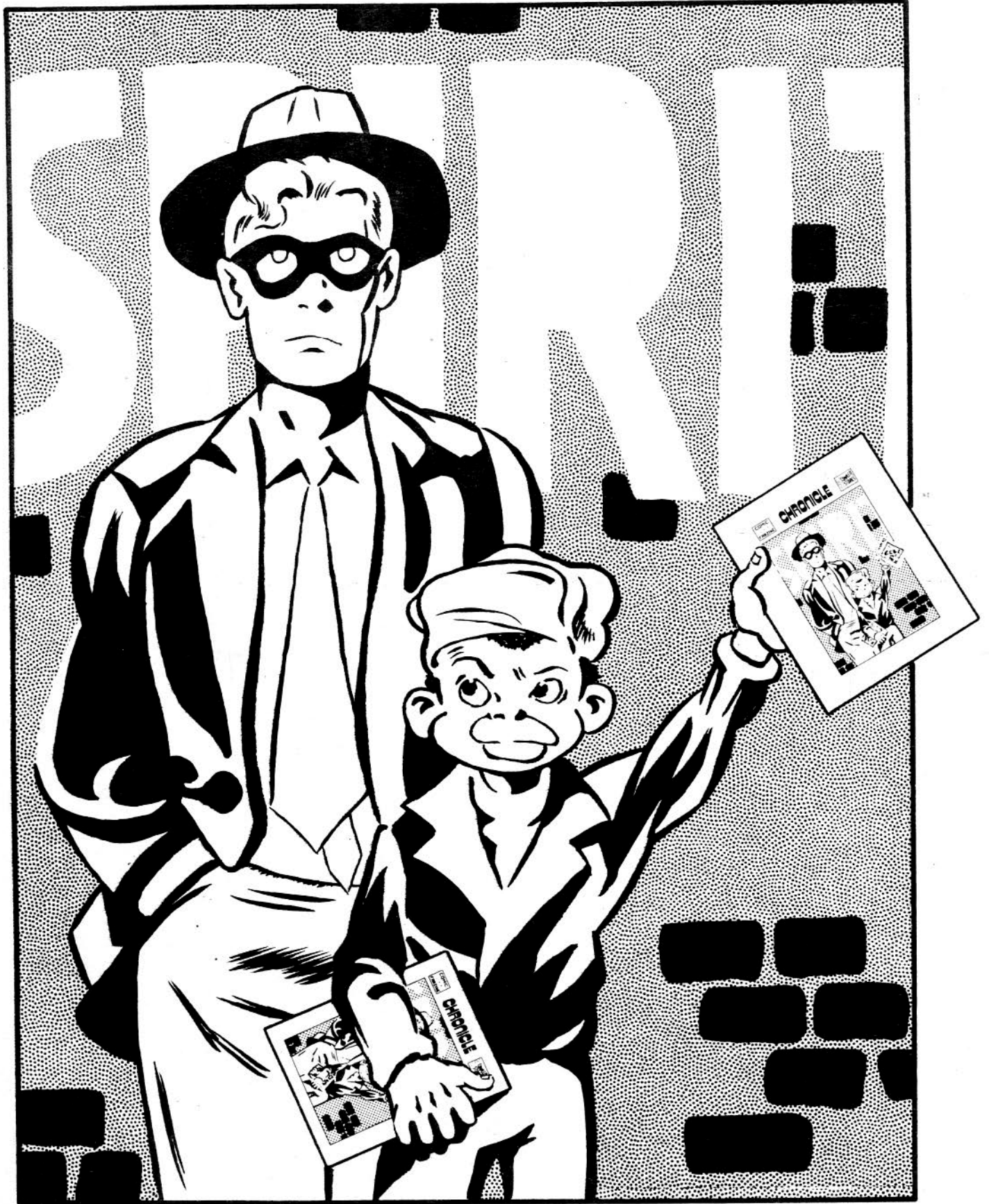


COMIC  
BOOK  
FANZINE

# CHRONICLE

5 COMPLETE  
STORIES





The editorial is the last thing I do each issue and it gives me a chance to look back over the whole thing and express my feelings about it. I've got to admit I'm very happy with the results -- I believe this is our finest issue to date. I think CHRONICLE has matured greatly since its first issue and I hope it continues to improve and mature with Fandom.

We welcome back some old friends this issue and we'd like to introduce you to a few new ones. Gordon Bailey joins us with the first installment of his "Fandom Newsstand" column, a fanzine review and checklist column that we think you'll find informative and entertaining. Two new strips by Chicagoans Jim Wisniewski and Steve Boswick follow, and though both are new to Fandom, I'm sure you'll agree they belong here. Bill McMichael, publisher of the film fanzine TWO WORLDS, took time out from his hectic schedule to do a column on the "Cliff Hangers" -- a nostalgic look at the Flash Gordon serials. Last but certainly not least we have Fortiers Fandom" by Ron Fortier, who tells us that fan fiction is alive and well, and where to find it. Regrettably, Duffy Vohland could not do another infamous "Duffy's Tavern" this issue, but he did send the model sheets for a proposed comic book. The artwork is by "CHRONICLE'S own" John Byrne -- it's called "Beyond the Seventh Voyage" and stars an old friend with a few new crew members.

Well, I finally made it to the famous New York Con. Though I left Chicago with the enthusiasm and anticipation of a youngster leaving for a trip to Disneyland, New York awakened me to the reality of it all. The comic book industry is just that -- an industry. I wasn't awestruck or dumbfounded by the activities of the Con; in fact I found myself becoming increasingly bored and homesick for Chicago. On the third day of the Con I left for home. Don't get me wrong -- there were some good times meeting the pros, visiting the Marvel offices, a too-brief talk with C.C. Beck (see page 22) -- but in the end it was like the old saying: "A nice place to visit, but I wouldn't want to live there".

Nostalgia Con '73 was a distinct improvement over Nostalgia '71, which had been primarily a dealer's con. This year there was a number of activities to attract fans -- auctions, films, and panel discussions among them. Guest of Honor Walter Koenig (Ensign Chekov of STAR TREK) was congenial and available to fans at all times. I enjoyed the fanzine panel (consisting of Jim Hanley of Comic Book, Jerry Sinkovec of the Menomonee Fall Gazette, Chuck Pizala of FVP and yours truly), because it was a disaster -- a hilarious one, though. If at first you don't succeed, try, try again and at least this time that was the theme.

Many thanks to all my friends who helped make this issue possible and a special thanks to my wife and daughters, who at times must have believed I deserted them to run off with my typewriter -- believe me I didn't and now wasn't it all worthwhile?

**The Menomonee Falls Gazette**  
 3481 WISCONSIN MARY COURT  
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**Recommended reading for this issue does not fit into the fanzine category, but if you're interested in the best art available to the serious fan, then the GAZ is for you. Sample Issue: 75¢ (A years sub is only \$29.00). Now if humor is your bag then The M.P.GUARDIAN will fill the bill (Companion to the GAZ). Sample Issue: 35¢ US Funds.**

**The Gazette**  
 Adventure  
 Every week

**Modesty Blaise**  
 by Peter O'Donnell & Joe Colton

**Jeff Kowitz**  
 by Robert Jordan

**Jeff Cobb**



**A SPECIAL NOTE TO OUR READERS-** The copy of Chronicle you are now reading marks a landmark issue, not only is this the first issue to be published under the new "WCP" Banner, but it is also the first edition to be printed in two different versions.

**One-A Newsstand Edition** available for 50¢, the cover features an excellent rendering of Marvel's Man-Thing by Clifton, the best art, articles and strips available, printed on newsprint, 52 pages and color covers on a heavy stock.

**Two-A Special Edition** available by subscription only, rates are \$3.50 for 4 issues(1-4) or \$3.00 for 6 issues(4-9). Contents are the same as above, the cover is an exquisitely designed masterpiece by Gary Ricker, printed on 50" offset stock and included is a six part "Poster-Pac", artwork by your favorites, suitable for framing. This is a "Limited Print Run" and will not be reprinted.

# CHRONICLE

**Fandom NEWSSTAND**  
by Gordon Bailey

**REVIVAL SURVIVAL**  
by Roger Slifer

**NEW YORK COMIC ART CONVENTION**

**CLIFF HANGERS**  
by William McMichael

**FORTIER'S FANDOM**  
by Ron Fortier

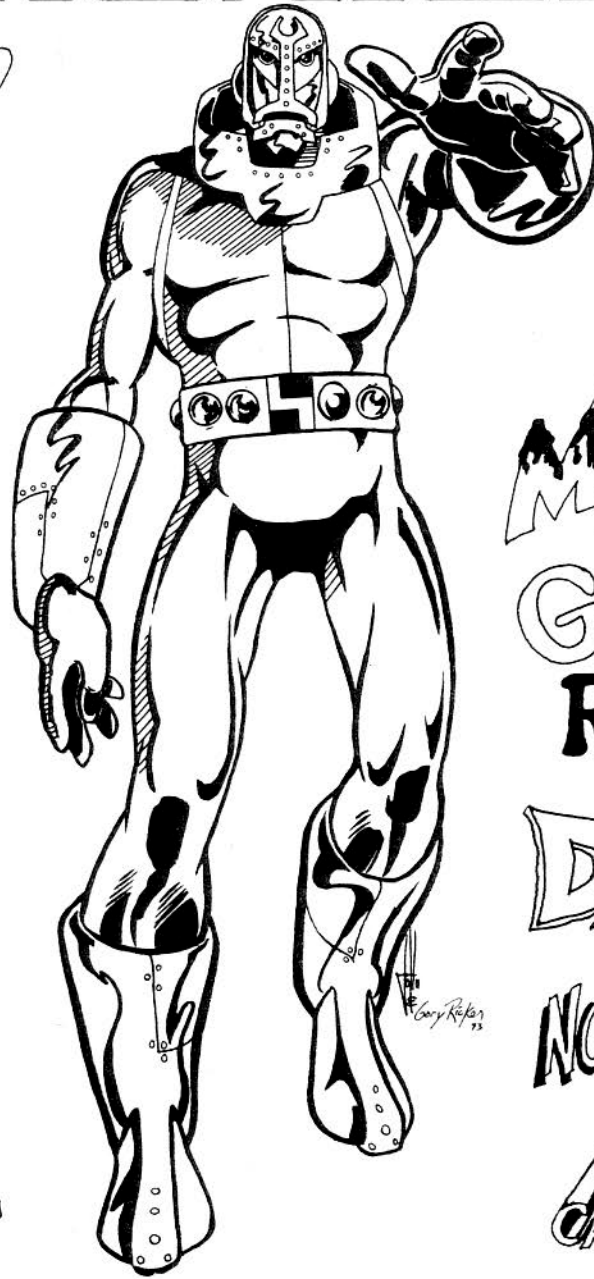
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Editor & Publisher

**GARY RICKER**  
Art Editor

**STANLEY CHUDZIK**  
**WILLIAM McMICHAEL**  
Associate Editors

**JO ANN STYGAR**  
Secretary

A Windy City Publication



**FUTURE SHOCK**  
by Jim Wisniewski

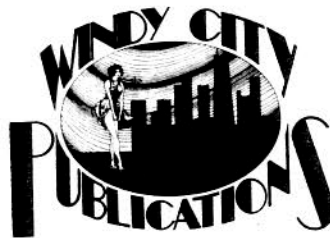
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by Steve Boswick

**GIDEON'S REVENGE**  
by John L. Byrne

**DANTÉ**  
by Stanley Sakai

**NOSTALGIA CON '73**

**CALCULATING MIND**  
by Chuck Dixon



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(Their numbers vol. 1)

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RON FORTIER  
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JITNEY CLOTHBROW  
Delays

# GORDON BAILEY'S Fandom Newsstand

Greetings, fandom! The purpose of this column is, in short, to provide information on fanzines and related fan projects. I'll try to run at least one checklist in each installment of this column, and I'll also be reviewing and discussing new fanzines. If you have any questions concerning fanzines, or if there is a particular fanzine you would like to see a checklist of, send me a letter and I'll see what I can do.

No.	The Complete COMICCOLLECTOR Checklist	Editor	Circulation	Frequency
No. 1	Sept., '61	Jerry Bails	None given	No set schedule
No. 2	Jan., '62	J. Bails	500	Bi-monthly
No. 3	March, '62	J. Bails	None given	Bi-monthly
No. 4	May, '62	J. Bails	None given	Bi-monthly
No. 5	June, '62	J. Bails	None given	Bi-monthly
No. 6	July, '62	J. Bails	None given	COMICCOLLECTOR cancelled indefinitely
No. 7	Sept., '62	Richard Green Ronn & Myra Foss	500	Bi-monthly
No. 8	Nov., '62	Ronn Foss	500	Bi-monthly
No. 9	Jan., '63	R. Foss	500	Bi-monthly
No. 10	Mar., '63	R. Foss	600	Bi-monthly
No. 11	May, '63	R. Foss	600	Bi-monthly
No. 12	Sept., '63	R. Foss	600	Bi-monthly
No. 13	Oct. '63	Biljo White	None given	Bi-monthly
No. 14	Feb., '64	B. White	None given	Bi-monthly
No. 15	Apr., '64	B. White	None given	Monthly

**W.I.T.H.:** My new, most fans know of Alan Light's attacks on the **W.I.T.H. NEWS**. I feel that these insults are totally uncalled for. If Mr. Light doesn't like competition, he should get out of the zine business. Perhaps this is just another ego-trip for Alan; I can't say. To me, his comments are immature and unprofessional.

If the **W.I.T.H. NEWS** is an imitation of **TCG**, it's nothing new. Light can't be the first to come up with the idea of a free adzine, and **W.I.T.H.** can't be the best. And **W.I.T.H.** can't be poorly printed, either, as Mr. Light says. All copy is typeset (professionally), and the covers, so far, have been by Adams, Krenkel, and Black. That sounds pretty good to me.

**RECOMMENDED:** The Collector #27 / from Bill G. Wilson 1535 Oneida Dr. Clairton, PA 15025 // \$2 by 11, 60 pgs.; Full color covers / \$1.00 plus 25¢ postage.

This all-around zine is one of the most enjoyable reading experiences you'll find today. It starts off with very impressive front and back covers by Kline. An installment of "Duffy's Tavern" is devoted to DC's adaptations of Burrough's work. This is followed by "The Legacy of Edgar Rice Burroughs" by Bill Cantey. Both are very well written.

Also of major importance in this issue is the initial appearance of Ditko's new "J" series, entitled "A View of Justice". Heavy stuff...Ditko's belief in the rights of the individual are portrayed graphically here.

The rest of the mag is made up of the regular high quality art and articles one expects from **TC**. Get it!

Comic Crusader #14 / from Martin L. Greim Box 132 Dedham, Mass. 02026 // \$3 by 11, 40 pgs. // 75¢

**CC**, like **The Collector**, is easily one of the biggest bargains in fanzines. This is a special Magic-oriented issue...and they sure don't fool around, either. The first 12 pages (including cover) are devoted to Ibis the Invincible. There are articles, spot illos, full page illos all pertaining to Ibis...there's even a two-page retelling of his origin!

After that comes a fine interview with Fred Fredericks, artist for the daily **Mandrake** strip. "The Art of Pencilling" by Rob Cosgrove follows, with four pages of pencil artwork by Kirby and Steranko. These are not mere sketches; they are fully detailed and fantastic!

Again we find Mr. Ditko present, this time with his new "H" series. This man really knows how to present his ideas. Fine art and fast-paced story make this strip quite enjoyable. All in all, **CC** is well worth your 75¢.

## FANZINE POLL

I urge all fans reading this to vote. I will send the results of this poll to several fan editors, so you not only have a chance to let your feelings toward fanzines known, but a chance to improve them as well. If you don't wish to cut your copy of **CHRONICLE**, simply use a facsimile.

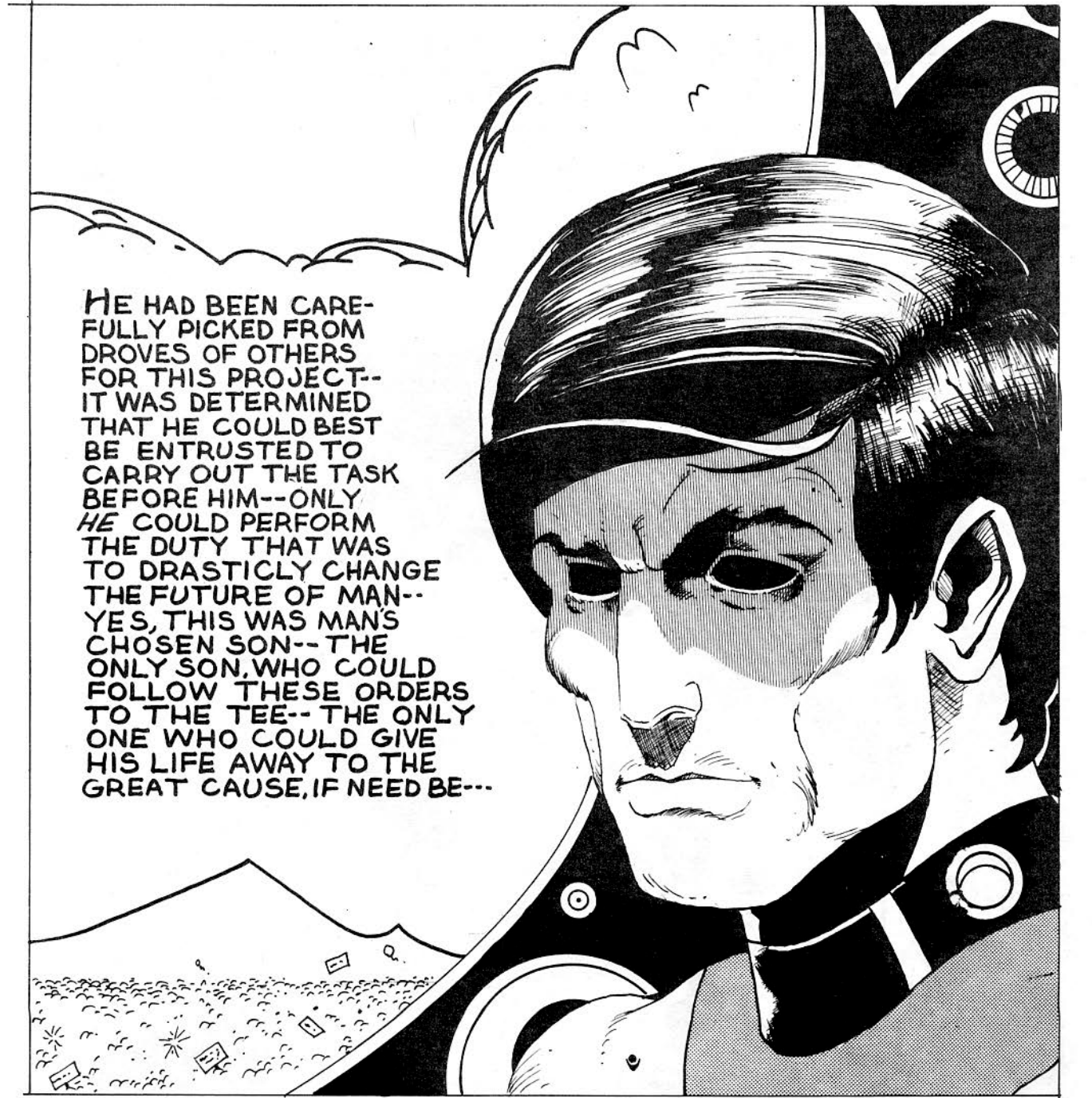
- How many fanzines do you buy a year? \_\_\_\_\_
- How much do you usually spend on a single fanzine?
  - 25¢ to 75¢
  - 75¢ to \$1.50
  - \$1.50 and up
- Would you rather pay 25¢ for a mimeographed article-zine than \$5.00 for a slick offset art-zine? YES NO
- Do you consider most fanzines today
  - Ripoffs
  - Fun but amateurish
  - Well produced
- Do you feel that dittoed/mimeod zines will soon be completely extinct? YES NO
- How do you account for the relatively short life span of most zines?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- What do you consider to be the one most important fault/problem/flow of fanzines today? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

-END-

**FREE PLUG-** You know, I may be a bit biased, but I feel the best place to order fanzines, both old and new, is from Gordon Bailey (who?). As a matter of fact, I've got a catalog out right now that you can order for 50¢. So, just pop your hard-earned cash into an envelope that's stamped and addressed to me (address at end of column), and I'll send your catalog winging it's way toward you. (This is how I get-paid for doing this column, George!)

