

**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."









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.

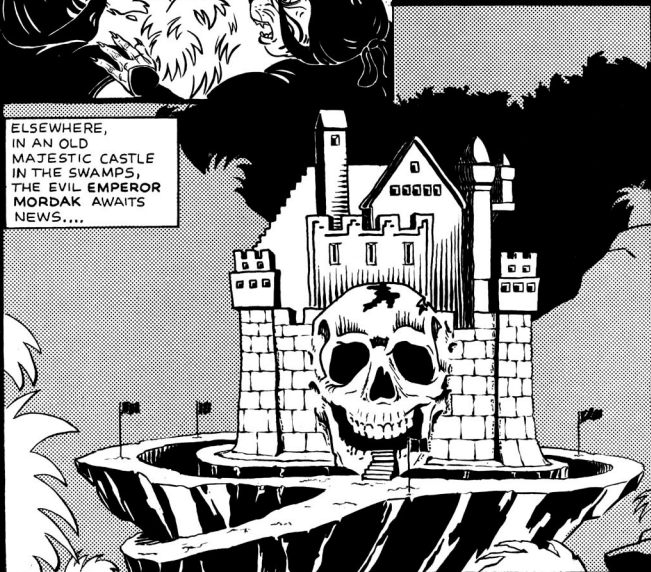
UNKNOWN TO THE  
HAPPY HEROES, TWO  
DARKLY CLOAKED  
FIGURES WATCH  
FROM THE BRUSH,  
LISTENING....



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.

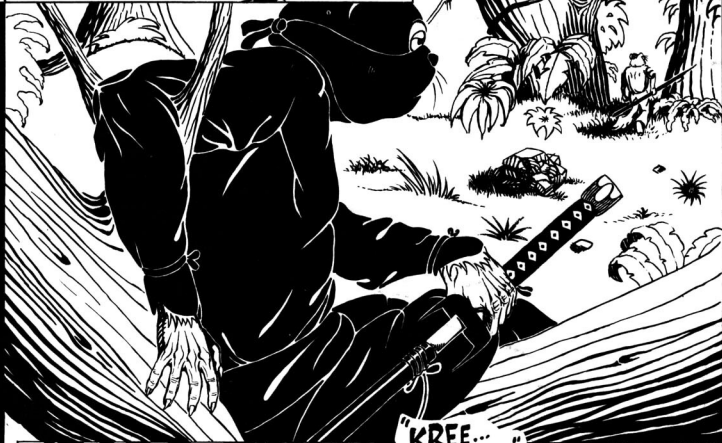
NATO, DO YOU  
THINK WE COULD  
STOP AND REST  
HERE AWHILE? YOUR  
CONSTANT RUNNING  
HAS MADE ME WEAK.

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!

NO! PLEASE, NO!



IT'S ONLY A NINJA! HE'S BEEN DEAD FOR SOME TIME, BY THE LOOKS OF IT. WHAT'S THAT?



MALIK'S STAFF.. IN PIECES. IT'S COVERED IN BLOOD.



WHAT'S THAT? A NINJA STAR IT HAS MALIK'S SCENT ON IT... AND MORE BLOOD... OH, MALIK .... YOU CAN'T BE .....

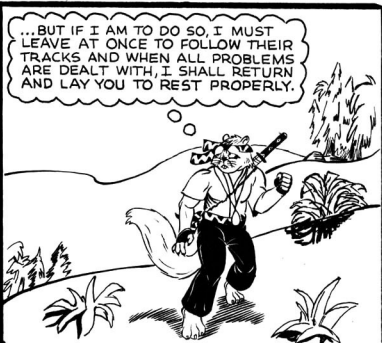


... BUT I FEAR IT'S THE TRUTH. YOU WEREN'T READY TO STAND AND FIGHT ALONE, MUCH LESS A GROUP OF ATTACKERS. YOU WERE RIGHT ABOUT ME, MALIK, AND AGAIN I WAS WRONG. IF I HAD ONLY LISTENED! YOU COUNTED ON ME TO PROTECT YOU, AND MASTER DID, TOO... AND I FAILED YOU BOTH!!!

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.







NATO KNOWS  
WHAT THE BIRD  
FEELS INSIDE  
HIS HEART....



"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!











YAH!

