

# STAR SUNDAY



FRITZ/72

# LET'S TALK IT OVER

It seems as if we have some sort of a tradition going here with our publishing "schedule" on STAR-STUDDER COMICS. About all we seem to produce is one copy a year...and that one copy always comes out just a few days before this area's major convention is held. In the case of this issue, it's still being worked on (indeed, these words are being written) just 5 days before said convention convenes! But we have every confidence that our printer can come through with flying colors and have the completed issue in our hands the day before the big convention.

Or at least we hope he can. Keep your fingers crossed...

Really, we don't know why we do these issues as a "last minute" project; we run around like monkeys with the St. Vidas Dance, moaning about "This has got to be typed" and "This panel needs lettering" and so on, and generally make nervous wrecks of ourselves. And each time we promise to never wait until the last minute again--and we always do.

Sigh...It's all part of the insanity of being fanzine publishers, I guess.

## THIS ISSUE

The second you pulled this copy from the envelope, you noticed something different about it, right? First, it has no color on the cover, thereby breaking a (long-standing) tradition on having color covers for SSC ('smatter of fact, SSC had fandom's first four-color cover, way back in 1963!). The reason we have no color on the covers of this ish is simple: we're trying an experiment. The wheres and whyfores of it are too complex to explain here, but just take our word for it. If the experiment works, it'll lead to bigger and better things in future issues.

And as a part of this same experiment, we're using a different type of paper, too. So don't worry about it, Jack. Concern yourself instead with the groovy comic strips we have for you in this issue...and we have some goodies!

Like, Steve Firtz' epic swords and sorcery adventure, "Jabberwacky." This is a real mind-blower, and we think it's going to be the talk of fandom for many months to come. To quote from one of Steve's past letters:

"This was the first time I'd had a chance to experiment with and explore the different techniques of doing a comic strip. I did everything from using detailed panel sketches

to blue (non-reproducing) pencil, and ink to rough pencils and adding the detail as I inked, to just drawing directly. I found I do best when I do detailed sketches and then transfer to the page (as Al Williamson does)." Steve goes on to add: "I suspect that my story could've been condensed much smaller with smaller panels; my policy, however,....is to let the art run the story and determine the size of the panel. Hence, I have mainly large panels because I like to see artwork have lots of room, not crimped into a tiny space. I also ran this strip on a basic theme: panel scene and then had smaller panels within the large one."

Steve also hints at a possible sequel to this strip, should reader reaction demand it, and his time permit it.

Also in this issue is a short strip of Dr. WEIRD (Fandom's favorite spook) by Jim Starlin and Howard Keltner. We think you'll agree, this story is kinda' unusual, even for Dr. WEIRD! (And in case you're wondering about the Golden Ghost's other adventures, you can get a sample of them by ordering a copy of his own magazine. Issues One and Two of Dr. WEIRD are available, at 35¢ a copy from: DR. WEIRD PUBLICATIONS, 1830 Highland Drive, Carrollton, Texas 75006. These two issues are full of spooks and demons and beasties and etc., and should really grab you by the neck!)

Our other two strips in this issue are "Double Jeopardy" by Dennis Fujitake and UNMAN by Dave Cockrum. Both of these gentlemen have recently become professionals for the comic publishers in NYC, and we're pleased to have their work in our pages. Both chaps are obviously talented, and will be an asset to any firm they draw for.

Our other contributor this issue is Raymond B.W. Wong, who did our back cover. Noted mainly for his art in science-fiction fanzines, Raymond's talents will soon make him a much-in-demand illustrator for all types of fanzines and professional work. Remember, you saw him here, first! (And if you didn't, well, pretend you did!)

## LAST ISSUE

Here's how the voting went on the features presented in our last issue:

1. THE KNIGHT & THE BARBARIAN
1. WARRIOR OF LLARN
2. DRAGONFLY
3. EXCEL

Remember, we want YOU to vote on this issue's strips! Vote on each story in this issue, rating each one from #1 (your favorite), #2 (your second favorite) and so on down.

As you'll notice above, we had a tie in the popularity of top-ranked strips, with the second and third spots very close behind. And it should be noted (as we forgot to do last ish) that the WARRIOR OF LLARN strip (by Roy Thomas, Sam Grainger & Gardner Fox) and THE KNIGHT & THE BARBARIAN strip (by Alan Weiss) were both rather (shall we say) dated, and should not be considered as their current work. The LLARN strip was originally slated for ALTER-EGO and done several years ago, and the epic by Alan Weiss was over a year old when published in our #17.

## THE MAILBAG

Okay, so let's take a look at some of the comments that came in on our last issue...

Dear Editors:

Enjoyed every word in STAR-STUDDER. You sure turn out a perfect magazine! My mind boggles when I think on the amount of sweat and work that goes into its production. You rate 10 gold stars in my book! Of course, my praise goes along to The Texas Trio and Joe Williams and all the others responsible in any way for such an entertaining edition. It must give you a great sense of accomplishment, after you've recovered from all the back-breaking work, that is.

I got a great personal charge out of the comic version of WARRIOR OF LLARN. Congrats go to Roy Thomas and Sam Grainger, of course. I see Roy from time to time, even if I'm not doing any comic work any more, but tell Sam that I loved his art. Intend to phone Don Wollheim who gave permission for this, one of these days, and take it in to show him. So you know STAR-STUDDER gets around!

I Xeroxed a copy of the bit on Kothar for Harry Shorten who publishes Kothar and he was very happy to see it.

--GARDNER F. FOX

Dear Trio,

I was going to complain about the slight delay in receiving my issue of STAR-STUDDER. I had carefully prepared a tall list of my favorite obscenities and four-letter words in describing my dissatisfaction when, out of the corner of my eye, I glimpsed the postman attempting to cram a large brown envelope into a mail slot sideways.

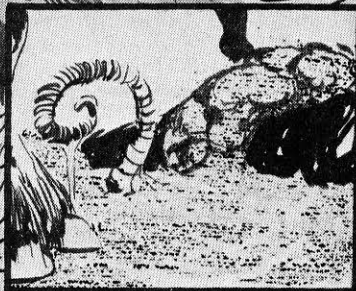
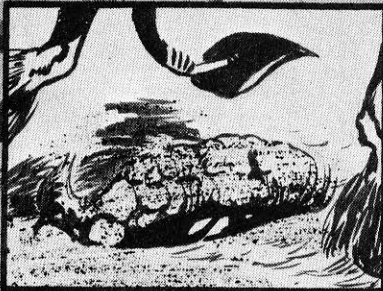
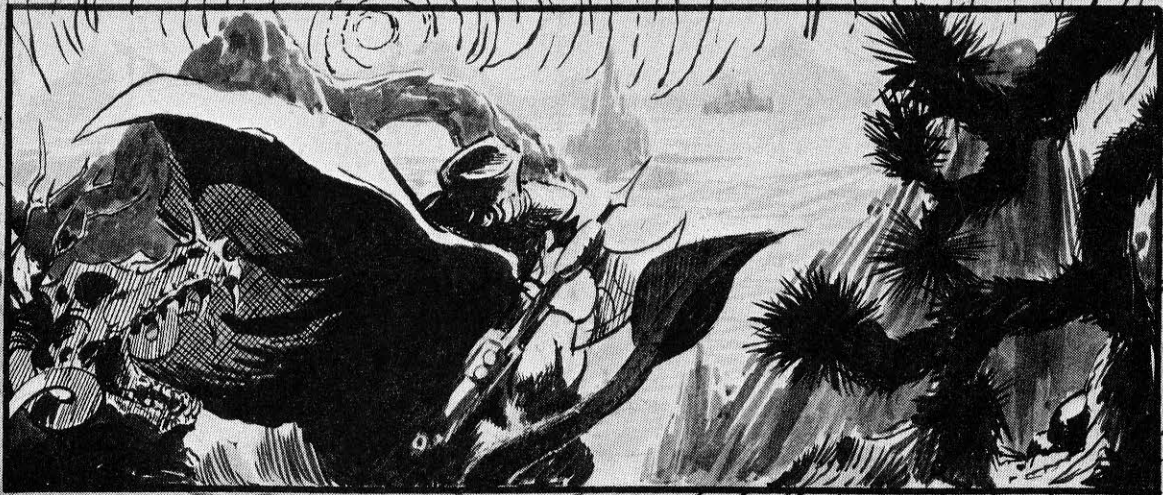
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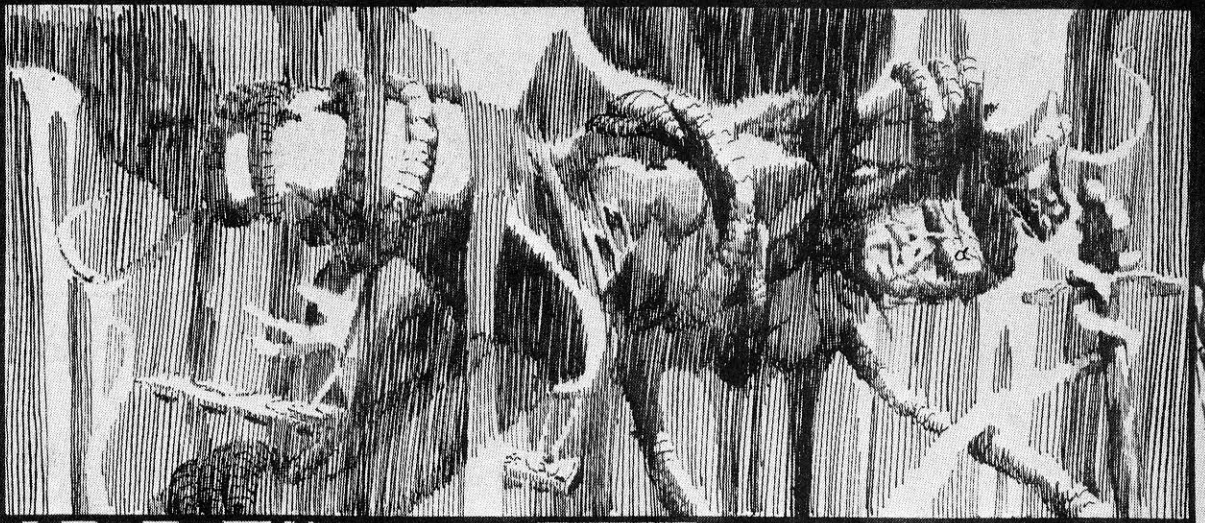
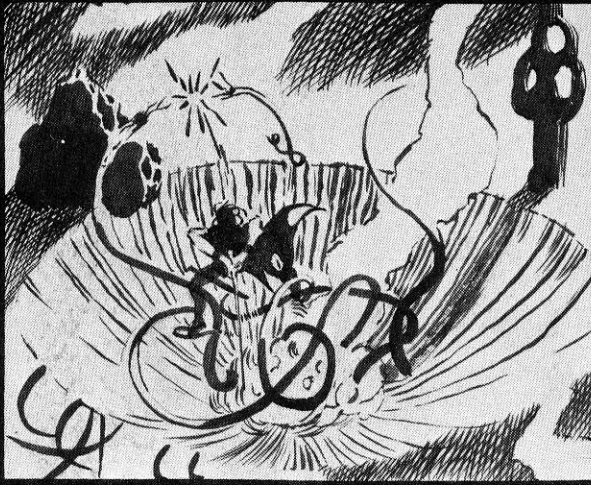
STAR STUDDER # 18, Summer 1972...an amateur magazine which is strictly NON PROFIT. Edited indirectly by THE TEXAS TRIO. EDITOR - Larry Herndon. PUBLISHER- Joe Bob Williams (besides being layout editor & last minute touch up man on unfinished art & lettering) PRICE per issue: Single copies 75 ¢; a subscription of 4 issues (starting with #17 thru #20 ONLY) is \$3.00. All money, LOCs should be sent to: STAR STUDDER, P.O. Box 242, Lewisville, Texas 75067. Please make checks & money orders payable to Joe Bob Williams [ NO Canadian money, money orders or checks accepted] Those wishing to contribute art or stories should send them to: Larry Herndon, 1830 Highland Drive, Carrollton, Texas 75006---unsolicited material MUST be accompanied by sufficient return postage or DON'T expect it back. If we accept your work, we'll write you a nice letter. The entire contents of this issue are COPYRIGHTED © 1972 by Larry Herndon, Howard Keltner and Joe Bob Williams & no portion may be reprinted (other than for review purposes) without written permission.

