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FURRLOUGH





ANTARCTIC BLAST

February 1996

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ANTARCTIC PRESS check list

- Magical Mamas #1
- Warrior Nun Arealia:
Rituals #4
- Gold Digger #28
- Aerial vs. Cheetah!
Poster
- The Collected Gold
Digger TPB Vol. 4
- Dragon Flux #1
- Raja Fusion #1
- Vampire Miyu #5
- Mangazine #43
- Absolute Zero #6
- Gojin #6
- Furrlough #38
- Tigers of Terra #19
- Gorgon #2 (Venus;
ADULT)
- Tank Vixens #4 (Venus;
ADULT)
- Amazing Strip TPB
Vol. 2 (Venus; ADULT)

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AVOIDING THE ETERNAL TEEN

—by Ben Dunn

God, I feel old.
Ten years. Doesn't sound like a lot, but then again it does. A full decade has come for NINJA HIGH SCHOOL. The little series I started in 1986 is still going on today. Believe it or not, NHS almost didn't make it. When I was thinking of a series to do to replace TIGER-X in MANGAZINE I had several choices. One was a fantasy series called the WANDERERS, Dungeons and Dragons was still big back then and I had already done the first issue as a mini-comic. However, I decided against it because I couldn't draw horses. The next series I was thinking of doing was called MACH-10. I had read Ted Nomura's TIGERS OF TERRA and I loved combat aircraft. It would essentially be a high-tech retelling of Jules Verne's MASTER OF THE WORLD. But that idea was shelved as well. The reason: I did not think I could stretch the story, and the idea of drawing so many combat aircraft seemed daunting. Then I thought of a series called THE PEACEKEEPERS. Yeah! I loved superheroes! This was the era of Byrne's X-MEN and FANTASTIC FOUR, Frank Miller's DAREDEVIL and DARK KNIGHT, and Alan Moore and Dave Gibbons' WATCHMEN. Superheroes would be eternal to the marketplace. Everyone buys superheroes, and besides that I had already done an issue in a mini-comic, so I had all the elements in place. But just when I was about to gear up for it I decided against doing it. Why? Because of the very fact that there were people out there who could better superheroes than I could. If I did a series, no one would really read it because you had the Byrnes, the Millers, the Gibbonses, and the Moores. So I chuckled it. What was left was a risky venture in the unknown realm of manga. I had always liked anime and manga. More so with manga than with anime. Anime was cool to watch but it was rather passive. Once you watched it that was it. To do anime required so much time and money that it would be a remote possibility for an unemployed 20-year-old artist stuck in the middle of Texas to ever be able to do what he saw on television. But with manga, that was different. With manga you could delve deep into it and absorb it. Study it. Dissect it. It allowed one to take an active role in it. You could draw manga and share it more easily. This fact spurred me to decide that I would do a series that would draw on my love of the style. In this way NINJA HIGH SCHOOL was born. Originally I had planned on doing only three issues, but I enjoyed it so much and got such positive feedback that I decided to do a regular

series. Little did I know I would end up working on it for 10 years. In those ten years I have worked on a lot of other series: CAPTAIN HARTLOCK, AIRBOY, SCOUT, XYR, SWORDS OF TEXAS, PROJECT: A-KO (ironically one of the direct inspirations for NHS), HOTSPUR, as well as a few of my own creation. However, I always returned to NHS. I've often asked myself, "What keeps me working on this series?" I think it's the way the series leaves itself open to allow me to do whatever I want, it can bend in many directions and I feel it allows many readers to interpret things in ways that I thought not possible. It is a series about extraordinary people caught in ordinary situations (or vice versa depending on your point of view). But what I think works most about NHS for me is that it is fun. I don't think anyone could work on a series for 10 years if they did not think what they were doing was fun. NHS is fun to me and, hopefully, to its readers. While I may not be working on NHS now, I know that I will return to it someday. Right now I need the break. I need distance to see NHS in a new light and to carry it to new directions. I most certainly want to avoid the 'Archie Syndrome' where nothing changes and Archie remains the eternal teen. Oh, no. NHS will definitely grow and change. Like its audience and like its creator.

Right now I am doing WARRIOR NUN AREALIA. While some may miss me doing NHS, in many ways I am still doing NHS. Consider WNA as the dark side of NHS. In fact, many NHS characters have appeared in WNA. Sister Arealia herself is a character from NHS no.37, as is Magic Priest, Lillith and Cheetah have both appeared in NHS. In fact, I make hints of a connection between Sister Arealia and Magical Mimi. So in many respects I'm merely extending NHS into a new realm. NHS will continue as long as I am here. It will evolve and change like life itself. NHS may not be the 'hot item' of the month nor will it ever be. Its significance to the comics medium may be minor or ignored completely, but it is 10 years old as of 1996. Not many comics make it this far, especially creator-owned comics. So I am proud of the achievement that NHS has created for Antarctic Press. What will NHS be in the year 2007? Hard to say. These words may be forgotten by next month, but NHS will live on as long as I can chart its destiny.

Ben Dunn

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FURRLOUGH

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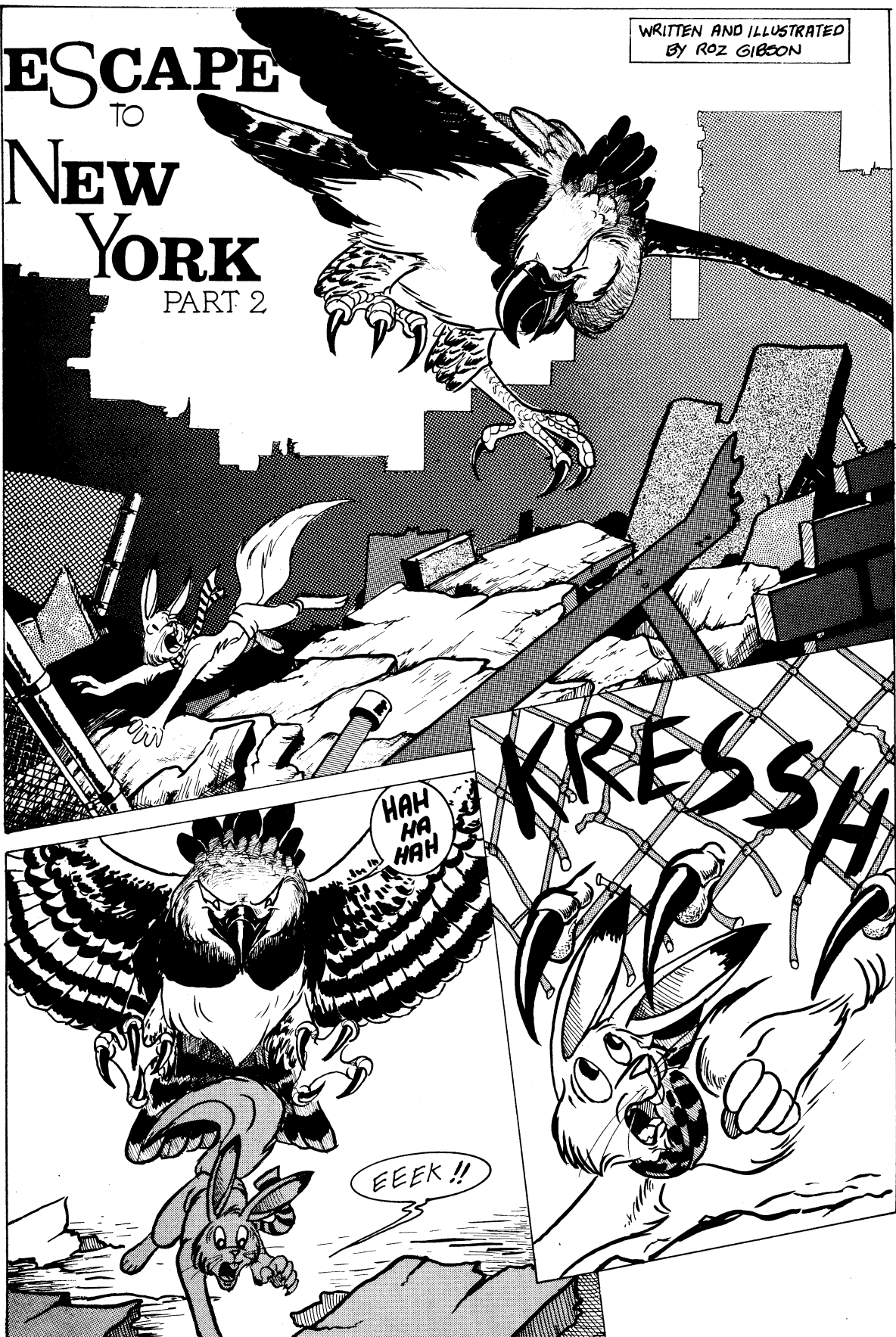
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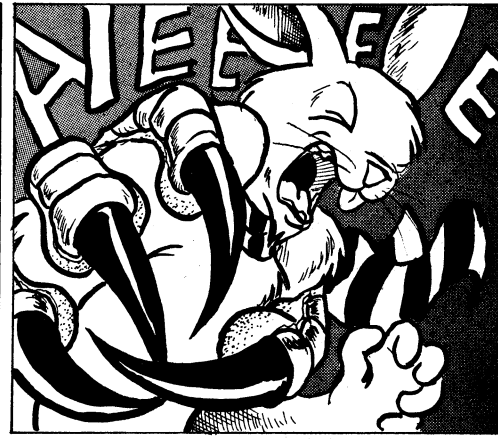
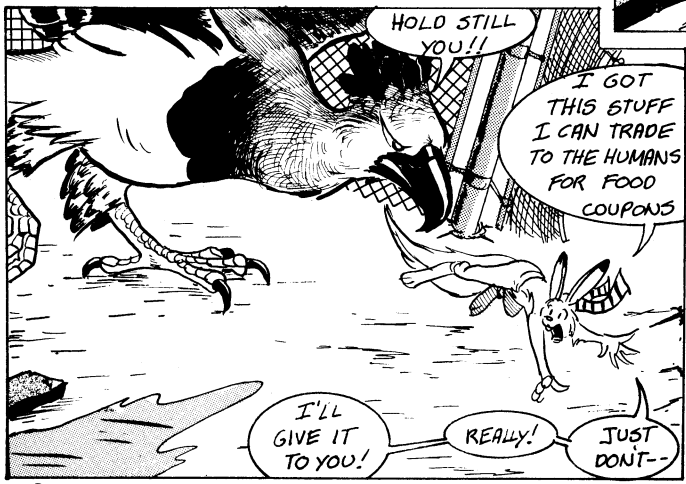
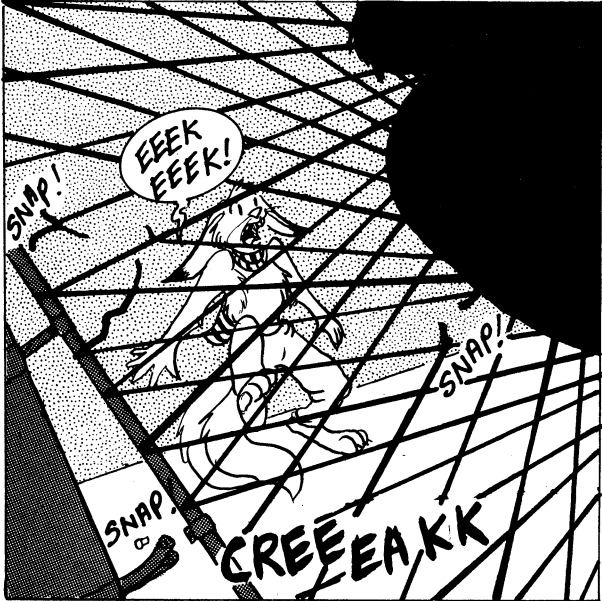
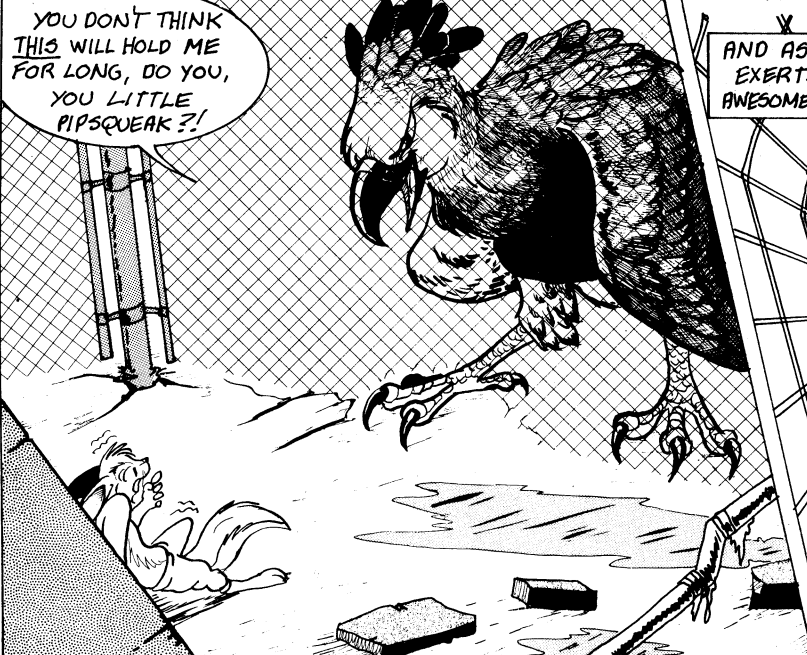
Special Furry Consultants • Cog & Sprocket, Mascots at Large

