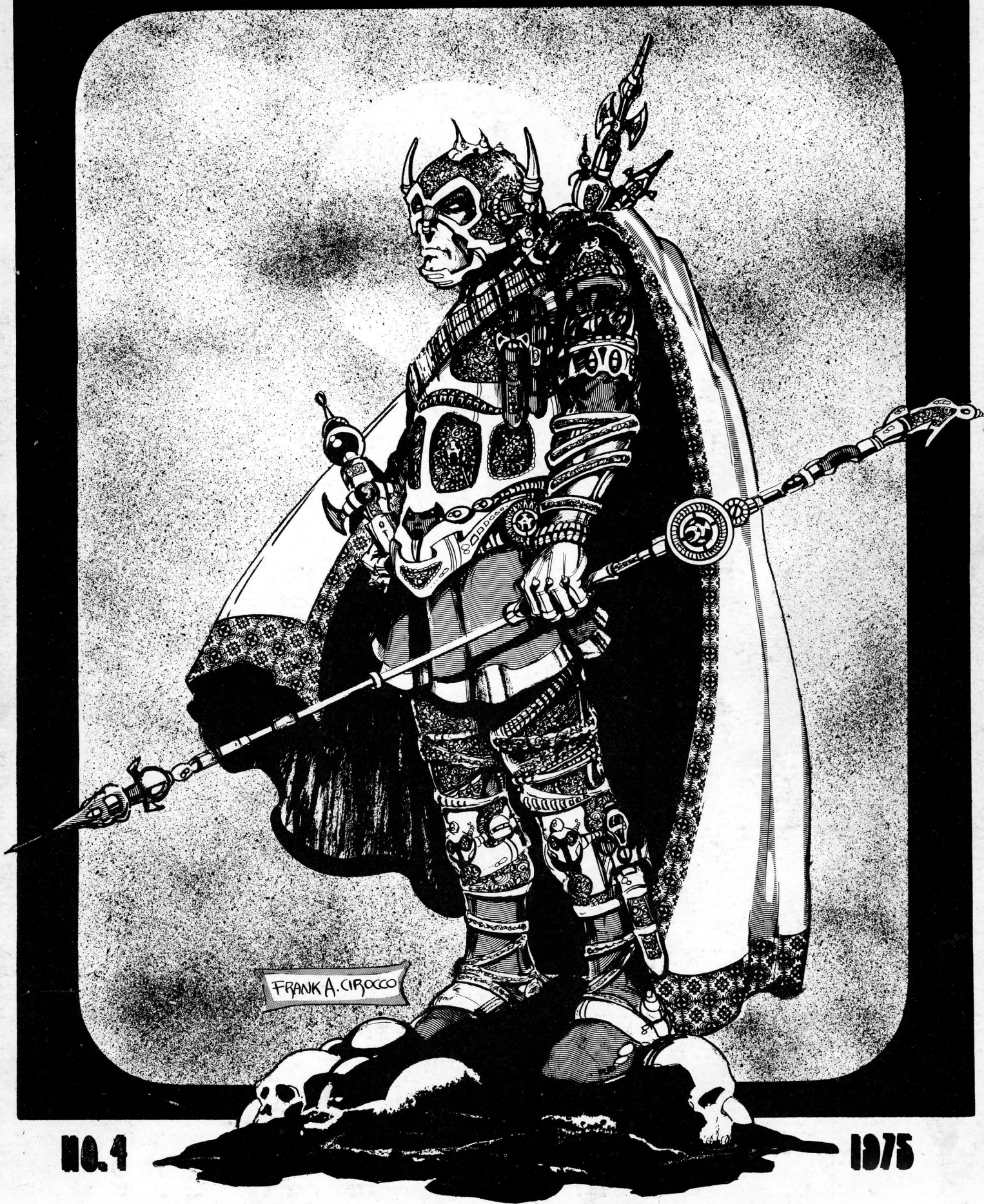


# VENTURE



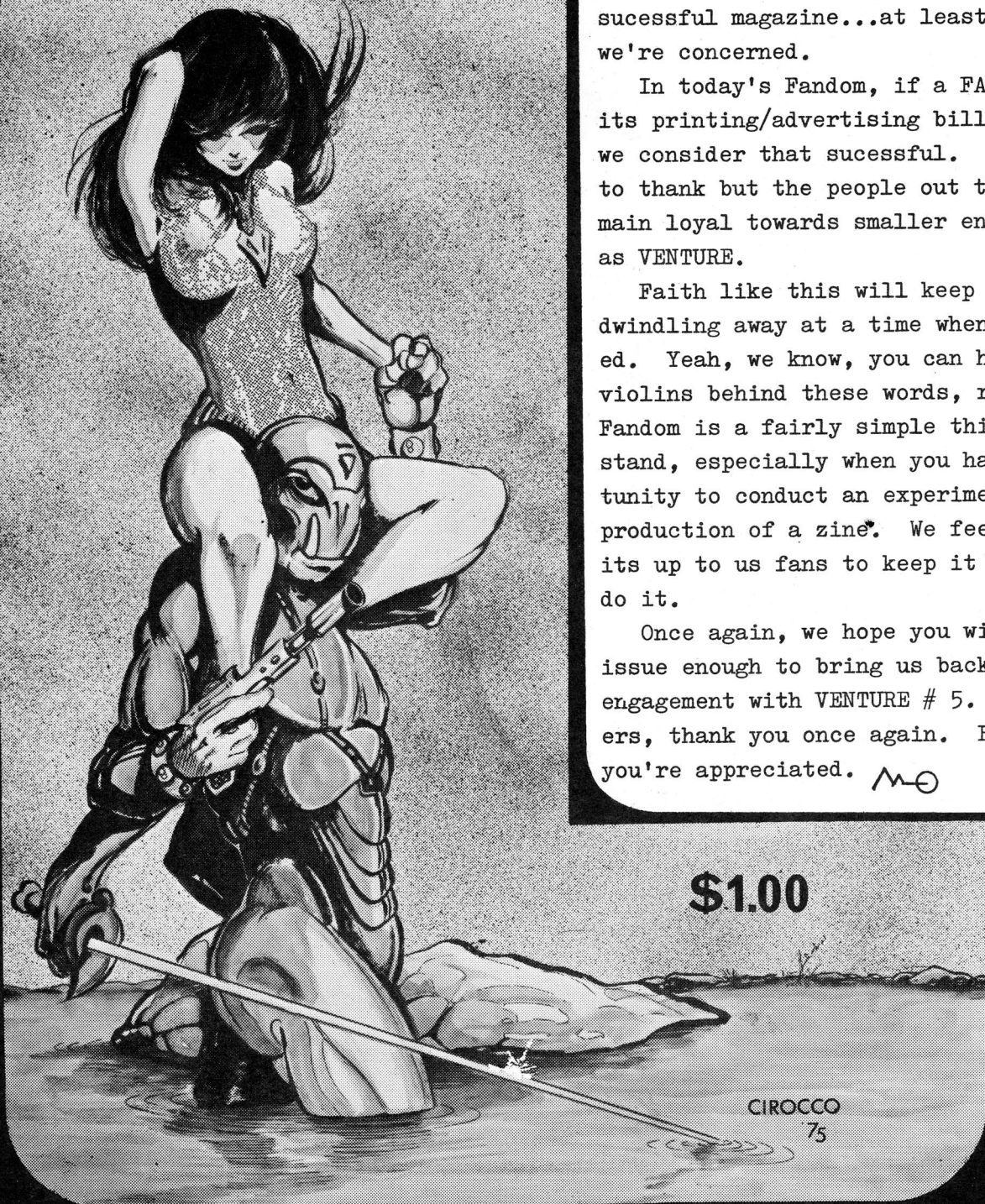
FRANK A. CIRIOCCO

It has been our pleasure to bring you this publication for four years now, with this our fourth issue. VENTURE would like to say, that with its previous issue, the reader interest has turned VENTURE into a successful magazine...at least as far as we're concerned.

In today's Fandom, if a FANzine can pay its printing/advertising bill and then some, we consider that successful. We have no one to thank but the people out there who remain loyal towards smaller endeavors such as VENTURE.

Faith like this will keep Fandom from dwindling away at a time when its most needed. Yeah, we know, you can hear a million violins behind these words, right? Wrong. Fandom is a fairly simple thing to understand, especially when you have the opportunity to conduct an experiment such as the production of a zine. We feel you know that its up to us fans to keep it alive, so let's do it.

Once again, we hope you will enjoy this issue enough to bring us back for a return engagement with VENTURE # 5. To our readers, thank you once again. Believe us, you're appreciated. *MO*



\$1.00

CIROCCO  
75

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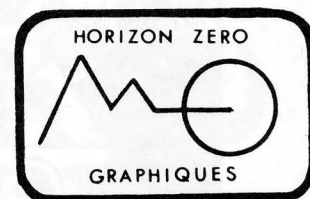
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*6/100 Frank A. Cirocco*  
**GARY WINNICK**



**GUKUS:**

THE YEAR IS 4702 --  
THIS IS GUKUS, NATIVE OF THE  
HEAVY GRAVITY PLANET RANN --  
HE HAS BEEN MANY THINGS, A  
MERCENARY, DIPLOMAT AND A  
BRIGAND; NOW HE IS WORKING FOR  
THE HIGHLY ILLEGAL "COLAX COMBINE".  
HIS PARTNER, THE SHE-PIRATE  
MARA, DOES NOT RELISH THE WAY  
GUKUS CONDUCTS "COMBINE" BUSINESS.



© GARY WINNICK 1975

THE  
BACKWORLD  
LYSCON...



THEIR SHIP SOFTLY  
MAKES PLANET-FALL  
AT A PRE-DESIGNATED  
TRANSFER POINT.  
GUKUS AND MARA  
EXIT THEIR CRAFT  
TO AWAIT CONTACT.

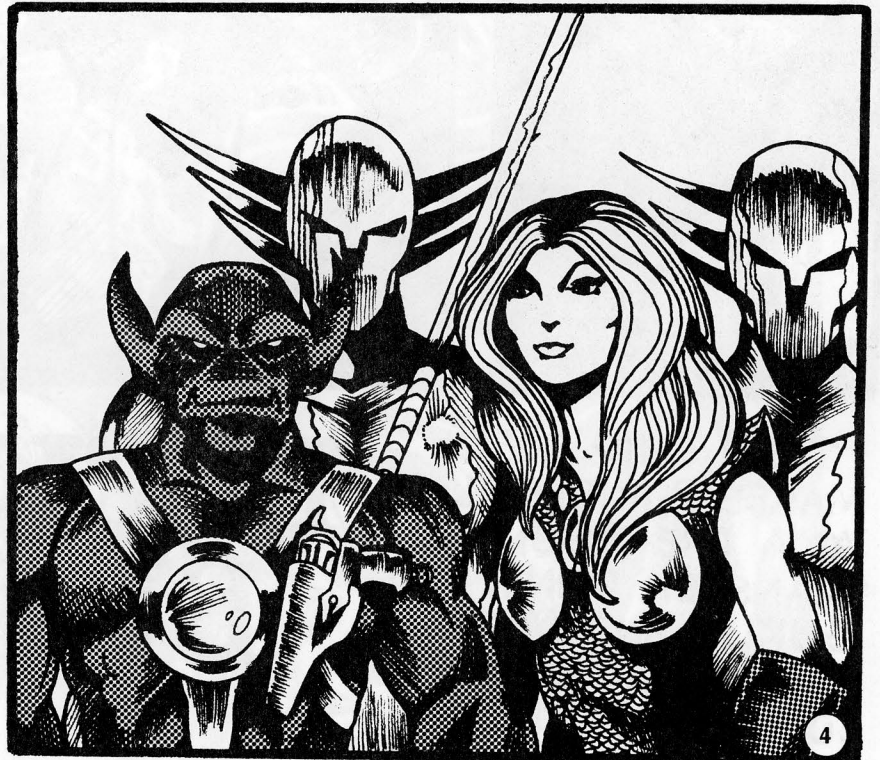
# BACKWORLD BRIGADS

THEIR WAIT IS NOT LONG, SOON FROM THE SURROUNDING FOLIAGE COMES LYSON'S ARCH-DUKE ERON, WITH THE COMBINE'S HELP HE HAS BEEN PLANNING A REVOLUTION AGAINST THE PRESENT LORD, HIS BROTHER KOVAL.

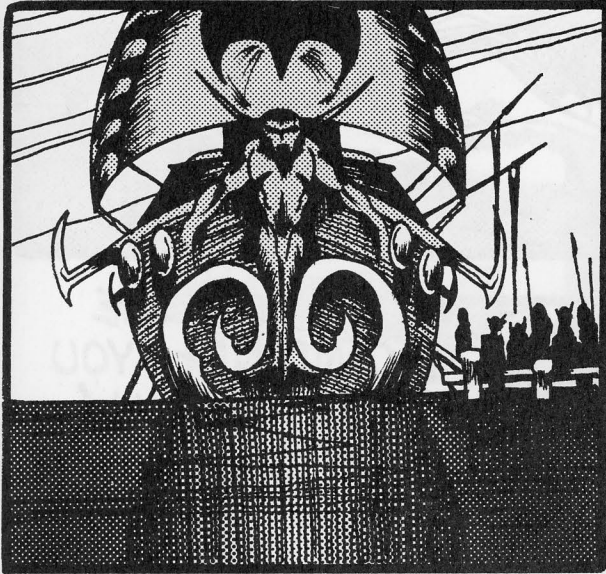


STRIPPING AWAY ONE BULKY PARCEL'S COVER, ERON HEFTS A NEW MARK II BLASTER, "AHH, SUPERB!"

ERON TURNS TO GUKUS AND MARA. "YOU MUST COME WITH ME FOR A MOMENT TO TOAST MY UPCOMMING VICTORY! MY FLAGSHIP IS ANCORED NEARBY." RELUCTANTLY THEY AGREE.



AND SO WITH A COLUMN OF ERON'S ARMORED GUARDS AT THEIR BACKS THEY MARCH TO ERON'S FLAGSHIP WHERE IN HIS PRIVATE CABIN, HE OFFERS THEM A FINELY SPICED WINE IN TOAST...



NO SOONER THAN GUKUS DOWNS HIS DRAUGHT, THEN THE WORLD BEGINS TO SPIN! "DRUGGED," HE SNARLS AS HE LOOKS UP INTO ERON'S RECEEDING FEATURES...



WAKENING, GUKUS FINDS HIS WAR HARNESS AND WEAPONS GONE, AND CHAINS IN THEIR PLACE!



