



The kind of entertainment that only bullets at your feet can bring about...

Er....wellyou see....The thing about having a regular letters page is that I've gone and presumed I'm going to get regular mail. I know, I

know It's very vain of me to assume that, but probably not as vain as the fact that I'm telling

you this, and think that by not having any mail I can attempt to amuse you with a bit of 'idle banter' dialogue...which I'm not very good at.

Oh, wait, I know, there's the new back cover thing going on. This issue's is by *Paul March*, and will be the first in an ongoing back cover event thing. If you want to contribute a just send in an image of what ever the hell you like and include the MLB lamp logo in it somewhere (either A5 or an A4 reduction).

Ah, erm, there's the apology thing as well. In my eagerness to to get the issues out a.s.a.p, my ability to spot spelling mistakes his been, well, I'll be honest, absolutely bloody disgraceful, no wonder nobody's buying the damn thing.

That's not true, actually, if you've read this far, even just this issue, then I thank you, and hope I'm still keeping you interested. There's a fair bit more to come. Let's see how many fonts have I got left...

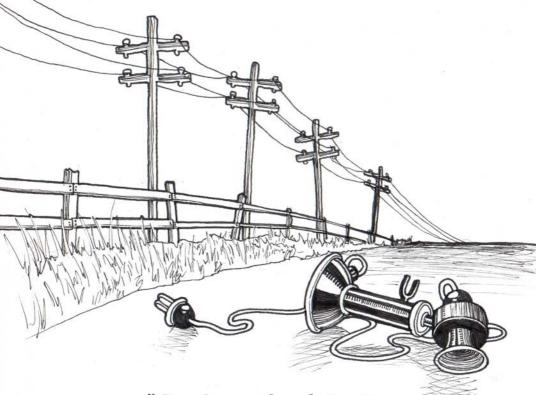
Thanks for supporting me so far (you know who you are)...

ANDY AND TIFF, David T, John and Jim AT CITY COMICS, WOODY, Tombo,
GAV, MUS, Rob Bowisk, Rob Young, Stuart Scholar, David Hobden, GRAHAM, Grant and Elliot.



COMING SOON(ISH...I HOPE)....MLB: THE WEBSITE.

Magic Lamp Boy #5



"I embrace the abstract
[in photography] and exist
on a few bits of order extracted
from the chaos of reality"
Ralph Gibson.



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ALL COMMENTS, CONJECTURE AND JIBES TO;

CHESTER LE STREET,

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CONSIDER FOR A MOMENT THAT CERTAIN ACTS OF CREATION ARE PRE-DETERMINED...

MAX LUDWIG DID. IN FACT, MAX DEVOTED A GREAT DEAL OF TIME TO THE MATTER, AND DEVELOPED A WHOLE THEORY ON THE SUPPOSITION, DESPITE ONLY BEING 23. THIS MAY (,OR MAY NOT) BE DUE TO THE FACT THAT, AS A CHILD, HIS RIGHT EYE HAD BEEN TAKEN OUT IN A RATHER UNPLEASANT CAR ACCIDENT AND EVER SINCE HE HAD DIVIDED HIS TIME BETWEEN EXPLORING HIS STRANGE NEW MONOCULAR WORLD, WHERE PERCEPTION OF SPACE WAS SORELY LACKING, AND WONDERING WHETHER THE ACCIDENT WAS AN ACT DESTINED TO HAPPEN.



IN TIME HE WOULD COME TO CALL IT HIS 'GESTALT MACHINE THEORY, BUT AT PRESENT, THE PRESENT BEING THE YEAR 1963, SUCH GRAND NAMES WERE BEYOND HIM.

TO HIS NERVOUS ASTONISHMENT, WITHIN ONE YEAR OF WORK HE WAS APPROACHED BY SPONSOR, WILLING TO FUND HIM IN HIS WORK, WITHIN REASON, FOR WHATEVER HE COULD NEED. NEVER ONE TO LOOK A GIFT HORSE IN THE MOUTH, MAX NEVER ONCE QUESTIONED THEIR MOTIVES.

