT IN MIND HERE, YOU FOUL VINYL CORPORADO?!

GLAD YOU ASKED...

BRIEFLY: THIS "BALLOON" WHICH SURROUNDS US WILL ACTUALLY PERFORM THAT RETROFACTURING® PROCESS ON THE LIVING POPULACE... SOMETHING LIKE A NEUTRON BOMB IN ACTION... BUT THE FINAL RESULTS? AH...

WHEN THIS "BOMB" GOES OFF, HOMOGENIZATION RAYS WILL IRRADIATE EVERYBODY FOR HUNDREDS OF MILES AROUND! DOGS, CATS, BIRDS, DIK-DIKS, ETC., WILL BE ALTERED INTO A PLIABLE NEW FORM: GENERIC GENETIC CONSUMEROIDS™!!

...THE PERFECT CUSTOMERS FOR VORTOX® PRODUCTS AND SERVICES!!



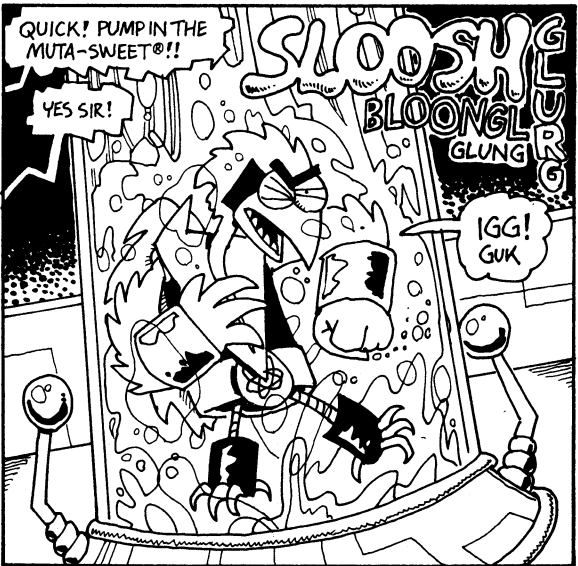
...AND THAT'S WHY WE HAD YOU LED HERE! TO PREVENT ANY MORE "DISAGREEMENTS"! TO GIVE YOU A RINGSIDE SEAT, AS IT WERE! (BRIEF OMINOUS LAUGH!)

THE HELL YOU SAY!... HYAH!! HE LEAPS AWAY FROM THE TRAPDOOR!!



YOU CAN PULL THAT TRICK ON ME ONLY SO MANY TIMES BEFORE IT—

HEY!



QUICK! PUMP IN THE MUTA-SWEET®!!

YES SIR!

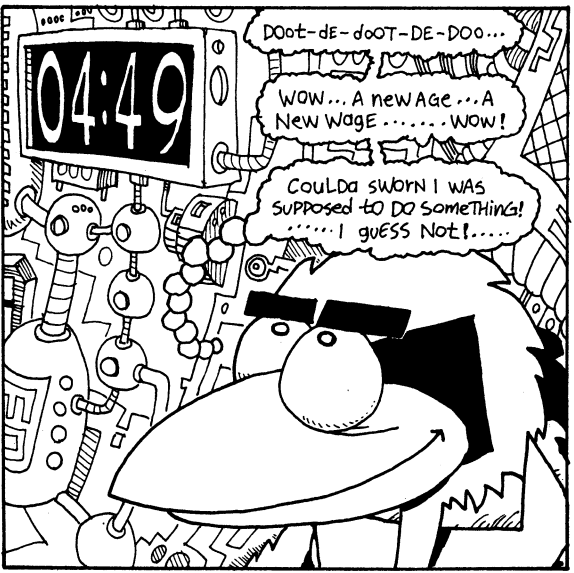
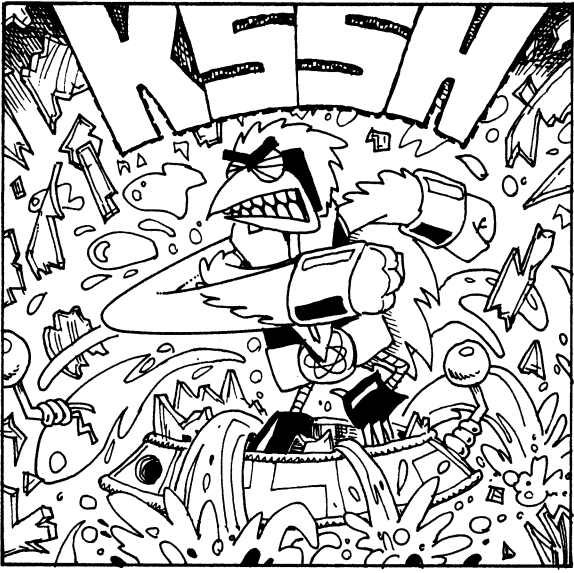
IGG! GUK



