

Why the @#\$%?!
arent there
more DYKES
on this cover?





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Finally!
Achilles and Patroklos
—Their First Kiss!

In issue #14 of Eric Shanower's

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TO OUR READERS

Welcome to the fourth and most expansive issue of **Out In Comics** yet. We're happy you've picked up our book and hope that you pass it around to like-minded friends. This is one comic that you don't want sealed away forever in plastic!

Gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgendered and otherwise non-straight creators working in comics had been out there creating a powerful name and presence for themselves for years before Andy Mangels put together the first **OIC** in 1999 for the Comic Con International in San Diego. As you can see from reading this book, they still are.

So... why do this book?

It's like this: as many advances as GLBT people have made in equality and visibility in our lifetimes, there are still those segments of our population who discriminate in negative ways against queer creators. Some of these include comics readers, comic shop owners and, perhaps most importantly, comics publishers.

By creating **Out In Comics** we hope to accomplish a few things. We hope that comics readers, especially GLBT fans, will try out the work of queer creators when they consider how they spend their money on comics. Their dollars may make publishers and editors stand up and take notice, thereby giving queer creators—as individuals and as a group—a bit of a “boost” in a competitive marketplace. We also hope to provide an excuse for GLBT creators to come out of the comics closet and stand up as proud participants in an industry we all care so deeply about.

It's especially noteworthy that we debut this free publication every year at the Comic-Con International in San Diego, seeing as how it has long been the home of the “Gays in Comics” annual panel and is growing each year as the gathering spot for GLBT fans from across the world.

Out In Comics is a completely volunteer-driven project. Like so many other organizations based in fandom, we do this because we love comics. As a diversion, as an art form, and maybe even a way of reaching out to the world at large to tell stories that should be told. Stories from our perspective... as many and varied as they are.

You can be involved in this process, too. Visit our website at www.outincomics.com, check out the vibrant and diverse work of the folks listed in this book, and pass the word about the ones that spark your interest. That's all it takes!

But above all, keep reading what you love. Life is too short for bad comics!

Andy, Kyle, Joe, Jai & zan
July 2002

SPECIAL THANKS

The crew here at **Out In Comics** got lots of help putting this year's book together, and we'd like to say thanks.

Gratitude goes to all our cover artists—Chris Taylor, Stephen Sadowski, Elizabeth Watasin, Phil Jimenez, Roberta Gregory, Brad Rader, Eric Shanower, Patrick Fillion, Joe Phillips and Howard Cruse—as well as our cover colorist, Jose Villarrubia.

Thanks also go to Terrance Griep for his articles, Dwayne Best for proofreading, John “Wonder Woman” Sauer and John Jenkins for scans, and especially our advertisers, who helped defray the cost of moving to this deluxe edition!

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ON THE COVER: (clockwise from top)

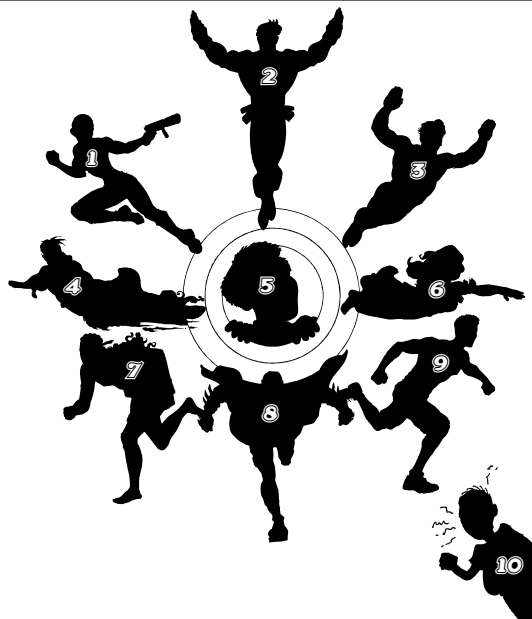
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3. **Northstar** by Stephen Sadowski, © Marvel
4. **Camili-Cat** by and © Patrick Fillion
5. **Wendel** (center) by and © Howard Cruse
6. **Fairer Than** by and © Elizabeth Watasin
7. **Achilles** by and © Eric Shanower
8. **Midnighter** by Brad Rader, © Wildstorm Productions/ DC Comics
9. **Go-Go Fiasco** by Phil Jimenez, © Robert Rodi, Louis Small Jr. and Yanick Paquette
10. **Bitchy Butch** (corner) by and © Roberta Gregory

Cover colors by José Villarrubia

Design based on a 1976 original cover by

Dick Giordano from **Limited Collector's Edition**

Vol. 5, #C-46 (Justice League of America treasury)



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MARC ANDREYKO

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Marc Andreyko has been a comics fan all of his life and a comics writer since 1994 with his first published work *The Lost* with Jay Geldohof, Galen Showman and Mark Ricketts, an infamous Harvey-nominated, cult comic series. Marc also worked on the Harvey- and Eisner-winning *Dr. Strange: What Is It That Disturbs You, Stephen?* with artist and friend P. Craig Russell, for whom he translated the Italian opera *Pagliacci/The Clowns*.

Other notable collaborations include a Spider-Man tale with Jill Thompson in *Marvel - Shadows & Light* and *Torso* with Brian Michael Bendis. Marc is the creator/writer of the new Wildstorm/Eye of the Storm title *Black Sun* with art by Trevor Scott and will be writing *Sam and Twitch* for Image later this year. Also in the pipeline, a creator-owned book with Mike Oeming and another one with John Lucas.

Marc also promises that *The Lost* will be finished someday! He can tell you what happens if you're really interested. In addition to comics, Marc makes his living as a screenwriter in Los Angeles. Past work includes a bio-pic on Armand Hammer, the *Torso* screenplay with Bendis for Miramax and work for ABC/Touchstone, Walt Disney and HBO.

JAMES ASAL

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James Asal lives in Connecticut with Timothy, his partner of 16 years and their beagle, Baxter. Created in 1994, his comic strip, *Adam & Andy* has achieved world-wide recognition but, he says, "still hasn't made much of an impact on his bank balance." It appears weekly on its own web site and is also featured in a handful of print and web-based publications from around the world. Readers may also subscribe to the *Adam & Andy* Yahoo! Groups mailing list for convenient weekly e-mail delivery of the strip.

TIM BARELA

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Native Californian and avid motorcyclist Tim Barela began working professionally as a cartoonist in the

mid-1970s. In the 1980s, Tim's life and career took a turn out the closet door when he decided to give two minor gay characters from an abandoned project their own comic strip. *Leonard & Larry* was enthusiastically accepted by *Gay Comix* and made its first appearance in 1984, appearing in several issues and in *Gay Comix Special*. The strip appeared in the bi-weekly national news magazine *Frontiers*, was part of *Out of the Inkwell*, a four-segment play presented in 1994 by San Francisco's Theatre Rhinoceros and has been released in three book collections. Order them from Palliard Press, 912 West Lake Street, Minneapolis, MN 55408.

The third Leonard & Larry collection called *Excerpts from The Ring Cycle in Royal Albert Hall* is now available along with the two other collections, original art and even T-shirts on Tim's website.



Tim Barela's *Leonard and Larry*

ALISON BECHDEL

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Alison Bechdel has been creating her award-winning bi-weekly comic strip *Dykes to Watch Out For* since 1983. It currently runs in 70 lesbian/gay, feminist and alternative publications. Nine collections of Alison's cartoons have been published by Firebrand Books. Her work has appeared in *Ms.*, *Strange-Looking*

Dykes To Watch Out For by Alison Bechdel



Exile, *American Splendor*, *Slate* and many other publications and anthologies. Her most recent collection, *Post Dykes To Watch Out For*, was nominated for a 2000 Eisner award in the "Best Humor Publication" category.

PAUL BERGE

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Wisconsin native Paul Berge has drawn topical and editorial cartoons for the LGBT press since 1993. His weekly cartoons are now distributed by Q Syndicate and appear in some 20 papers and on countless refrigerators and bulletin boards across the United States. Paul tackles the vital issues of the day; he has depicted the Teletubbies as the four horsemen of the apocalypse and drawn Fred Phelps leading his brood in protest of the Washington D.C. Zoo's gay penguins. And yet he occasionally shows a lighter side, such as the time he depicted Dr. Laura as Bride to Pat Buchanan's Frankenstein.

JOHN BLACKBURN

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John Blackburn was an illustrator for some of the first gay publications, *Physique Pictorial* and *Physique Art Quarterly*. His work also appeared in *One* magazine and *In Touch*. He has illustrated for *FirstHand*, *ManTalk*, *Manscape* and *Guys* magazines, creating over 200 published magazine illustrations. Since 1992 he has been writing and drawing the sexual adventures of his gay comic strip hero, Coley, for Fantagraphics Books erotic imprint, Eros Comix. These hardcore stories have been collected into four graphic novels, all still in print. A separate Coley story line has been running in Leland Press's *Meatmen* series,

from issue 13-24. Order the Coley books from Fantagraphics at 7563 Lake City Way NE, Seattle, WA 98115, or (800) 657-1100. Recently out are *Coley Running Wild 4: Destiny Coast* and *Meatmen 24*, with a highly censored Coley story.

PAIGE BRADDOCK

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Paige Braddock is creator of a daily online strip called *Jane's World*. For the past twelve years she has worked as a visual journalist for a string of newspapers in the east, including the *Chicago Tribune* and the *Atlanta Journal-Constitution*. Paige says if you are predisposed to caffeine addiction, natural disasters, bomb threats, fashion incompetence and sleeping late, then journalism is the field for you.

Though successful in journalism, Paige spent her free time pining away to do comics. She has spent her whole life working on comic strip concepts, beginning with her youth in the rural South, where there isn't much to do except doodle, and ending in northern California, where she now have the luxury of doing comics almost full-time.

JENNIE BRICKER

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Jennie Bricker had a brief stint in comics as an assistant editor, editor and in the legal department for Dark Horse Comics, from 1992-1997, editing such books as the award-winning *Cheval Noir* and much of the Comics Greatest World line. After a legal secretary at Dark Horse was fired after e-mailing information to employees about a Gay Pride celebration, Jennie responded to what she felt was a firing based on homophobia. She gave two weeks notice to quit in protest over the decision and made her reasons

public in a company-wide e-mail. The day she gave her two-week notice, she was fired on the spot.

Jennie is now a lawyer, practicing natural resources law in Portland, Oregon for a large firm that offers domestic partner insurance benefits and a supportive work environment. She is also the proud parent of a young boy named Kilian, with Robin, her partner of 13 years. Jennie is elated to report that since the 1999 "OHSU vs. Tanner" court decision, it is now illegal in Oregon to discriminate in the workplace based on sexual orientation, even in Milwaukee, Oregon, where Dark Horse is based.



Paige Braddock's *Jane's World*

DAVE BROUSSEAU

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Dave Brousseau is a cartoonist, illustrator and graphic designer from Louisville, KY. He created his weekly comic strip, *A Couple of Guys*, in 1996. The following year, it was picked up by Q Syndicate and is now distributed worldwide. Dave has also served as the Cartoon Editor for Q Syndicate since 1999. His illustrations can be found in the magazines and brochures of EarthSave International and his food guide pyramid has become the standard for vegetarians and vegans everywhere.

DONALD V. CALAMIA

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Donald Calamia became an avid comics fan in the very early 1960s when he received subscriptions to *Yogi Bear*, *Huckleberry Hound* and *Quick Draw McGraw* as a birthday present from his father. Now, after 40 years and a wealth of experiences, he's about to take the plunge and become a comics professional.

After years as a professional actor, Donald entered the ranks of theater management and co-founded an award-winning non-profit touring theater company. He served as its executive director from its inception in 1979 to its closure in 1993. Through these works, Donald became one of the early pioneers nationally to use live theater as an educational tool to help teenagers better understand issues such as divorce, substance abuse and HIV/AIDS.

Donald is currently a contributing writer to *Between The Lines*, Michigan's weekly newspaper for the GLBT community with his weekly column, "Curtain Calls." With artist John Dennis, he has created a weekly syndicated gay-themed comic strip he'll write, tentatively titled *Glory Days*, that is expected to debut later this year.

JENNIFER CAMPER

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Cleis Press has recently published a trade paperback collection of Jennifer Camper's comic, *subGURLZ*, which follows the adventures of three women living in abandoned subway tunnels. Her previous book, *Rude Girls and Dangerous Women* from Laugh Lines Press, is a collection of the best of her cartoons. Jennifer's work has also been published in comic books (*Gay Comix/Gay Comics*, *Wimmen's Comix*, *Real Girl*), magazines (*On Our Backs*, *Outweek*, *The Advocate*, *Out*), newspapers (*The Village Voice*, *The Washington Blade*, *Bay Times*, *Sojourner*) and various anthologies. She is currently editing the comics anthology, *Juicy Mother*. Jennifer usually lives in New York City.

SHARON CHO

Web: writerboy.com/nobody

Sharon Cho loves hats. Maybe that's why she has worn so many of them in her work life. Sharon is a co-creator

of *Nobody*—a lesbian demon-hunter and horror magnet, has represented artists in comics through her own agency, has been webslave (as opposed to webmistress) to many different websites and is constantly coming up with new ideas on how to better the world. "Yes, I'm an idealist," she says. "So, sue me." *Nobody* is available in trade paperback from AIT/PlanetLar.

C. BARD COLE

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After college, Bard ended up in New York when gotten an internship with the famous gay literary magazine *Christopher Street* and had had several articles and a short story published. His first book, *Briefly Told Lives*, came out in the fall of 2000. A series with the same name was a later development, when he was producing the 'zine *Riotboy* with Chris Leslie.

While Bard was trying to get a "literary" novel published, he was surprised when a publisher became interested in publishing his chapbooks, full of cartoons and illustrations. He remains convinced that the cartoons are what got the manuscript of *Briefly Told Lives* read. The paperback came out in January 2002. For the last year, Bard has been working on a monstrous novel manuscript which he doesn't expect to complete soon.

KATHERINE COLLINS

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The artist formerly known as Arn Saba, creator of *Neil the Horse*, Katherine Collins has been living outwardly as a woman since 1993. Katherine (as Arn) first published Neil in Canadian newspapers, in 1975. Starting in 1983, Deni Loubert at Renegade Press published the characters in comic book form. Neil persisted in comic books until 1991. There remains a finished, unpublished 64-page Neil graphic novel, which could not find a publisher in 1993.

From 1992 through 1994, Katherine put a lot of creative energy into her transsexual "transition." She composed an as yet unpublished book of essays tracing the spiritual and personal intricacies of the experience. She lives in San Francisco and was widowed from a lesbian marriage in July 1999. Despite all difficulties, she says, "Yes, everything is much better when you're a woman."

CHRIS COMPANIK

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Chris has drawn comics since before he could write and currently publishes two regular strips. *HIV + Me* is a monthly syndicated strip as a "how-to" guide to living with HIV. Sometimes controversial, often tasteless, but always irreverent, it began attracting national attention after *POZ Magazine* ran his "Sleeping Beauty" strip (criticizing the lack of needle exchange programs) and began its national rollout. *881 Midtown Court* has its roots back in the early 1980s when a local bar magazine wanted a serialized "gay Luke & Laura" strip and, being the "General Hospital" fan he is, Chris jumped right in. It now runs in the British gay comic book anthology *Buddies*.

When not doing comics, Chris also produces specials for Atlanta's People TV. Among his recent productions have been the roundtable discussion show of gay life in Atlanta *Out & Away* and a series of safe sex spots, including the award-winning "A Condom Will Fit Over a Grapefruit."



Chris Companik's *HIV + Me*

CHRIS COOPER

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Chris Cooper is a freelance writer and editor. He worked at Marvel Comics for six years, where he edited titles such *Cage*, *Blade the Vampire Hunter* and, briefly, *The Punisher*. He was assistant editor on *Alpha Flight* during the run that included the well-publicized issue 106, in which team member Northstar came out of the closet.

His writing credits include two gay firsts: Marvel's first lesbian lead character, Victoria Montesi, in the pages of the series he created and wrote, **Darkhold: Pages From The Book Of Sins** and Star Trek's first openly gay human character, Yoshi Mishima, in the pages of **Star Trek: Starfleet Academy**, which was nominated for a 1999 GLAAD Media Award. He also wrote the 1998 **Hulk/Sub-Mariner Annual** and two short stories for **Llewellyn's 2000 Magical Almanac**.

His current comics project is **Queer Nation: The online Gay Comic** which is part satire, part soap opera and part superhero epic.

COLLEEN COOVER

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Colleen Coover is a self described "bisexual artist-type woman" who lives in Iowa, which she says isn't nearly as bad as some people seem to think. She is the creator of **Small Favors**, a girly porno comic book, which follows the adventures of Annie and her friend, Nibbil, two girls who love each other and like to have sex. It has been favorably reviewed in magazines such as **Out**, **On Our Backs**, **The Orange County/Long Beach Blade** and **Lespress**, a German lesbian magazine. Colleen has also done illustration work for the magazine **Girlfriends**. Colleen's time is mostly spent creating **Small Favors** at the moment, but she hopes to start up a new all-ages comic with her partner Paul Tobin soon.

HOWARD CRUSE

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Howard Cruse is the creator of **Wendel**, the 1980s comic strip about a circle of gay friends that was collected in its entirety last year in a book called **Wendel All Together**. His 1995 graphic novel **Stuck Rubber Baby** won both Eisner and Harvey Awards in 1996, as well as awards in England and Germany. Italian and French translations of **SRB** were published last year, the French edition winning the Prix de la critique at this year's Angouleme comics festival. Many of Howard's underground comics were compiled more than a decade ago in the books **Early Barefootz** and **Dancin' Nekkid With The Angels**.

Howard's newest book, **The Swimmer With a Rope In His Teeth**, an illustrated adaptation of a fable by Jeanne Shaffer, should see print within the next year. Many of his comic strips, both old and recently drawn, are archived on his extensive website, Howard Cruse Central.



Darren Davis's **Zak Raven, Esq.**

DARREN DAVIS

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Darren Davis is head of TidalWave Studios, home three titles he writes, **10th Muse**, **Atlas** and **Zak Raven, Esq.** He published these and other books for two years at Image Comics, but has since moved his TidalWave Studios imprint over to Avatar Press. Darren also acts as an agent to artists with work outside the comic book arena.

ADAM DEKRAKER

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Adam DeKraker's art has appeared in a number of different titles. His penciling work for DC includes **Superboy**, **Secret Files**, **Legionnaires**, **WildC.A.T.s** and **The Titans**. Last year he inked many **Rugrats** stories for Nickelodeon, including the **Rugrats in Paris** movie adaptation. Adam's inks will also appear in Nickelodeon's **Jimmy Neutron**, **Boy Genius** movie magazine, pencils and inks in both **Force 7** #7 from Lonestar Press and **The Big Book of Wild Women** from Paradox Press/DC. He hopes to launch his creator-owned title, **Underland**, sometime in 2002.

