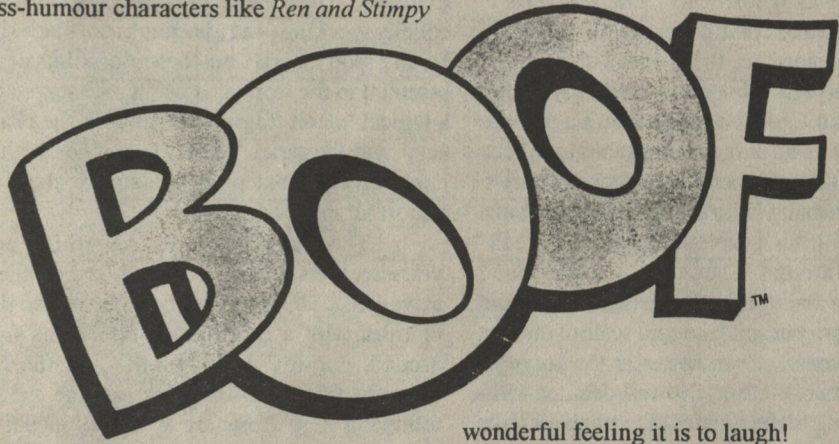


Lon meets Boof for the first time

Title: *Boof*
Company: Image
Issues: 1-2Cover
Price: 2.75 Canadian

In case you were wondering, *Boof* is a short, hideously obese, over-muscled, tusked, mohawked, barbarian warrior from Planet Smashmouth who takes up residence in ten year old Nick's suburban backyard. This allegedly humorous comic is about the adventures Boof, Nick, and Nick's dog Buddy. And it isn't funny.

It's a bad attempt to cash in on popular gross-humour characters like *Ren and Stimpy*



Title: *Boof and the Bruise Crew*
Company: Image
Issues: #1
Cover Price: \$2.75

Ah, the humour mag. That irreverent, unconventional anomaly that allows us to escape from the continually pointless angst of *X-Men* and their various look alike. What a

wonderful feeling it is to laugh!

Too bad for me I was reading *Boof and the Bruise Crew*.

While it is marginally funnier than *Boof's* solo title, this comic centering on Boof's other alien friends falls just as far short of the mark for its severe lack of creativity.

A bunch of alien weirdos land on Earth on Halloween. They include Opee, who is big, dumb, and cute; Sarge, who is short, legless, and senile; Bunny, who is legless, female, and does nothing whatever in this issue; an unnamed robot; Zeek, the science officer; and our pal husky, tusky Boof. They attend a Halloween party, win eating contests, fart, get whizzed on by Buddy the dog and throw up on Zeek. And all the neighbourhood kids think they're cool.

For the most part unoriginal, it does have one thing over *Boof*: the characters are at least likeable. Boof has a much smaller role here, leaving room for Opee to do cute, dumb things and the Sarge (my favourite) to babble nonsensically about everything. They almost save the book.

Beau Smith tries gamely in both *Boof* books to sound like *Ren and Stimpy* or *Beavis and Butt-head*, and while never quite reaching that level he comes closer with this one. I personally like the senile blithering of the Sarge, whose reality-impaired ramblings are mildly original. Tim Harkins, artist and letterer, turns in some passable cartoony artwork. Although not excellent, it is better suited to the story than the eye-gouging stuff John Cleary does in *Boof*.

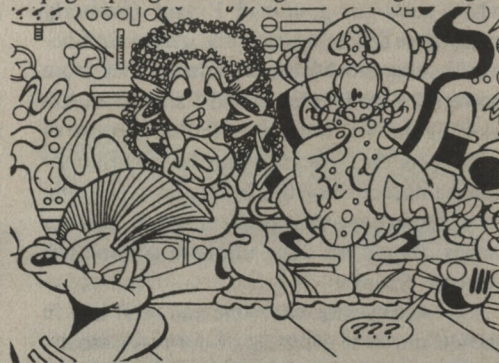
If you must read a *Boof* title, I recommend this one. While still not up to the standards of those it imitates, it comes much closer than the solo *Boof* book, and the characters are more fun.

Title: *Freak Force*
Company: Image
Issues: # 6,7
Cover Price: \$2.65 Canadian

And now that I've finished trashing Todd McFarlane's attempts a hip humour comics, it's time I reviewed a comic that's doing hip humour right.