NOW TURN ON THE SYNAPSE DISRUPTORS!

YOU BET, SIR!!

©#*!!

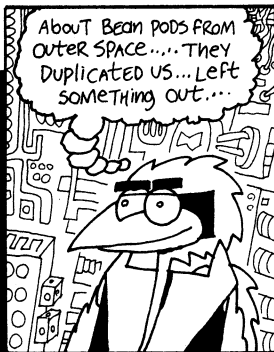




I CAME UP HERE FOR SOMETHING...PROBABLY WASN'T IMPORTANT, HAWA



HA... ALL THIS REMINDS ME OF SOMETHING... A MOVIE I SAW ONCE... YEARS AGO...



ABOUT BEAN PODS FROM OUTER SPACE... THEY DUPLICATED US... LEFT SOMETHING OUT...



...I SAW A LOT OF WEIRD MOVIES LIKE THAT... ON DOUBLE BILLS, EVEN... AT THE "EL CHEAPO"...



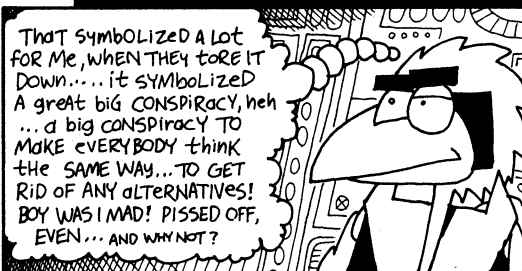
YEP... THE "EL CHEAPO" SPECIALIZED IN THAT STUFF.. I WENT THERE ALL THE TIME... BEFORE THEY TORE IT DOWN AND PUT UP A McDUNGALL'S... ..OW... TWINGE IN MY HEAD!...



...A McDUNGALL'S AND A "KWIK-FIX" 30-MINUTE MENTAL HEALTH FRANCHISE... HEH, BOY THAT ANNOYED ME WHEN IT HAPPENED... DO I HAVE ANY ASPIRIN ON ME?... ..NO...



BOY, WAS I ANNOYED FOR A LONG TIME OVER THAT... HATED TO SEE THINGS I DIDN'T LIKE... I DIDN'T LIKE IT WHEN THEY TORE DOWN THE "EL CHEAPO"! NOT A BIT...



