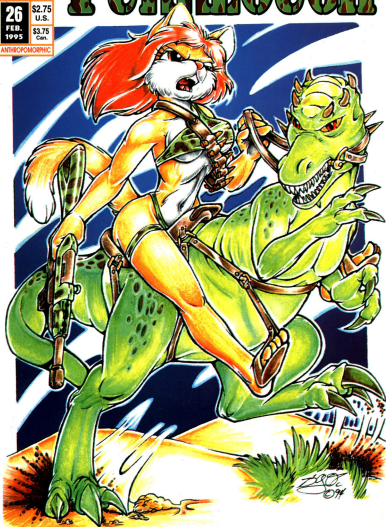


INSIDE:

Watering Hole by Pat Kelley, Here Comes A Candle by Mary Hanson-Roberts and Iron Panther by Zimmerman and Teruel



FURRLOUGH



FEBRUARY 1995

... the bells toll

Ah, February. By now, Christmas presents are pretty much worn in, everyone's finally gotten used to writing 1995 instead of 1994, and most people have had time to let their New Year's resolutions slide comfortably back into the realm of pure memory. It's a happy month, what with Valentine's Day, and paychecks being a little closer together for those of us who get paid twice a month. It's also a big month for all of us here at Antarctic Press.

This month we have our second- and fourth-highest-selling books ever, **WARRIOR NUN AREALA #2** and **STAINLESS STEEL ARMADILLO #1**. Between those two hits and generally good sales on most of our other books, February stands out as our second-best month ever in terms of total circulation. Response to date on **WARRIOR NUN AREALA #1** has been nothing short of phenomenal, and we're expecting the second issue to impress people just as much as the first, if not more.

Another reason for us to be happy is that two of AP's valued employees are getting married this month. I'm happy because (a) I'm one of those two employees, and (b) Katie and I will therefore get lots of obligatory presents from my well-heeled subordinates. Everyone else is happy because there's going to be an open bar at the reception.

All of which puts us in a very forward-looking mood. Sure, it's the post-Christmas sales doldrums, and not all of our books are huge hits, but 1995 is shaping up to be a landmark year for Antarctic. We're going to be putting a lot of time and energy into new promotional avenues, more high-profile projects, and ever-greater quality for our line overall. That's not just puffery or hype — we've grown enormously in the last few years, and this year, our tenth anniversary year, is the one we're planning to turn into a breakthrough.

Which is another reason why February is special. Nine years ago, in February, we came out with our second comic book ever, **MANGAZINE #2**. It was our second issue, produced in the second month of our second year. It had taken us six months to put together after a number of major mistakes in doing the first issue, but once it was out, we were truly a company — an ongoing concern, as they say — not just a one-shot flash in the pan. This month we publish **WARRIOR NUN #2**, those terrific sales tell us that the first **WN** wasn't just a fluke or flash in the pan. We've increased our circulation by over 40 times between those two #2 issues. Instead of six months between comics, we now produce four of 'em comics a week on average. If we can make that kind of progress in a decade, starting from a base readership of under 2,000, I feel pretty good about our prospects for the next ten years, starting from a base readership of over 80,000.

I hope you feel good about February too. After all, I couldn't be happy about it if it weren't for your readers' enthusiasm for our books.

I'd invite you all to the wedding, but then the bar bill would really kill us.

Kurt Mattette
Editor in Chief

Pat's Comic Guide

I just finished reading Evan Derkin's editorial from the Comics Buyer's Guide #1104. Apparently it ran in a couple of publications because this is the second time I've seen it; but, typical of Evan's comics work, it was worth another look — if only because it hit so close to home. For those of you who may have missed it, Evan says comics don't receive respect as a medium because publishers are floated on the superhero genre. In turn, such superficial comics are quickly outgrown and our readers move on to more graphically vicious entertainment — such as movies or computer games. All this, of course, is responsible for the wretched state of the comic market. This is just a loose summary, mind you. Read the original editorial for all the biting wit, angry finger-pointing and shocking revelations of sanctimonious behavior from Marvel, DC, Image and Malibu.

I couldn't agree more with what Evan says. In fact, last November I made many of the same points in my column "A Question of Diversity." However, as much as I agree with Evan's assessment of how we got into this situation, I don't share his pessimistic view of the future. I visit my local comic store twice a week to see what new books come in and rarely leave empty-handed. There's a growing amount of talent taking seed outside the traditional superhero genre. So much so that I think the comic book as an artistic medium has rarely, if ever, enjoyed such variety or vision. So, this month I'm going to dedicate some space to a few exceptional comics that you may not have heard about.

Evan Derkin's **Milk & Cheese** (Slave Labor) is great, but so is his work in **Dork** (Slave Labor) and **Instant Piano** (Dark Horse). Obscure Ayn Rand jokes, farboys and pathos. It's scary how dead on he is describing our generation. Good stuff! **Tyrant** (Spiderlaby Grafts), is Steve Bisette's ambitious account of the birth and death of a T-Rex. Well written, painfully accurate and beautifully rendered. Worth any price. **Dr. Radium, Man of Science!** (Slave Labor) by Scott Saavedra is most amusing. Try **Jaxa Town** (Slave Labor) too! Guaranteed to soften your brain! Tommy Yane's **Beater the Amazing Bear** (Umsas Studios) is as high-tech a comic as you'll find. Tommy pushes his Macintosh to the limits to shade this! **B&W** never looked so good. **Flaming Carrot Comics** remains a pleasing enigma. Bob Barden once told a friend of mine he liked to lick those tegulu suckers (the ones with the worm in them!) and stick them to his head to attract women. Irresistible! **Cud** (Fantagraphics — moving to Dark Horse), and more recently **Evo & Plum** in **DHP** (Dark Horse) are both hilarious. Terry Laban has a brilliant grasp of art, irony and people. No one can spin a yarn about slackers like Terry. Well, except maybe Peter Bagge with his book **Hate!** (Fantagraphics) or Jeff Levine's **No Hope** (Slave Labor). If you like those three you'll probably enjoy Ed Brubaker's **Lowlife** (Acon). It reads like a biography. I'm afraid to ask how much is true and how much is made up. I can't say enough good things about **Wandering Star** (Pen & Ink Comics) by Teri S. Wood. I met her and Michael Cohen of **Strange Attractors** (RetroGrafts) during a signing. Both books have entirely engrossing stories and a certain charm long lost in the production-line pap of mainstream books. Find them and buy them.

This is by no means a complete list, nor is it in any particular order. Rest assured, I've only scratched the surface of the quality books that are out there. If you can get past the hypocrisy, the market manipulation, the hype and the whining you'll see we have a lot to offer our audience. And, with this much talent in comics, I can't possibly see how we'll fail to redefine the field and win a secure future for the medium.

-PAT
Creative Director

CHECK OUT ANTARCTIC PRESS' other releases*
*subject to change

- ☐ Tomorrow Man/Knight Hunter #4
- ☐ Absolute Zero #1
- ☐ Twilight X Quarterly #3
- ☐ Naked Eye #2
- ☐ Gold Digger #19
- ☐ Wild Life #11
- ☐ Warrior Nun Areala #2

- ☐ Albedo v3 #3
- ☐ Sentai #6
- ☐ Dodekain #4
- ☐ SB NHS #4
- ☐ Stainless Steel Armadillo #1
- ☐ Silbuster #9
- ☐ Furrlough #26

- ☐ Nick Ryan: The Skull #3
- ☐ Battle Binder Plus #4 (Venus)
- ☐ Vanity Angel #6 (Venus)
- ☐ Emblem #5 (Venus)
- ☐ Bondage Fairies #5 (Venus, 2nd)
- ☐ Furrlough #2 (relist)
- ☐ Mangazine #6 (relist)

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FURRLOUGH

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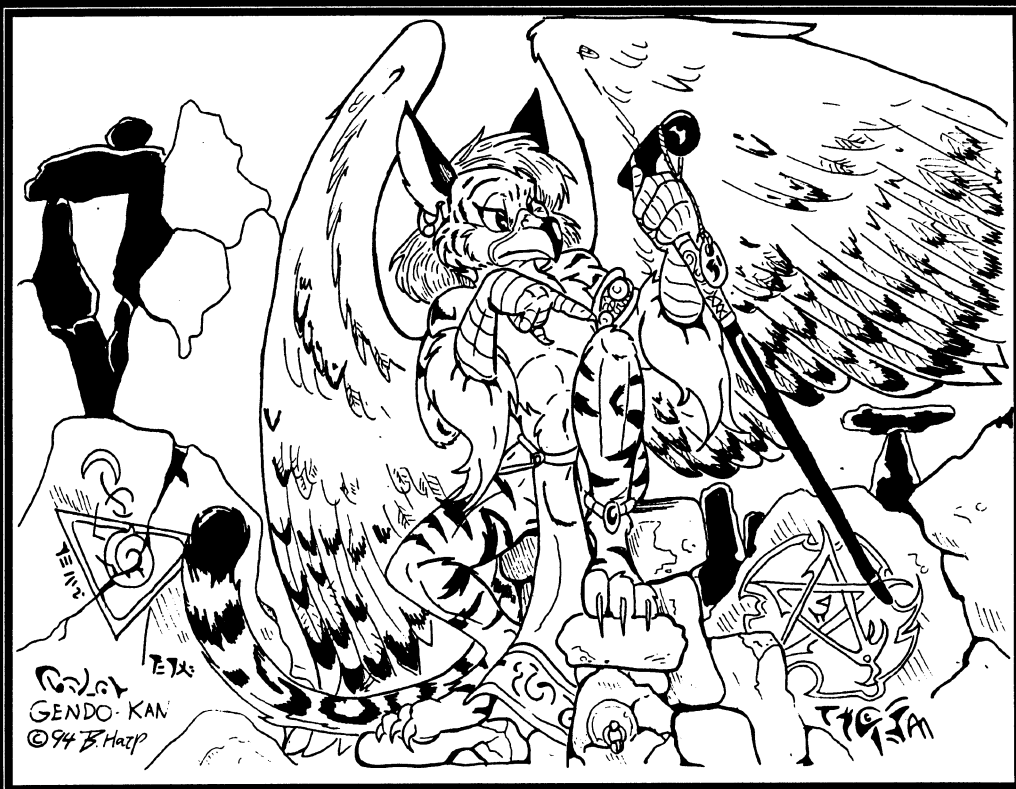