Well, I guess that about wraps it up for this, my first installment in **CHRONICLE**. Again, if you have any requests, information, questions, or gripes about fanzines, let me know about it.

GORDON BAILEY'S  
FANDOM NEWSSTAND  
5613 OAKMONT  
FT. WORTH TEXAS  
76112



HE HAD BEEN CAREFULLY PICKED FROM DROVES OF OTHERS FOR THIS PROJECT--IT WAS DETERMINED THAT HE COULD BEST BE ENTRUSTED TO CARRY OUT THE TASK BEFORE HIM--ONLY HE COULD PERFORM THE DUTY THAT WAS TO DRASTICLY CHANGE THE FUTURE OF MAN--YES, THIS WAS MAN'S CHOSEN SON-- THE ONLY SON, WHO COULD FOLLOW THESE ORDERS TO THE TEE-- THE ONLY ONE WHO COULD GIVE HIS LIFE AWAY TO THE GREAT CAUSE, IF NEED BE---

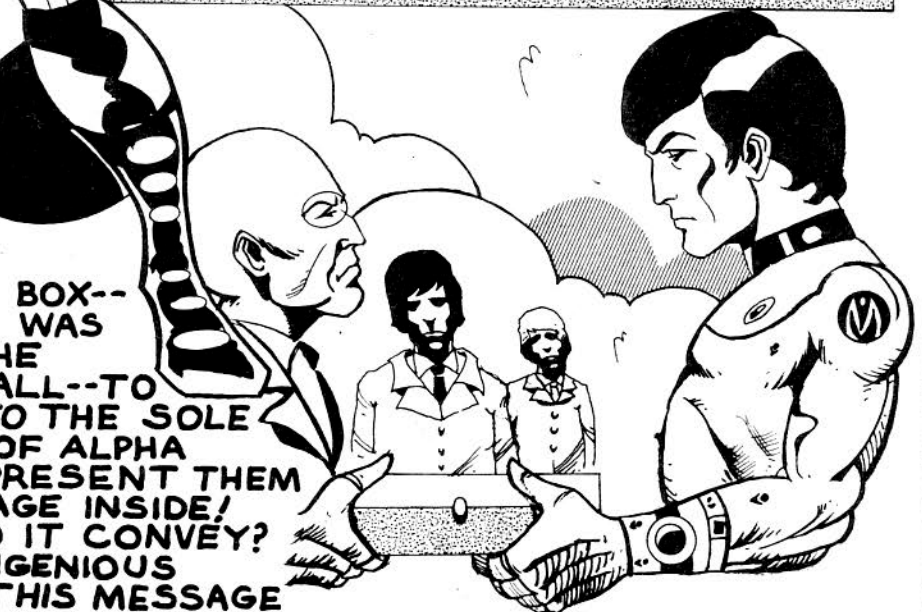
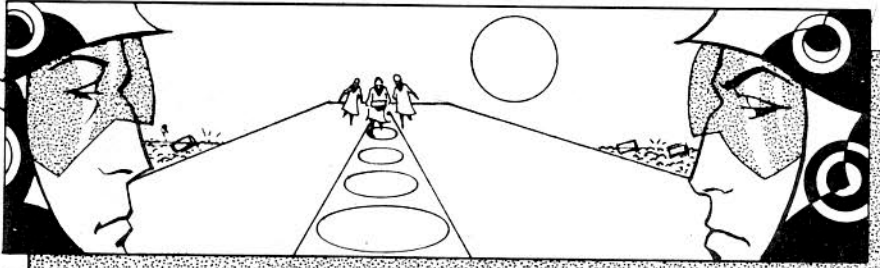
Jim Wisniewski 6-73



HIS PURPOSE? GO TO THE STARS!--BRING MAN'S CULTURE TO THE COSMOS-- YES, TODAY WAS THE DAY THAT MANKIND WOULD PUSH BEYOND THE THROES OF HIS AMEOBIC SOLAR SYSTEM, AND BECOME ONE WITH THE GLISTENING, BECKONING, UNIVERSE BEYOND!



NOW, AS HE STOOD UPON THE HUGE LAUNCHING PLATFORM, HE WATCHED THE GROUP OF SCIENTISTS WALK TOWARDS HIM WITH-- THE BOX---



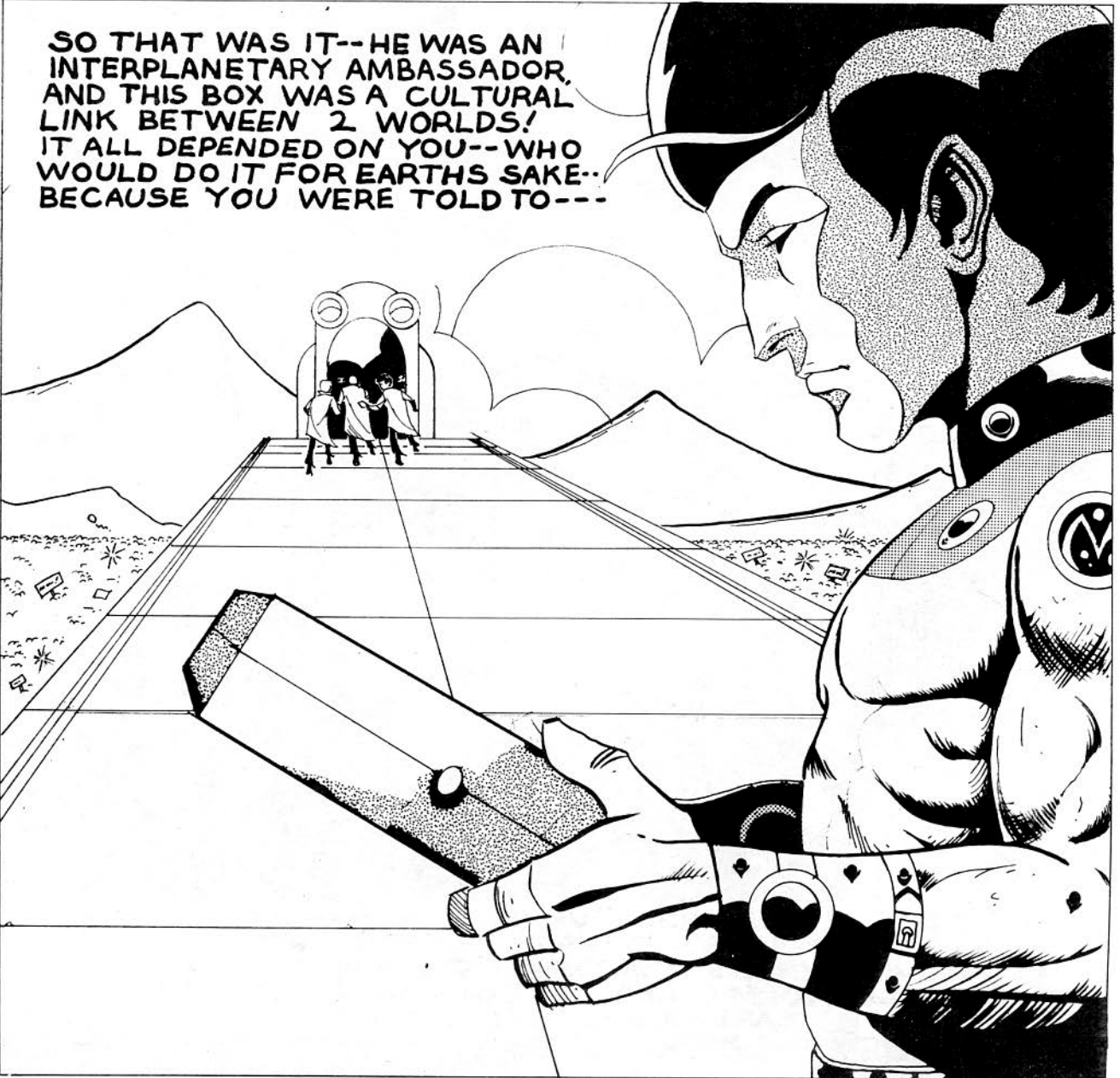
THE BOX--  
THIS WAS  
THE

REASON FOR IT ALL--TO  
TAKE THIS BOX TO THE SOLE  
INTELLEGENCES OF ALPHA  
CENTAURI, AND PRESENT THEM  
WITH THE MESSAGE INSIDE!  
BUT WHAT COULD IT CONVEY?  
WHAT SORT OF INGENIOUS  
WORDS COULD THIS MESSAGE  
SAY TO AN ALIEN CULTURE? TO TELL  
THEM AT A GLANCE THAT WE WERE  
A HIGHLY CULTURED RACE?

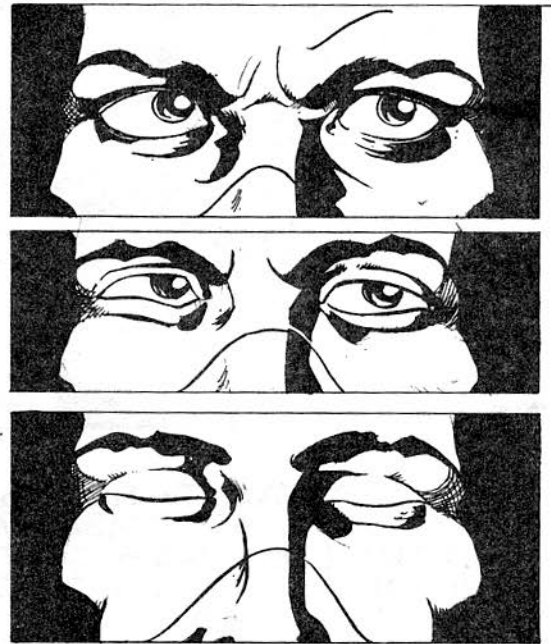
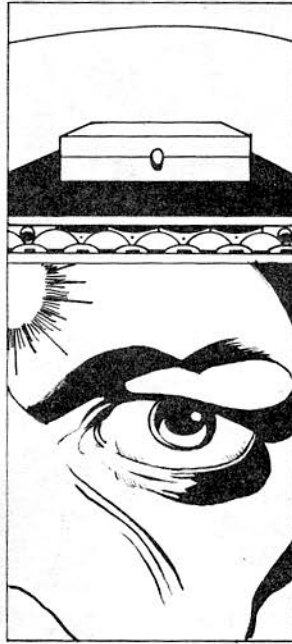
**THIS BOX IS TO BE OPENED UPON YOUR ARRIVAL ON KRYLON, 60 YEARS HENCE BY THE LEADERS OF THAT WORLD-- AND REMEMBER-- TWO WORLDS ARE DEPENDING ON YOUR SUCCESS!**



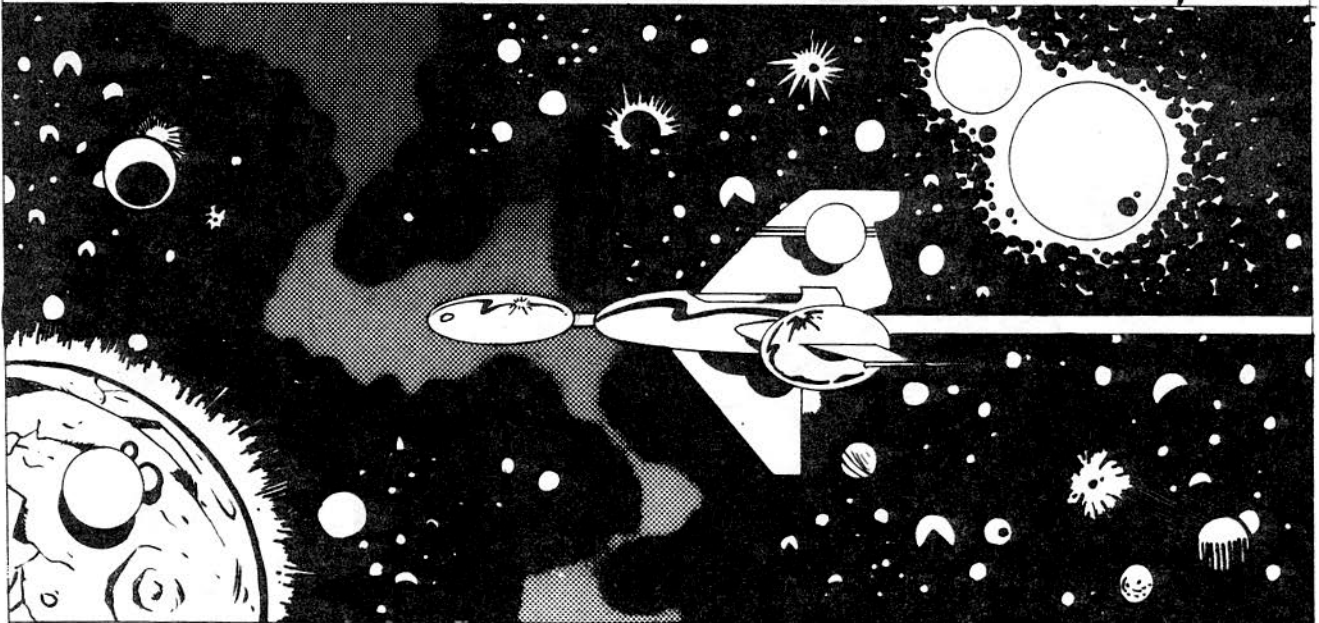
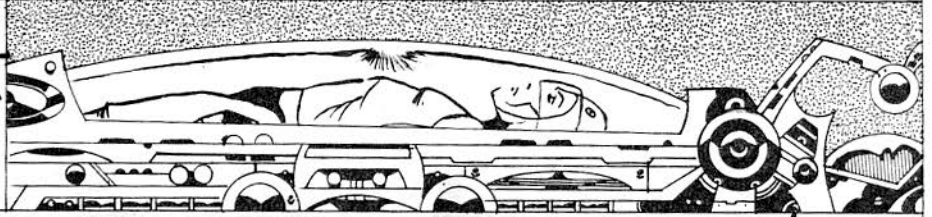
**SO THAT WAS IT--HE WAS AN INTERPLANETARY AMBASSADOR, AND THIS BOX WAS A CULTURAL LINK BETWEEN 2 WORLDS! IT ALL DEPENDED ON YOU--WHO WOULD DO IT FOR EARTHS SAKE-- BECAUSE YOU WERE TOLD TO---**



AND NOW, FIRMLY SECURED IN YOUR SUSPENDED ANIMATION UNIT, YOUR EVER-HEAVYING EYES FOCUS UPON THE METAL BOX-- AND YOU CANT HELP BUT WONDER HOW THIS TINY RECEPTACLE CAN MEAN SO MUCH TO EARTH. HOW COULD THE SUM TOTAL OF ANY CULTURE BE STUFFED INTO AN AREA SO SMALL? HOW, YOU ASK, AS YOU SLOWLY DRIFT INTO YOUR SIXTY-YEAR SLUMBER---

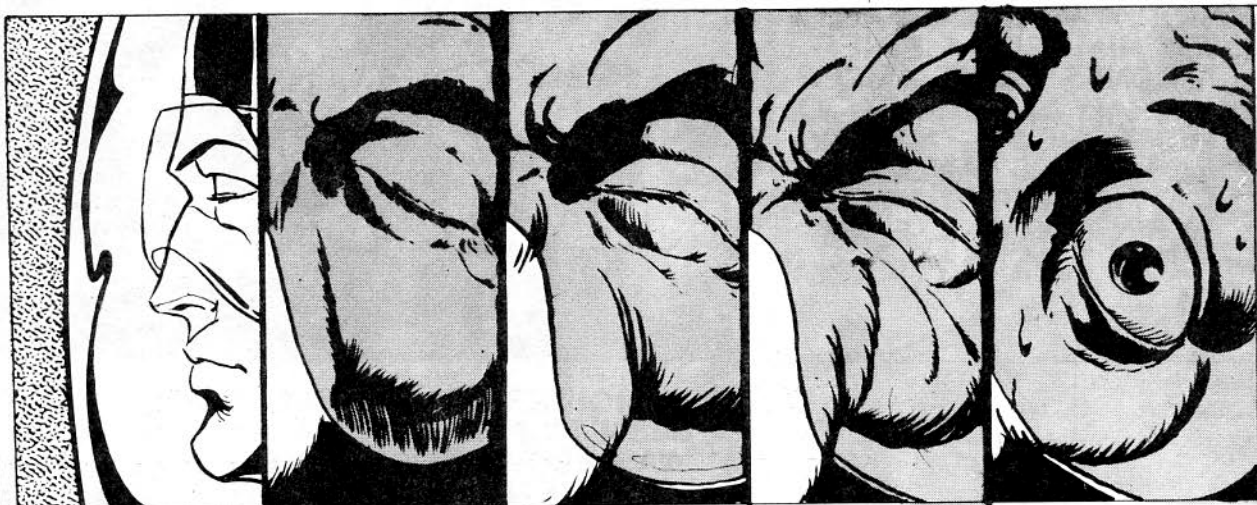


AND YOU SLEEP THE SLEEP OF A PRODIGAL SON AS THE YEARS PASS FOR ALL BUT YOU--



OUTSIDE, THE UNIVERSE TURNED--ALL WAS AS IT SHOULD BE, YEA ALL WAS AS IT HAD EVER BEEN FOR THE PAST BILLIONENIUMS-- SAVE ONE SMALL INSIGNIFICANT DOT IN THIS MACROCOSMIC SEA-- A MAN WAS AWAKENING-- EARTH'S ONLY BEGOTTEN SON---

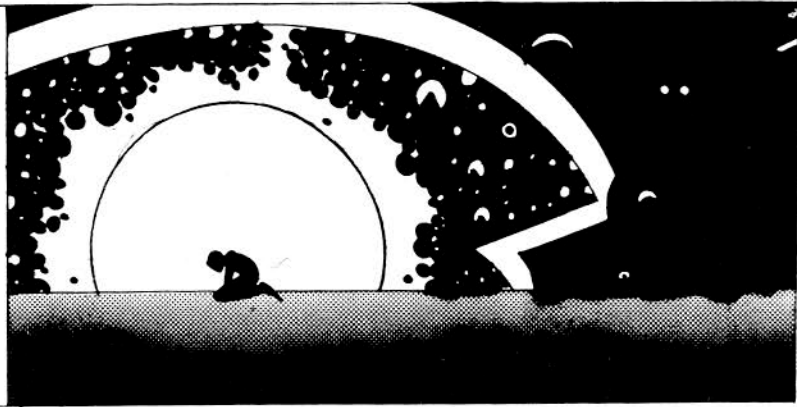




BLOOD RUSHED THROUGH AWAKENING VEINS, LUNGS HEAVED, AND FINALLY EYES SAW-- AND IMMEDIATELY HE KNEW THAT SOMETHING, SOMEWHERE, HAD GONE WRONG! YES, SOMETHING HAD FAILED, THEREBY CAUSING HIM TO AWAKEN OVER TWENTY YEARS TOO EARLY!



