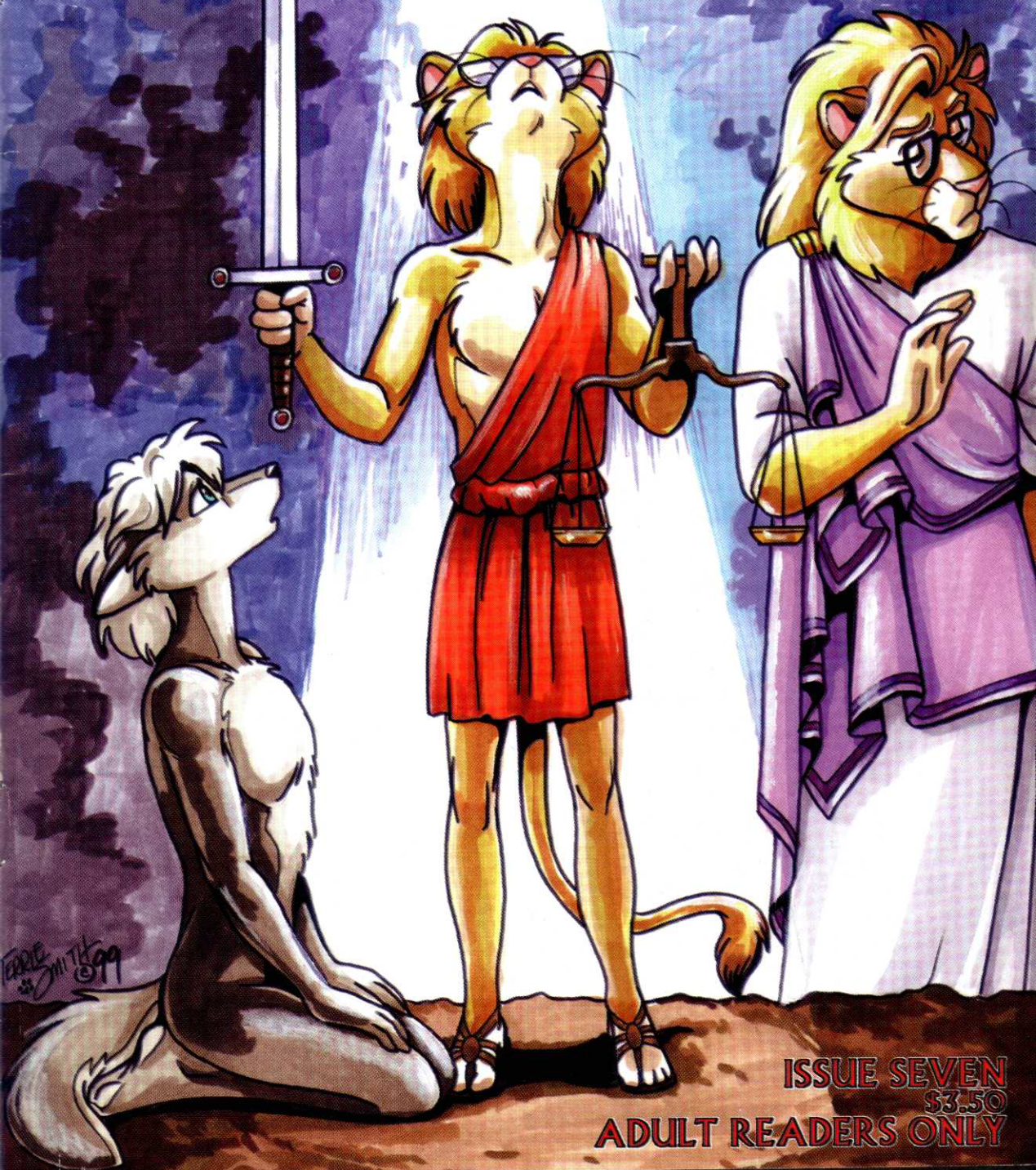


# ASSOCIATED STUDENT BODIES



ISSUE SEVEN

\$3.50

ADULT READERS ONLY



# ASSOCIATED STUDENT BODIES

## ONE MORE TO GO!

The light at the end of the tunnel... let's just hope it's not an oncoming train.

People have been asking what we plan to do after the regular series is over. We have plans for a Special (an oversized issue consisting of a bunch of "backup" stories), a spin-off (remember Coyote Rose?), and a couple of other things we won't talk about just yet. Fear not, ASB isn't going to dry up and blow away!

## CRUELTY AND KINDNESS

Read the issue. Done that? Okay, onwards...

Some of our readers wrote, expressing concern about what Daniel would find when he returned. The speculations were, in some cases, very ugly. Rest assured, we have no intention of destroying our friends in the A.S.B. cast.

## WHO'S THAT?

We have a guest! Scot Zellman's "Buster Wilde" is an outrageously funny comic strip about a queer werewolf... straight and human by day, gay

and wolfy by night. "Buster Wilde" is well worth your time... check him out online at:

[http://www.geocities.com/~buster\\_wilde](http://www.geocities.com/~buster_wilde)

## WHAT'S IN THE FUTURE?

One more regular issue, one Special, and one long vacation! We are going to take a little extra time between issue 7 and issue 8, so look for something around the end of the year.

## THE WEB. CAN'T ESCAPE IT.

Can't wait for issue 8? There's stuff to be had at:

<http://www.arclight.net/asb>

See you soon!

