

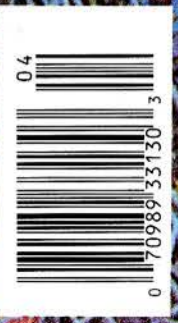
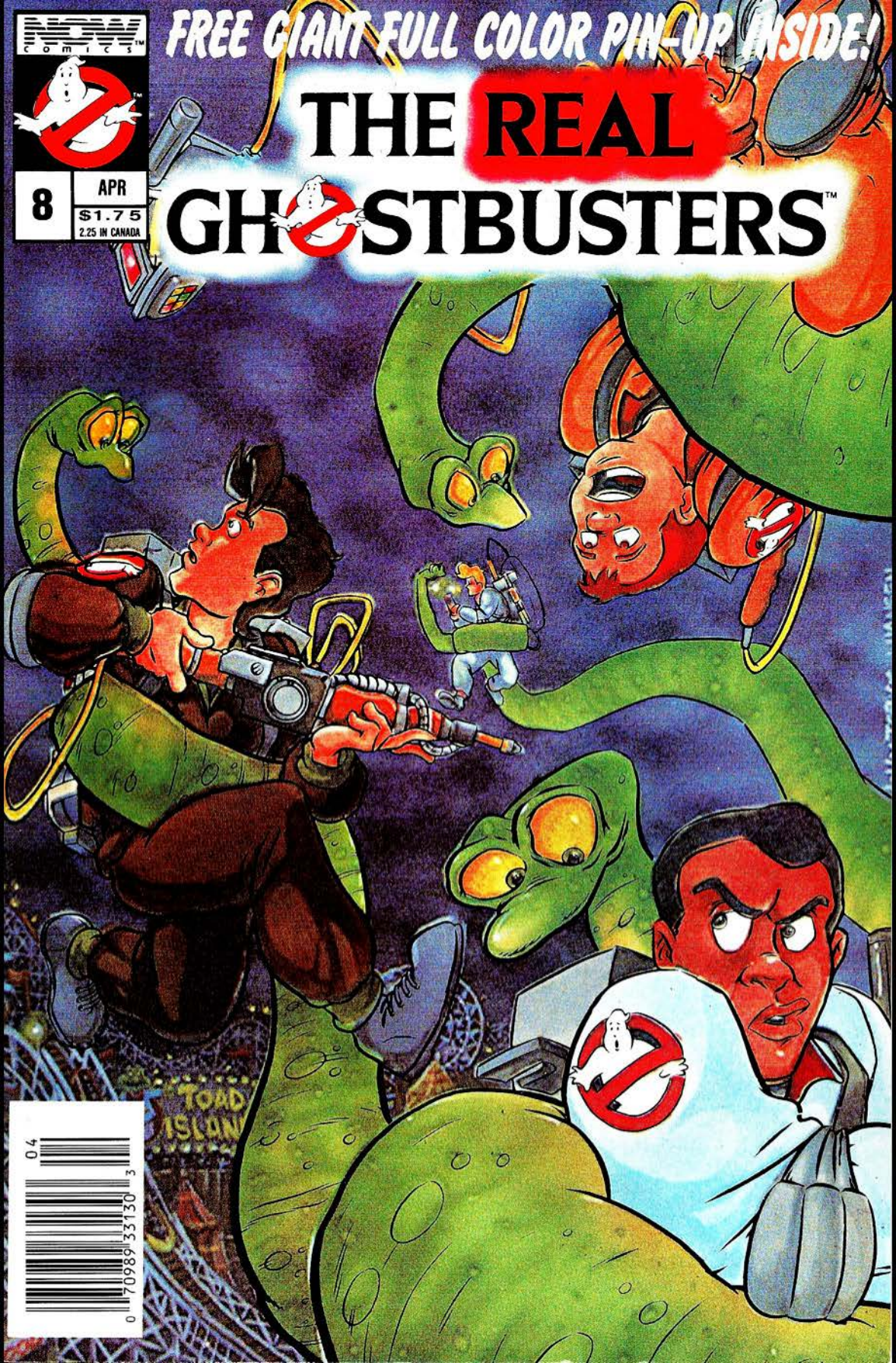
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COMICS™



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THE REAL GHOSTBUSTERS™



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RACER-X 7

By Steve Sullivan, Vince Argondezzi, Rich Rankin

In this issue RACER-X is racing, kissing, killing and hiding! Entitled: LUCKY SEVEN.
MONTHLY!!

ASTRO BOY 18

By Brian Thomas & Marc Hansen

ASTRO BOY is in pieces and only I.Q. Plenty can put him together again.
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SPEED RACER 19

By Lamar Waldron, Joe Phillips, Dan McKinnon *SPEED has joined in on the race of his life, and it's WITHOUT his MACH 5 in the return of the ancient INCAS!*
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By James Van Hise, John Tobias, Rich Rankin

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MONTHLY!!

COMING SOON...

SLIMER!!!

In his own monthly title!!!

THE REAL GHOSTBUSTERS 8

WRITTEN BY

JAMES VAN HISE

PENCILLED BY

JOHN TOBIAS

INKED BY

RICH RANKIN

LETTERED BY

KURT HATHAWAY

COVER BY

JOHN TOBIAS &
MARC HANSEN

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Hi, I'm ZZZZZZZTTT! The computer virus!

Hi. You don't know me but, well nobody really does. I'm Billy Bob Smith, my friends call me B.S. (short for Billy Smith, or at least that's what they tell me).

I'm the night watchman here at the NOW offices. I happen to be really into comics and I noticed the NOW Comics listing in the directory downstairs so I figured I'd check it out.

There ain't nobody here at four in the morning, but us watchman.

I know a night watchman is supposed to keep an eye on stuff, but it's fun playing with all the computers and read all those NOW Comic back issues I can never find anywhere. Sometimes I hear noises out in the hall, but they stop real fast when I jump out there and fire a few rounds from the .38 magnum. 'Course the building's office manager (his name's Ed), he can't figure on how those massive holes got into the ceilings. Somebody told him that they found out it was me who done it. Snitches. Ed of course, just laughs it off. A night watchman named what?

I guess it's the B.S. part that gets people. Anyway, Ed says that there isn't a night watchman named Billy Smith who works in this building.

Now ain't that a kick in the head? I tell yah, no respect and no recognition. You rack your brains for someone and -*PFFST!* no thank you's, no "Gee thanks Billy, you're doing a darn good job!".

