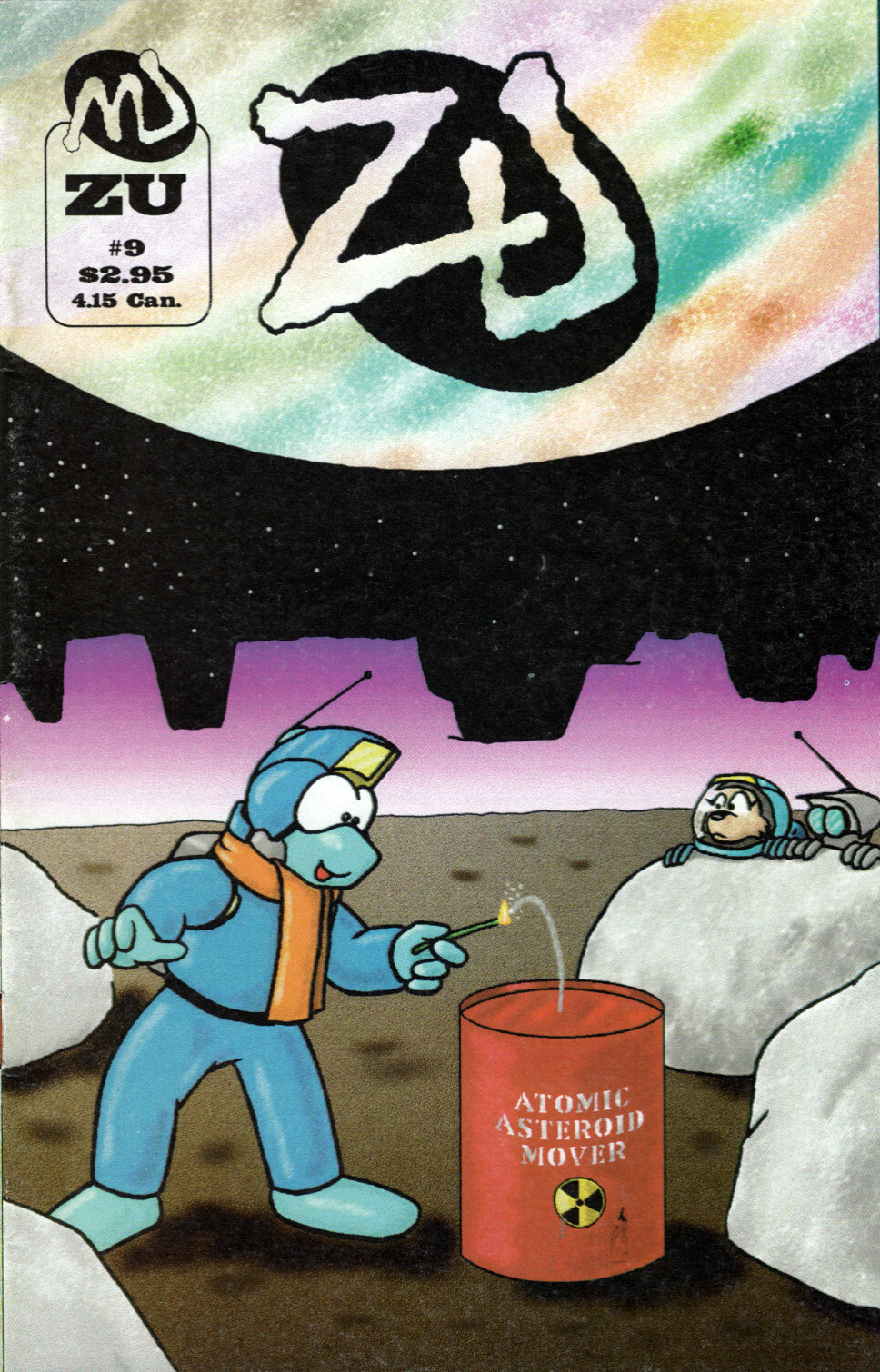
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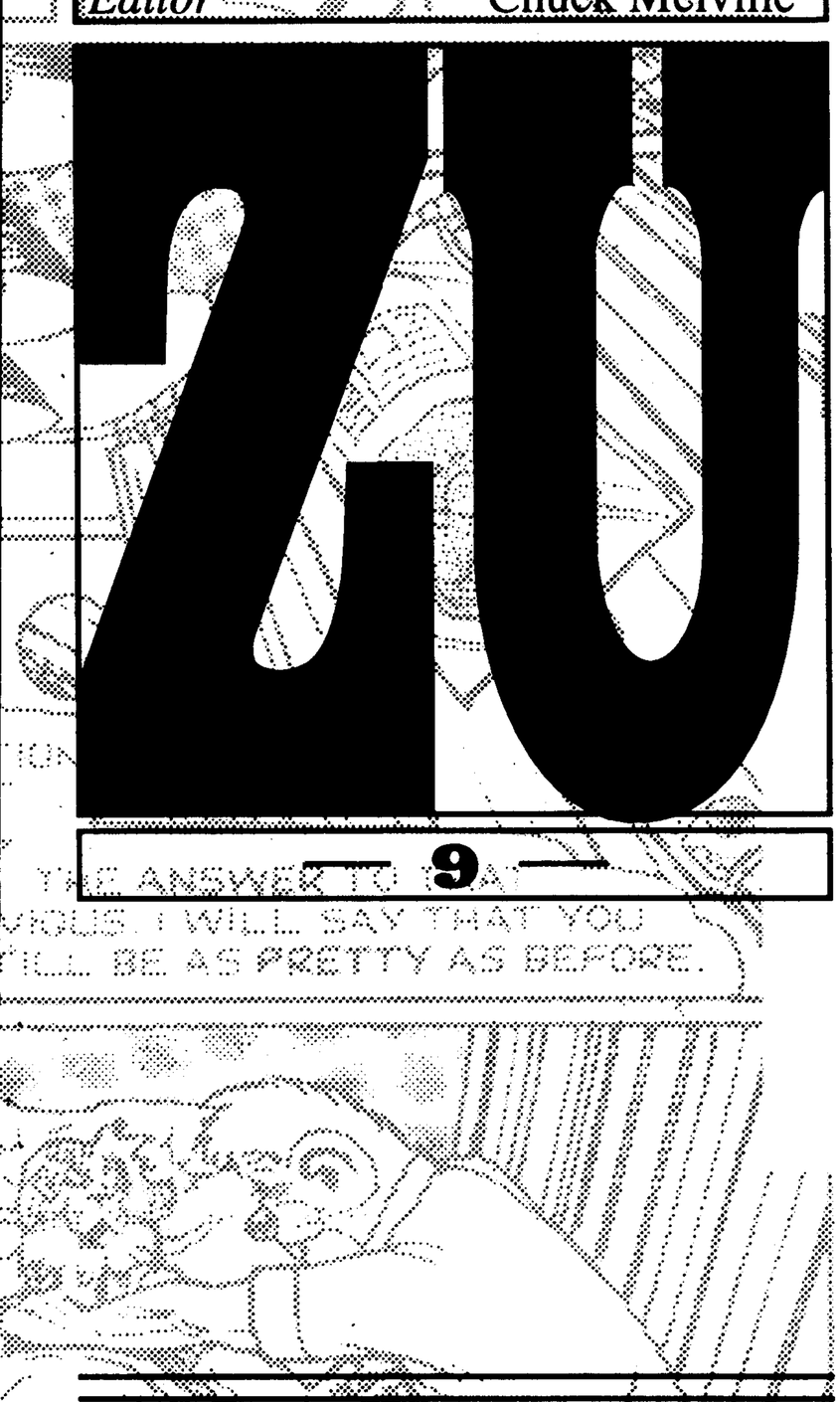
Cover by Mark Stanley

Editor Chuck Melville

ZU



ZU 9 May, 1996. (ISSN 1079-1426) Published by MU PRESS, 5014-D Roosevelt Way NE, Seattle, WA 98105. "Frontiers" ©1996 Adrian Kleinbergen; "Robert & Katrina: Deadline In Black & White" ©1996 Kris Kreutzman; "Zonie" ©1996 Michael-Scot McMurry; "Sheffield: The Reluctant Horse Thief" ©1996 Jay Shell. All rights reserved. No material herein may be copied or reproduced in any manner whatsoever without prior consent of the creator (excepting purposes of review). This is a work of fiction. Any similarity between names, characters, and/or persons herein and any persons living or dead is purely coincidental. "...Where's the earth-shattering KA-BOOM!?!" First Printing.

MU PUB #300

-Sheffield-

©1996 Jay Shell

In just two months!

Gunter by Bill Schmickle: a cat can't even heist a car radio when he encounters a much-too-playful junkyard dog!

Hader & the Colonel by Donna Barr: the Colonel has to deal with a love-sick harpy... and poor Hader is stuck in the middle! Plus, more Zonie and Robert & Katrina!

