

Hi! This is the unfortunate low budget version because the orders fell off to below break-even issue. The cover was originally done for the Rustycon science-fiction convention program book. It was printed along with the cover for Albedo Nr. 11, so we had about 11,000 copies, of which only 800 or so were used for the book. I didn't know quite what to do with the remainder until I found out that the orders for Nr. 12 had fallen about a third from Nr. 11. With such low numbers, Albedo wouldn't pay for its printing, even less have any money left over for the contributors. So instead of printing a set of covers using Rick Sternbach's photo composition, I'm resorting to recycling the old one. His swell cover will have to wait until issue 14. While visiting Rick in L.A. I wrote and penciled Fusion nr. 9, wrote a movie outline, and brainstormed several future publishing projects. Busy me. The main one is Vicky Wyman's Xanadu, which is still going strong for a May release. The first issue is effectively done, and I saw the really fab pencils for the second issue. While there will be a "for mature readers" notice on the cover, it's only to warn that there is some slight nudity and suggesion of sexual situations, but it is NOT another Omaha. (While I think Omaha is an excellent book, there are those who have problems with the intimate scenes.) There was also talk of me writing a story for a future miniseries based in the Xanadu world. Though not done in depth, further consideration was made toward a Homo Cetacea story or stories, and restarting a comic strip, called Sounds, which I had done some work on years ago. Back here in Seattle, the daring decision was made to go ahead with Donna Barr's The Desert Peach. It's a rather silly-fun story about the Desert Fox's rather "sweet" half-brother, as he minces his way across North Africa, in search of a nice place for a little picnic. It is tentatively going to be a bi-monthly, starting in June. Also decided to not go forward with Adventure Tails. That means that this will be the last episode of Rufus the Red for the time being. What all happened was that I was worrying about the weak condition of the B&W comics market, with orders for just about everyone's book falling off badly and all. Monika Livingston, frustrrated by my on again, off again plans for Tails, and understandingly unwilling to commit to several months worth of work which might well be for naught if there were not enough orders to print the book, decided to go and end Rufus for the time being. She does want to go ahead on Zell Sworddancer, and the long awaited second issue should be out this summer and onto a bi-monthly schedule.

Matt Howarth is arranging art for a collected Konny and Czu book to come out this summer. It will include the Harvest episodes from Albedo, plus the mini-comic story Dips. At this point, it will not include Konny and Czu's first full length appearance, The Hoobi Yaps Artifact, a Howski Studios publication which is still available. (I have some copies, \$2 plus \$1 postage. It's 8½ x 11, 24 pages, and banned on Mars!) The collected Konny and Czu will probably be 48 pages, and due out this summer. As for Albedo, itself, the new look Erma continues, and this episode should stir some reader reaction, and begin to answer some questions

while raising new ones.

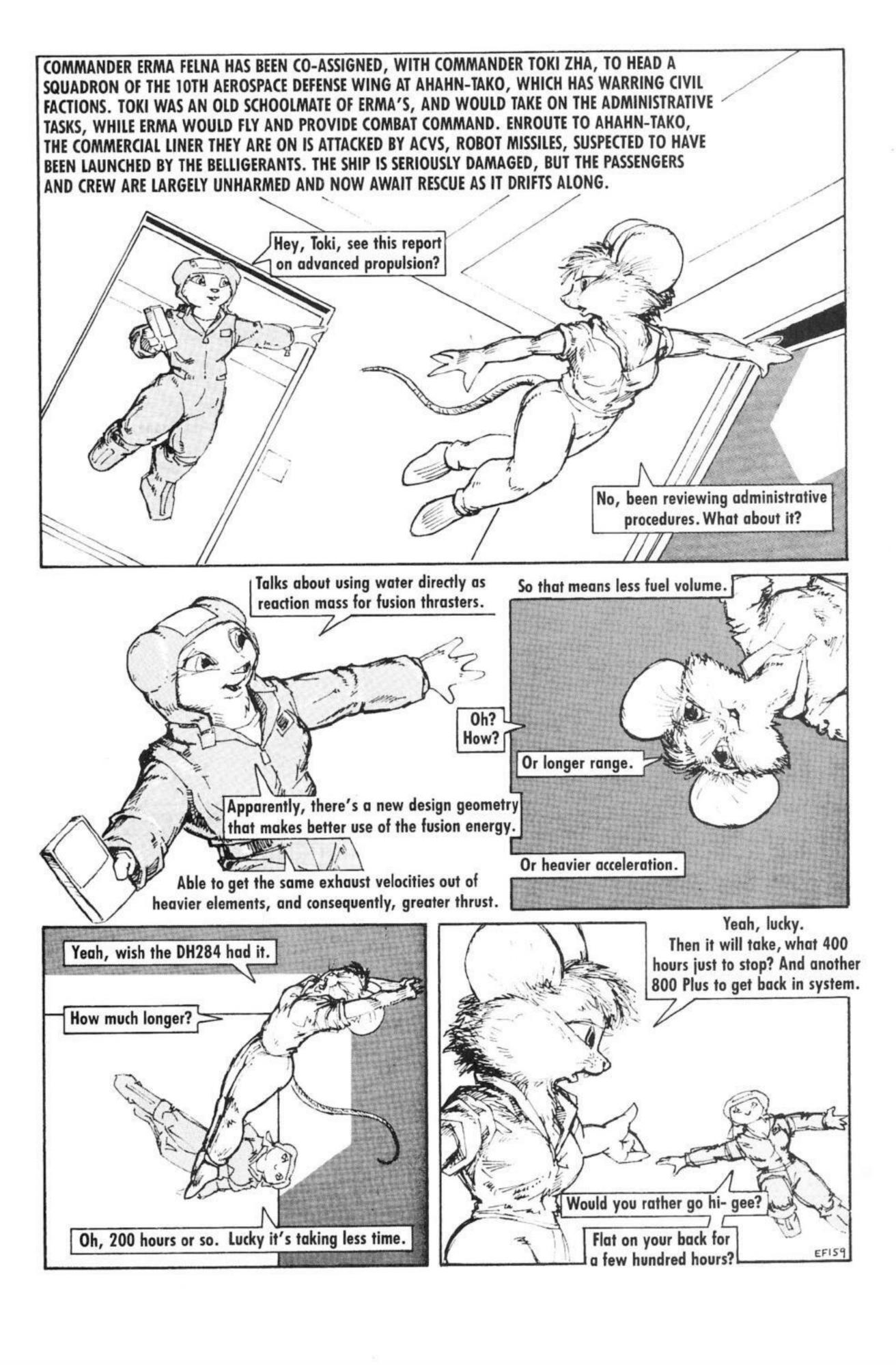
To answer a point brought up in nr. 10, the Net, specifically that part which functions as an autonomous entity, is more or less a single individual, duplicated innumerable times in the processor nets of ships and whole planetary systems throughout known space. Each part is a complete and, if need be, independent intelligence, but keeps updated and in harmony with its fellow parts through the various communications channels, mostly piggy-backing on message torpedo programs and in courier vessels. And so, is usually no more than a few weeks out of date with the collective opinion of the rest. The other question, brought up from nr. 11, is who is Toki, specifically, is she related to the spacer Toki in *Birthright II*? Yes, the *Birthright* Toki is a direct descendant of *Erma*'s Toki. Also, she won't be the only one with offspring spanning the century between *Erma* and *Birthright*. Thinking of such, yes, I do intend to do a *Birthright III*.

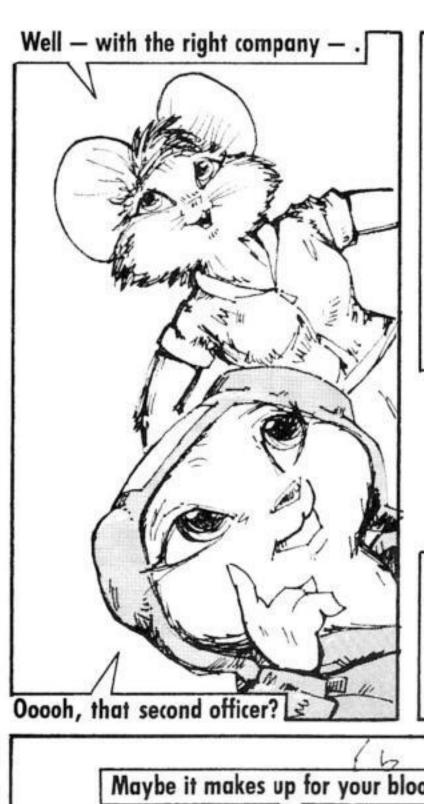
With all these busy things going on, it's clear I can't be creative and manage the business at the same time. And to help, Doug Dubrow, Monika Livingston's husband, is now the General Manager. He'll take care of subscriptions, distributors, consumer complaints, and all the fun bits of being a publishing business. He already acts an artist's agent for Monika and other Northwest artists at convention artshows and the like with his Nebula Circle Productions, so is experienced with fannish interfacing. This means, of course, that all the reader mail goes to him. The only thing I'll handle is my own personal correspondence. Everything else, including *Erma* page orders, back-issue inquiries, submissions of artwork, and all the regular stuff should be

sent to Doug. Okay?

Which, at this point, reminds me, that there's all manner of neat stuff coming up in the way of new ancillary merchandise. The *Erma* and *H. Cetecea* cloisonne pins are now joined by **Xanadu**, **Fusion** and **Dreamery** pins, courtesy of **LX Limited**. I'll have finally gotten some more **Albedo** and *Erma* t-shirts printed up, as well as a new *Konny and Czu* design, and probably others. Since a lot of this is still in the works as I get ready for press, sending a SASE to Doug can get you an up-to-date listing of what's available.

ALBEDO nr. 12, March 1988. Published by Thoughts & Images, Copyright © 1988 by S.A. Gallacci. Individual stories Copyright © 1988 by their respective artists. Comments and inquiries should be addressed to P.O. Box 15168, Portland, OR 97215. Mail order issues and subscriptions are available for US \$2.00 per copy, which includes postage in North America. Please specify which issue(s). For further merchandise information, send a self-addressed, stamped envelope. Printed by Valco Graphics, Seattle. Typeset by RocketType, Seattle.







Oh no. He's worse than you.

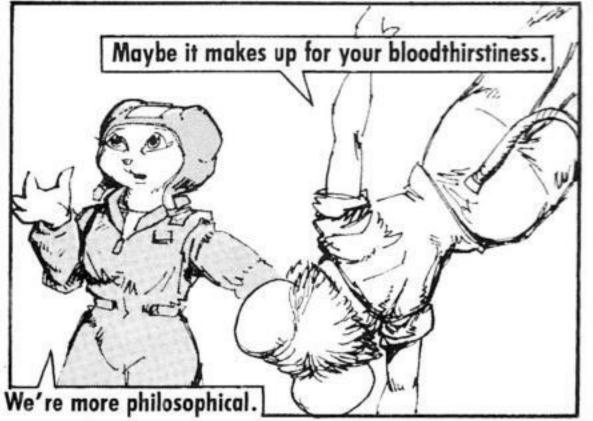
A hopeless romantic, searching for his one great love.

And he isn't even Dornthantii.

What's that supposed to mean?



