

NO. 3

JULY 17

THE STAR

254

SLAYERS



"WHO IS ARGON, THE SPACE WARRIOR?"

Brooks/81

NOTE: Though absent on the credits page, Ken Meyer Jr. did indeed ink this chapter. I hereby apologize for forgetting to include his name.

--Matt

EDITORIAL

Here we are on issue three already! The time goes fast with this tri-weekly schedule we have. We hope that you have enjoyed STARSLAYERS so far and that you will continue to do so with our upcoming issues.

This issue features a lot of background information on Argon, Ompar, the Quarrons and all sorts of stuff. After you're through reading it, you may find a couple of loose ends, but rest assured that they will be tied up before this is all over. To be more exact, answers aplenty will begin around issue ten.

This issue features Ken Meyer's first attempts at inking Steve Brooks' pencilled artwork. I hope that you like the look Ken is giving the book, especially since Ken will be inking many more chapters in the future.

Next issue will be drawn by guest penciler Willie Peppers (giving Steve Brooks a chance to catch up on his deadlines) and will have inks by Bill Anderson. #5 will be by Steve Brooks again, with inks by either Ken Meyer again or Mark Propst.

The rundown for future issues:

#4: AUGUST 7 (8/8/81)

#6: SEPTEMBER 18 (9/18/81)

#5: AUGUST 28 (8/28/81)

#7: OCTOBER 9 (10/9/81)

If it seems like we're talking a long way in advance, don't worry. As of this point, 90% of the entire 15 issue epic has been written already.

Right now we are having a bit of trouble maintaining this tri-weekly schedule, just a few problems here and there. We'll keep this tri-weekly schedule as long as possible, and hopefully we'll be able to keep it all the way through.

If you know of a dealer who may be interested in carrying STARSLAYERS in his local store or catalog, please refer him to me as soon as possible. Currently, STARSLAYERS is being carried by SOUTHLAND DISTRIBUTORS and there is a chance that it may be carried by two comic shops (one near Steve Brooks, the other run by Jay Wells called "Over The Rainbow"). The one way to assure more projects like this is to support it any way you can. Believe it or not, we are already considering a sequel to this story and have a semi-plotline finished.

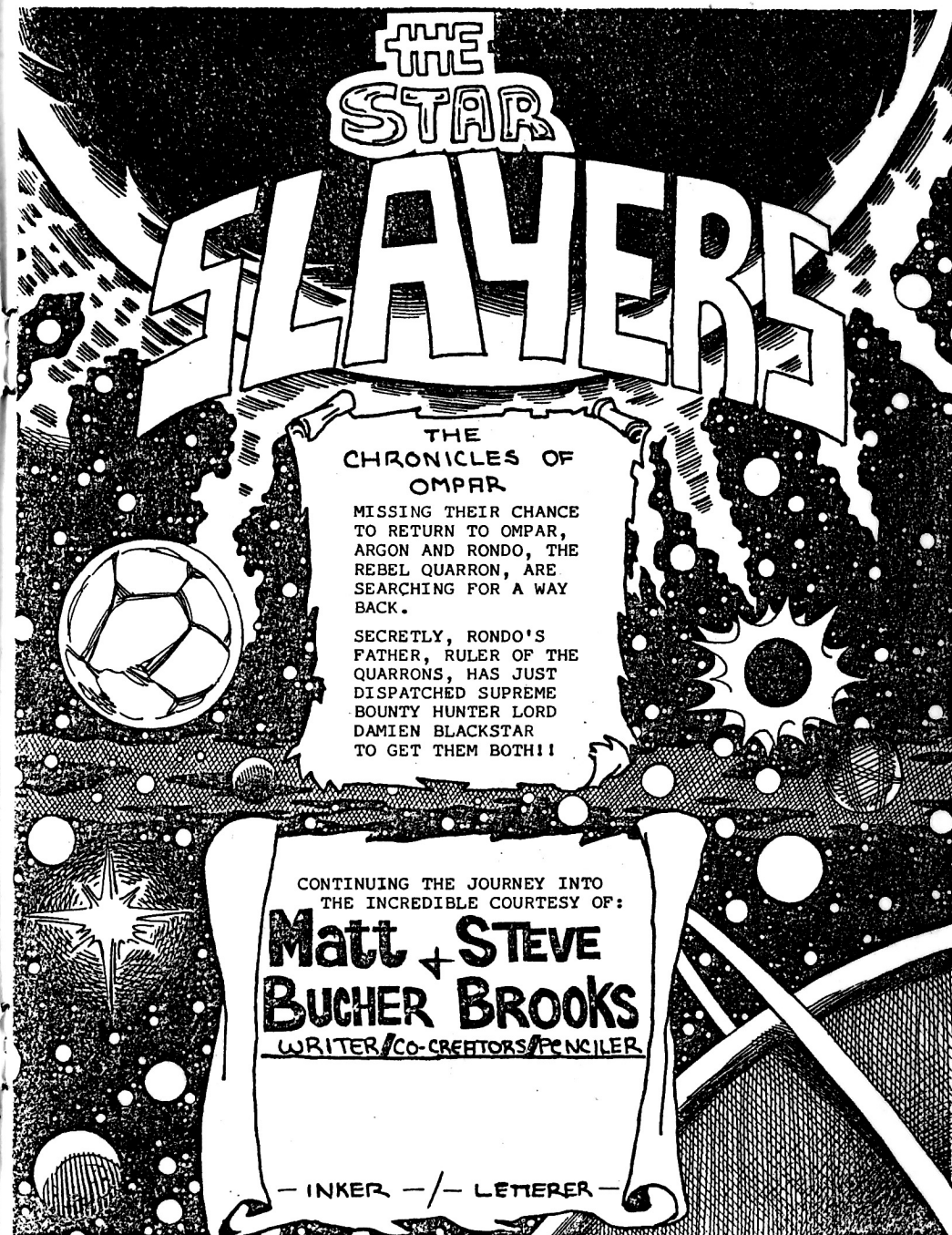
Although you may still be wondering how the name STARSLAYERS fits into this plotline, rest assured that all the answers plus more will turn up soon.

