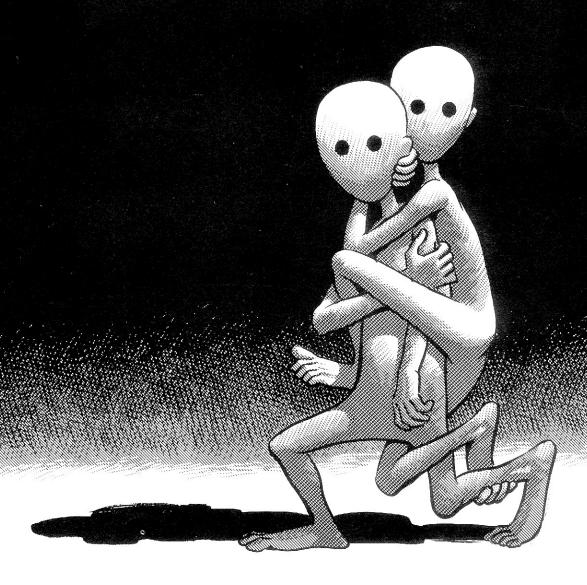
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NO.3

ONE DOLLAR





BOMB PEKING! GIVE INDIANS THE VOTE! STATEHOOD FOR ARKANSAS!

Sure, we could have opinions. We could manufacture a point of view. But the Saturday Review and the Times have all the writers we wanted. And second rate words just take up space.

Besides which, we're not in the opinion business. WITZEND's function is to serve as a forum for the innovators of popular art, for the benefit of the limited but ardent audience who appreciate their efforts. If our potential contributors have something to say, we're delighted to offer them the place to say it. And if they just want to show how well they can handle a brush, that's okay too. Our only criterion is quality, in either case.

Anyhow...who wants to look at a year old Saturday Review?!

Cover by Wood Back cover by Al Williamson



Art by the Dillons

Publisher WALLACE WOOD

Editor BILL PEARSON

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Censor BUBBLES LaTOUR

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FOOLS WILL TELL YOU THAT THERE CAN BE NO HONEST PERSON! THAT THERE ARE NO BLACKS OR WHITES
THAT EVERYONE IS GRAY! BUT IF THERE ARE NO BLACKS OR WHITES, THERE CANNOT EVEN BE A GRAY... SINCE GRAYNESS IS JUST A MIXTURE OF BLACK AND WHITE! SO WHEN ONE KNOWS WHAT IS BLACK, EVIL, AND WHAT IS WHITE, GOOD, THERE CAN BE NO JUSTIFICATION FOR CHOOSING ANY PART OF EVIL! THOSE WHO DO SO CHOOSE, ARE NOT GRAY BUT BLACK AND EVIL ... AND THEY WILL BE TREATED ACCORDINGLY!



ANGEL, THE COPS SPOT-TED US COMING OUT OF THE JEWELRY STORE WINDOW! 50 WHAT? THEY'LL HAVE TO CATCH US TO PROVE YOU SURE IT WAS ANGEL YOU SAW, MIKE? OKAY, YOU TAKE THIS SIDE!



ANGEL! COME OUT! MAKE IT EASY ON YOURSELF! DON'T BE FOOLISH ... YOU CAN'T GET AWAAA... *@& m: COPS.'
LIKE EVERYONE ELSE.
ALWAYS PICKING ON
ME...TELLING ME,
WHAT TO DO!
NOT THIS TIME!



COME ON, STUPID! THAT'S ONE COP THAT WON'T BOTHER ANY-ONE AGAIN! WHY DID YOU DO IT ? WE COULD OF GOT AWAY... WHY? MIKE. MIKE! MY GOD, MIKE!!! WE'LL GET HIM MIKE... WE'LL GET



NO, NOT MY ANGEL! HE'S A GOOD BOY... A MOTHER KNOWS! YOU'RE LYING!

XXV

YOU COPS ARE AFRAID OF GROWN UP CRIMINALS 50 YOU BLAME CRIMES ON KIDS!



MY ANGEL'S INNOCENT! GOD KNOWS HE IS! AND YOU GET YOUR KICKS,





AT A WELFARE CENTER ...

IT'S THE ENVIRON-

MENT! IT'S

I CAN'T BELIEVE IT! ANGEL'S HEART IS GOOD! HE'S A VERY SENSITIVE BOY AND HE FEELS THINGS VERY DEEPLY





BALONEY! ENVIRONMENT IS JUST A BUNCH OF FACTS! IT'S NOT WHAT A PERSON SEES THAT DE-TERMINES HIS CHARACTER. IT'S THE THINKING HE DOES, OR FAILS TO DO, ABOUT WHAT HE SEES! YOU SHOULD'VE GOT ANGEL TO USE HIS HEAD TO THINK WITH IN-STEAD OF HIS SENSITIVE FEELINGS OR HEART!

IN THE BACKROOM OF A LOCAL PAWN SHOP ... YOU'RE A LIAR, MORG! YOU'RE MIXED UP IN A FENCING SET UP. TAKING THE STUFF KIDS

I KNOW NOTHING! I'M CLEAN AND YOU CAN'T PROVE OTHER-WISE .. COP!

AND I DON'T SCARE! I KNOW MY RIGHTS! NO ONE PUSHES ME AROUND! AND I DON'T LIKE YOU GUYS COMING HERE ... YOU GIVE MY PLACE A BAD NAME!

No.

YOU'LL SLIP







A LITTLE LATER MORG ... HE .. HE GIVE ME THIS ...















THE TIME IT TAKES TO SAVE ANGEL COULD MAKE THE DIFFER-ENCE IF YOU LIVE OR DIE! DO YOU WANT TO DIE HERETO SLOWLY BLEED TO DEATH WHILE I TRY TO SAVE ANGEL! YOU TELL ME ... YES ... OR NO!



THE CHOICE IS YOURS. WHO DO YOU WANT TO LIVE? IT CAN'T, TO LIVE? IT CAN'T BE BOTH OF YOU! TELL ME WHO IS TO DIE ? WHO?





