

COMICS

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THE REAL

GH~~OST~~STBUSTERS



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NOW
ON SALE!

RACER-X 6

By Steve Sullivan, Ken Penders, Rich Rankin and Marc Hansen.

Racer-X goes home for the holidays. He winds up a little too close to Stacey, which makes for a sticky situation later on. They also meet Santa! **MONTHLY!!**

ASTROBOY 17

By Ken Steacy, Brian Thomas and Marc Hansen.

It's part two of Ken Steacy's last issue. It's SLAVE'S OF THE CYBOTS! Astro Girl helps Astro out of a tough jam. **MONTHLY!!**

SPEED RACER 18

By Lamar Waldron, Joe Phillips, John Dell III, & Katherine Llewellyn

Speed, Trixie and Sparky go punk to catch The Ripper and Trixie's the decoy! **MONTHLY!!**

THE REAL GHOSTBUSTERS 7

By James Van Hise, John Tobias, Rich Rankin & Rich Powers.

The Ghost Gangsters are back! This time they have help from The Lunar Avenger and The Crimson Crimebuster. Their villain ghost is Caldoni, pasta king. **MONTHLY!!**

TERMINATOR 6

By Jack Herman, Thomas Tenney, Jim Brozman, & Rich Powers.

Part One of Terminators in the Everglades. Two heavy metal machines are holding Deffard hostage for info., and his friends have to break him out or kill him! **MONTHLY!!**

RALPH SNART 6

By Marc Hansen

Ralph Snart turns into a head banging rock and roller, when he goes to college, finds beer and women, and joins a band. Wait till his mom finds out! **MONTHLY!!**

FRIGHT NIGHT 5

Jim Van Hise, Lenin Delsol & Katherine Llewellyn

Peter and Charlie meet up with an unusual Spider-Boy, who bites the head off a Killer Clown. **MONTHLY!!**

RUST 2

By Katherine Llewellyn and Vince Locke
Scott Baker gets hooked up with a Femme Fatal. **MONTHLY!**

THE REAL GHOSTBUSTERS 7

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A GUEST EDITORIAL...BY MARC HANSEN

I feel like a weary soldier after three weeks at the front lines. My clothes tattered, blood stained. My eyes glazed over from battle shock. I thought working for a comic book company would be a piece of cake.

Actually working here at NOW Comics has been a great learning experience. For the past three years I've always been on the outside. An artist or writer can never fully understand the business until he or she has engulfed themselves in it.

I was hired on as a staff artist to help out with the other books and to edit my own book, Ralph Snart Adventures. I won't be here long though, just long enough to help out as NOW Comics expands. Starting in January I'll be returning full-time to work on new stories for RSA. I can't wait! I miss the daily grind.

Usually I work full-time as a freelance illustrator for an advertising art studio here in Chicago. I'll still dabble in that. Advertising pays a ton of money, but you get treated like a piece of meat.

As I look back on my first three weeks, I'm amazed at how much work got done. I lettered two books, did back-up inks on another, colored three, inked and colored the Astro Boy cover, and edited RSA. And that's plain laziness compared to NOW's assistant editor in chief, Katherine Llewellyn. She's a real work horse. I've gotten along great with her, except she listens to some really bizarre and obscure music.

Very primitive stuff.

For all of you youngsters and rugrats out there who want to get into this nutty business, it's not easy. Too many people trying to get jobs in the industry are googly-eyed, sweaty-palmed fan boys with no formal training. Loving and collecting comics is not something that is looked for on a resume. Go to art school, for Pete's sake.

Speaking of art school, if any of my old school chums read this, then write already. And if any of my vagabond friends from Michigan read this, then write to RSA. Speaking of letters, why don't you people write to the crazies at NOW? Of course we can't print every letter that is sent to us, but we do read them! We need your input. We need the laughs too. I've read some hilarious letters addressed to Ralph Snart.

I'm writing this little editorial on one of those new faggled machines, whattaya call 'em...oh, yeah, computers. Boy, I hate these things, they scare the bajezzas out of me. I'm only twenty-five years old. You'd think this kind of crud would be old hat, but it's like science fiction to this backward bozo. Heck, for the price of one of these babies, I could buy a good used Volkswagen Beetle, but that's another bitter story.

Oh, no, I'm running out of room. This darn machine is telling me to stop writing. Hah! I'll simply ignore this silly product of our technological insanity and continue my babble-fest! What can it do? Stop inputting? Hah! I just thought of a great story I could tell.....



THINGS ARE USUALLY PRETTY SLOW AT NIGHT, BUT THEY'RE ABOUT TO ACCELERATE IN SOME VERY UNUSUAL WAYS.



THESE GUYS NEED A NEW AGENT! THEY HUNT MONSTERS AND DON'T EVEN GET PAID FOR IT!



pound pound

SPEAKING OF FAT FEES, WITH ANY LUCK THAT'S OPPORTUNITY KNOCKING RIGHT NOW!



HI, I'M...

BEWARE THE INVISIBLE PERIL.

...VERY CONFUSED!



IT'S TOO LATE. CALDONI AIN'T GONNA LIKE THAT IT'S COMIN' TO THIS SO SOON!

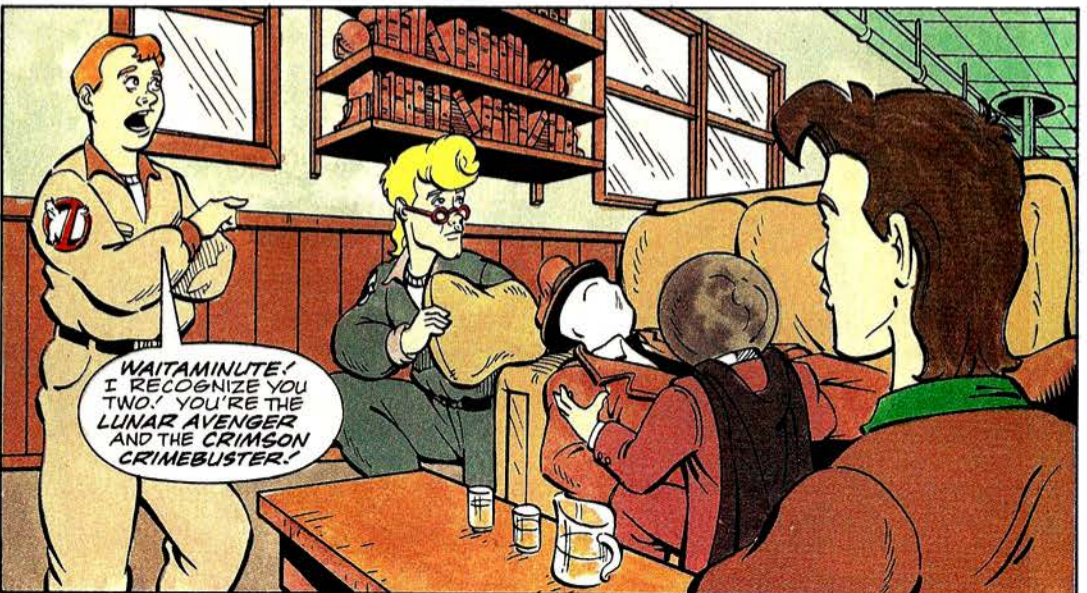


I DON'T THINK WE WERE FOLLOWED. THEY WOULD'VE STOPPED AT NOTHING HAD THEY KNOWN WE WERE COMING TO YOU.

