



— THE FIRE PLANET —





Kenneth Smith's

# FANTASMA

Box 2952, Westville Sta., New Haven, Ct. 06515

Super-quality stock  
& reproduction ~ 2-  
toned wraparound  
cover ~ 40 pages  
of fantastic art &  
witty story, all by  
pro artist Kenneth  
Smith. First 100  
copies autographed!

Special offer  
good until  
August 15:  
prepublication  
subscriptions  
to issue 1 or  
2, only \$2!\*

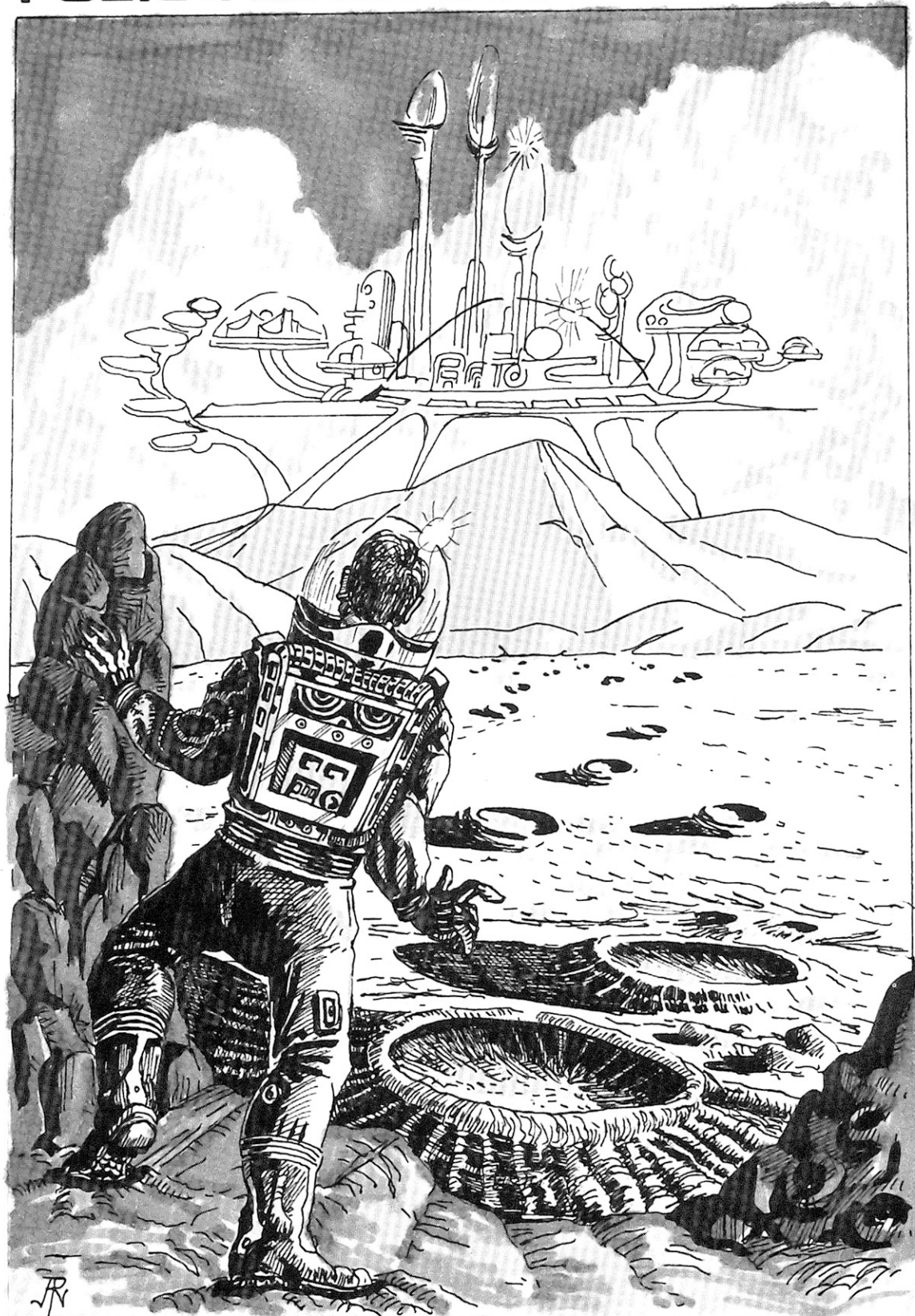
You see, m'  
lad, no one  
has ever  
seen any-  
thing like it!

CHEEP!

COLLECTOR  
ITEM -  
ISSUE 1!

\*AFTER August 15, \$3.  
Add 50¢ for 1st class postage

# FOLIO:HERB ARNOLD



A SPECIAL BONUS GOING ONLY TO READERS AND DEALERS WHO ORDERED ANOMALY 3 IN ADVANCE OF ITS PUBLICATION



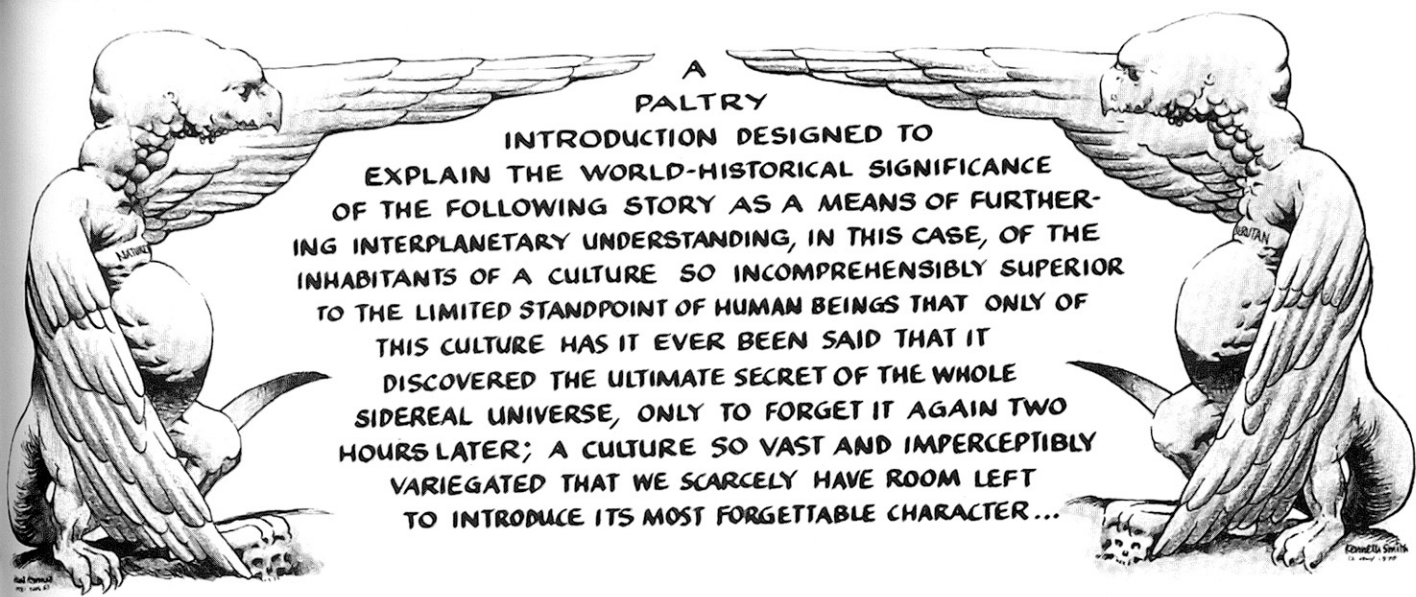
QUNA  
CTHUL  
IA  
VENIUM  
SABBOT  
IUGGITH











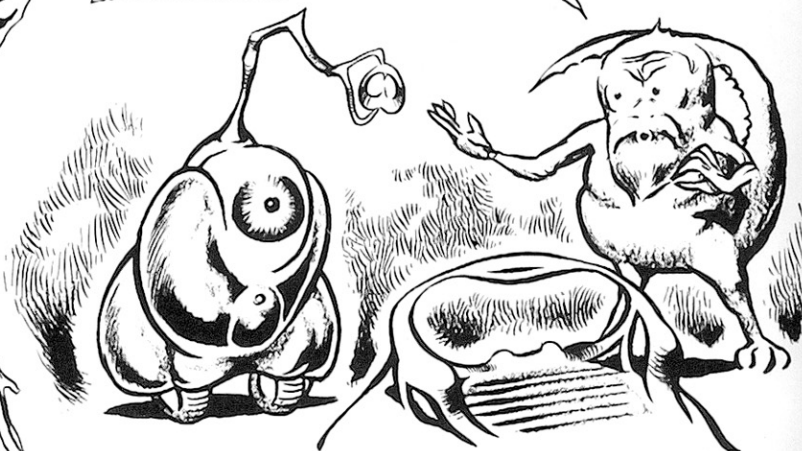
© 1971 KENNETH SMITH  
ALL RIGHTS RESERVED, ALL.





—YOU HAVE THE MENTALITY  
OF THAT FABLED CREATURE  
OF THE MERCIFULLY DIM PAST,  
A REPUBLICAN VICE-PRESIDENT!

NOW BOB, I WANT YOU TO LISTEN CLOSELY. I'VE  
ALWAYS HAD A SPECIAL CONCERN FOR YOU, SO I'D  
LIKE TO SEE WHAT I CAN DO. AS IT SO HAPPENS —  
< THANK YOU, QUORK > I'VE BEEN WORKING ON A...



DEVICE! GO ON  
UP, BOB. IT  
WILL...

ATTACK AT THE SEAT EVERY ONE  
OF YOUR PROBLEMS — RECIDIVISTIC  
REPUBLICANISM, MISBEGOTTEN  
SELF-CONFIDENCE ...

HERE GOES!



KRS 13 MARCH 1970



6 11 JULY 70



TRULY A PHENOMENAL PHENOMENON!  
BY SOME OBSCURE REACTION WITH SOME  
UNPREDICTED FACTOR, BOB SEEMS TO HAVE  
UNDERGONE SOME UNNATURAL, NOT TO SAY  
MEDICALLY UNFEASIBLE, REPLICATION! HAVE  
HIS ID, EGO, AND SUPEREGO SEPARATED  
OUT UPON FINDING HIS INNER ENVIRON-  
MENT DREADFULLY POLLUTED?



THIS IS ALL QUITE DEEP — HOW CAN  
I UNDERSTAND ALL THIS WITHOUT THE  
AID OF MY COMBINATION ST. BERNARD  
AND COMPUTER? — UNIVAT 13!



