



Antarctic Press presents

Issue #45

Fred Perry's

GOLD DIGGER



WHAT IS GOLD DIGGER?

A PLAY ON MY
REAL NAME, GIINA DIGGERS...™

"GOLD DIGGER" -
IT'S WHAT MY SORE-LOSER
COMPETITION USED TO CALL
ME WAY BACK IN THE EARLY
YEARS OF MY CAREER AS AN
ARCHAEOLOGIST/SUPER-
SCIENTIST/TREASURE
HUNTER.

BY THE WAY, MOST OF
THOSE SORE LOSERS
HAVE FALLEN BY THE
WAYSIDE AND ARE
UNEMPLOYED, WHILE
I'M STILL SITTING
PRETTY AT THE TOP! *
you know it...

*TOP OF THE MIDDLE CLASS
TREASURE HUNTERS THAT IS...



CURRENTLY, MY RECENT ADVENTURING
HAS LED ME AND MY FRIENDS TO A
FASCINATING BUT DANGEROUS
DISCOVERY... CIV-ALPHA!

THEN AGAIN,
ALL OF MY
DISCOVERIES TEND
TO BE FASCINATING
BUT DANGEROUS.
tee hee

EXCEPT FOR
THAT ANCIENT
MESOPOTAMIAN
DONUT SHOP...

ER... WE WON'T
GO INTO THAT
HERE, BRIT...

HOW ABOUT THAT
LOST TEMPLE FROZEN
IN THE ARCTIC ICE
CONSTRUCTED
ENTIRELY OF
ANCIENT EGYPTIAN
POPSICLE
STICKS?

(BRITANNY,
YOU'RE RUINING
MY GROOVE...)

oops,
sorry...

THE UPSIDE?
CIV-ALPHA PRE-DATED
HUMAN EXISTENCE!
IT WAS 40,000,000
YEARS OLD!!

not to mention
the place was
littered with
ANCIENT GOLD
TRINKETS! ♡

IT ALSO HELD SECRETS
OF A TECHNOLOGY BASED
ON MANIPULATING MATTER
INSIDE A PHANTOM
REALITY WE CALLED
THE "BETA PHASE"...

THE DOWNSIDE?
THAT OTHER REALITY
WAS
HAUNTED...

POPULATED BY
STRANGE,
DANGEROUS
BEINGS...
BETA PHANTOMS.



...BEINGS THAT THREATEN
MANKIND WITH THE
SAME FATE THAT DOOMED
THE CREATORS OF
CIV-ALPHA... THE
SAURIANS...

WHICH LEADS US
TO THIS GUY...

THE GLYPHS
SAID THAT THIS
LAST SAURIAN,
ENTOMBED IN
A SECRET CAVE,
HAD THE KEY
TO THE
SOLUTION!

SO, WE WOKE
HIM TO RESCUE
US AND MANKIND
FROM THE BETA
PHANTOMS...

OR AT LEAST
THAT WAS THE
IDEA.

GINA, YOU
AND YOUR
**BRIGHT
IDEAS!**

THAT THING LOOKS
MORE DANGEROUS
THAN THE PHANTOMS!

MOVE IT,
RYAN! I'M
KEEPING PACE
WITH YOU!

GIMME
A BREAK,
WILL YA?!

I'M NOT
A WERE-
CHEETAH,
YOU
KNOW...

JINKIES! WHAT'S
THE SAURIAN ABOUT
TO DO WITH THAT
BETA PHANTOM?

MAYBE IT WON'T HURT US.
I WANT TO SEE!

WELL,
I DON'T!!

IT'S A 40-MILLION-
YEAR-OLD DINOSAUR-
BOT! IT'D AS SOON
STEP ON US AS
LOOK AT US!!
GET A
CLUE!!



...GINA, I'VE GOTTA
TELL YA!!

LATELY, WE'VE
BEEN RUNNING EVERY
TIME SOME NEW
SPOOK SHOWS UP!!

I'M BEGINNING
TO IDENTIFY WITH
SCOOPY DOO HERE!

SO? WHAT DO YOU
WANT ME TO DO? YOU
WANTED TO RUN!!

YOU'RE THE
BRAIN!! COME
UP WITH
SOMETHING
BRAINY-LIKE!!

DON'T WORRY,
SIS! IF
THINGS GET TOO
ROUGH, I'VE GOT
AN ACE IN THE HOLE!

(GIRL, WHAT-R-U
TALKIN' 'BOUT?)

WHOA!
WRONG TURN!
WRONG TURN!

WE-- WE
NEED A PLAN!
SOMEBODY!!
COME UP WITH
A PLAN!!

LET ME
SEE!!
WHAT IS
IT? IS IT
A BETA
PHANTOM?

TRY EIGHT BETA
PHANTOMS, GINA!!
HOW DO YOU DEAL
WITH A MESS OF
KILLERS THAT COULD
FINISH YOU WITH
ONE TOUCH??

UHM.

OKAY...
HERE'S THE
PLAN...

ON THE COUNT OF THREE,
WE BEND BACKWARDS AS
FAR AS WE CAN...

