

PROTOCOL CULTURE

ADDICTS

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- NEWS & REVIEWS

U.S. RENDITIONS

U.S. Renditions announced its video release schedule for 1992. In a cooperative venture with the L.A.-based company, L.A. Hero, U.S. Renditions will be releasing the following new titles: GUYVER, ORGUSS, and MACROSS II. In addition, U.S. renditions will continue with its popular DANGAIO series. All new titles will be **dubbed** into English and commercially released for the retail price of \$24.95. Only DANGAIO 2 & 3 will be subtitled and released at the original price of \$34.95.

GUYVER will feature 6 tapes with two episodes on each tape. The OVA series is based on the manga of the same name and features the exploits of a high school student who accidentally fuses with an alien armor and must battle corporate evil and mutated creatures in Japan. The tentative release schedule is on April 25th (Vol. 1), July 25th (Vol. 2), and October 25th (Vol. 3).

SUPER DIMENSION CENTURY-ORGUSS will feature 12 tapes with three episodes on each tape (35 episodes total). The series was produced by the creators of MACROSS during the golden age of the transformable robot genre. Hal Mikimoto (co-producer of MACROSS) provided all character designs for this series which features characters, mecha, and action in the style of MACROSS, but is a uniquely original series. The tentative release schedule is on April 25th (Vol. 1), July 25th (Vol. 2), and October 25th (Vol. 3).

MACROSS II will feature 3 tapes with two episodes on each tapes (6-episode OVA sequel). MACROSS II is a sequel to the original Japanese MACROSS saga (not its U.S. incarnation ROBOTECH). The story is a new generation adventure which picks up years after the original. New characters created by Hal Mikimoto highlight this MACROSS series for the 90s. Familiar elements from the original series appear including the SDF-01 Macross and upgraded versions of the popular Valkyrie mecha. This is one of the most eagerly anticipated series of the last five years and will usher in a new era of MACROSS adventures. The tentative release schedule for volume 1 is on April 25th (possibly **before** its release in Japan); July 25th (Vol. 2), and October 25th (Vol. 3).

DANGAIO 2 & 3 are separate OVA volumes each featuring one episode. Dangaio 2 features a 10-minute prologue which recounts the action in DANGAIO 1 (featuring new translation). The story centers around four young psychics and their psionic mecha: Dangaio! The tentative release dates are on February 25th (Vol. 2) and March 25th (Vol. 3).

CYBERSUIT ARKADYNE

IANUS publications is proud to present its new COMIC title: CYBERSUIT ARKADYNE by Tim ELDRED and Jonathan JARRARD. ELDRED is already well-known for his strong story-telling and dynamic style full of action. He has published several comics such as BROID, SHATTERPOINT, CHASER PLATOON, LENS MAN, and CAPTAIN HARLOCK: DEATH-SHADOW RISING. Jonathan JARRARD, as technical writer and futurist, give an authentic level of technology to the story. It brings a lot of realism, particularly to the cybersuit.

CYBERSUIT ARKADYNE is a six-issue monthly comic series. The story contains complex plots and themes, a lot of action, and elements of hard science. In the 21st Century, the mining colony of the asteroid belt are struck by terrorist attacks. To protect the mining vessels against these unknown aggressors, the World Space Cooperative Administration (WSCA) developed the technology of the cybersuit, using cybernetic implants and gravitic drive. This symbiotic link with an almost invincible machine will have severe consequences on the mind of Glenn Taback, the chosen pilot.

"I'd had the original idea for ARKADYNE over five years ago," Eldred said, "and I knew it was going to be something big. It would contain complex plots and themes I could never have successfully pulled off back then...but after two years of producing steady work for Eternity, I know I'm ready for it now." Eldred solicited the assistance of technical writer and futurist Jonathan Jarrard to bring to the story an authentic level of technology. "John's contribution far surpasses anything I could have come up with in terms of hard science," Eldred continued. "The workings behind the Cybersuit in particular are incredible. This thing could really exist in another few decades and put to shame anyone who's ever laughed at the concept of a giant robot; this is the real stuff." "The way the comics market is these days," Eldred concluded, "you can't count on seeing this book if you don't place an order with your local comics retailer in early January. This is vital to the future of the series, so please make a point to ask for it, or copies will vanish as quickly as full-open gravitic drive!"

