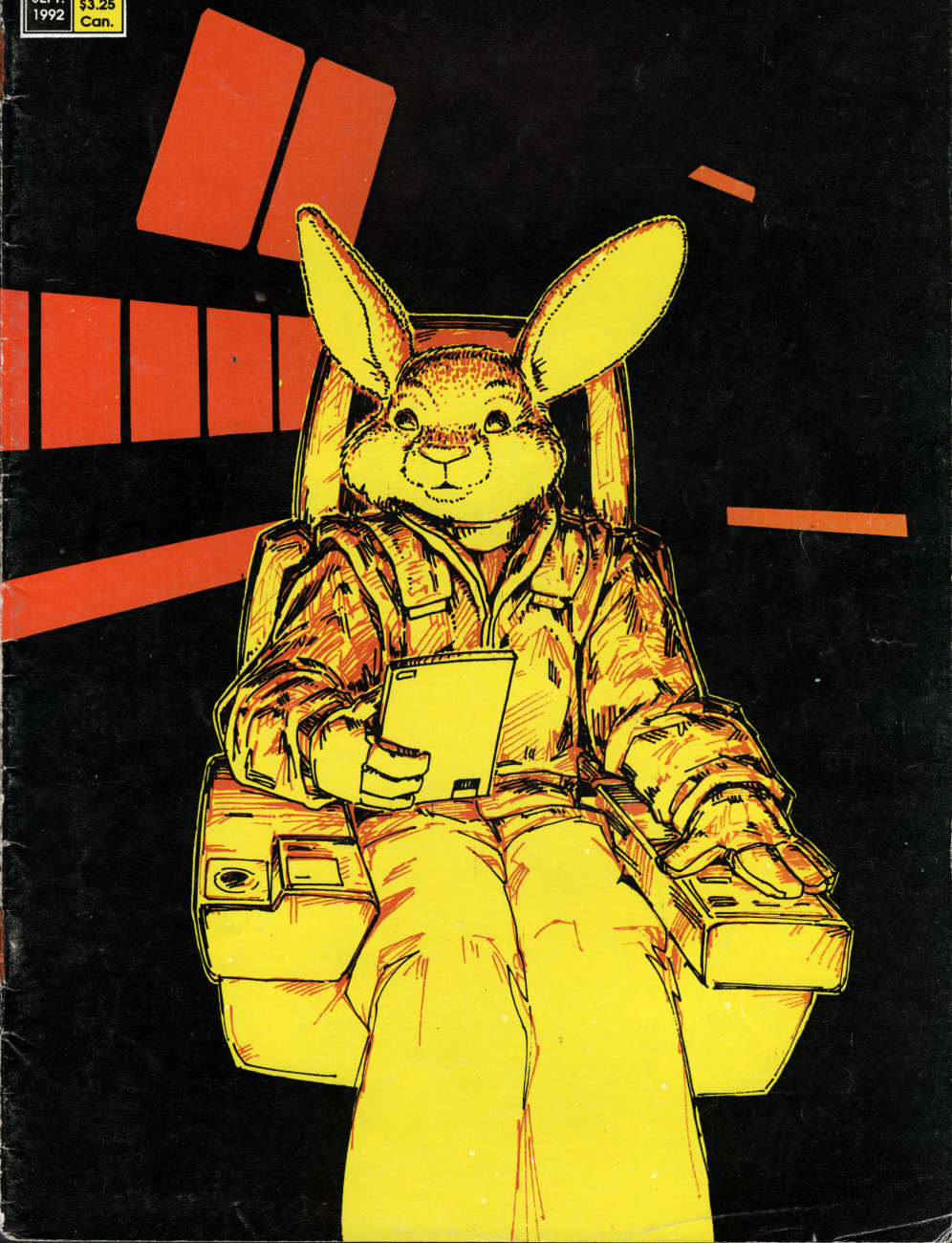
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ALBEDO
ANTHROPOMORPHICS



Yes! It's ranting and raving on *Furry Biz To-Nite!*

Not a lot to say, largely because I don't have the time to worry about anything other than wacking this out in time. It's August 26 and I've got to get this in the mail before I go to Worldcon, providing the area has not bogged down with post-*Andrew* emergency services. (according to GEnie, there is apperently no prob')
Albedo 5 got done without any obvious hitches from Brenner, and even had nice interior paper. I'm told such will be the same in future issues. I'm feeling really good about the future of the property. Chessex, the game publisher, is very hot on doing game stuff, a revised basic game and any number of supplemental books. They have also been talking, or so I'm told, to Ral Partha, the gaming figure company, about doing some figures. Oboy! Other related things are way too soon to say, but feel good.

The future of Albedo at Antarctic looks good. The inital eight issues are all but done, and a color special will be following close on their heels. Yes, Erma in color. Albedo beyond that is only iffy in the sense of format. Will color be amazingly successful, and justify a regular color series? Or, will a change in format encourage improved sales? Or will we simply chug ahead and see how things go? We'll all see, soon enough.

Dar's Refractions 'zine ought to be hitting the presses about the same time this issue does, so you ought to keep an eye out for it as you're picking this up. Dar isn't sure about further issues, wanting to see how well the first issue goes first. He says that if it does well, he would want to do at least two more issues on a twice a year schedual.

Lex finally has ECP 5 out, and it looks okay, presenting the first installment of the long awaited *Across the Diamond Sea*, written and penciled by Wyman and inked by Monika Livingston. Lex and I have tentatively agreed on my taking over all his mail order and handling his backstock, and as I already have some quantities of all his product on hand, I can fill any order that might otherwise go to him.

Now on to the mail, though only the good bits, and thanks for all the supportive comments from all of you.

--"Scenes From a Room..." Wow. Probably one of the best damn backup stories I've ever read. The depth of emotion...it just blew me away. Page 7 when the family welcomed Kanoc home...the touch...very good. It certainly erased some of the sympathy I had for the rabbits in the main feature.--

Jonathan L. Miller

--The other major praise I want to make is about the short vignette, "Scenes From a Room," by Mike Curtis and Mike Sagara. I thought they did a wonderful portrayal of the Felna family background, and of the difficulty -- even anguish -- Eda has been through. I truly feel for her, and can only imagine the vast reservoir of love and devotion that keeps her going. It was also intriguing to see that Erma wasn't kidding when she said she had a "dysfunctional sibling relationship." One question: Eda was obviously reminiscing, but from the Japanese-style pose she maintained, I perceived that it might have all been part of the Dornthantii mental hygiene exercises mentioned in earlier issues. Is this correct?

In any event, the team of Mike and Mike gave me a pleasant surprise, and I was pleased to hear that you hope to give them"air time" in future issues as well. I also noticed that their series for MU Press, "Shanda the Panda," is out; I was very much impressed with the preview I saw in *Comic Buyer's Guide* a few months back. I certainly wish them success with their venture; it appears that they may have a bright future in the field of furry funnies.--

Jeffrey Pierce

Eda's pose in the story was a sort of getting one's chi
straight kind of thing, call it mental hygeine if you want.
While the Mike and Mike stories are very much in the scenario, minor liberties with the details yet exist, and ought to be taken with a pinch of salt. Little cultural details will slip in , like a "heart" symbol on Erma's crib which I did catch and eliminate, or the lace on her baby clothes, which I didn't edit out. So, for detail junky's sake, figure the facts of the story are on, but don't read too much into some of the little bits.

Albedo Vol. 2, No. 6 is published by the Antarctic Press, P.O. Box 290221, San Antonio, Texas 78280-1621: FAX #: 512-684-7351. No similarities to any character and/or place is intended and any such similarity is purely coincidental. Albedo, Erma Felna, and the EDF are TM and ©1992 Steve Gallacci. All other stories are TM and © 1992 by respective creators. All other material is © 1992 Antarctic Press. Nothing from this book may be printed without written consent from the Antarctic Press, with the exception for purposes of review and promotion. Published quarterly. Printed by Brenner Printing. Subscriptions available at $14 per year from Antarctic Press. September 1992 issue.

Editing and production assistance by Bev Clark and Cindy Murata

ERMA FELNA, EDF
by S A Gallacci

Its Erma Felna, not silly superheroes
Erma Felna, not silly superheroes
If you're buying just silly superheroes
You've been missing out on the fun.

The reader reaction to this recap page has been so popular, and to some, crucial to following the story, that it will be a permanent feature. However, it will not simply be recycled issue to issue, but rewritten to supplement the context of the story each time.

