



1

FREE

NOT FOR
REBATE

Stories and art by STEVEN A. ROMAN

HEROINES AND HEROES



THIS IS...
THE LAST TIME
I AUDITION...FOR
A...TOP COW
COMIC...

HEROINES AND HEROES

Stories and art by STEVEN A. ROMAN

CONTENTS

“V-A-C-A-T-I-O-N
(In the
Summertime)”

Previously
unpublished

“Dirty Laundry”

Originally published
in *Snowbuni Blizzard* #6
(1991)

Motorbike
Puppies excerpt

Originally published
in *Motorbike Puppies* #2
(1992)

“I Was a
Super-Powered
Vampire Slayer!”

Originally published
in *Blonde Addiction* #3
(1995)

Cover colors by
ELISEU GOUVEIA

Publication design by
MIKE RIVILIS

WHAT, YOU DO THAT DRAWIN’ STUFF, TOO?

Hey, there. I’m Steve Roman. You may remember me from the *Saga of Pandora Zwieback* novels, *X-Men: The Chaos Engine Trilogy*, and *Final Destination: Dead Man’s Hand*, or as the writer of the graphic novels *Lorelei: Sects and the City*, *Sunn*, and *Stan Lee’s Alexa* (yeah, that one issue—but it was big in France!). I’m also the owner/publisher of StarWarp Concepts, home of Pandora Zwieback and Lorelei and a growing backlist of titles you should definitely check out. And, from time to time, I’ve dabbled in drawing comics art.

Which brings us to this very publication, **Heroines and Heroes**, in which I’ve pulled together a collection of small-press comic stories I’ve drawn or written over the years, along with a few pin-ups. And if you’ve ever read my many posts at the StarWarp Concepts blog, you know I’ve probably got a story behind the creation of each entry in this comic.

So pull up a chair and I’ll tell you a tale or four about how they came to be...

“V-A-C-A-T-I-O-N (in the Summertime)” was the result of a 1995 lunch meeting with a couple of DC Comics editors, held at an Italian restaurant around the corner from DC’s (now former) New York City offices—one of those restaurants that has paper tablecloths and a glass of Crayola crayons so your kids have something to do other than kick their chairs while they’re waiting for their meals.

Continued on page 23

VACATION

(IN THE SUMMERTIME)

by
Steve
Roman

THE NOTE CERTAINLY
CAUGHT HER ATTENTION.

"WONDER WOMAN, YOU
STUCK-UP, HIGH-AND-MIGHTY
POSTER CHILD FOR AN OVER-
PRICED HEALTH SPA," IT READ.
"MEET ME ON WALL STREET
AT TWO A.M. AND RECEIVE
YOUR JUST DESSERTS."

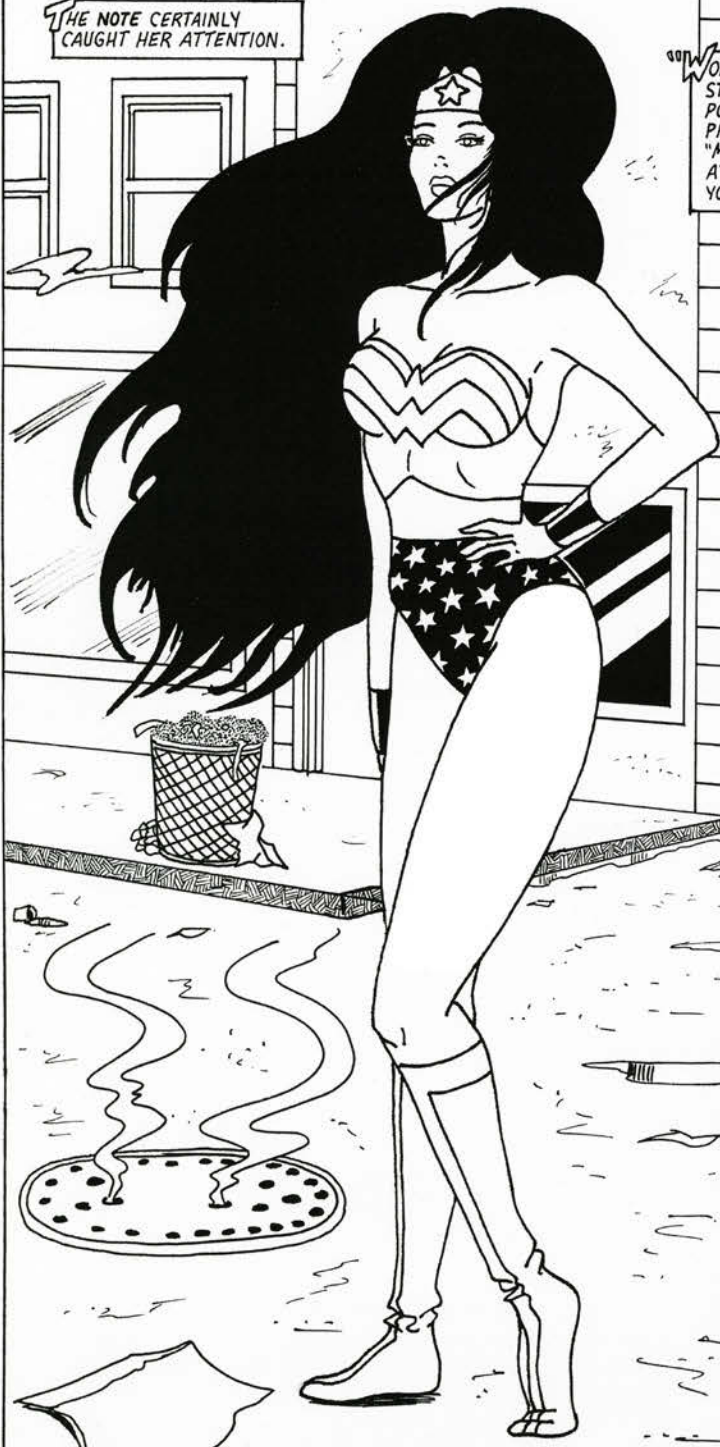
IT WAS SIGNED,
"YOUR #1 FAN."

"P.S.: BRING A TOWEL."



HEY
WONDER-
BRA!

WHO--?





Y'KNOW, TOOTS, UP IN THE AIR YOU MIGHT BE PRETTY SPECIAL WITH YOUR FLYIN'--

--BUT DOWN HERE ON THE GROUND YOU'RE JUST ANOTHER...



GREAT HERA!

I'VE BEEN PIED!

HA HA HA

NOT FEELIN' SO HIGH-AND-MIGHTY NOW, HUH, PRINCESS PIEHOLE?