WHO SHOULD MAKE IT FOR YOU? WHO SHOULD DECIDE IF YOU LIVE OR DIE! EVERYONE BUT YOU ?











NO, YOU DON'T WANT TO DIE! BUT YOU'RE ASHAMED TO SAY YOU WANT TO LIVE! LEFT TO YOU ... YOU'D MAKE NO DECISION! YOU'D RATHER LET YOURSELF DIE THAN ADMIT YOUR LIFE IS MORE IMPOR-TANT TO YOU THAN THE LIFE OF A KILLER!



I HAVE NO MERCY OR COM-PASSION FOR AGGRESSORS ... ONLY FOR THEIR VICTIMS ... FOR THE INNOCENT! TO HAVE ANY
THE INNOCENT! TO HAVE ANY
SYMPATHY FOR A KILLER IS
AN INSULT TO THEIR VICTIMS.
EVEN IF YOU WEREN'T HURT...
I WOULDN'T HAVE SAVED
ANGEL!



Gypsy rambler
In your highway shoes
Passing through
What will you do
When you
Realize
There's no place left
To go
And nobody
To go with you
If there was?
Go ahead—
Walk away
From me

All right then Leave But just don't call me Baby In your goodbye As you leave me stranded In this drunken desert With nothing but Myself To hold on to And not even a Handful Of that and when they ask me All I'll tell them is More or less The same as ever.

In worldly-wizened air condition
The Wizard of the Wierd
Meditates on his position
And strokes his long grey beard.
The mealy mouth moves with a creak
And slowly sallies forth,
So blandly it begins to speak,
"I think, for what it's worth,
That those too deadly dumb to die
Most often go beserk,
But no one seems amused much by
The queerness of this quirk."

prophesies
of the past
rattling in the static
that comes
when the buttons
are pushed
fading
as a candle
in the silent explosion
of future's dream
with never a
rhyme or reason
and the face of
society
frozen in mirthless glee.



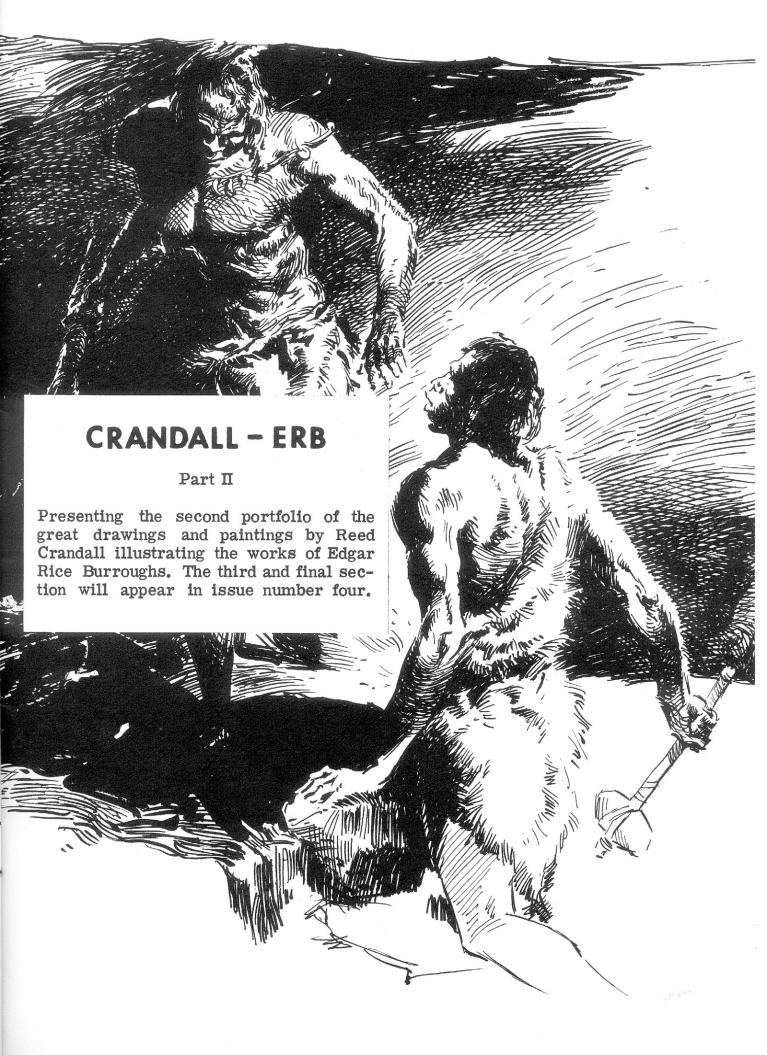
A mind Standing open I go in To find its owner And meet only Locked closets And empty rooms Except for the Bats Erratic and Aimless Driving me To music Nobody home And I thought I was an Oasis

