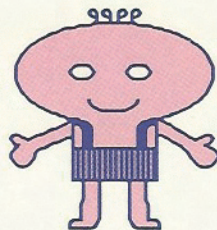
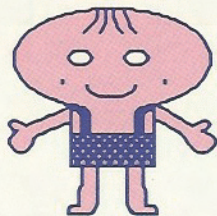
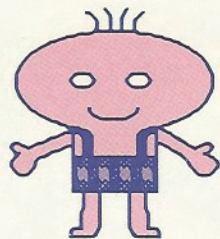


Alpha, Beta & Gamma

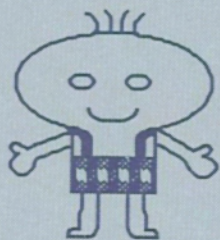


A Small Story
by
Sharon Good



Alpha, Beta & Gamma

Alpha, Beta & Gamma



A Small Story
by
Sharon Good

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New York

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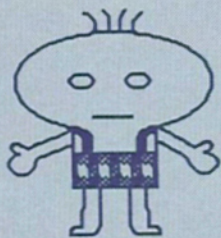
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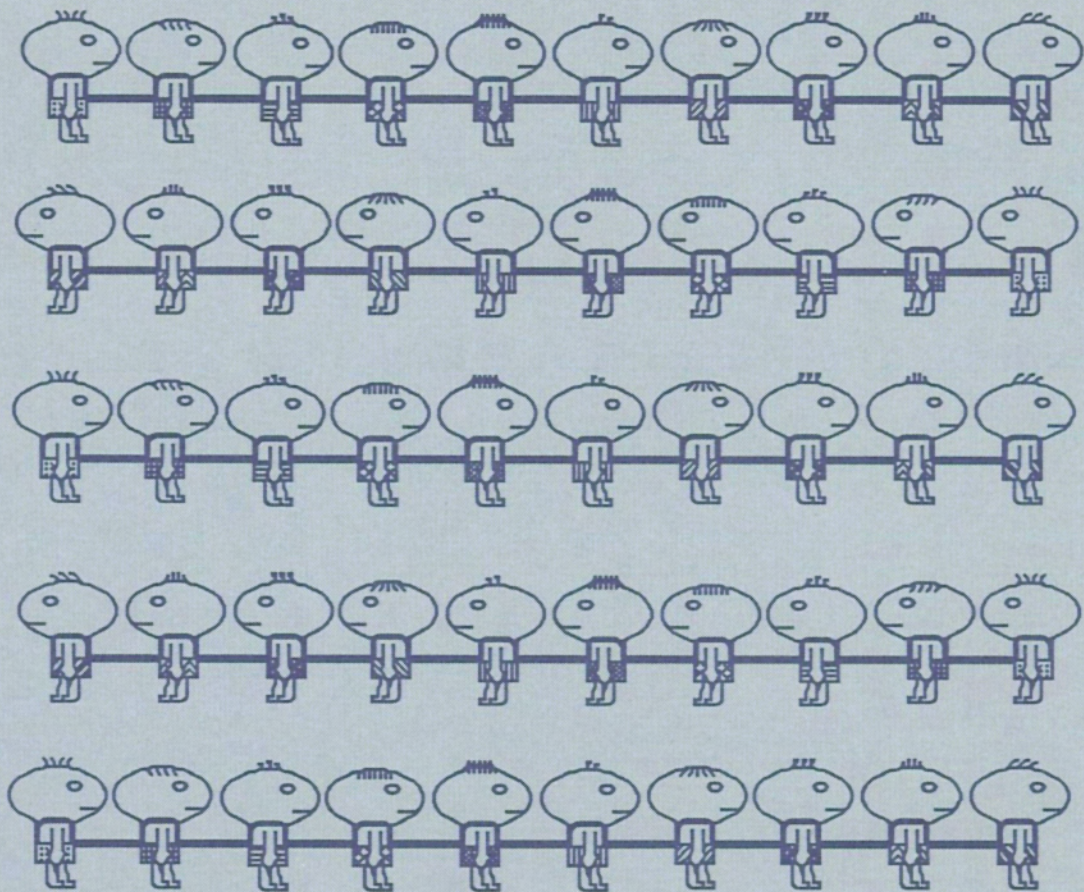
*Dedicated to the child
in all of us*



