

FINAL ISSUE!

WILD LIFE



AP

ANTARCTIC PRESS

12

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1995

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Can.

HUMOR



ANTARCTIC BLAST

Half Empty

Marvel Comics has announced that it will be distributing its comics exclusively through its recently acquired subsidiary, Heroes World. The repercussions of this will certainly be bad for the industry, and could spell disaster.

With stores forced by economic necessity to buy Marvel comics through Heroes World (or else lose a whopping chunk of their profits), and with other companies' comics not available through Heroes World, two things will definitely happen: (1) a very small percentage of stores will go "Marvels only," but, more importantly, (2) stores which accept the burden of buying through two distributors (or more) will have their dollars spread thinner because splitting their orders between two distributors will reduce the discount they get due to volume ordering. This means lower profits for all publishers as retailers become more selective, with smaller independents being the hardest hit. Borderline stores that don't roll with the changes will probably have to close down from loss of profit.

All distributors (except Heroes World) will have to discontinue, and some will go out of business entirely. Belt tightening at the distributors will be another blow to smaller publishers, as they find themselves faced with fewer distribution options and possibly even a market where Marvel, DC, Dark Horse and even Image go to exclusive distribution deals with various distributors, further fragmenting the retailer's attention.

As some independent publishers go out of business, retailers could suffer a further blow due to an overall drop in customers; comic readership will decline instead of growing if the variety isn't there to draw in nontraditional readers.

Unavoidably, the overall results will be shrunken profits for publishers, distributors and retailers alike, business casualties in all areas of the industry; less variety for readers; continued stagnation of comics as being gaudy superhero fluff for kids; and possibly, if the domino effect gets really bad, a partial or total collapse of the direct market for comics.

But at least Marvel will be making more money.

... OR HALF FULL?

Marvel's decision to distribute exclusively through Heroes World is one of the most exciting and potentially most positive developments the comics industry has seen in years. Finally, the stage has been set for a showdown from which comics as a whole can only benefit.

Because Marvel makes up less than 40% of direct market sales, it should be obvious that all retailers who offer any sort of variety at all will have to start buying from multiple distributors. Initially, losing their Marvel sales will be hard on the other distributors, but to make up for it, they're going to have to start pushing independents much harder; there's simply no way for them to make up for the lost sales through DC, Dark Horse and Image, which are already very high-profile and thus harder to sell in increased quantities. So retailers will be seeing even more exposure on independents at the same time that they're facing (probably) tougher discounting structures on their Marvels. Loss of the big discount that comes with buying through a single distributor will make retailers more selective on both Marvels and all others.

That increased selectivity should translate into an increased demand for quality comic products, as well as a hunger for new "hot" books. As competition heats up on all fronts — retail, publishing and distribution — well-organized companies producing quality products will assuredly prosper. Good information and reliability will be at a premium.

By making itself into a leaner, meaner publishing company with direct access to retailers, Marvel has thrown its glove in the industry's face. It's made a gutsy move and left the rest of us to respond. New methods of doing business will have to be found. New attitudes about ordering by retailers. New focuses for promotional emphasis by distributors. New awareness of retailer and distributor needs by publishers.

As we struggle to find these innovations, some in the industry may fall on tough times. But those who see the opportunities and seize them will prosper.

HEY! I ORDERED A CHEESEBURGER!

Comics? Who needs 'em? Gaudy pictures and a buncha words in balloons... why the hell wouldn't you just watch TV?

Herb Muller
Editor In Chief
03/16/95

Herb Muller

**CHECK
OUT
ANTARCTIC
PRESS'
other
releases***

☐ Roja Fusion #1
☐ Gojin #1
☐ Tomorrow Man/Knight
Hunter #5
☐ Furrlogun #28
☐ Stainless Steel Armadillo
#2

☐ Gold Digger #20
☐ Wild Life #12
☐ Girls of NHS 1995
☐ Warrior Nun Areala #3
(reg)
☐ Warrior Nun Areala #3
(deluxe, ships with CD)

☐ Dodekain #6
☐ Naked Eye #3
☐ Tigers of Terra #10
☐ Sentai #7
☐ Battle Binder Plus #6

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Ted Nomura: Artist Profile



Ted Nomura, writer/artist of *Tigers of Terra*, is shown here in a rare 1965 photo trying out for the role of Mr. Spock. Most Star Trek historians don't know that Ted actually got the role but quit before the first episode filmed because he didn't think the series had any potential. Luckily for us, Ted diverted into comics and the rest is history. He recently beamed down to San Antonio to join the rest of the AP Crew where his book is now on a monthly schedule, between his Pon Farr episodes.

completely unacknowledged photo (really) courtesy PAT DUKE

WILD LIFE

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Mascot Duties • Cog, the Ninja Kitty

IMAGINE THE PERFECT FOOD IN ALL
THE WORLD, WHAT WOULD IT BE?

"CHOCOLATE CAKE?"

GROW UP.

**YOUR CAKE
GOES STRAIGHT
TO MY HIPS
(and keeps going)**

STILL, THERE'S NO NEED TO TURN
YOUR NOSE UP AT IT, EITHER.

STORY: TODD SUTHERLAND

ART: CHARLES DAVIES

©L'AMAZING PROD. 95

ALL THE BETTER WHEN YOU KNOW IT'S
NOT MEANT FOR YOU, BUT A BUNCH OF
YOUR SISTER'S SNOTTY HIGH SCHOOL
FRIENDS....

HOLD IT,
BUSTER!



I WASN'T GONNA...

NO BS, YOU LITTLE SOB. I KNOW WHAT YOU HAD IN MIND, SO LISTEN:



UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES ARE YOU TO TOUCH THIS CAKE, EITHER WITH HANDS OR OTHER GRASPING IMPLEMENT. NEITHER CUT THE CAKE, OR REMOVE ANY PART OF IT. VISIBLE PERTURBATIONS OF ANY SORT ARE PUNISHABLE BY DEATH. GOT IT? YES...



IT SEEMED PRETTY AIRTIGHT. SHE'D RULED OUT, IN ONE FELL-SWOOP, THE THONG' PLOY, THE FISHING LINE GAMBIT, AND THE HACKSAW EXCEPTION' TRICK. I SAW NO WAY TO STEAL THE CAKE OR ANY PART OF IT AND STILL KEEP ALL FIVE LIMBS ATTACHED.

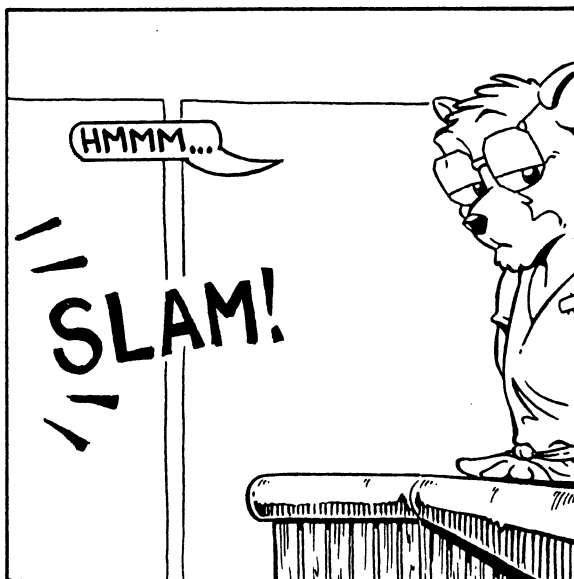
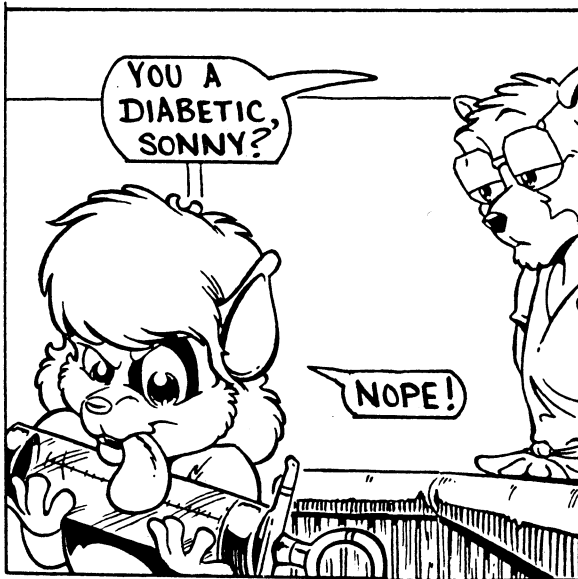
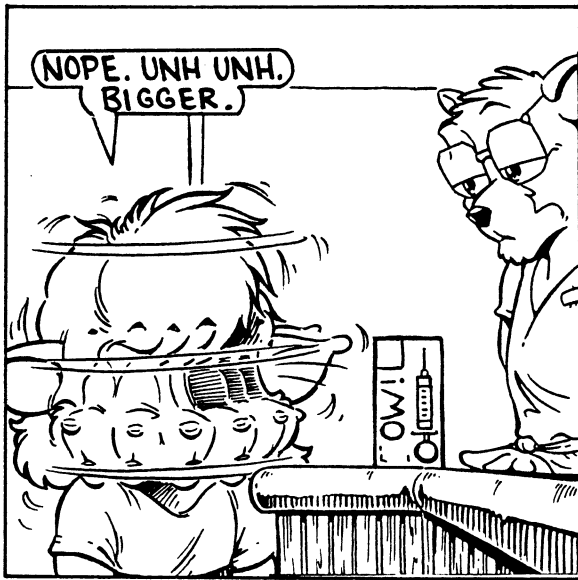
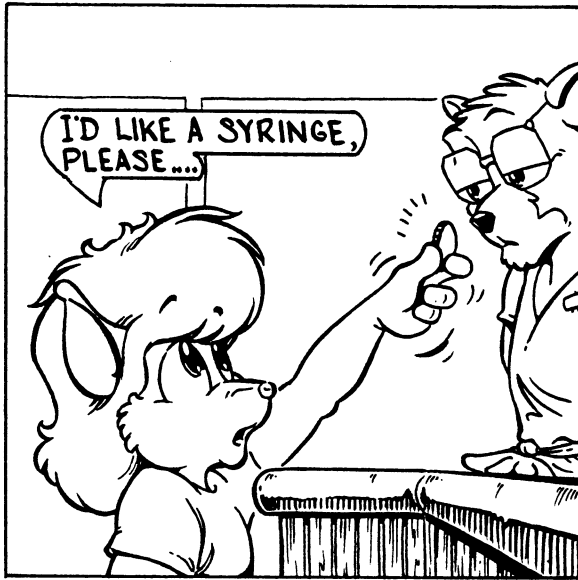


CONSEQUENTLY, THE GEARS OF MY MIND SHIFTED FROM PLOTTING ACQUISITION TO...

