



FURRLOUGH

AP
ANTARCTIC
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1995
ADVENTURE

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ANTARCTIC **BLAST**

DECEMBER 1995



Universes of Change

by Kris Overstreet

CHECK OUT ANTARCTIC PRESS' other releases*

*subject to change

- ★ Warrior Nun Arcala:
Rituals #3
- ★ Warrior Nun Arcala
Limited Edition
HARDCOVER Trade
Paperback Vol. 1
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- ★ NHS Swimsuit Special
- ★ Vampire Miyu #3
- ★ Tigers of Terra
Technical Manual #1
- ★ Tigers of Terra Trade
Paperback; Book 2
- ★ Gold Digger #27
- ★ Silbuster #13
- ★ Absolute Zero #5
- ★ Stainless Steel
Armadillo #6
- ★ Gojin #5
- ★ Furrclough #6
- ★ Gorgon #1 (Venus: Adult)
- ★ Tank Vixens #3 (Venus:
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Ten years ago, those of us who were reading superhero comics, principally Marvel and DC books, were always greeted with the same characters in the same situations. Nothing really changed; the old groups might slowly change members, the new groups come and go, but the characters were constant.

Of course, this annoyed a lot of us, who were demanding more out of comics. "We want REAL stories! We want CONSEQUENCES! We want to know what would happen if..." we would tell our friends, our favorite editors in letters, and (if we were lucky) our local comics retailer. For the most part, however, little changed; editors didn't want to alter a formula which had worked for twenty years.

Those who wanted more from comics had few options open to them. Those, like myself, who had limited access to comics of any kind gave up altogether and went on to other media. Those in major cities were sometimes able to sample alternative titles (ELFQUEST, CEREBUS, ALBEDO and the undergrounds). Some fans even managed to stay loyal to their favorites despite their limitations.

Then, not too long ago, things began to move. CRISIS ON INFINITE EARTHS. SECRET WARS. Slowly, doubtfully at first, the writers, artists, and editors began shaking down their universes. The X-Men "died". Robin REALLY died. Slowly but surely, new ideas and character development became the norm rather than the exception. With the superhero boom sparked by the birth of Image, pressure rose on the older, established companies to keep providing more new and innovative ideas to keep sales up.

Now, in the current deflating comics market, we have a surfeit of change. Ideas and innovations have been replaced by gimmicks and

promos. Every month, the characters which have held our loyalty for thirty years may be redefined, recast, or even totally eliminated... and put back in place the month after that. The Spider-Man who has quite literally been around ALL MY LIFE turns out to be a clone- what's more, a clone supposedly destroyed in a furnace. Superman dies, comes back, thinks he's dead, fakes his death. The X-Men changed history for four months, then changed it right back. Stability is a rare commodity in many comics; in some it is lost altogether.

On the other hand, there are books outside of superherodom which provide a good balance of story, character, and art, which provide growth and change at a more realistic rate; neither too slow for the revisionist, nor too fast for the traditionalist. AP happens to have a few choice examples: NINJA HIGH SCHOOL, GOLD DIGGER, TIGERS OF TERRA, and ALBEDO. Other good books, new and old, include THIEVES AND KINGS, SCUD the DISPOSABLE ASSASSIN, NEXUS, REPLACEMENT GOD, and most of the manga translations available from AP, Viz, and Studio Proteus.

In this period of constant shock-tactics in the mainstream comics media, it can be comforting to find a read which doesn't include a Life-Changing Decision in every issue. From thick to thin, from static to chaotic, the books which prosper will be the ones which provide character growth, story continuity, and reader interest in measured an appropriate amounts. Those books which rely on either an excess or a total lack of change will suffer; those which value substance and excellence over style and glamour will come out on top.

I intend to stick with the winners.

Kris Overstreet

Season's Greetings!

A completely unretouched photo (it's a Christmas thing!) courtesy ARNie.



On behalf of the Antarcitcats **Cog** and **Sprocket**, the Antarctic Press Staff wish all our readers a Merry Christmas and a safe New Year! We also thank you for making our Tenth Anniversary a memorable one, and we hope to bring you more cool books and surprises in the upcoming year!



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FURRLOUGH

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ESCAPE TO NEW YORK

STORY AND ART
BY ROZ GIBSON

EIGHT MONTHS AFTER HIS
ARREST CONVICTED SERIAL
KILLER JACK SALEM IS
SENTENCED TO LIFETIME
INTERMENT IN THE
CITY OF ICE

THE WHEELS OF
JUSTICE TURN



THE MAIN PORT OF DEPARTURE WAS IN THE EASTERN CONFEDERATION, BY NEW YORK CITY, AND THAT IS WHERE JACK IS TAKEN FOR FINAL PROCESSING

Processing 534

THERE WERE MANY OTHERS THERE, MOSTLY PRISONERS LIKE HIMSELF

BUT THERE WAS ALSO A GOOD NUMBER OF POLITICOS, MAINLY FROM SOUTH OF THE CONFEDERATION AND OVERSEAS

THE CREATORS FROWNED ON EXCESSIVE POLITICAL KILLING, AND MOST GOVERNMENTS PREFERRED TO SEND UNWANTED MINORITY SPECIES AND POLITICAL PRISONERS TO THE CITY OF ICE INSTEAD

THERE WERE CHURCHES IN THE COMPLEX, WHERE PEOPLE WOULD BEG THE CREATORS FOR HELP

JACK HAD NO IDEA WHETHER THE PRAYERS WERE EVER ANSWERED, BUT DOUBTED THAT ROUTE WOULD WORK FOR HIM

POLITICO OR CRIMINAL, THE HUMANS DIDN'T CARE

AS LONG AS THE FEE WAS PAID THEY'D TAKE ANYONE ON THE ONE-WAY TRIP TO THE CITY

TWO BREEDS LOSE FORM!

EVERYONE GOT THE SAME
TREATMENT

THE MANDATORY
STERILIZATION
OPERATION

EUTHANASIA WAS AN
OPTION, IF YOU WISHED

BUT NOT
FOR SALEM

ATHORIZED
SONEL ONLY!

