

# Lionheart

CRITTERS  
No. 43

\$2.00  
(\$2.50 in  
Canada)



FANTAGRAPHICS BOOKS

# critters

FEATURING

## Lionheart

Tom Stazer's best-known work for many years was *Spaced*, a science-fiction/comedy series that he wrote (with John Williams), drew, and published under his own imprint for five years and 13 issues. Impressed with *Spaced*, Kim Thompson asked him to come up with a funny-animal character for *Critters*; when another would-be regular contributor bowed out, thus *Lionheart* was born. (And yes, Stazer is a Kate Bush fan.)

After his first adventure in *Critters* #4, the intrepid feline reporter returned for several long stories (*Critters* #8-11, 25-29), as well as some shorter tales (*Critters* #17-18, 23, *Usagi Yojimbo* #14). This represents his first solo effort; a second one is scheduled a little down the road, for #46. There is also talk of a three-way jam *Lionheart* adventure by Stazer and two other artists... but we'll talk about that later.

Tom is also working on a one-shot starring his character Crazy Bob, a fellow who talks to objects (and has them answer back); no publisher as of this writing, but keep your eye out.

# CRITTERS LETTERS

Send to: 7563 Lake City Way, Seattle, WA 98115

Hi, Kim!

Well, after two issues, I voice my opinion on the new format.

I can't say I love paying \$2.50 for 24 pages instead of 32, but I guess it's better than paying \$2.50 for nothing. Darn those augmenting production costs. Oh, well. Other than that, I like it as much as before, although it will take me a few more months to really get used to the format. I'll definitely buy every issue, both because I like everything in it (so far!), and to follow the lettercol. (Enter, enter, ladies and gentlemen! See the exciting next round between Holland and Feldman! See the brave Thompson risk his life by making bold remarks! See amazing illustrations by fans from all over the globe! See funny animals everywhere! Come in, come in! Only two dollars, two fifty for those sturdy Canadian fellows! You also get, at no extra charge, a genuine illustrated story made by true professionals! Enter, enter, ladies and...)

I hope your sales are getting higher; the only store that carries *Critters* in Ottawa orders only two copies. That should cover me and Peter Pau (Aylmer is a neighbor town) quite nicely. I'm trying to get them to order more, but no luck so far.

So Fantagraphics moved to Seattle, the morphs capital. Why does that city attract/breed so many funny-animal cartoonists, I'll always wonder. The climate, perhaps? Or did you want to get better supervision on "Birthright III"? Yeah, I have an inside track too!

Niall MacConnail

Hull (Quebec), CANADA

P.S. I'm a reader, and I love *Duck Bill Platypus*!

● *Actually, production costs on Critters have stayed pretty stable: it's the declining sales that have forced the page count down. I think Seattle breeds so many funny-animal cartoonists (Tom "Rockhoppers" Luth is on his way up here, by the way, and Mike "Captain Jack" Kazaleh is thinking seriously of moving) because it's a genuinely nice city and most funny-animal cartoonists are genuinely nice people. At least that's my theory of the moment.* —KT

Dear Kim,

I've been reading *Critters* for awhile, and I really enjoy it. I like the new one-shot format enough to keep reading the comic, but I really wish you'd return to the anthology format, or at least have twice yearly anthology specials. Also, you mentioned that you missed the old *Critters* logo. Well, I do, too. It's also hard to find it on the comics racks without it. So, I've got a suggestion: why don't you do the cover format with a small *critters* logo (like on the inside front cover) with a small print "featuring," with the one-shot title in large

below. Well, it's just a suggestion!

Sincerely,

Casey Burns

Flat Rock, NC

● *And not a bad one, Casey, but I'm sort of pathologically opposed to clutter on covers. (Anyone ever notice how rarely there is any text on Critters covers, and never any word balloons?) Anyway, the Critters logo will make a spectacular comeback on the Ken Macklin cover to #50, the first of our irregular returns to the anthology format. Okay?* —KT

Dear Kim,

After reading your call for comments on the new format and news of the third installment of you know what, I just had to end my months of silence.

The new format for *Critters* seems to serve a practical purpose for both you and the readership. I can see how one story per issue would be easier for everyone involved: fewer artists to manage and compensate, lighter editorial tasks, elimination of many problems associated with coordinating production for several stories, simplification of the printer's job, and so on. I had first thought this change was a sign of coping out, of an unwillingness to give readers their "money's worth" (which is a subjective evaluation anyway), but this move does make financial sense. *Critters* has lasted too long to be felled now by inflexible attitudes toward market demands. From this standpoint, I agree with your decision. Also, I believe the single story format has several virtues, the most apparent of these being the devoting of a full issue to a group of reader's favorite character or story. People naturally want to see more of what they like. Longer installments also ease somewhat the constraints on an artist's creativity, thus hopefully resulting in better work, technically and conceptually. Lastly, *Critters* will still retain its two essential qualities of experimentation and variety, although I will miss the joy of comparing—within a single issue—different styles and approaches to art and anthropomorphics. I can't see any major disadvantages with this new format, and with luck none will arise.

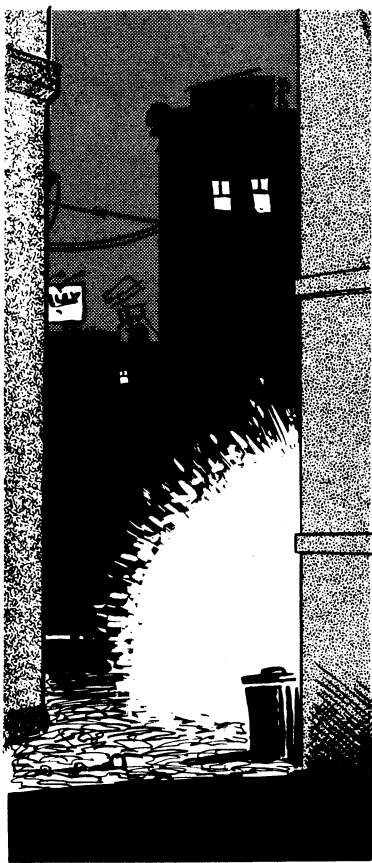
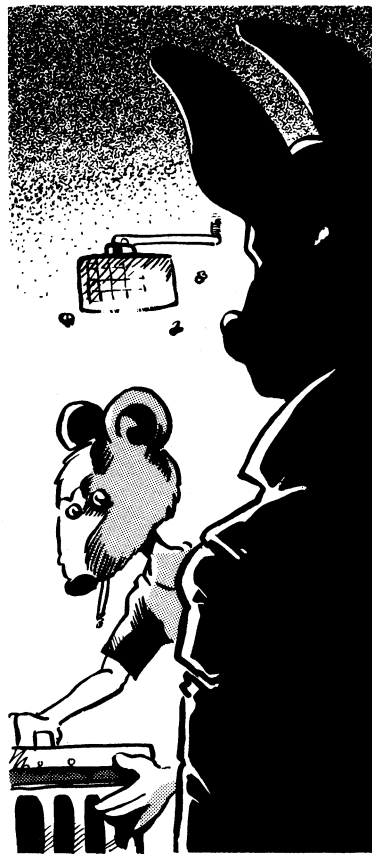
Having said this, on to the stories.

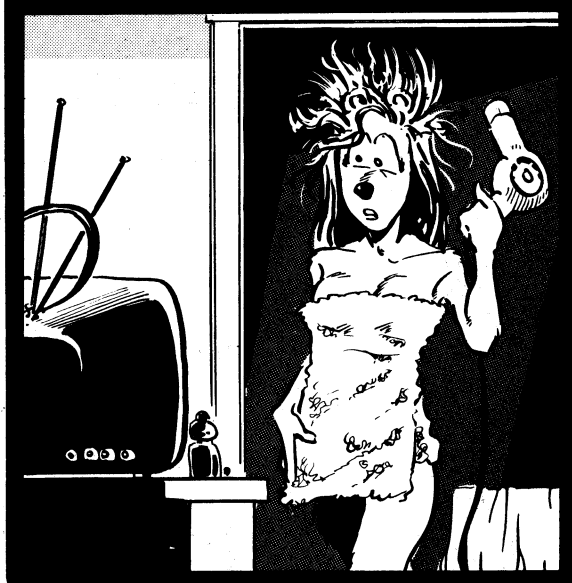
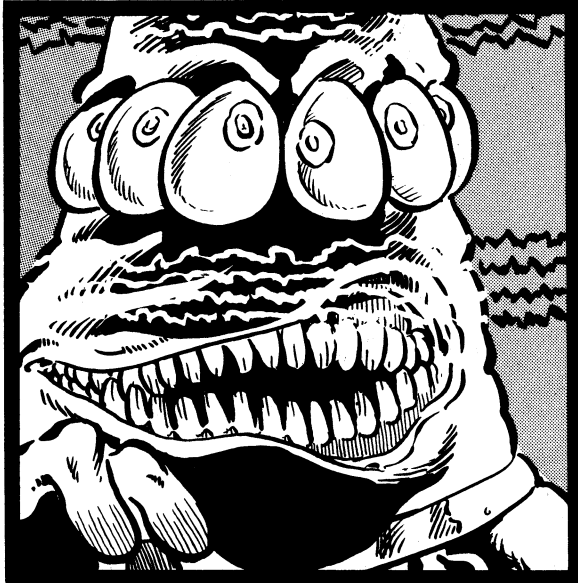
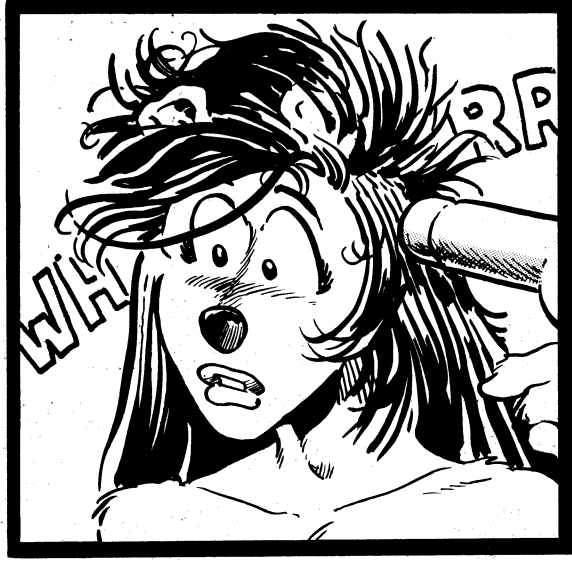
J.P. Morgan's "Fission Chicken" (#39) remains true to form. Morgan continues to give us his blend of satirical humor, scratchy, high contrast art style, and shrewd use of dialogue, all with a cynical tone as consistent as ever. The Chicken of Wrath himself is a truly appropriate character for this setting: caustic, honest, and often irate, but always ready for action. Morgan's style and characters have a chemistry that works effectively; "The Homogenization Ray" is a prime example of this. Elements such as the under-the-breath spoken asides, statements on

