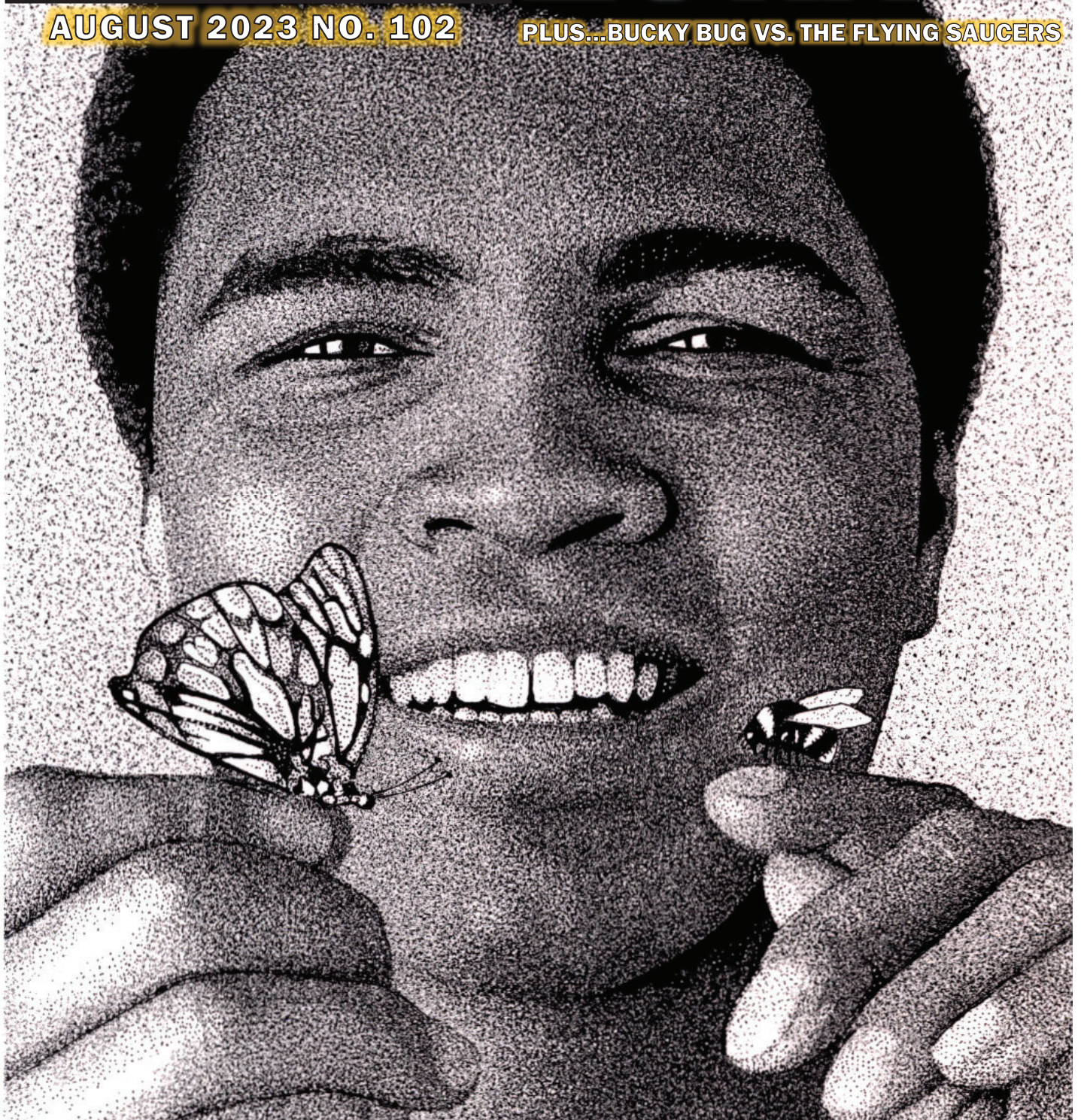


741.5

JIM BLANCHARD'S
BROTHERS
AND
MOTHERS

AUGUST 2023 NO. 102

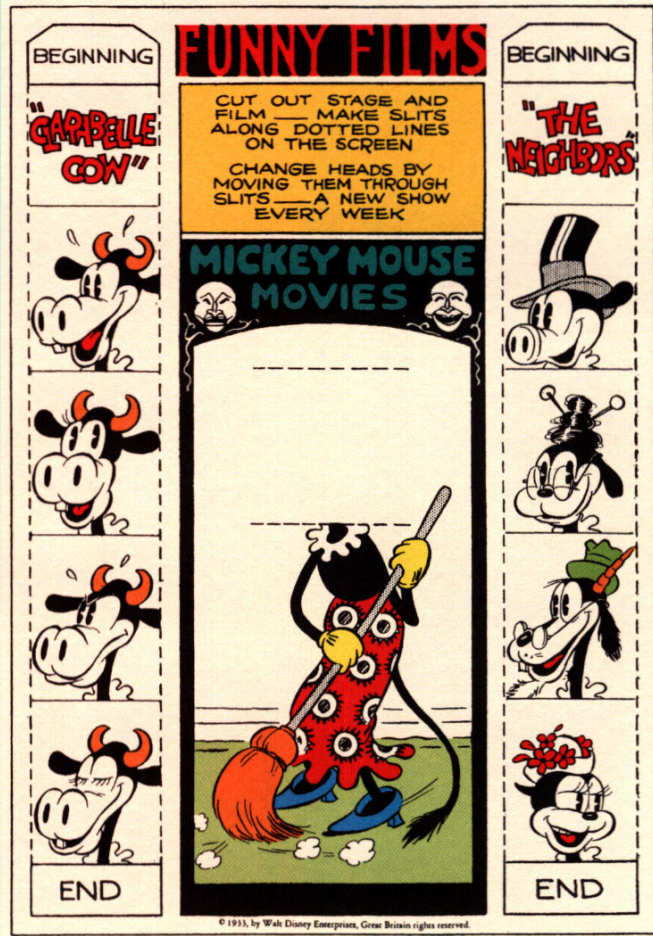
