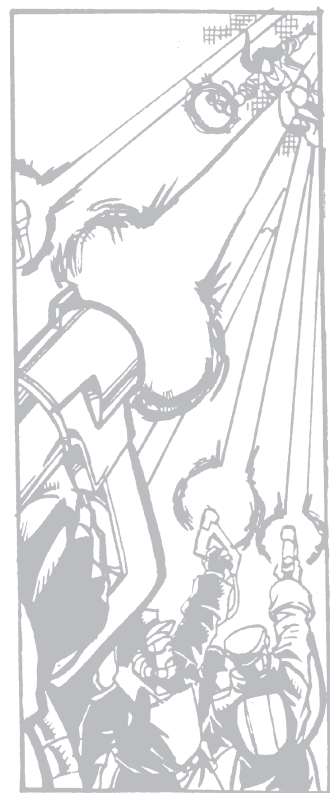
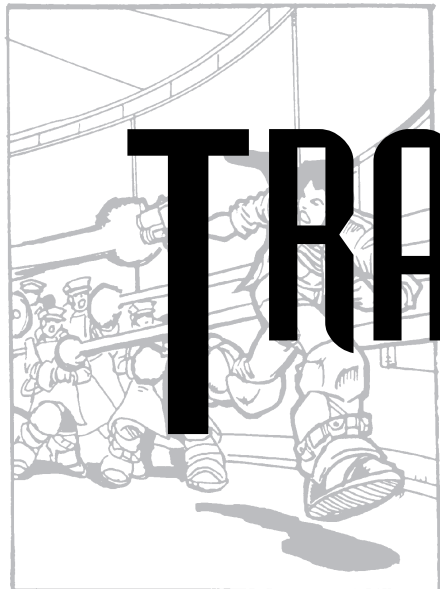


TRANQUILITY



Fred Van Lente
words



Steve Ellis
pictures

I: TALES

"The Immaculate Deception" 4

(First serialized in CD-ROM "digi-comic" format [hence the bizarre layout of the print version] in *Digital Culture Stream* #2-3 [1995/1996] as "Cabin Fever")

"The Big Date" 21

(First appeared in *Negative Burn* #40: November 1996)

Untitled Mini-Comic 29

(Originally produced for a 1995 comic book convention [We can't remember which one.]

"Tranq & Tell" 31

(First appeared in *Kiss & Tell* #3: Winter 1997; our first (and to date, only) crossover with another series: in this case, the autobiographical comic of plaid mini-skirted cynic Patricia Breen; Breen and Ellis wrote this tale and Breen lettered it.)

II: SAGA

Tranquility: The Novella 37

(First serialized as *TRANQUILITY* #1-4 [Dreamsmith Studios, 1998-9])

Trusty & Rusty Fun Pages! 138

(First appeared in *Tranquility* #1)

About the Authors 141

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A very special message from... **OUR CHAIRMAN**



*Jason Roanoke,
L.E.D.C.'s Chairman of the Board*

LEDC commits over \$2 billion of its annual budget to providing its Pioneers with the finest in security personnel and medical care. Keep these important addresses close by, in the unlikely event you suffer any discomfort or distress during your stay at our peerless moon colony:

SECURITY OPERATIONS Central Trunk, Roanoke Sector

The most trustworthy officers and the promptest service. Mr. John Q. Public, Operations Coordinator, always has his door open for suggestions and criticism from the Pioneers he protects.

BRITTLE BONE WARD Level 9, Laika Sector

Remember: your new home's gravity is one-sixth that of Earth's, so you'll need periodic injections of a synthetic calcium supplement to keep your bones nice and stable!

FAST FRIENDS PAVILION

Feeling lonely? Down in the dumps? Or maybe you're just tired of hanging with same old crowd. Come down to the Pavilion, where our round-the-clock staff of licensed Buddies™ will buy you a drink, listen to your troubles, and maybe even lend you a buck or two!

