

**SPOTLIGHT COMICS**

**NO. 1**

# **SAMURAI SQUIRREL**

**\$1.75**

CAN. \$2.50

**-MASTER OF THE SWORD-**



Welcome to our debut issues of  
**SAMURAI SQUIRREL AND L.T.  
CAPER AGENT FOR H.E.R.O.**

Our first issue of **SAMURAI SQUIRREL**, created by new talent Kelley Jarvis chronicles the adventures of Nato-San and his struggle to defeat the evil emperor Mordak. we have already seen the plot for the first ten issues and we feel the book will keep on getting better and better.

Jim Main and Peter Fitzgerald run amok with **THE NUCLEAR MARTIAL ARTS FROGS**.

Our companion book **L.T. CAPER AGENT FOR H.E.R.O.**, features the super sleuth and his assistant Proto as they stop the villainous Dr. Phoenix from his deadly deeds, it's mad cap cloak and dagger at its best.

In this book we are presenting a sneak preview of our November released book **STERN WHEELER**. Ralph Kanna and Jim Aparo bring this adventure of the ace investigator. This comic strip originally appeared in a Connecticut newspaper in the early sixties. We at **SPOTLIGHT COMICS** are very proud to present this feature.

As the saying goes we get by with a little help from our freinds, and we would like to thank the following Frank McLaughlin for his terrific inking job on **L.T. CAPER**, Marc Thorner and Alex Maurizio.

We at **SPOTLIGHT COMICS** believe that comics should be produced primarily for one reason, entertainment. We hope that these titles leave you with just that feeling.

**Richard Maurizio**  
publisher

**Jim Main**  
Managing Editor

**KENSAI** type of warrior who masters one weapon; bow staff, sword  
**DAIMYO** The provincial lord; litterally great name

**NINJA** name given to highly specialized spies in the arts of concealment, employed by contending warrior.  
**RONIN** masterless **SAMURAI**, wave-men.

**SAMA** japanese meaning lord

**SAN** japanese meaning honorable.



**CREATOR, WRITER, PENCILLER**  
**KELLEY JARVIS**

**INKERS**  
**JOHN MAAS**  
**MARC THORNER**  
**KELLEY JARVIS**  
**RICHARD MAURIZIO**  
**LETTERERS**  
**BRUCE KUNATH**  
**PETER FITZGERALD**

A SWORD IS HELD  
HIGH INTO THE DAYLIGHT.



...IT'S OWNER'S  
NAME IS NATO-  
SAN, A SQUIRREL,  
A SAMURAI  
SQUIRREL!!



# NATO THE LADDER

TO HIS LEFT KNEELS MALIK-QUI,  
HIS BROTHER. TOGETHER THEY  
FACE ANOTHER ENEMY.



ON THIS WORLD, SURVIVAL  
IS THE MOST IMPORTANT  
THING. READYING THEIR  
SKILL TO THE FULL EXTREME,  
THE TWO AWAIT THE ENEMY'S  
MOVE.....

THE ATTACKERS  
ADVANCE !!



THE TWO SPEAK  
SOFTLY, UNKNOWN  
TO THE ADVANCING  
FOES.....

MALIK, PREPARE  
FOR AN AMBUSH!  
... BUT BE  
CAUTIOUS !

MY BO-STAFF IS  
READY, NATO....



..."IT WILL BE  
THEIR BLOOD TO  
FALL TODAY."



ATTACK!!



YAH!

HAAH!







YOU ALRIGHT?

YEAH. HE CHEATED.  
HE THREW DIRT  
IN MY EYE.

NATO, I WANT TO THANK YOU.  
IF YOU HAD NOT ARRIVED IN  
TIME, I WOULD HAVE LOST  
MY OTHER EYE....

AS WELL AS  
MY HEAD.

NATO, WHAT IS THIS?  
WHERE DID YOU  
FIND THIS?

I FOUND  
IT ON THAT  
BANDIT  
BACK THERE.

COME ON.  
IT'S ALMOST  
DARK AND OTHERS  
MAY BE FOLLOWING.

