

NO. 6
JULY, 1989
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WHY RENT WHEN
YOU CAN OWN

GRAPHX PRESS

EQUINE

THE UNCIVILIZED



From the Head Space Cadet

--Jim Groat

I know by now that you the reader have been wondering: **where the hell is Equine #6?** Okay, we screwed up big time on this one. #6 is over a year late by my estimation and I'm not the least bit happy about it, either. Several factors are involved in the delay, most not pretty, some I will not discuss . . . **period!** Mostly it's the usual crap that we small pressers never seem to avoid, such as dropping sales and lack of money for printing. With the rush of Japanese comics hitting the market, sales suffer even more (I'm guilty of buying a few myself: *Area 88*, *Pineapple Army* and *Lone Wolf & Cub* . . . good stuff). And sadly, we have seen the demise of really great titles: *Fusion*, *The Dreamery* and *Menagerie* all died needless deaths. People have come up to me and said, "Great, that means **your** sales will increase." Not so. Few shops are willing to gamble on a little-known title or another black/white book nowadays.

While in Seattle recently promoting the new *Red Shetland* series several shops told me that they carried the books but had trouble reordering them, others hadn't even heard of our titles. Some of these tried out our books and did surprisingly well. It only goes to show that the public must see them in order to sell them. If you are a shop owner reading this or know someone who is, c'mon, give us a try. The results may surprise **you**.

This issue of *Equine* is a very special one. It is a jam issue involving some of the best-known artists in the industry. The artists involved have their characters wrapped up in the story, so don't think that Mark Wallace is doing a damn good job recreating Donna Barr or Kevin Eastman; that's their handiwork. Besides, their characters get to rag on *Equine's* ass. So now I'll introduce the contributors . . . (and

at the same time plug their work).

Donna Barr: the mad genius behind Stinz Lowhard, "Bosom Enemies" and of course *The Desert Peach*. (Also fellow combatant in *Barr Warz*) Read her books, really great stuff.

Darin Davis: creator of "Botswana Bison" in *Morphs*. A talented little dweeb.

Dave Garcia: best known for his creation *Panda Khan*, more fun reading.

Mike Kazaleh: the brains and talent behind *Captain Jack* also had his hands in *The New Adventures of Mighty Mouse*. Mike's work appears regularly in Fantagraphics' books.

Eastman and Laird: what more can be said about these guys? Animated series, plush toys, lucky bastards.

Ed Luena: creator and artist of the late *Crow of the Bear Clan*. Find back issues and buy them.

Ken and Beth Mitchroney: *Space Ark*, *Myth Conceptions*, *Fish Police*, Archie's *Ninja Mutant Turtles Adventures*. These and many more await you at your comics shop. (Also *Morphs* #2.)

Stan Sakai: the gentleman artist who delights us with *Usagi Yojimbo* and *Nielson Groundthumper*.

John Speidel: Canadian artist currently wanted by Moslem death squads for his work in *Morphs*, "The Many Adventures of Kitty Malone" and "Azizi, Queen of the Jungle Realm".

Marc Schirmeister: founder of the APA *Rowrbrazzle* and a real swell guy to boot.

Mel. White: she and Robert Asprin are responsible for *Duncan & Mallory*. This lady is also generally armed with very large, sharp objects at fancy French restaurants.

and **Monika Livingston:** her work, "Rufus the Red", can be seen in back issues of *Albedo*. Monika is also the new inker for Graphxpress, and will be doing the inks on both *Equine* and *Red Shetland*. We hope you enjoy her style as much as we do.

SUPER-SPECIAL EQUINE

JAM

When Equine did fall in battle — cravenly, pierced of midsection by an arrow most poisoned — it did seem that his life was at a sorry end, yet 'twas his luck to be brought to an Ork camp to heal. Even so, the Summerilian's body would not endure, were it not for the timely, healing arrival of a dead wizard's spirit, looking for a new body for which to call his own!

THE ALCOHOLONIAN PICAYUNE/TIMES

EQUINE THE UNCIVILIZED

PAINTING THE TOWN RED ORANGE

HIGH-MILEAGE AND A BIT OF A FIXER-UPPER — BUT HEY! NOBODY'S GOING TO KICK SAND IN *HIS* FACE AT THE BEACH!

THAT'S HOW THE ORANGUTANG WIZARD "LARRY" DESCRIBED EQUINE'S BODY, JUST BEFORE THE WIZARD'S SPIRIT SET UP HOUSEKEEPING IN IT!

THE POSSESSED EQUINE THEN PROCEEDED TO MAGICALLY HUMILIATE MOST OF ALARIK'S ORK CAMP, BEFORE TELEPORTING "HIS" TENT — AND EVERYTHING IN IT — TO THAT AFOREMENTIONED BEACH!

NOW...
IT'S PARTY TIME!



