

ASSOCIATED STUDENT BODIES



BARON
ENGEL 00

ADULT READERS ONLY

ISSUE EIGHT • \$3.95

ASSOCIATED STUDENT BODIES

THIS IS IT!

What a trip it's been. Eight issues... and now we're **done**.

If we hadn't planned a beginning, a middle, and (most importantly) an ending, *Associated Student Bodies* would be just a soap opera. A fun one, perhaps, but not very satisfying. Without the satisfaction of doing a story, both of us would have gotten tired of doing this several issues ago. Having a goal, a point at which we can say "we've done what we set out to do", has made it possible to finish what we started.

So here we are. A bit burned out, at least for the moment, but it's behind us now. Time for a long-overdue vacation!

CREDIT WHERE CREDIT IS DUE

We want to also offer a special "Thank you" to a friend who wants to remain anonymous... let's call him "Disgruntled Fox Man" (you know who you are). His suggestion regarding... you **have** read the story all the way through, haven't you? ... regarding increasing Daniel's father's role in the last scene of "Endings and Beginnings" was the icing on the cake. Thank you, DFM.

BUT... NO MORE?

There will be more *Associated Student Bodies*. We can no more let these characters fade away than we can stop breathing. The nearest blip on our radar will be the *Associated Student Bodies Yearbook*, a "special" of short stories that will appear late in 2000. All of the Special's stories will be out-of-timeline; they could have happened almost any time during the main story. Beyond that, *Associated Student Bodies* stories will be showing up here and there in other publications (both from Arclight and hopefully other publishers). There will be a

"collected" *Associated Student Bodies* containing all eight issues; such a collection would also contain an original story or two. So don't despair!

SO WHAT'S THIS ABOUT OTHER ARCLIGHT TITLES?

We're considering doing a few other titles. Two would be "anthology" books (several short stories per issue, loosely related by theme), and a third would be a spinoff from *Associated Student Bodies*. These won't be along for a while, though!

THE MEMORY LINGERS ON, LIKE CIGAR SMOKE...

...on the Web. Where else?

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

And there's a little special something at:

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

AND SO...

...we ride off into the sunset. Thanks for coming along on the ride with us!

Lance Rund
Chris McKinley

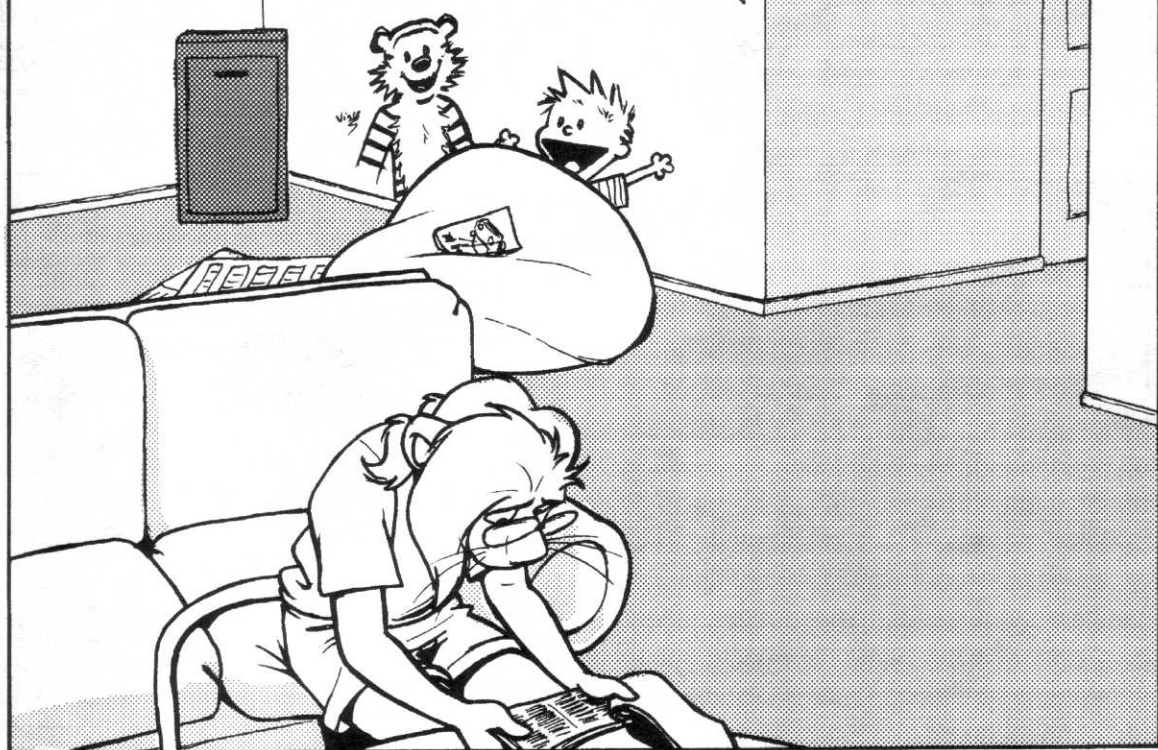
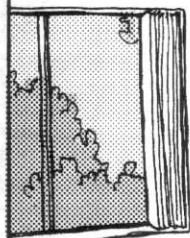
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THE SWORD OF DAMOCLES

STORY BY LANCE RUND
ART BY CHRIS MCKINLEY



STAIRS



WELL, MAYBE NOT ENTIRELY... A GIRL LION DROPPED THIS OFF FOR YOU THIS MORNING.



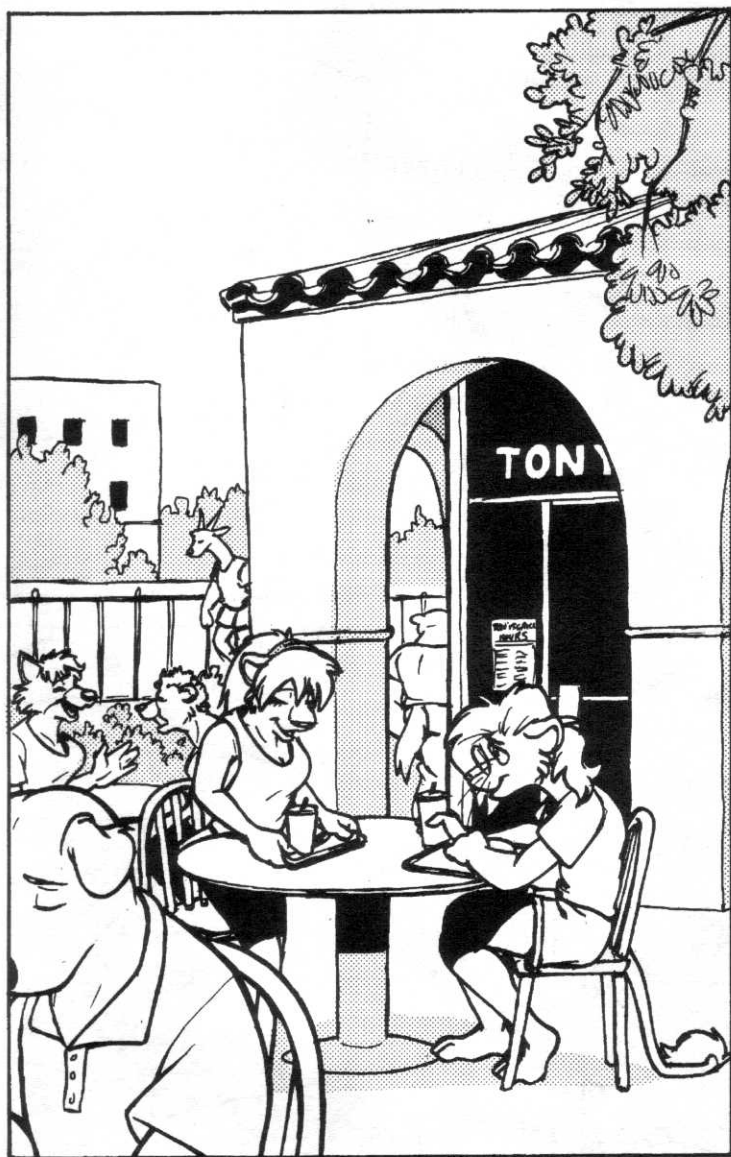


Daniel

I need to talk to
you about Marcus.

