

# MAD's IDIOT OF THE ISSUE!



WHenever we hear  
his name, we think of the  
California city where movies are made  
and start singing to ourselves,  
"HOORAY FOR WALLY-WOOD...!"  
HERE'S WHY.

**W**ally Wood was born on June 17, 1927 in Menahga, Minnesota. Although he did receive some formal art training, most of his education came from studying the funnies in the Sunday newspaper. In the late 1940s he began drawing romance, crime and adventure comics and even doing some newspaper comic strip work for a variety of publishers. But when he was given the opportunity to illustrate science fiction stories (most notably in William Gaines' E.C. titles *Weird Fantasy* and *Weird Science*) Wally found what many considered his true calling.

**W**hen the E.C. Comics science fiction titles ended, Wally made the transition to the Harvey Kurtzman-edited MAD comic book with ease — his ability to load comic panels with visual jokes as well as his seemingly effortless ability to simultaneously copy and parody other artists' styles became a model that is still influencing other MAD artists today. His work on the classic "Superduperman" spoof in MAD #4 is considered the story that put MAD firmly in the public's mind, where it has continued to rot ever since!

**S**ince few MAD articles featured science fiction or fantasy, Wally and the magazine parted company in the mid-1960s. Wood continued to freelance for other publishers and in 1966, published his own magazine called *Witzend*, a

(then revolutionary) creator-owned "fanzine" featuring his own work as well as that of other comics professionals. Sadly, Wally died on November 2, 1981, but he is still remembered as one of the cornerstones of MAD's legacy.

**T**he articles that follow spotlight his work for MAD, the magazine. To see his color comics satires that appeared in MAD #1-23, refer to the recently published *Tales Calculated to Drive you MAD* 8-issue series of reprints or the Totally MAD CD-ROM collection!

**All together now...  
Hooray for  
Wally-Wood!**



"Superduperman" appeared in MAD #4!



**THIS MONTH:  
WALLY WOOD!**



Wally's first MAD story appeared in issue #1!

**THE STATS:**  
First Mad Article: "Blobs!" (MAD #1)  
Number of MAD issues appeared in: 87  
Number of MAD articles in  
this spotlight section: 5  
**SALUD, WALLY!**