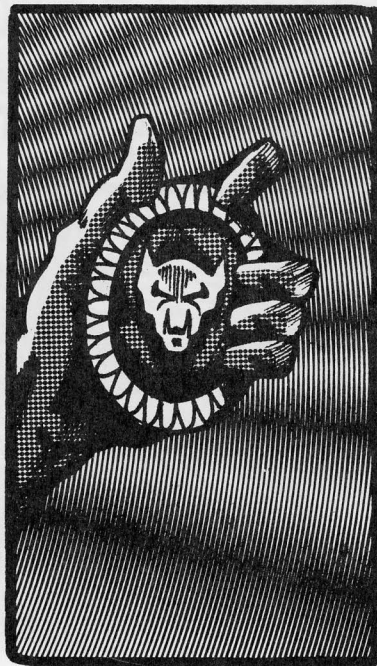
ACROSS THE ROOM HE SPIES MARA ALSO DRUGGED, THEN ERON ENTERS THE ROOM.

WHY HAVE YOU DONE THIS - WE REPRESENT YOUR ALLIES!



AHH YES, THE COMBINE-- YOU ARE A PAWN! YOUR APPEARANCE WAS TOO GREAT A CHANCE TO PASS UP! ALIEN BEINGS ARE UNKNOWN TO THIS WORLD, MY BROTHER.

KOVAL HAS HIS OWN SUPERSTITIONS! ONE DEMON IRONICALLY, IS IN YOUR OWN LIKNESS! YOU WILL ENTER KOVAL'S TOWER AND DELIVER MY ULTIMATUM...

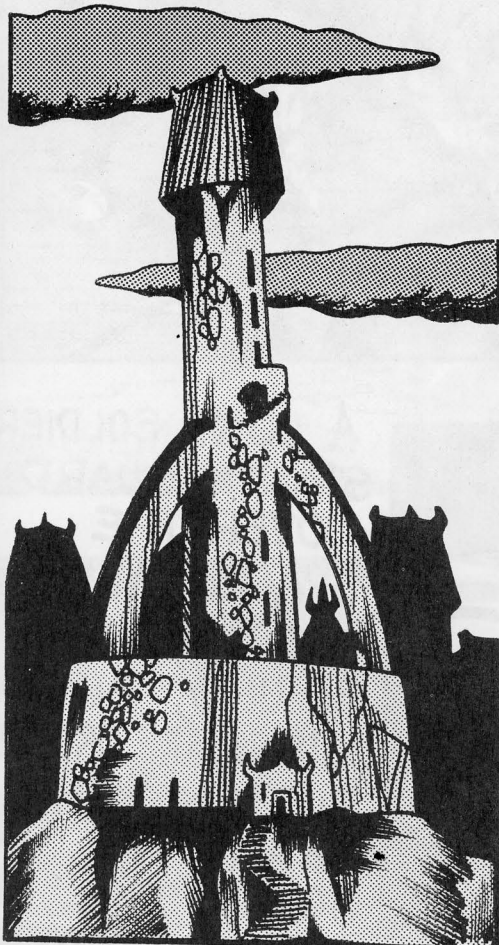


HIS WILL SHALL CRUMBLE! MEANWHILE I WILL KEEP YOUR FRIEND AS INSURANCE. WHAT DO YOU SAY? "I'LL DO IT," GUKUS GROWLS.



KOVAL'S  
IMPERIAL  
TOWER

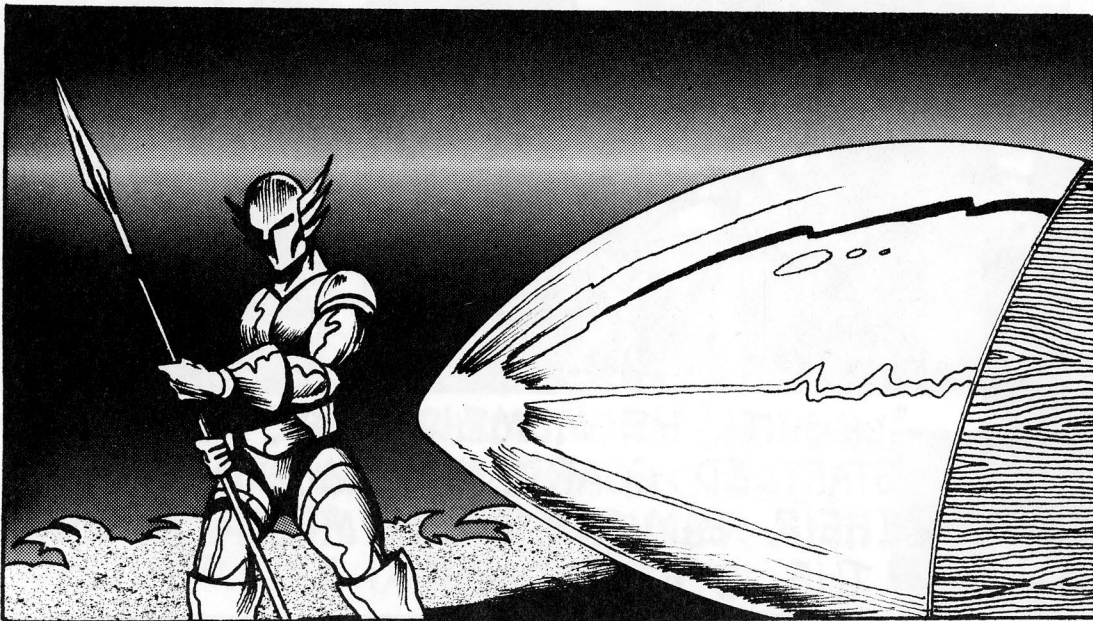
IT IS UP THE IMMENSE STRUCTURE'S  
SIDE THAT GUKUS CLIMBS, PONDERING  
DIRECTIONS GIVEN HIM BY ERON'S  
AGENTS. "NOW DID HE SAY THE DOOR  
TO THE RIGHT-- OR-- LEFT." SOFTLY  
GUKUS SWINGS OPEN THE LEFT ONE...



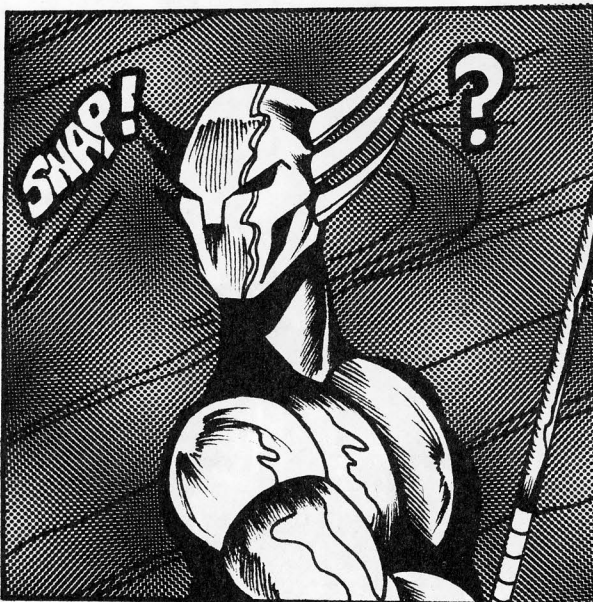
"OH SHIT!" HE MUMBLES AS TWO  
STARTLED GUARDSMEN JUMP UP FROM  
THEIR GAMING TABLE! "MUSTA BEEN  
THE OTHER DOOR--"



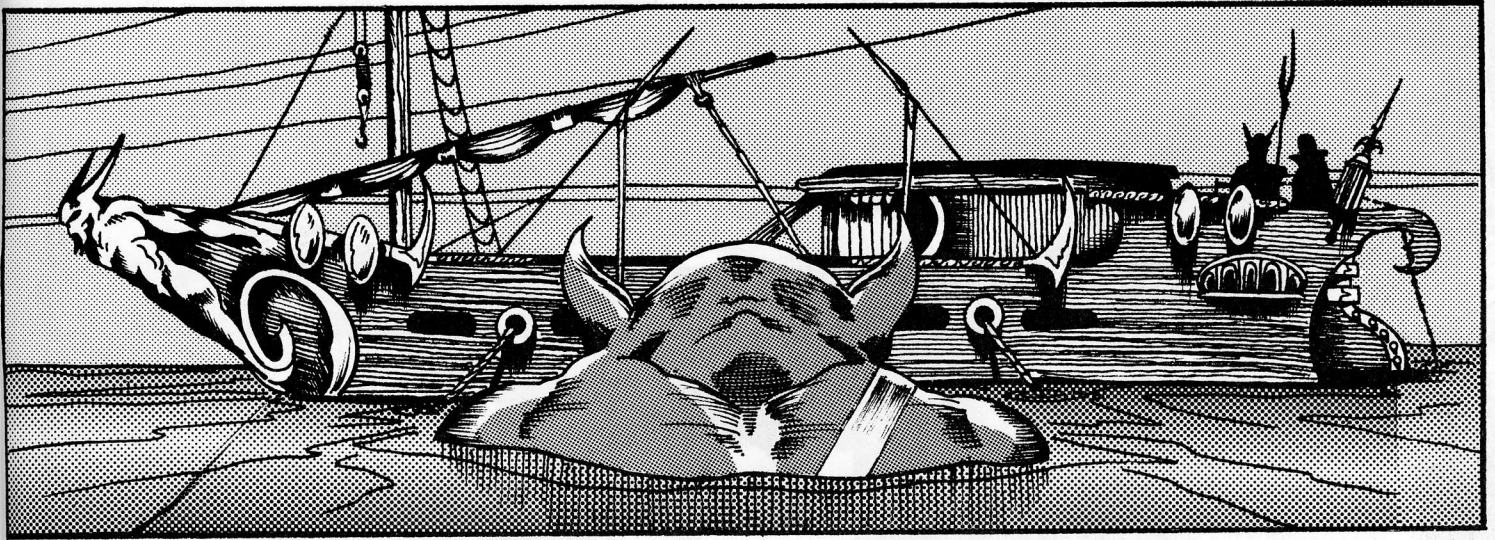
SOMETIMES GUKUS IS SLOW IN SEEING HIS MISTAKES, LIKE HOW HE EVER GOT INTO THIS SITUATION, LEAVING THE SLIGHTLY DEMOLISHED GUARDSROOM, HE EXITS THE TOWER, A PLAN FORMING IN HIS MIND.



A LONE SOLDIER STANDS GUARD OVER THE SPACECRAFT, THE DUTY IS BORING, BUT ORDERS ARE ORDERS, SUDDENLY HE HEARS THE SOUND OF A TWIG SNAP TO HIS LEFT.



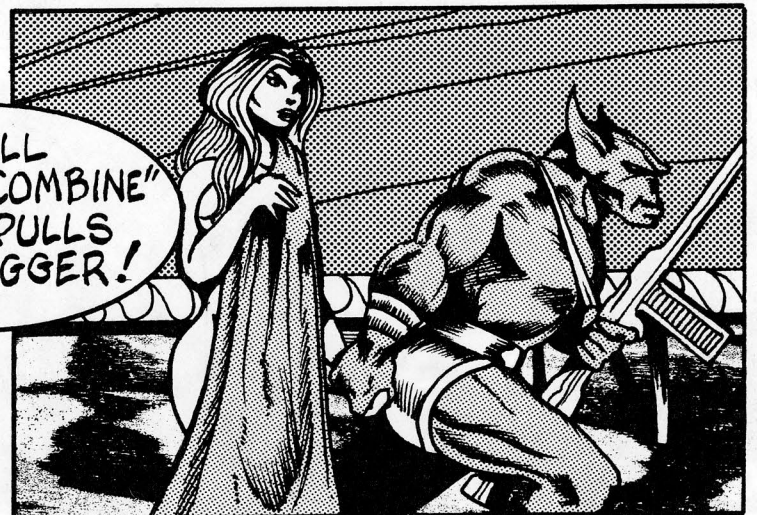
THE GUARD DISPATCHED, GUKUS REMOVES THE ARTICLE HE DESIRES, FROM THE CRAFT, THEN APPROACHES ERON'S FLAGSHIP FROM THE WATER, HE SILENTLY ENTERS ERON'S CABIN, TO SAY ERON WAS SURPRISED WOULD BE AN UNDERSTATEMENT

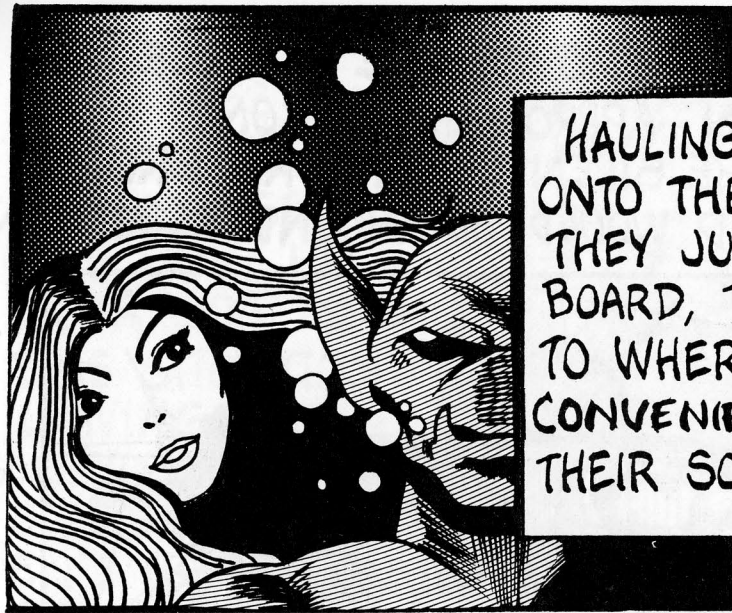


"NOW GUKUS, PLEASE LET'S TALK THIS OVER, THE COMBINE ..."