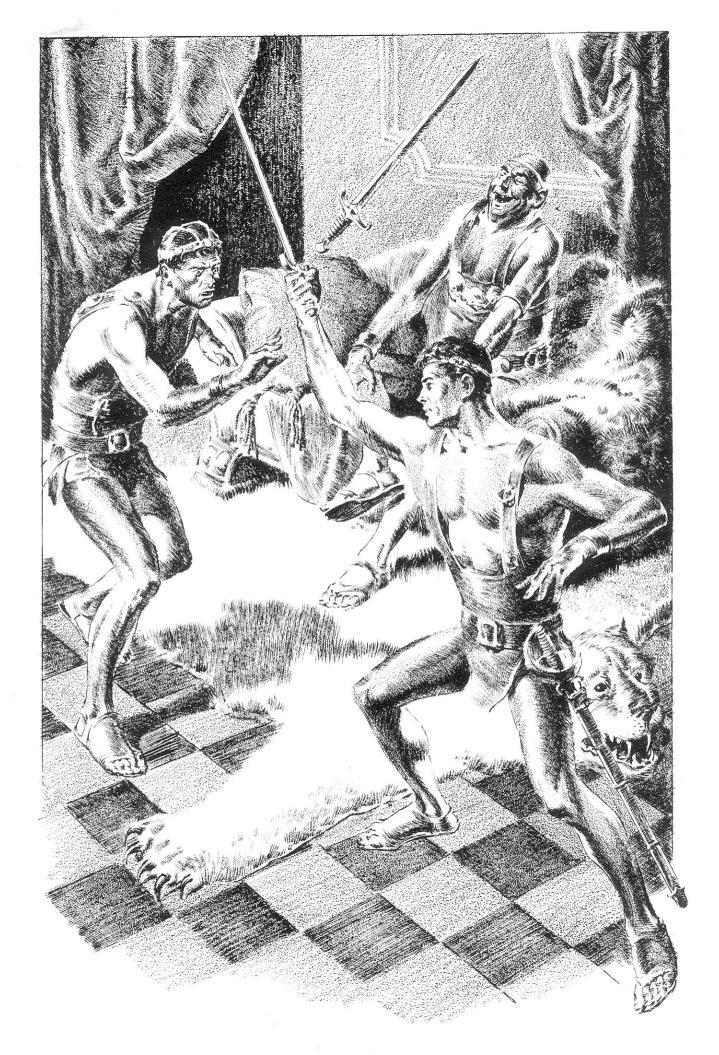
The Ghosts of future Could-be lovers, Their substance as yet unresolved, Condemned to wander, Forever falling, Always calling, Seducing me Inducing me To please not stop Believing in them Lest they drop from sight And be lost forever, Convincing me What a fine thing Loneliness Can be, As I wait So patiently For them to become Three Dimensional.

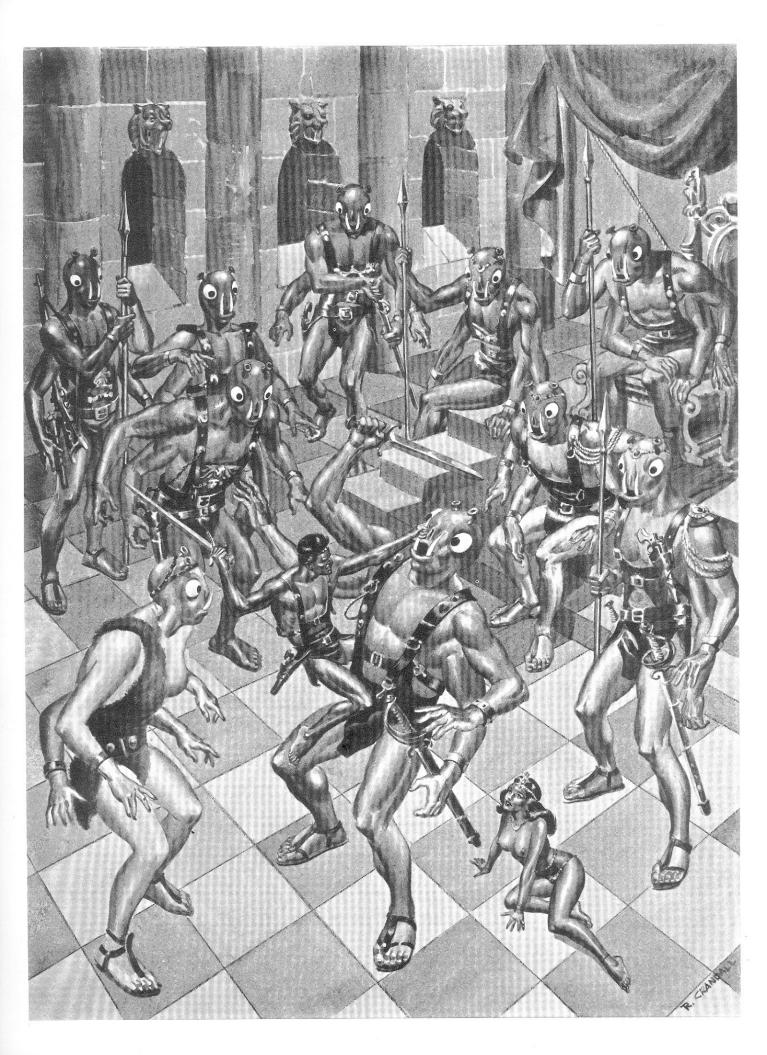
poetry by RALPH REESE

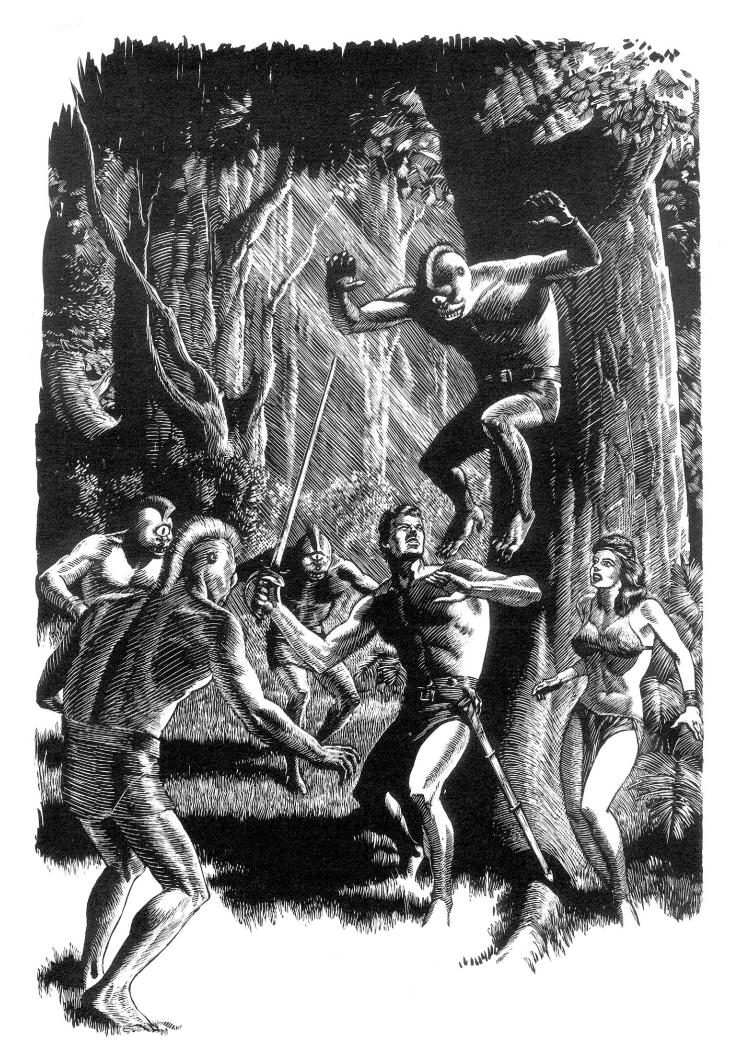
illustration by LEO and DIANE DILLON

A summer's day A rainy night And it's over Already And that was All there is A face Lips moving But words are Gone Only sounds And the eyes Dying Say a silent prayer For peace A kiss A moment But always A chasm And no wings And nothing To remember









