

**FIRST**  
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DELUXE SERIES

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NO. 3  
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# SHATTER™





# SHATTER™

1/8 FIRST COMICS 435 N. LA SALLE ST., CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60610

Dear Mike:

I'm not accusing you of doing anything yet, but a lot of Shatter #1 looked like it wasn't quite done by computer. For instance, on page 10, frame 2, the background behind the small man yelling doesn't look computerized. The curves in the walls are just too perfect, even for a computer. It looked like the same thing happened on page 20, frame 3. The tile behind them is rounded so perfectly at the corners. I figure if you're going to do a comic on a computer, you ought to make it look like a computer drawing, not like a drawing done by hand.

As always, the art was great. Hopefully, the story will pick up and thicken in the future, moreso than it has already.

Christopher Romano  
1476 Palisades Drive  
Pacific Palisades, CA 90272

Virtually everything in *Shatter*, prior to the coloring phase, is generated as **Apple Macintosh MacPaint** computer files and then printed on an **Apple LaserWriter** printer. If you send me \$10 for the cost of the disk and the labor, I'll send you a computer disk with half an issue of *Shatter* (an entire issue is too big for a single 400K disk) -- just to prove the point.

The "just too perfect" curves and smooth lines you see are the result of the LaserWriter's "smoothing" function.

The LaserWriter contains its own computer which actually enhances the Macintosh images prior to printing them. Even this letter column was produced on the Mac, and then printed on the LaserWriter, using one of the typesetting fonts built into it.

As for the concept that a computerized comic should "look like a computer drawing," I guess we have a philosophical difference there. The computer is a tool, not a gimmick. Ideally, we will eventually produce comics via computer which will be indistinguishable from those drawn by more "conventional" means.

Dear Editor:

You have broken new ground with *Shatter*. The implications of a comic produced on computer could prove intriguing. For instance, the original art is now a diskette, copies of which are identical to it in every way. I would imagine this kind of cuts the value of the originals way down.

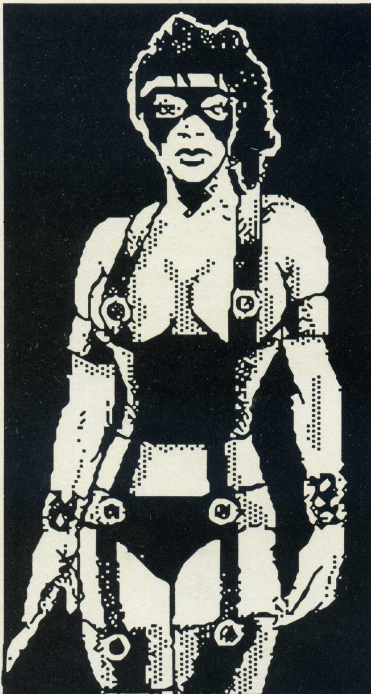
Martin Devon  
67-48 171st Street  
Flushing, NY 11365

You're right, Martin. The term "original" art becomes relatively meaningless in this context. I prefer to think of it as "an infinite number of first generation copies."

Dear Sirs:

*Shatter* is really a bold move on your part, and hopefully it will continue to sell well. The coloring is very, very good and really enhances the LaserWriter printing. Apple just flat out giving you one was a good move for both parties, you get something for nothing that will enhance your art, and Apple gets free advertisement.

Dennis Heaton  
1301 Lakeside Way #309  
Atlanta, GA 30319



Well, you're half right anyway, Dennis. We sure are giving Apple a lot of free promotion; we like their technology, and we don't mind spreading the word. But we don't actually have our "free" LaserWriter yet. The LaserWriter is apparently in such great demand that Apple is working overtime to fill all the orders. But we're sure we'll get ours... eventually.

In the meantime, I'll give a free plug to the guys who paid for their LaserWriters and have been helping us out over the past several months: **Tom Welch** and **Terry Cronin** from **Video Etc.** in **Deerfield, IL**; **Russ Purcell** and the lovely **Laura** from **Haskell-Kennedy Press** in **Chicago**; and our very own electronic "inker" **Bob Dienethal**.

And while I'm at it, I should give credit to our new creative team: writer **Steven**

**Grant**, artists **Steve Erwin** and **Bob Dienethal**, colorist **Les Dorscheid**, and the multi-talented letterer:

— Rick Oliver



**NEXT ISSUE:** The Alien Nation battles it out with the combined forces of Simon, Schuster & Jovanovitch and the Artists' Underground, and Shatter has his final confrontation with Cyan!

**Rick Obadiah, Publisher**

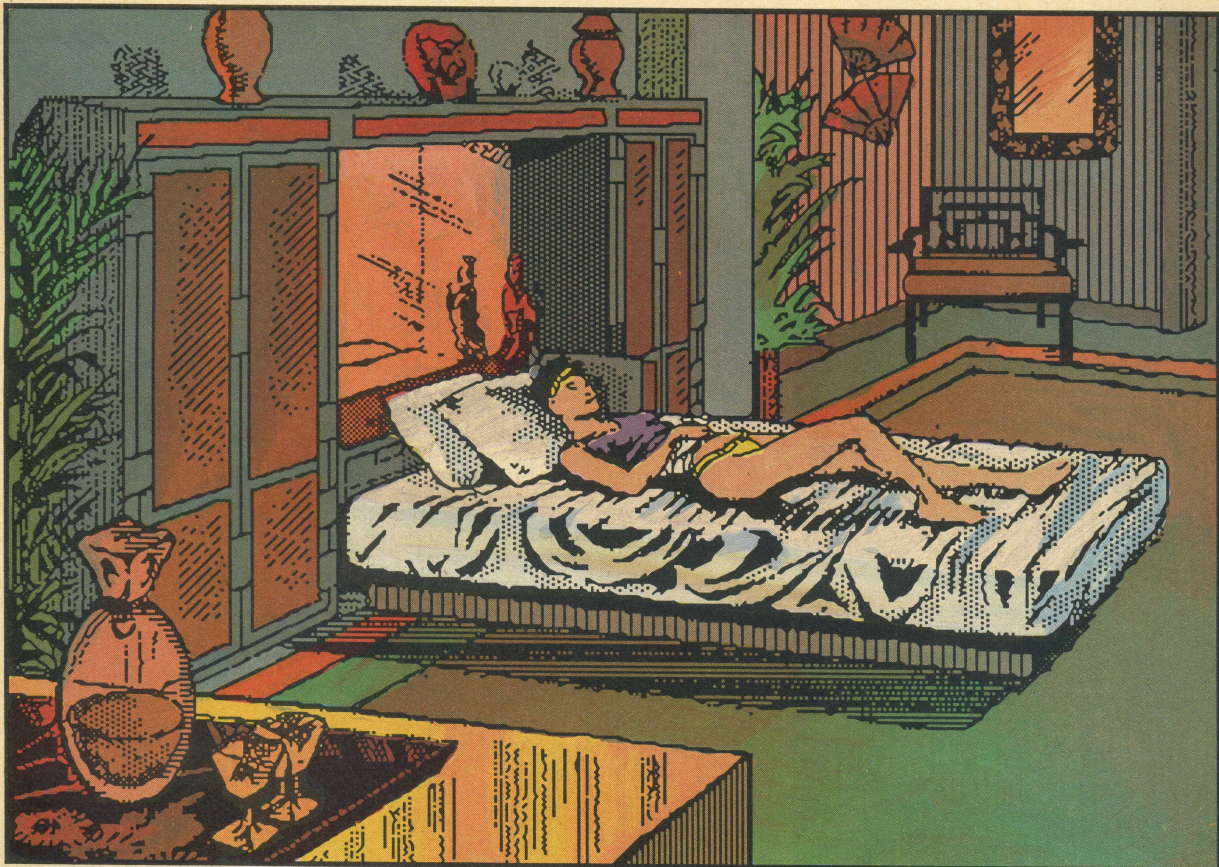
**Rick Oliver, Editorial Director**  
**Laurel Fitch, Editorial Coordinator**  
**Alex Wald, Art Director**  
**Rick Taylor, Production Manager**

**Ralph C. Muscant,**  
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**Kathy Kotsivas,**  
**Operations/Sales Director**