PLUS...BUCKY BUG VS. THE FLYING SAUCERS



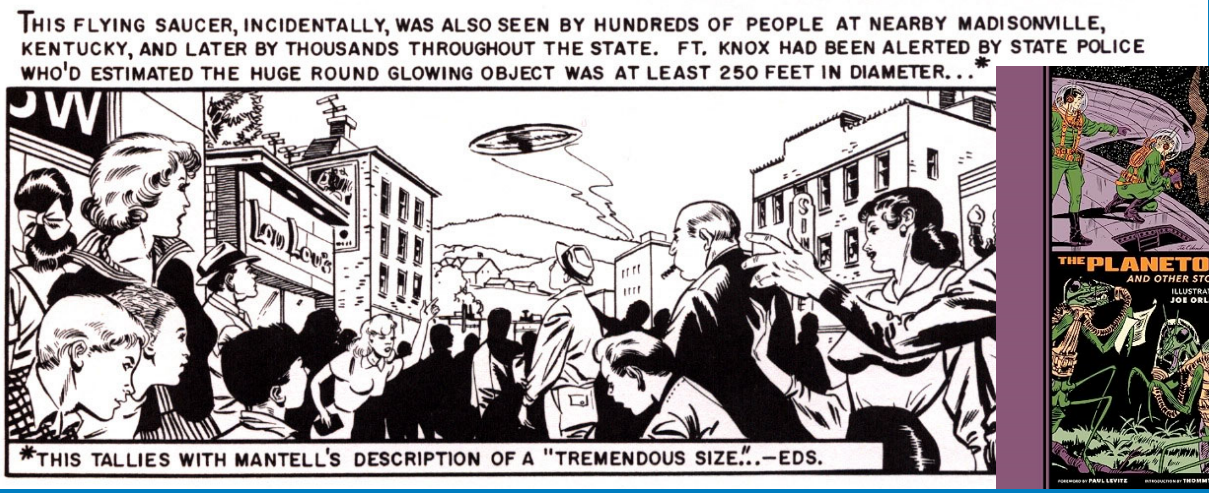
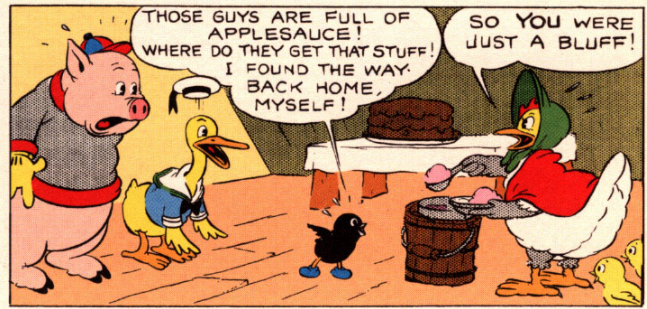
The Comics & Graphic Novel Bulletin of