ESCAPE TO NEW YORK

PART 2

WRITTEN AND ILLUSTRATED
BY ROZ GIBBON







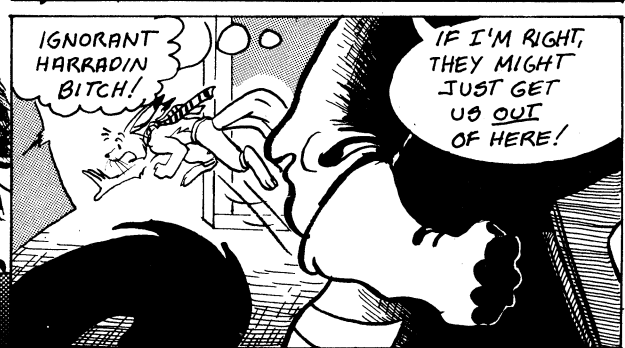
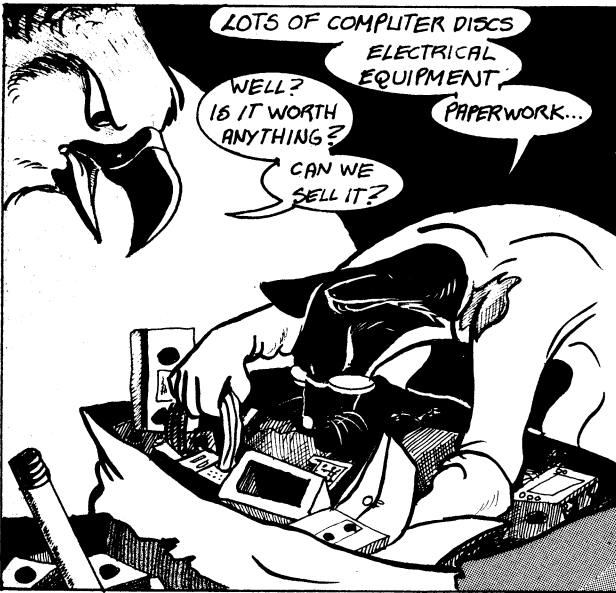
AS USUAL IT WAS
BITTERLY COLD OUT

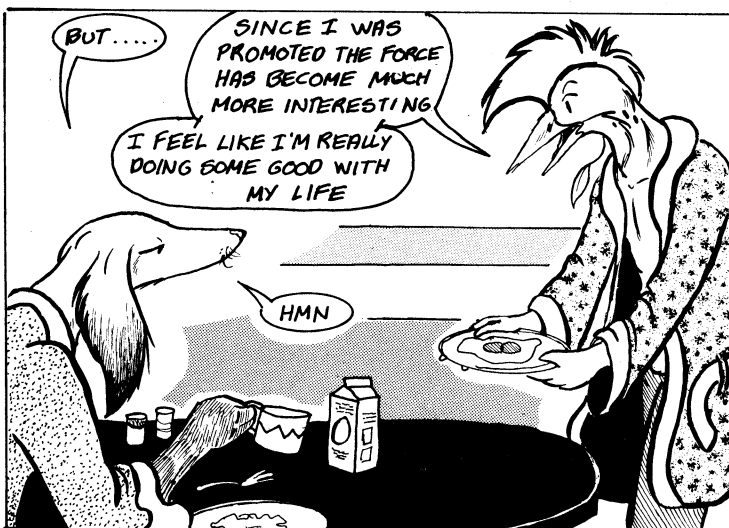
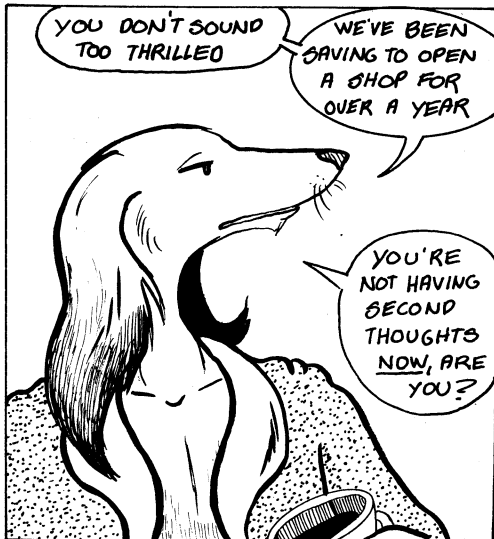
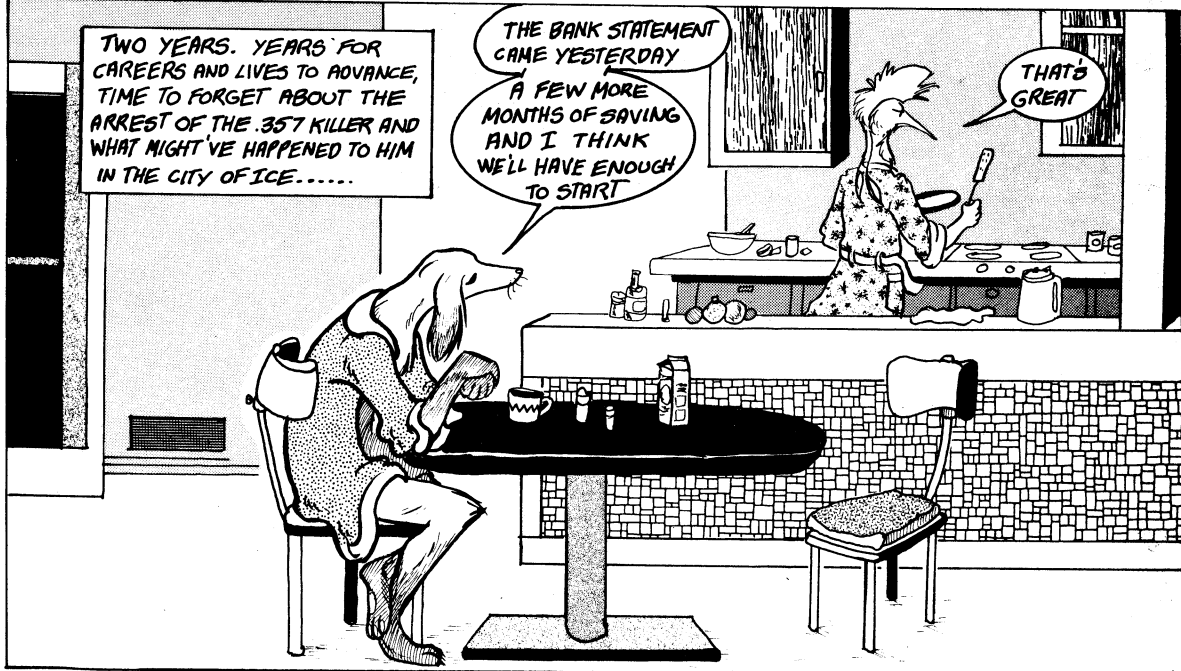
SOMETIMES SALEM COULD ALMOST
FEEL THE BLACK AND ICY HAND OF
THE MAD CREATOR SPREAD ACROSS THE
CITY, EYES GLARING DOWN AS HE
LOOKED WITH DISSAPROVAL AT
THE RUIN HIS ONCE -GREAT
METROPOLIS HAD BECOME