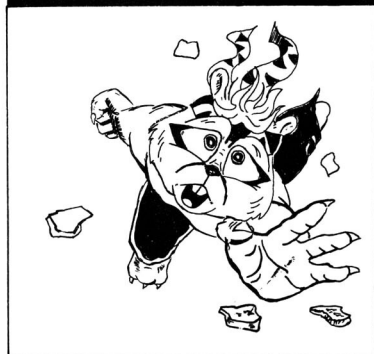
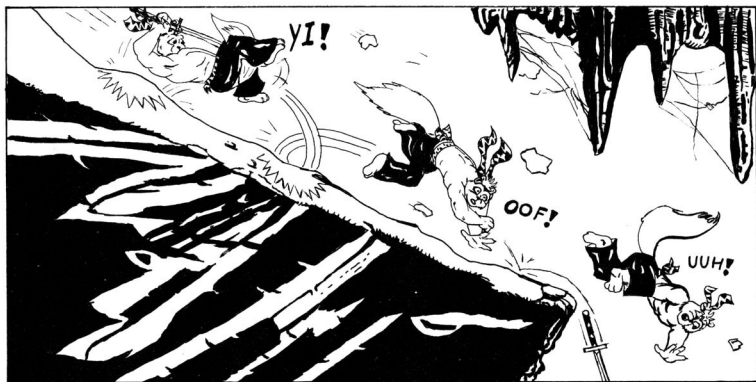
WHOOOSH!

THOSE GOONS  
WERE PROBABLY  
HIS GUARDS...

THAT MEANS I'M  
NEARING THE  
MAIN CHAMBER...

HE'LL MOST LIKELY  
WRAP THE POOR  
BIRD UP IN WEBS...  
BUT WHERE DOES  
HE KEEP.....

...ATTHEM!!



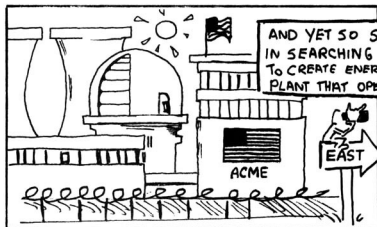


**NEXT ISSUE :** "ALONG Came a Spider!"  
See You in **JANUARY!**

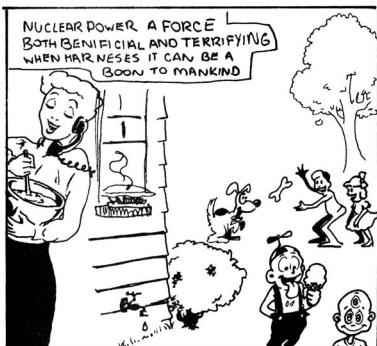
JAPAN A COUNTRY SO  
DIFFERENT IN CONTRAST  
TO OURS



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

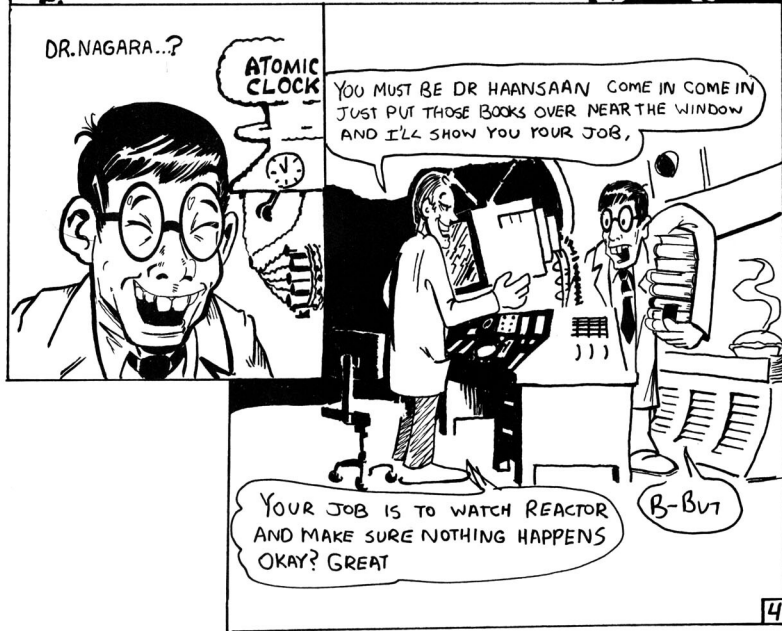
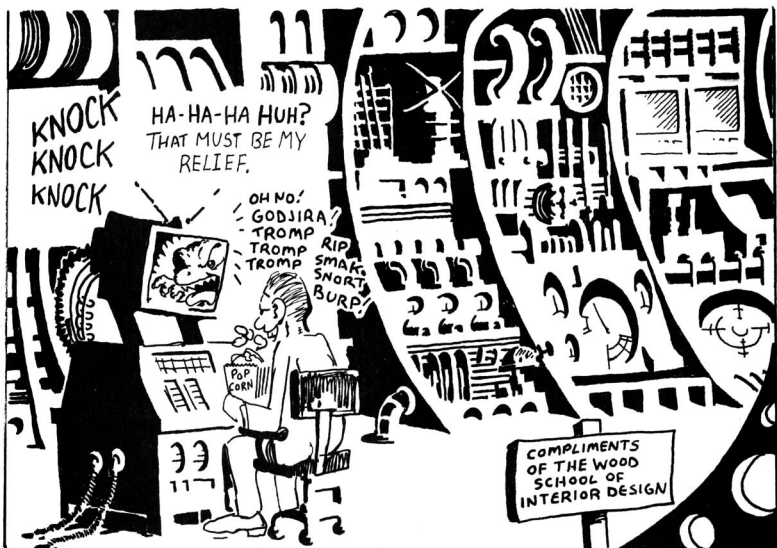
JIM MAIN

ART

PETER FITZGERALD + CO







## How to MONITOR NUCLEAR REACTOR

SURE ENOUGH....

