

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 upside-down.—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 disgusting 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 now 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 suparb panacea for the condition; Metaphysically—A bold and expansive effort at comprehending in the most possible omniscience and frequently sub specie aeternitatis; Pecuniously—A diabolically clever method of obtaining a speedy shekel (fast buck).—Ernest Sherman—(Negative Residential Indication)

Wallah! 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.

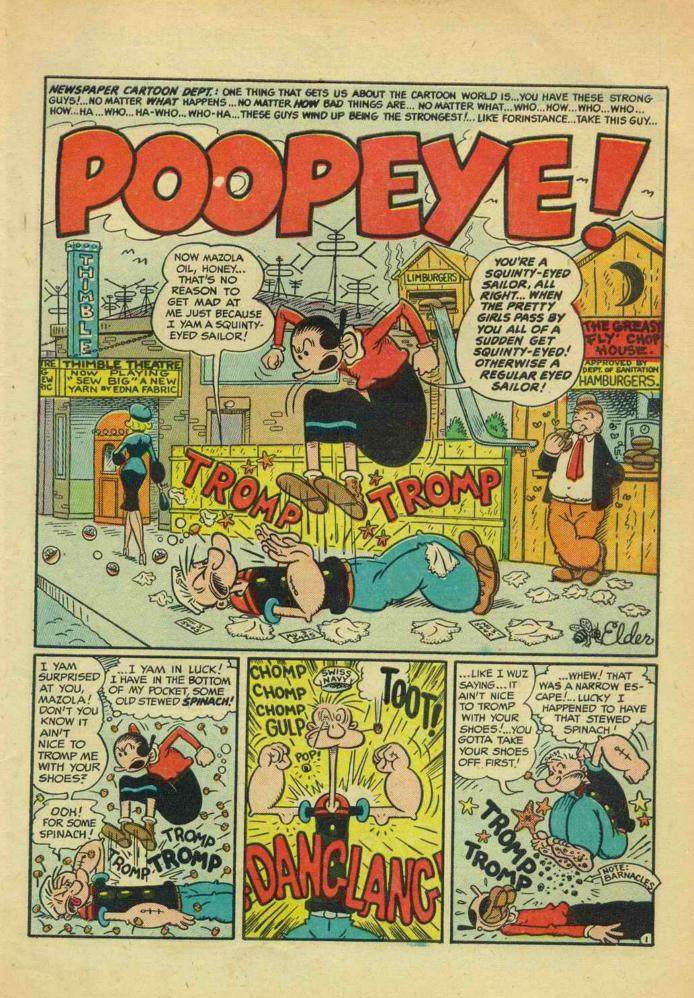
... Please be advised that your book MAD has been relegated to the incinerator since its first appearance in our home. Its ugly, sexy caricatures of the human face and form and suggestive theme are obnoxious. What a way to earn a living!—Mrs. M. E. Biggs—San Jose, Cal.

advertisement

Help us earn our miserable living. Send money for subscriptions. \$1.00 for eight issues mailed in bullet-proof manila envelopes. Address all mail to:

