

#### THE SKY IS FALLING! THE SKY IS FALLING!

As many of you may (or may not) know, exclusivity is now the name of the game in the comies industry. Led by Marvel in their acquisition of Heroes World, DC has followed suit by becoming exclusive to Diamond Comics. What these two could not do in the neen market, they will now try to

do in a restricted market.

There is no doubt that there are going to be repercussions. To be sure, there will be certain retailers and publishers who are going to feel this in the morning. But whenever a company takes a course of action that limits access to its product, that company is eventually going to suffer the consequences. Therefore, I feel that there is no need to fear the actions of Marvel and DC, and that we should not cave in to panic. Does either of them actually think that they can save their market share by taking this course of action? Do they think that the customers they lost are actually going to come back if they continue in their present line of thinking? Obviously, they do. But their reasoning is gravely flawed. They lost readers because the comics they were doing were not appealing to the public. And

instead of trying to improve or streamline, their solution is to create a potential apocalypse for the direct market. Unable to compete on the strength of their product alone, they feel they have to use their weight to upset everyone else's applecart.

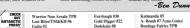
Will they succeed in this? I don't think so. Sure, it's going to be messy. There will be casualties and "accepted losses." The survivors, though, will be stronger. They can build anew. They can band together to combat disaster and keep the lines of

communication going. So what can we at AP do about the changes? Simple. Do business as usual. Keep pumping out the books that helped cause Marvel and DC to take this course of action. Ask yourself this question: Why did they make this choice to begin with? Because they do not understand their reading audience. The readers are THE MOST IMPORTANT THING to the industry. All the fancy foil-embossed, die-cut, biename comics cannot hold a candle if the audience is not there Instead of going back to the market's core root - providing readers with excitement and entertainment - Marvel and DC have chosen to ignore the market's desire for more (and more interesting) books, in hopes

of FORCING retailers to buy their product. They do this with the hope that they can shore up their foundering market share... but the independents will continue to erode their base because independents know what readers want. Antarctic Press, Chaos.

London Night, Caliber, VIZ. Dark Horse, and a host of others have proven that you do not have to be a Marvel or DC to sell their numbers. All you have to do is put out a product people want. Let Marvel and DC continue in their ways. The last thing we should do is panic. Stay calm and hold a steady course. Refuse to be intimidated by their actions. We must take a long look at our product and invest even more effort in it. Decide what is the best way to get that product out there and cater to our audience

With so much going on it can be very easy to lose sight of what we are here for. AP is a publisher of comies. We have done our first music CD with many more to follow. Soon we will going into animation, video, and multimedia. However, we will always be a publisher of comies. Secause that is considered to the control of the control of



Tipers of Terra #12

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# FURRLOUGH

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#### Here Comes a Candle Part 14 by Mary Hanson-Roberts THIS MUST BE MY APOTHEOSIS. THIS IS MY FAMILY'S SECTION PURGATORY, IF THOU'LST REMOVE THYSELF--















AH, WELL. LIFE GOES ON ---



























THE WHOLE FOREST BY NOW-

WHAT! TEARS, MILADY SISTER?

























