



Will Eisner



RESURRECTION OF A SPIRIT

by R. FRANK MORENO, JR.

The Spirit Section died on October 5th of 1952. Steranko says a week before, but the date isn't so important. What is important is that after some two decades of one-shots, reprints, and undergrounds, Will Eisner is back. But he never really was gone.

So as not to rehash the well-chronicled past of the Spirit, I want to delve mainly into the more recent Spirit items on the market, and give my opinion on the whole spectrum of present Spirit products... Will over-exposure kill him?

It was in 1966 and 1967 that Harvey Publications made an attempt to cash in on the super hero rage. They created a group of adventure heroes of their own: Pirhana, Bee-man, Jack Frost, Spy-man and Jigsaw. They reprinted the Simon & Kirby "Fighting American" stories, and Kirby's "Three Rocketeers". They got Al Williamson and Reed Crandall, as well as Wally Wood, to do new stories. They also had The Spirit.

The opening stories, featuring a new Spirit origin in the first issue and the origin of "The Octopus" in the second issue, were new Eisner. Both issues also featured a number of new one-pagers with the Spirit, which the Eisner shop handled. It was, to me, something quite different from the usual brightly-garbed Marvel super hero that I had been weaned on. It was unique and in my twelve-odd years before I had never seen anything like it. That was my first encounter with him.

The Eisner Harvey books reprinted some of the finest Eisner late-forties weeklies. Among which were included: the "Lorelei" sequence, "Plaster of Paris", & the mysterious "Miss Cozmik" who, quite possibly, was from Mars. Even some Eisner non-Spirit stories, his little morality plays, were included. Particularly of interest were the man-who-could-fly story, and the toy-machine-gun story.

Then there was a drought. The Spirit books didn't sell. So, for six years the Spiritophile had to go back to buying the original weeklies, the Quality books, and the Fiction House reprints...

The next items to appear on the market unannounced, and to everyone's joy, were the black-and-white "Spirit" reprints in 1972. Available for four dollars, each packet consisted of ten Spirit sections, in a plastic bag. The real treat was that the reprints were in chronological order, starting with the very first seven-page adventure. Here the reader was able to see from the four packets how the Spirit began as a straight adventure strip, and evolved into Eisner's magnum opus.

The reprints opened up an entirely new market. They sold, and it seemed that perhaps Eisner had a ready market for the



A sequence from "SILKEN FLOSS, M.D.", published in March, 1947. (reprinted in THE SPIRIT #2)



THE SPIRIT

BLAM! BLAM!

POW!

By Will Black

Spirit in the seventies. The four packets the first forty stories, also had the benefit of comments by Eisner on the back of each adventure. Eisner commented on the art style and made just personal anecdotes about what in retrospect he should have done. They were printed on paper of good stock, and while a bit small and with some unclear reproduction of some, they were invaluable to the Spiritophile. Where at that time could you get for four bucks the opportunity to read all of the early Spirits or, for that matter, any Spirits?

From the comments on the back of the black-and-white reprints, those who felt that Eisner had forgotten the Spirit were proven wrong. The question was: Would he do new stories? Reprints are fine... but would he, or could he, still bring back the old magic and do new Spirits?

The cover of *Snarf* #3 in the beginning of 1973 featured the Spirit... This marked the beginning of the Spirit underground. Krupp Comic Works, Inc., in association with Eisner, issued a brand-new Spirit cover. It was an intricate picture of Eisner buildings and people highlighting the Spirit, which proved that Eisner had indeed not lost his touch or forgotten his creation.

Soon after this sudden Eisner cover of the Spirit, which caused the Spirit-fan to perk-up and listen, an underground was issued by Krupp. A Spirit underground. I ran out to get one as soon as I heard.. Why an underground? Part of the answer was on the inside-cover of the book. Maurice Horn, author of "The History of Comic Art in America", writes in the brief introduction a history of the Spirit, and includes a few of his own quips about Mr. Eisner and the Spirit. His final sentence sums up the reason for the Spirit appearing in an underground: "It is only fitting that his (Eisner's) work should be revived in the pages of a so-called underground magazine, for all art is, in the finest sense, underground." Mellow.

The comic featured a foursome of the Spirit tales reprinted in black-and-white like most undergrounds, and as a bonus & a hint of things to come, featured four new one-page Eisner Spirit cartoon strips. The old style was still there, a little less detailed but still unmistakably Eisner. It gave one cause for hope.

The stories were chosen from the finer stories done in 1946. Reprinted were:



the April 14, 1946 story; the two "Octopus" stories from November 10th and 17th of that year; and an undated story from that era. All four are excellent, and almost look better in black-and-white than they originally did in color.

The cover was a wraparound with a rather mature theme. In full-color it was a magnificent piece of work portraying a crime convention with two females holding the Spirit in their clutches and arguing over him while Commissioner Dolan, tied & beaten, hangs in the background. The Spirit was back.

A year passed before a second issue of the Spirit underground hit the stands. It too had a newly-drawn cover by Eisner, picturing a line of bodies behind an obviously angry Spirit who stalks P'Gell. She stands draped suggestively on a block of letters spelling out "The Spirit", proclaiming that "This is a magazine for adults". The cover wraps around the book, with Commissioner Dolan, Ellen and Saree, P'Gell's daughter, standing before a big poster of the Spirit. It is a fine full-

color picture.

The insides have an introduction by John Benson, well known fan and fan writer, to start off. The introduction is an in-depth review of the "femme fatales" the Spirit has faced, and leads up to the theme of the whole issue: P'Gell.

The first story, from October 6, 1946 introduces P'Gell in a story titled, "Meet P'Gell". She lies on a couch peering thru alluring half-shut eyes at the reader saying, "I am P'Gell---and this is not a story for little boys!"

Indeed, the next three stories take you into the world of P'Gell, the female "Bluebeard", as she marries her way thru intrigue and suspense in elaborate plans that have the inevitable conclusion that will make her rich. The other stories, of January 19, 1947 and August 3, 1947, just support her reputation.

The last story is particularly significant because it is an all-new story. The script, as mentioned on the back cover, was one that was unused by Eisner and written back in 1950. The art, though, is all-new, and done in a wash effect without borders. A little rushed-looking, it still retains all the flavor of his former Spirit stories.

Next on the Spirit parade was something published in Canada: The Tabloid Press Spirit. It was an all-new Spirit adventure measuring 12 inches by 16 inches, six pages in length, printed in color on heavy stock paper. Five pages of the book are story, with the sixth a comment on the story behind the creation of the episode. Eisner does the artwork, inking, story and color for the package, and it is a fine piece of work, printed clearly. The whole thing is a classic as -set to any collection.

Titled, "The Invader", the story deals with an alien landing on Earth and his experiences with earth people. Needless to say, he came to conquer & fails. The entire time he is on earth roaming around, the Spirit is after him. In the end, the Spirit finds him, and there is a twist ending.

Commercially, the biggest Spirit coup was the February 1974 issue of Warren's EERIE horror magazine. After a bit of drum-rolling, it was finally revealed that the Spirit would be working for Warren Publications. He re-entered the above-ground market after a success in the under-



-grounds. Eisner had signed to do a book for Warren, so the EERIE story was just a sample of things-to-come. The Spirit took the center story of EERIE #54, a reprint of an old Spirit story with color by the ace of color, former underground artist Richard Corben. The story was fantastic, and seemed to work well in its new environment... The Spirit had fought back up the long trail to prominence successfully.

The Spirit magazine appeared soon after the EERIE story, in February of 1974; it was an excellent package, winning the approval and sparking the enthusiasm from many critics and fans. The cover painting by Basil Gogos was based on the popular poster print which had been published by the publishers of the black & white Spirit packets and illustrated by Eisner, and it led off the premiere issue in fine style. Reprinted in the issue were seven Spirit strips from: March 24, 1946; April 13, 1947; July 20, 1947; November 2, 1947; December 8, 1946; March 2, 1947; and January 26, 1947. The center story, with color added by Corben, was a new Spirit strip by Eisner, and it featured the return of Castinet and the ominous Octopus. Eisner was legit. With fine reproduction on all the reprints, and the new story addition, this first issue had to be one hell of a way to usher in 1974. It was.

EERIE #55 also featured an all-color Eisner Spirit adventure, and THE SPIRIT #2 has since proven to be every bit as great as #1.

All of the mentioned Spirit items, excepting the Tabloid Spirit and the undergrounds and, of course, the Harvey books, are available from Warren Publications.

The Tabloid Press Spirit is available from Tabloid Press / P.O. Box 1064 / Oakville, Ontario / CANADA for \$3.40, or from the S.F.C.A. for a bit less.

The undergrounds can be purchased directly from Krupp Comix Works Inc. / P.O. Box 5699 / Milwaukee, Wisconsin / 53211... and the Harvey books are available at your favorite used comic book store, with a going price of about \$4.00 for the first issue, and about \$3.00 for the second...

(Note: By the time you read this, Warren Publications may already be selling some, or most, of these other items we've listed above...except for the Harvey comics. Check ads in their magazines to make sure...)

Since completing this article, certain other recent Spirit items have sur-



passed that I'd forgotten, been unable to obtain in order to write a complete overview, or have just been released.

The first items are the second and third issues of the excellent Warren Spirit magazine, featuring, again, black and white reprints coupled with seven-page color strips in the center of the magazine. #2 reprints "Heel Scallopini" from February 23, 1947, a story dealing with corruption in the big city in the area of politics. It is a stark morality play about how a campaign in Central City's fifth election district is run. Sadly, it is true to a great extent. The splashpage with the beaten figure of Joe Scallopini, lying heaped in a pile of flesh and bone is quite effective. The second story from January 4, 1948, is a typical Eisner femme fatale tale which introduces "Powder Puff" and her companion "Bleak", a classic victim of circumstances. Bleak returns in the following week's adventure, also reprinted here, in "The Fallen Sparrow". Also reprinted are: "Merry Andrew" from February 15, 1948, which features some fine lettering on the splash and in the story; the newly-drawn "Mortimer J. Titmouse" story in fine color; "The O' Dolan" from April 18, 1948, which is my favorite from the issue; "UFO" with Eisner's spoof of Orson Welles and the "War of the Worlds" broadcast from September 28, 1947;

and the introduction story for Silken Floss from March 9, 1947.

#3 features such great Spirit tales as: "Black Alley", "Fox at Bay", "Surgery", "Foul Play", "Paraffin" (in color), "The Embezzler", "The Last Hand", and "Lonesome Cool", in addition to an interview with The Spirit conducted by Eisner himself, which may tell more about Mr. Eisner than it does The Spirit! (and a conclusion that sees The Spirit get the best of his "boss"...). It is my hope that this truly invaluable project can be financially successful and continue.

Also previously neglected in my article were the I.W. Super Reprints. Specifically of interest are issues #11 and #12 which feature reprints of the Spirit stories that were originally featured in the Quality comics. The Super I.W. Reprints were published during the early and mid-sixties, and featured reprints of several Quality characters like Plasticman and, of course, The Spirit, as well as other items by Charlton. The reprints were published by Israel Waldman, one-half of the present-day Skywald publishing corporation. The Spirit reprints featured an average of three Spirit stories (usually 2 seven-pagers and one five-pager) backed-up by a humor-detective feature, "Flatfoot Burns"; the Spirit stories were untitled.

The list of fanzines and magazines with articles about Eisner and reprinting full adventures of the Spirit or featuring good reproductions of particular pages include the fine two-issue analysis of Eisner in "Sense of Wonder" #s 11 and 12; the excellent reprints of an entire Spirit section in "Comic Media" #10; and, of course, if you haven't read Volume 2 of Steranko's History of the Comics, there is a fantastic black-and-white reproduction of the Spirit section from March 7, 1948 in large tabloid size. The December 1973 issue of "Changes" magazine also featured an article about Will Eisner, and his brainchild. The Menomonee Falls Gazette has also been reprinting the Bob Powell daily Spirit strips, as they originally appeared.

For the future, the Warren Spirit should quench any Spiritophile's thirst and I understand that the reprint packets will soon resume, and may have already resumed by the time you read this. Indeed, the Spirit seems to have rolled up his sleeves, pushed his tongue into his cheek and leaped back into the foray to stay...

Welcome back, Denny...





OPEN GATES



TODAY GERMANY, TOMORROW...

by Steven Wright



It didn't exactly roar onto the scene. In fact, it was more like a whisper. But *PERRY RHODAN NUMBER ONE* arrived. Probably the main reason for its lack of popularity was the title, which indicated it was the first book in a series, and it wasn't the only series Ace, the publisher had at the time. Personally, I had tried the other series, *AGENT OF TERRA* and *STAR WOLF*, and I wasn't about to try another.. Furthermore, the first adventure's title didn't help; "Enterprise Stardust" sounded like a Star Trek swipe, and I wasn't impressed enough to even purchase it.

that amounts to over 600 adventures. The format in Germany is the Pulp. These modern versions have wraparound covers, and appear to be comic books at first glance. Color paintings adorn the covers. The novel is interrupted periodically by three or four illustrations per book, and now, there is not only a letters page, but also a dictionary page defining terms used in connection with the stories. Occasionally there is a diagram of one of Rhodan's

ships. These are cut-aways with labels on all items of interest.