NICE TO KNOW THE OLD GAGS STILL WORK!



STAY RIGHT THERE, HARLEY--

--I'LL SHOW YOU HOW WE DEAL WITH BAD COMEDIANS ON PARADISE ISLAND!

ONE HINT: THEY'RE AN EXTINCT SPECIES.

HEY, WHERE'S YER SENSE 'A HUMOR?

CAN'T YA TAKE A JOKE?!

...JUST ANOTHER SUPER-HERO WHO COULD RIP MY ARMS OFF AND BEAT ME TO DEATH WITH 'EM.

OOPS.



"GOTHAM CITY IS GETTING BORING," HE SAYS. "WHY DON'T WE TAKE A LITTLE VACATION AND GET AWAY FROM OLD BATSO," HE SAYS.

"THERE ARE PLENTY OF OTHER CITIES WITH DO-GOODERS TO DRIVE CRAZY."



MAYBE COMING TO NEW YORK WASN'T SUCH A GOOD ID--



IF YOU'RE LOOKING FOR THE JOKER, HARLEY...

...HE'S A LITTLE TIED UP AT THE MOMENT.

OH.

Y'KNOW, I REALLY HATE IT WHEN YOU TRY TO BE FUNNY.



≡ Hmff ≡

SOME VACATION!

END

CLOAK & DAGGER



SNOWBUN!

in
created by Jeff Wood

DIRTY LAUNDRY

AFTER A RELAXING SESSION AT THE SECRET SERVICE PISTOL RANGE, A REFRESHED SNOWBUN! HEADS HOME, HER THOUGHTS FOCUSED ON HER PLANS FOR THE EVENING...

'EY, BABY!
NICE PIECE O' TAIL!

I CAN'T WAIT TO SEE SYLVIA'S AND RANDY'S EXPRESSIONS WHEN THEY WALK INTO THE SURPRISE ANNIVERSARY PARTY I PLANNED FOR TONIGHT!

NEWS
YOU GIVE ME 8 SECONDS, I'LL GIVE YOU THE WORLD!
1928 MINER FOUND IN PITTSBURGH CAVE
Suspended animation to blame

by Steve Raman

NOW, IS IT A SILVER-PLATED .45 FOR THE THIRD YEAR, OR A GOLD, PERSONAL MINI-MISSILE PENDANT?

AND TO THINK SOME OF THE PEOPLE AT THE AGENCY THOUGHT A HUMAN AND A SYLVLAGAN COULDN'T BE HAPPY TOGETHER!

HOPE THEY DON'T HEAR ME SNEAKING EVERYONE IN HERE FOR THE PARTY!

A QUICK TURBO-LIFT RIDE SOON DELIVERS THE SHAPELY SUPERSPY TO HER APARTMENT.

AFTER ALL, THEY LIVE JUST ACROSS THE HALL!

DREDD FOR MAYOR

WITH ALL THE TROUBLE I WENT THROUGH MAKING ARRANGEMENTS, I DON'T NEED ANYTHING GOING WRONG NOW!

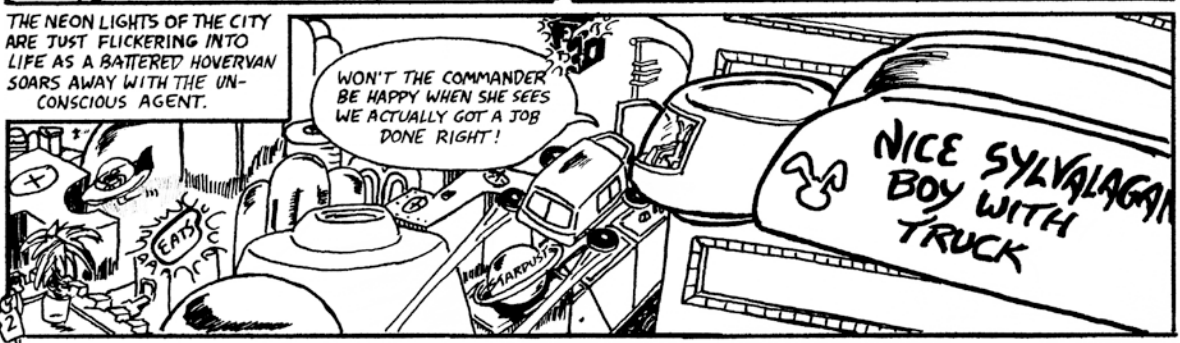


"BUT I IMAGINE THAT'S A MOOT POINT NOW, ISN'T IT?"



THE NEON LIGHTS OF THE CITY ARE JUST FLICKERING INTO LIFE AS A BATTERED HOVERVAN SOARS AWAY WITH THE UNCONSCIOUS AGENT.

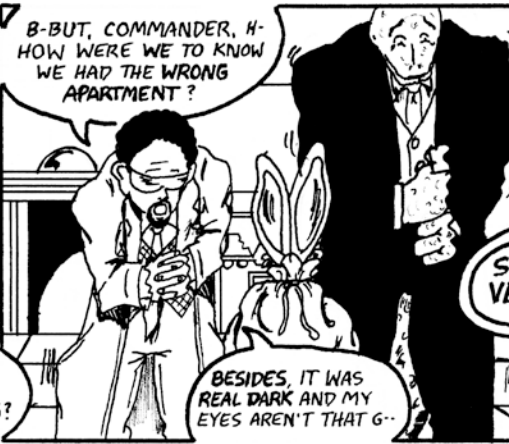
WON'T THE COMMANDER BE HAPPY WHEN SHE SEES WE ACTUALLY GOT A JOB DONE RIGHT!





IDIOTS!

SINCE WHEN DOES SYLVIA HAVE RABBIT EARS?



B-BUT, COMMANDER, HOW WERE WE TO KNOW WE HAD THE WRONG APARTMENT?

BESIDES, IT WAS REAL DARK AND MY EYES AREN'T THAT G-



SILENCE, VERLING!

I SHOULD'VE EXPECTED THIS FROM TWO IMBECILES WHO DON'T KNOW THE ALPHABET!

SIGH: "ALL RIGHT, OPEN THE SACK AND LET'S SEE WHO YOU GRABBED."



RIGHT AWAY, COMMANDER!

LANGFORD?

