

## AEGIS

AEGIS is an outgrowth of the UN Peacekeeping forces established in 1956 to deal with the Suez Canal crisis. At the same time as the first peacekeeping forces were established, many people wondered about the possibility of forming a force equipped to battle "extra-national security threats" such as (insert villain), a madman who threatened (insert place) in the early 1950s. Though supervillains were less common in those days, they were still a concern to international authorities, and when the first peacekeeping forces were established, a provision was added for the creation of a task force to coordinate and hunt villains who travelled across international borders.



The task force was inactive for six years, until 1962, when a superhuman called the Leopard King decided the newly independent nation-states of Africa were ripe for a takeover. Establishing an army of "Leopard-Men" - brainwashed members of local tribes - he launched an attack on several states. At the request of several nations in the area, the United Nations sent a peacekeeping force to intervene in the conflict. This was the first recorded use of United Nations troops to fight supervillains.

In 1962, the public activities of groups like VIPER and FEAR posed a worldwide threat, and AEGIS was mobilized as a permanent unit dedicated to coordinating efforts to curtail meta-human threats and train both local authorities and willing meta-humans to better contain super-powered criminals.

## AGENTS JACKSON & JACKSON

**Real Name:** Phil Jackson & Sylvia Jackson

**Occupation:** AEGIS operatives

**First Appearance:** SMAX #79

Agents Jackson and Jackson (no relation) are the senior field operatives in Pacific City, frequently serving as the organisations first responders to any meta-human activity. They're both calm, well-trained, and rarely seen without wearing their sunglasses.

### NOTABLE APPERANCES

**SMAX #79:** Agents Jackson and Jackson first appeared after SMAX stopped Rant and Rave from completing a bank robbery. They were seemingly put out when they discovered that Awesome had released the arrested felons into the custody of Pacific City's Special Crimes Unit, inviting the team to a meeting with the newly-installed AEGIS commander, Templeton, at the Dome.



## ANVIL

**Real Name:** Donnie Moore

**Occupation:** Muscle for Hire

**First Appearance:** Shock & Awesome #54

Anvil is a three-foot tall metal man. His body is very dense (weighing the better part of a ton), monstrously strong, and very difficult to hurt, almost impossibly so with physical attacks like explosions or punches. He's immune to most environmental factors, poisons, and toxins and he never seems to get tired.

Anvil is also an accomplished brawler, with dirty-fighting skills honed in innumerable bar fights over his long and rowdy life. His fighting style isn't at all pretty, but its effectiveness can't be denied.

## NOTABLE APPEARANCES

**Shock & Awesome #54:** A small-time biker granted power as a result of the Silver Storm, Anvil made his debut in issue #54 when he rampaged through the southern suburbs of Pacific City searching for his girlfriend, known only as "Candy."

He came to Shock & Awesome's attention when he tossed a BMW that was in his way over one shoulder, forcing Awesome to reveal his powers in front of his classmate Robyn for the first time. Shock and Awesome made short work of Anvil, blasting him into submission.

**Shock & Awesome #68:** Anvil was one of the criminals unleashed onto Liberty Island by Doc Shock, intended to test the next generation of heroes. He teamed with Doomsquad to ambush Shock, Awesome, and Xo, but quickly found himself outclassed by the trio.



## ADONIS, THE PERFECT MAN

**Real Name:** Eric Anton Goloubef

**Occupation:** Avant-Garde Performance Artist

**First Appearance:** Shock & Awesome #69

Adonis was involved in French Avant-Garde theatre and saw the potential to use crime in order to shock his audience, incorporating small-time thefts, robberies, and prison breaks into his performance pieces. The international press is torn between condemning his crimes and praising his artistic process, and he maintains a strong following among schoolgirls in France, Germany, and Japan.

Adonis possesses enhanced strength, speed, constitution and intelligence, in addition to a powerful charisma that gives him persuasive powers bordering on mind control. He wields a stolen power-baton, designed to unleash burst of kinetic energy when used in combat.

### NOTABLE APPEARANCES

**Shock & Awesome #69:** Adonis was one of the villains released onto Liberty Island by Doc Shock in order to test the next generation of heroes. He fought alongside Rampage, Stonefist, and Weyland Talos, ultimately getting defeated by the trio of Shock, Awesome, and Xo.