FOR A WHILE, HE ALLOWED HIMSELF A BRIEF MADNESS--BUT AFTER HE HAD SCREAMED TILL HIS LUNGS COULD NO LONGER STAND IT, HE LAY IN FRONT OF THE MAIN PORTAL FOR DAYS---



SUICIDE? NEVER. THATS WHY HE HAD BEEN PICKED FOR THIS MISSION. HE WAS ABOVE THAT--THER WERE HOPEFULLY ENOUGH FOOD CAPSULES TO GET HIM THRU THIS MISSION--

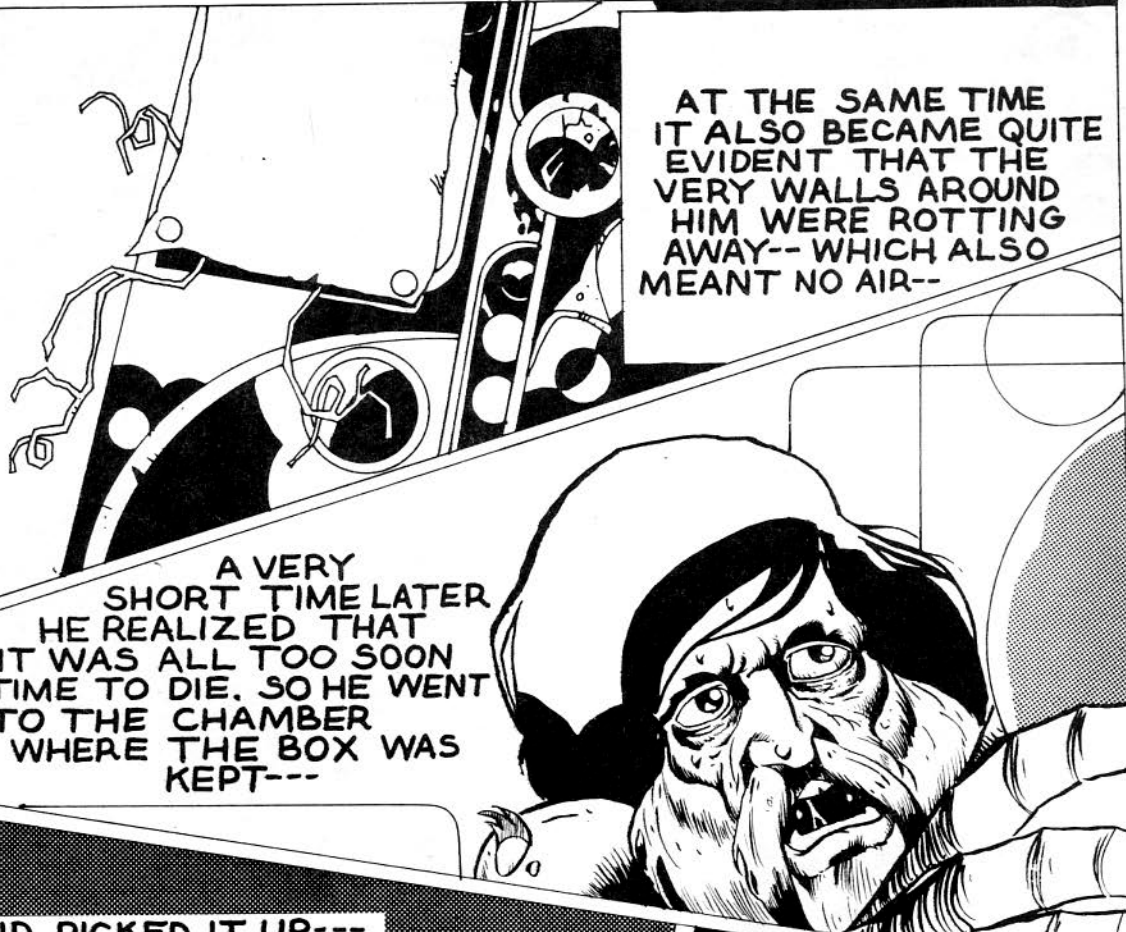


AS THE YEARS WENT BY HE DEVOTED ALL HIS ATTENTION TO THE BOX--SWEARING TO HIMSELF THAT EARTH CULTURE WOULD GET TO KRYLON! THAT IS, UNTIL--



--HE RAN OUT OF FOOD CAPSULES!





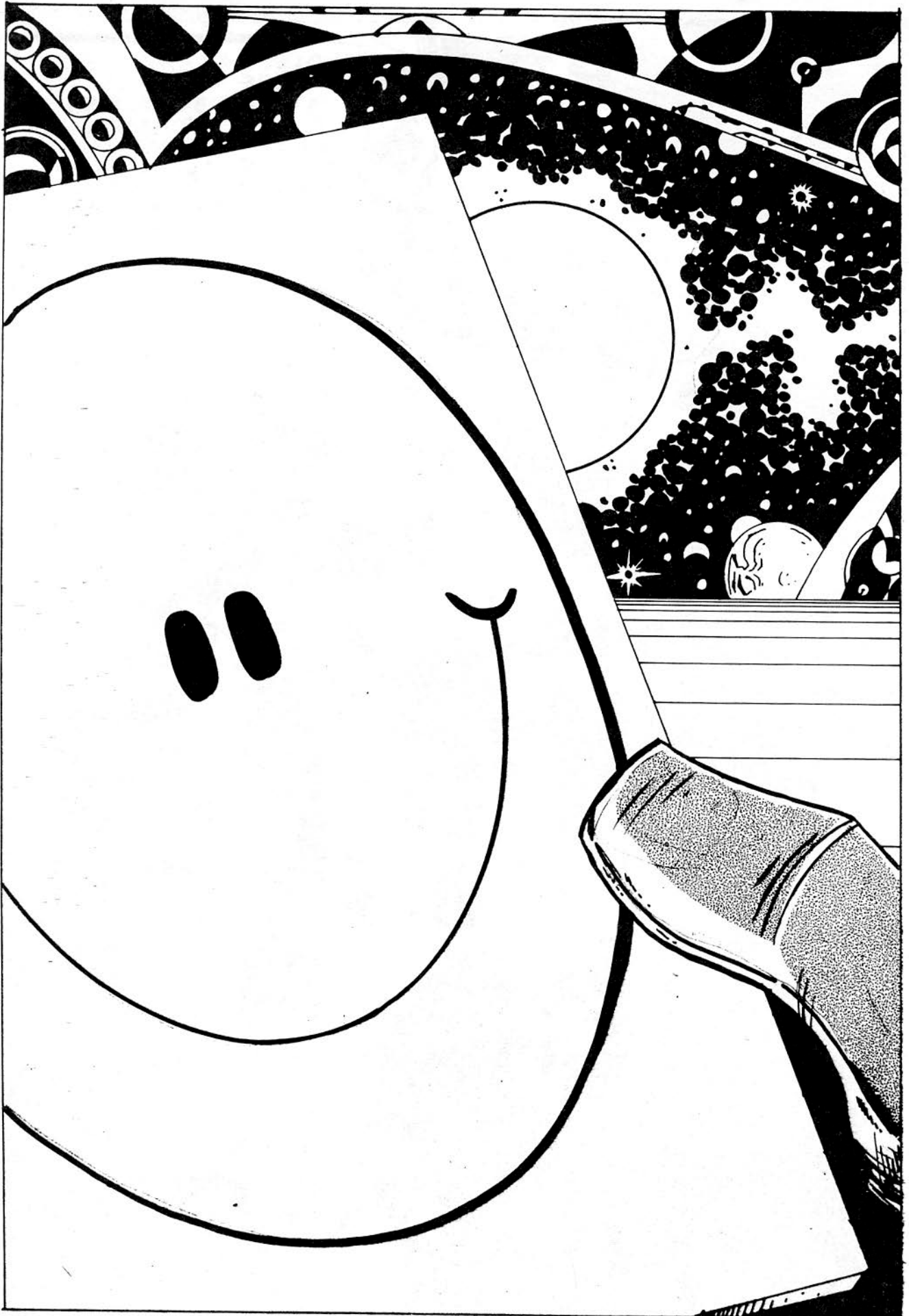
AT THE SAME TIME  
IT ALSO BECAME QUITE  
EVIDENT THAT THE  
VERY WALLS AROUND  
HIM WERE ROTTING  
AWAY-- WHICH ALSO  
MEANT NO AIR--

A VERY  
SHORT TIME LATER  
HE REALIZED THAT  
IT WAS ALL TOO SOON  
TIME TO DIE. SO HE WENT  
TO THE CHAMBER  
WHERE THE BOX WAS  
KEPT---

--AND PICKED IT UP--

--AND FINALLY SAW  
THE TOTAL SUM-  
MATION OF EARTH'S  
CULTURE--

OPENED IT---





In the past few months DC has revamped a number of it's line. Some formats were changed completely, while others were altered only slightly from their previous features. This time around, I'd like to dissect some of these new formats.

ADVENTURE - Adventure is one of DC's oldest books. After featuring a variety of characters in the forties, Superboy took over as lead feature in #103. The next most outstanding format change was when the Legion of Super-heroes (more on them later) became a regular feature and soon took over the lead spot. After reigning there for around 80 issues, the Legion was unexpectedly ousted when Supergirl took over Adventure in #381. (An interesting side note--it was my impression, when Supergirl first took over Adventure, that they were doing it in order to do booklength Supergirl adventures and develop her more fully. But, after three issues of full length adventures, they reverted to 2 or 3 Supergirl stories per issue, so I really couldn't see any reason for her taking over Adventure in the first place.)

However, Supergirl must have a lot of followers, because in November of 1972, Supergirl was awarded her own book while Adventure made it's most recent and most drastic change. Adventure #425 started that comic's "return to the Golden Age". This issue of Adventure comics didn't resemble any Adventure comic of the past 20 years or so. For the first time in a couple of decades, there wasn't a super-hero in sight on the cover or on the interior of the book. With this issue, Adventure Comics had reverted to it's original format; stories of straight adventure with no restrictions to any particular genre.

Thus, in this first issue of the format change, we have a story about a winged horse, a sword and sorcery saga, and a tale about pirates. The next issue featured a continuation of the pirate adventure, introduced a new series entitled "The Adventurer's Club". In addition, the super-hero re-entered the scene in the form of the Vigilante. In the next issue the features remained the same.



In issue #428 Adventure Comics premiered the Black Orchid, a mystery character that no one (including the readers) knows her true identity. The basic premise is good and is heightened by the fact Sheldon Mayer writes the tales as though she is the only super-hero in the world; giving no acknowledgement that any other superpowered beings exist, including DC's own.

I don't know how long they can do stories using this same theme, but it's a lot better than the Rose and Thorn's and she seems to have lasted quite awhile.

My general opinions on this new format? I think it's terrific! DC has needed a book like this ever since they dropped Showcase back in 1970. It gives them a chance to experiment with new concepts and characters along with trying



their hand at reviving a couple of their old characters. I'm anxiously awaiting the new Spectre stories and am sorry that the new Deadman tryout fell through. I do hope DC will give some of their other old, discontinued characters a chance, such as Hawkman (with his wife), Aquaman, The Atom, Adam Strange, etc.

DETECTIVE COMICS - This title, even older than Adventure, has had it's revamping by putting Archie Goodwin in the editorial saddle. I've long respected Archie Goodwin's writing talents; and, if the first issue of Detective (#437) that he edited is any indication, I'm hoping he has a long stay on that book. Archie Goodwin has performed miracles! He has turned a slowly stagnating book into one we can all look forward to again! To start off with, he got Jim Aparo to give us doing Phantom Stranger long enough to churn out another bi-monthly book featuring Batman. And, Aparo was made for the Batman. When I got this issue, I got a thought that probably crossed a countless number of other fans minds--"Why didn't Shwartz try to get Aparo in his Batman titles?" Aparo is second only to Neal Adams as an illustrator on Batman. Jim is the only one who could replace Adams on a Deadman novel and get away with it. (And if you don't think so, look at B & B #104 again.)

If Jim Aparo is second only to Neal Adams, then I'm sure with a little more practice, Archie Goodwin can surpass even Denny O'Neil in chronicling the Batman's adventures. The only thing I disliked about Goodwin's story was his giving Bruce Wayne a Clark Kent cowardly type trait.

The Batman story shows only half of Archie Goodwin's excellence as an editor. The second half is the excellent new back-up feature he started with this issue. The Manhunter series which is also written by Goodwin featured artwork by recently turned pro artist Walt Simonson. The featurette in this issue has to be one of, if not the, best short story I have ever read. Even most of the best executed stories are predictable to a certain extent to anyone who has read comics for any great length of time. This story though, kept me guessing all the way.

Although there was only been one issue of Detective by Goodwin so far, I feel that it is going to become one of the best books on the market today. I can hardly wait to see what Goodwin's going to do with Detective when it goes to it's 100 page Super-Spectacular format. Keep it up Archie!



PHANTOM STRANGER - Well, when Aparo went over to Detective, some other book had to suffer, and this one really did! With this issue, the staff on this book succeeded in regressing the Phantom Stranger back to a narrator of horror stories with a bit part in the story itself. I always looked upon the Phantom Stranger as National's reply to Doctor Strange; and a rather good reply at that. But with this issue, all of that has been thrown away.

Not only was the Phantom Stranger saga ruined, but they also spoiled the Spawn of Frankenstein strip that was doing so well. Bernard Bailey should never be put on a strip in today's period--his art is awful. Bernard Bailey is one of the few (thank goodness) Golden Age artists that hasn't improved since the forties. He makes Frankenstein look like a green monkey! DC had better work on saving Phantom Stranger immediately or there won't be a book left to save!

The last two titles I want to cover quickly (this article is late enough as it is!) and these are both Boltinoff edited.



WORLD'S FINEST - Since Murray Boltinoff has taken over World's Finest, that book has reached depths ever the Submariner hasn't reached! The sons of Superman and Batman--how hokey can you get? Series like these have no future in the sophisticated market of today.

In trying to handle World's Finest differently than it's previous editor, Julie Schwartz (and there was nothing wrong with the comic then!), Boltinoff has de-evolutionized it to the imaginary stories of a decade ago. If it gets any worse, I'll refuse to buy it even to keep from breaking up a run.

SUPERBOY, STARRING THE LEGION OF SUPER-HEROES - I won't say much about this comic since I'm going to delve into the Legion in depth in a near future issue of the Legion Outpost. But I will say I don't understand how someone who edits such an atrocity as World's Finest could also be responsible for something as nice as this. The only way this book could be improved is if they would get a better writer. At best, the Legion is finally realizing at least some of it's limitless potential. If you haven't picked up a copy, you're really missing a treat.

But as I said, I won't say much about it now. To see an in-depth article on it, pick up the Legion Outpost, a high quality fanzine devoted to this unique group.

It's time to wrap it up for this issue because, if I don't get this to editor George, you won't see it. As always, any comments pro or con on the subjects covered are welcome; mail them to the address below.

Roger Slifer  
Box 105  
Morristown, Indiana 46161

Legion Outpost-60¢ per copy from:  
Larry Broertjes  
3516 Longview Avenue  
Bloomington, Indiana 47401

**A**FTER DRIVING FOR MILES TED AND LINDA HAD FINALLY FOUND A SECLUDED PLACE FOR THEIR PICNIC. THE AIR WAS HOT WITH SUMMER AND THE RIVER BARLEY MOVED. THEY WERE FINALLY ALONE SURROUNDED BY BEAUTY AND PEACEFULNESS.



IN THE PEACEFULNESS OF THEIR PICNIC A HORRIFYING CRY ECHOED ACROSS THE RIVER.





THEY RAN IN HORROR - A MONSTER FROM THE MUD! SOMETHING OUT OF A NIGHTMARE ROSE FROM THE DEPTHS OF THE RIVER!

FROM UNDER THE MASS OF MUD AND SLIME ANOTHER SOUND EMERGED, THAT OF LAUGHTER!

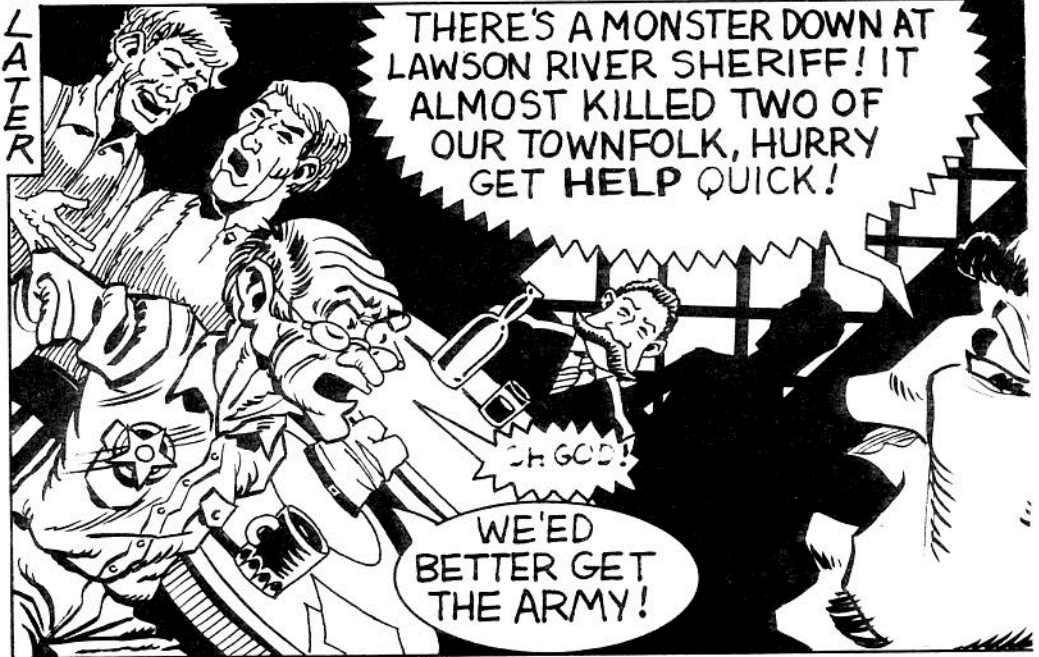




LAUGHTER FROM A MONSTER, WHAT KIND OF A NIGHTMARE IS THIS?