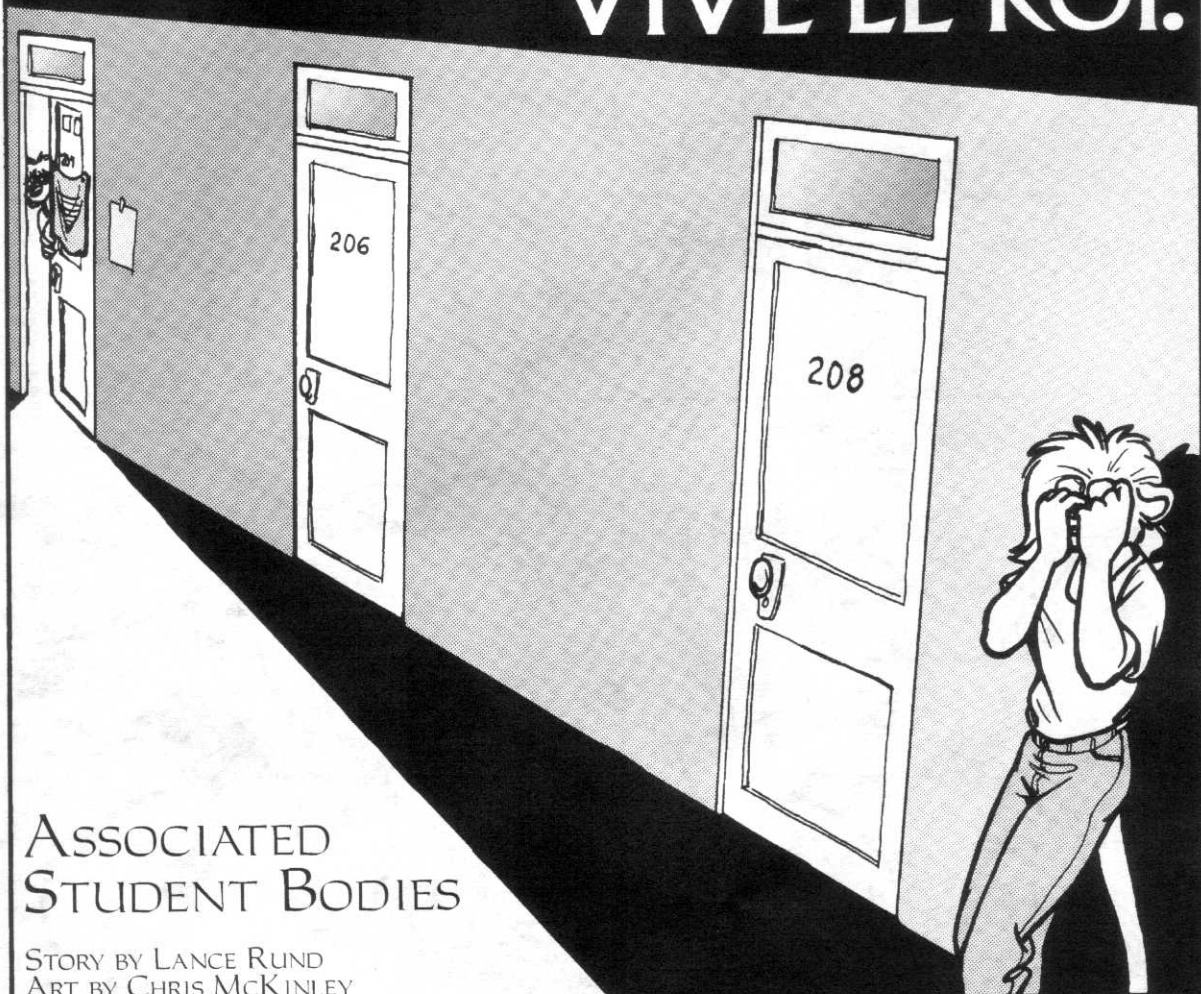
*Lance Rund*  
*Chris McKinley*

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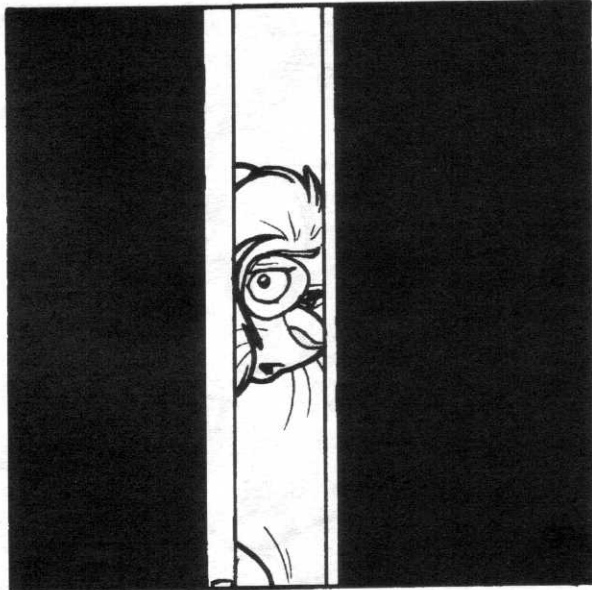


# LE ROIES MORTE. VIVE LE ROI.



## ASSOCIATED STUDENT BODIES

STORY BY LANCE RUND  
ART BY CHRIS MCKINLEY







DANIEL, WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN?  
I WAS SCARED OUT OF MY MIND!



PLEASE, PLEASE  
DON'T EVER RUN AWAY FROM  
ME AGAIN! I'M SO SORRY FOR  
WHAT HAPPENED!





SOMETHING I HAD A PROBLEM WITH  
WHEN I WAS YOUNGER. GUESS  
I'M NOT OVER IT YET.











YOU'VE SHOWN ME SOME WONDERFUL TIMES...  
PUSHED ME INTO THE ARMS OF SOME WONDERFUL  
PEOPLE. YOU'VE OPENED SO MANY DOORS  
IN MY LIFE...



BUT IT'S NEVER BEEN AS  
EQUALS. YOU'VE BEEN ENTIRELY  
IN CHARGE.

