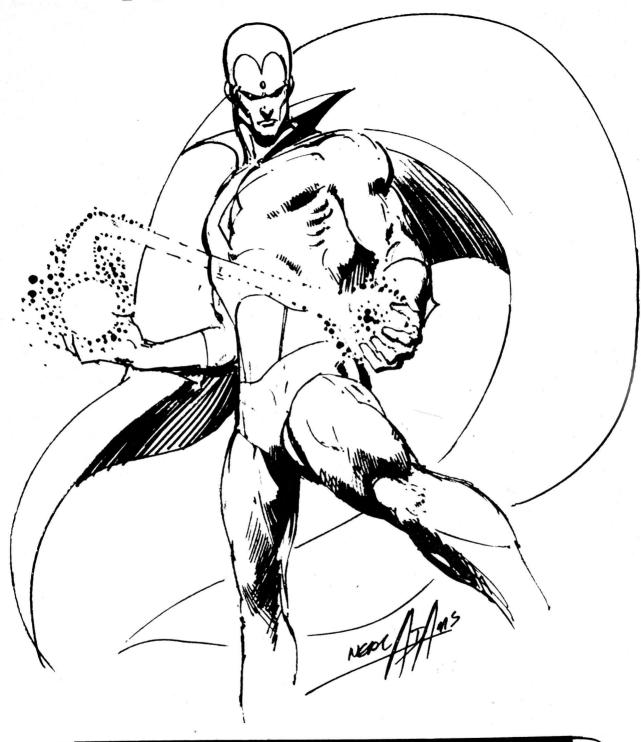


#### VENTURE 3



VENTURE is now being published by HORIZON ZERO GRAPHIQUES, with the editors of this particular escapade being Frank Cirocco, Gary Winnick and Frank Morant.

All rights are reserved on these 36 pages of story and art - 1974 - which means

nothing may be reprinted without the expressed consent of the editors.

We express our gratitude to National Periodicals and the Marvel Comics Group for the use of their syndicated characters as portrayed by Neal Adams. We'd also like to thank Neal for portraying them for us. We sincerly hope you will enjoy this Fan produced effort - ALL letters of comment are urged.

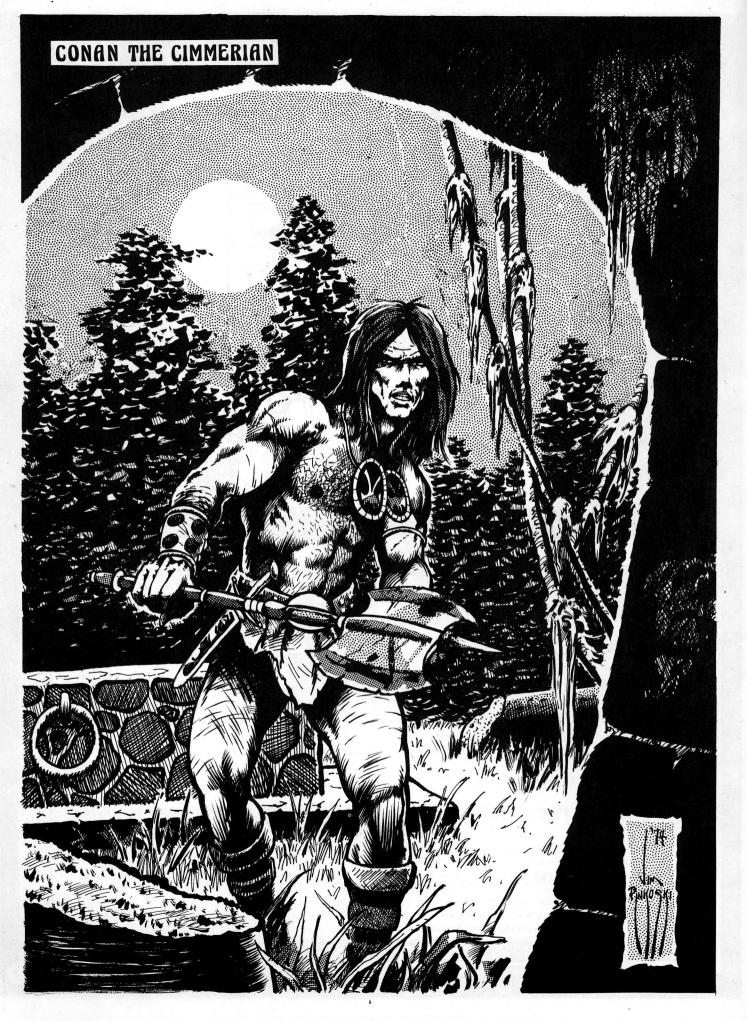
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# Neal Adams, Brent Anderson , Frank Cirocco, Mike Kaluta , Frank Morant, Jim Pinkoski , & Gary Winnick CONTENTS \_\_\_Pg.2 FLASHBACK \_\_\_\_\_Pg.4 GRIMMLEY'S TALES \_\_\_\_\_\_Pg.9 BUGZ \_\_\_\_\_\_Pg.10 SAN DIEGO COMIC CON REPORT \_\_\_\_\_\_Pg.20 GRIMMLEY'S TALES \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Pg.20 GRIMMLEY'S TALES \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Pg.24 SIN-EATER \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Pg.30

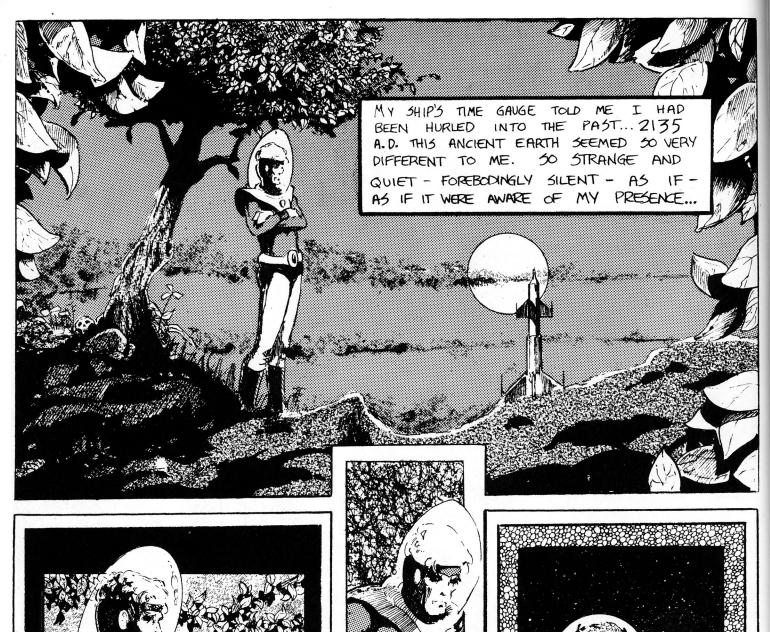
LETTERS\_\_\_\_\_Pg.31

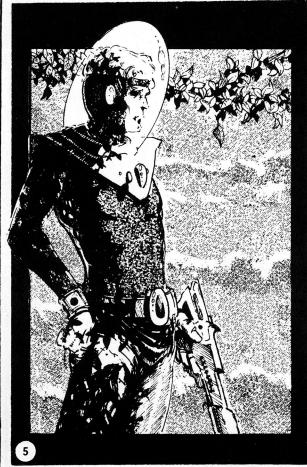
ARTISTS & WRITERS:



