



No. **16** \$2.50 (\$3.50 Canada)

ADULTS ONLY

"OMAHA"

THE CAT DANCER

by REED WALLER & KATE WORLEY





Our story last time...

In Mipple City, Kurt Huddle drives Lopez to Sen. Bonner's funeral, where Lopez verbalizes his intense hatred of the dead man. Attorney Judith Baum-Vole informs her client Joanne that she will be released from custody because new information will prove Joanne did not kill Bonner. That new information is being supplied by Rob Shaw, who, through Chuck, makes a deposition affirming Joanne's innocence. After being released, Joanne makes her way to Rob's apartment...

In Lawrenceville, Wisconsin, Omaha and CeeCee agree to have dinner at the latter's house, where Omaha learns CeeCee and her housemate Toni are lovers. At Mr. Pip's, Omaha makes a date with a man named Jack after driving all the farmers in the audience wild with her dancing.

Sandy, Chuck and the Herd continue to circulate the petitions against the A Block development in Mipple City, and quickly gather hundreds of signatures. As they do so, Althea, Jerry Davidson's associate, drives to a mysterious noontime meeting with government officials...

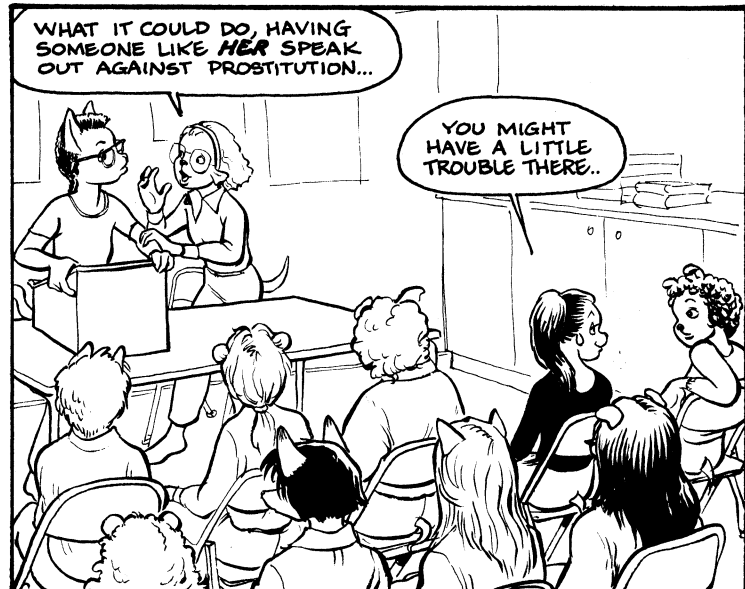
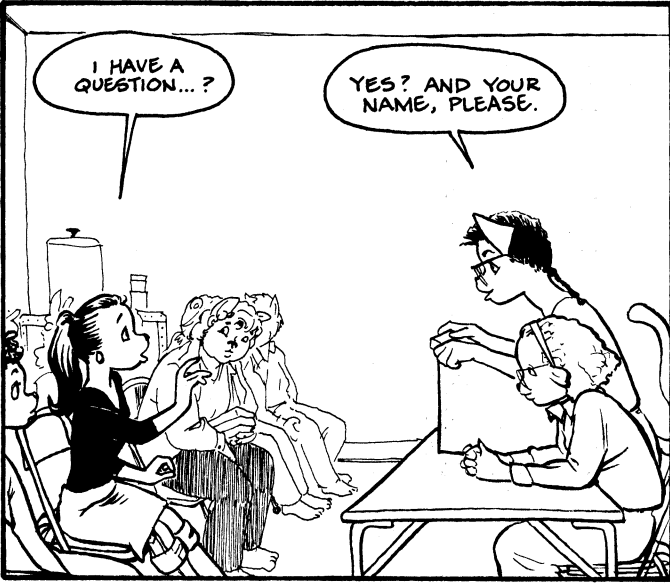
For Rick Griffin, skulls and roses.

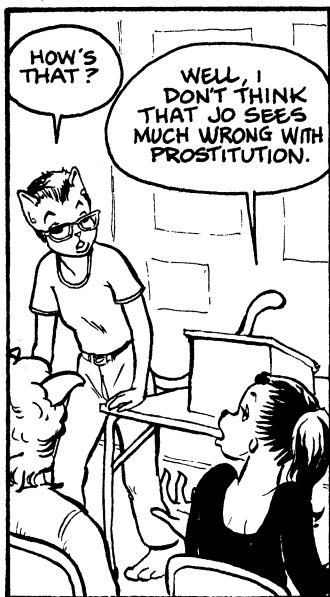
OMAHA

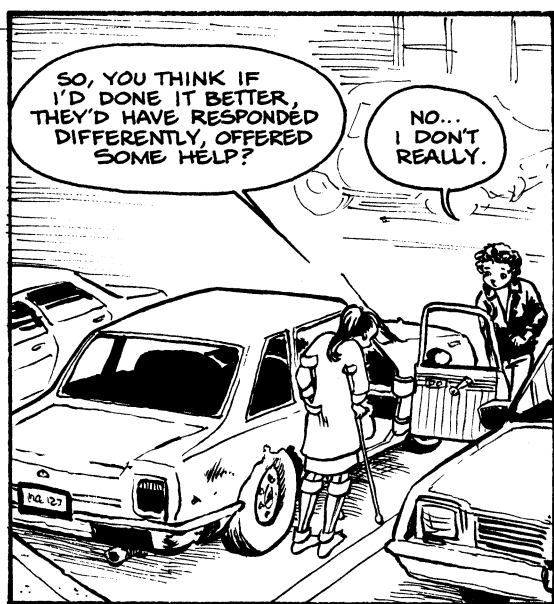
THE CAT DANCER

WE WILL NOW
OPEN DISCUSSION
OF THE TOPIC.





