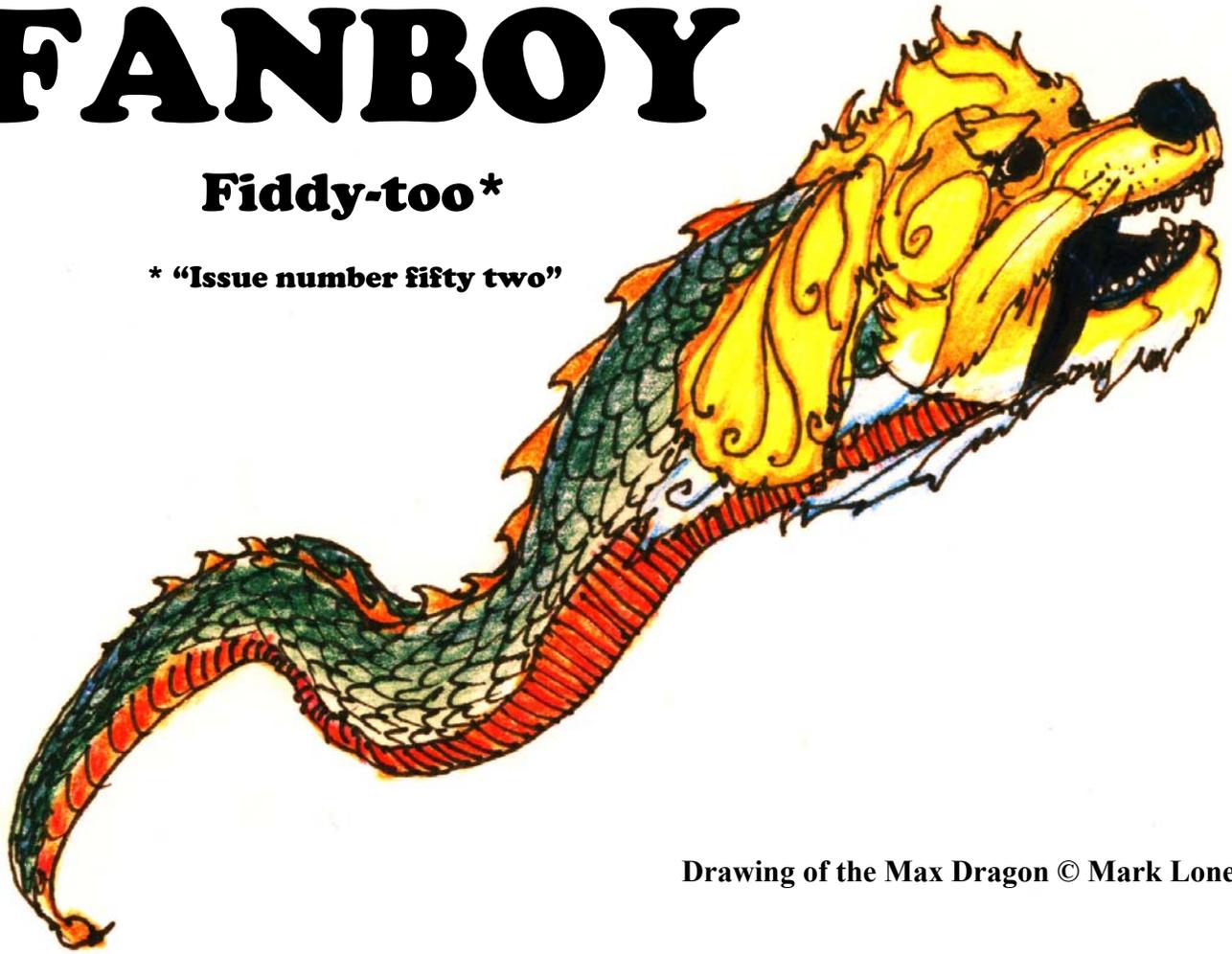


FANBOY

Fiddy-too*

* "Issue number fifty two"



Drawing of the Max Dragon © Mark Lone

THE END OF THE BEGINNING

Hello again. *Slightly* over a month since the last issue, I know, but I've been really under the shithammer with school and all. As I write this, my computer tells me it is 10:11:18 pm, Saturday, April 23, 2005 (and counting). I just got back from St. Paul, where I spent most of the day hung over, watching DVDs with Lance Hendrickson and his brothers Adam and Nick. It's been a long day, it's been a long week, and it's been a long month. All of these long periods of time have been part of the long interval between this issue and the last. During that interval, a lot of things in my life ended. My cat Sid kept wandering into my neighbor's houses and almost getting run over by my neighbor's cars, so I gave her away to a friend who lives out in the country with his wife, three kids, seven cats, and two dogs. Sid will now be much safer and get much more companionship and attention, but her life with me has **ended**. Ali moved out, so's to be able to live with her boyfriend. Ali will now be able to spend more time with the man she loves and grow closer to him, but her tenure as my roommate has **ended**. In addition, her long streak of bad luck with men (mentioned in her article in issue 51), also seems to have **ended**, since Chris is a good guy, and good for her. Also since last issue, I announced my intention to discontinue my strip in the UWEC Flip Side, meaning that my years as a campus cartoonist have **ended**. The most poignant ending in the last month, however, came a couple weeks ago at my friend Morgan Blanton's going-away party. Morgan is moving to Colorado with her husband Luke (of Great Scott fame). Luke leaves to rejoin his wife in a few weeks, after he ties up some loose ends. I'm sure I speak for all of Luke and Morgan's friends when I say that no words can express their significance in our lives. I don't know if I can even begin to describe the positive impact they've both had on my day to day life since I met them. They are kind, caring, absolutely amazing people, and I feel lucky that I met them and privileged to know them. And now, their life in Eau Claire and the Greater Midwest is **ending**.

The endings I mentioned above make me sad. But I can't help but see them as good, because endings imply **beginnings**. Sid's has just **begun** a new life with a new family. Ali's just **begun** a new level of commitment with an absolutely wonderful man. And, having withdrawn from much of the local comics scene, I can **begin** my quest to make a name for myself nationally in earnest. And Luke and Morgan are **beginning** another one of their great adventures together. To hear them and their friends tell it, Luke and Morgan have had many adventures together, first as boyfriend and girlfriend, then as fiancées, and now as husband and wife. Somehow I doubt any of us have heard the last from them.

The way I figure it, endings are illusory. Cuz while all the small things and big things in life seem to end eventually, life itself goes on, and new things replace the old. Even when one person's life ends, the lives of others go on around that life, and after that life. And now, at the bottom of this first page, we reach the **end** of the **beginning** of this issue of Fanboy. Turn the page and....

ENJOY THE ISSUE.

---David Recine, early springish, 2005