## BLACKHAWK

**Real Name:** Tommy Drago

**Occupation:** Criminal

**First Appearance:** Shock & Awesome #6

Blackhawk wears an armoured flight-suit with an electromagnetic harness and bird-like wings, allowing him to fly silently and with very precise maneuverability. The flight suit also increases his resistance to injury and increases his strength, and has a retractable grapple line that's used as a weapon and a means of committing high-speed theft.

Blackhawk is typically accompanied by a gang of "Raptors," who wear slightly lesser versions of his flight suit. Working together, they have been known to lift a fully-loaded armoured car without losing flight speed.

Blackhawk and his gangs are frequent rivals of Eclipse King.



## NOTABLE APPERANCES

**Shock & Awesome #6-#11:** Blackhawk and his Raptors attempted to steal an armoured car, leading to a high-speed chase through the city when Shock & Awesome pursued. He escaped, and the subsequent investigation saw the heroes work with the Special Crimes Unit and Meta-Swat for the first time, eventually cornering the gang in their headquarters and bringing Blackhawk down in one of the pair's first publically televised battles.

## ALTERNATE BLACKHAWKS

**SMAX #78:** A robotic duplicate of Blackhawk (backed by several flocks of RAZORBEAK combat robots) attacked the launch of Pacific Vision Laboratories and the public debut of the SMAX. Programmed to target Shock, Awesome, and Bear Walsh exclusively, it was quickly destroyed and turned over to the Special Crimes Unit.

## BONESAW

**Real Name:** Mario Hulette

**Occupation:** Former Professional Wrestler

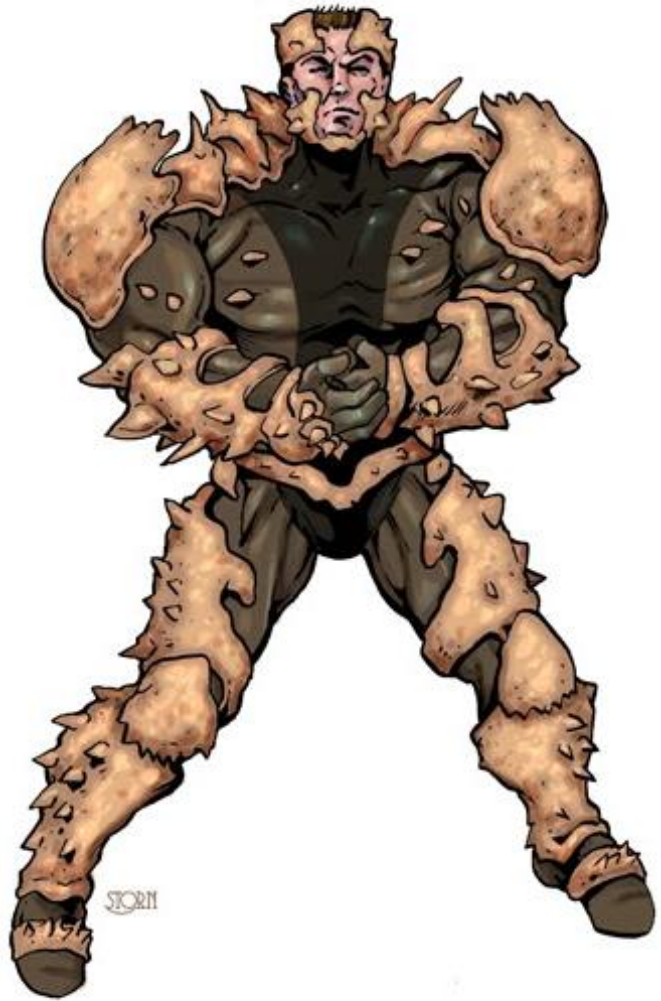
**First Appearance:** Shock & Awesome #20

A former pro-wrestler mutated by the Silver Storm, Bonesaw was transformed into a nigh-invulnerable engine of destruction in possession of enhanced strength and durability. His protective carapace renders him immune to most small-arms fire and makes him highly dangerous to engage in hand-to-hand combat.

### NOTABLE APPERANCES

**Shock & Awesome #20:** Bonesaw interrupted a PCW show during Gabriel's first title match, bringing him into conflict with both Shock & Awesome and Maxamillian Mar's Vanguard team. He escaped when the Vanguard misstook Shock and Awesome for Bonesaw's allies.

**Shock & Awesome #72:** Bonesaw was one of the twelve villains Doc Shock released onto Liberty Island by Doc Shock in order to test the next generation of heroes. He tried to prevent Shock, Awesome, and Xo from entering the main control tower, only to get thrown into the dormant volcano.