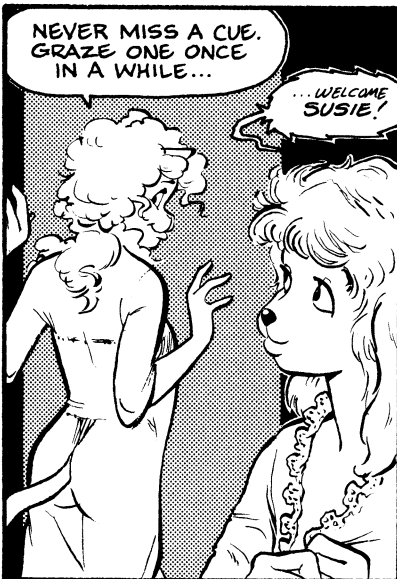














...TRY.

I'M TIED UP SUNDAY. WHAT ARE YOU DOING LATER TONIGHT?



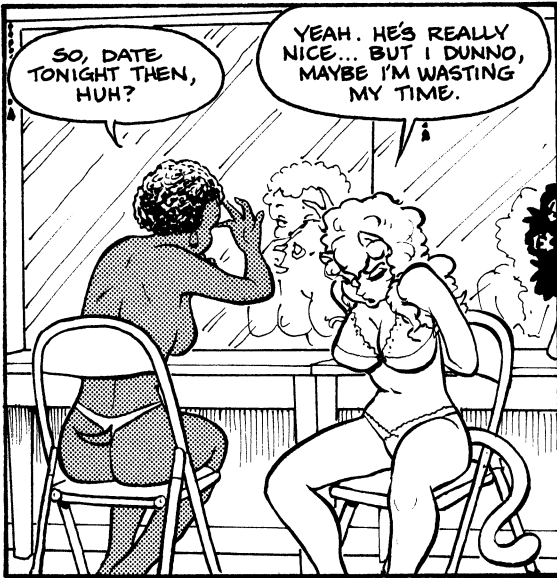
NOTHING MUCH...

WE COULD GET SOME DINNER, HMM?



SURE!

SEE YOU LATER, THEN.



SO, DATE TONIGHT THEN, HUH?

YEAH. HE'S REALLY NICE... BUT I DUNNO, MAYBE I'M WASTING MY TIME.

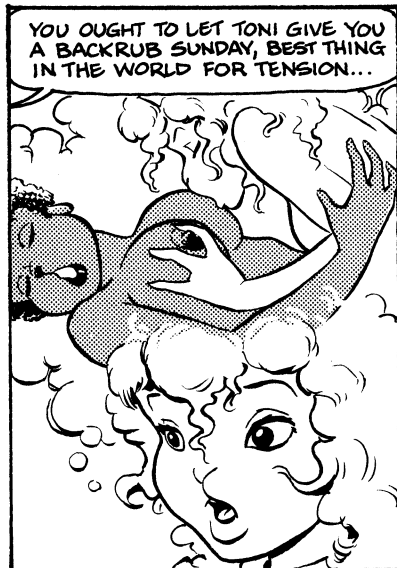


WHAT'S WRONG, YOU HOT FOR HIM AND HE'S SLOW ON THE UPTAKE?

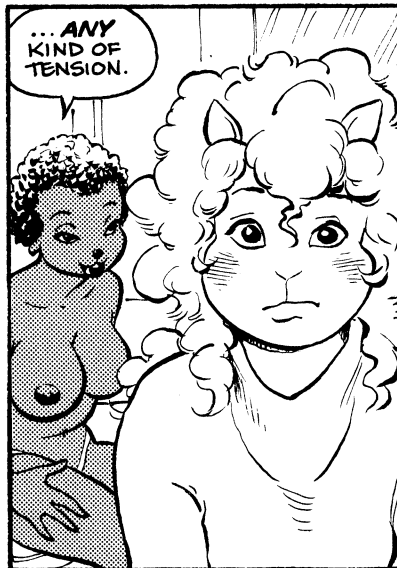
I DON'T EVEN KNOW IF I'M ATTRACTED TO HIM, ESPECIALLY. IT'S JUST BEEN SO LONG... I'M ALL JUMPY.



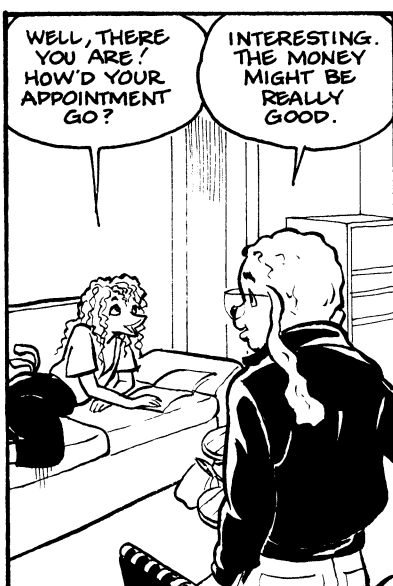
I KNOW WHAT YOU MEAN... LET IT GO AWHILE, AND I'M LIKE A CAT ON HOT BRICKS.

