

Three Great Stories!

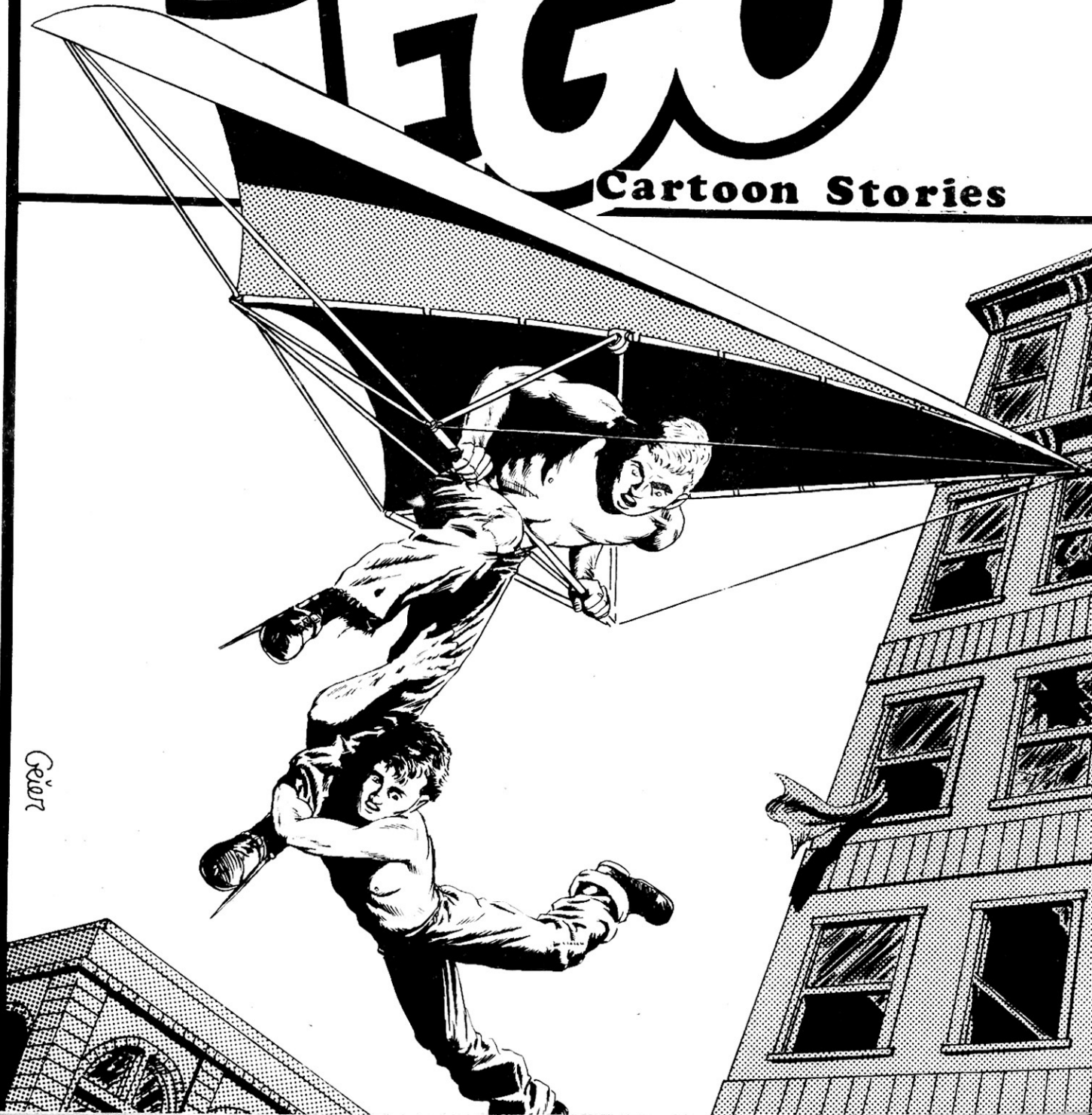
44 PAGES!

#2

\$1.50

# BALD TEGO

Cartoon Stories



Gear

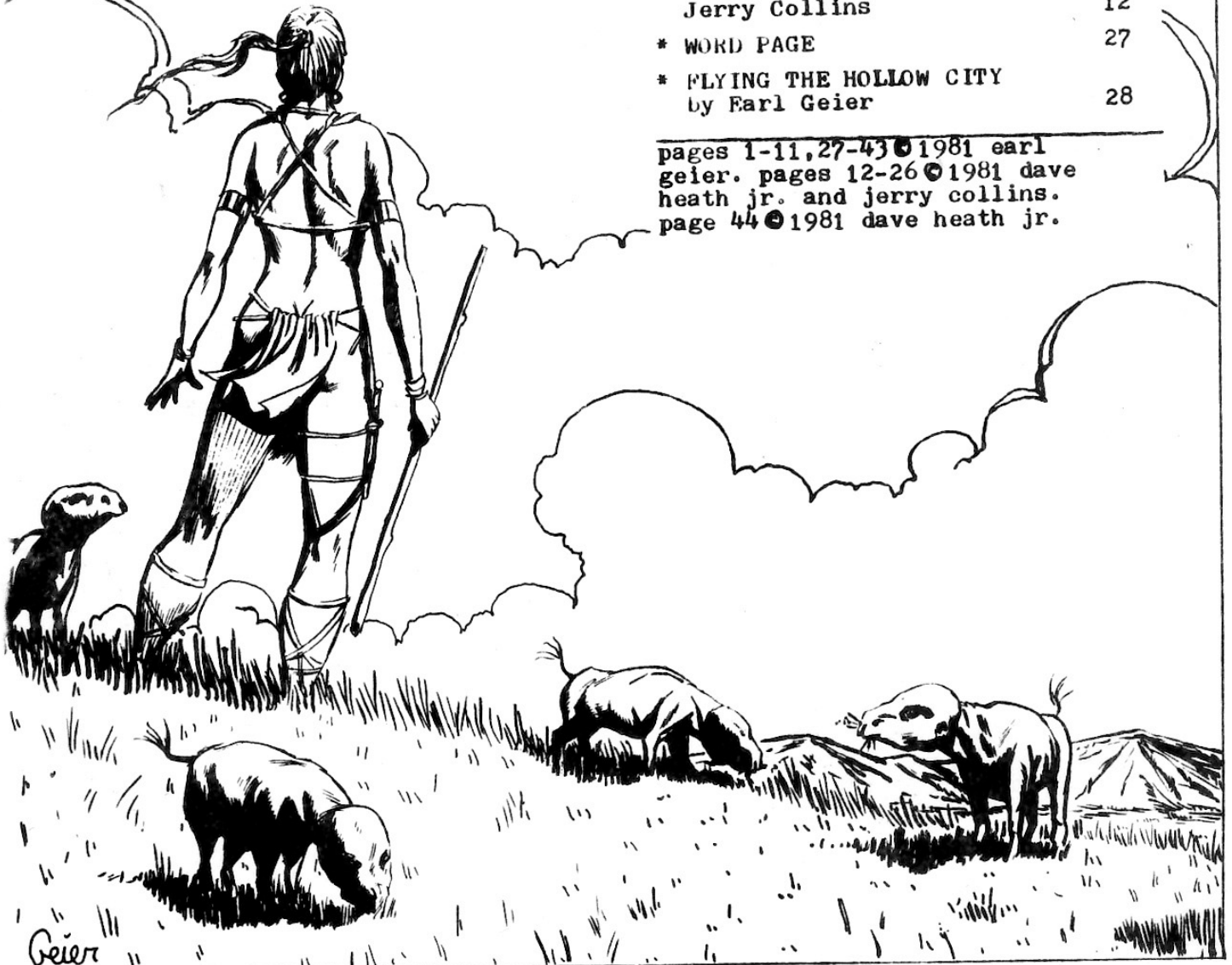
# BALD EGO

Cartoon  
Stories

Number Two \*\* April 1981

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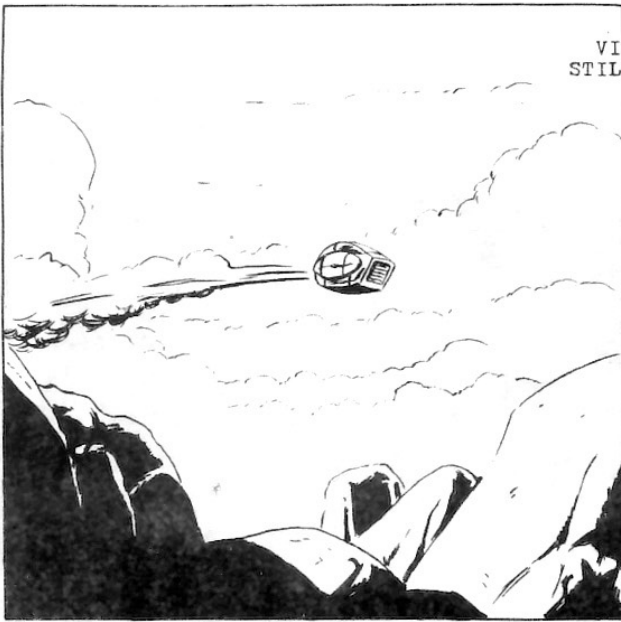
pages 1-11,27-43 © 1981 earl geier. pages 12-26 © 1981 dave heath jr. and jerry collins. page 44 © 1981 dave heath jr.



Geier



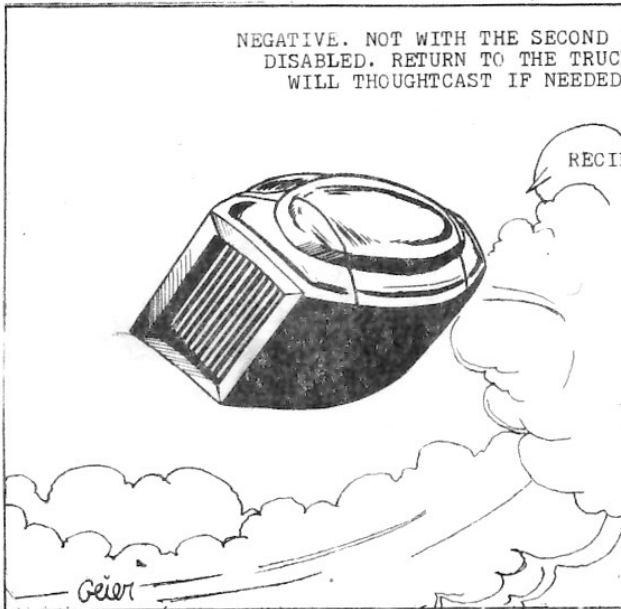
VISUAL RECON NEGATIVE. ENGINE  
STILL RUNNING COOL. SHOULD I MAKE  
ANOTHER SWEEP?



# LISTEN TO THE

NEGATIVE. NOT WITH THE SECOND PROBE  
DISABLED. RETURN TO THE TRUCK--  
WILL THOUGHTCAST IF NEEDED.

RECEIVED.



# SILENCE

STORY AND ART BY EARL GEIER

BALD EGO CARTOON STORIES NUMBER TWO (APRIL 1981). PUBLISHED EVERY 50 OBTEN BY  
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YEAR: 1993

RECENT DISCOVERIES CONCERNING THE MIND HAVE GIVEN US THE KEY TO DEVELOPING THE BRAIN'S LATENT PSIONIC POWERS. LIMITED EXPERIMENTS WITH TELEPATHY HAVE YIELDED POSITIVE RESULTS...



YEAR: 1994

SO, FOR INSTANCE, A PERSON WITH ESP COULDN'T JUST WALK BY MY HOUSE AND "SPY" INTO MY MIND WITHOUT MY CONSENT?

NO. IT'S A MATTER OF HAVING THE EQUIPMENT TO RECEIVE, PLUS HAVING IT TUNED, SO TO SPEAK...

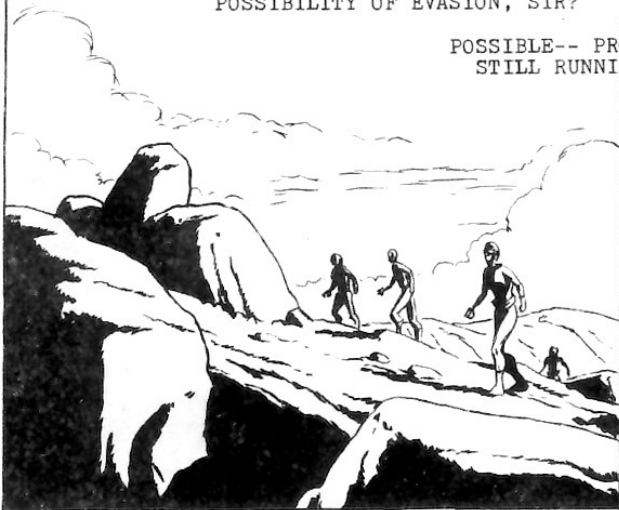


YEAR: 1996

SO, ONE MINDREADER WALKS UP TO ANOTHER ONE ON THE STREET, AND HE SAYS "OH YEAH? WELL, THE SAME TO YOU, FELLA!"



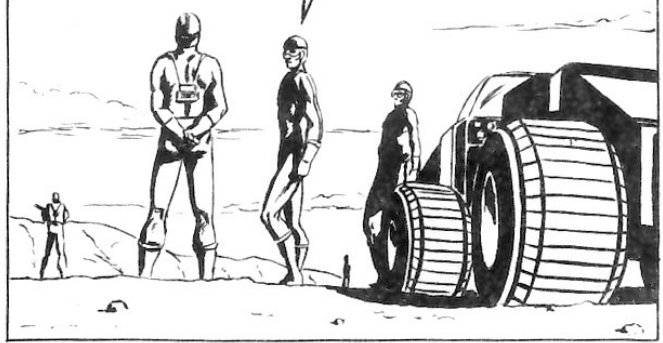
NO VISUAL CONTACT FOR FOUR HOURS. POSSIBILITY OF EVASION, SIR?



HE HAS BEEN ON THE MOVE NOW FOR NEAR TWO DAYS. HE WILL NOT LAST MUCH LONGER IN THIS HEAT.

POSSIBLE-- PROBABLE THAT HE IS STILL RUNNING AHEAD OF US.

HE MUST BE A VERY DETERMINED MAN, TO KEEP GOING THIS LONG. IT WOULD BE INTERESTING TO SCAN HIM.



IF YOU COULD SCAN HIM WE WOULD NOT BE OUT IN THIS HEAT CHASING HIM.



SIR, YOU HAVE BEEN AROUND NORMS IN THE CAMPS, AND BEFORE... HOW CAN ONE KNOW THEM, WITHOUT SCANNING?

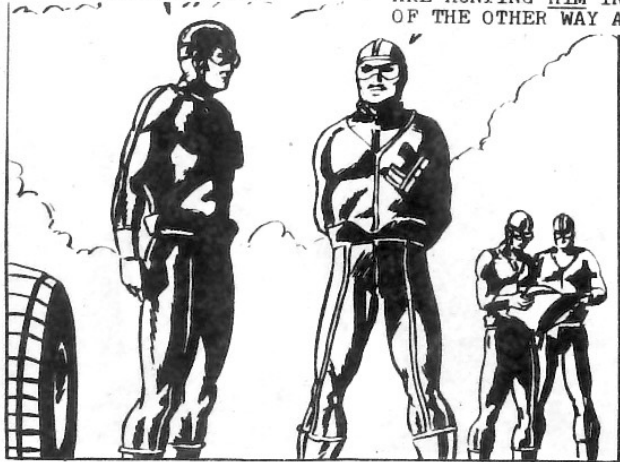


WELL, ORAL SPEECH PROVIDES FACTS, AND SUGGESTS EMOTIONAL CONTENT, WHICH IS SUPPLEMENTED BY PHYSICAL MANNERISMS...



YES SIR, I LEARNED THAT IN SCHOOL. BUT IT SEEMS SO YES SIR, I LEARNED THAT IN SCHOOL. BUT IT SEEMS SO INEFFICIENT A MODE OF COMMUNICATION.

VERY. THAT IS WHY WE ARE HUNTING HIM INSTEAD OF THE OTHER WAY AROUND.



SIR-- GREEN SECTION REPORTING. DISCOVERED BOOTMARKS UP HERE IN THE HILLS.

EXCELLENT. ALL AUXILIARIES MOVE TO BACK UP GREEN. OTHERS CONTINUE RANDOM SEARCH.



YEAR: 1998

THEY'VE BEGUN WORK ON CODING THE ACCESS CHANNELS OF THE MIND... SORT OF A "YELLOW PAGES" OF MENTAL ADDRESSES.

"LET YOUR FRONTAL LOBES DO THE WALKING," RIGHT, BOB?

HA-HA! THAT'S RIGHT, JOAN!



YEAR: 2002

THEN IT'S TRUE, DOCTOR, THAT SOME PEOPLE WILL BE UNABLE TO DEVELOP PSI POWERS?

APPARENTLY SO. PERHAPS 70% OF THE POPULATION LACK THE FACILITY.

LET THE DOCTOR THROUGH!



Puff CANT OTRUN THEM... I'M ABOUT DONE IN... Puff HAVE TO REST... HIDE... THEY'LL MISS ME... Puff



Puff A CREVICE! LOOKS LIKE ENOUGH ROOM FOR ME! THIS COULD BE IT! Puff







YEAR: 2003

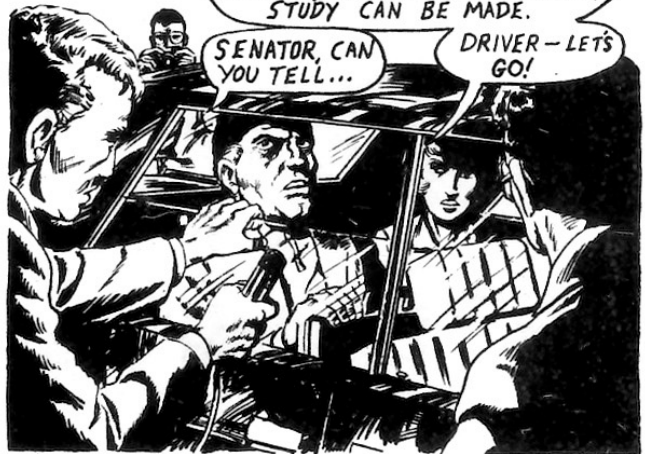
...ATTACKED THREE STUDENTS WHO REPORTEDLY POSSESSED ESP FACILITY. APPARENTLY THEY WERE SITTING QUIETLY, "COMMUNICATING," WHEN A PANIC, SOME SORT OF "CONSPIRACY DELUSION" SWEEPED THROUGH THE NORMAL PEOPLE AROUND THEM IN THE PARK! THIS IS NOT THE FIRST REPORTED...



YEAR: 2004

BUT SENATOR...

