

741.5

R. SIKORYAK'S CONSTITUTION ILLUSTRATED

THE LAW OF THE LAND IN COMICS FORM
PLUS...BORS...TRUDEAU...COATES

JANUARY 2021 - NO. 50



LEWSER!

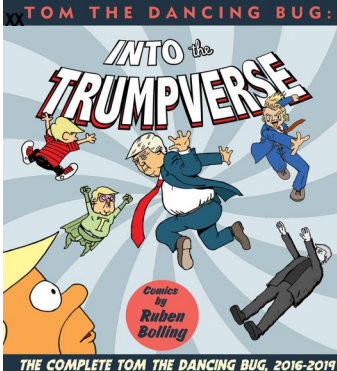


More Doonesbury in the Time of Trump

As Dan "Tom Tomorrow" points out in his introduction to *We Should Improve Society Somewhat* (Clover Press), its author, Matt Bors, showed up on the scene just in time to see daily newspapers laying off their editorial cartoonists while the internet killed the alternative weeklies that had supported Tomorrow and his peers. So Bors built his own market through his website, the Nib. A popular source for memes, Bors has those talents essential to a



political cartoonist: a good nose for horse-pucky and the ability to make his points cleanly and simply. His goat is especially got by the mainstream media's happy talk that glosses over the racial and political double standards that prevail in our society. Like the strip above: as if to prove his point, Instagram censored Bors for "promoting violence and dangerous organizations." Sheesh. Go to lexpublib.org to place a hold.



THE COMPLETE TOM THE DANCING BUG, 2016-2019

In the years he's written and (for the most part) drawn his comic strip *Doonesbury*, Gary Trudeau took a different tack from most editorial cartoonists in his presentation of the various Presidents of the United States. His Nixon was a disembodied voice from the White House, his George W. Bush was an asterisk, among other symbols. But his Trump was as physical a presence as any in the funny papers. That said, the ex-Prez doesn't really show up that much in *Lewser!*, the latest Andrews McMeel compilation of color Sundays. Gary leaves it up to his cast of regulars to live out and lay down the facts and figures.



Toward the end of the 7/10/17 edition of *Tom the Dancing Bug*, a typically shirtless Vladimir Putin puts the kibosh on the whole strip. "The President is secretly colluding with me, a foreign enemy! We're beyond satire!" That was true for most of the period covered by Ruben Bolling's latest collection, *Into the Trumpverse*. (Clover Press). Yet, he persisted. So Bolling won a slew of awards for the strips that now read like a slapstick history of the Trump Administration. A cavalcade of parodies only slightly less unbelievable than the facts, *Into the Trumpverse* can be reserved at lexpublib.org.

Flash Gordon...The Lockhorns...Tales from the Crypt...Rick & Morty...G.I. Joe...Mary Worth...Phoebe and Her Unicorn...Happy Hooligan



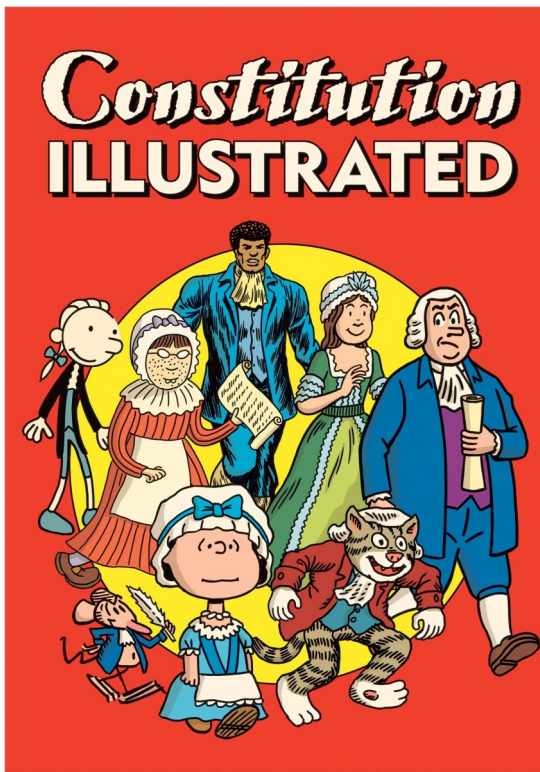
Harvey Kurtzman...Jackie Ormes...Gary Panter...Herb Trimpe...Nicole Hollander...Joe Kubert...Mort Walker...H.G. Peters...Fiona Staples...Jim Davis