## 







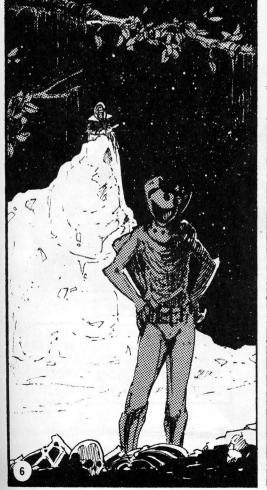


AS I GAZED ABOUT
THE PLANET'S SURFACE, IT HELD BUT
ONE DIFFERENCE
FROM THE EARTH
I KNEW SO MANY
YEARS TO COME...
... I COULD FIND
NO HUMAN BEINGS!





THE SOUND WAS A LOW AND MUMBLED GARBLE. IN THE NEXT SECOND, I DISCOVERED WHO IT BELONGED TO...







THE ALIEN BEING WAS SUR-VEYING SOME SKELETAL REMAINS IT HAD GATHER-ED BEFORE IT...



THE STRANGER ADJUSTED A MECHANISM WITHIN HIS HELMET, AND WE WERE ABLE TO COMMUNICATE. WE DISCUSSED THE EARTH AND ITS PRESENT STATE. IT WAS THEN I LEARNED THE FATAL TRUTH...





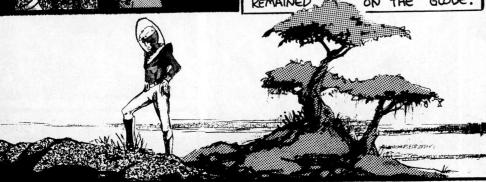
THROUGH HIS EXCAVATIONS, HE HAD DETERMINED THAT NO HUMAN LIFE REMAINED ON THE GLOBE.

"BUT THIS IS ONLY THE YEAR 2135," I THOUGHT," I WASN'T EVEN BORN YE-" SUDDENLY, I REALIZED... IT WAS ALL A BIG JOKE...

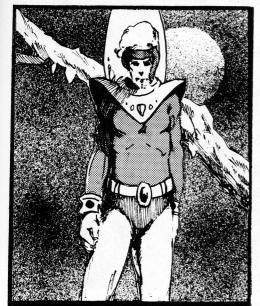


... ON ME.

I TURNED ONE FINAL TIME TO SEE MY FACELESS FRIEND STANDING CONFUSED. TRYING TO UNDERSTAND WHY I HAD LEFT HIM SO ABRUPTLY...

