

MEGATON

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MEGATON

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FRONT COVER

Butch Guice and Ken McFarlane

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BACK COVER

Dan Reed

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FOR YEARS, YOU'VE COVETED
THE POWER OF THE METEOR...
THIS POWER OF YOURS!

POWERS GREAT ENOUGH
TO MOVE MOUNTAINS--
CHALLENGE NATURE!
POWER ENOUGH TO
BATTLE THE CRIMINAL
ELEMENT AS NO OTHER
HAS...

YEAH, MAN, THIS POWER
WAS GOOD. A HEAD-TRIP.
A RUSH.

POWER LIKE THAT
CANNOT BE CONTAIN-
ED. NOT EVEN BY
YOUR BODY...AND
WHO SHOULD
KNOW BETTER?

-- YOU'RE GOING
TO PAY MAN. LONG
AND HARD.

-- VERY
HARD!

QUICK 1/82



AT ONE TIME THE WORLD KEPT ITS EYES ON YOU AS COL. CHRISTOPHER KELLY, THE SPACE PROGRAM'S MOST COMPETENT TEST PILOT--

ON A ROUTINE FLIGHT JUST OUTSIDE THE EARTH'S ATMOSPHERE.

ALL SYSTEMS ARE CLEAR, GROUND CONTROL--

-- I'M BRINGING HER BACK IN.

HOWEVER, A QUICK WARNING FROM GROUND CONTROL DIDN'T COME IN TIME TO SAVE YOU FROM A ROGUE METEOR--

OF WHICH ALL YOU CAN REMEMBER IS A DULL GREEN GLOW THAT ENGULFED YOUR CAPSULE AS UNCONSCIOUSNESS TOOK YOU INTO ITS ARMS.

THE SHIP FELL TO EARTH--

-- SPLASHED DOWN OFF THE COAST OF BERMUDA--

-- AND WAS PICKED UP, ITS PASSENGER NEAR DEATH, BY THE SPACE PROGRAM'S COAST GUARD.

NUMEROUS TESTS REVEALED THAT SOME STRANGE FORM OF RADIATION WAS ABSORBED INTO YOUR BLOODSTREAM --

LEAVING YOU WITH A METABOLISM ABLE TO CALL UP HUGE AMOUNTS OF ENERGY FOR SHORT PERIODS OF TIME.

IT WAS THEN THAT THE WORLD BEGAN TO KNOW YOU AS THE SUPERHERO --

ULTRAMAN.

BUT YOU ALSO HAD A WIFE, AND A DAUGHTER WHO WAS BORN AFTER YOUR CAPSULE TOOK ITS BIG FALL

TAKE IT EASY WITH HER, CHRIS! SHE MAY HAVE HER FATHER'S EYES BUT CHRISTIE IS HARDLY A MATCH FOR THE MIGHTY ULTRAMAN.

OR SHOULD I SAY, THE BRITISH ULTRAMAN. WHY DID I HAVE TO MARRY A MAN WITH THE SENSITIVITY OF A DEAD SALT WATER BASS.

MAYBE SO, HON--

-- BUT THE KID'S GOT A LOT OF SPUNK. SHE'S STRONG, TOO!

-- GONNA GROW UP TO BE JUST LIKE HER OLD MAN.





YEARS PASS. YOU BECOME RECLUSIVE, HIDING FOR MONTHS IN THE ROCKY MOUNTAIN LABORATORY BUILT AND PAID FOR BY YOUR GOVERNMENT--

--AS YOU DESPERATELY TRY TO INVENT A WAY TO RID YOU OF THE POWER THAT HAS BECOME A TERRIBLE CURSE.



THE FIRST CASUALTY OF YOUR LIFE OF SECLUSION IS YOUR MARRIAGE. AS YOUR WIFE ESCORTS YOUNG CHRISTIE OUT THE DOOR, YOU REALIZE YOU ARE ALONE IN YOUR SEARCH FOR A RELEASE FROM THE ALL-CONSUMING ENERGY THAT IS DESTROYING YOUR METABOLISM.



MORE YEARS PASS. FINALLY, YOU DISCOVERED A WAY TO SIPHON YOUR ENERGY.



YET, SOON AS THE PROCESS BEGINS...

--SOMETHING GOES WRONG!!



HI, DAD! JUST THOUGHT I'D DROP BY AND--



YOUR ENERGY SWELLS...

--AND EXPLODES! TAKING YOU WITH IT!!



SALAMANDER DEADFLISH WRITER B. BUICE BREAKDOWNS JAMES CASSARA PENCILS BUTCH BUICE INKS & LETTERS - PGS. 1-4 ODDJOB INKS & LETTERS - PGS. 5-7

ULTRAGIRL

*sins of
the father*

PLOT: GARY CARLSON



... AND THERE WAS NO BODY AFTER THE EXPLOSION! I-I CAN ONLY ASSUME...

... THAT HE'S DEAD!

I KNEW THIS WOULD HAPPEN SOONER OR LATER, LIVING THE LIFE HE DID! I COULDN'T BEAR TO WATCH HIM KILL HIMSELF!

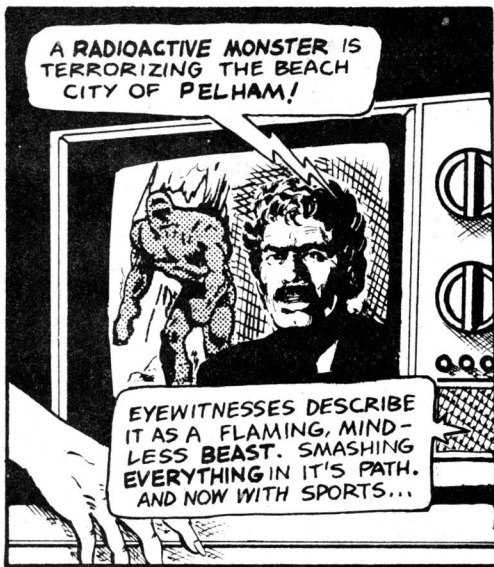


BUT, THAT DOESN'T MAKE IT ANY EASIER TO ACCEPT WHEN IT FINALLY HAPPENS!



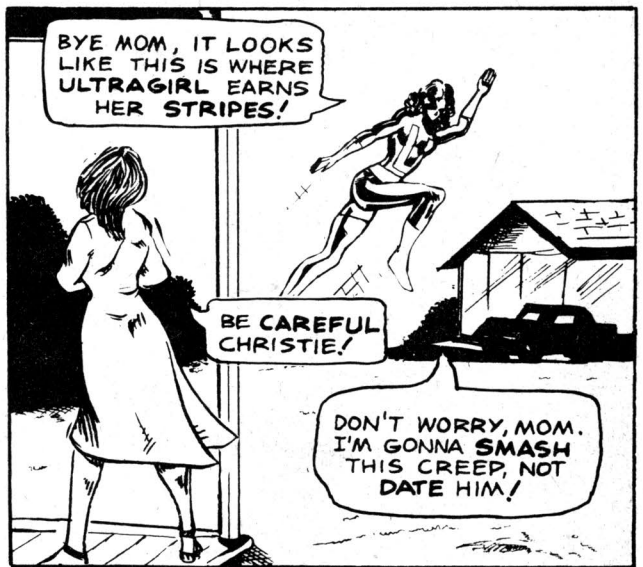
AND NOW I HAVE TO GO THROUGH THAT NIGHTMARE AGAIN WITH YOU!

WE INTERRUPT THIS PROGRAM WITH A SPECIAL NEWS BULLETIN FROM W.T.B.C.



A RADIOACTIVE MONSTER IS TERRORIZING THE BEACH CITY OF PELHAM!

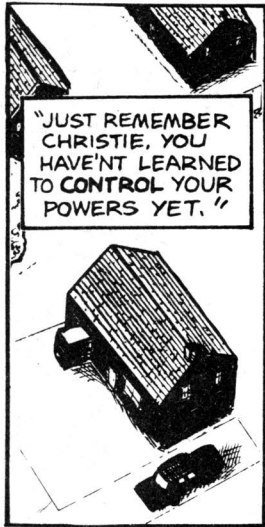
EYEWITNESSES DESCRIBE IT AS A FLAMING, MIND-LESS BEAST. SMASHING EVERYTHING IN ITS PATH. AND NOW WITH SPORTS...



BYE MOM, IT LOOKS LIKE THIS IS WHERE ULTRAGIRL EARNS HER STRIPES!

BE CAREFUL CHRISTIE!

DON'T WORRY, MOM. I'M GONNA SMASH THIS CREEP. NOT DATE HIM!

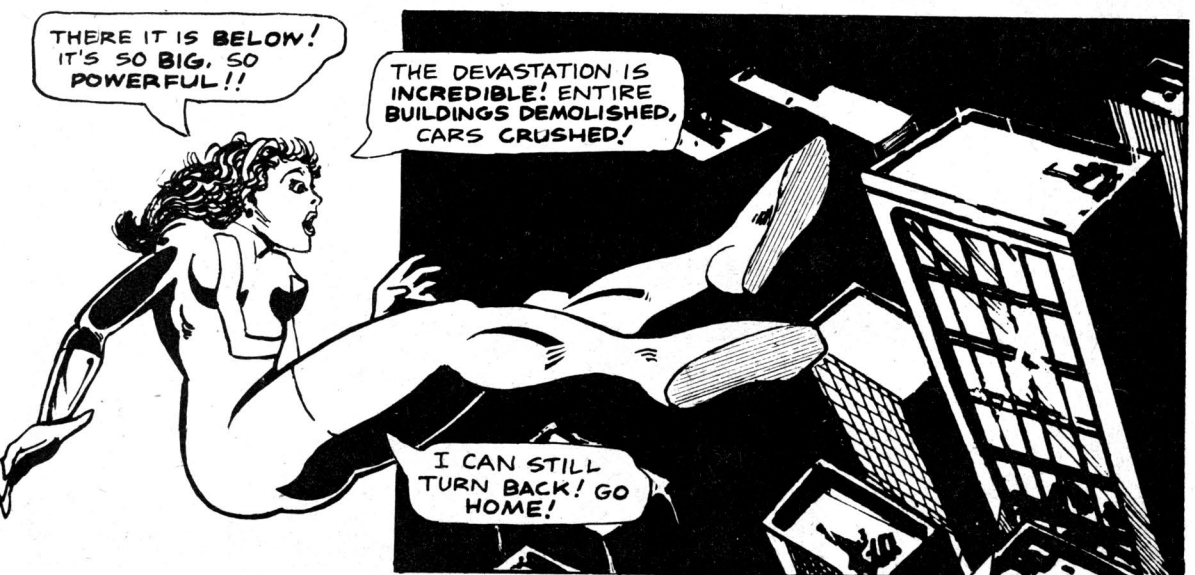


"JUST REMEMBER CHRISTIE, YOU HAVEN'T LEARNED TO CONTROL YOUR POWERS YET."



CONTROL EM? I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHAT POWERS I'VE GOT!

MAYBE THAT'S WHY I'M SCARED STIFF!



THERE IT IS BELOW! IT'S SO BIG, SO POWERFUL!!

THE DEVASTATION IS INCREDIBLE! ENTIRE BUILDINGS DEMOLISHED, CARS CRUSHED!

I CAN STILL TURN BACK! GO HOME!



NEXT: FATHER VS. DAUGHTER

MORE
FUN
THAN

A
SENTIENT
BEING
SHOULD
HAVE!

Domino Chance

CHANCE ENTERPRISES-MPLS, MN.