THEN INTERMINABLE WAITING IN HOLDING
CELLS UNTIL THE NEXT QUARTERLY STARSHIP
DEPARTURE

TIME TO
BROOD

AND FINALLY
GOODBYE TO
EARTH, FOREVER

THE TRIP TOOK AROUND A FORTNIGHT

THE VIOLENT CRIMINALS
WERE KEPT APART
FROM THE POLITICOS, BUT
EVERYONE WAS SO DEM-
ORALIZED THERE WAS
GENERALLY NO TROUBLE

USUALLY.....

THEIR FINAL DESTINATION:
THE CITY OF ICE ON THE
PLANET MAXWELL



FOOD COUPONS WERE GIVEN MONTHLY, THE
AMOUNT YOU GOT DEPENDING ON YOUR SIZE
AND METABOLIC REQUIREMENTS

FROM THERE IT WAS
INTO THE CITY ITSELF

MAIN
ENTER

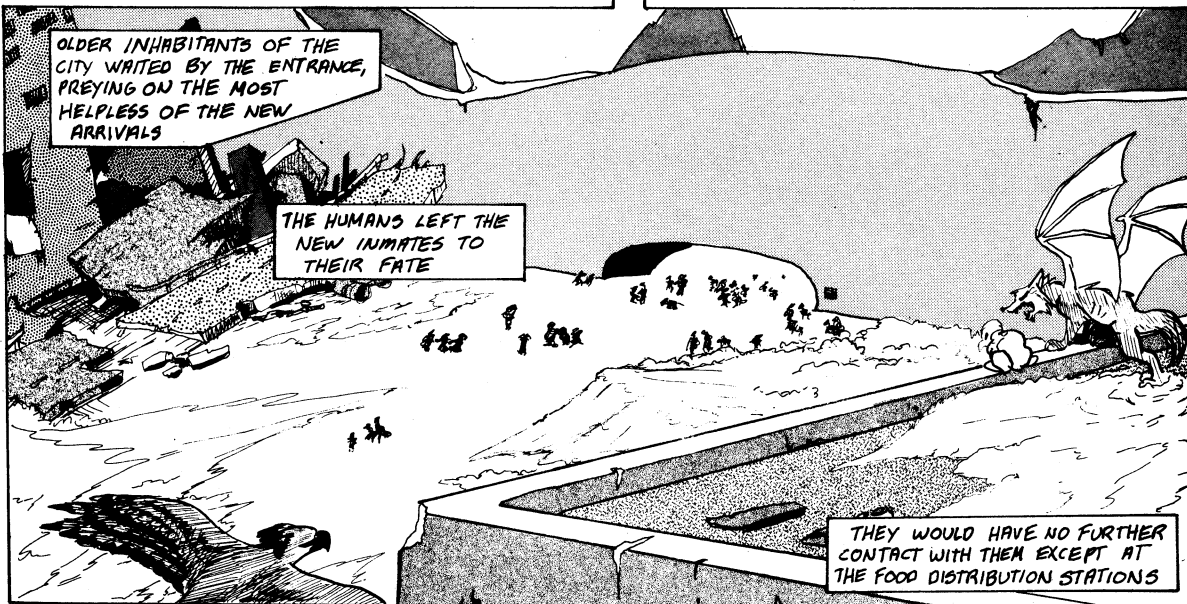
IN THE CITY THE COUPONS
WERE MORE VALUABLE
THAN GOLD, OR A LIFE

THE DEPROCESSING AREA
WAS LOCATED 10 MILES
AWAY FROM THE CITY



OLDER INHABITANTS OF THE
CITY WAITED BY THE ENTRANCE,
PREYING ON THE MOST
HELPLESS OF THE NEW
ARRIVALS

THE HUMANS LEFT THE
NEW INMATES TO
THEIR FATE



THEY WOULD HAVE NO FURTHER
CONTACT WITH THEM EXCEPT AT
THE FOOD DISTRIBUTION STATIONS

THE CITY OF ICE WAS
APPLY NAMED. THERE WERE
NO SEASONS TO SPEAK OF,
JUST VERY COLD AND
EXTREMELY COLD

THERE WAS NOWHERE TO ESCAPE TO, THE
ENTIRE PLANET MORE FROZEN AND
BARREN THAN ANTARCTICA.