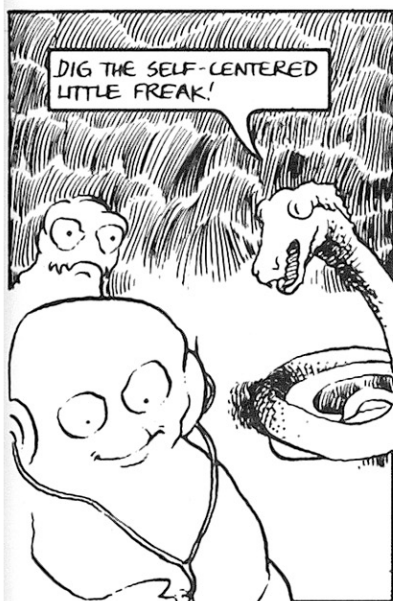
AH, THE VERY QUINTESSENCE OF  
SCIENTIFIC METAPHYSICO-THEOLOGICO-  
COSMONIGGLOGY, SHAKEN, NOT STIRRED.  
THANK YOU, UNIVAT 13 — NOW I CAN  
FACE UP TO THE UNSEEMLY CONSE-...  
WHAT! THE PHENOMENA HAVE  
REACHED A TERMINAL STATE OF INVISIBILITY!



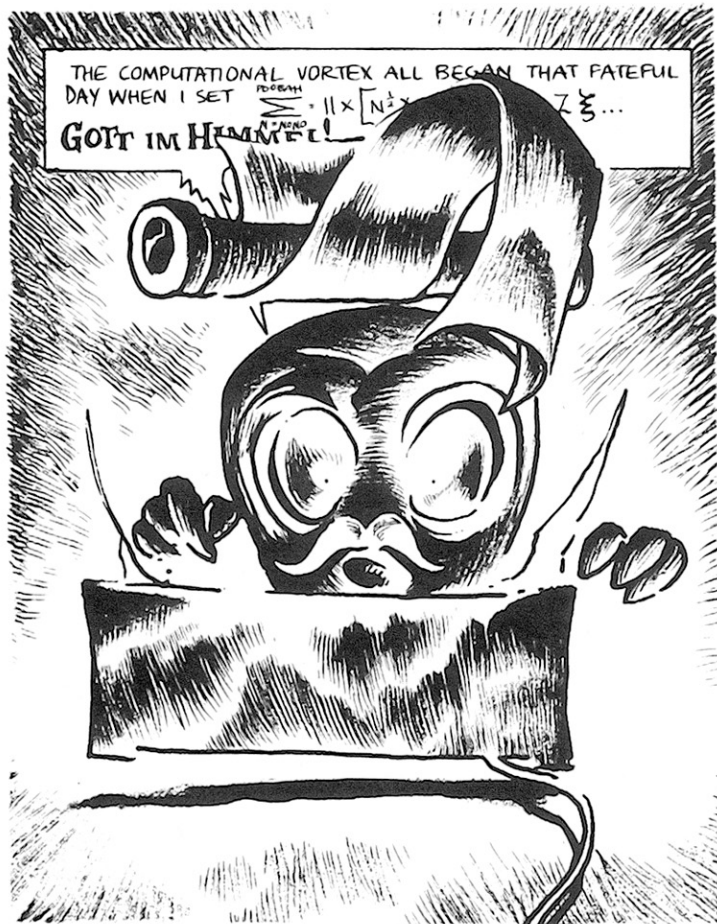
NOT YET, DOC, BUT ALMOST...



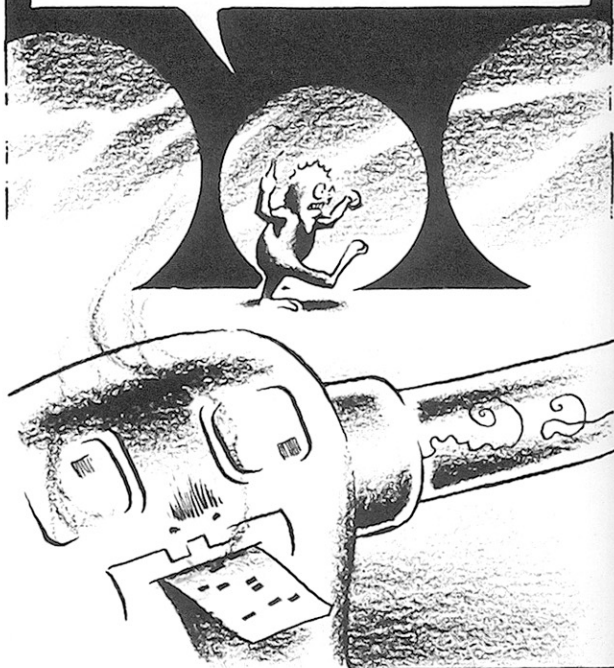








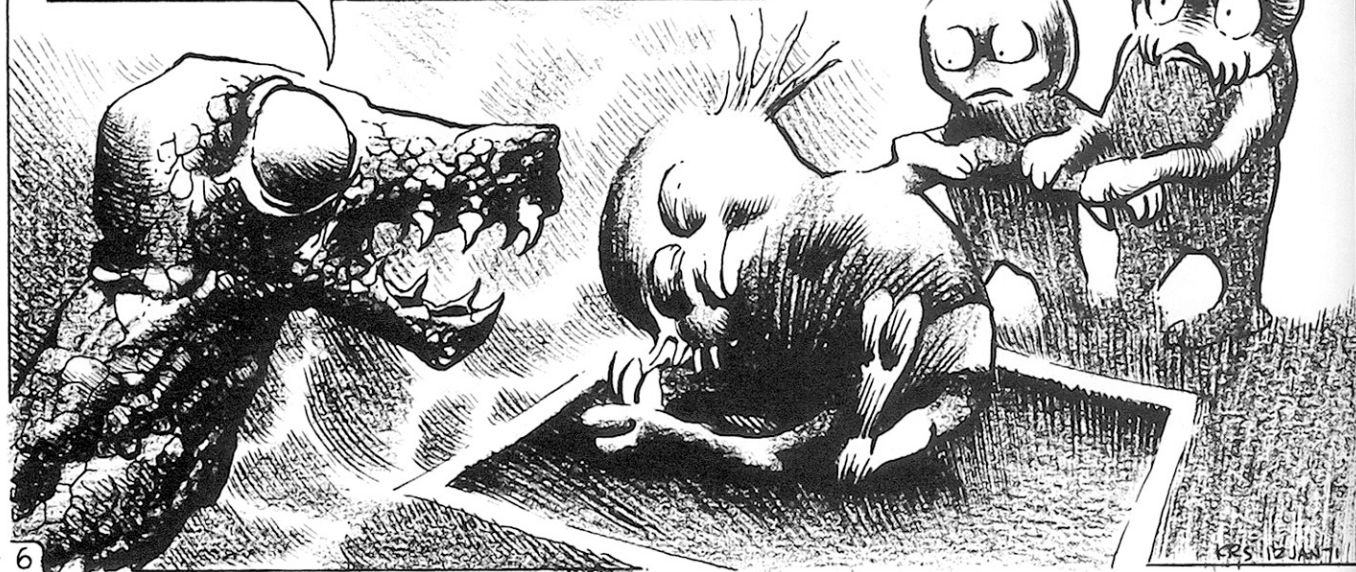
ALL OVER THE LAB ONE CAN SMELL TREMENDOUS SHORTS, STINKY SHORTS! ONE THINKS IMMEDIATELY — ONE'S NOSE BEING ONE'S GUIDE — OF BOG! THAT BOG! ONE NEVER KNEW HIM TO ACQUIRE A DECENT HABIT — OF ALL HIS COUNTRYMEN, HE WAS FAMED FOR WEARING HIS SHORTS LONGEST — THAT IS, ALTHOUGH HE WAS NEVER SHORT ON SHORTS, STILL HE... OH, WHEN ONE GETS ONE'S HANDS ON HIM!



...MEANWHILE, AND A VERY MEAN WHILE IT IS INDEED...

I STILL REMEMBER A FEW OF THE EXORCISM SPELLS THAT MY GREAT-10 LOTTIE SAID DID-IN HER UNCLE CARBUNCLE — SHE SAID IT WAS THE ONLY EXORCIZING HE EVER HAD, IN FACT. MAYBE IF WE REVERSE ONE OF THEM, WE COULD RE-ACTIVATE BOG TO A SORT OF MOBILE STUPOR LIKE BEFORE, OR ELSE POSSIBLY EXPAND HIS CORPOREAL CORPULENCE TO A SIZE WHERE WE COULD ALL FIT OURSELVES IN COMFORTABLY AGAIN. FIRST WE NEED SOME WOMBAT HORMONES AND NYMPH LYMPH AND A LITTLE BIT OF GRIT...

EGO HERE CAN LOOK FOR ALL THOSE THINGS — I'VE REPRESSED THEM ALREADY.



GRADFLUEGOZNAB, YOU PEOPLE ARE SO HELPLESS! YOU OUGHT TO ACCOUNT YOURSELVES LUCKY TO HAVE SOMEONE BRAVE AND RESPONSIBLE AROUND. LORD ONLY....

LATER...

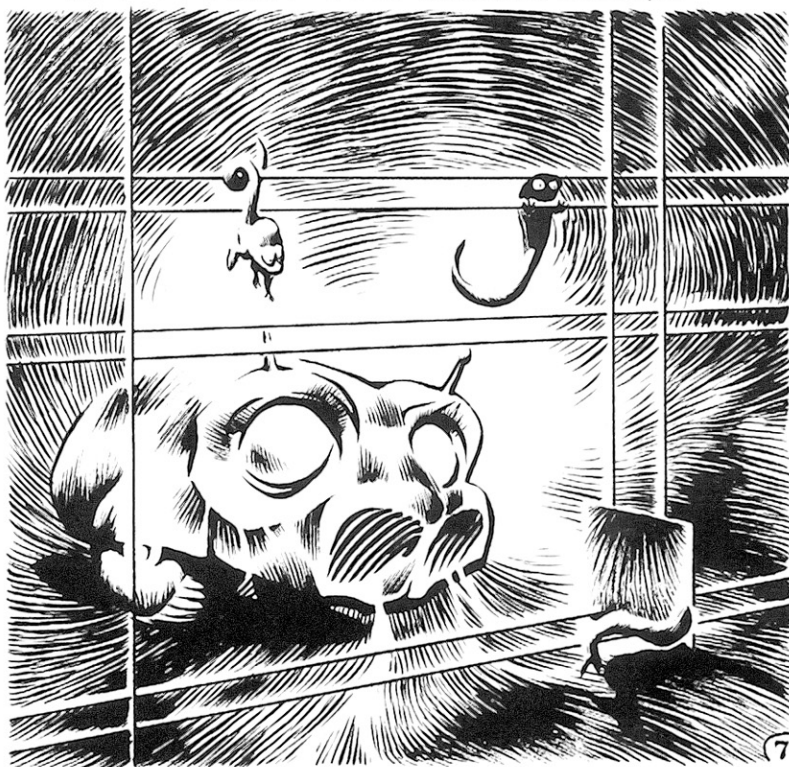
HEH, GOT 'EM ALL, EVERYTHING YOU WANTED. IT TOOK A LITTLE WHILE, OF COURSE.

