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CAPTAIN
HARLOCK



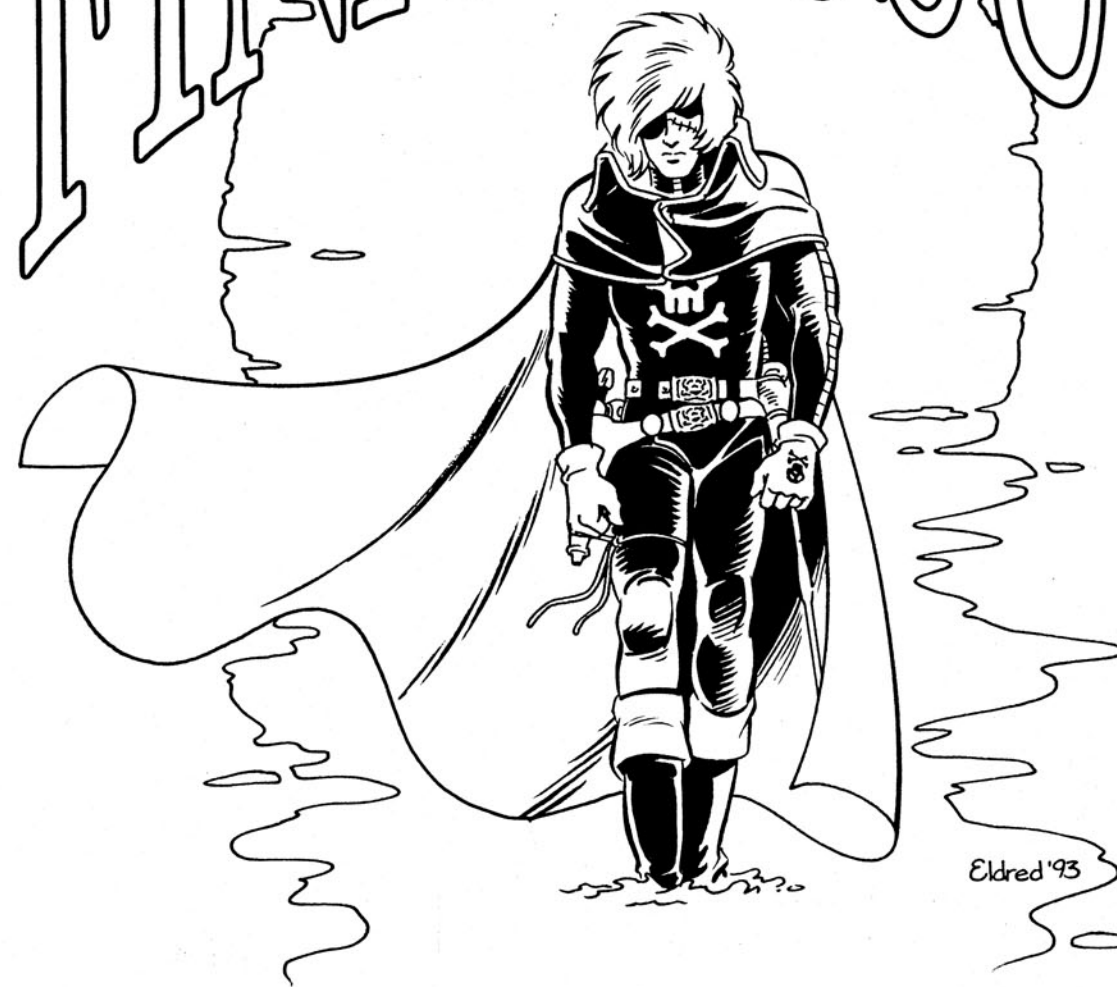
THE MACHINE PEOPLE

LANDMARK
FINAL ISSUE



Eldred '93
m.w.

LANDMARK
FINAL ISSUE



Eldred '93

CAPTAIN HARLOCK THE MACHINE PEOPLE

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eternity

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FLESH AND STEEL



②



③







DESPITE THE DEATH OF ZOLL AND THE WOUNDING OF MAYA AND EMERALDAS, HARLOCK CONTINUED ON HIS JOURNEY TO PLANET TOKARGA, APPARENTLY TO FULFILL HIS PROMISE TO ZOLL.