LEVEL 8

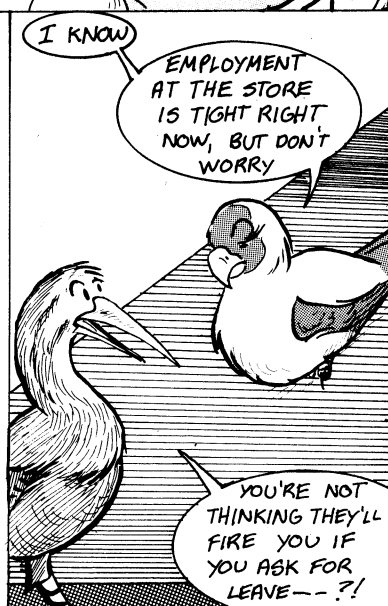
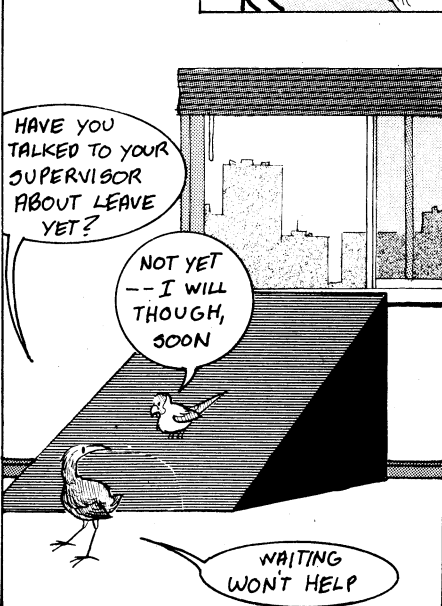
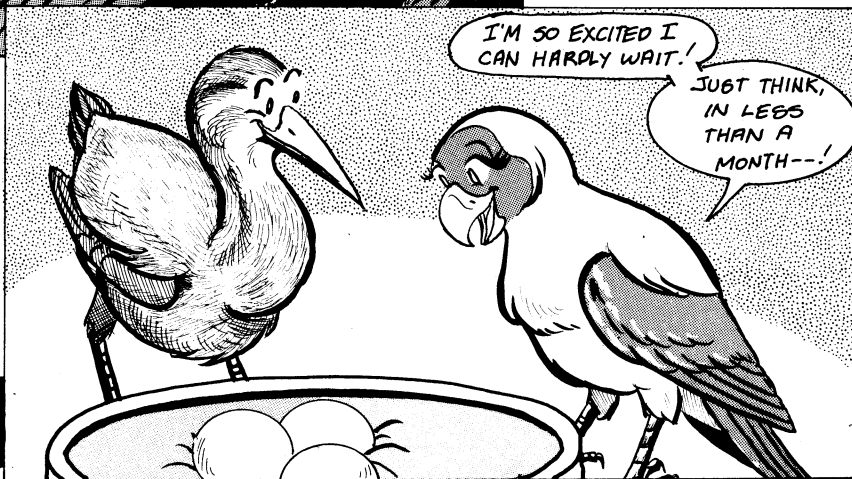
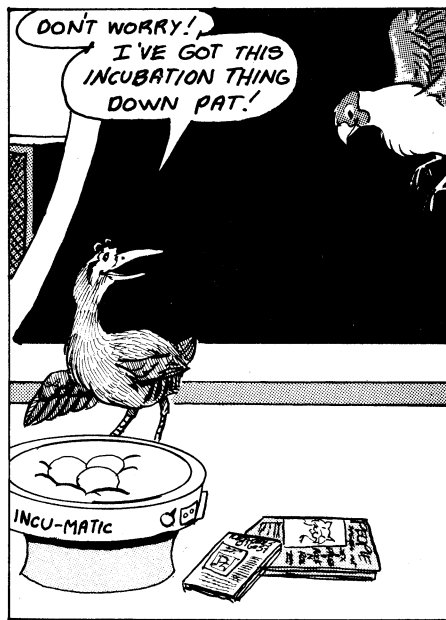
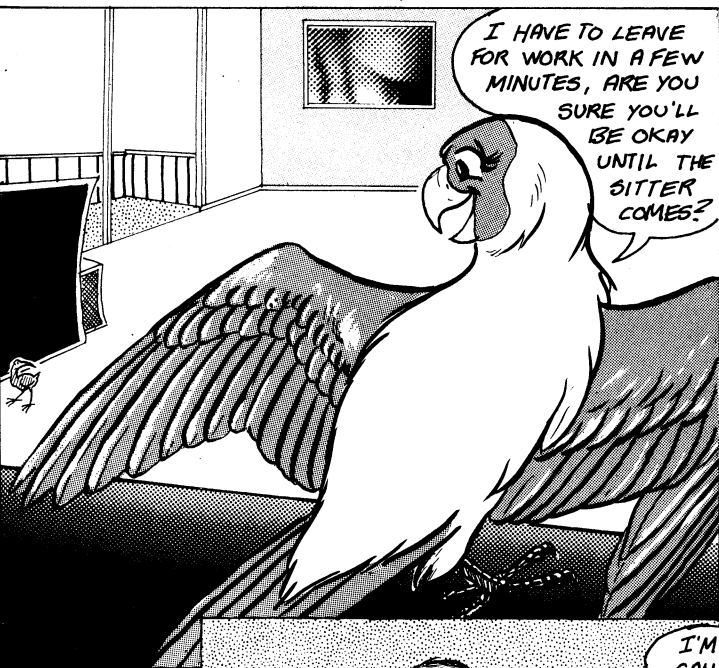


*AN ULTRA-RIGHT WING TERRORIST
GROUP ACTIVE DURING THE FINAL YEARS
THE HUMANS OCCUPIED THE CITY

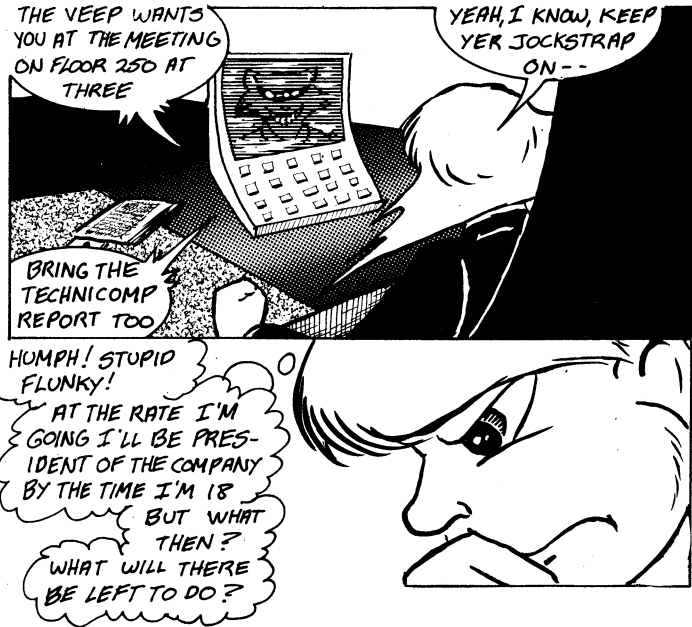
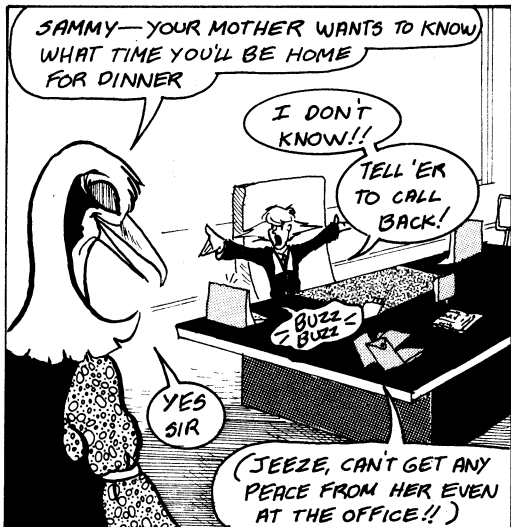




CAROLINA PARAKEET, NOW MRS. WAYKE RAIL, HASN'T SPENT MUCH TIME WORRYING ABOUT THE FATE OF HER FORMER ROOMMATE, JACK SALEM, EITHER



SAMMY, THE FINAL MEMBER OF THE TRIO THAT BROUGHT THE 357 KILLER TO JUSTICE, HAS MOVED UP IN THE WORLD TOO.....



ALTHOUGH 'OFFICIALLY' THERE'S TO BE NO CONTACT BETWEEN THE HUMANS WHO RUN THE DEPROCESSING CENTER AND THE CITY'S INMATES, THAT'S NOT ALWAYS THE CASE

FOLLOWING SALEM'S INSTRUCTIONS HARPY CONTACTS ONE OF THESE COVERT BLACKMARKET DEALERS AND SETS UP A MEETING



LOOK

SO WHAT 'VE YOU GOT?