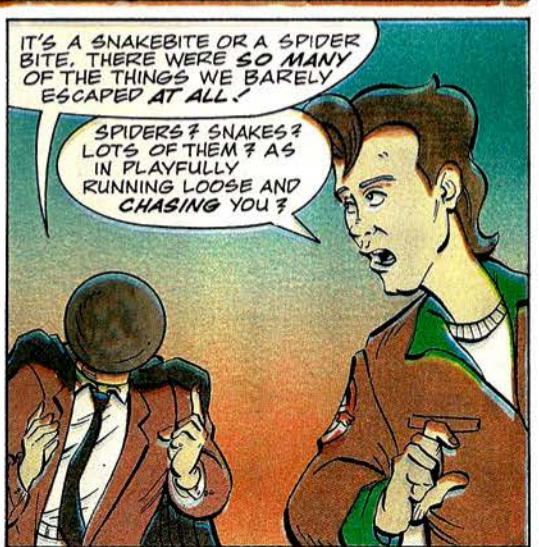
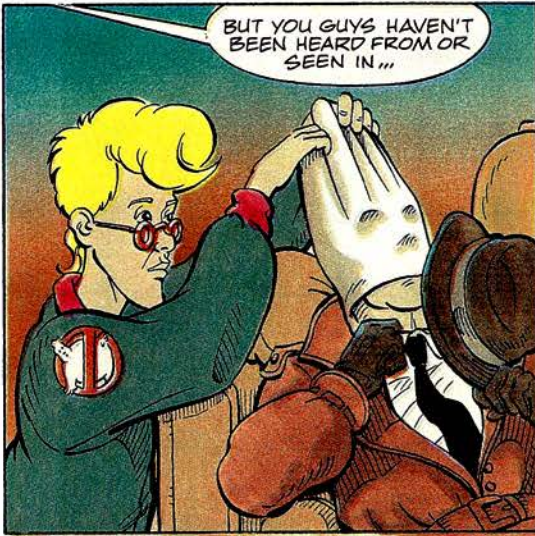
I MAY BE FLATTERED, BUT I'M STILL CONFUSED.



HEY, GUYS! REALITY HAS COME TO CALL AGAIN AND THIS ONE'S A REAL DOOZY!



WAITAMINUTE! I RECOGNIZE YOU TWO! YOU'RE THE LUNAR AVENGER AND THE CRIMSON CRIMEBUSTER!





NONE OF THEM FOLLOWED YOU, I TRUST?



I SHOULD GO WITH HIM, BUT HE'D WANT ME TO STAY HERE AND TELL YOU WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING.

WHY DON'T WE GO INSIDE AND CLOSE THE DOOR... TO KEEP THE NIGHT OUT.



THIS IS OBVIOUSLY GOING TO TAKE AWHILE TO SORT OUT, BUT FIRST EXPLAIN WHY YOU'RE HERE.

BECAUSE A GANG OF GHOSTS HAVE BEEN SECRETLY TAKING OVER THE ENTIRE CRIMINAL UNDERWORLD OF NEW YORK!



IF THAT WERE TRUE, I THINK WE'D HAVE KNOWN ABOUT IT LONG BEFORE THIS!

BUT THAT WAS THE STRENGTH OF THEIR PLAN. YOU WERE NEVER SUPPOSED TO FIND OUT!



THEY WERE NEVER SUPPOSED TO FIND OUT! IF THE GHOSTBUSTERS BRING THE WAR TO US, WE'RE FINISHED!



I'M NOT AFRAID O' DA' GHOSTBUSTERS!



THEN YOU'RE AS DUMB AS YOU LOOK!



"D' GHOSTBUSTERS THOUGHT THAT ONLY WEBBY AND HIS GANG GOT OUT WHEN MY OLD VAULT WAS OPENED. THAT'S WHAT THEY WAS SUPPOSED TO THINK." *

*AS SEEN IN REAL GHOSTBUSTERS #4.



"LOTS O' LIGHT 'N' NOISE AND WHAMMO, WEBBY GETS PUT AWAY."



"D' GHOSTBUSTERS GOT WHAT THEY WANTED AND WENT AWAY FAT 'N' HAPPY-- LEAVIN' US TO MOVE IN ON THE GANGS."



"WEBBY WAS ALWAYS A SAP. HE DIDN'T EVEN KNOW HE'D BEEN ACED 'TIL I TOLD HIM.' HE COMPLAINED REAL GOOD WHEN D' GHOSTBUSTERS ZAPPED HIM!"



NOW GET OUT AND DON'T DO NOTHIN' THAT'LL ATTRACT D' GHOSTBUSTERS! GUYS WHO KNOW THEIR LIMITATIONS DON'T RATTLE THEIR CAGE!



I COULDN'T HAVE PUT IT BETTER, MYSELF, BUT THEN I TOLD YOU MUCH THE SAME THING QUITE RECENTLY, eh, PARTNER?



SEEING THE CRIMEBUSTER AND THE LUNAR AVENGER WAS AS UNPLEASANT AS LEARNING THEY ESCAPED YOUR CRONIES. I WILL NOT ALLOW MY PAST TO CATCH UP WITH ME!



YOU'RE PART O' THE PAST, JEST LIKE ME, BUT YOU ALWAYS HAD AN EDGE. I MAY BE RUTHLESS, BUT YOU'RE WEIRD!



THE HOSPITAL SAYS THE CRIMEBUSTER WILL BE OKAY!

THANK GOODNESS!



WHILE EVERYONE'S GETTING NOSTALGIC, I COULD DO WITH A DOSE OF HISTORY. HOW COME GUYS WHO HUNG UP THEIR MASKS BEFORE I WAS BORN HAVE HIT THE STREETS RUNNING AGAIN?



AND EVEN MORE IMPORTANT, DO THE SPIDERS AND SNAKES HAVE THIS ADDRESS?

"IT WAS DECEMBER OF 1949 WHEN THE CRIME PATROL LEARNED OF FU FANG'S SECRET HEADQUARTERS. ONLY RARELY HAD WE BEEN ABLE TO BATTLE HIM DIRECTLY UNTIL WE LEARNED HE WAS OPERATING FROM THE CATACOMBS BENEATH THE STATUE OF LIBERTY.



