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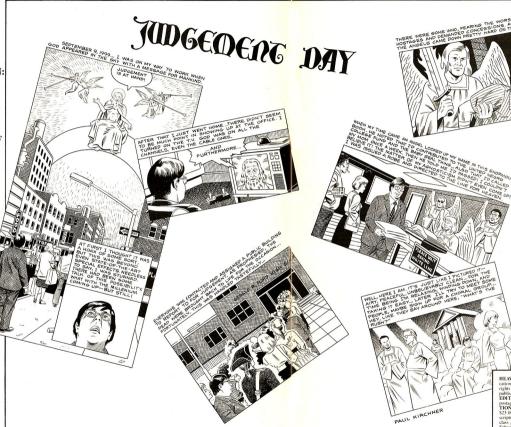
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That's the "Good Clean Sex" issue up there: witty, racy, innovative—an issue reminiscent of the enormously popular National Lampoon special editions of the seventies. It's January, the first monthly issue of the new National Lampoon, the first of twelve completely different issues to be published in 1985.

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Dossier Wordpekar

Consider the case of Harvey Pekar.

Here's a guy who's got to be the crabbiest person east of the Mississippi. (Yeah, he lives in Cleveland—but is that really an excuse?) At the same time, he puts out the best dammed comie book you can buy—if you can find it. If you can't, you can order it from Harvey. Who, as you might recall, is a real grouch.

Why is Harvey so crabby, you ask? Because of assholes like you, asking dumb questions like that all the time. I mean, can't you find anything better to do than bug other people? Especially people who are just trying to get by, working a nine-to-fiver, and then putting together this great mag, American Splendor, about the life and times and thoughts and problems of Harvey Pekar-a magazine which never sells worth a damn and is a pain in the ass to get into final form, what with artists always being late with their work, and the printers always fucking up. and the distributors never ordering enough copies. . .

Well, you'd be cranky, too. And that's just Harvey's point—people can be a real pain in the ass, life can be a real pain in the ass, and what the hell is he going to do with 50,000 unsold copies of American Splendor stored in attics all over Cleveland?

Worry is what he's doing at the moment. Harvey Pekar has a lot to worry about—he doesn't mind telling you—and all this talk is taking up lots of valuable time. And if you want to know exactly what's worrying Harvey Pekar, pick up a copy of American Splendor. It's all there in black and white: divorce, being broke, dealing with jerks at work, trying to meet girls, trying to figure out what the fuck life is all about. When you get right down to it, what in,'t there to worry about these days? Not a whole hell of a lot.

And so, Harvey Pekar worries. Now would you please just let the guy alone so he can get something done? And for God's sake, buy his goddamn magazine—befor attics all over Cleveland collapse.

Mike Barson

HM: You've had a wagonload of artists collaborate with you through nine issues of American Splendor. How do you determine which artist should do which story?

HP: I try to work with the strengths of each illustrator, and in that way minimize their weaknesses. Fin gradually learning who can do what best, and why. However, keep in mind that for me, getting out an issue is always the art of the possible. Sometimes I find myself down to just one or two dependable artists, so I have to try to recruit others, who often are unknown to me. I can't always have a story drawn by the artist who would have been my first choice.

HM: Where did you discover all the young talent that handles the bulk of the art on AS? "Off the streets of Cleveland?"

HP: Some of them came from local art schools; others were introduced to me by people who already were working on AS. Considering my limited contacts and the lousy money I pay, I think I've been fortunate to find so many fine illustrators. Gary Dumm and Greg Budgett, Gerry Shanray, Sue Cavey, Kevin Brown—they've each got their own unique style. HM: I must confess, I first picked up an issue of American Splendor strictly because of the Crumb art on the cover and inside. He always seems to get the funniest stories to draw.

HP: Crumb is one of the greatest cartoonists of our time, and I know he is capable of finding the means to handle just about any kind of story. I have been thinking of him primarily for the more humorous pieces, but you'll see a major departure in his work in issue number nine. There's a limit to how many pages

Blame it on The Exorcist.

Ever since William Peter Blatty's nasty novel made several million dollars back in the early Seventies, the publishing industry has been hip to the fact that there are lots of people out there in bookbuying land who will gladly fork over their hard-earned sheckels for the privilege of having the bejeezus scared out of them.

Today, not a week goes by without one or two of these creep-fests appearing in bookstores by the bushel. Now that Steven King has been accepted as the Harold Robbins of horror, the publishing biz can just sit back and let umpteen dozen other writers get sucked up in his jet-stream. That's what happens when a

pleasant'little genre gets upgraded to a category. Category fiction gets its own big racks in B. Daltons, airports, drugstores, and 7-11's. And those racks have to be kept full. Thus, the creation of mucho horror product. Most of which is, of course, quite horrible.

Take William Peter Blatty's Legion. Please. Launched by its hardcover publisher as if it were the second coming of Carrie, it turns out simply to be the second coming of ... but that would be telling. Why not run out and buy the paperback (Pocket Books) and ruin your day on your own? Suffice it to say that this book might've been subtitled The Exorcist II, except that the movie by that name already ruined the market for that

title. To be absolutely fair, there are a few good ideas buried in the midst of Blatty's ridiculously overripe prose—and one scene good for a buzz on the old boobox—but let's just hope that Blatty doesn't have to cook up an Exoreist III ten years from now to pay the rent.

Marginally better is James Herbert's Shrine (Signet), which takes 458 pages to Shrine (Signet), which takes 458 pages to tell a 158-page story. If wading through those 300 unnecessary pages doesn't bother you—and for \$3.95, some people might consider that getting their money's worth—then this overinflated account of a young girl's possession (yes, again) by a witch from the middle ages might please. Not only is Herbert, a British writer, tone-deaf when it comes to style, but he

Crumb has the time to do for me, but I'm happy with every piece he's done.

HM: You can see that he really has an understanding of you and what you're trying to accomplish.

HP: Yeah, he does have a real good understanding of my stories; in fact, he's the only artist that I feel comfortable working with over the phone and through the mail. All the other illustrators I use

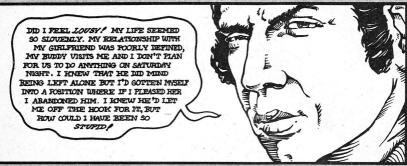
have to keep your costs down to rockbottom—one printer for the covers, one to shoot the negatives, one to print the interiors, and a bindery to put the whole thing together. And it's up to me to see that everything gets done, and done right. I actually drive the covers over to the bindery in a station wagon once they're printed—that's 10,000 covers. HM: Do you ever wish that someone else HM: It must have been a heck of a correspondence.

HP: The thing that really set it off was when she asked me—I think it was in her second letter—"How can I tell if I'm a member of the working class or not?"

That provoked a long answer from me, and the rest just went from there.

HM: And so you whisked her away to

Cleveland. Have you lived there all your



Harvey Pekar as depicted in American Splendor #9 by Kevin Brown,

live in the Cleveland area. Crumb gave me a great deal of help early in my career as a comic book writer. The first story 1 ever published, "Crazy Ed," was illustrated by him and and printed in his book, The People's Comics in 1972. Crumb also turned Willie Murphy on to me, which led to Willie illustrating three of my stories for his Flamed Out Funnies #1

HM: I probably read those stories and never realized who this "Harvey Pekar" dude was. I'd assumed that AS was the start.

HP: Yeah, I was in several mags before AS got started—Snarf, Marvel's Comix Book, and an issue of Bizarre Sex, in which I had the lead story, "How'd You Get into This Bizness, Ennyway?"—it was about a gang bang. So, you could say that my style was established by the time AS began.

HM: Writing a story is hard enough, but you took on the additional headaches of the editor and publisher when you decided to put out American Splendor by yourself.

HP: It's difficult from beginning to end. I have four different people printing the book—which is what happens when you

was handling the publishing end of things, so you could just concentrate on the writing?

HP: I would like for someone else to publish A5. And I'd like to have it distributed better. It would be expecially nice not to lose money on it all the time; then I could afford to pay my illustrators more, which in turn would make it easier to get work from them on time. But I've been aware for a long time that A5 was never going to be that popular, and that I was letting myself in for a heap of aggravation by publishing it myself. Even so, my life has been greatly enriched since I began the book.

HM: You met your new wife through AS, didn't you?

didn't you?

HP: Yeah, she was part-owner of a comic-book store in Delaware that carried my book, and she had to write me to get an extra copy of number six when her own copy accidentally was sold. We began corresponding, and after about a million letters, a zillion hours of long distance phone calls, and several plane trips, we were married. She makes a brief apperance in AS number nine, but she's a big star in number ten, so you'll get to meet her then.

life? By now, Cleveland has assumed the role of the second most-important character in your stories.

HP: All my life, yeah. I was born in the Mt. Pleasant section of Cleveland's east side at a time when it still had a large Jewish and Italian population, but was in the process of becoming part of the black ghetto. The neighborhood I live in nowthe Coventry section of Cleveland Heights-has a great mixture of people from different social classes and ethnic backgrounds. Everyone gets along surprisingly well; it's terrific! HM: What do you think AS offers that mainstream comic books do not? HP: Most comic book fans prefer fantasy. I'm a realistic writer: I try to push people's faces into their own lives, try to get them to realize how much drama and heroism and even humor there is in the

life of the so-called average person.
American Splender does not offer escapism, which is what I think most comic book fans are looking for.

(For a copy of American Splendor #9, send \$2.75 to Harvey Pekar, Box 1847),
Cleveland Heights, Ohio 44118. Issues two through eight are also available, at \$1.50 to \$2.75.)

places the horror high-point way too early in the book, leaving lots of anticlimactic "big" scenes to start you snoring. Shrine, however, does not qualify as a bad book-just a mediocre one that should have gone on a diet. Herbert, incidentally, has built his career on horror, and has eight other novels to his credit (including The Fog., filmed by John Carpenter). If Shrine were filmed with all scenes intact, it would run about nine hours, 'Nuff said.

Speaking of films, the very hot Chelsea Ouinn Yarbro has been commissioned to novelize a screenplay for something called Nomads (Bantam). Being shorter than Shrine doesn't help this turkey-but-it allows you to finish that much sooner and get on with your life. The female-protagonist, a doctor who is deja-vuing a dead man's experiences, "finds herself in a nightmare from which there is no escape." the cover copy tells us. I escaped by tossing it across the room. Yarbro, who had a million-seller with Dead and Buried a few years back, would be doing herself a favor by not cranking out novelizations of other people's lousy screenplays.

To move from the abominable to the almost-good, there is Whitley Streiber's Night Church (Pocket Books), which offers the charming premise that a church in Queens has been sublet to a cult of devil worshippers. The premises in Streiber's other horror novels-Wolfen. The Hunger, Black Magic-were also swell, but, like Stephen King, Streiber never quite manages to come up with finishes worthy of his beginnings. (Think about the first half of The Shining. Then think about the second half. Pity, wot?) Still, Night Church moves along briskly and, more importantly, actually offers some good chills along the way. My favorite moment: a two-page description of what it feels like to die from bubonic plague while interred in a coffin.

Even better is a first novel by T.E.D. Klein entitled The Ceremonies (Viking). It seems ungenerous to, complain again, of a weak ending, but the rest of this book is so good that the hurried conclusion is a double shame. This tale



Ceremonial author T.E.D. Klein.

owes a good deal to Lovecraft's Cthulhu mythos, as well as the stories of Arthur Machen; but its real charm is having the nerdiest hero and the most original-and nasty-villain since Ed Gein

reupholstered his living room with human skin. This book is having the hell promoted out of it by the publisher, which means it's probably going to be a hit. Whether Klein can come up with a second book of this quality remains to be seen, but one can hope. He is one of the few people in the genre who knows how to write a decent sex scene.

Which brings us to Ramsey Campbell's The Face That Must Die (Scream/Press). Campbell has been around since 1964, when Arkham House published the first of three short story collections. We also know him from the fine anthologies he has edited. New Terrors and The Far Reaches of Fear-and he has not been too shy to include one of his own works in each collection. Which is all to the good, because Campbell is a writer, perhaps the only member of the current group, who is certain to be celebrated fifty years from now. (You don't really think anyone will be reading Cujo even five years from now, do you?) The Face That Must Die is a restored version of the earlier, expurgated novel; I don't know what the first version looked like, but this one is a pisser. Told from multiple points-of-view, Face's strongest moments come from our visits into the head of a guy who is totally, homicidally looney-tunes. There's nothing supernatural here; just plain, oldfashioned psychopathic horror. Some fine characterizations, rendered economically, and a lovely sense of England circa 1972. provide a counterpoint to the creepy stuff. It's also worth noting that Scream/Press has published Face on very nice paper. and added a bunch of full-page illustrations, which have a bit of merit of their own. And Campbell's introduction to the book is a model of what such things should be.

-Michael S. Barson

(Scream/Press: P.O. Box 8531, Santa Cruz, CA 95061)

The problem with most fantasy novels is that their authors can't write. So you get bad fantasy and bad novels. Let's get our priorities straight, okay? First you learn to write, then you come up with some neat ideas.

