## 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 Doctor Doom's participation will adopt a quarterly frequen- in the first Secret Wars is excy, a higher cover price and will be square bound with at least 112 pages per issue. The pencils. Byrne also writes the contents of the magazine will also see a substantial alteration at that point in that all text vice Committee was chosen to features will be dropped and emphasis will be on presenting X-Men benefit special, "Heroes complete stories rather than for Hope" generated. Based on serial episodes.

resemble the HM special edi- organization, and to the Ethio-

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, plained. In that issue, Joe Sinott will ink John Byrne's series.

The American Friends Serreceive the proceeds that the Marvel's print run of 800,000, The new format will closely Marvel's donation to the

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 fullcolour 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 Manzanas, Thousand Oaks, California, 91360.

## TODAY'S CROSSWORD PUZZLE

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