THERE'S ALOT MORE WHERE THIS CAME FROM

HMN.... OLD LOYALIST STUFF

I THOUGHT THE CITY'D BEEN PICKED CLEAN

NOT QUITE

COMPUTER DISCS, DOCUMENTS -- INTERESTING...

AND THESE

A SOFT WHISTLE OF ASTONISHMENT THE SHARP SCENT OF EXCITEMENT AND EXPRESSION OF AVARICE TELL SALEM THE PHOTOS WERE AS VALUABLE AS HE THOUGHT THEY WERE

CALL ME BOB

WHERE DID YOU GET THESE?!

THE SAME LOYALIST STASH

THERE'S A DOZEN MORE

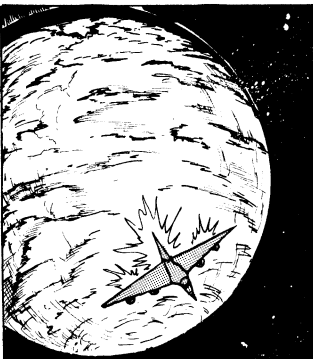
SO WHAT DO YOU WANT FOR THEM?

CALL ME BOB

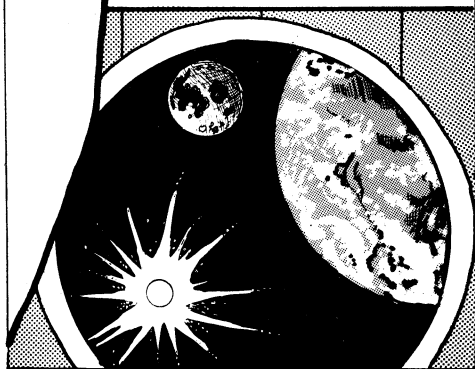
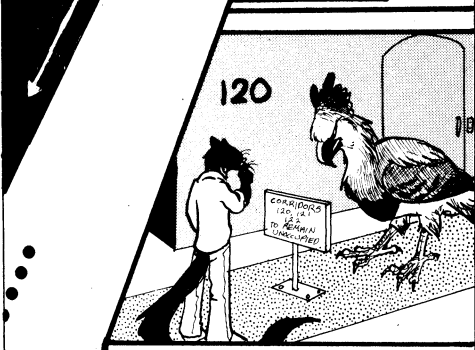
OUT



ALTHOUGH IMPOSSIBLE FOR INMATES OF THE CITY TO SNEAK ABOARD A STARSHIP ALONE, AS SALEM HAD DISCOVERED EARLY ON, WITH INSIDE HELP IT IS SURPRIZINGLY, MADDENINGLY SIMPLE



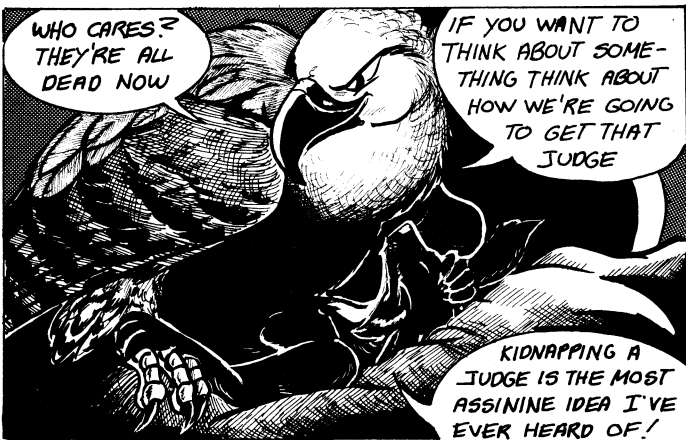
THE SHIPS ARE SO MASSIVE, AND THE CREWS SO SMALL, THAT IT IS A RELATIVELY EASY MATTER TO REMIAN UNDETECTED IN NUMEROUS UNUSED HALLS AND ROOMS



YOU'RE STILL NOT THINKING ABOUT THOSE DUMB PICTURES AGAIN, ARE YOU?

WHY DIDN'T THE LOYALISTS MAKE THEM PUBLIC?

IT MIGHT'VE MADE HIM ANGRY ENOUGH TO DO SOMETHING RASH



WHO CARES? THEY'RE ALL DEAD NOW

IF YOU WANT TO THINK ABOUT SOMETHING THINK ABOUT HOW WE'RE GOING TO GET THAT JUDGE

KIDNAPPING A JUDGE IS THE MOST ASSININE IDEA I'VE EVER HEARD OF!



I DIDN'T ASK FOR YOUR DAMN OPINION!

YOUR MIND'S NOT ON THIS!

PAY ATTENTION TO WHAT YOU'RE DOING!

YES 'DEAR'

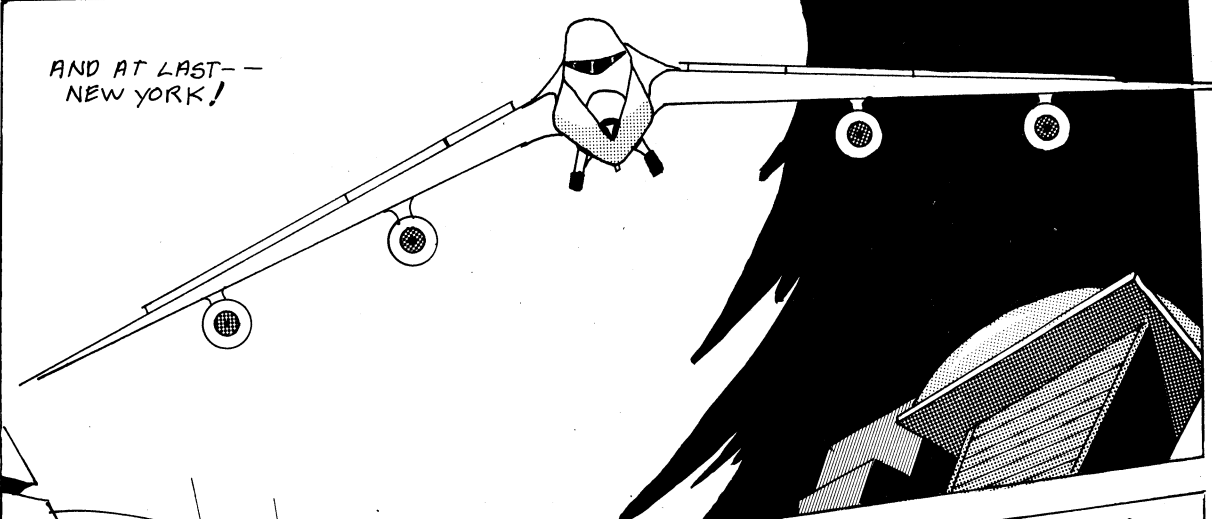


THE OLD PHOTOS WAIT, PICTURES OF A LEADER LONG DEAD, AND HIS MISTRESS, AND HIS MISTRESS' HUSBAND

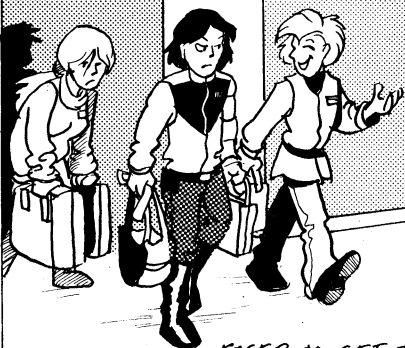
JUST A FEW MORE WEEKS...

WHO EVER SAID HISTORY WAS USELESS?

AND AT LAST--
NEW YORK!

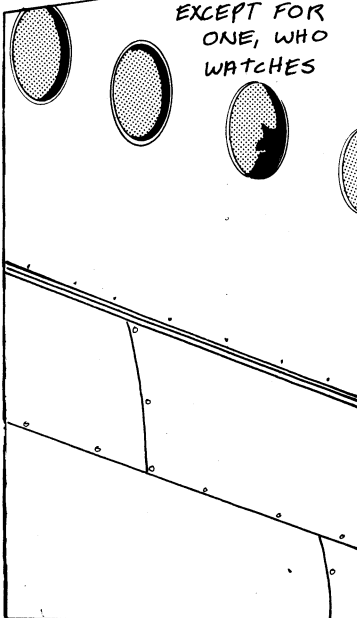


ANOTHER SIX-MONTH
T.O.D. ON THE PLANET
MAXWELL AT AN END...

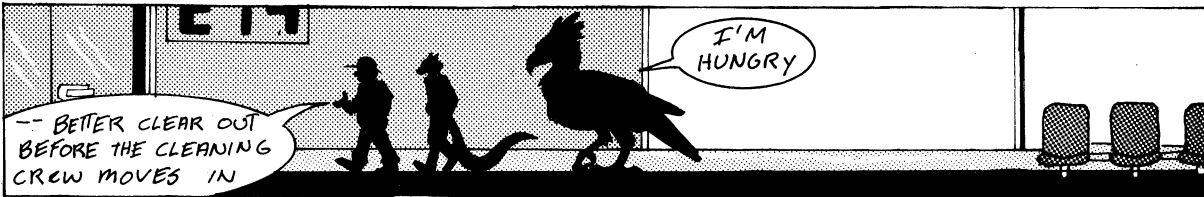


EAGER TO GET TO THE
TRAIN THAT WILL FERRY THEM BACK TO
THE FREE HUMAN REPUBLIC, THE PASSENGERS
WASTE NO TIME DISEMBARKING

EXCEPT FOR
ONE, WHO
WATCHES



AND
WAITS...



