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BAD FOR A  
**FIRST  
ISSUE!**



Richard  
J. Donkle  
84



Amazing! Astonishing! Yes, Virginia . . . there really is an "Equine"!

## RUMINATIONS AND REVELATIONS CONCERNING ONE HORSELIKE BARBARIAN.

by Richard Konkle

I would like to start this personal comments page by saying (typing?) that I hope all of you enjoy this comic and thanking you for your patronage (and if you're reading somebody else's copy, please buy your own!).

It all began a little over two years ago, at a New Year's Eve party. It was then that I first met Jim Groat; a "funny animal" cartoonist and full-fledged character in his own right (after all, has anyone ever met a "half-fledged" character?). Jim had apparently seen or been told about my being an amateur comic-book artist, and so asked me to draw a cartoonized "Totem" for his collection . . . a "totem" being a person's favorite animal—in this case, a horse or a dragon. I chose to do a horse (for reasons I didn't even know back then), and I determined to draw him in a muscular, heroic frame—since I *am* primarily a super-hero/fantasy illustrator. I almost drew this as yet nameless horse in a suit of medieval armor . . . but that particular drawing didn't please me, so I stopped midway and got another sheet of paper.

I then had the not-too-obvious brainstorm of drawing an anthropomorphic parody of some well-known adventure character. I could have just as easily had "HORSZAN" ("Lord of the Chimps"), "DOC EQUINE" ("The Colt of Copper"), "JOHN CANTOR" ("Warhorse of Venus"), "THE LONE GRAZER" (with his faithful Appaloosa sidekick, "PINTO"), "BATHORSE" (ugh!), "SUPERSTEED" (double ugh!), etc. etc. (Of course, there's always the possibility of back-up stories . . . ) but as you might have already guessed I chose to animalize C\*N\*N the Barbarian. It all hit me in a flash . . . and at 2:00 AM Jan 1st, 1983, "Equine" was created!

I'm hopin' that Jim can excavate that first inked drawing for reproduction here, since it helps illustrate the evolution of Equine (and Penelope). The most noticeable change would easily be Equine's legs; my first drawing had him with actual satyr-like horse legs! Being a fantasy artist, I thought they made him look unique! Thinking back, though . . . "unique" wasn't the word for it! Neither Jim Groat nor the rest of the world were ready for this non-humanoid mutation!

As soon as I saw Equine, I thought that he would make an exceptional comic-book character—but believed that this would never be, since Jim was exclusively a "comic-strip" artist, and I had my own "human" characters to work on! Months later, however, Jim himself exclaimed that Equine should be put into a comic! "That's a great idea," replied I.

The first step was writing the story. I got the job. I eschewed the usually mandatory "origin" recap in favor of writing a simple "fun" story. There had to be a wizard! And monsters! And a damsel in distress! While the first story is all fun and games, however, don't expect it *always* to be thus! Jim has in mind several mildly serious—and even a couple of *totally* serious—stories for the future . . . so Equine will be taking pendular swings from lunatic sit-com to intense melodrama! Only time will tell how this Jekyll-and-Hyde approach will work . . . but I like it! And rest assured that there *will* be halfway "neutral" issues between the extremes of humor and drama, as to avoid undo shock to your system!

From issue #2 on up, Jim will be drawing the comic. I don't know who will be inking it (and Jim's spent nights awake wondering just that!). Jim's interpretation of Equine is noticeably different from my pseudo "wish-I-could" Buscema/Chan style . . . but I hope you'll like it as much as I do! By all rights Equine should be a success, since "funny animals" have come back into vogue (as far as we're concerned, they never went *out* of vogue) . . . and we've already seen at least one other person's attempt at doing an anthropomorphic barbarian, a la C\*N\*N. We must have a catchy idea after all!

Normally, I'd still be assisting Jim with ideas, tips, anatomy corrections, etc . . . but by the time this sees print, I will be in the Air Force. Why? Because I want the change, I need a job, and I need to learn a *secondary* skill (alas, I *hate* doing commercial and advertising art!). At 22 years old, I still love comics, and I hope to print some titles of my own—in the future!

As for the writing on Equine; I'll do some of it . . . maybe. I'll probably do issue #2 (which may stretch into issue #3), but I don't want to make too many commitments on my uncertain future.

That puts the end to this would-be editorial page. Starting next issue we'd like to start the mandatory letters page, so why not scribe your praise, complaints, suggestions and ideas for Equine in black ink . . . and send it to

EQUINE P.O. Box 32292  
Tucson, AZ 85751

Jim's waiting on the edge of his seat to hear from you! (A most uncomfortable position, I can assure!) Oh, and while you're at it . . . maybe you can suggest some names for the letters page. "EQUINE'S LETTER PAGE" sounds sooo pedestrian! "From the Horse's Mouth?" "The Summarilian Gazette-Bugle?" "Equine's Elegies?" "Telegram for Mr. Equine?" "Endorsments to the Horse?" "Take my Wench . . . Please?" "Hey, He Can Read?"

Until next time . . . take it slow, and watch your cholesterol!

EQUINE ©Jim Groat  
and Richard Konkle



# ADDITIONAL COMMENTS by Jim Groat

Greetings and thank you for purchasing "Equine." As financial backer of this project I really appreciate it. Besides I wanna get my two-cents worth in.

I'm not going to bother repeating how Equine got his start except I want to thank Jim Babcock for suggesting (bugging the hell out of me) I use Equine in a comic book. (Although at times it seemed as a curse!) At the time I was trying for syndication for a comic strip called "Dangerbear." 'Til I found out the odds for a successfully syndicated strip. Besides, Equine sounded fun (ha!).