# Jabberwocky



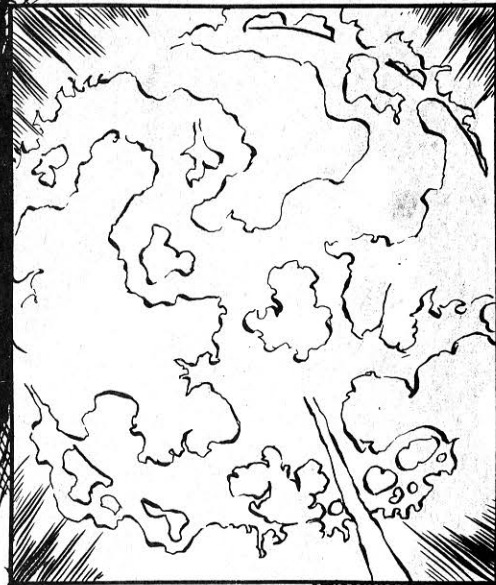
I WAS BRILLIG, AND THE SLITHY TOWES  
DID GYRE AND GIMBLE IN THE WABE:  
ALL MIMSEY WERE THE BOROGOVES,  
AND THE MOME RATHS OUTGRABE.





"AH, AT LASST MY PET HASS BROUGHT SSOMEONE TO ME! HE'S SUCH A DAWLING, DON'T YOU THINK? YOU MAY CAWL ME SSALEENA, YOU HANDSOME, THING, YOU, NAWTURALLY YOU'RE WUNDERING WHY YOU'RE HERE—WELL, I'LL TELL YOU— I NEED YOUR HELP.  
"I WAS QUEEN OF THAT NEARBY CITY YOU SSAW WHEN YOU NEARED HERE— UNTIL... BUT I WASS SUCH A KINDLY, LOVING RULER! HOW COOOULD HE... BUT LOOK INTO THE POOL OF MANY THINGSS AND YOU'LL SSEE MY SSAD SSTORY AND PITYFUL PLITE!!"





# The Ring of Nemfast!

"AND SO HE BANISHED ME TO THIS CAVERN WHERE THE SPHERE OF CONTAINMENT LIMITS MY POWERS TO THE IMMEDIATE AREA! OH ... SOB... IF I COULD ONLY GET BACK TO MY CITY AND SAVE MY PEOPLE... I USED MY POWERS TO CREATE MY PET TO BRING A PASSER-BY TO HELP ME!"



"WHAT MAKES YOU THINK I'LL HELP YOU? YOU'RE MONSTER KILLED MY TAAEL!"



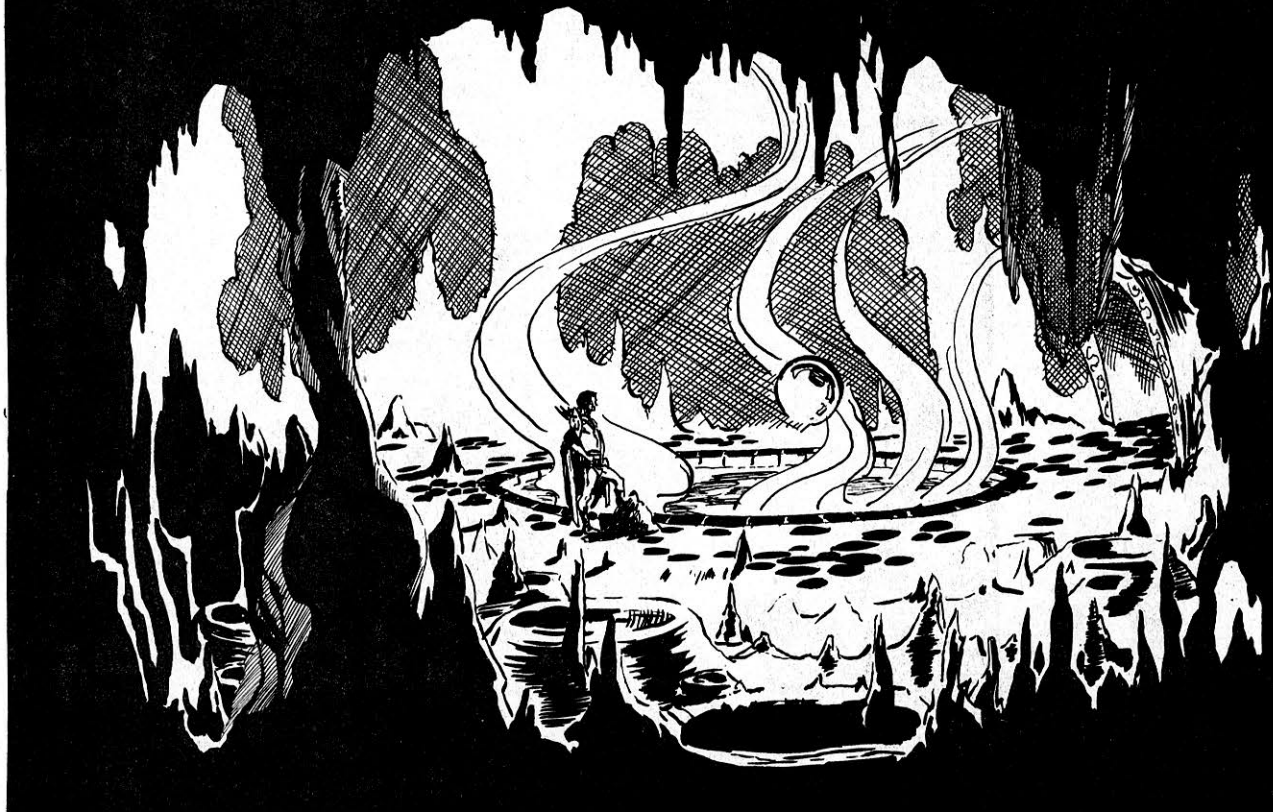
"BECAUSE I AM A WOMAN!"



"TO BELFAST WITH WOMEN!! DON'T MAKE ME LAUGH! THEY NEVER DID A TZAN THING FOR ME SO WHY SHOULD I RISK MY NECK FOR THEM — ESPECIALLY ONE AS TZAN UGLY AS YOU!! FOUR ARMS! HAH!"



"YOU... B-BUT I DON'T UNDERSTAND! YOU CAN'T REFUSE! YOU WOULDN'T DARE!... NOT SSOMEONE ASS HANDSSOME ASS YOU... OH, PLEASE SAY YOU WILL! PLEASE! SOB!"  
"FORGET THE TEAR BIT, SISTER, A..."



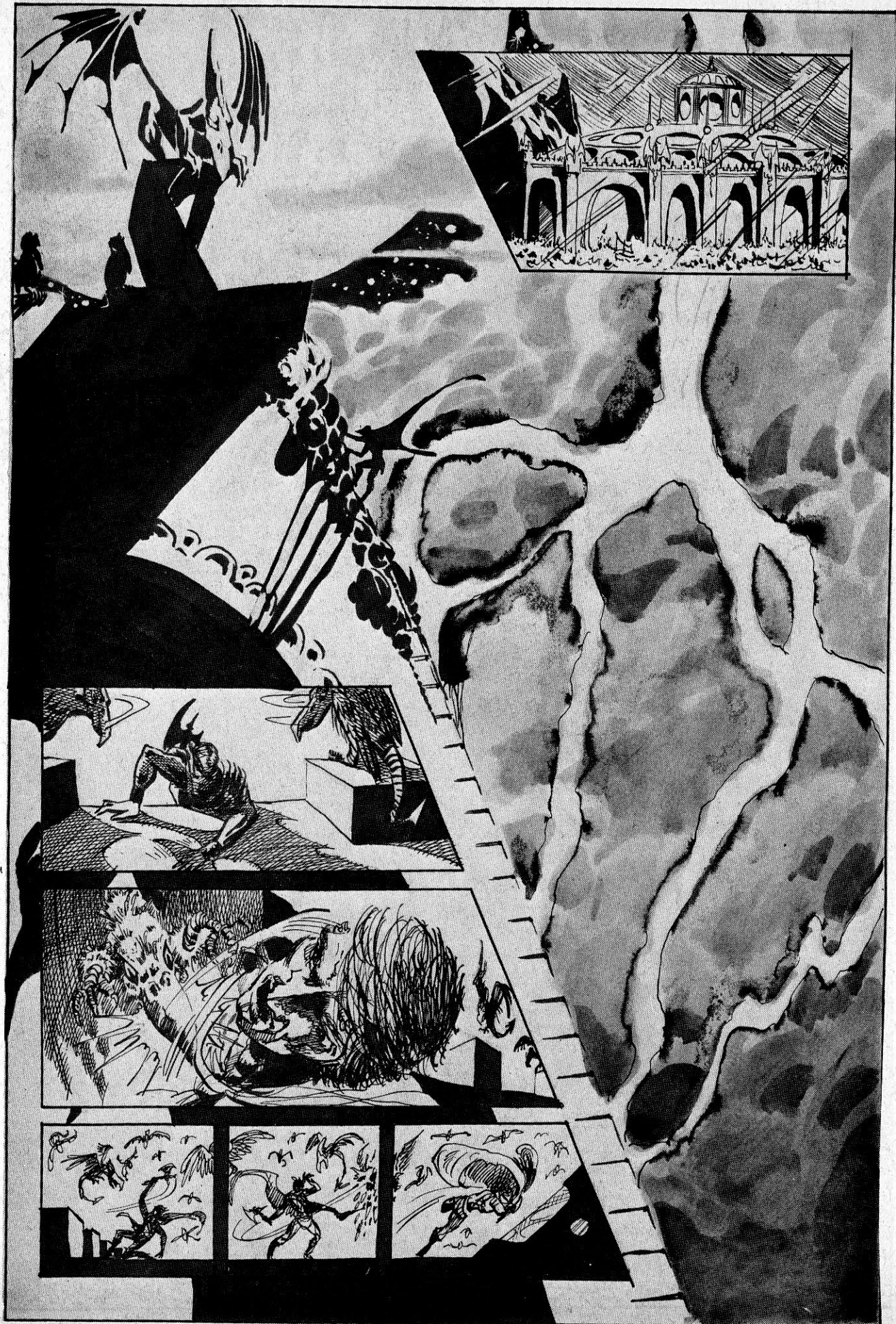
"...ROCK DOESN'T FEEL ANYTHING! WHAT MAKES YOU THINK I CAN'T REFUSE? I TZAN WELL DO AS I PLEASE. LET ME TELL YOU, BABY, THAT WOMEN HAVE BEEN NOTHING BUT PAINS FOR ME — ALWAYS ACTING SO HELPLESS. WELL, I DON'T BUY IT — IF THEY WANT SOMETHING DONE THEY CAN DO IT THEMSELVES!"  
"VERY WELL, I'LL NO LONGER ASK YOU, I'LL..."  
"COMMAND ME? HAH! I COULD KILL YOU BEFORE YOU FINISHED AN INCANTATION! HOWEVER, I DIDN'T SAY I REFUSE — THIS CITY SOUNDS INTERESTING — I'LL GO... BUT I WON'T HELP YOU UNLESS I THINK IT'S WORTH MY EFFORT — UNDERSTAND! NOW GET ME A TAAEL!"  
"YOU ARE VERY INTERESTING. I COULD LOVE YOU EASILY... A TAAEL WON'T DO... IT'S SUNSET AND THE EVENING RAINS ARE DUE... I HAVE MATERIALIZED A BOAT FOR YOU OUTSIDE THE CAVERN. COME!"





