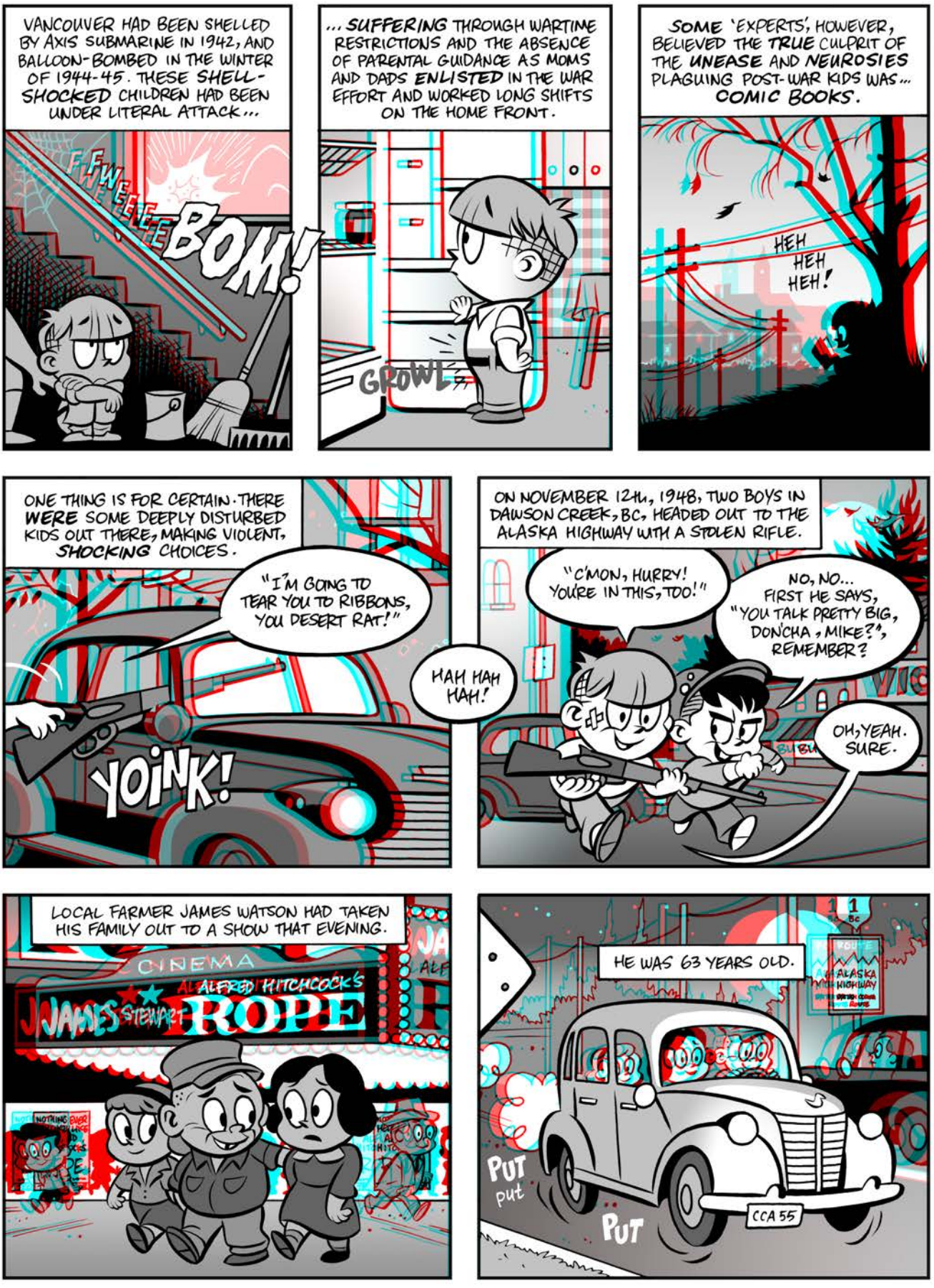
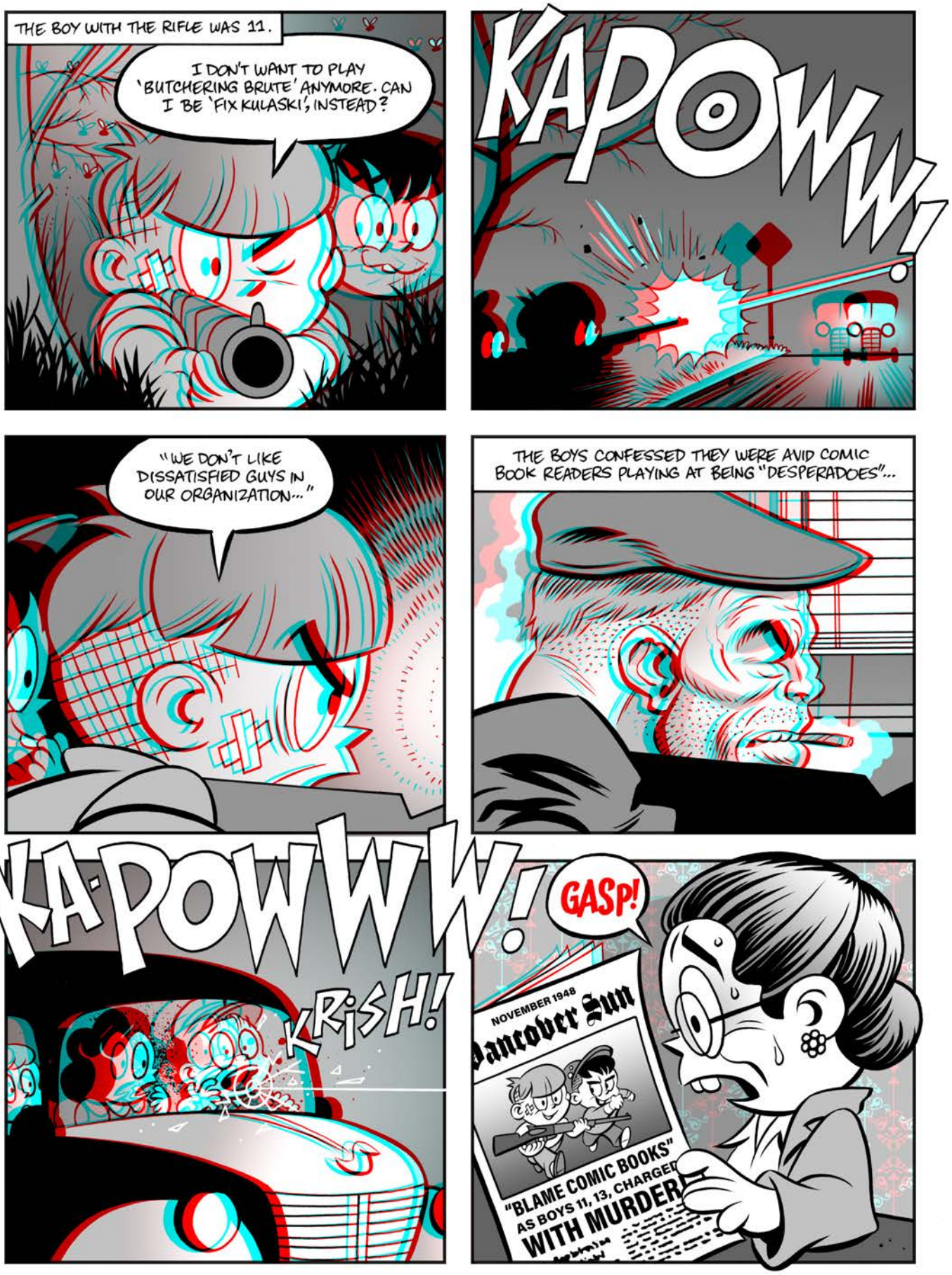
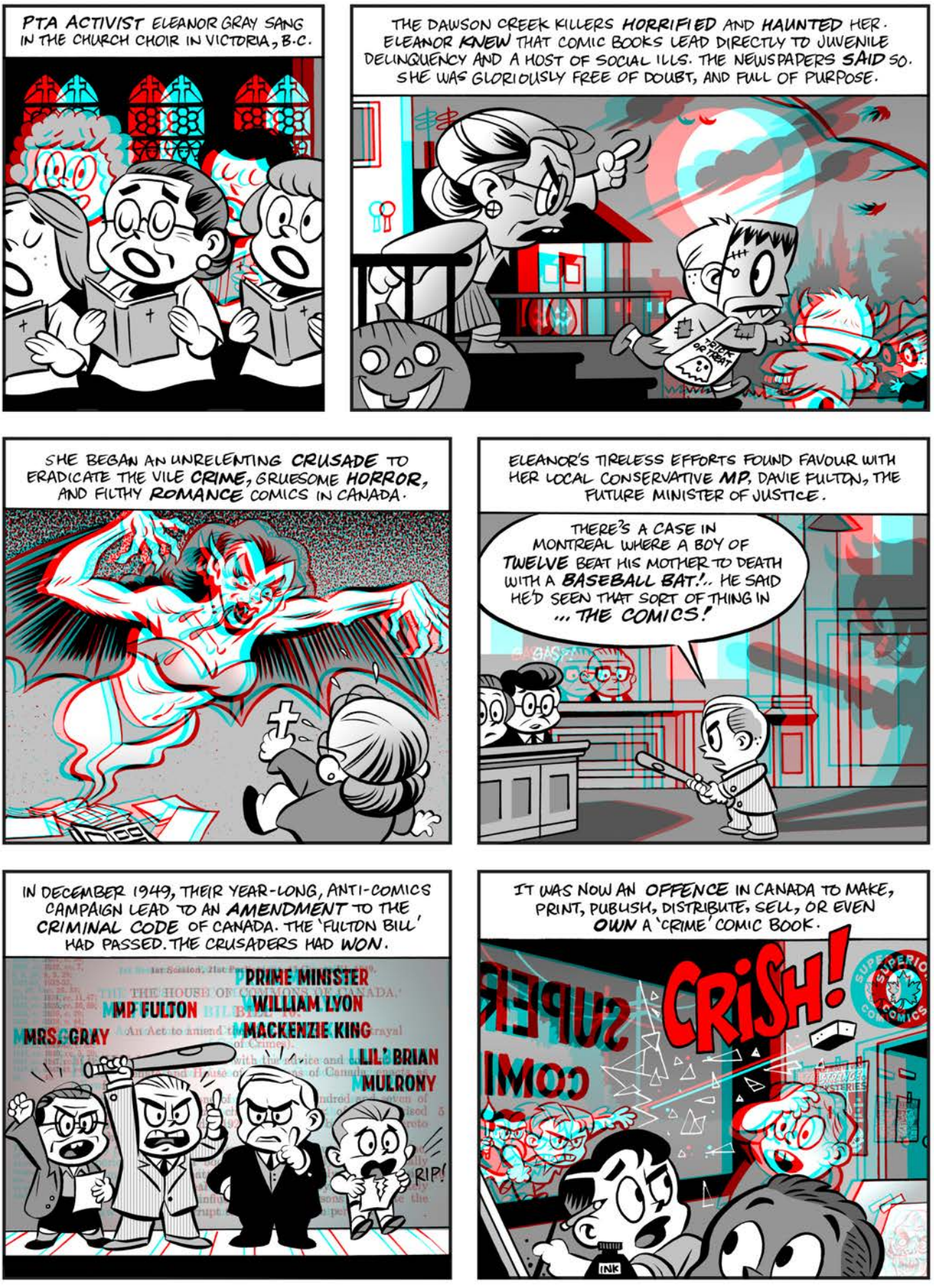
WHEN YOU ARE FRIGHTENED, DO YOU FLEE, FREEZE, OR FIGHT? IS THERE A WRONG WAY TO BE AFRAID? FIND OUT IN THIS HORRIFYING TALE OF MURDER AND MASS HYSTERIA...
JOURNEY into FEAR
THIRD DIMENSIONAL TRUE CRIME TERROR!
OCTOBER 1948
Vancover Sun
JUVENILE DELIQUENCY
CAUSED BY LURID COMIC BOOKS
WITH OVER 42,000 CANADIAN SOLDIERS KILLED DURING THE COURSE OF WORLD WAR II, BRITISH COLUMBIAN CHILDREN IN 1948 HAD ONLY EVER KNOWN A SHORT, TRAUMATIC LIFETIME OF LOSS, PARANOIA, AND FEAR...
NEW
RIFLE!
REALISTIC
$1.99
MYSTERIES
TRUE CRIME
10¢