I KNOW, THAT'S  
THE PROBLEM.

I NEVER STOPPED  
TO THINK.



I CAN'T  
BE YOUR PET  
ANY MORE.



THAT'S NOT HOW I  
THINK OF YOU!

BUT THAT'S  
HOW I FEEL, LIKE A  
WELL-LOVED PET.



IF WE'RE GOING TO  
HAVE A FUTURE TOGETHER, IT'S  
AS EQUALS. WE HAVE TO MAKE A  
COMMITMENT TO EACH  
OTHER.

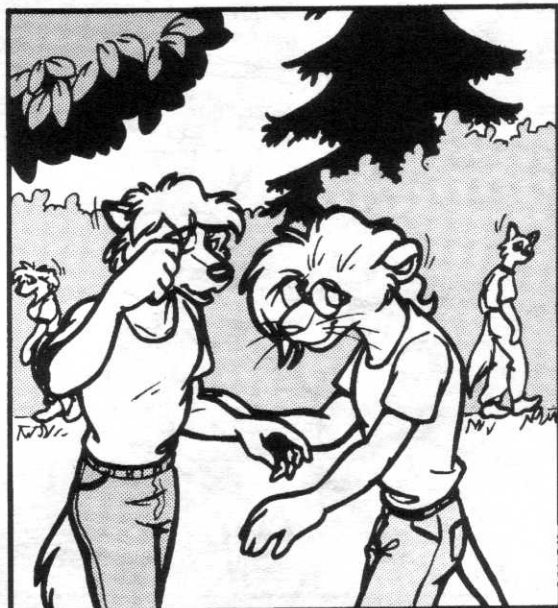


I'D DO  
ANYTHING FOR YOU...

JUST LOVE ME,  
LIKE I LOVE YOU. DON'T  
EVER LET GO...







AND WE TALK, REALLY TALK, ABOUT THE IMPORTANT STUFF. WE CAN'T BOTTLE ANYTHING UP.





ONE DAY, I JUST COULDN'T TAKE IT ANY MORE. HE HIT ME, AND I HIT HIM BACK. HARD. CHRIST, I BEAT THE LIVING SHIT OUT OF HIM... A LIFETIME OF ANGER, AND IT ALL CAME OUT AT ONCE.



JEEZE... SOUNDS FAMILIAR.

YEAH...



YOU KNOW WHAT THE WORST OF IT IS? THERE HE WAS, LYING ON THE GROUND, BUSTED RIBS, BUSTED NOSE... AND HE LOOKS AT ME AND SAYS "ABOUT TIME YOU BECOME A MAN." SHIT.



THAT WAS WHAT A MAN WAS? DRUNK AND VIOLENT? I WAS BECOMING JUST LIKE HIM, AND HE ADMIRERD IT! ASSHOLE...

YOU'RE NOTHING LIKE THAT!



BUT I COULD BE, SO EASILY. JUST ONE SLIP... LIKE YESTERDAY.

WE BOTH SLIPPED.

THAT DOESN'T MAKE IT OKAY.

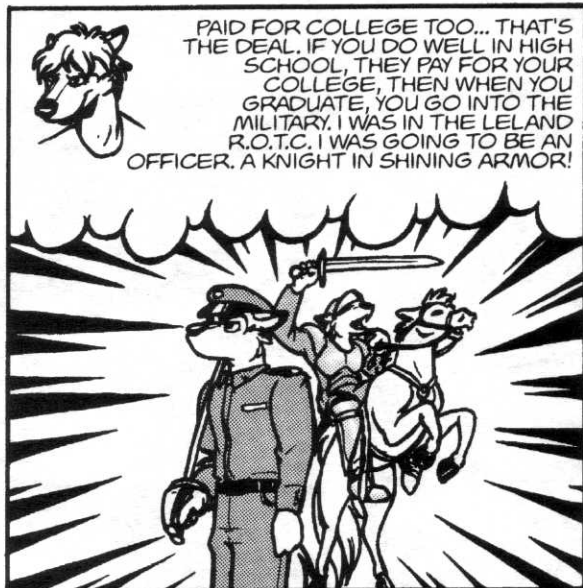


SO, I HAD TO GET OUT, BUT WHAT'S A DIRT-POOR CITY KID TO DO? I WANTED SOMETHING TO BE PROUD OF. SOMETHING EVERYONE COULD RESPECT. SOMETHING MY OLD MAN COULD NEVER DO.

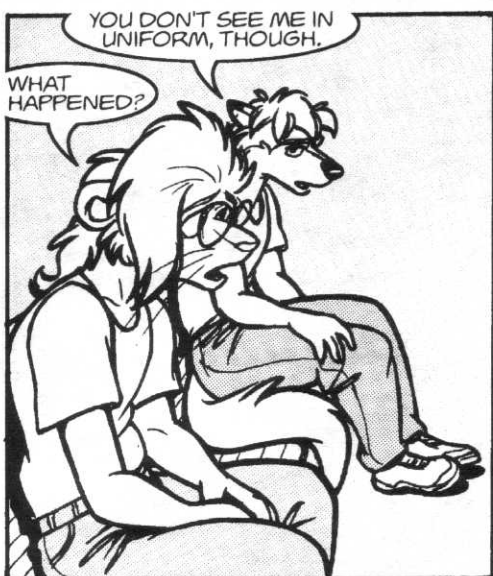


I'D ALWAYS ADMIRED PEOPLE IN THE MILITARY. THEY PUT IT ALL ON THE LINE TO DEFEND US... SO I JOINED THE R.O.T.C.\* IN MY HIGH SCHOOL. THEY TAUGHT ME SELF-CONTROL, AND SELF-RESPECT.