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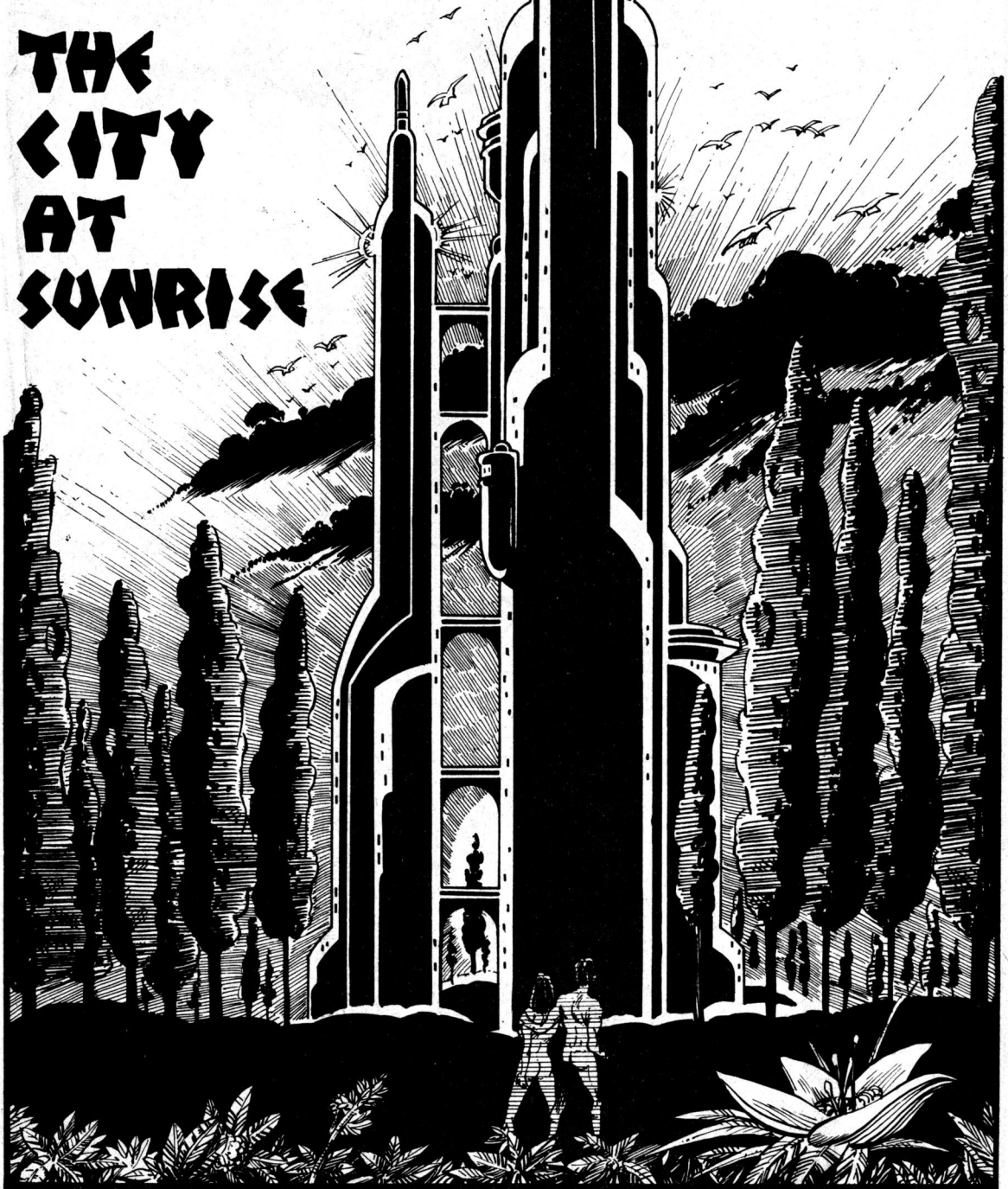


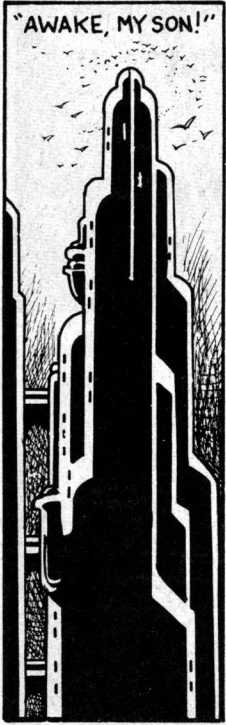
RHEA,
LOOK! A
CITY!



IT'S BEAUTIFUL!

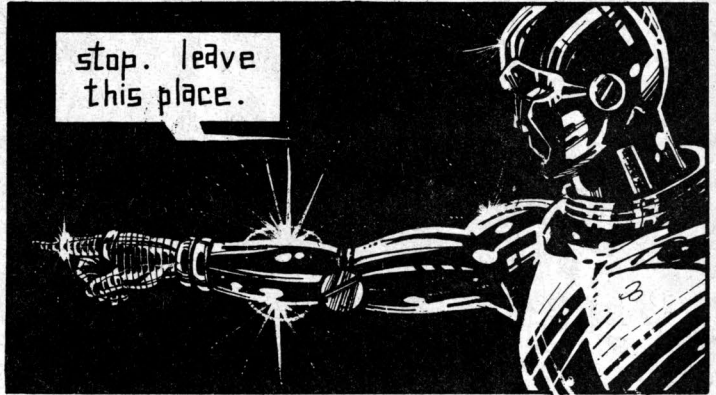
THE CITY AT SUNRISE

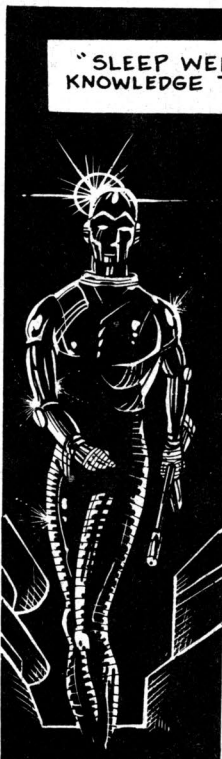




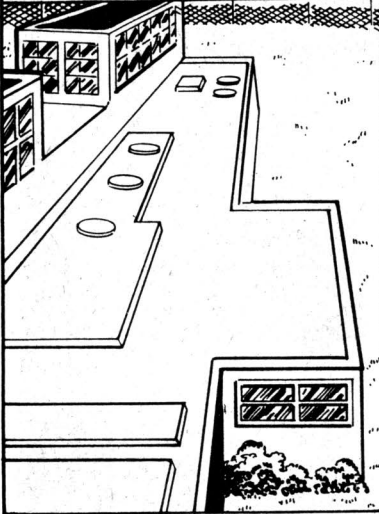
"WE MUST PROTECT OURSELVES FROM THOSE WHO WOULD SEEK TO DESTROY US!"







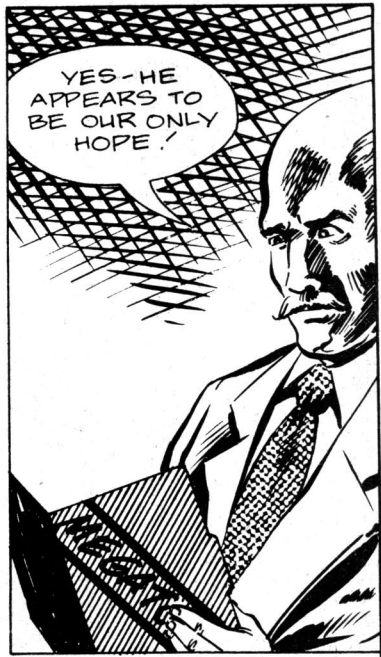
UNTIL RECENTLY THE POMEROY MEDICAL CENTER IN NEW JERSEY WAS A GOVERNMENT INSTALLATION-BUSTLING WITH LIFE AND ACTIVITY. NOW IT IS NEARLY DESERTED.



THIS IS THE FILE ON HIM. YOU'D BETTER READ IT!



YES-HE APPEARS TO BE OUR ONLY HOPE!



THE FOLDER CONTAINS ONLY A FEW TYPEWRITTEN PAGES, AND A HANDFUL OF PHOTOGRAPHS.

THERE IS LITTLE IN THE FOLDER THAT THE OLD MAN HADN'T KNOWN BEFORE-HE'D READ MOST OF IT BEFORE IN THE NEWSPAPERS AND MAGAZINES LIKE EVERYBODY ELSE!

AN INCREDIBLY SHORT BIOGRAPHY OF A MAN WHOSE LIFE HAS ALREADY INSPIRED FOUR BIOGRAPHIES AND A MAJOR MOTION PICTURE!

THIS MAN-WITH THE MOST FAMOUS MEDICAL CONDITION IN THE WORLD-AND UNTIL NOW, NOBODY HAD THOUGHT OF HIM IN CONNECTION WITH THE PROJECT-



MEGATON

THE PULSAR PROJECT

GARY CARLSON
*
WRITER

MIKE GUSTOVICH
*
PENCILLER

SAM DE LA ROSA
*
INKER • LETTERER



Name: Matthew Scott a.k.a. MEGATON

Age: 26

Address: c/o Oscar Sherman Agency, New York City

Dist.: Born with 2 hearts;

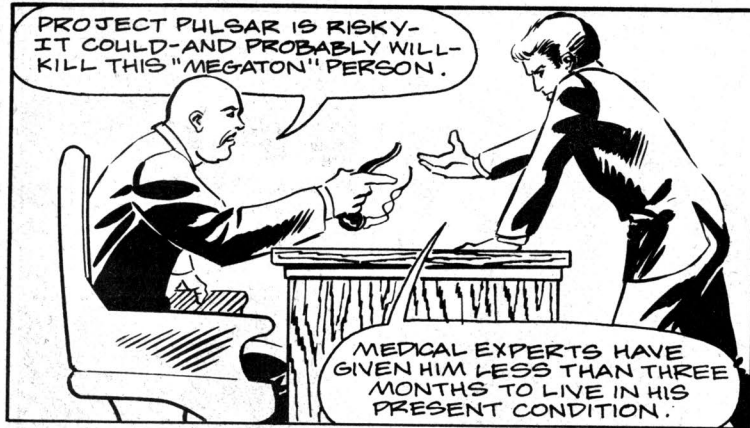
Marks: Has increased strength, reflexes & sensory powers.

History: Joined circus at age 3, billed as "World's Strongest Boy." Later moved into films and television with great success. Millionaire at age 18.



HEALTH PROBLEMS BEGAN WITH A SERIES OF HEART ATTACKS AT AGE 21, FORCING HIS RETIREMENT FROM SHOW BUSINESS. COMPLICATIONS AROSE WHEN HIS HEARTS BEGAN TO BEAT OUT OF SYNCHRONIZATION.

CONDITION DETERIORATED RAPIDLY, AND BECAME CRITICAL 8 MONTHS AGO. SUBJECT HAS BEEN JOINED TO A LIFE-SUPPORT DEVICE THAT REGULATES SUBJECT'S HEART RATES. DEACTIVATION OF MACHINE WILL RESULT IN IMMEDIATE, MASSIVE CORONARIES.



PROJECT PULSAR IS RISKY- IT COULD-AND PROBABLY WILL- KILL THIS "MEGATON" PERSON.

MEDICAL EXPERTS HAVE GIVEN HIM LESS THAN THREE MONTHS TO LIVE IN HIS PRESENT CONDITION.

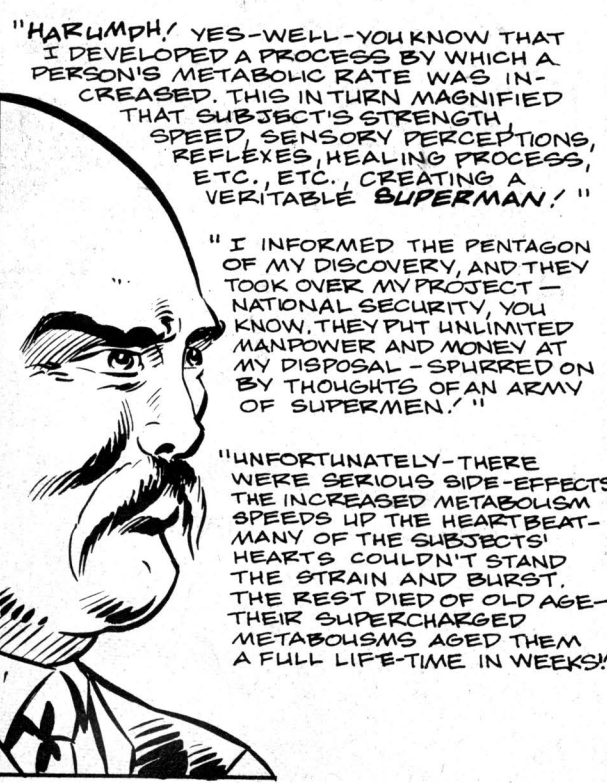


WE SEEM TO HAVE LITTLE CHOICE THEN. LET'S GO!



CONGRATULATIONS, MEGATON! YOU'VE BEEN ACCEPTED FOR PROJECT PULSAR! THIS IS DOCTOR WENDELL POMEROY- THE MAN WHO DISCOVERED THE PULSAR PROCESS.

WHAT'S UP, DOC?



"HARUMPH! YES-WELL-YOU KNOW THAT I DEVELOPED A PROCESS BY WHICH A PERSON'S METABOLIC RATE WAS INCREASED. THIS IN TURN MAGNIFIED THAT SUBJECT'S STRENGTH, SPEED, SENSORY PERCEPTIONS, REFLEXES, HEALING PROCESS, ETC., ETC., CREATING A VERITABLE SUPERMAN!"