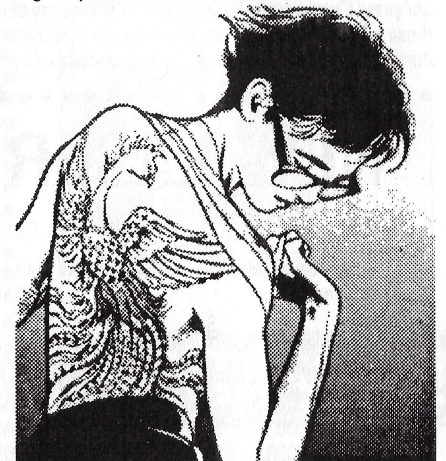
CYBERSUIT ARKADYNE by Tim Eldred and Jonathan Jarrard. "Vision", issue 1 (of 6) from IANUS publication available MARCH 1992. It will retail at \$2.50 US (\$2.95 Can).

VIZ COMICS

Viz spring line-up is their most ambitious undertaking ever. It will include two of the most popular Manga titles, NAUSICAA Part 3 and CRYING FREEMAN Part 4, as well as the most anticipated titles: RANMA 1/2 and Ryoichi Ikegami's new title, SANCTUARY. There will be also a captivating new mini-series: STRIKER — THE ARMORED WARRIOR.

RANMA 1/2 is the most popular manga/anime today, and the hottest title in demand by American fans! Its animation TV series always has one of the highest ratings on prime-time. Voluminous fan mail asking for RANMA and the continuing high sales of the LUM graphic novels is indicative of Rumiko Takahashi's popularity in the USA. RANMA 1/2 is a clever tale that has everything: humor, romance and karate. The title character, Ranma, is a young boy, most of the time; except when he gets wet. A good dousing turns this hapless lad into the opposite sex, a phenomenon that brings a lot of imbroglia. Story & art by Rumiko Takahashi, adapted in English by Gerard Jones ("The Trouble with Girls"). 7-issue 40-page monthly Color Series starting in MAY. \$4.95 US/\$6.50 Can.