First, the really big picture for those of you new to it all. The population of known space are all genetic constructs, settled on the planet Arras Charka apparently as a grand sociological experiment about two centuries before the present. Left to develop on their own, they quickly struck out into interstellar space and began colonizing a fair sized portion of local space. Given a few generations, many of the far-flung colonies began to experiment with different socio-economic and political systems.
A pair of colonies inhabited largely by rabbits decided to both disassociate themselves from the rest of the colonies and at the same time seized external assets of other settlements. They then began to invade worlds to take as their own. The more organized inner colonies quickly established a Confederation and to deal with the hostile rabbits, now calling themselves the **Independent Lepine Republic**, a unified military arm, the **Extraplanetary Defense Force**. Thus*the* War began. It was a disjointed and drawn out affair, as the art of war had to be made up as they went along. When it was over, little progress, in terms of territory, had been achieved, but it had spawned military institutions and taught dangerous lessons about war-making.

Erma Felna was born just before the War. Her father, **Kanoc,** had been among the founding members of the EDF and became a POW, leaving her mother, **Eda,** to care for her in difficult circumstances that would hurt their relationship. After his repatriation, he encouraged her towards a military career, despite strong opposition from both her mother and the educational and military establishment. Before he could witness her sucess, he had a psychotic breakdown stemming from abuse suffered as a POW, and became largely disconnected from reality.

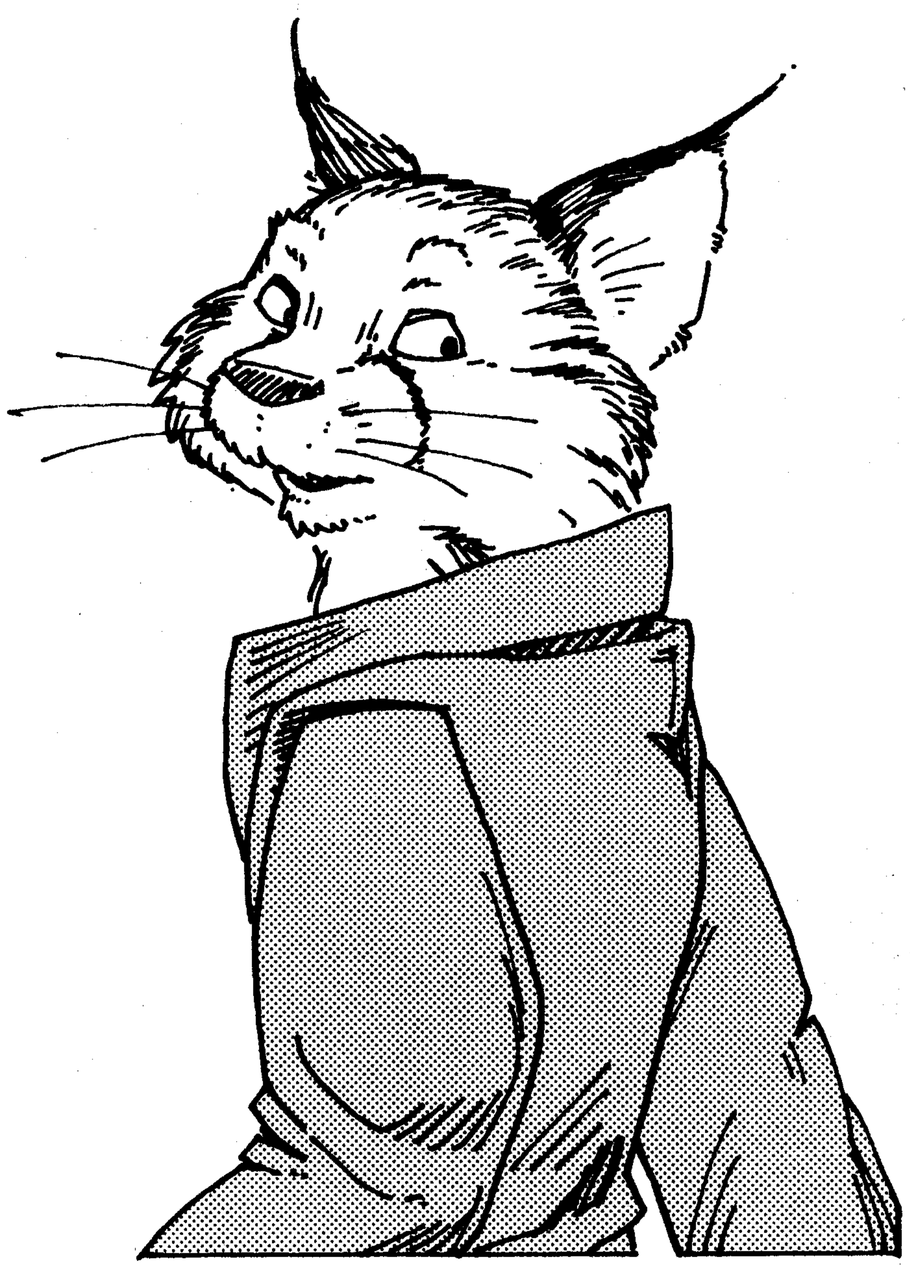
Erma saw action early on, disabling a terrorist sniper while still in academy training; soon after graduation, she was part of an EDF action to resecure the colony world Derzon, which had been seized by forces who, while clearly ILR troops, were never acknowledged as such by their government. Her decision to go ended a relationship with her lover **Tavas Ikalik,** whose ambition has since gottten him into the now corrupt inner circle of EDF Headquarters on her home planet.

Erma's next assignment on Ekosiak puts her into the middle of civil unrest that has been in part contrived by powerful business interests who hope to make outlying worlds dissolve their relationship with the Confederation and then take them over as company owned planets. There she meets Confederation Secretary **Shato** and his assistant, **Dea-Htuhok Kho.** While Erma, in cooperation with Colonel **Onni Hitzok** of the local Homeguard, deals with the more public aspects of the unrest, Shato does covert computer things and assassinations to thwart the corporate conspiracy. He is then sent back to higher headquarters under house arrest for exceeding his authority. While there, he is made aware of the growing corruption in EDF higher headquarters, supported by a technique which alters permanent and supposedly inviolable computer records, rewriting history to suit their ends.

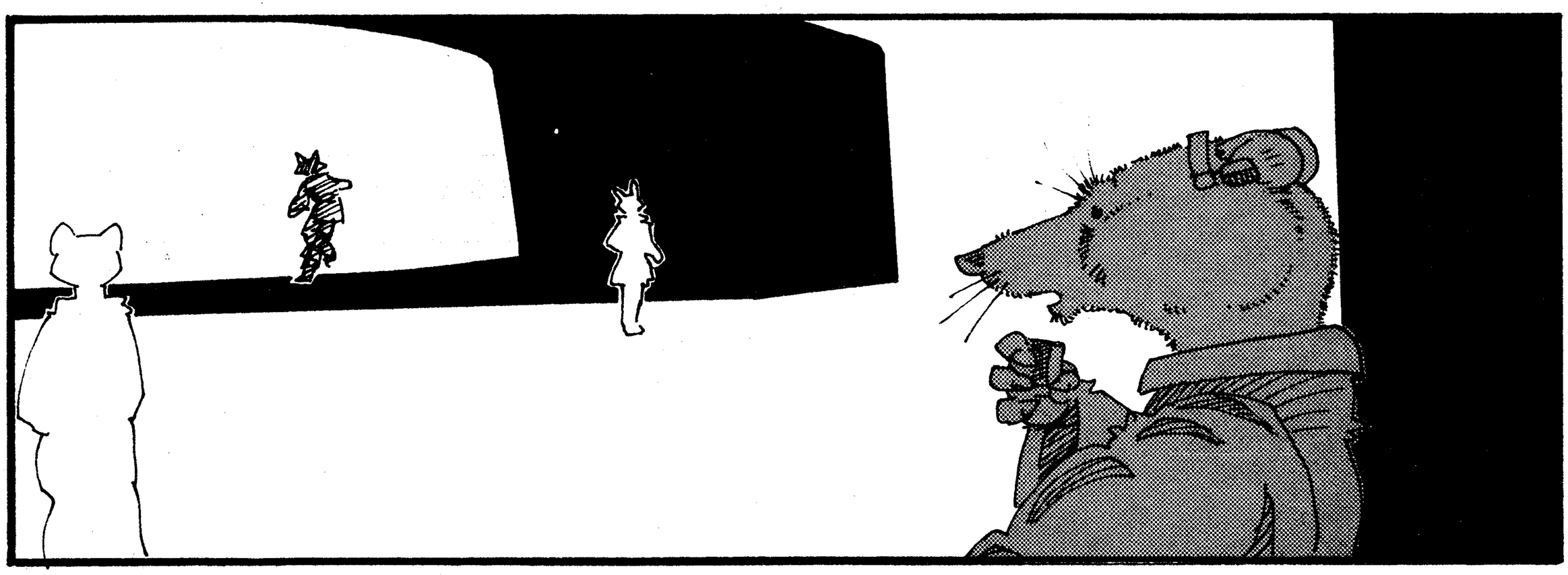
While en route to her next assignment on Ish-Tako, with **Toki,** a friend from her academy days, Erma's ship is attacked by elements of the extremist factions whose actions summoned her there. After the attack, they happen to notice a derelict space ship, and a later expedition, headed by the xenologist **Elaki Kalakahaii,** discovers exotic technologies and the body of an alien (human), who they suspect might be one of the "creators," the mysterious individuals or agency that started the original colony back on Arras Charka.

