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ANTHROPOMORPHIC

WILD LIFE



STARRY-EYED DREAMERS

While browsing in my local comics shop lately, I've come across a number of first issues from brand-new companies. I usually glance over these to see if they're any good, because I'm always looking for new comics to add to the very small list of non-AP books I read. More often than not (much more often), I end up putting these comics back because they're poorly drawn or written, lack originality, or simply don't intrigue me. But I always try to read the effusive editorials that blare forth from the inside front or back covers.

You see, good or bad, new companies almost always gleam with a certain lustre of happy optimism. They've just come on the scene, their dream of being in comicdom is at hand, and this, their first issue, represents an unprecedented opportunity to speak to the masses — to let everyone in on their grand plans. They rarely hesitate to do so.

When I read these beaming expositions on Big Ideas, New And Different Comics, A Dedication To Quality, and Making Comics Fun Again, I sometimes shake my head ruefully. More often than not, the aspirations of these new companies are completely out of sync with their level of talent. It's difficult not to see their editorials as badly written puffery, totally blind to the woeful lack of ability their attached comics display. It's difficult not to scoff at and even resent the dreck that finds its way to the shelves just because some sap has a few thousand dollars to invest in color separations and a meager print run.

But usually, something in these bombasts of ambition touches a certain spot in me and makes me sympathize with their writers.

It hasn't been all that many years since the Antarctic Press started up, nor since I first became editor of *Mangazine*. In those early days (and, some would probably say, even in recent months), these fingers typed their share of goofy editorials whose themes spoke grandly of things much greater than our talent pot at the time could produce. I'm certainly not in any position to cast the first stone at tiny

companies trying desperately to turn their dreams into four-color reality.

This medium is a medium of fantasy. It's a medium built upon visions of other worlds, and dreams of creating something worthwhile. One could argue that many of these small companies could use a dose of harsh reality, that their bubbles need bursting. But I find it unfair to begrudge them their hopes. The market will perform that function for me — it will bestow on them weak and dwindling sales, the headaches of printing deadlines, the crunch of cash-flow troubles and distributors who may drop them if their circulation falls too low. So they don't need me wishing them ill.

I give them their due. I read their editorials, written in that shining moment of glory as they ready their first book for publication. I look over their books. And if I see potential in their work, something intriguing, substance that shows at least the promise of worth, then I give them my \$2.50, or \$2.95, and hope that when I get home, their book will bring me the few minutes of diversion and entertainment they've worked so hard to deliver.

That's what this industry is about, and that's what I think allowed our company to survive past those years when we had more potential than we did polish — the willingness to indulge someone else's dreams.

If we ever loose that willingness — if retailers feel they've been burned once too often by crappy independents, if distributors make their policies too restrictive for fledgling companies... or even if readers just don't make the effort to look over everything that's on the shelves — it will be a sad day for the comics industry.

Karl Mallett
Editor in Chief

Look! Kari! A career in comics is fun, exciting and profitable! Just ask Joe Wright, creator of *Twilight X*, after a recent store signing!



SPAM SPAM SPAM

This month has been, by my recollection, the most exciting month in memory. I spent two weeks at Image Comics working for Top Cow, helping them color and assemble Codename: Stryker Force, Cyber Force and the Cyber Force Sourcebook. I'd like to thank all my friends at Top Cow, especially Marc & Cynthia, Brian, Tyson, Nick and Glen for their patience and their invaluable guidance.

By the time I got back, so much had happened at Antarctic Press that I scarcely recognized the schedule. The up and coming Warrior Nun Areala Ashcan (written and drawn by Ben Dunn) came back from the printer and looks hot! Areala is a member of a small group of elite nuns who protect the faith from the wicked with more than just harsh words. When a rash of demonic killings target New York churches, Areala and Magic Priest team up to purge Satan's hellish minions. Warrior Nun Areala ships in December.

Anime fans rejoice! Kuni Kimura, our intrepid manga-maniac, has informed me that we've secured the rights to bring a series called *Gugin* to the U.S. According to Kuni, the story is something like "Ultraman in feudal Japan." Sounds cool, its written and drawn by Yutaka Kuroda, and will be coming sometime next year.

A warm welcome to Kris Overstreet, who's joined the AP staff this month. He'll be helping Ray Elliot in the ever-burgeoning mail-order department to bring you your back issue orders in a timely manner. Also, Pat Kelly, production guy and touch-up wizard, rejoins us after a brief absence. Seems like he was off training to be an officer in the Army. When he got back I swore I heard him say, "Those Army drill sergeants were as tough as wet spaghetti compared to the whip-cracking, slave-driving taskmasters at AP." Of course, I could be mistaken.

-PAT

CHECK OUT ANTARCTIC PRESS' other releases

- ☐ *Mangazine* #15 (relist)
- ☐ *NHS Swimsuit* 1993 (relist)
- ☐ *Tomorrow Man/Knight Hunter* #2
- ☐ *Albedo* v3 #2
- ☐ *Vanity Angel* #2 (Venus)

- ☐ *Bondage Fairies* #2 (2nd) (Venus)
- ☐ *Gold Digger* Graphic Novel
- ☐ *Silbaster* #5
- ☐ *Furrough* #22
- ☐ *Emblem* #5 (Venus)

- ☐ *NHS Yearbook* 1994
- ☐ *Gold Digger* #16
- ☐ *Wild Life* #9
- ☐ *Fantastic Panic* #8
- ☐ *Velvet Touch* #5 (Venus)

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WILD LIFE

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Pains-in-the-neck • Matthew High & Shon Howell

LAST ISSUE...

INTRODUCING THE SOPHISTIKATS™

PART
TWO:



SCRIPT:
PAUL CASTIGLIA

PENCILS:
BRIGITTE
SLEIERTIN

INKS:
MARK MORALES

LETTERS:
DAN NAKROSIS

CREATIVE DIRECTOR:
DONWYN NEWSOME

KITTY CHOW,
ORPHAN AND COMMONER,
WON THE LOTTERY...



WEALTHY BUSINESSMAN
REX LION TOOK KITTY UNDER HIS
WING TO BOLSTER HIS COMPANY'S
IMAGE AND WORTH...



REX'S NEIGHBOR, HEIRESS
PUSSY WILLOW WELCOMED
KITTY IMMEDIATELY AS AN
ANTIDOTE TO THE USUAL
SNOBS IN HER LIFE...



A MYSTERIOUS FIGURE GRUNTED,
GRUMBLED AND OTHERWISE RETCHED
AT THE NEWS OF KITTY'S WINNINGS!

WE NOW JOIN KITTY'S **CULTURAL
REFINEMENT** LESSON--ALREADY
IN PROGRESS...



A REFINED SOCIETY WOMAN MUST
KNOW HOW TO CARRY HERSELF.
BALANCING THIS BOOK ON YOUR
HEAD WILL IMPROVE YOUR
POSTURE AND STEADY YOUR
STRIDE.



A REFINED SOCIETY WOMAN MUST
KNOW HOW TO CARRY HERSELF.
BALANCING THIS BOOK ON YOUR
HEAD WILL IMPROVE YOUR
POSTURE AND STEADY YOUR
STRIDE.



A black and white comic panel. In the center, a woman in a light-colored dress and dark belt is running away from the viewer, her arms raised in a panic. A large speech bubble above her head contains the text "WHOOOPS!". To the left, a man in a suit and hat stands with a surprised expression, holding a book. A thought bubble above him says "Hoo BOY...". The background is dark and textured with vertical lines.

LOOK AT ALL THIS JUNK!
NO WONDER IT'S CALLED
A "VANITY"! WAITAMINNIT!
THIS GIVES ME AN
IDEA!

MEANWHILE, IN AN ABANDONED WAREHOUSE (DUH! WHERE ELSE?!)

...ON WALLABY STREET TODAY, SOME SIGNIFICANT STOCK INCREASES WERE EVIDENT, CHIEF AMONG THEM THE STOCK OF KING LION INDUSTRIES...



BOLSTERED, NO DOUBT, BY THE RECENT... ER... "ACQUISITION" OF LOTTERY WINNER KITTY CHOW, AND THE PUBLICITY IT GARNERED, IN OTHER BUSINESS NEWS, THE DOG BONES INDUSTRIAL AVERAGE WAS UP...



HMMPH! TAKING A COMMONER UNDER HIS WING, IT'S SO SIMPLYMINDEDLY POPULIST.. IT'S BRILLIANT!!



WHY DIDN'T EITHER OF YOU SUGGEST IT ?? THEN I, RATZO RIZZO COULD SAY I THOUGHT OF IT FIRST!



ONE WAY OR ANOTHER YOU TWO ARE GOING TO FIND THAT LION'S MASTER PLAN, BECAUSE IF YOU DON'T...



I HEAR DAVY CROCKETT HEADWEAR IS COMING BACK IN STYLE!



DAYS, POSSIBLY MANY DAYS, LATER...

I JUST
SPOKE WITH
PROFESSOR
KATT, KITTY...

HE SAID YOU'RE
ALL FINISHED
WITH FINISHING!

HUH?

DID
YOU
HEAR
ME
KITTY?

THE PROFESSOR
FEELS YOU'VE
PASSED YOUR
REFINEMENT
COURSE WITH
FLYING COLORS!

NATURALLY, THE NEXT
STEP IS TO HAVE A
"COMING-OUT"
PARTY!

YOU MEAN LIKE AN
OUTDOOR BARBEQUE? I'VE
BEEN TO A LOT OF THOSE!

NO, NO
KITTY...

A COMING OUT
PARTY IS A CELE-
BRATION OF A YOUNG
PROMINENT WOMAN'S
OFFICIAL ENTRY
INTO SOCIETY.

...AFTER SHE'S
COMPLETELY
REFINED,
OF COURSE!

OOOH!... I CAN'T WAIT TO
TELL MY FRIENDS!

ACTUALLY,
KITTY, IT'S ALL
BEEN PRE-
ARRANGED!

LIKE ALL COMING OUT PARTIES, ONLY
THOSE MOST **PROMINENT** IN SOCIETY
SHALL ATTEND!