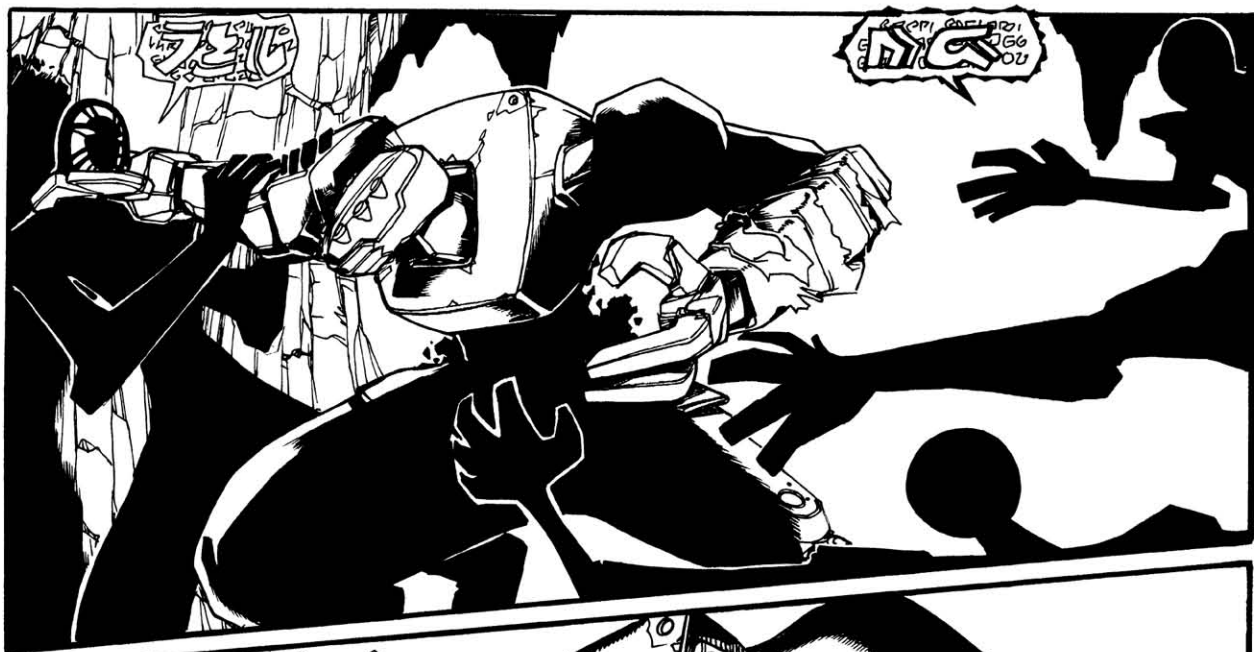
AND KISS OUR
BUTTS GOOD-
BYE!!

VOOOHSS

SWISH

AAA!!

WHESS





WHAT'S GOING ON? WHAT DID WE MISS?

PENNY? GINA? ARE YOU SURE ABOUT THAT SAURIAN GUY?

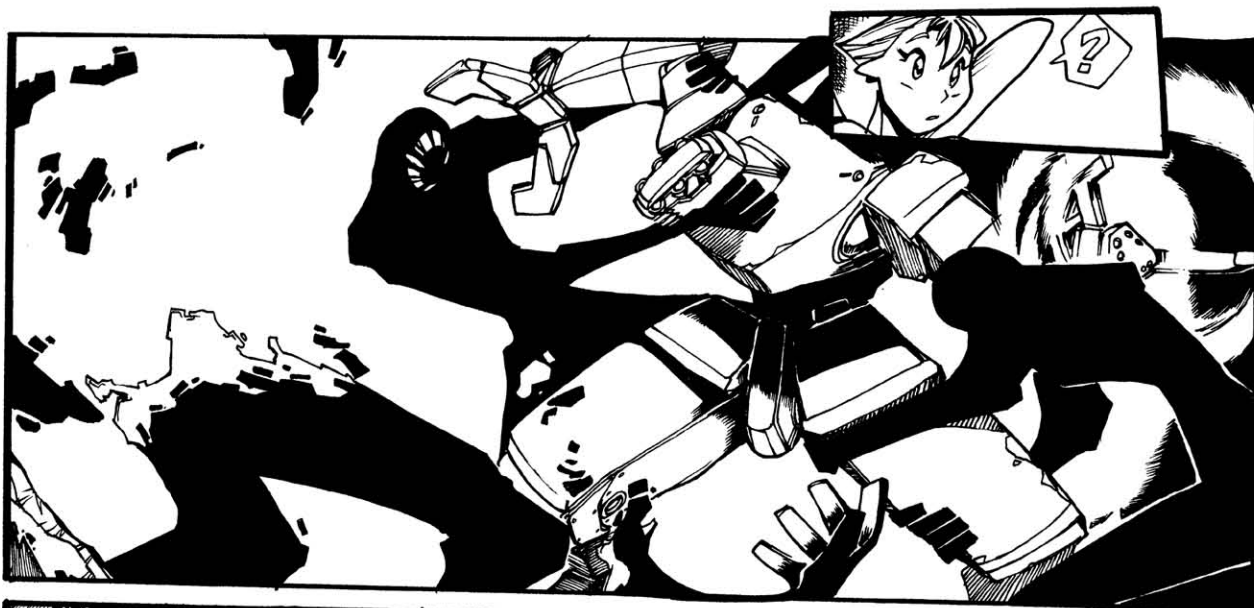
I MEAN...