-Todd-

©1996 Jay Shell

Next month... the summer revels begin! Watch for the second issue of our new Anime fanzine, **Cyberwerx**, and then get ready for the summer comic conventions! MU will be at San Diego Comicon with four new releases (including the first **Wild Kingdom Annual**), and AEON will have five new books as well.

You say you haven't had your fill of **Captain Jack** and the gang yet!? Well, have I got a deal for you! The second volume of classic reprints will be out this summer, so watch this space, and be zorch, daddio!

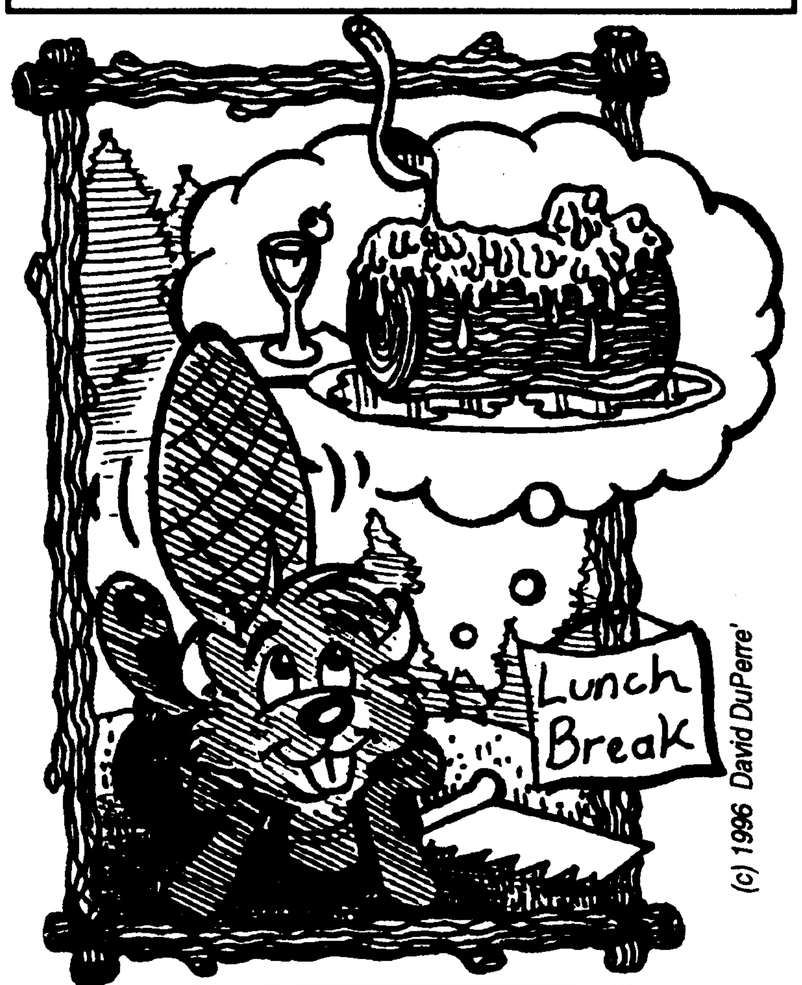
Also On Sale!

Wild Kingdom #7 - Featuring brand new stories by Riley, Oliver, and Oscar Marcus. *Adults only! You must be 18 or older to order!*

Quick Plug Time: Look for **The Magician's Village - The Prelude**, from Mad Monkey Press; $10.95.

(c) 1996 Mark Stanley

Felicia, that vixen of a sorceress, will soon be returning. Keep watch for her appearance here in **ZU**.



(c) 1996 David DuPerre'

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Frontiers

PART 3

ART AND STORY BY
ADRIAN KLEINBERGEN

LETTERING BY
DEREK MAH

LET'S DO IT!

HERE GOES!

WE'RE TOO **HEAVY!**

WE CAN'T LIFT OFF ON SUCH A **SHORT** RUNWAY!

WE HAVE TO **DUMP** SOME GEAR!

SWING AROUND FOR ANOTHER GO!

WE HAVE ENOUGH FUEL TO **TRY AGAIN!**

WE HAVE TO **UNLOAD** AS MUCH EXTRA WEIGHT AS POSSIBLE, INCLUDING **EMERGENCY SUPPLIES!**

OK, **LET'S** TRY IT AGAIN!

THIS TIME IT'S THE **LAST** TIME...

WE DON'T HAVE ENOUGH FUEL FOR ANY MORE **EXPERIMENTS!**

IT'S NO GOOD...!
WE'RE **NOT** GOING TO MAKE IT!

MARLA...

I...

GOODBYE!

WHA!?...
NO!

MARLA...
COME BACK FOR ME!

UNNHH!

I'LL
SEE YOU AGAIN,
MARLA.

I'LL **SURVIVE**
TO SEE YOU AGAIN,
WHATEVER IT
TAKES.

WILLIAM...

WHAT HAVE YOU **DONE**?

I'LL COME BACK... NO MATTER WHAT THE COST.

I'M NOT USED TO FLYING A PLANE **ALONE**...

I'M NOT SURE THAT I CAN EVEN **LAND** WITHOUT ASSISTANCE.

HOW AM I **GOING** TO GET THIS SHIP DOWN?

TIME AND FUEL DWINDLES...

I WONDER IF THEY WILL DOCK MY PAY FOR THIS...

WELL...

WHAT NOW?

SOME OF THIS STUFF WOULD BE HANDY, BUT I CAN'T CARRY IT ALL.

I'LL NEED TO FIND WATER, AND SOON.

I DON'T KNOW WHEN OR EVEN IF THERE **WILL** BE A RESCUE ATTEMPT, PRECIOUS CAMERA OR NOT.

WILL I SEE YOU AGAIN, MARLA? I REALLY THINK THAT YOU **DID** LIKE ME...

I WONDER IF YOU WILL WHEN YOU GET BACK **HOME**.

I DID WHAT YOU SAID, FATHER.

I TOOK MY FATE INTO MY OWN HANDS. I HOPE THAT I CAN GET HOME TO CONGRATULATE YOU ON YOUR ADVICE.

HAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHA...

A MILITARY HOSPITAL...

WELL,

YOU'RE FINALLY BACK WITH THE **LIVING**, CAPTAIN.

I'M **NOT** GOING TO ASK YOU THE STUPID QUESTION "HOW ARE YOU FEELING?"

THE **ANSWER** TO THAT IS OBVIOUS. I WILL SAY THAT YOU WILL STILL BE AS **PRETTY** AS BEFORE.

OHH... **WILLIAM!**

HOLD ON, CAPTAIN.

THE **DOC** WILL BE IN SOON, BUT DON'T TRY TO UNDO ALL THAT **WORK** HE DID PATCHING YOU UP.

I HOPE YOU MADE IT, MARLA...

I HOPE YOU DIDN'T GET ANY TROUBLE FOR FAILING THE MISSION...

COUGH, COUGH, HACK, HACK...!

IN SPITE OF IT ALL... THIS IS KIND OF...

EXHILARATING...

WE'LL SEE WHICH OF US EATS THE OTHER, FIRST!

...UNH...

MARLA...

..YOU'VE GOT
A REALLY GREAT...

...TUSHY...

...

CAPTAIN, THERE'S ANOTHER **OFFICER** HERE TO SEE YOU... HE HAS LOTS OF BRASS.

THANKS, STEVEN. LET HIM IN, PLEASE.

PLEASE, CAPTAIN... **RELAX**. I'M GLAD TO SEE THAT YOU'RE **RECOVERING** QUICKLY. AFTER WHAT **HAPPENED** TO LOTHAR, I'M GLAD THAT WE'RE NOT GOING TO **LOSE** YOU.

THANK YOU, SIR. I'M SORRY THAT THE **MISSION** DIDN'T-

CAPTAIN, YOU'LL HAVE TO LEAVE IT FOR THE OFFICIAL INQUEST.

I'M HERE TO INFORM YOU THAT YOU WILL HAVE TO BE DEBRIEFED IN A FEW DAYS.

INQUEST?

BUT I THOUGHT THAT I HAD ALREADY EXPLAINED TO THE AUTHORITIES THE DETAILS OF THE MISSION'S FAILURE.

I KNOW THAT, CAPTAIN, BUT **SOMEBODY** ABOVE ME FIGURED IT OUT THAT WAY AND THAT'S THE WAY IT'S GOING TO PLAY.

PLEASE...

RELAX. IT'S **MERELY** A FORMALITY.

IN LIGHT OF YOUR STATEMENT, **CAPTAIN FIRECLAW,**

THIS BOARD FINDS IT NECESSARY TO INITIATE A **COURT-MARTIAL** IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE ACCUMULATED **EVIDENCE** SUPPLIED BY YOU.

IT IS THE JUDGMENT OF THIS **BOARD** OF INQUEST

THAT AN **INVESTIGATION** BE COMMENCED TO THE SUSPICION OF THE **MURDER** OF LIEUTENANT WILLIAM LONGBURROW,

WITH **YOURSELF** AS PRIME SUSPECT.

