

January 1979
\$1.50

HEAVY METAL

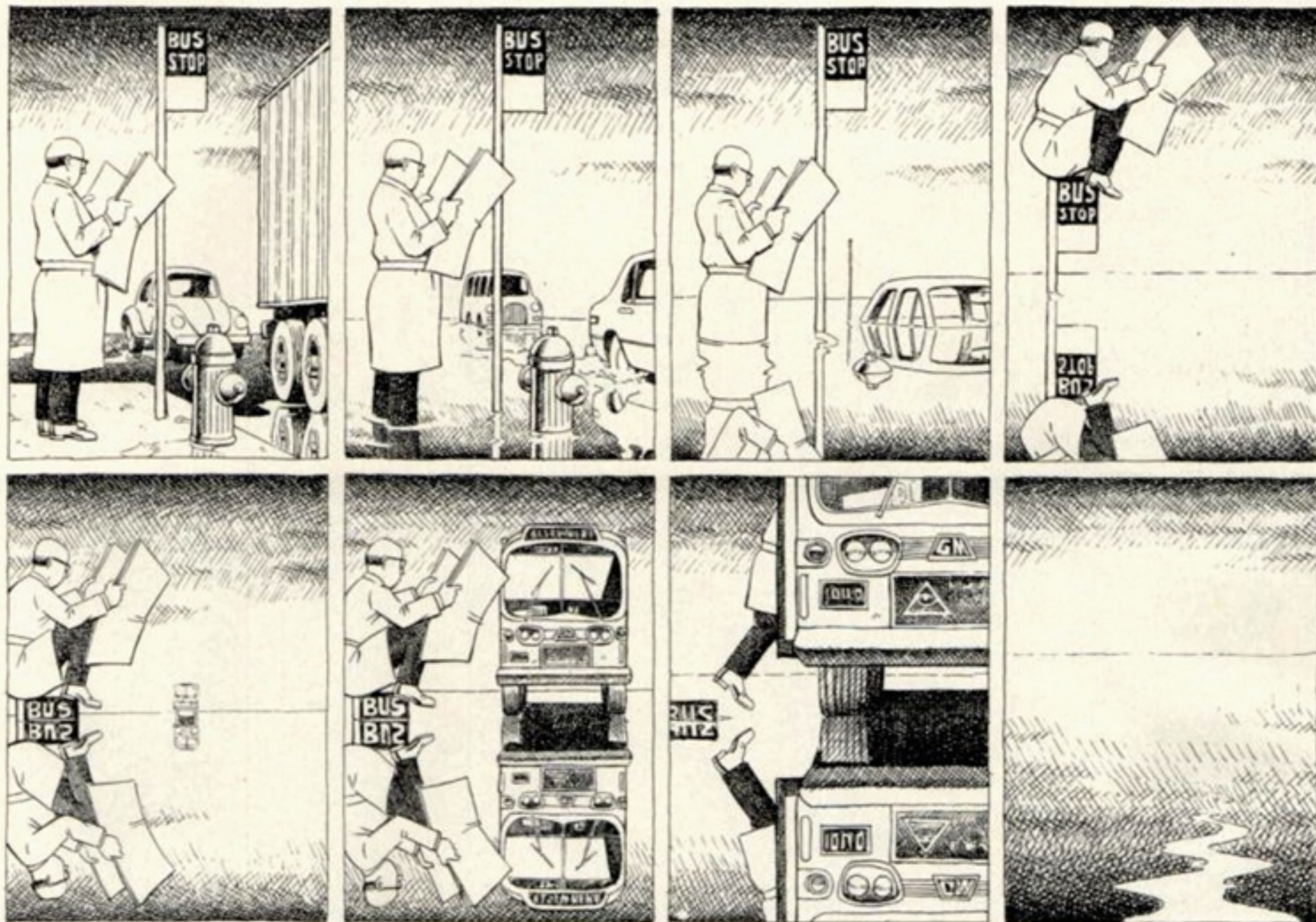
IND
36587

The adult
illustrated fantasy
magazine



LES
HUMANOIDES
ASSOCIES

Distributed by
H.M. Communications,
Inc.



PRESSED ON RED VINYL!

A New Hendrix Album

NUT-1001

HENDRIX
HIGH, LIVE 'N DIRTY



Introducing a Special Collector's Edition of All New, Never Before Released, Live Hendrix! Here's Jimi like you've never heard him before, with raunchy guitar riffs and provocative lyrics.

In fact, this album may just shock the hell out of you, but you'll love every minute of it!

Here's Jimi... high, live 'n dirty...

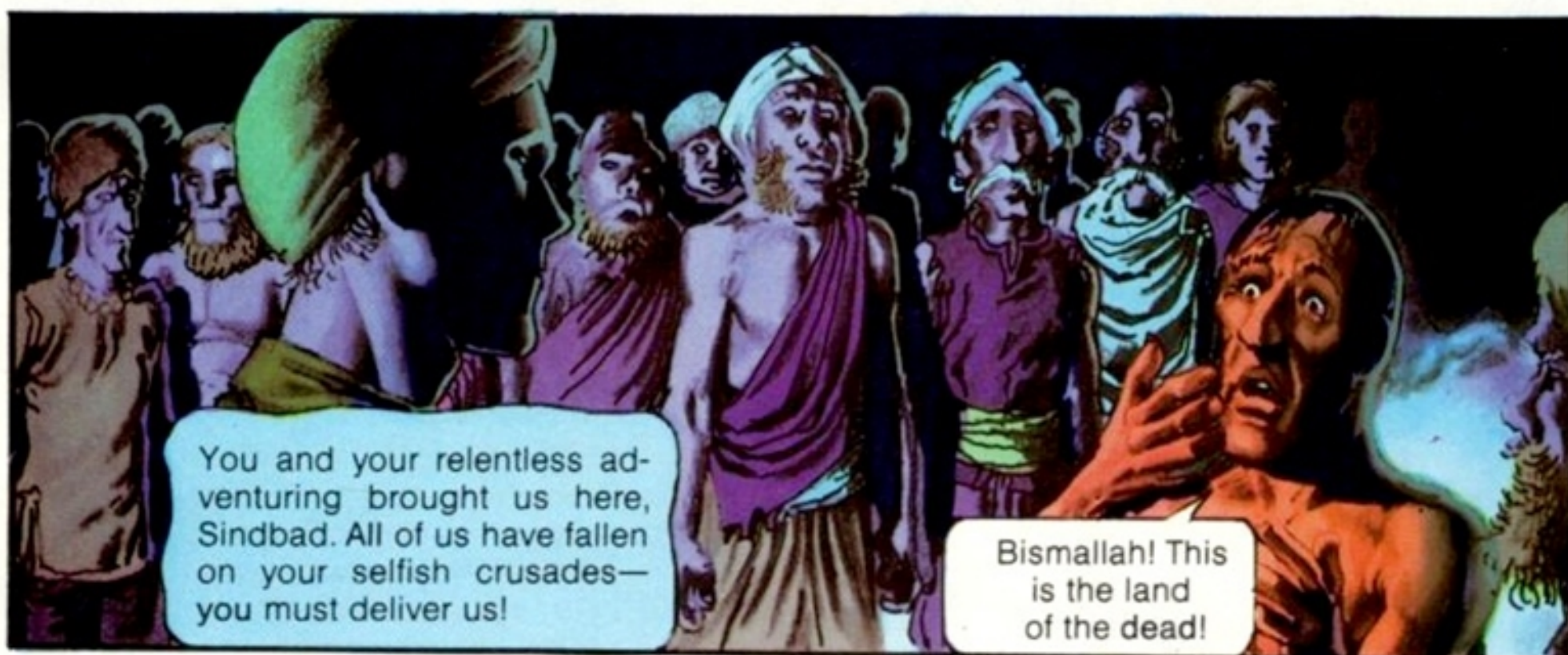
Available now at your favorite record store on Nutmeg Records & Tapes

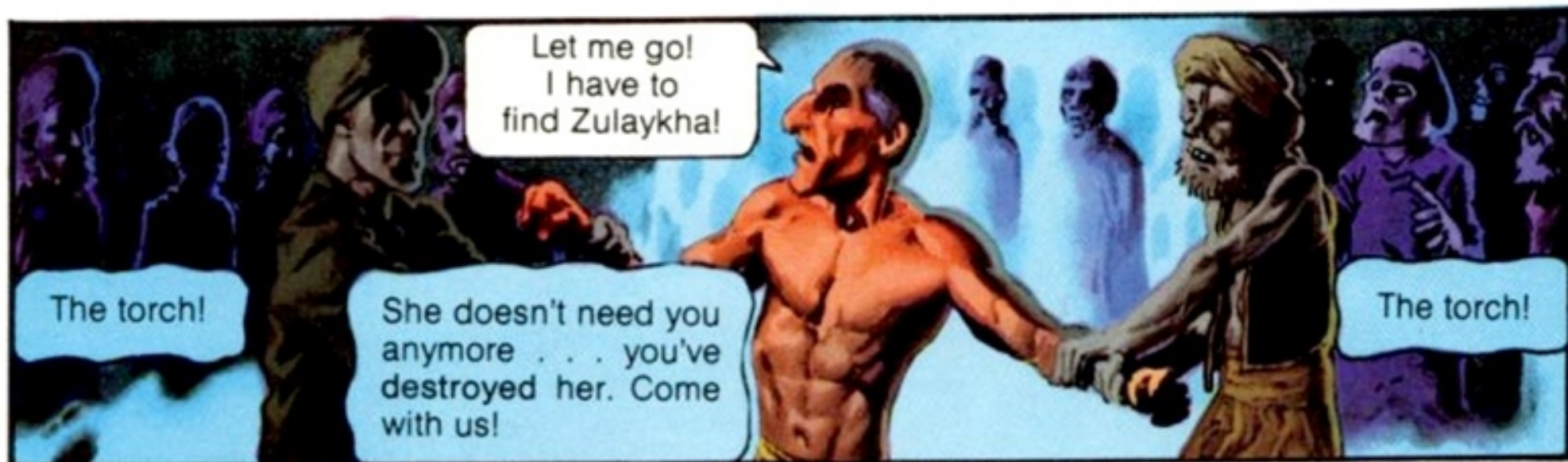
NATIONALLY DISTRIBUTED BY SPRINGBOARD INT'L RECORDS
RAHWAY, NEW JERSEY / HOLLYWOOD, CALIFORNIA



©1978 Richard Corben & Jan Strnad



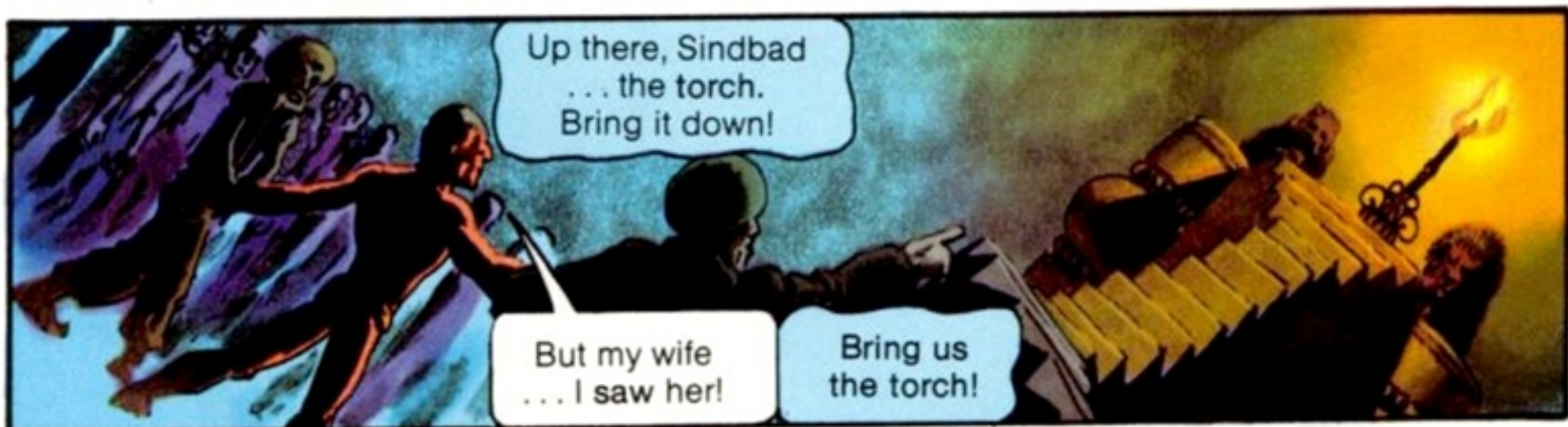




The torch!

She doesn't need you
anymore . . . you've
destroyed her. Come
with us!

The torch!



But my wife
. . . I saw her!

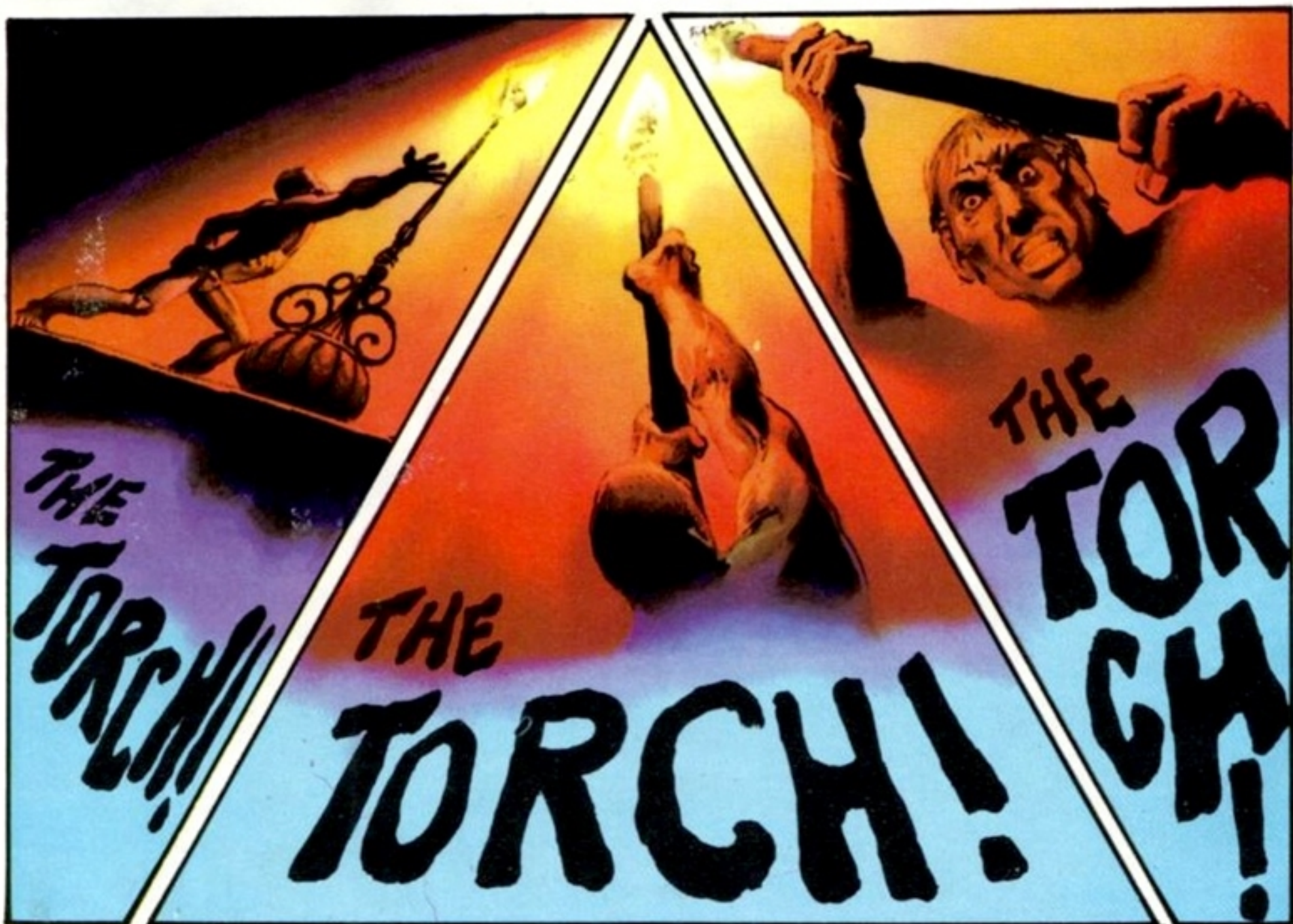
Bring us
the torch!

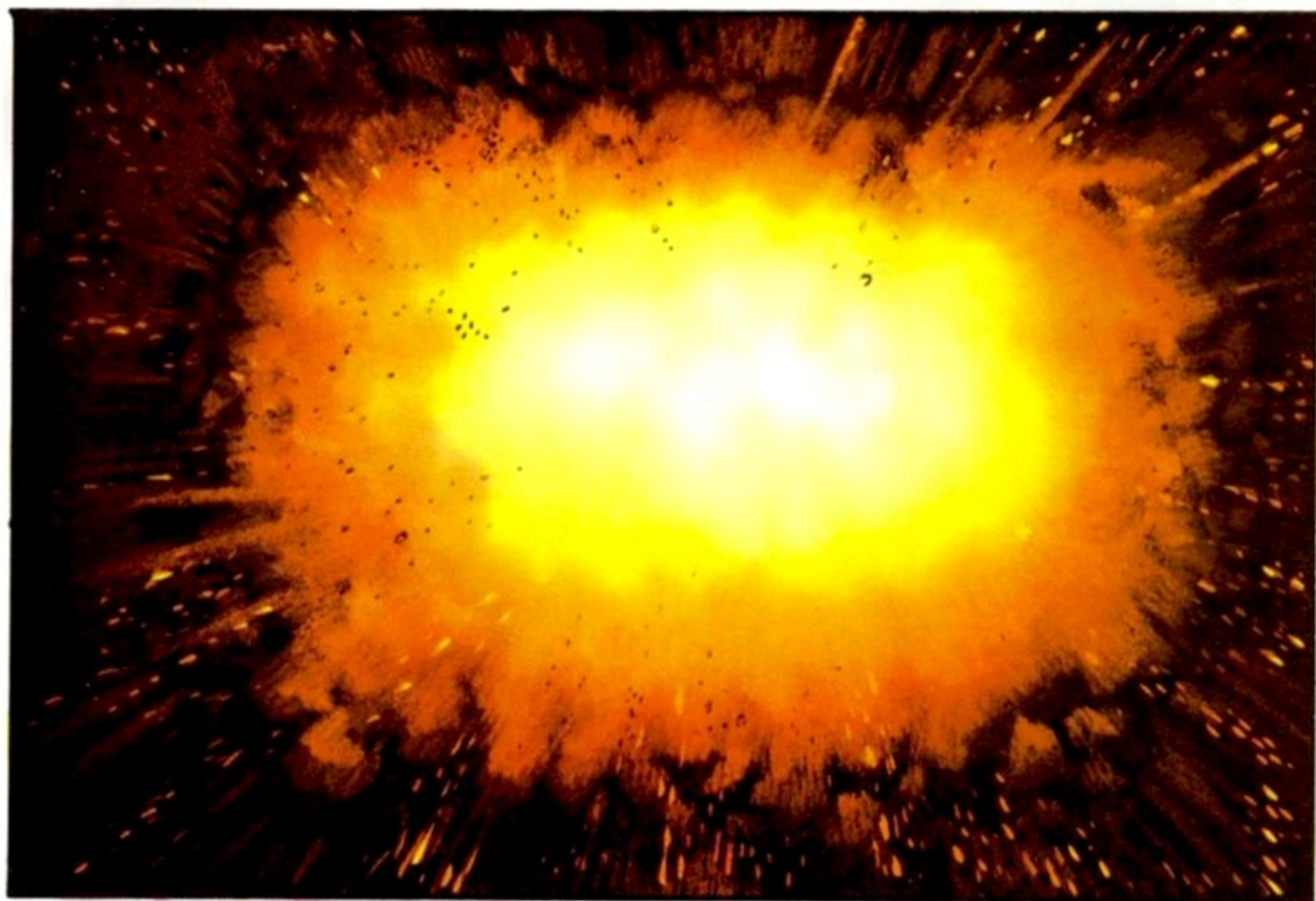


THE
TORCH!







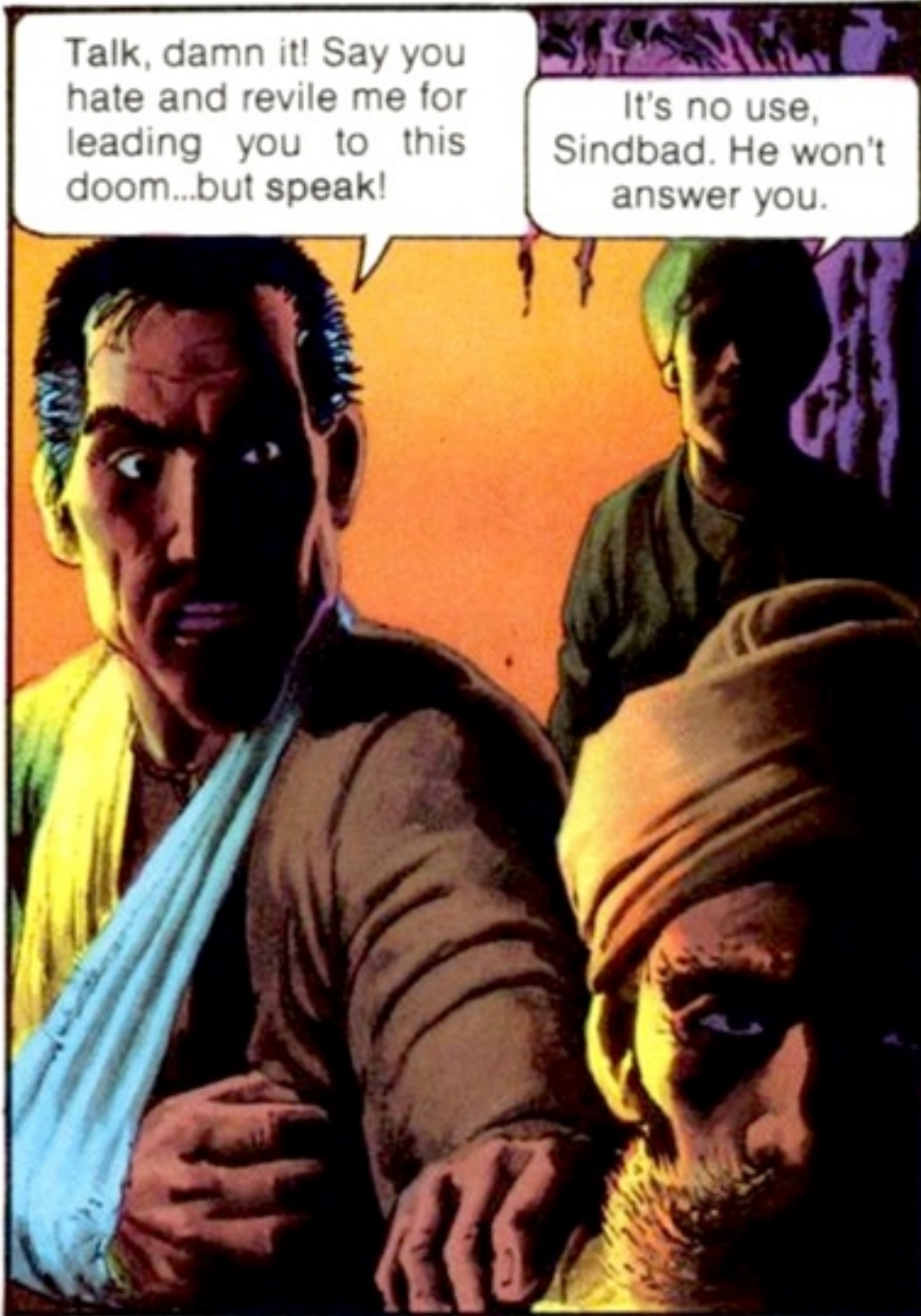


Judar! I dreamed you were dead! But tell me...where are we? Is this Ketra?



Talk, damn it! Say you hate and revile me for leading you to this doom...but speak!

It's no use, Sindbad. He won't answer you.



Judar was impudent to the guards ...

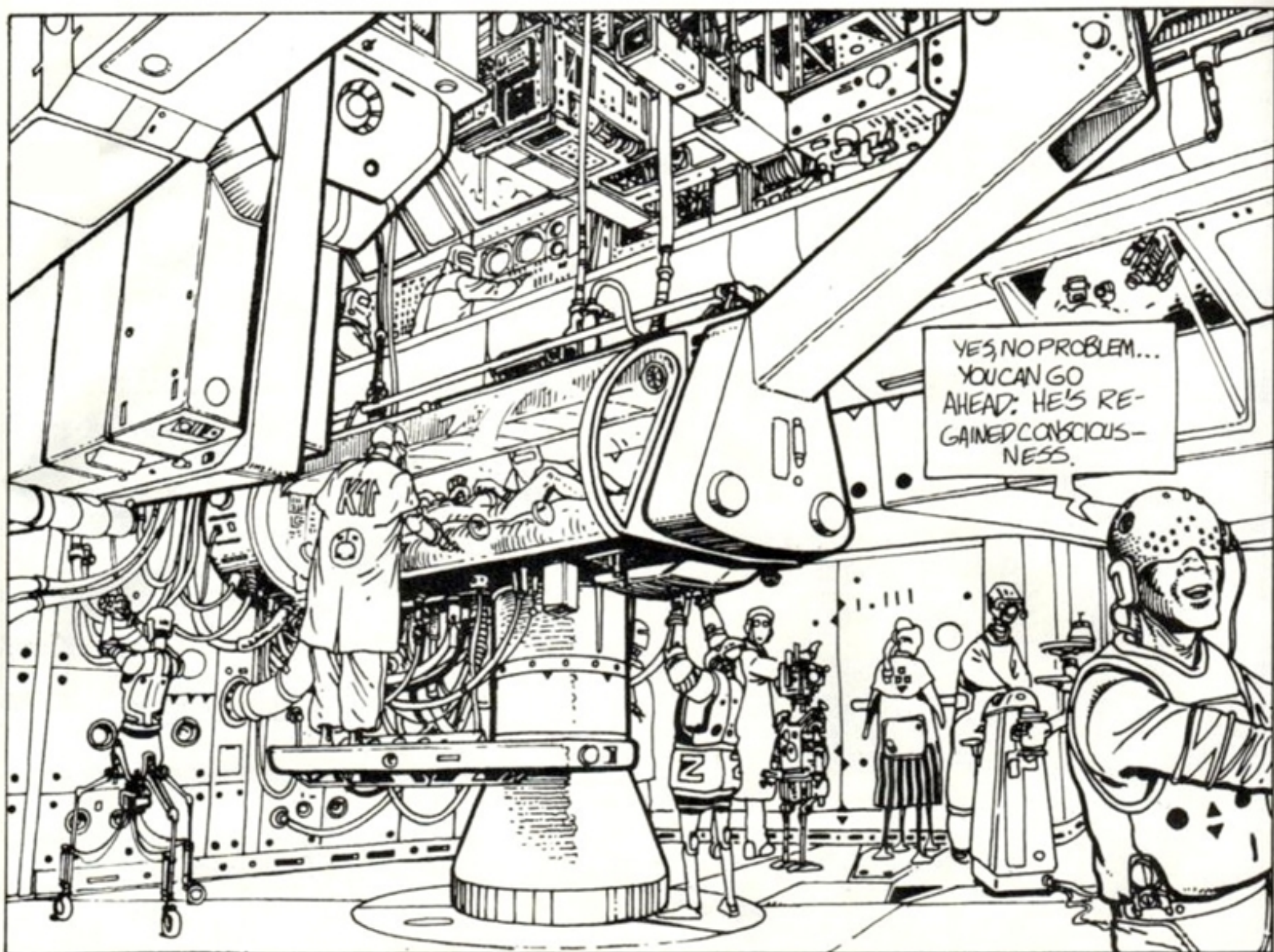
... they cut out his tongue.



Someone's coming.



to be continued



ONLY CONNECT: THE TUMOR







LARC HAS BEEN IN A SORT
OF ENDLESS INTESTINE FOR
THE PAST SEVERAL HOURS...BUT,
URGED ON AS IF BY INSTINCT, HE
GOES RESOLUTELY
FORWARD...

MAGGIUS 11

THE AIRTIGHT GARAGE OF JERRY CORNELIUS

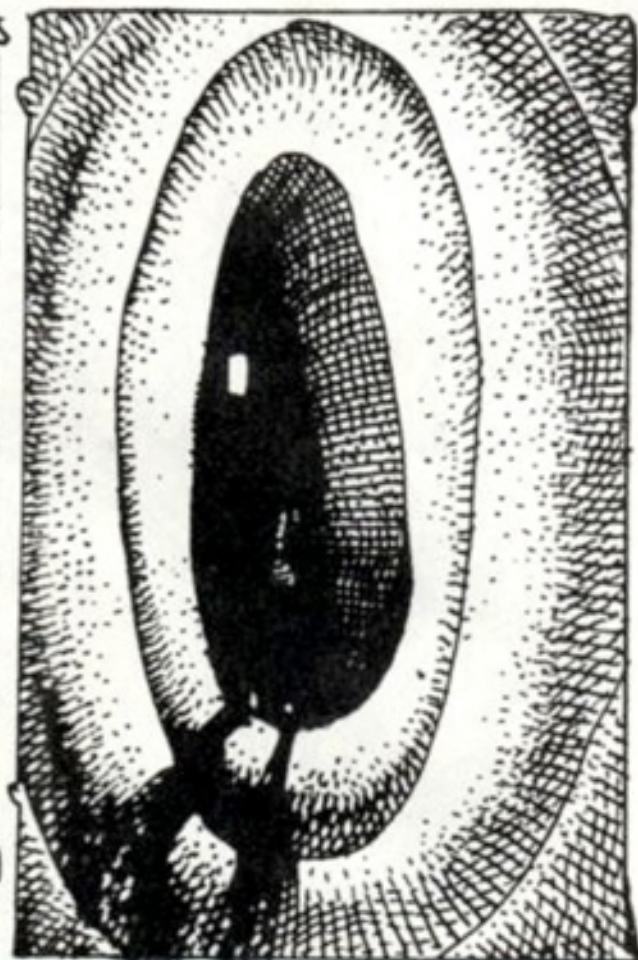


AFTER I EMBRACED THAT WOMAN, I SUDDENLY FELT MYSELF TELETRANSPORTED INTO THIS SORT OF ENDLESS INTESTINE.