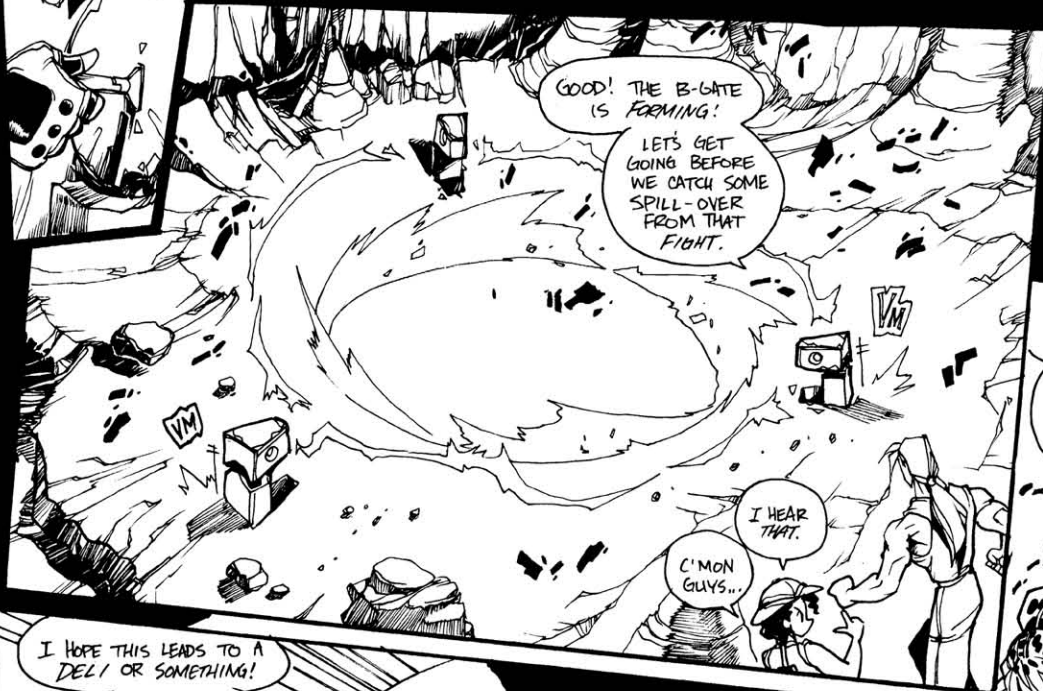
I KNOW THE BETA PHANTOMS ARE THE VILLAINS HERE...

I guess...

BUT I'M GETTING BAD VIBES ABOUT THIS WHOLE SITUATION!

PENNY! LOOK!! CONFETTI!!





GOOD! THE B-GATE IS FORMING!

LET'S GET GOING BEFORE WE CATCH SOME SPILL-OVER FROM THAT FIGHT.

I HEAR THAT.

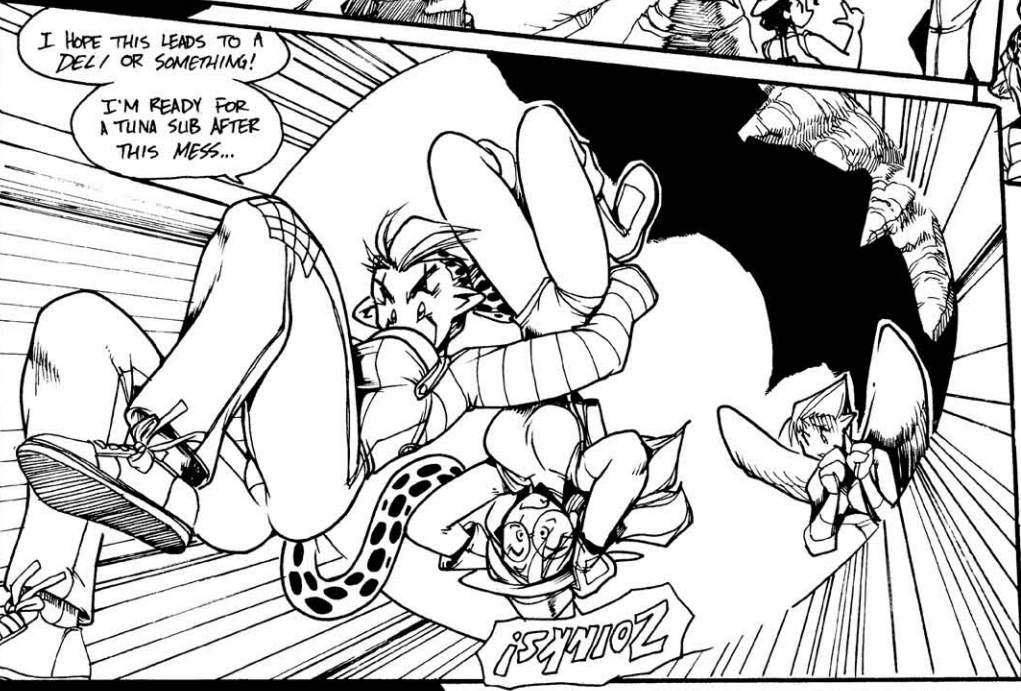
C'MON GUYS...



I'M WITH YOU!

CHARLOTTE, GET THE LEAD OUT!

ugh... blood... rushing to... head...



I HOPE THIS LEADS TO A DELI OR SOMETHING!

I'M READY FOR A TUNA SUB AFTER THIS MESS...

¡EXTRIOZ



WHEW... THAT WAS FUN...

WHERE ARE WE, PENNY?

I SHUNTED US TO THE GATE CONNECTING TO THE OLD BETA-GENERATOR ROOM.

IT'S A GOOD MILE FROM THE CAVE. WE SHOULD BE OKAY...

UNTIL THE FIGHTING STOPS...

DOF.



AT LEAST THOSE BETA PHANTOMS
AREN'T A PROBLEM ANY MORE... NOW,
ALL WE'VE GOTTA DO IS LET THE
SAURIAN KNOW THAT WE'RE ON
HIS SIDE...

PENNY!
WE'VE MADE
A HORRIBLE
MISTAKE!!



WE'VE GOT TO GO BACK AND HELP THOSE
POOR BETA PHANTOMS!! B-BEFORE
THAT MEAN SAURIAN KILLS THEM
ALL!!!

WE NEVER
SHOULD HAVE
SET THE
SAURIAN
FREE!!



CHARLOTTE??
R... U...
A SPECIAL KINDA

CRAZY?

THOSE BETA-
PHANTOMS ARE
STONE-COLD
MURDERERS!!

THAT SAURIAN IS
OUR ONLY HOPE
AGAINST THOSE
KILLERS!!

oh-- oh YEAH?

WELL... WELL WHAT?

WH--
WHO HAVE
THEY KILLED?

I'LL TELL YOU
WHO THEY KILLED!
THEY...



Gina? HELP ME OUT, HERE...

I HAVE TO AGREE WITH BRITANNY THIS TIME, CHARLOTTE...