MAD editors

Room 706 Dept. 21 225 Lafayette Street New York 12, New York













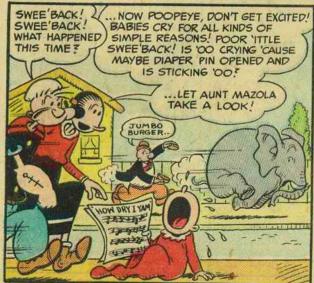




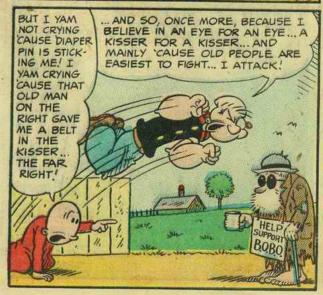


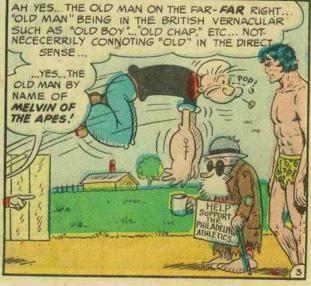










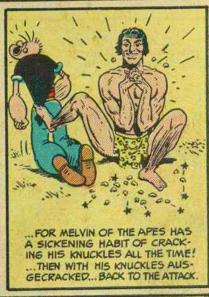
















WHITE BREAD SANDWICH THAT JANE HAS WRAPPED FOR HIM

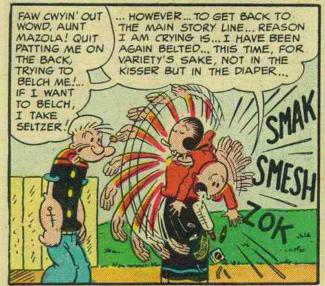


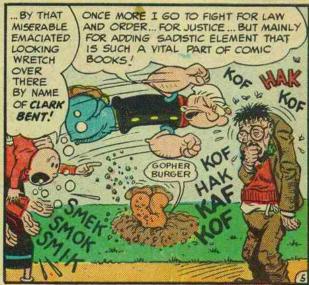










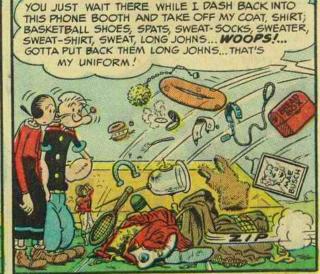












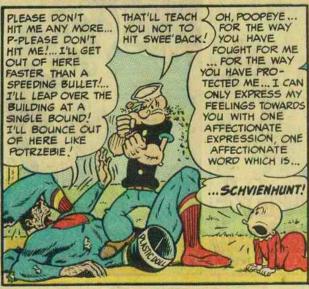








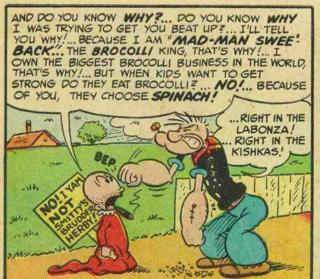






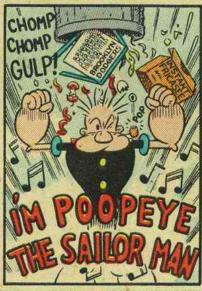






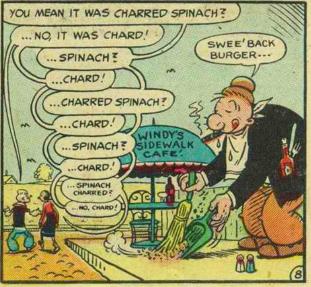












SCIENCE DEPT.: YOU EVER WATCH ONE OF THESE SPORTS NEWSREELS WHERE THEY'VE SPED UP THE CAMERA TO SLOW DOWN THE ACTION ... BY GEORGE, THERE'S MORE GOES ON IN AN ACTION THAN MEETS THE EYE!... LIKE FOR INSTANCE, LET US SHOW YOU WHAT HAPPENS TO A GOLF BALL, BY GEORGE (THAT'S GEORGE DOWN THERE)... WHEN THE GOLF CLUB STRIKES IT IN ...

GOLF: HERE IS AN GOLF BALL ON A TEE!

...FROM THE RIGHT, THE ...HERE, THE POINT OF ...NOTE INTERESTING ...NOTE HOW SIDE OF GOLF GOLF CLUB APPROACHES CONTACT, WHERE CLUB PHENOMENON CAUGHT BY BALL FLATTENS AN INON 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... THE BALL INTO THE ... HEY WHAT THE HECK... GROUND, BY GEORGE!



