

741.5

JULY
2023

NO. 100!

THIS IS IT!
THE SPECTACULAR
LONG-AWAITED
100TH
ANNIVERSARY
ISSUE!
FEATURING:
THE ORIGIN OF 741.5!!!



The Comics & Graphic Novel Bulletin of



Lexington Public Library
Reading Is Just the Beginning!

AS A
CARTOONIST



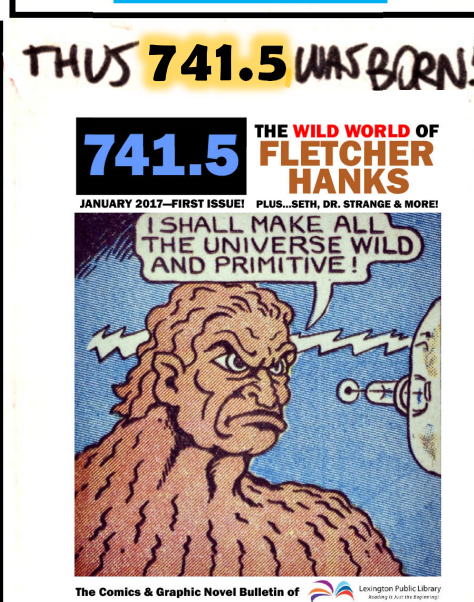