Riders of the Sidhe (Bantam)pronounced "shee" as in "shee-it!"-is Kenneth C. Flint's daring exposé of the ancient Celtic gods, villains, and heroes as Men from Outer Space. It's Martians 1, Mythology 0, as a bunch of lovable characters help a lad become a man and save the world. You can tell everyone apart because they all talk differently and have different-colored hair. No one in bad fantasy novels ever has a personalitythey settle for Character Traits.

Middle America popular culture comes to Elfland in Robert Asprin's fourth Spiegel Catalog of fantasy fun from Starblaze Funny-Looking Books. Hit or Myth (get it??) proves that "terminal cuteness" is not just an expression; these

lovable rogues and bumbling magicians could send anyone into insulin shock, while Asprin's sparkling contemporary dialogue could get him a job scriptwriting for "Three's Company." Clichés here range from the offensive to the dated. But people love this stuff. People also eat frozen fishsticks.

The Sleeping Dragon, by Joel Rosenberg (Signet), at least has the decency to be naive about its relentless lovableness. You can lean back and watch as stock characters from Anytown State U. are sent into their own Dungeons & Dragons universe, where they get to work out their personality problems. There's a cripple, a Jew, a . . . I just couldn't put it down; it sped me along on greased

20/20 Haynes-Sight

A whole generation of artists, punks, non-conformists and poseurs have evolved (or devolved) into these stylishly alienated eighties, totally unaware of the influence that characters like American expatriate Jim Havnes have had on contemporary culture, and hence their lives. A pioneer on the Edinburgh, London, Amsterdam, and Paris art scenes for twenty-seven years, he embodies the libertarian concept of "think global; act local." Havnes had a creative hand in the avantgarde theater, underground films, alternative newspapers, happenings and sexual politics that electrified the "Swinging Sixties.

Testament to Haynes's karmic impact on our global hipoisie/ intelligentsia/ demi-monde is his recently published autobiography. Thanks For Coming! (Faber & Faber). Dedicated to over 3,000 of Haynes's friends and bedmates—including Germaine Greer, John Lennon, David Bowie, Dick Gregory, Buckminster Fuller and Xaviera Hollander—the book's a compulsively readable flashback on a life spent outside the conventional boundaries of art, behavior and commerce.

Haynes and I met one evening during his annual visit to N.Y.C. and discussed his past, present, and future projects; long-time concerns, and how it feels (at fifty) after fighting in the trenches against dominant culture for over two decades. Nonchalant and unpretentious, he looks ten years younger than his age, and speaks in a soft drawl that is half-Louisiana (where he was born), and half-indeterminate Western Europe.

'The belief behind everything I do is that people should be brought together, and we have to create environments and situations to bring them together Havnes started in Edinburgh in 1959 by opening Britain's first paperback bookshop, stocking "obscene" books like Lady Chatterley's Lover and the works of Henry Miller-who was then still banned in the U.S. People's enthusiasm for the readings held there, coupled with a desire 'to create platforms or mediums for kindred spirits to transmit information about what we had discovered to others" spurred Havnes to form the Traverse Theater Club, where he produced and staged plays by Brecht, Beckett, and Pinter years before they were seen by mainstream audiences. In 1962, Haynes also co-organized the first International Writer's Conference at that renowned gathering of the cultural tribes, the Edinburgh Festival. Among others, Haynes invited Norman Mailer, Mary

McCarthy and William Burroughs to speak. When his energies outgrew Edinburgh, Haynes moved to London and started a Traverse Theater Company there, staging Joe Ortor's Loot, Kenneth Anger and Andy Warhol film festivals, and Yoko Ono's first in a long line of happenings.

The style in the sixties was the most revolutionary attitudinal statement made-as far as I know-since we've been on the planet, and that's 'do your own thing: accept and respect everyone else's right to do theirs. . . .' I think that I got caught up in, and maybe even contributed, to certain philosophical rumblings that made life for me, and for others, exciting and fun." Ever in search of "social animation," he resigned from the Traverse and founded the alternative newspaper International Times (IT), just when that parafictional fantasy-sixties reality-burst into psychedelic London bloom. Pink Floyd played and projected slides at IT's launch party: The Soft Machine motorcycled around the stage at the start of their set. Guests included Paul McCartney disguised as an Arab. Michaelangelo Antonioni, and 2500 others. IT became the counter-cultural Bible, and was also a prototype for the now-ubiquitous listings magazine format.

BOOK BASH continued runners of predictable liberal Righthink.

Damiano and Damiano's Lute (Bantam) are a bitch to criticize. R.A. MacAvov's paragraphs are so good you'd like to forgive her chapters anything. The third and final volume of this fantasy of Renaissance Italy may just pay for allbut the first two novels have a real pacing problem. No sense of overall anticipation moves the action forward from one nicely-written episode to the next. People-real ones, at least-wander around, and things happen to them. But the author's manipulating hand is everywhere-there's none of the rolling inevitability that marks a well-told tale. Art should imitate, not emulate, life.

Damon Knight also has no apologies to make for the prose of *The Man in the Tree* (Berkley). The first 9/10ths of the novel are a riveting. Sturgeonesque story of a boy who grows to be a giant in 1950s America. The people he meets, especially in the carnival sideshow world, are vividly drawn. In the last thirty pages it turns out the guy is Jesus Christ and the whole book goes to hell. There should be a special circle of inferno reserved for people who simplify complex theological philosophy to the level of hot-tub rhetoric, with a little corner just for novelists who preach.

Reading any of the "Tomoe Gozen" novels is just like watching a kinky Japanese Samurai movie with badly-translated subtitles. The language, including awkwardly-inserted expository lumps, is so stilted that it's hard to believe English is Jessica Amanda Salmonson's first language, swallowing up any virtues Thousand Shrine Warrior (Ace) and its mates may possess.

If Arthur W. Saha is right about The Year's Best Fantasy Stories: 9, (DAW) then it was lean year. Saha is of the old school that leans heavily to icky-cute, light modern stuff. Stories by soppy sentimental manipulators Parke Godwin and Harlan Ellison occupy the starring front and back positions. All the other choices are good clean fun, except for Michael Shea's "The Horror on the #33." which is an electrifying work of imagination, wit, and erudition that makes everyone else there look as though they deserve to be writing for three cents a word.

The Good News for the year (and, one hopes, for years to come) is Tempo's new "MagicQuest" line of junior fantasy reprints. What makes a book "junior" is usually brevity and a protagonist under sixteen. This is no excuse to shun any of them. The incomparable Peter Dickerson's Tulku deals in complexities

of mind and spirit that Stephen
Donaldson doesn't even know exist.
Tulku's unforgettable characters feature
an English music-hall-beauty-turnedbotanist, a Royal Dragoon-turnedTibetan-monk, and a missionary's young
son who needs to learn tolerance (before
he can Become a Man—not too much of
that here. thank God).

The Perilous Gard is Elizabeth Marie Pope's irresistibly blithe sortic into Elizabethan ballads, love, and honor. Her tough and sensible heroine has to rescue a sexily self-destructive young nobleman from the ancient race of people hiding underground called "fairies." There's not an unoriginal note in this whole work—plenty of "adult" bumblers have trivialized this concept; Pope redeems it. Ignore the pretty but inaccurate cover.

The weakest of the first four MagicQuest offerings is, Paul R. Fisher's The Ash Staff: it's Babes in Tolkeinland, a nice, orthodox magic-sword-and-quest story with appealing young characters.

The renowned Patricia McKillip's early work, The Throne of the Errill of Sherrill, is bulked out with beautiful new elaborate borders and illustrations by Judith Mitchell. McKillip completists shouldn't miss this light, lyrical fairy tale, which has been out of print for too long.

---Penthesileia

IT's success notwithstanding, Haynes itched to create a multi-media arts space, where people could perform whatever they wanted to, where they could try out new ideas or even fail; where they could daske off, relax, and come together. He chanced upon a derelict Covent Garden warehouse, and with like-minded friends, created the Arts Lab. A cinema-theater-space-dance-studio, video-workshop, restaurant, art-gallery, crash-pad etc. that drew thousands of people to view each other's projects, to rehearse for free, to participate in happenings, and to become friends with Jim Haynes.

"It was like an enormous party night after night," he says, and it sounds like one indeed, what with John and Yoko, Mama Cass, James Baldwin, and R.D. Laing hanging out, performing, and eating dinner into the early morning.

Closed after two years due to financial trouble, the demise of the Arts Lab freed Havnes to pursue his great spiritual project; sexual liberation. "My drug of choice has always, only been sex," he explains with a shrug. (A serene survivor of sixties sensory overload, he drinks neither coffee nor alcohol; does not smoke or do drugs.) To continue his campaign against sexual confusion and guilt Haynes started Suck, "the first European sexpaper," in 1969, along with collaborators like feminist superstar Germaine Greer. "We wanted to enlighten people about sexuality in all its aspects, to demystify it through educational and amusing homosexual, heterosexual, and pansexual articles and graphics." Under the motto, "Suck turns words into flesh," the paper printed a gay guide to Europe, how-to's on giving ace blow jóbs, and articles like "Women Need Whorehouses," and "S & M Software," Published in Amsterdam but immediately banned in the U.K., Suck brought Scotland Yard to Haynes's door and became instant cult literature on the Continent.

Amsterdam set the scene for further celebration and demystification of sexuality. Havnes organized the world's first erotica film fest there: The International Wet Dream Film Festival This infamous event sold out two years in a row, cutting a swath for popular acceptance of sexually explicit films that were not pornographic nor exploitative. One year, ticket holders were treated to a five hour North Sea cruise, complete with chamber orchestra, "love room" filled with water beds and potted palms, and food for everyone. "It's a fact that sexual expression is no longer subject to the taboos it once was," Haynes stresses.

"It's okay to write about sex, to do it, talk about it, whatever. And today, movies are shown in mainstream cinemas that would have put people in prison for ten years during the sixties."

Haynes was fured away from Amsterdam in late 1969 to assume a visiting professorship at the (what else?) new and experimental branch of the University of Paris. As to his curriculum and methods, he says, "I teach Media and Sexual Politics and try to inflict as little damage as possible on my students . . in fourteen years, I haven't failed anyone!" Besides teaching, Haynes spent the seventies writing, publishing, and distributing books, and, with fellow Citizen of the World Gary Davis, fear of the unknown, and instead, sharing our lives fully with everyone . . . I'm a now person, always thinking about what and where my energies should be placed now . . . there's no such thing as going backward, you know. Just go ahead and do what you have to do!"

As the saying goes, "Better dead than mellow," and Haynes's manner bears none of the earmarks of an ex-hippie on permanent spin-cycle. When I ask where his head is at now, he ventures, "I'm a neo-romantic." Currently at work on a book which explores traditional romantic ideals and their various philosophically/morally/behaviorally ellitst reverberations, Haynes is zeroing in or our society's prevailing greeting cardesque mentality, wherein we search for



Jim Haynes dining al fresco.

producing—in seven languages—World Passports. Challenging the world's immigration authorities, however, involved a certain degree of risk. When the French police warned him that if he continued he'd be deported, he had no choice but to stop.

So what does this veteran countercultural enzyme have to say to those of us, who—in these callous, materialoriented eighties—sometimes yearn for a revolutionary time and spirit we never lived?

"Most of the people I knew then felt it was possible to build Utopia in our liftetime. And, at the end of the sixties, it was revealed that it was not going to happen. For some, disenchantment and cynicism followed. But others—many, many others—realized that we could each build it for ourselves. How? By living our ideals. By banishing fear of the other,

and hope to find a life-mate—an idealized "better-half" who will fulfill all of our needs. "The book is an attack on romanticism and what I call couple attitudes, because these habits limit us from thinking, living, and loving as freely as we could. Romanticism is a villain, and yet almost no one questions it," he argues with a smile.

After all this talk about living in the necommantic now, I mention to Haynes that Buddha, when asked to sum up the experience of his life and thought, simply replied, "Now." It seems appropriate to try posing the same question to Haynes before turning off the tape recorder, since he obviously knows a thing or two about the nature of experience.

A thirty-second pause follows, then laughter, as he looks me straight in the eye and exclaims ... "Wow!"

-Kyle Roderick

NAHALLYWOOD

"I really like being on this lot," says producer Jonathan Taplin of Mean Streets, The Last Waltz, and Under Fire fame. "This is a studio that really supports filmmakers. They've had some rough times recently but, all in all, they really know what they're doing."

The studio in question is Disney, where Taplin is launching two productions, both of the science-fiction/fantasy genre, *Baby* and *My Science Project*, via Disney's new Touchstone banner (responsible for

last year's Splash).

Probably no other film outfit in existence has influenced widescreen wonder more than Disney, both in live action and animation. A casual glance at their releases from the 1930s to the 1960s looks like a fantasy's Greatest Hits package.—Fantasia, Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs, Pinocchio, 20,000 Leagues Under the Sea. Darby O'Gill and the Little People. The Absent-Minded Professor, and Mary Poppins.

Following the death of guiding light Walt Disney in 1966, the studio seemed to flounder a bit. For a while their films were rejected by their youthful audience-deemed "too juvenile" by the Lipper-than-thou crowd who saw Bambi as a direct threat to the future of Fritz the Cat. Studio heads, in turn, did their damnedest to lure those defecting Disnevites back to the fold, watering down the studio's sense of artistic integrity in the process, before losing all direction during the late 1970s and early 1980s with such wrong-headed wonders as The Black Hole. The Watcher in the Woods, and Tron

Now, however, in spite of various financial squabbles, the Disney machine seems back on the right track, deftly mixing out-and-out animated nostalgia with a sense of adventuresome fantasy. The last year and a half has seen the release of Never Cry Wolf and Splash as well as the fully animated short Mickey's Christmas Carol, productions designed to satisfy all Disney fan factions.

