

 **ECLIPSE**  
COMICS™

NO 1

**BARNES · GALLACCI · DOWLING**

**\$2.00**

CANADA  
\$2.95

# FUSION



# **The PENUMBRA**

WRITE TO: ECLIPSE COMICS - P.O. BOX 199 - GUERNEVILLE - CALIFORNIA - 95446

## ON THE RACKS

### SCOUT no. 15

"Uncle Sam Blues"—Scout has visions of the past and future. Plus, a "Swords of Texas" back-up!

### TALES OF TERROR no. 10

Chuck "Airboy" Dixon, Jose Ortiz, John K. Snyder III, Bob Hardin, Charles Wagner... and a cover painting by Garry Leach!

### FUSION no. 1

St writer Steven Barnes and fan favorite artists Lela Dowling and Steve Gallacci team to introduce a swashbuckling space adventure epic! Plus, Ken Macklin's "Dr. Watchstop!"

### AIRBOY no. 13 and 14

*Bi-weekly excitement!* Davy and Sky start kicking butts as they search to find out who trashed Skywolf's island. Plus, in the Un-told Tale of Skywolf, he meets an old Air Fighters buddy—The Bald Eagle!

### ESPers no. 4

*Now a continuing bi-monthly series!* The ESPers fight for their lives as a nuclear bomb ticks away! Cover by Garry Leach!

### MR. MONSTER'S HI-VOLTAGE

#### SUPER-SCIENCE no. 1

A full 32 page extravaganza—Bob Powell's classic "Vic Torrey and His Flying Saucer!" Mr. Monster continues to bring you great goodies!

### STIG'S INFERNO no. 6

That's right—one of the funniest new titles of the '80s is now an Eclipse comic! Ty Templeton picks up Stig as he's become the supreme ruler of the netherworld!

### P. J. WARLOCK no. 2

P. J. and Herschel confront the evil Per-nicious Dark in her castle as they attempt to save the princess who was changed into a jelly doughnut!

### THE NEW WAVE no. 12

The writer who gave us the widely-acclaimed LOIS LANE mini-series about missing children now tackles the issue of teen-age pregnancy. One of Avalon's friends has a problem...

### ZOT! no. 11

Do we need to say more?! He's back! And so's Jenny, Butch, Peabody and the entire cast of characters from the comic voted Best New Series of 1984!

### LARS OF MARS 3-D SPECIAL no. 1

Jerry "Superman" Siegel and Murphy Anderson create a new Lars story for the first time in 35 years! Super-3-D action with two vintage stories to boot!

### CROSSFIRE no. 18

A \$45,000,000 motion picture is filmdrapped by a man who looks like an outtake from "Rambo." Jay Endicott, fighting bailbondsman goes into action!

### THE NEW DNAGENTS no. 17

The concluding issue, for now! You'll gasp at the simply incredible surprise ending!

### VILLAINS & VIGILANTES no. 2

Condor and Shadowman face the super villains who have made prisoners of the heroes whose group they came to join. Direct from the role playing game!

### MIRACLEMAN no. 11

Alan Moore. John Totleben. Miracleman Book Three begins. Voted the Best New Series in the Kirby Awards!

**CONTROVERSIAL:** One of today's hottest topics, if we are to believe the press that's being given it in our industry, is the subject of comic book violence, comic book sex, and comic book suitability for children. Letters have appeared in trade papers claiming that we are "supposed" to be afraid of an "imminent crackdown" on comics, fostered by the Meese Commission of the 700 Club or some other quasi-official arbiter of taste.

Fans are in a ferment, comic creators are crying about the coming of censorship, retailers are predicting police raids, distributors are demanding blander books while re-ordering heavily on the ones they deplore as "excessively graphic," and publishers don't know whether to run and hide or buy a new wardrobe to wear to that congressional hearing they've been told to expect.

I myself have received a lot of phone calls, asking what I'm going to do about the "censorship crisis" and "the coming witch hunt."