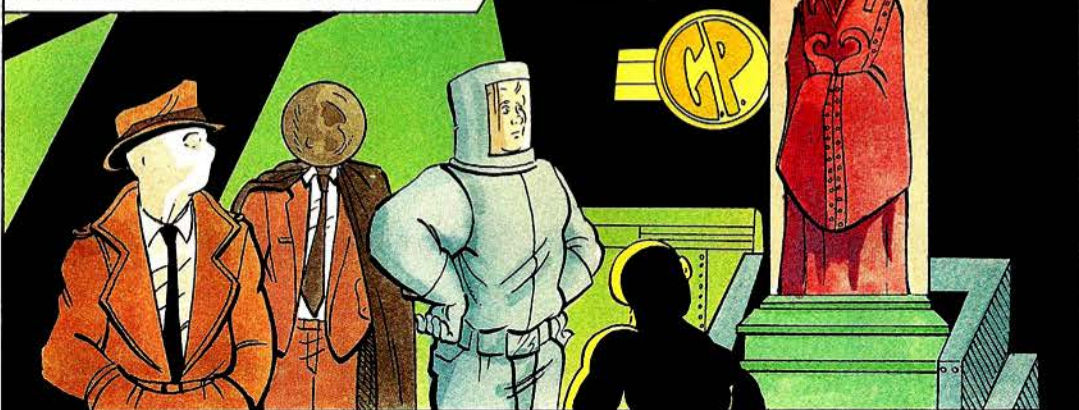
"THE CRIME PATROL CONSISTED OF THE CRIMSON CRIMEBUSTER, THE LUNAR AVENGER, DOC HAZZARD, AND THE DARK DWARF. DOC HAZZARD WAS THE SCIENTIFIC WIZARD IN OUR GROUP.



"WE ACTUALLY SURPRISED FU FANG AND TRAPPED HIM IN HIS LAIR. NOT EVEN HIS ARMY OF SPIDERS AND SNAKES GAVE US PAUSE, THANKS TO A SPRAY TO RESIST PUNCTURES WHICH DOC HAZZARD SPRAYED ON OUR UNIFORMS.



"WE CAPTURED FU FANG AND TOOK HIM TO A SECRET LAIR OF OUR OWN, UNDERNEATH CENTRAL PARK, WHERE DOC HAZZARD LOCKED HIM IN A SUSPENDED ANIMATION CYLINDER. WE DIDN'T TRUST ANYTHING ELSE. FANG HAD ESCAPED FROM REGULAR PRISONS MANY TIMES.

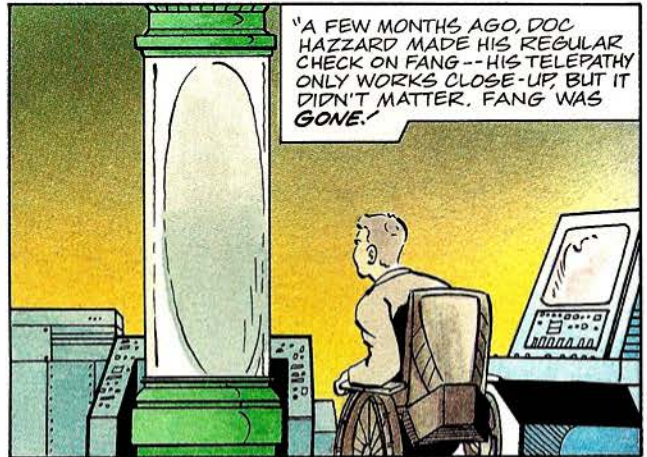




"WE CLEANED OUT FU FANG'S LAIR, INCLUDING THE ZOMBIE DOUBLES HE HAD THAT HAD TO BE DESTROYED, BECAUSE FANG COULD PROJECT HIS MIND INTO THEM. ONLY DOC HAZZARD'S MIND-READING ABILITY ASSURED US THAT FANG WAS INDEED TRAPPED IN THE CYLINDER."



"EVERY YEAR DOC HAZZARD CHECKED ON HIM TO DETERMINE THAT FANG WAS STILL TRAPPED THERE, FIGHTING OLD BATTLES IN HIS TORTURED DREAMS."



"A FEW MONTHS AGO, DOC HAZZARD MADE HIS REGULAR CHECK ON FANG -- HIS TELEPATHY ONLY WORKS CLOSE-UP, BUT IT DIDN'T MATTER. FANG WAS GONE."

"BUT IT'D BEEN SO MANY YEARS SINCE THAT BATTLE, ONE BY ONE, THE CRIME PATROL HAD RETIRED, FROM INJURY OR OLD AGE. WHAT COULD FU FANG DO WITH TODAY'S TECHNOLOGY?"



"WHEN THE CRIMSON CRIME-BUSTER CALLED ME, HE HAD A LEAD ON FANG. I WANTED TO GO TO THE POLICE BUT WE HAD NO REAL PROOF OF FU FANG'S MODERN EXISTENCE."



"BUT I THINK THAT THE CRIME-BUSTER FELT IT WAS OLD BUSINESS WE HAD TO FINISH, ONCE AND FOR ALL. SO, FOR THE FIRST TIME IN DECADES, THE CRIMSON CRIMEBUSTER AND THE LUNAR AVENGER TOOK TO THE STREETS."



"SOMEHOW, THE CRIMEBUSTERS HAD BOUGHT A LEAD TO FU FANG. WE WENT TO A WAREHOUSE ON THE WATERFRONT. IT WASN'T LONG BEFORE WE KNEW WE'D BEEN HAD."



IT APPEARS THAT RESURRECTION IS A POPULAR THEME OF OUR GENERATION, BUT MANY THINGS HAVE CHANGED, SUCH AS MY NEW ASSOCIATES.



MY NEW FRIENDS WILL INSURE THAT YOU DO NOT ESCAPE MY OLD FRIENDS!



"BUT WE HAD NOT COME UNPREPARED, THANKS TO DOC HAZZARD. ALTHOUGH, ONLY THE CRIMEBUSTER FULLY UNDERSTOOD WHAT HAZZARD HAD GIVEN US."



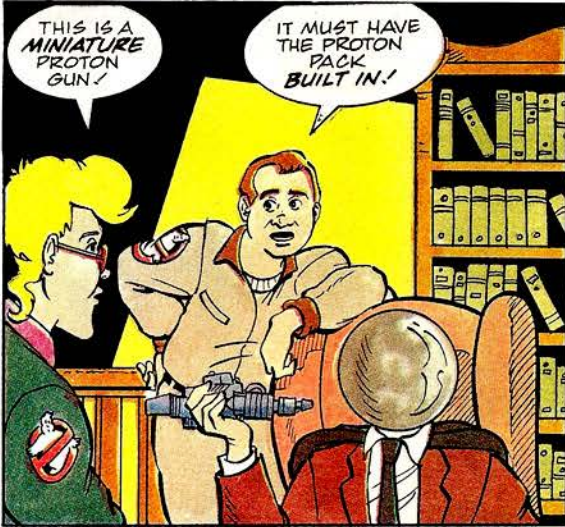
THIS IS FOR OLD TIMES SAKE--FROM DOC HAZZARD!