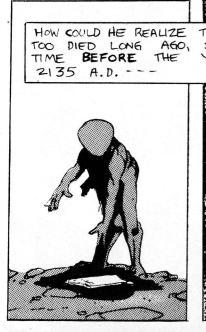






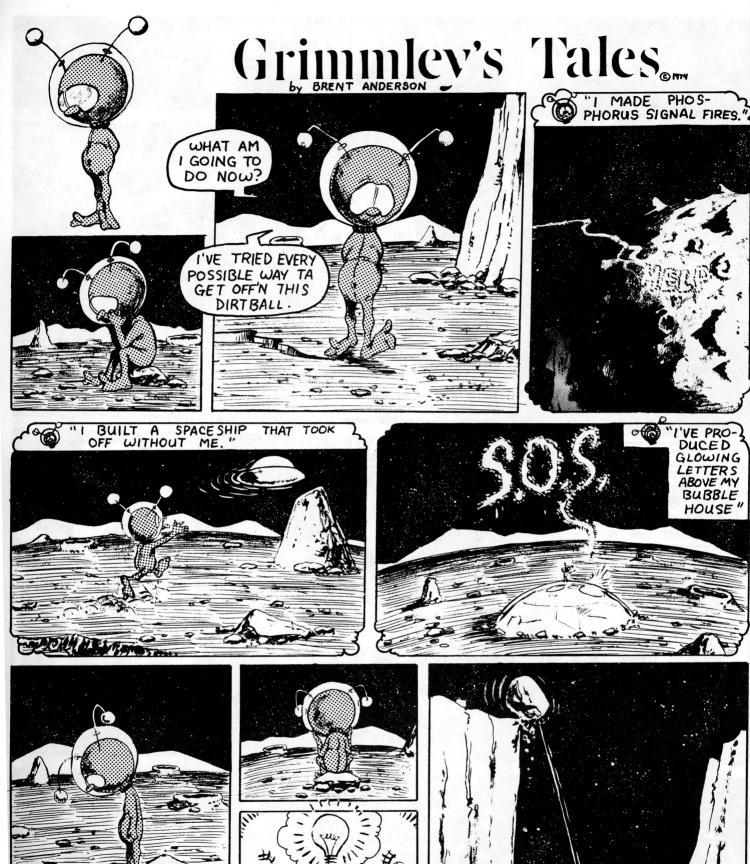




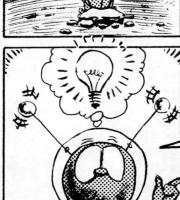




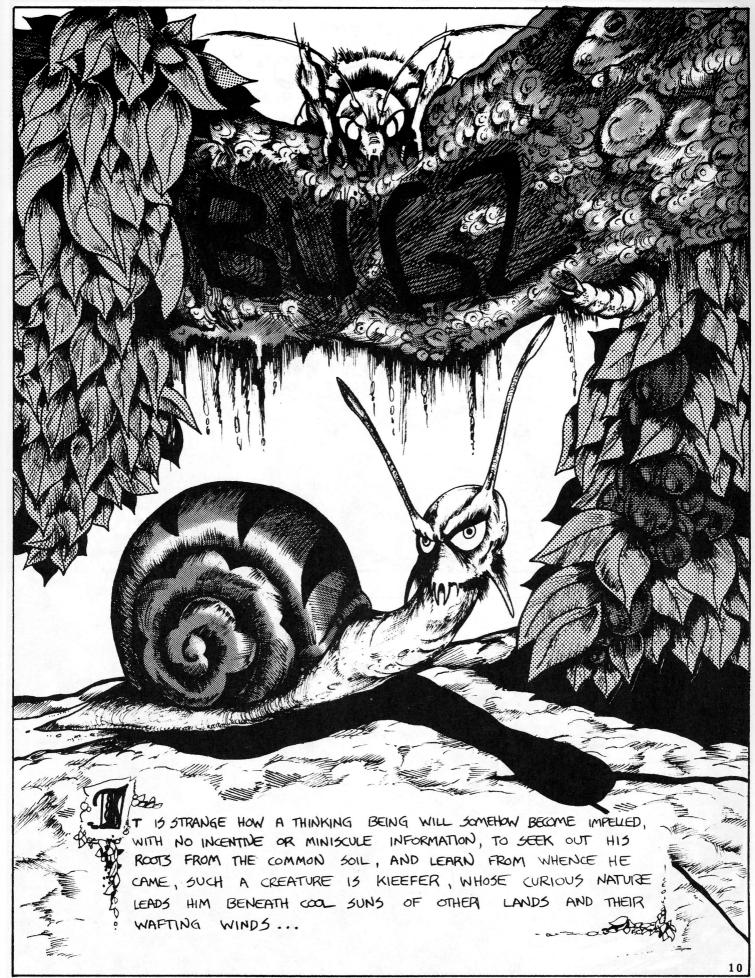


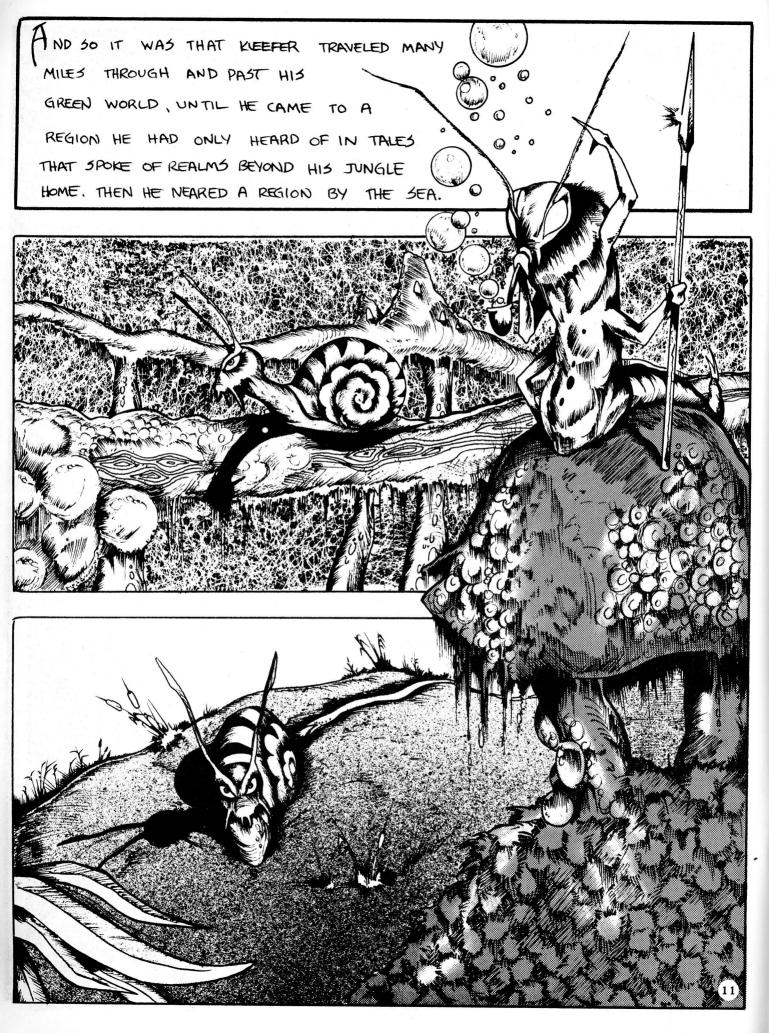












HE PICKED HIS WAY THROUGH THE SALT-DRIED GRASSES AT THE SAND'S EDGE. SOMEONE HAD TOLD HIM, "YOUR COUSINS LIVE IN THE TENTH POOL TOWARD THE SEA OF SAND." BUT HE COULD SEE NO IN-HABITANTS ON ITS SANDY BOTTOM...



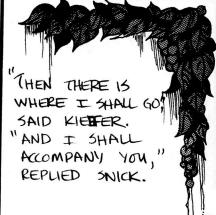
HEN HE LOOKED UP AND SAW A STIFF-CRAB-LIKE CREATURE GAZING AT HIM FROM A NICHE IN THE ROCKS ABOVE HIM...

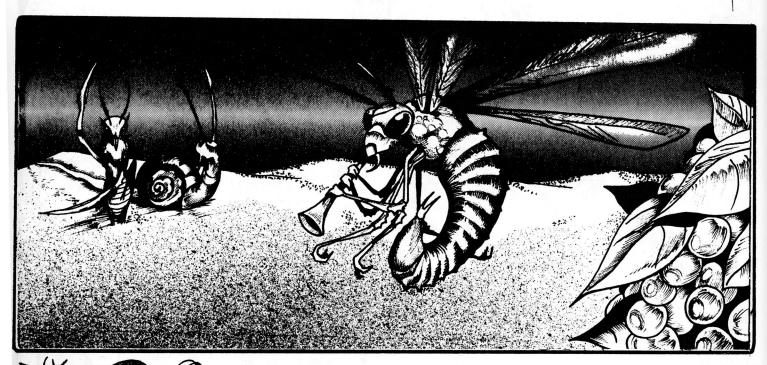


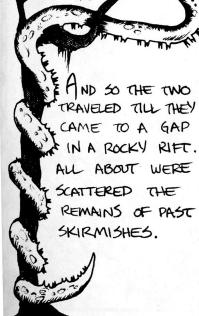


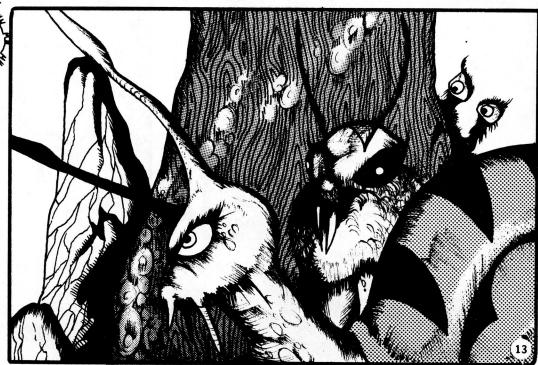
NO, I AM SNICK, A FRIEND.
HE PERISHED WHEN THE
TUDES HURLED US FORTH
SEVEN CYCLES SINCE.
THE ONLY ANSWERS
TO OUR EXISTENCE MAY
BE FOUND ONLY IN THE
FORBIDDEN SILVER RVINS!