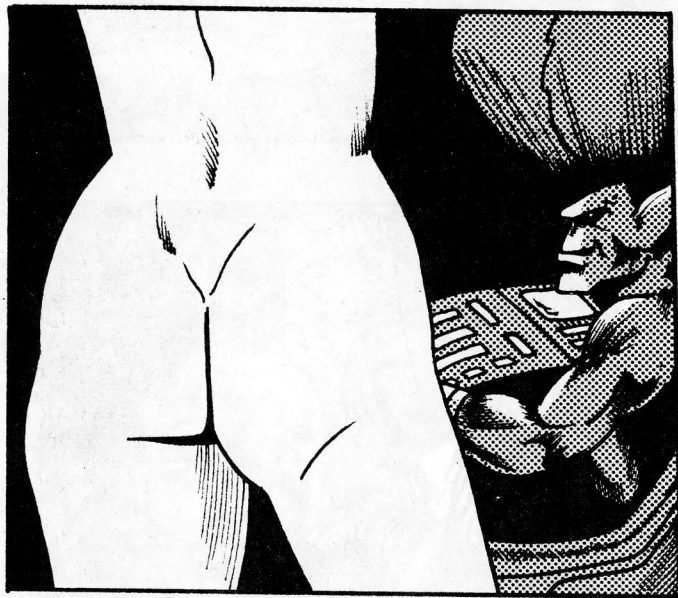
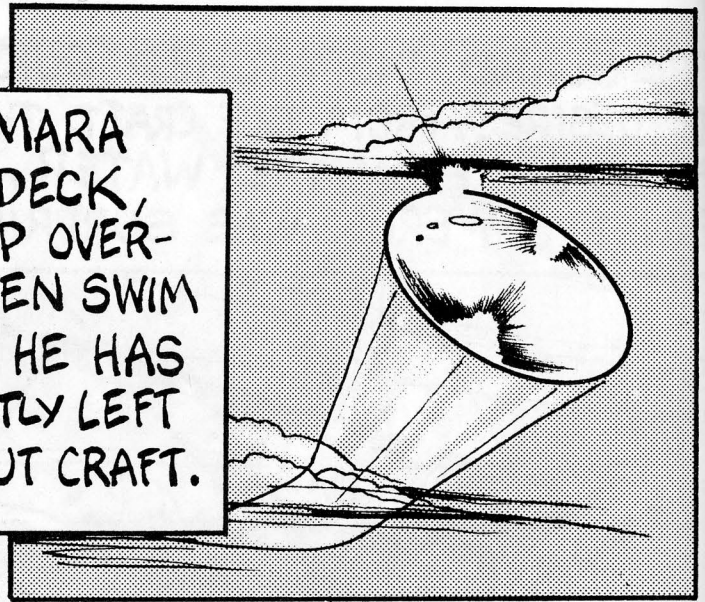


"TO HELL WITH THE COMBINE" GUKUS PULLS THE TRIGGER!

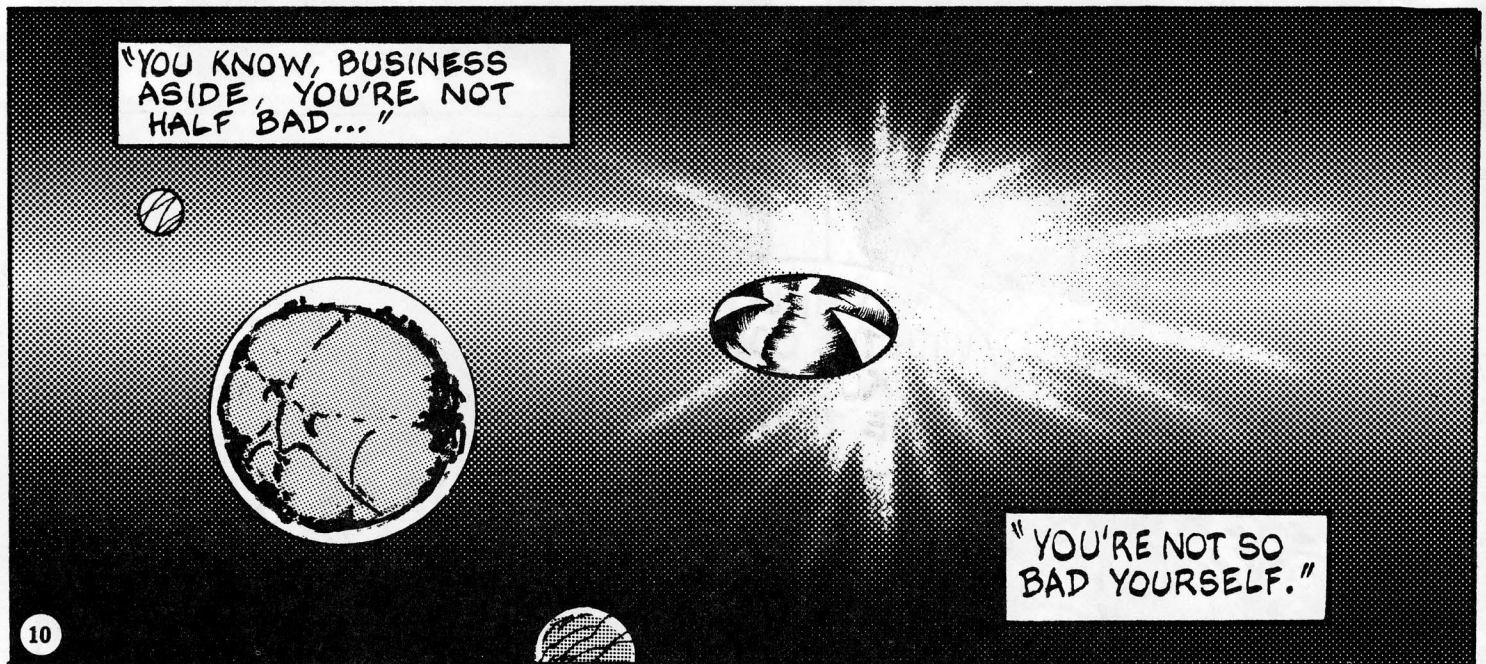




HAULING MARA  
ONTO THE DECK,  
THEY JUMP OVER-  
BOARD, THEN SWIM  
TO WHERE HE HAS  
CONVENIENTLY LEFT  
THEIR SCOUT CRAFT.



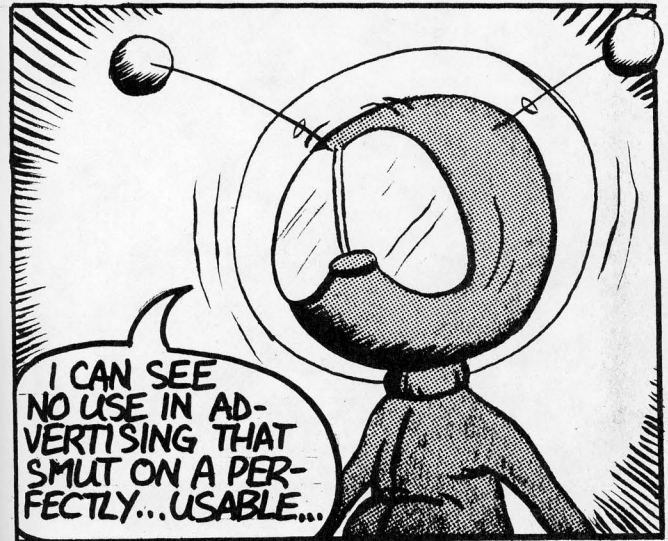
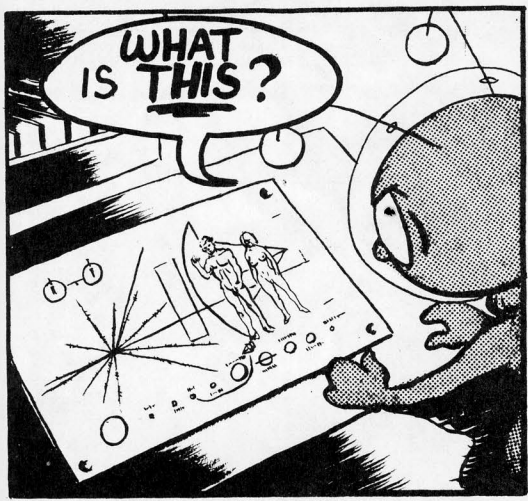
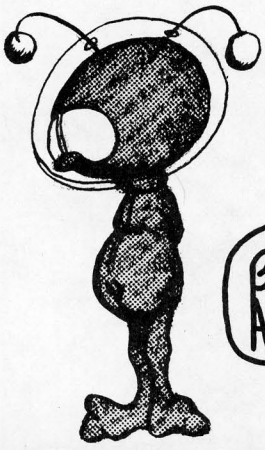
"YOU KNOW, BUSINESS  
ASIDE, YOU'RE NOT  
HALF BAD..."

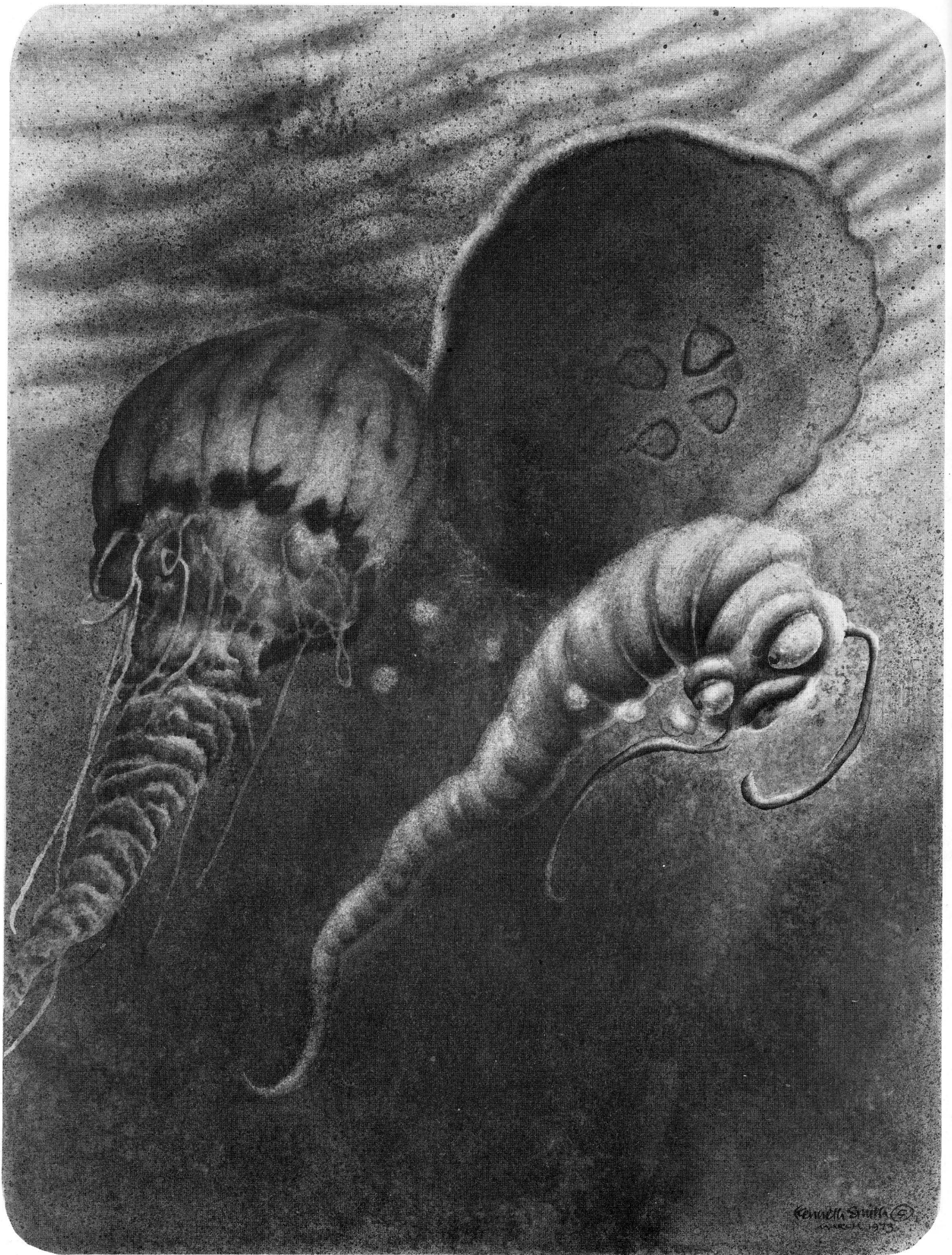


"YOU'RE NOT SO  
BAD YOURSELF."

