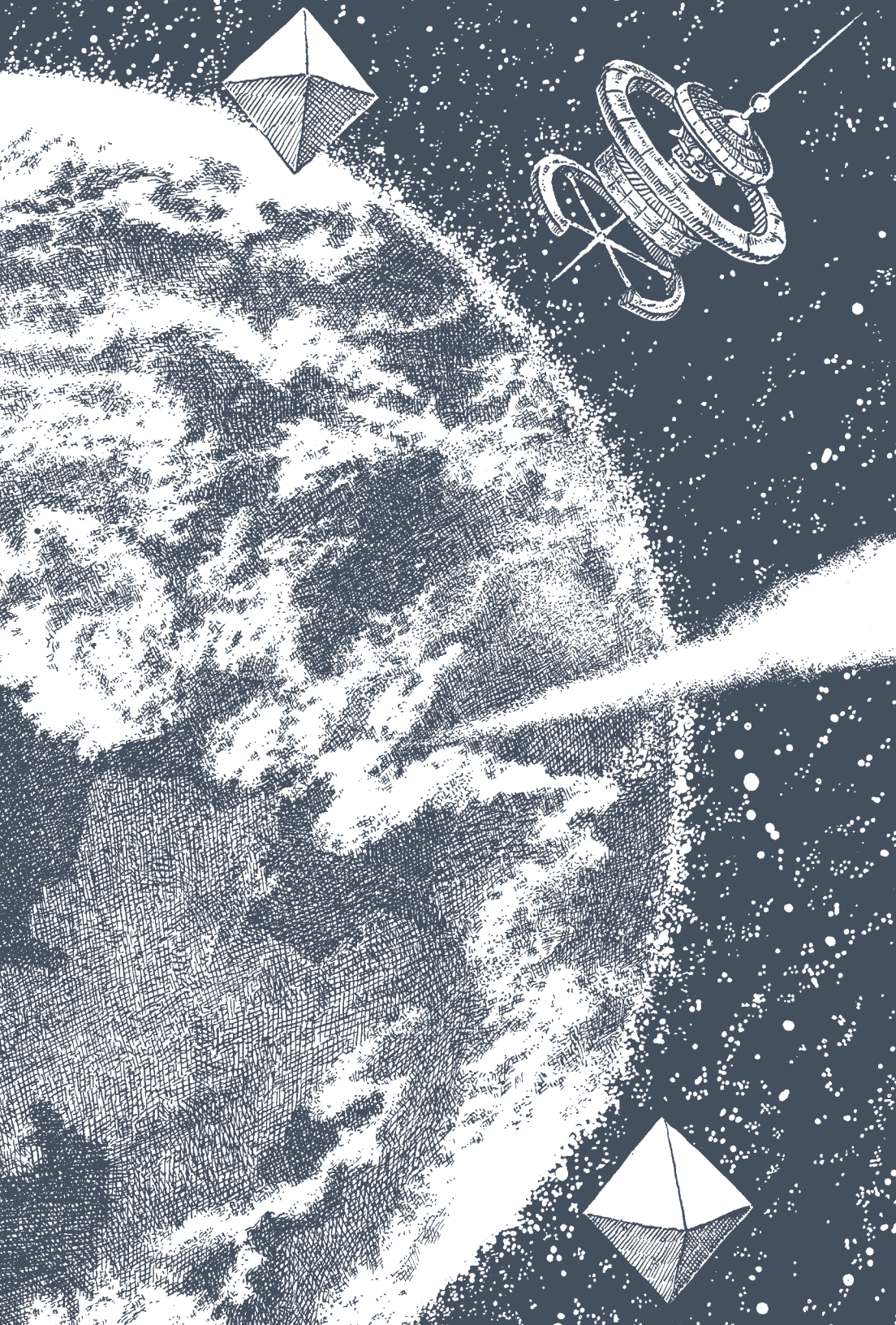