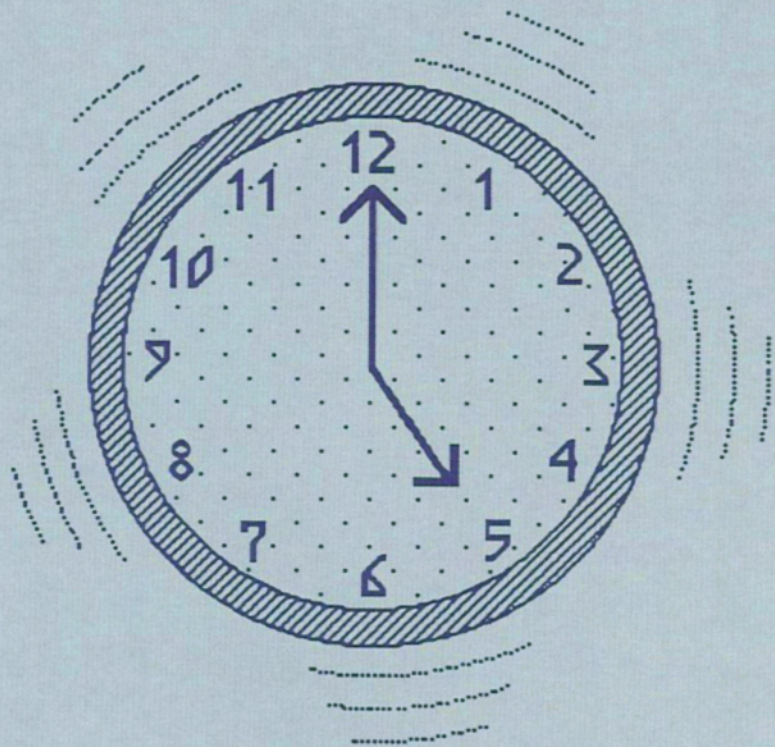
Once upon a time, there were three beings from another planet in another galaxy in another time. Their names were Alpha, Beta and Gamma. They were very, very small, but they lived in a very, very small world, so they fit right in.



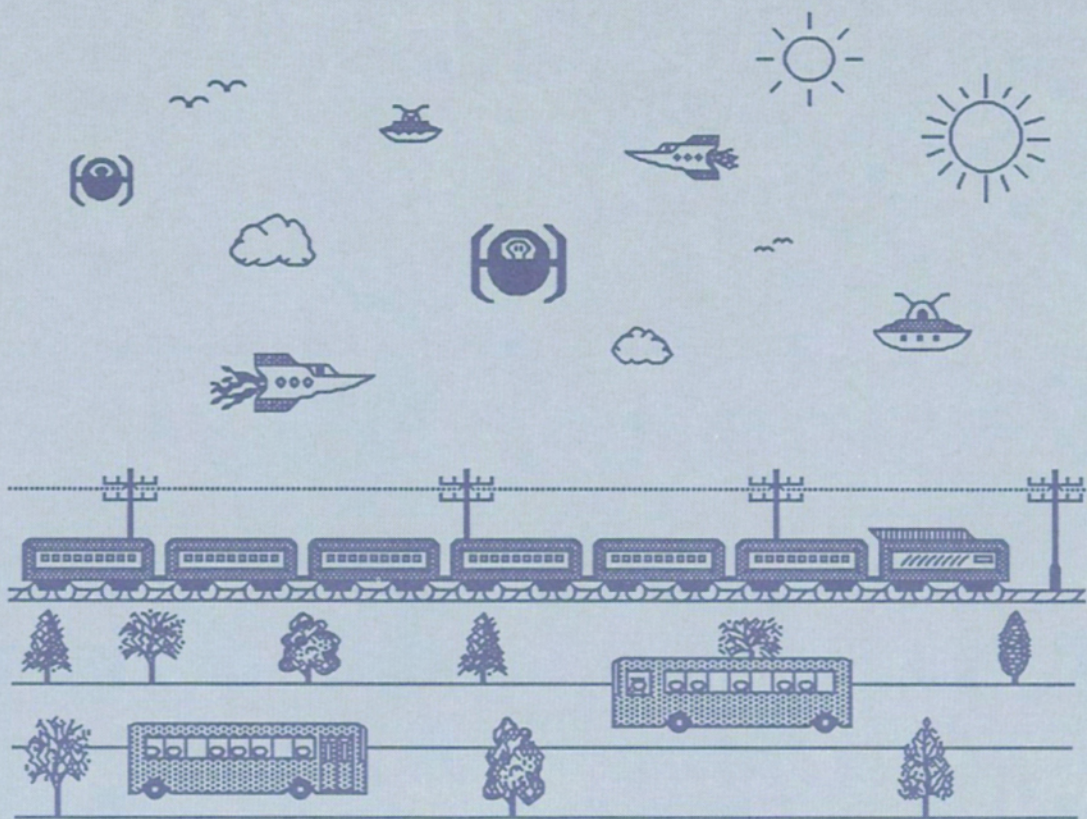
The planet Sentari was like a well-oiled machine.
Everything was planned
and diagrammed
and scheduled.



