

ODD #12

DITTO SECTION

Yeah, I know we promised ODD #12 would be all photo-off-set, but we also only promised 32 pages. If you count the pages in the offset section you'll find the promised number. So you can consider this section a free extra eight pages. We didn't want to waste the expensive photo-offset process on pages of the ODD LETTERS, and other pages of mostly type. This way you get more art for your money.

If you haven't seen the back cover of the issue yet, I'd advise you to get a good grip on yourself. WE'VE DECIDED TO DISCONTINUE PUBLICATION OF ODD INDEFINITELY! I know its a terrible shock, but if you're still conscious let me try to explain this action. Putting out a photo-offset zine requires a lot of time, effort and capital. I may not be able to supply any of these three requirements ever again. I'm finally going to take the big step. I'm going to pack up all the scriblings I've done for ODD and other zines into a portfolio, then its off to New York City to try and find employment. Yeah, I've reached the epitome of desperation. I'm actually going to try to WORK for a living. If I'm lucky, maybe even for some comic company, but most likely you'll find me digging ditches for Con Edison. Anyway, In the ensuing months I may not be able to do any work at all on ODD so instead of making you wait for an issue that might never come out, I'm stopping publication, and subscribers, don't panic, we'll start refunding your bread as soon as possible. Take heart, you, my loyal public, I probably won't entirely slip from that noble institution, fandom. You may continue to see my work being published in other zines. I'll pause now and give you all a chance to cheer, or should that be jeer?!

-Dave Herring

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(or who to sue in case of plagiarism)

Cover: Idea by Steve Herring, Art by Dave Herring.
Super-Guts: Idea by Calvin Castine, Art by D. Herring.
Ratman: Written by Calvin Castine, Dave Herring and Jim Gardner, Art by Jim Gardner.
Doc Ravage: Art and idea by Jim Jones.
Happiness Is A Pair of Long Johns: Written by Marv Wolfman, Art by Jay Kinney, Lettering by Dave Herring.
How To Get Lost In Space...: Written by Marv Wolfman, Art by Dave Herring.
The Count: Written by Steve Herring, Art by Dave Herring.
Batman Cartoon: Art and idea by Dick Mosso.
Super Sultans: Idea by Jay Kinney, Art by Dave Herring.
Short Shorts: Written by Dave Herring, Art by Jay Kinney.
Poor Mouses: Writing and art by Steve Herring.
The Sulcido: Art and idea by Dave Herring.
Blundering Agents: Art and idea by Dave Herring.



Jon Wolf
1027 Oakton St.
Evanston, Ill. 60202

Dear Steve and Dave,
I received ODD11 and enjoyed it thoroughly. Even the ads were interesting. I wanna read Dave's Black Falcon, but where do I get FANDOMS SPECIAL? "The Head" was a fair story- Dave's art was good and Marv's story was okay, with a good ending. What is the name of the ODD Bomber? Strange question. Kinney was, as always, bright and talented. The review of Panic was somehow not too fascinating. I dunno why. Jay's other piece was a biting satire of fandom's high prices. I realize that dealers want to make a little profit, but 80 and 100 dollar comics, or a dollar for a recent one, are prices too ridiculous to consider. The academy keeps talking but no definitive steps have been taken. (No, I don't think I'm writing to TCR. I just get carried away) The coloring book was not bad, but the jokes were in many cases rehashings or updatings of other fans' comments. Nosso is a good satirartist. (hmm-new word) Covers- quite good, especially the art. As to Steve's editorial, this may not find favor in his eyes or in those of the

readers, but I personally do not think that he said anything. His first question was not definitely answered and it was kind of a nothing page. As to his last comment, how can we oppose it? All he said was that fandom is a bunch of clean-cut kids. That's too little to say in a whole page. Marv's, however, pretended to contain no great statements, and thus was not pretentious but fun. Stupid Adventures was mildly amusing-it takes two brave eds to mock their own product. The ending was beautiful. Mad review interesting except that I wish no extensive reviews would be made of stories already in a Mad paperback. The back cover had some great gags. Especially Th-- and Spidey- but the (gagh) Poor Mouses-oh, the poor readers! Jim Gardner and Paul Rybarczyk had some great art. In spite of all the above comments, I really liked the ish.(do you believe it?)

You can order FANDOMS SPECIAL #4 containing my B.F. strip from Bruce Cardozo, 1512 Townsend Ave., Bronx, N.Y. 10452. It should be out soon. The real name of our bald headed little demolitions expert is Hiemy Duschinbacher-Ed.

Marshall Lanz
10411 Lindberg Ave.
Penn Hills, Pa. 15235

Dear Dave and Steve,
Keep one thing in mind, o' editor, that is that ODD is a magazine not a comic! Keep the blood, gore and sex a comin'. That's what most fans want anyway, an' if they don't there's something wrong. The splash panel of "The Head That Wouldn't Die" was great, what made it so enjoyable was the fact that I was eating a hot dog at the time.
It's amazing how Steve can still come up with funny jokes involving those mice! One would think by now that he would have run out. Not Steve

No comment -Ed.

Steve Herring
1250-5th Avenue SE
Cedar Rapids, Iowa

Dear Mr. Herring,
I have received ODD #11 and after careful perusal have come up with the following LOC:
COVER- Obviously done in desperation. Most of us readers prefer an original gag.

Editorial and Letters- You might have had room for another letter or ad. or capsule editorial if you didn't fill it up by telling us how cramped for space you were.