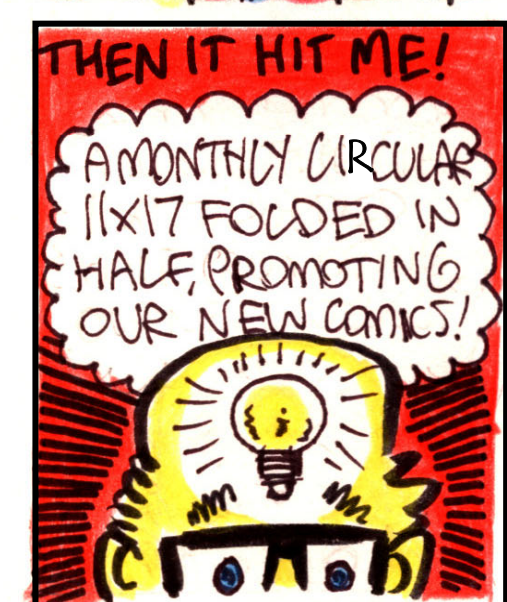
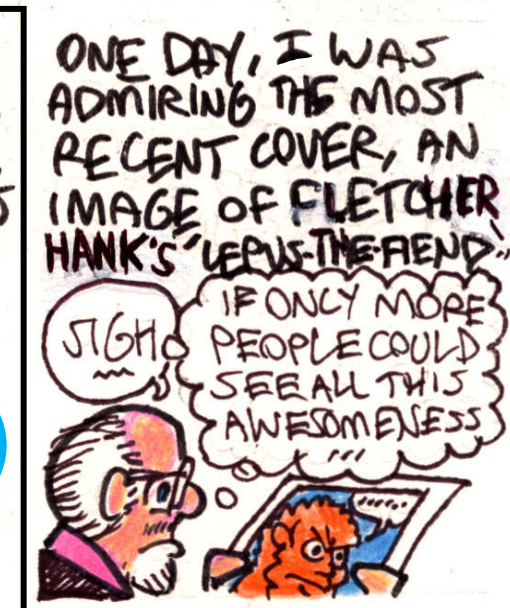
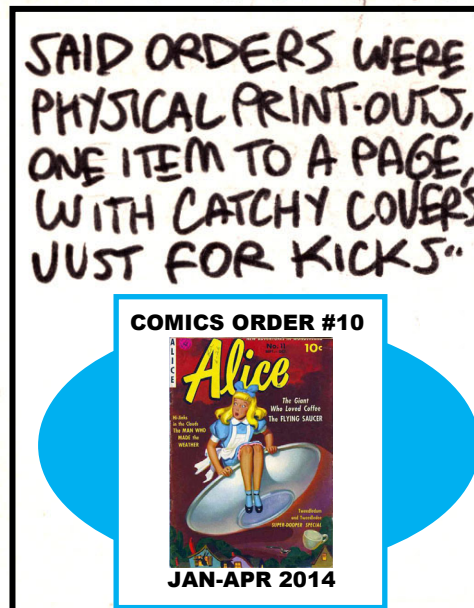
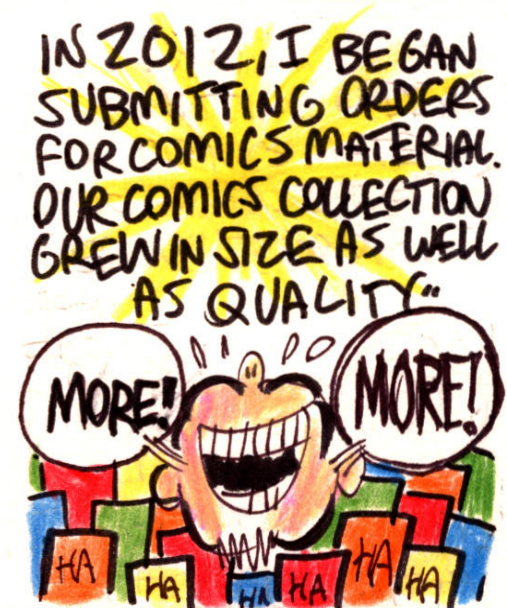
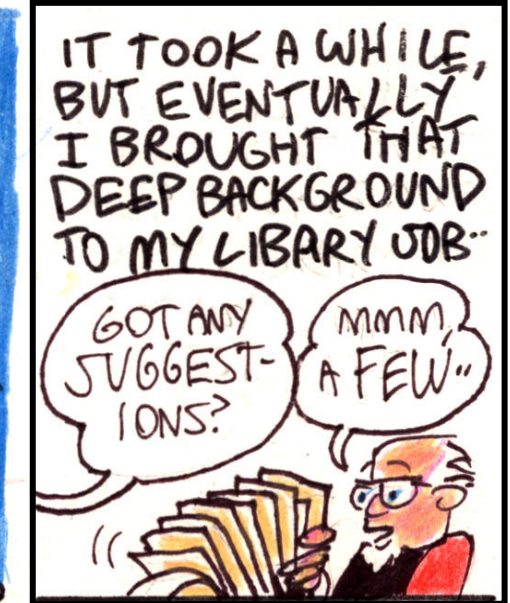
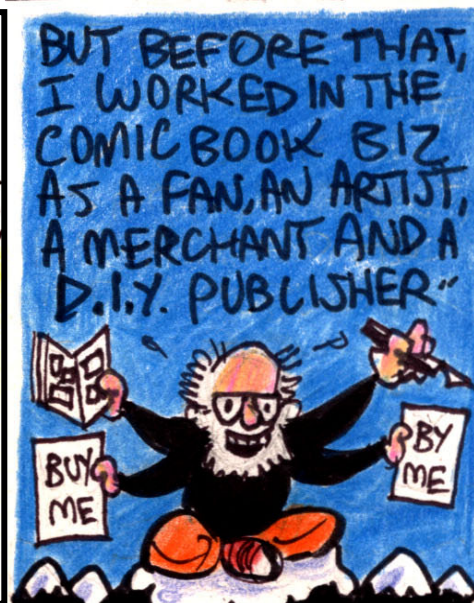
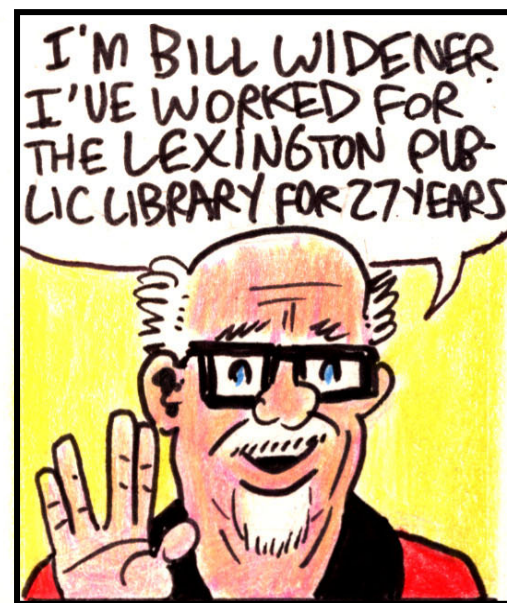
NOAH VAN SCIVER