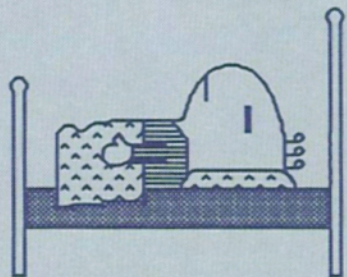
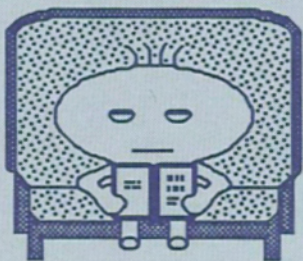
Each person had his job and did it efficiently,
arriving on time, taking a precise meal break,
and leaving exactly as the tone sounded
for the end of the work day.



The trains and buses and spaceships ran on time
and never broke down.



Time away from work was spent learning,
taking care of their possessions,
and resting for the next day.



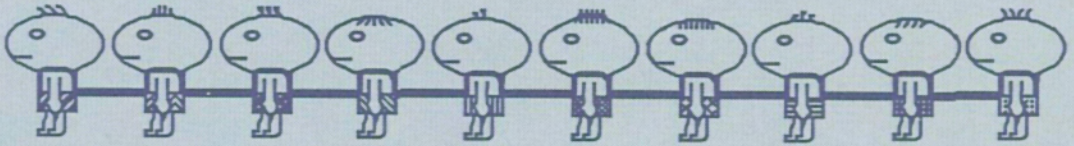
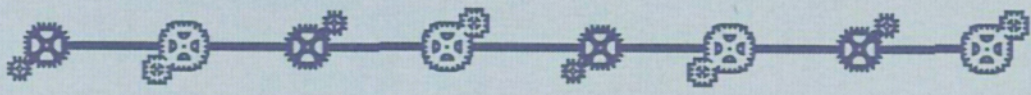
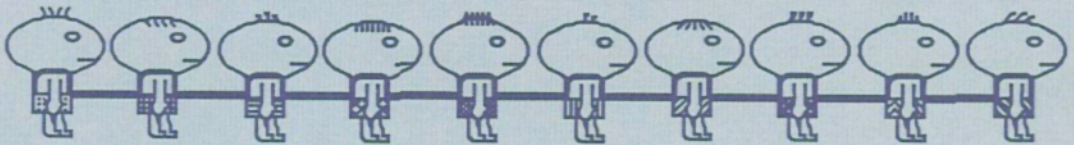
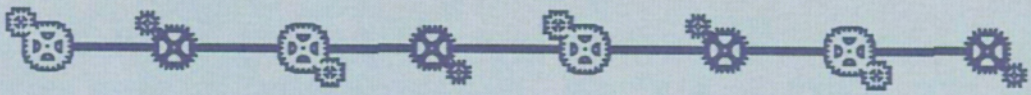
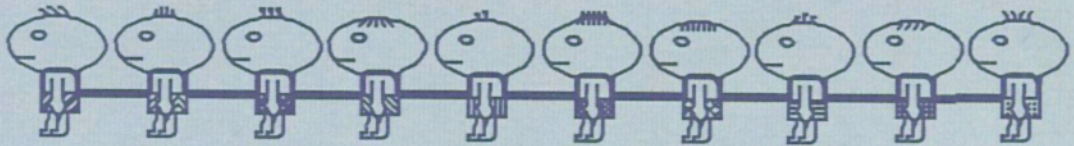
The routine went on every day, three days a week
(for Sentari was a very small planet
and had only a three-day week).

NIKAR

Lundy	Mardy	Soldy
	1	Independence Day 2
3	4	5
6	7	8

Everything ran smoothly, and Alpha, Beta and Gamma
and their fellow citizens were cogs in the machine.
They were very content.

And yet they sensed that something was missing . . .