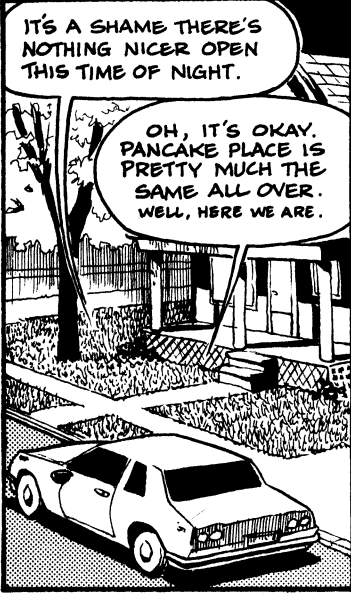


YOU OUGHT TO LET TONI GIVE YOU A BACKRUB SUNDAY, BEST THING IN THE WORLD FOR TENSION...



...ANY KIND OF TENSION.





IT'S A SHAME THERE'S NOTHING NICER OPEN THIS TIME OF NIGHT.

OH, IT'S OKAY. PANCAKE PLACE IS PRETTY MUCH THE SAME ALL OVER. WELL, HERE WE ARE.



THANKS AGAIN. G'NIGHT.



MMMM?



WHAT'S THE MATTER? AM I BEING TOO... PUSHY?

LORD, NO! I...



IT'S BEEN ALL I CAN DO TO KEEP MY HANDS OFF OF YOU.

THEN WHY TRY?

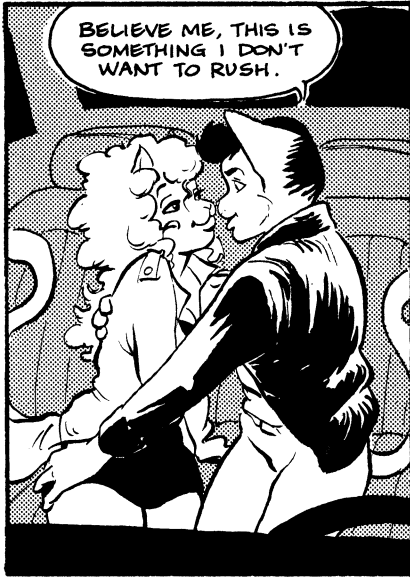


LOOK, IT'S REALLY LATE. WE BOTH HAVE TO WORK TOMORROW. BUT TOMORROW NIGHT...

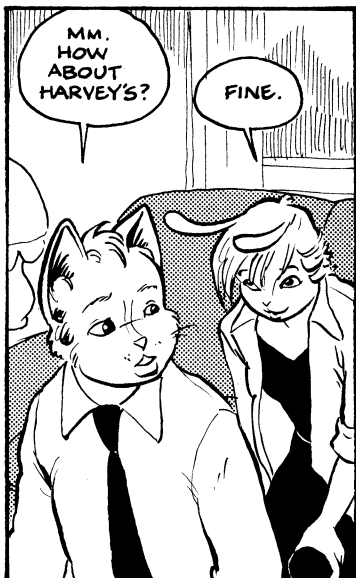
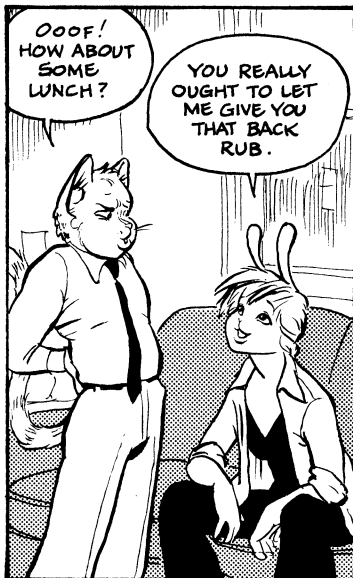
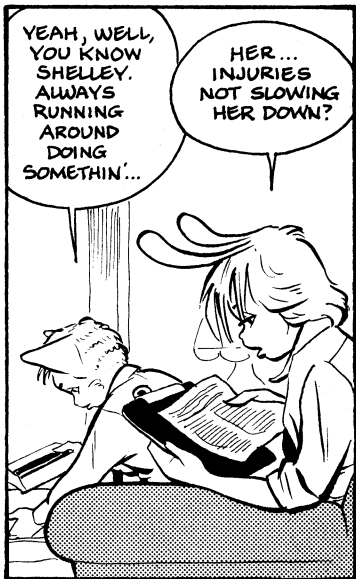
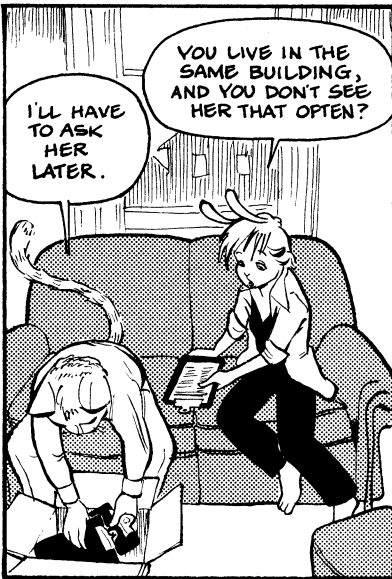


I CAN MAKE US A LATE DINNER AT MY PLACE, AND THEN, WELL, WE'D HAVE MORE TIME.

WE WOULDN'T HAVE TO TAKE ALL NIGHT.



BELIEVE ME, THIS IS SOMETHING I DON'T WANT TO RUSH.