The stories themselves are translations from the highly successful German pulps. The basis for the Perry Rhodan series is this: When the first manned moon flight landed in 1971, the astronauts discovered a spacecraft from a far-advanced civilization. Rhodan, leader of the Earth team, managed to establish contact with the Akronide crew whose ship had been damaged. Eventually, Earth, fearing that Rhodan and the aliens might attack, destroyed the craft, leaving Rhodan and his crew with only a shuttle craft (powerful enough, incidentally, to take over the entire planet). Rhodan then built a city in the Gobi desert with the aid of the 2 Akronide survivors: Krest (Crest in the German books) and Thora; the former was a scientist, Thora, a haughty female. They were both humanoid albinos, differing only in rib structure from conventional human beings. Since that time, P.R. has repelled attacks by Earth powers as well as by extra-solar aliens investigating the Akronide S.O.S. His plans now call for an organization of Earth into a giant union.

The stories are not written by just one single author, but by an entire bullpen of five or six writers, several of whom are well known in Germany for other s-f works as well. The stories are not collaborations, as each author alternates in no set pattern. Some of the names include Walter Ernsting, Kurt Mahr, and K.H. Scheer.

At first, there were five Rhodan paperbacks issued on a quarterly schedule.. then publication ceased. These editions, with Gray Morrow covers and two stories per book, were enjoyable. Since each story was from a different German pulp, the reader actually got two-for-the-price-of-one. In addition, there were eleven stories in those ten. "Help For The Earth", from German edition 9, was left out without disturbing the series.

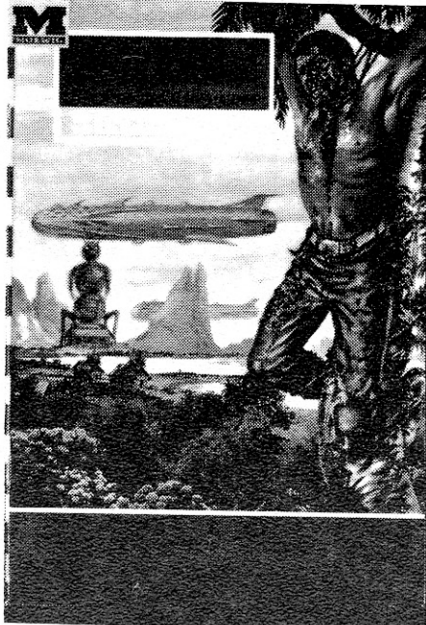
This was the American beginning. The beginnings in Germany were quite different. P.R. first appeared in 1961, and has been published weekly ever since. To date,

The covers are usually well-done, by a number of German artists, although some look familiar; most notably is number 240 which is reminiscent of James Bama, picturing "Doc Savage" or a look-alike, sitting on some sort of throne, dressed in a futuristic armor and flanked by a panorama of planets.

Normally the covers are playgrounds for various alien creatures attempting to lure you inside. Most are tasteful, failing to portray a life-or-death battle situation like most comics; instead the covers merely recreate a scene from inside the magazine, usually a colorful one, although at times a scene as dreary as a group of soldiers in need of a shave just tramping through a jungle, is pictured.

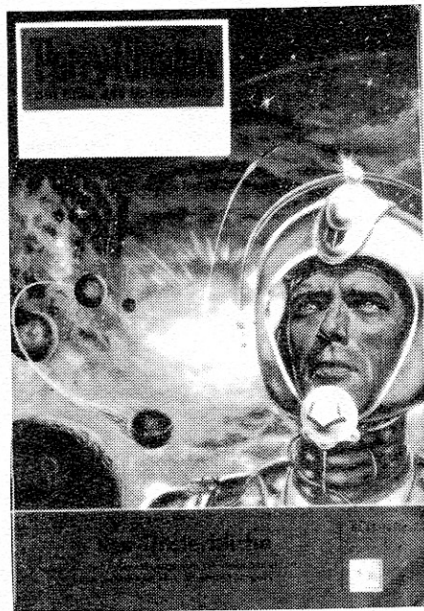
This was the reason for Perry's success: colorful covers with stories to match. Success was not just limited to Germany, however. Two years before Rhodan ever reached U.S. shores, he had already left his fatherland, and had appeared in both French and Dutch weekly editions. So, the U.S. was Rhodan's third invasion of foreign soil, and his least successful.

In Germany, the Rhodan books were a huge success, and the demand for back issues became so great that Moevig-Verlag, the publisher, released second editions.. Running about 260 issues behind the original, the reprint series is issued weekly with new letters, ads, and dictionary features, along with a "2nd Edition" logo on the cover to avoid confusion.



Hardly a year had gone by when the editors realized Perry still had a lot of potential in back issues, so they hauled out all unsold copies of the second editions, re-stamped them as "3rd Editions", and distributed weekly. To top it all off another edition began in February of '73, with the same format and schedule as the others.

Rhodan's potential isn't limited to reprints, as another outlet Moevig-Verlag cashed in on was comic books. Four years ago, *PERRY RHODAN IM BILD* [P.R. ILLUSTRATED] appeared as a comic adaption of the pulps. The stories were handled well, as was the art, printed on slick paper, and had paintings for most covers, though a few were line drawings. A few short stories rounded out each book, featuring such characters as Gukey, an intelligent alien called a mouse-beaver used as a funny animal and Atlan, an Akronide allied with Perry Rhodan, and UFO Agent, who has nothing to do with the Rhodan series. This comic title ran for 27 issues on a weekly schedule when the publishers decided that new adventures, written especially for comics, would sell better.



Instead of a 28th issue of *PERRY RHODAN IM BILD*, *PERRY RHODAN UNSER MANN IM ALL* [P.R., Our Man In Space] #1 was published, featuring good art and improved covers, as well as an original storyline. Here Perry and his top co-stars from the pulps, Gukey, Reginald Bell (also a member of the first moon trip), Don Redhorse (an Indian-type), and a few others, were teamed-up to roam the galaxy in Rhodan's supership, the Crest (named after the now-dead Akronide). Some stories feature PR in solo adventures, while others focus on the entire team.

The art is still good, as I said, but occasionally Marvel swipes crop up. They appear funny in this context, since Tiger Shark may be seen colored differently, as an alien, or a green Thing as an exile in another dimension. However, original art travels west as well as east, and P.R. has had art good enough to swipe. The Captain Future paperback series by Lancer featured some covers by Frazetta and Jones; all of the other covers were reprinted from Perry Rhodan pulp covers. In fact, *Calling Captain Future* reproduced the cover from P.R. #176.

During the last year, the comic art has begun to emphasize the female body, &

until now, the clothes of the women, when any are worn at all, were probably far too skimpy for American comics, and in many cases still are. Recent issues also occasionally feature an 8-page black-and-white strip based on UFO, the English-made television series. *PERRY RHODAN, UNSER MANN IM ALL* is still published biweekly and has run some 8w issues.

A major outgrowth of the Perry Rhodan series is Atlan. Atlan is an Akronide Prince, and shows much more vitality than the average Akronide, a swiftly-degenerating civilization; he may have come from a past time, since his adventures take place throughout all time periods: Ancient China, Medieval Europe, Atlantis, and among the Incas, and he has the energy the natives of Akron had thousands of years ago when they built a now-crumbling galactic empire. This mystery man first appeared in P.R.#50, in a story completely devoted to him. For the next 30 issues, every tenth issue belonged to Atlan, and he proved so successful that he was brought to the future to team up with Perry, and was rewarded with his own bi-weekly pulp, which reached the 80 mark due to its popularity.

About this time, the publishers decided that Perry Rhodan was getting proper text coverage in a weekly pulp, so a paperback series was launched, much like the pulp with its color cover and text novel. It was published monthly, and, after several issues, settled into a definite format with the same characters.

A second series of paperbacks is also issued monthly, having begun when the first edition series was about 60 issues old. Now there have been over 100, and recently, there has been a new look to the books. The paperback covers are now printed on highly wrinkle-resistant stock. The only U.S. paperback I've seen like this was Lancer's special limited-edition of Asimov's *The Naked Sun*. The covers do not crease as easily as common cardboard, and they give the paperbacks a very expensive look.



Even this is not all of the Rhodan story. Some time back, a movie was made, based on the first few pulps, but it only followed the outlines, however, and was referred to by *Castle of Frankenstein* as a "mediocrity". The film, entitled "S.O.S.

From Outer Space" in Europe, received limited U.S. release under the title "Mission Stardust". There have also been hard covers, posters of several designs, and stamps. And, in addition, dozens of fan-clubs have sprung up, the largest one of which names itself after one of Rhodan's ships.

On his latest expedition, into America, I feared that paperback #5 might be Rhodan's last English adventure, since no new edition had appeared for months. Then after I'd just about given up hope, I delightfully spied the sixth book, and it greeted me with a new style which, regretably, included reduction to one pulp translation per book. Each issue contained short stories unrelated to the series as well as a letters page and an s-f movie column. The most outstanding change: the covers, as for the next eight issues, Gray Morrow would not do the art. Instead, the paintings from the German originals, or so Editor Ackerman tells us; in reality, they are redrawn versions with colors less vivid, backgrounds different, etc... The German originals were far better than these cheap imitations, as a glance at the actual reprints on Captain Future will indicate. Even these, however, are not as colorful as the original German editions.

With issue #14, Gray Morrow returned as the cover artist, and has continued in that position since, even doing the covers for the second editions of #6-13.

To date, Rhodan has had many exciting adventures defending Earth from his base in Terrania with the aid of his allies and the Mutant Corps., people whose parents had been exposed to radiation who because of this qualification, are mostly Japanese. They include not only telepaths and telekinetics, but also teleporters, mentopaths who can take possession of a person's body, and men who can detect invisible electromagnetic energy, see in the dark, look through solid objects, or hear radio waves.

With all this, Rhodan's future is staggering, not only in action but also in sheer volume as well. The popularity of the series can be measured by the nearly 800 novels written and published, or by the 100 million copies sold. A measure of the magnitude is the time span. Rhodan landed on the moon in 1971, and issue #600 takes place in the year 3456. That amounts to a span of almost 1500 years, so in all that there surely is something for everyone; the only problem is, you have to be able to read German, since we will never get everything translated.



THE WORLD!

Just as Sicily is the strategic key to Italy, the United States is the strategic key to the world. Now it appears PR is on the verge of taking that key. The five quarterly trial issues gained a toehold for Rhodan; he enlarged to a beachhead with the monthly issues. Now America faces a foreign conqueror for the first time since she won her independence. Perry Rhodan is appearing twice a month...24 times a year. This equals the record for any similar material here, a record set when The Shadow went to two issues every month in the 30's.

Each issue is basically the same as the monthly issues were, complete with Gray Morrow covers, occasional interior pieces by Juanillo swiped from the German pulp covers, an editorial, letter column, film column, short stories, and something new: original stories. S-F fandom has had

two choices for original material, until now; pulps or anthologies. Granted, this new alternative isn't about to set fandom on fire, but it has allowed several fans to have stories published for their first time, among them has been Steven Utley, who has since sold other stories. Original stories, an interesting experiment to begin with, could evolve into something very worthwhile.

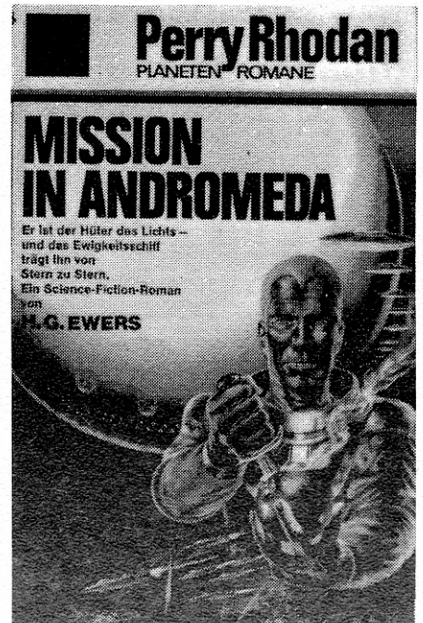
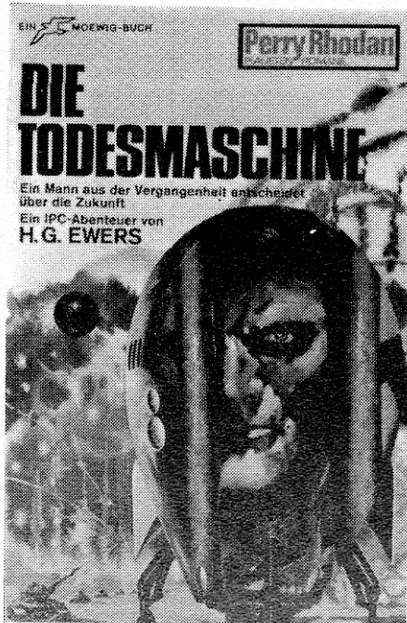
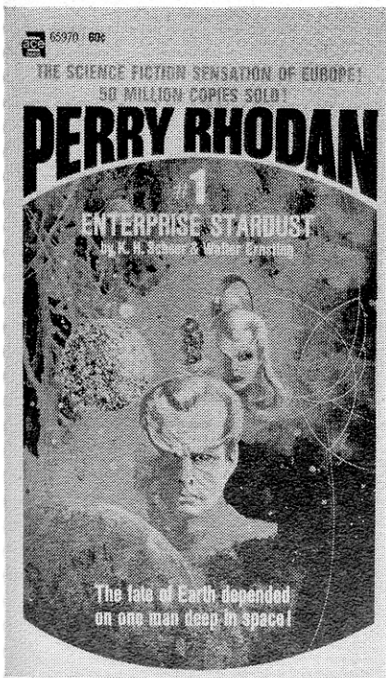
Forrest J. Ackerman, the editor of the paperback editions, also does a serialized novel. The first three novels were notably insignificant, a sequel to H. G. Well's *War of the Worlds* being the most memorable. The fourth serial, *Cosmos*, is more promising.

