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ANTHROPOMORPHIC

FURRLOUGH





DECEMBER 1994

Be of good cheer

As I write this, Thanksgiving is just past, putting us well into "eating season" (as my coworkers at a former job referred to it). The world and the comic-book industry may be in turbulent times full of strife and struggle, but at least there's lots of leftover turkey, and office parties and holiday feasts with family and friends should be plentiful for the next month or so.

I normally pause for reflection on Thanksgiving, usually at night as I sit down to write in my journal. This year's Thanksgiving Day was just so overflowing with out-of-town visitors, activities, food preparation, and the sheer need to relax from recent stress, though, that I somehow overlooked actually giving thanks. So I thought to myself, why not a column on the subject? Two immediate answers popped up: (1) "Thanksgiving is over, you dolt," and (2) "Why on Earth would most people want to hear about the boring stuff you've got to give thanks for?" So I decided to just ramble a bit about holiday spirit. I hope it's not too tedious.

Whether or not you believe in a God to give thanks to on Turkey Day, or subscribe to the religions whose holidays are upon us this month, this should be a time of year to look for things that are right with the world. It should be a giving season, because the truth is that, whatever our faith, we should always look for excuses to be giving. If for the space of a month, we can seize upon bright tinsel bedecking the walls and courtyards of shopping malls, and use it to remind ourselves that we as a race are capable of beauty, tradition and generosity, then perhaps for the rest of the year we can face the challenges of existence with good hearts.

What does this mean for comics, and for Antarctic Press? Well, for one thing, we

should all of us — publishers, writers, editors, artists, colorists, letterers, production staffers, marketers, management, retailers, distributors and readers — remember that at every other point in the line are *people*. I do not write this editorial to a void, but to readers. And the comics that I buy do not ultimately come from a store, but from the hearts and minds of great networks of people, each trying to fulfill his or her responsibilities as well as possible. We should be aware of this, and try to be as giving and forgiving as possible. Editors, try to include a kind word or suggestion, perhaps just a handwritten one at the bottom of a form rejection. Writers, remember that your work is not just a fascinating construct of plot, grammar and theme, but communication that should speak to the person at the other end. Artists, inkers, letterers, put in those small touches that give a little more to the reader than the script calls for. Readers, write letters of praise when it's deserved, even if you can't think of anything to say but, "Gosh, I enjoyed this book." Don't worry about whether your letter will ever be published; win you a "no-prize" or make you sound either smart or foolish. And everyone, when something somewhere breaks down, and your favorite bit of the script is misdrawn, a nice expression is flattened out by the inker, or a character you've been reading about for thirty issues gets the shaft... step back a moment, try to forget what you have invested in your script, or your pencils, or your cherished run of HYPERBOY 17-46, and give someone credit for trying, even though they did not succeed as well as you wished. Assume the best of people. It's a habit that could pay off for us all in the long run.

Happy Holidays. I hope this comic is as good a gift to you as your attention here has been for me.

Karl Mattella
Editor in Chief

And now for something different...

Robert DeJesus' Rules of Conduct during the Holidays* or:

How we fill space in a deadline pinch using pictures of a good friend for our fiendish pleasure.

Rule Number 1



When opening books and comics, given as gifts from loved ones... **don't** turn to the "good parts," point at the obvious and giggle incoherently.

Rule Number 2



When given cash as a gift, **do not** rub it all over your body, slobber, then make a Homer Simpson "oohhh-h-h" noise... at least not in public. And, finally... Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays!

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RELEASE DATES SUBJECT TO CHANGE

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| <input type="checkbox"/> Warrior Nun Areala #1 (Must Buy!) | <input type="checkbox"/> Naked Eye #1 (Mature) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Furrloough #24 | <input type="checkbox"/> Wild Life #10 |
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| <input type="checkbox"/> Schizo #1 (very mature) | <input type="checkbox"/> Nick Ryan, The Skull #1 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Tomorrow Man/Knight Hunter: Last Rites #3 | <input type="checkbox"/> NHS TPB: vol. 5 |
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| <input type="checkbox"/> Tigers of Terra v.2 #7 |
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FURRLOUGH

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ZAIBATSU TEARS BY RICHARD J. BARTROP

THE RAT CAME THROUGH. HE SAID DOLF WAS HOLED UP IN AN ABANDONED BUILDING. HE EVEN HAD AN ADDRESS. I COULDN'T BELIEVE MY LUCK. LITERALLY.

NBODDY GETS THAT LUCKY.



I'D TOLD DOLF ABOUT PLAYING THERE AS A CHILD. HE WANTED TO BE FOUND, AND HE WANTED ME TO FIND HIM.



WHAT WAS HE UP TO?

THE PLACE WAS A RUIN WHEN I WAS A CUB, AND IT HAD GOTTEN WORSE. THERE WERE HUNDREDS OF PLACES TO HIDE.



OR SET AN AMBUSH.

NORMALLY, I DON'T CARRY A GUN. I DON'T USUALLY NEED ONE. BUT THE BALL BEARING TRICK DOESN'T WORK ON BORG ARMOUR. I NEEDED AN EDGE.



IT FIRED HYPERVELOCITY FLECHETTES MONOCRYSTAL JACKETS OVER A DEPLETED URANIUM CORE. THEY'LL PUNCH THROUGH A TANK.

THE TECH PEOPLE CALLED THEM "SILVER BULLETS". IF ONLY THEY WERE THAT CHEAP.

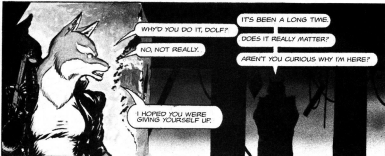


BUT IT WAS THE ONLY WAY TO TAKE ONE OF US OUT WITH A HANDGUN.

I WONDERED HOW I COULD BRING MYSELF TO USE IT.



HELLO, FI.



WHY'D YOU DO IT, DOLF?

IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME.

DOES IT REALLY MATTER?

NO, NOT REALLY.

AREN'T YOU CURIOUS WHY I'M HERE?

I HOPED YOU WERE
GIVING YOURSELF UP.



SORRY, I HAVE TWO BERTHS
ON A NAKASHIMA STARSHIP
WAITING FOR ME.



T-TWO?

WILL YOU COME
WITH ME, PI?

TO THE STARS?



TO THE STARS.



I KNOW A CLING THAT'LL REMOVE YOUR TRACER, NO
QUESTIONS ASKED ONCE WE'RE IN SPACE, THEY'LL
NEVER CATCH US.

I'D BE LYING IF I
SAID I WASN'T
TEMPTED.

BUT I KEPT
THINKING OF ALL
THE WAYS IT COULD
GO WRONG.

AND I THOUGHT
ABOUT WHAT
TANAKA SAID:

"NOT EVEN A SHIT
DESERVES TO DIE
THAT WAY."

I KNEW WHAT I
HAD TO DO.



BUT SO
DID DOLF.

OH WELL, I HAD TO TRY.



HE WAS HEADING FOR THE ROOF, AND I COULD HEAR A TRANSPORT COMING.



STOP RIGHT WHERE YOU ARE, OR I SHOOT!



