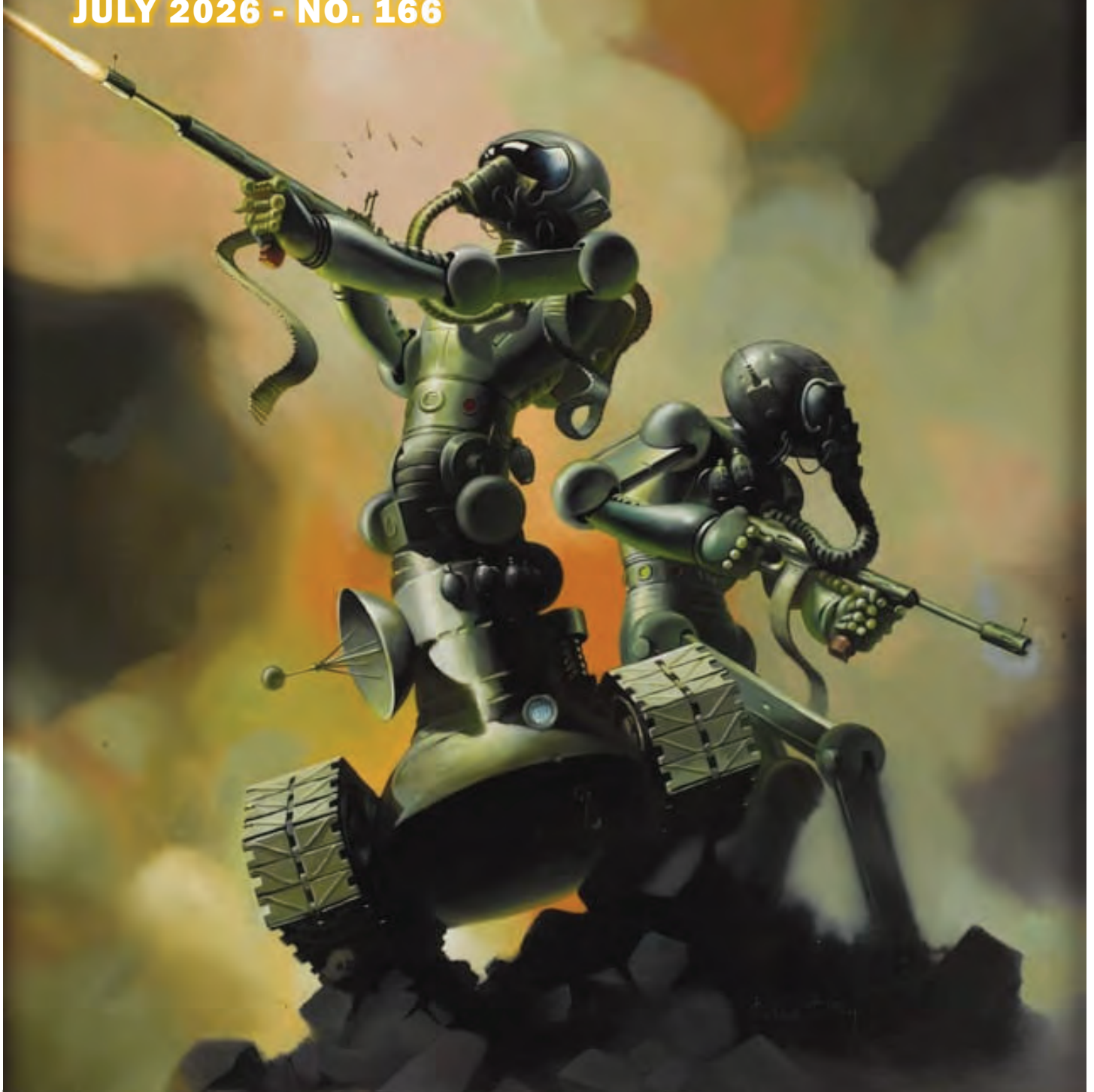


741.5

HOWLING METAL & TALKING GORILLAS

STRANGE ADVENTURES IN SCI-FI

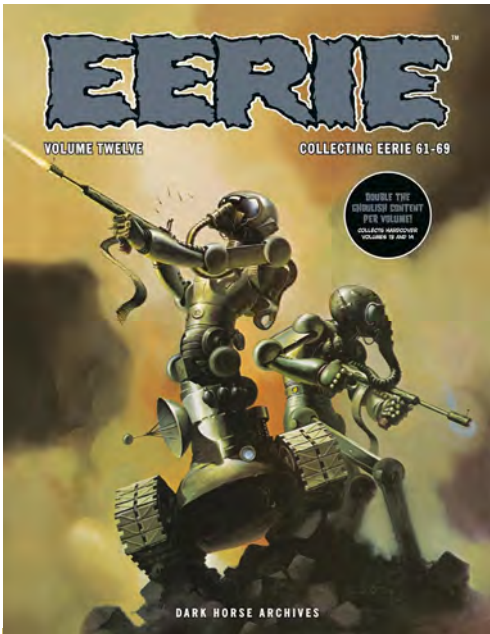
JULY 2026 - NO. 166



The Comics & Graphic Novel Bulletin of



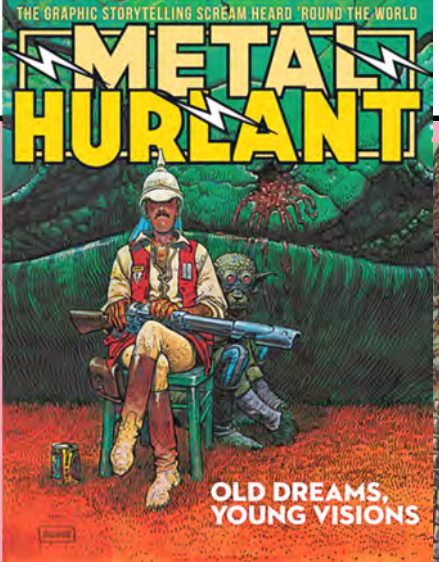
Lexington Public Library
Reading Is Just the Beginning!



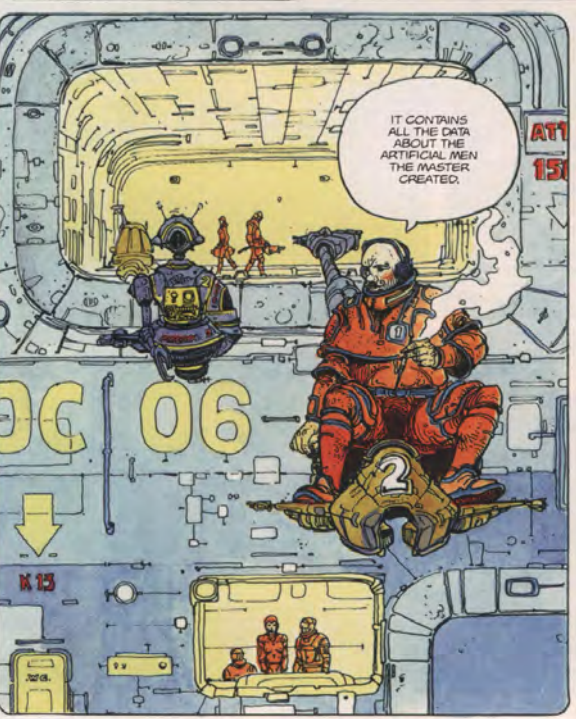
Eerie, once the poor cousin of *Creepy*, began to develop its own identity by jumping on the Bronze Age bandwagon of horror heroes. Beautiful adaptations of Lovecraft and Hawthorne appeared next to the likes of killer cyborg Exterminator One (seen with Exterminator 2 in the classic Ken Kelly cover above), demon master Jedediah Pan, classic creeps like the Freaks and the Mummy and historical horrors like the Spook and Coffin. Then there were the surreal adventures of Cillian Taxi and Peter Hypnos, savage sci-fi with Oogie Finger and Hunter II, epic fantasy featuring Merlin and Spain's national hero, El Cid (below), not to mention the series based on the Four Horsemen featuring the amazing art of Jose Ortiz! Joining him was Esteban Maroto, Alex Toth, Jose Bea, Paul Neary, Joaquin Blazquez, Richard Corben, Berni Wrightson and more! Volumes 12 and 13 of *Eerie* are available at all LPL locations.