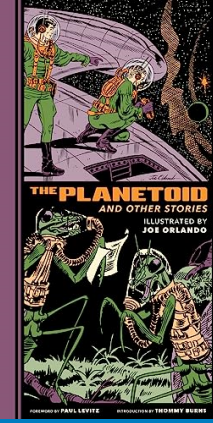
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Silly Symphonies was the name of the series of stand-alone animated cartoons released by Walt Disney Studios during the 1930s. It was also the name of the full color Sunday comic strips produced by Disney creators. Many of the storylines were based on the cartoons, like "The Wise Old Hen," which introduced Donald Duck (below). All strips featured fun extras like the fake animation of "Funny Films."



The legendary *Entertaining Comics* that enraptured and enraged Atom Age America return to LPL shelves with two new volumes. The latest in the EC Artists Library from Fantagraphics, *The Planetoid* compiles the work of Joe Orlando. One of the junior members of the EC staff, Orlando was essential to EC's science fiction titles. He specialized in quirky alien invasion stories like cover feature "Say Your Prayers" and tales such as "Bum Steer" and "What Fur?" in which mankind's cruelty to animals is avenged with cosmic irony. The likes of "Strictly Business" and "A Man's Job" provide mordant commentary on postwar social mores while the parodic "EC Quickies" starring EC publisher and editor Bill Gaines and Al Feldstein (far right) were a foretaste of Orlando's work for humor mags like *MAD*, *Panic* and *National Lampoon*. Orlando also contributed to



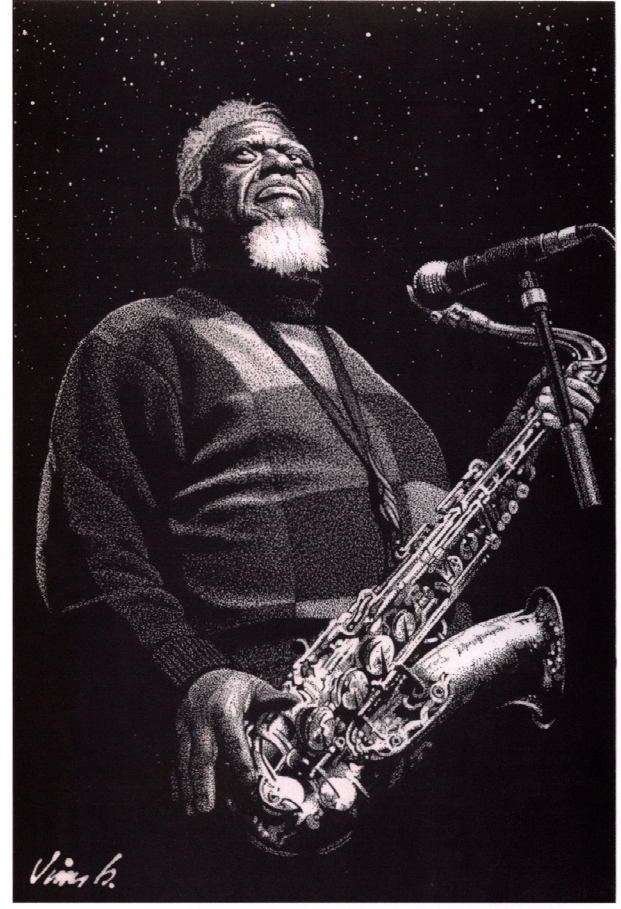
EC's notorious "Flying Saucer Report," illustrating the Mantell Case of 1949 (above left) that ended in the death of an Air Force pilot. The first serious discussion of the phenomenon in comics, the entirety of that issue is reprinted in *The Planetoid*, which you'll find at Tates Creek and Village. Joe's gig doing the sci-fi story for *Shock Suspensories* kept him busy. So he has only one entry in Volume 3 of Dark Horse's big, beautiful reprints of *Vault of Horror*. Released at the height of EC's popularity and performance, these issues include not just the usual stellar work by EC mainstays like Jack Kamen and "Ghastly" Graham Ingels, but the first "Grim Fairy Tale" and the acerbic adaptation of Ray Bradbury's "Let's Play Poison" by Jack Davis. But *Vault* is best known for the iconic covers (below) and slick lead stories by writer/artist Johnny Craig (above). Two of his best, "Till Death" and "Two of A Kind" highlight how EC horror was the mutant spawn of romance comics. Dig up these mid-century masterpieces of menace at all LPL locations!