"BEWARE THE STABBERWOCK, MY SON!  
THE JAWS THAT BITE, THE CLAWS THAT CATCH!  
BEWARE THE SUBJUB BIRD, AND SHUN  
THE FRUMIOUS BANDERSNATCH!"

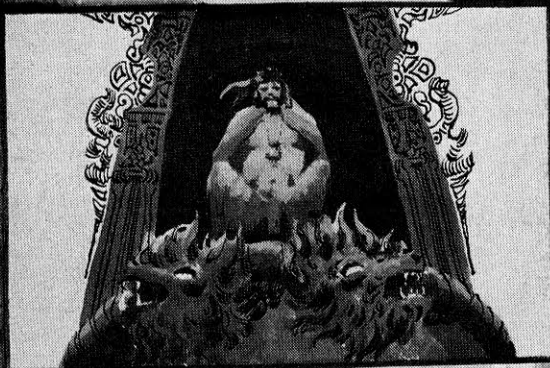






HE TOOK HIS VORPAL SWORD IN HAND;  
LONG TIME THE MANKOME FOE HE SOUGHT—  
SO RESTED HE BY THE TUMTUM TREE,  
AND STOOD AWHILE IN THOUGHT.





"YOU ARE AN EXCELLENT FIGHTER, TARUS, MY HANDSOME FRIEND, BUT IF YOU HAD ENTERED THROUGH THE DOORS YOU WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN ATTACKED BY ONE OF THE BANDERSNATCHES USED TO PROTECT US FROM SUCH INVASIONS. BUT SINCE YOU ARE IN, PLEASE LET ME SHOW YOU AROUND."



"THIS IS THE CITY OF ETERNAL LOVE, FOUNDED DURING THE MARS CONVERGENCE IN THE 1900'S AND HAS BEEN BUILT UP LIKE THIS SINCE THE UNFREEZING THREE THOUSAND YEARS AGO. IT WAS BASED ON LOVE AND BEAUTY, WHICH THE WORLD SORELY NEEDED. AND SUCH HAS IT BEEN — EXCEPT FOR THE REIGN OF HATE TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO!"

"AND WHAT WAS THAT?"

"SHE WAS SSALGENA, A DESCENDANT OF THE OUTSIDERS WHO KEPT THEIR EVIL NATURE. SHE CAME TO US A STRANGER WHOM WE GLADLY GREETED LIKE WE HAVE ALWAYS DONE FOR TRAVELERS WEARY OF THE HELLISH LIFE ON EARTH OUTSIDE THE..."



"...**DOMÉ**. BEING THOROUGHLY EVIL AND POWERED BY THE **BLACK ARTS**. SHE SAW AN EASY CHANCE TO GAIN POWER OVER OUR PEOPLE! (WE NOW HAVE GUARD ANIMALS.) WITH HER POWERFUL SPELLS SHE OVERCAME ME, **CANCER VI**, AND MADE SLAVES OF US FOR OVER 100 YEARS. I FLED THE CITY AND RETURNED ONLY AFTER I HAD SEARCHED AND FOUND A **PRE-CONVERGENCE** BOOK WITH A CANTATION FOR THE MATERIALIZATION OF THE **RING OF NEMFAST**, WHICH LEGENDED WHISPERED WAS BEYOND THE POWER OF ANY SPELL. I BANISHED HER TO A NEAR DISTANT CAVERN WHERE ONLY HER POWER OF THOUGHT CAN BE USED FAR BEYOND THE **SPHERE OF CONTAINMENT**."

"THAT'S INTERESTING... HMMM."

TARUS, DON'T BELIEVE HIM! HE'S FEEDING YOU A PACK OF LIES - PROPAGANDA TO GET YOU OFF YOUR GUARD! THEN HE'LL PUT YOU UNDER HIS CONTROL LIKE ALL THE OTHERS!

CANCER... YOU CAN READ MY MIND?

OF COURSE, I AM A MAN OF NO SMALL POWER.

THEN YOU KNOW WHAT MUST BE DONE.

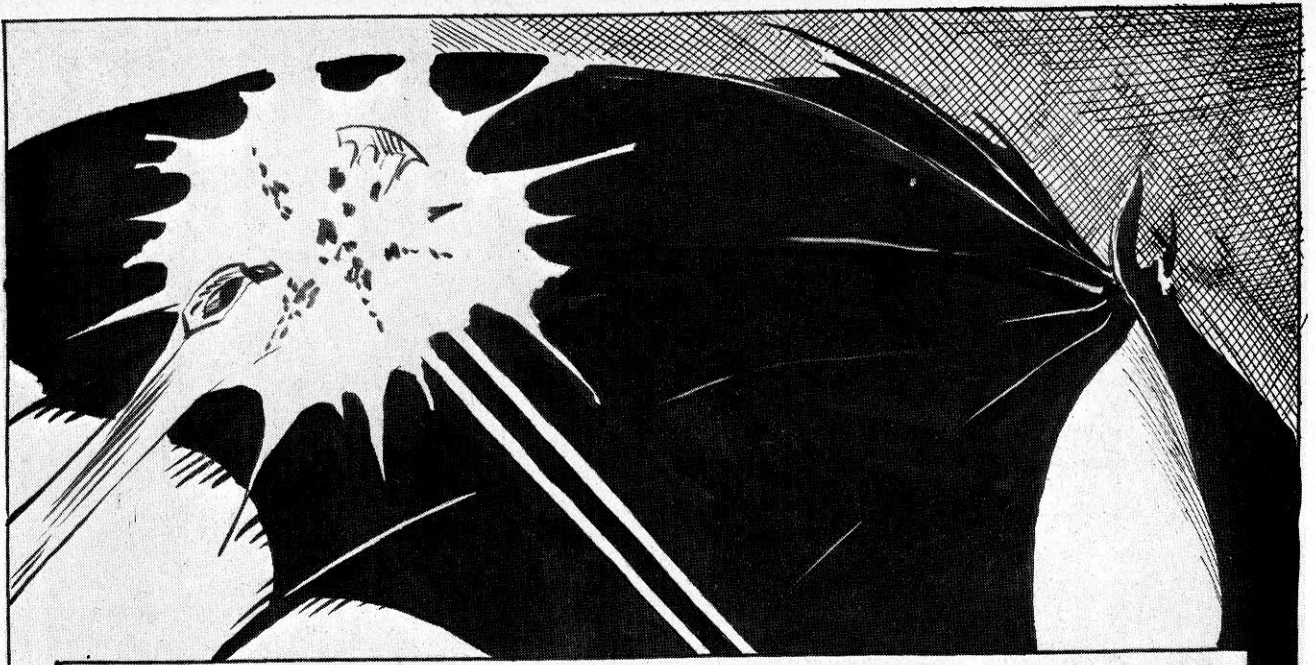
YES, UNFORTUNATELY, BUT I AM READY... NOW...  
**DEFEND YOURSELF!**

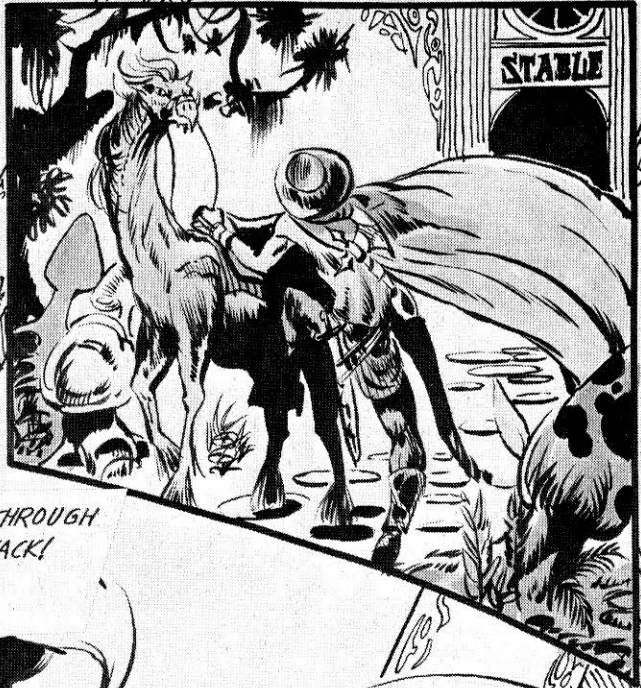


AND, AS IN UFFISH THOUGHT HE STOOD,  
THE DRABBERWOCK, WITH EYES OF FLAME,  
CAME WHIFFLING THROUGH THE TULGEY WOOD,  
AND BURBLED AS IT CAME!









ONE, TWO! ONE, TWO! AND THROUGH AND THROUGH  
HE VORPAL BLADE WENT SNICKER-SNACK!  
HE LEFT IT DEAD, AND, WITH ITS HEAD  
HE WENT GALUMPHING BACK.



