



I'VE BEEN GENETICALLY-ENGINEERED TO LAST, BUILT TO SUSTAIN \geq COUGH'S INTENSIFIED PHYSICAL ACTIVITY...

MY ENTIRE GENETIC MAKEUP HAS ALREADY BEEN LAID OUT FOR YOU GUYS LIKE A ROAD MAP... THAT'S GOTTA SAVE YOU A BUTTLOAD IN RESEARCH ALONE...

I FIGURE WHATEVER YOU GOT IN MIND, I'M PERFECT FOR THE JOB...



I UNDERSTAND YOUR GENETIC CREDENTIALS, MADAM, BUT I'M AFRAID WE'RE LOOKING FOR SOMEONE WITH MILITARY EXPERIEN--



YES, SIR. I UNDERSTAND THAT, BUT...

SIR! PLEASE, SHE'S TOTALLY UN--

I SEE, YES, SIR.

IF THAT'S HOW YOU FEEL, SIR--



HA/H. YOU MAY NOT HAVE IMPRESSED ME IN THE LEAST, X-0 214--



PARDON ME, "TRANQUILITY"--

--BUT THE SAME CAN'T BE SAID FOR THE MAN UPSTAIRS.



YOU'RE HIRED.



NOW:

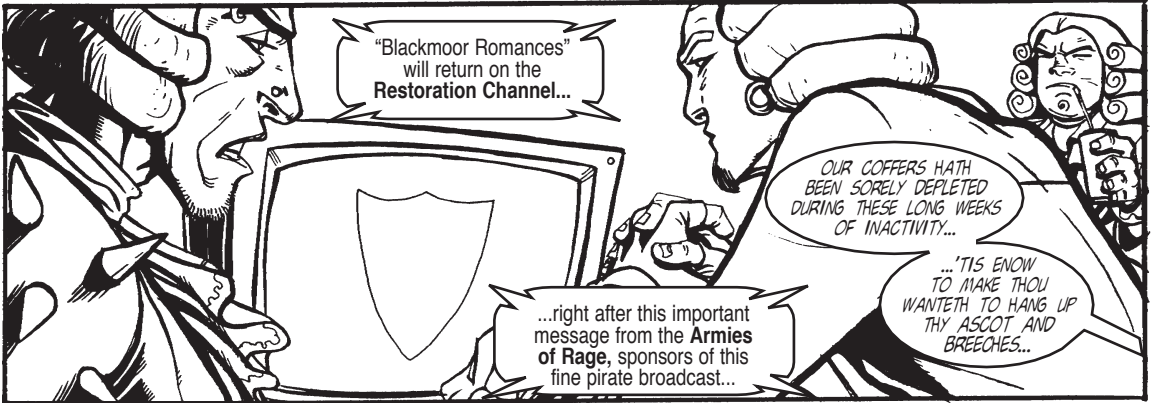
THIS SUCKETH.



NIGH HALF OUR BRETHERN WERE SLAIN WHEN ACCUSED SEC-OP DID RAID OUR SMUGGLING DEPOT IN A BUST MOST FOUL--

AND THE OTHER HALF HATH TAKEN SANCTUARY IN ST. ANDROGYNE'S CATHEDRAL!

WE NUMBER BUT TEN STOUT MEN TO THE WHIG NAME-- AND THERE DOTH BE SO MANY WORTHY CRIMES THAT CRY OUT FOR THE COMMITTING--



"Blackmoor Romances" will return on the Restoration Channel...

OUR COFFERS HATH BEEN SORELY DEPLETED DURING THESE LONG WEEKS OF INACTIVITY...

...right after this important message from the Armies of Rage, sponsors of this fine pirate broadcast...

...TIS ENOW TO MAKE THOU WANTETH TO HANG UP THY ASCOT AND BREECHES...