YOU KNOW THE ~~REST~~ I CAN HOPE FOR IS
LIFETIME INDENTURE. THEY'LL TAKE OUT
MY EDGE, MAKE ME ORDINARY.



COULD YOU WATCH THEM DO IT, PI?

I MEAN IT, DOLF!



COULD YOU REALLY SHOOT ME, PI?
AFTER ALL WE'VE SHARED?

SHUT UP, DOLF.

WHAT ABOUT
BANGKOK, PI?

PLEASE SHUT UP

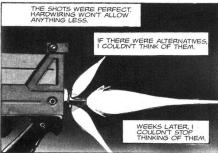


I SAVED YOUR LIFE
THERE, PI. SOME
PEOPLE MIGHT THINK
THAT MEANS SOMETHING.



THE SHOTS WERE PERFECT.
HARDWIRING WON'T ALLOW
ANYTHING LESS.

IF THERE WERE ALTERNATIVES,
I COULDN'T THINK OF THEM.



WEEKS LATER, I
COULDN'T STOP
THINKING OF THEM.

I GUESS I
JUST WANTED
MY FREEDOM.



AND NOTHING
WAS GOING TO
GET IN MY WAY.

THE CORPORATION CALLED ME A HERO,
PRAISED MY LOYALTY. THEY GAVE ME MY
FREEDOM AS AN ACT OF CORPORATE
GENEROSITY.

I TOOK THEIR PRAISE. I EVEN
ENDORSED THEIR PRODUCTS.

I NEVER DID FIND OUT WHAT
THE SUIT WAS DOING IN THE
UNDERCITY, OR WHY DOLF
KILLED HIM.

I GOT THE FEELING
THEY PREFERRED IT
THAT WAY.

RYU TOLD ME HOW SORRY HE WAS ABOUT
DOLF, BUT IT WAS "ZAIIBATSU TEARS".
CORPORATE SENTIMENT. IT SOUNDS GOOD
BUT EVERYONE KNOWS IT'S FAKED.

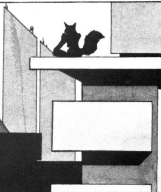
HE OFFERED ME A POSITION IN
SECURITY. I TOLD HIM WHERE TO
PUT IT, AND TO WRAP IT IN RAZOR
WIRE FIRST.



I DECIDED TO FREELANCE. BUSINESS HAS BEEN GOOD.
SOON I'LL BE ABLE TO AFFORD ANOTHER TRIP
TO CHIBA TO UPDATE MY EDGE.

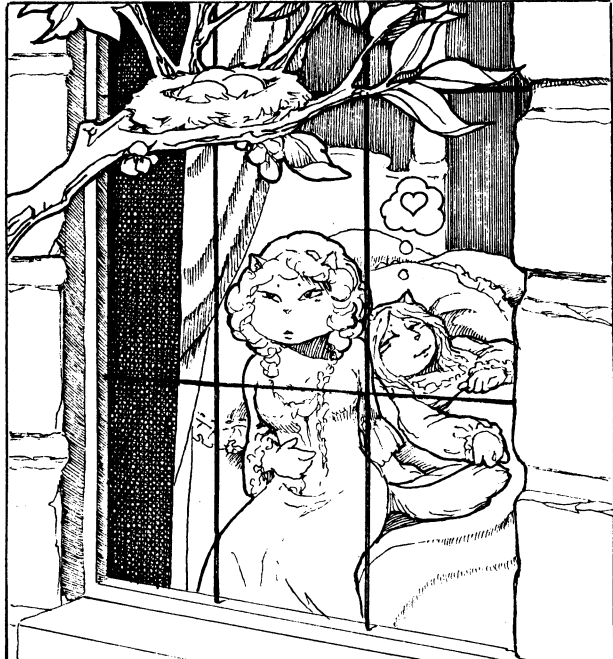
TO BE STRONGER,
FASTER.

BUT NOTHING YOU DO
CAN STOP YOU FROM
GETTING HURT.



THE END

Here Comes a Candle Part 8 by Mary Hanson-Roberts





SO, THEN--- A LITTLE CUDDLE BEFORE BREAKFAST, YES?

NOT NOW, THOMAS, I HAVE FRIENDS ARRIVING, AND MUST BE READY EARLY.



LATER, PERHAPS.

BUT MAYEN'T I PERSUADE YOU A VERY, VERY LITTLE?



AND HOW IF I SHALL COAX YOU EVER SO GENTLY? COME, YOU NEVER REFUSE ME.



WAIT WHILE I REACH MY SPECTACLES, THEN I SHALL POINCE UPON YOU PROPERLY, MY OWN LITTLE TREACLE-PUDDING---

HUSBAND, IF YOU PLEASE --- ONE FAVOR!

ANYTHING, TRUFFLE-MUFFIN.



IF YOU WOULD JUST NOT MENTION FOOD!



WELL, TOSH! HOW ODD! SHE IS NEVER ILL --- AND IT ISN'T MY BREATH, THANK GOODNESS.

THAT LEAVES THE DECOR OF COURSE! SHE FINDS IT DEPRESSING. I SHALL ORDER IT REDONE FORTHWITH.

IN DUE TIME, CONSCIENTIOUS EFFORT IS BOUND TO BRING ABOUT A REWARD.



I HAVE SUSPECTED IT FOR A LITTLE WHILE. WHY?



YOUR HUSBAND MUST BE THRILLED, IS HE NOT?

OH, I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR A SUITABLE TIME TO TELL HIM. I DO NOT KNOW QUITE HOW.

IT MUST BE DONE IN THE APPROVED MANNER.

WHATEVER MIGHT THAT BE?

BUT, DARLING, YOU MUST FAINT, OF COURSE.



QUITE TRUE! THEN, YOUR HUSBAND WILL SUMMON A PHYSICIAN WHO MAKES THE ANNOUNCEMENT.

BUT I'VE NEVER FAINTED --- I-- I KNOW NOTHING OF SUCH THINGS.



ONE DOES NOT NEED TO EAT A POISONED APPLE OR ANYTHING, DOES ONE?

FIE, FELICE! FASHIONABLE FOLK FAVOR FEIGNED FAINTING.

IT CERTAINLY IS ABOUT TIME, IF HE'S AS DESPERATELY IN LOVE WITH HER AS I HEAR.



BUT, WHO CAN UNDERSTAND IT, DARLING, SHE'S SO DREADFULLY SHALLOW?



PRETEND TO FAINT, MUST I?