**FREE!**  
YOU HAVE CANCER'S  
HEAD I SHALL HAVE HIS  
THRONE!! I SHALL SPIRIT  
US BACK TO THE DOME  
WHERE YOU CAN BE MY  
PERSONAL SLAVE!

OUR TRICK WORKED WELL—  
SSALEENA SPIRITED HERSELF  
INTO UTTER HELPLESSNESS!  
WE KNEW SHE'D GO TO...

THE THRONE  
WHERE THE RING OF NEMFAST  
AWAITED, NOW HER ETERNAL  
PRISON! I LEARNED NEW ARTS  
FROM THE BOOK WHICH CREATED  
AN ILLUSION EVEN SHE  
COULDN'T PENETRATE.  
NOW SHE GAINS

THE THRONE—AS A  
RING ON MY HAND, BUT  
WHAT WILL YOU DO NOW, TARUS,  
MY FRIEND? WILL YOU NOT  
STAY HERE IN THE DOME  
OF LOVE?

NO! LOVE SICKENS ME!  
DON'T ARGUE, I HAVE MY  
REASONS. JUST GIVE ME A TAAEL  
AND SUPPLIES FOR MY SERVICES,  
I WANT TO REACH THE  
MOUNTAINS BEFORE EVENING.

"AND HAST THOU SLAIN THE DABBERWOCK?  
COME TO MY ARMS, MY BEAMISH BOY!  
O FRABJIOUS DAY! CALLOOH, C'ALLAY!"  
HE CHORTLED IN HIS JOY.



I WAS BRILLIG, AND THE SLITHY TOWES  
DID GYRE AND GIMBLE IN THE WABE!  
ALL MIMSEY WERE THE BOROGROVES,  
AND THE MOME RATHS OUTERABE.

RV

# THE MIRACLE

AN UNEXPECTED DISEASE... AND A YOUNG LIFE IS IN MORTAL DANGER.



STORY AND ART BY:  
JIM STARLIN  
INKING AND LETTERING:  
HOWARD KELTNER

MEDICAL SCIENCE HAS FAILED... THWARTED BY ONE OF THOSE FEW ILLS THAT MANKIND HAS YET TO OVERCOME! NAUGHT CAN SAVE THE CHILD...



...EXCEPT A MIRACLE!

DEATH, THE UNBIASED ONE... REGARDLESS OF COLOR OR AGE, HE SHALL VISIT ALL SOME DAY.



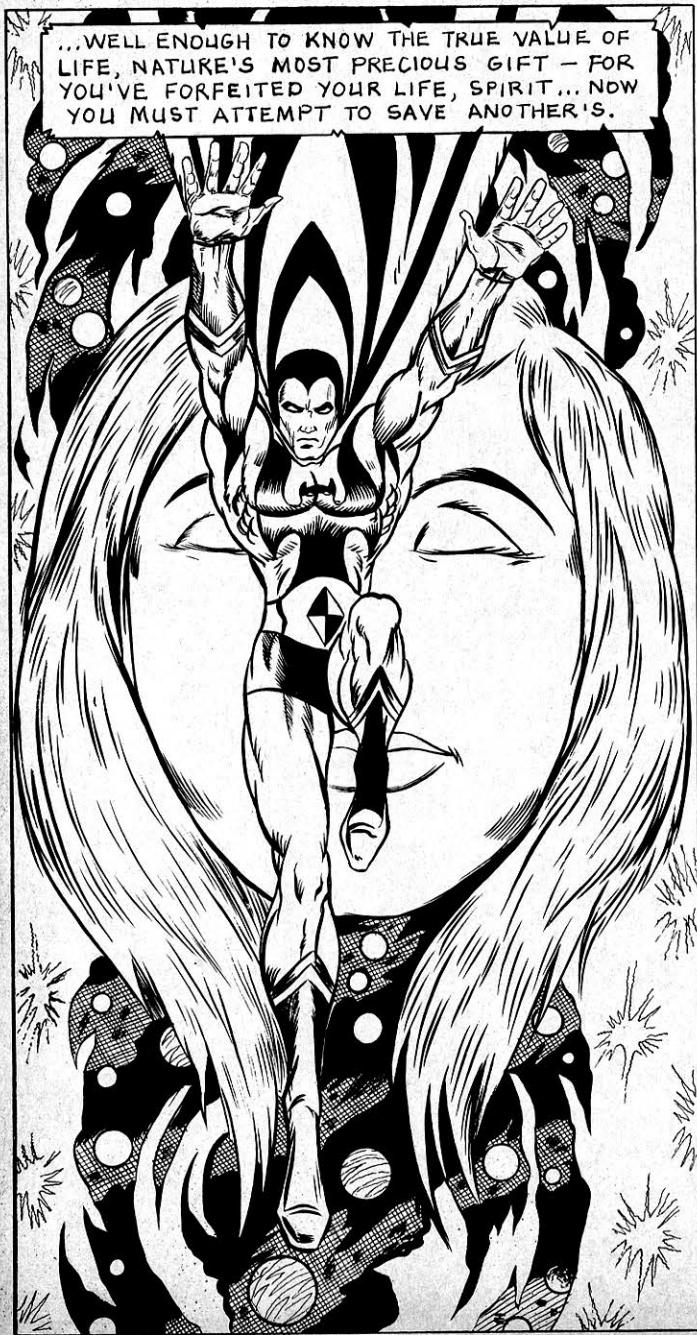
DEATH, THE UNJUST ONE... TO STRIKE AT ONE SO YOUNG, WITH SO MUCH LIFE TO LIVE.



DEATH, THE FAMILIAR ONE. YOUR BENEFAC-TOR AND YOUR WORST ENEMY. YES, SPIRIT, YOU KNOW HIM VERY WELL...



...WELL ENOUGH TO KNOW THE TRUE VALUE OF LIFE, NATURE'S MOST PRECIOUS GIFT - FOR YOU'VE FORFEITED YOUR LIFE, SPIRIT... NOW YOU MUST ATTEMPT TO SAVE ANOTHER'S.



GO FORTH, ASTRAL ONE, AND FIND THAT SINGULAR SPARK OF LIFE WHICH REMAINS... WARM IT... NURTURE IT... AND GIVE IT STRENGTH... SO THAT IT MAY SURVIVE...



BUT, WAIT! THERE SHE IS, RACING THROUGH THAT TWILIGHT WORLD BETWEEN LIFE AND DEATH!

QUICKLY, SPECTRE, REACH HER SOUL, BEFORE SHE CAN TOUCH THE HAND OF...



SEARCH ON, SPECTRE, SEARCH. BUT TIME IS SHORT. EACH SECOND BRINGS THE YOUNG GIRL CLOSER TO THE END.





A PRAYER.



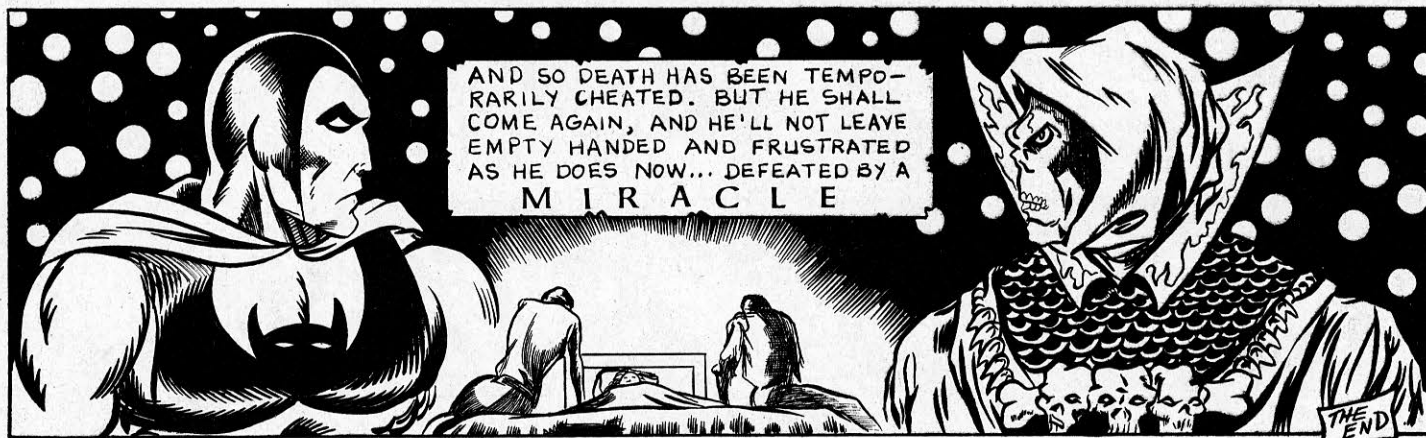
WHAT IS IT'S WORTH?



MAYBE NOTHING...

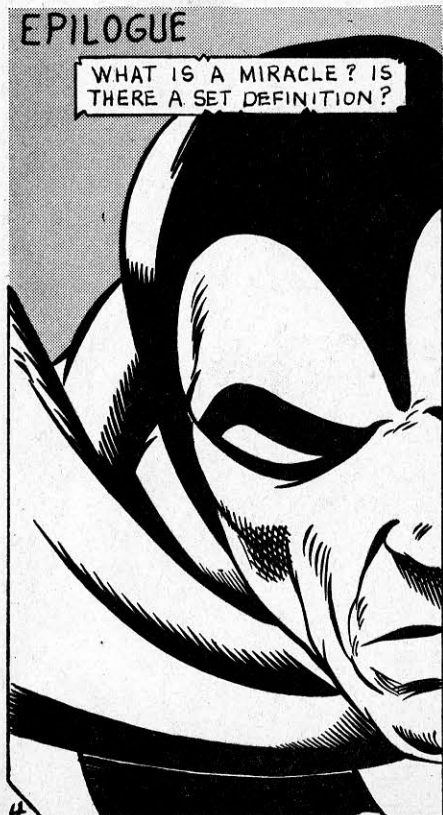


MAYBE EVERYTHING.



AND SO DEATH HAS BEEN TEMPORARILY CHEATED. BUT HE SHALL COME AGAIN, AND HE'LL NOT LEAVE EMPTY HANDED AND FRUSTRATED AS HE DOES NOW... DEFEATED BY A **M I R A C L E**

THE END



**EPILOGUE**

WHAT IS A MIRACLE? IS THERE A SET DEFINITION?



IS IT THE PARTING OF THE SEAS? COULD IT BE THE RAW POWER OF THE FLASHING LIGHTNING BOLT?

THESE, AND MORE. SOMETIMES IT IS THE SILENT PHANTOM KNOWN AS...