Can we meet for lunch
at Tony's? I'll bug!

- Allison



UM... NO MORE THAN USUAL.
WE'VE HAD SOME ROUGH TIMES
LATELY, THOUGH.

YEAH, I
HEARD.

WHY DO
YOU ASK?



THERE'S SOMETHING
WRONG.



I'M THE GRADING ASSISTANT
FOR PROFESSOR STERN'S "ECONOMICS
AND POLITICS" CLASS. IT'S REQUIRED FOR
POLY SCI MAJORS.

ISN'T MARCUS
IN THAT CLASS?



YEAH. HE DID REALLY
WELL IN THE FIRST FEW
WEEKS, BUT...

HE'S SLIPPING.

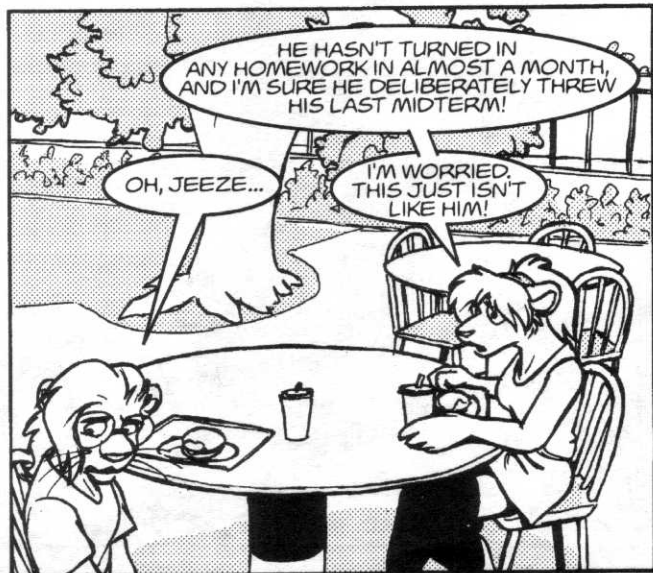
BUT?



HE HASN'T TURNED IN
ANY HOMEWORK IN ALMOST A MONTH,
AND I'M SURE HE DELIBERATELY THREW
HIS LAST MIDTERM!

OH, JEEZE...

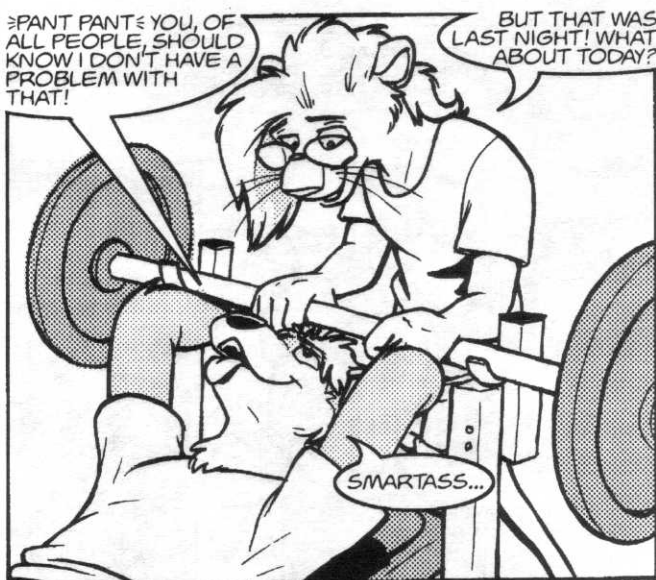
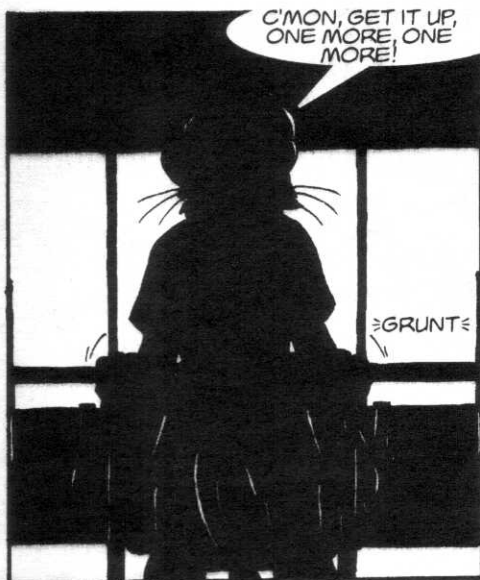
I'M WORRIED.
THIS JUST ISN'T
LIKE HIM!

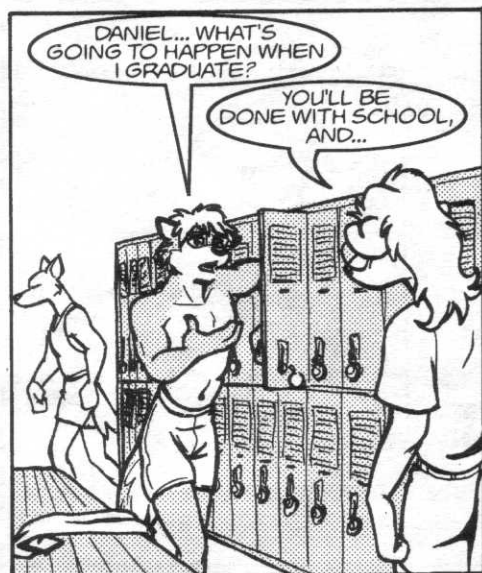
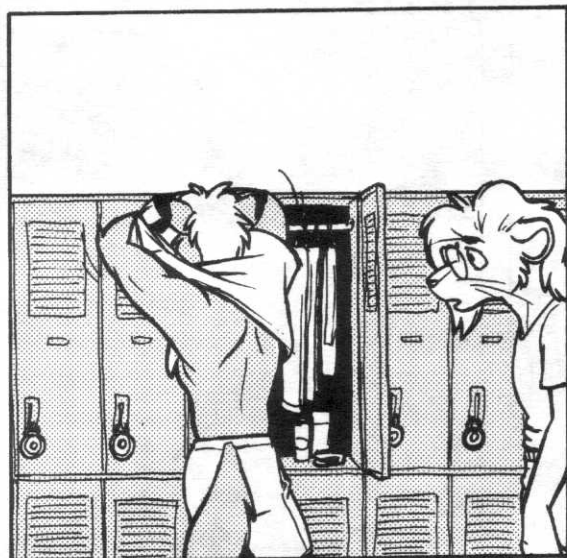


ALLISON, THIS
IS IMPORTANT. ARE
YOU SURE?

I'M SURE.







BUT I THOUGHT... WHY DIDN'T YOU SAY ANYTHING BEFORE?



I WAS TRYING FOR GRAD SCHOOL. WE COULD STAY TOGETHER IF I GOT IN.

THEY ACCEPTED MY APPLICATION. IT COSTS SO MUCH, THOUGH... I CAN'T MAKE IT.



I DIDN'T KNOW WHAT TO DO... THE ONLY THING I COULD THINK OF IS TO NOT GRADUATE!



YOU CAN'T DO THAT!

I'D DO ANYTHING TO STAY WITH YOU.



I'M NOT GOING TO LET YOU MESS UP YOUR LIFE JUST FOR ME!