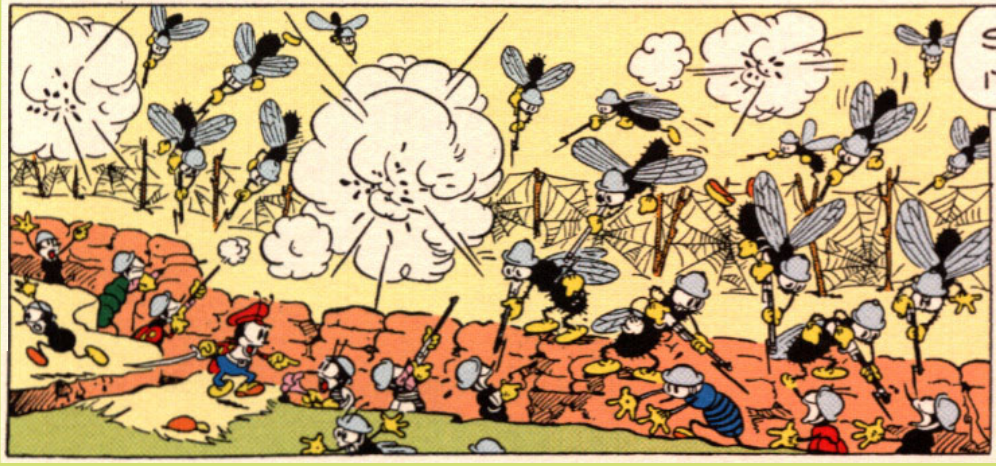
BROTHERS and MOTHERS

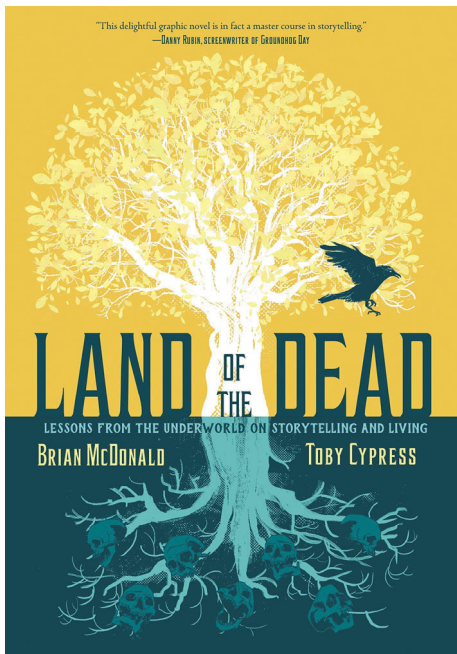
A COLLECTION OF PORTRAITURE BY JIM BLANCHARD
INTRODUCTION BY GEORGE PELECANOS

Jim Blanchard isn't a household name, not even among hardcore comics fans. He's best known for inking Peter Bagge's *Hate*. But his personal muse is celebrity, which he approaches with an eye both loving and jaundiced. Like his East Coast counterpart Drew Friedman, Blanchard uses a variety of monochrome media to capture the spirit of stars like Rodney Dangerfield (left) and Pharoah Sanders (right). He has branched out into digital art, creating brashly colorful takes on performers as varied as Charlton Heston, Lawanda ("Aunt Esther") Page and Alan Vega of seminal electronic duo Suicide. Find *Mothers & Brothers* under 709.04 B592b at Central, Northside and Village.