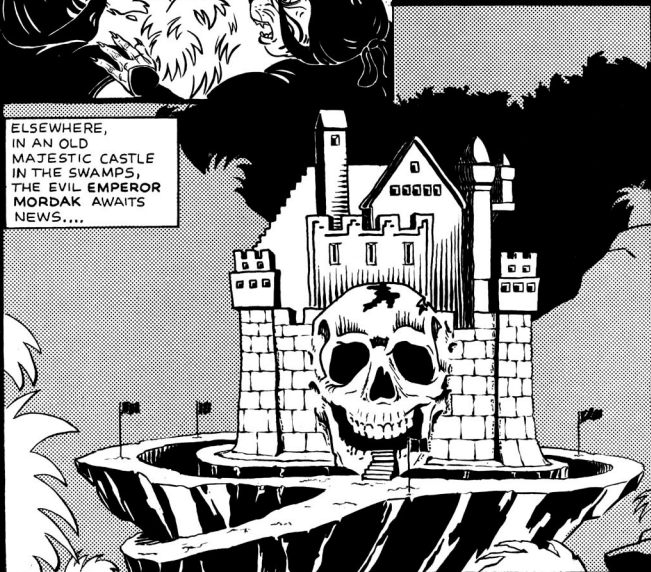
UNKNOWN TO THE  
HAPPY HEROES, TWO  
DARKLY CLOAKED  
FIGURES WATCH  
FROM THE BRUSH,  
LISTENING....



WE HAD  
BETTER GO  
BACK AND  
REPORT THIS!

YEAH, HE'S  
NOT GOING TO  
LIKE THIS!

ELSEWHERE,  
IN AN OLD  
MAJESTIC CASTLE  
IN THE SWAMPS,  
THE EVIL EMPEROR  
MORDAK AWAITS  
NEWS....



DEEP INSIDE THE THRONE ROOM, MORDAK'S WIZARD AND SECOND-IN-COMMAND, CHAING, SPEAKS QUIETLY TO HIS MASTER, WHEN....

AH... MY LITTLE SPIES HAVE RETURNED FROM THEIR MISSION.....

WHAT NEWS DO YOU BRING?

I AM SORRY, MY LORD. WE HAVE FAILED YOU.

WHAT! WHO HAS IT? WHO BARES THE MEDALLION?

A...A SQUIRREL HAS IT, SIR.

MY BEST GUARDS TRICKED BY A SQUIRREL! FOR THAT YOU SHALL SUFFER!

IT WAS VERY FOOLISH FOR YOU TWO TO RETURN WITH THIS UPSETTING NEWS! FAILURE TO ME MEANS DEATH! CHAING...



THE ANCIENT WIZARD RISES TO HIS MASTER'S COMMAND. THE GUARD IS STRUCK WITH FEAR AS FLAMES LEAP FROM THE OLD RAT'S HANDS. SOON IT IS OVER.



MEANWHILE, NATO  
AND MALIK REJOICE  
OVER THEIR VICTORY...

NATO, IF THAT  
HAD BEEN A  
MASTER DAIMYO  
TEST.....

....I WOULD  
HAVE FAILED!

YOU DID WELL,  
MALIK. IT TAKES  
TIME TO BE A  
GOOD FIGHTER  
AND A KENSAI.

YEAH... I  
GUESS.

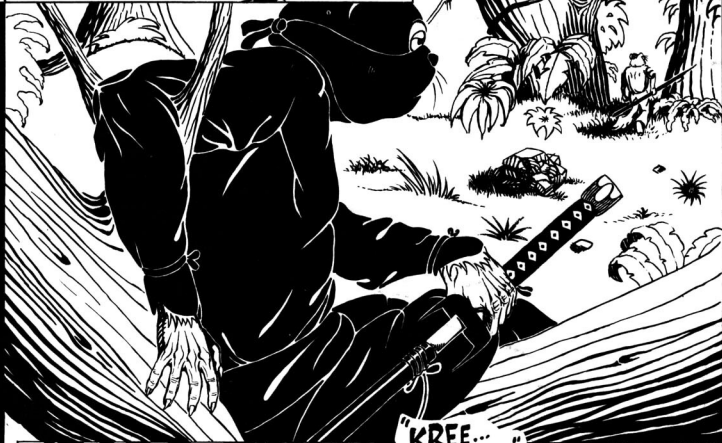
NATO, DO YOU  
THINK WE COULD  
STOP AND REST  
HERE AWHILE? YOUR  
CONSTANT RUNNING  
HAS MADE ME WEAK.