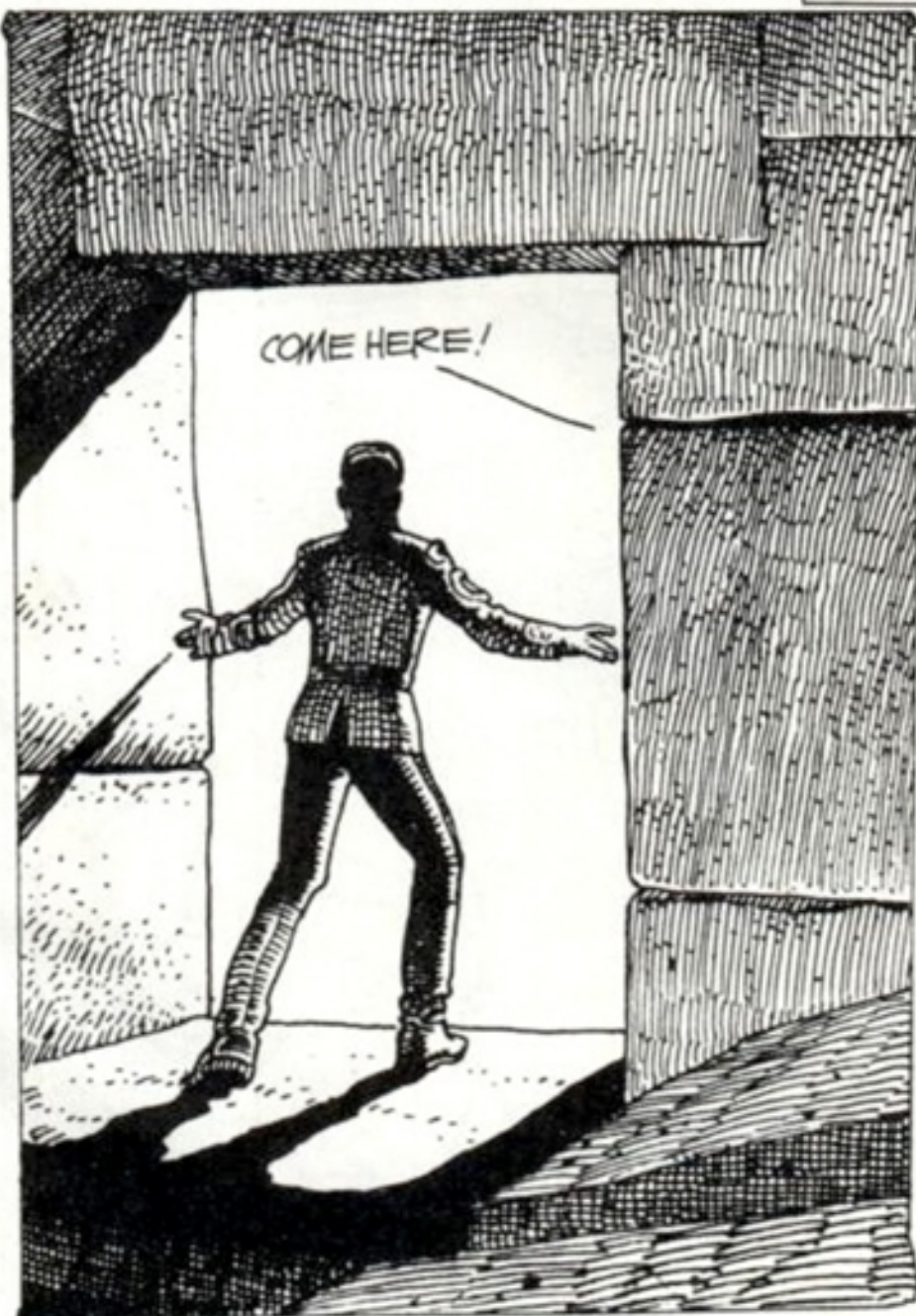


AH!

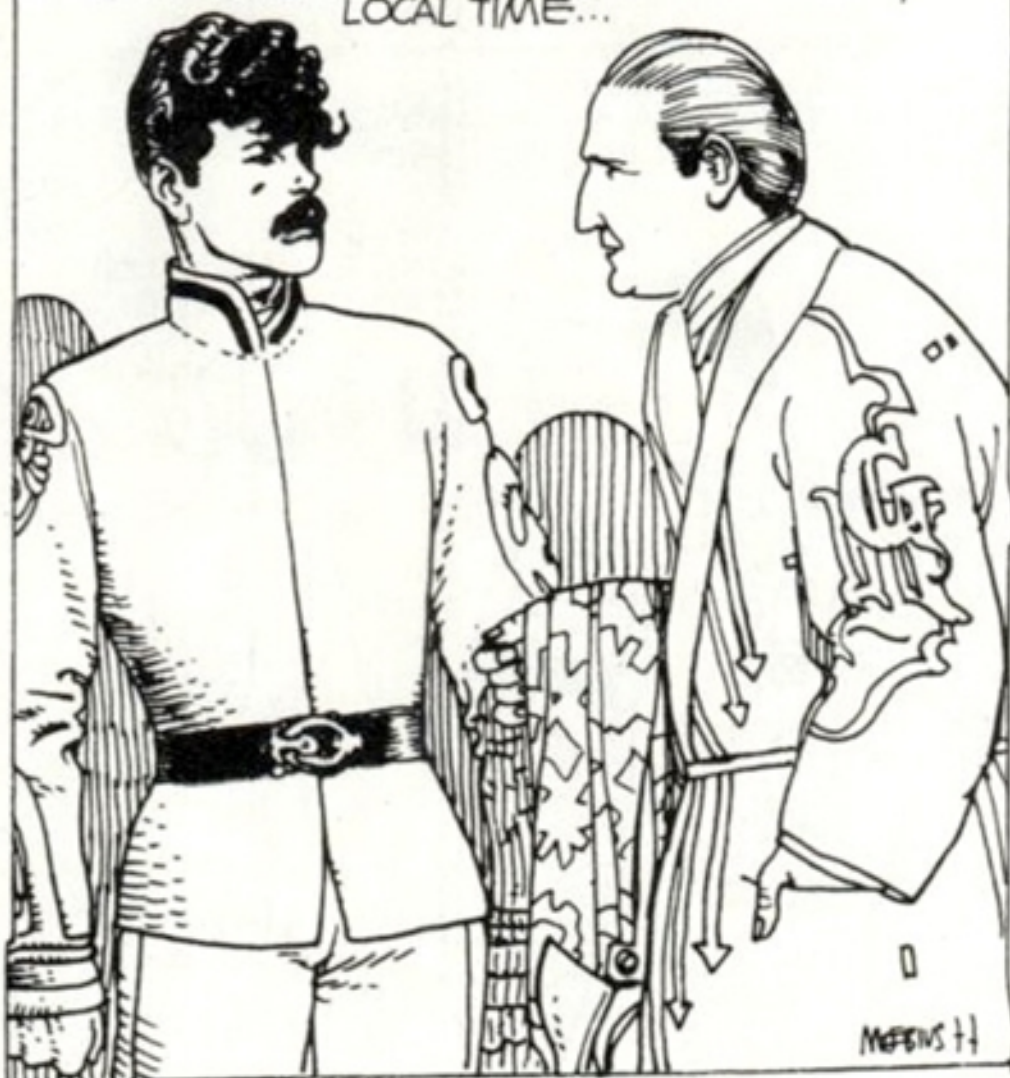
THAT MUST BE THE EXIT DOWN THERE!



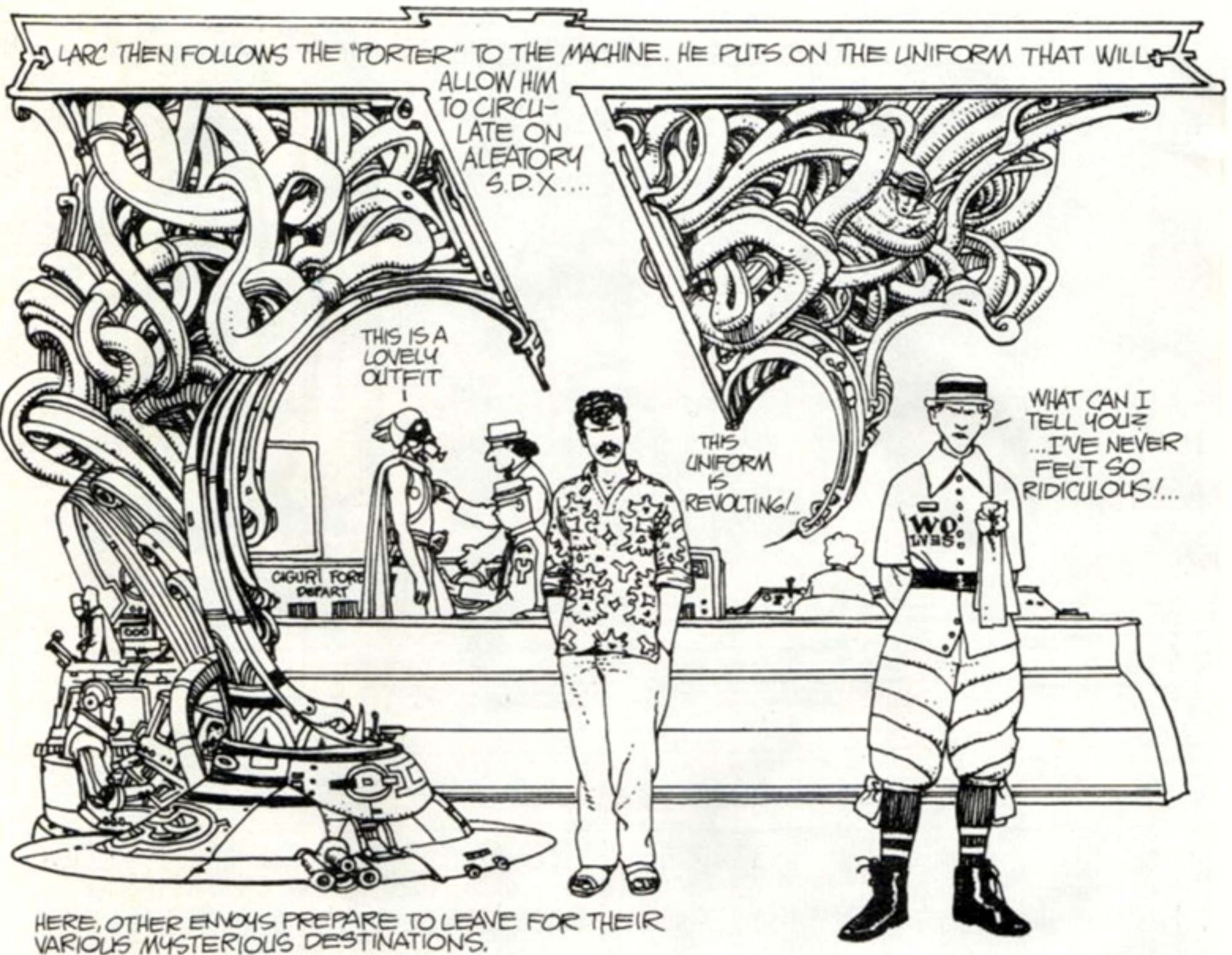
OUR STORY SO FAR: THE STARS HAVE NOT BEEN SCATTERED ABOUT THE UNIVERSE AT RANDOM—THIS, OUR STORY, UNFOLDS IN THE LION CONSTELLATION NGC 3185...TYPE SBA (MOUNT WILSON AND PALOMAR OBSERVATORIES)

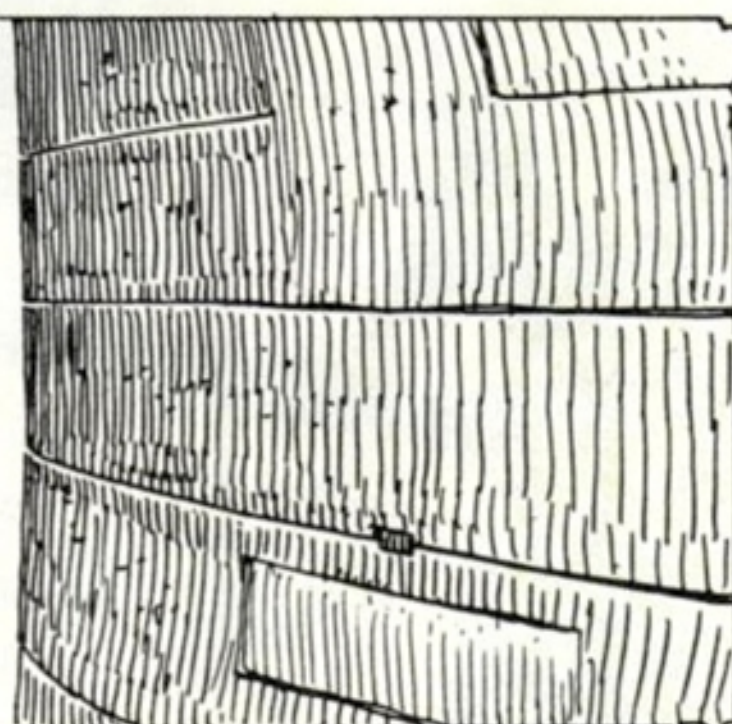
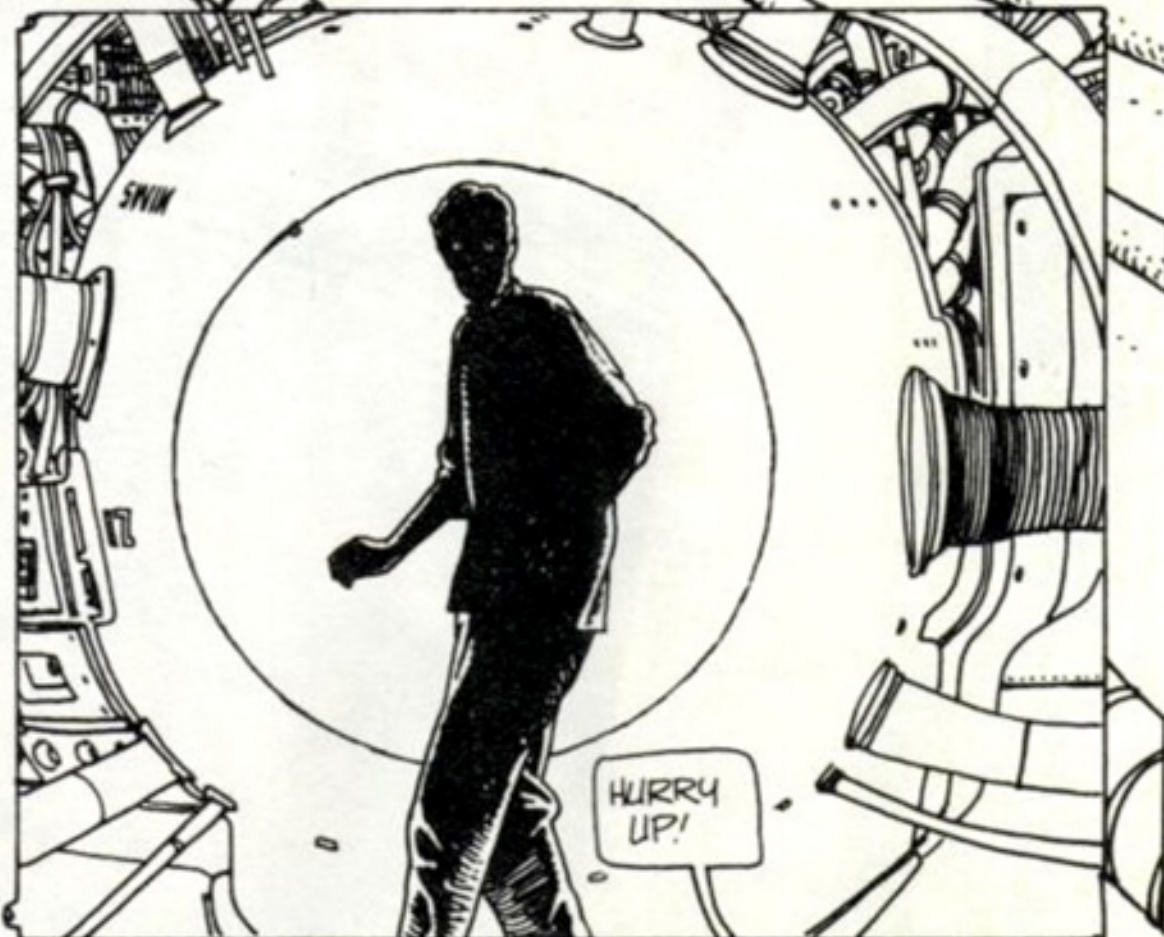
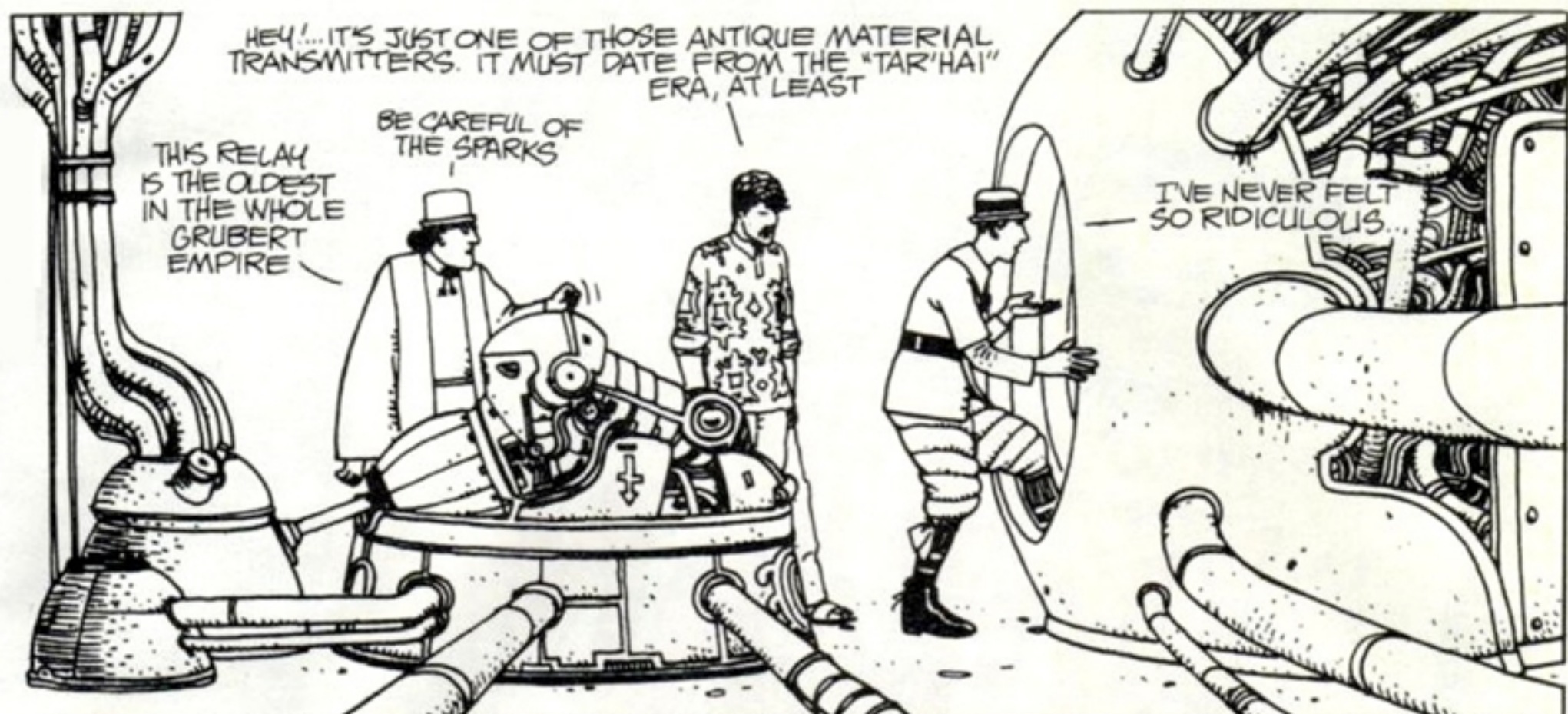


YOU ARE LARC DALXTRE... AREN'T YOU?... I HAVE BEEN WAITING FOR YOU... SLIP ON THIS UNIFORM AND ENTER THE TUBULAR MACHINE... AS SOON AS YOU ARE ON THE OUTSIDE, DON'T LET YOURSELF BE DISTRACTED BY ANYTHING. YOUR MISSION IS TO BRING ERIC CORNELIUS HERE BEFORE MIDNIGHT, LOCAL TIME...

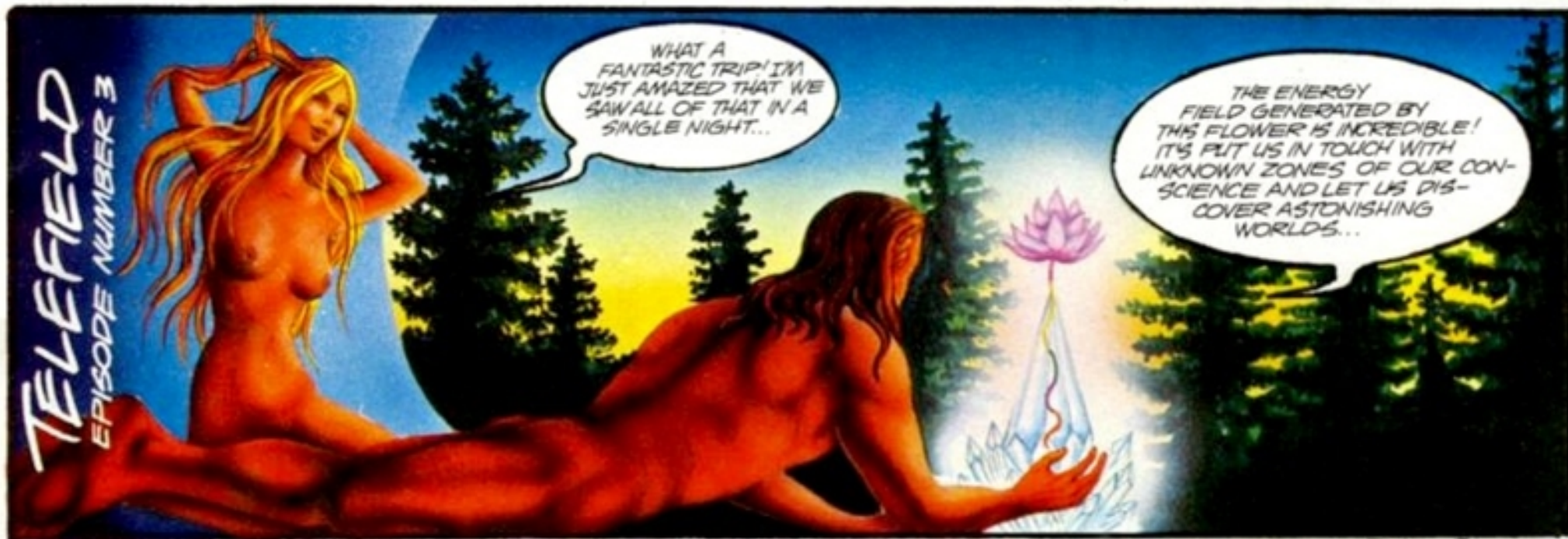


MORRIS +1



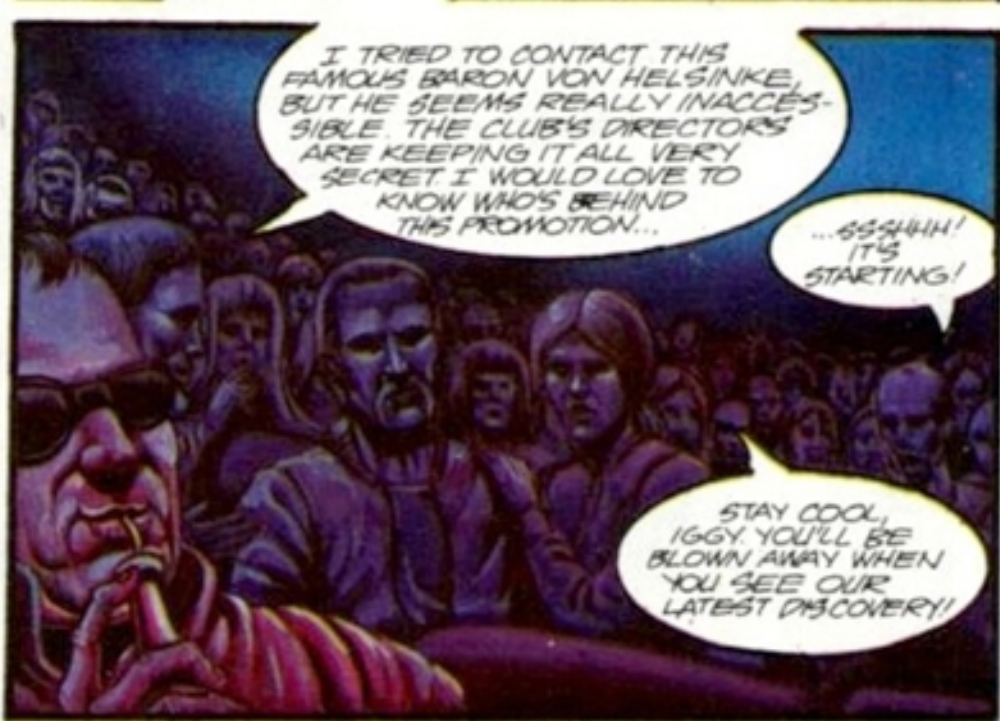


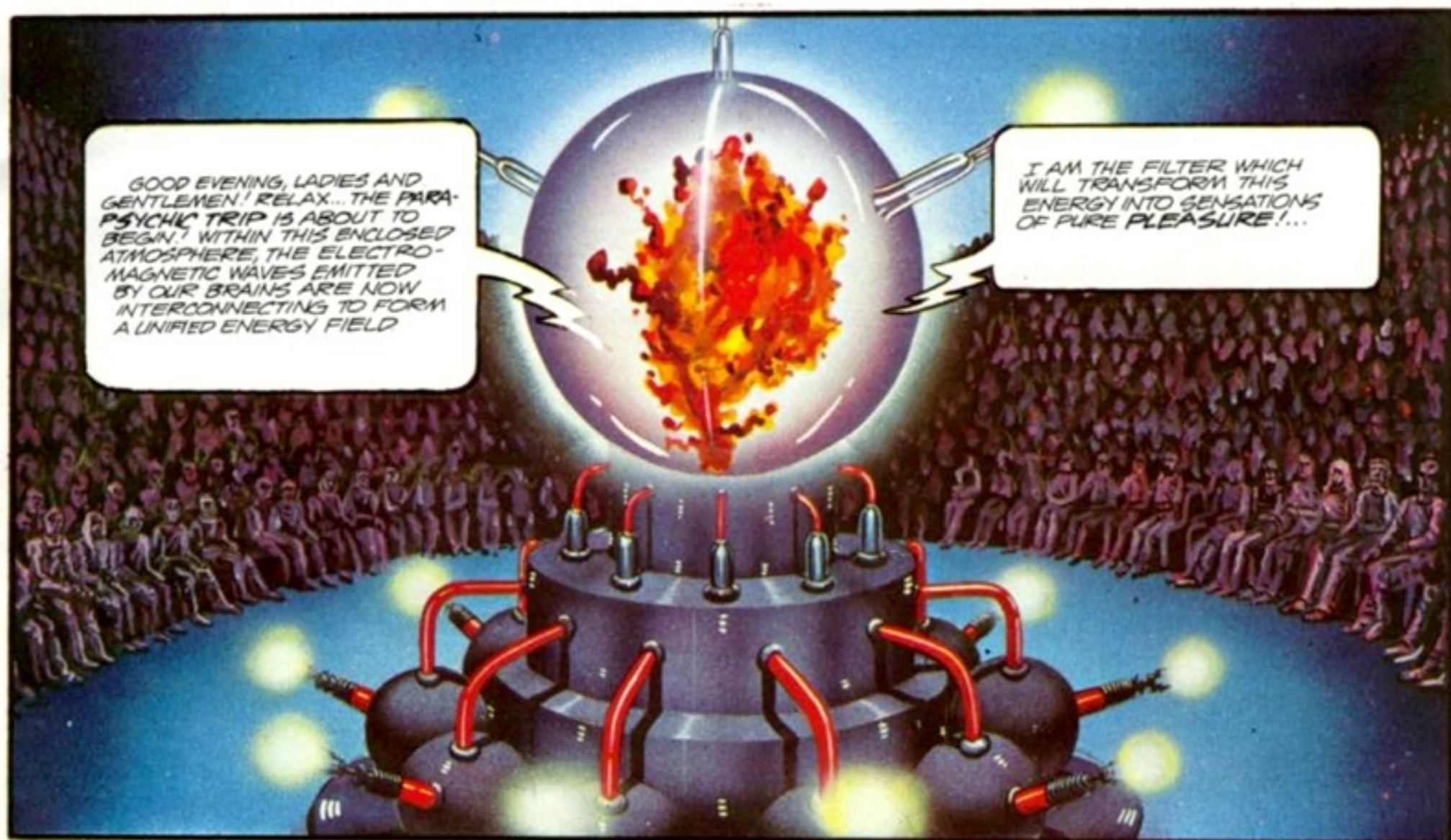
TO BE CONTINUED... MORRIS 77





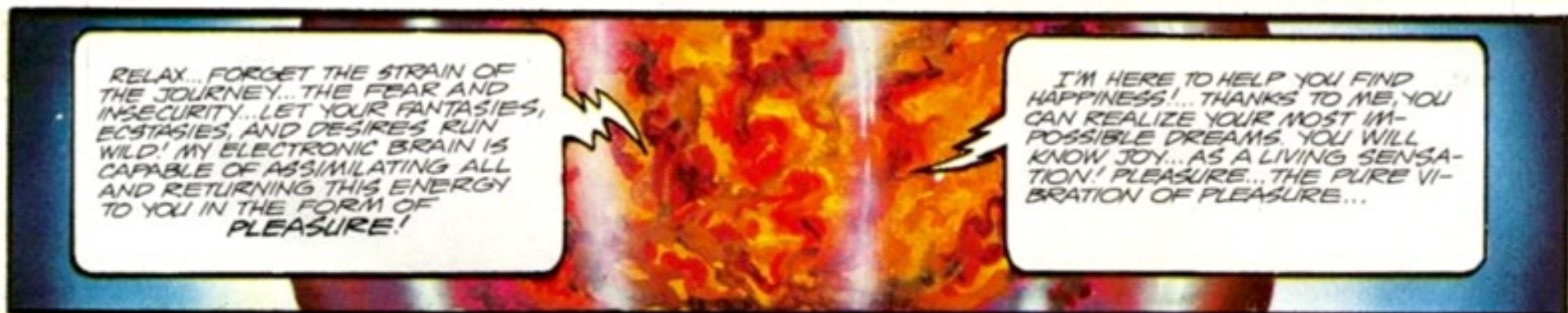






GOOD EVENING, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN! RELAX... THE PARAPSYCHIC TRIP IS ABOUT TO BEGIN! WITHIN THIS ENCLOSED ATMOSPHERE, THE ELECTROMAGNETIC WAVES EMITTED BY OUR BRAINS ARE NOW INTERCONNECTING TO FORM A UNIFIED ENERGY FIELD

I AM THE FILTER WHICH WILL TRANSFORM THIS ENERGY INTO SENSATIONS OF PURE PLEASURE!...



