

MAD MUMBLINGS



We'd like to start the column off with an announcement we are pleased to make. A collection of the best stories from MAD has been printed and bound in a Pocket-Book edition by the Ballantine Book publishers. Copies are available for 35c at your magazine-stands and book-shops. -ed.

Dear Editor:

I enjoyed reading issue #17 of MAD, but it gave me a terrible headache because some dope put the cover on upside-down and I had to stand on my head to read the book. I didn't want anybody to think I was reading the book with the cover upsidedown.-Flat Top-(No Address)

... What are the addresses of the bee-utiful candidates for Miss Potgold of 1955? I like the one with the pony-tail .-

Tommy Anvill-Brookline, Mass.

.. My vote (gasp) my vote is (ugh) Miss Bontney Flent.

Rich-(No Address)

... Enclosed you will find my ballot for the Miss Potgold '55 contest with one slightly aged bung; also, one genuine shark's tooth from Florida: and one sample of radio-active pitchblende from Canada. The shark's tooth is guaranteed to prevent paintpots from falling on your head when you pass under a ladder. With one of these in your pocket, the painter will fall on your head.—Barry Roth—Mt. Kisco, N. Y.

... The returns are in from that Miss Potgold contest and George has won, hands down. However, the contest has been invalidated since most of you dirty cheapskate bums didn't send

along your bungs from kegs of Potgold beer .- ed.

... I couldn't enclose the bung from the keg of Potgold beer because I don't have the money, there isn't any sold where we live, but mainly I don't drink beer. - Stuart Glass-(No Address)

... I liked the Potgold feature. I thought that the candidates took sheer genius to draw.-Brian Daly-Bronx, N. Y.

... I just had to write and tell you how much I enjoyed Basil's (Miss Potgold) story.-George Ball-Woonsocket, R. I.

...We know that lampoon material is dwindling rapidly, but that is no excuse for those (echhhh) 6 pages of tripe by Basil Wolverton in #17. Leave the pages blank and we can droodle

on them.-Al Heumann-Upper Darby, Penn. ...The girls you drew as the future Miss Potgold were dis gusting and sickening. I also think you should leave the beer out of the comic-books. There is entirely too much beer being advertised now where kids can see it without it being in the comic-books. Now I know why they are banning some of the

comic-books. - (Anonymous) ... In reading issue #17, I liked very much the Potgold feature. I think that you really showed what beer is. Keep up the

good work.-(Anonymous)

...One item that you forgot in Julius Caeser is practiced by almost every comic-book publisher including yours! This is, the practice of putting exclaimation points after every sentence!-Peter Graham-Fairfax, Cal.

...We of SPACMWP (Society for Prevention of Abuse, Cruelty, and Misuse of the Word Potrzebie) were horrified when we read the letter of Mr. Moss, Pres. of SPAMWF (Society for Prevention and Misuse of the Word Furshlugginer), in which he came right out and insulted the word Potrzebie. Such thoughtlessness and insolence cannot go on unnoticed. We thought it was bad enough the way you were mutilating the true meaning of the word in your stories. We wish you would stop. Also, we demand an apology from Mr. Moss. -T. R. Lee (pres. SPACMWP) - Waukesha, Wis

...You can't imagine how shocked we at SPAMWP (Society for the Prevention and of Abuse and Misuse of the Word Potrzebie) were when we read the letter from that Burl Moss person.-Robert Jolly (pres. SPAMWP)-San Antonio, Tex.

We think that this is a very uncouth accusation and from on, we of APMUWP (Association for Prevention and Misinterpretation and Use of the Word Potrezebie.) will have nothing to do whatsoever with their silly word.-James Cromwell (pres. APMUWP)-Rush, Tex.

... We of the SFWP (Society for the Furtherment of the Word Potrzebie) demand an apology.-Philip Winterson (pres.

SFWP) - Winchester, Mass.

.. I was amazed at the blast you took at Joe McCarthy and Roy Cohn. in MAD #17. It seems like you guys should leave your hands off politics in your mags. Communism is no joke!... and neither are the men who fight it. You can't stay in business writing stuff like that.-Nelson Lyon-Parsippany, N. J.

...MAD analysed: Psychologically - A release of socially induced inhibitions through hyperbolic portrayal of the conventional aspects in the inhibitory agents; Egoistically-A mechanism for personal (editors) and general (readers) exultation by ludirous grasping of the universal components which comprise existence; Historically - An inevitable reaction to the current evolution of human understanding where traditions, prejudices, systems, cultures and technology have been extended to unprecidented planes of specific intricacy but total incongruity; - Medicinally-An ingenious consideration of the world's prognosis and supurb panacea for the condition; Metaphysically-A bold and expansive effort at comprehending in the most possible omni-science and frequently sub-specie aeternitatis; Pecuniously—A diabolically clever method of obtaining a speedy shekel (fast buck).-Ernest Sherman-(Negative Residential Indication)

.. Wallahi! What a magazine! The stories within these covers would have pleased the Commander of the Faithful himself. Has it not been truly written... There is no MAD but MAD, and Melvin is its Prophet. Salaam, Sidi Effendi, and by the Ninety and Nine Names of Potrzebie, give us more.—Sheik el John el Gaboury-(No Address)

I think your mag is swell for squashing spiders .- B. L. D.