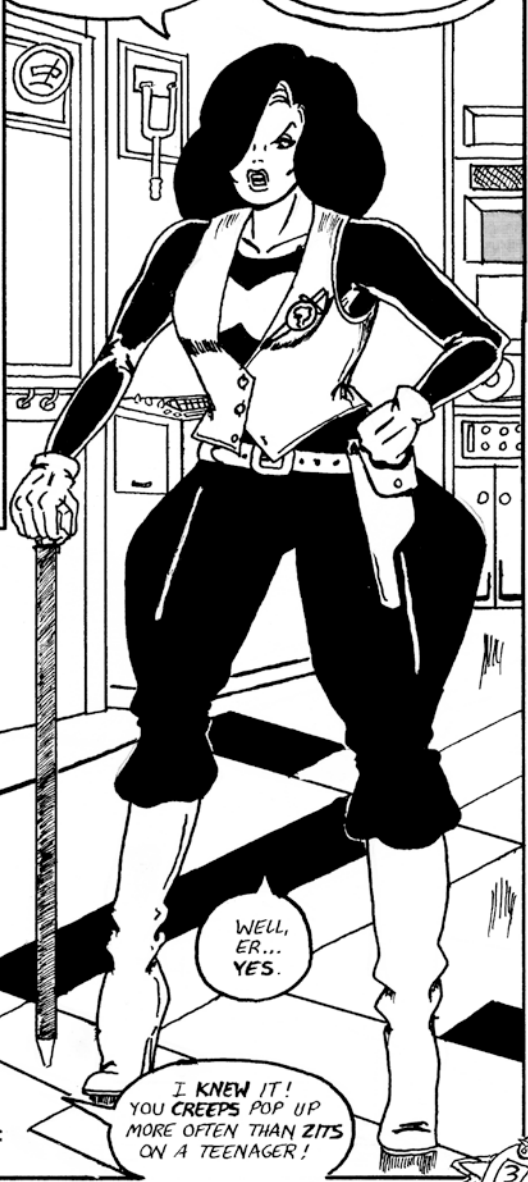
OW! THUD!



SOMEBODY BETTER HAVE A REAL GOOD EXPLANATION FOR THIS.

WELL, WELL-- SNOWBUN! HOW FORTUNATE TO MEET THE SECRET SERVICE AGENT WHO'S CAUSED US SO MUCH TROUBLE!

I AM-- **THE COMMANDER!**

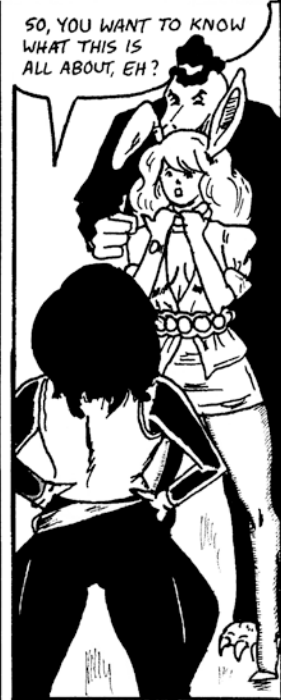
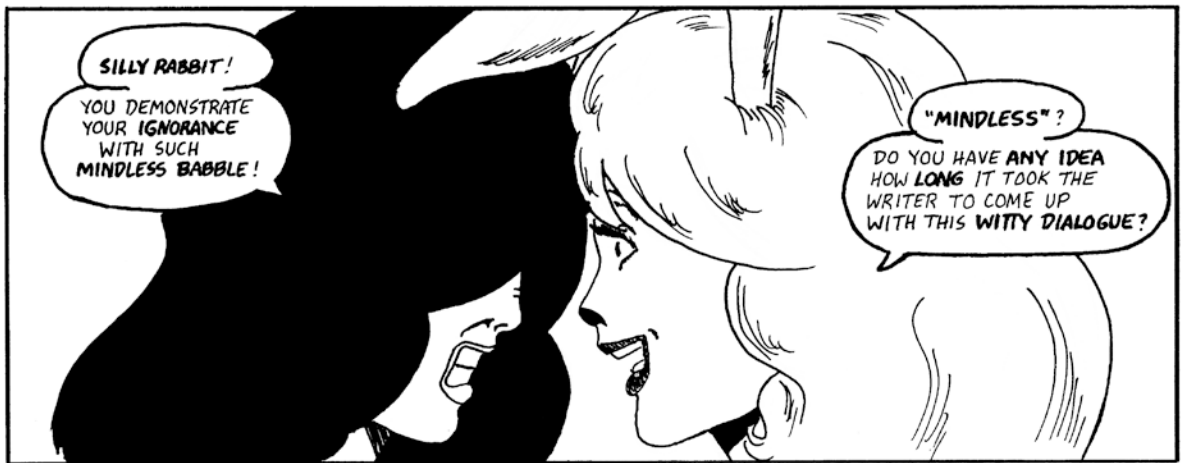


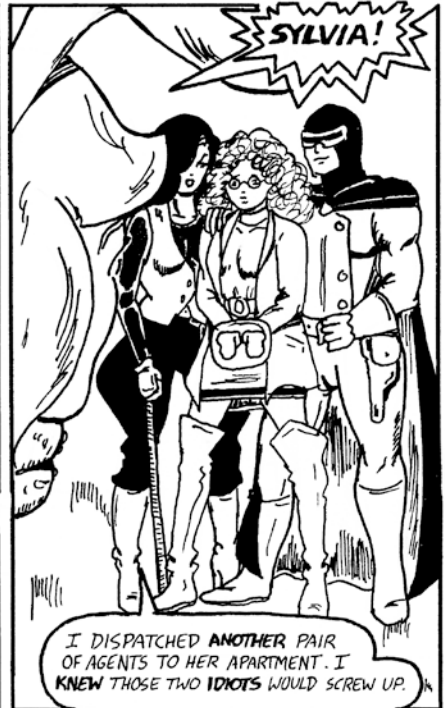
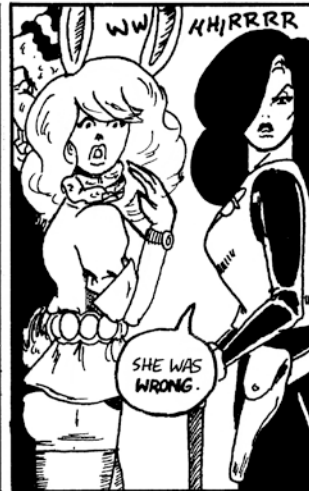
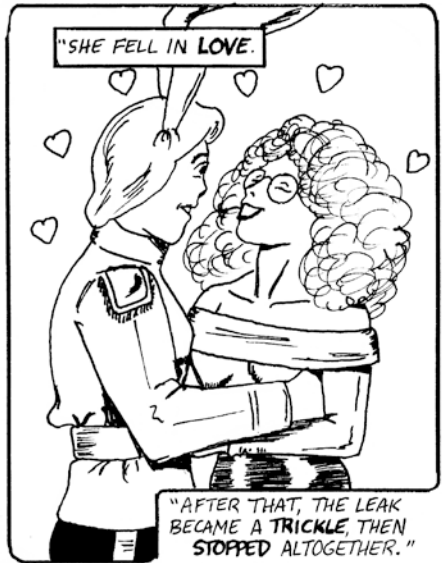
WELL, ER... YES.