AT A BUSY INTERSECTION, BLIND LITTLE HAROLD SUNSHINE PLYS HIS HUM-BLE TRADE...



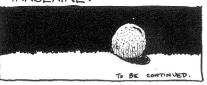


HAROLD IS NOT LE-GALLY BLIND, YOU SEE, ONLY ONE (1) THOUGHT COURSES THROUGH HIM

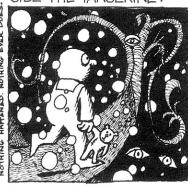




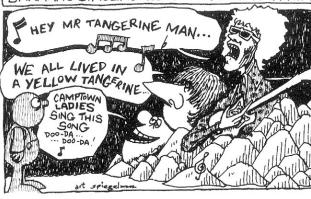
... AND HIDES IN A NEAR-BY TANGERINE!



BLIND LITTLE HAROLD SUNSHINE WANDERS IN-SIDE THE TANGERINE.



THE "ORANGE-YOU-GLAD-I-DIDN'T-SAY-BANANAS" SINGERS LOOM IN HIS PATH ...

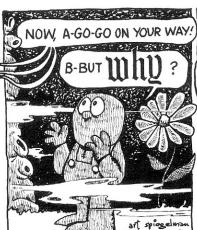


UH - WOULD YOU BUY SOME CAULIFLOWER GEEDS, GOOD SIRS?

CO

LORDY, WHAT A STRANGE COMIC STRIP!







LITTLE HAROLD SUNSHINE RECALLS THE SINGERS WARNINGS...



CONSTRUCTION OF THE STATE OF TH

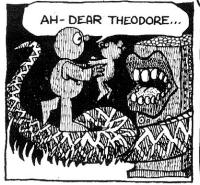
THE TERRORS OF THE MENACING MUSHROOMS ...



AND PAST THE AWESOME EVILS OF THE BOTTOMLESS ORANGE PITS...



HAROLD PLODS FOR-WARD ON HIS PICA-RESQUE PATH ...











WHILE HAROLD TRAVELS ON; SOMEWHERE IN NEW YORK ...











YES, FOLKS, THIS IS YOUR LAST CHANCE TO COME ON DOWN AND LOOK OVER OUR STOCK!... AND MAYBE EVEN BE ONE!... SO YALL COME! WITH EVERY CAN OF FOLGER'S COFFEE, WE'RE GIVING AWAY A BRAND-NEW CHEVY IMPALA! YAHOO! NOW'S THE TIME!

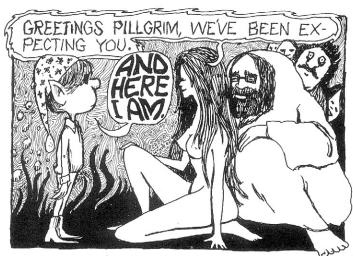


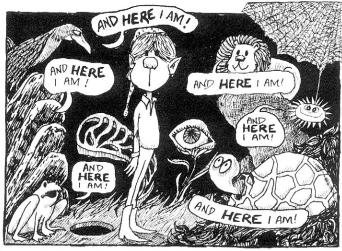












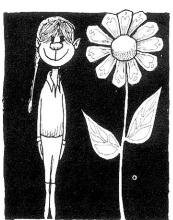


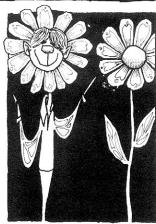


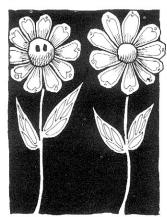










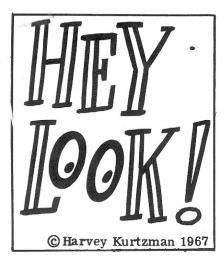


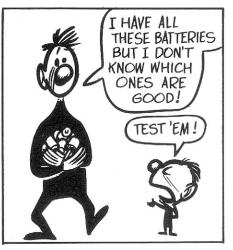






YES- LAY WITH YOUR CELLS, AND BECOME YOUR OWN FOOD!





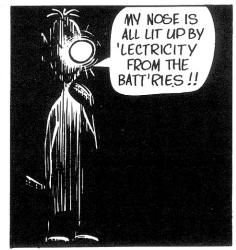














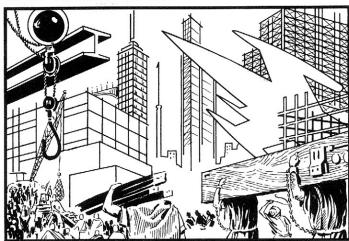








BUT I COULDN'T FORGET THE BOTCHED UP JOB THOSE WINO CARPENTERS HAD MADE OF OUR TREE-HOUSE, AND OF THE EFFORT IT HAD TAKEN TO UNDO THE DAMAGE...



AND I KEPT REMEMBERING THE WAY IT HAD BEEN THAT SUMMER... MONTHS OF LAUGHTER AND GAMES, TRAPPING SQUIRRELS.