The year to come promises more of the same; with films like Baby, My Science Project, Oz, The Black Cauldron, and Frankenweenie in various stages of completion.

"They're really taking a big chance with us." says producer **Julie Hickson** of her live-action short subject **Frankenweenie**. "Frankly this is a pretty strange little movie. The humor is pretty out there, but the studio is being totally supportive."

Starring Shelley Duvall, Daniel Stern, Paul Bartel, and Barret Oliver, Frankenweenie is an off-the-wall homage to the classic 1931 Frankenstein.
Concocted by director Tim Burton
(Vincent) and writer Lenny Ripps, it's the
story of a young boy (Oliver) who brings
his pet dog. Sparky, back to life after its
untimely demise.

"The important thing for us was to design the film so it wouldn't be kinky. The boy wants to bring his dog back because the dog is his heart. He gets the idea for the experiment in Paul Bartel's science class when he sees his teacher making a frog twitch using juice from a battery.

"He figures that, with enough electricity, he can reanimate his pet. So, one night, he sneaks out and digs up his dog and proceeds to try to create life. His experiment is funny, not ghoulish. The little boy's name is Victor Frankenstein. We don't play up that fact too much, though. He's a descendant of the original clan but he lives in the suburbs with his parents. His parents, Daniel and Shelley, are more than a little offbeat, however.

"For the experiments, we got all the original Kenneth Strickfaden equipment from the first Frankenstein. We've modified it slightly so it looks like the little boy put it all together from household items. We have a toaster that blasts out megawatts of light (our Steven Spielberg shot), blenders with jacob's ladders in them and a TV antenna that shoots out sparks.

"When the boy raises his dog through the attic roof during a thunderstorm, it's on an ironing board. It really looks like the old Frankenstein movies. And Barret, when he was in the middle of these scenes, really got weird. He started moving around in a stiff, jerky manner. He looks like a mad scientist. He looks like a scaled-down Colin Clive. When we were finished filming the lightning storm stuff, everyone on the set applauded.

"In the movie, the experiments work. He does bring his dog back to life, although the dog isn't quite right. He looks like a stuffed animal with bad stitching.

"There are two really exciting aspects of this movie, for me. One, that we thought of it in the first place. Two, that we're actually being allowed to make it!"

Frankenweenie will be out this Christmas (on a double bill with Pinocchio). Also on tap this holiday season will be Baby, producer Jonathan Taplin's first Disney adventure. Directed by B.W.L. Norton (Cisco Pike) from a sereenplay by Clifford and Ellen Green, it's the tale of a young American couple (William Katt and Sean Young) who discover a baby brontosaurus alive and

well and living in an uncharted region of Africa. Out to get his mitts on the diminutive dinosaur is ruthless Patrick McGoohan, who's at his eye-rolling best as a scientist with no sense of honor.

Producer Taplin actually brought his cast and crew. dinosaur family included, to the Ivory Coast in Africa. "It wasn't easy," says Taplin, "but we knew it would be crazy from the outset. Most of the people down there had never seen a film crew before, let alone a film crew which included full-sized dinosaurs. The things that went wrong down there would make several black comedies. We got through it okay, though.

"The logistics of moving some of our players were mind-boggling. Ron Tantin and Isidoro Raponi made full scale mechanical models for the movie tranging in size from seventy-feet-long and twenty-five-feet-high to less than a yard long). They look real and they're great.

"I mean, this is a fantasy but it's very realistic looking, It's been a strange experience for me because I've never done a fantasy befroe. I approached it as if it was a story that could actually happen. As we got further and further into filming, the plot actually became a reality. Yet the movie has its roots very firmly planted in the early Disney movies. It has the same feel as Dumbo, with a heavy dose of crazy adventure thrown in.

"Tm really happy with the way it urned out." So much so that Taplin is launching a second film at the studio, My Science Project, written by The Last Starfighter's Jonathan Betuel, who will make his directing debut as well.

"Jonathan would kill me if I gave away the plot." says Taplin. "I guess I can tell you that it's about a time-space warp but radically different than most stories of that type. It's the craziest thing I've ever done. John Stockwell of Christine plays the lead. Dennis Hopper is a science teacher who is a total sixties burn-out.

"I have to tell you," says Taplin, "that I'm enjoying my stay here. I'd love to keep working at Disney if they keep on letting me make fun movies. My Science Project will have effects that border on the surreal, and everyone on the lot is totally up about that.

"There's an amazing mixture of creativity here. You have guys who have been on this lot forever, plus new people—a lot of whom came in with me—who used to work at ILM and Apogee and all the different effects houses. It's a very nice mix."

Special effects will also play a large

part in Oz, the studio's sequel to the classic 1939 Wizard of Oz. Originally entitled Return to Oz with co-writer (with Gill Dennis) Walter Murch making his directorial debut and Gary Kurtz producing, the movie ran into initial snags because of an escalating budget. Disney was ready to pull out of the project when a compromise was reached. Kurtz was out and Paul Maslansky (Police Academy) was brought in to produce. This new power set-up rattled Murch, however, and the movie began to fall behind schedule. Ominous rumblings concerning Murch's abilities to helm the project arose. Like the cavalry coming to the rescue, however, a coven of Murch's old cronies-led by George Lucas and Francis Coppola-descended on the film's London set. Lending both artistic and moral support, they gave Murch a gentle, positive shove down the Yellow Brick Road, and now the path to completion seems production-oriented and pothole-free.

Based on several of author Frank L. Baum's Oz stories, this new film has Dorothy leaving Kansas for Oz in order to save her old cronies, the Scarecrow, the Cowardly Lion, and the Tin Man from the clutches of the evil Nome King. Neither a musical nor a remake, this Christmas 1985 release will feature newcomer Fairuza Balk as Dorothy, Nicol

life, Deep Roy as The Tin Man, John Alexander as The Cowardly Lion, Justin Case as The Scarecrow, and Mac Wilson giving Billina, the talking head, a blabby sense of purpose. Handling the various effects are veterans of such movies as The Great Muppet Caper, Closed Mondays, Live and Let Die, Superman, and 2001.

For animation fans, there is *The Black Cauldron*, Disney's twenty-fifth full-length animated feature, and one that has been in production for over a decade. Budgeted at twenty-three million dollars, the fantasy-epic is based on a series of five books penned by Lloyd Alexander having their roots in Welsh mythology.

The Black Cauldron will trace the heroic adventures of a young assistant pig-keeper named Taran (the voice of Grant Bardsley) in his attempts to prevent the evil Horned King (John Hurt) from getting his menacing mitts on the black cauldron, a dark and mysterious thingie that would allow the conniving King to raise an army of deathless warriors.

En route to the final battle, Taran is aided by his mentor Dallben (Freddie Jones), a mysterious Princess Eilonwy, (Susan Sheridan), a furry critter named Gurgi (John Byner), and Hen Wen, a pig with the ability to see into the future.

The movie promises to be one of the most detailed examples of screen animation in quite a while. For the past

hues), over thirty-four miles of film stock and 115,200 animated frames of film. Shot in Dolby Stereo, *The Black Cauldron*, according to producer Joe Hale, will have twice the animation as the usual animated feature "because due to the 70mm format the screen size is twice as big."

as ug..

In addition to the announced films, there seems to be enough projects on the back burner to keep things buzzing for a while. John Candy, who just about walked away with comedic honors in Splash, has been signed to a three-picture producing and development deal. Candy's deal calls for him to develop and executive produce feature screenplays as starring vehicles for himself.

And following the completion of Frankenweenie, producer Julie Hickson and director Burton would like to delve into feature work. "There are some amazing craftsmen on this lot and, for the past few years, they haven't gotten too much of a chance to show off their work. They've had a ball on this short. We'd love to work with them again."

Perhaps it's producer Jonathan Taplin who sums up the new feeling on the lot when he says. "The mood here at Disney is one of great potential and anxious excitement. You feel that there is a new chance to do wonderful things here. There is also the sense of tradition, of doing



Williamson as both the Nome King of Oz and Kansas resident Dr. Worley, Piper Laurie as Aunt Em. Jean Marsh as both Princess Mombi (a witch with a collection of thirty heads which she models as she sees fit) and oppressive Nurse Wilson, Emma Ridley as Ozma (a tiny Oz native). Michael Sudkin and Peter Elliot as Tik Tok the helpful robot, Brian Henson bringing Jack Pumpkinhead to

decade, it has employed more than two hundred full-time workers, including sixty-eight animators and assistant animators, and will be the first Disney animated movie since 1959's Sleeping Beauty to be produced in widescreen 70mm format.

By the time of its completion it will have used 2,519,200 drawings, four hundred gallons of paint (1,165 different quality stuff that helps keep you on the straight and narrow—yet there's this sense of adventure that allows you to do things that are really crazy."

Uncle Walt, the kind of guy who could leap from The Legend of Sleepy Hollow to The Swiss Family Robinson to The Shaggy Dog without batting an eye, would no doubt approve.

-Ed Naha

Move over vogurt, frozen vogurt, and yogurt shake. The latest food craze sweeping the nation is The Stuff, an organic fad from the center of the Earth. But wait, a secret agent and a Chocolate Chip mogul learn the truth about the Stuff, and it will share a place in history with Extra Strength Tylenol. A social parody in the form of The Blob, The Stuff is written, produced, and directed by Larry Cohen of It's Alive and O. The cast, including Michael Moriarty (also in (and Garrett Morris ("Saturday Night Live"), didn't like the Stuff that Cohen concocted for the attack scenes; purees of everything from mashed potato flakes to fire extinguisher foam. Cohen's fussy crew, in fact, dove into the Hudson to escape its odor at one point and they demanded rubber underwear to keep it off their skin. Other special effects were designed by Steve Beill (Ghostbusters) and Rick Stratton ("V," Thriller, and Star Trek I). Larry Cohen will tell us the whole story in an uncoming HM interview

Godzilla's career is taking off again! In his homeland, Godzilla is shooting at Toho Studios, where he battles with both the U.S. and the U.S.S.R. fleets, thus leading the world to the brink of World War III. What a part! Meanwhile, back in Hoboken housewife who gets amnesia and goes wild in Desperately Seeking Susan. Bear in mind that Seidelman considers reading personal ads a favorite pastime . And Sting, it seems, is fixed on a film career. With Dune barely in release and The Bride in the can, he's already shooting Plenty opposite Meryl Streep herself. We're trying to picture it. Streep's really slumming it; Tracey Ullman, of "They Don't Know About Us" fame, also has a part, Kurt Russell and Cher were nothing . . . Speaking of Sting, two more Frankenstein pictures are expected on the heels of The Bride. including an updated version of the original by Roger Corman ... David Bowie has composed the score to John Schlesinger's Falcon and the Snowman (the Timothy Hutton/Sean Penn movie) . . Under Fire director Roger

Spottiswoode's next film will be a thriller called FX, the story of a Hollywood special effects technician who is hired to fake an assassination, but is framed for a real-life murder. Spottiswoode is talking to Kurt Russell and Robin Williams to co-star . . . James Bond director Guy Hamilton will bring the first film version of The Destroyer series into production this November. If all goes well, a long-

the U.S., director Steve Miner is filming his Godzilla remake with stop-motion animation . . . Sybil Danning has been cast along with Christopher Lee in The Howling II, which, we hear, isn't exactly a sequel. Danning plays the Queen of the Transylvanian werewolves, while Lee is out to de-fang the full moon plan for world domination. Danning says she's thrilled to be "the world's first blonde werewolf."... David Lynch's next movie, Blue Velvet, will be about a teenage boy and a human ear he finds in the street. When the cops don't tell the kid what's coming off (aside from ears). he decides to play detective and find out what kind of cut-ups are responsible for this slice-of-life situation. You meet the Gettys in the strangest ways. Lynch's Ronnie Rocket is expected soon after . . . There's talk of Psycho III for next year. Sounds like a crazy brand of dog food ... Is there life after MTV? John Cougar will follow Prince in the plunge from vinyl to video to celluloid with something called Cage Rider. Prince, in fact, had made it clear that if you want him, he wants to direct. And then there's Madonna (the most inappropriately named artist of our time). While she's still hot with her "Borderline" single and video, she's currently being directed by Susan Seidelman (Smithereens) as a

running film series will result about the New York cop cum ultimate assassin . . . And Patrick Macnee has joined Roger Moore, Grace Jones, Tanya Roberts, and Christopher Walken in the James Bond From a View to a Kill.

—Steven Maloff and Ed Naha



Patrick Macnee and Roger Moore debate the merits of Simonize vs. Turtle Wax between takes on the set of From a View to a Kill.