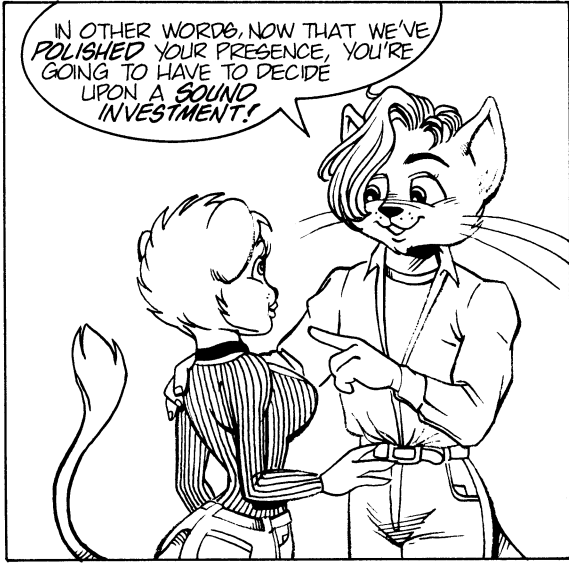
You are cordially invited
to the coming out party
for young debutante,
Ms. Kitty Chow.
R.S.V.P.
A.S.A.P.



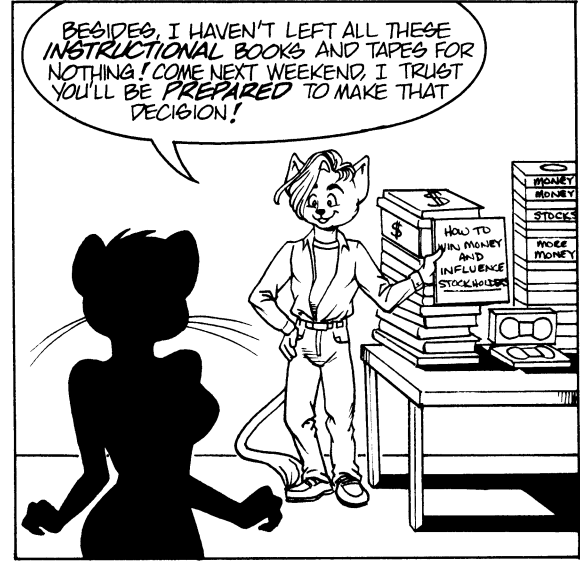
HOWEVER, THAT'S NOT ALL THERE IS TO IT. THE REASON I TOOK YOU UNDER MY WING IN THE FIRST PLACE WAS TO SHOW THAT KING LION INDUSTRIES IS A GOOD INVESTMENT...



... BY PROVING KING LION COULD STEER A PERSON AS **UNKNOWNLEAGABLE** AS EVEN YOU IN THE **RIGHT** DIRECTION WHEN IT COMES TO FINANCES!



IN OTHER WORDS, NOW THAT WE'VE **POLISHED** YOUR PRESENCE, YOU'RE GOING TO HAVE TO DECIDE UPON A **SOUND** INVESTMENT!



BESIDES, I HAVEN'T LEFT ALL THESE **INSTRUCTIONAL** BOOKS AND TAPES FOR NOTHING! COME NEXT WEEKEND, I TRUST YOU'LL BE **PREPARED** TO MAKE THAT DECISION!



... AND BE PREPARED TO **ANNOUNCE** IT AT THE PARTY! **GOOD** NIGHT, KITTY!



HMMM... A **SOUND** INVESTMENT, EH?

Just what will Kitty's **"SOUND** Investment" be? Will Ratzo Rizzo throw a monkey wrench in the whole works? Don't miss the next installment of...
THE SOPHISTIKATS!
APPEARING IN **"WILD LIFE"!!**



I THINK I'D BETTER
RIDE MY BROOM
SIDE SADDLE IN THIS
OUTFIT!

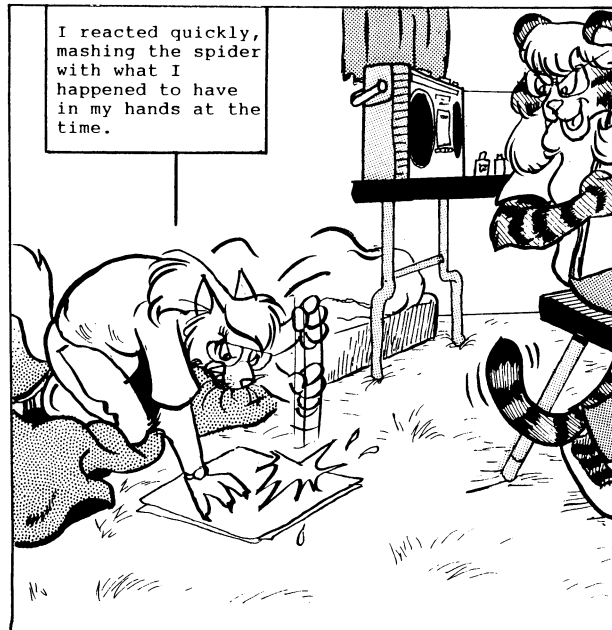
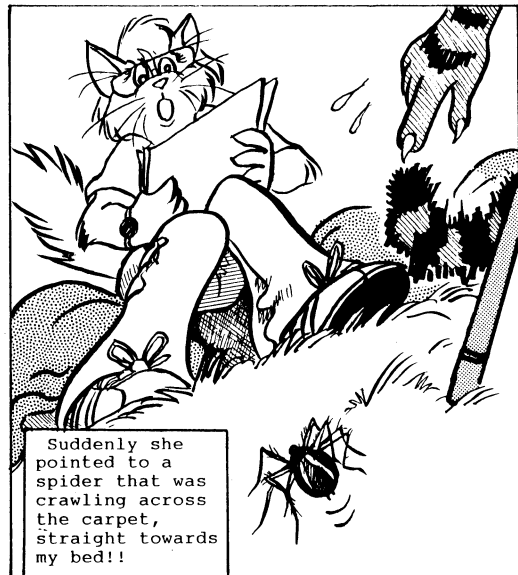
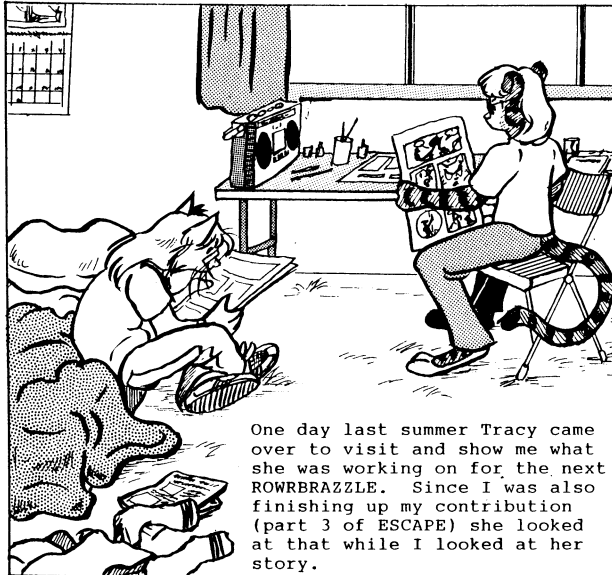
HAPPY HALLOWEEN!
FROM KITTY CHOW AND
THE REST OF -

THE
SOPHISTIKATS

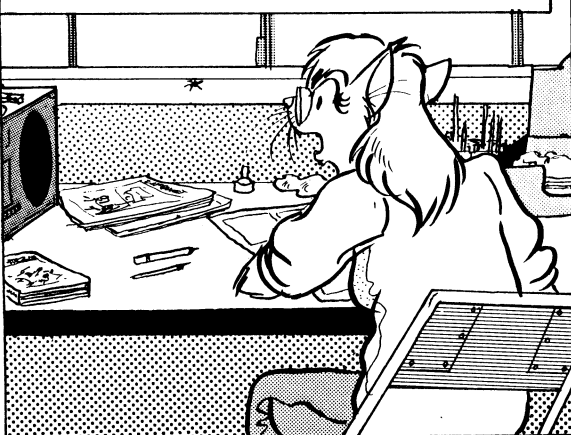
© BRIGITTE
1994

Table's From VALENCIA

PART 1 BUGS IN VALENCIA



Another time I was working at my desk and I saw a spider crawling along the windowsill. It was in a place where I couldn't effectively mash it, so I had to resort to other methods.



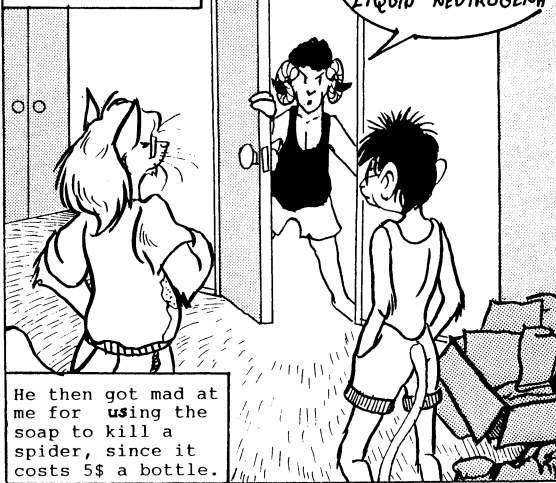
Since I didn't want to use poisonous bug spray by my bed, I grabbed the first thing I saw in the bathroom, some Windex, and tried to kill the spider with that.



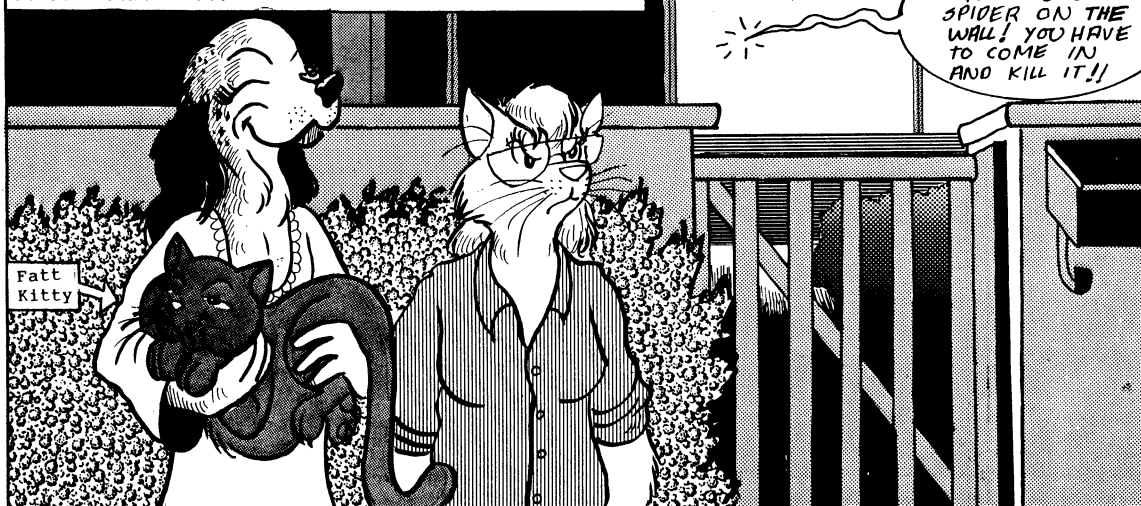
I went back into the bathroom and took the next thing I saw, a bottle of fancy facial soap called Liquid Neutrogena, and tried that. It worked perfectly, encasing the spider like a fly in amber. I left it there to set.