Adam loves rock 'n' roll, kung fu movies and Mike, his boyfriend of eight years. They live together in Brooklyn.

SAMUEL R. DELANY

A noted science fiction author, Samuel R. "Chip" Delany published his first novel, *The Jewels of Apor* in 1962 when he was 20. He has since written dozens of highly-respected SF novels, including the *Neverjon* series and has taught at a handful of universities. His comic book work includes writing an early original graphic novel, *Empire: A Visual Novel*, which was fully-painted by Howard Chaykin in 1978. Chip also scripted *Wonder Woman* for two issues in the early 1970s and did a story with Chaykin for *Epic Illustrated*. He's written about comic books in his published criticism and has been interviewed in *The Comics Journal*.

Bread & Wine, a 48-page graphic novel drawn by Mia Wolff, out now from Juno Books, is an autobiographical work chronicling how Chip came to meet and live with his current life-partner, Dennis. The story is somewhat unusual in that when they met, Chip was a tenured professor and Dennis had been homeless for six years and was selling books from a blanket on New York City's 72nd Street.

JOHN DENNIS

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John Dennis is a freelance illustrator who has worked for a number of large and small publishers. His most recently published work was as the co-creator and occasional illustrator of Chris Cooper's online illustrated adventure series *Queer Nation*. He has also been collaborating on the upcoming syndicated strip *Glory Days* with writer Don Calamia.

John worked for Marvel Creative Services designing "baseline character sketches" for action figures and for Fleer in their Sports Card lines and in their non-sport collector card series. He has also done freelance design & advertising work for several newspapers & entertainment magazines in the southeastern Michigan area as well as a number of illustrations for adult fantasy books & magazines. John is the winner of over two dozen fan awards in illustration and writing.

MICHAEL DERRY

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Michael graduated from Northern Illinois University with a BFA in illustration and has since moved to Los Angeles. Upon arriving, he landed a job as art editor and illustrator for *Bent Magazine*. As a freelancer, his work has appeared in magazines, print ads and on the web. His comic strip *Troy* has appeared in several



Kris Dresen's *Max and Lily*

magazines since its premiere in 1998. Troy has been nominated for a WeHo Award two years in a row and in the spring of 2002 will appear in the book *Growing Up Gay* by Jason Rich.

DIANE DIMASSA

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Diane DiMassa is the creator of the comic 'zine *Hothead Paisan: Homicidal Lesbian Terrorist*, which has been appearing quarterly for seven years from Giant Ass Publishing. Besides the first 20 issues, there are also two paperback anthologies published by Cleis Press. *Hothead Paisan* was also part of *Out of the Inkwell*, a four-segment play presented in 1994 by San Francisco's Theatre Rhinoceros and DiMassa's work has been featured in *Gay Comics*, *Strange Looking Exile*, *Frighten the Horses*, *The Advocate* and *Oh....*

CATHERINE DOHERTY

Born in Toronto in 1965, Catherine Doherty became interested in comics when she discovered unpublished work of her father's in a metal file box in the basement. Her first published work appeared in Vancouver's *A Room of One's Own* and London's *Diva* magazine and she later appeared in Toronto's *Siren* and in *Gay Comics*. Her first graphic novel, *Can of Worms*, was published by Fantagraphics Books. It is a thinly veiled autobiographical story about growing up adopted and her search for her birth mother. You can order it from Fantagraphics at 800-657-1100 or online at www.fantagraphics.com. Doherty is working as a production designer in Hollywood.

KRIS DRESEN

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maxandlily.com

Kris Dresen is an artist and writer living in Chicago. She's the illustrator of the critically acclaimed comic book *Manya*, written by Jen Benka, and the writer and artist of her solo strip, *Max & Lily*. Previously awarded the Xeric Grant, Kris and Jen were recently nominated for an Eisner Award for their work on *Manya*.

Kris is currently working on two graphic novels: *The Road to Hell*, written by Dwayne McDuffie and Matt Wayne, and *Grace*, which she is writing and illustrating. Kris also illustrates greeting cards, textbooks and children's books and is currently creating a series of ink drawings she calls *Paper Women*.

PERRY ERWIN

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Perry Erwin is the creator, writer and publisher of an independent comic book published through his publishing company, Blokhedd Comix. *The Young Caucasians* follows the adventures of Bud and Gunther, two gay teens, and their adventures in the Suburbia Universe.

Ever since he can remember, Perry has been writing, even creating dramatic plays for his Bionic Woman and Batman dolls. He has held editorial and reporter positions on high school and college newspapers and sold out a theater with his professional written works, *Queer Hearts* and the stage version of *The Young Caucasians*.

PATRICK FILLION

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Patrick Fillion's work has come a long way since he started drawing when he was all of three years old. Since then he has put together his own publishing company, Class Enterprises, through which he continues to publish his own line of gay erotic comic books. He has worked for Avatar Press, Leyland Publications, Montreal's *Zip Magazine* and a variety of other gay publications. Currently Patrick's work can be found in *Black Inches* magazine as well as *All-Man* magazine, for which he illustrates short fiction. Patrick is also providing the cover illustration (as well as inside content) for the up-

coming ArsenalPulp Press book entitled *What Right?* This book on the injustice of censorship will be released in both the U.S. and Canada and will feature two of Patrick's most popular creations, Camili-Cat and Naked Justice.

TIM FISH

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Tim Fish writes, draws and self publishes a variety of comic book series and one-shots. An "evolutionary process" of self publishing has resulted in the 64 page *Cavalcade of Boys*, available at many stores across the country and for sale at the web site.

Most of Tim's work includes gay themes or gay characters, starting with *Arche-Lady's* teenage sidekick *Astro-Boy*, who came out in '98. Other stories run from the quirky *Lathargia* to the semi-autobiographical *Meet Me in Saint Louie* to the traditional super-heroes *The Finders*. Many of the books are previewed at the site.

Also available at the site are the online adventures of *Astro-Boy*, a gay college super-hero who has a knack for having his shirt ripped off.

Tim Fish currently lives in Boston.



Patrick
Fillion's
**Naked
Justice**

J. A. FLUDD

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Artist and writer Joe Fludd's introduction to comics as a fan was the 1960s "Marvel Super-Heroes" TV series. His most important influences include Jack Kirby and Stan Lee (and their creation *The Fantastic Four*) George Perez and John Romita, Jr. Joe's first work first came to the attention of queer comics readers of the anthology *Gay Comics* which featured his artwork on the first five chapters of *Sentinel* (later re-named *Pride*), a superhero feature created and written by Andy Mangels.

Quantum Comics is Joe's budding comics enterprise, which currently features *The Environauts*, a group of characters who are the anchor of one of two separate superhero universes, alongside a space opera adventure, *Orion's Arm*. Joe plans on publishing his work on the web, with an eye toward print-on-demand ventures as well. *The Environauts* will run indefinitely and he plans a 52-issue arc for *Orion's Arm*.

Since coming out in the late 1980s, Joe says he has made it a point to include gay characters in his stories that are not tokens, but major starring players. He believes that comics are in a unique position to show us the best possibilities of the human condition and that it is important that gays be a part of it. He is committed to showing that people of all sexual orientations and races must co-exist and reflecting this in his work.

ELLEN FORNEY

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Seattle cartoonist and illustrator Ellen Forney compiled her weekly comic strips into the Harvey- and Eisner-nominated *Monkey Food: The Complete "I Was Seven in '75" Collection*, published by Fantagraphics Books. She created a one-woman, multi-media reading/performance based on the book, toured the show in nine US cities in 1999 and has also performed the show in Vancouver, Canada and in Portugal at the XI Salão Internacional de Banda Desenhada do Porto. *Tomato* from Starhead Comix was her solo comic book back in the mid-nineties and she's contributed to anthologies such as *Savage Love*, *Dyke Strippers* and DC's recent *Bizarro Comics*.

More recently, Ellen has been drawing a more journalistic comics series, *How D'ya Do That?*, a monthly full-page comic featured in Seattle's *The Stranger*. She is also published in *Out*, *Pulse!*, *Bust* and *Nickelodeon Magazine*. Ellen is currently working on a project called *Big Paintings of Sexy Women*.



Ellen Forney's *I Was Seven in '75*

GREG FOX

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Greg Fox is the creator of *Kyle's Bed & Breakfast*, a comic strip about a gay B&B in the suburbs, that is currently running in eleven gay publications across North America, as well as online. Gay newsmagazine *The Advocate* recently named *Kyle's Bed & Breakfast's* web home as one of their "Hot Websites." It has also been featured in *Genre* and *Instinct* magazines and also written about in *The New York Times* and in *Newsday*. Greg has done work for comics publishers as well, including *Doctor Chaos* for Triumphant Comics, *Baseball Superstars* and *Rock 'n' Roll Comics* for Revolutionary. He did one job for Marvel, *NFL Quarterback Club*.

In addition to creating new episodes every two weeks for *Kyle's Bed & Breakfast*, Greg is also creator of *An Angel's Story*, a comic strip about a gay angel, that runs in every issue of *Creations* magazine. He also does a strip called *Rock the House*, about a rock band. *The Kyle's Bed & Breakfast Collection: Year One* is available for purchase through his website.

ANDREW "AETHAN" FRENCH

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Andy French's published writing career coincides with his decision to come out. Coincidence? Actually, it's because his first professionally published work was in an anthology of gay erotica and he wanted to tell his parents that he had been published. That story, "Full Moon Fever", can be found in the anthology *Wired Hard* from Cirlet Press. After this came a number of "anthropomorphic animal" stories, on the internet, via the website he shares with his husband of three years, Steve Domanski.

Andy co-created and scripted *Circles*, a gay, anthropomorphic animal slice-of-life comic, the third issue of which is coming soon from Another Rabco Disaster. This series is ongoing and Andy is very pleased with the reception it's receiving. It is his first work in comics.

DEVIN GRAYSON

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Once an aspiring novelist, Devin Kalile Grayson has spent the last five years in love with comic books, a medium she never had the opportunity to explore as child. Grayson broke into the industry in 1997 with "Like Riding a Bike," a ten page Dick and Donna story for *The Batman Chronicles* 7. That led to a *Batman Plus* special with Arsenal, the *Catwoman* and *Nightwing* annuals for that year and then the *Catwoman* series at DC.

Devin went on to write for many other projects, such as *Relative Heroes*, a creator-owned limited series following the adventures of a new group of teen heroes called The Weinbergs, which featured a gay team leader. She also had a two year run on *The Titans* and several miniseries. The Vertigo miniseries *User*, which dealt with sexual identity issues and online role-playing, was nominated this year in the "Outstanding Comic Book" category by GLAAD.

Devin's success in the industry has been showcased in mainstream media such as *USA Today*, *Working Woman* and *Entertainment Weekly* and also in alternative press such as *The Village Voice*, *The Advocate* and *Curve*. Most recently, Devin has completed a two-year plus run on *Batman: Gotham Knights* and is currently thrilled to find herself working on *X-Men: Evolution*, the Marvel comic book based on the hit TV series. *Matador*, a creator-owned project with artist Brian Stelfreeze, is due out from Wildstorm later this year and she's writing *Nightwing* for the DC Bat-office.



Roberta Gregory's *Naughty Bits*

Devin is happy to find herself back in her old Oakland, California stomping grounds after a wonderful four-year stint in New York, but even happier to have landed in Blüdhaven.

ROBERTA GREGORY

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Roberta Gregory has been creating her own unique comics for over twenty years. She appeared in many issues of *Gay Comix/Gay Comics* and self-published *Sheila and the Unicorn* and *Winging It*, both of which studied gender issues. She also self-published two of the three issues of *Artistic Licentiousness*, which she describes as "a sort of bisexual love story."

Roberta is best known in the comic world for her long-running *Naughty Bits* series, starring the unforgettable Bitchy Bitch, still coming out quarterly from Fantagraphics Books. The latest of five *Naughty Bits* trade paperbacks, *Bitchy Butch: The World's Angriest Dyke*, is available, along with most of her other books from Roberta herself. Send a SASE to her at PO Box 27438, Seattle WA 98125 for a catalog, or check out her website for all the details.

Roberta has just published *Bitchy Strips*, a collection of the *Bitchy Bitch* weekly newspaper strips. The "Bitchy Bitch" animated cartoons for Oxygen Network have expanded into a second season of 11-minute shows. Roberta is the script consultant and model designer. They are shown on the "X-Chromosome" show weekend nights on Oxygen Network, or can be seen on the Oxygen.com website.

TERRANCE GRIEP, JR.

Email: tgriepjr@aol.com

Terrance Griep writes: prose and poetry, mysteries and news reports, sports columns and radio plays.

Terrance Griep works: for award-winning publishers, web site providers, major corporations, mom-and-pop shoppes and in exactly one city. Characters who've called him "sir" include Superman, Batman, Green Lantern, Spider-Man and BuzzBee, the Honey Nut Cheerios Bee, but his best-known work appears in DC Comics' monthly *Scooby-Doo*.

Terrance Griep acts: on stage, on the radio and in voice over.

For precisely one day, Terrance Griep served as Crunch, mascot of the NBA's Minnesota Timberwolves. Clearly... Terrance Griep must be stopped. Projects due out this summer: *World-Class Comics* 1 from Image/Big Bang Comics, in August 2002.

CRAIG HAMILTON

Email: SpencerBck@aol.com

Craig Hamilton was the artist for DC's 1986 *Aquaman* mini-series and *The Sea Woman Portfolio* in 1992. His other comics work includes *Starman* (28 and 54), *Green Lantern* (50 and 55), *The Spectre* (5, 10 and 14) and *Sandman* (50 and *Gallery of Dreams*), as well as other pin-ups, posters and short stories for DC and Marvel. He produced covers for *Gay Comics* 18 and 25. He also did a short story with Mike Carey for an issue of Vertigo's horror title, *Flinch* and is illustrating the upcoming *Fables* 4.



Hawkman by Craig Hamilton

Craig lives in Macon, Georgia, where a 100-year-old house serves as his home and studio. He's been drawing from the age of three and began taking private classes from accomplished artist and mentor, Houser Smith, at the age of twelve. He now teaches private drawing classes, does commissioned works and freelance, commercial and corporate illustration and cranks out a few comics in his spare time.

Read
ETHAN GREEN

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NO, I'm The ONLY One.

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www.planetout.com
The home world of Ethan Green comix

JOAN HILTY

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qsyndicate.com

Joan Hilty came to DC in 1995 as an editor in the Trading Cards department and later moved to the Vertigo imprint, where she worked on projects including the Eisner and Harvey-nominated miniseries **Uncle Sam** and the Harvey Award-winning graphic novel **You Are Here**. She also edited the **Finals** miniseries and the 1999 re-launch of **Swamp Thing**.

Joan and co-editor Axel Alonso won the 1999 International Horror Guild Award for the Vertigo horror anthology **Flinch**. Ironically, she currently edits the DC Kids line including such books as **Powerpuff Girls**, **Scooby-Doo** and **Dexter's Laboratory**. She is developing a creator-owned original DC Universe series with Keith Giffen and a collaboration between DC and satirical newspaper **The Onion**.

Joan is also a cartoonist and illustrator whose work prior to DC appeared in **Gay Comix/Gay Comics**, **Girljock**, **The Village Voice** and **The Advocate**. Currently, her strip **Bitter Girl**, about cranky single dykes in the big city, is distributed by Q Syndicate.



Victor E. Hodge's **Black Gay Boy Fantasy**

VICTOR E. HODGE

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Victor E. Hodge is a mystery & horror writer, graphic artist, illustrator and creator of **Black Gay Boy Fantasy**, about black gay life in Washington, D.C., which began as a one shot strip for the 1996 Black Lesbian and Gay Pride Guide. The first issue, an 8-page mini comic, was sold exclusively at Boston's Outwrite '98 and is currently at issue fifteen. Victor's short-lived strip, **Federal Barbee** appeared in the **Interior GLOBE** newsletter, a parody about "America's favorite teen model" going in search of a Federal Government job after the leaving her toy company, "The Big M."

Victor's multiple passions include collecting DC Direct action figures and **Brenda Starr**, **Reporter** comic strips from the Dale Messick and Ramona Fradon days and customizing black Barbies. He lives in Washington, D.C.

JEFF JACKLIN

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Jeff Jacklin is an artist and writer whose work has appeared in **Gay Comics** 8 and 25, **Strip AIDS USA** and issues 25 and 27 of **Meatmen**. As a freelancer living in Minneapolis, he worked for a wide spectrum of clients, producing cartoons for the GLBT newspapers **Equal Time** and **GAZE** and the budding skater/punk rock magazine **Your Flesh**. Jeff created animatics and storyboards for the Department of Defense and its Armed Forces cable channel. He also worked on animation projects such as the title for Fox TV's **Spider-Man** and CD ROM versions of **Catdog** and **Peter Rabbit**.

In 1997, Jeff combined a love of science fiction and comics with a 'zine called **Tales From The Queer Side** and in 2001 he self-published the first issue of **Hearts & Iron**, a comic book following the adventures of two iron-pumping dudes in love.

PATTY JERES

Gifted with a good sense of humor, Patty Jeres is the Director of Sales and Marketing Communications

for DC Comics. She's been at DC since 1991, having worked as a freelance writer and editor. Patty also wrote a weekly newspaper column critiquing comics and edited *Those Annoying Post Bros.* and *Savage Henry* for Matt Howarth. In between, she wrote most everything from business journals to song lyrics to menus.

PHIL JIMENEZ

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Born and raised in southern California, Phil Jimenez moved to Manhattan to attend NYC's School of Visual Arts and was hired to pencil his first work for DC Comics two years later. He first gained recognition for his work on *Tempest*, which he dedicated to his first boyfriend, Neal Pozner, who first hired him and later died from AIDS. He has worked with Grant Morrison on *The Invisibles*, Devin Grayson on *JLA/Titans: The Technis Imperative* and with Warren Ellis on *Planetary/Authority: Ruling the World*.

Phil has been attached to a host of projects, received nominations for both Eisner and GLAAD awards, was listed as one of *Entertainment Weekly's* "101 Gay Movers and Shakers," and has been featured in *The Advocate*, *Out* and *Joey Magazine*. He will finish his two-year run on DC Comics' *Wonder Woman* in December, while pencilling an issue or two of Grant Morrison's *New X-Men* along the way. His "dream project" of many years was finally approved as a DC/Vertigo maxi-series and the first issue should be on the stands in Spring of 2003. Phil also had the good fortune to be Peter Parker's hands, working in a scene as a hand double for Tobey Maguire in this spring's motion picture *Spider-Man*.

