

741.5

**INDIGENOUS
AVENGERS**
AND OTHER HARDCORE HISTORIES

NOVEMBER 2023 NO. 108

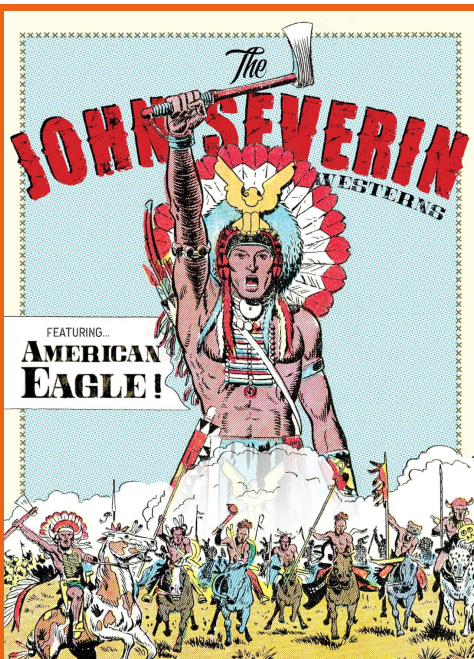
**PLUS...NATIVE AMERICAN
COVER GALLERY!**



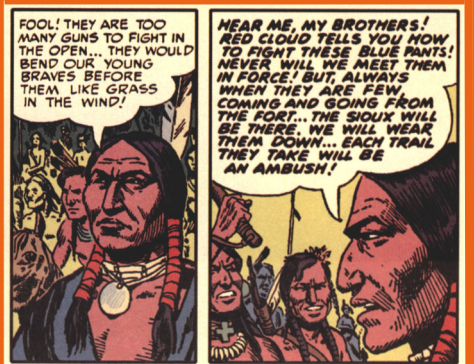
The Comics & Graphic Novel Bulletin of



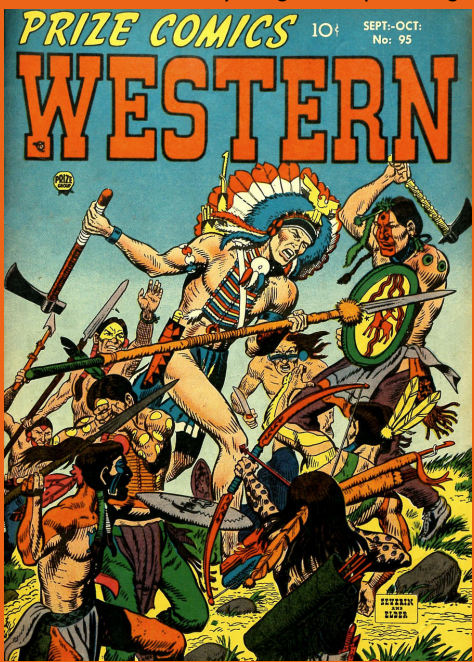
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Reading Is Just the Beginning!



The postwar comics biz saw a big shake-up as the original superheroes faded and were replaced by new genres. Once the home of Frankenstein and Yank & Doodle, Prize Comics became Prize Western. A passel of generic cowpokes gave way to one of the best series star-



ring a Native American, American Eagle. Renowned for the authentic art by John Severin and Bill Elder, the struggles of the mighty Crow warrior against wicked white men and hostile tribes (above) are reprinted in *The John Severin Westerns*. It's on its way, so go to lexpublib.org/



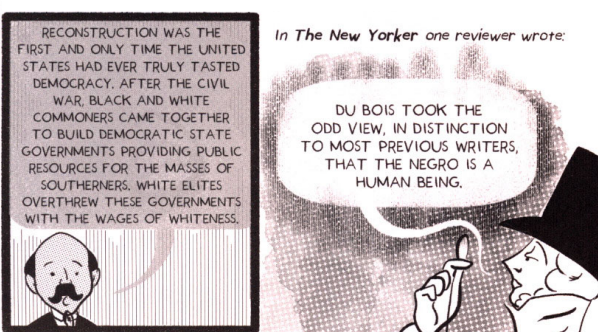
For many, the mythology of Thanksgiving, of the graceful meeting of European and indigenous American cultures, has come to curdle like old gravy. The fearsome facts of the conquest of the First Nations sit heavy on those with the stomach to face them. Have a heaping helping of hardcore history with the improved *500 Years of Indigenous Resistance Comic Book*.



