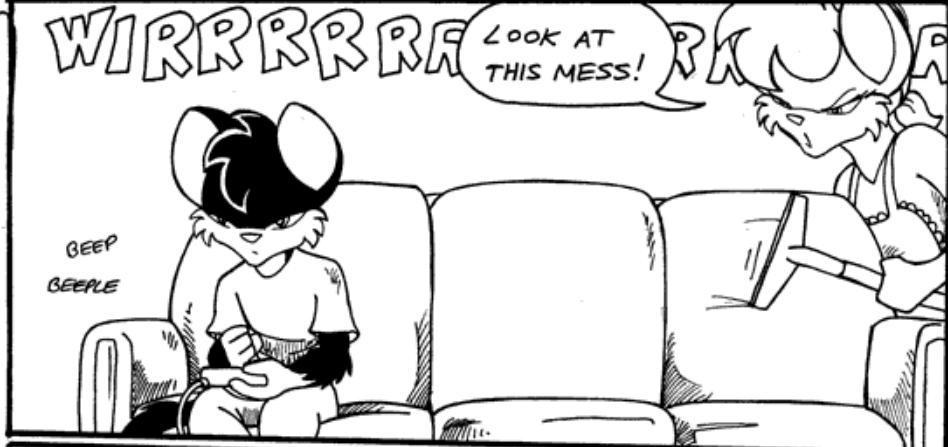


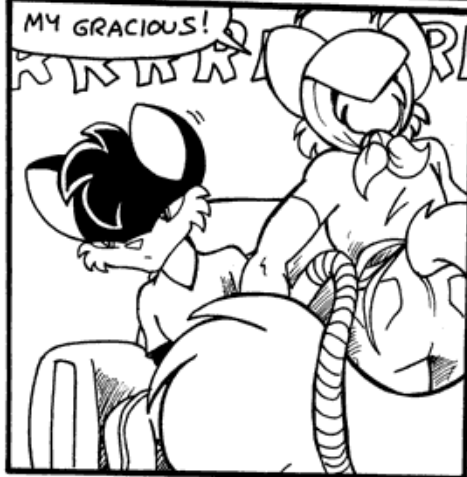
WIRRRRRR

LOOK AT THIS MESS!

BEEP
BEEPLE



MY GRACIOUS!



PUT ON A SWEATER!

SCHLORP



WIRRRRRR THIS PLACE LOOKS LIKE THE WRECK OF THE HESPERAS! RRRRRR



RRR-W
RRR
...RRRR



WHAT'S WITH ALL THE SPASTIC CLEANING, MOM?

WE'RE HAVING COMPANY.

WHO?



THE KELSOS ARE STOPPING OVER FOR THE NIGHT ON THEIR WAY TO FLORIDA.



WHO?



THEY'RE OLD FRIENDS OF MINE AND YOUR FATHER'S. THEY HELPED ME A LOT WHEN HE DIED.



OH. DO THEY SLEEP EARLY?



YES. THE STEREO WILL BE PLAYED AT A TOLERABLE LEVEL, PLEASE.

≧SIGH≦
ALL RIGHT.

IF MADONNA'S HALF AS TALENTED AS YOU CLAIM, YOU SHOULD BE ABLE TO ENJOY HER AT A REASONABLE, INDOOR VOLUME AS WELL.

FINE.



COME IN, YOU TWO!
HOW WAS YOUR
TRIP?

GLAD IT'S
NEARLY OVER!



HOW ABOUT YOU, MM?
DOING OKAY?



HANGING IN
THERE, MIMI.

AND THE KITTENS? I HAVEN'T SEEN
THEM SINCE THEY WERE THIS BIG.