I told yah, nobody knows me.

'Course it might have something to do with me being dead for about fifty years, but that has never

stopped me from doing my duty. To keep this building safe from all intruders. Even though I ain't got a check since Christmas Eve 1938.

Anyway, my favorite comic is FRIGHT NIGHT and RUST. RALPH SNART ADVENTURES cracks me up all the time. I hear that Marc Hansen works here now-but he never seems to be around at four in da mornin'.

This REAL GHOSTBUSTERS comic is down right frighening, I mean, nobody's safe anymore! A guy can't even haunt a place in peace. Jeez.

There ain't nuthin' about the war in these comics like they had back in '38. I guess we won, 'cause these guys sure have a lot of "freedom of the press", if you know what I mean.

I never seen a pin-up in a comic quite like the one in SPEED RACER #18. --Waitaminnit...what was that?!!

Hang on.....

KABLAM!! KABAM!! KAPOWEE!

I can't believe it! There's someone out there in a night watchman's uniform! On my floor! I guy ain't safe wit his job anymore!! Looks like I'm gonna have to talk to Ed about this.

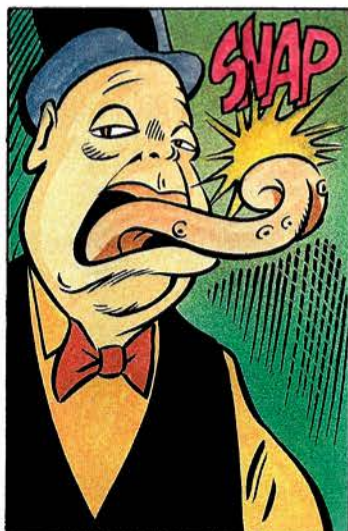
Anyway... I was reading RALPH SNART #6, where'd I put that copy...HOLD IT! What's this? WOW! The cover art to the new SLIMER book! Now that SLIMER, he's somebody I can relate to-- can't wait for that book ta come out!

Let's see if I can get any other sneak peeks at stuff...see ya sometime.

TOAD ISLAND

THERE'S MORE
TO THIS PLACE
THAN MEETS
THE EYE.







TUNNEL of LOVE

GET A LOAD OF THIS!

I HAVEN'T SEEN ONE OF THESE IN YEARS!

IT LOOKS DARK IN THERE!

THAT'S THE WHOLE IDEA!

LOVE BUG

LOVE BUG

THIS IS KIND OF CREEPY FOR A TUNNEL OF LOVE.

THAT'S SO YOU'LL HUDDLE AGAINST ME FOR PROTECTION!

NOW IT'S SO DARK I CAN'T EVEN SEE YOU!

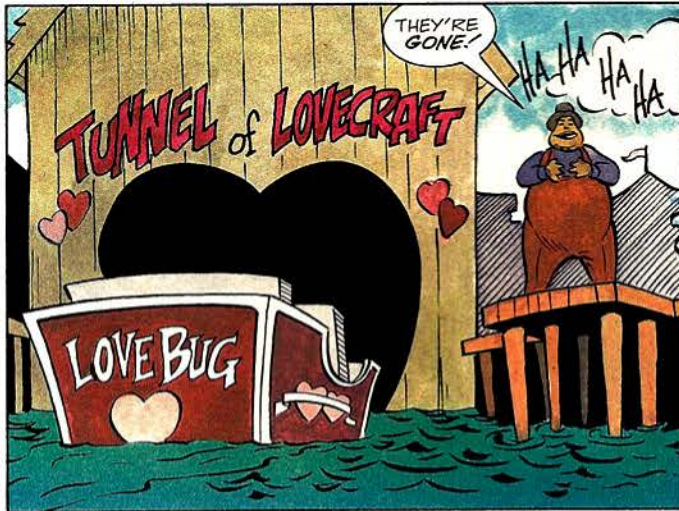
WHY'S THE WATER SUDDENLY SO BUMPY?

PUTTA

PUTTA

PUTTA

PUTTA PUTTA





"IT BEGAN AGES AGO, IN THE SOUTH SEAS, WHEN THE DEEP ONES CAME. THEY LIVED BENEATH THE SEA BUT LONGED TO LIVE AMONG MANKIND.



"AND THERE WERE MEN WHO LONGED TO KNOW THE WONDERS OF THE DEEP AND THE MYSTERIES LURKING THERE. AN UNHOLY PACT WAS STRUCK BETWEEN THEM, AND THE DEEP ONES EMERGED INTO THE WORLD OF MAN.



"OVER THE CENTURIES, THEIR DESCENDANTS FOUND THEMSELVES DRAWN TO THE SEA WHEN THEY REACHED MATURITY. THOSE WHO RESISTED THE CALL, WITHERED AND DIED FOR THE SEA WAS TOO MUCH IN THEIR BLOOD.



"BUT IT DIDN'T STOP THERE, WHEN THE OUTSIDE WORLD TOUCHED THEIR ISLAND, THE TAIN OF THE DEEP ONES CAME TO CIVILIZATION.

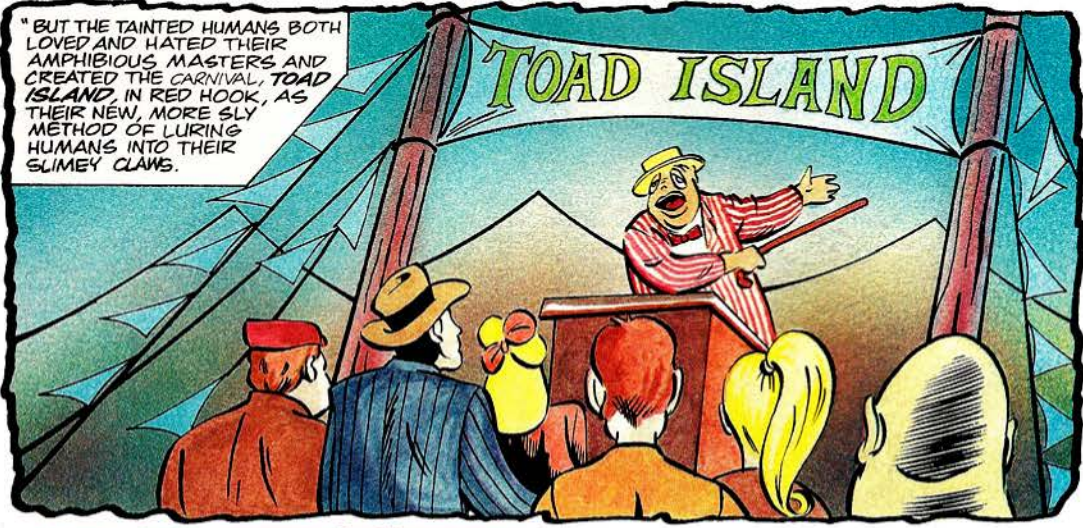
"HUMANS WERE KIDNAPED NEAR THE HARBOR, UNTIL IT BECAME TOO FEARED AN AREA TO VENTURE NEAR.