VANCOUVER HAD BEEN SHELLED BY AXIS SUBMARINE IN 1942, AND BALLOON-BOMBED IN THE WINTER OF 1944-45. THESE SHELL-SHOCKED CHILDREN HAD BEEN UNDER LITERAL ATTACK...
FFWEEEEE
BOM!
...SUFFERING THROUGH WARTIME RESTRICTIONS AND THE ABSENCE OF PARENTAL GUIDANCE AS MOMS AND DADS ENLISTED IN THE WAR EFFORT AND WORKED LONG SHIFTS ON THE HOME FRONT.
GROWL
SOME 'EXPERTS', HOWEVER, BELIEVED THE TRUE CULPRIT OF THE UNEASE AND NEUROSIES PLAGUING POST-WAR KIDS WAS... COMIC BOOKS.
HEH HEH HEH!
ONE THING IS FOR CERTAIN. THERE WERE SOME DEEPLY DISTURBED KIDS OUT THERE, MAKING VIOLENT, SHOCKING CHOICES.
"I'M GOING TO TEAR YOU TO RIBBONS, YOU DESERT RAT!"
YOINK!
HAH HAH HAH!
ON NOVEMBER 12th, 1948, TWO BOYS IN DAWSON CREEK, BC, HEADED OUT TO THE ALASKA HIGHWAY WITH A STOLEN RIFLE.
"C'MON, HURRY! YOU'RE IN THIS, TOO!"
NO, NO... FIRST HE SAYS, "YOU TALK PRETTY BIG, DON'CHA, MIKE?", REMEMBER?
OH, YEAH. SURE.
LOCAL FARMER JAMES WATSON HAD TAKEN HIS FAMILY OUT TO A SHOW THAT EVENING.
CINEMA
ALFRED HITCHCOCK'S
JAMES STEWART
ROPE
HE WAS 63 YEARS OLD.
ALASKA HIGHWAY
PUT
put
PUT
CCA 55