TOKARGA WAS ALREADY EXPERIENCING ITS DEATH THROES WHEN THE PIRATE AND HIS CREW ARRIVED. THE ILLUMIDAS HAD EXTERMINATED ALL BUT A HANDFUL OF THE SURFACE POPULATION, AND HAD SET A PLANETARY DEMOLITION BOMB INSIDE THE CORE.

THE ONLY LIVING SURVIVORS OF THE DEVASTATION WERE ZOLL'S SISTER, MIRA, AND A FEW TOKARGAN SOLDIERS.

BROTHER ZOLL?

THE ILLUMIDAS' FINAL SOLUTION TO THE TOKARGAN PROBLEM WAS BOTH SIMPLE AND EFFECTIVE.

EN ROUTE BACK TO EARTH, HARLOCK WAS CONFRONTED WITH A CHOICE BETWEEN FACING THE MAIN ILLUMIDAS BATTLE FLEET, OR THE SAME FLAME STREAM PROMINENCE WHICH HAD DAMAGED EMERALDAS' VESSEL EARLIER.

HOW THE PIRATE ESCAPED THE GRASP OF THE SO-CALLED 'OWEN STANLEY WITCH OF SPACE' IS A MYSTERY TO US, BUT HUMAN LEGENDS SAY THE PHENOMENON DRAWS AT THE VERY LIFE FORCE OF LIVING BEINGS.

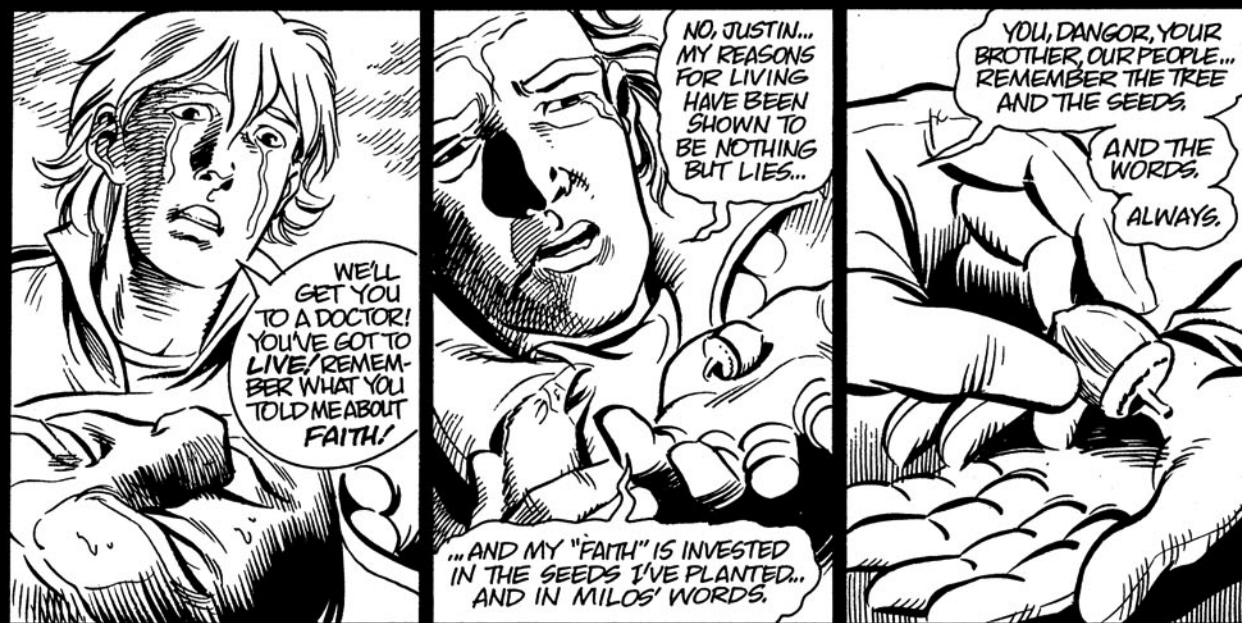
WHAT IS KNOWN, HOWEVER, IS THAT MIRA, THE LAST OF THE TOKARGAN FEMALES, DIED DURING THIS TIME PERIOD, AS DID THE LAST OF THE TOKARGAN MALES WHO WERE ON BOARD THE ARCADIA AT THE TIME.