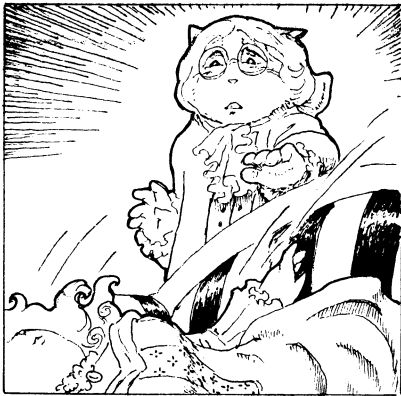
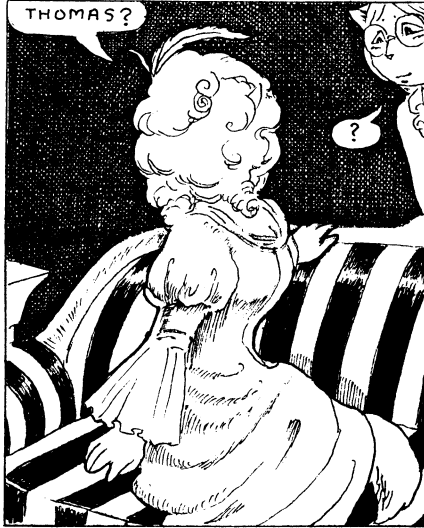


DID YOU HAVE A NICE TIME WITH YOUR FRIENDS, MY DEAR?

OH-- YES--



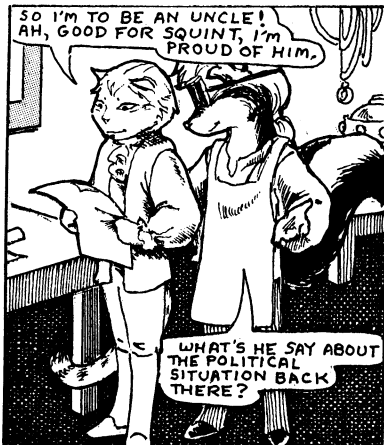
HOW DELIGHTFUL, HAVING A LITTLE REST, ARE YOU? I'LL NOT DISTURB YOU, THEN.



IT'S UNCANNY, ALMOST MAGICAL-- HOW NO SHIPS REPRESENTING NEDWIN'S INTERESTS, HAVE FALLEN VICTIM TO PIRATE ATTACKS, CONSIDERING HOW CLOSELY TO THOSE INFAMOUS WATERS THEY SAIL. DOING SO SAVES A GOOD DEAL OF TIME FOR ANY VESSEL, AND NEDWIN IS NOW REPUTED TO BE VERY LUCKY, AND VERY VERY RICH.



SO I'M TO BE AN UNCLE! AH, GOOD FOR SQUINT, I'M PROUD OF HIM.



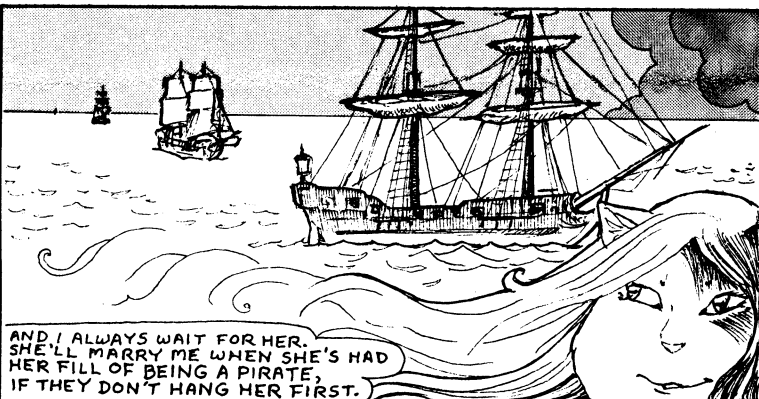
WHAT'S HE SAY ABOUT THE POLITICAL SITUATION BACK THERE?

NOT A WORD. LIKELY HE FORGOT, OR DIDN'T KNOW THE ANSWERS TO MY QUESTIONS.



WELL, YOUR CAPTAIN MAY ENLIGHTEN YOU. ISN'T SHE DUE BACK, OR DID I MISCALCULATE?

SHE'LL BE HERE. SHE ALWAYS RETURNS--



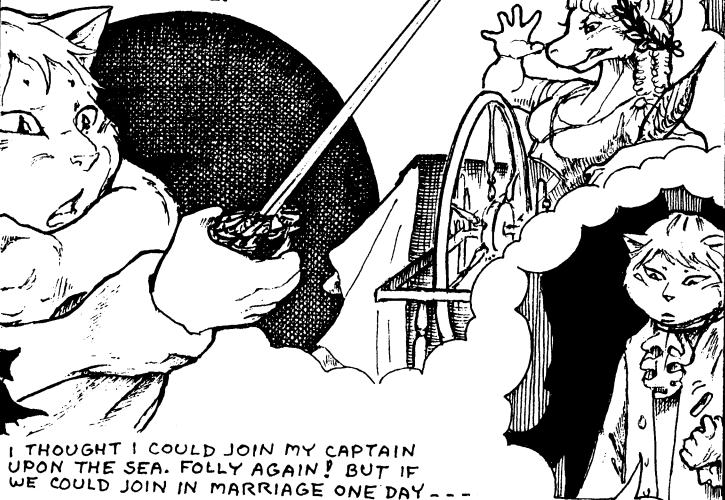
AND, I ALWAYS WAIT FOR HER. SHE'LL MARRY ME WHEN SHE'S HAD HER FILL OF BEING A PIRATE, IF THEY DON'T HANG HER FIRST.

BUT SHE'S LIKE FREEDOM ITSELF



--- AND I VALUE THAT. I EVEN CONTRIBUTED FUNDS TO THE REFORM, THOUGH IT'D TWEAK SQUINT'S TAIL IF HE KNEW.

YOU KNOW, TINKER, FATE'S A TRICKSTER. IN MY YOUTH, I FANCIED I'D BE A GREAT SWASHBUCKLER, LIKE OLD PUSS-IN-BOOTS. WELL, THAT WAS FOLLY, AND RIGHTLY CHOKED OUT OF ME.



I THOUGHT I COULD JOIN MY CAPTAIN UPON THE SEA. FOLLY AGAIN! BUT IF WE COULD JOIN IN MARRIAGE ONE DAY --- I'M NOT COMPLAINING, EXACTLY, BUT CAN'T SOMETHING GO AS I EXPECT? I'M NOT EVEN SURE WHAT I AM THESE DAYS--- A BENEFACTOR? A FINANCIER?

A BRIDEGROOM.



WHAT! YOU'VE DONE IT? GIVEN UP PIRACY?

AYE, WE BE SMUGGLERS AND FREE PRIVATEERS NOW.

CLOSE ENOUGH.



I KNEW HE WAS EXPECTING YOU. HE ALWAYS TALKS TOO MUCH WHEN HE'S EXCITED. OF LATE, I COULDN'T SHUT HIM UP.

I DON'T DO THAT.



YOU WERE SORELY MISSED! THIS VOYAGE OF YOURS WAS THE LONGEST YET, AND SUDDENLY THIS? WHAT OCCASIONED THE CHANGE?

MORE PROFIT IN THE NEW LINE O' WORK, ME HEART, AND I HAD A FEW HUSBANDS TO DIVORCE, SINCE 'EE WANTS THIS LEGAL-LIKE.



THEN-- YOU SHOULD GIVE ME TIME TO GET CLEANED UP. MY PARTNER AND I HAVE BEEN CLOSED IN THE WORKSHOP, AND WE--UM--WE

--- SPINNING STRAW INTO GOLD, AYE? 'EE THINKS THE SMELL O'SUCCESS PUTS ME OFF?



