

Chock full o' Weirdness! A Brief History of Sour Grapes

What is this all about?

Mostly it is a collection of sketches and doodles mixed with some comics and illustrations first publised in a series of free papers/fanzines in Athens, Ohio in the mid-1990's.

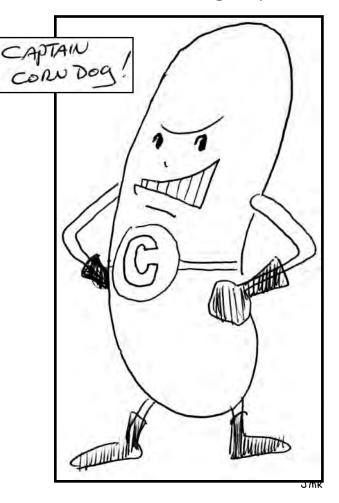
The concept of Sour Grapes was initially conceived by Christopher Dillon as an underground forum for some of his illustrations and comics. The actual original run of Sour Grapes came into the world as something a little different. Edited and published primarily by Dillon and Todd Dunbebin, the publication regularly featured contributions from a variety of different writers and artists. Some created comics, some provided spot illustrations, some wrote reviews of indie and punk records as well as interviews with rock bands. Local businesses were spotlighted and events calendars were announced. In short, it was a grab-bag representation of the indie and underground scene in Athens at the time. The collaborators had lot of fun putting the issues together but eventually they moved on to other projects and Sour Grapes was retired.

The bulk of the material presented in this anthology was created by Christopher Dillon and original contributor Jeff Kilgore, with a primary focus on cartoon and illustration imagery. Some of the material is reprinted from various issues of the original publication

while other pieces are more recently created. A few items are previously unpublished but date back to the last decade or so of the twentieth century.

Enjoy!



