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## For Immediate Release

Contact: J.T. Yost, tel.: 347-256-5461  
info@BirdcageBottomBooks.com

“J.T. Yost is a cartoonist to watch out for, especially when his stories hit on animal welfare issues. Those short stories are so powerful, they’re a wake up call.”

- Chris Staros, Publisher, Top Shelf Productions

## COLD CUTTING COMICS

“I’ve asked a lot of animal welfare activists what originally inspired their advocacy,” says artist J.T. Yost, “and I can honestly report being the only one to claim a cartoon penguin.” While eating fried chicken at a southern fast-food chain on one fateful day in 1990, Yost suddenly recalled a ‘Bloom County’ comic strip he’d read months before. In the strip, Opus the penguin berates a fast-food cashier for serving his brethren as food. “At that moment, I made the connection that I was eating skin and muscle. That was it,” recalls Yost, “I haven’t eaten meat since.” *Old Man Winter and Other Sordid Tales*, a collection of Yost’s own comics, deals with sensitive issues including animal abuse, vivisection and meat production.



“Comics have always captivated me, but it wasn’t until a friend showed me the work of Chris Ware and Art Spiegelman that I realized they could be so powerful,” admits Yost. Since he’s no longer as directly active in the animal welfare community as he once was, Yost hopes to get the message out through comics. His artwork has been featured in several animal advocacy publications, used to raise money for various organizations and even handed out at vegan outreach tables.

Like religion or politics, animal welfare issues tend to stir up strong emotions. “I’m not a very confrontational person, so my comics allow me to impart important information without getting punched in the face,” explains Yost.

J.T. Yost has been a self-described “dirty vegan cartoon drawing bed-wetting liberal in desperate need of a haircut” for the majority of his life. His work has been published by a variety of institutions including The New York Press, Young American Comics, Three Rivers Press and Herbivore Magazine.

J.T. Yost’s first collection of comics is alternately humorous and quietly devastating, but is consistently brutally honest. *Old Man Winter and Other Sordid Tales* is available for \$6.95 in comic-book stores nationwide or through Birdcage Bottom Books at [www.BirdcageBottomBooks.com](http://www.BirdcageBottomBooks.com).

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**Birdcage Bottom Books, 145 Atlantic Ave. #1, Brooklyn, NY 11201, USA**

**Tel (347) 256-5461**

**info@BirdcageBottomBooks**

**<http://www.BirdcageBottomBooks.com>**