All I ask is to bear with me, the going will be rough at first but it will smooth out as time goes on. I'm going to try for Equine's quarterly release, I'm not artistically and mentally prepared for bi-monthly release, at least not yet. However, should Equine run a little late don't panic, it *will* be released. As far as trying to locate an inker, I think I've located one.

I'm always open for suggestions, ideas and character designs. Remember, no humans and *no* elves, trolls, gnomes, etc. Also I'd like to run the art readers send in. God knows I enjoy seeing my stuff in print, I'm sure you would like to see yours in too. Remember, it must be inked to be in print. However, it becomes property of Graphxpress.

There are a number of people I'd like to thank for helping get Equine off the ground. Richard Konkle, who deserves the biggest portion. Without him I would've scrapped Equine. Just a damn shame he defected to the boys in blue (the fink!). Mike Kelly, who I've bounced several story ideas off of, not to mention who also helped create several stories. Steve Gallacci, creator of "Albedo," for offering printing hints and suggestions. By the way, I highly recommend "Albedo" if you haven't read it yet. John Cawley Jr., for his knowledge in the printing field and support. Marc Schirmeister, editor of the APA "Rowrbrazzle" (Hokay Schirm, there's my free plug!) for his editorial skills and attempted inking (no hard feelings) and complete support. Also Chuck "Deal" Whitley, Mark Wallace, Tim Fay and Jerry Collins for their morale boosting and Stephen Scott Beau Smith and his support through Comicast Fanzine. And finally I, and I know Richard, would also like to thank our parents for their support.

'Til we meet again

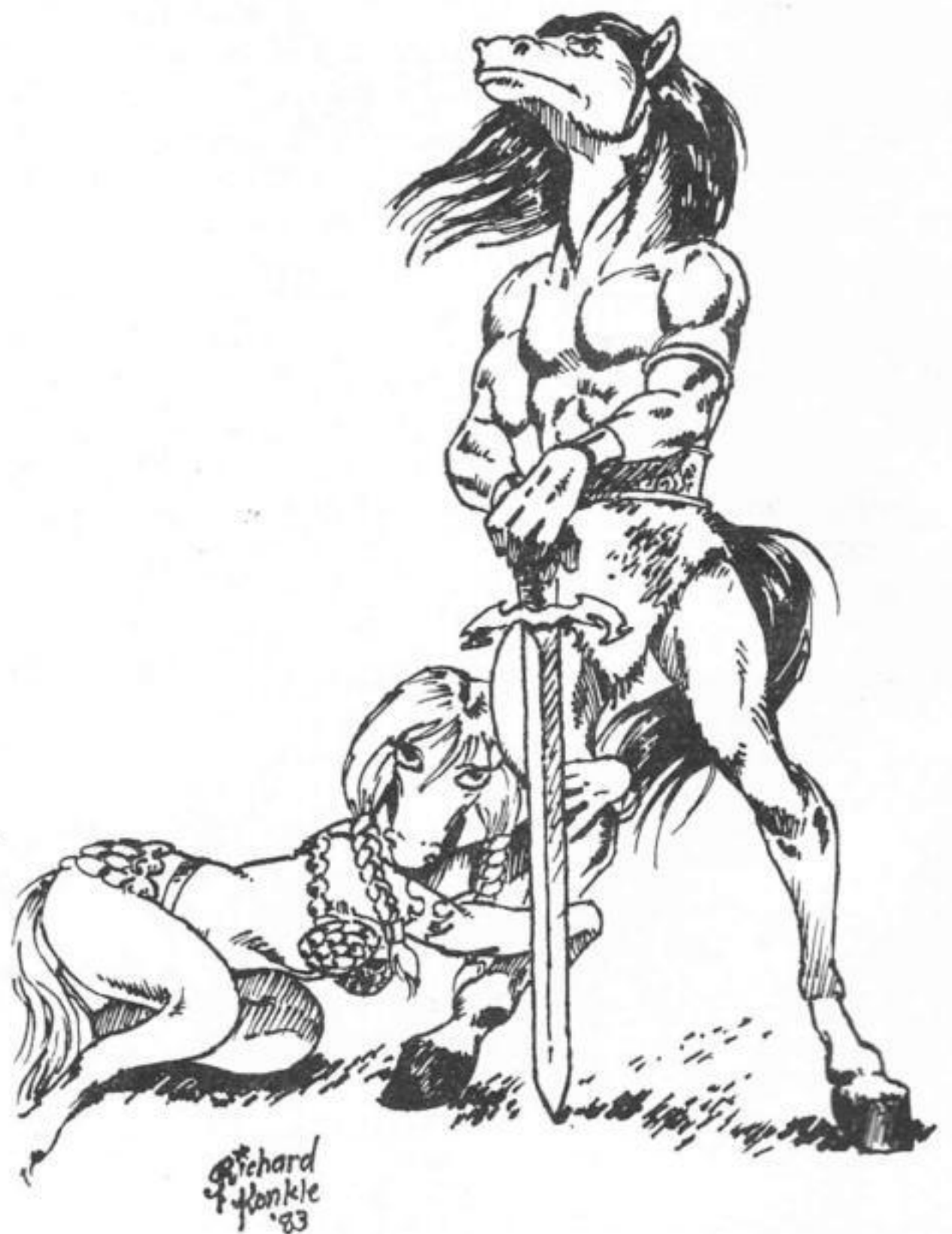
## ALBEDO ANTHROPOMORPHICS



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## EQUINE THE BARBARIAN





Now, O prince, that between the years when the great seas sunk Ant-  
 eaters and it's shining mounds, and the age of the rise of the  
 cousins of Airheadus, there was an era unheard of, when amusing yet  
 not overly-presumptuous towns sprawled across the globe like dusty  
 flowers on a stink blossom tree... Hither and thither came Equine,  
 the Summarilian, dark-maned, bushy-tailed, mead in hand, a  
 nuisance, a brigand, a never-do-well, with humongous hungers and  
 super-humongous passions, to tread the gilded tails of the  
 world under booted hooves." The New Mead-ian Republican Bugle