SO, WHEN HARLOCK DID RETURN TO EARTH, IT WAS IN DEFEAT, FOR DESPITE HIS BEST EFFORTS, THE ENTIRE TOKARGAN RACE WAS DEAD...

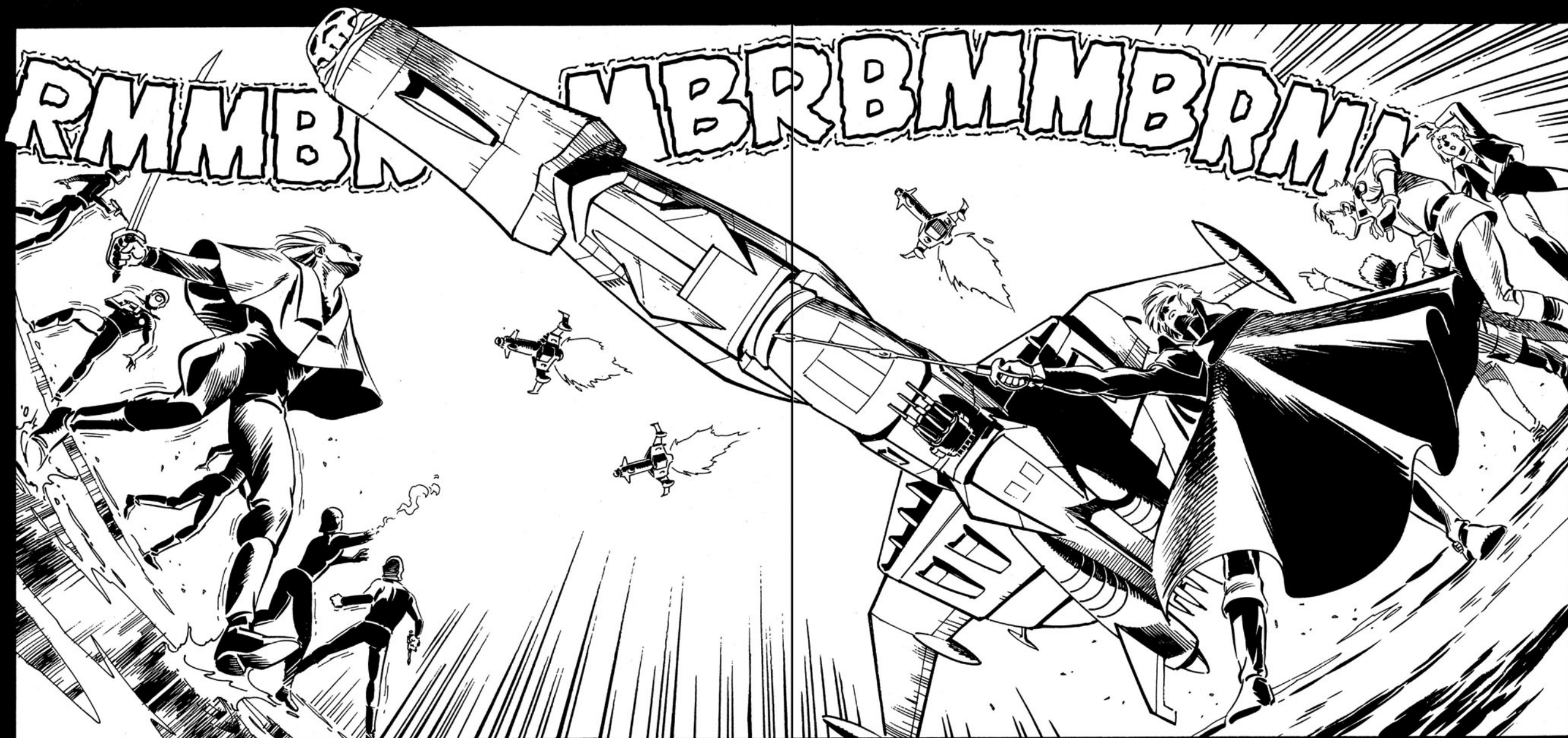
...AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE PLANET OF HIS BIRTH DECLARED HIM AN OUTLAW.















AREN'T YOU TADASHI?