"SO LONG AS THE DEEP ONES REMAINED, THEY CONTINUED THEIR ATTEMPTS TO LURK AMONG HUMANKIND.



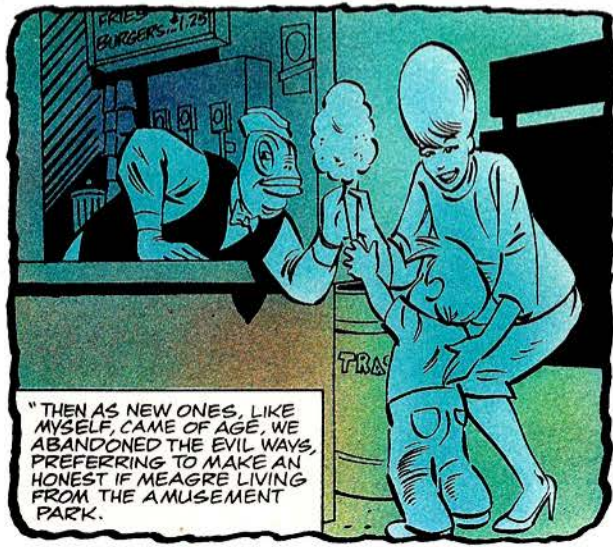
"BUT THE TAINTED HUMANS BOTH LOVED AND HATED THEIR AMPHIBIOUS MASTERS AND CREATED THE CARNIVAL, TOAD ISLAND, IN RED HOOK, AS THEIR NEW, MORE SLY METHOD OF LURING HUMANS INTO THEIR SLIMEY CLAWS.



"BUT A NEW DEEP ONE, NOGAD, HAS COME OF AGE AND IS FORCING US TO RETURN TO THE OLD WAYS."



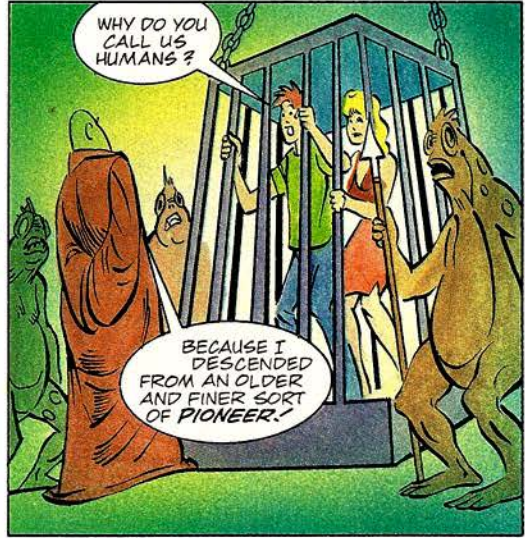
"THEN AS NEW ONES, LIKE MYSELF, CAME OF AGE, WE ABANDONED THE EVIL WAYS, PREFERRING TO MAKE AN HONEST IF MEAGRE LIVING FROM THE AMUSEMENT PARK.





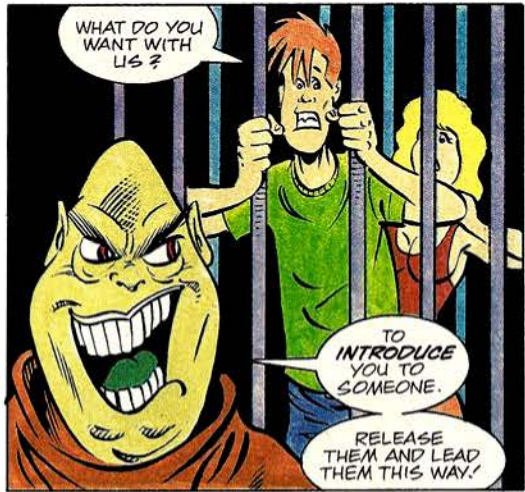
IN THE CAVERNS BENEATH THE TOAD ISLAND MIDWAY, NOGAD WELCOMES HIS NEWEST ARRIVALS.

PRETTY HUMANS, YOU DON'T KNOW THE HONOR RESERVED FOR YOU!



WHY DO YOU CALL US HUMANS?

BECAUSE I DESCENDED FROM AN OLDER AND FINER SORT OF PIONEER!



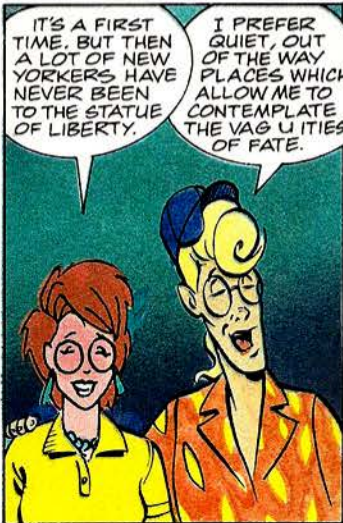
WHAT DO YOU WANT WITH US?