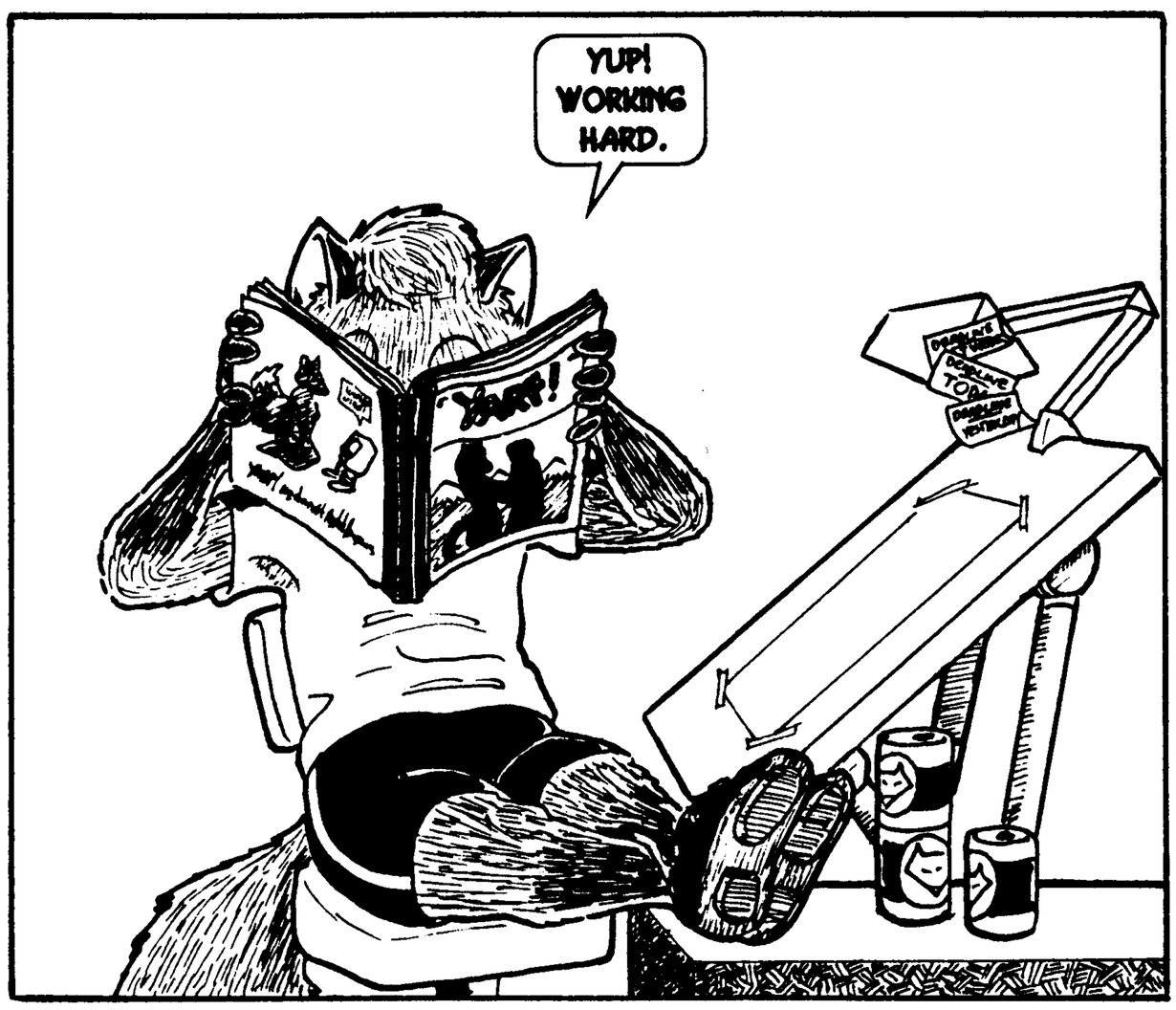
YOU ARE TO BE **INCARCERATED** WITHIN A MILITARY INSTALLATION UNTIL SAID COURT-MARTIAL CAN BE CONVENED.

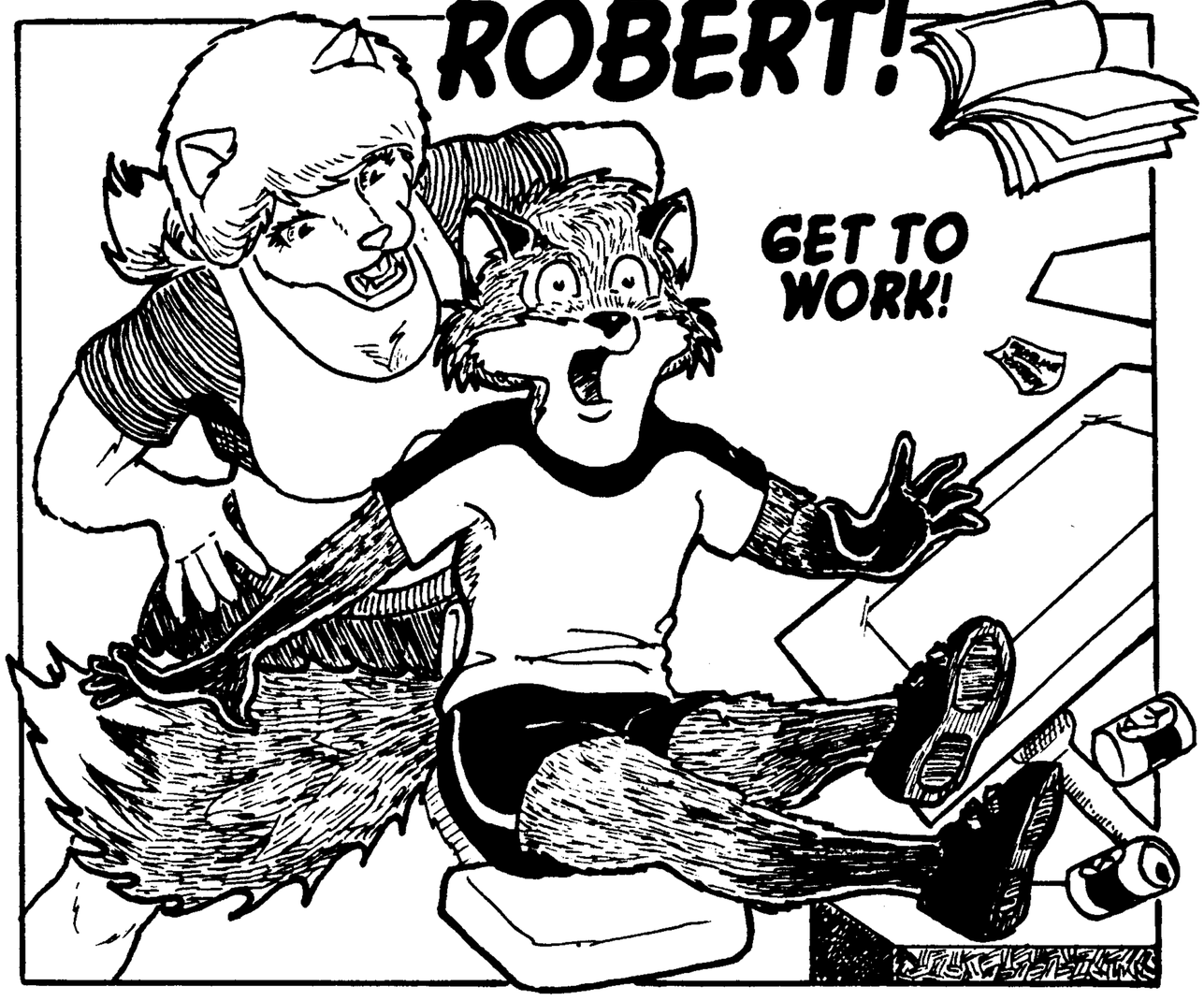
THIS IS THE **RULING** OF THIS BOARD.