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BIOSYNTH RESEARCH CENTER,
WEST SECTOR, WATERING HOLE
ANARCHIA...

WATERING HOLE

PART A

I WANT THE FACILITY HEADS IN THE
CONFERENCE ROOM WHEN I ARRIVE...

YES, GREAT SMOG.

...AND A TUB OF THAT LOCAL JELLED
SPECIALTY STUFF. WHAT IS IT?

NOT GRUB JAM, GREAT SMOG.



GET THE SMOG? (LAST CHANCE
IN FURBUSH 46)



I TRUST THAT DEVELOPMENT IS
BACK ON SCHEDULE - THE
REPLACEMENT I SELECTED
IS NO DOUBT ADAPTING QUICKLY?

I WOULD LIKE TO BE
SHOWN TO HIS LAB
FOLLOWING THE MEETING.
I AM ANXIOUS TO MEET
THIS PROFESSOR
WOODSBURN?

PARDON, GREAT
SMOG - WHAT ARE
YOU TALKING ABOUT?



DO MORE BARS
RECEIVE MET?
HE HASN'T ARRIVED?
HE HAS NOT ARRIVED?
YOU KNOW NOTHING
OF MY INVESTMENT?

YOU ARE
SAYING...

I - OH - NO
I MEAN - JF...

THE OVER SIX
HUNDRED THOUSAND LASH
WORTH OF INVESTMENT IS
OUT WANDERING THE
FLESH BINS OF THIS
PERSEKED HELL HOLE
AND YOU OBVIOUSLY
WHOLLY RESPONSIBLE

OH -



GET OUT! ALL OF YOU!!
NOW!!!

FEELER UNDER YOURS!!

CASH
SHUTTER
TINKLE
SYNTH



SMOG DOES GET
MAD AN AWFUL
LOT!

HEY - AT OVER
FOUR HUNDRED KILOS...
ARE YOU GONNA
ARGUE?



WARRIDGE M. LIMA
CROSS AVAILABLE HERE
HUNTERS LOCAL AREA/
CONTROLLING AGENCIES
WORKING.....

WARRIDGE M. LIMA
SHUT TO
SATELLITE CONNECTIONS - NO
BUT!! LOCAL CONNECTIONS...

SHOULDNA
BROKEN THE
LIGHTS...



ALL AGENCY HEAD HUNTERS WITHIN
F1000 HLY RANGE ARE SUB CONTRACTS
OF J4-10TH PERSONNEL CONTRACTING INC.
- 1 DEETS
INCOMING CALL...

FEH! NO!
NOT TAKE...

OH I
SMOG!



SMOG - DEAR SMOG...
IT IS OBVIOUS TO ME YOU
NEED MY SERVICES...

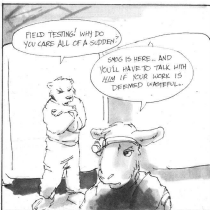
PLAY
I'VE NO TIME
FOR CHILDISH
GAMES, JA-TETH...

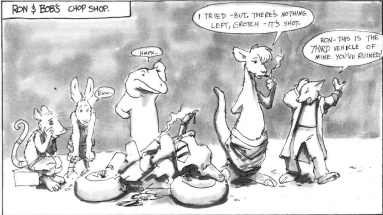
NO GAME, SMOG...
AND ONLY ONE SET
PRICE - YOU KNOW
MY PRICE...

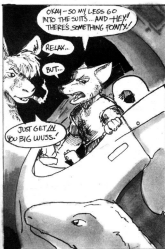
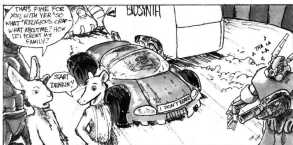
"CELESTIAL GAMES"

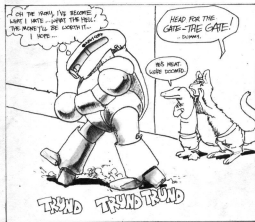
AHEM?

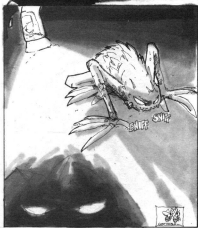












Here Comes a Candle Part 10 by Mary Hanson-Roberts

THE NEW ORDER BRINGS ITS CHANGES EVEN TO TINY CARABAS VILLAGE, WHERE NOT ALL THE PARTICIPANTS ARE HAPPY WITH THE CONSEQUENCES.

WHO ARE YOU?

IGOR BEAVER, I'M DOCTOR LUCKY'S ASSISTANT.

YOU WERE, YOU MEAN.

AND YOU ARE ----

DOXY LOXY'S WHO I AM, THE DOCTOR'S FAMILY AND MINE ARE LONG ACQUAINTED.

I WAS FIGHTING FOR OUR COUNTRY!

I COME BACK AND I'VE NO JOB LEFT?

DOCTOR LUCKY! YOU PROMISED!

COULD BE HE FORGOT. HE SPENDS SO MUCH TIME WITH HIS INVENTION --

HE EVEN TALKS TO IT.

I MAY BE BETTER OFF THIS WAY. HAD I STAYED, I MIGHT BE AS MAD AS HE IS BY NOW.

AW, HE AIN'T MAD, HE'S A MISIONARY. TOLD ME SO, HE DID.

MAD, AM I?

IGOR, YOU OUGHT TO BE ASHAMED, LEAVING ME ALONE!

YOU'RE NOT ALONE! YOU'VE YOUR NEW HOUSEKEEPER HERE--

-- AND YOUR INVENTION, OF COURSE. I TELL YOU, I'M GOING BACK TO HONEST BARBERING! AND YOU SHOULD DO THE SAME!

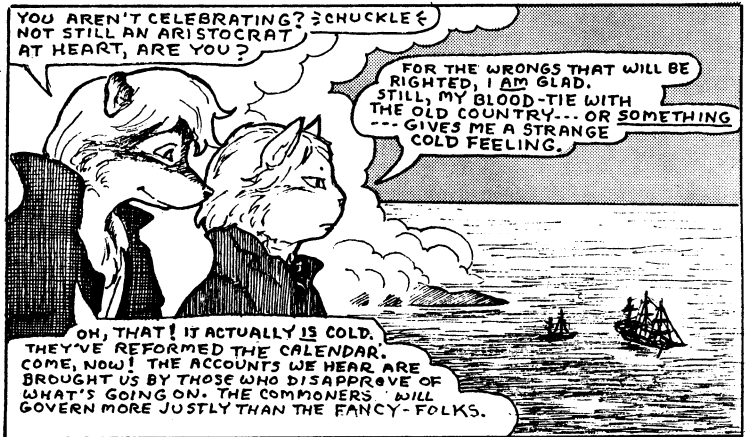
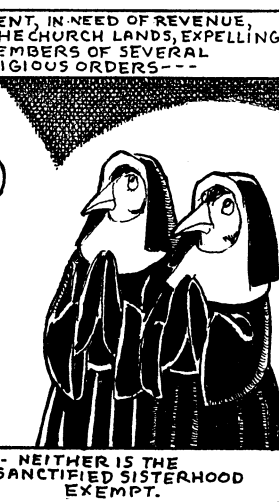
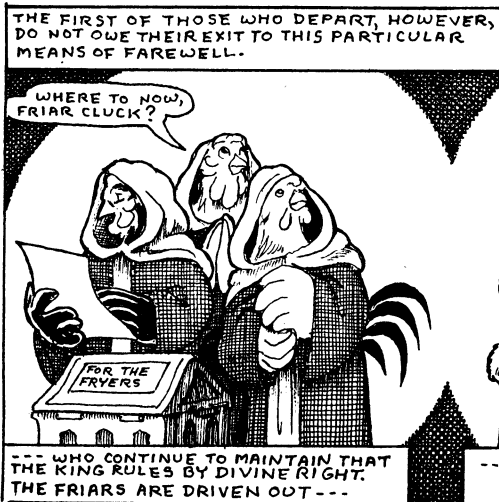
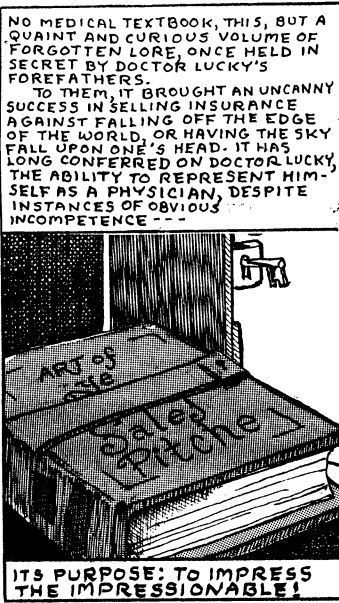
THERE'S NO LIVING TO BE MADE IN THIS MANNER.