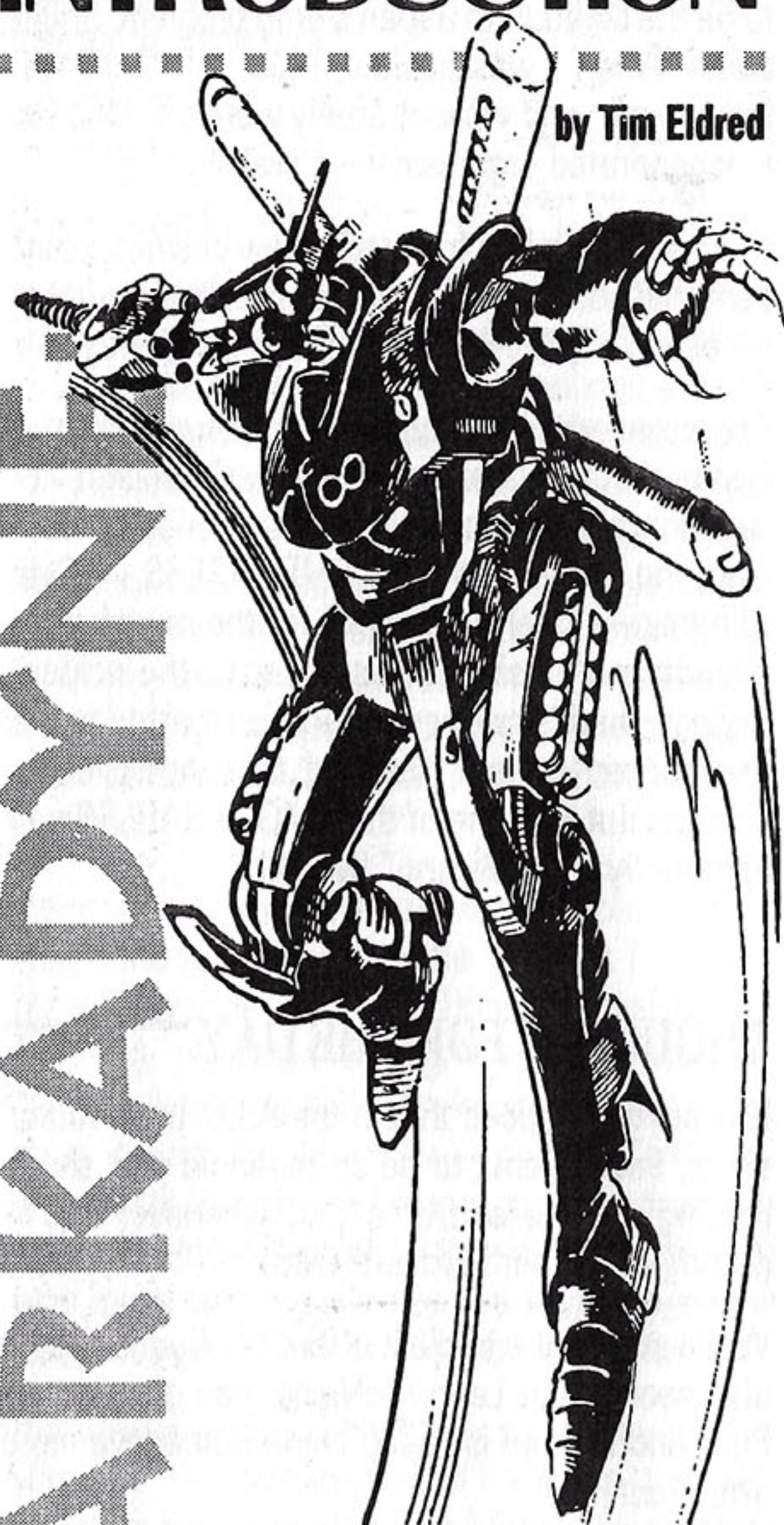
NAUSICAA OF THE VALLEY OF THE WIND Part 3, considered a masterpiece in Japan and the USA is starting again at last! After a long interval, Miyazaki completed a large portion of the continuing saga. In Part 3, we watch war between the two empires show signs of becoming a real holocaust, and Nausicaä seems destined to be resurrected in the role of a much needed Messiah. Though it doesn't bring us to the ultimate conclusion, it certainly provides the climax everyone has expected. Monthly Black & White, starting in April.



CRYING FREEMAN Part 4, kicking off in March will proceed with no break from Part 3. The new story begins in Los Angeles' Chinatown. Freeman is asked to rescue a kidnapped girl and her family. The real target of the kidnapers, however, is Freeman himself! The story then leads us to the confrontation between Freeman and an international kidnapping organization. Story by Kazuo Koike & art by Ryoichi