SECTION 3. He shall from time to time give to the Congress Information on the State of the Union, and recommend to their Consideration such Measures as he shall judge necessary and expedient; he may, on extraordinary Occasions, convene both Houses, or either of them, and in Case of Disagreement between them, with Respect to the Time of Adjournment, he may adjourn them to such Time as he shall think proper;

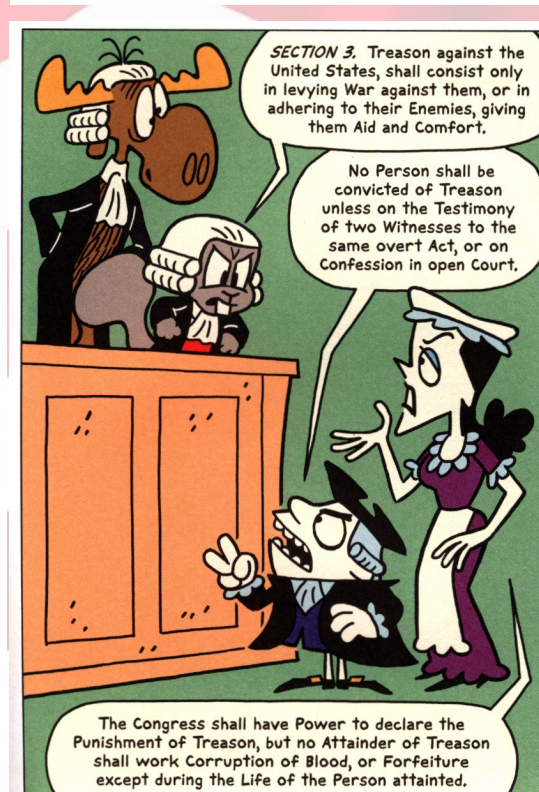


he shall receive Ambassadors and other public Ministers; he shall take Care that the Laws be faithfully executed, and shall Commission all the Officers of the United States.

Pastichist par excellence R. Sikoryak follows his smash hits *The Unquotable Trump* and *Terms & Conditions with Constitution ILLUSTRATED* from Drawn & Quarterly. In this pocket-sized book, Sikoryak reprints the entirety of the Constitution of the United States, plus Amendments, each visually explicated by parodies of cartoons and comics both famous and forgotten. His uncanny ability to replicate the multitude of styles makes *CI* as entertaining as it is educational. Find it at all LPL locations!

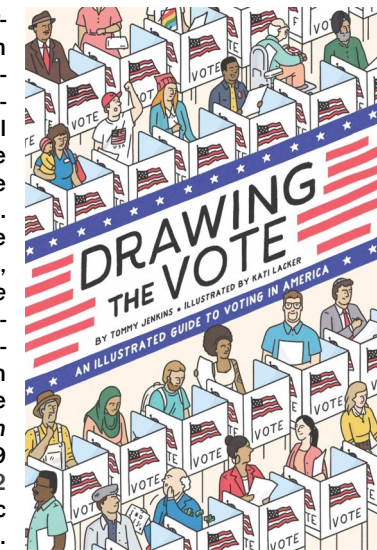


Steranko...George Herriman...Tarpe Mills...Chris Ware...Milton Caniff...Jeff Smith...Gustave Verbeek...Dale Messick...Lionel Feininger...Marge



Adventure Time...Blondie...Love and Rockets...The Boondocks...The Yellow Kid...Sin City...Dilbert...Scooby Doo...Luke Cage, Hero For Hire

The conflict and chaos surrounding the 2020 election will continue to affect upcoming elections one way or another. The two parties will remain locked in a struggle to determine who counts the votes and whose vote counts. Thus has it always been since the founding of the Republic, as shown by *Drawing the Vote* (Abrams). Located under 324.6 J418d, this "illustrated guide to voting in America" is joined by the graphic history *Fault Lines in the Constitution* (324.029 L578f) and *Unrig* (323.042 N463u), a funnybook polemic about money and elections.