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[CONTINUED ON PAGE 23]

# LIONHEART



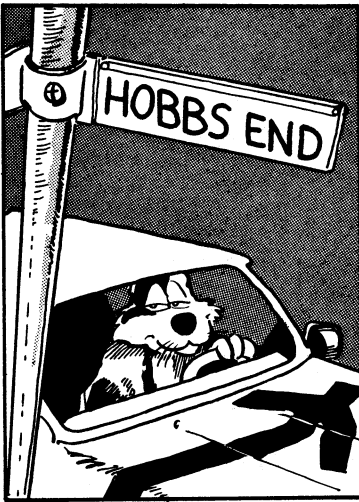




# the TENANTS

STORY & ART ©1989 TOM STAZER





THE TRUTH IS, I HAD A CLOSE ENCOUNTER MYSELF A FEW YEARS BACK... AND I WAS TOLD THAT THE EARTH WAS TARGETED FOR INVASION BY CREATURES CALLED THE SLARNN.\*



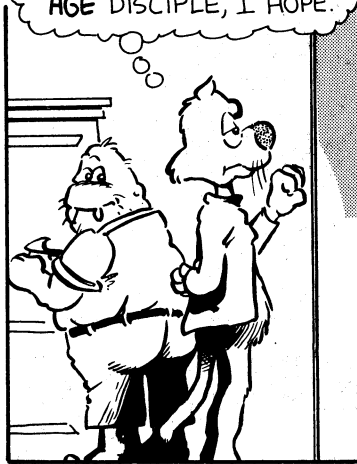
\*CRITTERS 8-11

THEY'RE NOT DUE FOR ANOTHER HUNDRED AND FIFTY YEARS, BUT SINCE MY WEEKEND IN WAKO I LIKE TO WATCH THE SKIES JUST THE SAME.



I'D FOLLOWED UP ON PREVIOUS LETTERS AND LUCKILY ALL I'D COME UP WITH WERE DWEBBS AND SHUTINS.

"CRYSTAL"... NOT A NEW AGE DISCIPLE, I HOPE.



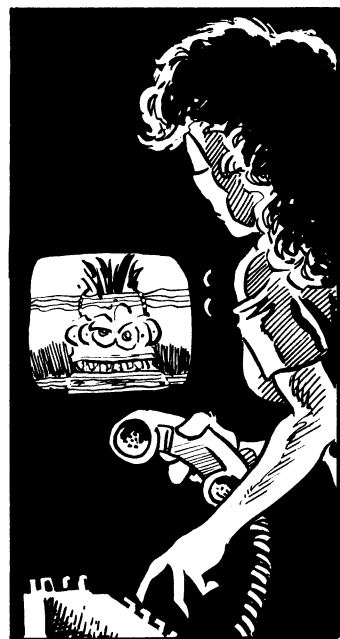
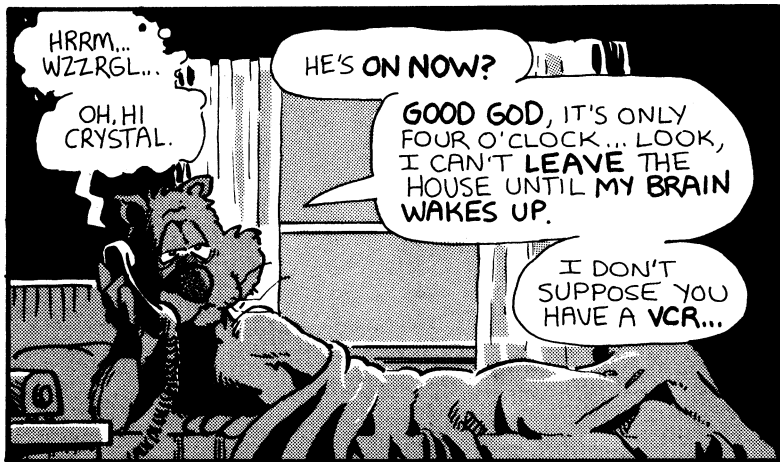
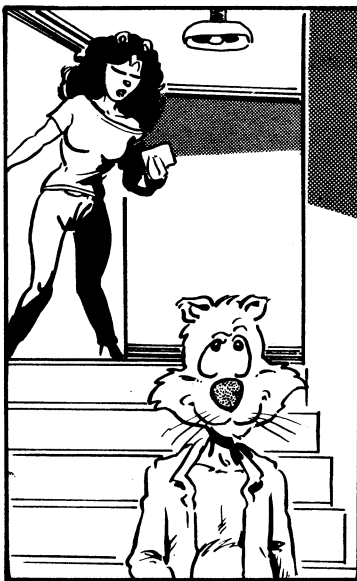
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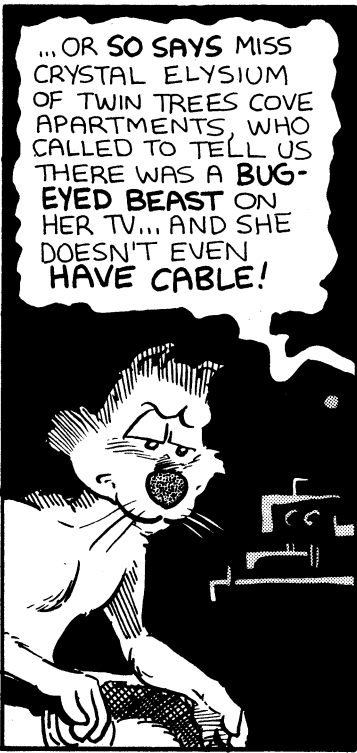
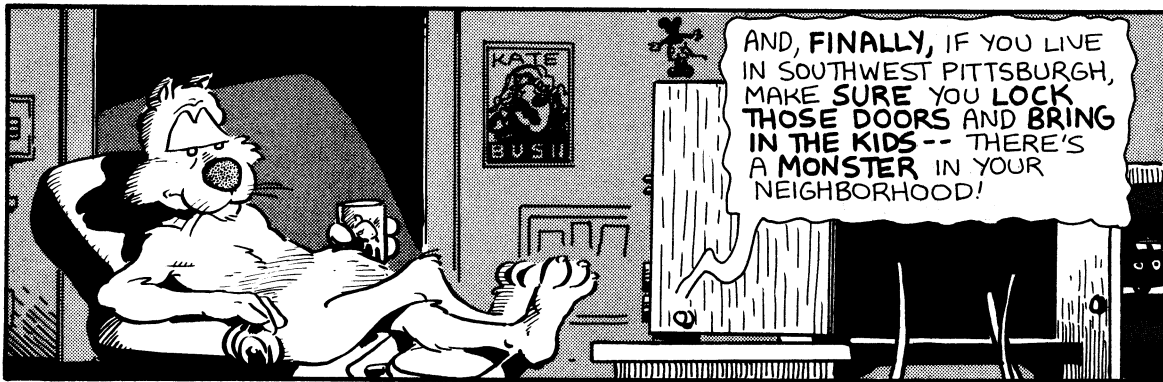
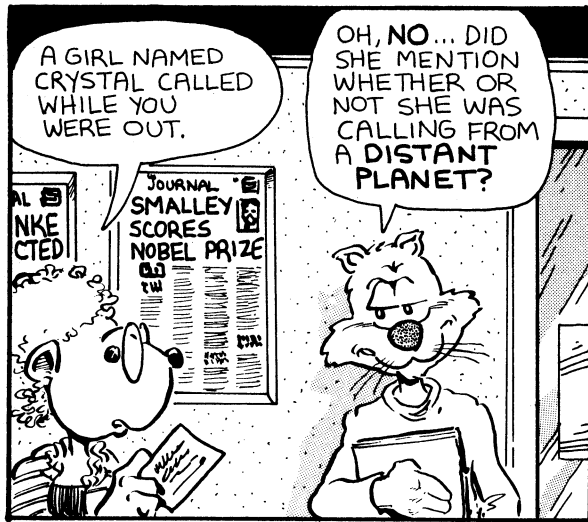
I'M FROM THE JOURNAL... YOU WROTE A LETTER?







