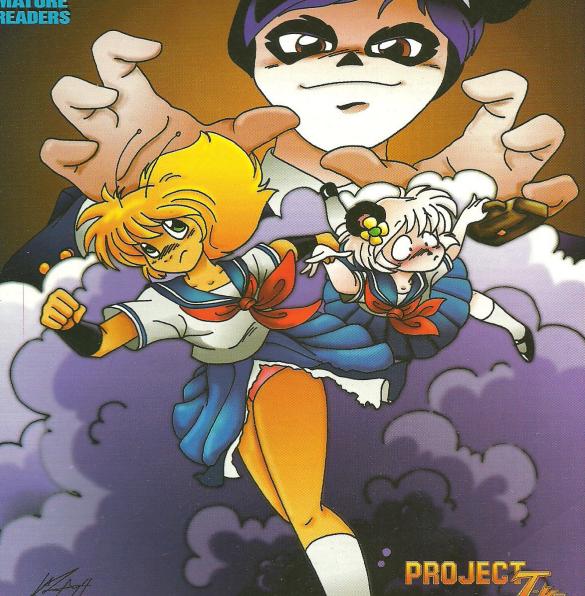


# THE PANDA

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# ANTARCTICS / STA

MEDICAL RECORDS by JOE DUNN, M. I.

en years ago the world was a different place. A republican was occupying the White House, REVENGE OF THE NERDS was in the theaters, and the dollar was worth a lot more. The comic industry was also a different place. The face of the comics industry was changed by direct sales and the black and white glut. Why all the nostalgia all of a sudden? Well, ten years ago, Antarctic Press first started publishing.

Ten years ago Antarctic Press was a different place. The office was a converted carport and storage room. Our first computer was a \$2500 super computer called a Macintosh Plus. The first employee made \$50 a month. The first comic was made entirely from newsprint, cover and all. Ahh, the good old days. Things have certainly changed since then. We survived the gluts, the speculations, and the bankruptcies other companies seemed to fall prey to all too often. I could keep on talking about the past and what we did that allowed us to persevere, but I believe our actions speak louder than any words.

Instead, let's talk about the future. What do I see in the future?

At Antarctic Press I see an ever-growing company, striving for alternatives and seeking diversity. I see more recognition and acceptance from the fan press. I see improving quality and higher standards. I see better relations with our fans and retailers. Of course, I predicted the same things ten years ago and will predict the same thing ten years from now. If we do not continue to fulfill those prophecies, we will have failed as a company.

In the comics industry I see continued flux. The industry is still ill-defined and will

require time to feel itself out. The industry will continue to downsize to a few companies publishing a variety of works and expand to a hundred creator-owned companies, each publishing its one title once every month or two. I predict the continued exploitation of the finite comic book dollar where demand for one comic will cause the failure of another. The industry has for the most part failed to get more readers into the market. How many times have you seen a movie or driven a car or eaten at a restaurant that you fell in love with and recommended to a friend? Can the same thing be said about the comic book industry? How many times do you see people around a water cooler talk about how innovative, creative or thoughtprovoking a comic book was? Within the industry we talk among ourselves, patting ourselves on the back and handing out meaningless awards to each other showing how good we are. How many people outside the industry have heard of the Harvey, the Eisner, or a CBG award?

Is the industry an entertainment medium? If so, we have failed to show the same success and progress as music, movies, books and television. Is the industry a commodity, where you can make a quick buck? I don't think comics will replace gold or stocks or frozen concentrated orange juice as a viable commodity, and the speculation glut of the past certainly proves it. So where do we end up? My statements are not meant to insult the industry, for without it this company would not exist, but to show that my predictions are based on cold reality.

I wish I could predict what will happen in the world. I know that the republicans are in power, crime is getting worse, and I pay too much in taxes. All I can hope is that there won't be another REVENGE OF THE NERDS movie.

—Joe Dunn

### HEY! WHO'S THIS "FRED PERRY" THAT'S DOIN' NHS!?!?

by mpc

That's right, the indomitable Fred Perry will be taking over *Ninja High School* for the next two issues (# 44 and 45). This frees Ben Dunn to work on his latest creation, *Warrior Nun Areala*, a full computer-color comic.

