EDITORIAL

by Matt Bucher

Well, I can finally say that FAN SPECTACULAR 1981 has finally arrived. I admit it took a little longer than originally expected (after all, the original title was FAN SPECTACULAR 1980), but I think it was well worth the wait, and I hope you all feel the same way.

Without exception, this has to be the longest stripzine I've published thus far, a whopping 44 pages! When's the last time you read a story that long? Probably a while, I know it has been for me. That's one of the reasons I purposely made the story so long...I wanted a long story that you could really get into it, really deep into it. The fact is that I love epics, and this was my first.

So what about the finished product? Well, of course I like it, but more importantly, what do you think of it? I plan on producing a FAN SPECTACULAR every year (hence the 1981 in the title) on an annual basis, but it is also a possibility that Joey Manley and I may incorporate these characters into a sort of fandom "Justice League" or "Avengers". If this happens, the stripzine will probably be published three or four times a year and will probably consist of Willie Peppers doing the art. More on that thought later.

But if we don't do that book, there will be a FAN SPECTACULAR 1982, but who will produce it, I don't know. I'd like to get different people doing the book each year (I've asked quite a few people if they want to do it), but if I can't find anybody to do it next year, I probably will.

Now about the people involved. I, Matt Bucher, have written about 20 or so strips to date, mainly featuring my two prime characters, Omnian and Arion, the space warrior.

Willie Peppers, the penciller of this entire book, is the most professional fan artist I have ever had the pleasure to work with--bar none. In most cases he is prompt with the best material whose quality cannot be matched. One interesting fact about this book is the fact that it should appeal to both DC and Marvel fans. After all, I'm primarily a DC fan and wrote this in DC style and form, but Willie Peppers is definitely a Marvel type artist.

An interesting mix.

Bill Anderson inked more pages than anybody else, and has overall been the most involved person besides Willie and myself in this project. Bill's an excellent inker, and it probably won't be long before he goes pro.

Mark Helke is another fantastic inker. Even though he's been tremendously busy lately, he still took the time out to ink a couple pages for me.

Rick McCollum is also a great artist. Mostly known for his HORBEND work, Rick has built himself up a reputation of being one of fandom's finest artists. And last, but not least, is Ken Moyer, a semi-new inker with a lot of raw talent. This is the first time Ken's ever inked anybody besides himself, and I think he did a great job.

I guess now is as good a time as any to talk about whose characters are whose. Here we go:

1) City-God: Filthy McNasty. City-God has appeared in his own fanzine put out by Nasty.

2) Xenogama & Intruder: Troy Waters. I believe this is their first appearance as a comic fanzine.

3) Omnman, Rage, Space Warrior, Velocity: Myself. Omnman has appeared in many zines as has Space Warrior. Rage and Velocity both will be appearing in team-ups with Omnman in the near future.


5) Captain Cosmos: Easton Davy Jr. Captain Cosmos has appeared in various issues of NO SEX.

6) Phazor: Eric Scalzi. Phazor had his own strip in some early Dynamite issues. (cont.)
SOUTHLAND DISTRIBUTORS will be carrying some of my fanzines, beginning with this issue, UZ SPECIAL #6, and STARSLAYERS #1. I really want to recommend this system to anybody who collects comics. You get fast, personal service at great discounts. For more information, write: SDI/4966 Byron Ave./Baton Rouge, LA 70805.

ULTRAZINE SPECIAL #6 is out now for 50¢ p.p. It contains an Omniman story by Robert Brooks/Anderson, a Johnny Comet story by Sager/Hahn/Anderson, and a Nimrod story by Hanley/Nasty.

STARSLAYERS #1 will be out in June. It will be published every three weeks at 25¢ an issue. A pre-subscription rate of $3.00 for the entire 10 issues is now available. It will be by Bucher/Brooks/Propst and is bound to be a hit!
PROLOGUE

Your fields are getting heavy... You are getting drawn. Shut your eyes...

MARK, TELL ME. ARE YOU AWARE OF WHY YOU ARE HERE?