THE BOY WITH THE RIFLE WAS 11.
I DON'T WANT TO PLAY 'BUTCHERING BRUTE' ANYMORE. CAN I BE 'FIX KULASKI', INSTEAD?
KAPOWW!
"WE DON'T LIKE DISSATISFIED GUYS IN OUR ORGANIZATION..."
THE BOYS CONFESSED THEY WERE AVID COMIC BOOK READERS PLAYING AT BEING "DESPERADOES"...
KA-POWWW!
KRISH!
GASP!
NOVEMBER 1948
"BLAME COMIC BOOKS" AS BOYS 11, 13, CHARGED WITH MURDER


PTA ACTIVIST ELEANOR GRAY SANG IN THE CHURCH CHOIR IN VICTORIA, B.C.
THE DAWSON CREEK KILLERS HORRIFIED AND HAUNTED HER. ELEANOR KNEW THAT COMIC BOOKS LEAD DIRECTLY TO JUVENILE DELINQUENCY AND A HOST OF SOCIAL ILLS. THE NEWSPAPERS SAID SO. SHE WAS GLORIOUSLY FREE OF DOUBT, AND FULL OF PURPOSE.
TRICK OR TREAT
SHE BEGAN AN UNRELENTING CRUSADE TO ERADICATE THE VILE CRIME, GRUESOME HORROR, AND FILTHY ROMANCE COMICS IN CANADA.
ELEANOR'S TIRELESS EFFORTS FOUND FAVOUR WITH HER LOCAL CONSERVATIVE MP, DAVIE FULTON, THE FUTURE MINISTER OF JUSTICE.
THERE'S A CASE IN MONTREAL WHERE A BOY OF TWELVE BEAT HIS MOTHER TO DEATH WITH A BASEBALL BAT!.. HE SAID HE'D SEEN THAT SORT OF THING IN ... THE COMICS!
BASE
IN DECEMBER 1949, THEIR YEAR-LONG, ANTI-COMICS CAMPAIGN LEAD TO AN AMENDMENT TO THE CRIMINAL CODE OF CANADA. THE 'FULTON BILL' HAD PASSED. THE CRUSADERS HAD WON.
PRIME MINISTER WILLIAM LYON MACKENZIE KING
MP FULTON
MRS. GRAY
LIL' BRIAN MULRONY
RIP!
IT WAS NOW AN OFFENCE IN CANADA TO MAKE, PRINT, PUBLISH, DISTRIBUTE, SELL, OR EVEN OWN A 'CRIME' COMIC BOOK.
CRISH!
INK