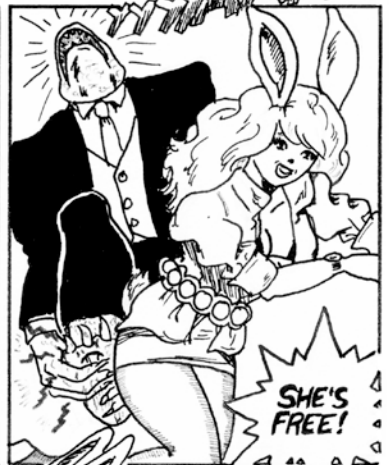
I KNEW IT! YOU CREEPS POP UP MORE OFTEN THAN ZITS ON A TEENAGER!



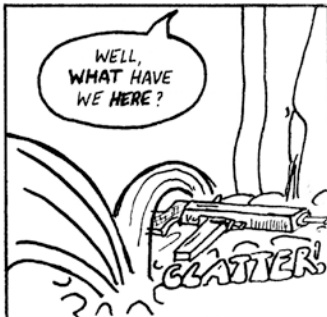
DON'T TELL ME-- ANOTHER DETHRET AGENT, RIGHT?









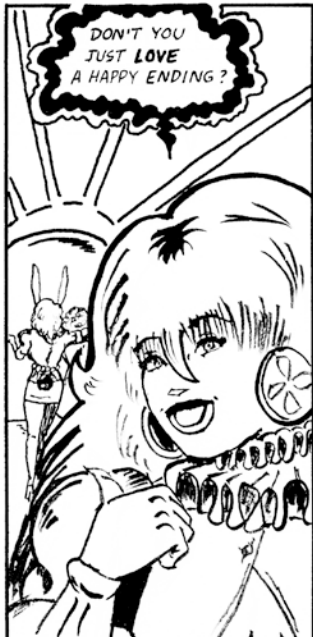


LED BY SNOWBUNI'S HOMING SIGNAL (AND THE SOUNDS OF AUTOMATIC GUNFIRE), A SECRET SERVICE CLEAN-UP SQUAD SOON ARRIVES.



WELL, SYLVIA, I THINK THE FIRST THING YOU OUGHTA DO IS TELL RANDY ABOUT THIS. THEN WE'LL TALK TO GACEY.

FIRST, THOUGH, WE BETTER GET BACK TO MY PLACE. THERE'S PROBABLY A LINE A BLOCK LONG OUTSIDE MY DOOR BY NOW!



Hey, Jeff! Thanx for lettin' me play! *Sue*

MOTORBIKE PUPPIES

ART,
COLORS,
LETTERS:
ROMAN



SCRIPT:
NABILE
HAGE

JUNKYARD PUP!

BADDEST PUP IN THE WHOLE
DAMN TOWN!



JUST A LITTLE
MORE JUICE,
SHE'LL BE
PERFECT!



CREEKKS DAMN
PROWLERS!

THIS IS
THE
LAST
STRAW!

HE'S BADDER THAN
OLD KING KONG...

... MEANER THAN A JUNKYARD DOG.

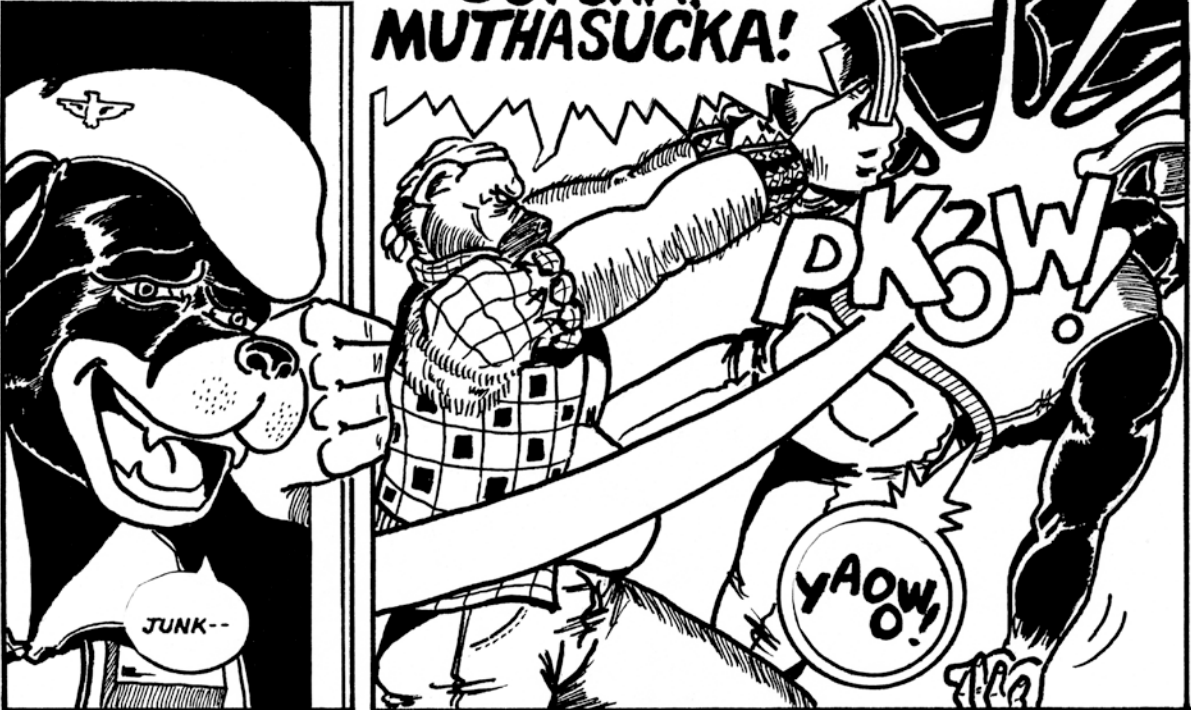


I HOPE
HE'S HERE,
AND NOT
IN NO
CRAZY
MOOD.

CREEKKS

WHAT AM I SAYING? HE IS A
JUNKYARD DOG!