RELAX... FORGET THE STRAIN OF THE JOURNEY... THE FEAR AND INSECURITY... LET YOUR FANTASIES, ECSTASIES, AND DESIRES RUN WILD! MY ELECTRONIC BRAIN IS CAPABLE OF ASSIMILATING ALL AND RETURNING THIS ENERGY TO YOU IN THE FORM OF PLEASURE!

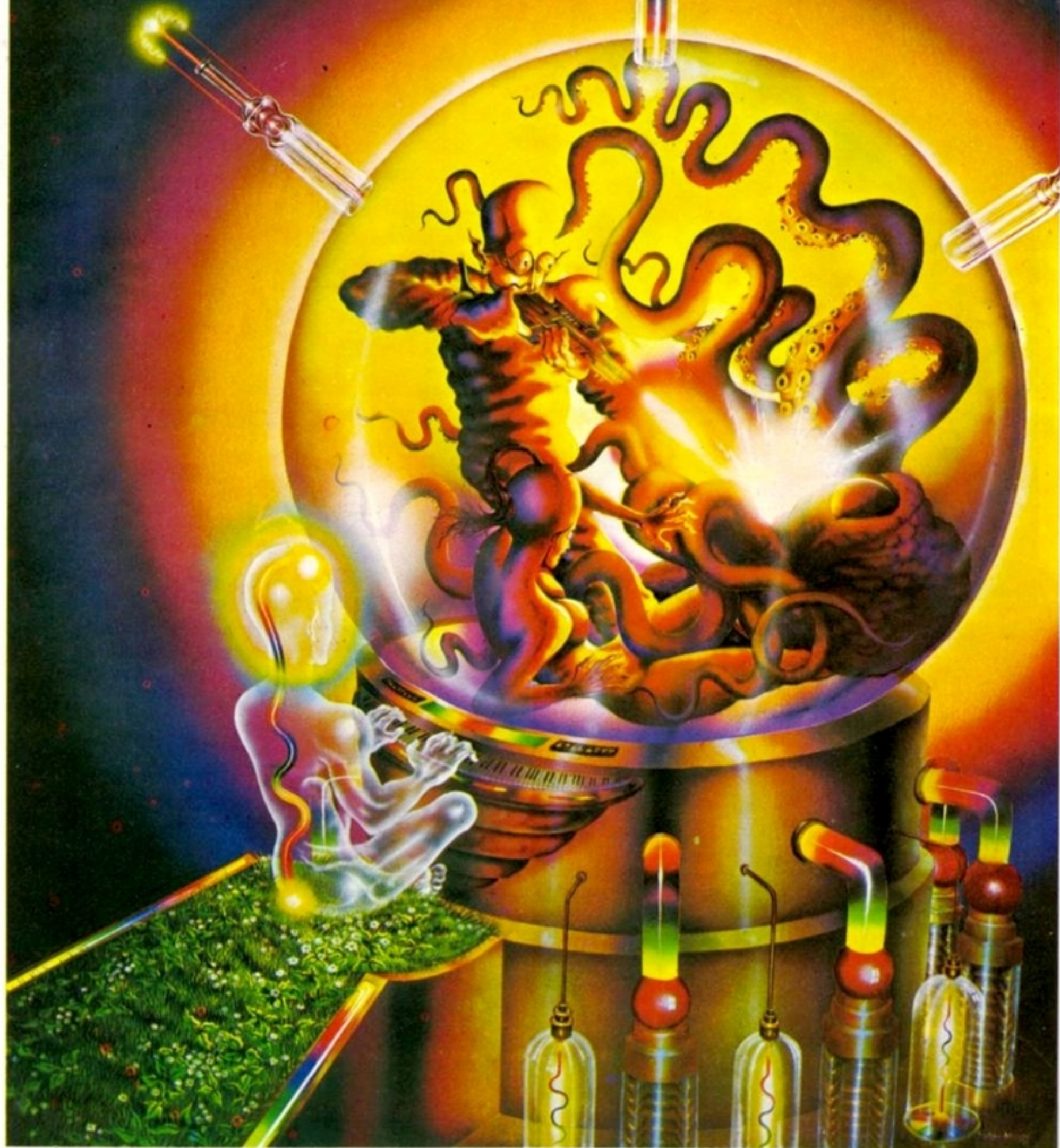
I'M HERE TO HELP YOU FIND HAPPINESS!... THANKS TO ME, YOU CAN REALIZE YOUR MOST IMPOSSIBLE DREAMS. YOU WILL KNOW JOY... AS A LIVING SENSATION! PLEASURE... THE PURE VIBRATION OF PLEASURE...

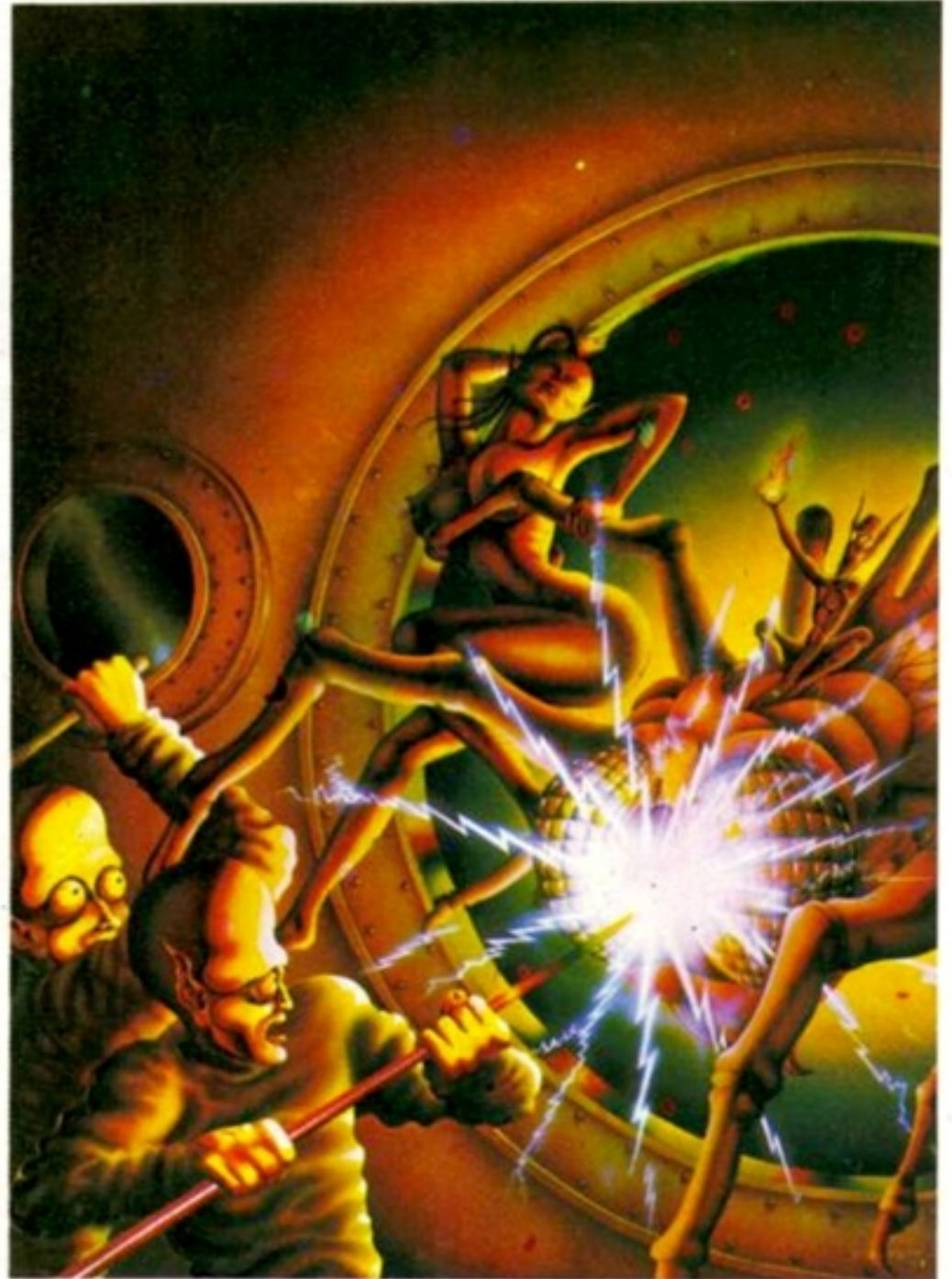


THEY'RE WAVES!... THIS MACHINE IS GENERATING FREQUENCIES THAT STIMULATE THE IMAGINATION!

I-I'M BEGINNING TO HALLUCINATE!

A FANTASTIC VISION UNFOLDS BEFORE THE EYES OF AN ASTONISHED PUBLIC. DELIRIOUS VISIONS, THREE-DIMENSIONAL FORMALIZATIONS OF PURE PSYCHIC ENERGY TRANSFORMED BY THE STRANGE MACHINE, INVADE THE ATMOSPHERE...





THE PROJECTIONS OF THE COLLECTIVE FANTASIES
MATERIALIZER AND SUCCEED ONE ANOTHER WITH THE
SPEED OF THOUGHT...



CAPTURED BY THE VIBRATORY POWERS OF THE PARAPSYCHIC MACHINE, THE PUBLIC CRIES, LAUGHS, WEEPS, SCREAMS... WITH PLEASURE!



THE MADDEST DREAMS AND THE MOST SECRET DESIRES BLEND WITH THE DELIRIUM OF THE CROWD...

AT THE END, A COLLECTIVE CLIMAX OF HYSTERIA...



YES, MASTER.

GOOD-BYE AND THANK YOU FOR COMING. AVAILABLE AT THE EXIT, AT REASONABLE PRICES, IS THE WHOLE RANGE OF PARAPSYCHIC MINI-MACHINES, WHICH ALLOW YOU TO RECREATE THIS EXPERIENCE AT HOME!

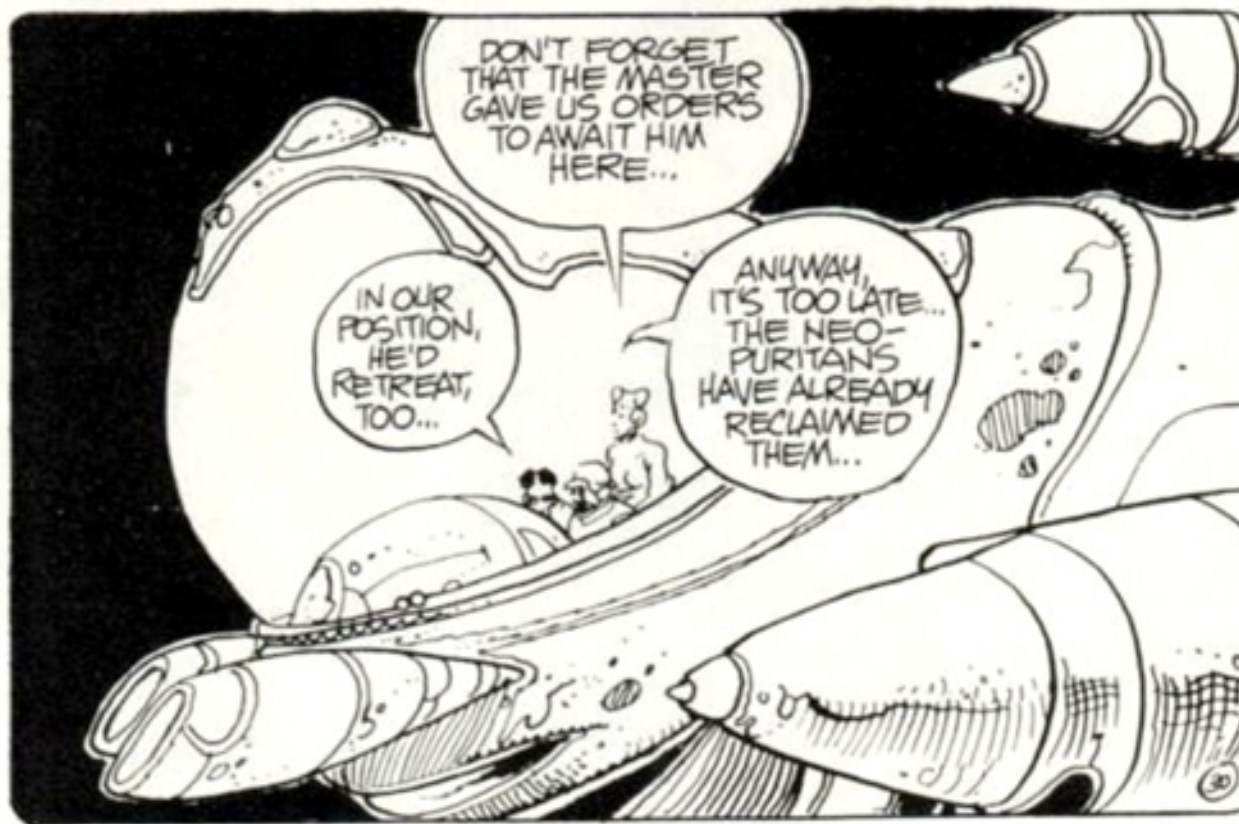


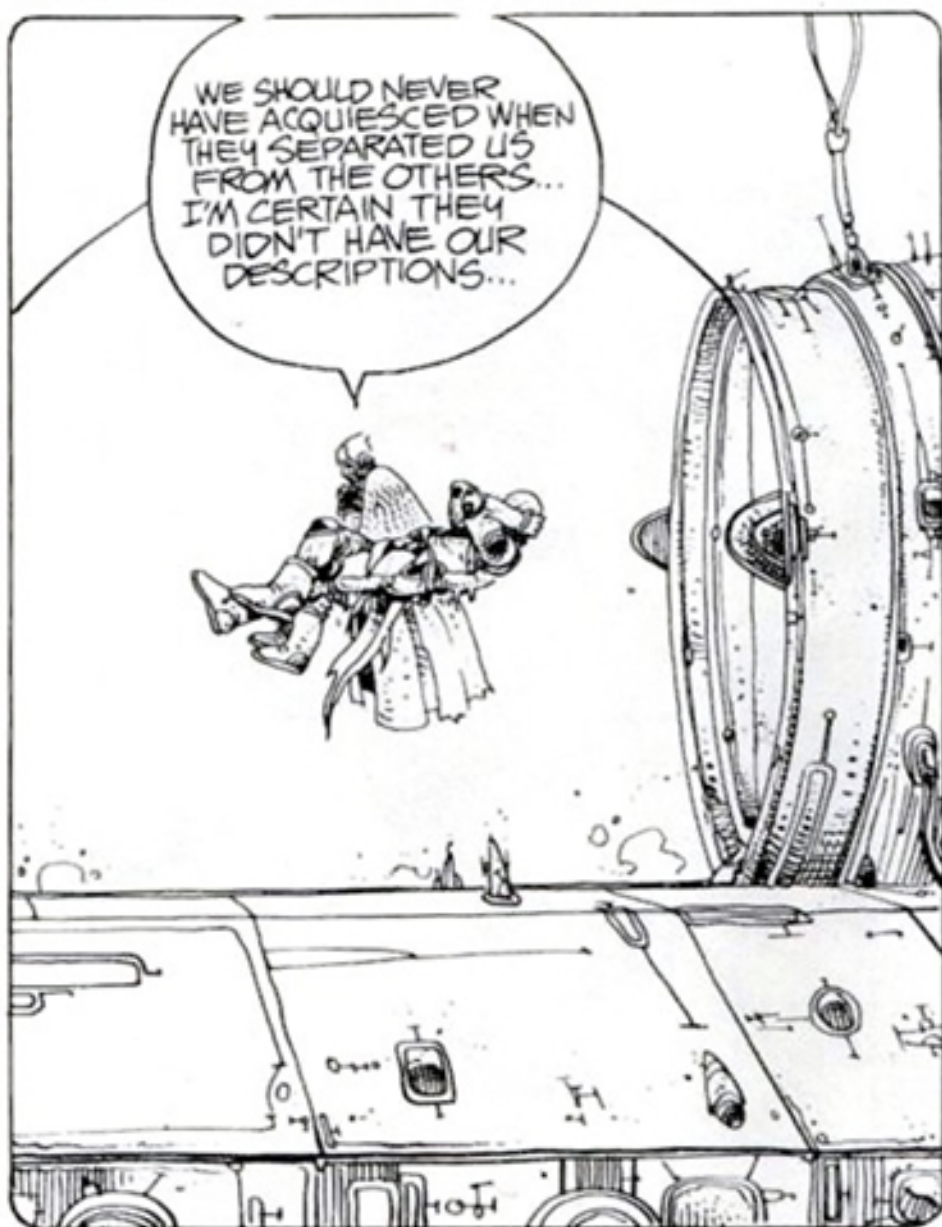
FAR OUT!

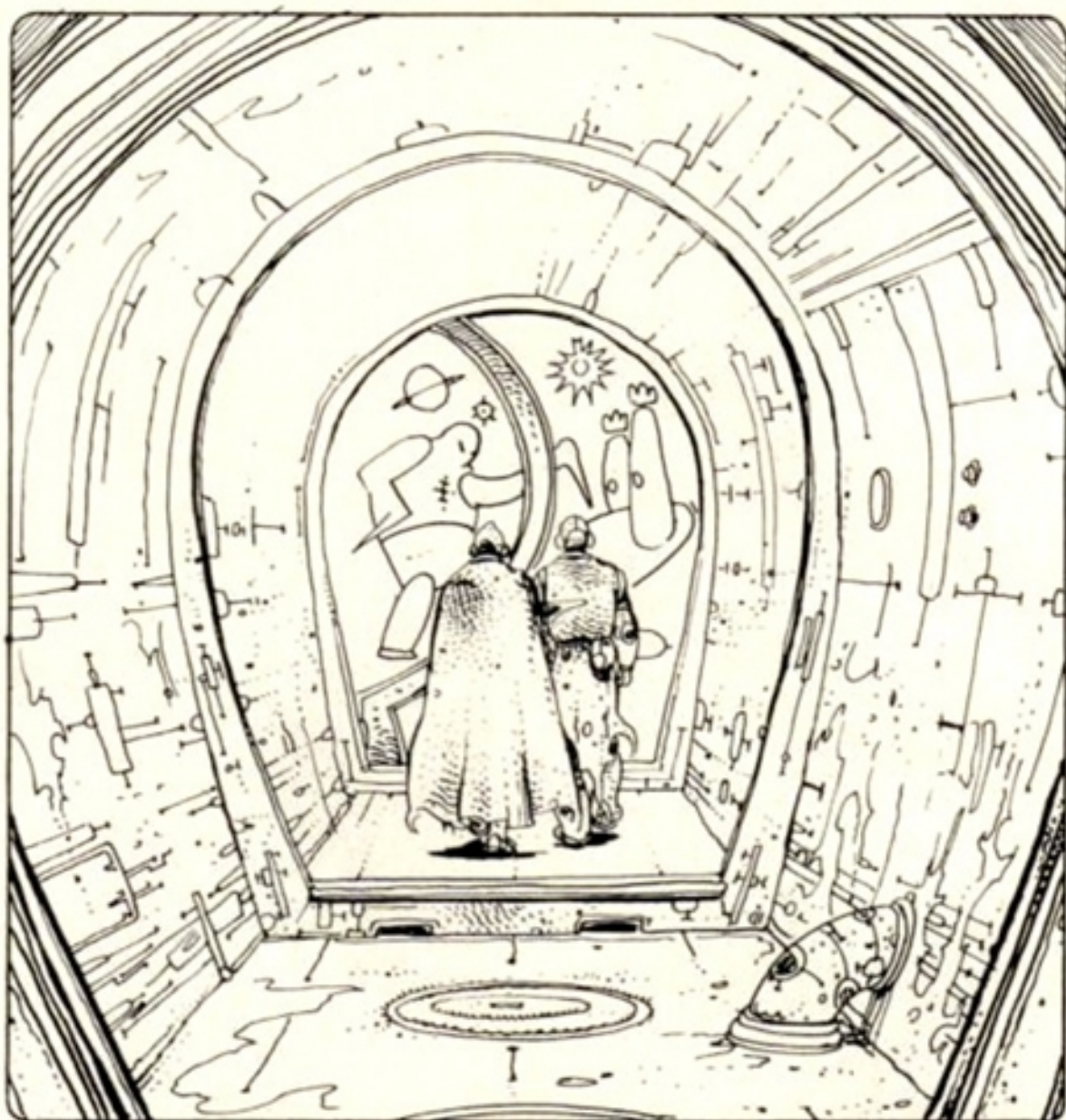
AHHH... MY HEAD... LET'S GET OUT OF HERE, FAST...

EXTERMINATOR II.

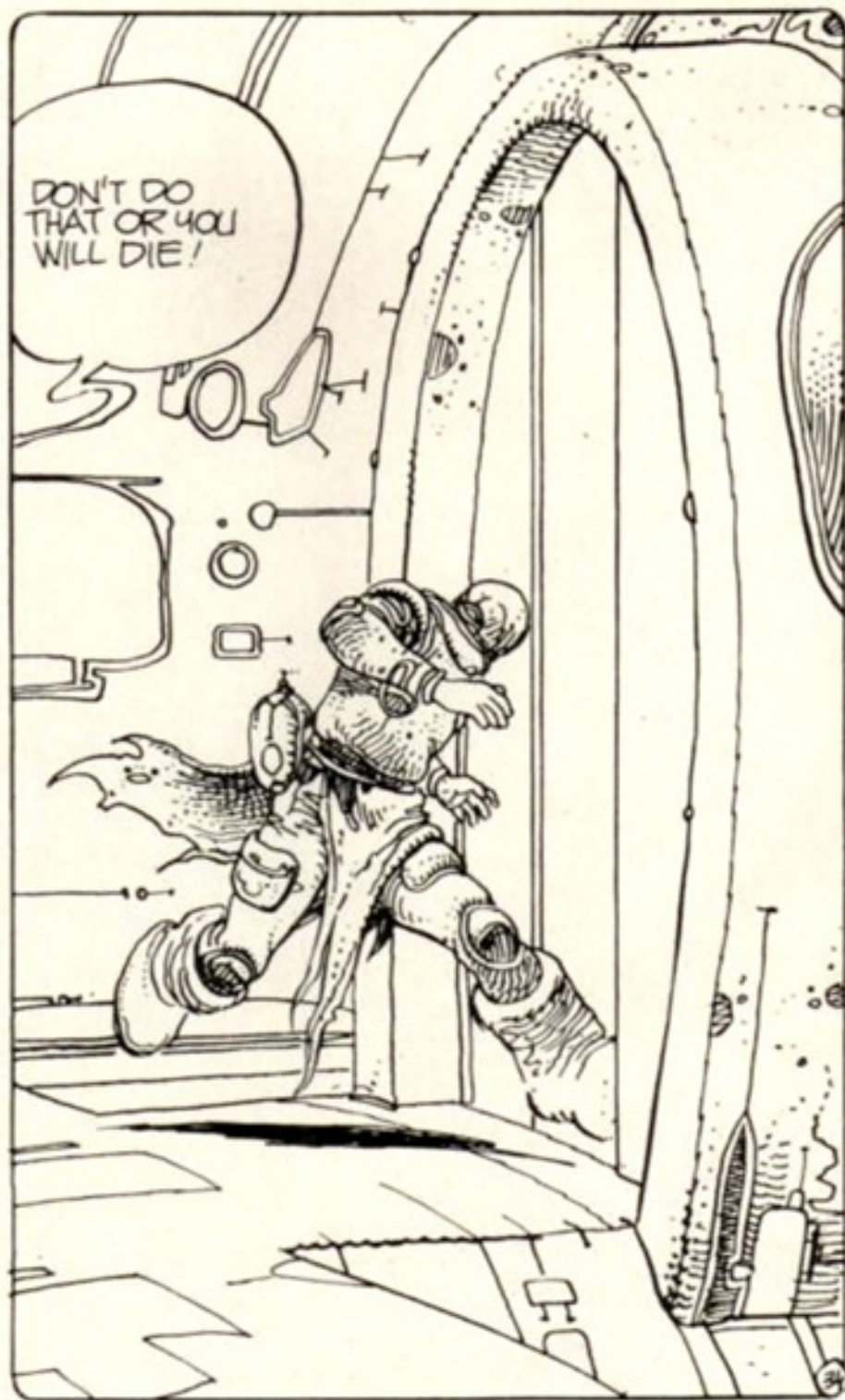
SOMEWHERE IN SPACE, A VESSEL APPROACHES THE DESTROYED SPACESHIP

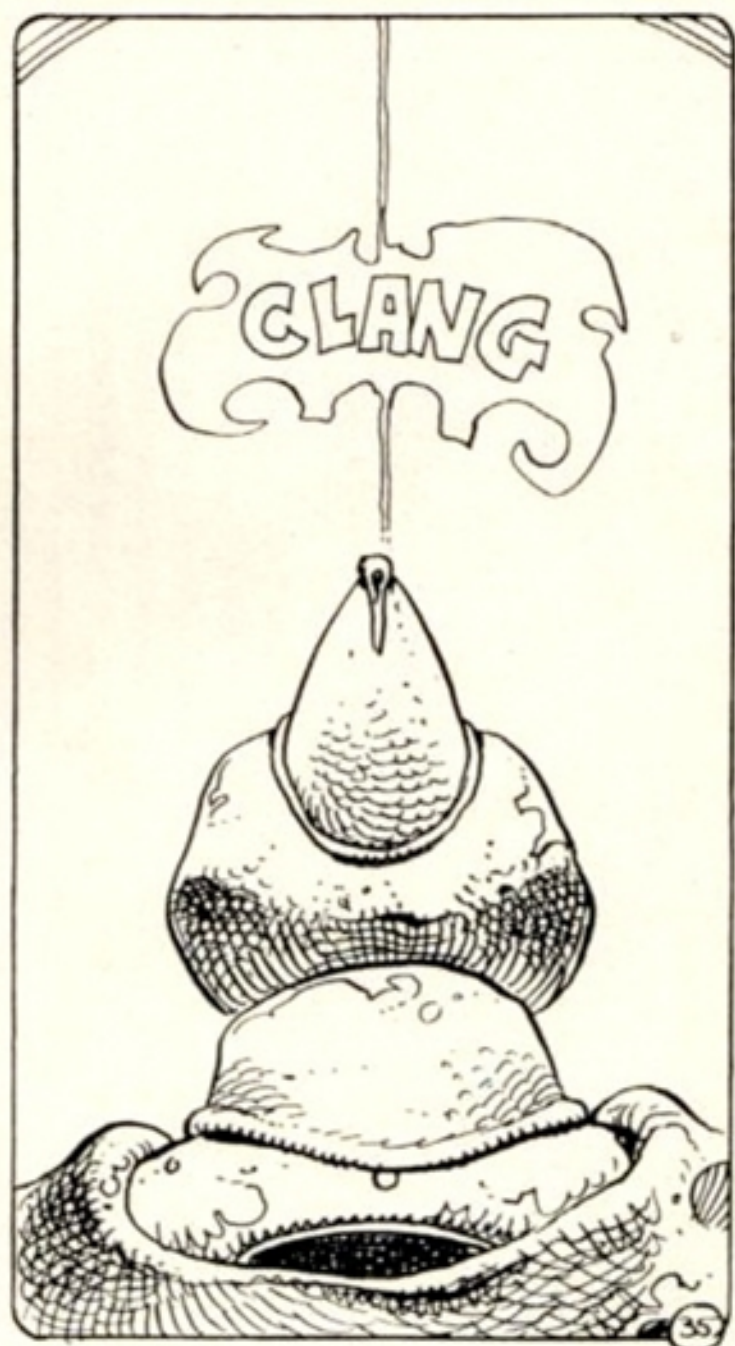
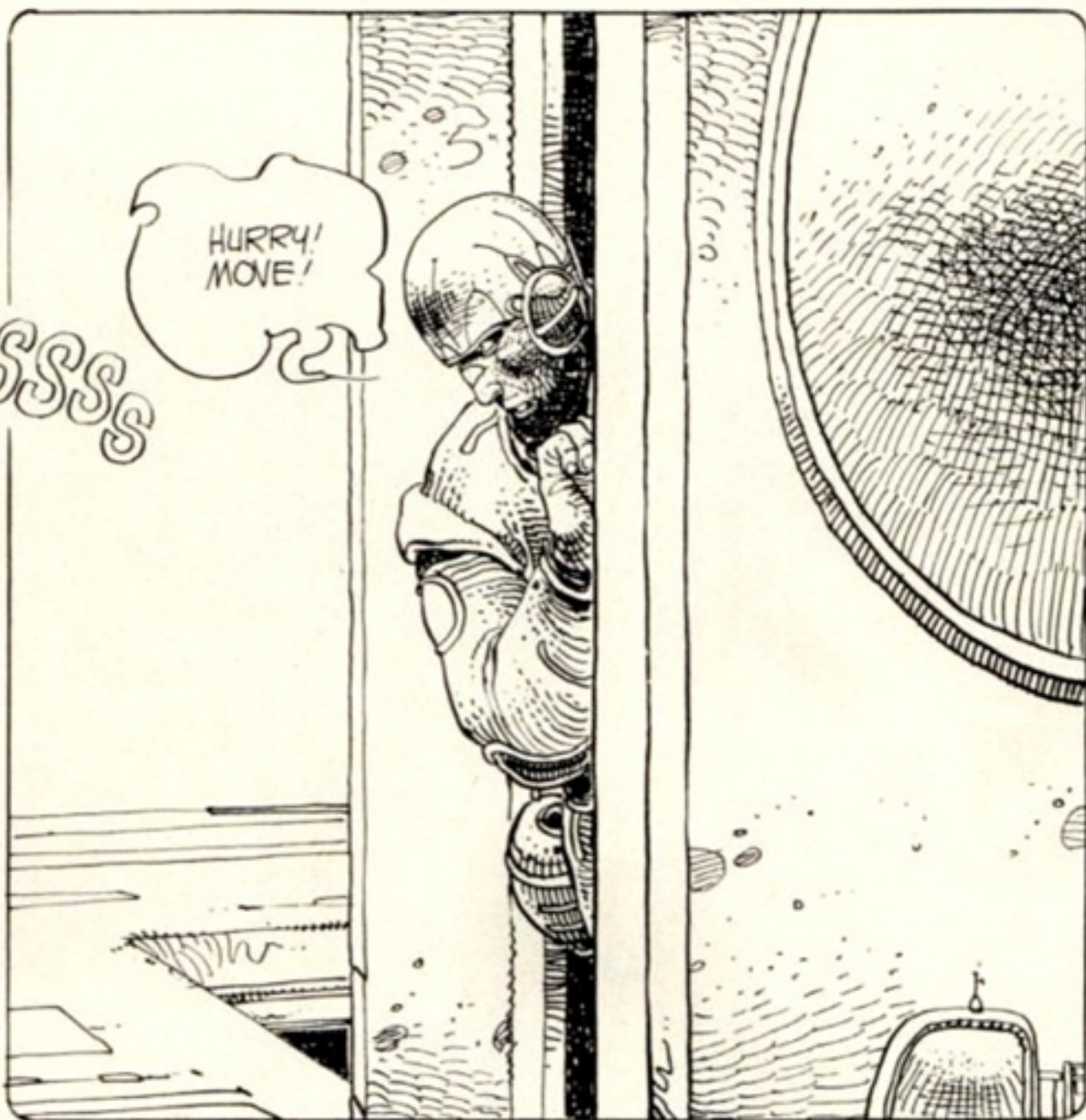