THE FACT REMAINS THERE IS A FEAR OF ESPS—UNFOUNDED PERHAPS, BUT THERE! THIS ID PROGRAM IS ONLY A TEMPORARY MEASURE, UNTIL A MORE THOROUGH STUDY CAN BE MADE.



I WAS SIX YEARS OLD WHEN TRAINING BEGAN NATIONWIDE. MY BEST FRIEND LACKED THE POTENTIAL.

HE IS IN A CAMP, AT CLINTON. WE STILL TALK ONCE IN A WHILE.

DARWIN'S EVOLUTION-- NOT OVER AEONS, BUT DECADES.

STILL, I WOULD LIKE TO HAVE SOME IDEA OF WHAT THEY ARE REALLY LIKE.

HE WAS A BETTER ATHLETE-- BETTER IN SCHOOL.

NORMS ARE JUST LIKE US EXCEPT FOR GENETIC CHANGE. BUT THEY CANNOT FUNCTION IN SOCIETY AS IT IS NOW, AND THERE IS NO ROOM FOR THEM EXCEPT AT THE EDGE, IN CAMP.

BUT DARWIN NEVER KNEW THOSE LEFT BEHIND.

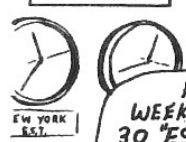


YEAR: 2009

E.S.P. TRAINING PROGRAMS BEGAN TODAY IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS DESPITE THE THREAT OF BOYCOTT. THE PROGRAMS WERE INSTITUTED WHEN A RECENT STUDY SHOWED THAT THE E.S.P. PERCENTILE OF THE POPULATION, ONCE BELIEVED TO BE AS LOW AS 25% WAS ACTUALLY NEARER 75%! THE THREATENED BOYCOTT FAILED TO MATERIALIZE, THOUGH...



YEAR: 2014



WEEK 1

FOR EXAMPLE THE INCIDENT LAST WEEK WHEN A GROUP OF 100 "NORMS" ATTACKED 30 "ESPS" BUT WERE ROUTED HANDILY, BECAUSE, WHEREAS MOBS HAVE METAPHORICALLY BEEN SPOKEN OF AS HAVING ONE MIND WITH E.S.P. THIS IS LITERALLY TRUE!



ARE YOU... NORMAL?

YOU ARE...?  
OH THANK GOD! YES, I AM, TOO!



WHAT ARE YOU DOING OUT HERE?

MY BOYFRIEND AND I... HE WANTED TO GET AWAY FROM THE ESPS... WE CAME OUT HERE.



OVER THERE... IT WAS A SNAKE, UNDER A ROCK. HE'S DEAD!

WE'VE BEEN LIVING OUT HERE FOR A COUPLE OF WEEKS NOW.

WHERE IS HE?



LISTEN, YOU'LL BE ALL RIGHT! YOU STAY WITH ME! THERE'S A TROOP OF ESPS AFTER ME, BUT WE CAN MAKE IT TOGETHER!

ESPS...?



YEAH... DON'T WORRY, THOUGH. WE CAN DITCH THEM! COME ON! YOU'VE GOT TO HELP ME!



STAY LOW NOW. DON'T LET THEM SPOT YOU!

WITH TWO OF US WE'VE GOT A CHANCE!





WE'VE GOT TO FIND A ROCK WE CAN MOVE! WE'LL COVER UP THE HOLE — THEY'LL NEVER SEE US!



HERE! THIS STONE'S LOOSE! WE'LL REST THEN. I WAS ABOUT FINISHED. MOST OF US ARE INTERNED, OR HIDING... IT'S HARD TO KEEP GOING ALONE, BUT...



HEY! DON'T SHOOT! I GIVE UP!

HEY!  
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?! NO!!

YEAR: 2023

...MEYER, A NORMAL, WAS ATTACKED AND SLAIN AS THE THOUGHT CIRCULATED THAT HE WAS THE SNIPER WHO HAD SLAIN TWO ESP OFFICIALS EARLIER. LATER THERE WAS EVIDENCE THAT EXONERATED HIM.

WE HAVE EYEWITNESSES STANDING BY IN OUR STUDIO TO THOUGHT-CAST THEIR VIEW OF TODAY'S EVENTS.



JUST RELAX--WHEN I CUE YOU JUST START --RECALLING WHAT YOU SAW STARTING WITH THE SHOT. THE PILL OR ABOUT I GAVE WILL HELP...

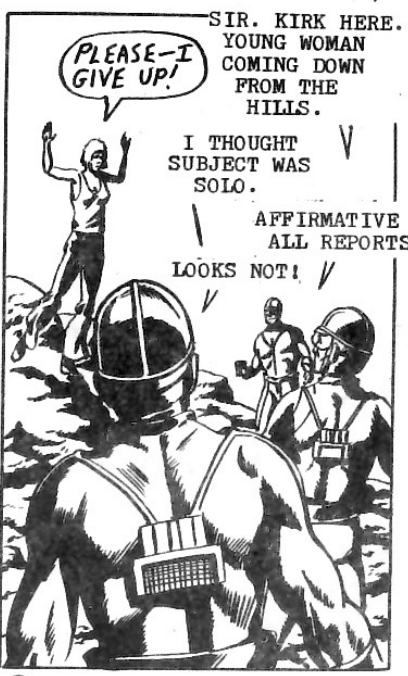


YEAR: 2028

NORMS SHOULD BE INTERNED FOR THEIR OWN PROTECTION. THE FACT THAT THEY CANNOT BE "READ" IS A NUISANCE, A DISRUPTING INFLUENCE, AND A POTENTIAL DANGER TO OUR SOCIETY.



WRITTEN TRANSCRIPTS OF THE SENATOR'S REMARKS ARE AVAILABLE IN ROOM 212.



PLEASE—I GIVE UP!

SIR. KIRK HERE. YOUNG WOMAN COMING DOWN FROM THE HILLS.

I THOUGHT SUBJECT WAS SOLO.

AFFIRMATIVE TO ALL REPORTS.

LOOKS NOT!



ANYONE UNDERSTAND HER? NOT ME.

ORAL WAS MY WORST SUBJECT!

I'VE HAD IT... I'LL GO WITH YOU...

SIR, REQUEST ASSISTANCE. WOMAN IS VERBALIZING TOO FAST FOR US TO FOLLOW.

I WILL BE THERE SHORTLY.

WHICH DIRECTION DID SHE COME FROM? OVER THOSE ROCKS.

I'VE BEEN HIDING IN THE HILLS LIVING IN A CAVE... THE MAN YOU'RE AFTER IS UP THERE.





FIEDLER, COLE, MOVE TO POINT-- TRY TO GET A VISUAL.

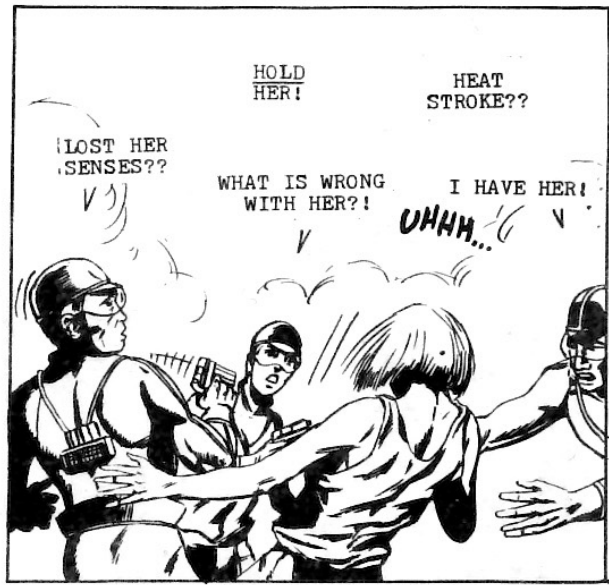
DD TO STAND EXT TO HER AND NOT BE ABLE TO READ" HER.

LIKE A HOLOGRAM.

I... WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU?! LISTEN TO ME!!

ATTACKING!?

GRAB HER!



HOLD HER!

HEAT STROKE??

LOST HER SENSES??

WHAT IS WRONG WITH HER?!

I HAVE HER!

UHHH...



WHAT IS WRONG?

UNSURE, SIR. SHE SEEMED UPSET, SCREAMED, THEN GRABBED AT COLE.

IT'S ALL RIGHT, MISS. YOU'LL HAVE TO FORGIVE THEM-- THESE MEN ARE NOT USED TO ORAL SPEECH.



NORMS! I WILL NEVER... ENOUGH!

I'M SO TIRED, I'LL GO TO THE CAMP ANYTHING.

YOU'LL BE ALL RIGHT. TELL ME, WAS THERE A MAN UP THERE BY YOU?

YES, HE'S UP THERE, IN THE CAVE.



FIEDLER, COLE OUT ON RECON NOW.

TAKE HER DOWN TO BASE AND LOOK TO HER. AND SPEAK TO HER ORALLY.

OUR MAN IS UP THERE, APPARENTLY IN A CAVE JUST OVER THAT RISE.

OK, THAT'S FINE. YOU GO WITH HIM TO THE TRUCK. YOU CAN REST THERE.

YES SIR!

THIS WAY, MISS.



SIR! FIEDLER HERE. SUBJECT IS SPEAKING!

NEGATIVE. HE IS SITUATED BEHIND ROCKS UP AND TO MY LEFT.

DO YOU HAVE HIM IN VISUAL?

I AM COMING UP. ALL OTHER UNITS HOLD YOUR POSITIONS.

**YEAR: 2033**

**NOTICE OF RELOCATION:** BEST CHANCE FOR EVASION IS EITHER SEPARATION AND SECLUSION, OR SAFETY IN THE NUMBERS OF A CROWD. YOU WILL LEARN TRACKING METHODS BY PHYSICAL EVIDENCE LATER ON. TODAY WE WILL LEARN TECHNIQUES OF "WEEDING".

**YEAR: 2036**

5-1-2036 BECAUSE OF THE IMPOSSIBILITY OF SCANNING FOR THEM, A NORM'S BEST CHANCE FOR EVASION IS EITHER SEPARATION AND SECLUSION, OR SAFETY IN THE NUMBERS OF A CROWD. YOU WILL LEARN TRACKING METHODS BY PHYSICAL EVIDENCE LATER ON. TODAY WE WILL LEARN TECHNIQUES OF "WEEDING".

**HARD PRATT-NORM 837-36A**

REPORT TO: CLINTON SU (ADDRESS BELOW) FOR RELOCATION AND ELEMENT SOONER THAN 7-1-2033, AND NO LATE REPORTS AFTER 9-1-2033. PLEASE MAINTAIN CONTACT WITH YOUR LOCAL PRECINCT OFFICE. FAILURE TO REPORT WILL RESULT IN TRINGENT FINES AND PENALTIES AGAINST YOUR LEGAL DEPENDANTS.



CAN ANYONE DOWN THERE UNDERSTAND ME?!



I UNDERSTAND YOU!

ALL UNITS HOLD BACK. DO NOT SPUR HIM.



HE MUST BE TIRED OF RUNNING BY NOW!  
HE MIGHT TALK HIMSELF DOWN.

COME OUT! YOU WILL NOT BE INJURED!

YOU WILL BE TREATED WELL!



INTERNMENT? IS THAT YOUR IDEA OF GOOD TREATMENT? TO LOCK US AWAY LIKE FREAKS?



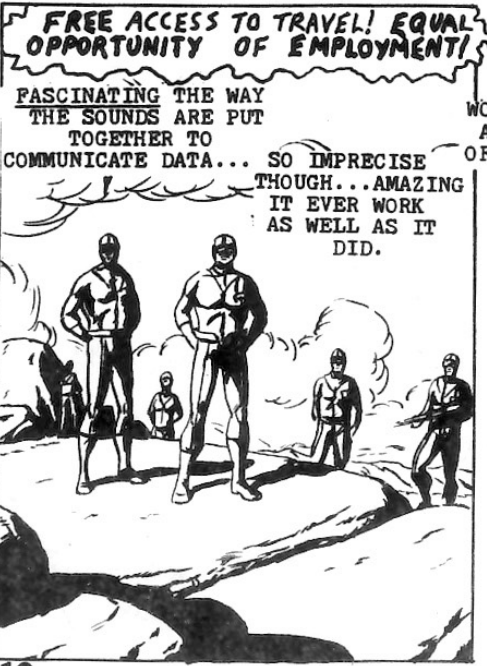
WE DID PRETTY WELL ALL THESE YEARS, US FREAKS!



WE'RE NOT GONNA BE THROWN OUT LIKE OLD SHOES!

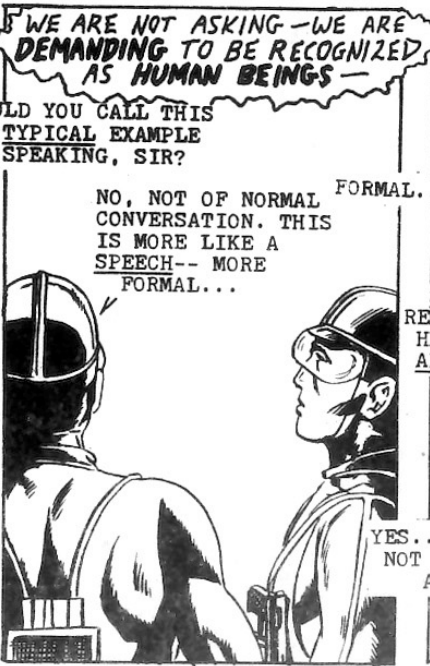


WE DEMAND THE ABOLISHMENT OF THE INTERNMENT POLICY!  
WE DEMAND REPRESENTATION IN GOVERNMENT!



FREE ACCESS TO TRAVEL! EQUAL OPPORTUNITY OF EMPLOYMENT!

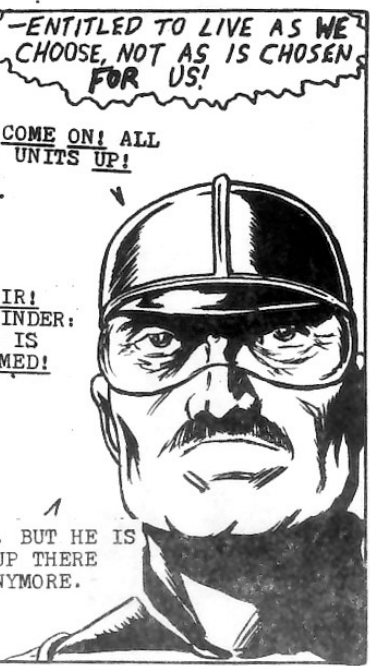
FASCINATING THE WAY THE SOUNDS ARE PUT TOGETHER TO COMMUNICATE DATA... SO IMPRECISE THOUGH... AMAZING IT EVER WORK AS WELL AS IT DID.



WE ARE NOT ASKING—WE ARE DEMANDING TO BE RECOGNIZED AS HUMAN BEINGS—

WOULD YOU CALL THIS A TYPICAL EXAMPLE OF SPEAKING, SIR?

NO, NOT OF NORMAL CONVERSATION. THIS IS MORE LIKE A SPEECH-- MORE FORMAL...



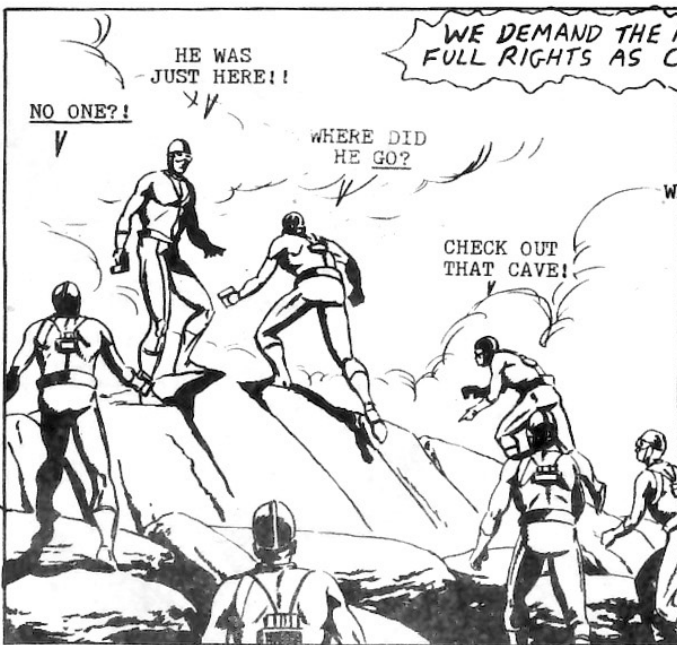
—ENTITLED TO LIVE AS WE CHOOSE, NOT AS IS CHOSEN FOR US!

COME ON! ALL UNITS UP!

SIR! REMINDER: HE IS ARMED!

YES... BUT HE IS NOT UP THERE ANYMORE.





NO ONE?!

HE WAS JUST HERE!!

WHERE DID HE GO?

CHECK OUT THAT CAVE!

WE DEMAND THE RETURN OF OUR FULL RIGHTS AS CITIZENS, TO

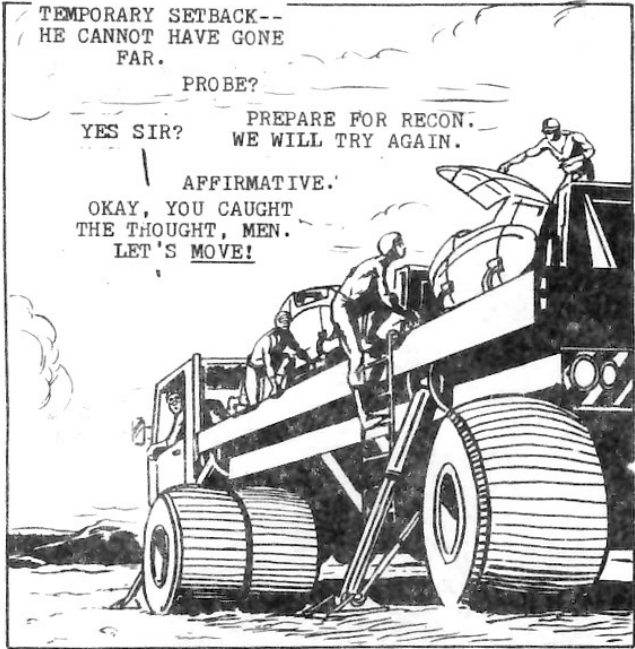
CLICK

A TAPE RECORDER. IT MAKES A RECORD OF AUDIO VIBRATIONS ON MAGNETIC TAPE.

HE JUST PLAYED A PREVIOUSLY RECORDED SPEECH.

WHAT IS THAT?

WHAT NOW?



TEMPORARY SETBACK-- HE CANNOT HAVE GONE FAR.