THE BARBED WIRE WAS MURDER, BUT WE COULDN'T RESIST THE DELICATE AROMA OF FRESH



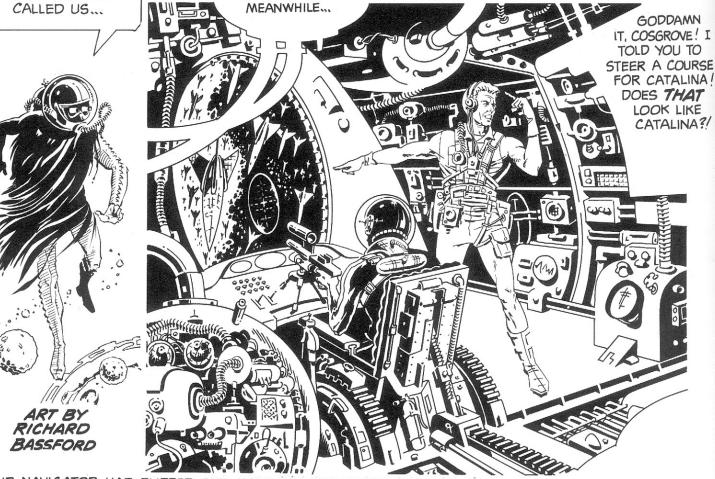
WHO CAN FORGET THAT POIGNANT MESSAGE AS IT WAS BROADCAST THROUGHOUT THE BEACH AREA: "WOULD MRS. GINSBERG OF 3/3 TONAWANDA AVENUE, SAG HARBOR, PLEASE REPORT TO AREA 3 ON THE





YES, WE WERE
HOOKED ON WATERMELON SEEDS! WE
GLUTTED OURSELVES
UNTIL OUR EYES
BUGGED OUT AND
OUR UNDERWEAR
SHREDDED. THEY
CALLED US...

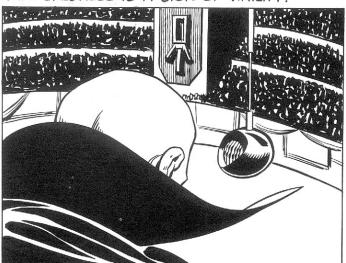
ENVADERS.



OUR NAVIGATOR HAD FLIPPED OUT. WE WERE GROUNDED ON CONEY ISLAND, AND SURROUNDED BY HOSTILE BATHERS! IT WAS PAINFULLY OBVIOUS THERE WEREN'T ANY WATERMELONS WITHIN MILES. IRONICALLY, THERE ARE NO WATERMELONS ON CATALINA, EITHER. THERE AREN'T EVEN ANY CANTALOUPES ON CATALINA.



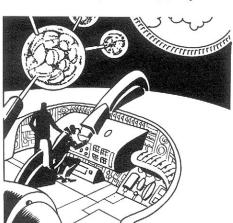
MEANWHILE, THE MAYOR OF SAG HARBOR CALLED A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL: "FIRST OF ALL, IT'S BEEN DEFINITELY ESTABLISHED THAT BALDNESS IS A SIGN OF VIRILITY!"



BUT HIS SPEECH CAME TOO LATE -- ONCE GENTLE CITIZENS WERE STORMING THE WATERMELON CANNERY!



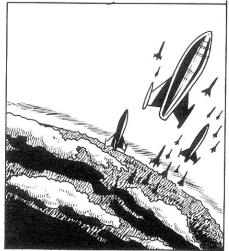
THE CAPTAIN'S HOARSE WHISPER SENT A CHILL OF TERROR UP THE NAVIGATOR'S SPINE "HURRY, COSGROVE, HURRY! I KEEP IMAGIN - ING IMMENSE WATERMELON SEEDS HANGING OVER OUR HEADS!"



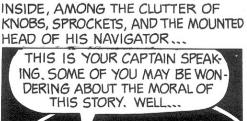
HEH, HEH! YES, DEAR READER, YOU SEE, THOSE TERRIBLE, SMOOTH - SKINNED ALIENS WERE ACTUALLY THE ORIGINAL EARTH SPECIES. WE DEFEATED THEM BACK IN THE TWENTIETH CENTURY.



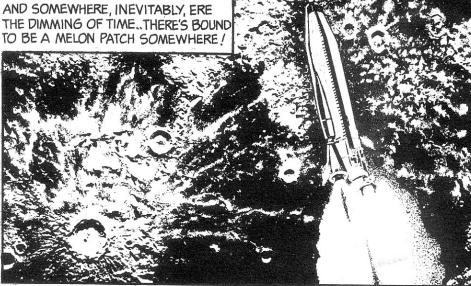
WITH A MIGHTY THRUST OF POWER, THE SPACESHIPS DRAW AWAY FROM THE BADLY DRAWN EARTH...



THE INFINITY OF SPACE A MILLION SUNS AND A MILLION WORLDS FOR THESE NASTY RASCALS TO ROAM! AND SOMEWHERE, INEVITABLY, ERE THE DIMMING OF TIME...THERE'S BOUND TO BE A MELON PATCH SOMEWHERE!













... YOU'RE TRYING TO



"PON'T BE ABSURP. OF
LOURSE YOU DO. WHAT
YOU DON'T PEALIZE
19, I KNOW I'M INSANE,
BY PSYCHOLOGY'S STANDARPS. AND I HAVE NO
QUARREL. I'M NUTS...
ALL RIGHT... SO WHAT..?

"...I PON'T CARE I'M SATISFYING A DESIRE, TO KILL SOMEONE, AND YOU CAN'T TELL ME I'M WPONG, BECAUSE IT'S NOT UP TO YOU. IT'S ALL ARBITRARY, RIGHT! ALL YOUR THOUGHTS, ACTIONS, ALL OF MINE, BEGIN WITH UNPROVABLE ASSUMPTIONS, RIGHT? PIGHT?...YOU CAN'T SAY I'M WIZONG OF COURSE, I CAN'T SAY IT'S UP TO ME, EITHER ... BUT I DON'T CARE ALL I CARE ABOUT IS WHAT I WANT TO DO: KILL SOMEBODY: ...YOU SO I'M GOING TO: 17'S AS SIMPLE AS THAT ... "



THE VICTIM'S HANDS AND EYEBROWS
TWITCHED AND PARTED UNCONTROLLABLY
WITH FRUSTRATION AND USELESSNESS. HE
KNEW THAT NEITHER LOGIC NOR EMOTIONAL
COW-TOWING COULD SAVE HIS LIFE. A FINAL
PIRECTION OF PESPERATION OCCURRED
TO HIM: IF HE COULD MAKE HIS OPPONENT
ANGRY, THE MADMAN MIGHT SEE HIM AS AN
INDIVIDUAL, WITH WHOM HE WAS "EMOTIONALLY
INVOLVED"...