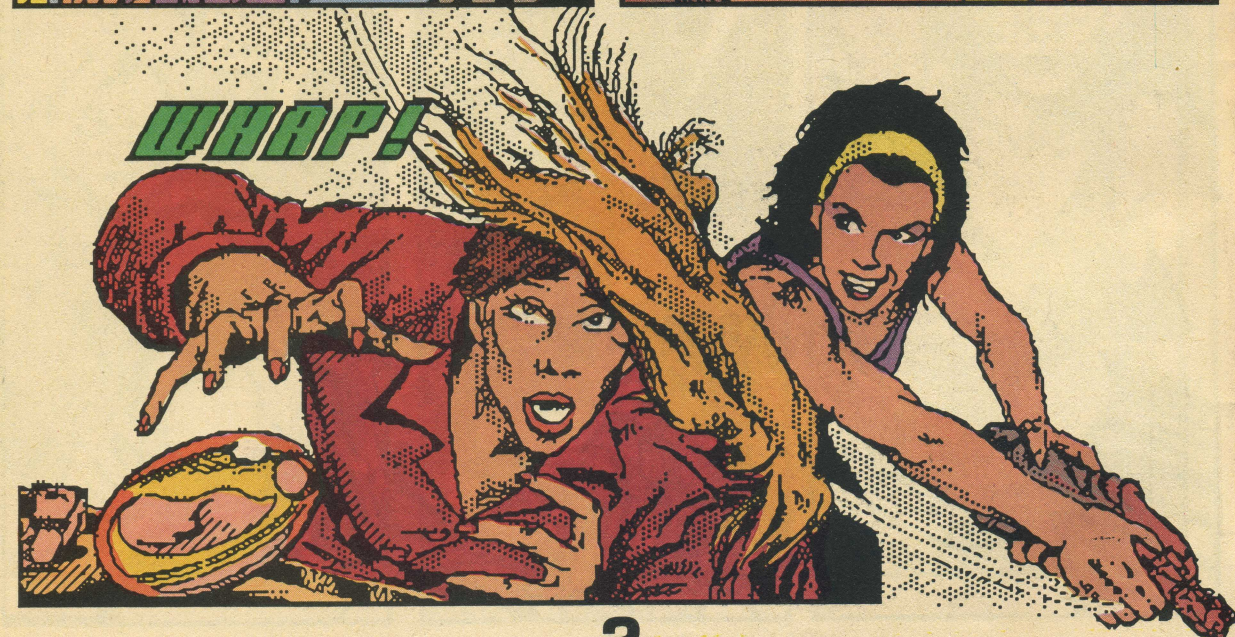
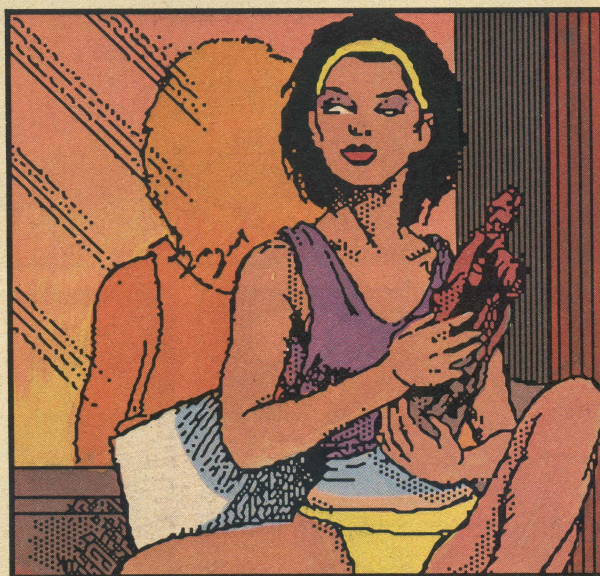
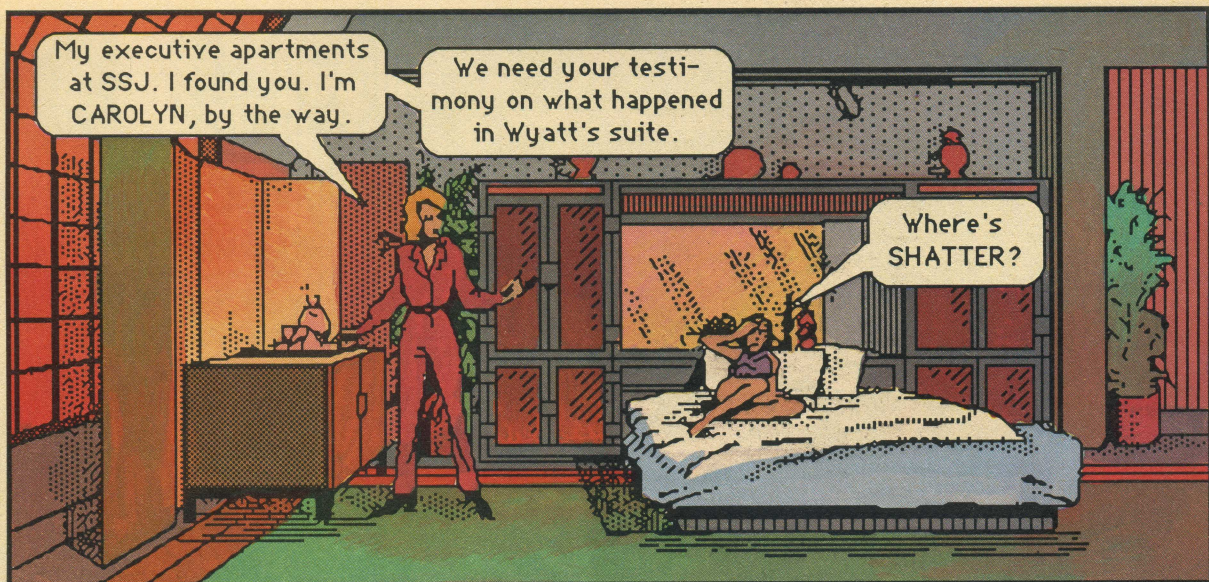
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**A FIRST COMICS  
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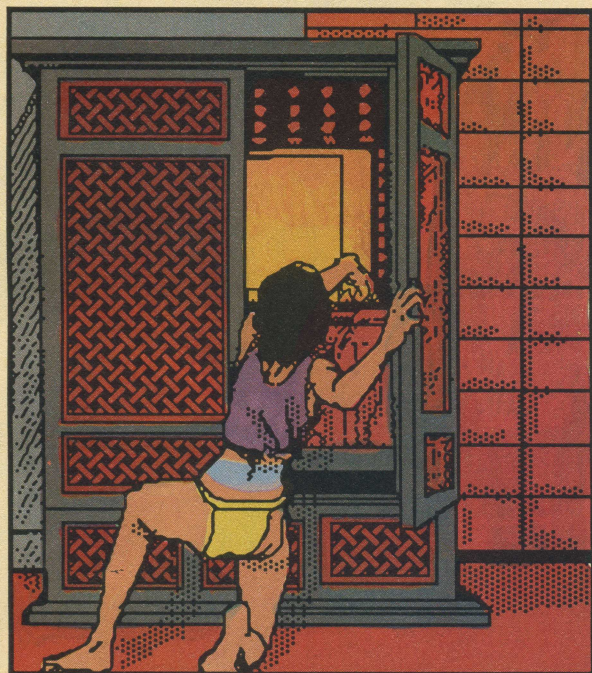
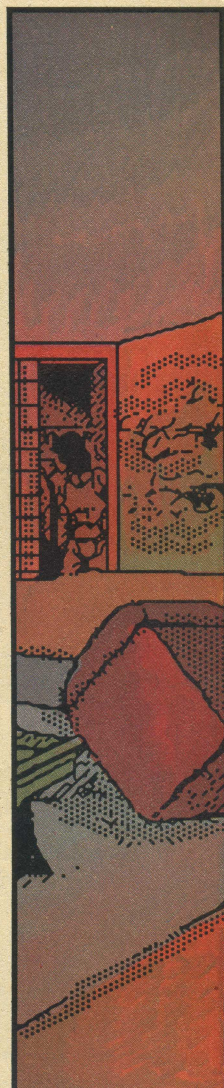
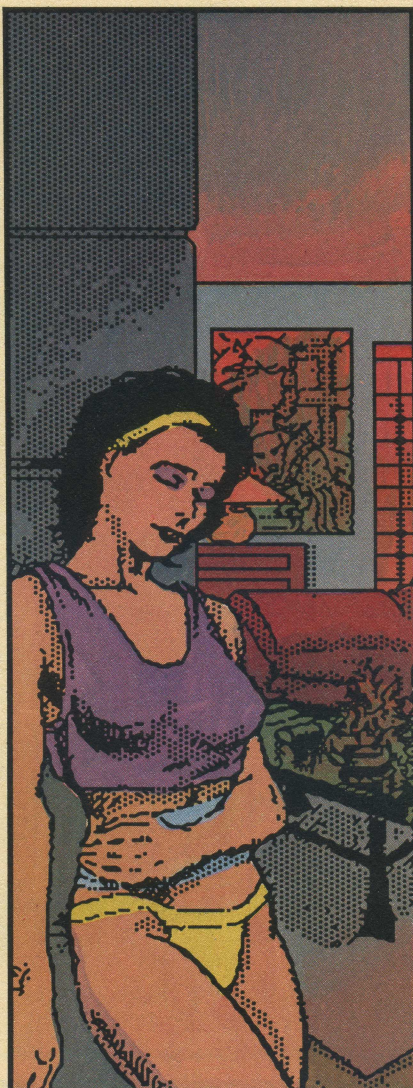
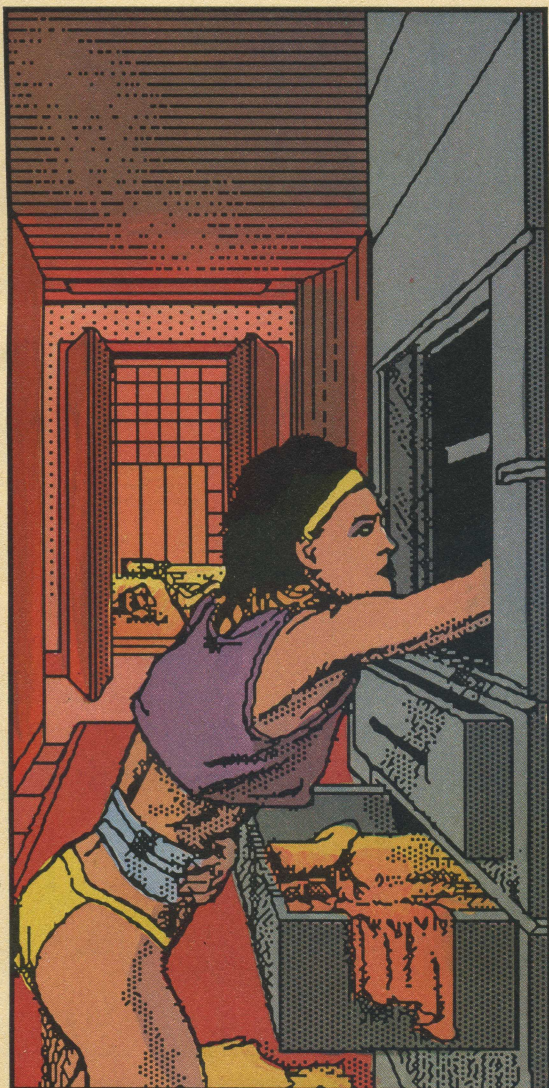