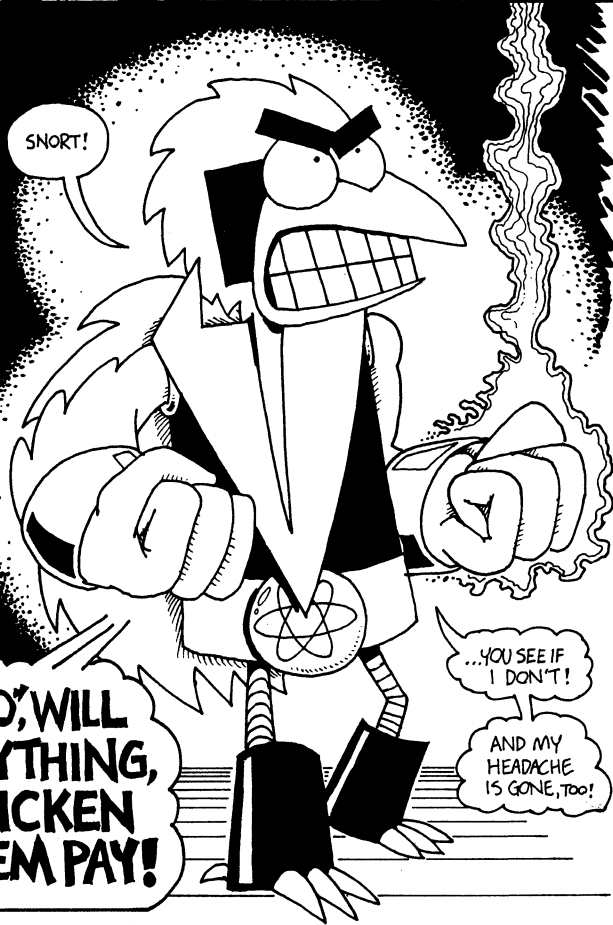
THAT SYMBOLIZED A LOT FOR ME, WHEN THEY TORE IT DOWN... IT SYMBOLIZED A GREAT BIG CONSPIRACY, HEH... A BIG CONSPIRACY TO MAKE EVERYBODY THINK THE SAME WAY... TO GET RID OF ANY ALTERNATIVES! BOY WAS I MAD! PISSED OFF, EVEN... AND WHY NOT?



AND WHY SHOULDN'T I GET MAD? HUH? THEY ZAPPED ME WITH... "MUTA-SWEET"!!

AND THEY'RE ABOUT TO HOMOGENIZE THE POPULACE IN THREE OR FOUR STATES!!

AND THEY TORE DOWN THE "EL CHEAPO" THEATRE!!

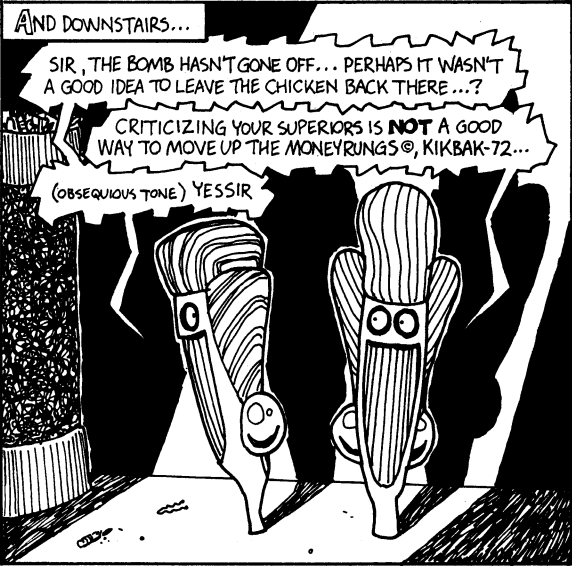
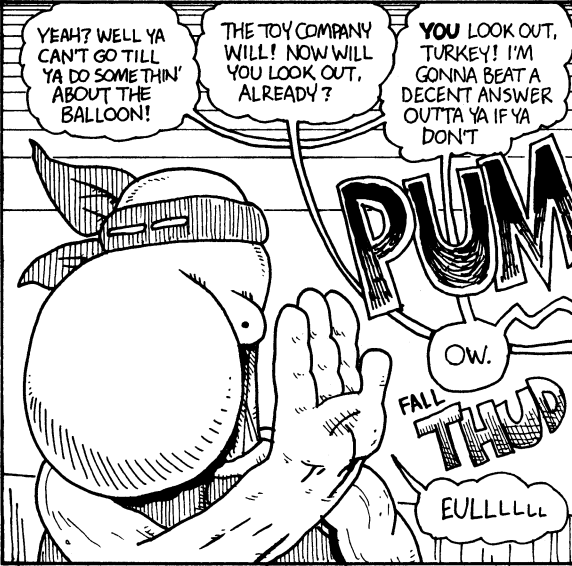
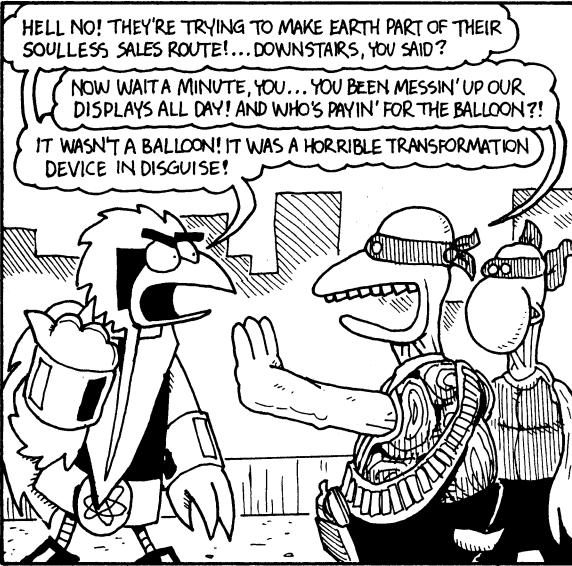