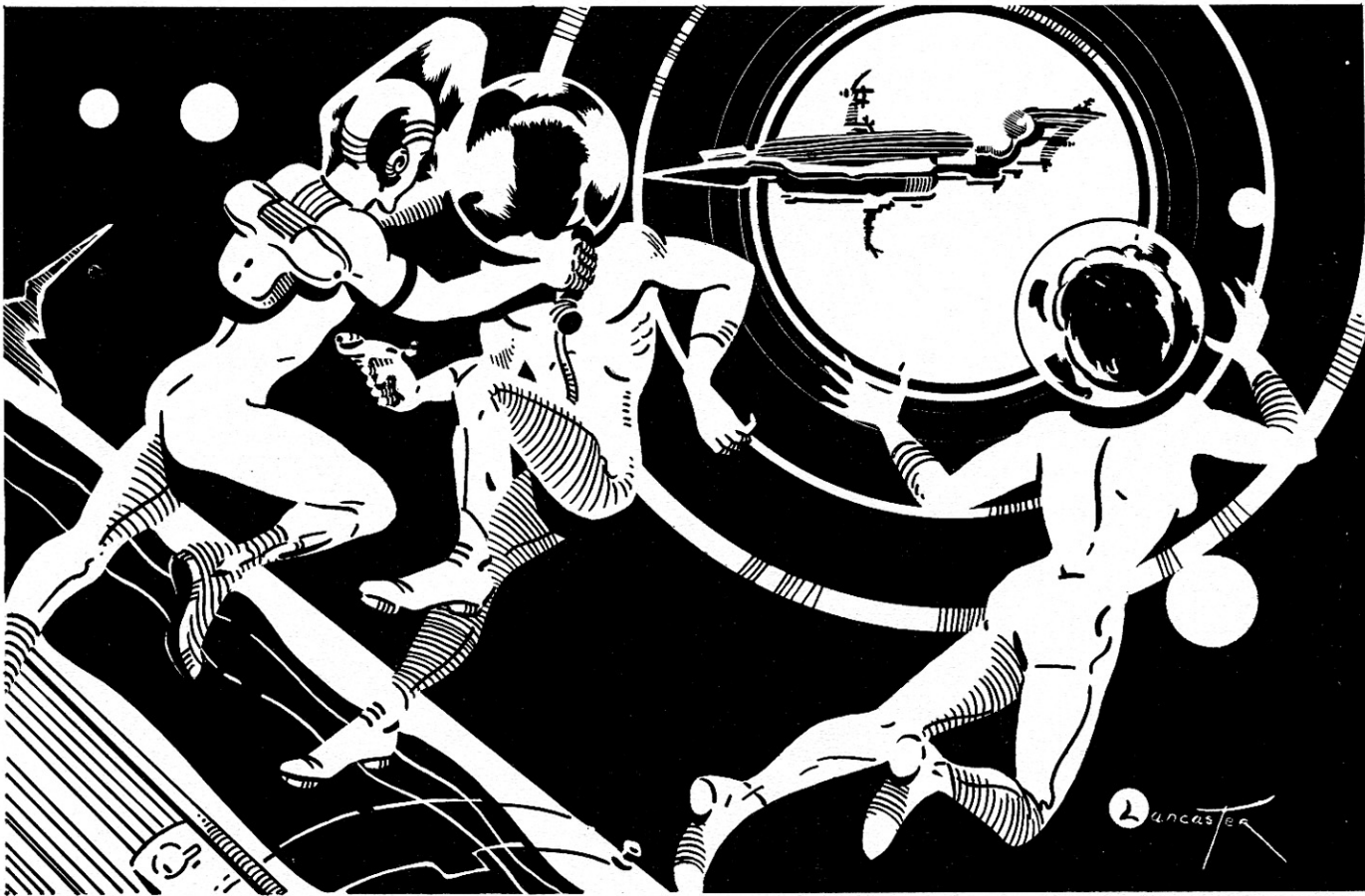
Mentioned by Jim Steranko in his *History of Comics Vol. I*, this novel was or



iginally published in one of the first s-f fanzines forty years ago. Each chapter was handled by a different author, all of them professionals. Some of the collaborators include: E.E. Doc Smith, A. Merritt, Otis Adelbert Kline, Edmond Hamilton, and John W. Campbell. The books are probably worth buying if only just for this serial which began in number 32.

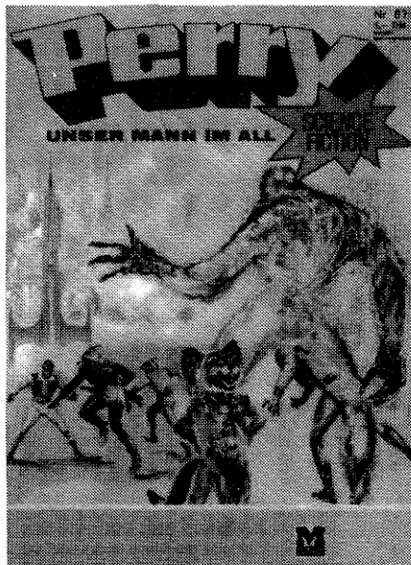
It has been suggested that other s-f translations be presented, since at present we see far too little foreign s-f. A move like this could possibly start a minor revolution.





Rhodan's story lines have been expanding outward. Perry left the solar system to battle a race called the Springers. This was an interesting multi-issue interlude, since the Springers were not a race out to imperialistically annex the entire galaxy, as so often is portrayed in s-f stories. This was a capitalistic race who crushed economic opposition (...a German satire of America, perhaps?). They felt threatened when Rhodan began trade with the Vega system, although Vega had no interstellar fleet and presumably no contact with any extra-Vegan race, except for Rhodan. At any rate, the Springers had enough might to destroy Rhodan's entire force, forcing him to resort to strategy rather than sheer power. This strategy involved devices so sophisticated that Akronide science could not duplicate them...devices made on the planet Wanderer by the being who gave Rhodan immortality. When the Springers were repelled, PR turned to the task of fulfilling his promise to return the two Akronides to their home planet. This turned out to be no easy task, since difficulties encountered included battling "hundreds of berserk robots" on a planet 3700 light years from Earth. It's been said before, but, if you like space opera, Perry Rhodan is it.

Unfortunately, Ackerman, the American editor, constantly turns the editorial and letters page into a punster's paradise, geared apparently to the brain of an elementary school flunky. Now, perhaps this says something about Ackerman's intelligence, I don't know, and I don't mean to sound like I'm insulting a man who has been a part of s-f fandom for so long; it's just that the format he uses leaves a lot to be desired. It's similar to the punny attitude of *Famous Monsters of Filmland*, which used to be enjoyable, before it became all corn.

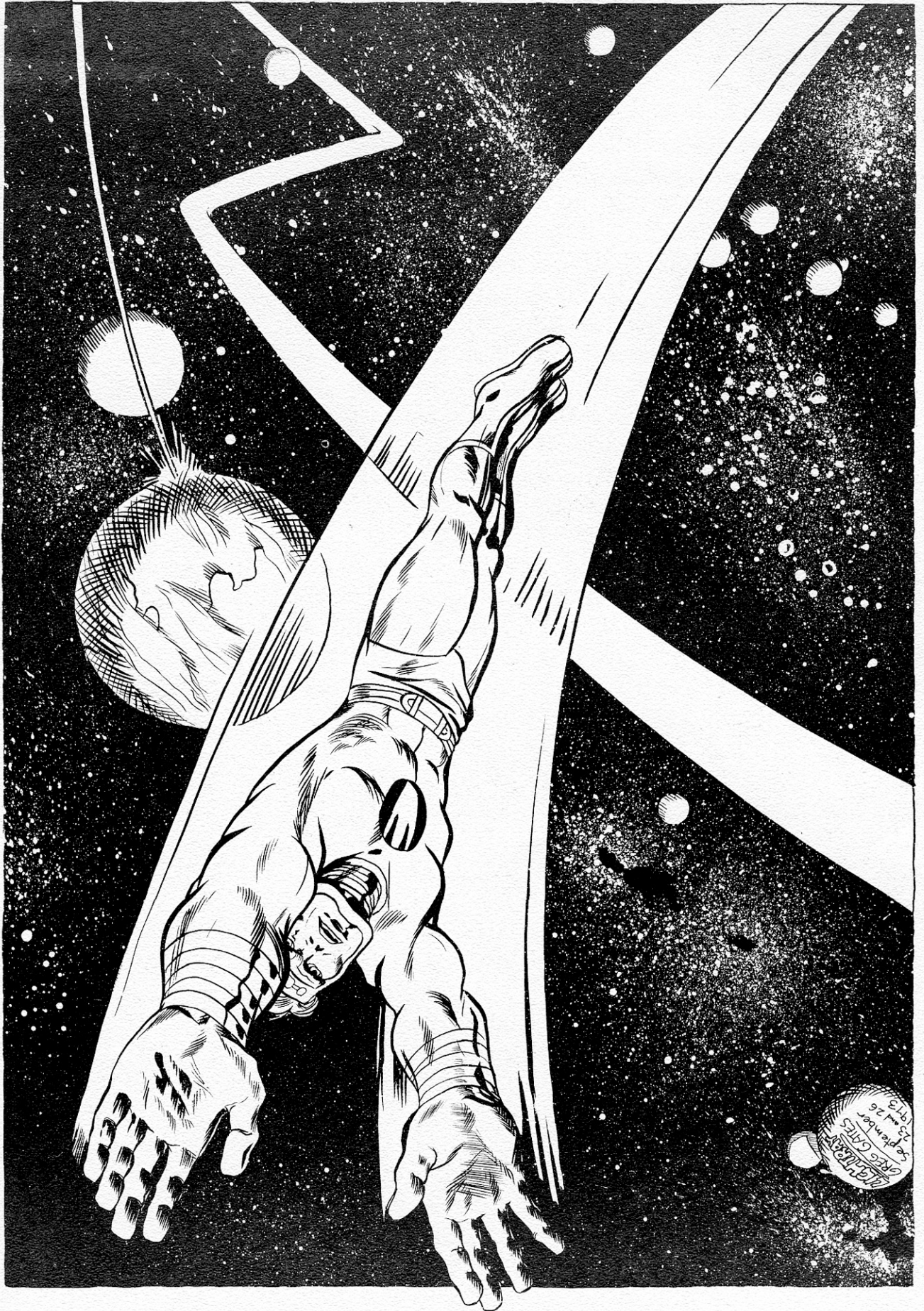


Unfortunately, Mr. Ackerman has another annoying habit, that of creating new words where there is no need for them. As an example, he is not content to use s-f as an abbreviation for science fiction, so he uses in addition to it sci fic. Unlike some other fans, I don't object to this abbreviation, but I cannot stand scientific, or scientificism for s-f movie, or spiction for speculative fiction. I suppose I could be nit-picking, but...

An updated glance at Germany reveals that the series is static; that is, if seven original novels and two new comicbook versions every month can truly be called "static". No new steps have been taken, but Moevig-Verlag hasn't back-pedaled either.

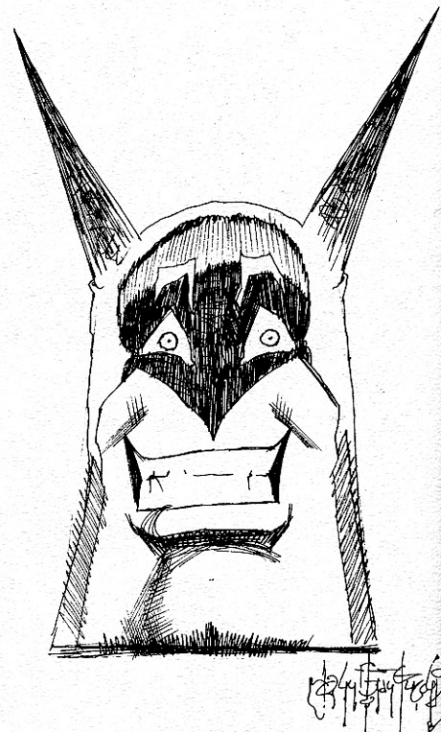
Holland has paralleled the American story, having released six paperback issues followed by a long lapse. Later, monthly publication began in pulp form. They have since gone to bi-weekly. Though originally the Dutch reprinted the German covers, now they are re-painting them, as Ace did on issues 6-13. This, as in America, hurts the quality.

With Holland abandoning the paperback format, only the USA is using this method as the primary means of selling Rhodan. This seems to have caused one significant problem: paperbacks do not have distribution comparable to magazines. I am surprised that the issues have sold well enough to go to twice-a-month schedule. In this area, it is often difficult to locate issue; hopefully it is not a national problem, but it will be corrected. A lack of distribution could well prohibit interested fans from enjoying the many PR adventures.



1/11/73
25 and 26
GREG GATES

Sketches and Scratches Scribbled by Fandom's **MORE** FANTUCCHIO





GREENHORN

Last Chapter
OR NOTHING
LAST'S
PREVIEW

THE
AMERICAS
ARE MINE!

GREENHORN'S
DEPART-MENTAL 'ORDER'
SHALL NOW BECOME
REALITY!!