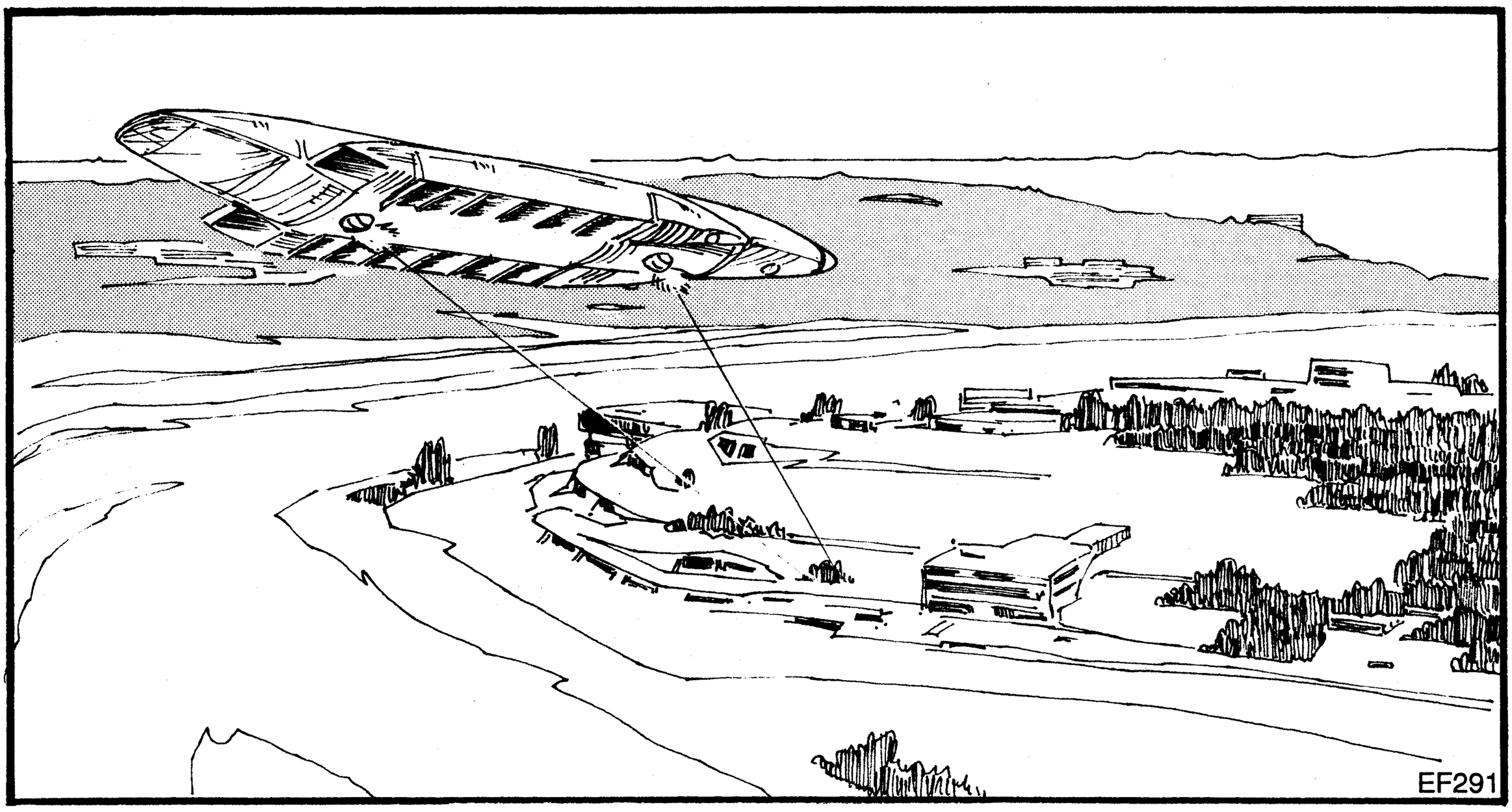
On Ish-Tako, the civil unrest quickly subsides, and Erma's personal life gets busy, as she rekindles an old flame, **Alfon Voga,** and they have a child together. Meanwhile, back on Ekosiak, Dea and the Colonel have gotten friendly as they attempt to track down the remainder of the old conspiracy, only to find that it has taken on a new form with new players.

And the ILR hasn't been idle, as they gear up for what they perceive to be a pre-emptive war.








EF291

Yes?

Dr. Kalahahaii? I am Amhast of Enchawah. I have come to talk with you.

Uhm? Is this official?

Ah - may I come inside?

I can speak freely, as we know your residence is now secure.

"*Is now secure*". What do you mean by that?

Though you are still contracted to ConFed, Enchawah still regards you as a valued member.

Ah, like some manner of hereditary servitude. Born into the clutches of the corporate organism.

Please. We claim no special authority, but we do recognize your talents and your family's contribution to the Enchawah community, as well as our reciprocal responsibilities to you and yours.

And so, we have kept an eye on you, for your own protection.

Ah. And that I have served with EDF/FTD* in a classified position would have nothing to do with it?

That has been a concern, rather than an interest, in that it has attracted the attentions of other parties.

I trust you do not know the full extent of Tetsuwah's intentions toward you?

*EDF/FTD = Extraplanetary Defense Force, Foreign Technologies Division

Are you suggesting?!

Tetsuwah was an ILR operative. A "Talent," a telepath.

In monitoring him, we have learned of your experiences in Ish-Tako space.

While we hold those facts in strictest confidence, we have informed ConFed of the security threat.

There is something more to all this, isn't there?

And exactly what are you about? Enchawah Security or ConFed Specials wouldn't act like this.

That is correct.

When ConFed was informed of the security threat, our assets discovered that their first impulse was not to redouble their attentions to counter hostile intelligence gathering. Rather, it was the desire to have you assassinated. ConFed appears to be unconcerned with what the ILR or Enchawah might know. They feel we would be as concerned with maintaining the status quo, and that the secret would be safe with us. But you and anyone else outside of government are considered a weak link.

I have come to offer sanctuary. I am Amhast an Therka an Enchawah.*

* A. T. Enchawah is the chairman and heir to the Enchawah group, the biggest "multi-national" corporation in existence. It owns fifteen star systems outright and operates in virtually all the rest of known space. Second only to the EDF in starship fleet size, it controls economic resources equal to the rest of Confed space. Amhast is the richest and most powerful individual alive.

- You -

But why? And why you?

Who better to represent Enchawah intentions with you? You are an individual of exceptional talents and potential. You would be a considerable asset to us.

We would make no special demands on you; any previous allegiances or confidences you wish to keep we will respect.

However, I would hope we could count on your future loyalty with us.

Uhmm - given the circumstances.

I'm delighted. How soon would you like a posting?

Oh. I don't know. Could it be off-planet?

May I ask - what will happen to Tetsuwah?

I regret to say that he has chosen not to surrender to Security.

I understand.

EF294

Well, Brother mine, did you know that A. Therka Enchawah was by today, offering me a job?

I told you your talents would not go unnoticed.

I'll be leaving again, probably to the Rim.

And Tetsuwah is dead. Did you know that he was a spy?

What are you talking about?

He was a telepath, sent to steal my memories.