## CANNON

**Real Name:** Peter Stone

**Occupation:** Former Soldier turned Professional Criminal

**First Appearance:** Shock & Awesome #16

Cannon is a freelance mercenary and cyborg, believed to be augmented by the Tech-9 weapons cartel. His implanted bionics make him super-strong and resilient, able to warp space locally, teleport, and project concussive energy blasts powerful enough to rupture a tank.

Cannon is ruthless and utterly mercenary, willing to do anything for a buck. He frequently feels a professional rivalry with other augmented supersoldiers.

### NOTABLE APPEARANCES

**Shock & Awesome #16:** Cannon partnered with Cyberknight in order to attack the Mars-Tech compound on the edge of the city, in a presumed assassination attempt against CEO Maximilian Mars. He was defeated by Shock when she fried his cybernetic systems.



## COLONEL ORBUS

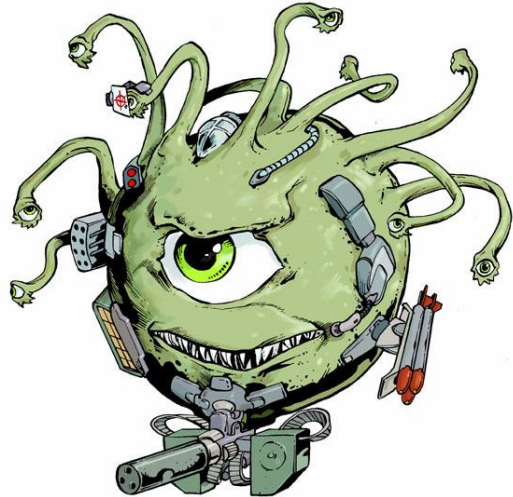
**Real Name:** Orbus

**Occupation:** Bounty Hunter

**First Appearance:** Shock & Awesome #78

Orbus is a sentient, genetically-engineered organism designed to serve as a sentry and mobile battle platform in a distant war. He eventually went rogue, finding a new career as a bounty hunter, tracking criminals across the space lanes.

Orbus is heavily equipped with an automated laser cannon, several missiles, and other weapons technology. He had the ability to fly and his multiple writhing eyestalks make him enormously observant.



## NOTABLE APPERANCES

**Shock & Awesome #78:** Orbus came to earth to apprehend the parents of Molly Starr, interrupting the launch of the newly formed SMAX team at the Pacific Vision Laboratories. SMAX promptly defeated the bounty hunter and appropriated his flying saucer, adopting it as their primary mode of transport.



## CYBERKNIGHT

**Real Name:** Sarah Loring

**Occupation:** Professional Criminal

**First Appearance:** Shock & Awesome #16

Cyberknight is a freelance mercenary and cyborg, believed to be augmented by the Tech-9 Weapons cartel. Surgically implants give her enhanced combat skills, senses and resistance to harm, in addition to flight, super-strength, and a cloaking field. Her cyberlance projects force blasts contains and energized net for subduing opponents.

Cyberknight is competent and professional, focused on doing the job and earning her fee.

### NOTABLE APPERANCES

**Shock & Awesome #16:** Cyberknight partnered with Cannon in order to attack the Mars-Tech compound on the edge of the city, in a presumed assassination attempt against CEO Maximilian Mars.

Cyberknight is notable for being the first person to stab Awesome through the chest (although she seemed to regret it afterwards).



## CROSS

**Real Name:** Detective Ben Cross

**Occupation:** Special Crimes Detective

**First Appearance:** Shock & Awesome #3

Cross is the lead detective in the Pacific City Special Crimes unit. He's a survivor of the destruction of Canberra who takes his job very seriously, showing a slightly greater willingness to bend the rules than his partner, Julia Right.

His nickname among the department is The Bulldog, earned due to his tenacity and loyalty to his friends. Cross is a highly trained Special Crimes detective, skilled in the investigation and apprehension of meta-human criminals.

## NOTABLE APPEARANCES

**Shock & Awesome #3:** Cross and Right first appeared investigating the mysterious dinosaur attacks at Pacific West High School. He initially believed Kris Oulette to be involved, due to her obvious nerves and reluctance to answer simple questions about the attack, but couldn't find evidence to support his suspicions.



## DOOMSQUID

**Real Name:** Henry Talbot

**Occupation:** Monster

**First Appearance:** Shock & Awesome #

Talbot was a low-level crook when the Silver Storm took the city, transforming him into a human-squid hybrid and enhancing his strength and durability. He's now graduated from crooked schemes to legbreaking and serving as a meta-human enforcer for hire.