MUCH LATER THAT DAY...



**KNOCK  
KNOCK!**

HELLO, MISS ELYSIUM?  
I'M FROM APARTMENT  
310... I, UH, WAS JUST  
WATCHING THE NEWS,  
AND... WELL...

GOD I'M SO  
EMBARRASSED...  
THERE'S NOTHING  
TO IT.

IF YOU'LL  
EXCUSE  
ME...

NO, PLEASE-- I'M NOT MAKING FUN  
OF YOU! ACTUALLY, I WAS **HOPING**  
YOU MIGHT LET **ME** SEE THIS  
TRANSMISSION... I BROUGHT ALONG  
MY VCR AND PLENTY OF **BLANK TAPE**.

OKAY...

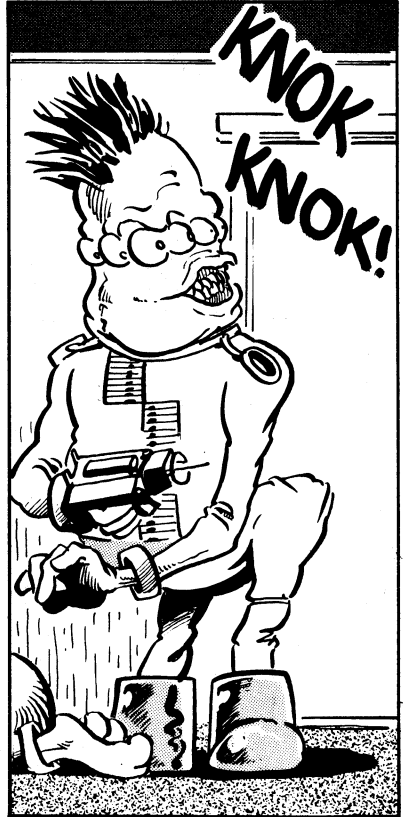
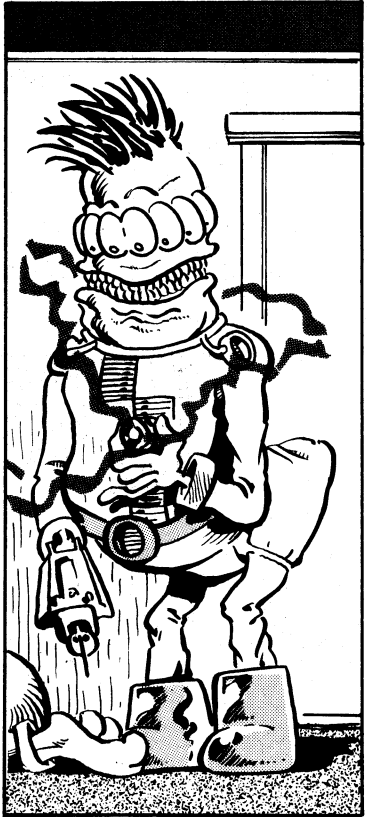
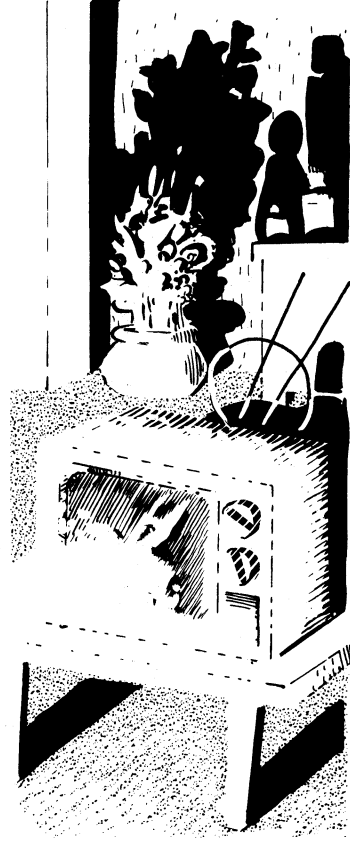
WE MIGHT  
AS WELL  
GIVE IT A  
SHOT!

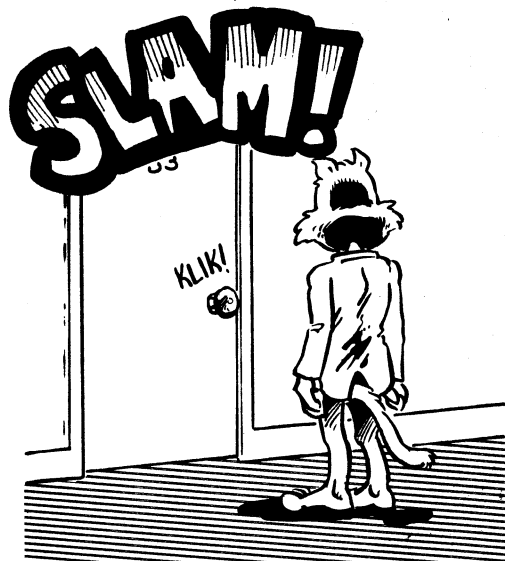
**NO  
PROMISES,  
THOUGH;  
THE SIGNAL  
IS SPORADIC.**

LET ME GET IT SET UP... I GET THE  
**BEST** RECEPTION ON CHANNEL 73  
WITH **MEDIUM HEAT** AND THE  
**FAN** SET ON **HIGH**.

UH-HUH.  
BY THE WAY, ARE  
YOU **CERTAIN** IT  
WAS **WISE** TO GO  
**PUBLIC** WITH  
YOUR STORY?

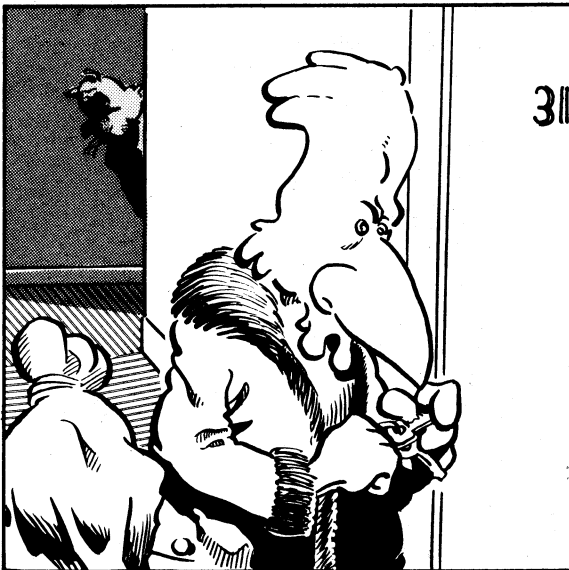
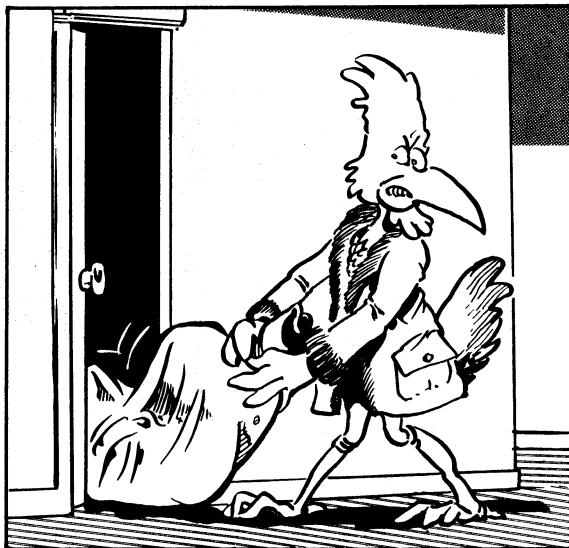
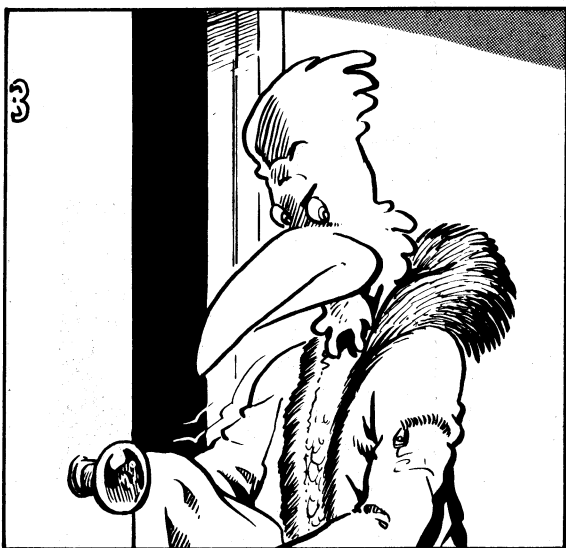
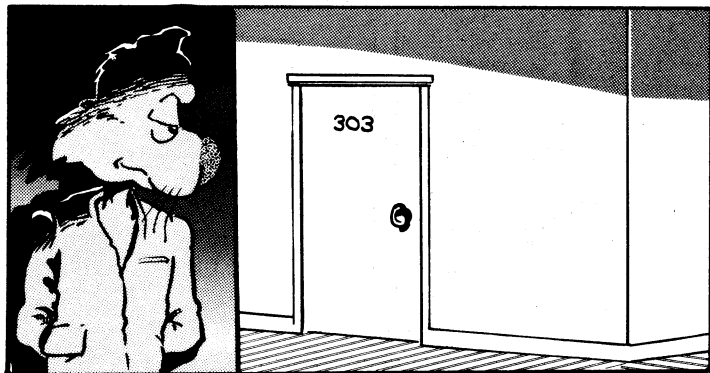