But just who is Fred Perry? Well, if you've been following Antarctic Press with any regularity, you know that Fred Perry is the creator/artist of *Gold Digger*, one of AP's coolest and most popular comic books. Fred's not only one of the nicest guys in comics, but he's also one of Antarctic Press' fastest artists. What's his secret? We really don't know, but if we found out we would all be rich!

Let's welcome Fred to NHS!



Fred Perry in a recent photograph taken at a comic book store signing right here in San Antonio, Texas. By the time the photographer focused and his flash went off, Fred had finished the sketch he started and six pages of Gold Digger.

His last comment was... "Ahl be Baaack."

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Ninja High School #44 (Fred Perry) Private Beach #1 (David Hahn)

☐ Mangazine #37 (in color!)☐ F III Bandit #1 (Ippongi Bang)

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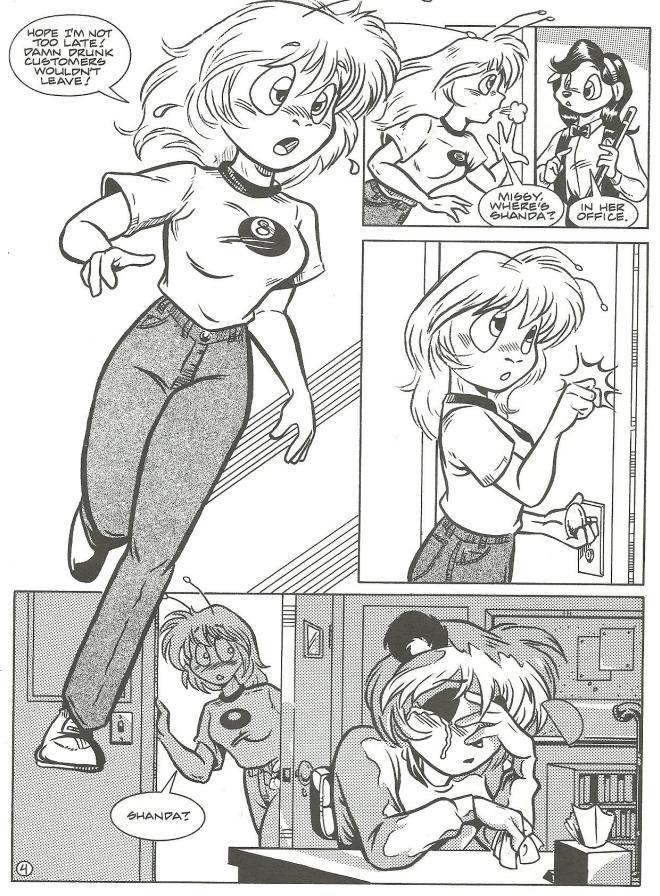