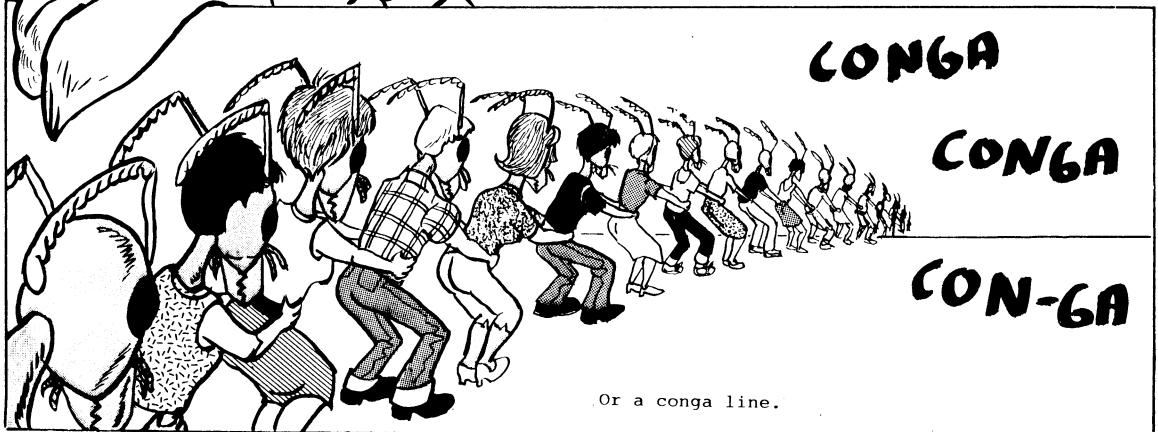
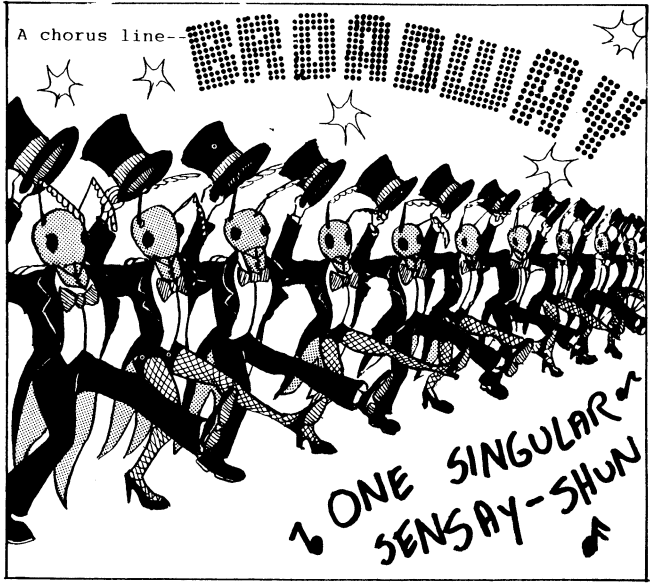


Later on that day I told my roommate, Jody, what I had done. Our other roommate, Jim Rentzis (who is from Greece, read all his dialogue with a Greek accent), stuck his head in the door and had this to say:

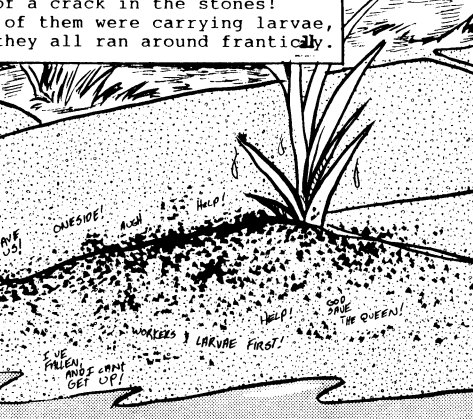


Despite his dislike of some of my methods, Jim often called on me to kill spiders, since he was more afraid of them than I was.





But when I turned off the water, hundreds of ants started pouring out of a crack in the stones! Some of them were carrying larvae, and they all ran around frantically.



SAVE US!
ONESIDE!
ASH
HELP!
HELP!
WORKERS
LARVAE FIRST!
QUEEN!
THE QUEEN!
SAVE THEM!
HOLD UP!
GET UP!

I turned on the hose again and washed all the new ants away.

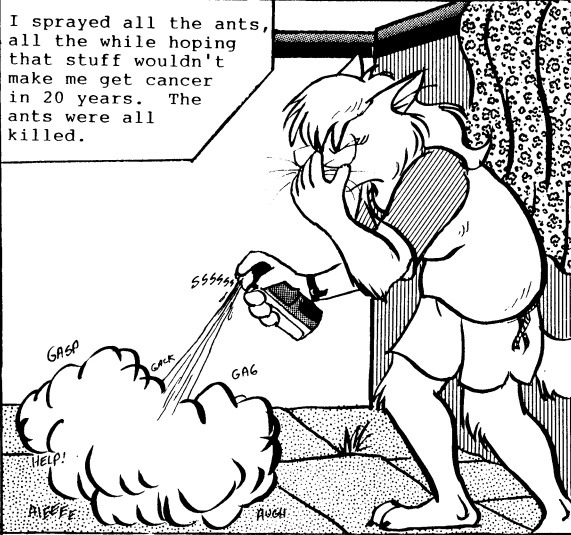
A black and white cartoon illustration of a dog, possibly a Weimaraner, wearing a striped t-shirt and shorts. The dog is holding a garden hose and spraying water onto a sidewalk made of rectangular stones. The water is creating a large splash. In the background, there is a wooden fence and a window with a leopard-print curtain. The dog has a determined expression on its face.

But when I shut the hose off even more ants came out!! I was scared Jim would come out and see what I had done, or that the ants would get inside. I couldn't wash them away again, I had to pay the water bill, and besides, there was a drought going on!!

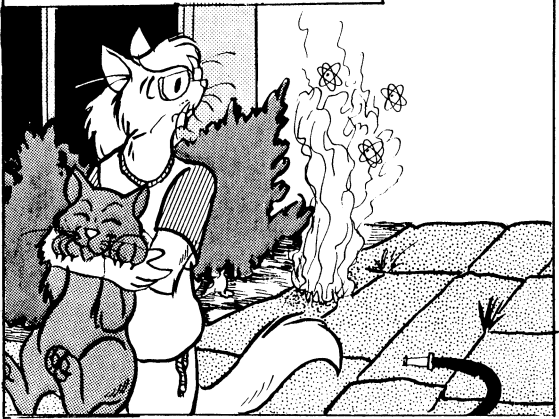


A cartoon illustration of a hand holding a can of 'Toxic' paint. The can is labeled 'DANGER TOXIC' with a skull and crossbones, and 'CAUTION!' with a radiation symbol. The hand is holding the can by the handle, which is shaped like a hand.

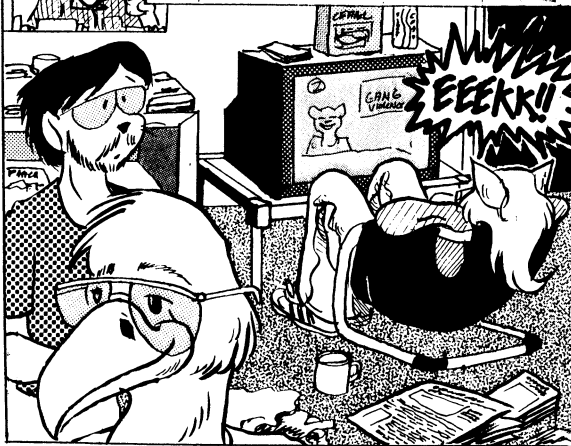
I sprayed all the ants, all the while hoping that stuff wouldn't make me get cancer in 20 years. The ants were all killed.



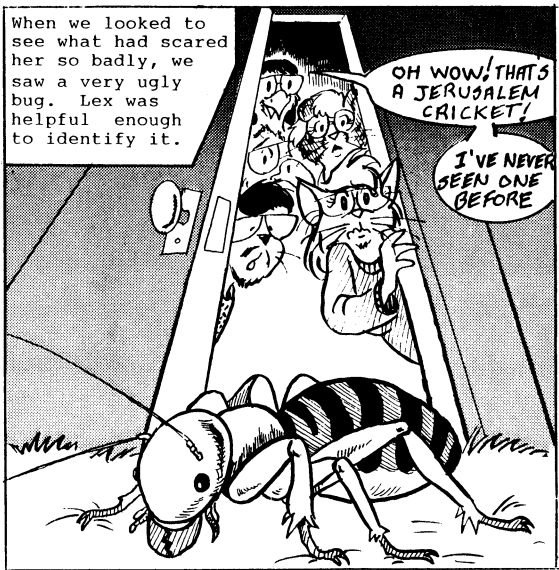
Because the bug spray was so poisonous, I had to keep Fatt Kitty away from the area. I felt terribly guilty about the 'ant Auschwitz', and didn't spray ants with the hose again.



Last winter around Christmas, Tracy, Mike Kazaleh, Fred Patten, Lex Nakashima and myself went to see **LITTLE MERMAID**. When we got back Tracy made a frightening discovery in the bathroom---



When we looked to see what had scared her so badly, we saw a very ugly bug. Lex was helpful enough to identify it.



As usual I was 'volunteered' to get rid of the bug. It was so big and fat that smashing it would've made a mess, so I caught it in a plastic cup. Luckily it was too fat to crawl very fast.



I kept it in the cup outside for a couple of days, and used it to scare Jody.