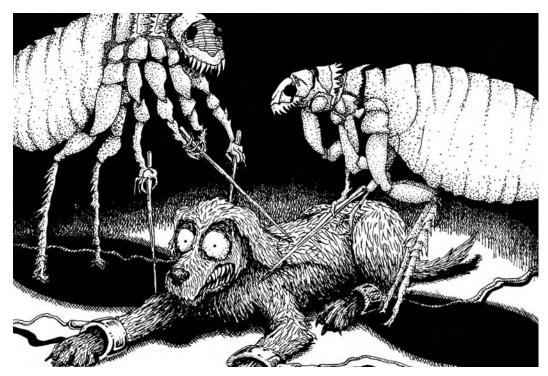




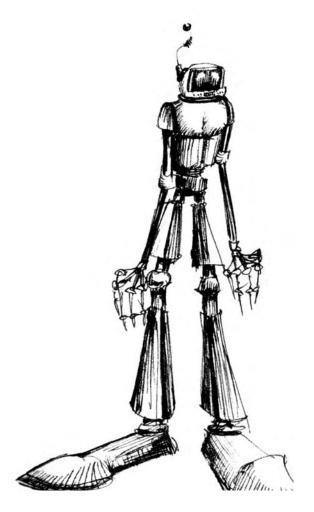


DRAWINGS BY DILLON









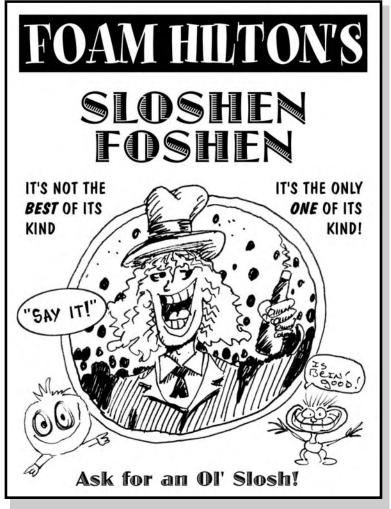




BY C. BIESTER

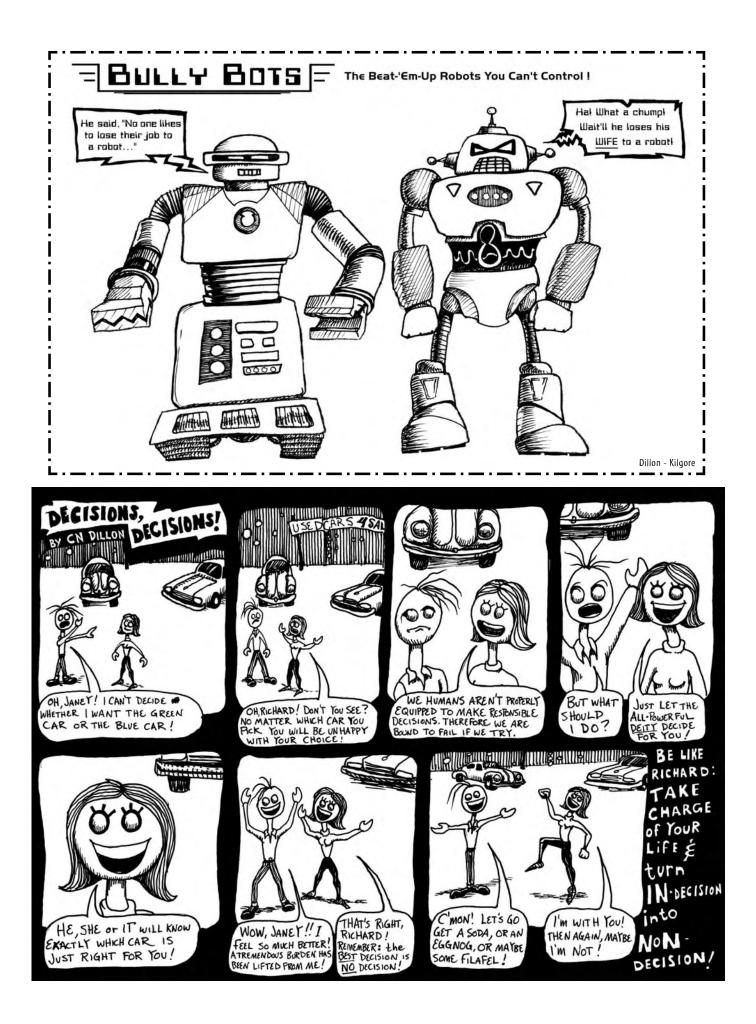






Dillon - Kilgore





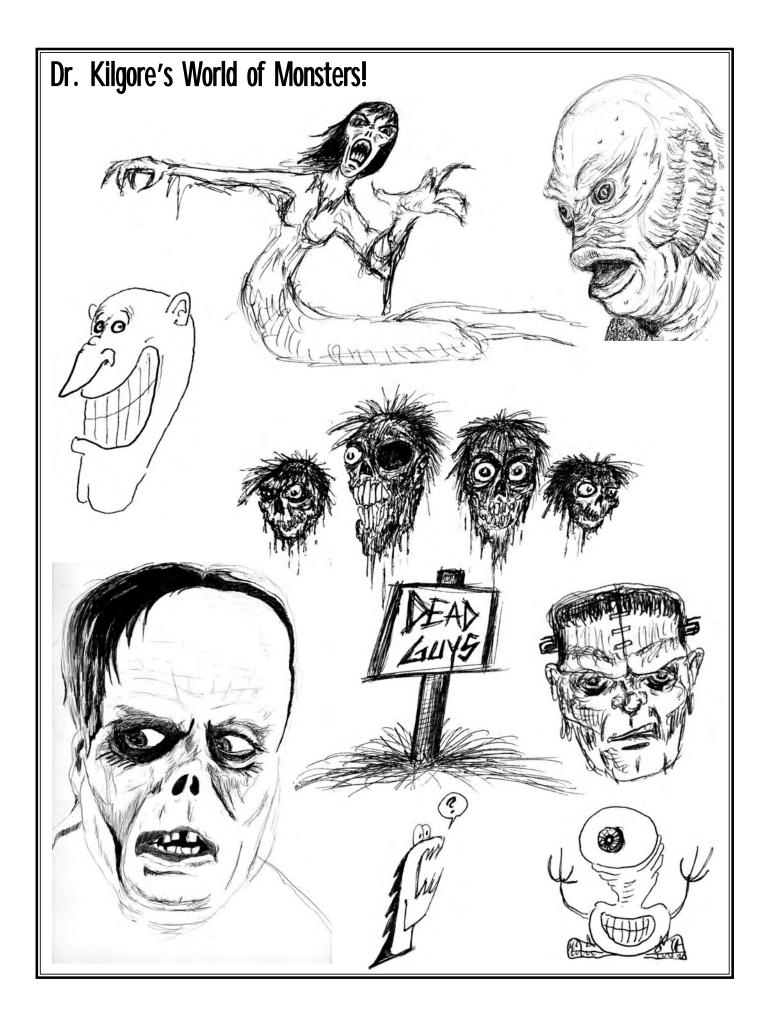






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ADVENTURES OF THE NUDE SQUAT TEAM

BY CNDILLON



GINGER ALE THEATRE

words by Kilgore, pix by Dillon

I'm alone.