A very special project is now being considered by Steve Brooks and myself. We are thinking of publishing a special stripzine in September called STARSLAYERS SPECIAL #1. This stripzine would feature four stories focusing on members of the Starslayers before they joined up; that is, an Argon story before he was banished from Ompar, etc... The book would be around 52 pages long and sell for \$1.00 ppd. More information on this next issue.

For the record, STARSLAYERS #1 sold around 130 copies, and it right now it looks like the regular circulation will be around 100 or so. Hopefully this circulation will rise as the series progresses.

Don't forget to look forward to a special four page feature that will be appearing in STARSLAYERS #8. I don't want to reveal too much about it yet, but I wrote it and it was drawn by Willie Peppers.

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TWO MEN. THEY SHARE IDENTICAL HOPES AND DREAMS THOUGH THEY'VE MET A MERE EIGHTEEN HOURS EARLIER.

ARGON, THE SPACE WARRIOR, ONCE PROTECTOR OF HIS HOME PLANET OMPAR, UNTIL BANISHED BY THE WARRING QUARRONS.

RONDO KLARN, SON OF ONE OF THE MOST POWERFUL MEN IN THE QUARRON DYNASTY, A REBEL, HE NOW AIDES ARGON IN HIS QUEST TO RETURN OMPAR TO ITS RIGHTFUL HEIRS.



CHAPTER THREE: FLASHBACK

THEIR HOPES HAVE CRUMBLLED, THEIR ONE ESCAPE DENIED, AND THEIR CHANCES OF RETURNING NOW DIM.



RONDO, MY FRIEND, HOW IS... OMPAR?