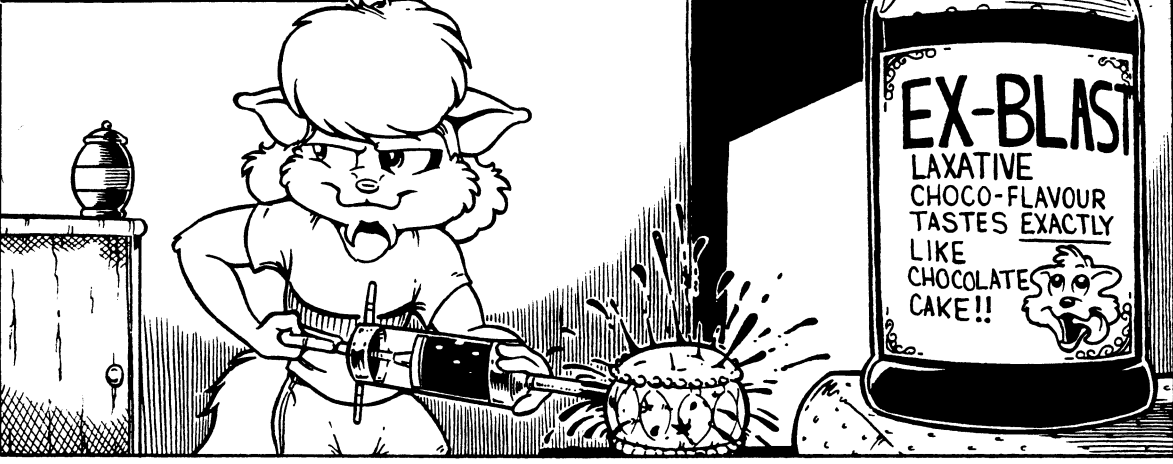
...REVENGE.



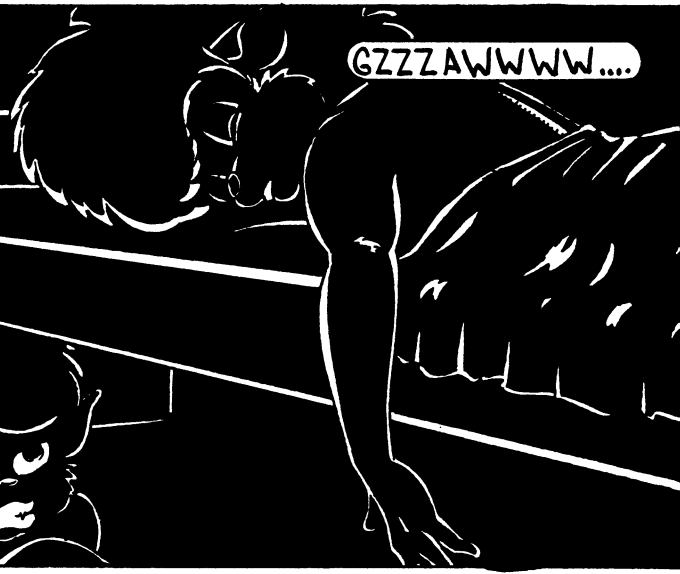
IT'S LIKE I ALWAYS SAY; IF YOU CAN'T GET WHAT YOU WANT, RUIN IT FOR SOMEONE ELSE. OH, YEAH... WORDS TO LIVE BY.



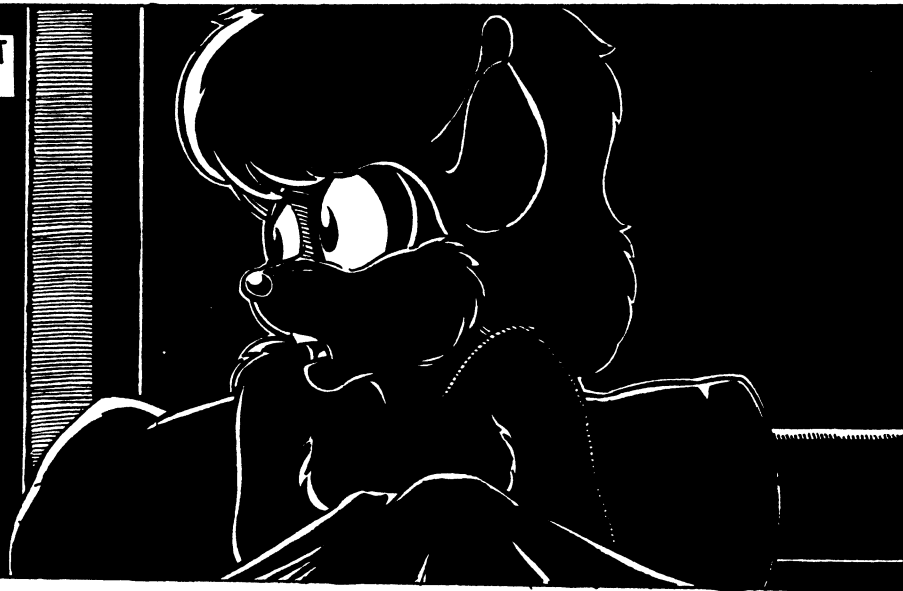
WHY TAKE HALF-MEASURES? THIS WOULD BE A CAKE THEY'D NEVER FORGET, NO MATTER HOW BRIEFLY IT WAS WITH THEM.



HAVING TREATED THE CAKE SUCH THAT, AHEM, "NO MATTER HOW YOU SLICE IT, IT COMES UP PEANUTS", I SETTLED IN TO AWAIT THE FUN. I LISTENED AS KRIS'S FRIENDS FILED IN...



STILL, THE BEST LAID PLANS...





SINCE YOU WERE SUCH A GOOD KID, YOU GET THE FIRST PIECE. HOPE YOU LIKE IT.

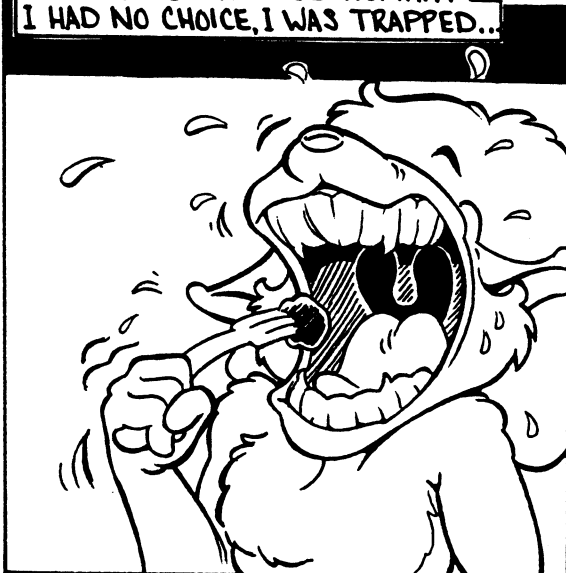


HOIST ON MY OWN SYRINGE! WHO COULD HAVE EXPECTED KRIS TO GO AND BE HUMAN? I HAD NO CHOICE, I WAS TRAPPED..



Rattle Rattle

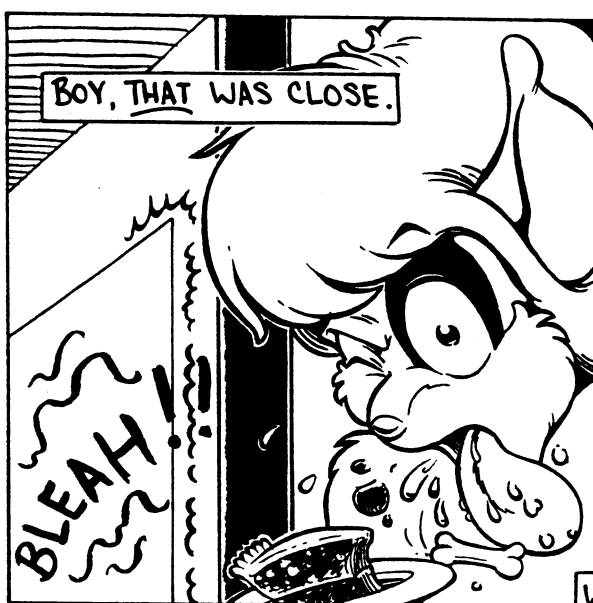
Heh Heh Heh



MMMMM
MMMMM



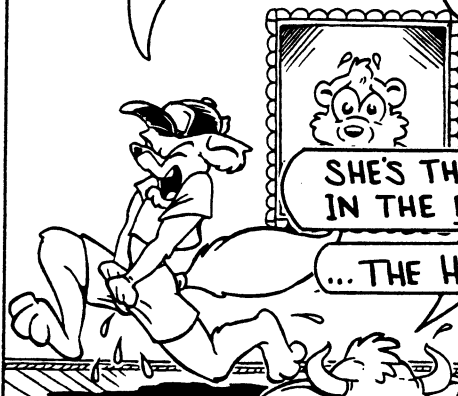
GLAD YOU LIKE IT G.NIGHT.



WHAT ELSE COULD I DO? IT WAS GOING TO WIND UP THERE ANYWAY. I FIGURED I WAS JUST SAVING A STEP...

I CAN'T WAIT! I'M GOIN IN THE BACKYARD!!

CHRIST, WOULDJA HURRY UP IN THERE!?



SHE'S THE WORST COOK IN THE PROVINCE...

...THE HEMISPHERE!!