Elaki, you're not joking!

Not Eto, but Amhast! Amhast Enchawah was *here?* And Tetsuwah - .

Oh, Sister! I'm so sorry for you. Do you want to see Mother?

No. Don't tell her anything.

Oh, Chatti, I thought I could finally have someone to live with - . Will I have to be on my guard forever?

Come on, Elaki. Let's go see Mother, just to tell her about Amhast. You need to live through this and go on.

Please let me alone for a while, I've got some sorting out to do.

EF295

I need damage reports!

Most of ship's net is down.

Section two and three reactors are down.

I need tactical displays.

Fuel feed net control is gone.

Hai! Got tactical displays!

Another four weapons!

Oh Khai! More hostiles!

We can't maneuver!

Impact in - !

Ah, well. Some Feddy is now an ace, and the cream of our glorious Republic's armed space service are now outgassing their guts into the inky depths. You guys are going to have to do a lot better than that if you want to run one of these things for real.

EF296

Gah! I can hardly wait for some real action, not these silly simulations.

Yeah, burning some Feds would do right now.

Teach'em a thing about our rightful place in space.

Forgetting that we got nailed in what should have been an easy action. This isn't training for some game that one can do better on next time.

Hey! Tankannahai. You've been awfully quiet lately?

Oh - I'm afraid I'm not the blood and steel type.

Then why are you here?

Yeah, this IS the space force.

I want to be an engineer.

Then why didn't you go to academy?

Yeah, OTS is for battle line officers.

My - ah - an officer friend suggested I ought to get in now. Having some battle experience would look good on my records.

Battle experience?!

Yeah! What do you know?

Is there something really up?

Only that it would be a good career move to be in service sooner, rather than later.

EF297

Hot damn! Some real action!

Yeah, and get some medals. The babes will be all over us.

Babes?! That reminds me, when are we getting out of here?

We're on a free solar orbit for now, months from anywhere. But, it looks like we could get back to base in little more than a day at an economic thrust.

But my impression was that we were supposed to be here for another week or so. Besides, do you really want to get into the shit, given our current level of readiness?

Fah! The sim was rigged.

Yeah, you can't beat the machine.

Come on now! Are you going to rationalize your poor performance by blaming a biased simulator program? I was there. We were caught with our pants down and had every chance to recover, and we blew it at every turn.

"Rationalize our performance." What kind of big-head talk is that?

Yeah, this isn't some hotti-totti academy.

ACCELERATION ALERT. SECURE FOR ACCELERATION.

Hooha! We're heading home!

Sooo. You think you're ready for a real shooting war? Well, you're in luck. We're heading out now for some action.

You can stop worrying about social conduct and deportment.

It's all war skills from here on out.

You battle management trainees will be on double schedule simulations.

And you future officers of engineers better hope they're doing their jobs better than you've been doing yours.

And that goes double for the rest of you! This isn't a crew, it's a crowd of trainees. The fleet needs an operational ship of the line by the time we get into position. And that means you're going to have to work.

NOW GET TO IT!

Stand fast, Tankannahai.

Trainee Tankannahai, we've been keeping an eye on you. We know about your background and connections with Dannahasham.

And all that isn't going to protect you if you try any of that elitist intellectual crap among your fellow trainees. We are making a fighting unit here, and there's no room for any snobby high and mighty talk that's going to break morale.

I was only -

We have it on tape, trainee, and you better hope it doesn't make your permanent file.

EF299

Well Colonel. What *will* we do with you?

uhm?

I would have thought that you have done quite enough - .

Don't be so modest, Colonel.

Having you removed from command barely begins to address all that you represent.

There are too many out there who might consider you an important focus, not that you would exploit any public discontent. But, as a responsible public servant, I cannot ignore even such unlikely possibilities.

of course -

What of Secretary Kho?

I want you to become invisible. Go into reclusive retierment. Leave the system if you want. But I want you and your name to be unheard and unseen in any public forum in Ekosiak space. And I will hold you responsible for any third party activity in your behalf.

That - !

EF300

She is to be no concern of yours.
If you try anything more with her, I'll expose your treasonous conspiracies with her to usurp my office and make Ekosiak a Confederation slave state.

With that, the mob would eat you alive!

Most creative.

You don't know how creative I can get.

Am I dismissed now?

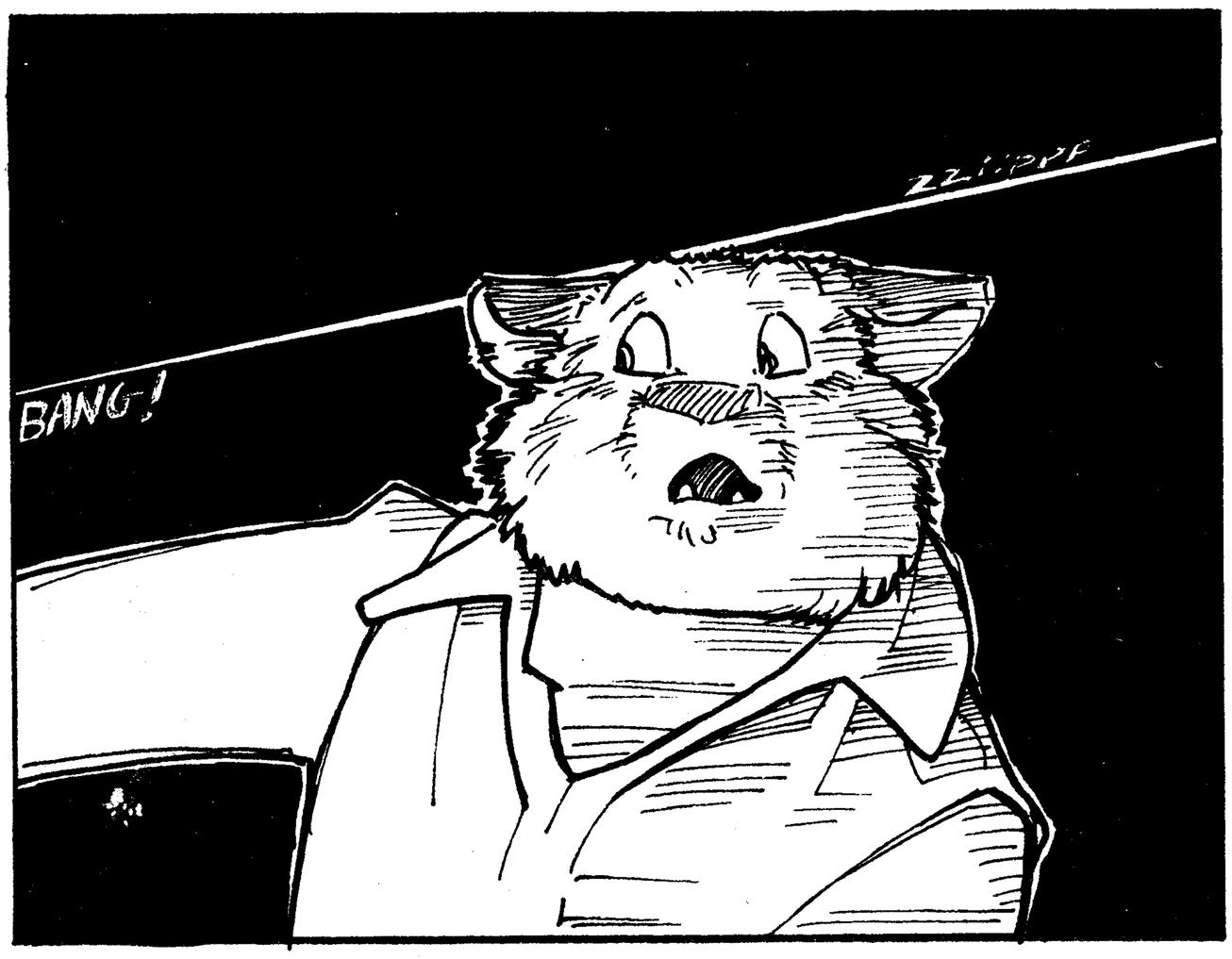
Shoo - go - away, away !

She must be mad.
I've heard some pretty paranoid conspiracy theories, but this is really over the top.

Ironically, Dea thinks that the computer file altering technology must have come from Confed Special Services. But how would the Governor get access to something like that? She does have some pretty dubious connections, and it's clear that there are elements of the old Aito group around. I'm going to have to arrange some extra protection for Dea. The Governor really hates her, and might try just about anything.*

EF301

*Aito was the head of a conspiracy that attempted to topple the government earlier.