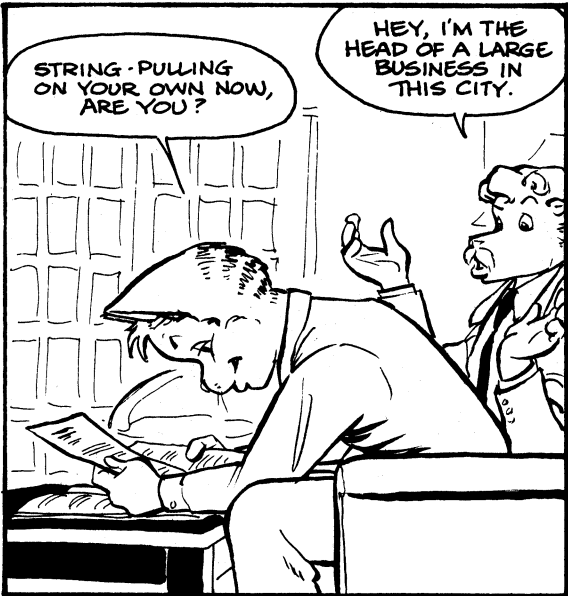






AND YOU SAY YOU CAN GET THE LIQUOR LICENSE OKAY?

IT'S A SURE THING.



STRING-PULLING ON YOUR OWN NOW, ARE YOU?

HEY, I'M THE HEAD OF A LARGE BUSINESS IN THIS CITY.



WHAT'S WITH THE DIG, HUH?

I'M JUST WONDERING HOW **BADLY** YOU NEED ME TO INVEST.



WHAT EXACTLY DO YOU MEAN BY THAT?

I'M JUST CURIOUS... HOW MUCH OF YOUR INFLUENCE IS CONNECTED TO YOUR CLOSENESS TO MY LATE FATHER...



...AND TO ME, AS MY FATHER'S SON.

LOOK, PAL I DON'T **NEED** YOU TO INVEST, I'M INVITING YOU.



I HAVE PLENTY OF OTHER PEOPLE LINED UP. I JUST WANTED TO GIVE AN OLD PAL A LINE IN.

WELL... LIKE I SAID, I'LL THINK ABOUT IT.



YOU SHOULD GET YOUR MONEY MOVING AROUND MORE, NOT JUST SIT ON YOUR... ASSETS.

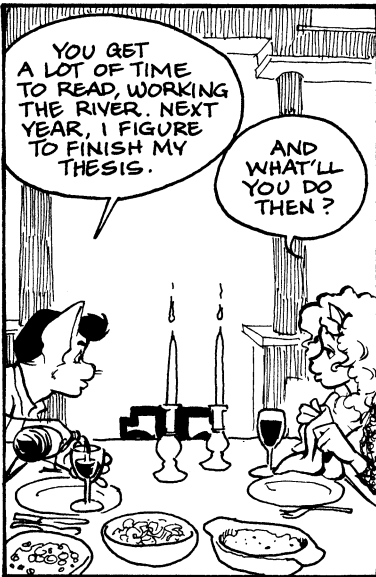
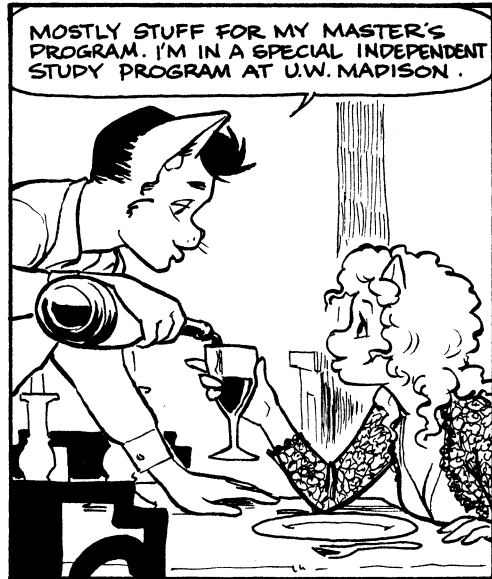
FUNNY. THE BROKERS TAKE GOOD CARE OF THEM.



NOT ALL OF THEM. WHAT ABOUT YOUR FATHER'S HOUSE, THE ONE ON THE LAKE?

I DUNNO...





THANKS. BUT
I CAN'T KEEP
DOING THIS
FOREVER.

SO? NO
TYPE OF
DANCER
CAN.

THAT'S TRUE. BUT IF I
HAD BETTER TRAINING,
MAYBE I COULD STAY
INVOLVED WITH DANCING
SOMEHOW.

TEACH,
MAYBE.
OR
CHOREOGRAPHY.

THAT'S A GOOD
IDEA. WITH
STRIPPERS?
OR SHOULD I
SAY EXOTIC
DANCERS?

WHATEVER. I'M NOT
OFFENDED BY "STRIPPER."
NOT TO SOUND LIKE I'M BRAGGING
... BUT MOST OF THEM COULD
CERTAINLY USE SOME HELP
ON DEVELOPING ROUTINES.

TOO TRUE. THOUGH
THERE ARE EXCEPTIONS.
YOUR FRIEND CEE CEE,
F'RINSTANCE.

YEAH,
SHE'S REALLY
SOMETHING.