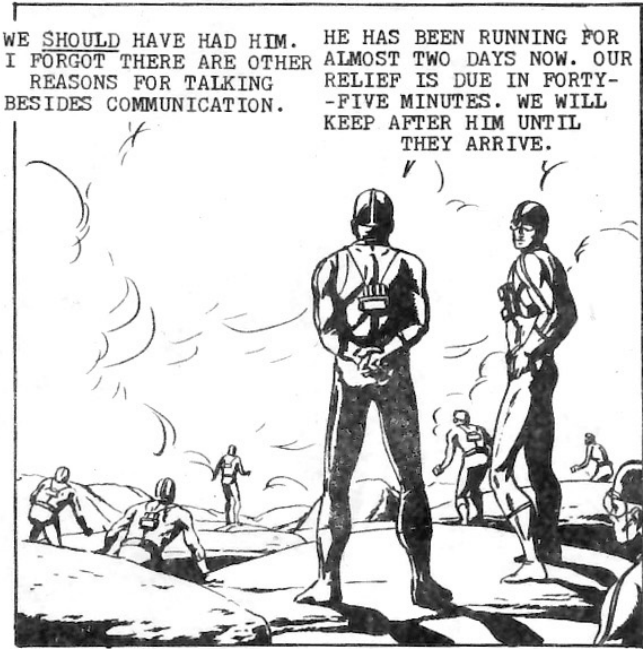
PROBE?

YES SIR?

PREPARE FOR RECON. WE WILL TRY AGAIN.

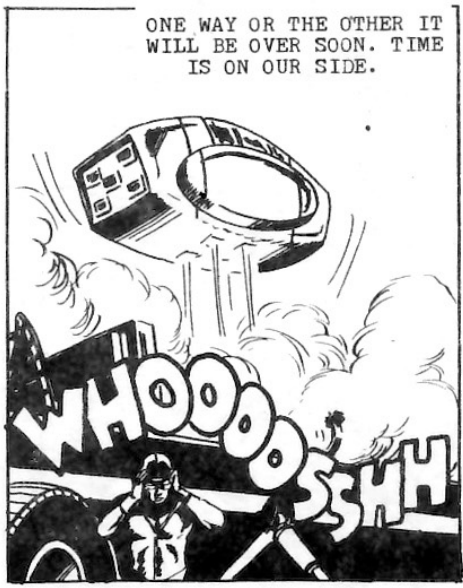
AFFIRMATIVE!

OKAY, YOU CAUGHT THE THOUGHT, MEN. LET'S MOVE!

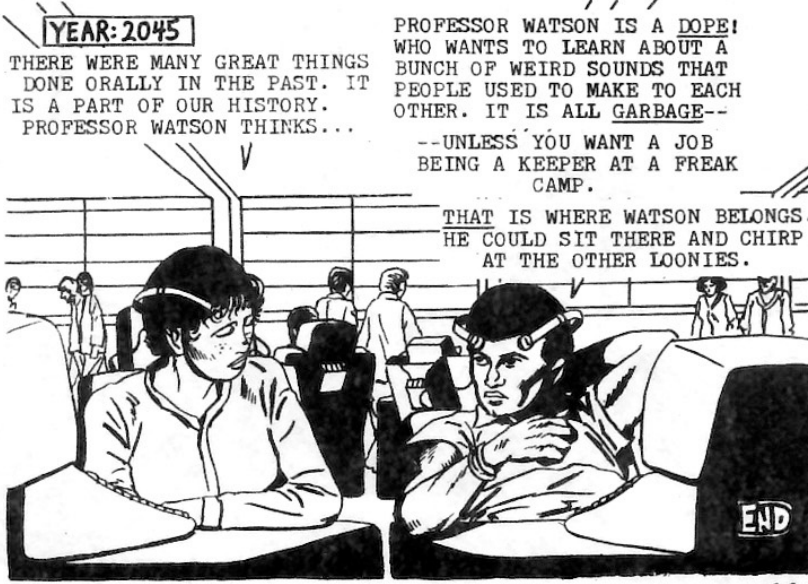


WE SHOULD HAVE HAD HIM. I FORGOT THERE ARE OTHER REASONS FOR TALKING BESIDES COMMUNICATION.

HE HAS BEEN RUNNING FOR ALMOST TWO DAYS NOW. OUR RELIEF IS DUE IN FORTY-FIVE MINUTES. WE WILL KEEP AFTER HIM UNTIL THEY ARRIVE.



ONE WAY OR THE OTHER IT WILL BE OVER SOON. TIME IS ON OUR SIDE.



YEAR: 2045

THERE WERE MANY GREAT THINGS DONE ORALLY IN THE PAST. IT IS A PART OF OUR HISTORY. PROFESSOR WATSON THINKS...

PROFESSOR WATSON IS A DOPE! WHO WANTS TO LEARN ABOUT A BUNCH OF WEIRD SOUNDS THAT PEOPLE USED TO MAKE TO EACH OTHER. IT IS ALL GARBAGE--

--UNLESS YOU WANT A JOB BEING A KEEPER AT A FREAK CAMP.

THAT IS WHERE WATSON BELONGS. HE COULD SIT THERE AND CHIRP AT THE OTHER LOONIES.

END

IN THE SECRET SUB-HANGAR BASE AT THE NORTHAM USG DEFENSE SHIPING BUILDING PLANT, LOS ALTOS...

GIVE IT TO ME STRAIGHT DOCTOR, I'M NO ASTRO SCIENTIST...

WELL SENATOR, IT'S RAMDOR'S PROJECT, SO I WON'T SHOOT IT FULL OF HOLES. YET...



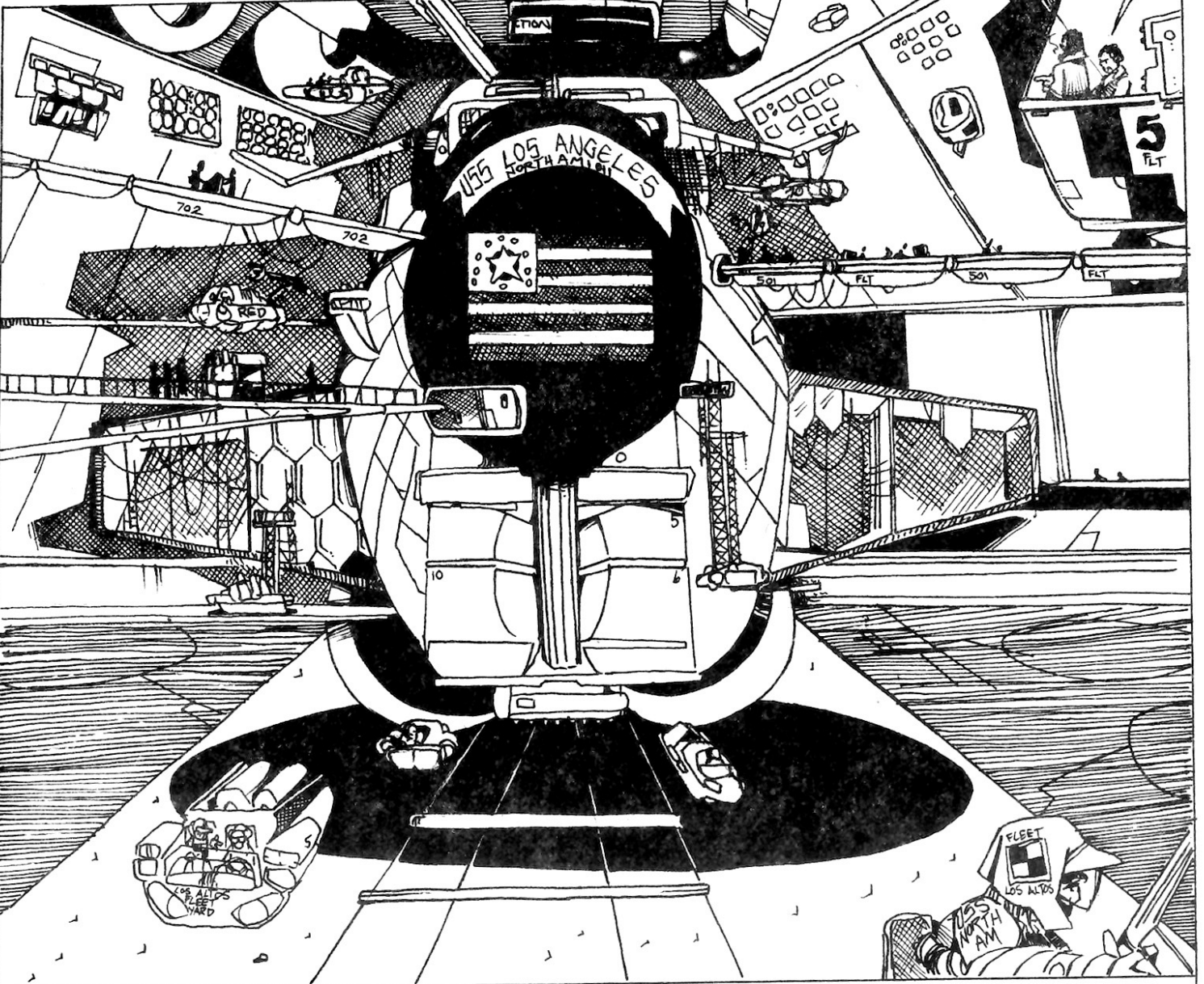
A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE FIRST ION-DRIVE...

# ION-DRIVE

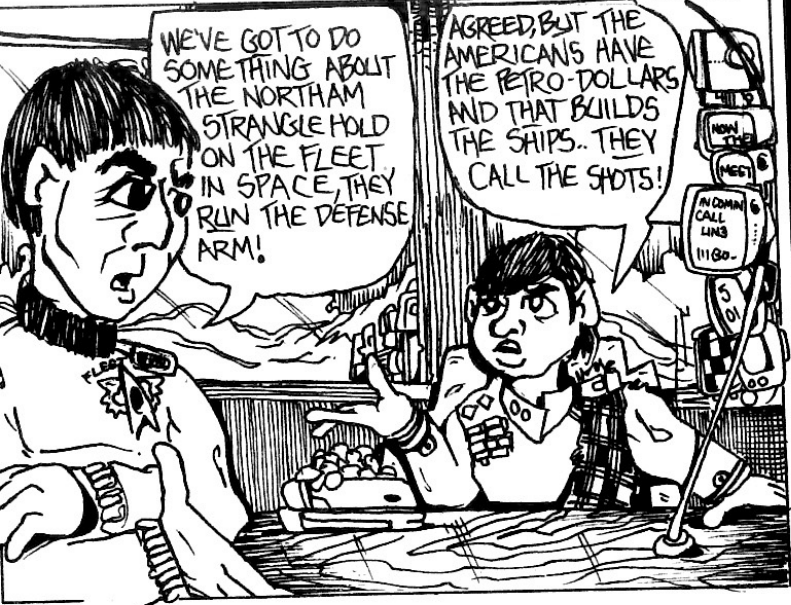
SCRIPT AND INKS: DAVID HEATH JR. PENCILS AND IDEA: JERRY COLLINS

BUT A THING THIS SIZE SHOULD'VE BEEN BUILT IN SPACE... TOO BIG.

YOU KNOW THE SOLVATE IS TOO FRAGILE TO BUILD IT IN SPACE...

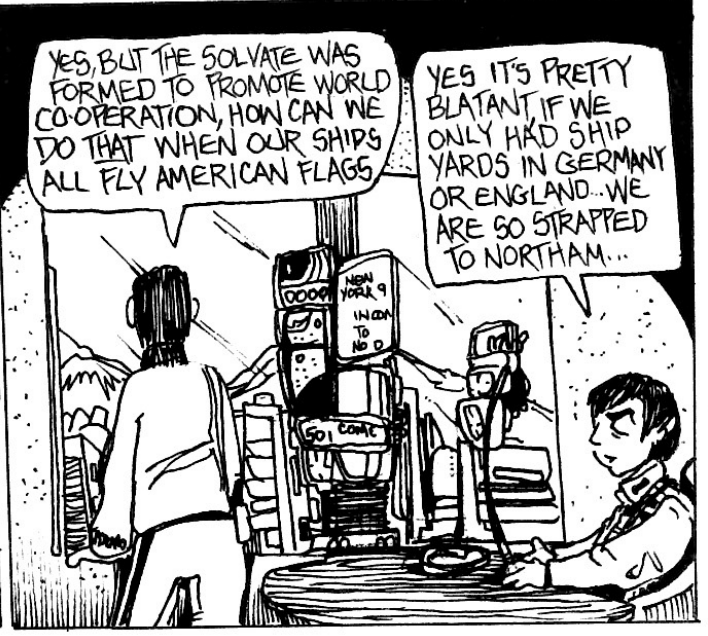






WE'VE GOT TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT THE NORTHAM STRANGLE HOLD ON THE FLEET IN SPACE, THEY RUN THE DEFENSE ARM!

AGREED, BUT THE AMERICANS HAVE THE PETRO-DOLLARS AND THAT BUILDS THE SHIPS.. THEY CALL THE SHOTS!



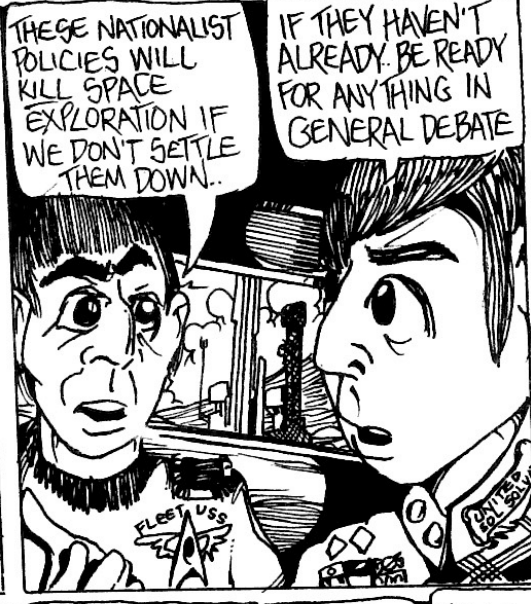
YES, BUT THE SOLVATE WAS FORMED TO PROMOTE WORLD CO-OPERATION, HOW CAN WE DO THAT WHEN OUR SHIPS ALL FLY AMERICAN FLAGS?

YES IT'S PRETTY BLATANT, IF WE ONLY HAD SHIP YARDS IN GERMANY OR ENGLAND... WE ARE SO STRAPPED TO NORTHAM...



THIS HAS GOT TO BE BROUGHT TO A HEAD...

IF WE PUT IT TO A DEBATE, MARS WILL START THE SECESSION MOVE AGAIN!



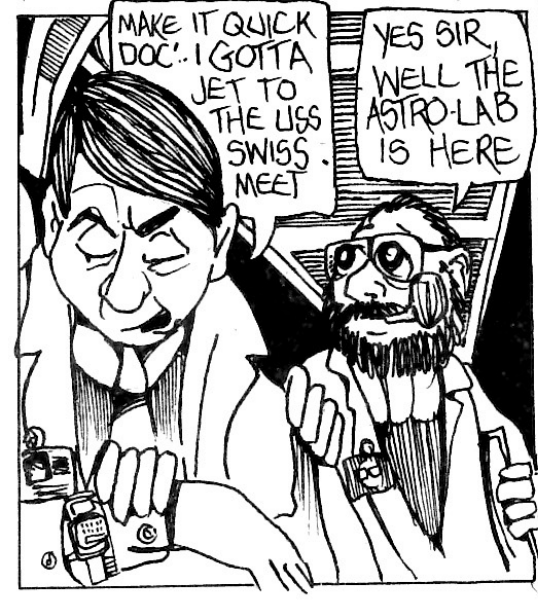
THESE NATIONALIST POLICIES WILL KILL SPACE EXPLORATION IF WE DON'T SETTLE THEM DOWN..

IF THEY HAVEN'T ALREADY, BE READY FOR ANYTHING IN GENERAL DEBATE



THIS WAY SENATOR.. THERE'S MORE

THE THING IS HUGE.. RANDAR IS CRAZY!!



MAKE IT QUICK DOC.. I GOTTA JET TO THE USS SWISS.. MEET

YES SIR, WELL THE ASTRO-LAB IS HERE



WITH MARS KICKING ABOUT FUNDS, WE'LL NEED FACTS, USS THINKS WE'RE BUILDING 8 SHIPS.

SIR THIS WILL SHOW YOU WHY WE MUST SUCCEED

HELLO DOCTOR, SENATOR



WELL?

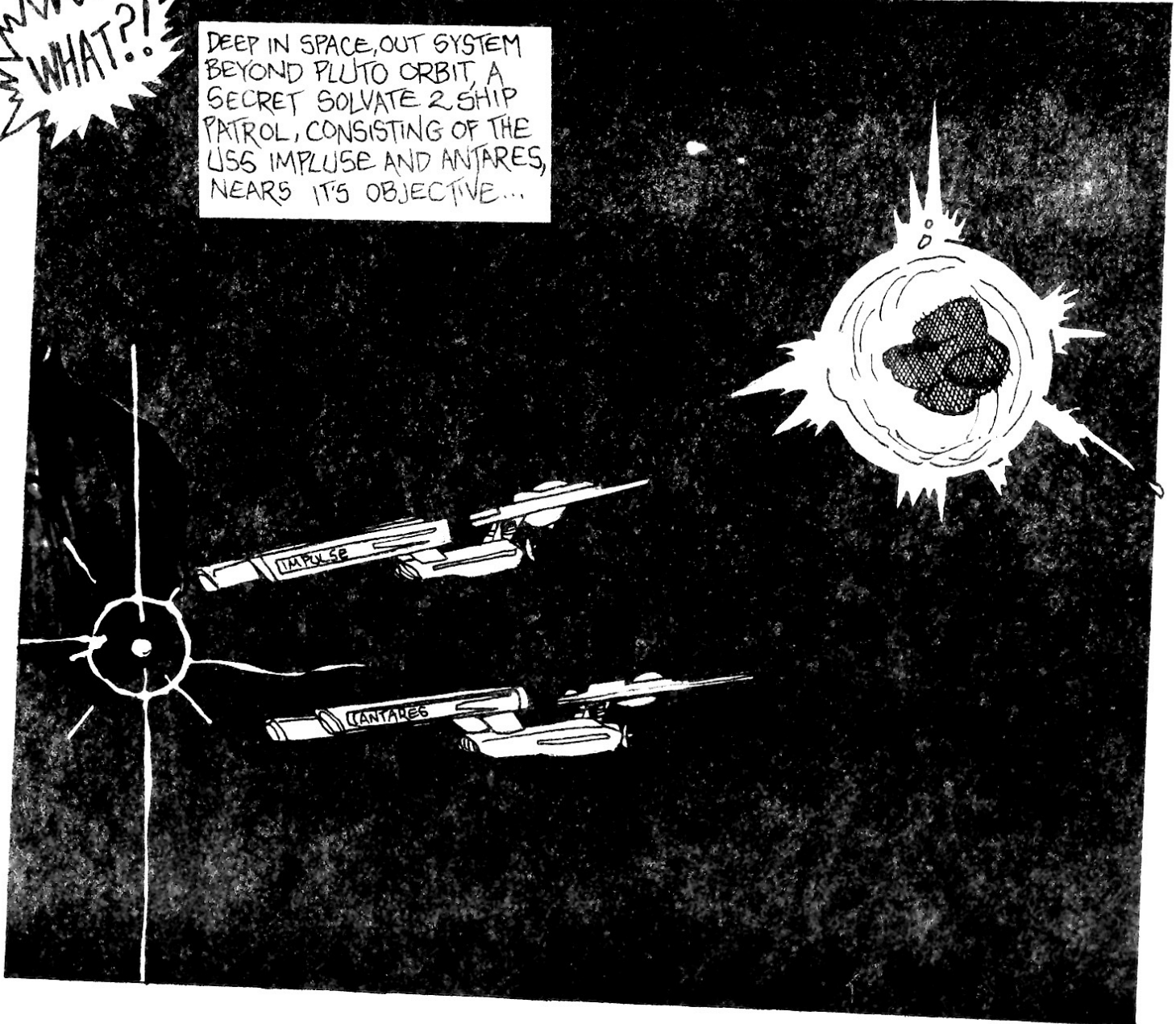
JOHN.. SHOW US WHAT YOU HAVE..