PLEASE SHOW BEFORE ENTER
POOL ARE

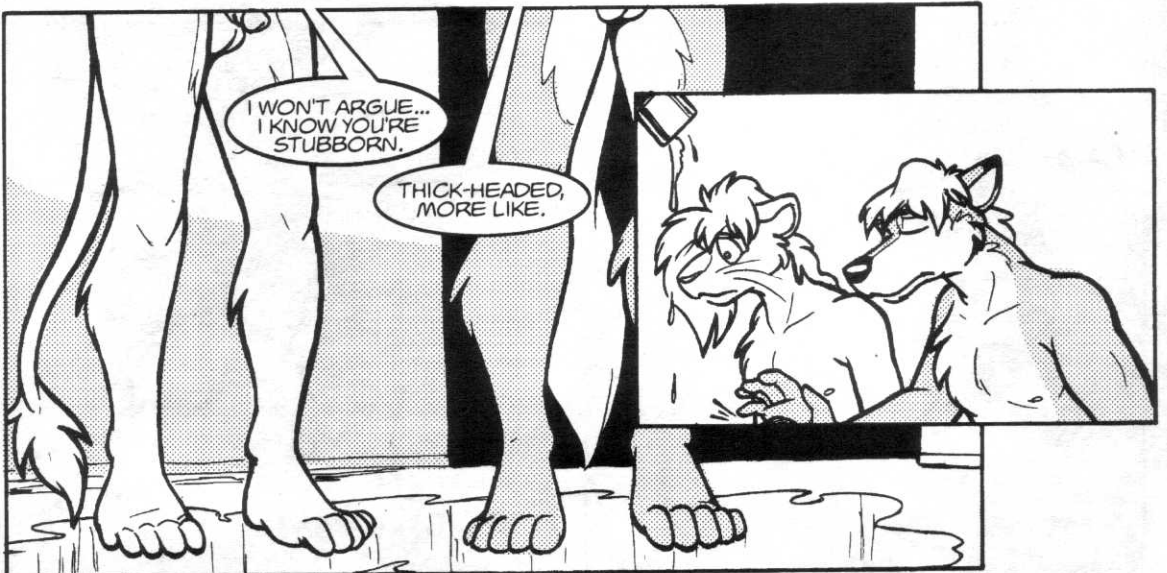
I MEAN IT.



THE PROBLEM IS MONEY. I JUST CAN'T AFFORD IT.

WHAT ABOUT FINANCIAL AID?





I'LL HAVE TO TAKE A YEAR
OFF TO GO OUT AND WORK...
EARN SOME MONEY FOR
GRAD SCHOOL.



WE COULD
LIVE OFF-CAMPUS...

OFF-CAMPUS HOUSING AROUND
HERE IS WAY TOO EXPENSIVE. IF
I STAYED, I COULDN'T SAVE
ANY MONEY.



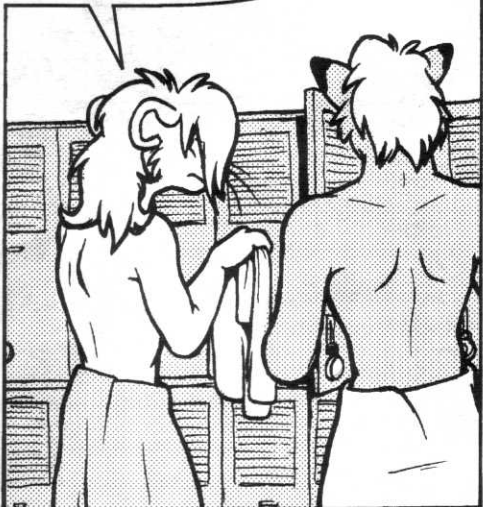
I'LL HAVE TO
MOVE AWAY.



I'LL WAIT
FOR YOU.

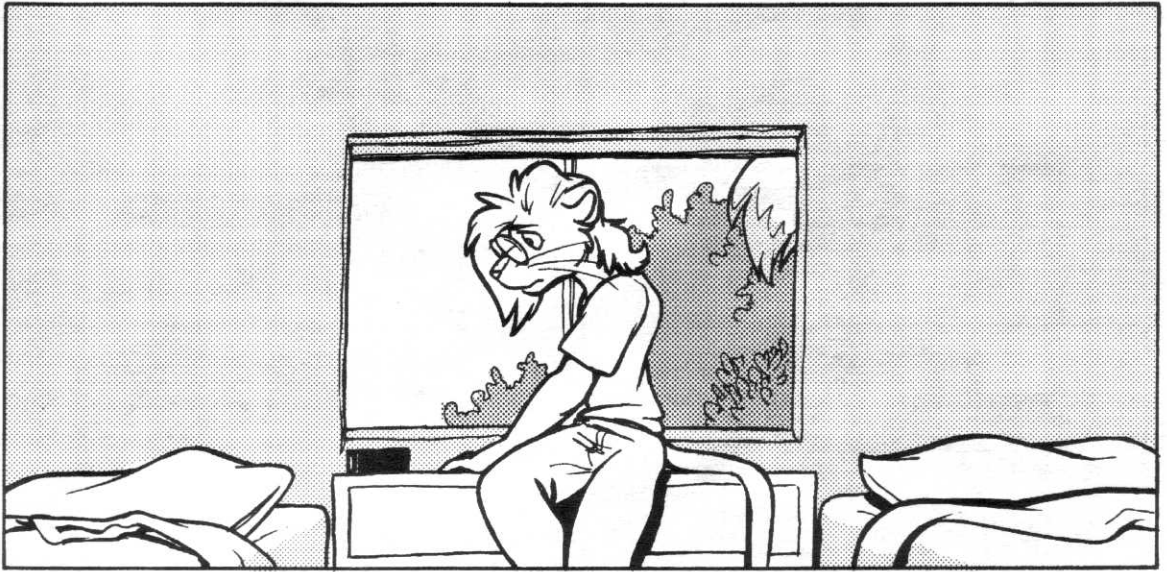


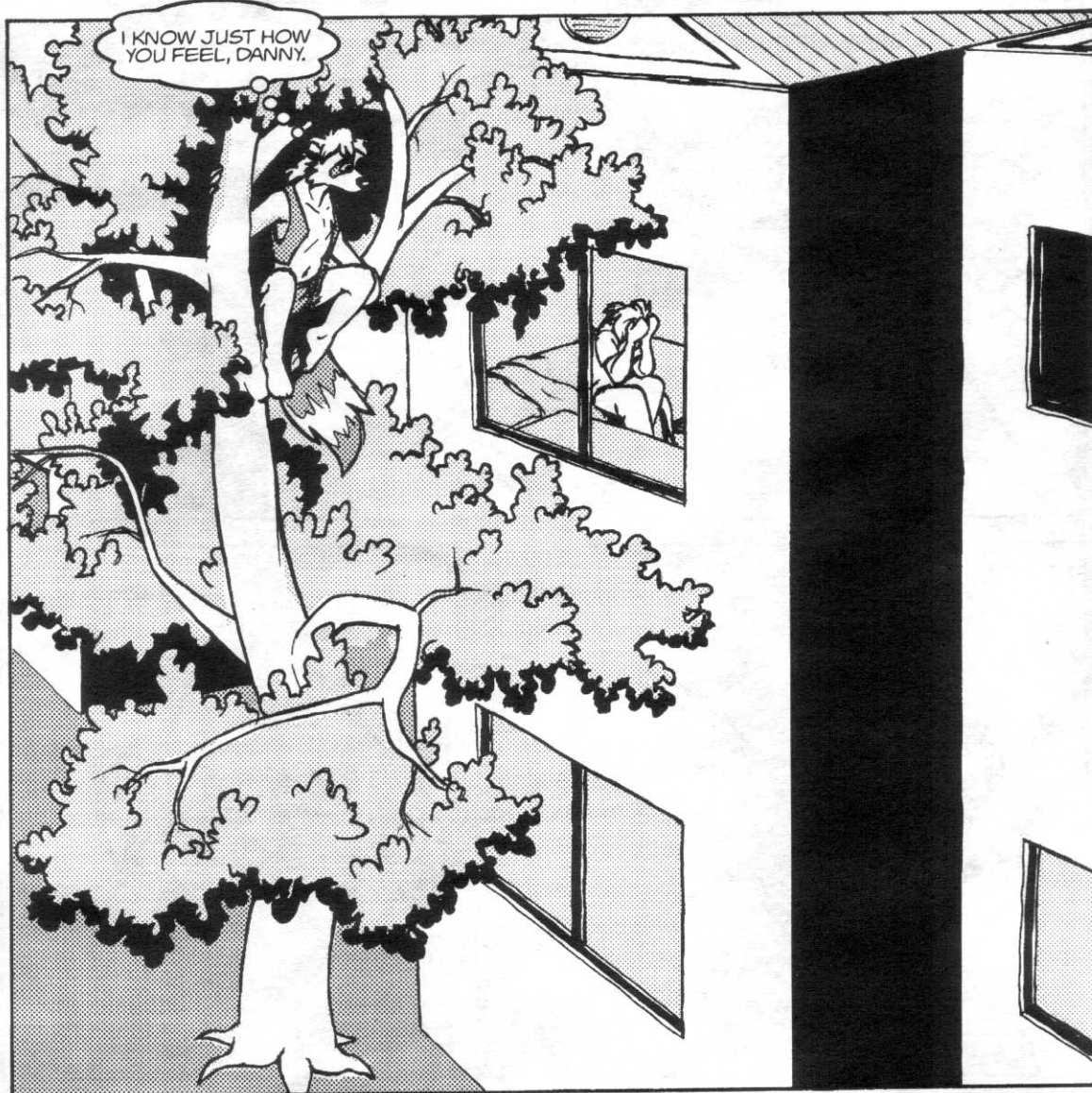
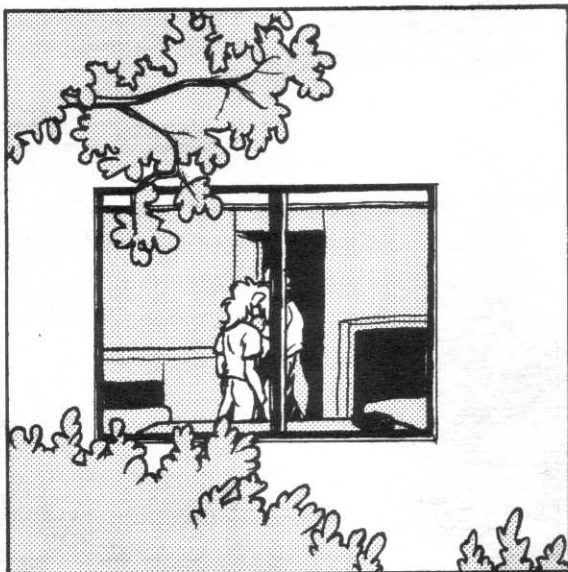
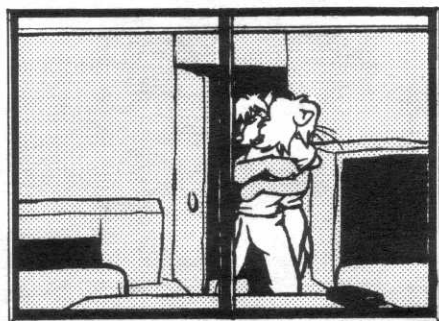
BUT THE FIRST THING
YOU'RE GOING TO DO IS
PASS THAT CLASS!