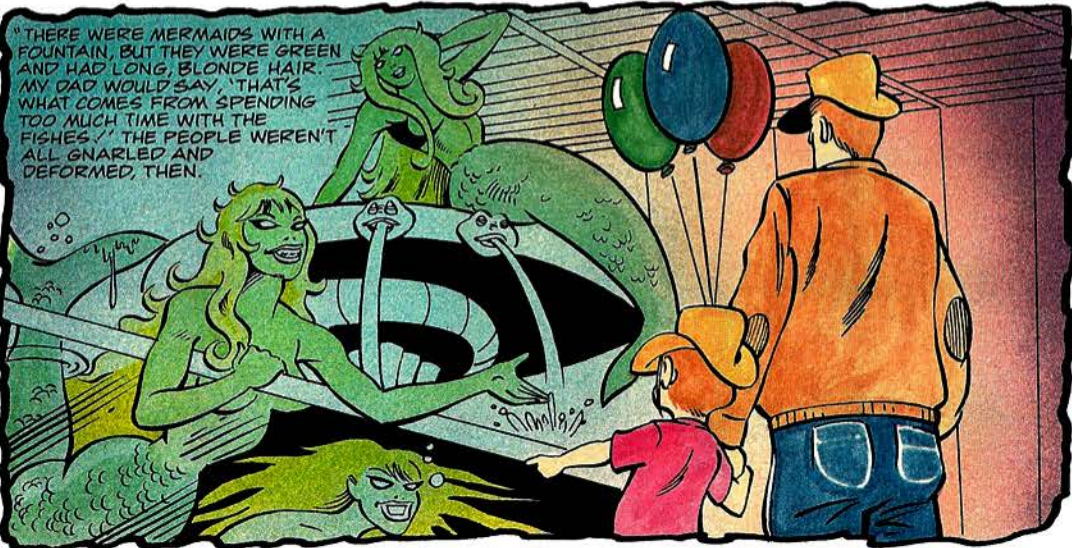
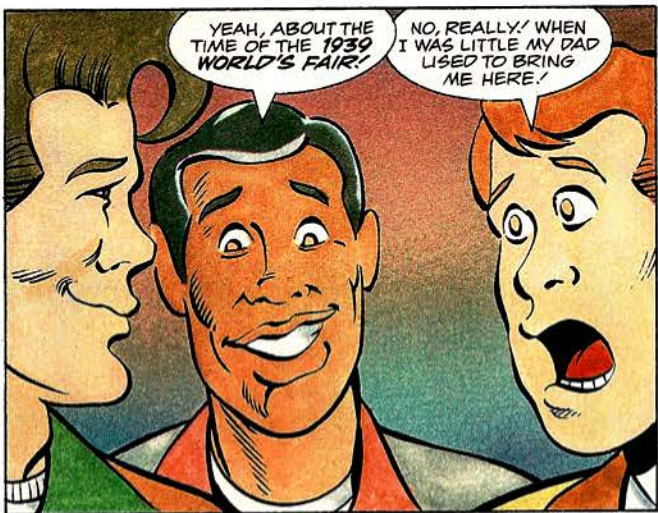
TO INTRODUCE YOU TO SOMEONE.

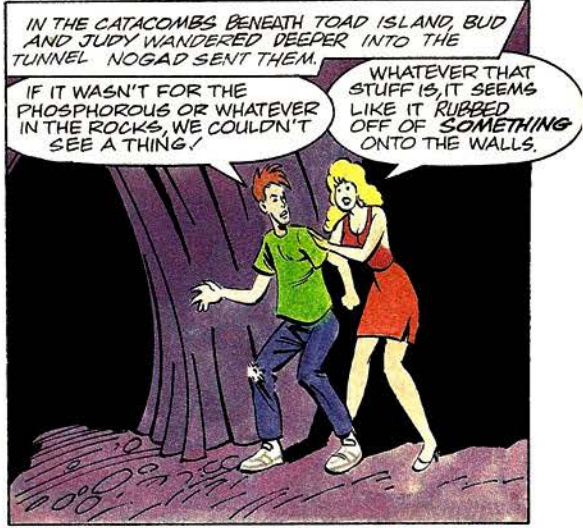
RELEASE THEM AND LEAD THEM THIS WAY!



DOWN THERE YOU WILL MEET THE MASTER OF US ALL-- THE DEEPEST ONE!









EGON, WHY DID HE DRAW A PICTURE LIKE THAT?

ARTISTS LIKE TO INDULGE THEIR CREATIVE BENT, OR THEIR BENT CREATIVITY!

COULD THE DRAWING MEAN SOMETHING?



POSSIBLY. ARTISTS ARE SOMETIMES UNIQUELY SENSITIVE TO HIGH CONCENTRATIONS OF PKE WAVES. WHAT WE JUST MEASURED **OUTSIDE** WAS EXTRAORDINARY.



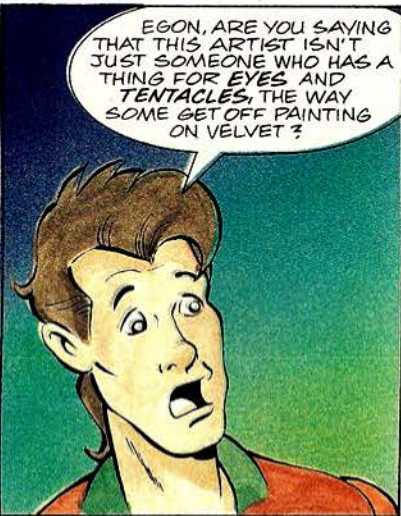
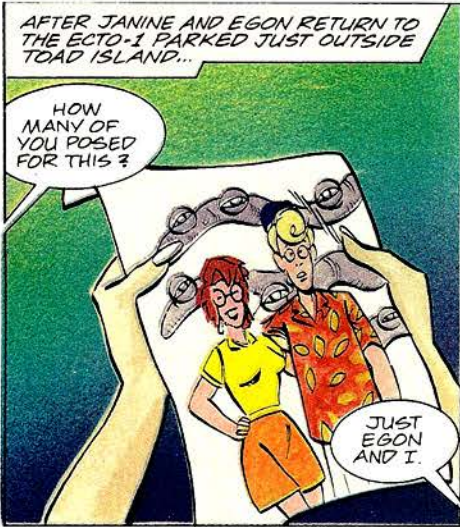
NO. THE PKE METER ONLY REGISTERED THE HIGH READING IN CLOSE PROXIMITY TO TOAD ISLAND, LIKE THERE'S A PSYCHIC DAMPER HOLDING THE ENERGY TO THIS IMMEDIATE AREA.

BUT IF IT WAS THAT STRONG, WOULDN'T YOU HAVE PICKED IT UP BACK AT THE FIREHOUSE?



HOW BIG WOULD SOMETHING HAVE TO BE TO GIVE OFF THOSE KINDS OF READINGS?

HOW LARGE IS TOAD ISLAND?



IN ONE OF THE CAVERNS, KENNETH HAS SEARCHED OUT NOGAD TO ATTEMPT TO PLEA FOR THE FUTURE OF TOAD ISLAND.

THIS WAS A KINDER, BETTER PLACE BEFORE YOU CAME, NOGAD. WHY? WHAT CALLED YOU HERE?