SKZZAKK!



"THERE WAS A HUGE DISCHARGE OF ENERGY, AND WHILE FANG AND HIS GHOST GANGSTERS RECOILED FROM IT, WE ESCAPED."





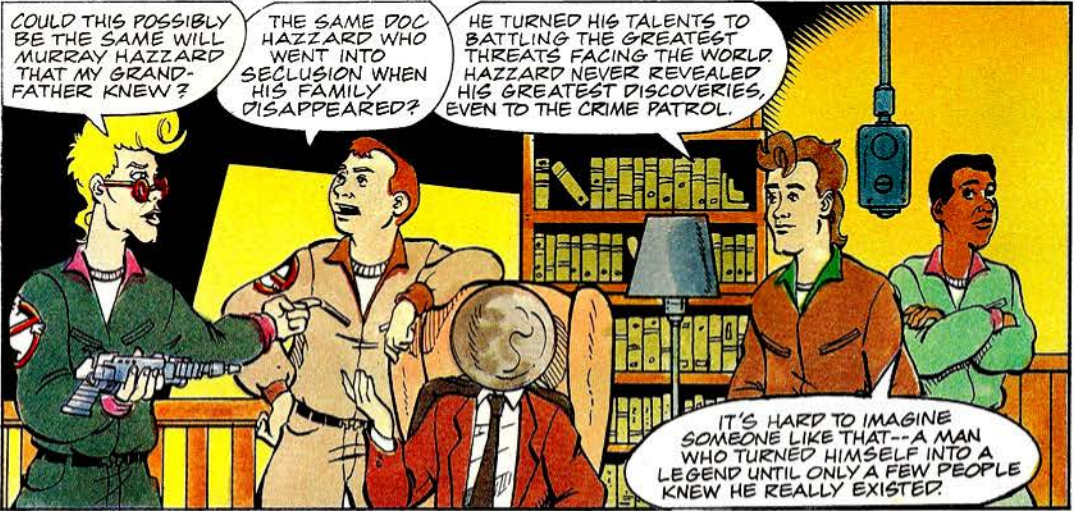
THIS IS A **MINIATURE PROTON GUN!**

IT MUST HAVE THE **PROTON PACK BUILT IN!**



BUT I THOUGHT WE HAD THE STATE-OF-THE-ART GHOST GRINDERS.

THEY ARE **UNLESS YOU'VE BEEN A STEP AND A HALF AHEAD OF THE TECH PACK FOR A FEW DECADES. I READ ABOUT HIM IN OLD PULP MAGAZINES WHEN I WAS A KID!**



COULD THIS POSSIBLY BE THE SAME WILL MURRAY HAZZARD THAT MY GRAND-FATHER KNEW?

THE SAME **DOC HAZZARD WHO WENT INTO SECLUSION WHEN HIS FAMILY DISAPPEARED?**

HE TURNED HIS TALENTS TO **BATTLING THE GREATEST THREATS FACING THE WORLD. HAZZARD NEVER REVEALED HIS GREATEST DISCOVERIES, EVEN TO THE CRIME PATROL.**

IT'S HARD TO IMAGINE **SOMEONE LIKE THAT--A MAN WHO TURNED HIMSELF INTO A LEGEND UNTIL ONLY A FEW PEOPLE KNEW HE REALLY EXISTED.**



SOUNDS LIKE A PRIME CANDIDATE FOR POLITICS.

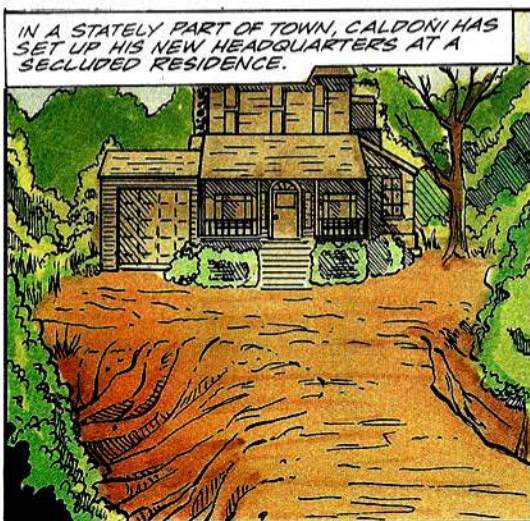
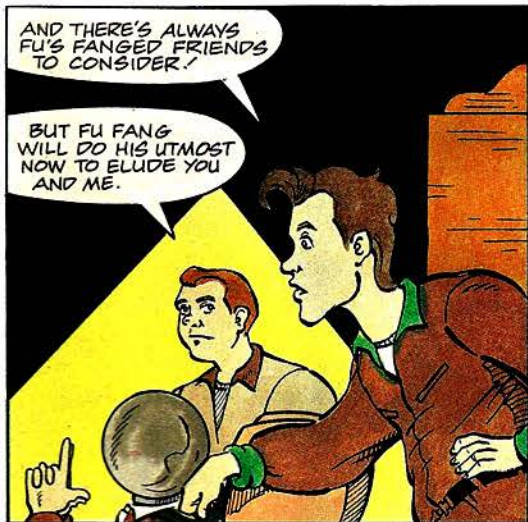
BUT HOW COULD HAZZARD HAVE GUESSED THAT YOU'D ENCOUNTER GHOSTS?



HE WAS NEVER TALKATIVE. I **DIDN'T FEEL COMFORTABLE QUIZZING HIM. I WAS INTIMIDATED TO SEE HIM IN A WHEELCHAIR. IT REMINDED ME HOW MUCH TIME HAD PASSED SINCE THE OLD DAYS.**



WELL, TIME IS SURE RUNNING OUT FOR EVERYONE, IF THE GHOSTS ARE TAKING OVER THE NEW YORK RACKETS RIGHT UNDER OUR NOSES!