BEFORE YOU-- AH-- IF I MIGHT ASK --- NEWS FROM OUR HOMELAND--- COULD YOU POSSIBLY---



NEVER MIND. I'LL ASK THE CREW.



TINKER WILL BE OBLIGED TO WAIT FOR HIS INFORMATION.

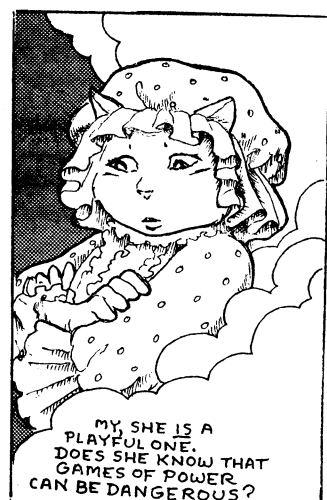
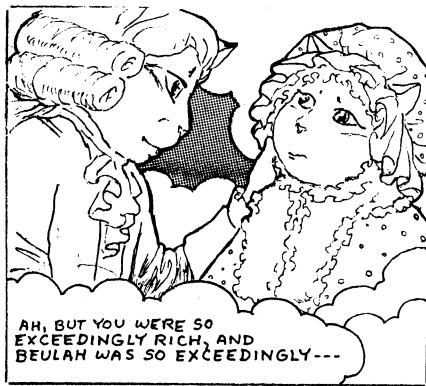
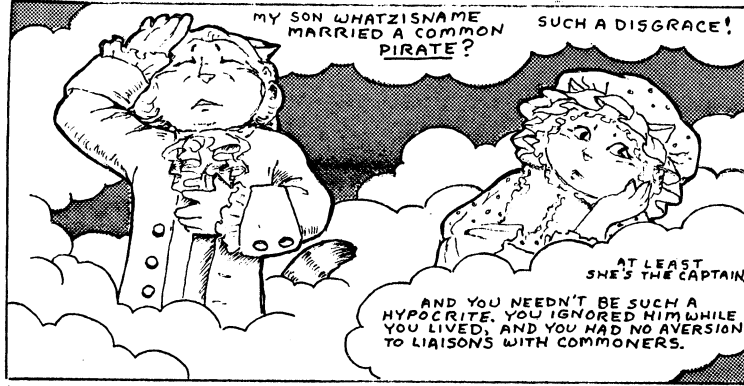


THE WEDDING CAUSES SOME DISCOMFITURE AMONG RESPECTABLE FOLKS



IT WON'T BE EASY.

BUT THE 'SMUGGLERS AND FREE PRIVATEERS' HAVE DONE THEIR BEST TO BE ACCOMMODATING, HAVING LEFT MOST OF THEIR WEAPONS AND LIQUOR-FLASKS OUTSIDE THE CHAPEL.



THE IRON PANTHER

BY
MILTON TERUEL
AND
RANDY ZIMMERMAN

The Best Laid Plans part one

THE PLACE: THE SPACE
STATION ORBITING CITADEL-9

CITADEL-9 IS SOMETHING OF A
CESSPOOL, BUT IT'S ALSO A
BOUNTY HUNTER'S PARADISE.
MOST FUGITIVES MAKE IT THEIR
FIRST STOP SINCE IT'S A GOOD
PLACE TO REGAIN YOUR BERRINGS
AND PICK-UP SOME WEAPONS
PRETTY CHEAP.

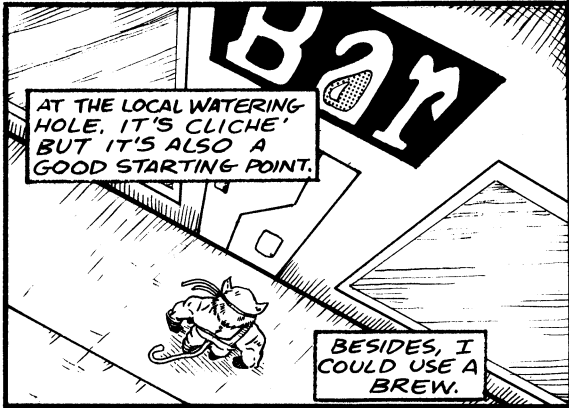
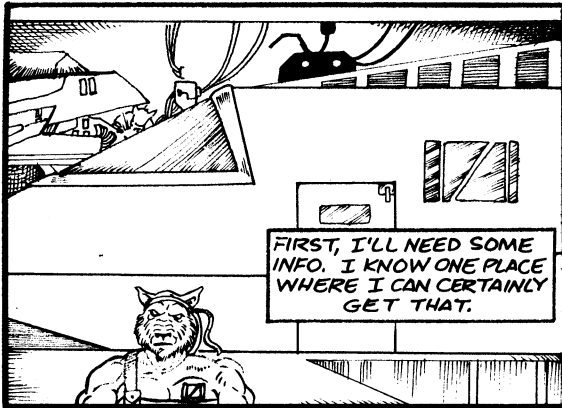
LIKE THE LOWLIFE I'M TRACKING
NOW, DRUG DEALER, A NEARBY
REGION OF PLANETS WANTS HIM
ALIVE, THEY'LL TRIPLE MY NORMAL
FEE, IF I HAND HIM OVER INTACT.

THIS JOB SHOULD BE PRETTY
CLEAN, PRETTY EASY.

ALL THINGS CONSIDERED,
I LIKE BOUNTY HUNTING.

MY NAME'S S'MBALLA, I GO
BY THE TAG IRON PANTHER.
MY FRIENDS USUALLY CALL
ME SAM,

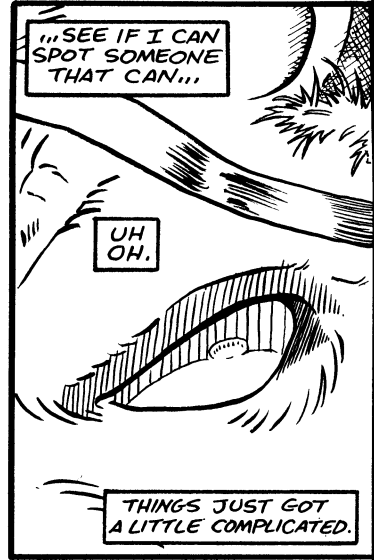
I GLIDE IN TO A SMOOTH
LANDING. NOW IT'S TIME TO
GET DOWN TO BUSINESS.





(SIGH). THINGS ARE GOING TOO WELL,
I DON'T NEED TO BE BOTHERED
BY DEPRESSING THOUGHTS.

BETTER SCOUT
THE ROOM.



...SEE IF I CAN
SPOT SOMEONE
THAT CAN...

UH
OH.

THINGS JUST GOT
A LITTLE COMPLICATED.

I RECOGNIZE THE ASSASSIN
GORE ACROSS THE ROOM.

NO REASON FOR AN ASSASSIN TO
COME TO CITADEL-9 UNLESS HE'S
TRACKING A HIT.

IF HE'S AFTER
MY TARGET, I'VE
GOT TROUBLE

BIG TROUBLE.