A BARBARIAN OUTLANDER STARTING A PUBLIC BRAWL... SUCH  
 COMMONPLACE EVENTS RARELY HERALD ANYTHING MORE  
 THAN A QUICK DISPERSEMENT, OR A TRIP TO THE LOCAL JAIL;  
 THIS TIME, HOWEVER, IT IS DESTINED TO BE THE START OF AN  
 INCREDIBLE TALE!

REALLY. WE'RE NOT KIDDING.



RAconteurs;  
 JIM GROAT  
 AND  
 RICHARD KONKLE

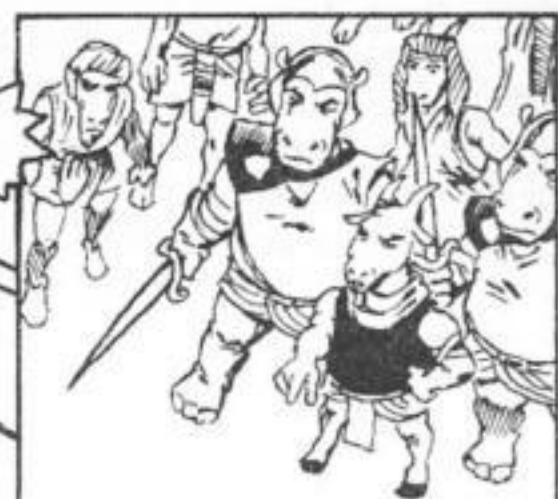


THE MINSTRELS MIGHT EVEN WRITE A CHANT...



THERE IS HE!

THERE IS THE BARBAROUS "FAST-HOOVE"!



AT LEAST A FEW STANZAS...

THAT OVERGROWN "CUT PURSE" STOLE THE SACRED ORBS OF OOGALALA!

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? WHAT ORBS?



WHAT-?

ANYWAY - I DIDN'T STEAL THEM!



I WON THEM FAIRLY AND HONESTLY IN A GAME OF "GO KILL"!



WHO WILL THOUST BELIEVE? AN OVERLY-SAUCEED OLD BUTTERBALL ... OR ME?!

"HEH-HEH"



THE QUESTION NEED NOT HAVE BEEN ASKED.



THE HILL TRAVELERS OF TUSH HAVE A SAYING: "NEVER BEAT A MAN OF STOOGIA IN A GAME OF CHANCE, FOR THE STOOGIANS PAY OFF IN SNAKES." THE SAYING DOESN'T MAKE A WHOLE LOT OF SENSE, BUT IT SURE SOUNDS PROFOUND!

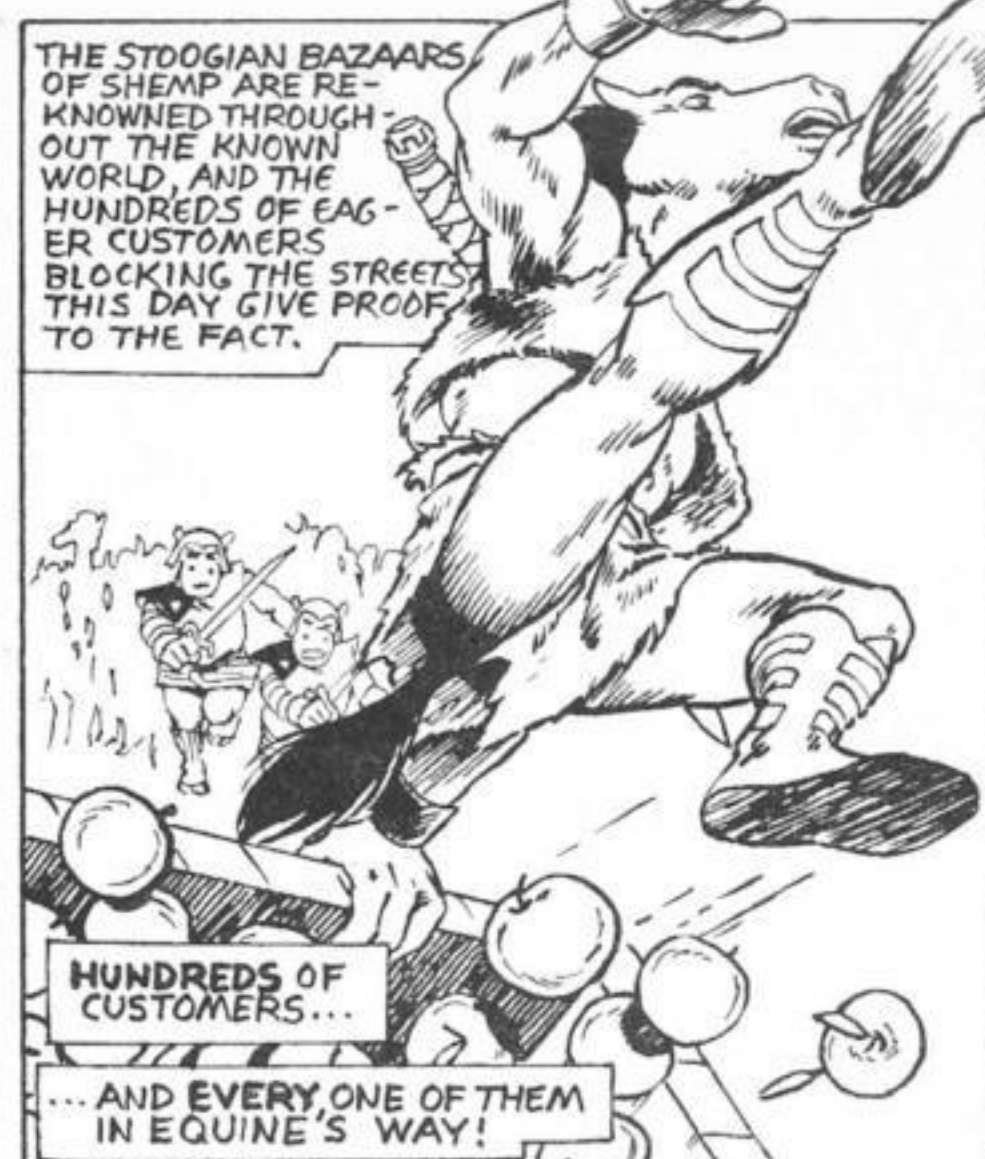
EQUINE LEARNED THE ART OF THE WILD HILLS OF SUMMA - PROBABLY GOUGE DISMEMBERED THE CITY GUARDS... DECIDES NOT TO MAKE ANY MORE ENEMIES THAN HE HAS TO.