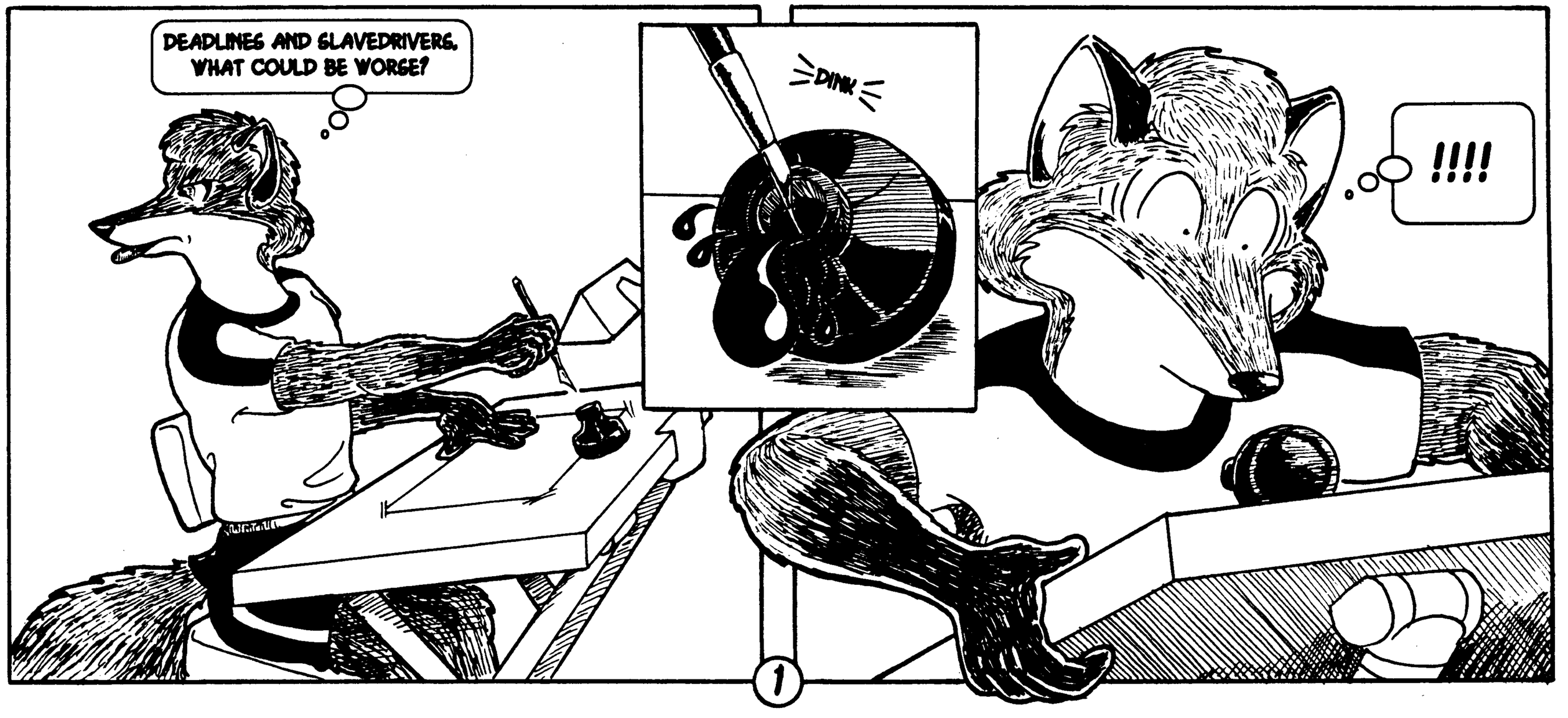
ROBERT AND KATRINA

"DEADLINE IN BLACK AND WHITE"

KREUTZMAN © 910109







AAAAAAAAARRG!

WHAT HAPPENED?

I'M DOOMED... KILL ME NOW... I'VE SPILLED INK ALL OVER MY DRAWING.

IT'S NOT SO BAD. YOU COULD USE WHITE INK TO MAKE A REVERSE SILHOUETTE.

HMM... THAT COULD WORK. LET'S GIVE IT A TRY...

DINK

THAT'S WHAT I CALL A DISASTER.

NOW I'M REALLY DOOMED!

HOW ARE YOU GOING TO FIX IT?

FIX IT? I CAN'T EVEN SEE ANYTHING!

WHERE'S THE DOOR?

HEY! STOP THAT

HEE! HEE! H

FIN

The ZU Index

Recently, I was asked for an index to ZU. I thought it sounded like a pretty good idea, so here's an index and crossreference for the first nine regular issues, plus the one-shot from a couple of years earlier. We may do this from time to time, maybe at the end of each year, so keep your copies handy.

Issue Index

#0

Cover by Ken Macklin
Opporknockitytoons: *"The Itsy-Bitsy Teeny-Weeny yellow Polka Dot Bikini (Redux)"* - 9 pages
Story & Pencils by Deal Whitley; Inks by Monika Livingston
Ruthy wears her new bikini to the beach, creating devasting reactions from everybody — except for her boyfriend, Wendell.

"Let Us Prey" - 3 pages
Story & Art by Jay Shell
The chase of hunter and hunted gets complicated when a fox aids a rabbit from a dangerous competitor.

"Me Volution" - 9 pages
Story & Art by Roberta Gregory
Throughout evolution, survival of the fittest begins with... me!

Mad Raccoons: *"Orly and Poppyseed"* - 4 pages
Story & Art by Cathy Hill
Cousin Lemur explains about "mud passionate luv".

"Floppity Goes Berserk" - 9 pages
Story & Art by Tom Stazer
Think it's fun to be one of those costumed 'toons doing PR duty at the mall? So did Febrille... until he snapped.

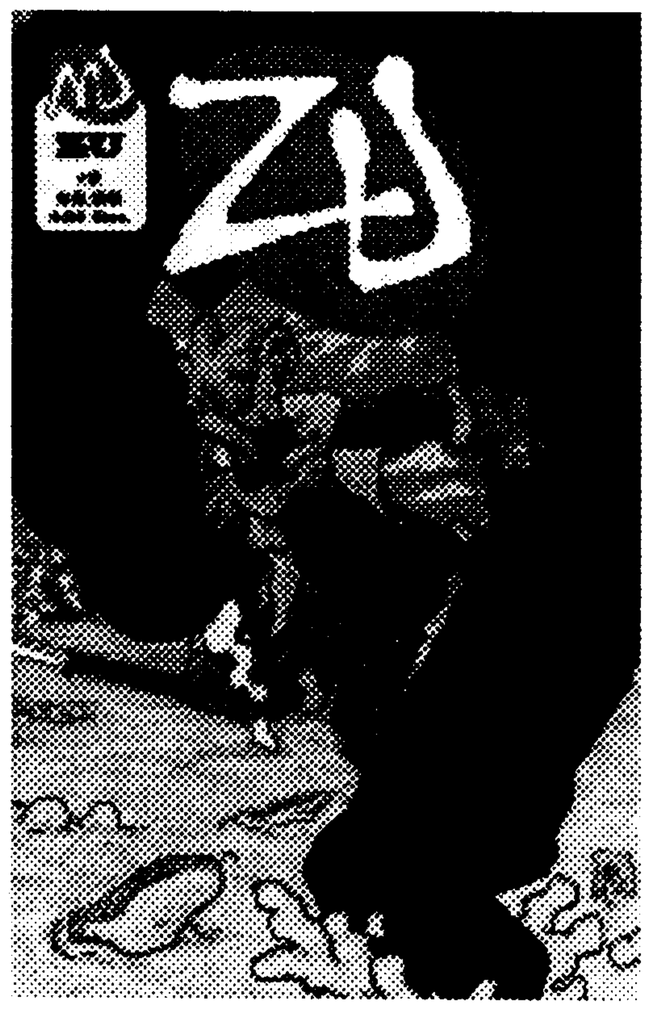
Patrick Rabbit: *"The Winged Tiger"* - 7 pages
Story & Art by Phil Yeh
An environmental pantomine, wherein Patrick discovers a paradisical island floating in the sky.

Vixy Vid: *"Bridge Club Crisis"* - 3 pages
Story & Art by Will Faust
The classic satire: little Bobby's rabies causes a domestic crisis! Thank heavens for Carnco's Abbatoire In A Sack!

"Flashback" - 4 pages
Story & Art by Dan Steffan
Were the sixties really that good — or are we just getting old?

"Don Gato" - 9 pages
Story & Art by Tracy Kazaleh
When a cat foolishly dies proclaiming his true love, it takes a greater love to bring him back: fish!

"Over the Sea, Let's Go, Men!" - 12 pages
Story by Dean Graf; Art by Terrie Smith
A young vixen disguises herself as a sailor and goes to sea to find a husband; but finds to her dissappointment that her ship is manned by perfect gentlemen — who may not be who *they* appear to be either!



#1
Jan 1995

Cover by Jay Shell
Princess Leandra: *"Sin and Salvation"* - 20 pages
Story & art by Jay Shell
Leandra pin-up by Jay Shell
A brave princess dares to challenge a monster in order to free her father from captivity, unaware that treachery awaits her if she makes the attempt.

#2
Mar 1995

Cover by Darko Macan
Sergei: *"Kingdom of the Blind"* - 12 pages
Story & art by Darko Macan
A mercenary bear in a post-technological world stumbles across a village of blind people, who mistake him for a thief.

Robert & Katrina: untitled - 1 page
by Kris Kreutzman

Freefall: untitled - 1 page
by Mark Stanley

"A Very Short Visit to a Very Small World" - 2 pages
Story & art by Roy Pounds
A difference in size can lead to serious misunderstandings...

"Experiencing Conceptual Difficulties" - 7 pages
Story & Art by Bill Fortier
Two mice discuss the Fuzzy Logic of their position in the furry comic industry.

#3
May 1995

Cover by Kris Kreutzman; colored by Tom Verre
Sergei: *"An Old Story"* - 12 pages
Story & art by Darko Macan
Sergei, while dealing with other mercenaries and treacherous employers, must teach an eager rabbit child the true meaning of being a mercenary.

