

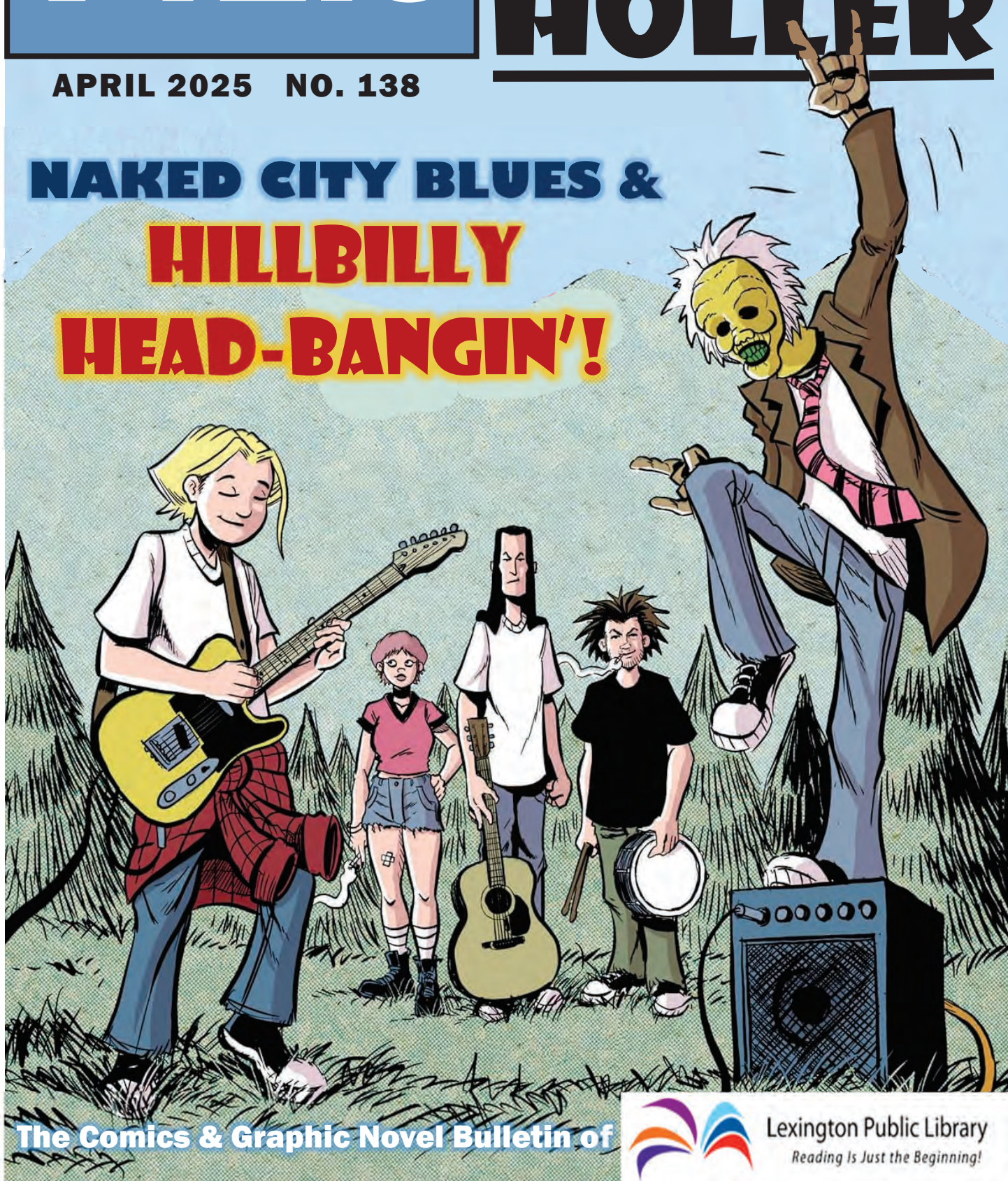
741.5

APRIL 2025 NO. 138

OUR BAND COULD BE YOUR COMIC BOOK

HOOTENANNY'N' HOLLER

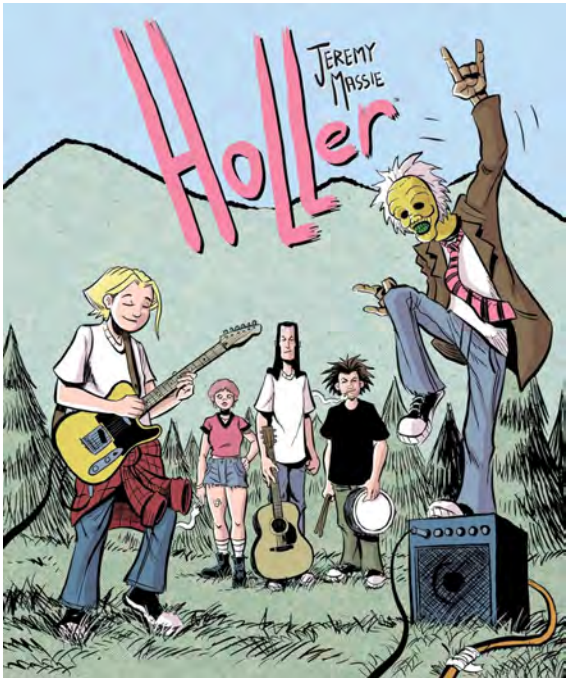
**NAKED CITY BLUES &
HILLBILLY
HEAD-BANGIN'!**



The Comics & Graphic Novel Bulletin of



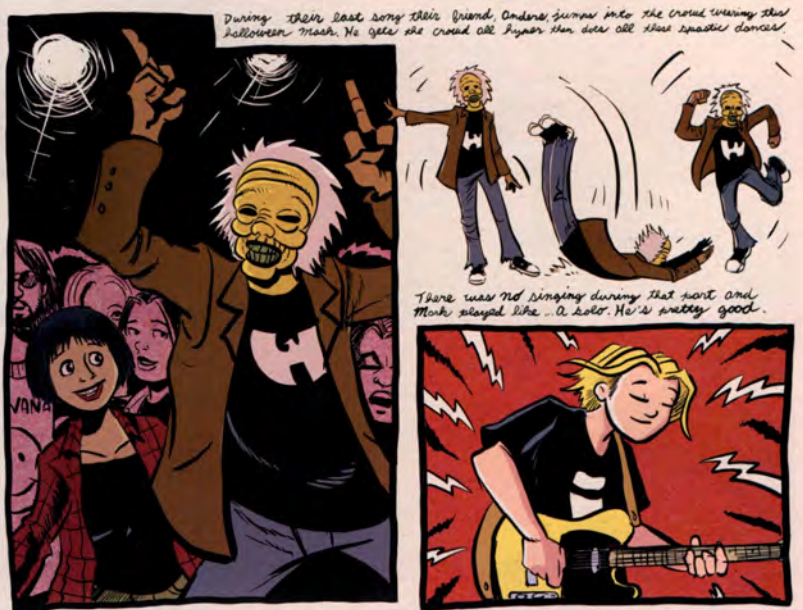
Lexington Public Library