"I INFORMED THE PENTAGON OF MY DISCOVERY, AND THEY TOOK OVER MY PROJECT - NATIONAL SECURITY, YOU KNOW. THEY PUT UNLIMITED MANPOWER AND MONEY AT MY DISPOSAL - SPURRED ON BY THOUGHTS OF AN ARMY OF SUPERMEN."

"UNFORTUNATELY-THERE WERE SERIOUS SIDE-EFFECTS. THE INCREASED METABOLISM SPEEDS UP THE HEARTBEAT-MANY OF THE SUBJECTS' HEARTS COULDN'T STAND THE STRAIN AND BURST. THE REST DIED OF OLD AGE- THEIR SUPERCHARGED METABOLISMS AGED THEM A FULL LIFE-TIME IN WEEKS!"



THE PENTAGON FINALLY GAVE UP. THEY CANCELLED THE PROJECT; CUT OFF THE FINANCING, RECALLED THEIR SCIENTISTS AND PULLED OUT. BUT I WOULDN'T- COULDN'T- QUIT!

THEN I DISCOVERED EDDIE MANSON- A MAN WITH A SIX-CHAMBERED HEART!

"A CHESTPLATE CONTAINING A TWO CHAMBERED MECHANICAL HEART AND AN EXTENDED CIRCULATORY SYSTEM WAS SURGICALLY ATTACHED TO MANSON, TO RELIEVE THE STRAIN PROJECT PULSAR WOULD INFLICT ON HIS BODY."

"HE TRADED HIS HUMANITY FOR POWER."

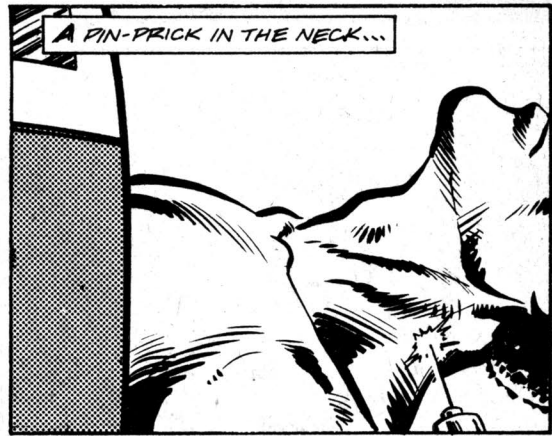
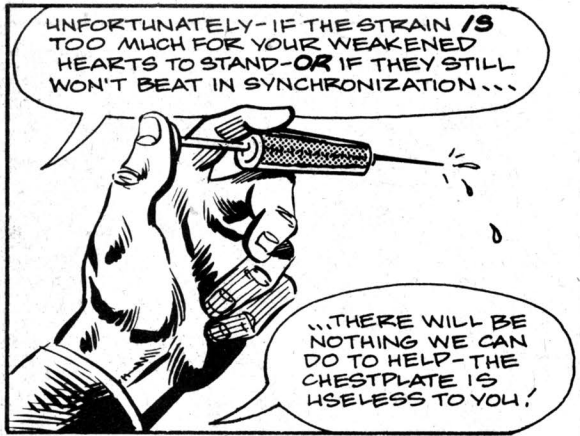
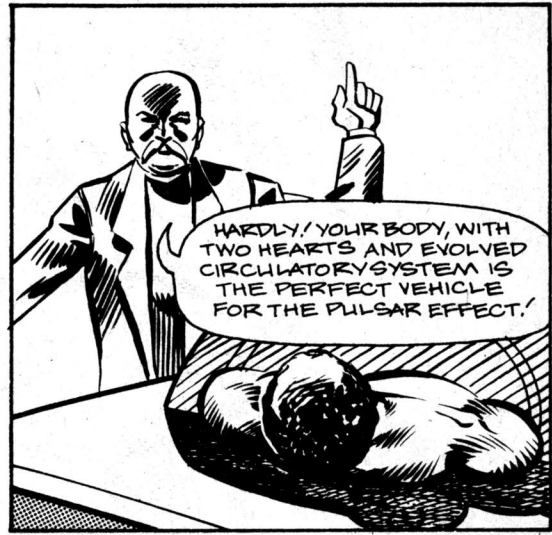
"THEN LIFE TURNED SOUR FOR EDDIE MANSON. HIS WIFE COULDN'T ACCEPT EDDIE AS A CYBORG AND DIVORCED HIM, AND TOOK HIS CHILD. EDDIE BLAMES HIS NATURALLY."

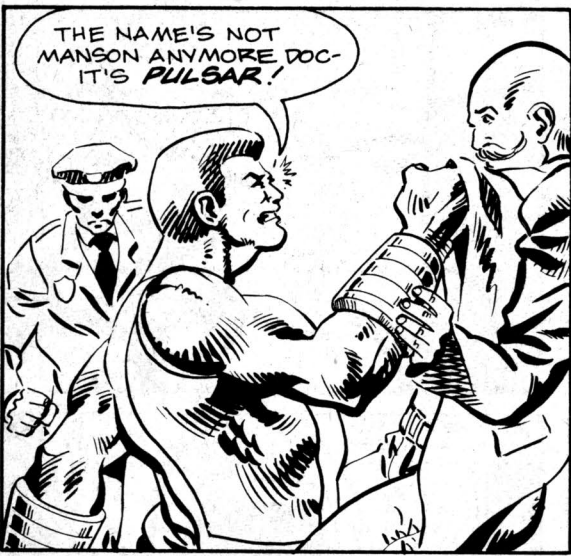
"PROJECT PULSAR WAS FINALLY A SUCCESS! MANSON'S POWER AND ABILITIES FAR EXCEEDED OUR EXPECTATIONS!"

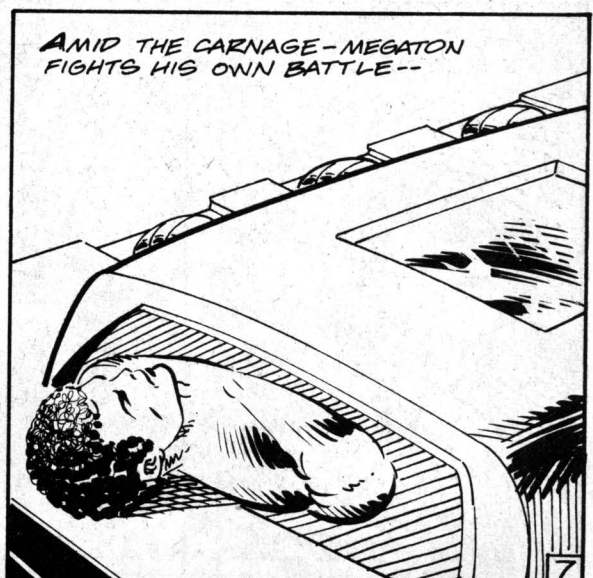
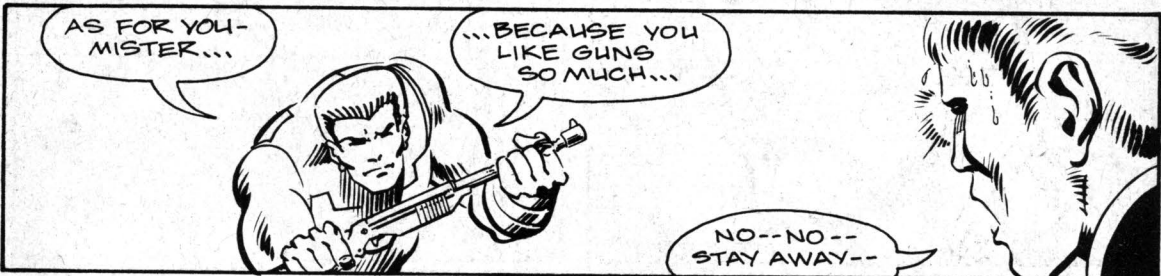
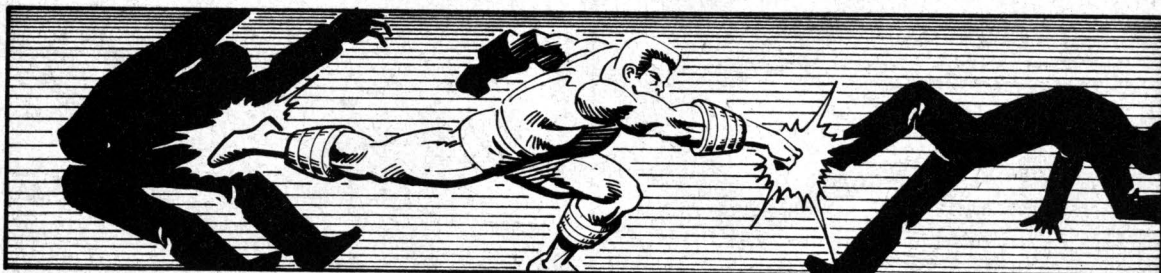
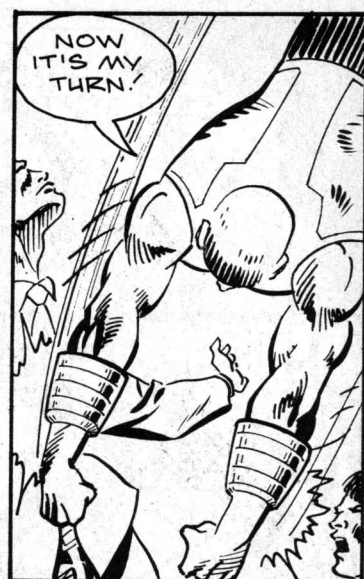
"IF HIS MIND SHOULD SNAP, AND HE GOES ON A RAMPAGE- HE WILL BE VIRTUALLY IMPOSSIBLE TO STOP!"

PROJECT PULSAR NEEDS YOU AS MUCH AS YOU NEED US, MEGATON.

"THE CHESTPLATE PROTECTS HIS BODY FROM HIS SUPERCHARGED METABOLISM, BUT THE INCREASED POUNDING OF BLOOD TO HIS BRAIN IS DRIVING HIM MAD!"







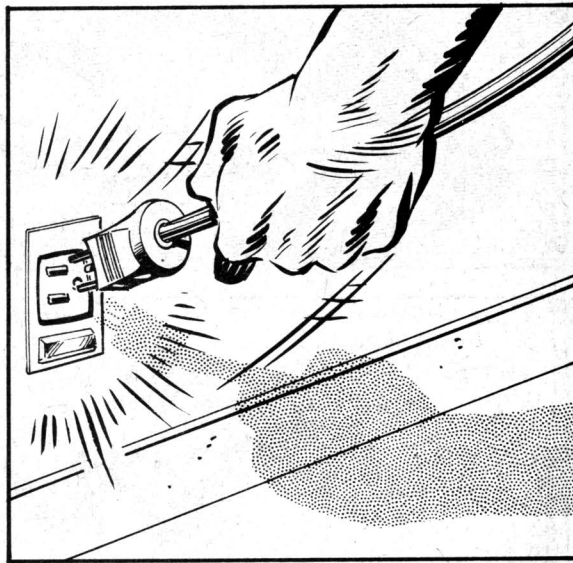


AS FOR YOU, MY FRIEND-I'M TRULY SORRY TO HAVE TO DO THIS...

... BUT THE WORLD JUST AIN'T READY FOR TWO FREAKS LIKE US!



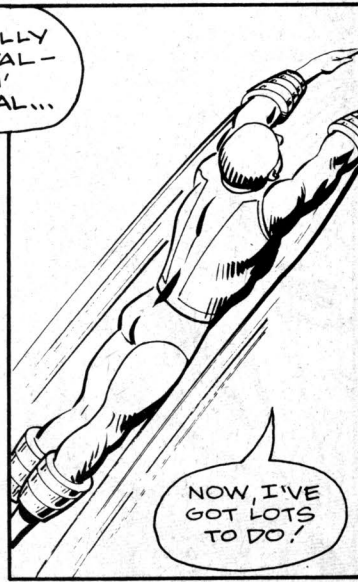
WHAT I GOT ISN'T WORTH LIVING FOR- BUT I'M NOT READY TO GIVE IT UP YET!



gasp!



I'M REALLY SORRY, PAL- NOTHIN' PERSONAL...