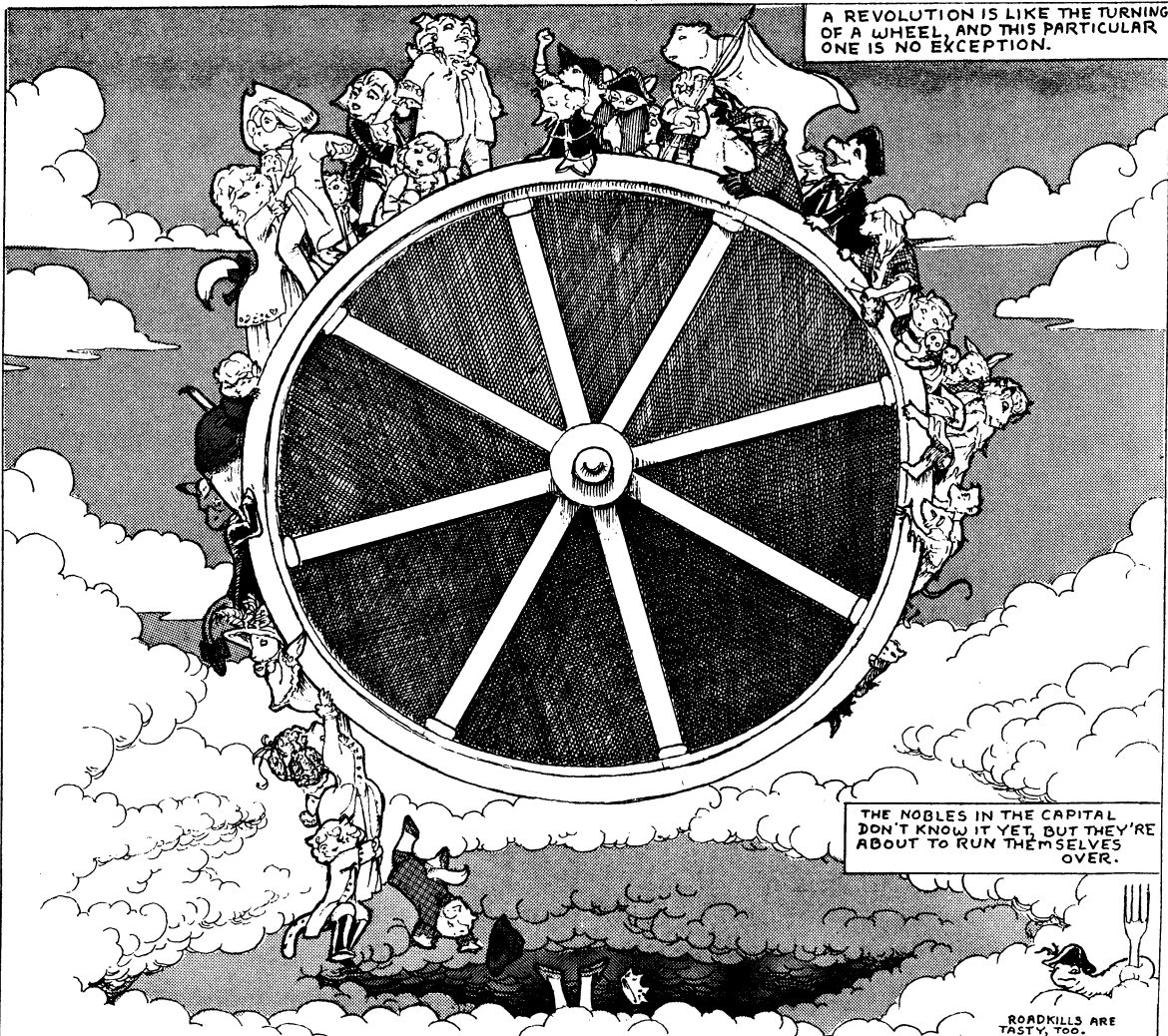
GO, THEN! REVERT TO BARBERISM!

AND HE'LL NOT SHARE IN OUR TRIUMPH, EITHER.

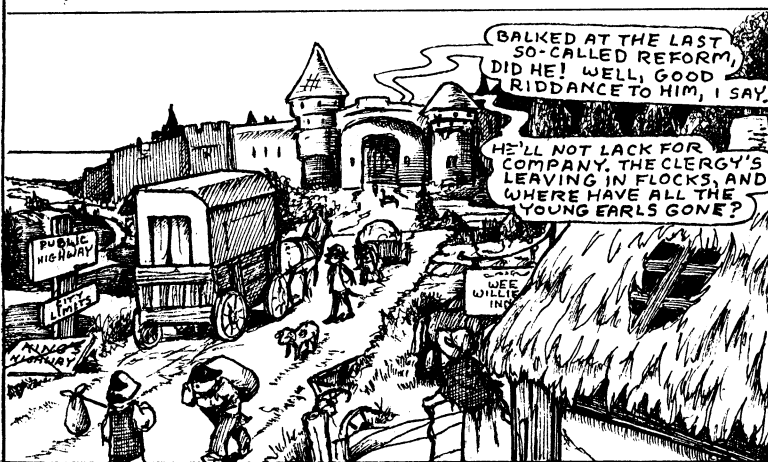
--- EH, MY FRIEND? YOU'RE SURE TO MAKE OUR FORTUNES ---

WHEN I INTRODUCE YOU IN THE CAPITAL!





PLAYING THE ROLE OF DISSENTER COMES HARD TO THOSE WHOM THE OLD SYSTEM ONCE FAVORED. MANY, INCLUDING SIR JACK, HAVE FLED THE COUNTRY ALREADY. THERE ARE SOME WHO ENVY HIM, AND SOME WHO WILL, SOON ENOUGH.



WHEN WILL THEY EVER LEARN? WE'RE PAYING FOR OUR INACTION, AND WE HAD BEST DO SOMETHING BEFORE THE PRICE BECOMES STEEPER.



AND WHEN THEY DISMISSED THE KING'S BODYGUARD, YOU IMPLIED THAT ALL WOULD BE FOR THE BEST.



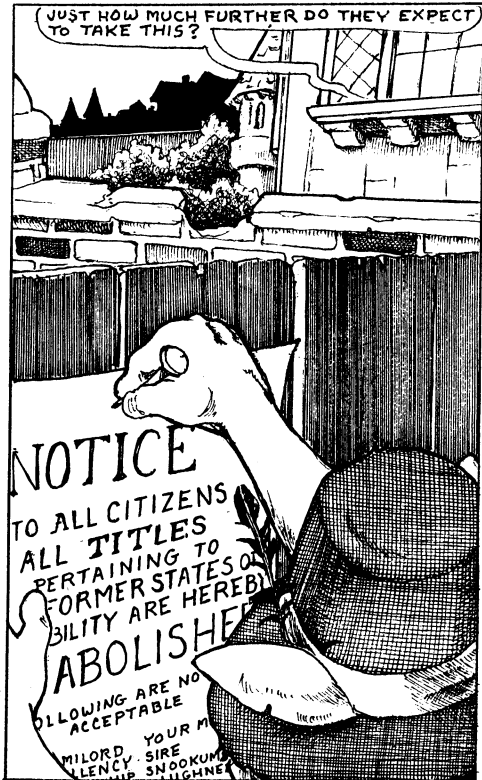
WELL, WE CAN'T HAVE THEM RUNNING THE COUNTRY.



NO USE TO COMPLAIN, MY DEAR--- THEY'VE WON, AND THERE YOU HAVE IT.

DO REMEMBER YOURSELF! THEY'RE COMMONERS! THEY ARE NOT EVEN CAPABLE OF GRASPING THE SIMPLEST PRINCIPLES OF FASHION!

JUST HOW MUCH FURTHER DO THEY EXPECT TO TAKE THIS?



NOTICE TO ALL CITIZENS ALL TITLES PERTAINING TO FORMER STATES OF BILITY ARE HEREBY ABOLISHED. FOLLOWING ARE NOT ACCEPTABLE: MILORD, YOUR M, LENCY, SIRS, KUM, UP, UGHNE.



