



No. **17** \$2.50 (\$3.90 Canada)

ADULTS ONLY

"OMAHA"

THE CAT DANCER

by REED WALLER & KATE WORLEY



WALLER & WORLEY



Our story last time...

Still hiding in plain view in an obscure Wisconsin town, Omaha begins a relationship with Jack, a man she met while dancing at Mr. Pip's. After a shopping trip during which she tells CeeCee of her marital status and how she's nervous about telling her prospective lover about it, Omaha and Jack have Sunday dinner and their first sexual encounter.

Back in Mipple City, Shelley and Mickey get to know each other a little better after Shelley disrupts a women's meeting with some pointed questions about defending Joanne, who was put in jail after Senator Bonner's murder. But Joanne herself is out of jail and staying with Rob Shaw, angling to get the film he shot the night Bonner died. Later on, Shelley talks to Huddle about how he'd feel if she and Mickey had a sexual relationship.

Jerry Davidson visits Chuck and invites him to invest in his nightclub scheme. After some sparring Jerry promises to send a messenger back to Chuck with some figures. The messenger turns out to be Althea, who tapes open the lock on Chuck's front door, and returns later that night, appearing nude in Chuck's bed. . .

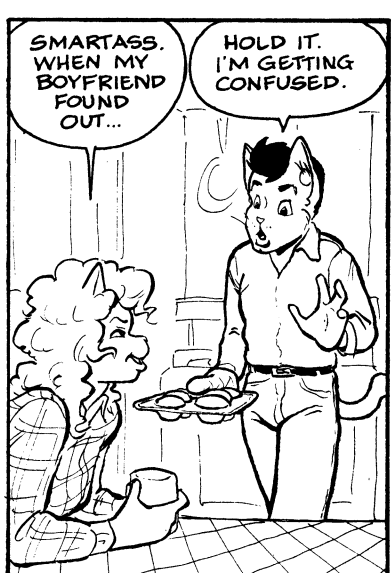
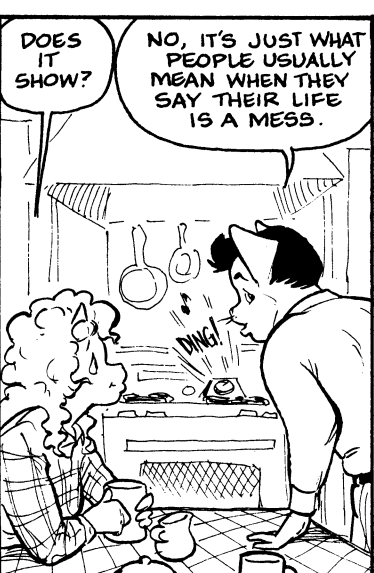
For the Veterans of the Fannish Wars: Val, Jeff, Sue, David, Al, Geoff, Mary Jo, Chris, Steve, and Elwood—all cum laude graduates of Friendship 101.

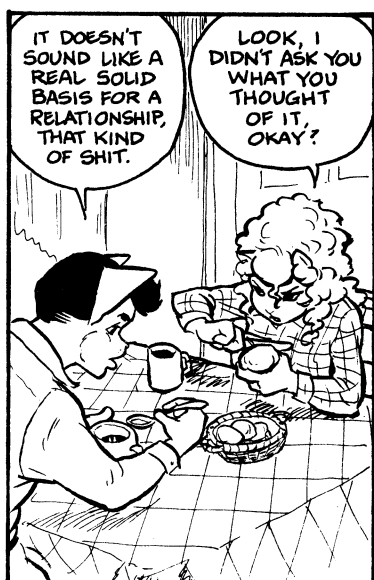
OMAHA

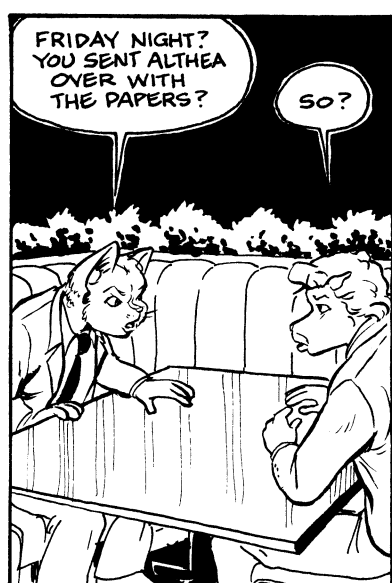
THE CAT DANCER











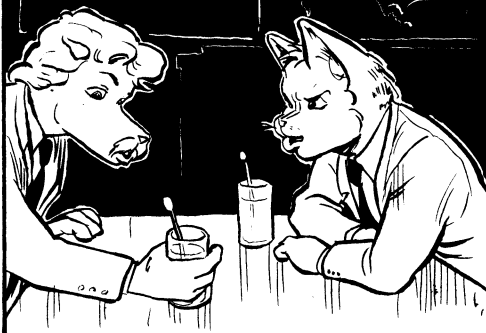


ALTHEA ASKED TO TAKE THOSE PAPERS OVER. IF IT WAS ANYBODY'S PLAN, IT WAS HERS.