EDITOR —
JIM GROAT

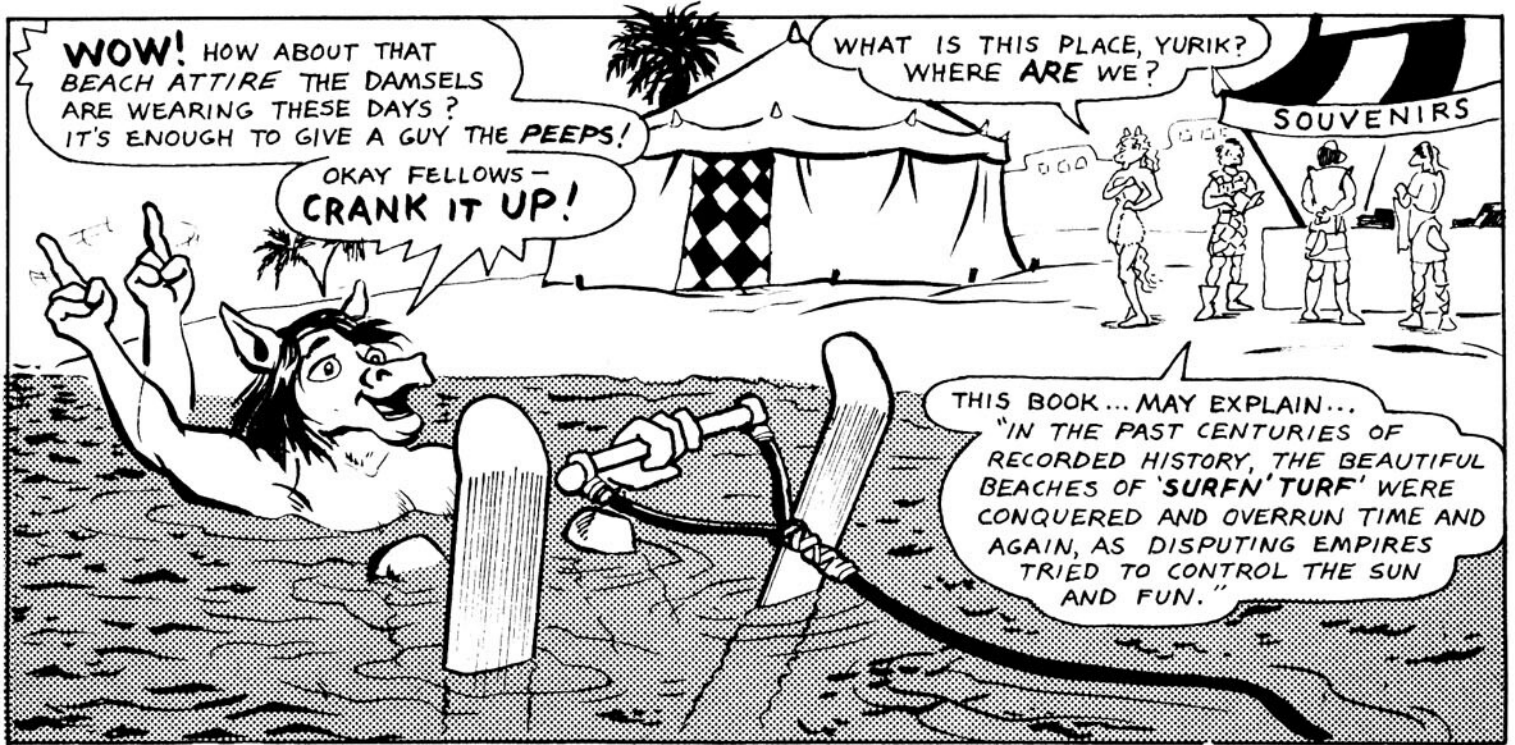
PENCILS — MARK
WALLACE

INKS —
MONIKA LIVINGSTON

STORY — LETTERS
RICHARD KONKLE

EMERGENCY
ZIPS:
KARTAN

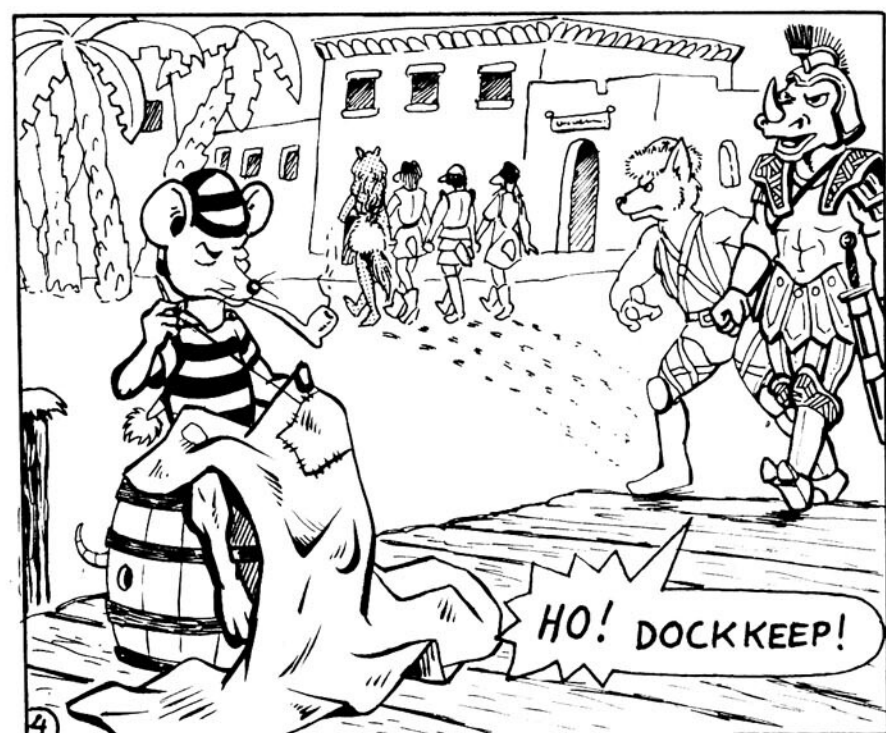
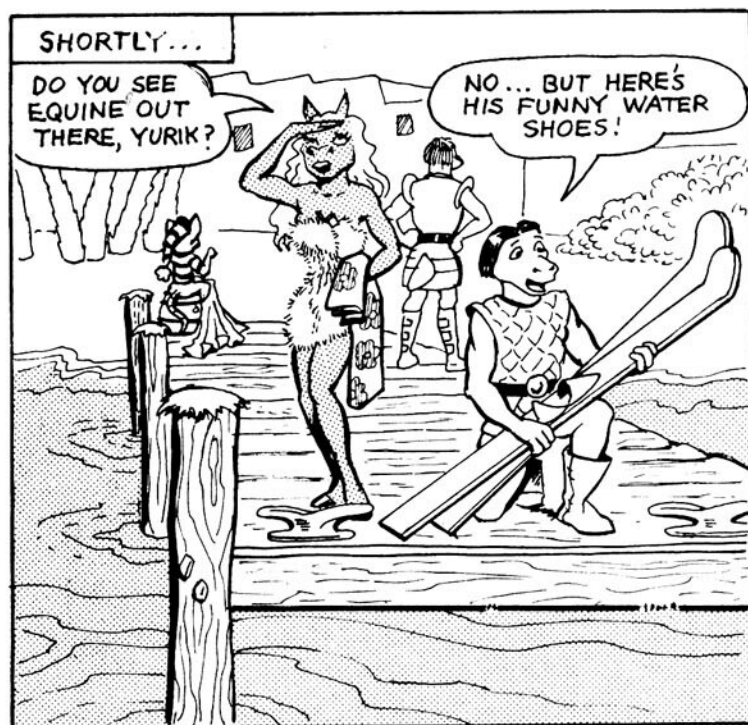
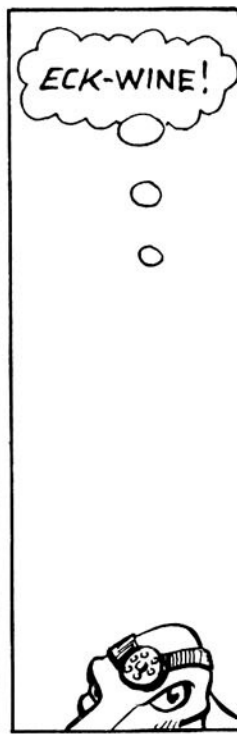


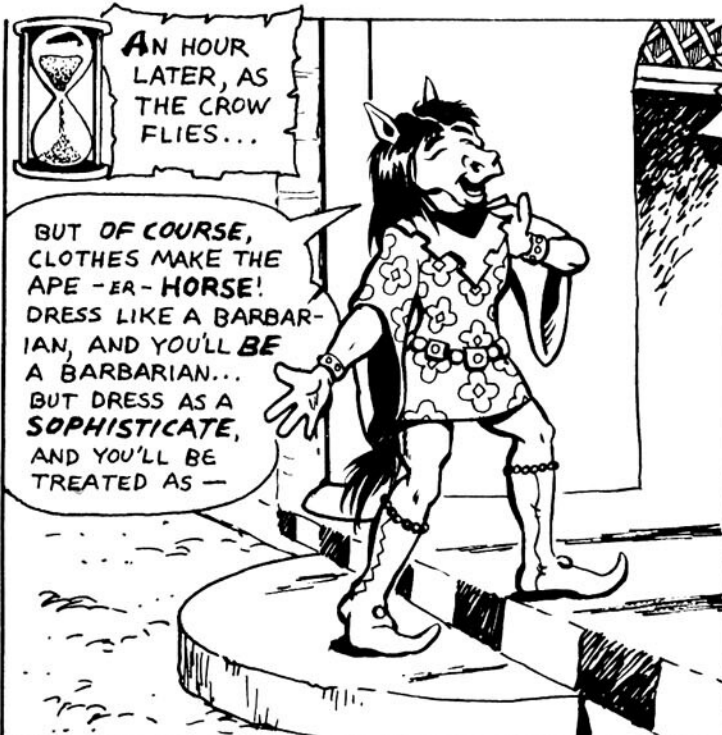


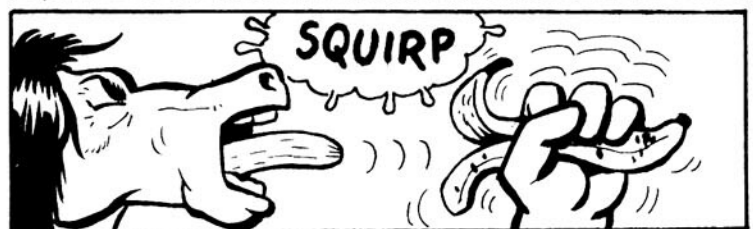


UNBEKNOWNST TO PENELOPE AND HER ORK COMPANIONS, OTHERS ARE WATCHING...
... OTHERS WITH **SINISTER** INTENT...









CHEEZZ!! WOULD'YA BELIEVE TWO OF THIS HAYBURNER'S ENEMIES IN ONE TOWN?

LOOK, PORKY! THIS BODY IS UNDER NEW MANAGEMENT! I NEVER DID ANYTHING TO THAT GUY'S WHEELS, OR YOUR HORSE! REALLY!

"SIGH"

RAAAA... AAR!

POP

SPLAT!

SUCH A WASTE OF A GOOD BANANA-CREAM PIE, BUT I DIDN'T HAVE THE HEART TO USE ONE OF MOM'S POUND CAKES! WHAT A BAKER SHE WAS - YOU KIDDING ME? ONE TIME A CAKE OF HERS FELL - AND THE STOVE FELL WITH IT!

?! ?

BAR CLUB
NE DANCE
MEMBERS
ONLY
I.O.O.F. TODAY

VISA

NOW, ABOUT THAT "SPELL OF ILLUSION... OH YEAH!"

FO!! MAPPY-UTID JUMEDWID-- U-R-NOL SUPPOSED TO UNDERSTAND THIS!

WAZZOP!

HEY! EEEK! MY CLOTHES!