IT'S THIS SILLY VOTING THEY HAVE NOW, WILL BE OUR UNDOING. THERE ARE MORE OF THEM THAN OF US, SO THERE IS NOTHING TO STOP THEM FROM VOTING AWAY ALL THE PRIVILEGES TO WHICH OUR BIRTH ENTITLES US.

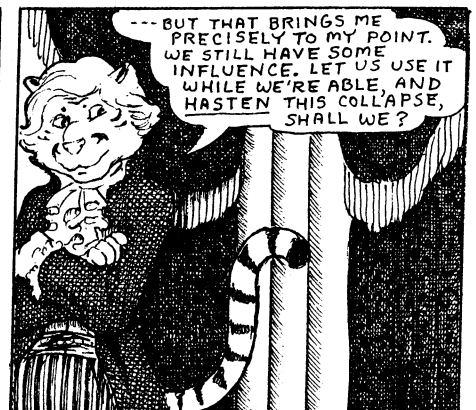
IT IS ALL SO DREADFULLY UNFAIR!

COUSIN, COUSIN! THINGS HAVE COME TO A PRETTY PASS, 'TIS TRUE, BUT SURELY THIS FOOLISHNESS IS TEMPORARY.



BESIDES, THEY'RE TOO BUSY ARGUING TO PROCEED ANY FURTHER. HERE A FACTION, THERE A FACTION--- EVERYWHERE A NEW DISTRACTION!

--- IT'S BOUND TO COLLAPSE EVENTUALLY.

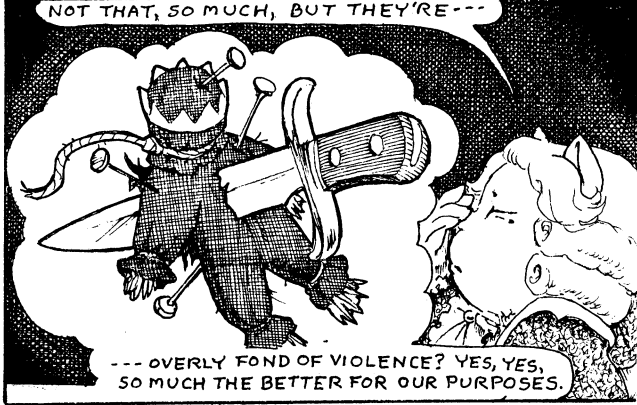


--- BUT THAT BRINGS ME PRECISELY TO MY POINT. WE STILL HAVE SOME INFLUENCE. LET US USE IT WHILE WE'RE ABLE, AND HASTEN THIS COLLAPSE, SHALL WE?

HERE, THEN IS WHAT I PROPOSE:
LET US BACK THE MOST RADICAL
OF ALL THE FACTIONS THAT VIE
FOR SUPREMACY.



---FANATICS? TRUE ENOUGH,
WHAT OF IT?



NOT THAT, SO MUCH, BUT THEY'RE---

--- OVERLY FOND OF VIOLENCE? YES, YES,
SO MUCH THE BETTER FOR OUR PURPOSES.

IT'S WORSE YET. THEY'RE---
I HESITATE EVEN TO SAY IT,
WITH THE LADIES PRESENT!



LET'S HAVE IT.
WE ARE ALL
ADULTS---

VERY WELL, THEN. THEY'RE
LAWYERS!



BUT THEY COULD
RUIN THE COUNTRY!

AND WHAT USE IS THE COUNTRY TO US,
IN ITS PRESENT STATE?



I QUITE APPROVE.
IT SHOULD NOT BE LONG
BEFORE WE ALL GET
WHAT IS COMING TO US.

AGREED! LET
THE MOB SEE WHAT
THEIR PRECIOUS
SELF-RULE CAN LEAD
TO, AND THEY'LL BEG
US TO RESUME OUR
RIGHTFUL PLACES.

IT MIGHT HAVE BEEN A FINE IDEA, HAD THIS BEEN ANOTHER SILLY COURT-INTRIGUE, BEWILDERED AND DESPERATE, THE NOBLES LACK THE PERSPECTIVE TO SEE HOW THEIR EFFORT TO RECOVER THEIR LOST PRIVILEGES WILL TOPPLE THEM INTO THEIR OWN STEWPOT.

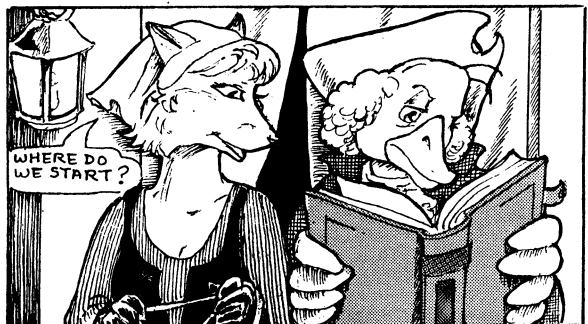
THINGS ARE COMING UNRAVELLED, LOOKS LIKE.

WHY TELL ME? DO I LOOK LIKE A SILKWORM?

AND THE MIXTURE IS ABOUT TO BE STIRRED BY THE ARRIVAL IN THE CAPITAL OF SOMEONE FAMILIAR.



ALL THIS TALK OF STEWPOTS AND ROADKILLS IS MAKING ME HUNGRY!



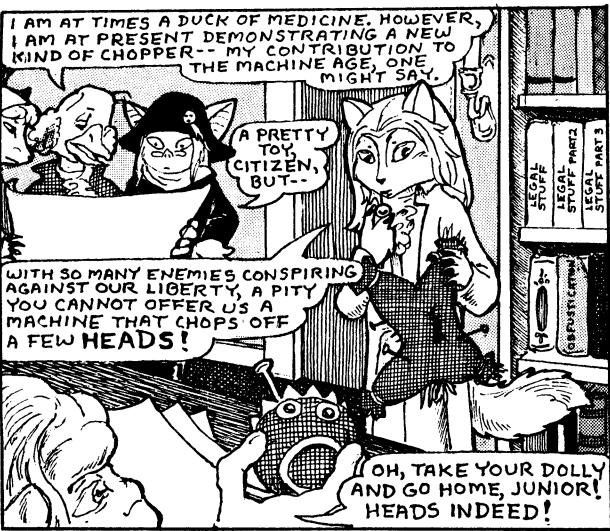
WHERE DO
WE START?

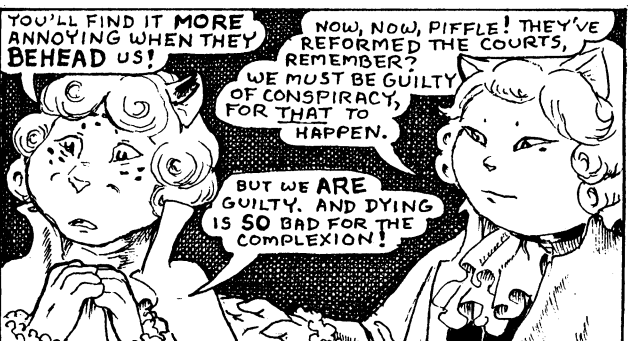
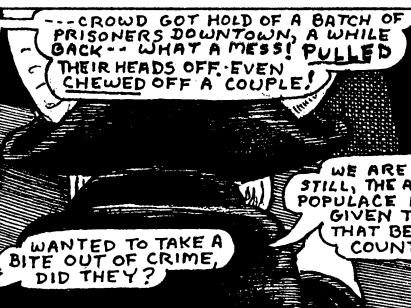
IT MEANS THE STEWPOT'S
IMAGINARY.

WHAT A CRUEL HOAX!
I SHOULD SEE A LAWYER
ABOUT IT.

(IT'S A METAPHOR,
STUPID!)

MM! WHAT DO
THOSE TASTE LIKE?





-- AND SO BEGINS THE GREAT RETRIBUTION--
AS THE CAPITAL EMBARKS UPON A CHOPPING-SPREE.



AT LEAST THE UPHEAVALS IN THE
CITY HAVE BEEN QUELLED--



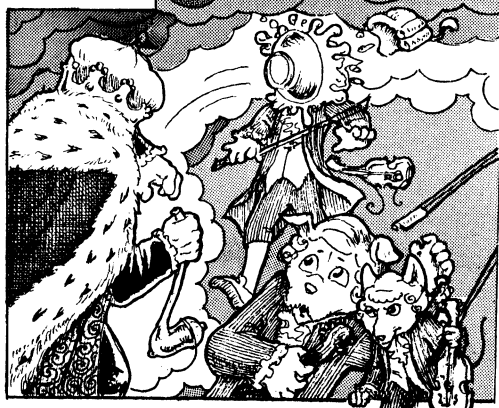
THERE ARE PERILS BEYOND THE BORDERS, TO BE SURE

OFF WITH THEIR HEADS!

YOU HEAR? THOSE ARE THE FIRST WORDS OF THE HEARTLAND PRINCESS! HOW WILL THAT AFFECT HER WHEN SHE'S QUEEN?

