

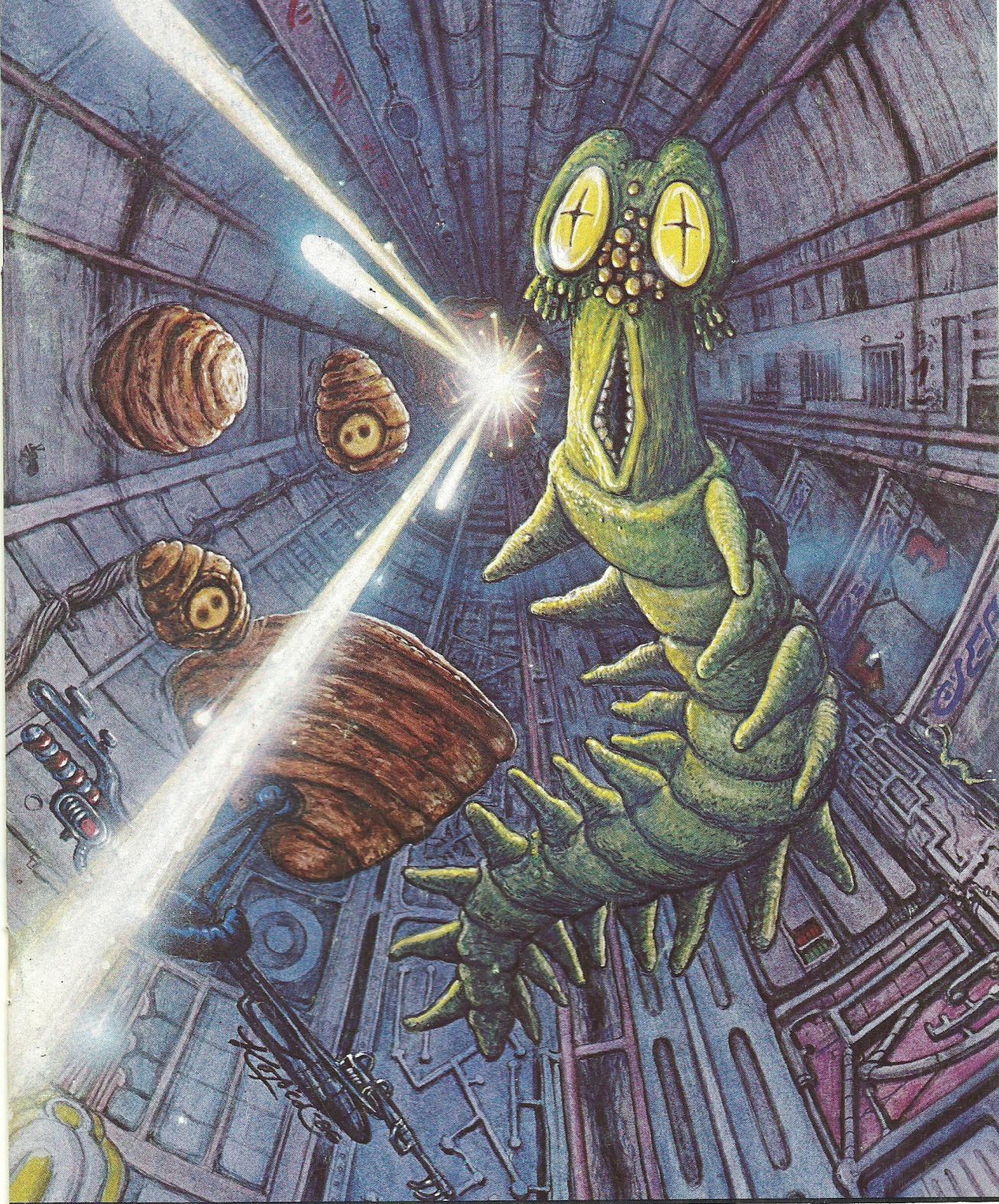


THOUGHTS & IMAGES

ALBEDO

NR. 9
\$2.00

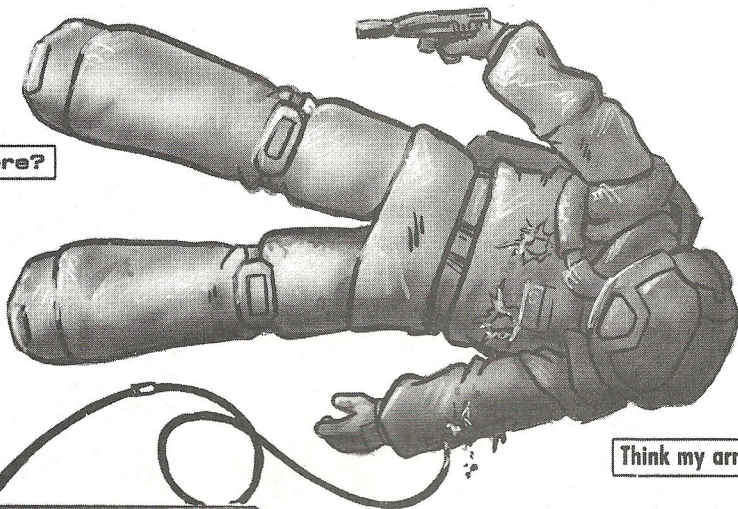
ANTHROPOMORPHICS



ZENAN ENIVZ EBYZ

Hello?

You still there?



Think my arm is broken.

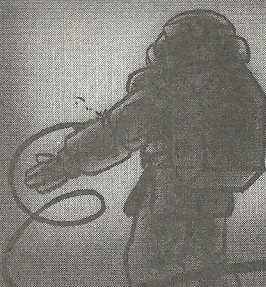
Come on, it's not over yet.

It's just shock.

You've got to get moving.

You'll need air pretty soon.

Oh — OKAY — sure.

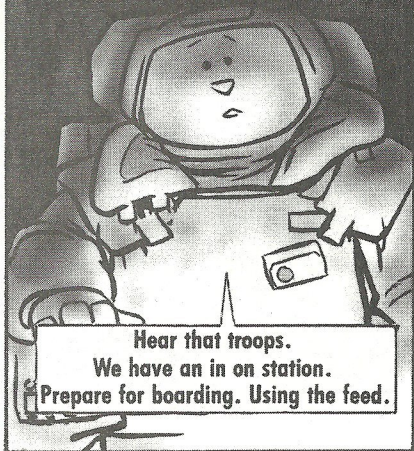


More good news.
There's a guard ship coming.

You're not
recovering
very well.
I think you
better rest
a minute.

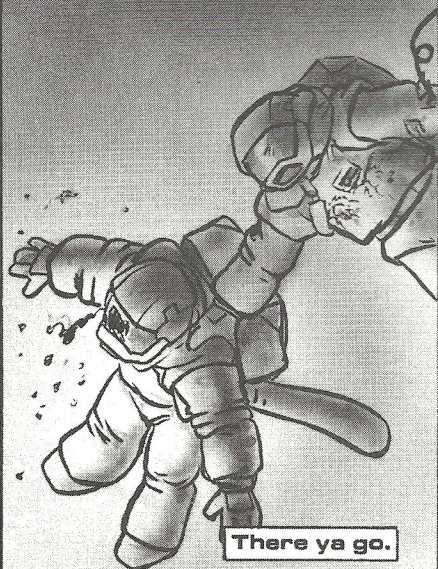
I'll keep an
eye on things.

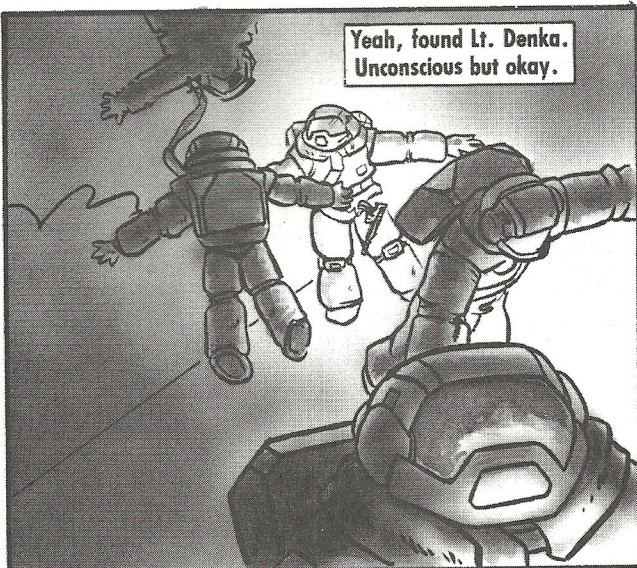
Attention — CZL 28,
temporarily on net station
EK-YO warning homeguard
vessel, hostile forces not
yet neutralized. Will provide
tactical status as available.



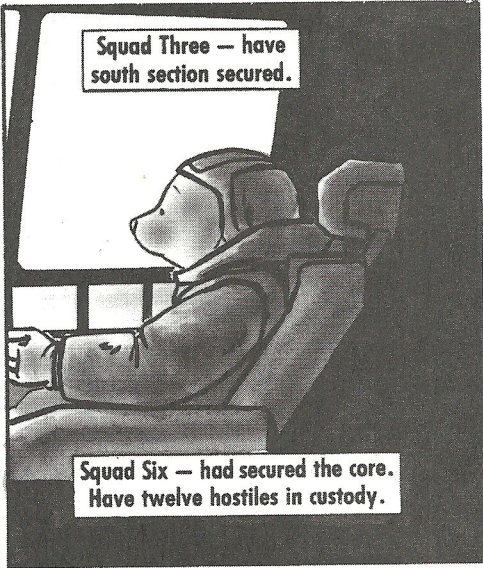
Hear that troops.
We have an in on station.
Prepare for boarding. Using the feed.

There ya go.



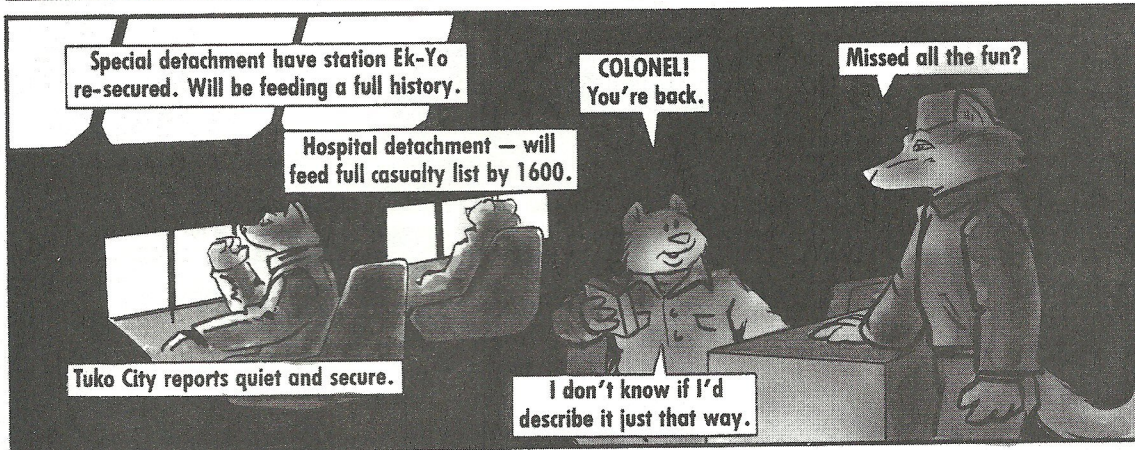


Yeah, found Lt. Denka.
Unconscious but okay.



Squad Three — have
south section secured.

Squad Six — had secured the core.
Have twelve hostiles in custody.



Special detachment have station Ek-Yo
re-secured. Will be feeding a full history.

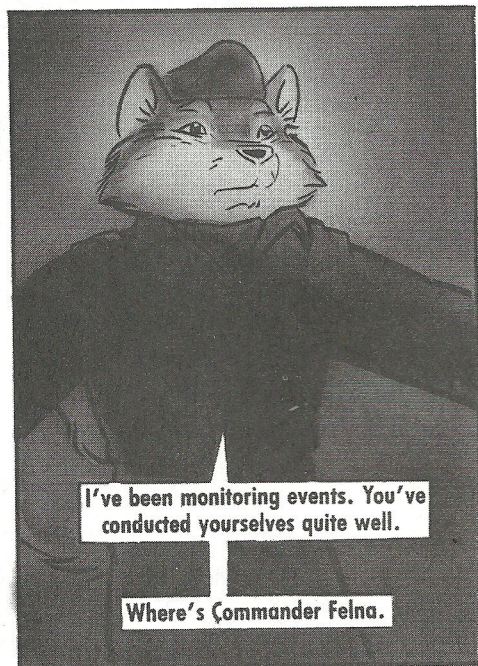
Hospital detachment — will
feed full casualty list by 1600.

COLONEL!
You're back.

Missed all the fun?

Tuko City reports quiet and secure.

I don't know if I'd
describe it just that way.



I've been monitoring events. You've
conducted yourselves quite well.

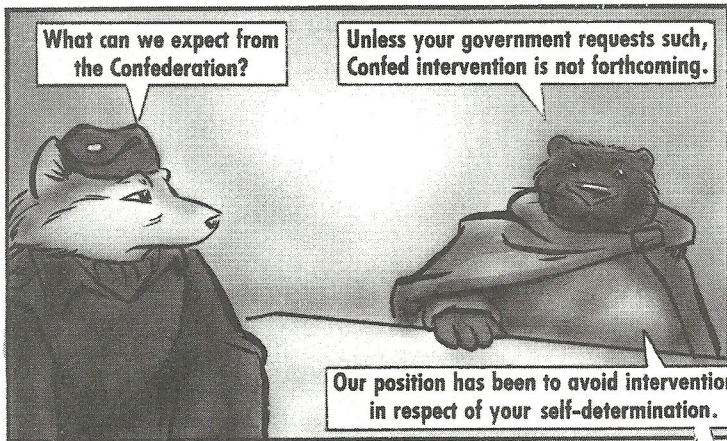
Where's Commander Felna.

She's in town, sir. Confering
with the Confed secretary.

Call me up some transport and
inform them that I'm en route.



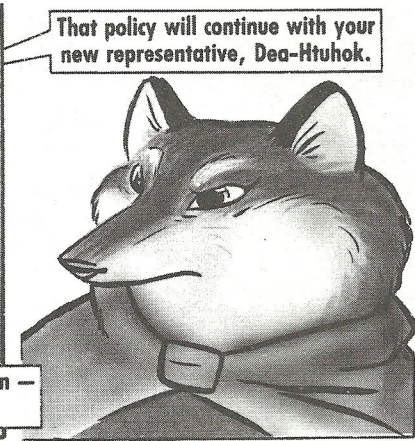
Hon. Secretary.



What can we expect from the Confederation?

Unless your government requests such, Confed intervention is not forthcoming.

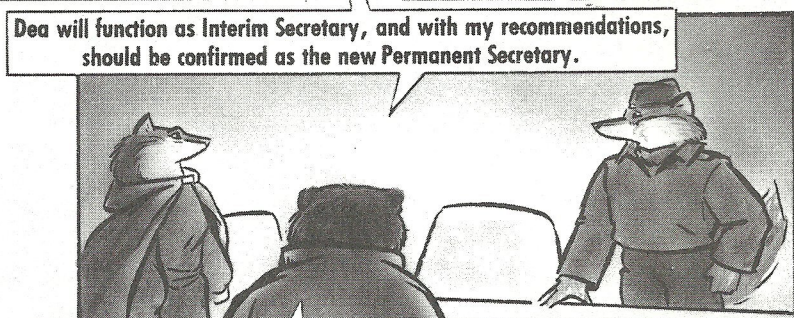
Our position has been to avoid intervention — in respect of your self-determination.