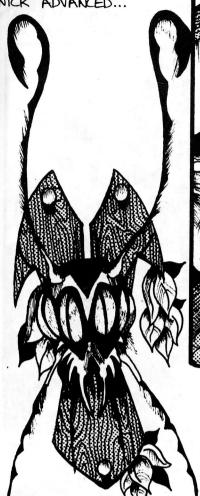


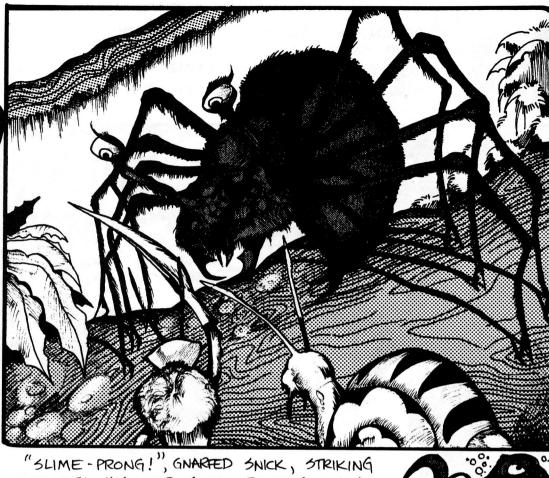






SUPPENLY, A BULBOUS SAND SPIDER SCURRIED TO BAR THEIR PATH. MOTIONING KIEPPER BACK, SNICK ADVANCED...





ARACHNOID SPIT FURIOUSLY

OUT WITH HIS OVER SIZED FIGHTING CLAW!.
THE SPIDER RECOILED, BUT ATTACKED AGAIN
AS SNICK PANCED OUT OF IT'S PATH.

THE ENRAGED





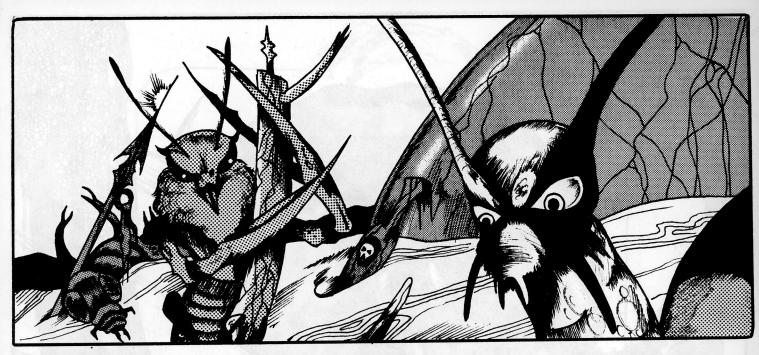
SUDDENLY, WITH ALL OF HIS FIGHTING SKILL, SNKIK LASHES OUT AND SEVERS THE NECK OF THE ONCOMING MONSTER, SHOWERING HIMSELF AND KIEEFER WITH PUNGENT WHITE ICHOR. LEAVING THE QUIVERING CARCASS BEHIND, THEY MOVED ON.







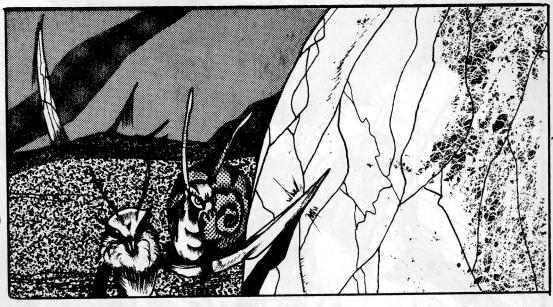
EXCLAIMED SNICK.

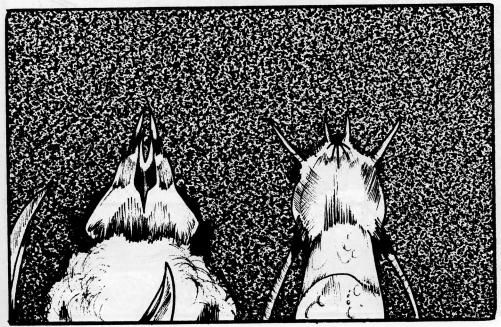


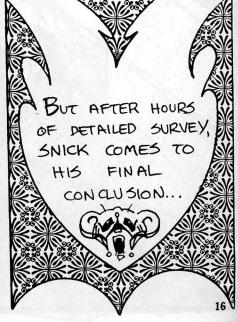


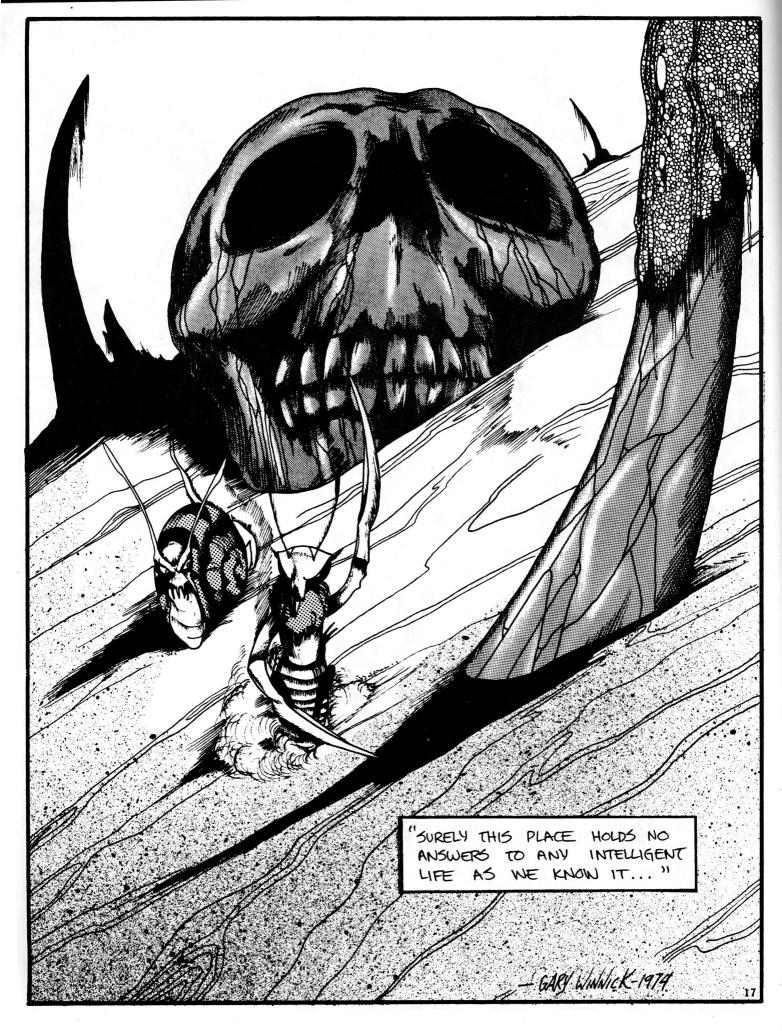
"IT IS HERE, PERHAPS, WE WILL FIND THE AN-SWER TO THE ANKESTRY YOU SEEK...