He holds a particular hatred for Shock after their initial encounter, frequently referring to himself as her arch-nemesis, regardless of what she actually thinks. Doomsquid possesses enhanced strength and a thick hide, in addition to his tentacles, and has proven to be resistant to Shock's electric charge.



## NOTABLE APPEARANCES

**Shock & Awesome #14:** Doomsquid was one of the newly created villains released when the Silver Storm hit Pacific City. He went on a destructive rampage, but quickly found himself defeated by Shock and Awesome.

**Shock & Awesome #50:** Doomsquid was being held captive by Father Ethan and the Grail. He was released by Shock and Awesome, but attacked them as soon as he was released from his cell.

**Shock & Awesome #68:** Doomsquid was one of the criminals unleashed onto Liberty Island by Doc Shock, intended to test the next generation of heroes. He teamed with Doomsquid to ambush Shock, Awesome, and Xo, but quickly found himself outclassed by trio.

**SMAX #XX:** Doomsquid and Bang-Bang joined forces to try and collect the bounty placed on SMAX by the Kabuki Shogunate. They wired a football stadium with explosives and held the audience hostage in order to force the team to surrender, but were summarily defeated with minimal effort.

## FATHER ETHAN

**Real Name:** Father Ethan Montgomery

**Occupation:** Priest

**First Appearance:** Shock & Awesome #2

A former member of the Grail, responsible for starting the super-soldier training program that produced Awesome, The Gentlemen, and Rafiel.

Ethan is a high-trained soldier and priest, with access to a range of high-tech and mystical armaments. He's also proven to be a master of manipulation and utterly ruthless in the pursuit of his goals.

### NOTABLE APPERANCES

**Shock & Awesome #2:** Father Ethan first appeared as the head of the Soldiers of Christ orphanage in Pacific City, watching over the fifteen trainees in the Grail super-soldier program.

**Shock & Awesome #:** After Gabriel and Awesome leave the Grail behind, Ethan set a trap at Kate Morton's home. During the ambush, he stabbed Awesome through the chest with his sword.

**Shock & Awesome #50:** Shock and Awesome discovered Ethan and The Grail kidnapping powered individuals and imprisoning them in a secret base beneath an abandoned church. Ethan was captured and turned over to the Pacific City Special Crimes unit.



## THE KABUKI SHOGUNATE

The Kabuki Shogunate is a criminal organisation established in feudal Japan that used the cover of itinerant performers as a cover for their activities. Over a period of centuries, they perfected the arts of stealth and combat, training their initiates in unarmed combat, camouflage, swordplay, escape, and evasion in order to make the perfect assassin.

In the early eighteen hundreds they fell under the control of the Kabuki Shotgun – an unknown figure who emerged from their ranks and showed a mastery of mystic arts in addition to his martial abilities. In the years since, they have sought to establish their hold in Japan.

In recent years, they have been forced to leave Japan due to losses when feuding with the Yakuza and other crime syndicates for territory.

### NOTABLE APPERANCES



## MAXIMILLIAN MARS

**Real Name:** Maximillian Mars

**Occupation:** Billionaire

**First Appearance:** Shock & Awesome #16

MarsTech CEO Maximilian Mars is something of a white knight for Pacific City, buying up cheap office and industrial spaces on the fringes of the city to set up an new MarsTech research and commercial arm for the Asia-Pacific region.

MarsTech's presence helped Pacific City defy the predicted economic slump that would follow reconstruction; MarsTech quickly became one of the city's largest employers, ranking just a few thousand employees behind the public administration and safety sector in terms of the total number citizens employed by 2007.

Mars is a business and technological genius, proudly claiming to be one of the ten smartest men on the planet. He funds the Vanguard, one of Pacific City's hero teams, and attempts to stay on good terms with

### NOTABLE APPERANCES

Mars is a regular supporting character in both Shock & Awesome and SMAX.

**Shock & Awesome #16:** Mars was the target of an assassination attempt by Cannon and Cybernaut after his company was implicated in the Silver Storm. He survived thanks to Shock and Awesome, which quickly gave him the idea of sponsoring a team of heroes for the city.

**Shock & Awesome #38:** Mars and his penthouse were attacked by the Terrible Man-Flea during the Times of Vengeance. He and the Vanguard were an active part of trying to thwart the ten plagues, and his penthouse served as the home base of the heroes who went up against the Death Angel.

**Shock & Awesome #XX:** Mars' penthouse was targeted by the members of GRAB, who wanted to make of with some of his rare art.