That policy will continue with your new representative, Dea-Htuhok.



?!



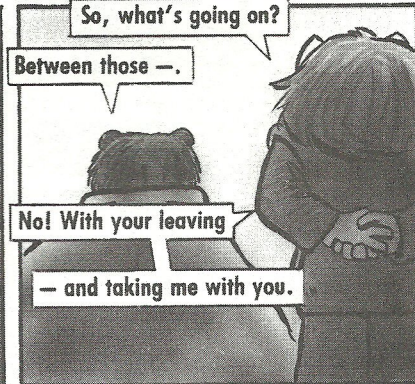
Dea will function as Interim Secretary, and with my recommendations, should be confirmed as the new Permanent Secretary.

I have to go back to Central on the next transport for a new posting.

Commander Felna will escort and become available for re-assignment.



We'll leave you two to discuss developing new relations —.

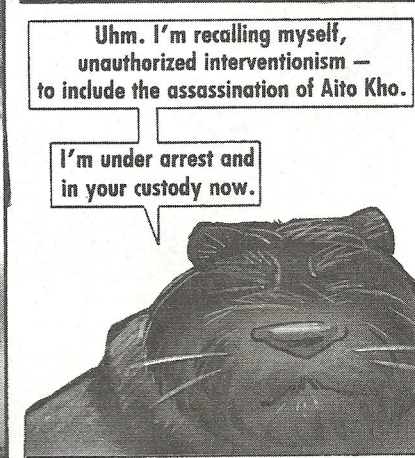


So, what's going on?

Between those —.

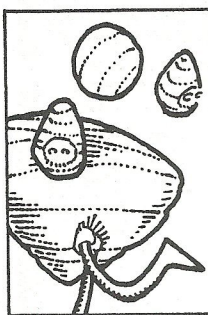
No! With your leaving

— and taking me with you.

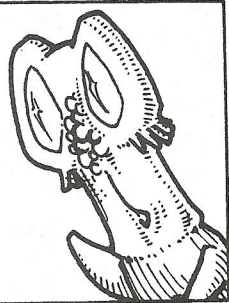


Uhm. I'm recalling myself, unauthorized interventionism — to include the assassination of Aito Kho.

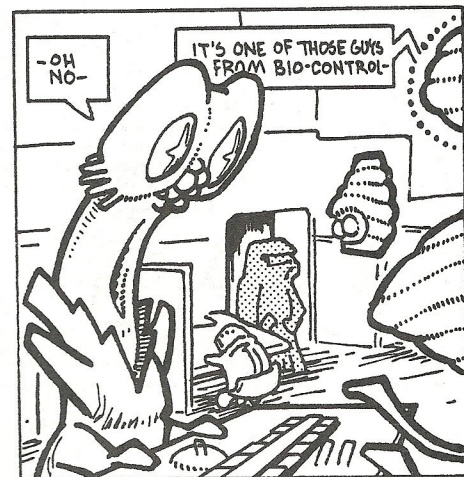
I'm under arrest and in your custody now.

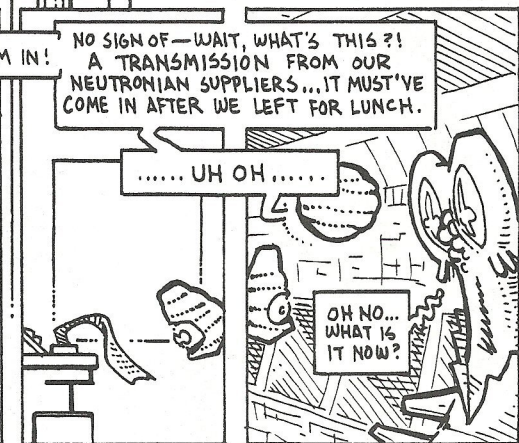
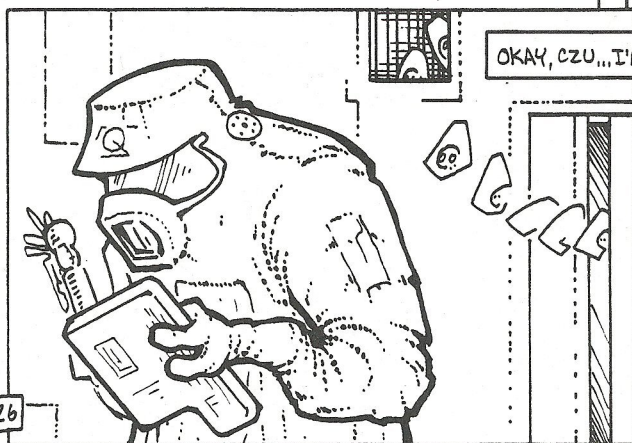
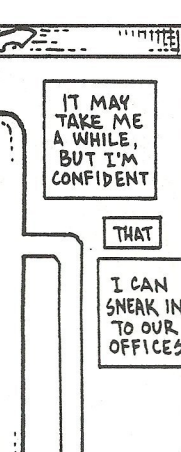
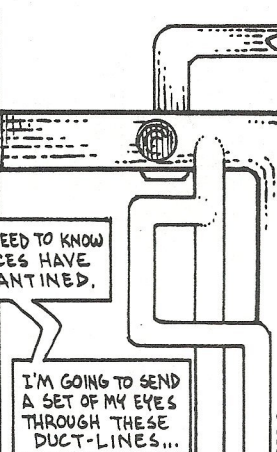
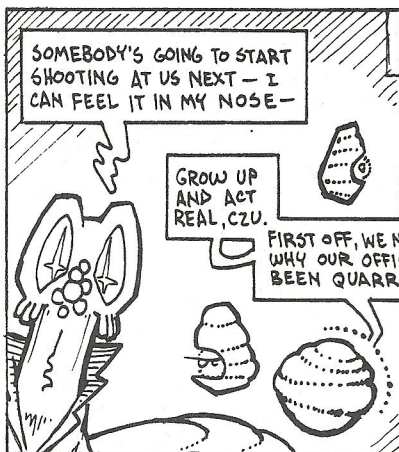
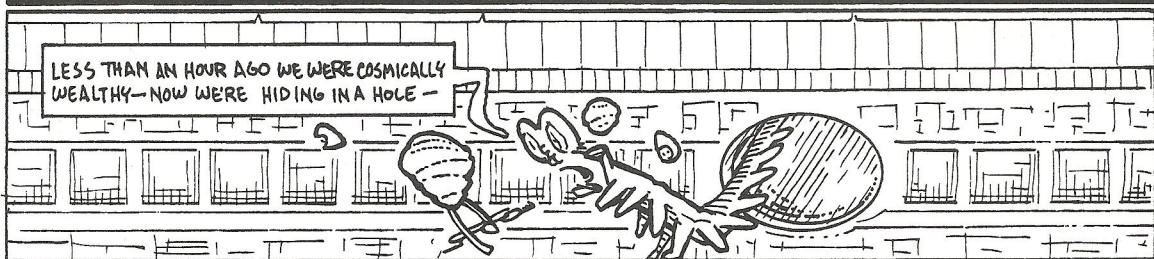
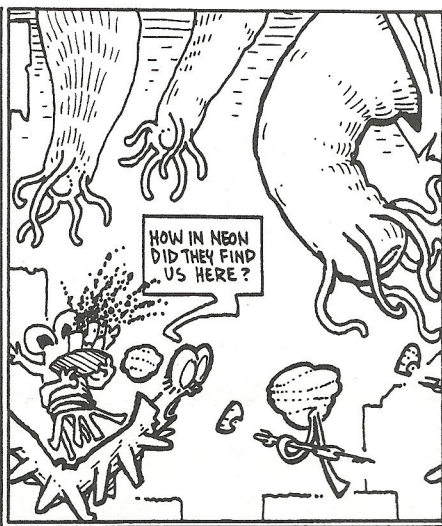


konny and czu



HAPOGEEZ FENZUNZ





THERE'S BEEN SOME TYPE OF RELIGIOUS REVOLT... THEY SAY THERE'LL BE NO MORE ISOTROPIC OFFERINGS!

OUR SOURCE FOR F-D-I'S IS GONE — WE MIGHT AS WELL ZIP UP OUR OWN BODY-BAGS — WE'VE HAD IT — AS IF WE ALREADY DIDN'T HAVE ENOUGH TROUBLE —

KONNY — WE GOTTA UNLOAD HARVEST VENTURES!

IT CERTAINLY DOES SEEM TO BE OUR ONLY SANE COURSE OF ACTION...

QUICK

FAR AWAY, DEEP IN THEIR STAR-HOME, THE NEUTRONIANS SEEM CONTENT WITH THEIR NEW LIFE.

LIFE IS SO GOOD — WE EVEN HAVE QUARTZ-FLAVORED DEODORANT NOW —

WHAT MORE COULD WE ASK FOR?

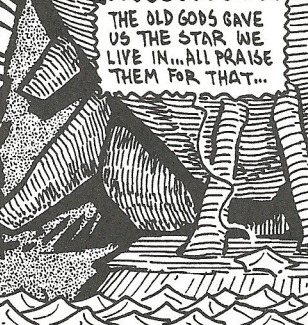
I AM INTERESTED IN HISTORY...

YOU MEAN "THE OCCULT"?

UNGA BUNGA

BOOB-A-LAH

WE WORSHIP THE OLD GODS IN SECRET IN THE BOWELS OF OUR SHIP-WORLD.



THE OLD GODS GAVE US THE STAR WE LIVE IN... ALL PRAISE THEM FOR THAT...

IN READINESS WE AHRC-HAMMITES WILL WAIT FOR THE RETURN OF THE OLD GODS, WE WILL KEEP THE FORBIDDEN BELIEFS ALIVE.



AND WE PRAY FOR A TIME WHEN THE OLD GODS WILL AGAIN ACCEPT OUR OFFERINGS.

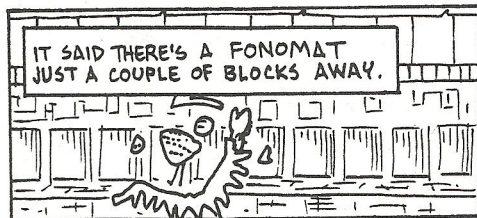


WE'LL NEED SOMETHING CLASSIER THAN JUST A PUBLIC-FONE TO CONTACT POTENTIAL BUYERS.

LEMME CHECK THIS TUNNEL MAP... HMM...

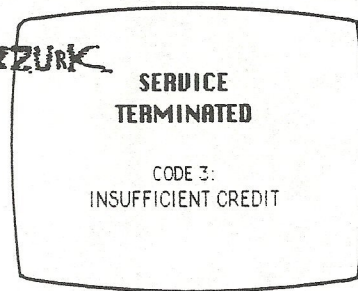
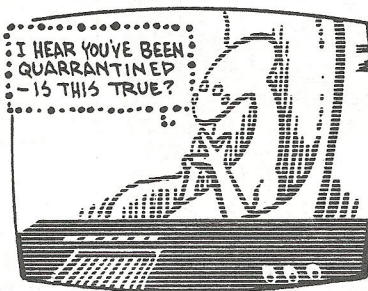
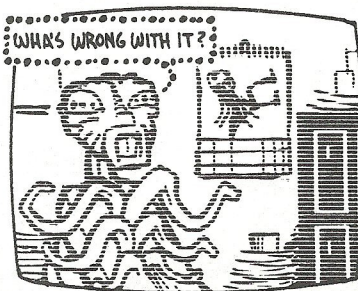
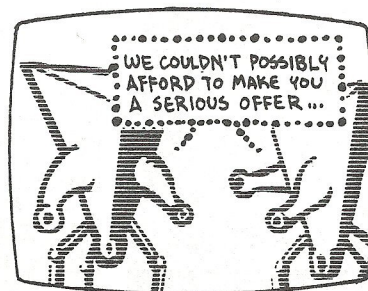
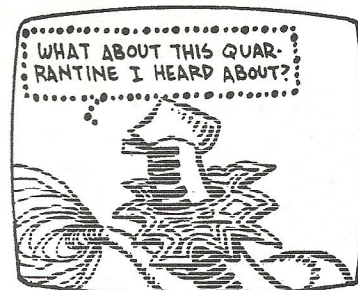
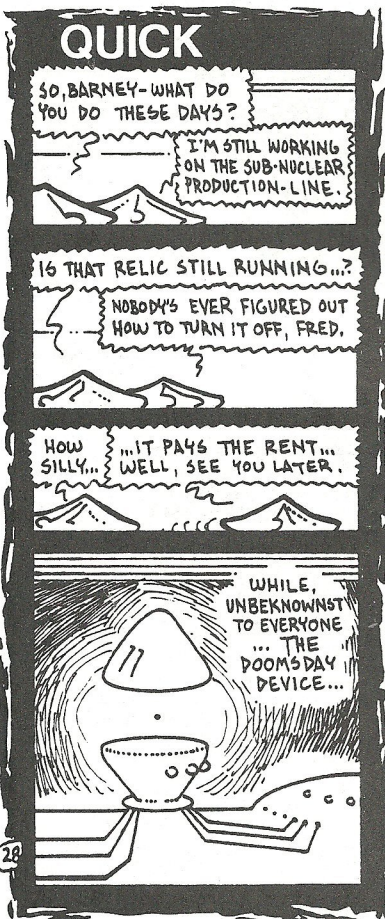
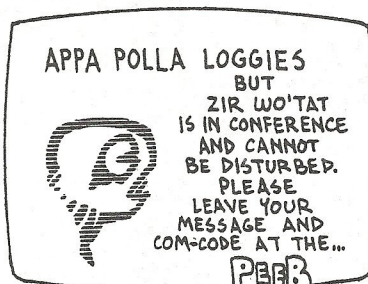
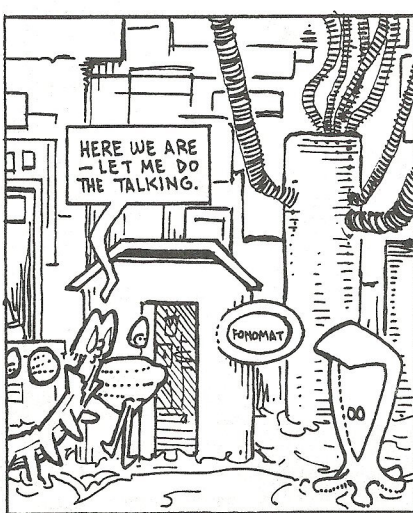


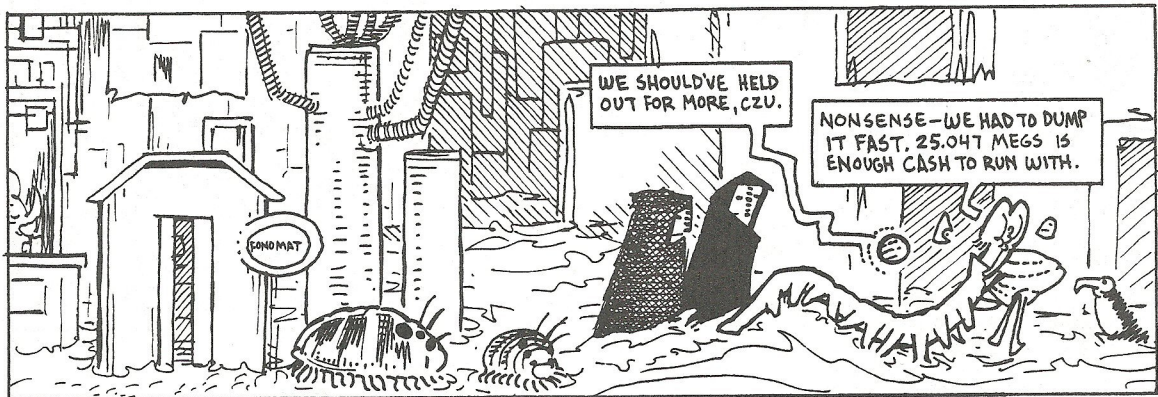
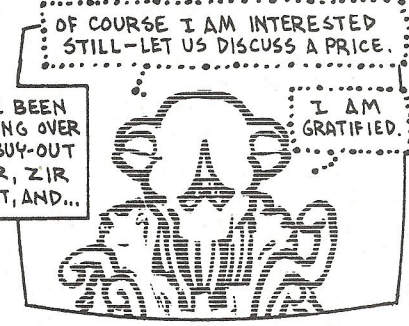
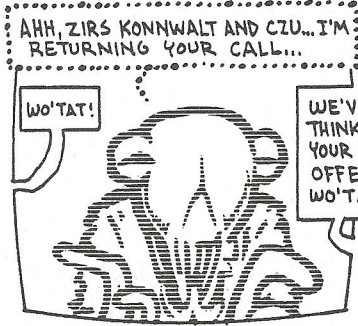
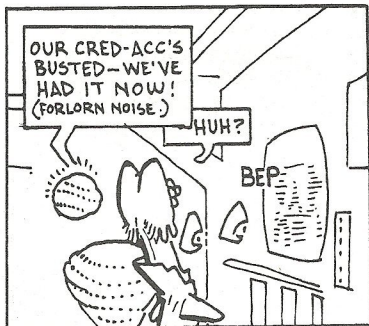
IT SAID THERE'S A FONOMAT JUST A COUPLE OF BLOCKS AWAY.