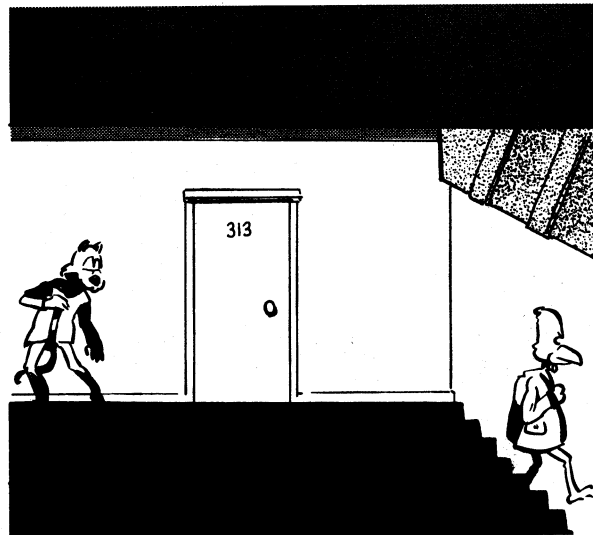
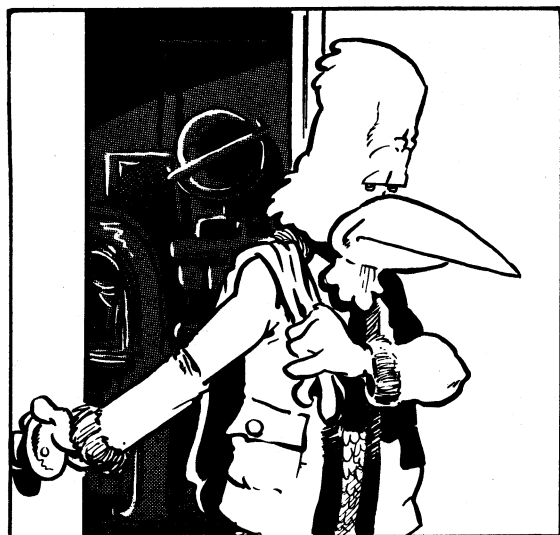
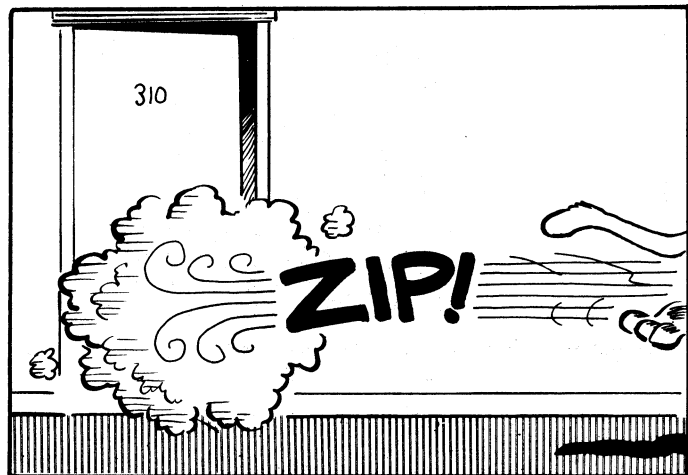
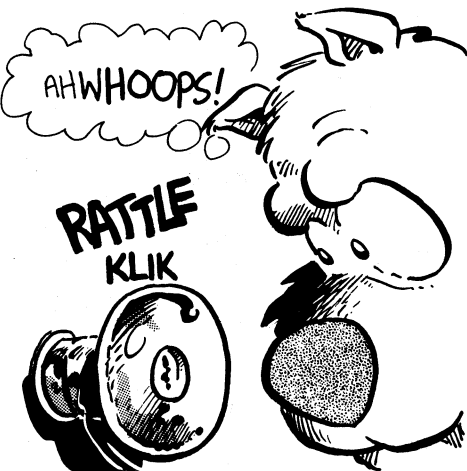
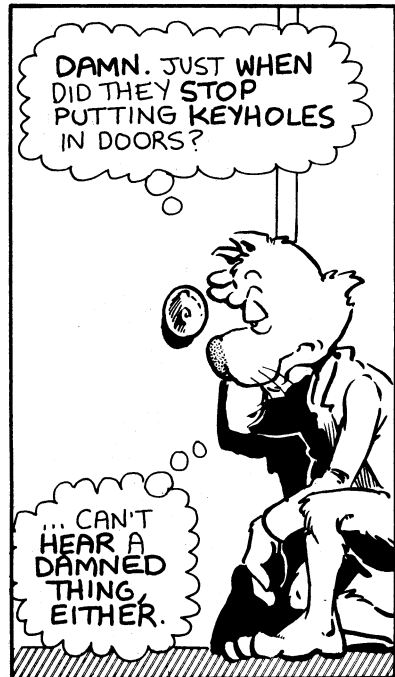


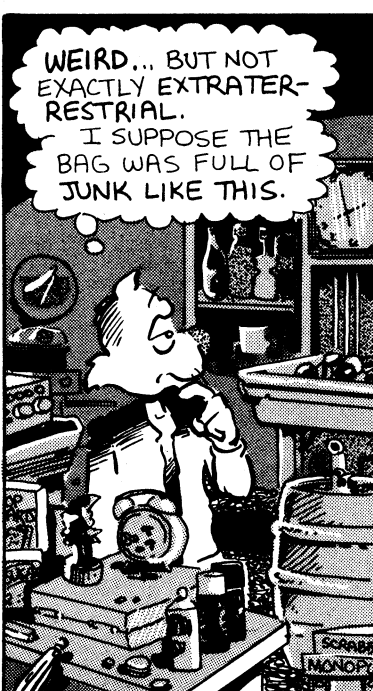
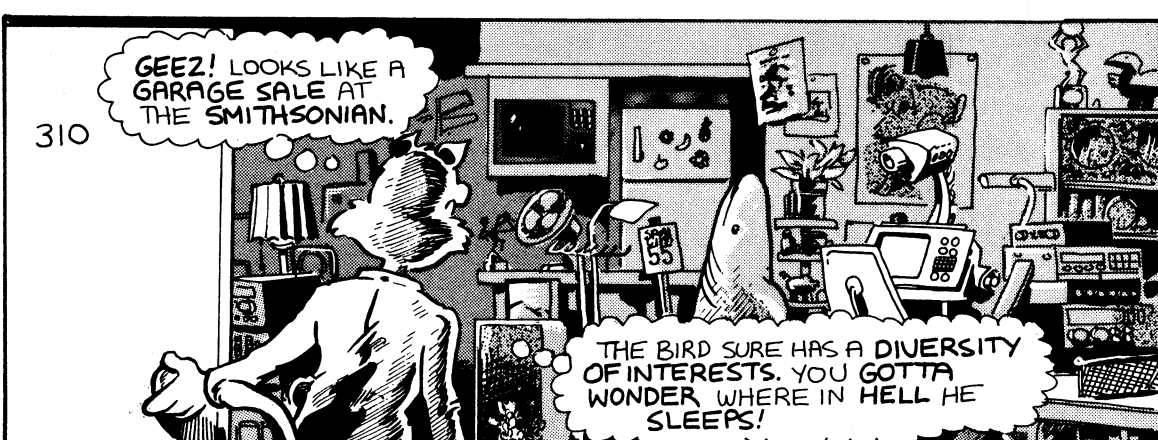
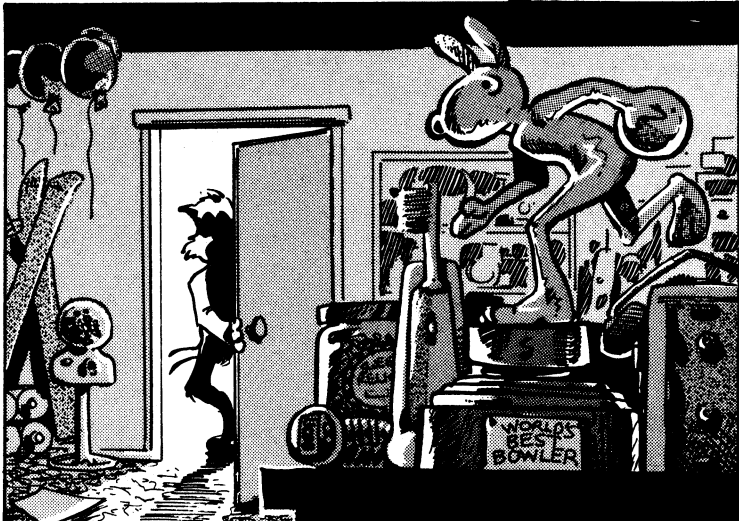
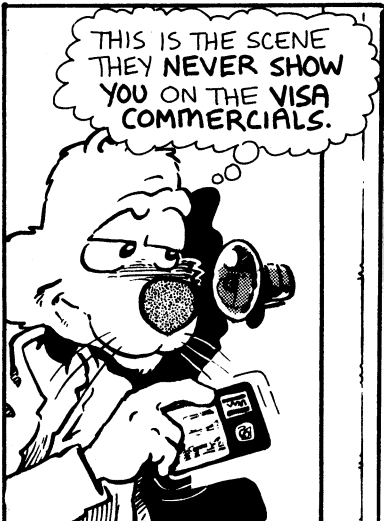