-Blythe, Cal.

... I thought you'd be interested in knowing that your comic is more popular than igisher, ehougha, and many more.-Peggy

Dart-San Diego, Cal.

... What kind of idiot is so touchy that he will mistake the Mona Lisa for the Madonna or shout "Prejudice!" when you satirize an already satirized Chineses (Mad Mumblings, Issue #17)? MAD is by far the most intelligent and mature comic on the market, besides the generally wittiest. From the start, you have cleverly pointed out the stupidities, the idiocies, the hypocracies of life today. You are the only comic that has dared to be subtle...to assume intelligence on the part of the reader. Your wide adult circulation has proven a point: that it is possible to be funny while you advance a worthwhile message. I think I speak for most readers when I say, keep it up. You haven't been stepping on any toes that don't need it.—Ted Nelson—New York, N. Y.

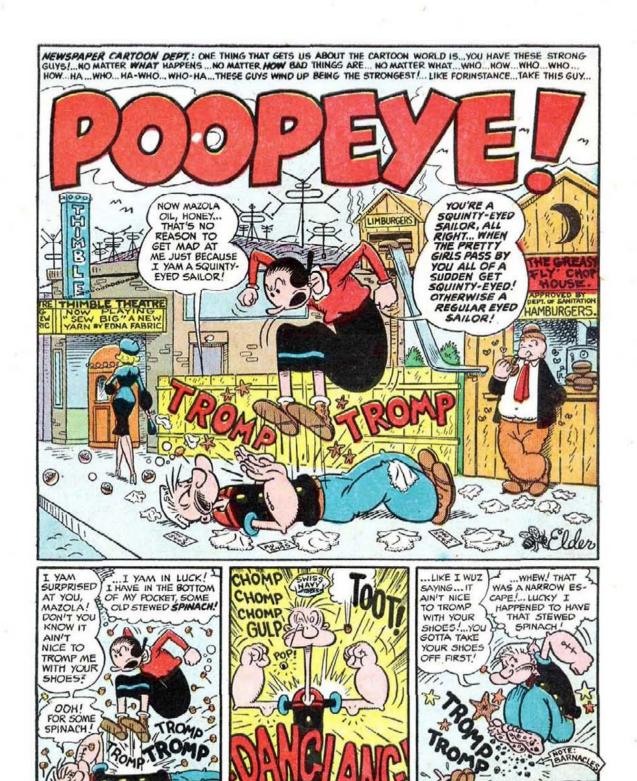
.. I have read plenty of comic-books, and most of them are real childish. At least you have hit on a book that grown-ups can get a laugh out of. My buddies and I get a real jolt from your humor.-Pfc. Frank Blahnik-Yangu, Korea.

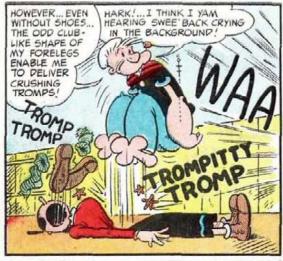
..Please be advised that your book MAD has been relegated to the incinerator since its first appearance in our home. Its ugly, sexy caricatures of the human face and form and suggestive theme are obnoxious. What a way to earn a living!-Mrs. M. E. Biggs-San Jose, Cal.

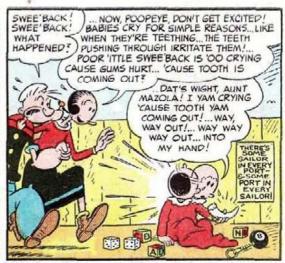
advertisement

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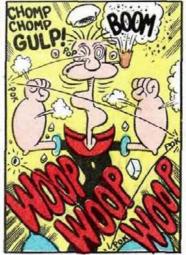










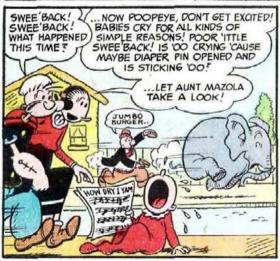




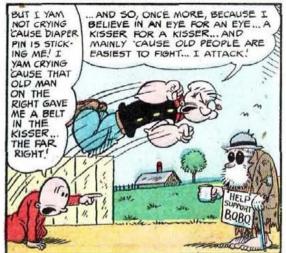






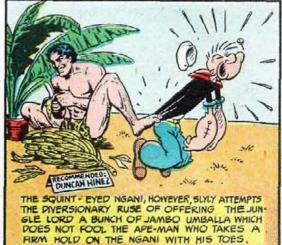








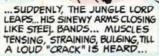






OR MAYBE NGOOMBA THE KNIGHT OF PYTHIAS.