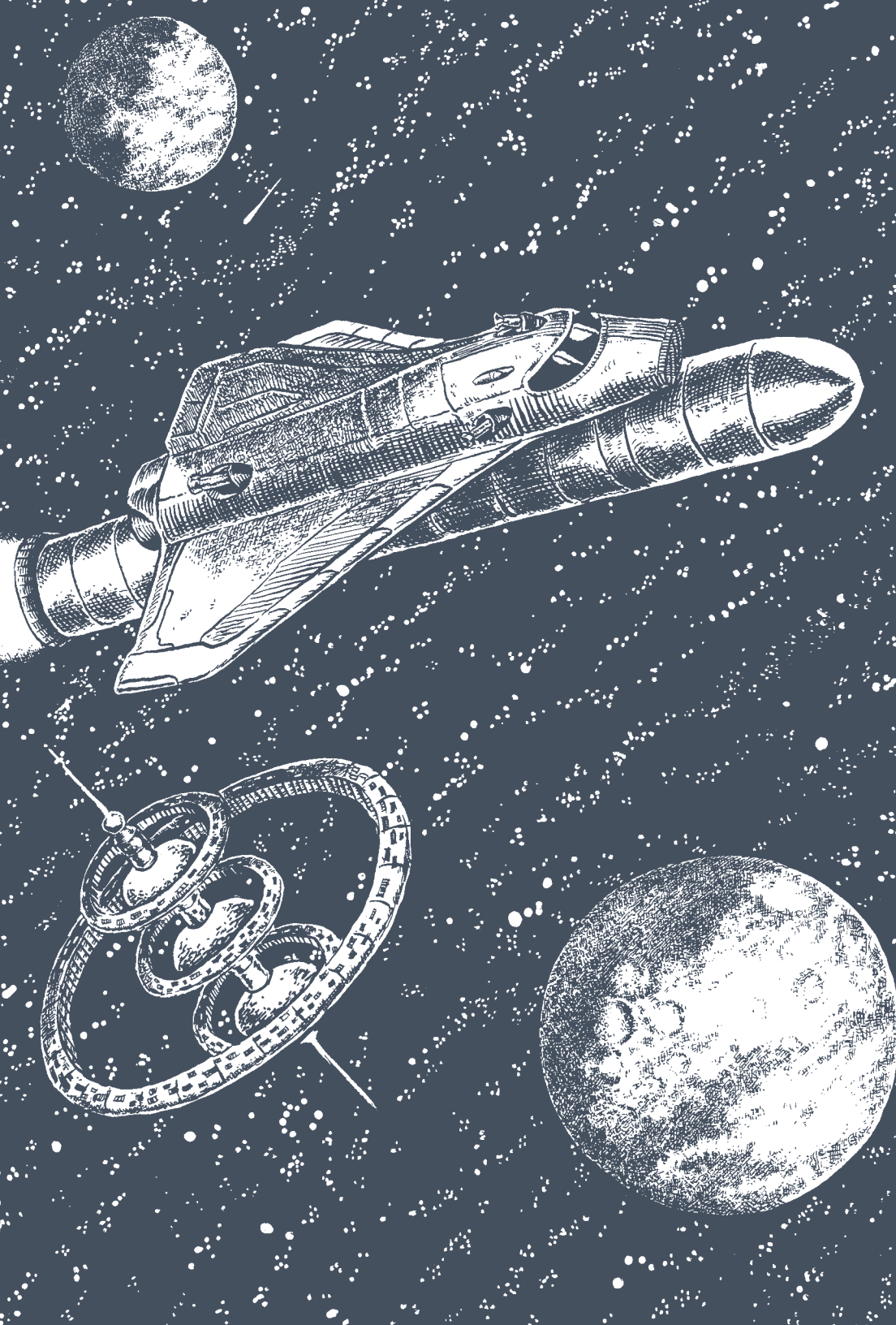