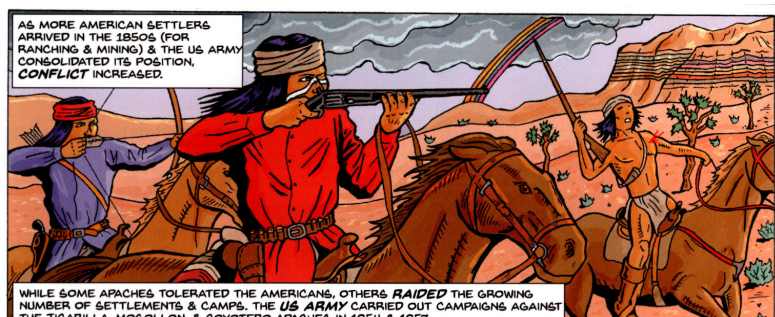
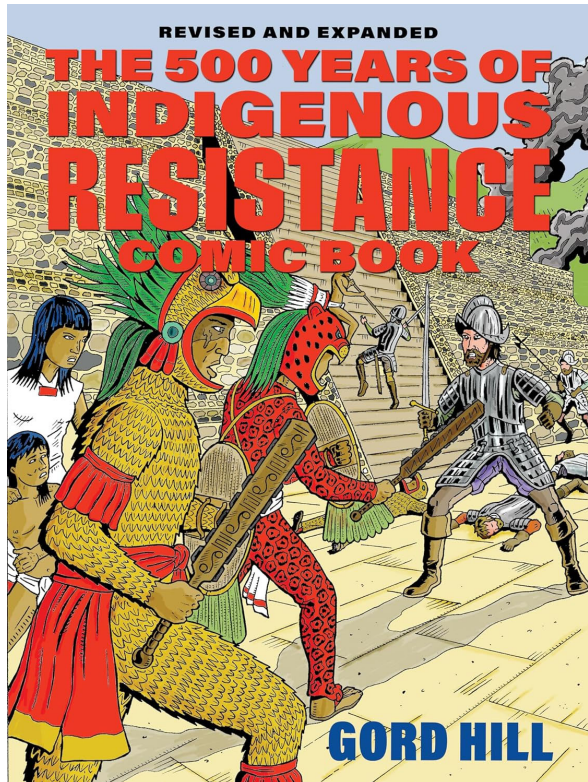
From the postwar era to the undergrounds of the 1970s, comics featured Native Americans not as villains, but as heroes. Radio stars like Tonto and Straight Arrow competed with "White Indians" like the Apache Kid and the famous Frazetta character for sales, while historically accurate comics such as "White Eagle" and Fiction House's *Indians* sold next to sensationalistic titles like Avon's *Chief Victoria's Apache Massacre*.



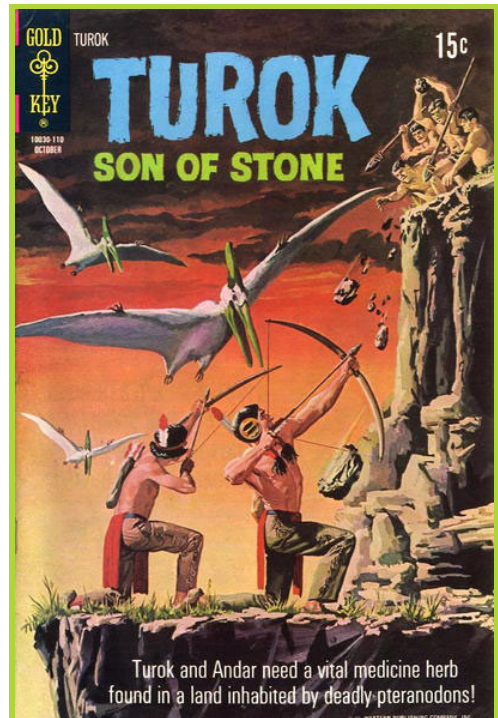
STAMPED FROM THE BEGINNING
A Graphic History of Racist Ideas in America
ALL LEXINGTON PUBLIC LIBRARY LOCATIONS



More radical realism concerning our nation's history gets the graphic treatment thanks to Joel Christian Gill's adaptation of Ibram X. Kendi's *Stamped from the Beginning* (Ten Speed). Gill uses a simple, cartoonish style endowed with heft and solidity by expert use of cross-hatching to tell the complex story of *Racist Ideas in America*. From Thomas Jefferson to Tarzan of the Apes to Trump, Kendi & Gill unsparingly tell the truth about the lies we've lived (and died) by.