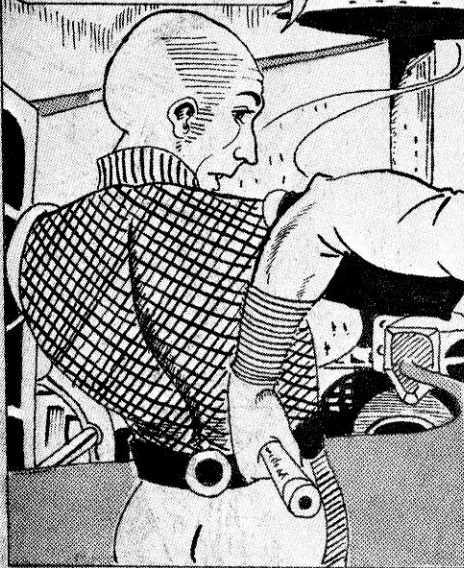


**DR. WEIRD..**



WELCOME, FRIENDS, TO THE YEAR 2854 A.D.! THE SCENE: A MEGAPOLIS ON THE NORTH AMERICAN CONTINENT ON THE PLANET EARTH! THE SITUATION: TWO POWER BLOCKS HAVE FORMED WITH EARTH ON ONE POLE AND THE OUTER PLANET COLONIES ON THE OTHER. IN AN ATMOSPHERE OF SUSPICION AND FEAR THE TWO COLOSSAL STRUCTURES SOUGHT THE SECRETS THE OTHER HELD! YAL KONAR, OUR CENTER OF INTEREST IS BUT A PAWN IN THIS COSMIC CHESS GAME!

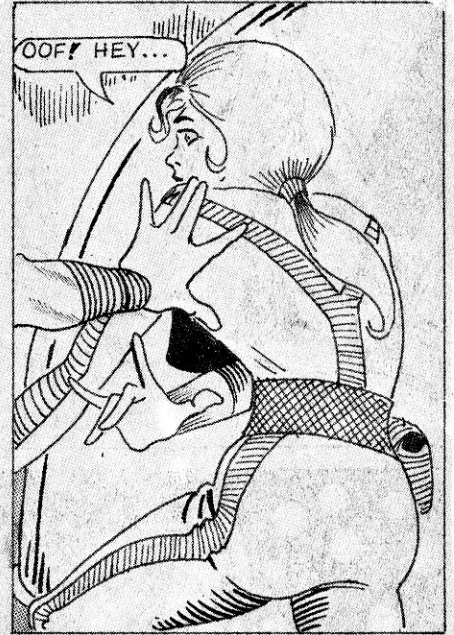
COLONIAL PEASANT!  
WATCH IT!



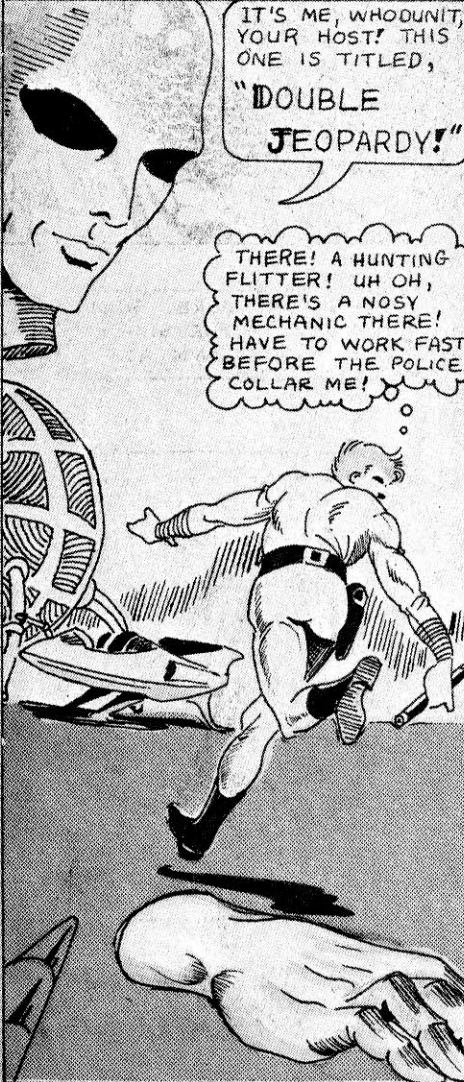
GET OUT OF MY WAY!  
GOTTA REACH  
A FLITTER!



OOF! HEY...



IT'S ME, WHODUNIT,  
YOUR HOST! THIS  
ONE IS TITLED,  
"DOUBLE  
JEOPARDY!"



THERE! A HUNTING  
FLITTER! UH OH,  
THERE'S A NOSY  
MECHANIC THERE!  
HAVE TO WORK FAST  
BEFORE THE POLICE  
COLLAR ME!

WHOA, FELLA!  
WHAT'S THE BIG  
RUSH? YOU CAN'T  
USE THIS BABY  
WITHOUT THE RE-  
QUIRED CANOPY!  
BESIDES...



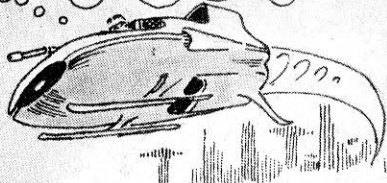
AW,  
SHADDUP!  
GET OUTTA  
MY WAY!

NOW HOLD  
ON, PAL!  
DONT DO...



UNGH!

I'VE GOT TO BUY TIME FOR MYSELF! THE LIQUIDATOR IS ALREADY KEYED TO MY BRAIN PATTERN! BEFORE I CAN RETURN TO GANYMEDE I'LL HAVE TO KILL HIM AND THAT CAN ONLY HAPPEN IF I CAN BUY THAT TIME!



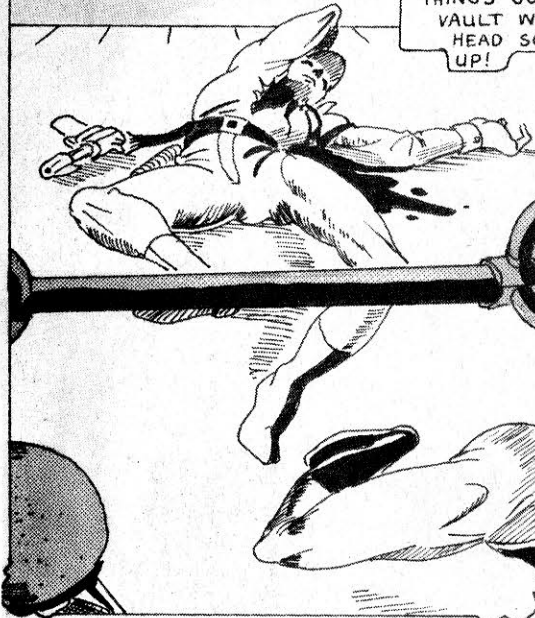
I'LL TRY TO LOSE MYSELF IN THE BOONDOCKS! BLAST, IF ONLY I HADN'T LINGERED SO LONG!

ALL THIS TIME OF INFILTRATING THE SECURITY OFFICE AND NOW EVERYTHING IS IN JEOPARDY BECAUSE OF THE LIQUIDATOR! IT'S BEEN ALMOST A FULL LUNAR CYCLE SINCE MY MISSION BEGAN! BLAST, IT WOULD HAVE HAD TO BE ME, YAL KONAR, WITH MY DAMN TALENT... IN MY GENES, THEY SAID!



YEAH, SO SIMPLE WITH MY TALENT! AND AFTER THAT MY LUCK SOURD! THE DEVICE FAILED IN OPENING THE VAULT UNTIL IT WAS NEARLY MORNING!

THINGS GOT WORSE INSIDE THE VAULT WHEN YORNICK, EARTH'S HEAD SCIENTIST SHOWED UP!



YOU, KONAR, A SPY!



IT WAS SO SIMPLE TO LINGER AFTER EVERYONE HAD LEFT, THEN HIDE! THAT DOLT OF A SECURITY COP DESERVED WHAT I DID TO HIM!

IT'S TOO LATE, KONAR! I'VE JUST ACTIVATED A LIQUIDATOR! GIVE UP AND I'LL CANCEL THE OR.. AGH!



MOVING PAST THE BLACKENED CORPSE, I FOUND MY OBJECTIVE, EARTH SECRET #1! THIS WAS MY TICKET TO FUTURE HAPPINESS FOR ME!

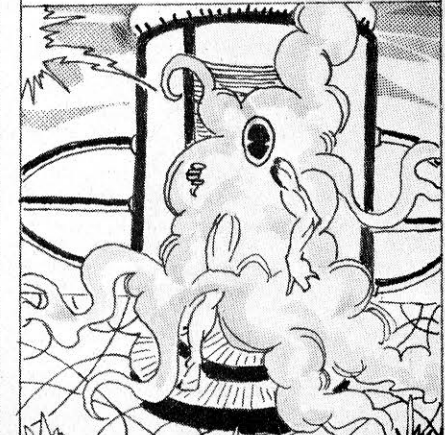


IN THE HALL THERE WAS ANOTHER SEC-COP AND I ADDED ANOTHER VICTIM TO MY CREDITS!



YES, SIR! KONAR HAS KILLED SEC-49 AND HE ... UGH!

MEANWHILE, DEEP WITHIN THE BOWELS OF THE CITY, A LIQUIDATOR AWAKENED! HUMANS SPECIALLY BRED AND PROGRAMED TO HUNT DOWN ENEMIES OF THE PLANET!



ATTENTION ALL UNITS... L:I:Q #13 HAS TOP PRIORITY CLEARANCE!

IT ALL STARTED ON GANYMEDE! I WAS A CRIMINAL PUT TO SLEEP!

BUT THE BIGWIGS HAD OTHER PLANS FOR ME! BECOME A COLONIAL SPY A GAIN FREE-MAN STATUS!

YOU HAVE A CHOICE, YAL KONAR. EITHER OUR PROPOSAL OR EXECUTION! REMEMBER, WE CAN CURE YOUR DISEASE!

I DIDN'T HAVE TO THINK ABOUT IT FOR HAD I ANY CHOICE? BESIDES I WAS AN EXPERT KILLER!

NOW, ALL I NEED IS TIME! I MUST PLAY FOR IT BY ELUDING THE LIQUIDATOR AS LONG AS POSSIBLE!

WHA... THE RAD'S WARNING LIGHT IS ON! NO, IT ISN'T POSSIBLE... IT'S THE LIQUIDATOR AND HE'S CLOSING FAST!!! GOTTA PUNCH IN AN EVASIVE PATTERN ON THE -MAX-COMP!

CLOSE! TOO CLOSE! HE TOOK OFF MY LANDING SKIS! HE'S SLOWING NOW FOR MANUEVERABILITY!

NOW HE'LL SEE THAT HIS PIDGEON HAS GOT SOME SHARP TALONS! LET'S LOOP!

UGH! HE KNOWS HIS OATS! HE UPPEDED TO MAX VELOCITY!

MY SHIP SHUDDERED AS IT LEVELED OFF AND...

WELL, THIS IS IT! WHO'S THE BETTER SHOT! HA, THERE GOES HIS SOLAR VANE!

THROUGH BLISTERING RIBBONS OF FIRE YAL'S FLITTER WEAVES AS THE MAX-COMP ANTICIPATES THE "CRUIZERS" ATTACK PATTERN AND RETURNS DEADLY, ACCURATE LASER SHOTS! KONAR IS ELATED UNTIL...