I YOUR MONEY



٩	Berni Wrightson's Hanover Fiste and his
	ne'er-do-well accomplice Captain Sternn.
	You've seen them in the magazine, you've seen
	them in the Heavy Metal movie, now see them
	coming and going. This durable four-color cot-
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red and black and is made of cotton-blend. The

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chic image. \$15.95. _small _____ large medium _____ ex. large

black ____ white ___ grey You can now smack Ranxerox's pretty puss right

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Check off what you like and how many you want. Include size and color, Add up what it costs, (Add 81/4% sales tax if you live in New York State.) Write a check or money order for the total, put it in an envelope with this ad, and send it to:

Heavy Metal, Dept. HM 1284, 635 Madison Ave., New York, NY 10022.

And it would be helpful if we knew your . . .

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All prices above include postage and handling.

If you don't wish to cut the page out, but do wish

to order, please print or type all applicable info on a separate piece of paper, and enclose it with a check or money order. After all, you wouldn't take scissors to the Mona Lisa, would you?









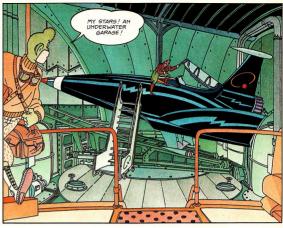












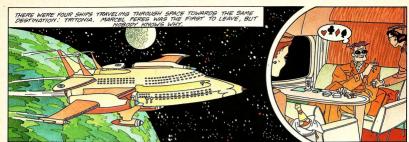








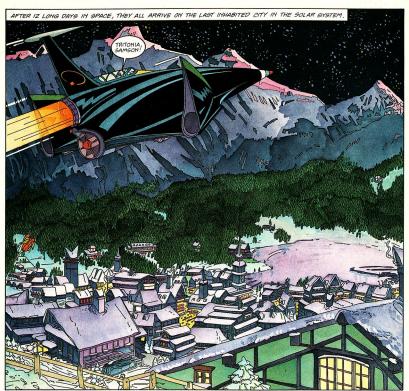








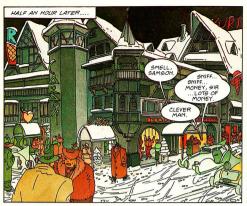




















































































































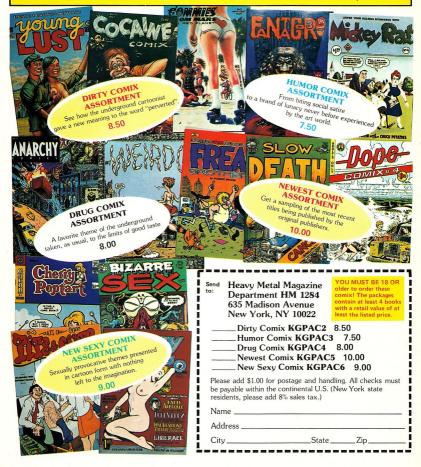


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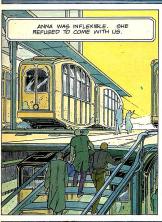


NOT FOR THE TIMID!

It's true! These original, uncensored comix are not for those among us who might blush at the sight of skin or shy away from —shall we say—unusua! situations. These comix are for those of us who have normal all-American red-blooded corpuscles! Those of us who can look a joke in the eye and laugh! The collections here are by the same underground cartoon/sts who set the comics world on its ear with their uninhibited humor and other-worldly visions.

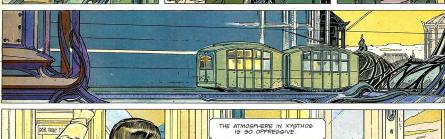




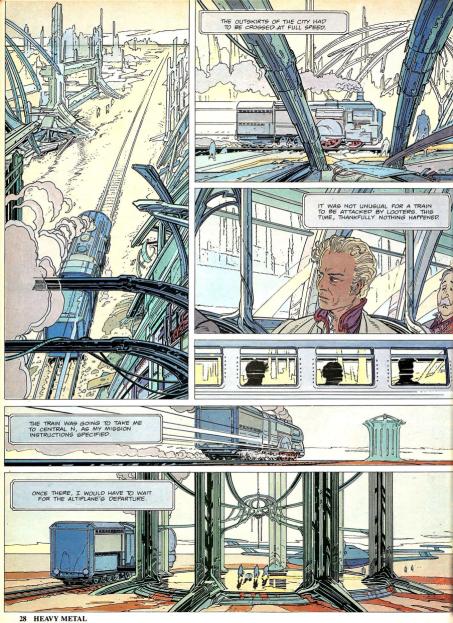


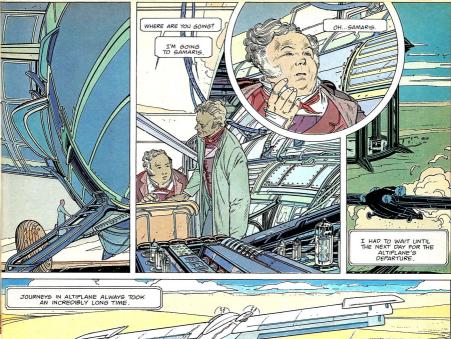








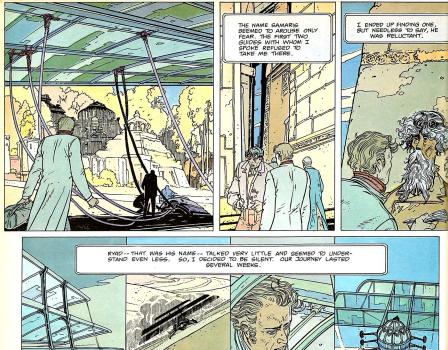


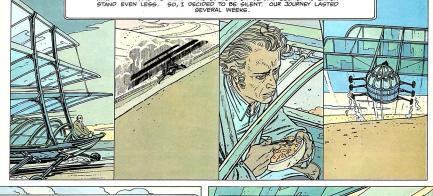


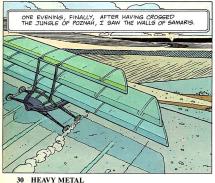




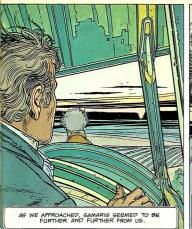














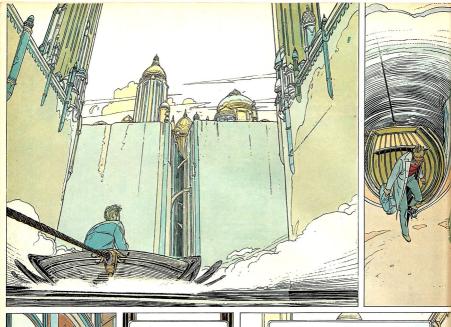
IN THE BEGINNING, I HAP THOUGHT WE WERE QUITE CLOSE, I COULD SEE NOW ALL THAT SEPARATED ME FROM HER.



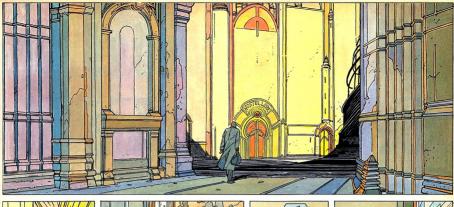










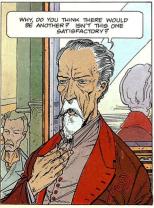
















The Italian Inquisition: Federico Fellini Interviewed



by Dan Yakir

After a recent rerun on Italian television of Nights of Cabiria, Federico Fellini was stopped in the street by a woman who wanted to know why the maestro "didn't make pictures like that anymore." What this anonymous admirer was asking for was the small, intimate dramas that won the filmmaker international acclaim in the 1950s-films like La Strada and I Vitelloni, where an enchanting gallery of optimistic losers entertained big dreams but never managed to emerge out of a dreary existence. Nobody epitomized these characters and sentiments better than Fellini's wife, Giulietta Masina, as both Cabiria, the exploited prostitute with a heart of gold, and Gelsomina, the sad clown of La Strada.

Over the years, after creating masterpieces such as La Dolce Vita and the openly autobiographical 8½, Fellini's pictures—some claimed—became increasingly hallucinatory: the characters lost their humanity and their dreams turned into nightmares. The grotesque and the overstated, replaced the warmth of quivering humanity. Fellini, some said,

no longer liked people.
The sixty-four-year-old filmmaker, jovially peering through his dark-framed glasses, hardly seems like the misanthrope he is accused of being.
Cornered as he is in the lobby of the Grand Hotel in Milan, where he is busy casting for his new film, Ginger and Fred, he yields to the questions of his interviewer, aided by his secretary Fiammetta Profili, who translates. Once the maestro gets going, he switches to English. He is clearly delighted speaking about himself. His voice is warm, his

intonation melodious. His eyes are forever busy taking in his surroundings, perhaps the core of a future cinematic extravagance. There is a modesty about him that one is likely to find in someone who knows his worth.

These are not the best of times for Fellini. His recent And the Ship Sails On was not a financial success in his homeland (or elsewhere) and cynics interpreted his decision to make a commercial for Campari—his first ever—and a video clip with Boy George, as evidence of despair. Not so. Boy George, after all, seems like many of Fellini's archetypal protagonists of recent years and there is not a trace of grimness in the maestro's manner.

One of the world's greatest authors has certainly come a long way from his native Rimini, where, oppressed by the rigid bourgeois mentality of his wealthy parents, he found solace in escaping to the local circus. It was there and in puppet shows that he cultivated an imaginary life that started with making himself up in front of the mirror and culminated in some of the seventh art's most stunning achievements.

most stunning actnevements.
Fellini has acknowledged the influence of Roberto Rossellini, the father of Italian Neo-Realism, for whom he wrote scripts, and Chaplin. He also served as journalist and illustrator of local magazines, the fumetti, through which he paid tribute to the comic books he devoured in his youth. He later made a living as a caricaturist around restaurants in Rome. It is there that his visual imagination started to blossom.

—Dan Yakir

HEAVY METAL 35

HM: How do you find inspiration in our mediocre times? Or, perhaps, you don't think we are surrounded by mediocrity? FF: It's a barbaric era. People say it's an era of transition, but this is true about every period. Certainly we have no more myths left: the Christian myth doesn't seem to be able to help humanity anymore. So, we're waiting for a new myth. But which one? It's very interesting to live at a time like this. But, having said this, I believe we must accept the time we live in. I feel that my mission in life, my vocation, is to be a witness, and if your life consists of a testimony, you have to accept what you witness. Sure, you can be nostalgic about the past and how great it was and lament the erosion of values, but there's no point to it. From a generational point of view, I'm aware that there's a certain regret about things past, but I personally try to live with the confidence that the future will assimilate the past. The past will transform itself into the future, so it will be relived, not in regret. but as part and parcel of the future. HM: Does this have to do with your looking into an interior reality rather than an exterior one? Are the dreams and fantasies of which such a reality consists, the basis of your inspiration? FF: I don't dwell too much on what it is

FF: I'm afraid of solitude, of the gap between action and testimony—it's a reflection on my existence: to act without being swept away by the action, so as to be able to bear witness at the same time. I fear losing my spontaneity, precisely because of this testimony, because of this habit of constantly analyzing and commenting. I fear old age, madness, decline—I fear not being able to make love ten times a day. . . .

HM: Do you make films because solitude ranks high among your fears?

FF: Making films for me is not just a creative outlet, but an existential expression. I also write and paint in isolation, in an ascetic manner. Perhaps my character is too hard, too severe . . . but cinema is a miracle, because you can live life just as you tell it. It's very stimulating. For my temperament and sensibility, this correlation between daily life and the life I create on screen is fantastic. Creative people live in a very vague territory, where what we call reality and fantasy are disjointed, where one interferes with the other. They're both one and the same thing. HM: Your early films could be described

as social realism while the later ones are more hallucinatory.

FF: You could call hallucination a deeper reality. Critics have a need to categorize

and classify. I don't see it that way. I just do what I have to do. HM: Critics also have termed your characters grotesque and exaggerated. How do you react to such accusations? FF: To answer this. I must see my films. which I never do. People say that I'm a bit too much, that I exaggerate. Maybe they're right. But even if it's true, it's not intentional. I'm delighted when I come across an expressive face, however bizarre. I am, after all, a caricaturist and I have to accept the limitation it imposes on me. A creative person has something childish about him: he both loves to be surprised and wants to surprise the audience. So, I choose whatever is too big

"I fear old age, madness, decline —I fear not being able to make love ten times a day."

or too small or simply unfamiliar. I try to express the feeling of surprise the way I myself felt it. The world of Picasso could be described as strange and monstrous, but not for him. I too don't see my characters as strange. I simply try to go beyond appearances, to unveil what lies behind what we call "normality." Maybe I overdo it. People ask me, "Mr. Fellini, where do you find such strange characters?" So I respond, "That's what I see when I look in the mirror everyday ... a monstrous face indeed!" I'm not cruel. It's not true what some critics say, that I hate humanity. For me, curiosity and amusement are proof of my affection for what I depict. When I choose a certain face and have it made up in a certain way, it's not because I want to ridicule, but because I want to convey in an immediate manner something which isn't psychological. My characters never undergo psychological development. My films are a bit more innocent than that and the characters have to be themselves as soon as they appear. So the need to be expressive is immediate.