MIGHTY MUSSUP NYMPH LYMPH YOU GOT THERE. NO WONDER IT TOOK SO LONG.

AS THE SINISTER PREPARATIONS PROCEED APACE, THERE IS MEANWHILE A GREAT HUSTLE ABOUT DR. MELNIK'S INCAPACITATED LABORATORY. MECHANICAL SERVO-UNITS SCURRY AND FLUTTER, CLEANING UP BURNED-OUT INSULATION AS WELL AS THE DEBRIS FROM BOG'S UNFORTUNATE TRANSMOGRIFICATION.

ANOTHER PHALANX OF UNFLANGED PHYLAETERIES OUGHT TO HOLD THIS TRANSFORMER FOR A WHILE, B-14. AFTER YOU'VE GOT THEM, YOU CAN RESUME AERIAL AESOPRICS AROUND THE LAB. AND MAYBE FIX A BEER.

WHUP! BAAAAD NEWS AHEAD, AS A MOBILE ZEFFINITE-KORTHRITIC NASAL UNIT UNKNOWINGLY APPROACHES THE CAUSE OF THE SHORT - BOG'S MOULDERING ANCHOVY....





IN A PAROXYSM OF PURPLE, THE  
NASAL UNIT INHALES THE ANCHOVY!



DONNERWETTER!  
GIVES IT NO SUCH  
GOING-ON!



FLASHING THROUGH THE AREA, THE UNIT  
EXECUTES AN IMMELMANN, INTO...



WOZIT?

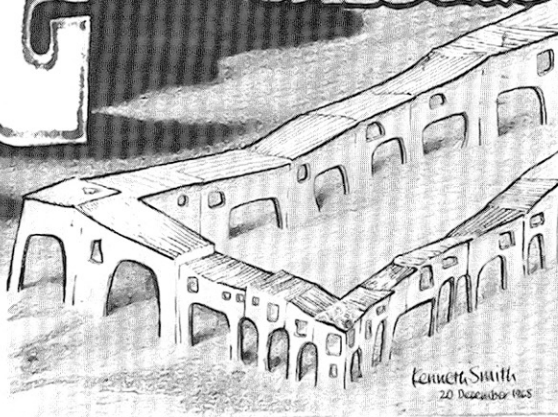
IT'S HEADING STRAIGHT  
FOR THE POT OF  
ANTEDILUVIAN  
ANDALUSIAN  
ANTHRACITE!



# BOG

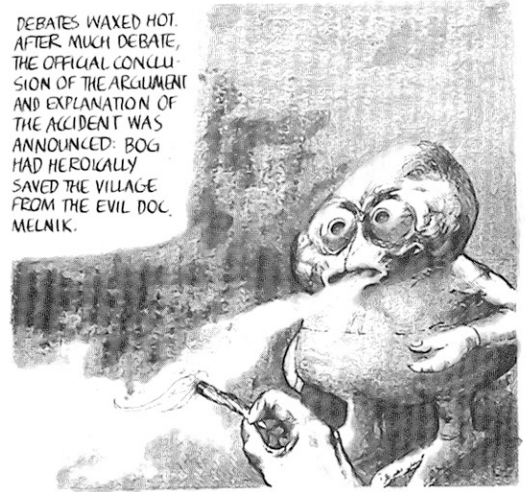
## : EPILOGUE

THE QUIET VILLAGE NEVER KNEW WHAT HAD HAPPENED TO THE AREA BY DR. MELNIK'S LABORATORY. IF THERE WERE SURVIVORS, THEY WERE ALL BLOWN SEVERAL COUNTIES AWAY. RUMORS TOOK THE PLACE OF MOURNING.

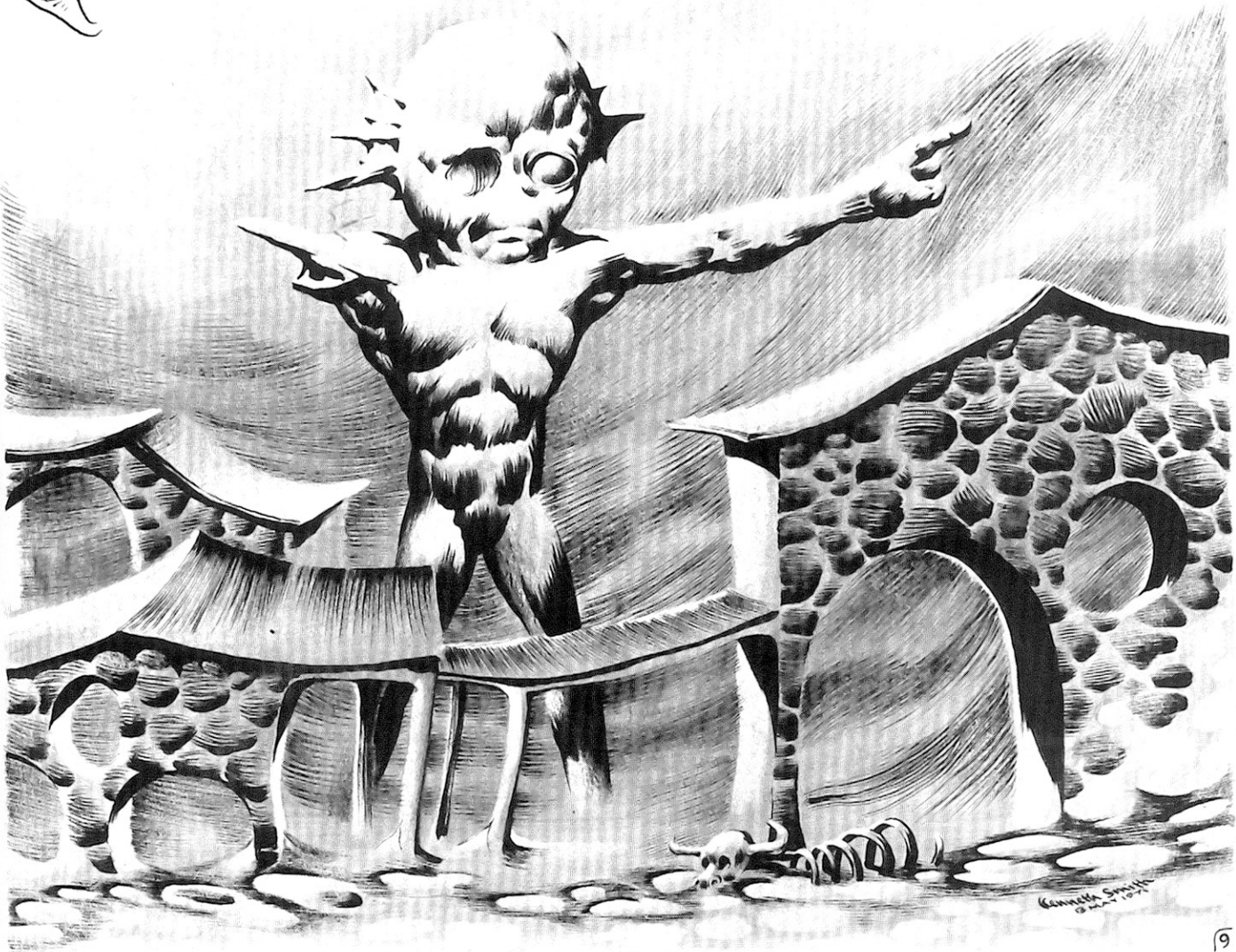


Kenneth Smith  
20 December 1965

DEBATES WAXED HOT. AFTER MUCH DEBATE, THE OFFICIAL CONCLUSION OF THE ARGUMENT AND EXPLANATION OF THE ACCIDENT WAS ANNOUNCED: BOG HAD HEROICALLY SAVED THE VILLAGE FROM THE EVIL DOC. MELNIK.

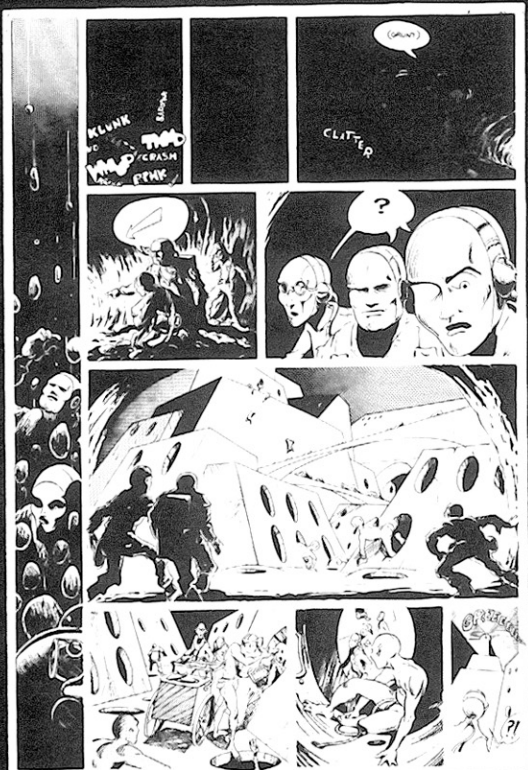


FOR THE VILLAGERS HAD NEVER MUCH TRUSTED (OR UNDERSTOOD) OLD MELNIK. A PROCLAMATION WAS QUICKLY ISSUED: SIMULTANEOUSLY WITH THE ERECTION OF A COLOSSAL STATUE IN TRIBUTE TO THE HAPLESS BOG, THE EXILE OR EXECUTION OF ALL PROFESSORS WAS DEMANDED, ALONG WITH ANY CITIZENS ARTICULATE ENOUGH TO HAVE PARTICIPATED IN THE DEBATE LEADING UP TO THIS PROCLAMATION. LATER, ANYONE OF SUFFICIENT ACUMEN TO UNDERSTAND THE PROCLAMATION WAS BANISHED; FINALLY, ANYONE WITH ENOUGH KNOW-HOW TO REPAIR ANYTHING WAS ALSO EJECTED. WHEN ALL THE POTENTIAL ENEMIES OF THE VILLAGE WERE GONE, THE VILLAGE IMMEDIATELY DETERIORATED AND COLLAPSED, AS DID THE STATUE TOO. WHICH WAS ALL RIGHT, FOR AN EVEN LARGER MONUMENT TO STUPIDITY WAS GROWING.

