

# entertainment

## Comics collection no rip off

*The Best of the Rip Off Press, Volume I*

No one is certain what happened to America in the late 1960s, but everyone agrees something did. Underground comics provided some comment on these events. The *Rip Off Press* had more to do with underground comics than anyone.

Some of the best work of the early *Rip Off Press* is compiled in *The Best of the Rip Off Press*. The second volume is expected soon. If it fills the gaps left by the first, the set will be an important collector's item.

It will be important because of the *Press's* proximity to the San Francisco underground. Much that happened after the summer of 1966 seemed to happen around San Francisco, from mass political protests to LSD to organic foods. *Newsweek* didn't understand Haight Street, ABC had no idea what motivated the street people, and the *Readers Digest* was baffled by it all.

But the men of the *Rip Off Press* understood. Street people themselves or would-be bikers, they could present the street as it really was when no one else could.

All the greats are in the collection: R. Crumb, Spain Rodriguez, Gilbert Shelton, and Lincoln's own S. Clay Wilson. The introduction, by someone named Manfred, adds some otherwise unknowable trivia on the comics people—nothing shocking, but all valuable and good to know.

But the characters and the strips are what people remember. Crumb picked up a lot of publicity with Fritz the Cat (missing from Volume I) but he also did Lenore Goldberg and Her Girl Commandos, perhaps the most original strip to emerge from *Rip Off*. Crumb was fond of taking off on long, mad, personal soliloquies, too, and one of those is included with Lenore and her Amazons.

There aren't any of those strange cloud stories in the volume but that may be just as well. Tales of clouds falling in love and dancing don't make sense to everyone.

But Trashman makes an appearance, and so does Wonder Warthog. Gilbert Shelton has a Furry Freak Brothers story and a "Scene from the Revolution: The Legendary Dope Famine of '69." An anonymous Midwestern art professor, "Foolbert Sturgeon," presents the story of Jesus' draft physical. And there's a big dose of the usual *Rip Off Press* violence, lust, and craziness.

Prefaces are the usual place for writers to register apologies, express gratitude, and to begin, subtly, to justify their work.

The preface to *The Best of the Rip Off Press* is a 2-page layout of the Comics Code, exactly as it should be. Nothing did so much to aid the underground comics as that document, for by closing the straight comics to experimentation, the best creative minds in the business were put out of work. The *Rip Off Press* responded to that situation with its existence.

Enough is missing from *The Best of the Rip Off Press, Volume I*, to make Volume II interesting. The two will be a useful aid to understanding the 1960s, and a lot of fun besides.

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## hot town tonight

**Sheldon Gallery Auditorium**—The films of Frederick Wiseman are being shown this week in conjunction with the award winning filmmaker's visit here. *Essene* will be shown today at 3 and 7 p.m., *Juvenile Court* will be shown Saturday at 3 and 7 p.m.

**East Campus Union**—Jimmy Martin and the Sunny Mountain Boys along with the Bluegrass Crusade will give a bluegrass music concert at 7:30 p.m. in the Nebraska Union South Crb. Admission to tonight's concert is \$1.

**Pershing Auditorium**—Ice skating is open to the public all weekend from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m., 3:30 p.m.-5:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.-9:30 p.m.

**Cinema 1**—Blazing Saddles-1:30, 3:08, 4:46, 6:24, 8:02, 9:40 p.m.

**Cinema 2**—Alice in Wonderland-2:02, 3:52, 5:42, 7:32, 9:22 p.m.; Stormy-1:30, 3:20, 5:10, 7, 8:50 p.m.

**Cooper/Lincoln**—The Great Gatsby-7, 9:45 p.m.

**Plaza 1**—American Graffiti-1:30, 3:30, 5:30, 7:30, 9:30 p.m.

**Plaza 2**—Serpico-2:15, 4:30, 7, 9:15 p.m.

**Plaza 3**—The Conversation 7:45, 9:45 p.m.

**Plaza 4**—The Last Detail-1:20, 3:15, 5, 7, 9 p.m.

**Douglas 1**—The Three Musketeers-1:30, 3:30, 5:30, 7:30, 9:30 p.m.

**Douglas 2**—The Sting-2, 4:55, 7:09, 9:20 p.m.

**Douglas 3**—Cinderella Liberty-1:30, 3:28, 5:26, 7:25, 9:25 p.m.

**State**—The Exorcist-1:15, 4, 6:30, 9 p.m.

**Stuart**—Conrack-1:30, 3:50, 5:30, 7:30, 9:30 p.m.

april 12, 1974



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# 3

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## JACK NICHOLSON "THE LAST DETAIL"

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