ANTON KAWASAKI

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gayleague.com

Anton is the Assistant Manager of Marketing Communications at DC Comics. His main duty is writing the "Direct Currents" section of Previews that focuses on upcoming DC, Vertigo, WildStorm and DC Direct products. If you've found yourself suddenly curious about a DC title you would have never bothered trying before, chances are Anton is to blame for providing that spark of interest.

Anton is the original creator of the Gay League website and continued his web hosting duties as he



Patty Jeres

became the owner of a comic-book store, which he ran for almost two years. He then left the retail business and Gay League post behind to become an employee of DC Comics in early 2000 and is proud to be a part of the most gay-positive mainstream comic-book company around. Anton has exciting plans for his future at DC, so stay tuned...

DAVID KELLY

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David has been creating comics for over 30 years but is probably best known for his comic strip *Steven's Comics* which won an award from the Xeric Foundation and ran in alternative & gay weeklies such as the *Philadelphia Weekly* and the *Washington Blade* in the mid-1990s. He also produces the comic anthology *Boy Trouble*, with co-editor and founder, Robert Kirby. David is currently working on the long-awaited follow-up series to *Steven's Comics*, *All About Boys*. He writes and draws in Seattle.



David Kelly's "Juicy Boy"

CAITLIN R. KIERNAN

Web: caitlin-r-kiernan.com

Though probably better known for her short stories and award-winning novels, Caitlin Kiernan has been writing comics since 1996, when she first began work on DC Vertigo's *The Dreaming*. She scripted 38 issues, about two-thirds of the series' run, including "The First Adventure of Miss Catterina Poe," which was recently nominated for both the Bram Stoker and International Horror Guild awards. She also wrote the Vertigo mini-series, *The Girl Who Would Be Death* which was nominated for a GLAAD award in 1999. Caitlin's work appeared in three of the annual Vertigo *Winter's Edge* anthologies and her most recent comics work, a mini-series titled *Bast: Eternity Game*, will be released by DC Comics late in 2002.

Many of Caitlin's comics stories have centered on gay, lesbian and transgendered characters. She thinks comics offers a great opportunity present struggling teens with positive queer role models. She doesn't believe that queer characters should be portrayed as exclusively positive, but should reflect the true range of the human condition.

CHUCK KIM

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Chuck Kim writes the occasional story for DC Comics. His latest work is an upcoming issue of *Superman*, due out in August 2002. In the past, he's written for the *Justice League Showcase Giant*, *Dexter's Lab*, *Powerpuff Girls* and various *Secret Files*. Chuck's *Dexter's Laboratory* story, "Momdark," was adapted into an episode of the TV show. It features Mandark, Dexter's arch enemy, cross-dressing to infiltrate Dexter's household.

ROBERT KIRBY

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Robert Kirby was born and raised in Detroit, resided in Manhattan for several years and now lives in Minneapolis. His comic strip *Curbside* runs in news-

papers across North America. The first book collection was published by Hobnob Press in 1998 with the aid of a grant from the Xeric Foundation and the second collection, titled *Curbside Boys*, is forthcoming in Autumn 2002 from Cleis Press. Robert was also the creator of the well-regarded queer comic zine anthologies *Strange-Looking Exile* and *Boy Trouble*, which he co-edits with fellow cartoonist, David Kelly.



Tommy Kovac's *Skelebunnies*

TOMMY KOVAC

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Tommy Kovac writes and illustrates *Skelebunnies* for Slave Labor Graphics, an irreverent comedic romp about a duo of laughing, giggling bunnies who have had their skin burnt off by a demon's acid vomit. He also wrote and illustrated *Stitch*, an eerie comic nightmare about children who have been turned into dolls by a lonely old witch and kept prisoner in a creepy old house full of renegade marionettes, foul-smelling teddy bears and gender-bending fairy dolls.

The newest *Skelebunnies* comic, *Please Don't Eat the Babies* will be in stores by the end of June, 2002. It promises Ice Cream Ponies, a public service announcement from slutty boy-crazy Satan, recurring childhood nightmares and, of course, shocking hijinks involving elves, underpants and even baby dwarf bears.

Tommy co-authors the independent 'zine, *Library Bonnet*, which is jam-packed with fascinating and strange visuals, personal essays, poetry, censorship rants and even games involving naked mole-rats and gorilla assholes. All 5 issues can be ordered through Slave Labor Graphics, or for \$2 per issue to 1315-I N. Tustin Ave. #259, Orange, CA 92867.

KATRIN KREMMLER

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Katrin Kremmler is a cartoonist, artist and writer from Germany, who currently lives in Sydney, Australia. Her interactive series **Dykes On Dykes** and **Pussy Rules** have been online since 1996. Katrin started drawing cartoons on her own, without any professional training. Currently she's doing a Multimedia degree and will soon create what she calls "first class dyke animation." In her work, Katrin says she follows two parallel tracks: supporting feminist/lesbian projects in Central Eastern Europe and depicting lesbian sex.

JON MACY

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Jon Macy first started doing comic books with an alternative series called **Tropo**, which ran eight issues until 1996. He then began doing erotica with a goth series for Eros Comix named **Nefarismo**, which also ran eight issues. Since then Jon has worked on magazines such as **Steam**, **Wilde**, **Bunkhouse** and **International Leatherman**, as well as the anthologies **Meatmen** and the infamous **Gay Comics**.

ANDY MANGELS

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The originator of the **Out in Comics** project and the "Gays in Comics" panel at the Comic-Con International in San Diego, Andy Mangels is perhaps best known as a past editor of **Gay Comics** (14-25 and Special 1). His comics writing career includes such diverse titles as **Star Trek: Deep Space Nine**, **Justice League Quarterly**, **Elfquest: Blood of Ten Chiefs**, **Bloodwulf**, **Annie Sprinkle Is Miss Timed** and the best-selling **Boba Fett: Twin Engines of Destruction**. Many of his stories feature gay characters.

Andy has written several books, including **Star Wars: The Essential Guide to Characters** and **From Scream to Dawson's Creek: The Phenomenal Career of Kevin Williamson**. He also writes regularly for entertainment publications such as **DreamWatch**, **Comics Buyer's Guide**, **The Advocate** and **Star Trek Monthly** and **Farscape Magazine** in the UK. Andy is the publisher and editor of an erotic web 'zine, **In Uniform**.

With Michael A. Martin, Andy co-wrote "Star Trek: The Next Generation" novel **Section 31: Rogue**, which features a gay lead character. Mangels and Martin have two more novels coming out in fall 2002, **Star Trek Deep Space Nine—Mission Gamma: Cathedral** and



Andy Mangels

Roswell—Skeletons in the Closet and are contracted to write three more **Star Trek** books. Also out this fall is Andy's **Animation on DVD: The Ultimate Guide** for Stone Bridge Press.

NDR

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Trans-Health.com

Dylan Edwards has been creating art, illustrations and comics professionally since 1995, usually signing under the name "NDR" or "Ender." His work has been printed in a variety of publications, including **The Boston Phoenix**, **Sojourner**, **FTM International Newsletter** and the Antioch College newspaper. In addition, the quarterly web site **Trans-Health.com** runs a new NDR cartoon with each issue.

Unable to pick a single theme for his cartoons, NDR instead writes about whatever strikes his fancy, including gay republicans, transsexual superheroes, lovelorn lesbians, baseball, goths and manatees. He is currently working on putting together a collection of his cartoons.

ERIC ORNER

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Eric Orner writes and draws a weekly comic strip called **The Mostly Unfabulous Social Life of Ethan Green**, which appears in gay and alternative weekly publications in the US and Canada. There are four Ethan Green books in print, all from St. Martin's Press.

He is the cover artist for the irreverent and opinionated Rum and Reggae Press travel guide books. Eric also illustrated Patrick Price's book *Husband Hunting Made Easy* in 1997. His illustrations appear regularly in mainstream publications including *the Washington Post*, *the Boston Globe* and *The New Republic*.

Over the past two years Eric has been learning to animate at the UCLA animation workshop. He is currently working on a new animated television show for Discovery Kids. Eric lives in Los Angeles.

BRAD PARKER

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Brad Parker is an illustrator who has created cartoons for several gay publications such as *In Touch*, *Skin*, *Stroke*, *Friction*, *Advocate Men*, *Male Review* and others. His work has been reprinted in two collections and *Gay Comix/Gay Comics*. More recently, Brad worked on *Marvels: Code of Honor*, created several special covers and pin ups and a short story for Chaos Comics and did the painted art for the graphic novel *Green Lantern: Fear Itself* for DC Comics. Brad did an ongoing cartoon series for *Freshmen*, *Ace's Adventures in the Year 2000*, featuring his infamous gay character from many adult strips, Ace Moorcock, and painted the first official portraits in fifteen years of the rock group KISS in a special issue of *Famous Monsters of Filmland*.

JOE PHILLIPS

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imrufan.com

After years of drawing such comics as *Mr. Miracle*, *Superboy*, *Silver Surfer*, *Wonder Woman*, *Superman*,

Body Doubles and the creator-owned *The Heretic*, Joe Phillips is now turning his full attention towards products aimed at the gay community. He creates calendars, cards and magnets with Xodus USA and 10% productions. His work is also often seen in magazines like *XY*, *Genre* and *Instinct*. Currently in stores are Joe's calendars for 2002, "Boys Will Be Boys" and "Girls Rule" along with greeting cards and five new characters for the "Dress Me" magnet sets.

Joe also created adult online cartoons as the head of Adult Visual Animation, Inc. and their first DVD release, *The House of Morecock*, was the first gay adult cartoon to win an adult industry GAVN award. He has just finished a 60 page comic adaptation of the new film *Eight Legged Freaks* for Wildstorm/DC and coming soon is a new comic series featuring his "Joeboys." Spring of 2003 will see the release of his book *Boy America* from Bruno Gmunder publishing with over 100 full color drawings of guys from all over the country in a road trip of discovery.

As if that wasn't enough, Joe is also slated to be the cover artist of the new *Xodus Magazine*, aimed at gay youth, and along with friends Phil and Mike and his brother Lex, he is creating an animated boy band called IMRU.

RACHEL POLLACK

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Comics are a lifelong love, but a side profession for Rachel Pollack, who has authored 22 books. A recent novel, *Godmother Night*, won the World Fantasy Award. A contemporary story based on Grimm's Fairy Tales, it featured two generations of lesbians and Death, who is pictured in the story as a short middle-aged woman attended by five young women on motorcycles.

The Mostly Unfabulous Social Life of Ethan Green

by Eric Orner



Rachel has also written extensively on Tarot cards, including the book for *The Vertigo Tarot*. Among her favorite projects in her career, her run on DC/Vertigo's Doom Patrol stands out very strongly. "I tried to explore people's anxieties about their bodies, their sexuality and their identity," she says.

NEAL POZNER

(Deceased)

Neal Pozner was an award winning art director who worked with DC Comics during two stints in his professional career, first as a design director and later as Senior Editor/Creative Editor. In this capacity, among a large number of tasks, he was responsible for recruiting new talent. Stuart Immonen, Travis Charest, Gene Ha and Phil Jimenez are among the pencillers Neal discovered and worked with.

Having graduated from NYC's exclusive Cooper Union, Neal would go on to work with a number of famous illustrators, designing the first gay-themed bus ad for NYC as well several posters for Lincoln Center theatre. He wrote the 1985 *Aquaman* miniseries, designed the character's famous blue "camouflage" uniform and was responsible for incorporating DC Comics characters into a series of AIDS awareness house ads printed in the comics themselves. Neal died in 1994 from complications of AIDS, his family and boyfriend Jimenez at his side.

BRAD RADER

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Brad Rader has wanted to draw comics since he was twelve, but most of his career has been spent doing storyboards on series such as *Batman: The Animated Series*, *Gargoyles* and *Men In Black*. He finally got the opportunity to do comics back in the early 1990s working on DC's *The Batman Adventures* (4-6) and *The Mark* for Dark Horse. Brad was also Animation Director of *Roswell* and *Space Monkeys* on UPN. His work with the team that produces *Spawn* for HBO was nominated for a prime-time Emmy Award for Outstanding Animated Program. Recently, Brad has drawn issues of *Catwoman* and *Batman: Gotham Adventures*. His primary influences are Adams, Kirby, Kubrick, Toth, Eisner, Caniff, Hitchcock, Kurtzman, Miyazaki, Los Bros. Hernandez, Otomo and Lubitsch.

Brad doesn't think of himself as a gay artist, but as an artist who happens to be gay. "I've spent most of my career anonymously helping other people tell their stories," he says. "Now, as I approach 40, I find my priority is telling my own."

KAY REYNOLDS

Email: kreynolds@pilot-online.com

Kay Reynolds is a long time fan of fantasy, horror, SF, comics, detective and thriller fiction. Her interest in fandom led her to a job with The Donning Company Publishers in 1981 where she became Senior Editor for the Starblaze imprint, writing *Robotech Art* 1 & 2 and editing and marketing the original color volumes of *Elfquest*. While at this job in the mid 1980s, she was the driving force in introducing graphic novels into the mainstream bookstore market. Kay wrote one graphic novel called *Fortune's Friends: Hell Week*, which featured a gay detective. She has had many short stories published in the horror, detective and spy genres, for Tome, Barnes & Noble and other publishers.

Reynolds currently lives in Virginia and is an assistant editor and staff writer for the *Virginian Pilot*.



Robert Rodi

ROBERT RODI

Robert is a prominent novelist and screenwriter who sold his first comics story to *Epic Illustrated* in 1983. It took sixteen years for his next one to appear, but he's been making up for lost time.

Robert wrote comics criticism for years in the pages of *The Comics Journal*, then jumped to the other side of the fence with a gay-themed story in Vertigo's *Heart Throbs* 1 with art by Phil Jimenez. Contributions to other Vertigo anthologies followed,

including *Flinch*, *Strange Adventures* and *Weird War Tales*, as well as his first miniseries, *Four Horsemen*.

Robert scripts the creator-owned Vertigo monthly *Codename: Knockout*, which stars secret agent Angela Devlin and her gay sidekick Go-Go Fiasco. He also has an upcoming project with Marvel Comics entitled *Startling Stories: Tears for Loki*.

He has published six novels: *Bitch Goddess*, *Fag Hag*, *Closet Case*, *Drag Queen*, *Kept Boy* and *What They Did To Princess Paragon*. Other works include the novella *Glad Gladder Gladys* on USATODAY.com and short stories in *Men on Men 5*, *Sandman: Book of Dreams*, *His, Reclaiming the Heartland* and others.

He lives in Chicago with his partner, Jeffrey Smith and three Shetland sheepdogs.

P. CRAIG RUSSELL

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Philip Craig Russell is a 30-year comics veteran, one of the comic world's most respected and award-winning artists and one of the most high-profile, openly gay creators in the business. Some of Craig's favorite work includes *Sandman* 50s "Ramadan" for Vertigo, his first in a series of works with Neil Gaiman. Other favorites include "Isolation & Illusion" in *Epic* 14 (1981) and "Human Remains," included in Clive Barker's *Tapping the Vein* 1 from Eclipse Comics. Recent work has included stories in various *Batman* titles and *Star Wars* books for Dark Horse.

A winner of a Harvey Award, many Eisner Awards and the Inkpot Award for Career Achievement, Craig came out to the industry in a 1991 interview in *The Comics Journal* 147, where he referred to himself as "just another left-handed, night-dwelling, gay libertarian cartoonist." He has also been adapting *The Fairy Tales of Oscar Wilde*. The fourth volume should be out this fall.

Craig is in the midst of a career-long project, which is set to include adaptations of twelve operas into graphic story form. Six have been completed, most



An exclusive Warlord drawing from Stephen Sadowski

recently *The Ring of the Nibelung*, a four-opera, 400-page adaptation for Dark Horse. Two collected volumes of *Ring* have been published. Another recent project of particular interest to gay readers is the Neil Gaiman story *Murder Mysteries* which is currently available. Fellow gay artist David Sexton and his boyfriend have a very attractive part to play in the story.

STEPHEN SADOWSKI

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Born and raised in British Columbia, Canada, Stephen Sadowski grew up collecting everything comic-related

he could. He has been publicly "out" for about 15 years and he finally realized his boyhood dream of working for DC Comics, as penciller for the one of DC's biggest new successes, *JSA*.

Steve's work includes Malibu Comics' *Firearm* 13 (10 pages un-credited), *Bob Burden's Mystery Men* 1 and 2 from Dark Horse and for DC, *Starman* 56 and *Starman 80-Page Giant*, *Smash Comics* 1, *All-Star Comics* 2 and *JSA Secret Files*. Upcoming work includes *Paradise X: Devils* for Marvel Comics.

Steve says, "I can't remember NOT drawing and hope to keep doing it... for as long as I can hold a pencil!"

ARIEL SCHRAG

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Ariel Schrag is the creator of the comic books *Awkward*, *Definition*, *Potential* and *Likewise* published by Slave Labor Graphics. They chronicle her 9th, 10th, 11th and 12th grade experiences respectively and her coming out first as bisexual, then as a lesbian. During the '80s, Ariel was attending elementary school and wrote two comic books titled *Life with Lucy Hound*, about a girl who wants a dog, and *Tracker*, about a dog that escapes from the farm. Ariel is a student at Columbia University



Jai Sen

Bob currently edits *Batman*, *Detective Comics*, *Green Lantern*, *Batman: Gotham Knights* and *Green Arrow*, among many others.

JAI SEN

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journal

Jai Sen, a writer of speculative fiction, divides his time between New York and Tokyo.

Born in Hyderabad, India, Jai lived in Indonesia for 7 years. He is the author of the Xeric award-winning graphic novel *Garlands of Moonlight* and is currently completing work on *The Golden Vine*, an alternate history of Alexander the Great. *The Golden Vine* is illustrated by a team of Japanese artists and is due for release in the winter of 2003.

BOB SCHRECK

Email: DCOSchreck@aol.com

Bob Schreck is the Group Editor of the *Batman* titles in the DC Universe editorial department. He began his career in marketing, promotions and administration, working for Creation Conventions, Marvel Comics and Comico, and rose to the position of Marketing Director at Dark Horse Comics in 1990.