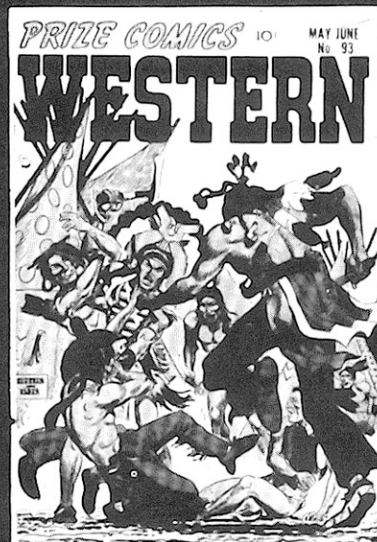
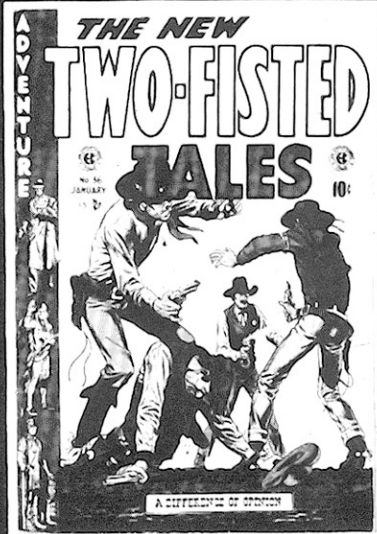
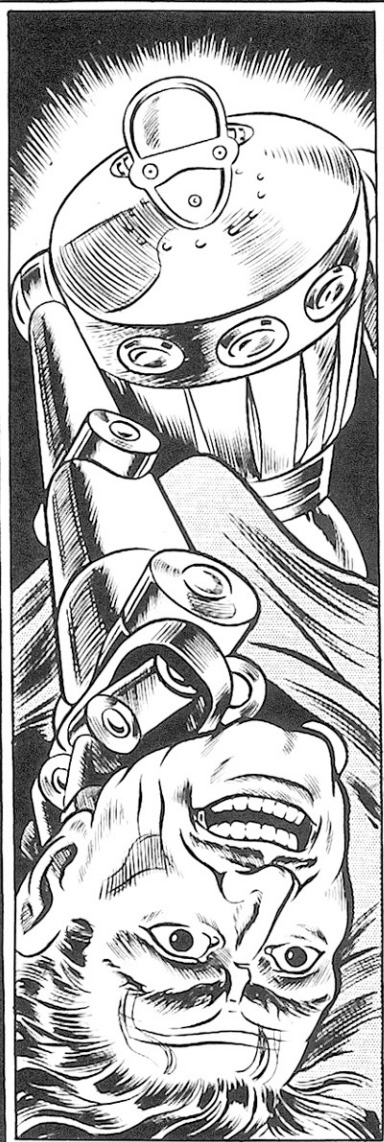


Kenneth Smith  
24 May 1974

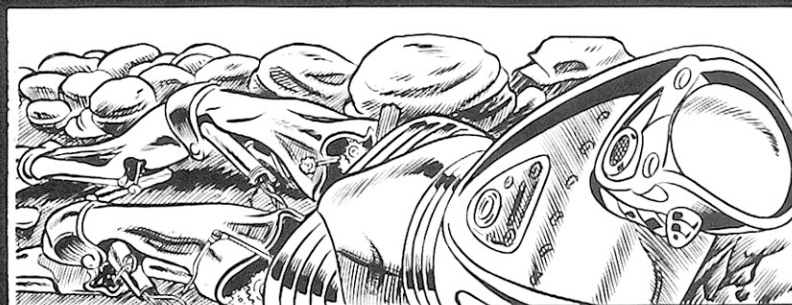


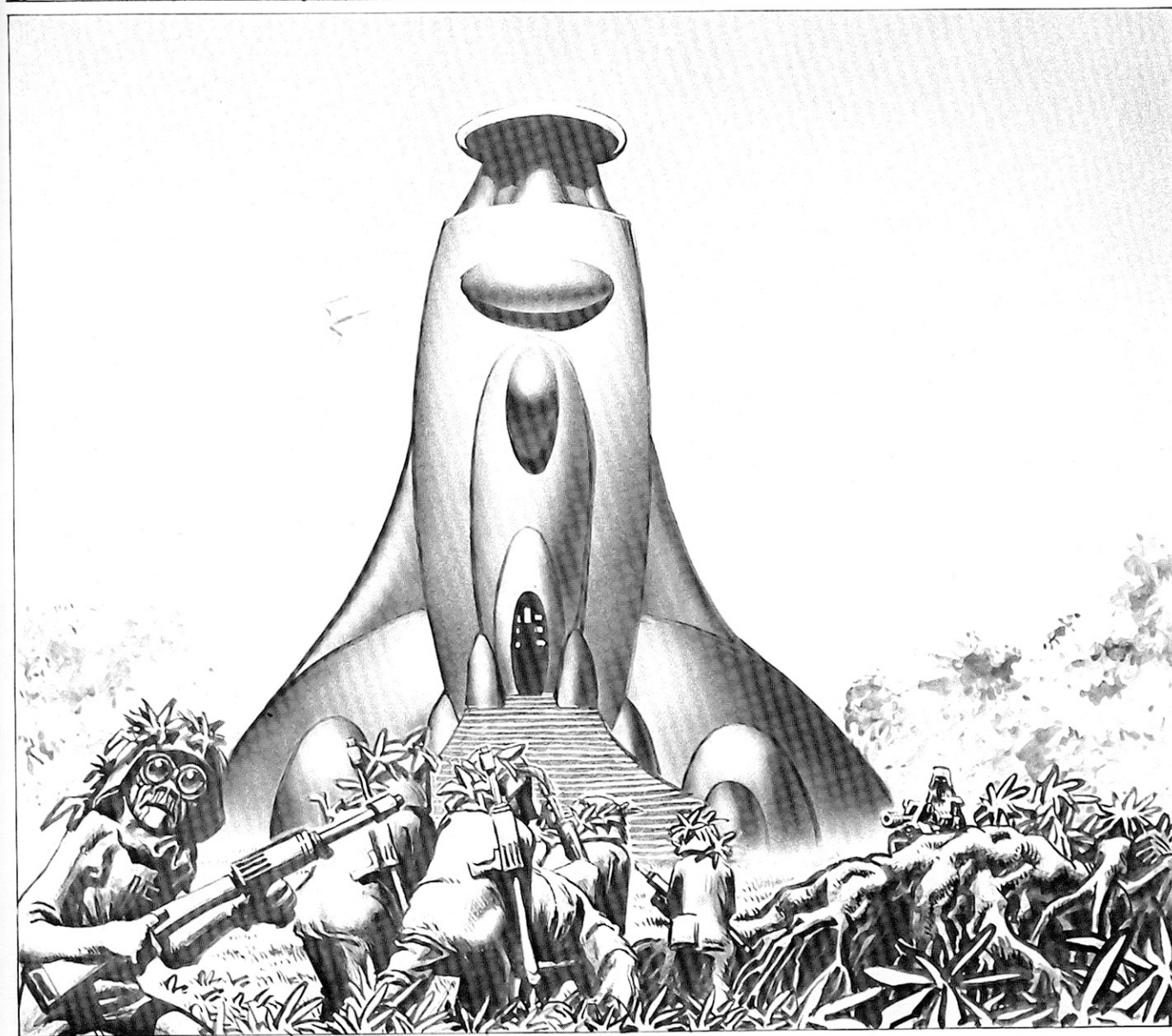
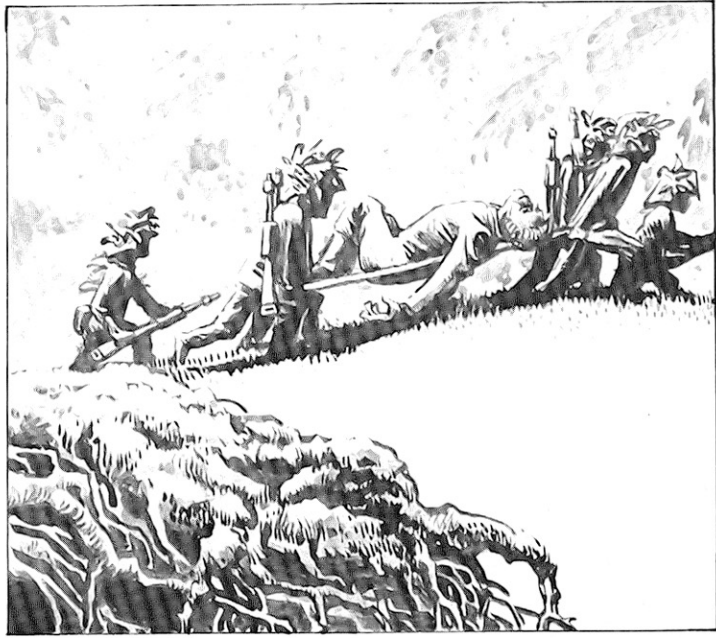


GRAPHIC STORY MAGAZINE No. 13, SPRING, 1971. PUBLISHED AT 4878 GRANADA STREET, LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90042 U.S.A. BILL SPICER, EDITOR AND PUBLISHER; RICHARD KYLE, CONTRIBUTING EDITOR. SUBSCRIPTIONS ARE 4 ISSUES FOR \$4 OR 5 FOR \$5; SINGLE COPIES, \$1.25. SORRY, THERE ARE NO BACK ISSUES AVAILABLE. ENTIRE CONTENTS ARE © 1971 BY WILLIAM W. SPICER.