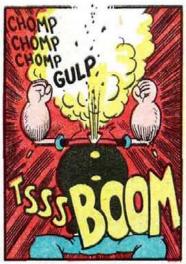
... THEN WITH HIS KNUCKLES AUS-GECRACKED... BACK TO THE ATTACK



STINCTS OF THE JUNGLE IN HIS BLOOD... STANDS PANTING OVER HIS PREY, FOR NOW THAT THE PREY HAS BEEN CAPTURED... IT IS TIME TO FEAST.











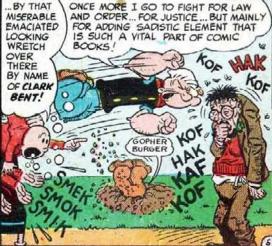
...UH-OH/SWEE'BACK
IS CRYING AGAIN!
...SWEE'BACK!...
SWEE'BACK!...
SWEE'BACK!...
WO' HOPPEN?

ITILE SWEE'BACK...IS 'OO CRYING
'CAUSE MAYBE 'OO GOT BUBBLE
INSIDE WHILE DRINKING FROM
YOUR MILK BOTTLE?

...LET AUNT MAZOLA
BUBBLE OO...

GIRL
BURGER-















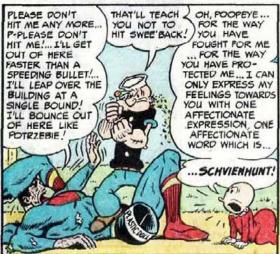








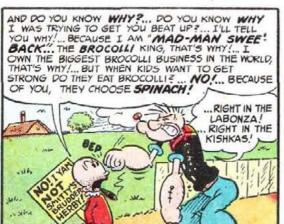


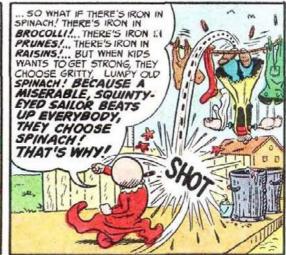




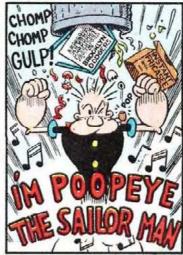






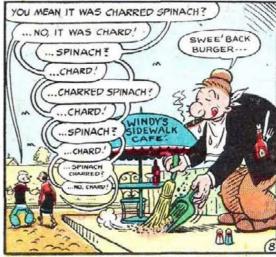












SCIENCE DEPT.: YOU EVER WATCH ONE OF THESE SPORTS NEWSREELS WHERE THEY'VE SPED UP THE CAMERA TO SLOW DOWN THE ACTION T. BY GEORGE, THERE'S MORE GOES ON IN AN ACTION THAN MEETS THE EYE!... LIKE FOR INSTANCE, LET US SHOW YOU WHAT HAPPENS TO A GOLF BALL, BY GEORGE (THAT'S GEORGE DOWN THERE)... WHEN THE GOLF CLUB STRIKES IT IN HERE, THE POINT OF CONTACT, WHERE CLUB FROM THE RIGHT, THE NOTE HOW SIDE OF GOLF GOLF: HERE IS AN ... NOTE INTERESTING GOLF CLUB APPROACHES PHENOMENON CAUGHT BY BALL FLATTENS AN IN GOLF BALL ON A TEE! ON DOWNWARD SWING! TOUCHES SURFACE OF BALL THE SLOW-MOTION CAMERA... STANT BEFORE LEAVING TEE!



_ STILL FLATTENING, BEND-ING THE CLUB AN INSTANT BEFORE LEAVING THE TEE...



... FLATTENING, BENDING ... ANY MINUTE BALL IS ABOUT TO LEAVE TEE ...



... BENDING, FLATTENING BENDING... ABOUT TO ANY MINUTE LEAVE...



...BENDING, LEAVING BENDING... ... HEY WHAT THE HECK...



THE BALL INTO THE GROUND, BY GEORGE!





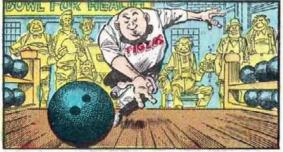






ING: TO THE NORMAL UNAIDED EYE ... AN EXPERT BOWLER APPEARS MERELY TO PROJECT THE SPHEROID IN THE DIRECTION OF THE TEN-PINS!

THE BALL THEN, APPEARS, TO YOUR NORMAL, UNAIDED MISERABLE BLOODSHOT EYE, TO SHOVE THE PINS EFFORTLESSLY INTO THE PIT... BUT WHAT REALLY HAPPENS ... HOOO HOOOO...





THE SLOW MOTION CAM-ERA COMES TO OUR RES-CUE! THERE GOES THE BALL .. NOTICE IN SLOW MOTION ...

... TURNING A CERTAIN SPE CIAL SPIN YOU CAN ONLY

... THIS SPIN MAKING IT REVOLVE 50'S IT HITS THE MIDDLE PINS FIRST ...