Robert & Katrina: *"Deadline Blues"* - 1 page
by Kris Kreutzman

"The Dog Laundry" - 9 pages
Story by Marc Schirmeister; art by Kjartan Arnorsson
When your dog won't take a bath, there's a solution: you get him a service where the bath is administered by female dogs. Of course, when that only encourages him to get dirty faster, you have a whole new problem...

Zonie: untitled - 1 page
by Mike McMurry

#4
July 1995

Cover by Roy Pounds
Sergei: *"The Holy Man"* - 12 pages
Story & art by Darko Macan
Sergei stumbles across a holy man who dispenses wisdom to all who come to him... by saying nothing at all.

Robert & Katrina: *"Deadline Diversions"* - 2 pages
by Kris Kreutzman

Freefall: untitled - 1 page
by Mark Stanley

"A Shape-Changer's Tale" - 4 pages
Story & art by Roy Pounds
A curious woodland creature shares a special bond with her forest... and with the hunter who trespasses.

Fangs of K'aath: *"A Fish Story"* - 7 pages
Story by Paul Kidd; Art by Terry Loh
Sandrhi the Storyteller takes on temporary duty as a food taster in the market... and she intends to taste it all!

Zonie: untitled - 1 page
by Mike McMurry

#5
Sept 1995

Cover by Tom Verre
The Monkey Tales: *"The Very Cool Hero"* - 14 pages
Story & art by Riley
Martial arts action as the Monkey Prince rescues a young boy from an ancient foe.

Robert & Katrina: *"Racketball Runaround"* - 4 pages
by Kris Kreutzman
A misserved ball causes Katrina to raise a racket... right over Robert's head, if she catches him!

Freefall: untitled - 1 page
by Mark Stanley

"The Day's Just Dragon" - 3 pages
Story & art by Roy Pounds
Not all dragons bear bad tidings.

Zonie: untitled - 1 page
by Mike McMurry

#6
Nov 1995

Cover by Donna Barr
Hader & the Colonel: Part V - 12 pages
Story & art by Donna Barr
Hader and the Colonel's story contines from its previous appearances in other publications: as part of their tasks, the Colonel must kill and claim the tusks of a boar. but the humans are also hunting — and not just for boar!

Robert & Katrina: *"Deadline Dialog"* - 2 pages
by Kris Kreutzman

pin-up - 1 page
by Richard Hernandez

Stupid Penguins: *"The Beaky Gourmet"* - 7 pages
Story & art by Riley
They're crude, they're vulgar, they live in Antarctica, and they're the royal family! They're having a whale of a time, which is not what they were looking for!

Zonie: untitled - 1 page
by Mike McMurry

#7
Jan 1996

Cover by Adrian Kleinbergen
Frontiers: Part I, Chapter 1 - 10 pages
Story & art by Adrian Kleinbergen
A prejudiced Felin pilot and her rodent co-pilot try to put their difference aside as they undertake a recon mission. But then the plane flies into disaster...

Robert & Katrina: *"The Grenadier"* - 2 pages
by Kris Kreutzman

pin-up - 1 page
by Erik Enervold

Zonie: *"Twilight Zonie"* - 7 pages
by Mark Stanley
Crossover time! Zonie the coyote dates Flo the bio-engineered Red Wolf from Freefall! Sweet dreams, chili, and dead horses can't come between these two young lovers!

Freefall: untitled - 1 page
by Mark Stanley

#8 -
Mar 1996
Cover by Mike McMurry
Frontiers: Part I, Chapter 2 - 10 pages
Story & art by Adrian Kleinbergen
Marta and William struggle to survive their harsh terrain following their crash, but their greater danger isn't from the awful heat, but from Marta's lingering bigotry.

Robert & Katrina: *"Shock Treatment"* -2 pgs
by Kris Kreutzman

Zonie: untitled - 1 page
by Mike McMurry

"Problems With Antrhopomorphism" - 2 pgs
by Kjartan Arnorrson
It's sometimes difficult to remember where the line is drawn...

Hader & the Colonel: *"Bath Day"* - 7 pgs
Story & art by Donna Barr
The companions take time from their quests, as the Colonel introduces his friend to the joys a good, cold bath in the lake! Brr!

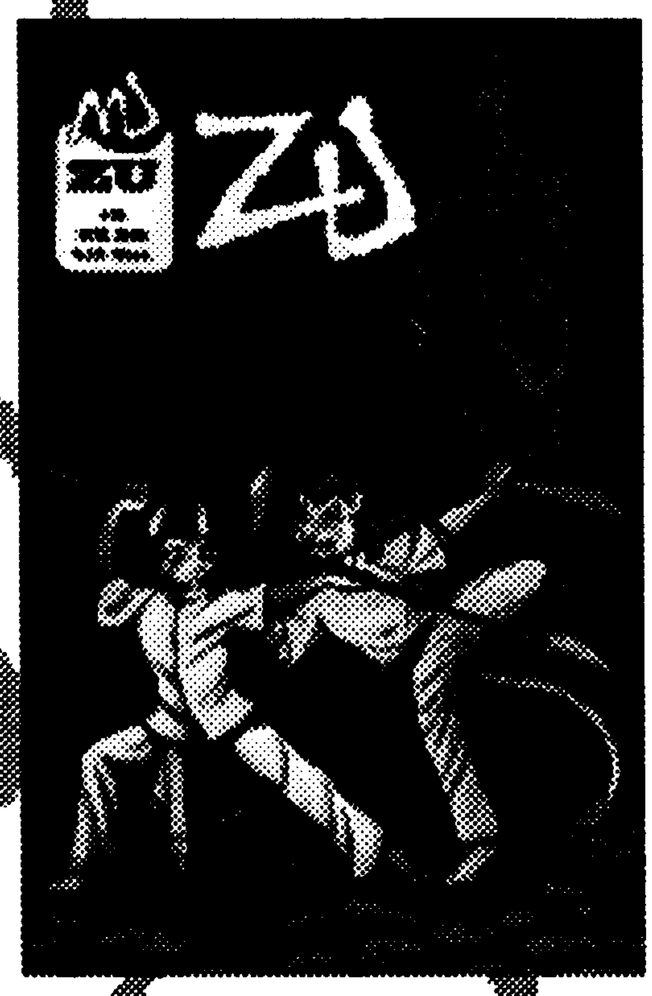
#9 -
May 1996

Cover by Mark Stanley
Frontiers: Part I, Chapter 3 - 10 pages
Story & art by Adrian Kleinbergen
After much back-breaking work, William and Marta get their plane repaired enough for a return flight. Unfortunately, there's only enough fuel to get one of them back to base...
Robert & Katrina: *"Deadline in Black & White"* - 2 pgs
by Kris Kreutzman

Zonie: untitled - 1 page
by Mike McMurry

Sheffield: *"The Reluctant Horse Thief"* - 4 pgs
Story & art by Jay Shell
Reynard convinces Sheffield that the Dragon has an invaluable treasure worth stealing. But "treasure' is in the eye of the beholder...

Creator Index



KJARTAN ARNORRSSON
"The Dog Laundry" - (#3; 9 pages; art)
"Problems With Anthropomorphism" - (#8; 2 pages; story & art)

DONNA BARR
Cover (#6)
Hader & the Colonel: Part V - (#6; 12 pages; story & art)
Hader & the Colonel: "Bath Day" - (#8; 7 pages; story & art)

ERIK ENERVOLD
Pin-up - (#7; 1 page)

WILL FAUST
Vixy Vid: "Bridge Club Crisis" - (#0; 3 pages; story & art)

BILL FORTIER
"Experiencing Conceptual Difficulties" - (#2; 7 pages; story & art)

DEAN GRAF
"Over The Seas, Let's Go, Men!" - (#0; 12 pages; story)

ROBERTA GREGORY
"Me Volution" - (#0; 9 pages; story & art)

RICHARD HERNANDEZ
Pin-up - (#6; 1 page)

CATHY HILL
Mad Raccoons: "Orly and Poppyseed" - (#0; 4 pages; story & art)

TRACY KAZALEH
"Don Gato" - (#0; 9 pages; story & art)

PAUL KIDD
Fangs of K'aath: "A Fish Story" - (#4; 7 pages; story)

ADRIAN KLEINBERGEN
Cover (#7)
Frontiers: Part I, Chapter 1 - (#7; 10 pages; story & art)
Frontiers: Part I, Chapter 2 - (#8; 10 pages; story & art)
Frontiers: Part I, Chapter 3 - (#9; 10 pages; story & art)

KRIS KREUTZMAN
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Robert & Katrina: "untitled" - (#2; 1 page; story & art)
Robert & Katrina: "Deadline Blues" - (#3; page; story & art)
Robert & Katrina: "Deadline Diversions" - (#4; 2

pages; story & art)
Robert & Katrina: "Racketball Runaround" - (#5; 4 pages; story & art)
Robert & Katrina: "Deadline Dialog" - (#6; 2 pages; story & art)
Robert & Katrina: "The Grenadier" - (#7; 2 pages; story & art)
Robert & Katrina: "Shock Treatment" - (#8; 2 pages; story & art)
Robert & Katrina: "Deadline in Black & White" - (#9; 2 pages; story & art)