THOSE UNABLE TO TOLERATE
THE COLD-- INSECTS, REPTILES
AND OTHERS, OCCUPIED THE
UNDERGROUND

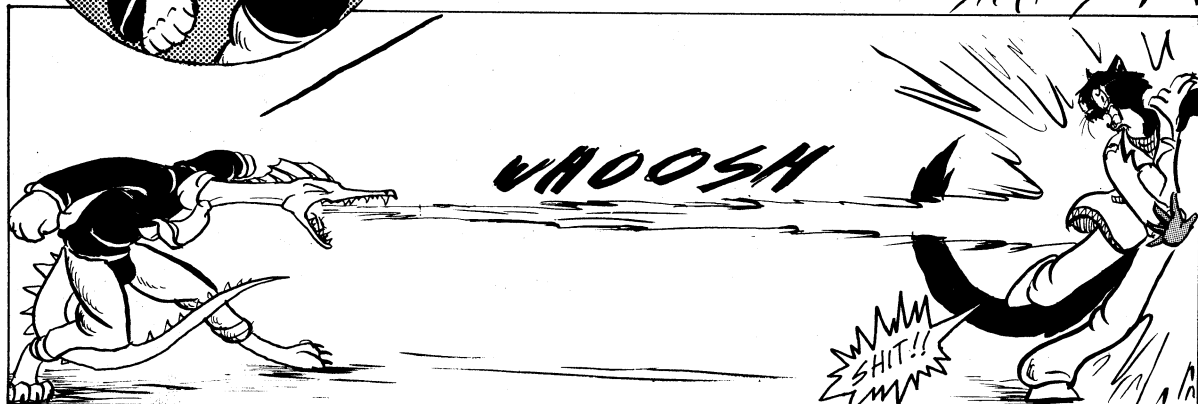
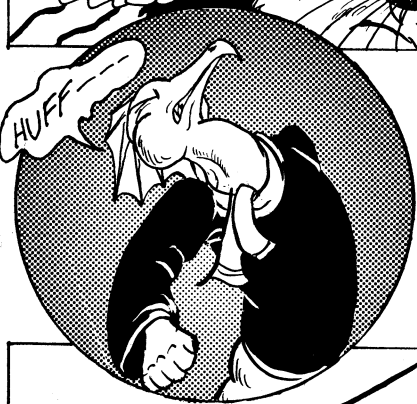
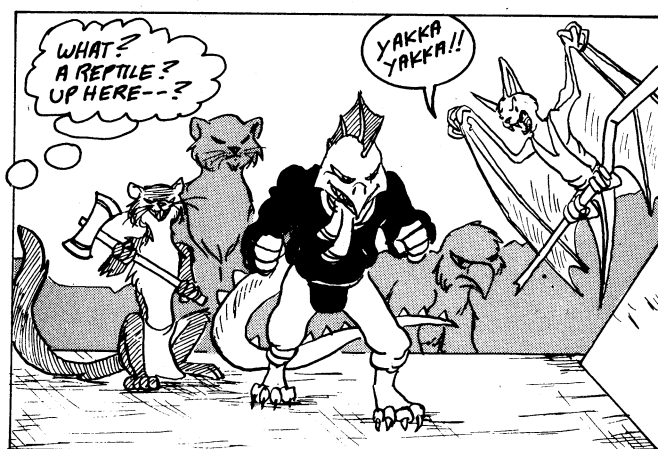
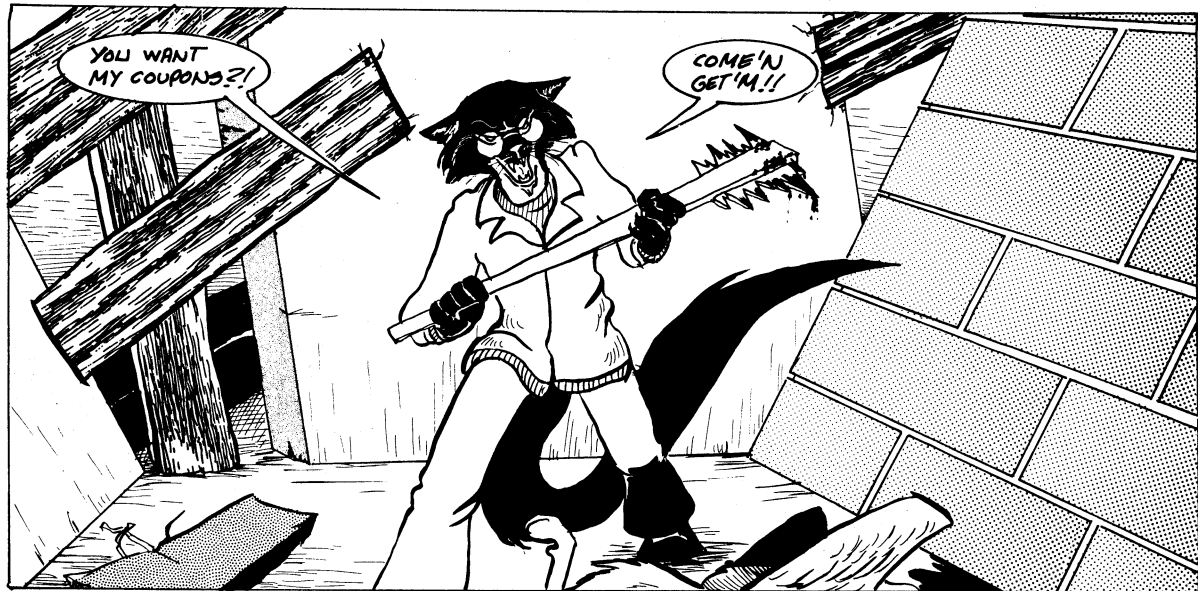
THE MORE EXPOSED UPPER LEVELS
WERE CONTROLLED BY THE
MAMMALS AND BIRDS

EARLY IN THE MONTH ONLY THE
MOST DEFENSELESS GOT ROBBED
OF THEIR FOOD COUPONS

ISTRIBUTION
ODION 8

NO ONE TRIED TO TAKE
ON JACK -- IN THE
BEGINNING.....

BUT AS THE MONTH WORE ON PEOPLE
BECAME HUNGRY ENOUGH TO TRY
TACKLING MORE FORMIDABLE
QUARRY THAN SOFT
POLITICOS.....



HOU
HOOU

HOLY
CREATORS!!

I'VE GOTTA GET
OUTTA HERE FAST!
CAN'T TAKE
A DIRECT
HIT--

BURN'M
CHARLIE!

AH!!

WEEEEKK



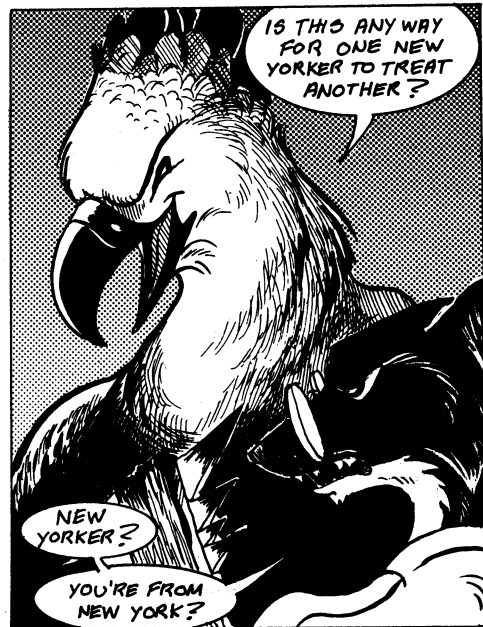


AS THE ATTACKING GANG
FLEES IN TERROR
JACK TURNS TO
FACE THIS
NEW MENACE



PUT AWAY YOUR
LITTLE STICK,
MAMMAL—I
MEAN YOU NO
HARM

GRR



IS THIS ANY WAY
FOR ONE NEW
YORKER TO TREAT
ANOTHER?

