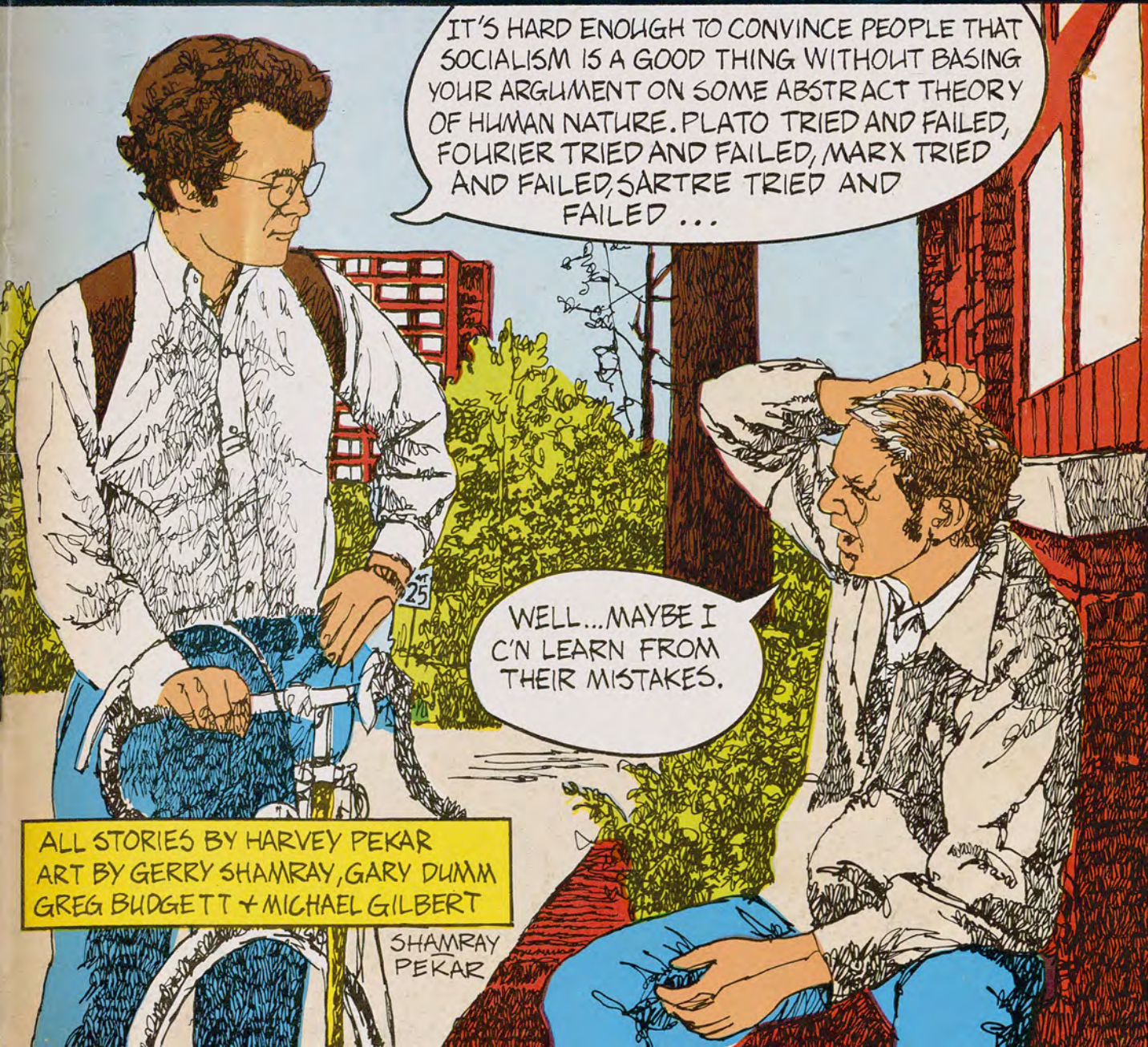


FROM OFF THE STREETS OF CLEVELAND COMES: \$2.25

#6

AMERICAN splendor



IT'S HARD ENOUGH TO CONVINCE PEOPLE THAT SOCIALISM IS A GOOD THING WITHOUT BASING YOUR ARGUMENT ON SOME ABSTRACT THEORY OF HUMAN NATURE. PLATO TRIED AND FAILED, FOURIER TRIED AND FAILED, MARX TRIED AND FAILED, SARTRE TRIED AND FAILED ...

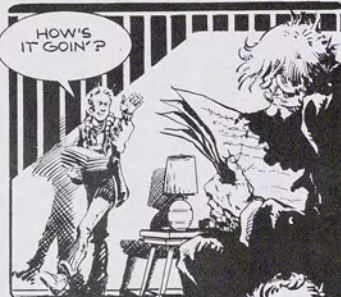
WELL...MAYBE I
C'N LEARN FROM
THEIR MISTAKES.