HOW CAN YOU NOT FEEL IT? THE AIR THRUMS WITH HIS PRESENCE!

WHO? I FEEL NOTHING BUT MY BODY TWISTING FROM ITS UNWANTED HERITAGE!

HOW CAN YOU PROFANE THE PURITY OF THE DEEP ONES?

THAT WHICH CRAWLS FROM THE BITTER COLD OF THE ICY DEEP TO FORCE ITS WAY ON AN UNKNOWING HUMANITY CAN MAKE NO CLAIMS TO PURITY!

YOU RESIST THE CALL! THAT IS WHY YOUR BODY GROWS DRY AND STIFF. THE EMBRACE OF THE BOUNDLESS SEA AWAITS YOU WITH MORE YEARS THAN THIS PITIFUL LAND-BRED EXISTENCE CAN EVER PROMISE!

THE PROMISES OF THE DEEP ONES ARE COLD AND BITTER WHEN REALIZED. I'VE SPOKEN TO THOSE WHO FOLLOWED THE CALL, AND WHO FINALLY RETURNED TO RECAPTURE WHAT THE HEARTLESS EMPLOYEES OF THE SEA COULD NOT DELIVER!

THEY WERE TOO WEAK TO GRAPPLE WITH THE DARK MYSTERIES OF THE FURTHER REACHES, AND COULD NOT LEAVE THEIR HUMANITY BEHIND.

PERHAPS BECAUSE THE DEEP ONES ARE BLIND TO SUCH UNIMPORTANT HUMAN TRAITS AS LOVE AND BEAUTY.

LOVE IS AN ILLUSION OF WORDS! THE ONLY BEAUTY IS THAT GLIMPSED IN THE BLIND TERROR, WHEN BEHOLDING THE DEEPEST ONE!

I HOPE TO NEVER GLIMPSE A BEAUTY SO TERRIBLE AS THAT.

BACK ON THE MIDWAY, THE GHOST-BUSTERS HAVE DECIDED TO MAKE A GRAND ENTRANCE.

I'M HOPING THAT OUR SUDDEN APPEARANCE WILL FRIGHTEN SOMEONE INTO MAKING A MISTAKE OR WILL REVEAL THAT KENNETH ISN'T ALONE IN HIS CONCERN HERE.

I FEEL LIKE WE'RE CRASHING A MEETING OF SOMEONE ELSE'S FAN CLUB.



THESE GAMES ARE PRETTY WEIRD. I'M AFRAID OF WHAT WOULD HAPPEN, IF I PLAYED ONE AND LOST.

JAWS OF DEATH



MAYBE WE SHOULD SPLIT UP.

SPLIT UP? BUT THAT'S WHAT PEOPLE DO IN BAD MONSTER MOVIES RIGHT BEFORE THEY GET EATEN.



PETER, THIS ISN'T A MONSTER MOVIE!



Oh, YEAH? HAVE YOU LOOKED AROUND LATELY?



KENNETH? YOU AROUND? HEY, KENNETH? HO, KENNETH?

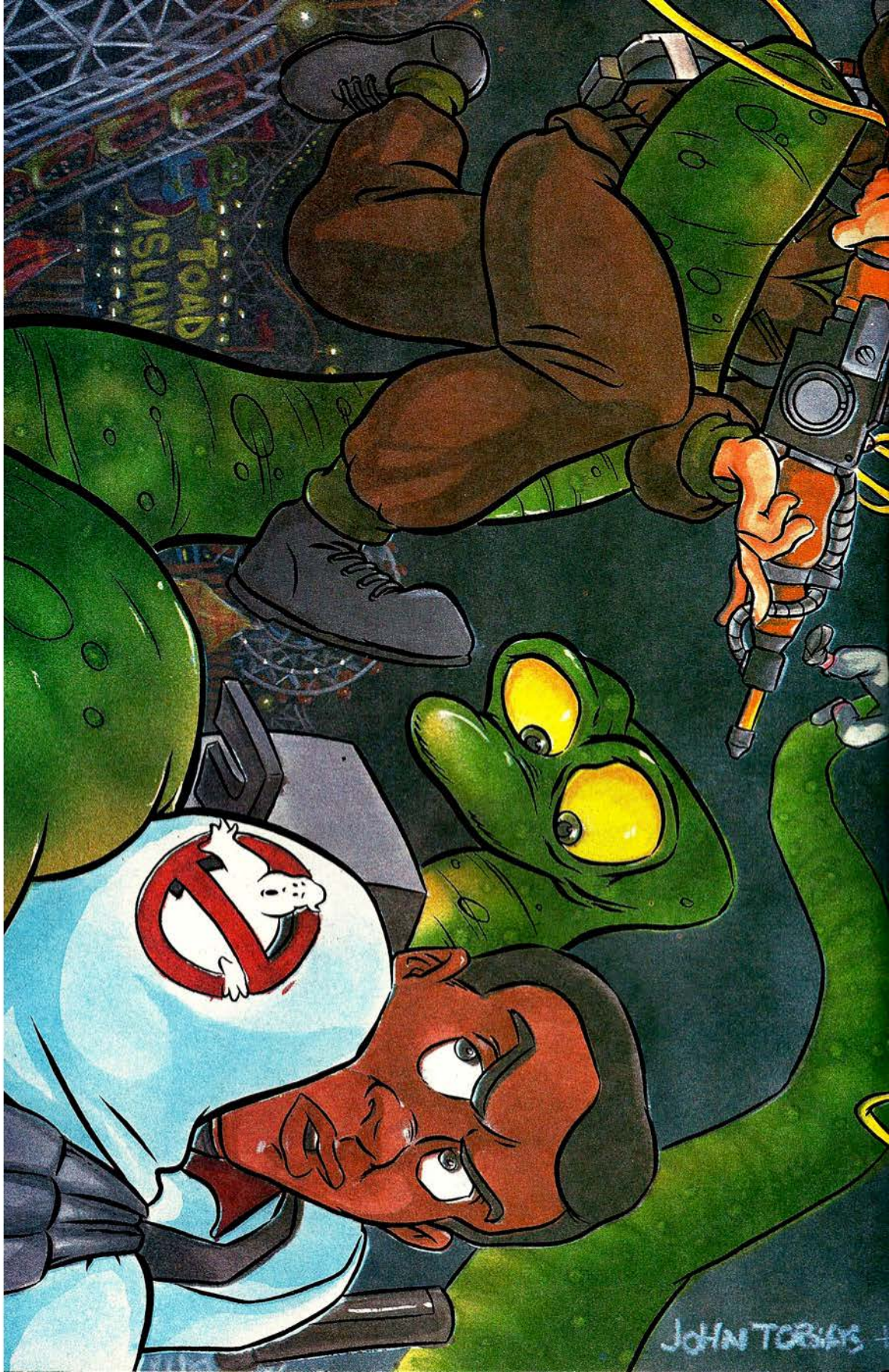


Uh, GUYS, YOU THINK THEY CAN HOP FASTER THAN WE CAN RUN?