WEEYOWEEYOWEEYOWEE

BEEP! BEEP! BEEP!

**YOU TOUCHED IT!**

DANGER  
REACTOR  
SHIELD  
RAISED

I TOLD YOU SO!!

MUST BE JUST A CRAZY DREAM...  
COULDN'T BE ME

CRACK!

BEEP BEEP BEEP

MUST BE JUST  
A CRAZY  
DREAM  
COULDN'T  
BE  
ME

BEEP  
BEEP  
BEEP

**I TOLD  
YOU SO!**



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

RUMBLE

RUMBLE

SPLOOSH

WHAT THE...

HEY GUYS I DONT FEEL SO GOOD

ME EITHER... I'M CHANGING.

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

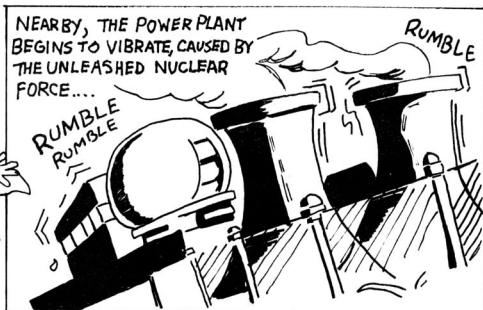
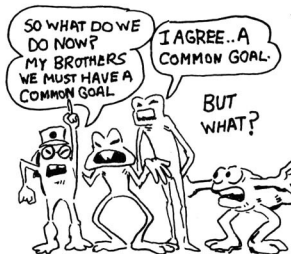
EMERGING FROM THE POND, THEY  
DISCOVER THEY HAVE ENHANCED  
ABILITIES OF THOUGHT, SPEECH,  
AND REFLEX...



I THINK  
THEREFORE I AM.

I'M LARGER  
THAN  
BEFORE!





AND SO THE FROGS READ THE  
TEXTS AND TRAINED... AND  
TRAINED... AND STILL TRAINED!...  
WITH THEIR SUPERIOR MINDS AND  
REFLEXES THEY ACCOMPLISHED THIS  
IN A PERIOD OF TWO HOURS!



HEY  
FROGGY,  
YOU GOT  
CANDY?  
HUH, SONNY?

WAP  
OOOF!

GOINT

OOOF

GOINT

BIFF

SMCK

GRACK

MY BROTHERS,  
IT IS TIME!

WE HAVE TRAINED  
ENOUGH!

SINCE IT WAS  
MAN WHO MADE US,  
SO, IT WILL BE **MAN**  
WE DEFEND!

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...



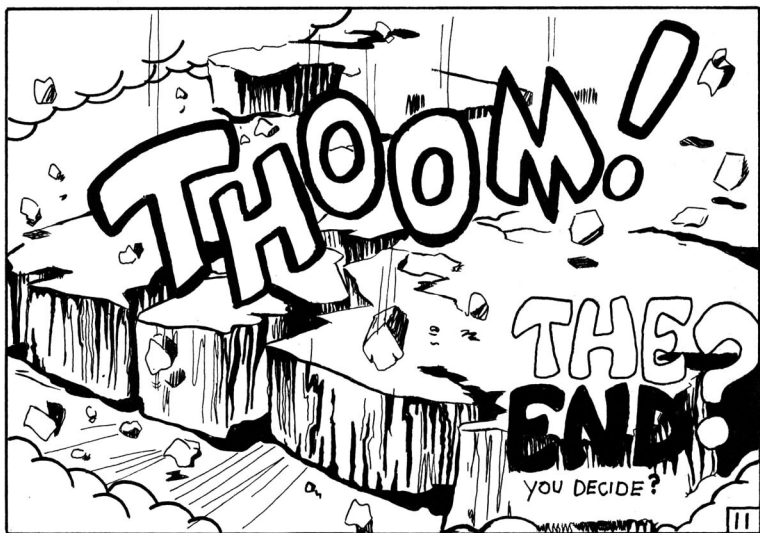
AND AS AN END  
RESULT, A FINAL  
SHOCK WAVE  
OCCURS, ROCKING  
THE BUILDING  
UNTIL...

DOES THIS MEAN  
I'M FIRED?

DO YOU FEEL  
A DRAFT?

CRASH CRUMBLE  
CRUMBLE

KSSHHHH





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# 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



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**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.

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