HE TRIED ACTING



... CONDESCENDING ...

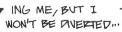


GOING TO



THE MANIAL BECAME

I STILL AM NOT STUPIO. "YOU'VE SUCCEEPED IN ANGER-











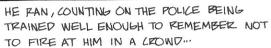
ONE OF THE SIX BULLETS TORE THE VICTIM'S STOMACH . TWO NEGTED ONE IN EACH ARM.



... THE OTHER THREE MISSED COMPLETELY, THOUGH TWO OF THEM HIT AN INNOCENT PASSERBY ...



THE KILLER WALKED OFF TO URINATE (COULDN'T) AND RE-TURNED, ANGRIER YET, TO SEE FOUR WAITING POLICEMEN.









HE RAN OUT OF THE OFFICE BUILDING, DOWN BRICK STEPS, PAST A BRICK WALL OF A HALF-DOZEN BRICK BUILDINGS AND AROUND THE CORNER AT A FORTY-DEGREE ANGLE ...









... TO FIND HIMSELF IN A BLIND ALLEY.



CATTON DOGGEREL

Owen Morley is a bounder That much I know for certain For he's gone and made a dash Behind the ruddy Iron Curtain!

EX ASPIRATION

Contemplate the human race But give me the middle class The heroes of the market place Polishing the bosses' brass

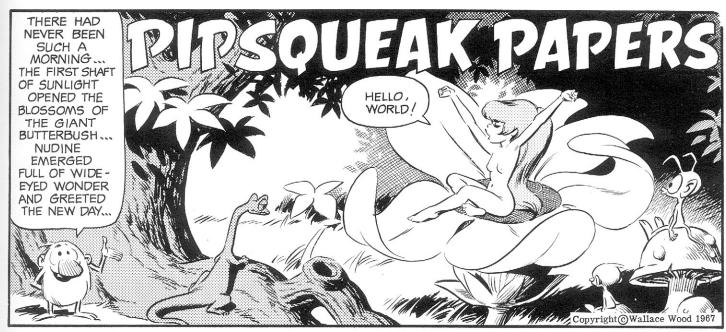
In office and in industry We find in sets of noble poses Tomorrow's men of destiny Digging gold mines with their noses.

THE ABILENE KID

Of all the mean villains who roamed the wild west There was one much more nasty than all of the rest. It is simply too awful to tell all he did... That black-hearted scoundrel, the Abilene Kid!

His guns roared in anger for the vaguest cause And he broke, at least once, everyone of the laws. But no matter how many the rascal mowed down, Folks laughed themselves silly when he came to town.

The Abilene Kid was a killer, it's true — But he had one dark secret that everyone knew. The fact is, that hombre was an out and out fake, An aging ex-barber from up near Salt Lake.



COMING UPON A HUMANOID FIGURE, SHE ASKED HER ETERNAL QUESTION ...



SHE RECEIVED NO REPLY, AND THEREFORE FELL IN LOVE AT ONCE... BUT DETERMINED TO RESUME HER QUEST, WHEN...



IT WAS PIP, WHO PERIODIC-ALLY APPEARED TO PROFESS HIS UNDYING DEVOTION...





CRESTFALLEN BUT RESOLUTE, THE TINY SUITOR PLEADED HIS CASE WITH HIS USUAL ARDOR



SOMEWHAT
SUBDUED, BUT
DECLARING
THE ETERNAL
NATURE OF HIS
DEATHLESS
LOVE, PIP WENT
HIS WAY.. AND
WHEN NUDINE
RETURNED
TO HER BOWER,
SHE FOUND
A PRESENT
WAITING...



OPENING THE PACKAGE EAGERLY, SHE EXTRACTED ITS CONTENTS WITH A GLAD LITTLE CRY...



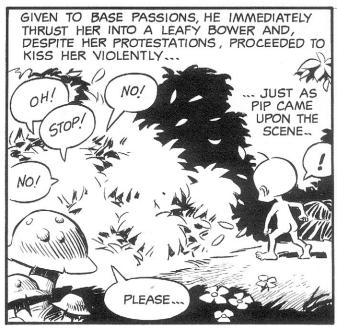
...AND TOOK IT, AND LOVINGLY PREPARED IT AND COOKED IT...







VIRTUES ...









TREMBLING WITH







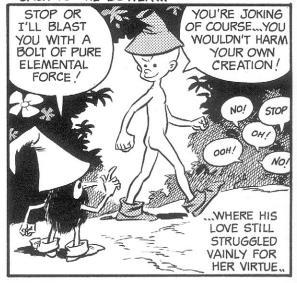
IGNORING SMUG'S THREATS, PIP SLAMMED THE LID , AND A STARTLING TRANSFORMA-TION OCCURRED.



AS HE TOOK CONTROL, THE HUMANOID BODY ASSUM-ED HIS PIPSQUEAK PERSONALITY!



IGNORING THE ANGUISHED CRIES OF THE SCIENTIST, HE GUIDED HIS NEW-FOUND BODY BACK TO THE BOWER...



...THEN, LAYING HANDS UPON THE UNSUSPECTING LLEWD, BELABORED HIM IN A MANNER TOO HORRIBLE FOR WORDS...









.. AS THEY PONDERED THE QUESTION, THE FALLEN LLEWD RECOVERED HIS SENSES SOMEWHAT...

CUT OFF
HIS HEAD!
KNOW. THAT
SEEMS JUST
A TRIFLE
DRASTIC...

"AND DISCREETLY REMOVED HIMSELF TO SAFER GROUND."