... SOMEONE NAILED THE BALL INTO THE











BOWLING: 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-

TURNING A CERTAIN SPE-CIAL SPIN YOU CAN ONLY CUE! THERE GOES THE BALL .. NOTICE IN SLOW MOTION ...

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

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

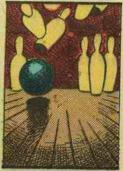


SO YOU SEE, IT AC-TUALLY HITS IN THREE DIRECTIONS AT ONCE!



OF COURSE, THE UNAIDED BUT THANKS TO OUR SLOW THERE YOU SEE ALL THE ... THANKS TO OUR SLOW-EYE SEES ALL THIS MOTION CAMERA, HA HA... PINS COMING TO REST IN MOTION CAMERA, WE NO-ACTION AS A HAZY BLUR! WE KNOW BETTER, EH? THE PIT AND... UH OH... TICE ONE PIN STANDING!









HOWEVER, YOU WILL NO-TICE BALL IS STILL SPINNING IN THE PIT.



... 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!





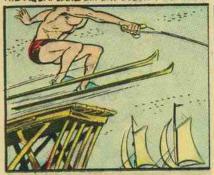


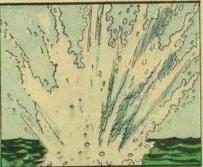




AQUAPLANING: TO THE NAKED EYE, THE AQUAPLANE EXPERT DOESN'T DO MUCH!

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 INTO THE WATER!

NOTE HOW DEEP THE MOMENTUM FORCES BODY INTO THE WATER!











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

NATURALLY ... ALL THIS 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











BOXING: TO THE NORMAL EYE, BOXING IS NEVER EXCITING LIKE WRESTLING OR ROLLER DERBIES!

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.





YOU WO HOPPEN!

OF CUSS, THE MAGIC SLOW- HERE THE SEEMINGLY MOTION CAMERA SHOWS 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



... NOTE THAT THE HEAD IS STILL SPINNING FACE RESUMES ITS SHAPE! FROM THE BLOW!



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



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



... AND NOW WATCH HOW ... NOTE HOW THE LEFT THE KNOCKOUT REALLY ARM IS ACCIDENTALLY COMES ABOUT!



BEING RAISED IN DEFENSE!



NOTE THE HEAD, STILL ... SMASHES ACCIDENTALLY ... AND FINALLY NOTE





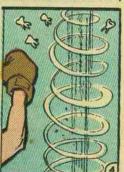
TURNING FROM THE INTO THE UPRAISED HOW THE AIR IS FILLED FORCE OF THE BLOW... GLOVE, CAUSING KNOCKOUT! WITH REMAINING TEETH!



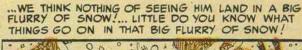








SKIING: TO THE NORMAL, AMERICAN EYE, WE THINK NOTHING OF SEEING THE SKIER FLY THROUGH THE AIR AND FALL HUNDREDS OF FEET!







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 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

HERE SKIER BOUNCES ... NOTE REMARKABLE ELAS-FLATTENS FROM FORCE UP FROM GROUND FOR TIGITY AS SKIER RISES TO HALF ITS DEPTH! THE SECOND TIME! OUT OF CAMERA RANGE OUT OF CAMERA RANGE!







... NOTE SKIER DESCENDS INTO PICTURE AGAIN, THIS TO CONTACT GROUND TIME HEAD FIRST! WITH GREAT FORCE!



... NOTE HEAD ABOUT



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



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



SKIER IS OUT OF PICTURE,









SWIMMING: NOW IN SWIMMING, WHEN THESE CHAMPIONS JUMP OFF THE DIVING BOARD, WHAT NORMAL HUMAN EYE CAN CATCH ALL THE GYRATIONS THEY DO IN ONE DIVE?

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

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



...THEN HE SNAPS INTO AN INCOMPARABLE "JACK-KNIFE ...