HA! I'VE DONE IT! I BE THE FIRST TO ESCAPE THE ... NO! NOT MY SOLAR VANE!

OOF! I CAN BARELY GLIDE HER DOWN! AND HE'LL BE COMING FOR ME!

AND IN THE LENGTHENING SHADOWS OF THE LATE AFTERNOON SUN, YAL COMES DOWN IN A EMPTY VALLEY...



MADE IT! THE WOODS WILL HIDE ME!

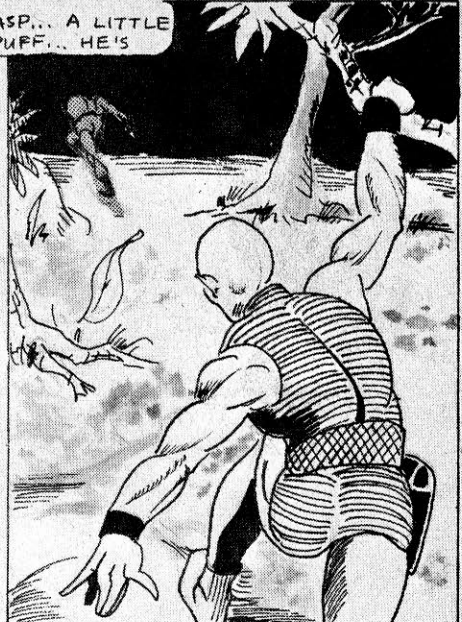
I'VE BEEN RUNNING FOR HOURS... GASP... A LITTLE LONGER AND I CAN REST! PANT... PUFF... HE'S STILL THERE... ISN'T HE TIRED!



THERE HE IS! A PERFECT TARGET! DIE, YOU LOUSY... NO... EMPTY! TOO LATE... IT'S TOO LATE!



CLICK



I'LL THROW AWAY MY NEEDLER, KONAR, AND GIVE YOU A FIGHTING CHANCE!



YEAH! HEH, HEH, HEH! A FIGHTING CHANCE! HA, HA, HA! AGAINST YOU TITANTIC PHYSICAL SIZE AND YOUR ANIMAL VICIOUSNESS!



HE'S LIKE A WRAITH, SLIPPING SILENTLY TOWARD ME!

SUDDENLY, IN THE BRIGHT LIGHT OF A SOFT, FULL MOON...



YOU THOUGHT I WOULD BE JUST ANOTHER EASY KILL!

DIDN'T YOU WONDER WHY THEY SHOULD SEND ME, A MERE CRIMINAL... A MURDERER YES, BUT COMPARED TO ONE SUCH AS YOURSELF I'M NOTHING CONSIDERABLE! THEY KNEW MAKING ME COME WOULD MAKE YOU OVER CONFIDENT!

THEY PROMISED TO REPLACE MY BLOOD AND GIVE ME CITIZEN STATUS IN EXCHANGE FOR EARTH'S FOREMOST SECRET! YOU SEE I KILL NOT WITH ANY PURPOSE, JUST NECESSITY!



GENETICALLY, I AM A THROWBACK TO AN ANCESTOR WHO UNFORTUNATELY, OR FORTUNATELY, WAS A... WEREWOLF!



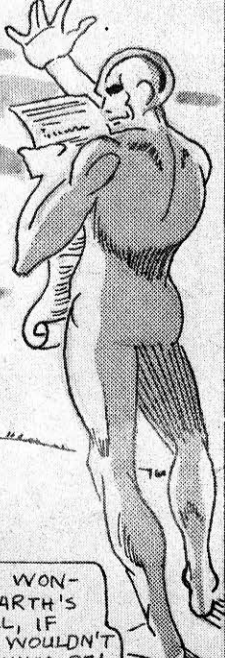


HA HA HA  
HUH! WHY...  
WHY ARE YOU  
LAUGHING?  
WHAT THE...

YOU SEE, YAL KONAR, FOR  
THE SAME REASON THEY  
CHOOSE YOU, MY PEOPLE  
BRED ME! ONLY I'M A  
BIGGER AND STRONGER WERE WOLF!



THUS, WE TERMINATE THE  
LIFE OF ONE YAL KONAR AND  
THE END OF  
THIS STORY!  
HMM...



I'LL BET YOU'RE WON-  
DERING WHAT EARTH'S  
SECRET IS! WELL, IF  
I TOLD YOU IT WOULDN'T  
BE A SECRET ANYMORE!  
UNTIL NEXT TIME...TA!

END

# WUN-MAN



©

BY Dave Cocking -1-4-70

OUR STORY OPENS ON AN UNUSUAL NOTE AS A NEARLY-HYSTERICAL YOUNG MAN BURSTS INTO A PSYCHIATRIST'S OFFICE...



SIR, WAIT! YOU MUST HAVE AN APPOINTMENT!

NO! I CAN'T WAIT FOR AN APPOINTMENT! I'M GOING MAD RIGHT NOW!

DOCTOR... PLEASE... I NEED HELP... BADLY!

IT'S ALL RIGHT, MISS HARKNESS... MY SCHEDULED APPOINTMENT WAS CANCELLED, ANYWAY...

ALL RIGHT, SON... SUPPOSE YOU TELL ME ABOUT IT...



I... I'M HAVING HALLUCINATIONS! LOSING ALL TOUCH WITH REALITY!

I'M BECOMING SCHIZOPHRENIC!



NOW, YOU LET ME DO THE DIAGNOSING, YOUNG MAN... YOU JUST LAY THERE AND TELL ME YOUR STORY!

YES, SIR... WELL, MY NAME IS JEFFERSON RYKOR. I RUN A SMALL ART SHOP DOWN IN THE VILLAGES. I... I DON'T REMEMBER A TIME WHEN I DIDN'T HAVE THESE VISIONS, WIERD COLORS & SHIFTING PATTERNS, LIKE NOTHING ON EARTH...

... I GUESS THEY STARTED BACK BEFORE MY PARENTS DIED, FIFTEEN YEARS AGO...



"... I NEVER KNEW MY FOLKS TOO WELL... THEIR CAR WAS RUN OFF THE ROAD LATE ONE NIGHT BY A BUNCH OF THRILL-CRAZY HOT-RODDERS..."

"... AND THEY BURNED TO DEATH IN THE FIRE FROM THEIR EXPLODING GAS TANK..."



"... BUT I REMEMBER THAT THEY KNEW OF THE VISIONS... THEY ARRANGED A MEETING WITH A PSYCHIATRIST FOR ME..."

"... AN APPOINTMENT THAT WAS NEVER KEPT!"



IT WAS THAT VERY NIGHT THAT THEY...

OH, NO!!!

WHAT IS IT, SON? WHAT'S WRONG?

IT... IT'S HAPPENING AGAIN!!!



IT'S STRONGER THIS TIME! I'M BEING PULLED RIGHT OUT OF THIS WORLD! HELP ME, DOCTOR...

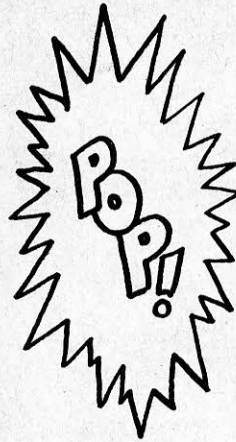
HEEEELLLLLLLLLLPP  
MMEEEEEEEEEEEEEE...

A SUDDEN RUSH OF STRANGE, SWIRLING COLOR ENVELOPS THE YOUNG ARTIST...



HEEEELLLP!  
MEEEEEEEEEE!

...AND THEN...



THEN, IN THE PSYCHIATRIST'S OFFICE...

STRANGE... I THOUGHT I HAD SOMETHING IMPORTANT TO DO... CAN'T RECALL WHAT, THOUGH...

MISS HARKNESS... DIDN'T I HAVE AN APPOINTMENT FOR THIS TIME?

YES SIR... BUT IT WAS CAN-CELED!

HMMM... MAYBE I SHOULD GO SEE A "SHRINK"!



BUT WHAT OF YOUNG JEFFERSON RYKOR? WE FIND HIM... OTHERWHERE...



WHERE AM I???



HAVE I COMPLETELY LOST MY SENSES???  
WHAT MAD PLACE IS THIS?

IT... IT'S JUST LIKE MY HALLUCINATIONS!!  
THE VISIONS I'VE BEEN HAVING ALL THESE YEARS!



WELCOME, JEFFERSON RYKOR, TO THE LAND OF THE DJILVAKII!

WHA... WHO SAID THAT???  
WHO KNOWS MY NAME?!

WE DO, YOUNG KINSMAN...

KINSMAN...? WHERE ARE YOU? SHOW YOURSELF!



WE ARE ALL ABOUT YOU, MY SON...

MY GOD! EYES!! THOUSANDS OF EYES, STARING AT ME!

WHO ARE YOU? WHAT DO YOU WANT OF ME???

IT IS NOT A QUESTION OF WANTING FROM YOU, JEFFERSON RYKOR, BUT RATHER WHAT WE OWE TO YOU INSTEAD!



WHAT COULD YOU POSSIBLY OWE ME?

...AT THE VERY LEAST, AN EXPLANATION!

...AT BEST, A LOST HERITAGE REFUND!

I... I DON'T UNDERSTAND...

IT WOULD BE WELL TO START AT THE BEGINNING!

...THERE WAS A WAR IN YOUR WORLD! YOUR PARENTS WERE SCIENTISTS SEARCHING FOR NEW WEAPONS...

"...AN EXPERIMENT IN PROJECTED LIGHT WENT WRONG... THE RESULTING EXPLOSION CATAPULTED THE RYKORS THROUGH A SCHISM IN INTERDIMENSIONAL FABRIC..."

"...WE DJILVAKI FOUND THEM AND SENT THEM BACK TO THEIR LABORATORY A SPLIT-SECOND AFTER THEY LEFT IT. THEIR PROJECT WAS ABANDONED AS BEING MUCH TOO DANGEROUS. A FEW MONTHS LATER A CHILD WAS CONCEIVED, AND WE WERE GRAVELY CONCERNED ABOUT IT..."

"...FOR WE KNEW THAT THE GENES OF THE PARENTS HAD BEEN ALTERED BY THE FORCES INVOLVED IN THE INTERDIMENSIONAL CHANGE. YET WE COULD NOT KNOW HOW GREAT A CHANGE UNTIL THE CHILD COULD BE BROUGHT HERE TO OUR WORLD TO BE EXAMINED..."

"...AND SO WE SPENT MANY LONG YEARS TRYING TO CALL THE CHILD... TO CAUSE HIM TO USE HIS OWN POWER TO COME TO US, BUT HE DID NOT KNOW THAT HE HAD SUCH POWER..."

...AND INSTEAD, YOU DAMN NEAR DROVE ME STRAIGHT TO THE FUNNY FARM! THANKS A HEAP, GUYS!