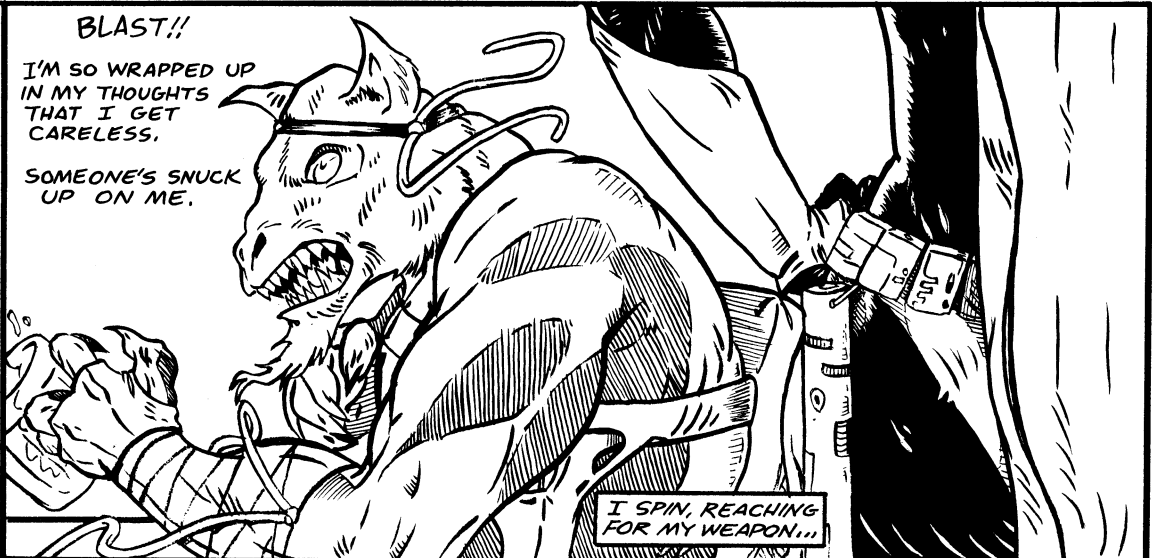


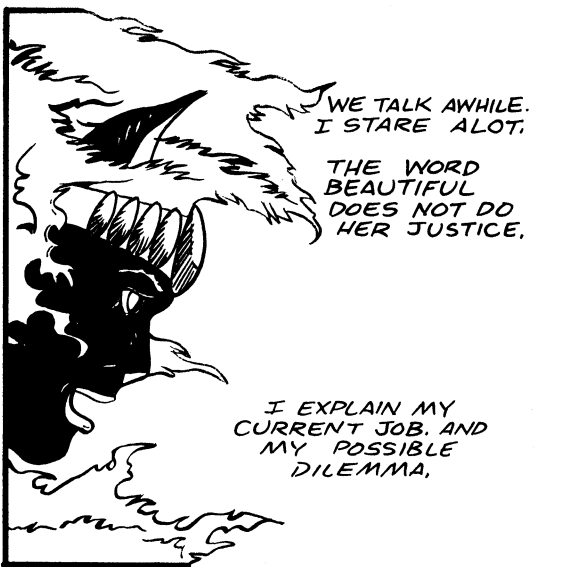
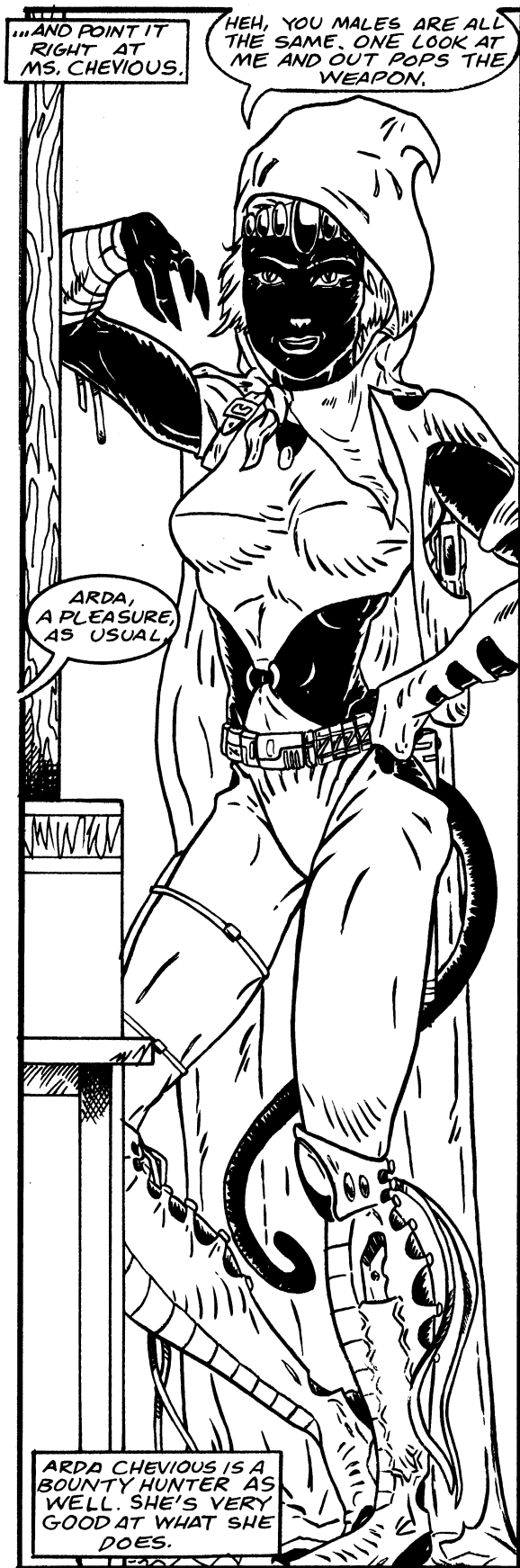
BLAST!!

I'M SO WRAPPED UP
IN MY THOUGHTS
THAT I GET
CARELESS.

SOMEONE'S SNUCK
UP ON ME.

I SPIN, REACHING
FOR MY WEAPON...





FELLAS NAME IS PROM'LL
GATOR. DRUG DEALER
AND ABUSER.

LOCAL FEDERATION
WANTS HIM ALIVE.



TOUGH LOOKIN'
LIZARD.

GORE'S YOUR
MAIN PROBLEM
THOUGH.



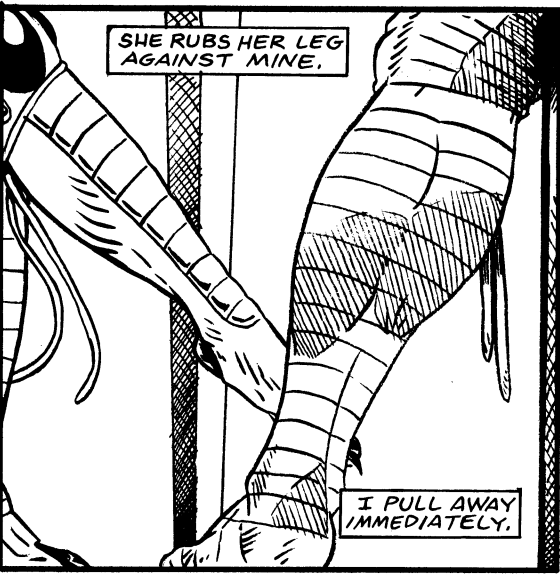
WELL, MY SCHEDULE'S
FREE, WHAT SAY WE
TEAM UP?