IT'S TRUE THAT THE PHANTOMS HAVEN'T KILLED ANYONE YET... BUT EVEN YOU MUST ADMIT THEY TRIED!

YOU REMEMBER WHEN ONE OF THEM WAS CHASING US THROUGH THESE VERY HALLS LAST TIME DON'T YOU?

THAT'S RIGHT!!
I WAS THINKIN' THE SAME THING!!

I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU'RE TRYING TO DEFEND THOSE CREEPS, GIRL!

B-But...

COULDN'T IT HAVE CAUGHT US WHILE WE WERE MOVING SO SLOW IN THOSE CONFINED TUNNELS??
i-if it wanted?

uumm... hmm...
PENNY??

CHARLOTTE, YOU MUST NOT FORGET THE GLYPHS AND WRITINGS WE FOUND DESCRIBING THE BETA PHANTOMS AND THE GREAT CATASTROPHE THEY CAUSED!

WE RELEASED THE SAURIAN SO THAT IT COULD HELP US PREVENT THE BETA PHANTOMS FROM KILLING THE WHOLE HUMAN RACE... JUST LIKE THEY KILLED THE SAURIAN RACE...

THERE YA GO...

THERE YA GO!!!

THESE WRITINGS AND GLYPHS... D- DIDN'T... Umm... DIDN'T THE SAURIAN WE JUST RELEASED...

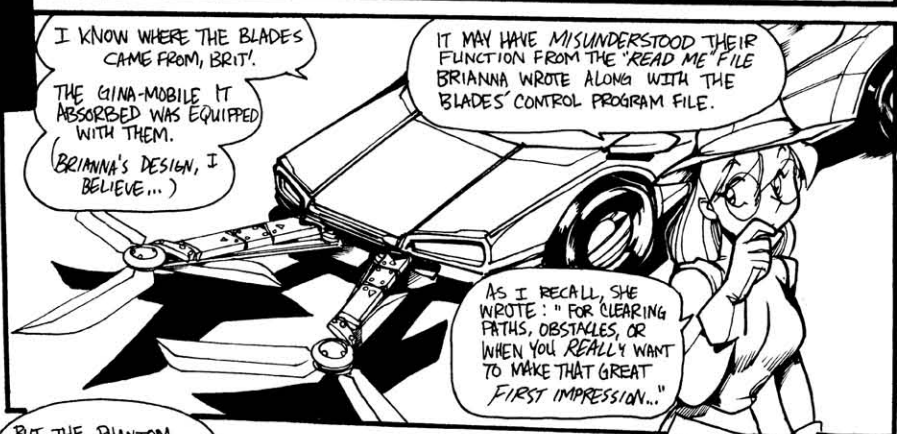
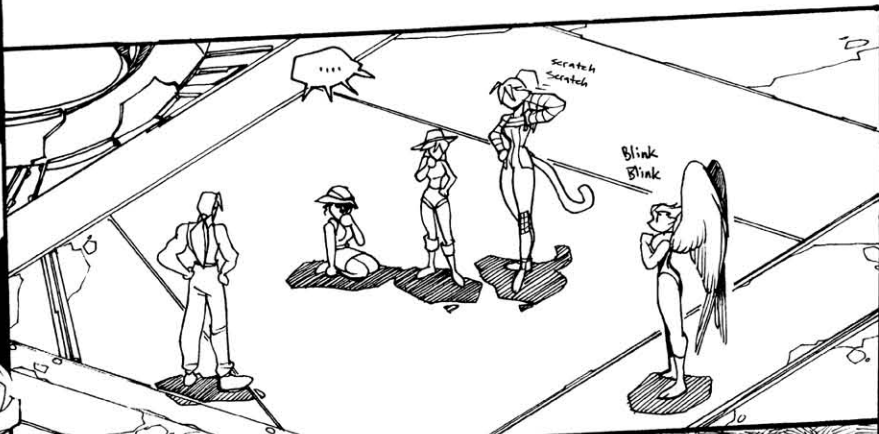
WRITE THEM?

Hmm...

You've got a point there...

RYAN? A LITTLE HELP?







HEY! WHOAH!
WAIT A MINUTE!

SURE, I'M MAD, BUT
I'M NOT GOING TO
FIGHT ANYBODY...

WELL, OKAY... I ADMIT
I WAS PLANNING TO
PUT THE OL' HEAD-LOCK
ON PENNY UNTIL SHE
PROMISED NOT TO USE
SILVER AGAIN...

BUT
NEVER
MIND...
(geez!)

NO NEED FOR A
HEAD-LOCK, BRIT'...

I'M NOT TOUCHING
THE STUFF AGAIN...

I HAD NO IDEA
YOU'D GET THIS
LIPSET!

I'M REALLY
SORRY, BRIT'...

NO WONDER
BRITANNY WAS SO
AFRAID OF THOSE
SILVERY
BETA-PHANTOMS...

BECAUSE SHE'S A
LYCANTHROPE, AND
SILVER IS SO DEADLY
TO HER, ANYTHING OR
ANYONE USING IT GETS
AN EXTREME REACTION
FROM HER.

I GUESS THAT
EXPLAINS WHY THOSE
CREATURES GAINED THAT
SILVERY PROPERTY...

PENNY?

I THINK I'M
HAVING... DOUBTS...

...AS TO WHETHER
WE'VE DONE THE
RIGHT THING
HERE...

EXACTLY
WHAT HAPPENED
WHEN THE BETA
PHANTOM
FIRST
APPEARED?

LET'S SEE...

"IT WAS CHARLOTTE'S AND MY
FOURTH TRIP TO THE SITE..."

"I REMEMBER
CHARIE WAS
SO EXCITED..."

"MAINLY BECAUSE
WE WERE GOING
TO TURN THE POWER
ON THE BETA GENERATOR
ALL THE WAY UP
THIS TIME..."