To All Our New Tranquilitatis Pioneers,

Greetings! Allow me to be the first to welcome you to your new home with open arms. As colonists of Tranquilitatis Base, Earth's first self-sufficient off-world colony, you will reap the benefits of ample employment, generous wages, and a clean, secure living environment; and to you goes the honor of participation in mankind's greatest adventure: the conquest of the stars. By requesting to emigrate to Luna, you have already proven that you have the courage and fortitude to accept such a challenge, and for that, I salute you. You see, in coming Tranquilitatis you have not only made your dreams come true, but mine, as well.

I first conceived the idea for a moon colony during the dark days of The Schism. Mankind seemed to be splitting apart at the seams, and any hopes of future global peace were being ground into the dirt by the prevailing cynicism of tribalism, Balkanization, and greed. In that time of perpetual strife and turmoil, I remembered with fondness tales my grandfather told me as a boy, of how the brave exploits of the cosmonauts of the (now defunct) Soviet Union and the heroic sacrifices of the astronauts of the (now defunct) United States of America unified and gave pride to a fragmented, squabbling citizenry. It was then that I put my vast personal fortune toward constructing Tranquilitatis, which, as its name implies, is meant to be a haven from the petty differences of Earth; a place where the citizens of all Nations can live in harmony and strive boldly for a common, noble goal.

With your fellow Pioneers, your hands will wring from Luna's soil the precious metals desperately needed on a resource-depleted Earth. Your hearts will go into the production of valuable pharmaceuticals and foodstuffs—some possible only in low-gravity environments like our own—which are bound for a sick and starving world. It is the torch of this purpose I pass onto you; I hope you will not think me melodramatic if I say that the fate of humanity's belief in itself hangs in the balance.

I have no doubt that you will succeed beyond my—or your—wildest expectations.

Good fortune to you all.

Yours Faithfully,

Jason Roanoke
Chairman of the Board
L.E.D.C.

THE THINGS WHICH PEOPLE
EXPECT OUT OF LIFE WILL
NEVER BE YOURS.



"UNDERSTANDING...
COMPANIONSHIP..."



"...CERTAINLY NOT
LOVE."



"SO IF YOU DO FIND ANY
HAPPINESS IN THIS LIFE..."