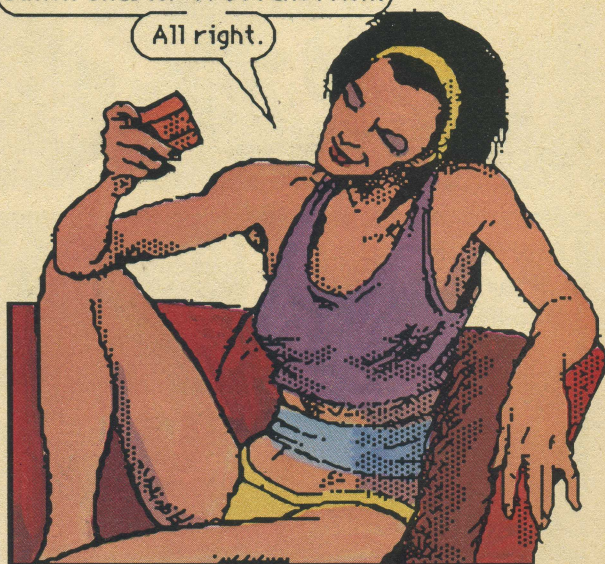




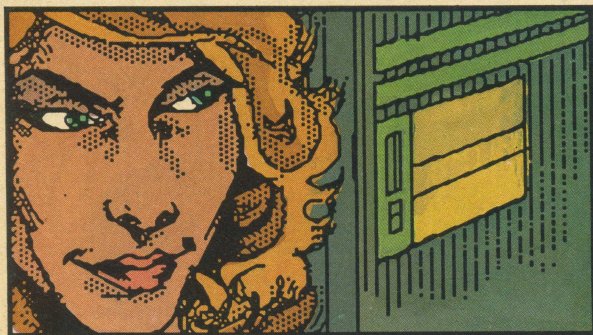
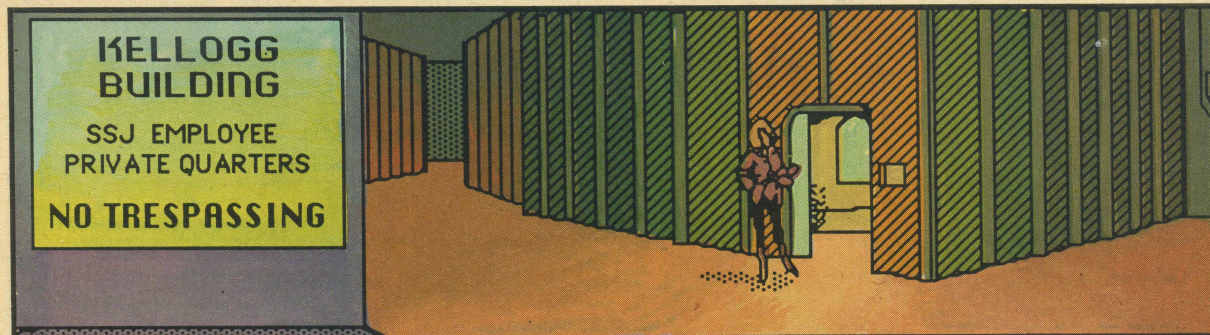
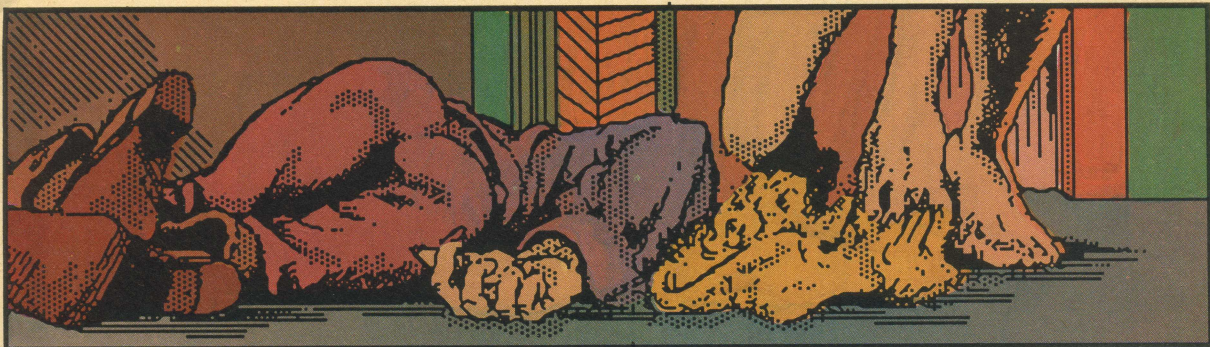


Carolyn Kuhl, vice-president of public relations, Simon Shuster & Jovanovitch.


All right.











"My name is  
SADR AL-DIN MORALES.  
Some people call me...