BOSWELL! COME HITHER! THOU MUSTETH SEE YON VID-SCREEN--

AYE! VERILY, THIS SHALT RAISE THY FALLEN SPIRITS

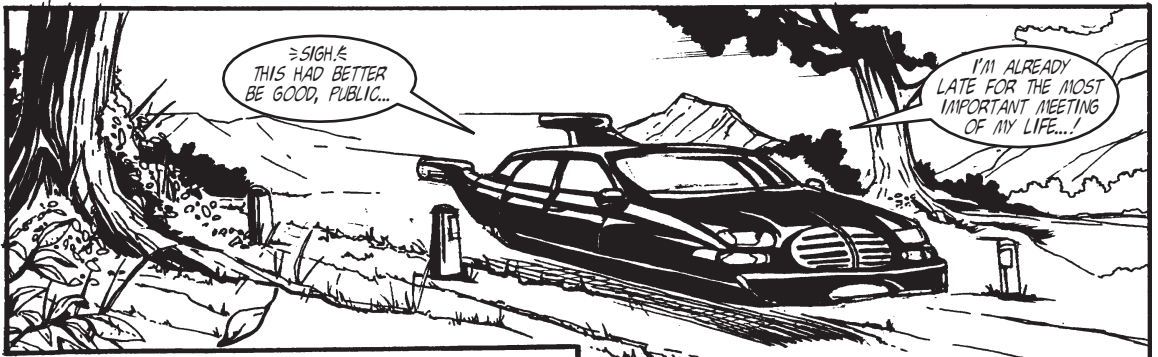
'TIS PASSING DOUBTFUL, MY BROTHERS--



GOD'S WOUNDS!!



METHINKS OUR TROUBLES DOTH BE OVER, MY BROTHERS...!



≥SIGH≥
THIS HAD BETTER
BE GOOD, PUBLIC...

I'M ALREADY
LATE FOR THE MOST
IMPORTANT MEETING
OF MY LIFE...



WHO DO YOU LOVE, BABY? TELL
ME! WHO! DO! YOU!
LOOOOOOOOOVE??!

PUBLIC...!



FEEL FREE TO START
SINGING MY PRAISES
RIGHT ABOUT...
NOW!

YOU'RE IN THE CLEAR,
O-PREZ-O-MINE! YOUR "GAEAIA SITUATION"
IS HISTORY! OUR CAT'S PAW JUST CALLED AND
SAYS HER MISSION IS A COMPLETE SUCCESS! SHE'S
ON HER WAY BACK FROM THE COLD AS WE SPEAK!
ME 'N THE BOYS'RE GETTIN' READY TO SEND
HER EARTHSIDE IN STYLE!



PLEASE, NO
APPLAUSE.
JUST THROW
MONEY...!

AT
LAST...!

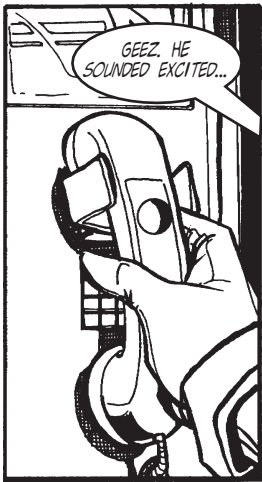


IT'S TURNED
INTO A BEAUTIFUL
DAY ALREADY, HASN'T
IT, PORTNOY?!

YES,
SIR.



A BEAUTIFUL
DAY.



GEEZ. HE SOUNDED EXCITED...



SO. WE'RE GOING TO EARTH.

WOW... I CAN HARDLY BELIEVE IT... I'M GETTING ALL... LIKE... TINGLY INSIDE... HOW DO YOU FEEL? ARE YOU EXCITED? DO YOU FEEL GOOD?

GOOD? NOT EXACTLY.



BUT BETTER.

DEFINITELY BETTER.



WHAT'S IT LIKE?

WHAT?

YOU KNOW... EARTH.

EARTH. WELL, IT'S BEEN TWENTY YEARS, BUT...



THE AIR IS CLEAN, NATURAL.

IT DOESN'T TASTE LIKE YOU'VE DRANK SOMEBODY'S BACKWASH.