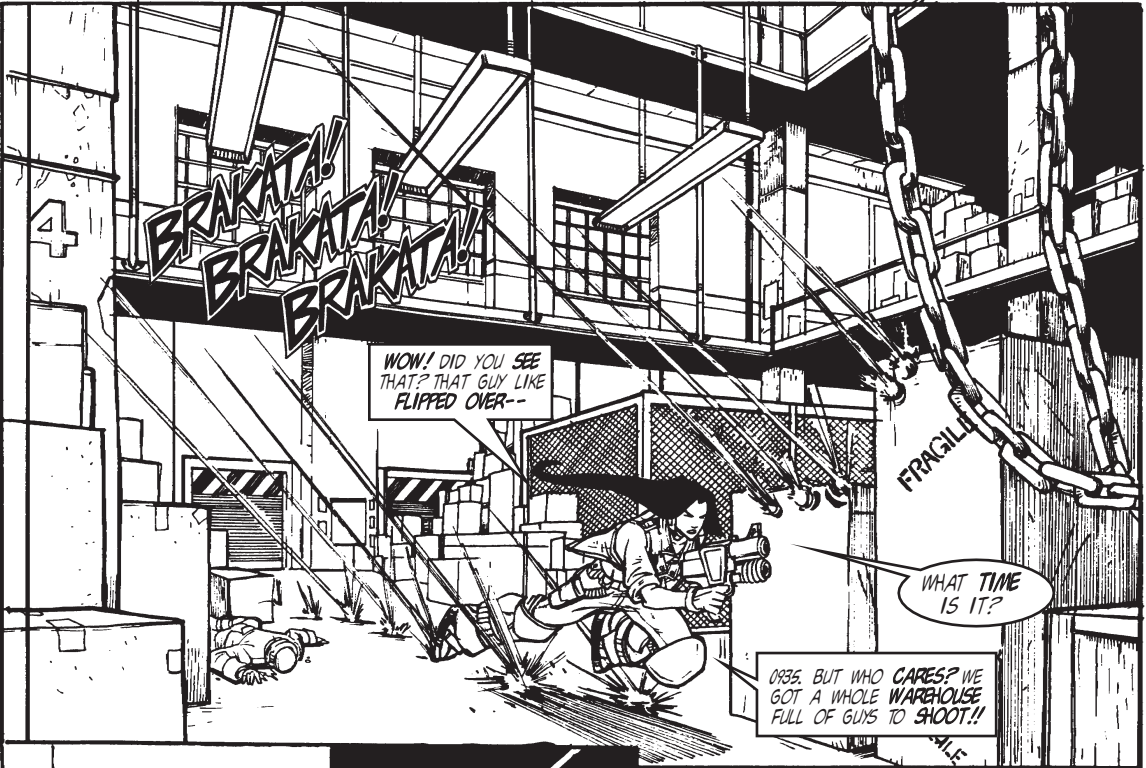


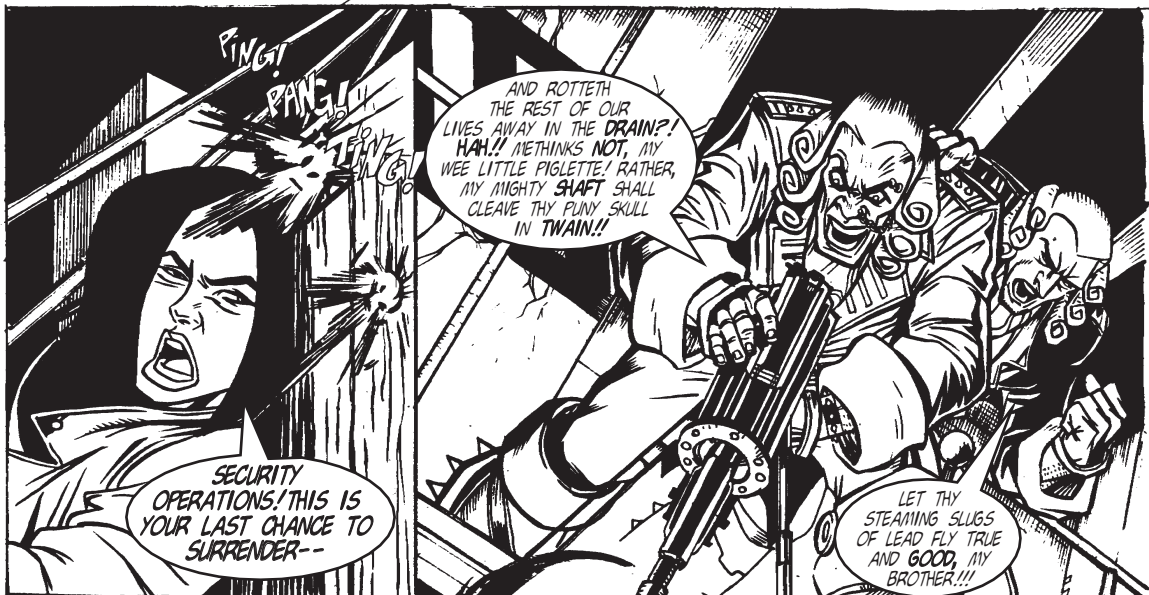
"I STRONGLY SUGGEST YOU
CLING TO THAT JOY..."



"...LIKE IT WAS THE ONLY
THING KEEPING YOU ALIVE."







SECURITY OPERATIONS! THIS IS YOUR LAST CHANCE TO SURRENDER--

AND ROTTETH THE REST OF OUR LIVES AWAY IN THE DRAIN?! HAH!! NETHINKS NOT, MY WEE LITTLE FIGLETTE! RATHER, MY MIGHTY SHAFT SHALL CLEAVE THY PUNY SKULL IN TWAIN!!