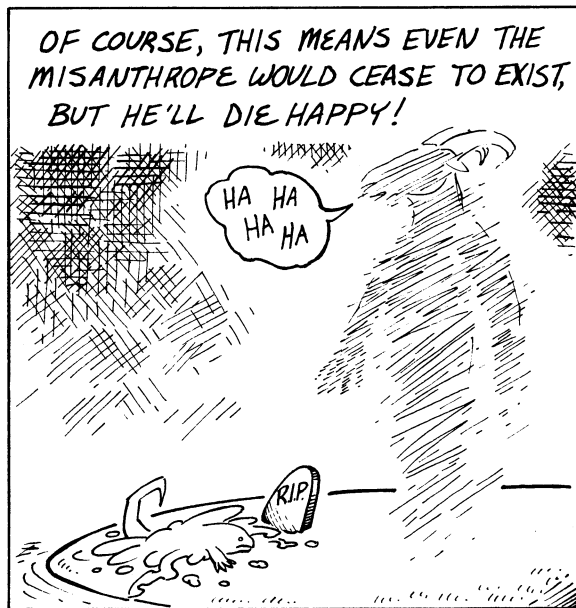
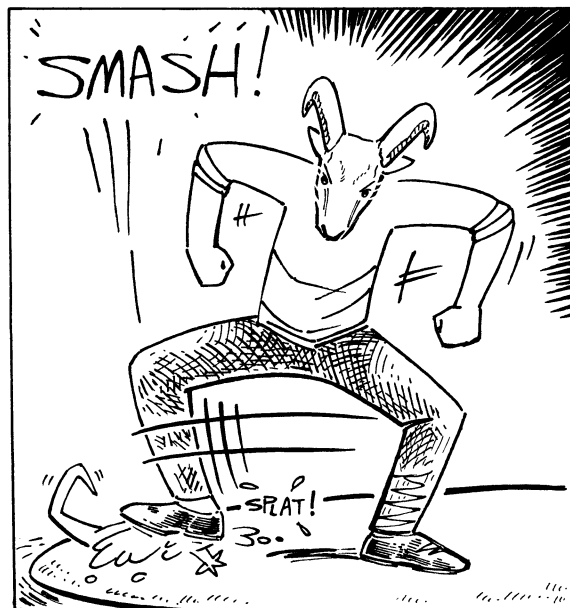
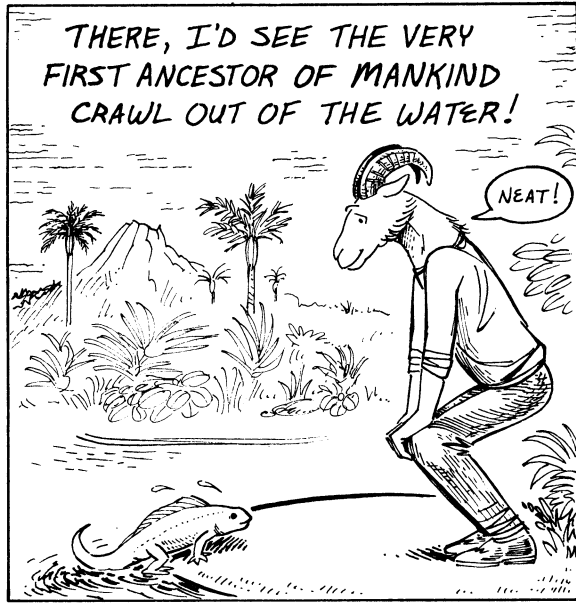
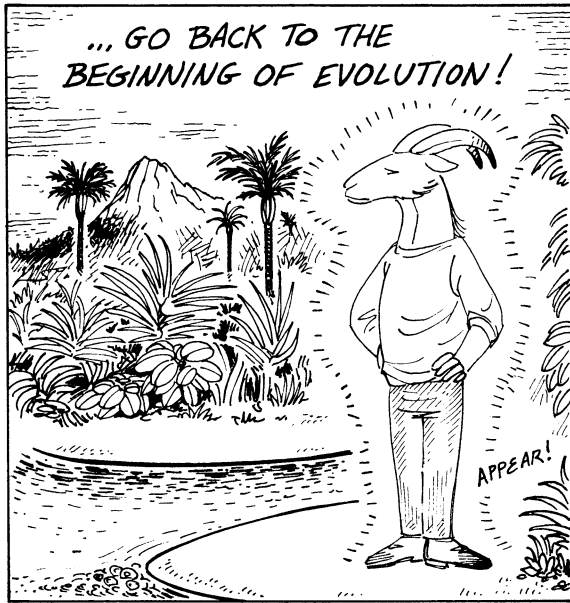
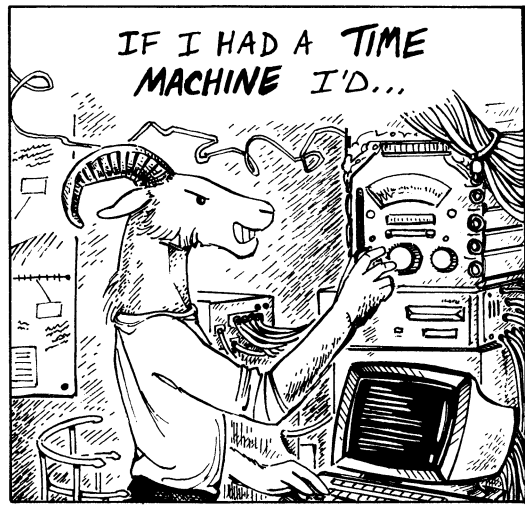
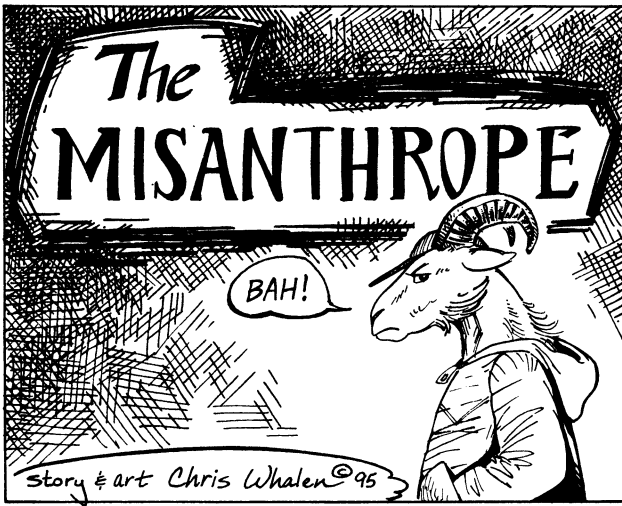
BAM!
BAM!
BAM!

BUT I FOLLOWED THE RECIPE EXACTLY...!



FOR ME, THAT IS. I CAUSED A LOT OF UNNECESSARY STEPS FOR OTHER PEOPLE THAT NIGHT. HEH. THUS ENDETH KRIS'S BAKING CAREER. FORTUNATELY FOR ME, NOBODY NOTICED I WAS THE ONLY ONE WHO DIDN'T HAVE THE TROTS THAT NIGHT. BUT THEN OTHER THINGS WEIGHED HEAVILY ON THEIR MINDS AT THE TIME...





INTRODUCING

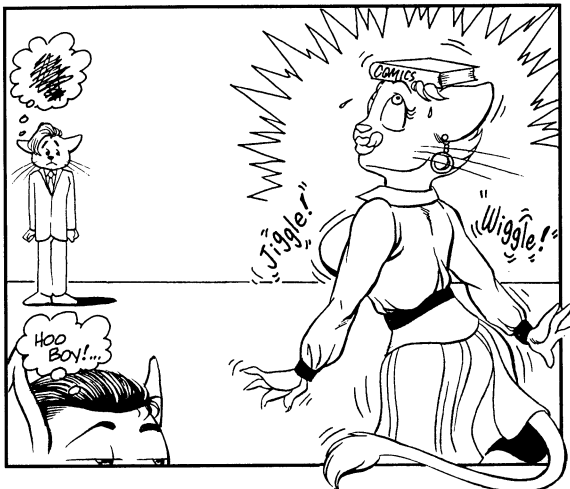
LAST TIME...

THE SOPHISTIKATS™

PART
THREE

SCRIPT: PAUL CASTIGLIA
PENCILS: BRIGITTE SLEERTIN
INKS: MARK MORALES
LETTERS: DAN NAKROSIS
CREATIVE DIRECTOR: DONWYN NEWSOME

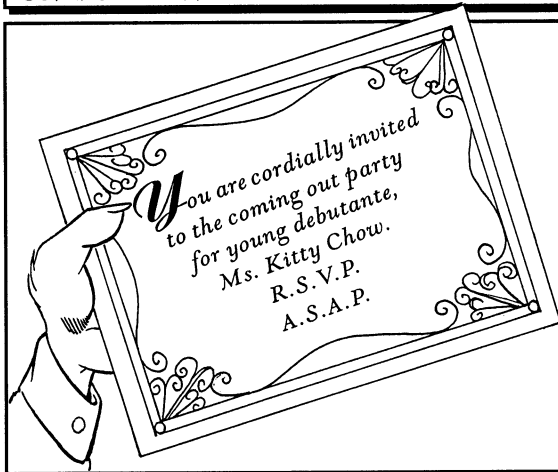
LOTTERY WINNER KITTY CHOW, AT THE INSISTENCE OF BUSINESSMAN REX LION, TOOK A COURSE IN "CULTURAL REFINEMENT"...



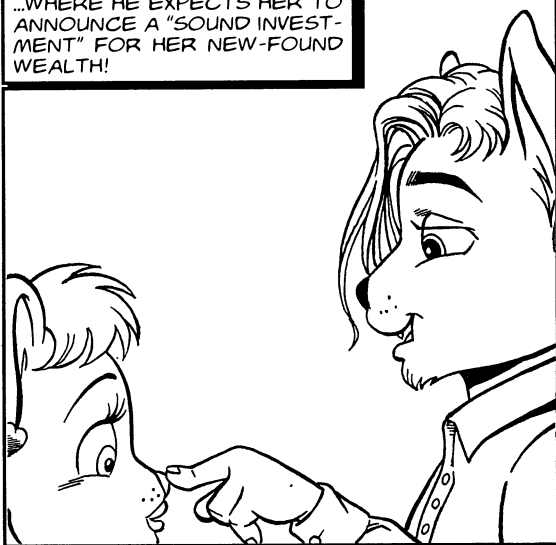
RACKETEER RATZO RIZZO DEMANDED HIS HENCHMEN, NULL & VOID, DISCOVER REX'S MOTIVES FOR NURTURING KITTY...



SATISFIED THAT KITTY HAD "ARRIVED" AS A MEMBER OF THE ELITE, REX ARRANGED A "COMING-OUT" PARTY FOR KITTY...



...WHERE HE EXPECTS HER TO ANNOUNCE A "SOUND INVESTMENT" FOR HER NEW-FOUND WEALTH!

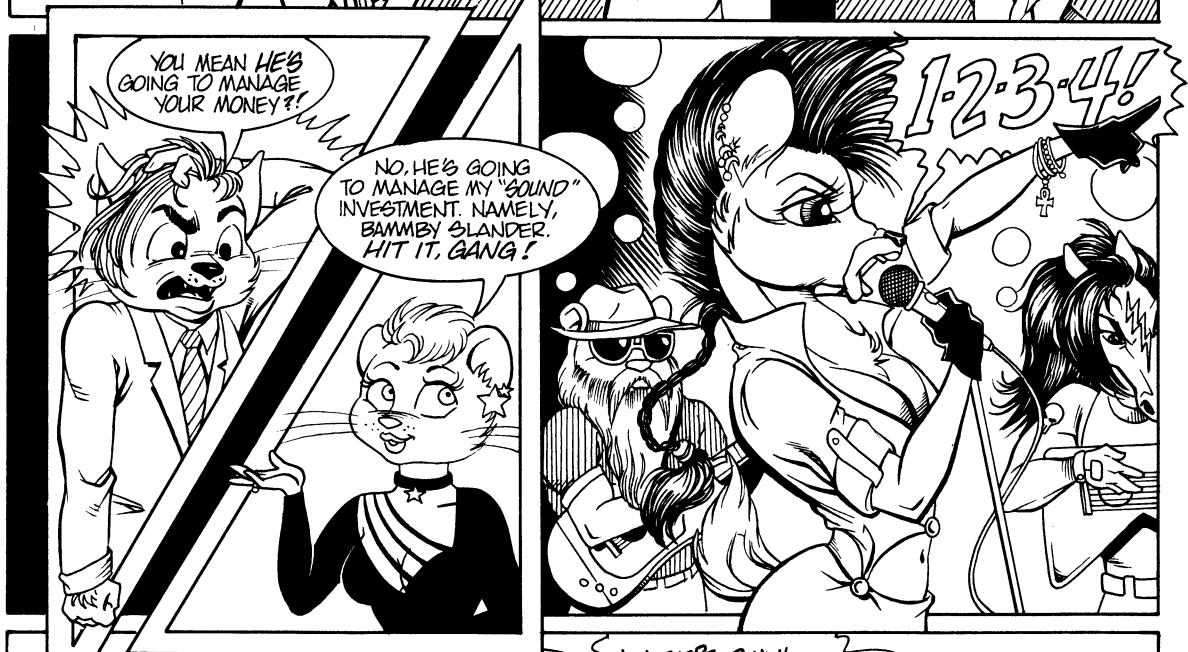


KITTY HAS A LOT OF THINKING TO DO (CAN'T YOU HEAR IT?)-- WONDER WHO ~~ELSE~~ IS LISTENING?....



THE FOLLOWING WEEKEND...





KITTY, I JUST CAN'T BELIEVE YOU INVESTED IN A PUNK BAND!

NOT JUST ANY PUNK BAND, REX-- BAMMBY IS ON THE COMEBACK TRAIL!

SHE TOURED WITH THE MISKITS-- AS THEIR BUSINESS MANAGER! SHE KNOWS THE MUSIC BIZ INSIDE AND OUT!

AND WHAT ABOUT HIM?

HE KNOWS THE SHMOOZING BIZ INSIDE AND OUT!

I CAN GET YOU BABES IN MUSIC VIDEOS Y'KNOW!



Tappita
Tap Tap

OOPS!