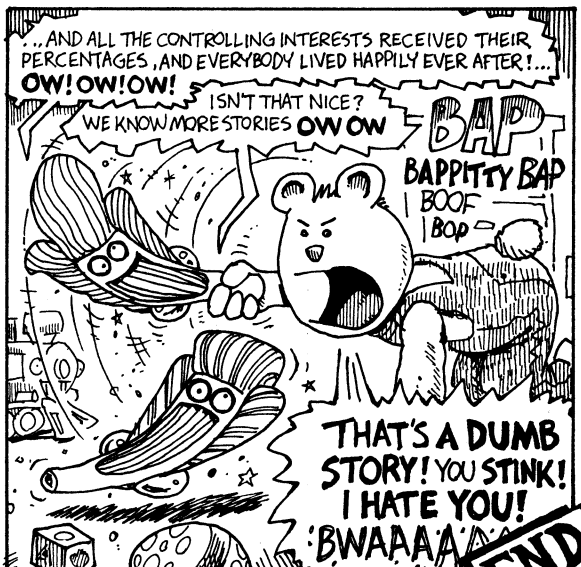
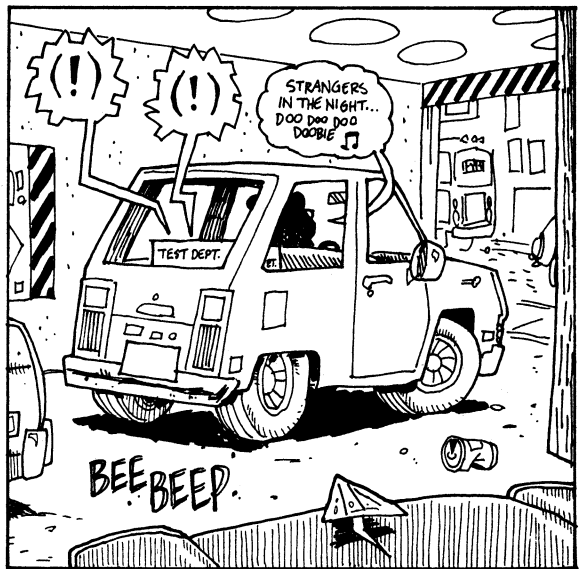
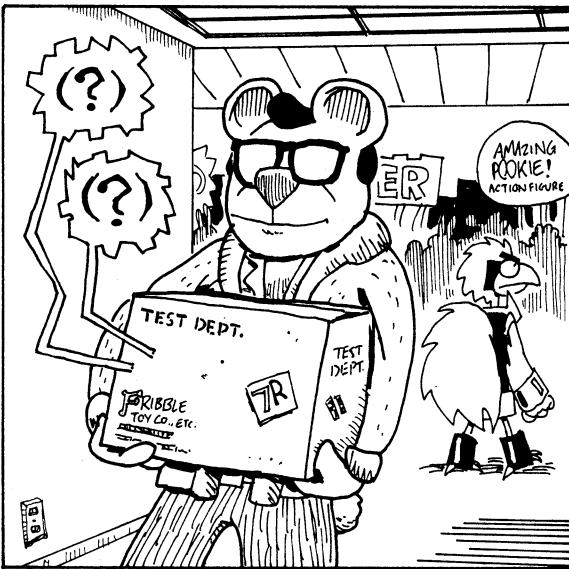
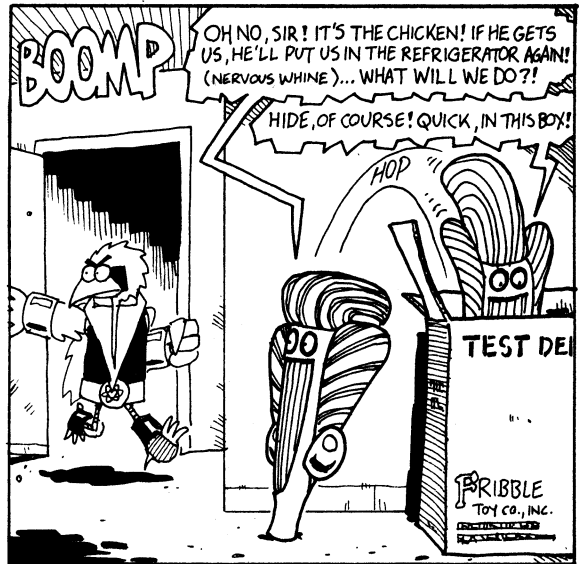
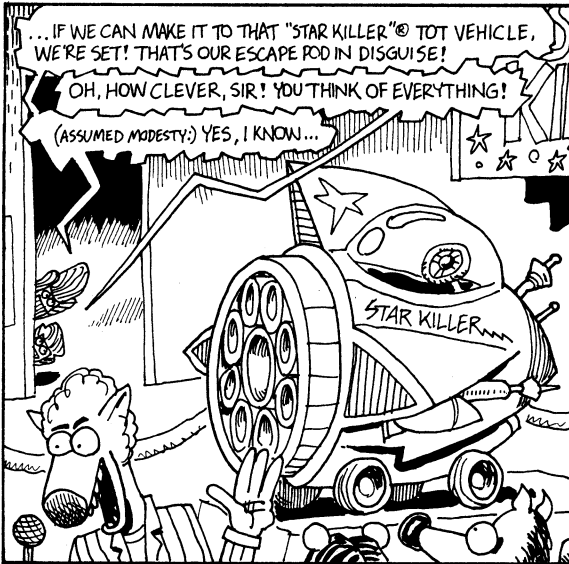
SNORT!