LET THY STEAMING SLUGS OF LEAD FLY TRUE AND GOOD, MY BROTHER!!!

BRAKA!
BRAKA!
BRAKA!



VERILY, FOR WE BE WHIGGS, AND DO HOLD FAST TO OUR RETRO-GANG'S CODE OF HONOR.



NEVER SHOW FEAR BEFORE THINE ENEMY!



NEVER SHRINK FROM A WORTHY FIGHT!

AND DEATH BEFORE SURREND



BR



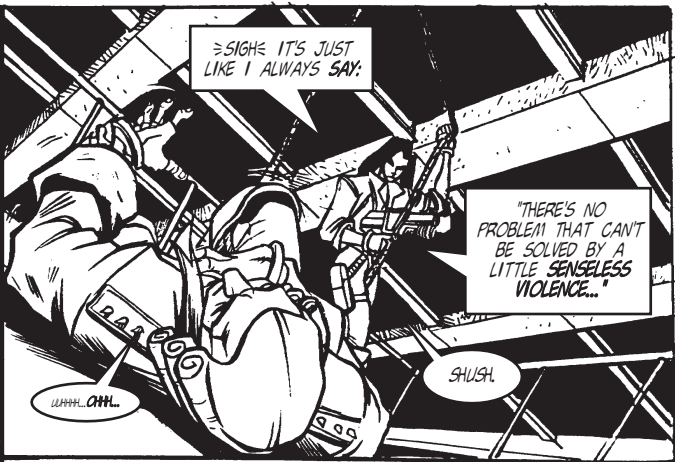
FINE.



HAVE IT YOUR WAY.



N-NO--
AAAAGGGHHH!



≧SIGH≦ IT'S JUST
LIKE I ALWAYS SAY:

"THERE'S NO
PROBLEM THAT CAN'T
BE SOLVED BY A
LITTLE SENSELESS
VIOLENCE..."

SHUSH.

UHHH...OHH...



PIONEER, YOU
ARE IN VIOLATION OF
TRANQUILITATIS LIVING
CODE #849742.

IF YOU
RESIST ARREST, I
WILL BE FORCED TO
SHOOT YOU.



YOU HAVE THE
RIGHT TO REMAIN SILENT. ANY-
THING YOU SAY WILL BE IGNORED,
ANYWAY.

YOU HAVE THE
RIGHT TO HAVE AN
ATTORNEY PRESENT
WHEN YOU MAKE A
FULL CONFESSION OF
YOUR CRIMES.

IF YOU
FAIL TO SIGN
YOUR CONFESSION,
A SIGNATURE WILL
BE PROVIDED FOR
YOU--

WAIT...≧HOPE≦
I KNOW THEE...

YEAH...



...THOU ART
A COMPANION. I
REMEMBERST THY
KIND FROM MY
CONSTRUCTION
DAYS OF YORE...

...THOU ONCE
KEPT US WARM
AND SAFE...

...HOW COULD
SOMEONE LIKE THOU
JOINETH SEC-OPP?
HOW--



HE WAS
GOING FOR A
GUN.

BUT--

HE WAS
GOING FOR A
GUN.



GOING FOR
A GUN.

GOTCHA.



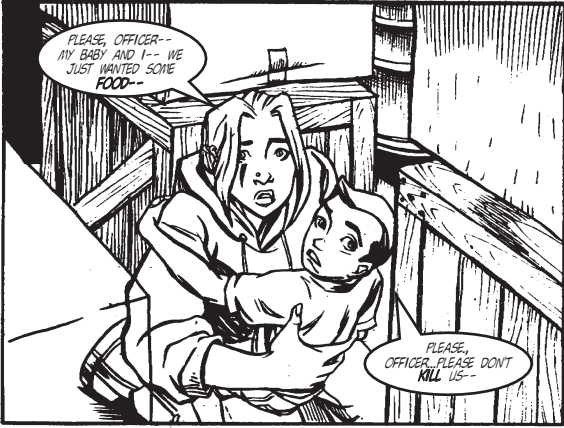
OKAY, LETS GET THIS OVER WITH!