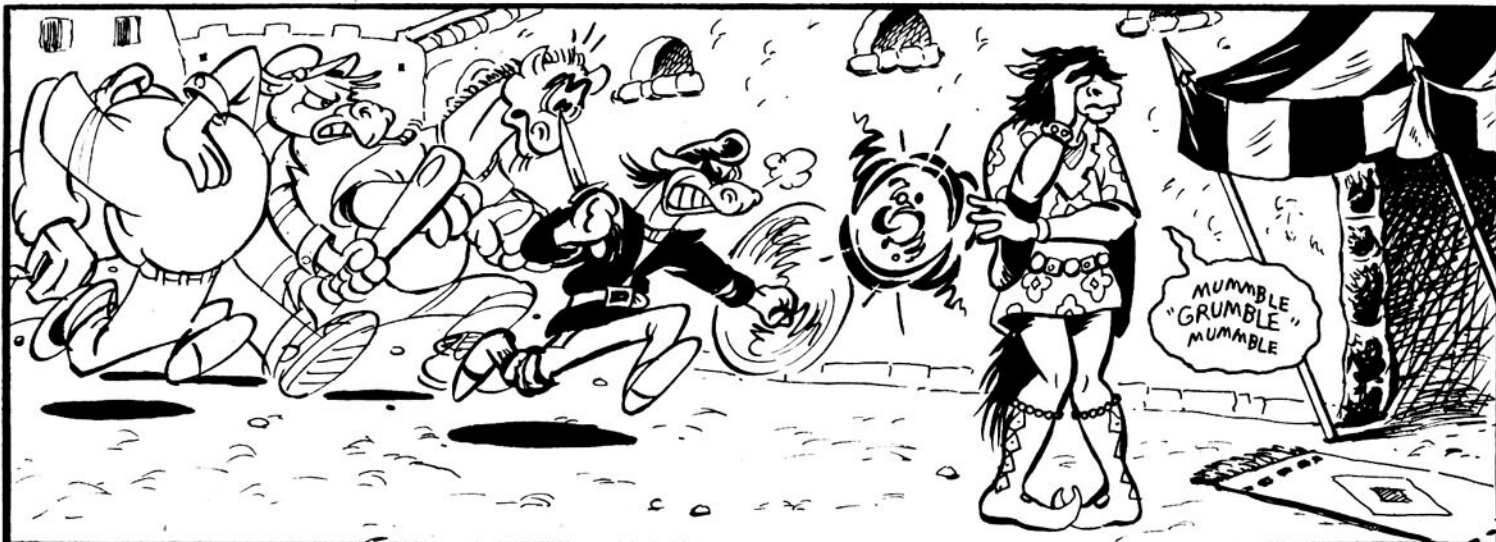
WHOOOOPS! 'BETTER BRUSH-UP ON THAT ONE!

ALMOST SUDDENLY...

HEY! HEY YOUSE! EQUINE!! YOUSE MIS'RABLE EXCUSE F'R A HOMEYONY! YOUSE OWES ME!

HOW'S THAT?

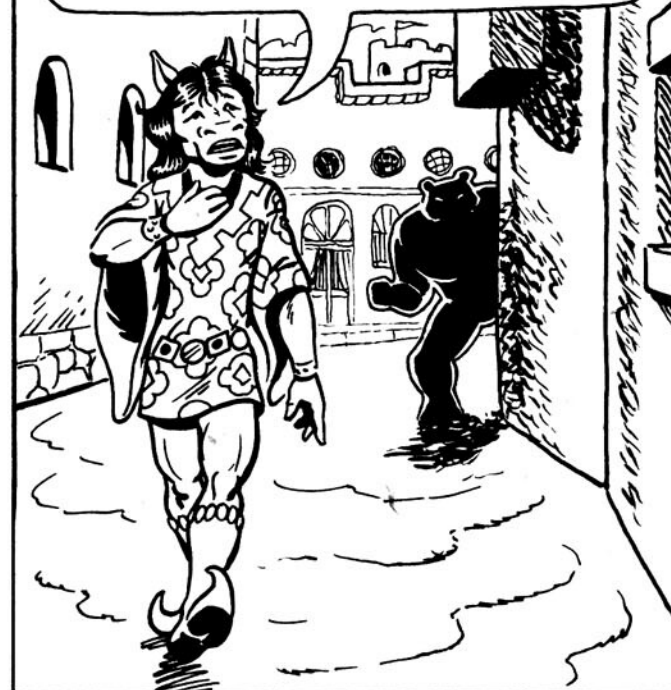
DON'T YOUSE PLAY COY WIT ME!
 YOUSE REMEMBE' WHEN YOUSE WUZ
 TH' MAIN HORSE IN TH' "HILLSIDE
 BOTTOM-STOMPERS," AN' I WUZ
 HONCHO OF TH' "UPTOWN THROTTLE-
 NECKS?" YOUSE **STOLE** MY
 GOIL... PONY... AN' I AIN'T NEVER
 FORGOT! SO **HERE'S** WHERE YOUSE
 GET'S TH' PAYBACK!

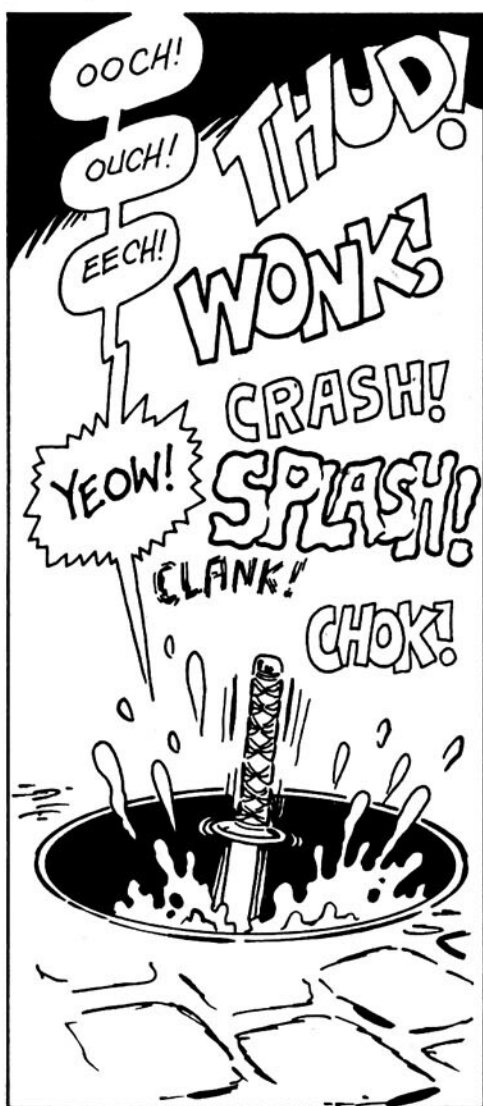
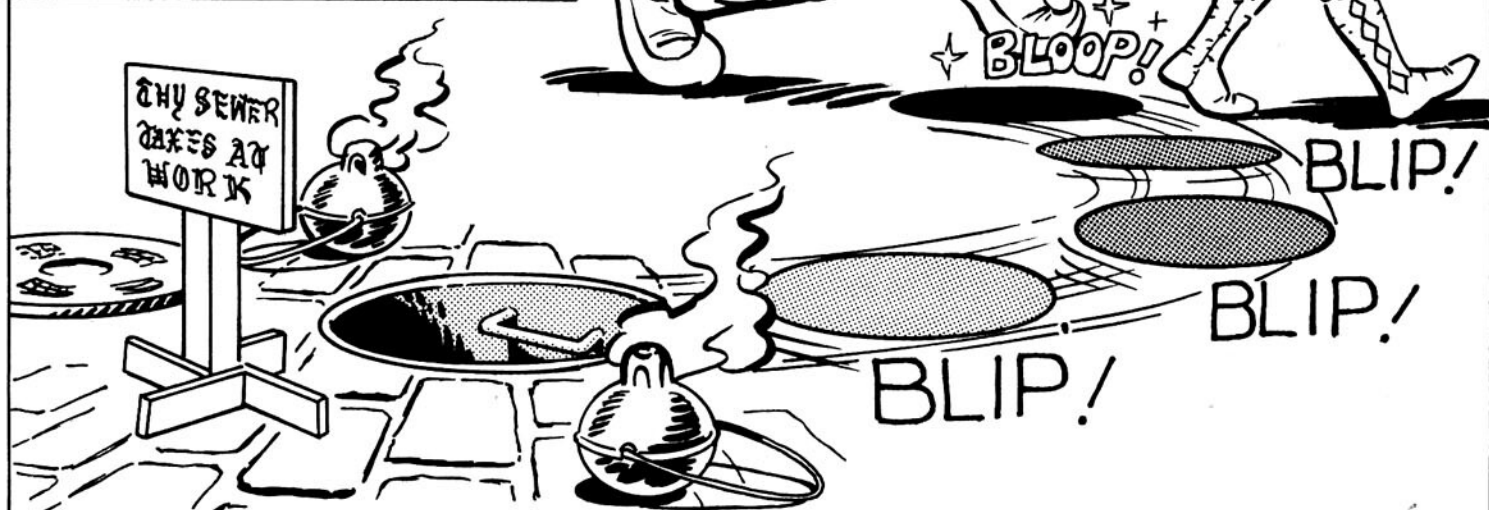