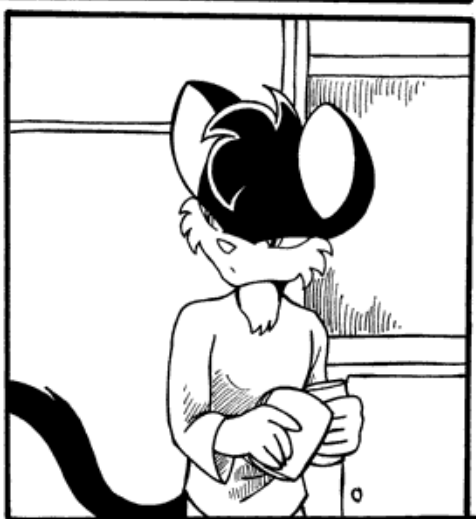
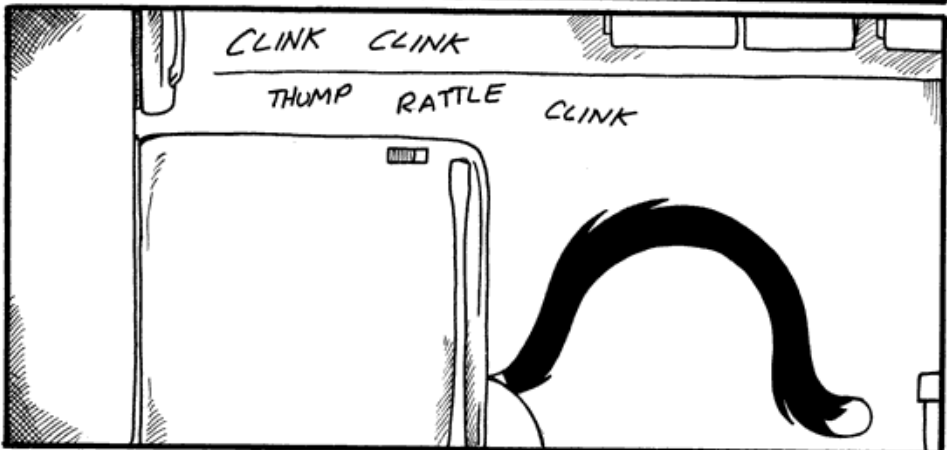
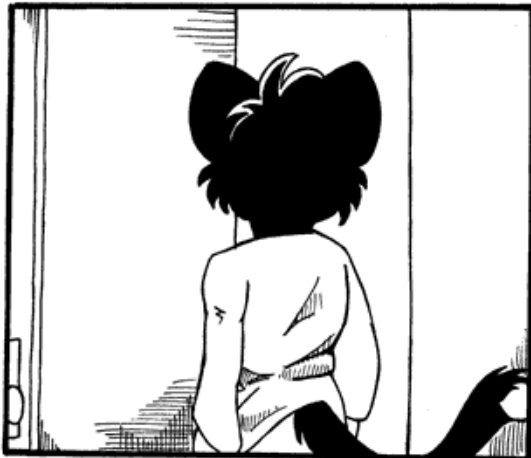
GROWING LIKE
WEEDS!

¡GASP! IS THAT FISK? HE
LOOKS JUST LIKE HIS FATHER!



I SURE REMEMBER
THOSE EYES.





YOU PLAY CHESS BY YOURSELF?

WHEN THERE'S NO ONE ELSE AROUND.

I USED TO PLAY WHEN I WAS YOUNGER, BUT IT'S BEEN A FEW YEARS.

WELL, IF YOU'RE NOT TOO BUSY, PULL UP A CHAIR AND TAKE A SIDE? WE'LL SEE WHAT YOU'VE GOT.

OKAY. SURE. TURN THE BOARD. I'LL TAKE BLACK.

WHY'D YOU CHOOSE BLACK, FISK?



NOT SURE. IT ALWAYS STRUCK ME AS A SNEAKY COLOR.

IT'S TRADITIONALLY ASSOCIATED WITH EVIL, OR THE BAD SIDE OF A FIGHT.



I DON'T THINK THE BLACK PIECES SEE IT THAT WAY. I DON'T THINK ANY SIDE FIGHTS FOR WHAT THEY THINK IS WRONG. I THINK IT'S JUST A CLASH OF DIFFERENCES...


WHY CLASH, THEN?