THERE MUST BE HUNDREDS OF POTENTIAL BUYERS — WHERE SHOULD WE BEGIN?







QUICK

-THAT ISN'T THE AHRC-HAMMITE TRANSLATION I WAS LOOKING FOR...

BURIED WITHIN THIS ANCIENT FILE... IT'S THE SUB-NUCLEAR PRODUCTION-LINE'S SHUT-OFF PROCEDURE... AMAZING!!

BUT-PRODUCTION MUSTN'T BE ALLOWED TO HALT... EVER!

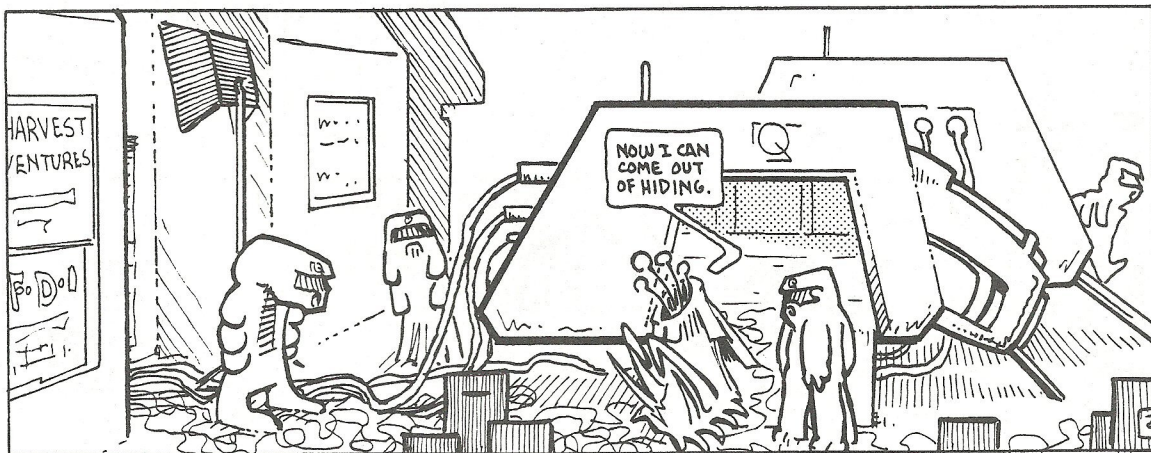
ERASE ERASE ERASE ERASE ERASE

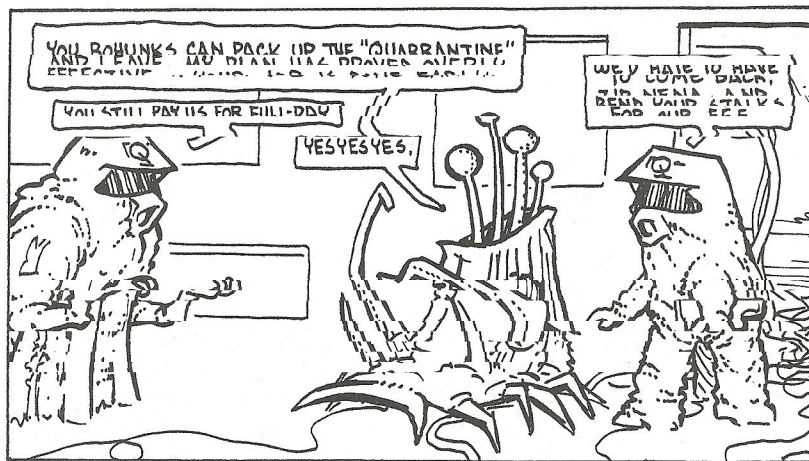
IT WENT JUST AS YOU PREDICTED.

THEY TOOK MY OFFER OF 25.051 MEGS, ZIR NENA.

-FINALLY!

-AT LAST- HARVEST VENTURES IS MINE!



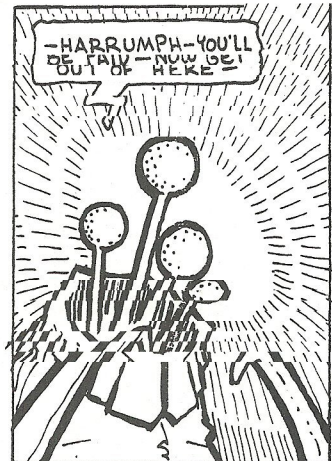


YOU BOWUNKS CAN PACK UP THE "QUADRANTINE"
AND LEAVE MY DREAM HAZ DRAVES AND D-I
REPEATING ... HAZ ... I-D ... I-D ... I-D ...

YOU STILL PAY US FOR EILI-DDU

YESYESYES.

WE'VE HAD TO HAVE
TID MENA AND
BEND UNID LTAIV &
EAD AND EEE



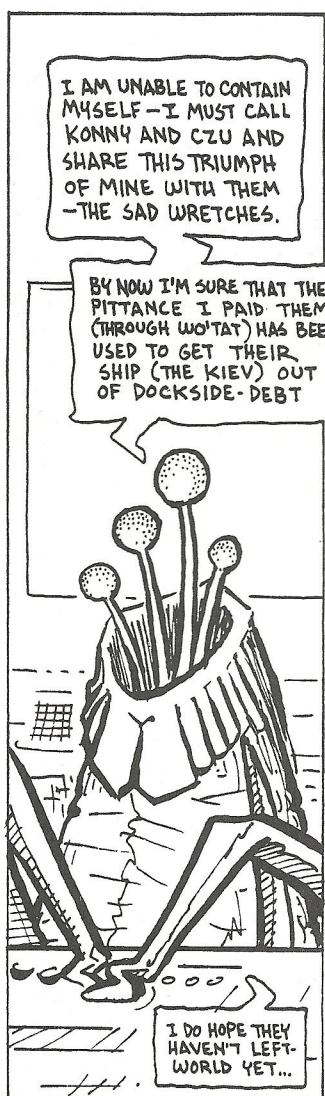
-HARRUMPH-YOU'LL
BE GAY- NOW DE!
OUT OF HERE DE!



I WISH TO BE ALONE
WITH MY NEW
MONSTROUSLY PROFITABLE
GALACTIC (GOLDMINE).

CLACKLE
RATTLE

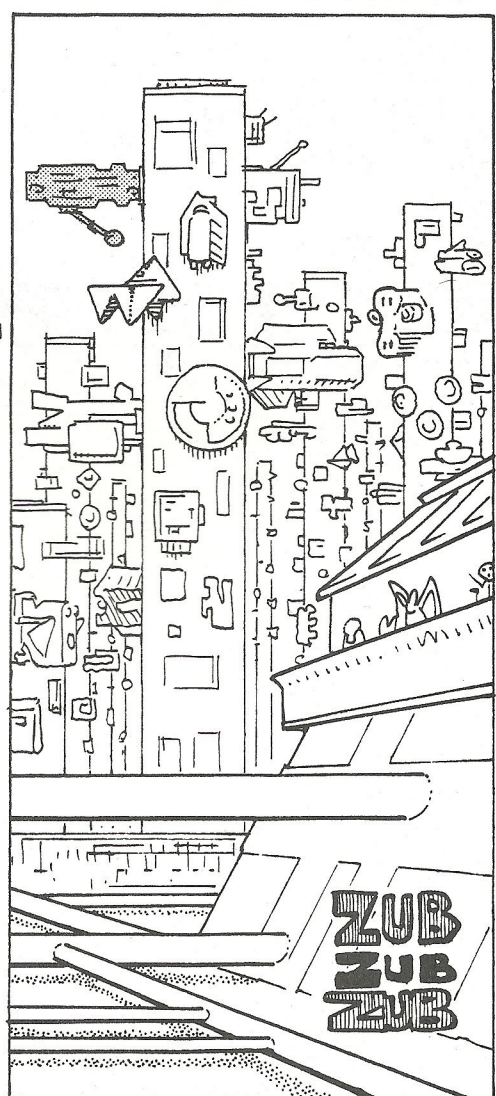
THIS FILE SEEMS TO COVER
THEIR F-D-I SUPPLIERS
...THERE'S A COM-CODE,
YES-IT IS THE STAR
I SOLD THEM-AHA!!
THEIR SECRET IS MINE,
WHATEVER IT IS...



I AM UNABLE TO CONTAIN
MYSELF-I MUST CALL
KONNY AND CZU AND
SHARE THIS TRIUMPH
OF MINE WITH THEM
-THE SAD WRETCHES.

BY NOW I'M SURE THAT THE
PITTANCE I PAID THEM
(THROUGH WO'TAT) HAS BEEN
USED TO GET THEIR
SHIP (THE KIEV) OUT
OF DOCKSIDE-DEBT

I DO HOPE THEY
HAVEN'T LEFT
WORLD YET...



ZUB
ZUB
ZUB

I'M GOING TO WARM UP
THE CATBALL AND CLEAR
DEPARTURE WITH POOLTECH.

I SUGGEST WE LEAVE
WORLD AT THE SOONEST,
CZU... BEFORE ANYTHING
MORE CAN GO WRONG.

TOO LATE!
SOMEONE
IS CALL-
ING US!

THIS IS IT - I KNEW IT WAS
COMIN' - SOMEBODY WITH
BAD NEWS - WE'RE DOOMED!

C'MON, CZU
- WHAT'S
THE WORST
IT COULD
BE...?

NEHA!

THAT'S RIGHT, YOU LARCENOUS PAIR!
THOUGHT YOU COULD TAKE THAT USELESS
SEEDED STAR AND TURN A MIRACULOUS
PROFIT FROM IT, DIDN'T YOU?
DID YOU THINK I'D ROOT-STILL
FOR SUCH AN INJUSTICE ???

WELL - THE SCALES
HAVE TIPPED - AND
NOW I'M THE
OWNER OF THE
LUDICROUSLY VALUABLE
HARVEST VENTURES!

AND THE BEAUTY OF IT ALL, KONNWALT AND
CZU - IS THAT I SET YOU UP! - FOOLED
YOU INTO ABANDONNING A (GOLDMINE)!

WO'TAT WAS ON MY PAYROLL
- JUST AS WAS THE BIO-
CONTROL QUARRANTINE!
AND YOU FELL FOR IT -

I THOUGHT I'D ENJOY
YOU SEEING ME MAKE
MY FIRST CALL AS NEW
OWNER TO YOUR SECRET
SUPPLIERS - WHO LIVE
NEAR THE STAR I SOLD
YOU - SEE? I KNOW!

HA!

NOW WE'LL SEE THIS
COMPANY REALLY START
TO PULL THE MEGS IN
...STARTING WITH AN
INCREASE IN
F.D.I SHIPMENTS!

SIGNAL
SEND

Steve wanted me to introduce myself to you, readers of his comics put out by Thoughts and Images. My name is Jeff Kilian, and I've known Steve since our first meeting in 1978 while we both served in the Air Force in West Germany. I had been a comic book collector since 1971, and carried that interest with me into the service. At the time I met Steve he was a technical illustrator for the Headquarters at Ramstein, Germany. With my avid interest in comics I introduced Steve to the aspects of comics that interested me, and the seeds were planted for us to put out our own comic. I had done a single shot comic with a friend of mine in high school in Wichita, Kansas, and was eager to try again. I was trying to do some cartooning, but I will be the first to admit I'm not very good. What I excell at is putting projects together. I like the duties of publisher, seeing all of the elements come together. And with me as publisher and Steve and several other friends we met in Germany, we put out the small sized fanzine HUZDAH. It is in this first issue of HUZDAH that the first seeds of Steve's Erma Felna appeared. HUZDAH #1 appeared in the summer of 1979. From there I moved on to a new assignment at Biloxi, Mississippi, and I got the opportunity to fly as a crewmember on the Air Force's EC-130E Airborne Command Post. I always kept in contact with Steve, and when he got out of the service in 1980, he stopped by Mississippi and visited for a day. We happened to see The Blues Brothers at the theater the night he stayed over. After I departed the Air Force in 1981, I started college in my hometown of Wichita. At one time I did look into getting a crewmember's position at an Airbase in Tacoma, Washington, but that just didn't fall together. So I spent the next years going to college in Wichita, at first working on an Electrical Engineering degree, then switching to a Radio/TV and Film degree. Steve and I talked over what I could to to help him, and since Albedo has caught on, he needed the help to run the business side of Thoughts and Images and give him the time to do the writing and drawing of Albedo, Zell, Critters, and Fusion. So here I am getting the business of T & I in order. I've had some experience since in 1985 I put out the Star Wars movie poster checklist for all three of the Star Wars films. I'm happy to say that poster project turned out very well, and I received a personal thank-you from George Lucas in the form of a signed movie poster to me.

Thoughts and Images will be pushing onward, and it looks apparent that we will survive the black and white fallout that is now afflicting the market. I do want to let all of our readers know that all back issues except the following are soldout. Albedo #0, the deluxe fourth edition is available for \$1.00 each, Albedo #8 at \$2.00 each, Zell #1 is still available at \$2.00 each, and Command Review #1 is still around at the original cover price of \$4.00.