\* R.O.T.C. = RESERVE OFFICER TRAINING CORPS.



PAID FOR COLLEGE TOO... THAT'S THE DEAL. IF YOU DO WELL IN HIGH SCHOOL, THEY PAY FOR YOUR COLLEGE. THEN WHEN YOU GRADUATE, YOU GO INTO THE MILITARY. I WAS IN THE LELAND R.O.T.C. I WAS GOING TO BE AN OFFICER. A KNIGHT IN SHINING ARMOR!



YOU DON'T SEE ME IN UNIFORM, THOUGH.

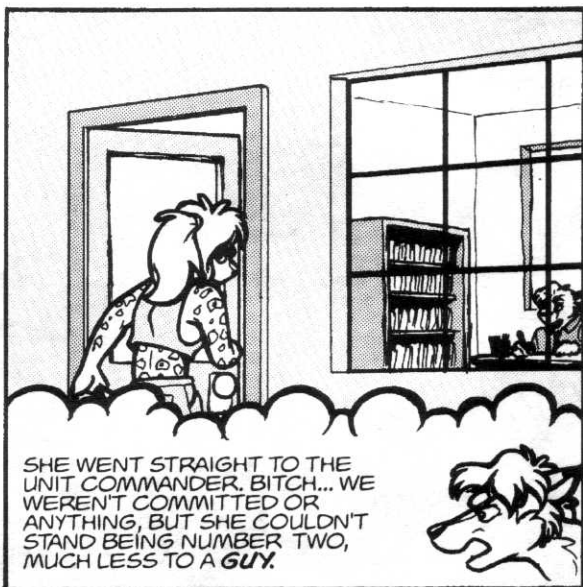
WHAT HAPPENED?



WHAT ELSE? THROWN OUT... I WAS DOING SO WELL. BUT THERE WAS A PROBLEM... YOU SEE, I WAS SEEING A GIRL. SHE WAS REALLY BEAUTIFUL, AND SHE KNEW IT. VAIN, AND AS SHALLOW AS A PUDDLE. SO I WAS MESSING AROUND ON THE SIDE.



WITH ANOTHER CADET, NO LESS. HE WASN'T MY FIRST GUY, BUT DAMMIT, HE WAS SPECIAL. HE AND I WERE... CLOSE. AND MY GIRLFRIEND FOUND OUT. I SHOULDN'T HAVE BEEN SEEING TWO PEOPLE, BUT I STILL HAD A LOT OF STUPIDITY IN ME.



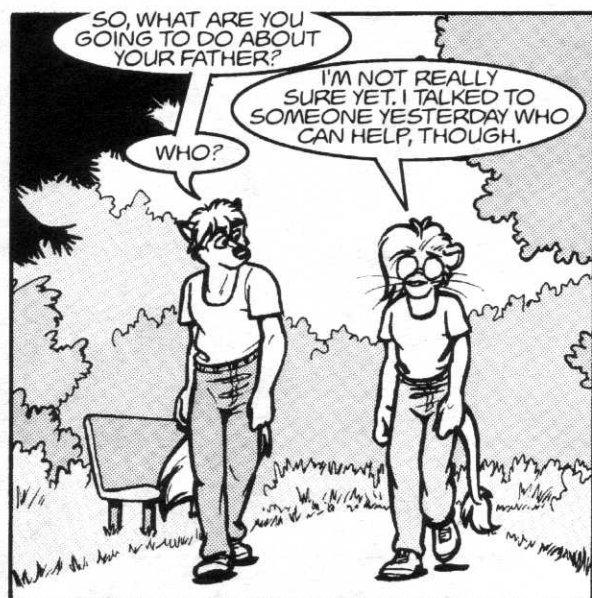
SHE WENT STRAIGHT TO THE UNIT COMMANDER. BITCH... WE WEREN'T COMMITTED OR ANYTHING, BUT SHE COULDN'T STAND BEING NUMBER TWO, MUCH LESS TO A GUY.