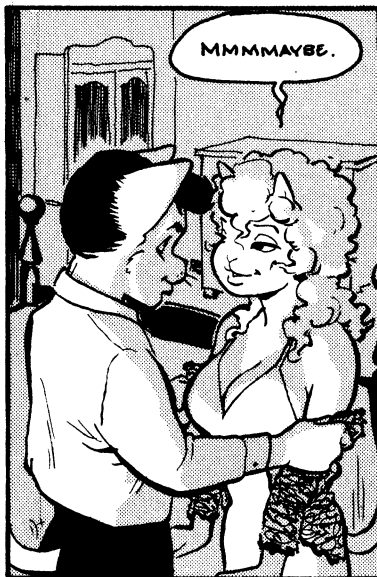
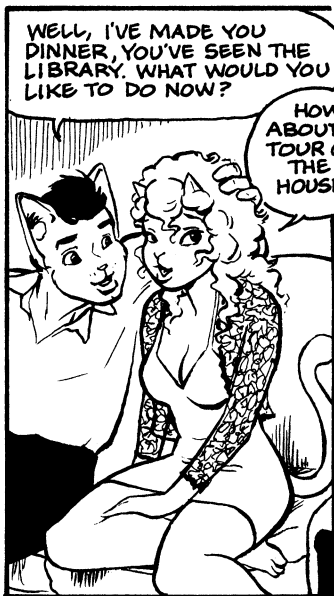
THAT BIT
WITH THE
LOTION...
WHEW!

YOU, UH,
LIKE THAT,
HMM?

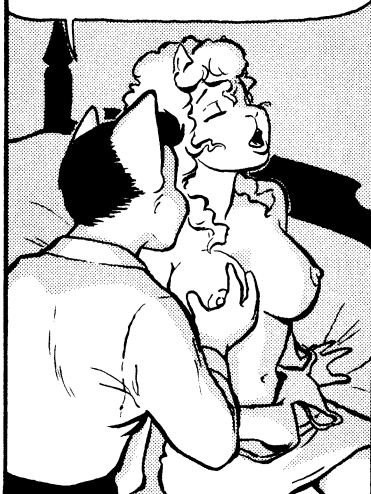
HUH! FIND ME A
MAN THAT DOESN'T
... AND THEN CHECK
HIS TESTOSTERONE
LEVEL.

SO I
TAKE IT
YOURS IS
FINE.

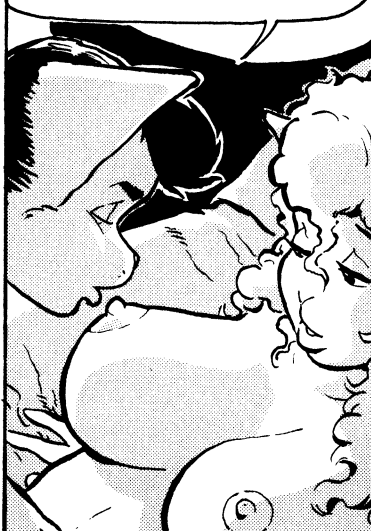
YEAH...



WATCHING YOU THE OTHER NIGHT, YOU DON'T KNOW HOW BADLY I WANTED TO REACH OUT AND TOUCH THEM...



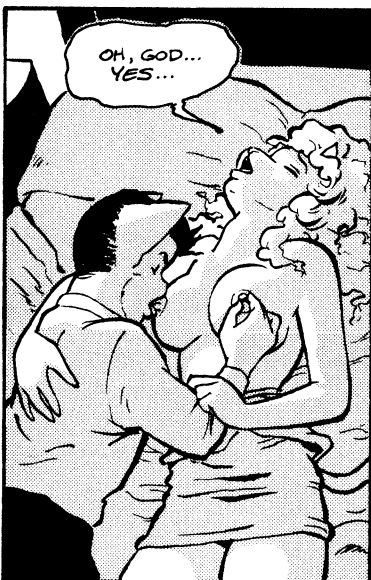
... LICK THEM ... SUCK THOSE LOVELY NIPPLES...



AH... YES!



OH, GOD... YES...



HEY!

JUST LET ME GET MY DRESS OFF.



CHRIST!

YOU LIKE IT?



UH... YOU WOULDN'T MIND LEAVING THOSE ON FOR A LITTLE WHILE, WOULD YOU?

NO, IF YOU LIKE.

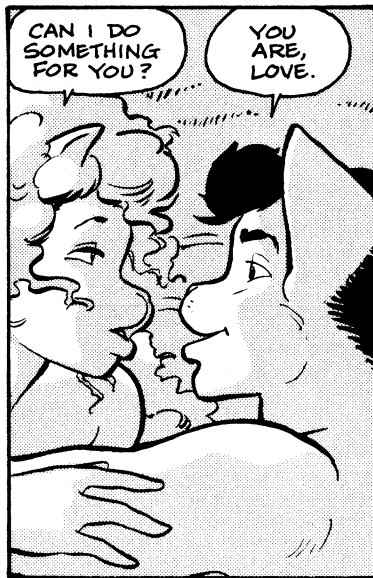
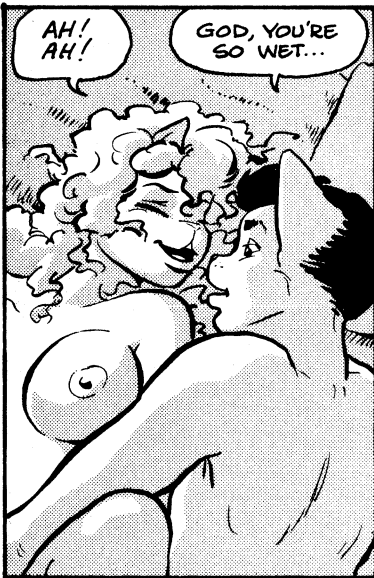


