

FUSION

TM



SA SHUPET 01

The PENUMBRA

WRITE TO: ECLIPSE COMICS - P.O. BOX 1099 - FORESTVILLE - CALIFORNIA - 95436

ON THE RACKS

- **AIRBOY no. 49 Special Issue!**
The Air Fighters face their darkest hour as *The Airboy Diary* concludes with "Misery Triumphant!"
- **CYBER 7 no. 4**
Cunningham's evil plan pits Natsuko and his friends against ferocious non-human assassins!
- **DIRTY PAIR II #1 New Mini-Series!**
The Dirty Pair go up against Shasti, a renegade 3WA agent who had betrayed the Pair years ago, when they first joined the 3WA!!
- **JAMES BOND 007: LICENCE TO KILL**
Bond resigns from M15 to go on a mission of personal vengeance, in the official adaptation to the newest James Bond movie! Art by Mike Grell, et. al.
- **POINT BLANK no. 2**
Now expanded to 40 pages! Two of Europe's best adventure strips continue: "The Case of Marion Coleman," and "Dieter Lumpen."
- **HONKEYTONK SUE: THE MAN CANYON**
The Queen of Country Swing takes on the men of Manhattan in a story about relationships, money, coyotes and abortions!
- **SCOUT: WAR SHAMAN no. 14**
Scout must fight his way through Redwire's troops to be reunited with his sons! The three-part epic begins!
- **APPLESEED: BOOK TWO no. 5**
The city computer, Gaia, is on a killing spree, but could it be doing the right thing? Deunan, Briareos and Hitomi must decide in the finale to *Appleseed: Book Two*!
- **ZOTI #27**
"Ring In The New"—Part 2! Zoti's New Year's Eve party continues! And *Zoti* fans across the country will find out who "wins" the pie-in-the-face contest!
- **CLIVE BARKER: TAPPING THE VEIN no. 1 New Series!**
Comics' greatest artists—John Bolton, Klaus Janson, Scott Hampton, Denys Cowan, John Tottleben, Bo Hampton, Dave McKean, P. Craig Russell—illustrate Clive Barker's best stories from *The Books of Blood*. Clive Barker says, "My nightmares look like this!"

COLD FRONT: There are two windows in the room where i do my typesetting. One looks to the East and the other to the North. I can't look out both windows at once, but by moving my head from side to side i can create a composite mental picture of the sky and the trees beyond the wall.

Right now, in late May, in late afternoon, the composite picture formed by the two views is schizophrenic. The Eastern window shows bright sunlight, dappled green leaves and a blue sky, while the Northern window looks out on darkly wind-tossed trees under a grey sky. There's a cold front moving in, and the dividing line must run right through the computer screen in front of me. I'm sure i could see it if there weren't a wall in the way.

Is this a metaphor? Something about how looking at life through different viewpoints gives you different opinions of what's going on? Naw, it has too long a set-up to be a good metaphor. A good metaphor, especially one in a 570 word editorial, can be put across in exactly one half of a sentence. That one took two paragraphs and i hadn't finished with it yet before it grounded out to centerfield.

It's just a weather report, that's all. The fact that the wind has now crossed to toss the leaves of the Eastern outlook while the sun is still shining behind them isn't a metaphor either, although in the right hands it might be.

If the weather isn't a metaphor, maybe we can have a metaphor about the weather. Right now a giant hand is parting the sky overhead, running a comb through Brilcreamed hair. I sit upon the parting line, where the gleaming

scalp shows thinly through.

Maybe it should be a metaphor after all. Maybe it is one. But if it is, i don't know what for. That's the thing about life; sometimes there's no point in it at all, it's just a series of weather reports in search of a metaphoric context.

Ah, yes, a meta-metaphor. How darling.

Can we have a meta-meta-metaphor, huh? Please, huh, with sprinkles and frosting on?


No, not now, dear; we have an editorial to write.

You know, the whole time i've been typing, i've kept looking up to check the views. I've thought some change was sure to come. If you can't use a metaphor, you can always fall back upon an omen.

Should the Eastern sky have grown dark and cloudy, it would have influenced the way these words would have turned. Likewise, i was prepared to take a different tack if the North had begun to shine and bluey sparkle.