MONIKA LIVINGSTON
Opporknockitytoons: "The Itsy-Bitsy Teeny-Weeny yellow Polka Dot Bikini (Redux)" - (#0; 9 pages; inks)

TERRY LOH
Fangs of K'aath: "A Fish Story" - (#4; 7 pages; art)

DARKO MACAN
Sergei: "Kingdom of the Blind" - (#2; 12 pages; story & art)
Sergei: "An Old Story" - (#3; 12 pages; story & art)
Sergei: "The Holy Man" - (#4; 12 pages; story & art)

KEN MACKLIN
Cover (#0)

MIKE McMURRY
Cover (#8)
Zonie: untitled - (#3; 1 page; story & art)
Zonie: untitled - (#4; 1 page; story & art)
Zonie: untitled - (#5; 1 page; story & art)
Zonie: untitled - (#6; 1 page; story & art)
Zonie: untitled - (#8; 1 page; story & art)
Zonie: untitled - (#9; 1 page; story & art)

ROY POUNDS II
Cover (#4)
"A Very Short Visit to a Very Small Planet" - (#2; 2 pages; story & art)
"A Shape-Changer's Tale" - (#4; 4 pages; story & art)
"The Day's Just Dragon" - (#5; 3 pages; story & art)

RILEY
The Monkey Tales: "The Very Cool Hero" - (#5; 14 pages; story & art)
Stupid Penguins: "The Beaky Gourmet" - (#6; 7 pages; story & art)

MARC SCHIRMEISTER
"The Dog Laundry" - (#3; 9 pages; story)

JAY SHELL
Cover (#1)
"Let Us Pray" - (#0; 3 pages; story & art)
Princess Leandra: "Sin and Salvation" - (#1; 20 pages: story & art)
Sheffield: "The Reluctant Horse Thief" - (#9; 4 pages: story & art)

TERRIE SMITH
"Over The Seas, Let's Go, Men!" - (#0; 12 pages; art)

MARK STANLEY
Cover (#9)
Freefall: untitled - (#2; 1 page; story & art)
Freefall: untitled - (#4; 1 page; story & art)
Freefall: untitled - (#5; 1 page; story & art)
Freefall: untitled - (#7; 1 page; story & art)
Freefall: untitled - (#8; 1 page; story & art)
Zonie: "Twilight Zonie" - (#7; 7 pages; story & art)

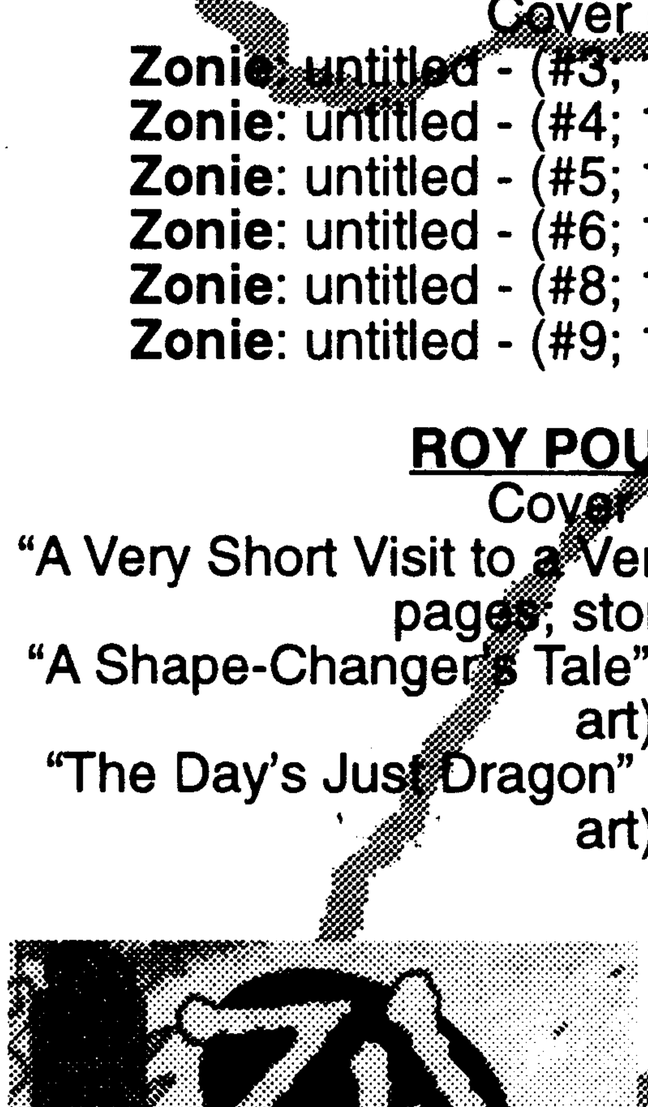
TOM STAZER
"Floppity Goes Berserk" - (#0; 9 pages; story & art)

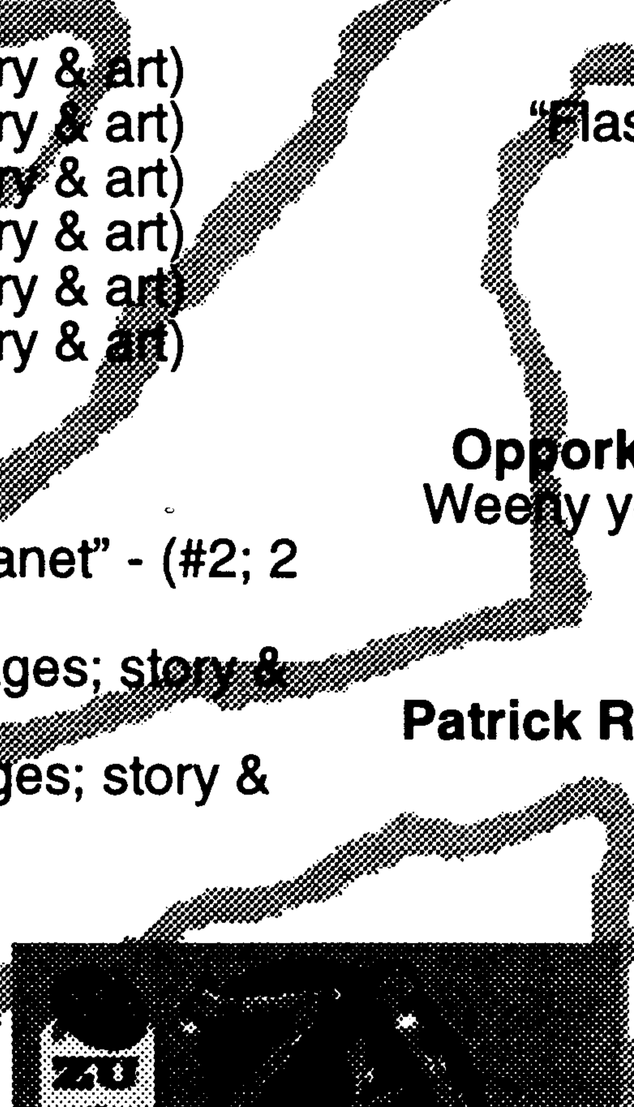
DAN STEFFAN
"Flashback" - (#0; 4 pages; story & art)

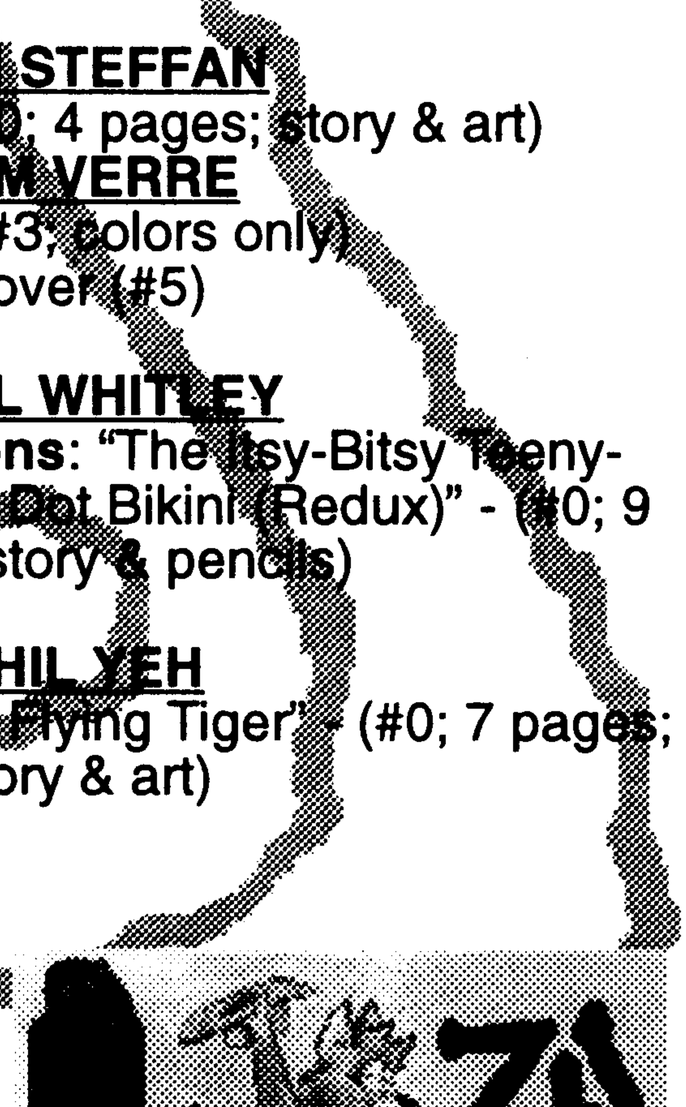
TOM VERRE
Cover (#3; colors only)
Cover (#5)