BREAKING AND ENTERING INCLUDED, EH? MAYBE WE SHOULD GO TO YOUR OFFICE AND ASK HER, FACE TO FACE, HUH?

THAT WON'T DO ANY GOOD, I'M AFRAID.

GOT HER TOO WELL TRAINED? GOD, YOU REALLY CAN MAKE 'EM JUMP THROUGH HOOPS...



IT WON'T DO ANY **GOOD** BECAUSE SHE'S LEFT THE COMPANY.

WHAT?



I FOUND HER LETTER OF RESIGNATION, EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY, ON MY DESK THIS MORNING.



I HAVEN'T TALKED TO HER YET, SO I DON'T KNOW WHAT'S GOING ON. I'LL BE HAPPY TO SHOW YOU THE LETTER.

HOW DO I KNOW YOU HAVEN'T RIGGED THAT, TOO?



CHUCK... I HATE TO SAY THIS, HONEST TO GOD... BUT YOU SOUND JUST LIKE CHARLIE, AT HIS WORST.

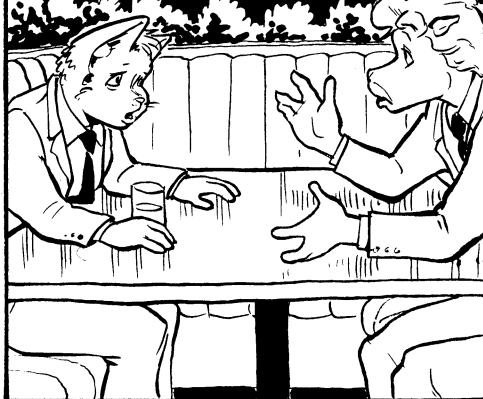


LIKE... OH, SHIT...



JER, YOU REALLY DIDN'T HAVE ANYTHING TO DO WITH THIS?

I SWEAR I DIDN'T. CHRIST, IF I'D KNOWN THAT SHE WAS GONNA TRY...

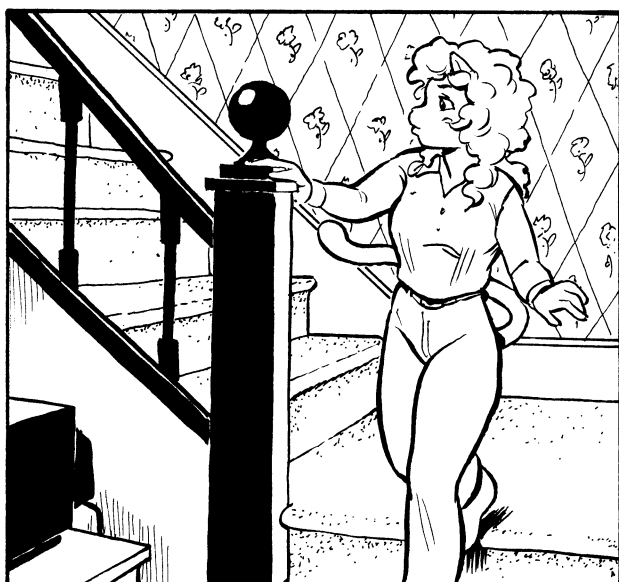


















MISS KIBBLE, THIS IS CHIEF GROVER.

HOW DO YOU DO, MISS?



OH, CHIEF, I JUST HAD TO TALK TO YOU. THE SENATOR DYING LIKE THIS...



VERY UPSETTING FOR YOU, I'M SURE. NOW, DETECTIVE TRAY HERE TELLS ME YOU HAVE SOME INFORMATION FOR US...?



WELL, I'M SURE YOU KNOW THAT THE SENATOR BELIEVED IN KEEPING HIS PRIVATE LIFE **QUITE** PRIVATE.

YE-ES, WE'VE NOTICED THAT.



IN FACT, WE'VE HAD A DEAL OF TROUBLE GETTING ANYONE **CLOSE** TO HIM TO TALK TO US ABOUT IT.

I KNOW. I... I DIDN'T LIKE TO SAY ANYTHING.