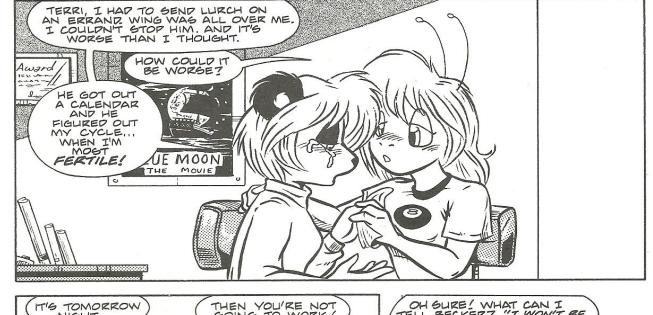










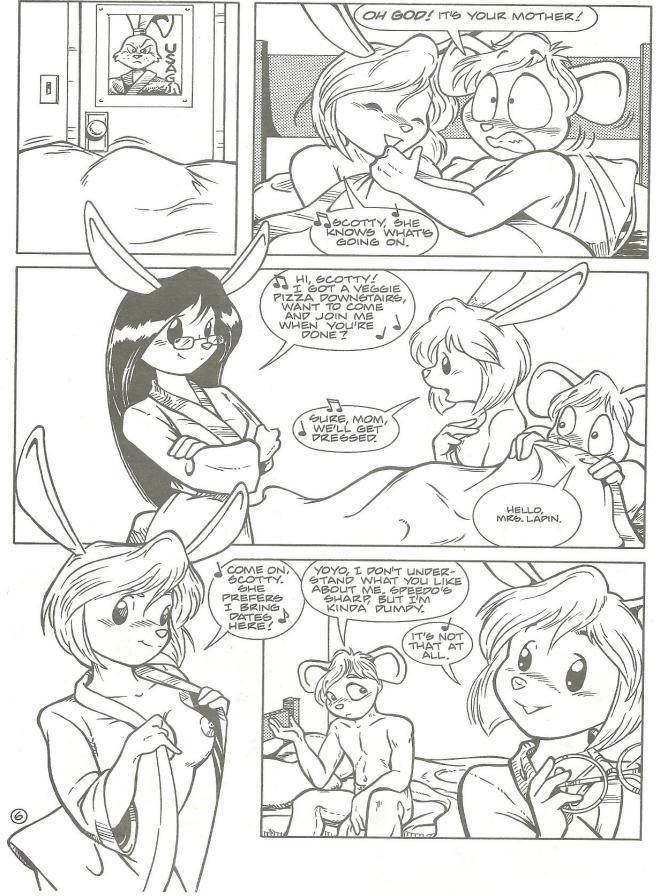






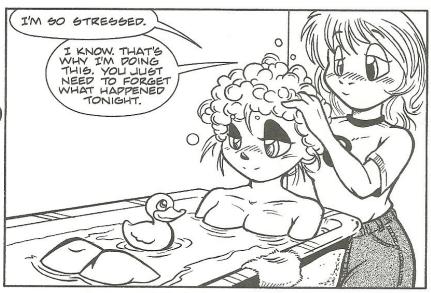












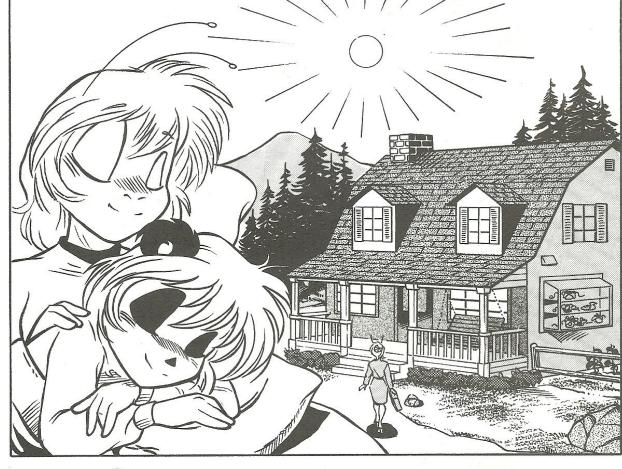




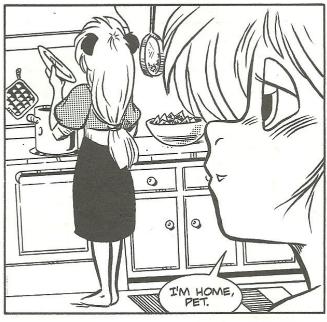


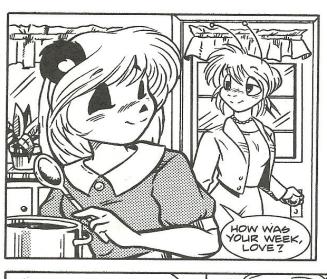


Shamilar Dhream



















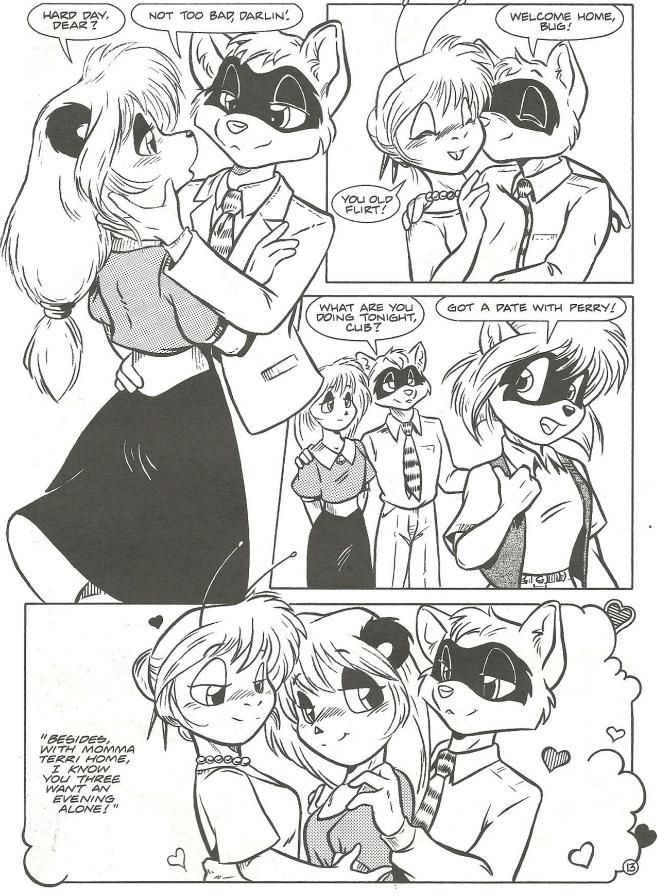


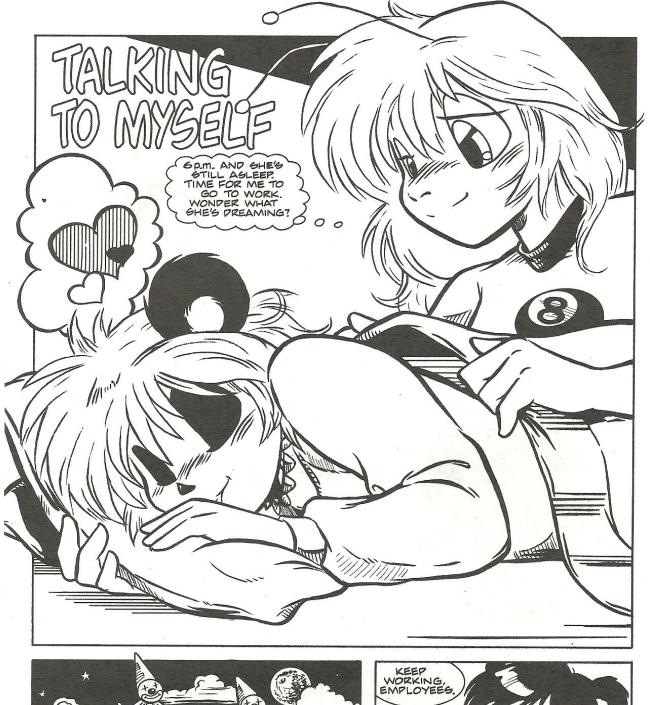
























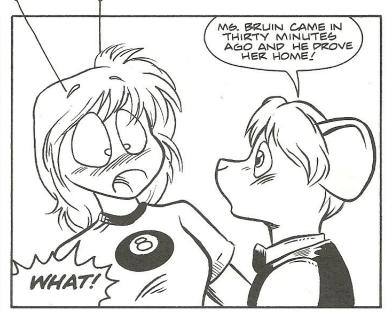














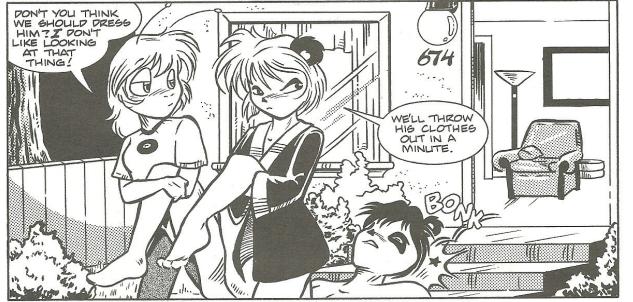




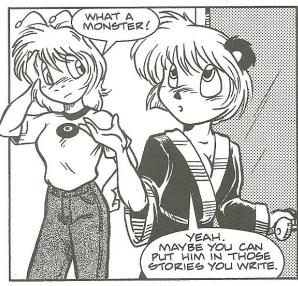










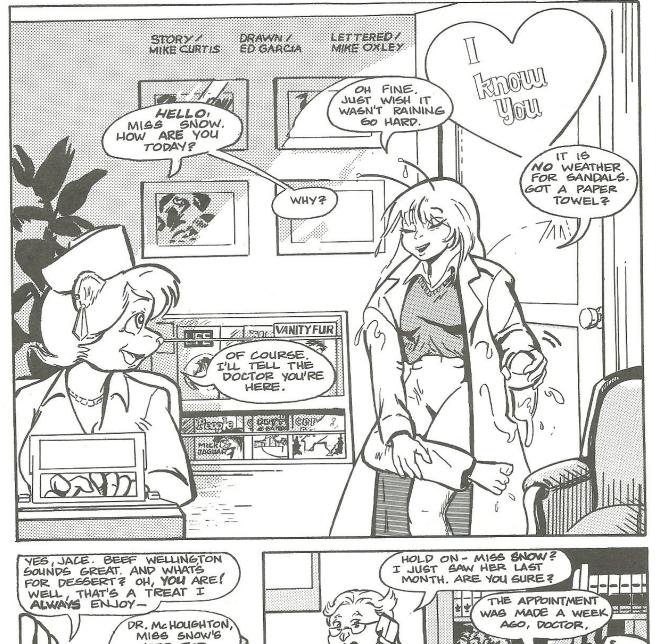




## SHANDA FAN ART

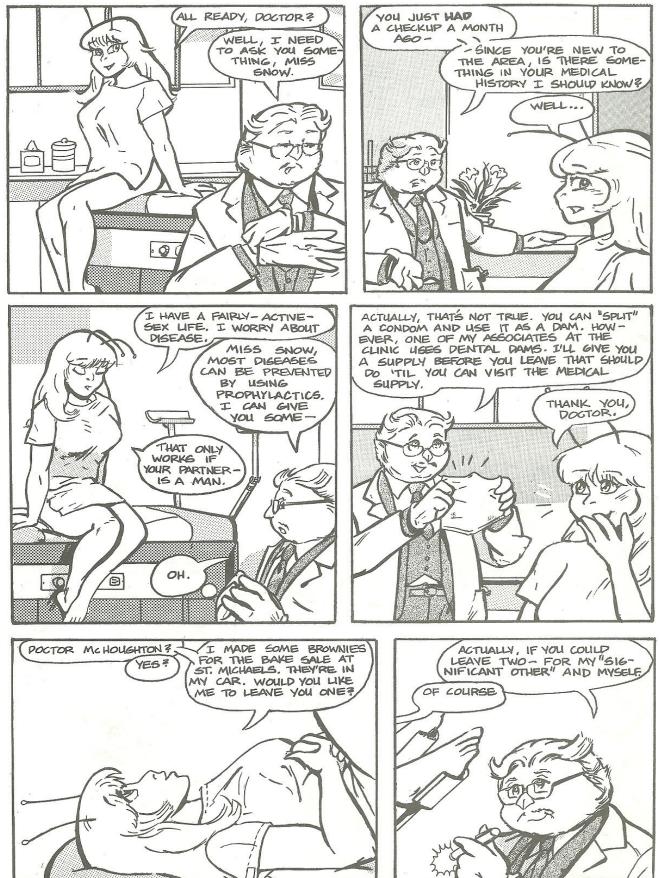


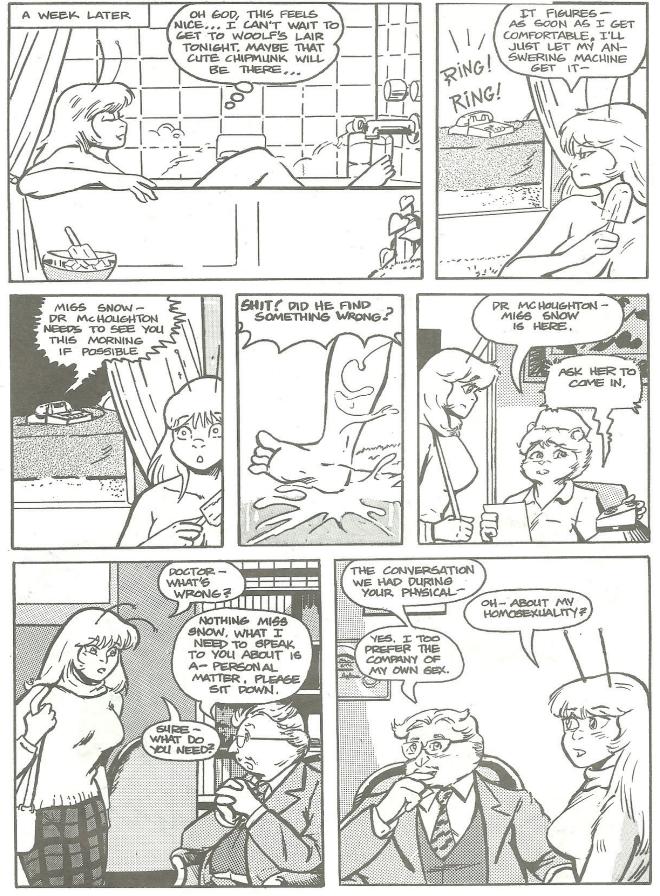