BAMMBY'S GOT THE LOOK, THE ATTITUDE AND THE EXPERIENCE-- AND WITH THE PUNK RESURGENCE, NOTHING CAN HOLD US BACK!!



BESIDES, WHAT'RE YOU WORRIED ABOUT-- YOUR FOOT HASN'T STOPPED TAPPING YET!

LOOKS LIKE RAZ TOOK A PAGE OUT OF YOUR BOOK, REX-- PUTTING WORDS IN KITTY'S MOUTH!

HOW'D I DO, RAZ?

PERFECT, BABY! JUST LIKE WE REHEARSED IT!



FEH!...I THOUGHT SHE SOUNDED TOO COHERENT!

LATER, BACK AT RATZO'S HIDEOUT, HIS STOOGES NULL AND VOID REPORT ON THEIR FINDINGS...

HONEST, BOSS... THEIR "MASTER PLAN" IS A ROCK BAND!

YEAH! WE HEARD 'EM PLAY AT THE PARTY... KICKED ASS, TOO!

A ROCK BAND, EH?

6:42 thing I gotta do...

THAT'S IT! WE'LL ISSUE A CHALLENGE FOR A BATTLE OF THE BANDS!! OUR BAND WILL WIN AND I'LL RULE THE CITY!!

BROWN
SHANKS

OUR BAND?
WHERE ARE WE
GONNA FIND A
BAND?

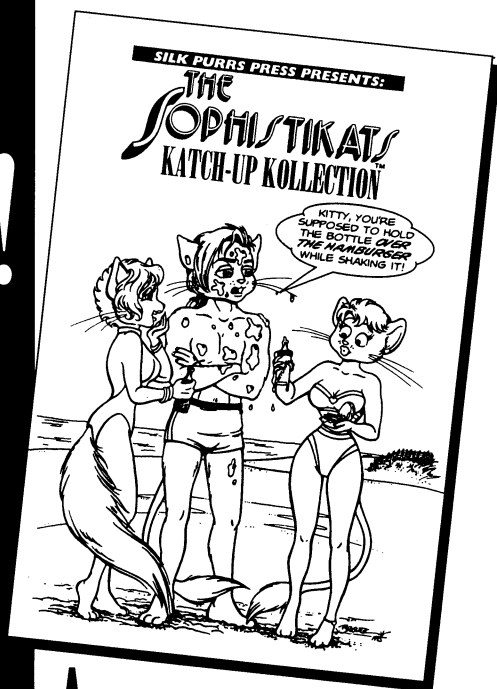
WHERE
ELSE? "HENCH-
MEN Y' US"!
I'LL ORDER SOME
GRUNGEY TYPES
RIGHT NOW!

I AM AN ANIMAL

THE STAGE IS SET FOR THE SHOWDOWN OF THE CENTURY! DON'T MISS THE COLOSSAL CONCLUSION
in "The SOPHISTIKATS KATCH-UP KOLLECTION" COMING THIS SUMMER FROM SILK PURRS PRESS!

BECAUSE YOU
DEMANDED IT!
SILK PURRS
PRESS
PROUDLY
ANNOUNCESS.

THE
SOPHISTIKATS™
KATCH-UP
KOLLECTION!



ALL THE STORIES AND PIN-UPS FROM ANTARCTIC PRESS' "WILD LIFE" AND "HIT THE BEACH '94" PLUS THE NEVER-BEFORE-PUBLISHED CONCLUSION TO "INTRODUCING THE SOPHISTIKATS"-- ALL COLLECTED INTO ONE, 48-PAGE PRESTIGE FORMAT TRADE PAPERBACK! BONUS: FOR THE FIRST TIME ANYWHERE-- CHARACTER DESIGNS, STORY PAGES AND THE ORIGINAL PLOT OUTLINE FROM THE FIRST (AND VERY DIFFERENT) DRAFT OF THE SOPHISTIKATS!

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THE SOPHISTIKATS™



BAMBY SLANDER
AS
"BAMBYRELLA" /

UniUniverse

MASTER, IS WISDOM
MORE IMPORTANT THAN
COMPASSION?

WELL-ASKED, MY DAUGHTER!
THERE IS NO ENLIGHTENMENT
WITHOUT COMPASSION. WITHOUT IT,
WE COLLAPSE IN UPON OURSELVES
LIKE DARK STARS. HOWEVER, THERE
IS WISE COMPASSION AND THERE
IS UNWISE COMPASSION...

PHYLLIDA, LOOK!
FLOWERS! HOW
ABOUT LUNCH?

NO THANKS;
I PREFER LESS
FIBROUS
FARE. I'M OFF TO
"AU LAPIN JAPONAIS"
BYE!

YO!
VEGETARIAN
GUY!



HEY! DON'T
EAT THE
FLOWERS!

MUNCH
CRUNCH MUNCH
HELLO,
MOTH!


I'M NOT A
MOTH!
BEHOLD!
MY NAME IS
LUNA AND I'M A
FAIRY!



VERILY,
NO
MOTH AM I,
BUT AN
ENCHANTING,
BEAUTEOUS
FAIRY!
CUTE, TOO...

YOU DO
RESEMBLE
A MOTH... I
THOUGHT
FAIRIES WERE
PURELY MYTH-
ICAL CREATURES,
LIKE CERTIFIED
PUBLIC
ACCOUNTANTS!

ASSUREDLY
NOT, MISTER
IMPROBABLE
EQUINE!



WELL, THAT'S
GOOD TO KNOW.
BYE NOW,
LITTLE
SUPERNATURAL.

I HATE
BEING
PATRONIZED!

FOOLISH INFIDEL! WE FAIRIES
ARE DANGEROUS WHEN SLIGHTED!
COURT YOU MY WRATH?



KINDLY
BEGONE,
INSECT!

YAR!!!

ACTUALLY,
YOU
REMINDE ME OF
AGAPEMA OR
PERHAPS HYALO-
PHORA. MAY I
GRAZE IN PEACE?

NO!
YOU DON'T
BELIEVE! EACH
TIME A MORTAL
DISBELIEVES,
ONE OF US
JUST FADES AWAY!



I DIDN'T
MEAN TO HURT
YOUR FEELINGS.
ISN'T AN APOLOGY
GOOD ENOUGH?

SIGH
WEAKER...
I FEEL
WEAKER...



I
KNOW
WHAT'S
COMING!

YOU HAVE TO SAY THE
MAGIC WORDS!



PLEEEEEZ...
REPEAT AFTER
ME... AND
CLAP YOUR
HANDS-UH,
HOOVES!



I'M EMBARRASSED
FOR BOTH OF US...
YOU ARE
A MOTH...

SHRIEK

AK! KOFKOF
QUICKLY!
GASP



YOU HAVE TO CLAP YOUR HOOVES, ASSUME A
FETAL POSITION, AND SAY, "EERIE EAGLE
AERIES, I BELIEVE IN FAIRIES!" OH, DO HURRY!!

IT'S GOT TO
BE DONE
NINETY-
NINE
TIMES!

ALL RIGHT!
I'LL SAY THE
STUPID WORDS!
BOY, YOU...
LITTLE

GAG! GASP!
I SWOON! KOF!!
WHEEZE



HMM. IS
IT NOBLER
IN THE
MIND TO
ACCEPT OR
REFUSE?

(I WANT YOU,
THE READER, TO
KNOW THAT WHAT
I AM ABOUT TO DO
IS PERSONALLY
DISTASTEFUL TO ME).



HEE

I-HAK!
THINK I'M
ABOUT
TO FAINT...
COUGH!
WHEEZE

TEMPO!
TEMPO!
KOF KOF

dlop

dlop

dlop

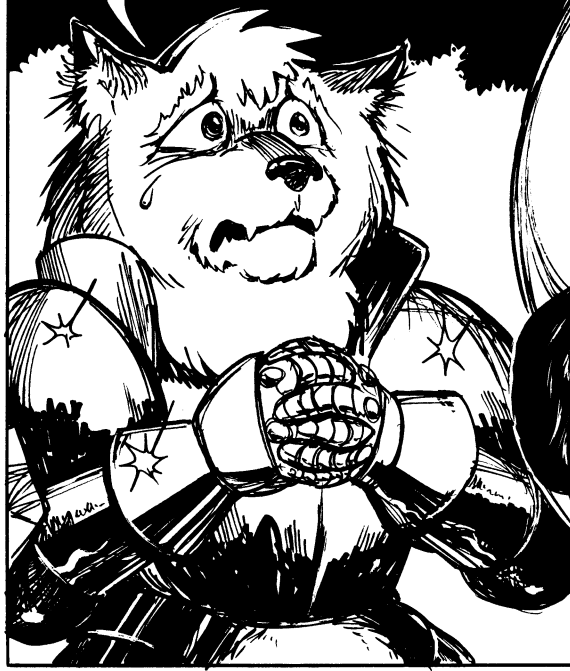
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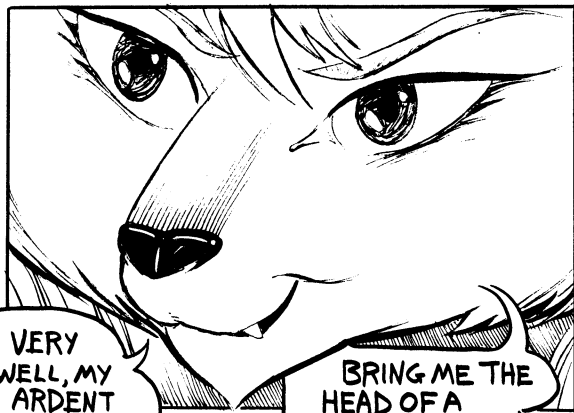
MEANWHILE,

REFUSE ME NOT,
FAIR LUPINA, MY ANGEL, MY SOUL!
COMMAND ANYTHING OF ME,
THAT I MAY WIN THY LOVE! SEE
HOW I PINE IN MISERY!! WHINE

EERIE EAGLE
AERIES, I BELIEVE
IN FAIRIES. EERIE
EAGLE AERIES, I
BELIEVE IN FAIRIES.
EERIE EAGLE AERIES,
I BELIEVE IN ... PISH!

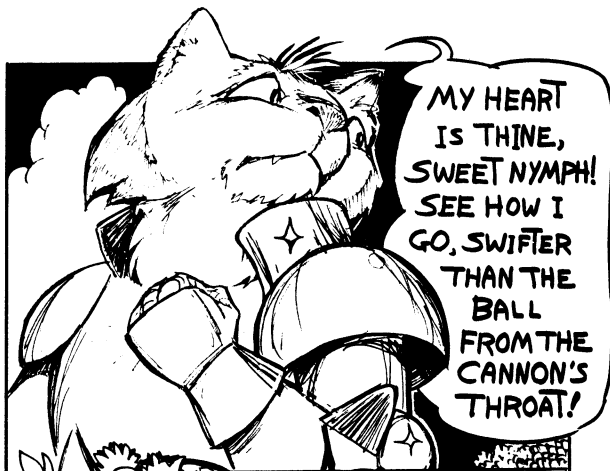
DAY
AFTER
DAY... WILL
HE NEVER
GIVE UP? HOW
CAN I RID
MYSELF OF
THIS FOOL?