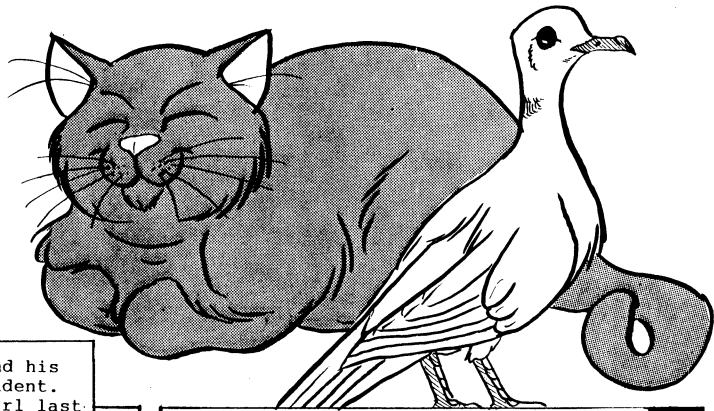
I eventually let it go outside the apartment. It was such an unusual bug I couldn't bring myself to kill it.



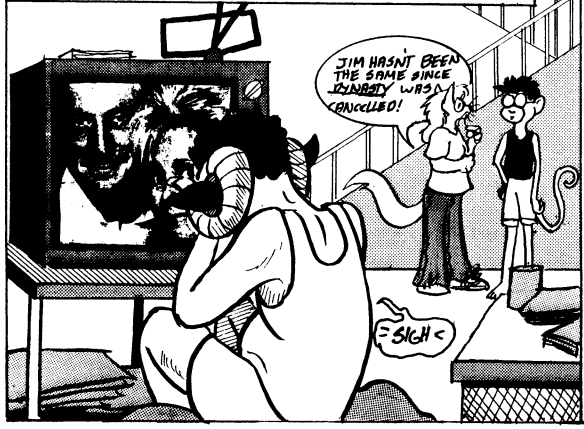
Tracy and Jody wanted me to kill it. They said it was so fat and bloated because it was ready to 'spawn' and make more Jerusalem crickets.

PART 2:

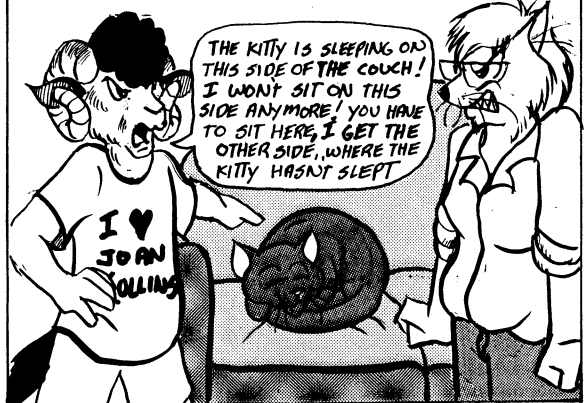
JEEM AND ANIMALS



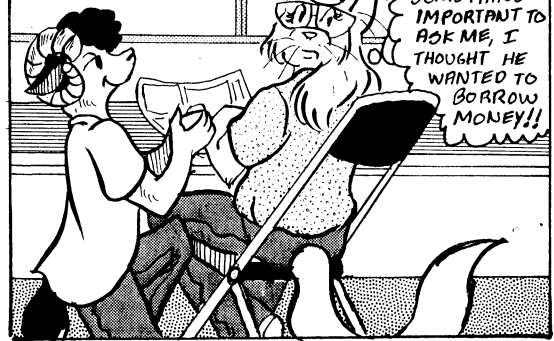
Jim (people pronounced it 'Jeem' behind his back) was also a CalArts animation student. He roomed with me, Jody and another girl last summer. He had many strange obsessions, foremost among them the TV show DYNASTY.



He was obsessed with germs and cleanliness to an abnormal degree, which was very irritating.



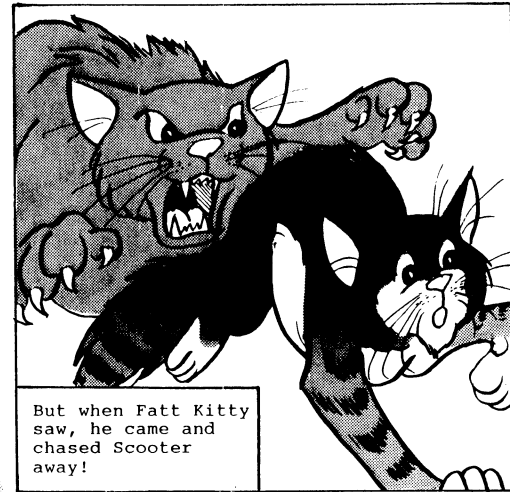
Since he was having trouble getting a green card, he asked me to marry him so he could stay in the country.



Jim was quite disgusted with the attention I lavished on Fatt Kitty, a large grey cat that belonged to an old lady who lived a couple condos down.



Despite that, Jim had a soft spot for cats. One day, tired of Fatt Kitty getting all the cat treats, he went down the row a ways to give some treats to another cat, Scooter.



Then he ran back and bit Jim on the foot to punish him for feeding another cat.

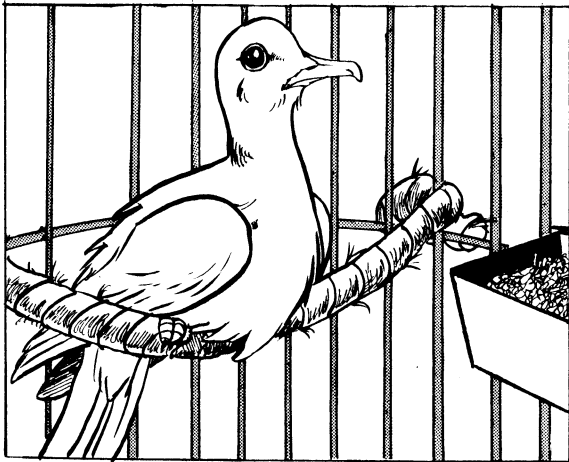


Late one night Fatt Kitty came by with a rat that he had killed, and proceeded to eat it in front of a horrified Jim

HE BROUGHT US A PRESENT! HOW SWEET!



During Christmas Break, while we were still at school, another student gave Jody a white dove that he had found on the school grounds. Jim let us use an old cockatiel cage that he had, and we kept the dove with us when we moved into the condo that summer. The dove was quite tame and would sit on your finger. We named it 'Dr. HaHa', because of the laughing sound it made.



"The Devil finds work for idle hands" in action.

One day when I was at work and no one else was home, Jim decided to find out what would happen if he showed the dove to Fatt Kitty.



THIS IS THE MOST DISGUSTING THING I HAVE EVER SEEN! I AM SO GROSSED OUT! AND YOU LET THE KITTY LICK YOUR DINNER PLATE!

BUT I ONLY LET SCOOTER LICK IT, NOT FATT KITTY!

I DON'T CARE! SCOOTER PROBABLY EATS RATS TOO! I WILL NEVER TOUCH THE KITTY AGAIN! I WILL NOT LET THE KITTY IN AGAIN!! I CAN'T STAND IT!! AUGH!!

=MUNCH= >CRUNCH< >CRUNCH<

For some reason the dove liked Jim, and would coo or 'laugh' when he came in. Jim hated the dove to make noises around him. One day when he picked me up at work he greeted me with this line:



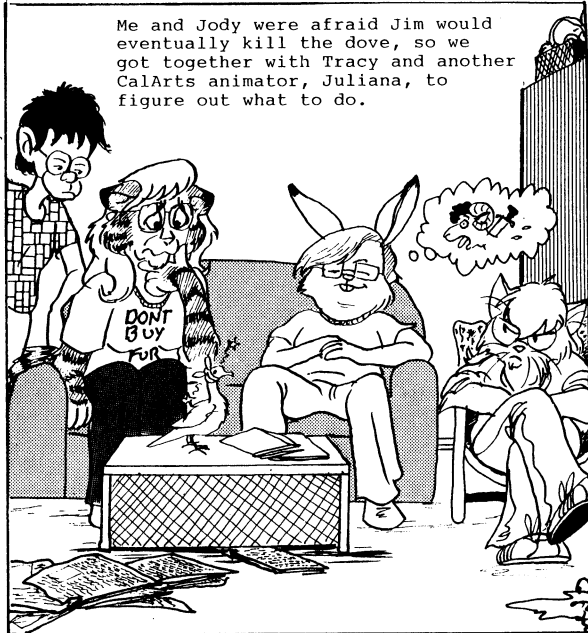
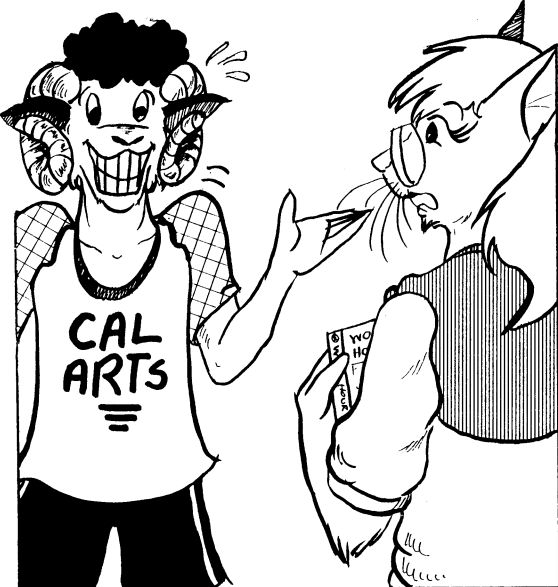
THAT DOVE LAUGHED 14 TIMES TODAY!!



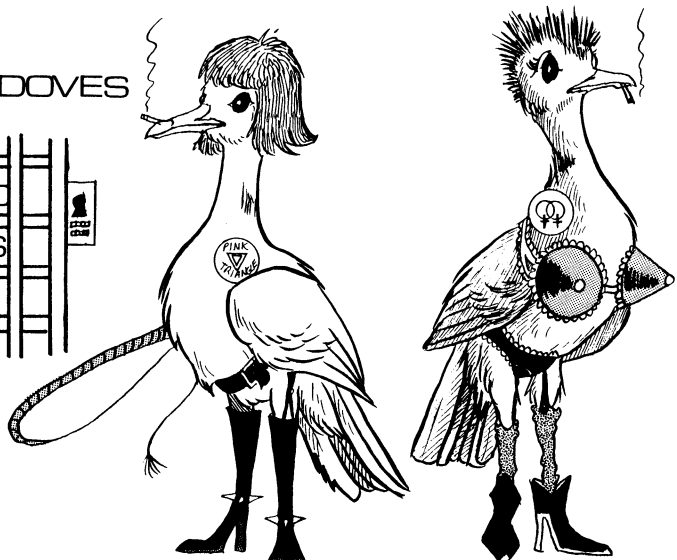
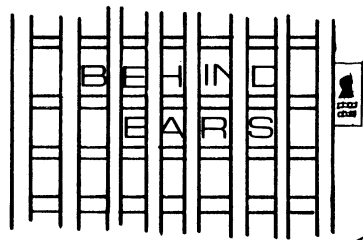
Of course the cat, acting like any other cat, albeit a fat, lazy one, leisurely reached out and gashed the bird on top of the head.