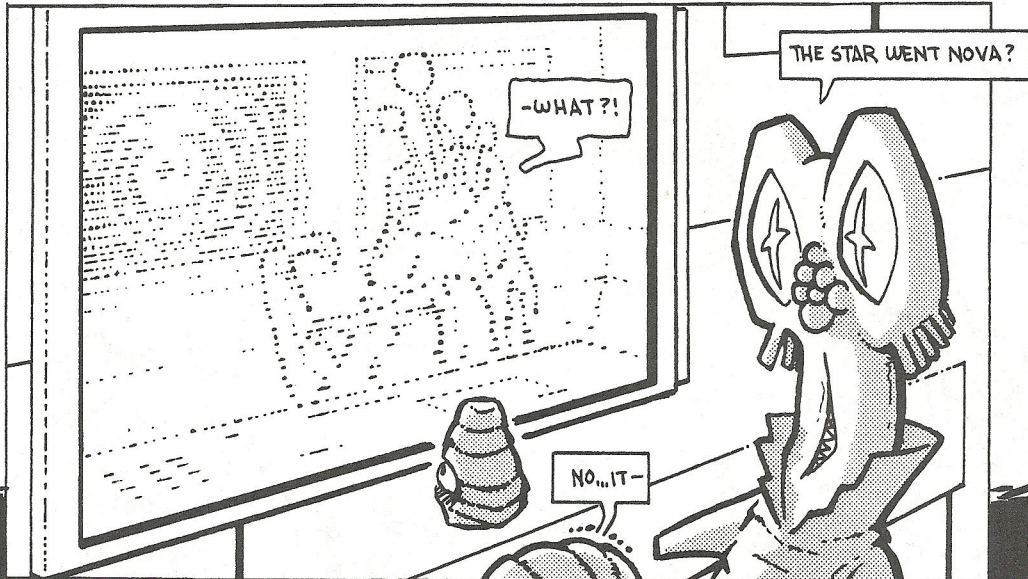
Also subscriptions to both Zell and Albedo are available at \$6 for three issues, or \$12 for six issues. All subscriptions are sent by first class mail. Send to: Thoughts and Images, P.O. Box 19419, Seattle, WA 98109. Oh and one last thing. If you've had any trouble with not getting your subscription, T-shirt order, or back issues, please write and let us know. We've had some serious problems with the mail service in that they were sending back letters from people who had just sent a letter and gotten a reply the week before. Hopefully this has been corrected. We apologize for any inconveniences, and want to correct any past problems. Please send S.A.S.E. with any back issue inquiry, we do have some issues for sale at collector prices, or can point you in the direction of someone who has some copies. Thank you,



Just some quick and clever copy this time. I had to get some more printing done, running up covers for the Nr. 0 Deluxe Edition and second printing of *Zell*, so I figured I'd get the cover of Nr. 9 done at the same time. Ya see, it costs several large stacks of money to set up a four-color press. And to set up several covers on a single sheet costs not much more than a single design. That way, I don't have to pay for a separate setup for Nr. 9 later. But it also means I've got to write the copy for it now, long before I know for sure what all will be in the issue.

Future issues, being so well organized and planned out, won't have these problems (ha! ha!) and I'll be just like the big boys, doing everything six months in advance.

But for this issue's cover. It's Konny and Czu, doing what Konny and Czu do best — getting into all manner of trouble. The art's done by a buddy of Howarth's, Karl Kofoed. Hasn't he done some stuff for *Heavy Metal*? Matt assured me that more K&C is coming, and until you-all say otherwise, I'll still print 'em. Oh, and by the way, the secret message is "Harvest Ventures."



QUICK



WOW! I'VE NEVER WITNESSED SUCH LIMB-RAISING GAMEPLAY -AN INCREDIBLE SHOWING BY THE CHAMPION TEAM-

I LOVE DOTBALL

WOTTA GAME

LOOK AT THAT MOVE!

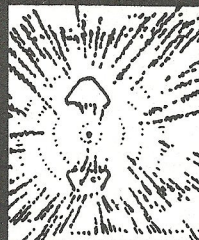
THIS IS YOUR ANNOUNCER, REMINDING YOU THIS GAME IS BEING SPONSORED-

BY BIKE-LIPPED POD-LOTION. URK!

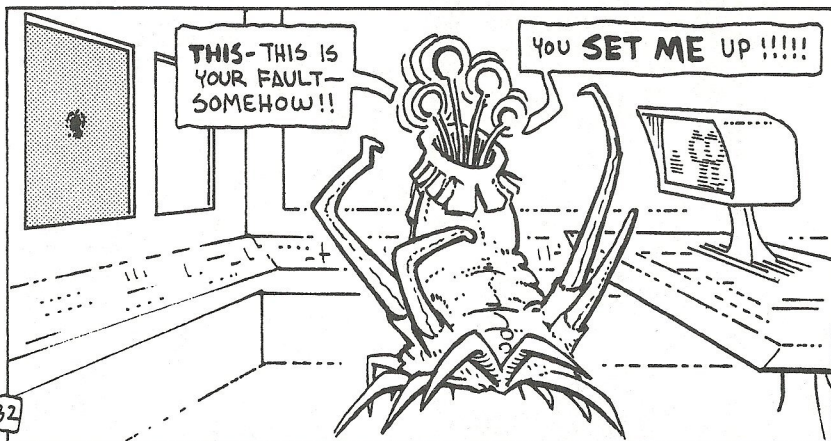
GIVE US THAT SPEAKER-STICK! WE AHR- HAMMITES HAVE IMPORTANT NEWS FOR ALL!

ATTENTION, CITIZENS- AFTER AGES UNTOLD, THE OLD GODS HAVE SPOKEN AGAIN!

SIMULTANEOUSLY... TRIGGERED BY THE "GOD'S" INCOMING SIGNAL, THE ANCIENT DOOMSDAY DEVICE (THAT NO ONE KNOWS EXISTS) SURGES TO LIFE, FORCING THE NEUTRONIAN'S STAR-HOME TO COLLAPSE !!



-IT LOOKS MORE LIKE IT'S COLLAPSING...



QUICK

IT HAS BEEN GENERATIONS SINCE THE OLD GODS COLLAPSED OUR STAR-HOME...

WE LIVE ON ... AS DOES THE SUB-NUCLEAR PRODUCTION-LINE, FILLING OUR STORAGE LEVELS WITH THE ANCIENT OFFERINGS.

...WE'RE RUNNING OUT OF ROOM

IT IS OF HISTORICAL CURIOSITY WHETHER THEY DID SO TO PUNISH US OR REWARD US ... WE WERE UNTOUCHED BY THE GRAVATIC COLLAPSE...

A GOOD THING THE STUFF IS EDIBLE...

HE THINKS WE OUTWITTED HIM.

WE'RE CLEARED FOR DEPARTURE —WE CAN LEAVE AS SOON AS THE CATBALL'S UP.

I LOVE IT- HE CONNED US INTO SELLING HIM A USELESS COMPANY.

OUR LUCK ASTOUNDS ME...

I'LL FIX THEM—STICK ME WITH A WORTHLESS COMPANY, WILL THEY? I'LL—I'LL GET THEM GROUNDED—

IF I MAY DIVERT YOUR ATTENTION, ZIR...

(I SEE THE COMPANY HAS CHANGED OWNERS —I'LL HAVE TO CHECK OUT YOUR PAST LATER.) MY NAME IS OOOZIE, I'M A P.I. MY CLIENTS, SEVERAL OF YOUR CARTEL CUSTOMERS, ARE CONCERNED ABOUT THE LATENESS OF THEIR F-D-I SHIPMENTS.

MY CLIENTS PAID UP-FRONT TO ASSURE SPEEDY AND FULL DELIVERY, I'M HERE TO EXACT THOSE DELIVERIES...OR TO FEED YOU YOUR OWN WALK-PADS.

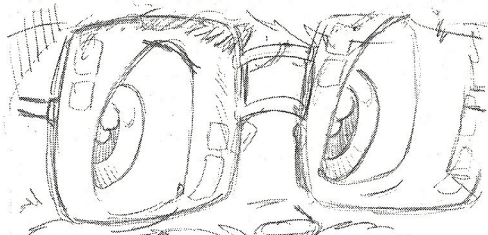
THE END

WRAB PRESENTS HIGH ORBIT
STORY/SCRIPT/ENCILS: DEAL WHITLEY
SCRIPT: ROBERT CARSPERKEN

INKS: STEVEN MONTANO

WHAT HAS GONE BEFORE: WHILE TETRA MATTHEWS ENJOYS HER FIRST VISIT
TO HENDERSON/SHEFFIELD, BATTLELINES ARE BEING DRAWN THAT MAY AF-
FECT THE VERY EXISTENCE OF THE EARTH-ORBITING STATION...
...SOME BATTLES ARE BEING WAGED ON A MORE PERSONAL LEVEL...

BOTH DEAL AND I
WERE HAVING PROBLEMS
KEEPING TO SCHEDULE,
SO - TO GET SOMETHING -
ANYTHING - TO GET THE
BOOK OUT, I DECIDED TO
RUN HIGHORBIT LIKE THIS
DEAL PROMISES TO DO BETTER
A GALACE!



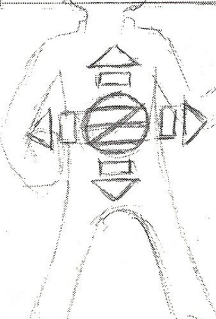
"The Ninja approaches the stronghold..."



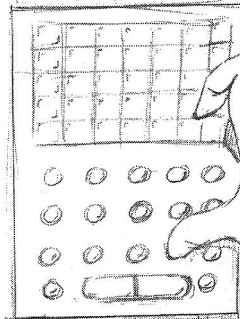
"None can touch him, for he is invisible to all eyes..."

"... The final portal..."

COMMUNICATIONS
MAIN-ONE
WARNING
HIGH SECURITY AREA
AUTHORIZED PERSONEL
ONLY



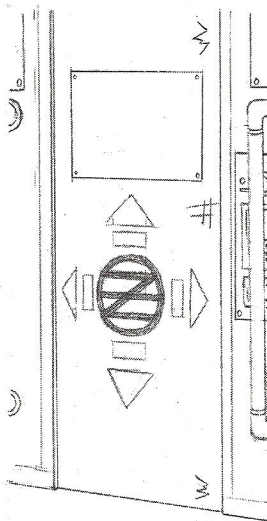
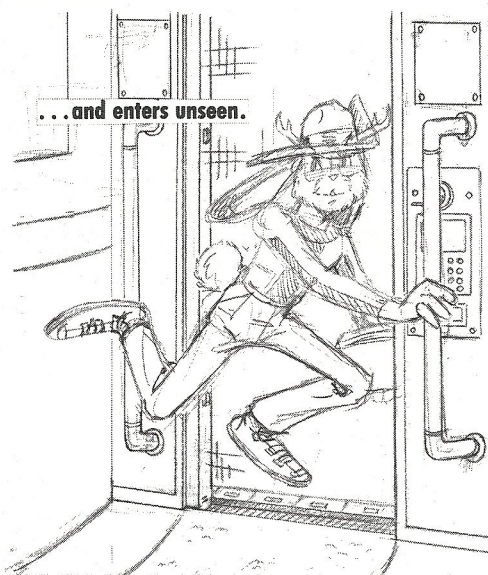
CLICKCLICKBEEPCLICKBEEP



ENTRY
APPROVED

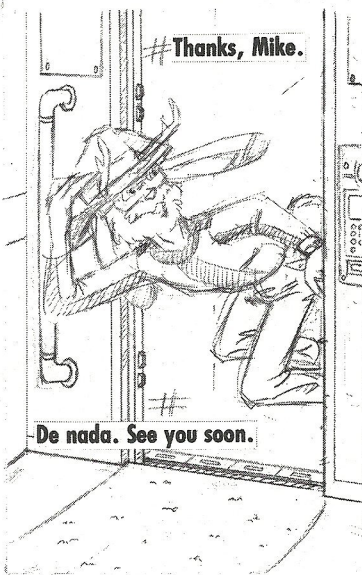
He slips deftly past the guards...

... and enters unseen.



Thanks, Mike.

De nada. See you soon.



Haw! The suckers are LATE!

Y'gotta be a hot pilot, if you're gonna bring a wing in on sked!

YO! MIKE!



Hey, Buckwheat, slumming for a warm techie?

Cherry? No, she's resting up... for the NEXT TIME (SNORT!)



Oh God, Jim, you're not meeting Cherry HERE? In the OPEN?!



Oh, CHRIST...

YOU'RE not trolling for Cherry, are you?

And we're running out of places to go.



You're really gonna screw things up for her!



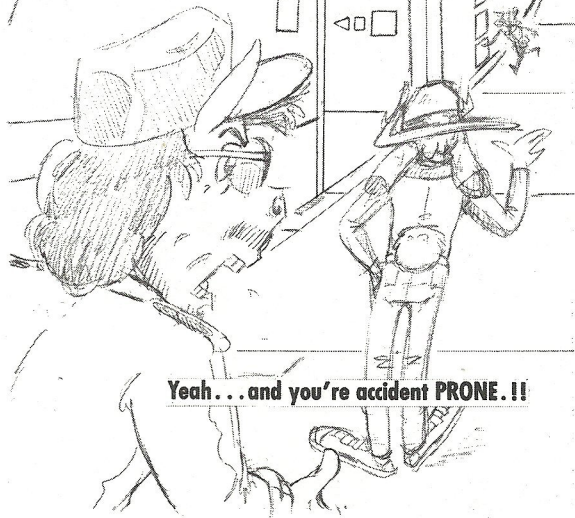
HEY!

No one can lay a glove on MR. SMOOTH, here!



Spare me! That's what you said the LAST time!

Hey! That was an ACCIDENT!



Yeah... and you're accident PRONE.!!

Just WHY are you so interested in Cherry?



I just hate to see you screw something else...



...again.



DAMN! Some people!



...One little mistake, and they're ALL over your ass...

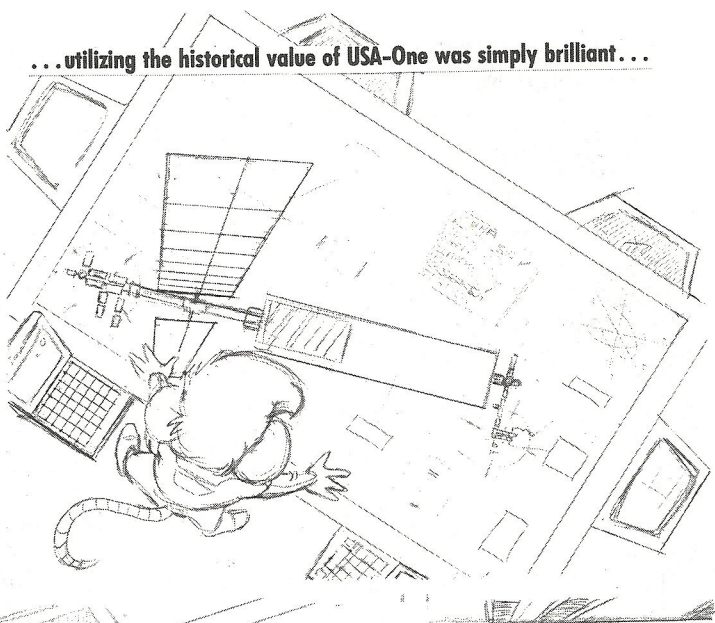


...Hm... Maybe I'm at the wrong dock...