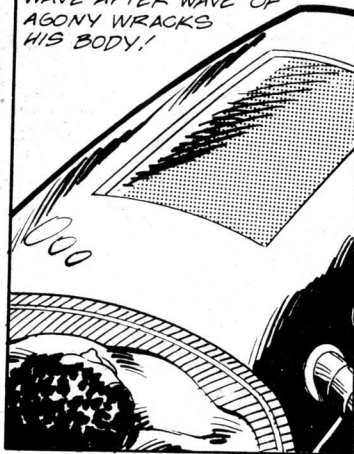


NOW, I'VE GOT LOTS TO DO!

IT'S POWER CUT OFF, THE LIFE-SUPPORT MECHANISMS WHINE TO A HALT.



LINCHED—THE TWIN HEARTS BANG WILDLY IN HIS CHEST LIKE JACKHAMMERS—THE PAIN IS WORSE THEN EVER BEFORE AS WAVE AFTER WAVE OF AGONY WRACKS HIS BODY!



THEN SUDDENLY MEGATON RIPS FREE—BURSTING OUT OF THE METAL COCOON!



AND STRONG! I'M BURSTING WITH RAW POWER!

PULSAR! HE KILLED ALL THESE PEOPLE!

AND TRIED TO KILL ME!



HE'S GOT TO BE STOPPED!



AND I'M THE ONLY GUY WITH POWER ENOUGH TO TAKE HIM!



GRIMLY-MATTHEW SCOTT DOES HIS FAMILIAR COSTUME-NOTING THE MODIFICATIONS MADE BY THE PROJECT'S SCIENTISTS!



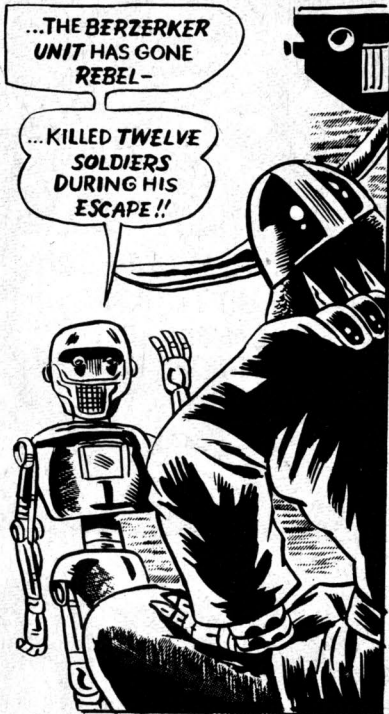
WATCH OUT WORLD-MEGATON IS BACK- AND OUT FOR BLOOD!

I'M GONNA MAKE PULSAR WISH HE'D NEVER BEEN BORN!

CONTINUED NEXT ISSUE!



"LORD ANTHRAX...."



...THE BERZERKER UNIT HAS GONE REBEL-

...KILLED TWELVE SOLDIERS DURING HIS ESCAPE!!



WHAT?!

HE WAS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY!


I WANT HIM ELIMINATED, IMMEDIATELY, BORAK!!



A KILL-SQUAD HAS ALREADY BEEN DISPATCHED, LORD....

THEY'D BETTER NOT FAIL....

CHOKER! COUGH!



THE ROBOT WARS ENDED IN VICTORY
FOR THE MACHINES! HUMANITY WAS OUT-
LAWED AND LIFE BECAME A STRUGGLE
TO REPLACE FLESH AND BONE WITH
STEEL AND WIRE!

THOSE WHO DON'T
RENOUNCE THEIR
HUMANITY EITHER
BECOME SLAVES
OR ESCAPE TO THE
WAR-TORN WASTES
OF THE OLD WORLD!

STORY: GARY CARLSON
ART & LETTERING:
KEN LANDGRAF

'BERZERKER



THIS IS THE ONE!!



BADOOM!



PUT THOSE TOYS AWAY!!



I'M LOOKING FOR INFORMATION ABOUT A MAN NAMED....
ALEXANDER KIRK!!



KIRK?
B-BUT.....
HE'S DEAD!!

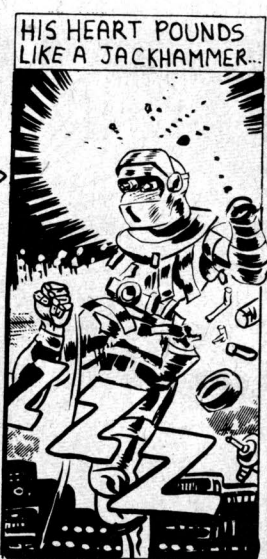






THE MACHINERY
GRAFTED ONTO HIS
CHEST AND BACK
BEGINS TO THROB...

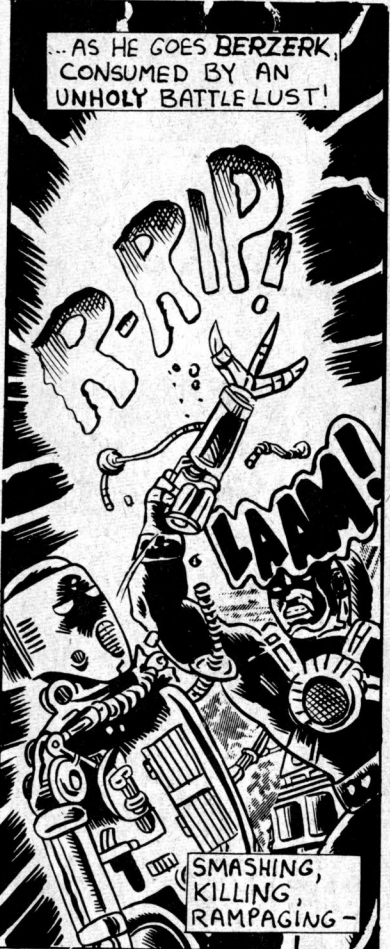
AND HE FEELS
THE FAMILIAR
RUSH OF
ADRENALIN
INTO HIS BLOOD!



HIS HEART POUNDS
LIKE A JACKHAMMER...

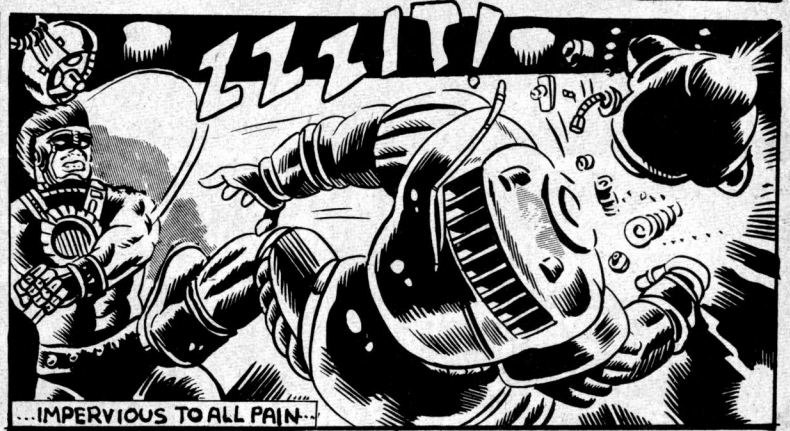


... AND HIS EYES GLAZE...



... AS HE GOES BERZERK,
CONSUMED BY AN
UNHOLY BATTLE LUST!

SMASHING,
KILLING,
RAMPAGING -



... IMPERVIOUS TO ALL PAIN...



HE IS BERZERKER -
THE ULTIMATE
KILLING MACHINE!

ARRA
SCREE



STOP IT!! HE'S ALREADY DEAD!!

HER WORDS PENETRATE HIS CLOUDED MIND, AND HIS RAGE MELTS...



THEY'RE ALL DEAD!!



I'M OK NOW- IT'S ALWAYS LIKE THIS...

...LEAVING HIM DRAINED AND WEAK- AS ALWAYS!



YOU KNOW MY NAME?



I WAS BUILT FROM THE CORPSE OF ALEX KIRK!!



SOMETIMES I HAVE A FLASHBACK OF HIS MEMORIES.



I HAVE TO FIND OUT ABOUT HIM BEFORE I CAN FIND MYSELF!!



BUT ALEXANDER KIRK IS DEAD. I'M NOT HIM!!



IDIOTS!!



ALL I ASK IS
FOR ANOTHER
CHANCE LORD
ANTHRAX!!



YOU WON'T
FAIL ME
AGAIN...



...BORAK!



GUARDS!! CLEAR
THIS AWAY AND
CALL MY OFFICERS!!



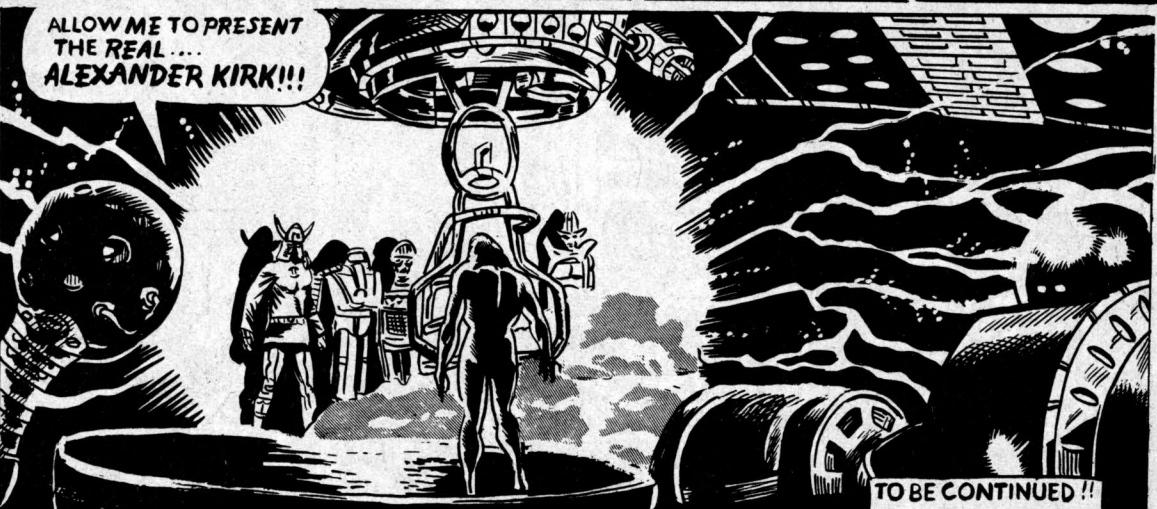
I WANT THE
BERZERKER
HUNTED DOWN.



... AND KILLED
LIKE THE ANIMAL
HE IS!!

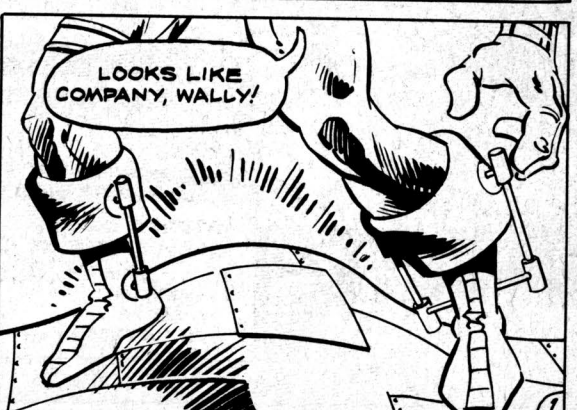
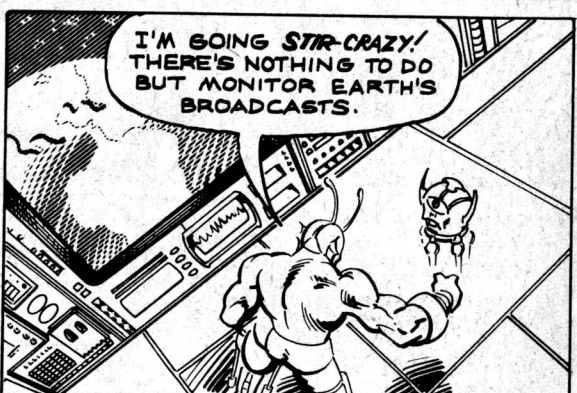


