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If you like pinheads, I mean if you really like pinheads, then there’s a new book that you simply must add to your library. *Ding Dong Daddy from Dingburg* is the latest collection of *Zippy the Pinhead* strips from creator Bill Griffith. It’s got the usual quota of non-sequiturs, pop culture references, bizarre roadside attractions, and off-the-wall philosophical musings that *Zippy* fans have come to expect in the 30+ years Griffith has been writing and drawing the strip. However, what’s really interesting about this latest compilation is that most of the daily and Sunday strips take place in Dingburg, a town entirely populated by pinheads, male and female, adults and children, even African-American pinheads. Oddly enough, I have yet see any Hispanic or Asian pinheads rubbing elbows with Zippy, so I wonder what’s up with that. Questions of political correctness aside, this book finds Zippy in rare form. Griffith, creator Griffith’s cartoon alter ego, Zippy’s most frequent interlocutor is there, of course, as well as supporting players like Zerbinia, Zippy’s spouse, his children Fuelrod and Meltdown, and his depressed, black-clad brother Lippy. Also on hand are Shelf-Life, his media-obsessed cohort, the loserish redneck Claude Funston, the obnoxious and hyper-manipulative Mr. Toad (one of Griffith’s earliest underground creations), and the Almighty, God Himself, in the form of a giant, disembodied head of an old white guy.

To you Metal-Heads who are unacquainted with the origin of America’s favorite microcephalic, here’s a little bit of background. Zippy made his first appearance in *Real Pulp Comix* #1 (March, 1971) in a story entitled, “I Gave My Heart to a Pinhead and He Made a Fool Out of Me.” Griffith realized he was on to something with this pinhead, so he developed Zippy into a recurring character that was picked up as a weekly one-tier black and white strip in the famous counterculture paper, *The Berkeley Barb* in 1976, following appearances in *Yow!* and other underground titles. Rip Off Press soon syndicated the strip nationally in underground papers all over the U.S., and was then picked up by King Features Syndicate in 1986. *Zippy* now runs in 200 papers all over the U.S., and is self-syndicated by Griffith to a number of college and underground newspapers. Since then, there’s been a small flood of *Zippy* merchandise, including T-shirts, calendars, cloth dolls and books. Of course, there have been rumblings about a *Zippy* movie for several decades (including a live action one that would have starred showbiz whack job Randy Quaid as Zippy. Boy, talk about a match made in casting heaven!) Oh, and in case you didn’t know, the Zippy strip is the source of the oft-quoted catch-phrase, “Are we having fun yet?”

Anyway, in the late 90s, after years of production work, Griffith came heartbreaking closely close to getting *Zippy* on TV as an animated series. However, Zippy remains as-yet unfilmed, and may in fact be unfilmable. The fact is Griffith’s comic strip may just be too esoteric, too intelligent, and too darned bizarre to make it onto the big screen. Still, Griffith has gotten his share of pop culture accolades over the years. The Cartoon Art Museum in San Francisco mounted a show of Griffith’s work, entitled, “Zippy and Beyond: A Pinhead’s Progress” in 1999. Despite the fact that most readers of the mainstream funny pages don’t really “get” Zippy’s special brand of humor and social commentary, Griffith’s colleagues in the National Cartoonists Society nominated Zippy for Best Newspaper Strip in 2007. Late last year saw the premiere of *Zippy the Musical*, which had a short run in Baltimore. Zippy’s hordes of obsessed fans, who decidedly do “get” Zippy, remain ever-hopeful that one day there will be a cinematic pinhead epic that’s as funny, insightful, and surpassingly strange as Griffith’s strip has been since its inception. We can only hope that this longed-for filmic masterpiece will come to pass eventually.

*Ding Dong Daddy* (Fantagraphics Books, 2010) includes both daily and Sunday strips from the last two years and there’s a nice color section of the Sunday strips that allow Zippy to really spread his wings and get truly bizarre. I especially liked all the strips where Zippy is communing with the many kitschy roadside attractions that Griffith finds so fascinating. If you’re already a fan, you’ll love this new collection. If you’re not afraid to dip into Zippy’s unique...
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The Hanged Man

BY DAVID PALUMBO
What is Man without his memories?

What is Man without his hopes, without his dreams?

We are nothing without our past, without our future. Nothing but an arrow without a bow and without a target.

Today only lasts a blink and then is gone. It’s our duty to remember our yesterdays and treasure our tomorrow.

Without memory, without hope, we are devoid of purpose.

This is why, this night, we hunt.
We, the Hlaqul, know our prey.

And we have come to the lost city of Quivara, where the monster has laid its lair and where we know death will stalk us. We also know that the days and dreams of our people, of our elder and our children are trapped here.

But we won't let our heritage die, nor our tribe fall into oblivion.
ALL RIGHT, I'M LISTENING! WHAT DO YOU HAVE TO SAY IN YOUR DEFENSE?...

FAIR ENOUGH... HERE IS WHAT I CALL A TELLING SILENCE!... YOU TWO WILL REMAIN CONFINED ON BOARD DURING OUR STOP AT PORT XARNATH!