At Dark Horse, Bob changed gears and became Senior Group Editor, where he worked on such projects as *Sin City* by Frank Miller and *Madman* by Michael Allred. He won two consecutive Harvey Awards as editor of the groundbreaking anthology *Dark Horse Presents*. Bob left Dark Horse in 1996 to co-found Oni Press with Joe Nozomack. There he developed such projects as *Clerks: The Comic Book* and *Jay & Silent Bob* with screenwriter and director Kevin Smith, as well as the Harvey Award winning anthology *Oni Double Feature* and the critically acclaimed *Whiteout* by Greg Rucka and Steve Leiber.

DAVID SEXTON

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index.html

David Sexton's professional comics career began when he met his idol, P. Craig Russell, at the Chicago Comic Con. The two collaborated on the story "Satan and the Savior" for *Taboo* from Kitchen Sink and on two stories in *Gay Comics*. His Tarot deck, *The Winged Spirit Tarot*, was released recently by USGames Systems. David is a regular contributor of articles and illustrations for *Genre* magazine. He currently lives in Miami Beach, where he owns Ironworks Gym.

David is working on two new tarot decks; one for Anne Rice based on characters from her novels, (t-shirts with his artwork are available on her website, annerice.com) and *The Wonderful Tarot of Oz* based on the Baum books for Llewellyn Publications.

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ERIC SHANOWER

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hungrytigerpress.com

Eric Shanower says he is a cartoonist, a term that confuses some people, until he informs them that he writes and draws comic books. He's been creating comics since he was a child, but has been getting paid only for the last eighteen years.

Eric was the writer and artist of the **Oz** graphic novels published by First and Dark Horse, as well as the illustrator of many different projects for DC, Marvel, Dark Horse and others, including **An Accidental Death**, **The Elsewhere Prince**, **Harlan Ellison's Dream Corridor** and the Promethea story in the **America's Best Comics 64-Page Giant**.

Perhaps most notably, Eric is writing and drawing the massive retelling of the Trojan War in the Eisner Award-winning **Age of Bronze** from Image, which includes the relationship between the two young warriors Achilles and Patroklos. **A Thousand Ships**, collecting the first nine issues of the series, is available in hardcover and paperback.

Eric's other recent work includes inking in **Batman 600**, a pin-up of the gay character Terry Berg in **Green Lantern Secret Files 3**, a Catwoman story in **Catwoman Secret Files** and illustrations for the children's book **The Rundelstone of Oz**. He lives in San Diego with his partner David Maxine, where they maintain their publishing company, Hungry Tiger Press, as well as a dog named Road.

TONY SHENTON

Email: Shenton4Sales@aol.com

From creating his own comic strips in third grade to running one of the largest retail comic book and science fiction retail operations in the country, Tony Shenton has a proven long-term interest in the success of the comics industry. Now working for nearly three dozen small presses and self-publishers, he tries to communicate his love of creator-controlled comics to retailers, thereby persuading them to carry the publications and authors he represents.

Tony has worked for gay creators and gay-themed comics and publishers of GLBT comics including Palliard Press (Tim Barela), A Fine Line (Donna Barr's **Desert Peach**), NBM (**Fairy Tales of Oscar Wilde** by P. Craig Russell) and others. In private life, the ursine-feline cub likes cigars, firearms, choral music singing and composition, leather, uniforms and fireworks ("The louder, the better," says Tony.)

LAURIE E. SMITH

Email: colorist@canada.com
Web: mts.net/~comcart/portfolio.html

Laurie E. Smith is a colorist with many prestigious projects under her belt. Her portfolio includes twenty-two issues of **Batman: Legends of the Dark Knight**, four issues of **Black Orchid** and fifteen issues of **The X-Files**, for which she received an Eisner Award nomination in 1996.



Green Lantern page colored by Laurie E. Smith

HOWARD STANGROOM

Email: amazonboy@bigfoot.com

Howard Stangroom's first professional comics writing appeared in **Scary Tales 37**, during the dying days of Charlton Comics. His credits include stories in such varied titles as **Gay Comics**, **Meatmen**, **Buddies**, **Meanwhile...**, **Boy Crazy Boy**, **Masters of the Universe**, **She-Ra: Princess of Power**, **Joy of S*x**, **My Little Pony** and Donna Barr's **The Ersatz Peach**. He also writes news and reviews for both the comics and gay press in the USA and his native UK and can frequently be found behind the counter at 30th Century Comics in beautiful suburban London.

Currently he edits **Comics Forum**, the magazine of comics commentary and criticism and is employed writing endless articles about "Ensign Cannonfodder" and "Yeoman Tricorderchick" for the Star Trek Fact

Files, a loose-leaf encyclopedia that builds up, week by week, into a heap of discarded paper because people forget to buy the binders. "Hey, don't knock it," says Howard. "It's gotten me debt-free for the first time in fifteen years..."

DENISE SUDELL

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default.asp?SRV=Comic

Denise Sudell is a longtime writer and editor for the gay and lesbian press, working for such publications as *Gay Community News*, *Philadelphia Gay News* and *Weird Sisters/Lesbians In Colorado*. She thought she'd grown out of comics by age ten. Then TV show "Lois & Clark" and the CompuServe Comics Forum brought her back to the fold in 1995. She now writes for the acclaimed webzine *Sequential Tart*, where her April 2002 rant, "Queer Characters: Hook 'Em Up, Then Shoot 'Em Down" received much attention. Denise serves as assistant sysop for the Comics Forum and in her secret identity, she's an attorney working on civil rights policy issues for the U.S. government in Washington. Denise considers herself a Kinsey 5.

CHRISTOPHER TAYLOR

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Christopher Taylor decided by high school that he wanted to design and illustrate for a living. While attending the Art Institute of Philadelphia, he further refined his interest and focused on comics. Christopher went on to become a mainstream comics penciller who has illustrated the *Alien 3* movie adaptation for Dark Horse and *Legion of Super-Heroes*, *Darkstars* and the *BloodPack* mini-series for DC. In the mid-1990s, Christopher dropped out of comics to pursue a "real" job. Nevertheless, he went on to contribute illustrations to various gay adult publications such as *American Bear*, *Bulk Male* and *In Uniform*.

When not freelancing Christopher continues to diligently work (albeit slowly) on his self-published comic venture entitled *Mark Nemesis: The Avatar*.

RICK TAYLOR

A member of the first class at the Kubert School, Rick Taylor entered the comics industry in the 1980s as

production manager and colorist for First Comics, later taking the job as art director and colorist for Comico. There he worked on such books as *Jonny Quest*, *Gumby* and *E-Man*. He began working for DC in the late 1980s as a production manager and colorist and later became Director of Graphic Services, uniting him with the characters he loved: Batgirl, Captain Marvel and Wonder Woman, among others.

As Senior Editor for Collected Editions, Rick was responsible for much of the work on DC's Archives series as well as many other trade paperbacks and hardcovers, like *Batman: The Long Halloween* and *Batman In The Sixties*. He lives in Philadelphia with his lover of twelve years, Bill and their dog, Dolly. He is often seen on eBay with cool collectibles under the name "dianaprincewv."



Michael
Troy's
Homo-hero

MICHAEL TROY

Email: justmichaeltroy@msn.com

Web: greencandypress.com

Michael Troy was born in the Midwest in the 1970s. He has been drawing since he picked up his first crayon—baby blue, his signature color. His goal in life is to become more whimsical and he thought a coloring book of naked superheroes would be a good place to start. Thus, *Homo-hero's Big Book of Fun and Adventure* was born. Michael is hoping to make the Homo-hero "an in your face non-ambiguously gay icon for proud gay men everywhere."

Michael currently lives in Los Angeles where he performs stand-up comedy on a regular basis and is pursuing his acting and art careers.

RICHARD VALLEY

Email: reditor@scarletstreet.com

Web: scarletstreet.com

Richard Valley contributed art and dialogue to an early issue of *Gay Comix* and later contributed work to the final issue. He is the publisher of *Scarlet Street* magazine, an 11-year-old international publication specializing in horror and mystery in the arts. The magazine is known for its interviews with such gay icons as Clive Barker, Tommy Kirk, Farley Granger, Ian McKellen, Helmut Berger, Jeremy Brett, Jack Larson, Roddy McDowall, Christopher Atkins, Hurd Hatfield and Bill Condon. It is also notable for its examination of gay subtext in films and the occasional beefcake photo. Says Richard, "The vintage photograph of Tab Hunter and Roddy McDowall in shorts cooking weenies is alone worth the cover price."



"Art Nouveau" by Mercy Van Vlack

MERCY VAN VLACK

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Web: members.aol.com/fiawol/nouveau/
mercy.jpg
celticleague.org/celtic-art.html

Mercy Van Vlack is a writer, artist and illustrator who has worked in many aspects of comics and comics fandom. She wrote *Richie Rich* in the 1980s, pencilled and inked the bisexual private eye/industrial spy story *Miranda the Tease* for several x-rated magazines and published *Evolution Comics* where she was also the creative director. Mercy has also done illustrations for *Stand Corrected*, *Outrageous Women*, *101 Other Uses for A Condom*, *Leg Show*, *Juggs*, *Manzine*, *On Our Backs* and for the Lesbian Sex Mafia. Notably for gay fans, she inked the first episode of *Queer Nation: The Online Gay Comic* over John Dennis's pencils and the "Indecent Exposure" episode of Chris Companik's *881 Midtown Court*.

Mercy's art has been seen on multiple Celtic Calendars, numerous fanzines including *Batmania*, *The Heroine*

Addict and The Legion Outpost, APAs like *Interlac*, *CAPA-alpha*, *Teams & Titans* and *Apa-5* and anthropomorphic publications such as *Ten FurCent* and *Furlined*. She was a guest at Donna Troy's wedding to Terry Long in *New Teen Titans* 50 and had two planets named after her in the Legion universe.

IVAN VELEZ, JR.

Ivan Velez, Jr. is the creator of *Tales of the Closet*, a ten-chapter graphic novel that depicts the lives of eight gay teenagers in Queens. Raised in the South Bronx, Ivan was heavily influenced by the Spanish-language soap operas, chopsocky karate and blaxploitation films that filled his free time. His work has also been seen in several issues of *Gay Comics*, magazines *Details*, *NYQ* and *HX*, and has sold scripts to HBO and the Hudlin Brothers.

Ivan also wrote several titles for DC's Milestone imprint, including the award winning, racially diverse *Blood Syndicate* and a year-long run on the acclaimed series, *Static*. Ivan also scripted the last two years on *Ghost Rider*, plus *Abominations*, a Venom mini-series and other books for Marvel. At DC Comics, he wrote a few short stories for their DC Kids and DC Universe lines, including an *Eradicator* mini-series and some work for Vertigo's horror title, *Flinch*.

MAURICE VELLEKOOP

Maurice Vellekoop was born in 1964 in the suburbs of Toronto, where his mother created bullet-proof hairdos for local women and his father blasted the neighborhood with opera records. Encouraged to draw from an early age, he later attended the Ontario College of Art and has been illustrating for magazines, books and advertising ever since, including *Vogue*. You can see his strips in the anthology *Drawn & Quarterly* and his collected work in the *VelleVisions* trade paperback also published by Drawn & Quarterly. Of special note is his small-sized X-rated *Maurice Vellekoop's ABC Book: A Homoerotic Primer*. A series of books called *Men's Room* is available from Pas de Chance.

JOSÉ VILLARRUBIA

Email: JoseVillar@aol.com

Born in Madrid, Spain and living now in Baltimore, José Villarrubia is best known for his fine art photographs which have been featured in the books *The Homoerotic Photograph*, *Lust*, *The Male Nude*, *Uniforms*, *Male Bonding II* and the upcoming *New Male Nudes*. His digital artwork made a splash in

comics in *Promethea* #7 and he also had collaborations with Jae Lee on painted colors for *Hellshock*, *Sentry* and *Fantastic Four 1234* and with Stephen John Phillips on digital art for *Veils*, *Flinch* and *20/20 Visions*. This year José wrote a book about the fine art paintings of Jon J. Muth and Kent Williams titled *Koan*, which will be published by Allen Spiegel Fine Arts. Look for José's work for the America's Best Comics collections and the covers for *Wonder Woman: Our Worlds at War*, *Wolverine*, *Incredible Hulk* and *Exiles*.

DUFFY VOHLAND

(Deceased)

Duffy Vohland was an artist in the early 1970s for Marvel and Charlton. He was one of the members of the "Marvel Bullpen," and helped bring John Byrne into the Marvel fold. Vohland passed away in the 1980s.

REED WALLER

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Reed Waller created the immensely popular anthropomorphic adults-only series *Omaha The Cat Dancer* with his then-wife, Kate Worley. They publicly came out as bisexual in their letters column in 1988, making them the first openly bisexual creators in comics. They have had characters of all sexual orientations in their series, moving eventually from Kitchen Sink Press to Fantagraphics Books, which has several volumes of *Omaha* in print. Reed's work has included stories in *Gay Comics*, *Strip AIDS USA*, *Critters*, *Grateful Dead Comix* and *Real Girl*.

ELIZABETH WATASIN

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groups.yahoo.com/group/magicalwitchgirlbunny

Elizabeth Watasin is currently transitioning from full-time Disney animator to full time comic book creator. After twelve years in feature animation she is terribly happy committing to creating openly queer entertainment in comics. Her current book *Charm School* is published by Slave Labor Graphics. It's about a teen witch named Bunny, her girlfriend, the vampire biker



Elizabeth Watasin's *Charm School*

Dean, and the dilemma of a drop-dead gorgeous faerie named Fairer Than who comes between them. In the works are more new books, one of which will be the disturbingly campy *Dr. Vanessa Leather: MonsterMaker*.

For absolute fun and no profit, Elizabeth also writes "Babylon 5" fan fiction with the characters Ivanova and Talia Winters under the handle "metis."

KATE WORLEY

Email: Kate.Worley@gratisnet.com

Best known for her writing on the successful, adults-only series, *Omaha The Cat Dancer*, Kate Worley has recently worked on projects as diverse as *Gay Comics*, the 1995 *Wonder Woman Annual*, the Universal Horror Movie trading card set, John Jakes' *Mullkon Empire* for Tekno Comics, *Roger Rabbit Adventures* and the new *Jonny Quest* series for Dark Horse. Kate publicly came out as bisexual in the *Omaha* letters column in 1988, making her and her then-husband Reed Waller the first openly bisexual creators in comics. She now lives in Tulsa with her husband, writer James Vance and their baby son.

ZAN

Email: zan@rabunda.com

Web: captainkinetic.com

zan is probably best-known for his web presence online, having created the superhero gaming resource site "zan's Super Home," *AlterWorlds: the Gay and Lesbian Roleplaying Game Association* and the *Northstar APA* website.

Recently, zan branched out into making his own comics, with a four-issue series about *Captain Kinetic*, a "hokier-than-thou" hero from the 1940s transplanted to present day Chicago. The series satirizes the squeaky-clean superhero image of a bygone era while using it to make a dramatic point about public and private personae and the importance of defining one's own morality. The first issue debuted at the 2002 Alternative Press Expo in San Francisco and the second issue debuted at WizardWorld in Chicago the same year. In addition, *Captain Kinetic* is being serialized on komikwerks.com.

zan recently had his first bit of comics journalism, "Ultimate Marvel Cock-Up!" published in the British magazine *Comics Forum*. He has also been a major force behind *Out in Comics* since 2000.

RESOURCES

THE GAY LEAGUE

The Gay League (or GLA) is an online federation of queer comics fans from all over the world. The GLA website is quickly becoming the definitive source for information on gay characters, storylines and creators in comics. It's also home to a lively group of fans who interact and share art, reviews and stories. The League holds a weekly chat for AOL members on Wednesdays at 10 pm ET. The chat link can be found on the site's home page in the Online section.

A great deal of the members' interaction takes place via its e-mailing lists at Yahoo! Groups. The regular list, called simply the GLA, is a great way to get to know other gay fans through the lively e-mail discussions they hold. Digest delivery or Web Only access cuts down or eliminates e-mail volume for those concerned about excessive messages.

The GLAFiles2 is a companion list for members to share photos, drawings and more discussion (The digest edition cannot deliver file attachments). Due to some adult content, you must be of legal age in your locality to join the GLAFiles2.

To subscribe to either list, use the links provided on the main page of the Gay League website. Note that these lists are for people over the age of 18.

- **Website:** www.gayleague.com
- **GLA e-mail list:** groups.yahoo.com/group/GLA
- **GLAFiles2 e-mail list:** groups.yahoo.com/group/GLAFiles2

ATDNSIN (THE APA THAT DARES NOW SPEAK ITS NAME)

ATDNSIN, an Amateur Publishing Association (APA) for lesbians, gays, bisexuals & transgendered people, was begun in response to the 1989 San Diego Comic Con "Gays in Comics" panel. It has recently begun its thirteenth year of continuous publication. The APA has discussions on comics of all genres, how they relate to queer people and the varied lifestyles we live.

Amateurs and professionals have interacted over the years, sending in their individual 'zine sections which may have art, cartoons, stories or personal discussion to the Central Mailer who collates the sections and sends the completed magazine to each member. ATDNSIN contains adult content; you must be of legal age to join. For a sample issue, please send \$5.00 with your name and address.

- **Contact information:**
Michael Phillips, Central Mailer
1032 Irving Street, PMB - 614
San Francisco, CA 94122-2200
- **E-mail:** MFilip@Aol.com

NORTHSTAR

NORTHSTAR is the nation's fastest growing APA for GLBT comics fans and was founded in 1989. Members submit self-made 'zines on comics and popular culture to the Central Mailer, who distributes the collected issue to the membership. Nominal membership fees cover the cost of postage. NORTHSTAR members celebrated the publication of their 50th Anniversary Issue in January of 2000 and have reached almost 60 bi-monthly published issues since then.

'Zines often include stories, art, reviews, discussion, adult content and provide a depth of personality that is hard to find online. Sharing our creative juices and building lasting friendships are the focus of NORTHSTAR. Issue 59 came out in July 2001, just one week before the San Diego Con.

Why settle for chat rooms and e-mail lists—join in the fun! We love comics — and we love new members even more. Find out why we say it's NORTHSTAR — now more than ever!

- **Contact information:**
Kyle Minor, President
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San Francisco, CA 94133
- **E-mail:** northstarapa@yahoo.com
- **Website:** welcome.to/northstarapa

QUEERCOMIX

Founded in 1996, the queercomix mailing list has been a discussion area and "safe space" on the Internet for talk about queer issues in comic books.

Anything directly relating to queer concerns in comic books and the comics industry is appropriate for discussion, including in-story and personnel issues. Queer characters, creators, storylines and themes and even queer-phobic creators, publishers and/or comic book stories are all discussed regularly by the members. The queercomix list is not a general-purpose "home base" for queer fans to discuss anything comics related (or even unrelated) — it has a narrower focus and off-topic discussions are not encouraged.