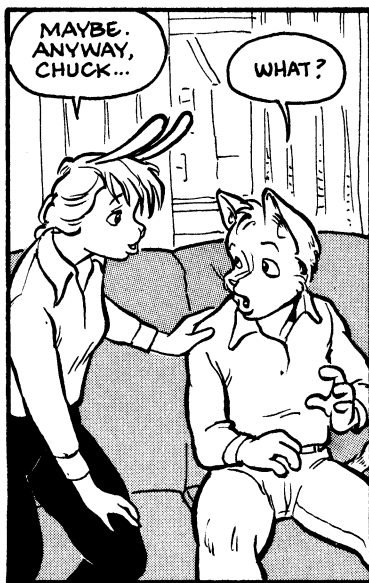
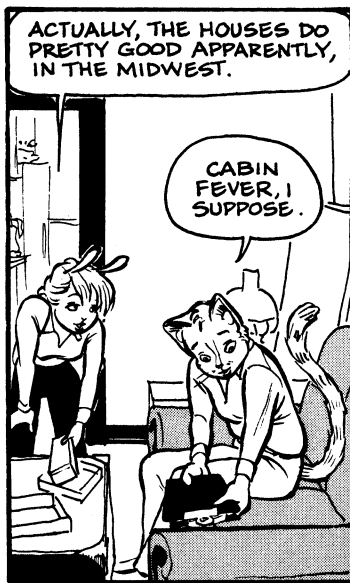


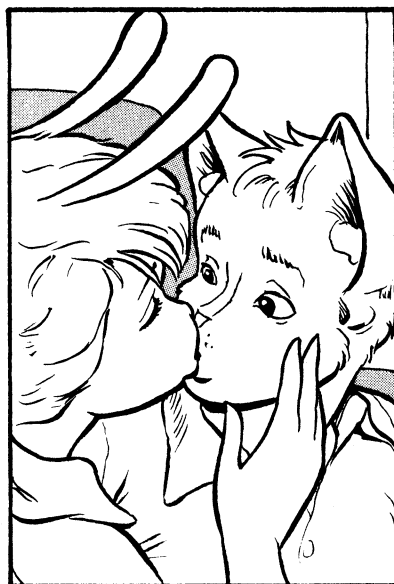
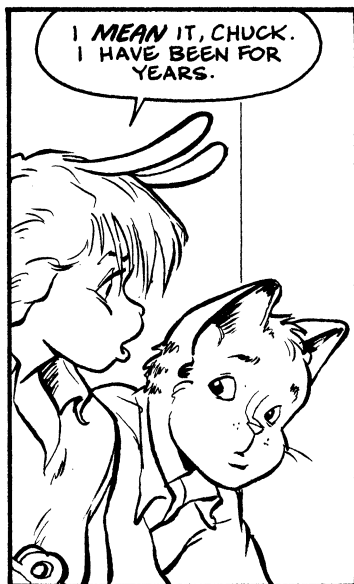
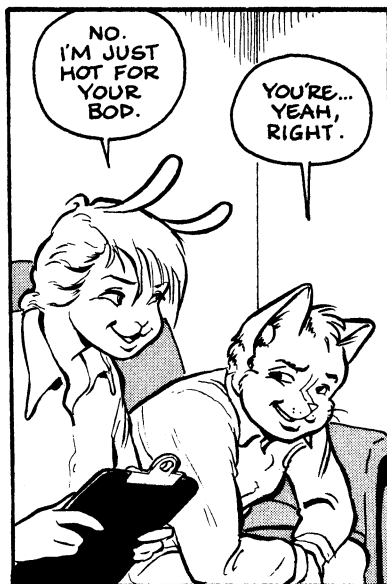
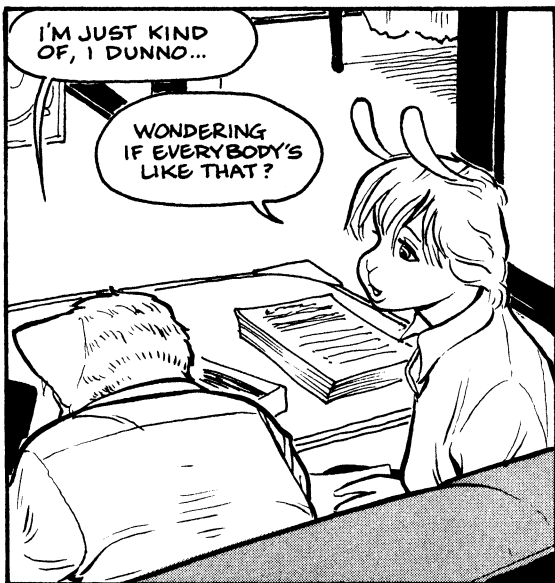
LIKE EVERYONE, I THOUGHT IT WAS THAT DREADFUL... WOMAN YOU ARRESTED.

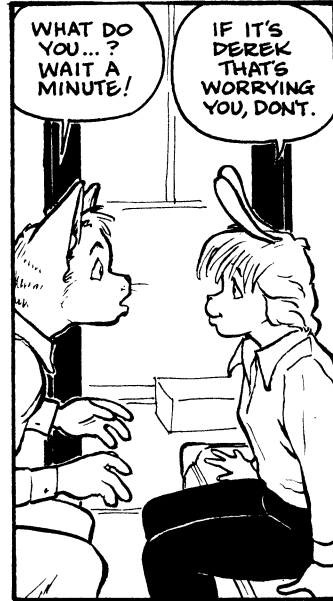
BUT...?