...WHY'D IT WORK THIS TIME?

WE DO NOT KNOW! WE THINK IT WAS CAUSED BY THE OUTFLOWING OF EMOTIONAL TENSION DURING YOUR BRIEF INTERVIEW WITH THE PSYCHIATRIST. THIS MAY, OR MAY NOT BE SO...

...BUT NOW, IT IS TIME TO TELL YOU OF THE POWERS YOU HAVE INHERITED FROM YOUR PARENTS' ALTERED GENES...

YOU HAVE BECOME A CREATURE OF FOUR FULL DIMENSIONS, MY SON! YOU MAY MOVE FREELY IN ANY OR ALL OF THE FOUR AT WILL! SOLID, PHYSICAL MATTER IS NO LONGER A BARRIER TO YOUR MOVEMENT...



FANTASTIC!!! SOLID GRANITE AND MY ARM PASSES THROUGH IT!

YOU ARE ALSO ABLE TO ALTER THE NUMBER OF DIMENSIONS A GIVEN OBJECT IS BOUNDED BY. FURTHER, YOU ARE NOT BOUND BY THE 'NATURAL LAWS' OF YOUR HOME WORLD...

...LIKE MERGING MYSELF INTO A MOUNTAIN, OR SOMETHING, EH?

YOU'LL LEARN QUICKLY! BUT THERE IS YET MUCH MORE!

WE ARE POSSESSED OF THE POWER TO CREATE AND UNCREATE, AT WILL, FROM THE BASIC ELEMENTS IN NATURE, ANY OBJECT WE DESIRE.

...BUT UNFORTUNATELY, YOU HAVE ONLY INHERITED HALF OF THIS POWER; YOU HAVE WITHIN YOU THE POWER TO 'UNCREATE' THINGS-- TO REDUCE AN OBJECT TO THE BASIC ELEMENTS WHICH COMPOSE ITS STRUCTURE...

FANTASTIC!!! JUST WITH ONE GLANCE...

...BUT YOU MUST BE VERY CAREFUL! CARELESSLY USED, POWER SUCH AS YOU NOW POSSESS COULD EASILY LAY WASTE TO AN ENTIRE GALAXY, OR PERHAPS EVEN ROCK THE VERY UNIVERSE!!!

GOOD LORD! A DUPLICATE OF MYSELF... FROM THIN AIR!

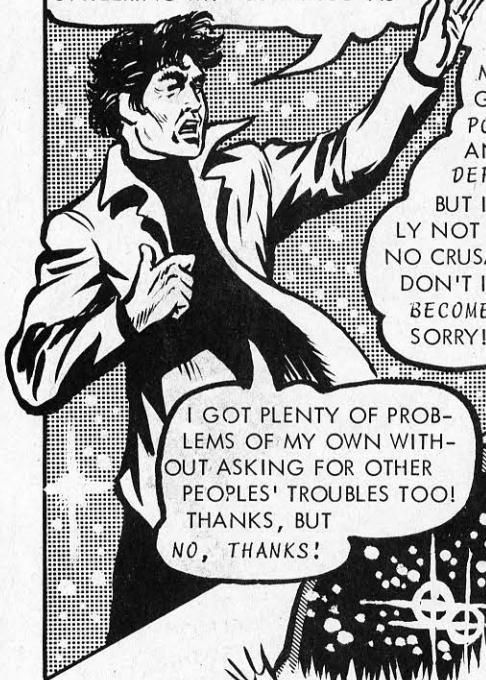
**POFT!**

NOW, ALL THAT REMAINS IS TO CHARGE YOU WITH YOUR MISSION, PRESENT YOU WITH YOUR VESTMENTS, AND CREATE YOUR NEW NAME BEFORE SENDING YOU BACK TO YOUR OWN EARTH...



VESTMENTS???  
NEW NAME?  
HEY, WAIT, NOW...

THAT SOUNDS SUSPICIOUSLY LIKE UNTEERING MY SERVICES AS



YOU'RE VOL-  
A SUPER-  
HERO! NO,  
THANKS--THAT  
MAY BE OK FOR  
GUYS LIKE  
POWERMAN  
AND THE  
DEFENDER,  
BUT IT'S DEFINITE-  
LY NOT MY BAG! I'M  
NO CRUSADER, AND I  
DON'T INTEND TO  
BECOME ONE!  
SORRY!

I GOT PLENTY OF PROBLEMS OF MY OWN WITHOUT ASKING FOR OTHER PEOPLES' TROUBLES TOO!  
THANKS, BUT  
NO, THANKS!

LISTEN, JEFFERSON RYKOR, AND LISTEN WELL! LIKE IT OR NO, YOU HAVE BECOME TOO POWERFUL TO LET EVENTS PASS YOU BY! YOU WILL BE AS A VORTEX, WHICH WILL DRAW EVENTS TO YOU AS DOES A FLAME DRAW A MOTH! YOU ARE ONE OF THOSE CHOSEN FEW TO WHOM PAST AND FUTURE HISTORY ARE IRREVOCABLY LINKED, AND THERE IS NO POSSIBLE ESCAPE FROM YOUR DESTINY!

**YOU MAY NOT DENY YOUR FATE!**

...YOU MUST ACCEPT AND BEAR THE MANTLE OF RESPONSIBILITY WITH GRACE AND HUMILITY, AS WELL AS USE YOUR POWER WISELY AND IN A GOOD CAUSE. FOR, WHETHER OR NOT IT IS YOUR WISH YOU NO LONGER BELONG ONLY TO YOURSELF--YOU NOW BELONG TO ALL MANKIND ON YOUR PLANET AND TO ALL OTHERS WHEREVER THE FORCES OF JUSTICE ARE NEEDED; YOU ARE A CITIZEN OF THE UNIVERSE!



I...I'M  
CHANGING!!!  
I FEEL...  
POWERFUL!!!  
MORE POWERFUL THAN  
ANYBODY!!!

SO NOW, EVEN AS WE CREATE THIS COSTUME WHICH WILL STRIKE FEAR INTO THE HEARTS OF MEN OF EVIL AND STAND FOR A SYMBOL OF JUSTICE AND SANITY IN A WORLD GONE MAD, AND WHICH IS A STYLIZED REPRESENTATION OF OUR OWN FACES AND FIGURES, SO, TOO, DO WE CHOOSE A NEW NAME; A NAME FOR ONE WHO IS NO LONGER HUMAN AND YET MORE THAN HUMAN...AND THE NAME IS...

**ON-MAN!**

THEN, WITHOUT WARNING, THERE COMES A SUDDEN, WRENCHING MOTION AND JEFF RYKOR FEELS HIMSELF SLIPPING OUT OF PHASE WITH THE DJILVAKI CONTINUUM

VIII! WHAT...OH!  
I'M ON MY WAY BACK  
TO EARTH! YECCH--  
SOME RIDE...

GO NOW, AND RETURN TO  
YOUR EARTH! GO AND  
FULFILL YOUR DESTINY WITH  
PRIDE AND VALOR, AND  
TEMPER YOUR JUSTICE  
WITH MERCY...  
GO, AND MAY ALL  
THE GODS OF ALL MEN  
EVERYWHERE, GO WITH  
YOU!

DON'T LET  
ME INTERRUPT!  
GO ON BACK  
TO YOUR  
WORK (CHUCKLE)!

WE WILL  
ALWAYS BE  
HERE IF HELP IS  
NEEDED OR IF  
ADVICE IS  
REQUIRED!  
REMEMBER!

OOPS...  
SORRY,  
DOCTOR!

EEEEK!

WHO WAS  
THAT MASKED  
MAN?!?

OOOOOH!  
OUCH!

#@\$x\*\*!!!

WH...AH, ER...  
TAKE A LETTER,  
MISS  
HARKNESS!

BUMPI!

WELL, LIKE IT OR NO,  
AS THEY SAID, IT LOOKS  
LIKE I'M STUCK WITH BEING  
A SUPERHERO!

SOME TIME LATER ON,  
A LONELY FIGURE  
BROODS WHILE PERCH-  
ED ATOP A SPIRE TOW-  
ERING HIGH OVER THE  
CITY...

I ONLY HOPE I'VE GOT  
WHAT IT TAKES...IF THIS  
WAS FATED TO BE MY DES-  
TINY, I'M GONNA MAKE  
ONE HELLOVA GOOD JOB  
OF IT...

(continued from page 2)

Having wrested the package from the cretin, I then proceeded to open it. At the very moment my eyes greeted the cover, all thoughts of berating you vanished. It was enrapturing! I don't think I've seen such a lustful red used as a base color. The effect was unusual.

On the ratings: #1 - "Warrior of Llarn" deserves a 90% simply because it was good pro work even without the outstanding two page color spread and backcover. The narrative form (found refreshing from the demanding immediacy of balloons which tend to crowd artwork. Sam Grainger was in good form as was Roy Thomas.

The others came in close on the ratings. I gave Ronn Fass' "Excel" second place (85%) because of its substance. It takes a little guts to present controversy (even tho SDS and campus riots aren't such explosive issues as they were sometime ago) and to examine sides. It wasn't the usual run-of-the-mill story where hero bests villain.

I think space could have been used better in the "Knight and the Barbarian." The strokes looked hurried, maybe because Weiss did everything himself, and there was little background. Despite this, Weiss has a knack of breathing life into his characters and in this tale, the personality clash made for an interesting story.

I want to applaud your "Behind the Swords" series. I'm always curious as to what goes on in the creative process.

Lastly, "Dragonfly" seemed an ordinary strip. Scott Bell added a sort of Neal Adams touch to Weiss' rendering but otherwise it was just mediocre. Give it an 83%.

--Al Christensen

Dear Star-S:

I read this 17th issue of Star-Studded in the office, and discovered something interesting. Several persons passed my desk while I was poring over these pages in spare time and glanced fleetingly at the picture-filled pages. Nobody raised an eyebrow or dropped a snide remark about a middle-aged man reading comic strips. Apparently the large-size pages, the good-quality paper, and possibly the absence of color on most pages caused Star-Studded to fail to evoke the usual reaction that comes when someone reads a regular comic book in such an environment. Maybe you've noticed how public libraries are purchasing and shelving the big hardbound collections of comic strip heroes, like Buck Rogers and Superman. In Hagerstown, at least, the public library carefully removes the comic section from the Sunday newspapers before it puts them out for the public to read, yet the library people see no reason why they shouldn't pay much more money for the same kind of comic strips when collected in book form. All of which may contain a moral: it's the symbol, the image of the flimsy, cheap comic book and the separate comic section of the newspaper rather than the

actual things which appear on their pages that causes the bulk of adults to consider all comic books as juvenile trash. So maybe the graphic story will finally gain general acceptance when a publisher somehow finds enough courage and money to put it into a magazine with radically different format. Much the same thing happened in the history of science fiction, of course; it didn't find its present wide-spread popularity among the general public and its place as a subject matter for college courses until the prozines declined in number and quality and most of the good new science fiction began to appear in book form.