FLUSHED WITH MORAL TRIUMPH, MS. GRAY AND MP FULTON CONTINUED THEIR *WITCH HUNT* SOUTH OF THE BORDER, THE *SOURCE* OF THE WORST OFFENDERS OF *LURID* FOUR-COLOUR *TRASH*.

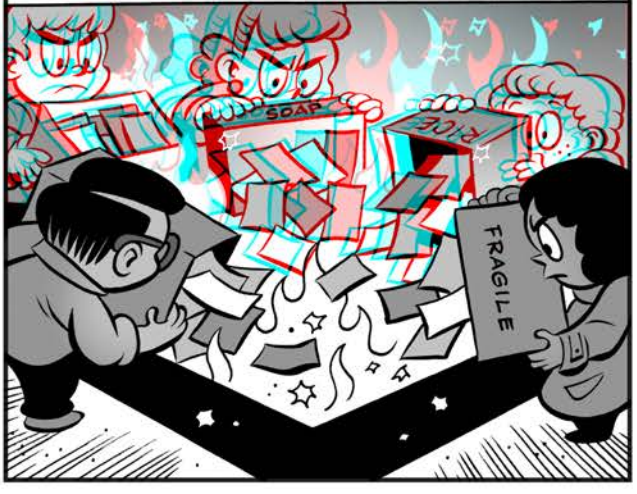
JOINING FORCES WITH LIKE-MINDED GERMAN-AMERICAN PSYCHIATRIST DR. FREDRIC WERTHAM, THEIR TIRELESS *WAR* ON COMIC BOOKS RAGED ON.

DR. WERTHAM'S FALSIFIED *'EVIDENCE'* LEAD TO THE PUBLICATION OF HIS NOTORIOUS BOOK ABOUT THE CORRUPTING INFLUENCE OF COMICS, 'SEDUCTION OF THE INNOCENT' IN 1954, WHICH FEATURED A CHAPTER ON THE DAWSON CREEK MURDER.

DISMISSED DECADES LATER FOR IT'S ALTERED, COMPROMISED, AND FABRICATED DATA, THIS ANTI-SCIENCE DIATRIBE NEVERTHELESS BECAME A LIGHTNING ROD FOR WIDESPREAD COMIC BOOK *PANIC*, FANNING THE *FLAMES* OF ANTI-COMICS *HATRED*.

SOMETIMES *LITERALLY*.