I'M
HUNGRY

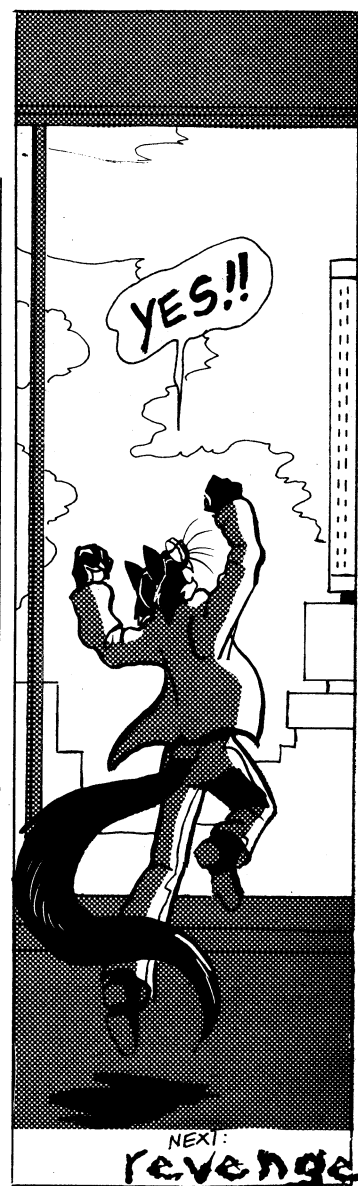
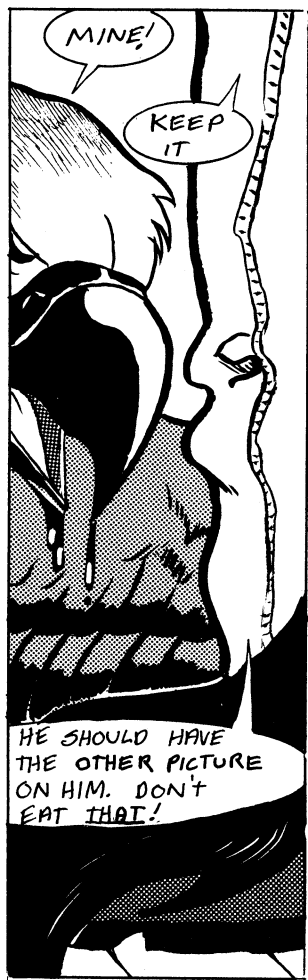
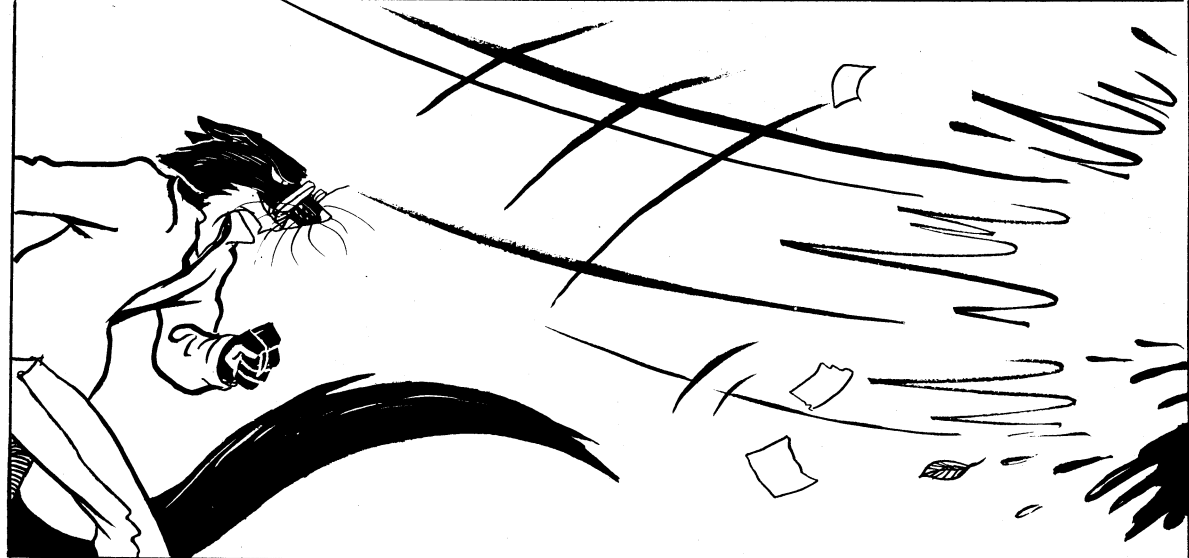
-- BETTER CLEAR OUT
BEFORE THE CLEANING
CREW MOVES IN

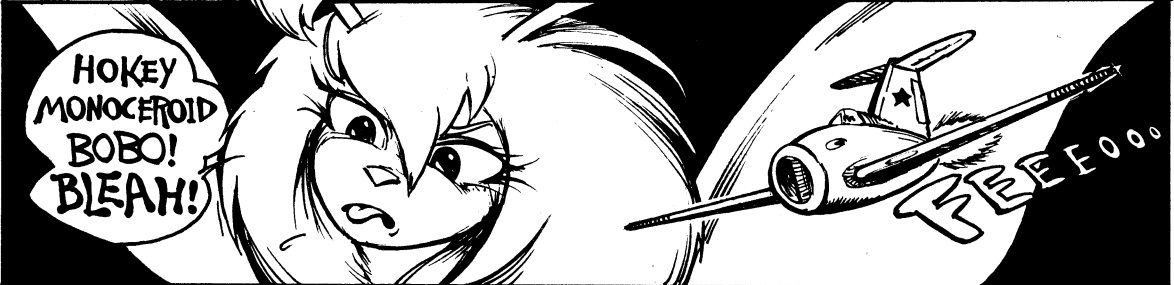
YA'LL CAN
GIMME
THEM PICTURES
NOW

OF
COURSE...











TARGET IS
HIGHLY
EVASIVE!

DESTROY
IT!

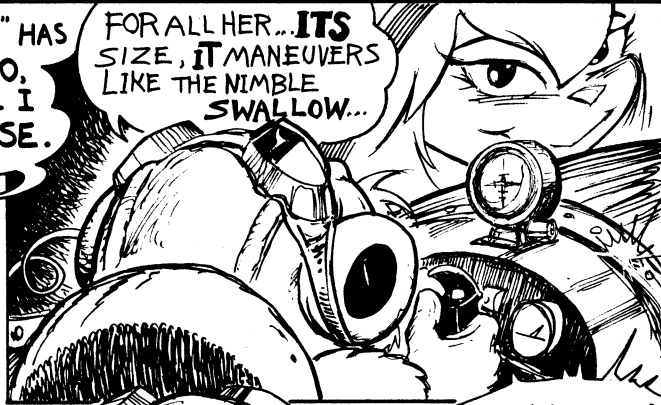


APPLY THE WISDOM
OF OUR GREAT
CHAIRMAN
AND YOU
CANNOT
FAIL!
FLUSH OUT
THE
TIGER!

I OBEY!



THE "TIGER" HAS
VANISHED... NO,
THERE IT IS... I
GIVE CHASE.



FOR ALL HER... ITS
SIZE, IT MANEUVERS
LIKE THE NIMBLE
SWALLOW...



EVENTUALLY...

PERMISSION TO BREAK OFF THE
ATTACK... I'M LOW ON FUEL AND TARGET
IS FAR TOO AGILE TO GET A SHOT...



WHAT?!
SUCCEED
-OR FACE
THE
PEOPLES'
VENGEANCE
!!!

(PLEASE HOLD
STILL, GIANT
DECADENT
REVISIONIST
MINX!)



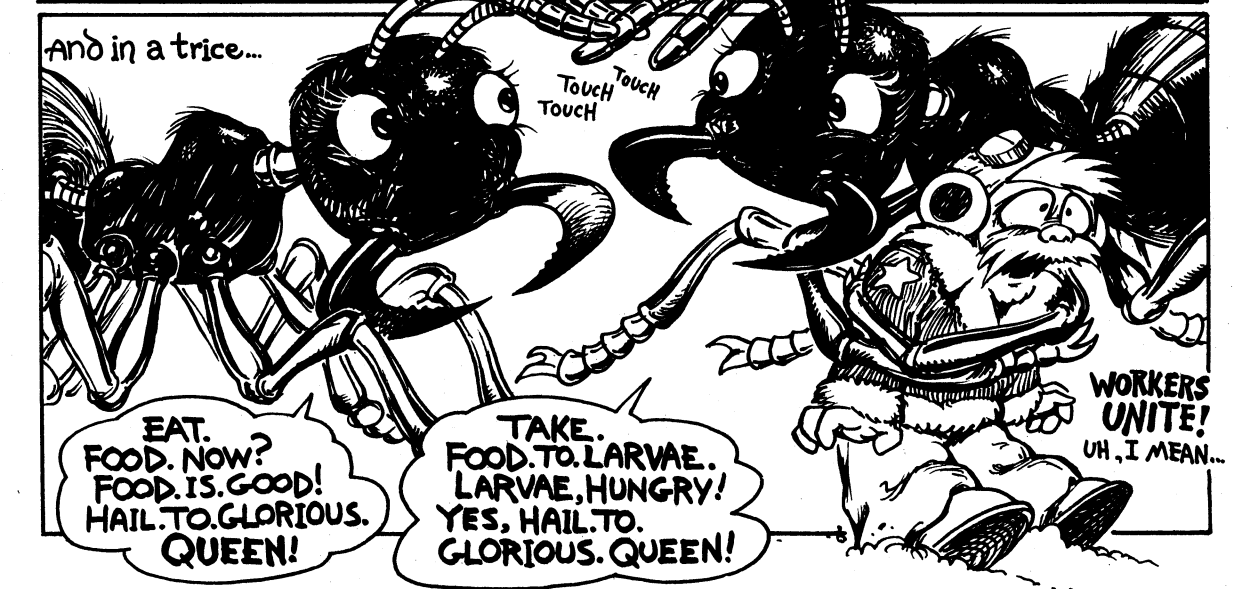
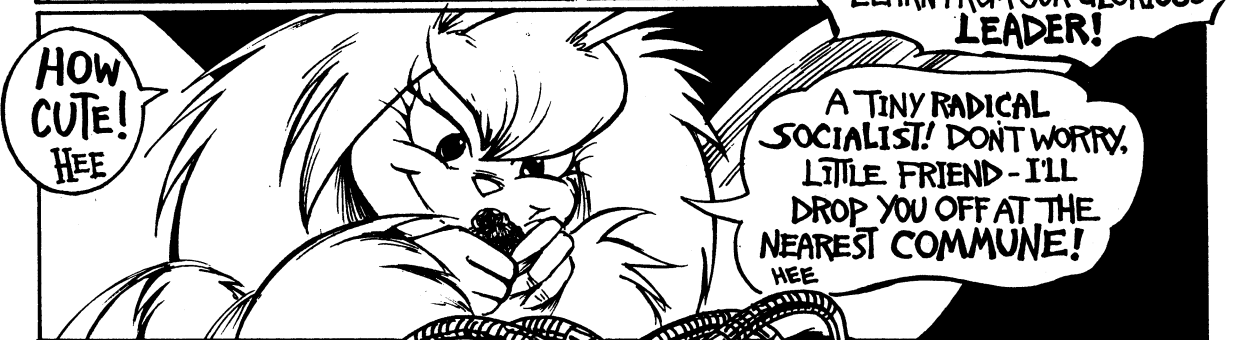
RESOLUTELY DEVELOP
AGRICULTURE!