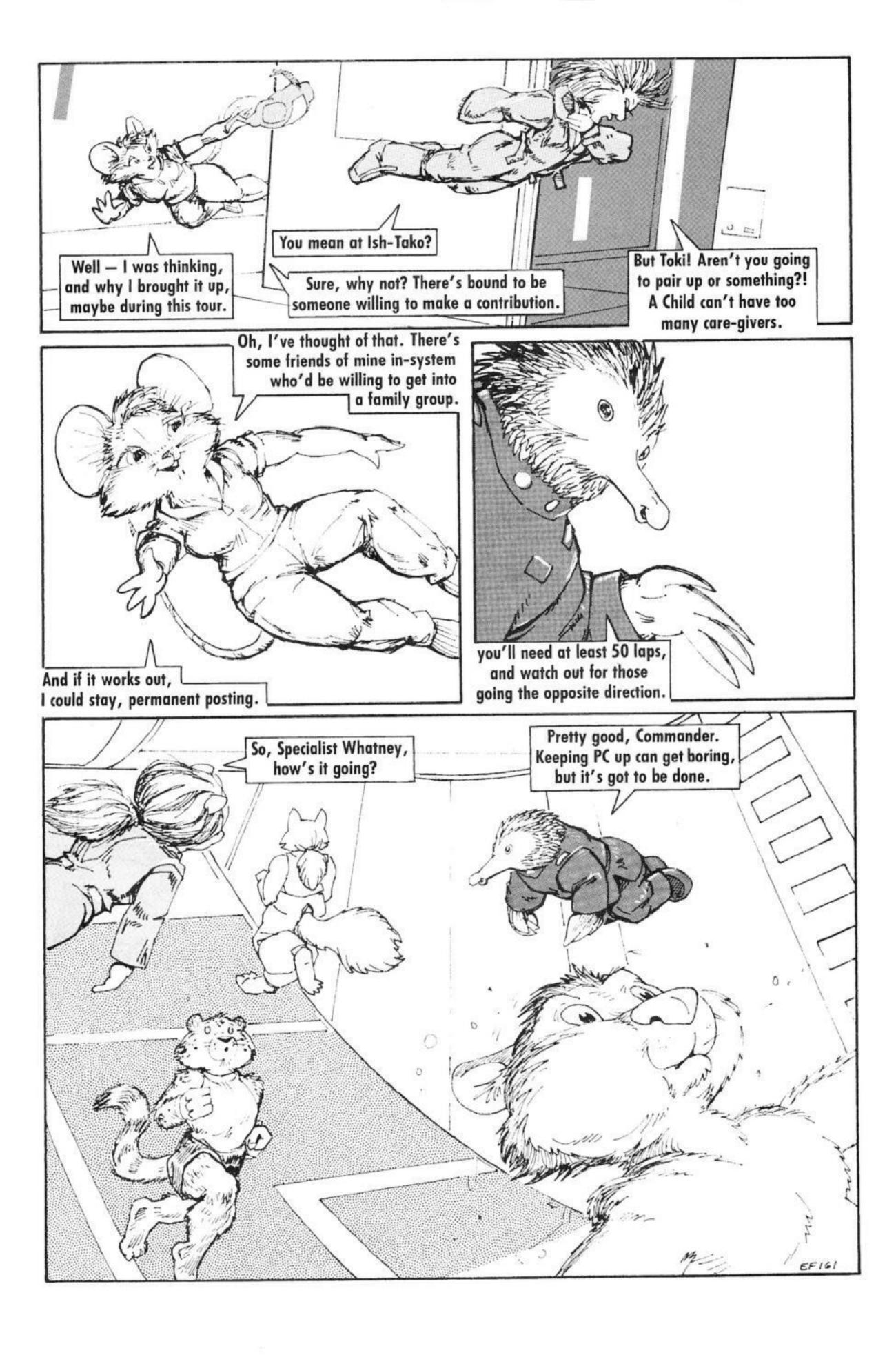






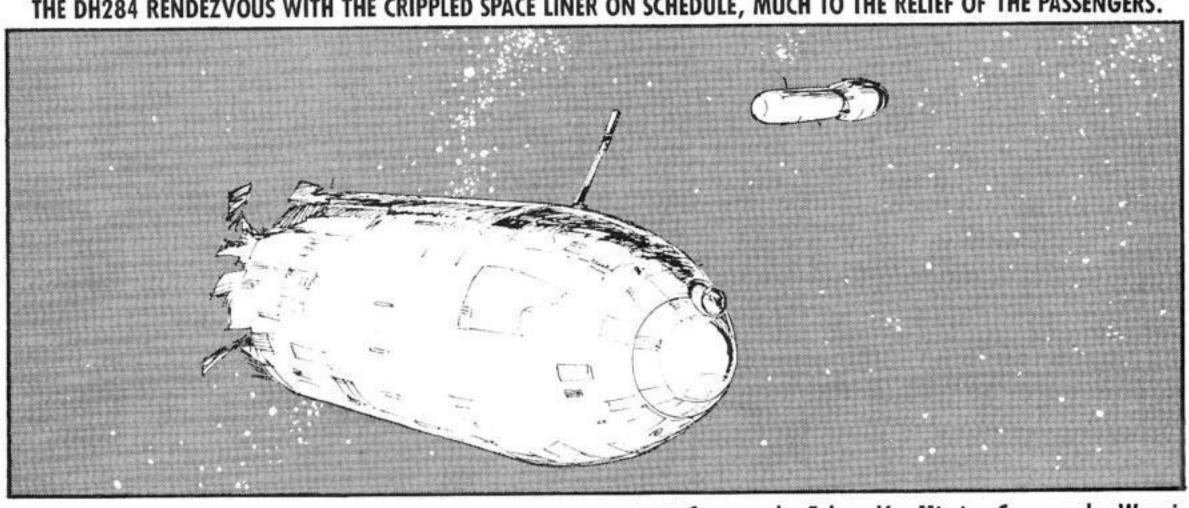




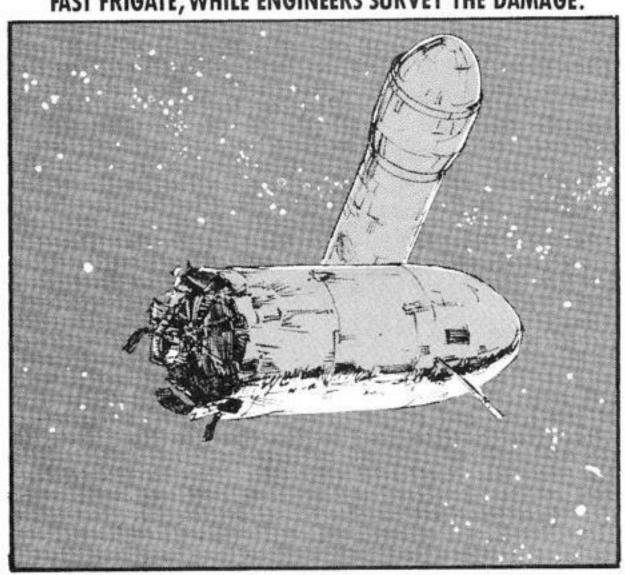




THE DH284 RENDEZVOUS WITH THE CRIPPLED SPACE LINER ON SCHEDULE, MUCH TO THE RELIEF OF THE PASSENGERS.

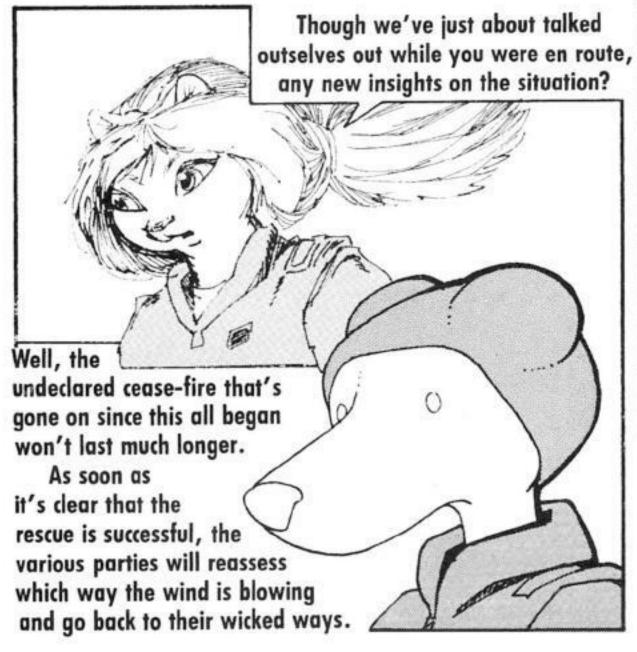


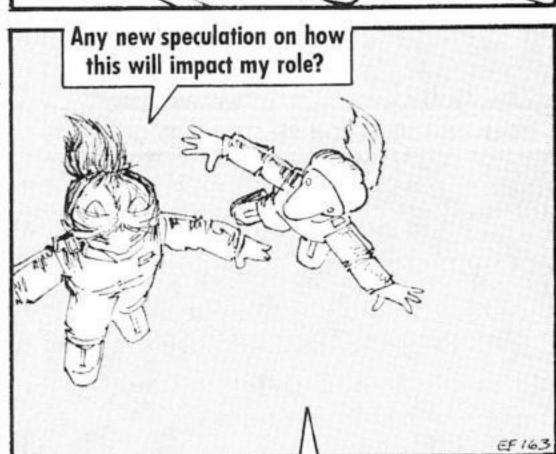
THE PASSENGERS AND CREW ARE TRANSFERRED OVER TO THE FAST FRIGATE, WHILE ENGINEERS SURVEY THE DAMAGE.



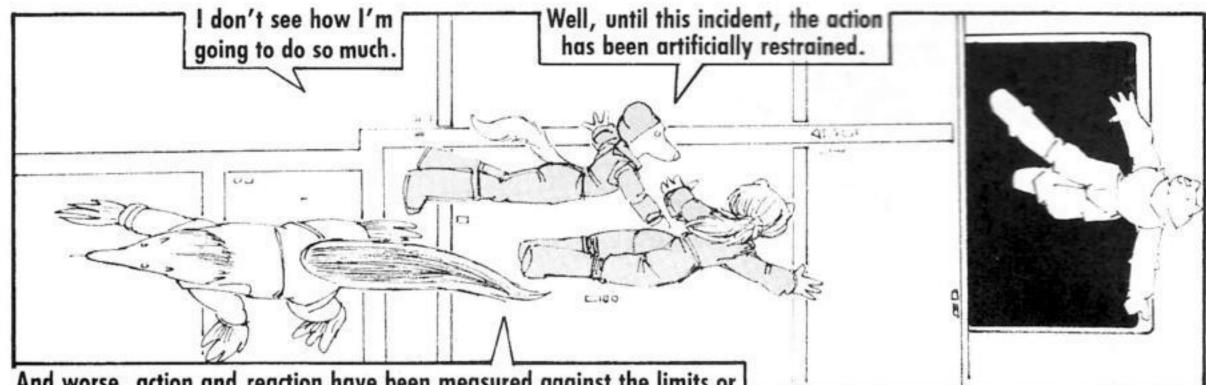
Commander Felna, I'm Mission Commander Wooni, pleased to meet you, even in these circumstances.



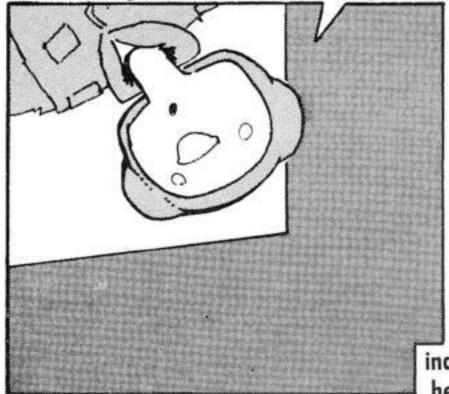




As I earlier observed, I don't know your squadron personally, but would expect a fair moral boost. They are all EDF regulars, mostly out of Danet or Wanta. Should be a good crew. More generally, given your well-publicized record, friend and foe will consider your presence a signal of strengthened EDF resolve.



And worse, action and reaction have been measured against the limits or disadvantages of EDF forces, making our presence pointedly ineffectual.



Bringing in new key officers means a possible change in the game.

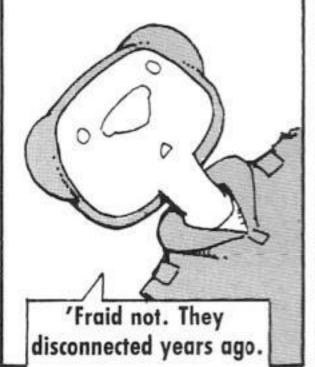
Attacking the liner could have been an intended pre-emption.

But at the same time, it caused a lot of unfavorable reactions, mainly in expanding the area of conflict and imperiling unaligned civilians and all. There's been shake-ups, and the hardliners are probably getting desperate. Every inaction with the cease-fire allows cooler heads to sway the moderates. So don't be surprised if we get some major action.

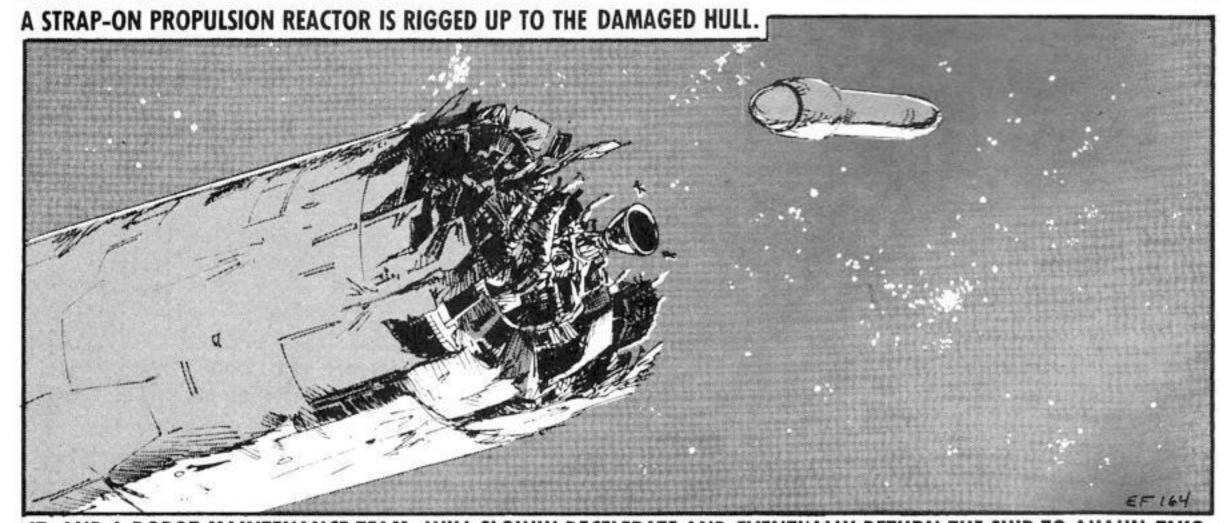
Uhmm — is the system fully "netted"?