Twice i thought the balance had been broken. The first time i even began to write about it (that was back in paragraph five), but before i had a sentence out, the line of demarcation had returned to its starting point. Now even the windy toss of leaves in the East has gone. All is bright sun and summer there, and to the North, the winter still frowns down.

My space is filled, my metaphors are meaningless, it's just a weather report, and you will never know which side won, the cold air or the warm. Life's like that sometimes, ain't it?

catherine yronwode


HAVEN'S SOUL WANDERS BETWEEN LIFE AND DEATH;
INDIO'S THOUGHTS BETWEEN PRESENT...



...AND PAST, TWENTY-THREE YEARS
AGO IN THE FORTUNA SYSTEM.

ALL BUT TWO DIED IN THE
GENE/TECH BATTLE.



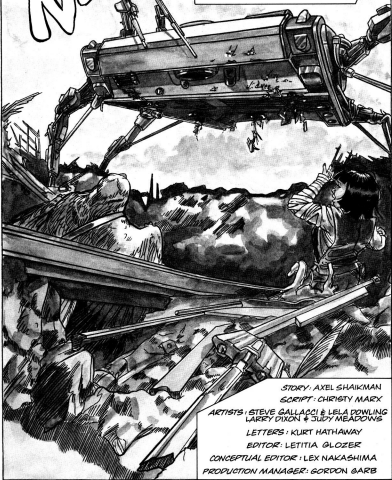
HAVEN, HEALER OF
THE FLYERS...

...AND INDIO, CHILD
OF THE THREE SUNS
CLAN.



"THE NESTLING" Part 2

AND BOTH STAND FROZEN BEFORE THE ROVER WHICH WAITS WITH DEADLY MACHINE PATIENCE TO KILL ANYTHING THAT MOVES.



STORY: AXEL SHAIKMAN

SCRIPT: CHRISTY MARX

ARTISTS: STEVE GALLACCI & LELA DOWLING
LARRY DIXON & JUDY MEADOWS

LETTERS: KURT HATHAWAY

EDITOR: LETITIA GLOZER

CONCEPTUAL EDITOR: LEX NAKASHIMA

PRODUCTION MANAGER: GORDON GARB





















Hrrrk...
hrrrk...
hrrrk...



WHAT'S WRONG?
WHY ARE YOU
MAKING THOSE
NOISES?

NOTHING.
NOTHING.



YOU'RE
SICK!
FEVER SH-SH-
YOU SHOULD'VE
CHANGED THE
DRESSING LAST
NIGHT.



HAVEN!
HAVEN, TELL
ME WHAT
TO DO!



Ohhh...
WHERE...
INDIO?



I THOUGHT YOU'D
NEVER WAKE UP.

HOW
LONG WAS
I SICK?



TWO DAYS. I...
I CHANGED THE
BANDAGE
AND PUT ON THE
MEDICINE LIKE
BEFORE.

I FEEL MUCH BETTER.
YOU DID VERY WELL, INDIO.
YOU PROBABLY SAVED
MY LIFE.







GO ON, INDIO.
TAKE MY BACK TOO.
YOU'RE YOUNG AND
STRONG. YOU'LL FIND
A WAY TO SURVIVE.
THERE'S NOTHING
LEFT FOR ME.



WHY SHOULDN'T
SHE GO? I'D BE
NOTHING BUT A
BURDEN TO HER.
LET HER FLY
FREE.



GO
LEAVE
ME.

I WILL
SIT HERE
UNTIL ATRPODS
COMES.

HE--

SHE.

SHE WILL
ONLY COME
FOR ME.



THEN SHE
COMES NOW.
FOR BOTH
OF US.



IT'S A
SHIP! A
SCOUTING
SHIP!

YES, WE GOT AWAY AND
HAVE BEEN LOOKING
FOR SURVIVORS. BUT WE'D
GIVEN UP ON YOU.

AS FOR THIS
LITTLE
BARBARIAN...

DON'T CALL
HER THAT!

SHE
STILL HAS HER
WEAPONS. ARE
YOU CRAZY?

WELL, AH... SHE...
UM... I'VE HIRED
HER. SHE'S MY
BODYGUARD.

YOUR
BODYGUARD?!

AND IF ANYONE
TOUCHES HER, I'LL
SCRATCH HIS EYES
OUT!