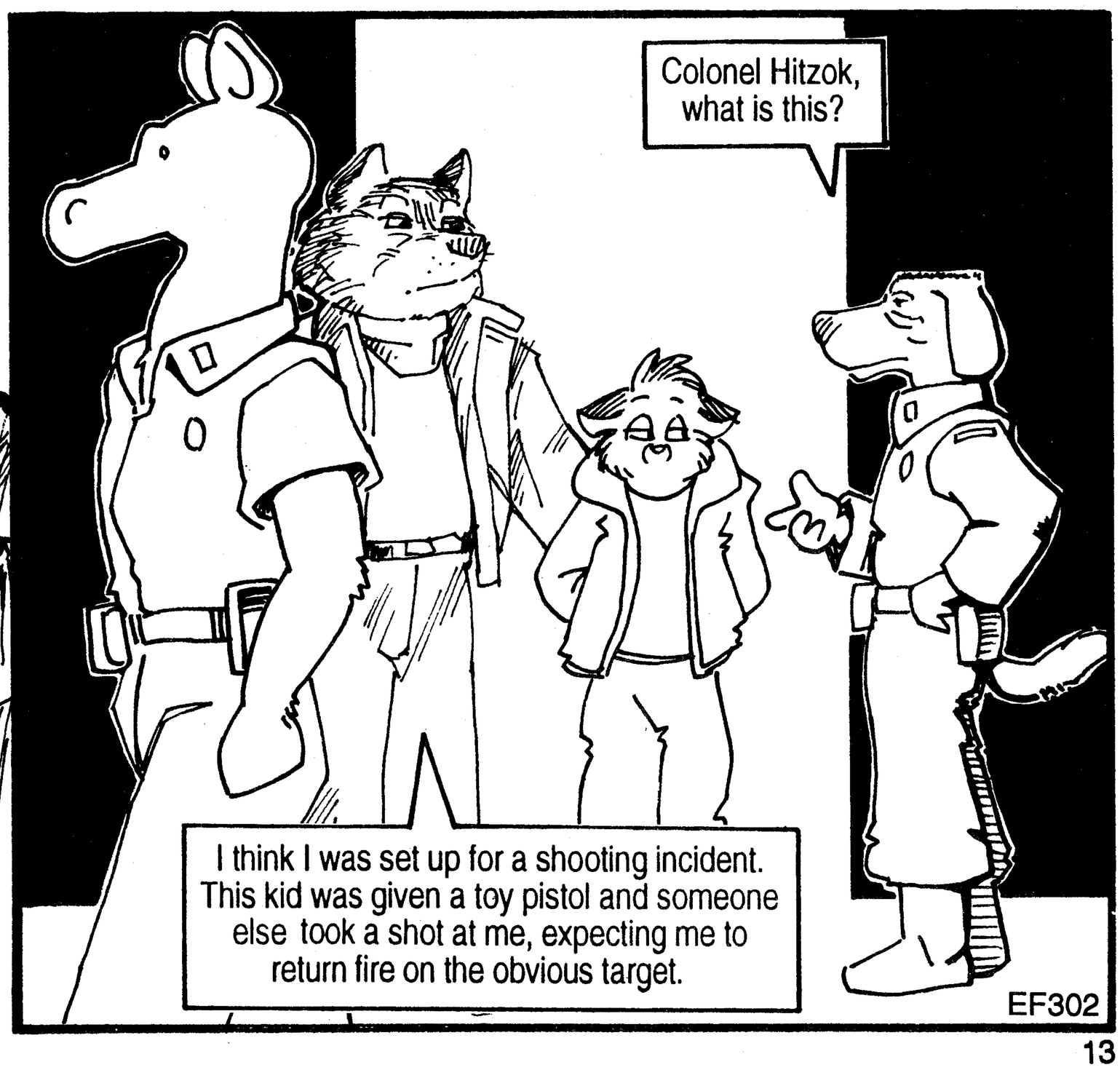

BANG!
ZZHPPF


What the - !


FREEZE!


Now talk!
Hey, Mister.
It was supposed to be a gag!
I don't know nutt'n about that shot!


See! The gun is just a toy.


Colonel Hitzok, what is this?
I think I was set up for a shooting incident. This kid was given a toy pistol and someone else took a shot at me, expecting me to return fire on the obvious target.
EF302

And make you out to be a trigger-happy menace.
I'm way ahead of you, Colonel.
But this *does* sound a bit paranoid.

So, what's your story, Citizen?

Like he said, I was told it was a gag, a joke, ya know.

Sarge, the initial check on him is clean.

A model young citizen.

Ah, Sarge - I don't think so.

I used to work Chamcha, and this Laddie ought to have a record as long as his tail.

This file is all wrong.

It's him all right, but *everything* has been changed.
But that's *impossible!*

I'd heard there's been some kind of flap - questions of evidence - and you know - .

Yeah. What's it all about?

Let's just say that you shouldn't be suprised to find more impossible things in the coming days.

Who's that, Rojigo? Who's that?

Ooooh! Bir'! Foosy Bir'!

?

Das Foosy bird! Bob Foosy Bird!

Foosy, foosy Bir'.

?!

Poke!

NiP!

Oh my! I got here just in time. Did you get my message?

Yes.

And I'll miss you all.

Yes. Rojigo and you will be missed.

Here- Let me help settle things down.

EF304

How do you really feel about going home?

What is there to say?
We will report as ordered.

You haven't said three words
about it since we got the notification.

Erma!

You're going back to Anniahport, and your family, who you *never* talk about.
And you're being assigned to a logistic support flight. Idiot cargo work.

Short of an actual demotion, this is the
worst thing that can happen to your career.

Oh - I don't know about that.

Can you tell me anything about
why you can take this all so coolly?

Mommy
wash
tickles!

I would have thought you'd be
hot on to Command about all this.

Can you take the beast for a
second while I clean up for bed?

Daaaadee!
Da air p'ane!

Okay - Come 'ere beast.

And we Ca-rash! On the bed and bounce the baby until he throws up!

He'd better not!

Poof!

And now we'll hide from Mommy! She'll never find us here!

So! They're hiding from me - !

What can be under the blankets? What's that? What's that?

Hi.

Private party?

MahMEE!

Alfon, I'm not reacting to the orders because I'm not sure what's really going on.

What do you mean? Our orders couldn't be more specific. Unless there's something you're not telling me?

Yawn!

Well, let's just say that I don't believe that those orders are the real assignment. As you said yourself, I'm too important an asset to languish in such a position.

And why would I be called in from half-way across known space for a job any squadron officer could do?

For everyone's sake, I hope you're right. How's Toki taking it?

I think she's got an eye on someone to keep her busy for a while.

Good for her!