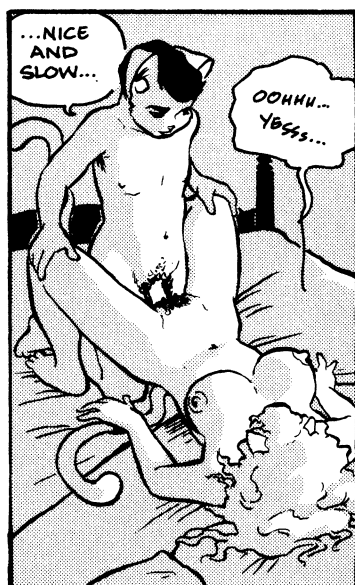
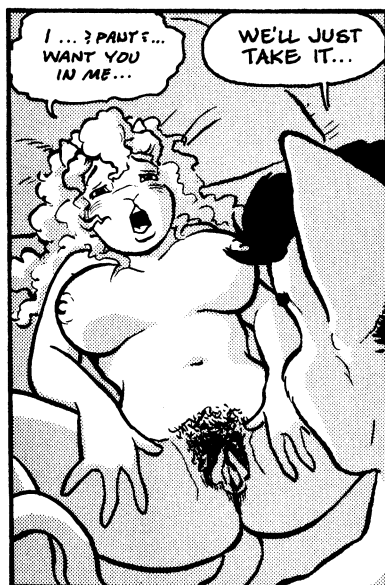
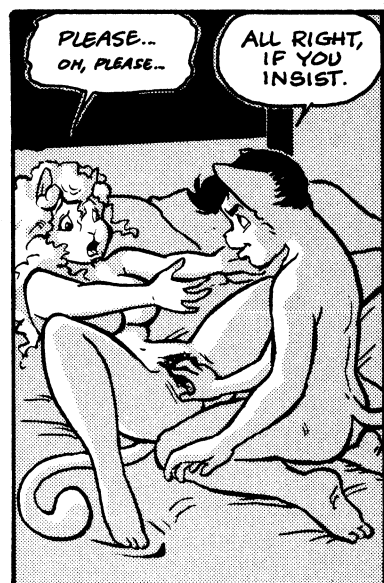
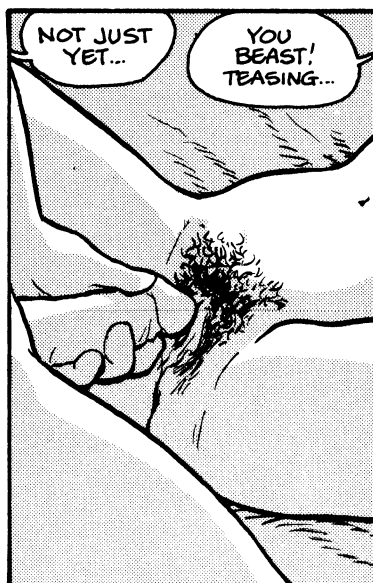
THEY'RE JUST SUCH A PERFECT FRAME... HERE, LIE BACK...



FOR THAT... OH, GOD, YOU'RE GORGEOUS.



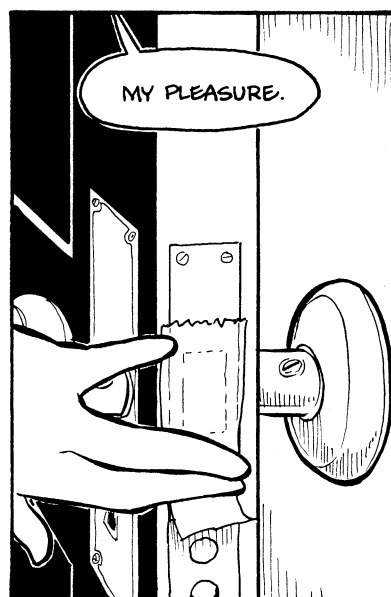
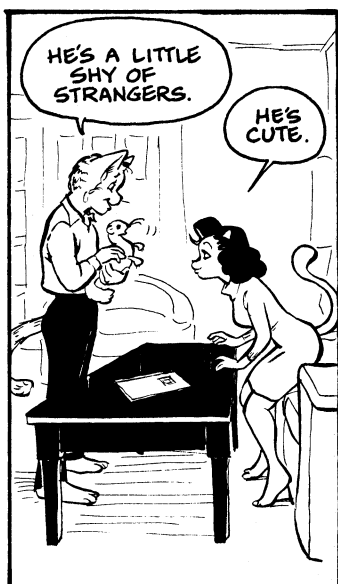














OKAY, GOT IT.
I'LL CALL YOU IF
I HEAR ANYTHING
NEW.



WHO WAS
THAT?

WHO ELSE?
JOANNE.



AH, YOUR FAVORITE CLIENT.

IF SHE HADN'T
BEEN PAYING ME A
RETAINER FOR THE
PAST FEW YEARS...



I'D DROP HER
LIKE A HOT
ROCK. SHE'S
A MENACE.

BUT WHERE'S
THE FUN WITHOUT
A LITTLE
DANGER?



HEY, HEY!
SABBATH
PEACE,
REMEMBER?

THEN I'D BETTER
HIT YOU QUICK,
HUH?



SO, WHERE IS
YOUR MENACE
STAYING?

WITH A FRIEND,
GUY NAMED ROB.



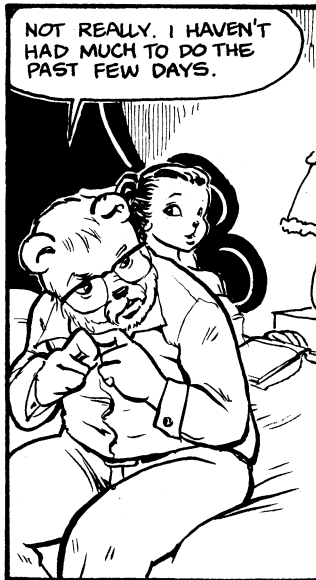
I GET JUMPY
JUST TAKING
A NUMBER
FROM HER.