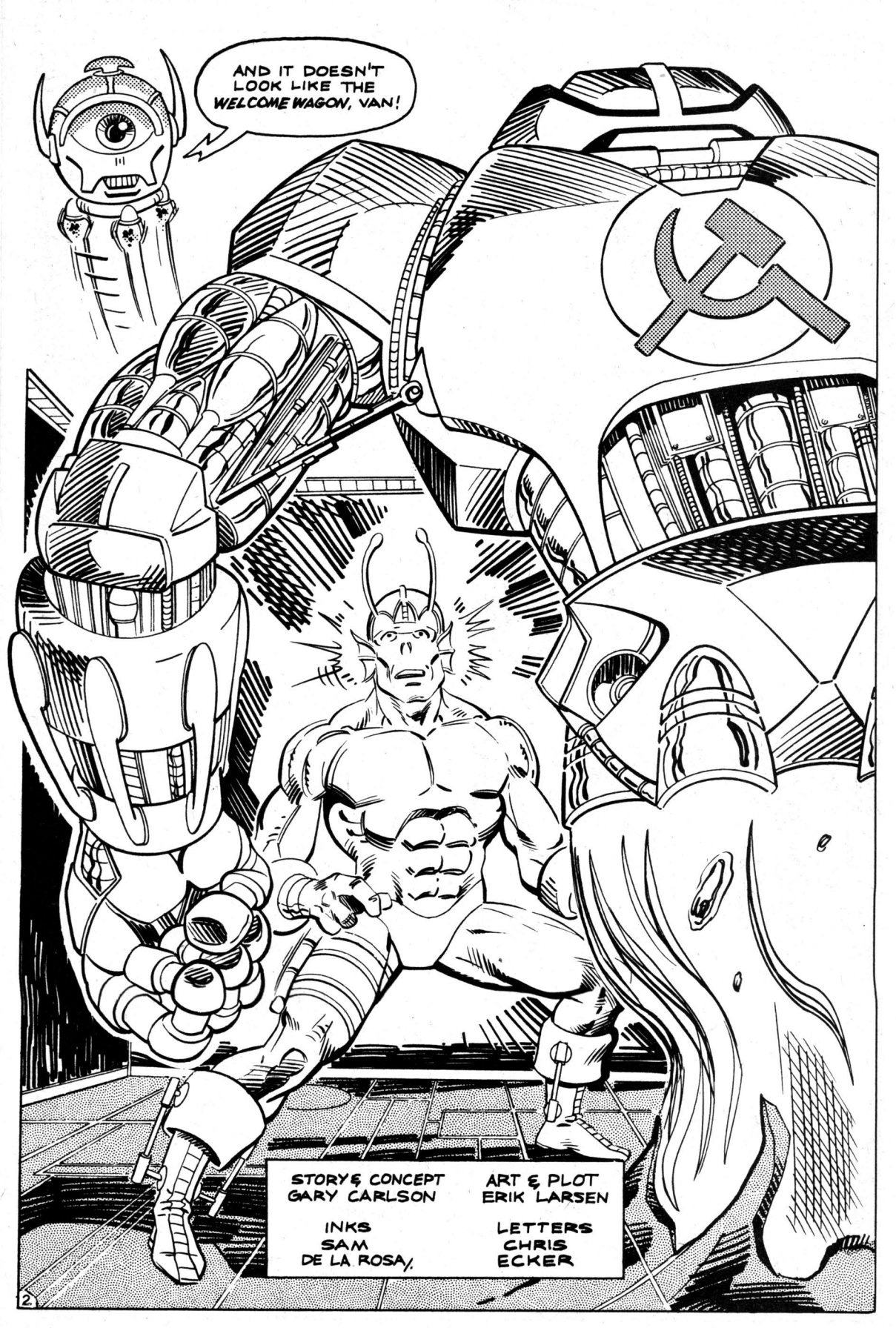
I'VE CHOSEN
THE BERZERKER'S
EXECUTIONER!!



ALLOW ME TO PRESENT
THE REAL ...
ALEXANDER KIRK!!!

TO BE CONTINUED !!





AND IT DOESN'T
LOOK LIKE THE
WELCOME WAGON, VAN!

STORY & CONCEPT
GARY CARLSON

ART & PLOT
ERIK LARSEN

INKS
SAM
DE LA ROSA,

LETTERS
CHRIS
ECKER



THE ROBOT IS TRANSMITTING?*

DA, COMRADE COLONEL!

DATA VERIFIES IDENTITY OF THE OCCUPANT AS AN ALIEN BEING!

*TRANSLATED FROM RUSSIAN



IMPOSSIBLE! THE AMERICANS MUST BE JAMMING OUR SIGNAL

THEN YOU DON'T BELIEVE IT TO BE AN ALIEN VESSEL, COMRADE COLONEL?



NO!

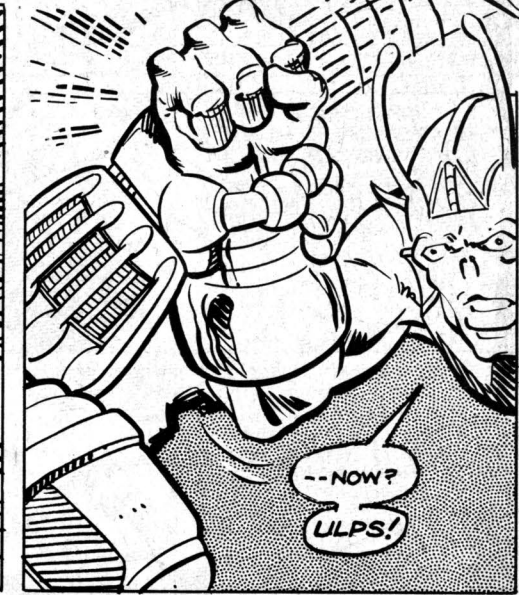
OUR EXPERTS HAVE DETERMINED THAT THE SPACE STATION IS PART OF THE AMERICAN ARMS BUILD-UP; AN OBVIOUS THREAT TO SOVIET SECURITY! THE COSMO-III ROBOT IS PURELY A DEFENSIVE WEAPON!

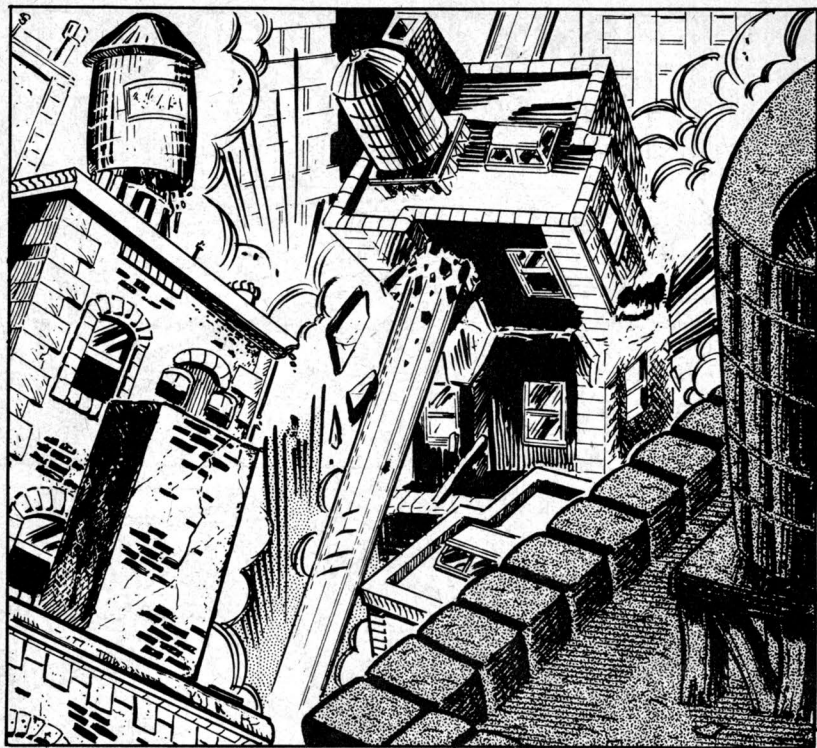
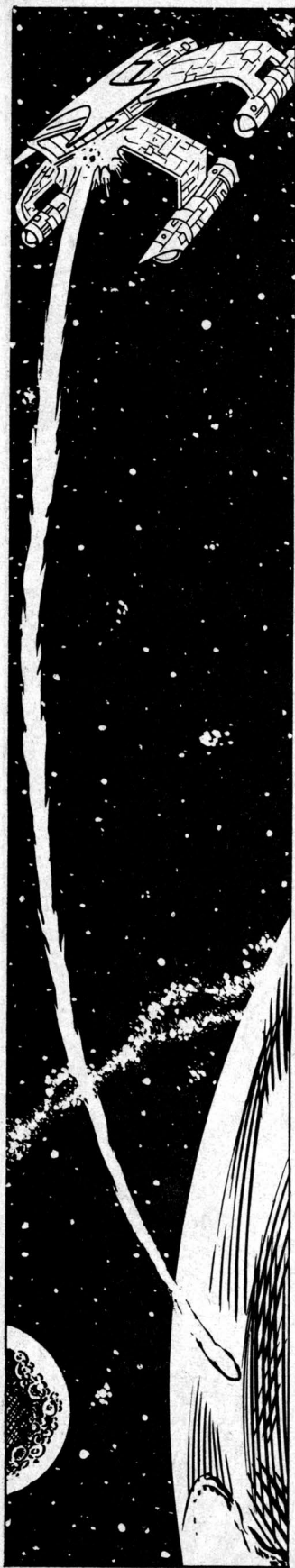


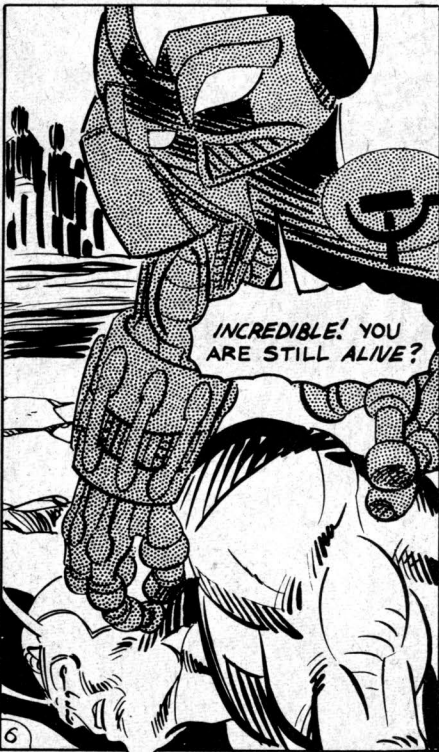
LIMPH!

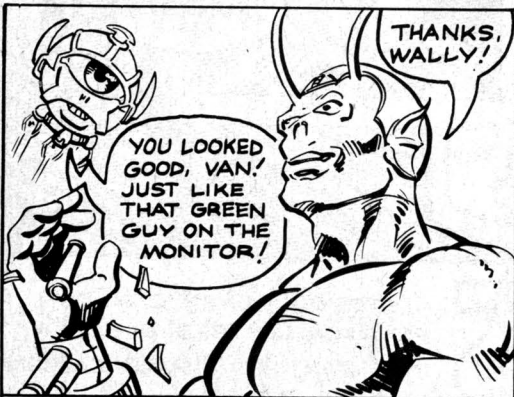
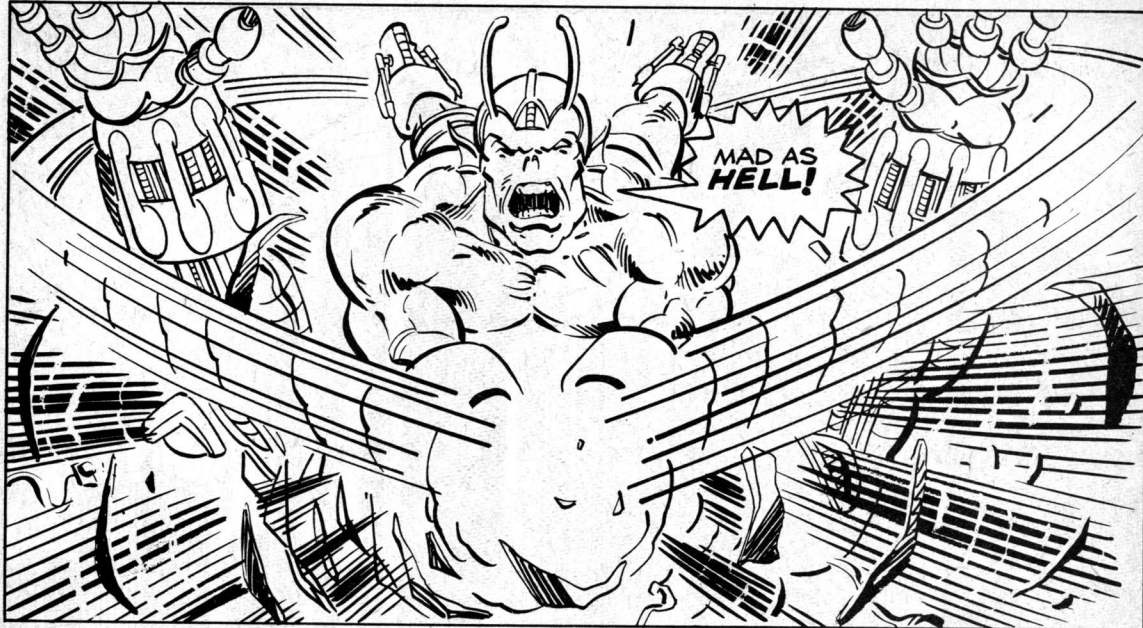


AWRIGHT TIN-MAN!