EUROPE HAS FALLEN! MY HITLER
ARMY MOVES INTO AFRICA AND
EURASIA-- MOP-UP JOBS!! THE
WORLD IS MINE TO PLAY WITH!

HEY, TROOP,
SHARE A HOLE!
IT'S HOT 'N'
HEAVY UP
THERE.

MY HOME OR
MY GRAVE IS
OPEN TO
FRIENDS !..

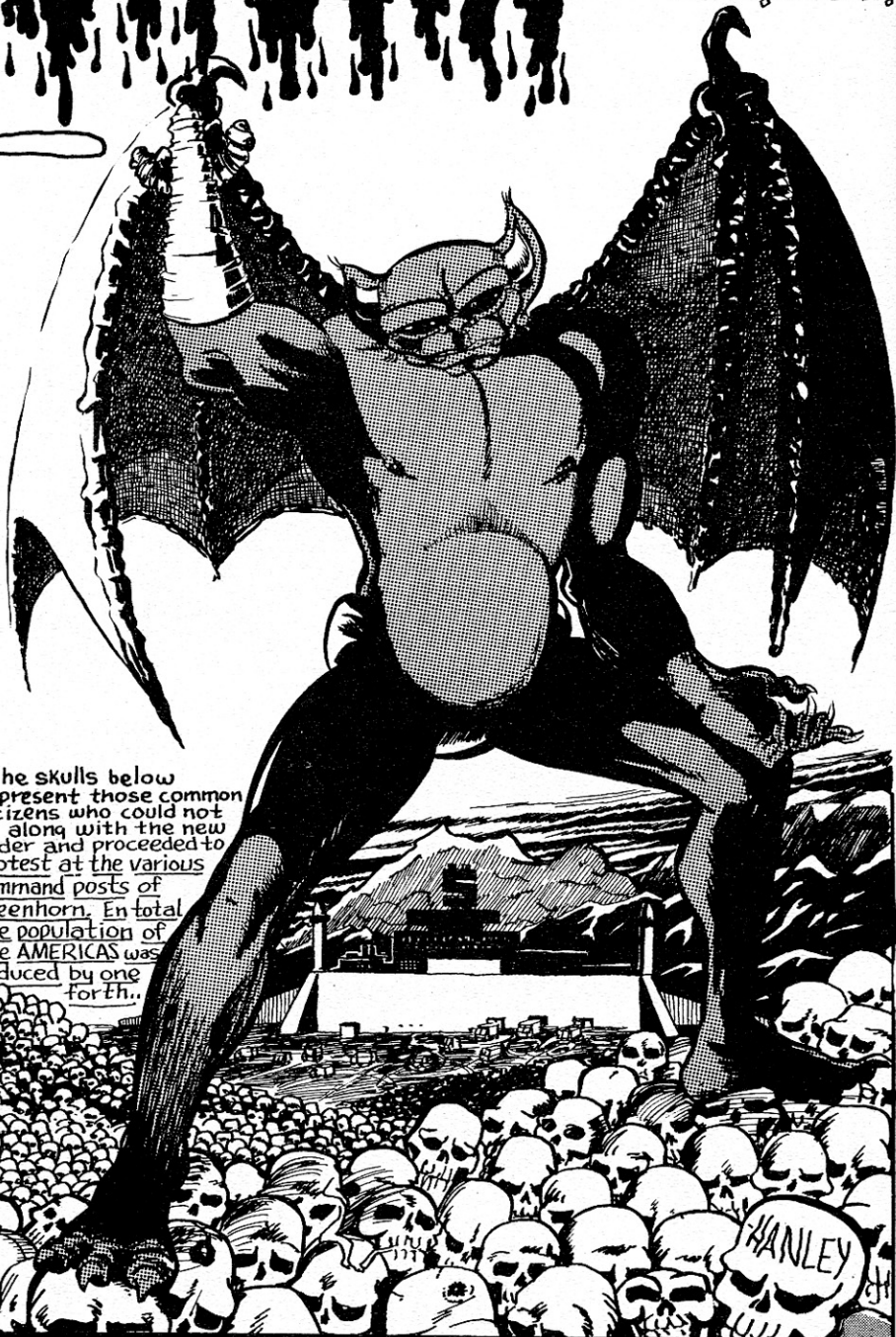
The skulls below
represent those common
citizens who could not
go along with the new
order and proceeded to
protest at the various
command posts of
Greenhorn. In total
the population of
the AMERICAS was
reduced by one
fourth..

AND YOU
ARE MY
FRIEND,
RUSSIAN!

YIPE! CHINESE !!
GUESS WE WERE BOUND
TO BUMP HEADS- WHAT
WITH THOSE HITLER
HEADS PUSHIN' US
BACK! STRANGE LIFE !

BUT WHAT CHANCE
HAVE WE GOT!?
THE AMERICANS
COULDN'T EVEN
STAND UP TO
THESE MONSTERS!

NOT TRUE! AMERICA'S
LEADERS SIMPLY MADE A
BUSINESS DEAL TOWARD
WHAT THEY HOPED WOULD
SHOW AN ADVANTAGEOUS
PROFIT. THEY SOLD OUT!
AND THEY SOLD OUT
VERY, VERY SHORT!



ALL IS SECURE, MASTER!
THE CITIES, THE RURAL AND MOUNTAINOUS AREAS OF NORTH AND SOUTH AMERICA ARE ALL STRONGLY GARRISONED AND PRESENTLY AWAIT YOUR SELF-AMUSING DIRECTIVES.

THANK YOU HITLER NO. 1!



THE OVER-ALL PLAN IS TO SLOWLY AND PLEASURABLY DECIMATE ALL LIFE ON THIS PLANET CALLED EMERALD SO THAT WHEN I LEAVE IT - TO SEEK, HA, GREENER PASTURES ON OTHER WORLDS - ONLY WEEDS AND INSECTS RECEIVE THE BENEFICIAL WARMTH OF THE GREEN SUN OF THIS SOLAR SYSTEM!



SUCH IS THE NATURE OF THE HOERNE SPECIES FROM WHICH I AM SPAWNED THAT THE ONLY EVIL WE CAN TAKE DELIGHT IN IS THAT WHICH HAS ALREADY BEEN ESTABLISHED AMONG A RACE OF ALIEN PEOPLE! THIS WAS, OF COURSE, AGAINST THE LAW ON MY PLANET. AND THAT IS WHY I WAS EXILED INTO THE VOID! I HAD DISCOVERED THE MEANING OF THAT LAW IN MY ILLEGAL PLANETARY TRAVELS. I GOT CAUGHT, WAS SENTENCED AND ESCAPED!



NO DOUBT THE HOERNE POLICE HAVE DETECTED MY ABSENCE FROM THE VOID. BUT BY THE TIME THEY SCAN THIS TIME-SPACE DIMENSION - THERE WON'T BE ANYTHING HERE!



NO DOUBT YOU ARE ALL PLEASED BY THESE PERSONAL REVELATIONS!! YOU WILL ALSO BE HAPPY TO HEAR THAT MEMBERS OF MY ADMINISTRATION WILL BE PERMITTED TO LIVE THE LONGEST!!



HURRAY FOR GREENHORN!

THANK YOU, THANK YOU! AH, THANK EVILNESS FOR THE HOMICIDAL LUNATIC WARDS HERE!

AND NOW HERE ARE MY TWO SETS OF DAY-TO-DAY ORDERS, ONE FOR THE ARMY AND ONE FOR THE GENERAL POPULACE!



ON THE FIRST DAY OF EACH WEEK, EVERY PERSON 18 AND OVER, SHALL GAIN TWENTY POUNDS IN THE ONE DAY! FOR THOSE 17 TO 8, AN END OF THE DAY WEIGH-IN MUST SHOW A CONSUMPTION OF TEN POUNDS. YOUNGER THAN EIGHT ARE FORBIDDEN TO EAT ON THE FIRST DAY...

THE 2ND DAY SHALL BE LAZINESS DAY. NO PERSON SHALL MOVE AT ALL FOR ANY REASON EXCEPT CHILDREN 8 YEARS AND YOUNGER...

THE THIRD DAY OF EACH WEEK SHALL BE NAKED LADIES DAY! ALL FEMALES SHALL WEAR NO CLOTHING AT ALL AND SPEND THE DAY OUT-OF-DOORS. THERE SHALL BE NO SOCIALIZING WITH MALES. THERE SHALL BE ABSOLUTE SILENCE FOR ALL, MALE, FEMALE, YOUNG AND OLD!



DO YOU THINK HE SAW US?

DOES IT MAKE ANY REAL DIFFERENCE?

DON'T MOVE!

KEEP MOVING!

THE FOURTH DAY SHALL BE **NAKED MEN'S DAY**, ETC. ETC....

THE FIFTH DAY SHALL BE CALLED **VIOLENCE DAY!** EVERYONE SHALL COMMIT FIVE ACTS OF VIOLENCE ON PROPERTY BELONGING TO ANOTHER. ALL ACTS MUST BE CERTIFIED THRU MY HITLER ARMY. VIOLENT WITNESSES WILL BE ACCEPTABLE FOR CERTIFICATION!!

THE SIXTH DAY SHALL BE **WORK-LIKE-A-DOG DAY!** EVERYONE SHALL BE EMPLOYED BY THE GREENHORN HITLER ARMY TO DO WHATEVER WORK OR SERVICE SHALL BE DESIGNATED FOR A TWENTY FOUR HOUR PERIOD!

FORGET YA TIE, MAC? HA HA!

MUST HAVE A HOT DATE! HEH HEH!

OK, MAC, I GOT IT DOWN!

HEY, MISTER, WATCH ME!!



THE SEVENTH DAY WILL BE **HATE GOD DAY!** IN WHICH ALL SHALL ENGAGE IN VEHEMENT DENUNCIATIONS OF THE VARIOUS RELIGIONS, FORMS OF ALTRUISM, REASON, HUMANITARIANISM AND WISDOM! ALL ACTS MUST BE CERTIFIED AND BE IN THE FORM OF ARTISTIC EXPRESSION! STORIES, POEMS, PLAYS, SONGS, PAINTING, DRAWING, COMICS, ETC. WILL BE ACCEPTABLE. PRIZES FOR THE BEST GARBAGE WILL BE AWARDED!!

FINALLY, THE 13th DAY OF EACH MONTH, FOR AS LONG AS THE HUMAN RACE SHALL LAST SHALL BE KNOWN AS **ABORTION DAY!** WHEREBY EVERY PERSON SHALL ABORT THE LIFE OF ANOTHER PERSON. THE ABORTER **MUST** BE OLDER THAN THE ABORTEE! THE PENALTY FOR BREAKING ANY OF THE ABOVE LAWS SHALL BE **DEATH** BY BEING SKINNED ALIVE! HEH HEH

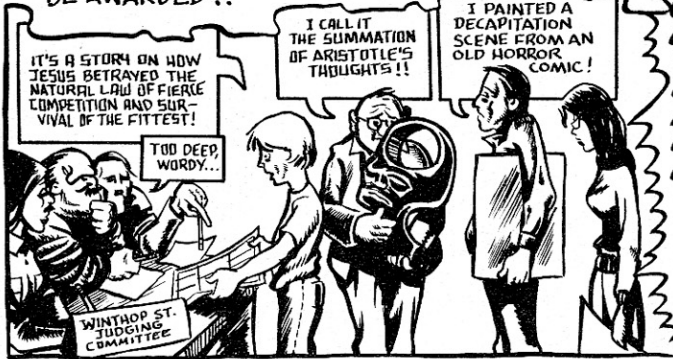
IT'S A STORY ON HOW JESUS BETRAYED THE NATURAL LAW OF FIERCE COMPETITION AND SURVIVAL OF THE FITTEST!

I CALL IT THE SUMMATION OF ARISTOTLE'S THOUGHTS!!

I PAINTED A DECAPITATION SCENE FROM AN OLD HORROR COMIC!

TOO DEEP, WORDY...

IT'S NOTHING PERSONAL KID. BUT, THEN, IT NEVER WAS...



I'M PLACING YOU THREE **GREEN WITCHES** IN CHARGE OF DISCHARGING THESE ORDERS AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE. I UNDERSTAND YOU ARE ALL HIGHLY QUALIFIED! KNOW THAT IN A FEW DAYS I SHALL BE MAKING CONSTANT TOURS.

THE GOLDEN AGE HAS ARRIVED!!

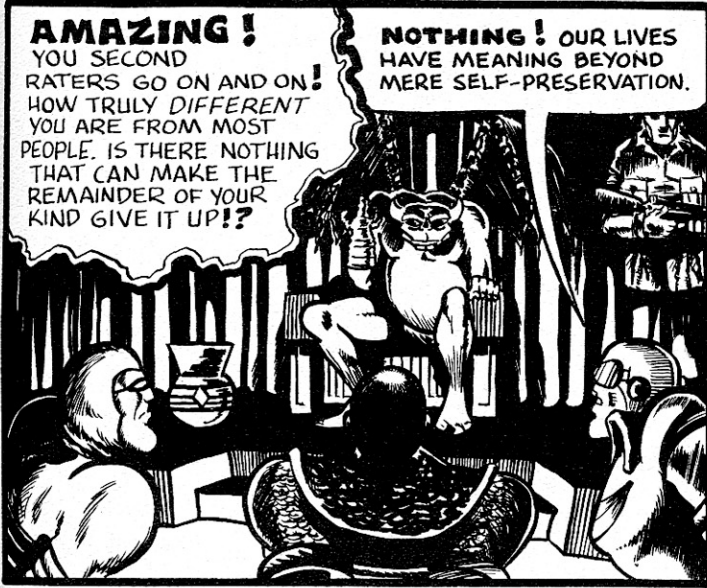
SIR, THE LATEST ROUND-UP OF THE REMAINING SUPER-HEROES, THE **GREEN BANANA OF BRAZIL**, THE **GREEN BEETLE OF JAPAN**, AND THE **GREEN PHANTOM OF AFRIKA!**



AMAZING!