- **To subscribe send an e-mail to:**
queercomix-subscribe@groups.queernet.org
- **Website:** [queercomix groups.queernet.org/lists/queercomix](http://queercomix.groups.queernet.org/lists/queercomix)

OUT IN COMICS

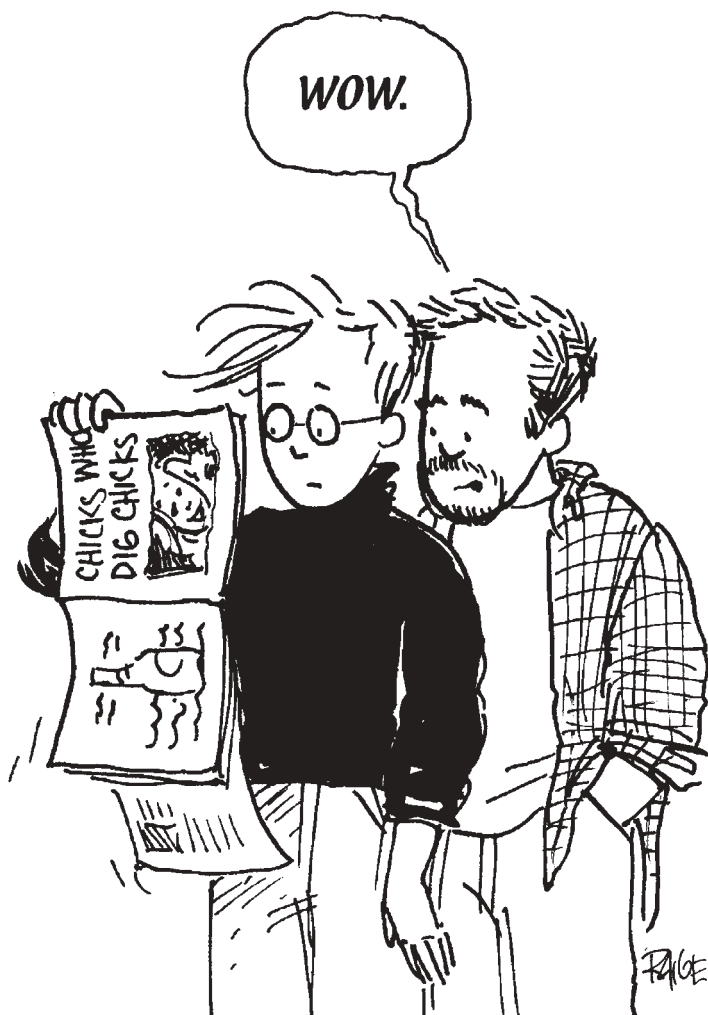
The web companion to this print edition, the Out in Comics website has constantly-updated listings, a vast library of images and a comprehensive collection of web resources for all the creators listed here (and more!) Adding your own listing is easy; just fill out a simple form and include any image samples you'd like to accompany your listing.

- **Website:** <http://www.outincomics.com>

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Created by **PAIGE BRADDOCK**



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MISTER INKWELL...

as reported to Terrance Griep, Jr.

If stereotype is a disease, then laughter is the best medicine. We here at Out In Comics answer the accusation that gay men—with apologies to our L, B and T brethren—are bewitched by fashion with this...

MISTER INKWELL'S SUPER-FASHION SUPER-LISTS

THE GOLDEN SCHWARTZ (Best Re-Invention)

Fifth Runner-Up: The Black Panther. For years, villains have been hep to the matching of holographic eye-pieces, belts and claws, but the super-heroic King T'Challa has really made this look sit up and do tricks. We bow to your sartorial grace, Your Grace.

Fourth Runner-Up: The Key. While there's plenty of room to debate the wisdom of going with the red-eyed-albino, Marilyn-Manson-esque zombie look, this JLA foe's most recent incarnation is a vast improvement over his previous stick-your-puss-in-a-keyhole-and-inhale mode.

Third Runner-Up: Wonder Man. Conventional wisdom dictates that one accessorizes with Kirby Dots only sparingly, but, like an ionic David Lee Roth, this alive-for-now Avenger really turns overstatement into a fashion statement.

Second Runner-Up: The Blockbuster. From brute to suit! It's not the tatters of this Bat-Villain's old couture that offended; it was that revolting orange-and-purple color scheme. Is it mere coincidence that only the stupid, smelly guys wear purple pants? Holy eyesore!

First Runner-Up: Hector Hall. Hmm... let's see. This former Infinitor and current JSAer went from a dung beetle motif to a sexy magick motif, all while keeping the Egyptian theme intact. You connect the dots! Now, Hector, please stop whining about your parents while spending their money.



Winner: Havok. Oh, it's not that we have anything against, big, stupid, loopy, whatzits meeting at the bridge of one's nose, it's just that... just that... oh, no, that's exactly it. Now about that code name...

THE GOLDEN PROTGY (Worst Re-Invention)

Fifth Runner-Up: Quicksilver. Two words for the current bon ton of the ADHD poster child: too; fershlugginer; gay. Okie, three words.

Fourth Runner-Up: Cosmic Boy. While anyone who wears skintight lavender is, naturally, to be applauded, we demand the return of this distinguished Legionnaire's black-and-silver, strapless male bra, circa 2978.

If not, Rokk, we shall arrange for your continuity to be re-re-re-written in such a way that your Magno-Ball Championship will be retroactively revoked—really!

Third Runner-Up: Abra Cadabra. We regret to inform this psychotic Flash rogue that third degree burns as stylistic accouterment became bodaciously blasé with Y2K. Perhaps he could reach into his hat and pull out a new epidermis, his time displacement being no excuse for falling behind fashion's 8-Ball.



Second Runner-Up: Daredevil. A devil theme in red is just so obvious. Let's restore the yellow circus tights, please. And don't go throwing that whole "blindness thing" in our faces, either!

First Runner-Up: Air Wave. Roller skates are the kind of accessory which say, "I'm a super-hero with a difference. I'm not afraid of villains and I'm not afraid of being laughed at." So lose the incandescent nude couture, junior. Any knucklehead can fight crime that way—be a man like your dad!

Winner(s): Crimson Avenger I and Wing. Better to be a pale imitation of the Green Hornet and Kato than to be chased by Colonel Sanders with an ax, wethinks. Or are you avenging the tragic death of a particularly paternal rooster...?

THE GOLDEN BLACKOUT

(Re-Inventions We'd Most Like To See)

Fifth Runner-Up: Gypsy. Turn invisible; stay invisible; thank you.

Fourth Runner-Up: The Black Racer. Oh, come on! Do we really have to explain this one?

Third Runner-Up: The Whizzer. There's a reason this Squadron Supreme member's costume should be yellow. Please, Stanley: don't forget where you come from. Uh, so to speak.

Second Runner-Up: The Calculator. Sorry; wrong number.

First Runner-Up: Signal Man. Unless he can hypnotize us into thinking the "Walt Disney Vomiting" Style is on its

way back in, this Bat-Villain had better crawl back into Mickey's gullet and stay there.

Winner: Doctor Doom. Yes, Vic, yes... we all know about your big, bad scars. But they're on your royal face, dear... your face! Please do keep it covered, but armoring your whole body represents excess that, understated metaphors notwithstanding, crosses into the self-indulgent. In other words, being the monarch of Latveria does not justify your being such a damn drama queen.

THE GOLDEN BOOSTER

(Re-Inventions We Never Want To See)

Fifth Runner-Up: The Silver Surfer. He's silver; he surfs. Would a utility belt really help?

Fourth Runner-Up: Tannarak. Are we the only fairies who find this DC wizard with an owly haircut irresistible? Ah? We are..? Well, how about a bad guy who wears all white? If that isn't saying NO to typing, we'll swallow your sword.



Third Runner-Up: The Golden Age Black Condor. We're afraid we can't type very well with one hand. Fill in your own droll joke, please.

Second Runner-Up: Vartox. Hip boots, a vest over a bare and hairy chest, a moustache and a receding hairline? This pre-Crisis Superman ally wouldn't have to pull any babies out of burning tenements to be considered brave by us; just walking down the streets of Metropolis would do quite nicely.

First Runner-Up: The Constrictor. This Marvel super-assassin knows how to make a fashion statement and that statement is "cold-blooded." Now give us a big squeeze, Frankie!

Winner (tie): Count Vertigo. With that sexy streak of jet hair, that quietly gaudy color scheme and his irresistible last-survivor-of-my-nation pout, he makes us dizzy even when his powers are in the "off" position. And speaking of positions, let's try horizontal, Vertigo.

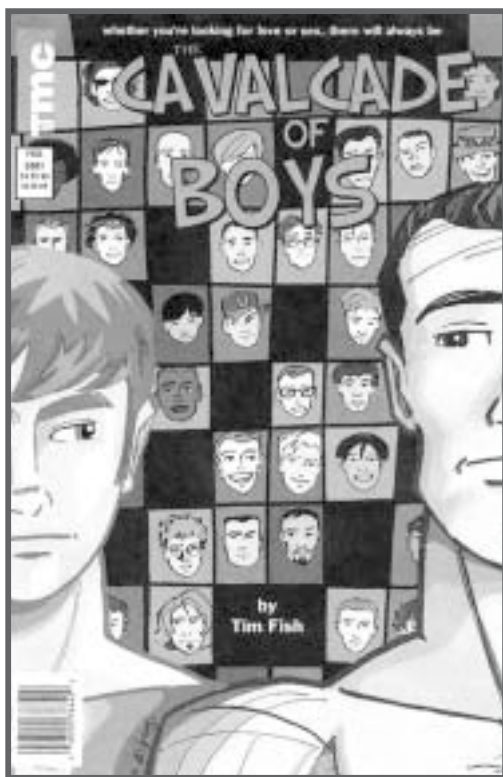
Winner (tie): Ocean Master. Here's your award, Ormy. Now climb into your penis-shaped sub and leave Atlantis DC alone!

love.
sex.
games.

all
in one
comic
book!

The Cavalcade of Boys
by Tim Fish

Visit Tim in the small press area at Comic Con International in San Diego, or virtually at <http://www.timfishworks.com>



If it were possible to translate a cardboard figure like Wonder Woman into life, every normal-minded young man would know there is something wrong with her.

I have never seen in any of the crime, superman, adventure, space, horror, etc., comic books I a normal family sitting down at a meal. I have seen an elaborate, charming breakfast scene, but it was between Batman and his boy, complete with checkered tablecloth, milk, cereal, fruit juice, dressing-gown and newspaper.

The large art photos of male nudes [presumably in body building ads] wearing only scanty trunks are a special comic-book feature.

Boys with latent (and sometimes not so latent) homosexual tendencies collect these pictures, cut them out and use them for sexual stimulation.

Whereas in crime comics the situation is boy meets girl boy beats girl; in love comics it is bout meets girl, boy cheats girl—or vice versa.

The keynotes of the comic books' sexual message, drummed into children from a tender age on, is the admixture of sensuality with cruelty. The illustrations are, as the *Art Digest* called them, "perverted."

They are Bruce Wayne and "Dick" Grayson. Bruce Wayne is described as a "socialite" and the official relationship is that Dick is Bruce's ward. They live in sumptuous quarters, with beautiful flowers in large vases and have a butler, Alfred. Batman is sometimes shown in a dressing gown. As they sit by the fireplace the young boy sometimes worries about his partner: "Something's wrong with Bruce. He hasn't been himself these past few days." It is like a wish dream of two homosexuals living together.

Robin is a handsome ephelic boy, usually shown in his uniform with bare legs.

He [Robin] often stands with his legs spread, the genital region discreetly evident.

In these stories there are practically no decent, attractive, successful women. A typical female character is the Catwoman, who is vicious and uses a whip. The atmosphere is homosexual and anti-feminine. If the girl is good-looking she is undoubtedly the villainess. If she is after Bruce Wayne, she will have no chance against Dick.

The *Psychiatric Quarterly* deplored in an editorial the "appearance of an eminent child therapist [Marston?] as the implied endorser of a series [Wonder Woman] ... which portrays extremely sadistic hatred of all males in a framework which is plainly Lesbian."

For boys, Wonder Woman is a frightening image. For girls she is a morbid ideal. Where Batman is anti-feminine, the attractive Wonder Woman and her counterparts are definitely anti-masculine.

Wonder Woman has her own female following. They are all continuously being threatened, captured, almost put to death. There is a great deal of mutual rescuing, the same type of rescue fantasies as in Batman. Her followers are the "Holliday girls," i.e. the holiday girls, the gay party girls, the gay girls. Wonder Woman refers to them as "my girls."

As to the "advanced femininity," what are the activities in comic books which women "indulge in on an equal footing with men"? They do not work. They are not homemakers. They do not bring up a family. Mother-love is entirely absent.

Even when Wonder Woman adopts a girl there are Lesbian overtones.

Superwoman (Wonder Woman) is always a horror type. She is physically very powerful, tortures men, has her own female following, is the cruel, "phallic" woman.

While she [Wonder Woman] is a frightening figure for boys, she is an undesirable ideal for girls, being the exact opposite of what girls are supposed to want to be.

The would-be supermen compensate for some kind of inferiority, real or imagined, by the fantasy of the superior being who is a law unto himself.

I have had cases where children would have had a good chance to overcome feelings of inferiority in constructive ways at their disposal if they had not been sidetracked by the fancied short-cuts of superman prowess.

All kinds of monstrous creatures inhabit these comic books. They have in common that their chief pastime seems to be to kill people, eat them or drink their blood.

A common clinical syndrome in comic-book readers is rough and blustering conduct during the day, associated with fear dreams at night.

Incidentally, I have seen children vomit over comic books.



GAY COMICS INTERNATIONAL

by Jai Sen. Covers compiled by Andy Mangels

Speaking as the newest member of the Out In Comics family, I'm very proud to be a part of something that showcases gay (and gay friendly) talent in comics. The only drawback, as I see it, is that our coverage is mostly focused on the United States. All of the incredibly talented artists that contributed to the montage on this issue's cover, for example, are Americans living and working in the U.S., as are the vast majority of creators listed in our "profiles" section.

Most of this has to do with the simple fact that the United States is the acknowledged epicenter of the comics world. The biggest comics publishers are based in the U.S., as are most of the creators that spring to mind when you hear the word "comics."

But there's ever so much else out there.

Just as comics created by gay American creators provide an interesting window into American culture and ways of thought, international gay comics say a great deal about the societies they come from. Some gay creators are working in societies that are completely accepting of homosexuality. Others must conceal their identities because they live in countries where creating gay comics could land them in jail.

Here is a sampling of some gay comics covers from around the world for your enjoyment and edification...





BEHIND THE SILK CURTAIN

by Joi Sen

While researching the international gay comics scene, I encountered a number of creators who were happy to talk (or at least e-mail) with me to discuss their careers and lives, but insisted on remaining under a strict shroud of anonymity, refusing even to allow their work to be displayed in our publication.

This is the most interesting aspect of the international gay comics scene: how (or if) it meshes with the societies it crosses. Most places don't provide the option to be openly gay as do the U.S. and Europe, whatever problems continue to exist in the West for the gay community. Homosexuality is still a criminal offense in many countries, to say nothing of age-old family structures that don't allow for same-sex unions, legalized or otherwise.

Here are some of the interesting comments I received from gay Asian creators:



India: "Homosexuality is still considered a criminal act here and there are sometimes raids on gay bars or places where gay people gather. Some friends of mine and I create underground gay comics (some of us actually work for some of the larger Indian comics companies as our main jobs) but we have to be very careful. We're inspired by Japanese gay romance comics and are hoping for the day that our culture, which we love because it is so ancient and philosophical, will get over being stuck in the Victorian age on this issue."

Thailand: "A lot of people overseas think of Thailand as a country where there are no hang-ups about sex. In truth, the Thai family structure is very traditional—boys and girls are expected to marry. My family doesn't know I work on gay comics, or even that I'm gay, and one of these days they expect me to get married and have children. I hope one day to get a job doing comics for a living, but could never publish my gay work."

Indonesia: "Things are changing here. We are the world's largest Muslim country, so the usual public attitude toward homosexuality is very negative, but now there are places to go even in some of the smaller cities and a community is growing. Our gay comics, which we draw and then photocopy, are a big hit in three large cities. There are bars and nightclubs as far away as Malaysia that contact us to get copies! The Internet has really changed everything."



Japan: "I can express myself through my work in gay comics, which are very popular, but I still would not dare to tell my family about how I live my life. They expected me to take a good job and one day to marry and would not know how to accept my partner into the family. Japanese society is very advanced and quite liberal in some ways, but the idea of family rules everything and the older generation thinks it will disintegrate if everything doesn't follow the accepted pattern."

Philippines: "I would say that the Philippines has probably the most liberal attitude toward homosexuality throughout Asia (definitely in the big cities), but then again we are still a very religious country and are taught from when we're kids that homosexuality is wrong. I'm not a comics artist so much as a cartoonist, but most of what I create expresses the frustration of the gay community here in a humorous way. I'm not drawing cartoons about happy couples—I draw strips that allow us to laugh about scary subjects like what happens when our parents find copies of our gay magazines."

THE A-TEAM

“A” as in “Allies”; or WHERE’S THE LUV? by Terrance Grieb, Jr.

Luv. At *Out in Comics*, that’s what we’re all about. But our luv knows no bounds, nor judgments, nor limits. Our luv is blind, deaf and smart. Below are some straight friends who consistently portray us fairly and accurately in their comics work. Now we’d like to give them their respect...

DONNA BARR— Your title character in *The Desert Peach*, Pfirisch Rommel, was everything we like to see: complex, three-dimensional, noble, flawed... oh, and as gay as a Christmas goose! You’ll always be among our favorite writer/artists, Barr none.

KURT BUSIEK— “It’s like they were married to the same guy—even the gay guy!” In *Astro City* #15, during a super-investigation and with no ado, we met the lover—the African-American lover—or the late supervillain, Chain. (This unnamed lover’s powers, it’s worth noting, is Martha Stewart-esque hostessing.) Such upbeat understatement speaks volumes. And we’ll keep following *The Power Company*’s leader, to see if those Internet rumors are true...

COLLEEN DORAN— *A Distant Soil* keeps us close, thanks to that bisexual binary, Rieken and D’Mer. Props for your work on such GLBT-friendly books as *Sandman*, *Valor* and *Legion of Super-Heroes*. We luv your obstinately ethical media presence, as well as your catch phrase: “Gay rights are human rights.” Forget Cher, forget Madonna: you are our Diva Emeritus!