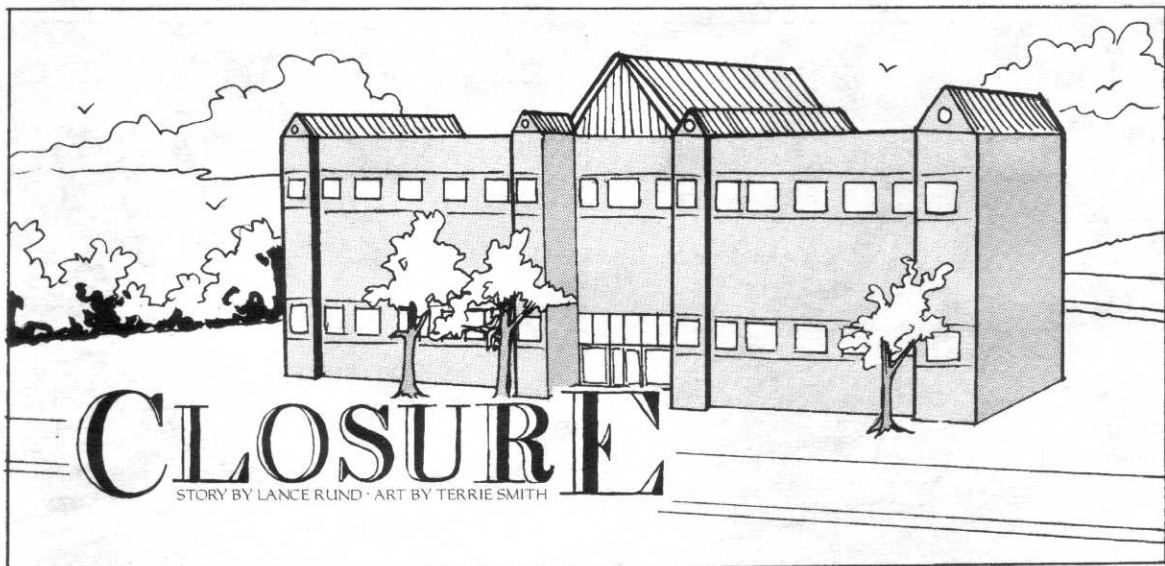


I CAN DO IT.









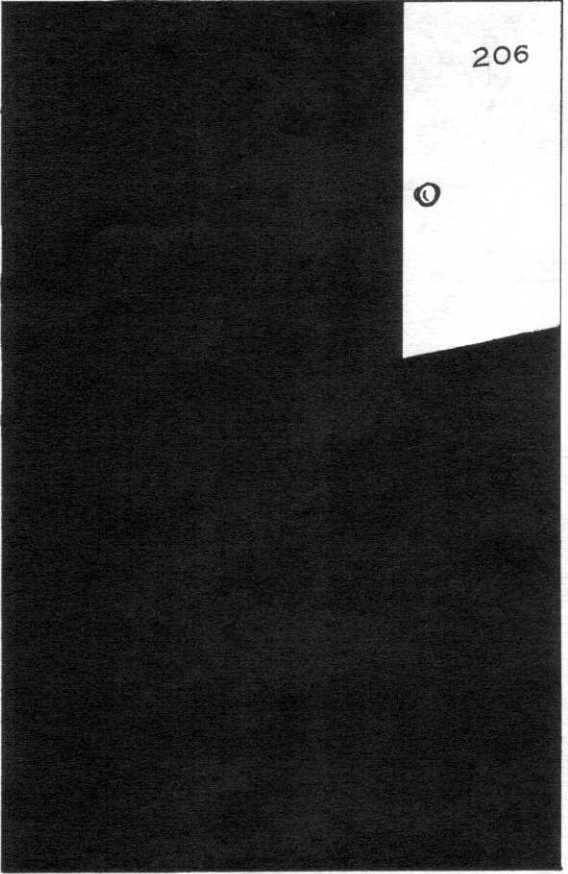
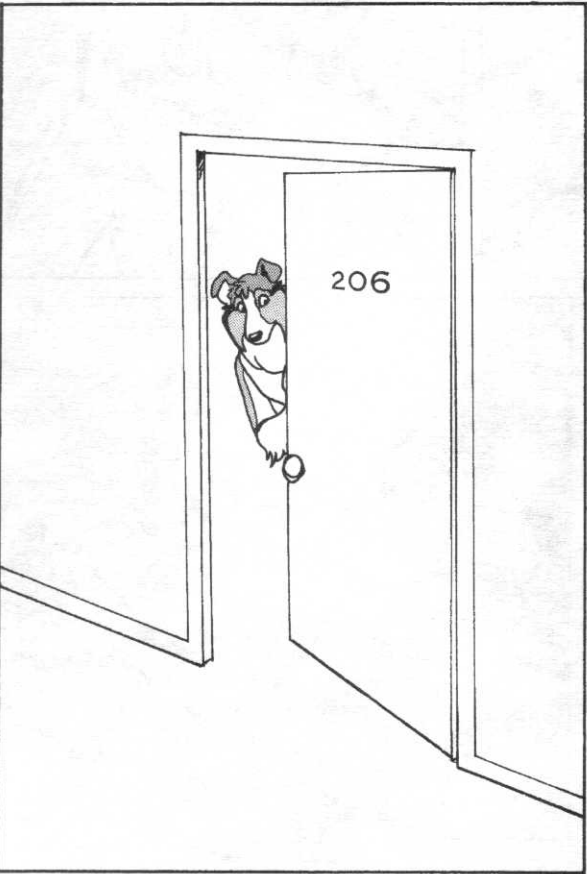