\* ANNAPOLIS IS WHERE THE U.S. NAVY ACADEMY IS LOCATED

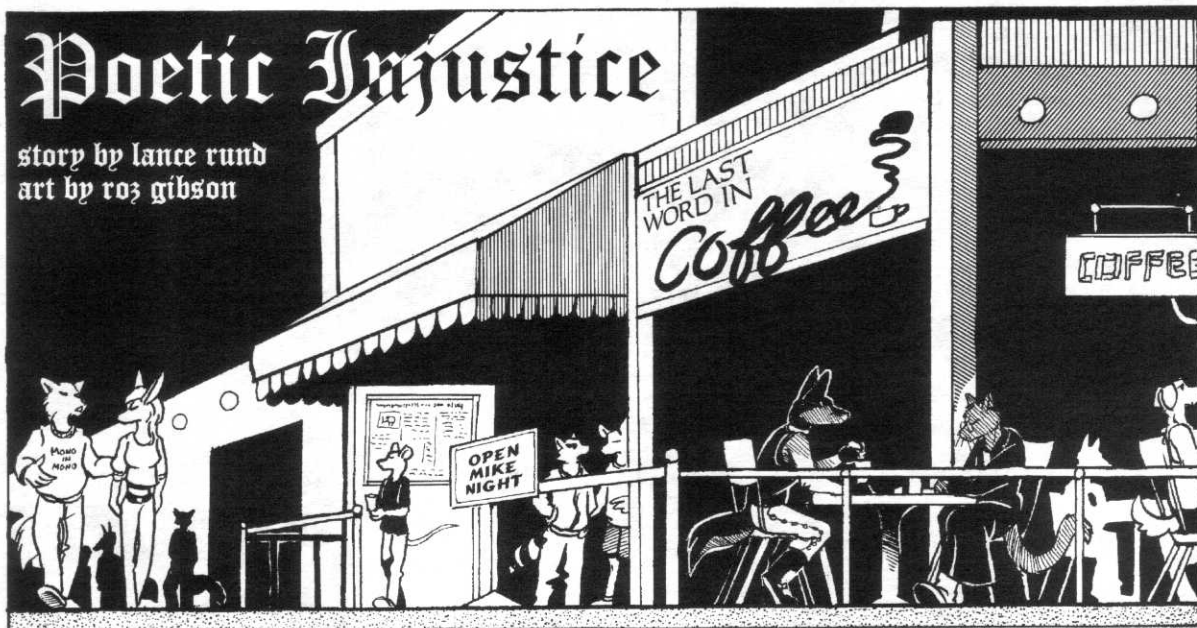


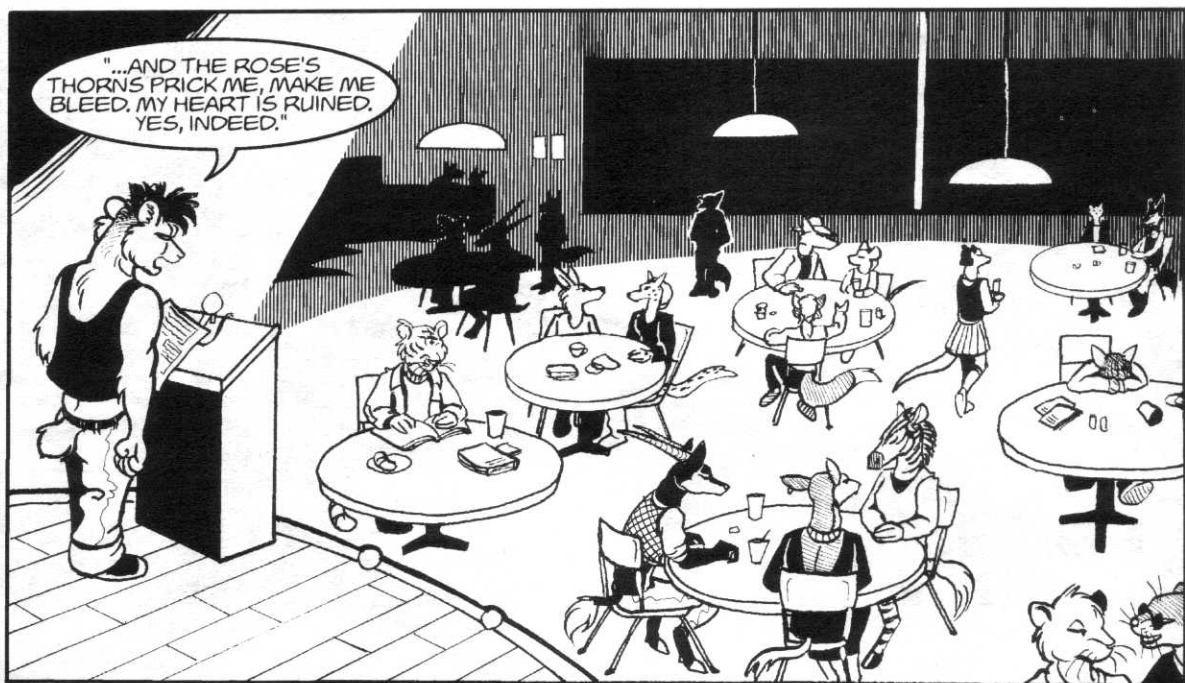




# Poetic Injustice

story by lance rund  
art by roz gibson









SHADES OF GREY THREATEN CERTAINTY  
A DULLED RAZOR SLITS FEW WRISTS  
UNACCEPTABLE!  
SHARPEN ME UPON YOUR AUTHORITY  
AND NAME YOURSELF AS ENEMY

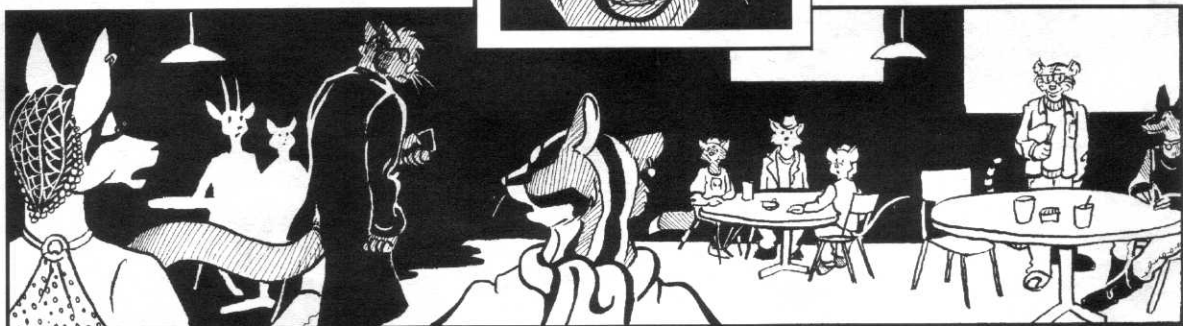


WAR DRUMS MADE FROM  
CHILDREN'S SKINS  
BEATEN WITH THEIR BONES  
PASS YOUR SINS TO THE UNBORN  
COMMIT THEM TO YOUR GOD  
SO THEY CAN BURN IN YOUR PLACE