YES

GREAT SAVIORS TO THE ORPHANS TO STOP WOULD BE IF I HAD MY
MIND OF THIS POWER WOULD DISAPPEAR.

ONCE IT ALMOST KILLED A SMALL CHILD. THE SCIENTISTS PAID THE ONLY WAY FOR THESE
OUTSIDERS TO LIVE WOULD BE IF MY MEMORY

I WAS BORN WITH A TERRORIOUS
WEIGHT OF ENERGY WITHIN ME. AT
TIMES THE ENERGY WOULD BUILD UP
AND FORCE ME TO FORGET MY

IF I FORGET ABOUT IT, IT WILL NEVER LEAVE MY BODY AGAIN.

THAT IS CORRECT, MARK. AND YOU
WHEN I COUNT DOWN TO ONE, YOU
WILL FORGET THAT THE ENERGY

ONE! WAKE UP, MARK.

DOC...Was IT A
SUCCESS? I'M NOT
SURE WHAT IT MUST HAVE!

POWERS? WHAT THE...

YOU CANNOT TRICK ME.
PREPARE YOURSELF...

AHHH! OH NOOO!!

WHERE AM I?

YOU ARE IN MY LAIR. I RECRUITED
SHAPES OF YOUR PREVIOUS. AND I'VE
MADE A PLAN. I HAVE THE TECHNOLOGY
TO INCREASE YOUR SHAPES. THREE
TIMES. WE WILL BE STRONGER GONE.

THE PAIN... THE PAIN!!
UHH, AN OVERLOAD... A NEAR ACCIDENT! BUT, BUT WHERE THE HELL IS MARK?

HERE.

AS A RESULT OF YOUR CRUDE EXPERIMENTS, MORTAL, YOU HAVE MULTIPLIED MY ABYSMAL POWERS 100 TIMES! THE HYPNOTIC CONTROL IS BROKEN AND I'M FREE!

GOOD LORD.

NOW, DIE!!!

NOOOO!

I AM NO LONGER A MERE MORTAL, NOW I AM ULTRON! MY POWER IS ABSOLUTE, MY MIND IS FILLED WITH DARKER RACING THOUGHTS. I WILL PROVE TO THE INHABITANTS OF THIS PLANET MY IMMENSE POWER, YES!

END OF PROLOGUE

THE STAGE IS SET. THE VILLAIN HAS BEEN INTRODUCED, NOW READ:

COMING OF ULTRON!

WITH A CAST OF DOZENS!!

CITY-GOD
XENOGAMA
ARK-O-MAN
CAPT. COSMOS
PHAZOR
RAGE
SPACE WARRIOR
SKY-LARK
NIGHTSHADOW
STARKLANE
SEAKER
VELOCITY
BLUE STREAK
SHOTGUN
INTRUDER
THE ANKH
SLAUGHTER
RENEGADE
WARRIOR
ELF
WINDSPRITE
SABRE TOOTH
WITCH DOCTOR
CAPTAIN GIZMO

WILLIE PEPPERS - PENCILS

MART BUCHER - SCRIPT
CHAPTER ONE!

WHAHA! FEEL MYSELF FADE!

MY BODY, STARTING TO WAVE AND DISAPPEAR!

THE ANNU!

UNTIL FINALLY...

WHAT'S GOING ON?

WELCOME, HEROES. MY NAME IS ULTRON AND I HAVE BROUGHT YOU ALL HERE.
FOR REASONS OF MY OWN, I HAVE AN EXERCISE PLANNED FOR YOU. IN MY ULTIMATE WISDOM, I HAVE SEEN IT FIT TO CREATE FOUR DEMIGODS TO BATTLE YOU. EACH DEMIGOD HAS IN ITS POSSESSION ¼ OF THE ULTIMATE CLUE.