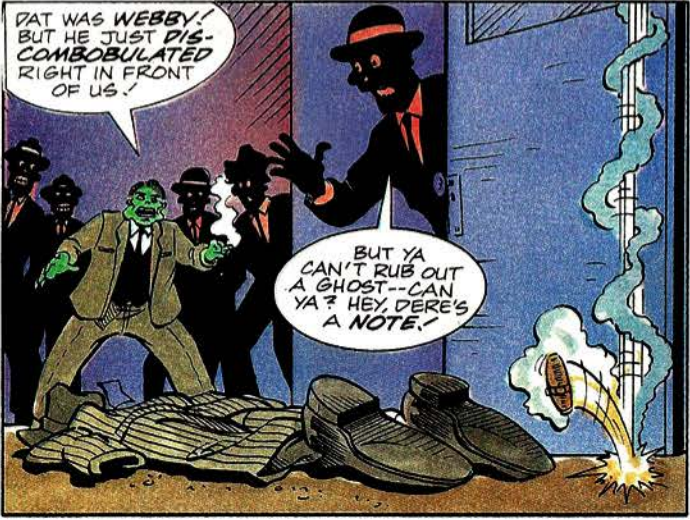
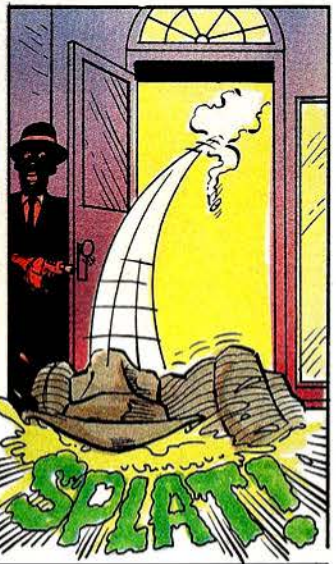
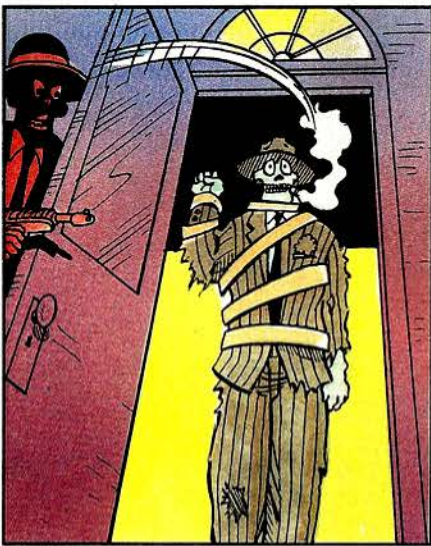


CALDONI IS INTERRUPTED BY A KNOCK AT THE DOOR.

I'M NOT EXPECTIN' A DELIVERY.



UNLESS IT'S GOOD NEWS OR MONEY, VENTILATE 'EM!

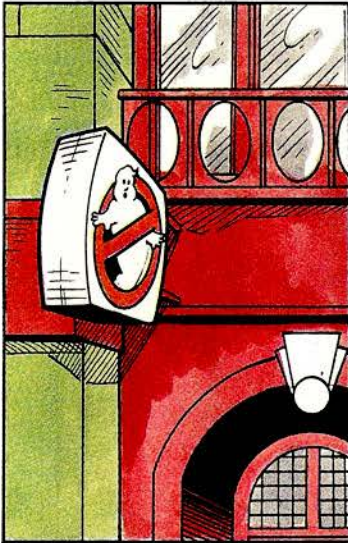


THAT WAS WEBBY! BUT HE JUST DIS-COMBOBULATED RIGHT IN FRONT OF US!

BUT YA CAN'T RUB OUT A GHOST--CAN YA? HEY, DERES A NOTE!



Welcome to the neighborhood!
Let's meet and talk over new times,
The Cody Jarrett Gang



GIANT FULL COLOR PIN-UP



**THE REAL
GHOSTBUSTERS™**





Guy Davis/88'
Illustrations
by S. S. S. S. S.





NOWTM
C O M I C S

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IT'S BAD ENOUGH THE GHOST-BUSTERS KNOW WE EXIST, NOW THERE'S THE JARRET GANG TRYIN' TO MUSCLE IN ON OUR TERRITORY!



I FEEL LIKE I'M ARRIVING AT A CATTLE CALL FOR THE ST. VALENTINE'S DAY MASSACRE!



IF ALL GOES WELL, WE'LL ALL GET A CURTAIN CALL!

JUST SO LONG AS IT'S NOT CURTAINS FOR US ALL!

GET INTO CHARACTER, PETER. YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO BE A TORPEDO!



JUST AS LONG AS I ONLY HAVE TO IMITATE SOMETHING YOU'D FIND LYING AT THE BOTTOM OF THE BIG DEEP!



I DON'T KNOW WHY EGON GETS TO BE CODY JERRET!

BECAUSE THE LEADER HAS TO GO FIRST, NOT HIDE BEHIND THE GUN MOLL!

THIS IS IT.



THIS IS CODY JARRET. WE'VE GOT BUSINESS TO DISCUSS!

AND I'M PETER GUNN. AND DON'T YOU FORGET IT!

BOSS, WHAT'RE WE GONNA DO?



OPEN THE DOOR! WHAT'RE THEY GONNA DO TO US? WE'RE GHOSTS!

MAYBE WHAT THEY DID TO WEBBY--TURN US INTO GREEN GOOP!

IN YOU'RE CASE, IT'D BE A DISTINCT IMPROVEMENT!



I'M CODY JARRET AND I'M HERE TO SEE THE BIG MAN!

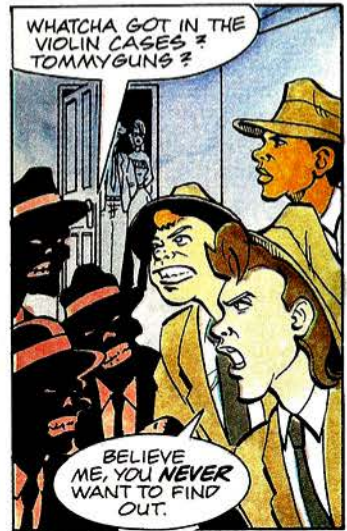
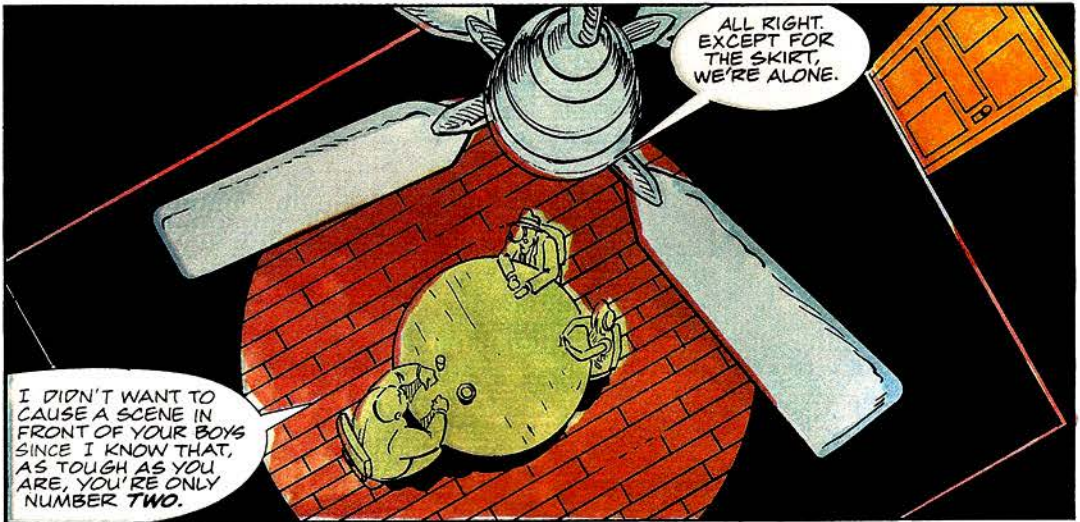