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

... THEN, HE SNAPS INTO CUTED "TUMBLE ...



...THEN HE SNAPS INTO A ...THEN HE SNAPS INTO GORGEOUS "RIGHT-HANDED A MAGNIFIQUE "GRABTWIST ABOUT (UPSIDE-DOWN) 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 EXECUTED "SWAN DIVE."



... STILL TURNING SO'S THAT HE CAN MEET THE WATER HEAD-ON!



NOTE THE FEARLESS



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



NOTE HOW THE BODY ACTUALLY COMPRESSES FOR



...WELL WHAT DO YOU KNOW !... NO WATER IN













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.

AD READER ARE YOU! ARE YOU THE FREELOADER TYPE WHO SENDS AWAY FOR ALL THINGS MARKED "FREE"?

Concentrate Inc., 998 98th St., N. Y. 98, N. Y.

OR MAYBE YOU'RE THE NAUSEATING TYPE WHO SENDS AWAY FOR THINGS MARKED 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! FORINSTANCE, HOW'S ABOUT THEM HYPNOTISM ADS...



Cave Number

GET PRIZES... MAKE MONEY

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

to sign a paper I will send you your tongue is hanging out, they're yours, you Il yours! All you have to do is sell packs of my beautiful Christmas Cards at 25¢ a pack and get your father all yours! heh heh hear

I'm good old friendly "Uncle"
Louis, heh heh helt and girl earn MONEY
helping boys of I've been
for 36 years. I've been
boys and girls earn plenty MONEY
mainly for me

RE FIRST IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD

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

Thousands of smart boys and girls have been earning dumb boys and girls have also been earning prizes this way. mainly because thousands of prizes this way. You can too

TRUST YOU...YOU FOOL YOU SEND NO MONEY, HEH HEH "Uncle" Louie Inc., Dept. Parks

MAIL THIS COUPON Today toobyville, U.S.A

Please send me your BIG PRIZE BOOK and one order of 500 Christmas Packs. I will resell them at 25s each or else/, . . send you the money and choose my prize.

Bank Account Number

Address

JEAN, SEE THIS AD OF GOOD OUT UNGE. LITS AN EASY WAY TO GET THAT RANGER ANE N KNIFE KIT I'VE ALWATS

LET'S SEND A COUPON TODAY, WILLE I HAVE LOTS OF RELA-TIVES I CAN MAKE BUY THESE

TES, NEPHEW WILLIE, YOUR, CARDS ARE BEAUTIFUL.
THEYRE A BARGAIN. TILL
TAKE 999 PACKS. NOW
DON'T FORGET TO HINT TO
YOUR EATHER TO MAKE SURE

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

THIS IS A NEAT RANGER AXE'N
KNIFE KIT, WHY DON'T YOU FELLOWS
SEND THE COUPON TO-DAY - YOU
CAN CHOOSE FROM A LOT OF
SWELL PRIZES!

COST. MAIL Coupon for . . . heh heh . . . FREE Prize Book 6 Maybe with blood but without one cent

BEAUTIFUL WRIST WATCH for Boys and DRINKING CUP YOUR OWN

DELUXE CAR NAUL T

CADILLAC

An Attractive Showpiece wit packs, Made es-pecially for hik-ing and camping out. Your name on it (if your be Dixie). Very useful in all sorts of emergencies. Your prize for selling a mere 25 packs, Made es-

messy

This swell outfit is not a toy but the real thing. Be

toy but the real turns of

for selling only

watch is given without cost for selling just 500 ing parts inside, but an attractive old work showpiece. Straps!

WASHING MACHINE GENUINE DISH-

> CHEMISTRY SET

MANSION, COMPLETE

COLONIAL STYLE

washing dirty Perform feats of Chemical Magic, Make your own gunpowder and dynamite. This set for selling 100 packs.