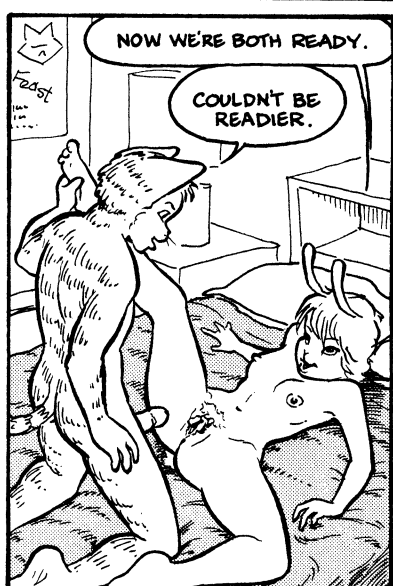
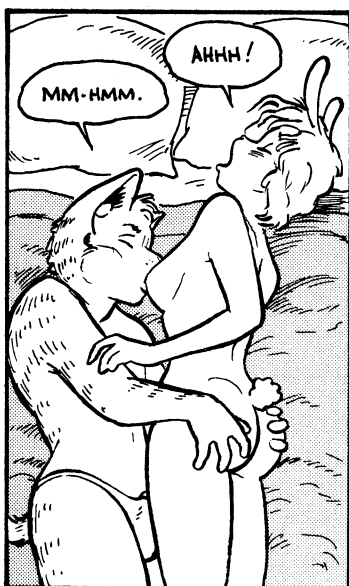


WELL, THERE WERE OTHER WOMEN IN HIS LIFE, YOU SEE... ONE IN PARTICULAR...



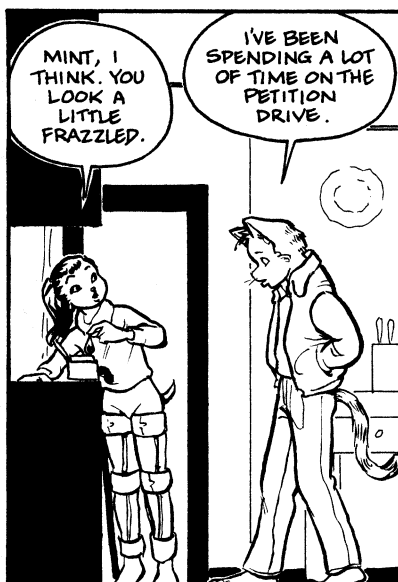
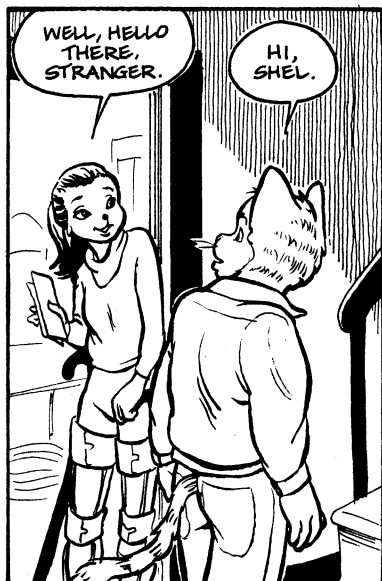