Well, like the man said, all I know is what little I read in the papers. And what I read in the papers, folks, is all about illegal Iranian-Israeli arms deals, Nicaraguan and Afghan Swiss bank accounts, "a national hero" being fired and taking the Fifth, the head of the C.I.A. having seizures, Pentagon graft scandals, the Secretary of State admitting that one of his own ambassadors went behind his back to perform unlawful acts, the President being called a liar by his own ex-employees, and a special prosecutor being called in to see whose offenses are indictable and who will get immunity for ratting on whom.

I doubt that Mr. Meese, the man who is supposed to be about to launch a full-scale attack on comic books, has time to worry about our little four-colour world right now. I imagine he is up to his ankles in something stinky, and shoveling as fast as he can to avoid sinking in it.

In fact, I would say that a good part of the old "war on drugs" and "war on pornography" campaigns were a bread-and-circuses attempt to keep the public entertained while millions of their bucks were being siphoned off to high-bid military suppliers, illicit arms dealers, and fake "minority-owned" cartels like the one Mr. Meese himself owned a large block of stock in.

Yes, yes, yes, there are a lot of dust-kittens under those fancy Washington beds, and I suspect that while they are being swept out into the light of day, nobody is

gonna come knocking on my door and ask me to testify about how my comic books are corrupting the youth of this fair nation. I mean, if the Congress gets a chance to impeach the President, they won't waste time on a poor small fish like me!

Actually, nobody is after any of us, and, aside from the usual, occasional "parental outrage" story on some local television show, nothing at all is happening to lead me to believe that comics are due for any special form of attack. I can listen to the Larry King radio show any night of the week and hear a dozen callers rave about how "the Jews" are responsible for every evil act in the history of the world, but I never hear *anyone* blame comic books for destroying the morality of the nation. If this supposed "witch hunt" were really happening, we'd be hearing about it on radio talk shows, believe me. That's where the pulse of the nation beats, and right now it's beating hot and heavy about illegal arms deals and the Super Bowl. Comic books aren't even on the agenda.

But still we have this industry paranoia, and still we have long, worried editorials on the subject of "censoring ourselves before someone imposes censorship upon us."

Has it ever occurred to you that there might be people in our own industry who want to see censorship imposed and who have decided to "cry wolf" to frighten us into bowing to their desires?

I am reminded of a great, a classic poem which contains these lines:

**Phone's tapped, anyway  
Maggie says that many say  
they must bust in early May,  
orders from the D.A.**

And in these supposedly troubled, but not so hard times, I take comfort from the moral conclusion drawn in that same poem. You remember the words, don't you? That's right...

**Don't follow leaders  
Watch your parking meters!**

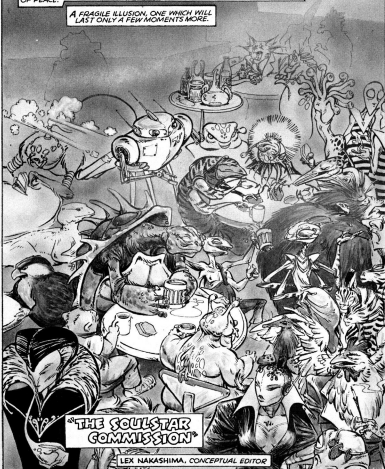
Yes, people, if everyone only watched their own parking meters, instead of trying to watch the other guy's for him, there'd be a lot less dead soldiers in far away countries, and a lot more happiness right here at home.

*catherine yronwode*  
⊕

THE PLACE: A PLANET CALLED SKELOS. LONG AGO, SKELOS GLITTERED WITH WEALTH, BUT THAT LIGHT HAS SINCE DIMMED. FOR THIS IS A TIME AFTER THE COLLAPSE OF THE FIRST CONFEDERATION, AFTER THE INSANITY OF THE GENETECH WARS. NOW SKELOS IS A BAD JOKE, JUST ANOTHER BUG-RULED BACKWATER PLANET IN A MINOR SYSTEM. FEW HERE HAVE HOPES BEYOND TOMORROW: A FLIGHT TO ANOTHER SYSTEM, THE HOPE OF A FAST TRADE OR BLACKMARKET PURCHASE, A LUCKY TURN OF THE CARDS.