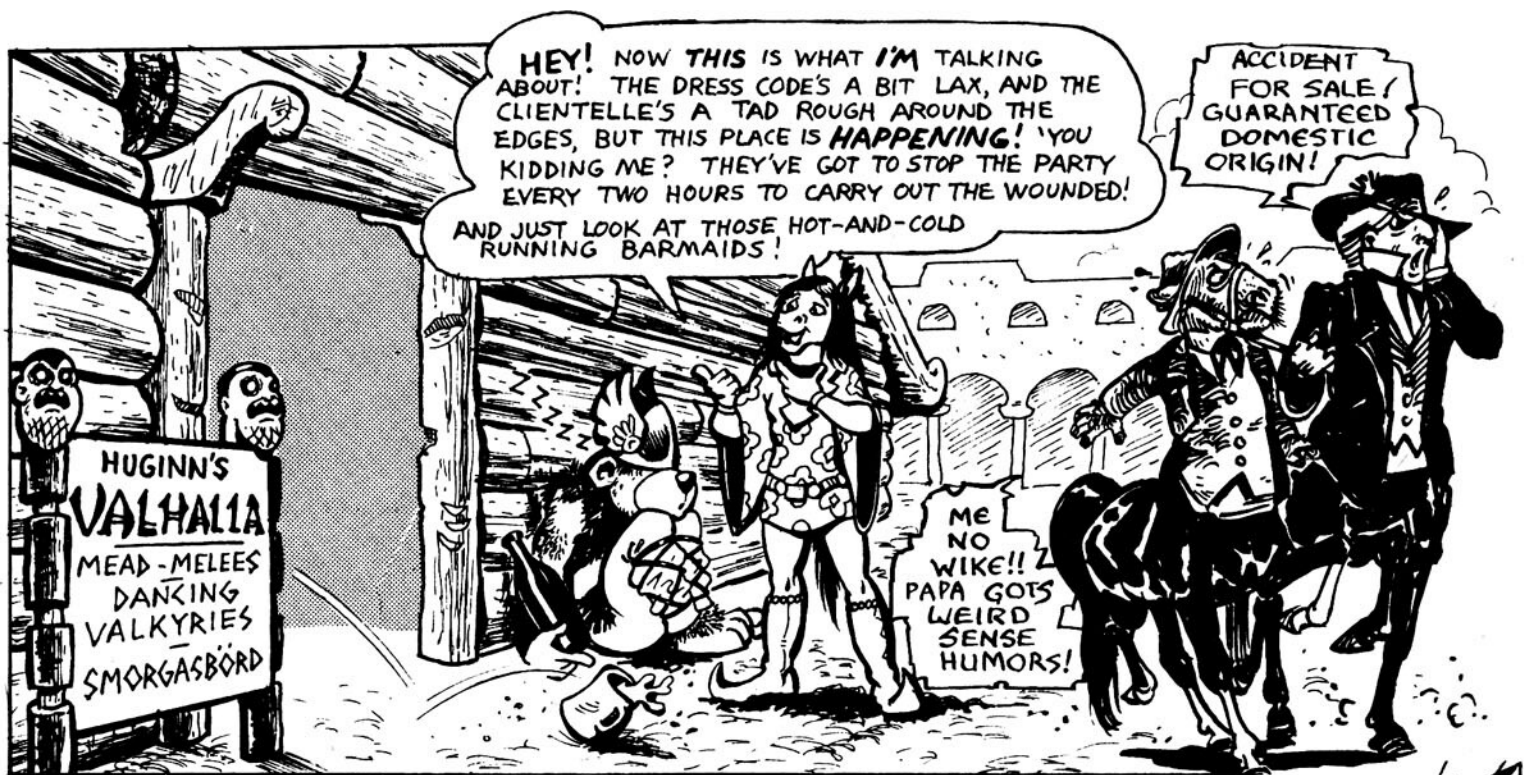
EQUINE?
 HERE??
 I'LL KILL HIM!!

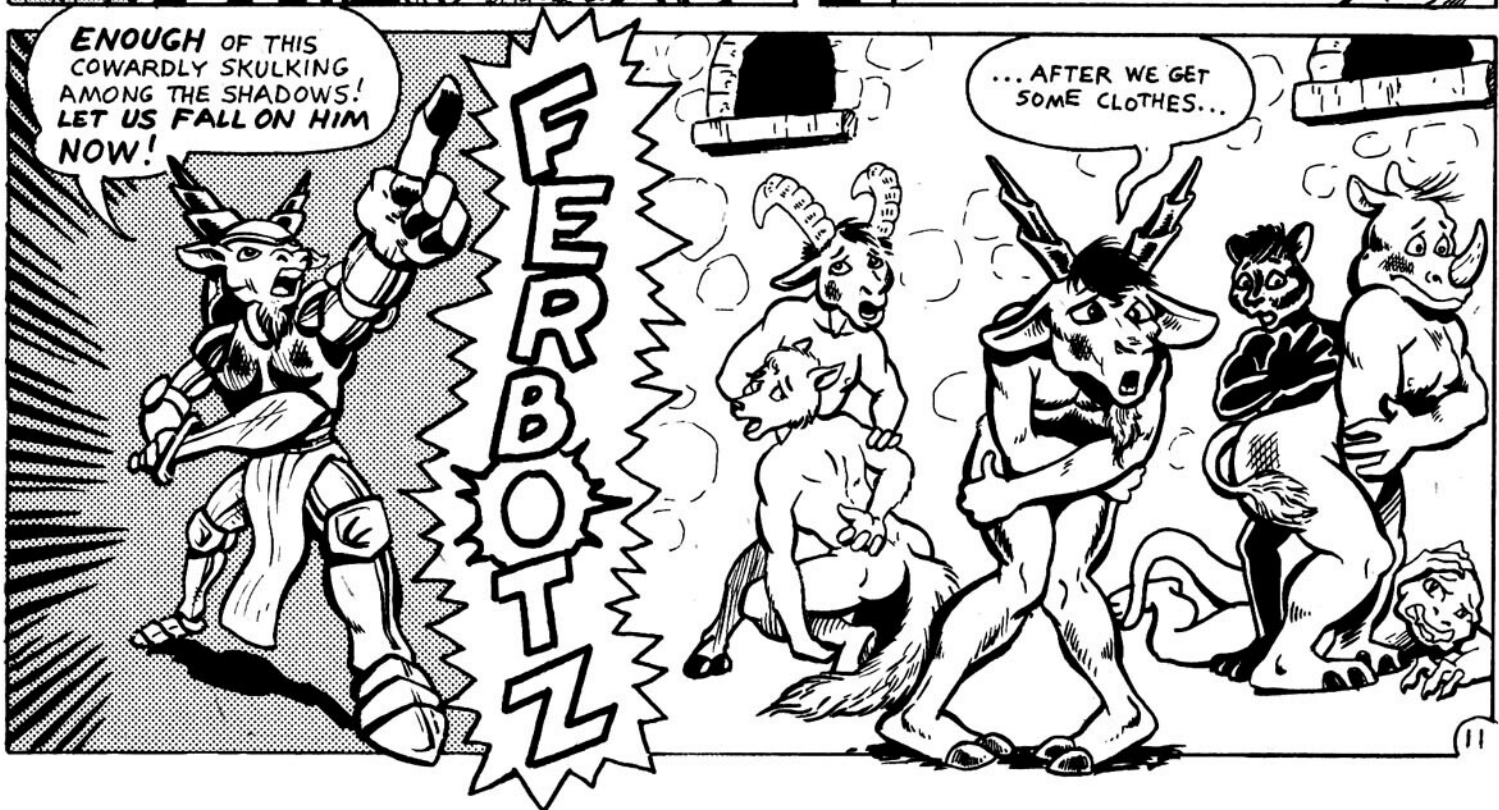


THEY THINK **THEY** CAME FROM A TOUGH
 NEIGHBORHOOD? IN **MY** NEIGHBORHOOD
 WE DIDN'T WALK AROUND WITH SAWED-OFF
 CROSSBOWS — THEY WERE **BITTEN OFF!**
 AND I GOTTA' TELL YOU, EVEN THE
 BUILDING NEXT TO MINE WAS PAYING
 PROTECTION MONEY —
 AND **THEY** WERE THE CITY GUARDS!