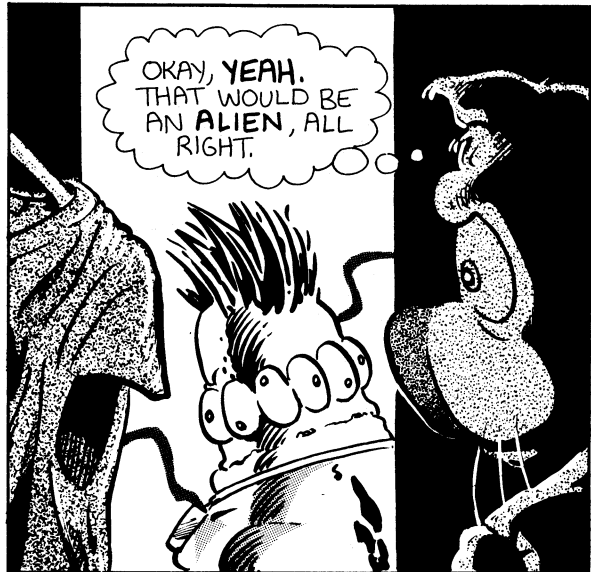
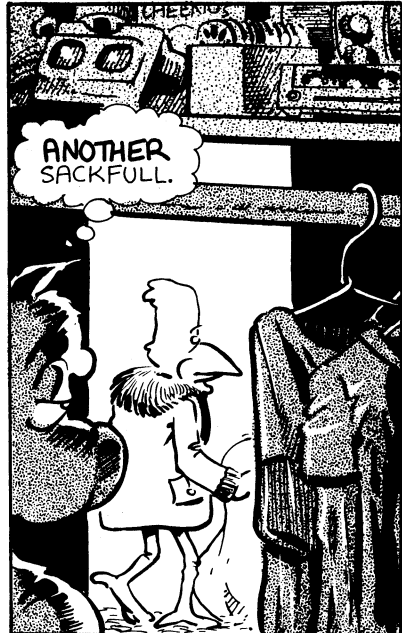
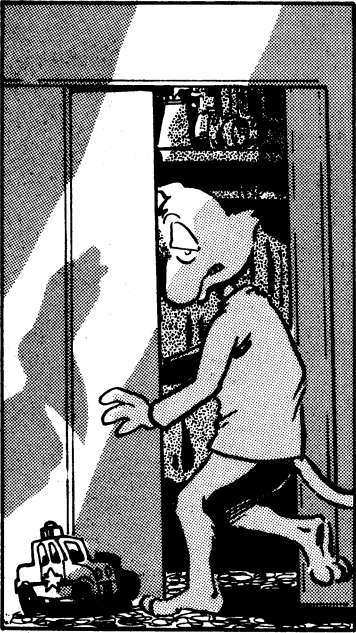
MAYBE I'M JUST THE SUSPICIOUS TYPE, BUT I DECIDED TO STAKE OUT CRYSTAL'S APARTMENT FOR AWHILE ... TO SEE IF THERE WAS A REASON SHE WAS SUDDENLY ACTING LIKE POLLYANNA.

I DIDN'T HAVE LONG TO WAIT.

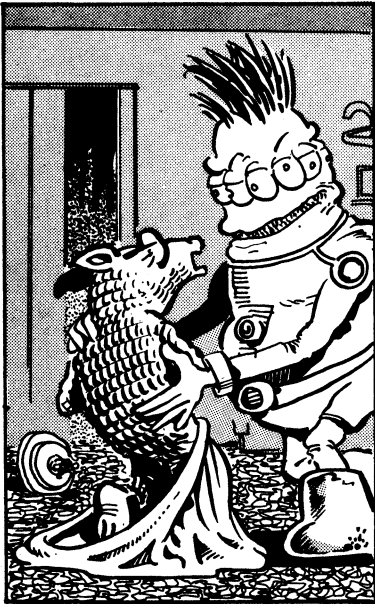


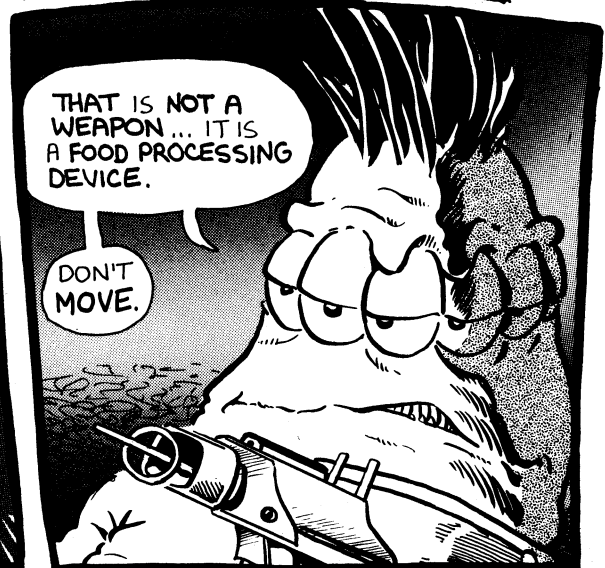
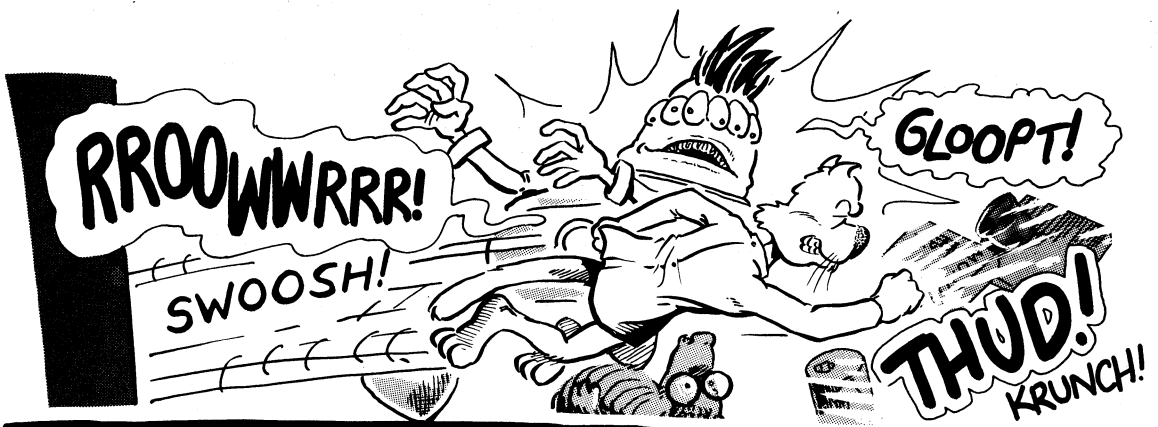


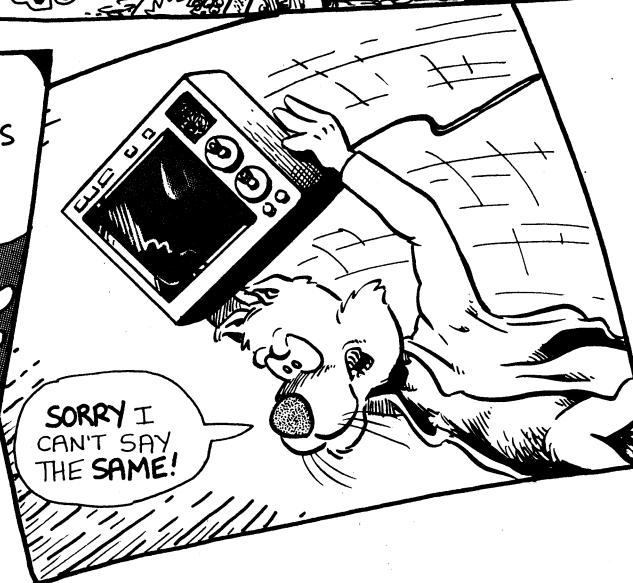
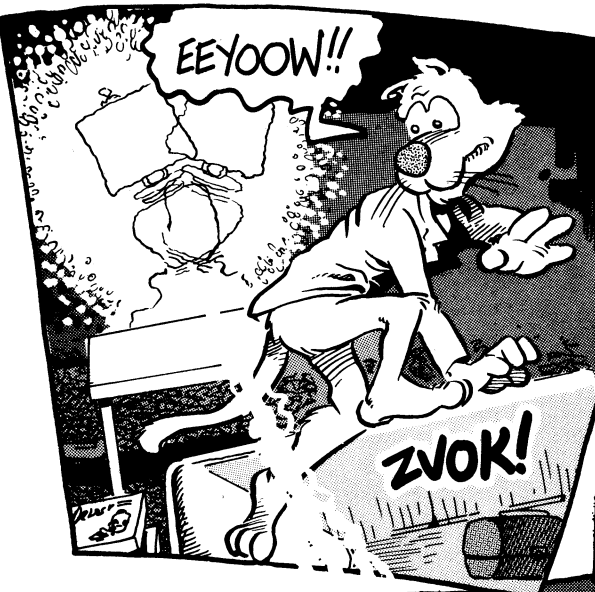