NATO, ONE DAY  
YOU WILL FACE  
THE TRUTH.....

...THAT DEEP  
INSIDE YOU KNOW  
YOU'RE A RONIN  
NOW.....

NO! I DON'T  
WANT TO HEAR  
YOUR SPEECH!

.... BUT I HOPE  
IT'S SOON BECAUSE  
YOUR SELFISH  
HONOR WILL KILL  
US BOTH!



"KREE... KREE..."







THE NEXT DAY, NATO WOKE TO  
A BRIGHT SUNNY DAY.....



MALIK-  
QUI?



MALIK!



MALIK!  
WHERE..

HUH?



MALIK?  
MALIK?



IT CAN'T  
BE!



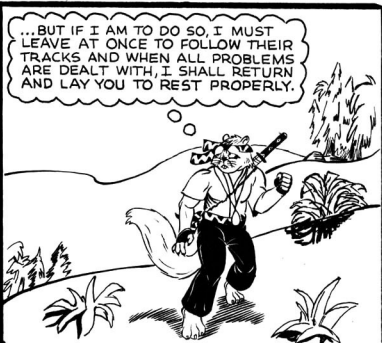
OH, NO!



MALIK, I SWEAR TO YOU, IF IT'S THE LAST THING I DO, YOU WILL BE AVENGED. THE MURDERERS WILL PAY PAY FOR WHAT THEY HAVE DONE!



... BUT IF I AM TO DO SO, I MUST LEAVE AT ONCE TO FOLLOW THEIR TRACKS AND WHEN ALL PROBLEMS ARE DEALT WITH, I SHALL RETURN AND LAY YOU TO REST PROPERLY.



SO OFF NATO WENT INTO THIS STRANGE WORLD, LEAVING ALL THAT WAS DEAR TO HIM BEHIND, AND REMEMBERING HIS VOW TO A LOST SOUL, FOR AS LONG AS HE'LL LIVE.....



NATO CONTINUED TO HEAD SOUTH. HE DECIDED TO CHECK ALL THE VILLAGES NEARBY FOR ANSWERS. THE CLOSEST WAS THE CITY OF SORROW.

THIS HEAT IS KILLING ME.



I'VE GOT TO FIND A PLACE TO REST....  
(PANT)



THERE...(PANT)  
...A TREE!

AHHH... SHADE  
AT LAST.







"OVER THE HILL ...



AND UNDER A LARGE  
ROCK. THERE YOU  
WILL FIND HIM.. BUT  
BE CAUTIOUS,  
SAMURAI... HIS  
BITE IS DEADLY."



AFTER A WHILE, NATO'S  
EYES ADJUST TO THE  
DARKNESS BEFORE HIM..



NOW TO FIND  
SILVERBACK!

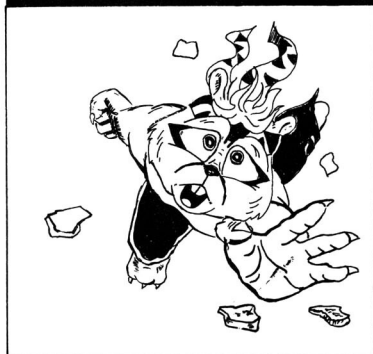
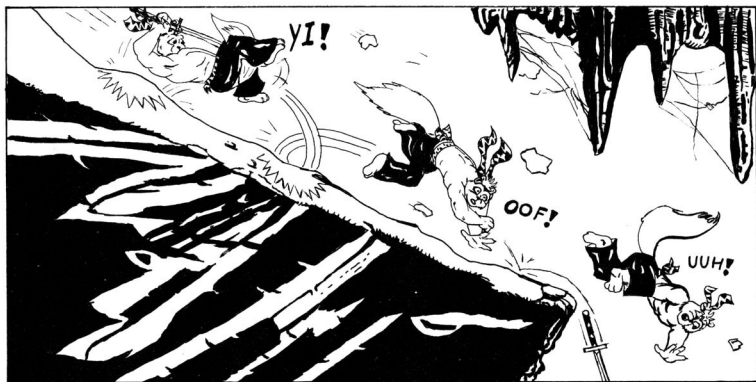