THE

SENTINEL



PUNKS!

SIDEKICKS

STORY: GARY CARLSON
PENCILS & LETTERS: C. ECKER
INKS: DAN REED & RALPH CABRERA



PRETTY FANCY CAMERA, MISTER - I'VE ALWAYS WANTED ONE!



LET'S SPLIT YOU GUYS! IT'S...



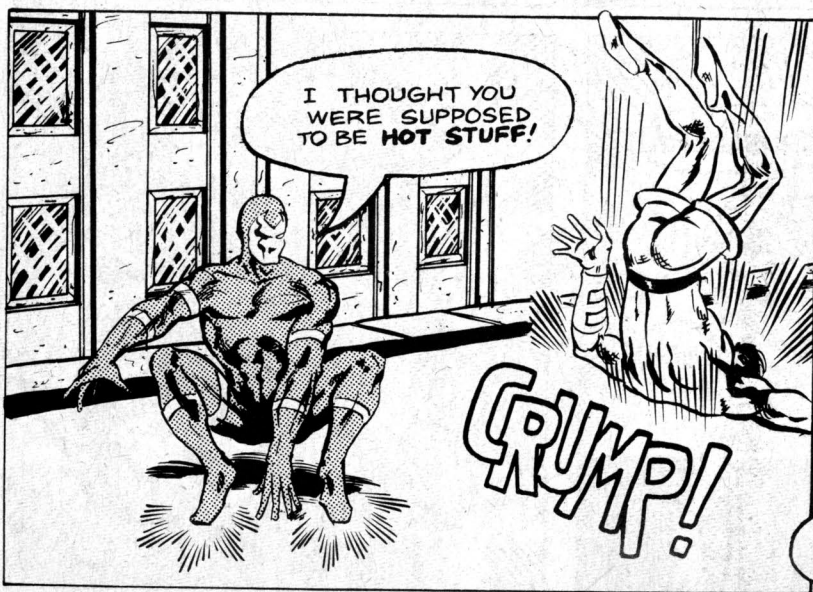
"... THE SENTINEL!"



FORGET ABOUT THEM, HERO! YOU'RE GONNA HAVE YOUR HANDS FULL--

--WITH HEADHUNTER!

WHAT THE--?



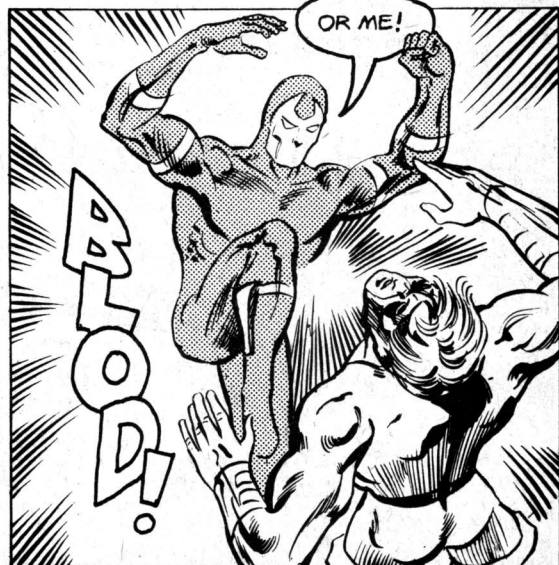
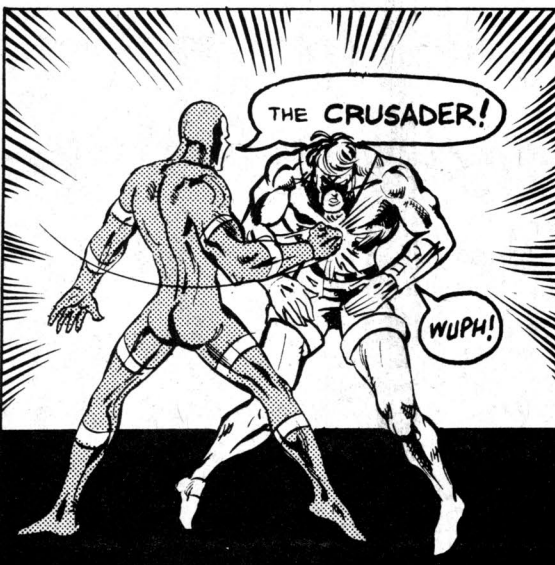
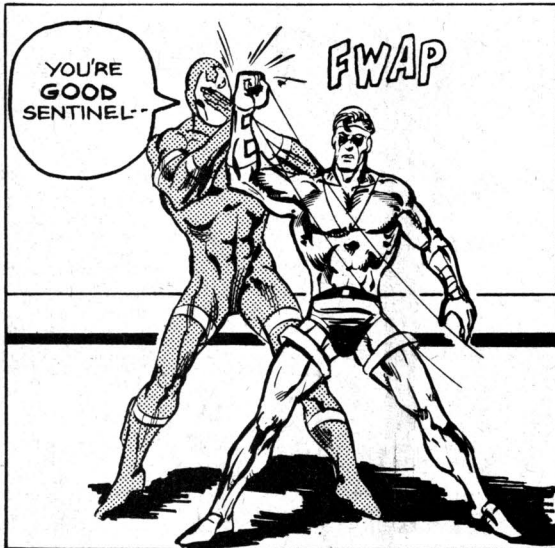
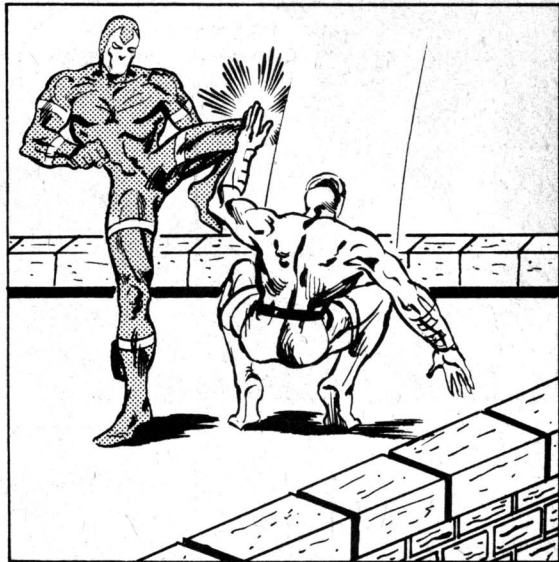
I THOUGHT YOU WERE SUPPOSED TO BE HOT STUFF!

CRUMP!



THAT'S RIGHT--

--AND YOU'RE ABOUT TO GET BURNED!





I DON'T HAVE TO--



--PROVE MYSELF TO EVERY TWO-BIT HOOD--



--THAT COMES ALONG!



I'M THE BEST THERE IS!

I EAT PUNKS LIKE YOU FOR BREAKFAST!



YEAH? THEN CHEW ON THIS!



BANG!



WHO--WHO ARE YOU?!?

YOU MEAN YOU DON'T
RECOGNIZE YOUR BROTHER?



JIM?!? BUT
HOW-- WHY?



YOU REALLY DON'T
KNOW DO YOU?



THINGS WERE GREAT
WHEN I WAS THE
CRUSADER'S SIDEKICK,
FIGHTING CRIME BACK
IN THE SIXTIES...

UNTIL THE
ACCIDENT THAT BROKE
NEARLY EVERY BONE
IN MY BODY--



-- THE DOCTORS
SAID I'D NEVER
WALK AGAIN.





"IT WAS TORTURE TO BE TRAPPED IN A WHEEL-CHAIR! BUT IT GOT WORSE--"



"--WHEN UNCLE JASON MET AND ADOPTED YOU--"



"--AND TRAINED YOU AS HIS SIDEKICK! IN MY COSTUME!"



REMEMBER? THAT'S WHEN I RAN AWAY, BUT I READ ABOUT YOU IN ALL THE NEWSPAPERS!

ABOUT HOW YOU TOOK OVER WHEN THE CRUSADER RETIRED!

UNH!



YOU'VE BEEN LIVING MY LIFE -- AND I WANT IT BACK!!

Y-YOU'RE CRAZY!



I WENT THROUGH 200 SEPERATE OPERATIONS--

--AND 20 YEARS OF HELL, JUST SO I COULD DO THIS!

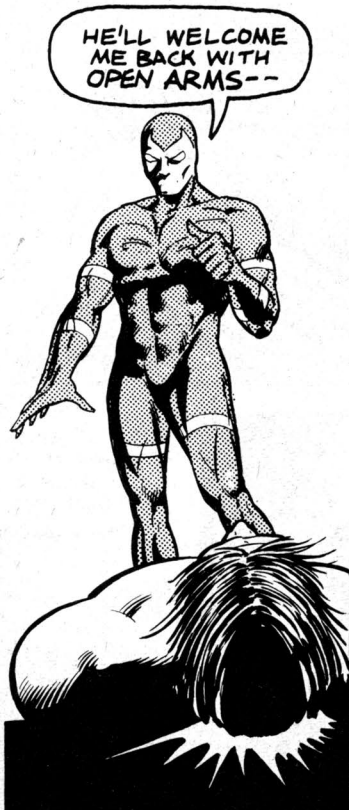
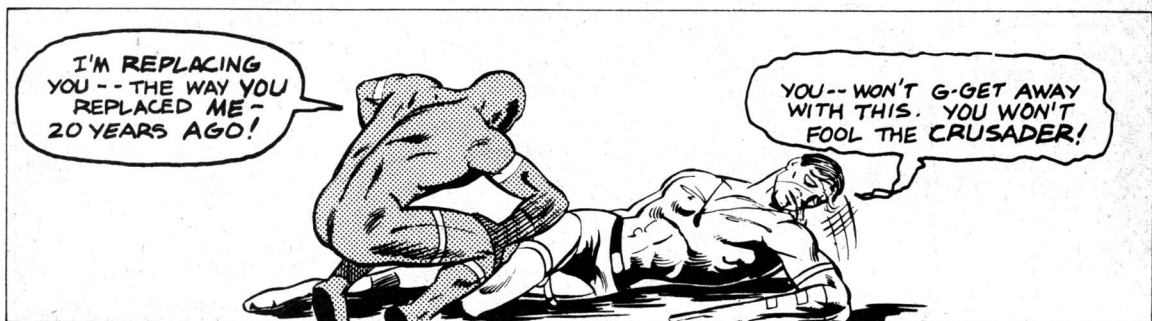


GOOD LORD!! HE THREW SENTINEL OFF THAT BUILDING! THE PAPER'LL PAY PLENTY FOR A SHOT OF THAT!



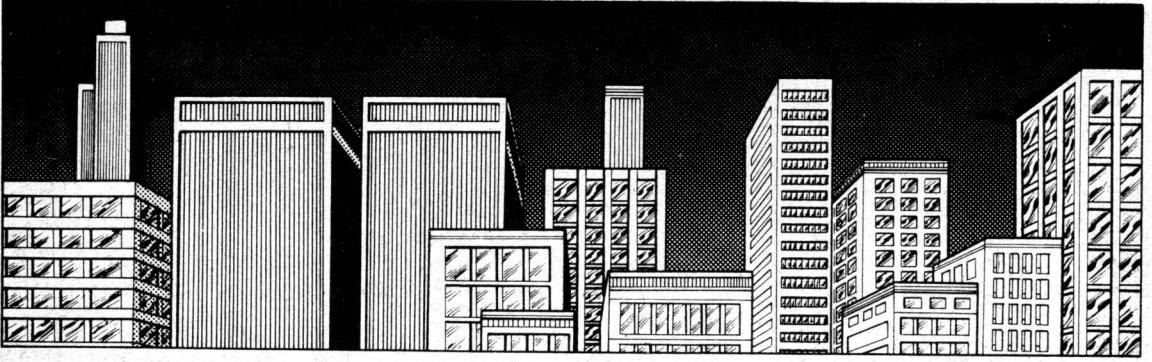
HAPPY LANDINGS--

--BROTHER!