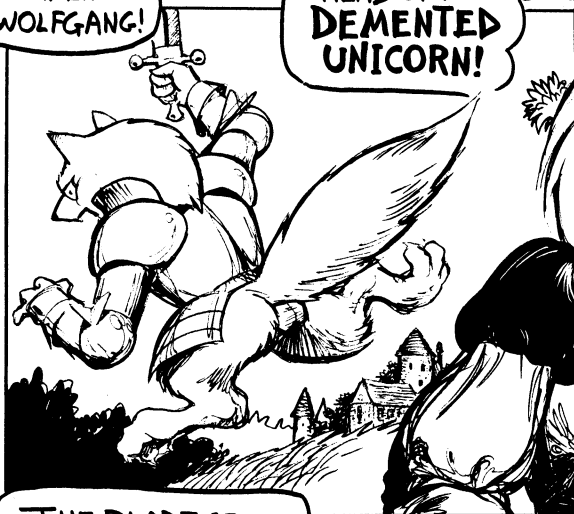


VERY WELL, MY ARDENT WOLFGANG!

BRING ME THE HEAD OF A DEMENTED UNICORN!



MY HEART IS THINE, SWEET NYMPH! SEE HOW I GO, SWIFTER THAN THE BALL FROM THE CANNON'S THROAT!



THERE! THAT OUGHT TO OCCUPY HIM FOR A GOOD WHILE ...

THE BLADE IS SHARP, THE HAND IS STRONG, BUT THE TASK-IMPOSSIBLE! EH? WHAT'S THAT RACKET?

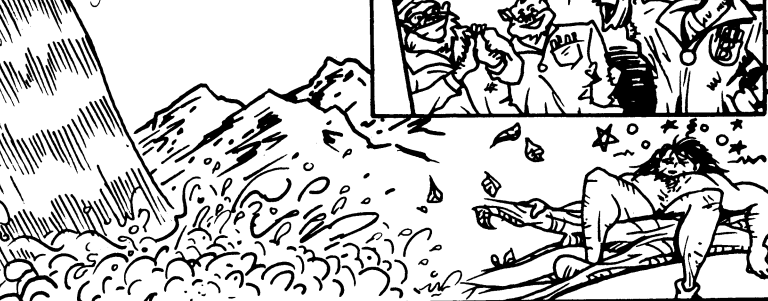
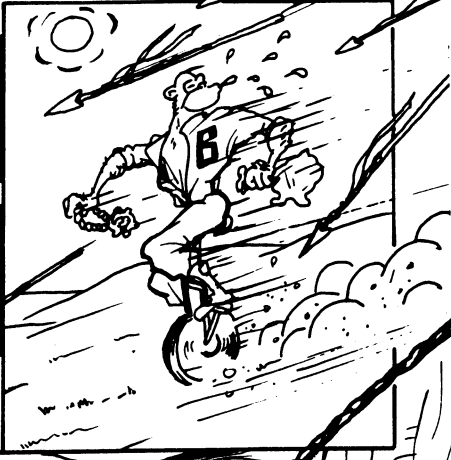


SIGH **CLOP!** EERIE EAGLE AERIES, I BELIEVE IN FAIRIES. **CLOP!** EERIE EAGLE AERIES, I BELIEVE IN FAIRIES... **CLOP!**

FIN

BRESI'S BETTER WORLD

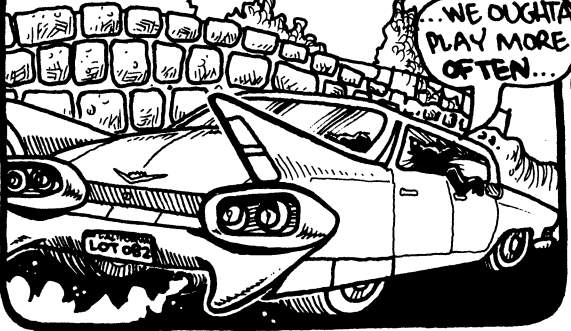
by VAN BUREN & TAFF



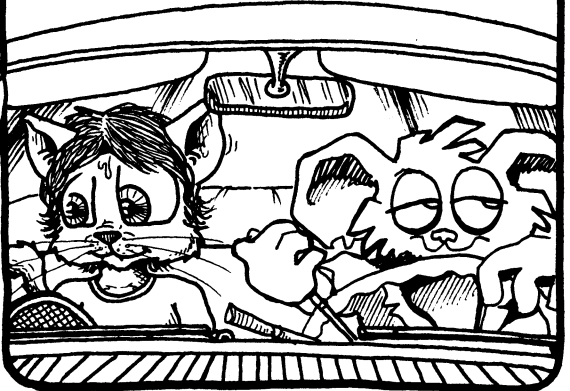
HOW I SURVIVED THE BIG ONE!

©1994 BY
BILL FITZ
+ MARK BODE

...IT WAS A NICE SUNNY DAY, THAT FATEFUL OCTOBER 17TH... MARK BODE AND I HAD JUST FINISHED PLAYING TENNIS, WHEN WE DROVE DOWNTOWN TO PICK UP HIS WIFE MOLLY...



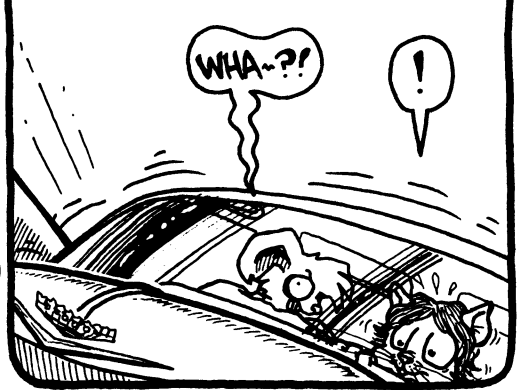
...WE PARKED THE CAR ON THE STREET AND WAITED FOR MOLLY...



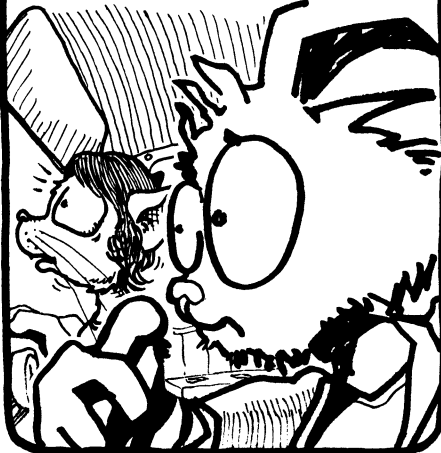
...AFTER TEN MINUTES OR SO, THE CAR BEGAN TO ROCK BACK AND FORTH, AS IF SOMEONE WAS PUSHING IT FROM BEHIND...



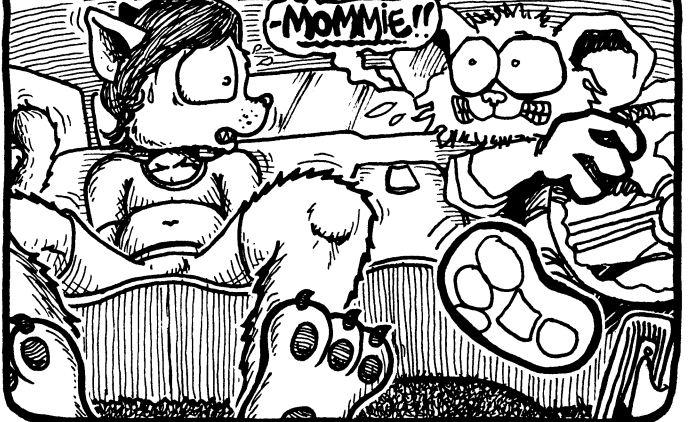
...FIGURING IT WAS A COUPLE OF HIGH SCHOOL KIDS, WE TURNED TO SEE WHO IT WAS....



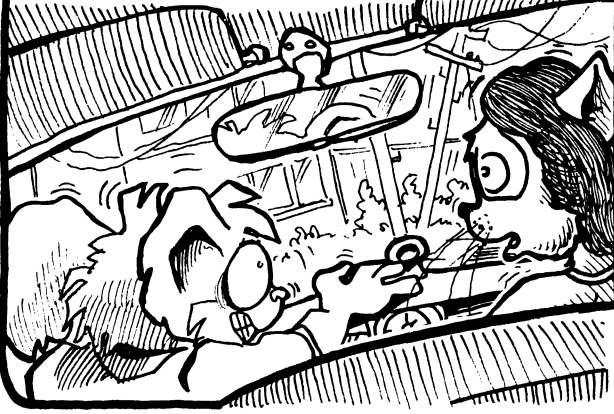
...BUT THERE WAS NO ONE!



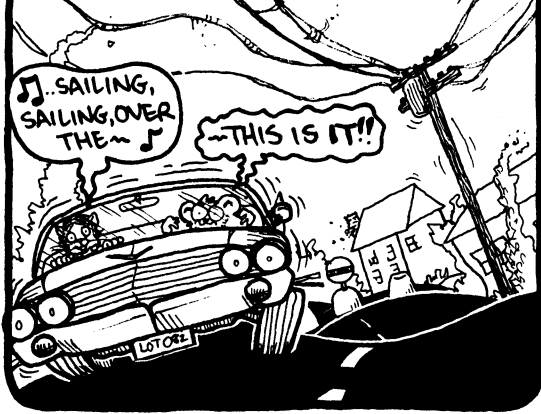
WE LOOKED BACK AT EACH OTHER AND REALIZED THAT THIS WAS IT! THE BIG ONE!!



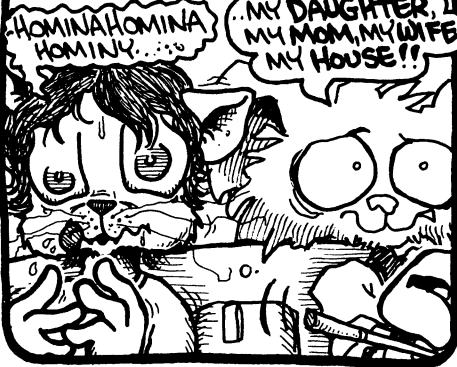
WE WATCHED, DUMBFOUNDED, AS TREES, SIGNS, AND TELEPHONE POLES MOVED SLOWLY BACK AND FORTH...



... AND THE ROAD... IT WAS LITERALLY ROLLING WITH RIPPLES AND WAVES, VISIBLY...



...THOUGH IT SEEMED LIKE MINUTES, IT LASTED ONLY 15 SECONDS... AND THAT WAS IT, SAVE A FEW AFTERSHOCKS...



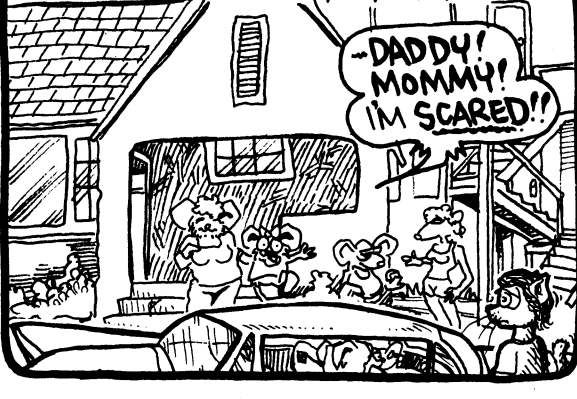
...SEEING A PLUME OF SMOKE RISE OVER THE TREES NEARBY, I RAN OVER TO WATCH A CAR REPAIR SHOP EXPLODE SEVERAL TIMES...



...I WENT BACK TO THE CAR, MOLLY GOT IN, AND WE DROVE HASTILY TO THEIR HOME... 3



...WHEN WE ARRIVED, WE FOUND MARK'S MOM BARBARA ON THE PORCH, ALONG WITH HIS DAUGHTER ZARA, WHO WAS UNDERSTANDABLY, ER, "SHAKEN"...