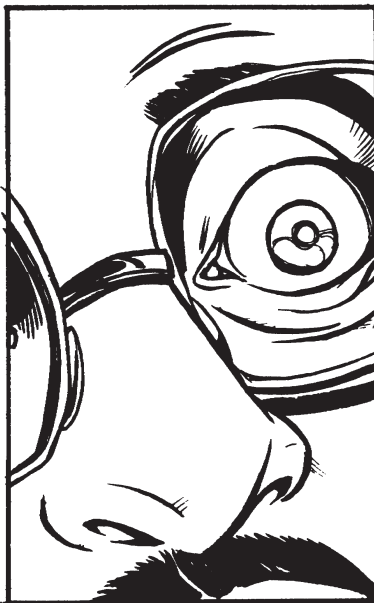
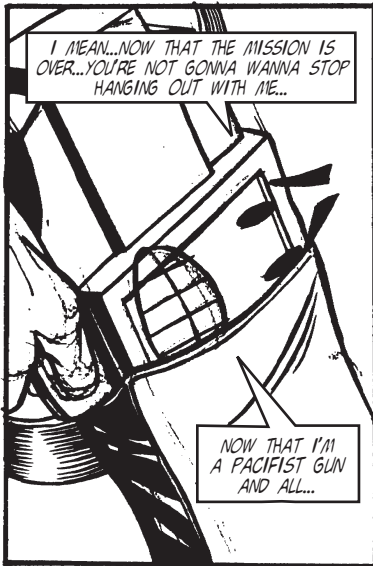
AND THERE'S SPACE. NO WALLS, NO CEILINGS...

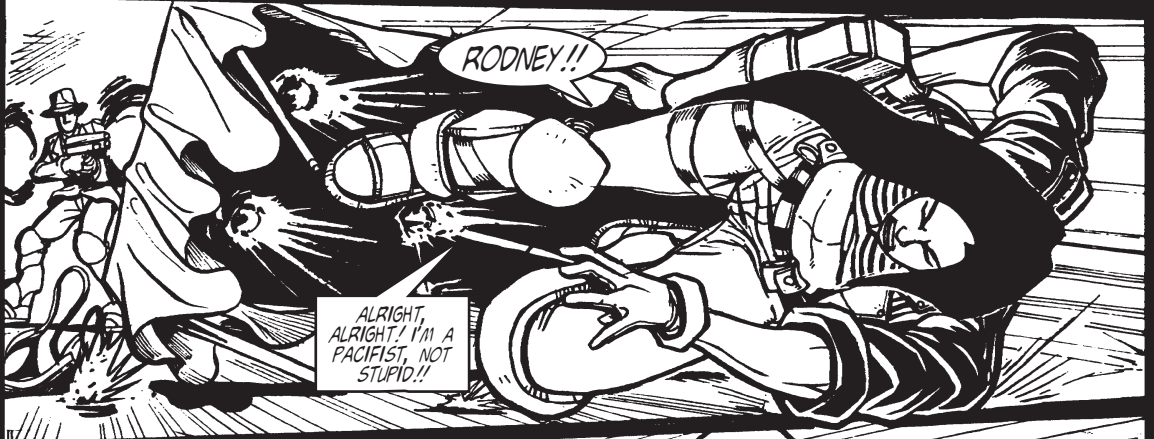
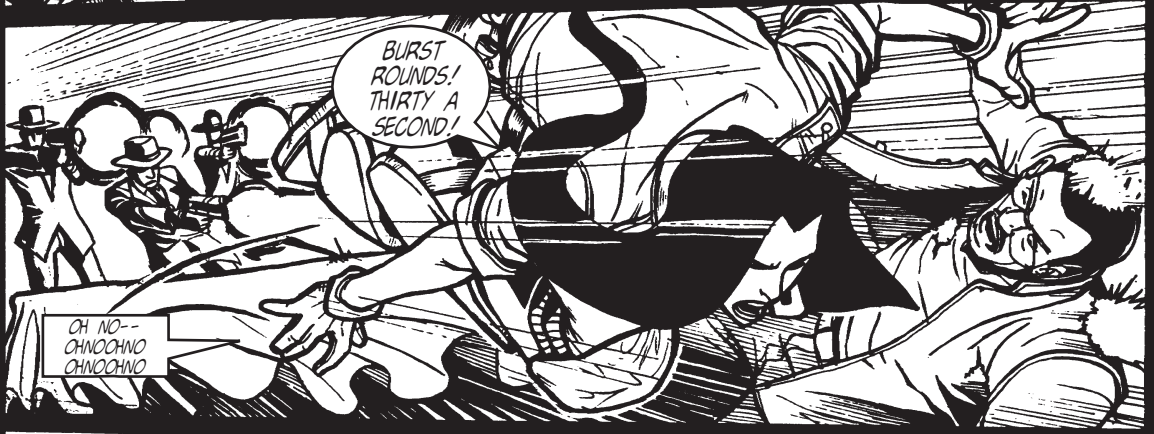
JUST SPACE, AS FAR AS YOU CAN KEEP LOOKING.