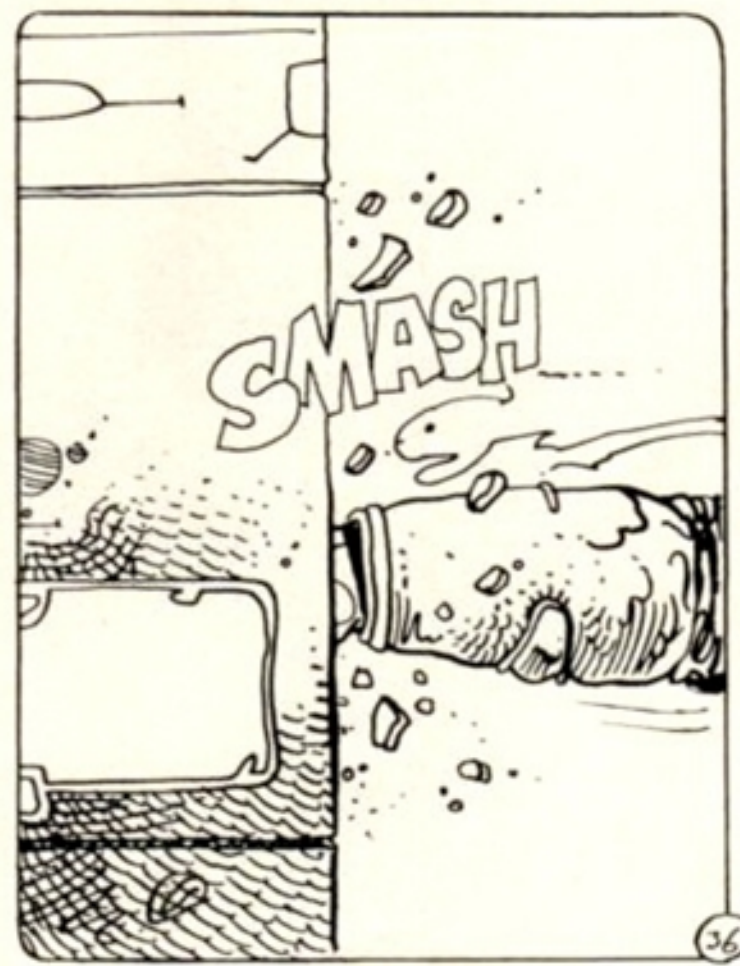
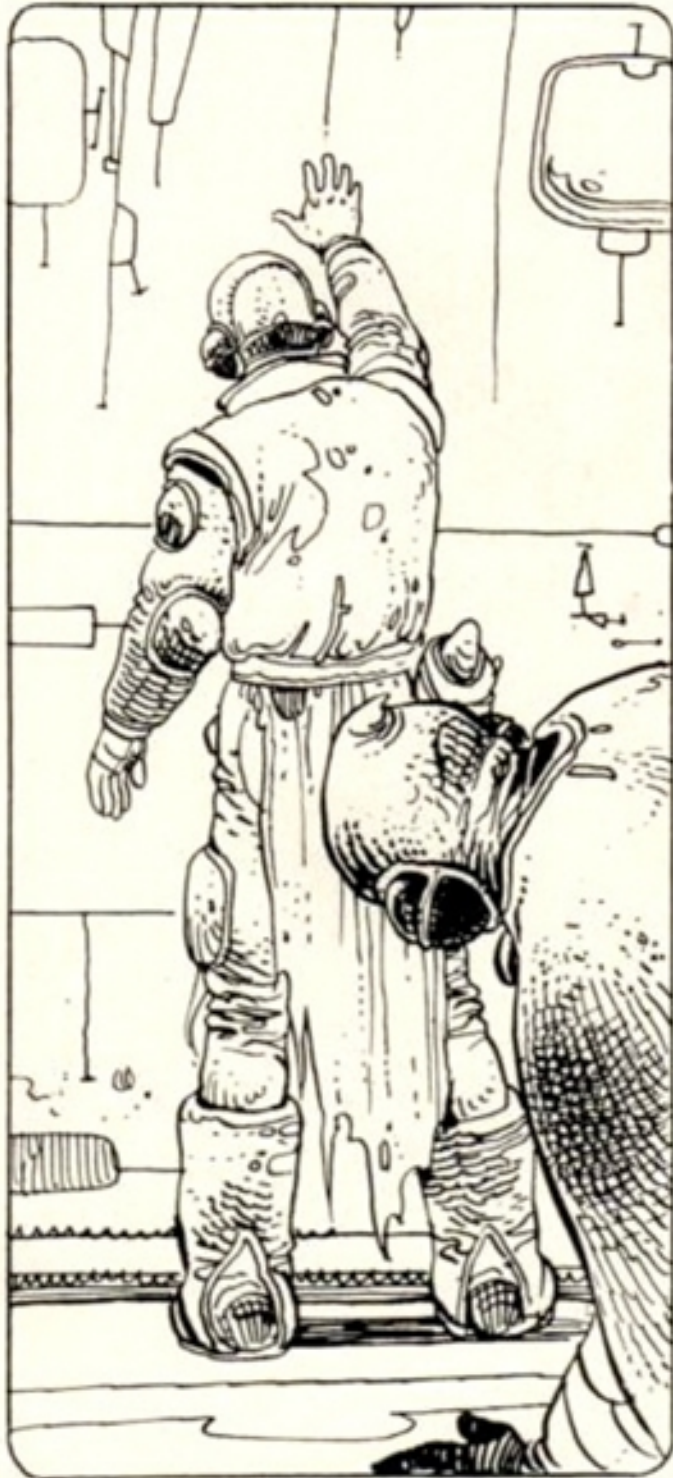


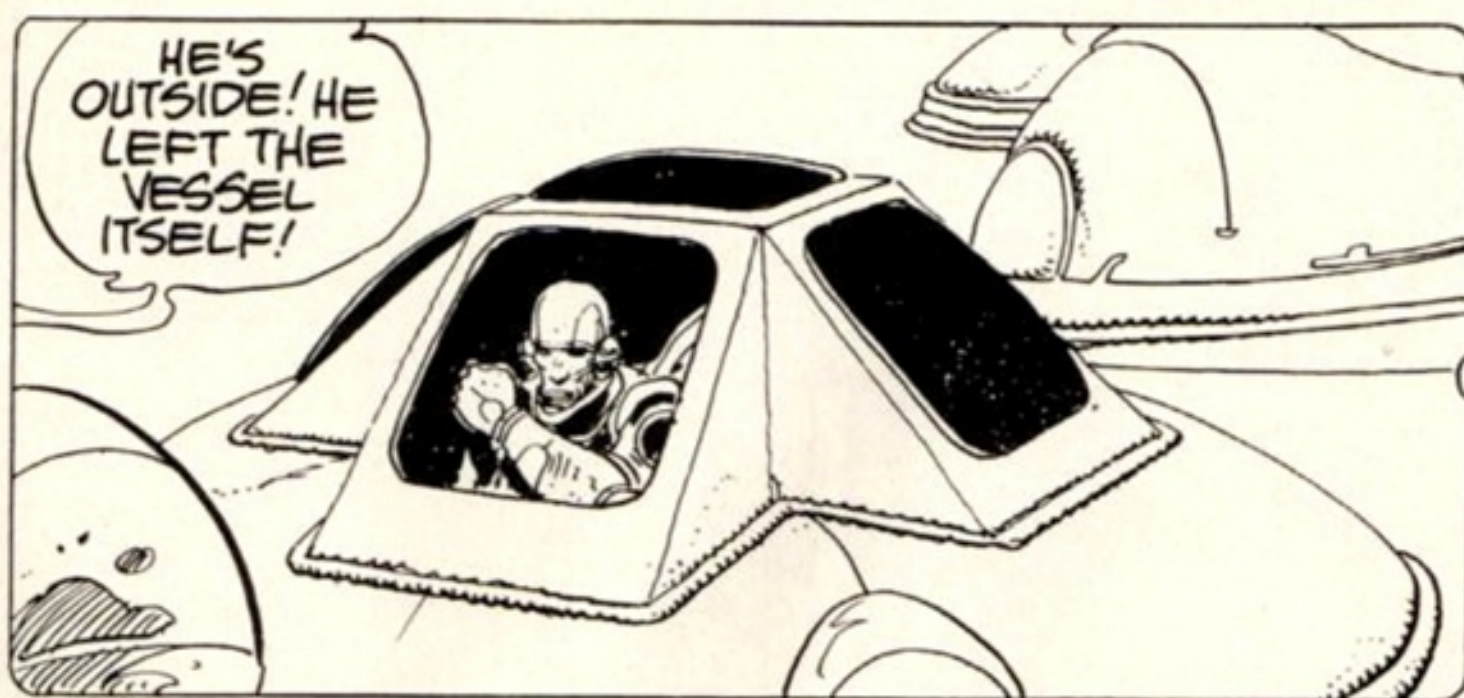
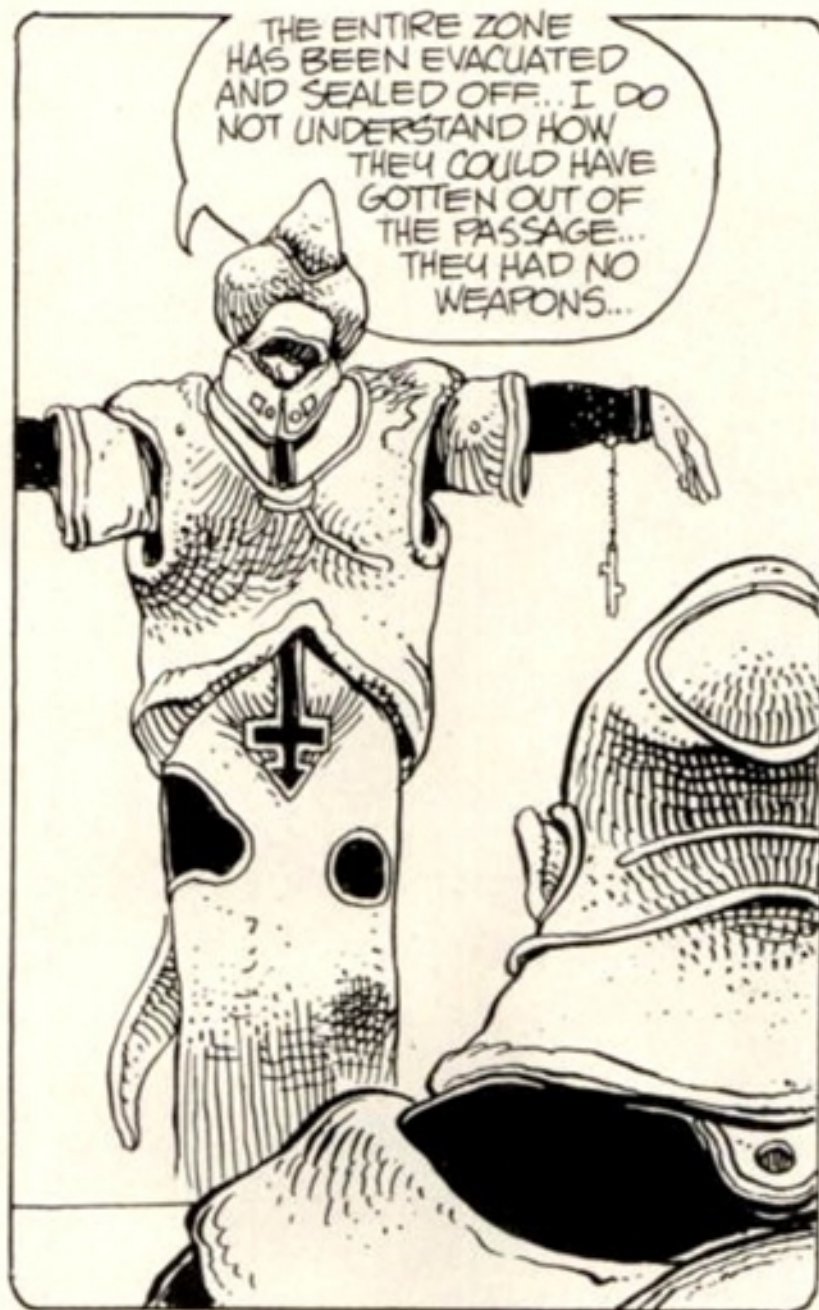








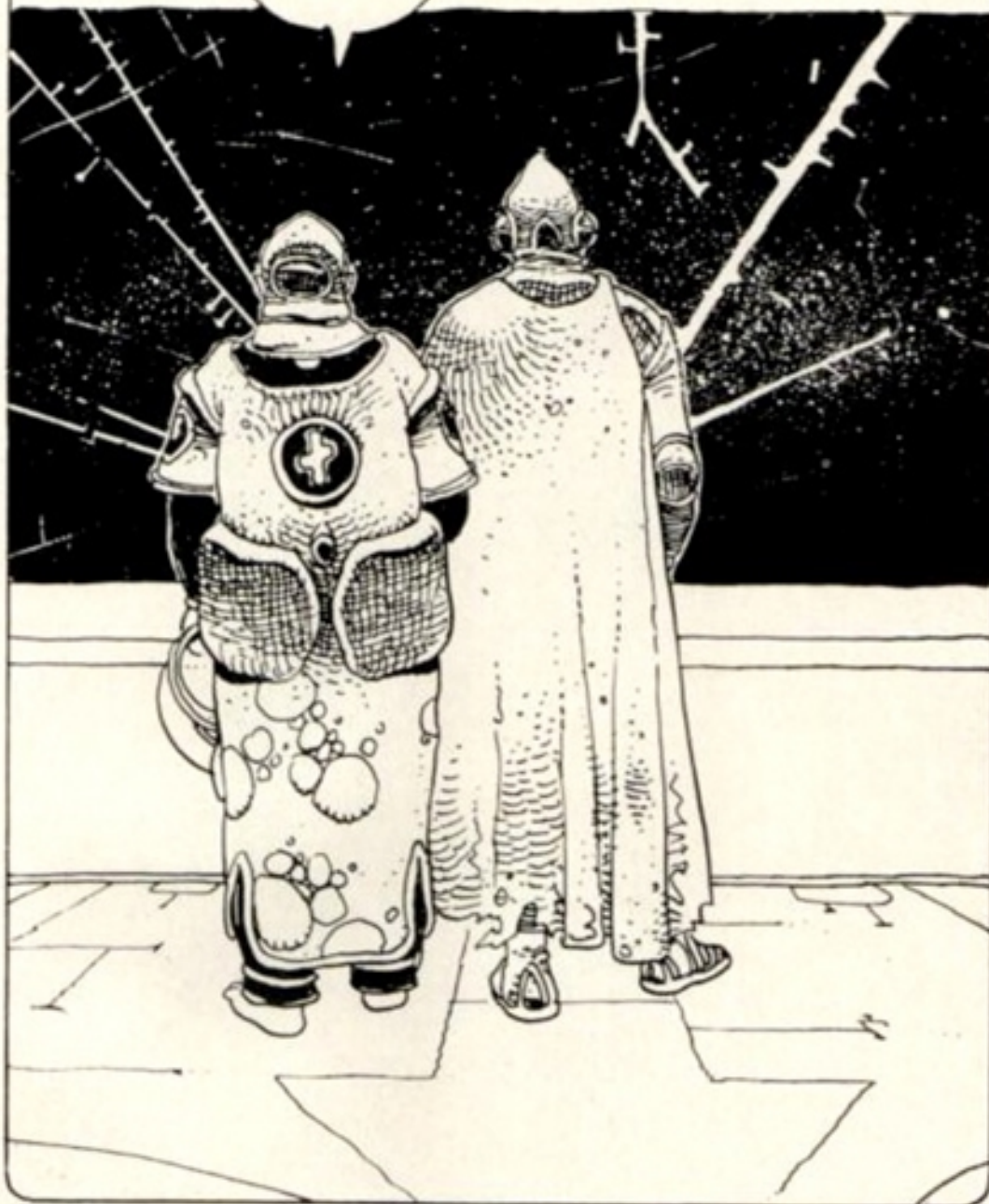




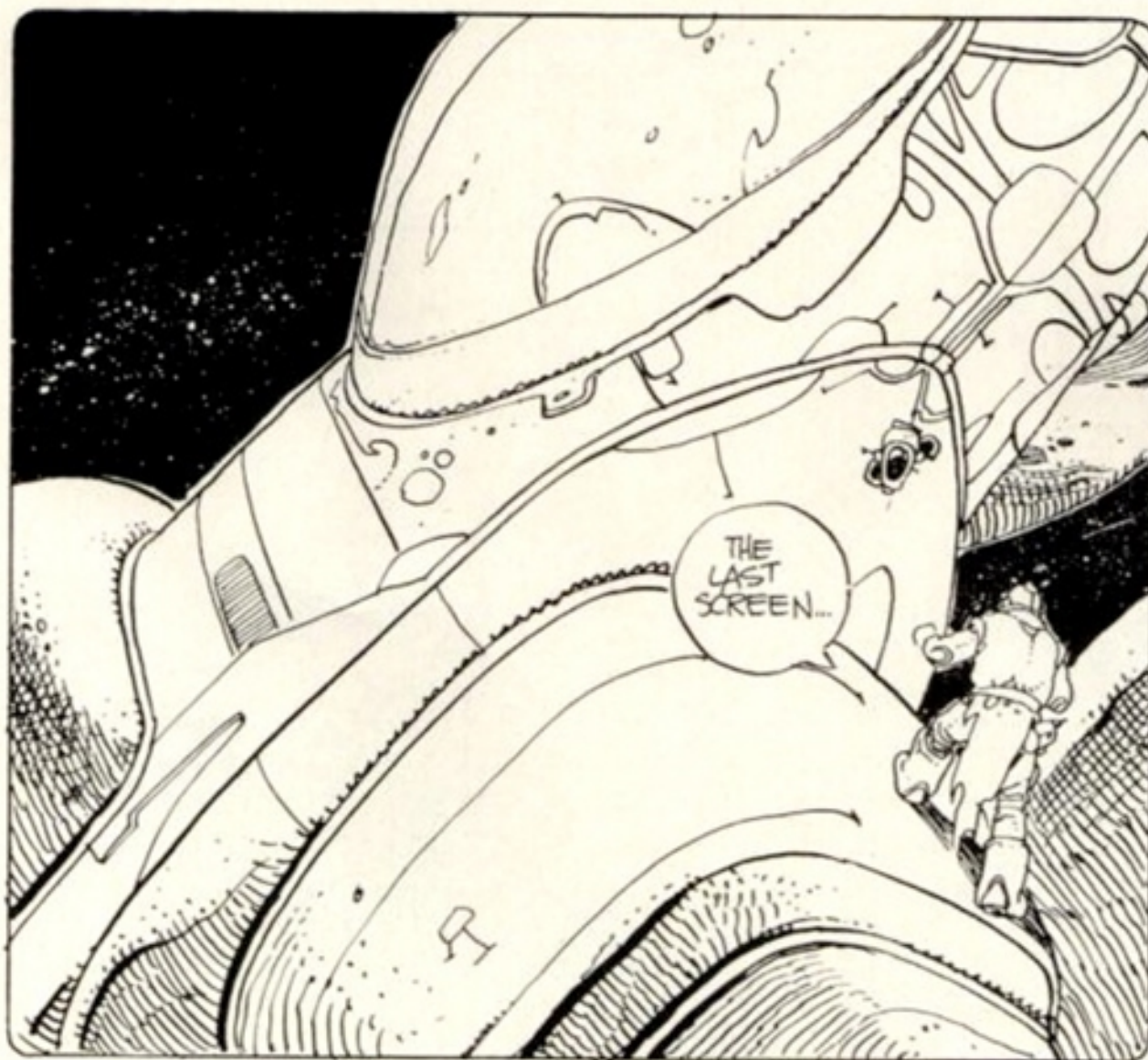
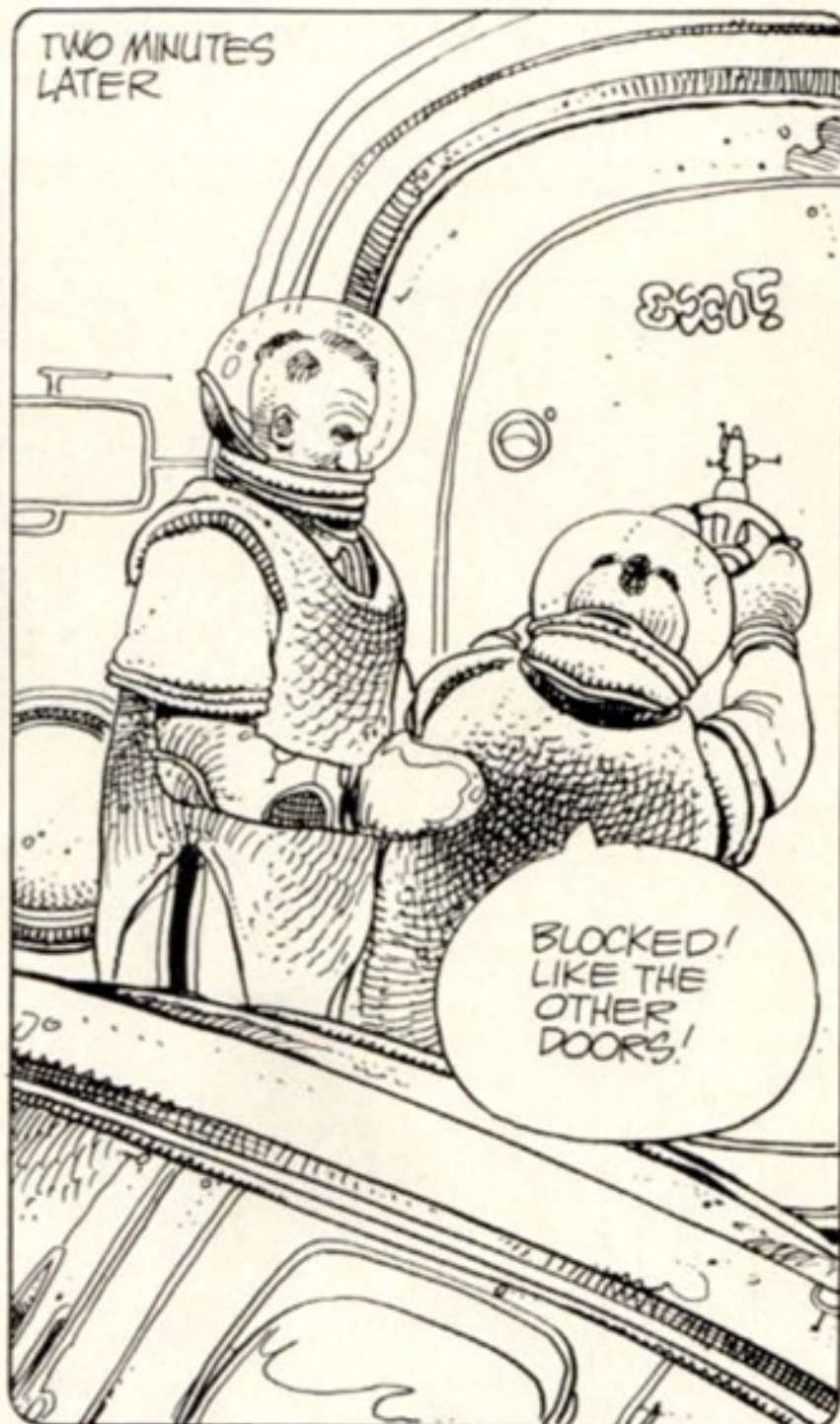


ONE MINUTE
LATER...

THESE
ARE THE
CONTROLS



TWO MINUTES
LATER



THREE MINUTES LATER

HE CAN BREAK
THE SCREEN NOW...
I CONTROL THE
TRAJECTORY OF
THE SHIP...



STORY: DIONNET
ART: BILAL

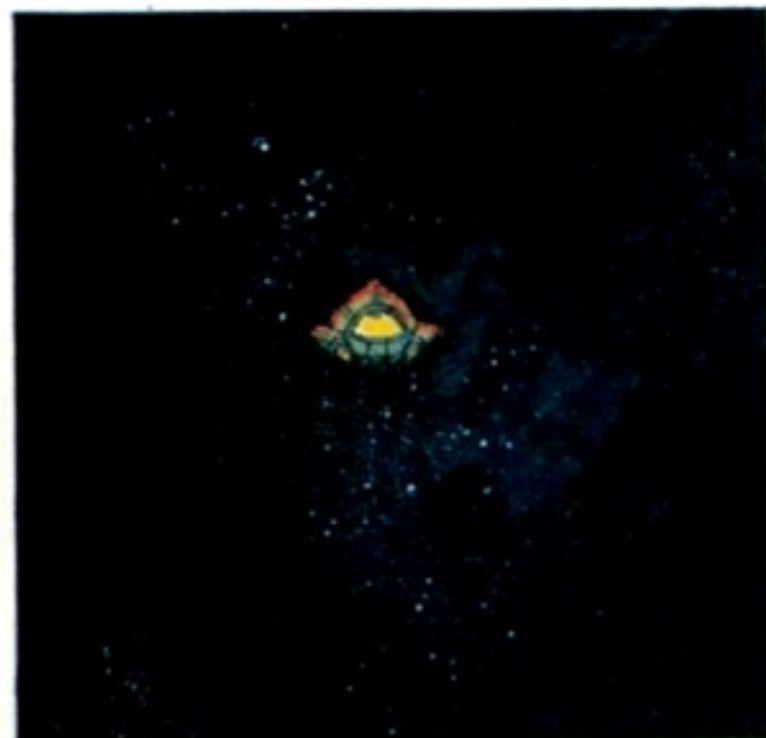
39

TO BE CONTINUED...

ULTIMATE NEGOTIATIONS

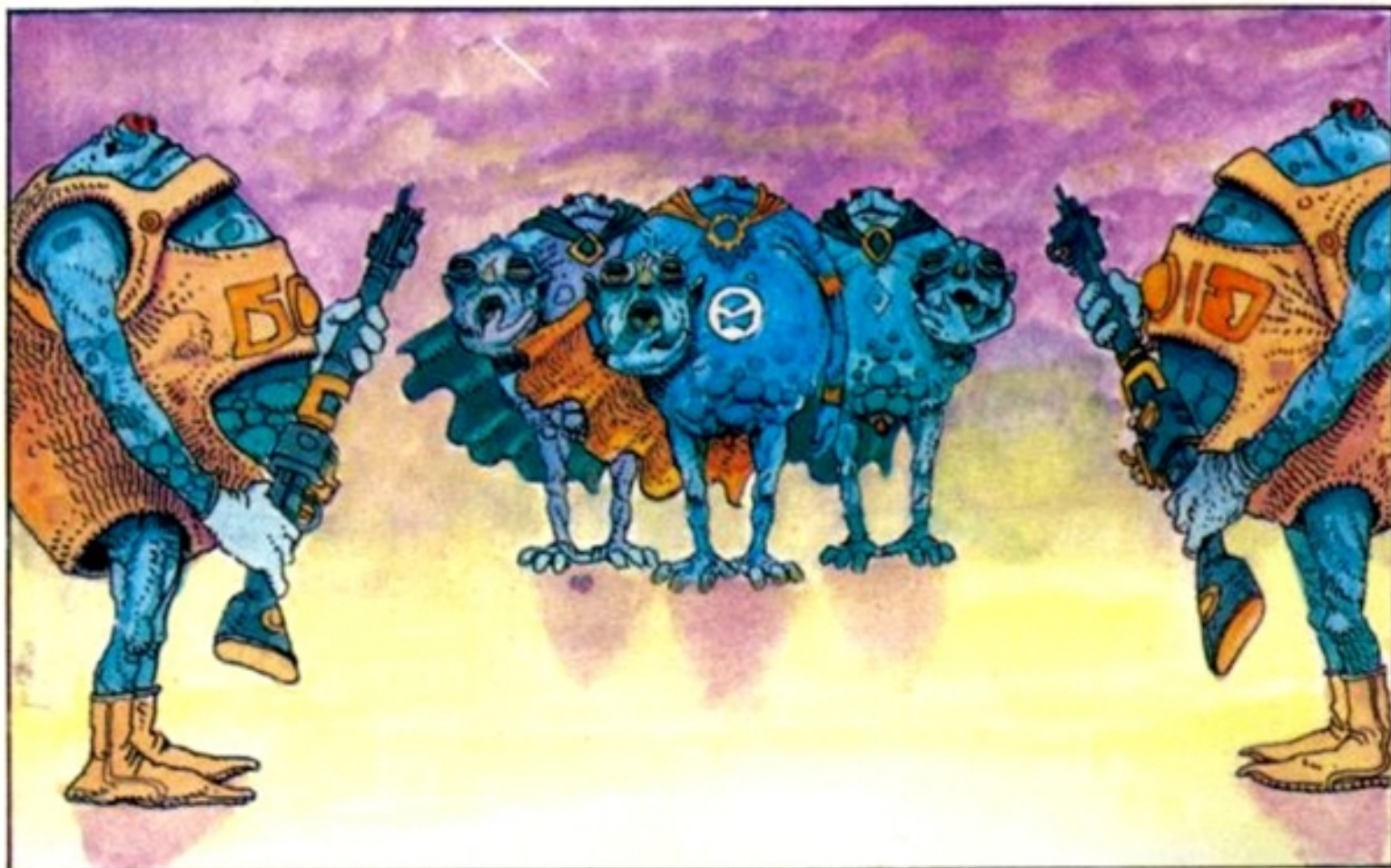
FOR SEVERAL DECADES, THE STATE OF RELATIONS BETWEEN TERRESTRIALS AND GLOOBS HAD BEEN SERIOUSLY DETERIORATING... THE FIRST TWO TERRESTRIAL DELEGATIONS REPRESENTING THE IPD (INTERGALACTIC PEACE DEFENSE) SENT TO THE PLANET GLOOB HAD MYSTERIOUSLY DISAPPEARED... THE GLOOBS SEEMED TO BE ENTIRELY ABOVE SUSPICION IN THIS STRANGE AFFAIR, FOR OTHER THAN THE GOODWILL WHICH CHARACTERIZES THEIR RACE, THEY HAD PROVIDED PROOF OF THEIR CONCILIATORY INTENTIONS BY PROPOSING A THIRD AND ULTIMATE NEGOTIATION (HENCE OUR TITLE).

THE TERRESTRIALS, AWARE OF THE NEGOTIATION'S IMPORTANCE, DECIDED TO SEND TO THE FAR-OFF PLANET GLOOB TWO OF THEIR HIGHEST LEVEL COMMANDERS IN CHIEF OF SPATIAL FORCES, AS WELL AS AN EMINENT TERRESTRIAL POLITICIAN DIGNITARY...