Between those adaptations, the strip focused on the adventures of insect everyman Bucky Bug. *SS 1932-1935* features the extended saga of Junkville's war with Flyburg (right), an example of how strife in Europe affected American pop culture. These lovely Oversize examples of classic funny animal cartooning are available at Central, Eastside and Village.





Stories are the subject of the items discussed this issue. The stories cultures, peoples, families, individuals tell themselves. Corvus the crow is our teacher as we learn *Lessons From the Underworld On Storytelling and Living*. According to writer **Brian McDonald** and his avian mouthpiece, *The Land of the Dead* is the source of humanity's most basic tales. Discussing everything from *Gilgamesh* to Melville to *E.T. the Extraterrestrial*, Corvus shows how dark tales of death and destruction light the way forward for life and creation. From ancient Sumeria to the *Planet of the Apes*, the artwork of **Toby Cypress** matches solid blacks and swirling detail with a subtle use of color to express the terror and wonder of each story studied. Find this lovely First Second release at Central and Eastside. First published in 2021, *Tales Through Time* has been resurrected in a



MEANWHILE

new edition thanks to Netflix producing a series based on *The Old Guard*. A hard-boiled fantasy series written by master of mystery **Greg Rucka**, *The Old Guard* concerns the adventures of a crew of immortal warriors. The oldest, primordial action girl Andromache the Scythian, is 6,732 years old, give or take a few centuries. The youngest is 27. A collection of short stories, *Tales Through Time* are written and drawn by guest creators like **Brian Michael Bendis**, **Nicola Scott**, **Matt Fraction**, **Kano** and more. Spanning the ages and the globe, this "fairy tale of blood and bullets" shows the various members of the group fighting wars big and small, facing enemies as varied as Nazis, bears and a gun-toting cult of killer nuns. Though enjoyable on its own, 741.5 does recommend you read the previous *Old Guard* books, *Opening Fire* and *Force Multiplied* before getting *Tales Through Time* from Beaumont, Central and Northside. In



comparison to the previous two items, dark as they are, **Camille Jourdy's** *Juliette* is a breath of fresh air. Set in a small town in France, this domestic dramedy concerns the eponymous heroine's visit to her family. Juliette crashes with her dad, who seems more distracted by the day. She fights with her sister, Marylou, who's always been the Strong One. She visits her rambunctious bohemian mother. And she keeps an eye on her grandmother, left stranded in a second childhood by dementia. Juliette also makes a tenuous connection with a local layabout, Polux, and his new pet duckling, Norbert. This quotidian plot is spiced up with some hanky-panky on the side, especially Marylou's cosplay courtship with a younger man. The neurotic Juliette acts as the white ball whose impact scatters the other balls around the table, as more than one character is shaken out of their set and setting. Rendered in pen and watercolor, this Drawn & Quarterly release is one of the prettiest comics you'll read this year, available at Eastside, Beaumont and Village. Meanwhile, as the



other Bat-villains have been dealing with *One Bad Day*, Poison Ivy's been completing *The Virtuous Cycle* (DC). Pamela Isley's on a secret rampage, spreading a deadly fungus hither and yon. But as she wages war on the human race, Ivy meets individual people who make her question her crusade. Will Poison Ivy rediscover her own humanity before she achieves her gruesome goal? Writer **G. Willow Wilson** walks a fine line between sympathy and savagery with the help of a kickass crew of artists in this TEEN item found at Beaumont, Central and Village. All LPL locations have the new Pantheon graphic novel by award-winning **Mattie Lubchansky**. A "Best Man" who no longer identifies as a man, artist Sammie is invited to a *Boys Weekend* on a near-future libertarian paradise. It's bad enough her affianced best friend and his pals are dudebros who won't accept the new Sammie. But then there's the cult and the clones and the sea monsters and...well, go read the book and see!



Back issues of 741.5 are available at www.lexpublib.org under the **READING SERVICES** tab!