HM: You show beauty—of women like Claudia Cardinale and Anita Ekberg alongside the grotesque: for example, a huge woman like Saraghina in 8½. Isn't there a dichotomy here after all? FF: Beauty is not limited to its classical sense. It can be everywhere. I must admit

that I don't recognize the grotesque. To me they're all beautiful. You mention La Saraghina. In Rimini, near the college for priests, there was a big prostitute like that, who used to expose herself. When I show something like that, it's usually through the eyes of a boy, and sometimes I exaggerate just to show the astonishment or fear or ecstasy of that boy. Also, if I use a big or fat woman, it's because I'm telling a story about an Italian boy who is hungry for women. Just because the Catholic church has described women as something to be ignored, Italians of a certain generation developed an appetite for them-not just for food. So the big women indicate their big appetite. HM: How do you feel about the relations

between the sexes today, when a certain role reversal seems to be at work? FF: Man has always been unsure of women. A woman for a man is the part that he doesn't know about himself-so he's always afraid of her. He feels weak and vulnerable with her, because she may cause him to lose his identity. Just by projecting the part of himself that he doesn't know on a woman, he loses a lot of himself. So he knows he can be destroyed, devoured . . . that's a natural law. He also probably remembers the very ancient matriarchal society in which man was nothing and women thought they became pregnant just because the wind blew some seed into their vagina. Or the ocean. Or the moon. A thousand vears passed before man and woman had

Suddenly someone started thinking, "Wait a minute, why does it take nine months? Which kind of wind is it? Which ocean started it all nine months ago?" In those matriarchal societies, if men were to assert themselves, they had to put on false tits, wigs and dress like women. They didn't exist at all—worse than rats. When the queen decided to take a companion, he would last a year, after which he was killed, cut to pieces like an animal, and eaten.

a relationship and discovered the orgasm.

HM: What society was that?

FF: Now. It's today. . . . And then, for centuries, man took advantage of women to take revenge for what he had suffered for thousands of years. Now women want to be considered as persons, not as mere projections, and their attempt to escape the image man has confined them to frightens man. But finally he understands that he won't be free until women are free as well. I tried to show all that in City of Women.

HM: Do you see yourself as a romantic? FF: I don't think I have a romantic view of the world, because I don't recognize a particular view of the world. I probably have a romantic conception of the artist and art, but in life, no. I like to probe behind appearances and discover what's really there, like a naughty boy. In this I recognize the skeptic, who tries not to believe too much in facades, who tries to unmask falsehood. I think that's the most important thing: I have no ideology, but if I had to identify myself with any aspect of it. I'd say that the beauty of art is in its trying to unmask falsehood. To educate. To plant in people's minds the suspicion that reality is something more complex; to give them the pleasure of suspicion, not just the burden of doubt. To make them not too protected by taboos, concepts, ideologies. Life is more complex than that. If, in my pictures, I have to recognize a motif-a thread that runs through-I'd say this is the only one. HM: Does this mean that you avoid

judgment? FF: That's not really possible. We are slaves of our culture, prisoners of our emotions-we always have a subjective point of view. Subjectivity means that we've had a certain education, that we read certain books, that we cultivated certain emotions: all these mysterious and contradictory things that serve as the basis for our judgment. Even when you pretend to be only a witness, you can't ignore all this. I try to be open and not schematic, but always in terms of what's commensurate with my background. HM: Is that partly why you don't make films in other countries? Because vou're so very Italian?

FF: Yes. When I go to a foreign country, everything is a mystery to me. I see images, colors, lines, but they don't add up to anything. I could make a picture about New York, but in Cinecitta, not in America. I'd have to remember what I saw in New York and what emotions it triggered in me and try to recreate them with the same colors and lights. I was so presumptuous as to say several times to American producers that I wanted to make such a film about America in Italy, where I would be protected by an atmosphere in which I could move without being conditioned or mortified by laws I don't know and a language I can't

There's always a reductive attitude toward movies. You never ask writers why they don't write in other languages. The equivocal birth of movies was indeed technical-the camera, the lens, the lights and then you develop the film-but that's a mechanical point of view. If I want to try to express our interview, I can't just put a camera in front of us. I'll have to recreate the feeling of the meeting: what I feel about you being an American, and the fact that Fiammetta is trying to create a bridge between us by translating, and the decor of this hotel lobby, the color of the sofa. . . . Just to think the camera can take it all in is reductive.

People ask me, "Why do you recreate Venice in a studio instead of using the real one?" I'm always a bit surprised by such questions. I have to recreate it, because I have to put myself in it. HM: The decor becomes expressive of your vision. . . .

FF: Of course. In America, I'd have to

depend on information culled from others; for example, what kind of tails does a Boston lawyer wear? Maybe I'm just tyring to look for pretexts, the real reason being that I'm too old and lazy, but I think it's more sincere to say that I can't talk about life just as I see it. I need a period of reflection. I could do a wholly impressionistic report seen from a newspaper man's eye, but it would mean absolutely nothing.

HM: Do you feel transformed when you're on the set or are you always the

FF: I'm always the same confused man ... there's no difference. When I work I'm perhaps healthier because the pressure to do, to escape, to be alive is to me an added neurotic energy. Neurotic health. When I'm in-between pictures, I'm a bit weaker. But I'm always in the same situation of not knowing what I'm

HM: How does such confusion evolve into a unified, focused vision? FF: It's a very difficult question to answer. I don't want to appear too mystical or too mysterious, but there's a part in me that sometimes comes out at the last moment. The more confused I am, the more I'm ready for this new tenant that inhabits my imagination to take possession of me. Which makes everything fall into place. The more I feel lost, the more I believe I can be helped by this unknown source of knowledge. It's magic. Perhaps it's a bit superstitious, this

"... I need to have an authority: a grand duke, a Pope, an emperor ... to push me."

trust in the unknown. Of course, what I mean by saying that I don't know what I'm doing is that it comes after I have tried everything. Having made all the possible efforts, I look at a hundred faces to choose one that would inhabit a dark corner on the screen; that kind of effort. HM: You're saying that this knowledge goes beyond reason.

FF: That's right. You get lost in the rational system. If you work with faith and you know your limits-and at the same time you have modesty, humility, and also arrogance, like a man-you can reach the truth. If you're as true to yourself as you possibly can, you will be helped, and you'll come closer to the truth. But I don't claim to know all the

HM: How does a project of yours come into being?

FF: The real ideas come to me when I sign a contract and get an advance which I don't want to give back; it's when I'm obliged to make a picture. I'm kidding. naturally. I don't want to appear brutal. like Groucho Marx, but I'm the kind of creator who needs to have an authority: a grand duke, a Pope, an emperor, a producer, a bank-to push me. These very vulgar conditions put me on the right track. It's then that I start thinking about what I can, and want to, do.

HM: Tell me about Ginger and Fred. FF: It's a little story about two two-bit dancers in a variety show who imitate Rogers and Astaire and therefore are named after them. It started as a film for television about six women to be made by six directors: Antonioni, Zeffirelli, Rosi, Lizzani, Magni and myself. When Italian TV started co-productions with the Americans, I was asked to do my segment as a movie, and Antonioni was asked the same about his. It's going to be seventyminutes-long, like Orchestra Rehearsal.

It's made for TV, but will be shown in theaters first. That is, if any remain in Italy. They've just closed 2,117 of them here, and there are now many cities, like Perugia (the equivalent of Boston) which had three or four theaters, but now have nothing. In Italy, we have over 200 private TV stations. You could watch 200 pictures on 200 TV sets at the same time. but that's not all that's wrong. The movies have suffered not only because of the direct competition of TV, but TV has created a different relationship between audiences and images: they can switch it off. You watch TV in a small room, in the light, where you can talk. It has cancelled all the ritualistic attention movies used to command. The fact that vou can change channels by your remote control every thirty seconds has created an impatient audience and a very arrogant and superficial one. Everything it finds annoying, it eliminates. Add to that the fact that TV is available twenty-fourhours a day, and that images are used electronically: they're doubled and squeezed onto the small screen . . . this caleidoscopic use has destroyed the image. We are no longer used to being seduced by a pure image. We have no interest in following a story from an author's point of view. Since this is what I'm trying to do, I must admit I feel frustrated. The man with the remote control has become director and exhibitor. The audience has gained power at the expense of movies, so the cinema has become a tainted old lady teetering away. I would like very much to please the audience, but I have to be faithful to the picture.

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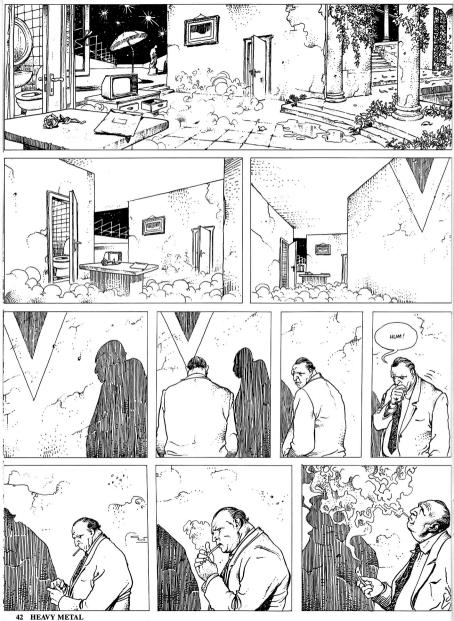
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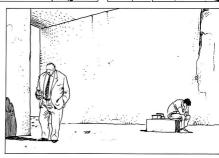






























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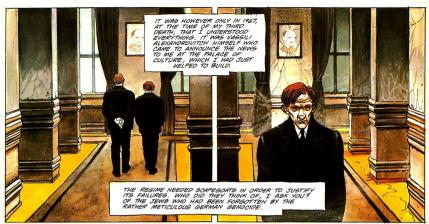






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CHAIN MAIL

Dear HM:

Before you guys get a deluge of mail on your special video awards issue (September), 1'd like to put in my twenty cents worth on what I think are some of the most exploitative, pointless, and just plain lame videos of the past year. My credentials aren't as good as HM's, but as a steady video viewer (about two to three hours a night), I'd just like to get my kicks in now. I don't want to kick too hard, just in the right places.

Dance video with the worst dancing: David Bowie's "Let's Dance." Bowie, who can dance, doesn't; those that do, can't. What is the point? Funniest video (intentional): Weird Al

Yankovich's "Eat It," hands down. Some of Madness's videos are amusing, but don't make you laugh quite as hard.
Funniest video (unintentional): A tie

between Pat Benatar's "Love is a Battlefield" and Jefferson Starship's "One Way Out." That video by Heart comes close, but I forget what the song is. Most exploitive video: John Lennon's "Living on Borrowed Time." Nice song.

"Living on Borrowed Time." Nice song, though.

Loudest video (visually): Duran Duran's "Reflex." The colors are loud, the editing is too fast, concert footage cut with film footage until you can't tell which is which, and where is that water coming from? The screen? Huh?

Loudest video (overall): Police's
"Synchronicity II." A busy set, high
winds, guitar feedback, and Sting
SHOUTING the song. Not very pleasant.

Ugliest group in video: Kiss in "Lick It Up." God, these guys are ugly without makeup, (No kidding—but smart enough to realize those grim mugs wouldn't make them nearly as much moolah as the painted masks.—ls)

Performer making biggest fool of himself: The Cars' Ric Ocasek, in "Magic." Squinting in the sun, he poses and moves ridiculously with a bunch of extras in silly costumes while walking on water. Right. (He doesn't look nearly as dumb as Billy Idol does, with his crowbarred sneer and adolescent pose of mach deflance.—Is)

Most obnoxious video: Yes's "Owner of a Lonely Heart." Whenever I feel sad and a little lonely, I feel like putting maggots on my face, twitching in a corridor, screaming in an elevator, beating someone up and falling off a building. I'm glad Yes finally put these subtle emotions in such an appealing way.

Most pompous video: Manfred Mann's "Runner." What's supposed to be a dramatic tribute to the summer Olympics, comes off stilted and boring.

Video most exploitive of women: Trying to pick only one is hard. I'd say the worst is ZZ Top's "Legs" simply because it's so obvious. Just look sharp gals and the world will fall all over you. (Too bad it's the truth. The interesting question is, are they reinforcing a cultural stereotype or just reflecting it?—ls)

Video exploiting sexual perversion: Again, you can't pick just one. There's Cameo's "She's So Strange," Prince's "Little Red Corvette," Bowie's "China Girl." The Stones's "She's So Hot." Michael Jackson's "Thriller," anything with Boy George (Why? Just because of the way he dresses? That's ridiculous.ls), and I'd say about 88% of videos by heavy metal groups. (I think you're lumping exploitation of pure sex with sexual perversion. There is a difference.ls) Though I've never seen it, I've heard that Frankie Goes to Hollywood's "Relax" video (the original, banned one) is worse. The lead singers, who do admit to being gay, (Horrors!-ls) go into a gay bar filled with leather, kinky S&M, transvestites, and other negative stereotypes. (Sounds like a typical episode of "Ranxerox" to me. But seriously, I've seen the clip in question, and it's pretty inoffensive. It's also well photographed and edited, and pretty fucking hilarious. As with ZZ Top, it's a question of reinforcing negative stereotypes or simply portraying them. Those sorts of places do exist, and they form a major part of the underground gay scene-and if Frankie Goes to Hollywood want to shoot a home movie of one of their nightly golden showers, I think they should be allowed to. Just as long as they wash their hands afterwards .- Is) But I think videos that are safe and unquestionably dishonest are worse. Motley Crue's "Too Young to Fall in Love" is an adolescent male fantasy and covers much the same territory as "Relax." What makes Motley Crue so

reprehensible is their pretending to be the way an adolescent male should be. Give me an honest video, flashy or not, than mindless, sexist, headbanging any day. (Naturally, I agree—but you've got to remember that videos are advertising, not art, and any means to insinuate the product advertised into your consciousness is to be utilized.—[s)

Glenn Dressler Kankakee, IL

Dear Metalurgists:

While Liberatore and Tamburini are dreaming up new adventures for Ranxerox and Lubna, why don't you people run some S. Clay Wilson material? That should keep us satisfied in the sex'n'violence department for a while. A few other suggestions: end "Tex Arcana" (because the suspense is killing me!), more music (albums réviews, interviews, etc.), and get rid of "Salammbo II." (Keep it coming, guys!