YOU MUST GET EVERY CLUE AND DECIPHER ITS MEANING OR PART OF YOUR GROUP WILL DIE. I HAVE ALREADY KIDNAPPED WANDERLITE, SABRETOOTH, CAPTAIN GINNO, WITCH DOCTOR, AND BLUE STREAK. I HAVE PLANTED A DEVICE ON THEM, SO THAT WHEN THEY DIE, A GALACTIC WAR WILL OCCUR, RESULTING IN QUADRILLIONS OF DEATHS!

I HOPE THAT IS INCENTIVE ENOUGH, ESPECIALLY SINCE EARTH IS ONE OF THE PLANETS THAT WILL BE INVOLVED.

HOLY...
Hey, big man, you think we're all suckers? How do we know you're on the level?

Dynamic Dynamo

You dare question Ultron? DIE!!

Agghhahhaha!!!

You killed him!!!

Hahahahahahaha!!!

I've seen power before, but this guy is incredible! Even I'm going to have trouble, are probably powerful!!

I've scared Galactus before, but I've never seen anything like this!

If we had time to get organized and arrange some sort of plan, we might be able to get him.

But he isn't even giving us a moment to think!

He took Sabre Tooth and the others! Holy cats!!

And now heroes, begone!!
CHAPTER TWO!

ELF - XENOGAMA - THE AHNK - WIZARD WARRIOR!

TO BE EXACT, WE ARE IN EGYPT.

IN CAIRO!

LOOK! THAT MUST BE ONE OF THE DEMI-GODS!

WELL, IF ALL WE HAVE TO DO IS GET THE CLUE ON HIS CHEST, WE SHOULDN'T HAVE THAT MUCH TROUBLE. I'LL TAKE CARE OF IT WITH THIS!

FIRING A BOLT OF MAGIC INTENDED TO CAPTURE THE DEMI-GOD HE WIZARD WARRIORS, IS CAUGHT UNPREPARED WHEN...

--THE BOLT RETURNS AND STRIKES HIM, KILLING HIM IN A CRYSTALLIC AIR-PROOF BLOCK!

--THE PROTON-NEUTRON SEPARATORY SHOULD BE ABLE TO BURST THAT CASE!

UNFORTUNATELY, IT DOESN'T.

THERE WAS SOMETHING WE CAN DO!

THERE IS, BUT NOT FOR THE WIZARD'S NEXT STEP...LOGICALLY IS TO GET THE CLUE, SO THAT NO OTHERS WILL DIE!

TWO LATE AXIOMS...

WOULDN'T HE HAVE HIT IT?

WOULDN'T IT HAVE COME BACK TO YOU? LUCKILY, I'M REFLECTED IT...

AND IT'S NO PROBLEM FOR ME TO TELL EVERYTHING FROM OL' SILVER FACE!
AND NOW, ANKH, I SUGGEST THAT WE GET OUR ACT TOGETHER!

DON'T BE SO NAIVE, ME! I'LL KEEP HIM!

WE REECE LOTS OF SALT?

SALT?

SURE, SALT IS A SCIENTIFIC  THROUGHPUT. YOU CAN FIND LARGE AMOUNTS OF SALT IN THE HILL.

AND YOU SEEN IT, MERV!

GREAT! I'LL START MYSELF AND HOGAN ON THIS! I'M BETTING, OLD MANN-RUM! WE WILL FOLLOW US!

HURRY, DRAGGING HIM.

QUICK! FIRST A SALT BOMB TO COVER OUR "FRIEND" COMPLETELY, THEN A COMBO HYDRA-WATER SPRAY AND MAGIC BOLT TO--

RIGHT!

I'M NOT SURE WHAT IT MEANS, BUT COMBINED WITH THE OTHER GUESSES, WE MIGHT TO HAVE SOME SENSE OF IT.

I KNEW SHE WOULD STAB HIM. I READ IT THROUGH HIM AND FOUND THAT ONLY SALT COULD STOP HIM FROM STABBING OUR GUN'S BACK AT US LIKE IT DID TO... WIZARD WARRIOR.

I FEEL LIKE I'M FADING--

WE MUST BE RETURNING TO ULTRON!
THE COMING OF ULTRON!