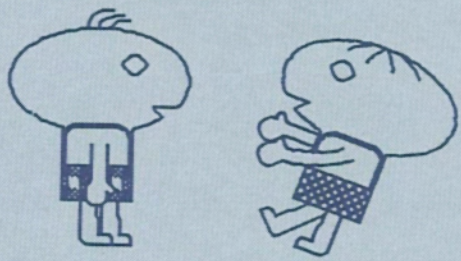


Alpha, Beta and Gamma shared a dwelling
in a city in the northern part of Sentari.

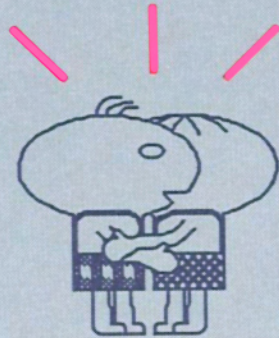


They were typical Sentarians,
but a happy accident led them to fame.

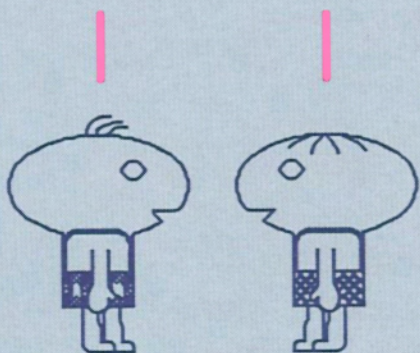
One day, due to a miscalculation, which was practically unknown on Sentari, Alpha walked right into Beta, almost knocking him off his feet.



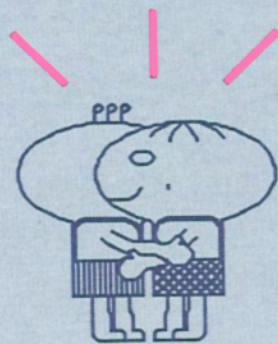
He caught Beta under the arms to keep him from falling. Instantly, a warm glow spread over the two beings, and they felt something they had never felt before.



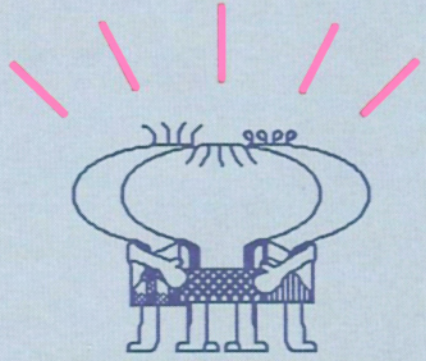
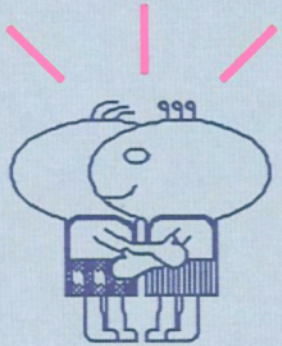
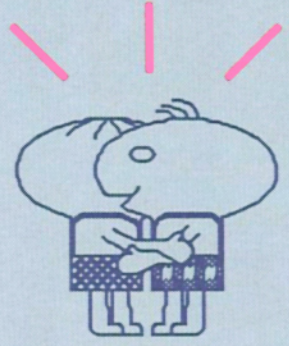
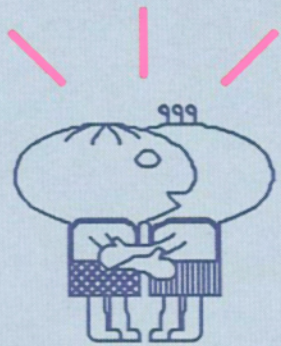
They jumped back and looked at each other,
trying to figure out what it was they had felt.
Being very clever beings, they soon saw that
the way they had held each other was different
from anything they had ever done before.



Alpha ran to get Gamma, telling him what had just happened. Alpha asked Gamma to repeat the process with Beta so that he could watch. They did, and lo and behold, the same warm glow spread over them!



Now they knew it was no accident.
They continued to try it in twos and threes,
and the same thing happened every time.



Alpha, Beta and Gamma had invented the hug.

They knew that they had found something special and began to spread the word among their friends and co-workers. The hug spread like wildfire!





Soon everyone was hugging every chance they got.
Before long, the smile was invented, followed by the laugh.



People started coming late to work, having lingered
at home for an extra hug.

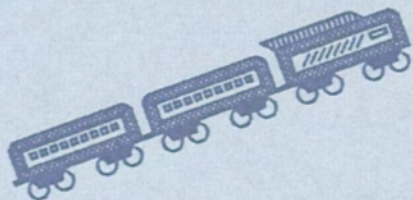


The trains and buses weren't
always on time, and sometimes things broke down.