D. Medina Brooklyn, NY

Dear HM:

1950. Television is introduced. People are engrossed and will watch anything broadcast, because there's been nothing like it before. As time progresses, people demand better shows. Along come "Star Trek," "Roots," "The Day After."

1977. Along comes HM. People are engrossed—there has never been anything like it before. As time progresses, people demand better. How about it?

True, you've printed some great stories and artwork, but you've had more than your fair share of "Gilligian's Islands." Why run 95% foreign art? (Simply, because we like it better than most of the American stuff offered us, and because HM is an international magazine.—Is) Just because an artist is French, it doesn't mean he's great. Good artwork is ruined by lousy stories, and the French seem to be crummy writers. (They're dso less captivated by the boring cliches of traditional American comics.—Is)

Try not to run so many continued stories—this is HM, not "The Days of Our Lives." Too many issues are 85% continued. Try more complete stories, like "lune 2050," which is the best item you run every issue. (You lose. "June 2050" has been cancelled.—(s)

Finally, someone should invite Lou Stathis over for a Jim Jones-style Kool-Aid party, for putting his comments through the middle of Chain Mail. Isn't there enough room at the bottom of each letter, Lou? It's irritating.

Gary Davis Montesano, WA

Sure there's enough room, but by now most everyone's forgotten what specifically in the letter is being responded to. Right? Uh, now what was the question?—Is

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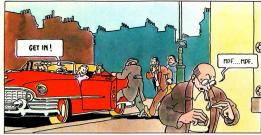








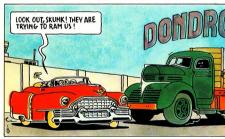












































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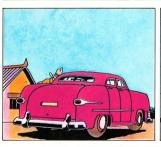








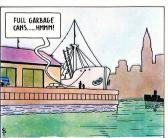








































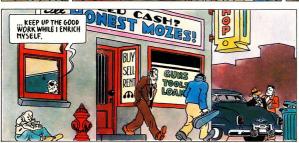


























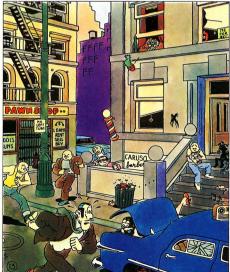


WOULD YOU TRY TO DRAG US DOWN? THINK ABOUT OUR FAMILIES, OUR ECONOMY! AND WHAT IS \$1000, NOWADAYS? AND WHAT'S IT GONNIA BE AFTER THE INFLATION-SPECTRE HAS STRUCK?! EH?...EH?...EH?













































































COLLECTOR'S ITFMS

#2/MAY '77: Russian astronauts, "Conquering Armies," the ultimate rock festival, and more.

#3/JUNE '77: Macedo's "Rockblitz," highly praised "Shells," beginning of Davis's "World Apart," Moebius, Corben, Bodé, more.

#4/JULY '77: Lots of Moebius: "Arzach," "The Long Tomorrow"; conclusion of "Sunpot."

#5/AUGUST '77: "Polonius" begins, "The Long Tomorrow" concludes, and "World Apart" and "Den" continue.

#6/SEPTEMBER '77: Roger Zelazny has a short story, and Moebius, a space opera; plus more "World Apart," "Den," and "Polonius."

#7/OCTOBER '77: Fiction by Theodore Sturgeon, Moebius's "Airtight Garage," "Den" and "Polonius" back again.

#8/NOVEMBER '77: New Harlan Ellison fiction, 9 color pages by Moebius and Rimbaud, conclusions for "Polonius" and "World Apart."

#9/DECEMBER '77: Extra pages for the complete "Vuzz," by Druillet, "Fortune's Fool," by Chaykin and Wein, plus full-color Corben, Macedo, Claveloux, and Moebius.

#10/JANUARY '78: Morrow illustrates Zelazny, Lob and Pichard update *Ulysses*, "Conquering Armies" concludes, "Den" continues.

#II/FEBRUARY '78: New adventures of "Barbarella," cover and center spread by Nino, plus Moebius and Corben.

#12/MARCH '78: Gray Morrow's swashbuckling "Orion" debuts; more "Barbarella," "Urm," and "Den."

#13/APRIL '78: Our 1st anniversary issue! A 30-page insert from "Paradise 9." "Barbarella" gives birth, while "Den" wraps it up.

#14/MAY '78: "Urm the Mad" waves bye-bye, but "Orion" and "Barbarella" continue, and Alex Nino tips his hat.

#15/JUNE '78: Corben introduces Shahrazad. Sturgeon's classic "More Than Human" is illustrated, more "Barbarella," and the origins of "Heilman."

#16/JULY '78: A happy ending for "Barbarella," a sad ending for "1996," resumption of Druillet's "Gail," more "Heilman," "Orion," "More Than Human," and Corben's "Arabian Nights."

#19/OCTOBER '78: "Exterminator 17," Ellison's illustrated "Glass Goblin," debut of McKie's "So Beautiful and So Dangerous."

#20/NOVEMBER '78: Twenty pages of the Delany/Chaykin "Empire," more "Sindbad," "Exterminator," Major Grubert, "Heilman" 's final rebirth, more.



#21/DECEMBER '78: The stocking's full with "Orion," Kirchner's "Tarot," and 12 beautiful pages of Moebius.

#22/JANUARY '79: Trina debuts and Druillet concludes "Gail," plus McKie and Corben.

#23/FEBRUARY '79: "Galactic Geographic," "Starcrown," Corben's "Sindbad," McKie's "So Beautiful and So Dangerous."

#24/MARCH '79: Twenty pages of Chaykin illustrating Bester's "The Stars My Destination," "Starcrown" II, and Ellison's late show.

#28/JULY '79: Bodé's "Zooks" premieres, Corben's "Sindbad" concludes. Morrow and Moebius continue, Mike Hinge debuts.

#29/AUGUST '79: Caza steals show with "New Ark City," plus Mayerik, Suydam, "Galactic Geographic," Bodé, more. #30/SEPTEMBER '79: "Elric."

"Buck Rogers," a lizard named "Elvis," and "Little Red V-3," alongside Montellier and Moebius.

#3I/OCTOBER '79: A Halloween tribute to H. P. Lovecraft, with Moebius, Breccia, Druillet, Suydam, others.

#32/NOVEMBER '79: Corben's "Rowlf," Bodé's "Zooks," Brunner's "Elric," Chaykin's "Ths Stars My Destination," Moebius, and more.

#33/DECEMBER '79: A Christmas package from Caza, Corben, Kofoed, Suydam, Stiles, Trina, Moebius, and Ellison, plus "Gnomes" and "Giants."

#35/FEBRUARY '80: An eerie Gouratin cover adorns this issue. Corber's "The Beast of Wolfton" begins, McKie experiments with the Air Pump, and we join Matt Howarth on a crazed acid trip.

#36/MARCH '80: Why did "The Crevasse" take Jeannette? Read the Schuiten strip! Plus: Corben, Matena, Moebius, and Lee Marrs's "Good Vibrations."

#37/APRIL '80: Our 3rd anniversary issue—32 pages of "Champakou" in living color, final installment of Moebius's "Airtight Garage," plus Caza, Bial, Howarth, Corben, Bodé—and more!

#38/MAY '80: Does the Supreme Alchemist exist? Will Axle ever find out? Will "Champakou" reach the Doll of Jade? Will Joe strike out with the alien Marilyn, too?

#39/JUNE '80: "Champakou" meets his fate, while "Captain Sternn" saves the day. And it's the Flying Wallendas vs. Earth! #41/AUGUST '80: Druillet returns with "Salammbo" while Moebius concludes "Shore Leave" (and is interviewed). Bilal continues "Progress!"

#42/SEPTEMBER '80: "The Alchemist Supreme" concludes while Bilal's "Progress!" picks up steam. Ernie Colon, Paul Kirchner, Leo Duranona contribute nifty shorts, while "Rock Opera" gets stranger.

#49/APRIL '81: Corben's "Bloodstar," Giménez's "Good-bye, Soldier!," Harry North's "Stories from London," and an interview with Julio Ribera.

#50/MAY '81: Premiers of Chaykin's "Cody Starbuck" and Bilal's "The Immortals' Fête!" Plus: Suydam's "The Toll Bridge" and William S. Burroughs on immortality.

#51/JUNE '81: The 1st part of the Richard Corben interview, Jim Steranko's adaptation of *Outland* premieres, Howarth's "Changes" winds up. Plus: Caza, Chaykin, Crepax, and Workman!

#56/NOVEMBER '81: Jeronaton's "Egg of the World," Jeff Jones, Segrelles, and Bilal all frame the art of Leo and Diane Dillon beautifully

#58/JANUARY '82: Our "Happy Future" issue. Includes Arno, Loustal, Voss, Hé, and Gillon; and "The Autonomous Man," all surrounded by Chaykin and Simonson, Segrelles, and Steranko.

#59/FEBRUARY '82: The further adventures of John Difool in "The Incal Light." Wein and Chaykin's "Gideon Faust" gets going—again. Plus Fernandez, Jones, Schuiten.

#60/MARCH '82: 2nd Special Rock Issue featuring Dick Matena's 'A Life in the Day," a surrealistic look at the life of John Lennon. Luis Garcia's "Nova 2" begins. Plus "Mercenary," "Den," "Rock Opera," etc.

#61/APRIL '82: 5th anniversary issue offers a variety of material. What with Claveloux, Druillet,

Moebius, Bilal, and an essay on J. G. Ballard, you'll be busy until our

#62/MAY '82: The 1st part of David Black's "Third Sexual Revolution. "The Art of De Es Schwertberger. Plus: "Sixteen and Vanilla" by Ted White and Val Lakev.

#63/JUNE '82: Fantastic Cities issue, with artists Voss, Caza, Scibelli, and R. Crumb, all sur-rounded by regulars: Druillet, Moebius, Schuiten, and Fernandez.

#64/JULY '82: Marcele and Lacome's strange "Life at the Circus and pages from Corben's Flights into Fantasy. Plus Jones, Garcia, and Druillet



#65/AUGUST '82: Jones and Wrightson's "Freak Show" and Pisu and Manara's "The Ape. ." Plus the finale of "The Incal Light" by Moebius and Jodorowsky.

#66/SEPTEMBER '82: Hecht's "Music-Video Interface," Lupoff's "Barsoom!" and Hinge's "Object." Plus our regulars: Bilal, Fernandez, Kierkegaard.

#67/OCTOBER '82: You'll have Scary Dreams after reading our special horror section. Everything from Eddie Poe to the weirdest phobias possible. Don't read it alone! P.S.: Last part of Black's "Third Sexual Revolution.

#68/NOVEMBER '82: Part 1 of Kaluta's "Starstruck." Findley's "Tex Arcana" continues as does "Den II" and Druillet's "Yragael." Plus: a peek at Wrightson's National Lampoon's Class Reunion.

#69/DECEMBER '82: A Will Stone Gallery, the return of Suydam's "Mudwog," and Mark Fish-er's "Amino Men." Plus Corben, Fernandez, and Kierkegaard.

#70/JANUARY '83: The strange conclusion to Wrightson's "Freak Show," a look at *The Dark Crystal*, and regulars Manara, Corben, Fernandez, etc.

#71/FEBRUARY '83: The making of the film The Entity, Kim Deitch's Eating Raoul, and regulars Corben, Kaluta, Crepax, etc.

#72/MARCH '83: We bid a fond farewell to Den and Kath, and a warm welcome to Bilal's "City that Didn't Exist." A Gallery on Robert Williams, plus Manara, Kaluta and more

#73/APRIL '83: Moebius's "The Twinkle in Fildegar's Eye," and Sauri's "The Odyssey," along with Kaluta, Crepax, and Workman.

#75/JUNE '83: Corben's "Doomscult," the end of Crepax's "The Man from Harlem," and a peek at the 3-D science fiction thriller, Spacehunter.

#76/JULY '83: Liberatore's "Ranxerox," the end of Kulata's "Starstruck" (for the time being), an interview with Dan O'Bannon and a glimpse at Ray Bradbury's Dinosaur Tales.

#77/AUGUST '83: Arno and Jo-dorowsky's "The Small Earthworm" debuts, Giménez's "A Matter of Time" appears, and Captain Beefheart is interviewed, all behind a beautiful Greg Hildebrandt cover.