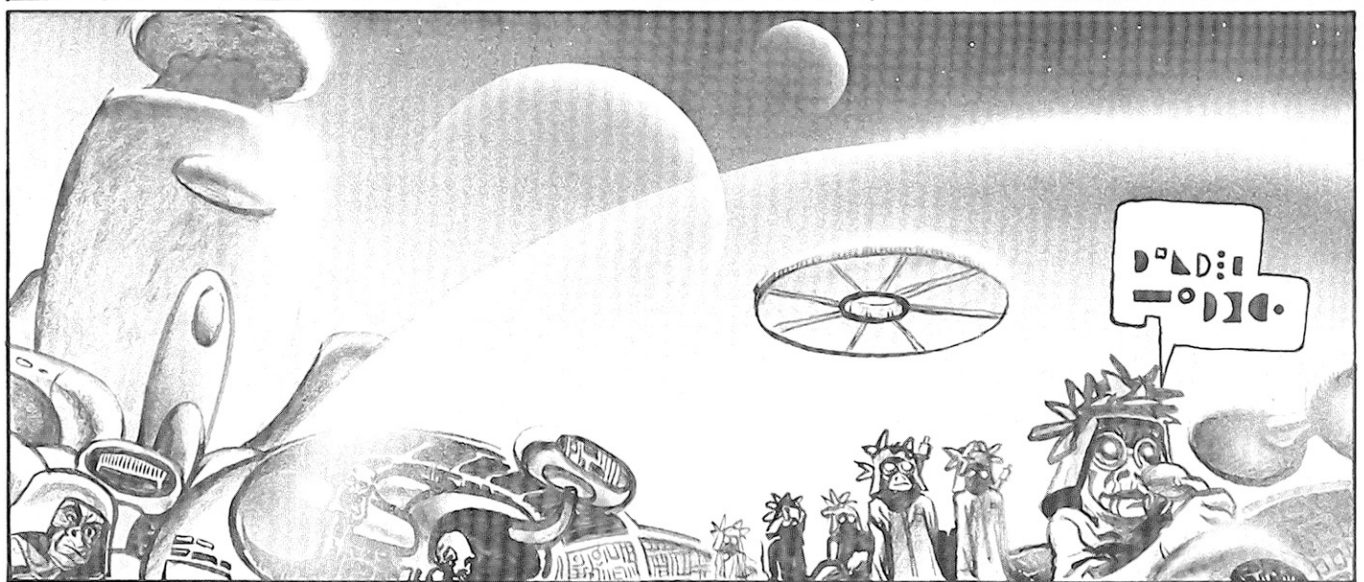
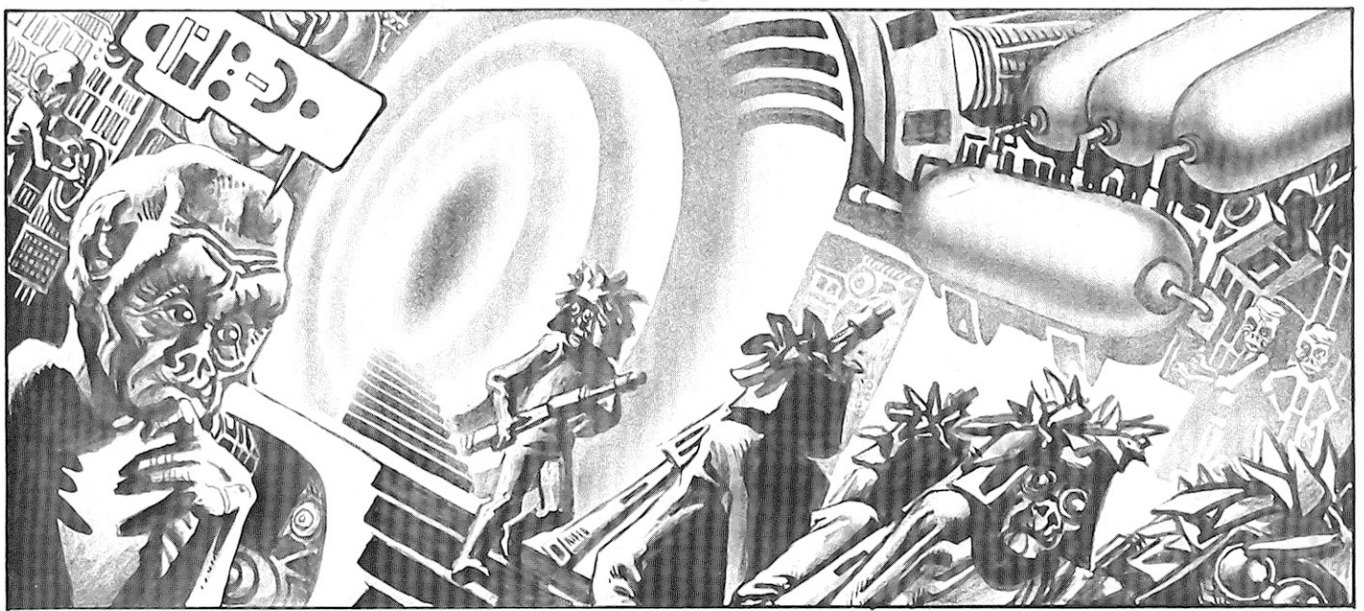


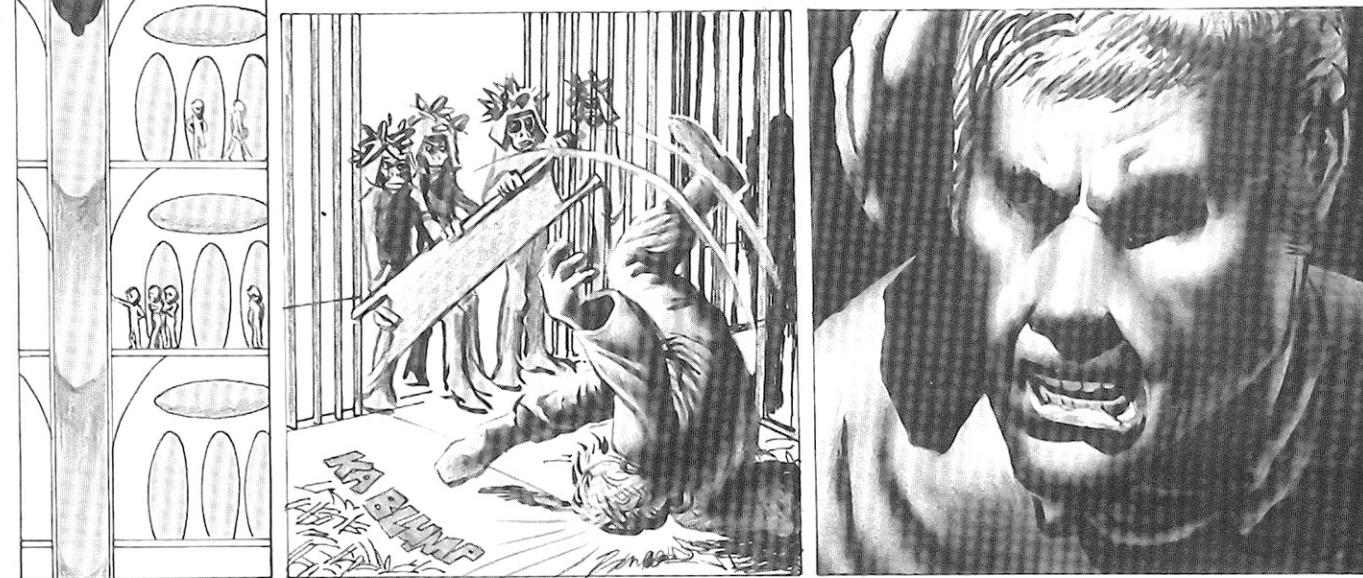
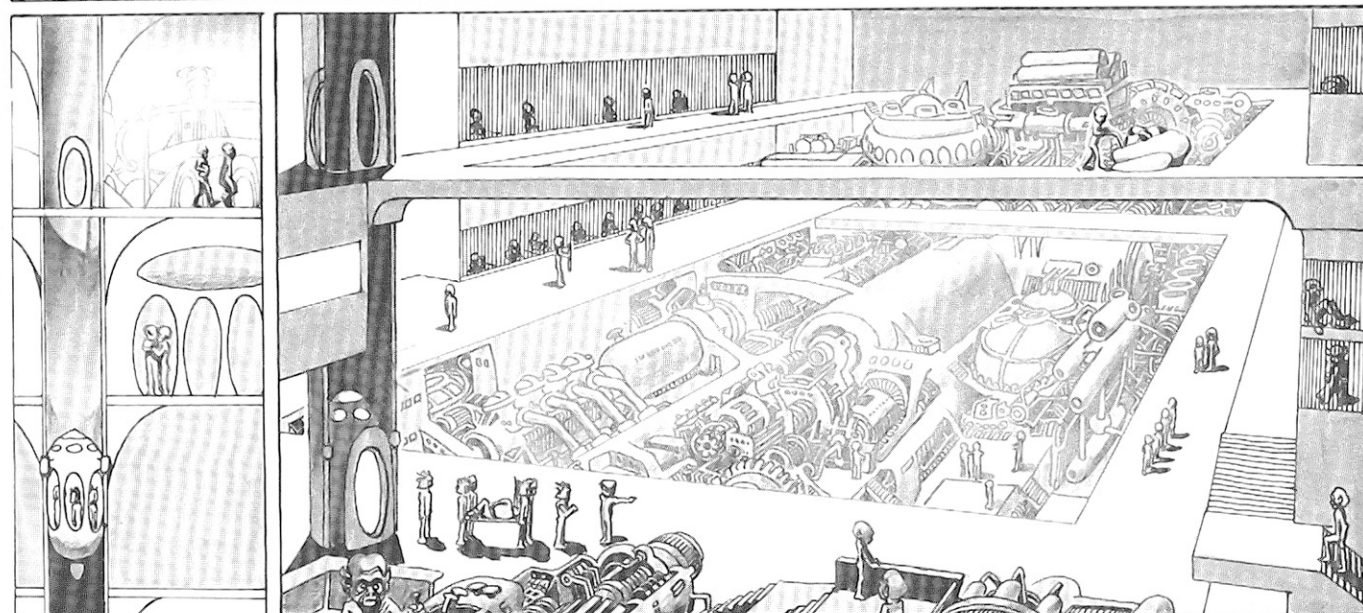
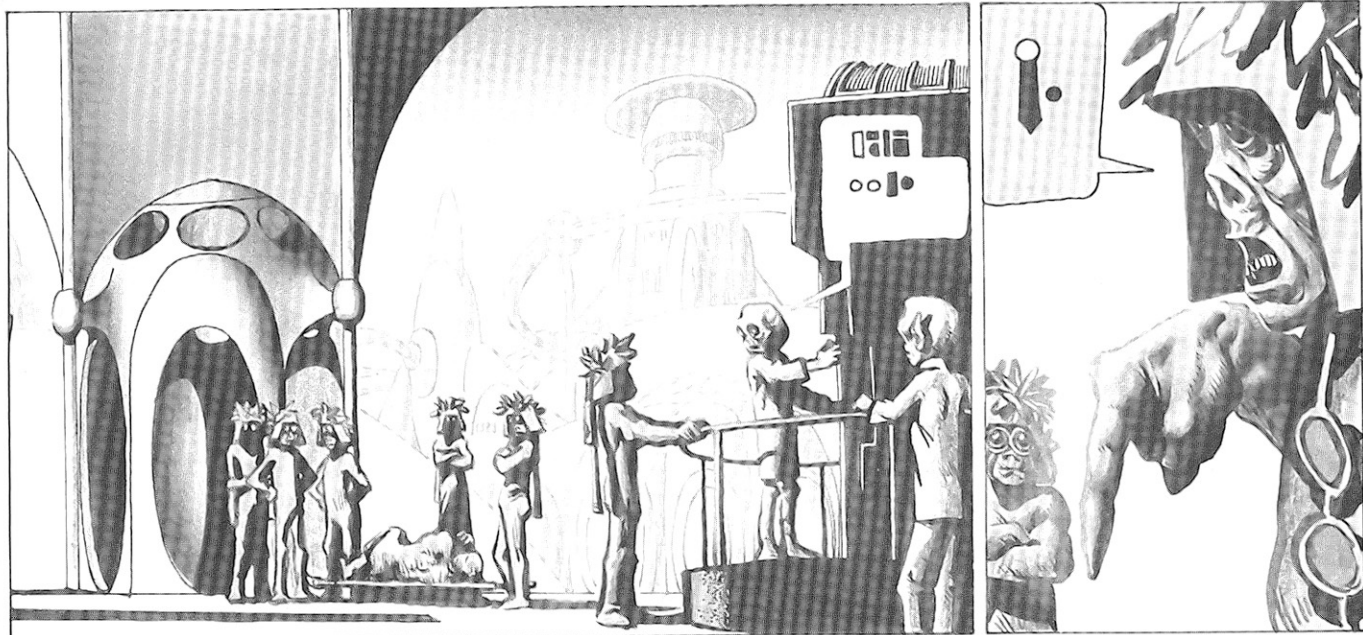
- MAL-IG 2** George Metzger  
**ADAM LINK'S VENGEANCE 16** Eando Binder and D. Bruce Berry  
**WAR MACHINE 42** Bob Foster  
**INTERVIEW WITH JOHN SEVERIN 44** John Benson  
**NAME GAMES BY HAMES 62** Hames Ware  
**GSM CORRESPONDENCE 1 15 41 61 64**  
**COMING ATTRACTIONS** Inside back cover