## MARISSA TEMPLETON

**Real Name:** Marissa Templeton

**Occupation:** AEGIS Commander

**First Appearance:** SMAX #79

Marissa Templeton is the commander of the Pacific City AEGIS taskforce operating out of the Dome. She's an experienced soldier and field commander, originally trained as a founding member of Sydney's Special Crimes unit before joining AEGIS after the destruction of Canberra in the eighties.

Templeton is regarded as one of the rising stars of AEGIS, rapidly climbing through the ranks by carefully evaluating situations and moving to neutralise potential problems as quickly as possible. Despite this, there are fears that the meta-human boom in Pacific City are beyond her abilities, and it's regarded as a sink-or-swim situation for the young commander as far as future promotions are concerned.



## NOTABLE APPEARANCES

**Shock & Awesome #79:** Templeton met with the members of SMAX, trying to establish a rapport with them and convincing them to hand captured villains over to AEGIS instead of passing them on to the city's Special Crimes team. She argued that AEGIS were better equipped to deal with detaining and processing the number of meta-humans active in region, in addition to providing the team training and support.

## RANT

**Real Name:** Ray Trask

**Occupation:** Criminal

**First Appearance:** SMAX #79

Ray and his sister Rachel grew up pretty wild, neglected by their parents and dedicated to the emerging underground rave scene flourishing in the United States in the early nineties. They gained their powers after a pharmaceutical corporation tested a new drug at a rave outside of Portland, using kids who were eager to find the next ecstasy as human test subjects for a drug the FDA hadn't yet. Of the thirty kids who took part in the test that night, Rant and his sister Rave were the only survivors.

Rant's powers allow him to manipulate his own voice and deliver devastating sonic booms that deafen or destroy their targets. He's fond of using his abilities to destroy ceiling supports or collapse the floor beneath his opponents, giving him chance to flee rather than leaving him stuck in a face-to-face fight.

Rave's powers are significantly increased when he is within close proximity to his sister.

## NOTABLE APPEARANCES

**SMAX #79:** Rant and Rave were captured after they tried to rob the Pacific City First National bank while the members of SMAX were trying to open an account for Megastar in their civilian identities.





## RAVE

**Real Name:** Rachel Trask

**Occupation:** Criminal

**First Appearance:** SMAX #79

Rachel and his brother Ray grew up pretty wild, neglected by their parents and dedicated to the emerging underground rave scene flourishing in the United States in the early nineties. They gained their powers after a pharmaceutical corporation tested a new drug at a rave outside of Portland, using kids who were eager to find the next ecstasy as human test subjects for a drug the FDA hadn't yet. Of the thirty kids who took part in the test that night, Rave and his brother Rant were the only survivors.

Rave's powers allow her to distort perceptions and create illusions using the sound of her voice. She enjoys using her abilities to cow non-powered entities, and she revels in her ability to catch people off-guard.

Her powers are significantly enhanced when she is in close proximity to her brother, Rant.

### NOTABLE APPERANCES

**SMAX #79:** Rant and Rave were captured after they tried to rob the Pacific City First National bank while the members of SMAX were trying to open an account for Megastar in their civilian identities.



## WRIGHT

**Real Name:** Detective Amanda Wright

**Occupation:** Special Crimes Detective

**First Appearance:** Shock & Awesome #3

Wright is a detective in the Pacific City Special Crimes unit. She's young, eager, and willing to do whatever it takes in order to keep the city safe. Despite her initial reluctance to trust costumed heroes, she has found herself partnering with Shock and Awesome multiple times, learning their secret identities before they graduated highschool.



Wright is a highly trained Special Crimes detective, skilled in the investigation and apprehension of meta-human criminals.

## NOTABLE APPERANCES

**Shock & Awesome #3:** Cross and Wright first appeared investigating the mysterious dinosaur attacks at Pacific West High School, playing good cop to Cross's bad cop during the investigation of students.

## WAYLAND TALOS

**Real Name:** Wayland Talos

**Occupation:** Criminal & Gang Leader

**First Appearance:** Shock & Awesome #24

Wayland Talos is the leader of the Demonz motorcycle gang, a long-time criminal presence in Pacific City even before he gained meta-human abilities. He was given the ability of tactile ferokinesis by Doc Shock, recruited as part of the team going after Shock & Awesome.

Talos' abilities allow him to re-arrange metal into any form he can imagine. He frequently uses it to create a metal gauntlet, allowing him to use his magnetic abilities to enhance his punching power, and to create version of his trademark warhammer.