SURE. 60-40 SPLIT
SOUND GOOD TO
YOU?



SO WHO SAID I WANTED
TO BE REWARDED
WITH MONEY?

SHE RUBS HER LEG
AGAINST MINE.



I PULL AWAY
IMMEDIATELY.

SHE SMILES, A NAUGHTY
GLEE IN HER EYES.

SHE'S
TOYING WITH
ME.



(SIGH) I KNEW THIS
JOB WAS GOING
TOO SMOOTHLY.

THERE'S NO WAY I CAN
TURN DOWN MS. CHEVIOUS
FOR BETTER OR WORSE
WE'RE PARTNERS.

WE HOP A PLANETSIDE SHUTTLE
AND START SCOURING THE
STREETS. IF GORE IS AFTER MY
BOUNTY, WE'VE GOT TO MOVE FAST.

WE START ASKING
QUESTIONS. I USE
MY FISTS TO GET
ANSWERS.

MS. CHEVIOUS USES MORE
DIRECT METHODS,

-NOT TOO FAR AWAY,
GORE IS ALSO GETTING
ANSWERS.

THERE'S ONLY ONE THING
IN THIS STORE I HAVEN'T
SHOT, AND THAT'S
YOU.

SO START TALKIN'
BEFORE I REALLY
LOSE CONTROL!

WE RUN INTO A GROUP OF TOUGHS, NOT SO TOUGH AFTER WE GET THROUGH WITH THEM.

CHEVIOUS IS ENJOYING THIS, SHE SMILES AND POUNDS THE PUNKS INTO NEXT WEEK.

MY OPPONENT TAKES ADVANTAGE OF MY ABSENT-MINDEDNESS.

HIS ADVANTAGE IS BRIEF.

I FIND MYSELF STARING AGAIN.

I CAN'T HELP ADMIRING HER GRACE AND BEAUTY.

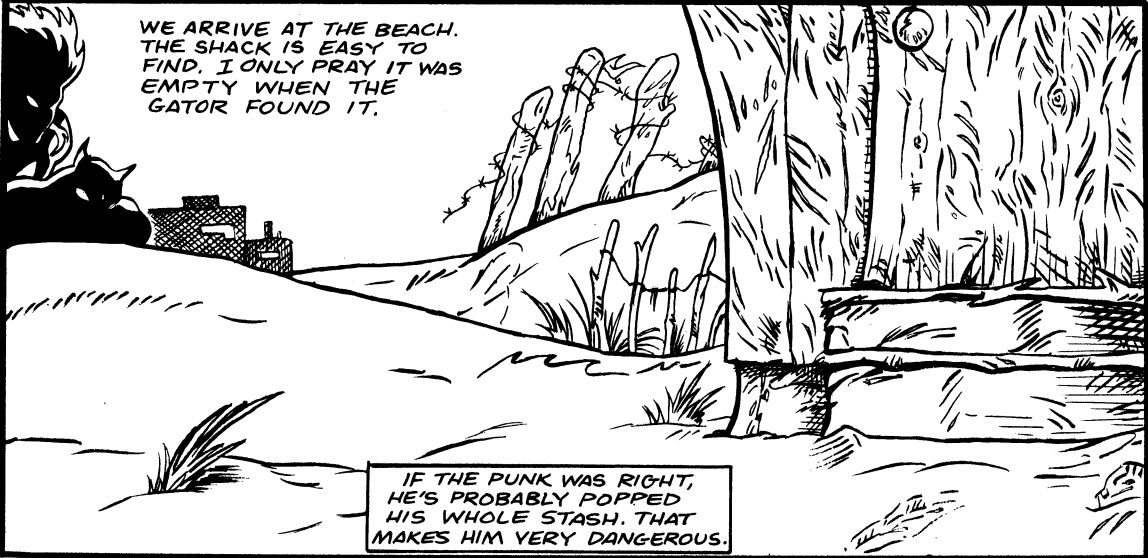
THIS BUNCH IS UNDER WRAPS!

HOW ARE YOU DOING?

I'M FINE.

BUT THIS BOZO'S HAVING TROUBLE BREATHING.





WE ARRIVE AT THE BEACH.
THE SHACK IS EASY TO
FIND. I ONLY PRAY IT WAS
EMPTY WHEN THE
GATOR FOUND IT.

IF THE PUNK WAS RIGHT,
HE'S PROBABLY POPPED
HIS WHOLE STASH. THAT
MAKES HIM VERY DANGEROUS.



WE APPROACH
SLOWLY, LISTENING
CLOSELY.

HOPEFULLY, THE
DOPE HAS KNOCKED
HIM OUT.




I TURN TO ARDA AND CAUTION
SILENCE, WE'RE TOO CLOSE
TO RISK A SLIP NOW.



AND THEN, OF COURSE,
I LEAN ON A TWIG,
SNAPPING IT.

NOT ONE THING HAS
GONE RIGHT SINCE I
ARRIVED AT CITADEL-9.



TO THE GATOR'S DRUG-
CRAZED MIND, THE SNAP
OF A TWIG SOUNDS LIKE
A CANNON-BLAST.

HE REACTS.

O.K. HE
OVERREACTS.

NO ONE
TAKES ME
ALIVE!!

I'LL TAKE
YA ALL
WITH ME!!

HIS PROGRESS IS
ABRUPTLY STOPPED
BY AN EXPLOSIVE
PROJECTILE.

AS WE EMERGE FROM THE
DEBRIS, WE SPOT OUR TARGET
RACING DOWN THE BEACH.

IT TAKES ME ALL OF ONE
SECOND TO GUESS WHO'S
RESPONSIBLE.



GORE IS STANDING OVER THE FALLEN GATOR, BLAST. HOW COULD SUCH A SIMPLE JOB GO SO WRONG?

YOU STILL BREATHIN'??!

I'M IMPRESSED!

SAY GOODNIGHT GRACIE, IT'S TIME TO TAKE A PERMANENT NAP!

GORE! DON'T! WE NEED HIM ALIVE!



SORRY BUD, BUT MY CLIENT WANTS HIM DEAD,

AN' HE PAID ME!