#78/SEPTEMBER '83: An exclusive interview with Francis Ford Coppola! Plus a Gallery look at the art of Rowena Morrill and the conclusions of "Zora" and "The City that Didn't Exist.'

#79/OCTOBER '83: Timothy Leary! Enki Bilal! Pepe Moreno! Walter Hill! Rocky and Bullwinkle!?! A great issue!

#80/NOVEMBER '83: A spirited talk with Will Eisner, along with a Spirit story. Plus Crepax's "Valentina the Pirate." Enjoy.

#81/DECEMBER '83: Ranxerox bows out. Valentina comes on strong. Artist Liberatore is interviewed. Lots more!

#82/JANUARY '84: Part one of David Blacks vampire memoirs. Plus "Ranxerox in New York," and a peek at Arthur Clarke's The Sen-

#83/FEBRUARY '84: Douglas Trumbull talks. John DiFool returns. And David Black's My Vampires comes to an end.

#84/MARCH '84: Douglas Adams is interviewed. Angus McKie and Charles Burns return. Ranxerox ends his New York adventure.

#85/APRIL '84: A long talk with Roger Corman. Plus Joe Kubert in "Dossier" and Boris Vallejo on the

#86/MAY '84: "The Railways" begins, "Ranxerox" ends, and "The Third Incal" continues. Plus, two "June 2050"s for the price of one.



#87/JUNE '84: Slava Tsukerman talks about "Liquid Sky." "Lann" and "The Hunting Party" get started.

#88/JULY '84: Long interviews with funnymen John Cleese and Jerry Lewis. Long-awaited art from Jeronaton.

#89/AUGUST '84: Paul Kantner: Starship Captain. Penelope Spheeris: Godmother of Punk. Ed Naha: Good Writer of Bad Movies.

#90/SEPTEMBER '84: The Second Annual HM Music Video Awards. Lou Stathis interviews director David Cronenberg, Plus Dernier Combat director Luc Besson is interviewed.

#91/OCTOBER '84: The HM interview with director John Sayles. Caza drops by, and Jeronaton and Rilal continue #92/NOVEMBER '84: Schuiten begins, Jeronaton ends, and Paul

Kirchner gives us some "Cool." Plus, shock-director John Waters

tells us about his morals in the HM

interview.

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by Doris Vallejo Illustrated by Boris Vallejo

Dragonprince

"Have you had many lovers?" the Dragon asked in a casual tone the Princess had come to recognize as a warning. He was stretched out in front of his cave, absentmindedly singeing the grass around some ants. As they scuttled away, he singed the grass in their wake. The Princess would have asked him to stop had she noticed. At the moment she was too busy massaging the iridescent green hide of his back. It gave her pleasure to do this because she knew he liked it.

"None like you," she said, "None as The Dragon had made a flamboyant

strong and brave.'

display of his courage at their first meeting, diving several hundred treacherous

feet into a ravine to retrieve the Princess's golden apple. She had been heartbroken when it fell down there; had in fact briefly considered flinging herself after it. What she did instead was to collapse sobbing at the edge of the ravine. And then the Dragon appeared.

He offered to get the apple for her if she would make love with him afterwards. Naturally she was taken aback. It was outrageous. And from a dragon no less. But, recovering from her outrage, she thought: Why not? After all, being desired is a compliment regardless of the circumstances. In addition, he can't be any worse than some of the noblemen I've had. And besides, he may not really

be a dragon. For all I know, he's an enchanted prince.

To her delight the Dragon turned out to have a pretty accomplished erotic technique. She particularly enjoyed certain effects he could produce with his fiery breath, making it ripple up and down her body like small, electric, singing waves.

"You are evading my question," the Dragon said.

She smiled at him. How well he knew her. It was almost as though he could read her heart. "I'm sorry," she said. "I just don't see how the others can matter now "

"Because I want to know all about you," was the answer. "It excites me to

80 HEAVY METAL



here on Earth."

"Obviously a man infatuated with mediocrity," the Dragon said.

"He was a palace guard," the Princess continued, "and married to boot. So the relationship had its limitations built in right from the start. Not only did we always have to meet when he wanted to and never when I did, but there was the guilt. Always the guilt. As if his infidelity was somehow my fault."

"An emotional cripple," the Dragon said, dismissing Rolando in half a sentence. "Was he the only one?"

"There was Justini. He not only found it interesting to look at the stars, he could name them and the constellations they were in, where they could be found in the sky and so on. But he would think nothing of making love and getting up as soon as he was finished to study his astronomical charts."

"Anymore?" the Dragon ingenuously asked with no hint that, when it suited him, he would use these stories against her, would call her a pushover, a worthless cunt, and a whore in heat.

"Yes, of course there were others; always the wrong ones," the Princess said.
"I wanted so very much to be loved. For years I dreamed of the prince who would come to me from somewhere far away. I used to talk about him, about what he would look like and be like. I used to have imaginary conversations with him."

"You are beautiful," the Dragon said. He rolled on his side and drew her to him. "You are beautiful," he repeated huskily, pinning her against the grass with his powerful forepaws. In less than two hours he would call her ordinary looking, a shade too large in the hips, and, what was worse, disgustingly pale. It was a great shame, he would coldly tell her, that she lacked green pigmentation. No doubt this was because she had spent so much time above ground as opposed to in the revitalizing darkness of caves.

Framed against a magnificent sweep of tree-covered hills and the blue sky, his great bulk seemed small and vulnerable.

"You are beautiful, too," she breathed, quite meaning it.

"Don't ever leave me," he murmured. And so they dreamed each other. Their dreams were enchanted. They became marvelous miraculous creatures, part bird, part fish, part human. They could fly clear to the sky. They could flash, silver finned, through the deepest oceans. They could promise each other eternal love.

"Yours is a classic case of insufficient parental affection," the Dragon said.
"Am I right or am I right?" They had gone for a swim in the lagoon near his cave and were sunning themselves on a rock.

The Princess thought this over carefully. "They did love me. They do love me. I never doubted it in my head, you know. The difficulty has been, at times, believing it in my heart."

"The head and the heart are con-

nected," the Dragon said, "however abstruse that connection may seem."

"My father believes in God, the power of wealth, and the inferiority of women. It doesn't make him an easy man to get close to, at least not for me."

The Dragon agreed that the King had distinct shortcomings as a father although he will later call the Princess goddamn manipulative with her wimpy ways and will, moreover, express the opinion that the King kept her at arms length out of an admirably developed sense of self-preservation.

"My problems with the Queen were of an entirely different sort," the Princess said. "To begin with, she's a witch."

"You mean the kind that rides on broomsticks?" The Dragon's green ears suddenly became very pointy.

"She wouldn't be caught dead on a broomstick," the Princess laughed. "But you should see the assortment of frog toes and lizard eyes and other motley goodies she has for mixing magic potions."

"There's nothing motley about lizard eyes," the Dragon observed dryly.

"Oh, she can do wonderful things with them," the Princess said. "I've seen her throw pieces of broken glass into her cauldron and take out real diamonds."

"Can she tell the future?" the Dragon wanted to know. Upon hearing that she could, he sighed wistfully. "Often enough I've wished that she

couldn't," the Princess said. "For one thing, she's maddeningly conceited about it. And, for another, kindness and tact are not her strong points. She positively delights in grim futures. Or else she tells the future in riddles so you don't know anymore when she's finished than you did at the start."

"If you're too dull to unravel riddles, that is." The Dragon's long red tongue suddenly unfurled to trap a scarlet and blue butterfly in midflight. In an instant the butterfly had disappeared into his mouth. The Princess pretended not to have seen. Whether he'd done it to shock her or because, imprisoned within a dragon's body, he had no choice, she was not sure. It seemed best, therefore, to look the other way.

"I once asked her what the prince of my dreams would look like, and this was her idea of a clever answer." The Princess sat up very straight to display the monster that had been tattooed on her midriff. "It didn't tickle in the least when she did it, I can tell you."

The Dragon was quite taken with the colorful tattoo, which, despite the intimacy of their relationship, he hadn't noticed before. He praised the artwork and decided, after studying it a bit, that it bore a certain resemblance to him. "A remarkable woman, your mother," he said. "I want to meet her."

This proposal made the Princess decidedly apprehensive. Though her parents professed a sufficiency of liberal ideas (And why shouldn't they? In the past

witches had been burned at the stake whereas now they were being courted and fussed about to an almost imbecilic degree.) in practice their code of do's and don'ts was disappointingly conservative. She could well imagine their reaction to her bringing along a dragon as a dinner guest. "Well..." she hedged, "I know my parents are both quite busy these next few weeks and—"

"What is it?" the Dragon said. "Don't tell me I'm good enough for a roll in the grass, but not as an escort to the ball." The Princess assured him that this was

not, most certainly not, the case. But secretly she berated herself. I'm the one who is really a dragon, she thought, for putting a nice face on what is, in truth, hypocrisy.

The Dragon, sensing his advantage, pressed his case in a pained, brave voice. He understood how she might find it awkward to be seen with him. She needn't explain. They were not, after all, your conventional couple. He just thought being close as they were and understanding each other as well as they did would have neutralized, to some extent, their external differences. So, it turned out that he was wrong. He didn't blame her for that; for his error in judgment. He was only sorry because such a meeting might have changed so many things for the better.

"I'm truly a beast," the Princess said.
"You are a beauty," the Dragon announced magnanimously.

"You are dear and funny and wise."

"I had only hoped that the Queen, having the talents she has . . . " Here he paused to lend the following words drama, "You see, I wasn't always a dragon. I was born a prince. An evil witch cast a spell on me changing me into this shape when I was quite young. I have tried not to become bitter. It is, after all, one of the things that can happen in life. But growing up as a dragon, growing up friendless, distrusted, everyone always expecting the worst from you, is difficult. Since you are an only child and know about loneliness, perhaps you can appreciate this to some degree. Children are cruel, as you may know, and I can tell you, contrary to the old saying, sticks and stones didn't come near breaking my bones but the names I was called did hurt

"I developed a fear of people. And I spent more and more time in my cave, sneaking out only when I was sure no one was around. I used to dream of the time when I would have my revenge by turning into a prince and becoming the envy of all those who hated me."

"I'm just afraid for you, that's all," the Princess said. "I wouldn't want some boor to make upsetting remarks."

"I'm not afraid." The Dragon saw imminent victory.

"You're so much stronger than I am."
"It's not a matter of strength but the triumph of hope. You see, I do have great

hope that the queen will break the spell that keeps me a dragon. We could be so happy together then.

Moved by this speech, which coincided with her own dearest hopes, the Princess ignored her misgivings and arranged for the Dragon to come to dinner at the palace. The evening was a disaster.

It started in a civilized fashion with cocktails and polite, if strained, conversation. The Dragon was eager to ingratiate himself. He was also nervous. He drank four martinis in succession. The olives made him burp and greenish-gray smoke shot from his nostrils each time. He chattered incessantly and with increasing tempo on a variety of subjects calculated to fascinate his hosts: the decrease in swampland during the dry season and the concomitant decrease in the edible insect population; the longevity of dragons (sixhundred years) and how this might well be attributed to the six-year incubation period of the dragon embryo

When he began to suspect he was losing their attention, he switched to a repertoire of lewd jokes and then to an embarrassingly inept series of animal imitations. Clearly, he had no tolerance for the combination of martinis and the wine he guzzled with his oysters on the half shell. For his bird of paradise imitation he spread his front legs out wide (to represent the bird spreading its wings) and knocked over the huge crystal wine decanter. The wine splashed all over the white tablecloth, as well as on the Princess's new satin gown. Generally prepared for catastrophes of all sorts, she simply began to blot it with a napkin. He, however, leaped wildly from his chair, causing it to fall over backwards with a resounding crash. The echo of that crash seemed to go on forever.

The Queen took her daughter aside and asked her what the devil she wanted with such a weirdo

"You've seen him at his worst," the Princes said. "It's unfair to judge him by that. He can really be very charming. Besides, he loves me.

"In my book, he's a creep," the Queen

The King who basically had not expected too much, was nevertheless puzzled by his daughter's choice in a swain. "Where in the world did you unearth him?" he wanted to know. Upon hearing the story of the golden apple, how the Dragon had risked his life, the condition he'd posed, but how he really loved her, he said: "To be honest with you, I don't much care for having a dragon as a sonin-law. So in case you happen to be thinking in that direction, you can do an about face. On the other hand, I'll grant you that an agreement is an agreement and, if you made it, you have to stick to it. I'm behind you all the way on that."

There it was: approval and disapproval all rolled up into one. Even if she lived as long as dragons did she would never be unequivocally in the right. But there was

another thing that rankled: the Dragon's inveterate nastiness. After their brief periods of intimacy and happiness, he actually seemed to flee into rancor.

Of course, she realized, this was all due to his insecurity. Who, having once been a prince, wouldn't become insecure at one day finding himself to be a dragon? It was only natural. It was, perhaps, also natural that he was jealous of her past lovers. But his relentless carping on the subject, his disparaging criticisms were hard to take. He berated her for not having scaly skin and being unable to belch flames; for not managing to breathe under water or see in the dark; for being too cowardly to have fetched her own apple out of the ravine; too sexually inhibited to enjoy his fiery breath when it got

She recognized all this as simply being an unfortunate expression of his love for her. Yet it burdened her heavily in the long run. She knew it would probably go on for years. Still, she could hardly expect to save him, hardly expect to help him change back into a prince if she did not persevere. And there were good periods. The Dragon composed lovely poetry for her. She was his muse, he told her. This is what he recited by way of an apology one afternoon when they hadn't been speaking since morning:

I awake

my eyes full of dreaming brim with tears to find you real.