OF SWORDPLAY IN ARILY AND COULD BEER AND GENER - HOWEVER, HE MORE ENEMIES BESIDES...



... THE HILL TRAVELERS OF TUSH HAVE ANOTHER SAYING;

"STAB NOT, LEST YE YOURSELF BE STABBED."



THE STOOGIAN BAZAARS OF SHEMP ARE RE-KNOWNED THROUGHOUT THE KNOWN WORLD, AND THE HUNDREDS OF EAGER CUSTOMERS BLOCKING THE STREETS THIS DAY GIVE PROOF TO THE FACT.

HUNDREDS OF CUSTOMERS...

... AND EVERY ONE OF THEM IN EQUINE'S WAY!



LUCKILY, EQUINE LEARNED THE ART OF CART-JUMPING AND CROWD-PUSHING IN THE WILD HILLS OF SUMMARILY!

FIRE!

FIRE! FIRE! OUT OF THE WAY PEASANTS!







TWIN FANGS OF STEEL SINK DEEP INTO THE EMPTY WOODEN KEG...

EQUINE ALLOWS HIMSELF A SMILE AS HE BRIEFLY LOOKS BACK. THEN...

... THE CROWD WASHES OVER THE BARBARIAN ONCE MORE!

...WHILE THEIR OWNERS ARE TRAMPLED UNDER SWIFT-MOVING HOOVES!

WASH!

UH...EXCUSE ME! ABOUT THAT HARKSENBOOB WALKATHON AND PANCAKE BREAKFAST? MADGE AND I -

SWISHTAR TAKE YOU ALL!! I'M IN A HURRY!

WELL! HOW DOES HE EXPECT TO SELL PLEDGES LIKE THAT? NOW IN MY DAY WE USED TO WALK 20 MILES JUST TO GET TO THE...

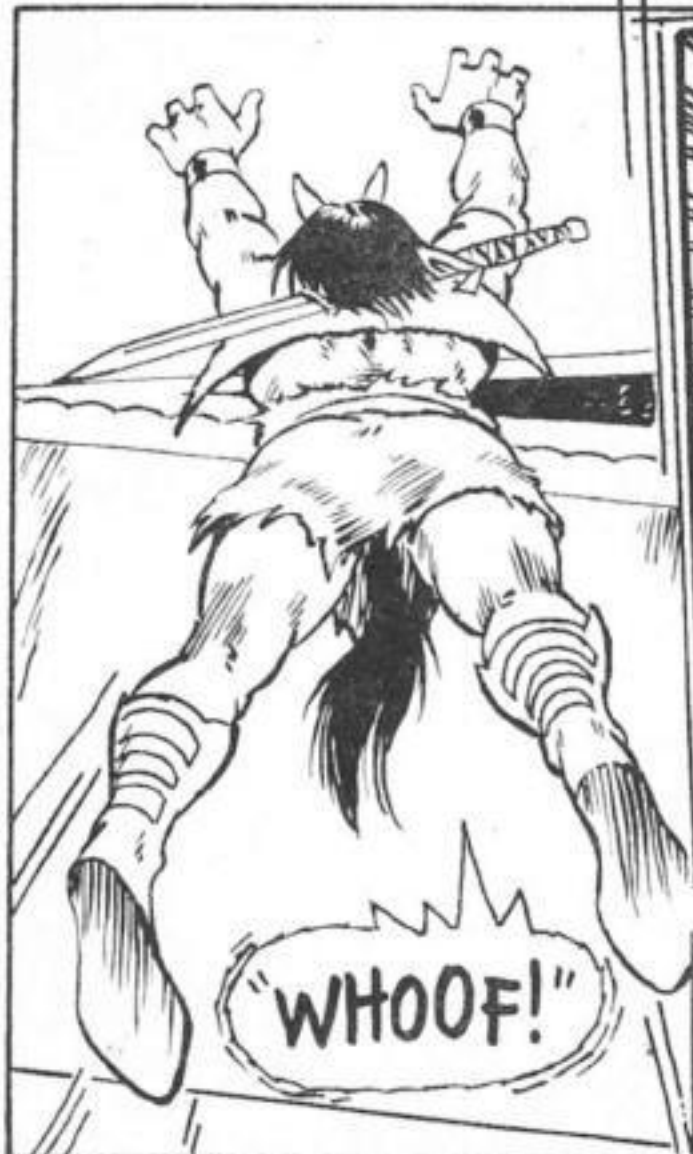
OUCH! WHO PUT THAT LITTLE FIGURE THERE?!