TRAIN AND CARS RAILROAD REAL FACTORY



A genuine railroad train with pullman cars and caboose, fully equipped. Plus five miles of track to run on. Don't miss this outfit for 1,000,000 packs. This swell outh, complete with railroad sid-ing and water tank will give you hours of fun. Yours without cost for sell-ing 500,000 packs.

REAL FULL LENGTH

STEAMSHIP

What fun you'll have running it on real steam. Has swimming pool n'everything. Complete with five miles sattemater to run on. Choice of Black or Green 100,000,000 packs.

fully land. 100,000 This swell outfit includes outhern ex-









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

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 ...







The Roman Arena! The French Revolution! Napoleon! HERE IS A SCENE FROM ANOTHER OF E.C.'S "NEW DIRECTION" MAGS ...

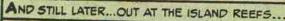
THE OLD SWINEHERD LOOKED UP WITH HORROR AND AWE AS HIS TREMBLING HANDS WERE STRETCHED ACROSS A BOULDER AND HIS CHAINS WERE SHAT-TERED WITH THE BLOW OF A BATTLE-AXE ...



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







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



BARBAMING ASTION! BLAZING GUNS! EXPLODING FURR! TAKE TO THE COMBAT SKIES IN E.C.'S "NEW DIRECTION" MAG ..

YES, THAT'S HOW IT WAS. EVERY DAY, WE GALLANTLY FOUGHT & GALLANT ENEMY ... WITHOUT REALLY HATING HIM! WE COULDN'T EVEN HATE THE JERRIES & 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.Q., "THROWING DOWN THE GAUNTLET".

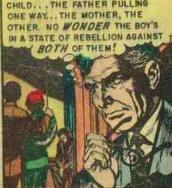


And now, the most revolutionary idea ever presented in comics! Discover the innermost secrets of people searching for peace of mind in E.C.'s "New Direction" mag ...



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

THERE'S 90% OF THE TROUBLE ... A BAD MARMAGE ... 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



THE DOCTOR BECKONED TO THE SUBJECT. THE BOY HESITATED, THEN ENTERED THE OFFICE .. HOW HE STARES AT ME! SUSPICIOUS .. FRIGHTENED ... MISERABLE THING OF HIM, TOO!

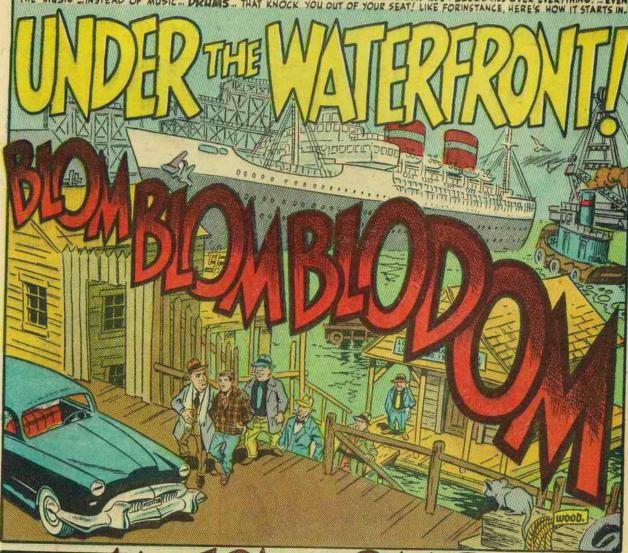


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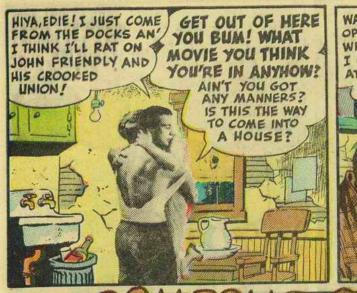