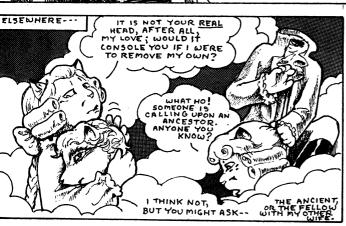








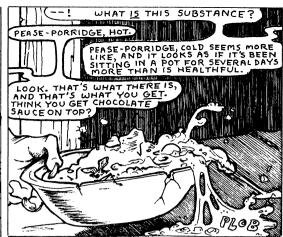






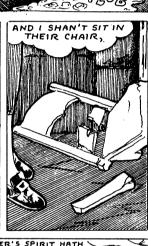
















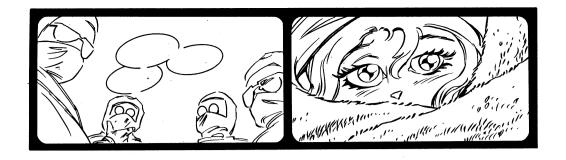


THOU'RT OF MY

BLOOD, CHILD. THINK OF I







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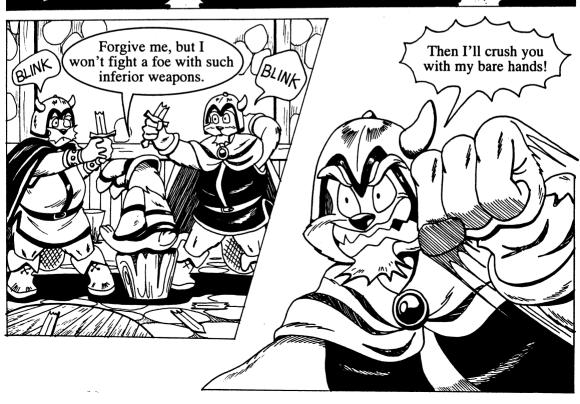
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continued!



# DEER JOHN

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

Dear Penguins:

OK, it's 14 March and I have a couple of anthropomorphic thingies here

Furrlough #26: Ooh, that's a mean -looking kitty on the cover. Well, hot brass on naked fur can do bad things to your temper. I liked this better than most of Brian O'Connell's technically excellent cheesecake. Interestingly detailed Brian Harp frontispiece. "Watering Hole"--ah, it's good to have this back! Before "Here Comes a Candle" came along, this was in the running for best Furrlough series, and it's only gotten better as the plot thickened. At last we know how Professor Whizbang was railroaded, but the players' plans are still pretty murky. The only things I can complain about are the sketchy backgrounds, occasionally a little too sketchy (when he does get detailed, as on the splash page, the result is admirable), and the lettering. "Here Comes a Candle": I've sung it's praises so many times before that I'm about sung out. I think I'll complain instead: the collapse of the revolution into bloodshed is one of the most interesting parts of the French Revolution, and I wish this installment had been twice as long to give it its due. Well, I also have to specially applaud the triptych about the confiscation of church lands: a marvelous piece of picture-andwordplay. "The Iron Panther": competently drawn and written, but it suffers by comparison with the other two stories. Plain dumb action.

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

Dear EW:

It's been a while since my last

letter to Furrlough, so here's another. First, a complaint about my letter in #27. Hey! Did the proof-reader have the day off when my letter was typeset? My letter already makes me appear submoronic, but those typos make me seem even more so. (Sorry, sometimes typos slip through the cracks--EW)

Now for comments. "Bronze Fur" has been a nice story with a good balance of action and humor although there's more of the former and less of the latter in part 2. Shaw's bad guys are fairly routine and stereotypical -- why are these type of characters (wherever and whatever source they appear in) always laughing hysterically? I'm probably being a bit too critical here because this story, much like the previous Walter Kitty story, is simply a well done pulp-styled adventure that seeks to entertain and "Bronze Fur" does exactly that. Awaiting more.

"Iron Panther" had a very promising beginning in #24 but I found the conclusion in #26 to be less than satisfactory. Why? I really don't know. Perhaps it was because at two chapters, this story's adventure is over too quickly and far too easily. Or perhaps it was because I found that this story had a few too many fistfights, objects being thrown, and bodies hurtling through windows than I really cared for. Maybe I was just hoping for a bleak and gritty story with cynical humor -the first chapter seemed to me like it was heading in that direction. Oh well.

The return of Pat Kelley's "Watering Hole" in #26 -- yay! I only hope there won't be a ten-issue wait for the next chapter.

"Here Comes a Candle" is still going strong although for #26 I did

have to groan aloud at that single panel with the chicken friars, the simian monks, and the penguin nuns. I really enjoyed the scene in #27 where Lisette shakes Beulah's head right off and Thomas saying 'It's so fashionable now.' Now we know that Mary Hanson-Roberts can do sick humor as well. I'm impressed.