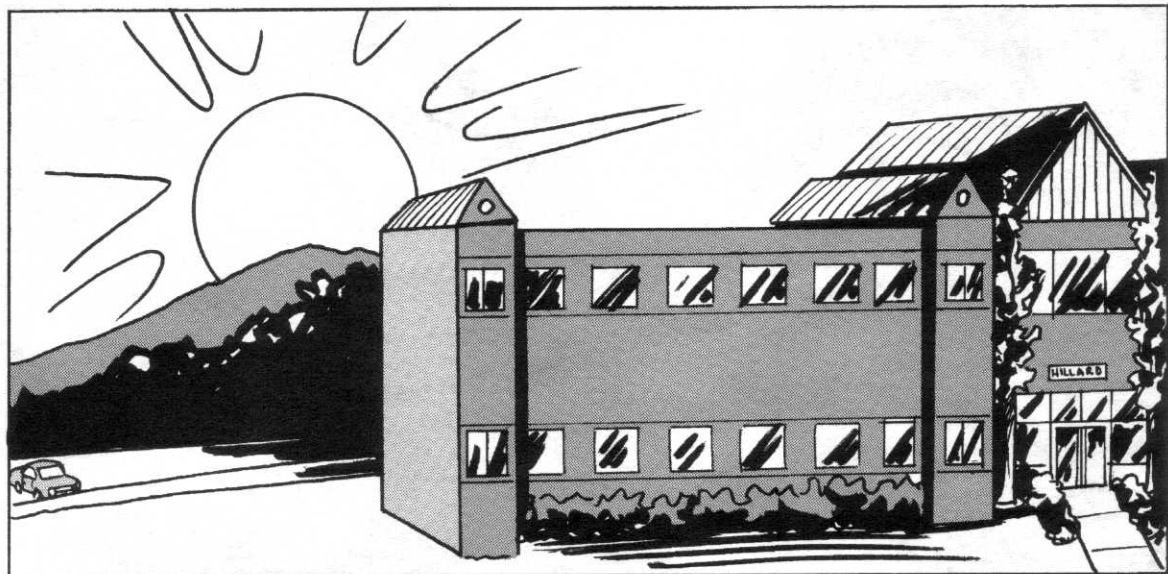












LAST NIGHT WAS THE BEST THING THAT EVER HAPPENED TO ME.

I'M GLAD YOU WEREN'T DISAPPOINTED.



DID YOU HAVE A GOOD TIME?

UH HUH... YOU'RE REALLY GOOD AT WHAT YOU DO!

THAT'S CAUSE I PRACTICE ALL THE TIME!



SO, UHM... ARE YOU GONNA WANT TO DO THIS AGAIN?

IT WAS WONDERFUL, BUT... NO.



I'M STRAIGHT... I KNOW THAT NOW. BUT, THANKS TO YOU, IT'S A CHOICE, NOT JUST SOMETHING I RAN TO BECAUSE I WAS AFRAID. YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE I COULD HAVE EVER TRIED THIS WITH.



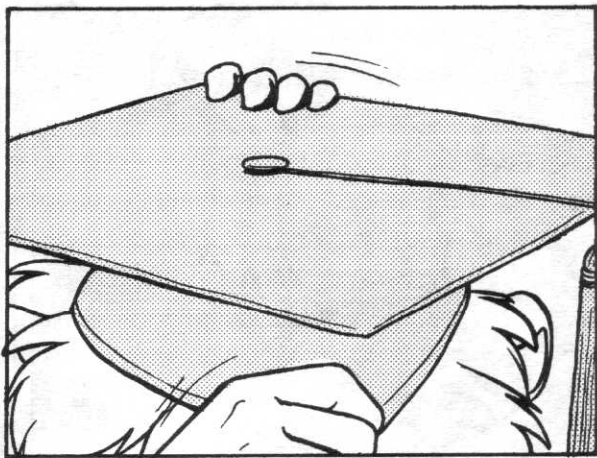
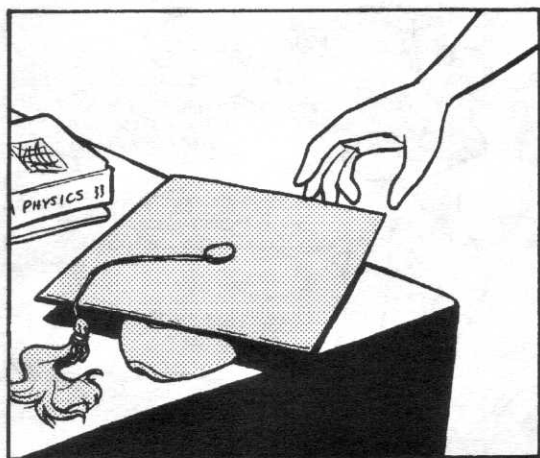
ARE YOU OKAY WITH THAT...?

I'VE HAD MY MOMENT WITH YOU. IT'S ENOUGH.



I'LL ALWAYS LOVE YOU... I'LL NEVER FORGET YOU.

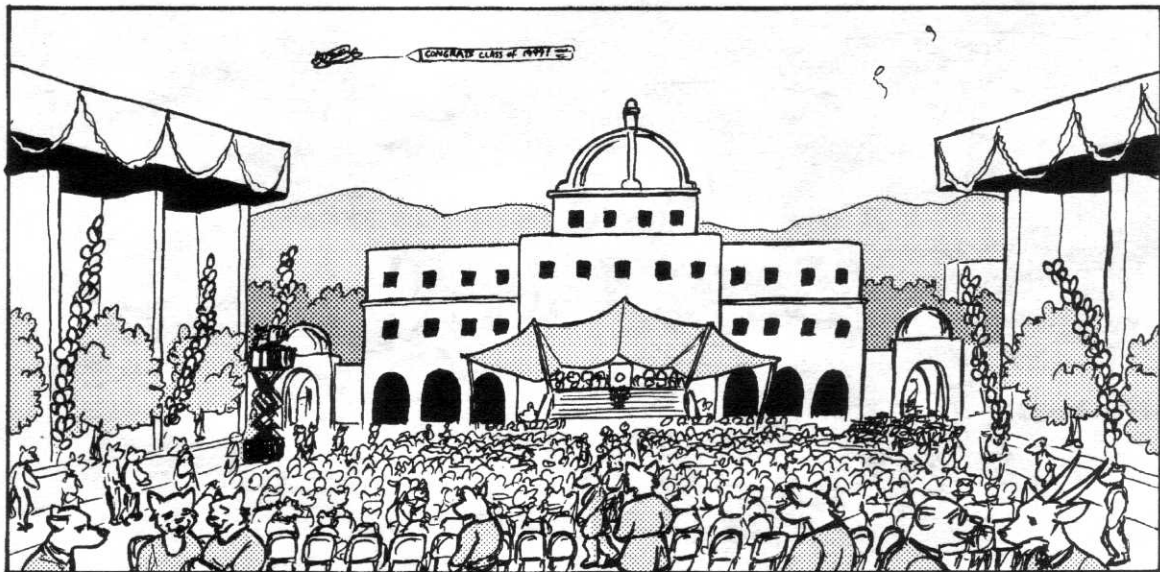




Pomp and Circumstance

story by Lance Rund - art by Chris McKinley





...SO WE'LL BE MOVING TO HAWAII AT THE END OF THE MONTH. I'LL BE WORKING ON THE BIG TELESCOPES THERE.



...AND I GOT A JOB OFFER AT TH' COMMUNITY COLLEGE THERE. I'M GONNA BE A COACH!

I'M SO GLAD YOU CAN STAY TOGETHER. YOU MAKE SUCH A PERFECT COUPLE!

AND RICK WILL HAVE SOMEONE TO KEEP HIM OUT OF TROUBLE.



THAT'S A FULL-TIME JOB!

WE HAVE FULL CONFIDENCE.

WHAT IS THIS, A CONSPIRACY?

THE SNEAKIEST!



EEP! GOTTA GO...

ME TOO, THERE'S MY FOLKS...