WARREN ELLIS— Ahhh, Mister E... you’re the sun and the moon and the stars. Well, we appreciate Apollo, Midnighter and you, anyway. But fess up: you got the idea for the World’s Finest Couple within the inventive pages of *The Authority* from our slash fiction files, yeah?

LYNN JOHNSTON— Thanks for making Lawrence part of your family-friendly family...and thanks for standing up to the fear-mongering bastiches who didn’t want the rest of the world to meet him. We luv you, Lynn... *For Better or For Worse*.

PAT MCGREAL— Grazie for *Chiaroscuro*... you naughty, naughty man, you.

ALAN MOORE— Oh, Mister Moore—how do we love you? Let us count the ways. We knew you were one to watch when you supposed that members of the



Miracle Family were members of our family. And then there was *Artists Against Rampant Government Homophobia* (AARGH), the first gay rights benefit comic on either side of The Pond. From *V for Vendetta* through *Swamp Thing*, through *Watchmen*, through the ABC Line, you won’t let people forget us. So we’ll never forget you. We’re watching out for *Lost Girls*, which reminds us that in addition to wearing flannel while playing golf, lesbians sometimes get laid.

TERRY MOORE— For reminding the readers of *Strangers in Paradise* that

GLBT relationships are no worse—and no better—than hetero relations... for David, for Francine... for Katchoo. Bless you.

JOHN OSTRANDER— Earlier than Ellen, way before Will, you were peppering your stories with queens and dykes in series like *Grimjack*, *Suicide Squad* and *Hotspur*... and you were still exploring gay rights as recently as *The Spectre* #45. “Ostrander” must be German for “trendsetter.”

GEORGE PEREZ— Introducing lesbianism and a gay man to *Wonder Woman* was great; donating your talents to *Gay Comics* was greater still; busting down all stereotypes everywhere is greatest of all. Being a Latin hottie isn’t why we keep loving you; it’s just a happy side effect.

JIMMIE ROBINSON— Is Jimmie black? White? A straight man? A lesbian? A bisexual cyborg with a weakness for a Sinatra and a penchant for cleaning his hard drive with Lemon-Fresh Pledge? We’re not telling, but we will say that Amanda of *Cyberzone* and *Amanda & Gunn* is why we started loving you, Jimmie; you are the reason we keep loving you.

JUDD WINNICK— *Pedro and Me*; you and us. And the cute, gay kid with cute, gay crush on Kyle Rayner? Thanks for the positive visibility within GREEN LANTERN, but we’ll take the ring over Kyle any day; glowing green accessorizes with almost anything!

If we missed anyone, we apologize, and we promise to get you next year. Like all the best luv, ours doesn’t pretend to be perfect.



SPEAKING IN “CODE”

by Joe Palmer

Censorship of popular art forms in the United States isn't new. The Hayes Code for motion pictures was created in 1930 as a direct response to the perceived immorality of Hollywood movies and the private lives of its film stars. In 1941, Frederic Wertham published his first attack on comics and pop culture in his book *Dark Legend*, a true account of a 17 year old who killed his mother. Wertham's later effort to save American children from juvenile delinquency, 1954's *Seduction of the Innocent*, had an unmistakable impact on the comics industry. In response to Wertham's book and after a

prior, failed attempt at self-regulation, The Comics Code Authority was created to avoid government regulation pending the outcome of Senate hearings on comics.

Over time the CCA's guidelines have changed. The original code prohibited scenes with creatures such as vampires, werewolves and zombies. It was revised in 1971 and allowed for horror comics to be published again as long as other guidelines were followed. It wasn't until its latest revision in 1989 that the prohibition against "sexual perversion" by depiction or inference was removed.

ASSOCIATION OF COMICS MAGAZINE PUBLISHERS CODE 1948 (FIRST CODE, PRE-WERTHAM)

- Sexy, wanton comics should not be published.
- Divorce should not be treated humorously or represented as glamorous or alluring.

COMICS CODE AUTHORITY STANDARDS 1954

- All scenes of horror, excessive bloodshed, gory or gruesome crimes, depravity, lust, sadism, masochism shall not be permitted.
- All elements or techniques not specifically mentioned herein, but which are contrary to the spirit and intent of the code and are considered violations of good taste or decency, shall be prohibited.
- Illicit sex relations are neither to be hinted at or portrayed. Violent love scenes as well as sexual abnormalities are unacceptable.
- The treatment of love-romance stories shall emphasize the value of the home and the sanctity of marriage.
- Passion or romantic interest shall never be treated in such a way as to stimulate the lower and baser emotions.
- Seduction and rape shall never be shown or suggested.
- Sex perversion of any inference to same is strictly forbidden.

COMICS CODE AUTHORITY STANDARDS 1971

- All scenes of horror, excessive bloodshed, gory or gruesome crimes, depravity, lust, sadism, masochism shall not be permitted.
- Illicit sex relations are neither to be hinted at or portrayed. Violent love scenes as well as sexual abnormalities are unacceptable.

- All situations dealing with the family unit should have as their ultimate goal the protection of the children and family life. In no way shall the breaking of the moral code be depicted as rewarding.
- Rape shall never be shown. Seduction may be shown.
- Sex perversion of any inference to same is strictly forbidden.

COMICS CODE AUTHORITY STANDARDS 1989

- In general, recognizable national, social, political, cultural, ethnic and racial groups, religious institutions and law enforcement authorities will be portrayed in a positive light. These include... social groups identifiable by lifestyle, such as homosexuals, the economically disadvantaged, the economically privileged, the homeless, senior citizens, minors, etc.
- Obscene and profane words, symbols and gestures are prohibited. References to physical handicaps, illness, ethnic backgrounds, sexual preferences, religious beliefs and race, when presented in a derogatory manner for dramatic purposes, will be shown to be unacceptable.
- Character portrayals will be carefully crafted and show sensitivity to national, ethnic, religious, sexual, political and socioeconomic orientations. If it is dramatically appropriate for one character to demean another because of his or her sex, ethnicity, religion, sexual preference, political orientation, socioeconomic status, or disabilities, the demeaning words or actions will clearly be shown to be wrong or ignorant in the course of the story.
- Scenes and dialogue involving adult relationships will be presented with good taste, sensitivity and in a manner which will be considered acceptable by a mass audience. Primary human sexual characteristics will never be shown. Graphic sexual activity will never be depicted.

TIMELINE & HISTORY

Compiled and Researched by Andy Mangels with Kyle Minor

1944 **Gay Comics** #1, a humor anthology with no queer material, premieres and runs to issue 40 (*Timely/USA*)

1951 **Popular Teenagers** 6 features a "Toni Gay" story (guest-starring Butch Dykeman) which sails right over most people's heads (*Accepted Publications*)

1954 In the book **Seduction of the Innocent**, author Frederic Wertham claims that comics are rife with homosexual undertones and uses Batman & Robin and Wonder Woman as specific examples.

The Comics Code Authority "Standards" note that "sexual abnormalities" and "sex perversion" are forbidden.



1955 **Gay Comics** 1, another humor anthology with no queer material in it, has a single issue (*Modern Store Publications*)

In the book **Parade of Pleasure**, author Geoffrey Atheling Wagner states that comic publishers are staffed entirely by homosexuals.

1957 Tom of Finland's artwork premieres in **Physique Pictorial**

1960 **Superman's Pal Jimmy Olsen** 44 features Jimmy Olsen doing drag for the first time. He would repeat this in 67, 84 and 159. (*DC Comics*)

1964 **Drum** magazine begins running A. Jay's **Harry Chess** strip

1971 The revised Comics Code Authority "Standards" note that "sexual abnormalities" and "sex perversion" are still forbidden.

1972 **Wimmen's Comix** 1 features the first lesbian comic story, "Sandy Comes Out," by Trina Robbins (*Last Gasp*)



1973 **Come Out Comix**, the first lesbian comic book, by Mary Wings

All Canadian Beaver Comix features the first gay comic story

1975 Howard Cruse's **Barefootz Funnies** 1 (*Kitchen Sink*)

Inkpot Awards, given by San Diego Comic Con for career achievement, are presented to Vaughn Bode and Alan Light (founder of **Comics Buyers' Guide**)



1976 **Gay Heart Throbs** 1, an erotic anthology comic (*Fulhorne Productions*)

Roberta Gregory's **Dynamite Damsels**

Howard Cruse's **Barefootz Funnies** 2 (*Kitchen Sink*)

Doonesbury, a popular comic strip by Garry Trudeau, introduces Andy Lippincott, the first gay character in newspaper comics (*Universal Press Syndicate*)

1977 **The Advocate** magazine begins publishing Gerard Donelan's gay-themed cartoons

Dyke Shorts by Mary Wings

1978 **The In Touch For Men Cartoon Book of Gay Humor**, a trade magazine collection by Krohn (*In Touch, Inc.*)



1979 **Gay Heart Throbs** 2, an erotic anthology comic (*Larry Fuller Presents*)

The Kryptonite Kid by Joseph Torchia, a novel about a gay superhero-loving teen (*Holt, Rinehart and Winston*)

1980 **Gay Comix** 1 premieres in September, edited by Howard Cruse and is the first major non-erotic queer comic book anthology (*Kitchen Sink*)

1980

The Hulk Magazine 23 features the infamous YMCA rape scene (*Marvel*)

Le Gay Ghetto: Gay Cartoons from Christopher Street, a trade paperback collection by Charles Ortleb (*St Martin's Press*)

[Original] **Gay Dirty Comics**, a trade magazine collection of erotic Tijuana Bible-style comics, publishes two issues [penis cover and yellow comics cover] (*Gay Comics Publishing Co.*) Some contents are later reprinted in **Freddie Presents... Gay Dirty Comics** 1 and 2, (year and publisher unknown)



1981

Gay Comix 2 (*Kitchen Sink*)

Gay Heart Throbs 3, an erotic comic anthology (*Inkwell Inc.*)

1982

Gay Comix 3 (*Kitchen Sink*)

Sabre 7, first gay kiss in comics (*Eclipse*)

In Touch magazine begins running Jerry Mills' **Poppers**

Inkpot Award winners include Lee Marrs

1983

Gay Comix 4 (*Kitchen Sink*)

Stanley and the Mask of Mystery, a gay graphic novel by David Shenton, is published in the UK (*Gay Men's Press*)

Alison Bechdel begins syndicating her newspaper comic strip **Dykes To Watch Out For** and trade paperbacks, calendars, t-shirts and mugs follow

Inkpot Award winners include Arn Saba, now known as Katherine Collins

1984

Gay Comix 5 is released, with Robert Triptow taking over editorship (*Kitchen Sink*)

Defenders 134 reveals the character Cloud as a transgendered character, though he/she is later revealed to not be human at all (*Marvel*)



1985

Gay Comix 6 is released, with a new publisher (*Bob Ross*)

1986

Gay Comix 7-9 (*Bob Ross*)

Watch Out! Comix by Vaughn Frick (*Last Gasp*)

Howard Cruse's **Barefootz: The Comix Book Stories** (*Renegade Press*)



Megaton 4 contains the first comic book reference to AIDS

Fortune's Friends 1: Hell Week, a graphic novel, features a gay lead character (*Starblaze*)

Meatmen Vol. 1, an erotic trade paperback anthology (*Leyland Publications*)

Dykes To Watch Out For, a trade paperback collection by Alison Bechdel (*Firebrand*)



1987

Gay Comix 10-11 (*Bob Ross*)

Tales of the Closet 1 marks the debut of a series about gay high school kids by creator Ivan Velez, Jr. and it lasts to issue 9 (*Hetrick-Martin Institute*)

Jon Sable, Freelance 44 and 45 feature the first major AIDS storyline in comics (*First Comics*)

Danse 1 features a lesbian lead character, but no further issues were published (*Blackthorne*)

Millennium introduces Gregorio/Extrano, the first gay mainstream super-hero (*DC*)

Strip AIDS, an AIDS benefit anthology trade paperback, is released in the UK (*Willyprods/Small Time Ink*)

Meatmen 2, an erotic trade paperback anthology (*Leyland Publications*)

Howard Cruse's **Dancin' Nekkid with the Angels**, a trade paperback collection (*St. Martin's Press*)



1987

Morgan Calabrese: The Movie, a trade paperback collection of lesbian comics strips by N. Leigh Dunlap (New Victoria Pub.)

Drawing on the Gay Experience, a trade paperback collection of cartoons by Gerard Donelan (Liberation Publications)

The Russ Manning Most Promising Newcomer Award, given by the San Diego Comic Con, goes to Eric Shanower

1988

"Out of the Closet and into the Comics" by Andy Mangels, the first major article on gay creators and characters, is published in **Amazing Heroes** 143 & 144

First "Gays In Comics" panel is held at the San Diego Comic Convention

Gay Comix 12 (Bob Ross)

The Desert Peach 1, Donna Barr's series about Rommel's gay brother, is published and over 30 issues follow (Thoughts & Images, Mu)

AARGH! (Artists Against Rampant Government Homophobia), a pro-gay benefit book, is published in the UK (Mad Love)

Strip AIDS USA, an AIDS benefit anthology trade paperback (Last Gasp)



AIDS News (People of Color Against AIDS Network)

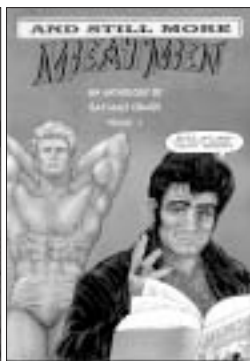
Meatmen 3 and 4, erotic trade paperback anthologies (Leyland Publications)

Donelan's Back, a trade paperback collection by Gerard Donelan (Liberation Publications)

Oh Boy!, an erotic trade paperback collection by Brad Parker (Leyland Publications)

PhobiaPhobia, a trade paperback collection by David Shenton, is published in the UK (Third House)

More Dykes To Watch Out For, a trade paperback collection by Alison Bechdel (Firebrand)



1989

Real Girl, a comic anthology "about sex for all genders & orientations... by cartoonists who are good in bed!" debuts and goes to issue 9 (Fantagraphics)

The revised Comics Code Authority "Standards" finally requires that social groups such as homosexuals must be portrayed in a positive light and that derogatory references to sexual orientation are forbidden unless used for dramatic purposes

The **APA That Dares Not Speak Its Name** (ATDNSIN) is founded by Andy Mangels and Roger Klorese

Gay Comics, a trade paperback written by Robert Triptow, looks at gay comics and strips (Plume)

Meatmen 5 and 6, erotic trade paperback anthologies (Leyland Publications)

Howard Cruse's **Wendel on the Rebound**, a trade paperback collection (St. Martin's Press)



Homo Patrol, a trade paperback collection (Helpless Anger)

Run That Sucker At Six, a trade paperback collection by N. Leigh Dunlap (St Martin's Press)

The Super Adventures of Harry Chess/Movie Star Confidential, an erotic trade paperback flip-book collection (Leyland Publications)

Castro Comics: Between the Sheets/Under the Covers, an erotic trade paperback flip-book collection (Leyland Publications)

Inkpot Award winners include Howard Cruse

Howard Cruse's **Wendel Comix** 1 (Kitchen Sink)

1990

NORTHSTAR, an APA, is founded by Jericho Wilson with first central mailer Mark Phillips

Meatmen 7-9, erotic trade paperback anthologies (Leyland Publications)

Stonewall Riots, a trade paperback collection of lesbian cartoons by Andrea Natalie

1990

Howard Cruse's **Early Barefoot**, a trade paperback collection (*Fantagraphics Books*)

New, Improved! Dykes To Watch Out For, a trade paperback collection by Alison Bechdel (*Firebrand*)

Inkpot Award winners include Bob Schreck



1991

Gay Comix 13 & 14 released, with Andy Mangels taking over as editor as of 14 (*Bob Ross*)

Gay Comix Special 1 (*Bob Ross*)

Buddies 1 & 2, gay anthologies, are published in the UK (*Pretend Family Productions*)

Up From Bondage, an erotic comic (*Eros*)

Hothead Paisan: Homicidal Lesbian Terrorist debuts, with over 20 issues, t-shirts, coffee mugs and chocolate bars to follow (*Giant Ass Publishing*)

Strange Looking Exile debuts, with five issues to follow (*Giant Ass Publishing*)



Within Our Reach, an AIDS benefit anthology trade paperback (*Star Reach/Marvel*)

Meatmen 10-12, erotic trade paperback anthologies (*Leyland Publications*)

Inkpot Award winners include novelist and comics story writer Clive Barker

1992

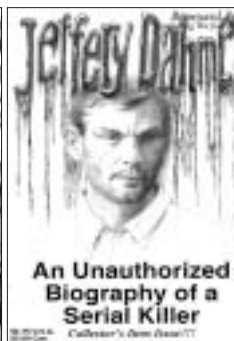
Oh... 1, a lesbian comic anthology, lasts to issue 22

Alpha Flight 106 features Canadian hero Northstar coming out publicly, with much real-world media attention (*Marvel*)

Legion of Super-Heroes Vol. 4, # 31 features a longterm character to be transgendered and going through the transitional change (*DC*)

Real Life Comics presents Healthman: The AIDS Crisis (*Personality Comics*)

Return to Voodoo Island 1-2, erotic "Coley" comics by John Blackburn (*Eros*)



1992

Jeffery Dahmer: An Unauthorized Biography of a Serial Killer is published to intense media criticism (*Boneyard Press*)

The Further Adventures of Young Jeffery Dahmer is published to more media criticism (*Boneyard Press*)

Escape from the Living Perverts, an Oregon pro-gay benefit book

The Fairy Tales of Oscar Wilde Vol. 1, a hardcover graphic novel by P. Craig Russell (*NBM*)

The Killer Condom, a gay graphic novel by Ralf König, is published in English (*Catalan*)

Meatmen 13, an erotic trade paperback anthology (*Leyland Publications*)



Dykes To Watch Out For: The Sequel, a trade paperback collection by Alison Bechdel (*Firebrand*)

The Night Audrey's Vibrator Spoke: A Stonewall Riots Collection, a trade paperback by Andrea Natalie (*Cleis Press*)

The Mostly Unfabulous Social Life of Ethan Green, a trade paperback collection by Eric Orner (*St Martin's Press*)

BB and the Diva, an African-American-themed gay trade paperback collection by Rupert Kinnard (*Alyson*)
GLAAD awards its first Media Award for Outstanding Comic Book to the ongoing series **The Flash**, which featured Pied Piper, a gay reformed villain (*DC*)

Gay Comics 18-21 (*Bob Ross*)

Dyke's Delight 1, a UK lesbian anthology, is published (*Fanny*)

Buddies 3, a gay anthology, is published in the UK (*Pretend Family Productions*)

Quantum Leap 9 is released, featuring a story by Andy Mangels where the main character "jumps" into the Stonewall Riots (*Innovation*)