TWELVE GEMS

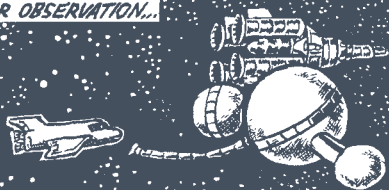
BY
LANE MILBURN

FANTAGRAPHICS BOOKS
2014

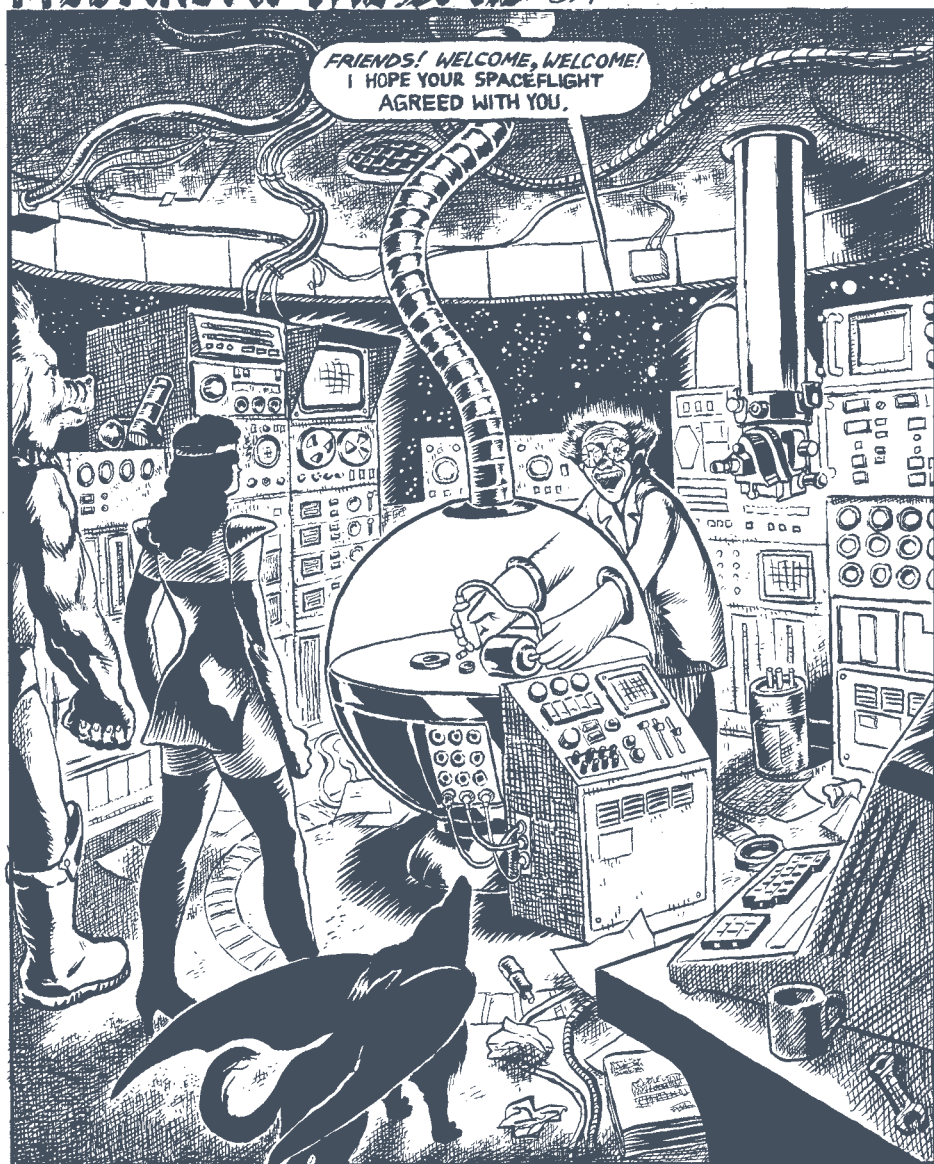


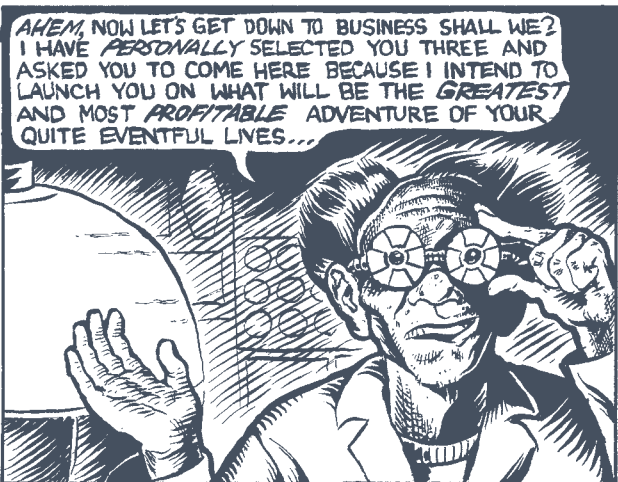
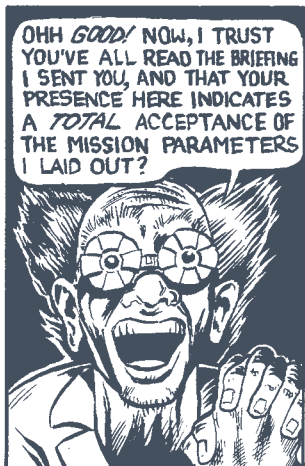


SOMEWHERE IN THE COSMOS BEYOND RECKONING OR OBSERVATION...

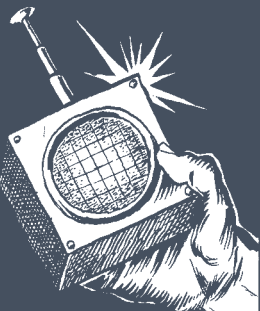


MEETING AT THE LAB: *Their Mission Explained*