THE GROUNDLING. A FAVORITE HAUNT OF GAMBLERS, UNEMPLOYED MINERS, THIEVES AND DREAM DEALERS. BARS LIKE THE GROUNDLING THRIVE ON SHATTERED DREAMS. WITH INTOXICANTS CHEMICAL, ELECTRICAL OR FLESHLY, THEY OFFER BLESSED FORGETFULNESS, OR THE ILLUSION OF PEACE.

A FRAGILE ILLUSION, ONE WHICH WILL LAST ONLY A FEW MOMENTS MORE.



## "THE SOULSTAR COMMISSION"

LEX NAKASHIMA, CONCEPTUAL EDITOR





AGAIN, YOU  
READY TO  
LOSE?

I'M READY TO WIN.  
ALL RIGHT, LET'S  
PLAY A LITTLE XITCHK  
INSANITY.

Arrr. MY HEAD HURTS.  
ANOTHER NEW GAME?

LUCK'S GOTTA  
CHANGE. NOW, MY  
DEAL. TWOS ARE  
WILD IF YOU HAVE A  
THREE. THREES  
ARE WILD IF YOU  
HAVE A FOUR,  
AND, ah--

FOURS ARE ALWAYS WILD.

WHAT ABOUT SEVENS?  
I REMEMBER SOMETHING  
ABOUT SEVENS.

A PAIR OF NATURAL  
SEVENS TAKES THE POT.  
YOU HAVE TO PLAY  
THE THREE OR FOUR  
THAT MAKES THE  
OTHER CARDS WILD.

RIGHT. AND,  
ah... FOURS ARE  
ALWAYS WILD.

BRAVO. DOW--DON'T  
YOU THINK YOU'VE  
LOST ENOUGH? OR  
DRUNK ENOUGH?  
MAYBE BOTH. THERE  
JUST MIGHT BE A  
CONNECTION THERE.

IT'S STRATEGY. EIGHT-LEGS IS  
GONNA MAKE A MISTAKE.

ONLY IF SHE  
TAKES YOUR  
YOU.

YOU  
HAVE NO  
FAITH.

IF YOU  
THINK PRAYER  
WILL HELP, GO  
RIGHT AHEAD.

LET'S START WITH  
TEN C'S. CARZ?

Rrrr. IN.

AND THE  
MYSTERY  
WOMAN?

I'LL  
RAISE  
YOU.  
LOVER.

MAMMALS.



PENTAGON? TETRANGLE? I HAVE ONE POLYMORPH LEFT--



CHEE CHEE CHEE...



DOUBLE YOU SAID. MONEY IS TIME TO SEE.



THE HELL IT IS. YOU WERE BRACING YOURSELF WITH YOUR OTHER LEGS. THE BET IS OFF.

WELSH! WELSH! YOU PAY.

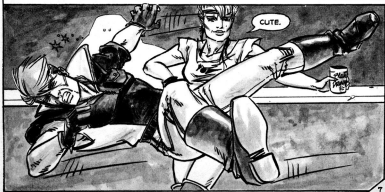


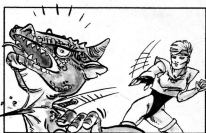
DOW...

STAY OUT OF THIS. I SAY YOU'RE A CHEAT. WHAT HAVE YOU GOT TO SAY...?









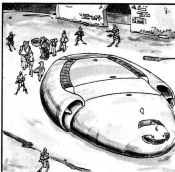






KEEP TALKING.

NEXT TIME WE FINISH,  
I SUCK YOUR MARROW.



WHERE'S THE WOMAN  
WHO PLAYED POKER  
WITH US?

PUT YOUR  
PANTS BACK ON.  
SHE WAS GONE  
BEFORE THE  
OFFICIALS  
ARRIVED.