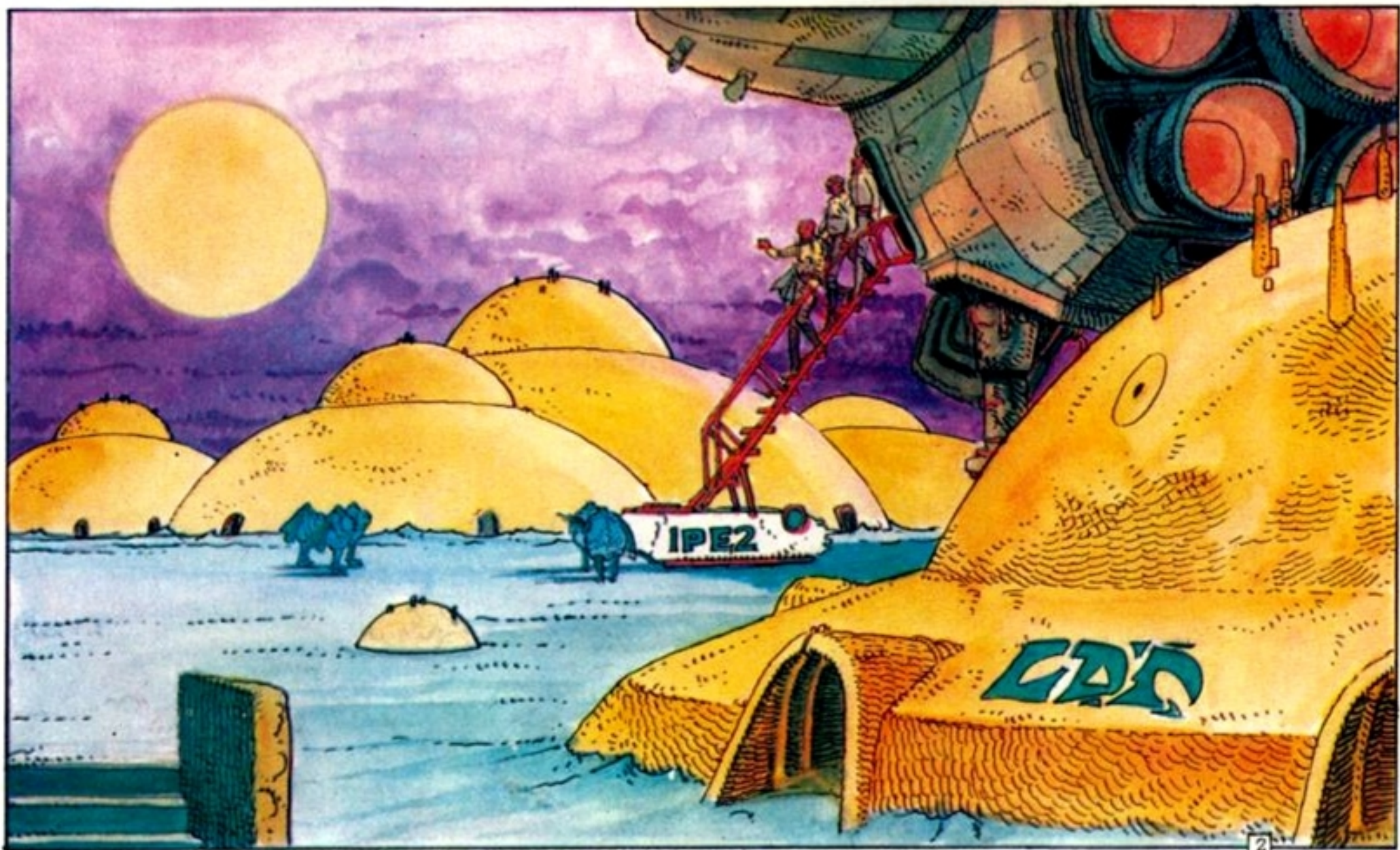


THE SPACESHIP, SPECIALLY NAMED "THE DOVE" IN HONOR OF THE OCCASION, TRAVELED FOR SEVERAL MONTHS TOWARD ITS DESTINATION...

A vibrant, stylized illustration of a purple, cat-like spaceship with a large blue planet in the background. The spaceship has a rounded, cat-like body with a large blue planet in the background. It is emitting a bright, multi-colored trail of light as it moves. The background is a deep blue space with several smaller blue planets and stars. The overall style is whimsical and imaginative.



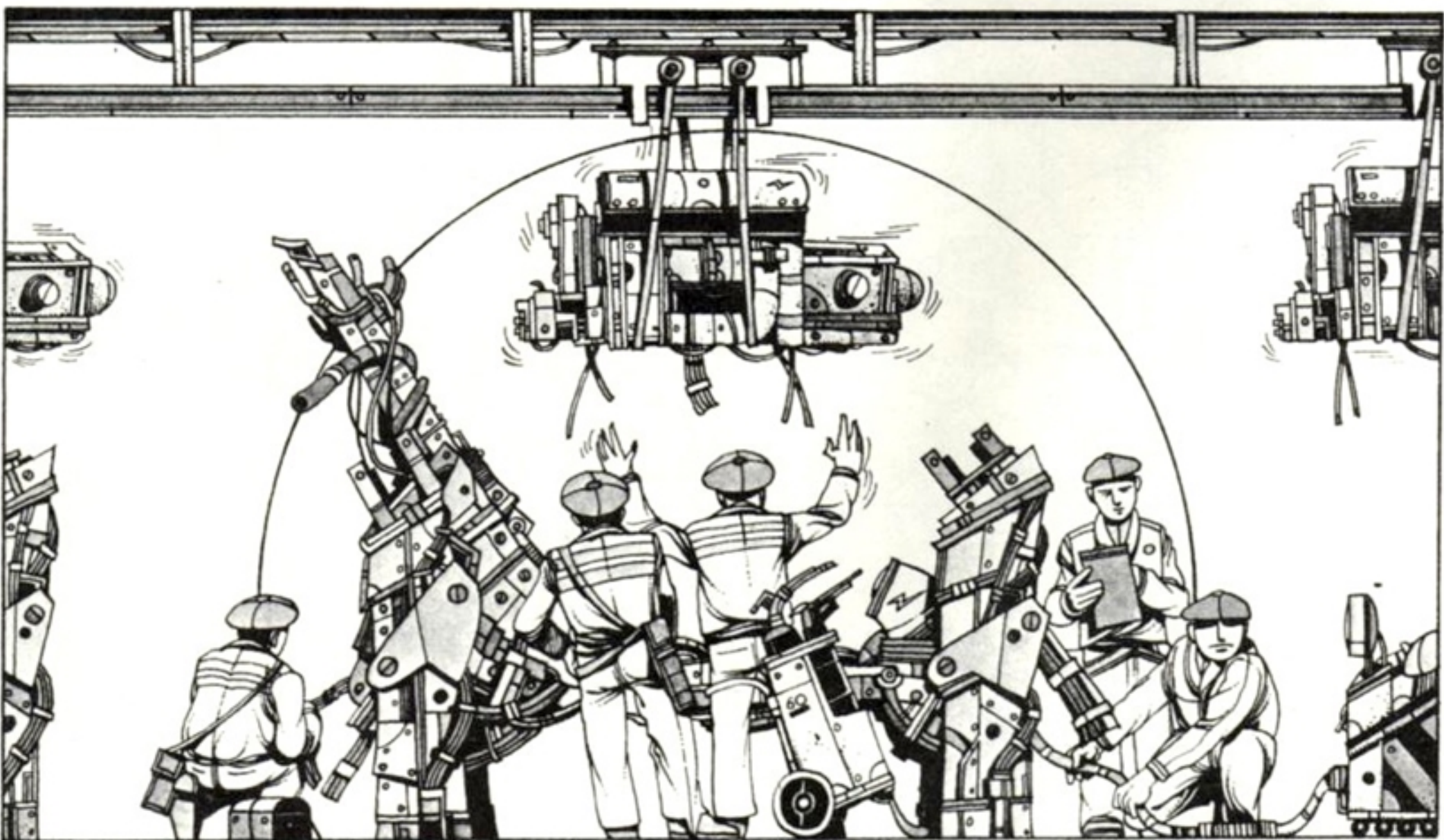
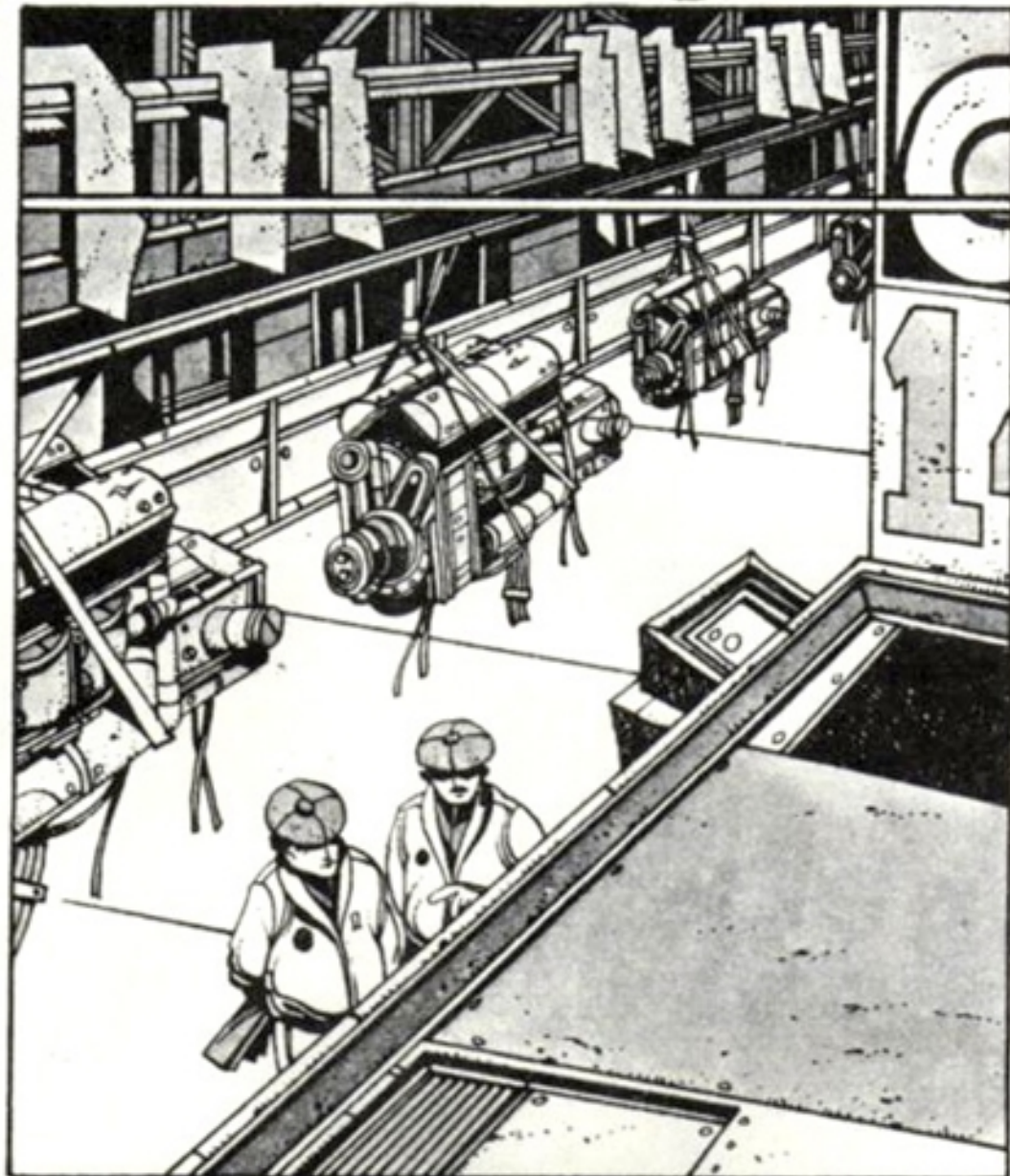
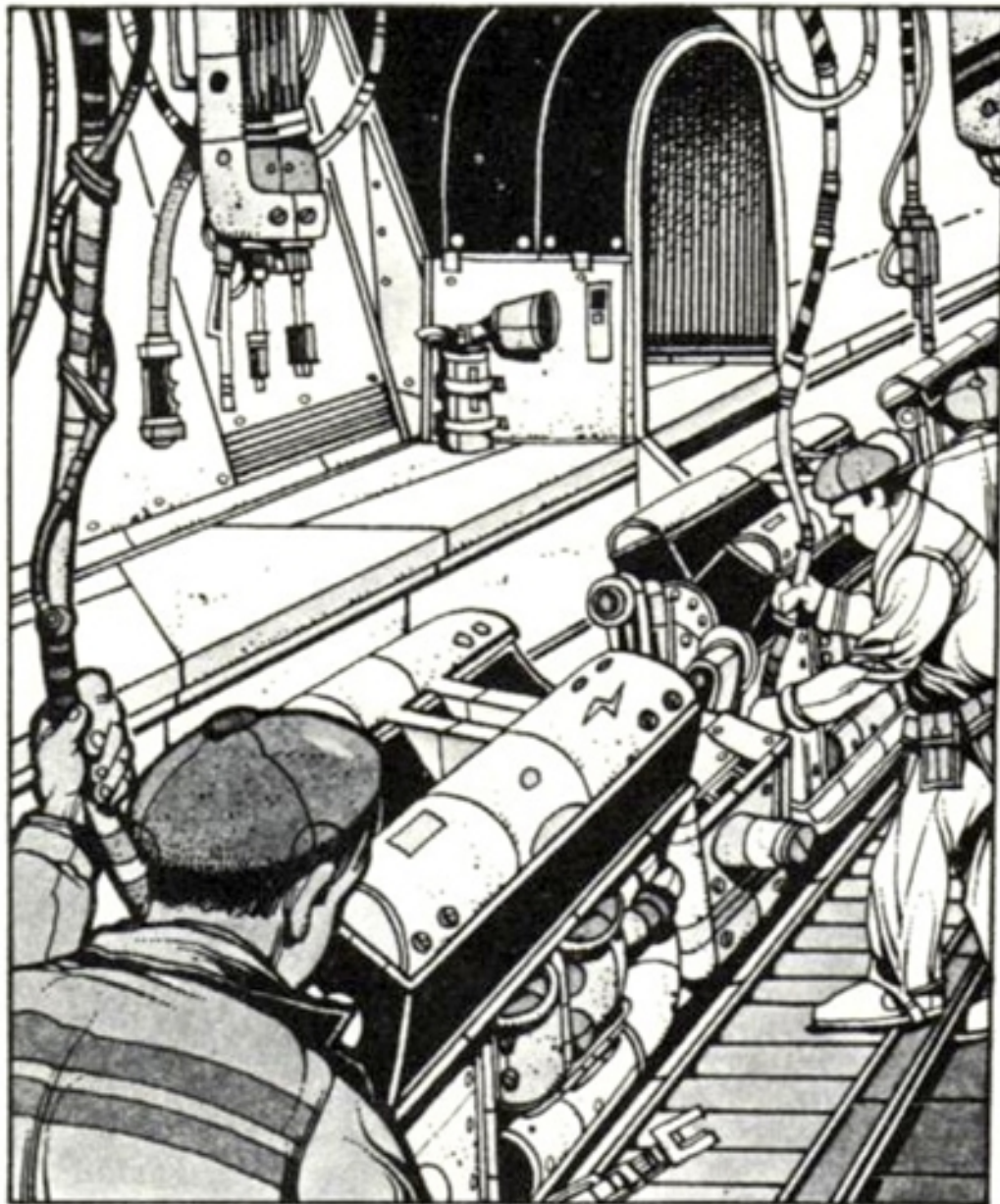
RE: THE GLOOB RACE. IT BE-
HOODES ONE TO REMEM-
BER THAT IT IS ONE OF THE
MOST ASTONISHING IN THE
WHOLE GALAXY... THESE
LITTLE BLUE CREATURES
ARE ACTUALLY AN AVERAGE
HEIGHT OF NINETEEN
INCHES.
THEIR UNIQUE CHARACTERIS-
TIC IS THE TOTAL INDE-
PENDENCE OF THEIR
HEADS FROM THEIR BOD-
IES... THIS ALLOWS THEM,
DEPENDING ON THE CIR-
CUMSTANCES, TO CARRY
THEIR HEADS AROUND
UNDER THEIR ARMS OR, IN
TIMES OF WAR, FOR EX-
AMPLE, TO STASH THEM FOR
SAFE KEEPING IN BANKS
SPECIALLY DESIGNED FOR
THE PURPOSE.
IT IS EQUALLY INTERESTING
TO NOTE THAT A WELL PRO-
TECTED AND CAREFULLY
PRESERVED HEAD CAN
ASPIRE TO IMMORTALITY...
SO THERE ARE SEVERAL
MILLION HEADS STOCKED
IN THE MEMORY BANK, AS A
GIGANTIC LIVING LIBRARY...

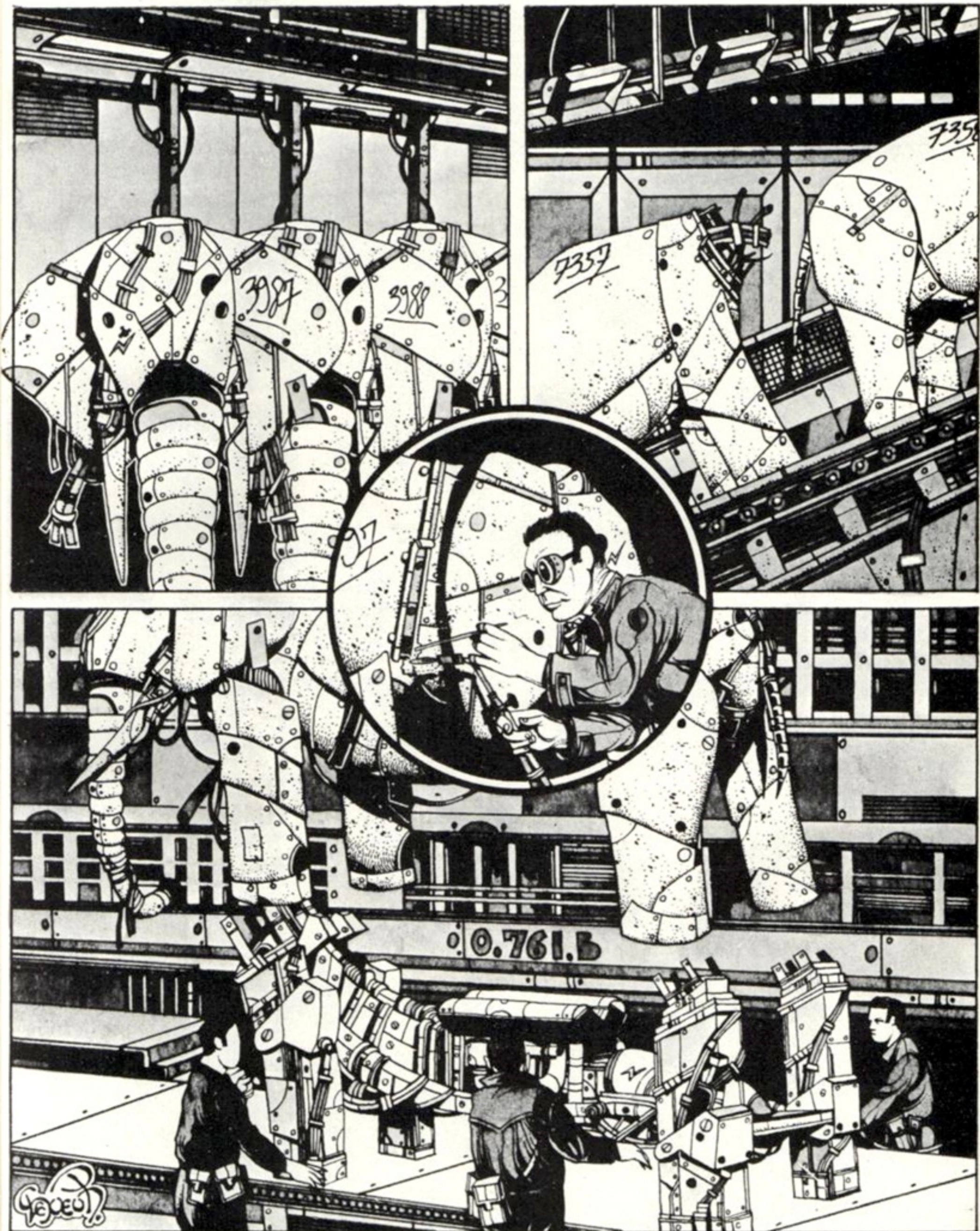


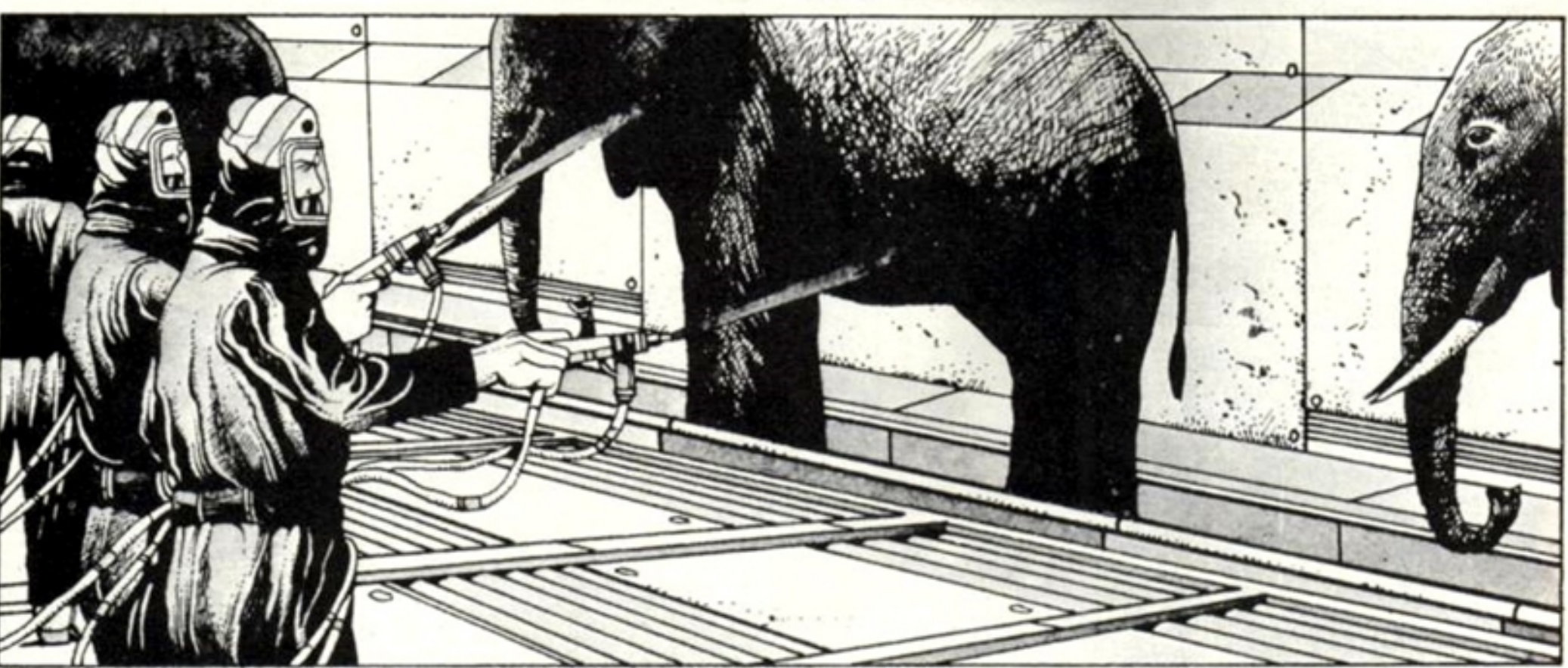
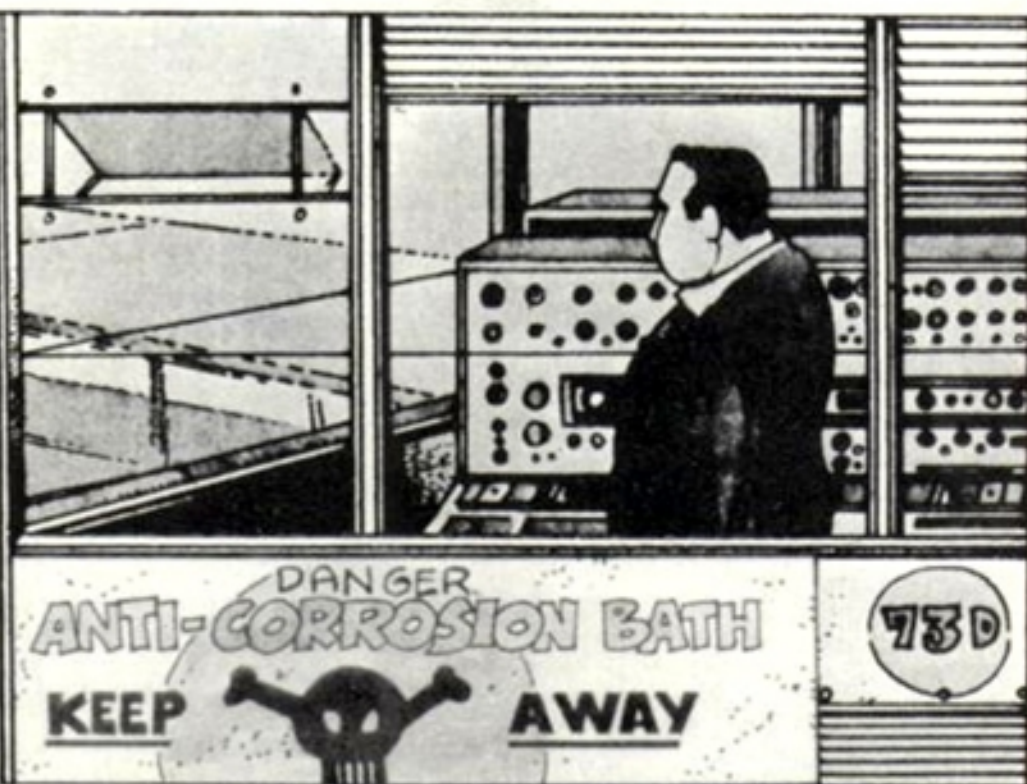
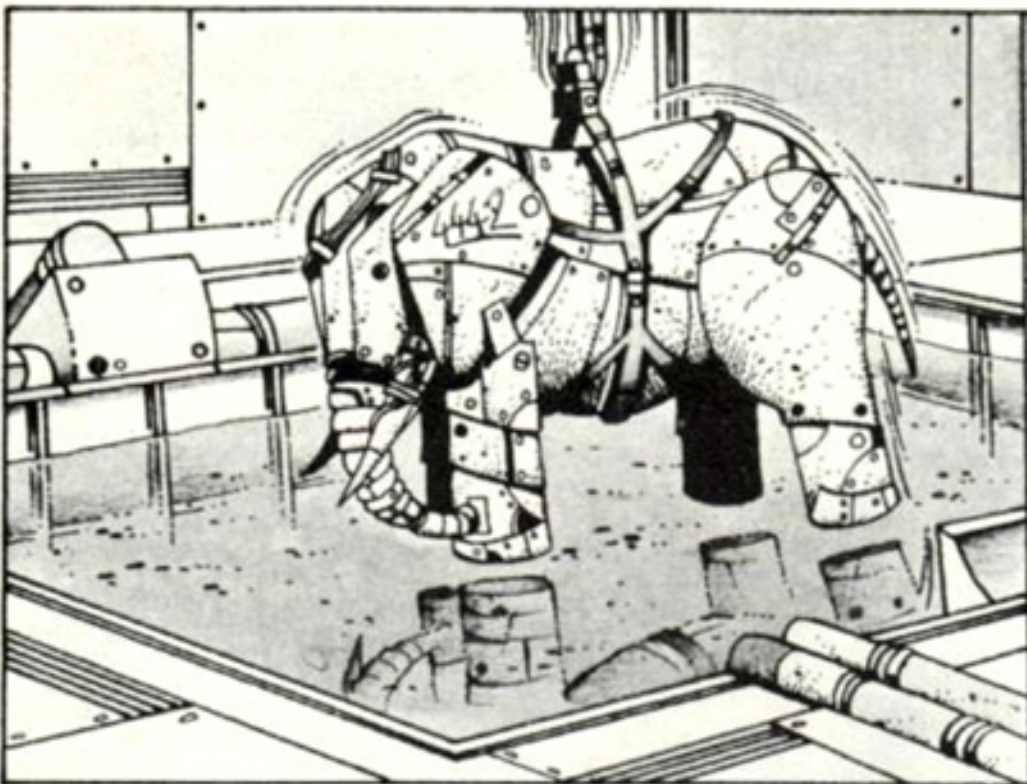