Reading Is Just the Beginning!



A true-to-life saga of a ragtag band of small town misfits, **HOLLER** is available at Beaumont, Central & Eastside!

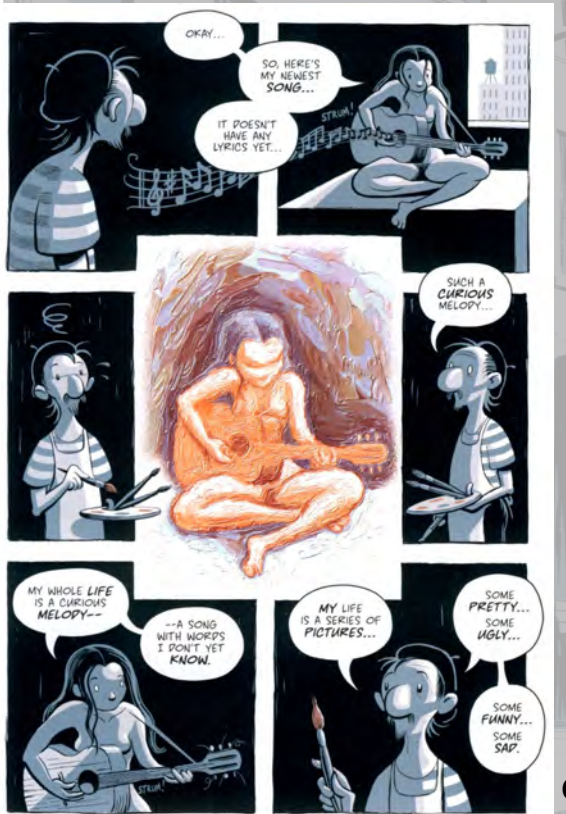
It was a shock to Ye Editor when he realized the events of this fine graphic novel took place thirty years ago. The 1990s were an im-