The Two Major Strips (Head That Wouldn't Die and Stupid Adventures) both by M. Wolfman- I suggest leaving the horror type stories to more seasoned writers like the great author of Castle, Night Visitor, Poor Mouses and countless others; Steve Herring. The hero satire was good even though the "mask ending" is becoming a bit worn out. Here are a few pointers, however, which may be helpful to the struggling horror satire writer:

I. Don't use automobile accidents as plot hatches. It's like satirizing the bubonic plague in Medieval England.

II. If you haven't much of a story, make up for it with side plots and subtle innuendo.

III. Never use Hiemy for a shock ending, climax or crux of a story, the ending might at least be original.

Of the rest of the issue, its good points were: Short Shorts, Cover Satires, Mad cover repro (very much like the original) and the Gardner strip on the back cover.

The article on Pornography in Fandom was a bit too deep for me, I found it hard to follow here and there. Wolfman's article along similar lines just proved that Marv Wolfman has a dirty mind, which is nothing profound.

About The Poor Mouses page inside; The first one was rather blaa, I couldn't understand the second, and the third made me throw up.

In all an effective issue with particularly good art by Dave Herring and Jim Gardner.

R.H. Mosso
16 McKinley Road
Worcester, Mass. 01605

Dear Dave,
I would like to say a few words about ODD #11.

I found it very enjoyable, and an all-around good issue. However, I thought the cover was not as well done as on past issues.

I never did go along with the idea of sectioning a cover. This is one of the features I've disliked most

about many of the Marvel titles.

There is one other remark I would care to make concerning ODD #11, that of course is about brother Steve's article, "Pornography in Fandom".

I am refering to his remarks about my Spy-derman satire.

First of all the strip was not meant to be lewd or pornographic, and I don't believe it was. As a matter of fact some of your own work in earlier issues of ODD was just, if not more, suggestive than mine. (your Wonder Woman satire, etc.)

Perhaps my Thor satire in #11 could also be called lewd, but again let me say that my intention was not to be obscene, but just to be funny.

While we're on the subject. Steve's bit about the chocolate sprinkles in The Poor Mouses perhaps could also be said to be in questionable (excuse the pun) taste.

Well Dave, now that I've got that off my chest I would like to say again that ODD #11 was, as usual, very fine.

I do hope your readers find greater favor with my work in #11 than they did with my now infamous Spy-derman.

I will be only very happy to continue contributing to ODD if you and your readers so desire.

If we were to continue publication, I would be very glad to continue to run your contributions. As you can see by the comments on your last contributions, your work is greatly appreciated -Ed.

Steven F. Sabo
9230 Alpine Rd.
Smith Creek, Mich. 48074

Dear Dave:

I sure thought one heck of a lot about ODD #11. Good job, although I would have liked another satire story and better still I would have liked to see the whole thing in photo-offset (cuz I don't ask for much).

I certainly liked the pornography section. Sex is in real life so why not in comics that are trying to portray real life? I think that this is the one and only true original idea left to comics and the one that

finally forgets the code will have his fortune made. Let's face it there's hardly a kid left in this country that doesn't know the basics about sex. Whether they admit it or not, they know.

Now I like sex just as much as the next guy. So I don't see nothing wrong with anything like that Spider-man cartoon. Remember, you have no censure board except your conscience, and with a look at the type of work you put out in ODD, well, you don't have much of one. (Chuckle-snicker; yuk!)

Jay Kinney

606 Wellner Road
Naperville, Ill. 60540

Dear Dave:

Heck. Maybe ODD needs a trans-
fusion of new blood. Like Jim
Gardner and Dick Mosso. No mag-

azine can stay the same for long. Perhaps we are becoming a little weary. I know that I sort of am. I look forward to having a great experimental zine with NOPE... something unlike anything in fandom. But NOPE and ODD are two different zines. And unless you try to go outside the usual fields of gore, super-heroes, and cliches... ODD will not survive long. Perhaps the thing that happened to EC is happening to ODD. Perhaps our imaginations are becoming a little tired. But are we to keep turning out the ishes until some crisis in quality comes along like the CCA? I don't know. Perhaps if we wait and rest a little... a few months perhaps... then we will once again be able to do our best for ODD. But with your emulation of Marvel and EC, don't follow the same path that both of these companies have taken... Marvel stories and art don't seem the same anymore. No soul in them. Ditto went for the last few years of EC. So the things to watch for are: don't get into ruts. Settle for nothing but the best. And work mainly for yourselves... not for the readers. Sometimes readers have to be told what is good. There are a lot of them that think: Anything in ODD is great, anything in costume is great, anything concerned with Marvel or EC especially is great, etc. I have tended to do this somewhat in the past. I hope that I have outgrown it. But have your readers? I don't think so. Don't go by the tastes of readers who talk foob language. Go by what you like. Make ODD a reflection of your best... better still make it your best

(not a reflection)...don't let it be a reflection of your readers worst. I would prefer one reader who honestly likes my work to 100 who like it just because it was in ODD.

This letter is very down-heartening...but I hope that it is inspiring too. If a lot of readers say that this was your best issue (#11)...don't believe it. You'll know when you have your best issue...and I don't think that you think that this was your best.

So much for the comments on our last issue. I must admit that it was far from our best. I think this issue is the best we've ever come up with. I'd like to know if you agree. So please, even though there'll be no future letter columns, send me your opinions of this issue -Ed.

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