HOW DO I GET INTO THESE  
THINGS. I WON'T HAVE  
BAIL UNTIL NEXT WEEK.  
GAME CLEANED ME OUT.



DON'T WORRY. INDIO  
WILL GET ME OUT. I'LL  
HELP YOU.



WHO IS INDIO?

THE REASON  
HE SHOULD KEEP  
HIS PANTS ON.  
OUR CAPTAIN.  
WHEN SHE FINDS  
OUT, OUCH.

WHERE  
IS SHE  
NOW...?



GOOD QUESTION.  
COME ON, INDIO--  
DON'T LEAVE ME  
HANGING.

PLACE: THE L-5 POINT BETWEEN SKELOS AND ONE OF HER THREE DEAD MOONS.

ONCE, YEARS BEFORE, MEN FOUGHT HERE, ARCED THROUGH THE HEAVENS IN SHIPS TOO FAST TO NEED THE GUIDANCE OF A LIVING HAND. SEALED BLINDLY INTO THEIR CRASHCOUCHES, THEY BREATHED STERILE AIR AND WAITED AS COMPUTERS DECIDED WHO WOULD LIVE AND WHO WOULD DIE.

AND HERE THEY DIED SCREAMING, OR WITHOUT THE TIME TO SCREAM. PROUD BATTLE CRUISER AND HUMBLE TWO-MAN FIGHTER, TROOP SHIP AND CARGO VESSEL, FOUND THEIR ENDING HERE IN THE SKELOS SYSTEM. AND ALL, IN TIME, WERE SWEEPED CALLOUSLY ASIDE, CLUMPED WHERE THEY CAN OFFER NO INJURY TO TRADE OR PASSENGER LINERS.

TAN! I WANT THE SENSORY MATRIX RE-EMBEDDED NOW! NO MORE EXCUSES!

ALL READINGS ARE IN NOMINAL RANGE.

WE DIDN'T REFIT THE GUIDANCE SYSTEM TO GET "NOMINAL" RESULTS. TAN! WHERE ARE YOU?

NAG NAG NAG. MAYBE I LINK CONSOLE WITH MEDICOMP, ey? MAYBE SHE LIKE STICKING HANDS INTO OWN STOMACH. Heh heh heh.

TAN. WHAT WAS THAT?

I SAID, LIKE, CONSOLE READY IN MINUTE, CAP'N.

Ah hah. TEST BEGINS IN TWENTY SECONDS, WHETHER YOU'RE THROUGH OR NOT. IT'S YOUR FURRY LITTLE TAIL IF YOU HAVEN'T SEALED THE CONNECTIONS.

STALL, CAP'N. SLAVERY AND MURDER ILLEGAL.

IF YOU'RE A SLAVE, YOU'D BETTER STOP CASHING MY CHITS.

WE'VE GOT 98%... CAPTAIN, 105% POWER. READY FOR TEST.

GOOD GOING, TAN. GET OUT OF THERE.

Ey, FINESTKIND. MAKE A DO?

LET'S MAKE A DO. GIVE ME MANUAL.

I LOVE THIS PART.

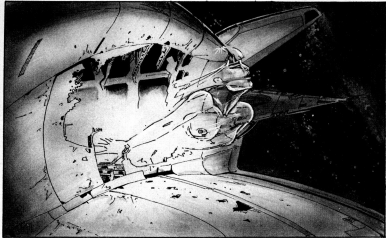
"Uh... INDIO...?"

"CAPTAIN?"

WORKS!  
WORKS! IS  
BEAUTY, ey?

ALMOST  
THE REAL  
THING.

ALL RIGHT, IT WORKS.  
LET'S GET BACK TO  
SKELOS. DOW AND THE  
OTHERS ARE WAITING.  
Ah...CAPTAIN...?





"THIS IS REGISTERED CRAFT TSUNAMI. THAT'S TANGO SAM LUMBER NEMO ALPHA MINI EYEBALL. RETURNING TO CRYSTAL STATE COMMERCIAL PORT 'EPSILON.' AWAITING CLEARANCE."




