

Comics meet the Apple

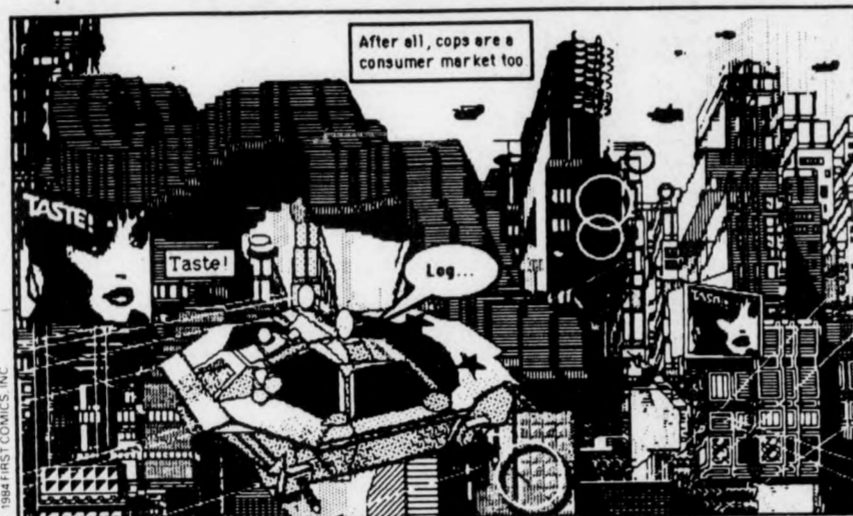
Shatter: the first computerized comic

By CALUM JOHNSTON
Distractions Editor

An Illinois comic magazine publisher, First Comics, has just released a one-shot comic called *Shatter*. First Comics publishes *Grimjack*, *Starslayer*, *Nexus* and the critically acclaimed *American Flagg* and *Jon Sable*. Normally, the previous to publication hype would be ignored by most comic fans but *Shatter* has an unusual approach to sequential comic storytelling. It's all done by computer. "When a new project is initiated, the publishers, artists and writers always proclaim 'This is the newest, this is the best. There's never been anything like this before,'" managing editor of First Comics, Mike Gold observed. "On this particular occasion, our claim cannot be questioned. Nobody has ever produced a comic book like *Shatter*."

Shatter is the story of Sadr al-din Morales (his parents tried to cosy up to their Arab employer), he's a 'temp.' In the 21st century over half the population were temps, taking temporary jobs, revolving their lives around the employment exchanges known as "Temp Help". *Shatter* is presently sub-contracted by a Daley City Police officer, Jack Scratch and takes on not only his job, but his identity as well.

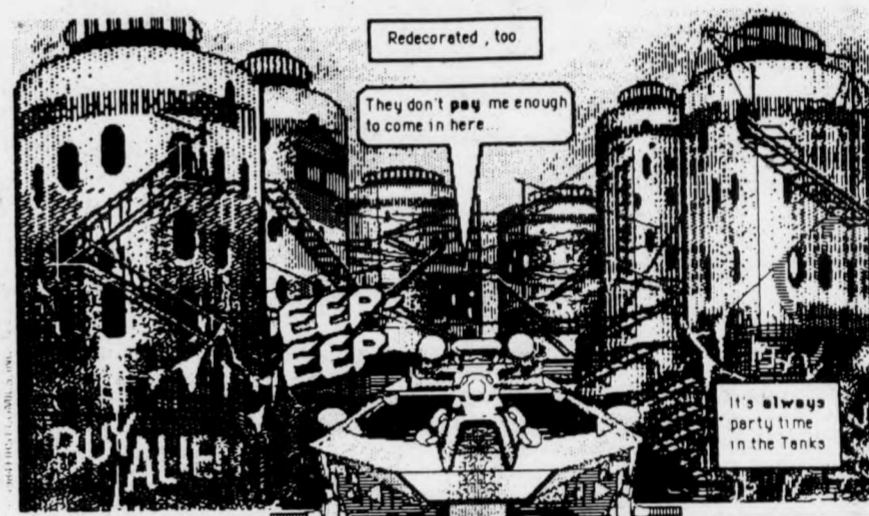
The unique quality of *Shatter* is the artwork. Both the art-



work and the lettering is entirely produced on an Apple MacIntosh computer.

The creation of artist Michael Saenz and writer Peter Gillis, *Shatter* premiered in February in a limited edition available only in comic speciality shops or through a subscription service. It is a one issue special printed on white

baxter paper. (Far above the quality of paper in a newsstand comic.) *Shatter* will continue as an eight page back-up feature in *Jon Sable, Freelance*, also from First Comics, for a year or so to give Sable's artist/writer Mike Grell extra time to produce this summer's *Batman/Jon Sable* crossover special, a joint effort between



DC Comics and First Comics.

If the eight page stories are well received, *Shatter* may be spun-off as a regular monthly title. Gold stated, "Our one-shot will be made available to computer enthusiasts as well as comic readers, and in the eight page series, we'll be proving the long range storytelling capabilities of this medium."

Mike Saenz, a noted air-brush artist whose work in *Marvel Comics EPIC* and the *Warren* magazines has brought him many fans, used the sophisticated *MacDraw* software to produce the artwork,

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★ NEW ★★ ★ "LIVER JELLO!" A WEEKLY CARTOON BY MELVIN MOUSE

THE MISADVENTURES OF AN INTERGALACTIC BAND OF MUSICIANS DEDICATED TO JUSTICE, MONEY, MUSIC, MONEY, A GOOD TIME, MONEY AND OF COURSE MONEY.



ZEKE
king of heavy metal poultry.
LEAD VOCALS
THE BRAINS



WILBUR
ONE TOUGH PIECE OF BACON
BASS GUITAR
FOOD EXPERT



THEODORE
HEAVY ON THE MUSTARD
DRUMS
SPACE PILOT



CLARENCE
A HEAD BANGING TROUT
LEAD GUITAR
CON ARTIST



ENRICO
NO COMMENT
RHYTHM GUIT.
DRUG EXPERT

Liver Jello
CAN A CHICKEN, A PIG, A FISH, A SALAMI SANDWICH AND A RECYCLEABLE ALUMINUM CAN BRING PEACE, JUSTICE AND A GOOD TASTE IN MUSIC TO THE GALAXY?

NEXT WEEK'S PREMIERE: THE FIENDISH PLOT OF DOCTOR DISCO!