SNAG!!

When he picked me up at work that day he admitted to me what he had done. Our fourth roomie, Angie, was in hysterics over it. I just got depressed.

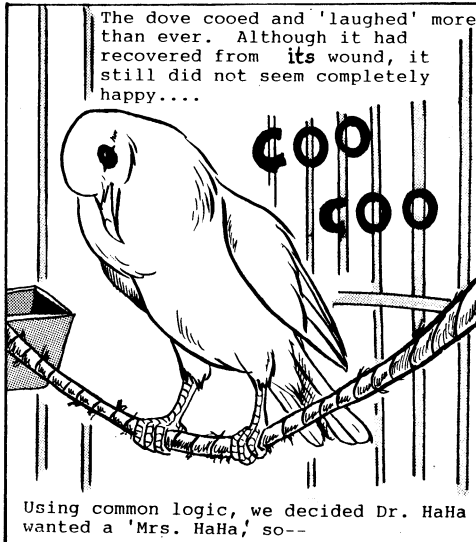


PART 3: LESBIAN DOVES



Juliana offered to take custody of the dove until me and Jody moved out, so soon after that we took it down to her place.

* SHE HAS SINCE TAKEN PERMANENT CUSTODY OF THE DOVE(S).

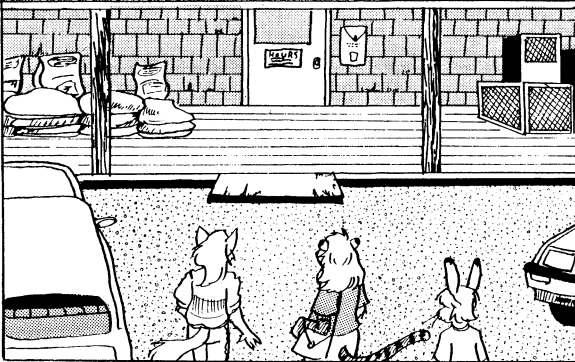


The dove cooed and 'laughed' more than ever. Although it had recovered from its wound, it still did not seem completely happy....

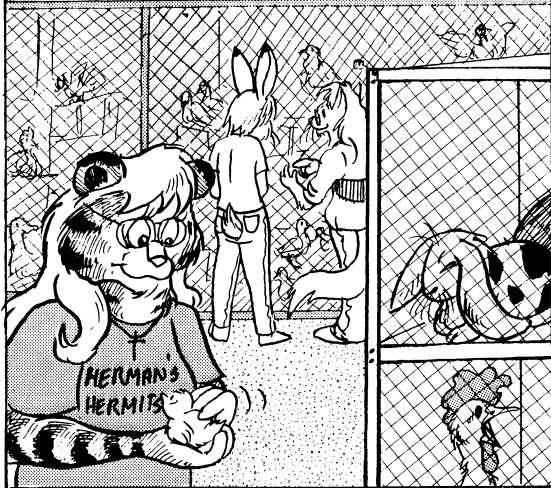
Using common logic, we decided Dr. HaHa wanted a 'Mrs. HaHa,' so--

CANYON COUNTRY FEED BIN

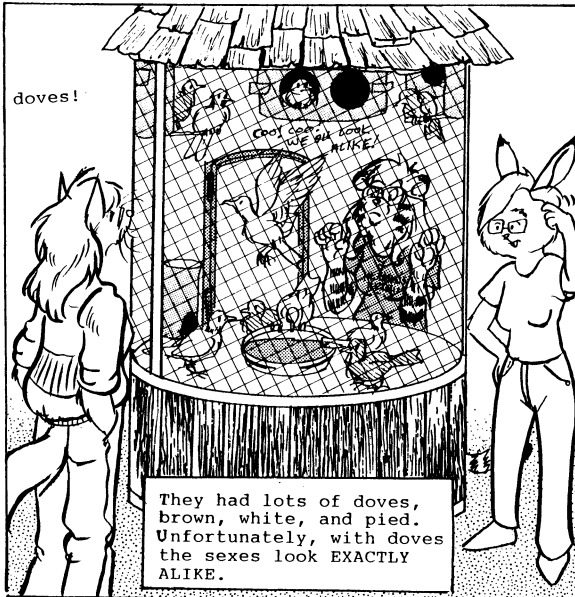
One Saturday me, Tracy and Juliana went to a store in Canyon Country that Juliana said had doves.



There were all sorts of neat animals there. There were different kinds of chickens, rabbits and pigeons, and we spent a lot of time just looking around. They also had mice, rats, and, of course--



doves!



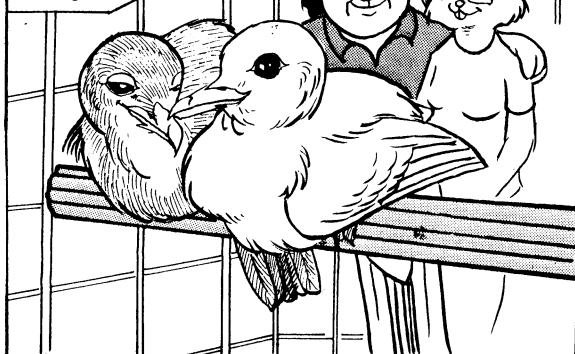
They had lots of doves, brown, white, and pied. Unfortunately, with doves the sexes look EXACTLY ALIKE.

We couldn't find a female, but the owner picked one out and assured us that it was a girl. We also bought a bigger cage and a book about doves.



Even though we split the cost it still set me back twenty bucks.

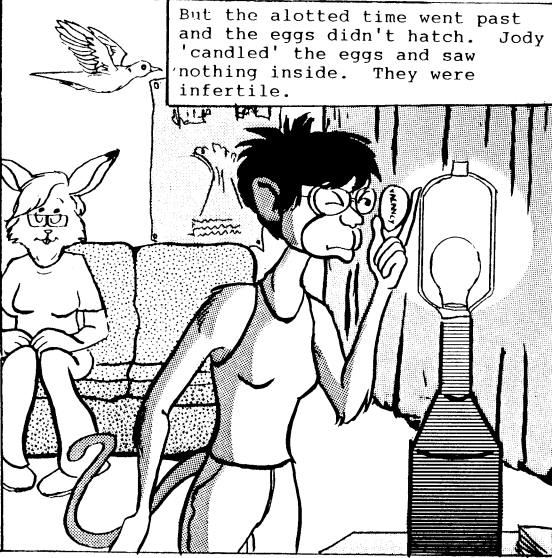
After a couple of 'get acquainted' days we put the doves together. After some initial pecking they were soon getting along fine. Juliana and her boyfriend Dave watched the two 'love birds' fondly.



Soon two eggs were laid in a small basket I had picked up for the occasion at Goodwill. The doves sat on the nest together. We thought it was the cutest thing we had ever seen.



But the allotted time went past and the eggs didn't hatch. Jody 'candled' the eggs and saw nothing inside. They were infertile.



The dove kept laying clutches of infertile eggs, until Juliana had a whole collection. Then one morning she found 4 eggs in the basket! We mentioned this to a coworker (a rather ditzy in-law to one of the directors, who was later fired because she was such a crummy artist) and she had this to say:

SOUNDS TO ME LIKE YOU'VE GOT TWO HENS!

ZOINKS!



Me and Juliana drove home from work in shocked silence. What would our parents and friends say if they found out? We like to think of ourselves as liberal, but this revelation sorely tested that.

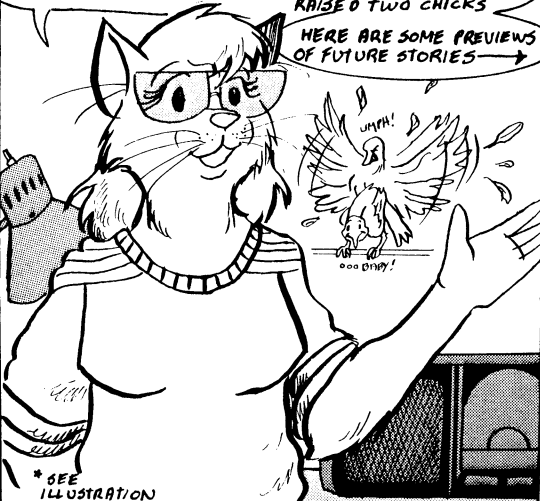


Now we watched the billing, cooing birds in a new light. We admitted this unnatural relationship existed to a few close friends, but we tried to keep the doves in the closet, so to speak. Call us old-fashioned---



WELL, THE UPSHOT OF THIS IS THAT JULIANA GOT TIRED OF WATCHING THE LESBIAN DOVES, AND GAVE THE NEW ONE TO JODY. WE FINALLY GOT A MALE DOVE, WHO QUICKLY PERFORMED HIS MASCULINE DUTY, AND THEY SINCE HAVE HATCHED AND RAISED TWO CHICKS

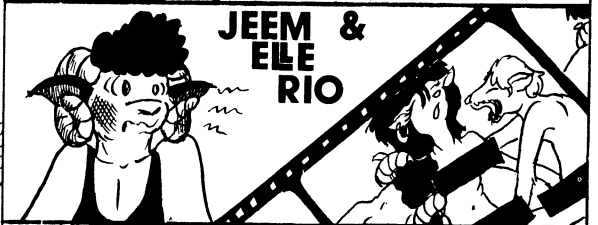
HERE ARE SOME PREVIEWS OF FUTURE STORIES →



NIGHT of the BLACK PHOEBE



JEEM & ELE RIO



NNNASOS, MINDY



GO TO
McDONALD'S

A STILL MORNING...A QUIET TOWN...
A TRAVELING BAND...AN ODD CORPORATION
BAD AIR AND A CASE O'THE RUNS..

THIS IS...

ME!

SLOW DOWN, YOU
FRIGGIN' IDIOT! THERE
ARE TWO PEDALS ON
THE DAMN FLOORBOARD...