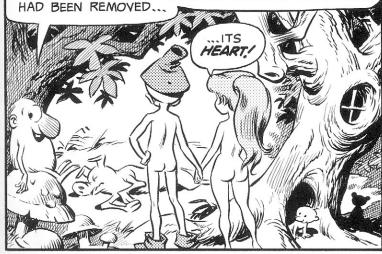
... AND THEN NUDINE REALLY LOOKED AT HER RESCUER FOR THE FIRST TIME AND REALIZED THAT SHE HAD BEEN IN LOVE WITH HIM EVER SINCE THEIR FIRST MEETING...



OH, I JUST KNOW YOU'RE GOING TO FORCE ME TO YOUR WILL AND DESTROY MY VIRTUE.



AND SO NUDINE GOT HER MAN, AND PIP GOT THE GIRL HE LOVED (WITHOUT HER BEING ANY THE WISER) AND AS THEY BLISSFULLY STROLLED TOGETHER THROUGH THE BUTTERBUSH BLOSSOMS THEY CAME UPON THE CARCASS OF A TREE-PIG FROM WHICH A VITAL ORGAN



THEN THE REALIZATION CAME...





THE ENd

MUSSA slapped her a few times. Without a moments hesitation, then, she'll attack me with the fury of a demon witch. But it though it had never happened. SAM KOBISH

Her name is Vanessa, because that's what I call her.

Usually she doesn't wear any clothes at all. I prefer her naked . . . The clean whiteness of her body, the delight of my eye every hour of the day, the soft warmness of her, the delight of my body at nature's most subtle whim.

She was born on July 27th, 1970, which makes her only 23 at this writing. Only a child in years, but a matriarch of compassion, blessed with the serenity that would be expected only of one who has borne many children and learned the rewards of tolerance. When I'm anxious, when the pressure rises, Vanessa pulls my head between her breasts as though I were a babe in arms, and holds me there in that tender fold, lulling my senses with the beat of her heart until I'm calm again. I simply couldn't make it without her.

Vanessa is all woman, and all the woman I could hope to handle. Gentle as a kitten normally, she can turn mean as a hellcat if provoked. And it's happened a few times, I think understandably, and mostly on account of me. Well, no...completely on account of me and my occasional mood. Whenever I call her, she's there. Always the same, just as I love her to be. Smiling. Eager to please me with every move she makes. I suppose that's the reason I sometimes get angry. It makes me a little edgy at times to see her always with the same complacent attitude. I'll admit, I've

never lasts long. And it seems just as soon as my hostility wears thin, she melts again into my tender mate, forgiving me as

But truly, this is a seldom occurrence. We spend days, she and I, in perfect harmony, performing our routine tasks as they were assigned.

Vanessa's eyes are blue-green, and heavylidded. The sockets set very deep, giving her face a lovely dramatic shadow. Her cheekbones are high, almost like those of a classic American Indian. Her lips are full and a deep rich red.

She has golden hair. Not blonde, or even yellow...but golden, shining like a brilliant nova in the galaxy.

She dances for me. Innocently seductive or blatantly erotic, whichever is my choice. And not at all self-conscious or awkward, despite her innately modest nature. Delicate but full-fleshed, she has the grace of a wild young doe ... swirling sheer silk about her as if she were teasing the patrons of a cellar cafe in the Casbah. Eagerly she writhes to the rhythmic beat, controlling the muscles of her blushing body like a precision machine. And when the dance is over, my Vanessa falls limp into my waiting arms. Panting, moist, and supplicant to my desire.

I study her, trying to retain the magnificence of her and cherish it with the full intensity of my awareness. Her neck...softly I touch the throat, feel the hot blood coursing beneath my fingers. Her breasts ... wondrously white. Erect and proud, but magically pneumatic to the caress of my hands, my lips. Her nipples are the most subtle pink, somehow still starkly in contrast to the marshmallow tone of her breasts.

Vanessa's body is a delight to me. I tell her so, and she responds with a charm unexcelled, divine. In this way we make love, hour upon hour. We're perfect together, and never is one sated but the other content. We sleep the sleep of the angels in heaven, locked in loving embrace.

Having a great deal of time, naturally I've come to know most every detail of her life. I was surprised at how much the girl had packed into her short life, and she's kept me guite entranced for hours on end with humorous and exciting anecdotes out of her past. We have many things in common, in fact, and have come to share a philosophy that only two very close souls could formulate in such deep and personal terms.

I've laughed with her as she related the amusing incident when, as a young girl, her skirt had fallen around her legs at a birthday party...and cried with her as she recalled the painful memory of her mother's last few days of life.

She, in turn, sits quietly beside me, resting her head in my lap, listening patiently as I bore her with all the pent-up frustrations and dreams a man can store up in thirty-odd years. We'll eventually be parted, and we're both resigned to it. As I said at the outset, her strength and faithfulness is my only retention with sanity.

Without her warmth to comfort me, I'd freeze in this small compartment. It would be so cold here alone-cold as only the emptiness of eternity can be.

Psychologically, she's all I need, but sometimes I still remember.

Physically, she's almost perfect. Except her eyeballs keep popping out, and her tongue floats freely in her mouth when it's open. I assume it's the pressure, and suggest more extensive in-atmosphere testing on the next model.



MANE TRALLIS IS ALMOST AN ANIMAL NOW. IT WAS AN EVOLU-TION, NOT A SUDDEN THING . HE EATS WITH HIS HANDS, WASHES RARELY, WEARS A LOINCLOTH ONLY TO PROTECT HIS GROIN AND AS A BELT IN WHICH TO HOLSTER HIS KNIFE . HIS WOMAN HE STOLE LIKE A THIEF IN THE NIGHT, WHEN SHE WAS A SCRAWNY CHILD OF NINE, WHILE HER PARENTS PROBABLY DREAMED SWEET DREAMS OF ROASTING THE GIRL FOR A MIDDAY FEAST. ALL OF THIS LANE GENTLY EXPLAINED IN DETAIL AS HE RAPED HER REPEATEDLY IN REPLY TO HER TEARS. NOW SHE SHARES HIS FATE WITH FAITHFUL PASSIVITY, AS HE CHALLENGES FATE TO TAKE THE ...