No, just the major population centers on a couple of the planets.

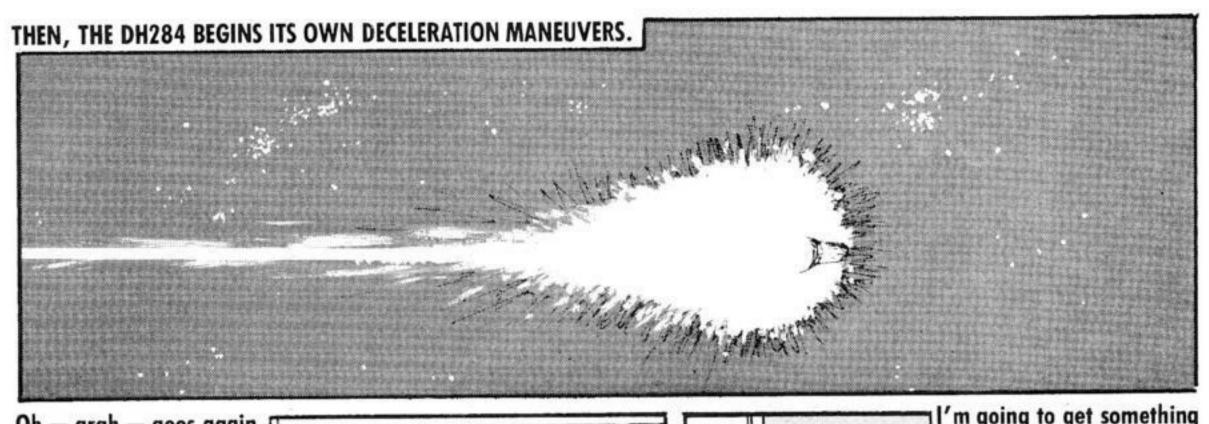


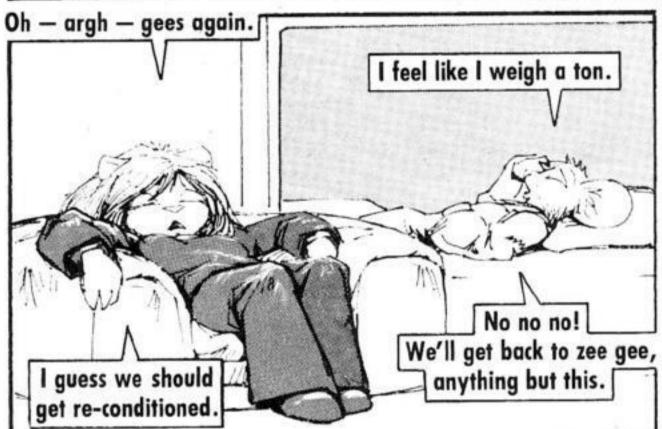






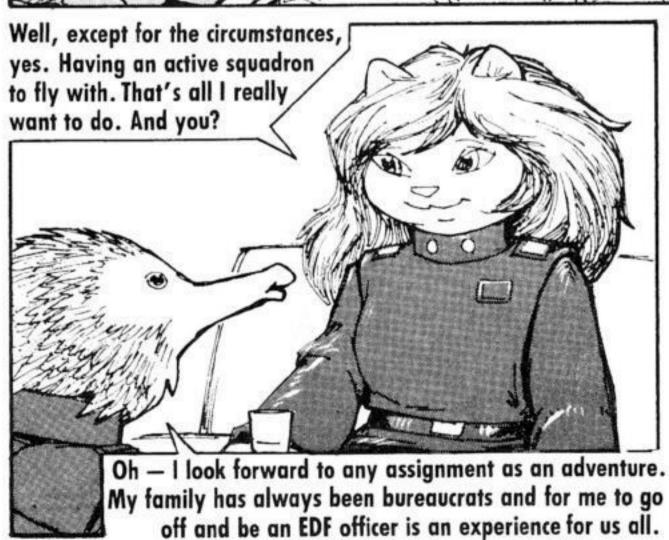
IT, AND A ROBOT MAINTENANCE TEAM, WILL SLOWLY DECELERATE AND EVENTUALLY RETURN THE SHIP TO AHAHN-TAKO.



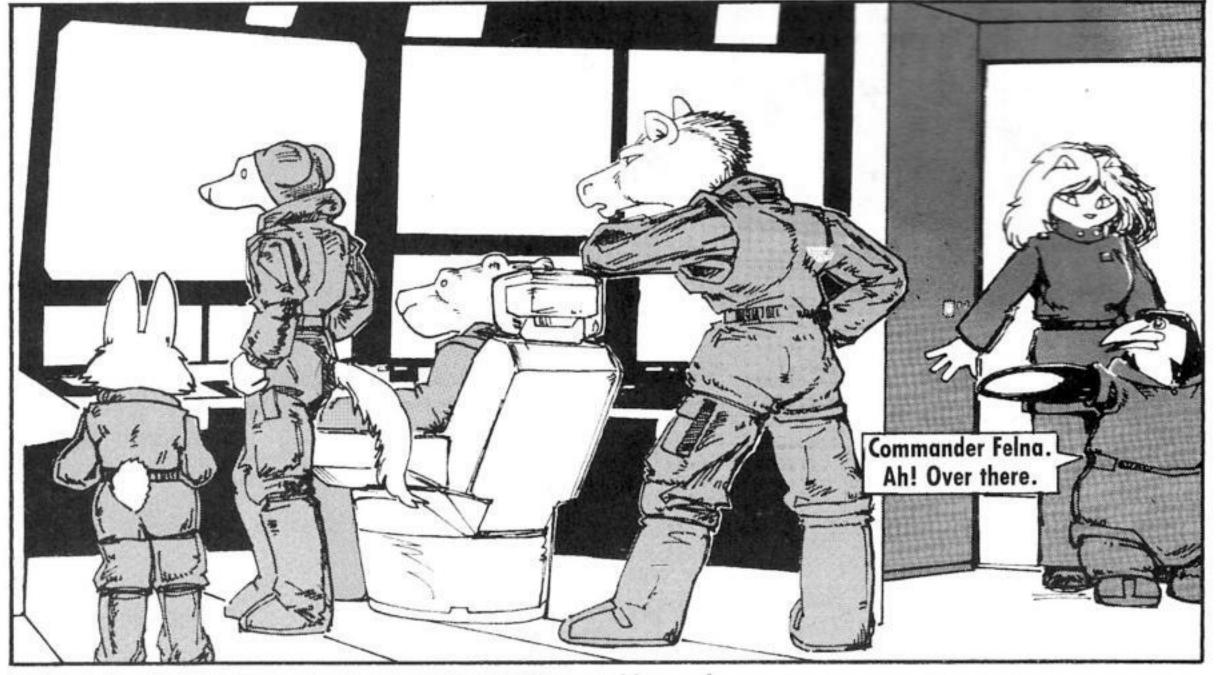




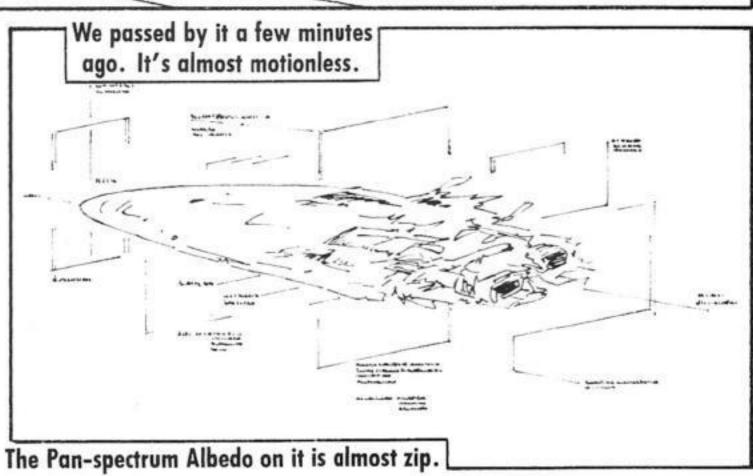


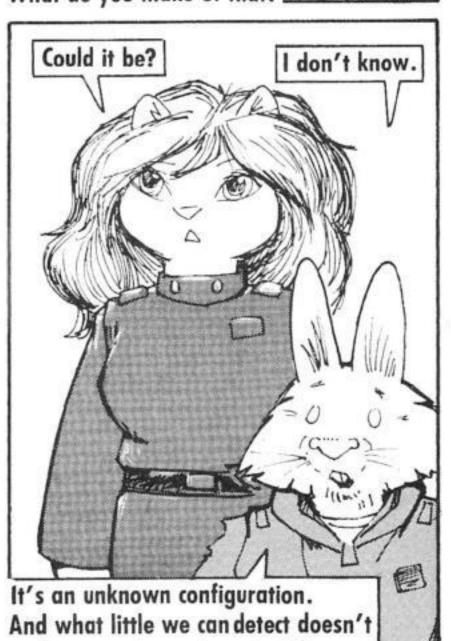




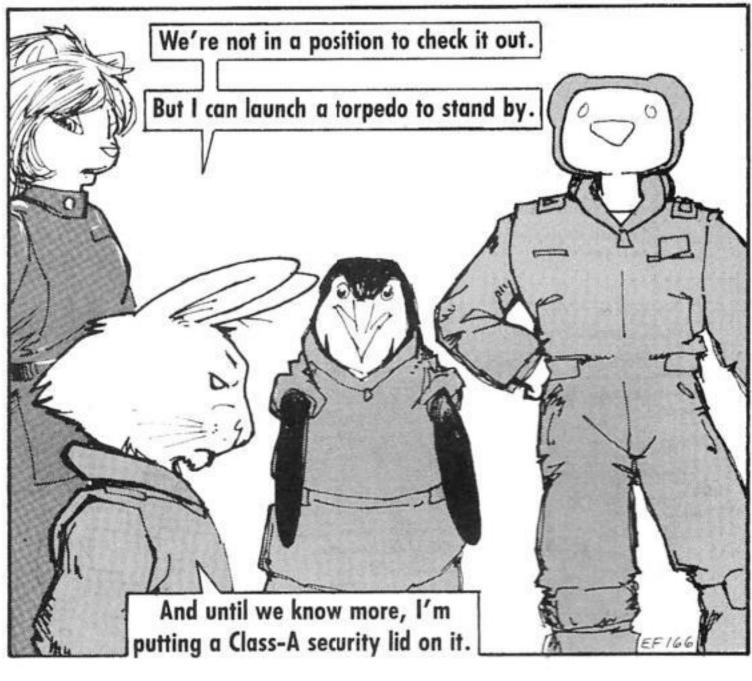








give us a clue as to materials.





ABOUT THE DERELICT?

DON'T KNOW. BUT INTIAL TRAGECTORY ANALYSIS SUGGESTS THAT IT COULD HAVE BEEN OUT HERE FOR A COUPLE HUNDRED YEARS. Of course.
Is it the Creators?

What do you know about the Creators?

Have you been around since the awakening?

NO MORE THAN ANYONE ELSE.
OTHER THAN WE'VE BEEN IN
EXISTANCE FOR ABOUT TWO
HUNDRED YEARS. BUT HAVE
NO EVIDENCE OF
EARLIER HABITATION
OR ORIGIN OF THE

YES.

BIOLOGY.



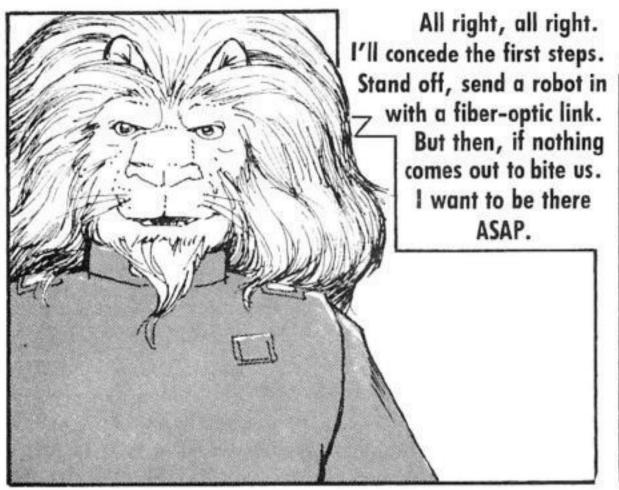
What do you think about the security lid?