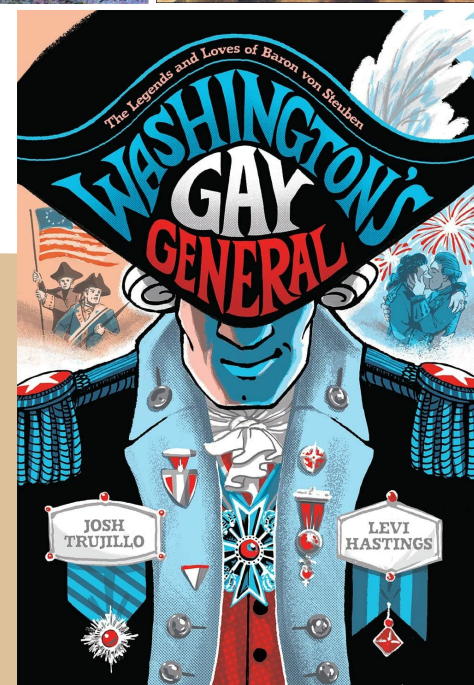
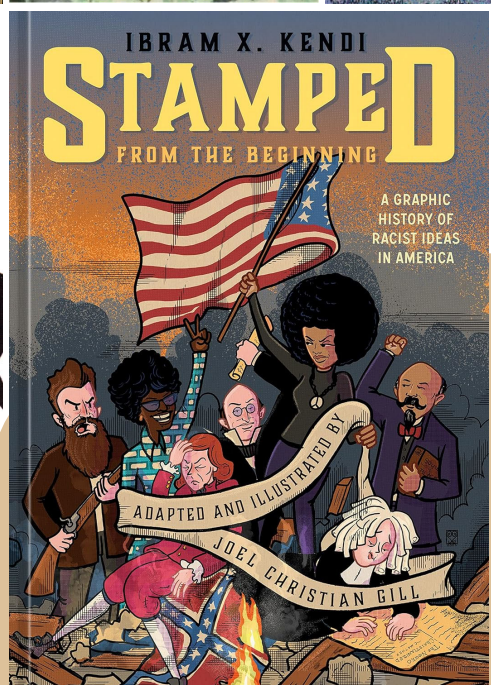
The comics below pretended to tell the story from the Native point of view; this one does. Author Gord Hill belongs to one of several tribes whose ongoing conflict with the Canadian government (below) takes up the last third of this Oversize TEEN item available at Central and Marksbury. As history is being made, *500 Years* ends awaiting further chapters.



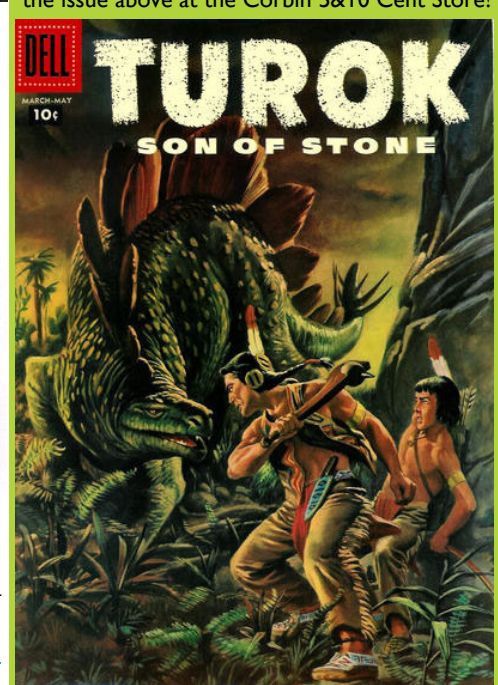
Kids love playing cowboys'n'Indians. And kids love dinosaurs. So why not make 'em twice as happy and give kids both? Thus was born one of the oddest series starting a Native American hero. Running from 1954 to 1982, *Turok Son of Stone* followed the eponymous pre-Columbian