NEXT:
RETURN OF -
THE
CRUSADER

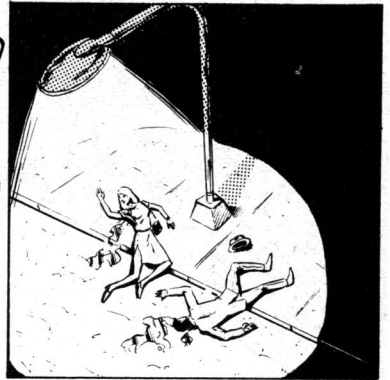
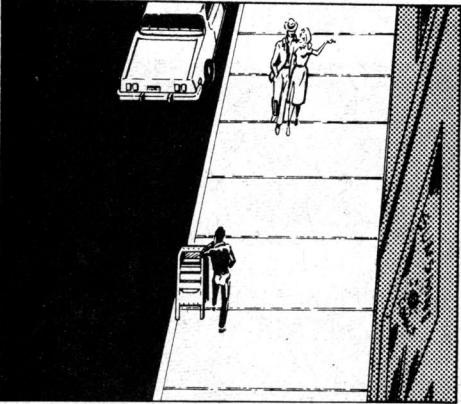
DUSK LAY UPON THE CITY LIKE A SHROUD...



STREET LAMPS AND NEON LIGHTS
LIT UP THE CITY IN A GARISH
IMITATION OF DAYLIGHT—

— HIDING THE FACT —

THAT NIGHT HAD ARRIVED!





SEVENTY-FIVE
BUCKS! HA-HA!
EASY MONEY!

SURE BEATS
WORKIN'!

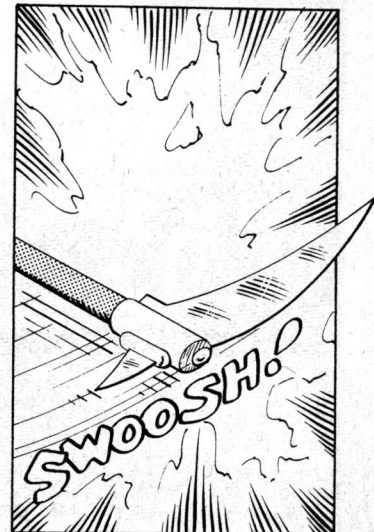


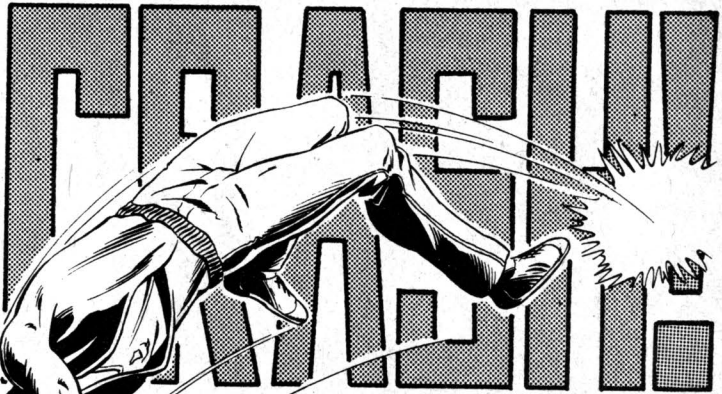
YOU VALUE
HUMAN LIFE
VERY CHEAPLY,
KILLER!



WHAT THE...?







NIGHT OF THE SKULL

STORY: GARY CARLSON | ART: RALPH CABRERA | LETTERS: CHRIS ECKER

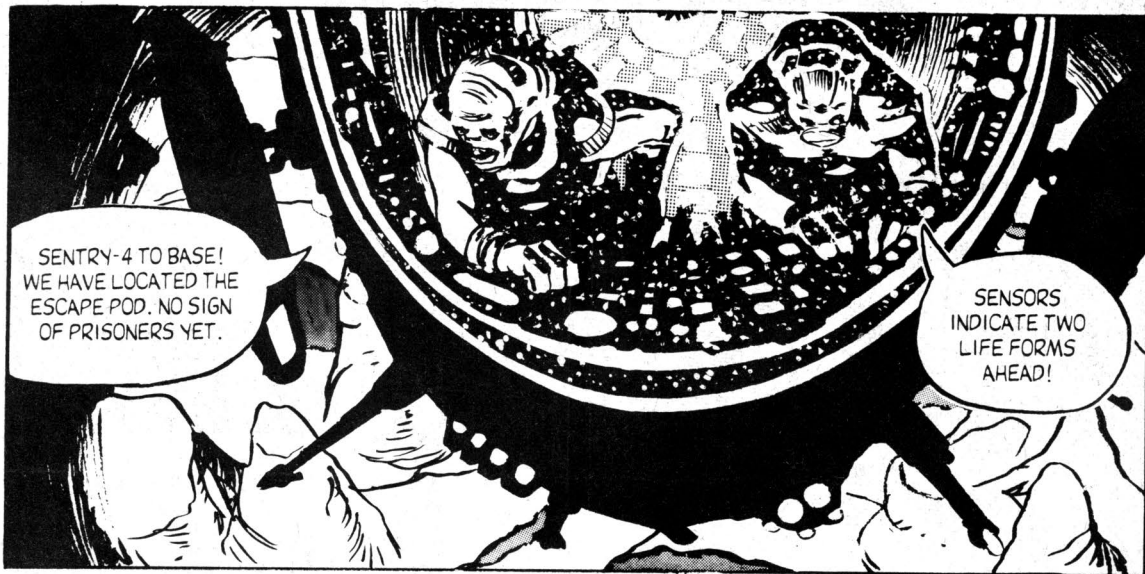
STARLINER



IN A MATTER OF WEEKS, ETHRIA'S FABLED CITIES WERE REDUCED TO CRUMBLING RUINS, AND ITS POPULATION RELOCATED TO DETENTION CAMPS, AWAITING THE SPACE BARGES THAT WOULD TRANSPORT THEM TO THE TORKIAN EMPIRE... AS SLAVES!

TWO

THOUSAND YEARS OF PEACE WERE SHATTERED ON THE PLANET ETHRIA WHEN THE VAST ARMADA OF THE TORKIAN EMPIRE SWARMED IN FROM ANOTHER GALAXY AND OVERRAN THE DEFENSELESS PLANET!



SENTRY-4 TO BASE!
WE HAVE LOCATED THE
ESCAPE POD. NO SIGN
OF PRISONERS YET.

SENSORS
INDICATE TWO
LIFE FORMS
AHEAD!



THEY'VE FOUND
US, GALIAN!

BUT THEY WON'T
CATCH US!



THIS HUMMER
WILL KEEP THEIR
SENSORS OCCUPIED...



... WHILE WE
DISAPPEAR!



WHERE CAN WE
FIND WEAPONS TO
FIGHT BACK WITH?
THERE HASN'T BEEN A
WAR HERE IN CENTURIES!

THERE IS
ONE PLACE...



THIS PLACE IS FORBIDDEN, GALIAN! IT HASN'T BEEN ENTERED IN 2000 YEARS!

FORBIDDEN BY WHOM? THE ELDERS ARE ALL EITHER DEAD OR IN CHAINS! WE HAVE NO OTHER CHOICE!

"WHAT DID YOU DO?"

"NOTHING! IT JUST OPENED WHEN I TOUCHED IT!"



IT'S HUGE! HOW WILL WE EVER FIND A WAY IN, GALIAN?



SHINE THE LIGHT HERE, KREL! I'VE FOUND A SEAM. IT MAY BE A...



... DOOR!!

DEEP IN THE BOWELS OF THE
STRUCTURE, LONG DORMANT
MACHINERY HUMS TO LIFE!



IT MAY BE A TRAP,
GALIAN!



THEN YOU STAY HERE
AND GUARD THIS EXIT!
ONE OF US MUST ESCAPE!!



THESE TUNNELS ARE
ENDLESS! MAYBE THE
ANCIENTS HAD NO
WEAPONS AFTER ALL!



GODS!

GREETINGS,
ESSENCE-BEARER!
I AM AMALAK, THE
KEEPER OF THIS PLACE!



WE HAVE WAITED AGES FOR YOU, THE POWERHOUSE AND II!



LISTEN! THIS PLANET HAS BEEN INVADED AND EVERYONE IS EITHER DEAD OR FACING SLAVERY! WE NEED WEAPONS TO FIGHT BACK WITH!



YOU POSSESS THE ESSENCE! THIS LENS IS ALL THE WEAPON YOU WILL NEED!



THIS LOOKS POWERFUL! HOW DOES IT WORK?



WHAT'S THE IDEA? I SHOULD ...



MY BRAIN!
IT'S ON FIRE!
I -- I'M ---





SCOUT-5 TO MOTHER SHIP! WE HAVE LOCATED THE FUGITIVES!



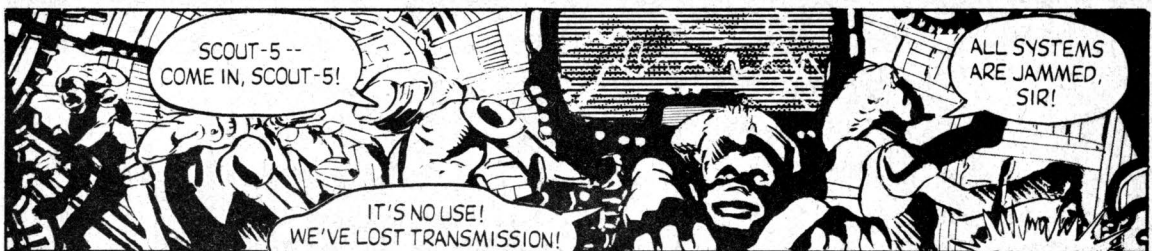
THEY ARE TRAPPED IN AN ABANDONED STRUCTURE!



IMPOSSIBLE!! WE ARE UNDER ATTACK!



REPEAT! WE ARE UND....



SCOUT-5 -- COME IN, SCOUT-5!

ALL SYSTEMS ARE JAMMED, SIR!

IT'S NO USE! WE'VE LOST TRANSMISSION!



OPEN SHIELDS FOR OBSERVATION!

RED ALERT!

RED ALERT!

RED ALERT!



WHAT'S HAPPENING OUT THERE?



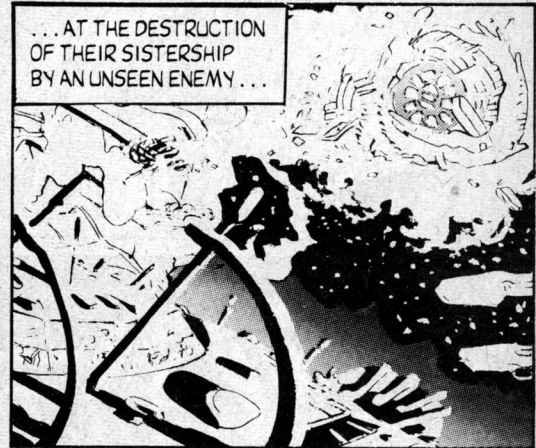
SCOUT-5 IS UNDER ATTACK!



ATTACK FROM WHAT?
THERE ARE NO ATTACKING SHIPS!



THE ALIENS CAN ONLY WATCH WITH HORROR...



... AT THE DESTRUCTION OF THEIR SISTERSHIP BY AN UNSEEN ENEMY...

UNTIL ...



THIS PLANET IS SUPPOSED TO BE DEFENSELESS!



THE SUMMONING!

PRISONER OF EARTH,
ANSWER MY CALL....
CALL ANDRIA RECLAIMS
HER OWN...

YOUR EXILE HAS ENDED,
DELIVER US FROM EVIL --
CHANGELINGS... I SUMMON
YOU HOME!

THE WIND WHIPS UP, AND UNHOLY VAPORS REACH OUT, TRANSCENDING TIME AND SPACE - TOWARD THE PLANET EARTH!



IN A SMALL MID-WESTERN TOWN, THE SEARCH IS CONCLUDED. ICY FINGERS OF MIST ENIRCLE THE STARTLED BOY...

WHO SUDDENLY FADES, VANISHING INTO THE NIGHT AIR LIKE A WHISPER--



VERTIGO CLOUDS HIS MIND AS HE IS SUCKED THROUGH TIME AND SPACE...

TO SUDDENLY REAPPEAR!




WELCOME TO CALLANDRIA, KEVIN PRENTICE!

WHAT THE... WHERE AM I ???


CALLANDRIA IS NOT LIKE YOUR EARTH; MAGIC, NOT SCIENCE RULES HERE!



I AM ABRAXIS, A SORCERER. I SUMMONED YOU!

