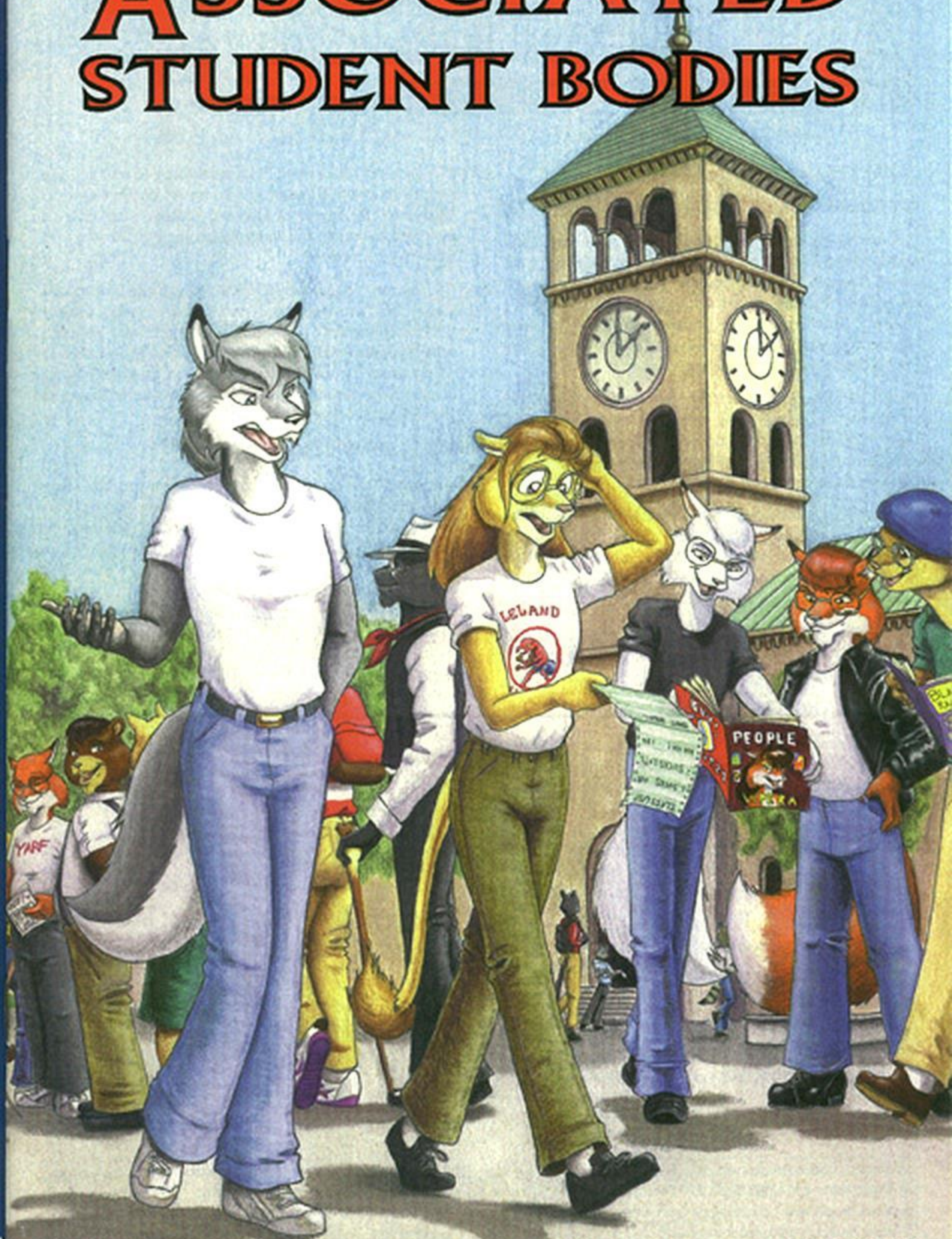


ASSOCIATED STUDENT BODIES



ADULT READERS ONLY

ISSUE ONE
\$3.50

BARRY ENGEL '97

ASSOCIATED STUDENT BODIES

WHAT'S IT ALL ABOUT?

Associated Student Bodies is about being gay in a straight world.

Growing up gay can be a frightening experience, as anyone who has been there can tell you. Having a secret that you dare not share, especially with those closest to you (friends and parents), is a very lonely thing. Even if you don't yet realize why you're different, there is a feeling of isolation and I-don't-belong-here. It's not a pleasant experience, and is not an experience anyone would choose willingly, or wish upon anyone else.

Sometimes though, if you're very, very lucky, a situation or supportive friends will come along, and the burden of "the secret" can be lifted. This can be a time of joy, and a wild emotional roller coaster. The highs are very high indeed, and the lows can really hurt too.

In Associated Student Bodies, we'll follow Our Hero, Daniel, through his awakening. We hope you'll laugh with him, share his happiness, and empathize with him when times are rough. Associated Student Bodies is not a shoot-em-up slam-bang adventure. It's about people.

We hope to run Associated Student Bodies through to eight issues. After that, who knows? Associated Student Bodies: The Animated Movie? Yeah, suuuure...

WHO ARE THESE STRANGE CHARACTERS?

We don't intend this to be a "true-to-life" story... at least, not all the time! Daniel's cohorts are a crazy bunch, and while they're based on certain stereotypes, you'd probably never actually see so many oddballs gathered together in one place (except, maybe, at a Gay Pride rally or a Democratic Party convention), or acting quite like some of the more... flamboyant members of the Associated Student Bodies cast. Most gay men are really very mainstream, but it's the fringe element that makes for good storytelling and humor.

Believe us, some of Daniel's friends here are pretty far out. We love 'em anyway.

HEY, WHAT ABOUT CONDOMS?

You might notice that in Associated Student Bodies, we usually don't depict our male characters using condoms. This is a conscious choice. We believe that our readership is intelligent

enough to not take a comic book as the guide to safer sex, and since this is a work of fantasy anyway, we can idealize enough to "wish away" the spectre of AIDS and hepatitis. After all, it's a multispecies world, and nasty social diseases like that just wouldn't get a foothold.

Just in case, though, we'll repeat the message you should already have burned into your brains: There is no such thing as "absolutely safe sex", regardless of the gender mix. However, using a condom makes sex a much safer activity, and because we care about our readers and want to be selling you comics for years to come, we ask that you always make use of a condom in your intimate moments.

WHO'S RESPONSIBLE FOR THIS?

Associated Student Bodies is a collaboration between Lance Rund and Chris McKinley, that came about one fine night on FurryMUCK (an online roleplaying game populated by fuzzleballs such as Daniel and his friends). What started out as a joke ("Hey, would this be a funny picture to draw?") has gotten totally out of hand. Lance is a software engineer who knows better than to quit his day job (make money on independent comics? HA!), and Chris is a college student who hopes to someday be an animator (and for this reason, is working through a pen name... the animation industry is still a very bizarre mixture of free thinking and inconceivably narrowminded prudishness).

I CAN'T GET ENOUGH OF THIS FINE STORY! WHERE CAN I BUY A.S.B. STUFF?

Whoa, slow down! We just got started! The Associated Student Bodies soda-can insulators and rocket-powered pogo sticks come out next year...

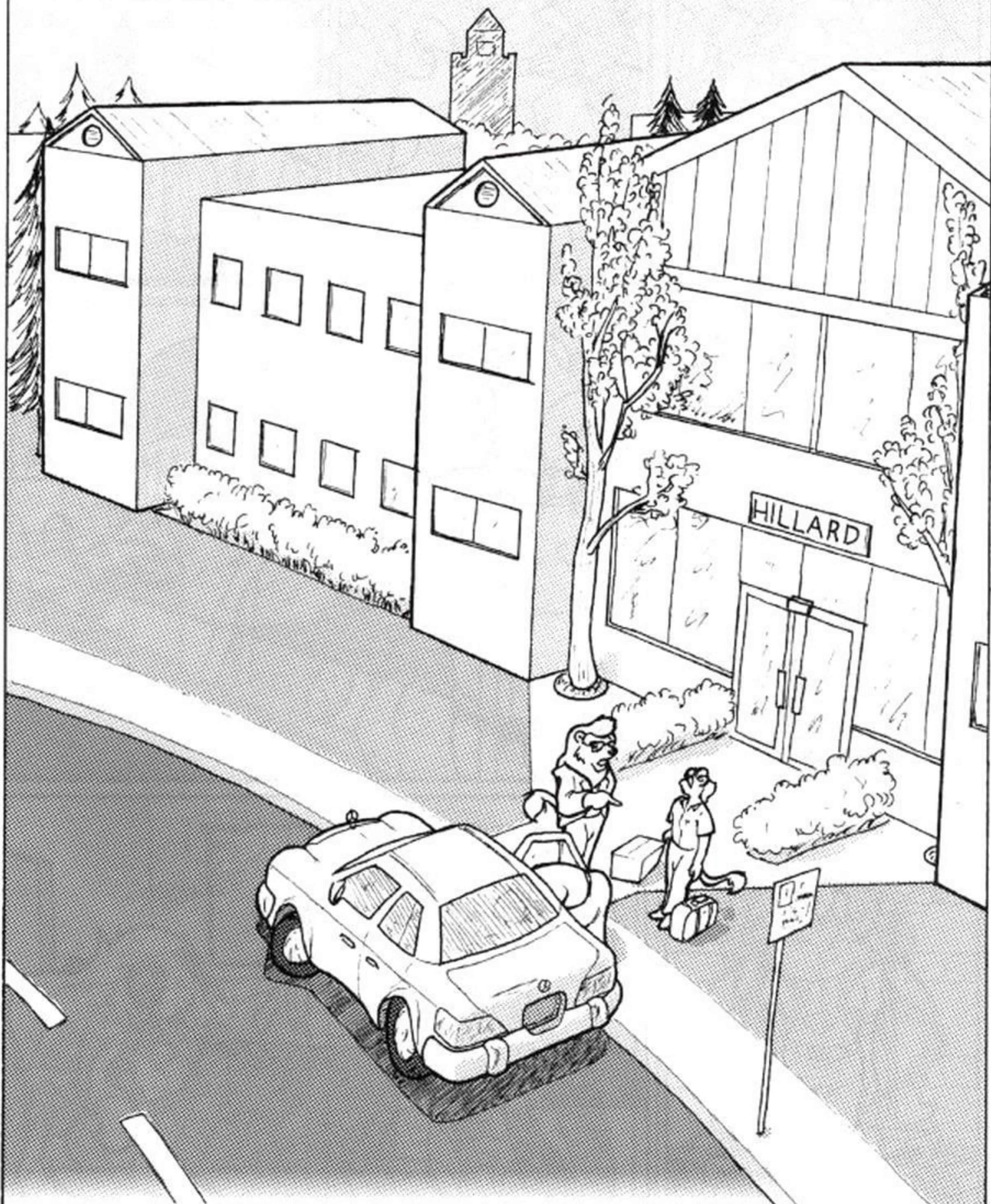
In the mean time, come visit us at our web site at:

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

See you in 90...