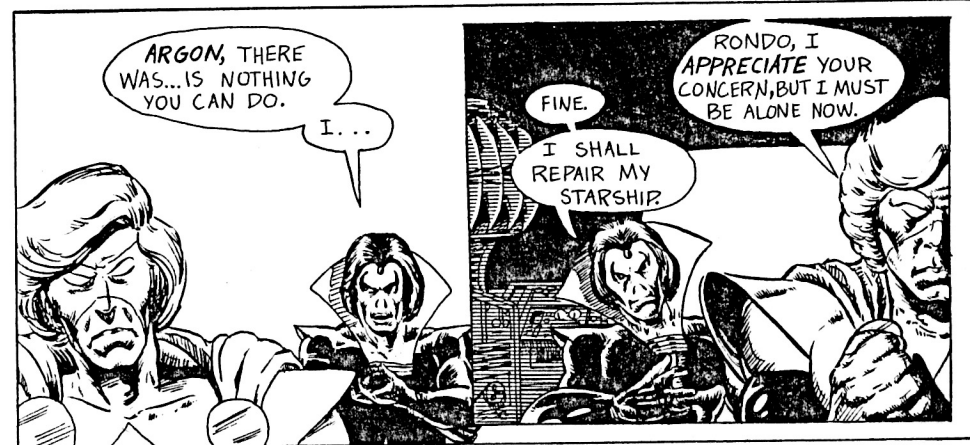
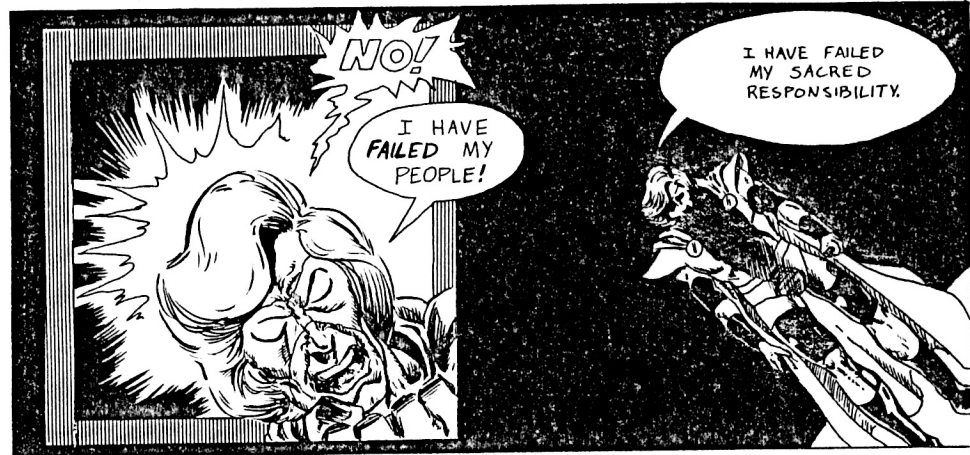
NOT WELL, I'M AFRAID. SINCE YOU WERE BANISHED, MY BROTHERS HAVE TAKEN COMPLETE CONTROL...

THE BEAUTY IS ALL BUT GONE.

AND THE PEOPLE...?

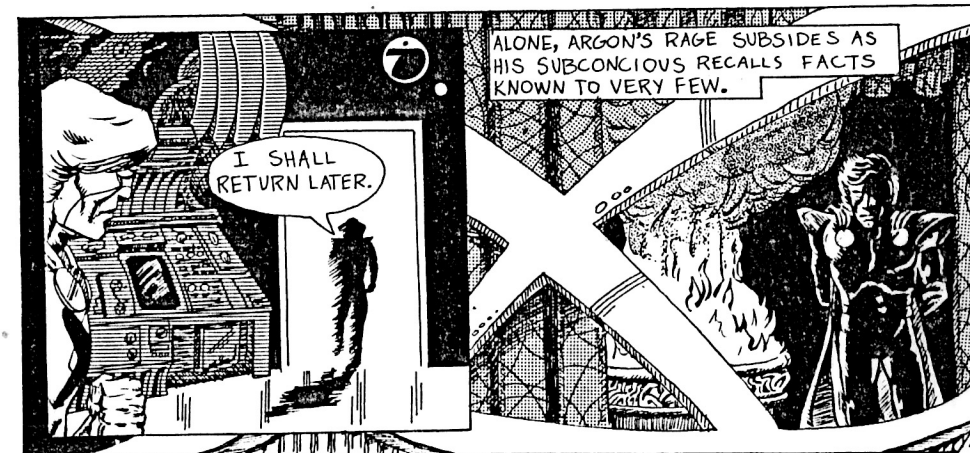


ENSLAVED.



ARGON, THERE WAS... IS NOTHING YOU CAN DO. I...

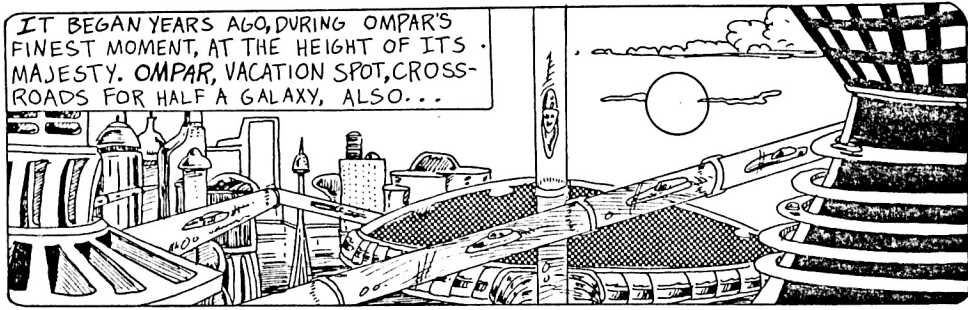
RONDO, I APPRECIATE YOUR CONCERN, BUT I MUST BE ALONE NOW. FINE. I SHALL REPAIR MY STARSHIP.