TRIP!

EQUINE'S PIERCING EYES DART AROUND THE STREET, SUDDENLY PIERCING A PILE OF CRATES STACKED AGAINST THE SIDE OF A "5 AND 10"!

OPPORTUNITY, IN COMICS AT LEAST, KNOCK QUITE LOUDLY AT TIMES!!

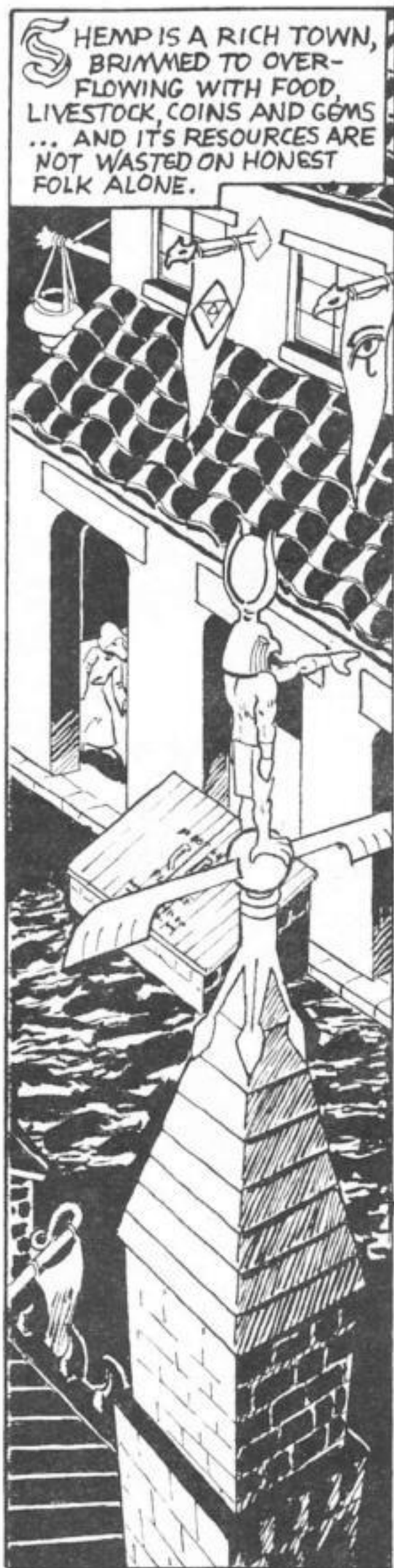












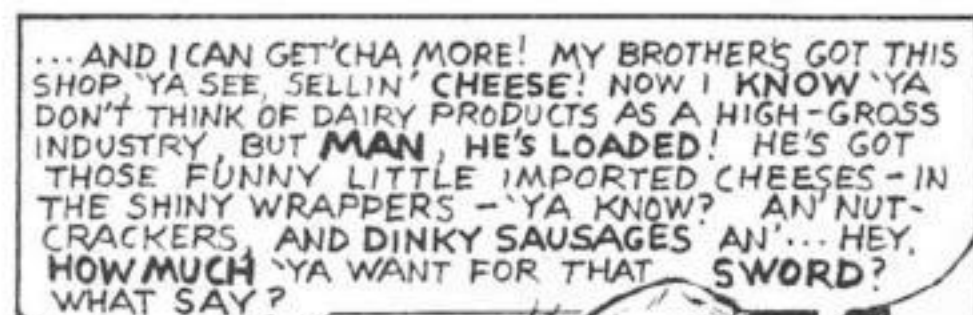




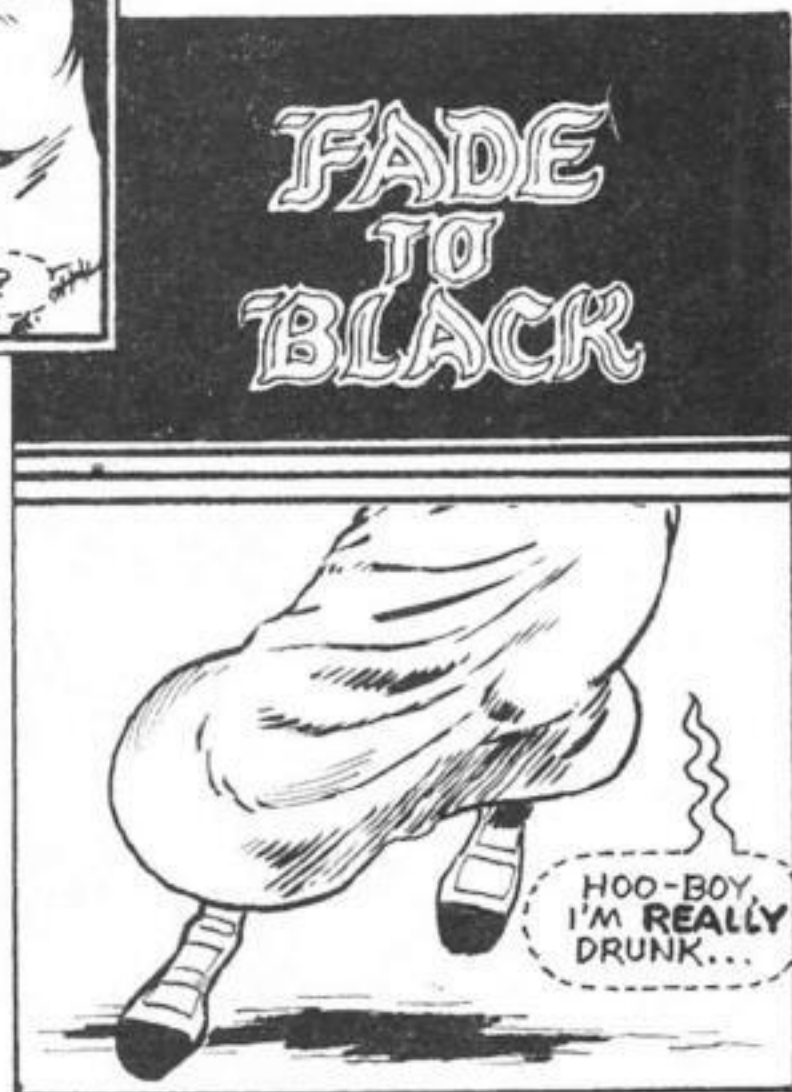