EF306

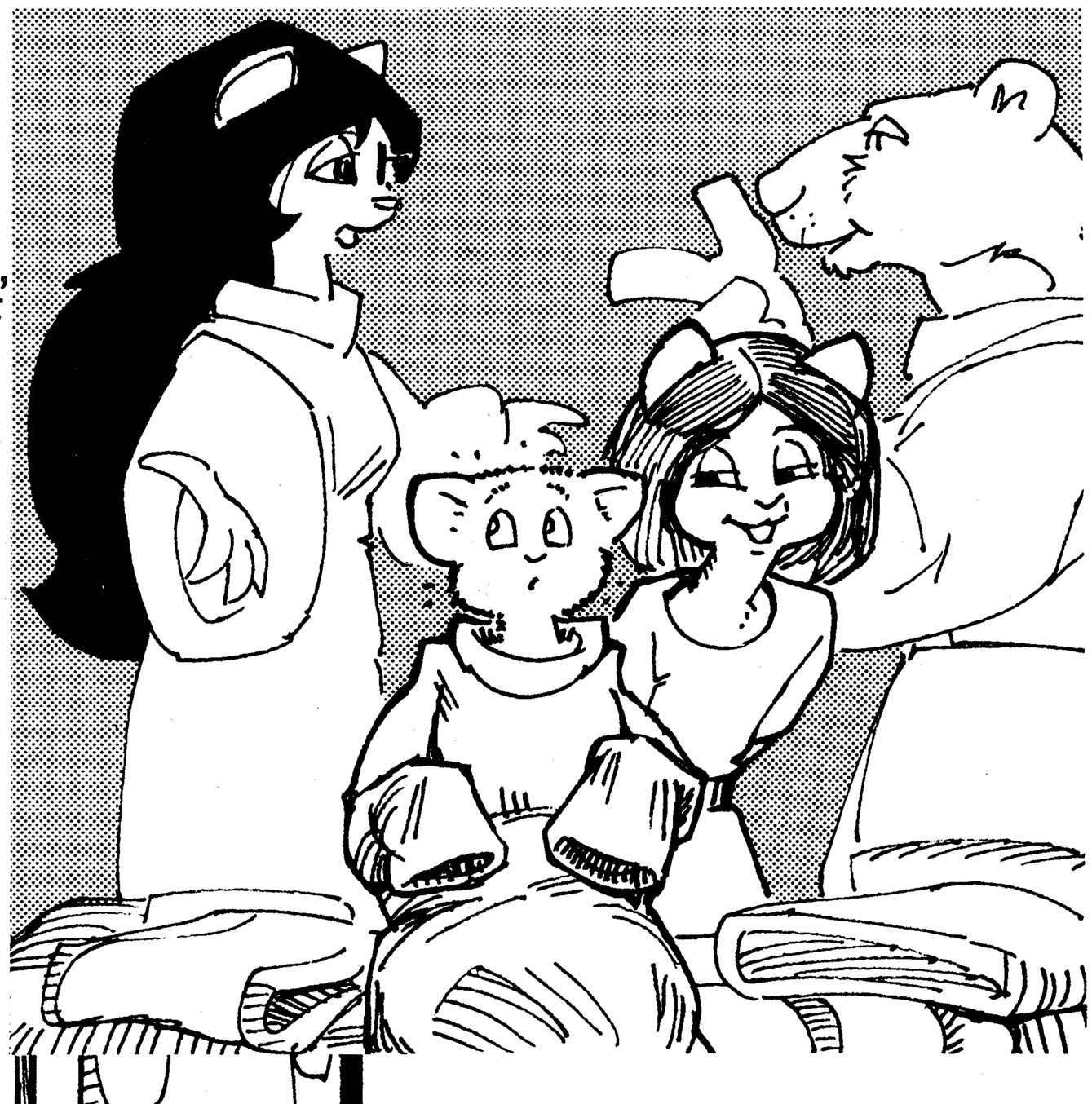
REFRACTIONS
AN ALBEDO OMNIBUS

Refractions, the official companion magazine to the anthropomorphic hard-SF comic book ALBEDO, is finally coming out.
The first issue has articles on gaming, the ALBEDO universe and life in EDF space, short stories, and a special collectable sound sheet insert.

For more information write, or to order, send $4.00 to:

REFRACTIONS
5206 20th Avenue NE
Seattle, WA 98105-3313

Ask for rates to Canada, Mexico, and other countries.





Personal hygiene can be an awkward considerable range of physical types; or plumage characteristics. Also, mar access to their whole body. Conseq only in *salon*-like businesses, but in al independent and private-minded natu along with the unisex facilities, a sure between a beautician and psycho-phy service as it is a cosmetic touch. Beca and caregivers, it is a high-priority he but they tend to be species and gend While technically possible, robot groo "personal hygiene modules" can be especially in zero gee conditions. PH single unit. Equipment for elimination or impractical for many, though swing

Other Way Mondo Cool Furry Publications

(Compiled by Edd Vick and Chuck Melville)

There is a large and growing number of fans devoted to funny animals and anthropomorphics. They're being fed by a few, mostly worthwhile, magazines and specialty items. On this page are those that made our final cut; we recommend them all. One caveat: due to limited budgets and fluctuating time and interest levels, some of the following may no longer be published, or may come out very irregularly. Note: we don't list what we can't find ourselves.

BLACK DIAMOND EFFECT / Latest issue: #6; 32 pages, full color covers; P O Box 10, 260 Adelaide Street East, Toronto, Ontario, Canada, M5A 1N1

"What is the Black Diamond Effect? Simply put: 1) Time is locked up. 2) Reality has changed. 3) humanity is altered. 4) Color is gone!" George Peter Gatsis writes and draws a complex story about the effects of time manipulation; the artwork is computer enhanced, one of the best such presentations to date, outclassing earlier attempts such as "Shatter" or "Digital Justice".

THE WOLFGLEN INCIDENT / One-shot; 32 pages; $2.50; by Tracy Kazaleh; order from: 24353 Walnut Street, Newhall, CA 91321.

Tracy's character Shadow returns in another adventure collected from its serialization in Rowrbrazzle. Hers are innocent tales set in a mythical woods, but innocent doesn't mean quiet or naive. In this issue, Shadow is attacked by the irate misunderstanding mother of a cub he's teaching to fish. Left for dead, he is cared for by strangers while the mother learns all is not as it seems. A simple story well-told.

YARF! / Latest issue #18/19, 118 pages, $10 postpaid, editors: Kris Kreutzman and Lance Rund; order from YARF!!, P O Box 1200, Cupertino, CA 95015-1200

Chock-full of stories and art, including the "Ace of Spades" serial by Chris Grant, "Buffalo Wings" by John Nunnemacher, and the recent "Lighthouse" serial by Watts Martin; other contributors include Waverly Pierre III, ken Pick, Eric Elliott, Dave Kuhn, Ken Sample, and Monika Livingston. We hear #20 is out.

ZOOMORPHICA / Latest issue: #1; 40 pages; $3.50 (+? postage); editor: Watts Martin; order from: The Wyvern's Den Page Studio, P.O. Box 292513, Temple Terrace, FL 33687-2513.

Watts Martin, one of the originators of the excellent Mythagoras, returns on his own with an excellent new magazine. "Foxy Lady", a short story by Lawrence Watt-Evans, explores what it means to be a created, owned being; while Fred Patten's long-promised "Dozens of Dragons" kicks off its many-issue overview of dragons in fiction. Work by Bill Fitts, Matthew Posner, and several artists rounds out the issue. This one should definitely be on the list of any dedicated anthropomorphics fan.

EVERCHANGING PALACE / Latest issue: #5; 106 pages with full-color cover; $7.00 + $1 postage; editors: Lex Nakashima and Steve Gallacci. Order from: LX Ltd., 11846 Balboa Blvd. #123, Granada Hills, CA 91344.

The Everchanging Palace is devoted to stories set in Vicky M. Wyman's Xanadu universe. Frequent contributors include Robert & Margaret Carspecken, Tracy Horton, Chuck Melville, Craig Hilton, and Donna Barr. Often the best work in any given issue is Wyman's, who is currently at work on Xanadu 2000.

IN-FUR-NATION / Latest issue: Vol 2, #1; 4 pages; write for pricing information; order from: PO Box 1958, Garden Grove, CA 92642-1958

In-Fur-Nation is a newsletter for all things furry and anthropomorphic, meant to appear frequently. Issues focus on ConFurence, the annual furry convention in Anaheim, CA, but do have some other news.

SLEEPERS / Latest issue: #2, 60 pages with full-color cover; $8.95 + $1.50 postage; creators: Vito Bianca & Kevin Vetrone; order from: Rock Soup Studio, P.O. Box 881, Wappingers Falls, NY 12590.