I SHALL RETURN LATER.

ALONE, ARGON'S RAGE SUBSIDES AS HIS SUBCONSCIOUS RECALLS FACTS KNOWN TO VERY FEW.

IT BEGAN YEARS AGO, DURING OMPAR'S FINEST MOMENT, AT THE HEIGHT OF ITS MAJESTY. OMPAR, VACATION SPOT, CROSS-ROADS FOR HALF A GALAXY, ALSO...



...HOME IT WAS A SUNNY, WINDY DAY WHEN ARGON 12 WAS LED INTO A BUILDING NEAR THE HEART OF THE CITY.



WHERE ARE WE GOING?



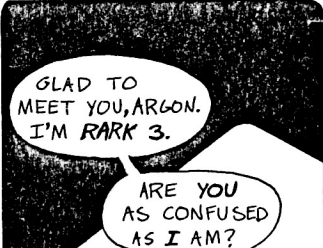
I DON'T UNDERSTAN--

THAT MAKES TWO OF US.
OH, SORRY, I DIDN'T NOTICE YOU, I'M ARGON 12.



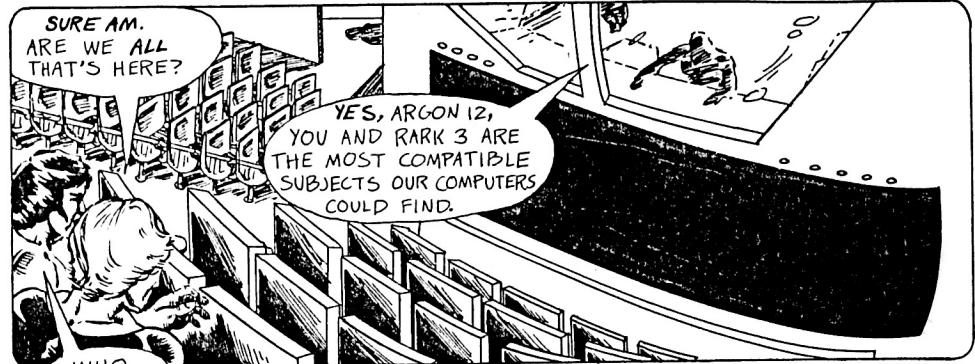
BE SEATED, ARGON 12, CAPTAIN DEMERY WILL ARRIVE SHORTLY TO INFORM YOU OF YOUR POSITION.

POSITION?



GLAD TO MEET YOU, ARGON. I'M RARK 3.

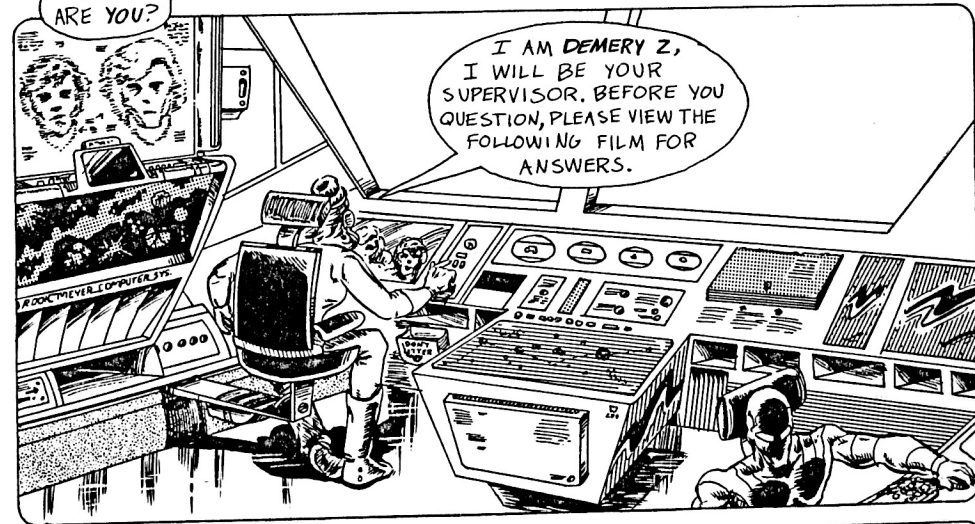
ARE YOU AS CONFUSED AS I AM?



SURE AM. ARE WE ALL THAT'S HERE?

YES, ARGON 12, YOU AND RARK 3 ARE THE MOST COMPATIBLE SUBJECTS OUR COMPUTERS COULD FIND.

WHO ARE YOU?