Anyway, I found myself enjoying this issue of Star-Studded very much indeed, probably for much the same reasons that have been causing me to stay up entirely too late every week-day night this fall so I can watch The Avengers in re-runs. I'm seeing some of the episodes for the second and third time and am still getting much pleasure out of them for the vigor and fast action, which divert me so much that I don't mind the lack of intellectual overtones and deep social significance.

Your front cover was quite interesting for the way it achieves convincing atmosphere with the limited range of colors. The absence of greens and blues and such hues helps to create an atmosphere of otherworldliness; I imagine that a red-sky planet might cause the eye to perceive mostly shades of scarlet and brown. The only flaw I can see is a minor one that is quickly forgotten. At first glance, it's hard to see the weapon and my initial impression was that the girl was cocking her fists as prize fighters used to do for publicity pictures around 1910. Now I know the gun is there and I can see it much more easily because my mind tells my eye about it.

I think I enjoyed The Knight and the Barbarian most, of the major attractions inside this issue. It has the virtue of completeness, and the characterization is pretty good, what with three of the four major characters developing and changing somewhat from start to finish, instead of behaving constantly in accord with a stereotype. I also liked the use of both narration and direct dialog, which strikes me as a much better way to tell most graphic stories than those which rely solely on balloons or separate text.

However, Warrior of Llarn also made a pretty good impression on me and it seemed particularly strong in its ability to capture the sense of a series in the making, the same sort of strong introduction and first adventure that can be found in the Burroughs series. And there are some good touches of reality, like the rivalry which seems to be developing between the two female members of royalty. The artwork is particularly good when it portrays violent action.

Dragonfly is outstanding for the real-looking faces. I get the impression that the artist used real people to serve as models, and that I'd recognize the models if I happened

to pass them on the street, so he got individuality into his characters, no matter whether he did it through models or as a feat of imagination. I'm no artist but I seem to recognize in this section some exceptional work with the portrayal of muscles and sinews at work in the human bodies. And the imaginative layout and odd perspectives on the first two pages made me wonder for one moment of temptation what would happen if I fastened the magazine open at these pages to the ceiling of the office, so I could get the same impression that comes from the celebrated ceiling work of Michaelangelo.

Behind the Swords is an excellent idea. This is the sort of thing that paperback publishers should try to include at the back of the book when there's a page or two to spare. A few science fiction magazines used to have such "story behind the story" departments covering some of the main fiction in each issue, but that custom somehow died out. I know how Gardner Fox felt when he discovered that he had almost plagiarized from himself. I once wrote a story about a baseball player and discovered two or three years later that I'd used a real player's name, an oldtimer whom I must have read something about and forgotten except for subconsciously retaining his odd moniker.

If a Warner letter is a status symbol these days, fandom must have more status symbols than you'll find in almost any other group anywhere in the galaxy. Of course, the stacks of fanzines that haven't received locs so far this year now stand at nineteen inches in height so there are still some gaps which I'll have to try to remedy as soon as human frailties permit. Thanks very much for sending this issue, and please forgive the absence of comments on the Siren-Excel struggle. I've grown so weary of real-life violence that I just can't react to it very well when it's mixed with fantasy violence.

--Harry Warner Jr

[You may be right, Harry, about the image of comics. If the publishers would come up with a new format, a new package, then perhaps their products would find a wider appeal with adult readers. Let's hope they find a new image/format, before comics die entirely!--EDITORS]

Dear Trio,

In many ways, #17 reaffirmed my faith in STAR-STUDDED and the Texas Trio's judgment. To me, #16 had been a dismal affair, below standard in most ways. Just the opposite is true of your latest endeavor. For one thing, the cover was excellent, both in its execution (good painting technique over good drawing) and in its color scheme. It has a subtlety that SS's covers have often lacked. The bacover was more what I'd expect to see in SS, but Mr. Grainger certainly knows his techniques, and put them to use effectively here. The draftsmanship is simple, yet eye-catching. I wish I could say the same for his rendition of the Thomas script of Warrior of Llarn, which was largely repetitious and unimag-

inactive. The prospect of reading thick captions over mediocre art was not inviting, but I did and found the fault to be largely with the art. Almost all the shots are lacking background, and focus on the figures. This became quickly monotonous. It seems to me that half the fascination with a foreign world would be the landscape, and that would call for a few larger, more detailed panels. I would venture to guess that most of Sam's art on this strip was done quite a while ago, as his anatomy is still pretty rough. [As we noted earlier, it was early work.--Editors] As a final comment on the illustrations of Warrior, I'd say that Sam Grainger's stuff just wasn't suited to S&S/SciFi. He shines with the super-hero. Still, it was a strong offering (most of my comments would be considered nit-picking on a worse strip). The two Alan Weiss strips were both good, of about equal quality, with Scott Bell's inking on Dragonfly giving it the edge artistically. Neither one was great, particularly story-wise, but they were both enjoyable. It is easy to see why Alan has made the leap to prodrom in such a big way. One question: What are Dragonfly's powers? I couldn't figure them out. Now I turn to Ronn Foss's "Siren Defeats Excel." When I first glanced through it, I thought, "oh no, not another collage of newspaper clippings!" since Ronn's use of clippings in strips has never quite hit it off with me, but when I finished the strip, I found I enjoyed its story immensely, and thought the art was about average for Ronn. This is a fine "kick-off" for a potentially interesting series, and I really hope Mr. Foss plans to follow up on it. My main criticism of this strip is one I find I have with most of this gentleman's material: it was too "sketchy," incomplete. It lacked "flesh," perhaps because of the lack of detail.

"Behind the Swords" was fascinating, and I'm not even a S&S fan! I've always liked inside info on heroes of any kind, as the creative process is such an enigma. More of this feature, please!

I have put off rating the issue's strips because it is so difficult. I liked the relevance of Excel, the art of Weiss, and the slickness of Grainger. But, if you insist, here goes:

- 1 - Excel
- 2 - The Knight and the Barbarian
- 3 - Dragonfly
- 4 - Warrior of Llarn

And, you know .. I'll bet the actual voting will come out:

- 1 - Warrior of Llarn (the "prestige strip")
- 2 - The Knight and the Barbarian
- 3 - Dragonfly
- 4 - Excel

All in all, though, I'm extremely pleased with this issue of SS. I could have dug that Eye strip by Biljo ... and perhaps I wouldn't've run two Weiss strips in one issue...but, in general, my faith has been restored! 'Nuff Said!

--Bill Schelly

[Thanks for the letter, Bill. You're our toughest critic, so it's nice to come up with an issue you approve of!

Now...what do you think of this issue?? In the meantime, allow us to recommend Bill's fine fanzine to you; it's SENSE OF WONDER, and recently it's been publishing some of the best comic articles in fandom. Write Bill, at 2211 Carol, Lewiston, Idaho 83501 and request further details.--Editors]

Dear Editors:

Was most impressed with SSC. You have come a long way with this zine. BUT the top of the professional ladder you haven't reached yet. So rather than rap about the good points, let me elaborate on what I think will improve SSC. I like that over-used phrase "constructive criticism" and feel you won't get too upset with this red-headed reviewer?

This bit of voting for your favorites seems a little bit ridiculous. You can garner from the Loc's which strips are most popular, and anyway, your staff knows quality stuff when it sees it. If the point

is to provide fun and games for your readership, I think you fail there, too. [Maybe so, but on the other hand, the voting each issue doesn't hurt anything either, does it?--Editors]

Your "thank you" section seems rather rushed and is rather dull. What about a little background material on how the writer got the idea for the story, how the story fits his ideas about plot requirements, etc. Or comments on the art by the artist. Study the pages of Playboy for ideas on this. [Believe me, we study the pages of Playboy all the time! Sigh... Seriously, you have a good point there, and as you'll note, we do have some background material in this issue's editorial.--Editors]

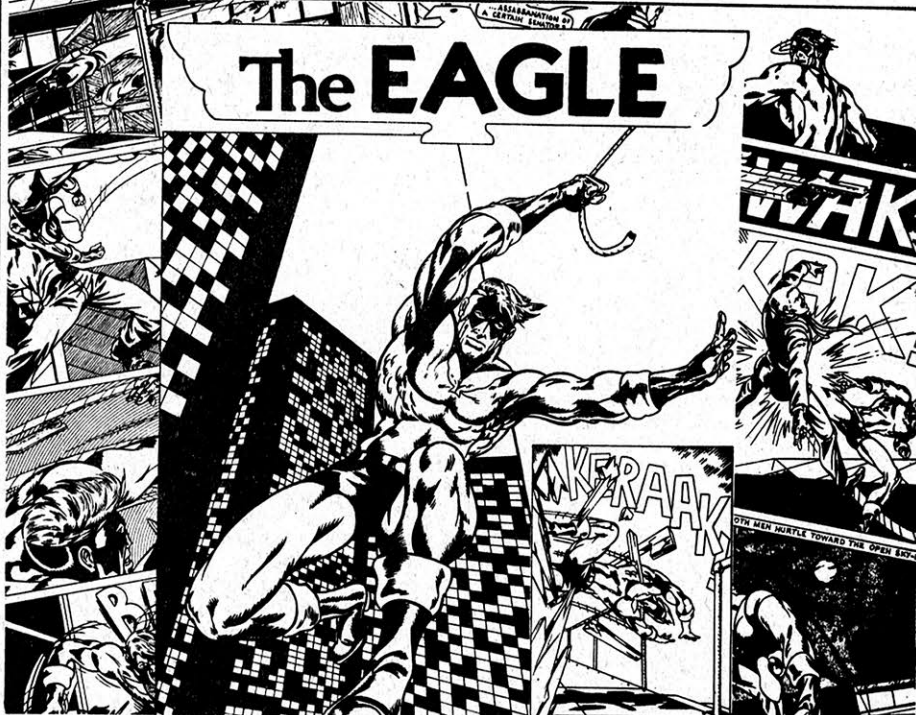
Your "Let's Talk It Over" is appropriate, but not catchy. Herndon's "It's Only Me" (in HERO) was excellent. Could you come up with something similarly nice?

--Kent Russell

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**FATA**--- DAUGHTER OF *HARMONY* AND *ORDER*, METTLE FATES OF *LAW*; HOLDER OF THE BRITTLE THREAD OF LIFE, WHICH CAN BE SEVERED ONLY BY...

**THE ORACLE** --- MYSTERIOUS NECROMANCER WHO FASHIONED THE *ARROW OF LIFE*, CIRCUMVENTING THE POWER OF *MORTIS* WHEN WEILDED BY...

**THE VALKYRIE MAID**--- MESSENGER OF THE FATES, SPOUSE OF *ICARUS*, THE *FIRE DEMON*, WHOM *MORTIS* SLEW.

...AND THE EERIE, UNCANNY **BETHAMAR**--- THE MONSTER WITH THE EYES OF LIGHT WHO DWELLS IN THE *ENDLESS CAVERNS!*



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