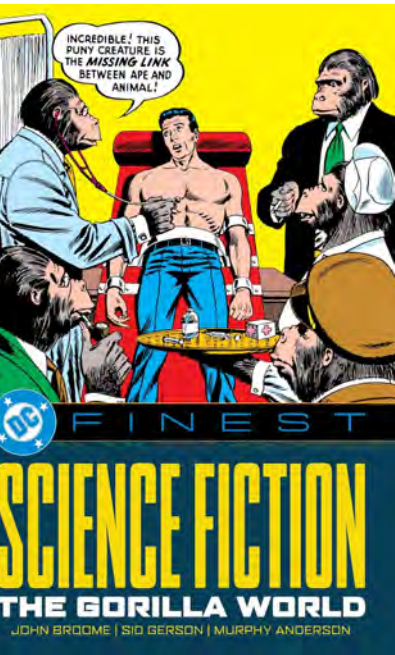
Around the mid-Fifties, DC editors such as Julius Schwartz and Mort Weisinger noticed something odd: every comic with a gorilla on the cover sold better than usual. Soon, DC editors were using so many gorillas, the bosses stepped in and set up a "gorilla schedule" all editors had to follow!



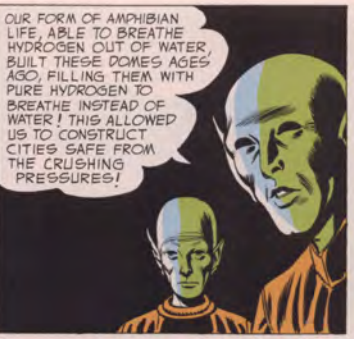
MARKSBURY - TATES



Metal Hurlant (translated "Screaming" or "Howling Metal") was a French magazine devoted to cutting edge science fiction and fantasy comics. The current version is a quarterly softcover anthology with more than 272 pages of new and reprinted material, all of it astounding.



Despite their contemporary reputation as the best in the business (see right), EC's science fiction comics weren't the best-sellers in the business. DC ruled the rocketship roost during the 1950s. *Strange Adventures* and *Mystery in Space* avoided the moral quandaries and social critique of the EC titles in favor of gimmicky but involving "puzzle" stories and tales of good old-fashioned space opera drawn in the smoothly rea



listic house style of the era. Having cut their teeth on the last of the original superheroes, young artists such as Gil Kane, Carmine Infantino and Jim Mooney were joined by vets like Irwin Hasen, Howard Sherman and Planet Comics regular Murphy Anderson on scripts by former pulp and radio writers like Otto Binder and Sid Gerson. Created during the twilight of the Golden Age, *The Gorilla World* orbits Beaumont and Tates Creek!



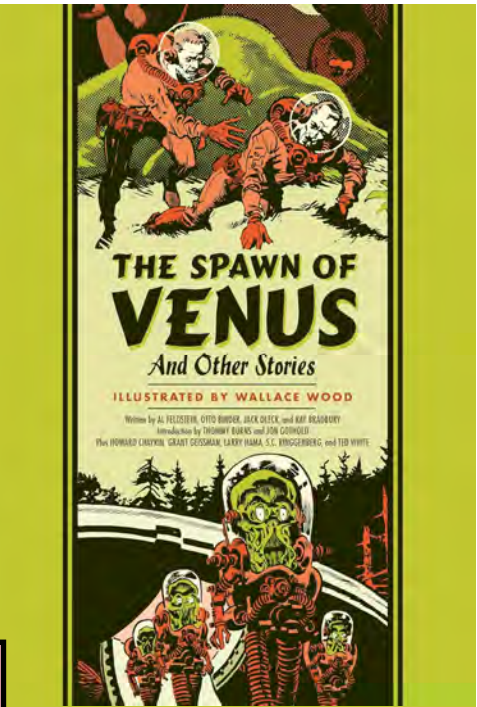
Though most stories reprinted in the first *DC Finest: Science Fiction* are stand-alones, there are some examples of DC space opera heroes. Tommy Tomorrow's feature from *Action Comics* joins sci-fi superhero Captain Comet, as well as the first appearance of Space Cabbie (panel left) in 1954!



CREEK - CENTRAL



Most of the contributors are French, especially OG Hurlanters like Moebius, Nicole Claveloux, Enki Bilal (left) and Philippe Druillet (right). But cartoonists from Spain, Japan and even Canada (E.g. James Stokoe, above) deliver some new, weird kicks. Take a trip beyond the Beyond with *Metal Hurlant*.