NEW
YORKER?

YOU'RE FROM
NEW YORK?

I KNOW YOU—
YOU'RE JACK SALEM,
THE .357 KILLER

I'M IMPRESSED
WITH YOUR PER-
FORMANCE, MOST
NEWCOMERS DON'T
LAST THIS LONG

HOW
DO YOU
KNOW
ME?

WE GET EARTH NEWS-
PAPERS, SOMETIMES

THERE'S SOMEONE HERE
WHO GETS A SATELLITE
FEED, SO I FOUND OUT YOU'D
BEEN SENTENCED TO THE CITY

NOW COME
WITH ME

WHY
SHOULD
I?

BECAUSE IF YOU DON'T
I'LL RIP YOUR GUTS OUT!

SNARDELL

JUST
TRY IT!

HUMM, I DO
LOVE SPIRIT!

AS SOON AS I FOUND
OUT YOU WERE COMING
HERE I WAITED BY
THE ENTRANCE UNTIL
I SAW YOU

WHY?

I DON'T
NEED ANY
HELP!

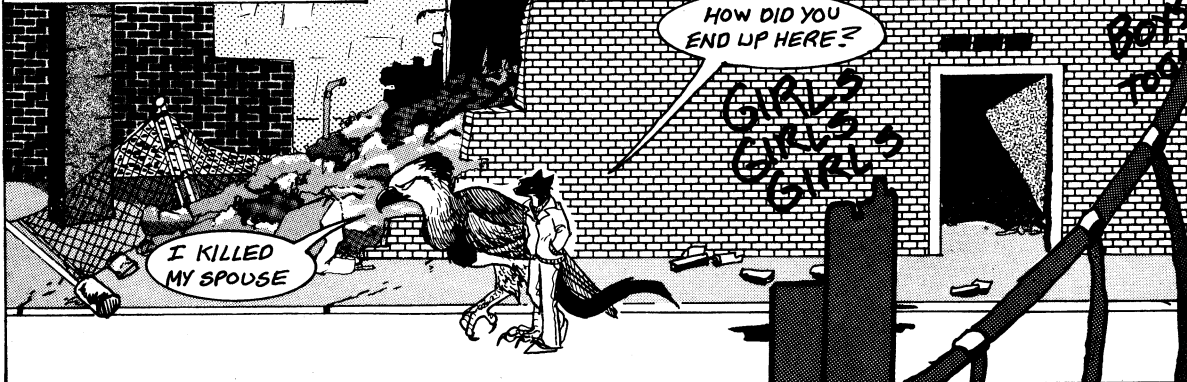
RRR

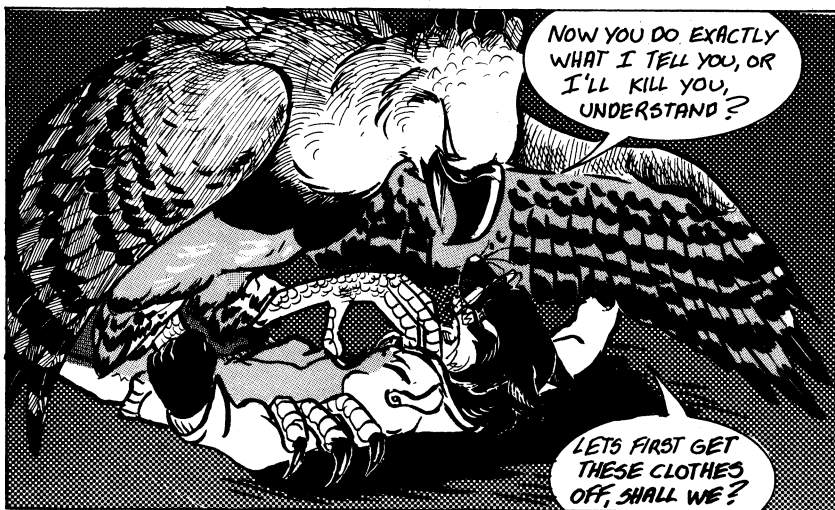
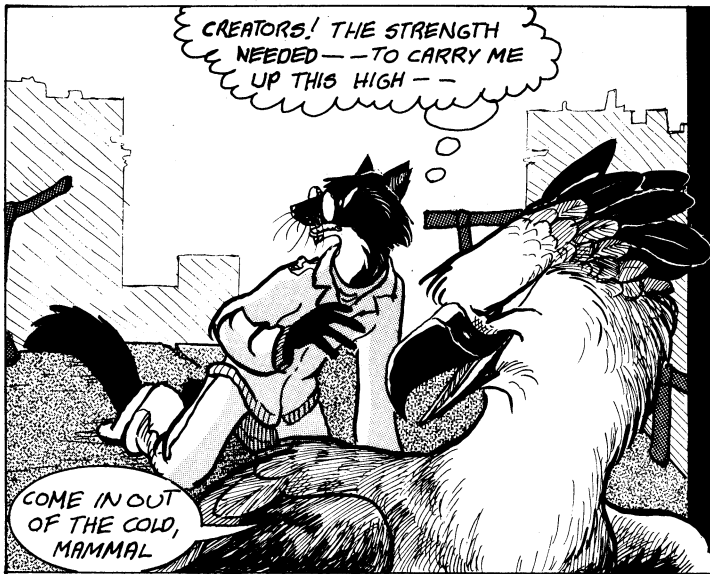
I'VE BEEN
KEEPING
TRACK OF YOU
ALL THIS
TIME