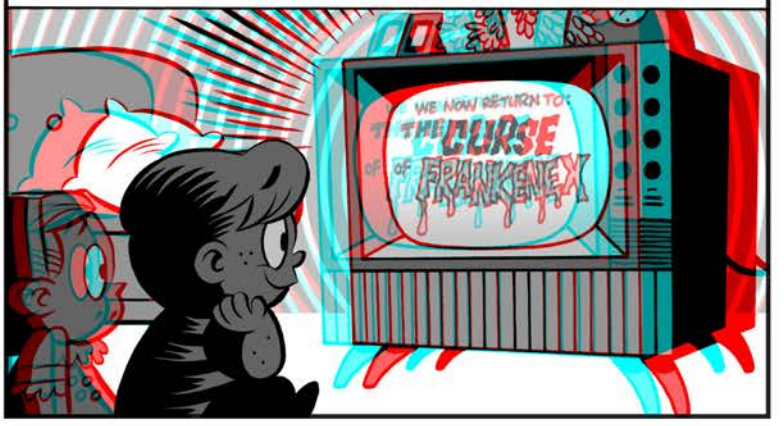
THE CRUSADERS HAD WON *AGAIN*. 'SEDUCTION OF THE INNOCENT' LEAD TO U.S. SENATE SUBCOMMITTEE HEARINGS IN 1954 ...



... WHICH LEAD TO THE PROHIBITIVE, PUNITIVE, SELF-CENSORSHIP OF THE *COMICS CODE AUTHORITY*.

"CRIMES SHALL NEVER BE PRESENTED IN SUCH A WAY AS TO CREATE SYMPATHY FOR THE CRIMINAL..."
SNIF!
"...JUDGES, GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS, AND RESPECTED INSTITUTIONS SHALL NEVER BE PRESENTED IN SUCH A WAY AS TO CREATE DISRESPECT FOR ESTABLISHED AUTHORITY."
"IN EVERY INSTANCE GOOD SHALL TRIUMPH OVER EVIL AND THE CRIMINAL PUNISHED FOR HIS MISDEEDS."
"...SCENES OF EXCESSIVE VIOLENCE SHALL BE PROHIBITED."
"NO COMIC MAGAZINE SHALL USE THE WORDS "HORROR" OR "TERROR" IN ITS TITLE."
SENSATIONAL
TERRO
"...ALL LURID, UNSAVORY, GRUESOME ILLUSTRATIONS SHALL BE ELIMINATED."
IZZLE!
"...WALKING DEAD, TORTURE, VAMPIRES AND VAMPIRISM, GHOULS, CANNIBALISM, AND WEREWOLFISM ARE PROHIBITED."
SLURP!
UH! OH!
"...WORDS OR SYMBOLS WHICH HAVE ACQUIRED UNDESIRABLE MEANINGS ARE FORBIDDEN."
S#!*
"SEX PERVERSION OR ANY INFERENCE TO SAME IS STRICTLY FORBIDDEN."

AND THAT'S HOW A CHOIR SINGER AND TWO TROUBLED BOYS FROM BRITISH COLUMBIA, CANADA, WERE RESPONSIBLE FOR SETTING IN MOTION 60 YEARS OF RESTRICTIVE **CENSORSHIP** IN NORTH AMERICA, ENDING FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND STUNTING THE GROWTH AND **MATURITY** OF THE ENTIRE COMIC BOOK MEDIUM.



SOMEHOW JUVENILE DELIQUENCY PERSISTED. SOME CHILDREN CONTINUED TO ACT OUT VIOLENTLY... AND CHILD-PROOF COMIC BOOKS LIKE LITTLE LULU, ARCHIE, AND DONALD DUCK COULD NO LONGER BE **BLAMED.**

INEVITABLY, **NEW** SCAPEGOATS WERE FOUND TO CRUSADE AGAINST -- FEARFUL FINGERS POINTED **ELSEWHERE.**

IN AN EFFORT TO FIND AN **EASY** SOLUTION FOR A NATION OF CHILDREN STRUGGLING WITH POOR **MENTAL HEALTH** OR THE SCARS OF **POVERTY**... WE CONTINUE TO THIS DAY TO WAGE WAR AGAINST **NIGHTMARES** AND **BOGEYMEN**... FORGETTING THAT EVERYBODY LOSES WHEN WE