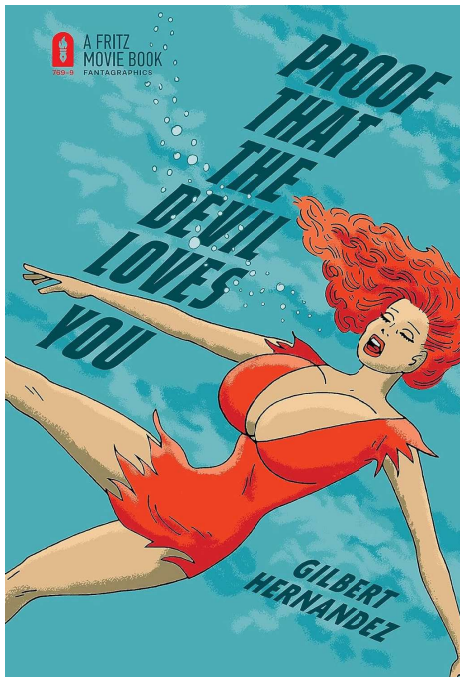


warrior and his teen sidekick Andar as they travelled through a subterranean biosphere inhabited by dinosaurs ("honkers") and other prehistoric creatures. Published first by Dell (below), then Gold Key (above), Dark Horse reprinted the series in hardbacks available via LPL's Inter-Library Loan service. I actually got the issue above at the Corbin 5&10 Cent Store!

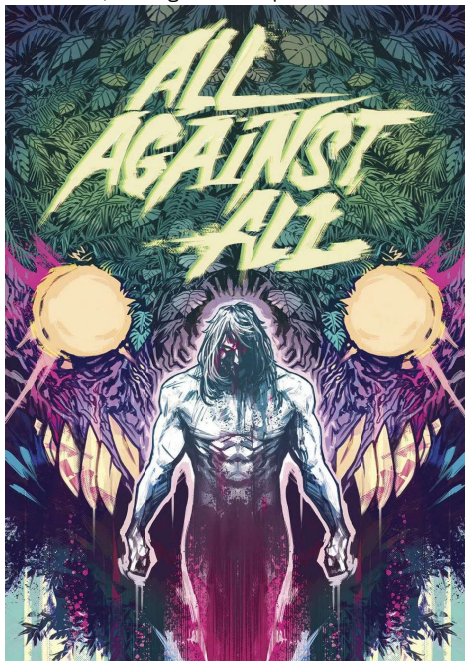


The fawning over the Founding Fathers we've seen of late deliberately obscures much about the birth of our nation—for instance, the influence of outsiders who joined the Revolution for their own reasons. One such out-of-towner was professional Prussian soldier, Baron von Steuben. The colonies would still be the Colonies if not for the hard work Steuben did. He turned a rabble of dirt farmers into a modern fighting force, all while being as out and proud as a man-loving man could be in those times. Trujillo & Hastings evoke a gay history that also meditates on the complexity of gay histories.



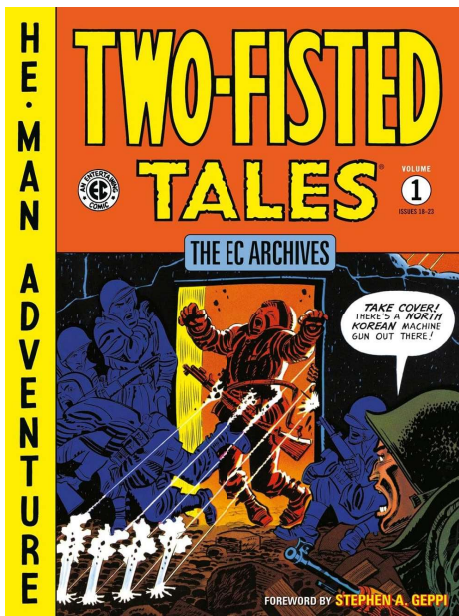


Fiction begat fiction. Fritz Martinez is a recurring character in the comic books created by cartoonist **Gilbert Hernandez**. In these comics, the former psychiatrist capitalized on her unearthly beauty and talent for dissembling and became a film actress. That imaginary career of an imaginary actress has been detailed in a series of graphic novels adapting the films she's made. Some of the movies are straight-up grindhouse fare (*Chance in Hell*, *King Vampire*), others obscurantist art films like *Hypnotwist* and **Beto's** latest, *Proof That the Devil Loves You* (Fantagraphics). Like all his "movie novels," *Proof...* is published in a hardback format smaller than the usual *Love & Rockets* reprints like the recent *Children of Palomar* (see 741.5 # 93). Cobbled together from free-standing L & R stories, *Proof...* includes a parody of **Gilbert's** Palomar stories, a weird funny animal tale, a short sci-fi number followed by a Doctor Who-ish routine where all the film characters played by Fritz meet each other, ending in a European drama as Fritz