YOU SECOND RATERS GO ON AND ON! HOW TRULY DIFFERENT YOU ARE FROM MOST PEOPLE. IS THERE NOTHING THAT CAN MAKE THE REMAINDER OF YOUR KIND GIVE IT UP!?

NOTHING! OUR LIVES HAVE MEANING BEYOND MERE SELF-PRESERVATION.



WE THIRST TO ESTABLISH JUSTICE AND PEACE UNTO OUR FINAL BREATH!

AWRGG! I THINK YOU GUYS DON'T KNOW HOW TO HAVE A LITTLE FUN! AND I AM BEGINNING TO FIND YOU COSTUMED, ONE-TRACK MINDED JERKS VERY BORING!!

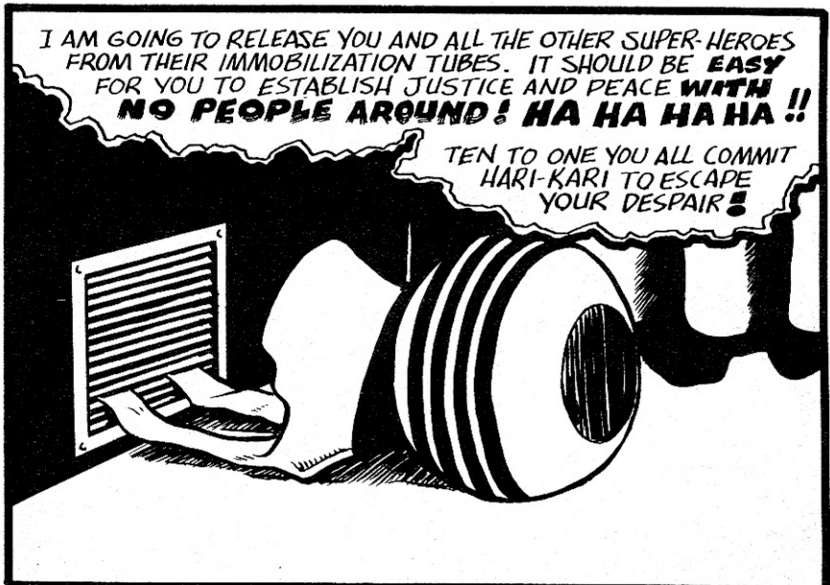


YA KNOW WHAT I'M GOING TO DO WHEN LIFE HERE HAS BEEN AGONIZINGLY SQUEEZED-OUT? -- AND I'VE SAFELY GONE ON TO ANOTHER PLANET --



I AM GOING TO RELEASE YOU AND ALL THE OTHER SUPER-HEROES FROM THEIR IMMOBILIZATION TUBES. IT SHOULD BE EASY FOR YOU TO ESTABLISH JUSTICE AND PEACE **WITH NO PEOPLE AROUND! HA HA HA HA!!**

TEN TO ONE YOU ALL COMMIT HARI-KARI TO ESCAPE YOUR DESPAIR!

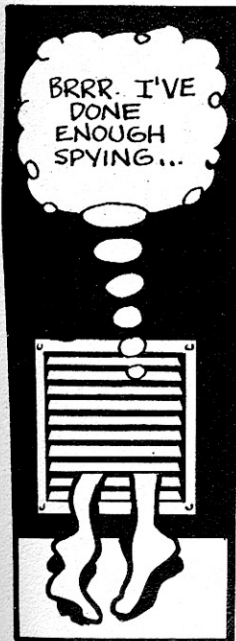


BRRR. I'VE DONE ENOUGH SPYING...

WHAT'S LEFT OF GOOD EMERALD HAS BUT ONE HOPE...

TO REALIZE THAT HOPE I MUST DO SOMETHING THAT I'M NOT SURE I CAN DO...

IT MAY BE IMPOSSIBLE BUT IF IT TAKES GUTS NO ONE HAS MORE THAN **PLASTIC GREEN!**



I'M THE **LAST** OF THE SUPERHEROES WITH ANY KIND OF SUPERABILITY AT ALL!



WOT DA!!

I DON'T **DARE** TAKE ON GREENHORN AND HIS HITLER ARMY BY MYSELF.



MORE POWER IS NEEDED! MORE SUPERPOWER FOR AN ALL-OUT ATTACK ON THE ARMY AND GREENHORN...



THERE IS ONLY ONE PLACE WHERE THERE IS STILL ENOUGH RESERVE SUPER SOCKERS. **LIMBO!** I'VE GOT TO REACH THOSE GUYS. LET 'EM KNOW WE NEED THEM, WANT THEM ONCE AGAIN!! Especially Green Lama, The Marvels, Bullseye...



THE LETTER EXPLAINS EVERYTHING. I **MUST** STRETCH MY ARM ALL THE WAY TO UKRANUS, THE SIXTH PLANET...



... WHERE LIMBO IS LOCATED. UHN! **GOT TO -- MAKE IT!**



THERE'S UKRANUS. I SEE IT! ... KEEP MY EYES STEADY -- AND STAB!!

..GOT TO REACH.. MAKE IT..



SOMEONE HAS TAKEN THE LETTER FROM MY HAND! I MADE IT! I REACHED LIMBO!



WHEW! WHAT A STRAIN! I REALLY OUTSTRETCHED MYSELF! SLOWLY...NOW...BACK IN... MORE NORMAL... SHAPE.



WELL, I SUCCEEDED! ALL I CAN DO NOW IS CONTINUE TO HARASS THE ARMY AND WAIT AND HOPE.



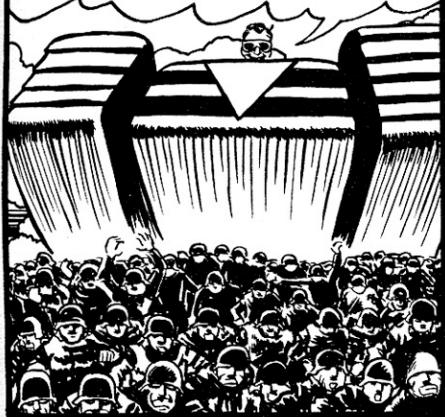
I JUST **KNOW!** I'M GOING TO GET ARTHRITIS SOMEWHERE...

AND WHEN IT COMES TO THE FINE OL' ART OF HARASSMENT, PLAS IS WITHOUT PEER!



HOPEING TO DISTRACT THE HITLER ARMY LONG ENOUGH TO SLOW THEIR GRISLY PLANS AND TO GIVE THE LIMBO GUYS TIME TO GET TO EARTH, PLASTIC GREEN ACTS AS A ONE MAN GUERILLA ARMY STRIKING ACROSS THE CONTINENT ---

RUN YOU DEVIL DOGS!



BOOGEY BOOGEY BOOGEY BOOGEY



WHEN! I'M GETTIN' EXHAUSTED! THOSE GUYS BETTER SHOW UP QUICK!



CURSES, CRISIS, CRAPUS!!

IS THERE NO ONE THAT CAN RID ME OF THIS RUBBERBAND MAN??

HE DELAYS THE GRAND PLAN!!!



HE IS CUNNINGLY DECEITFUL MASTER!

- AND DECEITFULLY CUNNING!

HIS CUNNING IS DECEITFUL!

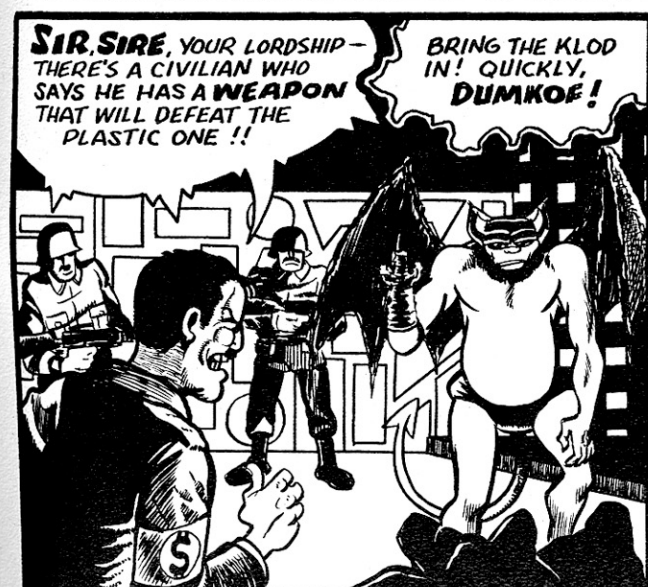
USELESS CACKLERS!

RECEIVE THE SLAP OF CENSORSHIP! YOU SHALL NOT SPEAK AGAIN!



SIR, SIRE, YOUR LORDSHIP - THERE'S A CIVILIAN WHO SAYS HE HAS A WEAPON THAT WILL DEFEAT THE PLASTIC ONE !!

BRING THE KLOD IN! QUICKLY, DUMKOF!



WHO ARE YOU? WHAT IS THIS WEAPON? WHERE IS IT!?

IT IS HERE, MOST EVIL ONE - IN MY HAND..



YOU HAVE NOTICED THAT THE DEVIL HAS NO BELLY BUTTON. YOU DO KNOW WHY, DON'T YOU? -ED.



I CALL IT
**GREEN MARVEL'S
 ALL-DAY SUPER
 SUCKER SOCK!**



WELL? AREN'T YOU HITLER
 STOOGES COMING TO THE
 AID OF YOUR LEADER?

ARE
 YOU
 KIDDIN'!?

AHG
 GASP!



THIS CAT
 WAS
 GONNA
 BUMP
 EVERYBODY
 OFF!

WE
 WAS
 JUST
 TRYIN'
 TO
 SURVIVE
 AS LONG
 AS
 POSSIBLE...

BESIDES,
 WE
 REMEMBER
YOU!

THE BEST
 THING WE
 CAN DO
 IS BEAT
 A HASTY
 RETREAT!



BUT THIS LOOKS LIKE AN OLD
 STORY. YOUR POWER INSPIRED
 A SERVITUDE TO **FEAR**. POWER
 GONE, LOYALTY VANISHES!

POP OFF, GREENHORN!
IT'S TIME SOMEBODY
RID YOU OF YOUR DEVIL!
HA-HA!

MY ARMY!
THERE'S STILL
MY WORLD-WIDE
KILLER
ARMY!!



RIGHT YOU ARE!
LET'S LISTEN IN
TO SURRENDERS,
CAPITULATIONS AND,
OR PLEAS FOR HELP
FROM YOUR OTHER
COMMAND POSTS!

SORRY SPORT, THAT
HYPNO-STUFF ONLY WORKS
WITH
WEAK
MINDS
!

LOOK AT ME!
YOU ARE IN
MY POWER!



FROM ACROSS THE NATION AND AROUND THE WORLD

MASTER!
CRASHCITY
HAS BEEN
INVADED!

PALOOKAMAN
RETURNS TO SAVE
HIS NATIVE POLEND!

MR.
SHAMROCK
IS HERE TO PUT THE
SHAMES TO YE!

I THINK
IRELAND IS
LOST!

AHK!

VE SURRENDER!
VE TOUGHT IT
VAS TEXAS!
HONEST!!

GREEN BOLT
RESCUES HIS
MEYIHO CITY!

BEAR
MAN
DEMANDS
A FREE
RUSHA!

CAPTAIN AFRIKA
DECLARES ALL
AFRIKA FREE FROM
THE HITLER ARMY

THE
CANADIAN ACE
MOVES IN, UP AND OUT

THE
SQUATEMALA
GARRISON IS
PROUD TO AN-
NOUNCE ITS
SURRENDER!

OMAHA
CITY WILL
BE PRETTY
AGAIN.

ROW



MASTER - ANCIENT SUPER WARRIORS
ARE SWAMPING OUR SOUTH AMERICAN
GARRISONS ---

IT IS
NECESSARY
TO SUR-
RENDER...

THE CHINESE AND RUSSIANS
ARE REGAINING TERRITORY...

WANT TO HEAR
MORE Z

NO, YOU WIN. THE GAME IS LOST!
MY HOUR OF GLORY HAS COME
AND GONE... BUT LET YOUR
HISTORY BOOKS SHOW I
WAS DEFEATED ONLY AFTER
I HAD CONQUERED THIS
PLANET AND CRUELLY
DISPOSED OF MORE
THAN A HALF OF A
BILLION PEOPLE !

HM, YES, WELL,
I SUPPOSE HISTORY
WILL FIND IT DIFFICULT
TO IGNORE YOUR, ER,
CONTRIBUTION...

NOW, IT'S FREEDOM
TIME FOR THE SUPER
GROUPS YOU'VE
IMPRISONED!
TAKE ME TO THEM!

YES, OF COURSE. THROUGH
THE SECOND DOOR...

I STILL HAVE ONE
TRICK UP MY HORN
IF I CAN GRUNT
FAST ENUFF !!

RANTICALLY, DESPERATELY, GREENHORN DUMPS OUT THE GOOK FASTER
THAN GREEN MARVEL CAN COPE WITH IT!

STRAIGHT
DOWN
THIS
WAY

WHAT THE--
WHAT
ARE
YOU UP
TO NOW?