ALL RIGHT, ALL RIGHT!
SHE'S YOUR
PROBLEM.

NO SHE'S MY
NESTLING. AREN'T
YOU?

YES,
HAVEN.



SAVE THE CHEEZIES!

Every day thousands of Cheezies are thoughtlessly trampled and eaten by rampaging herds of cattle. To combat this wanton destruction, the special police force known as **THE WEASEL PATROL** puts their lives on the line to save these delicious cheese-flavored snacks from extinction.

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You can help supply vitally needed economic aid to a worthy, though much trivialized, cause. Your purchase of just one copy of the all-new **WEASEL PATROL** comic book will keep the Patrol in the fields for over a week, saving hundreds of innocent Cheezies from untimely consumption. Imagine how many Cheezies could be saved if you bought eight copies! Your support is greatly appreciated.

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SAVE THE
CHEEZIES!

THE WEASEL PATROL

By Ken Macklin
& Lela Dowling



The Weasel Patrol TM Ken Macklin, Lela Dowling, Lx, Ltd.; art © 1989 Lela Dowling.

Take Off!

The Original Desktop FUSION Journal

Who said that truth was stranger than fiction? For those of you who haven't been following the latest scientific breakthrough, on March 24 two researchers at the University of Utah (Earth) announced that they had achieved nuclear fusion with a simple desktop apparatus. They claimed to have gotten four times as much energy out of their device as they put into it. (As of mid-April they now claim to have gotten eight times as much energy out.) This is significantly above the holy grail of fusion, the point of break-even, of getting more energy out than is put in. And the fuel for this fusion is just D₂O, heavy water, which isn't radioactive and which is a plentiful component of ordinary seawater!

You can follow the current discussions and discoveries in this very, very new field in the newspapers, in magazines like *Science News* and *Scientific American*, and through netnews on the Internet, in newsgroup "alt.fusion." Suddenly, stardrives don't seem as science fictional as they used to. This is an exciting time to live in!

Future History Contest Results...

...have been postponed until next issue, due to the sheer volume of wonderful, imaginative entries received. I want to share as many of them with you as I can, and I only have one page to work with this issue. I hope that you can bear to wait one more issue to read these terrific looks back at our time from the future.

Comments on the Cover to #13

"First, I'm glad that you got a Famous Guy like Rick Sternbach to do your cover. And the cover was very good for what it was, an illustration of the Devastator starship. My problem with the cover is that that's all it was—a picture of a machine. The stories in FUSION have always emphasized characterization over sci-fi hardware, and I believe the cover art should reflect that." —Mark Lungo

"Enjoyed the Sternbach cover. (I love Rick's stuff, have for years.) Rick's a Neat Person, too." —Amy Falkowitz

Comments on Tan's Eyes

"So that's what Tan looks like without his cap? Urg. Give me some genetic distance. I get it now—he drinks to forget...what he looks like. But it sure goes to show that clothes can make the man! Even the most sparing, if used strategically, can work wonders. What the hell is Tan, anyway?" —Todd G. Sutherland

((Tan is a mustiliform, derived from Terran otter stock. If you ever visit the San Francisco Bay Area you should take the time to go down to Monterey to visit the Monterey Aquarium. Their sea otters are something to see. —Gordon))

"Eh? Who's that beady-eyed chap who appeared for a moment where Tan was standing? No, really, I think he looks entirely reasonable without his cap; there's even an odd sense of inevitability to his face. The best art works that way; when you finally see what you've been waiting for, you realize that it couldn't very well look any other way." —Jefferson P. Swycaffer

"This month saw a first. Tan's eyes! Thanks. We were beginning to wonder if the flight helmet was something like Carz's right hand." —Victor Wren

"Now that I've seen what's underneath, I think Tan should keep his hat on." —John Henry Sain

"So that's what Tan looks like without his helmet! I think I like him better with it on because it set him apart from other neo-otters." —Philip Smith

"Surprise! Tan without his helmet!" —Ken Roskos

Coming in Issue #16

In issue #16 of FUSION, the crew of the Tsunami face the greatest challenge of their careers together: babies. The ship survived the Devastator Affair, but not without sustaining some damage. They have to make a covert planetfall to get the ship fixed. See the Tsunami sneaking around! See swashbuckling repairs! See two little squabs running around the ship, chewing on everything that moves (including Tan)!