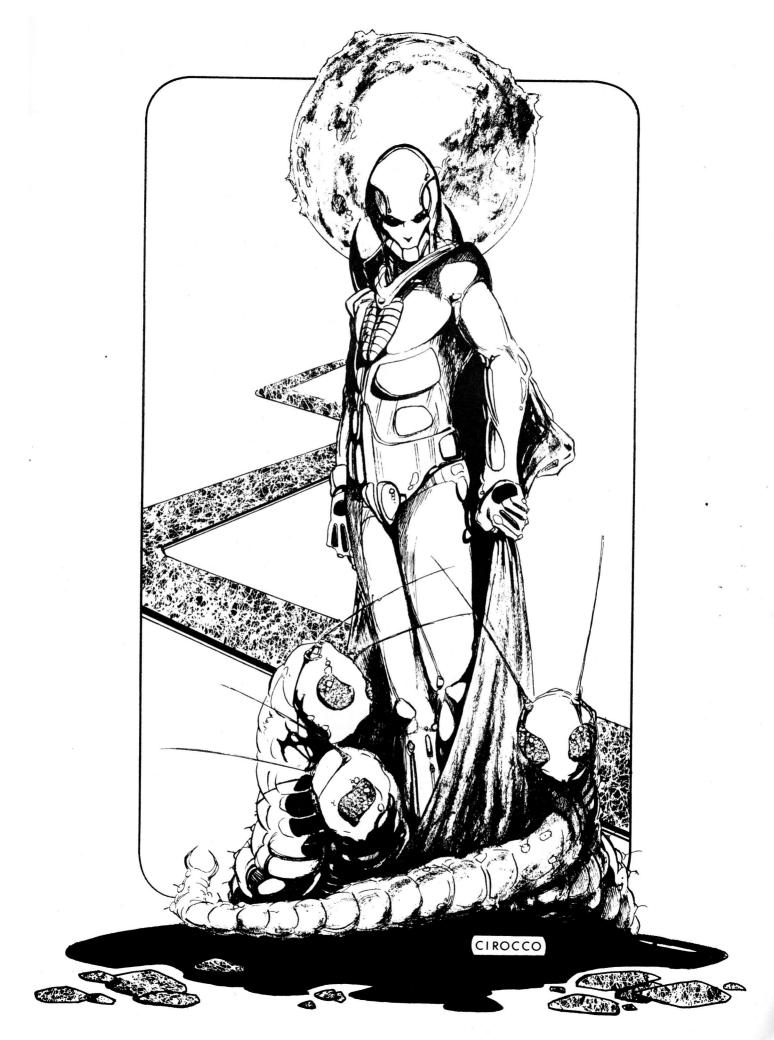














#### SAN DEGO '73

Loaded down with cameras and tape cassettes, we arrived at the Sheraton Inn on Harbor Island Wednesday afternoon, August 15th. We didn't run into anyone but various dealers in the lobby because the con didn't officially start until 5:00 that evening. I've never seen so much excitement running through a crowd when it did start. The next four days were sheer heaven.

before

much

Aside from the dealer's opening they were supposed to, nothing happened on Wednesday. (Well did get settled and met some fellow fans). Thursday, 16th the major activities started with Mike Friedrich's opening speech along with a few quick remarks from Neal Adams, Carmine Infantino and STAR TREK's Walter Koenig.

Later in the day, after another few trips around the hotel, Ray Bradbury gave a monumental oratory with an introduction from Harry Harrison. The dealer's room was a head rush by this time with original art from Barks to Frazetta circulating. As 5:00 pm rolled around, A.E. Van Vogt delivered his lecture and almost directly afterwards Carmine Infantino and Sol Harrison gave us an interesting insight

into D. C. 's plans for the immediate future. (The Swamp Thing's sales are only FAIR!!? We can't believe it!!) Of course Jack Kirby was there; one of the friendliest guys down there. Kirby always seemed to make time to answer a few questions from us as did the charming June Foray. She fit into the festivities better than one would think. She gave us a sample of all her voices from

Rocky and Natasha to Brun Hilde. Neal Adams was back Friday night (17th) with another entertaining segment. (Part of Friday and Saturday nights was spent with Adams in the Custom-made I might add. That night STAR TREK writer D. C. Fontana addressed the crowd, but I'm afraid we missed that one. We found it was impossible to catch EVERY event during the entire convention.

Nevertheless, all the guests and celebrities were just part of Utopia those 5 days. You've got to remember those OTHER things that

"sketch"-room where we purchased the Adams

originals you see sprinkled throughout this issue.

Itopia those 5 days. You've got ber those OTHER things that make a con a CON: The movies, (Forbidden Planet was great as

usual), haggling with the dealers, the fans, the ridiculous food prices, those all night rap sessions in the hall, and spending over \$350 when you SHOULD be MAKING money selling your zine.

Brent and I met a lot of good people and new acquaintances in San Diego that we hope we'll see next year.

We'd like to thank those people publicly while we have the chance.
THANK YOU: Carmine Infantino,

Neal Adams, Jack Kirby, Mike Friedrich, Ray Bradbury, Walter Koenig, June Foray, A.E. VanVogt, Sol Harrison, Gus Arriola, Bernie Lasky, D.C. Fontana, Larry "Seymour"

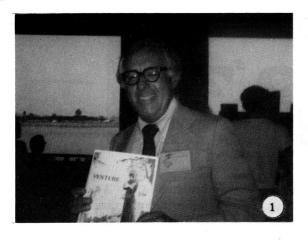
Vincent, Harry Harrison, Phil Seuling, Terry Stroud, Russ Cochran. The Bob Sidebottom Freaks Foundation, Bud Plant, Dick Swan, Chris Varner, J. Allen Tyler, Carl Taylor, Chuck

Warner, J. Allen Tyler, Carl Taylor, Chuck Graham, Barry Alfonso, Bill Lund, Richard Butner, Ken Krueger, and last but definitely not least - SHEL DORF, founder of the San

Diego Comic Con.

Putting it simply, there aren't enough pages in this zine to describe the air of excitement and grandeur that the convention created. The only way one can know the festive atmosphere of a convention is to visit one. We truly hope we've brought a little of our experience to you with the art and photographs of the event in this issue. O

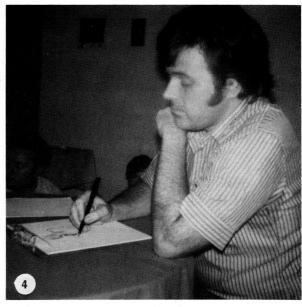
Thanks & Enjoy



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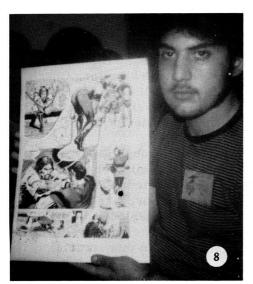






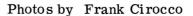






1) Ray Bradbury... A VENTURE fan?