"EVERY BUILDING
IN THE CITY
WOULD BE
"ALIVE" AGAIN."

"AND CHARLOTTE COULDN'T
WAIT FOR THE 'SHOW'
TO BEGIN."

"BUT THEN..."

"...SHE
SAW
SOMETHING
IN THE
SHADOWS..."



"AT FIRST, I THOUGHT SHE WAS ONLY SEEING THINGS..."

"YOU KNOW... BEING JITTERY..."

"SHE BEGAN TO SEE SHADOWS MOVE AROUND MORE AND MORE AS WE GOT CLOSER TO THIS BETA GENERATOR ROOM..."

"BUT NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT..."

"MAYBE SHE WASN'T IMAGINING THE SHADOWS MOVING ON THEIR OWN AFTER ALL..."

"(SORRY I DIDN'T BELIEVE YOU, CHARLOTTE)"

"ANYWAY, WE REACHED THIS VERY ROOM... I STARTED WORKING ON THE GENERATOR AT ONCE..."

"AND THAT'S WHEN IT ATTACKED!"

"AND THAT'S WHEN I TRIED MY CROSS-BOW BOLTS..."

"WHILE CHARLOTTE RAN LIKE CRAZY!"



"I'M NOT SURE WHAT HAPPENED NEXT..."

"BUT, I WAS NEVER MORE TERRIFIED IN MY ENTIRE LIFE..."

"SOMEHOW, I WAS ABSORBED INSIDE THE BETA PHANTOM."

"AND IT KEPT TELLING ME TWO THINGS..."

"THE GENERATOR IS THE BRIDGE BETWEEN OUR TWO REALITIES. THE MORE POWER IT RELEASES, THE WIDER THE BRIDGE."

"AND... I WANT THE KEY TO THE GENERATOR!"

hee hee! ?

HEE HEE HEE... LAHA HAHAHAAAA!

BRITANNY!
THIS IS A SERIOUS
MATTER!! I
DON'T FIND ANYTHING
ABOUT THIS
AMUSING.

GIRL...

IF YOU THOUGHT
WHAT I THOUGHT--
YOU'D LAAA FFF!

WHAT?

HEE HEE
HEE...

OKAY... WHAT IF
≡ SNERK ≡
THE BETA-PHANTOM
THAT WAS CHASING US
LAST TIME... GHEEHEEHEE

WHAT IF HE WASN'T
TRYING TO GRAB THE
KEY TO TURN LIP
THE POWER ON THE
GENERATOR SO HE
AND HIS BUDDIES
COULD COME
ACROSS AND
TAKE OVER...?

WHAT IF HE WAS ≡ GSNICKER ≡
TRYING TO SHUT IT OFF...

...TO KEEP CREEPS LIKE US
OR THAT SAURIAN... FROM
VISITING HIM AND HIS
RELATIVES "BACK HOME"?
≡ Snicker! ≡

AND - (HEE HEE! GET THIS) -
WE'RE THE ONES WHO JUST
DOOMED US ALL BY
STOPPING THE
PHANTOMS AND RELEASING
THE SAURIAN!!

GWAAAAHAAAA

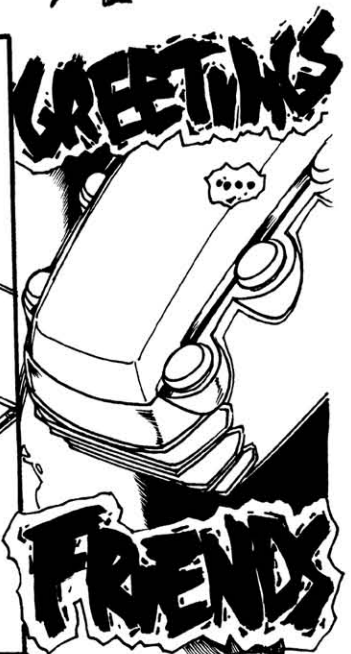
ISN'T **THAT**
THE FUNNIEST-

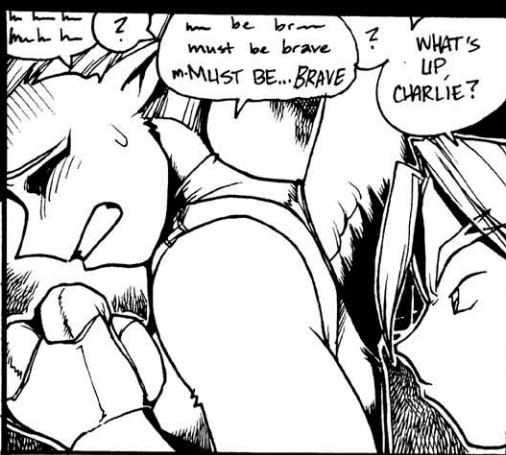
how
come you
two ain't
laughing?

c-c'mon,
it's easy!
laugh!!

"HA HA HA"







Y-YOU'RE **NO** FRIEND OF **OURS**,
MR. SAURIAN!

A FRIEND IS SOMEONE
WHO CARES FOR YOU!!
WHO HELPS YOU ANY
WAY THEY CAN!!!

YOU W-WANT TO
PRETEND TO BE OUR
FRIEND!

YOU WANT TO *USE* US TO
HELP YOU *KILL* THE BETA-
PHANTOMS!!

WELL, WE'RE HERE TO
STOP YOU 'CAUSE YOU'RE
MEAN. A-AND PLUS, WE
DON'T LIKE YOU!!

CHARLOTTE!!
NOW IS **NOT**
THE TIME TO
GET ALL BRVE!!

WAIT, PENNY...

CHARLOTTE'S
RIGHT!

WHAT SHE
SAID MAKES
TOTAL
SENSE...