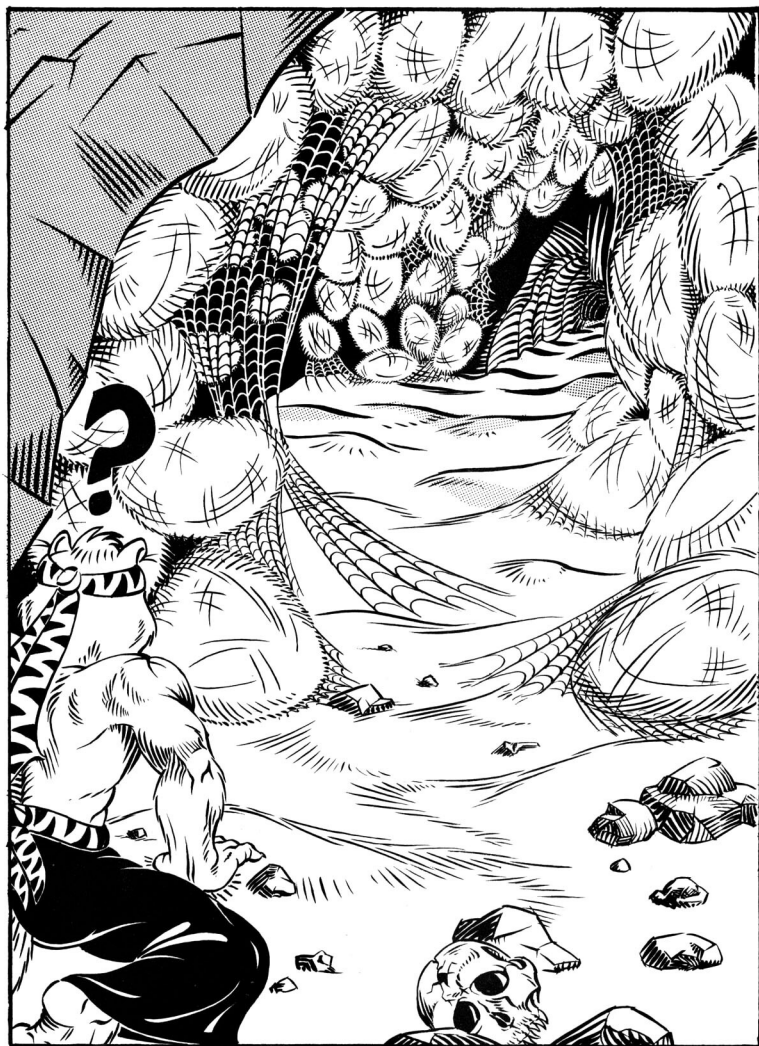










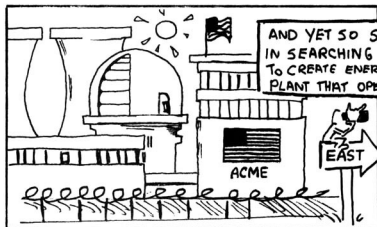


**NEXT ISSUE :** "ALONG Came a Spider!"  
See You in **JANUARY!**

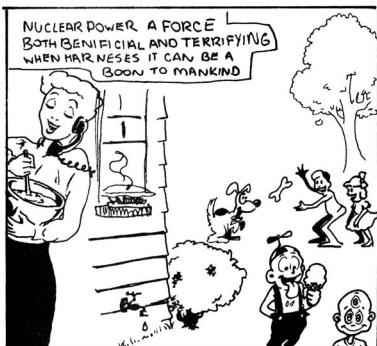
JAPAN A COUNTRY SO  
DIFFERENT IN CONTRAST  
TO OURS



AND YET SO SIMILAR THEY TOO  
IN SEARCHING FOR A MORE ECONOMICAL WAY  
TO CREATE ENERGY, HAVE CONSTRUCTED  
PLANT THAT OPERATE ON NUCLEAR POWER