PRELIMINARY NOTES FOR REPORT TO SEC-OP. GAGARIN SECTOR WHIG SAUGGLING DEPOT NEUTRALIZED



IMPOUNDING APPROXIMATELY 30 TONS OF CONTRABAND FOOD-STUFFS--

!?!



PLEASE, OFFICER-- MY BABY AND I-- WE JUST WANTED SOME FOOD--

PLEASE, OFFICER, PLEASE DONT KILL US--



FIFTEEN RETROGANG BELLIGERENTS LIQUIDATED--

AS WELL AS--



--AS--

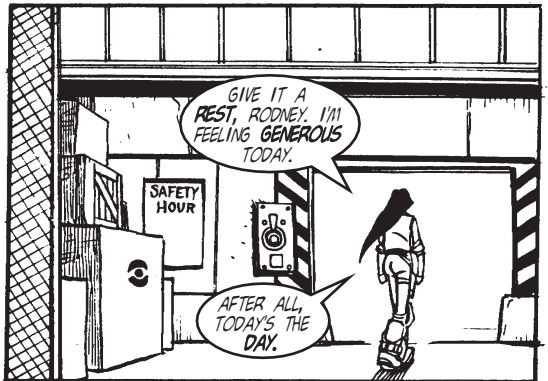


--AS WELL AS TWO ESCAPES.



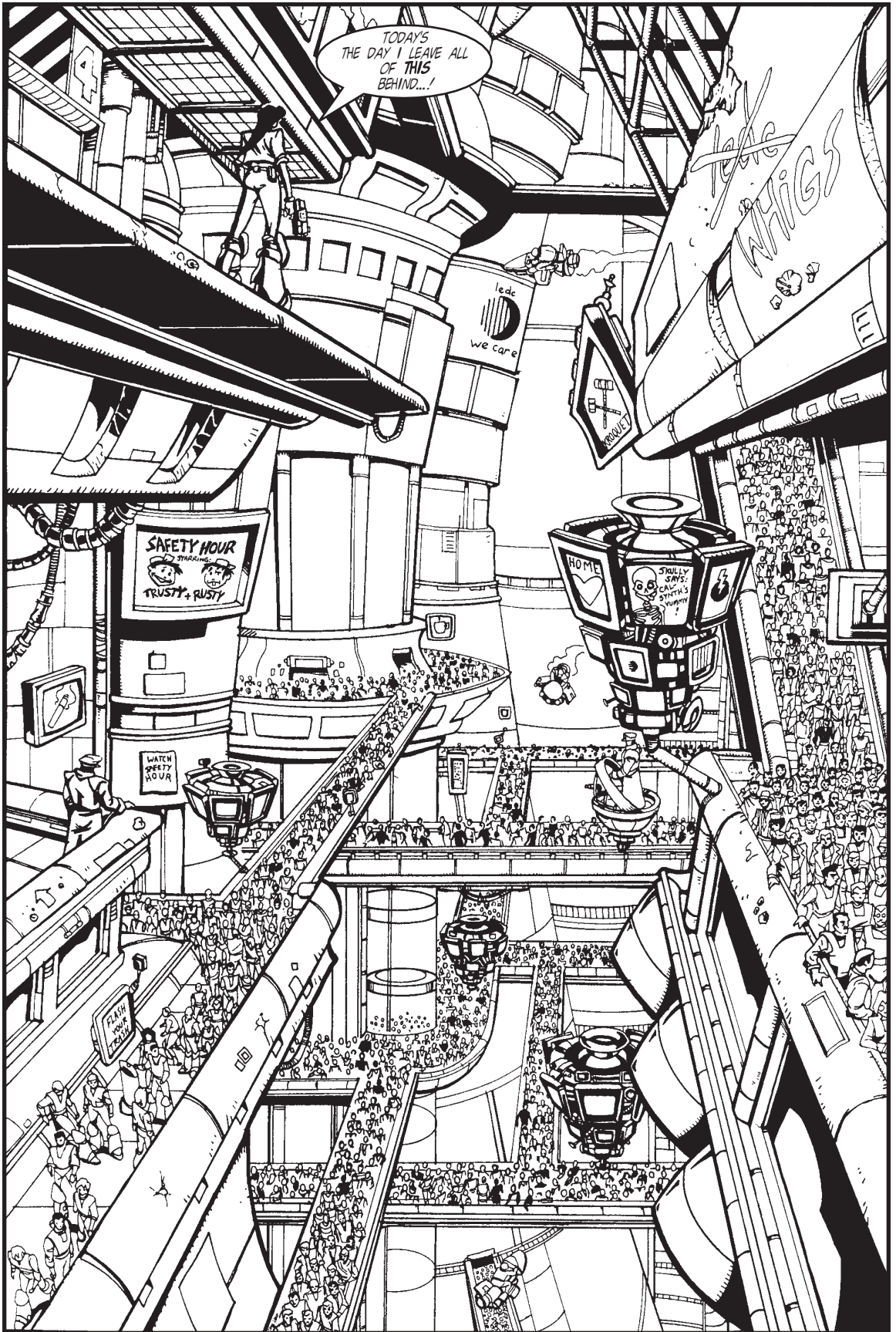
TRANG! WHATRE YOU DOIN!?!