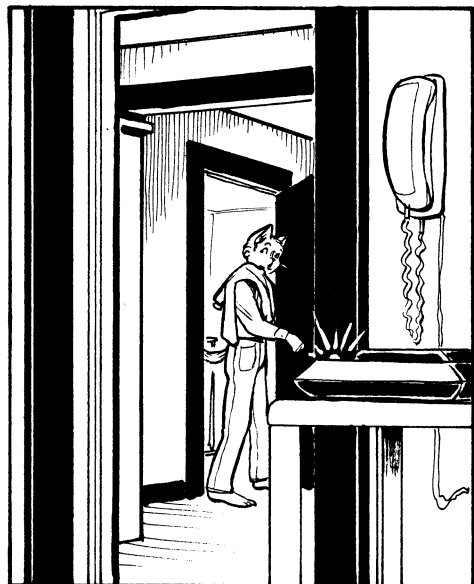






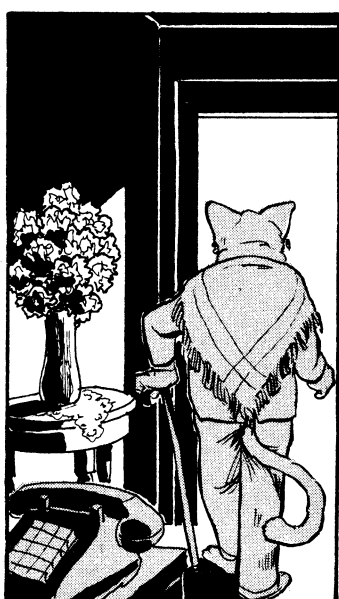
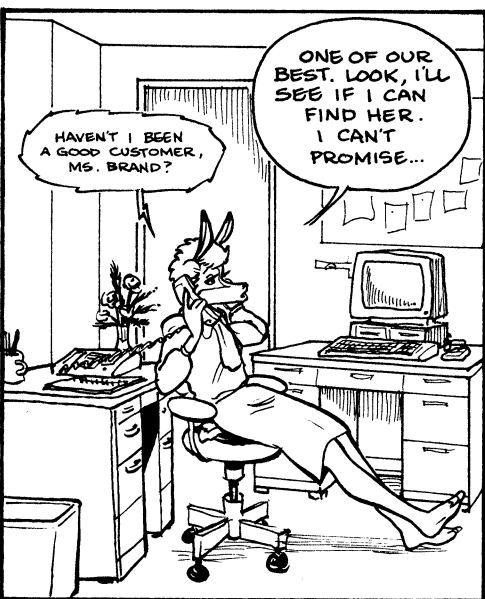


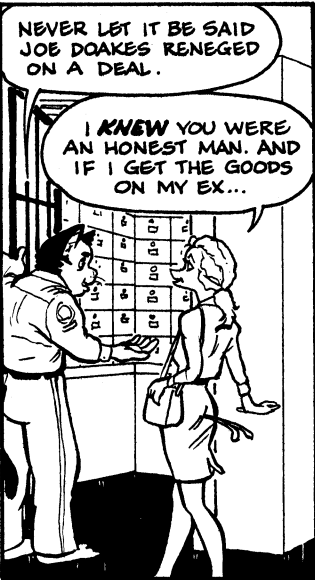














Dear Omaha:

Send correspondence to Reed Waller & Kate Worley, Box 7439 Powderhorn Station, Minneapolis MN 55407

TWICE IS COINCIDENCE...

Hey, the second issue of *Omaha* in a row to come out on schedule! We're on a roll here, gang...well, we were.

Some of you have certainly heard the news that Reed has been seriously ill. He had been feeling lousy and having symptoms for some time, and at the beginning of November he got the diagnosis of colon cancer. His prognosis was fairly good from the start, but the treatment he required and the government tap-dancing kept both of us from working since then. Thanks to the help of many, many fans and professionals, we have been able to go on without financial worry, leaving our time free for the more normal worries that come with this kind of problem. He has made excellent progress with radiation and chemotherapy, and is scheduled for surgery at the end of January. After that, we hope for an uneventful recovery, and that you'll be seeing the next *Omaha* by summer.

You won't have to do without the Cat Dancer entirely, though, in between. **Denis Kitchen** and I immediately started to put together a benefit book. Denis had the idea of tying it in with our regular title, with various artists giving their interpretations of *Omaha*. An incredible number of artists and writers responded, so many that we have had to make it two books. *IMAGES OF OMAHA* #1 will be out in March, with a second issue coming out in April. You'll get to see *Omaha* interpreted by the likes of **Steve Rude, Howard Cruse, Guy Colwell, Roberta Gregory, Phil Foglio, Trina Robbins, Terry Beatty, Paul Chadwick, Stan Sakai**, and far too many others to list here. The books will also contain lots of "other stuff" about health care, friendship, sex and cats. All proceeds from both books go to, well, to help us bail out of the chaos Reed's illness has caused. I feel less guilty now that I can see what a terrific book it's going to be.

We've gotten a lot of wonderful letters since #16. Unfortunately, I haven't had time to put more of them together for this column. The following brings up a subject that was echoed in a number of letters. Thanks to all the rest of you who wrote.

Martin Lewison

Pittsburgh, PA

Just picked up *Omaha* #16 and loved it (as usual). I moved from Minneapolis to Pittsburgh between Nos. 15 and 16, so it was a treat to return to the Midwest, if only for a short while. Well worth the wait, in any case.

Enough chatter and on to serious issues. Two items. First, a retailer here in Pittsburgh told me that the long wait for No. 16 was due to Reed's having a serious illness. I sincerely hope that this is not the case, but if it is, I send out my strongest wishes for a [in Hebrew] complete recovery and hope that all will be well. Reed's a great artist (and a great guy, from what I heard in Minneapolis), and his being incapacitated for any amount of time constitutes a great loss to his family, friends and fans. Get better!