...YOU SEE IF I DON'T!

AND MY HEADACHE IS GONE, TOO!

TEAR DOWN THE "EL CHEAPO", WILL THEY? HOMOGENIZE EVERYTHING, WILL THEY? WELL, THE CHICKEN OF WRATH WILL MAKE THEM PAY!





how does he keep the little cockers from sneaking a peek at it? Well, some of the owners are starting to bag their "mature" books (when they can identify 'em all; that's another problem) before putting them out. That's right decent of 'em, too, because it's got to cut down their browsing sales.

Actually, though, the sex doesn't concern me that much. A little skin has been part of comic books since before Wonder Woman scandalously bared her shoulders. What I think is getting out of hand is the cynical, graphic megaviolence. This stuff is so extreme that you can't even justify using the old clichéd euphemism "action" any more. It's violence. They've coined the new blapword—"gritty"—but it's still violence.

There's nothing wrong with sex and violence in "mature" books, but I think it should be mostly fun sex (as in *Capt. Jack* and *Xanadu*, for instance) and ugly violence (*The 'Nam*, *Viet Nam Journal*). More often than not, though, it's ugly sex (*Cinder & Ashe*, *Sisterhood of Steel GN*) and fun violence (*The Shadow*, *Haywire*). Check out the lettercol of *Haywire* #5. Forget the kids; this stuff is not good for *adult* minds.