INTERLUDE 1:

IN THE FAMOUS GREAT CATHEDRAL
HOME OF ARKOON, THE ELEK T EUK...

I DON'T LIKE THE LOOKS
OF THESE CIRCUMSTANCES.

THE HEROES THAT HAVE GATHERED TOGETHER ARE
POWERFUL, INDEED. BUT DO EVEN THEY HAVE THE STRENGTH
TO OVERCOME ULTRON. HIS POWER IS ALMOST
ABSOLUTE, AND IF HE CAN
DZEER THE CAUSE
OF HIS RUIN HE WILL
SURELY BE KILLED.

ONCE THIS HAS HAPPENED,
NO ONE, NOT THE HEROES, BUT
I FOR ALL TIME, IS HOPEFUL
IF HE GETS THE
THE WORSE. ULTRON KNOWS

THE SEEKER IS RESTING
IN HYDENAD NOW, BUT I
SHOULD BE ABLE TO GET MY
MESSAGE TO HIM THROUGH
TO HIM.

1234... ADON...
696/ARAK... 13074-

IDENT: SEEKER
CURRENT LOCAL: HYDENAD

IDENT: BLACK MERCY
CURRENT LOCAL: STARIXIS

BLACK MERCY IS IN THE
OUTER DIMENSION KNOWN AS
STARIXIS. A TELEPATHIC READER
RESISTANCE SHOULD TELL HIM.

1174... 57145

IDENT: SEEKER
CURRENT LOCAL: HYDENAD

IDENT: BLACK MERCY
CURRENT LOCAL: STARIXIS

MAYBE THE THREE
OF US CAN WORK TOGETHER
TO COME UP WITH A PLAN.
IF NOT...

MAY GOD
SAVE US ALL...

NOT EVEN I CAN SEE INTO
THE FUTURE, BUT I KNOW IN MY
HEART THAT ULTRON HAS PLANNED IT
WILL NOT HELP TO HARSH ATTEN
HEROES IN THEIR EFFORTS.

AMEN.
CHAPTER THREE!
OMNIMAN-WARHAWK-INTRUDER SHOTGUN!

WHAT? ONE MINUTE WE'RE WITH ULTRON AND THE NEXT WE'RE IN NEW YORK, GREEN ISLAND, IF MY
BEARINGS ARE CORRECT.

THAT'S RIGHT, OMNIMAN USED TO LIVE AROUND HERE.

I DON'T MEAN TO INTRUDE, NO
PON'T INTENDED, BUT I SUGGEST WE
FIND OUR PART OF THE CLUE.

RIGHT. I DON'T SEE
ANYTHING LOUDER THAT
LOOKS LIKE A GOD, SO I SUGGEST
WE SPLIT UP AND LOOK FOR IT.

OK, OMNIMAN. YOU TAKE THIS.
IT'S A POWER PACK, COMMUNICATOR.
CHASE RAZOR. IF YOU RUN INTO ANY
THING, CONTACT US.

WARHAWK, IS A NATURAL BORN LEADER, BUT THIS WAS NICE.
RILED, ESPECIALLY SINCE ULTRON KIDNAPPED SOME OF THE
POWER PACK MEMBERS. HOPE WE FIND THAT CLUE SOON.

LIKEWISE, LET'S GO!

FLYING IS A KICK, OMNIMAN,
BUT I PREFER TO KEEP MY FEET
ON THE GROUND.

FEW PEOPLE WILL AGREE WITH
YOU, INTRUDER, BUT EVEN FEWER
HAVE YOUR Agility, I GUESS.

LOOK AHEAD! IT'S SOME SORT
OF HUMANOID IN MID-AIR, IT'S GOT TO BE
THE DEMIGOD! SOMETHINGS DANGLING FROM
HIS HAND, PROBABLY THE CLUE! INTRUDER CALL WARHAWK!

AND WHILE THE INTRUDER IS
DOING JUST THAT, OMNIMAN
APPROACHES THE DEMIGOD.