...WE STEPPED INTO THE HOUSE TO VIEW A GRIM SCENE INDEED: KNICK-KNACKS AND SCULPTURES SMASHED ON THE FLOOR, TILTED PAINTINGS, AND A PIANO WHICH HAD MOVED 4- FEET FROM THE WALL IT ONCE RESTED AGAINST...



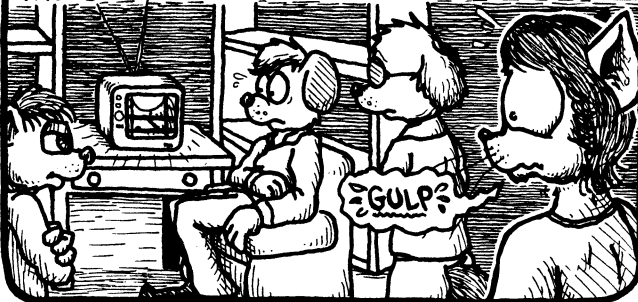
... OUTSIDE, A NEIGHBOR BOY WITH A WALKMAN RADIO GAVE US UNBELIEVABLE NEWS....



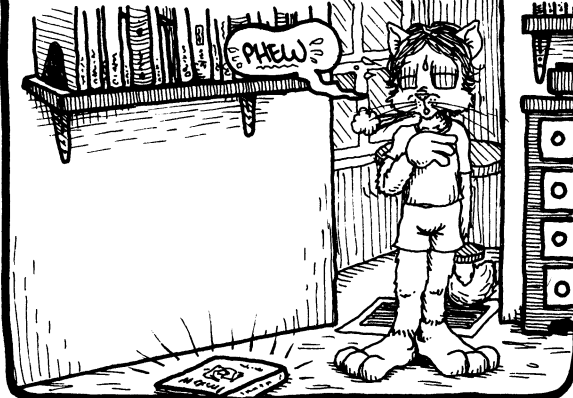
... IT FINALLY DAWNED ON ME THAT MY OWN HOME WAS ALSO IN DANGER ...I TOO HAD MUCH ART AND VALUABLE SCULPTURES...



... I HIKED THE TEN BLOCKS TO MY PLACE, LEAVING A STUNNED BODE FAMILY ,WHO WERE WITHOUT POWER AND PHONE...I STOPPED INTO A STORE ON THE WAY, AND ON THEIR T.V. I WATCHED IN SHOCK AS THEY SHOWED THE BROKEN BAY BRIDGE....



...UPON ARRIVING HOME, I FOUND THAT ONLY ONE BOOK HAD FALLEN OFF THE SHELF... I WAS VERY LUCKY...THIS TIME...



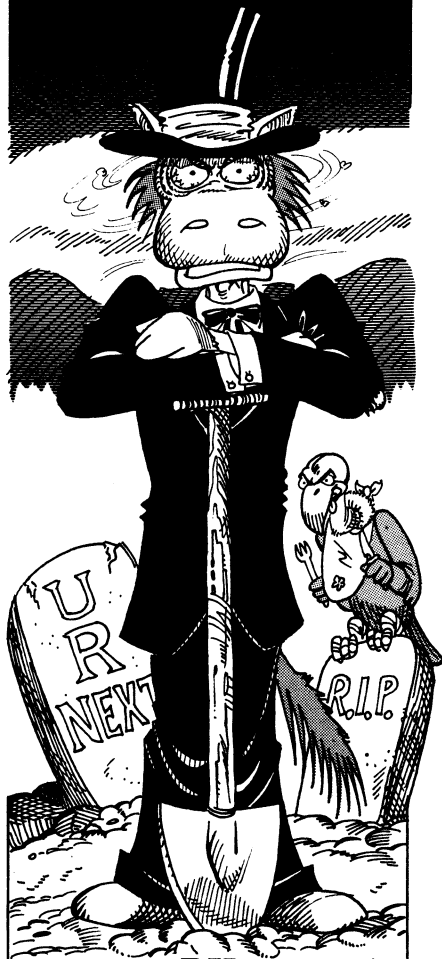
...I TURNED ON THE T.V. AND WATCHED THE PICTURES COME IN, ALONE... I WAS OKAY, BUT THE ENORMITY OF WHAT SEEMED LIKE FUN AT FIRST FINALLY SUNK IN...IFELT WEIRD...VERY WEIRD...



Bill Feltz

HOWDY, PARDNERS! THIS IS TRIGGER MORTIS, HERE TO RELATE ANOTHER TERROR TAIL FROM MY POST HERE AT BOOT HILL!

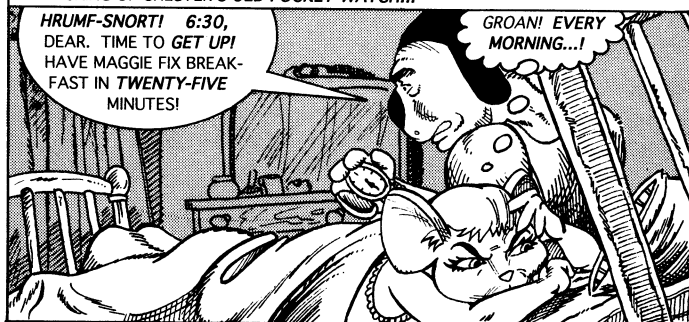
YOU EVER MEET SOMEBODY WHO'S SO PUNCTUAL YOU COULD SET YOUR CLOCK BY HIM? SOMEBODY WHO RUNS HIS LIFE...



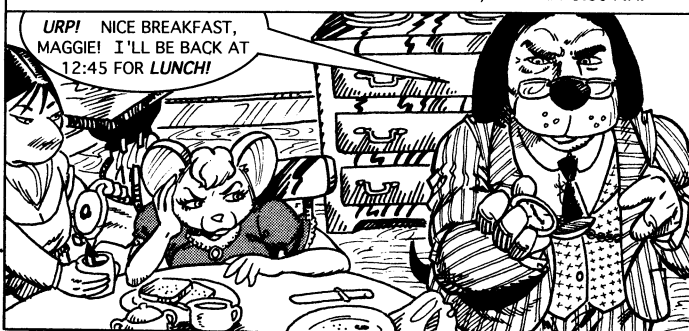
BY
THE
CLOCK!

© 1995 GAF

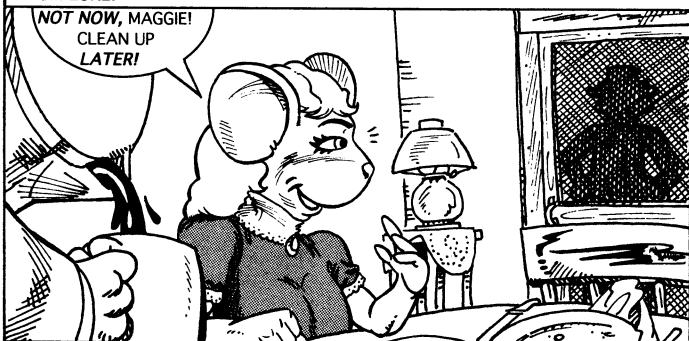
SOPHIE SPENCER HATED EVERY MORNING, BECAUSE EVERY MORNING WAS THE SAME! HER FAT, BLOATED HUSBAND CHESTER WOULD RISE AT 6:30 A.M. SHARP TO START HIS DAY AT THE BANK. THEIR LIVES WERE RUN BY THE CLOCK... LIKE THE TICKING OF CHESTER'S OLD POCKET WATCH...



EVERY DAY WAS THE SAME: CHESTER WOULD RISE AT 6:30, WASH AND DRESS BY 6:55 FOR BREAKFAST, OUT OF THE HOUSE AT 7:15 FOR THE WALK TO OPEN THE BANK AND ASSAY OFFICE BY 7:30. EVERY DAY-- UP BY 6:30 A.M., IN BED BY 9:00 P.M.



EVERY DAY, CHESTER WOULD CLOSE HIS OFFICE AT 12:30 FOR THE WALK HOME FOR LUNCH AT 12:45. BUT TODAY--TODAY WOULD BE DIFFERENT! TODAY THERE WAS... LUKE!



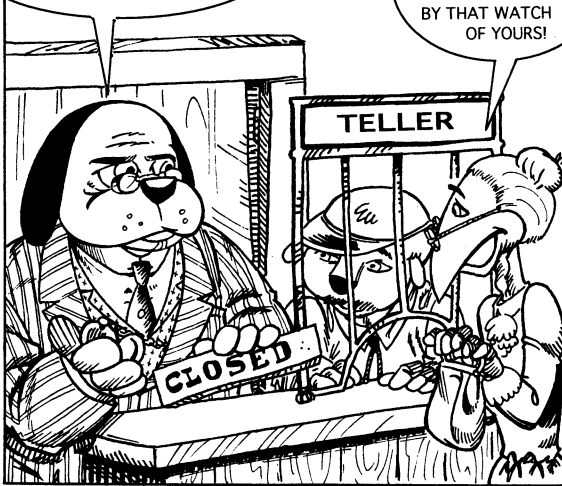
LUKE CLAYTON WAS A DRIFTER... A NOBODY...SOMEBODY SOPHIE COULD USE WHO'VE NEVER BE MISSED!



I HAVE A DUPLICATE KEY TO THE BACK DOOR! HE'S ALWAYS ALONE WHEN HE OPENS THE SAFE DOOR FOR LUNCH! AND YOU'LL BE THERE WAITING FOR HIM!

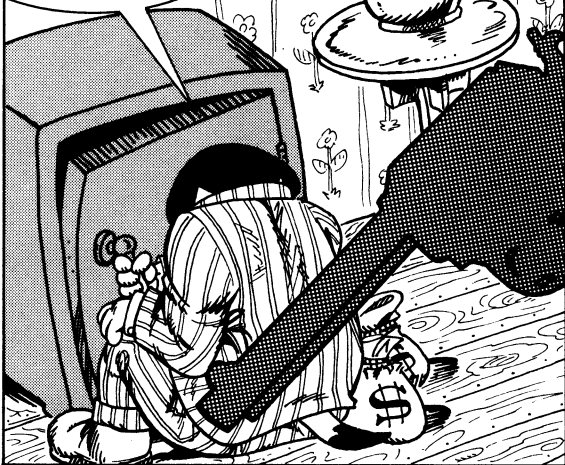


12:30, PEOPLE! TIME TO CLOSE FOR LUNCH! EVERYBODY BACK IN ONE HOUR!



...LAND SAKES, MR. SPENCER! I THINK YOU LIVE AND DIE BY THAT WATCH OF YOURS!

SNORFI! SNORFI! MUTTER... RUNNING LATE. HAVE TO PUT THIS MONEY AWAY...

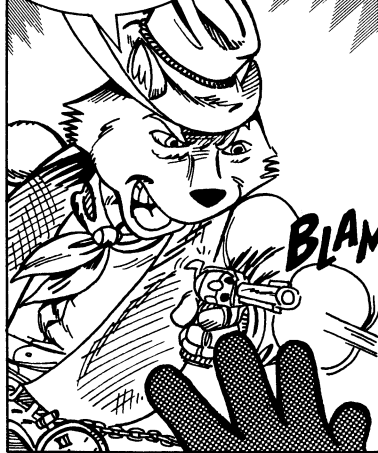


HOLD IT RIGHT THERE AND PASS THAT MONEY OVER NICE AN' SLOW!