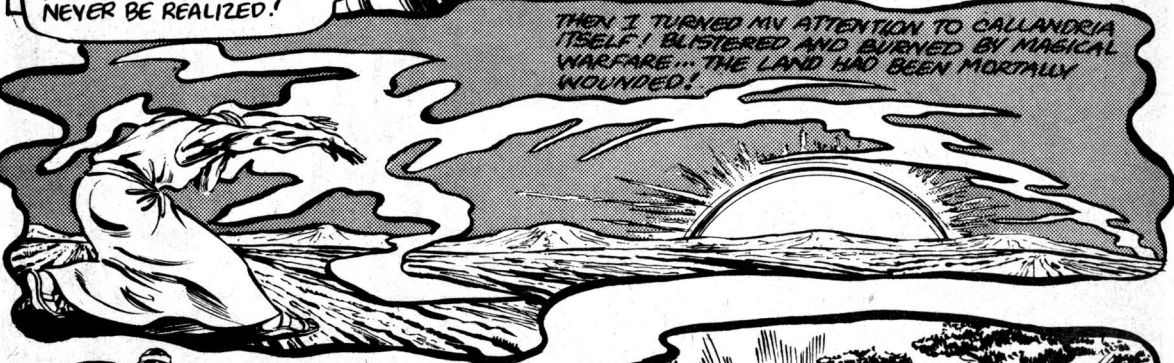


MANY YEARS AGO, I BATTLED AND DEFEATED A POWERFUL WIZARD NAMED DEMAK-SARKIS, WHO SOUGHT TO ENSLAVE CALLANDRIA!

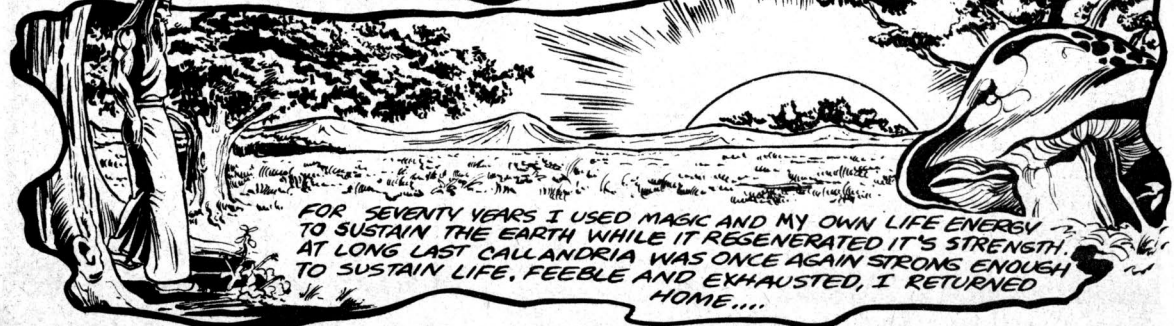


HE LEFT AN INFANT SON AND A PROPHECY, THAT HIS FIRST-BORN WOULD SUCCEED WHERE HE HAD FAILED!

I SENSED GREAT POWER IN THE BOY. RATHER THAN KILL HIM, I BANISHED THE CHILD TO ANOTHER WORLD, WHERE HIS MAGICAL POTENTIAL WOULD NEVER BE REALIZED!



THEN I TURNED MY ATTENTION TO CALLANDRIA ITSELF! BLISTERED AND BURIED BY MAGICAL WARFARE... THE LAND HAD BEEN MORTALLY WOUNDED!



FOR SEVENTY YEARS I USED MAGIC AND MY OWN LIFE ENERGY TO SUSTAIN THE EARTH WHILE IT REGENERATED IT'S STRENGTH. AT LONG LAST CALLANDRIA WAS ONCE AGAIN STRONG ENOUGH TO SUSTAIN LIFE, FEEBLE AND EXHAUSTED, I RETURNED HOME....

"THERE, I LEARNED OF THE RISE OF A POWERFUL SORCERER FROM THE BARREN NORTH..."

"...A HALF-BREED NAMED SKRAGG - THE BASTARD SON OF DEMAK-SARKIS..."

"HE WAGES WAR FROM HIS FATHER'S CASTLE. AN ARMY OF DEMONS AND GORSONS MOVE AT HIS COMMAND TO ENSLAVE THE WORLD."

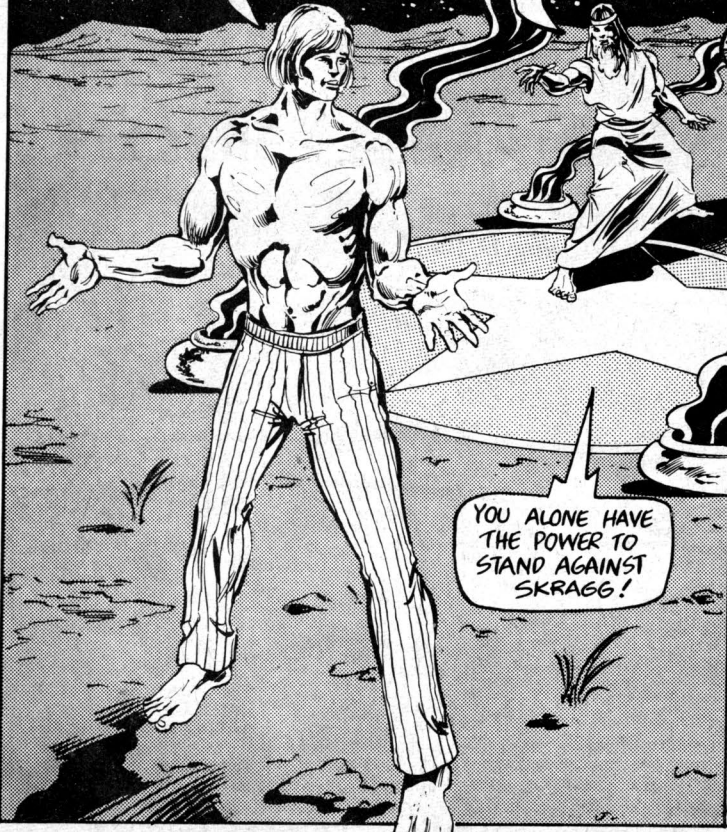


"HIS FIRST BORN."

"... HIS POWER GROWS DAILY AND I AM TOO OLD AND WEARY FOR WAR!"

THAT'S A REALLY WILD STORY... BUT WHAT DOES IT HAVE TO DO WITH ME ?

YOU WERE THE INFANT THAT I BANISHED TO EARTH!



YOU ALONE HAVE THE POWER TO STAND AGAINST SKRAGG!



ME... BUT THAT'S...

MY UNDYING GRATITUDE
OLD MAN-- YOU'VE SAVED
ME THE TROUBLE OF
LOCATING THIS BROTHER
OF MINE...



I HAVE BEEN
WAITING A LONG
TIME TO KILL HIM!

BEGONE, DEMON-- I AM
STILL YOUR MASTER
AT SORcery!



ME... A
DEMON?

--I'LL GIVE
YOU DEMONS,
OLD MAN!



I HAVEN'T TASTED HUMAN FLESH IN MONTHS, HUMAN!

--YIKES!

I DON'T PLAN ON BEING ANYONE'S LUNCH, UGLY!

DEMONDIUM GEBBETH CORUNDEM HADASH!

BACK DEMON-- I BANISH YOU BACK TO THE HELL PIT THAT SPAWNED YOU!

IF THIS DOESN'T WORK, I'M COOKED!

DEMONDIUM GEBBETH CORUNDEM HADASH!

IT WORKS!!

NOOOOOOO





HAH! SO THIS WHELP IS YOUR CHAMPION, OLD MAN! HE HAS NO KNOWLEDGE OF SORCERY! HA HA HA



BY EXILING THIS YOUTH AND DENVING HIM HIS HERITAGE AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF HIS POWERS, YOU HAVE CONDEMNED CALLANORIA AND DESTROYED IT'S CHAMPION! HA HA HA HA

HIS EYES... BURNING INTO ME! BURNING...



AAAARGH!



EVEN THOUGH YOU HAVE NO TRAINING, I SENSE RAW POWER OF AN INCREDIBLE MAGNITUDE WITHIN YOU!

WITH PROPER TRAINING YOU COULD ONE DAY BE A THREAT TO ME!

WE HAVE THE SAME BLOOD FLOWING THROUGH OUR VEINS...OUR FATHER'S BLOOD! THAT MAKES YOU TOO DANGEROUS TO LET LIVE!



THAT'S WHY YOU MUST DIE!

NO!

NO!

FEAR AND ANGER OVERWHELM THE BOY AS VIOLENT SPASMS OF EMOTION WRACK HIS BODY! SUDDENLY, A WHITE HOT BLAST OF MAGIC ERUPTS FROM HIS BRAIN!



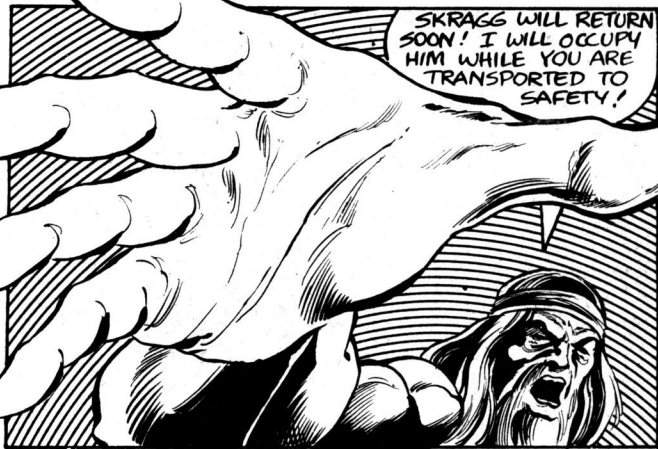
NO!

INCREDIBLE! YOU BROKE HIS SPELL WITH ONLY A GESTURE! YOUR POTENTIAL IS EVEN GREATER THAN I FORESAW!

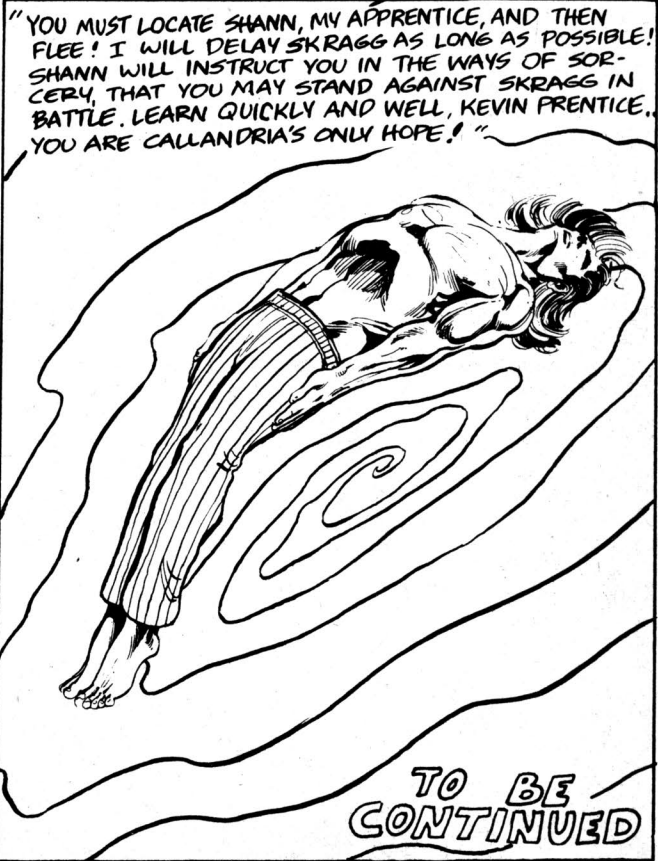


BUT THERE IS MORE TO SORCERY THAN IMITATING GESTURES AND REPEATING PHRASES...

YOU HAVE MUCH TO LEARN!



SKRAGG WILL RETURN SOON! I WILL OCCUPY HIM WHILE YOU ARE TRANSPORTED TO SAFETY!



"YOU MUST LOCATE SHANN, MY APPRENTICE, AND THEN FLEE! I WILL DELAY SKRAGG AS LONG AS POSSIBLE! SHANN WILL INSTRUCT YOU IN THE WAYS OF SORCERY, THAT YOU MAY STAND AGAINST SKRAGG IN BATTLE. LEARN QUICKLY AND WELL, KEVIN PRENTICE. YOU ARE CALLANDRIA'S ONLY HOPE!"

TO BE CONTINUED

NEXT ISSUE:



DON'T MISS IT!