FUSION #16 is written by Steve Gallacci with art by Gallacci and Dowling. The fully-painted cover is by Steve Gallacci.

Plus, our readers give us insights into the past from the future, with the results of the "Future History Contest."

Also, brace yourselves for another wacky retreat into the ridiculous world of the region's favorite enforcers of law, disorder and running-away: "The Weasel Patrol" by Ken Macklin and Lela Dowling.

A Public Service Discussion

Since 'Mehooks metabolize alcohol as we metabolize sugar' (FUSION #7, p. 15), Tan's ubiquitous bheer would have been fine to revive *Beo*—but *not* for a *human* diabetic. And you cannot revive an unconscious diabetic by waving a candy bar under his/her nose.

While we've got everyone's attention, why don't we list the symptoms of diabetes, kind of as a public service. Remember, if you have any of these symptoms, you should go see your doctor.

- Increased thirst with excessive urination
- Increased appetite with loss of weight
- Itching skin
- Slow-healing sores or cuts
- Easy tiring or drowsiness
- Reduced or blurry vision

—John Henry Sain

Thanks, John, for this important touch of reality.

Thanks for Writing...

...Noel Tominack. Thanks for the record (*Turning Japanese* by the Vapors); it's always been one of my favorites! Have you ever seen the lounge-lizard version done by Rick Moranis on SCTV? It's a boot.

...Philip M. Cohen, who commented that "being the cause of the deaths of billions of people, even inadvertently, would put a permanent cloud over my life." Of course; we'll have to see what delayed stresses it may put on various crew-members in the future.

...Victor Wren, who addressed his letter to "Gordon, cat, Lex, or whoever reads these!" Actually, Cat reads the originals, after which they are copied, with the copies sent to Lex and Letitia, and the originals sent on to me. So, you actually addressed the letter correctly!

...Claude L. Medearis, for sending us the entry on *Mebooks* from his *Xeno-Bio* textbook.

...and to B.J. Johnson, Medea, Jim and Dena Price, Paul Shuman, and Jed Martinez, for their letters.

Oops, this is the end of the letter column, and I still have four lines left. I know I shouldn't let them go to waste, but then again, I can't think of what to say. >Sigh<

That's another deadline killed!

Until next issue, keep fusing!

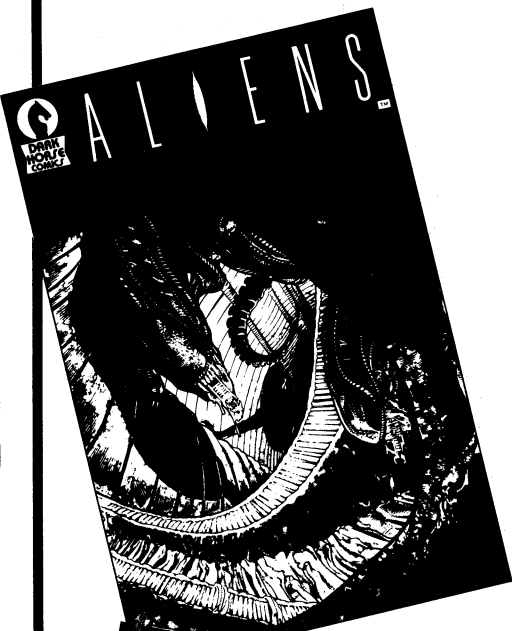
Gordon Garb, Desktop Production Manager

The screaming continues...

It's ten years after the events seen in the 20th Century Fox motion picture *Aliens*™. Hicks and Newt must face their deadliest fears as they set out to locate and destroy the Aliens' homeworld...

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(Send check or money order, U.S. funds only to: Dark Horse Comics, Dept. A, 2008 S.E. Monroe St., Milwaukie, OR 97222. Do not send cash.)