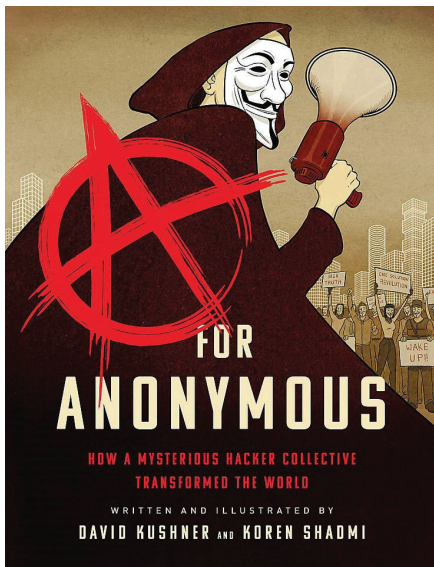
"Across the ideological spectrum, inflamed citizens...seeking solace and inspiration...have held up the beloved superhero as a touchstone for their own values..." So writes Aja Romano for Vox.com, asking "Can Captain America serve two dramatically different versions of America?" That is also the dilemma faced by the current writer of Marvel's star-spangled Avenger, Ta-Nehisi Coates. In *Winter in America*, *Captain of Nothing* and *The Legend of Steve*, Coates shows Steve Rogers dealing with a nation that no longer trusts him. The aftermath of the controversial "Phantom



Empire" epic finds Cap on the outs with both those who supported the HYDRA regime and those who fought it, including General "Thunderbolt" Ross (above). When Ross is murdered, Steve Rogers gets the blame. Busting out of super-prison during a super-riot led by the Wrecking Crew, Cap is on the run. He's aided by the distaff super-team, the Daughters of Liberty, and pursued by the Power Elite. "Each has an unsavory past. Each fought against HYDRA. And as a result, each now enjoys close ties with Washington." The Kingpin, the Watchdogs, A.I.M. and some really evil Russian dames pursue their ghastly goals as Captain America fights both the country's doubts, and his own. Find this all-too-relevant saga in TEEN.

The Comics Journal #306 hits the shelves with New Yorker cartoonist Roz Chast discussing her career in a typically in-depth interview by the head honcho of Fantagraphics, Gary Groth. Elsewhere, African-American Daisy Scott gets her due while Scott (*Dilbert*) Adams gets dragged. Further discussion of the intersection of comics and politics can be found in this Summer/Fall issue available at Beaumont, Central and Eastside.





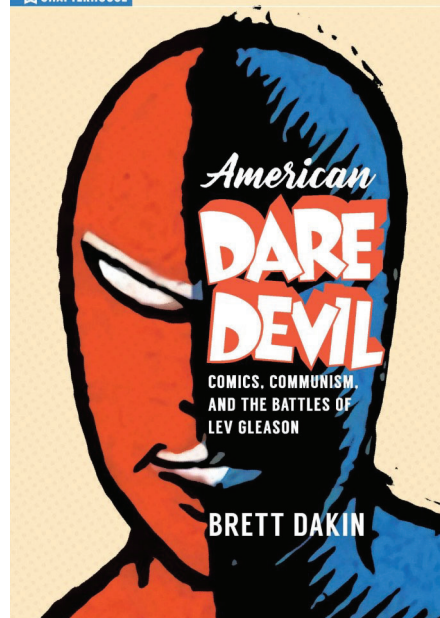
Though they've kept a low profile the last several years, the group of hacktivists that call themselves "Anonymous" is still lurking out there. Its history is detailed in *A For Anonymous: How A Mysterious Hacker Collective Transformed the World* (Bold Type). Written by award-winning journalist **David Kushner**, this work of graphic non-fiction is located under 303.4833 K968a. The story of Anonymous is told through the experiences of one "Commander X", an Anonymous bigwig on the lam from the law. *A For Anonymous* follows the radical cooperative from its beginnings as just another bunch of computer nerds pulling pranks to its headline-making wars with Scientology, Sony and the governments of Tunisia, Egypt and Steubenville, Ohio. Get *A For Anonymous* from Central. Unfortunately, the group's name was, as the kids say, "bit" for an Internet-born conspiracy theory that's become known as "QAnon." As academic **Robert Guffey** has explained, one source for this hysterical hodge-podge of classic paranoid tropes is the "Shaver Mystery" of the late 1940s. **Richard Shaver** was a schizophrenic whose rants about the wicked cave-dwelling "deros" were spun into pulp gold by