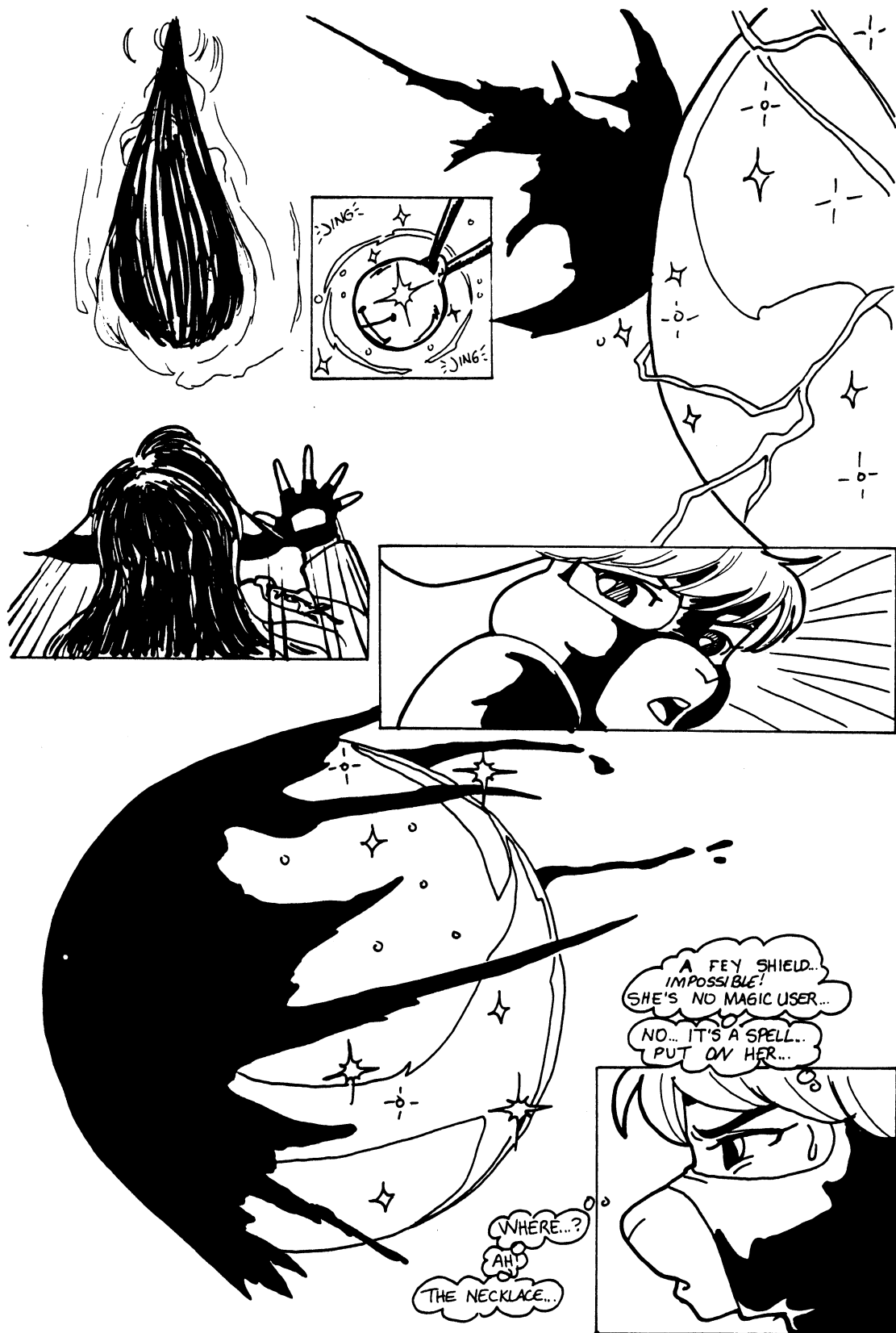
SO KISS THIS LUMP OF LEATHER GOODBYE!

HAH!



ALL THINGS CONSIDERED, I HATE BOUNTY HUNTING.

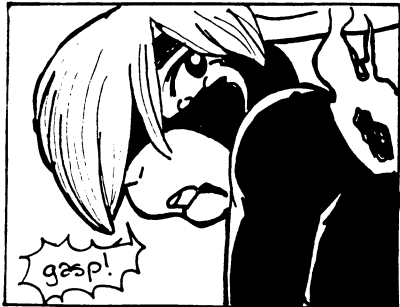
CONTINUED...



Guardian Knights:

"The Renegar Affair"

Pencils, Inks & Letters by Tygger · Script by D. A. Graf · Plot by Tygger and D.A. Graf



BOO.

YOU?!
BUT YOU'RE DEAD!!

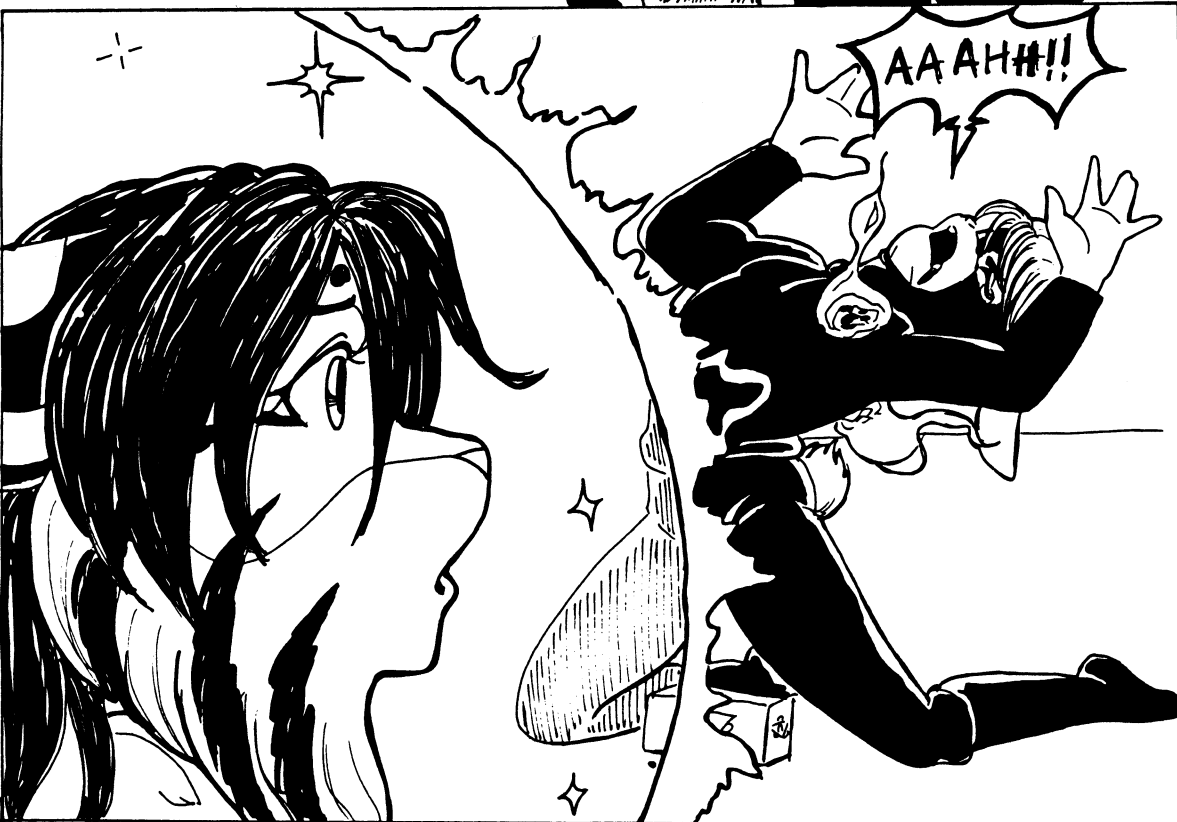
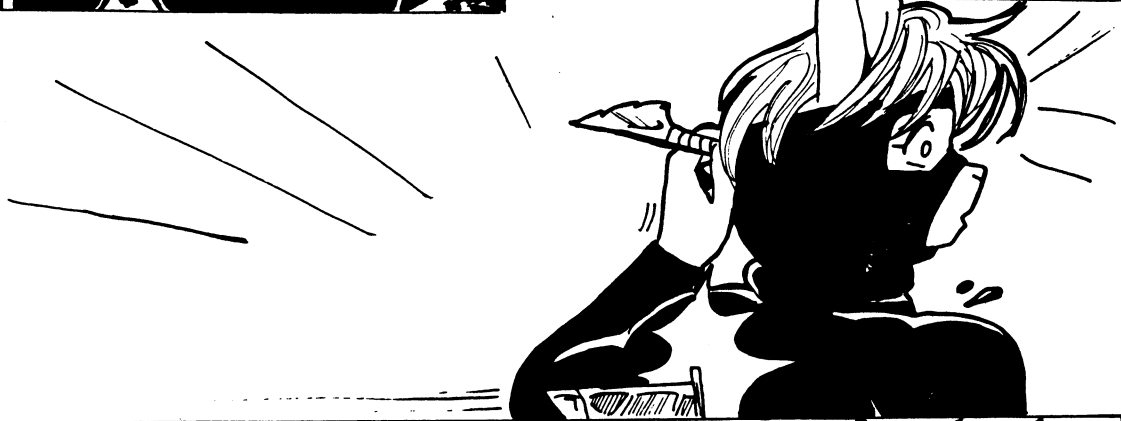
NEXT TIME
YOU DROP SOMEONE
OFF A CLIFF I SUGGEST
YOU CHECK FOR THE
GREAT SPOT.