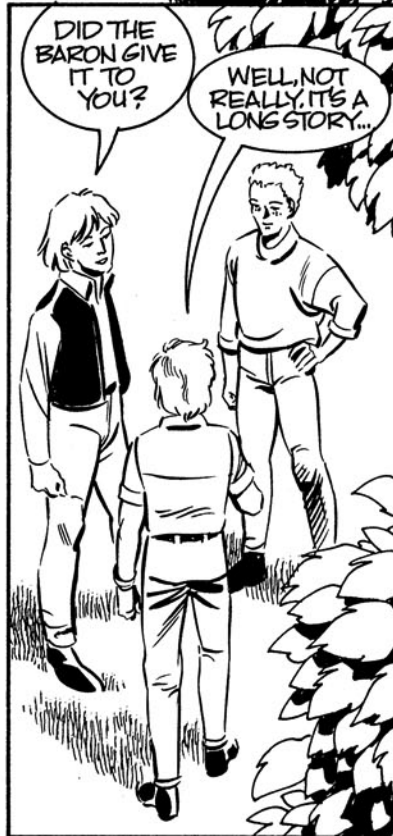
HM?



YES, DIDN'T YOU USED TO BE IN THE GROUP THAT PLAYED THE GAMES MY FATHER USED TO SMUGGLE IN?

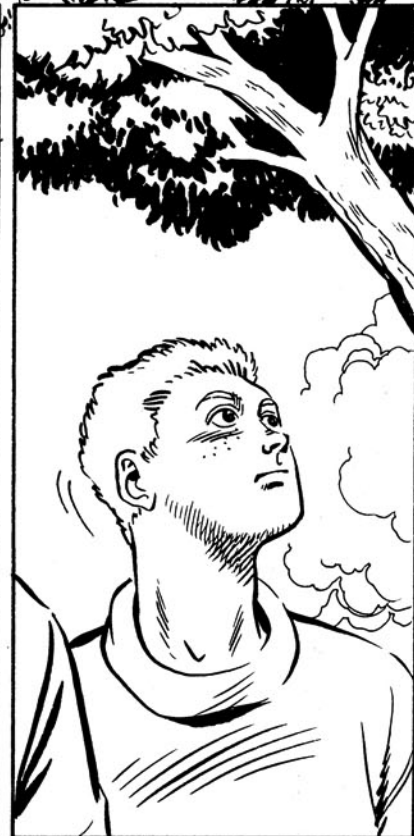
YEAH, THAT'S WHERE I SAW YOU BEFORE. YOUR FATHER WAS A BRAVE MAN.

I SEE YOU HAVE AN ACORN, TOO.



DID THE BARON GIVE IT TO YOU?

WELL, NOT REALLY. IT'S A LONG STORY...



NATHAN! WHAT--

HEY, YOU AN' JUSTIN AN' TADASHI HAVE ONE. LOOKS LIKE I GOTTA GET MINE MYSELF.

HAHAHA!!



HAHA!

HAHAHA!

ISN'T THAT A WONDERFUL SOUND? I BET THIS LAND HASN'T HEARD THE LAUGHTER OF CHILDREN IN MANY YEARS!



IT IS FAR FROM OVER. TRITER AND THE MILITIA ARE CORRUPT. THE ARISTOCRACY IS READY TO RISE. THE MACHINE PEOPLE WILL RETURN IN FORCE...



MAYA, HAMMOND, NEVICH AND DARGHUND ARE GONE, AND THE RESISTANCE MOVEMENT IS BURIED WITH THEM.



NO. IT LOOKS TO ME AS IF THE RESISTANCE MOVEMENT IS ALIVE, WELL, AND GROWING LARGER WITH EACH PASSING DAY.



ROBERT W. GIBSON
WRITER

TIM ELDRED
ARTIST

CAPTAIN HARLOCK
CREATED BY
LEIJI MATSUMOTO

SKULL & CROSSNOTES FINALE

Well, someone famous once said, "All good things must come to an end," and now all of us involved with Eternity's Captain Harlock comic know exactly what he was talking about. Though this will be the final issue of the adventures of everyone's favorite space pirate and crew for the foreseeable future, it certainly WAS a "good thing" for us. The past five years have certainly been fun for me, and I think I can speak for everyone associated with Eternity Comic's Captain Harlock when I bid a hearty "thank you" to everyone who has stuck it out with us. I'd especially like to thank Ben Dunn, Pat Duke, Tim Eldred, Steve Krueger, Chris Ulm (editor #1) Dan Danko (#2), Hank Kanalz (#3), Mark Panecchia (#4), Dave Olbrich, and all our assorted letterers and cover colorists for making the book an absolute dream come true for me.