1993

1993

AIDS Awareness, an anthology comic book, is published in the UK (*Chaos City Comics*)

Idol of Flesh 1-2 and **Web of Evil 1**, erotic "Coley" comics by John Blackburn (*Eros*)

Dahmer's Zombie Squad and **Jeffery Dahmer vs. Jesus Christ** are published to yet more media criticism (*Boneyard Press*)



Rock 'N' Roll Comics 62: Elton John (*Revolutionary Comics*)

Meatmen 14 & 15, erotic trade paperback anthologies (*Leyland Publications*)

Leonard & Larry "Domesticity Isn't Pretty," a trade paperback collection by Tim Barela (*Palliard Press*)

A Queer Sense of Humor, a trade paperback anthology, is released in Canada (*Q Press*)

Spawn of Dykes to Watch Out For, a trade paperback collection by Alison Bechdel (*Firebrand*)

Hothead Paisan: Homicidal Lesbian Terrorist, a trade paperback collection by Dianne DiMassa (*Cleis Press*)

Rubyfruit Mountain: A Stonewall Riots Collection, a trade paperback by Andrea Natalie (*Cleis Press*)

For Better or For Worse by Lynn Johnston features Lawrence, the first gay teenager in newspaper comic strips and public waves of backlash and support result (*United Features Syndicate*)



1993

The AIDS Awareness Trading Card Set is released. Each pack contains a condom. (*Eclipse*)

Ciao! Queer Themes in Comics Vol. 2 #1 debuts, featuring comic news and reviews (*Jim Drew*)

Gay Comics wins the Comic Creators Guild Best Anthology Award

1993

Eisner Award for Best Penciller/Inker, Color Publication goes to P.Craig Russell for **Fairy Tales of Oscar Wilde** (*NBM*), **Robin 3000** (*DC*) and **Legends of the Dark Knight "Hothouse"** (*DC*)

Harvey Award for Best Graphic Album: Original Material goes to **Fairy Tales of Oscar Wilde**, by Oscar Wilde and P.Craig Russell (*NBM*)

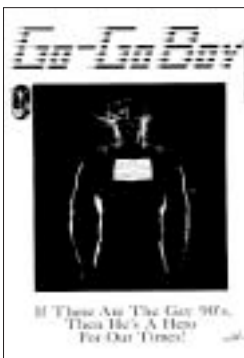
Inkpot Award winners include P.Craig Russell

Gay Comics 22 (*Bob Ross*)

Dyke's Delight 2, a lesbian anthology, is published in the UK (*Fanny*)

Buddies 4, a gay anthology, is published in the UK (*Pretend Family Productions*)

Hands Off!, a Washington pro-gay benefit book (*Ward Sutton Productions*)



Go-Go Boy Ashcan is published in Canada and issues 1-3 and a t-shirt are subsequently offered (*Mermaid Publications*)

Family Tree: Special New York Issue, a story about the Gay Games (*Diva Comics*)

The Incredible Condom Man (*Aaaahh!! Comics*)

The Incredible Hulk 420, in which a major supporting character dies of AIDS (*Marvel*)

Leatherboy 1-3, an erotic comic series (*Eros*)



Major Power & Spunky (*Eros*)

Savage Love 1 and **2**, by gay sex advice columnist Dan Savage and several independent artists (*Bear Bones Press*)

Nefarismo, a gender-bending erotic comic, lasts to issue 8 (*Eros*)

Web of Evil 2 and The Deathsnake 1-2, erotic "Coley" comics by John Blackburn (*Eros*)

Cyberzone 1 debuts with a lesbian lead character, lasts to issue 8 (*Jet-Black Grafiks*)

Steven's Comics 1 debuts, with many issues and specials to follow (*David Kelly*)

Boy Trouble 1 debuts, with five issues to follow



Minotaur Comics: Spike 1, an anthropomorphic erotic trade paperback (*Minotaur Comics*)

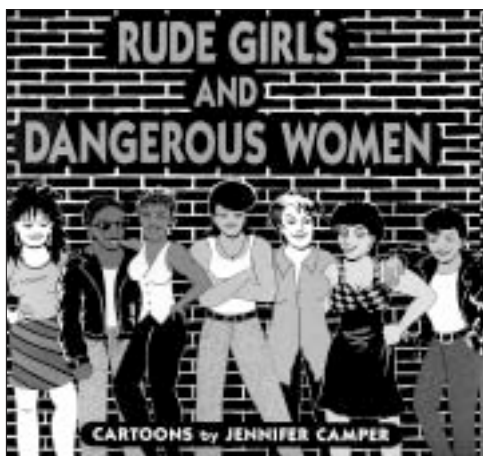
The Fairy Tales of Oscar Wilde Vol. 2, a hardcover graphic novel by P.Craig Russell (*NBM*)

Meatmen 16, an erotic trade paperback anthology (*Leyland Publications*)

Rude Girls and Dangerous Women, a trade paperback collection by Jennifer Camper (*Laugh Lines Press*)

Doc & Raider: Caught on Tape, a gay trade paperback collection by Sean Martin (*Q Press*)

The Seven Deadly Sins Of Love, a trade paperback collection by Eric Orner (*St Martin's Press*)



Out of the Inkwell, a series of four gay comic-based one-act plays, premieres in San Francisco (featuring *Hothead Paisan*, *Leonard & Larry*, *BB and the Diva* and *Doonesbury*)

Eisner Award for Best Penciller/Inker goes to P.Craig Russell for *The Sandman* #50 (*DC*).



What They Did to Princess Paragon, a comedy novel by Robert Rodi about a gay comic book professional outing a certain Amazing Amazon as a lesbian is published (*Dutton*)

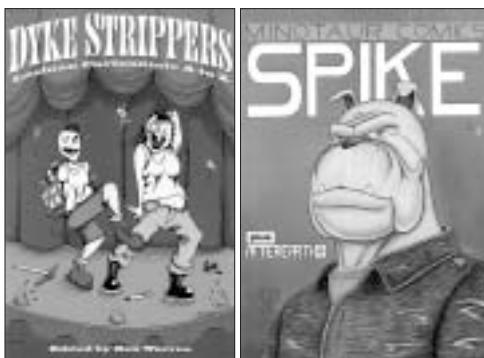
Inkpot Award winners include Roberta Gregory

The Deathsnake 3, an erotic "Coley" comic by John Blackburn (*Eros*)

Free World Comics, an AIDS education book (*World Comics*)

Howard Cruse's **Stuck Rubber Baby** graphic novel is published and receives much critical acclaim (*DC/Paradox Press*)

Minotaur Comics: Labyrinth Comics/Portfolio, an anthropomorphic erotic graphic novel (*Minotaur Comics*)



Meatmen 17, an erotic trade paperback anthology (*Leyland Publications*)

Dyke Strippers: Lesbians Cartoonists A to Z, a trade paperback looking at lesbian comics and strips (*Cleis Press*)

Coley Running Wild "Book One: The Blade & the Whip", an erotic graphic novel by John Blackburn (*Eros*)

Unnatural Dykes to Watch Out For, a trade paperback collection by Alison Bechdel (*Firebrand*)

The Revenge of Hothead Paisan: Homicidal Lesbian Terrorist, a trade paperback collection by Dianne DiMassa (*Cleis Press*)

The Man, Book One: A Hero For Our Time by Robert Drake, a novel about a gay superhero (*Plume Penguin*)

Eisner Award for Best Graphic Novel (New) goes to **Fairy Tales of Oscar Wilde** Vol. 2 by P.Craig Russell (*NBM*)

1995

Eisner Award for Best Comics-Related Item goes to the **Sandman Arabian Nights** statue, designed by P. Craig Russell and sculpted by Randy Bowen (*DC/Graphitti Designs*). Note that a mini-statue and an action figure were later released, also based on Russell's designs.

Xeric Award and Grant goes to Andy Hartzell for **Bread & Circuses**

Xeric Award and Grant goes to David Kelly for **Steven's Comics**

1996

The QueerComix online mailing list is founded by Roger Klorese

Gay Comics 23 and 24 (*Bob Ross*)

Hard Throb 1-2, erotic "Coley" comics by John Blackburn (*Eros*)

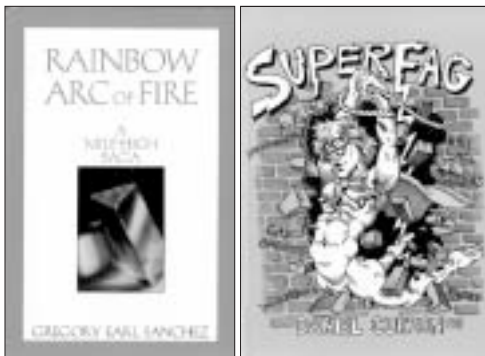
Seven Miles a Second graphic novel, an autobiographical story about a hustler dying of AIDS (*DC/Vertigo*)

Meatmen 18, an erotic trade paperback anthology (*Leyland Publications*)

Leonard & Larry: Kurt Cobain and Mozart Are Both Dead, a trade paperback collection (*Palliard Press*)

Rainbow Arc of Fire, Book 1: A Mile-High Saga, a novel about gay superheroes by Gregory Earl Sanchez (*Peanut Butter Publishing*)

SuperFag, a comedy novel about a gay superhero by Daniel Curzon (*IGNA Books*)



The Dana Carvey Show on ABC broadcasts the first animated short adventures of **The Ambiguously Gay Duo**, animated by Robert Smigel in the style of 1960s Filmation cartoons. The winking satire starred Ace & Gary, a hero and his sidekick, whose homoerotic actions and penis-shaped car would reappear in multiple segments on **Saturday Night Live** (1997-present), as well as on a t-shirt and a Playboy comic strip.

GLAAD gives its Media Award for Outstanding Comic to the mini-series **Metropolis: S.C.U.** for its depiction of Maggie Sawyer, a lesbian cop (*DC*)

Eisner Award for Best Graphic Album (New) goes to **Stuck Rubber Baby** by Howard Cruse (*DC/Paradox Press*)

Harvey Award for Best Graphic Album: Original Material goes to **Stuck Rubber Baby** by Howard Cruse (*DC/Paradox Press*)

Xeric Award and Grant goes to Steve Matuszak for **Most Likely to Succeed**

1997

10th Anniversary of the Gays In Comics panel at the Comic-Con International in San Diego.

1997

First calling itself the "GayOLeague," the Gay League of America (GLA) online mailing list is founded by the "Queen Team," AOL members who feel unwelcome in AOL's DC chat and message boards.

Amanda and Gunn 1 debuts with the return of **Cyberzone's** lesbian lead character, with four issues published (*Image*)

Dandy Lion, a gay comedy one-shot (*Eros*)



Dagger of Blood 1-3, erotic "Coley" comics by John Blackburn (*Eros*)

Bull's Balls, a graphic novel by Ralf Konig, is published in English (*BK Press*)

Definition, a graphic novel by Ariel Schrag (*Slave Labor Graphics*)

Meatmen 19-21, erotic trade paperback anthologies (*Leyland Publications*)



Assume Nothing: Evolution of a Bi-Dyke, a trade paperback collection by Leanne Franson (*Slab-O-Concrete Publications*)

Vellelevision, a trade paperback collection by Maurice Vellekoop (*Drawn & Quarterly*)

Hot, Throbbing Dykes to Watch Out For, a trade paperback collection by Alison Bechdel (*Firebrand*)

The Ethan Green Chronicles, a trade paperback collection by Eric Orner

Jayson: A New Collection, a campy gay trade paperback collection by Jeff Krell (*Ignite! Entertainment*)

Rainbow Arc of Fire, Book 2: Autumn Saga, a novel by Gregory Earl Sanchez (*Peanut Butter Publishing*)

Rainbow Arc of Fire, Book 3: Souls Within Stone, a novel by Gregory Earl Sanchez (*Peanut Butter Publishing*)



1997

BAGAL Comic Connection, a gay comic news zine (Hubris Press)

GLAAD's Media Award for Outstanding Comic Book is given to the mini-series **Death: The Time of Your Life** (DC/Vertigo)

Xeric Award and Grant goes to Ellen Forney for "**I Was Seven in '75**"

Xeric Award and Grant goes to Robert Kirby for "**Curbside**"

1998

The GLA website debuts, designed by Anton Kawasaki and Drew R. Moore

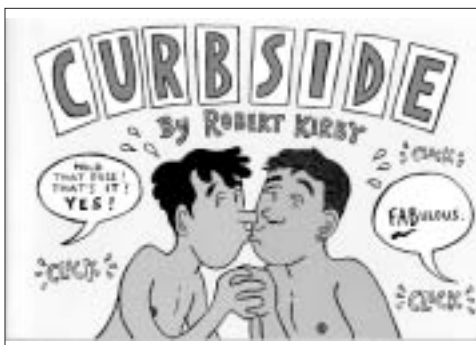
Gay Comics 25 is the series' final issue at 80 pages (Bob Ross)

Associated Student Bodies 1, an anthropomorphic series about gay college students reaches 8 issues, as well as spin-offs and printed boxer shorts (Lance Rund) Gay and lesbian characters are introduced into the Star Trek universe by Chris Cooper in **Star Trek: Starfleet Academy** and Andy Mangels and Michael A. Martin's **Star Trek: Deep Space Nine** (Marvel)

Potential 1 by Ariel Schrag debuts and runs to issue five (Slave Labor Graphics)

Maybe... Maybe Not, a graphic novel by Ralf Konig, is published in English (Ignite! Entertainment)

The Fairy Tales of Oscar Wilde Vol. 3, a hardcover graphic novel by P.Craig Russell (NBM)



Meatmen 22, an erotic trade paperback anthology (Leyland Publications)

Split-Level Dykes to Watch Out For, a trade paperback collection by Alison Bechdel (Firebrand)

Curbside, a trade paperback collection by Robert Kirby (Hobnob Press)

8685

The Indelible Alison Bechdel: Confessions, Comix and Miscellaneous Dykes to Watch Out For, a trade paperback collection (Firebrand)

Rainbow Arc of Fire, Book 4: Worlds Beneath Us, a novel by Gregory Earl Sanchez (Peanut Butter Publishing)

Rainbow Arc of Fire, Book 5: Slight of Mind, a novel by Gregory Earl Sanchez (Peanut Butter Publishing)

GLAAD's Media Award for Outstanding Comic Book goes to Lynn Johnston's syndicated daily comic strip **For Better or For Worse**, for its continuing depiction of gay teen Lawrence (United Features Syndicate)

Eisner Award for Best Penciller/Inker or Penciller/Inker Team goes to P.Craig Russell for **Elric: Stormbringer** (Dark Horse/Topps) and **Dr. Strange: What Is It That Disturbs You, Stephen?** (Marvel)

Harvey Award for Best Artist goes to P. Craig Russell for his body of work in 1997, including **Elric: Stormbringer** (Dark Horse/Topps) and **Dr. Strange: What Is It That Disturbs You, Stephen?** (Marvel)

Inkpot Award winners include David Glanzer, an out gay San Diego ComicCon volunteer, who is now a staff member.



8685

The first "Gay Day" at Comic Con International in San Diego includes the "Gays in Comics" Panel and a reception for gay fans and creators

The first issue of **Out In Comics** is published by Andy Mangels

Gay Force Quarterly Ashcan, a gay comic news zine, is published for San Diego Comic Con

Playboy publishes a four-page "Ambiguously Gay Duo" comic strip based on the Saturday Night Live cartoon characters

Living the Life 1, a series about gay African-American men debuts and is ongoing, with six issues and a trade paperback collection published to date (*Michael-Christopher Books*)

Awkward, a graphic novel by Ariel Schrag (*Slave Labor Graphics*)

Bread & Wine: An Erotic Tale of New York, a graphic novel by Samuel Delaney (*Juno Books*)

Coley Running Wild "Book Four: Destiny Coast," an original erotic graphic novel by John Blackburn (*Eros*)

Maybe... Maybe Not Again, a graphic novel by Ralf Konig, is published in English (*Ignite! Entertainment*)

Meatmen 23, an erotic trade paperback anthology (Leyland Publications)

Bitchy Butch: The World's Angriest Dyke, a trade paperback collection by Roberta Gregory (Fantagraphics)

The Complete Hothead Paisan: Homicidal Lesbian Terrorist, a trade paperback collection by Diane DiMassa (Cleis Press)

Teaching Through Trauma, a lesbian trade paperback collection by Leanne Franson (Slab-O-Concrete Publications)

SubGurlz, a trade paperback collection by Jennifer Camper (Cleis Press)

Ethan Exposed, a trade paperback collection by Eric Orner (St Martin's Press)

Guess Who's Coming Out at Dinner?: Coming Out Cartoons, a trade paperback collection by Julian Lake (Rubicon Media)



Northstar becomes the first gay action figure when he is released in Alpha Flight 2-pack (ToyBiz)

Rainbow Arc of Fire, Book 6: Harmony of Spheres, a novel by Gregory Earl Sanchez (Peanut Butter Publishing)

GLAAD's Media Award for Outstanding Comic Book goes to ongoing series **Supergirl** for its depiction of Andy, a lesbian in love with Supergirl's alter ego (DC)

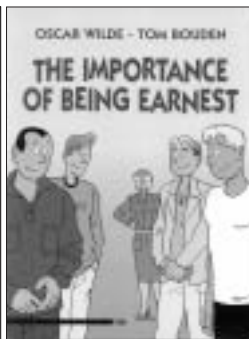
Friends of Lulu "Kimberly A. Yale Award for Best New Talent" goes to Devin Grayson

Inkpot Award winners include Samuel R. Delany

The Comic-Con International San Diego coincides with San Diego's Gay Pride celebration

Sir Ian McKellen attends San Diego Con promoting **X-Men** and **Lord of the Rings** and greets many gay fans

NORTHSTAR APA publishes its 50th issue



Charm School 1 debuts as a continuing series, with six issues published to date (Slave Labor Graphics)

Wildstorm characters Apollo and The Midnighter outed by writer Warren Ellis in the popular title **The Authority**

Pedro and Me: Friendship, Loss and What I Learned, a graphic novel account of author Judd Winick's friendship with the late AIDS activist Pedro Zamora, is nominated for a Pulitzer Prize (Henry Holt)

The Importance of Being Earnest, an English-language graphic novel is published in Germany (MSK)



Meatmen 24, an erotic trade paperback anthology (Leyland Publications)

The Brothers of New Essex, an erotic African-American-themed trade paperback collection by Belasco (Cleis Press)

Leonard & Larry: Excerpts from the Ring Cycle in Royal Albert Hall, a trade paperback collection by Tim Barela (Palliard Press)

Potential, a trade paperback collection by Ariel Schrag (Slave Labor Graphics)