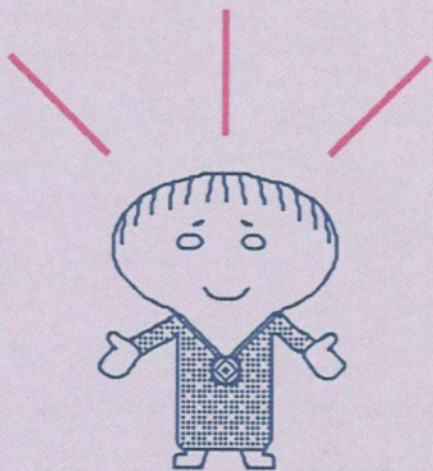




This was unusual for Sentari, and the people
began to panic.



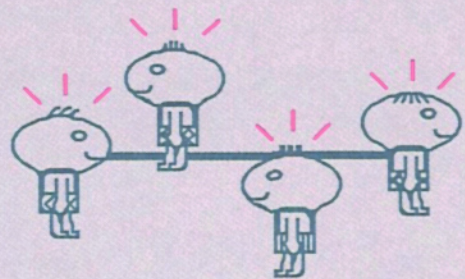
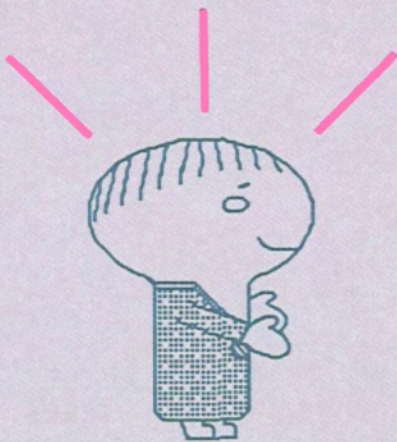
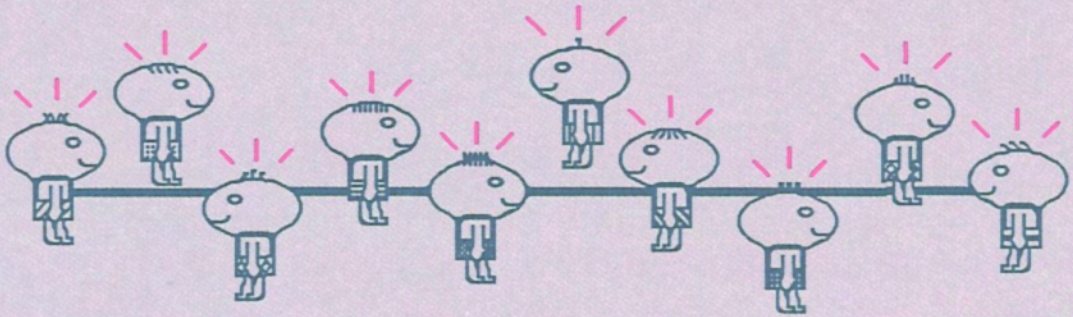
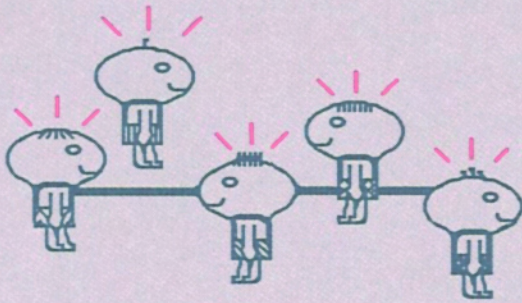
But Sentari's leader was a wise old being.
He had foreseen that this would happen
and calmed his frightened people.



He knew that although they had lost
the perfection of their planet,
they had gained

Feeling

and would now be a happier, if less perfect
planet, much like the planet Earth he had
visited many years ago in his youth.



Alpha, Beta and Gamma were honored for their discovery. They were hugged everywhere they went and were always smiling and happy.

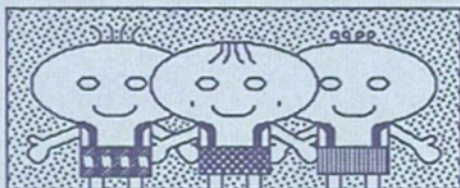
SENTARI GAZETTE

Vol. MCXXXVIII

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ALPHA, BETA AND GAMMA INVENT HUG !!