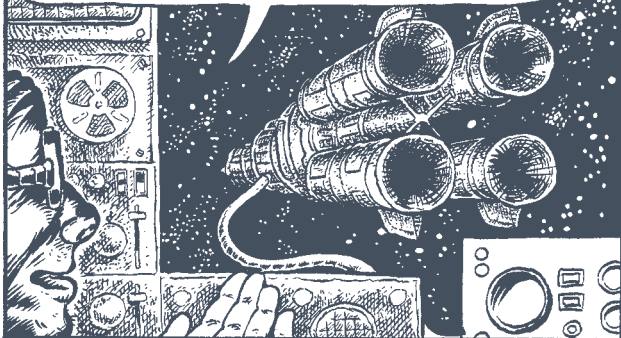




THIS, MY PATENTED **GEM DETECTOR**, WILL GUIDE YOU!



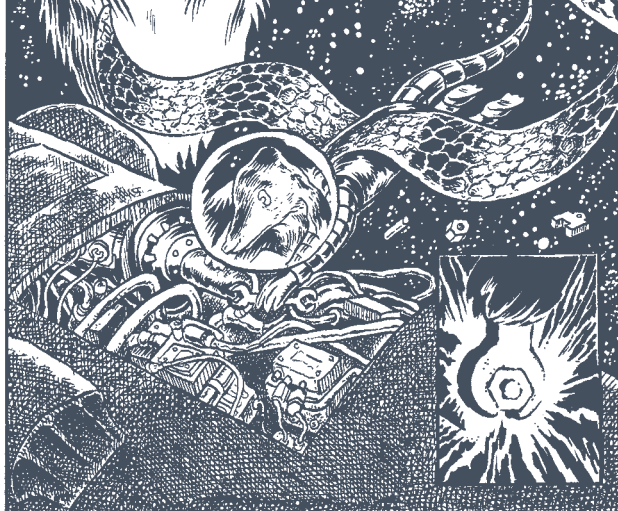
AND *THIS* MY FRIENDS, IS THE **P-QUAD**, SO NAMED FOR ITS FOUR **PHOZZN ENGINES** MANUFACTURED BY **IMPROBABLE SYSTEMS...** THE SHIP'S FINAL ASSEMBLY IS MY OWN, AND IT'S YOURS FOR THE DURATION OF YOUR QUEST!