Next, I wanted to cheer your addition of Jewish characters to *Omaha*. I grew up in a very secular, assimilated Jewish home in New York, and I didn't really become involved in Judaism until I moved to Minnesota, where I became quite religious. The Twin Cities have a great Jewish community, and it was great to see it represented in the pages of *Omaha*. I remember a reader's letter suggesting that you add a religious character, and I almost wrote to suggest that s/he be Jewish, but it looks like you beat me to the punch. Good work!

Anyway, be well, and please tell *Omaha* to call Chuck. I think his heart will break (and I know mine will!) if they don't get together again soon. Get that divorce over with!

[Actually, #16 came out when it was announced, but it was announced quite a bit later than we'd hoped. The 90 day lead time for solicitation strikes again. Reed was ill at the time, but we didn't know what was wrong yet.

[A number of readers have written to say they like Judith and her husband. We expect to see a bit more of them, if only so we can throw a little Yiddishkeit our reader's way. We are fairly non-observant Reform Jews ourselves (of course, an observant Reform Jew is one who doesn't go into a Presbyterian church by mistake). But we try, when rock and roll and conventions don't prevent us, to at least usher in the Sabbath. We found it provided at least a few

continued next page

minutes of calm and sanity in the week, and it seemed to me that Judith would find the same thing.

[I'm glad you like the Twin Cities Jewish community. We're a very small minority here, but there's so much going on. Thanks for your good wishes. I think that Hebrew typeface is probably beyond our typesetter's current capacity, and I was too lazy to look up the transliteration.

[A number of people expressed astonishment that Omaha wouldn't have taken care of her marital status long ago. I dunno...among our crowd it's almost been traditional not to bother with divorce until one is ready to remarry. Flakey? Yeah, I guess so...but not all that odd if people remain friends. Don't worry; I see a brighter future ahead (well, at least in spots) for Omaha and Chuck.—K.]

Two more things: The *Omaha* serigraph that some of you have seen advertised has been postponed...thanks to the Administration which has made such production decisions necessary. (Everyone involved in this year's election? Good.)

Second, I keep forgetting to tell you...**Alice in Rubberland** has put out a delightful set of *Omaha* rubber stamps. They also have stamps by **Howard Cruse** and **Trina Robbins**, and a lovely collection of Victoriana. If you're into stamping, write for their catalog: Alice in Rubberland, P.O. Box 2735, Los Angeles CA 90078. Put a little rubber in your life

* * * * *

I asked our guest cartoonist, Larry Becker, to give me some autobiographical material to put at the end of this column. The Beck hemmed and hawed, but a week later presented the following, which sums him up pretty well...

"HUMOR IS SYMPTOMATIC OF THE BECKER ANGST" "BECK, YOU'RE SO CYNICAL, BLASE...AND RADIOACTIVE!"

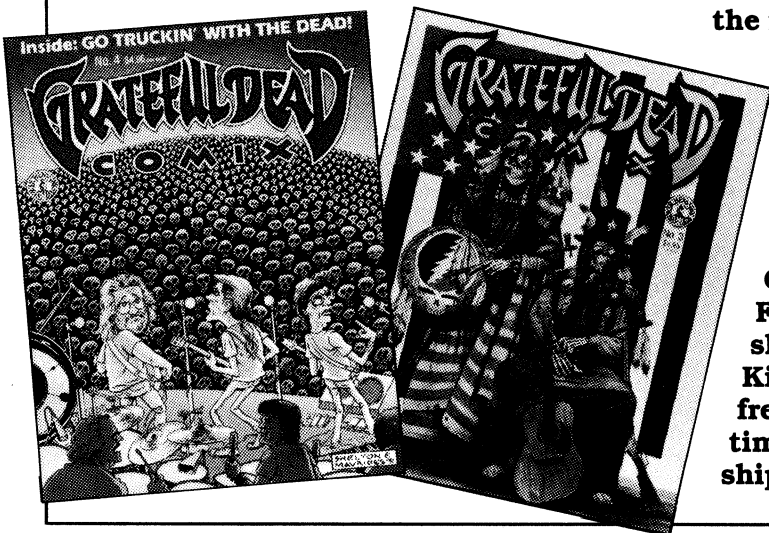
The Beck has been cartooning regularly ever since Ken Fletcher talked him into joining *VOOTIE*, the original funny animal cartoonist's apa. Unfortunately, he soon found it more fun to avoid drawing critters and delved into strips filled with spicy and profound *bon mots* inspired by the Minneapolis rock scene variously called "IN SEARCH OF ROCK 'N' ROLL" or "LIFE AT TOP VOLUME," and subsequently featured in barely published comics called *Real Hep*, *Domino Chance* and *Noise Candy*. The Beck loves to point and laugh at people he's never known, including himself. He doesn't believe anyone exists until they buy him a beer.

* * * * *

Grateful Dead Comix: a full color rock concert on paper!

