"WHO IS ARGON, THE SPACE WARRIOR?"
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, Ompr, 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 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 anyway 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 Ompr, 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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Chapter Three: Flashback

Their hopes have crumbled, their one escape denied, and their chances of returning now dim.

Argon, there was... is nothing you can do.

Rondo, I appreciate your concern, but I must be alone now.

Surely, you can repair my starship?

I shall return later.

Enslaved.

Not well, I'm afraid, since you were banished, my brothers have taken complete control... the beauty is all but gone... and the people...?

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 aids Argon in his quest to return Ompar to its rightful heirs.

I have failed my people!

I have failed my sacred responsibility.

Two men. They share identical hopes and dreams though they've met a mere eighteen hours earlier.
IT BEGAN YEARS AGO, DURING OMPAR'S
FINES'T MOMENT, AT THE HEIGHT OF ITS
MAJESTY. OMPAR, VACATION SPOT, CROSS-
ROADS FOR HALF A GALAXY, ALSO...

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.

WHERE ARE WE GOING?

ARGON 12 WAS LED INTO A BUILDING NEAR
THE HEART OF THE CITY.

I DON'T UNDERSTAND--
THAT MAKES TWO OF US.

OH, SORRY, I
DIDN'T NOTICE
YOU, I'M ARGON 12.

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

ARE YOU AS CONFUSED
AS I AM?

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

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

"WE ARE LACKING ONE QUALITY."

POSITION!
DEFENSES...

AND THAT IS...

... STRENGTH...

... A GUARDIAN. THIS 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 CANDIDATES 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 RHREAL..."

A GAS WHICH WILL SHIP 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, ARBON, BUT I'M NERVOUS AS HELL.

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

WE'RE HERE, ARBON, 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 THEAL" 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 OMPIANS. THESE GAS FUMES ARE A SCIENTIFIC ENIGMA, THE RESULTS ARE UNKNOWN...."

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

NO! NO, I SHOULDN'T HAVE... THE EXPLOSION... MY GOD!

TIME FLEW BY AND A CHANGED ARGON REMAINED 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 VANISHED.

AND NOW...

...IN A STARSHIP APPROACHING...

KWAROM!

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

ATTACK!

NEXT ISSUE: BOUNTY HUNTER NO MORE!
NEXT ISSUE
BOUNTYHUNTER NO MORE...?

Brooks
Anderson