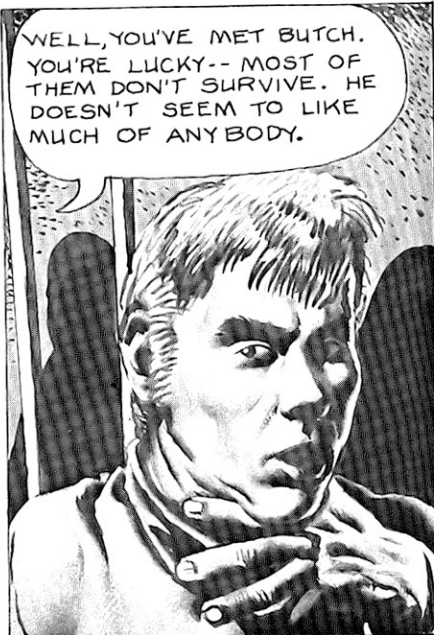






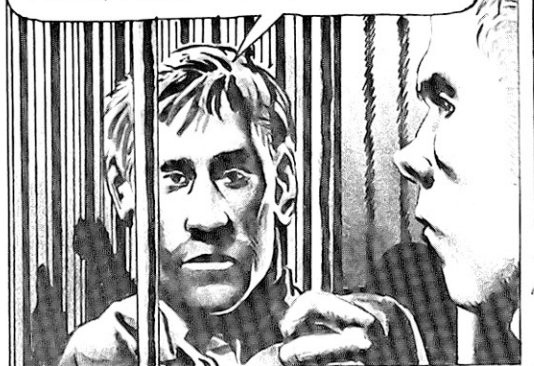






I SEE I'M NOT THE ONLY ONE THEY'VE CAPTURED.

NO, THERE ARE ONE OR TWO MORE OF US. ACTUALLY, I WAS GETTING ON RATHER WELL WITH THEM, LEARNING EACH OTHER'S LANGUAGE AND ALL, UNTIL SOME IDIOT SHOT THEIR AMBASSADOR AND... WELL, HERE WE ARE. AT WAR.

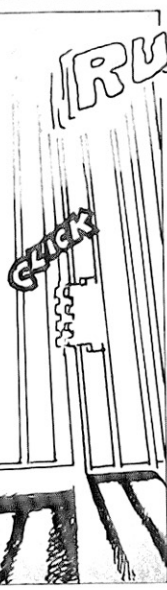
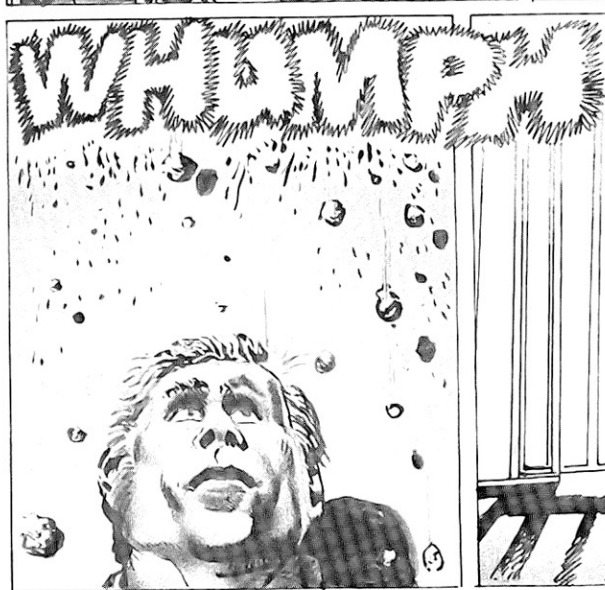


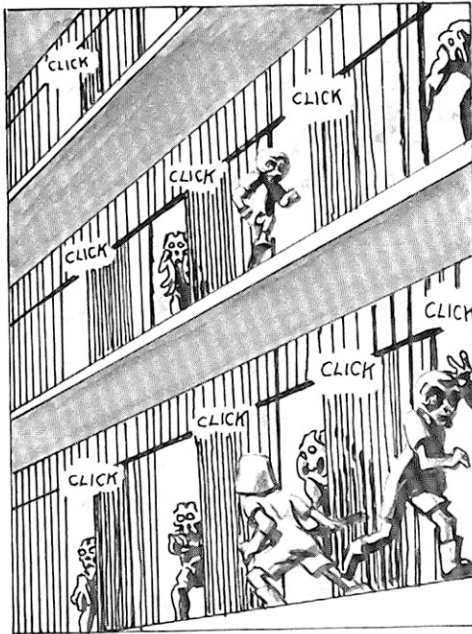
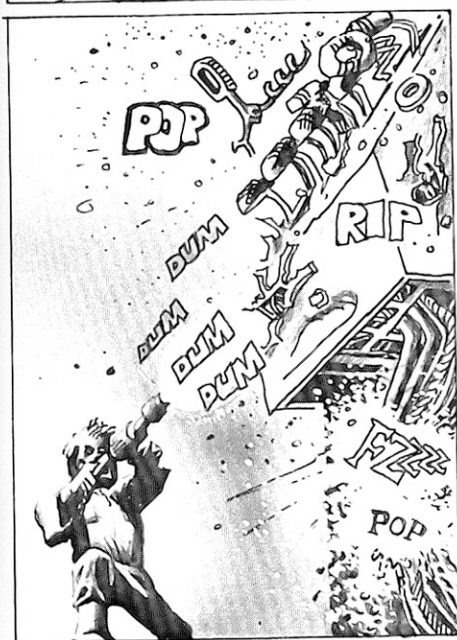
AND WHAT OF HIM, AND THE OTHERS?

SAME THING, MORE OR LESS. THE ONLY REASON THE ALIENS HAVEN'T ATTACKED EARTH OUTRIGHT IS THAT THEY'RE BUSY WITH ANOTHER PLANET. IN FACT...

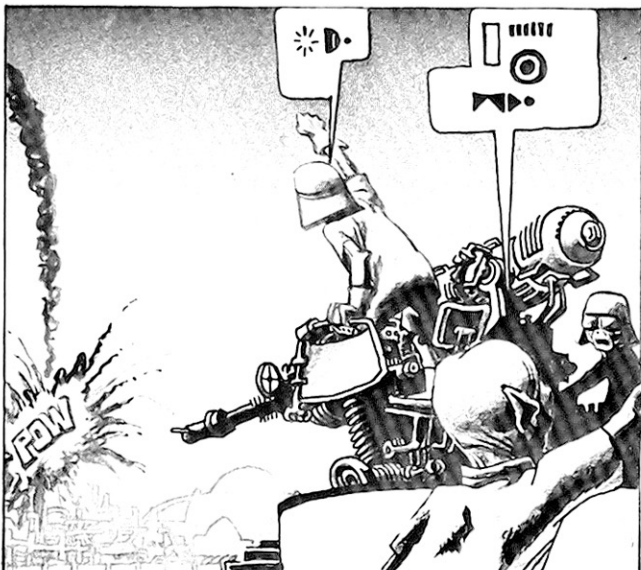
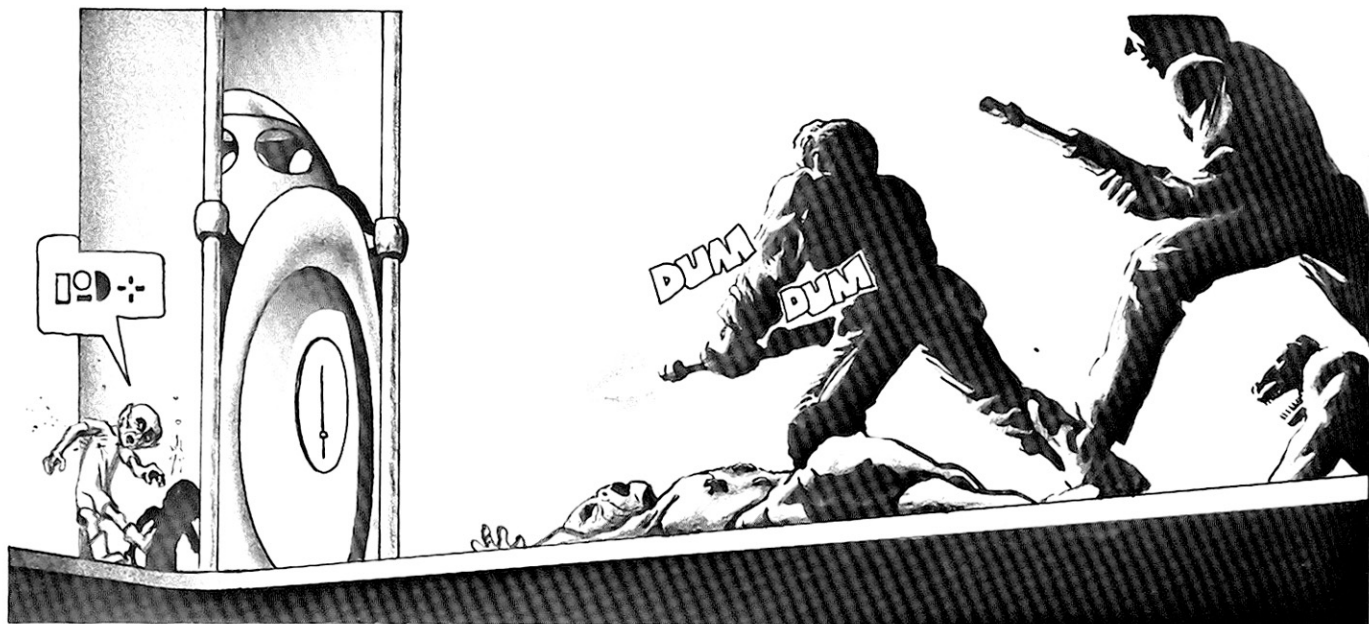