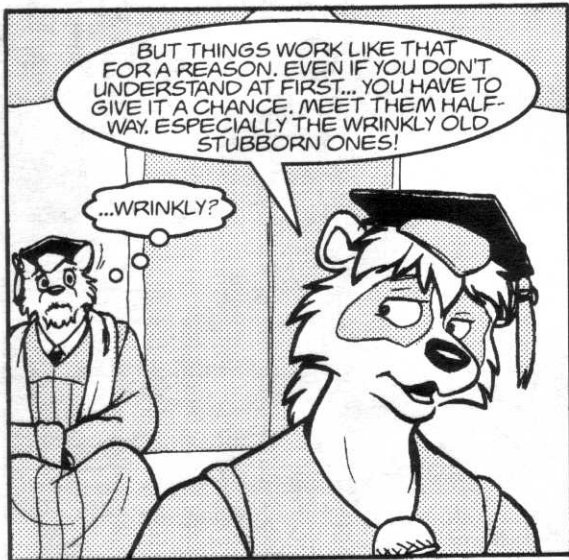


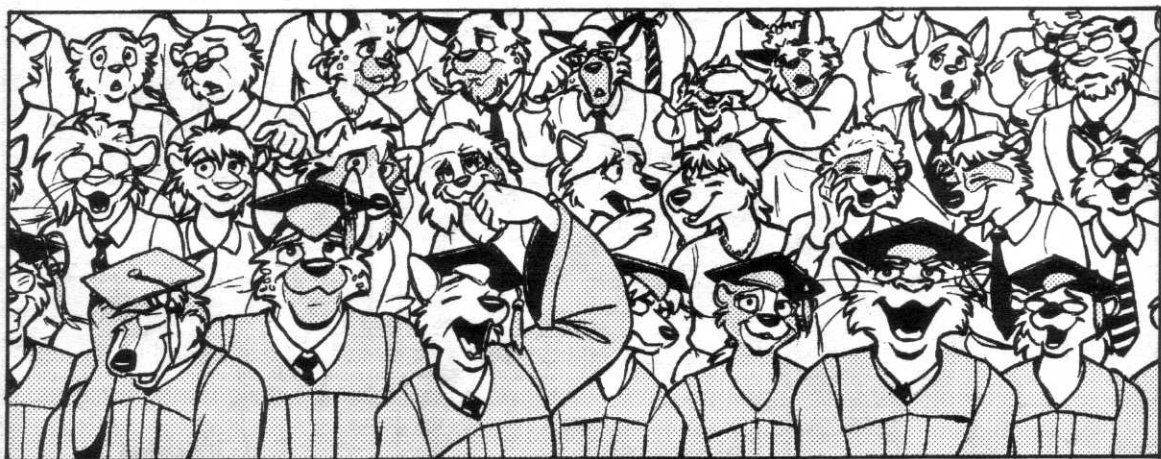


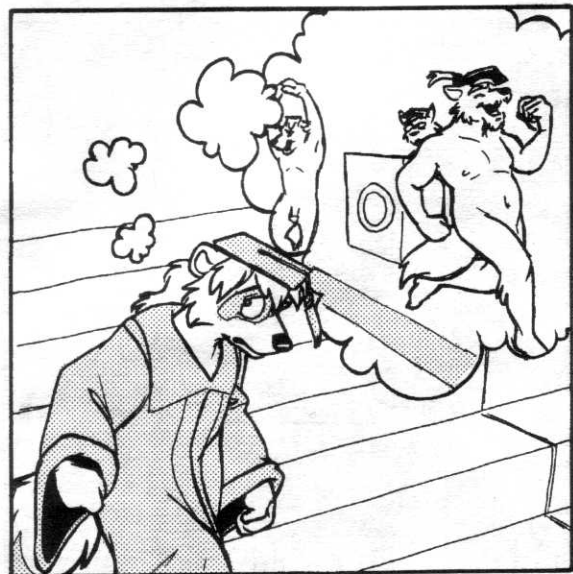
THIS YEAR'S VALEDICTORIAN IS NO EXCEPTION. HE HAS SOMEHOW MAINTAINED A PERFECT 'A' GRADE RECORD IN TWO DEMANDING MAJORS SIMULTANEOUSLY... ASTRONOMY AND PHYSICS. HE HAS THE DISCOVERY OF TWO COMETS AND SEVERAL ASTEROIDS TO HIS CREDIT, AND HAS EARNED A REPUTATION FOR FLAMBOYANCE, GENEROSITY, AND SELFLESSNESS.





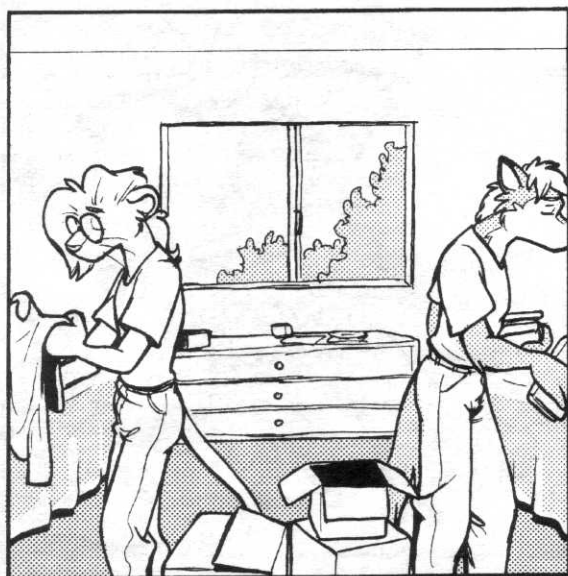
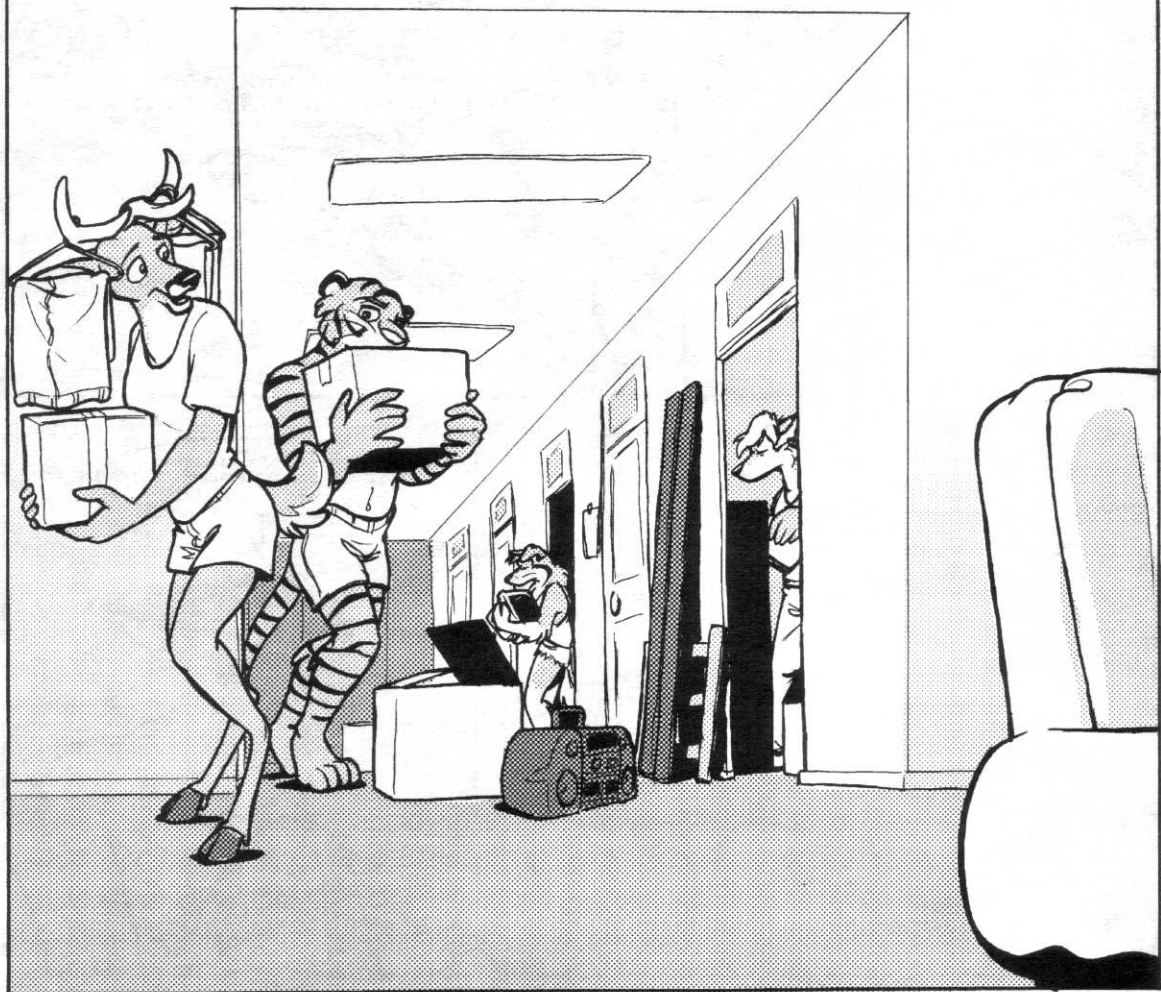