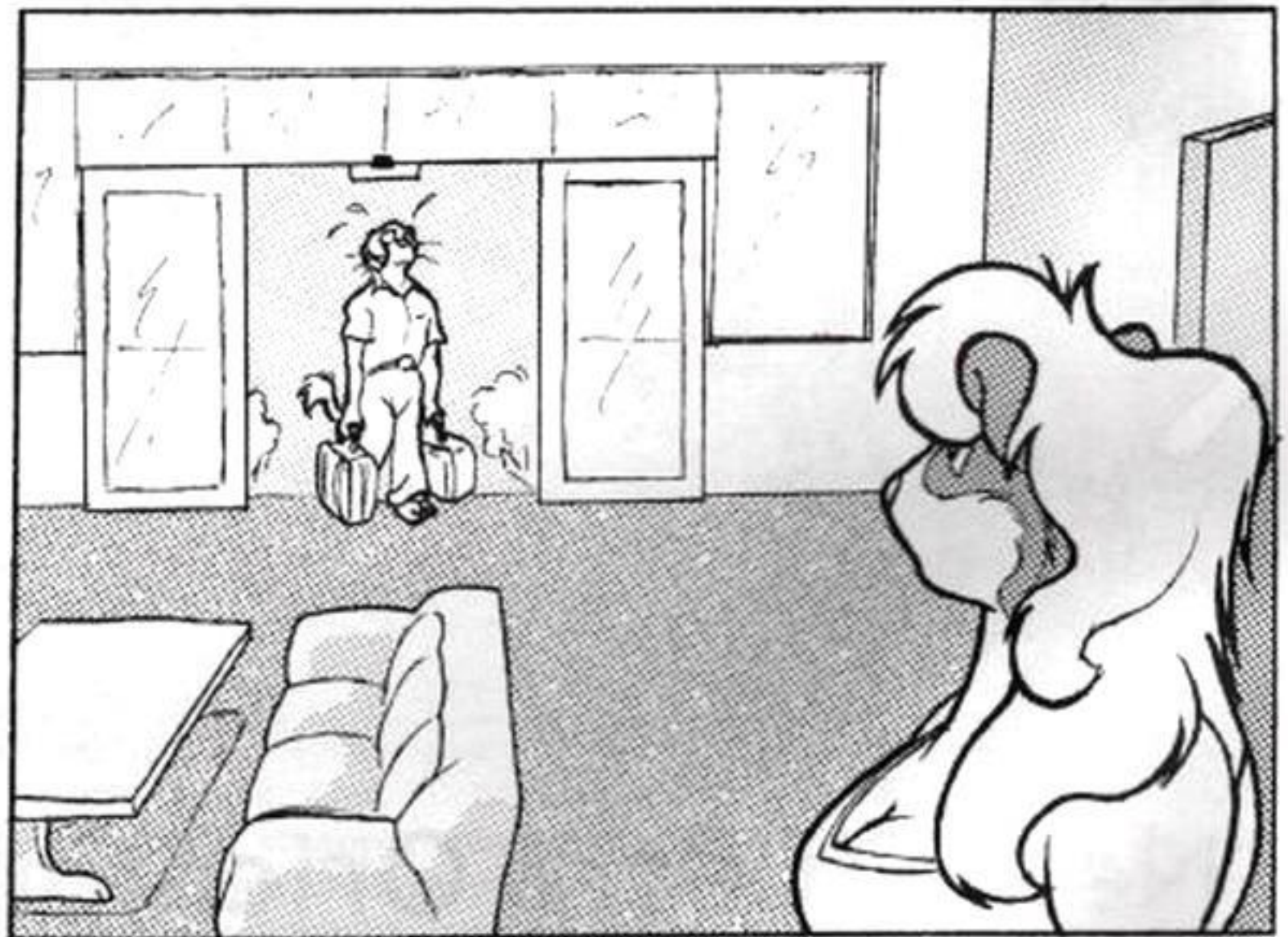


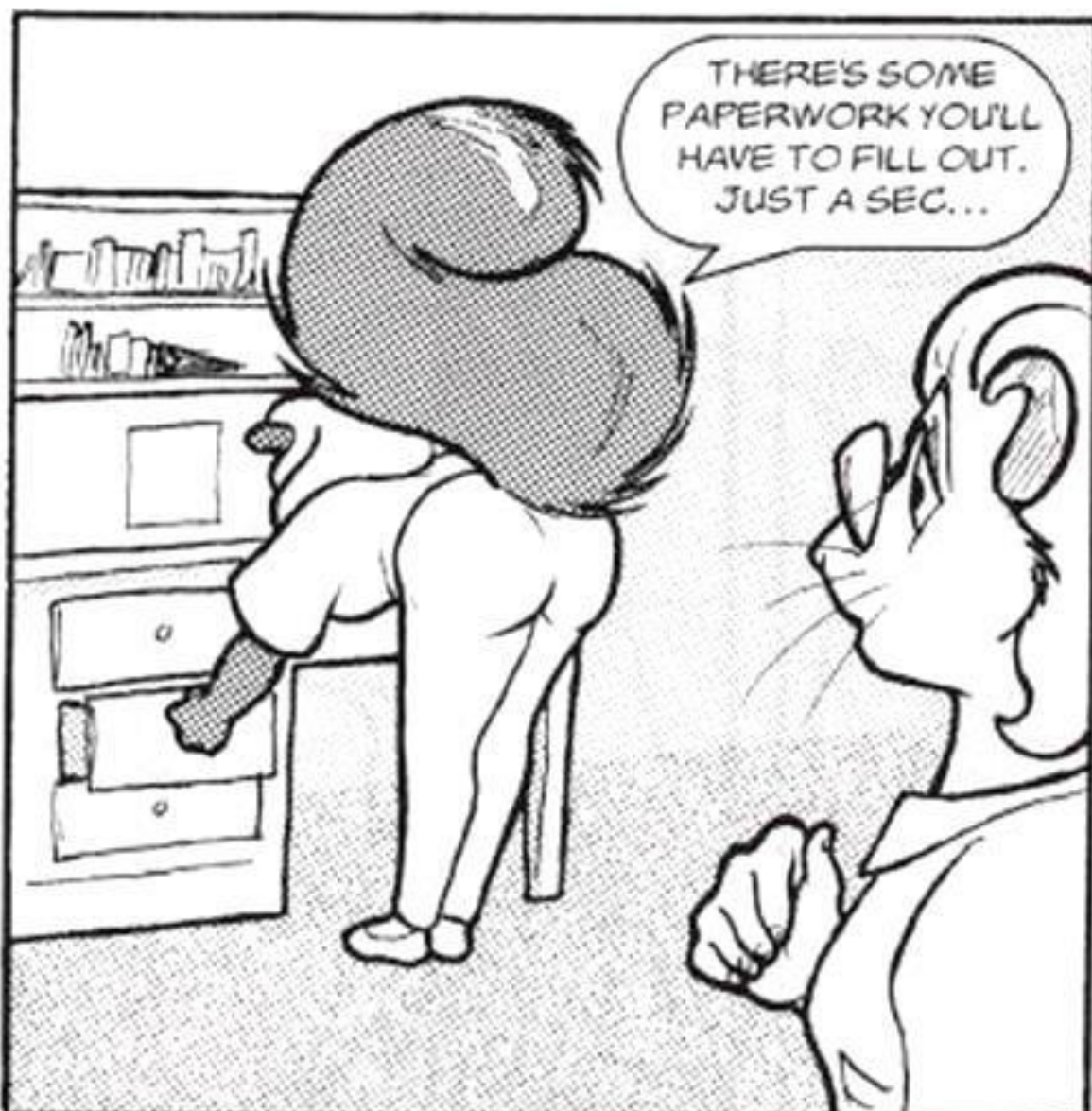
ASSOCIATED STUDENT BODIES



"New Student Orientation"