THIS IS THE FAULT OF YOUR COUNTRYFOLK, SIR JACK, WITH THEIR SO-CALLED REPUBLIC.

PRAY DO NOT HOLD THIS POOR EXILE TO BLAME, YOUR MAJESTY. DO I LOOK LIKE A REPUBLICAN?



... BUT THE ANIMOSITY OF THESE FOREIGN SOVEREIGNS, EVEN THE ACTIVITIES OF THEIR AGENTS WITHIN THE VERY COUNTRY-- THESE DO NOT POSE THE GREATEST DANGER TO THE REVOLUTION.



MY KING IS LIKELY TO BE FURIOUS BY NOW, BUT SLOW AND STEADY-- THAT'S THE ONLY WAY TO PROCEED!

FARMER'S DELL
YOU MISSED IT

TUFFET-ON-THE-GREEN
NOT FAR NOW

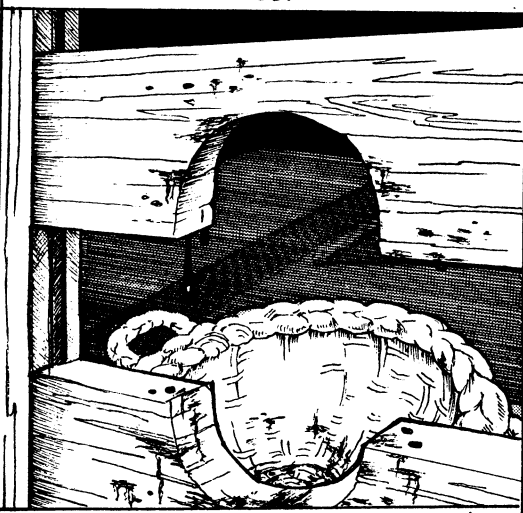
THE CAPITAL
A GOODLY DISTANCE YET

SO MANY TRAITORS-- ?! WHY? WHY MUST THEY CONTINUE TO MAKE SUCH HARSH MEASURES NECESSARY? WE ONLY WANT WHAT'S RIGHT!



LET THEM COME! NOW WE'VE BEGUN ON THEM, IT'S A BIT LIKE EATING PEANUTS -- OR GRAPES.

SO MANY THREATS TO LIBERTY HAVE ALREADY BEEN MET: THEIR FORMER KING'S REPEATED DUPLICITIES, THE ARISTOCRATS' CONNIVING, THE RIVALRIES OF THOSE WHO SOUGHT POWER FOR THEIR OWN SELFISH ENDS-- ALL OVERCOME! IT HAS BEEN A HARD AND COSTLY SCHOOLING, BUT THEY HAVE LEARNED.



THESE ELEMENTS MUST BE DEALT WITH!

FOR CERTAIN SMUGGLERS AND FREE PRIVATEERS, THERE IS GOOD BUSINESS TO BE HAD IN TRANSPORTING THE FAMILIES AND GOODS OF ANYONE RELUCTANT TO PARTICIPATE IN THE SORT OF DEAL BEING OFFERED.





THE IRON PANTHER

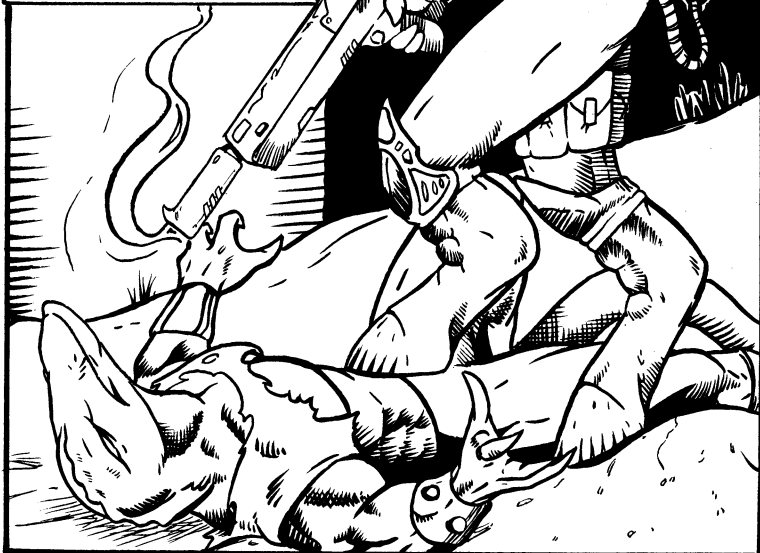
BY
MILTON TERUEL
AND
RANDY ZIMMERMAN

The Best Laid Plans part two

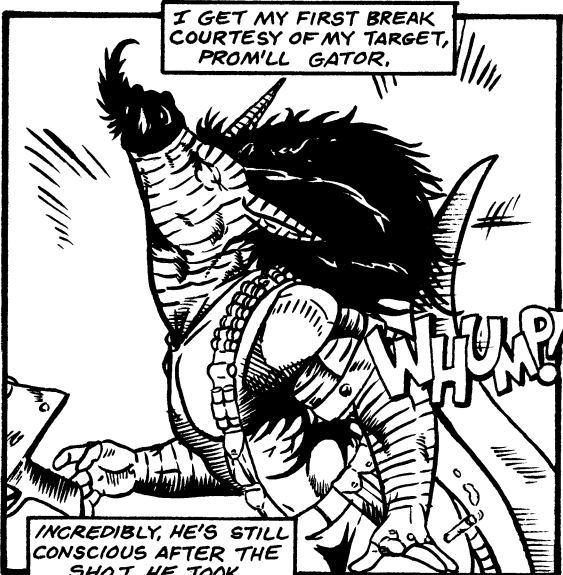


THIS WHOLE CAPER'S BEEN ONE LONG EXERCISE IN MURPHY'S LAW. THE ASSASSIN GORE IS ABOUT TO EXECUTE MY TARGET, THE ONE I NEED TO DELIVER ALIVE.

ME? I'M THE IRON PANTHER, AND I'M WONDERING IF I'LL EVER USE UP ALL MY BAD LUCK.



I GET MY FIRST BREAK COURTESY OF MY TARGET, PROM'LL GATOR.

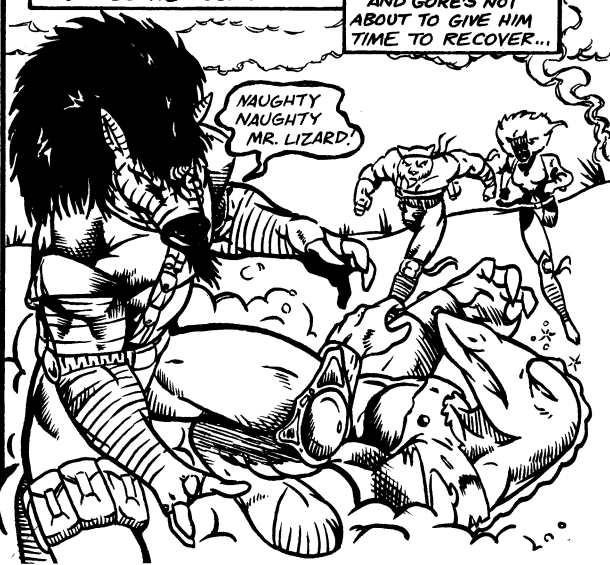


INCREDIBLY, HE'S STILL CONSCIOUS AFTER THE SHOT HE TOOK.

OF COURSE, HE'S FAR FROM COHERENT, AND STILL UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF THE DRUGS HE TOOK.

AND GORE'S NOT ABOUT TO GIVE HIM TIME TO RECOVER...

NAUGHTY NAUGHTY MR. LIZARD!





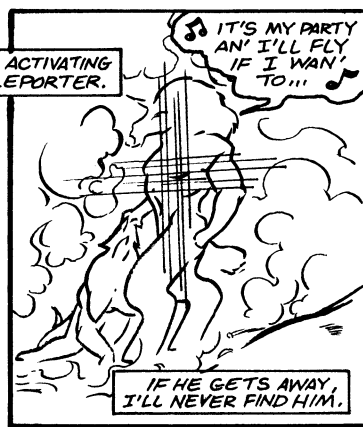
CORPSES ARE SUPPOSED TO STAY STILL!

WHAM!



GETTIN' CROWDED! TIME TO SPUT!

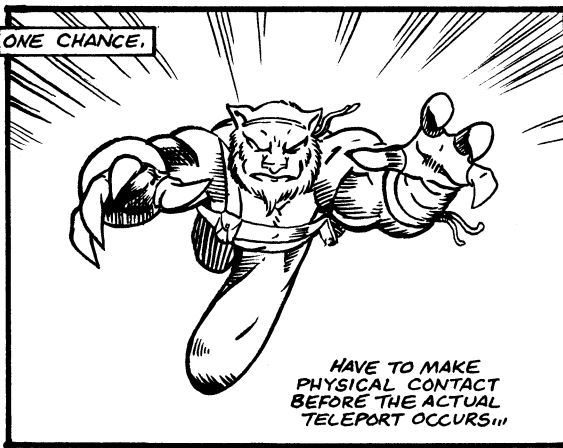
SHRIPP!