THIS STUFF
IS STICKIN'!

AND
HARD-
ENING!

HA-HA-HA

IMBECILE! STUPIDO!
NOW TO REGROUP
MY FORCES AND
MOVE THE PARTY ALONG!

HOLY
WOE-IS-ME!
I FEEL LIKE
I'M IN A
FROZEN
INK
BOTTLE!

GREANEUS!

**YOW!
THE HOERENE
POLICE!**

**NO!
NO!**
BE SILENT,
BE STILL!
BETRAAYER
OF THE
BEAUTIFUL!



RELAX, EMERALDIAN,
WE SHALL HAVE YOU
FREE IN A MINUTE!

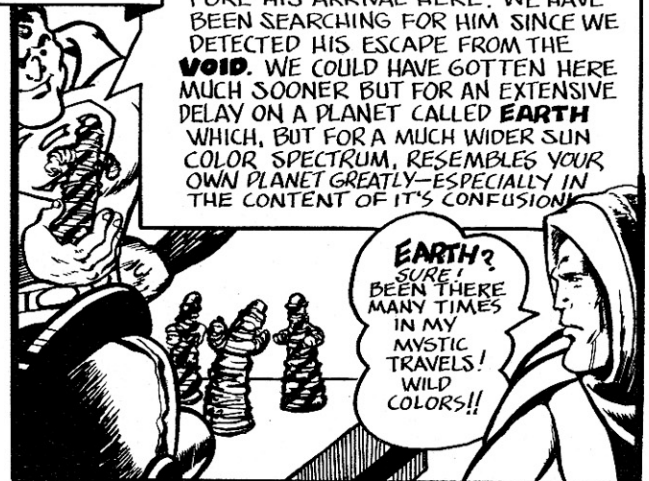
YES, AND YOUR
FRIENDS AS
WELL...



SHORTLY

GREANEUS DISPOSED OF THREE
OTHER LIFE-LIVING PLANETS BE-
FORE HIS ARRIVAL HERE. WE HAVE
BEEN SEARCHING FOR HIM SINCE WE
DETECTED HIS ESCAPE FROM THE
VOID. WE COULD HAVE GOTTEN HERE
MUCH SOONER BUT FOR AN EXTENSIVE
DELAY ON A PLANET CALLED **EARTH**
WHICH, BUT FOR A MUCH WIDER SUN
COLOR SPECTRUM, RESEMBLES YOUR
OWN PLANET GREATLY--ESPECIALLY IN
THE CONTENT OF IT'S CONFUSION!

EARTH?
SURE!
BEEN THERE
MANY TIMES
IN MY
MYSTIC
TRAVELS!
WILD
COLORS!!



HOW
NOW
WILL
GREEN-
HORN
BE
PUN-
ISHED?

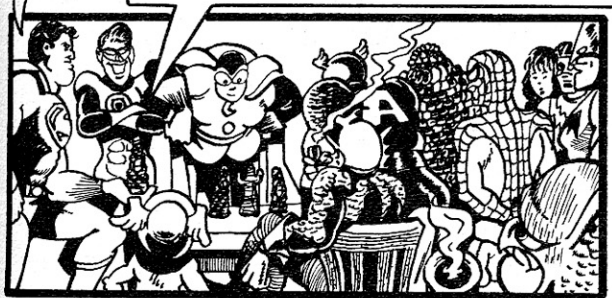
THERE IS ONLY **ONE** WAY REALLY.
IT WAS **UNTHINKABLE** FOR US.
INHUMANE, YOU MIGHT SAY, BUT
JUSTICE AND SAFETY DEMAND IT!
**HE MUST BE DISGRUNTLED
AND SCRAPED CLEAN!**
WE... WOULD APPRECIATE IT IF ONE
OF YOU WOULD PERFORM THE, ER...

LIKE
SO?

YES, JUST
SCOOP
AWAY
THE PUTTY
LIKE
MATERIAL!

**NEVERMORE,
GREANEUS,
WILL YOU
CREATE
ANYTHING
AGAIN--**

**YOU WILL
BE IN FACT
WHAT YOU
ARE IN
SPIRIT...**



**JUST AN
EMPTY
SHELL!**

IF WE CAN ASSIST
IN THE REPAIR OF
YOUR PLANET, IT
WOULD GIVE US
GREAT SOLACE.

SAY, GUYS, THERE'S
A PERSON OUTSIDE.
SAYS HE USE TO BE
PRESIDENT OR SOME
THING. SAYS HE'S
READY TO
RESUME
LEADERSHIP
TO SAVE
THE WORLD!

OH YEAH!?
**WELL, TELL
THAT KNOW
NOTHIN'
JERK TO..**

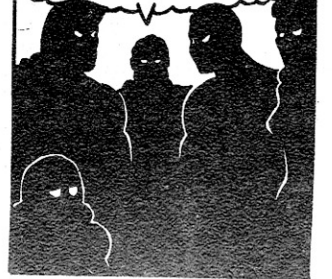
WE'VE GOT TO KICK
OFF THE CREATION OF
JUST, DEMOCRATIC,
NON-PROFIT, UNSELFISH,
HUMANITARIAN, WORLD-
COOPERATIVE SOCIETIES.

FINE, WE CAN
USE ALL THE
HELP WE CAN
GET!

JUST SAY NO
THANKS AND GIVE
HIM A CANDY
BAR...

HM. YES. RIGHT. HMM

**AND WE'LL NEED ALL THE
HELP WE CAN GET!!**



WE'LL RETURN
HIM TO OUR
PLANET WHERE
HE'LL BE
APPROPRIATELY
STUFFED!

THEND-FRIEND



LETTERS



to THE COLLECTOR
1535 Oneida Dr.
Clairton, Pa. 15025

LOGO BY DON NEWTON

Doug Harding
30 Brent Avenue
Ottawa, Ontario
CANADA K2G 3K8

THE COLLECTOR #28 was overall, a well done issue. "The Legacy of Star Trek" was very interesting and the accompanying illustrations were fantastic. I'd like to see a follow-up article by the Commodores of L.O.V.E. (the Loyal Order of the Vulcan Ear), if only to give the answers to the Trekkie Super-Quiz.

Murray Bishoff did an excellent job with his article on the Shadow. My only regret after reading about the Shadow here, and in Steranko's History of Comics, is that low-priced reprints of the pulps are not available.

"Shall We Join The Ladies?" was a bit long and drawn-out, but it was good as a change-of-pace. A look at the sexy side of crime-fighting is a nice change from articles that deal only with the violent side of superheroes.

There were only two things really wrong with issue #28. One is that the colour was off in places, and the other is the fact that you say number 29 will be the last issue of THE COLLECTOR. It's too bad, but all things come to an end...

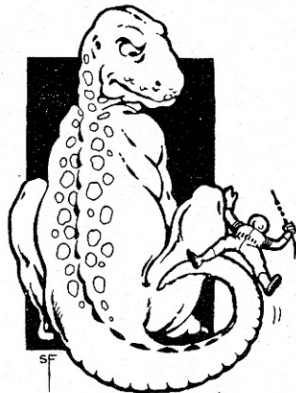
As number 29 will be the last issue, take your time with it and produce a truly magnificent issue. The world awaits the best ever...

Well, Doug, I only hope that, after reading this issue, you'll see that I followed your suggestions in preparing this issue.. Whether or not it is the best ever, well, I'll leave that for the readers and critics to decide. Commodores Miller and Fel-labaum have returned, complete with all of the Quiz Answers; and hopefully the color registration problems that bugged me last issue will be eliminated in the production of this issue... -- BGW

Bob Garrison
15003 East 41st Street
Independence, Missouri 64055

...You always put out a very fine fan-zine, Bill, and I'm looking forward to seeing the latest. The line-up sounds real-ly good, and the cover sounds great. But, then, you usually have fine covers. I hope this won't be your last effort. I realize that you'll probably have to stop putting out THE COLLECTOR sometime, but I'd like to at least see you publish through issue #30, just to even it up...

First off, let me make clear that Bob was ordering TC#28 at the time of his comment and had not seen the issue yet. Unfortunately, Bob, much as I wanted to, I just couldn't fulfil your request to go to #30 because of the items listed in my editorial this issue. But, look at it this way: Maybe that's another excuse for TC to return sometime in the future. I'm not making any promises, and honestly, I seriously doubt any return, but strange things can happen! -- BGW



Clyde Caldwell
Lowell, North Carolina 28098

I hope TC#29 won't be the last issue of TC - It will be sorely missed in fandom if this is the case.

Stephen E. Fabian
Middlebury, Vermont 05753

Too bad #29 will be your SWAN SONG.. Perhaps you'll return --- it's in the blood.

William M. [MAD] Gaines
485 Madison Avenue
New York, New York 10022

THE COLLECTOR #28 was beautiful! I enjoyed every page - thanks for sending it!

"Close Shave" was great - definitely in the EC tradition.

Eric L. Hoffman
15120 Vanowen Street, #23
Van Nuys, California 91406

I recently (comparatively) became acquainted with your publication last June at Houston, Texas at the Houstoncon, and managed to come up with issues 24, 25, 27 and now through a shop here in Hollywood, #28. I've enjoyed it immensely and hope one day to find #26...or any other issues for that matter. While not really a comics fan, I'm hooked.

I guess what started me was your issue 24 with its coverage of the '71 New York Comic Convention...particularly a write-up and photos on a friend of mine-- Kirk Alyn, the original Superman (at least for live motion pictures--the two serials of 1948 and 1950.) I got Kirk a copy recently and he was delighted with the article by Tom Fagan. He recalled meeting him. If there is any way you can contact him, or enable me to, I'd like to let him know of my appreciation for the write-up he did, in contrast to a rather nasty piece in another fanzine, which seemed to be irked, among other things, that they didn't have any footage of the Superman serial. Anyway, my thanks to you people, for such a nice coverage on the convention and my friend Kirk.

However, to the meat of the matter. In reading issue #28, I perused the article on The Shadow, one of my favorites of the pulp adventure characters. On page 51, a very brief mention was made of The Shadow's film career...albeit inaccurate..as well as incomplete.

The serial, made in 1940, was not by Republic Pictures, but by Columbia, via the serial unit headed by Larry Darmour, a maker of very low-budget productions. Columbia was not exactly noted for its serials, particularly during the very early '40s. Why? Probably because of the scripting, which was sometimes unbelievably --



poor, but more likely than not due to the work of the director, a fellow named..... James W. Horne, whose biggest claim -to - fame was that he directed several of the films made by Laurel & Hardy. He never seemed to get out of his L&H syndrome--- having crooks do very broad take-ums, and sometimes the heroes as well, when the tables were turned, inserting slapstick moments at times, and the like.

The Shadow/Lamont Cranston was played by Victor Jory, a wise choice for the part. Instead of the multiple identities the Shadow utilized with incredible frequency during his pulp days, only one disguise was used, that of Lin Chang, a sinister Chinese who was purported to augment his Chinatown merchant business with other, sinister, activities. Veda Ann Borg was Margo Lane, while the Shadow's aides were pretty well eliminated and compressed into one man, Cranston's chaffer, Vincent (probably the Harry Vincent of the stories). It ran 15 chapters. Having seen one episode, one feels that Republic probably would have done a much better job. (Witness their work with Captain Marvel, and Spy Smasher, to mention a few) But one can only speculate.

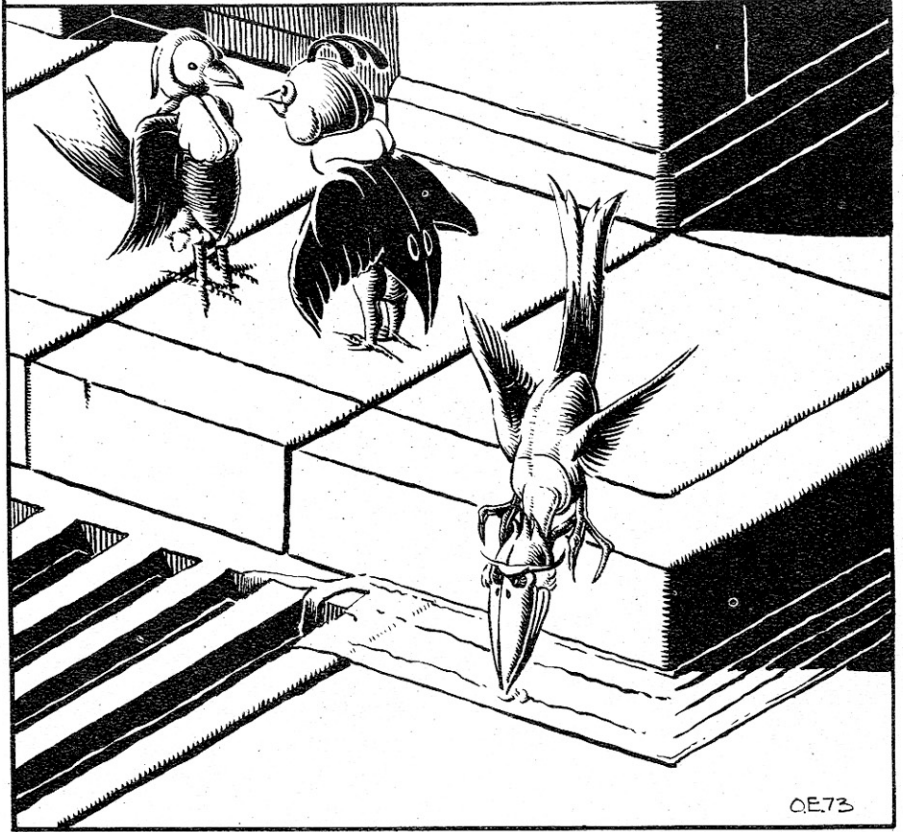
Prior to that, in the late '30s, an independent producer came out with "The Shadow Strikes" starring former silent-film idol Rod LaRoque as Lamont Cranston/Shadow. In the '40s, Monogram came out with three features starring Kane Richmond (Spy Smasher, Brick Bradford) as Lamont Cranston. Cranston was simply a play-boy type, his Shadow identity changed, from the cloaked crimefighter to that of a mystery-type in black overcoat, slouch hat, face-mask similar to that of Republic's Masked Marvel and black gloves. His relationship as friend to Police Com. Weston was changed to having Cranston become his nephew. Margo Lane was still around, & Cranston's third side was Shrevvy, the tax-i driver.