art by Chris McKinley • written, edited and published by Lance Rund

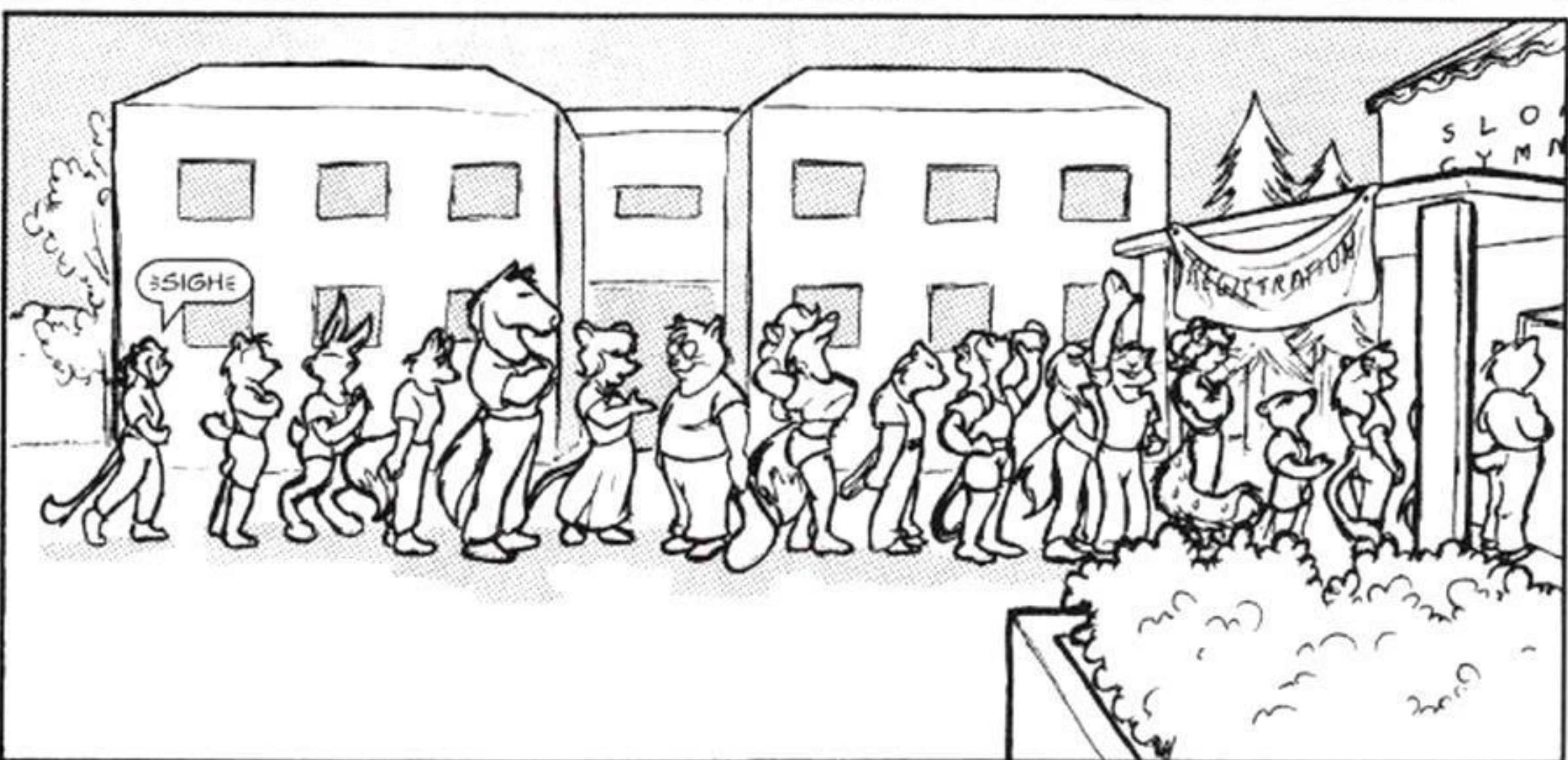


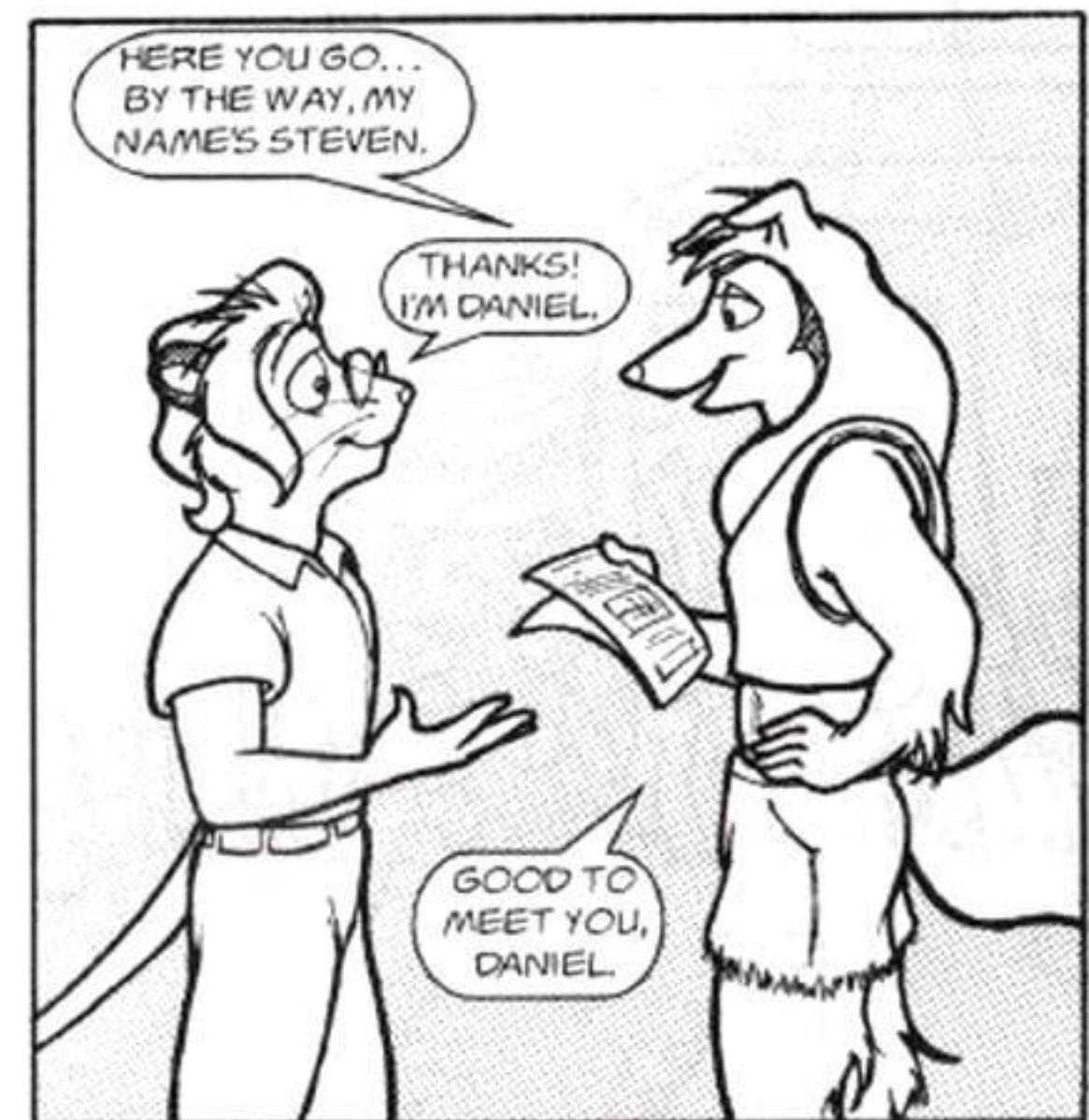
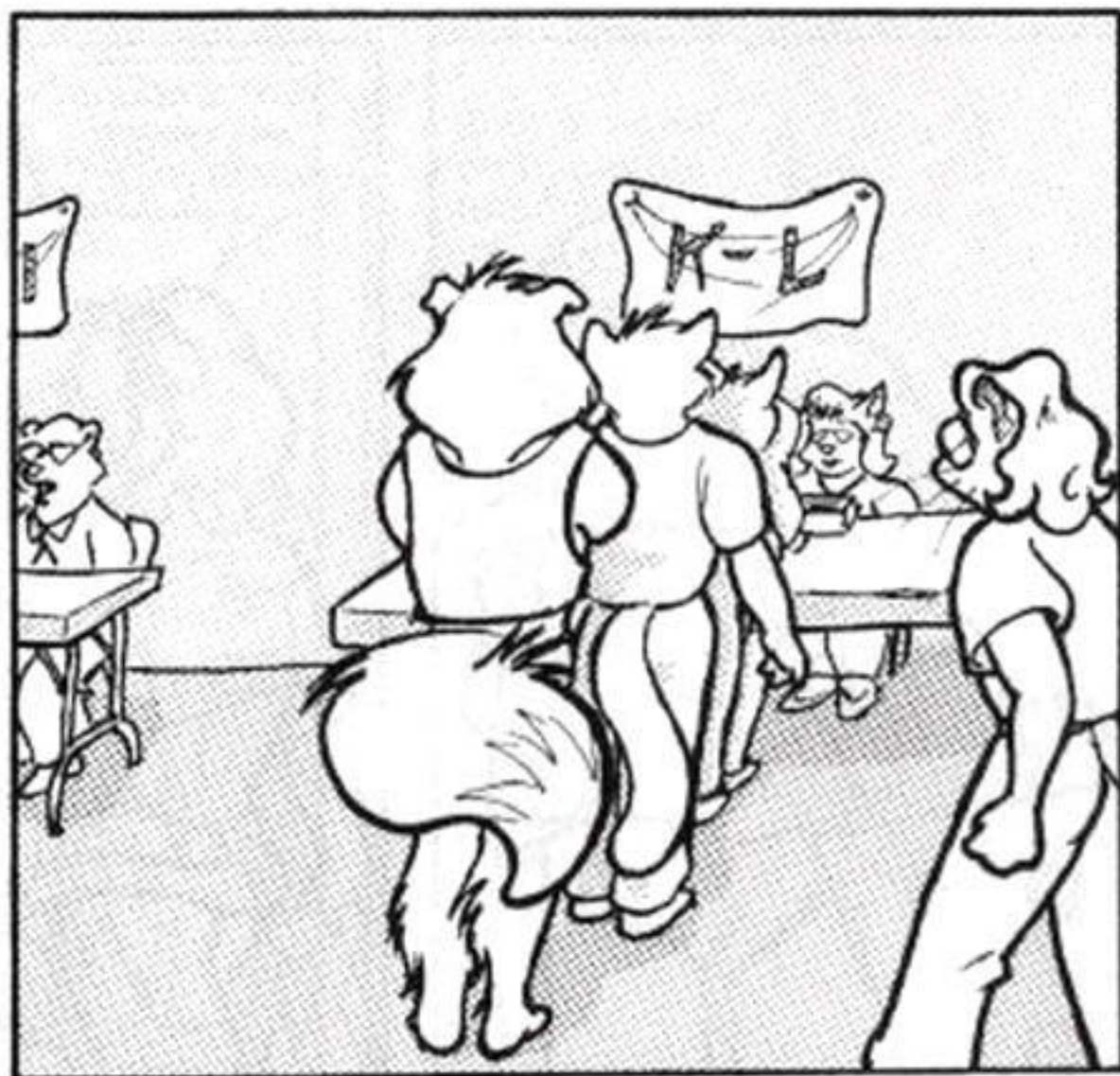


