

## SAD SACK VS. STEVE GEPPI

Sad Sack Inc. has filed suit against Steve Geppi, owner of Diamond Comic Distributors, charging that Geppi pilfered 15,000 pages of original art from a Harvey Comics warehouse.

According to the complaint, the Sad Sack art was discovered missing several years ago, shortly

after Geppi had had access to the warehouse. When confronted by Sad Sack Inc. President Alan Harvey, Geppi reportedly denied any knowledge of the absent art and the matter was dropped. The current suit stems from the discovery of pages of the missing art being sold at the San Diego Comic-Con

International. According to Harvey, the sales were traced to the Alexander Gallery in New York and then to Geppi. Geppi, Geppi's Comic World, the Alexander Gallery and gallery owner Alexander Acevedo are named in the suit, which seeks compensation of \$1,740,000, plus an additional

\$3,500 in punitive damages.

The art in question includes 800 covers by Sad Sack creator George Baker and other Sad Sack art dating from after 1954.

Geppi has not, as yet, responded to the *Journal's* requests for comment. The *Journal* will continue to follow this story as it develops. MD

## TEXAS RETAILER CONVICTED OF SELLING OBSCENE MANGA

A 21-year-old Texas comic-store manager was convicted of selling an "obscene" adult manga (*Demon Beast Invasion #2*) to an adult police officer in late September. The man was fined \$4,000 and sentenced to 180 days in jail, though the jail time was later suspended. A second trial covering an identical charge for sell-

ing a second adult comic is scheduled for December. In the meantime, the defendant's attorney said his client will appeal the first conviction.

The retailer's defense is being supported by the Comic Book Legal Defense Fund, which has made the basic facts of the case

available to the *Journal* but, at his request, will not reveal the defendant's name or any identifying details. Without names and locations, reporters have no way of confirming information with local authorities. All facts are filtered through CBLDF Executive Director Oarr and any such news

reports are restricted to Oarr's side of the story. The man's attorney, who identified himself only as "Paul," told the *Journal* his client wished to avoid any publicity that might affect the retailer's position in the community.

The *Journal* will continue to do what it can to get the whole story.

MD