THE VERY NEXT YEAR HE SUMMONED SOME OF THE GREAT ACHIEVERS FROM THE WORLDS OF FINE ART, PHOTOGRAPHY, PSYCHOLOGY AND MATHEMATICS TO A SCHOOL OF ART IN GERMANY, NAMED THE BAUHAUS, IN ORDER TO EXPLAIN HIS THEORY AND OFFER A PROPERSITION. MAX HAD COMBINED HIS VERY LIMITED KNOWLEDGE OF GESTALT PSYCHOLOGY, MATHEMATICAL PROBABILITY AND PERCEPTUAL PROCESS TO COME UP WITH HIS THEORY, AND NOW WANTED THE ASSISTANCE OF OTHERS. A 'MEETING OF MINDS', AS IT WERE. HE KNEW CONVINCING THEM WOULD NOT BE EASY, AND WAS THANKFUL FOR THE SUPPORT OF FELIX KLEE, SON OF THE FAMOUS ARTIST PAUL, AND NO LESS THAN THE INCREDIBLE MC ESCHER HIMSELF.

MAX HAD FIGURED IT WAS MORE THEIR INFLUENCE THAN HIS

PRESENCE THAT HE HAD MANAGED TO GET 12 PLUS EXPERTS ON HIS SIDE AND, FOR A TIME, TOGETHER THEY ATTEMPTED TO ACHIEVE LUDWIG'S GOAL, USING THE ART WORLD AS IT'S TEST SUBJECT, TO CALCULATE DEFINITIVE AND SPECIFIC METHODS OF PROGRESSING ART MOVEMENTS, STYLES AND SINGLE IMAGES, AND SO PROVE THAT PREDETERMINATION OR MORE SPECIFICALLY HIS "GESTALT MACHINE"

THEORY WAS A REALITY.

MANY YEARS LATER....

NOT EVEN MAX HIMSELF WOULD HAVE THOUGHT THAT BY THIS TIME, THE AUTUMN YEARS OF HIS LIFE, THAT HE WOULD STILL BE PURSUING THE SAME GOAL AS HE HAD AS A YOUNG MAN. ACTUALLY THAT WOULD BE A TOTAL LIE. OVER THE YEARS HE HAD BECOME A VERY DIFFERENT PERSON,



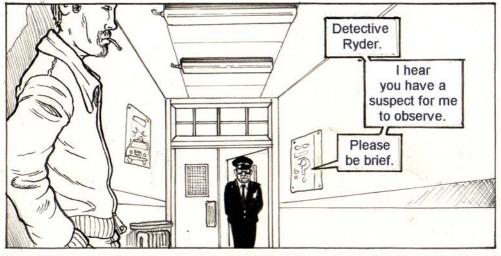
NOT JUST DRIVEN, BUT POSITIVELY FANATICAL ABOUT HIS ONE SINGLE INCREASINGLY UNSPECIFIC AND BECOMING INCREASINGLY VAGUE (ALONG WITH HIS MEMORY,) THEORY OF PRE-DETERMINATION. THOSE ASSISTING HIM HAD LONG SINCE EITHER DEPARTED FOR PASTURES NEW OR DIED OF OLD AGE THEMSELVES, IN FACT, THE ONLY PEOPLE WHO STILL PAID HIM ANY INTERESTED AT ALL NOW WERE HIS MYSTERIOUS

BENEFACTORS, WHO HAD CONTINUED TO FUND HIM IN HIS WORK, NO QUESTIONS ASKED, UNTIL ONE AFTERNOON....WHEN THEY STOPPED. HAVING TAKEN THE FUNDS FOR GRANTED AFTER SO MANY YEARS LUDWIG BECAME DECIDEDLY UPSET RESULTING IN HIS PRODUCING A PICTURE WHICH HE THOUGHT WOULD SHOW THEM THE ERROR OF THEIR WAYS (,HE WAS NOTHING IF NOT TOTALLY UNGRATEFUL).

MAX LUDWIG HAD A HEART ATTACK AND DIED.

THIS CAME AS A SHOCKING SURPRISE TO MAX, WHO ALTHOUGH OLD WAS CLEARLY NOT READY TO LEAVE HIS WORK UNFINISHED. HOWEVER, HAD HE NOT DIED HE WOULD HAVE EVEN MORE SURPRISED BY THE FIGURE WHOM APPEARED FROM NOWHERE IN THE SPACE WHERE HAD PASSED, ONCE HIS BODY HAD BEEN REMOVED, SPORTING A STRANGE BOUNCING QUIFF AND LONG SHINY BOOTS.

AS MAX WAS NOW DEAD, THE FIGURE WAS NOT HIS PROBLEM. THE BURDEN OF THE FIGURES PRESENCE LAY SQUARELY ON THE SHOULDERS OF DETECTIVE BARRY RYDER, WHOM WAS INVESTIGATING, AT THE REQUEST OF ONE OF LUDWIGS EX-STUDENT'S THE DISAPPEARANCE OF THE PAINTING WHICH LUDWIG WAS WORKING ON...