# SHATTER™

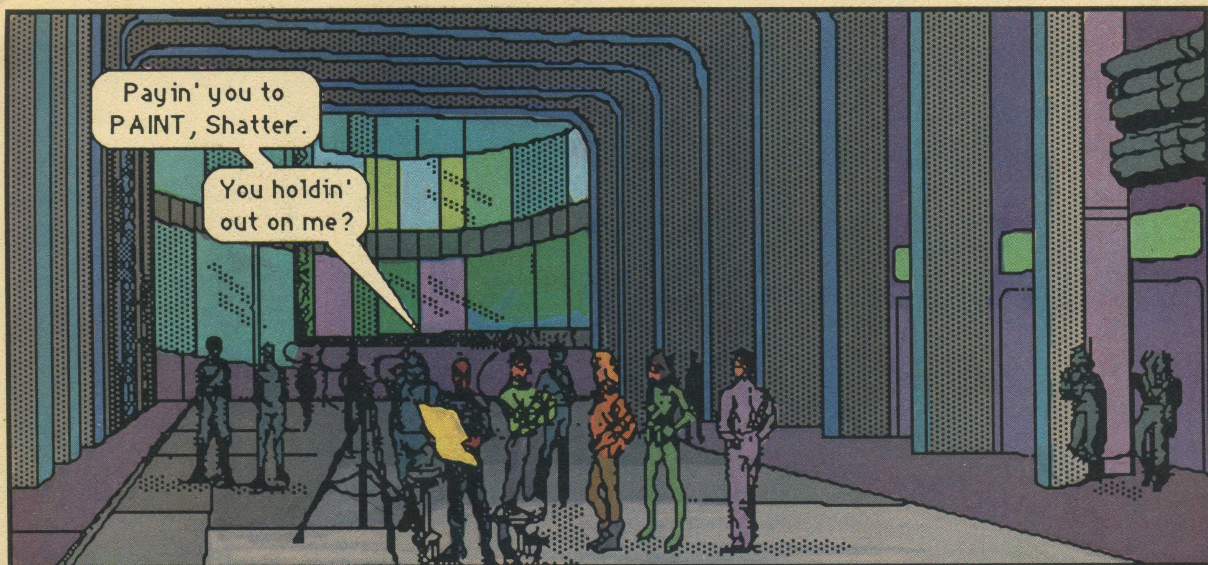
"I'd had the RNA of an  
ARTIST pumped into me.  
In theory, that makes  
ME an artist.

"I'm also a TEMP -  
odd jobs our specialty -  
and I've been hired to  
PAINT. I'm GOING  
to paint...

"If I can ever figure out  
how to hold a BRUSH.

SCRIPT: STEVEN GRANT  
ART: STEVE ERWIN AND BOB DIENETHAL  
COLOR: LES DORSCHIED  
LETTERS/EDITS: RICK OLIVER





Payin' you to  
PAINT, Shatter.

You holdin'  
out on me?



What you SEE  
is what you GET.

And only my FRIENDS call me Shatter, wise ass.

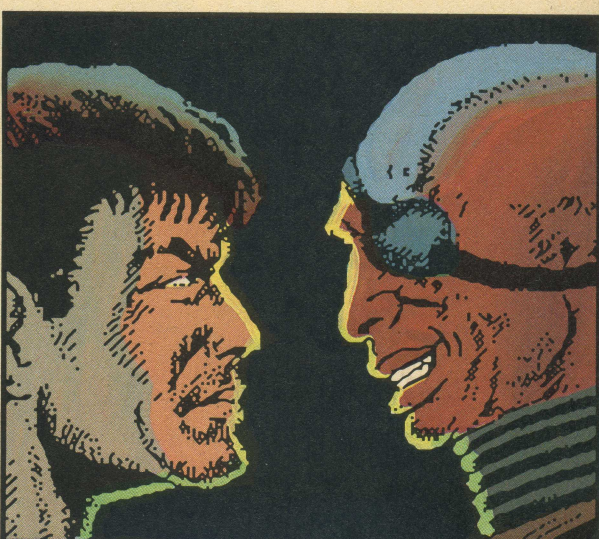
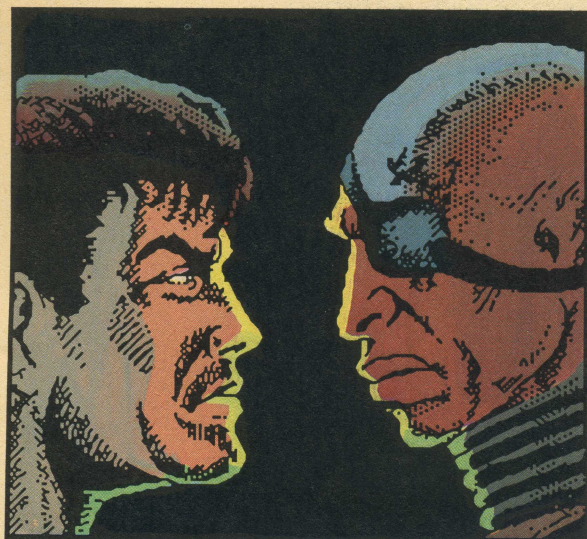
Man, you haven't  
GOT any friends.

EXACTLY!

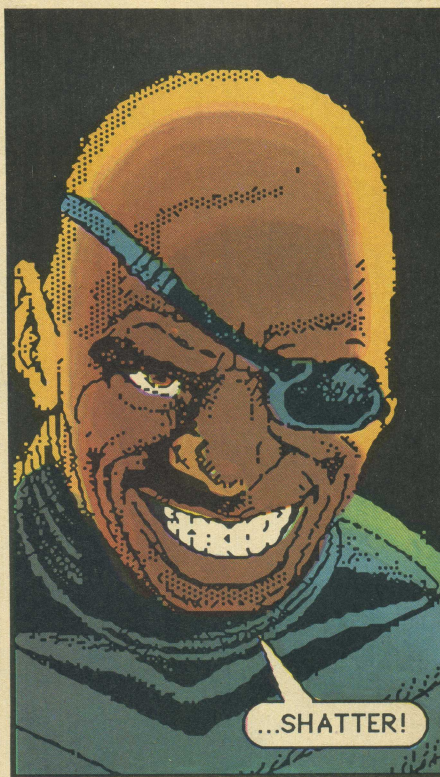


Why, I oughta...

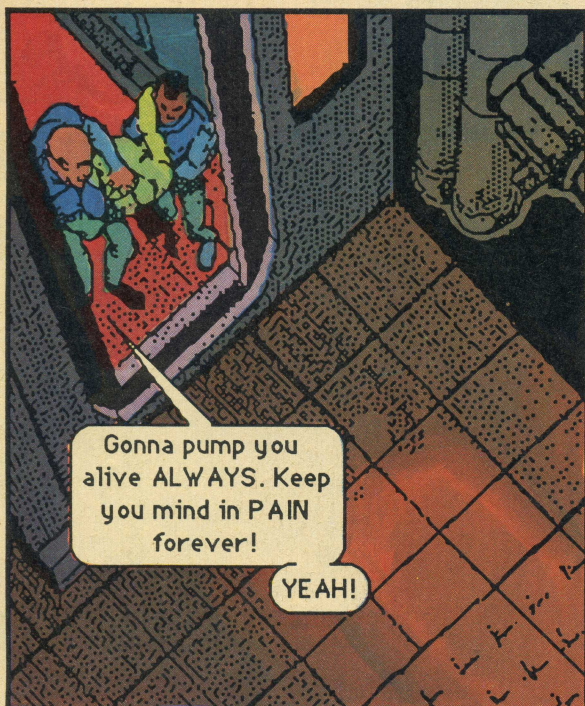
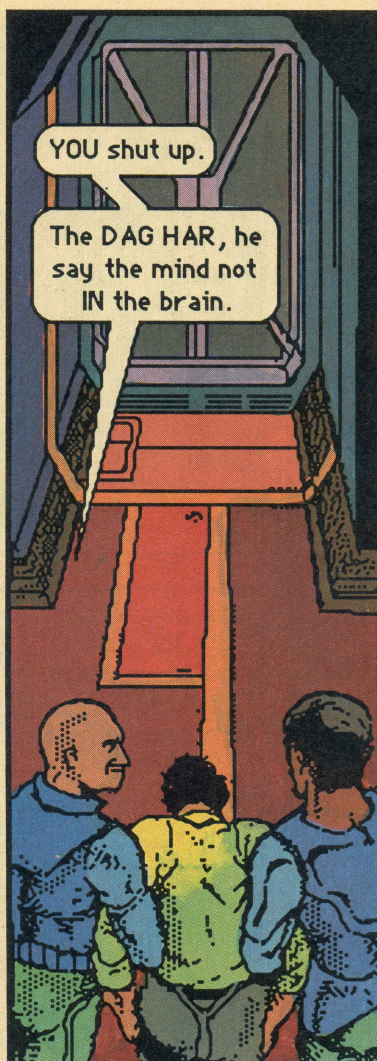
















"Time to go.