- 2) Mike Friedrich's keynote speech.
- 3) Mike at the dais.
- 4) Neal Adams in the sketchroom.
- 5) A.E. VanVogt after his speech.
- 6) Jack Ki rby at the dealer's tables.
- 7) Carmine Infantino at the podium,
- 8) We inspect original Adams art.
- 9) Public Animal No. 9
- 10) L.A.'s SEYMOUR greets June Foray.
- 11) Trekkie, tribble, and Walter Koenig.
- 12) Seymour with Bob Clampett.
- 13) LtoR: Jack Kirby, Gus Arriola, Bernie Lasky, Mike Friedrich, and Neal Adams.





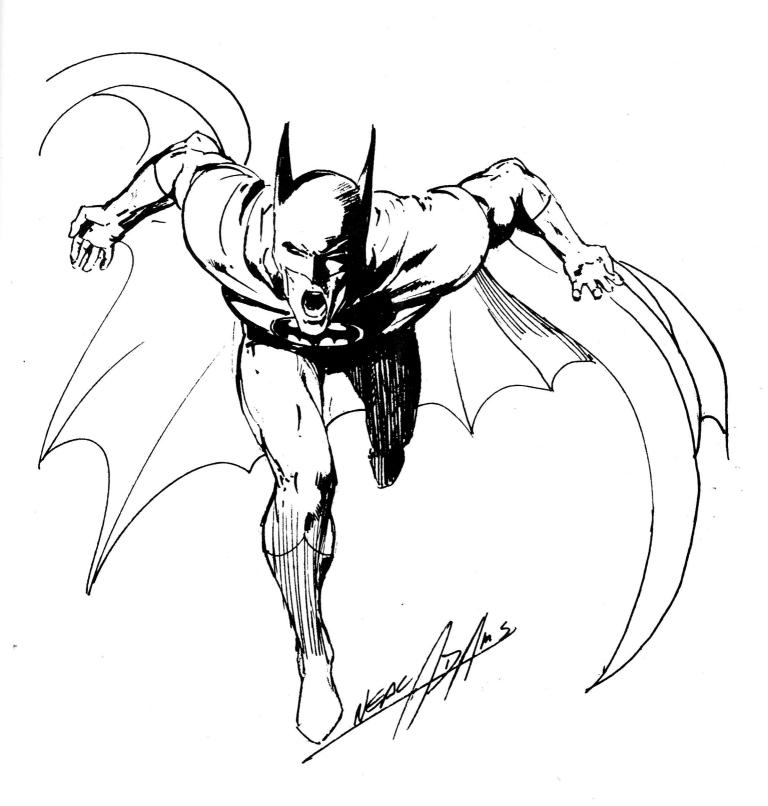




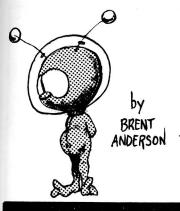










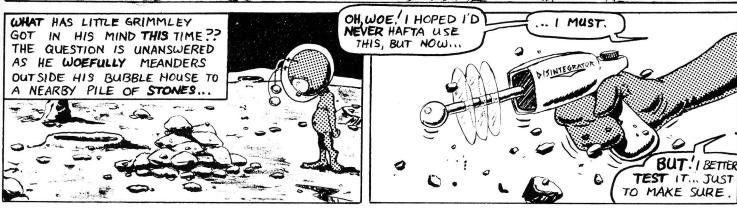






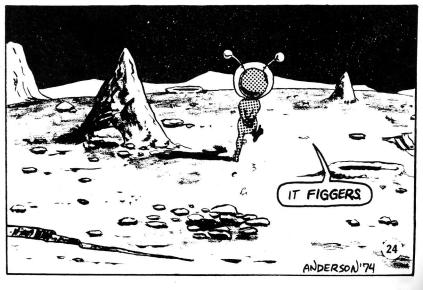




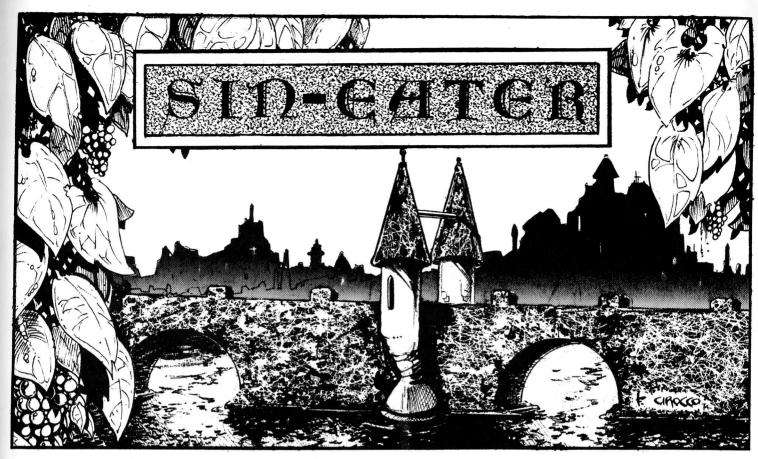






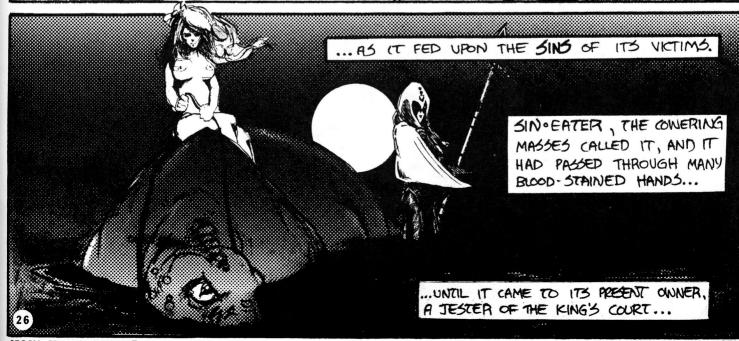






LEGEND SPEAKS OF A MYSTICAL POWER THAT WAS INCARNATED IN STEEL; A SWORD. IT'S POWER LAY IN THE FACT THAT THIS SWORD HAD THE ABILITY TO SUSTAIN IT'S POWER...







THE JESTER RETURNS TO HIS CASTLE.
THE CASTLE WHOSE HALLS STAND
BARREN AND EMPTY, SAVE FOR THE
GRISLY TROPHIES ON ITS WALLS...