NO BULKY BOOTS ON YOUR FEET...

NO CALCIUM SUPPLEMENTS TO KEEP YOUR BONES FROM GETTING BRITTLE...





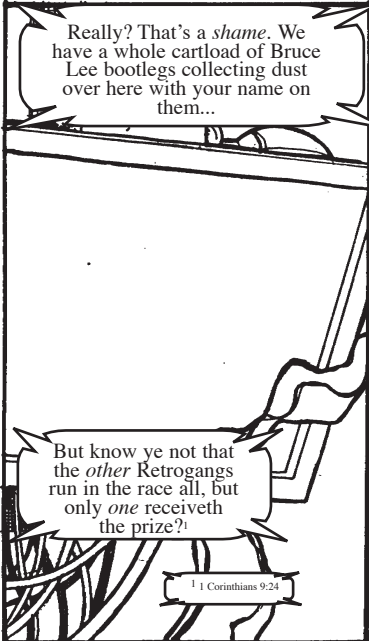


BOXERS STUDENTS.
BOXERS ARTISTS.
BOXERS NO COMMON
STREET TRASH.

RAGE ARMIES
DISHONOR BOXERS
BY TALKEE SCRIPS
FOR ASS-KICK
NO CAN DO.

THIS NO
B'LONG
PLOPPER.

SO SOLLY.



Really? That's a *shame*. We
have a whole cartload of Bruce
Lee bootlegs collecting dust
over here with your name on
them...

But know ye not that
the *other* Retrogangs
run in the race all, but
only *one* receiveth
the prize?¹

¹ 1 Corinthians 9:24



NO!!
COSAS AND WHIGGS NO CAN
SAVVY MANGOD LEE! PAY
BOXERS BOOTLEGS! BOXERS
MAKEE PLOPPER NUMBER ONE
ASSKICK!!

BOXERS CATCHEE
TRANQUILITY WHOPEPIG
CHOP-CHOP!!



No. The good general
changes her strategies
to keep others from
recognizing them.²

² Sun-tzu.
The Art of War.
c. 300 B.C.

Tranquility
was *never* our
true objective.



The gun,
Boxers.

Bring us
the gun.



THEN:

GENERAL KIPLING!
SO GLAD YOU COULD
JOIN US, SIR!

WE JUST
FINISHED TESTING THE
SUBJECT'S COMBAT
REFLEXES--

--AND THE
RESULTS ARE
EXCEEDINGLY
POSITIVE!

WHAT THE SUBJECT
LACKS IN TRAINING
SHE MORE THAN MAKES
UP FOR IN, UH--

--ENTHUSIASM!



KUDOS, OPERATIVE
TRANQUILITY. YOU'VE PASSED
THE FINAL ROUND OF SECURITY
CHECKS, WHICH ALLOWS ME TO SHARE
WITH YOU LEDC'S MOST CLOSELY
GUARDED SECRET.

APPROXIMATELY
SIX WEEKS AGO, DURING
A STRIKE BY DISGRUNTLED
OXYGEN MINERS IN
LAIKA SECTOR--



--SEC-OP UNLOADED
ON THE LOT OF THEM AND
A BLEW A HOLE IN THE
BASE'S BULKHEAD, DEPRES-
SURIZING THE SECTOR AND
KILLING, LIKE, A GAJILLION
PEOPLE.

GIAMME A BREAK,
IT WAS ALL OVER THE STREET
IN, LIKE, A HALF-HOUR. YOU MORONS
COULDN'T COVER UP A NOSE-
PICKING IF YOUR LIVES DEPENDED
ON IT ...!



I SEE,
AND HAVE YOUR "SOURCES" TOLD
YOU WHAT SEC-OP IS DOING TO RECTIFY
THE PROBLEM?

YOU'VE STOPPED
HIRING THE BLIND?