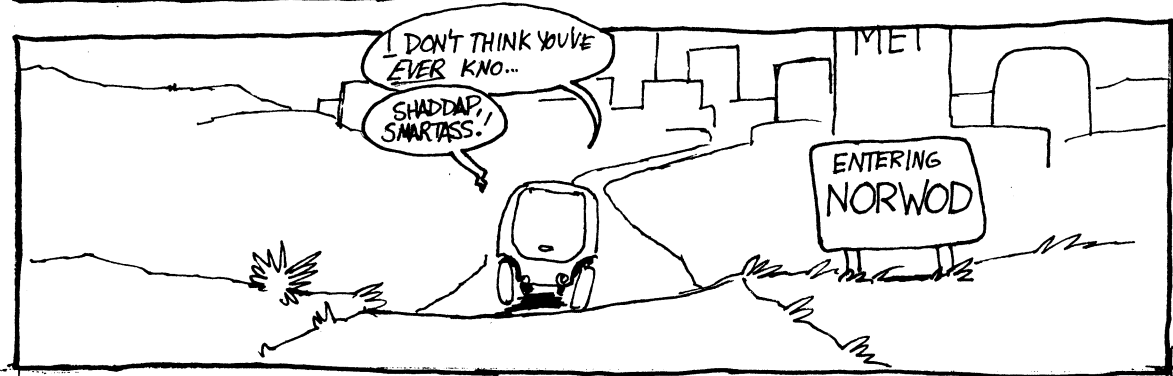
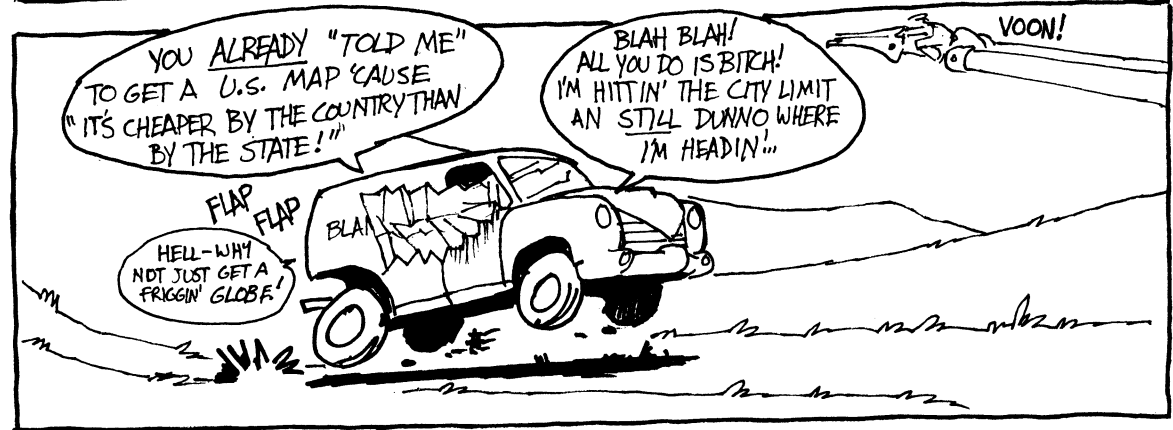
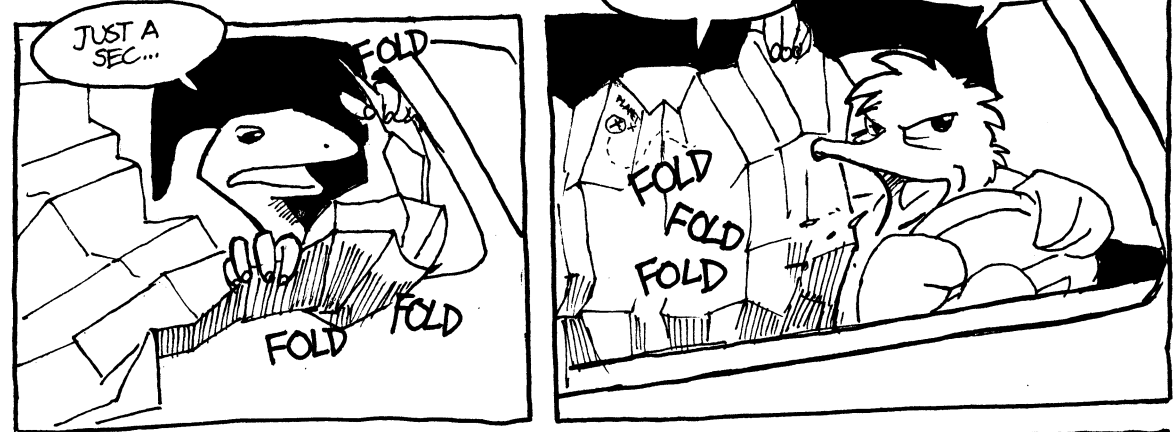
THE
BLANK CARTRIDGES

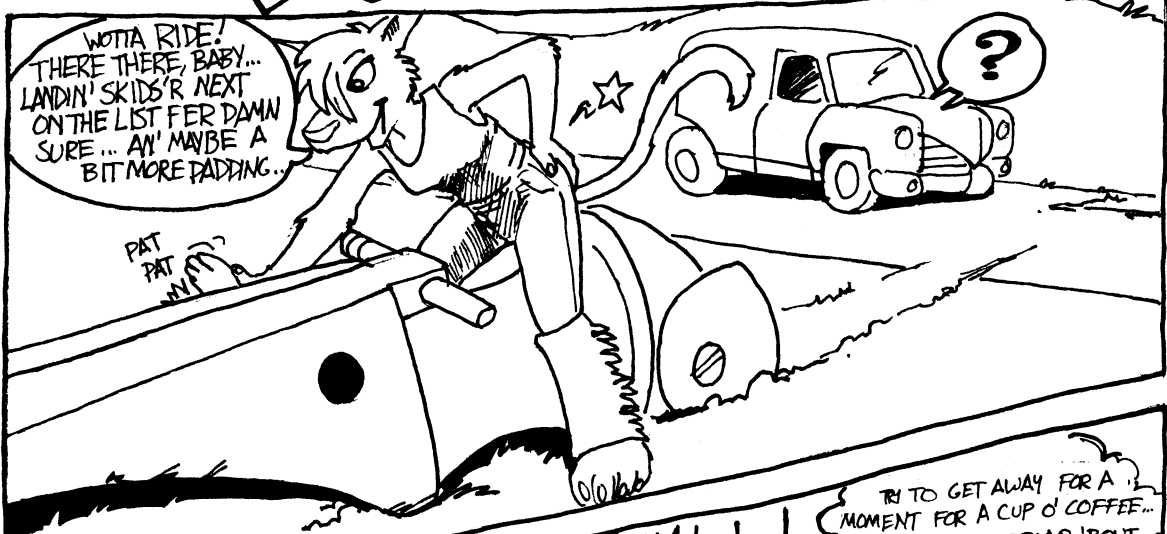
THANKS-THANKS
HEAPS, BILL!

LOOK- I BIN'
DRIVIN' FOR TEN HOURS!
NOW ... SO I'M GRUMPY!
SO WHAT!

SLAM!

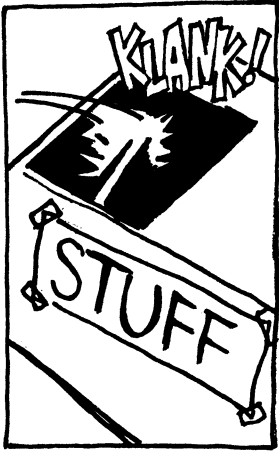
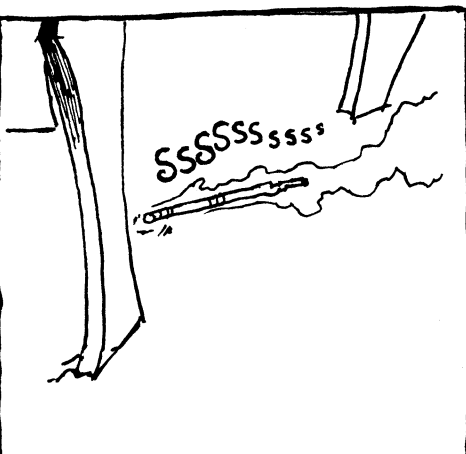
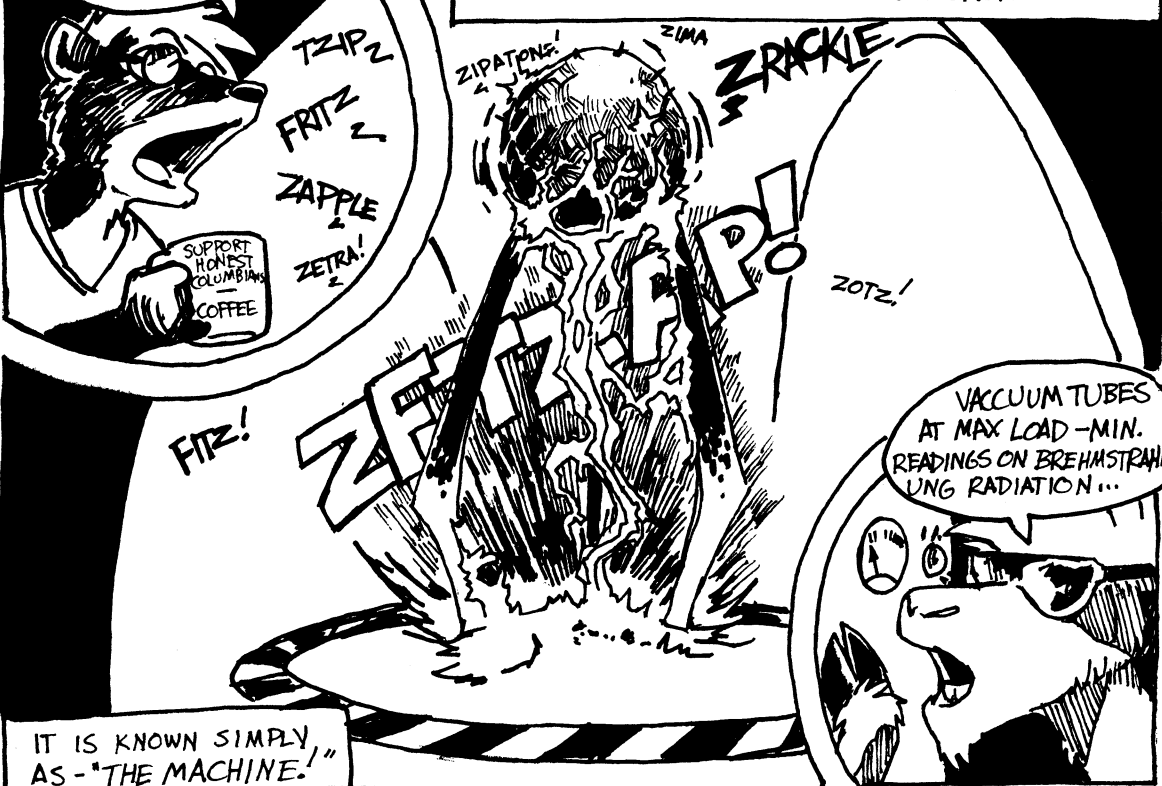
TIRES SLAM DOWN ON PAVEMENT
DEFORMING INGLORIOSLY, MUCH LIKE
THE HEADS OF THE PASSENGERS WITHIN.