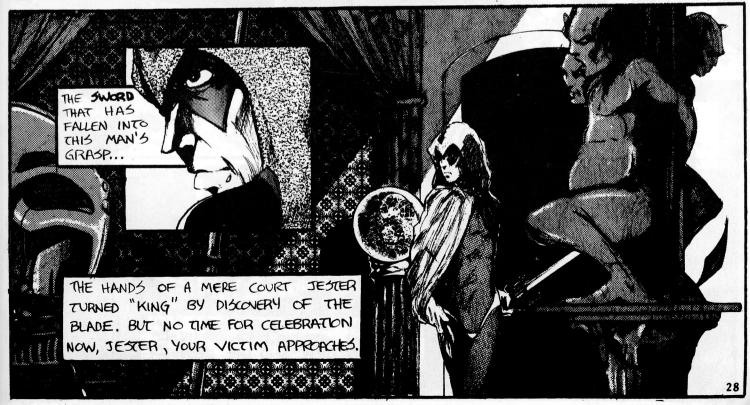


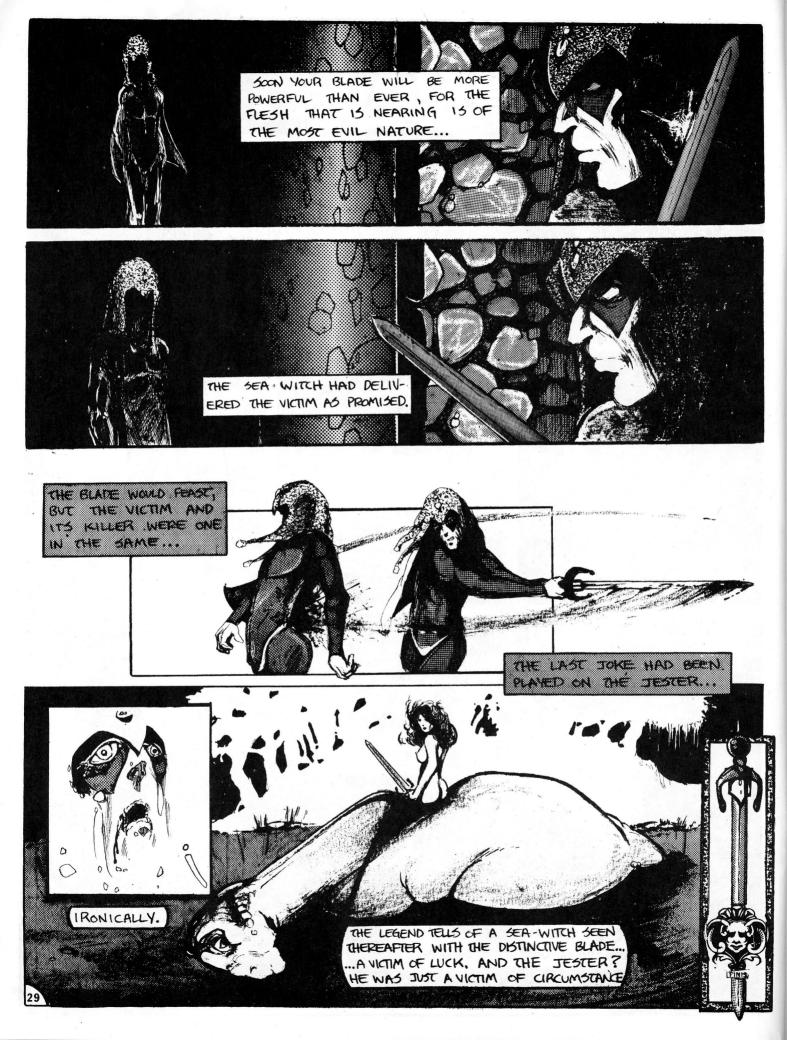












Grimmley's Tales







IT MOVES WITH BLINDING VELOCITY... COULD IT BE AN OUT-WORLDLY CYCLONE ??



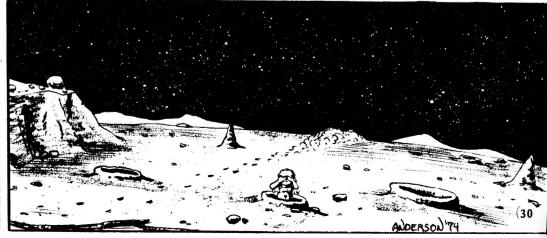
MAYBE IT'S A VIOLENT HAR-BINGER OF DOOM!











## PROSE & CONS:

Dear Frank and Brent:

I don't write many LoC's as a rule, but I felt justified in doing so after reading VENTURE #1. It's been a long time since I've seen a fanzine that's really a fanzine. So many of the so-called fanzines being put out today are nothing more than prozines being put out under fannish guises. I recently submitted some artwork to INFINITY, and I was told that they could not use it as they were only using professional artwork now.

To tell the truth, I'd much rather see a good fan effort than a good pro effort. Amateur material (tho not as well drawn or well written as a rule) usually exudes a great deal more creativity and atmosphere. That's why I find VENTURE so exciting, I guess. Dale Broadhurst's mag, GRAPHIC FANTASY is another fine little zine.

The art in VENTURE is quite good, and being an artist myself, I don't give out compliments without sound basis. The stories were good. "The Incident" was good as was "Garthan's Quest".

"Grimmley's Tales", "A Tall Tale", and "Elfrid" were O.K. but I prefer the straight S.F. or Fantasy as a rule. Your entire layout was good, especially for a first issue. The premiere issue of most mags is usually full of garbage. It usually take two or three issues for most fan editors to get on the right track.

Finally, don't ever lower your standards. Get the best stories and artwork available, and keep up the good work.

Earl Johnson Jr. Nashville, Tenn.

Dear Frank:

To start off, I recieved issue's # 1 & 2. I enjoyed them very much. The stories were great and the art showed much improvement from one to two. I really like "Grimmley's Tales" and was sorry to see that there wasn't as many episodes in #2.

Your art reminds me of some of Corben's early works, were any of the pencils done with an air brush? I'm also glad to see you writing your own stories, they're very good. Please keep me posted on any future issues you plan to put out, I'd also like to help in any way I can.

Ross M. Boyle Mesa, Arizona Frank.

This may be a momentous occasion since I am about to agree with you - VENTURE #2 was certainly better than #1. Shall the reasons be stated or do you already know? I guess you wouldn't have wanted an LoC if you knew though.

Well, first of all, the cover of #2 was definitely superior to the first issue cover. WHY? It helped to put a naked woman there; then there was the fact that the background was much cleaner and more detailed. Even the lettering was more attractive. Listen, there was only about one panel in the WHOLE MAG I did not like. That's a good batting average. Overall, it is one of the best fanzines (that are truly fanzines) I have had occasion to lay eyeballs on. (Gee, Frank, why don't you just come out and say "Ziggy" is an intentional representation of David Bowie?)

"Grimmley's Tales" are actually FUNNY. That's unusual for a fan comic strip, also. Anderson's art looks about the same on "Grimmley", but that inside back cover! That detail was really great. I'm glad to see you guys improve so much from the first issue, and will expect an even better job on #3.

The slightly larger format and regular heavy stock paper for the cover rather than glossy were also nice. And just one other thing - the use of zip-a-tone throughout #2 is tremendous. Somehow you have used as much of that sticky stuff as possible without over doing it. Congrats on a much improved second issue and good luck on the future of your VENTURE!

Dave Romine Ridgefield, Conn.