**AND WATCH FOR A SECOND ALIENS
SERIES BEGINNING SOON!**

by Mark Verheiden
and Mark A. Nelson

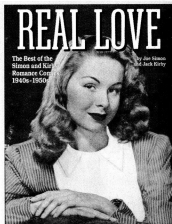
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LOVE, SEX & DRUGS

CLASSIC COMICS FROM THE LATE 40s AND EARLY 50s

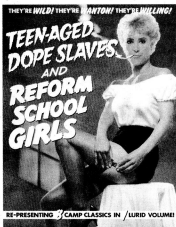
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In the post-war 1940s, Joe Simon and Jack Kirby, who had created such stalwart heroes as Captain America and the Boy Commandos, turned their attention to the home front and created an entire new genre in comic books: the romance comic aimed at adults. The success of *Young Romance* and *Young Love* spawned dozens upon dozens of imitators, but none ever came close to the pioneering work produced by one of the greatest teams in comic book history.



TEEN-AGED DOPE SLAVES & REFORM SCHOOL GIRLS re-presents 8 camp classics from a time simultaneously more naive and more hard-hitting than our own.

It's like "Reefer Madness" on paper! These stories straddle the fence between the exploitative and the educational. They range from teen-agers strung out on marijuana to bad girls turned to crime and cowboys riddled with venereal disease!



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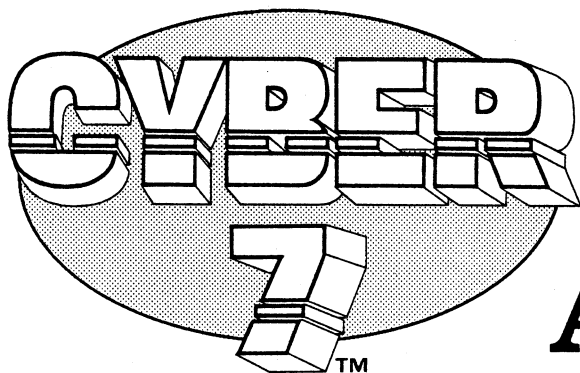
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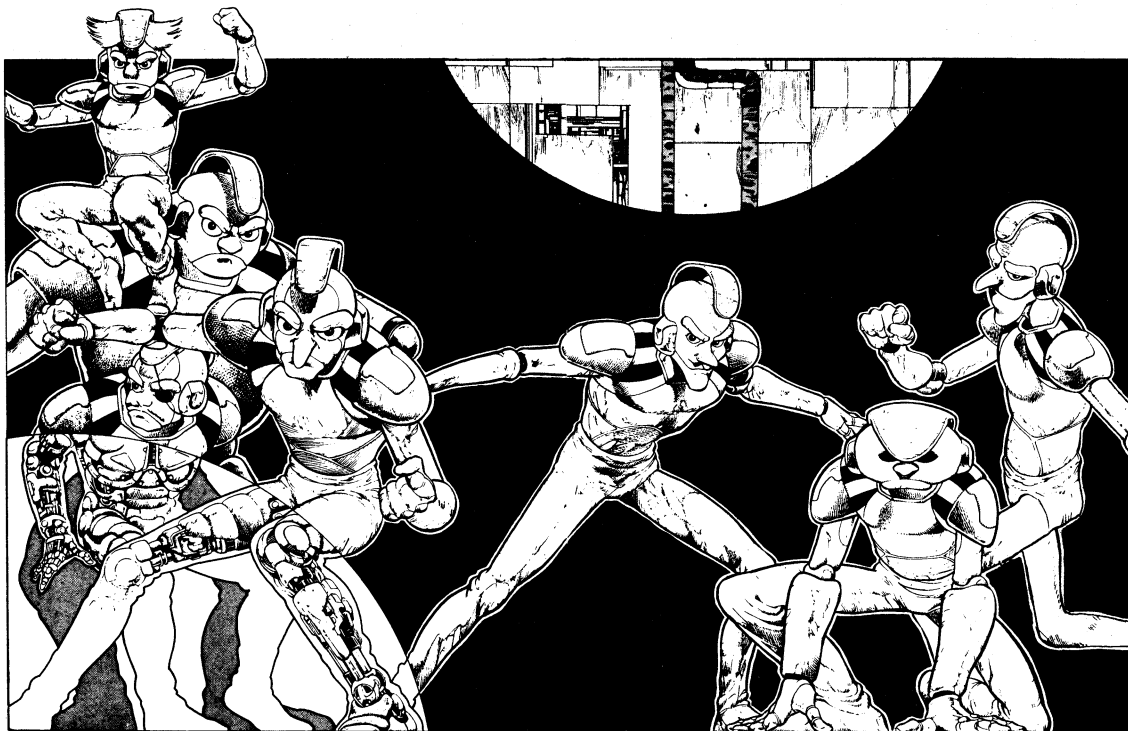
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"Sunday! Sunday!" by Joe Pearson and Dave Simons