DOGSTAR!

YOU ARE ESTEEMED THROUGHOUT THE GALAXY AS A CANINE **MASTER MECHANIC**, WORKING WONDERS IN THE REPAIR OF ROCKETS AND SATELLITES AND STAR CRUISERS!!!

YOUR **MAGIC SOLAR WINGS** CARRY YOU THROUGH SPACE AND ATMOSPHERE!



YOUR SKILLS WILL COME IN HANDY IN THE UPKEEP OF THE **P-QUAD** AND THE VARIOUS TECHNOLOGICAL ISSUES YOUR TEAM WILL ENCOUNTER!

GULP



AND NEXT...

BEAUTIFUL AND
DEADLY

VENUS!

YOU HAVE SLAIN MEN
OF POWER WHO SOUGHT
TO POSSESS OR
ANNIHILATE YOU...

YOU ARE THE ONLY FEMALE
EVER TO HAVE BECOME A
MEMBER OF THE KNIGHTS
OF THE ELLIPTICAL ORBIT.
YOUR SOPHISTICATED
RUTHLESSNESS WILL
BRING THIS QUEST TO A
FAVORABLE FINISH!!!

I'M HONORED, DR. Z.

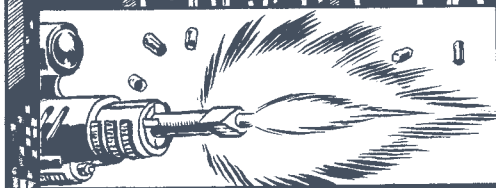
AND LAST BUT CERTAINLY
NOT LEAST.....

FURZ!

YOU ARE WANTED ON
TEN STAR SYSTEMS FOR
MURDER, GRAND THEFT
ASTRO, POSSESSION OF
ILLEGAL WEAPONS...



AND A LONG LIST OF
OTHER CRIMES...AND
YET...YOU ALWAYS KEEP
ONE STEP AHEAD OF THE LAW.



YOU ARE CRUEL,
CUNNING, AND
BATTLE-HARDENED.

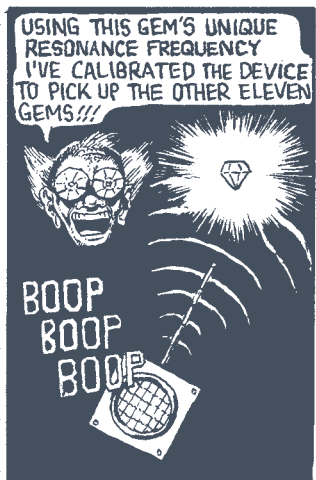
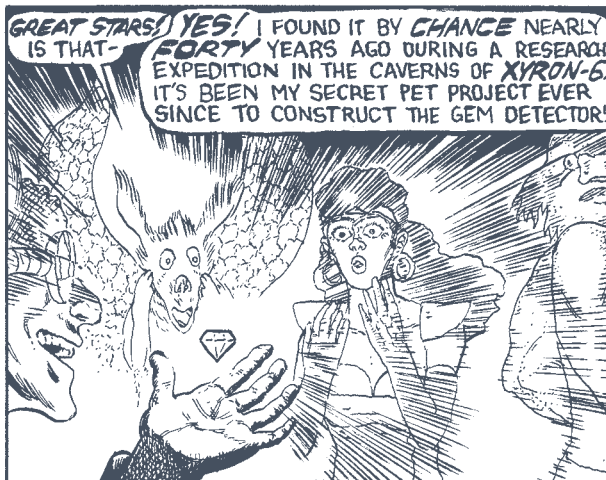
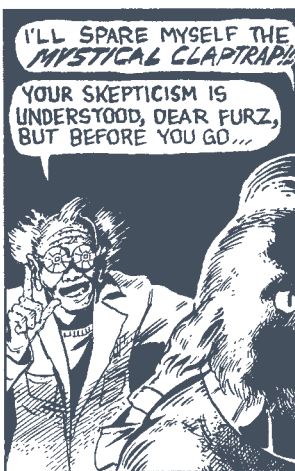
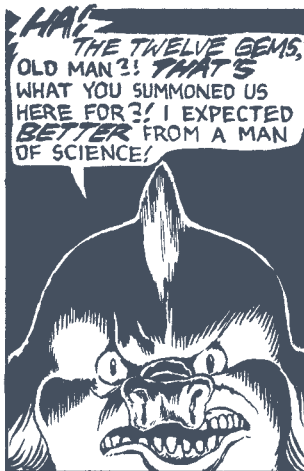
ONE OF THE MOST
SOUGHT-AFTER
BOUNTY-HUNTERS
IN THE GALAXY!