NUCLEAR POWER A FORCE  
BOTH BENEFICIAL AND TERRIFYING  
WHEN HARNESES IT CAN BE A  
BOON TO MANKIND



OH WELL! THIS IS THE  
STORY OF ONE SUCH  
OCCURANCE...



# THE NUCLEAR-SPAUNED MARTIAL ART FROGS

CREATOR/WRITER

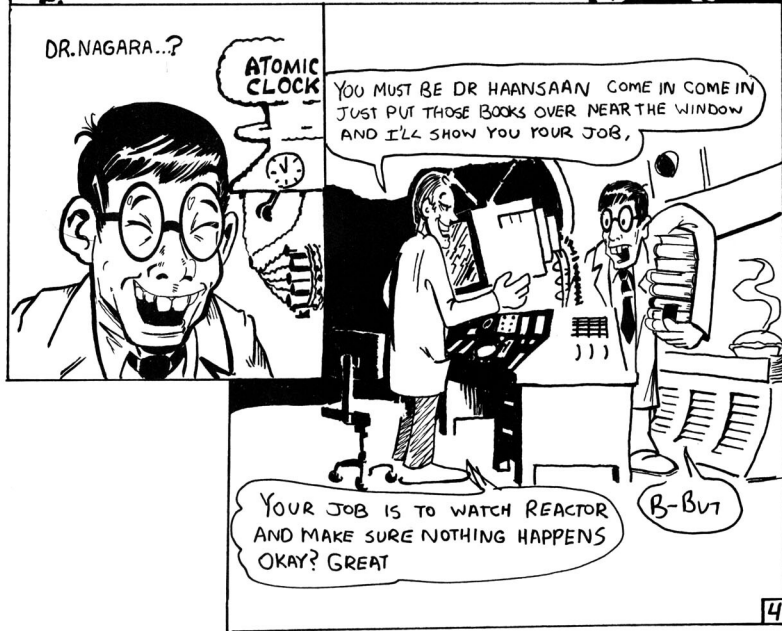
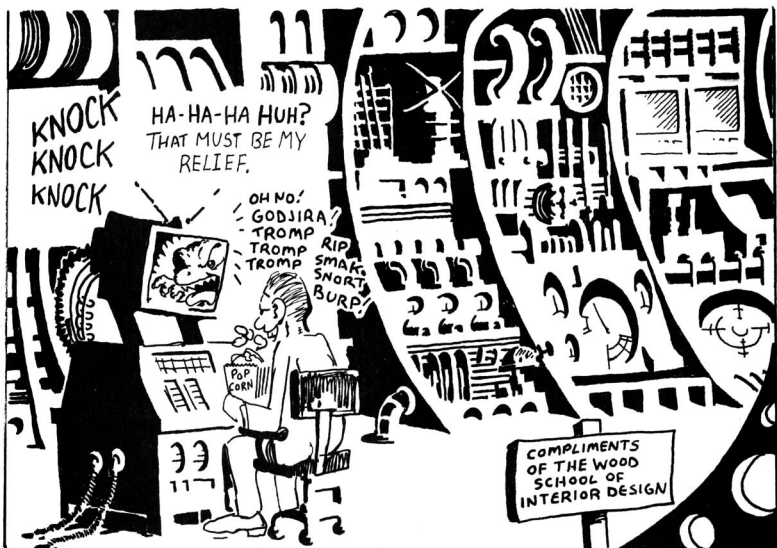
JIM MAIN

ART

PETER FITZGERALD + CO







ANY QUESTIONS, JUST CONSULT THE MANUAL, GOT TO GO NOW... ALREADY RATE FOR ALL NIGHT CRAP GAME BYE!