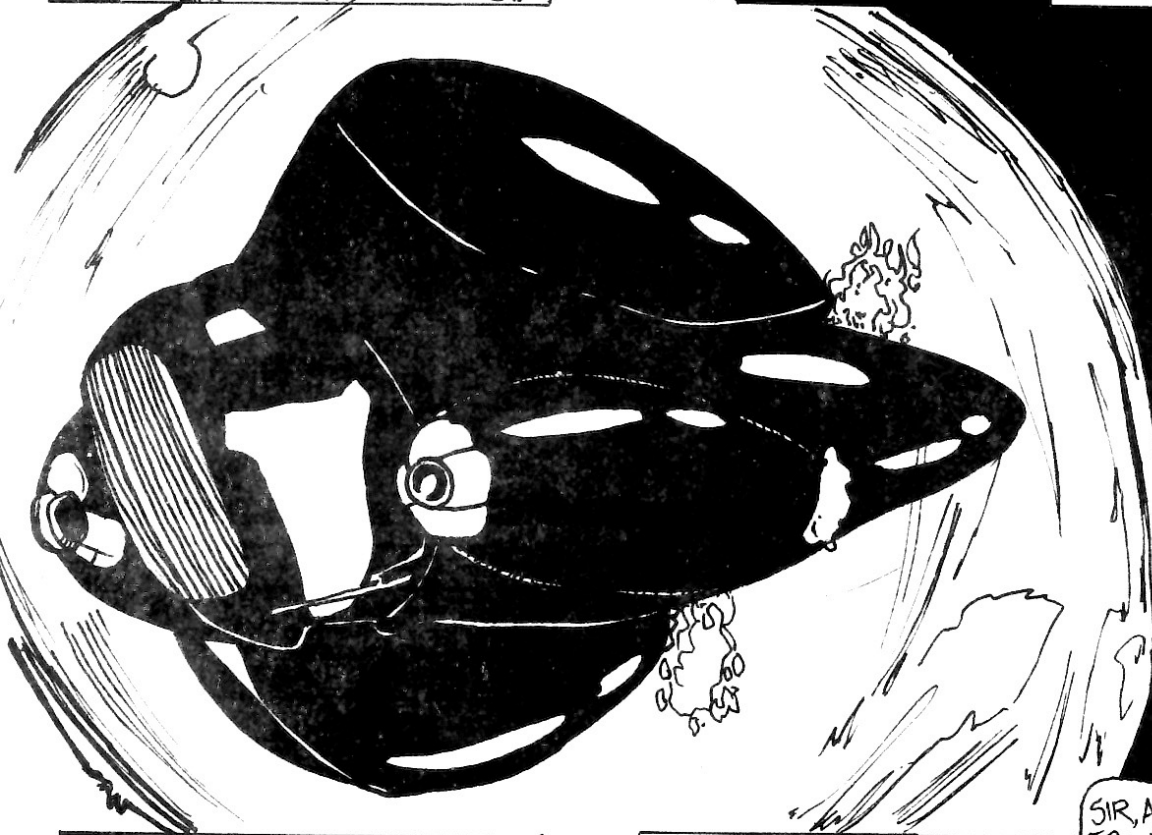
RIGHT SIR, I'LL HAVE TO DIM THE LIGHTS



WHAT?!

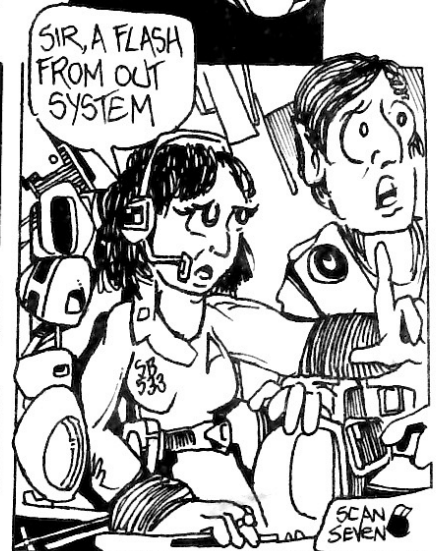
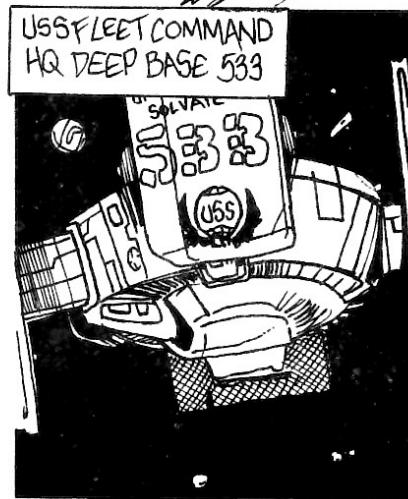
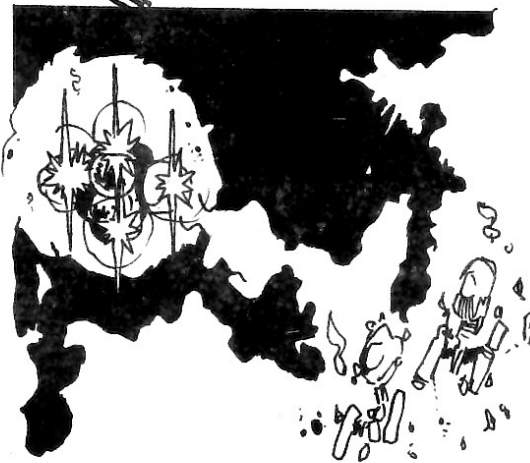
DEEP IN SPACE, OUT SYSTEM BEYOND PLUTO ORBIT, A SECRET SOLVATE 2 SHIP PATROL, CONSISTING OF THE USS IMPLUSE AND ANTARES, NEARS ITS OBJECTIVE...





LET'S GET  
OUTTA  
HERE...

RIGHT.. FLEET  
COMMAND, THIS  
IS USS ANTARES,  
STAND BY FOR..





YOU'RE RIGHT, IT'S THE TWO SHIP PATROL ON SECRET MISSION, GIMME VIS, CODE 3



THIS IS INCREDIBLE! THAT CAN'T BE A... SHIP.. IT'S..



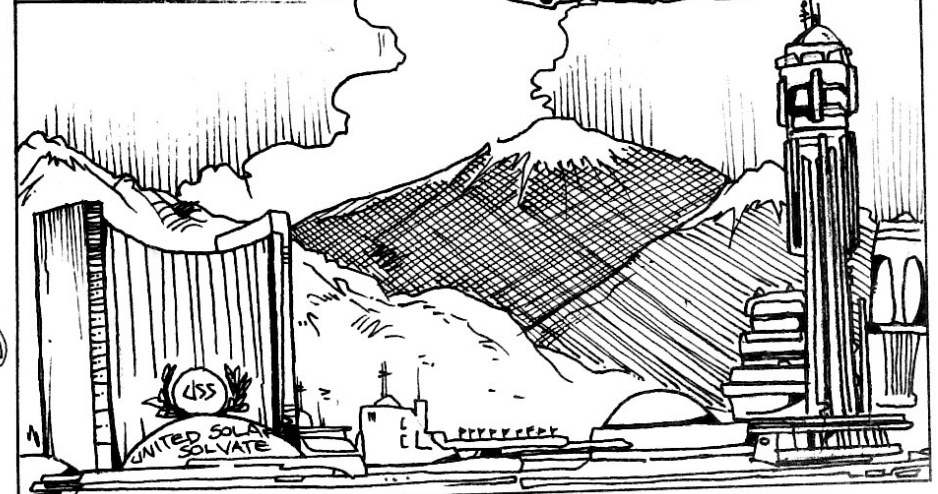
GOOD GOD!



THAT THING JUST BURNT TWO FRONT LINE CRUISERS.. GET SPAC-FLEET LUNA ON LINE..



LSS HEADQUARTERS IN THE SWISS ALPS...



IN GENERAL DEBATE...

GENTLEMEN, THE MARZ DELAGATION ZUZPECTZ NORTH-AM OF THE GREATEZZ COLLUZZION! AND IF TRUE, MARZ WILL ZECEED FROM THE ZOLVATE!!



NORTHAM OBJECTS... THEY...

SENATOR SIT DOWN!



HELL! MARS KNOWS

SO WHAT?

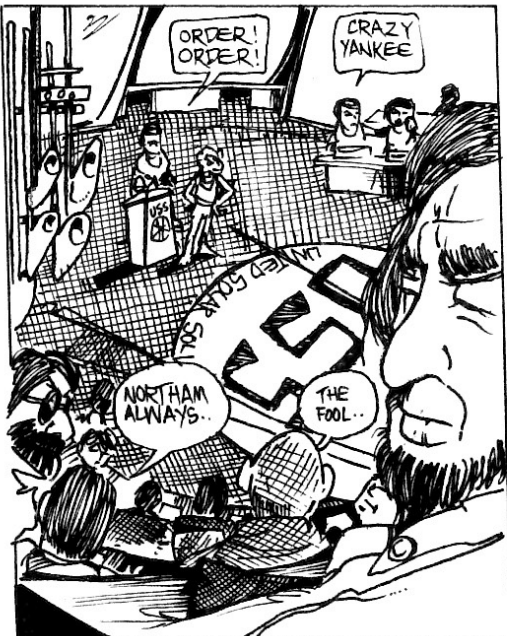




SENATOR, IT WOULD BE BETTER IF THEY KNEW, ALL OF THIS SECRECY IS DESTROYING...

LISTEN! IF THEY WERE TO KNOW THE TRUTH THEY'D GET MAD AND CUT THE FUNDS THEN YOUR PRECIOUS PROJECT WOULD GO DOWN THE DRAIN!

I'M FINISHED ANYWAY



ORDER! ORDER!

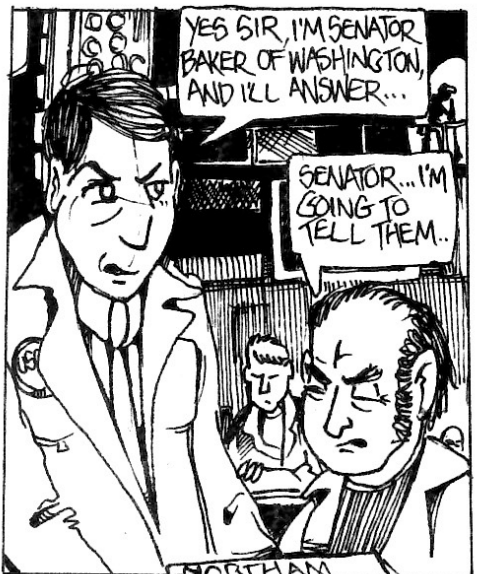
CRAZY YANKEE

NORTHAM ALWAYS..

THE FOOL...



WE'LL HAVE ORDER! NOW NORTHAM HAS THE FLOOR TO ANSWER THE CHARGES OF AN 'XIN OF MARS..



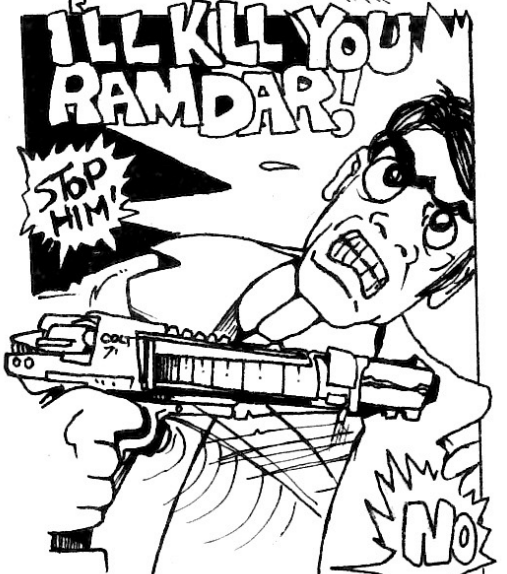
YES SIR, I'M SENATOR BAKER OF WASHINGTON, AND I'LL ANSWER...

SENATOR... I'M GOING TO TELL THEM..



WHA... NO! WE'RE NOT READY YET.

THIS CAN'T GO ON SENATOR, OUR DECEIT IS KILLING THE SOLVATE!



I'LL KILL YOU RAMDAR!

STOP HIM!

NO



SIR, YOU'LL HAVE TO DROP THE WAFFE..

DON'T LET HIM, HE MUST BE STOPPED, THE DISGRACE TO NORTHAM...



WHAT IS THE MEANING OF ALL THIS?!

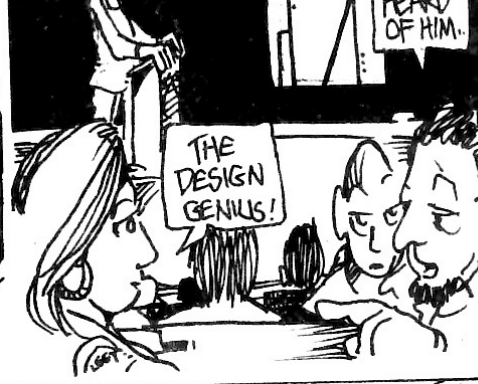
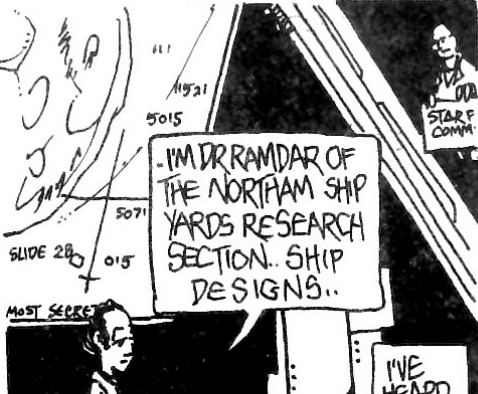
MR. CHARMAN, I'M DR. RAMDAR, I WISH TO MAKE A REPORT ON A PROJECT UNDER MY CONTROL AT THE NORTHAM DEFENSE BASE..



IF IT WILL SHED ANY LIGHT ON THIS SITUATION..

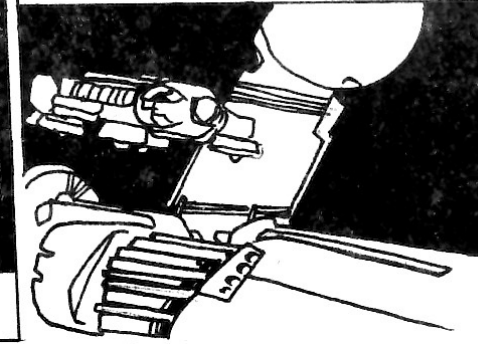
I NEED THESE VISUALS PUT IN THE BANK





THE POSSIBILITIES WERE UNLIMITED OF COURSE, THE SIZE OF THE SHIP WAS SMALL... THE SIZE OF A TRAIN.. BUT IT CONTAINED TECHNOLOGICAL MARVELS BEYOND COMPREHENSION...

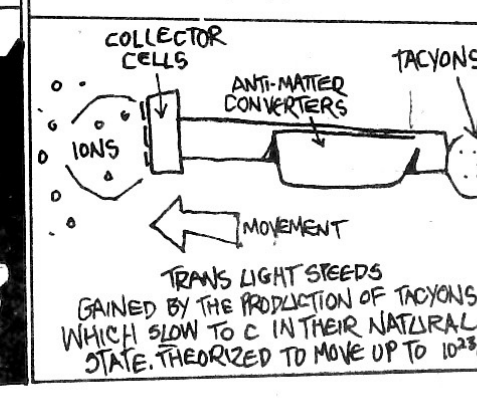
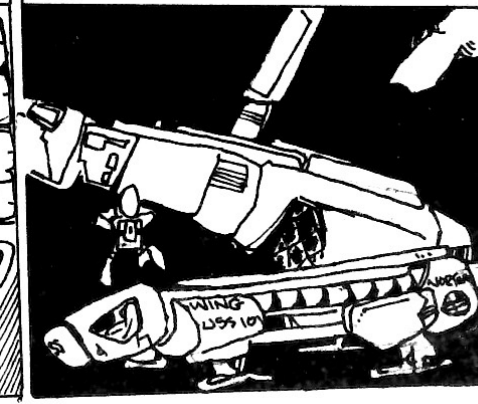
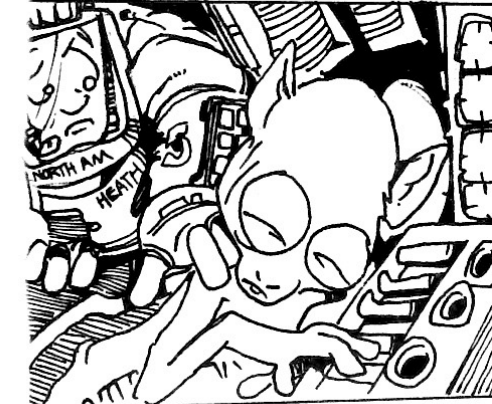
TESTS AT YUMA FLATS ARIZONA REVEALED THE CREW, DEAD FOR SOME THOUSANDS OF YEARS, WAS HUMANOID IN SOME ASPECTS, SMALL AND THERE WERE THREE OF THEM

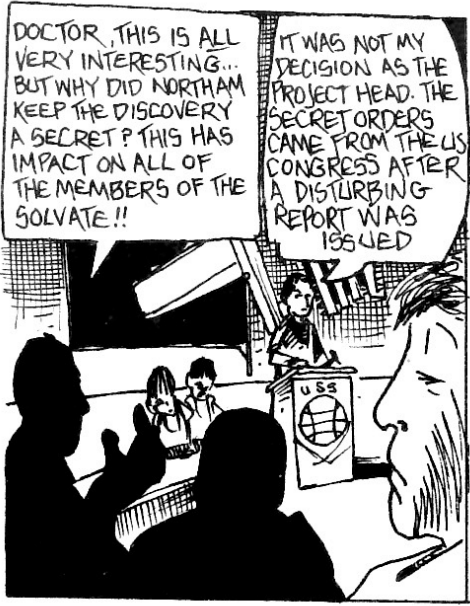


THE CONTROLS ON THE SHIP WERE WAY TOO SMALL AND COMPLEX TOO UNRAVEL...