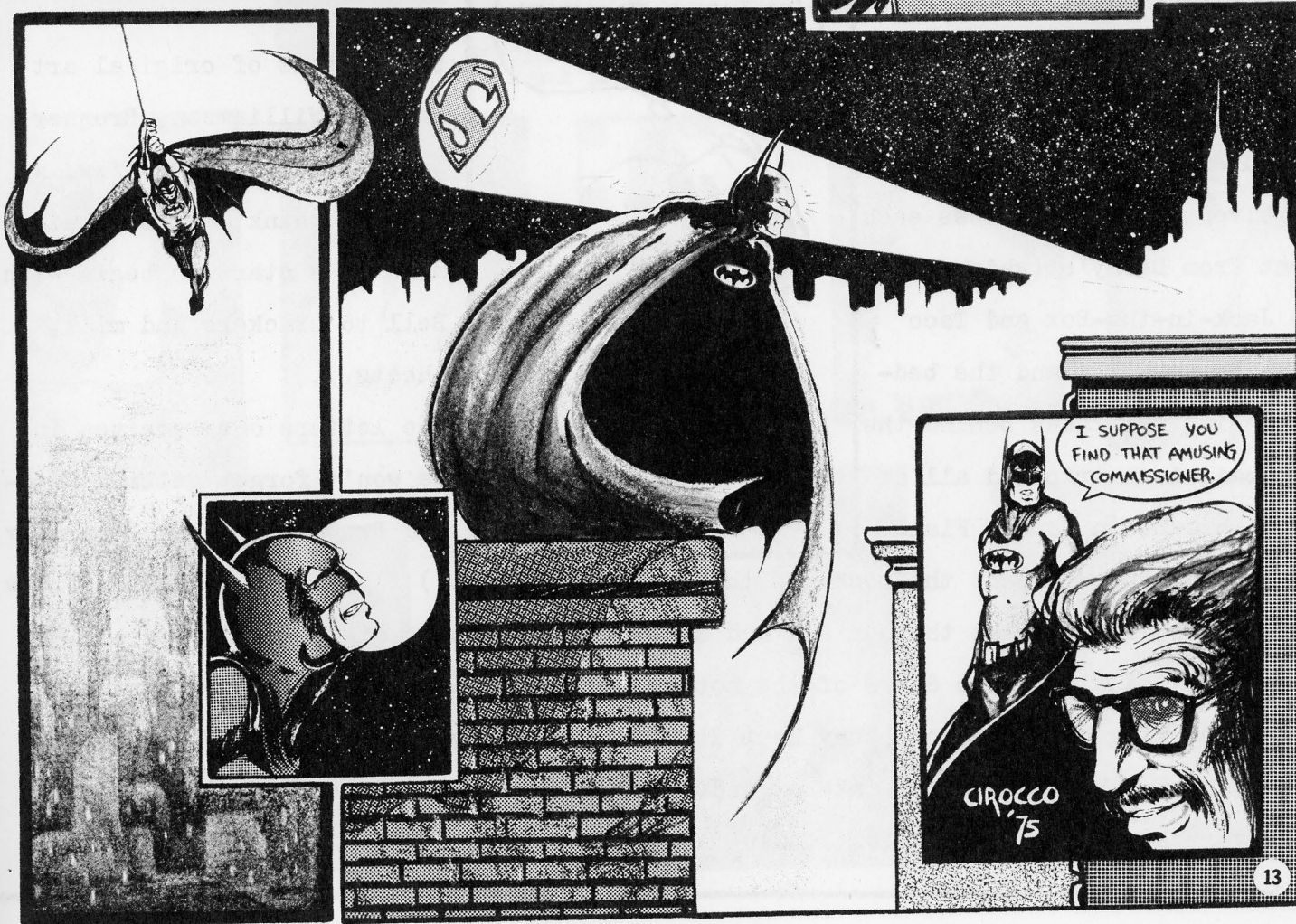
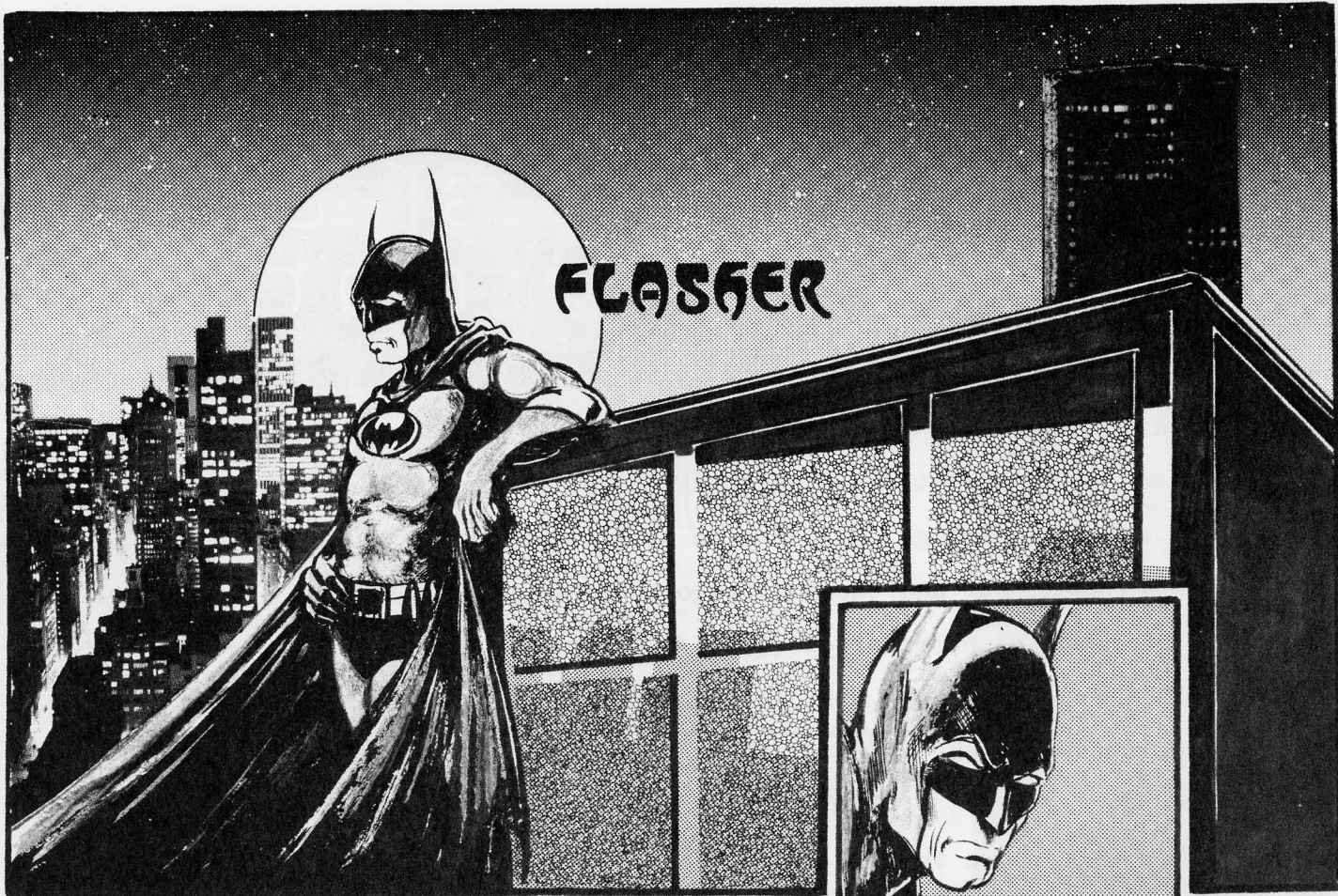
# GRIMMILEY'S TALES

©1975





Kenneth Smith ©  
MARCH 1973



# "...AND ON THE SEVENTH DAY WE RESTED."

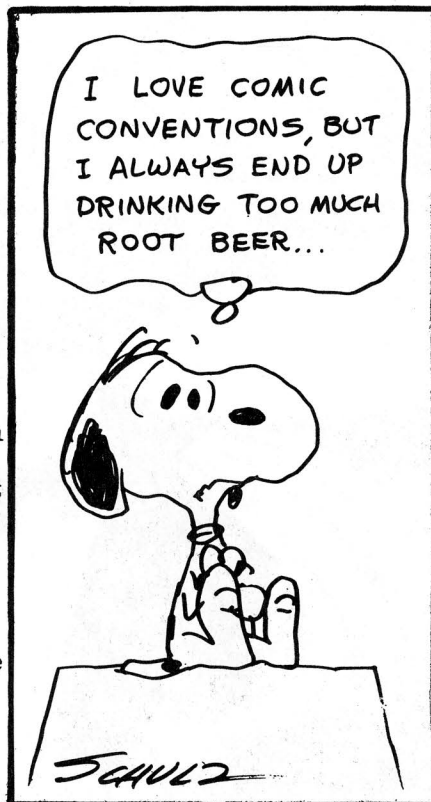
## -THE 1974 SAN DIEGO CON-

Well, we did it again in '74. With our minds and wallets set for a 6-day festival this time, four of us flew to San Diego, and amid the preparation activities of that first day we set our bearings and tried to steer as smoothly as possible through the next few days. Shel Dorf and the San Diego crew had once again set up a full schedule for the fans to be entertained with - a masquerade (finally) and an art show were in store this time as were the various luncheons, panels and discussions with various

guests. The movie room was which helped spend a very entirely TOO much time in the tell at the close of the week but full suitcases!) After from Frazetta, Adams, Smith, to Kubert, Colan, Todd, Kline survived on less and less each went from Denny's (which isn't to Jack-in-the-Box and Taco then on to water and the bed-

Seeing the faces behind the the mail is a trip and all of ed with Captain Chucky Fiala

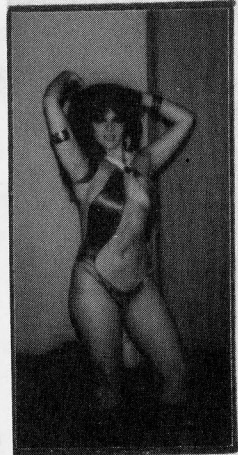
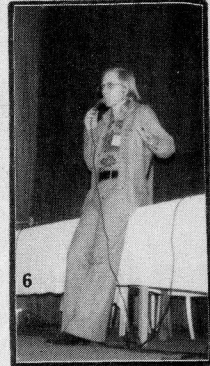
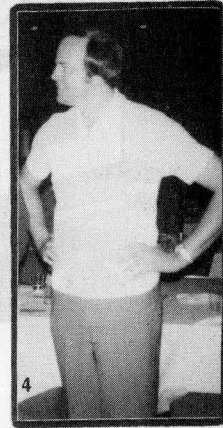
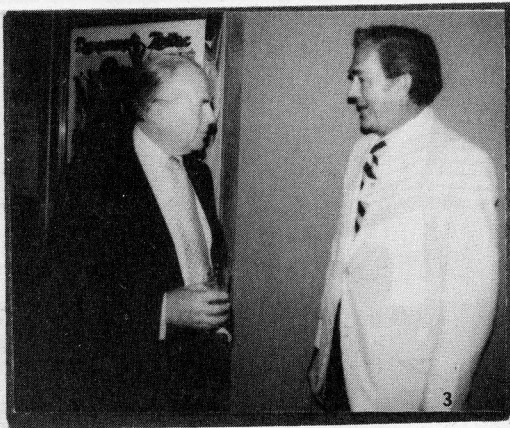
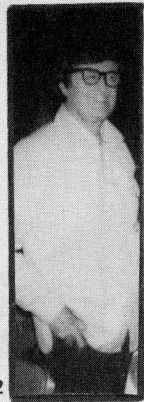
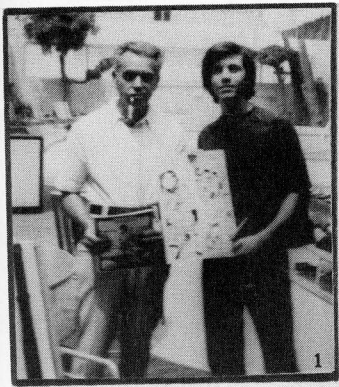
we shouldn't have spent the money on the Southern Comfort.) Again, we met alot of new and old acquaintances at the con and had a great time because of the fantastic atmosphere created within the doors of the hotel. All this was due to Shel Dorf and the people backing him. We hope they keep it going for a long, long time. We brought you some snapshots again, so take a gander at the next page and enjoy a little part of a very big event. Thanx for lending an ear - see you at San Diego next year.



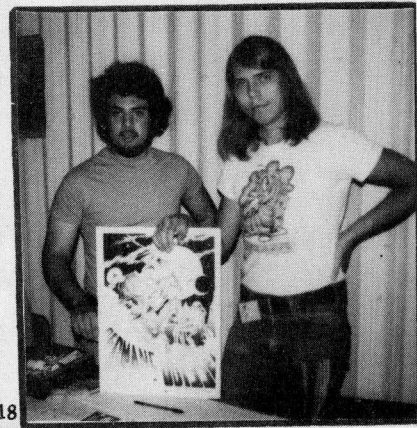
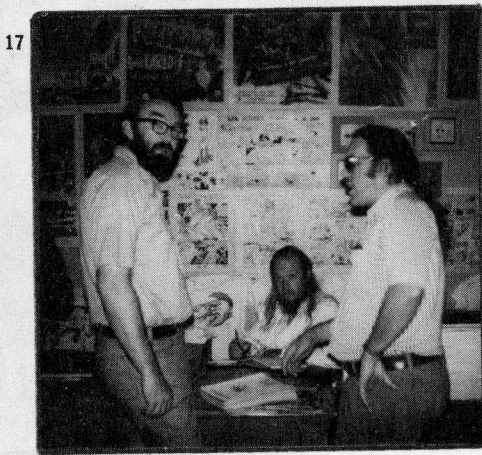
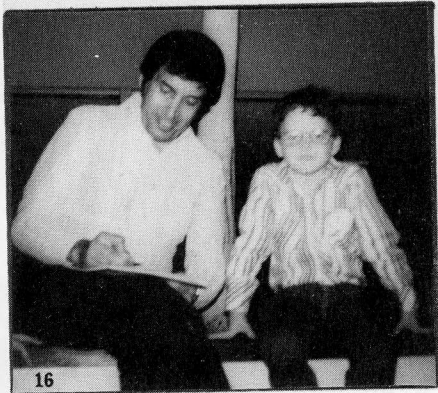
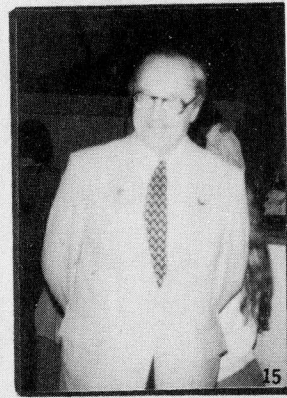
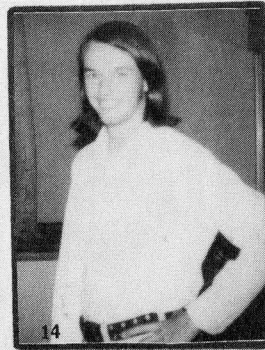
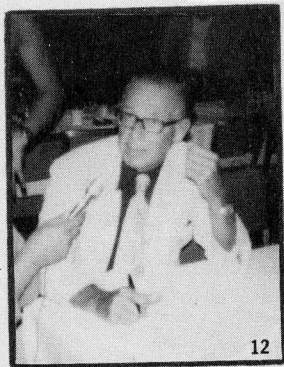
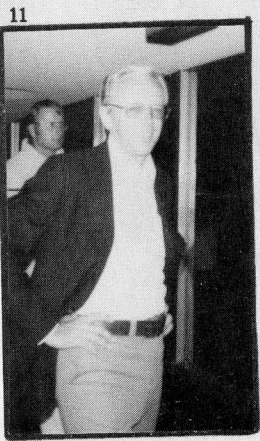
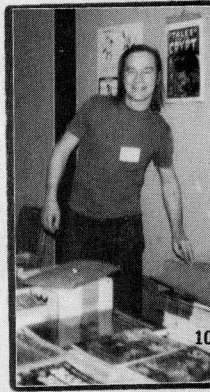
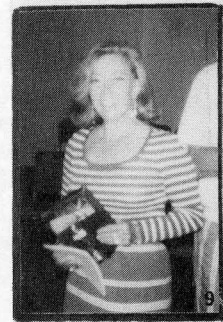
open longer this time round few idle moments. We spent dealer's room. (We could because of our empty pockets buying tons of original art Maroto, Williamson, Brunner, and Kaluta to name a few, we day. I think our food budget much of a start to begin with) Bell to crackers and milk, sheets...

the letters one receives in us won't forget getting wast- and Bruce Paterson. (Actually,