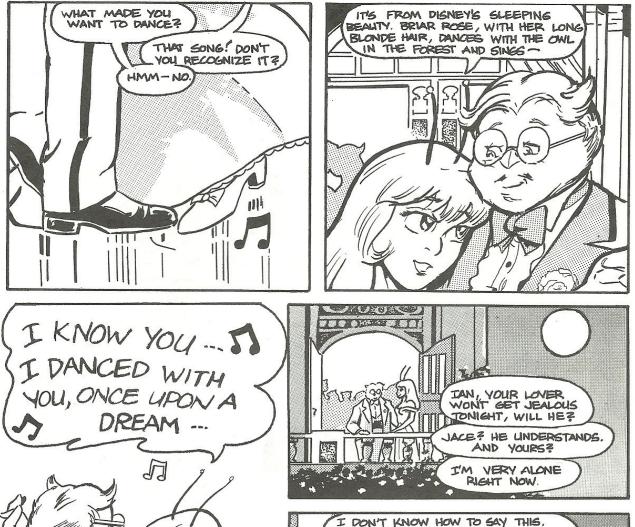










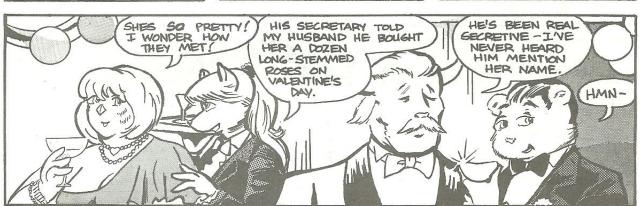
















Team Shanda: Mark Barnard 

Joyceanna Brock 

Carole & Mike Curtis 

Charles Ettinger 

Michele Light 

Mike Sagara 

Lord Rees

From MIKE:

Hi. Thought we'd give you a preview of upcoming issues. #8"BIRTHDAY SUITE" In the aftermath of Wing Beishung. Shanda's family visits and Grove has to face facts. Keri & Jan get to meet Double R & Terri. A dramatic backup not for the faint of heart by Charlie (BLUE MOON) Wise. And SOMEBODY gets pregnant....

#9 "RINGS AND THINGS" Trouble for Sissy, Missy, and Quamus! Shanda & Terrie's first date at Woolf Lair! A new lesbian character enters & she's related to a cast member! Plus backup by Carl Gafford of Topp's Comics!