B-BUT...

How to  
MONITOR  
NUCLEAR  
REACTOR

## How to MONITOR NUCLEAR REACTOR

SURE ENOUGH....

WEEYOWEEYOWEEYOWEE

REACTOR  
SHIELD  
RAISED  
-WARNING  
CLOD!!!

BOOOO  
TSK TSK

**You  
TOUCHED  
IT!**

BEEP! BEEP! BEEP!

MUST BE JUST  
A CRAZY  
DREAM  
COULDN'T  
BE ME

CRACK!

BEEP  
BEEP  
BEEP

DANGER  
REACTOR  
SHIELD  
RAISED

I TOLD  
YOU SO!!

5

BEEP  
BEEP  
BEEP

**DANGER  
REACTOR  
SHIELD  
RAISED**



MEANWHILE THE FORCE THAT  
IS BEING UNLEASHED SEEKS  
AN EXIT AND FINDS ONE  
THROUGH A SMALL CRACK IN  
THE WALL.

RUMBLE

RUMBLE

SPLOOSH

MMMM

WHAT  
THE...

HEY  
GUYS  
I DONT  
FEEL SO  
GOOD

ME EITHER...  
IM CHANGING.

BATHED IN THE  
GLOW EMITTING  
FROM THE PLANT,  
THE ONCE TINY  
TADPOLES BEGIN TO  
EVOLVE...TO GROW..  
TO CHANGE!

EMERGING FROM THE POND, THEY  
DISCOVER THEY HAVE ENHANCED  
ABILITIES OF THOUGHT, SPEECH,  
AND REFLEX...



I THINK  
THEREFORE I AM.

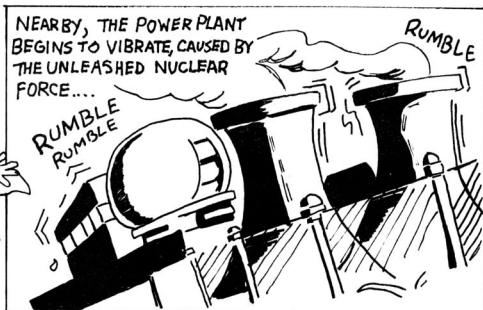
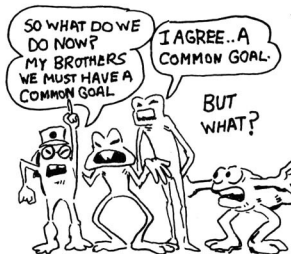
I'M LARGER  
THAN  
BEFORE!



WE ALL ARE  
IT MUST BE  
FROM THAT  
STRANGE  
GLOW

HELLO MY  
BABY, HELLO  
MY HONEY...





A black and white cartoon illustration depicting a chaotic scene where Elmer Fudd is hunting Daffy Duck and Porky Pig. Elmer, wearing a hat and holding a shotgun, is firing multiple shots. Sound effects like "WAP", "GOINT", "SMOK", "CRACK", "BIF", and "OOF" are scattered around the action. Daffy Duck is shown running away, shouting "HEY FROGGY, YOU GOT CANDY?" and "HUH, SONNY?". Porky Pig is also running, looking distressed. The background shows a simple landscape with a fence and some trees. The overall style is classic Looney Tunes animation.

AGREED!  
FLIES ARE  
FAIR GAME  
THOUGH!  
SMACK!

HELP ME!  
HELP ME!

AS THE FROGS  
DISCUSS THEIR  
PLANS, WE FIND  
IN THE PLANT  
NEARBY...



OUT OF THE  
WAY IDIOT!

Y-YES SIR!

THE PROFESSOR  
MANAGES TO SEAL  
THE REACTOR, BUT  
NOT IN TIME...