**They have
the POWER
to do
ANYTHING...**



Art © 1989 Shuho Itahashi

**...If you
can talk
them into
it!**

**"...*Cyber 7* is one of the best
manga I have seen.**

**I actually look forward to
reading the next issue..."**

**— Don Thompson,
*Comics Buyer's Guide***

***Cyber 7. The Newest Smash-Hit Manga.
Only From Eclipse International.***

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THE CIRCUS...ON THE OUTSIDE, A COLORFUL SHOWCASE OF AMUSEMENT, LAUGHTER AND GAIETY, BUT WITHIN... A DARK, VIRULENT, MIASMIC CESSPOOL OF CRIMINAL ACTIVITY.



TO COUNTERACT THE PERVERSE GRIP OF CRIME, AUTHORITIES DEVISED A BOLD PLAN: A PLAN EMPLOYING A UNIQUE FORCE SKILLED AT PROTECTION, SERVICE AND RUNNING AWAYNESS. A PLAN THAT PLACED THE WEASEL PATROL...

"UNDER THE BIG TOP"

TO BLEND IN WITH THE BIG TOP ENVIRONMENT, THE WEASELS DON THE GARB OF CIRCUS FOLK AND ASSUME THE ROLL OF ENTERTAINERS.

NOW REMEMBER... NO ONE MUST SUSPECT WE ARE ACTUALLY THE WORLD'S MOST CUNNING CRIMEFIGHTERS. ACT FUNNY.

HEARD ANY GOOD JOKES?

SEE ANYTHING UNUSUAL?

NOPE. JUST THE ORDINARY.



MEANWHILE...

HAH! THE RUBES THINK I'VE FILLED THESE BALLOONS WITH HELIUM...



STORY AND ART
KEN MACKLIN & LISA DOWLING
LETTERING
L. LOIS BUHALIS
EDITOR
LETITIA GLOZER
CONCEPTUAL EDITOR
LEX NAKASHIMA





...AND BY THE TIME
THEY REALIZE THAT I ACTUALLY
FILLED THEM WITH AIR AND
STARCHED THE STRINGS SO THEY
STAND UP STRAIGHT...IT'S
TOO LATE! HAR,
HAR, HAR!

ARE YOU BOYS
THE NOTORIOUS
INTERNATIONAL ARMS
SMUGGLERS I SPOKE TO
EARLIER, OR DID YOU
WANT A BALLOON?

AGH! IS
COMEDY,
YES?

TIME FOR
COMEDY LATER.
DO YOU HAVE
MISSILE?

IT'S CASH AND
CARRY. JUST GIMME
THE DOUGH, PAL.

HEY! I
WANT ONE
OF THOSE,
TOO!

GO PET
THE LIONS,
SONNY!

I DID NOT
REALIZE IT WAS
SO BIG!

PERHAPS WE
SHOULD HAVE BROUGHT
THE CAR.

HEY THERE!
YOU TWO...!

SOMEONE
IS COMING!
HIDE
MISSILE IN
DRAINAGE
PIPE!

HURRY! IT
LOOKS LIKE ONE OF
THOSE STUPID
WEASEL CLOWNS.

HEY, YOU
GUYS!

SORRY, FELLAS,
BUT THIS AREA IS OFF
LIMITS RIGHT NOW!
I'LL HAVE TO ASK
YOU TO LEAVE.

Uh, SO SORRY. WE WERE JUST
GOING TO BUY TICKETS.

Uh, YEAH.

MEANWHILE...

HAH! IT'S THE
PERFECT GETAWAY! EVEN
IF THOSE BANAL WEASELS
CATCH THE GOONS, THEY'LL
NEVER FIND ME OR
THE MONEY!

LOOK! A CHILD
HAS BEEN CARRIED
ALOFT BY HIS
BALLOONS!

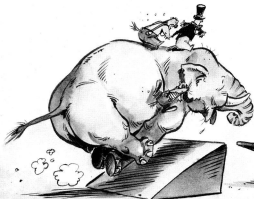
OH, NO!!
WHAT'LL WE
DO?