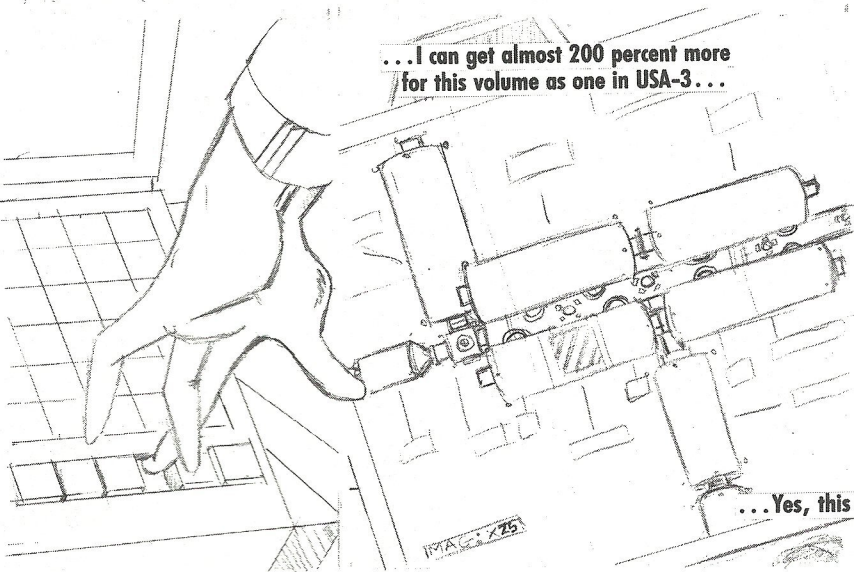


This is marvelous...

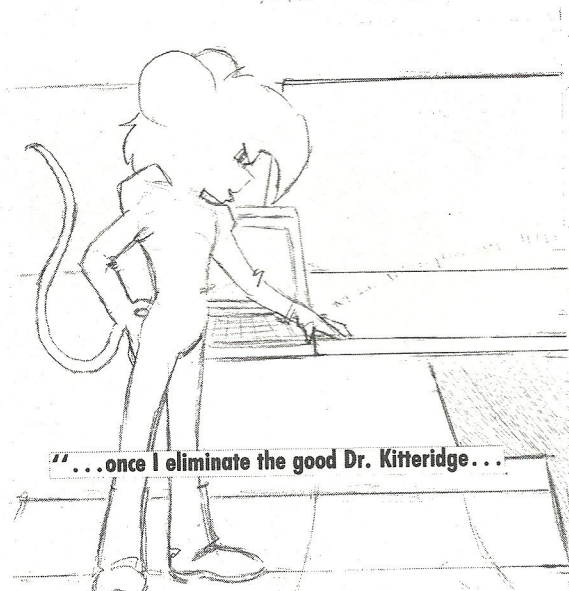
...utilizing the historical value of USA-One was simply brilliant...



...I can get almost 200 percent more
for this volume as one in USA-3...



...Yes, this should net me a tidy profit...



"...once I eliminate the good Dr. Kitteridge..."



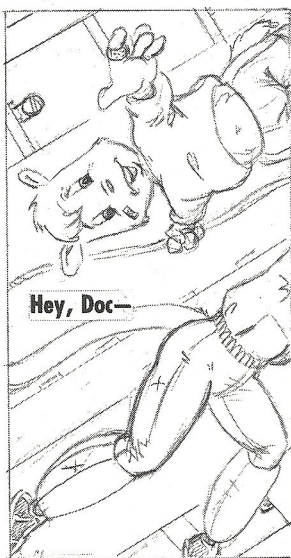
Damn.

What's Hanes' angle?
We're doing okay...

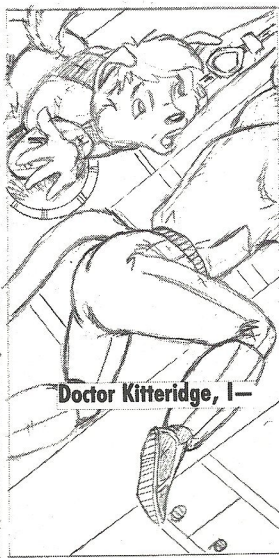


Our work is important...

Damn.



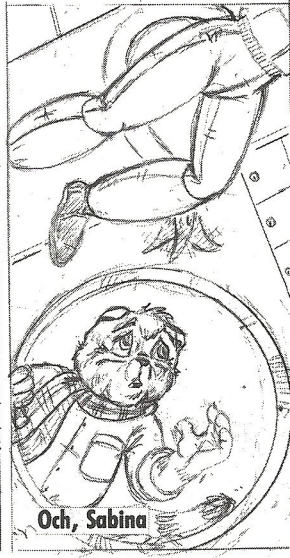
Hey, Doc—



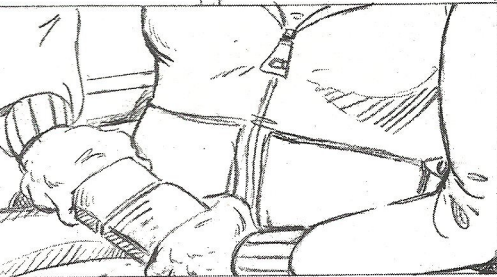
Doctor Kitteridge, I—



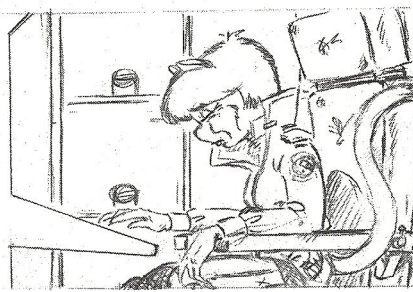
Doctor K; what—



Och, Sabina

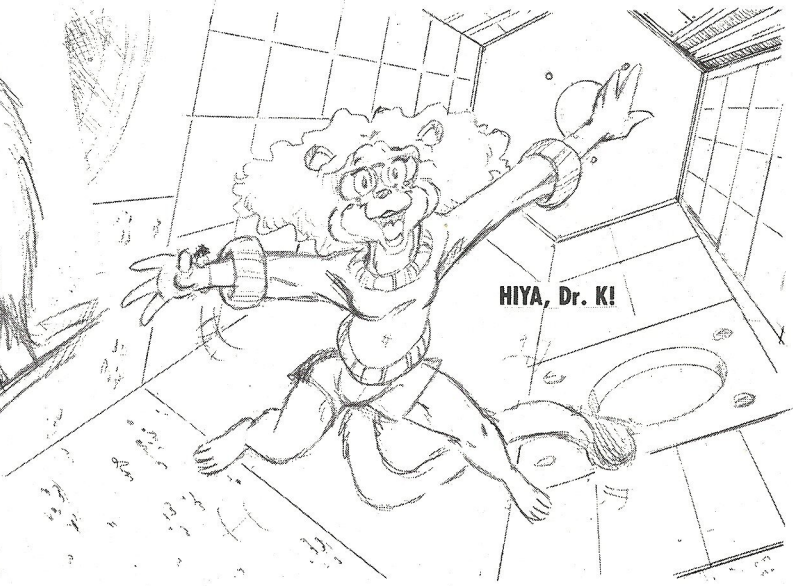


Damn.





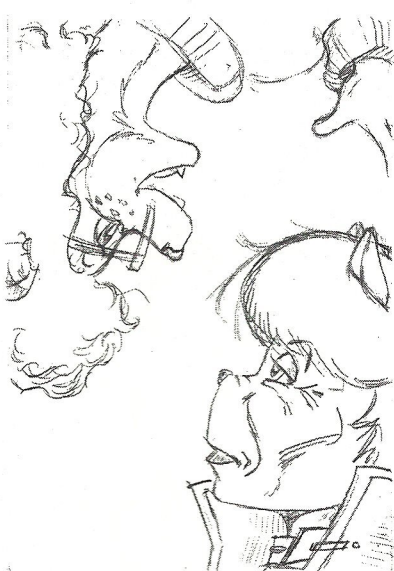
BANZAI!



HIYA, Dr. K!



OOF!



Wanna talk about it?

That might help...

I'm glad you were available.

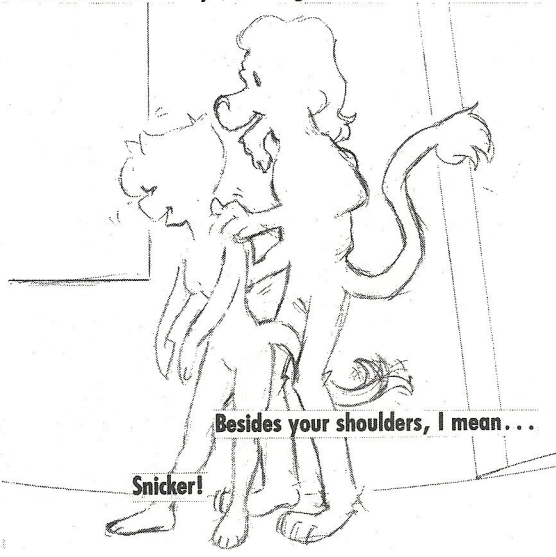
**Tracy was right,
Franklin —**

I needed to talk.



Oh?

So what molehills are you turning into mountains THIS time?



Besides your shoulders, I mean...

Snickers!

Hey! It's not about TETRA, is it?



Oh no — she's a total DEAR...

Her only problem is having been raised in a repressive culture...

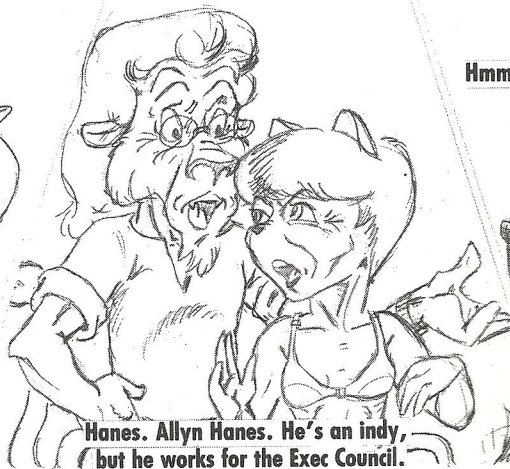
Well, Earth societies DO tend to be cyclic...



No, MY problem is this pencil-pushing pounder hassling Sherm...

Does this pencil-pushing pain have a NAME?

I guess the station's not profitable enough for some people. It looks like we're in for a fight...



Hanes. Allyn Hanes. He's an indy, but he works for the Exec Council.

Hmm...

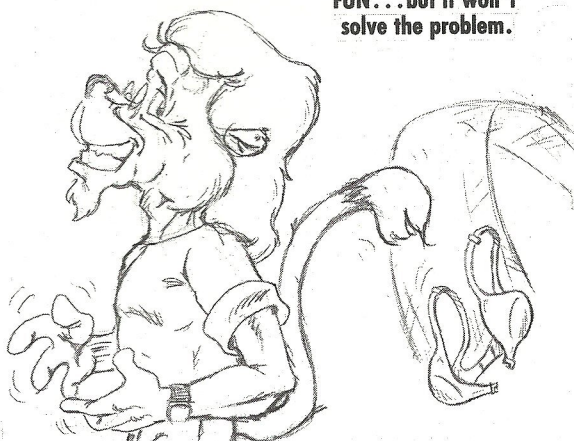


Same ol' problems, just with bigger teeth.

I think I'm gettin' old...

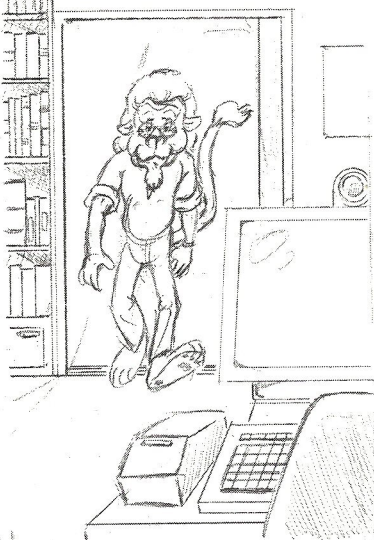
You go take a nice, hot shower; and I'll be in to scrub the naughty bits...

FUN... but it won't solve the problem.



...I don't know... maybe...

I don't know... (sigh)...

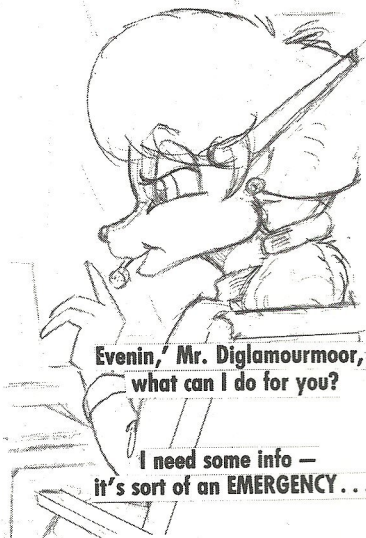


Director's office —
Ms. Colls speakin' —

... What do you know about an
Allyn Hanes? — Works for the exec?



Hiya, Jerilyn — it's Franklin.



Evenin', Mr. Diglamourmoor,
what can I do for you?

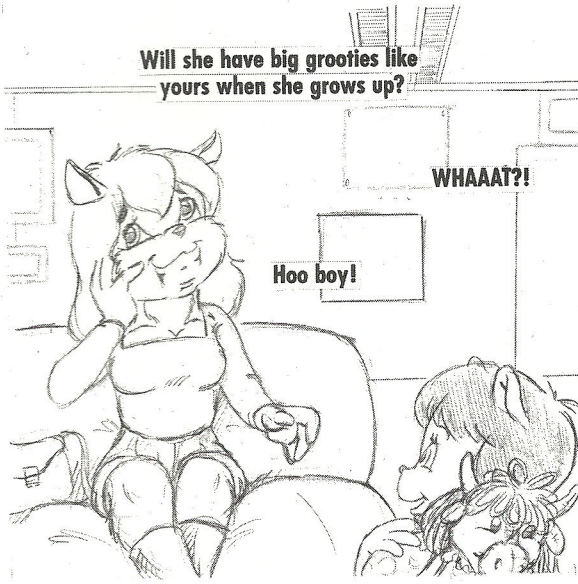
I need some info —
it's sort of an EMERGENCY...



I'm glad you like Margaret, Ruthie.
She's very special to me...



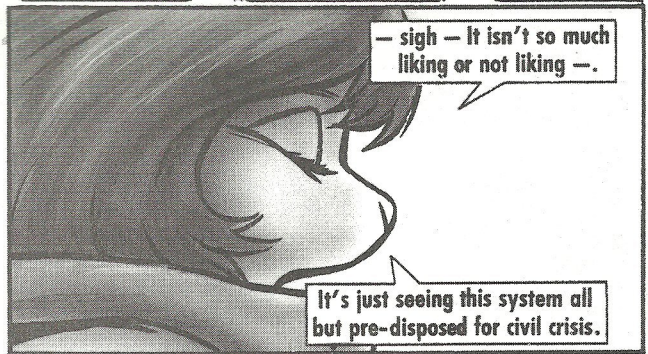
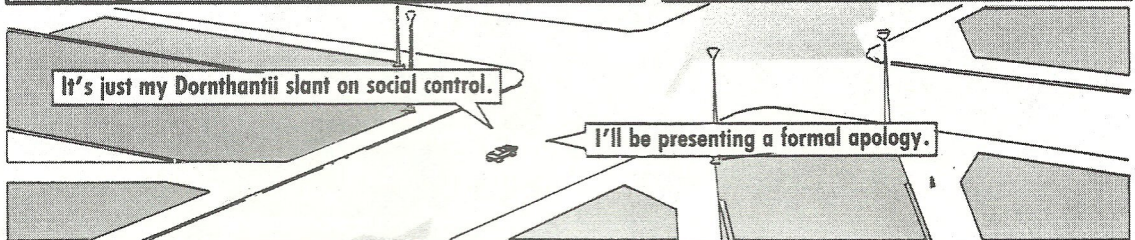
Will she have big grooties like
yours when she grows up?