... THEN THE CERTAIN SPECIAL WAY IT HITS MAKES A SPECIAL WAY, IT IT TURN LEFT AND HIT ... TURNS RIGHT AND HITS ...

... AND IT HITS IN SUCH



SO YOU SEE, IT AC-TUALLY HITS IN THREE DIRECTIONS AT ONCE!



OF COURSE, THE UNAIDED BUT THANKS TO OUR SLOW THERE YOU SEE ALL THE ...THANKS TO OUR SLOW-EYE SEES ALL THIS ACTION AS A HAZY BLUR! WE KNOW BETTER, EH! THE PIT AND ... UH OH ...





MOTION CAMERA, HA HA ... PINS COMING TO REST IN



MOTION CAMERA, WE NO-TICE ONE PIN STANDING!



HOWEYER, YOU WILL NO-TICE BALL IS STILL



... IN SUCH A CERTAIN SPECIAL SPIN ENABLING IT TO LEAP FROM PIT ...



STRIKING THE RE-MAINING PIN AND SPIN-NING BACK INTO THE PIT!



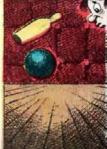
AND NOW EVERYTHING HAS BEEN STRUCK DOWN INTO THE PIT!



NEEDLESS TO SAY, THE UNAIDED EYE SEES ALL THIS AS A HAZY BLUR!









AQUAPLANING: TO THE EXPERT DOESN'T DO MUCH!

WE SEE HIM SAIL THROUGH THE AIR AND DISAPPEAR FOR AN INSTANT IN A SPLASH! YOU WHO HAVE OBSERVED THIS.

OBSERVED THIS MERELY WITH THE NAKED EYE ... ALL WE HAVE TO SAY TO YOU IS... SHAME ON YOU! ... GO GET DRESSED!







THE MAGIC SLOW MOTION CAMERA REVEALS THE TRUTH OF THE SITUATION!

FROM THE LEFT, OUR AQUAPLANER DESCENDS TOWARDS THE WATER!

POINT OF CONTACT ... NOTE SPLASH BEGINNING TO RISE FROM SURFACE!

NOTE HOW MOMENTUM ACTUALLY FORCES BODY MOMENTUM FORCES INTO THE WATER!

NOTE HOW DEEP THE BODY INTO THE WATER!











NOTE IN FACT HOW THE BODY GOES COMPLETE-LY UNDER WATER ...

NATURALLY ... ALL THIS HAPPENS SO FAST THE NORMAL EYE MISSES IT!

.. I MEAN, IT MAY LOOK SLOW IN SLOW MOTION ... ACTUALLY IT'S FAST!

.. ACTUALLY, THE BODY TAKES A FRACTION OF A SECOND TO BOB UP!

THIS IS ACTUALLY ALL HAPPENING IN A FRACTION OF A SECOND ...







... AND ANY SECOND, THE BODY WILL COME TO THE SURFACE ACTUALLY ..



ANY SECOND, TO THE SURFACE WILL ACTUALLY THE BODY COME ...



HOW DO YOU LIKE THAT? ... TSK TSK TSK!

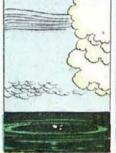


BY GEORGE ... THE BOAT BY MISTAKE WENT INTO THE SHALLOWS!











G: TO THE NORMAL EYE, LIKE WRESTLING OR ROLLER PERBIES!

TO THE NORMAL EYE, A JAB MAY LOOK WEAK!... TO THE NORMAL EYE, A BLOW MAY LOOK HARMLESS!

... HOWEVER ... IF YOU GOT SUCH A BLOW TO YOUR NORMAL EYE, BOY WOULD YOU BE FARSHIMMELT ...



OF CUSS, THE MAGIC SLOW- HERE THE SEEMINGLY MOTION CAMERA SHOWS YOU WO HOPPEN!

SHORT JAB MAKES CONTACT WITH THE FACE!

HERE WE SEE THE GLOVE BEGINNING TO SINK INTO THE FLESH!

BEING A RIGHT CROSS HERE WE SEE THE FACE BEING PULLED TO THE LEFT! HALF ITS WIDTH!

.. NOTE HOW THE FACE COMPRESSES TO



HERE THE GLOVE LEAVES THE FACE IN ITS LEFTWARD JOURNEY!



... NOTE THE POPPING SOUND WITH WHICH THE FACE RESUMES ITS SHAPE! FROM THE BLOW!



... NOTE THAT THE HEAD IS STILL SPINNING



... NOTE THE MOUTHPIECE EMERGING FROM THE FORCE OF THE BLOW!



... NOTE HOW SOME TEETH FOLLOW THE MOUTHPIECE IN QUICK SUCCESSION!



AND NOW WATCH HOW THE KNOCKOUT REALLY COMES ABOUT!



... NOTE HOW THE LEFT ARM IS ACCIDENTALLY BEING RAISED IN DEFENSE! FORCE OF THE BLOW ...