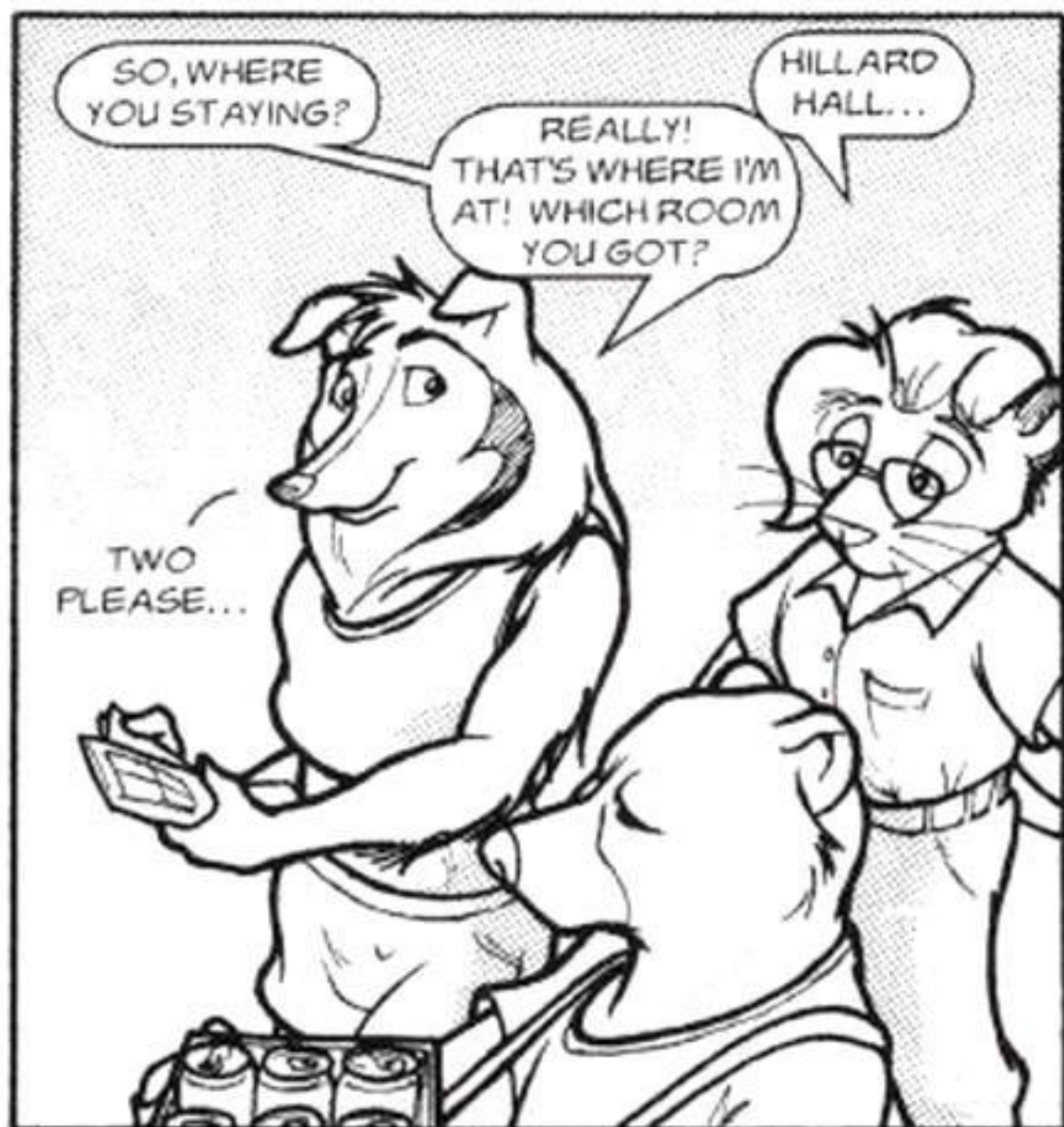




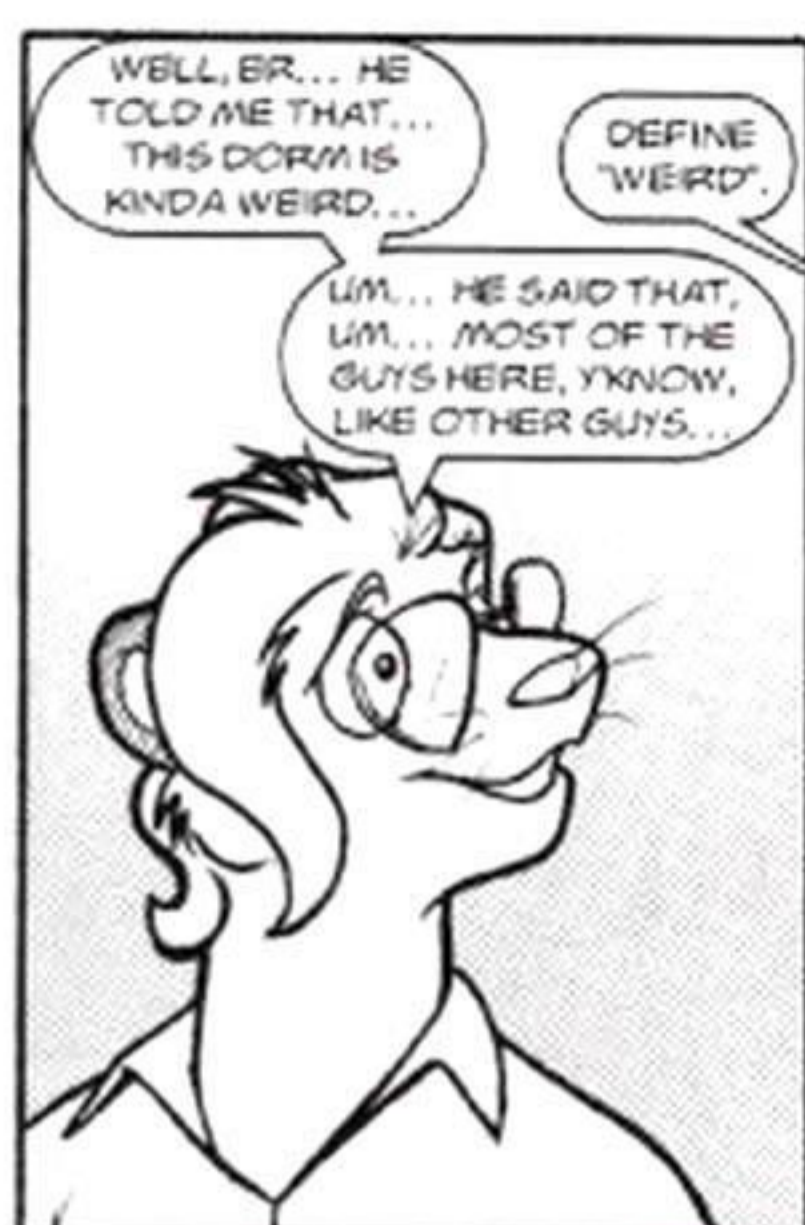


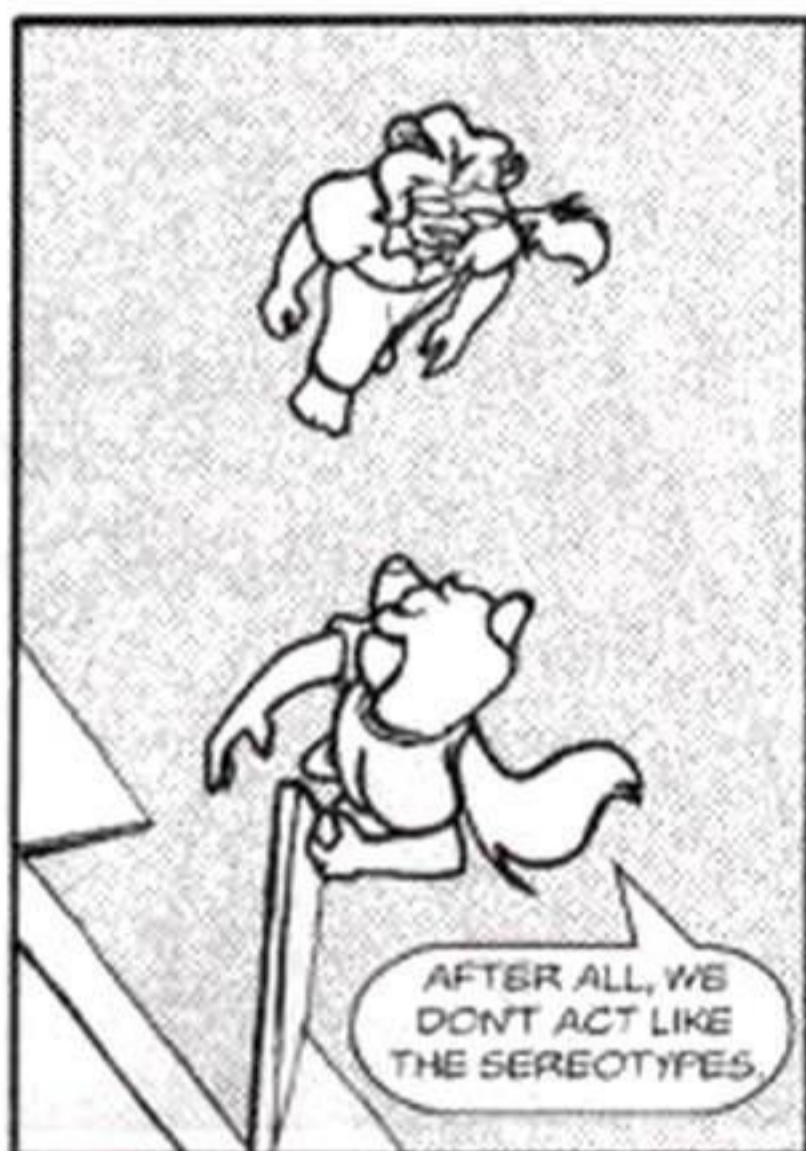




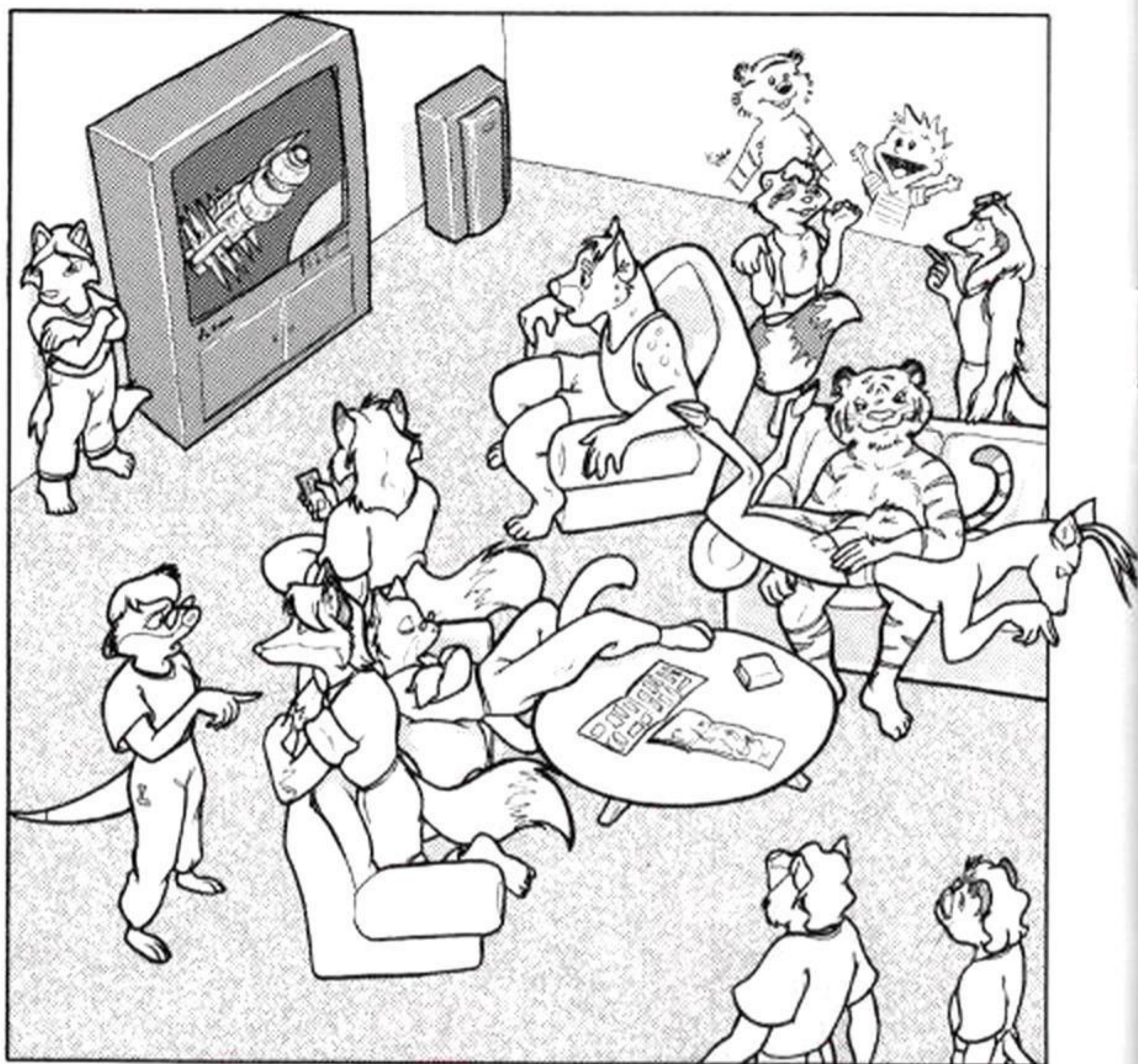