NO GOOD. IT'S PROTECTED
BY AN INVISIBLE FORCE FIELD.
OUR BEST BET IS TO TAKE IT TO
THE GROUND AND TANKE IT THERE.

AND SO. USING HIS MAGNETIC POWER, OMNIMAN FORCES THE DEMIGOD TO THE GROUND.

WILL DO!

INTRUDER, TELL WARHAWK I'M TAKING OUR FRIEND DOWN NEAR SHAW STREET.
Meanwhile, in a galaxy not all that far away...

CHAPTER FOUR! WINDSPRITE! SLAUGHTER!
CAPTAIN GIZMO! BLUE STREAK! Sabertooth! With Doctor!

I CAN'T BELIEVE THIS! IT'S ALL TOO MUCH!
I'M QUIET, I'M TELLING WARD FROM WARRIORS.

WARHAWK SAYS THAT HE AND THE OTHERS GOT A CLUE FROM A DEMIGOD.
WAIT A MINUTE! CAN'T YOU TELL US WHERE WE'VE BEEN?

I DON'T KNOW IT JUST CLICKED ON.
WITH WHAT'S BEEN GOING ON AROUND HERE LATELY I'M NOT AT ALL SURPRISED.

YOU KNOW WHERE TRAPPED UNDER THIS STONE? AND RIGHT NOW WE'RE JUST ON THE OUTSIDE. SOME PEOPLE WE'RE NEVER HEARD OF TO SAVE OUR ASSES.

CAPTAIN GIZMO'S WORDS CUT DEEP INTO THE HEART AND SOUL OF EVERYONE THERE. THE DESPAIR IS OVERWhelming.

WHY TAKE IT EASY? DON'T YOU KNOW THE GOOD DAYS ARE AWAY?

CAPTAIN GIZMO SAYS IT'S A POWER PACK MEMBER. WE'RE IN SOME CIRCUMSTANCES, BUT NONE CAN EQUAL WHAT HAS HAPPENED.

I FEEL SO DAMNED USELESS!

AS LONG AS I'VE BEEN A POWER PACK MEMBER, I'VE NEVER HAD THIS KIND OF SUPPORT.

WHEREAS I DO NOT HAVE A SOLUTION, I DO SUGGEST THAT WE ALL KEEP FAITH IN THE OTHER HEMELES AND PRAY THEY HAVE A SOLUTION.

HE'S RIGHT! THE GAME'S NOT OVER YET!
THE COMING OF ULTRON!

DO NOT FALL PREY TO YOUR FEARS. HEROES AS OF YESTERDAY, WE HERE AT THE DAWN OF A NEW ERA. A SOLUTION IS BEING WORKED ON...

WHO?

THAT VOICE... IT SOUNDS LIKE...

AND NO SOONER THAN HIS LAST WORDS ARE SAID, THE IMAGE OF ARGON DISAPPEARS.

I'VE HEARD OF THAT OUR ARGON, AND I'M SURE I'M GLAD HE'S IN THIS WITH US!

I KNOW WHAT YOU MEAN, BLUE-STREAK. IT IS GOOD TO KNOW SOMEONE WITH HIS POWER IS ON OUR SIDE!

THE AREN'T THE SPACE WARRIORS I'VE NOT LOCATED YOU HERE, BUT I WILL USE MY IMAGE DEVICES SO YOUR FRIENDS AND ENEMIES CAN REACH YOU.

WHAT ABOUT ULTRON?

ANY SOLUTIONS?

IT IS NOT EASY!

I AM WORKING ON A PLAN, THOUGH, AND MUST THERE BE NO PAIN. REASON: FAREWELL.

US?

WHAT ABOUT THE GALAXIES?

IT IS WITH MUCH EFFORT THAT THESE HEROES KEEP COMPLETE CONTROL OVER THEIR EMOTIONS AND REACTIONS. THEY KNOW THAT THE COMING BALANCE IS COUNTING ON ARGON—THE SPACE WARRIOR!