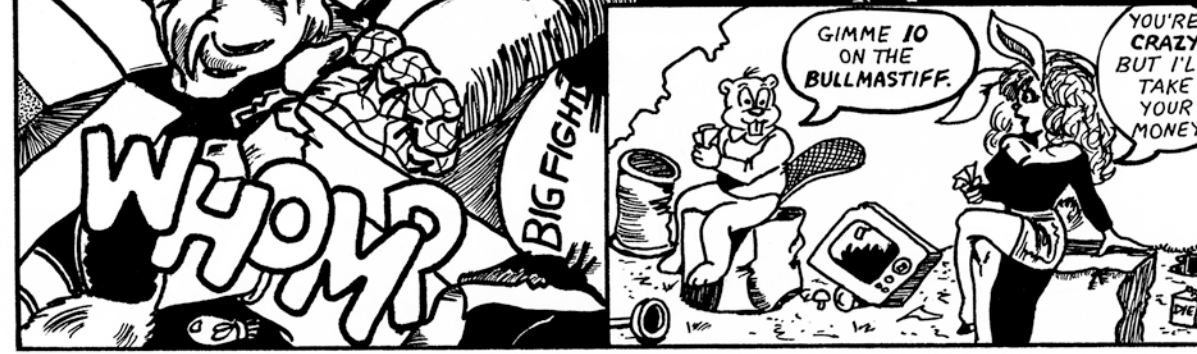
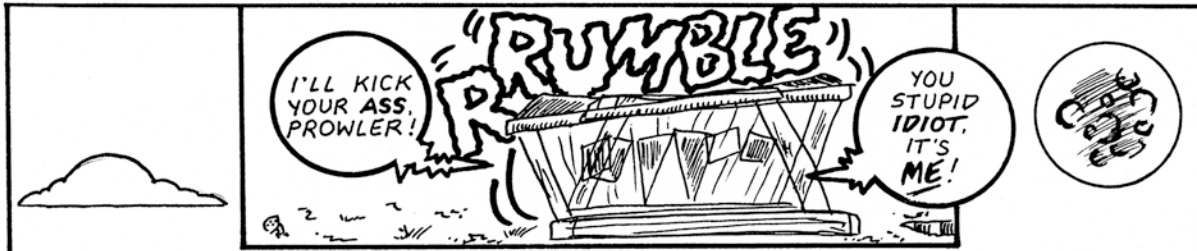
GOTCHA, MUTHASUCKA!



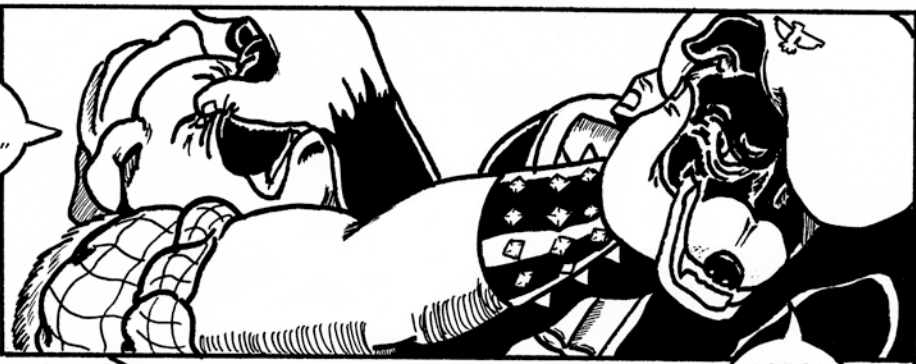
JUNK--

YAOW!

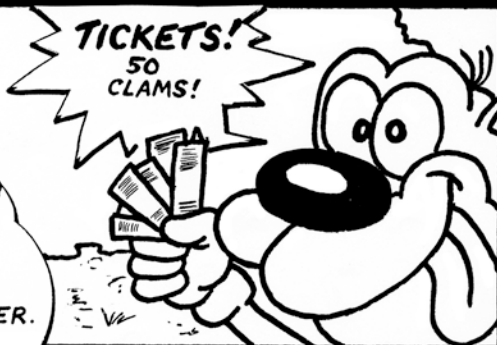
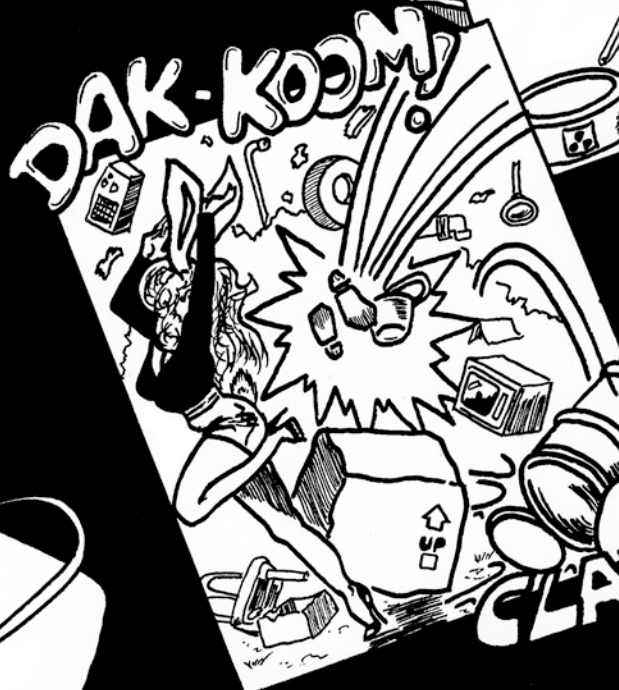
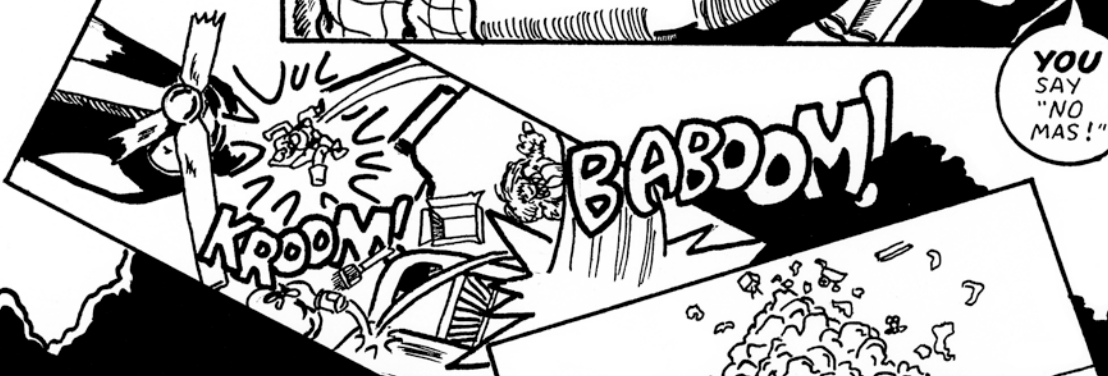
PKOW!