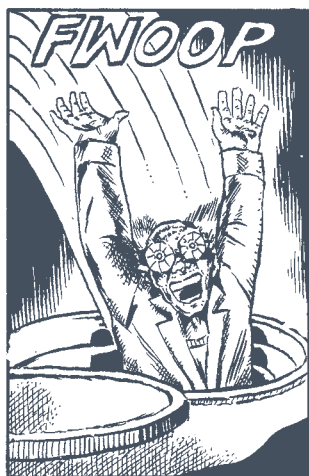
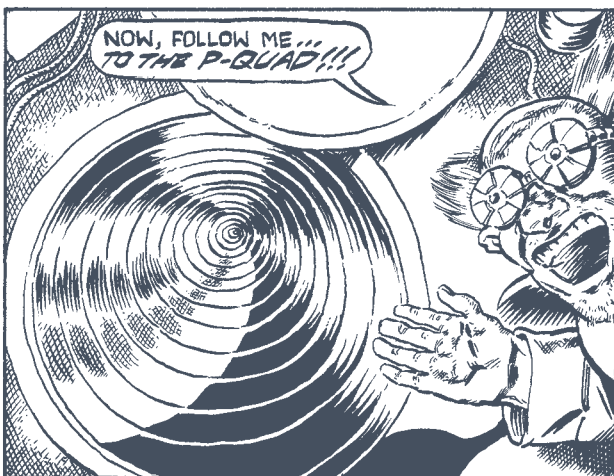
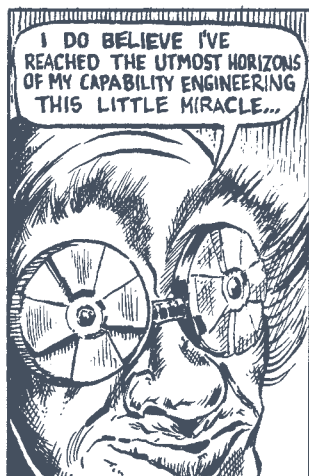


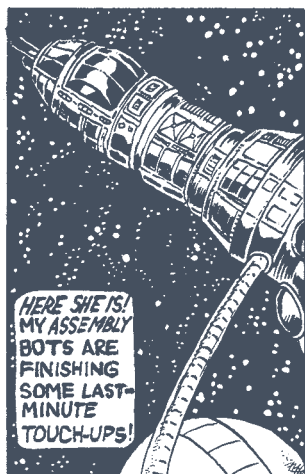
YOU ARE OUR TEAM BRAIN!

MOO-RAH.