DEAL WHITLEY
Opporknockitytoons: "The Itsy-Bitsy Teeny-Weeny yellow Polka Dot Bikini (Redux)" - (#0; 9 pages; story & pencils)

PHIL YEH
Patrick Rabbit: "The Flying Tiger" - (#0; 7 pages; story & art)







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(ZU #'s 7 - 9; cover: #7)

Hader & the Colonel
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(ZU #2 - 9; cover: #3)

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(ZU #'s 2 - 4; cover: #2)

The Monkey Tales
by Riley
(ZU #5)

Sheffield
by Jay Shell
(ZU #9)

Opporknockitytoons
by Deal Whitley, with Monika Livingston
(ZU #0)

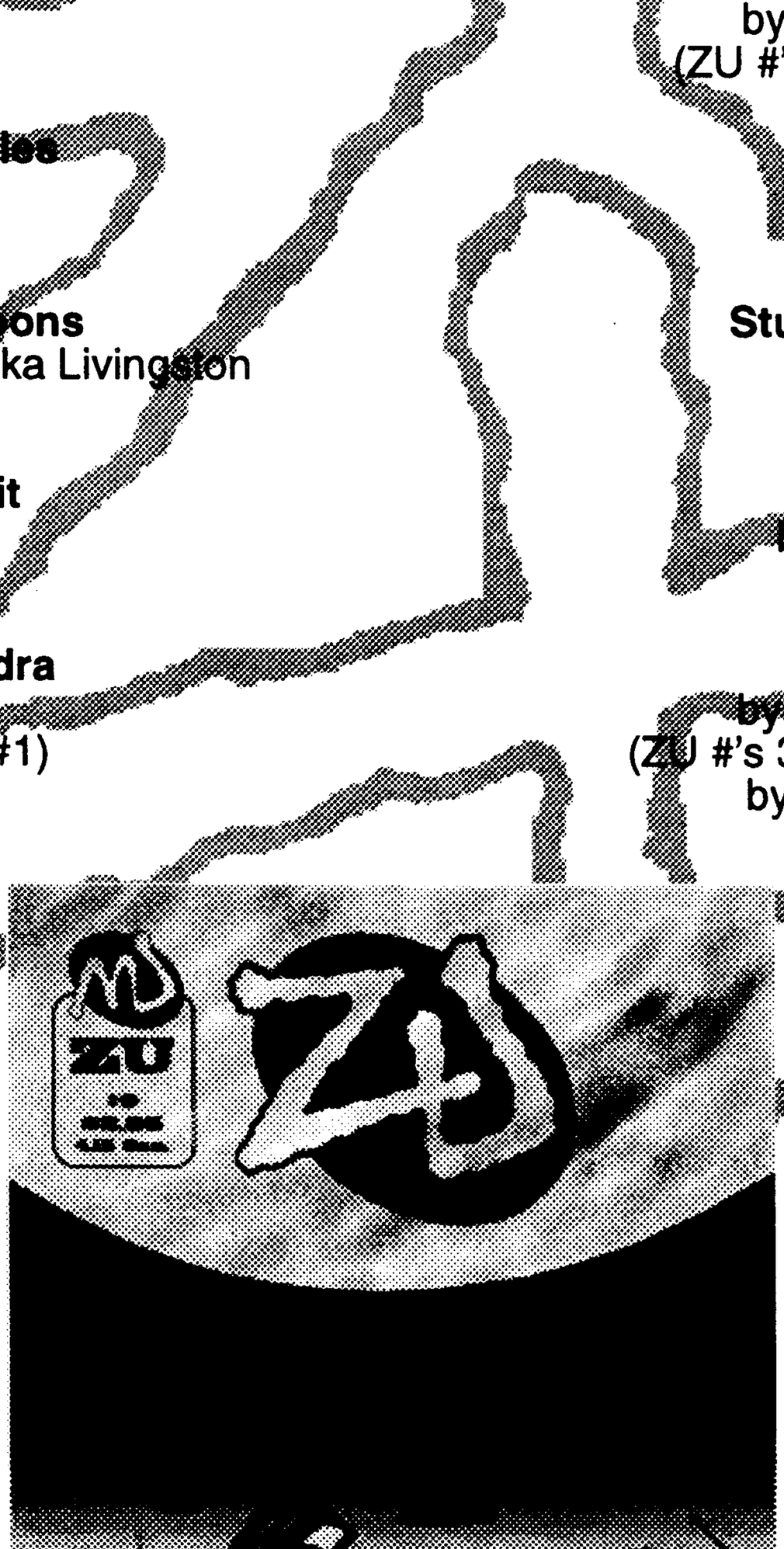
Stupid Penguins
by Riley
(ZU #6)

Patrick Rabbit
by Phil Yeh
(ZU #0)

Vixy Vid
by Will Faust
(ZU #0)

Princess Leandra
by Jay Shell
(ZU #1; cover: #1)

Zonie
by Mike McMurry
(ZU #'s 3 - 6, 8, 9; cover: #8)
by Mark Stanley
(ZU #7)



SHEFFIELD

"THE RELUCTANT HORSE THIEF"

LISTEN, SHEFFIELD! YOU DON'T WANT TO SPEND THE REST OF YOUR LIFE PULLING AN ALE CART, DO YOU?

WELL, NO, BUT "ADVENTURING" CAN BE DANGEROUS!

YOU'RE CARRYING THE SWORD AND SHIELD I "BORROWED", RIGHT?

YES, TODD, BUT I'VE NEVER...

SO STOP WORRYING! FAME AND FORTUNE AWAIT... LOOK!

THE DEN OF LIONDRAKE'S GOLD!

WELCOME, STRANGERS. I AM CHIMERA, GUARDIAN OF THIS SACRED PLACE. WHAT BRINGS YOU HERE ?

YOUR TREASURE, DRAGONESS ! WE INTEND TO *TAKE* IT !

THEN YOU INTEND TO *DIE* ! *RRAAAWWRR* !

STREWTH !

HURRY, BEFORE THE NEXT BLAST ... *ATTACK* !

>GULP< RIGHT.

HYAAH !

KLONK

UUNH!

GOOD WORK, SHEFF! YOU KEEP HER OCCUPIED, WHILE I OPEN THE TREASURE CHAMBER!

KE
O

NO! YOU MUST'NT! OOF!

I'M WARNING YOU, CHIMERA...I KNOW HOW TO USE THIS!

HMM, NO LOCKS! I WONDER...>GASP< BLIMEY!

WHAT'S WRONG, TODD? WHAT DO YOU SEE?

EGGS! THERE ARE ONLY EGGS IN THIS CHAMBER!

??

OF COURSE! WHAT TREASURE IS MORE PRECIOUS THAN THE NEXT GENERATION?

UH, WE WERE HOPING FOR SOMETHING A BIT MORE *MONETARY* IN NATURE. OUR MISTAKE ...SORRY FOR THE INTRUSION...

I UNDERSTAND... APOLOGY ACCEPTED.

YIP!

NOW GET OUT!

OOF!

OOH... MUST'VE BEEN THE DEN OF *GOLD LIONDRAKES!* MY MEMORY ISN'T WHAT IT USED TO BE.

WHAT?

S-STEADY, SHEFFIELD! TEMPER, TEMPER... *HELLLP!*

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ZONIE

BY McMURRY

GOTCHA!

HELLOOOOOOO, LUNCH!

FORE!

THWAK!

KEEP YOUR HEAD DOWN! REMEMBER TO FOLLOW THROUGH!

POINK!

YOWWWWW

I DON'T BELIEVE IT! YOU SAVED ME!