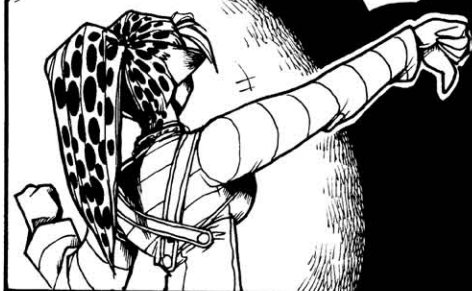
IN FACT...
I SHOULD'VE
FOUND THE GUTS
TO COME OUT
AND MAKE THAT
SPEECH...

WE CAN'T LET
THIS GUY PUSH
US AROUND!

AND I'M THROUGH
RUNNING
AWAY!!

DINO BOY?

**HE'S GOIN'
DOWN!**





GOOD!



HEH!

**WANTED TO
THANK YOU FOR
RELEASING ME!
"FRIENDS!"**







IT CAUGHT BRITANNY IN MID-JUMP!...

BUT IT BARELY TOUCHED HER



WITH THOSE RINGS, IT BARELY HAD TO!!

WE DIDN'T OVERESTIMATE HIM, GINA... WE WERE DEAD ON!!

WHICH MEANS...



BRIT!! RYAN! CHARLIE!!
GET OUT OF THERE!!!!
NOW!!

IT'S A WRECKIN' MACHINE!!

PHAAACH!! -- BROKE MY LEGS!!! NOW I'M REALLY MIFFED!!!

THAT SAURIAN'S A BRAWLER!!
THAT'S WHY IT HELD THE BETA-PHANTOM IN THE CAVE IN ITS CLAW FOR SO LONG EARLIER ON!

IT WAS WAITING FOR THE OTHER PHANTOMS TO GET CLOSE AND TRY FOR A RESCUE!

AND THAT'S WHY IT WAITED FOR US TO GET CLOSE BEFORE IT REVEALED ITS TRUE POWER!



CHARLOTTE! GRAB BRIT?

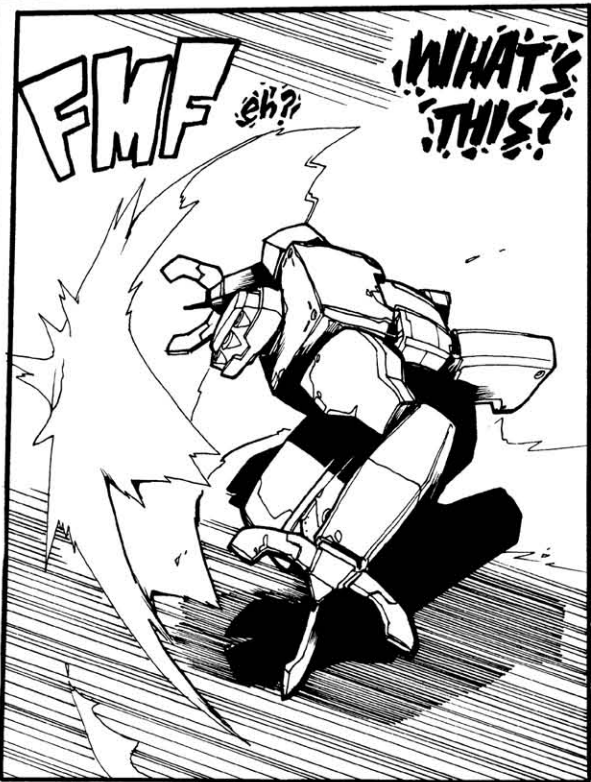
WE'VE GOT TO GET OUT OF ITS REACH!



HEH!

'YOU CANNOT' ESCAPE!

'NOT THROUGH RETREAT NOR THROUGH DEATH!'



FNF eh?

WHAT'S THIS?



THAT WAS MY
'ACE IN THE HOLE,'
MY FINE METALLIC
'FRIEND'!!!

AN EXPERIMENTAL
ANTI-BETA
FIELD PROJECTOR!

I ORIGINALLY
DESIGNED IT
TO BE USED
AGAINST THE
BETA
PHANTOMS...

IT SHOULD
KEEP YOU
LOCKED UP
TIGHT
JUST THE
SAME!

BUT, FOR WRITING
THOSE LIES...
TRICKING US INTO
HELPING YOU...

FOR MURKING BRIT!...

YOU DESERVE A
LOT WORSE!!

HEH HEH! AWWWWH!
'NICE TRY!'
'FRIEND'!!!



BUT-BUT-BUT... I
D-DON'T UNDERSTAND!!

HE SHOULD
HAVE BEEN
FROZEN DEAD
IN HIS TRACKS!
HE'S BARELY
SLOWED DOWN!