NOTE THE HEAD. STILL TURNING FROM THE



... SMASHES ACCIDENTALLY INTO THE UPRAISED



... AND FINALLY NOTE HOW THE AIR IS FILLED GLOVE, CAUSING KNOCKOUT! WITH REMAINING TEETH!



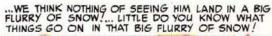








SKIING: TO THE NORMAL, AMERICAN EYE, WE THINK NOTHING OF SEEING THE SKIER FLY THROUGH THE AIR AND FALL HUNDREDS OF FEET!







THE FURSHLUGGINER SLOW-MOTION CAMERA HAS ALL THE ANSWERS!

.. HERE, AFTER DESCENDING, OUR SKIER MAKES CONTACT WITH GROUND ...

... THIS PARTICULAR SKIER HAS MADE VERY FAULTY LANDING!

...HERE, SKIER, BE - ...HERE SKIER REACHES CAUSE OF FAULTY LAND. APEX OF FIRST BOUNCE HERE SKIER REACHES ING, LEAVES GROUND! AND IS READY TO DESCEND!









...HERE SKIER DESCENDS! ...HERE SKIER CONTACTS
...NOTE SKIS COMPLETE- GROUND AGAIN. THIS
LY OUT OF LINE! TIME WITH BODY!

NOTE HOW BODY FLATTENS FROM FORCE TO HALF ITS DEPTH!

HERE SKIER BOUNCES UP FROM GROUND FOR THE SECOND TIME!

... NOTE REMARKABLE ELAS-TICITY AS SKIER RISES OUT OF CAMERA RANGE!











...NOTE FOR MOMENT WHILE SKIER IS OUT OF PICTURE, DEEP GOUGES IN SNOW!

... NOTE SKIER DESCENDS INTO PICTURE AGAIN, THIS TIME HEAD FIRST!

NOTE HEAD ABOUT TO CONTACT GROUND WITH GREAT FORCE!

... NOTE FORCE WITH WHICH SNOW AND ROCKS ARE FLUNG FROM IMPACT!

NOW NOTE SEPARATE PARTS OF SKIER AS THEY BOUNCE UP FOR LAST TIME!











SWIMMING: NOW IN SWIMMING, WHEN THESE CHAMPIONS HUMAN EYE CAN CATCH ALL THE GYRATIONS THEY DO IN ONE DIVE?



THEN HE SNAPS INTO AN INCOMPARABLE

.THEN, HE SNAPS INTO AN EXACT LEFT-HANDED A BEAUTIFULLY EXE-"TWIST-ABOUT..." CUTED "TUMBLE ..."

... THEN, HE SNAPS INTO

THE MAGIC YOU-KNOW-WHAT COMES TO OUR **©**₩₩@# RESCUE!

HERE THE DIVER LEAVES THE BOARD IN A PER-FECT "SWAN DIVE "!



...THEN HE SNAPS INTO A GORGEOUS "RIGHT-HANDED TWIST ABOUT (UPSIDE-DOWN)"



... THEN HE SNAPS INTO A MAGNIFIQUE "GRAB-FOOTED FOLD-OVER..."



... THEN HE SNAPS INTO A MARYELIEUX GALLOP-PING FALL-DOWN ...



... THEN HE SNAPS INTO A VUNDERBAR "FALL-DOWN DRAG-OUT"... AND FINALLY...



... AS HE APPROACHES THE WATER, HE GRACE-FULLY UNFOLDS ...



... SLOWLY TURNING IN AIR IN A PERFECTLY AIR IN A PERFECTLY EXECUTED SWAN DIVE...



... STILL TURNING 50'5 THAT HE CAN MEET THE WATER HEAD-ON!



NOTE THE FEARLESS THE PLUMMETING HEAD!



NOTE THE POINT OF OUTTHRUST POSITION OF CONTACT ... HOW THE POINT FLATTENS FROM INITIAL MPACT! AN INSTANT FROM THE FORCE!



NOTE HOW THE BODY ACTUALLY COMPRESSES FOR



... WELL WHAT DO YOU KNOW !... NO WATER IN THE POOL, BY GEORGE!











CUT-YOUR-OWN-THROAT DEPT.: AS OUR TINY RED EYES ROVE O'ER THE PILES OF DUSTY MAGAZINES IN OUR DARK LITTLE OFFICE, WE SUDDENLY REALIZE THAT WE'VE JABBED OUR POISONED PEN INTO EVERY PHASE OF COMIC BOOKS EXCEPT MAYBE LITTLE ODDS AND ENDS LIKE...TRADE -MARKS... COPYRIGHT STATEMENTS ... AND COMIC BOOK ADS !...SAY... HOW'S ABOUT THEM.

COMIC BOOK ADS!

WHAT TYPE COMIC BOOK
AP READER ARE YOU THE FREELOADER TYPE
WHO SENDS AWAY FOR ALL
THINGS MARKED "FREE"?

...OR MAYBE YOU'RE THE NAUSEATING TYPE WHO SENDS AWAY FOR THINGS MAKKED HOW TO BE POPULAR ...HOW TO BE LUCKY IN LOVE.