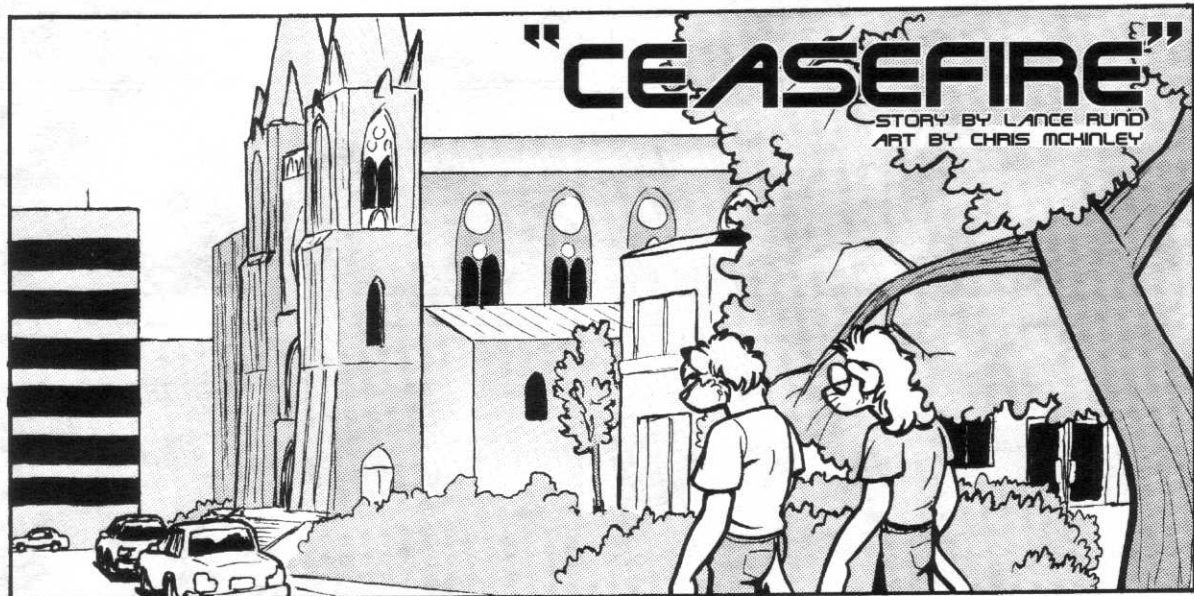
REAP THE REWARDS OF YOUR VIRTUES  
COLLECTED ON SCYTHES OF UNBENDING THOUGHT  
WORDS TURN INTO BLADES AND BULLETS  
AND HARVEST TEARS AND PAIN

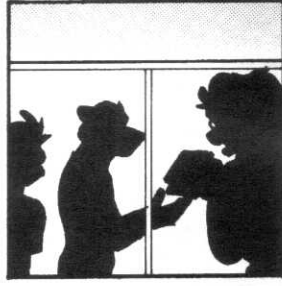
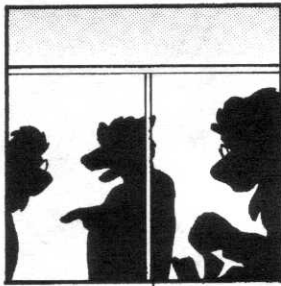
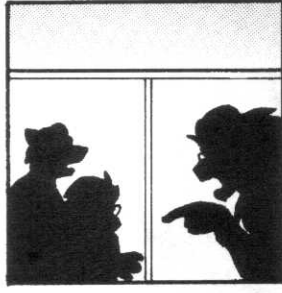
THE SWORD CUTS IN ALL WAYS  
AND YOU ACT SO SURPRISED  
THE DEMONS YOU'VE TAKEN TO BED  
SOMEDAY  
TURN ON YOU

SOMEDAY TODAY  
WELCOME HOME, FATHER.

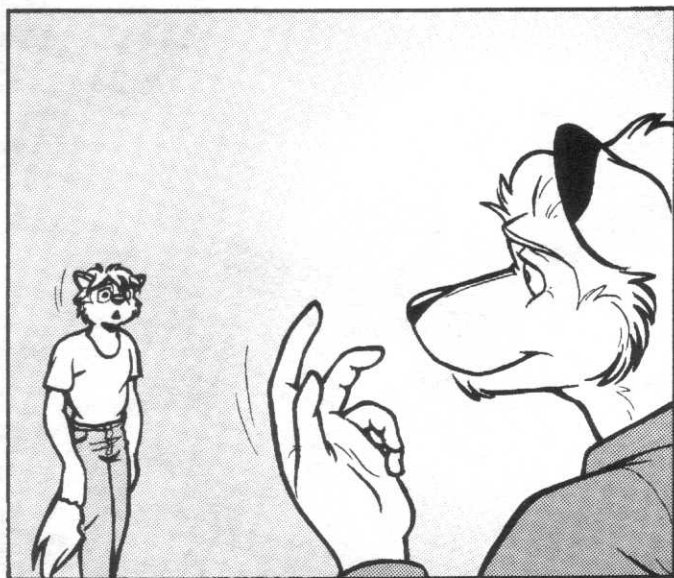
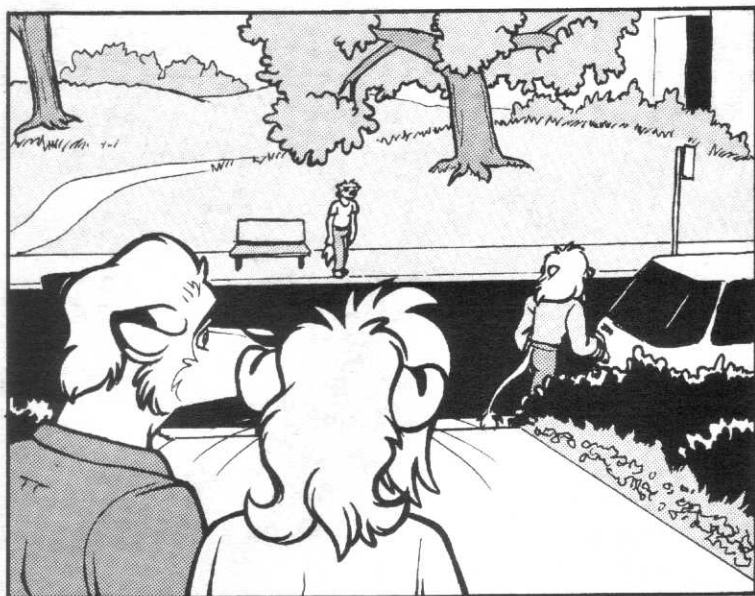