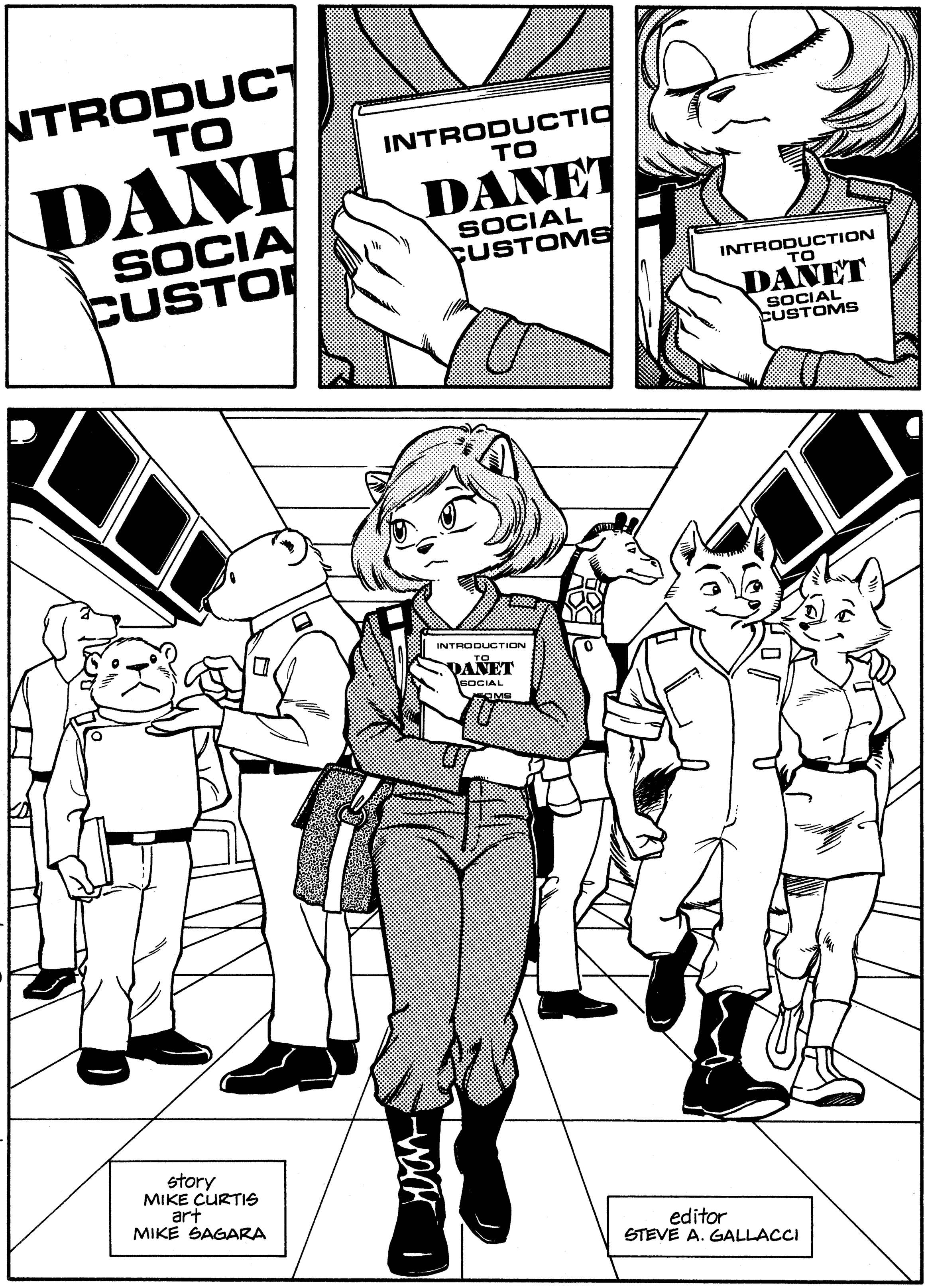
"In 1945 the Nazi and Japanese Empires were both defeated. Their armies and ideas were wiped from the face of the Earth and the world was made safe for Democracy... and you probably still believe in the Easter Bunny!" So goes Rock Soup's advertising for Sleepers, one of the most exciting thriller comics I've ever read (anthropomorphic or not!). Follow Special Agent Mac Talons as he tries to unravel a fifty-year-old mystery and rescue his lover. The art started out good and has improved, and it's great to see the artists using so many different species. Highly recommended.

TAI PAN / Latest issue: #4; 60 pages; $5 per issue or $15 per year; editor: Whitney Ware; Order from: 1425 E. Prospect #4, Seattle, WA 98112.

This is a participatory fanzine, similar to an apa (like Rowrbrazzle) in that full members are expected to write or draw once a year to maintain membership; but copies are also available to nonmembers at a price. The Tai-Pan is a mixed-species trading starship for which participating members have created characters. Their stories are expected to crossover characters. Issue #1 has a lot of background information on the universe as well as a couple of short stories. Other venues for creators in the same universe include the pirate ship Iktome and pleasure ship The Quantum Lady.

WILDLIFE APAZINE / Latest issue: #1; 66 pages; $6 + $1.50 postage; editor: Matthew High; Order from: 1200 Patricia, #1208, San Antonio, TX 78213.

When an apa sports creators of the calibre of Kurt Wilcken, Shon Howell, Watts Martin, and Mel. White, it's worth getting. Wildlife has these, and many more. Wilcken's "Know Your Anthropomorphics" makes the issue for me; unfortunately most of the rest is pin-ups that -- while nice -- make for thin pickings. There's a very talented crowd of furry artists growing in south/central Texas, and you'll find many of them here.



FIRST IMPRESSIONS

WOW! DANET III IS SO FACINATING!

hm--- IT'S VERY DIFFERENT.

ROOM 19823 ...FELNA / TOKI. GUESS SHE'LL BE MY ROOMMATE HERE. MIGHT AS WELL MEET HER.

hee hee!

19823

OSHIRO, STOP! YOU'VE GOT A TACTICAL GROUP IN FIFTEEN MINUTES!

TOKI, THERE *IS* TIME!

PUT ME DOWN, YOU BIG SILLY! COME BACK AFTER CLASSES!

BUT WHAT OF MY TOKI, WHO SAYS, "SEIZE THE MOMENT?"

SHE HAS CLASSES TOO.

AND A NEW ROOMMATE COMING IN WITH THE NEW ROTATION.

2

TOKI, YOU HAVE A VISITOR.

OH, HI! YOU MUST BE FELNA.

GET DRESSED, OSHIRO! SHE DOESN'T WANT TO SEE YOUR FUZZY BODY, AND IF SHE DOES, I DON'T WANT TO SHARE.

I'M TOKI, AND YOU'RE CALLED...

ERMA, OUT OF DORNTHANT.

WOW! CHARANX* MUST BE PRETTY DIFFERENT. I'M LOCAL, OUT OF SETTLEMENT CITY, ON THE OTHER HEMISPHERE.

*Charanx = Native's name for the planet Danet III.

WHICH BUNK IS MINE?

IF YOU DON'T MIND, I'LL STAY ON TOP. IT'S EASIER FOR ME UP THERE, LESS MASS IN A FALL, YA KNOW.

OSHIRO OUGHT TO BE OUT OF THE HYGIENE IN A SECOND.

KHAI, I WISH I WAS HOME.

WHAT A MESS... AFTER THIS I'VE GOT TO START ON THE FRONT, THEN GO GET MY---

HI! I'VE GOT TO GET TO CLASSES!

I'LL BE BACK IN A COUPLE OF HOURS AND HELP YOU SETTLE IN. WE'LL GET TO KNOW EACH OTHER.

BYE!

SLAM!

OH, ERMA... WHAT HAVE YOU GOTTEN INTO? FINALLY INTO ACADEMY, AND NOW STUCK WITH A DANETTI SEX-MANIAC.

I NEED A NAP WHILE THINGS ARE QUIET.

WHOOPS! STOP THAT!

I'M GLAD BOTH OF OUR COURSES WERE RESCHEDULED. WHAT CAN WE DO NOW?

WHAT ELSE? BUT BE QUIET, SHE'S ASLEEP.

HERE, CLIMB UP.

:sniff:

TOKI, PLEASE MOVE TO THE SIDE.

YEAH, THAT'S OKAY.

THUMP!

THUMP! THUMP!

SILENCE AT LAST.

WHAT'S THAT SMELL?

I MUST DRESS AND LEAVE. I HAVE MANEUVERS TONIGHT.

UNTIL TOMORROW.

CLICK!

TOKI!

I KNOW YOU'RE AWAKE! I WANT TO TALK TO YOU ABOUT THIS SITUATION!

I THINK YOU HAVE BEEN VERY INCONSIDERATE! THE HYGIENE UNIT WAS IN POOR ORDER AND I CAN'T SEEM TO USE IT UNINTERRUPTED.

AND NOW I HAVE TO ENDURE MARATHON "PHYSICAL ACTIVITY" RIGHT OVER MY HEAD.

NOT TO MENTION THE SMELL OF THE AFTERMATH.

WELL, I GUESS I DIDN'T THINK ABOUT THE HYGIENE...

WE'RE OFF INSPECTION CYCLE AND I WAS JUST TAKING A BREAK FROM THE WHITE GLOVE TREATMENT.

6

IS OSHIRO HERE ALL THE TIME?

WELL, WITHOUT A ROOMIE, HE'S BEEN AROUND A LOT FOR GROOMING AND "SOCIAL INTERACTION"...

...BUT HE'S SHIPPING OUT TOMORROW.