GORE'S ACTIVATING A TELEPORTER.

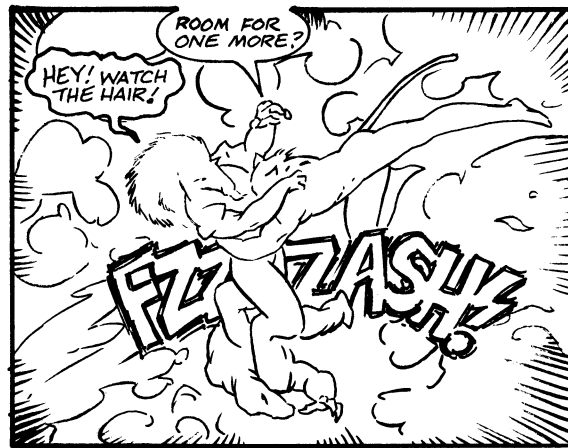
IT'S MY PARTY AN' I'LL FLY IF I WAN' TO!!!

IF HE GETS AWAY, I'LL NEVER FIND HIM.



ONE CHANCE.

HAVE TO MAKE PHYSICAL CONTACT BEFORE THE ACTUAL TELEPORT OCCURS!!!



ROOM FOR ONE MORE?

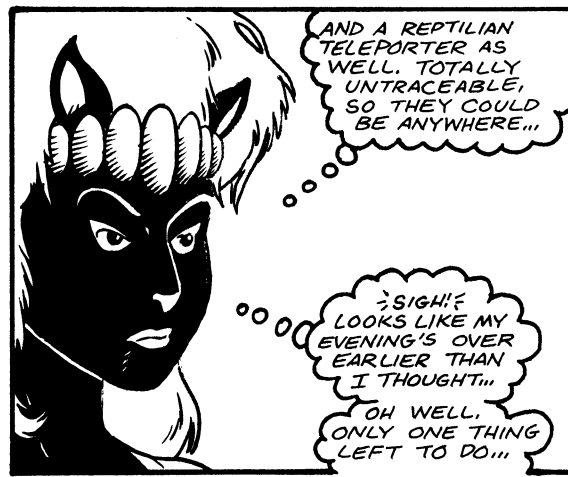
HEY! WATCH THE HAIR!

FLASH!



MS. CHEVIOUS, MY COHORT ON THIS JOB, ARRIVED JUST A BIT TOO LATE!!!

OH GREAT, THEY'VE 'PORTED OUT.



AND A REPTILIAN TELEPORTER AS WELL. TOTALLY UNTRACEABLE, SO THEY COULD BE ANYWHERE!!!

SIGH! IT LOOKS LIKE MY EVENING'S OVER EARLIER THAN I THOUGHT!!!

OH WELL, ONLY ONE THING LEFT TO DO!!!



HEAD BACK TO THE STATION AND HOPE THAT SAM COMES OUT ON TOP!

AS MS CHEVIOUS MAKES
HER WAY TO THE SHUTTLE
DOCK, MY LUCK STARTS
TO IMPROVE.

I DON'T THINK
GORE PLANNED
TO PORT BACK
TO THE SPACE
STATION.

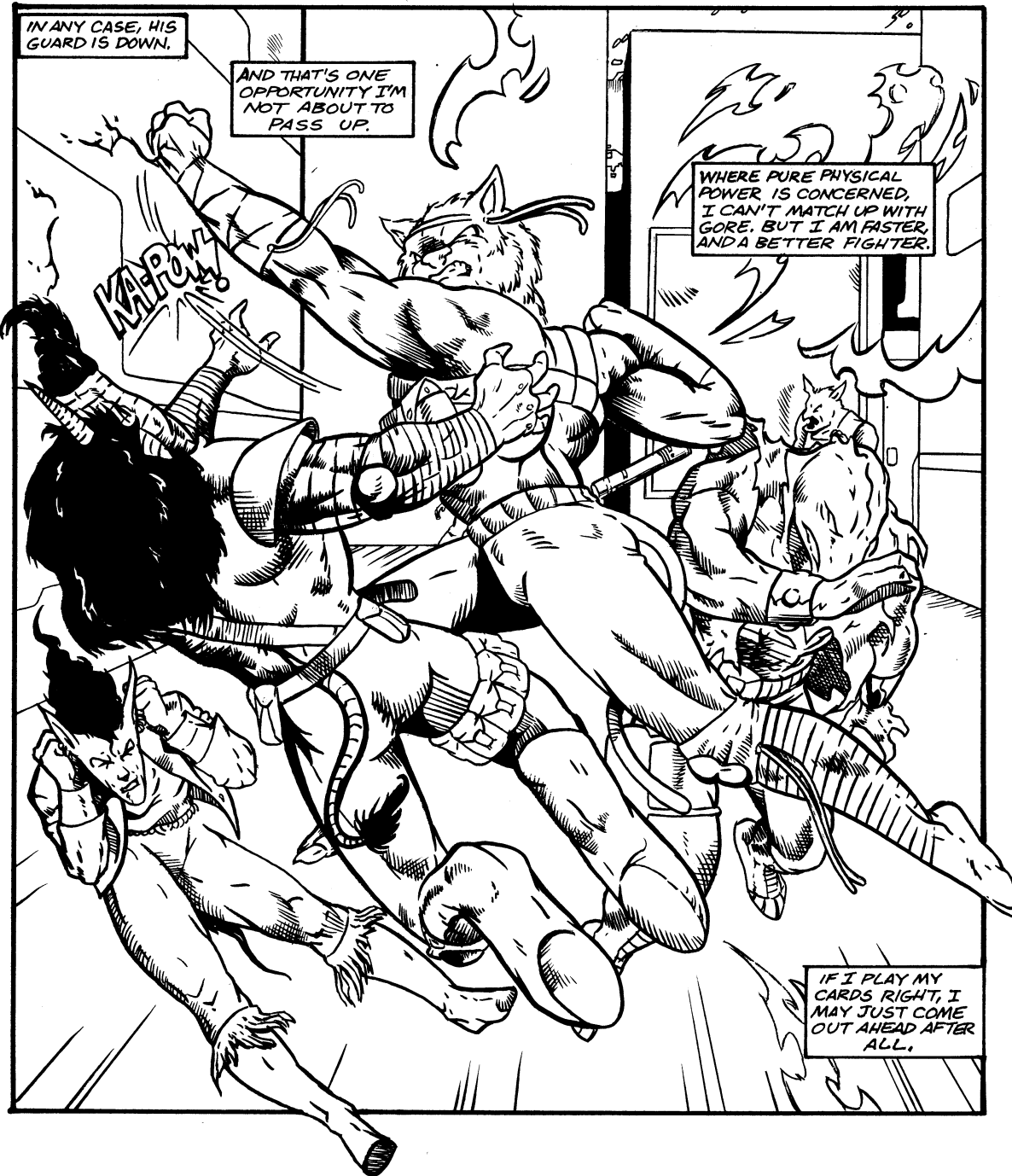
BUT MY UNPLANNED
INTRUSION PROBABLY
ALTERED HIS COURSE.

IN ANY CASE, HIS
GUARD IS DOWN.

AND THAT'S ONE
OPPORTUNITY I'M
NOT ABOUT TO
PASS UP.

WHERE PURE PHYSICAL
POWER IS CONCERNED,
I CAN'T MATCH UP WITH
GORE, BUT I AM FASTER,
AND A BETTER FIGHTER.

IF I PLAY MY
CARDS RIGHT, I
MAY JUST COME
OUT AHEAD AFTER
ALL.



I MUST'VE REALLY
TAGGED HIM, IT
APPEARS I'VE
DRAWN BLOOD!!!

WAIT,
THIS ISN'T
BLOOD.

GORE,
WHAT IS
THIS STUFF?



HEH, HEH, BAD
HABITS KITTY!!!

SOMETIMES MY BAD
HABITS RUB OFF
ON OTHERS!!!

GUESS IT'S
TIME FOR
ME TO TROT
KITTY.



MR. LIZARD'S
YOURS KITTY,

FOR
NOW.



MAKE SURE HE STAYS
ALIVE KITTY, Y'HEAR?
AS LONG AS HE BREATHE'S,
MY CONTRACT'S OPEN.

BUT YOU
BETTER
HUSTLE.