YOU ASKED
HER TO CALL,
REMEMBER?



C'MON NOW.
FORGET HER.
IT'S TIME TO
LIGHT CANDLES.

AH, OFF DUTY
...TILL
SOMEBODY
GETS IN A
JAM, THAT IS.





WELL, WE'VE BEEN GETTING REALLY CLOSE.

UH-HUH...?



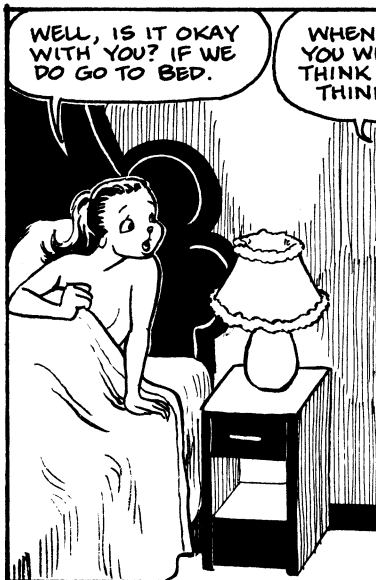
I'M... I'M VERY ATTRACTED TO HER. SEXUALLY, I MEAN.

YOU MEAN, YOU AND SHE...



WE HAVEN'T DONE ANYTHING YET, WELL, NOTHING SERIOUS. I WANTED TO TALK TO YOU FIRST.

UH, OKAY. WHAT DO YOU WANT ME TO SAY?



WELL, IS IT OKAY WITH YOU? IF WE DO GO TO BED.

WHEN YOU TOLD ME YOU WERE BI, I DIDN'T THINK... I JUST DIDN'T THINK ABOUT IT.



THE IMPLICATIONS, YOU MEAN. THAT I MIGHT WANT TO GO TO BED WITH A WOMAN WHILE WE WERE TOGETHER.

YEAH.



KURT, IF IT BOTHERS YOU THAT MUCH...

WELL, IT DOESN'T, REALLY, I MEAN, IT'S NOT LIKE IT WAS ANOTHER GUY.



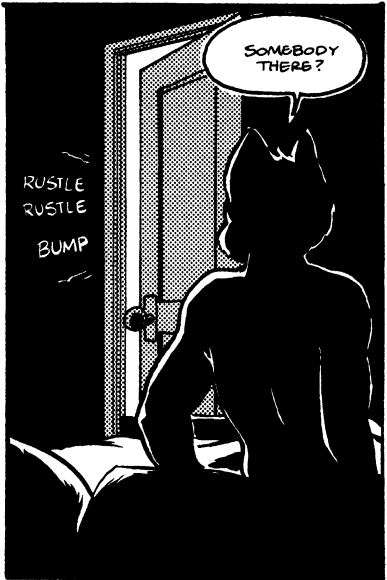
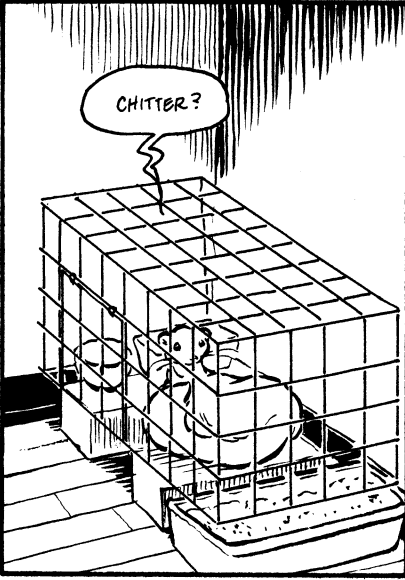
I WANT YOU TO BE HAPPY, LOVE. IF THIS'LL MAKE YOU HAPPY, I'M ALL FOR IT.

YOU'RE SURE?



SURE. AS LONG AS THERE'S SOME LEFT FOR ME.

PLENTY. C'MERE.





Dear Omaha:

Send correspondence to: Box 7439, Powderhorn Station, Minneapolis MN 55407

The mail is knee-deep here on the old desk. So what am I doing? Not printing any letters.

OMAHA GETS RAVES IN NEW ZEALAND. . . FROM THE INDECENT PUBLICATIONS TRIBUNAL?!?

Yup. Last year we cracked the last of the Commonwealth. A loyal *Omaha* fan informed us of the seizure of the book by customs and the impending trial. Just this week, we received a letter from **Dave Newton** of Auckland. He was kind enough to send us a copy of the entire decision from the hearing on November 22 and 23 of 1990.

Now, naturally, we have felt rather indignant over all the customs and court nonsense of the past few years. It has made it impossible for us to be sold or distributed in some places, hurting us financially and frustrating retailers and fans.

But as I read the decision of the Indecent Publications Tribunal (now is *that* a scary title, or what?), I found myself warming to them. These people had actually **read the book**. They had read both Volume 1 and 2 of the *Collected Omaha*, plus issues 7 through 10, and the decision applied to all of them. And on all of the comics and graphic novels reviewed (some 3 dozen in all), they made not only a decision as to the "decency" or "indecency" of the title, but gave their actual reasons. (The decision also recounted the appropriate statutes and history of the prosecution of such cases. That's how I learned some of this stuff.) Under the New Zealand statutes, material is not only judged on whether or not it would be harmful to children, but also on whether children are likely to read it, i.e. is it attractive to kids. They make a point that I've always maintained: children won't be as attracted to books with a lot of words. They also...but you want to hear what they said about *Omaha*, right? Okay.