AN INTRODUCTION

by Tim Eldred



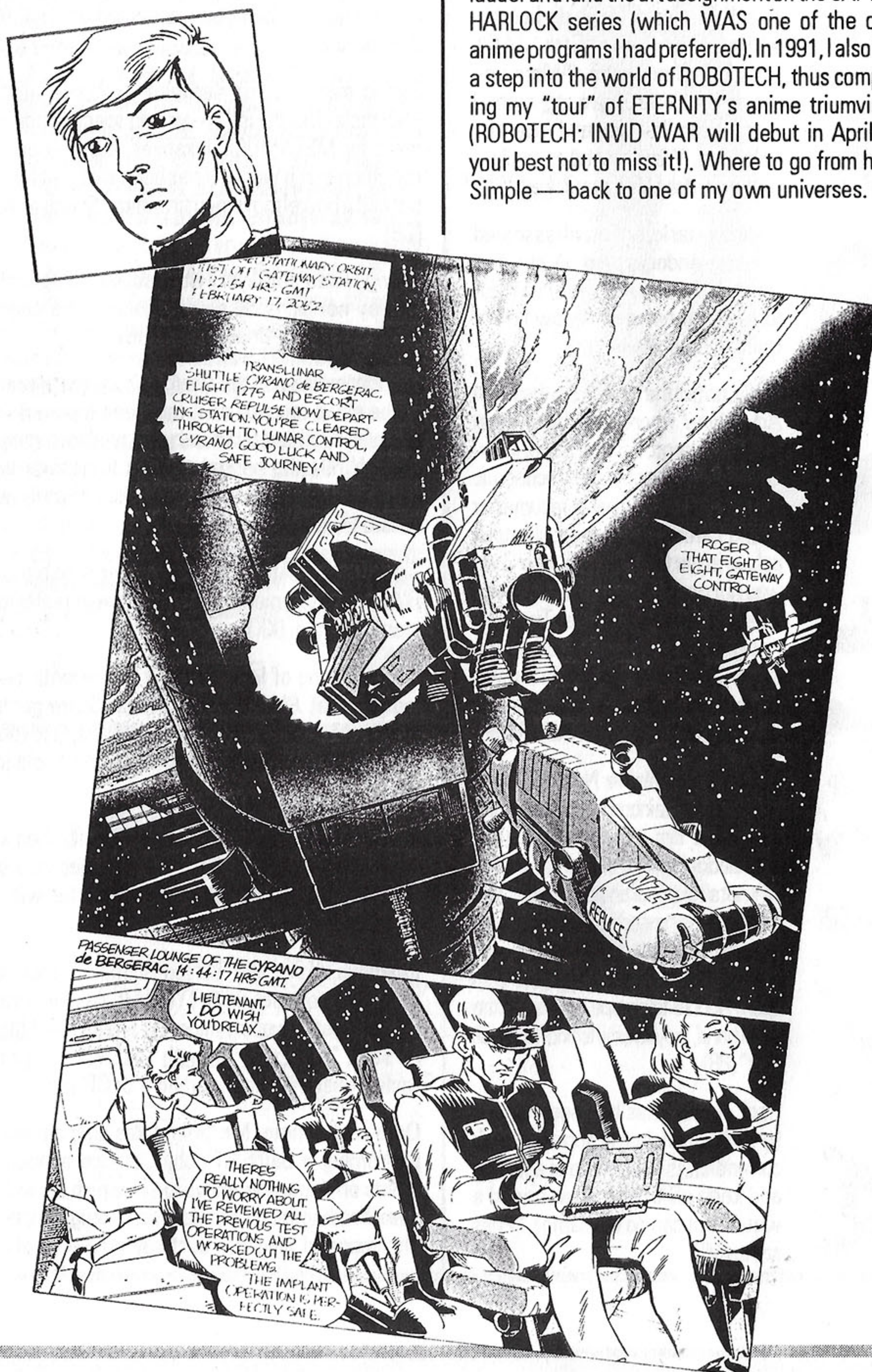
By the year 2052, mankind's expansion into space has encompassed the moon and Mars, and brought humans to the vast resources of the asteroid belt. There, civilian mining vessels have come under attack by a mysterious enemy that attacks and disappears without a trace. WSCA (World Space Cooperative Administration) has initiated the CYBERSUIT PROJECT, a countermeasure that was supposed to be top secret... until, when in its delicate first stage, its crew was attacked by the belt raiders in Earth orbit and saved by another, fully-operational Cybersuit!

GLENN TABACK is the first pilot chosen to operate ARKADYNE; a process that links him directly to the machine via cybernetic implant. Using an experimental system called the GRAVITIC DRIVE, he will be able to outfly and outfight anything imaginable... except himself.

In March 1992, a new publication will join the IANUS lineup. In the wake of PROTOCOL CULTURE ADDICTS, MECHA PRESS, and the GATES OF PANDRAGON comes a comic series long in the making: CYBERSUIT ARKADYNE. It is a drama with classic science-fiction underpinnings that will have special appeal for anime fans in general and mecha fans in particular. I can say this because I fit into this category. Also because I created it.