the same subtext of arrogant self-regard on the part of people who are, in essence, clowns, undergirds this compilation of pieces from different points in Van Sciver's life and career. When it comes to cartooning, Van Sciver has always been a striver, as shown in flashbacks of his comics-obsessed youth. That dedication doesn't let up; as he tells a questioner at a panel discussion in 2016, "Throw away your back-up plan and insert yourself in the comics world." Van Sciver achieves some measure of success: numerous books published, the respect of his peers, invitations to comics cons here and overseas, participating in a museum show of comics work in his hometown of Denver. But still, it's not enough: the worst 19th Century hack, as represented by his character of the same name (middle panel below) made a better living than Van Sciver does, his obnoxious brother ruins the museum gig by coming on to a *New York Times* reporter, and as many prizes as he wins, Van Sciver will never receive the same regard as, say, *New Yorker* great Peter Arno ("I am a lowly gutter boi," mourns Van Sciver). But as self-deprecating as Van Sciver is, he has achieved a high level of artistic validity, as proven by his comics and especially his nature drawings. A fine collection, *As A Cartoonist* is available via [lexpublib.org/!](http://lexpublib.org/)

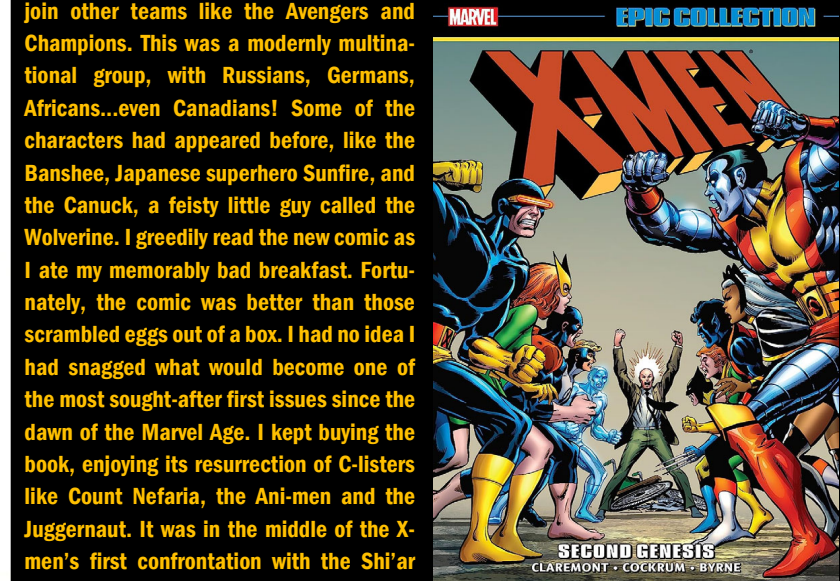
This book came out literally a year ago. It took LPL another few months to get our copies in. I tried since its arrival to write it up in 741.5, only to put it aside for one reason or another. But, dang it. Noah Van Sciver is one of the best cartoonists to come down the pike in a while, so, a year old or not, I wanted to talk about *As A Cartoonist* (Fantagraphics). "As A Cartoonist" could be a riff on Eugene Levy's character Bobby Bittman's signature line, "As a comedian, in all seriousness..." I don't know for sure. But *Cartoonist* is available via [lexpublib.org/!](http://lexpublib.org/)



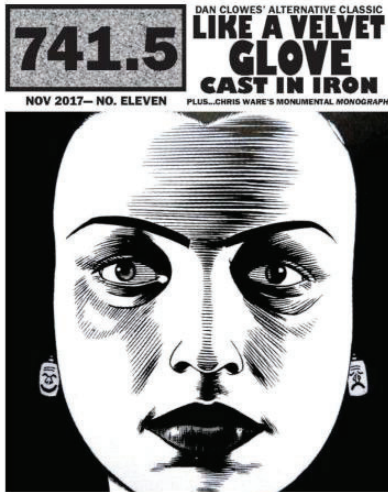
ORIGIN STORY



I remember it well. It was the summer of 1975. My family was returning from one of the trips we took with a group from our church. Halfway home, we spent the night at a hotel. The next morning before breakfast, I was allowed to hit the newsstand. Most decent hotels had newsstands back then. This one carried comics. I grabbed the latest *Master of Kung Fu* and something new: The first issue of a new *X-men* series, released in the short-lived "Giant-Size" format of the mid-70s. Long the red-headed stepchildren of the Marvel Universe, the X-men's regular title had been reprints for years. Now the House of Ideas was ready to bring them back. But not the original crew, most of whom had gone on to join other teams like the Avengers and Champions. This was a modern multinational group, with Russians, Germans, Africans...even Canadians! Some of the characters had appeared before, like the Banshee, Japanese superhero Sunfire, and the Canuck, a feisty little guy called the Wolverine. I greedily read the new comic as I ate my memorably bad breakfast. Fortunately, the comic was better than those scrambled eggs out of a box. I had no idea I had snagged what would become one of the most sought-after first issues since the dawn of the Marvel Age. I kept buying the book, enjoying its resurrection of C-listers like Count Nefaria, the Ani-men and the Juggernaut. It was in the middle of the X-men's first confrontation with the Shi'ar