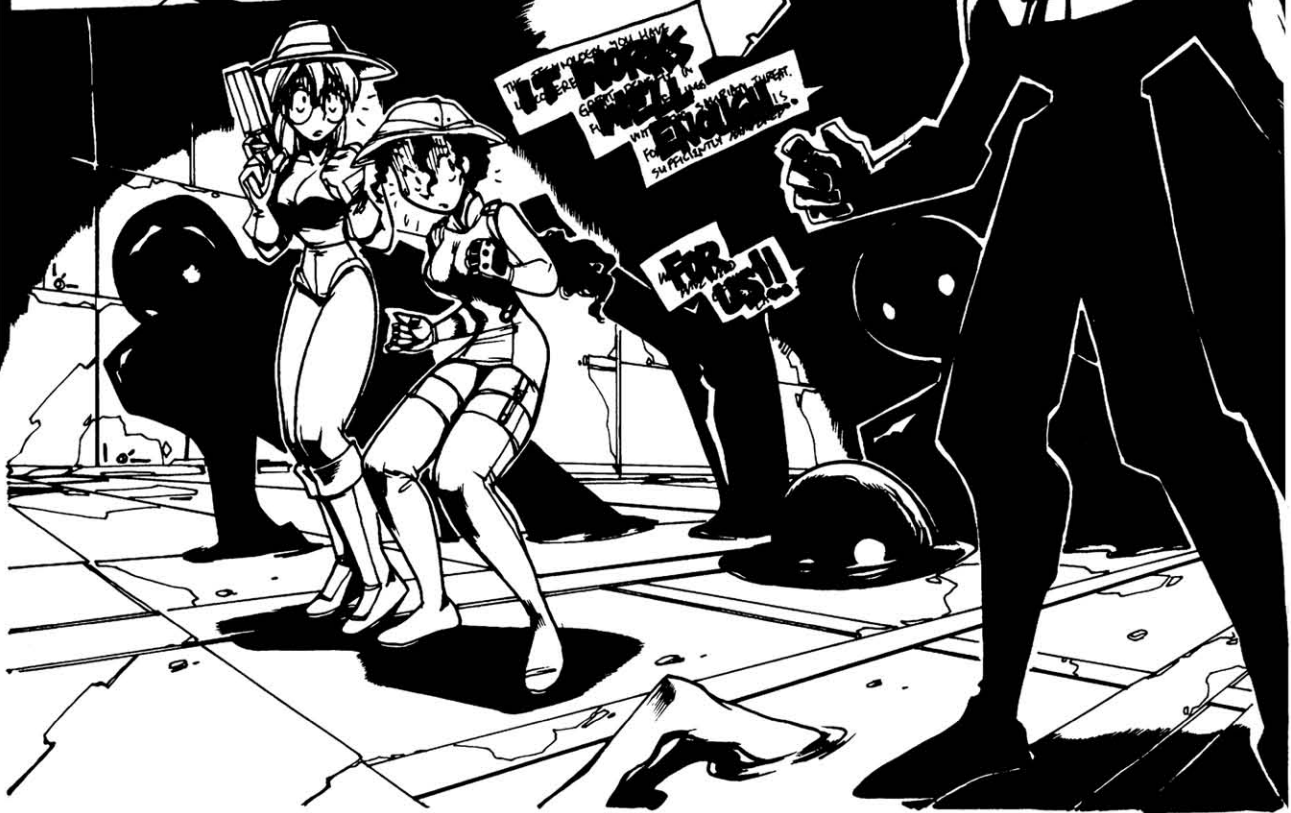
GINA?
FACE IT,
GIRL! WE'RE
SUCKIN' WIND
TODAY!

B-BUT WHY DIDN'T
IT WORK? I WAS SO
SURE OF MY
CALCULATIONS!

YOUR DEVICE WOULD BRANCH
ITSELF INTO TWO DIFFERENT
DIRECTIONS...
WHICH IT WAS DESIGNED...

THE TECHNOLOGY YOU HAVE
IT WORKS
WELL...
BUT...
FOR THE...
SINCE YOU...
AND YOUR...

FOR
US!!



TAKE THEM

Huh?
BUT -- I THOUGHT...

Zombies

CHARLOTTE!!
HELP!!

PENNY

Glimb

WHY ARE YOU DOING THIS??
I-I THOUGHT YOU WERE THE GOOD GUYS!!

PLEASE, PLEASE LET HER GO!

NNH
DAMN!
CHARLIE! WE'VE BEEN HAD BY BOTH SIDES
GMP

IDIOTS

WE'RE HERE TO RESCUE YOU!

TAKE THEM TO THE SAFETY OF THE SURFACE

AND HURRY!
THE "NET" GINA PLACED ON BEFADOC WON'T HOLD

SADLY, WE MUST LEAVE HER BEHIND.