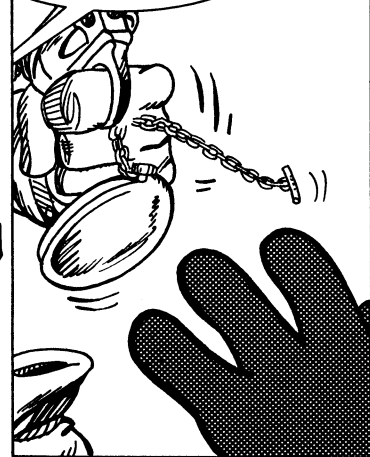


WHA-- WHO ARE YOU?

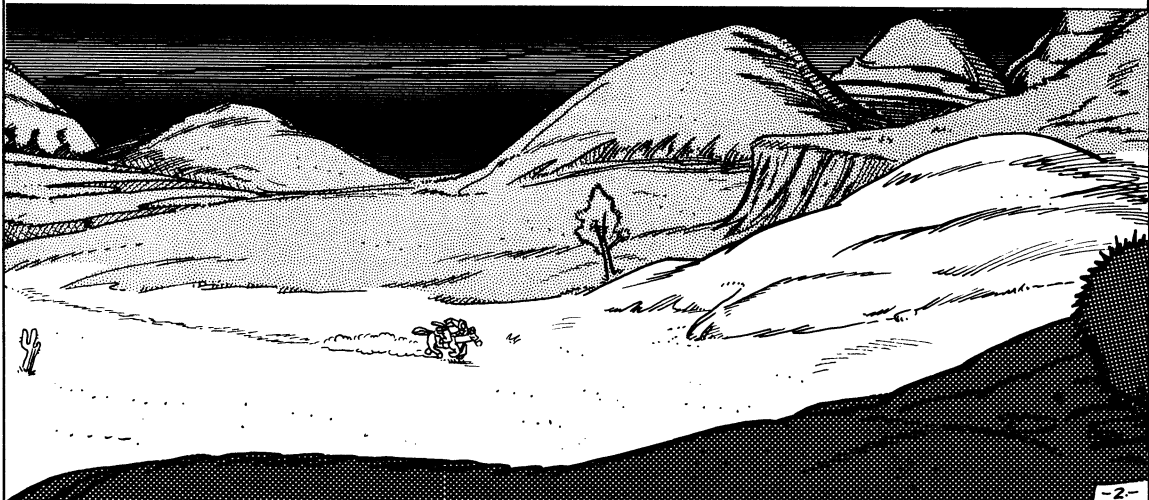
WRONG QUESTION! IF YOU'RE IN SUCH A HURRY FOR LUNCH -- EAT LEAD!



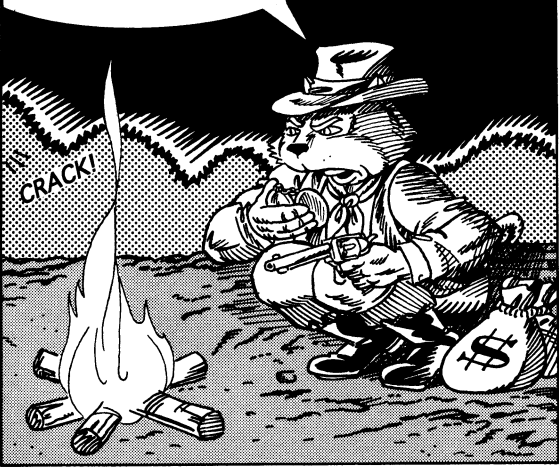
THAT'S A NICE WATCH YOU GOT THERE, MR. BANKER! THINK I'LL ADD IT TO THE TILL.



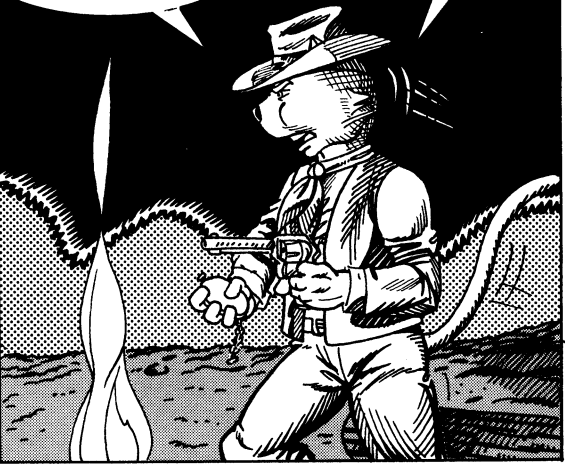
A FAST HORSE TIED UP IN THE ALLEY BEHIND THE BANK, AND LUKE CLAYTON IS PAST THE TOWN LIMITS BEFORE THERE CAN BE A CALL FOR THE SHERIFF. BY DUSK, HE WAS AT THE FOOTHILLS OF THE MOUNTAINS...



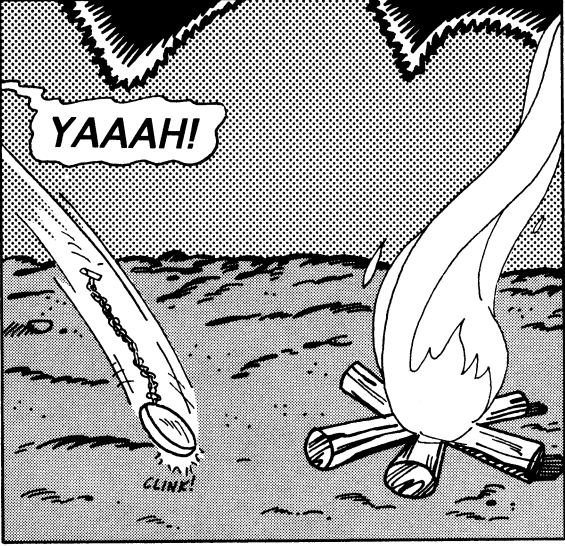
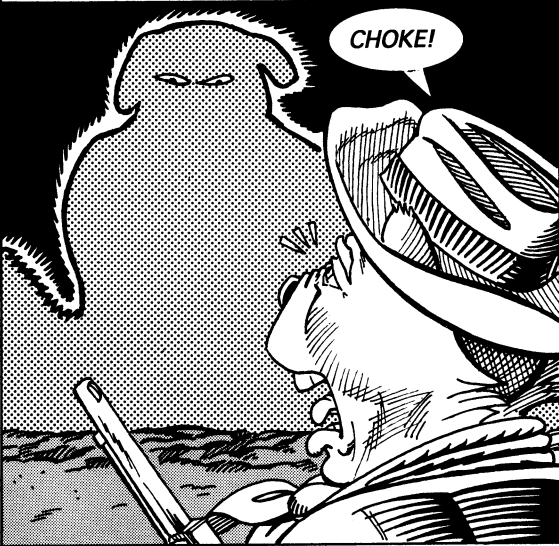
WHERE IS THAT WOMAN? SHE SHOULD HAVE BEEN HERE BY NOW! ACCORDING TO THIS WATCH, SHE'S TWO HOURS LAT—



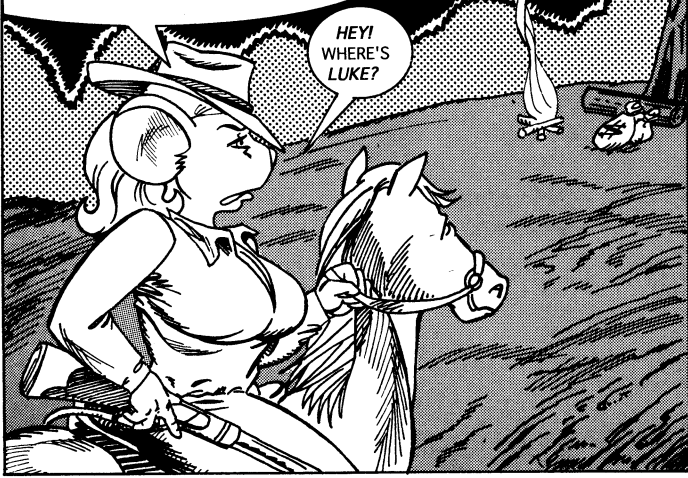
WHAT'S THAT SOUND? SOPHIE? IS THAT YOU? WHOEVER YA ARE, I'M WARNIN' YA!



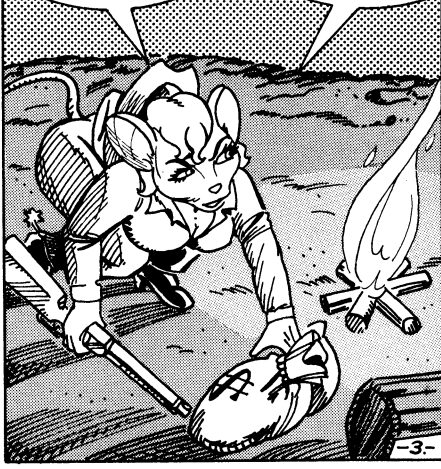
I'VE GOT A GUN! COME OUT OR I'LL...



SOME TIME LATER...
THOUGHT I'D NEVER GET AWAY FROM ALL THOSE DO-GOODERS AND BUSY-BODIES!



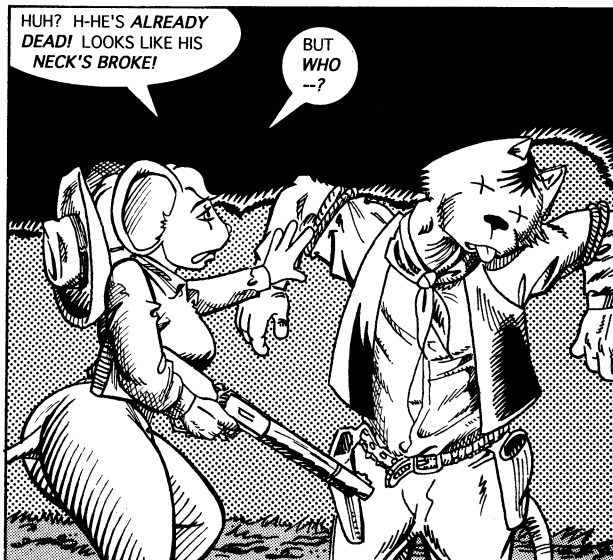
HERE'S THE MONEY... BUT NO LUKE!





THERE YOU ARE! TRYING TO SNEAK UP ON ME, EH?

WELL, I'VE BEEN ITCHING FOR THE CHANCE TO PAY YOU BACK FOR ALL THOSE SLIMY KISSES AND YOUR PAWING--!



HUH? H-HE'S ALREADY DEAD! LOOKS LIKE HIS NECK'S BROKE!

BUT WHO --?



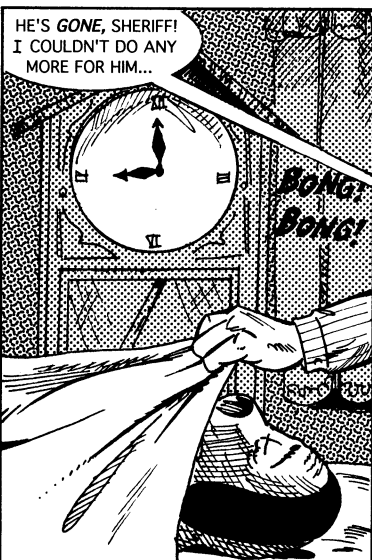
WHAT? THAT SHADOW!