" I needed a place to think, and UNRATH's offer was good.

"And he pays the OLD CASH.

"But the cash is MOCK - a cheap art job.

" And living at the RAVENSWOOD TANKS is beneath my STATION.

"They're all crazy here - lower than NO-WORKERS.

"And the only thing here CHEAPER than the art..."



# FIRST NOTES

## NINTH IN FEBRUARY

This month is something of a landmark for First as we surpass the magic number of eight for the first time, with a total of NINE books coming your way in February. And you know what that means? Well, it means we're growing faster than kudzu, bigger than Godzilla, and larger than a sumo wrestler on steroids -- but it also means more stuff in the "First In [fill-in-your-favorite-month]" column and less room for me to stumble around searching for meaningless metaphors to fill up this column.

It also means I get fewer opportunities to cajole, insult, and generally outrage the reading public -- and otherwise stick my foot in my mouth. So I guess it's all for the better, although not nearly as much fun. Anyway, on to the blatant hype, which is what they pay me for in the first place...

## SECOND IN FEBRUARY

**Whisper** returns in a new bi-monthly series this month, written by creator **Steven Grant** and drawn by **Dell Barras**. If you've seen our ads, you already know what Dell's art looks like. If you haven't, go buy some copies of last month's books and find out. The ad's the same in all our titles; but buy all eight just to make sure.

This is sort of a "double-second" because it's the second **Whisper** series (the first was published by Capital Publications) and the second First appearance for **Whisper**, having just completed a successful tour in **First Adventures**.

It is, however, issue #1 -- because we couldn't figure out any other number to give it, and "one" is invariably the first number that comes to mind.

February also marks the return of **Shatter**, the First computerized comic

book. **Shatter** took a short vacation while we refined the revolutionary computer process and figured out how all the new electronic gizmos worked. Actually, we still don't know *how* they work; but they do -- as you can see if you bought a copy. If you didn't, go out right now and buy one. In fact, make it eight just to make sure.

We were going to call it "Shatter -- Phase 2;" but it's issue #3, and we didn't want to confuse the promotion department... which is me.

## FIRST IN MARCH

Next month we have a special second anniversary issue of **Grimjack** featuring **Timothy Truman**, **Paul Smith**, and no ads; a very strange issue of **Nexus** featuring the enigmatic **Keith Giffen**; and a new **American Flagg!** team, headed by **Steven Grant** and **Mark Badger** -- plus everybody's favorite Plex video hologram, **Bob Violence!**

## FIRST IN APRIL

We have two new graphic novels coming out in April; but if I tell you about them now, I won't have anything to say next month.

## FIRST IN JULY

Okay, so I'm jumping the gun a little. You'll just have to humor me. Besides, this is BIG news. In July, **Dreadstar** jumps ship and joins the First team! That's right. **Jim Starlin** is bringing his epic (get it?) adventure story to First Comics, and our first issue will reveal the secret of the traitor within the midst of **Dreadstar** and Company.

Carrying on our famous tradition of confusing numbers, the first First issue of **Dreadstar** will be #27, on sale one month after issue #26!

-- Rick Oliver

## FIRST IN FEBRUARY

**American Flagg!** #30: The finale to "The Fire This Time" by **Howard Chaykin**, **Joe Staton**, and **Hilary Barta**.

**Badger** #12: "Blood on the Snow," by **Mike Baron**, **Bill Reinhold**, and **Keith Wilson**. Plus: **Zoomtown** by **Mike Baron**, **Ron Wagner**, and **Gary Martin**.

**Dynamo Joe** #2: Chapter two of our three-part mini-series by **Doug Rice**, **John Ostrander**, **Brian Thomas**, and **John Nyberg**.

**Elric: Sailor on the Seas of Fate** #7: The last installment of our first limited series adapting the sword-and-sorcery tales of **Michael Moorcock**. Stay tuned for a new **Elric** series in June!

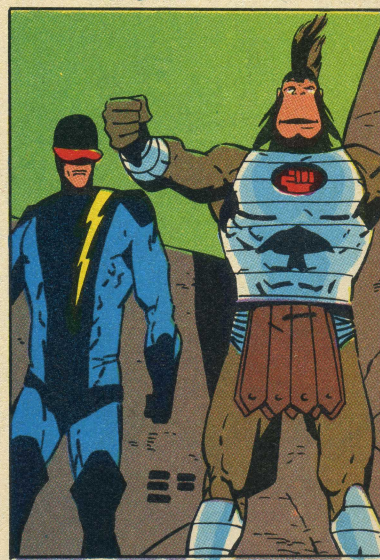
**Grimjack** #23: "Demon Blood, Part One," by **John Ostrander**, **Tom Sutton**, and **Paul Guinan**. Plus: **Munden's Bar** by **Phil Foglio**.

**Jon Sable, Freelance** #37: **Sable** has a deadly rendezvous in Africa. Story and art by **Mike Grell**.

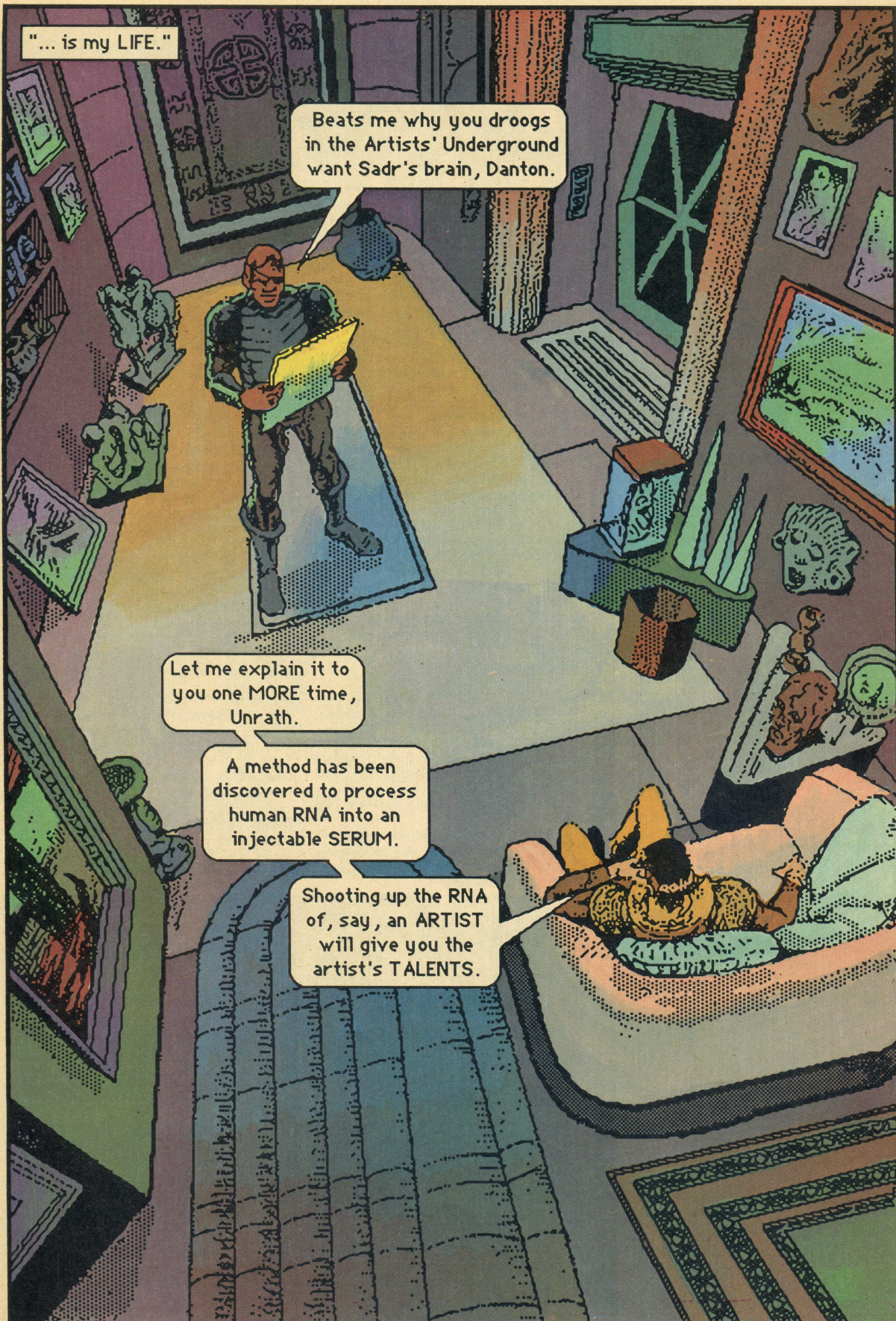
**Nexus** #21: "The War for Ylum," by **Mike Baron**, **Steve Rude**, and **John Nyberg**. Plus: **Tales from the Clonezone** by **Mike Baron** and **Mark A. Nelson**.