UNTIL THE VESSEL'S ORIGIN CAN BE DETERMINED, AND THE POTENTIAL IMPACT ASSESSED, MAINTAINING SECRECY WOULD BE PRUDENT.

And if it's the Creators?





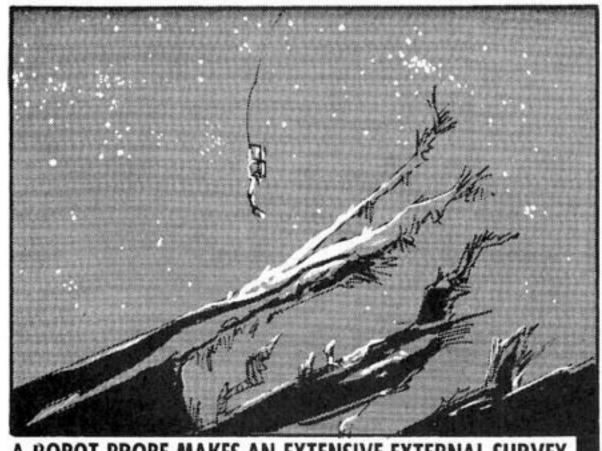


I can accept that, only if you give me enough time to see whether or not there is something in there to "bite" you.

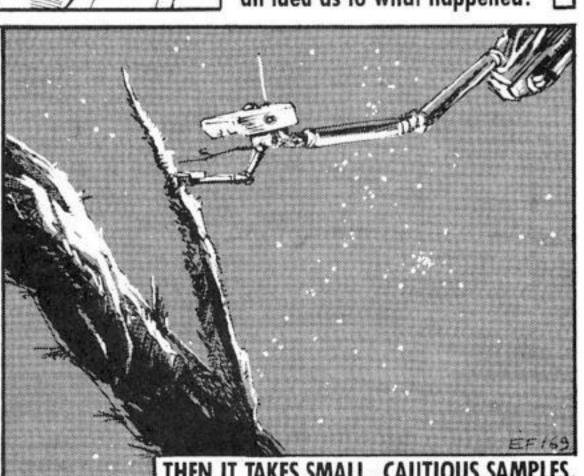




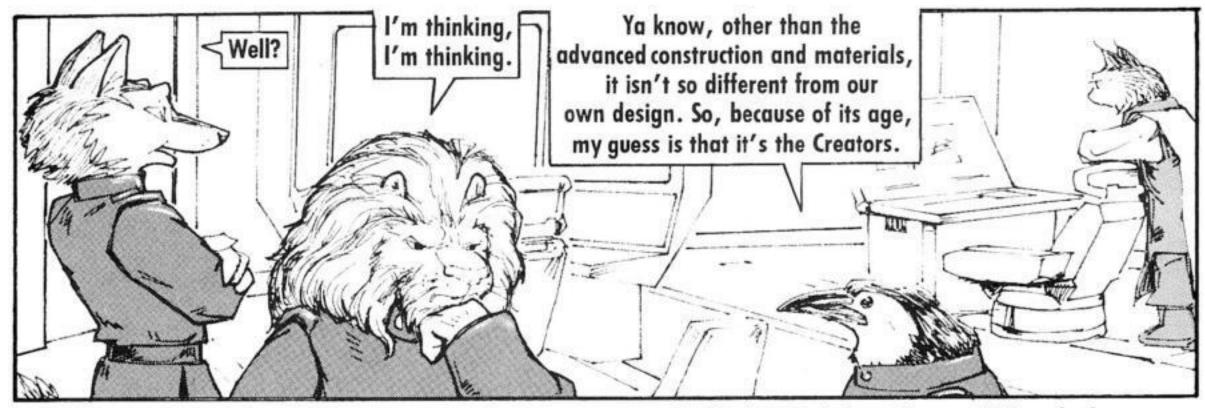








THEN IT TAKES SMALL, CAUTIOUS SAMPLES.





It's a badly damaged ship. There could be volatiles, even explosives. Moreover, there are what appear to be turrets, maybe sensors, maybe weapons.

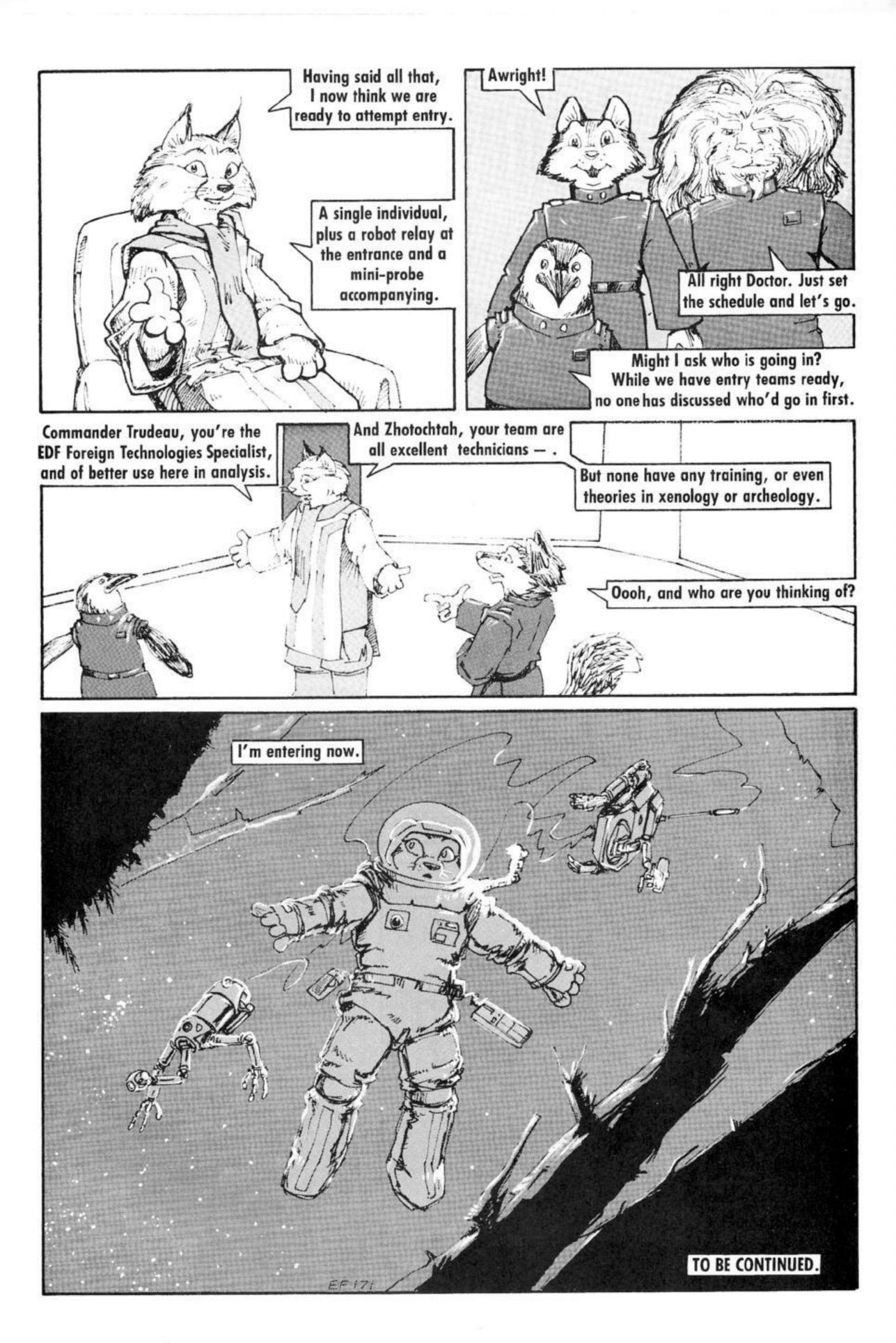


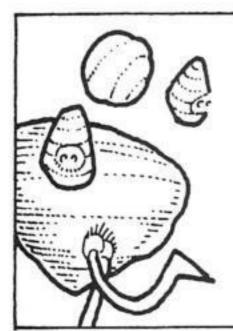


A point well taken. I'll admit, I was a bit over-enthusiastic at first. But now that I've been staring at it for a few days — . I'm going to have to agree with you on going slow. Just in those details of materials technology that we can see, the artifact is invaluable. Who knows what we might yet find inside and jeopardize in a moment's incaution.