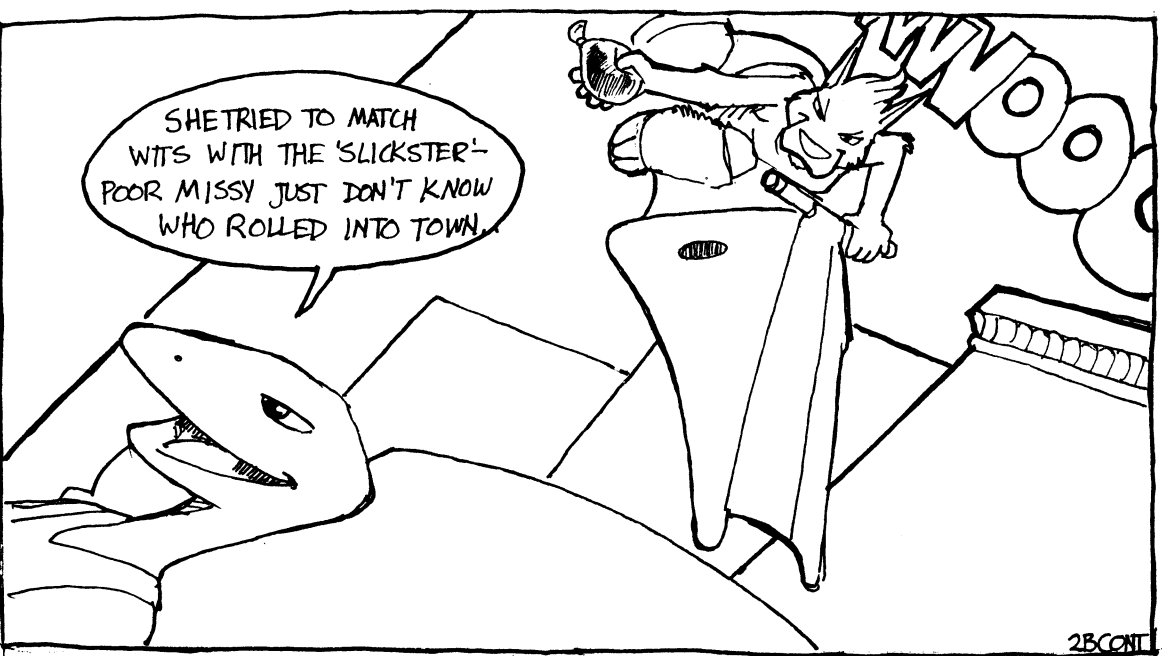




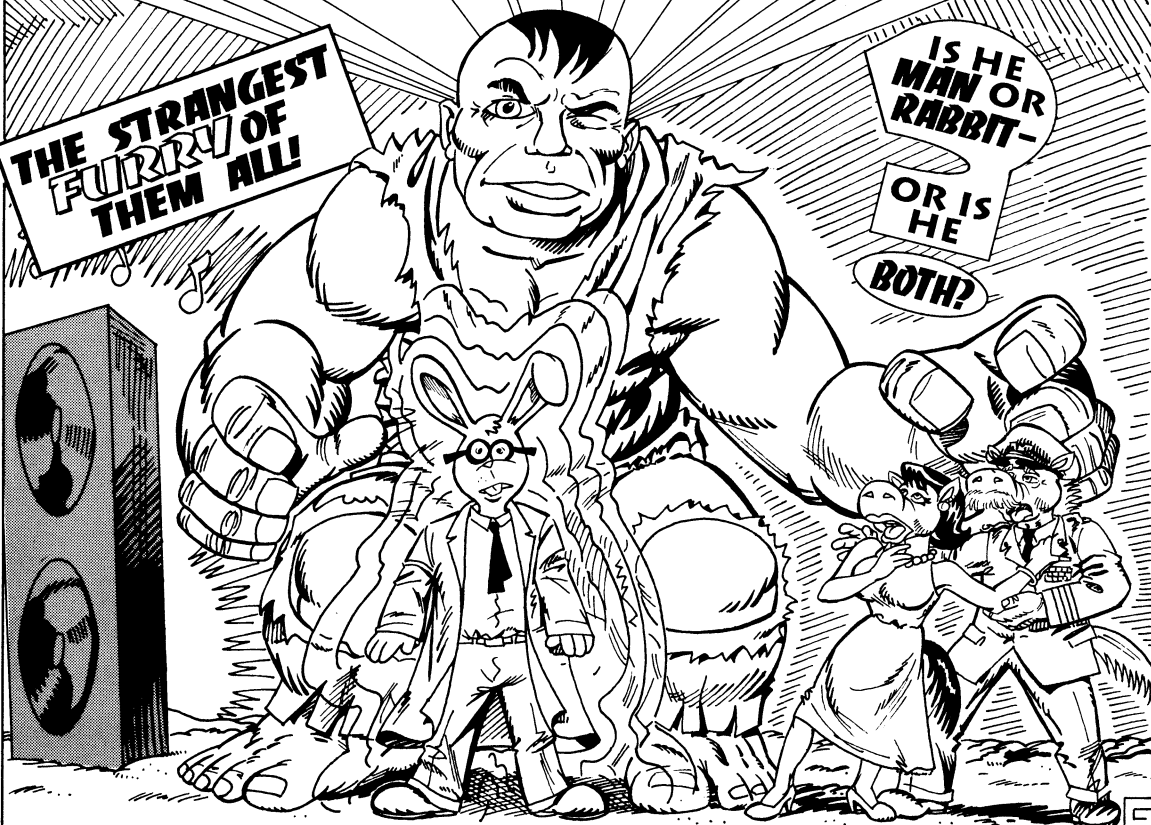
GYROS TO SPEED...
PRESSURE COOKER TO
19.6 PSI!

MASSIVE ELECTRICAL ENERGIES CRACKLE AS THE
MYSTERIOUS PROBABILITY-DRIVEN DEVICE AT THE
HEART OF MEI. THUNDERS INTO MOTION...

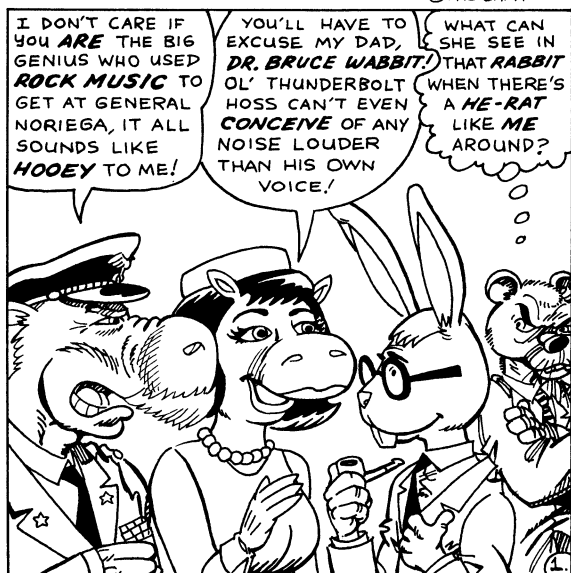
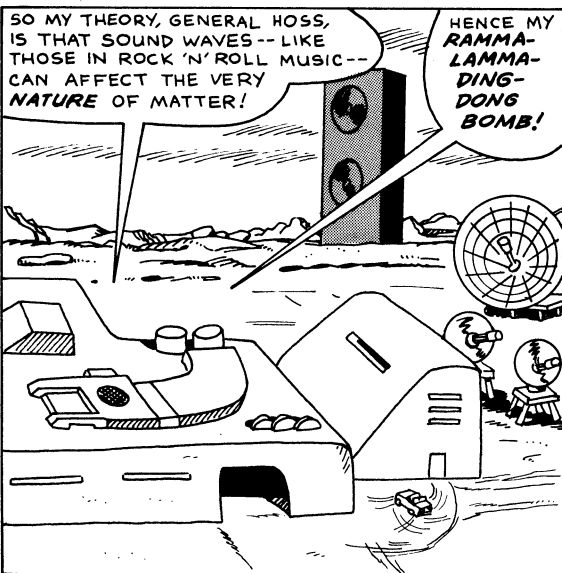




THE INCREDULOUS HU-MAN



© 1995 GAFF



OHMIGOSH! THERE'S A **TEENAGE KID RIDING ONTO THE TESTING GROUNDS IN A HOPPED-UP HOT ROD!** IF I DON'T **SAVE HIM**, THAT'LL BE ONE LESS **JUVENILE DELINQUENT!**



McRAT! DELAY THE COUNTDOWN UNTIL I GET BACK!

AAA... **SURE!** YOU GOT IT!

-- **NOT!**



HEY, YOU! YOU'RE IN A **RESTRICTED AREA!**

COOL IT, DUDE! THERE HASN'T BEEN A **CONCERT** YET THAT **DUCK JONES** HASN'T BEEN ABLE TO **BOOTLEG-TAPE!**



THIS IS NO **CONCERT**, YOU **PIMPLE-POPPIN' BOBBYSOXER!** THAT'S A **MEGA-AMPLIFIER BOMB!**

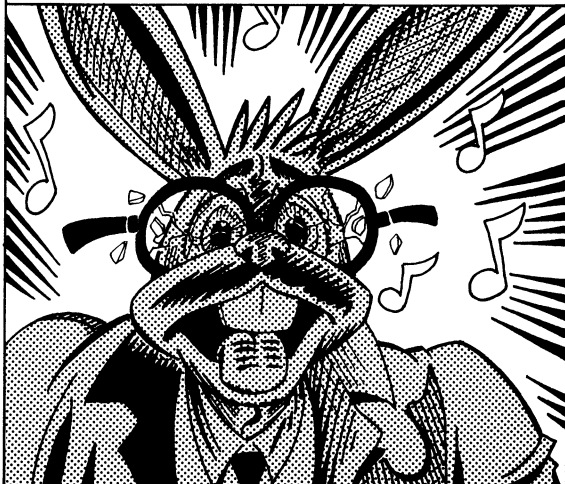
QUICK! HIDE IN THIS **CONVENIENTLY-PLACED PROTECTIVE TRENCH--**

YAHHHH!