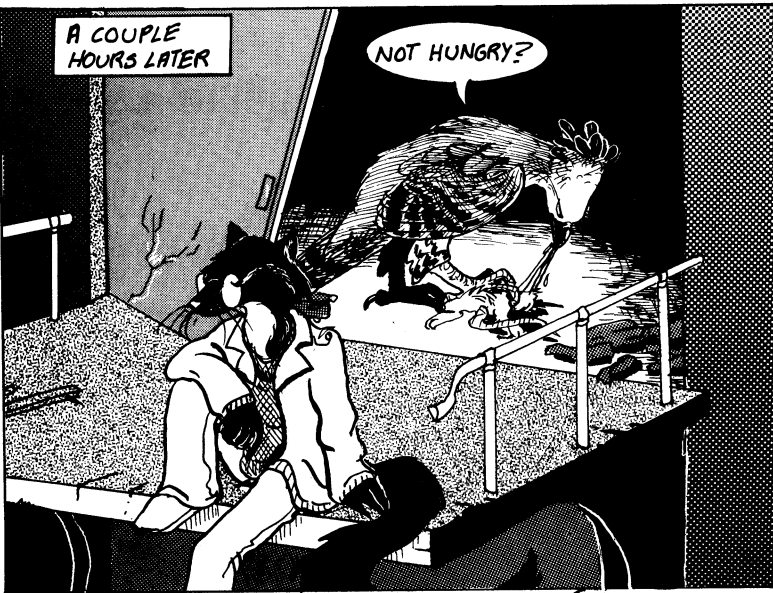
YES?



DECIDING THAT DISCRETION WAS THE BETTER PART OF VALOR, FOR THE TIME BEING, JACK GOES WITH THE HUGE EAGLE, WHOSE NAME, HE LEARNS, IS HARPY







A COUPLE HOURS LATER

NOT HUNGRY?



WHAT DO YOU WANT FROM ME?

HUM?



I THOUGHT THAT WAS OBVIOUS...

BESIDES THAT!

IT'S EASIER FOR A MAMMAL TO DO SOME THINGS.... DEAL WITH FOOD COUPONS... AND THE HUMANS

I WANTED A MALE AROUND ME AGAIN

WHEN I HEARD YOU WERE COMING I KNEW YOU WERE WHO I WANTED



FORGIVE ME IF I'M NOT OVERWHELMED WITH GRATITUDE

YOU WILL BE, IN TIME



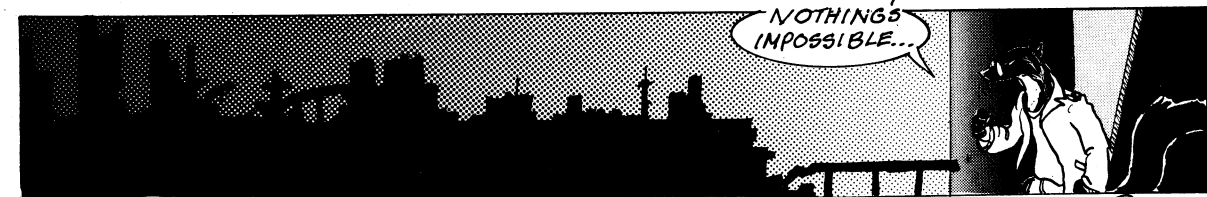
TIME! I'M NOT STAYING HERE FOR THE REST OF MY LIFE!

I'M GETTING OUT!

DON'T YOU WISH!

NO ONE GETS OUT!

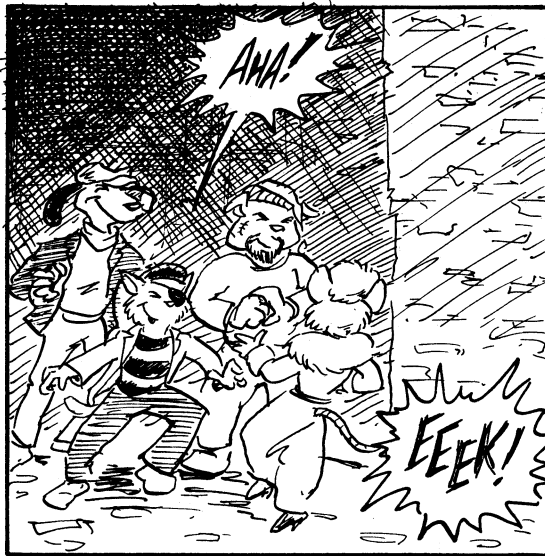
I KNOW! IT'S IMPOSSIBLE!



NOTHING'S IMPOSSIBLE...