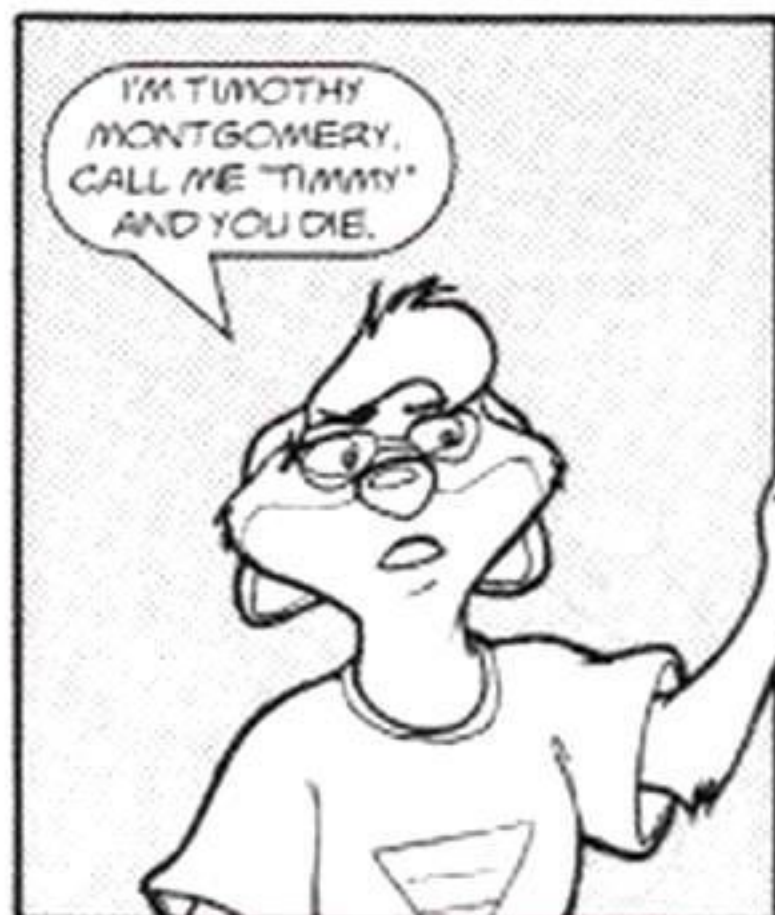










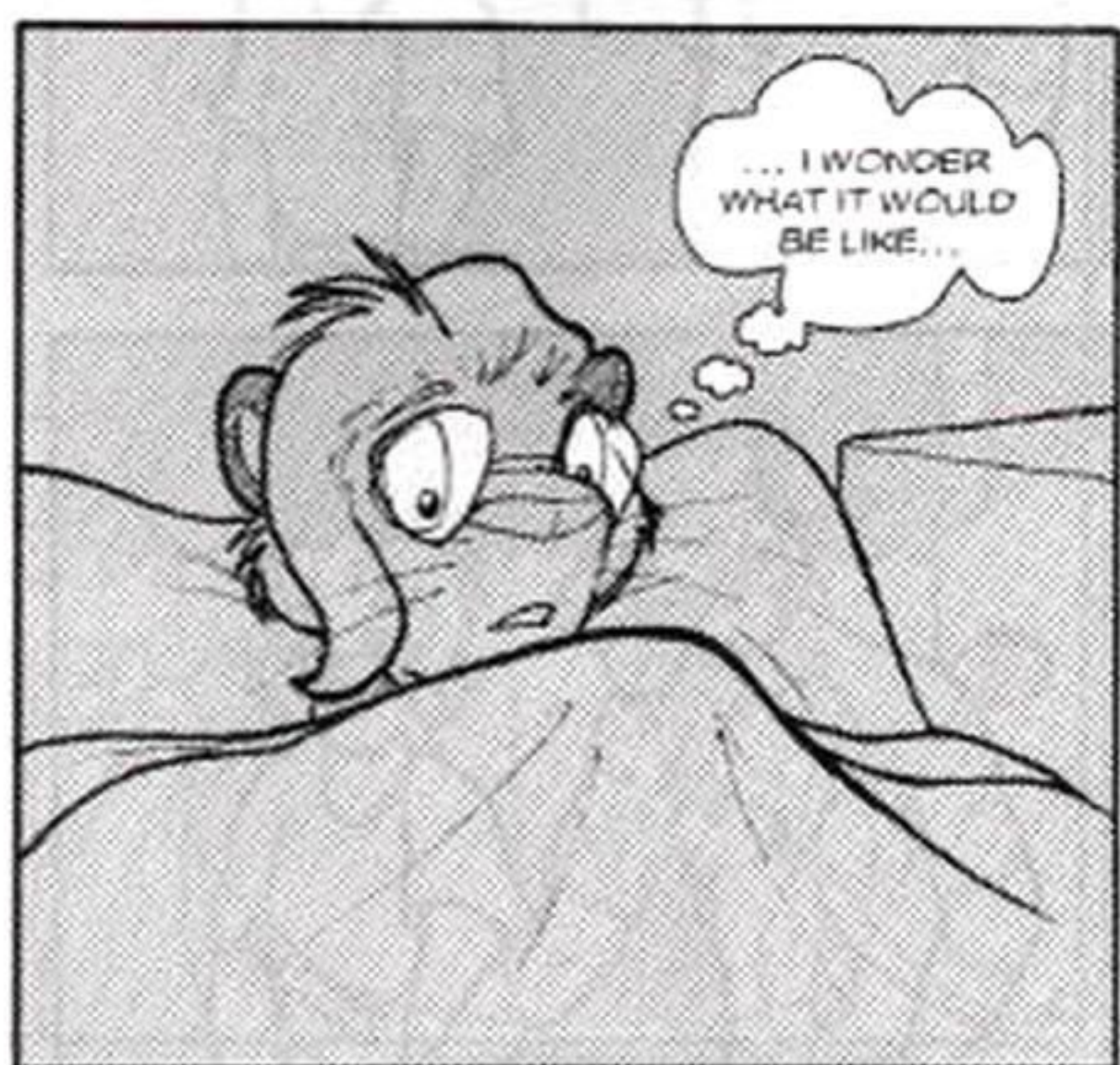
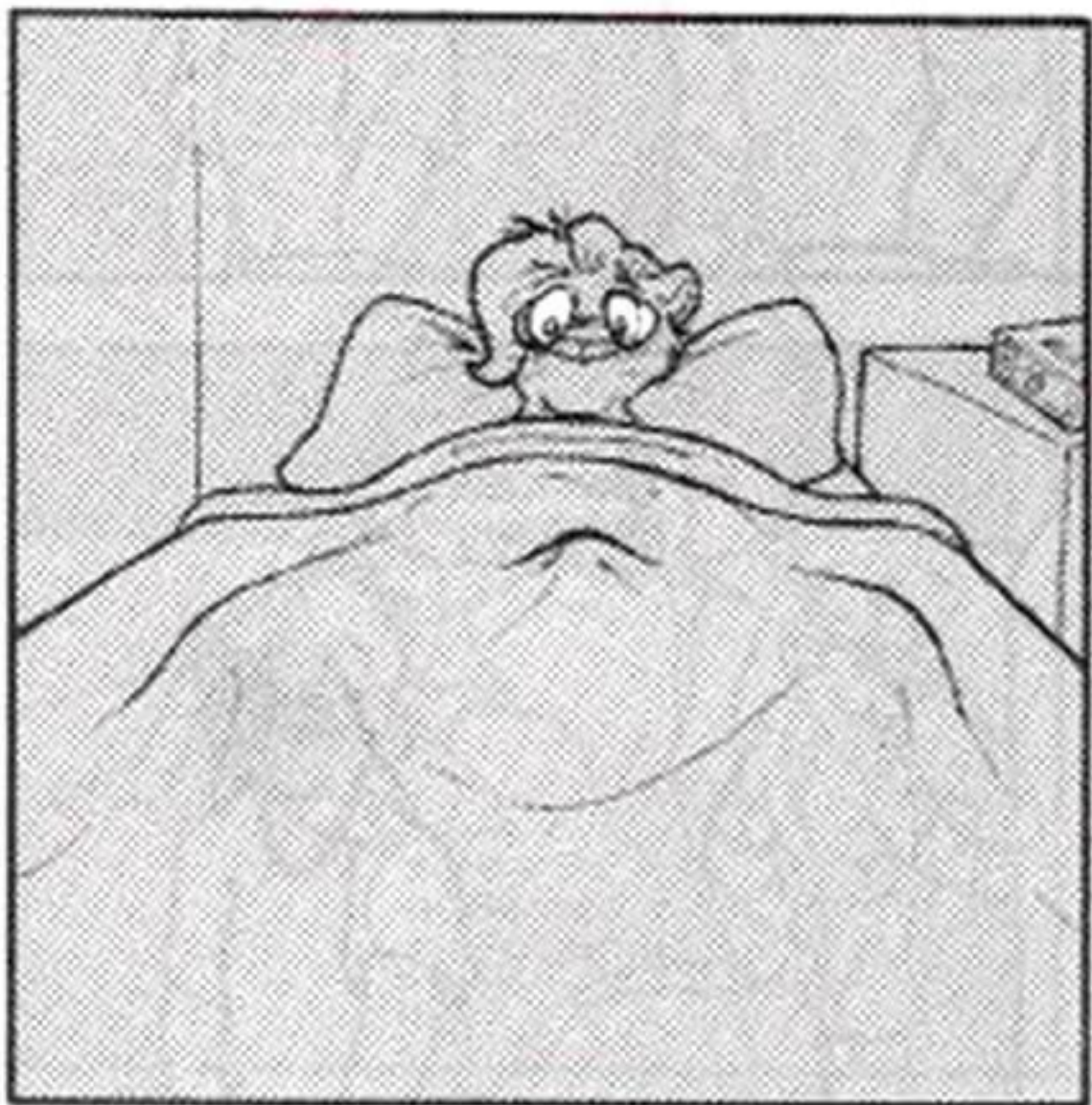
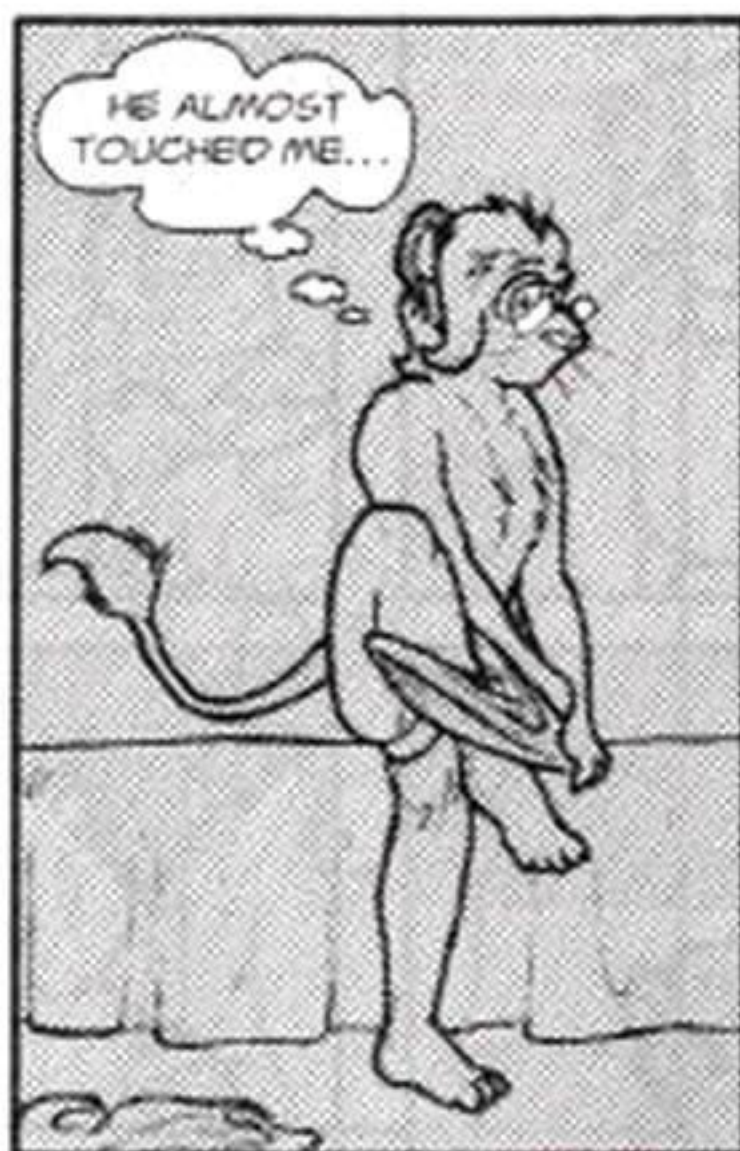