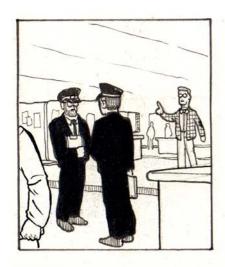




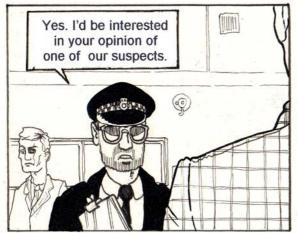


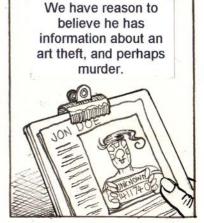


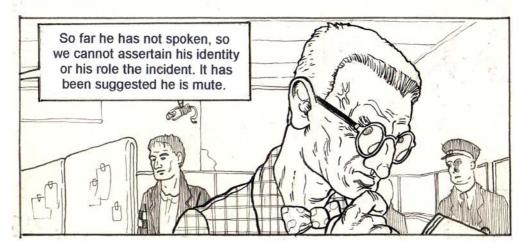


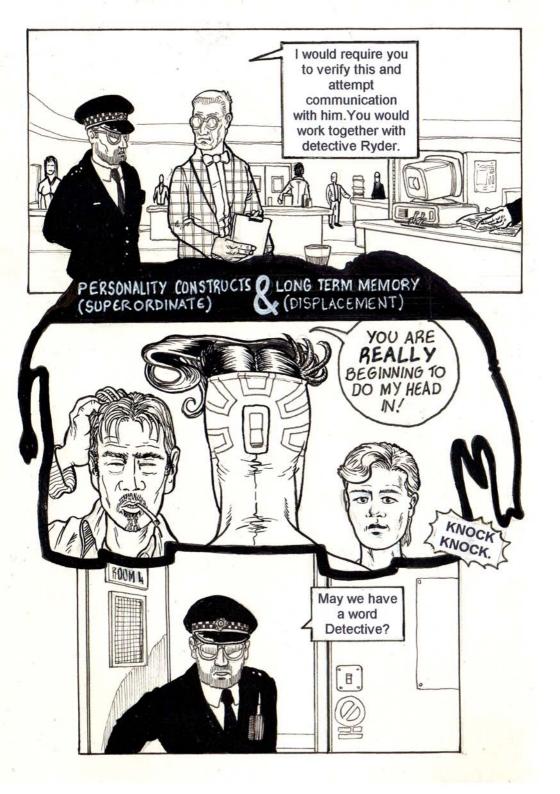










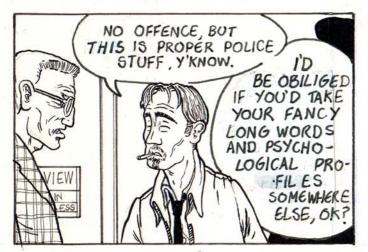




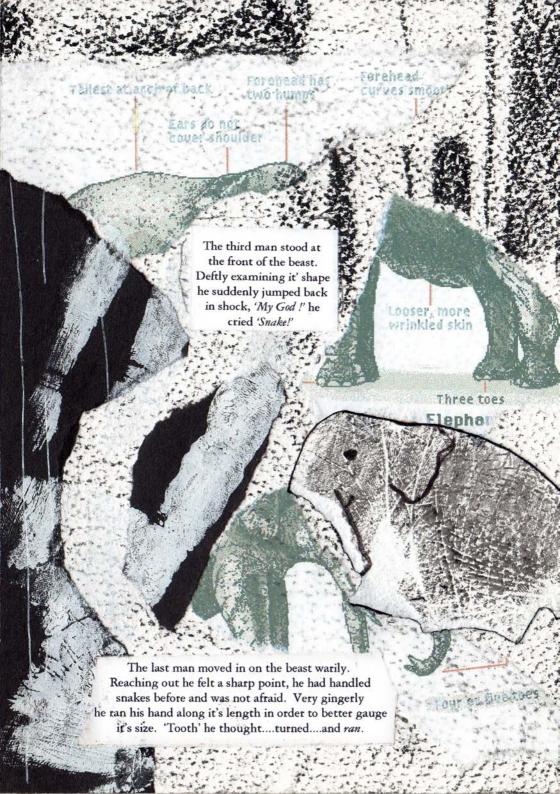


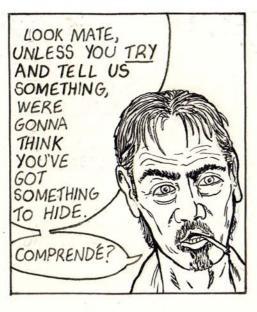






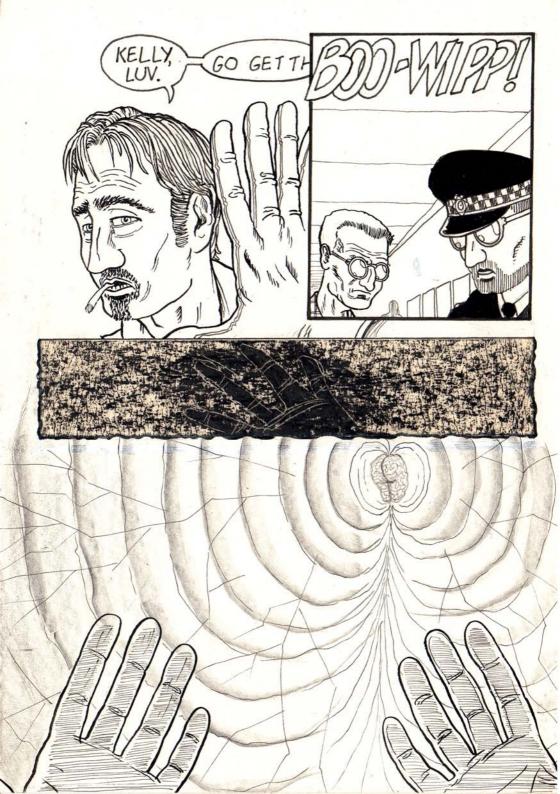






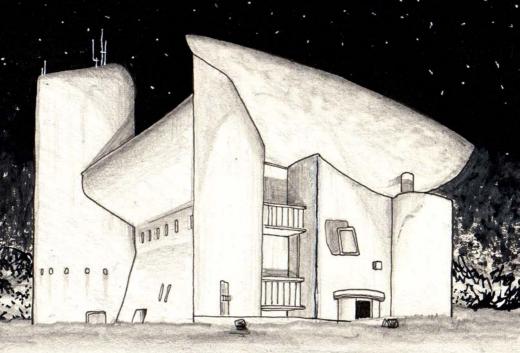