Alpha, Beta and Gamma in front of Town Hall before receiving their citation for inventing the hug.

The history of Sentari was changed today when Alpha, Beta and Gamma, residents of Reef City in northwestern Sentari, invented the hug. The hug is the breakthrough that has been long awaited to improve the lifestyle in Sentari.

Alpha, the spokesman for the group, stated that the invention came as a result of a miscalculation on his part, causing Beta to fall and Alpha to catch him, resulting in the hug. They are all

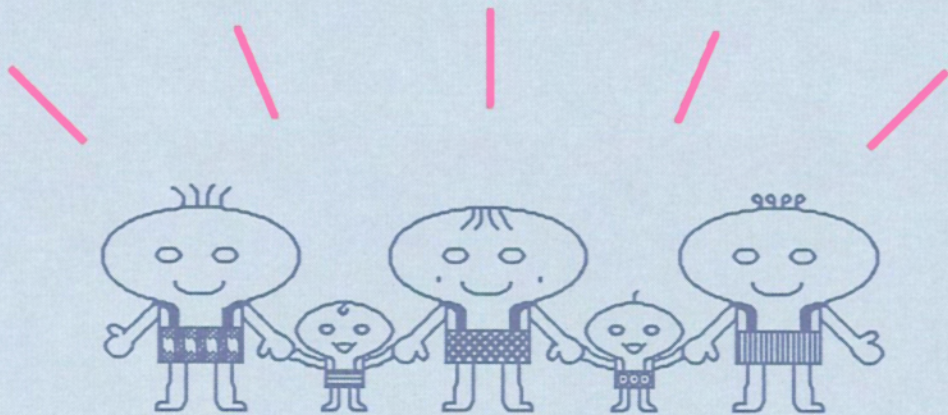
quite pleased with their invention and are eager to share it with the rest of the planet.

A ceremony is to be held this afternoon at Town Hall to honor the trio for their great invention. Planet officials say that Alpha, Beta and Gamma will be treated as heroes and awarded the Sentari Medal of Honor. The Medal is awarded only for great achievements, and our leader says that the hug is one of the great achievements of our time.

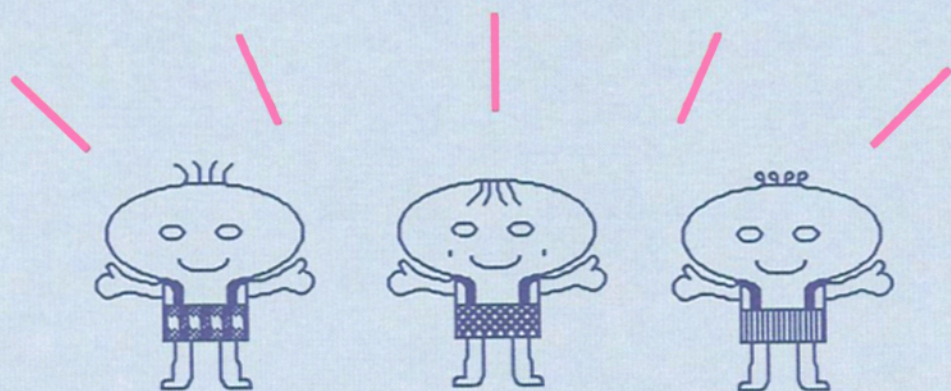
For those who are interested, demonstrations of the hug will be given at the Convention Center every day next week and on weekends until further notice. It will also be added to the school program so that all children are familiar with the hug at an early age. Psychologists feel this will have a tremendous impact on the growth and development of future generations of Sentarians. Adults will also be trained in the hug, and hug centers will be opened in every major city.

A Bureau of Hugs has been created to handle all requests concerning the use of the hug and supervise its introduction into the educational system. All inquiries may be directed to the Bureau, which is located at 276 Trai Street. Operators will be available around the clock to answer questions and provide literature about the hug.

They eventually had children, who especially
loved to be hugged, and Sentari became
a very beautiful and loving place . . .



. . . you could tell by the glow around it.





The Beginning

"A delightful new idea both
for children and grownups
ready for change!"

Elisabeth Kübler-Ross, MD

"A simple, straightforward
charmer of a tale that reminds
us of the power of a hug."

Dan Millman, Author
The Way of the Peaceful Warrior

"A touching story about
the magic of touch."

A. Robert Smith
Editor, *Venture Inward*



Alpha, Beta & Gamma