"TSUNAMI, THIS IS EPSILON. YOU ARE CLEARED FOR LANDING, PLEASE REPORT TO SECURITY ON ARRIVAL."



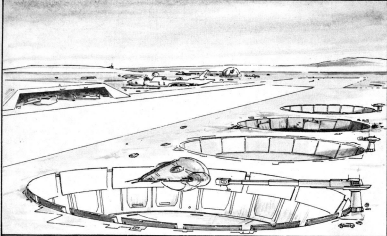
SECURITY? WHAT NOW? LATER.

ALSHAIN, LANDING CUSHIONS OP?



WE HAVE FULL NUMBERS ALL FACTORS. LANDING CUSH. ENERGY FIELDS DAMPENED. ALL GUIDANCE LOCKED IN AND READY FOR AUTO.

AUTO ENGAGED.



IT AIN'T HOME, BUT IT'S SOLID. LET'S COLLECT OUR CREW AND GET OUT OF HERE.

REMEMBER THE SECURITY CALL.

THE VOICE OF MY CONSCIENCE. ALL RIGHT, I'LL CHECK WITH 'EM FIRST.



ALL YOURS. HAVE HER READY TO LIFT IN SIX HOURS.

HOW'S THE NEW SENSE LINK WORKING?

FINESTKIND IS GENIUS, OF COURSE



DOES THAT SHADOWFAX HAVE AN OPERATIONAL NULLSCAN?

OPERATIONAL, BUT IMPOUNDED BY STATE. TOO BAD. THE RIGHT SMUGGLER COULD MAKE A LOT OF MONEY.

I FIND THE VERY SUBJECT DISTASTEFUL.

RIGHT.











I'M NOT HAPPY. I GO INTO RUT IN SIX WEEKS. I'LL SPEND THE BEST SEASON OF MY LIFE DIGGING IN THE MINES.

DON'T WORRY. INDIO WON'T LEAVE US HERE.



YEAH—BUT YOU'RE HER CREW. WHERE DOES THAT LEAVE ME?



SHE WON'T LEAVE A FRIEND OF MINE IN ENEMY HANDS.

YOU! PINK ONE! CHATTERING MUST STOP. REST I WANT.

YOU'LL GET PLENTY OF REST IN THE MINES, EIGHT BALL.



STRINGY YOU ARE. PUTRIFY I LET YOU SIT, FOUR-THREE DAYS. THEN I HUSK YOU.

SHE'S A LOT OF LAUGHS.



I DON'T LIKE THE IDEA OF SLEEPING WITH THAT SPIDER. WHY DID THEY PUT US ALL IN THE SAME CELL?

PROBABLY FIGURED WE'D SORT IT OUT AMONG US AND SAVE 'EM SOME COURT TIME. ARE YOU SURE THIS INDIO OF YOURS CAN GET US OUT?



HEY. SHE'D DO ANYTHING FOR THIS FACE.

I'M GOING TO BE SICK.



INDIO! SPEAK OF AN ANGEL. HOW LONG WILL IT TAKE TO GET US OUT?

ABOUT FIVE TO TEN. YOU'VE REALLY DONE IT THIS TIME.



YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND. IT WAS JUST A FRIENDLY BRAWL..

SOMEBODY ENDED UP WITH A FRIENDLY KNIFE IN THEIR THROAT. YOURS?

I DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT IT. YOU'VE GOT TO BELIEVE ME.

IT DOESN'T MATTER WHAT I BELIEVE, OR WANT TO BELIEVE. IT'S OUT OF MY HANDS, DOW. I JUST CAME TO SAY GOODBYE.



YOU WHAT??

YOU CAN'T JUST LEAVE US HERE!

I'M SORRY YOU GOT MIXED UP WITH THIS LOSER, HAVEN. HOPE YOU'LL CHOOSE YOUR 'FRIENDS' MORE CAREFULLY FROM NOW ON.



HE'S NOT MY FRIEND!

INDIO! YOU CAN'T DO THIS. AFTER ALL WE'VE ...I THOUGHT...