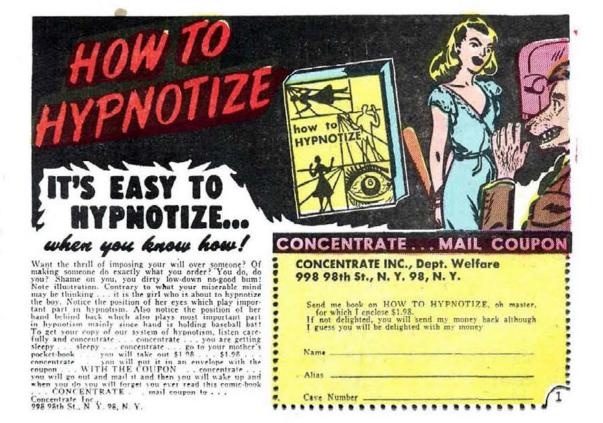
...OR MAYBE YOU'RE THE MISERABLE TYPE LIKE ALL THE REST OF US. ATTRACTED BY THE PAGE THAT SAYS ON TOP, MAKE MONEY!"



...THEN MAYBE, YOU'RE THE WORST TYPE OF ALL WHO FILLS OUT THE COUPON IN THE FRONT OF THE BOOK FOR A SUBSCRIPTION TO MAD!



ANYHOW ... LET'S TAKE A LOOK AT THESE TYPICAL-TYPE COMIC BOOK ADS! FOR INSTANCE, HOW'S ABOUT THEM HYPNOTISM ADS ...



GET PRIZES... MAKE MONEY at the wonderful prizes shown

hey are just a few of the don't you! Admit it! By the way your prizes I offer you without a cent of cost. Look at them! You want them, yeady little eyes are glistening and below. Look

ou know you want them! Heh heh heh . . . they're yours, you you have to do is sell packs of my 25¢ a pack and get your father to sign a paper I will send you beautiful Christmas Cards at tour tongue is hanging out, V all yours! "contract" hear

I'm good old friendry two been touch the hear and you been helping boys and giving an MONEY for 36 years carn planty MONEY and give and planty MONEY. "Uncle" old friendly mainly for me marked

FIRST IN YOUR NEGHBORHOOD

Sell my pretty little packs to your they'll feel obligated to buy By gosh, you can embarass your relatives into buy ng a couple dozen packs. When sold - send ME the MONEY. Re neighbors, they don't need family, friends and easy. Even if every one of cards. mem.

Thousands of smart boys and girls have been earning dumb boys and girls have also member - ME, the MONEY send - MONEY - ME. mainly because thousands of prizes this way. You can too -

TRUST YOU...YOU FOOL YOU SEND NO MONEY, HEH HEH -"Uncle" Lovie Inc., Dept. Parks been carning prizes this way.

MAIL THIS COUPON Today Boobyville, U.S.A.

and one order of 500 Christmas Packs. I will resell them at 23s each or clsc . . . send you the money and choose my prize. Please sord me your BIG PRIZE BOOK

Bank Account Number

1 1 1

Address

TIVES I CAN CARDS WILLE, I HAVE LET'S SEND A JEAN, SEE THIS AD COF GOOD CLD UNCE. NOW. TO GET THAT RANGER AXEN KNIFE THE THE THE ANGER AXEN KNIFE THE ALWAYS WANTED.

YOUR

CARDS ARE BEAUTIFUL.
THEY EA BARGAN. TILL
TAKE 999 PACKS. NOW
DON'T FORGET TO HINT TO
YOUR EATHER TO MAKE 5URE
CAN MY NAME 15 IN HIS WILL LIKE PROMISED

TO SELL CUR CARDS AND IT WAS FUN AND EASY HERE'S THE MAILMAN WITH OUR PRIZES.



COST. MAIL Coupon for . . . heh heh . . . FREE Prize Book Maybe with blood but without one cent

Genuine Leather An Attractive Un'break BEAUTIFUL WRIST WATCH for Boys and Showpiece hromitan Your prize for selling a mere 25 packs. Made esand camping packs. Made es-DRINKING CUP YOUR OWN

DELUXE CAR

with

CADILLAC

ing parts inside, messy old work but an attractive without cost showpiece. selling name happens to be Dixie). Very useful in all sorts out. Your name on it (if your emergencies.

packs of cards. WASHING MACHINE ust GENUINE DISH-

CHEMISTRY

SET

MANSION, COMPLETE

COLONIAL STYLE have one ... tor selling

for

Swell



washing dirty dishes. Great imb inside cost for mereun, especial while in ope 31

Southern exmere 100,000 ground and a outfit includes and posare. Ca Fully cards

TRAIN AND CARS RAILROAD REAL FACTORY



Be

This swell outfit is not hrst in your neighborhood

but the real thing.

. , for selling only

give you hours of fun.
Yours without cost for sell-ing \$00,000 packs. This swell outfit, corr-plete with railroad sid-ing and water tank will and water tank will

A genuine railread train with pullman cars and ca-boose, tully equipped. Plus five miles of track to run on. Don't miss this outilt on. Don't mass the for 1,000,000 packs.