#10 "NEW ARRIVALS" The whole cast shows up for this one - with five new characters! A great place to introduce someone to Shanda - plus a backup by G. Raymond Eddy starring GALEN THE SAINTLY.

#11 "RACCOONS TUNE" FINALLY we find out all about Double R! Plus backup by Ed Garcia with the return of Tanya.

#12 "HOUSE GUESTS" Shanda's mother visits - and she's not happy about events in issue #10! Plus WEEKEND AT SPEEDO'S by G. Raymond Eddy.

#13 "SHATTERED GLASS" It's Shanda's unlucky 13th issue... very unlucky.

#15 "CHRISTMAS PRESENCE" Our second Christmas story... and our first death.

We have other plans too... including the possibility of a GIANT SHANDA ANNUAL.

In the preliminary scripts that stretch to issue #51, the baby mentioned in #8 is born and develops a real personality. Shanda's theater gets 2 screens and 6 more employees (including 2 assistant managers.) There's two births, two deaths, three engagements and a wedding. All of Team Shanda

is looking forward to the future - but our contract comes up for renewal with issue #11.

If you want to see all this come to pass, tell your friends to support us with letters & sales. We're ready to go on for a long time to come!

LETTERS

All right now for a serious discussion (sort of). I noticed that in this issue we have an Australian character depicted as a koala bear. ...what would a Mexican character look like?