**Shatter** #3: The bounty hunter from the future enters a new phase, courtesy of **Steven Grant**, **Steve Erwin**, **Bob Dienethal**, **Apple Macintosh**, and **Apple LaserWriter**.

**Whisper** #1: "Datapanik in the Year Zero," by **Steven Grant**, **Dell Barras**, and **Tim Burgard**.







"... is my LIFE."

Beats me why you droogs  
in the Artists' Underground  
want Sadr's brain, Danton.

Let me explain it to  
you one MORE time,  
Unrath.

A method has been  
discovered to process  
human RNA into an  
injectable SERUM.

Shooting up the RNA  
of, say, an ARTIST  
will give you the  
artist's TALENTS.





Up to THIS point, however, the effects don't LAST.



But SADR'S injection has NOT worn off. This makes him VALUABLE.



Whoever mainlines HIS RNA also gains the PERMANENCE factor.



It's all SNAKE OIL, man. SMOKE.

Sadr's got NO talent.



PHILISTINE!

This is a FINE example of CATATONIC EXPRESSIONISM.



# Did you MISS last month's issue?

Too bad! We're probably sold out by now. Maybe you can borrow a friend's copy and find out what happened.



If you had a **SUBSCRIPTION**, you'd never miss a single issue!

If you had a **SUBSCRIPTION**, every issue would come directly to your house! You wouldn't have to go out or anything!

If you had a **SUBSCRIPTION**, there'd be something in your mailbox besides depressing bills!

Now, if only you had a **SUBSCRIPTION COUPON** you could fill out and send in. Wait! What's that down there?

**ONLY \$15 FOR 12 ISSUES**

- ☐ AMERICAN FLAGG!
- ☐ GRIMJACK
- ☐ WHISPER

(\$17 in Canada, \$32 foreign rate)

**ONLY \$21 FOR 12 ISSUES**

- ☐ BADGER
- ☐ ELRIC
- ☐ HAWKMOON
- ☐ NEXUS
- ☐ SABLE
- ☐ SHATTER

(\$23 in Canada, \$40 foreign rate)

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Keep your CRITICISMS to yourself. I HIRED you to keep Sadr under wraps...

...NOT to demonstrate your IGNORANCE.

Changed my MIND, man.

You're NOT gettin' my man Shatter.

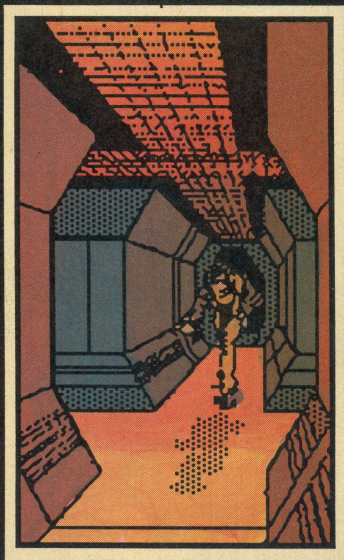
Our deal's OVER!

RRRIP!

Maybe you don't even get out of here.

Don't come into MY place and call ME names!





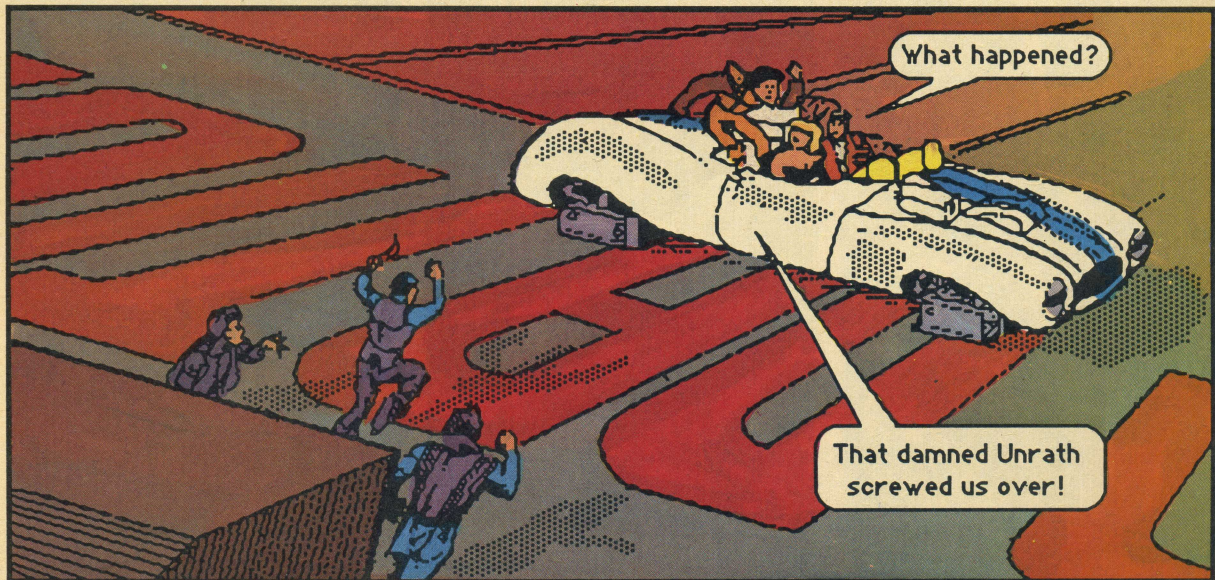
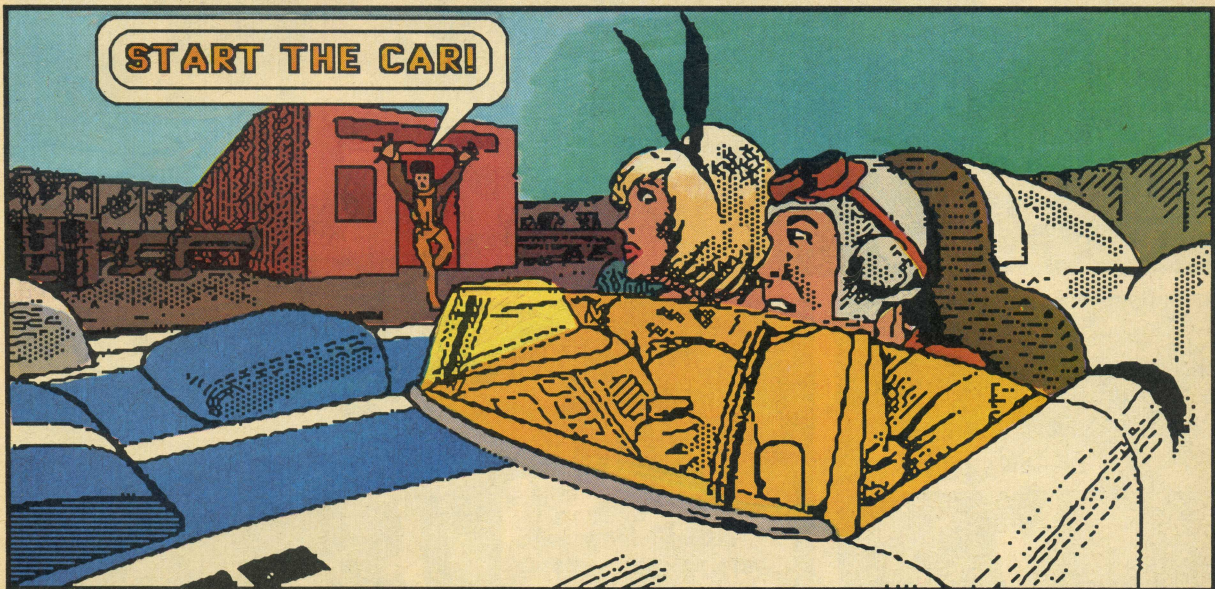
WHOOPI!