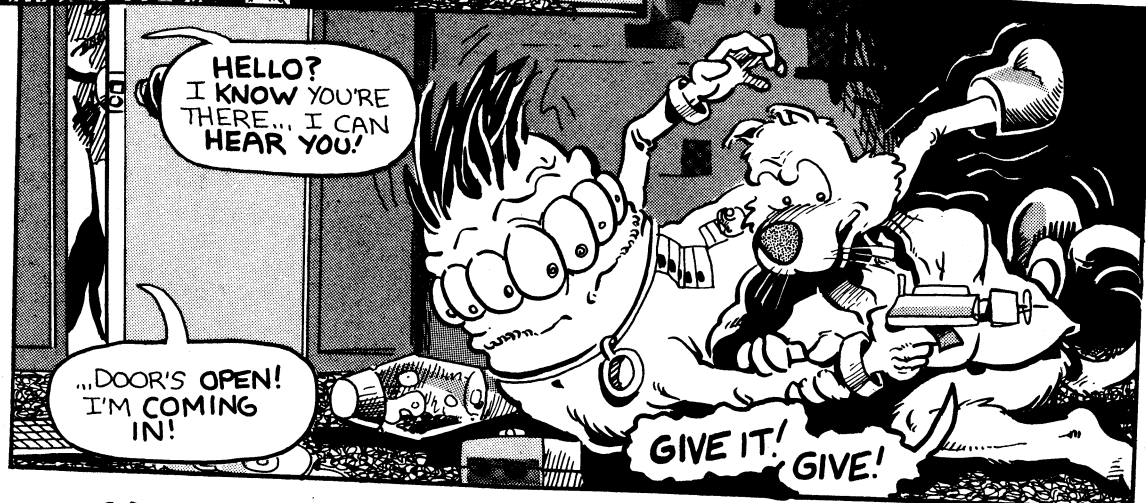
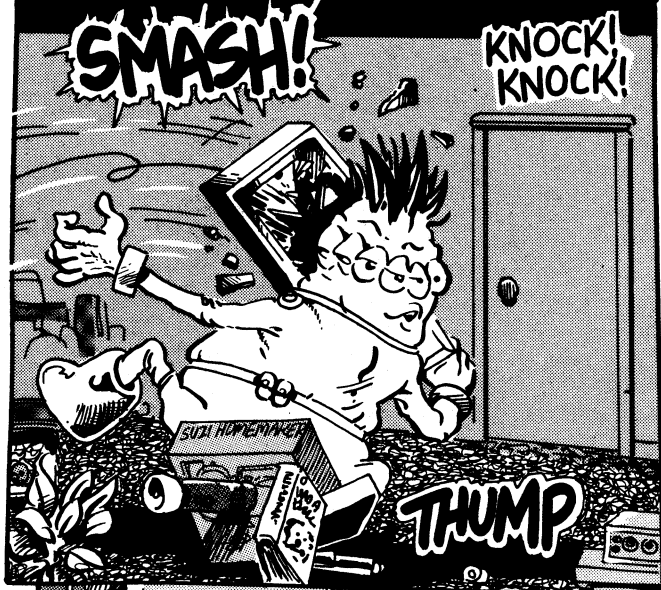


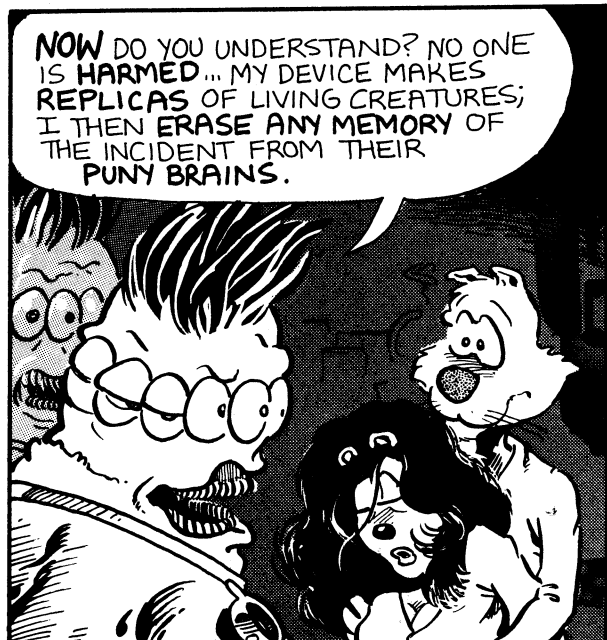
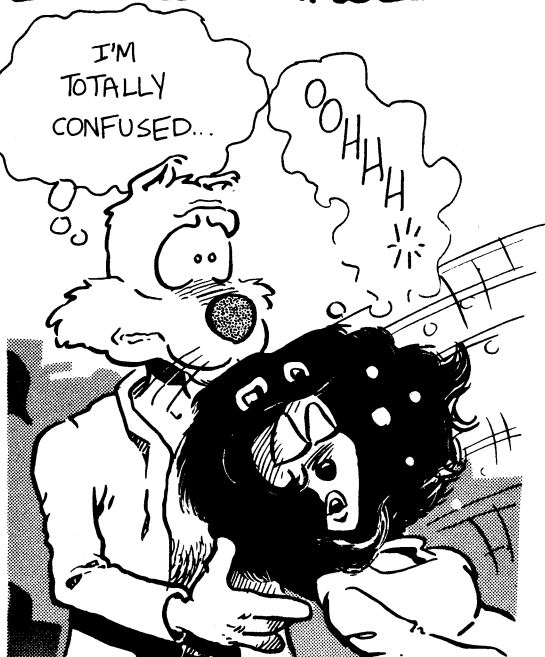
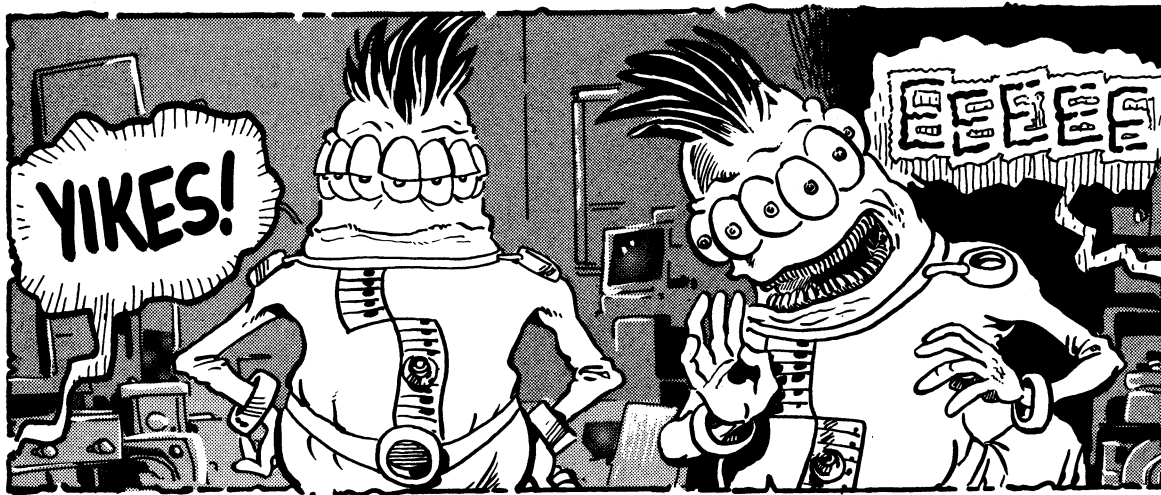
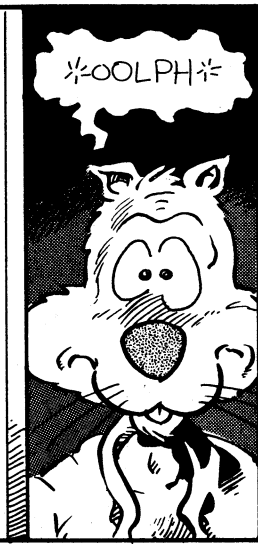