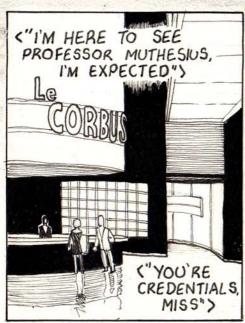




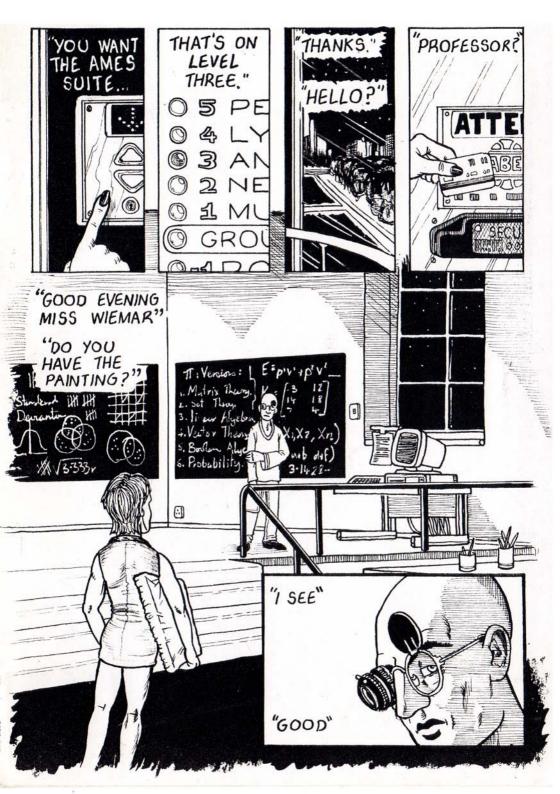


THAT EVENING. SOMEWHERE IN EUROPE.....











THIS IS A
ADVERTIZEMENT FER
MAGIC LAMP BOY
COMIC.

IT IS A BIT GOOD

I LIKEIT COZITIS LITTLE BUT HAS GOT A LOT OF BITS OF THINGS INIT.

ALL OF THE PREVIOUS 4 ISSUES ARE AVAILABLE BY MAIL ORDER, JUST SEND A SELF ADDRESSED S,A.E AND A CHEQUE OR POSTAL ORDER PAYABLE TO JOHN COOPER TO THE LAMPOSTS ADDRESS ON THE INSIDE COVER EACH ISSUE IS 65P