The three films---"Behind The Mask", "The Shadow Returns" and "The Missing Lady" are hardly seen anymore, and in some areas are sought by Shadow buffs, and many of whom consider them enjoyable interpretations (albeit also inaccurate) of the pulp hero. There were rumors of a Shadow pilot being produced when the "Batman" - craze kicked off a run on comic strip/pulp heroes, but nothing happened.

Hope this little bit of data will help add to the record...

Thanks for setting us straight on the adaptations of The Shadow, Eric. I was unaware of the films you mentioned (...except for the one Murray talked about), until I saw a recent "B" Movie Showcase on the ol' boob tube which featured a '30s movie entitled, "International Crime". Technically, I guess you could call it a Shadow picture, since it starred Rod LaRoque as (more-or-less) The Shadow. However, from what I saw, The Shadow was nothing more than a mysterious daily newspaper columnist who wrote a "gossip" column dealing with crime. Cranston was the writer, working out of the newspaper office; Phoebe (not Margo) Lane was his young, inexperienced reporter-aide, and Shrevvy was the trusty taxi driver who always seemed to be right there when Cranston and/or Phoebe needed a ride. From what I saw, Cranston never changed into any Shadow garb, but then, I couldn't/didn't watch much more than forty-five minutes of it,....if that much! It was just too far afield from what I've come to know as The Shadow.-BGW

"HE'S ALWAYS GOT HIS MIND IN THE GUTTER!"



CLIFFORD NEAL

This issue we're showcasing the many talents of CLIFFORD NEAL, who, as a "comix junkie" spends "more time reading, than drawing or writing." He is 27 years old, an inventive and talented cartoonist and story-teller, and perhaps the only industrial engineer in all of comix. In his own words:

"I am fascinated by trying to use 'binary systems analysis' to analyze the structure of B&W comix, their story lines composition, tension, etc. If I could ever get to the point where I could earn some cash from comix or illustration, I would like to devote full time to it."

Cliff's work hasn't seen much print lately, but he does have stories slated for both PROMETHEAN ENTERPRISES and Paul Legrazie's EXOTIC FANTASY, among others..

The "O.E." in his signature on his work stands for "Oisif Equax", a pen name he picked up when he was in the army in Germany. The army was when he really got

hooked on comics, since there was plenty of time with nothing to do that was soaked up by reading every comic in existence which were all readily available.

"I would like to get some work published in the undergrounds, but I haven't had any luck yet, so I am looking for any chance to do any kind of work in fanzines magazines, children's books, etc. I have difficulty in writing full-length stories so I usually prefer and enjoy doing cartoons [as seen here and on subsequent pages], splash pages, spot illos, logos, covers, illustrations, pin-ups, etc. more than full-length stories. I am now thinking of trying a sky-jacking story next.

I also ride a '67 BSA 441..."

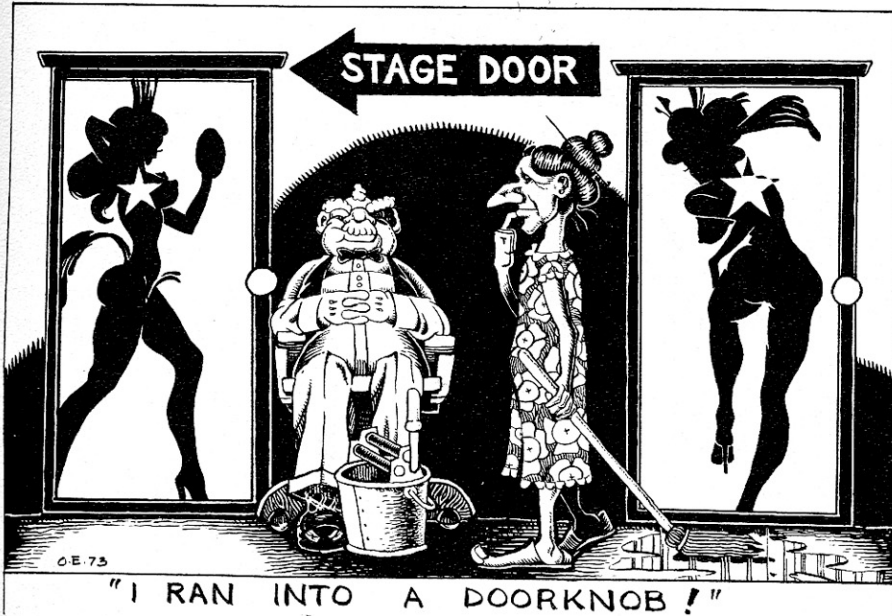
Anyone interested in contacting O.E. about art, write to:

CLIFFORD NEAL
92 Noank Ledyard Rd
Mystic, Connecticut 06355

James Cassara
6285 N.W. 111 Terrace
Hialeah, Florida 33012

After reading the third issue of THE COLLECTOR I've received, I thought I'd write and tell you how I felt this issue compared to the two others. Frankly, Bill, it was a bust. Despite being quite thick, and containing many color pieces, issue number 28 just can't hold a candle to the other recent efforts.

With the exception of the cover (it was dynamite), and 3 or 4 other drawings, the artwork generally was pretty mundane. Honestly, Bill, I believe you're making the same mistakes many other fanzine editors make. That is, assuming that artwork in color will immediately be attractive... Not so. No color, no matter how plentiful or brilliant, will make a mediocre piece of artwork stand out. Take a look at pages 18, 39, and the centerspread. Although the color is there, the artwork just doesn't



"I RAN INTO A DOORKNOB!"

though opinions on the Star Trek article & the superheroine article were mixed, the vast majority enjoyed both. As far as the Golden Age Reviewer, well, it suffered also from a lack of proper visual aides, so this issue Mr. Moreno has cooked up a look at the current Spirit revival which should prove to your liking. Finally, you needn't worry about any more "bummers" slipping by since this is the last issue. Hopefully, you won't feel that this issue fits into that dubious category... -- BGW



Adonis A. DeLove, Sr.
4826 So. Greenwood
Chicago, Illinois 60615

I received your letter with the money order that I sent you last July. I didn't receive the form letter you sent on July 25, 1973 and I had written the whole thing off as a loss.

What I'm really trying to say is that it is really refreshing to know that there is someone left in this world who is honest; it really blew my mind when I took a look at the date on that money order, and read the letter you had written. All I can say is Thank You.

make it.

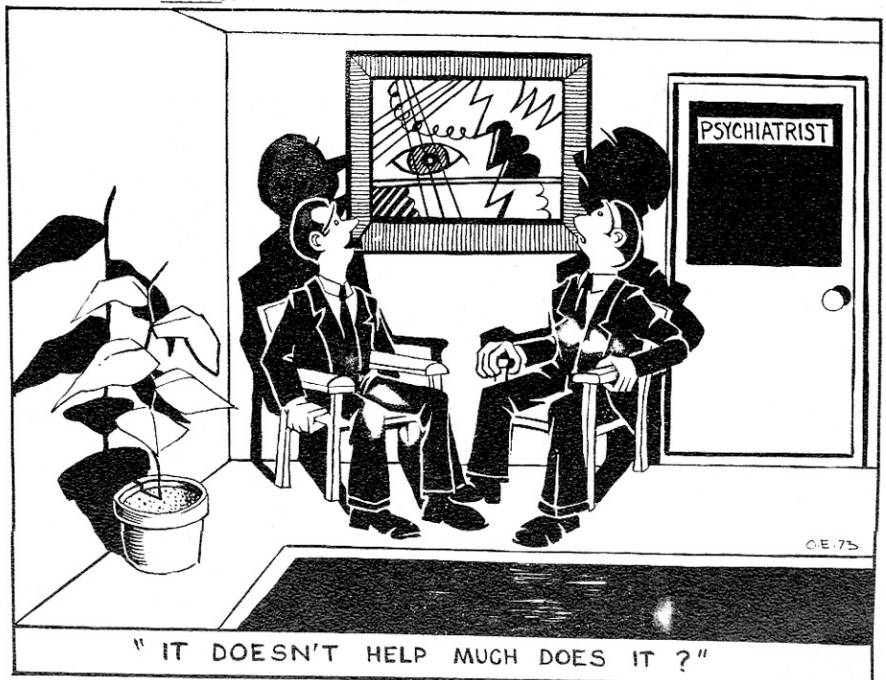
Another complaint is your policy of printing an already-printed piece of art. (such as pages 52, 54, and again, the centerspread.) Also, why print a piece twice in the same issue? The Don Newton Shadow drawing wasn't that stunning anyway, and certainly didn't warrant double exposure.

Article-wise, I did very much enjoy the article on female superheroinas, as well as the very nice Shadow article. However, the Star Trek article was weakly constructed and just not that interesting... Perhaps the poorest feature of the entire issue was your sloppy attempt at picture review (pages 4-7). Also, the Golden Age Reviewer seems to me to be totally useless. Anyone wishing to invest money in Golden Age comics pretty much has an idea of what to look for, so why not have Mr. Moreno's rather obvious talent put to use elsewhere? However, if readers' reactions warrant the continuation of such boredom, please try to review the less-expensive ones, since the classics cost so damn much

look absolutely nothing like their respective color suggestions, provided by all of the artists in question, and this is due to poor overlay and color registration work on the part of your's truly. One reason I decided to print Newton's Shadow on the inside was to show what the illustration actually looked like, since it wasn't originally intended for color repro..Which brings me to your next point:Reprinting of some illustrations. Page 52 was a letter column about issue #27, two illustrations from which were reproduced with some letters re: that issue. Page 54 was photographed from the original art from my collection, purchased from Gil Kane at the '73 New York Con. [Unfortunately, he didn't inform G.B. Love and I that we had purchased similar illustrations. Compare them very closely...they're not the same!] Finally, since the centerspread had not seen the light of day since 1968, and fit in nicely with the superheroine article, and I was confident of reproducing it faithfully in color [which I didn't], it "made" it. AL-

Okay Bill, I've had my say... You're more than welcome to take me up on any of these points you disagree with.You've produced some excellent issues in the past(--such as issue 26--);just be careful not to let the grind of putting out THE COLLECTOR allow you to let bummers like issue 28 to slip by. Even if it means publishing less often.

P.S. I will continue to buy and support THE COLLECTOR!



"IT DOESN'T HELP MUCH DOES IT?"



BLACK '73

Now, the other reason for writing is this: I read in issue #28 that all back issues, #1-27, are sold out, and it destroyed my day. What I'm asking is, if there is any way I might buy some of those back issues, or do you know of anyone who might have them for sale, please let me know....

Again, I wish to thank you...

First, an explanation to the reader: I make a practice of cashing no check or money order, or using any currency sent to me, until after an order has been filled. Well, Mr. DeLove's order for TC#27 (the hottest selling issue of TC ever), in addition to a number of others, arrived after TC #27 was already sold-out, and I sent him one of the form-letters informing him of the unavailability of the issue. As was the case with numerous others, I received no reply; subsequently, his order was misplaced with several others and was not re-discovered until just recently. All orders were returned (either cash, check or money orders, since none had been cashed or used due to my policy) with a new form letter stating the full case and a suggestion for future orders. This is just one of many such cases. When I read of all the cheating in fandom, and the efforts to halt all such abuse, I felt the absolute best thing to do was to offer subscribers the fastest service possible, along with writing immediately to any people whose order(s) became misplaced, misfiled, unintelligible, incorrect, etc. I thought, well, fandom and its fans have treated me good, so why not return the favor? // If anyone out there has any back issues of TC for sale, please contact Mr. DeLove...I'm aware of several zine dealers who stock TC and may have some back-issues [Bud Plant, Gordon Bailey's Fandom Newsstand, RBCC Fanzine Shop, etc.], but there's no way for me to accurately predict what issues, if any, they will have for sale by the time you read this. - BGW

Rene Rendon
P.O. Box 961
Robstown, Texas 78380

I was reading the review of your issue #28 in *Inside Comics*, and since I was one of those fortunate souls to buy #26 & #27, I am enclosing \$1.25 for #28.

Bill, your fanzine is one of the best I've seen, and believe me, I've seen many in the past 12 months...

Thanks for your testimonial, Rene. I only hope you enjoyed TC#28, and thoroughly enjoyed this last issue of mine.



Joe Sinnott
Marvel Artist & Inker

This certainly isn't the piece of art I had hoped to do for your last issue but perhaps it might go well toward the end of the magazine.

I'm sure it expresses the feelings of your friends as well as yourself.

Hope your last issue is a big success - its ending will be a big loss to the fanzine world.