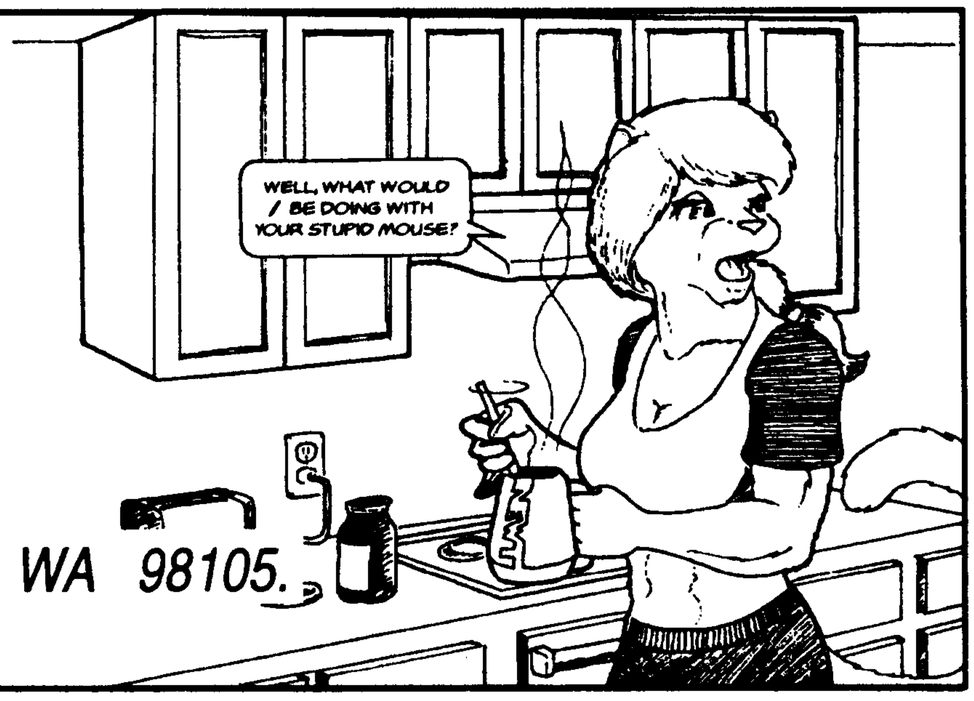
NO PROBLEMO.

GUESS I KINDA BLEW THE 'CUTE' IMAGE, HUH?

I TOLD YOU, I DIDN'T KNOW WHAT CATNIP WOULD DO TO YOU...

KREUTZMAN
©920812

ANIMAL CRACKERS



Send all mail to ZU, MU Press, 5014-D Roosevelt Way NE, Seattle, WA 98105.
Or send e-mail to e.vick1@genie.com

A couple of quick notes before we get to the letterpouch:

A while ago I recommended **South Fur Lands** from Australia, and I gave prices for individual copies. A quick e-mail from the gang downunder pointed out something that I should have already known, and that I should point out now. When ordering copies from them, *please* , you must pay in Australian currency, not American. There are a lot of complications involved in cashing foreign checks and money orders and in exchanging international rates, so please help simplify matters by obtaining an international money order, or in somehow sending an Australian check. Or you can check with Mailbox Books (P O Box 1278, Roslyn, PA 19001) and see if they are carrying the book here in the states; I can almost assure you that they probably are.

And this issue concludes the first act to **Frontiers**; but the story itself isn't finished. Adrian is presently working on the next three-chapter act, and we'll be scheduling it for sometime early next year. So don't be concerned; Marla and William *will* be returning.

Okay, it's been seven issues and I guess I owe you a letter. Let's start with the most recent and work back.

Frontiers: Adrian Kleinbergen has come a *long* way from *The Grapes Of Rat* in **Albedo** v. 1, #12, and I hope he *never* goes back. Oh, it was well-written and drawn and all that. It was also one of the ugliest, nastiest things I'd ever read.

As for *this* story, the racism angle has been used with morphs before, but that doesn't mean it can't be used again. Two notable twists: first, rather than the past war being cats versus mice, it was cats and mice versus someone else, with the mice allegedly being used as Colonial cannon-fodder. Second, there are individuals of both races who consider their race to be superior. God, good. And there is a good amount of character development in the first chapter.

Artwise, I'm afraid that Mr. Kleinbergen hasn't done his homework on aeroplanes. The ship depicted is obviously based on the WW II-era Blohm & Voss BV 141, which is good since it was an interesting concept. But he's ignored the aerodynamic concepts that made the unorthodox design work. He's reversed the layout, which would compound rather than compensate for the engine torque. The wings should be of approximately equal span measured from the engine/tail boom nacelle. Also, the port rudder/tailplane section would be in the turret gunner's field of fire. (Speaking of which, when Captain Fireclaw tells her groundcrew to check the rudder, she *would* specify port or starboard.) The crew nacelle is too spacious and sparse for a military plane. And most important, judging from his position, Lt. Longburrow is *not* Captain Fireclaw's copilot; he's her observer. That's a key point, because is Lothar was flying the same model aircraft, there was little if anything that an observer could do to make the plane crash on a normal approach.

(At this point, we have no idea what craft Lothar was flying, or if it were the same as Captain Fireclaw's; nor do we have any cause to assume that it was. -CPAM)

I could nit-pick forever, which doesn't really add anything of value to the discussion. On the upside, the ship has gracefully-shaped flying surfaces rather than the squared-off surfaces of the BV 141. Very attractive. There's a lot of background detail in the bar scene. The uniforms are practical and believable. (And in two distinct styles. Is the Felin Empire made up of two or more nation-states?) And, most notably, Captain Fireclaw doesn't have a massive pair of boobs overflowing her flight jacket. I'm apparently in the minority, but I fail to see the attraction of a woman - human or morph - who is "endowed" to the point of deformity.

Oops! I've gone on and on about one feature in an anthology book. What about everything else? Well, Robert and Katrina are nice, likable people. There's a dearth of those in the Mainstream. And I like the technique of breaking the fourth wall and talking to the reader. Zonie is *not* "coyote-ugly". He is cute and cuddly. Do the Dakin people know about him? *Hader & the Colonel* appeared *once* in **Menagerie**. Part V is *not* "right where the story left off". Y'think we's stoopid er somethin'?

(No, but the editor is apparently three geese short of a flock. You are correct; the intervening chapters were published in a fanzine by Donna, before we picked up on the fifth chapter... a fact which should have been double-checked beforehand. -CPAM)

I missed #4 (I'll pick it up soon), but Riley's *Monkey Prince* sounds good. I used to dump on him about accuracy over in **Furrlough**, and I hope I'm not the one who scared him off. As for *Stupid Penguins*, ummm... he certainly is diversifying, isn't he? Seriously, it is charming in a crude and tasteless sort of way, but I'm still waiting to see Yuji.

Sergei was definitely something different. This was the *first* time I've *ever* seen a comic book put a - you'll pardon the expression - human face on the ol' post-apocalyptic world bit. (Second, if you count Holland & Wilbur's *Lizards*, but I got the impression that was post-technology *without* a war.) And considering how things are going in Mr. Macan's homeland, it's reassuring that he can still write with some hope. My favorite episode so far was "The Holy Man". Beats some of 'em we've got today.

Going back to #1, Jay Shell's art is good, but it's so unusual that it's hard to get used to. (I first saw his work in a *Red Shetland* portfolio, and I was ready to strangle him by the time I decoded his signature. "9-8...??") This is just one fanboy's opinion, but I think it would benefit from the moderate application of some Zips.

(And here is one professional's opinion: no, it would not. -CPAM)

By the way, did you try putting the cover of **ZU** #1 next to **Furrlough** #26, which came out at about the same time? Variations on a theme, no? At least Leandra rides like a lady.

John Henry Sain
Medford, OR

Jay's art is very distinctive, *yes, I will agree. I've always found it remarkable that something so lifelike could be constructed of such tight and rigid linework. But where you're having difficulties accepting it, I relish it. Jay never disappoints me, neither in execution nor in professionality. As for adding Zips to his linework, God forbid! There is some work that Zip adds greatly to, such as Adrian's work on* Frontiers, *and other work such as Jay's where it would be in conflict with the art. Jay's already laid down strong grays in carefully placed cross-hatching, and has placed his contrast with sharply defined blacks. What purpose would adding Zips serve?*

Adrian admits that he was off in the plane design. He was unable to find a good art reference, and was working strictly from his memories of having seen the plane design on a model box ten or more years ago. Given that, it's remarkable that he was as close as he was. Still, it serves to remind us that when dealing with props or background details, you have to be as accurate as the work will allow, because someone will always catch you.

-CPAM-

An important message from Larry Welz:

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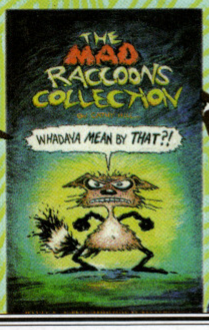
LIONS AND TIGERS AND BEARS? OH, WELL -- IF YOU MUST.

...BUT WHY NOT GIVE SOME CONSIDERATION INTO CHECKING OUT SOME *FOXES*?

AN' LOOK!! LOTSA NEAT LAFFS AND STUFF 'BOUT RACCOONS LIKE US, IN *MAD RACCOONS* BY CATHY HILL!

WAITAMINNIT! THAT'S NOT *US*! THAT'S THOSE *OTHER GUYS*!



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...SO... WHAT'S WITH THIS *MISTER* COW THING, ANYWAY?

...DOES THIS MEAN THAT I'M OUT OF A JOB...!?

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