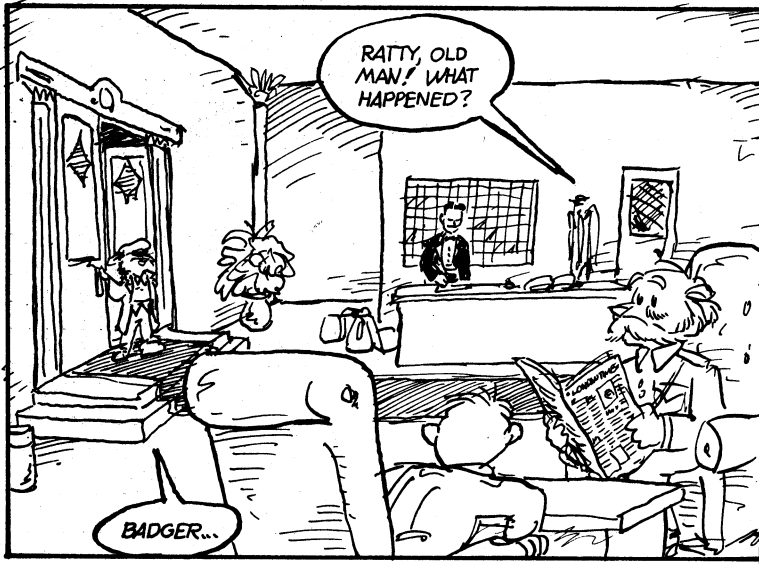


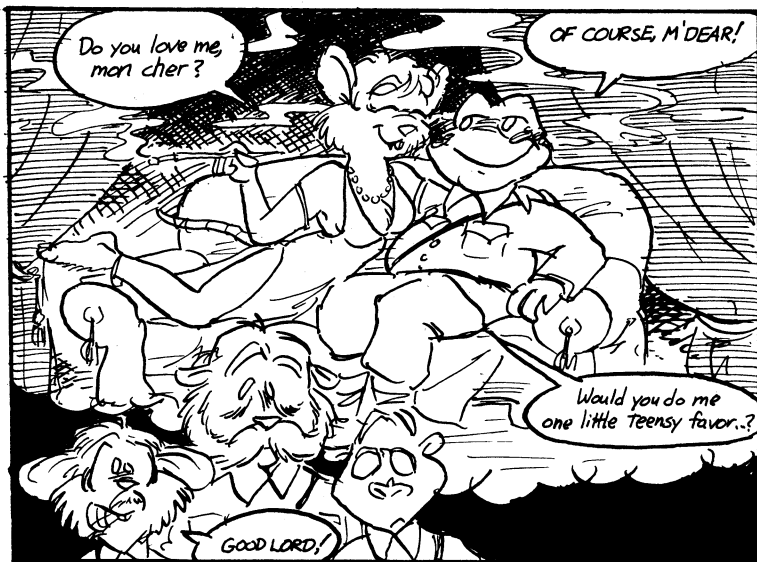
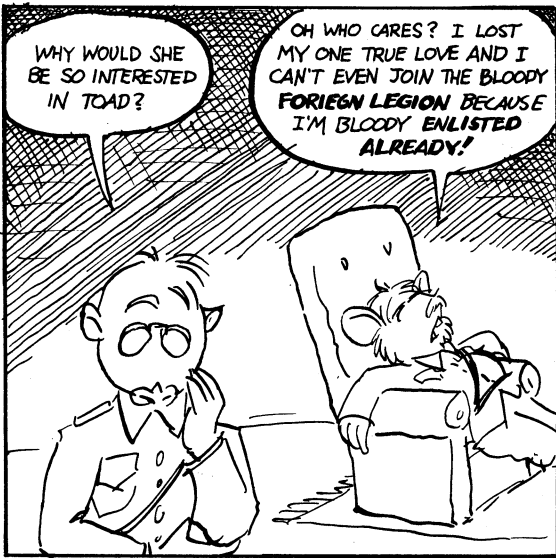












Uni-UNIVERSE

ENTER THE POUNCER!

STEPHAN
PARANZOGRAM

8.95

ENTER THE
WHAT?

HOLY CATS!
A
PALEOFELID!

ES-
CARPMENTS
ARE ALWAYS
DRAWN IN JUST THE
RIGHT SPOT!

DON'T JUMP!

QUITE
ASTONISHING
CAT BREATH!!

SAVE ME THE TROUBLE
OF CLIMBING DOWN AFTER YOU, AND
YOUR DEATH WILL BE QUICK
AND MERCIFUL!

NOW
WHAT WAS I
SUPPOSED TO
REMEMBER?
OH YES

*PHYLLIDA IS MISTAKEN. THE NOBLE
SMILODON SHOWN HERE IS A NEOFELID!
— THE OL' PALEONTOLOGIST.

THANK YOU FOR GIVING ME AN EXTREME REAL-LIFE SITUATION IN WHICH TO PRACTICE THE ART OF BEING EMOTIONALLY FREE OF CIRCUMSTANCE! THE ALL-CONQUERING BLADE IS SHARPENED WITH HARD STONE! ORDINARY MIND IS HABITUATED TO ANXIETY AND NEEDS PRACTICE TO OVERCOME THE REFLEX OF UNHAPPINESS!

NOW THERE'S AN ORIGINAL TACTIC. EVEN SO, YOU WILL BE EATEN!

DEATH HOLDS NO FEARS, EH?

OF COURSE I DON'T WANT TO DIE! BUT WHY SHOULDN'T LIFE—AND DEATH—BE MET WITH A MINIMUM OF FUSS?

WHY SHOULDN'T ONE ENJOY EACH MINUTE, REGARDLESS OF ONE'S PLIGHT? CAN YOU SEE IT?

SINCE LIFE IS A SERIES OF UPS AND DOWNS, WHY NOT TROUCE THE DOWNS BY BEING HAPPY ANYWAY? WHAT'S THE ALTERNATIVE?

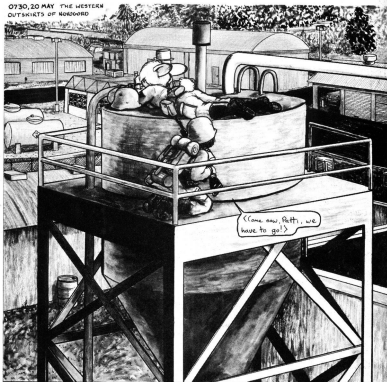
DON'T WORRY, BE HOPPY?