- conventures
- 1) Winnick speaks with Jack Kirby
  - 2) Bob Clampett in the banquet hall
  - 3) Milton Caniff & Kirk Alyn
  - 4) Animator Milt Grey
  - 5) Shel Dorf - our con's founder
  - 6) Roy Thomas
  - 7-8) The Masquerade Prize Winners
  - 9) June Foray
  - 10) The Infamous Bob Sidebottom
  - 11) Charles "PEANUTS" Shultz
  - 12) Bill "FAMILY CIRCUS" Keane
  - 13) "APE" Make-up man
  - 14) Writer Mike Friedrich
  - 15) Forrest Ackerman
  - 16) Don Newton & son
  - 17) Dealer's Cochran, Knowles, & Seuling
  - 18) Cirocco makes a purchase from Frank Brunner



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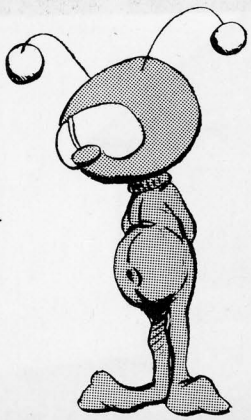
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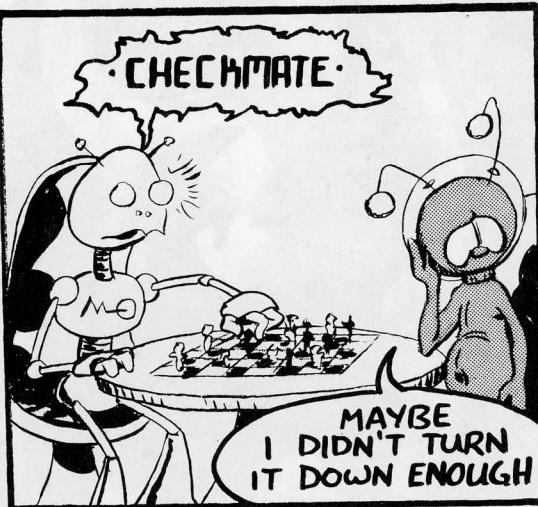
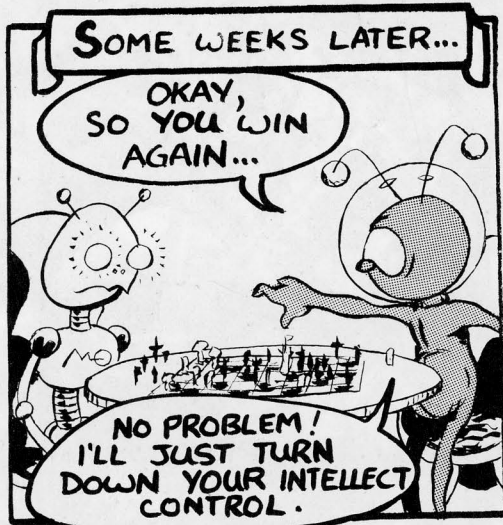
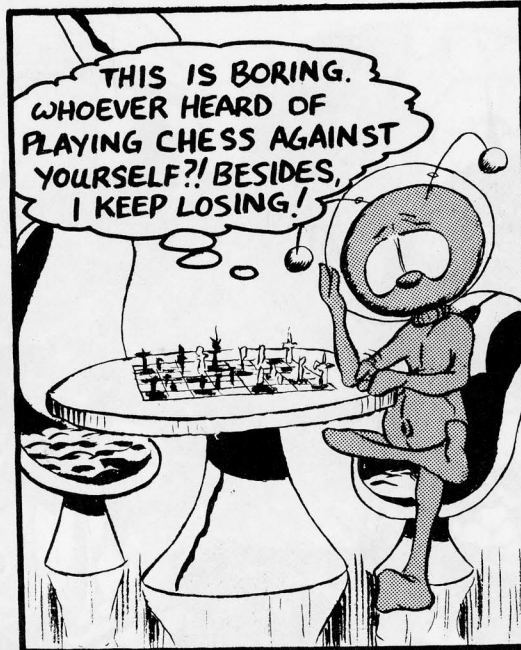
FRANK A. CIRCO

# GRIMMILEY'S TALES

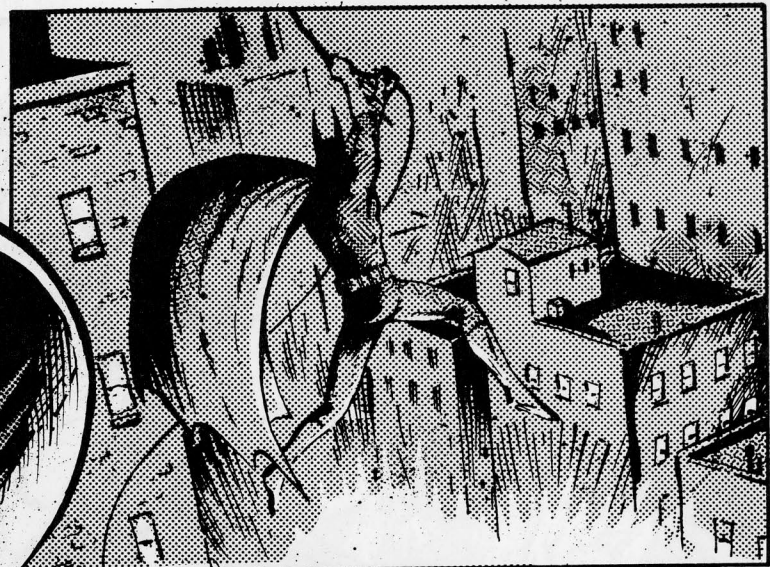
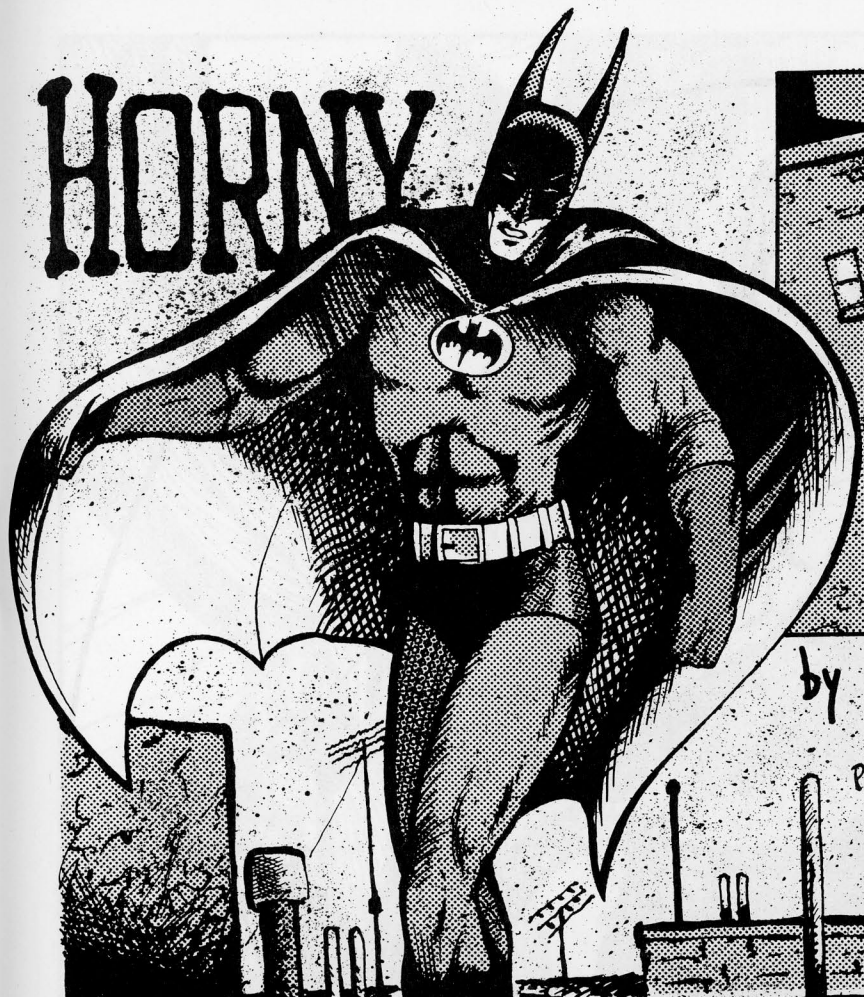
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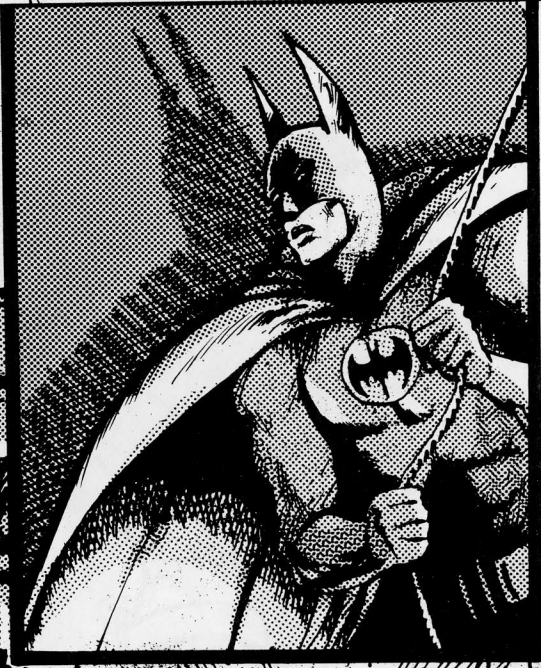
Brent  
ANDERSON



# HORNY



by '75  
JIM  
PINKOSKI





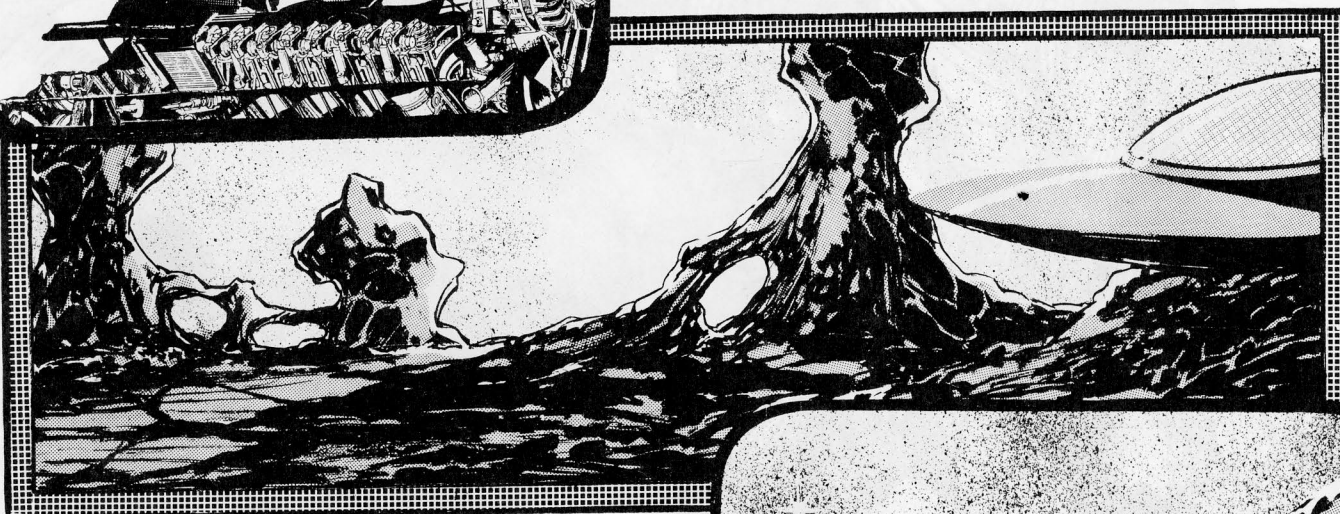
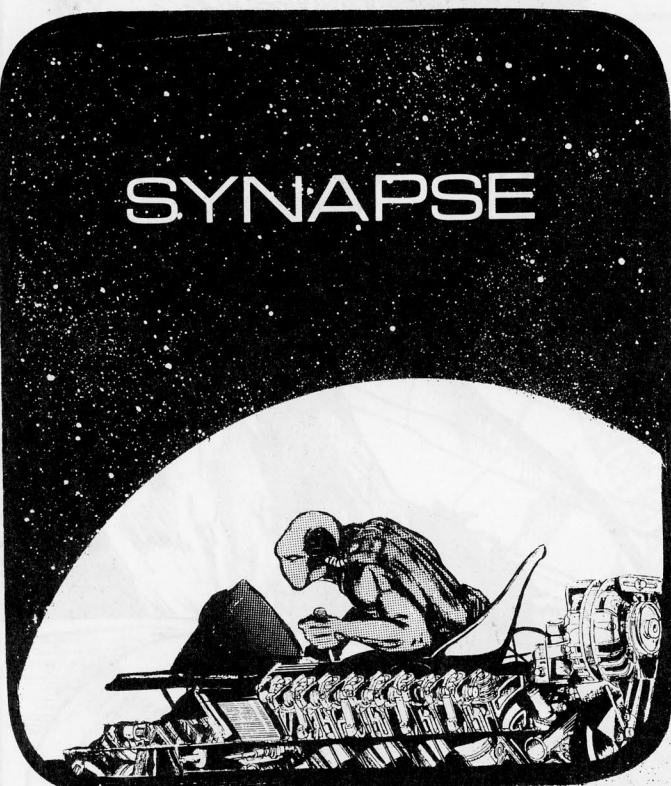
© CARL POTTS 1974