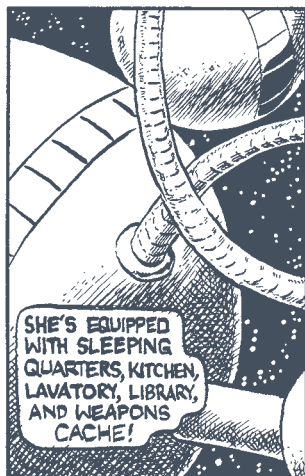
HERE SHE IS!
MY ASSEMBLY
BOTS ARE
FINISHING
SOME LAST-
MINUTE
TOUCH-UPS!



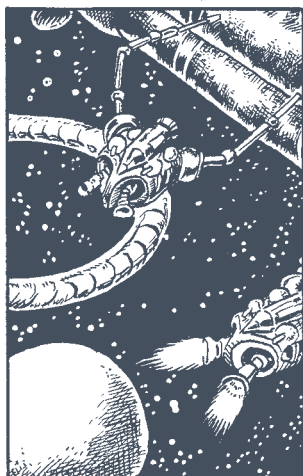
YOUR COLLECTIVE FLIGHT
EXPERIENCE SHOULD BE *MORE*
THAN ENOUGH TO ALLOW YOU
TO HANDLE *THIS* OL' BIRD!



STARTING HER IS EASY: JUST POP
THEM INTO THE BACK OF
THE DETECTOR, PLUG THE
DETECTOR INTO THE SHIP'S
NAU-COMPUTER, PUNCH
IN THE COORDINATES
AND OFF YOU GO!



SHE'S EQUIPPED
WITH SLEEPING
QUARTERS, KITCHEN,
LAVATORY, LIBRARY,
AND WEAPONS
CACHE!



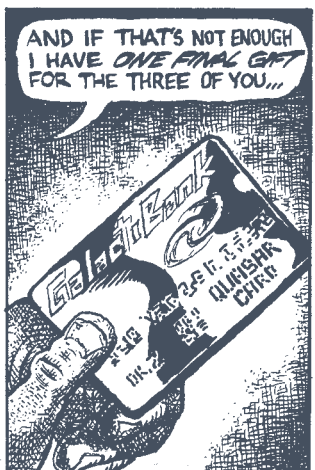
AS WELL AS A TRIO OF
STATE OF THE ART
SPACE SUITS!



BUT HOW DO WE KNOW
THESE GEMS ARE GOOD
FOR ANYTHING? WHAT IF
YOU'RE WASTING YOUR TIME
AND OURS?