FLEE?

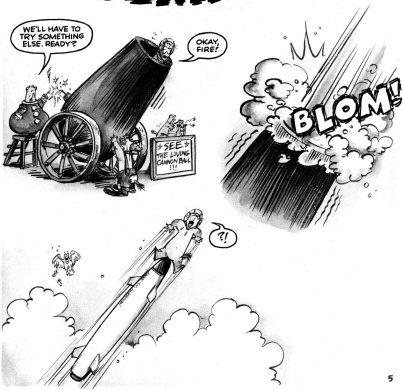
WE'VE
GOT TO SAVE
HIM!

THE WEASELS THUNDER INTO ACTION, EMITTING A
PERFUNCTORILY BLOODCURDLING RALLYING CRY:

WEEASEL
RESCUE!!



READY FOR
LAUNCHING!





EEYAH!
IT'S
AN ATTACK!!
FLEE!

RUNAWAY!

INCOMING!

RUNAWAY!

?

THUD!

PUMPHO

HOooooo!

IS DUD?

WE WANT
OUR MONEY
BACK!

KICK



GOOD WORK, BOYS. YOU'VE CAPTURED THE ARMS SMUGGLERS AND FOUND THE STOLEN MISSILE!

AND LUCKILY, NO ONE WAS HURT.

FLYING WITHOUT A LICENSE AGAIN?

SORRY ABOUT THE CRATER IN THE ARENA.

OH MY GOD!!



AND WE RECOVERED ALL THE MONEY, OF COURSE.

EXCEPT FOR ONE DOLLAR.

IT'S THE SAFEST SHOW FOR FACT WHEN THE WEASELS JOIN THE ACT!



END

Comics Buyer's Guide

Fan Awards for 1988

Welcome to the *CBG* Fan Awards. *Comics Buyer's Guide*, a weekly newspaper devoted to the world of comic books, sponsors these awards to let you, the readers, decide which comic books deserve to be called "the best." Just fill out the ballot and send it to the address below.

1. Favorite Editor
2. Favorite Writer
3. Favorite Penciller
4. Favorite Inker
5. Favorite Colorist
6. Favorite Letterer
7. Favorite Cover Artist
8. Favorite Comic-Book Story
9. Favorite Comic Book
10. Favorite Limited Comic-Book Series
11. Favorite Original Graphic Novel or Album
12. Favorite Reprint Graphic Novel or Album
13. Favorite Character
14. Favorite Publication about Comics

Only material with a 1988 cover date can win. DC's 1988 issues dated "Holiday" or "Winter" are eligible. Votes for projects that did not have a 1988 publication date will not be counted.

Copy this ballot and give it to your friends, so they can vote, too. *Anyone who loves comics can vote* — but only vote once. If you vote more than once, all of your votes will be thrown out. Vote only in the categories you want, and ignore any you don't. *Comics Buyer's Guide* is not eligible for Category 14.

Every voter in the United States will get a *free copy* of *Comics Buyer's Guide* #817, dated July 14, 1989, unless you already have a current or expired subscription to *CBG*. That issue will carry the list of winners! Votes from other countries will be counted, but we regret that free copies of *CBG* can't be sent, unless your vote is accompanied by \$1.50 in U.S. funds, to cover handling and shipping.

Mail your ballot individually in a single envelope by June 10, 1989, to:

Comics Buyer's Guide Fan Awards
700 East State Street
Iola, Wisconsin 54990

Name Male Female (circle one) Age

Street or Box

City, State, and ZIP

Please type or print your votes and information clearly.

You need not cut or tear out this page in order to vote! Copies are acceptable and will be counted.

ROBERT E. HOWARD

PIGEONS FROM HELL

ADAPTED BY SCOTT HAMPTON

"Pigeons from Hell [is]
one of the finest horror
stories of our century."

—Stephen King

"For stark, living
fear...the actual
smell and feel and
darkness and
brooding horror
and impending
doom... what other
writer is even in
the running with
Robert E. Howard?"

—H. P. Lovecraft

"Scott Hampton's
adaptation is
worthy of Howard.
As beautiful and
subtle as it is
horrifying, it is a
triumph of its
form."

—Ramsey Campbell

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