WHOOPI!



He's headed  
for the ROOF!



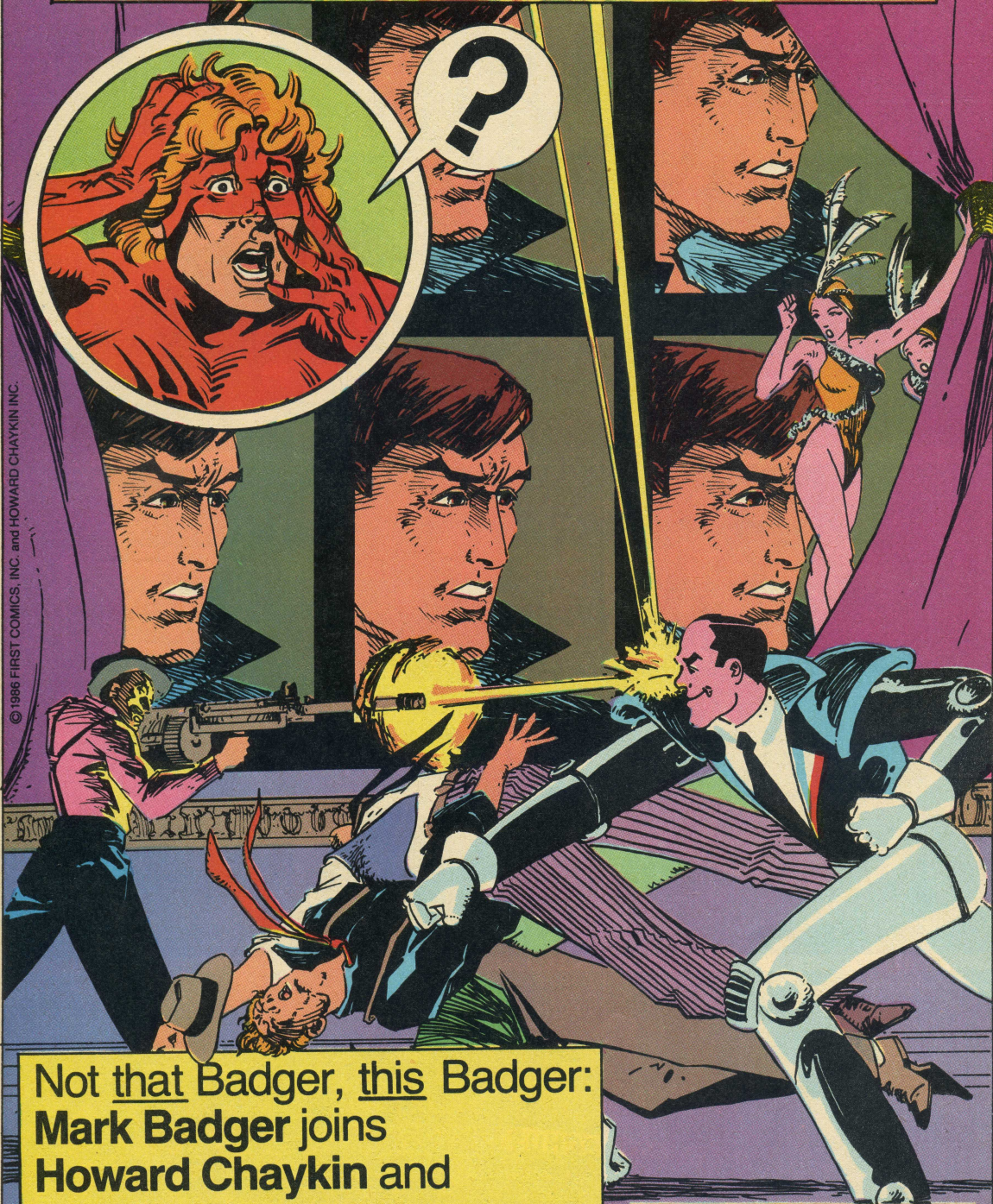








# BADGER ON FLAGG!?

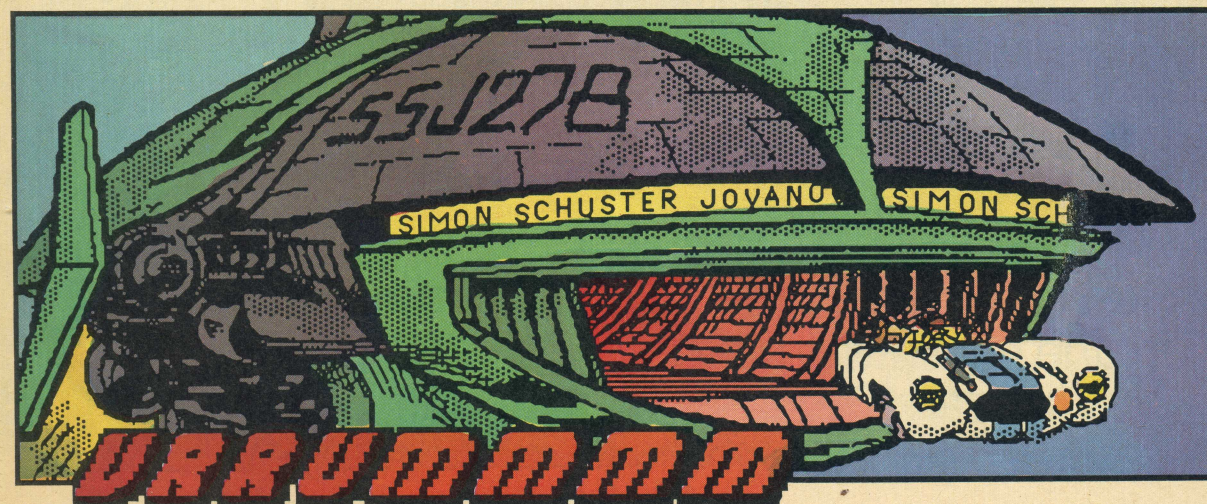
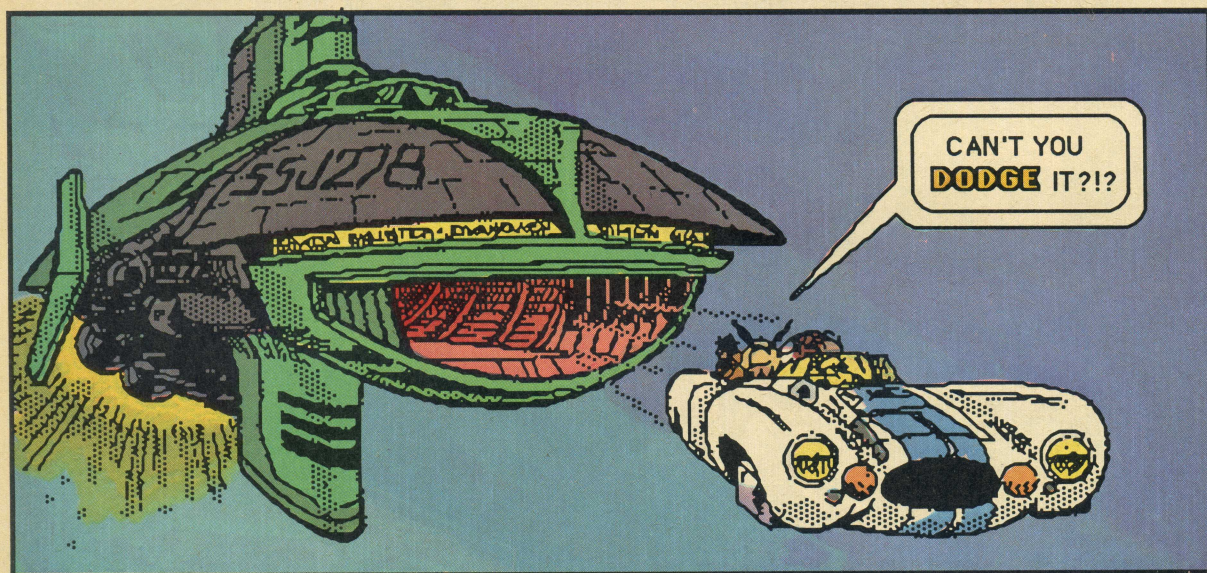
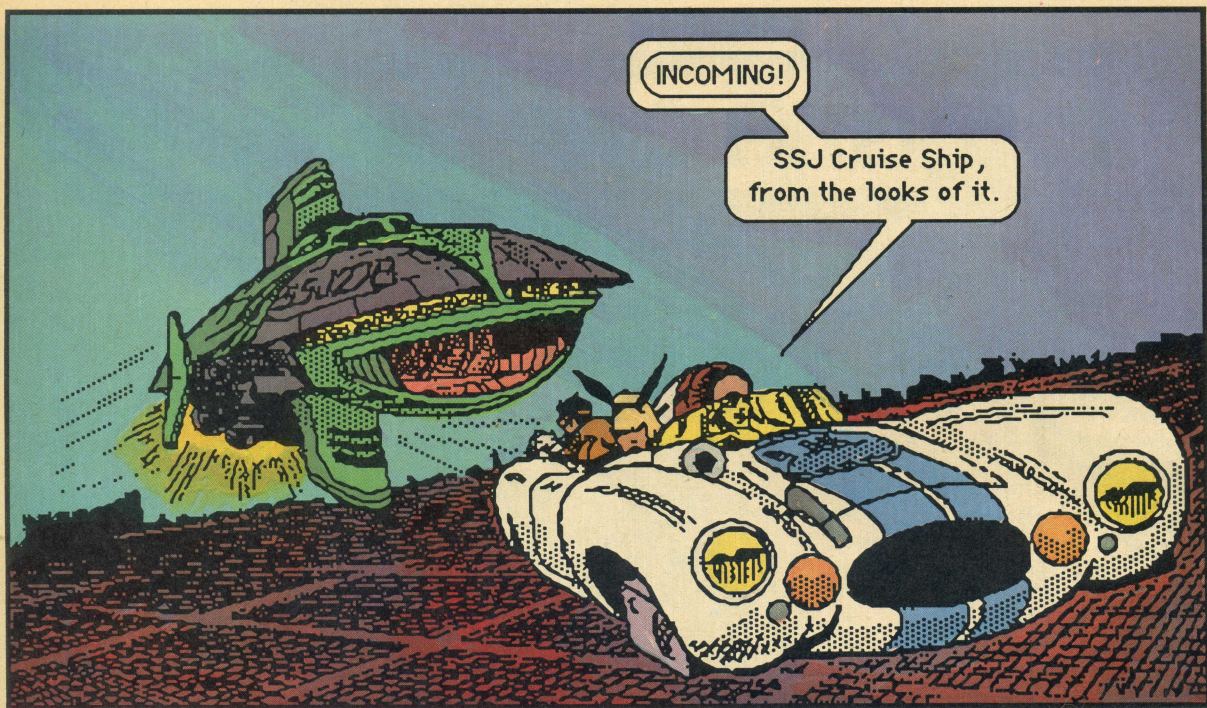