- GARY  
WINNICK 74

# SYNAPSE

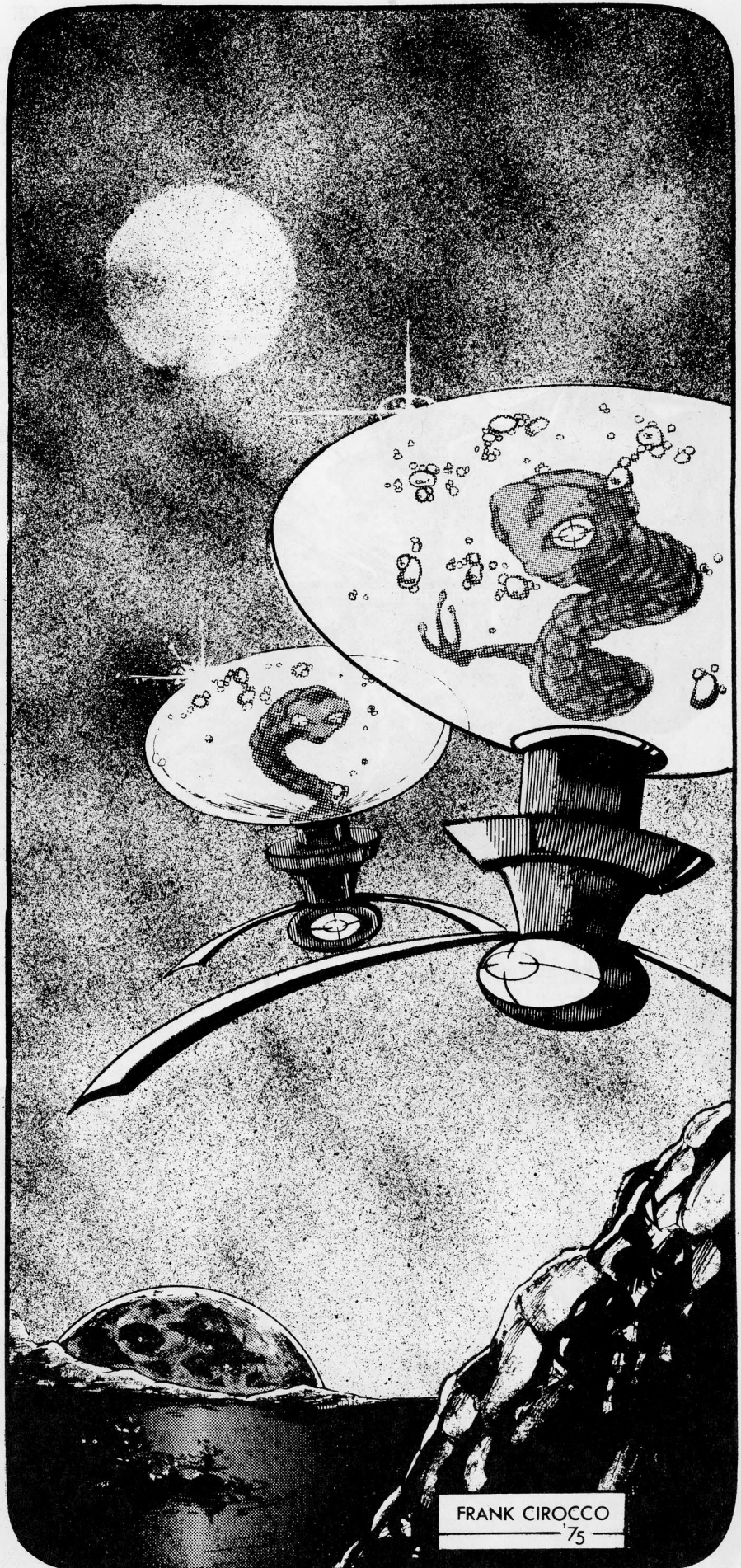
STRANE SAW THE SURFACE RISING TOWARD HIM. HE CORRECTED DESCENT AND LIT DOWN ON ON A LARGE, BARREN ISLAND DOTTED WITH STANDING ROCK. HE MOVED TO THE CONTROL DOME AND STOOD ALONE, GAZING AT THE ROCKY ISLE ON WHICH HIS SHIP RESTED. A NEW PLANET THIS, FOR THE SURVEY DESCRIBED IT AS NOT HAVING MICRO-BIOTIC SEA LIFE. BARREN, YES, BUT THE MOST FERTILE SPHERES STARTED AS AIR-LUMPS GLIDING AWAY FROM THEIR OWN VIOLENT ADVENT.



THE SURVY CENSUS OF RECENT FINDS HAD SAID, "...of fresh origin and resourceful future." STRANE HAD BEEN SEARCHING FOR A PLACE SUCH AS THIS TO RETIRE. WHEN THE TIME CAME, HE WOULD RESIDE HERE, OR ON ANOTHER PLANET OF HIS CHOICE. ITS PRESENT CONDITION APPEALED TO HIS DESIRE FOR PRIVACY. STRANE HAD BROUGHT WITH HIM THE YOUTH, BECAUSE, AS HIS CHARGE, HE THOUGHT IT TIME THAT THE YOUNG ONE LEAVE HIS HIS HOME WORLD AND COMPLETE HIS EDUCATION WITH AN EXTRA-PLANETARY EXPERIENCE.



THE ALIEN WAS OLD, OLDER THAN HIS HOME REEF THAT HE HAD LEFT SO LONG AGO AND SO FAR AWAY. AND HIS SON WAS OLD, BUT HE WAS YOUNG; TOO YOUNG, IN THE RECKONING OF HIS FATHER, TO BE HOUSED IN THE MECHANICAL SHELL THAT GUARDED HIS LIFE. THEY WERE A RACE OF HYDROPHYTES AND THEY HAD COME ON THE MATTER OF COLONIZING THIS PLANET IN THE NAME OF THEIR KIND. WHEN THE WORD CAME FROM THE OFFICES RESPONSIBLE AT THEIR HOME, THEY WOULD REPRODUCE BY THE MILLIONS IN ONE GENERATION, AND THEIR SPAWN WOULD FILL THE WATERS OF THIS PLANET, A NEW HOME-TO-BE. BUT THAT TIME WAS NOT YET HERE, AND THEIR PRELIMINARY EXPLORATION WAS STILL TO BE COMPLETED. THE PROMISED LAND MUST BE FREE OF THE UNEXPECTED AND DANGEROUS. THEIR SOFT BODIES ENCLOSED INSIDE SYNTHETIC TANKS, ARE FILLED WITH THE PRIMAL WATERS OF THEIR HOME PLANET. THEIR LOCOMOTION IS PROVIDED BY SMALL TURBINES ENABLING THEM TO HOVER AND SOAR OVER THE LAND, THE MOST LIKELY PLACE FOR PROBLEMS FROM ANOTHER RACE. THE PLANET HARBORED NO MEDDLERS ITSELF, BUT WHAT OF INVADERS FROM ANOTHER SYSTEM OF SPACE? TERRITORIAL BEINGS, THE HYDROPHYTES WOULD NOT ACCEPT ANOTHER SPECIES IN THEIR OWN OCEAN. THIS IS WHY THE ALIENS WERE PATROLLING THE ISLAND AREAS. THE ELDEST WAS RELENTLESS IN SEARCHING OUT ALL POSSIBLE PLACES OF CONCEALMENT.

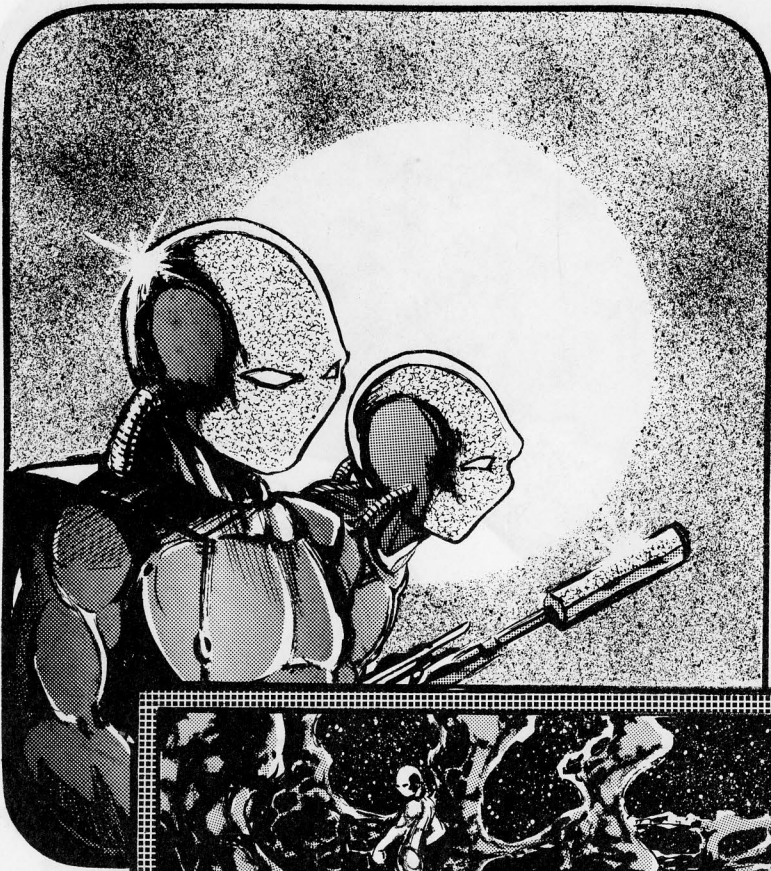


FRANK CIROCCO  
75

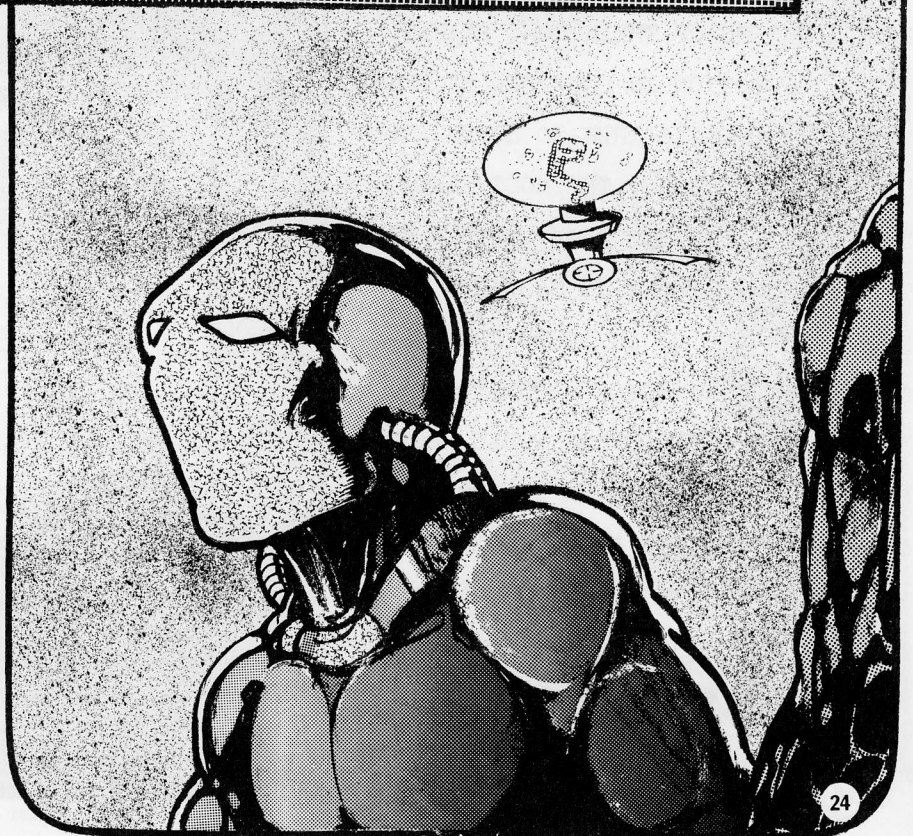


ON THE LOWER PART OF HIS POD ANOTHER DEVICE. IT WAS AN EYE CAPABLE OF SEEING AND TRIGGERING THE APPROPRIATE DEFENSE MECHANISMS. THE ALIEN WOULD NOT HESITATE TO DESTROY AN INTRUDER AND HE HOPED TO PROGRAM HIS OFFSPRING LIKEWISE.

STRANE AND THE YOUTH LEFT THE SHIP AND WALKED DOWN THE GENTLE SLOPE BETWEEN THE WIND-EATEN ROCKS. STRANE WAS UNWORRIED OF FINDING ANYTHING UNUSUAL, FOR THE SURVEY NEVER OVER-LOOKED ANYTHING ON A NEW PROPERTY FIND. THE PAIR VENTURED FARTHER ALONG THE ROCKY COASTLINE, VIEWING THE PRIMITIVE LANDSCAPE.



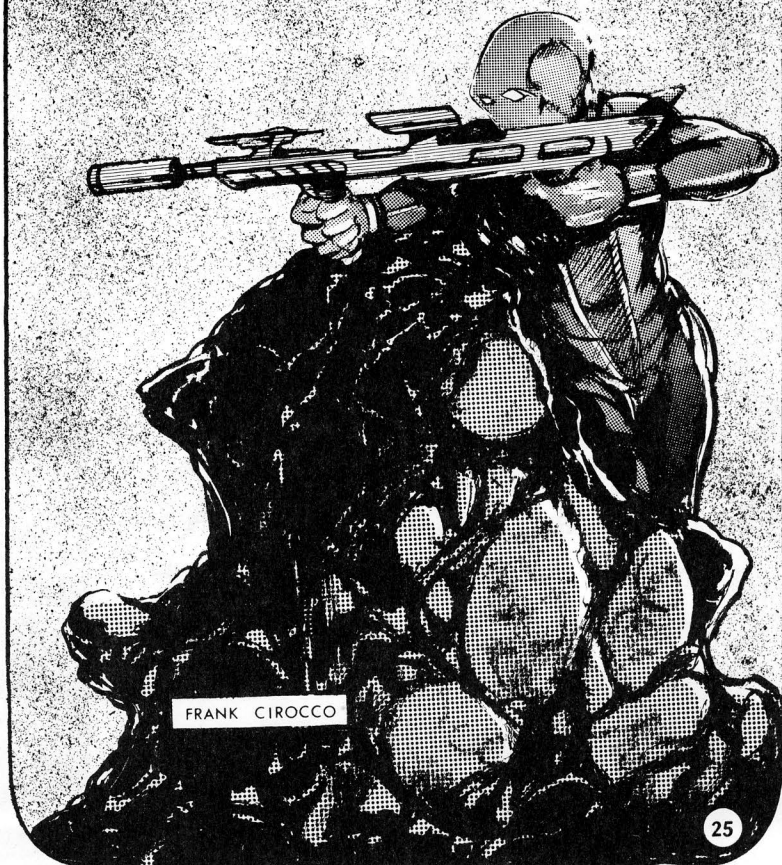
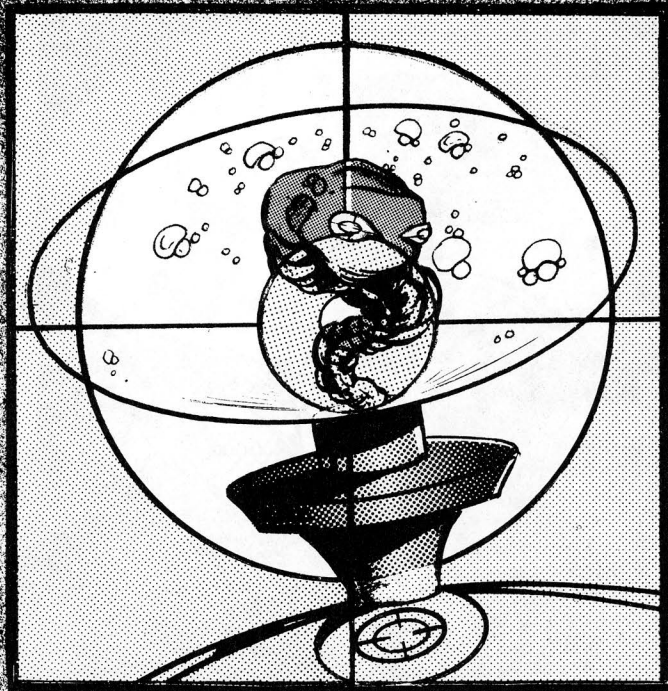
BY SILENT AGREEMENT THE YOUTH PARTED FROM HIS ELDER AND WANDERED OFF. STRANE GLANCED HIS WAY AND FINGERED HIS WEAPON DECIDING THE SOLITUDE AND EXPLORATION WOULD BE GOOD FOR HIS CHARGE. THE YOUTH PROCEEDED UP THE ISLAND'S INCLINE, PICKING HIS WAY AMONG THE ROCKS AND EXAMINING THE MINERALS THAT HE KNEW HAD BEEN FORMED NOT TOO MANY CENTURIES BEFORE. UNKNOWN TO THE YOUTH, THE CURIOUS YOUNG ALIEN OBSERVED HIM AS IT HOVERED EVER CLOSER.