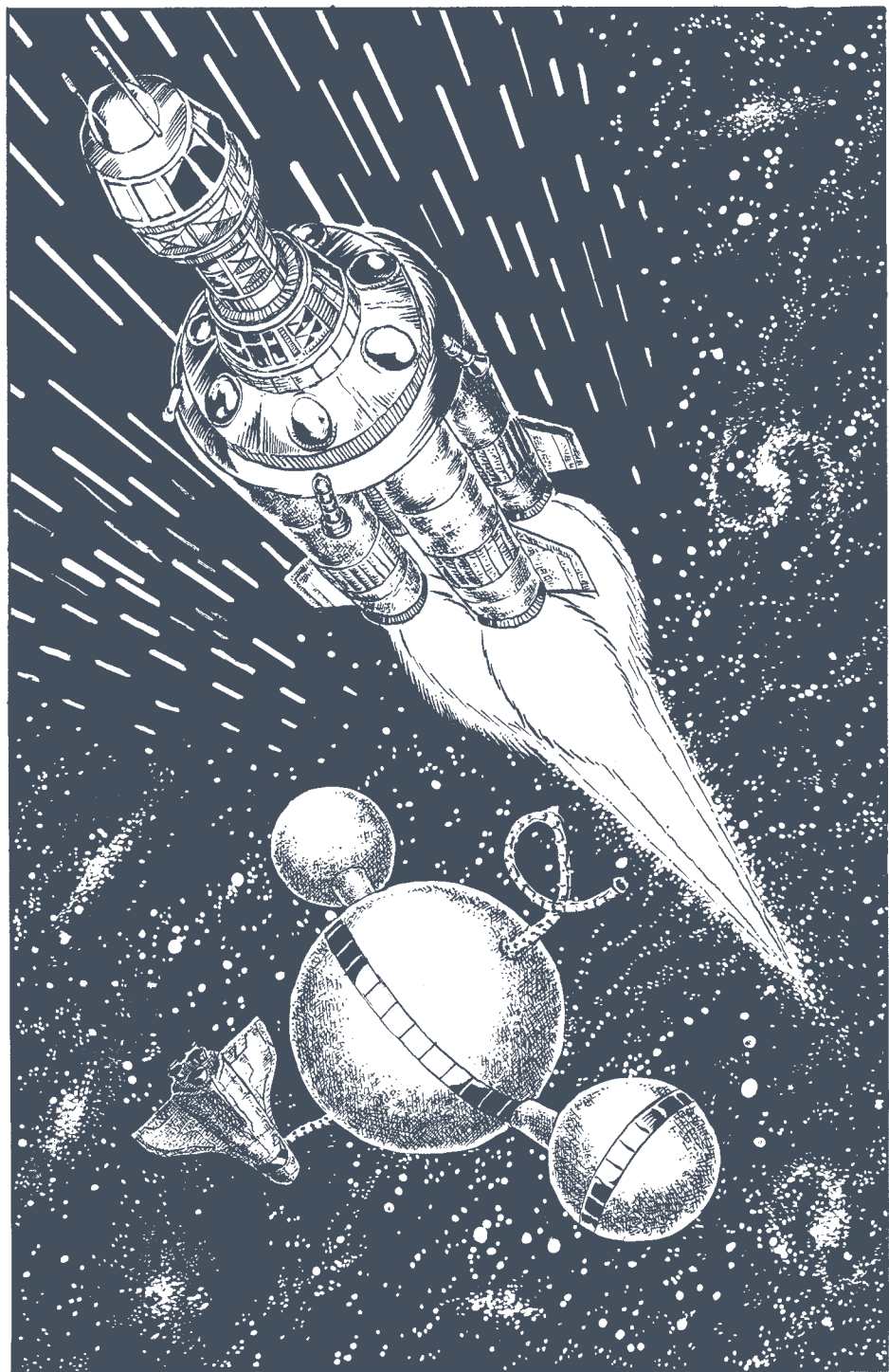


A SCIENTIST MUST LEARN
TO *LIVE* WITH THESE UN-
CERTAINTIES, GOOD FURZ!
BUT I AM *CONFIDENT*
THAT THE GEMS HOLD A
POWER BEYOND OUR WILDEST
DREAMS!



AND IF THAT'S NOT ENOUGH
I HAVE *ONE FINAL GIFT*
FOR THE THREE OF YOU...

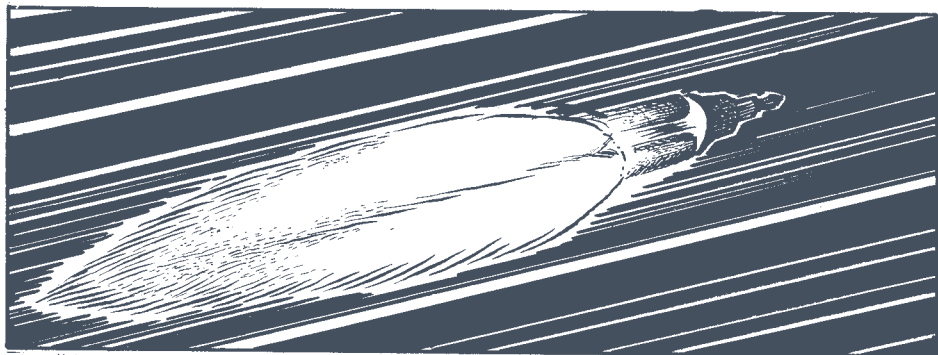






Twelve





FIRST SORTIE