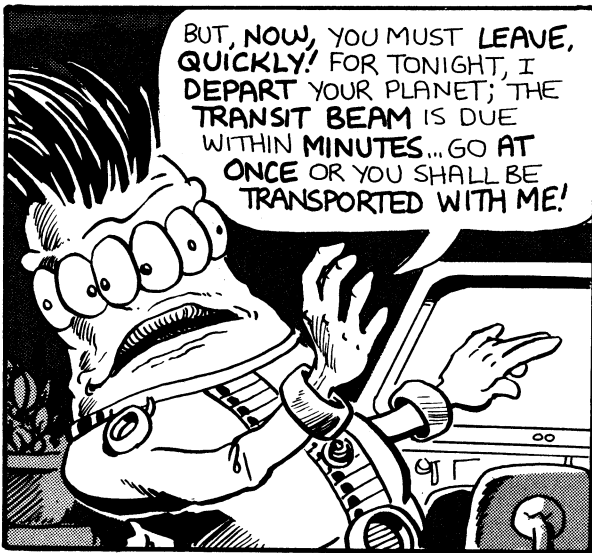
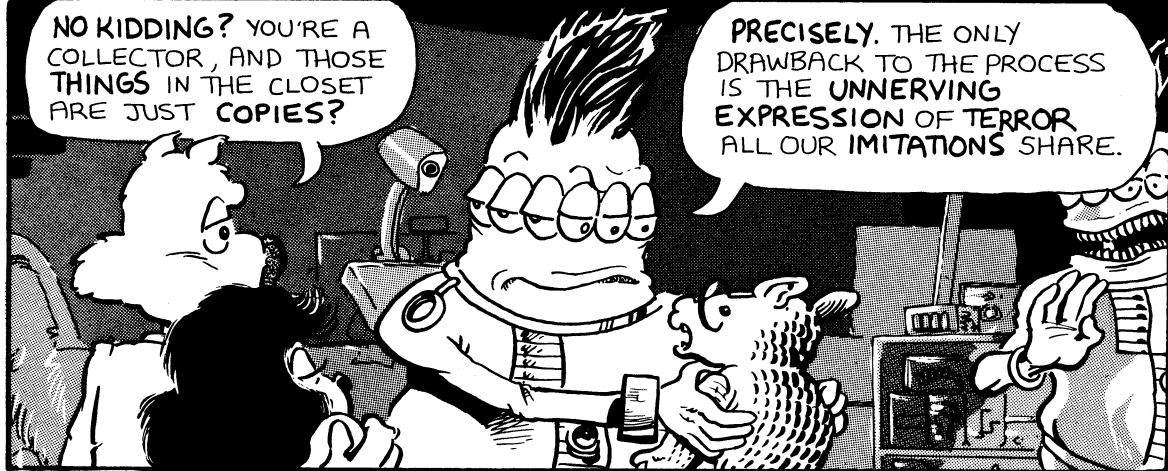






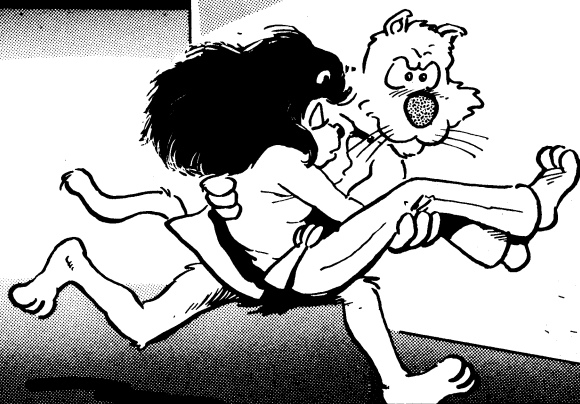






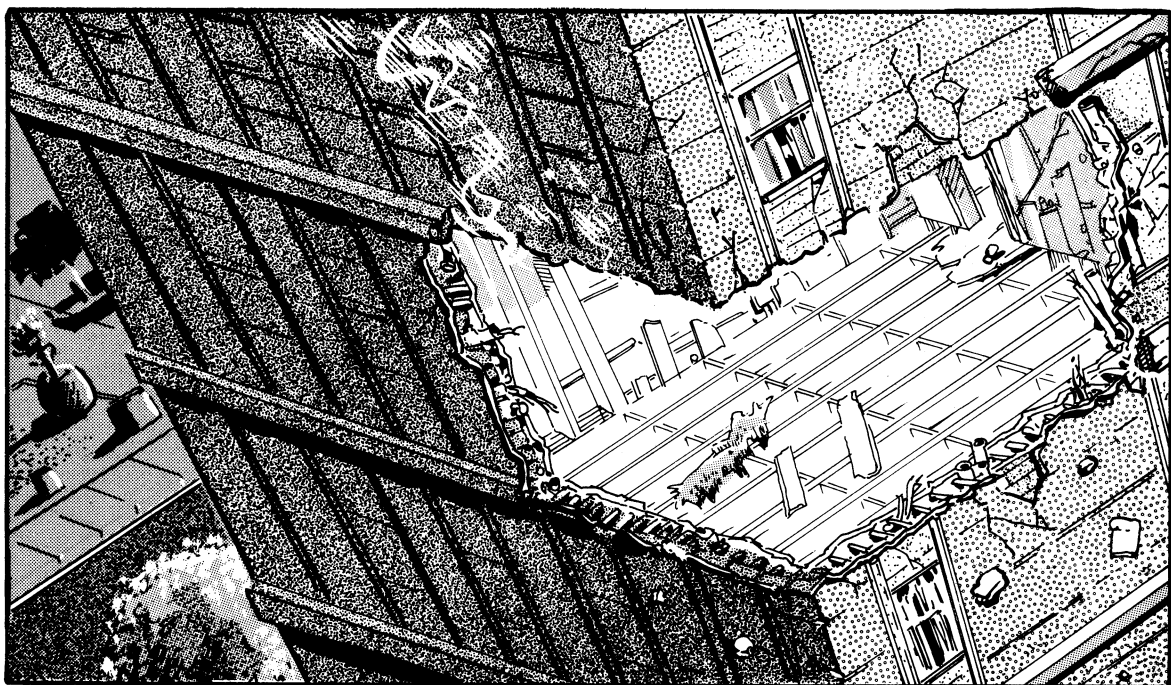
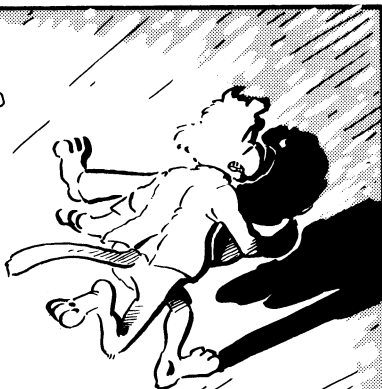


I DECIDED TO  
**TAKE** HIS ADVICE,  
ALTHOUGH **FLEEING**  
IS SOMETHING I DO  
BETTER WHEN I'M  
NOT CARRYING A  
WOMAN.



...SOON  
A LOW HUM  
FILLED THE  
HALLWAY,  
AND I FELT  
MY HAIR  
STAND ON END.

A SOUNDLESS  
CONCUSSION  
KNOCKED US TO  
THE FLOOR..



# epilogue

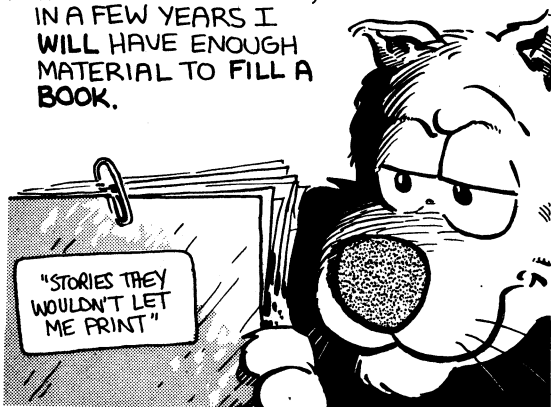
I ALERTED THE FIRE DEPARTMENT, **WITHOUT** MENTIONING "THE **BEAST** WITH A **BUNCHA EYES**" ... AS THEY EVACUATED THE BUILDING, I LURED CRYSTAL WITH THE PROMISE OF A COOL DRINK AND AN **EXPLANATION**.



SINCE HER HOME WAS SORT OF **CONDEMNED** SHE AGREED TO SPEND THE NIGHT AT MY PLACE. (SORRY TO DISAPPOINT YOU-- BUT I SLEPT ON THE **SOFA**.)



SO, I'VE **BEGUN** A NEW FILE FOR MY UNLIKELY ADVENTURES, AND IF THIS KEEPS UP, IN A FEW YEARS I WILL HAVE ENOUGH MATERIAL TO FILL A BOOK.



I SAID SHE HAD BEEN OVERCOME BY **GAS FUMES**, AND I HAD CARRIED HER OUT OF HARM'S WAY BEFORE THE APARTMENT **EXPLODED**. SHE **BOUGHT** IT-- HER MEMORY HAD BEEN **ERASED** ALL RIGHT; I CHOSE TO **LEAVE IT** THAT WAY.



IT'S **DEJA VU**, AGAIN ... AN **EXCLUSIVE**, FRONT-PAGE STORY THAT I CAN'T **SUBMIT** WITHOUT **ENDANGERING** MY CAREER AS A **LEGITIMATE JOURNALIST**; ANOTHER TALE **SANS PROOF** OR **PLAUSIBILITY**.



OUGH TO BE AN INTERESTING VOLUME: **MOBSTERS**, **U.F.O.'S**, **POLITICS**, **MOVIE STARS** AND A **TWO-HEADED DOG**...



[CONTINUED FROM INSIDE FRONT COVER]

the parallel commercialism of the toy and animation industries, and the frequent visual swipes at consumer mentality make "Fission Chicken" a creation well suited for expressing a relevant theme with contemporary energy. In fact, I feel its scathing wit actually makes the satire in the story more accessible. In contrast, I found "Lionheart" and "The Blue Beagle" to be creatively labored efforts and pretentious in their presentation of satire, in spite of being greater technical achievements. I enjoy "Fission Chicken" because it manages to present a unique brand of unrestrained humor simply and without facade. I look forward to seeing it again.

Milton's "Gnuff" in *Critters* #40 was charming as usual. I can say little more about it, other than it remains consistent. It's enjoyable, but not creatively adventurous enough for my tastes. But who am I to disparage the nostalgic Barks style in "Gnuff"? To each his own.