Of course, the way to go would be self-restraint and regulation within the industry. But as I said before, at the slightest hint of anything less than "do your own thing," some people will yell "*censorship!*" It begins to sound like the NRA headline: "Any attempt at regulation, no matter how apparently reasonable, is the first step toward a total ban." One of these days I expect cat yronwode or Richard Pini to write, "Comic books don't warp minds. Minds warp minds."

Wake up and smell the decaf, people! If we don't regulate ourselves, someone—someone who doesn't know or love comic books—will come in and do it to us. Don't expect it—*Count on it!*

(Aside: I used to think that I was the only fanboy who held this opinion. Perusing through your catalog, though, I think this may not be the case. Mayhaps I should order a few choice issues of *The Comics Journal*).

And one last thing for any and all interested: I can in fact "handle" the graphic sex in *Omaha*. But I choose not to. Any questions?

On to other business. It seems that Holland & Wilber took to heart my remark about "Lizards" being "anticlimactic." Issue #31 had a fight scene, even though nobody landed a punch. And a cover on #32! Well, how's that for service? I ask for something, and a mere eight months later I get it.

But now they're breaking up the team? Well, crap! (sigh) I suppose it would be presumptuous of me to ask him to reconsider—*please, please, please*—(ahem) Sorry. Lost my head there for a second. Actually, it'll be interesting to see what Ron Wilber draws next, and who John Holland finds to fill his artistic shoes. Keep us posted, okay?

I had what I thought was a great idea. I was going to suggest a Blue Eagle/Fission Chicken/Lionheart team-up. If the

respective artists couldn't get together, the heroes could fight a common menace in separate stories, with a two-page meeting to tie it all together. You know, like the old Justice Society stories.

I thought it was a great idea. Then I read issue #28. Well, there's an idea shot to hell.

Ollie North. Walt Disney. Ollie North and Walt Disney. Eeeuuurrrrrhhh... First of all, I wish Tim Fuller would try doing a totally parodyless "Blue Beagle" story. Second, Ollie North is such a jerk that taking shots at him is like shooting ducks in a frozen lake. (But didja ever notice that if you put a Marine uniform on Howdy Doody...) And third, *Critters* making such fun of Unca Walt? "How sharper than a serpent's tooth."

A while ago I finally got my hands on the first (Only? God forbid!) three issues of *Morphs* from GraphXpress. They showcase a lot of *Rowrbrazzle* alumni. (Plug it! They plug your stuff!) In an editorial, Jim Groat mentioned that the complaint he heard most about *Critters* is that it's the same three or four people all the time. I concur. It's not that I'm tired of Fission Chicken, Blue Beagle, Gnuff, and Lionheart. I'm just tired of nothing but.

So here's the plan. It sounds like Freddy Milton's got quite a bit stockpiled. Give "Gnuff" his own title, or a series of graphic albums. Fish and Blue, as super-heroes, can share a title. "Lionheart" can stick around. But you are left with a lot of pages open for new talent. Drag out those back issues of *Rowrbrazzle*. (I really want to see more of "Snow and Storm.") What say?

This is not to slight the new stuff you have given us. "Radical Dog" was much better than it might have been. "Platypus" was good, I guess, but not to my taste. "Darkside" left me lukewarm, but it has promise. (Hey, remember when I suggested a *Critters* special horror-anthology, entitled *Gooseflesh?* Great minds, eh?)

P.S. Returning to your response to my letter in #25: Don't be too flip about paper quality. You strike me as someone who'd be all up in arms if you heard about someone burning books, comic or otherwise. Am I right? Of course I am. But by using cheap, high-acid, "self-destruct" paper, publishers (most of them, not just you) are in effect "burning" their own books as they print them.

My collection extends back a quarter-century, and I hope it will extend forward another half. But in the end, I intend to leave the lot to my college's library. Will I, then, be leaving them only brittle, unreadable junk? These new talents you praise so enthusiastically, will they be forgotten with no record of their work remaining? Think about it.

Well, at least you're not using that smelly ink you had for a while.