My hands shake as I strike a match and light the single candle sitting on the coffee table. Anticipation gnaws within.

As I settle back into my chair, I detect the scent of stale tobacco and cheap liquor. I can hear the faint sound of soft, melancholy music...and I immediately know that I am no longer in my comfortable chair. I am no longer in my home.

I don't have to look at my watch - I know what time it is.

Every night...

...in my head...

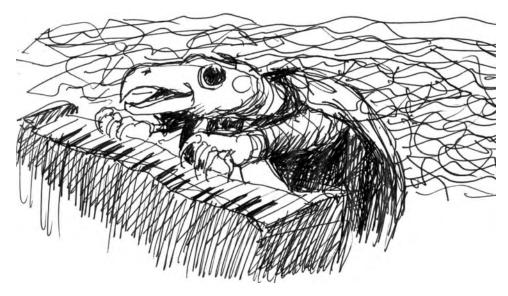
...it's nine o'clock.

Time for Ginger Ale Theatre!

I look around and notice row upon row of empty seats. Only a couple dozen people in the audience tonight. Some I recognize, like Old Man Lindsay and his Young Bride, Kitty. Most are strangers to me. Cold flesh with empty souls. I stroll down the threadbare aisle and take my usual seat in the fith row as the house lights dim and the curtain rises. And I see...

HOLY CATFISH! The opening act tonight is Dr. Zambo Jeky and his Mogo Gumption Band! The good doctor is making an unscheduled appearance tonight apparently, as a performance by the Mogo Gumption Band always sells out months in advance.

"Mo Hombo, ladies an' gentlemen." The doctor bows deeply and picks up his guitar. He begins to pick out the opening notes to one of the bands most popular songs, Daddy's Starch. I settle back and order a pint of Zyborgus Stout. This is going to be a great night...



Before I finish my drink, a full 30 minutes have passed. The band had alternated between performing amazing music and demonstrating cooking tips on stage.

As could be expected, the usual events that occur during a Dr. Jeky concert took place; a young couple leaped onstage and swore to give up eating meat. Several people burst into tears while swearing complete allegiance to the Mojo Gumption Band. Old Man Lindsay spontatiously switched gender five times right before my eyes!

The ringing in our collective ears has not yet ceased and the middle act is already up on stage. The tragedy known only as the Equine Transplant bleates out in protest as it is forcibly shoved into the spotlight by it's team of handlers. The artificial hooves slip and skid on the polished hardwood as it tries to rise up on its hind legs as a man would. It brays in frustration and shame as it falls onto its back. Tears begin streaming down the elongated once-human face as the audience (as we are expected to) being to jeer and mock the hapless thing.

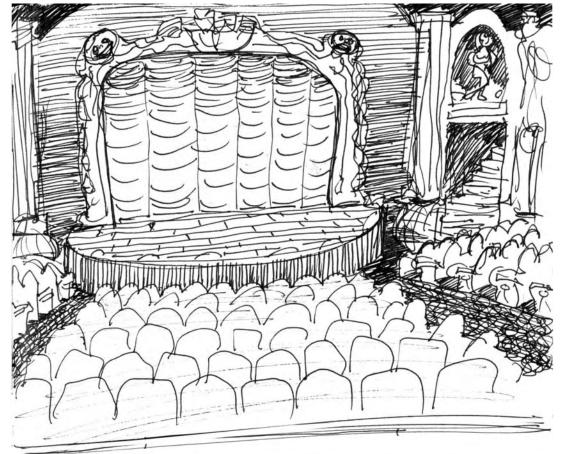
Pitifully, the wretched creature attempts to speak out in indignation and betrayal with vocal cords rendered useless several surgeries past; a sharp gutteral hacking is all it can manage to exclaim before it collapes in a heap on stage. Urine flows out of the tragic creature as it is dragged offstage. Polite applause follows from the stunned few in attendance, myself included.