A **BOMB?** **SHEESH!**

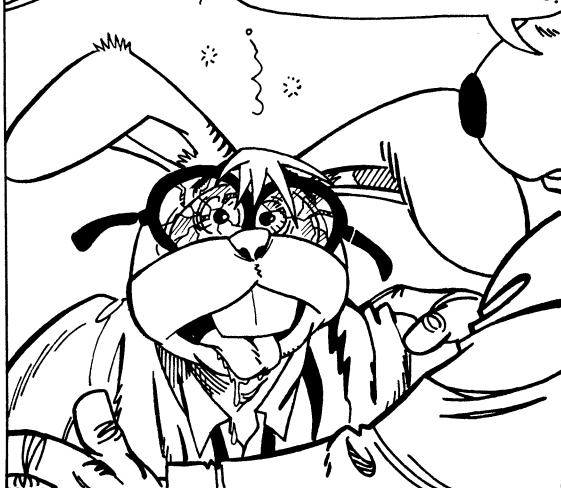


A **CACOPHONY OF PHONICS** BOMBARDS THE **NOBLE SCIENTIST**. THE **VIBRATIONS OF NOTE AND PITCH** EAT INTO THE **VERY FABRIC OF HIS BODY'S DNA...**



CAN HE HEAR US, **DOCTOR?**

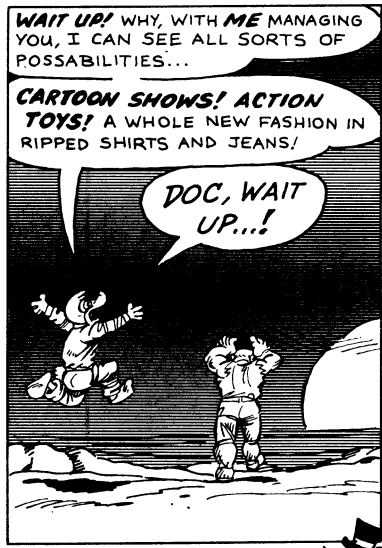
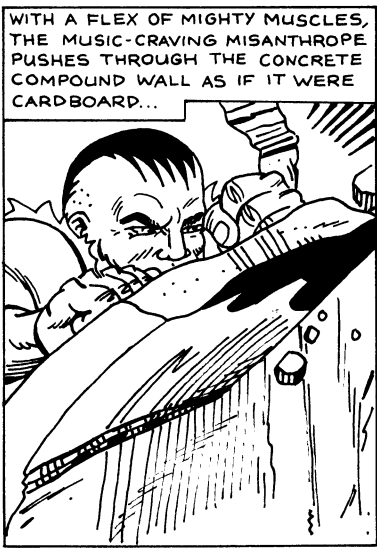
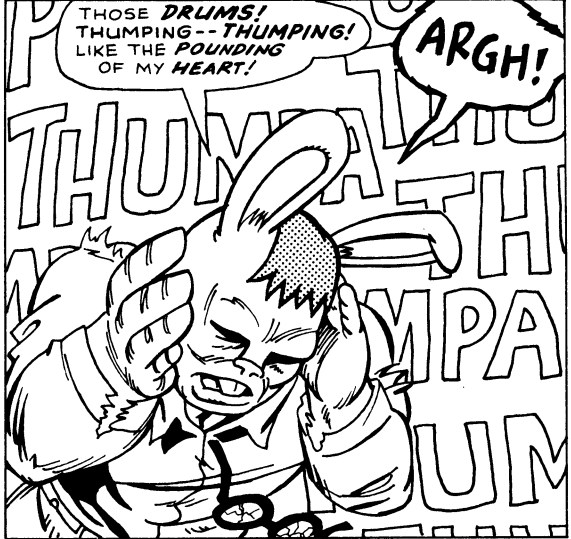
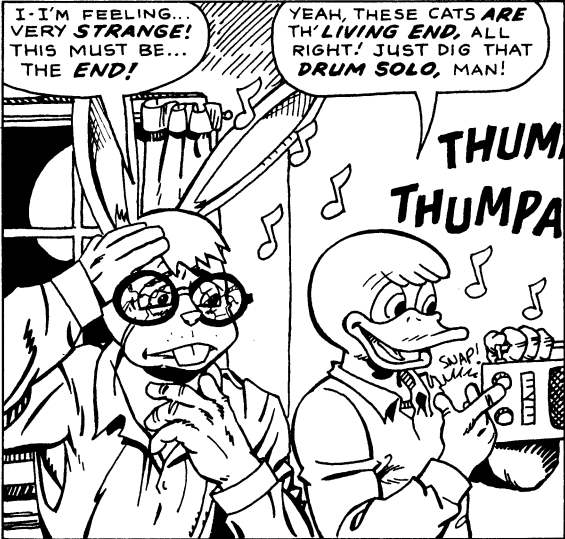
WITH EARS LIKE **HIS**, HE MUST'VE TAKEN THE **FULL BRUNT OF THE RAMMA-LAMMA-DING-DONG BOMB**.



DR. WABBIT, IT'S **AMAZING** THAT YOU WEREN'T **ATOMIZED** IN THAT **BLAST**, OR AT LEAST TURNED INTO SOME **MUTATION** OUT OF A **BERT I. GORDON** FILM!

WHY DON'T YOU **RELAX, DOC?** I'LL PUT ON SOME **COOL MUSIC** FOR YA!







the TAIL END



*Hooray! We finally got some letters for **Wild Life!** (And wouldn't you know it, most of them are from our Letterhack-par-Excellence, Philip M. Cohen!) The editorial front is pretty much the same; crises narrowly averted, dragons slain, the usual.... The only big news is the possible cancellation of everyone's favorite furry title. Yes, the rumors are true-- if the sales of **Wild Life** don't improve by issue 12, it will be cancelled. So tell your local retailers to order it! Speaking as an ex-comic shop manager, it's important to let your retailer know when you want a comic ordered. Also, retailers have to order their stock about two months in advance, so it does no good to tell them you want a book the day before it's due to come out. Check out a copy of *Previews* or the *Advance Comics*. And if you special order a book, it's usually a good idea to pick it up.....the first thing a retailer notices about a book is how many he has left over on the shelves. I'd like to see **Wild Life** continue because I think we've got some of the most talented people in the biz working on it, but if the sales remain low, not even chaining myself to the production computer is going to help it! That's enough ranting for now; onto the letters!*

Dear Penguins:

Wild Life #6: A topnotch episode of "Buffalo Wings" to start off the latest issue of your best anthology. I love all the characters- even Stu, who in real life would probably drive me up the wall much as he does Cliff. Their interactions are interesting and believable, and John Nunnemacher packs a lot into eight pages, with setups for future sparks. I also liked the many little background details. "I Dated a Martian" is a step backward for Sarah & Ginnie: not as well written as last issue's story (maybe it works better for women with

memories of dating slime and dreams of becoming Datesquelcher Woman), and the drawing is heavier and less attractive than Erica Missey's. Erica's faces are particularly superior. Nice TV Guide, though. I look forward to seeing what Elin Winkler does in the apparently farther-out setting of *Tales of the Fehnnik*. "326th in Line" is a nice vignette.

I give a separate paragraph to Jimmy Chin's "Party Favors" because it puzzles me so. His convention reports are as good as any in the anthropomorphic field, but I enjoy his stories for A.P. far less. The stories just don't flow for me; they often seem to be set pieces, though when I consider successive panels they usually seem logically connected. At the moment my guess is that not enough is happening in many panels, leading to the comic book equivalent of jerky animation. (Plenty going on in the party panels, true; besides the obvious jokes, I suspect there are a dozen in-jokes that will go past those of us who don't frequent furry parties. Kungaloosh?) I'd be interested in seeing a more informed analysis. And maybe you could reprint some tidbits from his con reports?

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

Dear Penguins:

Wild Life #7: Excellent cover. "Movie Night" continues to tell a good story; it hurt me to read the last page. "Vixy Vid" is hilarious; every panel is a delight, but I think my favorite is the picture of the Dedrat serving staff. I find the Pygmalion plot of "The Sophistikats" a little incoherent so far, but I like the characters and the jokes are plentiful and funny: contents of the purse, Rex playing with Tokyo, the fashions at

Chez Depeche (Elizabeth Boupe, oh yes!). "Beatniks": crazy, man. The other final bits were good too- I particularly liked "California Cat".

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

Dear Ms. Elin Winkler,

Hello, I just bought **Wild Life** #8 a few hours ago today and I felt inspired enough to send you a letter.

Kew-well! What a great comic! The cover by Joe Rosales was great. Three girls at once!

"Clothes Horse" by Donna Barr was funny. I think cause my nephew Donovan acts the same way. "Jeez, Mom, I don't wanna wear dumpy dumb clothes!"

"The Greer Bar" by Pat Kelley was good and hopefully we'll see more of her work in upcoming issues of **Wild Life**. Please continue "The Greer Bar"!

"Furr-tual Reality" by Mel. White got me thinking, what is GENie and Internet? I've got a Mac PCII and if possible, I would like to try it out. Who do I write to?

Last but not least, "A Kiss is Just a Kiss". Awesome!! I think you and Joe Rosales work great together and hopefully I'll see more of the Terrible Trio real soon! One question for you: do you do commissioned artwork? Please let me know!

Sincerely,
Hugo Casares,
Houston, TX

Gosh, Hugo, thanks for the heaping praise! As for commissions, no, I don't do them because I have trouble drawing a straight line. (ha ha) I'm not sure if Joe is taking commissions anymore; he's pretty busy working on the new "Romanics" story. An Internet suggestion: write to Mel. White at Laughing Coyote Press(P.O. Box 495335, Garland, TX 75049) and ask about "Sam Siam in FurryMuck Land". See ya in 90!-EW

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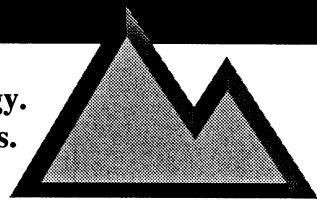
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