portant part of my life, a time when I became who I am. And a major influence was the mob of youngsters I met at the University of Kentucky's student radio station. The vitality, the creativity, the sheer youthful madness of these kids made a huge impact on my life, and continue to do so. So reading *Holler* by Jeremy Massie really took me back. Set in an Appalachian community that's still civilized enough to have a record *and* a comic book store (it *was* the Nineties!), *Holler* captures the tension of teenage life. There's the turmoil of relationships, the mysteries and mix-ups of sex, the excessive drama of young love when the world revolves around the



look in someone's eyes. Beyond the personal, there's the political: the conflict between the freedom of youth and the demands of community. These come on strong when a bunch of rebels start making racket in a small, tight-knit and very religious town. Our protagonist Mark, on the rhythm guitar and vocals, barely escapes the dragnet of rectitude, although it snatches up both his friend the "preacher's daughter" (above) and the band's bassist. Drawn with the same ragged vitality of the music it exalts, written with a total recall of the passions of youth, Jeremy Massie's *Holler* is a must-read comic.

Izzy is the musician who ditched her dying home town for the Big City. Busking the streets of New York gets her an audience but rent's past due. She answers an ad for "a muse" and begins to pose for a local painter, making a connection that leads to others,



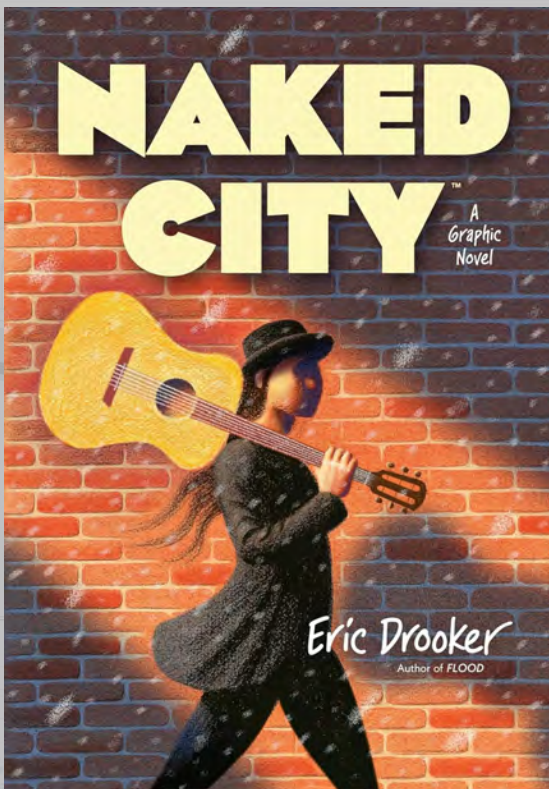
BENEATH: one of several lovely double page spreads dedicated to the size and sights of New York City.

CENTRAL * NORTHSIDE



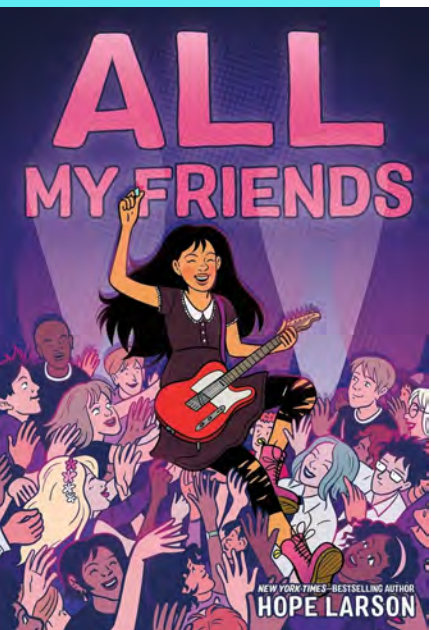
including the man who ends up saving her life. While the painter paints, Izzy sings. He begins to achieve some success with his portraits of a mysterious window cleaner. Izzy gets "discovered" and becomes an overnight sensation. But what price success?

The third of Eric Dooker's City Trilogy, **NAKED CITY** is a gorgeous exploration of the musical and visual blues.



EASTSIDE * TATES CREEK

Of all the rock'n'roll comics covered by 741.5, Hope Larson's "Eagle Rock Series" stands out as among the best. This trilogy of Young Adult graphic novels follows the musical adventures of our heroine Bina. In the debut, *All Summer Long*, vacation plans gang a-gley, leaving Bina without her usual distractions. Under the influence of her best friend's older sister, Bina takes up the guitar. The second novel, *All Together Now*, shows Bina developing her talent while dealing with the emotional fall out of romantic and creative differences. *All My Friends* brings fame and fortune to Bina and her band. But what about her loved ones? Get 'em all at lexpublib.org!