And what can be made of the furor over "Duck 'Bill' Platypus" in *Critters* #41? I'm beginning to understand why Kyle Rothweiler's colleagues like his work while many readers find it disturbing. Admittedly, his visuals are exaggerated (some may even say ugly), but Kyle has an imagination and sense of word play that is so completely unreserved that many may interpret the events in his stories as mindless self-indulgence, when in fact there is so much more there than meets the eye. Within "A Thousand Points of Pinheads" are references to George Bush, Dan Quayle, Phil Donahue, the U.S. star wars project, evangelism, cultism, nuclear fallout, proton accelerators, special interest group politics, etc., all represented by grotesque characters and unlikely objects. I've probably missed some of the more subtle symbolism and commentary, but that's the beauty of Kyle's work: out of visual chaos comes deeper meaning, not to mention plenty of puns. Realizing this, I've come to the conclusion that Kyle is anti-nuclear, critical of the effectiveness of feasibility of our star wars program, as well as leery of money hungry industrialists and fanatics, religious or otherwise. I think once people get over the initial character design shock and the wild art, there is a lot to be appreciated in "Duck 'Bill' Platypus." I hope Kyle's boldness will pay off in continued accolades in the pages of *Critters* and elsewhere.

"Birthright III" will arrive in October? Not a moment too soon for almost all of us. It's been a long wait. In the meantime, I don't think there has been a more talked about artist in the pages of *Critters* than Steve Gallacci. Almost every issue with a letters column (and some without) has his name mentioned somewhere. His last chapter of "Birthright II" appeared in #17, and people are still dropping his name 25-five issues later. If success were measured by lip service, Steve could be the greatest figure in modern funny-animal cartooning. He has recently gone through some self imposed



changes in style as well as story reformations for both "Birthright" and "Erma," so we shall see soon enough where these changes have led him. Steve assured me in a post card some months ago that "Birthright III," when it's done, will be a major departure." *Albedo* #14 is out now as well. These are exciting times indeed.

Sincerely,

Mark J. Paul  
Erie, PA

● As you can see from this issue, Tom Stazer has pretty much ditched the satire (except for oblique touches); hope you like the results.

—KT

Dear Kim,

After reading three issues of the new *Critters* format I still miss the anthology format; only a little bit, though. With the anthology format I liked each issue of *Critters* about 80 or 90 percent. It didn't matter to me to see the same circus of animals (i.e. Gnuff, Fission Chicken, Lionheart, Blue Beagle) as long as the stories were good.

Now, about the new format...well, Morgan's "Fission Chicken" (#39) was good. Milton's "Gnuff" (#40) was a bummer. I liked the art, but not the story. Rothweiler's "Duck 'Bill' Platypus" (#41) was really good both story and art. Definitely unusual.

There's a major problem with the new format...how long do I have to wait for the next installment of these features?

Also, looking back on the *Critters* Alumnus report you might have overlooked Monika Livingston. She did the character inks for Steve Gallacci in "Birthright II." Anyway, I really like her art and would like to know of any future projects from her. I'm looking forward to "Birthright III" in #47, of course.

Some swell art this time in the letters column (#41). Charles E. Roe's strip was well drawn and pretty funny. I also enjoyed the drawing on page 24 but who drew it? It was a pleasure seeing my art-

work in *Critters* for a second time on Fantagraphics' fresh-smelling printing ink. (Thanks!) Speaking of pleasant smells...I drew a skunk from the band New Odor, which is a new wave/skunk rock band (and a good band, too.)

David DuPerre  
Jacksonville, FL

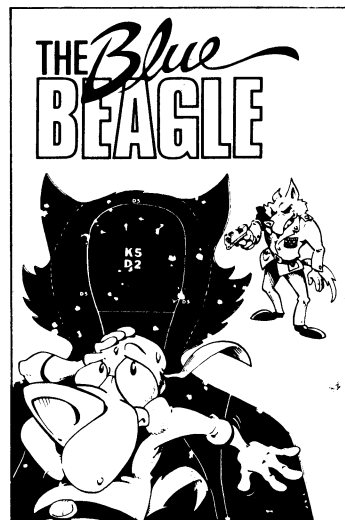
P.S. I'm from Florida not Illinois (see letter in 41).

● Hey, what would a *Critters* lettercol be without at least one boneheaded mistake, eh wot? Anyway, it certainly looks like the tide is turning in favor of "Duck 'Bill' Platypus," which makes me feel all smug and vindicated. As you probably know, DBP is continuing in the pages of *Fission Chicken* and can be found there on a monthly basis.

Monika Livingston is hard at work collaborating with Steve G. on "Birthright III," and I feel awfully guilty that I forgot about her in my "Alumnus Report."

Thanks for the drawing! —KT

## COMING NEXT ISSUE:



# Welcome to the Fantagraphics

# MENAGERIE

## ADVENTURES OF CAPT. JACK

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

**Adventures of Captain Jack #7:** 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 Janet-Herman-and-Beezlebub 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 *Birthingright* continue, Tom Stazer's *Lionheart* premieres, and the first Ken Macklin cover painting!

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

**Critters #6:** *Usagi Yojimbo* story, *Birthingright* concludes with cover, 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:** *Birthingright* returns, plus *Waller/Worley's SpeakingStone*, and *Sam Kieth*!

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

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

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

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

**Critters #17:** *Lionheart* returns, plus the conclusion of *Birthingright*.

**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 written and 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*.

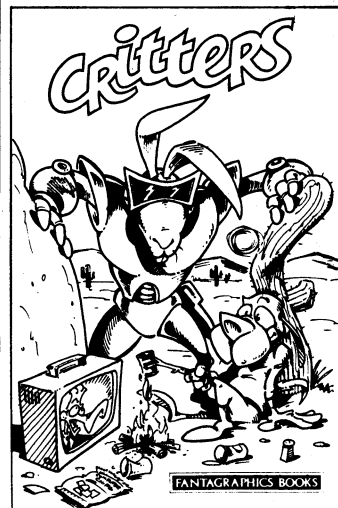
**Critters #29:** The climax to *Lionheart*, plus *Lizards*, the wacky German cartoonist *Volker Reiche*, and a one-page *Captain Jack*.

**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"*.

**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 #39:** A full-length *Fission Chicken* story parodies the *Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles*.

**Critters #40:** *Gnuff* returns in a full-length story by *Freddy Milton*.

**Critters #41:** Book-length *Duck "Bill" Platypus* tale.

**Critters #42:** *Not the Adventures of Captain Jack* by *Mike Kazaleh*, starring *Herman* and *Janet*.

**Critters #43:** *Lionheart* faces a possibly malevolent alien in an apartment building.

**Critters #44:** The gripping climax to the *Blue Beagle "Watchdogs"* saga—with a surprise ending!

**Critters #45:** *William Van Horn's Ambrose* is featured in a collection of gag strips.

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

## DOG BOY

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

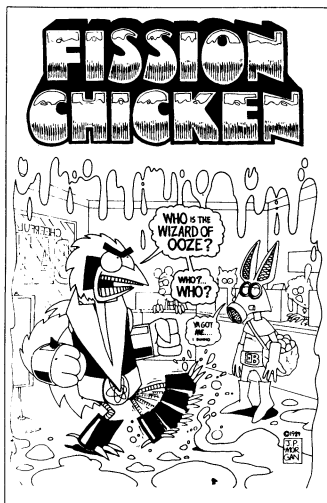
**Dog Boy #3:** Dog Boy shows how to publish your own comic book.

**Dog Boy #4:** Dog Boy goes to Hell, and Dog Girl squashes Reagan!

**Dog Boy #8:** Alfred Knoot starts a newspaper, Dog Girl does graffiti.

**Dog Boy #9:** Dancing with the cats, Dog Girl in jail, Benb goes crazy!

## FISSION CHICKEN



**Fission Chicken #1:** "The Wizard of Ooze," plus "Duck 'Bill' Platypus."

## GROOTLORE

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

**Grootlore #2:** More tales of Loadoad 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 snort 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 snort.

## USAGI YOJIMBO

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

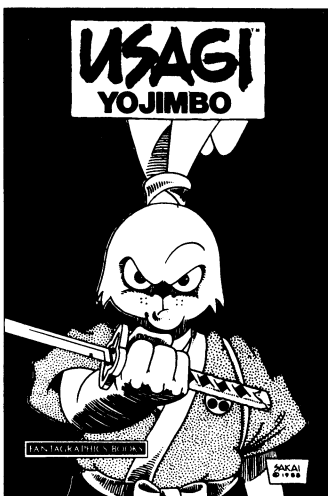
**Usagi Yojimbo #8:** "A Mother's Love," plus Luth's "Rockhoppers."

**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:** The first chapter of "Dragon Bellow Conspiracy," plus an episode of Shaw! & Evanier's "Digger Duckbill."



**Usagi Yojimbo #14:** "Dragon Bellow Conspiracy" continues, now full-length in every issue!

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

**Usagi Yojimbo #16:** "Dragon Bellow" continues.

**Usagi Yojimbo #17:** "Dragon Bellow" concludes.

**Usagi Yojimbo #18:** The epilogue to "Dragon Bellow," including the fate of the Blind Swordspig.

**Usagi Yojimbo Color Special #1:** New Sakai stuff, plus classic cover reprints and a *Gnuff* story!

## 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!

**Amazing Heroes #165:** Donna Barr.

**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.

**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!

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

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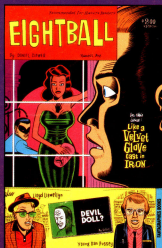
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