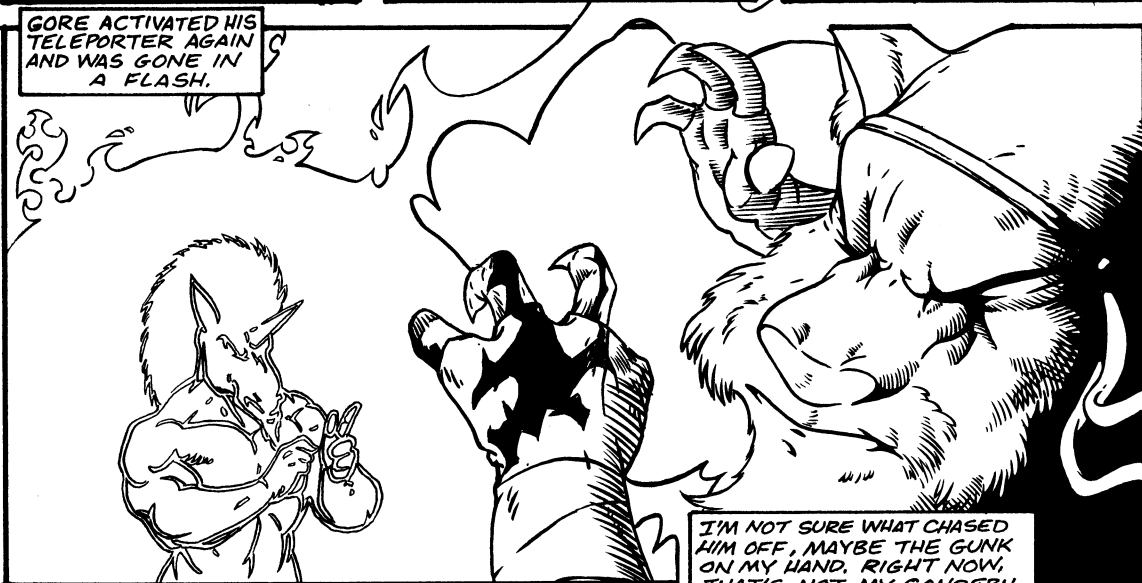


'CUZ HE'S
GETTIN'
AWAY.

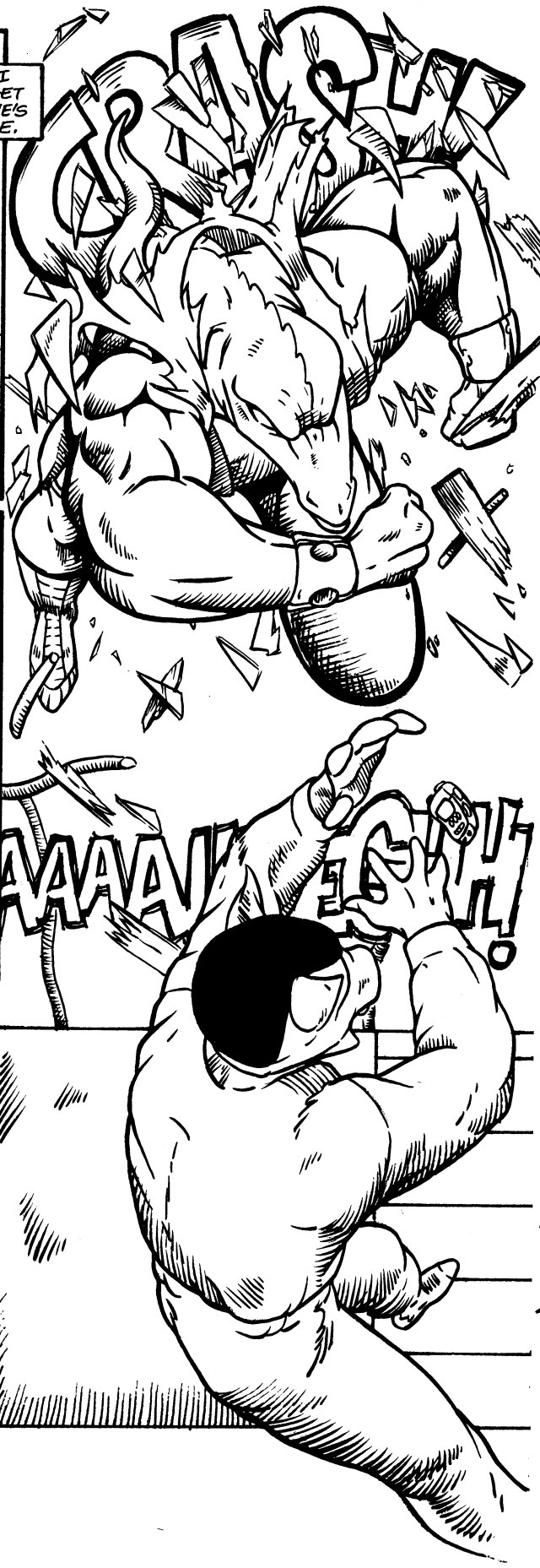
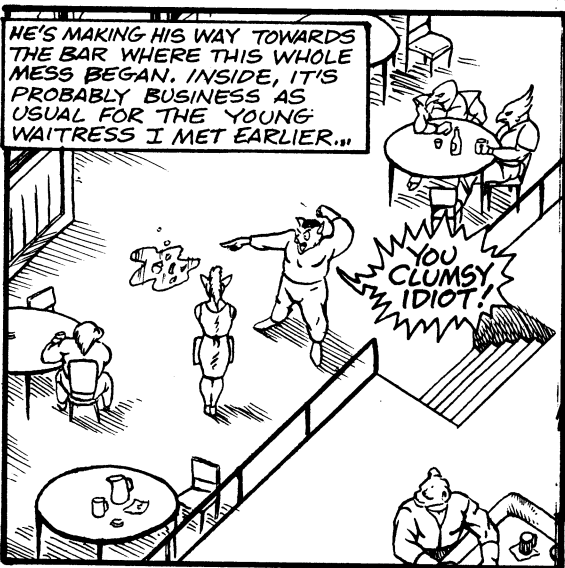
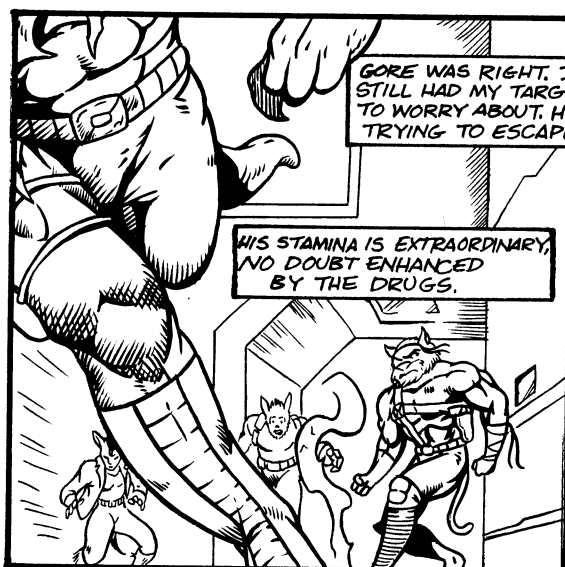
'BYE
'BYE!



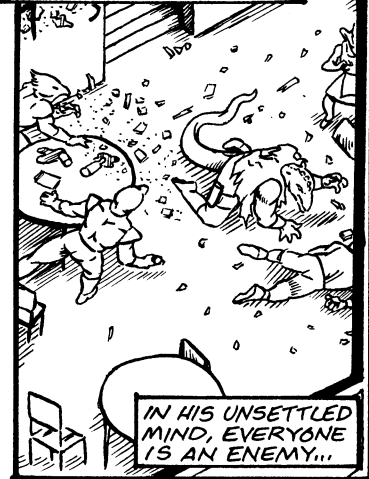
GORE ACTIVATED HIS
TELEPORTER AGAIN
AND WAS GONE IN
A FLASH.



I'M NOT SURE WHAT CHASED
HIM OFF, MAYBE THE GUNK
ON MY HAND, RIGHT NOW,
THAT'S NOT MY CONCERN!!!



THE GATOR MAKES A MESSY ENTRANCE, AS CONFUSED AND DESPERATE AS EVER.



IN HIS UNSETTLED MIND, EVERYONE IS AN ENEMY...

YOU!
YOU'RE
A COP!



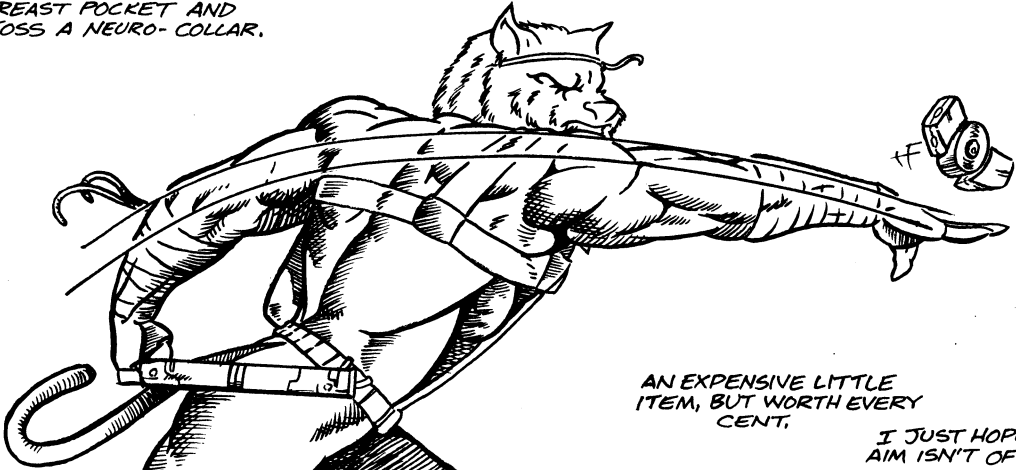
OH MY
GOD!
GET
BACK!
HENRY!
HELP ME!