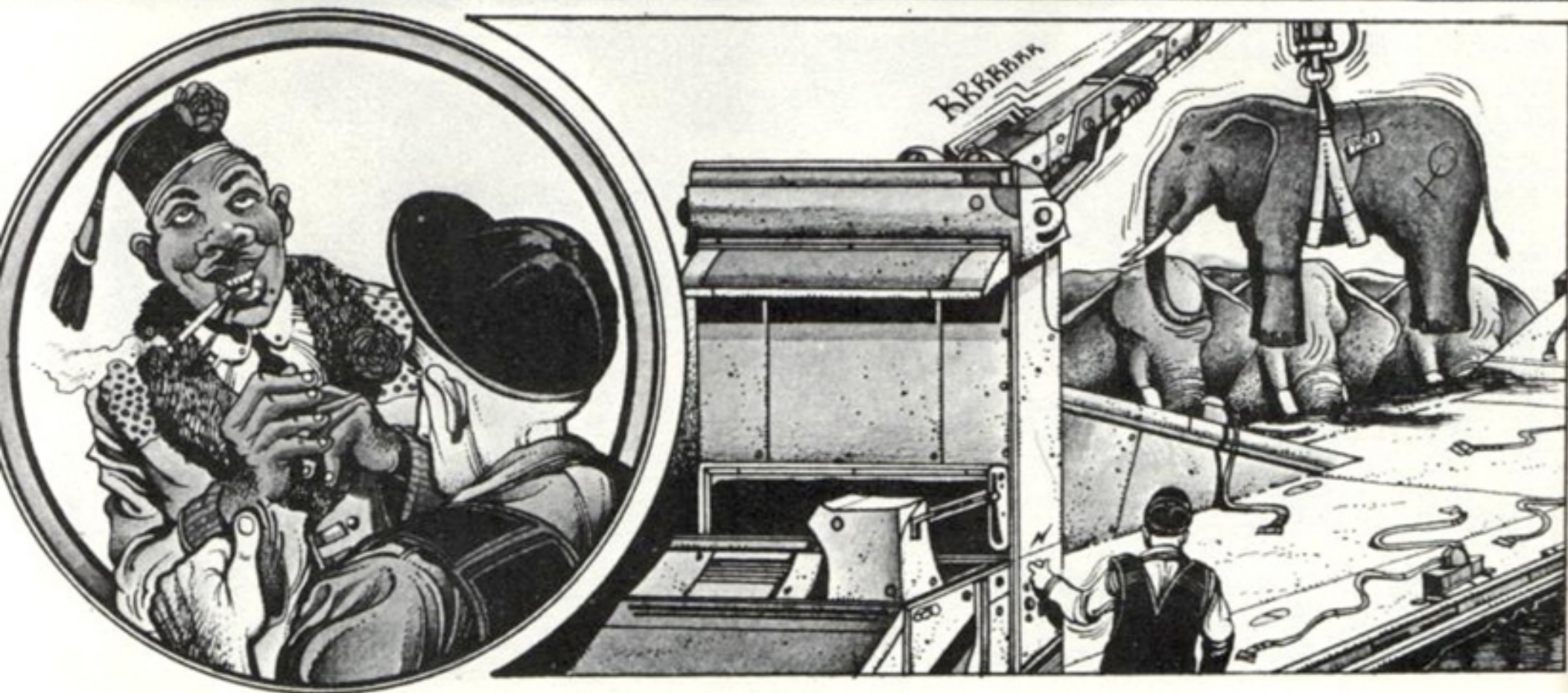
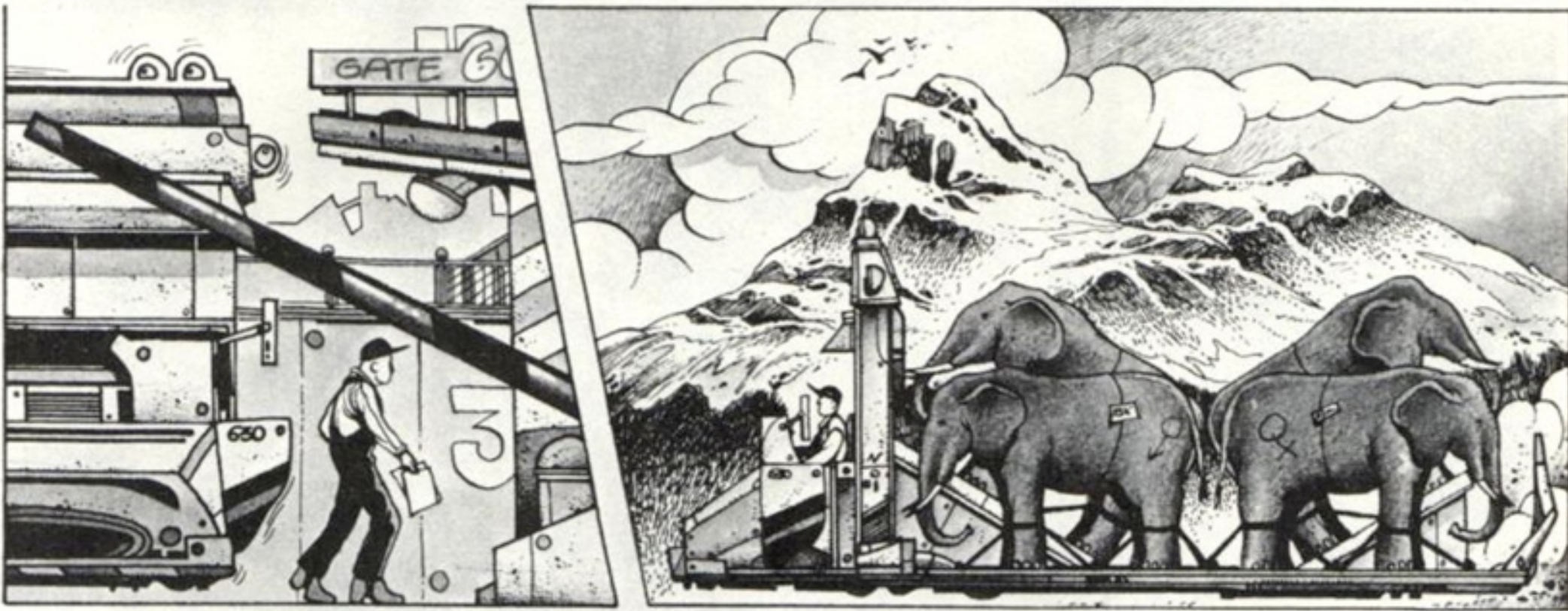
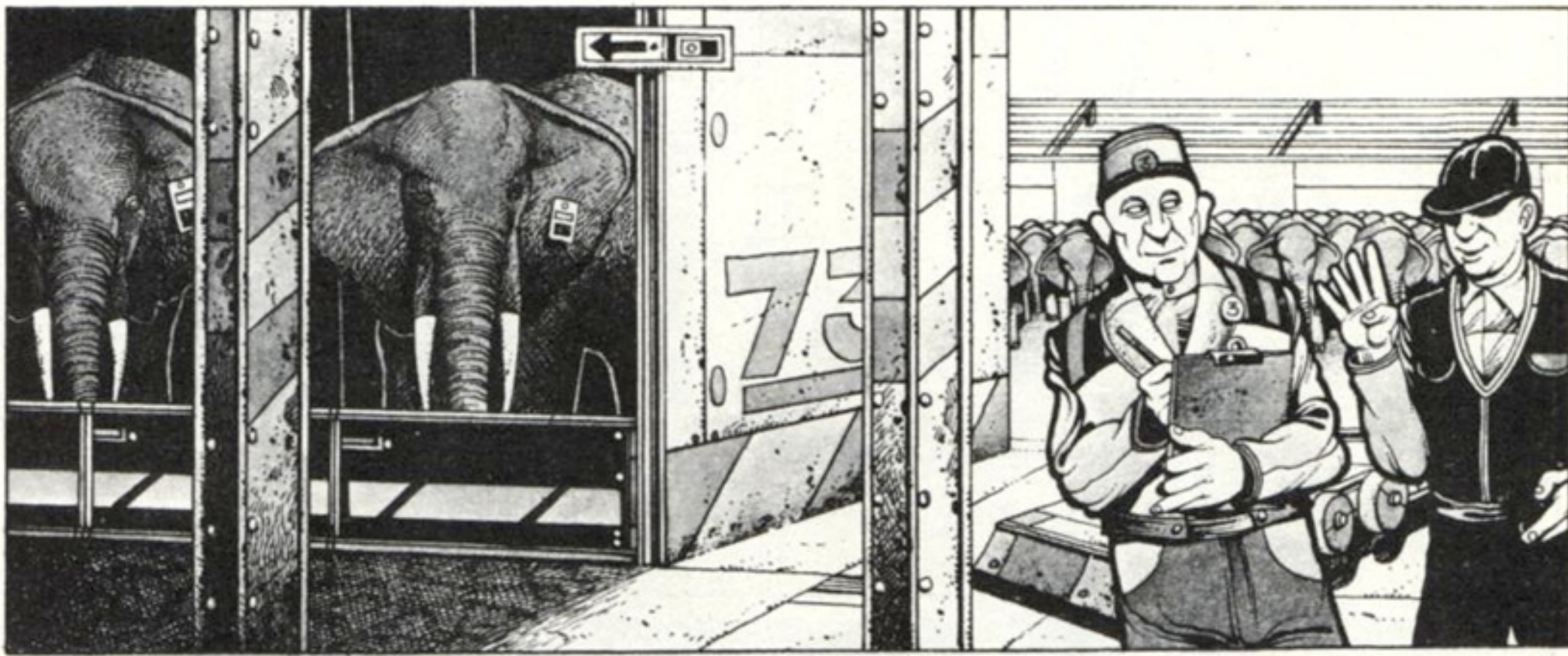


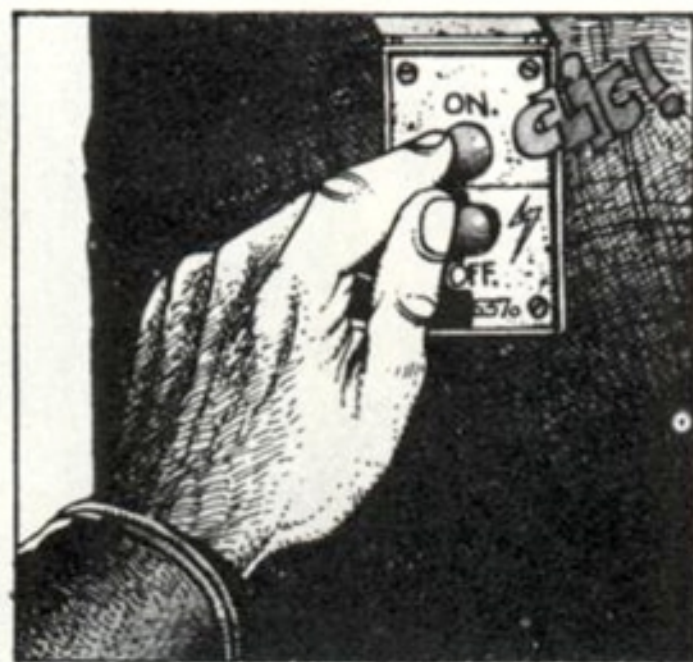
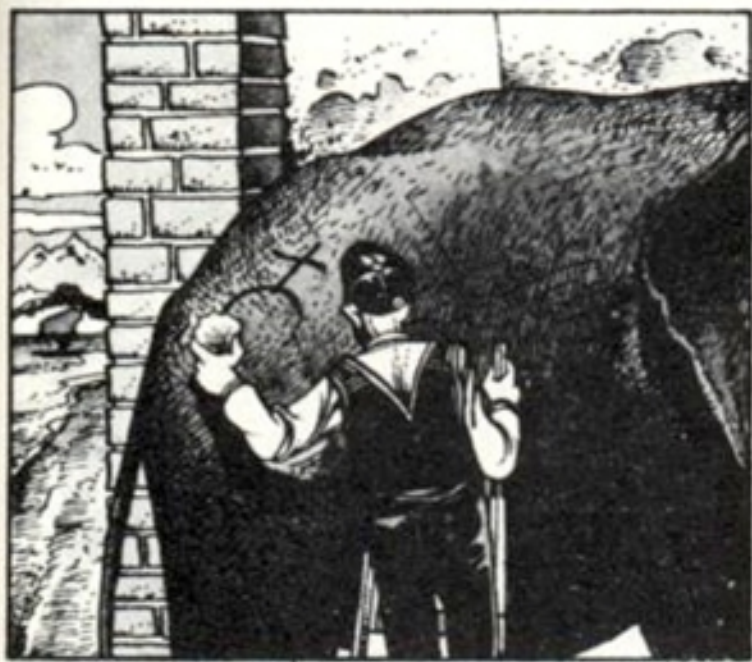
STATION 34.728 by Lesueur












This story would not have been possible without the complete cooperation of the National Corporation for the Manufacture of Animals

GAIL

by
Philippe
Druillet






WHERE IS SLOBNER? FIND THAT SWINE
FOR ME IT'S HIS FAULT THAT WE HAVE
BEEN COMMITTED TO THIS BATTLE
TOO SOON. I WANT HIS HIDE. HOW
MUCH MUST I PAY THE REDEYE THAT
SURROUNDS ME TO GET WHAT
I WANT?


HE'S IN THE OTHER
SPHERE, MASTER,
SEARCHING FOR THE
TERRIFYING DARK-
NESS...

WHAT IS TERRIFYING IS HE WHO
CANNOT BE MADE TO OBEY.
FOLLOW HIS TRAIL AND SEND
SEVERAL FLANKS OF MY WHITE
FACES TO MEET HIM, EVEN TO
HELL, IF NECESSARY!


THAT'S JUST WHERE
WE'LL FIND THE HOUND
WITH THE RED EYES...




IT WAS TRUE...
SLOANE'S MOTHER
WAS A WHORE AND
HIS FATHER WAS
A PIMP... AND SO?.



HE ROUNDS THE ISLAND
AND CLIMBS THE IN-
SURMOUNTABLE WALL.
HIS MOTHER WAS A
PANTHER AND HIS
FATHER FLEW HIGH IN
THE AIR, ACCORDING
TO LEGEND...



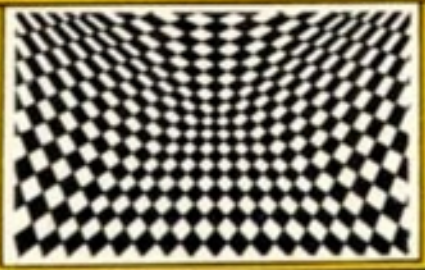
THE RUSTLING
FOREST THAT SUR-
ROUNDS THE TEMPLE
OF THE ISLAND OF
THE DEAD... SLOANE
KNEW THE WAY...



...OF THE STRANGE BEINGS
WHISPERING IN HIS SPIRIT...
SLOANE IS NO LONGER
REALLY A MAN...



THE WHITE FRONTS! OVERDOSED,
SPECIALLY TRAINED... TOUGH... BETTER GET
TO THE TEMPLE AND THEN WE'LL SEE...



STEEL AND FIRE ON ALL SIDES, A BLOODY DAWN. IN THE TEETH
OF THE WARSHIPS OF STAGN AND MERENNEN-UPHEAVAL, IN-
SURGENCE... THROUGHOUT THE UNIVERSE THE SERPENT OF
CHAOS WRITHES... THE GAME'S NOT OVER... YET...





TOTALLY WIPE OUT!
DIE! DIE! SO, YOU'RE
HERE TO PLAY MAREN-
NEN'S LITTLE GAMES,
HUNTER?



FALLEN ALREADY? DOPPEL-
GANGERS? HAS IT COME
TO THIS? HAVE THEY OVERCOME
THE SERPENT TO END LIKE
THIS... LIKE THIS?



shit!



HAVE YOU FOUND
WHAT YOU'RE LOOKING
FOR AT LAST?




I KNOW WHY I
HAVE COME. MILLIONS
OF MEN ARE DYING
AT THIS MOMENT
BY YOUR WILL...

DEATH IS NOT A
SIGNIFICANT ISSUE!

FOR THE
LIVING, IT IS...

YOU ARE AL-
READY DEAD,
SLOANE. HOW
ELSE COULD
YOU HAVE COME
TO BE HERE?



YOU FORGET I KNOW
THE WORDS AND I
NEVER FOLLOWED THE
WED OF YOUR INVOCATIONS!
AND NOW, I
WILL WIP YOU OUT
SERPENTS!

WHAT A CRUCE...
A PERFECTLY
PRECEDENTIOUS
AND COSSINGEE
SPECIMEN!


THAT'S LIFE I KNOW THAT SHOWN
AND MEREHINN ARE ONLY POWNS
IN A GAME. BY NOW, THE GALEXY IS
ENOUGH OF A SHITTOLE THAT YOU
AND YOURS CAN INVAD AND
DESTROY IT AN, WHAT A THIRST
FOR BLOOD MUST FEELING YOU
THROUGH ALL ETERNITY! YOU
SHOKE ME SO THAT I MIGHT
SERVE YOU... WHAT MADNESS...
I OBEY NO ONE...

AND I KNOW
WHAT I AM
SEARCHING FOR

BUT YOU WILL
NEVER FIND IT, DAWN
YOU! THAT IS YOUR
CURSE!


ENOUGH! YOU
CANNOT ESCAPE
YOU KNOW THAT...
SINCE I DREW
YOU INTO...

WE CANNOT LIVE FOREVER AMONG
THE SHADOWS WE, TOO, WOULD LIKE
TO SEE THE SUN THAT SHINES
UPON YOUR HEADS! IS THAT TOO
MUCH TO ASK, YOU RAT!



YOU WANT THE SUN AND YOU
WANT OUR LIVES! AND YOUR
FACE IS TO PANIC WITH FEAR
LAST WE ARE DESTROYED!
MY SPIRIT REJECTS IT ALL,
BUT THE FLESH DRIVES IT
ON! I AM OUT A BEAST!

YOU ARE DAMNED LIKE US,
BLOODY! DEATH IS NEC-
CESSARY!



GO FUCK YOURSELVES!
THAT'S WHAT THEY AL-
WAYS SAY, THOSE WHO
DEAL IN DEATH. GO
BACK WHERE YOU CAME
FROM AND TELL
WITH DECEIT! THERE
ARE OTHER WORLDS
FOR YOU AND
YOURS!

YOU
WEARY YOUR-
SELF IN VAIN. NO
ONE CAN HUNT US
DOWN!

the CORD!

THE SILVER CORD!

I KNOW THAT YOU HAVE A
RESEMBLANCE OF A HEART.
THAT HEART IS ALSO THE
PLANET GAIL, WHICH PLUTO
CAME BEFORE MERAVEN
USURPED HIS POWER AND
MADE IT INTO A MACHINE OF
DEATH! THE IRONY IS THAT
HE IS JUST ANOTHER BUTTER
WHO HAS SHUT HIS DOORS TO
YOU, ESPECIALLY THE DOOR
TO OUR WORLD. THAT IS WHY
YOU HAVE FIGHTED MERAVEN
AGAINST STEEN AND SENT
THE IMAGE OF WAR IN HIS
CURSED SPIRIT, THAT I
MIGHT WEAKEN THEM, AND
YOU COULD THEN THROW
YOURSELVES AGAINST THEIR
FORCES. OUR UNIVERSE
WOULD THEN BECOME DARK
IN YOUR HANDS...

YOU MIGHT COME
BACK BABIN. YOUR
ISLAND IS THE DIRECT
ACCESS TO OUR WORLD,
THE ENTRANCE TO THE
FLOWERING PLANET.
TWO COMPLEMENTARY
FACES. GAIL, OUR
FORMER DOMAIN FOR
MILKING, BEFORE
OUR ANCESTORS
CHASED YOU AWAY...
SO MANY LIGHTS AGO...
GAIL, THE PARADISE
OF FLOWERS



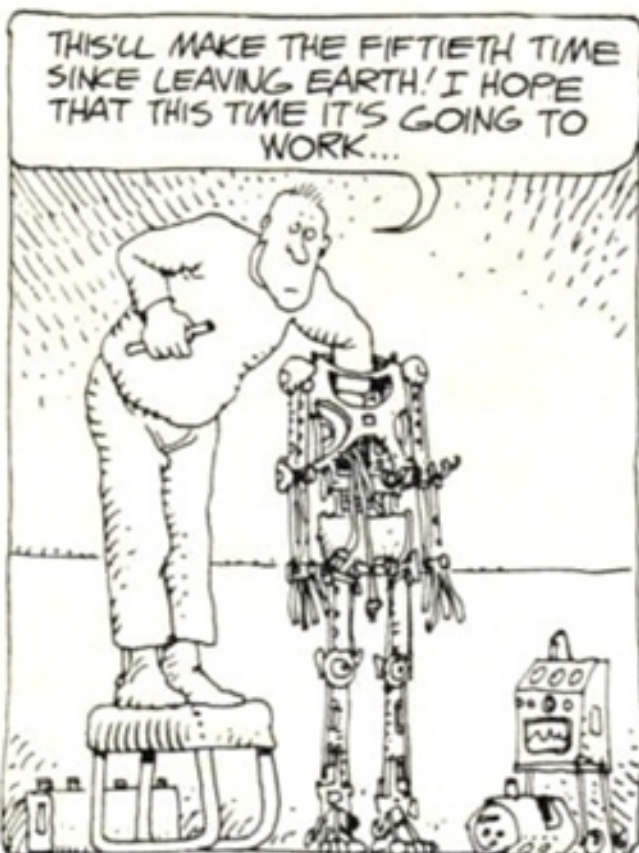
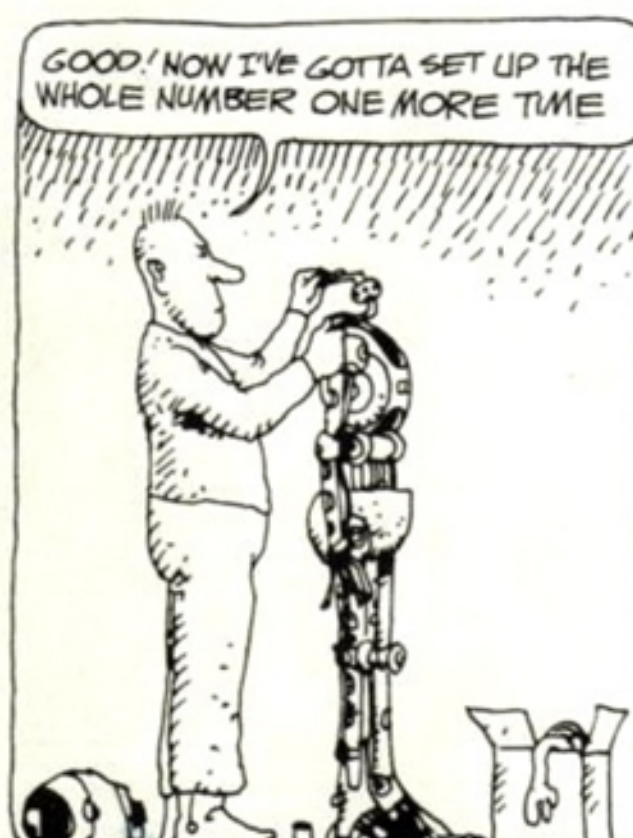
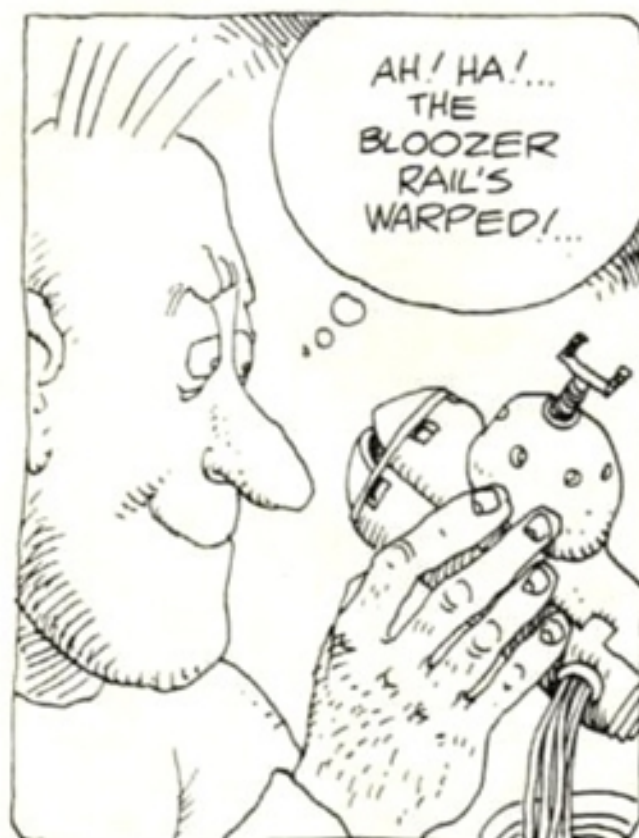
fin



SPIT

THE LITTLE SPACE PIONEER

by MOEBIUS



LUCKILY, I'VE GOT THIS CUTE LITTLE ANDROID TO KEEP ME COMPANY IN MY ANTI-G CHAMBER!...



AT LAST! NOW THE BROAD MAY CONDESCEND TO WORK!... THERE... LET'S CONNECT THE TINGAMABOX.

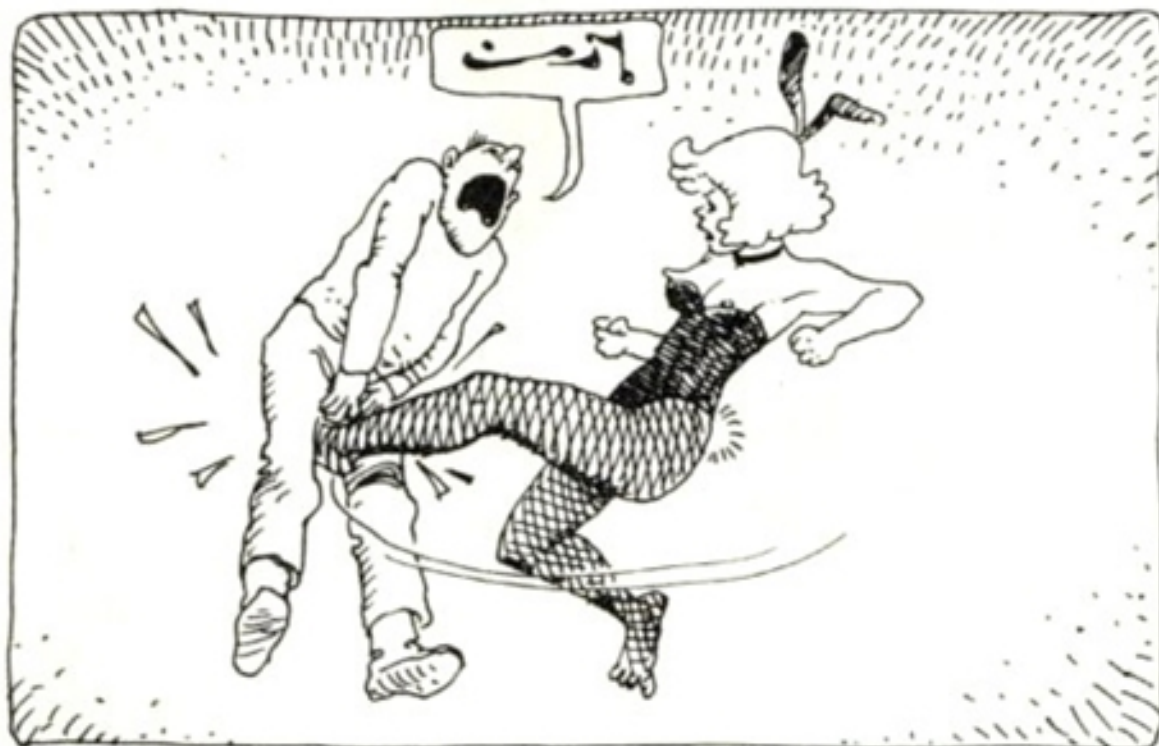


GOOD! NOW LET'S SET IT AT "SWEET PASSION!"



HONEY, I'M HERE

ZZZZZZ



YOU PIG OF A PRICK OF A FILTHY MALE CHAUVINIST! I'LL SMASH YOU IN THE BALLS!



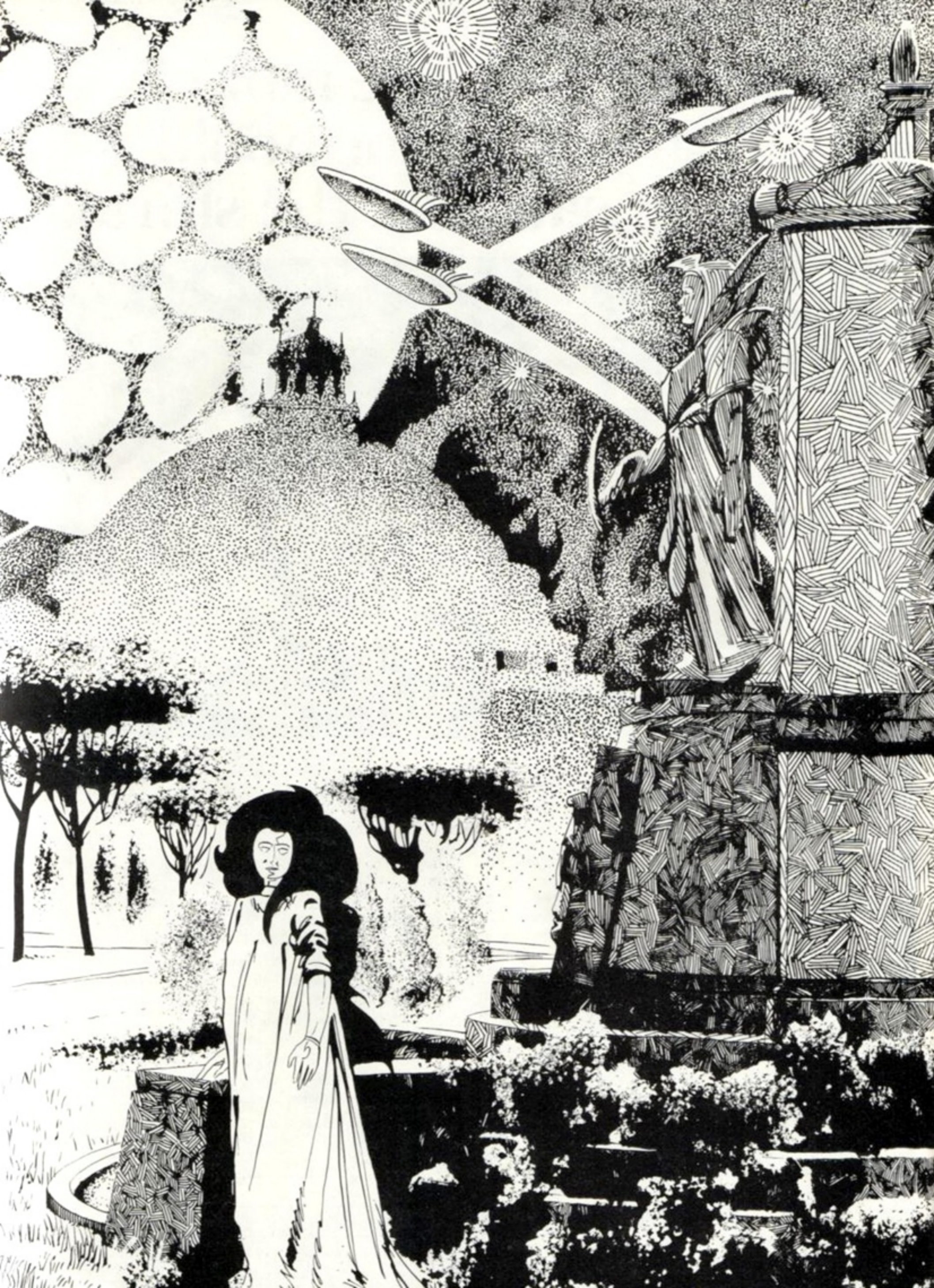
COME HERE, YOU CREEP!