GIANT FULL COLOR PIN-UP



**THE REAL
GHOSTBUSTERS™**



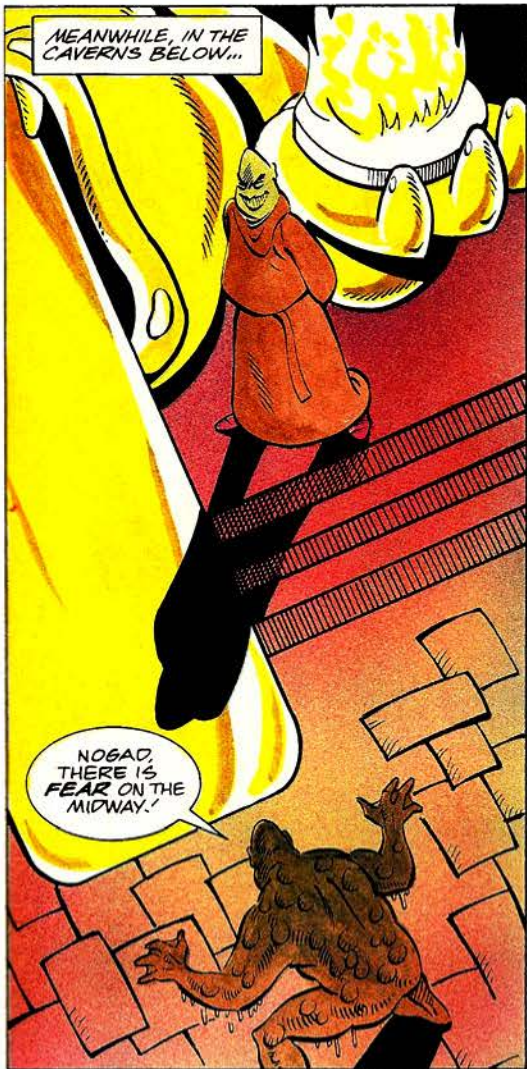
JOHN TORBIAS +





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MEANWHILE, IN THE CAVERNS BELOW...

NOGAD, THERE IS FEAR ON THE MIDWAY!



FEAR OF MERE HUMANS?

OF THE GHOST-BUSTERS!

WHAT?!



THINGS ARE NOT WELL. NOGAD CANNOT BE REASONED WITH.



KENNETH/ YOU CALL THESE OUTSIDERS FRIENDS?



I CALL THEM THE ONLY CHANCE WE HAVE, BEFORE NOGAD BRINGS SWIFT DESTRUCTION DOWN ON OUR HUMBLE WAY OF LIFE.



YOU'RE GOING UP AGAINST NOGAD?

NO ONE HAS EVER CHALLENGED HIM TO A DUEL AND RETURNED!



THE PITS, THE TUNNELS WHICH HONEYCOMB TOAD ISLAND.

THEN THERE'S SOMETHING HIDDEN BENEATH US?

WE'RE GOING UNDERGROUND AGAIN! I KNEW IT! WE'LL BE WALKING ALONG, THE TORCH WILL GO OUT AND SOMETHING SLIMEY WILL GRAB ME!



IF IT DOES, WE'LL KNOW WE'VE FOUND WHAT WE'RE AFTER!

CAN'T WE JUST WAIT UP HERE AND LET IT SLITHER UPSTAIRS?



BUT THEN WE'D LOSE THE ELEMENT OF SURPRISE!



WHEN NOGAD DISAPPEARS INTO THE TUNNELS, THE GHOST-BUSTERS PERSUE HIM AS BEST THEY CAN.

KENNETH, WHICH WAY WOULD NOGAD HAVE GONE?

THEN LET'S SHED SOME LIGHT ON THOSE SECRETS.'

PERHAPS THE FORBIDDEN TUNNEL. HE HAS MANY SECRETS FROM THOSE OF US NOT IN HIS INNER CIRCLE.

MY JOB DESCRIPTION DOESN'T INCLUDE CRUISING THROUGH THE SEWER OF LOVE.

WITH NOGAD CLOSE BY, YOU'LL BE SAFER WITH US.

BUT THERE'S ALSO THE POSSIBILITY OF ENCOUNTERING WHAT MY PKE METER DETECTED.'

OR WHAT THAT ARTIST PAINTED.'

YOU GUYS REALLY LOOK FORWARD TO MEETING THESE CREEBIES, DON'T YOU?

IT BEATS FIGHTING RUSH HOUR TRAFFIC OR WORKING AT FATBURGER.'

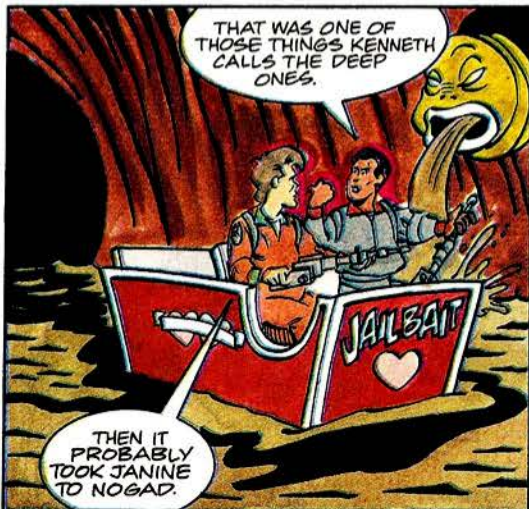
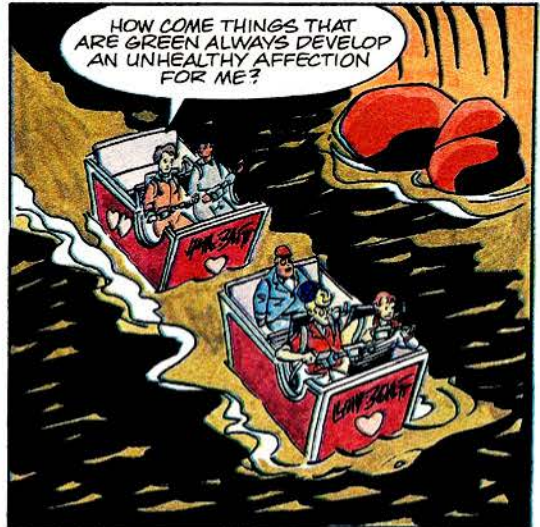
PUTTA PUTTA PUTTA
PUTTA PUTTA

WHY DO I THINK THAT TAKING A CAB BACK TO THE FIREHOUSE WOULD HAVE BEEN THE BETTER PART OF VALOR?