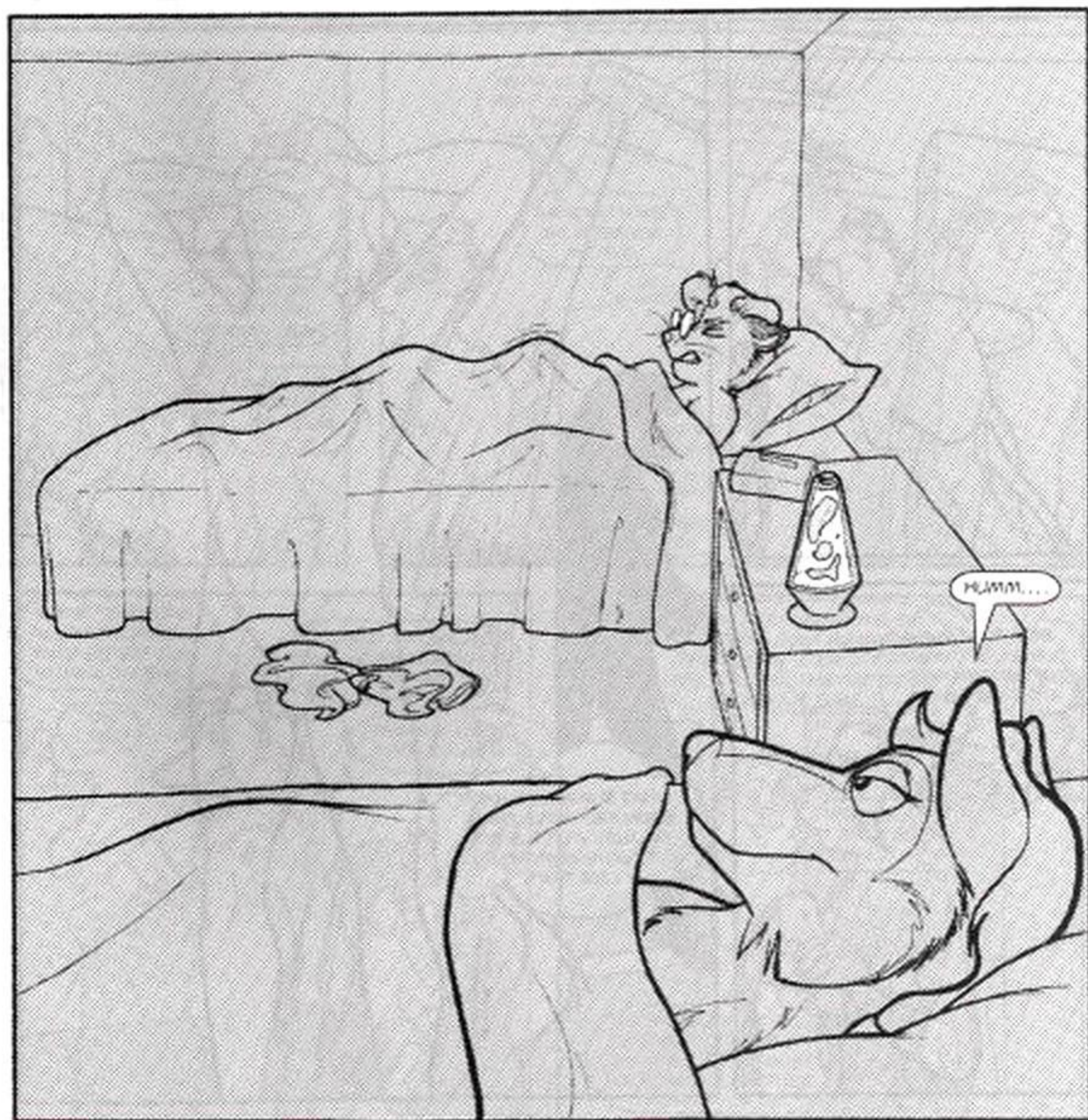






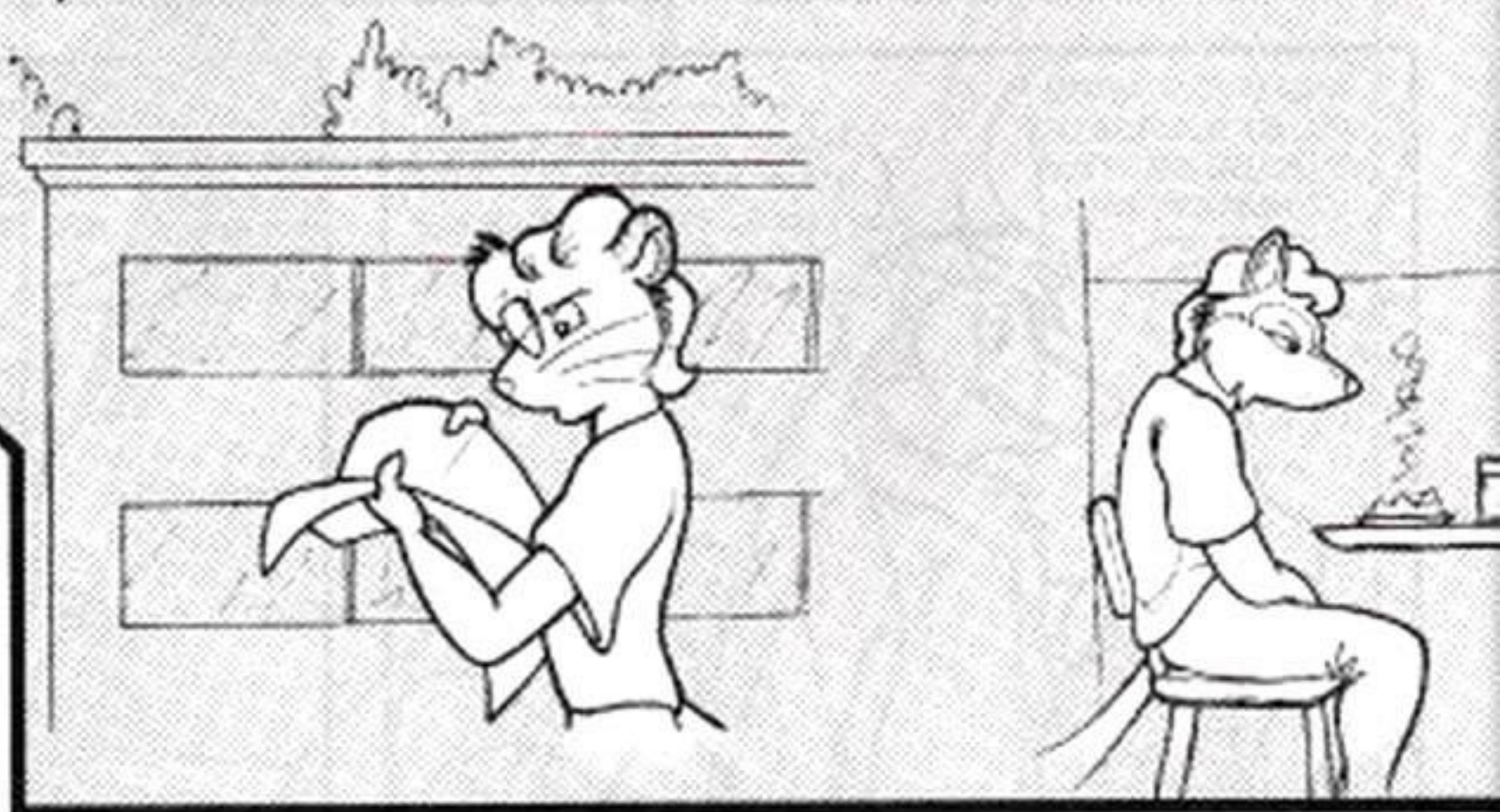
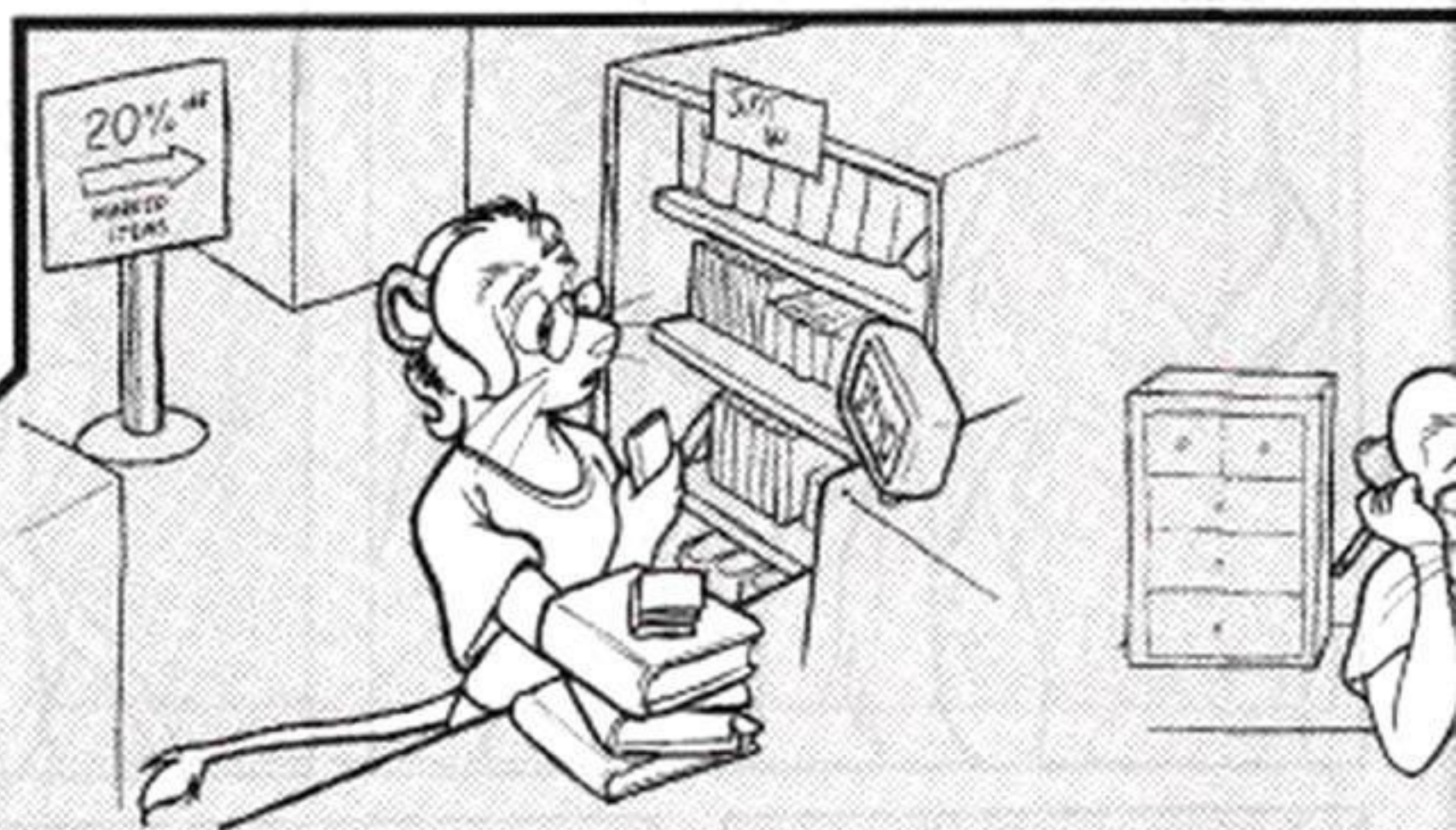


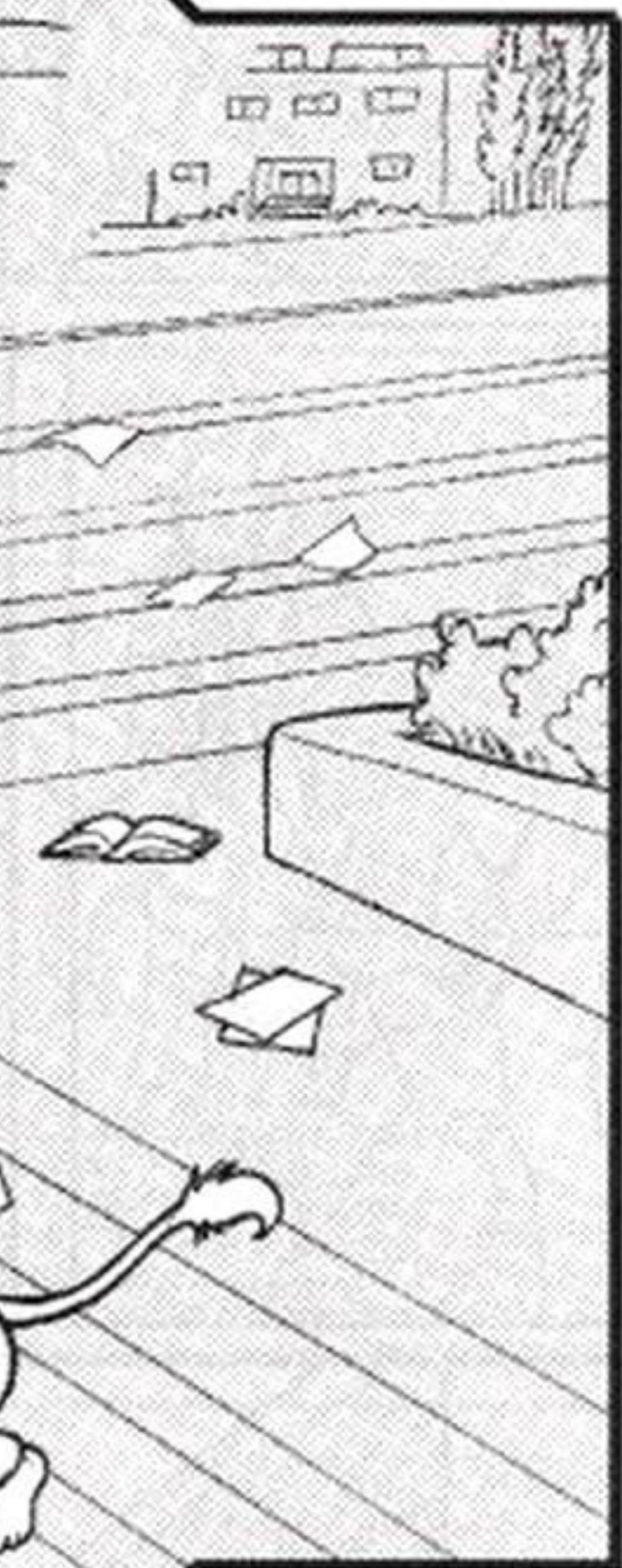
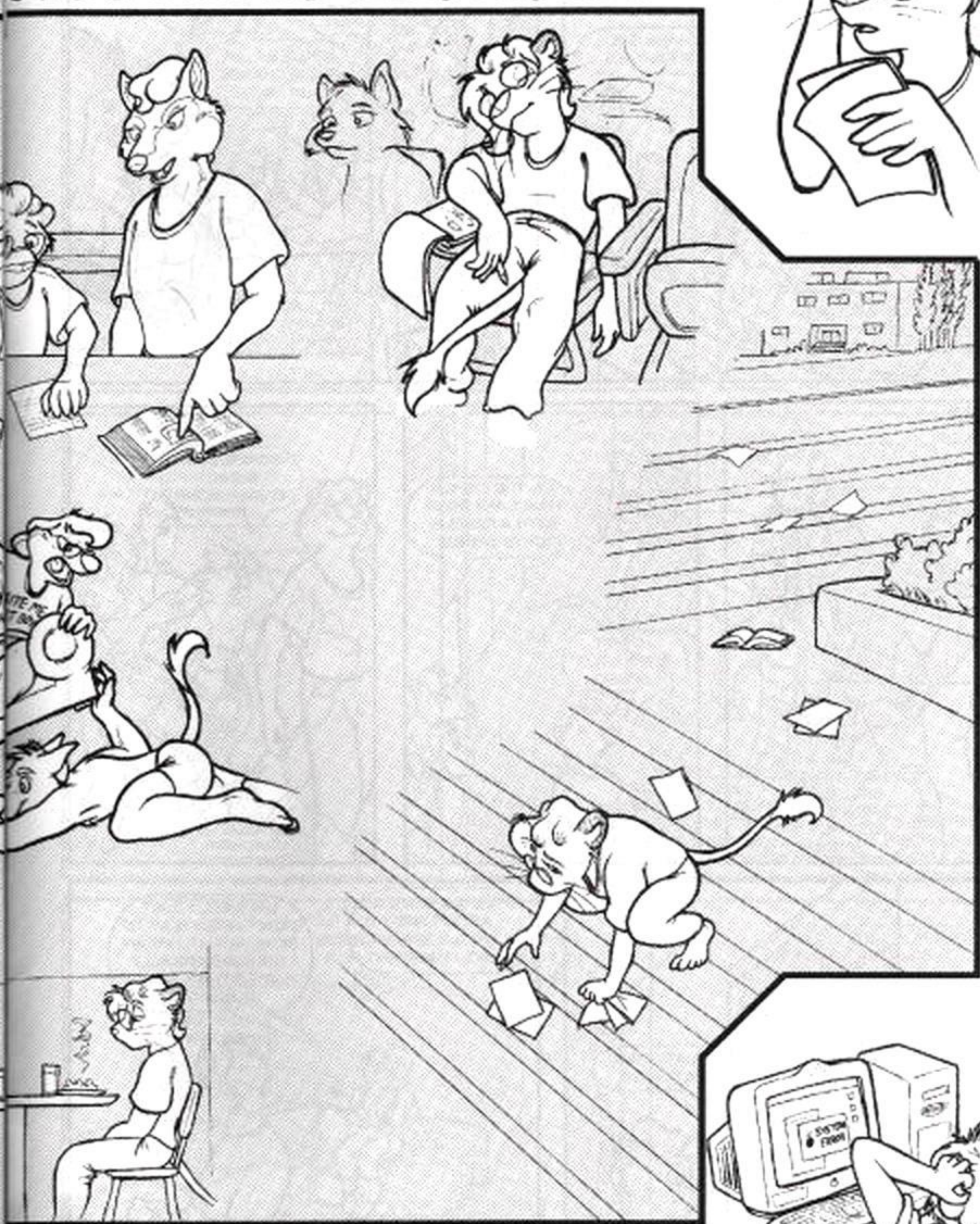