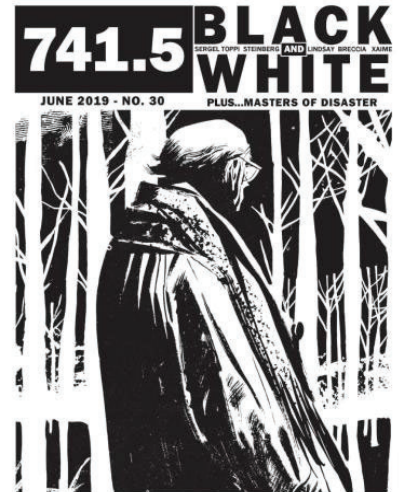
741.5'S BEST FROM THE MEANWHILE FIRST FIVE YEARS!



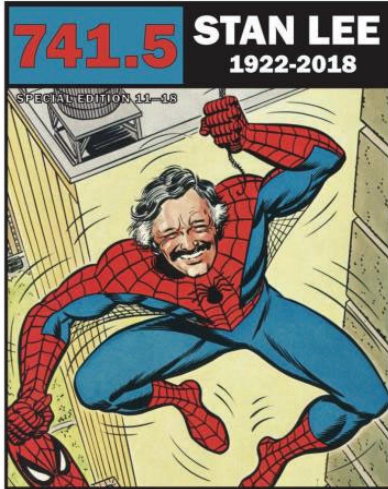
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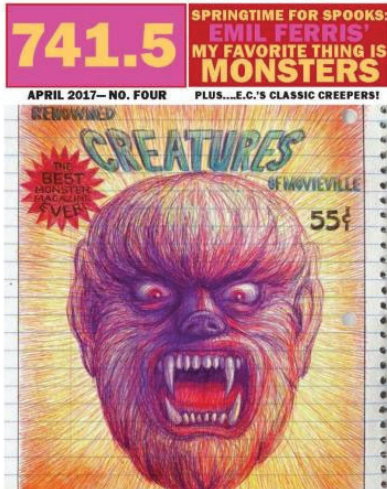
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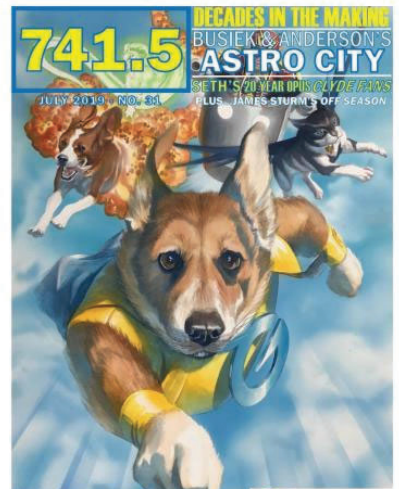
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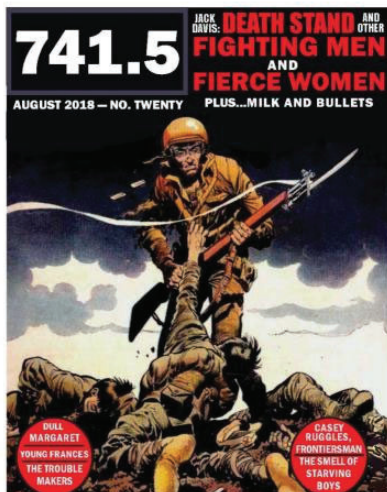
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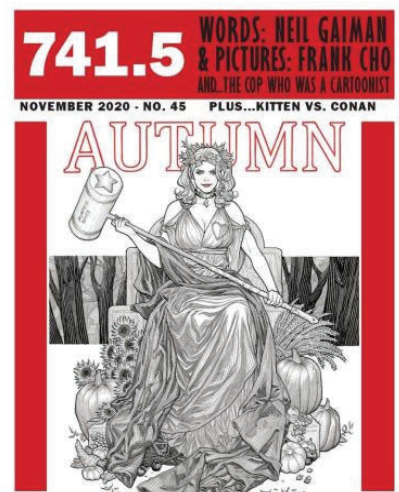
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