...
I THINK WHEN IDEAS ENTER INTO COMPETITION, THEY HAVE TO RESOLVE DOMINANCE. I GUESS THE ONLY TRULY "BAD" IDEA IS ONE THAT TAKES AWAY SELF

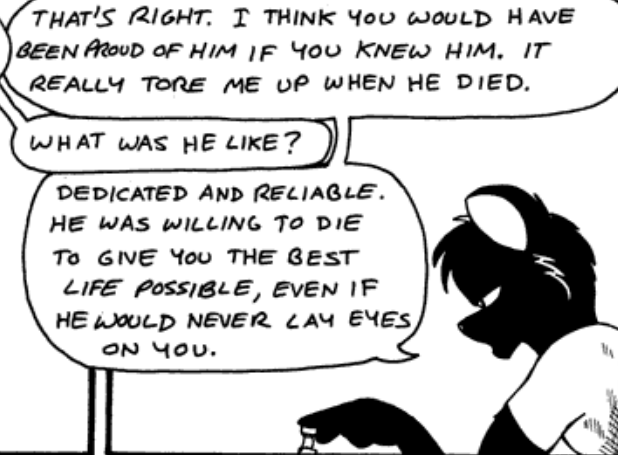
DETERMINATION.

THAT'S A PRETTY STARTLING CONCLUSION FROM SUCH A YOUNG MAN, FISK. VERY INTERESTING.






MOM SAID YOU
KNEW MY DAD DURING
THE WAR.



THAT'S RIGHT. I THINK YOU WOULD HAVE
BEEN PROUD OF HIM IF YOU KNEW HIM. IT
REALLY TORE ME UP WHEN HE DIED.

WHAT WAS HE LIKE?

DEDICATED AND RELIABLE.
HE WAS WILLING TO DIE
TO GIVE YOU THE BEST
LIFE POSSIBLE, EVEN IF
HE WOULD NEVER LAY EYES
ON YOU.




WAS IT WORTH IT?

WHAT'S THAT?

VIETNAM.



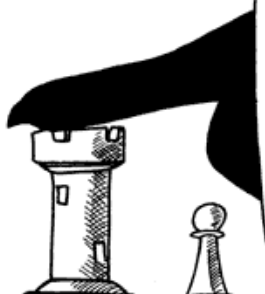
...




I'VE BEEN ALL OVER THE WORLD AND I'VE SEEN A LOT OF STRIFE. I SEE HOW PEOPLE LIVE IN OTHER COUNTRIES, AND SO DID YOUR FATHER. OUTSIDE OF THE AMERICAN SPHERE OF INFLUENCE, WHEREVER WE RETREAT, WHEREVER WE DON'T EXTEND OUR

PROTECTION, I'VE SEEN PEOPLE SUFFER. I LOOK AT WHAT YOU HAVE, HERE, WITH A NICE HOUSE, WARM SHEETS, PLENTY OF FOOD, NO FEAR OF SOCIETY CRUMBLING AROUND YOUR EARS. YOU HAVE A MOTHER AND A SISTER WHO LOVE YOU DEARLY, A FAMILY THAT SOME WOULD LOVE TO BE A PART OF.


YOUR FATHER DIED TO SECURE THIS FOR YOU, FISK. IF HE HADN'T, SOMEONE ELSE'S FATHER WOULD HAVE HAD TO...



THE COLD WAR IS AN ELABORATE GAME OF CHESS. WE FIGHT OVER IMPORTANT SQUARES, AND FOR DOMINANCE OVER SQUARES WE DON'T OCCUPY. IT'S NOT ENOUGH TO JUST CASTLE YOUR KING WHILE YOUR ENEMIES MASS AGAINST YOU. WE FIGHT TO HOLD THEM, DISRUPT THEM, AND BLEED THEM OF RESOURCES IN THE HOPES THAT SOMEDAY YOU, OR YOUR CHILDREN, WILL NOT HAVE TO FACE THE THREAT OF COMMUNIST HEGEMONY. SO, WAS VIETNAM WORTH IT?



WE LEARNED A LOT FROM THAT CONFLICT. WE'VE LEARNED THINGS THAT WILL ENSURE THEY'LL PAY DEARLY FOR THEIR VICTORY THERE. ONLY THE FUTURE WILL SHOW THE RESULTS OF OUR RESOLVE.



HOPEFULLY, IN THE END, WE'LL BE THE ONES SAYING...

"CHECKMATE!"

DANG!

THAT WAS A GOOD GAME, FISK. YOU'LL MAKE A GOOD CHESS PLAYER, SOME DAY.

END