"Mr. Hassall [*presumably the presenting counsel--KW*] informed us that the panels of explicit sex in Volume 1 of *The Collected "Omaha" The Cat Dancer* is reflected in the fact that Omaha started out as an underground comic strip. Mr Hassall is correct in pointing out that only about 40 panels out of almost 1,000 in volume 1 of *The Collected "Omaha" The Cat Dancer* depict explicit sexual activity. This is less than 4 percent of the total work. The sexual activity is portrayed in the context of permanent, loving relationships between articulate, caring and reasoning characters. The bulk of the book contains a complex plot involving murder and civic corruption. We agree with Mr. Hassall that the artwork and writings are of an extremely high standard. In comparison to volume 1 of *The Collected "Omaha" The Cat Dancer*, volume 2 of *The Collected "Omaha" The Cat Dancer* and the individual issues of *Omaha* feature virtually no sexual activity. What little is shown is far less explicit than that contained in volume 1, although the writers continue to portray it in the context of realistic, holistic relationships."

[*Even the Tribunal complained about too little sex? Sheesh! But now for the good part*]

Given the manner in which the small amount of sexual activity is depicted, the dominant effect of these books as intelligent, reasoned social commentary, their social and artistic merit, their educative rather than corrupting influence, and their honest portrayals of human relationships, particularly those involving disabled people and gays, it cannot be said that anything in these books would be injurious to the public good. The Tribunal consequently classifies them not indecent."

Now, we were classified "not indecent" with no age restriction. In New Zealand, apparently, age restrictions actually mean something, and are varied (16 or 18 years)...and sexual activity itself, of whatever kind, is not enough to get the restriction!

I tell you, it made my whole week. Many, many thanks to **Dave Newton** for letting us in on it.

OMAHA CHARGED IN CANADA...WITH BESTIALITY?!? On the flip side... **Jim Wilson** of Toronto was good enough to send us an article by Glenn Cooly in *Now* magazine on the recent string of comic shop busts in that city. We had heard through newspaper articles that, although copies of *Omaha* were seized in the busts, they hadn't been charged. Well, they found one, I guess. I quote:

"One title, *Omaha the Cat Dancer*, is an illustrated story about anthropomorphic felines caught up in a web of soap-opera intrigues. [Mark] Pijanka [manager of Dragon Lady Comic Shop] describes the comic as a social satire, but because characters are occasionally shown naked together in bed, police investigators told him it represented bestiality, hence the seizure.

"That's foolish," Pijanka says. 'It's not people having contact with animals, so how can it be bestiality? It's a very witty, socially minded book.'" [You tell 'em Mark. And thanks for the good words, too.]

Well, next time we'll get some actual letters in. Keep 'em coming, we do love to get mail with our name on it, and yours: **Minx** from Indiana, please write again, we've mislaid your letter! And to the asshole who tore out the **Howard Cruse** strips, wrote "NO" all over them in black marker and sent them to us, well, we can understand your desire to remain anonymous. May you always be so. It was great hearing from so many of you that you enjoyed the *Wendel* backup. Next time, we'll have another in our series "Tales of Mipple City," featuring **Larry Becker**, who may be the most dangerous cartoonist in Minnesota.

THERE THEY GO, SELLING OUT AGAIN...

Yes, we still have plenty of original *Omaha* pages from volume 2 of *The Collected Omaha* for sale! And pages for Volume 3 are now available, too. For a complete price list, send a stamped, self-addressed envelope to: Omaha Art, PO Box 7439, Powderhorn Station, Minneapolis, MN 55407.

At last! What the Omaha fan has been waiting for:

Beautiful Omaha Serigraph

This beautiful *art nouveau* style serigraph of **Omaha the Cat Dancer** will be available soon from Kitchen Sink Press.

Drawn by Reed Waller, colored from guides by Kate Worley, and signed by both, the delicately colored **Omaha serigraph** boasts at least 10 colors.

Serigraphs are in the fine art tradition and require a labor intensive process of passing the plate through the silk screen press once for each designated color. Only one color may be applied per day.

The **Omaha serigraph** measures 25" x 35" with a generous border for framing. Limited to 250 copies, the serigraph is a valuable collector's item.

Available in December.

Watch for it!



VAUGHN BODĒ'S POEM TOONS



"They wanted
an imitation of
Little Annie Fanny...
what they got
was a true original...
Vaughn not only
created his unique
cartoon universe,
he lived there
all the time."

—Bernie Wrightson

Tundra Publishing Ltd.
is pleased to present
the final fully-realized
work of the great
Vaughn Bodē,
the creator of *Junkwaffle*
& *Cheech Wizard*.

A 48-page full-color paperback volume
of erotic writings and Bodē bawd.

Poem Toons © 1991 Barbara Bodē & Mark Bodē.

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Enclosed is \$9.95 (postpaid for each) _____ total.

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**Poignant.
Tough.**

WILL EISNER
to The
HEART
of the
STORM



A masterwork.

To the Heart of the Storm is the first graphic novel from Will Eisner in three years. In it, he tells a family's history against a background of prejudice and war. The 208 page novel is on sale now and is available in signed hardcover (900), hardcover and softcover. At better bookstores and comic shops. From Will Eisner. . .and Kitchen Sink Press.