For 25 years, they've played to a legion of fans. Their concerts and tours are legendary. Now, their lyrics and experiences are interpreted by today's foremost comics artists! Each 40-page issue of the fully licensed *Grateful*

Dead Comix is in full color, and features artists like Tim Truman, Rand Holmes, Moebius, Mary Fleener, Dan Burr and many more! Numbers One, Two, Three and Four ON SALE NOW. Number Five out in April. At comics shops everywhere, or from Kitchen Sink Press. Call toll free 1-800-365-7465 any-time. \$4.95 each plus \$1.50 shipping. MasterCard, VISA.



TALES OF MIPPLE-CITY

**PERRY
HARE
&
RHINO
SERIOUS**

BY
THE PECK

C'MON, C'MAAAAANN!
I'M SO SWACKED I'M
HAVING WARM THOUGHTS
ABOUT SLOT
MACHINES.!

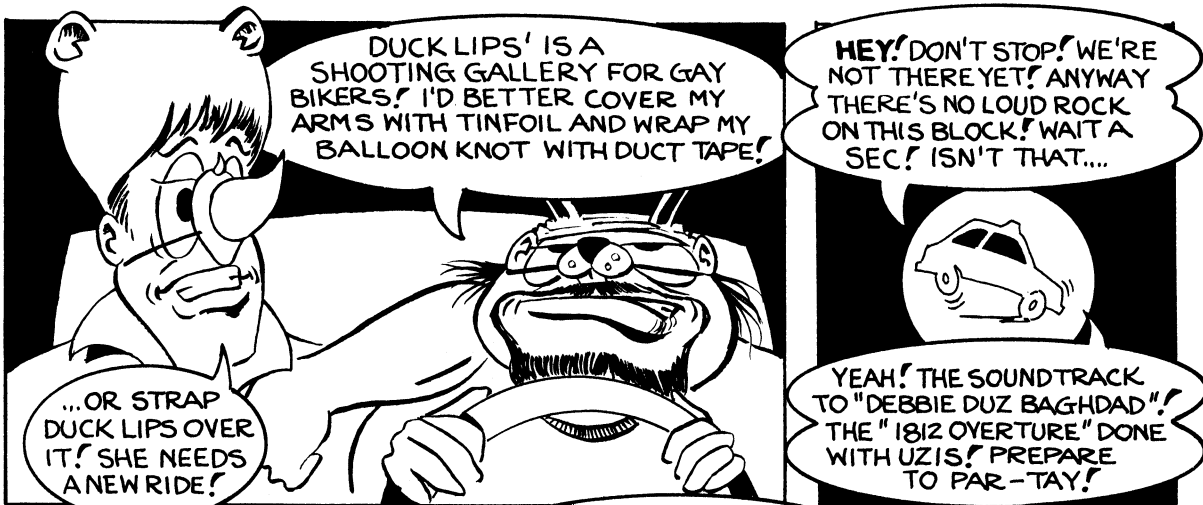
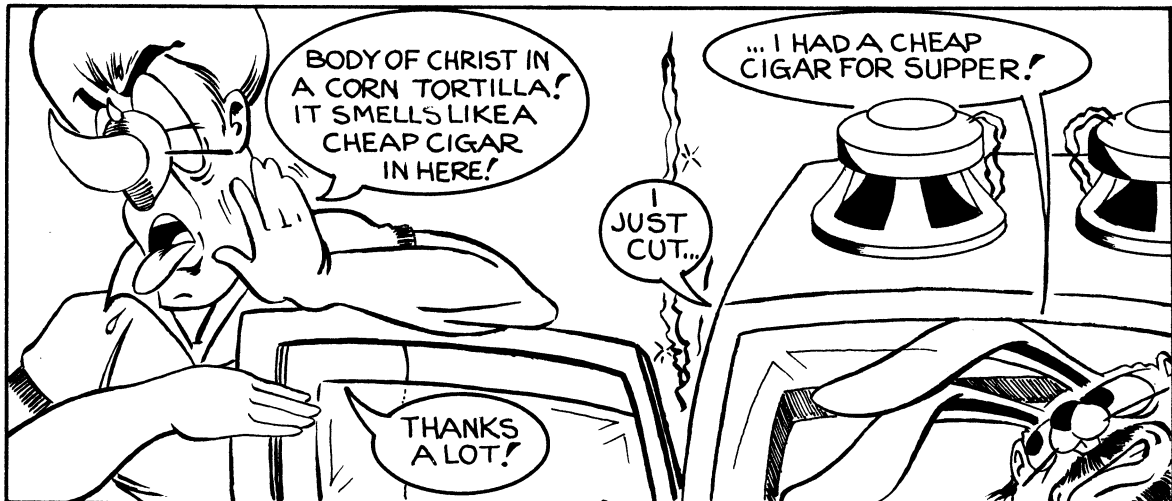
WHY? DID YOU
BREAK UP WITH
YOUR TAPE
DECK ?!