ENDINGS AND BEGINNINGS

STORY BY LANCE RUND — ART BY CHRIS MCKINLEY







I'D LIKE TO INTRODUCE YOU TO A FRIEND OF MINE. THIS IS JASON STERN... HE IS THE DEAN OF POLITICAL SCIENCE HERE.



PROFESSOR STERN...?

HELLO THERE, PLEASED TO MEET YOU.

WE WERE CLASSMATES WHEN I WAS AT LELAND.



JASON, THIS IS MY SON, DANIEL.

UM, HI...



I THINK YOU ALREADY KNOW MASTER PAXTEN.



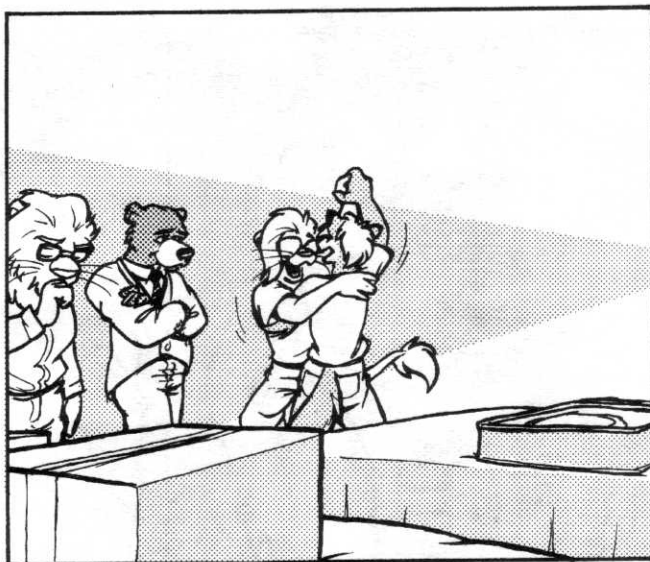
I WANTED TO TALK TO YOU ABOUT YOUR APPLICATION TO GRAD SCHOOL.

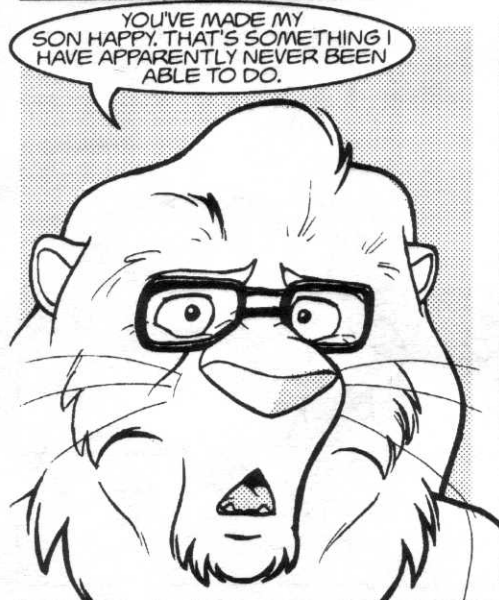
THERE'S NOTHING TO TALK ABOUT. I WITHDREW MY APPLICATION LAST WEEK. I CAN'T AFFORD IT.



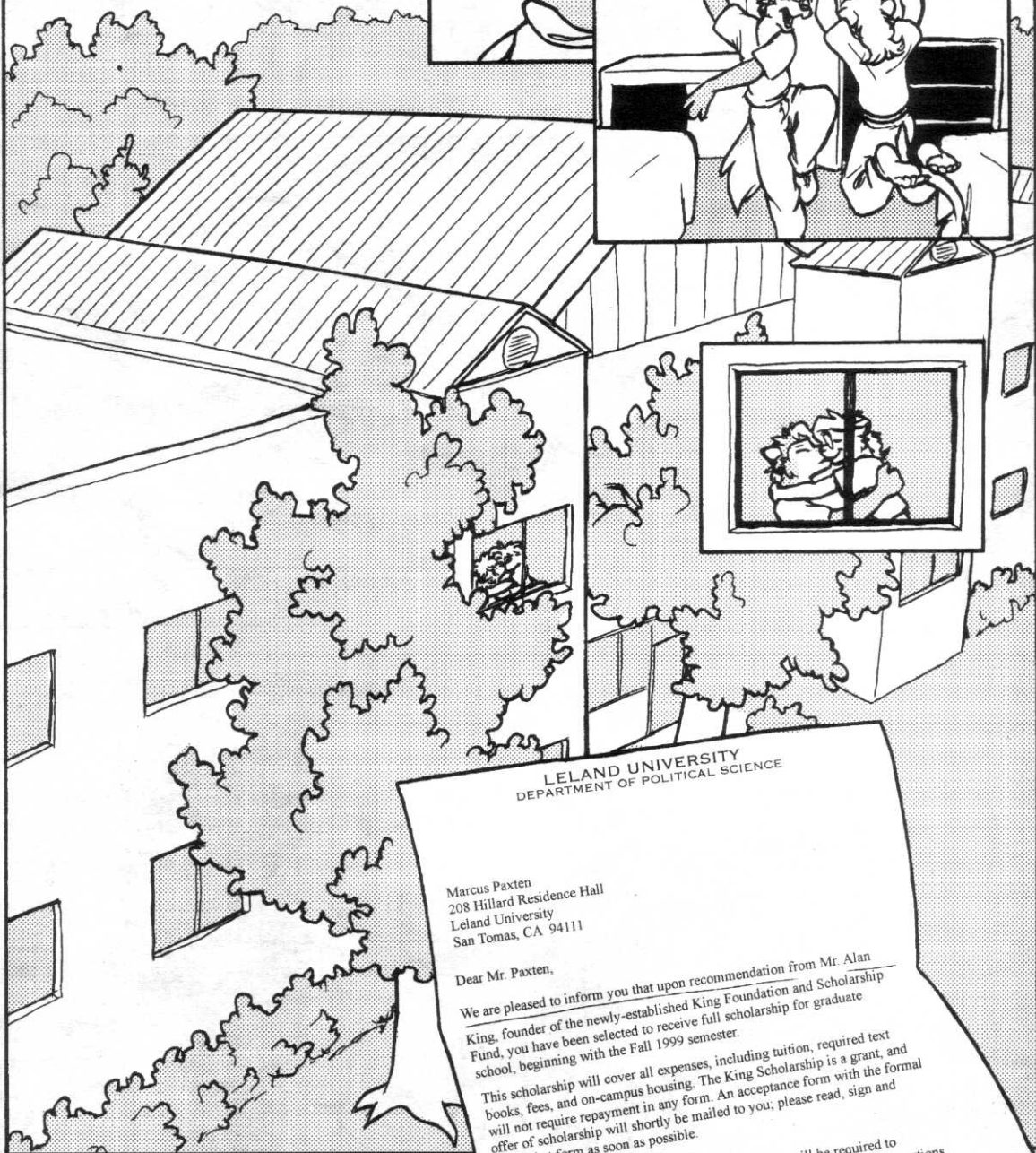
YES, WELL, SOMEHOW I MISPLACED YOUR WITHDRAWAL. SHAME ABOUT THAT.