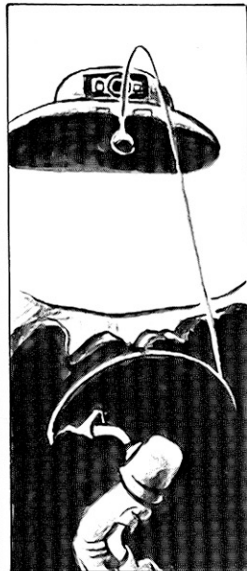
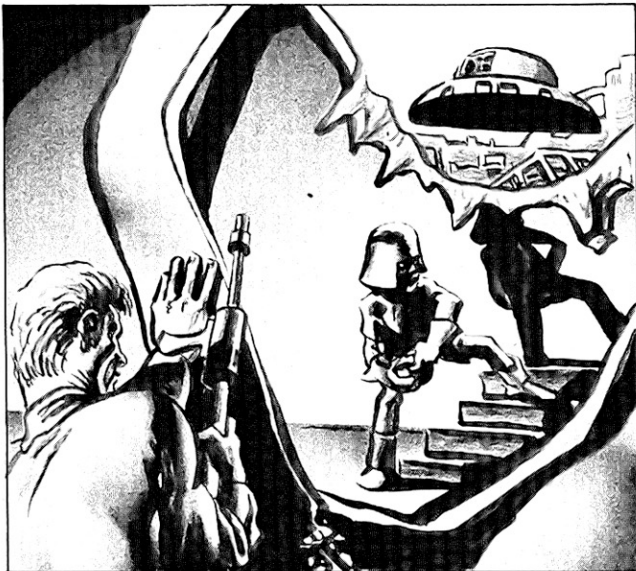
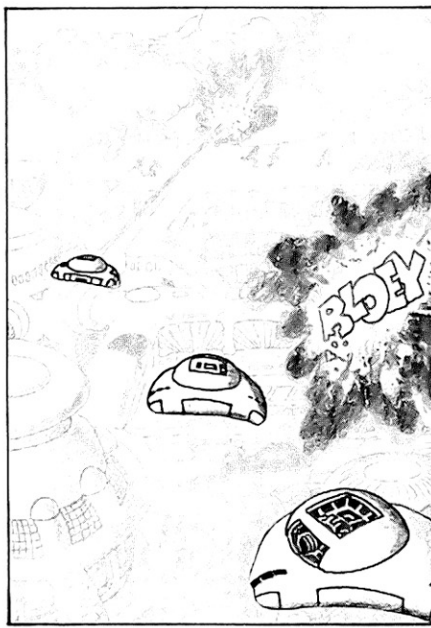
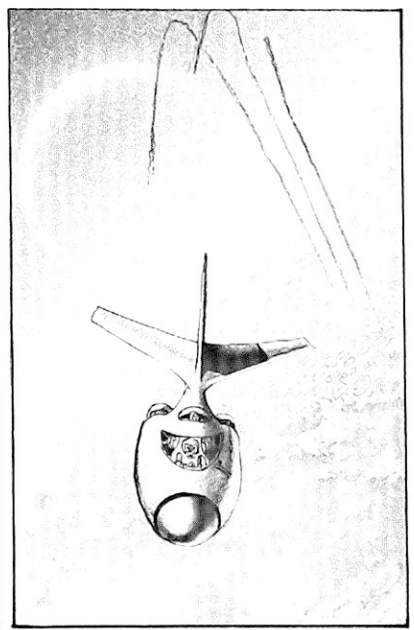
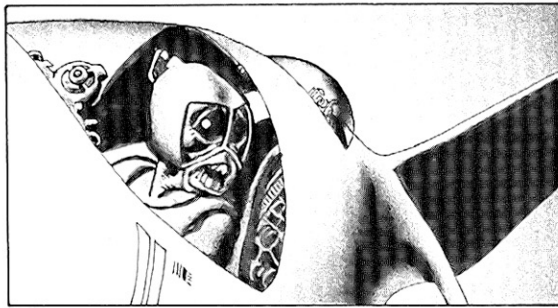
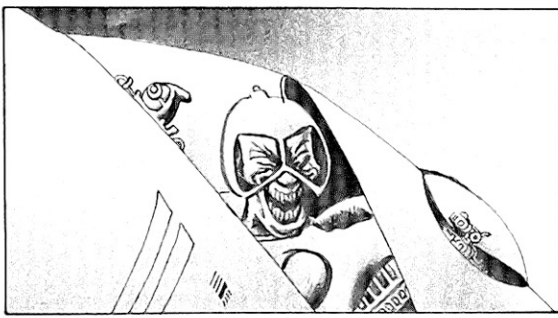
...I HEAR THAT A WHOLE FLEET OF SPACESHIPS IS HEADING TOWARD THIS PLANET RIGHT NOW. GOING TO BE A BIT OF A TUSSELE UPSTAIRS, I'LL BET.



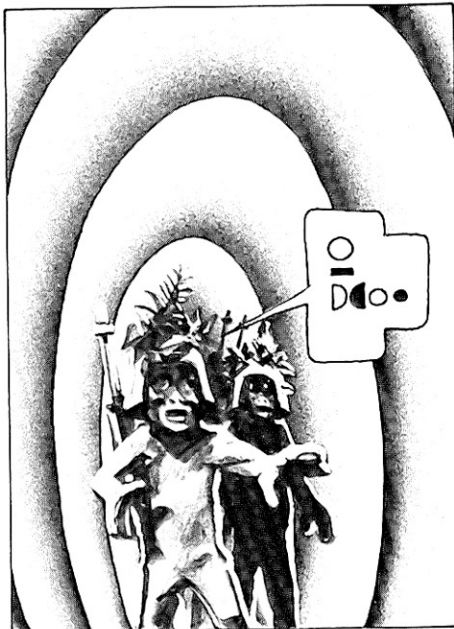


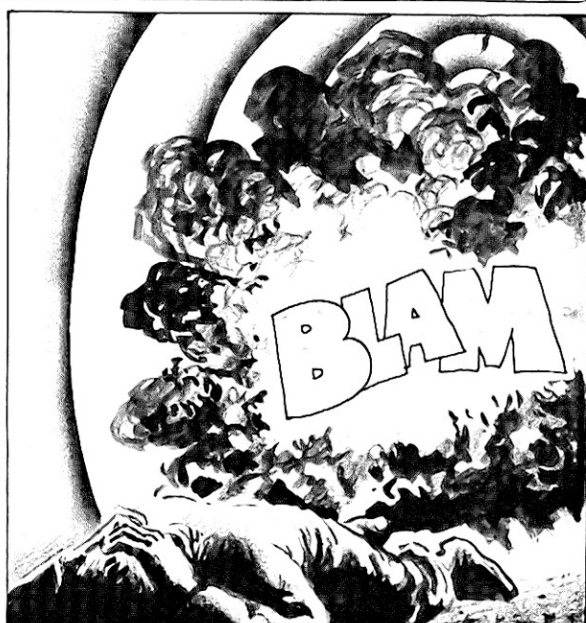
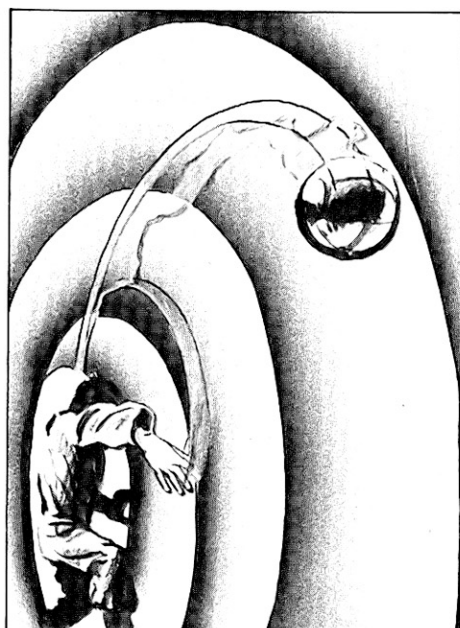