GRAN

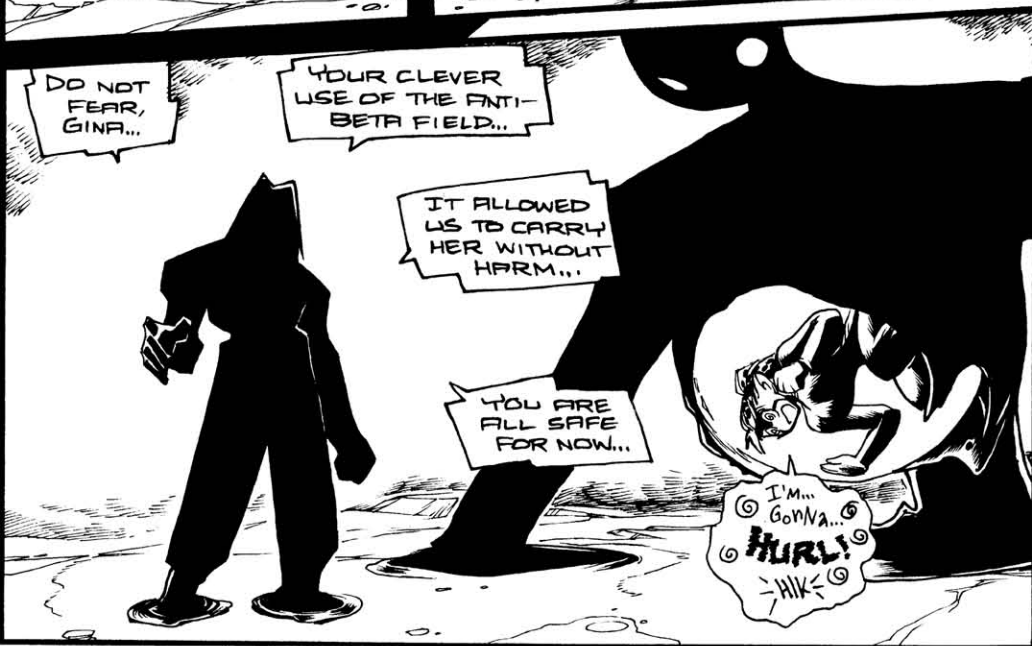
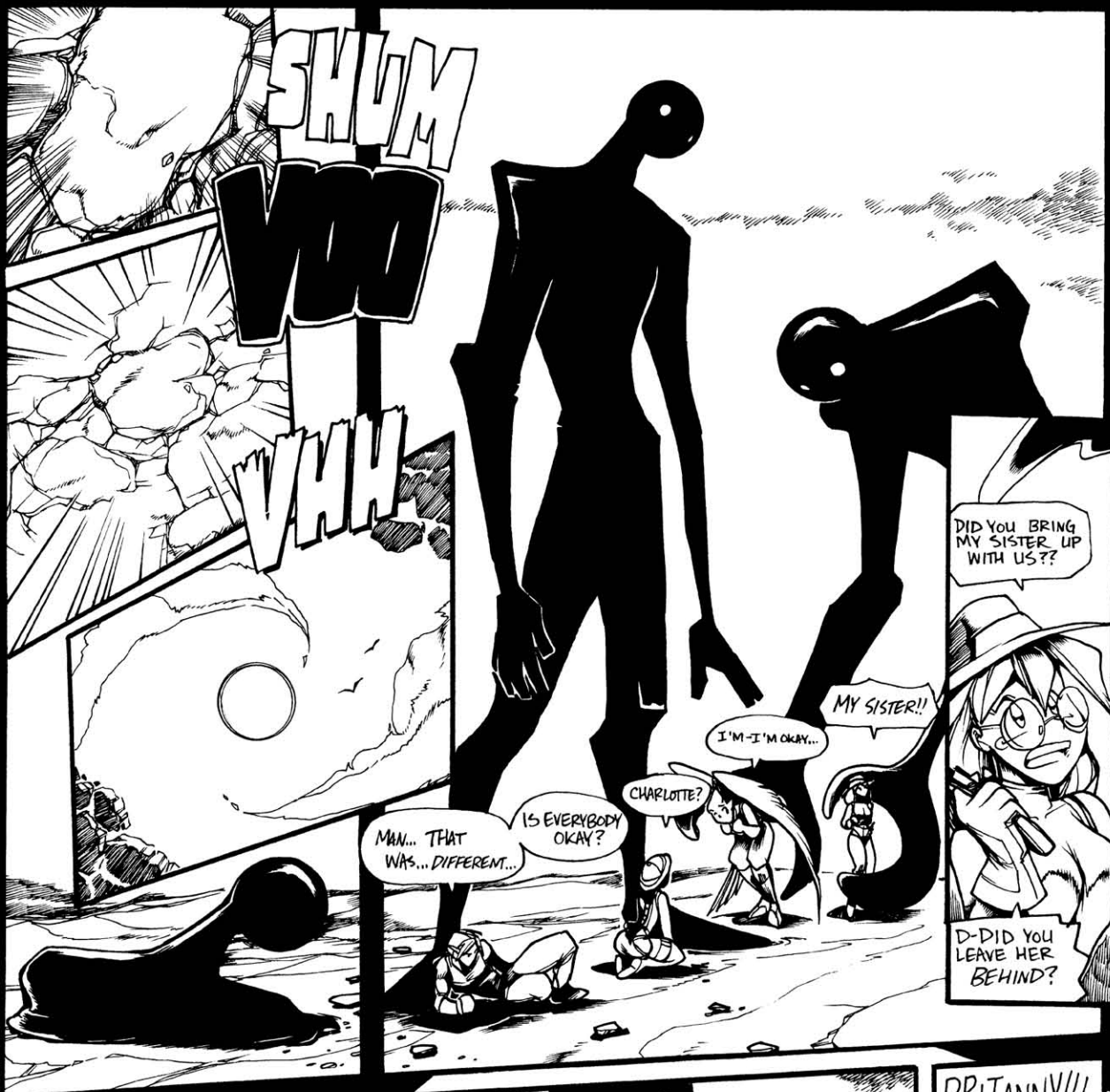
OUR SILVER PROPERTIES WOULD SURELY AND PAINFULLY KILL HER...

AND WE CANNOT TAKE LIFE.

WE MUST LEAVE HER TO BEFADOC'S WHIMS...

Gina...

FW



OUR DEBT IS REPAYED.

DEBT? WHAT DEBT?

RYAN, PLEASE SHUSH!!

WAIT!

WE STILL HAVE SO MANY QUESTIONS!

uh... WHAT REALLY HAPPENED BETWEEN YOU AND THE SALIRIANS FORTY MILLION YEARS AGO??

WHY DID YOU ATTACK PEEWEE AND BRITANNY WHEN SHE HAD THE PHANTOM RING* ... hmm, come to think of it, that might have been out of *self-defense*.

UR... WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

WHAT DO WE DO NOW??

GINA... I'M SORRY...

YOU MUST FIND YOUR OWN ANSWERS TO THOSE QUERIES...

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dang! I knew he was gonna say that!

TH-- THANK YOU!!

IS THERE ANYTHING WE CAN DO TO REPAY YOU FOR SAVING US?

YES...

STAY AWAY FROM THIS PLACE...

THIS IS OUR FIGHT...

FAREWELL...

Sigh... great going, Gina... You made yet another mess for someone else to clean...

LET'S GET MOVING... IT'S A LONG WALK BACK TO CAMP-ONE.

BRIT'? YOU GONNA BE OKAY?

YEAH. IN AN HOUR, I'LL BE BACK IN THE PINK*.

MAN! WHAT A BUST! WE ONLY MADE OUT WITH FORTY MILLION ON THIS TRIP!

TELL ME ABOUT IT, RYAN!

I FEEL LIKE A GAME-SHOW CONTESTANT WITH A PARTING GIFT!...

ACTUALLY, I THINK WE HAD ONE OF OUR GREATEST FINDS EVER...

HOW YOU FIGURE, CHARLOTTE?

WE FOUND NEW FRIENDS!

oh brother! CORN-CITY!

BART! BE NICE!

*BRIT HEALS REALLY FAST!

END... BETA-1