I-- I'M OUTTA BULLETS!



NO!
NO!

IT'S NINE O'CLOCK, SOPHIE! TIME TO GO TO SLEEP!



HE'S GONE, SHERIFF! I COULDN'T DO ANY MORE FOR HIM...

BONG!
BONG!



I'LL FILL OUT THE DEATH CERTIFICATE: CHESTER SPENCER, 46, DEAD AT NINE P.M. EXACTLY!



CHESTER SURE KNEW HOW TO MAKE A TIMELY ENTRANCE, DIDN'T HE? ...AND AN EXIT, TOO! HE WAS ONE CLOCK-WATCHER WHO WOULDN'T MISS A DEAD-LINE!

SEE YOU ANOTHER TIME, TRAIL MIXERS! ...UNLESS, I SEE YOU FIRST! HEH-HEH-HEH...!

Katmandu

A Woman of Honor



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Fantasy
Adventure
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Carole Curtis
with art by
Terrie Smith
and Mark
Barnard.

Additional stories by
Michele Light

An
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1994 FAN AWARDS

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I got this ballot from: _____

1. FAVORITE EDITOR _____
2. FAVORITE WRITER _____
3. FAVORITE PENCILLER _____
4. FAVORITE INKER _____
5. FAVORITE COLORIST _____
6. FAVORITE PAINTER _____
7. FAVORITE LETTERER _____
8. FAVORITE COVER ARTIST _____
9. FAVORITE COMIC-BOOK STORY _____
10. FAVORITE COMIC BOOK _____
11. FAVORITE LIMITED COMIC-BOOK SERIES _____
12. FAVORITE ORIGINAL GRAPHIC NOVEL OR ALBUM _____
13. FAVORITE REPRINT GRAPHIC NOVEL OR ALBUM _____
14. FAVORITE CHARACTER _____
15. FAVORITE PUBLICATION ABOUT COMICS _____

the TAIL END



Well, there were certainly a lot of letters of support for *Wild Life*, and I'd like to thank everyone who wrote in. We really appreciate all the kind words and support, but sadly, the sales on *Wild Life* just didn't go up enough to save it. However, this is comics, and no one ever really dies in comics! So we may be back; perhaps changed, perhaps not, but it could happen. Now, on to your letters and sorry about the tiny type! --EW

Dear Wild Life:

I just saw an advertisement in February edition of *Previews* that *Wild Life* #12 is going to be the final issue - I just started collecting it a few months ago and I love it - you can't do this! Anthropomorphic fans everywhere, take up your pens, PCs and typewriters (manual or electric) and write to AP to protest this sacrilege! Heck, even if *Wild Life* wasn't being dropped, you should be flooding AP's mailbox with letters - like I said in my letter in *Furrrlogue* #25 - comics that cater to us are hard to find, write in and let them know how much you appreciate them.

Now that that's out of my system it's time for some compliments and critiques. I loved the cover as well as the story that went with it by Elin Winkler and Joe Rosales - the art was superb and the plot was hilarious - I'd have killed to have shown up in the middle of that incident as a travelling salesman or something. Angel, Violet and Musky were all cute as could be and I like the idea of giving a skunk a Cajun accent instead of a French one - aw, heck, I just like seeing a skunk for once.

The character's expressions were also hilarious such as the thought bubble Violet has when she finds out Angel is dumping Mitch. I must admit, with Angel putting on the innocent act, I was surprised that she'd be the one to cheat in the kissing contest - I'm really looking forward to seeing these three again if CERTAIN PEOPLE DON'T CANCEL WILD LIFE. As a side note, what is Musky? She looks like an otter, but her name is more appropriate to that of a ferret or a skunk. (*She's an otter--EW*)

Next up is Mel. White's "Furr-tual Reality". Again, simply hilarious. The art and characters showed variety and imagination and the story had the kind of flavor and clever twist that I have grown to expect and love from AP.

Then there's "The Thesis" by Jimmy Chin - sure he'd salute you. Finally, there's Pat Kelley's "The Greer Bar" - an amusing view of anthropomorphic nightlife. (Actually, it was hilarious too, but as it is, my English teachers would have a cardiac if they saw this letter - no sense making things worse.)

As a side note, I recently came across a copy of *Wild Life* #3 and I was wondering where I can find the background art in the eye-piercing/tattoo shop from "Pierced Dreams".

Skunks have feelings too,
Sean A. Foltz,
Linwood, PA

The art in the tattoo shop was all taken (with permission) from portfolios by Shon Howell and Brian Sutton. Some was from Joe's own portfolios. They can be ordered from Brian at 1200 Patricia #1208, San Antonio, TX 78213.

Dear Wild Animals:

I just read *Wild Life* #10 (for about the eighth time) and I think it rules. Joe Rosales' "Movie Day" was easily the best! After I read it I rushed back to my local comic store and got all the back issues I could find. Joe Rosales is easily my favorite artist next to Dave Johnson. Eddie and John are my favorites of his characters and I hope John's in more stories to come.

"Comedy She Wrote" was also really funny. I love Scotty's art style - it was very Pogo-ish. "Jaux the Lion" is the only thing I really didn't like. It had great art, but lesbian animals aren't my ticket. (Is the reason it was that way because Shon can't draw guys?!) "Buffalo Wings" was also cool!

(Good story, great art!) Well, you guys are doing a great job. Please don't cancel *Wild Life*.

Thanks for your time,
Josh Boyle,
Mesa, AZ

P.S. Please, oh please, oh please have more Rosales art and stories!

Dear really wild people:

After reading *Wild Life* #10 I just had to write you guys. How can you dish this title? As stated before, this is one of the most consistent titles in your furry repertoire. Both "Buffalo Wings" and the "Wildlifers" gang give constant good drama and humor (in that order) and both would be sorely missed.

And now, by the grace of heaven, we have Shon with his "Jaux the Lion". A bit steamy, sure, but what do you expect from Shon except beautifully rendered furry females. If this doesn't increase it's circulation, nothing will.

What really got to me in this issue was Joe's "Movie Day". This was a laugh from start to finish. The scary thing was that I, an Australian, was able to understand every television reference that was there. And when it got to *Sesame Street* references...

It scared me. I've just realized my whole educational underpinning relies on this show. I could see and hear each reference; Grover as the waiter, the bugs in Ernie's plotpot, the rubber duckie song. I can even hum that entire "one, two...eleven, twelve" song in my head. I think I'm losing it. I have to fight it. But it's calling me. "Do!n! the Pigeon." NO! Get out of my head! 'C is for cookie, that's good enough for me." AARRGGG!

Sincerely,
Jason Gaffney,
Cabbage Tree Point,
Australia

Dear AP:

Wild Life #10 was one of the neater issues. I hope this magazine picks up the circulation it deserves; it's probably the

best of the three anthropomorphic anthologies in overall story quality.

The Wildlifers could support their own series; I'm amazed that such a high level of frantic energy is being maintained in it. A minor technical point, though; I don't think steam powered VCRs showed up in classrooms before the late seventies and early eighties, not 1961 as the first panel implied. During my school days through the seventies, we used movie projectors (translucent analog photographs on a strip of plastic with sprocket holes) which were powered by captured war slaves on treadmills.

"Comedy, She Wrote" was quite funny, but I think it pushed the single joke a little far; it might have worked better in a shorter format.

"Jaux the Lion" was amusing; I'm looking forward to additional installments. I'm glad that Shon can handle sequential art and he's certainly pushing the boundaries of the PG rating further than anyone since Steven Spielberg. (Shon Howell found a story about a large-breasted lesbian top? Who'd a think it? The characters' accents are distinctive; what region is it? "Furrtual Reality" was a chore!; I'd like to see more Coyote stories in the future. I remember the backups in the old *Usagi Yojimbo*; those were some of the few stories you could talk about 'mythic archetypes' without feeling pretentious.

"Buffalo Wings", as always, was nifty.
John W. Nowak

To the Tail End:

WOW! I wish I had known about *Wild Life* earlier. I was able to get several back issues directly from Antarctic Press and have enjoyed every one. This comic has become one of my favorite comics, up there with Disney's duck stories (Uncle Scrooge and Donald). I'm sorry to hear that this great comic may be ending soon. If the decision is made to give it new life, I know my subscription renewal check will be in the mail immediately.

I'm a thirtysomething professional who started reading comics just a couple of years ago. I am primarily an animation fan and collector. This background helps with parts of my work that involve multimedia authoring. It was while collecting animation titles that I discovered the interesting world of anthropomorphic comics. So, with my cartoon preference and background, finding a work like *Wild Life* with it's great characters, funny 'touch-of-life' stories, and the cartoonish drawing quality was simply love at first sight.

I really like the works of Joe Rosales, John Nunnemacher and Jimmy Chin. And in #10, let's add Scotty Arsenault. Of the handful of *Wild Life* issues I've had the fun of reading, my two absolute favorite stories would have to be "A Kiss is Just a Kiss" by Winkler and Rosales in issue #8 and "Comedy, She Wrote" by Arsenault in issue #10.

If I may, I have a few questions. First, do you know if the frontispiece in issue #10 by Arsenault, or a color

version, is available for purchase (a good copy would be fine)? Foxes and skunks are my two favorite animals (real and cartoon form), and I really like his simple fox design. I hope to see more of his work in the future and would like to find any other work he has already done and published.

Likewise, do you know if the artwork (or really good copies) by Winkler & Rosales in issue #8 (the cover and the story "A Kiss is Just a Kiss") is available for purchase? How about artwork featuring Rosales' skunk, Angel?

Thank you,
Michael Russell,
Orlando, FL

I'm not sure if Scotty or Joe are selling their original artwork, but I'll forward your requests to them. Look for a new story by Scotty in this year's Hit the Beach! --EW

Dear Penguins:

Wild Life #10: another top-notch issue. I was thinking recently that #8 and #10 were so good that the only thing more I could ask would be the return of Sutherland and Davies's Mange and family. Instead I learn from alt.fan.furry that, because sales are declining further, three more issues is too much to ask. Damn! This is the worst news since *Critters* died - maybe worse than that, because the quality is higher than that of *Critters* at the end. This says bad things about the (average) taste of furfans. Or mine? Nah, couldn't be.

A fine Joe Rosales cover - is there any other kind? "Movie Day" is full of fun, perhaps the best Wildlifers evocation yet of high school as I remember it. Well, slightly exaggerated. Some of the touches I liked were the triffids in the syllabus, the eager volunteers, the coal-fired VCR, messing with the equipment, and Sesame Disco, but almost every panel was funny.

We haven't seen Scotty Arsenault before, have we? "Comedy, She Wrote" was one of the cartooniest stories you've printed, and the style goes very well with the funny, well executed premise.

"Jaux the Lion", if not actually Genus material, seems to be constantly dancing on the borderline. I was worried by comments that *Wild Life* might be getting a higher spooze quotient to save it (not that I don't like Genus, but I don't want the equivalent of two *Genera* and no *Wild Life*). This looks like it could be a nice story, though, spanky lioness and all. And I don't need to reserve judgement on Shon's beautiful drawing. Nice of him to give her a real name on the first page - I'd been wondering how to pronounce 'Jaux' and was betting on 'Zho'.

"Furrtual Reality" is funny and "Buffalo Wing" is sad. Oh, Sarah... I like Cliff's attempt to ward off the third rebirth and I find "Buffalo Wings" realistic enough that I hope the damn New-Age third rebirth doesn't materialize. The world don't give that way.

Always carry a grapefruit,
Philip M. Cohen

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