One thing that I've heard is that "furries" are supposed to be an easy way to get out of the shackles that are race and ethnicity. That may hold true to some titles that are fantasy (Xanadu) or Science Fiction (Albedo) but in stories that are in a modern day furry U.S. the characters come out as being very wasp-ish.

David Tapia Dinuba, California

Oddly enough, if Shanda's cast suddenly became human, you'd see Indians (Lurch's family) African-Americans (M. Pahderm) Aborigines (Quamus) Creoles (Double R, Quinn) Chinese (Shanda & family) Hungarians (Scotty, Tina & Mom) and a Hebrew family (Speedo.)

We've had one Mexican character (Tenya - a Vampire Bat) but another is coming in #10 (along with a Japanese student.) In Shanda's World, an animal's (or insect, etc) country of origin substitutes for our world race-specifics. And we'll try not to go for stereotypes (like a chihuahua with a sombrero.) Our new multinational employees in #10 are a silkworm and a muledeer.

Mike

Thanks for trying to explain the various genetic foibles of Shanda's world as well. Actually, that got me even more confused than before for a while, my own fault for being a scientist.

In your letter you said that only Species within a Genus could breed, and this wouldn't even allow panda-raccoon crosses, let alone raccoon-badger. For the former you'd need breeding at the Family level, for the latter breeding at the Order level.

However, if I understand the spirit of the letter, you were saying that every Species within the groupings Mammal, Insect, Bird or Reptile can interbreed, at the Class level in fact, which would allow things like koala-dog (koalog or doela?) and rabbit-cat (cabbit?) crosses but not cricket-raccoon (don't ask.)

Oddly enough, Terri is in a Phylum of things without backbones, and she's got more backbone than most (so there Linnaeus!)

Andy "Mad Baz" Tucker Wiltshire U.K.

Although I can see the point Mr. Bruin wants to make, I'd also be interested in seeing what sort of decision a Supreme Court would make concerning a parent who wants his obviously adult child to mate only with a specific species. Of course, being more anthropomorphic there than here, it'd be interesting to see what sort of legal and civil rights precedents exist in Shanda's world.

Michael Wolff Webster Texas

The thing that caught me the most is how Shanda' father is still trying to control her life by choosing her future husband FOR her. He's probably a traditionalist, is my guess. I just feel that tradition has its place, but love has its own place as well, so Shanda has my sympathy about the situation she's in.

James "Packrat" McCov Waretown N.J.

<Grove faces the music next issue. Mike>

Yes! We have an Australian character in "Shanda". Let's see more of this young koala. Will Sissy be showing some interest in him. Hmmmm.

P.P.S. Is there really such thing as cajun talk or did you make it up?

Jason Gaffney Queensland Australia

I enjoyed the interlude at Ceder Rabbits High. I could have used a friend like Sissy in High School. I'm afraid that I was always one of those guys picked last and only with great reluctance for teams. (These little sadistic rituals were some of the most degrading experiences of my high school career.) Of course, having a girl defend me would have gone over real well with my testosterone laden school mates. I hope young Quamus Smythe (where'd you get that one?) has better luck than me.

The crossover with Galen the Saintly looks interesting. <in issue #10. M.>

David Kleiner Rockville Maryland

As usual I enjoyed the art goodies you enclosed in your last letter. The piece that made the biggest impression on me though was the "Dream sequence" page. Beautiful! Not sure in what context it'll be used in #7 but damn, it certainly got my romantic nature perking. "sigh" A shame the storyline couldn't turn out this way. And boy, doesn't Quinn make a cute Teenager. Anyway, my compliments to you and Michelle!

As for the cover for #7, you guys are really twisted, you know that? <G> Being a long time anime fan, I got a big kick out of this.

And boy, am I hoping this male Panda gets whats coming to him!

Phil Bolton Lynnwood Washington



Art by Carla Speed McNeil Ft. Meade Maryland

Never made the connection between your wifes name and KATMANDU. A neat series which my roomate Damon and I both got a kick out of. Kudos to Carole!

Terrie and Shanda's little "encounter" seemed just a bit too abrupt and out of the blue for me. I was really bothered and upset by it at the time, but in #4, where they actually TALKED about their feelings more than made up for it. A really Lovely issue which restored my faith and hooked me for good.

So nothing is going to happen (MUCH) to Terrie and Shanda. Boy, you sure know how to make a guy nervous don't you?

Phil Bolton Lynnwood Washington