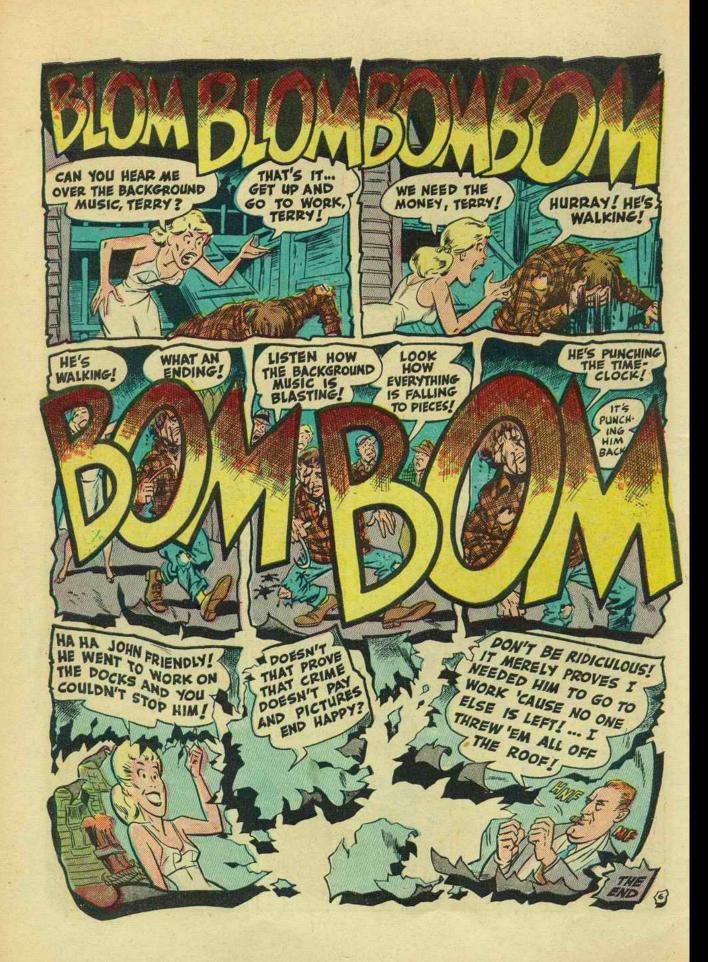












Finally, as this, our current session draws to a close, we look at our calendar and calculate that at this moment, you, our reader, are somewhere in the waning days of December... the twilight of the year.

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.

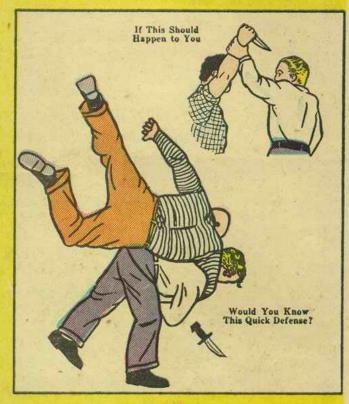
To each and every one of you good readers, we would like to send to you our greetings of the season. To each and every one of you, may you have the Very-est, Merriest Christmas...and/or (depending when you read this, be that as it might), may you have the Happiest, Carefree-est New Year that you have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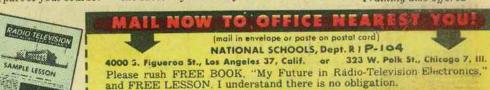
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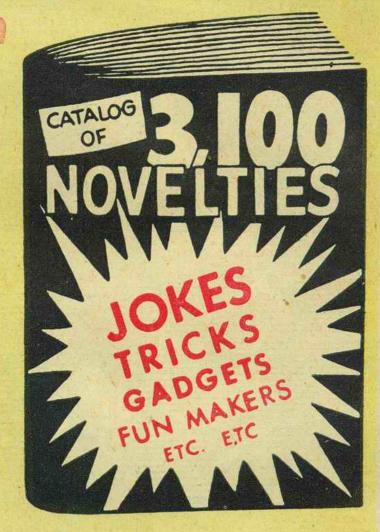
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