PUP
PUP
PUP

FEEEEEE



HOTTIE-YO!

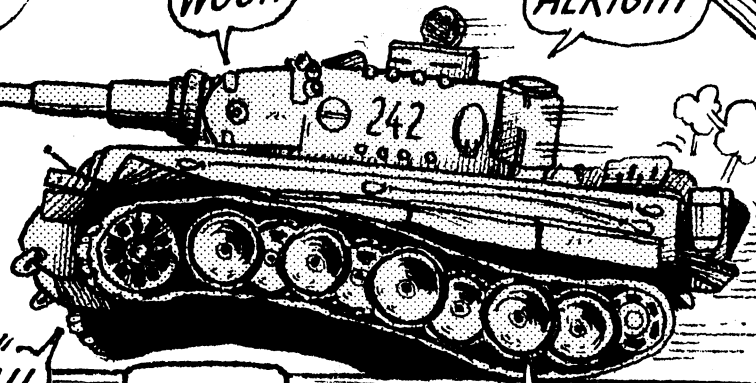


O! SUNNY DAY

Ya know, it's such a keen day today I think we should find a nice secluded spot and go *topless sunbathing*.

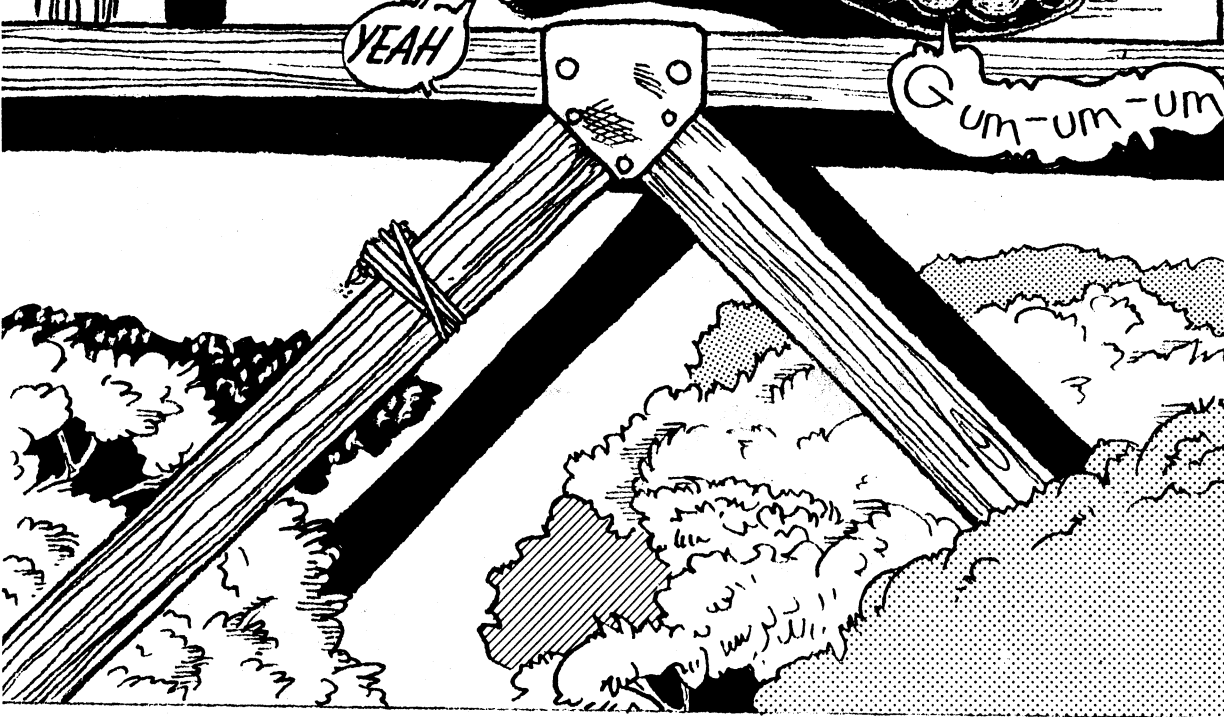
WOOH

ALRIGHT



YEAH

Gum-um-um

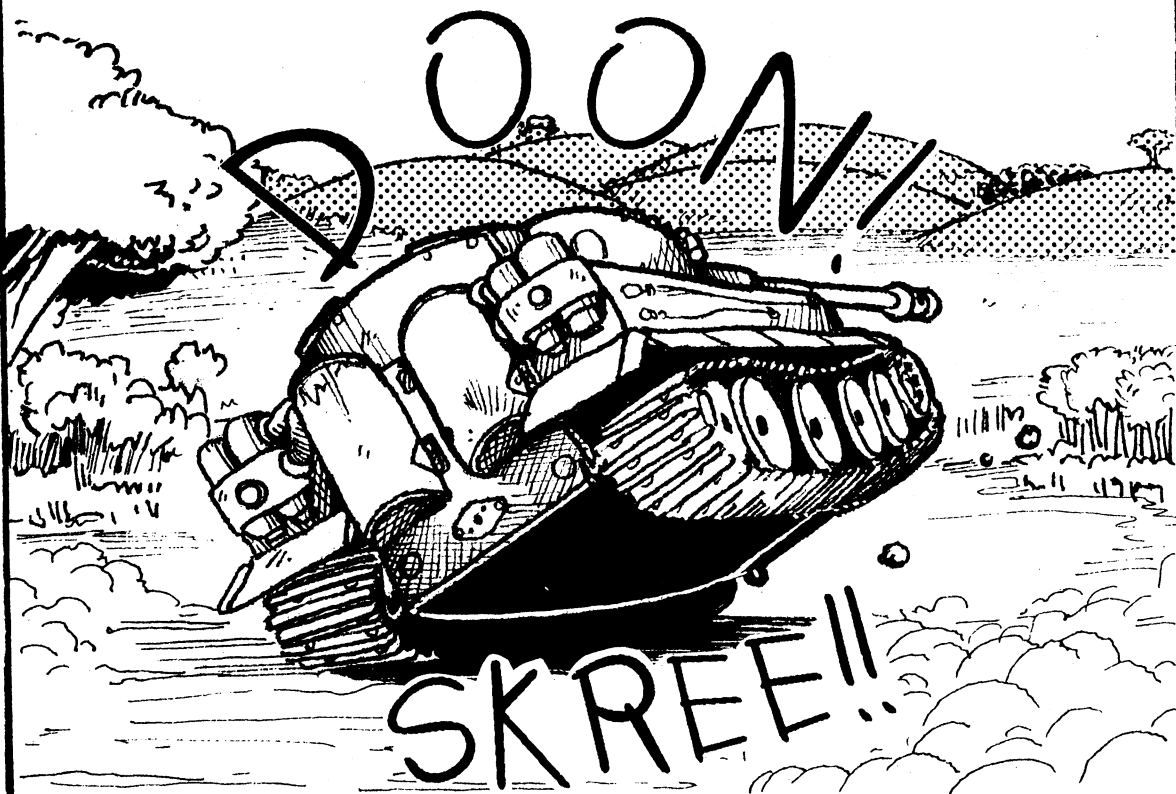


Wow!

My first time
topless sunbathing...

What are you getting excited
about? You've got no top to
bathe in the sun!

Grrr...





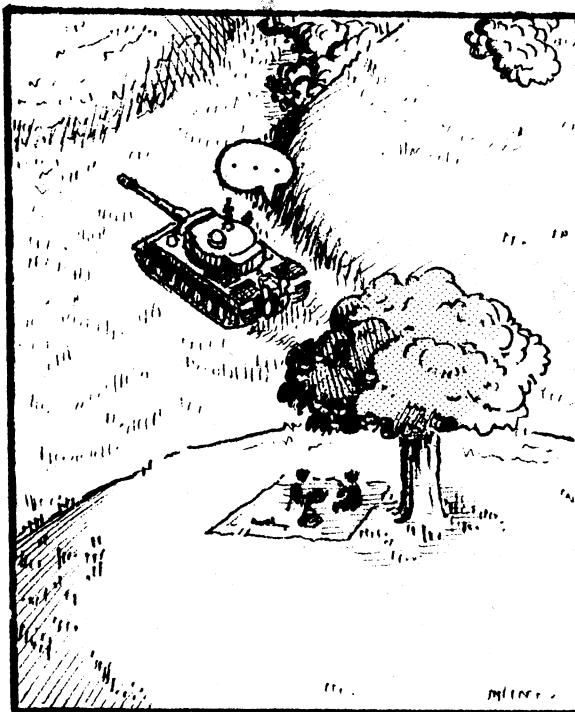
Well, there's just two
of 'em but I think we
better call it in just to
be safe!