For those of you who are threatened with withdrawal symptoms from missing Tim's art on Captain Harlock, I'd like to point you to Robotech: Invid War and the upcoming Orguss (uh, Mark, I can mention Orguss now, can't I?) comics from Eternity. Ben Dunn's work can be found every month in his Ninja High School comic also published by Eternity. And Mark Panecchia is the new editor of the whole darn line. And me... well, I'll show up somewhere eventually...

Before we bow out for good, though, we did get a few letters we'd like to share with everyone...

Dear Sirs:

In case you are feeling unappreciated, I'd just like to tell you what a splendid job you're doing on Captain Harlock. Time Eldred's artwork is quite good and remains true to Matsumoto's style. Among current comics, only Stan Sakai in Usagi Yojimbo can, in my own very subjective opinion, match Robert Gibson as a storyteller.

My acquaintance with Captain Harlock consists of the edited version of my My Youth in Arcadia released in the U.S. as Revenge of the Space Pirate (how much is missing I'm not sure, but there are several places in the film where a scene has obviously been cut), the first three episodes of Space Pirate Captain Harlock (thanks to Malibu Comics for making them available) and the first Galaxy Express film.

Though MYIA is a wonderful film, Galaxy Express is even better. I'm delighted by the appearance of the Machine Men in Captain Harlock. The Illumidas made good EXTERNAL villains, but the danger of the Machine Men is that they exploit our internal weaknesses- the fear of death and the fear of feeling (or life if you will) by offering us mechanized immortality. Like Nausicaa, Captain Harlock bucks the mechanized friend of Japanese comic and animation to good effect.

A friend much more devoted to technology than myself found Matsumoto's fable to simplistic, "Humans-good; machines-bad." Perhaps you can add some shading. For example if Verlong received a

prosthetic arm how seriously would his humanity be compromised?

And finally the question, "Who's your favorite character whom you would like to see more of?" My answer is La Mime. Though as this is a wholesome comic I shall have to be contented with elaborations on her past and her motivation to remain with Harlock as presented in MYIA. I must say the lack of a mouth, the flashing light on her chest and her great strength make me wonder if she might not be a cyborg-a GOOD machine?!

The comic stores I visit here in Buffalo all carry only a few copies of Captain Harlock, though as you say most independents are lucky to get any shelf space at all. Captain Harlock certainly deserves a chance- it's a good comic.

Douglas C. Zerby

Doug, I really don't know where to start. Stan's Usagi Yojimbo has been a favorite of mine for some time now. Being compared favorably to his work is something to be proud of. As you can tell from the material I've incorporated into our book, I'm also a very big fan of Galaxy Express 999. Had the series continued, we would have seen much more of the machine people, because they're my favorite of the good Captain's antagonists. The whole aristocratic/immortal connection is fascinating: If one can no longer feel pain, will one still retain empathy to the pain of others? It's still a question I'd like to explore in another project sometime in the future. La Mime is indeed a cyborg, which is a bit different from a machine person; and as a certain Frenchman said - viva la difference! Or was that just Pepe le Pew? I forget. In any case, we're happy you've enjoyed our work enough to write and thank you for the letter.

Yo Robert Gibson:

Nice to finally see words from somebody over at Eternity re Captain Harlock and the future direction of (God, could it really be almost fifteen years?) of Marvel Comics it was a true revelation to me when I finally chanced upon my first issue of Captain Harlock about two years ago. As if struck by lightning, I was an addict and swept through central California collecting every back issue I could lay my hands on. I imagine that there are several comic book store owners who still have nightmares about the crazed girl who came screaming into their store demanding Captain Harlock comics. To shut me up, they just shoved every independent in stock at me so I was turned on to the other Eternity titles: Lensman, Ninja High School, Robotech, etc. I picked them up too and now, thanks to you guys at Eternity and Malibu, I spend way too much of my salary on comics.