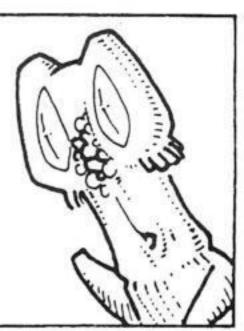


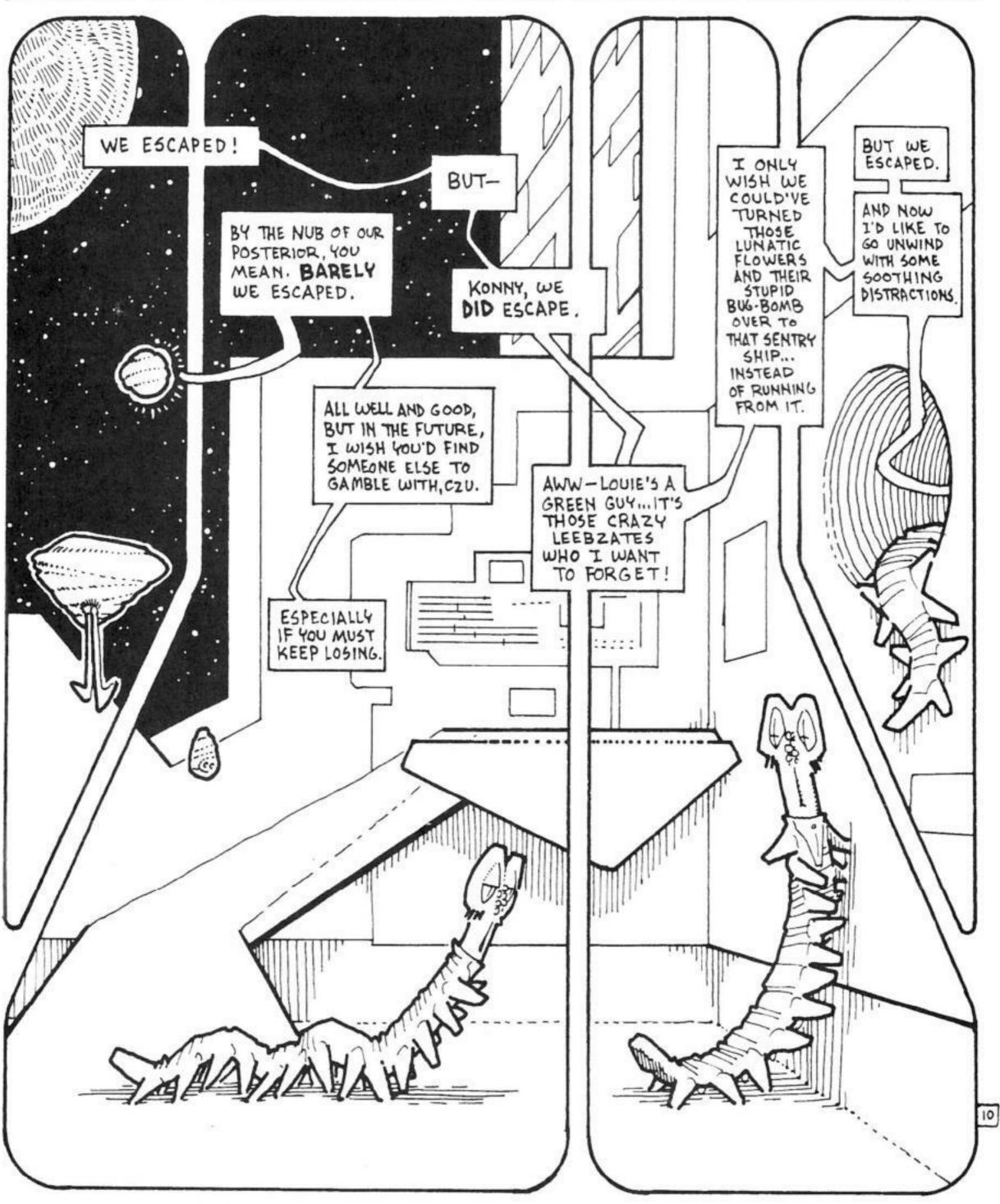




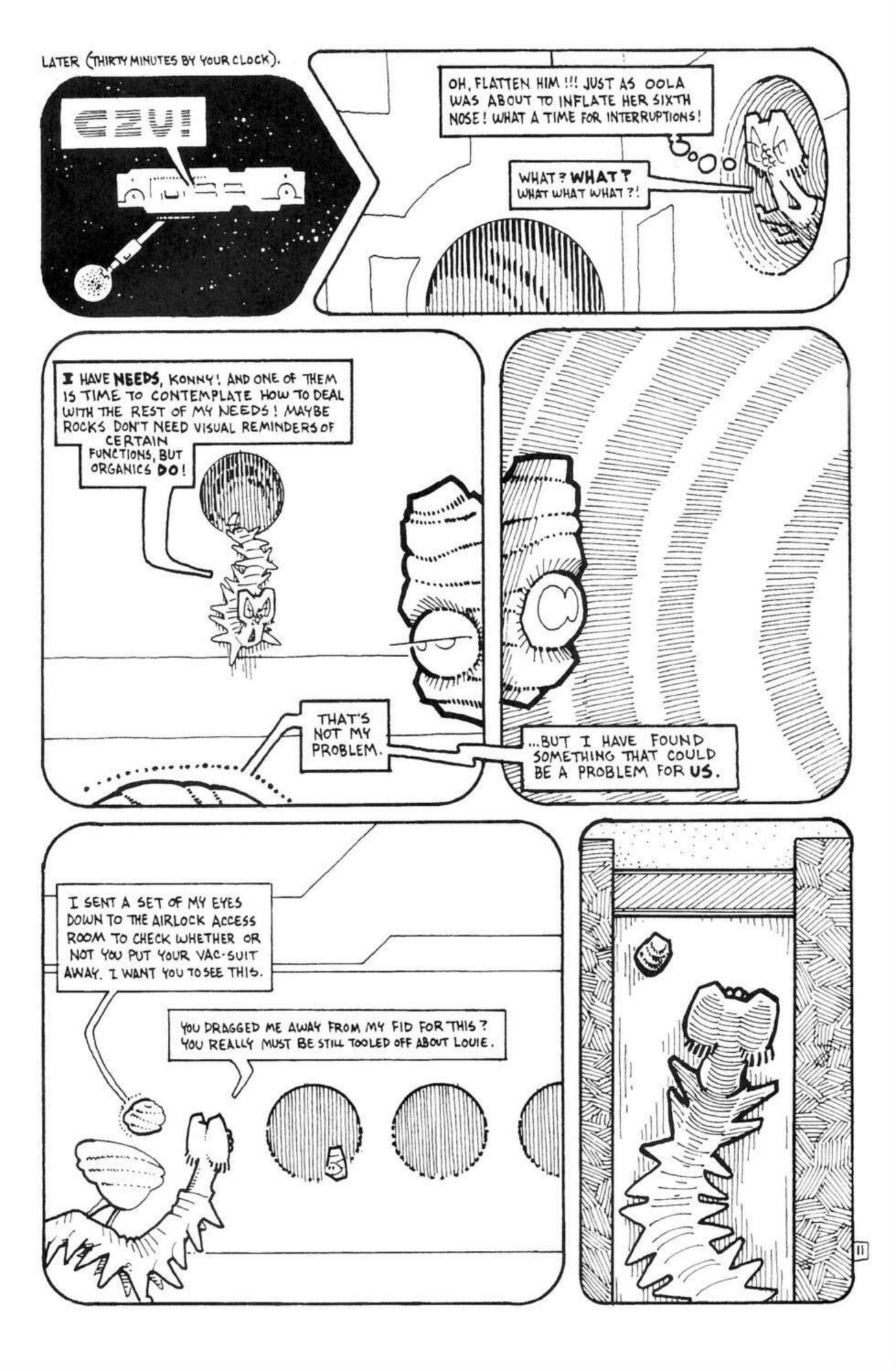
## KONNY and GZU

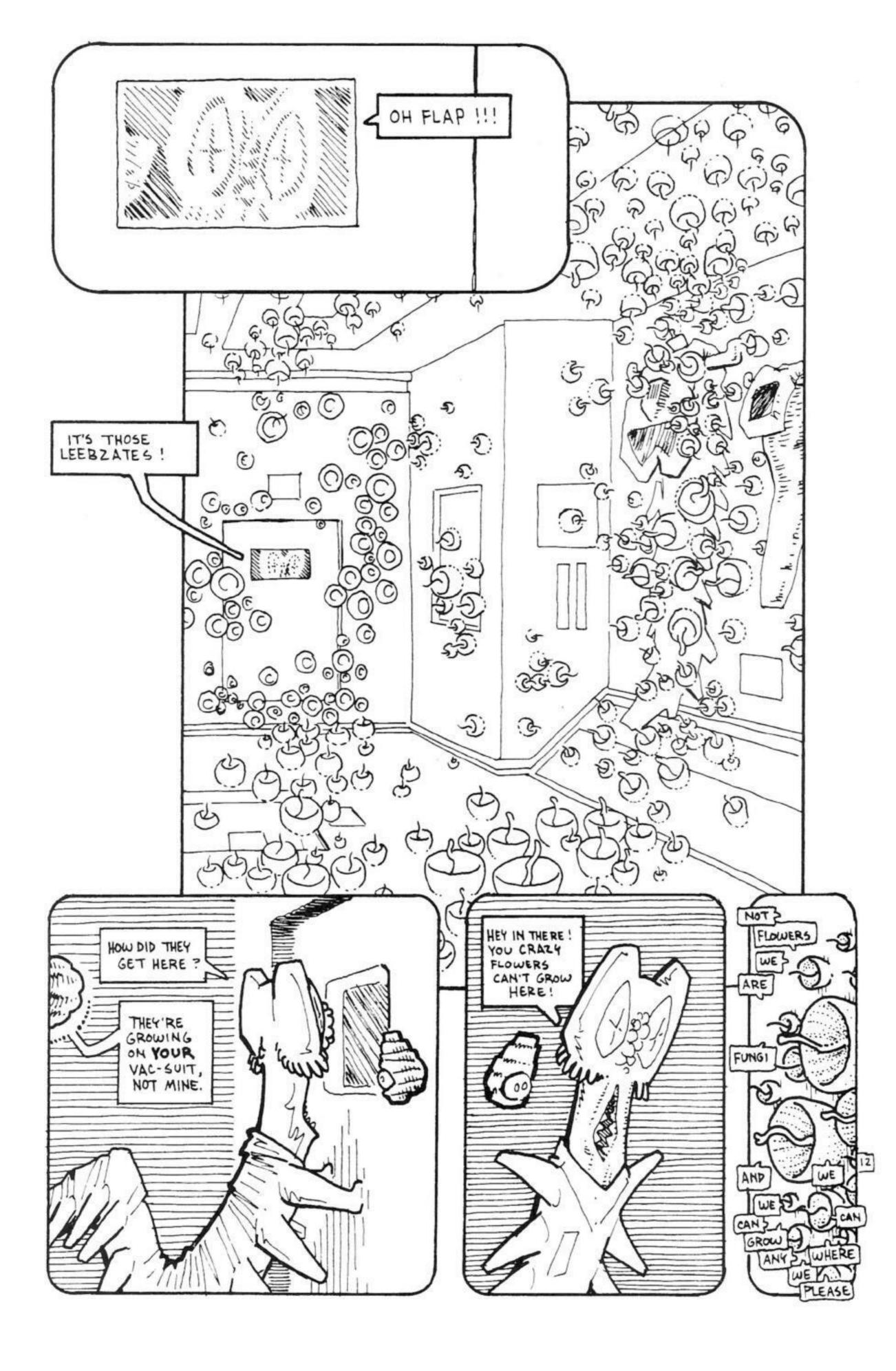
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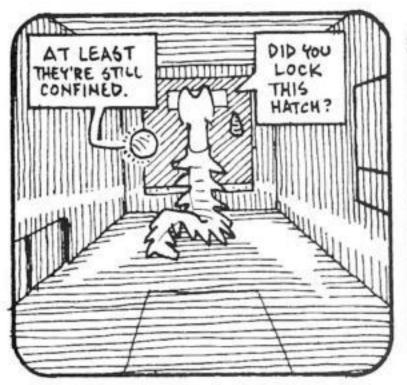