The title in question is Erik Larsen's *Freak Force*, a tongue in cheek superhero title just packed with... well... freaks. There's a spiny-skinned mutant named Horridus; a beautiful girl named Dart with a terrible costume; Barbaric, the requisite fur-covered brick; an old Golden Age guy with bizarre shape-changing metal limbs name of Superpatriot; and then there's Mighty Man...

Issue number 6, *Mighty Man's Secret Revealed*, pays homage to the big red cheese (Shazam! or Captain Marvel to you). The twisted tale of Ann Stevens has the spotlight as she makes the startling (and hilarious) revelation that she has become the vessel for Mighty Man. Then Rapture (I have no idea what power she has) reveals that her origin involves Mighty Man's nemesis, Dr. Nirvana (a play on Shazam!'s worst villain, Dr. Sivana) and then robot ants emerge in the Amazon. Be sure to read the letter column, as it sheds light on the backstory of Mighty Man... and there's a 'one page epilogue featuring The Savage Dragon



immediately after.

Then comes issue 7, in which the shadowy Kill Cat (picture a cross between Shadowhawk, Batman, and a lounge lizard) comes to Chicago looking for his old 'girlfriend' Dart. Trouble is, Dart hates Kill Cat... and Kill Cat has no idea what a slime he is. Then the robot ants eat a bunch of guys in medieval armour. I'm sure it'll all make sense in time...

Erik Larsen, one of the "fun guys" at Image, apparently takes nothing seriously, and the back-up writer is the infamously irreverent Kieth Giffen, who is most famous for turning DC's *Legion of Superheroes* into one of the funniest comic book farces ever. The one downer to this book is the artwork. Victor Bridges' art is sparse and simple, with undetailed backgrounds. Still, it's a nice change from the usual constipated facial expressions found in other Image books.

So for a light-hearted romp through a twisted world of neat characters, check out the *Freak Force*... and bring an ant trap.

-- Lon Talbot

Campus News:

Congratulations and thanks

U.P.E.I. Shinerama Committee Co-chairs Ron O'Connor and Ray Murphy presented Fit Company memberships and C.D.'s to Anika Larkin, Erin Hutchings, and Nicole Bellamy for bringing in the highest total for a group of three. Awards were presented to top shiners who participated in this year's Shinerama Campaign at a dance held in their honour at The Charlottetown Playhouse.

Other winners included Tammi Jo Aul and Jennifer Younker for best team of two; Steve Gallant for best individual shiner; Carl Lynn Maze for most original shiner (she shined the hooves of a pony); Jerry Morrell for best Frosh Committee person. Susan Reichhel and Kadre Kass received honourable mentions.

Persons receiving awards who did not attend the ceremony may pick up their prizes at the Student Union.

The Shinerama Committee would like to thank the following businesses who made this year's campaign a success: Dunkin' Donuts, The Charlottetown Playhouse, The Tradewinds, Mark's Work Warehouse, Fit Company, U.P.E.I. Bookstore, Party Central, The Salvation Army Thrift Store, Domino's Pizza, Sea Treat Restaurant, CIMN Radio, U.P.E.I. Student Union, the C.P. Hotel, Tilden Interrent, Rent-a-Wreck, and Kodak Canada.

The campaign continues until the end of the month with such events as car washes and 50-50 draws.

--Bob Stanley.

View From the Top Engineering Column

Well, I'm sure that you're as keen to be back in the books as I am. It's another wild and crazy year in the engineering society and I hope you have good involvement in all the activities that take place (since it's your money we're spending!). We urge you to pay your membership fee of \$12 as soon as possible so that we may begin planning events. All suggestions on how the money should be spent are welcomed.

The annual "Cornboil Bash" is scheduled for the second weekend (Friday) in October at the Mill Stream Barn and is always "good" time. We want all first year engineering students to go out and get to know the other members from second and third year (we don't bite).

There is a T-shirt design contest this year. Entries should be on 8 1/2 X 11 paper and passed in to an executive (Kim, Jane, Rae, or Brian) before October 7, so that they will be ready for the cornboil. There is also a possibility that we could have caps made up too. So

continued on next page