HELPPP!
GLUGG!

SLOOSH

KERSPLASH





THE ORIGINAL
ASTROBOY

ON SALE MONTHLY!

COMICS





UM, COULDN'T WE JUST GO STEADY FIRST?

THIS IS TOO WEIRD!



ARE THOSE THINGS SUPPOSED TO BE THE FATHER OF THE BRIDE?



BEHOLD! A NEW MEMBER OF THE WEDDING PARTY!

NOT ON YOUR LIFE! IF YOU THINK I'M GOING TO HAVE ANYTHING TO DO WITH THIS LOAD OF SURREAL TUNA, YOU'VE GOT ANOTHER THING COMING!

I'M PULLED UNDERWATER THROUGH TUNNELS AS BLACK AS THE INSIDE OF A COW'S STOMACH, AND NOW I'M SUPPOSED TO GET CHUMMY WITH COLD, GREEN, AND CLAMMY OVER THERE?! I DON'T CARE IF YOUR BOSS IS AS BIG AS TOAD ISLAND!



GASP!

SHUDDER!



YOU'RE CRAZY!



SO AFTER ALL THE TROUBLE I WENT THROUGH, YOU WANT ME TO THROW HER BACK?



YOU SHOULD BE HONORED TO BE CHOSEN FOR THE DEEPONES.



THEN WHY DON'T YOU MIX N' MATCH WITH 'EM.' YOU'RE AS HUMAN AS I AM!



DON'T EVER SAY THAT! ONE DAY I'LL BE JUST AS BEAUTIFUL AS THE DEEPONES!



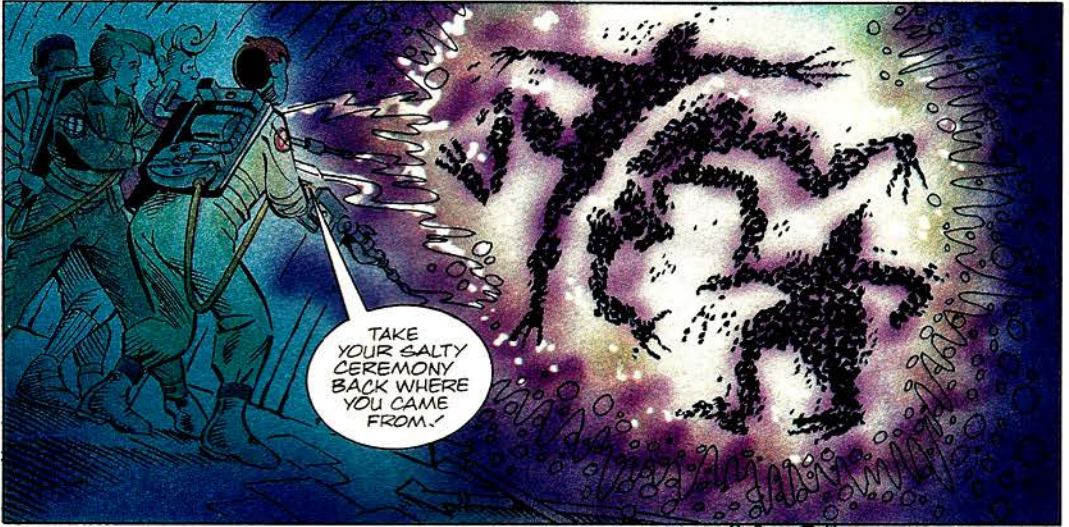
YOU CAN HAVE 'EM.' JUST MAKE SURE THEY KEEP THEIR FLIPPERS TO THEMSELVES!



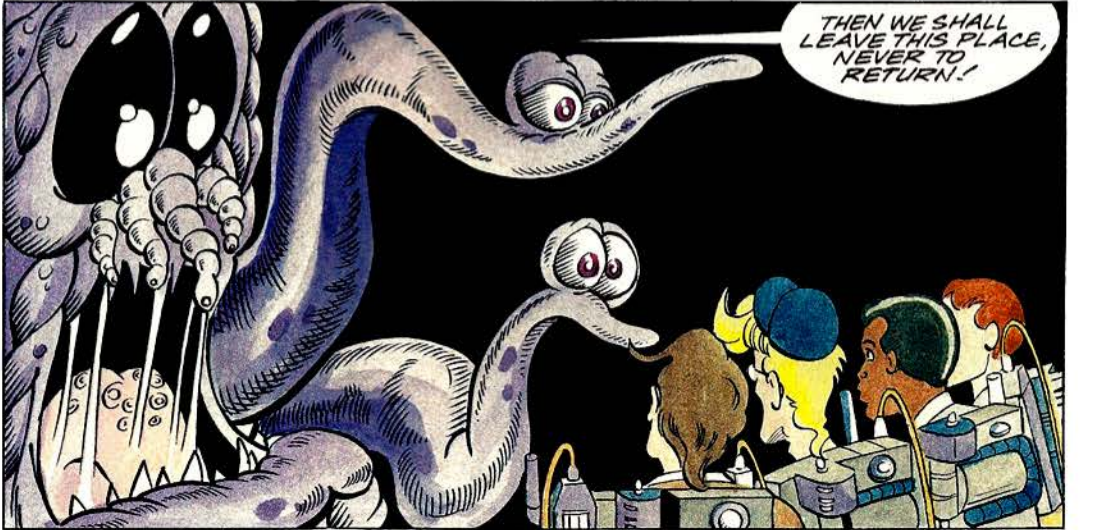
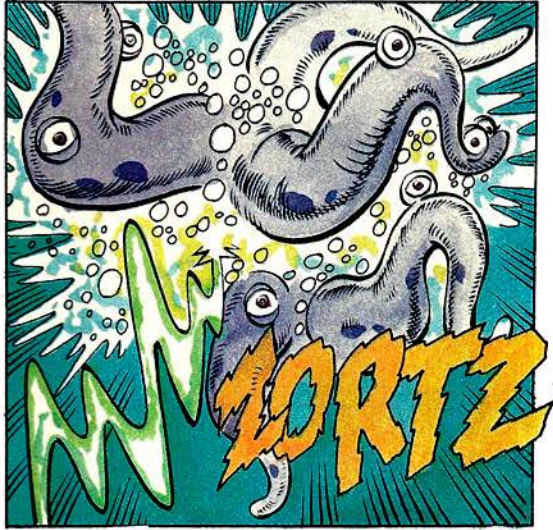
ENOUGH OF THIS! LET THE SECRET, SACRED CEREMONY BEGIN!