L  
A  
T  
E  
R

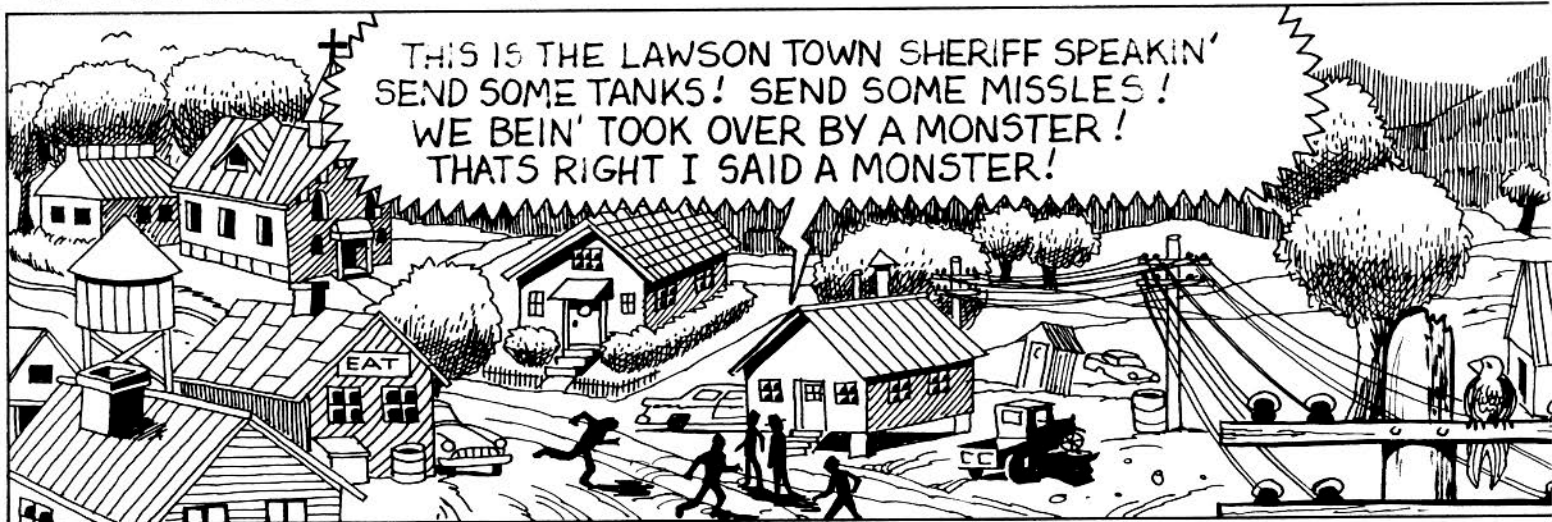


THERE'S A MONSTER DOWN AT LAWSON RIVER SHERIFF! IT ALMOST KILLED TWO OF OUR TOWNFOLK, HURRY GET HELP QUICK!

OH GOD!

WE'D BETTER GET THE ARMY!

THE SLEEPY TOWN OF LAWSON COMES ALIVE AND THE PANIC SPREADS LIKE WILDFIRE, THIS PEACEFUL DAY HAD STARTED LIKE ANY OTHER BUT NOW PEOPLE WERE WONDERING JUST HOW IT WOULD END.



THIS IS THE LAWSON TOWN SHERIFF SPEAKIN' SEND SOME TANKS! SEND SOME MISSILES! WE BEIN' TOOK OVER BY A MONSTER! THATS RIGHT I SAID A MONSTER!

THE RUMORS AND THE TERROR MULITIPLIED AS THE NEWS REACHED THE CITY... BUT HERE THE MONSTER SEEMED REMOTE AND THE MONSTER A JCKE!



NEWS ITEM A REPORTED ER... "MONSTER" HAS BEEN SEEN NEAR LAWSON IT MAY BE VERY DANGEROUS...



ANYONE LIVING NEAR THE TOWN OF LAWSON SHOULD STAY INSIDE UNTIL FURTHERNOTICE.

ONCE MORE LAUGHTER  
ECHOES ACROSS THE RIVER.

HO HO HEE HA HA



YES SIR YOU DONE A FINE JOB  
BOY... YOU DONE GOOD. TOMORRIE  
WE HIT DAT BANK EARLY  
SOES YOU BEST HIT THE  
SACK NOW!



LISTEN I THINK  
WE GOT TO SCARE  
SOME OTHER TOWN-  
FOLK GRAMPS!

WHAT  
FUR?



TO MAKE SURE,  
I DON'T WANT NUTHIN'  
TO GO WRONG COME  
TOMORROW!



I KNOW THE  
PERSON WE GOIN' TO  
SCARE TO... OL' MISS  
WILLOWBEES!



WHY THE HELL YOU  
WANT TA SCARE HER?  
THE SHOCK PROBLY'LL  
KILL HER!

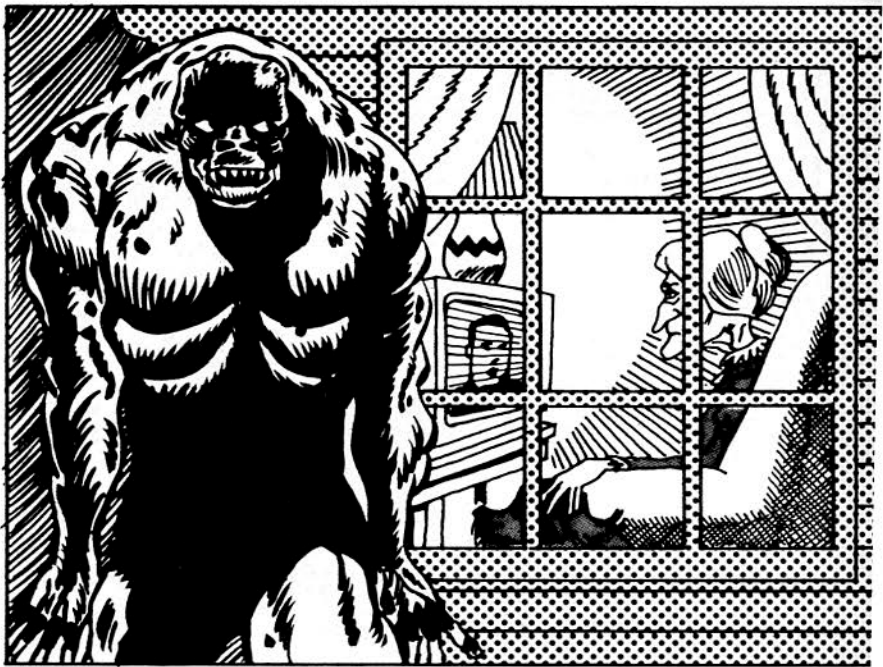
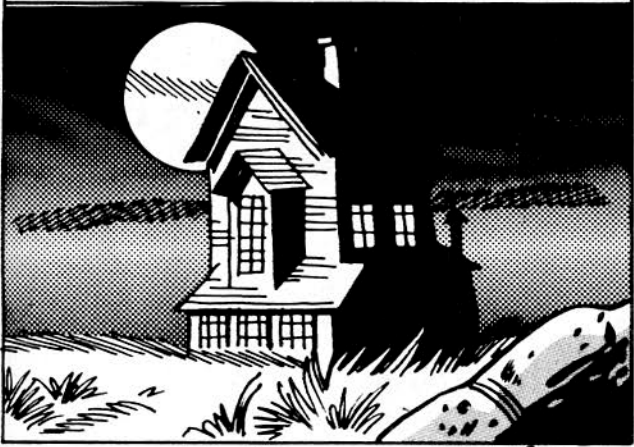


JUST ZIP UP THE  
BACK OF THIS SUIT  
AND SHUT-UP!

NUTHIN'  
BETTER NOT  
GO WRONG  
BOY!



THIS SO CALLED MONSTER  
CAME TO BE IN A GREEDY  
BANK ROBBERY SCHEME...  
NOW THE MONSTER SEEMS TO HAVE  
ANOTHER PLAN OF HIS OWN.



MOMENTS LATER



WHAT YOU DO TA MISS WILLOWBEES, YOU SURE YOU DIDN'T KILL HER?

YEA SHE JUST FAINTED!

BACK AT THE CABIN



YOU KNOW A STUNT LIKE THAT COULD HAVE RUNNED OUR WHOLE PLAN BOY?

WHY THE HELL YOU DO IT ANYWAY BOY?



THAT OL' BAG CALLED ME STUPID, I AINT GOIN' TA TAKE THAT FROM NOBODY... THAT'S WHY!

**W**ITH THE RISING OF THE MORNING SUN PEOPLE WERE RUNNING, NOT AWAY IN FEAR BUT TO THE TOWN OF LAWSON IN MORBID CURIOSITY. SUDDENLY LAWSON'S BUSINESS PROSPERED AND EVERYTHING SEEMED TO BE GOING AS PLANNED. THE BANK OF LAWSON HAD NEVER HELD SO MUCH MONEY.



THOUSANDS CAME FROM THE CITY TO SEE THE FAMOUS MUD MONSTER...



THE TIME HAD COME... IN A FEW SHORT MINUTES OUR FRIENDS WILL BE RICH!

PANI

HURRY UP... LETS GET GOIN' IM NERVOUS!



SUDDENLY WITHOUT WARNING

EVERYBODY RUN FOR YOUR LIVES!



HURRY UP!  
GRAB THE MONEY  
POP, WE DONE  
IT, HEE HEE!

SHUT UP  
BOY LOOK  
OUTSIDE, SEE  
IF EVERYTHINS  
OK!



OH NO, SUMPHTIN GONE  
WRONG... I THOUGHT THEY'D  
RUN FOR THEIR LIVES. THEY'RE  
TAKIN' MY PICTURE!



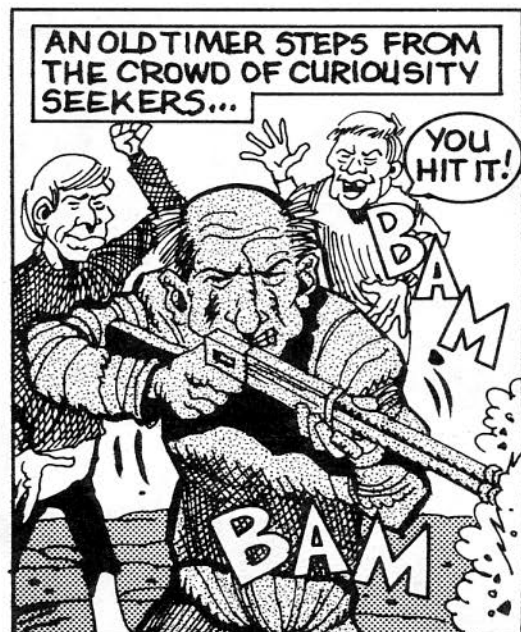
WHAT WE GUNNA  
DO NOW?  
WE GOTTA GET  
OUTTA HERE!

QUICK THE  
BACK DOOR!



SUDDENLY SOMEONE SEES THEM  
MAKING THEIR ESCAPE...

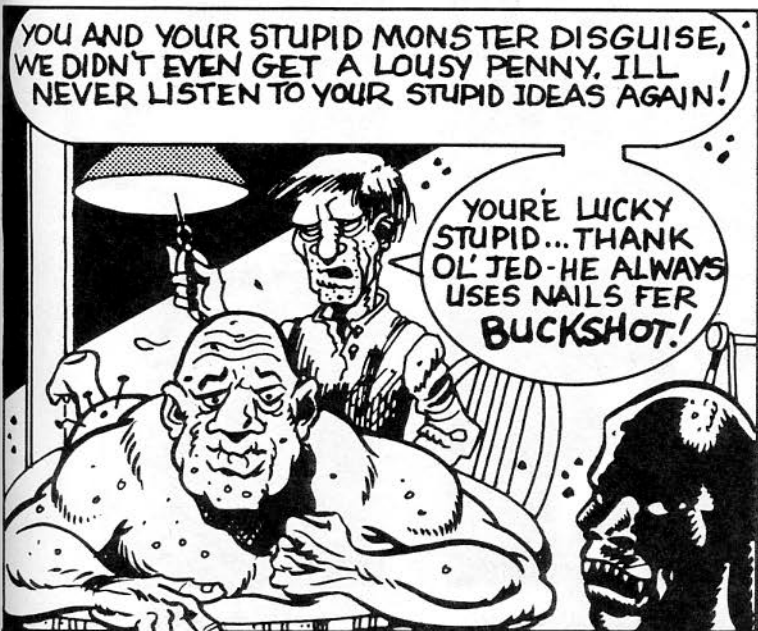
LOOK  
THERE IT  
GOES!



AN OLD TIMER STEPS FROM  
THE CROWD OF CURIOSITY  
SEEKERS...

YOU  
HIT IT!

BAM



YOU AND YOUR STUPID MONSTER DISGUISE,  
WE DIDN'T EVEN GET A LOUSY PENNY, I'LL  
NEVER LISTEN TO YOUR STUPID IDEAS AGAIN!

YOU'RE LUCKY  
STUPID... THANK  
OL' JED- HE ALWAYS  
USES NAILS FER  
BUCKSHOT!



IT'S THE STRANGEST THING  
I EVER SEED, OL' JED BUCKY  
HIT IT WITH A LOAD OF BUCK-  
SHOT AND IT RAN LIKE A  
WOUNDED RABBIT RIGHT  
BACK IN THE RIVER,  
HEE HEE!

ANOTHER  
REPORT FROM  
AN EYE WITNESS  
AT THE SIGHT  
OF THE MUD  
MONSTER, WELL  
REPORT AGAIN  
AS THE NEWS  
COMES IN!

End



DAVE COCKRUM



MING "THE WINNER"



CHUCK PIALA (FVP)



YOURS TRULY & C.C. BECK



MICHAEL KALUTA



HEIDI (VAMPI) SAHA



TOM WIMBISH (FAN ARTIST)



MARIE SEVERIN



GIL KANE



KEITH GAMBLE (MATINEE HOUSE)



CHUCK DIXON (FAN ARTIST)



JOHN ROMITA



BARRY SMITH



GARY RICKER (ALL TIME/ALL TIME)



SANDY PLUNKETT (FAN ARTIST)



DON MCGREGOR & STEVE GERBER  
(MARVEL OFFICE)



JEPP JONES



LINDA LESSMAN (MARVEL STAFF)



TIM ALLEN (FAN ARTIST)

# PROLOGUE:

THE **ARTURIAN PLEASURE-PLANET**, WHERE MEN - AND BEINGS NOT REMOTELY LIKE MEN - CAN MEET IN PEACE TO CLENS AWAY THE PAIN OF SPACE, TO FORGET IN BOISTROUS RIBALDRY THE HARDSHIPS OF THEIR LONELY OFF-PLANET LIVES! TO THIS PLACE COMES ONE WHO KNOWS NOT OF THE PLEASURES OF THE FLESH! ONE WHOSE HEART IS AS FLINT, AND WHOSE BODY AS UNBENDING AS THE MACHINES IT MOST RESEMBLES! HERE, ON THIS OF ALL WORLDS, HE SEEKS NOT WINE, NOR SONGS, NOR THE TOUCH OF WOMAN! HE SEEKS ONLY INFORMATION!



An extract from the **GIDEON CHRONICLES** as compiled and reported by **JORJ & JONN**

DULL-ORANGE "EYES" GLEAM IN THE DIM CONFINES OF A CHEAP SPACE-PORT TAVERN AS

INNKEEP! I SEEK ONE CALLED MATOUMIN! I WAS INFORMED I MIGHT FIND HIM HERE!

WHA...? OH...ER... YES, SOR! HE... HE BE HERE A'RIGHT!

YONDER HE SETS, M'LORD, NURSING STILL A DRINK HE SHOULD HA' BIN DONE WY' AN HOUR AND MORE AGO!



YOU, MATOUMIN! I HAVE 5000 CREDITS TO PAY ANYONE WHO WILL LEAD ME TO THE LAIR OF YOUR FORMER EMPLOYERS - THE BROTHERS ALTOS!

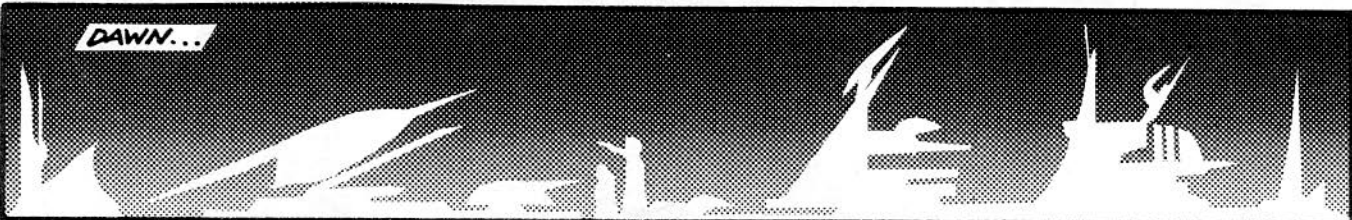


TO REVENGE MYSELF FOR THEIR DISCOURTEOUS DISMISAL WOULD BE PAYMENT ENOUGH, EFFENDI! BUT... BY WHAT TITLE SHALL YOU BE NAMED?

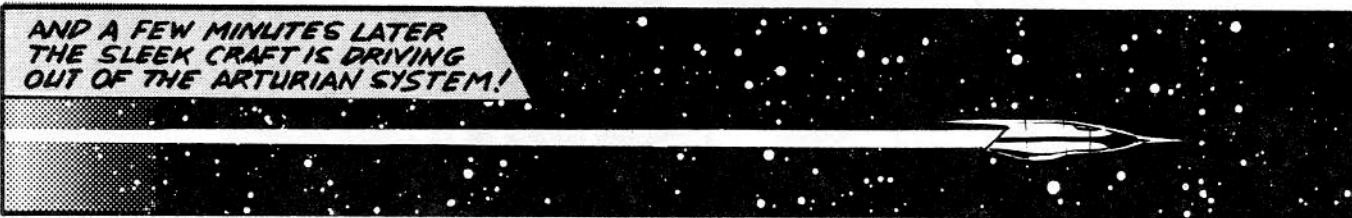


I AM CALLED GIDEON!

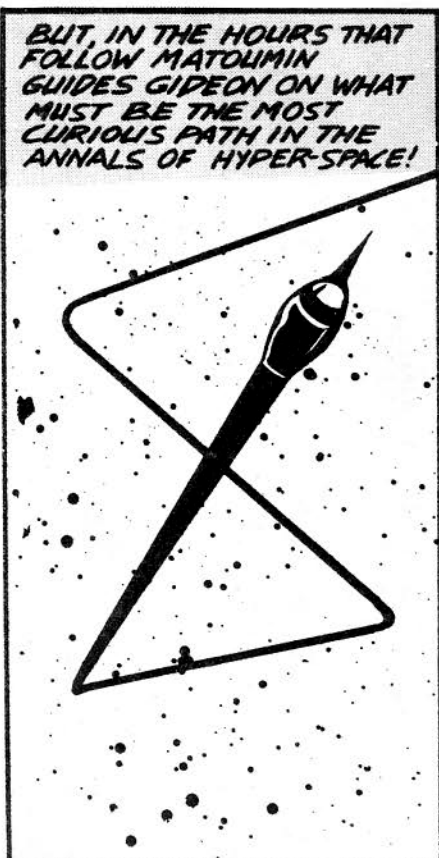
DAWN...