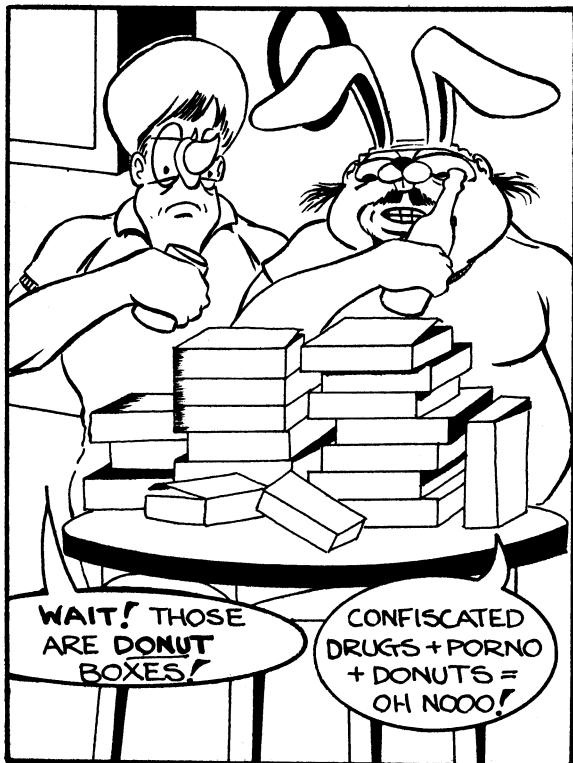
HELLO CHICKY
McNUGGET! I'M
HAVING A
PARTY IN MY
MOUTH TONIGHT
... WANNA
CO...

YEAH?
WELL, LOVE
YA 'TIL
TUESDAY
YA SHE-
MALE!

HEY ALL
YOU CAREER
ALCOHOLICS!
DUCK LIPS' BOY-
FRIEND IS IN
JAIL ... SO SHE'S
HAVING PEOPLE
OVER.!

NEXT ON OPRAH...
SCUD MISSILES IMPACT BEHIND
BUNNY'S EYES. FILMAT TWO
... ON TONGUE!







Special Edition!

IMAGES OF OMAHA

A benefit for Reed Waller

Fans of *Omaha* and friends of **Reed Waller** will love this homage to the famous feline, produced as a benefit for Reed, who is battling cancer.

Outstanding writers and artists in the comics field have donated their talents for this first of two deluxe format comic books. You'll enjoy work by **Howard Cruse**, **Will Eisner**, **Harlan Ellison**, **Alan Moore**, **Mark Schultz**, **P.S. Mueller**, **Trina Robbins**, **Al Williamson**, and many others. Each artist is rendering his or her own artistic conception of *Omaha*, or related material.

Images of Omaha retails for \$3.95 and is available from fine comics shops everywhere, or call Kitchen Sink Press toll free 1-800-365-7465 anytime. **Adults only.**



Cover by Rich Larson and Steve Fastner

A sampling from *Images of Omaha*...

Will Eisner



Mark Schultz



Steve Rude



The First *Melody* Collection

The first compilation of Sylvie Rancourt and Jacques Boivin's *Melody* in book form features the storyline from Issues 1-4 plus Rancourt's own art in "How I Met Nick" (not available in the comic book series).

This acclaimed series tells the true story of a spirited young woman in rural Quebec who eventually finds herself a nude dancer in Montreal.

Critics rave about this unusual autobiography:

"Among the most unusual and inspired work being done in graphics today... Explicitly sexual, proto-yet-postfeminist, sensitive, frank, funny, weird, and insightful."

Steven Kane, *Los Angeles Reader*

"The dramatic texture is richly layered and immensely gripping...The characterization is impressive...a powerful account of our sexuality."

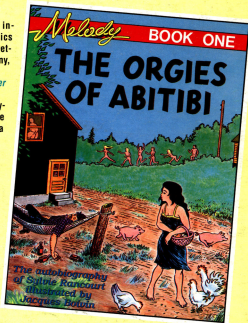
Ann Diamond, *Saturday Night*

"A tale about real sex and real problems. This is a tremendous story, it translates so well into comic book form...all the mundane details are there along with the more exotic details... There's an enormous amount of depth in the conflicting emotions and the relationships."

Brent Bambury, *CBC-FM*

"Brilliant, sympathetic, and realistic"

Jack Ruttan, *Montreal Mirror*



Enjoy the candor and artistry of the Rancourt/Boivin collaboration in large format (8" x 11") on white paper. 125 pp. Softcover, \$14.95 (\$17.95 Canada); signed and numbered limited edition hardcover, \$29.95 (\$35.95 Canada).

Available at fine
comic shops everywhere.

If you can't find it locally call Kitchen Sink Press
toll free anytime at 1-800-365-7465.