

MIARCIIC

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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 minicomic. 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 chucked 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

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

way NINJA HIGH SCHOOL was born.

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 HARLOCK, 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 AREALA. 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 Areala 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 Areala 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 2000? 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

Digger TPB Vol. 4 Dragon Flux #1 Roja 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) Publisher Ben Dunn **Chief Operating Officer** Joeming Dunn, M.D. Olin Fnar **Editor** in Chief Herb Mallette
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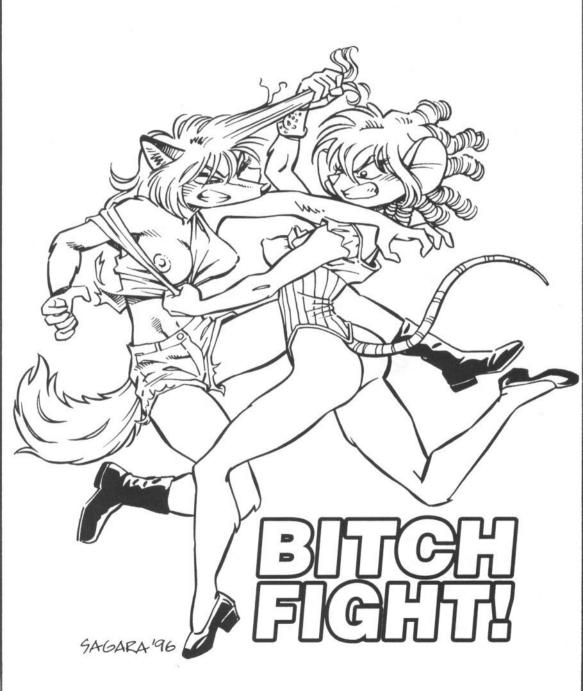
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"Asrial vs. Cheetah"

The Collected Gold

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LAST ISSUE...

aving mistakenly loaded an old VHS copy of "Gone With The Wind" into a starship's navigation computer, the Tank Vixens have ended up in an eerie world where normal rules of fashion sense no longer apply!

All this has been achieved via the starship's Credibility Drives. By convincing gullible crews that they have actually reached their destinations, ships simply appear in the desired location. It is

"French shelf"

Total fashion yield = 50 gigatons.

all simply a matter of pulling the wool over the passengers eyes.

(Knowing this, of course, means that you yourself will never be able to travel faster than light. Ah me - a little education is a terrifying thing!)

Meanwhile, Udda Von Schteppenslammer has arrived in ga-ga land and is using the native's bizzarre fashion sense as a basis for her rebellion against the Vole Imperium!

Will we see an A-1 bitch fight between Firen and Udda?

Are Hilda's new frilly knickers all they're cracked up to be?

Why look here? Pay yer \$2.95, fanboy, and

Frilly knickers
Oh so sheer...

Corsetry
Contains more dead whale than a Japanese fish market!

Operating parts
"...like a well

oiled machine!"

High buttoned shoes
Polished by endless
french-kisses!

french-kisses!

want to come and listen!



OUTFIT DESIGNED

true horrors that await you - but no, they never believe us. Not then - at the beginning...

But later, when the nightmares start - the slow tick-tick-

Copyright notice: Oh sure - we could warn you about the

But later, when the nightmares start - the slow *tick-tick-ticking* of the days and hours as you begin to wonder just when IT will happen...when the guilt slowly builds up until it hovers overhead like Damocle's sword...oh then they

Well it's too late then, fella! You should have listened to us while you had the chance!







GENTLE READER.

AT THIS POINT, THE ECOLOGICALLY MINDED AMONGST YOU MAY BE SHOWING CONCERN OVER THE LARGE AMOUNTS OF CORSETRY IN THIS MAGAZINE. AS YOU KNOW, CORSETRY OF THIS PERIOD WAS STIFFENED BY "BONING" - THIN STRIPS OF BALEEN HACKED OUT OF THE BLOODY MOUTHS OF AMAZINGLY UGLY WHALES.

EVEN THOUGH THEY LIVE IN THE REALLY ICKY BLACK PARTS OF THE OCEAN, ARE COVERED IN SEA LICE, AND LIVE OFF FOOD THAT COULD MAKE A MAGGOT GAG, WHALES HAVE NOW WON A PLACE IN THE HEARTS OF WILDLIFE DOCUMENTARY DIRECTORS EVERYWHERE. THE KILLING OF WHALES HAS SUBSECUENTLY BEEN DECLARED EXTREMELY NAUGHTY.

OUT OF RESPECT FOR THESE ECOLOGICAL AND MORAL CONSIDERATIONS, THE PUBLISHERS WOULD LIKE TO POINT OUT THAT GEDDA'S CORSETRY DOES NOT CONTAIN WHALE BONE.

It hag ingtead been lovingly faghioned from the corpges of little baby harp seals.

THANK YOU.





















































































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Sonya Ex-Bttn Jinx, 101st Heavy Tank Crushing Battalion Guildencratz



"Cool of you to give me my own gratuitous beaver shots, though!"



"...I mean, used to be that the the camera would always break or something"



"Now I can finally feel like I've really got a bit of Class!"



ell I guess you have to just try and do what you can, dude! I mean, early life for me in the army was OK. I'd, like, embroider mandallas for the tank engine covers an' stuff while waiting for something really grisly to happen to me. Things have changed these days, tho... Lately the routine just has me flat out on my back and gasping!"



"Well, as a jinx, you don't have many friends, you know? So you cultivate your mind. I think a magazine has to have real class to be interested in a girl's intelligence! You guys are just too cool!"

SEX VIXENS VITAL STATISTICS

Name: Sonya Marie

Guildencratz

Division: 101st Heavy Tank

Crushing Bttn.

Height: 172cm

Weight: Bummer. Um. The scales are, like, broken.

Waist: Oh. Well, I like, broke the tape measure, too. Sorry...

Bust: "D" as in "Dali Lama", dude!



Tail: Well, Firen tried to measure it, but we got kinda distracted. The fur got all burned off once though! Wanna see the scar tissue?

Favorite pastimes: The weekly politics workshop. No, really! I mean, we turn up with pencils and notebooks, there's a film and everything - guest lecturers and stuff. A little wine, a little dancing - some social infrastructure modelling for two. Then we debate those...uh...those socio...political...Uh...Oh god. Excuse me, I-I think I just have to go to the bathroom...

Hates: Thank god we don't get those damned cheese-stick things any more! I mean, one time we couldn't get one open, and so we took it over to the machine shop. Well you know what I was saying about my tail...?

My favorite turn on: Oh GOD - have you seen Wenwaring's new essay on the reclassification of social indices base upon...upon the economic infrastructures of...Uh...I-I'll be back in a few minutes, OK?

Pin the Tail The UKOK.



- 1) Carefully remove this page, and cut out the vixen's tail.
- 2) Find where the next children's party is being held in YOUR neighborhood.
- 3) Pin up the vixen and invite all the little children to play!
- 4) Try to explain your comics collection and art files to the law-enforcement agency of your choice!

THE FUN JUST NEVER STOPS!