AND A FEW MINUTES LATER THE SLEEK CRAFT IS DRIVING OUT OF THE ARTURIAN SYSTEM!



BUT, IN THE HOURS THAT FOLLOW MATOUMIN GUIDES GIDEON ON WHAT MUST BE THE MOST CURIOUS PATH IN THE ANNALS OF HYPER-SPACE!



HOW MUCH LONGER MATOUMIN? I WEARY OF THE CIRCUITOUS ROUTE YOU HAVE ME FOLLOWING...



NO LONGER AT ALL, EFFENDI!

BEHOLD!







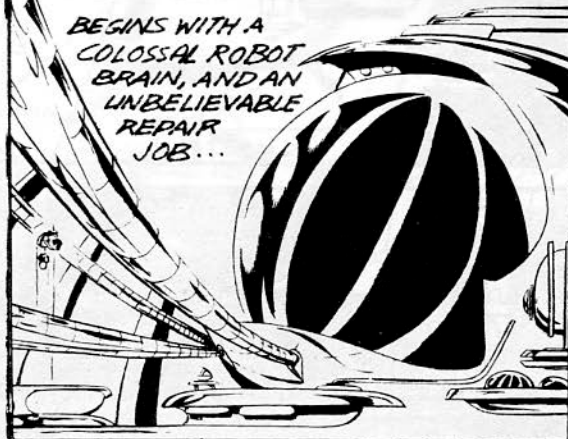
THEY TELL MANY STRANGE TALES, THOSE LONELY MEN WHO ROAM THE DISTANT SPACEWAYS! ON COLD, LOST WORLDS AT THE EDGE OF THE UNIVERSE, OR WHEN STAR-MEN CLUSTER WITHIN THE FRIGID HULLS OF DEEP-SPACE STATIONS HANGING IN SOMBRE SILENCE BEYOND THE WARM EMBRACE OF THE NEAR STARS. YES, THEY TELL MANY TALES THOSE MEN, BUT NONE IS SO OFT REPEATED AS THE ONE BEGINNING ON A SMALL, PEACEFUL PLANETOID ON THE RIM OF THE GALAXY - THE ONE BEGINNING WITH THREE SHIPS AND AN ACT OF UNEQUALED SAVAGERY!



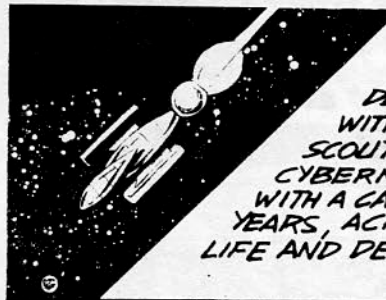
A SHATTERING INSTANT, AND A WORLD DIES! LIKE SCAVENGERS THE DESTROYERS FALL UPON THEIR PREY! BUT, LIKE SCAVENGERS, THEY FLEE BEFORE STRENGTH; STRENGTH IN THE MASSIVE SHAPE OF A MYSTERIOUS GIANT, A SHIP OF UNKNOWN ORIGIN WHICH LAUNCHES FOUR DRONES...



THE TALES TELL OF ODD ROBOTIC PROBES DISPATCHED BY THOSE DRONES; OF HOURS OF CURIOUS QUESTING; OF FRUITLESS SEARCH, UNTIL ONE SHARP CYBERNETIC EYE DISCERNS A MOVEMENT IN THE SHATTERED HUSK OF A BUILDING - AND A LEGEND BEGINS...



BEGINS WITH A COLOSSAL ROBOT BRAIN, AND AN UNBELIEVABLE REPAIR JOB...



A REPAIR JOB ON A LIVING BEING! BEGINS TWENTY YEARS AFTER THE DEATH OF THAT SMALL WORLD, WITH THE PASSING OF A TINY SCOUT SENT OUT BY THAT UNIQUE CYBERNETIC CIVILIZATION, AND WITH A CALL FROM ACROSS THE YEARS, ACROSS THE GULF BETWEEN LIFE AND DEATH, SUMMONING...



SUMMONING A CREATURE BORN OUT OF HOLOCAUST. A DESTROYED HUMAN BEING REBUILT BY ROBOTIC INGENUITY! A CREATURE NEITHER MAN NOR MACHINE, BUT A HYBRID OF BOTH, POSSESSED OF MECHANICAL STRENGTH AND ENDURANCE, AND HUMAN DRIVES AND WILES. ALL BROUGHT TO TERRIBLE FRUITION BY THE SEARING AGONY OF A COLLECTED RACE - MEMORY, DRAWING HIM TO THE WORLD OF HIS ORIGIN, DRAWING HIM TO THREE INFORMATION CHIPS - TAPES THAT WOULD CHANGE THE COURSE OF GALACTIC HISTORY - AND BIRTH A LEGEND!

# GIDEON'S REVENGE::

## CHAPTER TWO: GEMINI

CAN A MECHANOID HEART  
BE CHILLED. A ROBOT BRAIN  
KNOW FEAR? IF THESE  
FEELINGS EXIST IN GIDEON  
HE DOES NOT ACKNOWLEDGE  
THEM AS UNERRINGLY HE  
PILOTS THE STAR-CLIPPER  
TOWARD THE MONSTROUS  
SWAMP HANGING IN OLYMPIAN  
SILENCE BEFORE HIM!

UNDER MATOLIMMY'S GUIDANCE  
GIDEON ANGERS FOR A LARGE  
AIRLOCK / HANGAR-BAY...

WHICH OPENS WITHOUT  
PROTEST TO ADMIT THEM!

AS THEY DISEMBARK, NATOLMIN EXPLAINS...

IT IS TO BE EXPECTED EFFENDI! THE STRUCTURE OF THIS STATION CORRESPONDS EXACTLY TO THE GREAT "SPHERE" OF HYPER-SPACE.

EACH POINT ON ITS SURFACE IS LIKE A NUMBER ON THE DIAL OF A HUGE SAFE.

THE COURSE I HAD YOU TO FOLLOW WAS AS DIALING THE CORRECT NUMBERS!



ABRUPTLY, GIDEON'S VOICE RINGS LIKE FALLING STEEL...



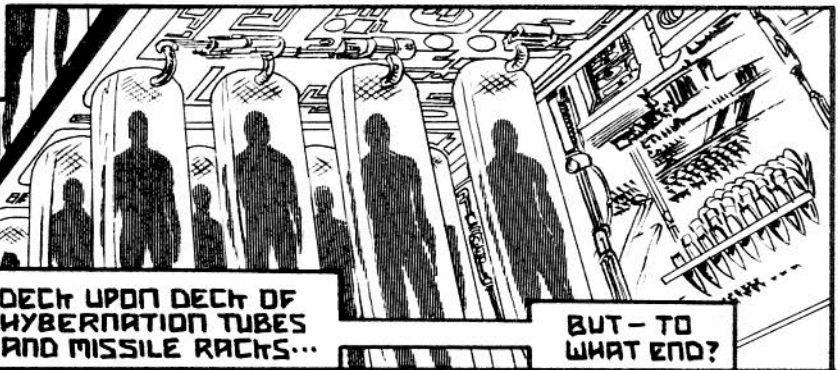
NEVER MIND THAT! LOOK AT THOSE SHIPS! I MUST INVESTIGATE!

AN OPEN HATCH PROVIDES INGRESS...

...AND AMAZEMENT!



GODS OF THE VOID!



DECK UPON DECK OF HYBERNATION TUBES AND MISSILE RACKS...

BUT - TO WHAT END?

SUDDENLY A JEERING VOICE ECHOS THRU THE SHIP...

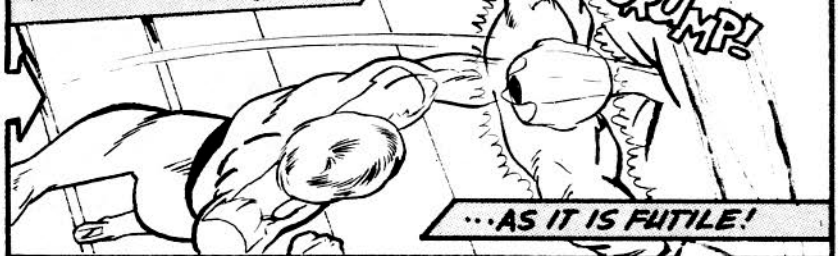


I WOULD ANSWER THAT QUESTION FOR YOU, CREATURE...

BUT IT WOULD BE A WASTE OF MY TIME AND YOURS...

... SINCE YOU WILL NOT LEAVE HERE TO REPORT WHAT YOU HAVE LEARNED!

GIDEON'S REACTION IS AS MUCH INSTINCTIVE...



CRUMP!

... AS IT IS FUTILE!



FOOLISH MACHINE! DID YOU HONESTLY THINK I WOULD EXPOSE MYSELF?

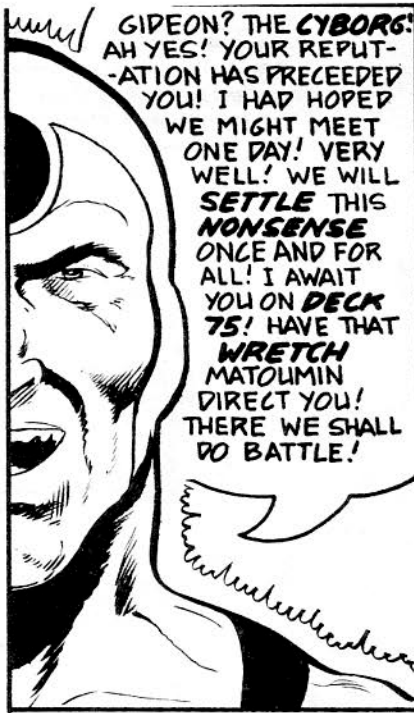
HOW TYPICAL THAT AN IGNORANT ANDROID SHOULD BE FOOLED BY A TRI-D PROJECTION!

COLD FIRE BURNS IN GIDEON'S MECHANOID HEART...



I AM NO ANDROID! AN ANDROID IS A MERE MACHINE!

I AM GIDEON!



GIDEON? THE CYBORG? AH YES! YOUR REPUTATION HAS PRECEDED YOU! I HAD HOPED WE MIGHT MEET ONE DAY! VERY WELL! WE WILL SETTLE THIS NONSENSE ONCE AND FOR ALL! I AWAIT YOU ON DECK 75! HAVE THAT WRETCH MATOUMIN DIRECT YOU! THERE WE SHALL DO BATTLE!

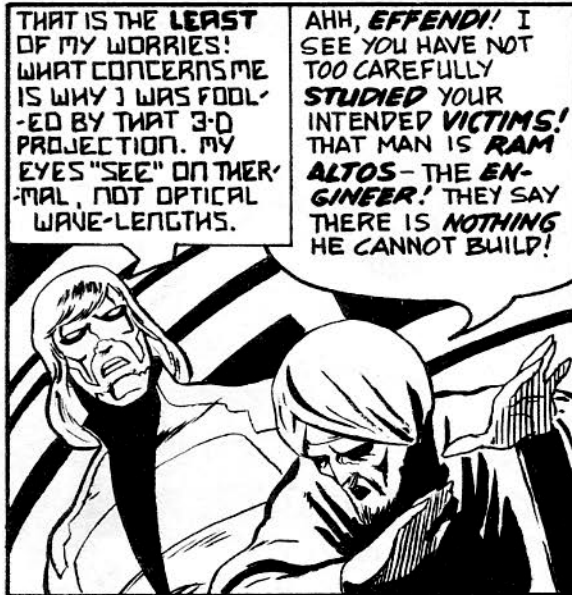


IF YOU SURVIVE TO GET THERE!



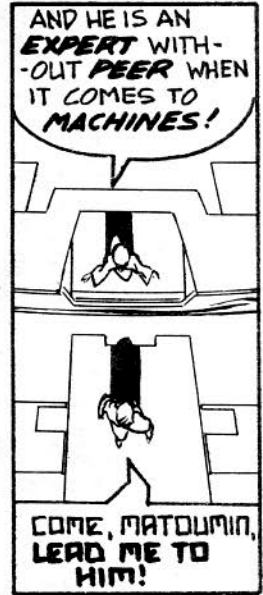
A VOICE LIKE DRY LEAVES RASPS THRU THE HULL...

DECK 75 IS BUT A FEW KILOMETERS FROM HERE EFFENDI - BUT IT LIES IN THE BEST FORTIFIED SECTION OF THIS WHOLE STRUCTURE!



THAT IS THE LEAST OF MY WORRIES! WHAT CONCERNS ME IS WHY I WAS FOOL-ED BY THAT 3-D PROJECTION. MY EYES "SEE" ON THER-MAL, NOT OPTICAL WAVE-LENGTHS.

AHH, EFFENDI! I SEE YOU HAVE NOT TOO CAREFULLY STUDIED YOUR INTENDED VICTIMS! THAT MAN IS RAM ALTOS - THE EN-GINEER! THEY SAY THERE IS NOTHING HE CANNOT BUILD!



AND HE IS AN EXPERT WITH-OUT PEER WHEN IT COMES TO MACHINES!

COME, MATOUMIN, LEAD ME TO HIM!



THUS, ONWARD INTO THE COMPLEX BOWELS OF THE GREAT SPHERE! BUT SCARCE HAVE THE TWO VENTURED MORE THAN A MILE, WHEN...

EFFENDI!



BUT GIDEON HAS LITTLE TIME TO PONDER THE FATE OF HIS NEW ALLY BEFORE...

GAS...

HIGHLY CORROSIVE GAS...!

PERHAPS---ONE CHANCE  
BEFORE THE GAS SEEPS  
THROUGH TO MY VITAL  
CIRCUITRY--

NO SOONER THOUGHT THAN ACTED  
UPON! BOOSTING THE SENSITIVITY  
OF HIS "EYES", GIDEON TRANSFORMS  
THE AREA TO A 3-D CIRCUIT-DIAGRAM!

IF MY THERMAL-VISION--  
SENSITIVE TO THE SLIGHT-  
EST VAGARIES OF  
TEMPERATURE-- CAN  
SEEK OUT THE CORE OF  
THIS TUNNEL-TRAP---

"THERE! THE CENTER OF  
GREATEST ACTIVITY IS  
ALMOST DIRECTLY ABOVE!"

I WORKING...WORKING. WHOLE  
BANKS ARE GOING DARK--  
BUT MY SENSORS ARE  
"MONITORING A BUILDING OVER-  
LOAD! THAT COULD CAUSE..."

EVEN BEFORE THE  
COMPUTER-QUICK MIND OF  
GIDEON CAN COMPLETE THE  
THOUGHT...

ABOVE THE NOISE,  
A JEERING VOICE...

ALL HELL  
BREAKS  
LOOSE!

VERY GOOD,  
MY FINE FOE!  
VERY GOOD!

NOW, QUICKLY!  
THIS WAY, AND WE  
SHALL CONTINUE  
OUR DISCUSSION!

FOR A MOMENT GIBSON  
STANDS IMMOBILE, AN  
OASIS OF CALM IN THE  
HEART OF CHAOS...



THEN, FASTER THAN THE  
EYE CAN FOLLOW, HIS TINY  
DISRUPTOR SNAPS UP...



AND FIRES!



IN A SHOWER OF  
SPARKS THE FIGURE  
OF RAM ALTOS  
DISSOLVES AWAY...



TO REVEAL THE  
YAWNING MAW OF  
AIRLESS SPACE!

AND NATURE, WHO  
ABHORS A VACUUM,  
SEEKS TO FILL IT —



— IN THE ONLY  
WAY SHE CAN...

AND BEFORE WINDS LIKE THE  
INDRAWN BREATH OF SOME  
VAST, IMPLACABLE GOD...



...EVEN GIDEON'S GREAT  
MACHINE-ENHANCED LIMBS  
OFFER NO MORE RESISTANCE.

...THAN THE 'STRUGGLING'  
OF A DEAD LEAF AGAINST  
A HURRICANE!

**NEXT:** DEATH AND DISHONOR IN PART TWO OF  
CHAPTER TWO **GEMINI**



PRESENTING



# FLASH GORDON

## Cliff hangers

*William McMichael*

This article is the first in a series of articles to be written for Chronicle. In upcoming issues we will try to explore the subject of nostalgic films and bring back those days of Saturday afternoon matinees.

Back in 1936 Serials were becoming very popular so Universal has this idea to bring the most popular radio hero, Flash Gordon, to the silver screen. With the largest budget ever given to a serial, Frank Stephani began work on Flash Gordon.

With Larry "Buster" Crabbe as Flash, Jean Rogers as Dale Arden, Frank Shannon as Dr. Zarkov and who could forget one of Hollywood's most perfect casting jobs, Charles Middleton as Emperor Ming.

As the first chapter opens, the planet Mongo is heading toward earth, and severe atmospheric disturbances are causing worldwide panic. Flash Gordon and Dale Arden are in an airplane that, due to the disturbances, is thrown into a dive. They parachute to safety and land near the laboratory of Dr. Alexis

Zarkov, a brilliant scientist. Zarkov has built a rocket ship in which he hopes to reach Mongo and in some way avert that planet's headlong rush toward earth. Flash decides to join Zarkov; and Dale asks to be taken along.

The Ship blasts off and hurtles through space, finally landing on Mongo. They are captured by soldiers of a ruthless dictator called Ming the Merciless.

Flash and his companions are then taken before Ming, and Zarkov convinces the ruler that if earth is destroyed, Mongo will be, too. Ming, impressed with Zarkov's brilliance, decides to use his services. Ming has also become drawn to the beautiful Dale, and, in order to get Flash out of the way, throws the young earthman into an arena to battle three monkey-men. But Aura, Ming's daughter, is attracted to the handsome Flash, and, armed with a ray gun, comes to his aid. As they are battling Ming's soldiers, a lever is pulled, and Flash and Aura drop through a trapdoor into a pit filled



with horrible reptiles. Aura discovers a secret passageway through which they escape.

Suddenly, another resident of Mongo, a sworn enemy of Ming, King Thun and his Sion men attack in their gyro ships. During the battle, Flash encounters Thun and overpowers him, but does not kill him. When Thun learns that Flash is Ming's enemy, he joins forces with the Earth people.

Meantime, Ming has put Dale into a trancelike state, with the intention of marrying her. Flash observes this on a "spaceograph" viewer and determines to rescue Dale. Flash, Aura, and King Thun are making their way through a secret tunnel leading to Ming's headquarters, when they are confronted by a gocko, an enormous dragon-dinosaur beast with lobster-like claws. The gocko seizes Flash and begins to crush him in its huge claws, but a blast from Thun's ray gun kills the monster and saves Flash's life. Then, with Thun's help, Flash invades Ming's castle and prevents the ceremony, making off with Dale.