I AM DEMERY 2, I WILL BE YOUR SUPERVISOR. BEFORE YOU QUESTION, PLEASE VIEW THE FOLLOWING FILM FOR ANSWERS.



"ARGON, RARK, YOU ARE AWARE THAT OMPAR IS THE MOST SUCCESSFUL VACATION SPOT IN THE ENTIRE REMU JAUR GALAXY. WE HAVE MUCH WEALTH, BUT...

...WE ARE LACKING ONE QUALITY."



AND THAT IS...?



DEFENSES...

... STRENGTH...

... A GUARDIAN. THUS FAR WE HAVE BEEN FORTUNATE ENOUGH TO BE AT PEACE WITH OUR NEIGHBORING COLONIES.

WHAT WE NEED IS A PROTECTOR, A GUARDIAN, YOU TWO HAVE BEEN CHOSEN ABOVE ALL OTHER OMPARIANS AS PRIME CHOICES FOR THIS, AS WE CALL IT...

... SPACE-WARRIOR.

SPACE-WARRIOR? WHICH ONE OF US?

BOTH. ONE FULL-TIME AND ONE STAND-BY. THAT IS, IF YOU AGREE TO THE DEVELOPMENTAL ACTIONS.

LIKE WHAT?

YOU ARE BOTH IN EXTREMELY GOOD MENTAL AND PHYSICAL CONDITION. YOU WILL BE EXPOSED TO THE "MISTS OF RHEAL..."

... A GAS WHICH WILL SUPPLY YOU WITH POWERS EVEN WE ARE UNCERTAIN OF.



MOMENTS LATER...

YOU SEE, THE MISTS ARE UNTESTED, EXPERIMENTAL AND COULD PROVE FATAL. AN AGREEMENT WILL COMMIT YOURSELF TOTALLY.



I'M IN.

ME, TOO.

WHEN DO WE BEGIN?



IMMEDIATELY. GO TO ROOM 12X TO SUIT-UP. THEN REPORT TO STATION 9 FOR THE EXPOSURE.

YOUR FAMILIES WILL BE NOTIFIED BY US.



LATER...

I DON'T KNOW ABOUT YOU, ARGON, BUT I'M NERVOUS AS HELL.



ME TOO- BUT THESE UNIFORMS ARE AMAZING! I FOUND A TRANSPORT ON IT, AND-

HEY...



WE'RE HERE, ARGON, STATION 9...

READY?

AS MUCH AS I'LL EVER BE. LET'S GO!



WELCOME ARGON AND RARK. PLEASE REMAIN CALM AS THE GASEOUS "MISTS OF RHEAL" ARE RELEASED IN THE CHAMBER.

THE GAS SHOULD DISSIPATE SOON AFTER BEING RELEASED.

I'M SCARED. MORE SCARED THAN I'VE EVER BEEN BEFORE!

"THE GAS IS BEING RELEASED NOW," CAPT. DEMERY SAYS, THINKING "I DON'T LIKE EXPERIMENTING ON FELLOW OMPARIANS. THESE GAS FUMES ARE A SCIENTIFIC ENIGMA, THE RESULTS ARE UNKNOWN..."



BUT DEMERY'S THOUGHTS ARE INTERRUPTED AS ALL HELL BREAKS LOOSE!



KWA-ROOM!

NO! NO, I SHOULDN'T HAVE THE EXPLOSION-

MY GOD!



ARE THEY DEAD?

I CANNOT SPEAK FOR RARK, BUT I AM MERELY INVISIBLE, A SIDE-EFFECT FROM THE FUMES...

...RARK'S LOCATION ELUDES EVEN MY NEW COSMIC CONSCIOUSNESS

HOOPHOOOOOOSSSSSSHHSSSS SHHHSSSSSSSSSSSSSSSSSSSS

TIME FLEW BY AND A CHANGED ARGON BECAME OMPAR'S PROTECTOR, WITH RARK ALL BUT FORGOTTEN... IT WAS ALL KEPT SECRET. ARGON SPANNED THE UNIVERSE, SOLVED COSMIC RIDDLES...



...UNTIL YEARS LATER, HE WAS BANISHED. AND NOW...



... IN A STARSHIP APPROACHING...

... THE GREAT CATHEDRAL, LORD BLACKSTAR, IT'S JUST AHEAD.

THEN, LET'S GO! I INTEND ON COLLECTING THIS BOUNTY!

ATTACK!

NEXT ISSUE: BOUNTY HUNTER NO MORE!

NEXT
ISSUE

BOUNTYHUNTER
NO MORE...?



Brooks
Anderson