# INTERMISSION











HOURS PASS LIKE HOURS AS THE TWO TRAVELERS FINISH THEIR BATH, AND BEGIN A MUTUAL TREK NORTHWARD.



YOU **ARE** SOMEWHAT, AH, "LIGHTLY" DRESSED FOR A PRINCESS.



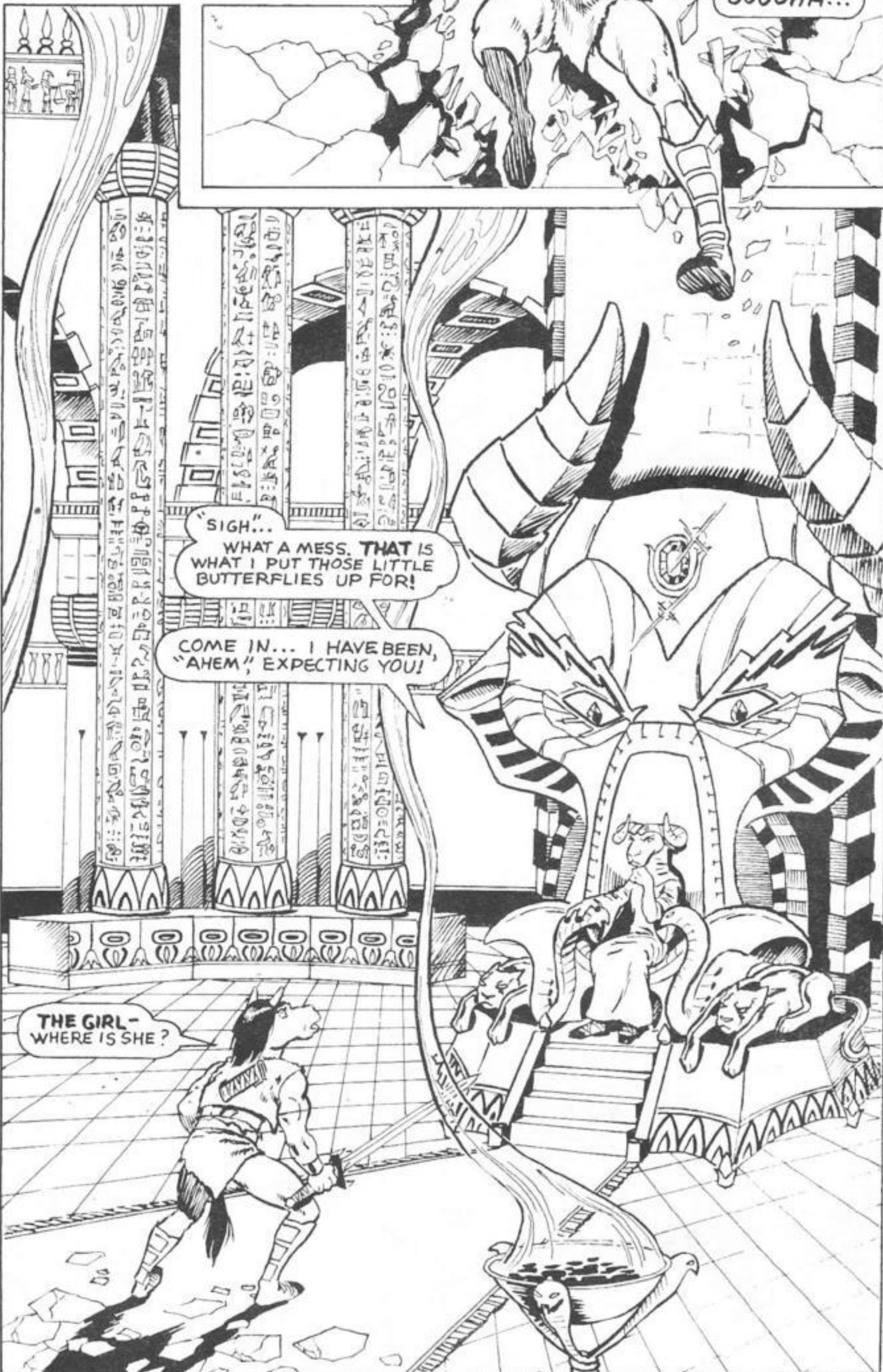
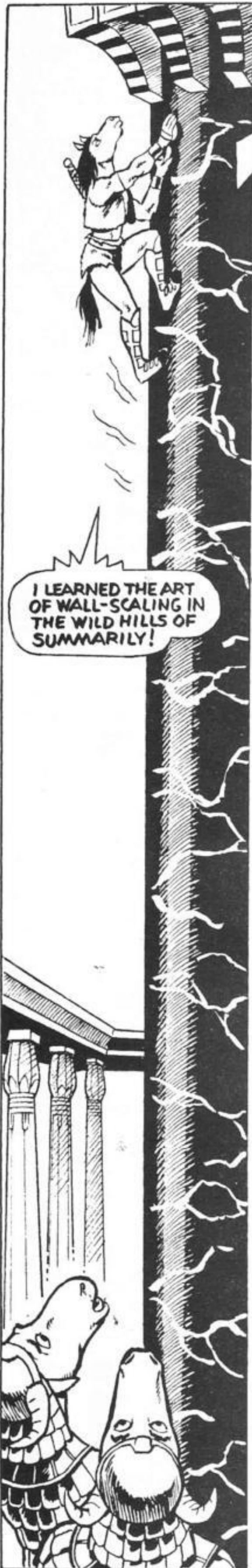
