THOSERE BAD GUYS! I COULDA SHOT THEM!



GIVE IT A REST, RODNEY. I'M FEELING GENEROUS TODAY.

AFTER ALL, TODAY'S THE DAY.

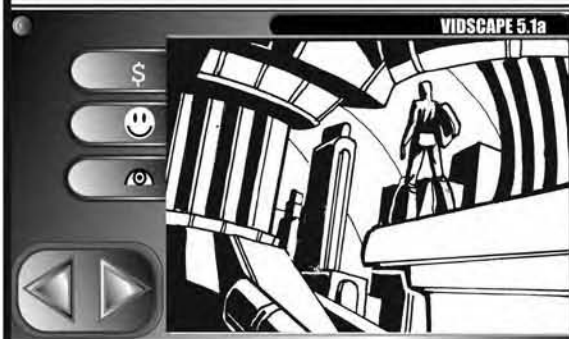




We don't need to tell you that Earth has her problems. You've been to the agencies. You know you can't find enough work to feed your family.



And you know that what you do have can be taken away in an instant.



But we can tell you that there is a place where the air is clean, the inhabitants healthy...



Where work is always available, good work, important work, the kind of work that would make any man proud...



And where citizens are protected twenty-four hours a day by polite and trustworthy Security Operations officers.



Is this place a fantasy, some sort of never-never land? No. Look up, into the heavens...



...and you'll see it. We want you, we need you here at Tranquilitatis Base, humanity's first self-sufficient off-world colony. Leave Earth behind...



...and reach for the stars. Contact your nearest Lunar Exploration and Development Corporation representative for an émigré infopacket today.

VIDSCAPE 5.1a



Oh, boy! It's time to join TRUSTY AND RUSTY for Safety Hour, boys and girls, so get ready to have a very pleasant time!

VIDSCAPE 5.1a



Trusty is always very careful never to run around Mommy's house with scissors.

VIDSCAPE 5.1a



Rusty isn't!

VIDSCAPE 5.1a



Trusty is always very careful around the industrial meat grinder.

VIDSCAPE 5.1a



Rusty isn't>krrrrzzzz<Pioneers! Haven't you had enough of the LEDC Slavery Conspiracy?

VIDSCAPE 5.1a



Lured by milk-and-honey promises, you used up the last of your savings paying for passage from Earth to the moon...

VIDSCAPE 5.1a



...only to find that LEDC never pays you enough to be able to afford passage off the moon, trapping you on Tranquilitatis in inhuman bondage forever!

VIDSCAPE 5.1a



The Armies of Rage say "Enough!" Join us and smash the chains of oppression!