Now for comments on the stories from #6 that were reprinted in the Best of Furrlough. "Romanics: Viri Magni Momenti" is another well done chapter in Joe Rosales' story. It's interesting that the story is getting much gloomier. A question to Joe: what happened to Petrius? He was always standing next to Marcus, but now he's gone. There's a fox character in a few panels in this fourth chapter -- is that Petrius? And now to ask the obvious question: when's the next "Romanics" chapter coming? (Whenever Joe does another one. He's been busy working on other projects-- EW)

"Hairlift" is a reprint I could have done without. Todd Sutherland and Charles Davies did a fine job on "The Last Step". What the hell are those creatures supposed to be anyway? And when are those guys going to do another "Mange" story? (Check out Wild Life #12 for the latest "Mange" story--EW)

In the bios for Noel Tominack and Pete Stoller a few of their planned projects are mentioned. Now if that 'The above is all a lie' line is a joke and the bios are true, is there any further word on how far on these projects are and whether AP will be publishing them? (No, no word yet-EW)

Time's up! David Tapia, Dinuba, CA

All letters become the property of Antarctic Press and are assumed to be for publication. We reserve the right to edit letters for space.

## OTHER READING

So, Furrlough has just whetted your appetite for anthropomorphics? Well, don't despair, there are plenty of small-press publications devoted to the genre we all love! And here's a listing of a few and where to get them!

GIRLS OF STOSSTRUPP and STOSSTRUPP REVIEW both are produced by Ted Sheppard, one of our regulars. Can't get enough Stosstrupp? Then you need these! Write for ordering information and enclose a self-addressed stamped envelope. Ted Sheppard, P.O. Box 32292, Tucson AZ 85751.

GALLERY is edited by Richard Chandler, and is a huge monster zine packed with art from a variety of artists, including Tygger, Charles Davies, Brian Sutton, Todd Sutherland and more. Richard does do subscriptions and will be more than happy to send you the information on doing so, as well as a current list of what's available. You do have to include proof of age stating that you're over eighteen, since Gallery often has nudity in it. Write to Richard Chandler, 4714 NE 72nd Ave, #T-88, Vancouver, WA 98661.

YARF! THE JOURNAL FOR APPLIED ANTHROPOMORPHICS has been going strong for years now, and has had more than thirty issues come out. It's edited by Jeffrey Ferris and has featured such talents as Monika Livingstone, Terrie Smith, and John Nunnemacher, among others. For a complete listing, write to P.O. Box 1299, Cupertino, CA 95015-1299.

**PAWPRINTS FANZINE** is a relatively new publication, but it's shaping up to be a really good one. Plenty of furry art and stories for ALL ages! It's edited by Conrad Wong and features work by Jordan Greywolf, Maggie De Alarcon and more. Write to Conrad Wong, 28368 Christopher's Lane, Los Altos Hills, CA 94022.

HUNCA MUNCA! is the fanzine that I edit in my spare time (what's that?) and it's another all-ages zine, featuring art, articles and reviews by a bunch of cool people. Issues 1 and 2 are available for \$6.00 each (check or money order only please) and can be ordered from Elin Winkler, 7226 Blanco Rd. #1916, San Antonio, TX 78216.

There are probably lots more that I've forgotten, but to cover anyone I may have inadvertently left out, I'm also going to list the folks who carry the largest array of anthropomorphic stuff. Write them for catalogs, they'll be glad to send them!

MAILBOX BOOKS is probably the biggest source of anthropomorphic material there is! Their vast catalog contains fanzines, comics, portfolios and tons more. Not only that but their service is great-quick and efficient. Write to Mailbox Books, P.O. Box 1278, Roslyn, PA 19001.

HAPPY JACKAL GRAPHICS is another large supplier, carrying portfolios, fanzines and t-shirts too! Happy Jackal is *the* source for Shon Howell projects, but they also have work by Brian Sutton, Pat Kelley, Jerry Collins and more. Write to Brian Sutton, 1200 Patricia #1208, San Antonio, TX 78213.

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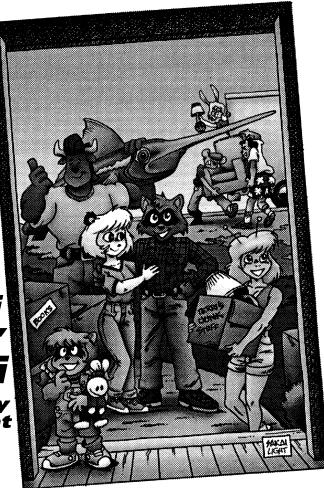
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Cover by Stan "Usagi Yojimbo" Sakai

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