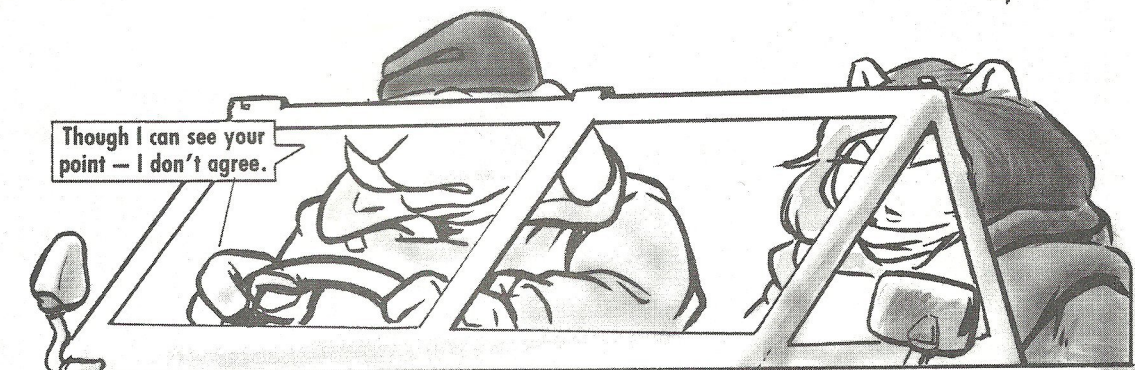
WHAAAT?!

Hoo boy!

AFTER A LONG NIGHT OF VIOLENCE, SECRETLY INSTIGATED BY AN AMBITIOUS INDUSTRIALIST,
THE EKOSIAKII HOME GUARD HAS
LARGELY RESTORED ORDER.

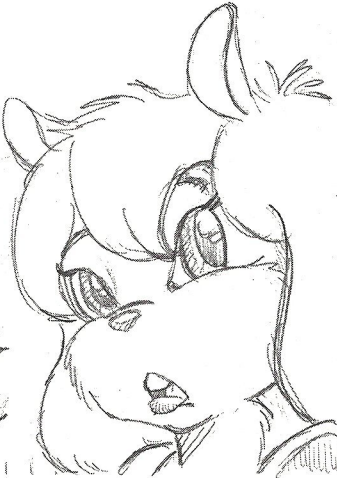


And I feel frustrated that the best that can be done after the fact action.

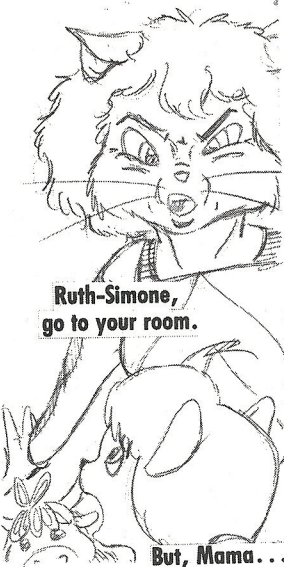


Young lady, you've been spending MUCH too much time with your grandmama.

What do you mean?



Oh, Mama's just sexually repressed.



Ruth-Simone, go to your room.



No butts. GO!

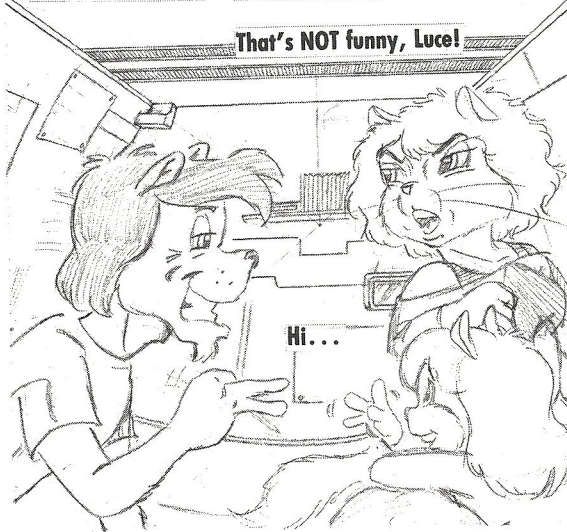
Ruthie, you can take Margaret with you, if you like...

Okay...



Tetra, I hope YOU are never exposed to bad influences the way Ruth-Simone has...

Did someone call for a BAD INFLUENCE



That's NOT funny, Luce!

Hi...

Don't mind Yolande — she and Mom have slightly differing views of life...



Yes. Slightly.

Not to rush you, Tetra, but I think everyone's a little **TIRED**.

Oh, okay...see you at dinner tomorrow.

Yes. A little.

'Bye.

Yes. Goodbye.

Oh shoot...I forgot my handbag...

Ah! There you are...

'Lande, you're blowing this all out of proportion...as **USUAL**!

Luce, **YOU** don't seem to care if that Sabina plays the **QUEEN WHORE** for the whole **STATION**!

Well, I'M not going to put up with it any longer!

Auntie 'Bina?

to be continued

I have spoken with you at conventions, though I am sure you do not remember me. I have been reading *Albedo* since I saw the Prototype issue at Orycon three or four years ago. In any case, I have a few questions regarding the Albedo Alphabet. I know, you get all kinds of crap about it, and its deficiencies, and so forth. I understand that it is just for cosmetics, but, well, just call me a glutton for punishment.

I have re-created the font on my Macintosh. In addition, I have made various (pardon my presumptuousness) *improvements*. Namely, I have added a 'W' and a 'y,' like so: (w), (y). I have also altered, to some extent, the phonetic values which you assigned each symbol (the "vowels" only), and I feel that they are now more concise. I made these changes while referring to a table of English phonemes from my linguistics text (*Introduction to Linguistic Concepts*, by Bruce L. Pearson). I know you said that the language is not based on English. Still, I thought that since most of your readers are most likely native speakers of English, a few of them would find this more comfortable.

I should note that my changes are in no way definitive or exhaustive. There remain a number of English phonemes which are unrepresented ("ng" for one, and a few other vowels, as well as the "zh" as in pleasure). However, I justify these omissions on the basis that most casual users will just spell out the words they want to use and change each word letter for letter. Few probably want to bother with learning a whole phonetic system. What would be the point? Thus, will have to suffice for "ng," and so on.

In essence, the only major change involves the addition of the two new characters, subject to your approval, of course. You may choose to reject my entire proposal, but I would really appreciate hearing the reasons behind such an action. If you have already received some better suggestion, or come up with something more intricate, I (along with many other readers) would love to see it.

I sincerely hope this proposition does not strike you as too presumptuous on my part. I do not mean to be unappreciative of your work. I hope that you would choose to regard the time I devoted to this "merely cosmetic" aspect of your magazine as a sincere form of flattery, or something of that sort. In any case, I will present my version of the Albedo Alphabet, and hope that you will give me your permission (subject to whatever conditions you think apply) to distribute it freely to whoever else wants. Here, I do mean *freely*. I do not intend to rake potential revenue from your enterprise, nor do I intend to give this font out without your consent.

I have the font in its two sizes on the following page, with the "Albedo Key" font as well. With the 'key,' one can write something in romanized phonetics which are easily readable, and which correspond to the Alien letters, then 'Change Font' before printing.

Well, that's it. What do you think?
Your reader and fan,

Tim Flanagan
Portland, OR

This letter is among the latest of many about the alphabet. One of the best bits that come out of doing a book is getting mail from people who have gotten into the scenario. Spirited debates over the merits of kinetic energy weapons or the social infra-structure of a colony world or the cut of a costume are a real joy. I hope that such will continue, eh? As for the alphabet, I dunno, what do you think? (Ragnar Fyri, David A. Crawford, and others have done other variants on their 'puters.) Thanks.



ABChDEFGHIJKLMNOPRSTUYWXYZ

ĀĒĪŌŪShTh

1234567890

Greetings again from southern CA. I wrote back in November, but haven't heard back from you yet. Since #8 took 10 months to publish, it seems only reasonable that you are a little behind in your mail as well.

Now on to the fan related stuff. I notice a real change in your artwork between #2 and #3, a great improvement since ALBEDO then became the best B&W comic in terms of visual appearance as well as story. Somehow the drawing in #8 seems to have gone back to the first two issues. Since the other two stories (one and a half, actually) appeared the same way, I assume this was a factor of how they were printed rather than anything else. Birthright maintains the high quality artwork, so I guess it was just an issue that fell victim to hasty production.

The story line I've been guessing at for almost a year seems to have caught me completely by surprise. I really thought the ILR was going to have something to do with it, if not actually masterminding the whole thing. I never guessed that it would be a power hungry individual taking advantage of the situation. Nice work.

Was that Sgt. Tsequota who got beaten to death by the crowd? I've gotten to identify with your characters so much I feel a sense of loss. Characters I've grown to respect and love are getting killed off. A sobering reminder of what it will be like if my reserve unit ever gets mobilized.

The fact that they don't have a lengthy cultural background shows up well in the situations where the rioters turn on each other so quickly. Then again, the French revolution followed a similar course in some respects. It seems now that the root cause of the uprising has been exposed and eliminated, the cultural of Ekosiak could now recover, but if an ILR invasion happened now, their ability to resist it would be almost nil. This going to happen? By chance, or was all this done deliberately as a pre-invasion action, as Spetznaz would? Another perfect ingredient is the Ekosiak high value of civil rights, followed by the outbreak of mob violence by the same people. Reminiscent of the 60's, ey?

FUSION is great. I'm pretty sure I can pick out what drawings are yours and what isn't. Haven't obviously one of your characters. Seems you finally gave in to the "manipulative organ" bunch. Makes sense, actually. Now you will probably run into the problem of: how can so many vastly different species evolve intelligent life in the same era, and all breathe the same atmosphere without introducing biological hazards to each other? Since this place looks like the Los Isley spaceport from Star Wars, why would anyone fight a major space battle for it? Strategic location is the only reason I can think of, or else some natural resource of great importance which evidently has been mined out.

Speaking of natural resources, and referring back to BIRTHRIGHT, where did they come up with coal for "coal fired tenement blocks" that Maj. Duwan referred to? Is the time span between ALBEDO and BIRTHRIGHT that great? Is that why the bone structure of all the inhabitants differs from the earlier time? Jenna Shodi and Dea Huthok look quite different, for example, with Jenna looking far more like a real Fox.

A Bigger fan than you know,

**D.J. Dutton,
Anaheim, CA**

As before, I've been trying variations. The Ekosiak incident has been an ugly tangle from the start. But, as it wraps up, it's clear that the ILR had nothing to do with it. The story, like the real world, is a lot more than a single issue situation. Now, with FUSION, most of the beasties are actually genetic artifacts, mostly made for the wars, so bio-compatibility isn't too much of a problem. There were actually very few original species and a lot of space to act in. "Coal?" What about coal? The worlds had bio-spheres long before anyone colonized them. So having coal and oil is no problem. Creating a habitable planet from scratch takes an awful long time, so they took over biologically compatible systems. As for differences in anatomy, there are reasons, intoned the Author, ominously.

Fusion looks very good, I am really looking forward to more issues. The only problem is — what with Fusion and Critters, how will you ever find the time to continue the stories of Erma and Zell? Have you considered cloning yourself?

It certainly is nice to see an artist we "discovered" several years ago making a bigger and bigger impact. Hopefully this means the comics market has room for better and more serious science fiction and fantasy. Looks like some of the fans are getting fanatical — from the prices I saw quoted for early Albedo issues, maybe I should lock mine up.

I would also like to thank you for bringing artists such as Donna Barr, Stan Sakai, Matt Howarth and Deal Whitley to our attention. To think that we might have missed WRAB Pirate Television or The Dreamery — eek!

Finestkind! (but how does Tan see with that helmet on?)

**William B. Brodgen
Leander, TX**

Well, I don't have Dr. Amazamov's agents, nor could I afford them. So, as previously mentioned, I'm cutting back on my commitments. Yeah, I guess the one lasting bit of gratification is that I've helped others get "discovered." Well, they'd have gotten their due recognition eventually, but it's fun to have had first publication.

I think Konny and Czu is a half brained comic. I feel the art work is a little too sketchy at times and the characters are a little too hard to believe. Konny looks like floating rocks and Czu looks like a run over centipede. Konny and Czu just needs some more work.

**Derek Grant
San Mateo, CA**

Oh. But Konnwalt is (are) floating rocks. I've got some pro and con mail over these two. I still like 'em, and for the time being, plan to continue with 'em. (That is, until you-all just can't stand 'em.) As for their believability, in a market that has so many silly "super-heroes," a straight-forward rocks and centipede con-artist story seems pretty easy to swallow.

On the theory that you can't ever hear too much praise (yes, I'm an artist too) — I've been meaning for some time to let you know how much I've enjoyed ALBEDO in general and "Erma Felna EFD" in particular, so I thought it about time I got around to it.

First, the generalities — I don't think there's been a feature yet in ALBEDO that I haven't enjoyed. I hope we'll be seeing more of "USAGI YOJIMBO" in future, as well as "Nilsson Groundthumper."

I'm especially fond of "High Orbit," and not just because Deal first introduced me to ALBEDO. It's not just a good story with some marvelous creatures — it's all the little inside jokes that creep in. BLESS YOU, Deal, for Zenna Henderson Station — a more fitting memorial I could not imagine. Nor "Filthy Pierre's" either. And just tell me that Danny DiGlamourmoor isn't Derek Wildstar in disguise. I want more of this, so you get well soon, ok Deal? We're all rooting for you and your dreams.

And then there's Erma, in a class by herself. I will let you fill in the blanks with your own superlatives, because I don't think I can say anything about the story and artwork that hasn't already been said. I do thank you for the COMMAND REVIEW, for all of us who came in late and otherwise would have been somewhat at sea. But what I really appreciate are the subtleties. It's been fascinating watching your artwork evolve, issue by issue, from fairly standard ink-and-clip through washes, even airbrushing — the care you give your artwork is truly heartfelt. The expressions on your characters' faces are such careful blends of animal and human, both and neither. Who else realized that the Bad Guys are all cute, cuddly fuzzies, rabbits and mice, and the Good Guys, especially the military, are largely predators? An interesting turnaround! Or that the characters are rendered in direct proportion to their importance? Instant identification!

I've heard great things about CRITTERS, and Scott (whom I hear from too seldom — hi Scott! See you in Nashville?) has been raving about FUSION — I can never seem to catch up with either of these at my local comics shops but I'm going to demand them! I'm very much looking forward to more of your great stuff.

So keep them THOUGHTS & IMAGES coming in, Steve. I'll be looking forward to them!

Elizabeth Cerritelli
Ansonia, CT

I'd like to see some more Stan Sakai myself, but he's busy with his own USAGI book with Fantagraphics and CRITTERS pays better for Nilsson Groundthumper. As for species connection with caricature — sort of, kind of.

VERY LAST MINUTE P.S.
AS OF 13 MAY THINGS DON'T
LOOK TOO BAD. AND THE
PROBABILITY OF NR 10 IN JULY
LOOK REALLY GOOD. I HAVEN'T
BEEN VERY GOOD ABOUT THE
MAIL — BUT I STILL LIKE
TO SEE WHAT YOU HAVE TO SAY.
THANKS AGAIN

SA GALUCCI



Well, here we are again. Late, thin, and still not quite what I wanted to present. So what's been happening? Lots. But little of it good. And most of it my own fault.