FUTHER NORTHWARD ALONG THE UPPERMOST END OF THE ISLAND, STRANE DROPPED DOWN TO THE BEACH. SURELY, STRANE THOUGHT THE ABSENCE OF ANY LIFE WAS CERTAIN - AT LEAST THE ENVIRONMENT APPEARED SO. BUT HIS REVERIE WAS SHATTERED. STRANE WHIRLED WHEN HE HEARD THE SOFT WHOOSH BEHIND HIM. HE COLLAPSED AGAINST A NEARBY ROCK, AND LAYING THE ALIEN DEAD IN HIS SIGHTS, HE TOOK AIM. BEFORE HE PULLED THE TRIGGER, THE THOUGHT CAME TO HIM THAT THE ALIEN COULD BE ON A PEACEFUL MISSION, BUT HE QUICKLY DISMISSED THIS POSSIBILITY.

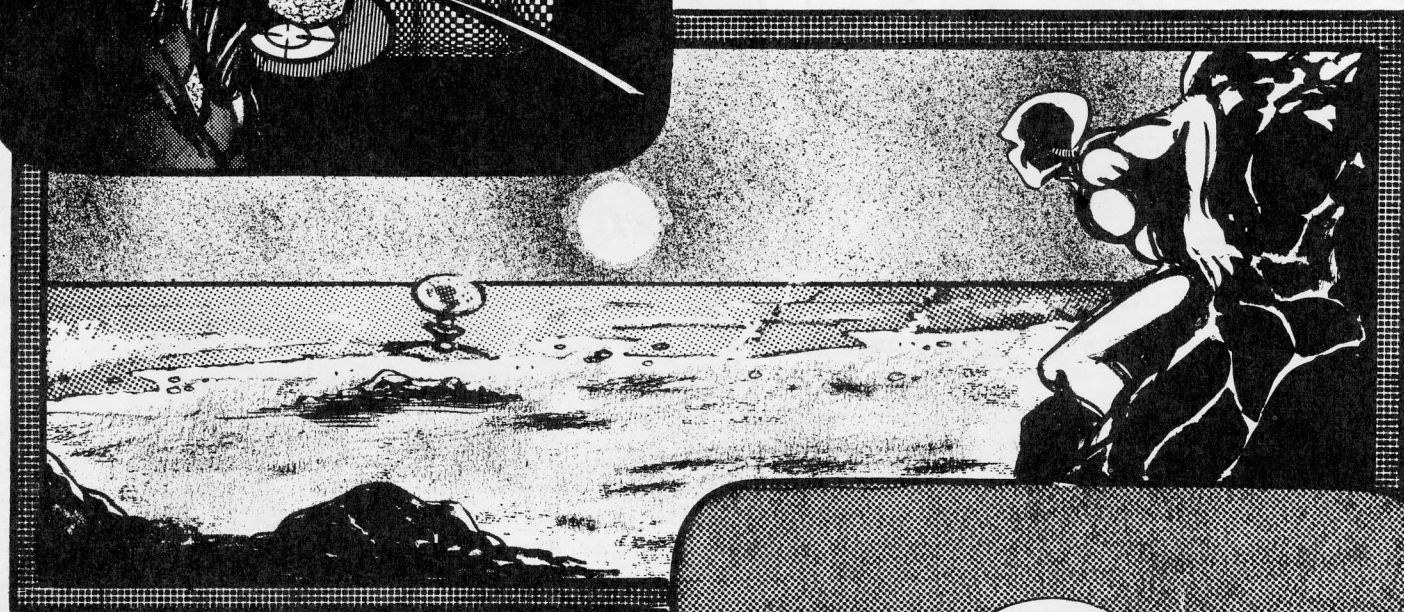
THE ALIEN FLOATED BEHIND AN OVERLYING CLIFF AS HE SAW THE OTHER STEADY HIS GUN. STRANE SCOWLED AS HIS FIRST BLAST WENT WIDE OF THE WARY FLYING THING. IT BACKED AWAY FROM STRANE AS HE LEANED OVER AND TOOK AIM ONCE AGAIN. THE BUBBLE SWOOPED BEHIND A WEATHERED ROCK AS CRACKLING ENERGY BLACKENED ITS FACE.

AS THE ALIEN TRIED TO DECIDE WHICH WEAPON FROM ITS ARSENAL TO UTILIZE, THE ROCKS AGAIN EXPLODED. THE CHOSEN WEAPON PIVOTED TOWARDS STRANE'S BODY AS THE ALIEN SEIZED THE OFFENSIVE. HIS FORM WAS SUDDENLY ENVELOPED IN FLAMES. ANOTHER TURRET EMERGED FROM THE ALIEN'S POD AND SPEWED FORTH A CLEAR SPRAY. THE FIRE COVERING STRANE QUICKLY GREW IN INTENSITY. STRANE ROLLED TO ONE SIDE, AND HIS SCORTCHED FINGER MOVED TO TAKE AIM. A BRIGHT BEAM FLASHED OUT OF THE FLAMES AND HIT THE ALIEN'S SYNTHETIC BUBBLE DEAD CENTER. THE POD BURST, CAUSING A HUGE FIREBALL TO ERUPT OVER THE BEACH. STEAM ROSE HISSING OFF THE SEA IN THE WAKE OF THE EXPLOSION, AND FUSED SAND BUBBLED AT ITS EDGE.





THE ROAR WAS HEARD BY THE YOUTH AND HIS NEWLY ACQUIRED FRIEND. THE HYDROPHYTE SLOWLY HOVERED DOWN TO SHOW THE YOUTH THE WAY TO THE BEACH. HIS ACQUAINTANCE FOLLOWED, SMILING, IF ONE COULD CALL IT A SMILE. THE BEACH APPROACHED, AND THE YOUTH BROKE INTO A TROT AS HE SAW THE RETREATING FORM OF HIS FLYING FRIEND DIP TOWARDS THE SHORELINE. HIS INNOCENT GRIN LEFT HIM AS HE SAW HIS FRIEND FLOATING OVER A FORM THERE.



SMOKING REMNANTS LAY DOTTED ALONG THE WATER'S EDGE. THE SAND STILL BUBBLED, EVIDENCE OF A STRANGE AFTERMATH.

HOW COULD EITHER OF THE TWO HAVE KNOWN WHAT HAD OCCURRED? WOULD THEY AVENGE THEIR DEAD KIN? THEIR THOUGHTS MIRRORED EACH OTHER'S AS THEY WONDERED WHAT HAD HAPPENED TO THEIR ELDERS. PERPLEXED, THEIR INNOCENT MINDS PONDERED A REASON. THEY COULD NOT COMPREHEND A POSSIBILITY OF THE TRUTH. PERHAPS THEY WOULD KNOW...WHEN THEY WERE OLDER.

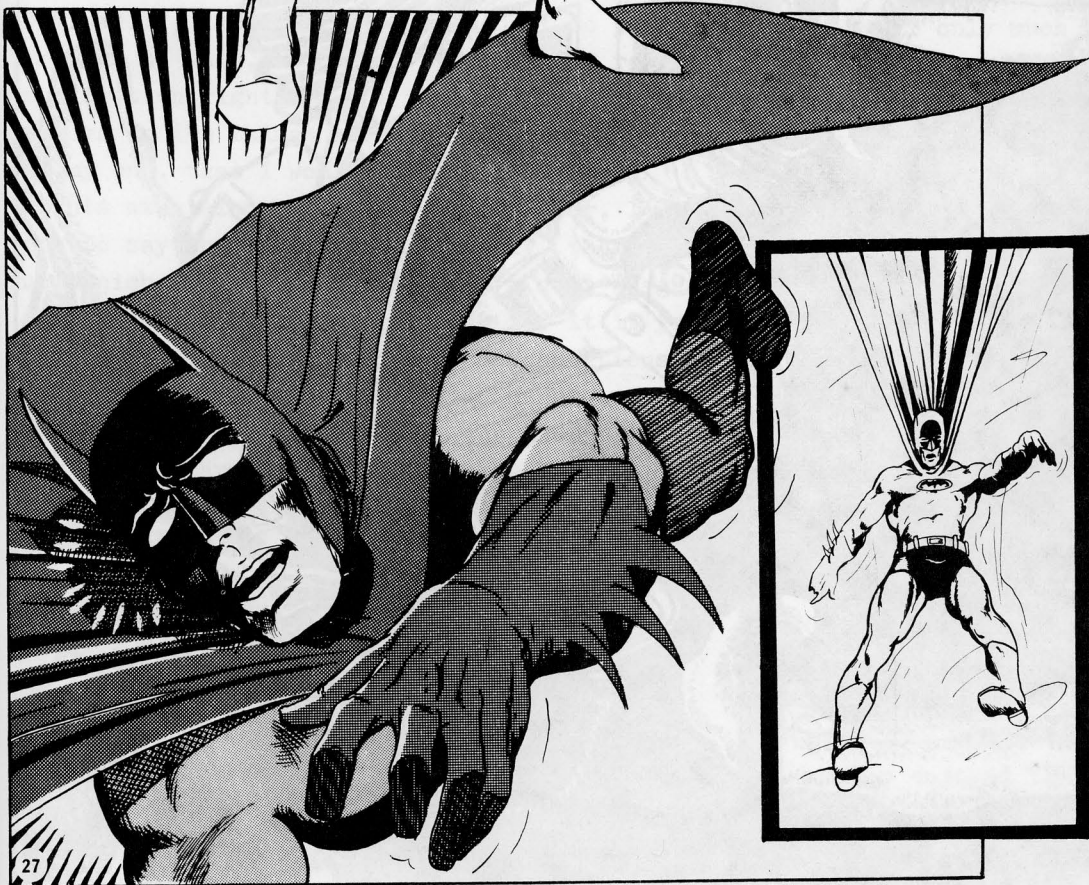


END

# WE GO BAT



by  
**BRENT  
ANDERSON**







Dear Gary & Frank,

When I sold some originals this past summer, I did it very reluctantly because in the past, a lot of things found their way into publication that were never meant for it. I appreciate very much your courteousness in writing to ask for permission, since most fan-eds - not implying that that is quite what you are - seem not to have that many scruples about what they publish. Ordinarily, I would reject a request to publish art out of hand, because I specifically reserved publication rights on the things I sold and the prices on the things were not so considerable, at my end, that I would want to give those rights away along with the art. However, I've got to say that VENTURE is, frankly, the most unfannish fanzine I have seen in a newt's age, and I would like to do something for it if you can find it possible to meet some conditions. Whenever I have sold publication rights, I have reserved reprint rights, with the understanding that several years would lapse between your printing of it and mine.

I've already said that VENTURE is an unusually UNfannish piece of work - it is a zine with a fine sense of format, and the art in it, rendering as well as conception - is fully original and a delight to see. I treasure the copy of issue #3 you sent me, and I anticipate it won't be very long before your talents make a generous place for themselves among the pro's.

Best,  
Kenneth Smith

Dear Frank & Gary,

This mag improves with each issue. When you have artists like Neal Adams and Mike Kaluta appearing in your zine, wow! Jim Pinkoski isn't bad either - I did like his rendition of Conan.

"Flashback" with its twist ending was excellent. You did a first rate job on the artwork; it reminds me of some of the old Time-ly stuff only much better handled. To me, it was a perfect blending of written text and beautifully presented artwork.

But this was not the only "star" of the issue. I could pay all the same compliments to Frank Morant and Gary Winnick's collaboration. This was really beautifully handled - a superb strip. Perhaps a little more development could have been added but again, it is an exemplary merging of textual story and artwork.

Although "Sin-Eater" was in my opinion, the weakest of the tales, it was still head and shoulders above most strip stories. What can I say about Neal Adams work? I have admired Adams work - especially his D.C. stuff. Grimmley was his usual excellent self. Brent's artwork matches up to the high quality of the magazine. The report on the San Diego Con was interesting. All in all, I really enjoyed VENTURE #3.

Robert J. Curran  
North Ireland



Dear Frank,

Were I to give you a comment on every piece of art featured in VENTURE # 3, I would undoubtedly run out of superlatives. Visually, it's the most impressive fanzine I've ever seen. Your art ( and I don't use the term lightly ) is superb. Winnick's art on "Bugz" is the best I've seen from him - I could go on and on.

The strips, although well written and very enjoyable, smacked of tales I've read before. "Flashback" contained much the same idea found in "Even Legends May Die", by Maroto in Heritage 1b. "Bugz" had a flavor similar to that which I've found in tales by Kenneth Smith. "Sin Eater" also had it's share of familiar elements. I didn't feel this "familiarity" detracted at all... an LoC is just a good place to mention these things, right? I found all three strips delightful. Special kudos to you Frank, for the stunning color-postcard painting. Be-u-ti-ful. I thank you for the inspirational VENTURE #3.

Jim Rehak  
Baltimore, Md.