YOU MIGHT WANT TO READ THIS.









LELAND UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE

Marcus Paxten
208 Hillard Residence Hall
Leland University
San Tomas, CA 94111

Dear Mr. Paxten,

We are pleased to inform you that upon recommendation from Mr. Alan King, founder of the newly-established King Foundation and Scholarship Fund, you have been selected to receive full scholarship for graduate school, beginning with the Fall 1999 semester.

This scholarship will cover all expenses, including tuition, required text books, fees, and on-campus housing. The King Scholarship is a grant, and will not require repayment in any form. An acceptance form with the formal offer of scholarship will shortly be mailed to you; please read, sign and return that form as soon as possible.

A grade-point average of at least 2.0 will be required to
Please contact us if you have any questions

LETTERS FROM HOME

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

There were quite a few interesting comments on issue 7. To our surprise, as many of these comments were directed towards the Ricky/Tina story as the main story... we're not sure what that means. We'll just take the safe way out and assume that this was because the main story, "Le Roi Es Morte", was clear and concise. It's good to be the editor!

An example of such comments, taken from the electronic mailing list, the first from Kacerdias:

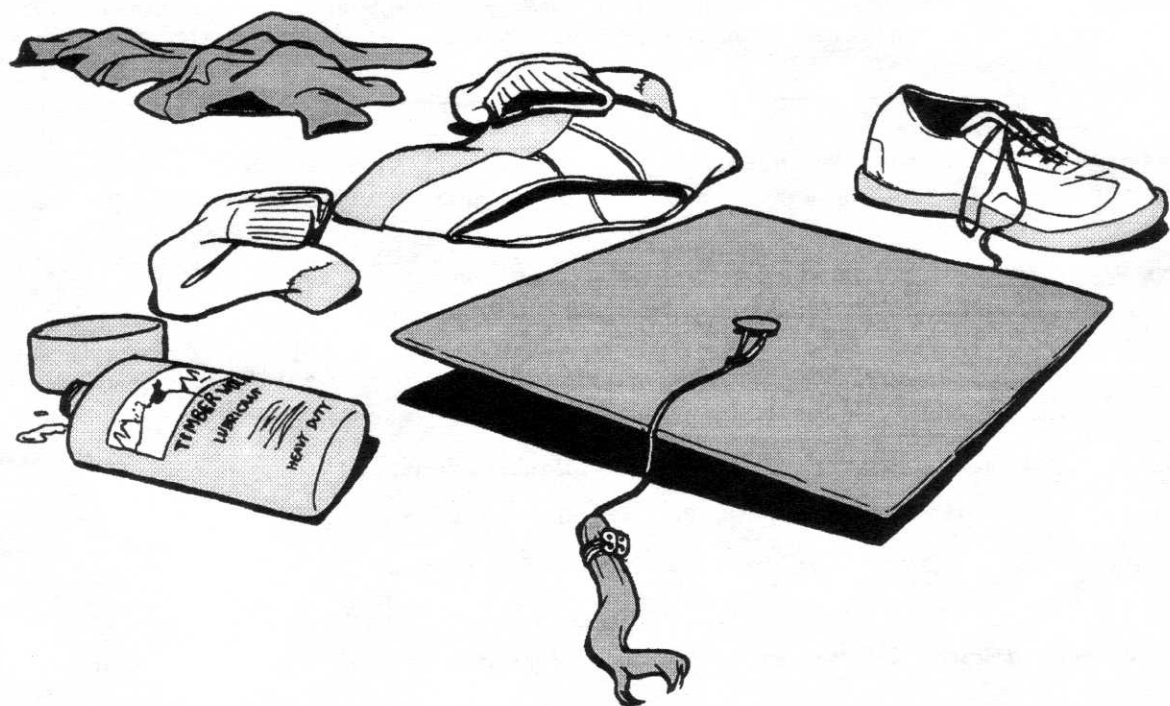
What really struck me wasn't the main story at all although it was marvelously rendered and executed. Jeez, I never knew just how dynamic Tina and Ricky could be! I think it's great that Tina was so up front about what she wanted and Ricky was more open minded than I would have expected. Wonderful chemistry there. I'm glad that both of them decided to shake up roles a bit. Makes you wonder just where the boundaries of sexuality lie if indeed there are any lines.

Only where each of us draw them.

And from Tir:

Seriously, though... I found myself feeling sad for Tina. (Shut up, that's not what I mean...) When you think about it, between her schoolwork and her duties, she *wouldn't* have much of a social life, would she? And here she is, surrounded by attractive males, and the only one who'd even be likely to be attracted to her - isn't. (Is Steven just a one-girlfriend-at-a-time kinda guy? Is she not his type? Or is it the other way around?) We know she's awfully fond of Ricky, and they seem to click (perhaps because in many ways they're quite similar personality-wise) and yet she has to *beg* to get him to think of her as something other than a friend.

Isn't friendship the best basis for lovers? A situation where you wake up next to your friend (whatever the gender mix) and ask "Hey, did we do what I think we just did?" "I dunno... let's do it again to find out!"



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

All letters of comment become the property of the publishers of Associated Student Bodies. Give 'til it hurts!

LETTERS FROM HOMIE

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

And from Tir again, this time on the subject of Roz Gibson's work in the story "Poetic Injustice":

I have to say that I'm very impressed by this one. The main story flowed excellently, and the backups were incredible. I love Roz Gibson's comics (mmm, black cherries...) and her style went well with the theme. Lance's writing skills truly stand out in Gerald's poetry. I have a question on a reference in there though.. the beaked creatures seem strangely familiar, I know I've seen them before, any idea where? Also, the story with Tina and Ricky took me totally off guard, but it makes a lot of sense. Ricky is the one there closest to Tina, as least from my perspective, and I thought it was very well drawn, especially the closeup of Tina (pg. 22). [Aiee! Evil cutesy-eyes! -Lance] And to finally get a glimpse of the relationship between Steven and Ricky on a normal basis rather than the topic of attention was nice. Really great job guys, I think this is the best one yet, and I'm looking forward to ASB 8.

Your wait is over!

The bird-guys are taken from some of the odd rituals that arose during the Black Plague in the mid-14th century (the one that killed half of Europe). People would dress up in costumes like that as part of rituals to try to fight the plague. Roz chose that particular imagery herself (the script called for demonic figures, but wasn't specific).

We were very, very surprised to get good feedback on the freeform poetry (yes, it's original, written for that story). Goth poetry is not something we have a good feeling for... but

As we've seen, there is a genuine connection between Ricky and Steven. It may have started as infatuation, but it is much more than that, and transcends (but still includes) the sexual tension.

Don't stop sending those letters! We have a couple of Specials coming up (on no particular date), and as always, your comments will have a home. Our current roster of guest artists include Asbryn, Kundalini, Nobubiko Abe (Karabiner), Chris Sawyer, Dusty Rhoades, Carolina Cougar and others.

We'd also like to point you folks to the websites of some of our contributors:

Terrie Smith: <http://members.aol.com/ampersprodx/littlepaw.html>

Frank Gembeck: http://www.FurNation.com/Frank_Gembeck/

Baron Engel: <http://www.backbreaker.com/anthro/>

Wookie/Nakira: <http://www.FurNation.com/Nakira/>

Ferris: <http://www.FurNation.com/Ferris/>

Visit 'em! Buy their stuff! Shake their hands at conventions! They're just the kind of people a project like this can't do without.

And now, for a long-overdue vacation. IT'S DONE IT'S DONE IT'S DONE!

--Lance and Chris

THE ASB CREW



CHRIS MCKINLEY • BARON ENGEL • TERRIE SMITH • LANCE RUND

...AND A VERY
TIRED MAC.

HILLARD EAST

1998 - 1999



Chris M. 99
colour by [signature] 00

TIMOTHY MONTGOMERY	DAVID MEARS	CLETIS "TINY" MORTON	MARCUS PAXTEN	STEVEN PARIS	RICHARD SEBASTIAN	GERALD ANTON
VINCENT DONNEMAN	DANIEL KING	THOMAS CAREY	ALEXANDER INFANTINO	TINA DEVEREAUX		NIGEL CHURCHILL