

Distractions

New formats, releases and other neat stuff

News and Views on upcoming comics and the industry at large.

Heavy Metal, the magazine of fantasy and science fiction, has undergone its second format change in the space of a few months. Beginning in January of 1986, the magazine will adopt a quarterly frequency, a higher cover price and will be square bound with at least 112 pages per issue. The contents of the magazine will also see a substantial alteration at that point in that all text features will be dropped and emphasis will be on presenting complete stories rather than serial episodes.

The new format will closely resemble the *HM* special edi-

tions that have been released on an irregular basis, the most recent being "Bride of Heavy Metal". The binding will be perfect, and the cost will be in the neighbourhood of \$3.95.

In "Fantastic Four" No. 288, due out in late November, Doctor Doom's participation in the first Secret Wars is explained. In that issue, Joe Sinott will ink John Byrne's pencils. Byrne also writes the series.

The American Friends Service Committee was chosen to receive the proceeds that the X-Men benefit special, "Heroes for Hope" generated. Based on Marvel's print run of 800,000, Marvel's donation to the organization, and to the Ethio-

pian relief effort, could tally \$350,000.

John Byrne on "Superman"? According to several DC freelancers, John Byrne is negotiating with DC to take over as artist/writer of "Superman" sometime in 1986. If the contractual details can be worked out and Byrne does indeed take over the title, he will not drop "Hulk" or the "Fantastic Four", which he writes and draws for Marvel.

"Batman" No.s 393-394 is a two part story written by Doug Moench and illustrated by Paul Gulacy. Gulacy and Moench have worked together on a number of projects, most recently Epic Comic's "Six from Sirius", but most notably "Master of Kung Fu".



A panel from the latest Fabulous Furry Freak Brothers issue.

Rip Off Press has just released "Freak Brothers" No. 9, this issue record for the production of "Freak Brothers", incidentally. The issue continues the "Idiots Abroad" story that began in issue 8, in which the trio embarked on what was to be a simple trip to Colombia.

In issue No. 9, which is the second part of the trilogy, the scattered brothers are reunited. "Freak Brothers" No. 10 will wrap up the story and will appear in 1986.

Issue No. 9 runs 36 full-colour pages, and can be had from Rip Off Press, P.O. Box 14158, San Francisco, Califor-

nia, USA, 94114. The cost is \$2.00 plus 85 cents for postage and handling.

Information for Newswatch is taken from the *Comics Journal*, the magazine of News and Criticism. Subscriptions to the *Journal* are available at \$15 US for six monthly issues. Send inquiries to: the *Comics Journal*, 707 Camino Manzanitas, Thousand Oaks, California, 91360.

TODAY'S CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS

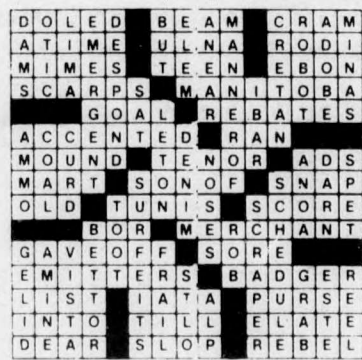
- 1 Box
- 5 Maxim
- 10 Bolt
- 14 Chukker game
- 15 Dunce
- 16 Italian town
- 17 Independent
- 19 Prevaricator
- 20 Machine part
- 21 Inkles
- 23 Seashore
- 26 Betrayer
- 27 Whisper 2 words
- 30 The — Cometh
- 34 Wood product
- 35 Climbing vine
- 37 Self-esteem
- 38 Conjunction
- 39 Espied
- 41 Make lace
- 42 Cravat
- 43 Slowly Mus
- 44 Loathe
- 45 Tirade
- 47 Involved
- 50 Protection
- 51 Respond
- 52 Backslide

- 56 Right-hand pages
- 60 On
- 61 Naval vessels 2 words
- 64 Ship channels
- 65 Star Comb form
- 66 State Fr
- 67 Other
- 68 Pretend 2 words
- 69 Peru money

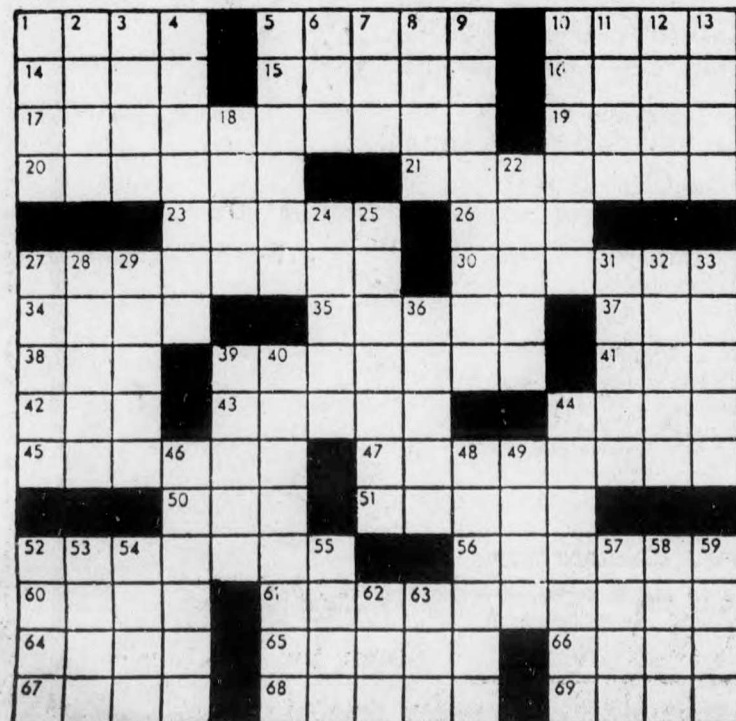
DOWN

- 1 Hot springs
- 2 Sulk
- 3 Where
- 4 Plant part
- 5 Unconcerned with ethics
- 6 Reaim: Suffix
- 7 Nigerian people
- 8 Clot
- 9 Make sacred
- 10 Efface
- 11 The East
- 12 African vil-

UNITED Feature Syndicate
Friday's Puzzle Solved:



- 13 Pronoun
- 14 Cranny
- 15 Cursed
- 16 Wise man
- 17 Chatter
- 18 Rows
- 19 Carthage di-
- 20 alect
- 21 Golfer Lee
- 22 Nici: e.g
- 23 Marble
- 24 Famous
- 25 Make amends
- 26 Shut-eye
- 27 Support
- 28 Tethers
- 29 Glide away
- 30 Fish
- 31 Kings' superiors
- 32 Fury
- 33 Writ words
- 34 Realty units
- 35 Irish-Gaelic
- 36 European
- 37 marshal
- 38 Girasol
- 39 Superjets: Abbr
- 40 Giants great
- 41 Sp gold



WHITE MATTER by PAUL WHITE



The Eagle-Beaver Chronicles

By the UBC Cartoonist at Large