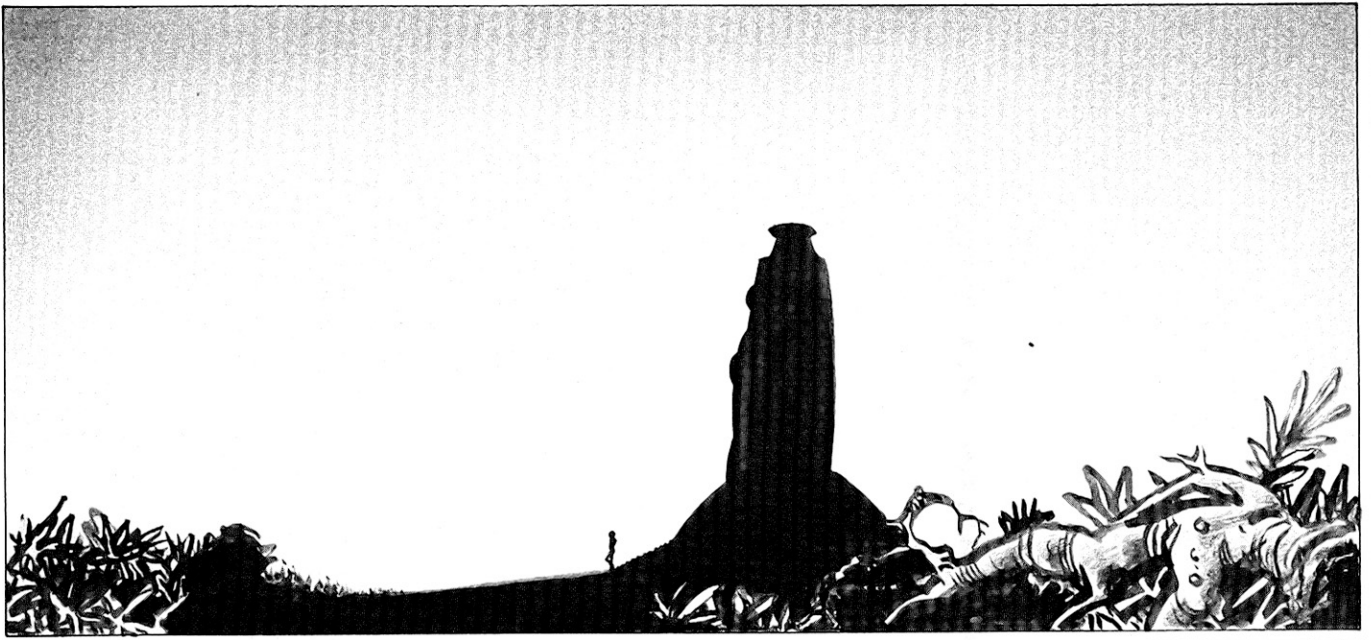












**THE END**



### The Underground and Other Ponderings

Regardless of the opinion readers may have of the underground publishing scene, it must be admitted that the underground publishers are having, and will continue to have, an increasing effect on the comic medium and the traditions surrounding it. The lack of editorial control in the undergrounds is an important step in releasing artists (who are usually their own authors in the underground) to do what they wish, totally. The fact that the underground publishers have been able to find distributors for such "objectionable" material is the second step; in fact, it is probably the most important one. Publishers are not all that difficult to come by, whereas a good distributor is to be valued equally with the Holy Grail. Bad distributing has spelled the end of many worthwhile publications (of late, WEB OF HORROR), while a change in distributor managed to save the life of the betroubled E.C. comic MAD, now an American institution. Persnickety distributors have been smothering the four-color comics for years, and generous distributors are enabling the underground to thrive. The entire publisher/distributor/retailer set-up may further be compared to the limited distribution magazines like ANOMALY in which the publisher *is* the distributor and *is* the retailer — and that's the biggest drag of all.

The profit margin on ANOMALY is very small. Were ANOMALY a normal magazine, intended to go to a distributor who would fan it out in large quantities all over the continent, I would have to plan on selling it for 80¢ a copy. The distributor would most likely sell it for \$1.20 a copy to the retailers, who would then feel it worth their while to sell



Kenneth Smith  
30 NOV 1969



it for \$2. (Their only problem would be the horrendous task of selling a \$2 magazine — is one issue of ANOMALY worth two issues of PLAYBOY?) What profit I would make would be determined by how much under 80¢ a copy it cost me to produce the magazine and by the size of the cut I would be willing to farm out to the various contributors. This issue of ANOMALY cost far too much to produce to even consider going through normal distribution channels with it. The only hope is to sell it myself, directly to the readers, and in limited quantities to the retailers. This is bad as it removes two possibilities: 1) ANOMALY will not reach a large audience, and 2) the artists will receive little, if anything, for their time and effort.

However, suppose ANOMALY were to go underground. Suppose I were to use newsprint instead of glossy paper stock. Suppose I were to print *ten* thousand copies instead of *one* thousand. Suppose I were to sell at discount to a good distributor. Ah, that is another story. The magazine might actually make money.

I'm not saying that ANOMALY is going to become an underground comic. But I'm not ruling the possibility out, either. What I'm saying is this: ANOMALY cannot continue to function in its present format, with its present circulation and form of distribution. What form it *will* take, if it takes any form at all, is anybody's guess.

The underground definitely has its drawbacks. So far, it has primarily been the playground for the artists' frustrations and sexual fantasies, catering to tastes equal to those of regular, establishment porny buyers. Little has really been done to develop the medium, to actually *tell stories worth telling*. George Metzger's MOONDOG is an exception, as are occasional shorter endeavors by others. The humor field is well represented, notably by Gilbert Shelton, but serious and pseudo-serious stories are conspicuously absent. The underground comix are assuming the same stigma as that attached to the establishment comics — they are simply a place to go for laughs, not to be taken seriously. Any publication *not* following the mainstream format is sure to be treated coolly, but might be able to sell 10,000 copies or so (not a phenomenal circulation in the underground, but an adequate one).

Of course, the magazine could be spiked with "objectionable" material to increase sales, or sexy portions could be written into each story, but this seems to be reverting to a kind of "negative censorship" that is just as restricting and obnoxious as the old sort.

It is all very perplexing, and problems far beyond these I've mentioned abound where ANOMALY is concerned. For instance, there is the fact that I am simply not a very good "new wave" editor. I demand personal involvement in my magazine; I am not content to pay out a couple thousand bucks just to print what some idiot artist wants to see printed — I have to want to see it printed *too*. This makes me a relatively obstinate person to work for. Secondly, I'm too particular in other details. I had three color transparencies of the Kline painting photographed before getting one that met my approval. I had a second set of negatives shot for the Corben strip even though I had one set in my possession that would do. (I wanted to make a two-word dialogue modification and wanted a finer halftone screen.) Needless to say, this contrariness is expensive. And third, my real interest is writing, not publishing. Maybe this third reason should have come first, as it's probably the most important.

And so it goes. Please do not order ANOMALY 4. I'm not saying there will never *be* an ANOMALY 4, but I'm certainly in no position to say how much it would cost if it *did* appear. Also, both back issues are blissfully sold out. My thanks go to the contributors this issue, and especially Richard Corben who was absolutely no trouble to me at all. Now I'd like to bow out with the following passage from Lewis Carroll's ALICE IN WONDERLAND:

"Would you tell me, please, which way I ought to go from here?"

"That depends a good deal on where you want to get to," said the Cat.

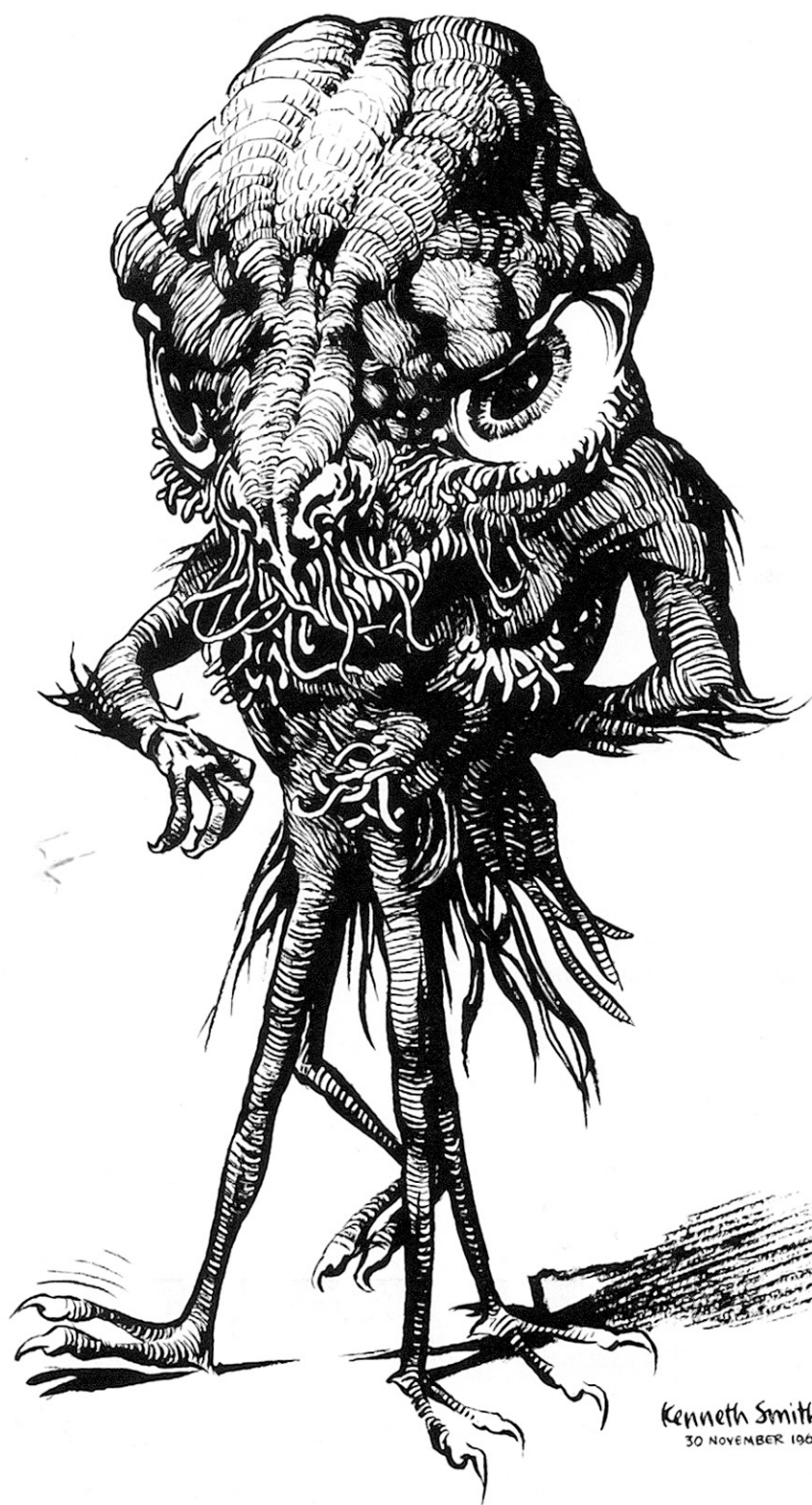
"I don't much care where —" said Alice.

"Then it doesn't matter which way you go," said the Cat.

"— so long as I get *somewhere*," Alice added as an explanation.

"Oh, you're sure to do that," said the Cat, "if you only walk long enough."





Kenneth Smith  
30 NOVEMBER 1969