NOW IT'S
MY TURN.



SHIT!!







NO... I DON'T
THINK SO.

KEYES!





DEER JOHN

LETTERS TO FURRLOUGH
7272 WURZBACH SUITE 204
SAN ANTONIO, TX, 78240

Dear Editors,

Furrlough has become one of my favorite anthropomorphic comic books after *Wild Life*, *Shanda the Panda* and others since 1991. By the way the anthropomorphic humanoids began to change in many titles and series variously. I'm still enjoying them.

"Walter Kitty" seems highly fabulous; he reminds me of "The Quantum Man". Seeing more of his adventures would be stupendous! I adore the fact that he faces his past or future descendants in the mingling times. Cool!!

"Under Realm"- I still wonder what happened to this title; last time it was in *Furrlough* #9 & 11. Serch and Dary became my favorite characters. In addition that title was always beloved after Gold Digger. I hope to see it again in the future.

I like Pat Kelley's "Watering Hole"; the characters are captivating! I'd like to see his story again. More "Watering Hole"!!

I adore Eddie Perkins' drawings of the panda female. (*Wild Life* #6 and *Furrlough* #17) Her adventures in them would be exciting. (I'm looking forward to Eddie Perkins' stories.) I'll tell you the truth...pandas are my favorite animals in the world! More pandas!!

"Here Comes a Candle" seems wonderful. It's so familiar with the French Revolution or Revolutionary War during the 1700's. After their father died, both of the twins have their different roads. Nedwin preferred to become an adventurer instead of a lord. Thomas became the lord of the great estate. Both of them will have marvelous events in their lives. Give them an A+.

I'm also looking forward to seeing the title called "The Adventure" more!

Sincerely,
Sheila Wheadon,
Fremont, CA

Dear EW:

With all the great new talent you've been showcasing lately, I can't believe you're having trouble filling the LOC on *Furrlough*! Well, at least Phil Cohen has been carrying the ball with some clear, well thought out letters.

Furrlough just keeps getting better and better... maybe because the word is spreading among "furry" fans that there is a reliable monthly outlet for their work. I know that's the case with Chris and me. We're working on "Risuko" stories for a year from now, because we expect **Furrlough** to be around for at least that long!

Furrlough has a good mix of long and short stories. Longer stories give your book a chance to develop a fan following (giving readers a reason to look for the next issue), while variety makes sure readers can find something they like in every issue.

One thing I really liked in issue #22 (besides the wonderful color cover) was the frontispiece by Bryce Nakagawa. Will we see more work by him? A story perhaps? I hope so!

"Here Comes a Candle" is excellent! (Of course!) What more can one say about a well written, well drawn, fun, clever, and exceptionally entertaining story? I look forward to seeing it in every issue.

Things are heating up well with "Zaibatsu Tears" (though I had to go to the contents page for the title. Is there a splash page missing?) Good layouts, clean but detailed art, crisp dialog. Interesting that the main character is female. I like strong female characters in conflict. I am intrigued.

"Guardian Knights" has potential, though at only 5 pages it's a bit hard to tell what's going on yet. I'll reserve judgement until I see more.

"Foxhole" was fun and funny, which just goes to show a single, clear, clever idea can be shown well in a single page.

And a "Risuko" pinup!

I can hardly wait for the next issue! Keep up the good work!

John DiGiorgio,
Denning, NJ

P.S. By the way, maybe it's time for a new name for the letter column. How about "Fur Yur Infurmation"?.....(Aw, come on! It's not that bad!)
Groan! Please, John! No more "fur" puns! Thanks for your letter, it's nice to know our contributors are actually reading our books! As for your questions,

Bryce Nakagawa is a very busy guy, but we'll try to get more out of him! And no, there wasn't a missing splash page on "Zaibatsu Tears". Maybe I should insist on those from now on....And now, on to the next letter, which is actually for Star Jacks!--EW

People of Earth:

I mean Antarctic Press. Sorry, I got a little over zealous. I just received my copy of *Star Jacks* in the post this afternoon. I liked it so much I nearly forgot to pick up my mother at work. Close call, eh? I even went so far as to turn off the cartoons! What is the world coming to?

I still like what the Press is doing for the comic industry and I applaud the hard work.

I would like to voice my only complaint about *Star Jacks*. Helen, the skunk. Why French? Is there some comics law that says all cartoon skunks have to be French? Why not something else? I personally would definitely pay money to see a Jamaican skunk complete with dreadlocks and huarache sandals. Or how about an Australian skunk- that would be cool! Or my personal favorite, Irish. Sue me for being a Mick Irishman, but that is what I would buy.

But I digress. Back to the original plot of this letter. I look forward to the forthcoming issues of *Wild Life*. I even made some converts among the fellow students at the college.

Before I go, I would like to thank whoever took my calls in the mail room. His demeanor was most pleasant and easy-going. He answered all my questions forthwith and politely.

Thanks to all at the Press for reaffirming my faith in the comic industry and to all the helpful staffers. Until next time, happy hunting!

Dingo Boy Shawn,
Shawn Strobel,
Highland, CA

Next Issue! "Here Comes a Candle" by Mary Hanson-Roberts continues, and Mark Shaw's Walter Kitty makes his return to our pages in "Bronze Fur". Plus a cover by Pat Kelley. See you all in 30! Don't forget to write!

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