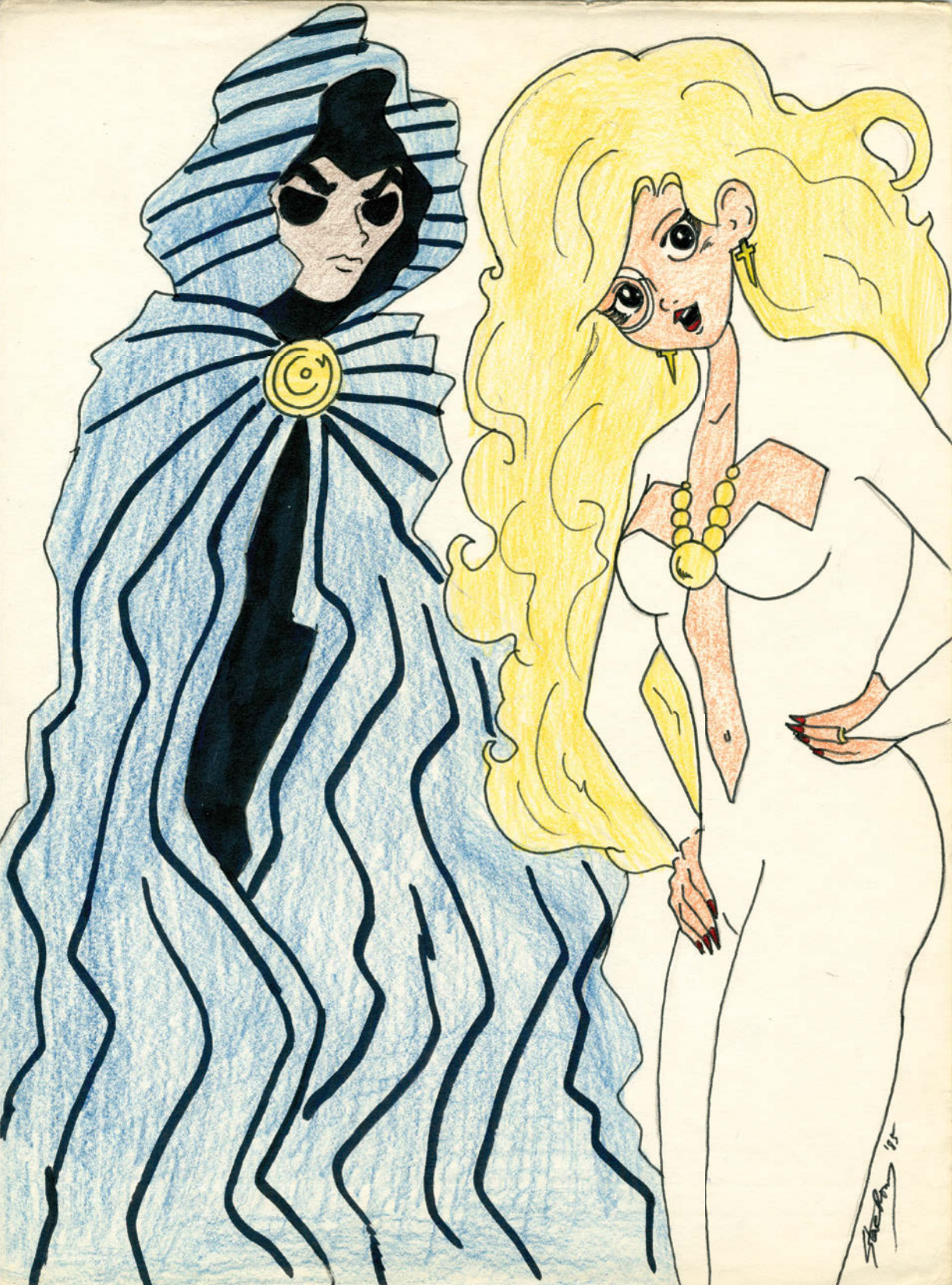
SAY
"NO
MAS!"



YOU
SAY
"NO
MAS!"



"TRASH!"



CLOAK & DAGGER

ANIME STYLE

THE BLONDE AVENGER

ADVENTURES



WARNING!
THIS BACKGROUND
DOES NOT APPEAR
IN THIS STORY!

PERPETRATED ON AN UNSUSPECTING PUBLIC BY
STEVE
"LIKE A STAKE
THRU MY HEART,
THAT BASTARD!"
ROMAN

"I WAS A ~~TEENAGE~~ SUPER-POWERED VAMPIRE SLAYER!"

SUMMERTIME... AND THE LIVIN' IS EASY." OR SO THE SONG GOES.

BUT FOR ANYONE INVOLVED IN THE COMIC BOOK INDUSTRY, SUMMERTIME IS ANYTHING BUT EASY. FOR THEM, SUMMER IS THE BUSIEST, MOST NERVE-WRACKING TIME OF YEAR, AS OLD AND NEW COMPANIES BATTLE TO THE DEATH FOR THE FEWER AND FEWER DOLLARS OF A DWINDLING READERSHIP.

CAUSE OF DEATH?

(SOUNDS PRETTY BLEAK, DOESN'T IT?)

WAITING FOR THE NEXT XENOZOIC TALES.



15th ANNUAL DALLAS COMIC CON

PICTURE A WELL-ORCHESTRATED FEEDING FRENZY. REPLACE THE FISHERMEN WITH PUBLISHERS, THE CHUM THEY THROW INTO THE WATER WITH FLASHY, LIMITED EDITION COMICS AND HALF-NAKED SPOKESMODELS, AND THE SHARKS WITH RABID COLLECTORS AND SPECULATORS, AND YOU'LL HAVE A PRETTY GOOD IDEA OF THE AVERAGE COMIC BOOK CONVENTION.

AND SO, WITH THE COPPERY STENCH OF FRESH BLOOD ASSAILING THEIR NOSTRILS, INTREPID DAILY MAGNET REPORTER LEWIS PAINE AND PHOTOGRAPHER CYNTHIA JOHNS ARRIVE AT THE CONVENTION HALL TO SWIM AMONG THE SHARKS...

THE GRIM 'N GRITTY BOSOMMY BUDDIES!