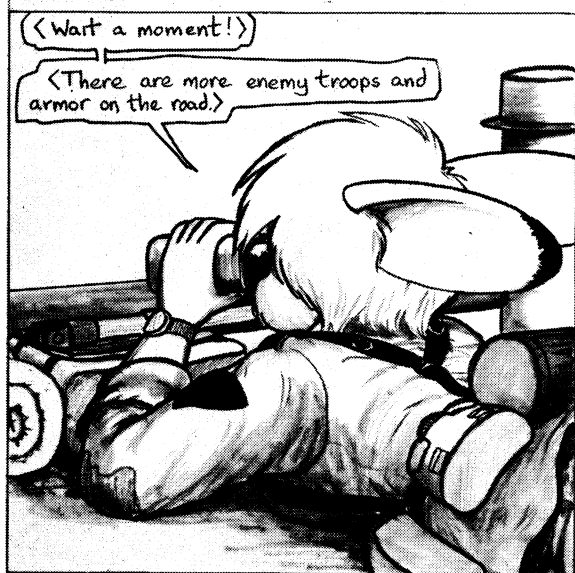
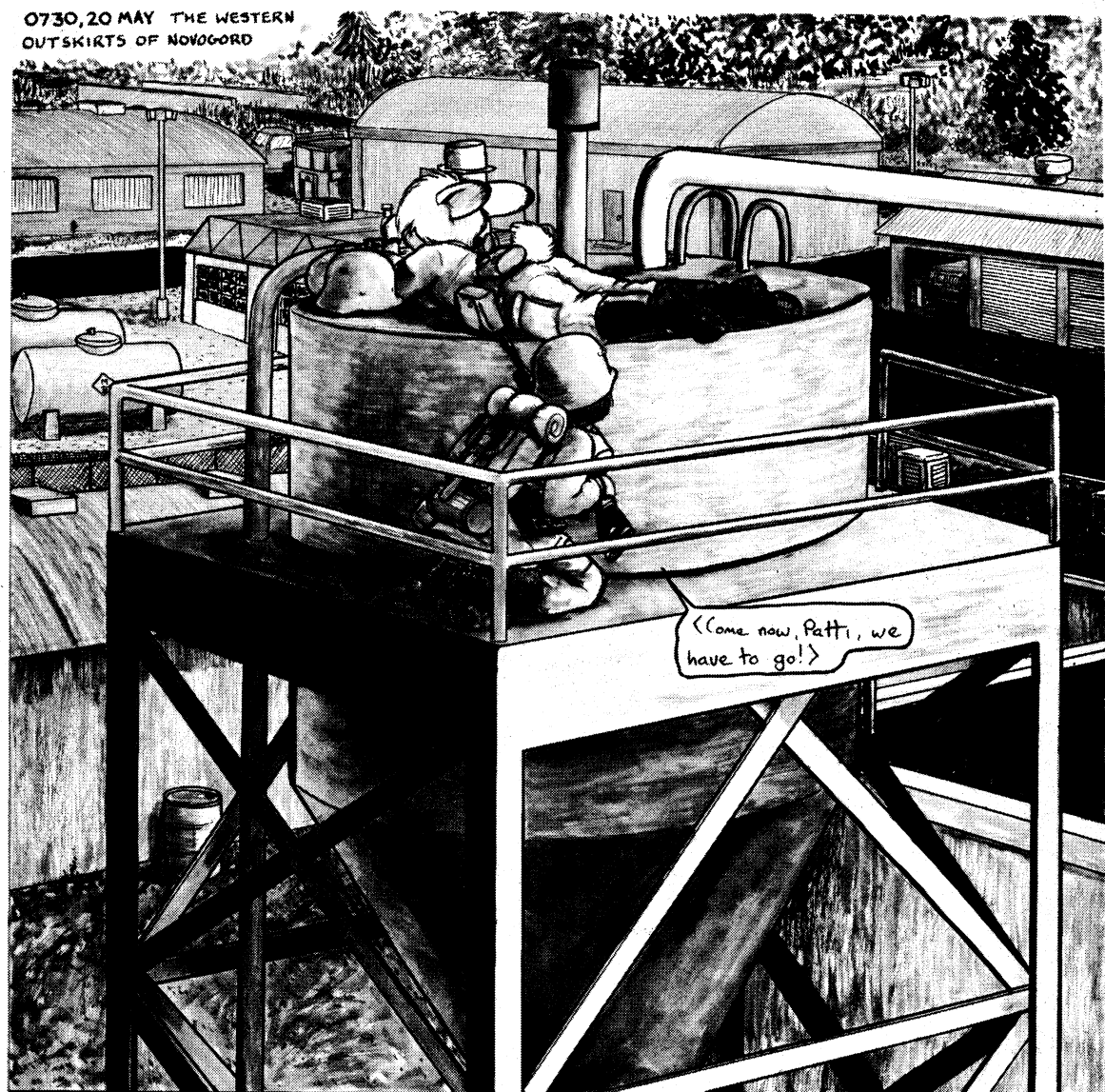
WUFF... OKAY, YOU'RE FREE TO GO! I WAS REALLY IN THE MOOD FOR GIANT GROUND SLOTH, ANYHOW.

BUT THERE'S SO MUCH MORE!

WANT TO SUBSCRIBE TO MY MAGAZINE?

DON'T PUSH YOUR LUCK!







<They are rather disorganized. There is nothing west of us but the front, so they are probably in retreat.>



«What is the status of the Ukrainian troops on the road? You said they have some tanks?»

«Yes, sir, but the tanks are low on fuel, they have little or no ammunition, many of them are damaged. All of the retreating troops coming to us are exhausted, and the wounded are overloading our field hospital. Really, sir, they will be more trouble than help until they have time to recover.»



«Then there is no hope of preventing the attacking Europa forces from linking up with those we have trapped in Novogorod. We must abandon the siege and set up defensive positions East of the city.»

«General Suvorov, your failure to remove the enemy from Novogorod is going to make matters very difficult.»



«Marshal Shabarkov!»



«If you had allowed me to use artillery on the enemy, I would have taken the city days ago!»

«We do not want the city destroyed.»

«Well, now we will not have it at all, because our leaders were worried about property damage.»



«Do not try to place the fault with others, you had plenty of time and men to take the city.»

«Am I under arrest?»

«Of course not. We do not arrest people because they are incapable of doing their jobs. I have a different job for you, without so much responsibility.»



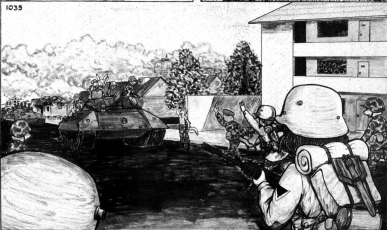
«I will take command personally. You and your staff will join your men in the trenches.»



0945: Advance scouts of the Europa Forces reach the outskirts of Novgorod.



1035



0900: The siege of Novgorod is abandoned. The Eurasian forces withdraw to the east of the town to prevent the enemy from advancing any further. The retreating Ukrainians are forced to abandon their vehicles.



Soon followed by the main body.



(Patti/Sylvana! How many are there? Are they all Finns?)

(There are enough! Just this tank battalion is Finnish. I saw alot of Polish and Latvian soldiers.)



(As soon as everyone catches up, they want us to try and take the eastern Eurasian trenches.)

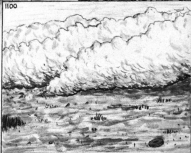
(Thanks for the ride!)

Nohduän neliä, Namie!

(Got a few moments rest while you can.)



POOM!