# What's Good For The Goose...

Story by Lance Rund  
Art by Chris McKinley













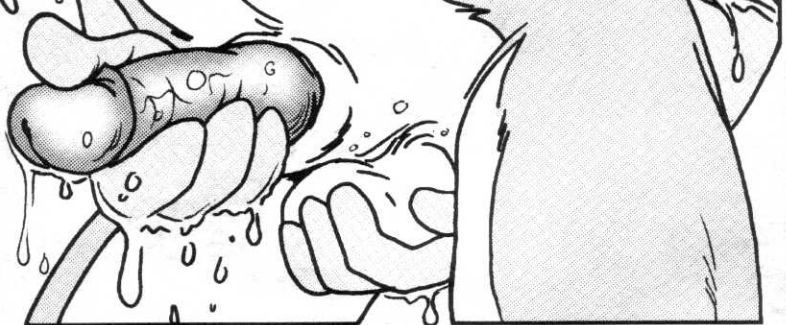




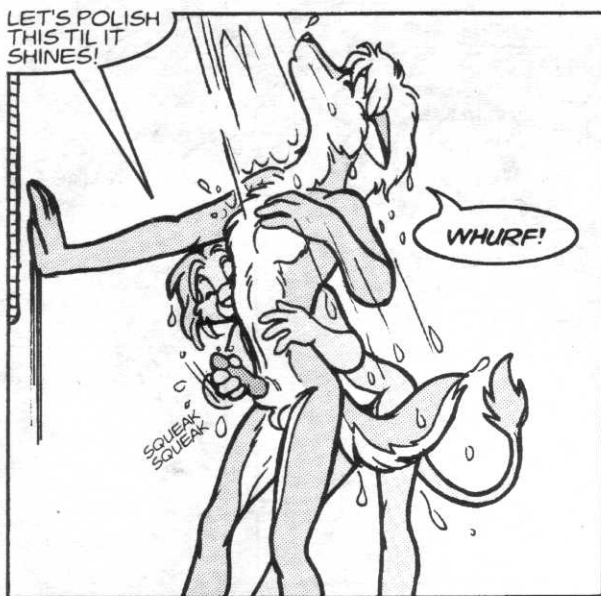


# Good Clean Fun

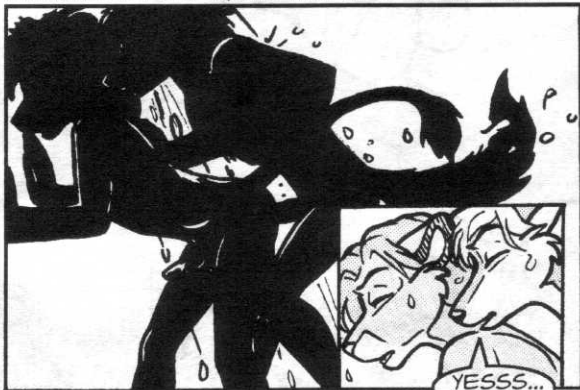
art by terrie smith  
story by lance rund



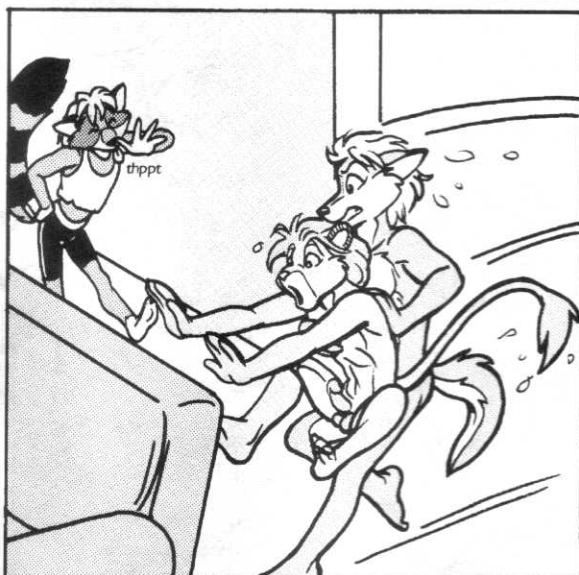




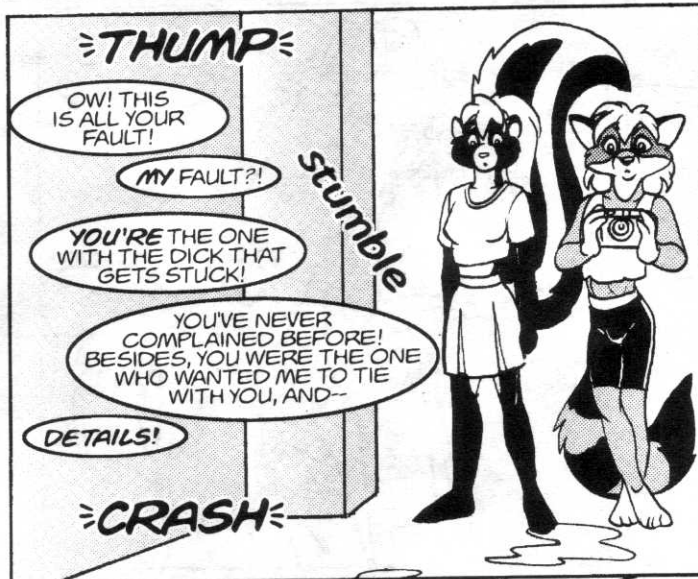
ASK DR. RICKY: "CANINE MALES HAVE A SWELLING ON THE BASE OF THEIR WEENIES THAT GETS BIG AND LOCKS THEM INSIDE THEIR PARTNERS... THAT'S WHY WOOFIES LIKE MARCUS GET STUCK, AND WHY THEY GOTTA HURRY!"