ALL STORIES BY HARVEY PEKAR
ART BY GERRY SHAMRAY, GARY DUMM
GREG BUDGETT + MICHAEL GILBERT

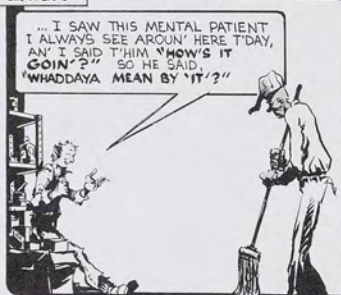
SHAMRAY
PEKAR

DEFINITIONS

STORY: HARVEY PEKAR
ART: MICHAEL T. GILBERT 37 ©1981



LATER...



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RIPOFF CHICK

SUMMER, 1975.
I'M DESPERATELY LONELY AND HORNY.
MY BODDY FREDDY,
VISITING ME FROM BROOKLYN, AND I GO
INTO A NEIGHBORHOOD DELICATESSEN.

STORY BY
HARVEY PEKAR
ART BY
GREG BUDGETT
GARY DUMM

WE'RE SITTING DOWN EATING AND I SPOT A GHOOP AT ANOTHER TABLE. ONE WOMAN, ABOUT THIRTY-TWO, WHO'S WITH THIS LOCAL PUNK BIKER, IS FAMILIAR TO ME. HER CONVERSATION WAS FULL OF TRENDY WORDS AND PHRASES.



I EAVESDROP AND BY THE TIME WE'RE READY TO LEAVE THE PLACE I'VE FIGURED OUT WHO SHE IS.



FREDDY, THAT'S CARLA MORRAY. I HAVEN'T SEEN HER IN TEN, TWELVE YEARS.

©1981 BY HARVEY PEKAR

THANKS T'HIM AN' SOME OTHER PEOPLE I HADN'T COUNTED ON, I GOT MOVED IN TIME, BUT THAT AIN'T ALL I WANNA TELL YA. THERE'S A LESSON IN THIS.



NUTS TO THE SO-CALLED FRIENDS A' YERS WHO GRIN IN YER FACE BUT AIN'T THERE WHEN YOU NEED 'EM. PEOPLE LIKE THAT ARE A DIME A DOZEN.



FRIENDLINESS IS NOT ONE OF THE FIRST THINGS I LOOK FOR IN A FRIEND. THE MOST IMPORTANT THINGS ARE HONESTY AN' RELIABILITY. GIMME A SOUR-FACED BUDDY WHO RETURNS PHONE CALLS, SHOWS UP WHEN HE'S SUPPOSED TO, AN' PAYS HIS DEBTS WHEN THEY'RE DUE.



THIS IS A TOUGH WORLD, FOLKS WE ALL NEED HELP T' GET BY SO HELP YER FRIENDS AN' MAKE SURE THEY HELP YOU OR KNOW TH' REASON WHY.



UH, AM I STILL ON?



END

JUNKSHOPPING (An Allegory)

STORY BY HARVEY PEKAR

RUTH, 'HONEY, SINCE YER GONNA BE WORKIN' ON THAT DRESS, I'M GONNA GO TO TH' RUMMAGE SALE UP TH' STREET. MAYBE THEY'LL HAVE SOME RECORDS OR SUMP'N.

O.K., HAVE A GOOD TIME.



ART BY GARY DUMM

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SOON...

NOT MANY RECORDS LEFT... THEY BEEN PICKED OVER.



HEY, HERE'S SOME JAZZTONE STUFF! LESSEE - ALBERT NICHOLAS AN' MEZZ MEZZROW - I AIN'T GOT THAT ONE, BUCK CLAYTON - I AIN'T GOT THAT ONE, JOE NEWMAN - I GOT THAT ONE BUT I CAN TRADE IT FOR SUMP'N NICE.



THEY'RE IN DECENT SHAPE, TOO. HUH, IT AIN'T OFTEN Y' RUN INTO STUFF LIKE THIS AT A RUMMAGE SALE.



OH, MAM, HOW MUCH ARE THESE L.P.'S?

NORMALLY, THEY'RE 50¢ A PIECE, BUT WE'RE HAVING A BAG SALE TODAY FOR A DOLLAR. WHY DON'T YOU GET A BAG AND FILL IT UP WITH THEM AND ANYTHING ELSE AROUND FOR \$1.00.

CYCLICAL THEORY

YOU
LOOK GLUM.
'S'MATTER? A
COUPLE WEEKS
AGO WHEN I SAW
YA YOU SAID
EVERYTHING
WAS FINE.

IT WAS THEN, BUT THIS IS NOW AN'
THINGS ARE MESSED UP... YOU KNOW HOW
THAT IS - Y' TRY T' GET IT T'GETHER AN' Y' DO
FOR AWHILE. THEN THEY FALL APART SO YA
TRY AGAIN AN' IT TAKES YA TEN YEARS BUT
FINALLY Y' THINK Y'R IN GOOD SHAPE AGAIN,
AN' THEN SOMETHIN' ELSE HAPPENS T' RIP
TH' PROPS OUT FROM UNDER YER LIFE AN' BY
THAT TIME Y' OLD AN' Y' DIE. GRIM, AIN'T IT?



CONCEPT
& WRITING
by
HARVEY
PEKAR

ART by
GREG
BUDGETT
GARY
DUMM