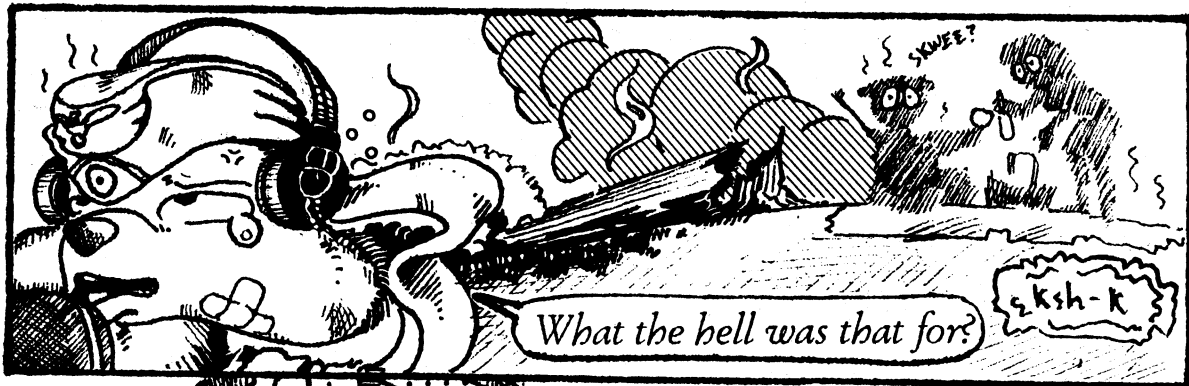
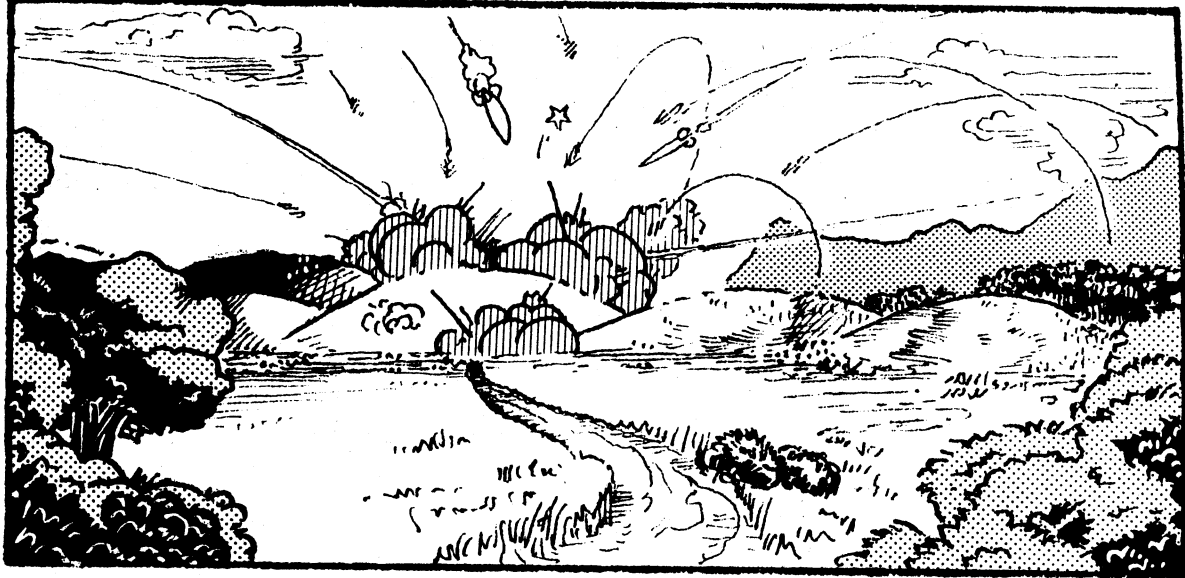
I think I got 'em...

Hello?...



Yeah, affirmative
I'll 17, 2 Italians...
Of course I'm sure of it!





**I SAID TWO
ITALIANS,
NOT BATTALIONS!!**



A Furwell To Arms

CONCLUSION

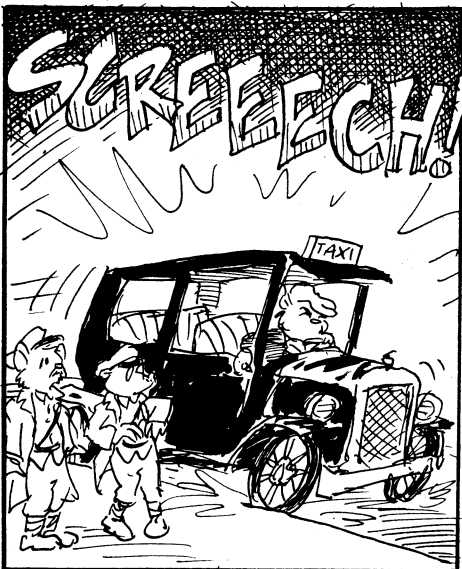
JK

IN 1917, WHILE ON LEAVE IN PARIS WITH HIS FRIENDS, RATTY FALLS IN LOVE WITH A BEAUTIFUL CABERET SINGER NAMED MATA MacCREE. HE IS SHOCKED TO DISCOVER THAT SHE IS ACTUALLY AN **ENEMY SPY** AND NOW HE, BADGER AND MOLE MUST TRY TO STOP THE ALSO-SMITTEN **TOAD** FROM MAKING A HORRIBLE MISTAKE...

WE'VE GOT TO GET TO HIM IN TIME!

TAXI!

Story & Art by Kurt Wilcken
Script by Eric Oppen



WHERE TO, MESSIEURS?
YOU WANT MAYBE A
PRETTY GIRL?

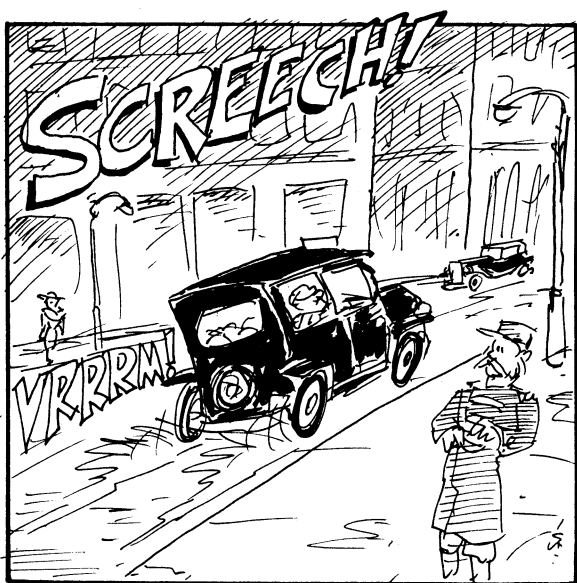
NO!

FEELTHY
PICTURES?

NO! WE WANT TO
GO SOMEWHERE!

LE CABERET GARLIQUE? OKAY, MESSIEURS-- BUT
JUS' THE SAME, I KNOW THIS PRETTY GIRL 'OO CAN
DO ZE MOST AMAZING THINGS WITH A LAMP

FRENCHMEN! GARLIC ON
THEIR BREATHS AND GARLIC
IN THEIR MINDS!



...and so you see, darling, I have these papers
that I need to get to my brother in 'Ungary

These papers are what he needs to get his
inheritance. If only it weren't for this
war, I could send them to Budapest so
easily...

CONFIDENTIEL
EXTRÊME
INCENDIER AVANT PARCOUR

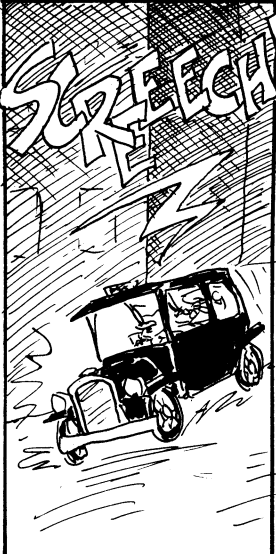
(sob.) Just because of this stupid war, my brother
won't get his inheritance! Oh, if only I had wings
to fly over the battlefield... If only someone
could help me... (sniff!)

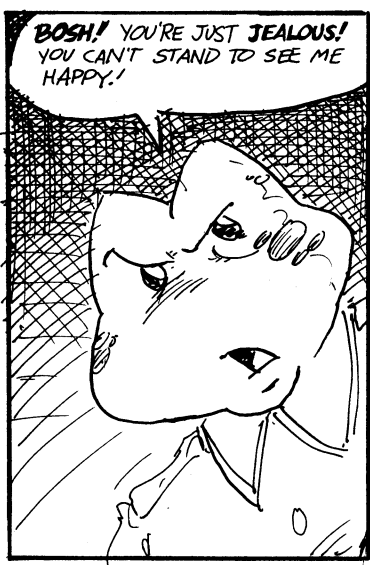
HALF A MO'... WHY,
I'M A PILOT!

I COULD
FLY IT TO
HUNGARY!

Oh, would you? I'd be so
grateful...

smak. ♥





I am Hungarian, you see. My brother's were officers in die Kaiserlich Rattaskavallerie. I wished to follow their example, but because I am a woman, I had to find another way to serve my country...



BUT HOW? WHY WOULD YOU DO SUCH A THING?



Didn't you hear me? I am a patriotic subject of Kaiser Franz Josef and a good Hungarian! To Hungarians life is *nothing* besides honor and glory and service to our monarch.

LOOK, WE'VE GOT THE PAPERS SHE STOLE... CAN'T WE JUST, WELL... I MEAN...



LET HER GO...? DASH IT ALL, RATTY, SHE'S STILL DANGEROUS!

Aha! You silly British! We've got you now! Paying our Taxi driver with your silly pound notes!



No, Water-Rat, we both have our duty. As I serve my emperor, you must serve your King!



Someday, though, this horrible war will end, my love.