Frank,  
VENTURE #3 is an outstanding fan production. The entire magazine was tops in both art and writing. "Bugz" and "Sin-Eater" were great, and "Grimmley's Tales" were downright funny - but without a doubt -

"Flashback" was the best. I was awed by the art, and frankly stunned by the originality of the story. The Adams illo's were welcome too.

It is my firm belief that VENTURE #3 is of higher quality than a great deal of the prozines on the market today. Congratulations and keep up the good work.

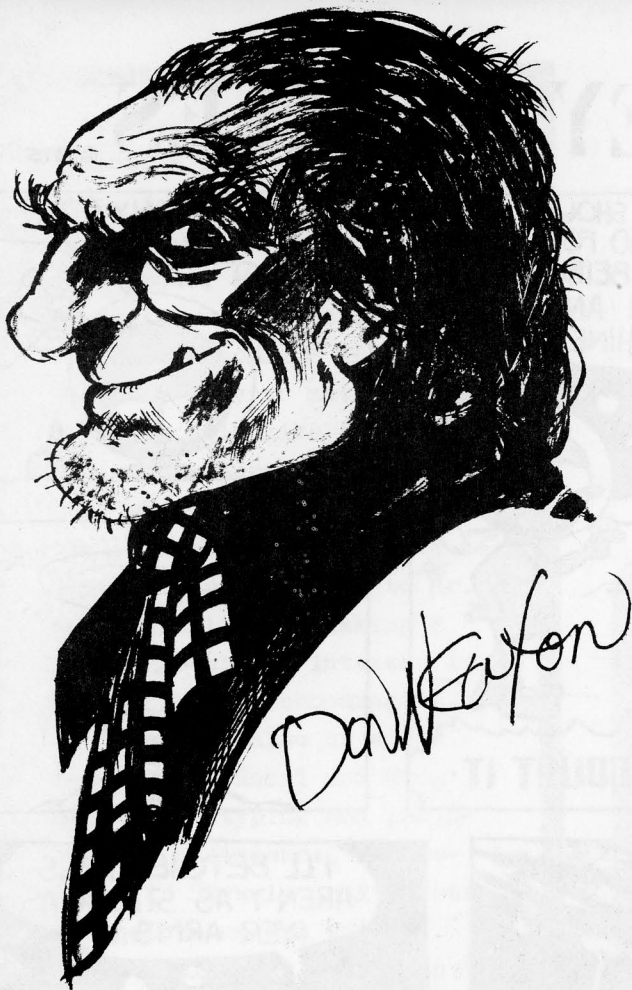
Ernie Stiner  
Leisenring, Pa.

Dear Frank, Gary, Brent, et al,

I found VENTURE #3 to be an excellent fanzine. As I did not get either #1 or #2, I can't say whether #3 was better or worse, but I can guarantee that I'll be eagerly awaiting #4.

The Adams drawings were of course, superb. His work already is indicative of the new movement toward superior graphic art. Adams position as one of the leaders certainly is assured. But I was most impressed with your work, Frank. "Flashback" was great. I especially liked your final page in that story: the fade out sequence and the Flash Gordon thing were truly inspired. "Bugz" seemed a little loose at first, but that final page told it all. I also enjoyed your single pages, Gary, but I found your cover a little cluttered. Its probably just personal taste, but I prefer covers of fanzines which emphasize simplicity. As for Grimmley's Tales, I found them very





amusing. It reminded me of Nicoli Cuti's Moon-child in "Weird Fantasies" #1. How about a long story next time? It could be fun.

Bob DeGross  
Baywood Park, Cal.

Frank,

I am overjoyed that I ordered VENTURE #3 soon enough to receive your superb color print. VENTURE #2 was excellent, but #3 was even better. It didn't show any signs of a rush job. The spot illo's by Adams and Pinkoski really added a nice touch to your own flawless work. Anderson and Gary Winnick did a usually great job on their stories and spots. The cover by Winnick was one of his best full pagers. "Flashback" was very well written and drawn. (The varied backgrounds you use in all your stories and originals are mind-blowing.) The Frank Morant story, "Bugz", was well drawn, but not quite as interesting as Gary Winnick's last issue. The San Diego Con feature was excellent - I wish I had been there. The second story by Frank Morant, "Sin-Eater"

was infinitely better than the first. It also included some of your best artwork - the girl was great. All in all, it was a very good, ironical story. Brent Anderson's strips about Grimmley were heads and feet over the ones last issue, and THEY were excellent.

Last but not least, the sketches by Adams and Kaluta were just what you needed to round off the issue. Neal Adams seems to do as well on sketches as he does on finished art. Every time I write you, I run out of expletives to describe the art in VENTURE. Please keep up the good work and keep me abreast of your plans.

David Harshman  
Clemson, S.C.

Dear Frank,

I thought your magazine was very nice...attractive layout and nice artwork. My only criticism, and it is a small one, would be the heavy use of zip-a-tone that tends in several places to muddy up...perhaps this is the fault of the printer?

I really enjoyed the San Diego Con and I'm looking forward to coming back next year. As a matter of fact, I fell in love with San Diego itself. Would move there if I was sure of a job. I guess I could go full time into comics and then could live wherever I wished...maybe one of these days?? Will look forward to your next issue.

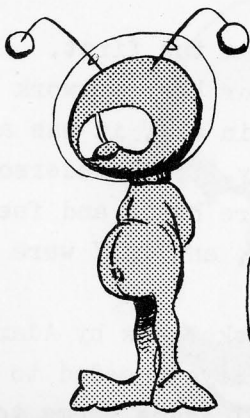
Best,  
Don Newton



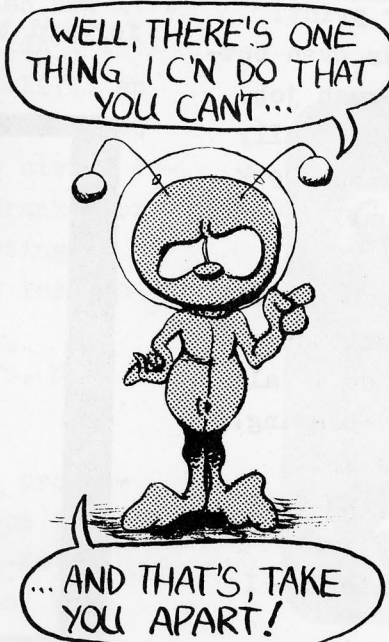
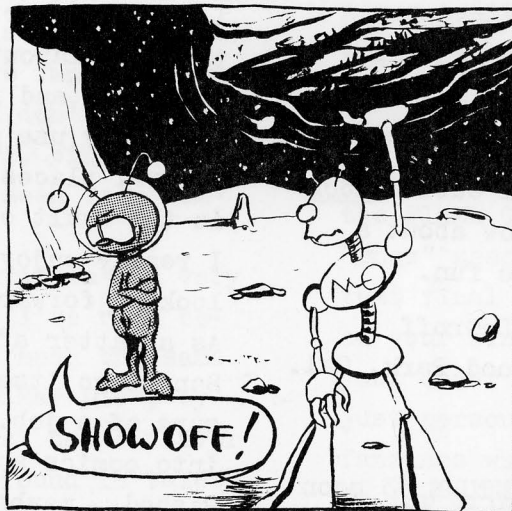
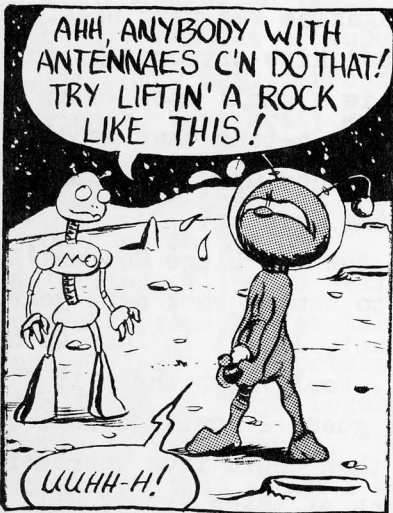
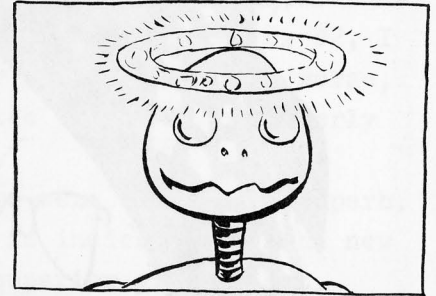
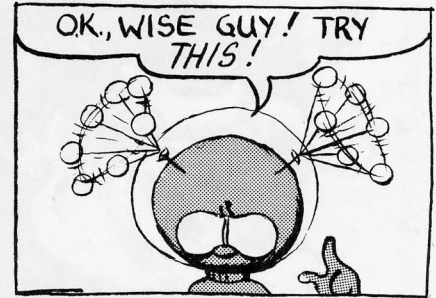
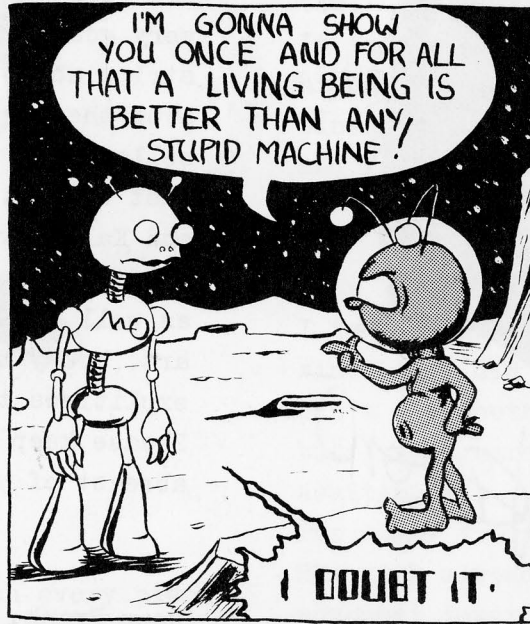


# GRIMMILEY'S TALES

© 1975



Brent  
ANDERSON



We couldn't let you get away without a few parting thoughts. This is our "odds n ends" corner. Now that you've finished this issue, what do you think? Comments, suggestions and criticisms welcomed. As a matter of fact, they're anticipated.

Next, we'd like to thank a few of the supporting characters who helped in this endeavor. First off, we'd like to express our gratitude to Mr. Kenneth Smith for taking a most appreciated interest in VENTURE. Very encouraging.

Thanx are also in store for Mr. Ron Rossi and Greg Mainis for typing and photographic assistance, respectively. Skywald artist Gene Day helped us out with a page of his work. You can catch more in his own HOUSE OF SHADOWS publications.

Carl Potts, Larry Vincent and Tony Salmons are some talent you ought to keep an eye out for in the future.

Needless to say, there's alot of people involved in any publication and its impossible to thank them all individually. So we hope we've covered at least a good portion of them somewhere in this issue.

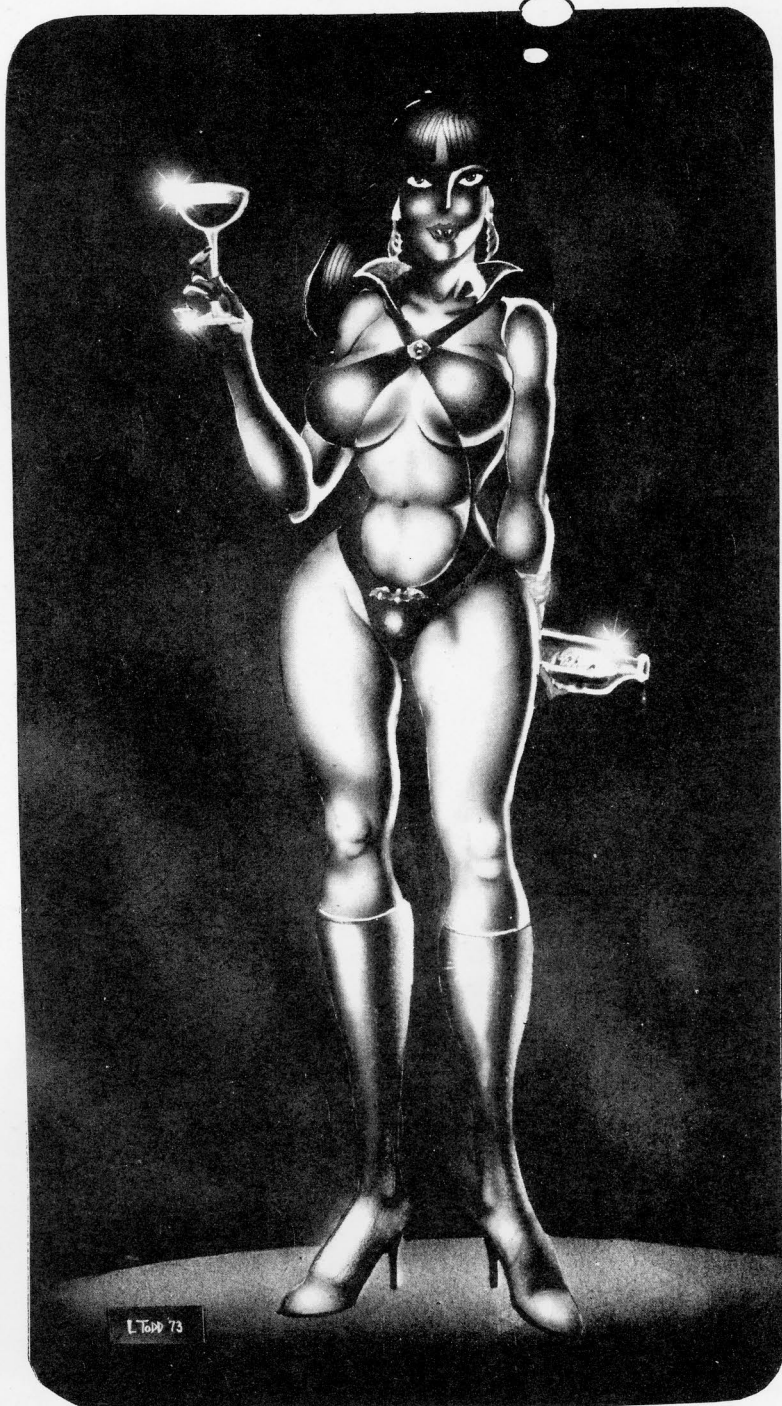
If anyone out there is interested, back issues of VENTURE are still available. Issues #1 & 2 are \$1.00 each, #3 is \$1.25 postpaid. That's it for this issue...

Best,

Frank A. Ciraco

Gary Winnick

# PARTING THOUGHTS





-GARY WINNICK-75