MEANWHILE

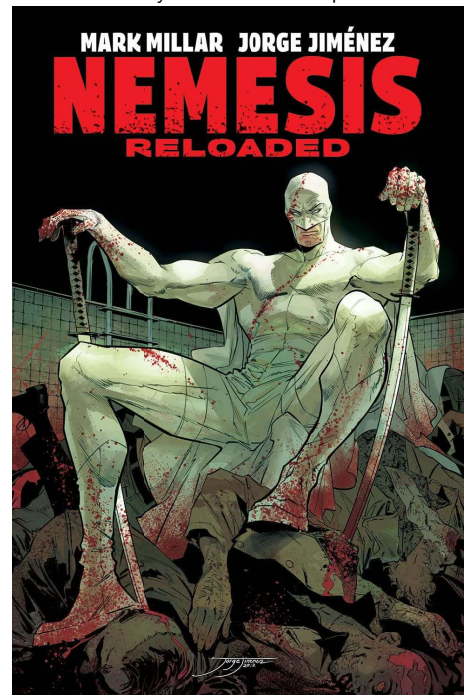
and a companion walk and talk, talk and walk. And it's all drawn real, real pretty, cuz it's **Gilbert Hernandez**, dig? One of his biggest influences was **Jesse Marsh**, who drew the early Dell comics starring the world-famous *Tarzan of the Apes*. **Marsh** rendered the adventures of the Lord of the Jungle with clean, simple layouts, and a blunt physicality. If you handed **Marsh** a modern computer with all the latest drawing apps on it, would it look like *All Against All*? Given the story is basically *Tarzan vs. Martians*, it's a question worth asking. Artist **Caspar Wijngaard** uses all the latest gizmos to color and polish and mod up his work. But ultimately his drawings are much like those of **Marsh**, with a fierce brush-heavy approach to "inking" and a meaty muscularity to the figures. **Alex Paknadel's** script shows some mightily self-impressed imperialist aliens facing an experiment goes wrong that unleashes a space-born mutant nature boy with a grudge. Did I mention



he's the last human being left in the universe? Sounds like a story from one of the EC sci-fi comics, like *Weird Fantasy*. The latest Dark Horse reprint of that title is on LPL shelves at all locations, featuring classic covers by editor/writer **Al Feldstein** and the usual fine work of **Wally Wood**, **Jack Kamen**, **Joe Orlando** and others. Also available is the first DH paperback volume dedicated to EC's *Two-Fisted Tales*. Originally intended to be "HE MAN ADVENTURE", the advent of the Korean War quickly transformed *Two-Fisted Tales* into a leader in the spanking new genre of war comics (see 741.5 # 57). Like **Feldstein**, editor **Harvey Kurtzman** was also the head writer of his books, as well as a contributor. Kurtzman's dedication to authenticity and historical accuracy come through no matter the artist or subject, whether **Jack Davis** or **John Severin**, a night patrol in Korea or a rainy day in medieval Agincourt. Meanwhile, to rip off *The Onion*, Fairyland's long national nightmare of peace and prosperity is finally coming to an end. Living in a land of dreams and delight only infuriated little green-haired Gert, who grew up waging ceaseless war on Fairyland. Finally shed of the place,



Gert finds the Real World just as disappointing as it is disgusting. So she jumps at the opportunity to tumble back down the rabbit hole when a crazy rich guy hires her to soften up Fairy-land for an eventual takeover and transformation into a dimension-sized theme park. Things don't go as planned, for either Gert, her boss, or those citizens of Fairyland who want Gert good and gone for good. See how Gert gets the hell out of Hell in *I Hate Fairyland V5: Gert's Inferno*, available at all LPL locations. As is another Image release, *Nemesis Reloaded*. A jacked-up remix of one of **Mark Millar's** earliest works, *Reloaded* re-introduces the World's Worst Super-Villain. Imagine if Bruce Wayne's parents were lowlifes done in by the law, not criminals, and you've got the basic set-up. Now part of the Millarverse, along with *Wanted*, *Kick Ass* and *Jupiter's Legacy*, *Nemesis* tops all those for 90s-style nihilistic action-packed kicks!



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