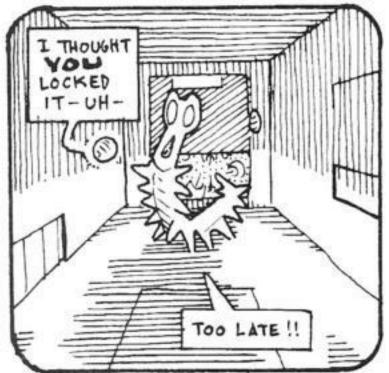


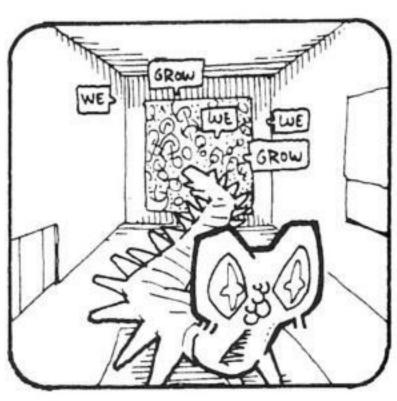
© 1988 MATT HOWARTH & D.M. KISTER

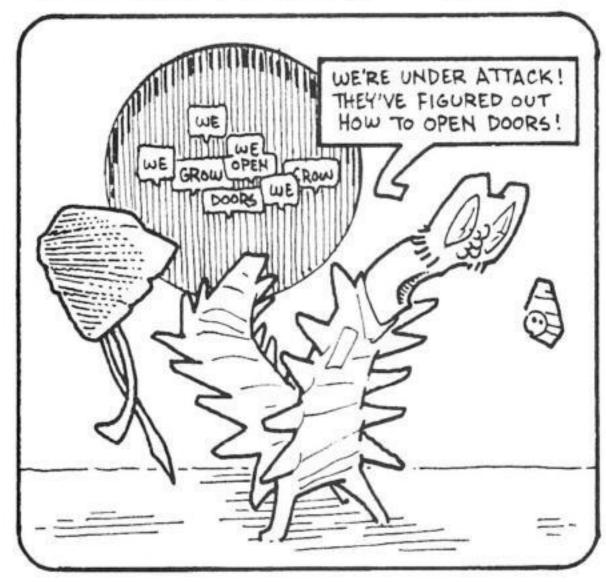


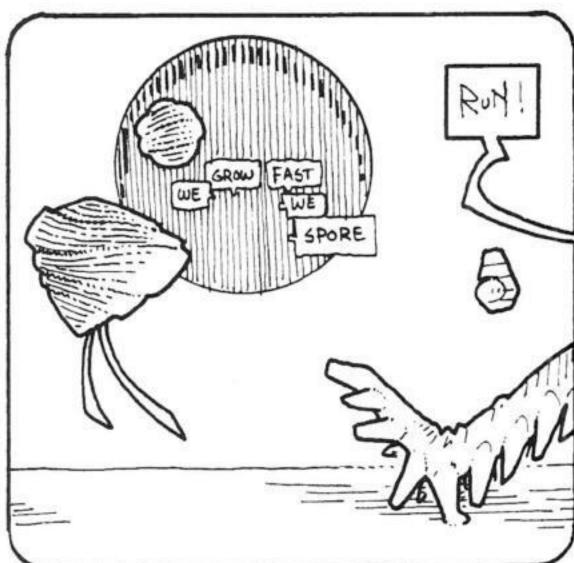








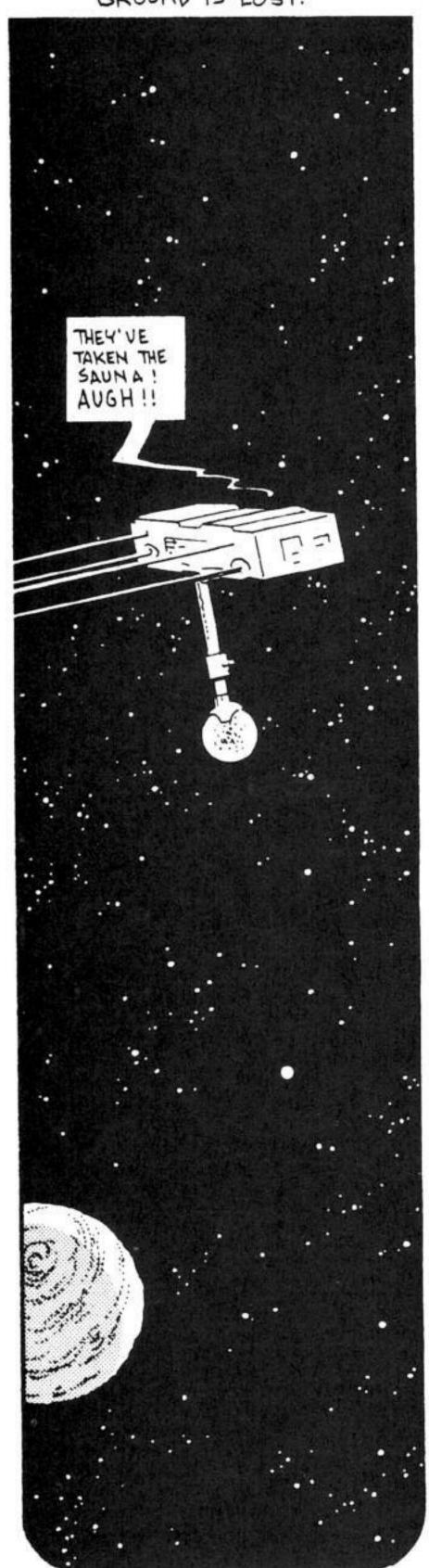


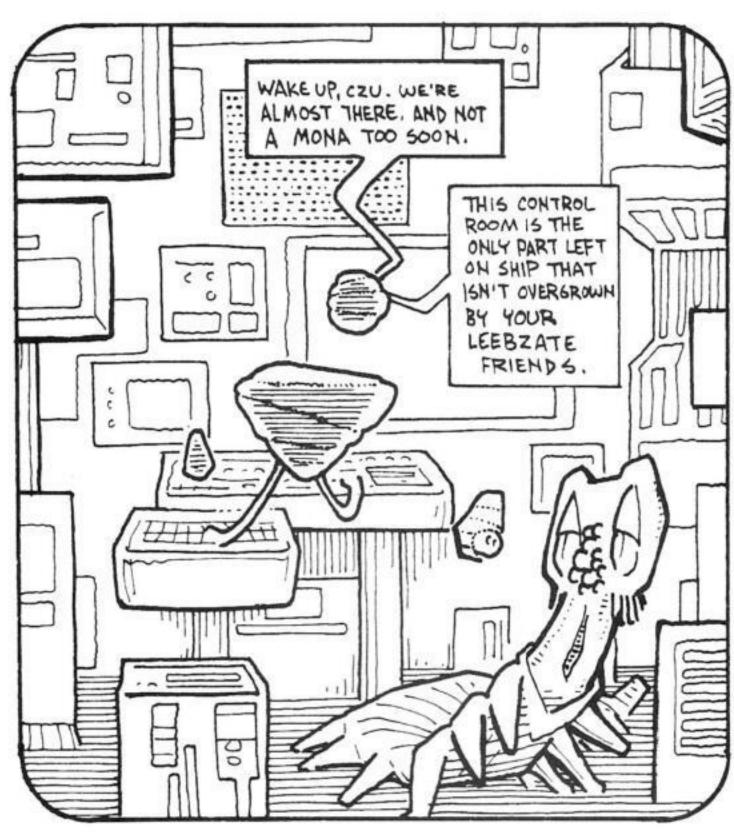




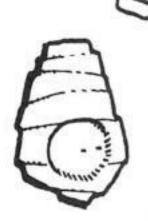


TIME IS PASSED, DISTANCE IS SPANNED, GROUND IS LOST.

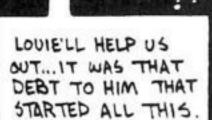




AWW, KONNY, DON'T GIVE ME THAT LOOK— I'M SORRY MY GAMBLING GOT US IN THIS MESS. I'M TRYING HARD AS I CAN TO GET US OUT OF IT, REALLY. AND YES, I KNOW YOU AREN'T FOND OF BIG LOUIE...



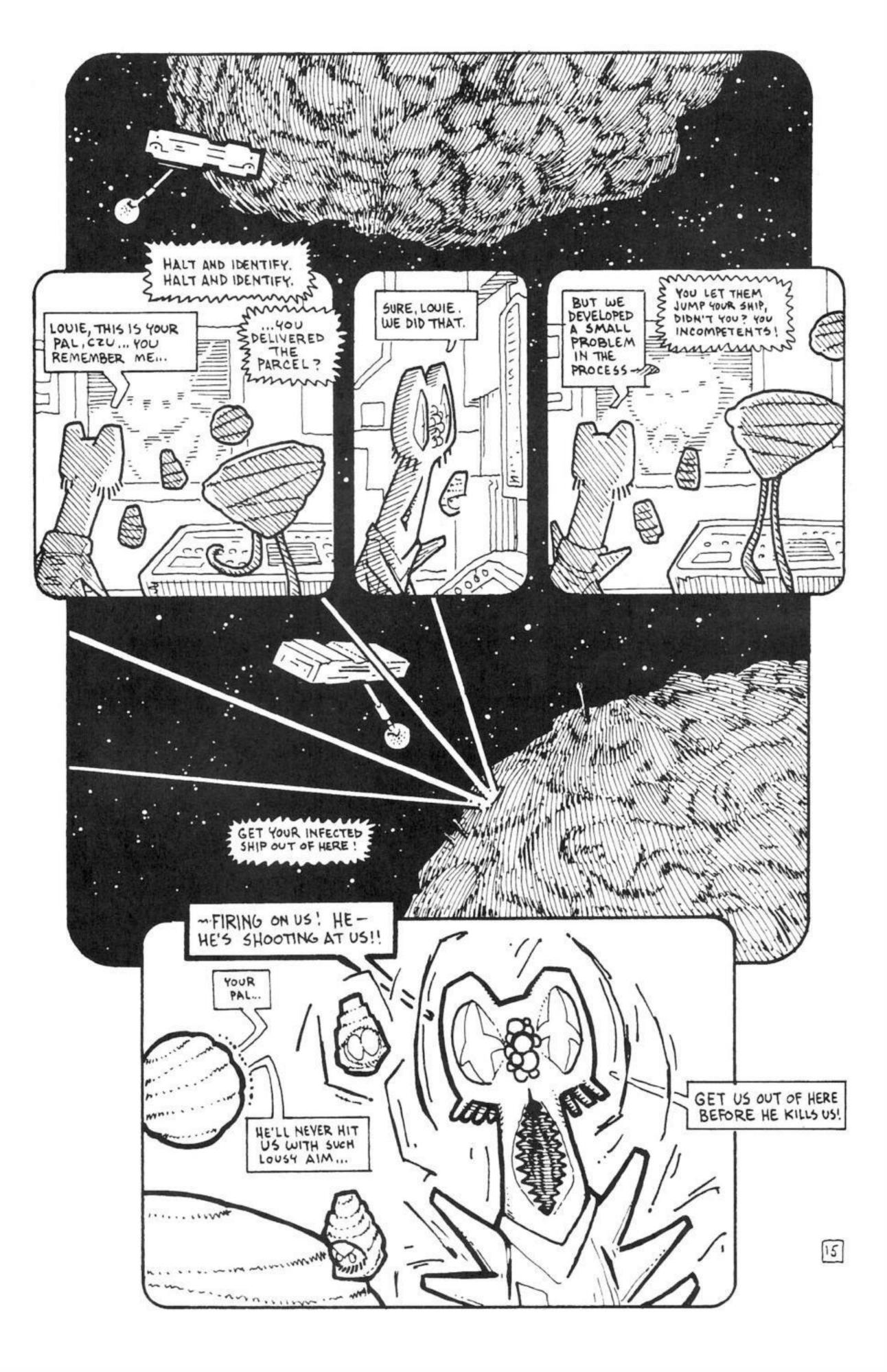
FOR HELP, THE PORT AUTHORITY MIGHT SAVE US, BUT THEY'D ALSO THROW US IN JAIL FOR PICKING UP THE LEEBZATES ON A RESTRICTED WORLD.

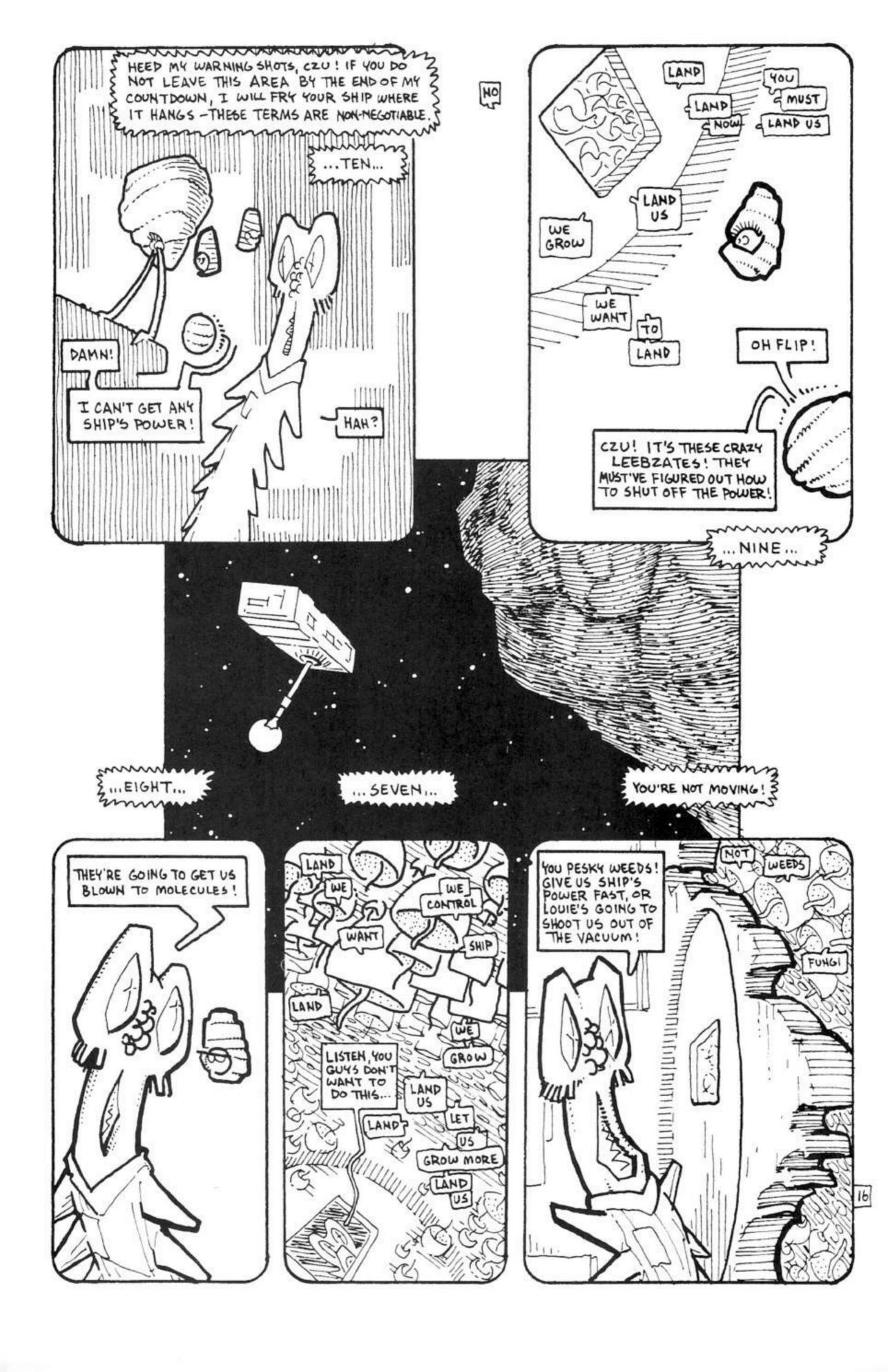


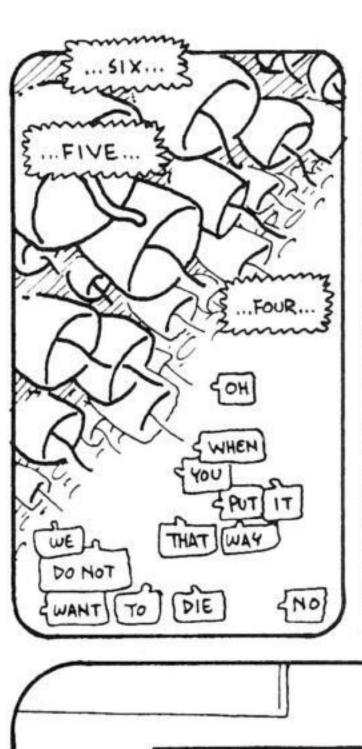
THERE'S LOUIE'S ASTEROID HIDEOUT. .
I GOT US THIS FAR, CZU, BUT YOU'RE GOING TO HAVE TO TALK TO HIM.