BUT THE PROPLUSION SYSTEM, THAT WAS FOUND TO BE VERY UNUSUAL...

BASED ON THE CONVERSION OF IONS CAPTURED IN SPACE TO ANTI-MATTER TACYONS, THEY HAD UNLIMITED POWER AND TRANS-LIGHT SPEED



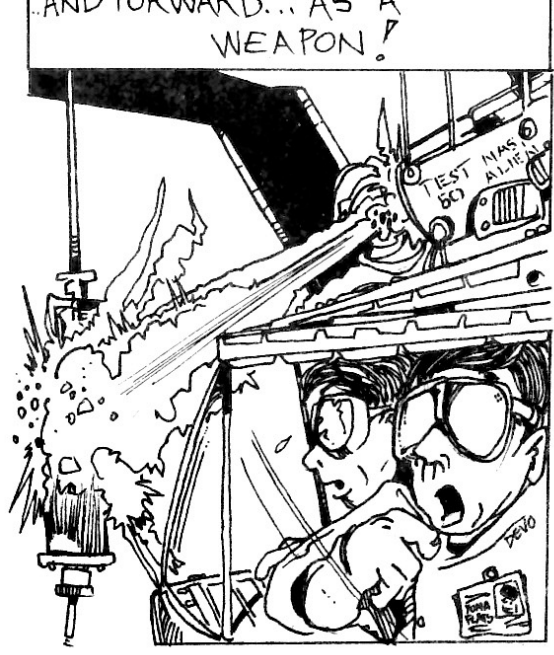


DOCTOR, THIS IS ALL VERY INTERESTING... BUT WHY DID NORTHAM KEEP THE DISCOVERY A SECRET? THIS HAS IMPACT ON ALL OF THE MEMBERS OF THE SOLVATE!!

IT WAS NOT MY DECISION AS THE PROJECT HEAD. THE SECRET ORDERS CAME FROM THE US CONGRESS AFTER A DISTURBING REPORT WAS ISSUED

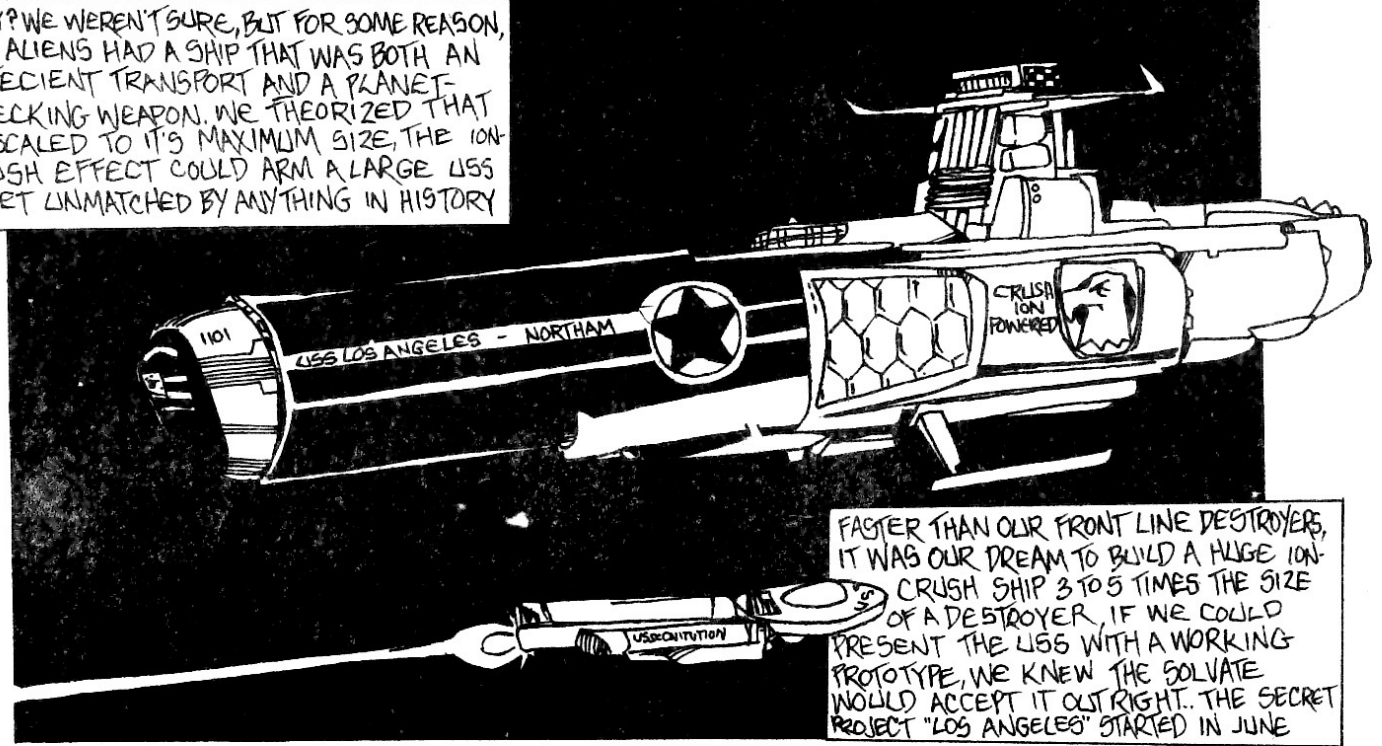


IT WAS SOON FOUND THAT THE "ION CRUSH" ENGINE, AS WE CALL IT, COULD PULSE REARWARD AS AN ENGINE..



...AND FORWARD... AS A WEAPON!

WHY? WE WEREN'T SURE, BUT FOR SOME REASON, THE ALIENS HAD A SHIP THAT WAS BOTH AN EFFICIENT TRANSPORT AND A PLANET-WRECKING WEAPON. WE THEORIZED THAT IF SCALED TO IT'S MAXIMUM SIZE, THE ION-CRUSH EFFECT COULD ARM A LARGE USS FLEET UNMATCHED BY ANYTHING IN HISTORY



FASTER THAN OUR FRONT LINE DESTROYERS, IT WAS OUR DREAM TO BUILD A HUGE ION-CRUSH SHIP 3 TO 5 TIMES THE SIZE OF A DESTROYER. IF WE COULD PRESENT THE USS WITH A WORKING PROTOTYPE, WE KNEW THE SOLVATE WOULD ACCEPT IT OUTRIGHT.. THE SECRET PROJECT "LOS ANGELES" STARTED IN JUNE



TO ACCOMPLISH THIS WE DIVERTED THE USS DEFENSE FUNDS FOR THE LAST EIGHT CRUISERS... THE USS LOS ANGELES, THE FIRST ION-CRUSH SHIP IS NEARLY COMPLETE..

WITHOUT AUTHORITY NO!

HOW COULD THEY..?!

NO!



NOW YOU'LL WANT TO KNOW WHY WE NEED TO HAVE THIS SHIP. YOU SEE, 1 YEAR AGO. ANOTHER ALIEN SHIP WAS SPOTTED!

WHAT? IT GETS WORSE!

THESE FOOLS MUST BE STOPPED!

OUT OF THE REGION OF THE NOVA BOOTIS EPISILON, COMES THIS BEHEMOTH OF A SHIP. IT WAS DETECTED FIRST BY DEEP-BASE 30-80B

THIS IS A MOST BLATANT EXAMPLE OF NORTHAM IMPERIALISM!

WHY DID YOU LET THIS INFO OUT DOCTOR?!

IT HAD TO BE DONE! FOR THE SAKE OF THE SOLVATE

THIS WILL BE THE END OF NORTHAM

WE PROTEST!

LATER PHOTOGRAPHED BY ROBOSCOUT, TWO USS CRUISERS ARE AT THIS TIME IN ROUTE TO DETERMINE THE NATURE OF THE SECOND SHIP...

GENTLEMEN, AS MUCH AS YOU'D LIKE TO CENSURE ME, I MUST REPORT THIS NEWS.. THE ALIEN SHIP I HAVE REFERRED TO HAS NOW CROSSED PLUTO ORBIT.. HAVING DESTROYED THE TOP OF OUR DEFENSE LINE, THE IMPULGE AND ANTARES.. WE MUST RAISE THE LOS ANGELES!

DR. RAMDAR, A MESSAGE FROM USS DEFENSE LUNA...

OH?

I TOLD YOU THE AMERICANS WERE UP TO SOMETHING!

I SAY WE VOTE THEM OUT OF THE USS...



BOARD OF DEFENSE RESEARCH, LOS ALTOS, NORTHAM...

TALK TO ME ABOUT RAISING THE SHIP AND THE PILOT.

YES SIR

SIR, THE CREW OF 1000 IS READY, BUT THE NAV COMPUTER IS NOT YET PROGRAMED FULLY

YES AND GIVEN THE SIZE OF THE CRAFT, IT COULD NEVER BELIFTED IN-TO EARTH ORBIT...

LISTEN YOU SCIENCE CLOWNS! IN LESS THAN A MONTH SOME UNKNOWN ALIEN FORCE WILL BE ON US. I WANT ANSWERS!!

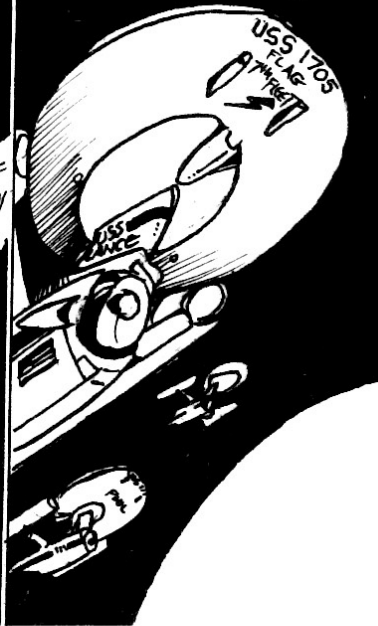
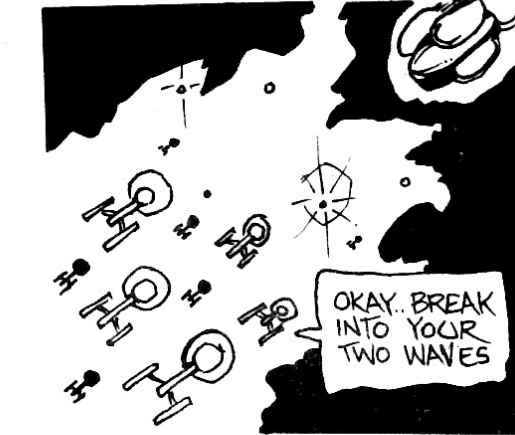


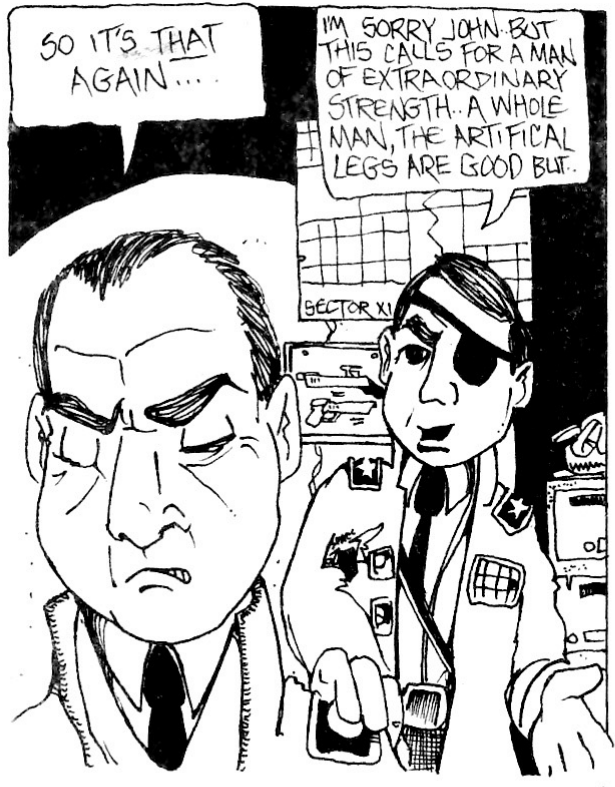


IN SPACE ...



AS WE APPROACH..WAVE ONE WILL FIRE THE ANTI-MATTER DEVICE.. THEN TWO WILL REPLY..





SO IT'S THAT AGAIN....

I'M SORRY JOHN. BUT THIS CALLS FOR A MAN OF EXTRAORDINARY STRENGTH. A WHOLE MAN, THE ARTIFICIAL LEGS ARE GOOD BUT.

SECTOR XI



GENERAL RAND..THE CRAFT DESTROYED THE WHOLE TASK FORCE. NOT A SHIP SURVIVED.. IT'S TO THE BELT NOW!

GENERAL! I COULD HAVE THE LOS ANGELES UP IN TWO DAYS OR LESS!

HOW?!



WHEN I'M IN COMMAND OF THE SHIP WITH AUTHORITY TO USE MY DIRECT INPUT PROCESS, I'LL TELL YOU HOW SIR!

GENERAL! IT'LL TAKE A WEEK TO REACH THE ALIEN AND SAVE MARS



ORDER OF SPACE MARINES

WELL NOW... COL. HARMON, YOU LEAVE ME VERY LITTLE CHOICE EH? YOU'LL HAVE ALL ASSETS AT YOUR DISPOSAL OF COURSE... DON'T FAIL...

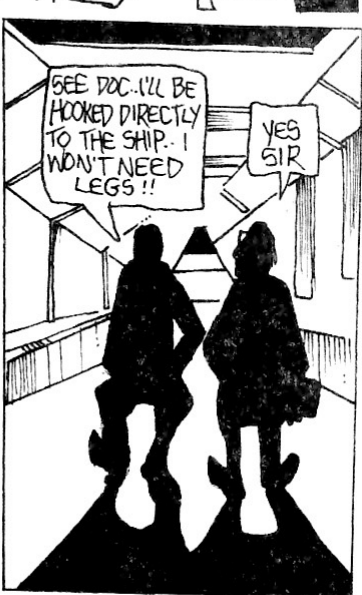


YES SIR!



COMON DOC, I'M GONNA NEED TO FIND SOME BILMPS AND A BRAIN SURGEON..

WHAT THE.. UH YES SIR AS YOU WISH..



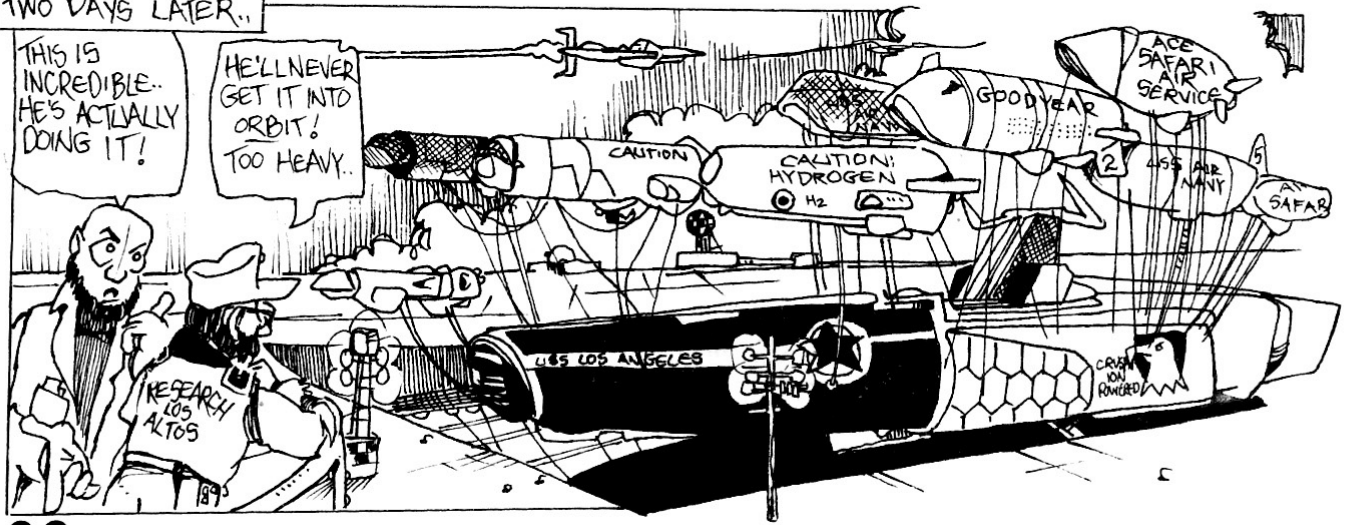
SEE DOC.. I'LL BE HOOKED DIRECTLY TO THE SHIP.. I WON'T NEED LEGS!!

YES SIR

TWO DAYS LATER..

THIS IS INCREDIBLE.. HE'S ACTUALLY DOING IT!

HE'LL NEVER GET IT INTO ORBIT! TOO HEAVY..



U.S.S. LOS ANGELES

CAUTION: HYDROGEN H<sub>2</sub>

CAUTION: HYDROGEN H<sub>2</sub>

ACE SAFARI AIR SERVICES

455 AIR MANT

A SAFARI

CRASH ZONE REVERSED



DR. HARMON! WHY  
AREN'T YOU MOVING  
THE ENEMY! COME  
WHAT THE HELL...

NO  
RESPONSE  
GENERAL

SOME  
KIND OF  
MALFUNCTION

YOU FOOLS!

THIS SHIP IS ME! I HAVE  
THE BODY OF A GOD!  
AND I CAN DESTROY!!!



HARMON HAS GONE INSANE  
IT WAS TOO MUCH FOR HIS  
MIND.. HE CONTROLS ALL  
FUNCTIONS ON THAT SHIP  
TOO...