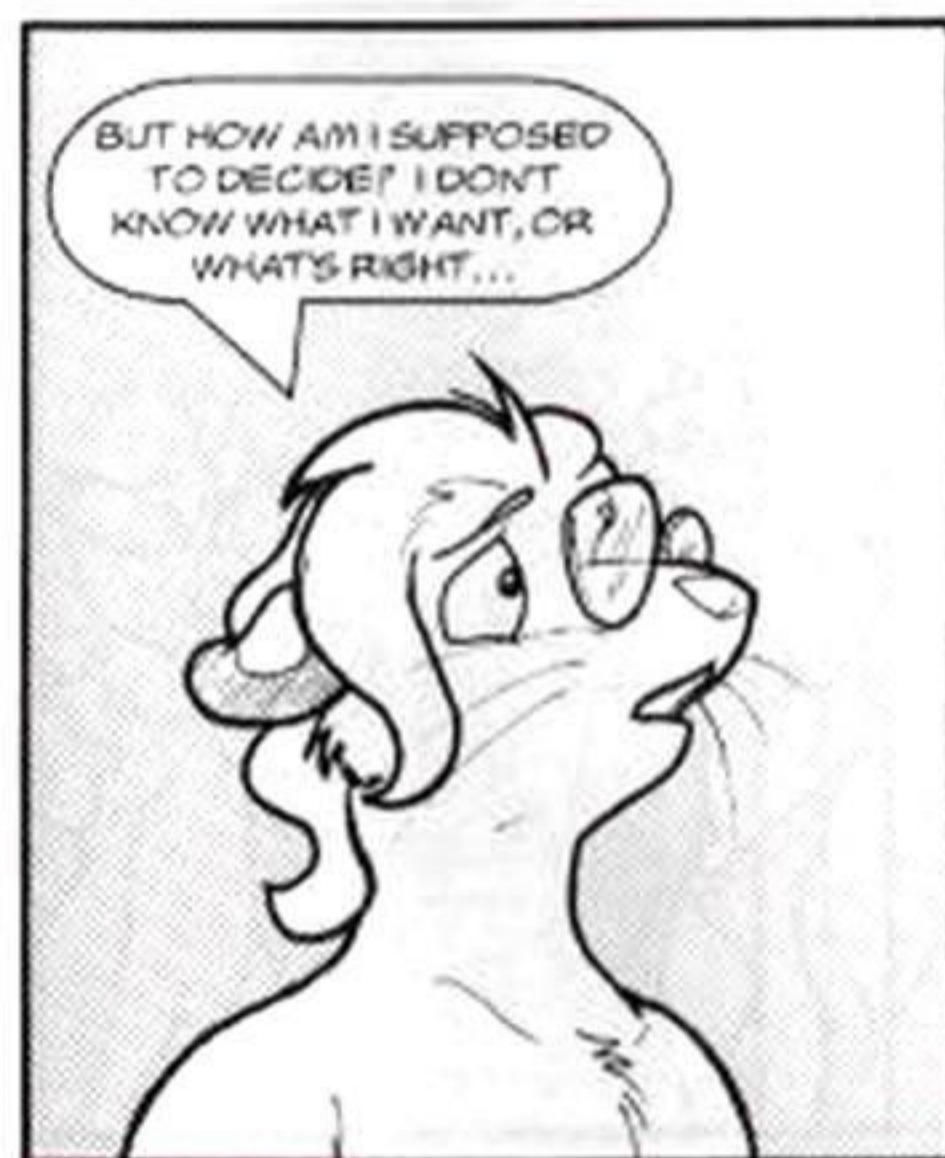






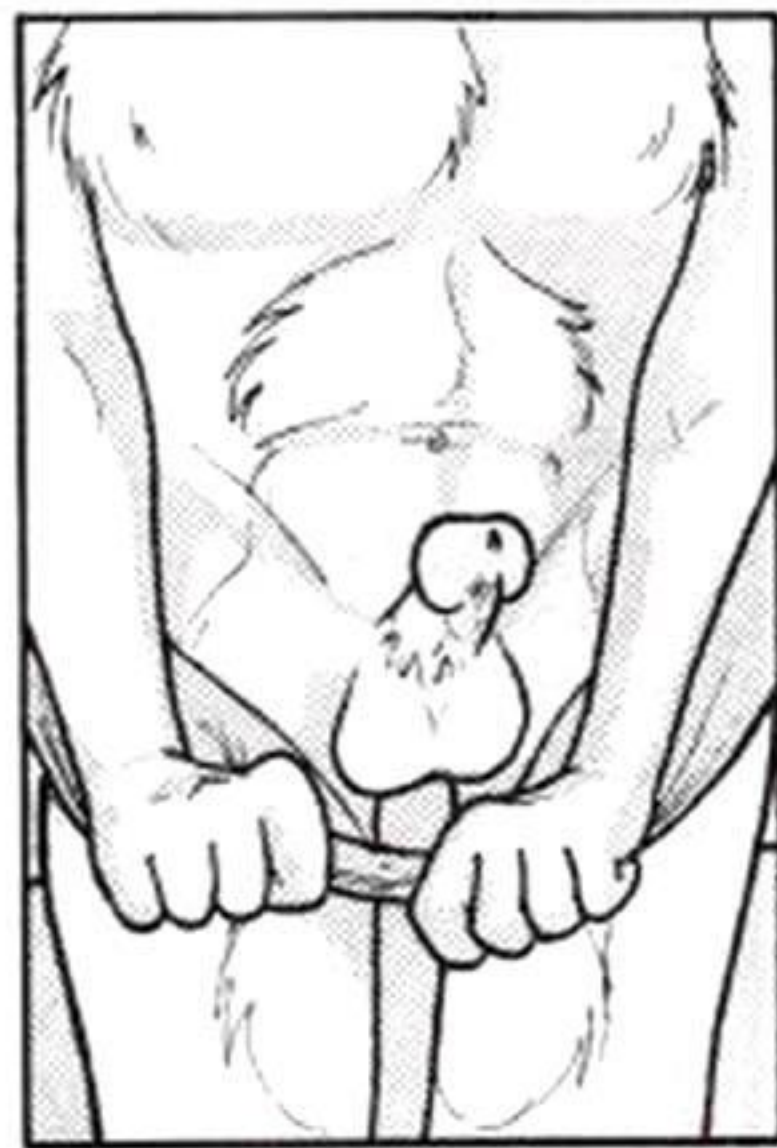
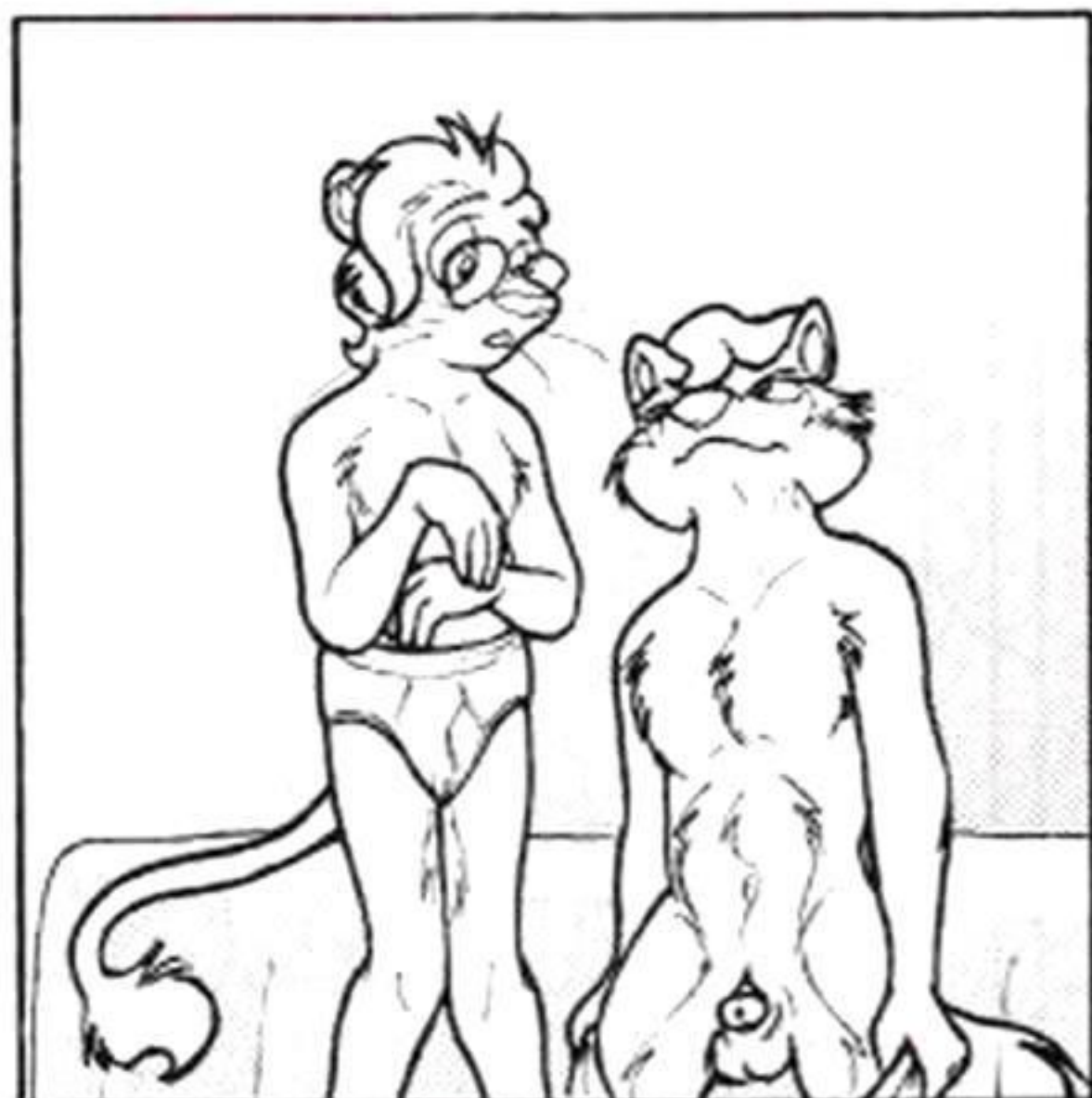