STAB  
SQUI  
SH!  
STAB  
STAB  
"COUGH GAG!"  
"CHOKE! PUKE!"  
STAB  
SEVER  
"GAG"  
SQUISH  
SQUISH  
STAB  
STAB



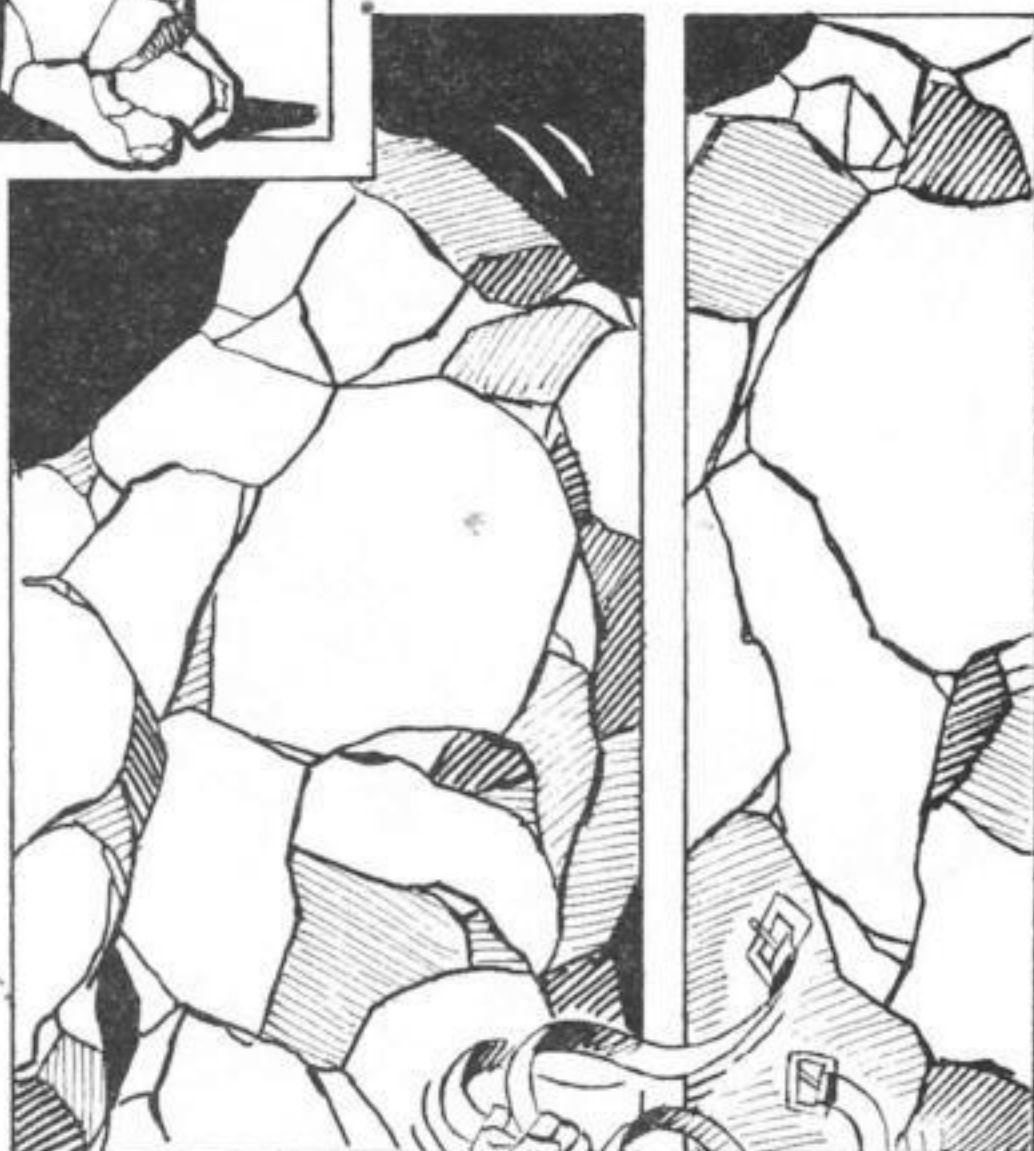








# THE ROCK BOOGIE OF ZOLL!



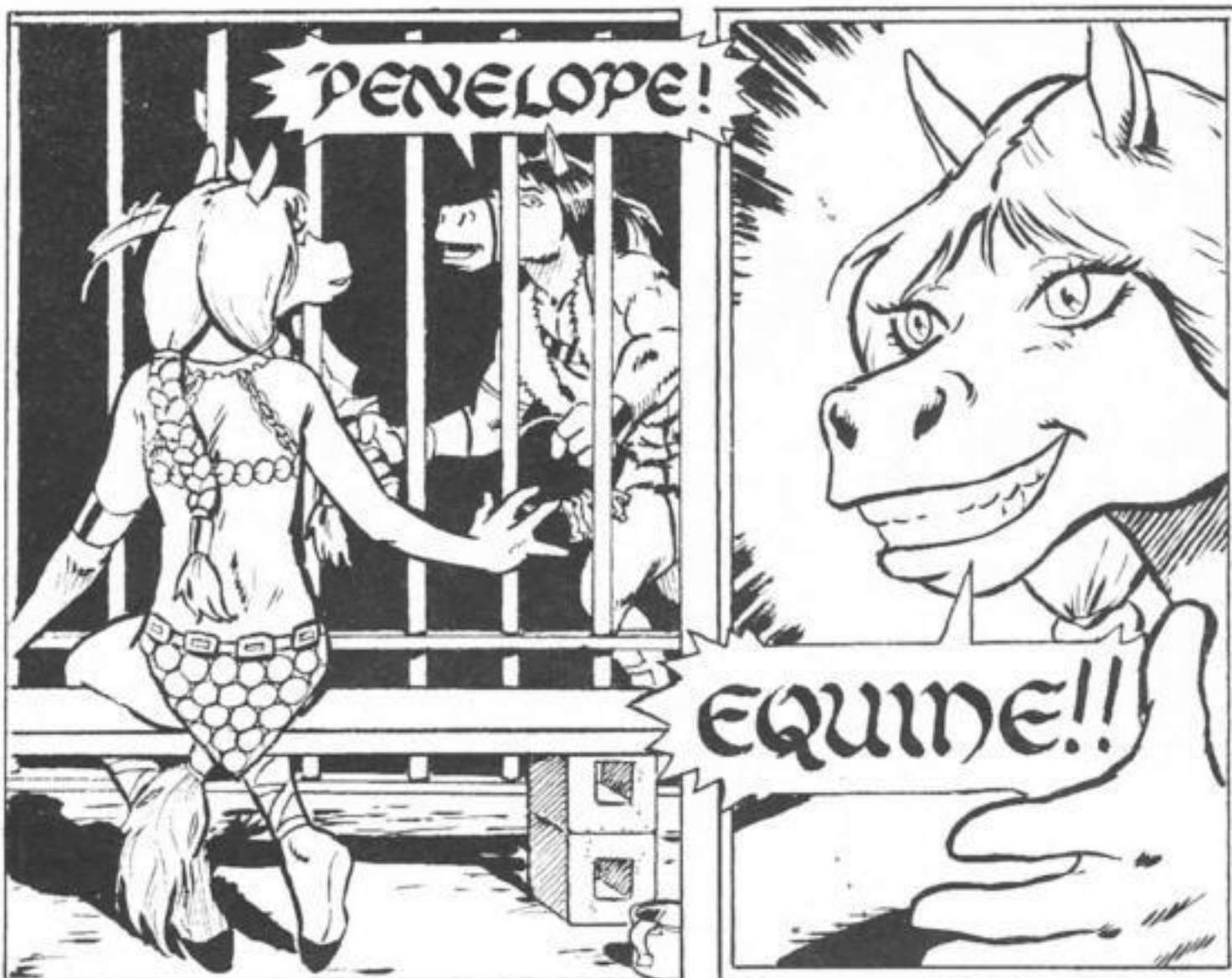




















CEASE!

LET THE TWO INFIDELS GO!  
THEY ARE PAST US,  
BUT RAMESIS TUT  
HAS EYES THROUGH-  
OUT THE WORLD!



IT IS ONLY A MATTER  
OF TIME UNTIL THE  
GREAT ONE CLEARS  
A SLOT IN HIS  
BUSY SCHEDULE...  
"HEH-HEH,"  
AND THEN...

...PENNELOPE...



PENNELOPE... "FAIR MARE"...  
UH, YOUR ARMS WARM ME TO  
THE HEART...

BUT PLEASE LET GO!!



A BARBARIAN HAS CERTAIN  
MORALS AND STANDARDS...  
"ONE MUST TRAVEL LIGHT  
TO TRAVEL FAR"...

WE ARE AWAY FROM TUT!  
THERE IS NO NEED TO CLING!



BUT IT SAYS RIGHT HERE, IN THE  
"FAIR MAIDENS, VIRGINS AND  
RESCUED DAMSELS HANDBOOK  
(5th EDITION)" THAT I MUST!  
IT'S A TRADITION!

YOU WOULDN'T BREAK  
TRADITION, WOULD YOU?



UM-HMMM.

NOW JUST WHAT IN 'S'BSKET'S  
NAME MUST I DO TO STOP  
THIS?



WELL... YOU CAN  
GET DEFEATED IN  
COMBAT...

UNHHH.



YOU COULD MARRY  
ME...

UNHHH!



...YOU COULD BE  
KILLED...



GETTING BACK TO THE FIRST ONE...

HOW BADLY DO I HAVE TO  
BE DEFEATED...?

END