THE WEDDING IS OFF!









BUT WHAT ABOUT ME? WITHOUT YOU, OH DEEPEST ONE, I AM NOTHING!



THAT'S RIGHT...



ACCORDING TO MY READINGS, IT'S SWIFTLY WITHDRAWING DEEP INTO THE EARTH!

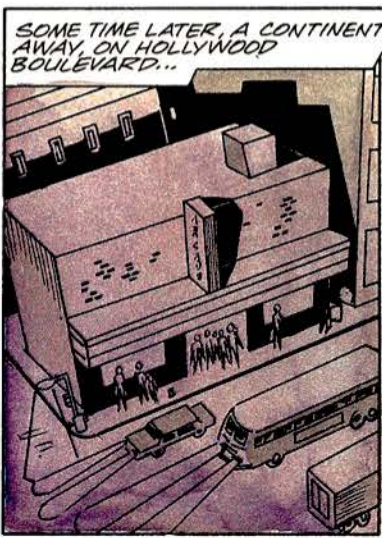
IT COULDN'T HAVE LEFT FAST ENOUGH TO SATISFY ME!



WE HAVE PEACE, AGAIN, TO PURSUE OUR FRAGILE EXISTENCE!

IT DOESN'T HAVE TO BE FRAGILE! I'VE GOT SOME GREAT IDEAS TO SPRUCE UP THE PLACE! I USED TO COME TO TOAD ISLAND AS A KID AND I REMEMBER...

LOOKS LIKE THE BEGINNING OF A BEAUTIFUL FRIENDSHIP!



SOME TIME LATER, A CONTINENT AWAY, ON HOLLYWOOD BOULEVARD...



A STRANGE NEW ARTIST APPEARS ONE NIGHT, WITH HIS FRIENDS.



PORTRAITS, ANYONE?

LETTERS!

This is for all of you loyal, but distant fans. Now, I'm only going to say this once, so you better listen up. I want this to be perfectly clear, because if something goes wrong, you might not get your books for a long, long time. Foreign subscriptions, this means Canada, cost \$22.50 in US Funds. That price lasts until the end of December, 1988. After December, 1988, the price goes up to \$32.00 in US Funds. This means that your check or money order must be already converted to US currency.

Dear Real Ghostbusters Staff:

You have until issue #15. If by that time I have not seen a story about me in your magazine I will come out of your bedroom closet in the middle of the night and scare you so badly that you'll do something you probably haven't done since childhood.

Love,

The Boogieman
Fortwayne, IN
PS Boot Ha, ha, ha.

Oh, but we will use you in a story. GHOSTBUSTERS #9, 10, 11 will be all about you. You get to play the father of a young boy, who has supernatural powers. Your name is Astorath and you get to suck the GB's into another dimension. Excited?

Dear Editor:
AAUGH! Five issues and not one letter page. Shouldn't you be running mail on issue one by now? Issue three said NOW gets thousands of letters... am I the only one on earth writing to GHOSTBUSTERS? Or is Slimer eating all of the mail? I've written you every issue... couldn't you at least print my comments?

Although not quite as good as the last two issues, REAL GHOSTBUSTERS #5 was well worth my 14 bits and tax. The story was okay, the art up to its usual standards (although Ray needs just a little work in some panels) and the characters in character. I also enjoyed seeing Slimer in an important role. There's nothing wrong with this, as long as he doesn't take over the book as he has several television episodes. Keep Slimer, but keep him as a mascot and not a team member. I enjoyed this book's trend of not presenting all spirits in the universe as evil. I'd like the return appearance of Irena and Peter's dizzy client on pages 4 and 5.

Unfortunately, I do have two complaints, one of which you've heard before. Several pages early in the book corrected previous coloring mistakes in past issues regarding the firehouse interior, but by page 14 almost no attention at all was given to

background colors. The other complaint is much more severe. The end of issue 4 promised a return engagement with more ghost gangsters, but issue five disregarded it as though it didn't occur. Never, Never, Never end a story in a cliffhanger unless you're going to resolve it! I guess that's it for another month. LETTERS, LETTERS, LETTERS PLEASE!

Peter Greer
105 Hicks street
Hicksville, OH

Peter, the ghost gangsters come back in issue seven. We wouldn't let you go hungry for too long.

Dear Ghostbusters, I like to play Ghostbusters a lot. Mostly every day I play it with me and my brothers and I use a toy protonpack and a toy P.K.E. meter. And I got small little toys of Ghostbusters and I hope I get the firehouse for Christmas, because I got Peter, Ray, Egon, and Winston in little toys. And I got Ecto-1.

From
Andrew Porteous

You sound like a true fan, and I'm going to pass on your Christmas wish to the big guy. Everyone deserves a firehouse.

Next Month: The gang meets a special boy who keeps them hopping!

SPEED RACER

Speed Racer is a unique teenager who drives a special sports car called the **MACH 5**. This extraordinary sports car contains gadgets and features that enable him to drive over, through or under land and sea!

Follow the exciting monthly adventures of **SPEED RACER**, his girlfriend **TRIXIE**, his kid brother **SPRIDLE**, and **SPRIDLE'S** pet chimp, **CHIM-CHIM**, as they take you along for a ride in the fastest car and on the greatest adventures around' the world!



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HAVE A NICE DAY.

FRIGHT NIGHT NIGHT

THE MOVIE. THE SEQUEL. THE REGULAR MONTHLY COMIC.

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