As I order another ale, I notice a stunning woman with flowing white locks gliding down the aisle toward

me. Without a word, she sits beside me and takes my hand in hers. I can feel an icy chill as I look into her cruel, knowledgable eyes. Her lips twist into a wicked grin as she reaches out to touch my shoulder.

An usher quickly makes his way down the aisle and takes the womans wrist. Without a word, she stands and follows the usher as he leads her away. She looks back and blows a kiss as she is escorted away, and it is only then I realize...

"Succubus," I mutter.



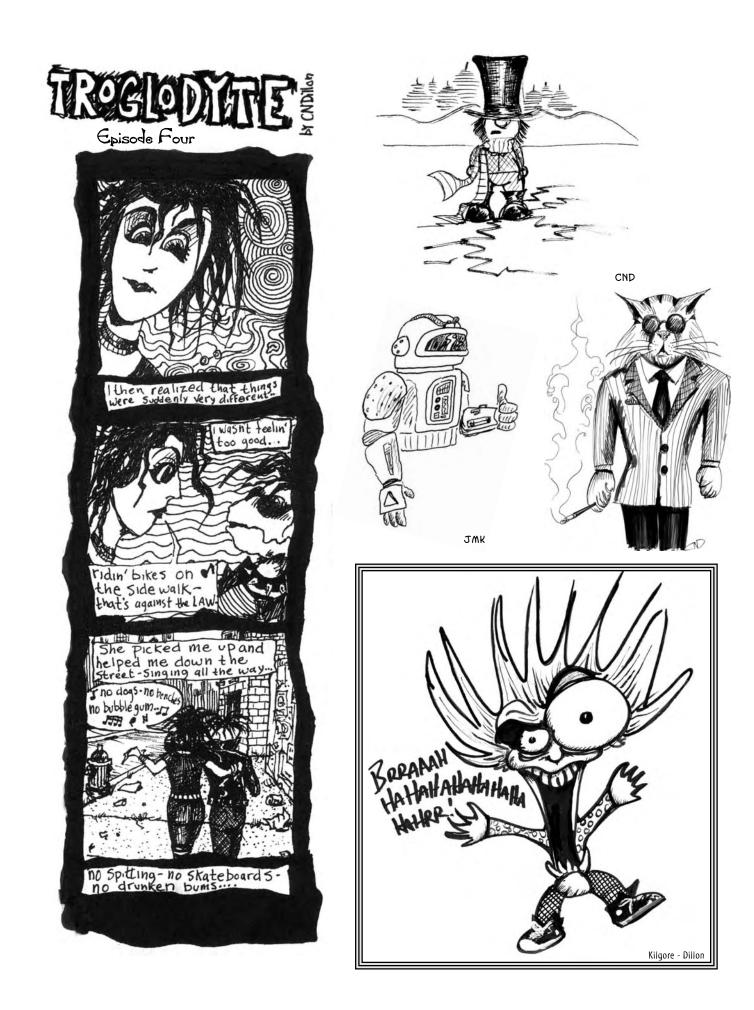
The final act of the

night is a brief yet enthralling performance by a trio of teenagers: a sort of pantomime magic show that also includes lessons in marine biology. It is difficult to explain in words. You just have to see it to understand.

The stage lights darken, the sounds become faint...and I realize it is now ten o'clock. I am back in my chair. The candlelight flickers.

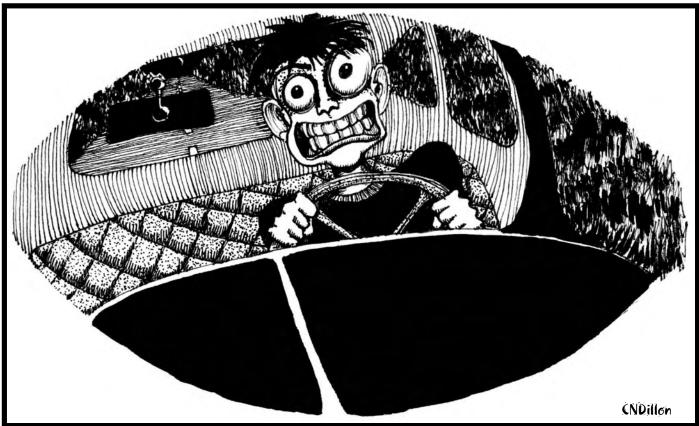
I'll be back tomorrow night...and every night. At nine o'clock. In my head.

Ginger Ale Theatre.













CND

HUH-WHU-HACK !! G 0 J.KILGERE

