

741.5

THE MANLY ART OF JOE MANEELY

"THE RAVING MANIAC" AND OTHER RUGGED
SAGAS OF WAR, THE WILD WEST & THE WEIRD!

MAY 2025 NO. 139



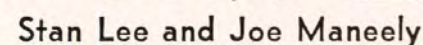
The Comics & Graphic Novel Bulletin of



Lexington Public Library
Reading Is Just the Beginning!



Joe Maneely was only 32 years old when he died in a transit accident in 1958. He was at the top of his game, and his game was comic books. He was the main artist at Timely, AKA Atlas, right-hand man of editor Stan Lee (below). Now, decades later, the legend lives again on the pages of *The Raving Maniac!*



THESE STORIES ARE BASED UPON THE FACTS AND LEGENDS FROM THE AMAZING LIFE OF **WYATT EARP!**

① this Oversize beauty
at Central!



YEAH... AND SLIDING THRU HIS INSIDES LIKE A RUNAWAY JET!



VERY FUNNY! THE TROUBLE WITH YOU IS THAT YOU CAN'T EVEN THINK STRAIGHT ANYMORE. THE BIG BRASS SAY YOU'RE GOING TO KOREA AND YOU START PACKING. **WHY?** DID YOU LOSE SOMETHING THERE?

YOU GOT IT ALL WRONG, KID! THERE'S 45 COUNTRIES IN THE U.N. THAT SEE IT OUR WAY!



WAR TALES OF
FAR-FLUNG
BATTLEFIELDS

WAR COMICS



War comics were a relative late-comer to the comics industry. It took the impact of the Korean War (left) to interest readers and inspire creators. With an eye on market trends like few others in the comics industry, publisher Martin Goodman was one of the first to jump on the martial bandwagon. His debut title, *War Comics*, was a work in progress. As seen in the previous volume of the Atlas Comics Library devoted to the early horror title *Adventures Into Terror*, Goodman and his staff were essentially making it up as they went along, creating a new genre and its rules by mixing and mastering tropes and clichés from war pulps, combat journalism (especially the first person narrative) and military history. Most stories are straightforward historicals, including heart-tugging tales of self-sacrifice; others, starring the likes of gutsy Sgt. Storm, slambang slugfests featuring hot guerrilla chicks. The real stuff is the good stuff, though, available at Central, Northside and Tates Creek!

TOTAL DESTRUCTION



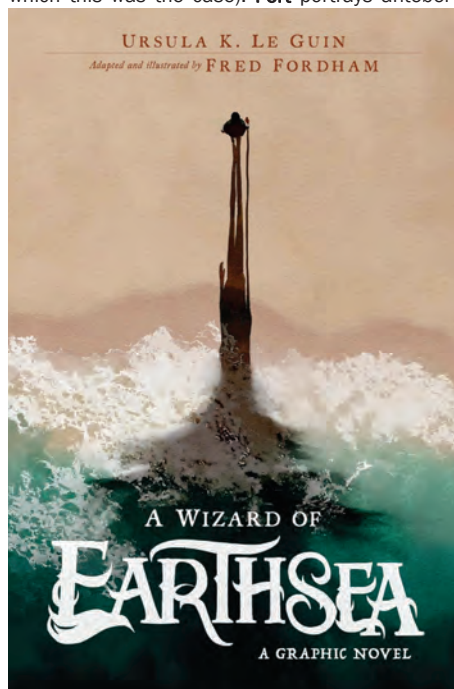
SURROUNDED

America's First School for Black Girls, 1832

Wilfrid LUPANO • Stéphane FERT



As noted in previous issues of 741.5, the history of black Americans has held a special fascination for European creators. Charlie Parker, Angela Davis, Thelonious Monk, Billie Holiday: their lives and others have been rendered in all their grit and glory by Continental cartoonists. And now, while American authorities have engaged in a wide-ranging purge of the historical record regarding the contributions of minorities to the American story, Europeans like writer **Wilfrid Lupano** and artist **Stephane Fert** expose even more secrets from the hidden history of the United States. Released in the USA by NBM, *Surrounded* is the true story of *America's First School for Black Girls* (NBM). One thing that stands out about overseas historicals is style. American creators tend toward a bland realism when rendering Real Life Comics (to reference one of the "true comics" of the Golden Age of which this was the case). **Fert** portrays antebel-