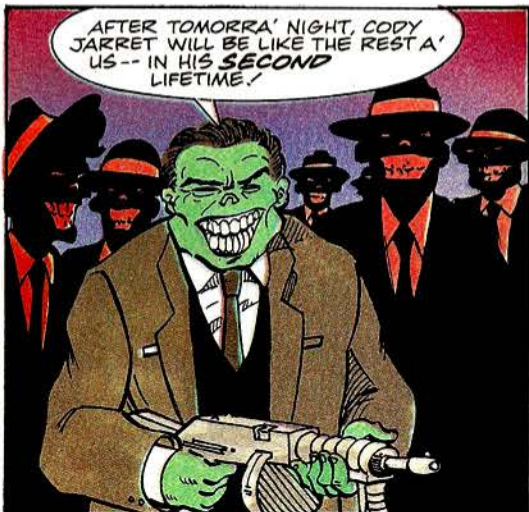
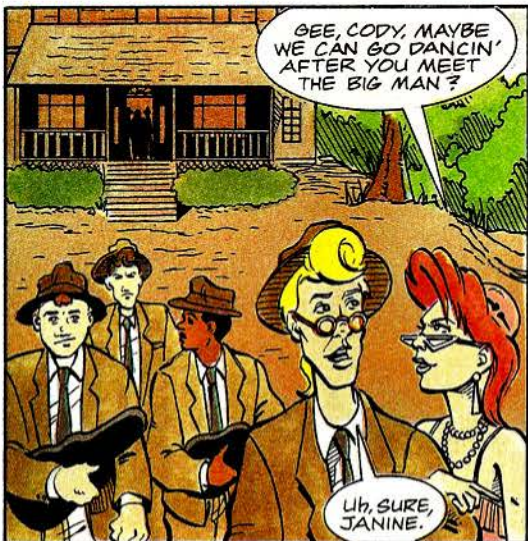
DAT'S ME! WHAT'S IT TO YA?



THIS MEETING SHOULD BE PRIVATE. I WOULDN'T WANT TO ACCIDENTALLY WANT TO PURPOSE TORPEDO SOMEBODY.

IS THAT WHAT YA DID TO WEBBY?



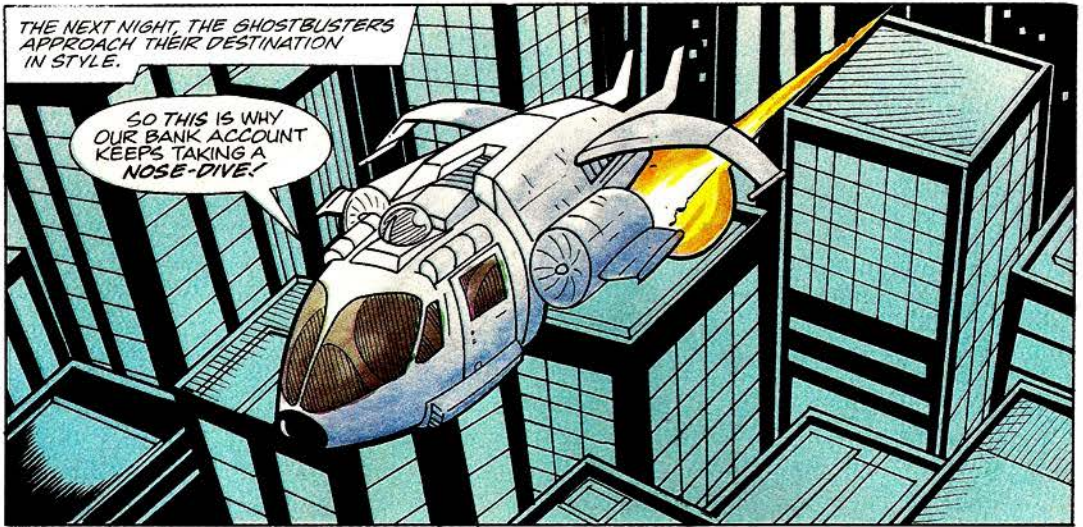


THE ORIGINAL
ASTROBOYTM

ON SALE MONTHLY!

COMICSTM





THE NEXT NIGHT, THE GHOSTBUSTERS APPROACH THEIR DESTINATION IN STYLE.

SO THIS IS WHY OUR BANK ACCOUNT KEEPS TAKING A NOSE-DIVE!



WE HAVE TO BE PREPARED FOR MENACES BIGGER THAN WHAT WE'VE FACED SO FAR.

PLUS, MY INSTRUMENTS HAVE BEEN RECORDING SOME DISTURBING EVENTS LATELY, AND THEY HAVE NOTHING TO DO WITH WHAT'S HAPPENING TONIGHT.



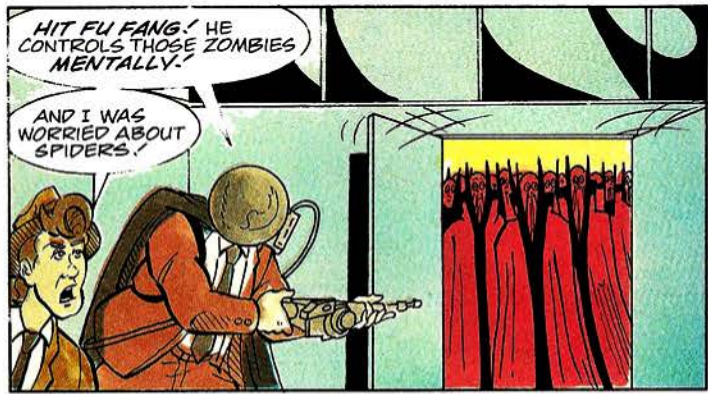
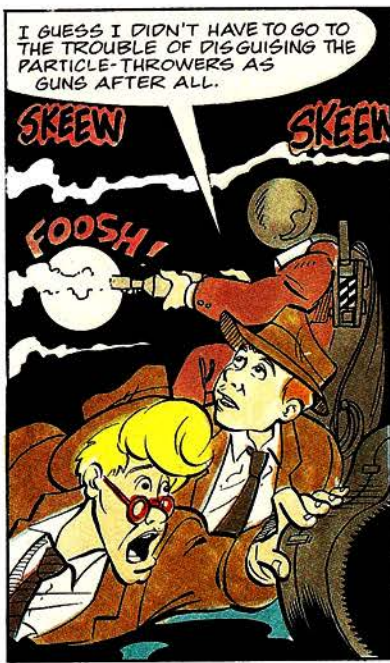
BESIDES, ONLY SOMETHING WITH THE EXTRA ROOM COULD LET US PULL OFF WHAT WE'VE GOT PLANNED FOR TONIGHT.