It all started last summer. After finishing up Birthright I for Fantagraphics, I attempted to get ALBEDO back on schedule. But it didn't happen. I was slow getting my art done, Deal had problems — things just seemed to drag out interminably. ALBEDO got done only sporadically. COMMAND REVIEW came off okay and the fourth printing PROTOTYPE issue and ZELL, SWORDDANCER Nr. 1 got done as well. But it was increasingly clear that I couldn't conduct the business of the business as well as doing the art.

I'd deligated some of the mail handling to a friend, starting in September. Unfortunately he wasn't doing a very good job at that — and though Jeff took over mail and routine business in February, I'm still getting complaints from last October.

With the new year also came the end of the black-and-white boom, and I ended up with thousands of dollars worth of books shipped out but never paid for. Compounding the cash flow problem was the fact that many retailers and wholesalers were deliberately under-ordering, holding back copies, or not re-ordering, with the intent of manipulating the local prices, while I still had plenty of stock on-hand. As it stands now, nearly half the print run of Nr. 8 and Nr. 0, fourth printing, and a third of Zell Nr. 1 are still in the warehouse. A couple of thousand COMMAND REVIEWS, too.

To top that all off, when tax time came around, I discovered that my accounting had been awfully sloppy. So I owe the IRS great stacks of money and wasted even more unwittingly and to the detriment of the business. Argh!

Lastly, I over-extended myself on art projects. Doing Birthright every month, plus FUSION, ALBEDO, and ZELL bi-monthly has proven to be too much. ZELL is on indefinite hold, pending a new artist/inker. Birthright is being finished off and, at least for now, not intended to be continued. Which actually leads up to some good news. Being merely a co-artist on FUSION and with Deal and Matt helping on back-up stories, I think I can now actually keep on a real schedule with ALBEDO.

In the end, I'm trying to apologize for the delays and disappointments that you-all have suffered. Anyone who has had problems with mail orders, please try again as the mail situation has been straightened out. Subscriptions to ZELL can either request a refund, transfer credit to ALBEDO, or, if you want to take the risk, wait for future issues, if and when they come out. Copies of ALBEDO Nr. 8, the Prototype fourth printing, ZELL Nr. 1, and COMMAND REVIEW are still available at cover price (and wholesale, too). I plan to have some new T-shirt designs and other misc. items, probably by the next issue.

A last little plug. Jeff Kilian, who had just introduced himself in the cover, is going back to Wichita. He'll still help handle some of my mail orders and such, but will largely be busy with his own projects. These include the official STAR WARS tenth anniversary poster. Yeah! A mylar one-sheet not unlike the first advance poster. Mail order price is \$35 (in an atomic tube, too!). You can order them through me while they last.

That's it for now. See you in July.

FUSION



ART BY LELA DOWLING AND STEVE GALLACCI

WRITTEN BY STEVEN BARNES

EDITED BY LEX NAKASHIMA

CRITTERS:

A GREAT NEW TRADITION IN FUNNY-ANIMALS!

Every month, **Critters** continues to present the best and the brightest cartoonists working in the funny-animal field. Just look at what we've lined up for the next three issues:

CRITTERS #11 (December, 1986) is our special double-sized Christmas issue, with a big **sixty-three** pages of great funny-animal antics! This issue includes new work by all the previous **Critters** contributors—MARK ARMSTRONG, MIKE KAZALEH, SAM KIETH, STEVE LAFLER, FREDDY MILTON, STAN SAKAI, TOM STAZER, and TY TEMPLETON—plus a strip by new talents JOHN HOLLAND and RON WILBER, all under a new cover by KEN MACKLIN!

CRITTERS #12 (January, 1987) spotlights the sensational return of STEVEN A. GALLACCI's "Birthright," with a cover painting by Gallacci! Also in this issue, a feature-length "Grand Wazoo" tale by SAM KIETH, and—for the very first time in **Critters**—a new story by Omaha the Cat Dancer's REED WALLER and KATE WORLEY!

CRITTERS #13 (February, 1987) re-introduces FREDDY MILTON's "Gnuff" series, with a romance taking place in the 1800s! Also in this issue, the exciting continuation of "Birthright," and "The Origin of Surfing" by MARK ARMSTRONG!

...and coming up in CRITTERS #14

In his final appearance in **Critters** before he gets his own book, STAN SAKAI's Usagi Yojimbo meets up with the rhinoceros bounty hunter again. Plus the continuations of "Gnuff" and "Birthright II."



Yes! I want to be part of the new tradition of funny-animals! Send me the following issues of **Critters**:

- ☐ #11: 68-page all-star Christmas issue. (\$4.25)
- ☐ #12: "Birthright II" premieres, plus Waller and Kieth. (\$2.50)
- ☐ #13: "Gnuff" returns; "Birthright II" continues. (\$2.50)
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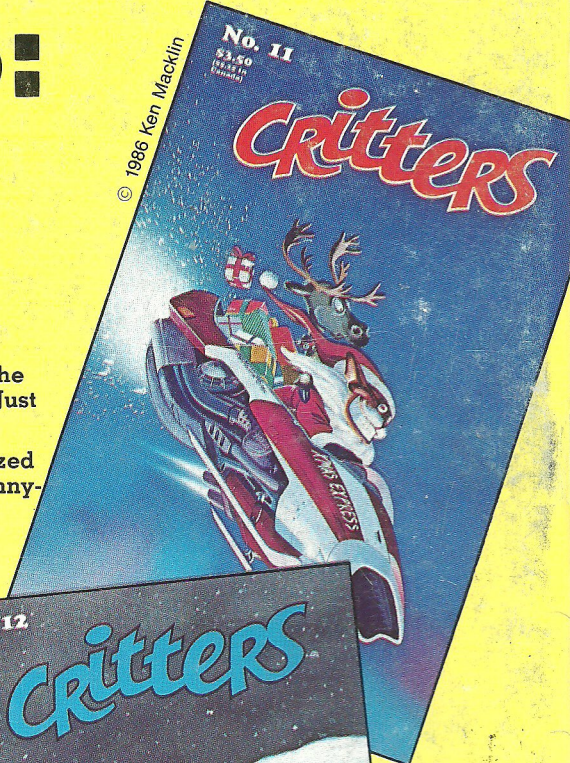
STATE _____

ZIP _____

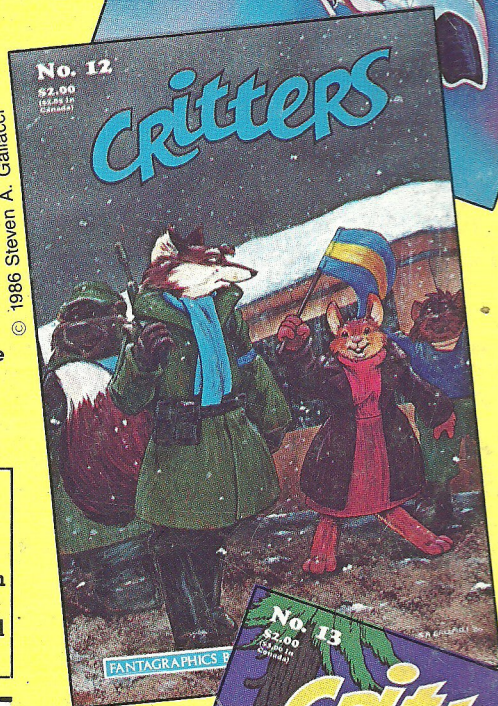
Send to: **CRITTERS**, 4359 Cornell Road, Agoura, CA 91301.

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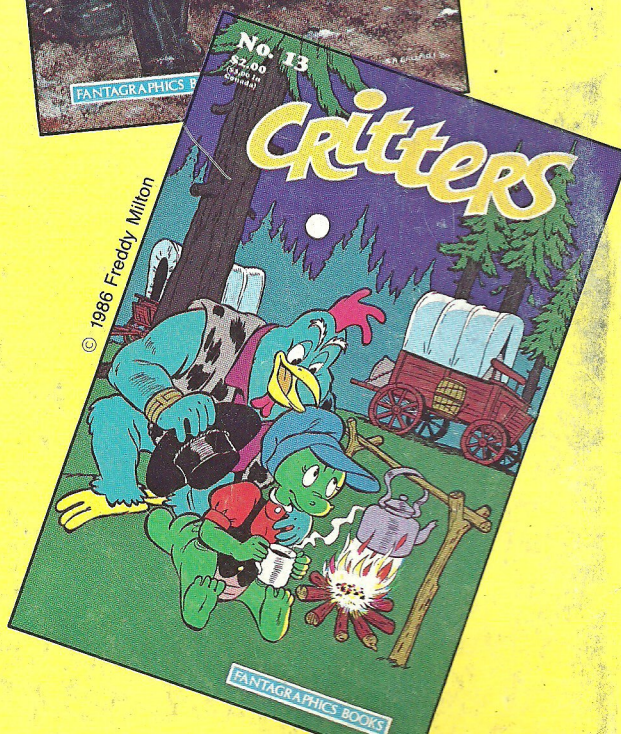
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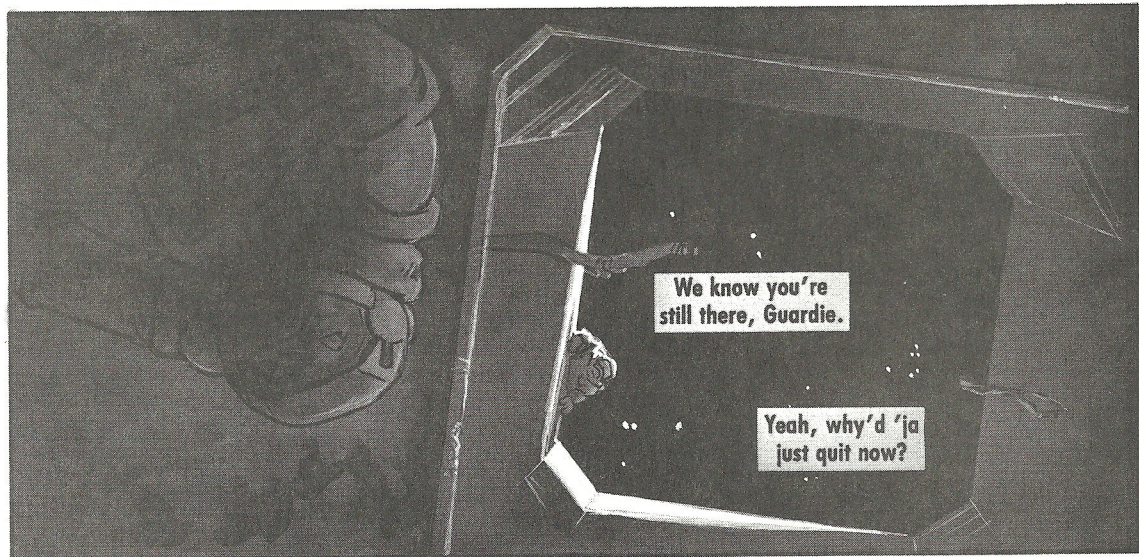
If it's any consolation — your help has made dealing with that overt half less costly on all sides.



Uhm. At least here. How are things going further out?

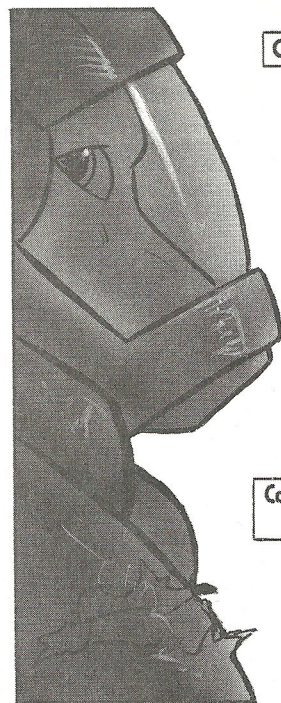


Mixed.



We know you're still there, Guardie.

Yeah, why'd 'ja just quit now?



Can't have too much air left.

Or ammo?

Can't we just work around?

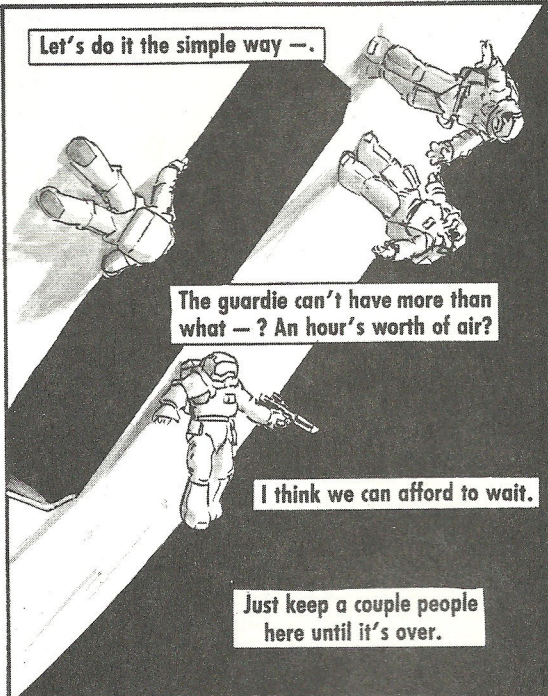
Nah — the other airlocks're shot — I think.

I say we just blast 'em.

Come on! There's been too much co-lateral damage already.

Yeah — siezing the station is meaningless if all we do is wreck it.

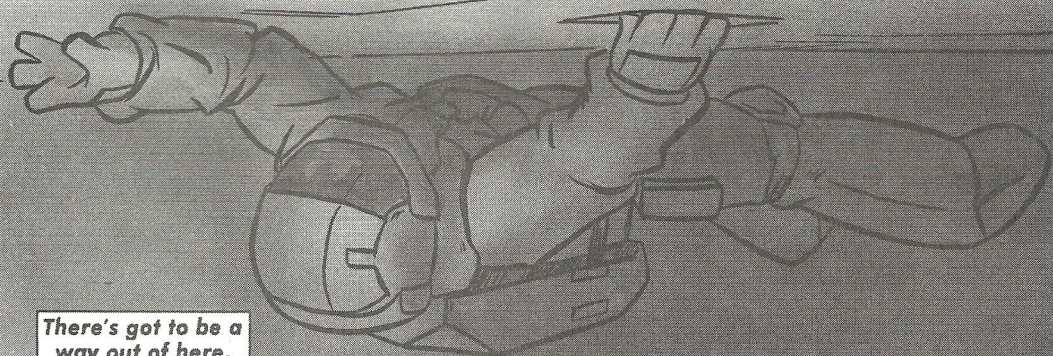
Let's do it the simple way —.



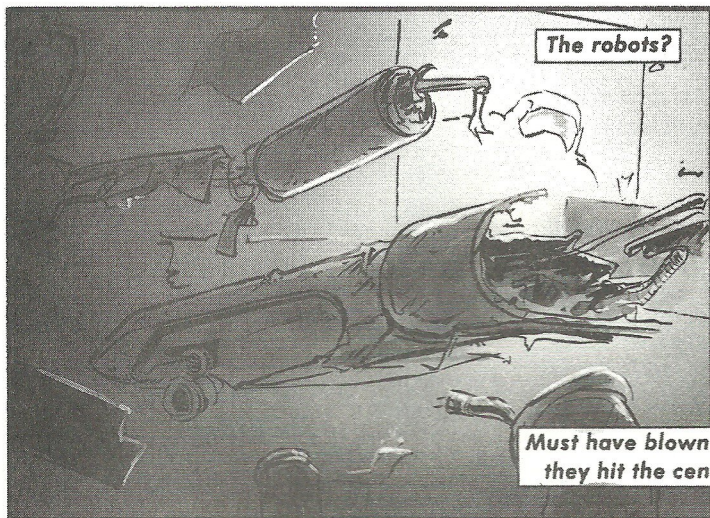
The guardie can't have more than what — ? An hour's worth of air?