LIEUTENANT, LOCK 'EM UP!

GET DOWN THERE, YOU TWO!
WELL DONE, KESH! WHAT A BRILLIANT IDEA YOU HAD!...

WE SHOULDN'T NEVER STOLEN THAT HOOCH BARREL! I WAS NEVER FOR IT IN THE FIRST PLACE!

DIDN'T STOP YOU FROM DRINKING THREE-QUARTERS OF IT!

MAYBE, BUT I DIDN'T KNOW IT BELONGED TO THE VINTAGE BATCH INTENDED FOR THE SHEIK!

A NECTAR FROM ANOTHER WORLD... THIS TYRANT HAS GOOD TASTE!

ANYWAY, I DON'T KNOW WHAT'LL HAPPEN TO US NOW...

OUCH!!

...BUT WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!

HA! HERE IT IS!

...SEE MY FRIEND, I SPENT HALF OF MY LIFE DOWN IN THE HOLD...

...IT TAUGHT ME TO NEVER LEAVE ANYTHING TO CHANCE!
A ship just docked at the port!...Should I ask the girls to get ready?

Dame Ellora!
Dame Ellora!

Hm...

Tssss!...Tssss!...Adinath, my darling, if you were paying any attention to its arms, you'd see that this ship belongs to Ad Arphax's fleet, the Dragon Sheik...

...And I don't think he would allow his ship's men to fool around at one of his rivals!

Ah, dang...

I thought business was gonna pick up!
CAPTAIN, THE SHEIK WANTS TO SEE YOU AS SOON AS POSSIBLE!

LIEUTENANT, UNLOAD THE REST OF THE SHIPMENT WHILE I'M GONE!

COME IN, MY FRIEND... HAVE A SEAT...

SO... WHAT ARE YOU BRINGING ME BACK FROM YOUR TRAVELS IN THE ORIENT?

ENOUGH PALM WINE AND OTHER LIQUORS TO FILL UP THE CELLARS OF THE SEVENTH CIRCLE UNTIL THE NEXT SEASON, MY LORD!

PERFECT, MY CLIENTS LOVE THESE EXOTIC BEVERAGES... A FONDNESS I SHARE WITH THEM MYSELF!...

...SPEAKING OF FONDNESS: HAVE YOU THOUGHT OF MY ORDER?

TO BE HONEST, MY LORD, PRODUCTION WAS DISASTROUS THIS YEAR AND I COULDN'T FIND WHAT YOU ASKED FOR...

LIE!
...LAUDABLE LIE I MUST ADMIT, SINCE YOU ARE TRYING TO SAVE ONE OF YOUR SAILORS FROM HIS DESERVED PUNISHMENT...

SINCE YOU HEARD OF THIS PETTY THEFT, YOU MUST KNOW THAT I SENT THE CULPRITS TO THE HOLD, MY LORD!

IT IS UP TO ME TO DECIDE OF THE CRIME AND PUNISHMENT, CAPTAIN...

...UP TO ME TO DECIDE OF THEIR FATE...

...BUT A LIE NONETHELESS!

...AND OF YOURS!!

I APOLOGIZE, I MEANT TO SAY, "CAPTAIN"... ON ORDERS OF THE SHEIK, YOU'VE JUST BEEN PROMOTED!!...

LIEUTENANT!

P!?
I CAME TO PICK UP THE PRISONERS!

FOR KERNOK’S SAKE! THIS DAMN KEY BROKE IN THE LOCK!

SHHH... I HEAR SOME STEPS... GIMME THE BOARD!

HURRY UP!
DON'T MAKE ME HURT YOU, OLD MAN! THE SHEIK HATES HAVING TO TORTURE PUNY PRISONERS!

OOPS...

...GUN POWDER!!

WAHT ARE YOU DOING? HE'S ALONE AND WE CAN TAKE HIM...

SHUT UP AND MOVE!!

...GET OUT OF THERE NICELY!

AHEM...

KESH, I SUGGEST WE OBEY THE OFFICER...

...COME ON! GET OUT!

PP

?!
MY CART!!

KOFF! KOFF!... HELP ME, GUARDS! ...
DO NOT LET THEM... KOFF... ESCAPE!

WHAT'S ALL THIS HULLABALOO?...

...OOH LA LA! IT'S THE SHIP! IT'S ON FIRE!

LOOKS LIKE A MUTINY!

AND RIGHT UNDER AD ARPHAX'S NOSE. MY SWORN ENEMY!!
HURRY! THEY'RE CATCHING UP!!

THE BARRELS, KIRIN! DUMP THE BARRELS!

TWO GUARDS DOWN! WELL DONE! THEY'LL BE OKAY!

GET OUT OF THE WAY!!

NOT SO FAST! ...THEY WON'T BE ABLE TO ESCAPE THE NEXT WAVE OF PATROLS COMING UP...

HURRY! MY CAPE!

HEY!?
K...Kesh... I'm slipping!!

Hold on, my friend!...

...Two more seconds!

Damn! I thought he would never let go!...

Yup! He surely seemed very... attached!

Careful! Right ahead...