Post-Dykes To Watch Out For, a trade paperback collection by Alison Bechdel (Firebrand)

Please Don't Come Out While We're Eating: Coming Out Cartoons, a trade paperback collection by Julian Lake (Rubicon Media)

The Amazing Adventures of Kavalier and Clay, a novel by Michael Chabon about two young men (one of whom is gay) creating superhero comics in the 1940s, is nominated for a Pulitzer Prize (Random House)

GLAAD gives two Media Awards to comics, one to Terry Moore's **Strangers in Paradise** for its sexual-identity-questioning lead characters (Image) and one to Garry Trudeau's daily newspaper comic strip **Doonesbury**, for its gay characters Andy Lippincott and his lover (Universal Press Syndicate)

A second Gay Day at the Comic-Con International San Diego features the Gays in Comics panel, a Gay Fans' Reception and other events

Out In Comics 3 is released, with a cover by Stephen Sadowski and Jose Villarrubia

MICAH (Minorities In Comics As Heroes!), an activist group, is founded by Jericho Wilson

Buffy the Vampire Slayer: Willow & Tara "Wanna-BlessedBe," which featured the two popular lesbian witches of TV fame, sells out its print run (Dark Horse)

Circles, an anthropomorphic series about a set of gay friends, debuts and is ongoing (RABCO)



2001

Codename: Knockout, Robert Rodi's series that includes a gay sidekick, debuts and is ongoing with fifteen issues published to date (*DC/Vertigo*)

Small Favors 1, Colleen Coover's erotic lesbian series, debuts and is ongoing with six issues published to date (*Eros*)

User 1-3, a mini-series written by Devin Grayson which features much gender-bending sexuality (*DC/Vertigo*)

Anal Fantasy, an erotic manga comic (*MMG*)

Tales from Birdbun Theatre #1, an anthropomorphic collection (*Empire Syndicate*)

Calling All Boys!, a sketchbook magazine by Eric Shanower (*Hungry Tiger Press*)



Psychotix Meets Texas Separatus, a gay Gaulish graphic novel (*Landwaster Books*)

Howard Cruse's Wendel All Together, a trade paperback collection (*Olmstead Press*)

Doc & Raider: Incredibly Life Like, a trade paperback collection by Sean Martin (*Insomniac Group*)

Rainbow Arc of Fire, Book 7: Who Has Dominion?, a novel by Gregory Earl Sanchez (*Peanut Butter Publishing*)

Desire of the Endless, an action figure of a multi-gendered character from *The Sandman* is released (*DC Direct*)

The Amazing Adventures of Cavalier and Clay wins the Pulitzer Prize for Fiction

GLAAD gives their Outstanding Comic Book Media Award to the graphic novel **Pedro and Me** (*Henry Holt*)

Eisner Awards for Best Finite Series and for Best Penciller/Inker or Penciller/Inker Team go to P. Craig Russell for **Ring of the Nibelung** (*Dark Horse*)

Eisner Award for Best Writer/Artist goes to Eric Shanower for **Age of Bronze** (*Image*)

2002

The Comic-Con International San Diego, features two Gays in Comics panels, a Gay Fans' Reception, several openly queer official guests and more

Out In Comics 4 is released with a 10-artist "jam" cover and Out In Comics and The Gay League host two tables at the Con

Wildstorm characters Apollo and The Midnighter marry each other in **The Authority 29**, the final regular issue of the popular title, becoming the first gay marriage in comics (*DC/Wildstorm*)

Northstar joins the team in the top-selling **X-Men** comics and several more gay mutant characters are revealed in other X-family books (*Marvel*)

The Cavalcade of Boys 1 debuts (*TMC Inc.*)

Genus Male 1, an anthropomorphic erotic comic (*Sin Factory/Radio Comix*)

Captain Kinetic, a four-part series about a closeted Golden Age superhero by zan, debuts at Alternative Press Expo in San Francisco



Psychotix Goes to Tiberius' Palace, a second gay Gaulish graphic novel (*Landwaster Books*)

Homo-Hero's Big Book of Fun and Adventure, a graphic novel/activity book (*Green Candy Press*)

Meatmen 25, an erotic trade paperback anthology (*Leyland Publications*)

Curbside Boys, a trade paperback collection by Robert Kirby (*Cleis Press*)

Apollo and Midnighter action figures are released (*DC Direct*)

GLAAD gives their Outstanding Comic Book Media Award to ongoing series **Green Lantern** for its depiction of Terry, a gay teenager (*DC*)

Xeric Awards and Grants go to Donna Barr for **The Desert Peach** and to Jai Sen for **Garlands of Moonlight**



GAYS IN COMICS PANELS



SATURDAY, AUGUST 6TH, 1988

"Creators join in a discussion of homosexuality as a legitimate subject in comics."

- Max Allan Collins, straight writer (*Ms. Tree, Wild Dog, Batman*) - replaced halfway through by Ms. Tree artist Terry Beatty
- Roberta Gregory, writer/artist (*Gay Comix, Winging It*)
- Mike Grell, straight writer/artist (*James Bond, Green Arrow, Jon Sable, Starslayer, Warlord*)
- John Ostrander, straight writer (*Suicide Squad, Manhunter, Grimjack, Firestorm, Hotspur*)
- Kay Reynolds, editor/writer (*Starblaze, Fortune's Friends* graphic novel)
- Robert Triptow, writer/artist/editor (*Gay Comix, Strip AIDS USA*)
- Kate Worley, writer (*Omaha The Cat Dancer*)

SATURDAY, AUGUST 5, 1989

Character Portrayals: "Creators talk about portraying gay and lesbian characters in comics: Moving beyond the stereotypes or laughing at them?"

- Donna Barr, straight writer/artist (*The Desert Peach, Stinz, Gay Comix*)
- Howard Cruse, writer/artist (*Wendel*, founder of *Gay Comix*)
- Roberta Gregory, writer/artist (*Gay Comix, Winging It*)
- Craig Hamilton, artist (*Aquaman*)
- Trina Robbins, straight writer/artist (*Women in Comics, Wonder Woman, Strip AIDS USA*)
- Eric Shanower, writer/artist (*Oz* graphic novels, *Justice League, Secret Origins, Nexus*)

A Con party for Panel attendees was held in a nearby hotel room.

Elsewhere at the Con, Roger Klorese appeared on a panel about APAs, representing The APA That Dares Not Speak Its Name (ATDNSIN).

SATURDAY, AUGUST 4, 1990

The Panel was not planned as part of Con programming, but did occur, though records are scarce.

SATURDAY, JULY 6TH, 1991

Role Models: Lesbians and Gays: "Have comics moved beyond stereotypes to present positive images or fully rounded homosexual characters?"

- Tim Barela, writer/artist (*Leonard & Larry*)
 - Donna Barr, straight writer/artist (*The Desert Peach, Stinz, Gay Comix*)
 - Flower Frankenstein, cartoonist (*Public Chaos*)
 - Roberta Gregory, writer/artist (*Naughty Bits*)
- ATDNSIN held a party in a nearby hotel room.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 14TH, 1992

The Creators and the Characters: "The creators talk about how gay characters have been portrayed in recent comics. How much have things changed and has it been for the better?"

- Tim Barela, award-winning writer/artist (*Leonard & Larry*)
- Chris Cooper, editor/writer (Marvel Comics, *Darkhold*)
- Roberta Gregory, writer/artist (*Naughty Bits, Artistic Licentiousness, Gay Comics*)
- Scott Lobdell, straight writer (*X-Men, Alpha Flight*)
- Lee Marrs, writer/artist (*Pudge, Girl Blimp, Gay Comix, Viking Prince* graphic novel, *Vamps*)
- Bill Messner-Loebs, straight writer/artist, outed Pied Piper (*Journey, Wonder Woman, Flash*)



A Gay Comix signing was held with Daerick Gross, Brad Parker, Donna Barr, Roberta Gregory and Tim Barela
A "Jem" theme party was thrown in a nearby hotel room.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 21ST, 1993

Dealing with Intimacy: "The issue of intimate relations between gays in comics is discussed. How much contact should be shown? What are the ramifications of this in mainstream comics?"

- Tim Barela, writer/artist (*Leonard & Larry*)
- Nancy Collins, straight writer/novelist (*Swamp Thing*, horror novels *Tempter, Sunglasses After Dark*)
- Roberta Gregory, writer/artist (*Naughty Bits, Artistic Licentiousness, Gay Comics*)
- Brad Rader, artist/animation storyboards (*Batman Adventures*, TV's *Batman: The Animated Series, Mighty Mouse*)
- P. Craig Russell, writer/artist (*Fairy Tales of Oscar Wilde, Killraven*, various opera comics)

SATURDAY, AUGUST 6TH, 1994

Moving Beyond the Stereotypes: "How are gays portrayed in comics? Are gays in mainstream comics just cardboard tokens designed to appease the gay community, or are they allowed to develop into realistic characters?"

- Sharon Cho, agent (*Star Reach*)
- Steve Englehart, straight writer (*The Strangers, Millennium, Avengers, Detective Comics*)
- Chris Taylor, artist (*Legion Annual, BloodPack*)
- Mercy Van Vlack, artist (*Evolutionary Times*)
- Ivan Velez Jr., writer/artist (*Blood Syndicate, Tales of the Closet*)

SATURDAY, JULY 29, 1995

Eight Years On: "A lively discussion of gay issues and characters in comics."

- Tim Barela, writer/artist (*Leonard & Larry*)
- Sharon Cho, agent (*Star Reach*)
- Mark Phillips, Central Mailer for NORTHSTAR
- Martha Thomases, straight publicity manager, DC Comics



SATURDAY, AUGUST 6TH, 1996

Out in Print: "One of the Con's most popular panels returns for its ninth year."

- Sharon Cho, agent (Spitfire Services)
- Howard Cruse, writer/artist (*Stuck Rubber Baby, Wendel*, founder of *Gay Comix*)
- Roberta Gregory, writer/artist (*Naughty Bits, Artistic Licentiousness, Gay Comics*)
- Jimmy Robinson, straight writer/artist (*Cyberzone*)
- Earl Storm, cartoonist (*Such Is Life*)
- Ivan Velez Jr., writer/artist (*Ghost Rider, Blood Syndicate, Tales of the Closet*)

SATURDAY, JULY 19, 1997

"A lively discussion of gay issues and characters in comics."

- Tim Barela, writer/artist (*Leonard & Larry*)
- Sharon Cho, agent (Spitfire Services)
- Phil Jimenez, writer/artist (*Team Titans, Tempest*)
- Joe Phillips, writer/artist (*The Heretic, Superboy, Timber Wolf*)
- Jimmie Robinson, straight writer/artist (*Cyberzone*)
- P. Craig Russell, writer/artist (*Fairy Tales of Oscar Wilde, Killraven*, various opera comics)
- Eric Shanower, writer/artist (*Age of Bronze, Star Wars, Oz* graphic novels)

SATURDAY, AUGUST 15TH, 1998

"Are homosexual themes aimed only at homosexual readers? Hetero girls and boys are curious too, but are they part of the intended audience of these books?"



- Colleen Doran, straight writer/artist (*A Distant Soil*)
- Terrance Griep Jr., writer (*The Skulker, Scooby-Doo*)
- Pat McGreal, straight writer (*Chiaroscuro, Fighting American, Veils*)
- Joe Phillips, writer/artist (*The Heretic, Superboy, Timber Wolf*)
- Eric Shanower, writer/artist (*Age of Bronze, Star Wars, Oz* graphic novels)
- Jose Villarrubia, artist (*Veils*)

SATURDAY, AUGUST 14TH, 1999

- Tim Barela, writer/artist (*Leonard & Larry*)
- Sharon Cho, co-writer/agent (*Nobody*)
- Terrance Griep Jr., writer (*The Skulker, Scooby-Doo*)
- Brad Parker, artist (*Green Lantern: Fear Itself, Code of Honor*)
- Brad Rader, artist/animation director (*Batman Adventures, The Mark, TV's Spawn, Roswell*)

- Stephen Sadowski, artist (*JSA*)
- Bob Schreck, editor (DC Comics)

SATURDAY, JULY 22 2000

- Phil Jimenez, writer/artist (*Wonder Woman*)
- Joe Phillips, artist (*Body Doubles*)
- Ariel Schrag, writer/artist (*Potentials*)
- Perry Erwin, writer/artist/publisher (Blokhed Comics)
- Joan Hilty, editor (DC Comics)

SATURDAY, JULY 21 2001

- P. Craig Russell, artist/writer (*The Ring of the Nibelung, Sandman*)
- Judd Winick, straight writer/artist (*Pedro and Me, Green Lantern*)
- Stephen Sadowski, artist (*JSA*)
- Joan Hilty, editor (DC Comics)
- Elizabeth Watasin, writer/artist (*Charm School*)
- Aman Chaudhary (*Double Image, Whisper*)

GAYS IN COMICS 2002

GAYS IN COMICS: CROSSFIRE (Friday, 5:30-7, room 16A/B)

This prequel to the 15th annual Gays in Comics panel spins off a hot topic from last year's GiC panel raised by DC editor Joan Hilty (who organized this panel and will co-host it in spirit). Is there such a thing as a "gay sensibility"? If so, how does it manifest itself in our stories, art and fandom? In a true roundtable discussion staged talk-show-style, *Sequential Tart's* Denise Sudell splits the question into different aspects and lets six opinionated queer creators go at it!

- Denise Sudell, moderator, writer (*Sequential Tart*)
- Phil Jimenez, writer/artist (*Wonder Woman, X-Men*)
- Terrance Griep, Jr. writer (*Scooby-Doo*, Big Bang Comics)
- Eric Shanower, award-winning writer/artist (*Age of Bronze, Oz Story* Magazine)
- Elizabeth Watasin, writer/artist (*Charm School*)
- Jose Villarrubia, artist/painter (*Veils*, America's Best Comics)
- Joe Phillips, artist/ animator (*The Heretic*, Xodus USA)

GAYS IN COMICS: YEAR 15 & STILL COMING OUT! (Saturday, 5-6:30, room 16A/B)

This year's Saturday eve round of cutting-edge gay, lesbian, bisexual and even straight creators and publishers will cover all the bases, from publishing to writing to art to fandom... gays in the comics world are coming out strong!

- Andy Mangels, moderator, writer (*Star Trek, Roswell*)
- Darren Davis, publisher/writer (Tidal Wave Studios, *10th Muse, Legend of ISIS*)
- Jai Sen, Xeric-winning publisher/writer (Shoto Press, *Garlands of Moonlight, The Golden Vine*)
- Devin Grayson, writer (*Nightwing, X-Men: Evolution*)
- Joe Palmer, webmaster (Gay League)
- Carla Speed McNeil, award-winning straight writer/artist (*Finder*)
- Chuck Kim, writer (*Superman, Powerpuff Girls*)

GAY COMIC FAN RECEPTION & PARTY (Saturday, 6:30-8, room 16A/B)

Here's your chance to socialize with other gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgendered, or open-minded fans and creators! This party is sponsored by the Gay League and will include lots of fabulous door prizes, games, some truly fun video entertainment and dozens of comic and animation pros in attendance!

A FINAL WORD...

from the *Out in Comics* volunteers



ANDY MANGELS — Pride is not a concept often associated with heroes; it's one of the Seven Deadly Sins. Heroes often hide behind masks, unwilling to let people know who they really are. Gay Pride is the opposite of that; it's people who aren't afraid to hide. It's people who are proud of who they are and stand up.

Gay Pride isn't a sin in my eyes, and it *is* something I associate with heroes. Starting with Howard Cruse—the spiritual godfather of us all—each person in this book has contributed to the collective Gay Pride in the comic book world. Hopefully gay fans will continue to support gay creators, gay creators will continue to be out and proud, and gay editors will remember that gay creators need assignments.

Finally, I'm proud to be associated with the group of people who have been involved with *Out In Comics*. Our goal is not only the book you hold in your hands, but the online resources, and future projects you will hear of. Joe, Kyle, zan, and Jai... I'm proud to know you, and to have worked with you.



KYLE MINOR — When I saw the 1999 issue of *Out in Comics*—the one Andy did all by himself—I thought, "A project this great shouldn't fall on one person's shoulders!" So when the time came that I thought he might be starting again, I contacted him, and thankfully he let me help.

In my mind, the most important thing I've done for *Out in Comics* is to gather even more volunteers to see this project through. It's been my delight to involve great talented people like Joe, Dawson, Dwayne and, probably most significantly, the irreplaceable zan. I can't take credit for getting Jai to join us, but I'm thrilled to have such a wonderful positive addition. Without him, the deluxe edition you're holding would not exist.

It's fabulous to be a part of something larger than you are. I highly recommend it. You want to thank me? Read some more comics, hokay?



JOE PALMER — There's only one real reason for my involvement with *OIC*. *People*. Out people in the industry, a room full of 400 gay fans, that

person who thinks there isn't another queer comic fan in the world, the unassuming 18 year old Con-goer who grinned and showed me his copy of Northstar's coming out issue. It seems trivial to write that, but it's true. And the groupies are damn hot!



JAI SEN — Let me start off by saying that it has been a tremendous honor to be included in the process of creating this year's *Out In Comics*. The rest of the *OIC* "family" has ceased to tolerate me saying this, so I am constantly in search of new victims.

I was introduced to the idea of Andy Mangels by a mutual friend. There are few people grand enough to be rightfully called ideas in and of themselves—Andy is one of them. I had no idea what to expect when I called his number in Portland, but within minutes we were talking like old friends. Andy's like that. So is this idea he's conceived, which you're holding in your hands.

I'm proud to have worked on this incredible project with such amazing people. This level of talent would be a bargain at any price, and here you get it for free. I can't wait to see what we'll do next year.



ZAN — I'm just an ordinary guy. I was fortunate enough to come out at the ripe old age of 15, with supportive friends and family to back me up. I asked other guys out on dates. I took my boyfriend to the prom. I thought I had an ordinary adolescence and became a pretty ordinary person.

Of course, not everyone thinks being queer is so ordinary. What's not a big deal for us can turn out to be a really upsetting to others. What might seem to us a terrific, universal story can get labeled a "gay story" and ignored by a lot of people—people who might love it as much as we do.

I'm proud that our work on *Out in Comics* has created another way to celebrate, promote and support each other on our journey to a world where these differences aren't seen as obstacles. We've come together under the umbrella of our queerness as an excuse to simply be generous, supportive and decent to each other. The point is not that we're lesbian or gay or bisexual or transgendered or whatever, but that we're *people*, and that's how people should be treated. And because there are a lot of folks out there who don't realize that yet.

And by the way, we make some *kick-ass* comics!