REAL FULL LENGTH STEAMSHIP

What tun you'll have running it on real steam. Has swinning you aleverything, Complete with ire miles swinning too run on. Choice of Black or Green, 100,000,000 packs.







CONVING ATTIRASTIONS



PATHOS! TENSION! EXCITEMENT!
HERE IS A SCENE FROM ONE OF E.C.'S "NEW DIRECTION" MAGS.

IMPAGT

AND THEN ... DOWN DEEP INSIDE YOU...
YOU FEEL THE CHILL...THE COLD CHILL
... THE CHILL OF DEATH, YOU STARE
AT THE PAPER ON YOUR LAP, UNABLE
TO RAISE YOUR EYES... AFRAID TO SEE
WHAT YOU KNOW IS THERE. BUT,
AFTER A FEW TERRORIZED MOMENTS,
YOU CAN'T STAND IT! YOU DO LOOK
UP! AND YOU SEE HIM...



HE SITS STIFFLY, READING HIS PAPER, NOT LOOKING AT YOU, NOT NOTICING YOU. BUT YOU'VE SEEN HIM, CARL! YOU'VE SEEN HIS FACE... THE ONE YOU KNEW SOMEDAY YOU'D SEE AGAIN... THE FACE YOU'VE BEEN AFRAID TO SEE FOR TEN LONG YEARS. YOUR MOUTH TWITCHES. YOUR HANDS OPEN AND CLOSE, WET WITH PERSPIRATION...



The Roman Arena! The French Revolution! Napoleon! here is a scene from another of e.c.'s "new direction" mags...

VALOR

THE OLD SWINEHERD LOOKED UP WITH HORROR AND AWE AS HIS TREMBLING HANDS WERE STRETCHED ACROSS A BOULDER AND HIS CHAINS WERE SHATTERED WITH THE BLOW OF A BATTLE-AXE...



THE SERF STOOD BREATHLESSLY... UNCOMPREHEND-INGLY... WATCHING THE KNIGHT AND HIS RETENUE RIDE OFF INTO THE MIST. AND HE NO LONGER WORE CHAINS.



FOLLOW KETH MICHAELS, W.P. SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT, IN E.C.'S "NEW DIRECTION" MAG...

EXTRA

AND STILL LATER ... OUT AT THE ISLAND REEFS ..

WAIT A MINUTE, MICHAELS! I PON'T SURE I DO! LIKE THIS SPOT! LET'S TRY THE I'M ALL SET! OTHER END OF THE REEFS! YOU COME ON! TAKE PON'T WANT TO DIVE HERE! OFF THAT SHIRT AND LET'S GO!



KEITH DIVES, IN THE BOAT, ANXIOUS, STRAINED FACES WAIT THROUGH THE LONG MINUTES, WATCHING THE AIR BUBBLES BURST ON THE SURFACE OF THE WATER.



SCREAMING ACTION! PLANING GUNS! EXPLODING FURN.
TAKE TO THE COMBAT SKIES IN E.C.'S "NEW DIRECTION" MAG...

ACES HIGH

YES, THAT'S HOW IT WAS. EVERY DAY, WE GALLANTLY FOUGHT A GALLANT ENEMY... WITHOUT REALLY
HATING HIM! WE COULDN'T EVEN HATE THE JERRIES A COUPLE OF DAYS LATER, WHEN /T HAPPENED. THE C.O.,
COL. MIKE PEPPER, HAD LED EIGHTEEN OF US OVER JAGSTAFFEL II'S AIRDROME. WE'D DROPPED LOW OVER THE
FIELD, BUZZING VON KRUESLING'S H.O., "THROWING DOWN THE GAUNTLET"...



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THE SUBJECT'S PARENTS PASSED OUT THROUGH THE WAITING ROOM. THE DOCTOR SHOOK HIS HEAD...

THERE'S 90% OF THE TROUBLE...
A BAD MARNIAGE... INCESSANT QUARRELS OVER REARING THE CHILD... THE FATHER PULLING ONE WAY.. THE MOTHER, THE OTHER. NO WONDER THE BOY'S IN A STATE OF REBELLION AGAINST BOTH OF THEM!