END.

Scot Zellman's "Buster Wilde" online comic is a work of genius. We are very lucky to have "Buster" appear here in *Associated Student Bodies*. Buster is a werewolf... a confused straight man by day, a gay werewolf by night.

How could we resist? —*Lance and Chris*





THAT WAS BOTH FUN  
AND HUMILIATING.

WHAT IS IT ABOUT THE POLICE  
THAT MAKES YOU JUST WANT TO  
EXPLAIN EVERY LITTLE THING?

I HAVE NO  
IDEA...

HAVE A  
GOOD NIGHT,  
OFFICERS!





# LETTERS FROM HOME

Dear Mom, College is great! My roommate is weird.  
Could you send me some money?

*Issue 6 stirred up some interesting mail. Amid curses for the cliffhanger (which wasn't our original intention, honest!), and a couple of "are you SURE priests like this really exist?" (yes, they do), we got a few like this, from David Rust:*

I managed to pick up Issue Number Six just prior to DucKon and it had more of a profound effect on me than I would have expected. I've shared my insights with friends both online and off since ASB #6's publication and I thought I'd share those same points here, now.

I found myself oddly compelled by the tragedy that Daniel was going through. In a way, I was envious of him. I've pondered this reaction in myself and have considered the possibility that I'm simply nuts. Rather, as it has been pointed out to me, part of it is that we -as gay and bisexual people- have come to expect blow-ups like those we have seen in ASB #6 and see them as the primary measuring sticks of our dedication to our lives on the fringe. After a fashion, we start to feel cheated if we don't get to play the tormented hero, struggling for our beliefs in the wake of familial, religious and societal homophobia.

From the first time we hear what homosexuality is, we all hear it in the context of the pain it causes and the persecution gay people face. But what happens when that persecution doesn't arrive? Why, when things go well for us, do some of us (at least myself), feel cheated or slighted for not having suffered the pain that we expect to justify our existence?

In my case, I eventually had to realize that it wasn't the confrontation I was lacking but ANY interest in my life from my family. And this was the other point I wanted to raise. How many comic book readers and fans feel marginalized and ignored by those they love and respect? How many wish that they would be taken seriously for their interests only to have them nodded at condescendingly and marginalized? For me, I think that was the other half of my feelings of being cheated at not having had such a "blow-up" with my own family. Not that I didn't get to play the role of the martyr (although I know that such a feeling was part of it), but also because -at this point- I would give anything for my parents to take notice of me and the accomplishments I've made in my life. Perhaps the story taught me more about myself than anything; and thank you for that...

Daniel faced a real outcome; one that is quite common for many young men and women. It was hard to read because I could see the pain that he was going through. On top of that, the introduction of the Priest was very well handled, and fit the pacing of the tale like a glove. I really hope he's right about Daniel's dad's motivations; I really do. But I fear he is not.

Many people act just like Daniel's father and -even with intervention from good people- never reconcile and continue to hurt their offspring through neglect. In a better world, homophobic outbursts could indeed be chalked up to a perceived generation gap, youthful rebellion or a son growing up outside of the control of his father ... I pray for a world where this is so instead of simple disgust and hatred. In the meantime, homophobia in the family is very real and causes more pain than anyone should have to bear. In Issue 6, you have shown that.

Thank you for dealing with it as you have.

*You're very welcome.*

*Writing the Daniel/Marcus/father argument and the priest's counseling scenes was very difficult. As Mr. Rust just mentioned, sometimes an unkind word is less of a hurt than no word at all - something that Daniel has suffered with all his life. Daniel's outburst against his father (and Marcus, who in some ways has assumed some of the duties Daniel's father neglected) had years of hurt all pent up behind it. When the dam broke, the flood was uncontrolled, and it left no heroes, villains, or martyrs in its wake... just destruction. Now it is time to rebuild.*

*And, from Ryvern McAllister...*

Dear Chris and Lance,

ASB is the only "comic book" that I've ever really gotten into. In fact, it's the only comic book I've had the interest to read more than a few pages of. There have been complaints of the story being to predictable. Why? Because it parallels real life so closely. I'm young, younger than your characters, but much like them, I've been dealing with the same things; prejudice and hate, family and friends, acceptance and love.

But this "comic", this story, this work of absolute fiction has helped me deal with my life, because it's one thing to tell a story and then hear someone say, "Oh, yeah. I've dealt with that." It's quite another to listen to a story and think the same thing. It's a much more solid way of knowing that someone's been here. Even more so when I know it's not tailored to me. It's aimed at a lot of people, and ASB seems to hit many in the same way it's hit me, close to home.

I didn't write this just to get my name in there, but I thought you should know.

*It worked though... here you are! Thank you. We didn't intend that ASB be "therapeutic" (that would be a supreme arrogance on our part), but the fact that ASB has been helpful to our readership, and felt "personal" to some of them, makes it all worth doing.*



**ASSOCIATED STUDENT BODIES P.O. BOX 1299 .  
CUPERTINO, CA 95014-1299**

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AN ARCLIGHT  
PRESS PRODUCTION

in all the world's lands  
or heaven's skies above  
no candy is as sweet  
as simple puppy-love.