THEY'VE COME ON A DESPERATE MISSION... FOR A
LEGEND WAS BORN TO EASE
THE DESPAIR OF THE FEW
LIKE THESE WHO REMAIN.
SELDOM WHISPERED, FOR
PERSONAL MEETINGS ARE
RARE--YET SCRATCHED IN
THE WOOD, IN THE DUST
WHERE IT MIGHT BE SEEN:
"IN THE HALL OF THE
ETERNAL SPIRIT, WAITS
THE HUMAN SALVATION!"









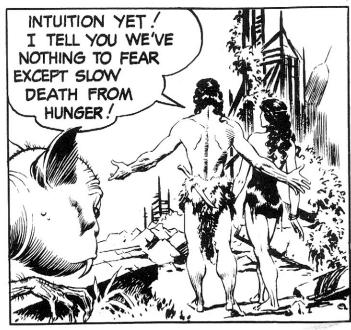
































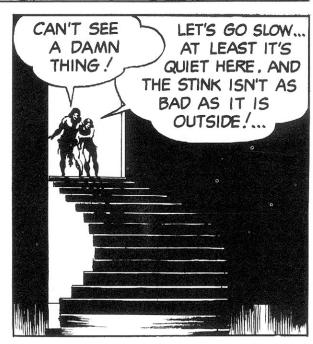






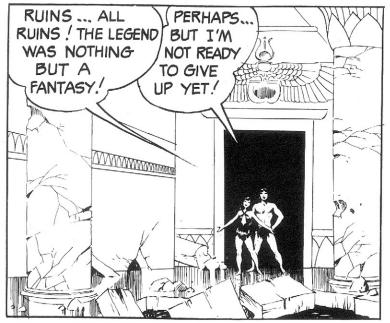
















THERE WASN'T MUCH LEFT EXCEPT FEAR AFTER THE FIRST BARRAGE OF BOMBS LEVELED THE MAJOR CITIES. WHAT REMAINED HAS BECOME A SEWER OF PESTILENCE FOR THE RAGGED SURVIVORS. SOON THEY WILL WITHER LIKE UPROOTED FLOWERS ON A GUTTED BATTLEFIELD, UNLESS.....



















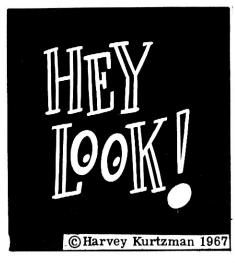






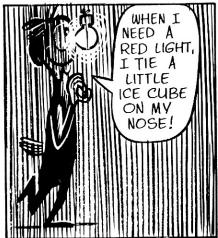
















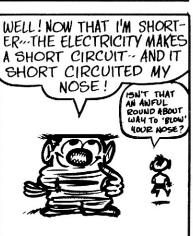












Contents and Portents and Otherwise Words

Steve Ditko, who wrote and illustrated MR. A, is an originator as well as a stylist, and a man with ideas of his own. WITZEND is pleased to introduce his new character this issue.

Continuing our unique policy of writing comic stories after the artwork has been completed, (previous record: 12 years on "Savage World") editor Pearson jigsaw-puzzle-piddled Frazetta's 1950 pictures in 1967. Simple mathematics alone guarantees this is a new record, but publisher Wood refuses to guarantee the story. Originally the first three weeks of a proposed daily comic strip, the panels have been rearranged to form a self-contained tale. Thanks again to Frank for this fine artwork, and for the material we'll be publishing in future issues.

Another who has left the comic art field to paint is Roy G. Krenkel, whose drawings are a compliment to any book of quality artwork.

Al Williamson, Reuben award winner as best comic book artist of 1966, has since graduated to his own comic strip, Secret Agent Corrigan, (originally Agent X-9) for King Features. That particular strip is a favorite of Al's, as it was the first strip created by the legendary Alex Raymond in 1934. We hope your paper carries it, but if not...why not write a letter!

Incidentally, would anyone out there be interested in an article on the EARLY work of Frazetta and Williamson? Although no teenage productions could compete with their mature work, the potential of each was obvious even then, and definite progressions can be traced. How about a vote?

Roger Brand, Art Spiegelman, and Richard Bassford are new-comers to the comic art scene, and offer three unique styles for your enjoyment. By way of introduction. Bassford claims to be a happily married husband and father who works as a commercial artist in a Manhattan art studio. Frankly, we suspect he's hiding something. On the other hand, it may be a surprise to some of you to find out that Spiegelman is an 82-year-old retired postal clerk who began doodling to relieve his boredom, and Brand is a six-armed headless robot invented by a man named Thackery Whenk from Coeur d'Alene, Idaho.

Words from Wood

THANKS!

"What does a magazine with no editorial policy need editors for?" you may ask...

I'd like to reply, and at the same time, express my boundless appreciation for the heroic efforts of my staff, all of whom have given of their time, talents and brute strength in every capacity imaginable in connection with putting together and distributing a magazine.

I have many reasons to be grateful... and optimistic. The response to my heart-rending plea for subscriptions has been most gratifying, contributions from my fellow artists have continued to come in beyond my wildest expectations, and several publishers have run plugs and ads for WITZEND in a spirit of rampant magnanimity. It begins to look as though I may be able to keep this venture going indefinitely...But wait for my official announcement as to future plans in issue #4.

SORRY...

Time did not permit completing another installment of Animan this time, but there will be further adventures in future issues. By the way, Bucky Ruckus will not appear in WITZEND. I am currently working on a 3-week Christmas strip starring Bucky for NEA. (Why don't you write your local paper?)

C'MON FELLAS!

I've just returned a couple of manuscripts which were not accompanied by return postage, but I will NOT do this in the future. If potential contributors want their art or text returned, they MUST include a stamped, self-addressed envelope.

ZIP!

Don't forget your zip code number. The Post Office requires it on all 3rd class mail.

Please do not send additional stamps or money for first class postage, etc. Although we would like to be able to offer more personal service, time simply won't allow it.

Sketch - by Al Williamson

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