IT MUST BE LOVE.

CHEE CHEE CHEE!

Oh, SHUT UP.



WHA--



-MMPH?!

QUIET, BY??  
MINES NOT GOOD  
FOR MY FUR..



TAN?!

WHO ELSE?  
ALWAYS GET  
DIRTY JOBS.

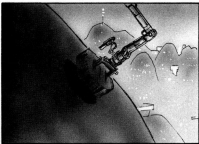


NO! MUST  
TAKE US!

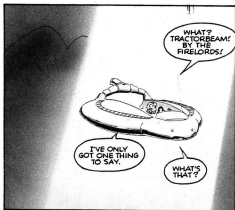
REMEMBER  
ME IN THE  
MINES,  
EIGHTBALL.

KLAK!

REEEEEE!







...TO BE CONTINUED

# TAKE OFF



ECLIPSE COMICS • P.O. BOX 199 • GUERNEVILLE, CALIFORNIA 95446

Welcome to the first issue of **FUSION**! In this issue you will meet the main cast of **FUSION**, characters who will be loitering about these monochromatic pages for quite some time (that is, those members of the crew who survive the mayhem to come). In future issues we will see how this crew endures in the waning fires of a galaxy torn by a massive war.

The crew's first adventure is a five-parter called "**Soulstar Commission**." It was written by **Steven Barnes**, new to comics but certainly not new to writing. You may wish to check out some of his novels, which can be found in the science fiction section of any reasonable book store.

As far as artistic chores go, the work is pretty evenly divided between Gallacci and Dowling in a complex, arcane sort of way. Gallacci does most of the rough layout and toning, while he and Lela pretty much share the pencilling and inking. For you Gallacci fans out there, it will be harder to spot the specifics of Steve's work because of the way he adapted his work to Lela's style. One place he really stands out is with the technical details: ships, electrical stuff, ducting, etc. Lela does great ducks, but ducting? Terrible!

Then there's **Lois Buhalls**, a letterer so talented that it makes my ears bleed. Rounding up the creative crew is **Ken Macklin**, who will be dropping by now and then with one of his **DR. WATCHSTOP** stories. He's a genius.

That's pretty much it. If you are not already familiar with **cat** and **Dean**, then I will suggest you look up more titles in the **Eclipse** line: it speaks for what they are better than anything I could write. And what exactly is my job? Hard to say. You know how a termite needs a certain type of **parasite** in its digestive tract to keep it alive? Yeah, well that's the sort of the role I play.

In order to encourage letters and possibly liven up this part of the comic, there will be a contest in every issue, complete with cheap prizes! The winners will be determined by the cleverness and correctness of their answer. Originality always counts. All decisions are final. If I know you, you're probably ineligible.

The prize this month will go to the person who comes up with the most twisted, but playable, variation of draw or stud poker. Originality counts—get out your copies of **Hoyle's!** Oh, and *anyone who suggests a lowball game using a pinochle deck will be defenestrated on general principle.*

The prize is: (really!) THE SPIDER WEBS AND DUST FROM BEHIND LELA'S BED AND A PORTRAIT OF THE ENTIRE TSUNAMI CREW DRAWN ON A BOWLING BALL! (Or if requested, the same portrait drawn on paper by both Steve and Lela.)

All answers must be received by March 1, 1987.



"IT'S  
ABOUT  
A GUY  
THAT'S  
DEAD."

# STIG'S INFERNO!

TM  
by TY TEMPLETON

"What do you  
mean you  
haven't tried  
it yet?!"

from

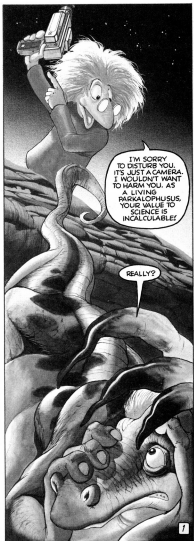


# Dr. Watchstop

IN  
"UNIQUE SPECIMEN"



STORY AND ART: KEN MACKLIN  
LETTERING: L. LOIS BUHALIS



THIS IS WONDERFUL...  
THOUGH THERE HAVE BEEN  
MANY SIGNS OF YOUR  
EXISTENCE, NONE HAVE  
BEEN SUBSTANTIATED  
WITH EVIDENCE...  
UNTIL NOW, OF  
COURSE.