LATER THAT EVENING...

WHAT CAN YOU SAY ABOUT A SHOW LIKE THIS BUT "WOW." IT'S NOT VERY CLEVER, BUT IT HIDES A YAWN!

HEY JACK! WATCH ME PULL A RABBIT OUT OF MY HAT! ... NOTHING UP MY SLEEVE...

PRESTO!

ROWARRR!



'MUST'VE GOT THE WRONG HAT!

NOW FOR SOMETHING WE HOPE YOU REALLY LIKE!



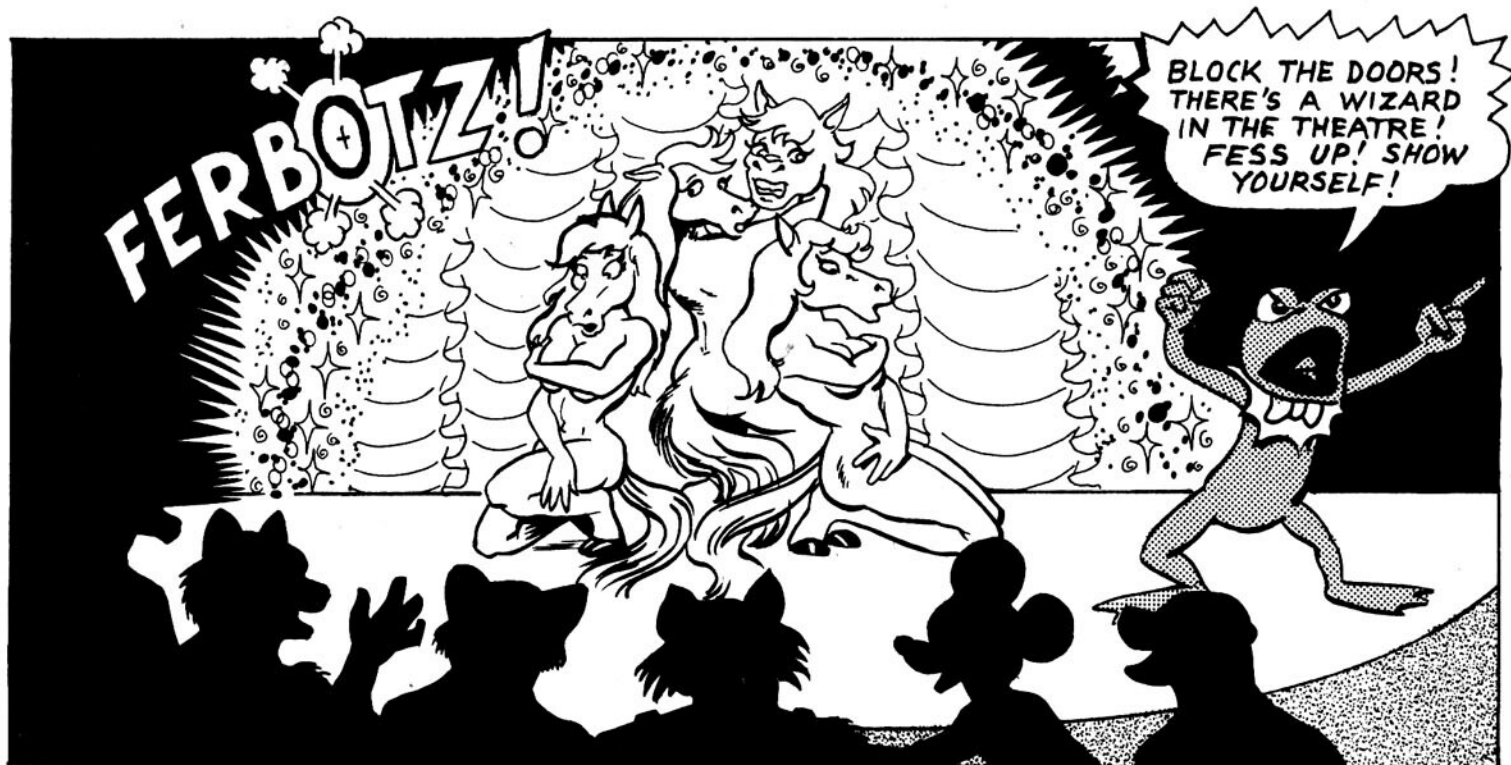
HOO-HAH! YOWZA!

I'VE NEVER SEEN SKIN BETTER ORGANIZED IN MY LIFE! AND JUST LOOK AT THAT GORGEOUS CREATURE ON THE END... THE ONE THAT LOOKS LIKE THAT CUTE BLONDE FILLY... THAT'S BEEN HARRASSING ME...



ENOUGH OF THIS TAME FLUFF. LET'S SPICE THINGS UP A BIT!





BLOCK THE DOORS!
THERE'S A WIZARD
IN THE THEATRE!
FESS UP! SHOW
YOURSELF!



"SNICKER SNICKER"
NOW THAT'S ENTERTAINMENT!
BUT I'VE GOT TO RUN...

EQUINE!



GAH!

YAS! IT IS YOU, ISN'T
IT? YOU NAVER T'UGHT
TO SEE ME AGANN, DID YOU?
NO ASPACE FOR YOU DIS
TIME! YOU OWE ME, EQUINE!



WHAT NOW?? WHAT??
WHATDIDI DO??
WHATDOYOUWANT?!



YOU OWE ME EQUINE...
AND NOW YOU PAY ME...

T'REE
SILVER
PIECES.

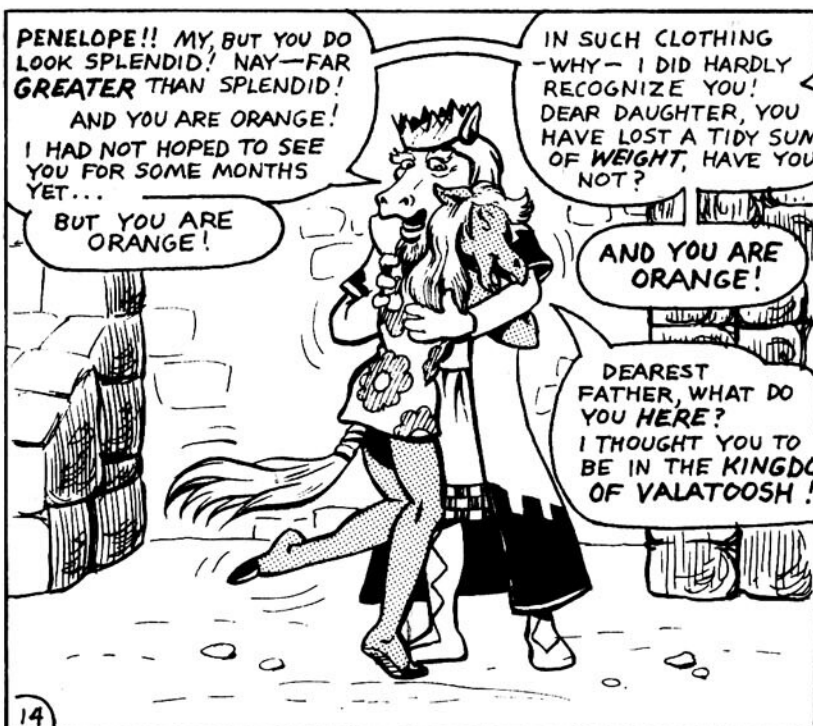
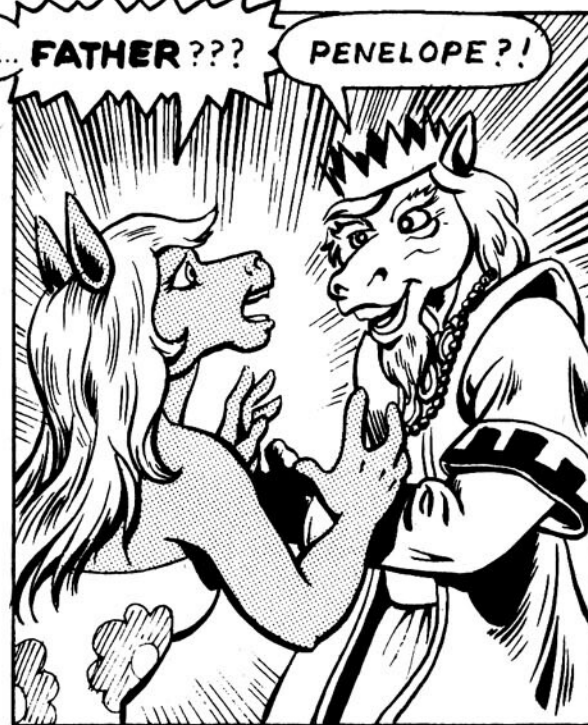


"THREE-?"