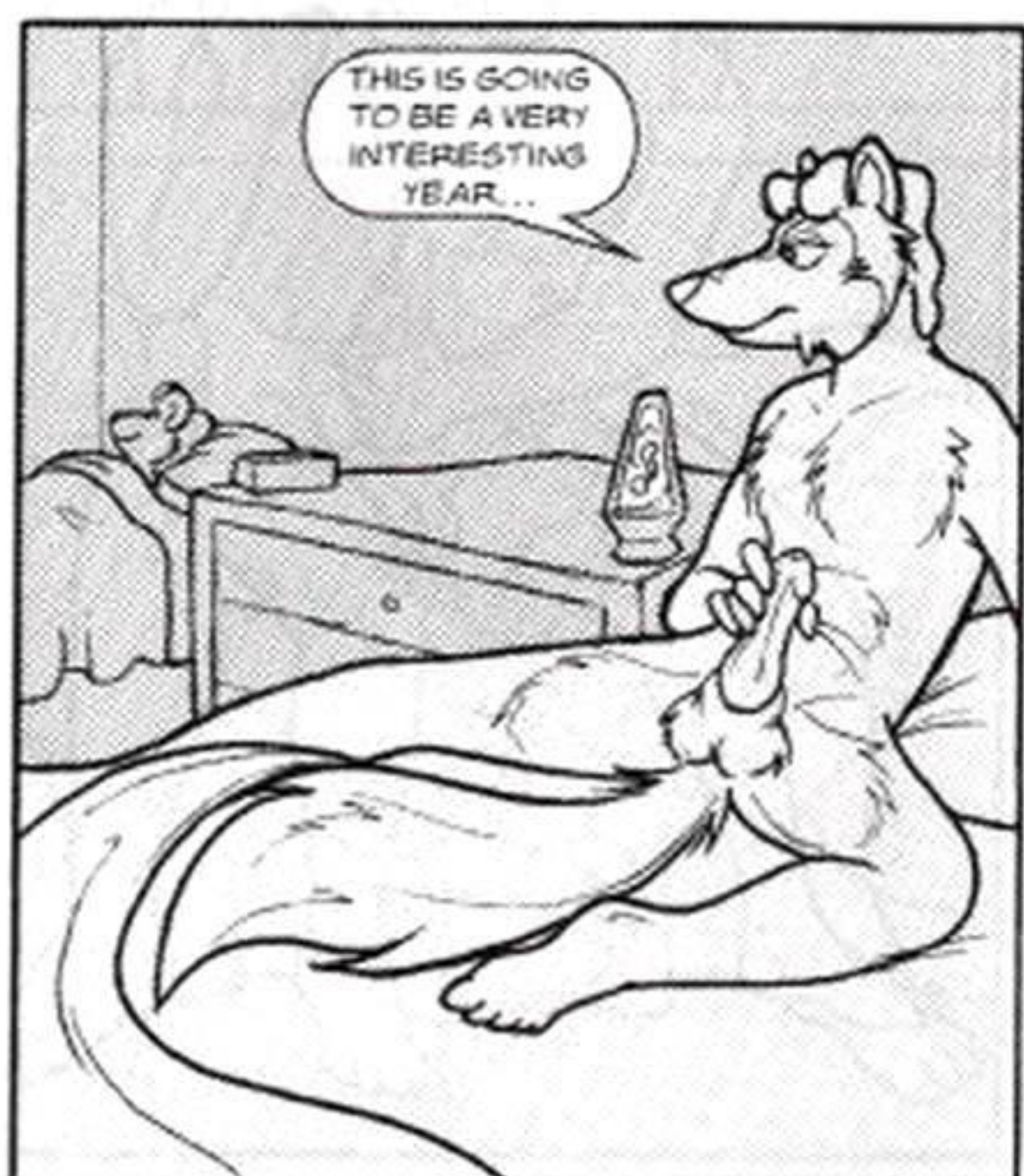






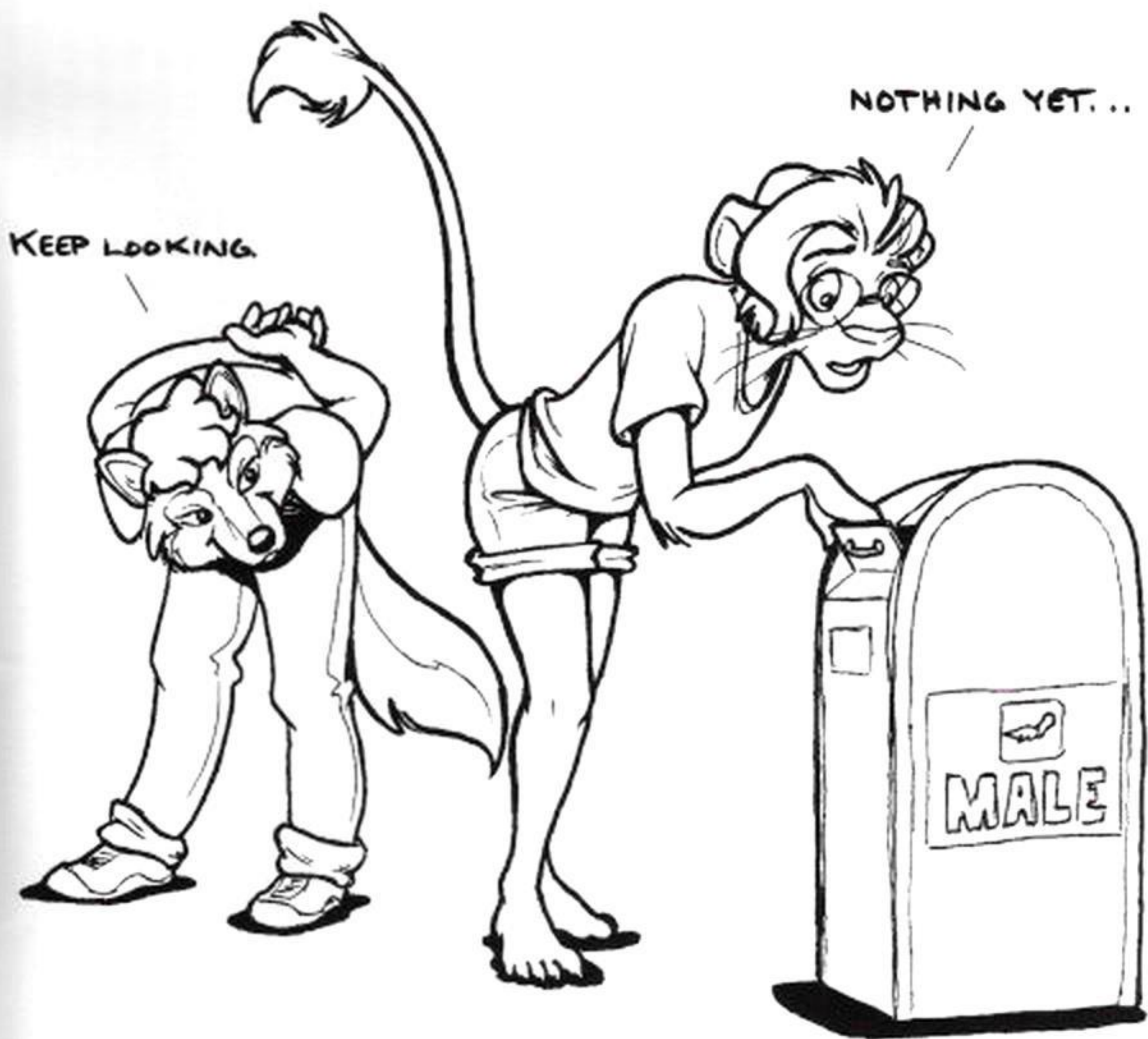






LETTERS FROM HOME

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



ASSOCIATED STUDENT BODIES
P.O. BOX 1299 • CUPERTINO, CA 95015-1299

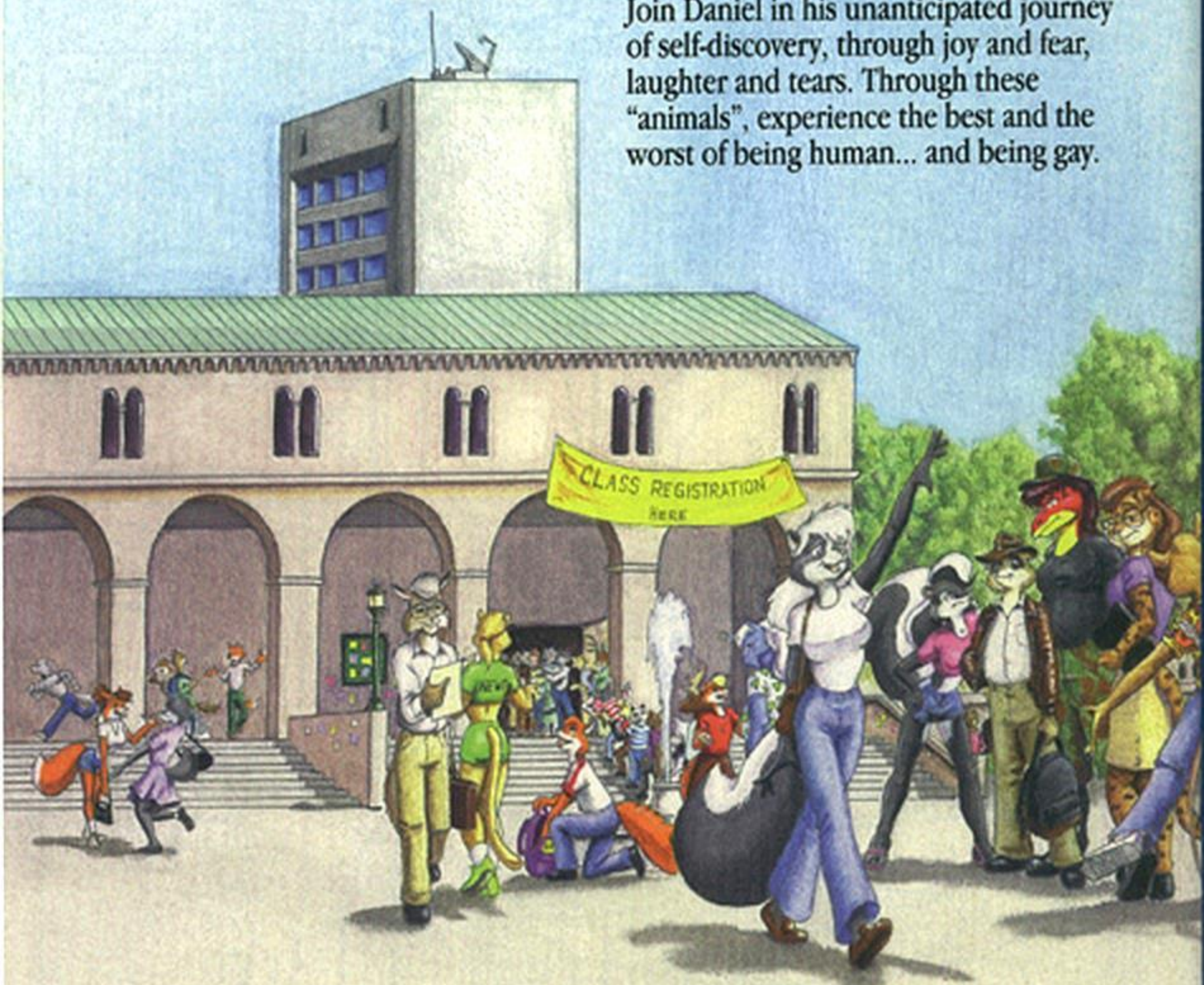
All letters of comment become the property of the publishers of Associated Student Bodies.
Write us anyway (get your name in print!) and phone your mother! She's worried sick about you...

Associated Student Bodies is the story of a young man's search for answers. Who am I? Why am I different? What's going to happen to me?

Is it wrong when one man loves another?



Join Daniel in his unanticipated journey of self-discovery, through joy and fear, laughter and tears. Through these "animals", experience the best and the worst of being human... and being gay.



AN ARCLIGHT PRESS PRODUCTION