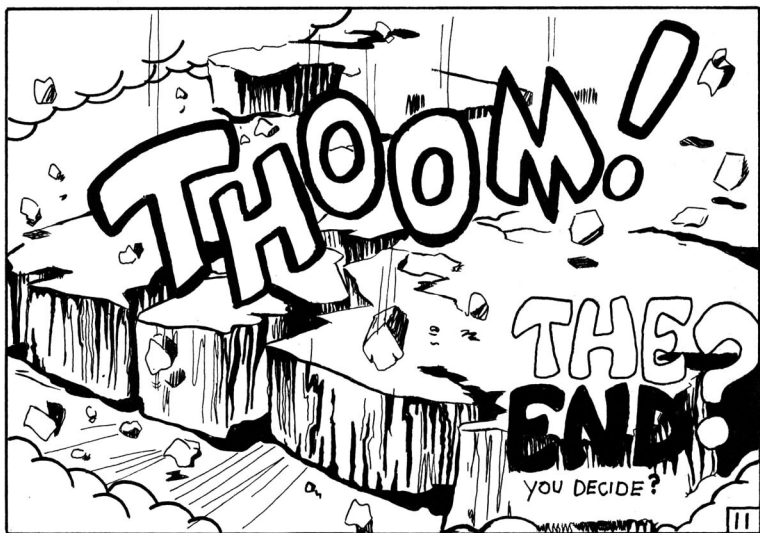
AND AS AN END  
RESULT, A FINAL  
SHOCK WAVE  
OCCURS, ROCKING  
THE BUILDING  
UNTIL...

DOES THIS MEAN  
I'M FIRED?

DO YOU FEEL  
A DRAFT?

CRASH CRUMBLE  
CRUMBLE

KSSHHHH





© 1986 R. MAURIZIO

# L.T. CAPER

L.T. Caper has a very dangerous occupation, which is to bring peace throughout the world. He is Agent of the "HIGHER ESPIONAGE REINFORCEMENT ORGANIZATION" known as H.E.R.O.

Follow his mad cap adventures from New York to Hong Kong, as Caper must stop the evil organization "PHOENIX" from using a deadly new weapon for world conquest.

Price . . . . . \$1.75



© 1986 KANNA & APARO

**STERN WHEELER** By Ralph Kanna & Jim Aparo

Before Jim Aparo ventured into comic books, he did a detective adventure strip for a Connecticut newspaper. Now SPOTLIGHT COMICS is proud to present Stern Wheeler. This black and white book will be available in November, but we will present a special 5 page sneak preview in L.T. CAPER #1.

This is a must for all Jim Aparo fans.

## SAMURAI SQUIRREL MASTER OF THE SWORD

Enter into the world of fantasy and magic, in the land where the unbelievable comes true.

Follow the brave Nato-San, a SAMURAI SQUIRREL, in a world where time has stopped. Alone, he must face monsters, thieves, barbarians and the ruthless Emperor Mordak and his attempt to rule the world ... his way.

There was never before an adventure like this. "Adventure, Suspense and Romance" in one book.

Price . . . . . \$1.75



© 1986 K. JARVIS

**AVAILABLE IN SEPTEMBER FROM**

# SPOTLIGHT COMICS

15 TAYLOR RD., BETHEL, CT. 06801

# WHEN IN CONNECTICUT VISIT THESE FINE STORES

COURTYARD  
167 MAIN ST.  
DANBURY CT. 06810  
(203) 798-8236  
COMICS, MAGAZINES, BASEBALL  
CARDS, SCIENCE FICTION  
PAPER BACKS, PRINTS, TOYS  
AND GAMES

THE DREAM FACTORY  
130 New Canaan Ave.  
130 NEW CANAAN AVE.  
NORWALK CT. 06850  
(203) 847-0282  
COMICS, BASEBALL CARDS,  
MAGAZINES, TOYS, NEW AND  
USED PAPERBACKS, MOVIE AND  
T.V. MEMORABILIA

GALAXY COMICS  
93 WALL ST.  
NORWALK CT. 06850  
(203) 853-9815  
COMICS, MAGAZINES, TOYS,  
GAMES

SPACE TRAVELLERS  
77 MINERVA ST.  
DERBY CT. 06810  
(203) 734-6400  
COMICS, MAGAZINES, DR. WHO  
ROBOTECH ROLE PLAYING  
GAMES