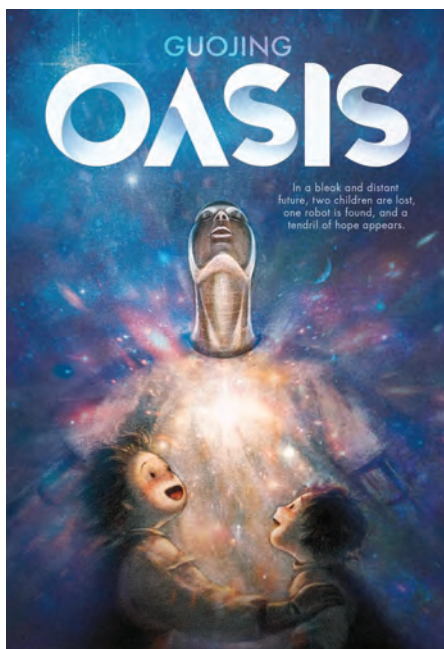


Wallace Wood began his career working on cheap space operas like *Captain Science* before he joined the staff of *Entertaining Comics* and became their main SF guy. His work for *Weird Science* and *Weird Fantasy* was notable for its combination of wild imagination and sensual realism, a palpable phantasmagoria of spaceships you could almost touch, aliens you could almost smell, not to mention women you could almost embrace. The latest in the EC Artists Library from Fantagraphics, *The Spawn of Venus* reprints his best, thought-provoking classics such as "A Weighty Decision", "He Walked Among Us," "The Loathsome" and his adaptations of Ray Bradbury's "Mars Is Heaven" and the elegiac "There Will Come Soft Rains." Many consider him the greatest science fiction artist in comics. You'll see why when you reserve *The Spawn of Venus* from Beaumont, Central and Marksbury!





Be careful what you wish for, especially if it's a little sibling. *Chickenpox* by **Remy Lai** is a colorful look at the pressure tweenager Abby feels to be a good big sister to her four siblings-slash-wild-animals. Which is especially hard when you're itchy as all get-out. Peppered with relatable daydream sequences and '90s references, Abby's story is sure to resonate with anyone who grew up in a big family. And that's just scratching the surface! Catch *Chickenpox* at any LPL branch. On the subject of families under pressure, **Guojing's** *Oasis* takes a serious



MEANWHILE

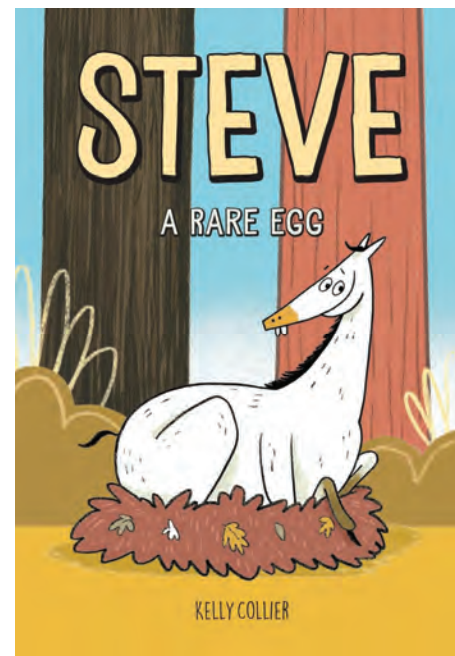
by **Shelby Stuart**

angle. Through hauntingly simple pencil sketches and minimal dialogue, we follow two children who live in a dystopian wasteland. When the kids discover an obsolete android and appoint her as a stand-in for their hardworking mother, things start looking up. And no, the robot doesn't turn evil. I was surprised, too. What's freakier than a dystopian robot mother? Why, the capitalist who creates that sort of thing! Meet Mr. Honeycutt--the villain of *Hunger's Bite* by **Taylor Robin**, available at Central and



Northside. He has everything he could ever want, and he's willing to share with the passengers of *The Lark*, his newly-purchased cruise ship. And don't worry, he won't run out of resources, because he can't die! What could possibly go wrong? Just stay where you are, don't cause trouble, and never look in the furnace. (You know it's bad when the vampire is creeped out.) Wanna watch a talking horse take care of a balloon like it's an egg? There's a book for that! Namely, *Steve: A Rare Egg* by **Kelly Collier**. The art style is simple, stylized, and just as goofy as the subject matter. At less than 100 pages, silly, snappy dialogue makes the char-

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acters pop. Literally. Go to lexpublib.org! Finally, *Bog Myrtle* offers a spin on an age-old plot-- the kind sister gets rewarded by a magical creature, and the mean sister gets punished. When Beatrice is gifted with the titular witch's magic silk, Magnolia sees an opportunity, not a blessing. **Sid Sharp's** bold, vivid paintings and witty writing bring Beatrice and Magnolia to life, along with the wonders of the forest. Think *The Lorax* with a fairy-tale twist. Look at J 741.5 at Beaumont, Central, Eastside and Bates Creek!



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