HERE! HERE!
NOW GO ON! GET
OUTTA' HERE ALREADY!

... "SHEESH..."



AND WHY ARE YOU **ORANGE**??

I WAS MAGICALLY TRANSPORTED HERE FROM THE NORTHERN **NOMAD LANDS**, JUST THIS AFTERNOON! I HAPPENED ON MY NEW COLOR SHORTLY BEFORE.

OH, THOSE WIZARDS CAN BE A NUISANCE, CAN'T THEY? EH, "THE NOMAD LANDS," YOU SAY?

HE IS NO WIZARD, FATHER, BUT I THINK MY BELOVED - EQUINE - DID WHISK US HERE.

"EQUINE?"

"LORD EQUINE?"

"DUKE-?"

"BARON-?"

UMMM... HE IS A COMMONER, FATHER... A SUMMARILIAN.

A BARBARIAN?

OH! THE ORKS! I DID NEARLY FORGET - YURIK! COME MEET MY FATHER!

AND YOU SAY YOU WERE IN THE **NOMAD LANDS**?! DEAR GIRL, THE **ORKS** INHABIT THOSE LANDS!

SPIRITS OF EARTH AND AIR PRESERVE US!

ONCE MORE, SOMEWHERE ELSE...

LOOKS LIKE I MADE A FEW MORE ENEMIES IN THE CASINO - OR, AT LEAST, EQUINE DID. GREAT! HE DOESN'T NEED ANY MORE!

HEY! I'M ACTUALLY USING **MONEY**! WHAT A NOVELTY! AND WHAT A CHANGE FROM MY CHILDHOOD.

BOY, WERE WE POOR! YOU KIDDING ME? IT WAS EMBARRASSING - PIGEONS USED TO FEED US!

CASINO

IT WOULDN'T DO TO GET MUGGED WITH ALL THIS MOOLA, SO I'LL JUST SLIP INTO A TEMPORARY "SPELL OF LUDICROUSNESS."

?

EQUINE! I COME FOR REVENGE! I CAN NEVER LIVE DOWN HOW YOU USURPED THE LEADERSHIP OF MY **DESERT BAND!**

WHO WOULD HAVE THOUGHT THAT A BARBARIAN COULD PLAY THE **TROMBONE** SO?

BACK OFF, ABDUL! YOUR BREATH IS MAKING MY EYES WATER!

OH NO. LET ME GUESS: I "OWE" YOU GUYS!

DANG STRAIGHT! YOU **FOILED** THE ROBBERY OF RUBYCREST CASTLE!

AND **WHAT'S...** THE PROBLEM... WITH **THAT**?

WE WERE THE ROBBERS!

DETAILS, DETAILS!

HEY, **LISTEN** GUYS... I'D LIKE TO GIVE YOU ALL A GOING-AWAY PRESENT— BUT YOU'VE GOT TO DO YOUR PART!

$E=mc^2$

YAAAAAA!

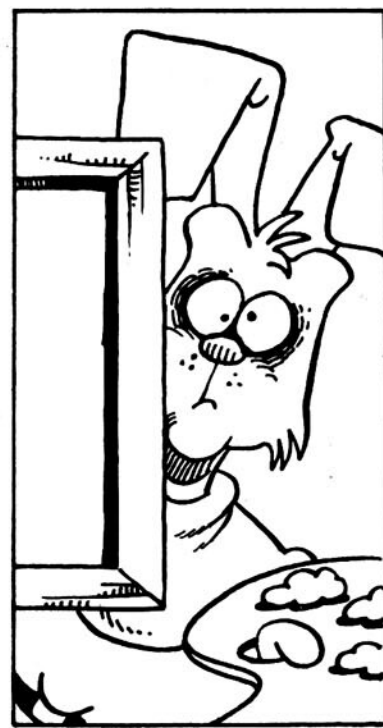
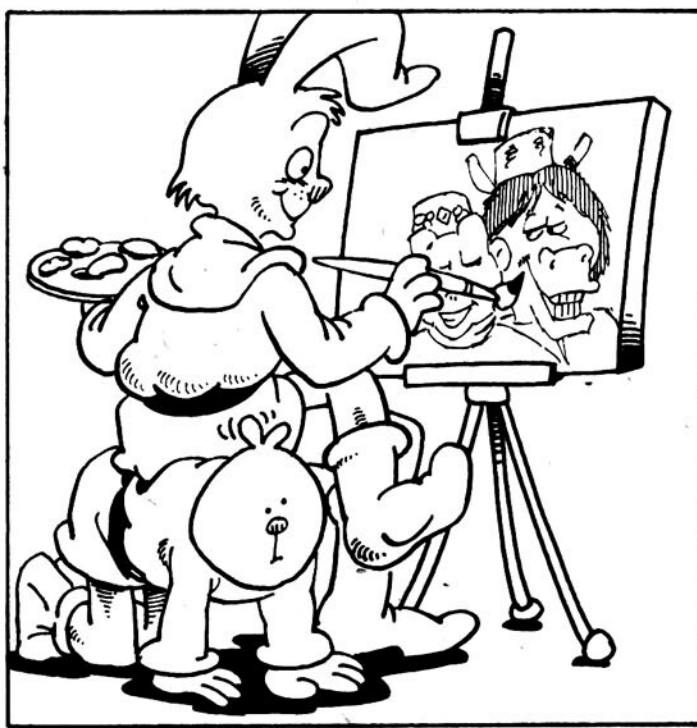
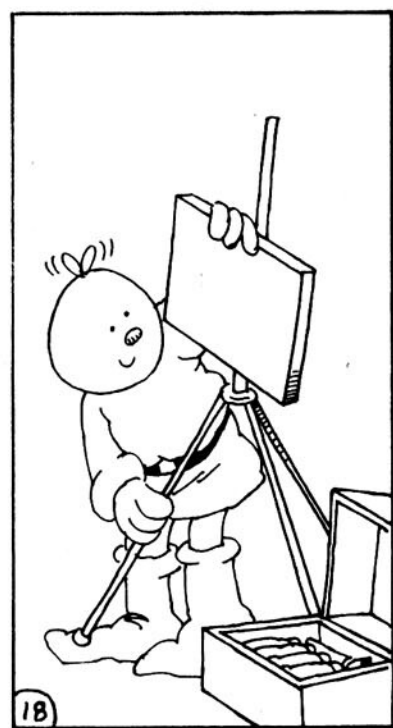
NOW, TRY OUT MY "AURA OF LUDICROUSNESS!"

KAPPOO!

HEY! MY **HOOCH!**

"GLURG!"





EQUINE??
WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN?
AND WHO IS THIS??

YIPE!



THIS IS THE SORCEROUS VAGRANT WHO
MAGICALLY ABDUCTED YOU? THIS IS
"YOUR BELOVED??" AND WHO MIGHT THIS
HIRSUTE MAIDEN BE?

SIMONE! LET ME TAKE
YOU AWAY FROM ALL OF
THIS - LIKE, RIGHT
NOW?

EQUINE? 'TIS I, PENELOPE!
DO YOU NOT KNOW ME?



"PENELOPE"? YOU'VE
GOT A THING FOR ORANGE
WOMEN, EH? UM... YOU'RE
NOT MARRIED, ARE YOU?

NO! NOT IN THIS LIFE!
AT LEAST... I DON'T THINK
SO...



GAH!

HOY, EQUINE! FONCY
MEETIN' YOU HEAH! "GROGUS
TH' MAULUH' DON'T LIKE
BEIN' BEAT, HEYBAG!"

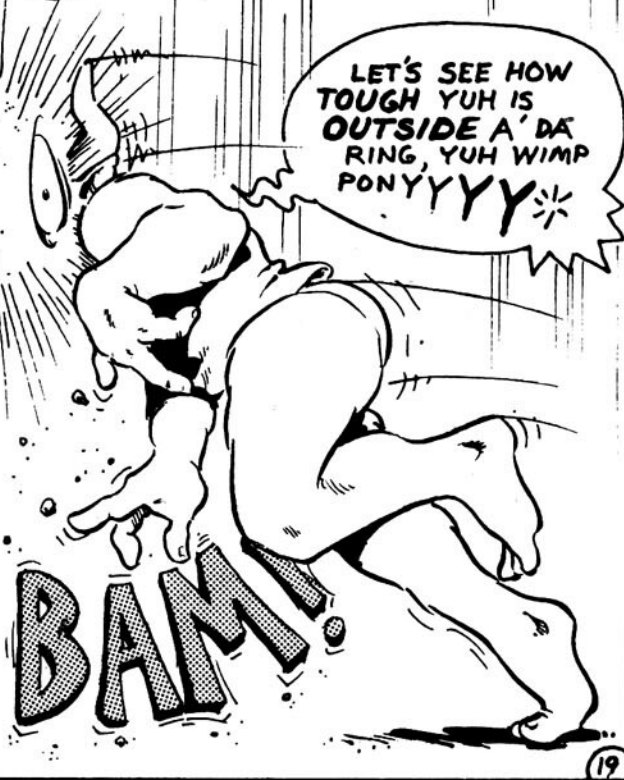


EQUINE WAS INHUMAN!
I SWEAR, I'M GOING TO
NEED A SCORECARD!!