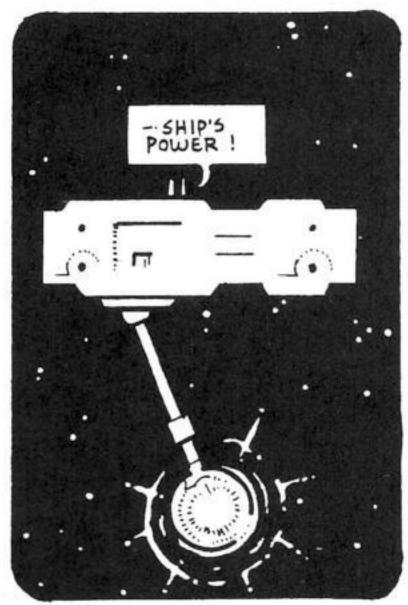


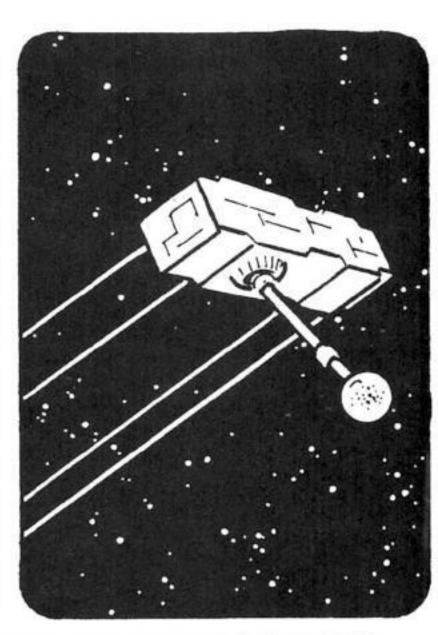
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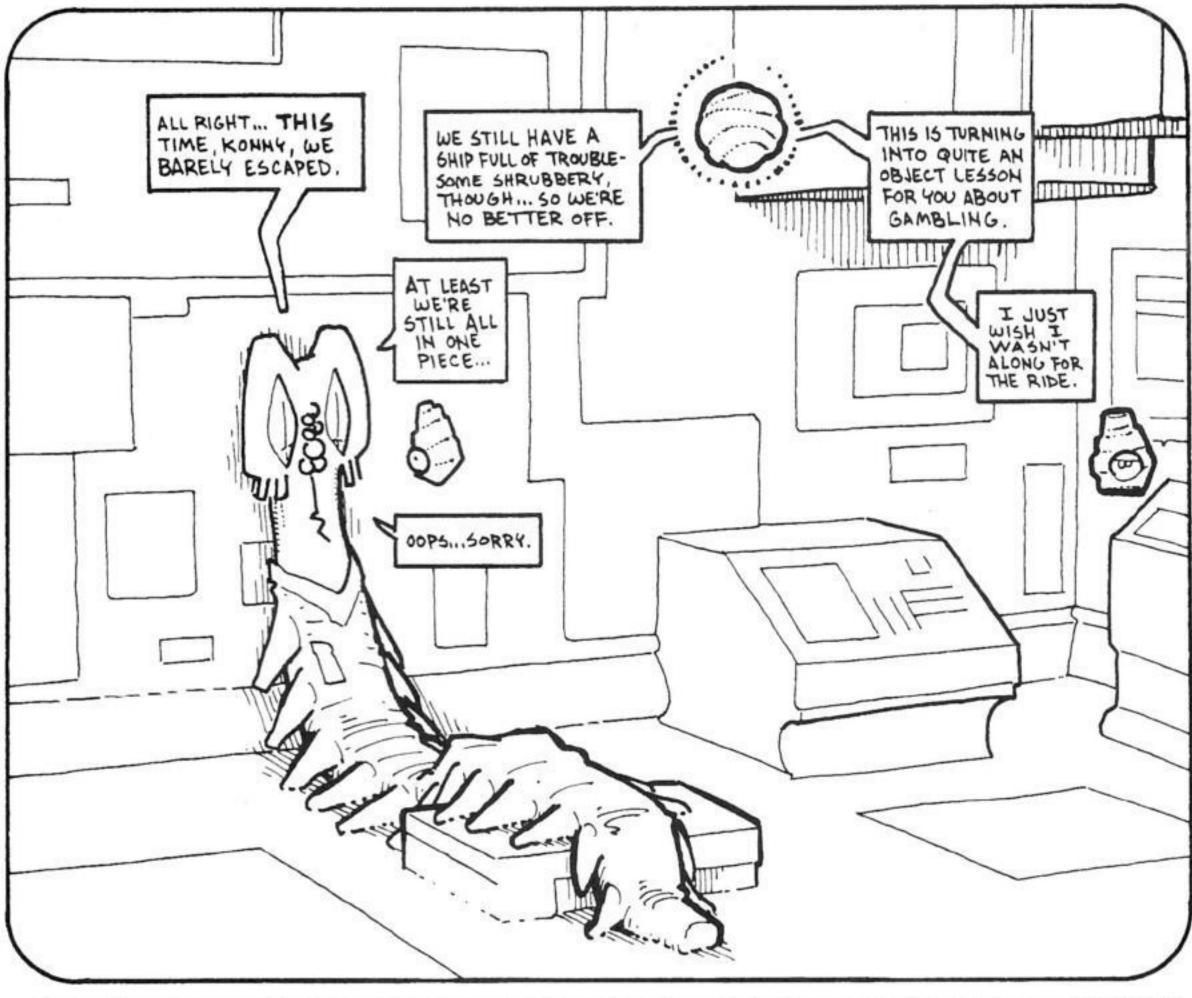