NOW THIS IS MY IDEA OF A SATURDAY AFTERNOON! I THINK I HAD A DREAM LIKE THIS ONCE.

'CEPT IT DIDN'T HAVE THE SCREAMING KIDS AND THE SMELLY FAT GUYS.

MAYBE IT'S JUST ME, LEW, BUT THERE'S SOMETHING DARK AND GRITTY ABOUT ALL THIS THAT I FIND A BIT...

...DISTURBING.

SEX MEN!

PLEASE BUY MY BOOK!

EYE-POSTERING HOLOGRAMS! MY FIRST BORN!

my heart...



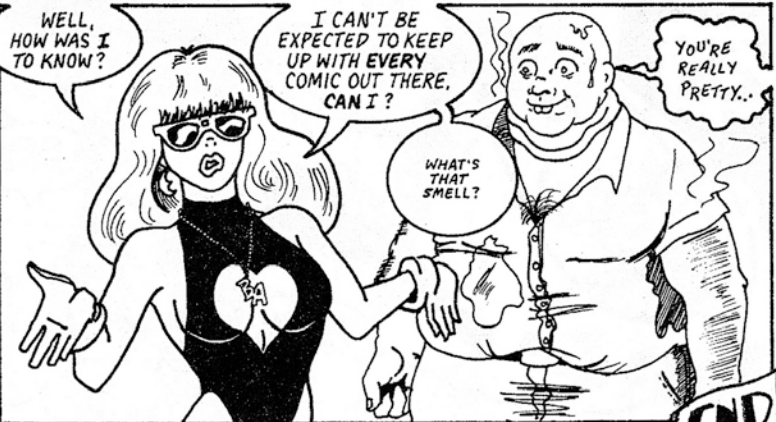
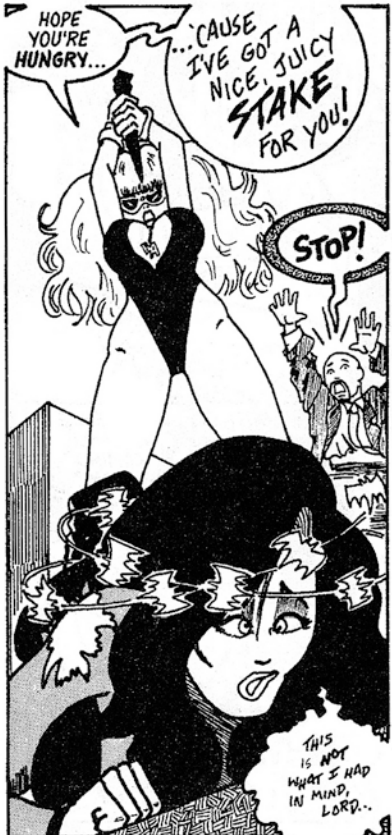
PRESS

WILL DRAW FOR FOOD



DEAR GOD!
WHEN WAS
THE LAST TIME
THIS GUY TOOK
A BATH?

PLEASE, GOD,
LET SOMETHING
HAPPEN TO KEEP
ME FROM HAVING
TO BITE HIM!

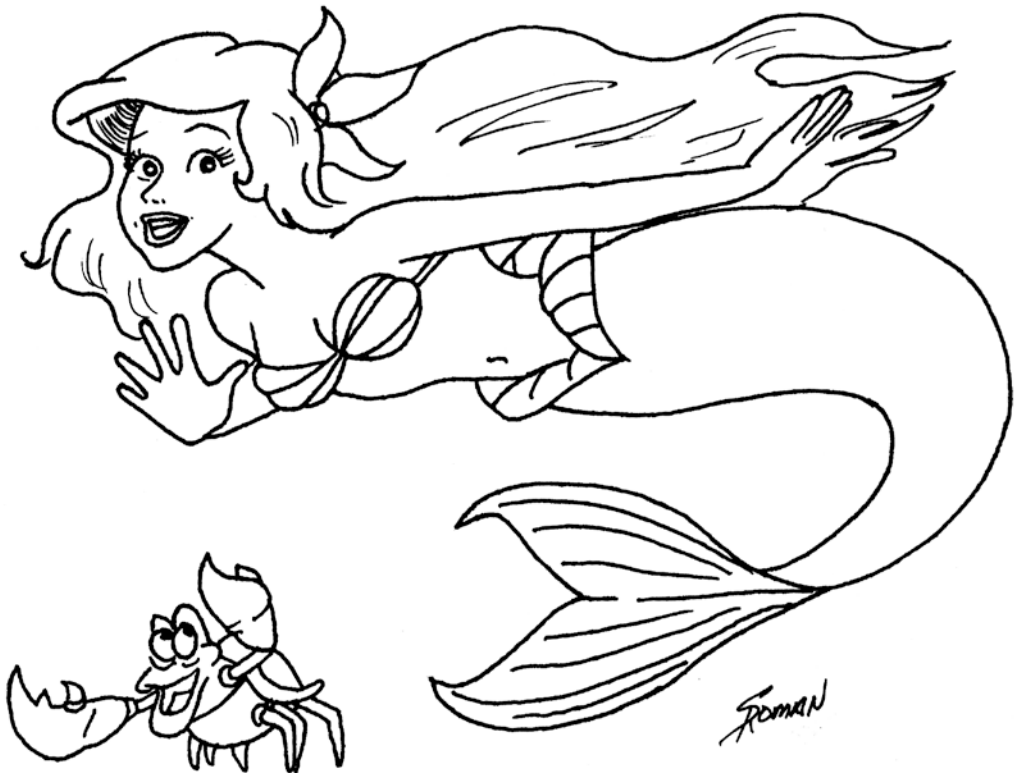


END

VAMPIRELLA



THE LITTLE MERMAID



LOOK, SEBASTIAN! I'M
CATFISHWOMAN!



DAT GIRL
GONNA BE
TH' DEATH
O' ME,
MON.



Fomal 195

WHAT, YOU DO THAT DRAWIN' STUFF, TOO? (cont.)

So, we're sitting at the table, and I'm doodling a sketch of Wonder Woman's head while we talk. One of the editors takes notice and says, "Hey, that's really good! Can I have that?" I nod and tear off that part of the tablecloth. He looks at it again and says, "Y'know, this looks like the same kinda style our artists use in *Batman Adventures*. Do you have any samples?"

Well, no, because I've always concentrated more on my writing than my art; the last thing I'd ever expect would be an invitation to audition for *Batman Adventures* just 'cause I can doodle a cute Amazon head. But then I hit on an idea. I whipped up a three-pager and sent it in; a week later, I got the rejection phone call.