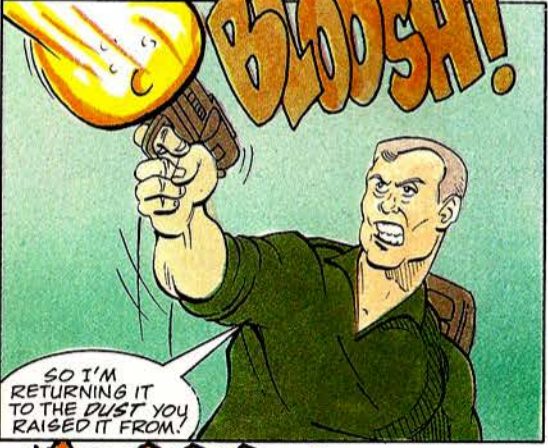
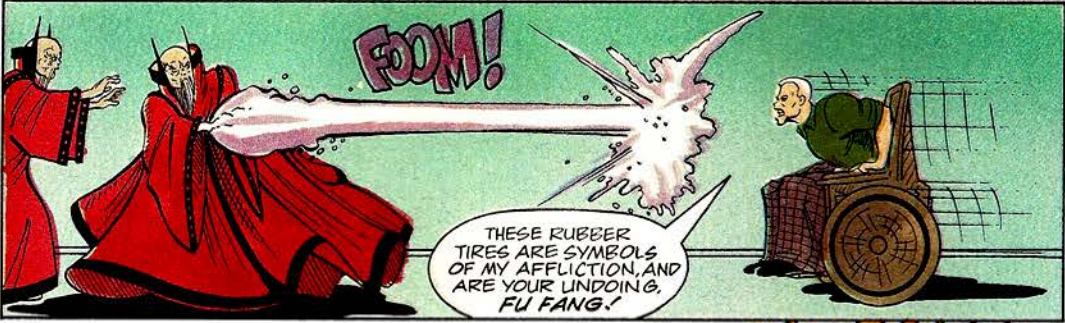
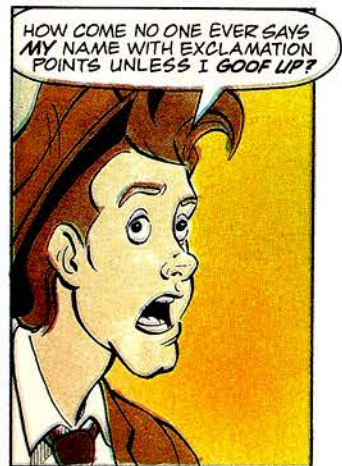
IT'S NOT, REALLY. IT'LL GET US AROUND TOWN, BUT THE ENERGY INTENSIFIERS AND THE SUPER-THRUSTER IT POWERS STILL HAVE TO BE FINISHED.

THERE IT IS, THE WENTWORTH PLAZA!

I'M JUST SURPRISED TO SEE THE ECTO-4 FINISHED.









WHY ARE YOU AFRAID TO FACE ME, FU FANG? RUNNING FROM ME IS NOT AS EASY AS YOU BELIEVE!



OF COURSE! NOW THAT I'M CLOSE ENOUGH TO READ YOUR MIND, YOUR SECRET IS REVEALED!



THE BODY WAS AN OLD CLONE OF HIMSELF... A DOUBLE THAT HIS SPIRIT CONTROLLED. YOU'RE JUST A PALE SHADOW OF WHAT YOU WERE, FU FANG!



I'M DEATHLESS. AS ALWAYS!



YOU'RE ON OUR TURF NOW, FANG!



YOUR REIGN OVER THIS SECRET EMPIRE HAS ENDED, FOREVER!



WERE WE SUCCESSFUL?

YEAH, BUT FOR AN OLD CRIME-BUSTER YOU LOOK PRETTY YOUNG!



I'M ALAN WEINBERG. MY FATHER, ROBERT, WAS THE REAL LUNAR AVENGER.



YOU JUST COULDN'T STAND TO LET AN OLD MAN DOWN.

MY FATHER'S BEEN GONE FOR YEARS. I INHERITED HIS HOME-- IT'S A TREASURE TROVE OF MEMORIES OF THE CRIME PATROL. THE CRIMSON CRIMEBUSTER CONTACTED ME THERE.



WELL, I GUESS THAT FU FANG IS YOUR PRISONER NOW, ISN'T HE, MR. HAZZARD?



NO. HE'S YOURS, JUST AS HE SHOULD BE. AFTER ALL, THIS IS A NEW AGE, AND YOU'RE THE CRIME PATROL NOW!



LETTERS!

There are so many letters coming in these days that I'm going to keep my mouth shut as often as I can, so that you fans get some good quality reading in. Here goes!

Dear Staff,

As an avid reader of The Real Ghostbusters series, I would like to commend all the writers and illustrators on an excellent job. Keep up the great work.

I'm sure it must be a tough job putting all that work into one comic, but I'm sure it pays off. Thank you for an excellent comic.

Good Luck,
Belmont Magill, III

Dear Ghostbusters,

You are real cool dudes. I only have #2, but I am really looking forward to buying #3. It is already in the stands. Keep up the good work.

Christopher Dahloero
Legal, Alberta
Canada

Dear Now,

I really dig your "Ghostbusters" comic book. I've got 1, 2, and 3. I also have the original "Astro Boy". I have some questions that I would like to have answered.

1. What happened to "Syphons"? Me and my friends loved it!

2. What's the first anniversary of "The Ghostbusters" going to be like? (I promise I

won't tell!)

3. Did you know that once the pin-ups are taken out of your books, that decreases the value in them?

4. How long will "The Ghostbusters" series last? Please hurry and answer these questions.

Yours Truly,
Adam Fuller

Well, Adam, I'll do my best. 1. The life was slowly syphoned out of the book, and it was eventually sucked far into the black hole of the comic universe. 2. I promised I wouldn't tell, but it'll be fabulous. 3. Yes, I know. You should buy two, one to read, one to save. 4. Forever and ever.

Dear Now Comics,

My name is Erik Snider and I bought one of your comics from one of my friends, because "The Ghostbusters" are the best. I watch them on T.V. all the time. The reason why I wrote this letter is because I was wondering if my friend Arthur and I can each have one of the lists that shows how much the comics are worth. We were wondering how we can start our own fan club for "The Real Ghostbusters". Also, could we have the person's signature, please who wrote the comics for "The Real Ghostbusters"?