John Henry Sain
Medford, OR

● I have a lot of good answers to all of those questions, but I'm out of room. Saved by the gong! —KT

COMING NEXT ISSUE



Critters #40. Gnuff and Gricky (with Albert and Siegel in tow) examine the mystery behind "A Midsummer Night's Enchantment" in a book-length episode of Freddy Milton's comedy-drama. **ON SALE IN LATE APRIL.**

ALSO ON SALE NEXT MONTH



Stinz #1. Steinheld Lowhard, the first halhorse to be drafted into the army, makes some new friends on the way to the induction center. But all is not fun and games when they meet their sergeant... **ON SALE IN EARLY APRIL.**

Welcome to the Fantagraphics MENAGERIE

Funny-animal comics galore from the beastliest publisher of them all!

ADVENTURES OF CAPT. JACK

Adventures of Captain Jack #3: Herman dies and meets God.

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" begins.

Adventures of Captain Jack #6: Herman and Janet decide to elope.

Adventures of Captain Jack #7: Beezelebug 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 Janet-Herman-and-Beezelebug storyline!

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 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 #11: 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 Schirmeister, Kieth, Fuller, Kazaleh, Templeton—plus a flexidisc with songs performed by Templeton & Alan Moore!

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

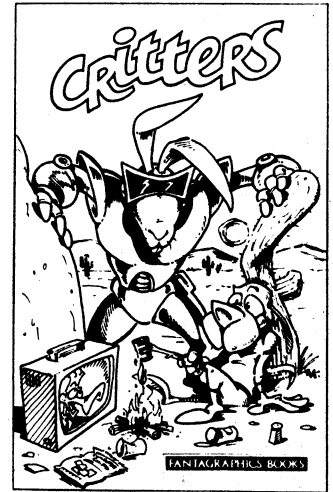
Critters #25: The return of *Lionheart*, plus *Gnuff* and *Angst*.

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 "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: *Gnuff* 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* cover, *Gnuff* concludes, and *Angst*.

Critters #34: *Blue Beagle* returns, the premiere of *Duck "Bill" Platypus*, and a Hallowe'en horror tale.

Critters #35: Lela Dowling cover, *Fission Chicken*, the beginning of a new *Lionheart*, and *Duck "Bill" Platypus*.

Critters #36: Featuring the continuation of *Lionheart*, *Fission Chicken*, and *Duck "Bill" Platypus*.

Critters #37: Mike Kazaleh cover and story, conclusion to *Lionheart*.

Critters #38: Giant issue with *Usagi Yojimbo*, *Blue Beagle*, *Fission Chicken*, *Angst*, and Donna Barr's *Stinz*.

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, and Dog Girl squashes 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 newspaper, Dog Girl does graffiti.

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!

GROOTLORE

Grootlore #1: Peter Gullerud's fantasy strips, with a new cover and intro.

Grootlore #2: More tales of Loadtoad and the rest of the gang.

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 Batman, Mickey Mouse, Spirit, more.

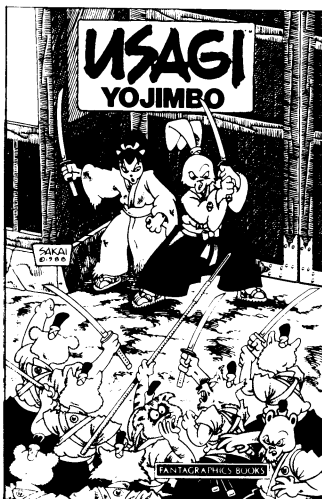
Myron Moose Funnies #3: "Comic Book Fans," and more silly snot.

USAGI YOJIMBO

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

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

Usagi Yojimbo #14: "Dragon Bellow Conspiracy" continues, full-length!

Usagi Yojimbo #15: Treachery and death as "Dragon Bellow" continues.

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!

Usagi Yojimbo Book Two: The complete "Samurai" origin saga, plus more stories and an intro by Evanier.

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!

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: Mammoth interview with Dave (*Cerebus the Aardvark*) Sim.

The Comics Journal #99: Big interview 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 classic *King Aroo* strip—a treat for classic funny-animal lovers!



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