"Ew!" says Peter Parker, the Amazing Spider-man. "I hate everything about this! But I gotta fight! No matter what! Because right now, I might be the only person in this town...who isn't Otto Octavius!" And, trust me, Real Fanatic One, you don't wanna know how Manhattan transforms into *Superior Spider-Island*; you wanna read it in the wild and wooly conclusion to this series arc of *Superior Spider-man* featuring scripter **Dan Slott's** trademark blend of humor, action and characterization. And following that conclusion, I think Galactus has a new herald heading his way! Meanwhile, in the oh-so-grim'ngritty world of *POWERS*, former cop Deena Pilgrim is rehired by the FBI as part of a Federal crackdown on super-powered individuals. She manages to sweet-talk



MEANWHILE

ex-partner Walker into joining the task force, too. So while Pilgrim pursues several power cases out loud in public, including a series of murders in which the victims are each the same woman, Walker goes undercover to see who's subsidizing a new gang of costumed creeps and the underground super-sperm scam they're running. It's all very dark and sordid, even when the resurrected Retro Girl flies in to help. But what's *her* deal? Wasn't she dead or something? Fans of your gloomier *policiers* and hard-boiled superheroics should get this new edition of the 7th volume of the long-running Image series by **Bendis & Oeming** at Central, Eastside and Tates Creek. The fourth volume of seven devoted to the "Mature Work of **Yoshiharu Tsuge**" can be found at Beaumont, Central and Marksbury. As noted in previous reviews in 741.5, Tsuge broke new ground in the art of manga with his low key naturalism. **Tsuge** eschewed pulp and melodrama for a form of drama based on the

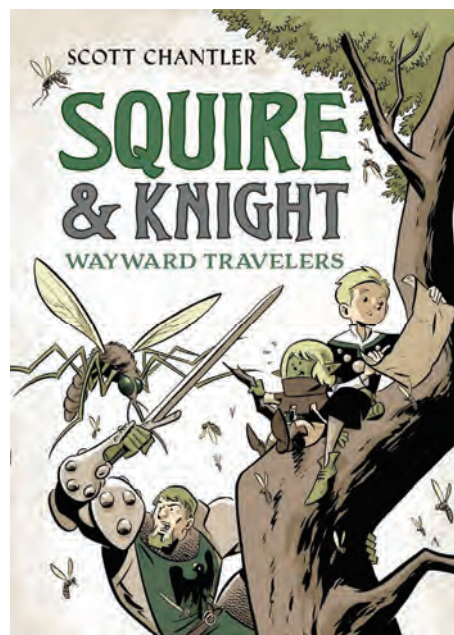


Yoshiharu TSUGE

Oba Electroplating Factory

quotidian rhythms of everyday life. In the title story, a young boy becomes obsessed with his job even while the adults in his life work their own selfish wiles. Work defines the other stories, too, especially the ones featuring the young cartoonist Yoshio. A stand-in for **Tsuge**, Yoshio is hurting for a gimmick that will make his work stand out and, more importantly, sell. His decision to focus on the subject of merchants inns, that is, low cost, low quality hostelry for traveling salesman, doesn't pan out quite how he expects. That's true of all of **Tsuge's** characters, standing goggle-eyed and frustrated among the wreckage of burning rice paddies and discombobulated relationships. Too serious? Then turn from the fraught pages of adult manga to the fun fables of kiddie comics. **Scott Chantler's** charming fantasy series *Squire & Knight* returns with a new volume. Squire and his hapless master Sir Kelton are charged with getting goblin heir Cade to the School of Wizardry. Then Squire and Cade get separated while running from the giant mosquitos. (I mean, they're *really* big.) Can

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Squire get himself and his charge out of the forest before they're beaten, eaten or sold into slavery? Further fantastic adventures for younger readers include the latest chapter of *Cats' Cradle* by **Jo Rioux**. *Suri's Dragon* follows our monster-taming heroine as she and her crew search for the Monster's Cradle with the creepy caitsiths on their trail. Meanwhile, some kids who just missed the Cartoon Network bus home find themselves marooned in a ferocious far future with little memory of mankind in *The Storm*, Chapter 1 of *Lost in the Future* by **Damian & Fuentes**. **Orlando & Tammetta** continue to put out one of the most consistently entertaining comics in the Marvel roster with the latest compilation of *Scarlet Witch*, starring *Scarlet Witch & Quicksilver*. At last, Wanda's bombastic brother gets lots of pages as he and Sis face down the new, improved Wizard!



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