

DISTRACTIONS

Comics Survey

By COLIN CADOGAN
Distractions Reviewer

The "Badger" is probably one of the more interesting characters I have encountered while reading comic books. He is not a conventional superhero by any stretch of the imagination. The main focus of this review will be issue number eleven of "Badger" put out by "First Comics". "Badger" was first published by "Capita!" comics, and when they dropped it, "First" picked it up.

"Badger" is a schizophrenic who has fashioned a special costume with a paw-print of the badger on the front. He has learned many different styles of the martial arts and is a very deadly opponent. He also has a pathological hatred of street criminals, who he "maims, but does not kill."

He was being treated in the same mental hospital as a genuine fifth century druid, Ham (shortened for convenience) the "Weather Wizard". Apparently, a consortium of wizards form the

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THE SHADOW

by HOWARD CHAYKIN

*at the George St.
Farmer's Market
every Sat. morning*

The Badger doesn't kill, but he does maim

Not a conventional super-hero



Hodag vs. the Badger. Illustration by Reinhold and O'Connell. ©1986.

5th century defeated Ham, but could not kill him, because any blow struck at him will only hurt the person who threw it.

In the earlier issues, it was established that Ham was born with the mark of the Badger. Being a wizard, he took "Badger" (the costumed super-hero) as his familiar (bodyguard).

come to America, because his use of magic apparently tore the fabric between the planes, which allows monsters from other dimensions to wreak havoc here.

Enough of the background, let's get to issue eleven. One of the Badger's previous opponents comes to call on Ham, starting a small fight. Apparently, after fighting Badger on an Indian burial mound, he was cursed and now resembles a giant turtle (he is also a vicious hand-to-hand fighter, being able to defeat the Badger).

Ham suggests that he forget about humanity and sign on with some other wizard as a familiar. The "Hoodag" (as he is called) takes Ham's advice to heart and scans the newspaper, finding an advertisement that was put there specifically for

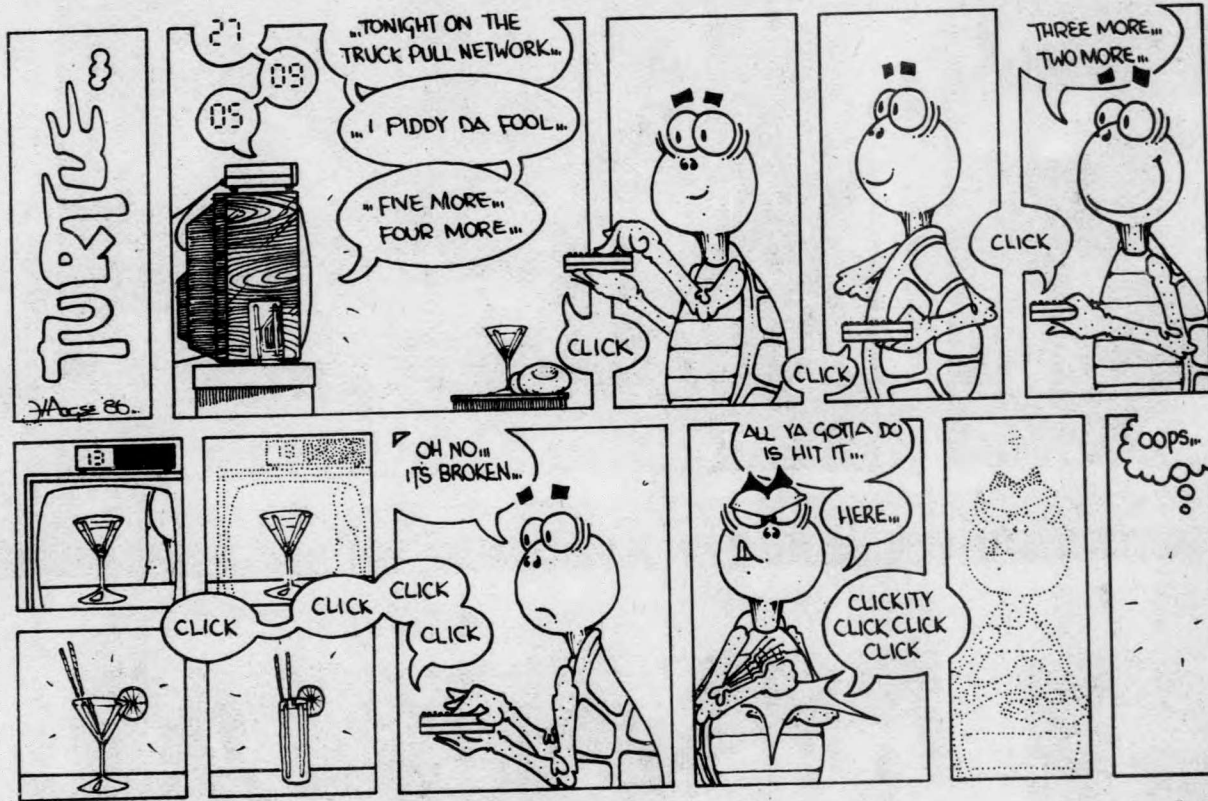
him. He is cured, after a strange test, and returns with his healer to see Ham.



"Badger" is an exceptional comic book. The art is very good, showing a great deal of detail (even to the effects of scurvy on a sailor). The colours

are very rich (maybe a bit too striking), and the dialogue is very realistic.

Anyway, they are intriguing characters. I suggest you pick up a copy and read about the "Badger", Ham and a cast of weird characters I haven't even mentioned; I'm sure you'll be pleased.



TODAY'S CROSSWORD PUZZLE

Puzzle Solved:

ACROSS	50 Increases
1 Dandy	51 Italian com-
4 Astute	mune
9 Of popes	52 Shelf
14 Eggs	54 First-rate
15 Gun pointer	58 Mt. Blanc,
16 Slip away	e.g.
17 Sensory	60 Female ruff
19 Resource	61 — code
20 Salad item	62 Data source
21 Fiber knot	64 Sweet syrup
22 Sneaky one	66 Mel —
23 Frontier law-	67 Soothed
man	68 Poem
24 The Penta-	69 Pillars
teuch	70 Swamps
26 Wainscot	71 Doze
29 "Go team!"	DOWN
31 Period	1 Coerce
32 Irish river	2 — — barrel
33 Long step	3 Gaited horse
36 Obligation	4 Weakens
38 Crete peak	5 Bump
39 Feign	6 — acid
41 Meat cut	7 Venerated
43 Slash	8 Readies
44 Credulous:	9 Bosc, e.g.
Var.	10 French re-
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47 Big birds	11 Caudal
49 "— Got	12 Zoo animal
Sixpence"	13 Tennis call

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33 Binge	61 Stuffs
34 Prunes	62 — dance
35 Estimable	63 "The Lion of
37 Stumble	God"
40 Deviates	65 — Bruns-
42 Stood up	wick