GET AWAY
FROM HER!
HEY!



NOT TAKIN'
ME ALIVE
COP...

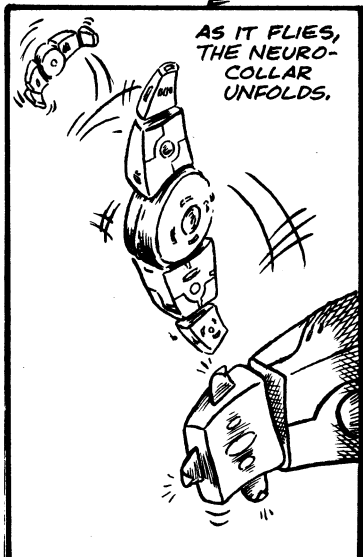
I'LL NEVER GET
THERE IN TIME, SO
I REACH INTO MY
BREAST POCKET AND
TOSS A NEURO-
COLLAR.



AN EXPENSIVE LITTLE
ITEM, BUT WORTH EVERY
CENT.

I JUST HOPE MY
AIM ISN'T OFF...

AS IT FLIES,
THE NEURO-
COLLAR
UNFOLDS.



IT CLAMPS ONTO
ITS TARGET, AND
BEFORE THE GATOR
CAN REACT...



...HIS ENTIRE NERVOUS
SYSTEM IS SCRAMBLED
FOR A FRACTION
OF A SECOND,
ENOUGH TO TAKE
HIM OUT.



GAME, SET, AND MATCH, I CAN FEEL THOSE CREDITS IN MY ACCOUNT ALREADY.

WHAT'S GOING ON HERE!!!



SAM?!?



ARDA?
HOW'D YOU KNOW
WHERE TO FIND
US?

AND HOW'D YOU
GET UP HERE
SO FAST?

O.K. SIXTY PERCENT
OF THOSE CREDITS.



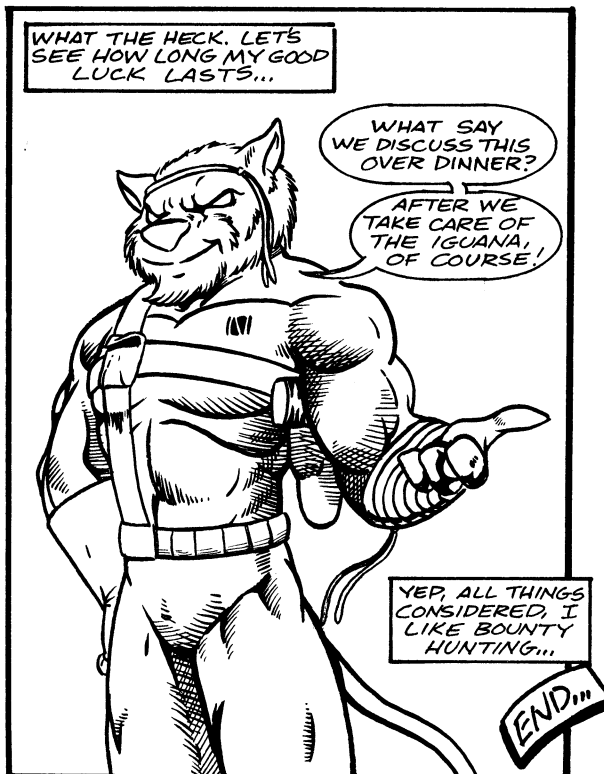
QUICK
SHUTTLE I
GUESS.

AND I DIDN'T
"FIND" YOU, I
NEEDED A
DRINK.



WELL, GOOD.
YOU CAN HELP
ME CLEAN
UP...

HEY WHAT
ARE YOU
DOING.?





DEER JOHN

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

Dear Penguins,

Well, now that I've been labelled Letterhack-par-Excellence, I ought to get to that letter I've been meaning to write since mid-September.

Furrrough #21: "Zaibatsu Tears" is quite well-drawn (nice cover, too). I like the way we see Pi drawn from all sorts of angles, the way her fur ruffles when they breeep her, the futuristic windows and other backgrounds. The plot strikes me as pretty routine, and I don't even read all that much in the 'indentured company servant' SF line, but it's competently done.

"Here Comes a Candle" is, as usual, the top story of the issue. The puns come thickly this time, with some neat touches like 'Jackal Anton' (that son of a bitch, incidentally, is perhaps the most attractively drawn character so far) and 'seal of approval', some groaners like 'fur sale or rent'. 'The biggest pair of boots I've ever seen' gave me the biggest laugh. I also like the family names, like the Strawhovel pigs and Lord Esterbunny. All the characters, even the ones seen briefly, have an admirable solidity to them.

There's a lot going on in "Mandala", and I would have liked to be thrown into it a little nearer the start. How did Stacy get in to this? What's the meaning of the scene with the ant? What are the trilobites supposed to tell us? The Tibetlike milieu is an interesting one. The drawing is good but the ungulates' faces are rather unexpressive.

Furrrough #22: It's about time your top story gets a cover, now that I think of it. I can't just keep repeating the superlatives, so I'll just say that the first page was particularly hilarious, the flowering and withering of love on page 4 was elegant, the scene on page 6 was charming, the smeary lettering was annoying, and 'I think I can' was funny.

"Zaibatsu Tears" evokes much the same thoughts as last time. A couple of touches I liked were the 'no cats' graffiti and the echoes of the 'borg secret handshake and 'I'll break both your arms'.

"Guardian Knights" isn't as polished as the other pieces in this issue, and it's too early to tell how the plot's going to be;

I'll reserve judgment on this one. The magical cat bunny burglar seems both incompetent (easily surprised) and arrogant; I bet she takes him out easily in the next installment.

"One Rainy Night in a Foxhole": an entertaining variation on the argument of the body parts.

And a quite striking frontispiece, one of Bryce Nakagawa's best pieces.

Furrrough #23: Great cover for the military fetishists, and not bad even if you're not. In "Here Comes a Candle" the grimness is beginning to come to the forefront and sometimes clashes with the sillier humor. 'Why do they not simply tell their servants to bring them some?' - boy, you can see that Thomas could have used a few more years of Galen's education. And how pleased he is with himself when he says, '...and he had no answer for that, I can tell you!' I suppose, considering 'Let them eat cake', that it's not quite the cartoony absurdity I first thought it. Galen's satire is sharp, and indeed outdoes the narration box's text. The charity events are wicked, and could apply to many 'charities' today that exist mainly for fundraising. But many of the best parts are still purely silly stuff: the Liberty Fairy, tobacco leaf pie (a tasty but deadly dish, as Fractured Fairy Tales fans know), 'out-of-the-whey places'.

"UnderRealm" is nice but short. To be concluded? Only the current story, I hope.

"Risuko": bleah. The double-entendre beginning is forced and unfunny, Risuko's tail comes out of her butt and her mouth is unattractive...at least this time the brief plot sorta makes sense and is not just a vehicle for furry cheesecake.

"Uni-Universe" is a pleasant vignette, "Stosstrupp" is interesting and ominous, and "Legend" is a properly unpleasant vignette.

It's been a pleasure rereading those issues for this letter, but I think I'll try to be more prompt in future.

Always carry a grapefruit,
Philip M. Cohen,
White Plains, NY

Whew! What a big letter! Thanks for writing in again, Philip. Apologies to any of our readers who got eyestrain while

reading this month's lettercol; I know 8-point type is a pain, but we gots lotsa letters to run! --EW

Dear EW:

Furrrough, you have achieved a new way of thinking about things relating towards war and how men and women go through the death of their friends and the destruction. It makes you think that war is not something to be glorified or is cool, like many people think it is. Well, I hope peace can be achieved and wars on planet Earth will end, but who knows?

I just finished **Furrrough #24** and it's fantastic. The stories and the art were really bitching. I really liked the story "Zaibatsu Tears"; it was so sad. It made me think, what if I had to decide to go with the one I still felt for or would I just complete the job as ordered. Well, you already answered it for me.

When I was done with this issue, I went into my box of comics and dug out some past **Furrroughs**. I'm wondering if there will be any more stories from Riley any time soon? I loved his stories from issue #1-3 and #5. I want to see more adventures from Sharplet, BiBi, Sawtooth, Woolie and company. Please let me know if you have any stories from him. Well, I've got to run now. Take care of yourself and see ya soon.

Burt Rodriguez,
Ridgewood, Queens,
New York

Sorry to disappoint you, Burt, but we haven't received any new Riley stories in quite a while, so we don't have anything from him scheduled in upcoming Furrroughs. Sometimes, other commitments prevent artists from continuing their series as planned, and all us poor editors can do is accept it. --EW

Next Issue: "Here Comes a Candle" Part 11 by Mary Hanson-Roberts continues; "Bronze Fur" Part 2 by Mark Shaw; pulp-style cover by Mark Shaw. See you all in 30 and keep those letters coming!

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