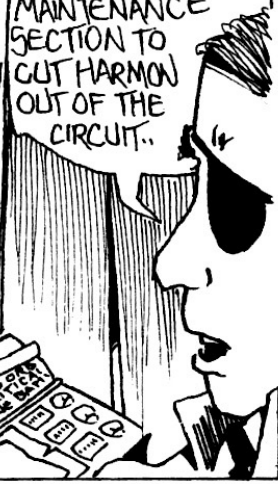
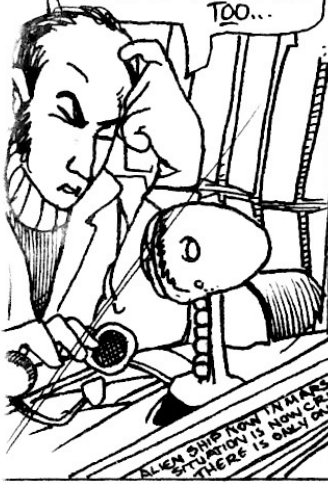
THE CREW WILL HAVE  
TO DISCONNECT HIM,  
I'LL RADIO THE  
MAINTENANCE  
SECTION TO CUT HARMON  
OUT OF THE  
CIRCUIT..

LATER..

AND THAT'S HOW  
IT MUST BE  
DONE..  
UNDERSTAND?

DON'T REPEAT!  
HARMON MIGHT  
OVER-HEAR..  
DO IT!

YES SIR..  
COMON  
ZEKE WE  
GOT WORK!

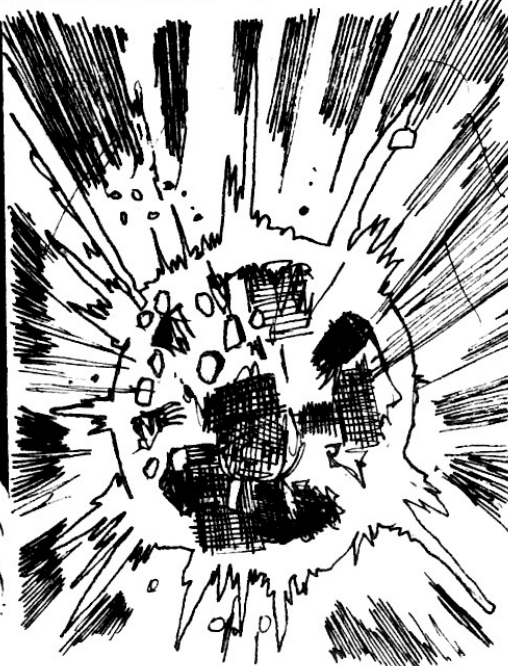
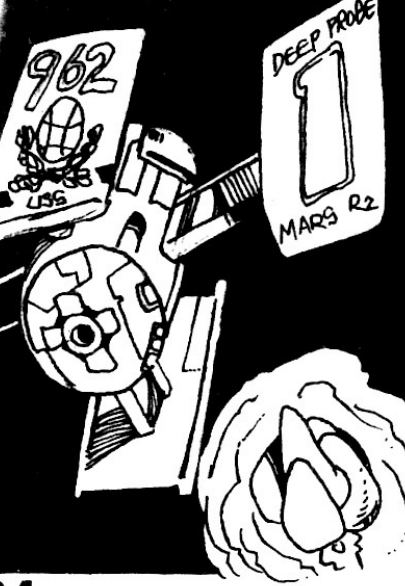


YES SIR!  
I'VE GOT  
IT... CUT  
THE NEURO  
CIRCUITS  
AND...

ROGER  
SARG!

LOS ANGELES  
CREW

WEEK LATER...



THAT TEARS IT.. WE HAVE  
NOT HEARD FROM THE  
LOS ANGELES IN 5 DAYS.  
THE ALIEN SHIP IS IN  
MARS ORBIT NOW!

CUTTING  
HARMON  
OUT MUST  
HAVE DIS-  
ABLED THE  
SHIP.. WE'RE  
DEFENSELESS



BUT... IN SPACE



TARGET

ON BOARD...

HE'S CRAZY... WE'RE MOVIN' PAST MARS AT WARP-FAC 5!

HE WAS ALWAYS CRAZY MAJOR..

SO WHY'D YOU HOOK HARMON BACK UP THEN..

OKAY.. GET READY.. THE ALIEN SHIP IS MOVING IN.. I DON'T KNOW THE COMMANDERS' PLAN...



NO! NO! NOT MY SHIP... NO!



DEFLECTORS!!

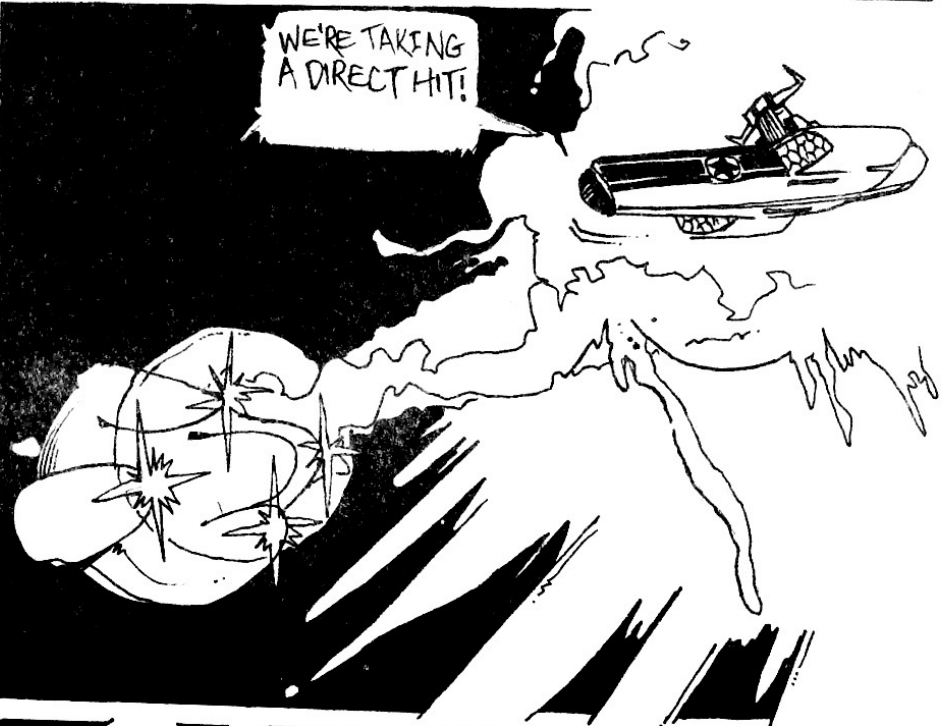
NOW MY CHILDREN I'M REVERSING THRUST WE GIVE THEM OUR ENGINE AT FULL REVERSE

YES SIR..

HE'S GONE MAD AGAIN!



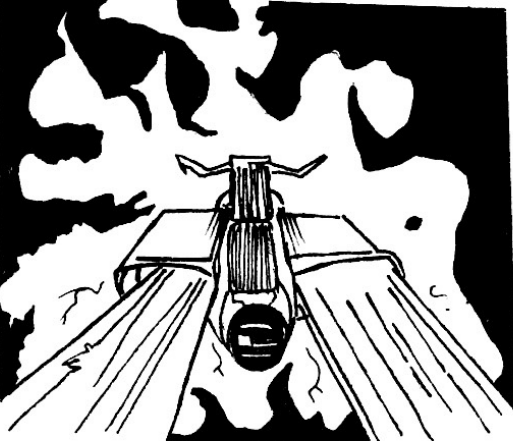
WE'RE TAKING A DIRECT HIT!



ON EARTH..

WHAT IS IT?!

SOME KIND OF NOVA?

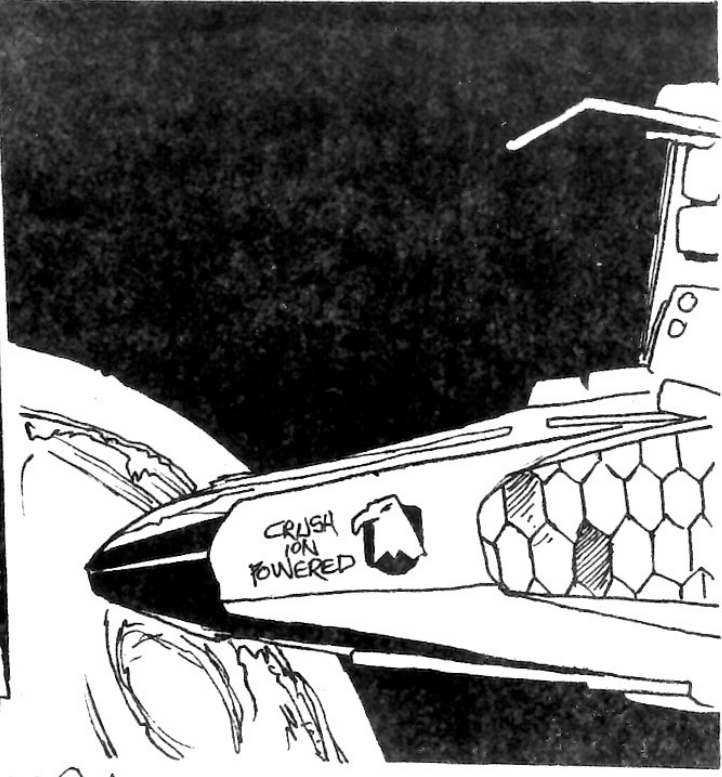


LOOK! THE ALIEN SHIP.. IS GONE!

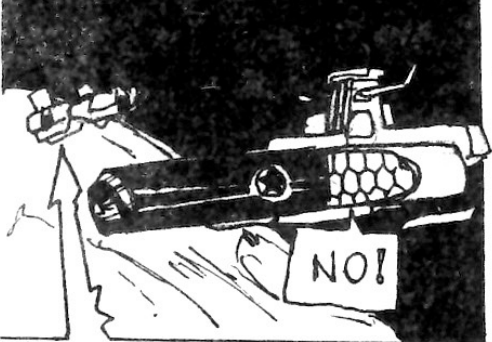
COULD IT BE.. YES! THE LOS ANGELES IS ON STATION

SOMEHOW THAT CREW DID IT... WE'LL PIPE 'EM HOME FOR FULL HONORS. THEY'RE BLOODY HEROS

SHE DID IT... DESTROYED THE ALIEN WITH A REVERSE PULSE



ONE WEEK LATER IN TRANSIT AND EARTH ORBIT..



THIS IS THE USS DEFENSE FLAG "NET". GENERAL RAND REQUESTS PERMISSION TO BOARD LOS ANGELES



WHAT LA REFUSES TO LET ME BOARD? YOU'VE GOT HARMON HOOKED UP AGAIN RIGHT?!

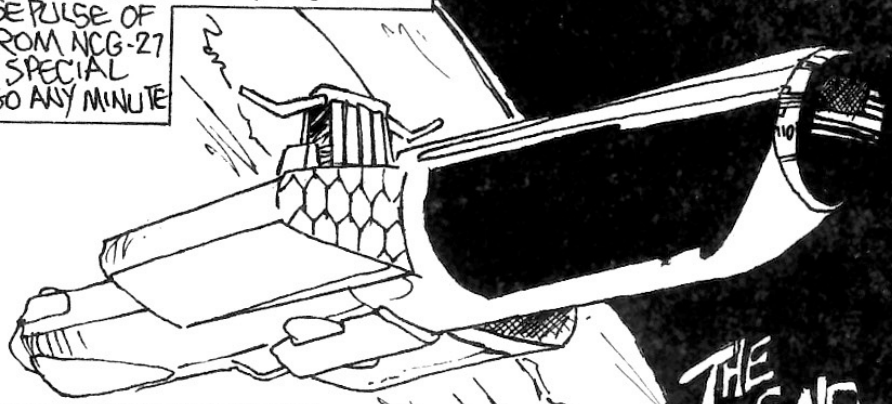
CORRECT SIR



HE SAYS, YOU CAN'T COME ON BOARD TILL YOU GET YOUR "SPACE LEGS" SIR..

COM CHIEF

NAMES THAT HAVE BECOME HOUSEHOLD WORDS, USS TEXAS, USS NEW JERSEY, USS AMERICAN VALUES, AND THE USS COUNTRY DOCTOR AND 250 MORE, MAKE UP THE NOW LEGENDARY SOLVATE 10N CRUSH FLEET. THERE IS NO KNOWN DEFENSE AGAINST A REVERSE PULSE OF ITS GUNS, GIVING IT FREE RUN FROM NCG-27 TO PROCYON. ITS CAPTAINS ARE A SPECIAL BREED.. VERY UNSTABLE PRONE TO GO ANY MINUTE



THE LOS ANGELES WAS LOST IN BATTLE OVER EARTH DURING THE CYBORG WARS 2145

THE END



Welcome to the second issue of BALD EGO CARTOON STORIES. Thanks to all who bought the first issue and shame on those who didn't (you can still redeem yourself; see below).

\*\*\*

I had hoped to keep close to a schedule of three issues a year. Thanks to printer foulups and later apathy and despair this issue, which was ready last October is finally being printed eleven months after the first issue by a new printer. Hopefully I will get one or two more issues done this year.

\*\*\*

I had also hoped to vary the contributors to this issue more, but a quick glance at the contents page will show the magazine is still mostly me, with another good story by Dave Heath, this time around in collaboration with the pencils of Jerry Collins (you can catch more of Jerry's work on the strip "Trufan Adventures" in the Buyers Guide, as well as in Dave's No-Sex magazine).

\*\*\*

Letters of comment are welcome, especially those overflowing with praise. Constructive criticism will be tolerated as long as you say something nice, too. Helpful hint: post-cards are twelve cents to send, and if you write small or type you can fit alot in).

\*\*\*

Contributions for future issues are wanted. Bald Ego is always looking for good cartoon stories. Subject matter is open: Science fiction, fantasy, superhero, humor, crime, horror--anything. One unshakable qualification is that the story must have DEPTH! It should not just be an excuse for pretty artwork. I'll be glad to explain further if you drop me a line. If you send any unsolicited art or samples that need to be returned you must send return postage. Bald ego pays a big \$2 for each page, which is more than most fanzines and a bit less than Heavy Metal or Epic.

\*\*\*

Bald Ego number three will emerge this summer, depending not so much on money as on the availability of good material. August/September is a good target date.

\*\*\*

Send all money, stories, samples, money, inquiries, letters and money to: Earl Geier, 2114 North Hamlin Avenue, Chicago, Illinois, 60647. Phone:(312) 227-6318

**BALD EGO**  
\*\*STILL AVAILABLE\*\*

Cartoon Stories No. 1

HANS MY GOD!!

THREE WAS A LOT OF FIGHTING FOUND HERE DURING THE WARS, CAUSE OF THE CAPITAL BEING SO CLOSE...

WHEN EVERYTHING WENT BUST ALL THE FORCES SCATTERED...

THEY DO ALL SORTS OF THINGS TO KEEP THEMSELVES AMUSED

3 GREAT STORIES BY DAVID HEATH AND EARL GEIER

A BUNCH OF DRAWINGS by Earl Geier

8 1/2 x 11 x 10 plates plus envelope\*\* \$2.75 post paid

Earl Geier  
2114 N. Hamlin  
Chicago, IL. 60647

**NO SEX**  
SCIENCE FICTION/HUMOR/POETRY COMICS

ARTISTS: DAVID HEATH, JERRY COLLINS, EARL GEIER, AL BARBER, CLIFF MATH, RICHARD BLANCH, MATT BROWN, BOB BAY...

EDITORS: G. ROBERT GILBERT, FRANK BAY, GUY...

34 pages \*\*\*\*\* \$1.00+ 75¢post.

FROM: EARL GEIER 2114 N. HAMLIN, CHGO IL. 60647

**NO SEX**

Back issues--  
5,7,8 =50¢  
10,11,12=\$1@  
or: 5,7,8,+  
10-12=\$3.50 #13 \$1.50 #14 due in spring

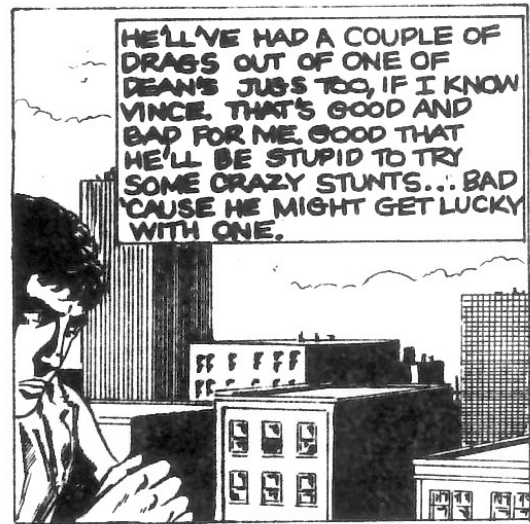
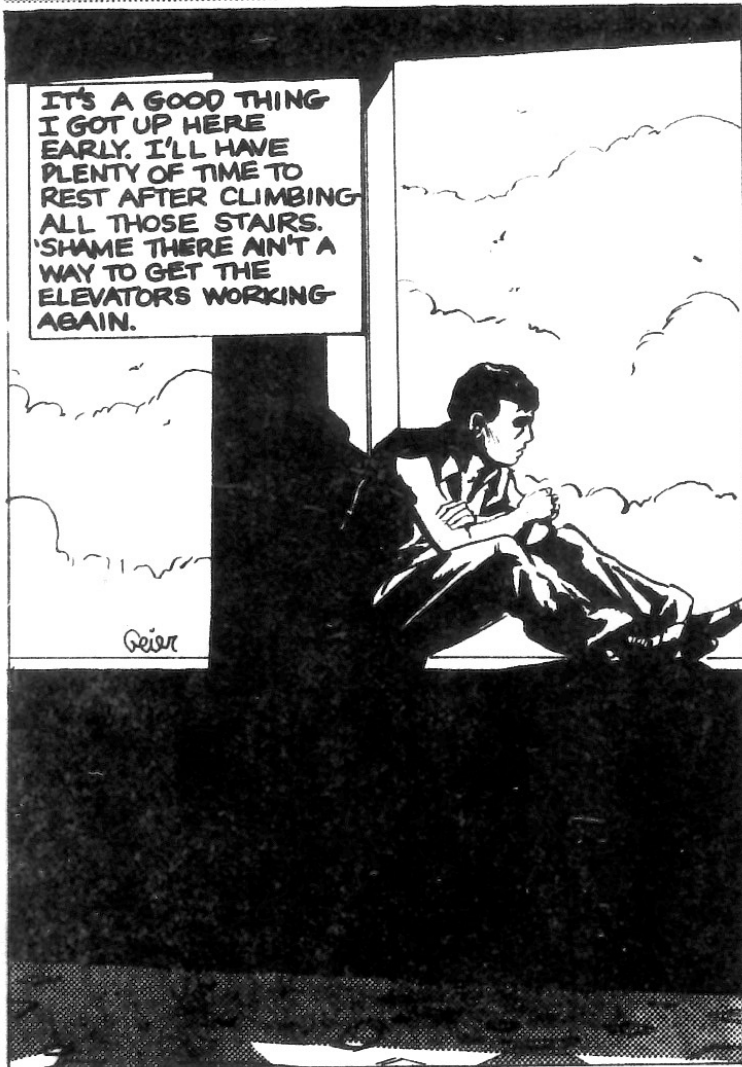
NO SEX IS PUBLISHED BY HEATH, FURTHER DOWN TO PROVIDE PAGES OF ART AND WRITING WITH A VEHICLE TO HAVE THEM PRINTED BY ART AND WRITING AND POSTAGE/PAYMENT WITHIN YOUR COUNTRY: EARL GEIER IN 606 47 CHGO ILL. BY MAIL, NY 10121