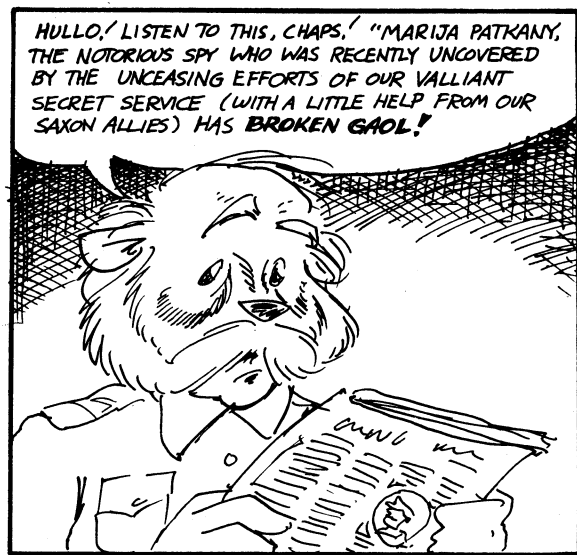
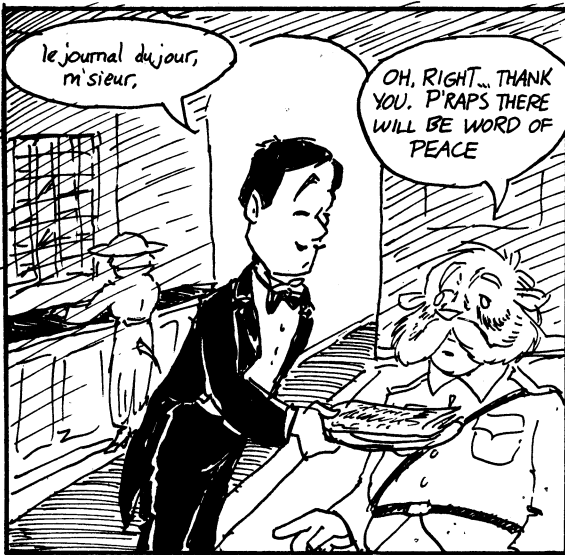
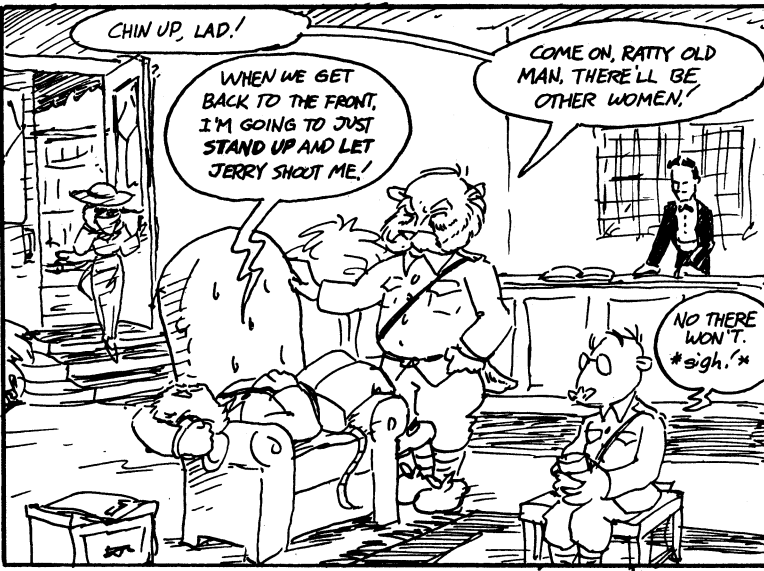


ER... I'LL GET A CAR FOR US

HUMPH! I WAS JUST LEADING HER ON! HOPING TO LEAD HER INTO A TRAP!

la Femme espion!







COMMUNIQUE

LETTERS TO FURRLOUGH

7272 WURZBACH SUITE 204
SAN ANTONIO, TX, 78240

Oaktown, VA 22124

Top Ten:

Furrrough is improving. I can't disagree with the top three places in your top ten list as of #34. It's the lowest places that I'd query most. For the record, I rate them:

- 1) "Here Comes a Candle"
- 2) "Watering Hole"
- 3) "Zaibatsu Tears"
- 4) "Bronze Fur"
- 5) "StinZ: Bad Memories"
- 6) "Romanics"
- 7) "Samurai Mice" by Stephan Peregrine
- 8) "Weekend Wehrmacht" by Scott Ruggels
- 9) "Stosstrupp"
- 10) "The Sound & the Furry" by Oppen & Wilcken

Stephan Peregrine certainly deserves to be in the ten

somewhere. His contributions go back to the first cover, but his work since has appeared as a series of disconnected shorts. I chose "Samurai Mice" over the others, because it had an edge in its courteous derangement. I feel that he would score higher with more readers if he produced something of greater length. It would certainly be interesting to see what he did. At least he has had a number of strips in **Furrrough**. What has happened to some of the one-offs, the people who appeared only once, even if they showed promise? Mel. White has done enough elsewhere to show that she is worth keeping, yet all we got was the first part of "Colonel Bogie" in #8, three years ago. Mark Moore showed promise with "Scavengers". What happened?

And a short note on behalf of Concerned Citizens For More Pat Kelley. When are you going to relocate "M.E.I." to **Furrrough** or another title? I appreciate that he can keep quite busy with other things, but it isn't fair to keep us and the characters hanging like that. Then again, **Tales of the Fehnnik** wasn't quite what I was expecting, but I would happily buy the sequel they have left themselves open to do.

Ian Curtis,

Somewhere in England

Ian, you've brought up one of the toughest things about being an editor! There are always things I would like to get more of, from artists I'd love to run more work by, but please bear in mind that the most I can do is suggest to people that they might really want to turn in more stuff! I can tell them the fans love it, but no amount of yelling into the phone can force an artist to turn in their work. Also, many of our contributors still work day-jobs and speaking for myself, I know how much life can get in the way of creative forces! As for Mel. and Mark, I do know that both of them are really busy right now, and Pat is also. Expect to see more from them in the future!--EW

Dear **Furrrough** editing-type-people:

Hello! I've been meaning to write this letter for quite some time, but some stuff has stopped me from doing it. But now that I've got some free time, here it is.

First off, let me start off with the obvious; "Here Comes a Candle" is simply marvelous. The characters and their names are very humorous and imaginative, and all the nursery rhyme and fairy tale references are hilarious. Are you going to publish the whole "HCaC" collection in one book? (*We hope to do so in the future--EW*) "Risuko" is good and I think you guys should keep it, and that's all I have to say about that! "Zaibatsu Tears" is one of the best stories you've ever had. I would like to see Pi return in the future. (*Hope you're enjoying the new Pi story!--EW*)

"Stosstrupp" is very well drawn and written. It should be more frequent though. Finally, "Romanics". This is an extremely good story, but when are you going to continue it? (*When Joe Rosales does some more--EW*)

I'm going to end my letter with a question about "HCaC". What is the name of the canine woman who is always knitting? She's referred to as 'Madame' by the other characters.

Well, that's it! Keep up the good work and stay healthy!

"Help me, Spock, help me!"

Michael O'Hare,

3118 Borge St.,

Hello again:

Well, first off, the local news. The one and only comic book store in this sorry excuse for a town will be closing down on Thanksgiving weekend. Of course, I can still purchase furry titles from Mailbox Books, but I won't get the store's discount that also includes sales tax. I also now won't be able to get any other personal favorite titles such as **Love & Rockets**--waaaaah! Now, let me state this clearly and for everyone out there: Freddy Sanchez, owner of Freddy's Comics in Dinuba, you are a J.E.R.K.! By the way, he'll never read that so you're safe to print the previous statement. Please do.

Now's the time for comments on **Furrrough** #34. "Here Comes a Candle": So sad to see this go, but it's been an outstanding year and a half's worth of fun and adventure. Now it's time for me to read the entire story from beginning to end in a single sitting. Please, oh Great Editor, please tell me that Mary Hanson-Roberts has another story forthcoming!

Now, as for the rest of #34, well... I'm certain that the actual events that happened for the guys in "Weekend Wehrmacht" were fun and provide plenty of laughs when they sit around and reminisce about it. But this title is about as funny and entertaining as a trip to the bathroom. Pass on this one.

"Stellar Babe"--a one-joke strip that already in its second appearance is growing tiresome. "Risuko"--I must give out praise to Tennaro and DiGiorgio for keeping things very consistent in this story; each segment sucks! Six chapters and next to nothing has happened (is that a record?) Please stop printing this story! Remember, Great Editor, there's a rejection pile for submissions and there's a smaller stack of stuff that's fit for printing. Stop getting them confused.

David "I hate everyone because I don't have a life" Tapia,

742 First Avenue,
Dinuba, CA 93618

Boy, you haven't seen my slush pile, have you? I run the best stuff I get in. Period. Also, don't be too hard on Freddy. Having been the manager of a comic book store, I can say it is no picnic, and I wouldn't be running one in today's shaky industry times for all the tea in China. Right about now, all across the US, comic book stores are going belly up due to the bizarre changes that are cycling through the comic book industry. We should all support our local dealers whenever we can, unless, of course, they're really awful and don't provide any customer service--EW

And now it's time for that Top Ten list again! Ted Sheppard's "Stosstrupp" has moved up one, knocking Richard Bartrop's "Zaibatsu Tears" down a notch. Remember, your votes are what determine this list, and you can vote as many times as you like! Ballot stuffing is encouraged, since this is basically a popularity contest!

- 1) HERE COMES A CANDLE by Mary Hanson-Roberts
- 2) WATERING HOLE by Pat Kelley
- 3) STOSSTRUPP by Ted Sheppard
- 4) ZAIBATSU TEARS by Richard Bartrop
- 5) BRONZE FUR by Mark Shaw
- 6) ROMANICS by Joe Rosales
- 7) UNDER REALM by Fred Perry
- 8) STINZ: BAD MEMORIES by Donna Barr
- 9) TARGET PRACTICE by Bill Fitts & Dan Seneres
- 10) SCAVENGERS by Mark Moore

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NEXT ISSUE! "Zaibatsu Tears: Puppet Warriors" part 3 by Richard Bartrop, "The Prize" part 2 by Laura Pierson, and "Swimmer" part 1 by Ben Dunn. Cover by Ben Dunn!

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