MEANWHILE

by sci-fi editor **Ray Palmer**. Decades later, **Shaver's** mythology of godlike beings in conflict with subterranean freaks was re-purposed by **Jack Kirby** for *The Eternals*. Produced during his second sojourn at Marvel in the mid-1970s, *The Eternals* was one of the last original series "the King" created for the House of Ideas. Not that original, though— at the time, readers saw the title as a re-run of **Kirby's** *New Gods* crossed with **Von Daniken's** *Chariots of the Gods*. Since then, what was an outlier to the Marvel Universe has become a central part of its sprawling *weltanschauung*. Don't wait for the upcoming movie—check out *The Eternals* from Central and **Tates Creek** for a book-length blast of pure, uncut **Kirby**. Especially the first half introducing the Eternals, their grotesque cousins the Deviants, and the gargantuan Celestials who created both: they fly and brawl and loom

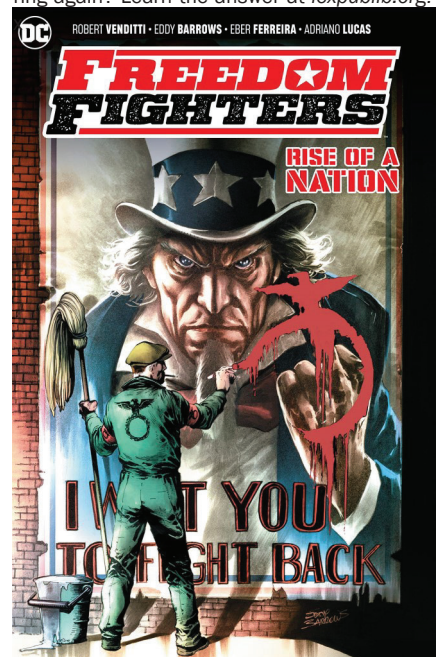
CHAPTERHOUSE



over full-page and double-page spreads that show off "the King's" technodelic riffs on Meso-American motifs. In contrast, the only pictures in our next item are some black & white photos of its subject, Golden Age publisher **Lev Gleason**. Unlike his pulp-pushing peers, **Gleason** didn't work in anonymity. All of his millions-selling books bore his name right on the cover, whether *Boy Comics*, *Lovers' Lane* or the original *Daredevil* (seen above). **Gleason** fervently believed comic books were, as it said on the cover of his best-seller *Crime Does Not Pay*, "A FORCE FOR GOOD IN THE COMMUNITY!" That four-colored faith got him a lot of heat when the anti-comics crusade came with pitchforks and torches in hand. Meanwhile, **Gleason** got swept up in the other witch hunt that dominated those times, the Red Scare. A two-fisted liberal and ardent anti-fascist, **Gleason** made some powerful enemies, and it cost him, as described in *American Daredevil* (Chapterhouse). Author **Brett Dakin** is the grand-nephew who pursued the mystery of the rich relative nobody talked about, and why. Find *American Daredevil* at **Beaumont and Central** under 070.5 G474d. You had to be a daredevil to work construction in



the early 20th Century, especially if you were on the crew erecting the Empire State Building. *Giant* (NBM) is the story of those workers. One of them is the man called Giant, an Irishman who longs to forget his homeland. Roped into writing the widow of a dead colleague, Giant doesn't have the heart to tell the woman the bad news. So he pretends to be her dead husband in the letters he sends to Ireland. The lies all come home at the climax of this fine Oversize graphic novel by French-Canadian cartoonist **Mikael**, whose sepia-and-olive-toned art brings the era and its people to life. It's belief that brings Uncle Sam to life—the belief in America. Uncle Sam is the leader of the Freedom Fighters, a super-team made up of characters DC bought from its old competitor, Quality Comics. Existing outside the mainstream DCU, Sam and his compatriots such as Black Condor and the Human Bomb fight to free Earth X from the Nazis that won WW2. The latest riff on this story, *Rise of An Nation*, is a grim'n'gritty throwdown between a new force of Freedom Fighters and the minions of the bratty Adolph Hitler III. Will freedom ring again? Learn the answer at lexpublib.org/



Back issues of 741.5 are available at lexpublib.org under the **COLLECTIONS** tab!