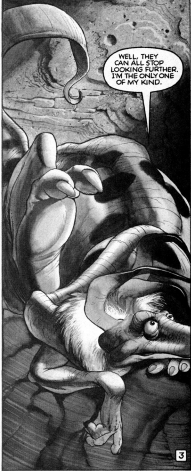
IN TRUTH, YOU ARE THE  
ONLY REMARKABLE THING  
ABOUT THIS DESOLATE  
WORLD.

NO RESOURCES  
TO INTEREST  
INDUSTRIALIZED  
RACES... NO ARTIFACTS  
OF PAST CIVILIZATIONS.  
EVEN THE GEOLOGY  
IS NOT UNIQUE.

BUT NONETHELESS,  
HUNDREDS OF TEAMS  
OF SCIENTISTS HAVE  
COMBED THIS WORLD  
RECENTLY, HOPING  
TO FIND THE  
LEGENDARY  
PARKALOPHUSUS.  
THAT'S YOU?



WELL, THEY  
CAN ALL STOP  
LOOKING FURTHER.  
I'M THE ONLY ONE  
OF MY KIND.





NO OTHERS?

NO FAMILY.  
NOPE...JUST ME...  
ROAMING THE  
BARREN PLAINS  
ALONE...AWAITING  
EXTINCTION.



MY HEART GOES  
OUT TO YOU. I  
CONFESS THAT MY  
INTENTION WAS  
TO OFFER YOU A  
POSITION OF  
PERMANENT  
EXHIBIT AT THE  
INTER-SOLAR  
ZOOLOGICAL  
SOCIETY ZOO  
ON POLLUX IV  
WHERE ALL  
YOUR NEEDS  
WOULD BE  
MET.

...BUT OUT  
OF RESPECT  
FOR YOUR  
SITUATION AND  
MOST PRIVATE  
SADNESS, I'M  
CONTENT TO  
LEAVE YOU  
WITH YOUR  
DIGNITY AND  
REPORT  
NOTHING  
OF THIS.

FREE FOOD  
AND SHELTER FOR  
LIFE...I COULD GO  
FOR THAT?





WAIT?  
RECONSIDER...  
MY NEEDS WOULD  
BE FEW... FIVE  
MEALS A DAY, A  
POOL... PERHAPS  
SOME VIDEO  
ENTERTAINMENT..

I'M SURE THE  
CURATORS ON  
POLLUX IX  
WOULD SEE  
THAT YOUR  
FINAL DAYS  
ARE  
PLEASANT.



SO, DO  
YOU THINK  
IT WORKED?  
SUPPOSE FRED  
GETS LONELY AND  
TELLS THEM THAT  
THERE ARE  
THREE MILLION  
MORE OF US  
DOWN HERE?

OH, HE'LL  
PROBABLY  
GET BORED IN  
A COUPLE  
THOUSAND  
YEARS AND SPILL  
THE BEANS, BUT  
AT LEAST WE'LL  
HAVE SOME  
PEACE AND QUIET  
FOR A WHILE.

End

# BACK ISSUES

**BACK ISSUES ARE BACK IN STOCK!** We are happy to once again offer you back issues of Eclipse Comics and Albums. Because so many people have inquired about or sent money for material that is temporarily out of stock, we are listing the status of EVERY item Eclipse has ever published, whether available or not at this time. Check future ads, as new titles will be added and many "sold out" items will be back in stock as soon as we acquire copies to sell. **ALL PRICES ARE POST-PAID. NO MINIMUM ORDER. PAY IN U.S. FUNDS ONLY, PLEASE.**

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12.	SOLD OUT
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17.	3.50
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