GZ-OZ-OZ



LET'S SEE HOW
TOUGH YUH IS
OUTSIDE A' DA
RING, YUH WIMP
PONYYYY*



BAM!

NEVER
MIND,
FATHER...



GOOD MORNING, MY STUD HORSE... WAS IT GOOD FOR YOU, TOO?

20

NONONONONONONON



"YAWN"

"SNORK" HMPH?!
WHO'S MAKING ALL THAT RACKET?
'REMINDS ME OF MY SECOND MOTHER-
IN-LAW'S SCREECHING ON MY
WEDDING NIGHT!

WHOOOOPS! WHAT GOES?
WHO'S MANNING THE SHIP?
OH. THE BRUTE'S TAKEN OVER?
THAT'S WHAT I GET FOR BEING
A DEEPER SLEEPER THAN HE
IS. GEEZ! WHAT'S HIS
PROBLEM?



AAUGHH

WEEELL... LET'S JUST EASE
BACK INTO THE DRIVER'S SEAT...



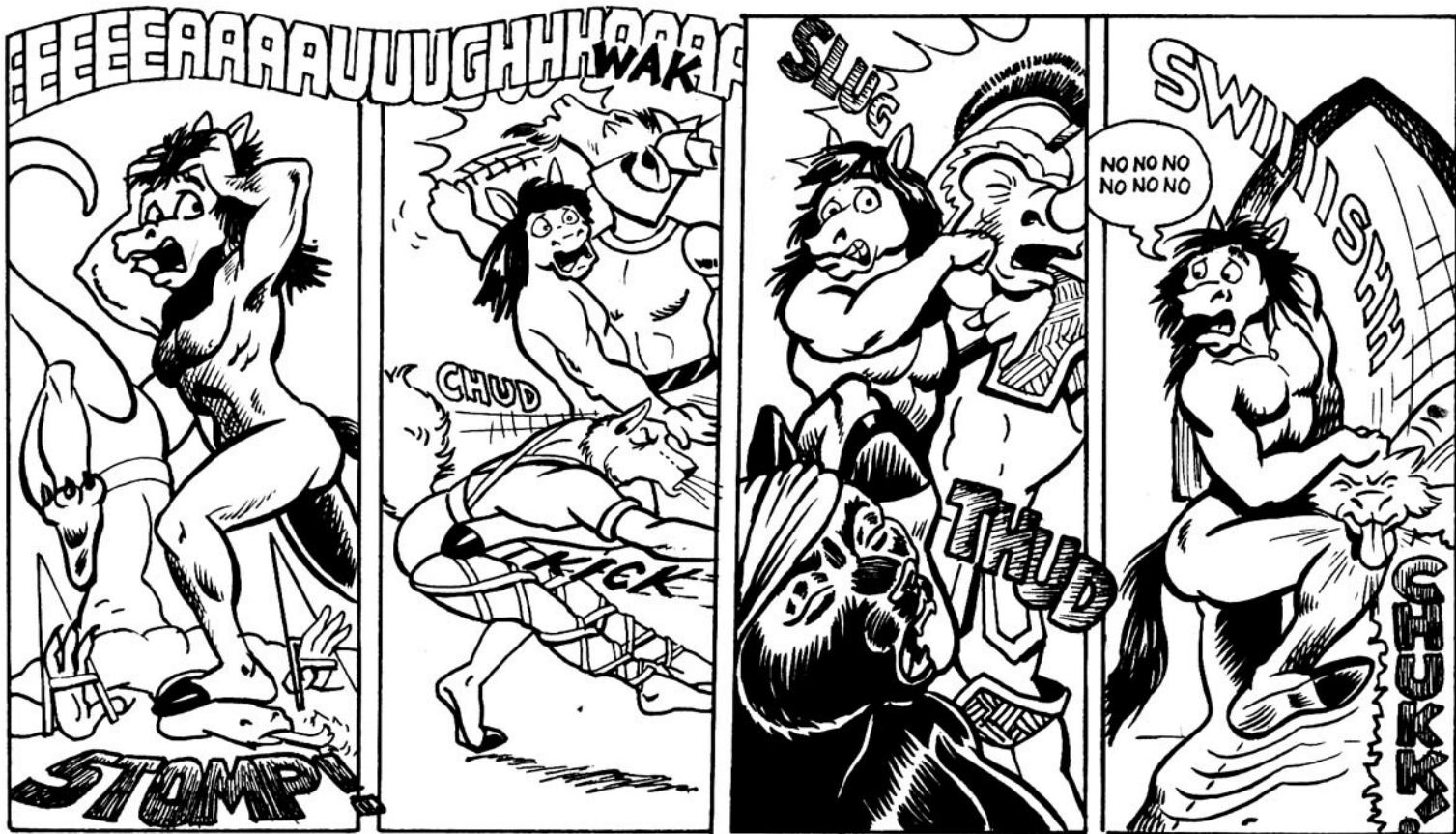
YOW! ... THEN AGAIN, "AHEM"
HE CAN HANDLE THIS!

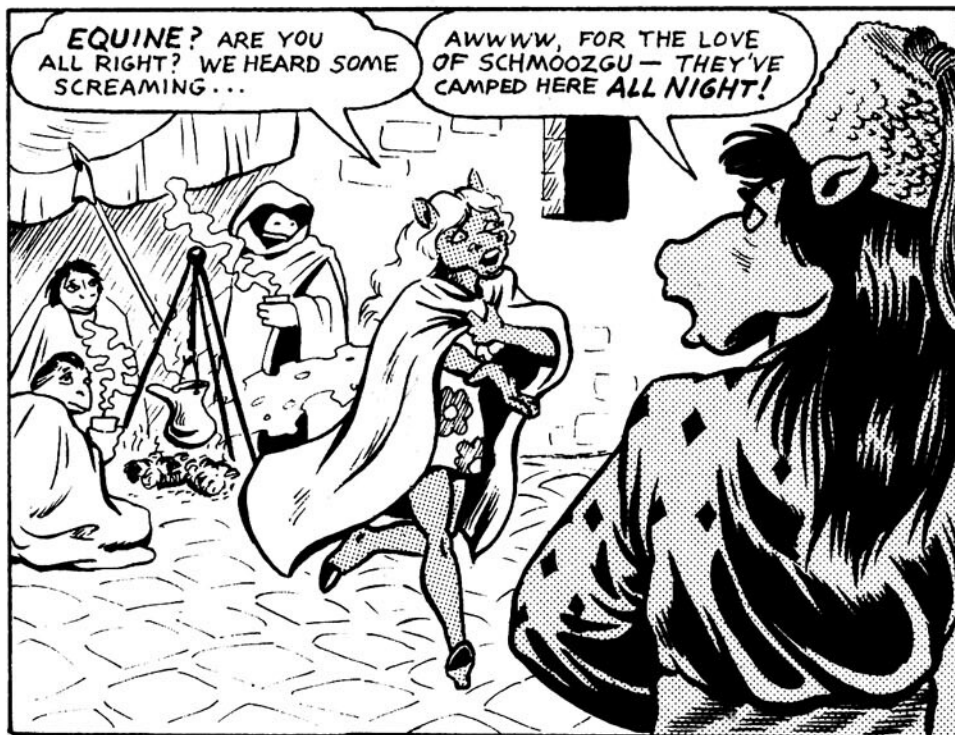
EQUINE! WE COME TO
MASH THE LIFE FROM YOUR
WORTHLESS FORM!! AND TRAMPLE
YOUR UNWORTHY BONES! AND
CUT YOUR OVERLONG HAIR!

CLUNK

NO! NO! NO!
ME! AND THE APE!
WITH ME! IN BED!

LAST NIGHT!!
AAAUGHH! NO!
NYET! NIX! NAY!
NEIGH!





EQUINE? ARE YOU ALL RIGHT? WE HEARD SOME SCREAMING...

AWWWWW, FOR THE LOVE OF SCHMOOZGU — THEY'VE CAMPED HERE ALL NIGHT!



