The hot blood of teenage angst and amour bursts forth in the depths of the Cold War in Diabolical Summer (IDW). 15-year-old Antoine spends the summer of 1967 chasing girls while pursuing the truth—about his moody and mysterious father; about his new pal Eric; about the older American girl who becomes Antoine’s first love, if not his first sex. The denouement of his quest only leaves Antoine with more questions. Years later, having become a minor literary sensation due to his book about his teen years, Antoine finds himself re-watching The Swinging Sixties documentary—just one of several relationships tossing on the tides of the fluid sexuality of contemporary youth. Not even with the help of her new roommates; all are united by failure in life and love. Anna’s real breakthrough comes when she takes up with her mysterious downstairs neighbor, Marshall. Though not even with the help of her new roommates; all are united by failure in life and love. Anna’s real breakthrough comes when she takes up with her mysterious downstairs neighbor, Marshall. Though...
MEANWHILE

Weening power of the State, Rose Wilder Lane would have been sympathetic. So devoted was Lane to the principles of limited government, she decried Federal overreach at the height of World War Two and kept herself in poverty to avoid paying income taxes. Now the “grandmother of libertarianism” joins Margaret Sanger and Zora Neale Hurston on the list of femme firebrands profiled by Peter Bagge. The former chronicler of Generation X turns his sympathetic but unfailingly honest eye on the woman who may have been the actual power behind Laura Ingells Wilder’s beloved Little House books. The difficult relationship between famed mother and obscure daughter takes up as many pages as Lane’s nomadic search for personal and political liberty. Look for Credo at Central under 320.512 L244.

It happens every Presidential election: Those whose candidate didn’t win throw down their straw convention hats and swear to move to another country. It rarely, if ever, happens. But there have been those so determined to defy government and reject society that they formed their own countries. These quixotic attempts at radical self-determination are documented in This Land Is My Land (Chronicle). Look under 321.07 W242t at Beaumont, Eastside and Tates Creek for the “graphic history of big dreams, micronations and other self-made states” written by Andy Wariner, author of The Brief History of Everyday Objects. Some were founded by groups seeking a better world, such as the possibly mythical Libertaria and the Ohio-based utopian community of Oneida. Some were monomaniacal art projects, some glorified company towns, some outright scams. One was even founded by the son of EC artist Jack Kamen! (You can find Papa Kamen’s work at lexpublib.org.) But most of the founders of these lost lands were sincerely seeking freedom from the over-

Though relatively few Americans embrace the extreme free market ideology of libertarianism, one of the movement’s selling points for the last several decades has been its total opposition to the so-called “War on Drugs”. The secret origin of that ever-losing yet ever-lucrative War is exposed in Cannabis (First Second) by Box Brown. Like his biographies of Andy Kaufman and Andre the Giant (both still available via lexpublib.org), Brown outlines the history of “the illegalization of weed in America” in simple terms furthered by his starkly elemental cartooning. Headlines were made recently concerning former Nixon henchman John Ehrlichman admission to a journalist that the War on Drugs, initiated in earnest during the Nixon Administration, was a means of maintaining racial and political domination over minorities and dissidents. As Brown plainly details, that has always been the case. The original Drug Warrior, Harry Anslinger, drummed up the war on “the killer weed” through blatant racism and fearmongering. As the wretched results of Anslinger’s crusade against a plant that has been a boon to humanity since antiquity become more obvious with each passing day, Brown’s book could not be more relevant. Find Cannabis at Central under 362.295 B812c. Go to lexpublib.org to reserve the graphic biographies of two outlaws, one rampaging through the Wild West, the other storming the Lower East Side. A member of the 27 Club, the artist Jean Michel Basquiat overdosed just as he ascended to the top of the New York art scene. Though not the first comics bio of “SAMO”, the latest from SelfMadeHero’s “Art Master” series is a lovely but unflinching look at how talent and temptation go hand in hand. Meanwhile, the best historical cartoonist in the biz reveals the facts behind The True Death of Billy the Kid. The incomparable Rick Geary once again draws the line between life and legend in his latest true crime comic from NBM. The large format really gives Geary’s exquisite artwork room to breathe. Reserve it today!

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