The group escapes through another tunnel leading to the underwater palace of the sharkmen, denizens of Mongo's oceans, led by Kala. In the underwater kingdom, Flash is separated from Thun and Dale who go to the palace throne room and wait for him. But

Aura, jealous of Flash's devotion to Dale, tells him that Thun and Dale have left the underwater kingdom via submarine and that they should follow in another sub. As she and Flash depart, Aura confesses the truth to Flash. He immediately tries to turn the sub around, but Aura knocks him unconscious.

Ming, learning that the escapees had headed for the underwater kingdom uses his powerful magnetic equipment to raise the underwater palace to the surface of the sea. Flash regains consciousness in time to see the winged hawk-men from the sky-city, led by Vultan, swoop down to the palace and carry off Dale and Thun.

Meanwhile, in Ming's fortress, Zarkov is visited by Prince Barin, who enters through a secret passageway and reveals that he is the true ruler of Mongo, de-throned by Ming, who killed his father. Barin offers to aid the Earth people if they will help him overthrow Ming. They head for Barin's rocket ship and, meeting Flash and Aura, take off to rescue Dale and Thun. But upon arrival at Vultan's domain, a wondrous city that floats on antigravity ray beams, they are captured, and Flash and Barin are sent as slaves to the atom furnace rooms which supply power that keeps the city suspended in space. In the furnace room Flash and Barin find Thun, also enslaved.

While he has been held captive, Vultan has fallen in love with Dale, and

BELOW - Buster Crabbe as Flash Gordon (1936)





recognizing Flash as his rival, has the Earth Man taken to the 'static room', where electric current is sent through his body. Dale promises Vultan that she will marry him if he stops torturing Flash. But Vultan's reaction is to lead Dale away after ordering that Flash be killed.

Aura, however, has uncovered a ray gun and forces the static machine operator to turn off the device. She then takes Flash to the laboratory, where Zarkov has been made to work, and has the doctor treat him to counteract the electric shocks. Flash recovers and enters Vultan's room where he battles the king. But Vultan overcomes the still weakened Flash and has him wired to the atom furnaces, so that he will be electrocuted if he tries to escape.

Zarkov frees Flash and rewires the circuit so that a terrific explosion occurs and the furnaces are destroyed, thus threatening the Sky City. Zarkov then confronts Vultan and announces that in return for Flash's freedom, he will turn over to Vultan a new type of ray that will save the city. Vultan agrees, but before the Earth people can be set free, Ming visits the Sky City and forbids their liberation.

Instead, Ming suggests that the entire group return to his kingdom and that a tournament be held there. If Flash wins, he gains his liberty and can

choose his bride. Recognizing Ming's power, Vultan agrees. The "Tournament of Death" begins and Flash faces a number of assorted monsters, vanquishing them one by one. When Flash finally emerges victorious, a livid Ming promises to give Flash his freedom and to allow him to choose his bride in three days.

As the third day approaches, Aura slips Flash a drug of forgetfulness, so that Flash does not recognize his Earth friends. When Ming asks him to choose his bride, Aura answers, stating that Flash has chosen her. Much to the astonishment of Zarkov, Barin and Dale, the drugged Flash offers no protest. Barin and Zarkov, suspect foul play, bring Flash to the laboratory and submit him to a ray treatment which restores his memory.

Meanwhile, the treacherous Ming orders a firing squad to the lab to execute Flash. As they enter, Zarkov thrusts Flash into a machine that makes him invisible, allowing him to escape. Still jealous, Aura sends a vicious tigron (a tiger-like beast) to track down and kill Dale. Flash, regaining visibility, appears just as the tigron is attacking Dale, and leaps upon the beast. The enraged tigron turns and attacks Aura, but Prince Barin arrives and leaps to Aura's defense, killing the animal. Aura is drawn to Barin for his bravery, and the prince confesses that he is in love with her.

The repentant Aura goes to Ming to plead for the lives of her friends, but Ming orders their seizure. Just as Ming's forces are about to execute Flash, Thun and his Lion Men attack the palace and break into Ming's headquarters. Trying to escape, Ming heads through one of the secret tunnels. But he is seized by a gocko and killed. Barin assumes his rightful place as ruler of Mongo, Aura at his side. And Flash, together with Dale and Zarkov, blast off for the return trip to Earth.

In the 1938, FLASH GORDON'S TRIP TO MARS, Flash Gordon, Dale, and Dr. Zarkov zoom to Mars in a rocket ship, hoping to locate and destroy the mysterious force which is drawing nitrogen from the earth's atmosphere. When they land, the group is captured by the Clay People, human beings turned into Clay by Azura, queen of magic.

Flash and Zarkov are forced by the Clay People to attempt to capture Azura's white sapphire, the source of her magic power. In the course of his many tasks, Flash, along with his friend Prince Barin, who has come to Mars to convince the Martians not to ally themselves with Ming the Merciless, manages to avert a war between the Clay People and the Tree People (who also reside on Mars). Ming desired the conflict in order to increase universe tensions.

The Clay People soon become Flash's allies in the Battle against Queen Azura and Ming, whose great lamp is stripping the earth of nitrogen. With the help of his friends, Flash succeeds in destroying Ming's great lamp, and the evil emperor himself is thrown into a "disintegration chamber" and presumably destroyed.

In the final Flash Gordon series, FLASH GORDON CONQUERS THE UNIVERSE, the earth is visited by a deadly epidemic known as the Plague of the Purple Death, Flash, Dale, and Zarkov set out into the stratosphere in Zarkov's ship and discover that Ming, the ruler of Mongo, is spreading death dust in earth's atmosphere as part of his vicious plan to conquer the universe.

Flash and his friends (the friendly ruler of Arboria, Prince Barin, and his wife Aura, Ming's daughter), invade Ming's Palace and partially wreck the power rooms and machinery. Flash then leads an expedition to the frozen land of Frigia where he mines for Polante, the only known antidote for the Purple Death.

But Ming's spaceship, operated by Sonja Torch, and Thong, attack Dale and Zarkov and take them prisoner. Flash, Barin, and a few followers avoid an electrical death ray to rescue Dale and the scientist. They then attack Ming. Flash resets the controls of a solarite ship aimed at the earth and bales out just before the spacecraft crashes into Ming's stronghold and kills the evil emperor. The terrific explosion marks the end of Ming's omnipotence, and Flash is acclaimed the Conqueror of The Universe! Thus ends the last chapter of the last of three great Flash Gordon serials that film history will never forget.



Carol Hughes as "Dale Arden" and Larry "Buster" Crabbe as "Flash Gordon" in Universal's serial production "Flash Gordon Conquers the Universe."



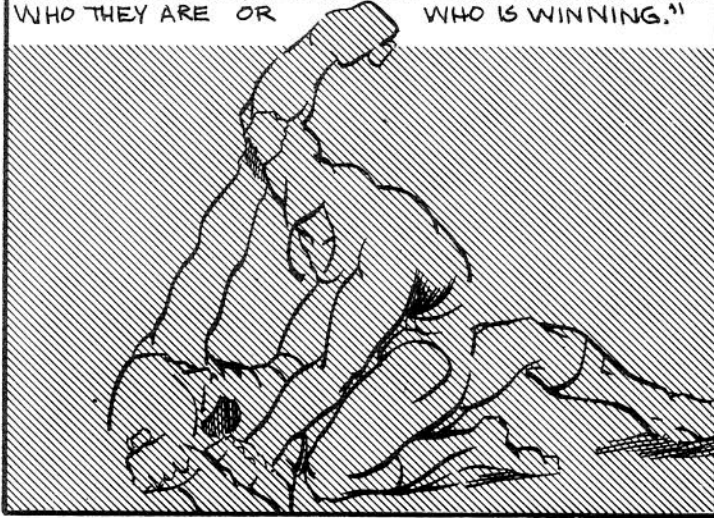
Larry "Buster" Crabbe as "Flash Gordon" in Universal's "Flash Gordon Conquers the Universe."

From the  
ALEX RAYMOND newspaper feature owned  
and copyrighted by King Features Syndicate  
A NEW UNIVERSAL PICTURE

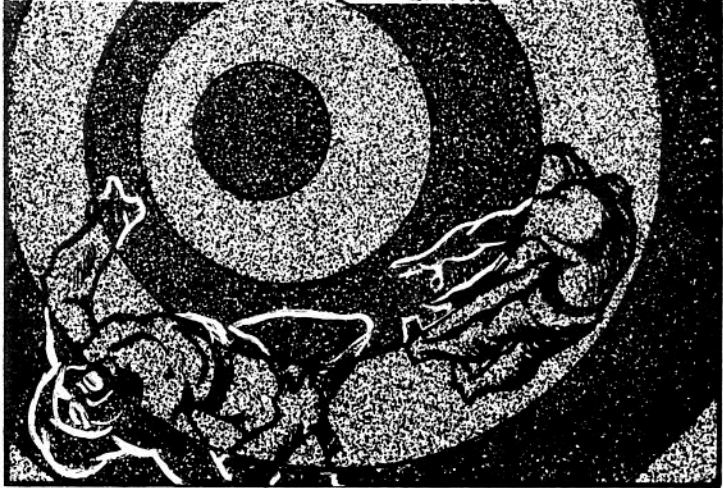
# DANTE

OUR STORY OPENS IN THE MAXIMUM SECURITY WARD OF THE CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE NETWORK'S MEDI-CENTER WHERE THE PRIME DIRECTOR RECOVERATES FROM INJURIES SUSTAINED DURING HIS ABDUCTION (ISH #2&3). CURIOUS ABOUT HIS RESCUER, THE DIRECTOR REQUESTS RECORD-VIEW TAPES OF THE LIFE OF DANTE IN AN EPISODE THAT CAN ONLY BE TITLED "THE ORIGIN OF DANTE".

"I CAN NEITHER MOVE OR SEE CLEARLY... I MUST STILL BE DRUGGED. BUT I KNOW THERE ARE TWO MEN VERY NEAR... FIGHTING OVER ME... I CANNOT TELL WHO THEY ARE OR WHO IS WINNING."

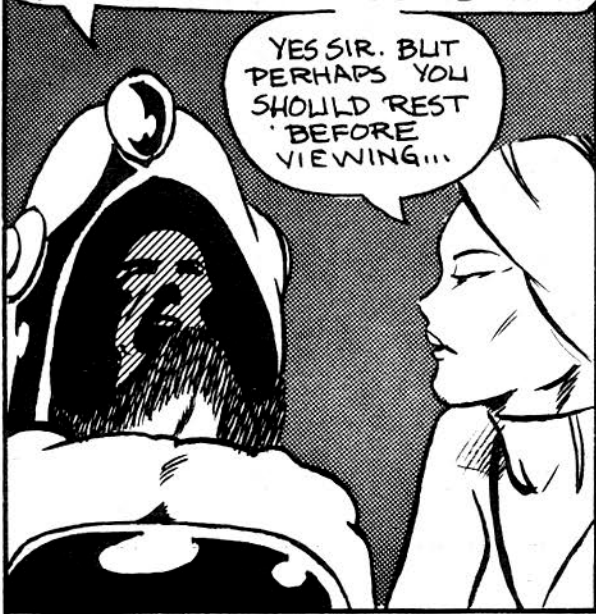


"THEN THERE IS THE EXPLOSION AND I AM THROWN OFF THE OPERATING TABLE. SHARPNEEL AND DEBRIS BITE INTO ME. I THINK MY LEG IS BROKEN. I THINK I SCREAM. YES, I SCREAM."



NO NURSE JUST ANOTHER NIGHT-  
MARE I'M ALLRIGHT NOW.  
HAVE YOU BROUGHT THE TAPES I ASKED?

YES SIR. BUT  
PERHAPS YOU  
SHOULD REST  
BEFORE  
VIEWING...



YES NURSE BUT I'D FIRST LIKE TO  
GET THIS MATTER OUT OF THE  
WAY SO WOULD YOU PLEASE  
INSERT THE TAPE -

THANK  
YOU.



**CIN HISTORY TAPE**  
**DANTE**  
**FIELD AGENT**

**CLASSIFIED**

**VOCAL TAPE:**  
**BEGINS**



DANTE'S FATHER WAS  
SPACE EXPLORER JAASEN  
NOW LOST IN SPACE.

NOTEWORTHY ACHIEVEMENT:  
DISCOVERY OF PLANET  
KANEA WHICH LATER  
BECAME HIS HOME.  
(SEE HISTORY TAPE-JAASEN)

RE: KANEAN (SUPPLEMENTAL)  
LIKE MOST HIGHER LIFE FORMS  
IN THIS GALAXY, THE KANEANS  
HAVE EVOLVED FROM A CAT/  
MONKEY-LIKE CREATURE BUT  
ARE FURTHER ENDOWED, BE-  
CAUSE OF THE HARSH ENVIRONMENT,  
WITH AMAZING AGILITY AND A  
VERY COMPLEX, ANALYTICAL MIND.



DANTE'S MOTHER WAS  
RAENA, A KANEAN,  
DIED IN CHILDBIRTH

HE HAS INHERITED  
HIS MOTHER'S  
KANEAN CAPABILITIES  
AS WELL AS HIS  
FATHER'S DETERMINA-  
TION AND LOVE OF  
ADVENTURE.



BECAUSE OF THE DEATH OF HIS PARENTS  
AND BECAUSE HE HAD NO OTHER RELATIONS,  
DANTE WAS MADE A WARD OF THE STATE.

HE WAS A VERY PRECOCIOUS CHILD AND  
WOULD CONSTANTLY  
AMAZE HIS NEW  
GUARDIANS WITH  
HIS PHYSICAL  
CAPABILITIES AS  
WELL AS HIS  
HIGHER LEVEL  
INTELLECT.

VOCATION  
FORECAST:  
AMBASSADOR  
OR DIPLOMAT



WHEN HE WAS 17, THE GREAT WAR WAS ALREADY IN ITS SECOND YEAR. REALIZING HE WAS TOO YOUNG TO ENLIST, DANTE STOWED AWAY ON A TROOP ROCKET HEADED TO A PLANETOID WHERE THE FIGHTING WAS THE WORST. UPON ARRIVAL, THEY WERE MET WITH HEAVY OPPOSITION AND REPELLED BUT NOT BEFORE DANTE WAS TAKEN PRISONER. HE BECAME THE LEADER OF A DARING ESCAPE AND LATER JOINED THE UNDERGROUND WHERE HE QUICKLY ROSE IN RANK AND SOON WAS THE LEADER OF THE RESISTANCE WHICH CONTINUOUSLY HARASSED THE ENEMY UNTIL THE WAR'S END TWO YEARS LATER. DANTE WAS AN ACCLAIMED HERO AND GIVEN THE RANK OF SARGEANT IN THE WORLD ARMY CORPS.



WHEN THE WORLD ARMY CORPS WAS DISBANDED AND REPLACED BY THE CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE NETWORK [GIN (SEE HISTORY TAPE: THE BREO/ SAKAI ACT OF 7029.5)], DANTE WAS RECRUITED BY THE NEW ORGANIZATION AS A FIELD AGENT AND EVENTUALLY WAS PROMOTED TO TOP AGENT A-1.

COMMENDATIONS/MEDAL OF VALOR: SIRGEN ORDER OF TACTICS, CLASS OF EXCELLANCE. COGLEY RIBBON OF COMMENDATION, FIRST AND SECOND CLASS. SILVER PALM WITH CLUSTER. MEDAL OF HONOR. GALACTIC CITATION FOR HEROISM. FOUR TIME WOUNDED, HONOR ROLL.

VOCAL TAPE: END



**DANTE**

PRESENT  
WHEREABOUTS:  
[NOT PROGRAMMED  
IN THIS AREA]

**END TAPE**

SUPPLEMENTAL TAPES:  
BIOLOGY: #5106  
PSYCHOLOGY: #8560



"PRESENT WHERE-  
ABOUTS-NOT PROGRAMMED"  
THAT'S HIGHLY UNUSUAL!  
I WONDER...  
WHERE IS  
DANTE?

# FORTIER'S FANDOM

Hi and how are yah?

I have been wanting to start this thing for some time now and decided to finally give it a go. In future ramblings I'll give more info as to New Hampshire's number one son, but now there's a topic much more urgent.

In Chronicle #3 our hero, Duffy Vohland, kindly presented us with current paper-back novels worthy of our cash and interest. As usual he was helpful in providing a list of superior material and we agree with his choices.

Of course the amount of good literature to be found in professional periodicals is great and for the fan seeker poses no problems. Yet what of the present fan fiction situation?

There was a time only a few years ago when names like Dwight "Doc" Decker, Tony Isabella and Jan Strnad were everywhere and we readers enjoyed top-notch fiction and articles regularly. Then fame and maturity glowed down on these men and quite naturally they joined the hallowed ranks of pro-dom.

Since those days we have been constantly flooded with cynical reports to the effect that good fan-fiction is nearly non-existent today. It is a reactionary claim made without support and in the light of hard facts may prove to be the funniest joke of all. Unfortunately many people are swayed by few and so that erroneous idea has cast a darkened cloud over fandom.

It is time to dispell such gloom and let the clean light of knowledge shine through. FAN FICTION IS ALIVE and doing extremely well we may add. Never before has there been such a surge of creative writings emerging throughout fanzines across the country. Some, of course, are poor yet most are competent, enjoyable and highly representative of the new talents rising in our ranks.

At the vanguard of this renaissance stand four men whose literary output is amazing. Four amateur fan writers are doing some of the best writing we have ever had the pleasure of reading anywhere. They are, in alphabetical order, Bill Cantey, Tom Fagan, Gordon Linzner and Jeffrey May. Each different in his interests and creative style yet all alike in their abilities and high standards.

Bill Cantey is a master of the action adventure yarns. His stories, often based on leading comic characters, are fast paced yarns capable of transporting the reader from his everyday existence into weird magical worlds. He is an imaginative writer who never seems to lack fresh original concepts and employs a clean direct narrative style.

Until it's recent demise, Bill's stories appeared regularly in Gary Groth's Fantastic Fanzine. More recently he has completed projects for Bill Wilson's The Collector. Unfortunately in the last few months Bill's personal activities have limited his output to fanzines. It is a situation we find truly



sad since his tales are sorely missed. At latest report, Bill hopes to have more free time in the coming months and is looking forward to do much more fan work in 1974. That is good news for all of us.

Next on our list is Mr. Nostalgia himself, Tom Fagan of Rutland, Vermont, truly one of the most dedicated comic fans in the world. Tom's love for the media has been solidly backed by countless articles and features over the years. With a journalistic background to his credit, it is only natural that his reportive essays on Golden Age heroes should be brightened by crisp detailed words capable of evoking time lost moods of grandeur.

Whether he is reliving the exploits of Lost Planet comics in the Comic Crusader or chronicling the adventures of the Flying Dutchman in the Collector, Tom has the knack of actually making the reader aware of these strips as though they existed today. His sharp snappy phrases and adroit use of descriptive adjectives seem to enhance any subject he covers.