Ha! Ha! Ha!
OUCH! MY LEG!

...IF WE GET OUT OF THIS ONE, I'M GOOD FOR AN AMPUTATION!

STOP MOVING SO MUCH OR I'LL NEVER PULL YOU BACK UP!

THIS PLACE WILL BE SWARMED BY GUARDS ANY TIME NOW...

...I URGE YOU NOT TO WASTE ANY TIME!

...FOLLOW ME!!
DID YOU FIND THE FUGITIVES YET?

NO... THEY MUST BE FAR BY NOW.

OR VERY CLOSE...

DRINK THIS, MY LORD... THIS DISTILLATE DOESN'T QUITE HOLD THE VIRTUES OF THE ELIXIR OF CYCAS BUT IT WILL EASE YOUR PAIN AS YOU WAIT FOR THE NEXT DELIVERY.

THANK YOU, NAGAR... WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY "VERY CLOSE"?

I HAVE A FEELING THEY'RE NEARBY... HOPING... SOMEWHERE IN TOWN.
DO YOU WANNA RAISE THE STACK, VINCE?

YOU'RE JUST BLUFFING, CHEF. YOU CAN'T CHEAT ON ME.

SHOW YOUR GAME, CHICKENSHIT!

HA! I KNEW IT! YOU DON'T HAVE ANYTHING!

THE ONLY ONE WITH A WINNING PAR HERE IS ALEXAI! SHE'S LUCKIER THAN YOU AND ME!

RECESS IS OVER, KIDS. THE SCAVENGERS HAVE RETURNED AND FOUND SOMETHING VERY INTERESTING.

GLORY, CONFIRM THE VESSELS' ID.

ARGOS CARRIER, LOST IN JUPIT- CARGO: 2300 METRIC TONS OF REFINED PLATINUM.

WE HIT THE JACKPOT, DON'T YOU THINK?

PRIVATE VESSEL GLORY, NEAR JUPITER, 7 LIGHT YEARS FROM EARTH.
IT'D BE EASIER TO SEND THE SCAVENGERS INSIDE THE ARGOS. IF THE CARGO REALLY IS INSIDE, THEN WE CAN TOW IT.

DON'T BE A CRYBABY, VANCE. THE SCAVENGERS ARE TOO EXPENSIVE TO RISK THEM GETTING CLOSER TO THE ASTEROIDS...

...WE JUST NEED TO MAKE VISUAL CONFIRMATION. IT WON'T TAKE MORE THAN MINUTES. PIECE OF CAKE.

WE'RE READY, CARMINA. PROJECT THE FUNNEL-BRIDGE.

FUCK, I HATE THIS!
Hi, sweetie. Will you buy me a drink?

Eh... sure. Please sit down...

So, what are your plans?

Umm... I don't know... any suggestions?

Betrayals. That's my job.

And sooner or later they do it.

I follow people and wait for them to mess up...

...trust me!
I know well what they want when they enter that door...

This is John and I'd like to know if he cheats on me...

My husband is a business tycoon and I can pay you very well for your services...

...they always get in trouble for the same fucking things that make the world go around...

You have made a good choice in coming here. Our ploy is simple: We do a test on the subject to see if he cheats with one of the girls...

...and that they drive them mad...

Money, sex, fame.

Personally, the only thing for what it is still worth going mad...

I want the proof if he betrays me. I want every single dollar he has when I file for divorce...

Can I count on your discretion?

...that's my faithful bottle of whisky...
SAVING POORELSY SHELBY

Out of the way! Out of the way!

Move, gentleman! Stand aside! That long-legged impudent girl is going to step on you!

Oh, dear ladies. I wasn’t born yesterday. You can’t fool me with such rubbish. I’m the richest banker in town. No one steps on me!

Oh, well.
HEAVY METAL 73

Amanda: Is that you...?

I knew you couldn't be away from me for too long. Holy crap! But what the hell are you doing over there?

Don't you see? I'm having some fun playing at being a station.

A station...?

Are you crazy?

Oh yes, oh no. Wait a moment, Ms. Frood. The three ten bubble bus is requesting clearance.

Gasp! Here it comes.
Eh, you bloody slut! Let go of me! Go lean against somebody else!

Relief...?! This was gross!!!

What? On my heel?

Yuck! How revolting! Heels always hook up all kinds of mark.

Oh well, it’s true. I didn’t realize.

Come on! Gross is what you have spited on your heel.

What a relief!
*NEL BLU is the title of the popular Italian song "VOLARE" by Domenico Modugno. "Volare" means "to fly"
C'MON, BABES! I GOT ALL THAT YOU DESIRE! I WANT YOU HAPPY—THE BEST IS YET TO COME!

LET'S GO TO THE DRIVE. I'VE GOT SOME SNOW AND WE CAN DO A LOT OF LINES...

HERE'S ONE OF THE BEST, SIR. I HOPE THE LADIES WILL APPRECIATE IT.

HEY, HONEY... DON'T BE SO TOUCHY! THERE'S ENOUGH FOR YOU TOO!

TOMMASO:

TOMMASO, LOOK AT ME...
Garret DeChellis

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