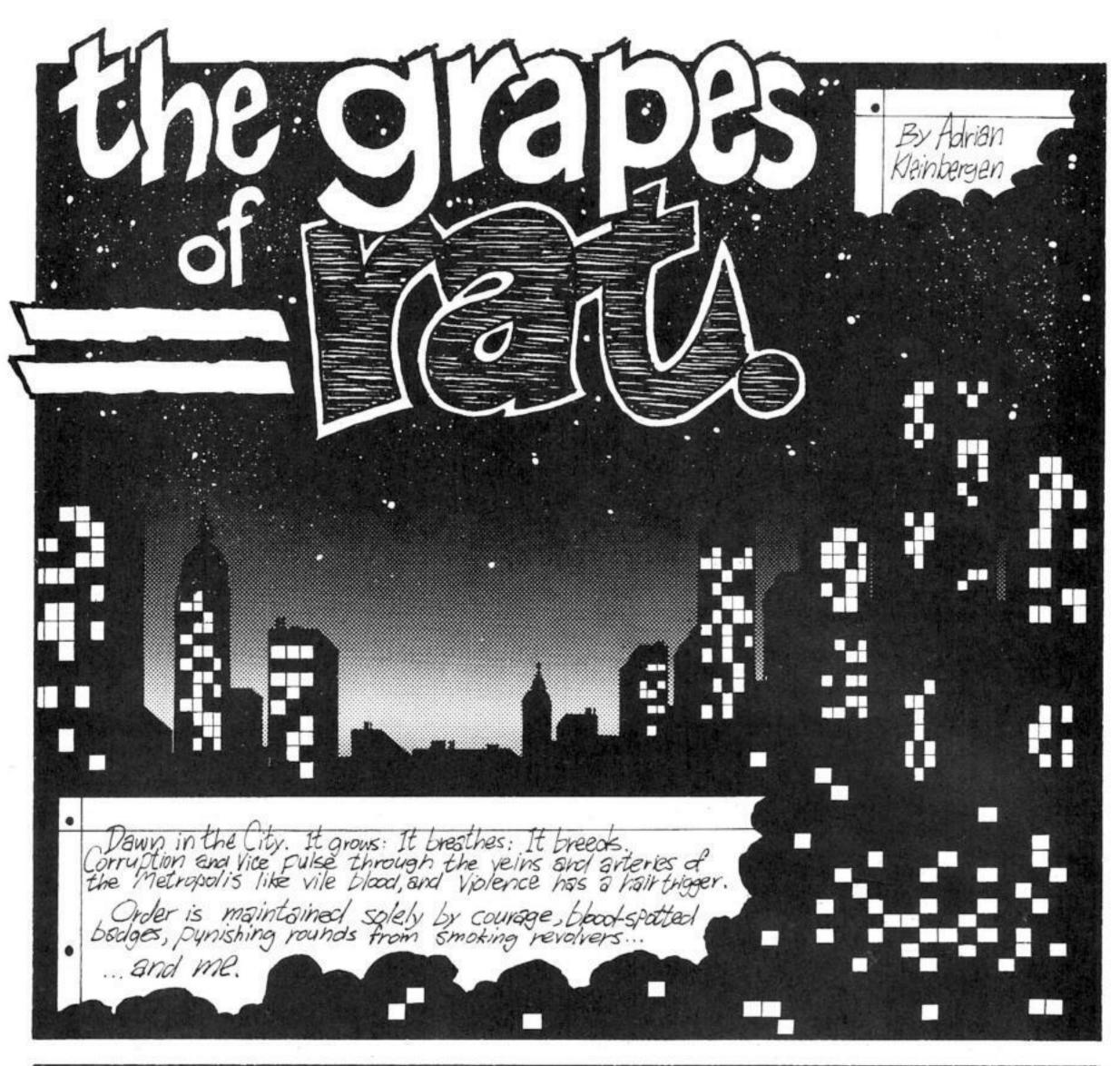


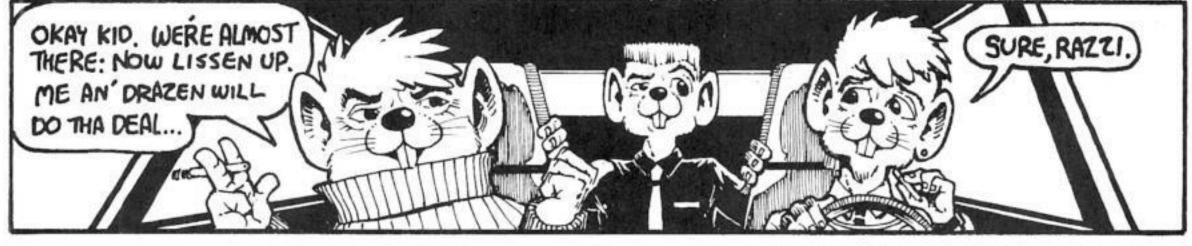








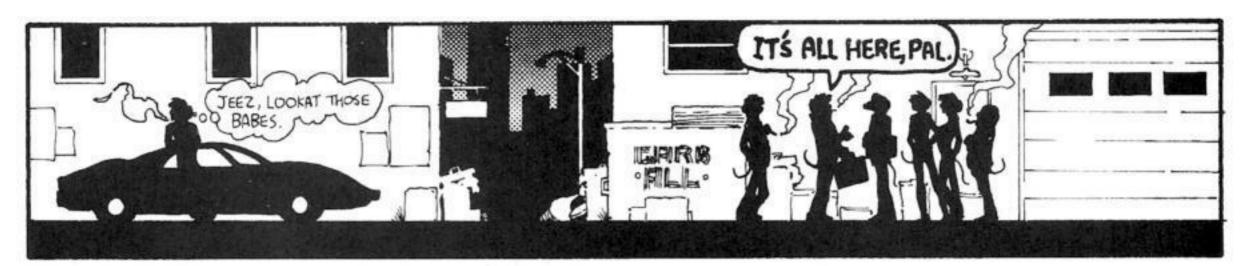










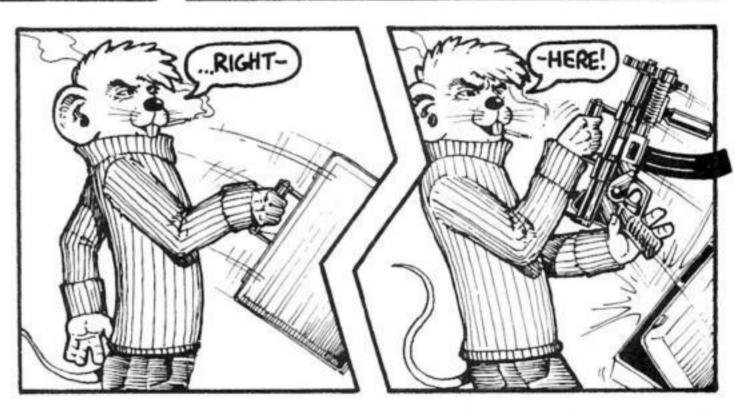








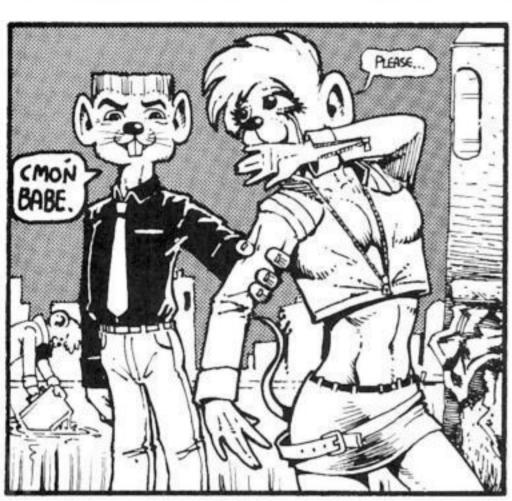








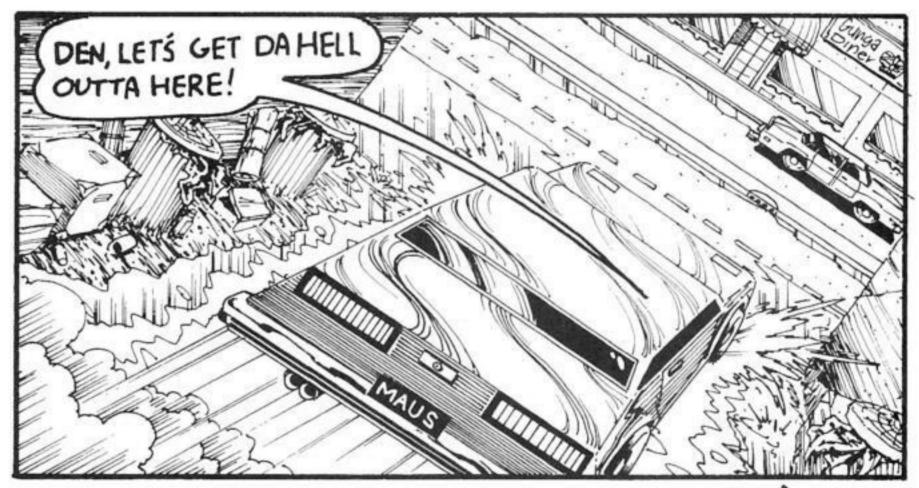


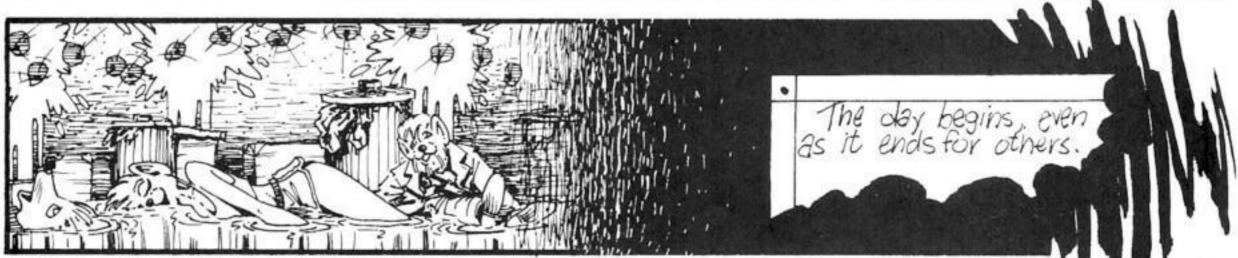




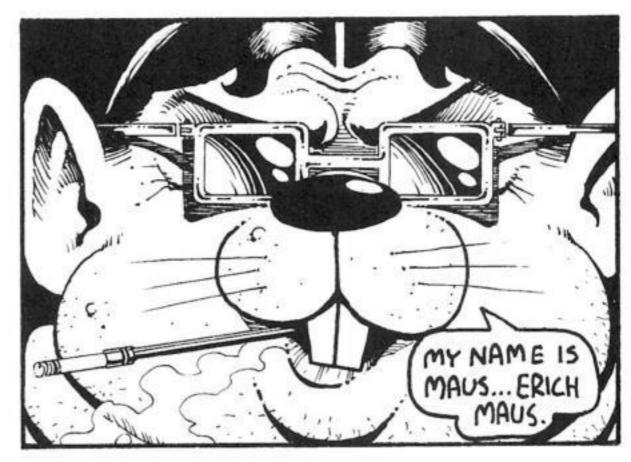




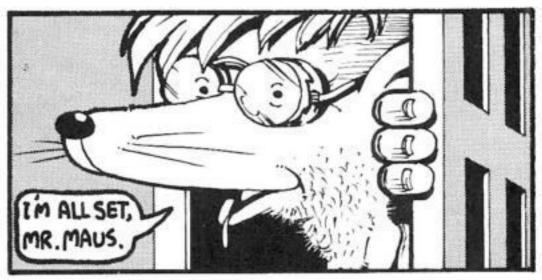










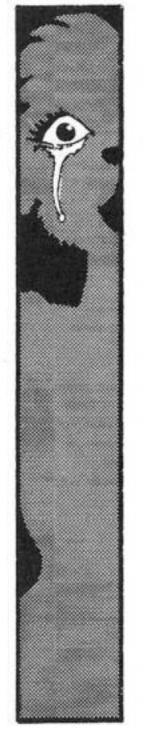


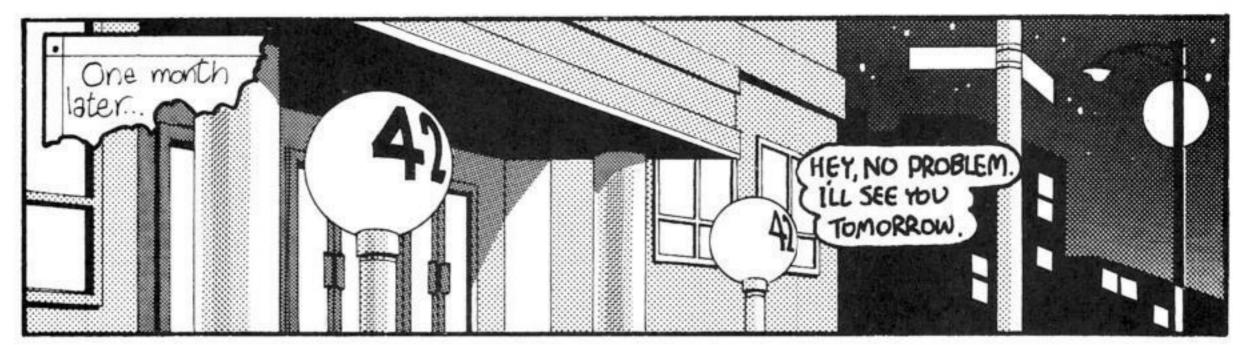














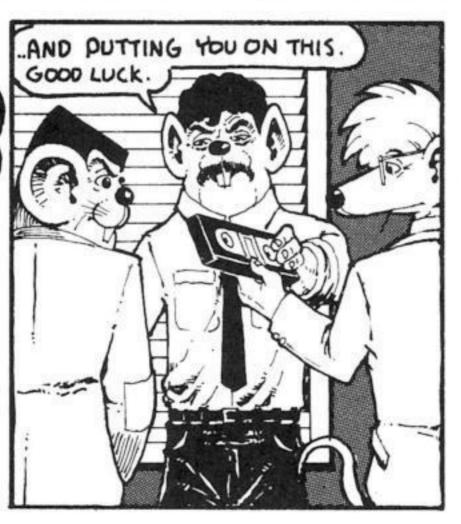
















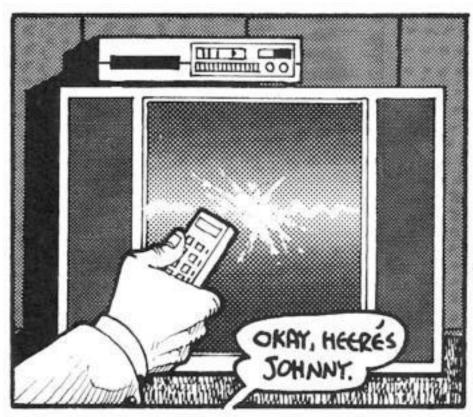


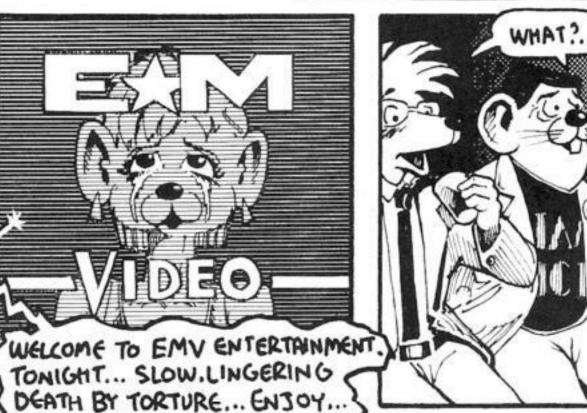


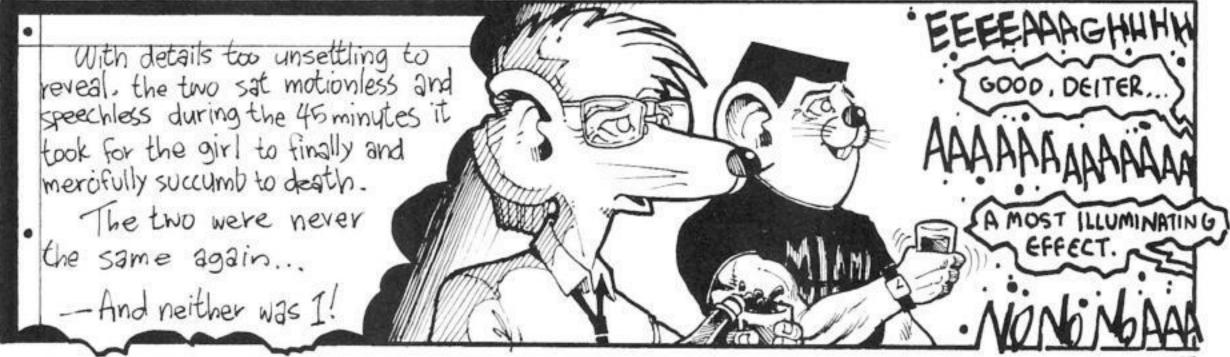


























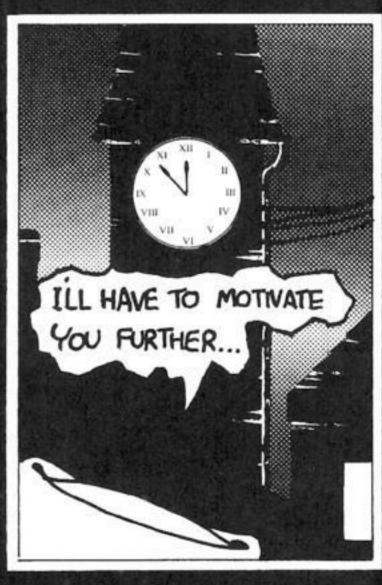




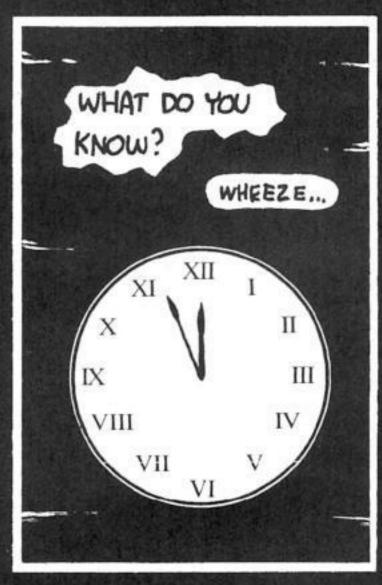


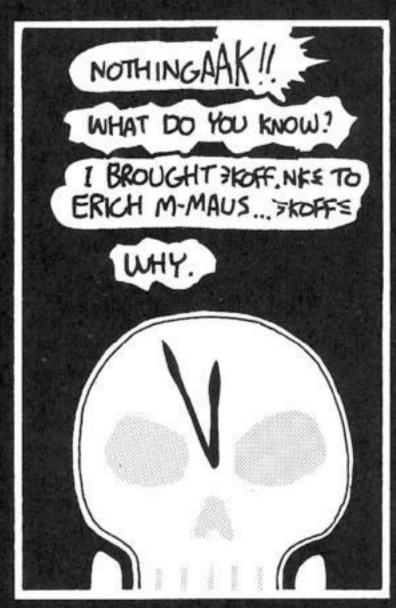






















HIS NAME IS PAXTON GREYCOAT. PRINCE TO THE THRONE OF THE PLANET NEW ALDION, AND THE ENTIRE CANIS STAR SYSTEM. BUT HE IS ALSO KNOWN AS THE OUTLAW — SPACE WOLF.

THIS IS HIS STORY.

The first real episode of Dan Flahive's Space Wolf will appear in Albedo 13.