SORRY.

THAT'S ALRIGHT. I KNEW HE WAS LEAVING. THAT'S WHY I PUT IN FOR A ROOMIE. I REALLY LIKE THE COMPANY.

LOOK, IT'S LATE. I WANT TO GET SOME SLEEP. WE'LL DISCUSS THIS FURTHER TOMORROW.

OKAY.

um.

SEE WHAT MOTHERS AND FATHERS HAVE FOUND.. A LITTLE MOUSE CHILD IN A BEAUTIFUL GOWN..

LITTLE MOUSE CHILD WITH FISTS SO TIGHT.. TRYING SO HARD TO HOLD THE LIGHT..

THESE LITTLE MOUSE HANDS WILL SOMEDAY HOLD.. BOOKS FOR SCHOOL AND NECKLACE OF GOLD..

7

HELLO! HELLO? CADET FELNA?

uh, JUST A MINUTE. LET ME GET DRESSED.

KNOCK KNOCK

CADET FELNA. MY MOST SINCERE APOLOGIES. I AM AFRAID I MADE...uh ...WHAT IS CALLED, A "BAD FIRST IMPRESSION."

MAY I COME IN?

oh, THAT'S OKAY, SENIOR CADET.

FIRST, I MUST EXPLAIN, MY STANDARD IS NOT GOOD. I MAY NOT SAY THINGS WELL.

TOKI TOLD ME YOU WERE NOT FULLY ASLEEP. I APOLOGIZE FOR MY UNTHINKING CONDUCT.

WELL, TOKI TOLD ME YOU WERE LEAVING.

YES. I WILL BE RETURNING TO MIZU FOR ACTIVE DUTY. THAT WAS WHY I WAS GLAD WHEN YOU WERE POSTED TO BE HER ROOMMATE.

OH?

I SEE IN YOU THE BEGINNINGS OF A FINE EDF OFFICER. BY YOUR DEMEANOR I CAN TELL YOU HAVE A MILITARY BACKGROUND.

HOWEVER...

YES?

8

THE EDF IS NOT ONE INDIVIDUAL. IT IS MANY INDIVIDUALS, ALL DIFFERENT, BUT WORKING TOGETHER, COMPLEMENTING AND HARMONIZING. AS THE FINGERS ON THE HAND COMBINE TO FORM A FIST, OR WIELD A TOOL.

LEARNING TO WORK TOGETHER IS WHAT ACADEMY IS FOR.

TOKI HAS MUCH TO LEARN, I HOPE YOU WILL BE A GOOD INFLUENCE FOR HER, AND SHE FOR YOU.

FAREWELL, CADET.

CLICK!

SO, HOW ARE YOU AND THAT DULL DORNTHANTII NEWBIE GETTING ALONG?

DON'T CALL HER THAT! SHE'S JUST DIFFERENT.

PARDON ME, AM I INTERRUPTING?

NOT AT ALL. I MUST LEAVE. ENJOY YOUR MEAL, NEWCOMER.

GOOD MORNING, CADET TOKI.

YES, THANK YOU.

GOOD MORNING, CADET ERMA. DID YOU SLEEP WELL?

LOOK, ABOUT YESTERDAY...

I AM SORRY ABOUT THE MESS AND THE OTHER STUFF, BUT I REALLY THINK WE CAN...

WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

LAUGHING! DO YOU KNOW YOU SANG IN YOUR SLEEP LAST NIGHT.

AN INFANT SLEEPSONG, ABOUT A MOUSE CHILD.

OH, NO! WHAT DID I SING.

ohhh...

MY MOTHER USED TO SING IT TO ME, I'M SO EMBARASSED!

DON'T BE. IT WAS CHARMING. THE LAST LINE ABOUT A NECK-LACE, IS THERE MORE?

ONE LAST LINE. "A LIFEMATE'S HEART AND A DRESS THEY'VE SEWN... AND A LITTLE MOUSE CHILD OF THEIR OWN."

"IT'S PRETTY, I MIGHT CHANGE THE WORDS, AND USE IT MYSELF SOME DAY. GOT A FEW MINUTES TO SHOW ME AROUND?"

"SURE, ROOMIE."

-- Nice piece by Mike Sagara. I see that Erma's sibling rivalry is nothing new, but it is disturbing to see Tavis us it in #4 in his vendetta against her. There appears to be an inconsistency in "Scenes From a Room." I thought you said that Erma's mother had a rough time bringing her into the world, and that she fell into a funk afterwards. She seemed awfully cheerful in that scene when they brought Erma home. And I noticed that Eda and Kanoc were wearing wedding rings. Does this jive with the Albedo universe as you created it?

I liked Cindy Murata's sketches. My favorite is the one of a Human soldier with a Furry soldier. Personally, I prefer to see stories with Humans and Furries interacting as equals, working and living together in peace and harmony (makes you want to gag, doesn't it?).--

Philip Smith

Eda wasn't turned into a zombie. While she did suffer a trauma which affected her overall relationship with Kanoc and Erma, there's nothing to prevent her from enjoying the spirit of the moment.

--N. A. 5 looks great, and "Scenes From a Room" makes a good backup story. The great Erma was once an unbearable little snot. Cute, reminds me of me and my younger brother.--

Jeffrey D. Castle

--Beatrix Farmer looks like it's going to be a great story; I hope it sees print soon. Is Beatrix your way of attacking all these generic superhero X-freaks? Heh, heh, heh, I like it. By the way, she looked great in the AH swimsuit issue.

I like how you're handling little Rojigo; it seems to me that a close friend of relative of yours had had a baby at one time or another and you've been stuck babysitting more than once. (Today in the comic shop the owner was holding his eleven-month-old nephew, shaking his finger in his face playfully and telling him "You will not drool any more, I order you not to drool from this moment forward," and the child proceeded to salivate all over a stack of X-men weeklies. The tyke's not so bad.)--

Genesis Cook

More Beatrix is coming, though the full extent has yet to be deceided.

ANCILLARY MERCHANDISE/BACK ISSUES

Ben & Co. are running a new T-shirt design for the new season. The rest of this essentially hasn't changed from issue 4.

I've already got a short set (5-card) trading card set (available for $1) and am seriously considering a full-size series, though I don't know when right now. I still have a ton-o-stuff in back stock. Much of it is still available in quantities large enough for wholesale (hey, you store owners!). I'm still at the old Thoughts and Images/Seattle address; P.O. Box 19419, Seattle, WA 98109.

FUSION 1 - 17. All issues in at least small quantities, a few issues by the ton. $2.00 each.
DREAMERY 1 - 14. Probably all issues in at least small quantities, a few issues by the ton. $2.00 each.
XANADU 1 - 5 and 1 color special. All by the ton. $2.00 each.
EVERCHANGING PALACE, the Xanadu fanzine. Also available through me. The first issue is $5.00, and 2 - 4 are $7.00 each. Add $1.00 per book for postage, $2.00 per for overseas.
WEASEL PATROL one-shot issue. Still available by the ton at $2.00.
ALBEDO Vol. 1, nr. 3, 8-12, 14. Still available in fair to tonnage quantities at $2.00 each. I do have some of the other issues at ruthlessly overpriced collector prices. The Prototype issue is still available as well at $1.00 a pop. I have a few copies of *ALBEDO* Vol. 2, nr. 1 - 3 as well at $2.50 each.
COMMAND REVIEW 1 - 3. Still available in quantity at $4.00 each.
CLOISONNE PINS. I still have most of the T&I and LX Ltd. pins, for $5.00 each.

XANADU: Tabbe Le Fauve, Alicia, Fatima
FUSION: Running Tan, Fusion group
DREAMERY: Stinz, Cheshire Cat
ALBEDO: Erma Felna
S.A. GALLACCI: Homo Cetacea
RICK STERNBACH: Dolphin in Space ($10.00)

FIGURES. Joseph Lieuallen's wonderful resin figures of Erma Felna and Dea Htuhok are still available at $50.00 and $60.00 respectively.

And last, if not least, if anyone needs some land fill, I still have more than a few copies of *ZELL,SWORDDANCER* nr. 1 left for $1 each.



wild kingdom



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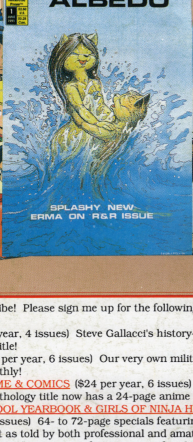
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