TOO BAD... IT'S ALL GOT TO BE DONE AGAIN... JERKING OFF STILL REIGNS SUPREME ON THIS SPACESHIP



THE END



W SENSE ONDER...^f

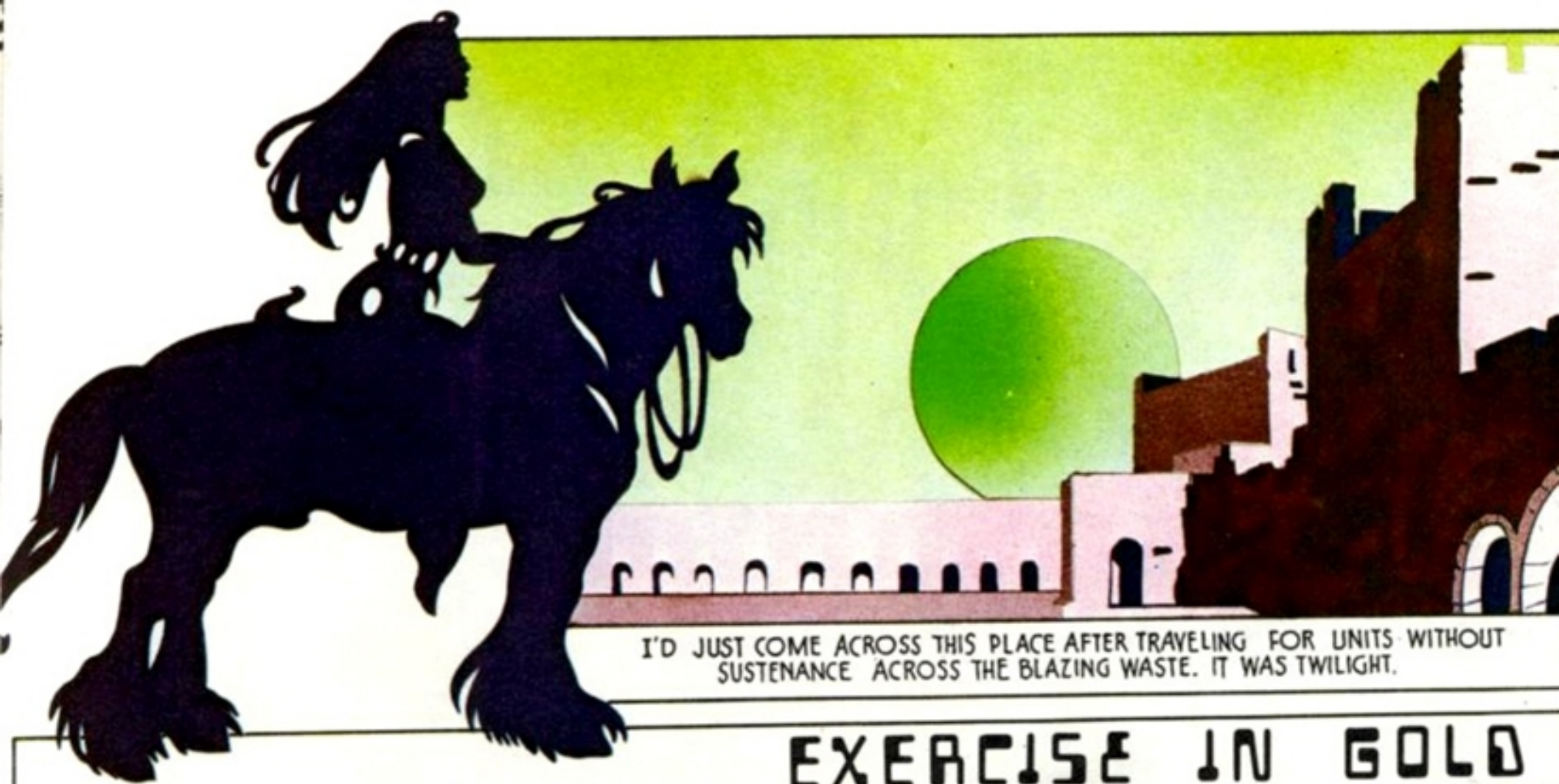
FARTHEST STAR WANDERING
PAST THE BOUNDARIES OF WHERE WE ARE,
SHIPS ABLAZE FOR DISTANT LAND;
TIME SHIFTING DESERT SAND,
TOWARD THE NEXT CRUMBLING OASIS
OF CIVILIZATION. BATHING IN THE COSMIC
RAYS FAR BEYOND WHAT IS TODAY, YET
PERHAPS WE LOST IT IN MEMORIES PAST;
OLD GRAY MATTER—LAX IN ITS DUTIES.

IT WILL BE OURS AGAIN; PLANETS
SPINNING IN VELVET DARK SPACE,
PLAYING AMONG THE DANCING JEWELS,
STRINGING THE PLANETS LIKE BEADS UPON
OUR STRINGS OF CONQUEST AND ABSORPTION.

WE WILL CHANGE AND BE CHANGED
IN TURN. OUR REPUTATIONS WILL
TWIST IN THE EBBING TIDES AND MARCH
WITH THE TIME OF THE AGE WHEN
THE SOLAR WINDS' CACOPHONY BLOWS
ARIGHT. AND FAR BEYOND, ON SOME
INCREDIBLY DISTANT WORLD, SOMEHOW,
IT WILL BE LOST AGAIN. UNDER
MOON-HUNG SKY, LAZZICED WITH
BLAZING SCRIBES, THE SENSE
OF THE WORDS WILL DRIFT
AWAY LEAVING ONE TO FEEL
DEPRIVED OF THE

SENSE of
WONDER

M. WHEATLEY



I'D JUST COME ACROSS THIS PLACE AFTER TRAVELING FOR UNITS WITHOUT SUSTENANCE ACROSS THE BLAZING WASTE. IT WAS TWILIGHT.

EXERCISE IN GOLD

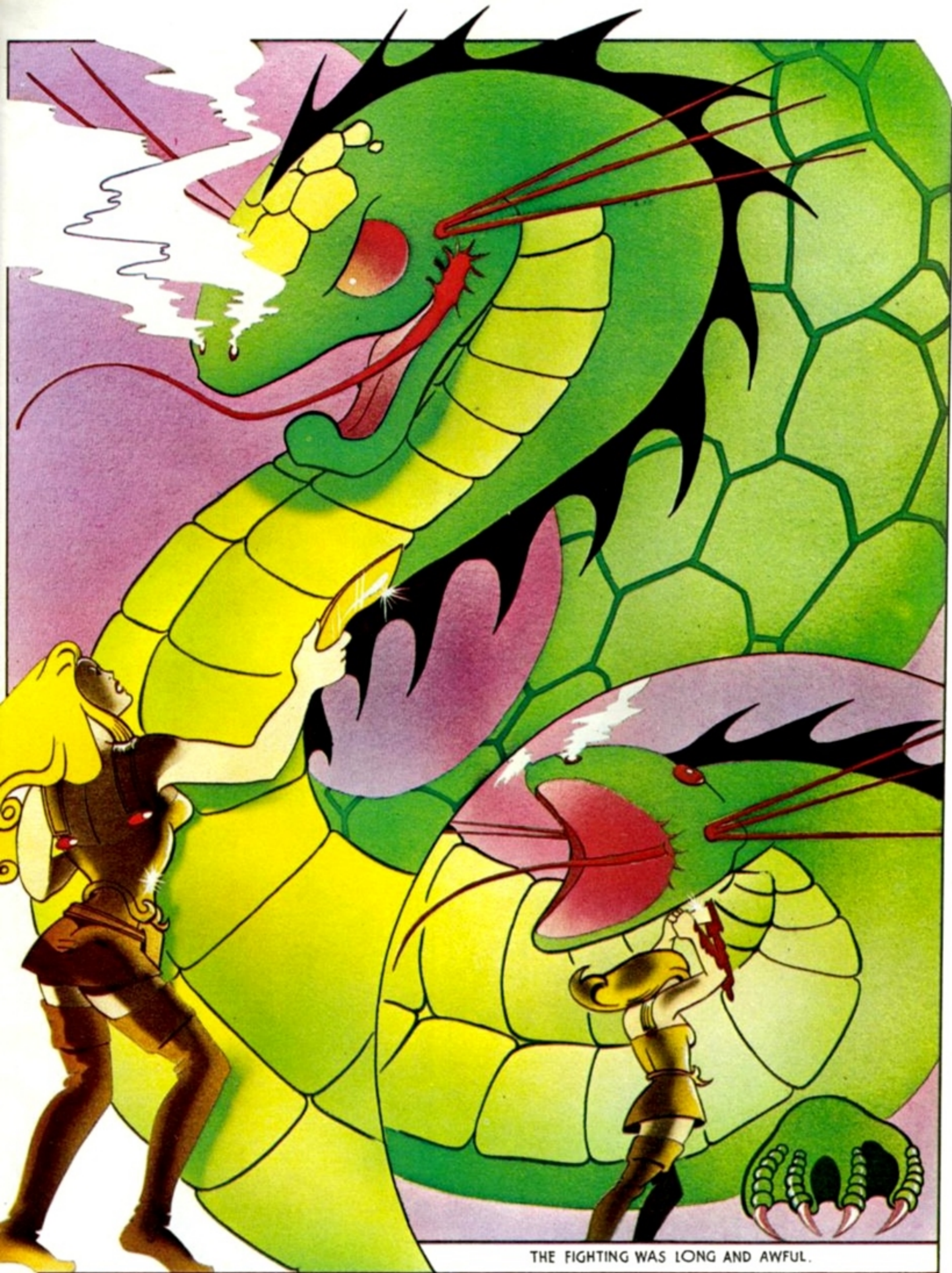


TRINA
78

DARKNESS GATHERED. THINGS TWITTERED HIGH IN THE RUINOUS ROOF. I WAS STILL FAIRLY WEAK FROM MY ORDEAL WITH THE CRYSTAL DESERTS.



TWO RED CANDLES UP AHEAD. NO, NOT CANDLES. EYES.



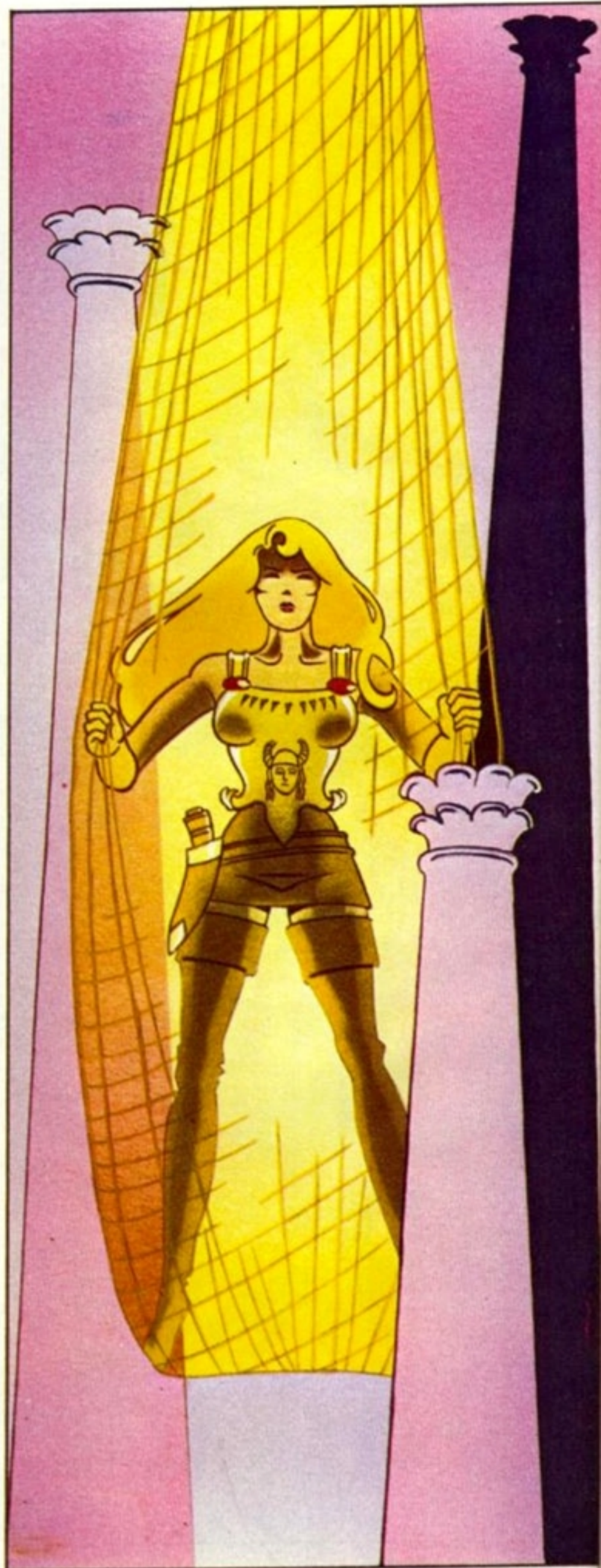
THE FIGHTING WAS LONG AND AWFUL.



EVENTUALLY THE THING COLLAPSED
AND BLEW AWAY LIKE THE DESERT DUST.



NETS OF BRONZE DROPPED DOWN.



TOO PROUD TO STRUGGLE,
I WAS BORNE UPWARD THROUGH THE
TALL RANKS OF PILLARHEADS



TO A YAST HOLLOW RAMPART. I FOUND A TABLE OF GLASS LAID OUT WITH A FEAST OF EXOTIC FOODS AND SPARKLING WINES.



MISTRUSTING THE FOOD DESPITE MY HUNGER, I SPOKE A MAGIC CHARM. AT ONCE, THE WHOLE THING WENT UP IN PURPLE FIRES.



HUGE WINGED HORRORS FLAPPED DOWN ON ME.

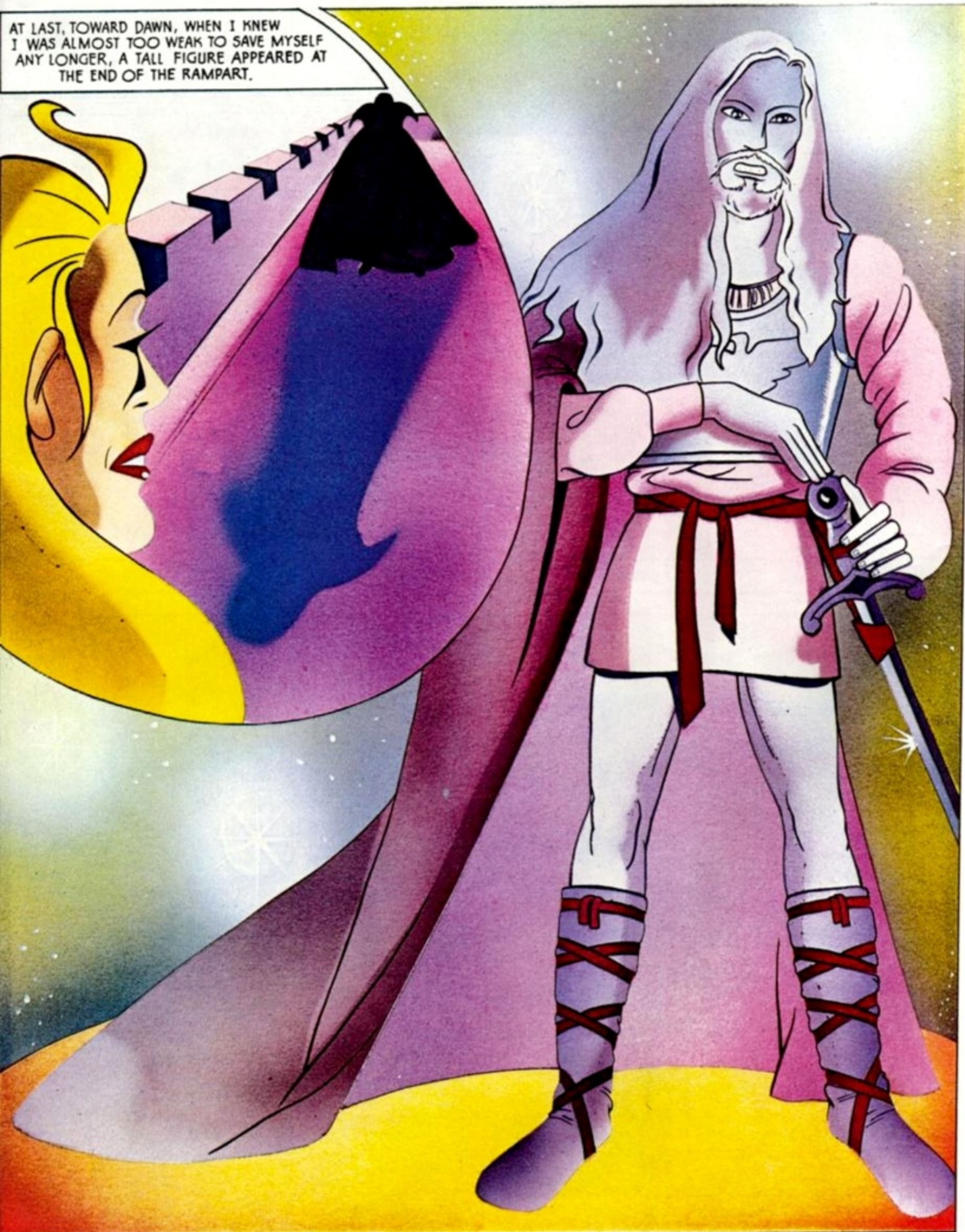


I BEAT AT THEM UNTIL MY STRENGTH WAS ALMOST EXHAUSTED, AND THEN, USING SOME ANCIENT INCANTATIONS, MANAGED TO DRIVE THEM INTO THE FIRE ON THE TABLE, WHERE THEY WERE CONSUMED.

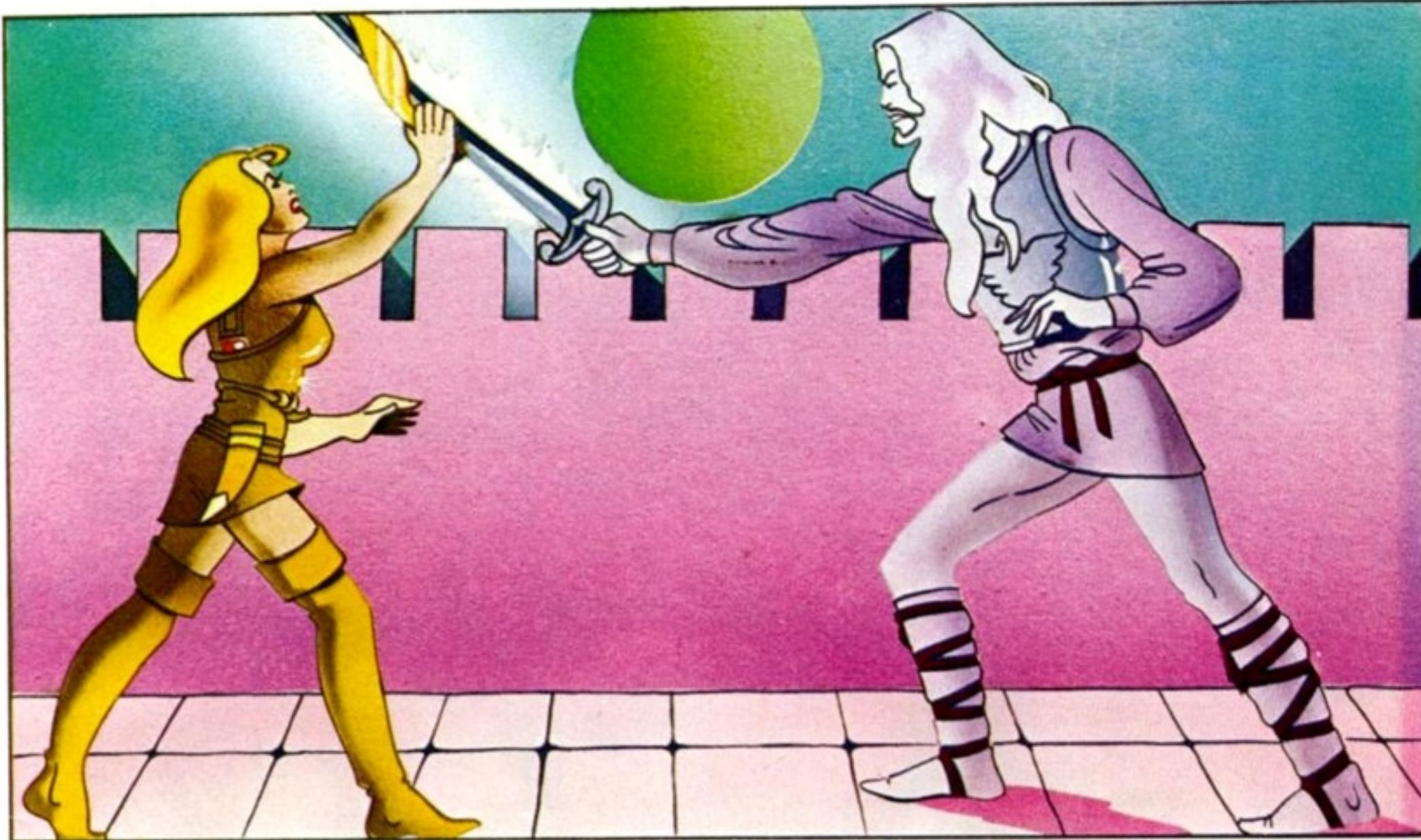


MANY MORE DEMONS ATTACKED ME DURING THE LONG AND TERRIBLE NIGHT. BLAZING METEORS SCREAMED FROM THE SKY AND EXPLODED FAR OUT IN THE DESERT WASTES AS I SLEW PYTHONS OF FLAME AND DRAGONS OF BRASS.

AT LAST, TOWARD DAWN, WHEN I KNEW
I WAS ALMOST TOO WEAK TO SAVE MYSELF
ANY LONGER, A TALL FIGURE APPEARED AT
THE END OF THE RAMPART.



A MALE. A MYTHICAL FIGURE AND HANDSOME BEYOND BELIEF, BUT
WITH EVIL STAMPED ALL OVER HIS MARVELOUS FACE.



HE DREW A LONG AND PHOSPHORESCENT SWORD AND WE WERE AT IT AGAIN.



WHERE MY EXTRA RESERVES OF STRENGTH ARRIVED FROM WAS QUITE BEYOND ME, BUT I AT LAST HAD THE BEING AT THE POINT OF ANNIHILATION UNDER MY LONG DAGGER.



BUT I PAUSED. SOMETHING STOPPED ME. HIS BEAUTY CLOUDED MY REASON AND I COULD NOT STRIKE.

KILL ME, I AM
UNWORTHY TO BE
YOUR OPPONENT.

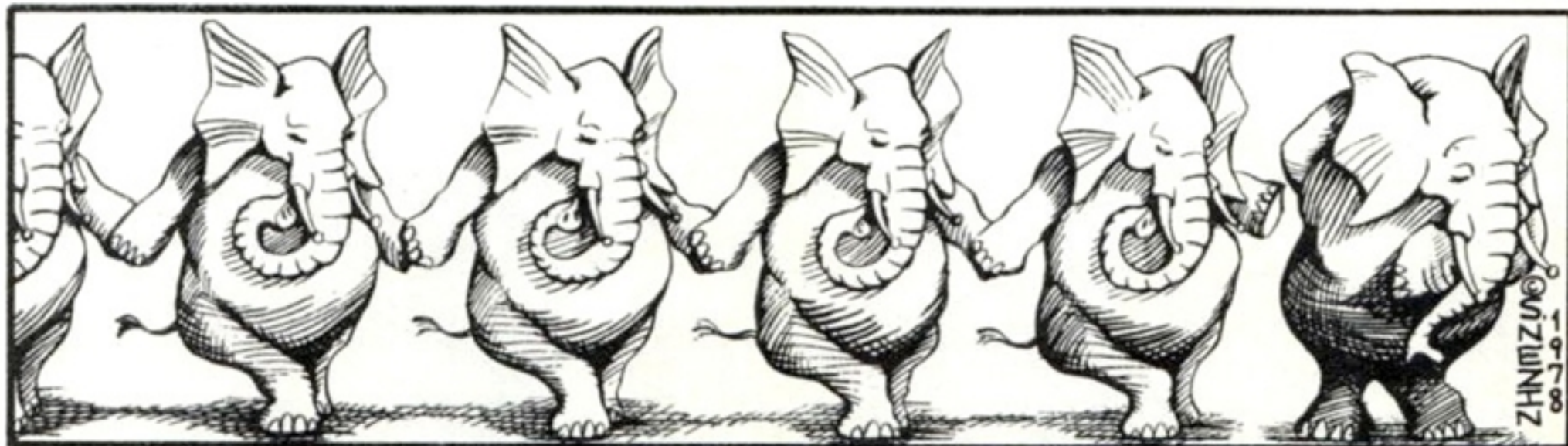
AND MY ENEMY WAS MY ENEMY NO LONGER. THREE TIMES MORE
MARVELOUS, HE EMBRACED ME, AND TOLD ME OF THE ANCIENT AND
TERRIBLE CURSE THAT HAD LAIN UPON THIS PLACE AND HIM. I, BY MY
BRAVERY, HAD SAVED BOTH HIM AND HIS LAND. THE PALACE WAS A RUIN
NO LONGER, AND ALL AROUND THE DESERT WAS BLOOMING.

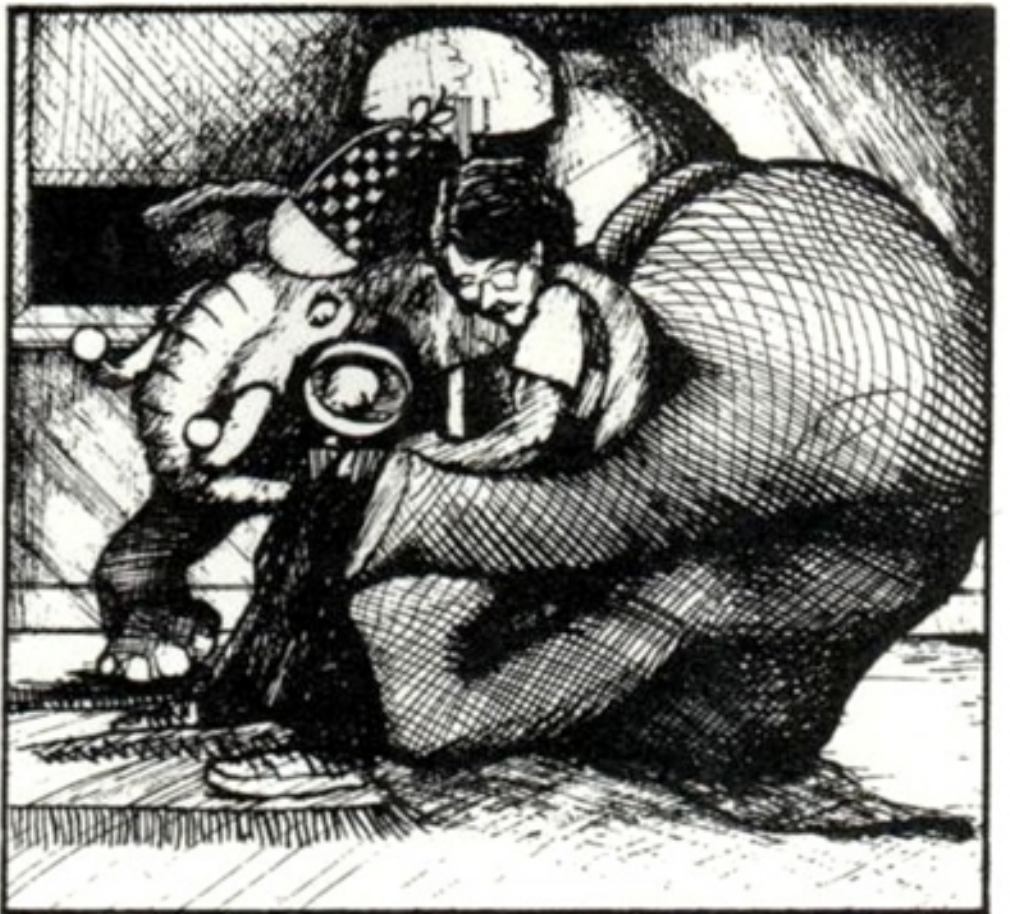
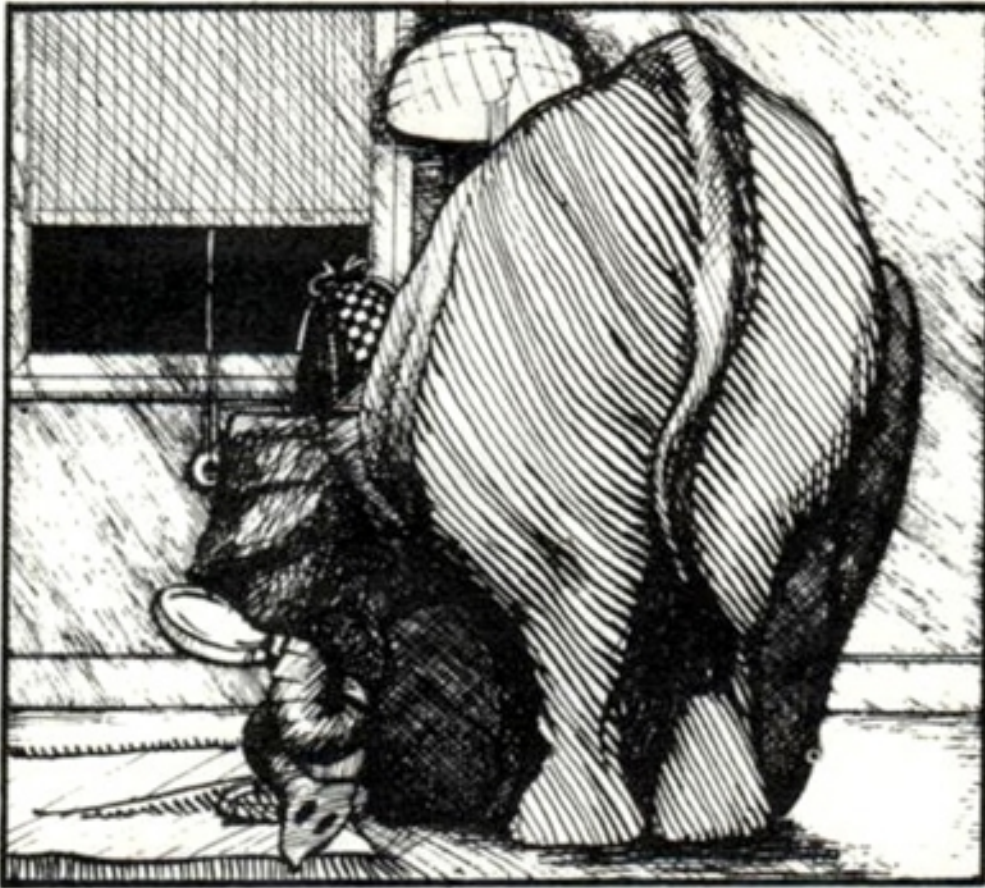
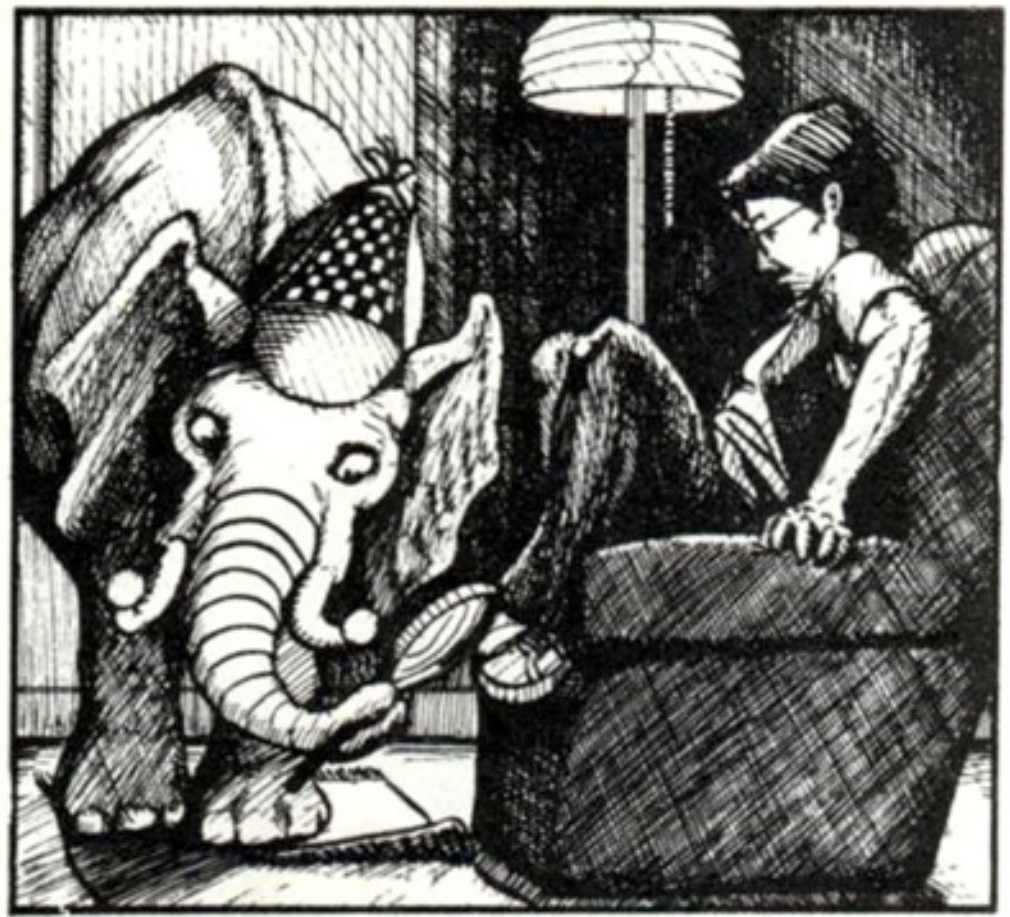
DREAM IS
OVER NOW,
CITIZEN TRN.