I think we can afford to wait.

Just keep a couple people here until it's over.

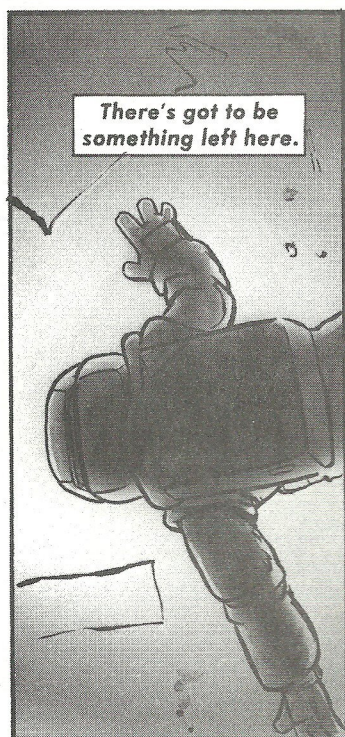
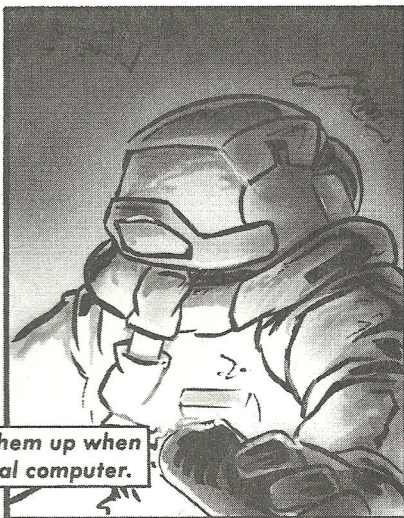


There's got to be a way out of here.

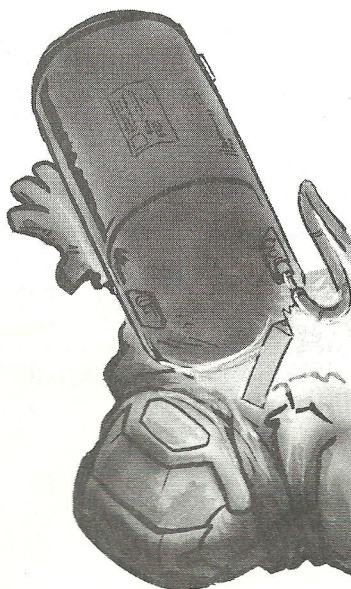


The robots?

Must have blown them up when they hit the central computer.



There's got to be something left here.



A processor core?

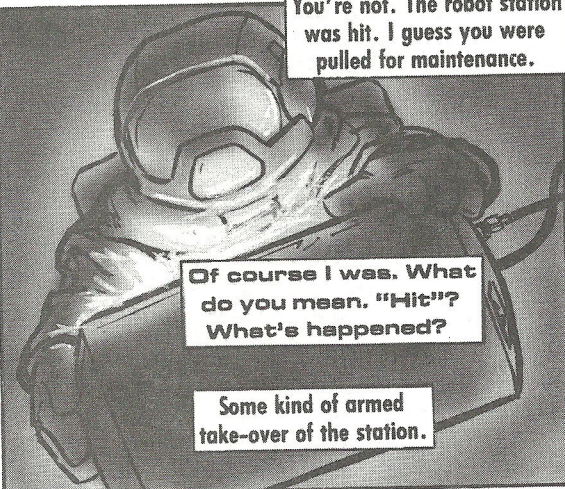


Wonder if?

CLICK! Hello!?
CZL28 here.

Ah! Are you fully operational?

My core is intact — but, except for an audio link, I don't seem to be installed.



You're not. The robot station was hit. I guess you were pulled for maintenance.

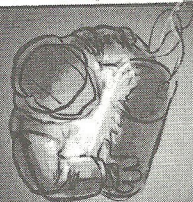
Of course I was. What do you mean. "Hit"? What's happened?

Some kind of armed take-over of the station.

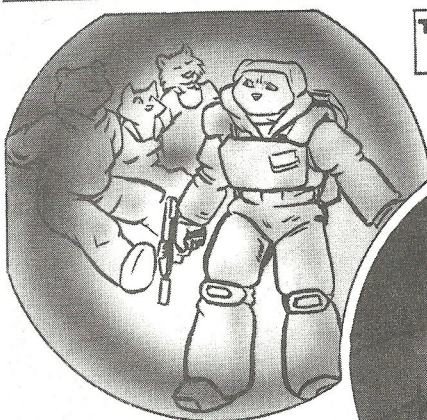
Ah! Ident confirm code.

Home Guard, Lt. Denka
D.I.D. 475548. Code Rolf.

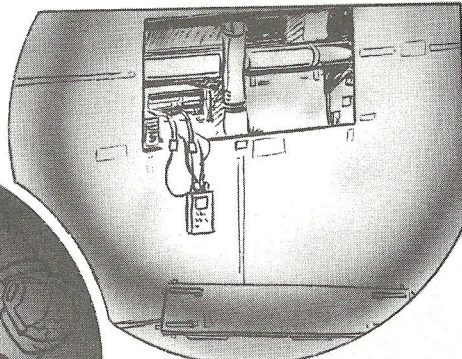
Okay Denka, hook me up to a comm port.



I can use the net.

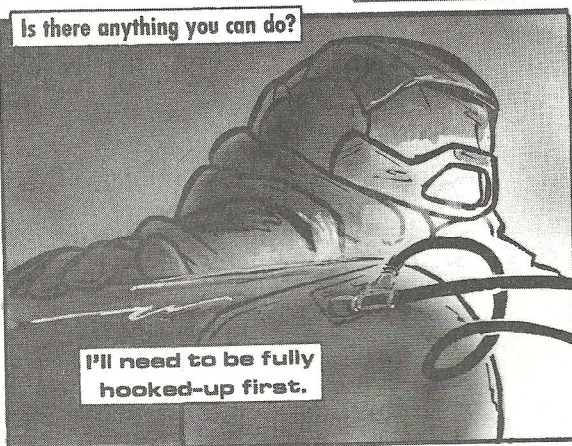


The entire station has been seized.



They've got some mini-processors taking care of the critical systems.

Is there anything you can do?



I'll need to be fully hooked-up first.

Then I'll need your approval for autonomous intervention.

Oh.

Yes, an
AD27.

Le'me see —

Denka, K. 475548, under directive 27,
authorize autonomous operation.

Okay, I'm up.

Now here's what we're going to do.

First — turn
your radio off.

Keep the cable
link though.

Then be prepared to
defend our position.

Once I start doing things,
they'll be able to back-track
back here, and there's
enough damage in this
section that I can't protect
us once they get in.

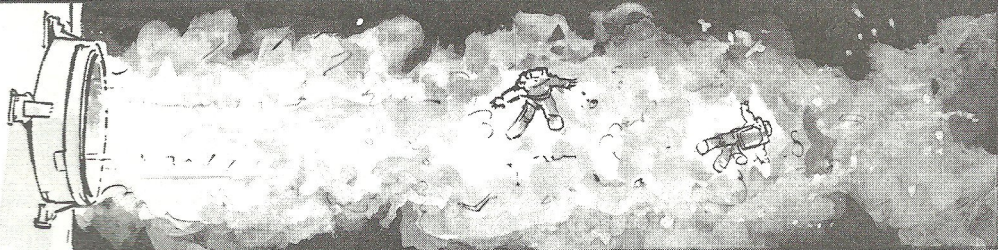
What's the news on the guardie?

Not much — We figure
she's only got a little —

EEEEEEEE

AIH — Your RADIO!

QUICK! PUT ON YOUR —



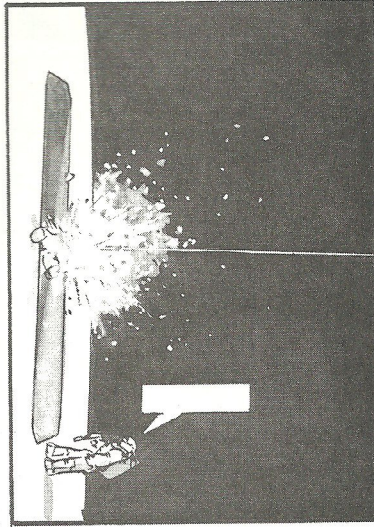
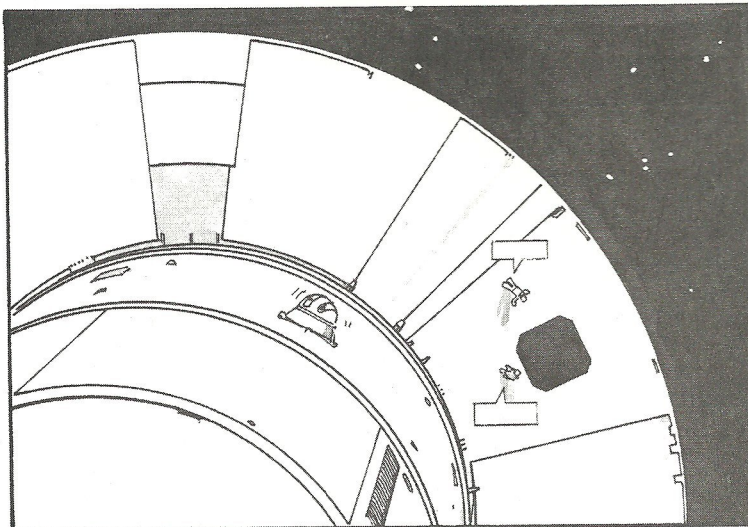
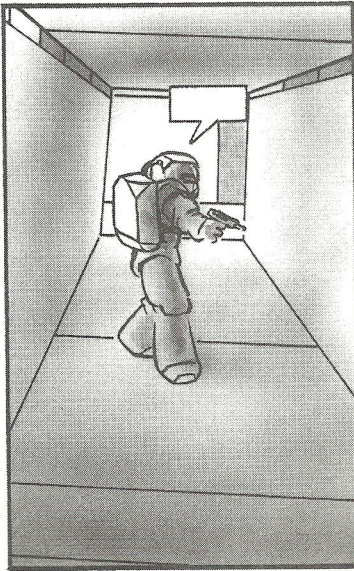
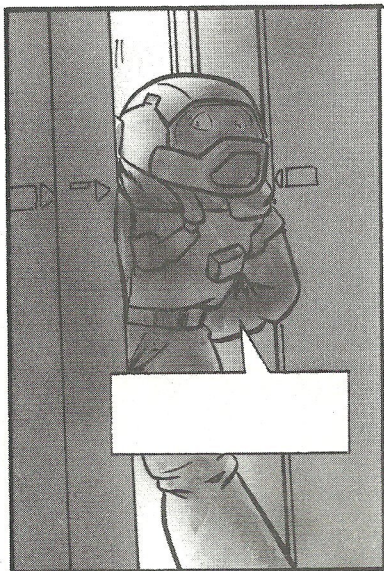
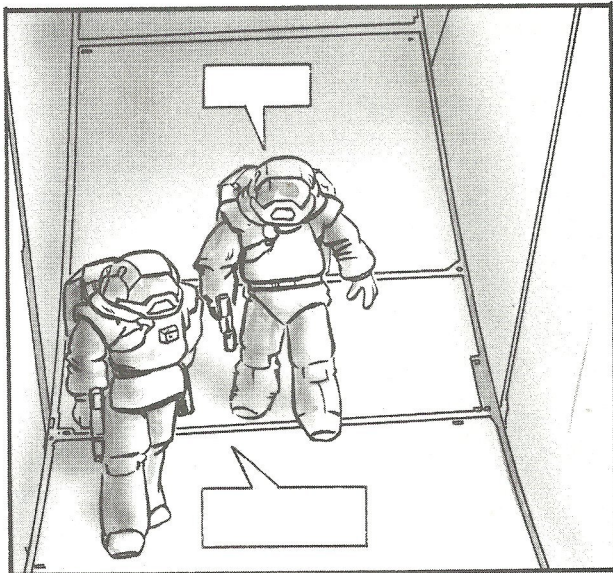
EEEEEEEEEE

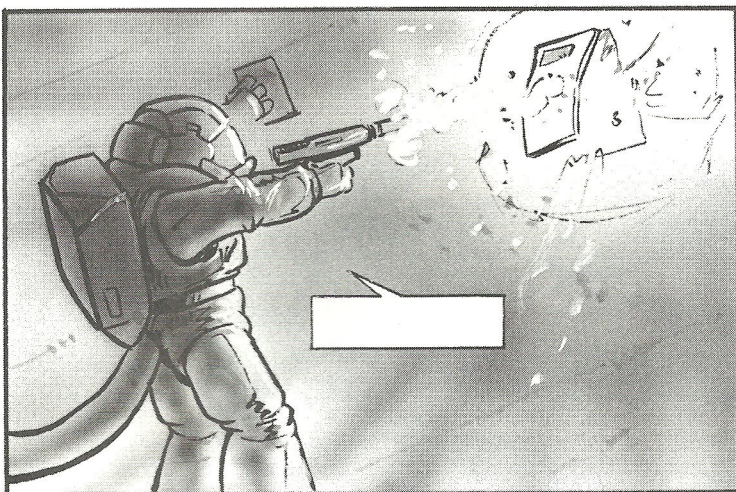
Damn! Someone's
jammed all the comms.

Quick! Get your helmets on!
Use signals or conduction.

You. Watch the prisoners!

Trace down where those
signals are coming from!

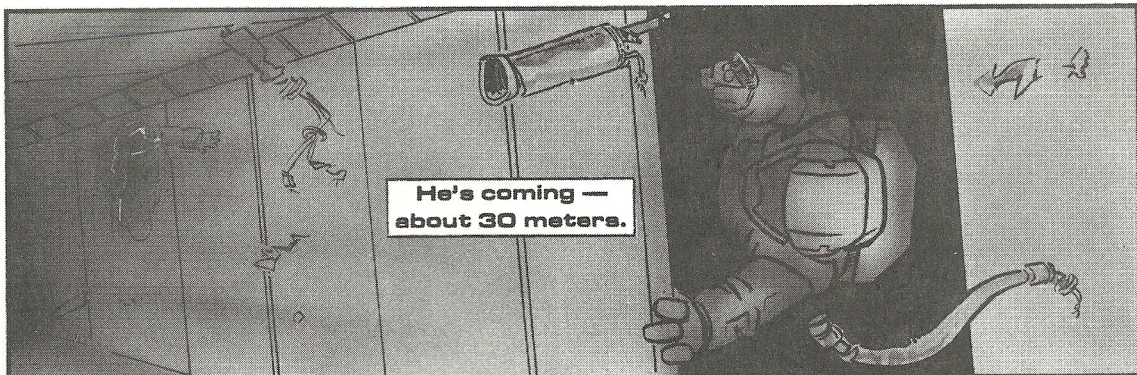




Denks.
There's a hostile working
his way towards you.

Okay —

He's shooting all the
comms so I won't be
able to give you much
info beyond him.



He's coming —
about 30 meters.



OOOPS!