Dear Frank:

I think your zines are great. No Shit, I really do. No. 2 is ten times as great as No. 1, but No. 1 still deserves credit. I'll give you a rough rundown on my opinion:

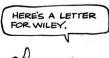
VENTURE NO. 1 - The cover by you is very good and so is your warrior shooting the arrow. But in the two stories, it looked like you had an Adams style in "Garthan's Quest" and a Berni Wrightson style in "A Tall Tale". Winnick's spot illo's are better than in his stories. But most of all, out of the whole thing, I loved Anderson's back cover. I'll buy it if you give me publishing rights.

VENTURE NO. 2 - I'll also buy your front cover from No. 2. That is really great! You should be proud of it. The same with the inside front cover. Also "Issac - 7" and especially the page of art after your story. Winnick was pretty good, but you took the cake. CONGRATULATIONS ON A WELL DONE ZINE!

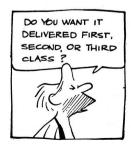
Bob Easter Baltimore, Md.

BOB:

Sorry, but VENTURE artwork does not go on sale until we give the word - but don't hold your breath - we're very sentimental. We appreciate the thought, tho.











Frank:

VENTURE's 1 & 2 were pretty good. I didn't know what to expect when I ordered them.

No. 1 wasn't bad. Nice cover. "The Incident" was a very well written story. It reminded me of the first part of 2001. All of the "Grimmley's Tales" in #1 were real nice. "Garthan's Quest" had fair art but a very boring story. "A Tall Tale" wasn't too bad. It had one thing going for it that most amateur strips don't - ORIGINALITY. Come to think of it, almost all of the strips in VENTURE had original ideas.

"Elfrid" was 2nd best in #1. You should continue him in a

series. The illo's throughout were pretty good.

No. 2 was MUCH better. Fantastic cover! "The Wizard's Tower" was very, very good. "Issac-7" was fair. "God of the Mists' - a little better, "Ziggy" was fantastic! I hope "Ziggy" becomes a series. He reminds me of a certain rock 'n roller of the same name, supposedly from Mars.

"Grimmley's Tales" in #2 suffered quite a bit. The illo's were good, especially the one of Alice Cooper. Fantastic. You should do a portfolio of him/her/it. The illo's on pages 2, 17, and 26 along with the inside back cover were also outstanding.

The main problem with VENTURE is scripts. Although being original, they are often boring. The art is fine. Let's have more stuff like, "Incident", "Elfrid", "Wizard's Tower" and "Garthan's Ouest".

VENTURE shows bright promise for the future and is much better than most amateur strip zines.

Russ Wishman Manson, Iowa

Dear Frank & Co.:

About your publication: Personally, I noticed a GREAT increase in the quality of art between #1 and #2. Your art particularly has developed a great deal. I especially enjoyed your use of the zip-a-tone. (Not enough artists use it, unfortunately. I suppose it is pretty expensive) My absolute favorite of either issue was the Alice Cooper picture.... That was a fantastic job Frank! No kidding, I'm going to frame it and put it in our office.

I could say more, but you've undoubtedly heard it all. I really enjoyed VENTURE. I really hope it continues to be published.

Sincerely, Paul Kowtiuk
THE JOURNAL
Ontario, Canada

Dear Frank, Gary and Brent, et al....

Congratulations on producing the most visually astounding all FAN fanzine I've ever seen. That should be worth two swift pats to the cranium.

Unfortunately, your writ was so far below the visual as to hurt the nearly invincible drawings. Let me elaborate.

WIZARDS TOWER. First five pages, not bad, in places, excellent. Sixth page: Bang, "The Collector smiled...." Oh no. He's a wizard. Said so on the first page. Well, by God, the ending just came too fast. I am cheated.

ISSAC-7: No cheater's ending -- really. The revelation of Heather seemed to fit. What I'm wondering about is why she had to disguise herself to get to the wizard for help? How did the little quote at the end relate to the whole? Perhaps I'm dense but

The Grimmley's Tales were pretty keen. Now who's being vague?

GOD OF THE MISTS: A very good idea that was spoiled by the headlong dash towards an ending. By the way, as the story stands right now, so what? I mean what's the purpose, intent or whatever?

COVERS: Magnificent

Fillers: Great

Finally, more work on actual story. Next step, comix heaven. Oh wow.

Once again, congrats on a beautiful issue. This is the haunter of the dark signing off-----

Ed Newby Bend, Oregon

The VENTURE staff would like to take this opportunity to thank NOT ONLY those whose letters appear on these pages, but EVERYONE who sent us a few words of comment.

It is these people that will keep maga-

It is these people that will keep magazines like UENTURE moving in the right direction... The Editor's















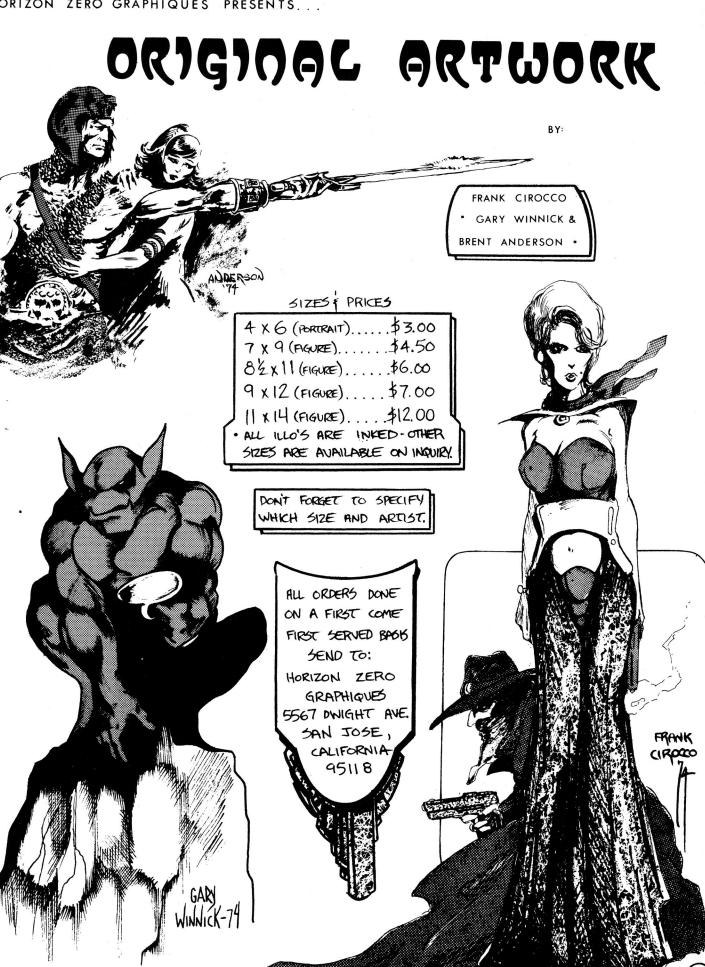






BC Characters © by Johnny Hart

Venture's 1 & 2 still available...\$1.00 ea. postpaid





VENTURE