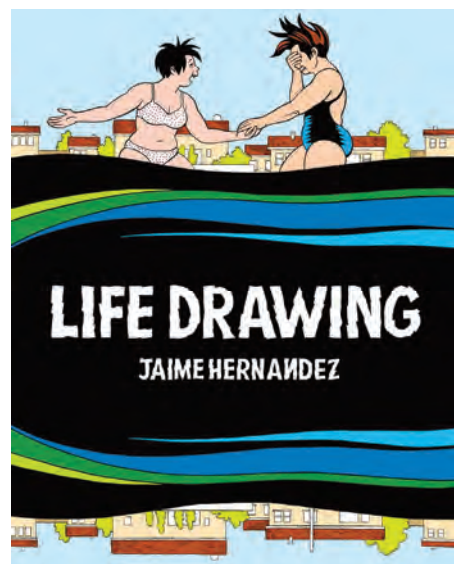
MEANWHILE

lum New England as a fractured fairy tale, all flowing gowns and gleaming boot buckles and glowering masters of the estate, the townspeople turned trollish by their rage against the schoolgirls at the heart of the controversy. A little-known landmark of civil rights in America, the Crandall School case reverberates through the years. Read all about it at Central and Marksbury. Ged is a student, too. But his field of inquiry lies far further afield than the young ladies of Canterbury, Connecticut. Ged was *A Wizard of Earthsea* (Clarion). **Fred Fordham's** graphic adaptation from the classic YA fantasy by **Ursula K. LeGuin** is noteworthy for its portrayal of the protagonist. Known as Sparrowhawk in his restless youth, Ged has been portrayed most often as a typical fantasy hero, which is to say, a white man. Ged is a copper-colored youth in **Fordham's** version. But then, so is most everyone else. After all, they live in a semitropical world of scattered archipelagos. Why



wouldn't they look Polynesian? In an increasingly relentless search for the secrets of power, Sparrowhawk leaves a trail of trouble behind him, finally ending in a savage showdown with a damn dragon. Go to lexpublib.org to reserve a copy from our Juvenile collection. Meanwhile, Fantagraphics continues to corner the market on all things EC with the latest ish of the professionally produced *EC Fan-Addict Fanzine*. Issue #6 mixes an in-depth look at **Jack Davis's** pre-EC Western *Lucky Star* and his work for Coca-Cola with business-oriented strips by EC colorist **Marie Severin**. **Johnny Craig** is represented by his painted covers for *Extra* while super-fan **Roger Hill** discusses **Graham Ingel's** latter day EC paintings. And don't miss the articles about **George Evans** and the dread Doctor himself, **Fredric Wertham**! Fantagraphics mainstay **Jaime Hernandez** returns to LPL shelves with *Life Drawing*. Xaime's cast of characters become closer as teenage terror Tonta makes the acquaintance of the wife of her favorite art teacher...one Maggie Chascarillo! But what does that mean for Tonta's sister, the infamous Frogmouth? A

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mod soap opera drawn like a dream, *Life Drawing* is another must-read from an alternative icon. Meanwhile, the MCU's breakout character Agatha Harkness gets the Marvel-verse treatment with *The Saga of the Salem Witch*. Like other books in this series, *The Saga...* compiles stories from across the years. First, we read her debut in *Fantastic Four* # 94 (Jan 1970). Published not long before *FF* co-creator **Jack Kirby** jumped to the Distinguished Competition, the story shows the King reveling in horror tropes that would get a much more involved workout in his *Demon* series. Another *FF* two-partter details the history of Agatha Harkness and her fellow witch-people, especially her ambitious son, Nicholas Scratch! Then the supernatural super-team the Midnight Suns must protect the daughter of Marie Laveau from the interdimensional menace known as Valtorr. Can even the combined might of Majik, Blade, and Agatha Harkness stop a god from beyond?



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