I only wish that other comic readers who are convinced that superheroes are the only subjects for comic books would try something different. But even I have a hard time explaining what it is about Captain Harlock that is so fascinating. The depth of imagination and pathos inherent in this comic really captured my heart. Harlock doesn't have any superpowers. He is just a quiet man driven to commit acts of desperate courage and bravery by his beliefs in the inherent worthiness of humankind. He is aided by friends and followers whose friendship and loyalty have been earned through the bonds of adversity and pain. To me, Harlock is a

man who has learned how to reach beyond the pathetic weakness of humans to touch that small spark of greatness within us all. But, well it's a little hard to explain that to my 13 year old elitist nephew who only collects glossy Image titles. He also does not comprehend in the slightest my interest in a tall, lean, one-eyed, scarred shaggy haired individual without muscles who doesn't own any spandex. However, as a result of my crazed expeditions, several store owners have started subscription services, giving free copies of Previews to their customers, etc., and so I have seen a slow but strong interest in the independents emerging. More and more of the independents are being prominently displayed and I am glad. It is surprising how many fans of Japanese type animation and manga are around that are totally unaware there is a large market of Japanese style comics and animation available and that all it takes is an interested inquiry. Even video stores sometimes have secret caches of Japanese animation for fans.

Enough said... just don't ever stop this series as I am first, foremost and forever a Captain Harlock fanatic. Please continue the background information regarding Captain Harlock timelines, videos, and animated series.

S.J.G.

P.S. Tell Tim Eldred to keep up the good work- I can see a lot of improvement and refinement in his work over the past couple of years. But everywhere I look, he's got another comic, another project, another article. I am sick of his informative, well researched articles into esoteric mecha. Eldred, get a life!

Hehe, if you only knew just how much of a life Tim needs to get... Seriously, I've never met anyone in the biz who works harder than Tim Eldred. If a book he's associated with ever misses a deadline, you can safely bet it was someone else's fault. I mean, just last week when I called to find out when the inks for this issue were going to be done, he was pondering over his redesign blueprints of the space station Freedom for NASA because they needed to cut 5 billion off the bottom line before the next legislative session and didn't know who else to call. But, true to form, he put them aside to get this issue into your hands by the solicited release date. Now that's a man with his priorities straight.

Your second paragraph describes what I like about Harlock's character as well or better than I could. Compassion, conviction, and courage do not come from a radiation accident. Love, mercy, and empathy aren't dependent on mutated genes. Those qualities exist in abundant quantities all around us and are exhibited everyday by folks who don't go around wearing tights, blowing up buildings, or saving the universe. In Harlock's case, his true power derives not from shooting fire or popping claws (or even from his swordsmanship), but from the strength of his convictions and his effect on those around him those who tend to believe as he does. That is a kind of power which is easily identifiable because it is one we see around us today. And forever. Which makes Harlock truly a hero for the ages.

Which is how Mr. Matsumoto envisioned him. Like the crew of the Arcadia, I'm grateful to have had the chance to associate myself with him.

Robert W. Gibson
Somewhere in Texas



Greetings from the bridge of the Arcadia

Well, our cover this time out should leave no doubt that this is indeed the good Captain's final outing from Eternity Comics. The possibility had loomed like a shadow over us for some time. It finally came to pass this summer, we could no longer chart Harlock's path through the sea of stars. Oddly, the sales figures of the comic were not the closing note in this symphony...quite the contrary, our readership has been stable for some time. This decision was made instead by the folks at Toei Animation, the licensors for Harlock in Japan. For their own reasons, they chose not to renew Harlock's license to the American market.

Regardless, it has been our pleasure to bring you these adventures for the past four years. We still take pride in the fact that Harlock's debut in 1989 set a record at the time for orders of a black and white comic book. Through out the run, reader reaction has been nothing but positive.

For me personally, drawing Harlock's exploits has been akin to a dream. Crafting comics based on any Japanese animation I like is a joy, but to land a project of this caliber so early in my career was a true stroke of luck. Financial concerns aside, I feel richer as a person for having spent this time with these characters, and I can only hope similarly rewarding experiences lie ahead.

Tim Eldred
August, 1993

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by
Wes Abbott