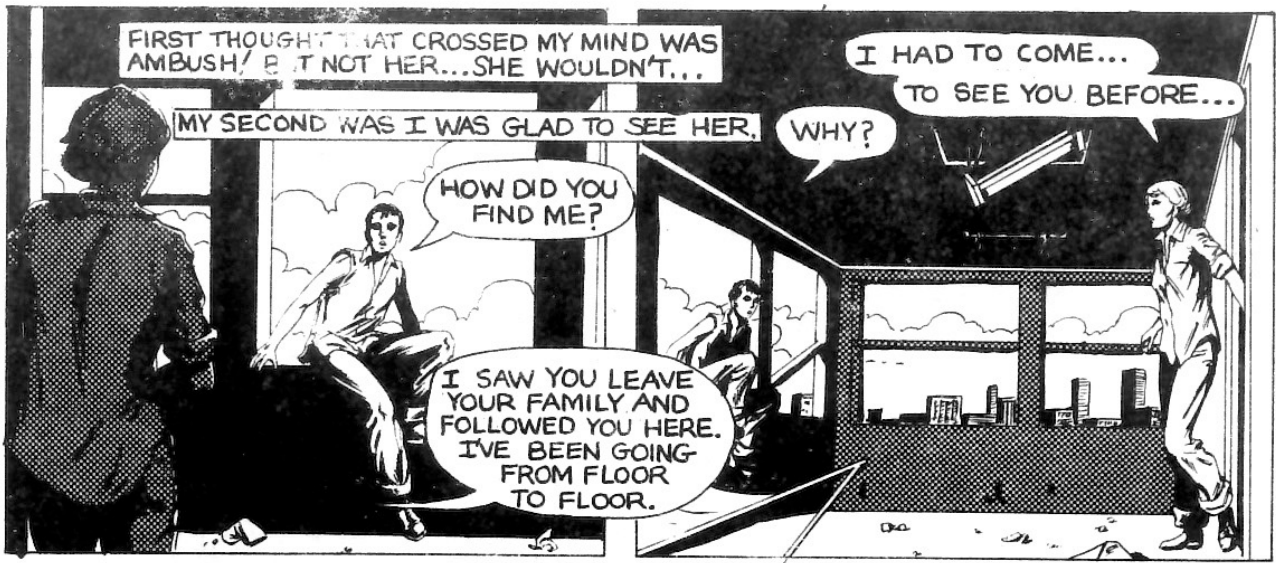
HEATH

# Flying THE HOLLOW CITY

STORY & ART: EARL GEIER

LETTERING: CAROLE CHEVAL





FIRST THOUGHT THAT CROSSED MY MIND WAS AMBUSH/ BUT NOT HER...SHE WOULDN'T...

I HAD TO COME... TO SEE YOU BEFORE...

MY SECOND WAS I WAS GLAD TO SEE HER.

WHY?

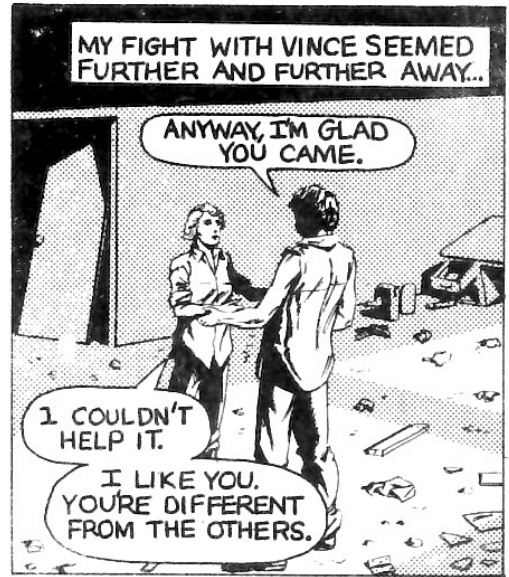
HOW DID YOU FIND ME?

I SAW YOU LEAVE YOUR FAMILY AND FOLLOWED YOU HERE. I'VE BEEN GOING FROM FLOOR TO FLOOR.



VINCE'LL BEAT THE CRAP OUTA YOU IF HE FINDS OUT YOU WERE HERE.

HE WON'T. AND I DON'T CARE IF HE DOES...



MY FIGHT WITH VINCE SEEMED FURTHER AND FURTHER AWAY...

ANYWAY, I'M GLAD YOU CAME.

I COULDN'T HELP IT.

I LIKE YOU. YOU'RE DIFFERENT FROM THE OTHERS.



NOT THAT DIFFERENT...





LAYING HERE... IT ALL SEEMS SO DISTANT...  
LIKE A STORY ABOUT SOMEONE ELSE.



HARD TO REALIZE THAT IN AWHILE  
VINCE...OR ME, WILL BE DEAD.

SHELIA AND ME HAD JUST KINDA FALLEN IN TOGETHER.  
WE WERE BOTH LONERS, THE ODD ONES... WE HAD  
SCREWED AROUND A BIT—NO ONE THOUGHT MUCH OF  
THAT KINDA THING, BUT WE FIGURED OUT THERE WAS  
MORE BETWEEN US THAN FOOLING AROUND. **THAT'S**  
WHEN VINCE STARTED BURNING...



WHO DID THIS  
TO YOU? WHO?!

VINCE... HE  
TOLD ME NOT  
TO COME  
NEAR YOU.

THAT  
BASTARD!

I'LL  
KILL HIM!

I'LL...



DON'T!  
IT DOESN'T  
MATTER...

VINCE AND ME HAD HUNG AROUND TOGETHER  
AS KIDS... PLAYED TOGETHER, HUNTED FOR FOOD...  
I'D ALWAYS TRIED TO BE LIKE HIM... SOMEHOW  
SOMEWHERE I DON'T KNOW WHEN, THINGS WENT  
SOUR BETWEEN US... WE PICKED AT EACH  
OTHER... DID ALOT OF GROWLING... IT ALL  
BLEW UP YESTERDAY.



I SAID KEEP YOUR  
STINKIN' HANDS  
OFF HER!

YOU GO TO  
HELL IN MY  
FAMILY THINGS  
GO MY WAY!

VINCE WAS FROM A DIFFERENT FAMILY THAN ME. HE WAS  
THE OLDEST OF US, NOT  
COUNTING THE FEW ADULTS  
LEFT. HE NEVER NOTICED  
SHELIA TILL WE GOT IT ON  
IT WAS ME THAT TICKED  
HIM OFF—NOTHING TO DO  
WITH HER. WE'D GONE AT  
IT RIGHT THERE BUT SID  
SPOKE UP.



WAIT A MINUTE!  
YOU GUYS WANT  
TA GO AT  
EACH OTHER

YOU'RE BOTH  
FLIERS/HON  
ABOUT A DUEL!

AW RIGHT

YEAH!

THAT SEEMED REAL POPULAR WITH  
EVERYONE BUT VINCE 'N ME! I'D SEEN  
A FIGHT LIKE THAT ONCE! MY STOMACH  
KNOTTED AT THE THOUGHT, AND VINCE'S  
FACE WENT WHITE! BUT THERE WAS  
NO WAY TO BACK OUT, AND VINCE  
LOOKED WORSE THAN I FELT, SO...



RIGHT!  
YOU GOT IT!

ANYTIME  
SUCKER!

SID IS OKAY, BUT IT  
SURE WASN'T MY HEALTH  
HE WAS THINKIN' ABOUT  
WHEN HE SPOKE UP SINCE  
THE CITY FELL ALL THERE  
WAS TO DO WAS TO STAY  
ALIVE AND FIGHT BORE-  
DOM, AND THE BEST WAY  
TO FIGHT BOREDOM WAS  
TO SPIKE THINGS UP A BIT.  
SID SURE DID THAT!



TOMORROW?

RIGHT!

GOOD AS  
ANY!

MY "HOUSE" WAS A WAREHOUSE OUTSIDE THE OLD CITY. MY "FAMILY" WAS JUST A BUNCH OF FOLKS WHO DRIFTED TOGETHER DURING THE TROUBLES. SOME OF US ARE RELATED...



WHERE'RE YOU GOING?

OUT.

YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO LOOK FOR FOOD TODAY!

I'LL LOOK...



YOU STAY AWAY FROM THAT CITY!

I AIN'T GOING TO THE CITY.

SO WHERE'RE YOU GOING?

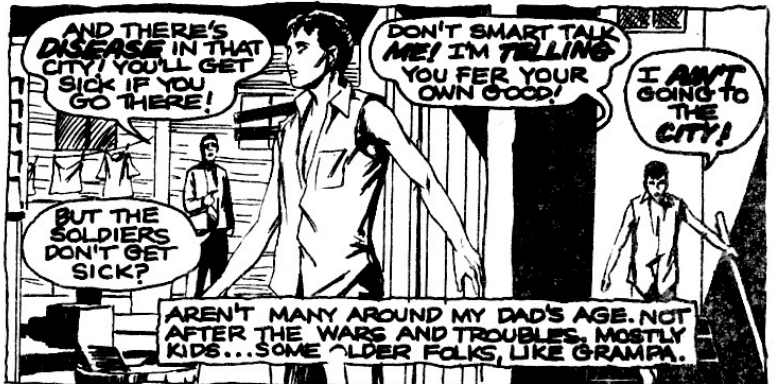
OUT!

MY DAD HAD BEEN IN THE ARMY. HE DESERTED THE DAY BEFORE HIS COMPANY WAS SHIPPED UP TO PUT DOWN A REBELLION ON ONE OF THE POWER SATELLITES.



YOU LISTEN TO ME! THOSE SOLDIERS FROM THE TOWERS'LL GRAB YOU FOR THE ARMY OR THE FACTORIES!

YEAH, YEAH...



AND THERE'S DISEASE IN THAT CITY! YOU'LL GET SICK IF YOU GO THERE!

DON'T SMART TALK ME! I'M TELLING YOU FER YOUR OWN GOOD!

I AIN'T GOING TO THE CITY!

BUT THE SOLDIERS DON'T GET SICK?

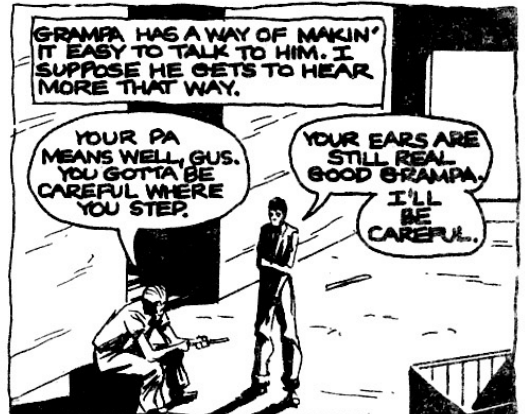
AREN'T MANY AROUND MY DAD'S AGE. NOT AFTER THE WARS AND TROUBLES, MOSTLY KIDS... SOME OLDER FOLKS, LIKE GRAMPA.



GRAMPA WAS DIFFERENT, HE'S OLD... OLDERN HE'LL ADMIT. I DON'T KNOW ~~HOW~~ HE MADE IT THROUGH THE TROUBLES - HE AIN'T THE TYPE TO BACK AWAY FROM ANYTHING.

WHERE'RE YA GOING, GUS?

OUT... TO THE CITY.



GRAMPA HAS A WAY OF MAKIN' IT EASY TO TALK TO HIM. I SUPPOSE HE GETS TO HEAR MORE THAT WAY.

YOUR PA MEANS WELL, GUS. YOU GOTTA BE CAREFUL WHERE YOU STEP.

YOUR EARS ARE STILL REAL GOOD GRAMPA. I'LL BE CAREFUL...



HE WATCHES THINGS ALL THE TIME... ITS LIKE HE CAN READ MINDS. HE DON'T MISS MUCH.

WHAT IS IT, GUS?

NOTHING... MUCH.

IT'S THAT GARSON KID VINCE, AIN'T IT?



YEAH... A LITTLE TROUBLE.

YOU TWO'VE BEEN BURNING HOLES IN EACH OTHER FER SOME TIME NOW.



UH-HUH, OKAY, BUT WATCH HIM! HE AIN'T MUCH OF A PERSON.

AN' YOU'RE JUST STARTIN' TA FIGURE YOURSELF OUT. BE A SHAME TA CUT THAT SHORT.

YEAH...

DON'T WORRY. I'LL BE BACK...

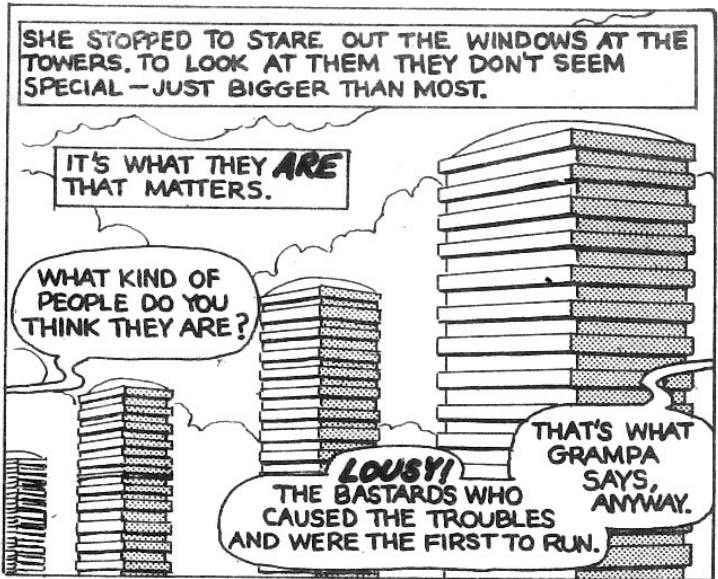
I CAN HANDLE IT.





DO YOU NEED ANY HELP?

NO, I'LL MANAGE. I USUALLY HAVE TO DO IT MYSELF.



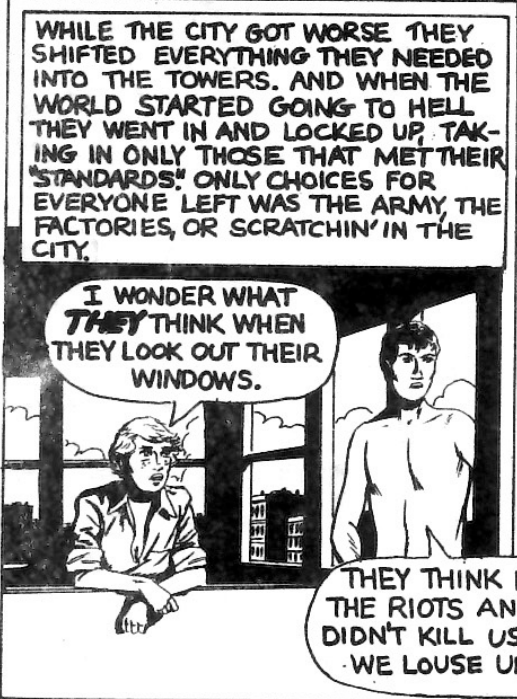
SHE STOPPED TO STARE OUT THE WINDOWS AT THE TOWERS. TO LOOK AT THEM THEY DON'T SEEM SPECIAL - JUST BIGGER THAN MOST.

IT'S WHAT THEY ARE THAT MATTERS.

WHAT KIND OF PEOPLE DO YOU THINK THEY ARE?

LOUSY! THE BASTARDS WHO CAUSED THE TROUBLES AND WERE THE FIRST TO RUN.

THAT'S WHAT GRAMPA SAYS, ANYWAY.



WHILE THE CITY GOT WORSE THEY SHIFTED EVERYTHING THEY NEEDED INTO THE TOWERS. AND WHEN THE WORLD STARTED GOING TO HELL THEY WENT IN AND LOCKED UP, TAKING IN ONLY THOSE THAT MET THEIR "STANDARDS." ONLY CHOICES FOR EVERYONE LEFT WAS THE ARMY, THE FACTORIES, OR SCRATCHIN' IN THE CITY.

I WONDER WHAT THEY THINK WHEN THEY LOOK OUT THEIR WINDOWS.

THEY THINK IT'S A SHAME THE RIOTS AND THE PLAGUES, DIDN'T KILL US ALL 'CAUSE WE LOUSE UP THEIR VIEW.



A FEW BLOCKS OVER I COULD SEE THE SMOKE RISING OVER MART STREET. IT WAS ABOUT TIME.

YOU'D BETTER GET GOING. THEY'LL BE LOOKING FOR YOU DOWN THERE.

OKAY.

GUS...

WHAT ABOUT AFTERWARDS?



AFTERWARDS? WELL IF I LOSE, IT WON'T BE MY PROBLEM.

DON'T TALK THAT WAY.

JUST KIDDING.

DON'T...

I DON'T KNOW...



MAYBE JUST TAKE VINCE'S PLACE?

I ALWAYS THOUGHT OF YOU AS DIFFERENT, LIKE YOU WERE LOOKING FOR SOMETHING BETTER.

YEAH...? THAT'S WHAT GRAMPA THINKS, TOO.





OH MAN!  
THERE AIN'T  
**NOTHIN'**  
LIKE THIS.