Keep in touch, Bill, and many thanks.

William MacIntosh, Jr.
711 15th Avenue
Prospect Park, Pa. 19076

A follow-up article on Star Trek? Definitely! Although most of the article's contents were covered in *The Making Of Star Trek* by Stephen E. Whitfield & Gene Roddenberry, I really dug the illustrations by John L. Byrne and Jim Pinkoski. I would give my right arm (hint) for John to include a Klingon battle cruiser in the possible follow-up illustrations. I would also greatly appreciate a battle scene. I have one question, however - why in all of the Byrne illustrations were the vessels moving away from the onlooker & never towards him?

Although I began reading and collecting comics seriously only two years ago, and most of the subjects covered in your fanzine were new to me, I really enjoyed *The Collector* #28. I was particularly fond of the article "Shadow of the Ages", by Murray Bishoff, and the accompanying illustrations.

My only complaint lies with the article "Occupational Hazards". I think it would be fair to say that a large percentage of your readers also read *MAD Magazine* and if so have seen these types of articles before. In theory this type of article should be funny, but in print, I have never seen one that was. I can only hope that no more space will be wasted in a continuation of this article in the next issue.

In closing, I would like to say that I am extremely saddened by the fact that *The Collector* will end just one issue after I bought my first. All good things must come to an end, but why so soon?

Well, you got your wish for both a follow-up *STAR TREK* article and a Byrne battle scene, though I can't explain why it, too, shows the *Enterprise* from the back. Anyway, I'd like to thank you for your comments. The *MAD* flair to "Occupational Hazards" was probably due to my handling of its layout than its content, though I do see the connection you made. This issue, Mr. Reynolds has contributed two serious examinations of the many facets of Captain Marvel, rather than another humorous piece. As far as TC coming to an end, I'm

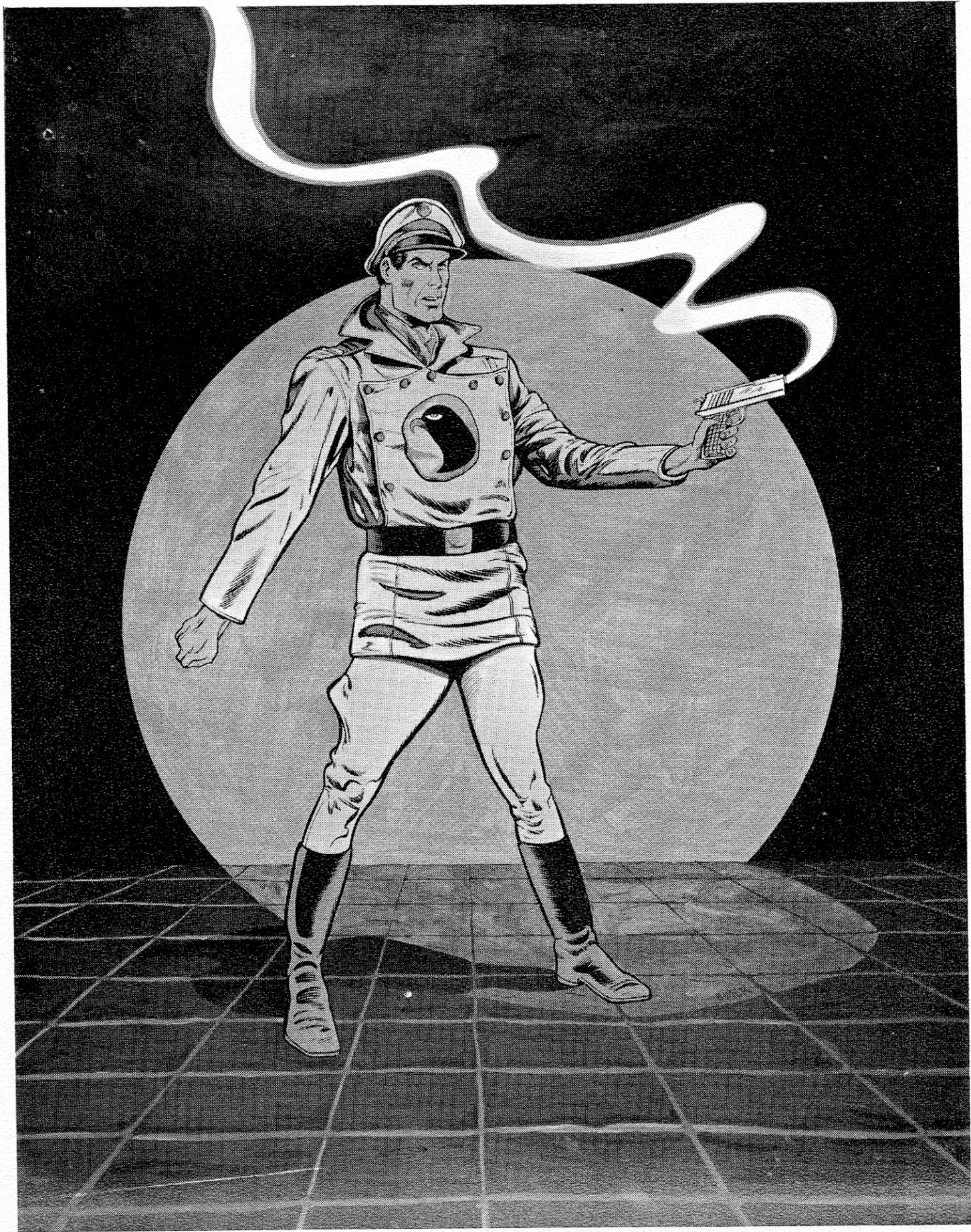


Rich Moreno, J.
Pierce J Rm 223
UC Davis
Davis, California 95616

I thank you for asking me to be a part of your last issue, and I hope that my small contribution will help you in some way to make this your greatest issue... Fandom will miss *THE COLLECTOR*.



"IT'S THE PARK RANGER - HE WANTS TO KNOW
HAVE WE SEEN HIS HORSE - IT'S SPOTTED HE SAYS."



afraid I'll have to refer you to my editorial for the whole story. Finally, let me say this: It may seem "so soon" to you but after seven years and twenty-nine issues of *The Collector*, I think I've had just about ENOUGH for awhile! -- BGW

COMIC BOOK

NUMBER SIX IS OUT!

IT IS ALSO AVAILABLE TO YOU AT

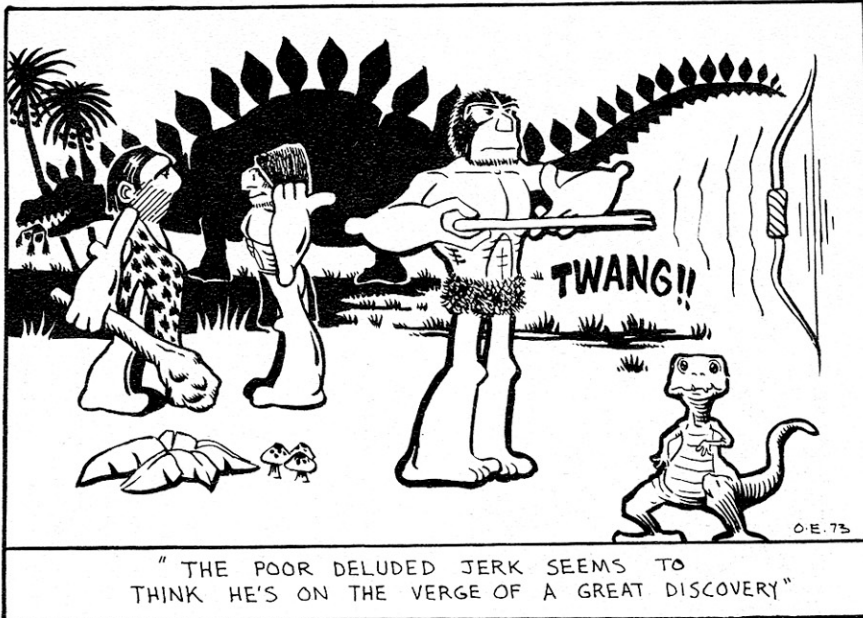
A BUCK A BOOK!

PRICE

PRICE

You CAN GET 'EM FROM....

A. J. HANLEY
6228 N. WINTHROP AVE.
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS
60660



"THE POOR DELUDED JERK SEEMS TO THINK HE'S ON THE VERGE OF A GREAT DISCOVERY"

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS FROM YE OLDE ED. :

I just thought I'd take some space to say a few things I may have forgotten to say elsewhere in the letter column.

First off, my apologies to all those readers who clamored for years for a much lengthier letter col, only to finally get their wish in this, my last issue.

Secondly, a few more comments on the last issue, TC#28.: As you might gather, from some of my other comments, I was not particularly thrilled with #28, largely to

be blamed on my own printing mistakes; as I believe there were some excellent features there, I just handled them wrong, and hopefully I am making amends with this issue. The "EC Tribute" idea was Ken's. He intended the illustration to be a tribute, not the entire issue as some readers misunderstood. The "Close Shave" feature was resurrected because I felt it fit in with the EC tone set by Ken's cover, and I redid the layout because I wasn't overly impressed with Don's handling of the story in straight comic-strip form. I didn't at-



THE BIG 3



PENCILS... RC HARNETT
 INKS... SIMSONA

A PANELOGICAL MESSAGE FROM

Howard M. Siegel

95 Sedgwick Avenue
Yonkers, N. Y. 10705
914-963-9581

February 23, 1974

Dear Bill;

When we worked together on your FANDOM PROFILE for my column in RB-CC, you intimated that increased personal responsibilities might someday cause you to cease publication of 'The Collector'. With this issue of TC, that time has come; and for me it is a sad, although predicted event. We both go far enough back into fandom's history to remember the days when a flood of crudzines swamped the marketplace. Yet, for those of us with discriminating taste there was always TC. From it's very inception you used the very best talent and settled for nothing less than quality in your endeavors. When availability and experience in printing equipment and techniques became tools of your editorialship, the physical appearance of TC became more professional. You had, and have few peers of such polished effort.

I can only say thanks for the pleasure you gave me personally, and hope that the future will be as successful for Bill G. Wilson as he made 'The Collector'.

Bestest

Howard

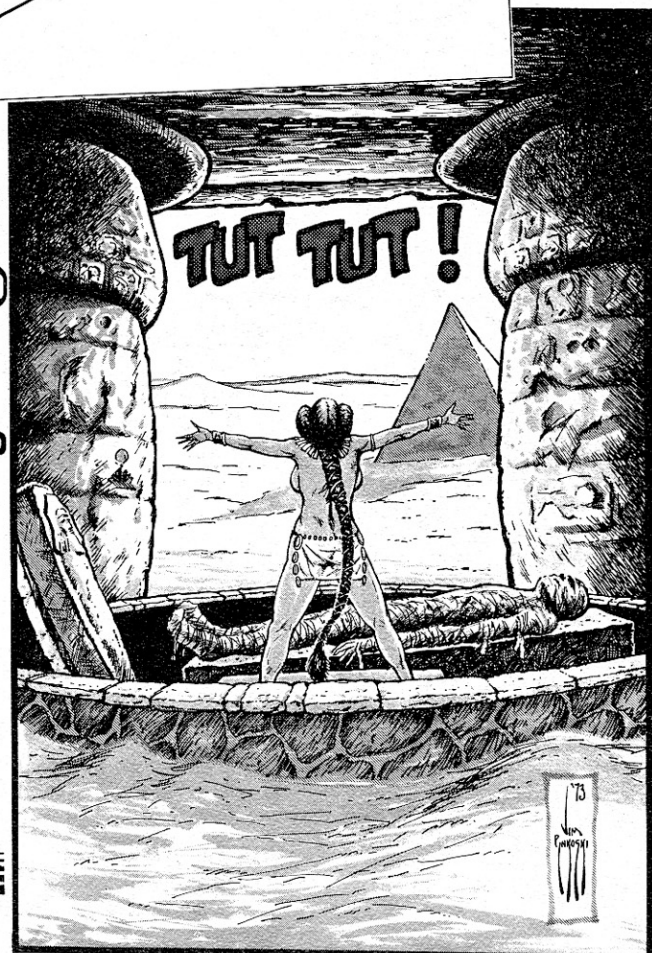
tempt picto-fiction, though it might have looked that way, because I've never seen any EC picto-fiction stories to have based my ideas on. As for the other features, I think my previous comments, and the features themselves, say it all.

Finally, some people used to criticize me for not "saying" more in the pages of TC. I didn't because I was usually too tired to say anything come editorial time, but now that I have spoken out in this issue, all of you who requested more commentary on my part may be secondguessing by now. Ah well...you can't please all of the readers all of the time! [An additional comment here to all you ambitious letter-writers out there: Don't hesitate in writing with your views on this issue just because you won't be seeing another one...now, moreso than ever before, I want your views on this issue! Or else how can you persuade me to bring TC back in the distant future?]

Had enough rambling? OK, I'll shut up for awhile, and let you enjoy the other features in this issue. Personally, I think this is the greatest 'zine ever; but, then again, I have been known to be biased about certain things!

— Bill G. Wilson —

SPACED
no. 1
UNDERGROUND
COMIC
BY
JIM
PINKOSKI:
2354 Woolsey St.
Berkeley, Calif.
94705
[You must state
that you are 18
years of age, or
older...]
75¢



Au revoir, but not good-bye...



ALL BEST WISHES
FROM ALL OF US, BILL.

JOE SINNOTT