Erik Snider

Unfortunately, Eric, I don't know what our

books are worth on the collectors market, but if it's any help, many issues are becoming very hard to locate, and will soon be sold out. When looking for back issues, write us, and we'll help direct you in your search.

Dear Editor,

For roughly fifteen seconds after observing the cover of "The Real Ghostbusters, #4" in the supermarket, I stood there holding the issue with a stupid grin on my face. This is probably the most fun cover I've seen on a comic book for years, and the only one I can ever recall that actually made me laugh out loud. Egon certainly seemed to be getting into his role (although those pink shoes made him look absolutely ridiculous). Janine looked spectacular, even dressed as a floozy from the 20's, and Slimer...well, Slimer is simply Slimer and I like him that way. And if that wasn't enough, you reproduced the cover for this month's pin-up. This would be enough to hook me to this title for life, if I wasn't already.

Everyone from the first three issues except Ken Steacy were gone (an ax-job even Lizzie Borden would envy)! However, everyone involved since has done a very nice job, aside from a few minor lettering mistakes. Ken Steacy's interior art was as good as I hoped it would be ex-

cept for a small number of panels which made Peter, Ray and Winston look like teenagers.

Nice little touches included Peter's latest slimming, Egon's "E equals MC Squared" sweater, and Janine's calling Peter "Dr. Venkman". On TV, Janine is on a first name basis with her other employers, but tends to treat Peter a bit more formally (presumably as a means of keeping him at arm's length). However, as shown in "The Grundel", Slimmer can read (he moves his lips, though) and therefore should have comprehended the volume button on the TV.

I get the feeling we're in for a battle royal next month, but I must tell you that I never went for continued stories in a comic book, preferring self-contained. Just thought I'd let you know.

Your editorial mentioned some "Astro Boy" backups in the "Speed Racer" book. I want you to know before it is even considered, that I don't want any other characters showing up in this mag. Nothing belongs in "The Real Ghostbusters" book except "The Real Ghostbusters".

Peter Greer
Hicksville, OH

Hi Guys,

Get ready - it's me again - the verbal Van Fossen from Florida! First things first. Issue #4 of "The Real Ghostbusters" - what a cover! Pratt and Steacy out did themselves. It may have had **nothing** specific to do with the story, but it

was truly inspired. It makes the best center fold of the series as well (I was almost - almost tempted to pull it out myself!) Of course, I am rather fond of Egon and to see him portrayed in such an uncharacteristic cocky pose was a kick!

Now to get down to business, recently you've undergone some sudden changes in staff and I hope it won't be creating any drastic, permanent changes in this particular magazine. In issue Four I notice that none of the original crew were involved.

Speaking of which - what happened here? After such a thought out beautiful cover, the work within was (gulp) disappointing to say the least. Even the artists appeared to be confused, interchanging clothing and changing features entirely from panel to panel. At times I couldn't even identify who was who. With such diverse looking characters, this should never happen. You did appear to have three artists working on this issue - too many fingers in the pot? The problem was compounded by inconsistent coloring and confusing word balloons placement. Spelling was atrocious - don't you guys keep a dictionary around?

I just got the impression that the whole comic was rushed, due perhaps to the internal company shake up. In all fairness, I realize that it takes time to become familiar with drawing established characters and fitting them within one's individual artistic style.

Still, I was growing comfortable with Tobias and Thomas' work and I hope they aren't gone for good. In fact, I kind of liked the whole darned original team and I'm still hoping they'll all be back.

Whatever happens, I intend to stick with you. You're a young company, but you've got quality and heart and I know that you'll make it through this transition. I'll just keep chipping in with my small monthly contribution from the Sunshine State. After all, in comics the future is NOW!

Deborah Van Fossen

Deborah, my dear, a confession, the book was rushed, the staff overworked, the editing nonexistent. Although Ken Steacy and Andrew Pratt are masters, even they need more than an hour to finish a book. Yes, we have since changed our staff on the book, and for the better as you can see. Being a devout follower through sickness and health, I know you will stay with us, but that is no excuse. You have my word, we at NOW will uphold the quality THE REAL GHOST BUSTERS deserve.

NEXT MONTH:
The Ghostbusters visit an unusual island inhabited by toads, just to ride the tunnel of love!

And, Janine gets married to a frog who isn't quite her Prince Charming?!

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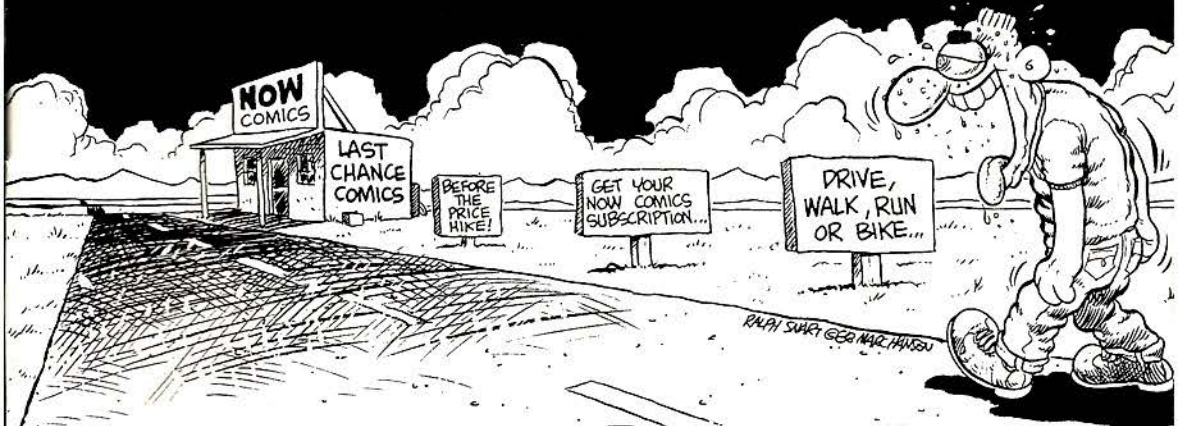


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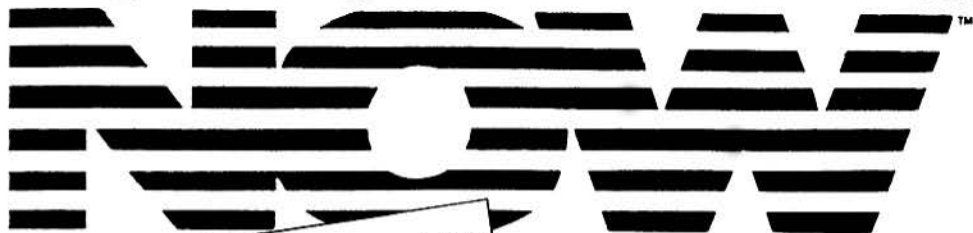
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