Having been an anime fan since 1984, and an amateur comics artist even longer, I gradually began to combine the two interests. This culminated in my break into the professional comic market in 1989 when ETERNITY comics asked me to give them art samples for a new book they were about to release: LENS MAN. Although there were plenty of other anime programs I would rather have had the honor of adapting into an American comic, LENS MAN presented me with an ideal door-opener. Within a month of first meeting the editors at ETERNITY, I was assigned the pencilling duties on the series, and this gave way to my second project, BROID.

Since then, it has been my pleasure to move up the ladder and land the art assignment on the CAPTAIN HARLOCK series (which WAS one of the other anime programs I had preferred). In 1991, I also took a step into the world of ROBOTECH, thus completing my "tour" of ETERNITY's anime triumvirate. (ROBOTECH: INVID WAR will debut in April. Do your best not to miss it!). Where to go from here? Simple — back to one of my own universes.



Unknown to me, my friends at IANUS were watching my progress, even following the original material I was doing for ETERNITY; BROID gave way to CHASER PLATOON and then to GROUND ZERO, and they had begun to wonder what other tricks I had up in my sleeve. My only move was to send them an address correction for their mailing list one day, and the wheels began to turn.

ARKADYNE was a book I'd had in mind even before inventing BROID in 1987. Back then, it was only a stream of loosely-constructed paragraphs and concepts. But the overall "high concept" (as we say in the comics biz) was set in stone from the beginning. Revealing that now would ruin the comic for you, so just let me say that it was strong enough to fire my enthusiasm over five years. Fortunately for me, IANUS felt the same.

In 1990, my initial story ideas were given a shot in the arm by my friend and co-writer Jonathan Jarrard. As astute SF fan and technical writer, Jonathan wrote for me an extensive second draft that yielded a story ten times as engaging. For me it was like starting all over again, and my enthusiasm soared. The excitement we have for the project will definitely show this March when CYBERSUIT ARKADYNE #1 hits the stands.

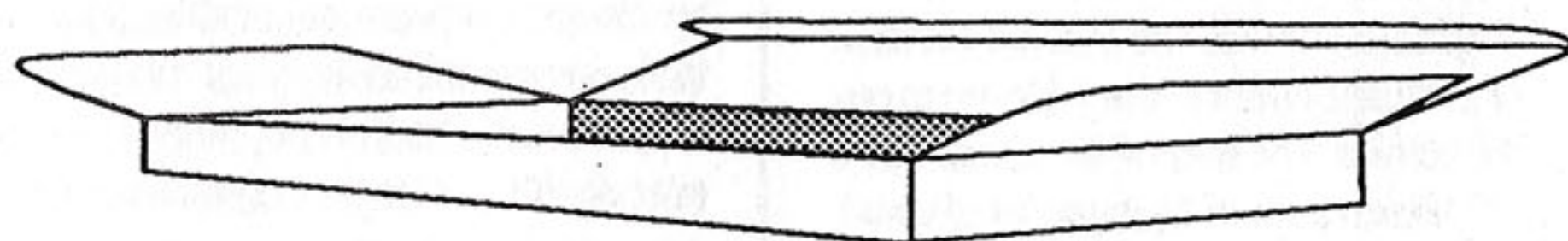
You will be hearing and seeing more about ARKADYNE in these pages, so please also take the time to spread the word to your fellow SF fans and comic shop retailers. Much as the idea grates us, we are still the little fish in the big ocean of comicdom, and word of mouth is what we need to keep from getting gobbled. If the first [6-issue] series of ARKADYNE pays its own bills, the second [4-issue] series can roll right off the presses and bring the story to its conclusion. And if THAT does well... who knows? There are plenty more ideas tumbling around in this noggin.



Tim Eldred was at the head of the Ann Arbor Anime Organization from February 1988 to September 1990, also producing the club's newsletter, the gorgeous and informative ANIMANIA. Now, he still lives in Michigan, he's still a big anime/SF fan, and is a professional comic book artist.

CJP

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