I WAS GOING TO LEAVE YOU, EQUINE — I WAS JUST SO JEALOUS!

YEAH?

BUT THE ORKS **INSISTED** THAT WE NOT LOSE YOU...

AND YOU LISTENED TO THEM??



I THEN REMEMBERED ... HOW I FELT WHEN I THOUGHT ... WHEN I THOUGHT YOU HAD **DIED**. I **KNOW** THAT YOU ARE NOT OF YOUR RIGHT MIND — BUT IT MATTERS NOT!

YOU ARE A SICK STEED ... BUT YOU ARE **MY** SICK STEED!

"GRUMBLE" ... PERSEPHONE...

"PENELOPE!"



PENELOPE ... NOW GET THIS THROUGH YOUR THICK HEAD, KID! I DON'T —

YOU! YOU!! **HORSE!!**



'YOU KIDDING ME??? 'YOU SURE THIS EQUINE WASN'T A **TAX COLLECTOR**?? **NOBODY** HAS THIS MANY ENEMIES!

SO ... WE FINALLY MEET AGAIN, EH? YOU OVERRATED, **PROVINCIAL** —



HEY! LET'S JUST GET THIS **OVER** WITH, OKAY? I'VE GOT A LOUNGE-CHAIR WITH MY NAME ON IT, DOWN ON THE BEACH!

EVER THE **FLIPPANT** ONE, EH? NEVER HAVE I KNOWN YOU TO BE **SERIOUS** ABOUT ANYTHING ...

YOU THOUGHT YOU COULD HIDE FROM ME, FEEBLE LARRY?

LET US AWAY WITH THESE DISGUISES!

YEAH, YEAH. ABOUT YOUR LAST REMARK — AND I HOPE IT WAS YOUR LAST — I DON'T

"LARRY?!?" YOU CALLED ME "LARRY!!"



ULP!
"MOLAR-KHAN??"
ER, UH, YOU'RE STILL MAD AT ME, HUH?



LOOK! THERE'S THAT CUR, EQUINE!

WHUF!!

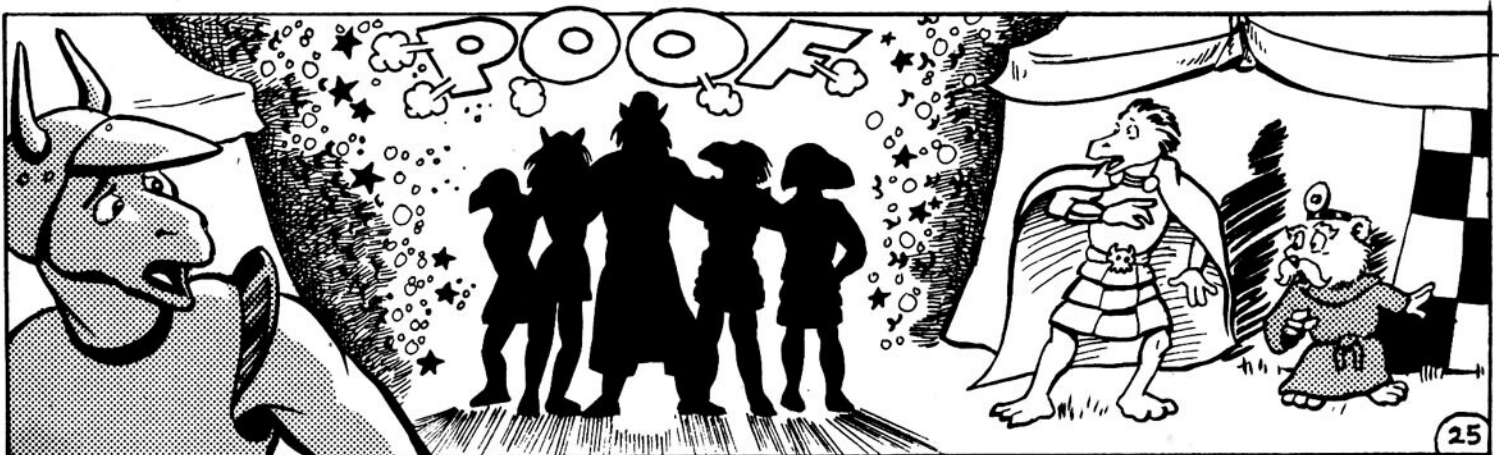
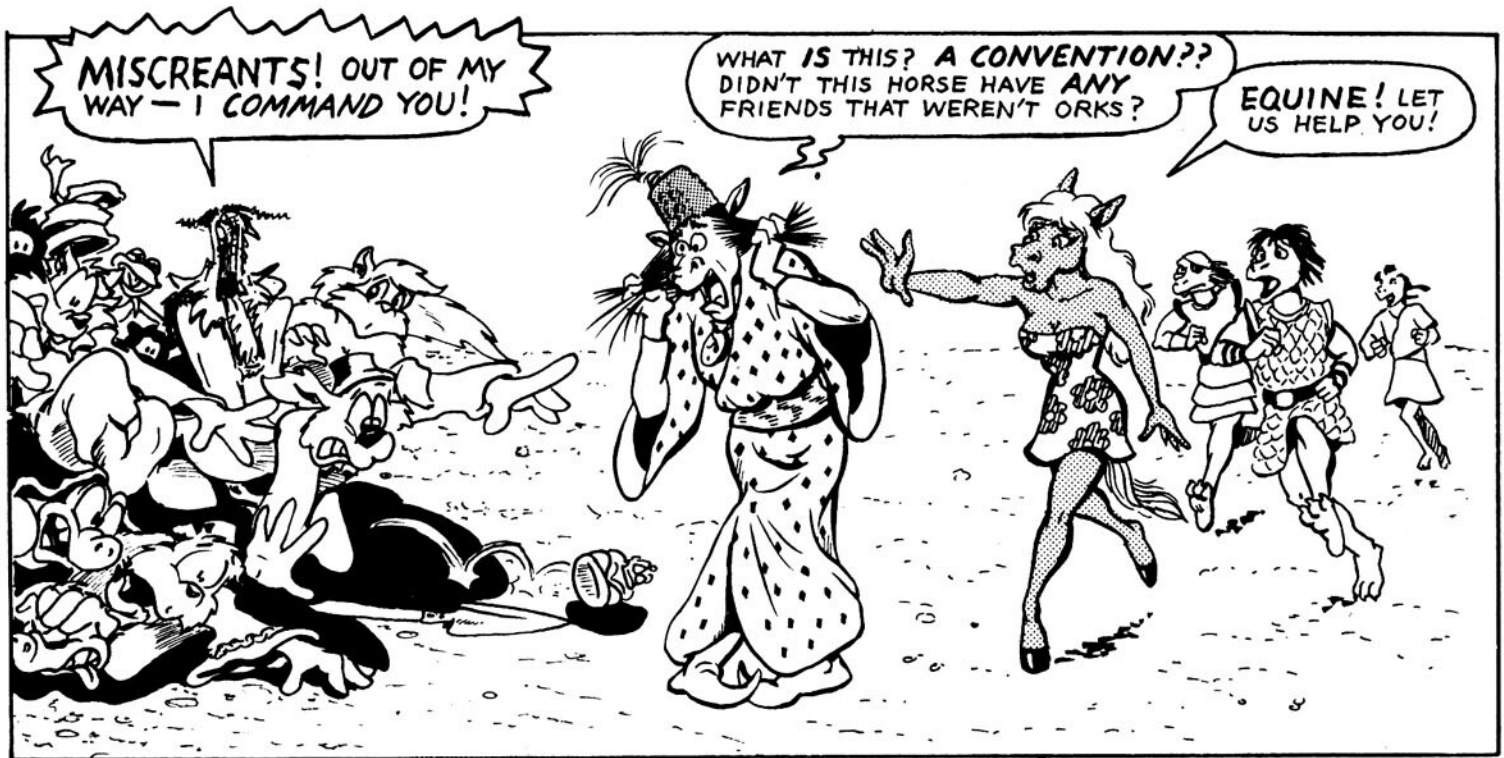


WHAT DO YOU MEAN "CUR?"

EH, THAT SON OF A SOW —

I AM A "SON OF A SOW!" WHAT OF IT?

ARF!
ARF!









MK-

WHAT KIND
OF PARTY IS
THIS...?!
NO CHEESE
DIP
ANY-
WHERE!

WRONG
BOOK
MAN!

FEH!
MAMMALS...

WHERE'S
THE RAW
EATS!?

EDITOR

Mark Wallace
penciller

J. SPIDEL

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AND RIGHT NOW!



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