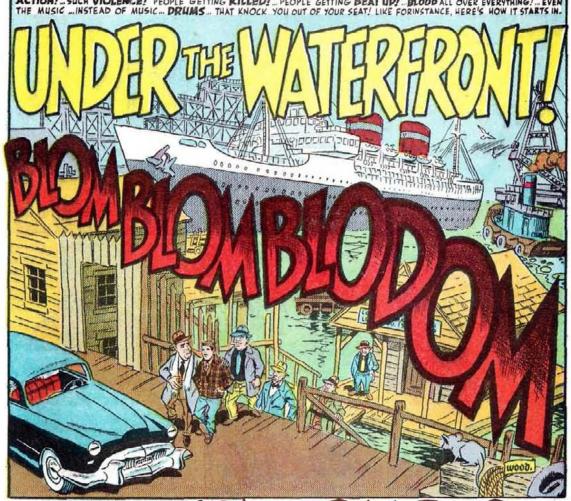
AS MANY OF YOU KNOW, WE AT E.C. HAVE BEEN HARD AT WORK PREPARING A COMPLETELY NEW LINE OF MAGAZINES TO REPLACE THE ONES WE'VE DROPPED! AFTER MUCH HEAD-SCRATCHING, NAIL-BITING, AND BRAIN-RACKING... FOLLOWED BY PLENTY OF PENCILING, INKING, AND EDITING... WE ARE AT LAST READY TO UNVEIL OUR "NEW MAGAZINES! TO AROUSE YOUR CURIOSITY, WE'VE PRESENTED THIS UNVEILING IN THE FORM OF COMING ATTRACTIONS! NOW YOU'VE SEEN THEM!

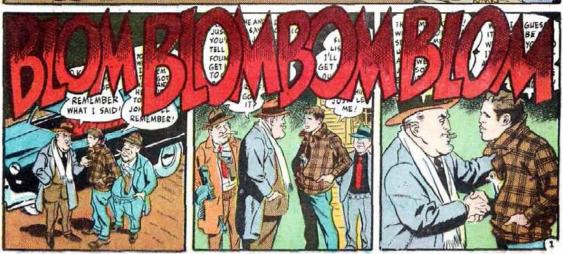
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YOU'VE GOT TO GET UP AND WALK, TERRY!



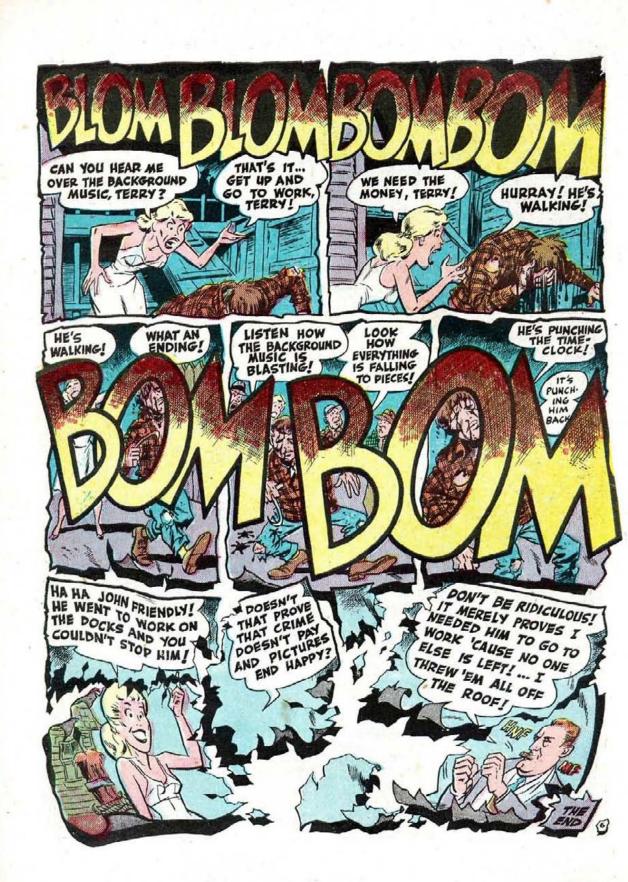
... FOR THIS

IS WHOLE

MESSAGE

AFRAID, JOHN FRIENDLY AND NOBODY ELSE CAN STOP YOU FROM WORK-ING ON THE DOCKS!





Finally, as this, our current session draws to a close, we look at our calendar and calculate that at this moment, you, our reader, are somewhere in the waning days of December... the twilight of the year.

And so we momentarily swivel our swivel-chairs about putting the lampoonery, the buffoonery out of sight and out of mind, and we take up the pleasanter spirit of purely good cheer.

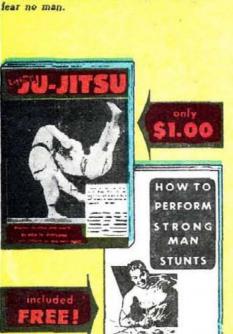
To each and every one of you good readers, we would like to send to you our greetings of the season. To each and every one of you, may you have the Very-est, Merriest Christmas...and/or (depending when you read this, be that as it might), may you have the Happiest, Carefree-est New Year that you have ever experienced and may you have many many more of the same for the rest of your natural-born days.

-the Editors and Staff

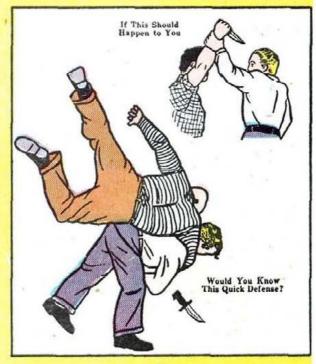
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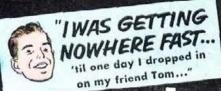
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