"It's really good," the editor said hesitantly, "but we could never publish it. It's too satirical. I showed it to some of the other editors and they thought it was really funny, but there's nothing we can do with it. But thanks for showing it to me."

Translation? I made fun of their characters (Harley calling WW *Wonder Bra* and *Princess Piehole*!?) and they weren't all that amused. Thus ended my shot at the big leagues. No big loss, really. Hey, at least I got a story to tell out of it.

"**Dirty Laundry**": Yeah, I

know what you're thinking: You've done furrries? Well, technically speaking, Jeff Woods's Snowbuni isn't really a rabbit girl; if I remember correctly she's a humanoid alien or something like that (sorry, Jeff) with long ears and a fluffy tail. Whatever her pedigree, a leggy secret agent who happened to have rabbitry accessories was good enough for me to volunteer this story for Jeff's anthology comic series, *Snowbuni Blizzard*—even with my odd (and hopelessly outdated) shout-out to the *Dick Tracy* cartoon series I watched as a kid.

The three-page junkyard brawl was a sequence from *Motorbike Puppies #2*, published in 1992 by the short-lived Dark Zulu Lies—and counts as my first (and only) professional comic-art job. It's also my sole venture into drawing anthropomorphic characters (in other words, human bodies with animal heads), but that's okay with me. Drawing dog heads was hard! *Puppies* was the brainchild of writer/publisher Nabile Hage, who imagined himself the Stan Lee of indie comics—only without the bankable characters. Poor sales on *Puppies* #1–2, and a one-shot titled *Zwanna, Son of Zulu* (which I lettered and colored), guaranteed that three comics was as far as Nabile was going

to get in making his publishing dreams come true.

"**I Was a Super-powered Vampire Hunter!**" came about after I'd met Cindy Johns, publisher of and spokesmodel for the adult superheroine comic *The Blonde Avenger* (ahh, those thrilling days of the 1990s Bad Girl Era!).

The idea for the four-pager came during the 1995 Dallas Fantasy Fair, where Cindy told me of her confusion in discerning one half-naked spokesmodel from another—back then, booth babes were multiplying more than rabbits! She also mentioned that she'd started publishing *Blonde Addiction*, a fan magazine spin-off detailing her real-life adventures in the comics industry, and said she'd be happy to run anything I gave her. The resulting "masterpiece" was the result.

And that covers everything. So, how about that stuff, huh? Not *too* bad for a guy who spends most of his creative time pecking away at a computer keyboard, right? Does this mean there'll be a *Heroines and Heroes II* down the line? Who knows? In the meantime, you can check out my latest projects at StarwarpConcepts.com and PandoraZwieback.com. Hope to see ya there!

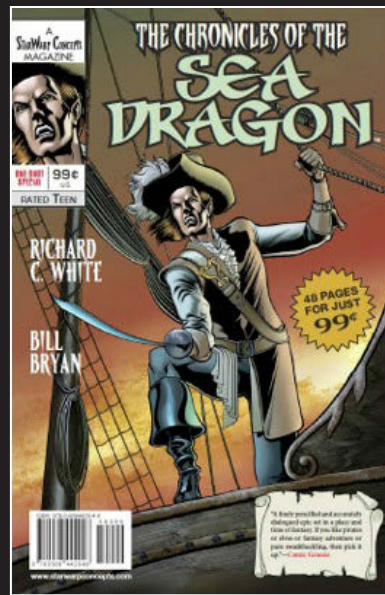
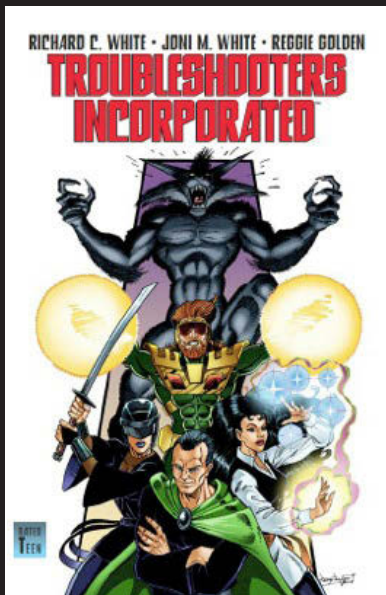
MEET THE WRITER/ARTIST



STEVEN A. ROMAN is the bestselling author of the Saga of Pandora Zwieback series of novels, *X-Men: The Chaos Engine Trilogy*, and *Final Destination: Dead Man's Hand*. His writing has garnered praise from such authors as World Fantasy Award-winner Charles de Lint, Bram Stoker Award-winner Elizabeth Massie, and Science Fiction Writers of America Author Emeritus Neal Barrett Jr.

His short fiction has appeared in the anthologies *Best New Zombie Tales 2*, *The Dead Walk Again!*, *Doctor Who: Short Trips: Farewells*, *Untold Tales of Spider-Man*, *The Ultimate Hulk*, *If I Were an Evil Overlord*, *Lorelei Presents: House Macabre*, *The Vampire Almanac 2*, *Tales of the Shadowmen 4: Lords of Terror*, and *Urban Temples of Cthulhu*. His comic book credits include *The Saga of Pandora Zwieback Annual #1*, *Heartstopper: The Legend of La Bella Tenebrosa*, and *Stan Lee's Alexa*; the graphic novels *Lorelei: Sects and the City*, *Lorelei: Building the Perfect Beast*, and *Sunn*. He also co-wrote the Marvel Comics animated short film *X-Men: Darktide*.

For the **BEST** in
COMICS ENTERTAINMENT



WWW.STARWARPCONCEPTS.COM

LORELEI'S FIRST GRAPHIC NOVEL ADVENTURE!

The soul-stealing succubus battles to save the world from destruction at the hands of Elder Gods summoned by a fanatical cult. Will she succeed...or become their latest blood offering?

Written
by
**STEVEN A.
ROMAN**

Art by
ELISEU GOUVEIA
(Vengeance of the Mummy)
STEVE GEIGER
(Web of Spider-Man)
and
NEIL VOKES
(Fright Night)

Cover painting by
ESTEBAN MAROTO
(Vampirella, Lady Rawhide)



"The art is solid, the story is full of lots of the things that make the horror genre so great, and the overall quality is top notch. I can honestly say that I enjoyed the hell out of this book."

—Die-Screaming

Trade Paperback • B&W • 152 pages

ISBN: 978-0-9841741-3-3

\$12.95 U.S.

Available in print and digital formats.

STARWARP CONCEPTS

www.starwarpconcepts.com

Lorelei © and TM 1989, 2015 Steven A. Roman. All rights reserved.