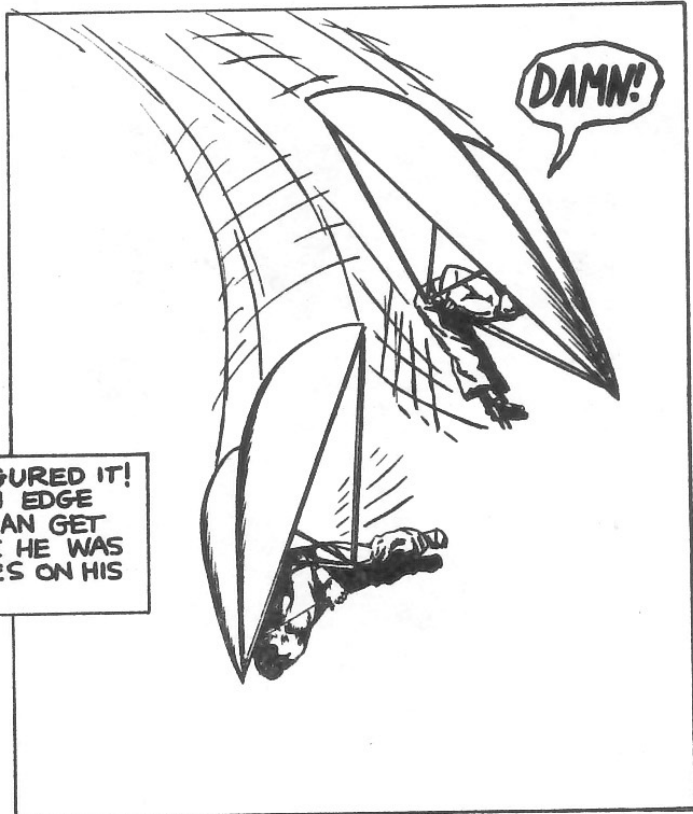
FUNNY...VINCE SHOULD'VE BEEN HERE BY NOW. I'D BETTER...

WHAT ARE THEY WAVING AT...?



-SHADOW!

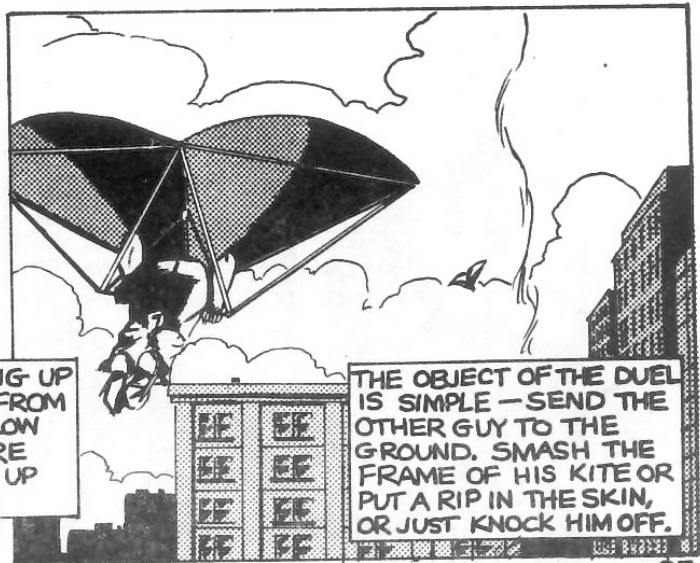
DIVE!



DAMN!



I SHOULD'VE FIGURED IT! VINCE'LL TAKE AN EDGE WHENEVER HE CAN GET IT. LOOKED LIKE HE WAS WEARING SPIKES ON HIS BOOTS, TOO.

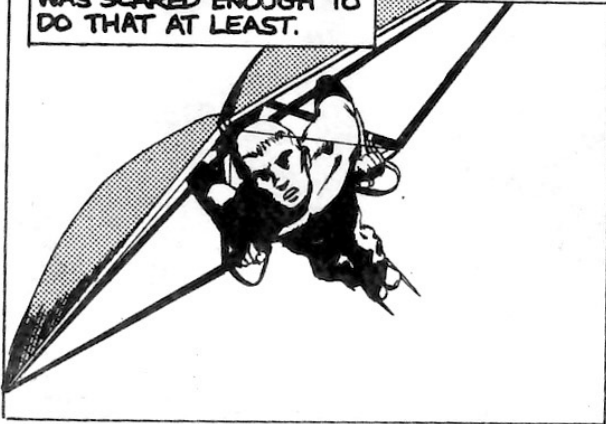


VINCE IS RIDING UP ON THE HEAT FROM THE FIRE BELOW HIM, TOO. WE'RE BOTH PICKING UP SPEED.

THE OBJECT OF THE DUEL IS SIMPLE - SEND THE OTHER GUY TO THE GROUND. SMASH THE FRAME OF HIS KITE OR PUT A RIP IN THE SKIN, OR JUST KNOCK HIM OFF.

IT LOOKS LIKE VINCE HAS STRAPPED HIMSELF ON. HE WAS SCARED ENOUGH TO DO THAT AT LEAST.

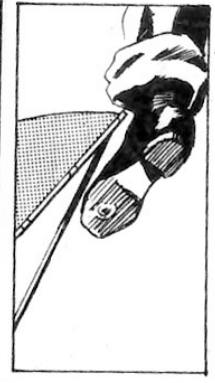
HAVE TO FIND SOMEWAY TO GET **ABOVE** HIM!



WHEN I CAME BY HERE BEFORE I FELT A CROSSWIND COMING THROUGH THE WINDOWS. IF I CATCH THAT...

NO GOOD. TOO SOON... VINCE HAS TIME TO TURN... CAN'T GET A GOOD SOLID KICK IN. BUT IF I CAN...

- CATCH THE **EDGE**.



**DID IT!**

YAAAAA



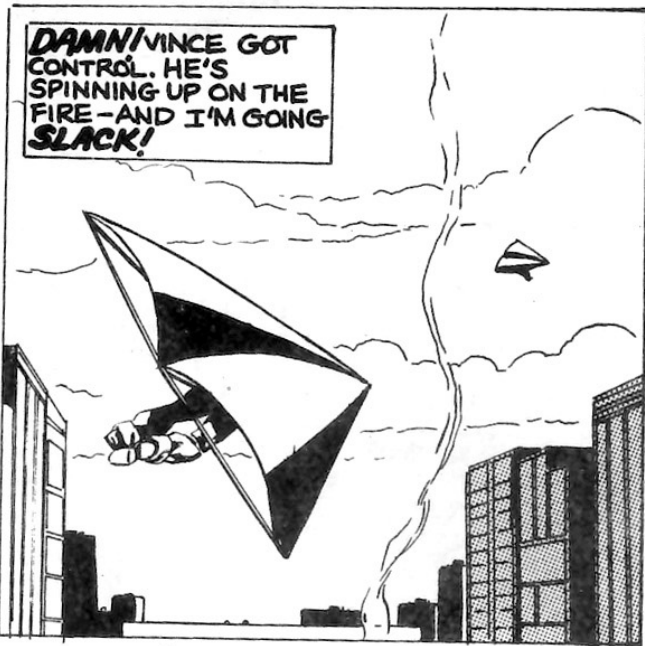
HE'S SPINNING **DOWN!**

**DAMN!** VINCE GOT CONTROL. HE'S SPINNING UP ON THE FIRE - AND I'M GOING **SLACK!**

HE'S **DOWN!**

HE'S GONNA HIT TH' **BUILDING!**

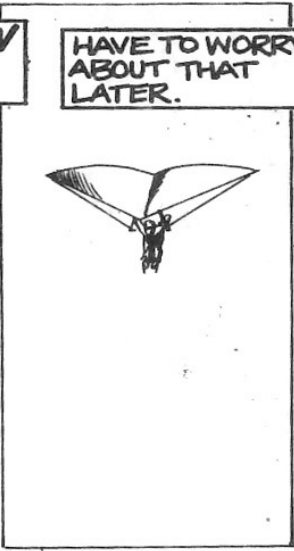
NO, HE'S NOT!







DON'T KNOW **HOW**  
WE'LL DECIDE  
THE DUEL.



HAVE TO WORRY  
ABOUT THAT  
LATER.



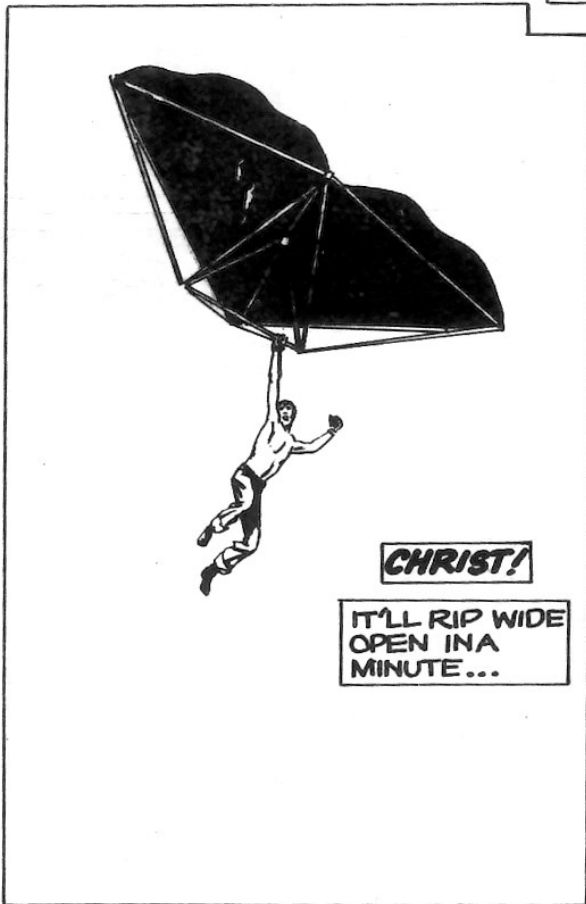
MY PROBLEM  
NOW IS GETTING  
DOWN INTACT.



**WHUMP**



**UH**



**CHRIST!**

IT'LL RIP WIDE  
OPEN IN A  
MINUTE...



AND I'M HEADING  
SMACK INTO THE  
WALL.



AND HERE COMES  
VINCE TO SEE ME  
**PERSONALLY!**



ONLY ONE CHANCE...

I LET GO...

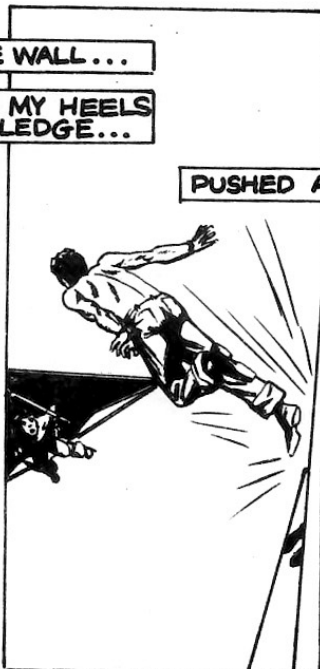


GUS!



HIT THE WALL...

CAUGHT MY HEELS ON THE LEDGE...

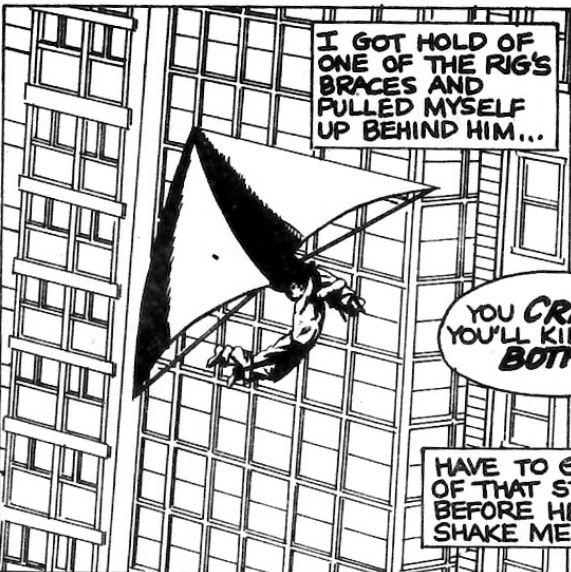


PUSHED AWAY HARD...



WHA-?! LET GO!!

HAD TO GRAB HIS OTHER LEG QUICK!



I GOT HOLD OF ONE OF THE RIG'S BRACES AND PULLED MYSELF UP BEHIND HIM...



GOT ONE OF HIS LEGS AND PULLED IT UP!

YOU CRAZY- YOU'LL KILL US BOTH!

HAVE TO GET RID OF THAT STRAP BEFORE HE CAN SHAKE ME OFF...



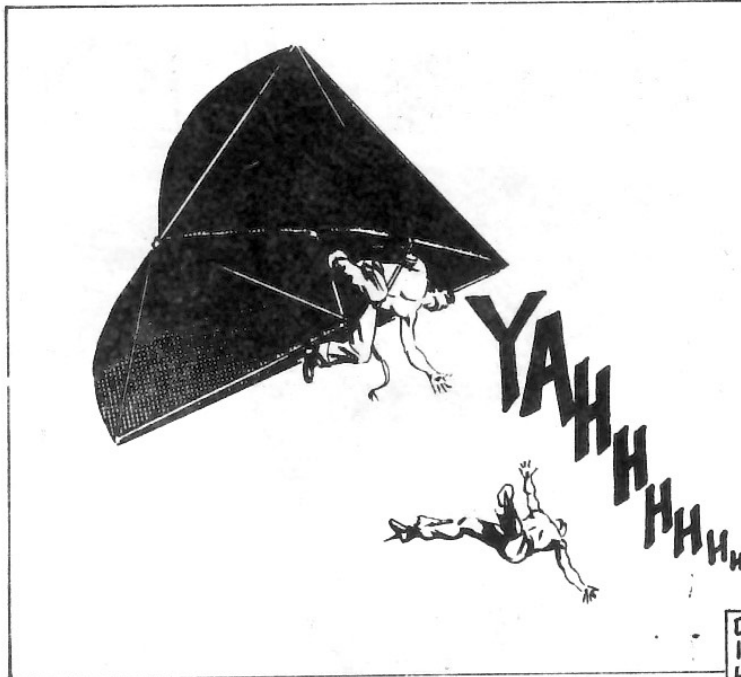
VINCE WAS THOROUGH. THE SPIKE WAS VERY SHARP!



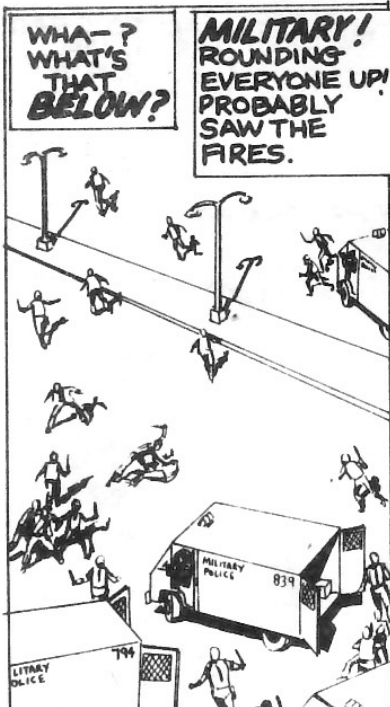
I HIT HIM **HARD!** HE STARTED TO SLIP FORWARD...



HE WAS HANGING ON BY ONE ARM. I STARTED TO REACH FOR HIM...



DON'T FEEL LIKE I'VE WON... IT WAS STUPID TO TRY AND SAVE HIM... STUPID TO FEEL GUILTY NOW...



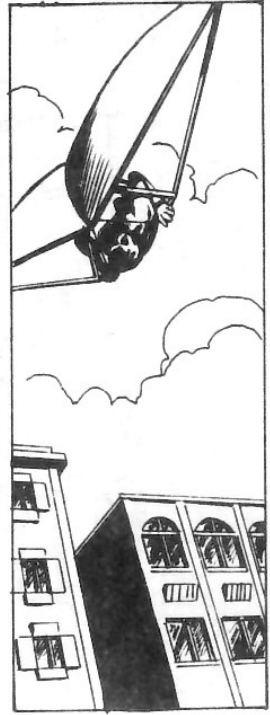
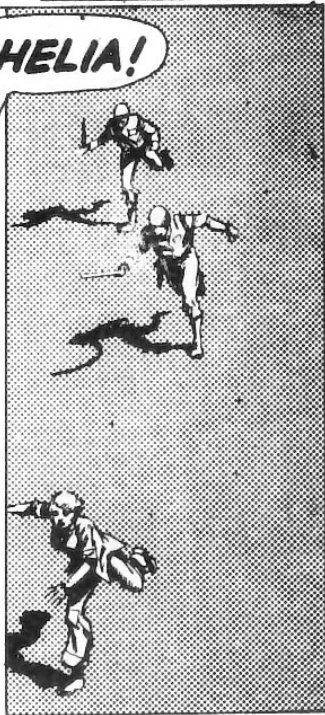
WHA-? WHAT'S THAT BELOW?

**MILITARY!**  
ROUNDING EVERYONE UP!  
PROBABLY SAW THE FIRES.

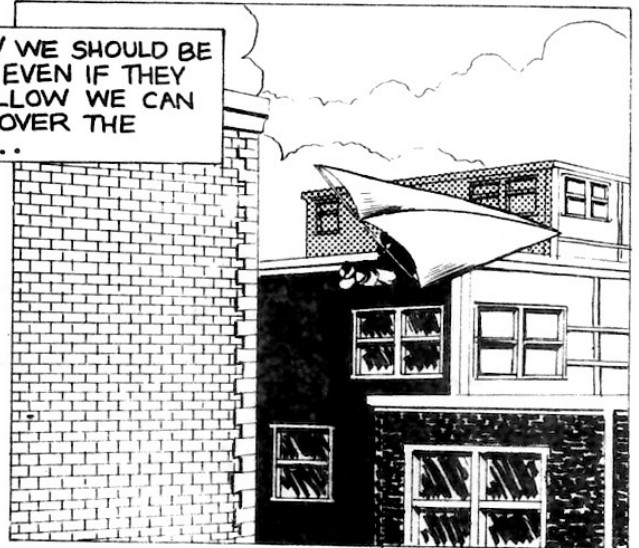
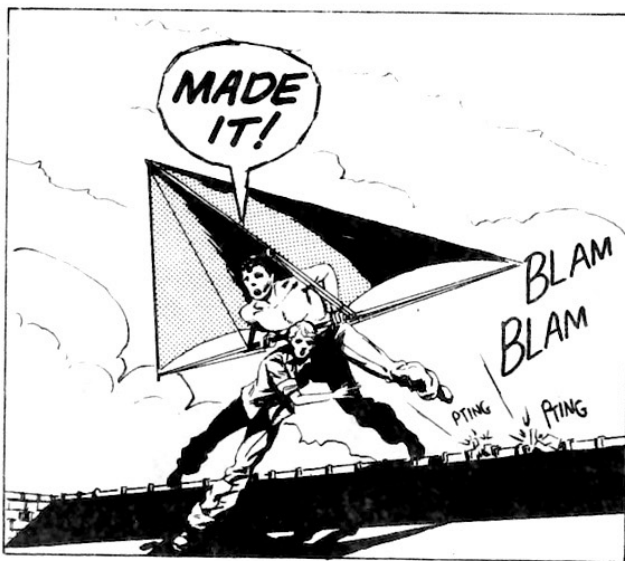


I'VE HAD ENOUGH EXCITEMENT FOR TODAY... I'M SPLITTING BEFORE-

**SHELIA!**









Geier