Then add to this a talent of short fantasy fiction and one can only watch with awe at one of fandom's most multi-talented citizens. A fiendish follower of H. P. Lovecraft and Ray Bradbury, Fagan combines the horror of one and the wonder of the other to produce works of bizarre haunting beauty. As Fiction Editor of Bill Black's Paragon Publications, his tales have enlivened the dark shadows in us all.



A prolific master of the pen, we anxiously follow his bright future with sheer enthusiasm and support.

Of our four leading authors, Gordon Linzner is the only one who also edits his own magazine, Space and Time. S & T as one would imagine, is a fiction orientated mag published bi-monthly. Nearing his 22nd and 23rd issues now, Gordon has printed, over the past few years, many fine young writers. A tribute to the quality of his endeavors, several contributors to S & T have gone on to pro-dom; the latest being Janet Fox who recently sold a fantasy yarn to AMAZING.

Again we find ourselves confronting a fellow with talents whose boundaries are limitless. Not only does Gordon produce fandom's most successful fiction zine (a remarkable task in itself) he also creates quite a bit of super fiction himself.

A practitioner of hero tales, Gordon enjoys creating series which star off-beat characters like his James Blood, a vampire spy. Always concerned with realistic themes, he is a philosophical writer caught up in the mystery of life. From science fiction pieces to sword and sorcery sagas range his ideas and yet each is presented with a depth and purpose so uniquely his own. Once read, a Linzner story is never forgotten and thus lies a master's touch.

If you aren't reading Space and Time, don't say we didn't warn you. You're missing an experience!

Finally we come to a Kansas City social worker in his mid-twenties named Jeffery May. An advocate of heroic fantasy, his byline has appeared often in the award-winning Amra and Ed Romero's beautiful zine REALM. In the latter, Jeff doubles as fiction editor and the job couldn't be in better hands.

As a writer he is brilliant on all counts. His work is professional in every aspect and is simply a joy to behold. In the pages of Realm, Jeff has begun a series of adventures featuring a chap named Vanar. Please don't confuse these as the usual flimsy Robert E. Howard imitations so much in vogue today.

Jeff's style is definitely new and original. He is honest with himself and drives hard to achieve a perfection one can only envy. We predict that his work will shortly be selling to the pros and his success will climb at a fast rate once his skills are publicly known. But for now he belongs to fandom and we are indeed the lucky ones for it.

There you have them Cantey, Fagan, Linzner and May. Truly amazing men deserving all the praise we can give them. Each an individual and yet all sharing the one gift of talent which bands them together.

And what pray tell is this one asset shared by this rare breed of men? Our answer is quite simple and is also our general criteria for all artists. They entertain the reader so that the mere act of reading becomes a remarkable experience. They provoke our thoughts, stimulate our minds and enhance our lives with nothing but words.

It is a magic they bestow and for us an obligation to accept their blessings.

Fan Fiction dead! If death this be, then surely they have named it heaven.

Enough opinions, go read a good fan story. You'll be glad you did and until later-

LOVE

RON FORTIER

13A WATER STREET  
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03878







STAR TREK



MOVIES

Auctions



COMICS



GUEST OF HONOR, Walter Koenig (Ensign Chekov of STAR TREK)

RADIO PROGRAMS



AUCTIONS



NANCY WARNER, CHAIRLADY of CON



Fanzine Panel

Collectors Items  
SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE



Auctions

DISPLAYS

STAR FILMS  
TREK

COMICS



FANZINE PANEL (JERRY TELLS ALL THE SECRETS OF SUCCESS) L-R=CHUCK FIALA (FVP), JERRY SINKOVIC (GAZETTE), YOURS TRULY AND A. JAMES HANLEY (COMIC BOOK).



Radio tape



MOVIES

Films

COMICS

Fanzine Panel

Auctions

Films  
MOVIES

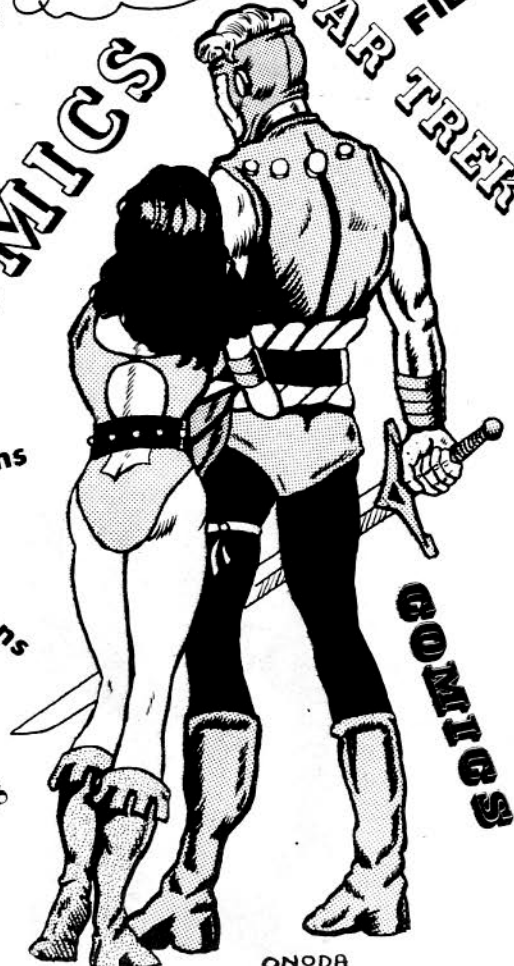
STAR TREK

COMICON



POSTERS

COMICS



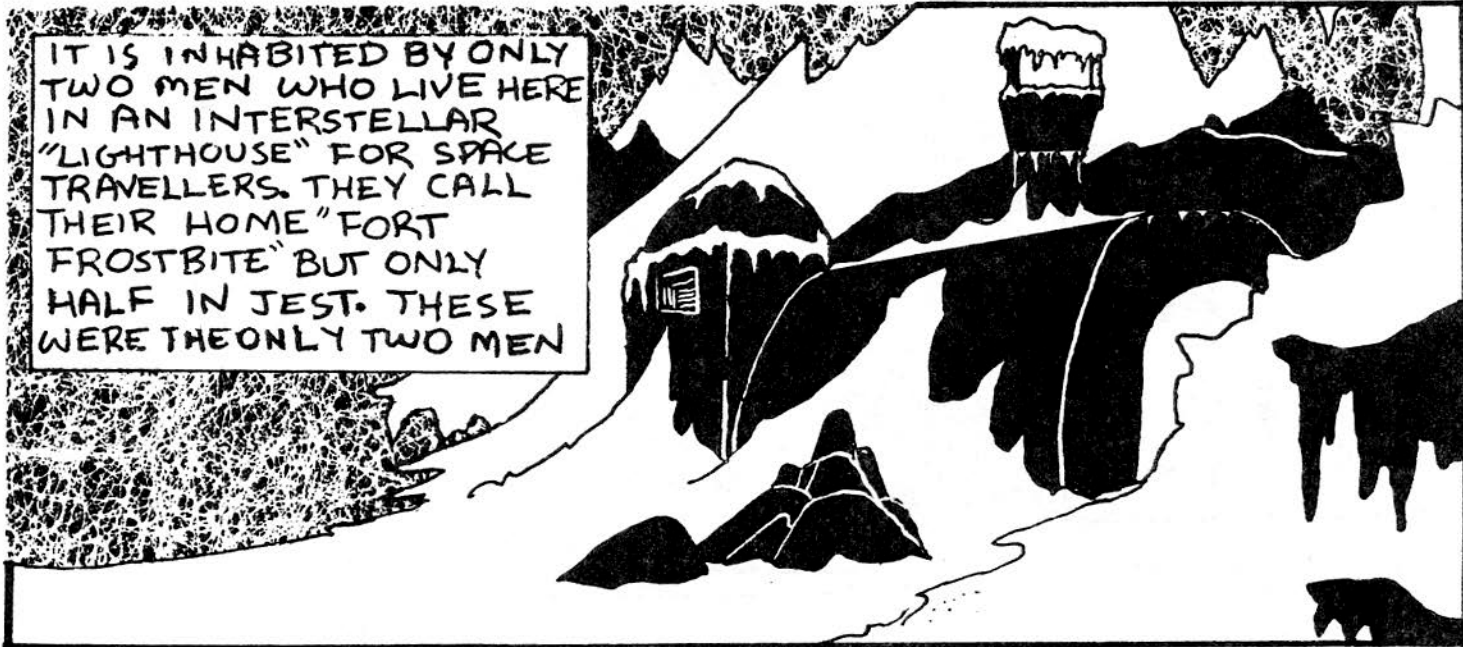
COMICS

ONODA

A NAMELESS PLANET SO FAR FROM  
ITS STAR THAT IT IS DIM AND  
FROZEN WITH AGELESS ICE



IT IS INHABITED BY ONLY  
TWO MEN WHO LIVE HERE  
IN AN INTERSTELLAR  
"LIGHTHOUSE" FOR SPACE  
TRAVELLERS. THEY CALL  
THEIR HOME "FORT  
FROSTBITE" BUT ONLY  
HALF IN JEST. THESE  
WERE THE ONLY TWO MEN



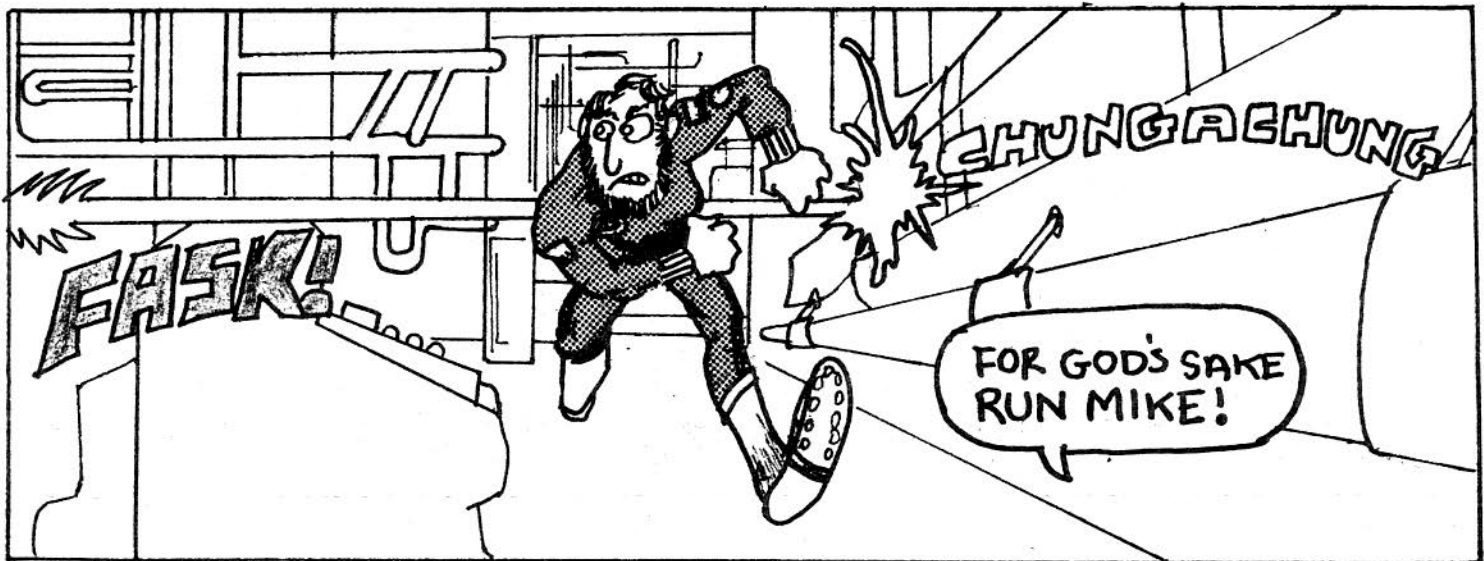
BUT NOW THERE IS A THIRD..



# CALCULATING MIND

HEADING TO THE "FORT"  
FOR FOOD AND SHELTER

STORY  
ART C. DIXON



DAMN THING NEAR GOT ME!

IT'S GETTING CLOSER TO GETTING US EACH TIME

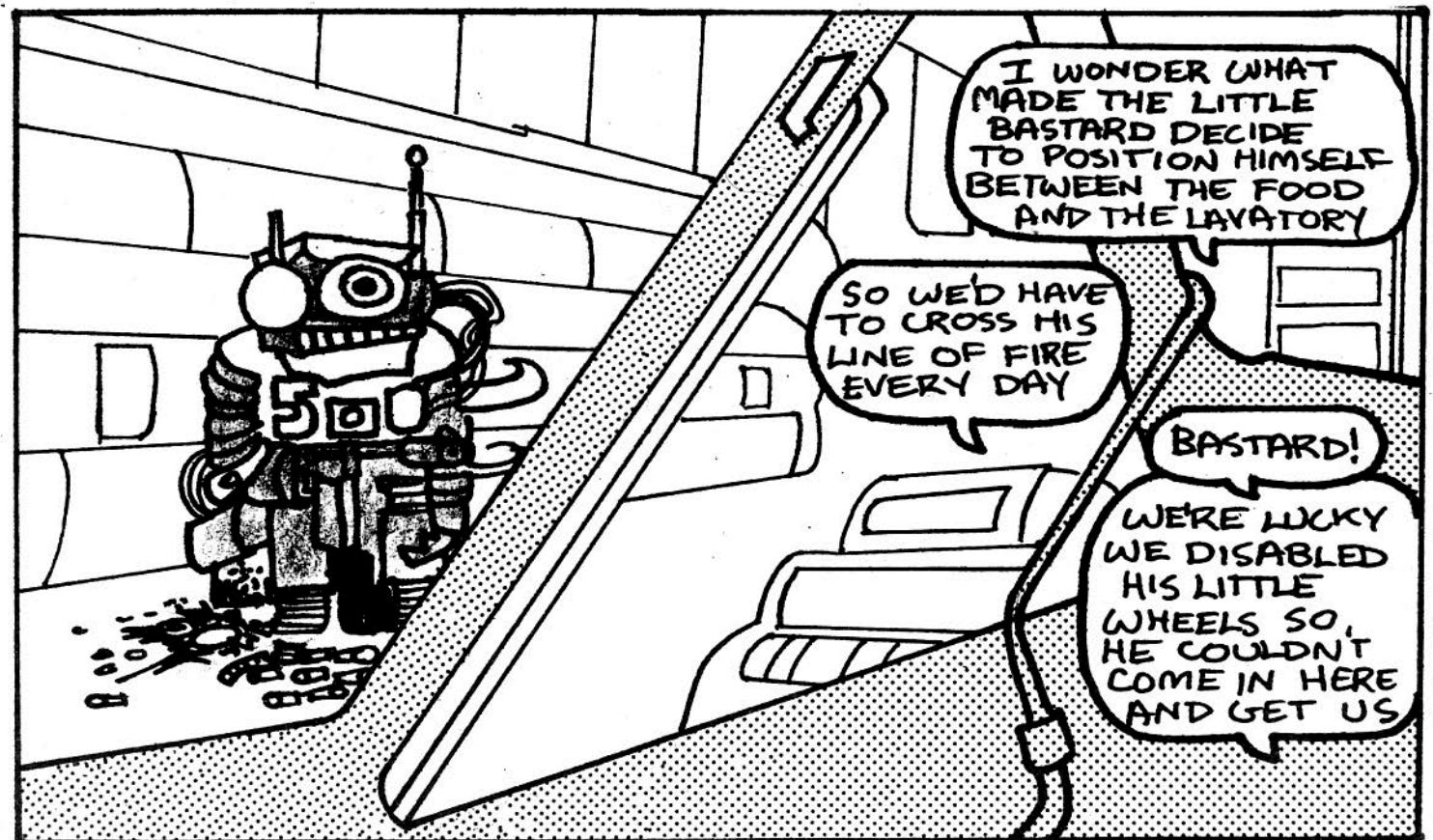


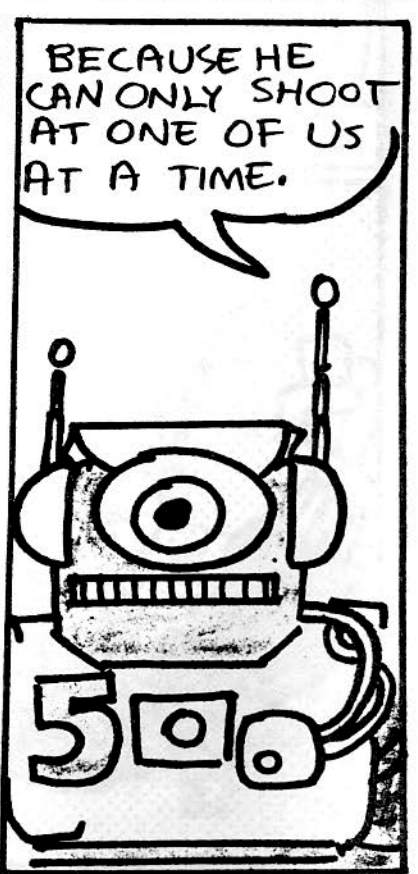
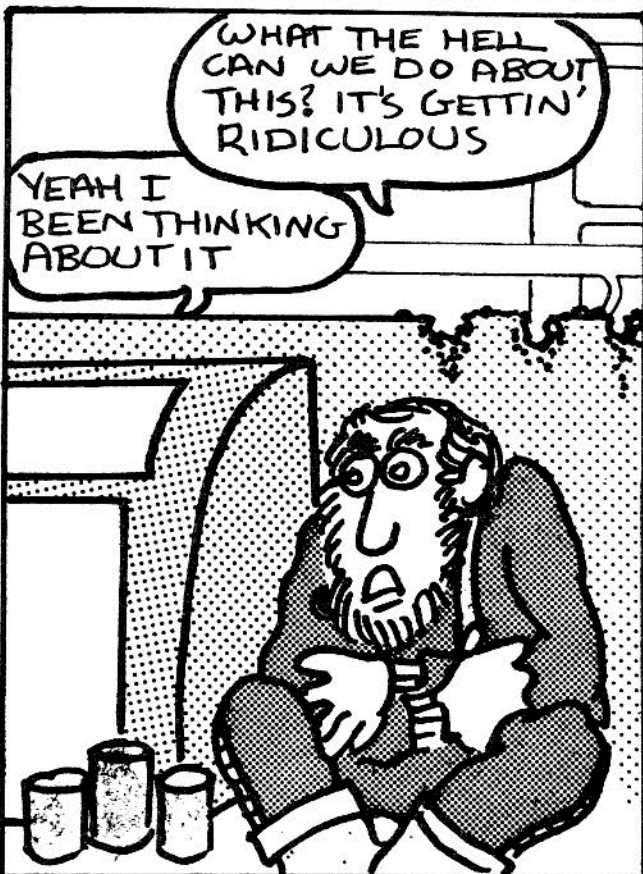
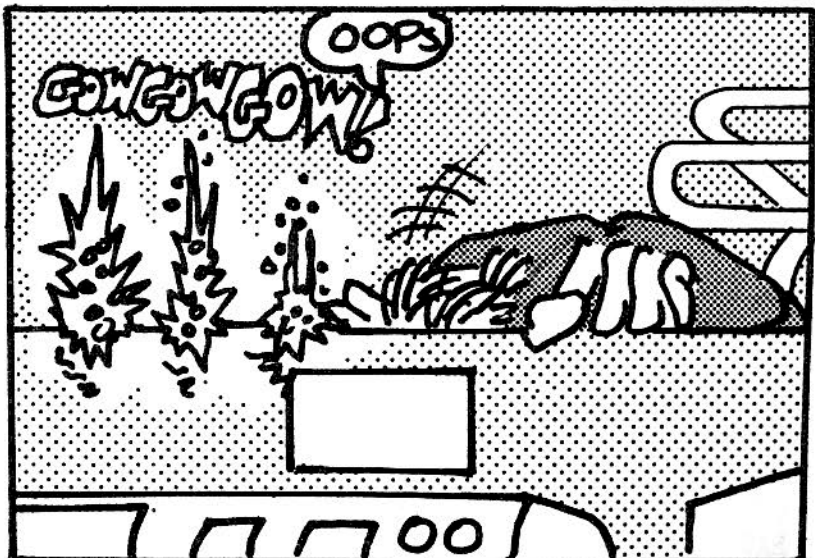
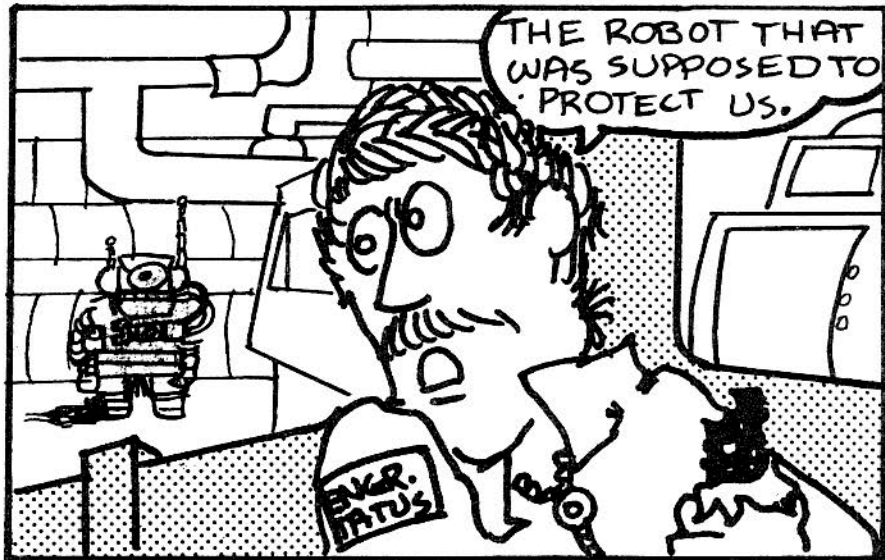
I WONDER WHAT MADE THE LITTLE BASTARD DECIDE TO POSITION HIMSELF BETWEEN THE FOOD AND THE LAVATORY