COMMUNIQUE

LETTERS TO FURRLOUGH

7272 WURZBACH SUITE 204
SAN ANTONIO, TX, 78240

Dear Antarctic Press:

"Watering Hole" is back! "Watering Hole" is back! "Watering Hole" is back! My favorite Furrllough story line has returned. Pat Kelley's unique style grabbed me with the cover of Furrllough #13, and the story inside nailed me. I loved it immediately. Everything about it: the plight of Prof. Washbang, the personalities of his fellow exiles (only recently have I been able to prevent myself from laughing out loud at the thought of the names 'Ron Konkoma' and 'Ooday Twallet'), the range of characters among the law enforcement officers (I wondered how long it would take for Groch's obsessions to jeopardize him), the ruthless machinations of the pitiless Smog (although, now that he has made a-- gasp-- contract with Ja-Teth, he might end up being worthy of pity himself. Smog you'll be sorrteeee...)

I guess you get the picture. It has been quite a while since I did the wide-eyed raving fanboy routine, but it's been even longer than that since I found a comic worthy of said routine. Small-press class-art publishers like you, Antarctic, seem to deliver the majority of titles I like and it behooves one to let a publisher that cares about its books know that the reader cares about them, too. In a manner of speaking, I have done this already. I got the opportunity to meet Pat Kelley last year at ConFurence 5 (where I bought a lot of his sketches) and again this year at ConFurence 6 (where he did a sketch for me-- thanks Pat!) but if I don't actually write Antarctic Press and tell them, it probably doesn't count as much. So I'm writing to tell you. Mission accomplished.

Yours very truly,
Albert Temple,
Concord, CA

Dear Furrllough:

I've been reading books by AP for some time now and I finally decided it was time to write in and tell you guys what a great bunch of books you are producing. I have been reading anthropomorphics for a couple of years now and I have to say some of the best are in Furrllough and the sadly discontinued Wild Life. I agree with Mr. Causey's letter in issue #32... and from the general theme of the letters I see in Furrllough, I have to wonder why sales were too low on Wild Life. When I first started reading Furrllough, the military aspect of it was what interested me, but I have to say that of the two books, Wild Life was my favorite, because versatility was more present. Well, no use crying over spilled milk, eh?

Back to Furrllough. There is something I think I have to say, and I know other readers will probably have the same opinion. "Here Comes a Candle" really deserves to be collected or have its own comic. If something is still extremely popular after 16 sections in a monthly anthology, I think it has the legs to stand on its own. Mary Hanson-Roberts is a wonderful storyteller.

In regards to issue #30, I have to say that I was pleasantly surprised by "Scavengers". The layout and style speak of good things to come from Mark Moore. I await future installments eagerly. Those guys at the top and bottom of the second page are quite mysterious...

To wrap things up, here are a couple of things I'd like to see in future issues of Furrllough: How about occasional interviews with some of the artists/writers, and maybe a little blurb at the end of the issue that highlights things coming up in future issues? Well, I'll write at you later-- got stuff to do.

Thumbs way up,
Mark Krepefa,
Everett, WA

And now, a Tales of the Fehnnik letter...

An open letter to the folks at AP:

The local comic book store is trying to reformat their image, as they've dropped a bunch of the sex titles and have initiated an ad campaign celebrating wholesome comics. Although I don't usually patronize retail

comic outlets, I thought I'd breeze through and see what's up.

Apparently they were telling the truth when they said they endorsed good quality comics. I snagged a copy of Tales of the Fehnnik by Elin Winkler and Pat Kelley, and I'm pleasantly surprised at the warmth, humor, and appeal of the book. In my opinion, this publication presents the best new "furry" story to hit the stands in a long, long time.

One of the best aspects is that characters Zerista and Shayerik inhabit a completely different culture with its own unique architecture, fashion, and customs. I find this much more appealing and engaging than the usual tired retreat of contemporary Western culture and opinion, masquerading as an "alien" continuity or universe. Co-authors Winkler and Kelley have done a great job in projecting a different style of life, where beauty is measured by graceful ears, martial training is expected of both men and women, and marriage is a political, not romantic, convenience.

The architecture looks interesting as well, suggesting lots of classical Greek and Roman structures, with the additional presence of Italian canals. Actually, I'd like to see more of it, as the art in this regard is a bit sparse. Hopefully, future editions of ToTF will show us more about the type of cities in which these people live their lives.

One aspect of the artwork which I find particularly appropriate is the artistic construction of the children. Many artists make the mistake of drawing kids as if they were just very small scaled-down adults, but this is entirely wrong. Young people have their own expressive proportions, large heads and eyes, small faces, short arms and legs, and often, a small rounded torso. Good cartoonists recognize and incorporate these differences. ToTF is a good example of this ability, producing furry children cute enough to hug.

One minor technical complaint-- varying the font size from panel to panel (and even within the panel) is very distracting, and draws attention to the process instead of the story. A great story should have consistent lettering, to further enhance the product. I would recommend careful layout, to provide sufficient space for lettering, and eliminate the need to force-feed the text.

Once again, let me commend the Antarctic Team for creating a delightful addition to the genre. More furry books should be like this, and I hope sales justify further editions of ToTF.

Sincerely,
Jeff Wood,
Moscow, ID

Jeff does the comic Snowbuni for Mu Press-- one of the first funny animal comics I bought, actually! Thanks for writing in, Jeff!-- EW

Top-ten time, top-ten time! Newcomer Mark Moore's "Scavengers" has knocked "The Adventure" off the list! Pretty good for the new kid on the block, eh? Remember, your votes are what determine this list, so let us know what you think! You can vote as often as you like and you can vote for more than one story.

- 1) HERE COMES A CANDLE by Mary Hanson-Roberts
- 2) WATERING HOLE by Pat Kelley
- 3) ZAIBATSU TEARS by Richard Bartrop
- 4) STOSSTRUPP by Ted Sheppard
- 5) BRONZE FUR by Mark Shaw
- 6) ROMANICS by Joe Rosales
- 7) UNDER REALM by Fred Perry
- 8) TARGET PRACTICE by Bill Fitts & Dan Seneres
- 9) STINZ: BAD MEMORIES by Donna Barr
- 10) SCAVENGERS by Mark Moore

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