## NOTABLE APPEARANCES

**Shock & Awesome #24:** A non-powered Talos was first revealed as the leader of the Demonz motorcycle gang in Shock and Awesome #24. He was questioned by the duo as they tried to find out who was attempting to kidnap Kris Ouellette, swearing vengeance after the heroes held him over the edge of a building in order to get Carl Lupo's name.

**Shock & Awesome #72:** Wayland Talos was one of the twelve villains Doc Shock released onto Liberty Island by Doc Shock in order to test the next generation of heroes. He fought alongside Rampage, Stonefist, and Adonis, ultimately getting defeated by the trio of Shock, Awesome, and Xo.

## XANDER BLACK

**Real Name:** Xander Black

**Occupation:** Occultist

**First Appearance:**

Xander Black is an American occultists, specialising in Voodoo, operating out of Pacific City. He's on retainer with the Pacific City police department to serve as a consultant on cases with a mystical bent. He's widely connected in occult circles, often disappearing to do "favours" for people.

Black's occult talents extend to several powerful rituals and the possession of several minor arcane artefacts, including his signature Earthquake Cane and Moloch's Cigar.

### NOTABLE APPEARANCES

**Shock & Awesome #38-#47:** Black first appeared as a police consultant during the Times of Vengeance cross-over, assisting Shock, Awesome, and the Special Crimes unit in their struggle against the ten plagues that swept across the city.



APPENDIX ONE: PCU Supporting Characters

**BETTY WATSON**

Occupation: Singer/Student  
First Appearance: SMAX #79

A theatre student who befriend Molly Star on her first day of University. Betty was outed at the former singer of the punk band, XXXXXX, who had a string of minor singles through the previous years.



**CONNOR RIGGS**

Occupation: Theatre Student  
First Appearance: SMAX #91

Connor Riggs is an Arts & Theatre Student at Pacific City University and a friend of Molly Star and Tina McNamara. He was involved in the first performance assessment Molly performed at university and one of the first non-powered human beings she befriended.



**DANNY COLTON**

Occupation: Student  
First Appearance: SMAX #79

The son of an American diplomat, Danny Colton is a bright young man studying meta-humans and international law at Pacific City University. He claims that the next hundred years of human law will be based around arguments about DNA sequences and powers, and generally seems quite interested in the idea of superheroes. He initially befriended Xo after recognising her from an embassy party, and they're now dating



**DR ELIZABETH SYKES**

Occupation: Professor  
First Appearance: SMAX #79

Elizabeth Sykes is a professor with an interest in medicine and genetic studies, with a particular interest in meta-human culture. She courted Xoey as a student, looking to advance her into research after discovering she was working with at Pacific Vision labs.



## THE OFFICIAL HANDBOOK OF THE SMAX UNIVERSE



### ROBIN

Occupation: Student/Hacker

First Appearance: Shock & Awesome

A young hacker who was once close friends with Kris Oullette and Michael Adams, although she grew increasingly distant after a failed attempt to start a relationship with Kris and the realisation that they were Shock and Awesome. Currently studying computer science at Pacific City University on a Marstech scholarship. Things are awkward whenever she runs into Kris.

### TINA McNAMARA

Occupation: Student

First Appearance: SMAX #91

A mute theatre student at Pacific City University who formed a friendship with Molly Star and Connor Riggs. Tina was highly impressed by Michael Adam's jaw and seems to get along well with Moo-vell girl.



### KATINA VULKOVA

Occupation: Student

First Appearance: SMAX #79

Katina is one of the first women Kris Oullette met on the Pacific City University campus. She was born in Russia, although she's spent the last several years in Australia, and she befriended Kris because her father works with Kris's. Katina has tried several times to introduce Kris to the local lesbian scene, but the one time it worked she took Kris to a party where Imogen Rougeau was the DJ and it didn't end well.



### LIZ JACKSON

Occupation: Student

First Appearance: SMAX #79

Elizabeth "Liz" Jackson is a former student of Pacific West high school who dated Bear on and off through his senior years. She made her first appearance approaching Michael Adams on the university campus, trying to find out why Bear changed after his accident and what happened to end her relationship with him for good. Has now expressed an interest in Gabe.



### YUKI YAMASHIRO

Occupation: Student

First Appearance: SMAX #89

A friend of Danny Colton who was set up with Kris Oulette. The daughter of Japanese diplomats, she was educated in America and shows a particular awareness of people's combat training.