SO WE'D HAVE TO CROSS HIS LINE OF FIRE EVERY DAY

BASTARD!

WE'RE LUCKY WE DISABLED HIS LITTLE WHEELS SO, HE COULDN'T COME IN HERE AND GET US

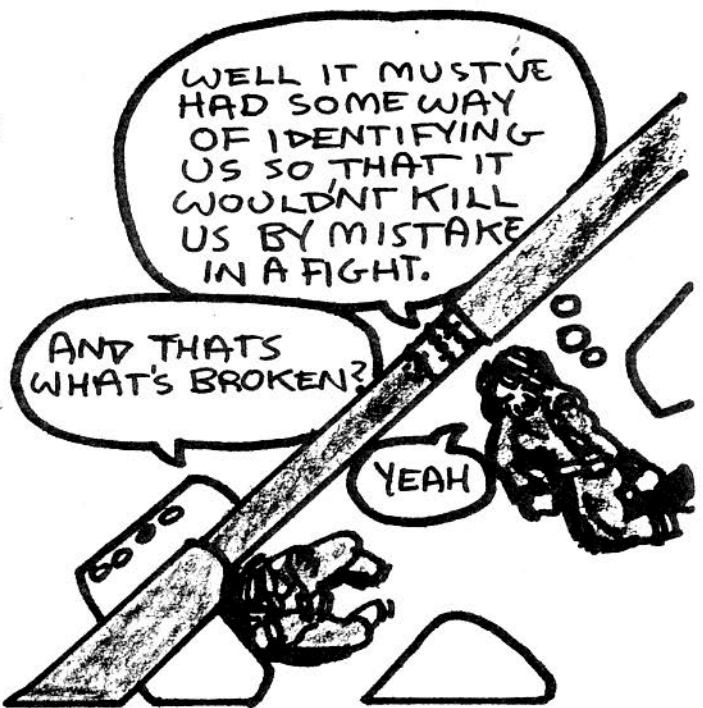






WAIT A MINUTE  
THERE'S A CHANCE  
IT WAS TRAINED  
TO PROTECT US  
RIGHT?

RIGHT.



WELL IT MUST'VE  
HAD SOMEWAY  
OF IDENTIFYING  
US SO THAT IT  
WOULDN'T KILL  
US BY MISTAKE  
IN A FIGHT.

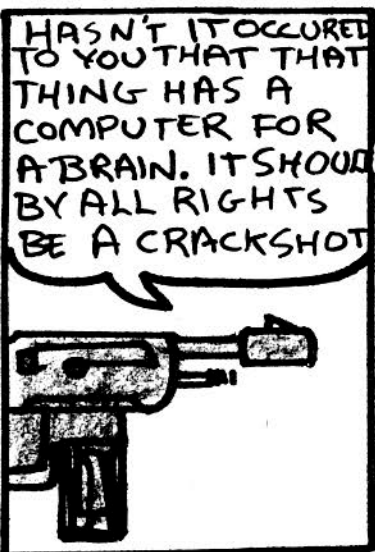
AND THATS  
WHAT'S BROKEN?

YEAH

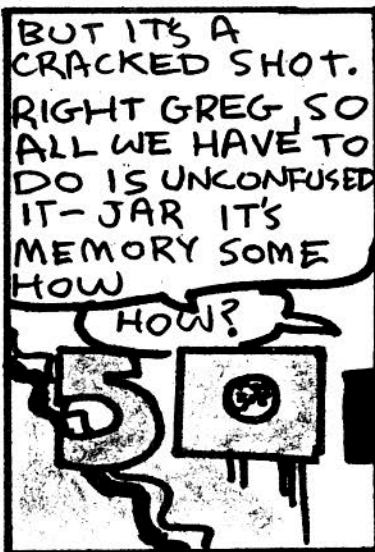


IT'S GOT A CONFUSED  
SENSE OF MORALS  
WHICH EXPLAINS  
WHY IT HASN'T  
BEEN ABLE TO  
KILL US

HUH?



HASN'T IT OCCURED  
TO YOU THAT THAT  
THING HAS A  
COMPUTER FOR  
A BRAIN. IT SHOULD  
BY ALL RIGHTS  
BE A CRACKSHOT



BUT IT'S A  
CRACKED SHOT.  
RIGHT GREG SO  
ALL WE HAVE TO  
DO IS UNCONFUSED  
IT- JAR IT'S  
MEMORY SOME  
HOW

HOW?



BY STANDING IN  
FRONT OF IT?

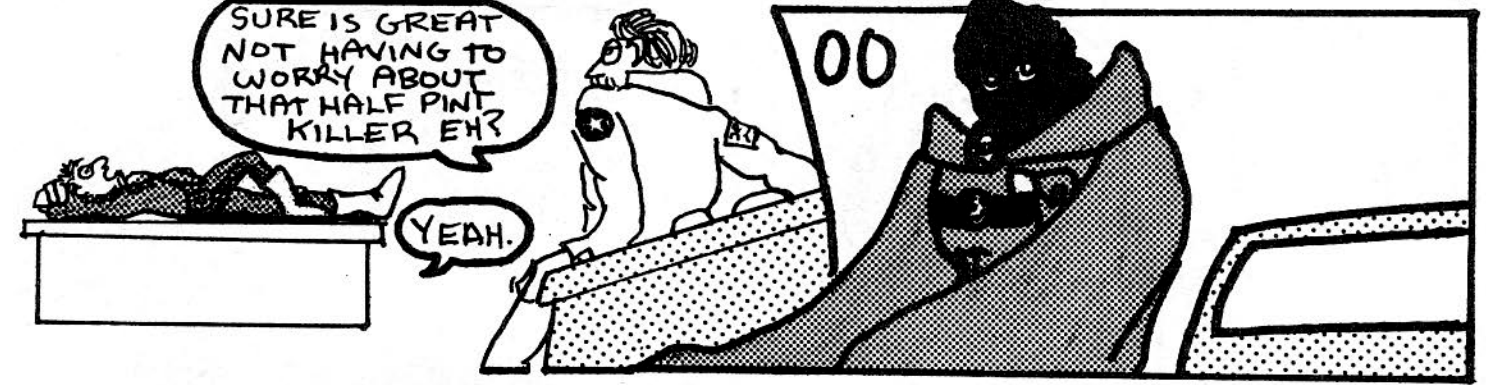


I MUST BE  
OUTTVE MY  
MIND.

IT WAS  
YOUR  
IDEA.

COME ON YOU  
PLASTIC SON  
OF A BITCH MAKE  
YOUR MIND UP







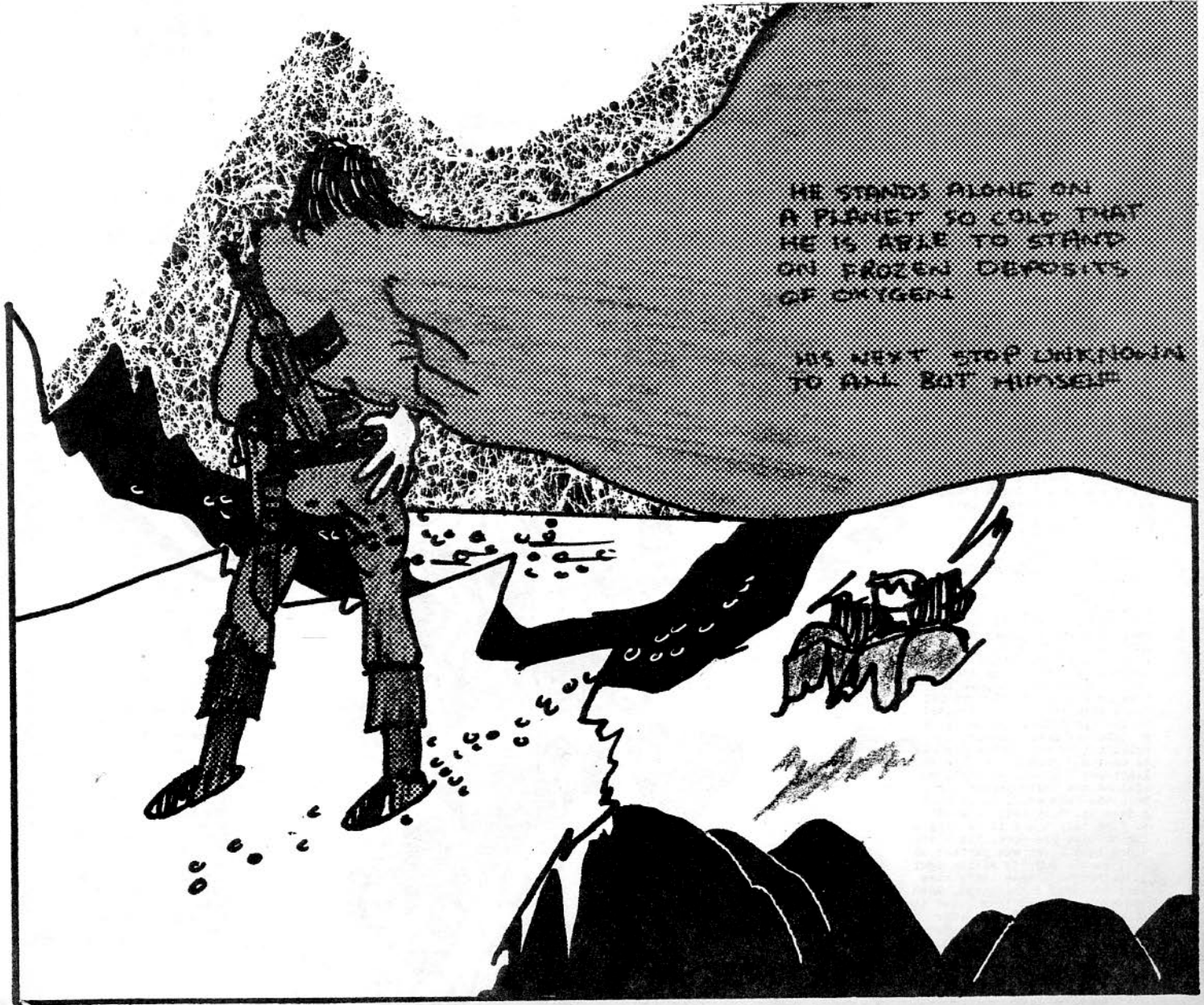
SO LET'S ASK HIM

BUT..

BUT AFTER A SEARCH



GONE



HE STANDS ALONE ON A PLANET SO COLD THAT HE IS ABLE TO STAND ON FROZEN DEPOSITS OF OXYGEN.

HIS NEXT STOP UNKNOWN TO HIM, BUT HIMSELF.





HOTCHA  
CHA CHA!  
I GOT A  
MILLION OF  
'EM!!!

Many thank for the copy of CHRONICLE. This fanzine is getting to look more and more worth the buck you rip-people-off charge for it. The printing quality remains consistently high, and the artwork gets better from issue to issue. Stanley Sakai improves daily, it seems, and Dixon looks somewhat better than last time. I can't comment on Gideon, of course, except to say I'm greatly pleased with how well it printed. All in all, I'd say CHRONICLE is well on it's way to becoming one of the best 'zines it's been my pleasure to be associated with.

John L. Byrne



NOW ZARKOV!  
BLAST THE LONMEN  
WITH THE NAIR-GUN!!

I received CHRONICLE #3 this past week and was quite surprised by its overall quality. Usually I don't prefer zines totally geared to one form of media exclusively, i.e. all strip or all fiction zines, etc. Yet your 90% strip zine was remarkably effective due to the excellent work presented. You'll no doubt get quite a few raves on John Byrne's contributions. His GIDEON'S REVENGE Part One was fantastic and had I not known it was John's work before hand, I would have sworn it to be a Neal Adams job. Truly a magnificent piece of art which I'm sure will hook readers into ordering #4 just to follow that strip. As for Gideon himself, I like the idea quite a bit, although I must say Dante is really my favorite character. This is the type of free-wheeling non-stop action strip I love with a passion. Keep Dante coming back, please, also try new artists on the strip. Byrne's illo of Dante was great and inspired the following idea- Why not have Dante appear in a segment of GIDEON'S REVENGE? Since both strips are situated in the far future and Dante is an inter-galactic lawman, it would not be improbable for him to meet and join forces (in at least one chapter) with Gideon against the space pirates. I'm sure the fans would enjoy such a team up. Gary Kato is another fine talent and it is always fun to view his work. The Black Widow back cover was perfect, as well as his Modesty Blaise spot illo inside. Please let's have more by Gary. I mentioned, when ordering #3, that if I liked it enough I'd most likely order your back issues and so here's my cash for CHRONICLES #1 & #2. Continued good luck in all your endeavors.

Ron Fortier

I think it'll be easier if I just page thru the book from beginning to end commenting on each section, sooo... Cover by Byrne is good. The spot of Black Cat is not all that good, its too much a cross between cartoonism and realism. I like your editorial, George, keep those coming. Dante/Sakai has a few redeeming qualities in his work but he still seems to be an undisciplined and beginning artist, a lot of his panels remind me of Fujitake. The story was rather thin but it made decent reading. The Revival Survival is good and makes interesting reading. Your newspaper page is also needed, it has good inside information on your zine. "Prison Planet" could be a very good cartoon strip if Dixon would take more time in inking his layouts, he has a very nice style that I would like to see more of. Duffy Vohlands's idea of an outer space Sinbad is very good, but why does it have to be a marvel publication? Couldn't it be a Chronicle publication? Daughter of Ska isn't bad, it's just mediocre. Faulkenberg should work a little more on anatomy of face and body, the story was dull, I'm sorry to say. In "Orpheus" the art was good in places and lousy in others (peculiar), as to the story, it was great but it looked like Plunkett ran out of room at the end and had to finish in a paragraph, shame. "Zaffgle" was bad and not needed in the zine, you should've used this page to finish the Orpheus strip. I've already raved about Byrne but "Gideon's Revenge" is fantastic, both in story and art, it belongs in a DC or Marvel comic. Absolutely Great! Overall your zine is great and I expect big things in the future. It has just the right amount of strips and articles (84% art & strips; 16% written). Of course, you could add another letters page, it couldn't hurt.

Brent Eric Anderson



CHRONICLE has improved with each issue. #3 was, by far one of the best zines in its class. John's cover of Cap was great as is most of his work. DANTE was interesting- Sakai has a strange but attention getting style. I just loved Dixon's PRISON PLANET- it is/was very reminiscent of Bode's style. DAUGHTER OF SKA, both story and art were lacking a bit, but interesting just the same. Of course you've got yourself a gem in John Byrne. Please keep up the good work with CHRONICLE in the future.

Frank Cirocco



Stan asked me to drop you a note expressing his thanks for the copy of CHRONICLE Three which you sent. We thought the issue was superb! Holli Resnicoff for Stan Lee



George, Gideon is probably the best original material ever to appear in a fanzine. If it does not emerge a winner in it's class for '73, there is no justice in fandom. Congratulations on your Gideon Conceptualization. I think that means that the basic idea and storyline is yours along with a lot of the script dialogue. It's great. John Byrne is an exacting delineator. Very pro of course. It's nice to have a guy like that illustrating for you. Hope he can continue to do Gideon. Simply superb, George.

A. James Hanley

# CHICAGO'S FRONT PORCH PRESS PRESENTS

## Chronicle

CHRONICLE THREE IS BIG! FIFTY-SIX PAGES BIG, IN FACT. FIFTEEN OF THOSE PAGES PLUS THE COVER, ARE BY "SOON-TO-BE PRO JOHN BYRNE, WHOSE WORK YOU SEE HERE. JOHN'S STRIP, "GODDAMN REVENGE" IS DONE IN A REAL ADAMS STYLE, WITH A SOLID, FAST-PACED SCRIPT. THE STORY IS COMPLETE IN ITSELF, BUT IT'S ALSO PART OF A LONG ODYSSEY! AND THIS IS THE FIRST CHAPTER! DON'T MISS OUT! FIVE MORE STRIPS... TWO COLUMNS, AND A SLEW OF ILLUSTRATIONS ROUNDED OUT THIS LANDMARK ISSUE. EDITOR GEORGE BREO IS ASKING A DOLLAR -- TAKE ADVANTAGE OF HIS GENEROSITY!

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### STRIPS and HUMOR!



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