CITIZEN TRN, THE
STATE HOPES IT
HAS GIVEN YOU A
SATISFACTORY DREAM.

YES, THANK
YOU...QUITE
SATISFACTORY.

The
End







©ZHMZ 1978
END

SO BEAUTIFUL AND SO DANGEROUS

EPISODE IX - THE EARTHPEOPLE HAVE ARRIVED WHERE IT'S ALL AT...



AXIS... THE MOST
FANTASTIC SIGHT
IN ALL THE GALAXY...



AND THEY'VE ALL GOT TOO MUCH OF
A HANGOVER TO APPRECIATE IT!

OWW! THOSE BRIGHT LIGHTS!

HEY! THOSE
ARE MINE! HOW'D
YOU GET THEM!!

OOHH! MY HEAD

I THINK I'M GONNA
BE SICK...



LOOK! COSMIC GRAFFITI! ... SOMEBODY'S GOT
THE SITUATION HERE SUSSSED...

BE AS INNOCENT
AS DOVES
AND AS WISE
AS SERPENTS

AXIS, EARTH MEN, IS NOT ONE IDEA, OR EVEN ONE PLACE... IT IS A THOUSAND MILLION IDEAS AND PLACES... IT IS AN APOCALYPTIC MAGNET... A DAZZLING JEWEL THAT NONE CAN POSSESS... A BRILLIANT CANDLE CONSUMING WANDERING BUTTERFLIES... A FANTASTIC SPIDER'S WEB STREWEN WITH THE REMAINS OF A BILLION DREAMS... ITS VAST, ETERNAL PATHOS IS MATCHED ONLY BY THE INSIGNIFICANT, PATHETIC BATHOS OF ITS INNUMERABLE INHABITANTS...

AXIS, VAST CONGLOMERATE BLOOD CLOT IN THE HEART OF THE GALAXY... COSMIC PLUG-HOLE JAMMED TIGHT WITH THE FLOTSAM AND JETSAM OF COUNTLESS CIVILIZATION THE AIMLESS WANDERER AND HE WITH GRAND DESIGNS, BOTH ARE DRAWN IRRESISTIBLY HERE FROM THE FARTHEST REACHES OF SPACE FROM THE DARK RIM OF THE GALAXY, WHERE ITS NAME ECHOES FROM THE HIGHEST MOUNTAIN TO THE DEEPEST DARK OCEAN AND DRIFTS IN WHISPERS ACROSS THE MOST FERTILE PLAINS AND THE MOST BARREN WASTELANDS...

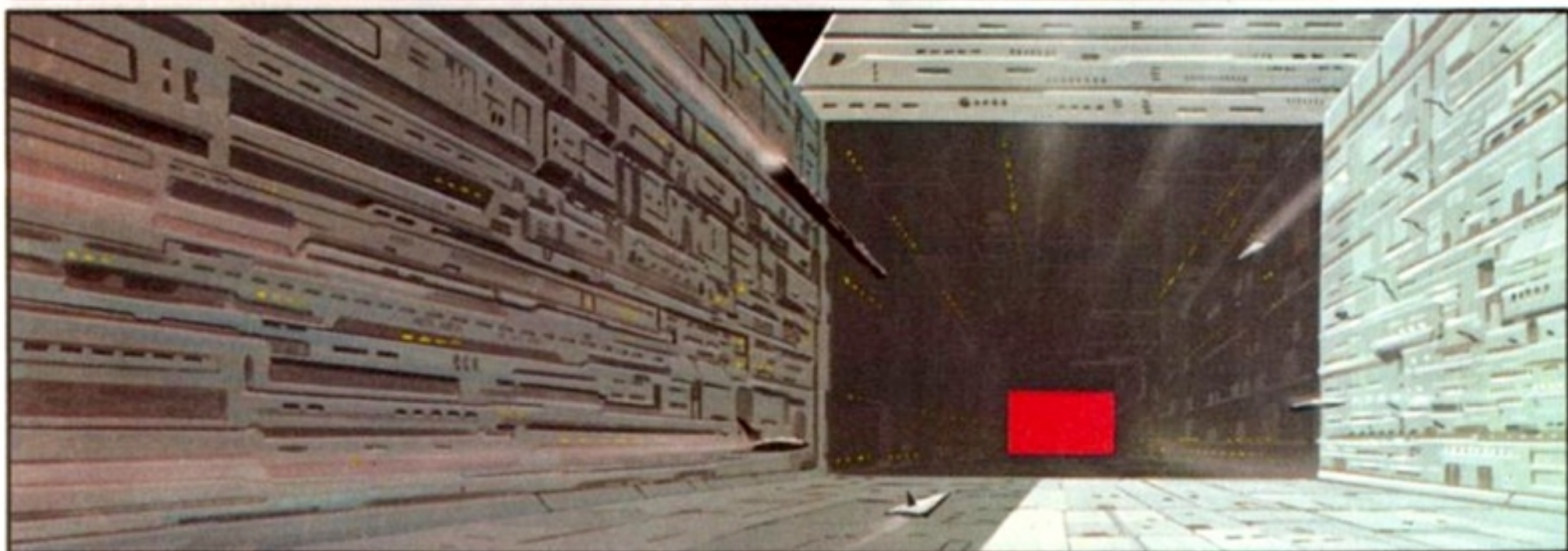
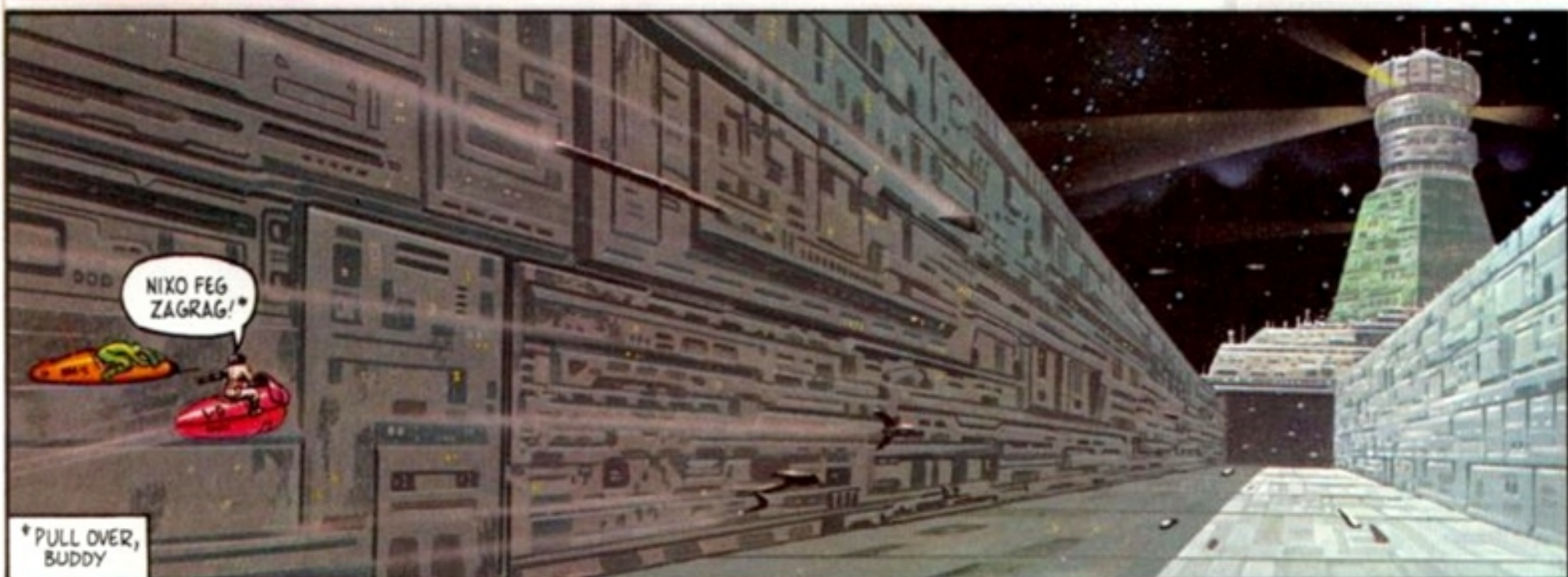
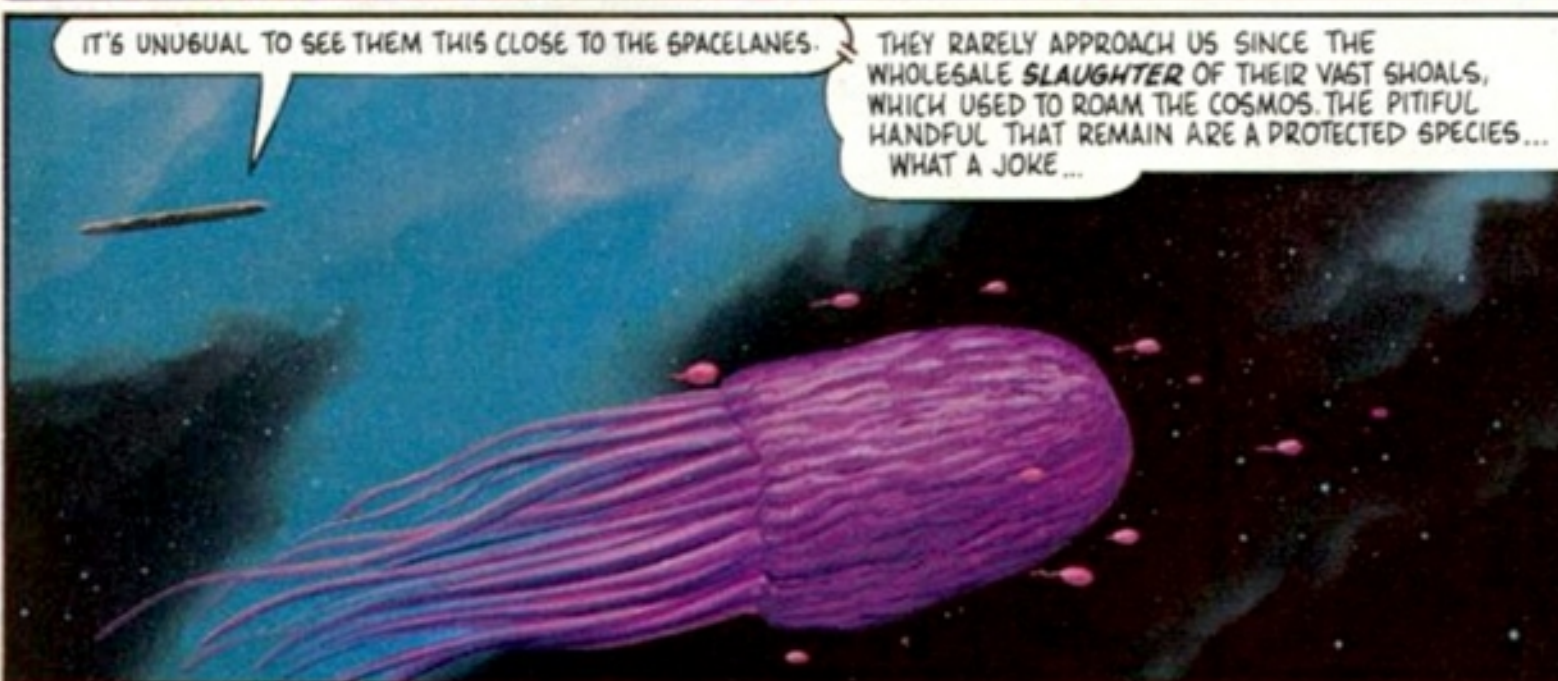


FOR EONS AXIS HAS FIRED THE SATANIC IMAGINATIONS OF A HORDE OF DEMON POETS, PAINTERS, AND WRITERS.

IT IS SAID THAT WHEN A MAN IS TIRED OF AXIS, HE IS TIRED OF LIFE, FOR THERE IS IN AXIS ALL THAT LIFE CAN AFFORD

BUT PERHAPS MOST OF ALL, AXIS IS THE ETERNAL EROTIC CHIMERA, AN EXTRAORDINARY CREATURE POSSESSED OF AN UNNATURAL, TERRIFYING BEAUTY, WHICH IS MORE THAN THE EYE OF MAN CAN WITHSTAND, A TERRIFYING BEAUTY WHICH VIOLENTLY DESTROYS ALL THAT SURROUNDS IT WHILE CONCEALING DEEP WITHIN... A HEART OF... FATHOMLESS... MYSTERIOUS SILENCE...

THE EROTIC CHIMERA, SHE WHO IS A LIVING EMBODIMENT OF THE SUBLIME PARADOX, WHICH IS A COMPLETE MYSTERY NOT ONLY TO THE WORLD... BUT TO ITSELF, ALSO...



OKAY, EVERYBODY, THIS IS WHERE WE HAVE TO PARK. IT'S THE END OF THE LINE. YOU'LL HAVE TO TAKE YOUR CHANCES WITH PUBLIC TRANSPORT FROM NOW ON.



... AND REMEMBER, THE HIGHEST QUALITIES ALWAYS MAKE A MAN UNFIT FOR SOCIETY. THE LIE IS A CONDITION OF LIFE... TRUTH IS THE SAFEST LIE AND CLEVER LIARS GIVE DETAILS, BUT THE CLEVEREST DON'T...



... IT SELDOM PAYS TO BE RUDE, IT NEVER PAYS TO BE ONLY HALF-RUDE. A DOG WILL NOT HOWL IF YOU BEAT HIM WITH A BONE. NEVER GIVE A SUCKER AN EVEN BREAK, AND LASTLY... NEVER WHISPER TO THE DEAF OR WINK AT THE BLIND.

WHAT'S THAT CRAZY ALIEN SHOUTING ABOUT, JOE? CAN'T HEAR A THING ABOVE THE NOISE AROUND HERE.

WHO CARES. CAN YOU SEE ANY BARS AROUNDABOUT THIS JOINT?



HURRY UP, SISYPHUS. THERE'S A HOVERTRAIN ABOUT TO LEAVE.





I'M AFRAID THEY'RE IN TROUBLE, SISYPHUS. THE COUNCIL IS ADAMANT YOU MUST UNDERSTAND. THE THREAT IS **REAL**. THEY'RE PUTTING ON A BLUSTERING SHOW, IT'S AS PLAIN AS DAY... THEY'RE ABSOLUTELY **TERRIFIED**.

WELL, AT LEAST YOU FORESTALLED THE POSSIBILITY OF A VIOLENT ARREST, TERTOLLIAN. THE BIG ONE IS CALLED STEVE AND THE SCRAWNY ONE, WILLY.

⚡ AHEM ⚡

⚡ AH... IT IS MY PRIVILEGE TO INFORM YOU, ALIEN STEVE AND ALIEN WILLY, THAT YOU HAVE BEEN GRANTED AN AUDIENCE WITH THE **GRAND VIZIER OF THE GALACTIC COUNCIL**.

ER... HOLD ON A MINUTE, FELLAS...

I FEAR, EARTHMEN, YOU ARE VICTIMS OF THE VAST, INSCRUTABLE WORKINGS OF INTERPLANETARY GOVERNMENT...

OR, AS YOUR WISE OLD EARTH SAYING GOES... **TOUGH SHIT, KIDS.**

THIS WAY, GENTLEMEN

NOW, PREPARE YOURSELVES TO MEET...

HIS MAJESTY, THE ALMIGHTY RULER OF ALL CREATION, DELIGHT AND TERROR OF THE UNIVERSE, MONARCH OF ALL MONARCHS... GOLBASTO MOMAREN EYLAME GURDILLO SHEFIN MULLY ULLY GUE...

THE **GRAND VIZIER OF THE GALACTIC COUNCIL**...

⚡ BLEEACH! ⚡
⚡ GARGLE! ⚡
⚡ GARGLE! ⚡

I AM SILLY
I AM SILLY
I AM SILLY

THE GALACTIC COUNCIL IS
TOTALLY MEANINGLESS
THE GALACTIC COUNCIL IS
TOTALLY MEANINGLESS

DEMOCRACY IS AN IDEAL THING;
OLIGARCHY, A REAL THING.

GOO GOO GOOO

HA HA HA! THE HALF-CYCLE HAS PASSED, AND SO... UNTIL TOMORROW... *AU REVOIR, MES ENFANTS!*

THANK THE STARS! SUCH HUMILIATION! IT'S *INCONCEIVABLE!* THAT DOG SHALL PAY *DEARLY* FOR THIS.

⋮ *AHEM* ⋮ THE EARTHMEN, YOUR OMNIPOTENCE...



I KNOW WHAT YOU'RE THINKING BUT THINGS AREN'T WHAT THEY SEEM! I CAN ASSURE YOU WE'RE *NOT* SILLY. WE'RE *DIPLOMATS* AND WE HAVE TO HUMOR THAT MAD DOG FOR THE SAKE OF AXIS.

EVERY DAY AT THE ZENITH WE HAVE TO BEHAVE RIDICULOUSLY AT SAY SILLY THINGS OR ELSE HE'LL DETONATE THE OLEFACTIVE.

THE OLEFACTIVE?

I SUPPOSE IT GIVES HIM SOME *PERVERTED PLEASURE* TO SEE IMPORTANT CIVIC DIGNITARIES GROVEL LIKE MORONS... *THE SWINE!*



I'LL GET STRAIGHT TO THE POINT. AXIS IS BEING HELD TO *RANSOM*. THERE'S A TERRORIST STATIONED OUTSIDE THE MAIN INTAKE OF THE VENTILATOR COMPLEX WITH A *DEADLY OLEFACTIVE DEVICE!*

ONCE HE GETS THROUGH MAKING US CRAWL, HE WANTS A BILLION, BILLION CREDITS TRANSFERRED TO AN UNREGISTERED BANK ACCOUNT IN THE WHITE DWARVES OF THE CRABLIKE NEBULA.

ER, WHAT'S THIS OLEFACTIVE DEVICE THING?

TO PUT IT SUCCINCTLY, A *MAMMOTH STINK BOMB!*

THE SMELL IS *UNIMAGINABLE*, I CAN ASSURE YOU! AXIS WOULD BECOME *ABSOLUTELY UNINHABITABLE!* THERE WOULD BE *UTTER CHAOS!*



I CAN'T BELIEVE THIS IS ACTUALLY HAPPENING.

THIS IS ALL VERY INTERESTING, BUT WHAT'S IT GOT TO DO WITH US?

WELL... THIS TERRORIST, THIS MADMAN... BARYON'S HIS NAME... WE HAPPEN TO KNOW...

HE'S *TERRIFIED OF EARTHMEN*

I KNOW EXACTLY HOW HE FEELS.

I MEAN, YOU HUMANS *DO* HAVE A REPUTATION FOR BEING *DEADLY*, SO WE THOUGHT...

GUARDS...! BRING THEM BACK PLEASE.





I'M AFRAID, TODAY, YOU ARE DESTINY'S CHILDREN.

I GUESS YOU'VE PLANNED FOR THIS, BUT JUST OUT OF CURIOSITY...WHAT HAPPENS IF WE REFUSE TO COOPERATE?

SIMPLE! YOU'LL BE THROWN IN JAIL...FOR EVER AND EVER.

ER...I THOUGHT YOU GUYS HAD A DEMOCRACY HERE.

YOU'RE BLUFFING. YOU COULDN'T DO THAT. THEY HAVEN'T COMMITTED ANY CRIME.



THAT...IS PRECISELY WHERE YOU'RE **WRONG**. ALL YOU PEOPLE HERE, YOU'VE **ALL** ENTERED **AXIS** **ILLEGALLY**. ON PASSING THE OFFICIAL CUSTOMS BARRIER, YOU DIDN'T PRONOUNCE THE ANCIENT **OATH OF ALLIANCE** TO THE GOVERNMENT...



ANCIENT OATH!?

HEY...HOW DO YOU KNOW WE **DIDN'T** PRONOUNCE IT. YOU'D HAVE TO **PROVE** THAT



EASY...YOU DIDN'T PRONOUNCE IT SIMPLY BECAUSE NOBODY **KNOWS** IT...THE **WHOLE POPULATION** OF **AXIS** IS HERE **ILLEGALLY**, HA HA HA!

WITH SOMEONE WHO HOLDS NOTHING BUT TRUMPS, IT IS IM-POSSIBLE TO PLAY CARDS.

AND I THOUGHT YOU WERE THE **GOOD GUYS**.

AH, I LOVE TO SPRING THIS ONE ON NEWCOMERS.



IT'S A LONG FORGOTTEN LAW THAT WAS PASSED IN THE TIME OF THE OLD TYRANIAN WARS AND WAS NEVER REPEALED. THE OATH HAS LO-O-NG SINCE BEEN FORGOTTEN.



NO COURT OF LAW WOULD PASS A SENTENCE ON **THAT** ACCOUNT. AT **WORST** THEY HAND OUT A TOKEN PENALTY, THERES NO **JUSTICE** IN YOUR CASE.



JUSTICE! WE'RE TALKING ABOUT A **LEGAL DISPUTE** HERE. WHAT'S THE CONCEPT OF **JUSTICE** GOT TO DO WITH ANYTHING?

SO...IT'S EITHER FACE A LAWYER OR AN EVIL SUPER-CROOK, HUH?..



WELL...THERE'S THE INTAKE. HE MUST BE AROUND HERE SOMEWHERE



Y'KNOW, WHAT PUZZLES ME IS WHY I WAS SO **UNHAPPY** ON EARTH.

WHAT PUZZLES **ME** IS WHY I CAN'T JUST **ACCEPT** THE PRESENCE OF **EVIL** AND **INFAMY**.

1996

THREE MINUTES PAUSE-ATTENTION: KEEP YOUR
MASK ON-THREE MINUTES PAUSE... ATTENTION...



SHEEYIT!



THADZ ID!





AAARRCCH!

I'M
BOININ...



WUDZ
AMADA?
WUDZ
GODINDA
IM?

DUNNO...

GOP SIGGA
IZ OWDFID...

AINDA FIRZ...

AN ID
WOWNBEYA
LAZZ...
WUDA MEZZ!
YUCK!
HEREZA BOZ!

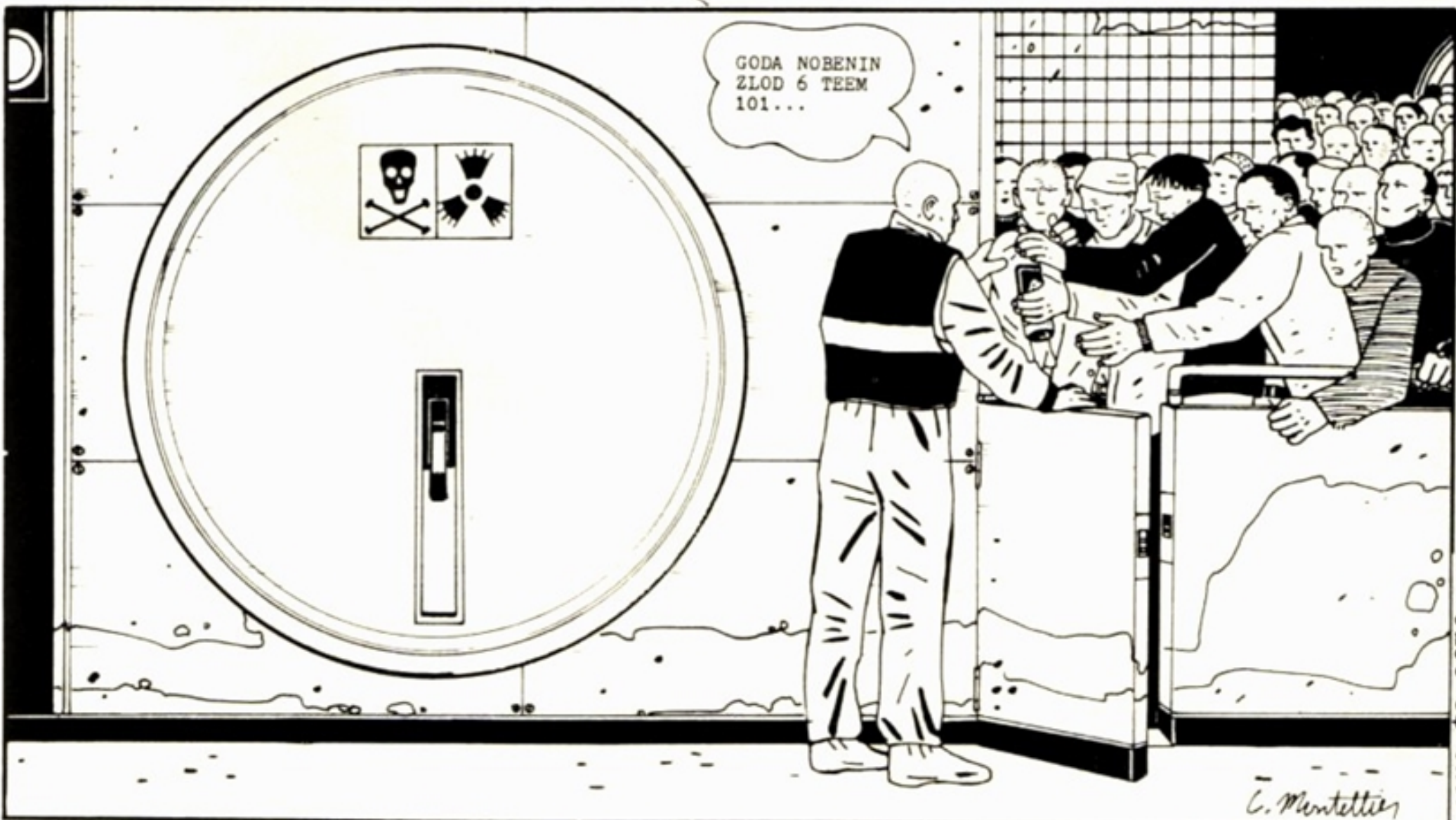
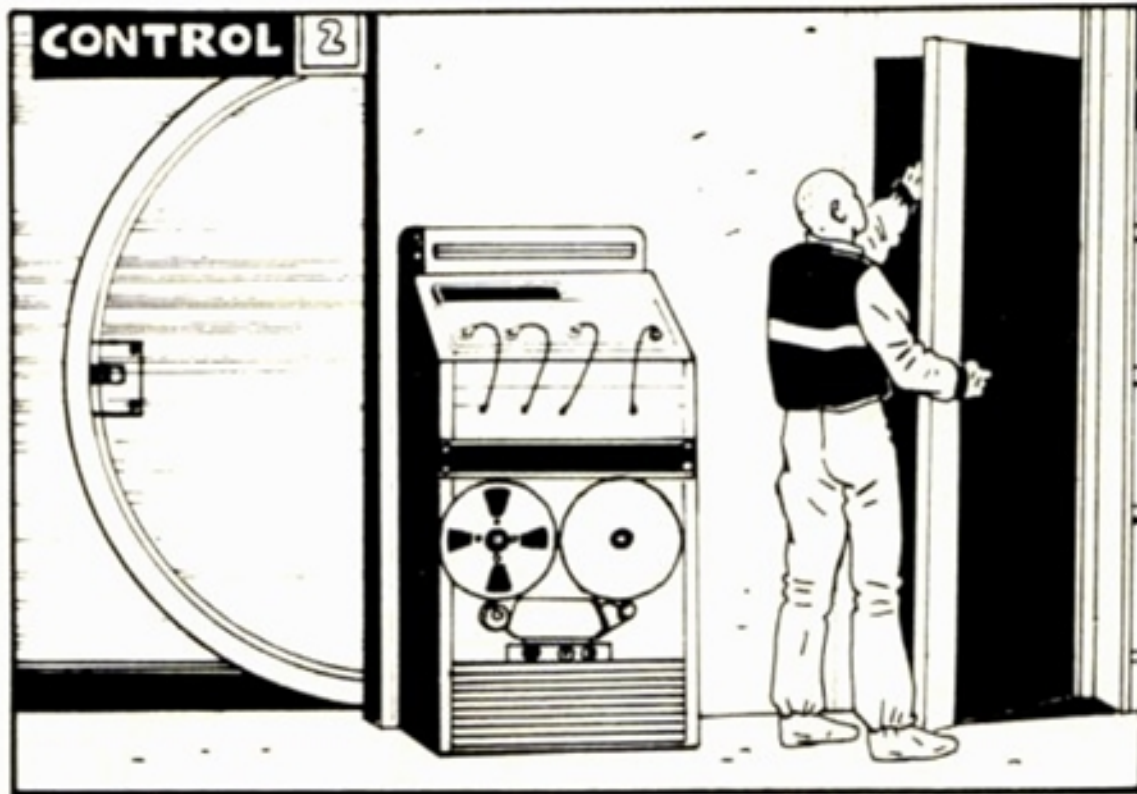


WUZ
HABENIN?
WUDA
FUG?

...GUY
TOOGOVIZ
MAZG!
WONUVA
TEEM...



OH. SOWUDUYA UGGIN
AD? GOWAN! GED BAGA
WORG STEDA STAIRINAD
THIZ AZHOL!





KEVIN EUGENE JOHNSON
78