Emptiness

that steered my heart across deserts has faded like time into the sand.

"If your love can't turn me back into a prince, no one's can," he said when he finished.

Loving him was like plunging into the deep, deep sea at the bottom of which a treasure might lie. Loving him was quenching a lifelong thirst. Oh, she loved him from the molten core of herself clear out to her fingertips. He was all she had ever lost and stood to find again.

"If I lose you I will lose my mind," he cried to her in a voice like summer rain, full of the promises of jeweled rainbows.

Yet joy is fragile, a delicate silver

shadow, shattered as readily as fine glass. He had singed off all her pubic hair with his breath (quite deliberately, she suspected) so that her sex was suddenly bare and smooth as a peach. "Kinkily provocative-looking," he observed before he realized how angry she was about it. Subsequently he denied having anything to do with the "accident," which he came to blame on her own dragon tattoo. This was the age of magic and miracles, wasn't it? Well, the tattoo had miraculously, if only for an instant, come to life. He had distinctly seen it happen out of the corner

of his eye. At first she didn't believe he was serious. When she saw that he was, she asked tenderly if he was feeling all right. He actually snapped at her with his great gaping mouth. After that she half expected him to start foaming at the mouth, to suffer a convulsion, to fall down and beat his head against the ground or present some other evidence of having gone fatally mad. But he spoke coolly and disdainfully. He knew what he had seen. Her own dragon had caused the damage. If she chose not to believe him, that was her affair. He refused to shoulder the responsibility for her shortcomings-her paranoia, her lack of good faith, her ill humor, and so on. He scowled. He spoke through a tight, barely moving mouth His thick iridescent tail, which she so admired, thumped the ground with impa-

She turned and ran into the woods. The trees and hanging vines flew past her like phantoms, like mist, not quite real. In a delirium she ran from him, cursing him, calling him crazy, calling herself crazy to have stayed with him as long as she had. She might have raced on clear to the palace except that she ran out of breath. When she slowed down, the trees, the vines, the path she followed became solid and real again. She smelled smoke and came to a full stop. Let him burn himself to a crisp. Let him burn the whole forest down for all I care, I won't go back, she said to herself even as she turned around.

The fire he'd started wasn't particularly big. Only about half an acre of dry grass went. It just smoked badly. Even after the fire was out, soot smudged the sky for

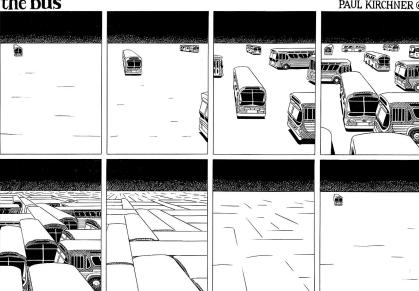
"I'm doomed," he moaned when she found him. "I've destroyed the most wonderful thing in my life: your love for me. I have no right to it anymore. What do I, the most miserable creature in the universe, have to offer you, after all? A lifetime of living with an outcast? Of living as an outcast? You were right to leave. The noblest thing I ever did was to drive you away. My deepest wish is for your happiness. I am lost, wholly lost. I see that now. Not even you can save me. The best thing for you to do is go.'

Naturally she stayed. They did not live happily ever after nor did they live entirely unhappy. Their pattern was one of fights, reconciliations, and periods of truce. They grew accustomed to it. Mysterious fires were spotted in the forest from time to time. The townspeople grew accustomed to that.

The Dragon remained a Dragon. Though his claim to have been a prince was wishful invention; his tale of the wicked witch and her spell was brazen fabrication.

From the upcoming book, Enchantment (Ballantine Books) due out this month.

the bus PAUL KIRCHNER ©



COMING:

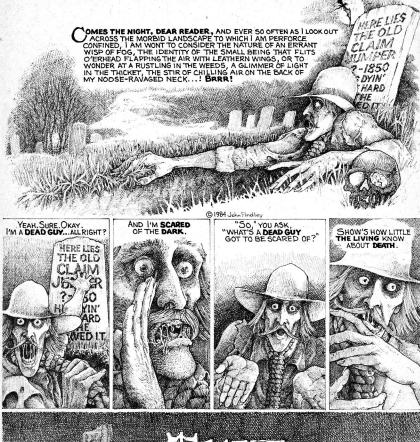
Interview with Supergirl director Jeannot Szwarc The return of Alice in Wonderland: the phenomena continues. Gallery: A look at Philip Jose Farmer's The Grand Adventure.

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Len Mogel, Publisher





SYNOPSIS

OUR STORY TAKES PLACE SOMETIME DURING THE LAST QUARTER OF THE LAST CENTURY. SOMEWHERE OUT WEST, IN OR NEAR THE SMALL TOWN OF HANGMAN'S CORNERS.



INDER CIRCUMSTANCES TOO ABSURD, GHASTLY AND COMPLI-CATED TO DESCRIBE, HERPAND SWEAZ, TWO UNDERSIZED BEINGS FROM ANOTHER TIME AND SPACE - DEMONS, ACTUALLY - WERE CONJURED UP AND THEN ABANDONED IN HANGMAN'S CORNERS ACCUSED OF INDECENT EXPOSURE AND JAILED BY A GROUP OF BLUENOSED BIGOTS, HERP AND SWEAZ ESCAPED AND EMBARKED UPON AN EVENT-FILLED ODYSSEY IN SEARCH OF TEXARCANA AND, MORE PARTICULARLY, HIS COMPANION, THE MAGIC AND MYSTICAL WOMAN

IN WHITE WHO, THEY BELIEVE, HAS THE POWER TO RETURN THEM TO WHEREVER IT IS THAT THEY COME FROM .

MEANWHILE, THE LOCAL SHERIFF, A SIMPLE GOOD-HEARTED SOUL WHO FEELS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE CIRCUMSTANCES AND WELL-BEING OF THE TWO SMALL STRANGERS, HAS RIDDEN OUT INTO THE WILDERNESS TO FIND THEM BEFORE THEY COME TO SOME SORT OF HARM. ACCOMPANYING THE SHERIFF IS A DISPARATE ASSEMBLY OF VARIOUSLY-MOTIVATED VOLUNTEERS. ONE OF THESE, AN ODDLY INDIVIDUALISTIC CHARACTER NAMED BUFFALO WADE ACTUALLY ENCOUNTERED HERP AND SWEAZ AS THEY WERE INVESTIGATING A BIZARRE AND GRISLY CORPSE. BUT THIS WAS PRIOR TO HIS MEETING UP WITH THE SHERIFF AND THE SEARCH PARTY SO, HAVING NO IDEA WHO, OR INDEED, WHAT HERP AND SWEAZ WERE, FIRED UPON THEM, FORTUNATELY, WADE MISSED AND THE TWO WERE UNHARMED.

NOW, IT IS AT THIS POINT THAT THE TWO PRINCIPLE DIRECTIONS OF OUR STORY INTERSECT, BECAUSE THE ABOVEMENTIONED GRISLY CORPSE IS ONE OF A SERIES OF UNFORTUNATE VICTIMS OF AN

ABOMINABLY VILE SPECTOR CALLED HERR KLEID WHO IS ABLE TO GAIN A PAGANO HERR KLEID HIDEOUS DEATH SPAWNED A CURIOUS MYSTERY

PHYSICAL SUBSTANCE BY THE POSSESSION AND OCCU-PATION OF CLOTH FARRIC* THIS-GOBLIN. IS WHAT HE IS - ACCOMPANIES AND EXERTS SOME STRANGE HOLD UPON NUNZIO PAGANO, VIOLINIST EXTRA-· ORDINAIRE AND SELF-STYLED TOAST OF EUROPE . WHO HAS COME TO HANGMAN'S CORNERS TO PERFORM A "ONE NIGHT STAND" AT THE NOOSE AND GIBBET SALOON. KLEID AND PAGANO HAVE TAKEN ROOMS AT THE STAID BOARDING HOUSE OF THE EMINENTLY RESPECTABLE WIDOW BURNS.

IT IS HERE THAT KLEID FINDS HIS NEXT TWO VICTIMS. THE COMELY PALOMA SUE. WHO WAS RECUED FROM A HIDEOUS DEATH BY THE INTERVENTION OF PAGANO,

AND THE REVOLTING WIDOW BLACK WHO WAS NOT RESCUED AND WHOSE

WHEN IT WAS DISCOVERED, DURING A PRELIMINARY POST-MORTEM EXAMINATION, THAT THE LONG-TIME RESIDENT OF HANGMAN'S CORNERS WAS, IN POINT OF FACT, A MAN. BUT, WHO?

AS WE REJOIN OUR STORY, THE WIDOW BURNS IS DISCUSSING ASPECTS OF THE MYSTERY WITH DOC MASON, THE TOWN PHYSICIAN AND MEDICAL EXAMINER.



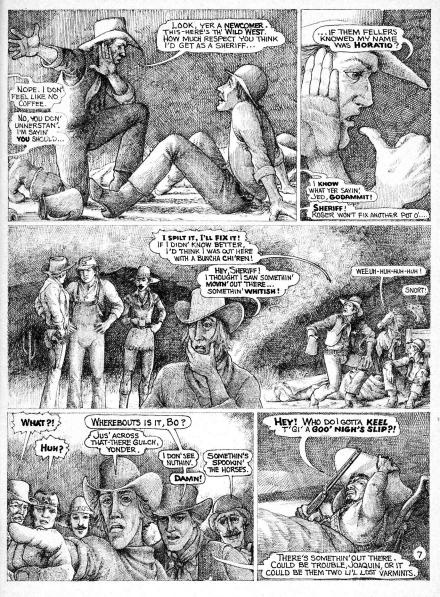
I'M SORRY. I'M UNABLE TO RESIST MENTIONING THE PUN: HE ACTUALLY MATERIALIZES !!

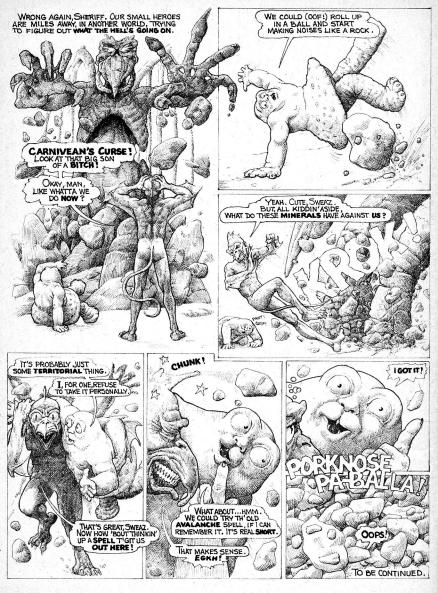


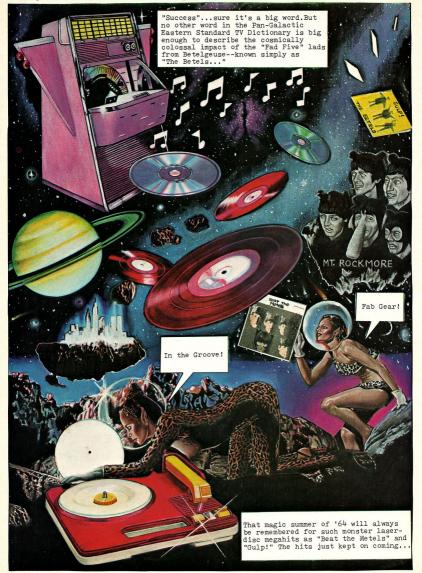












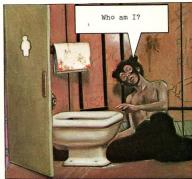


Naturally, the strain of touring and the sudden acquisition of vast wealth, had it's effect on the boys--except for Rocky Starzborne. While Jon squandered billions on medical research to find diseases for new drugs....



And Drongo roamed the galaxy collecting rings from surrounding planets, Gorge and Pal bought, sold and bankrupted entire star-systems in a real-life version of Cosmonopoly.





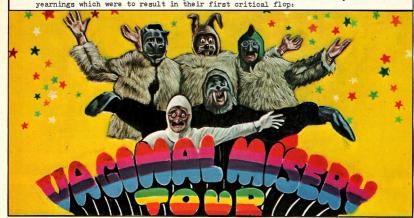








Later that week, the band called a press conference to set out the new mystical yearnings which were to result in their first critical flop:









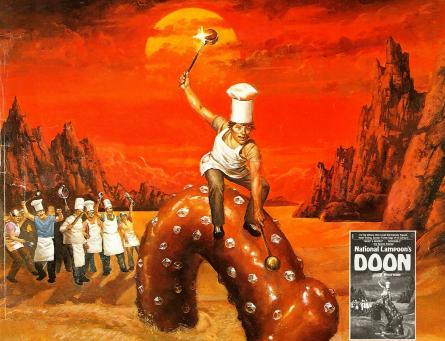


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