Not that Badger, this Badger:  
**Mark Badger** joins  
**Howard Chaykin** and  
**Steven Grant**  
for the continuing adventures  
of American Flagg!

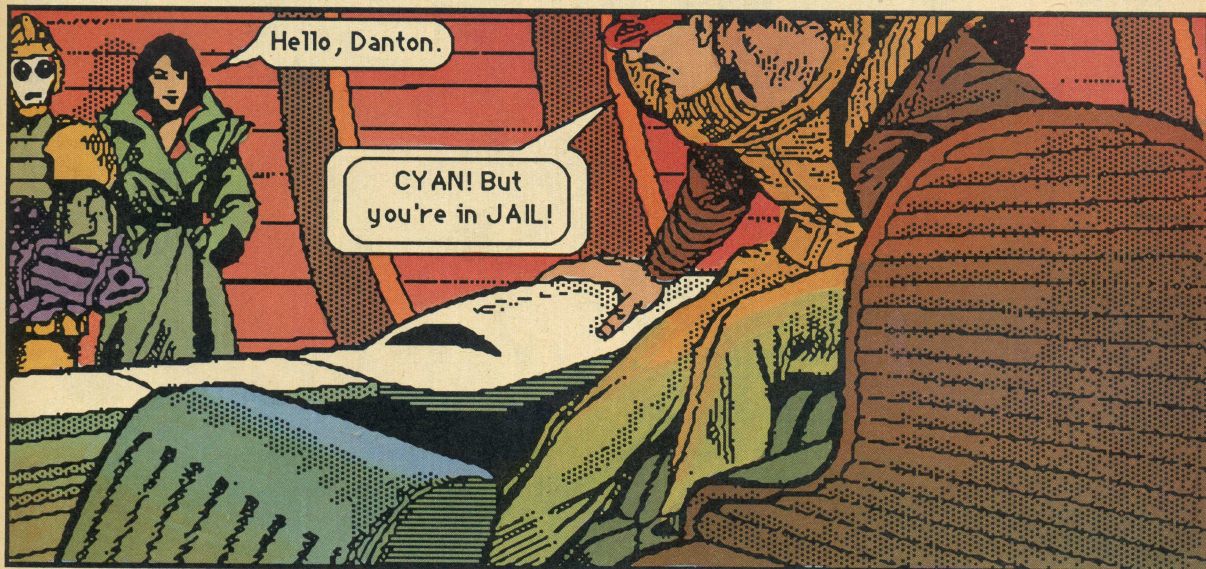
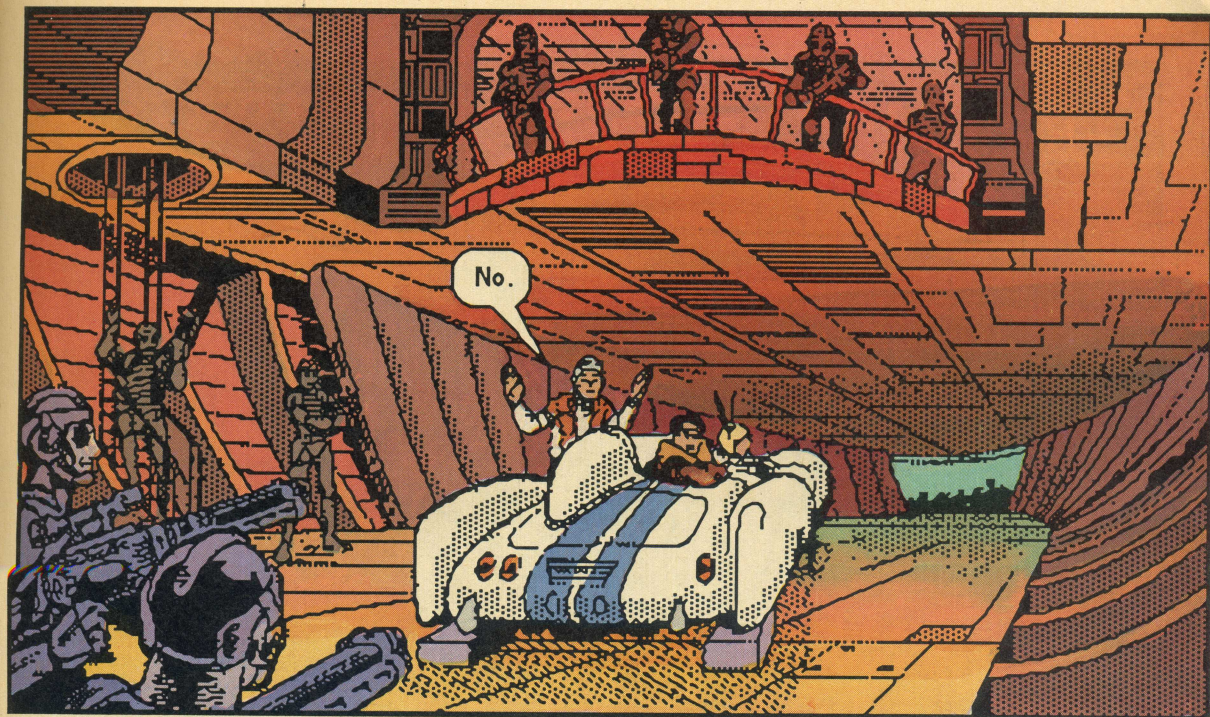
Beginning next month!

**FIRST**  
COMICS









SSJ DROPPED  
the charges.

By the way, I'm the  
new CHAIRMAN of SSJ's  
board of directors.

Where's SHATTER?



# GIFFEN AND BADGER IN NEXUS!



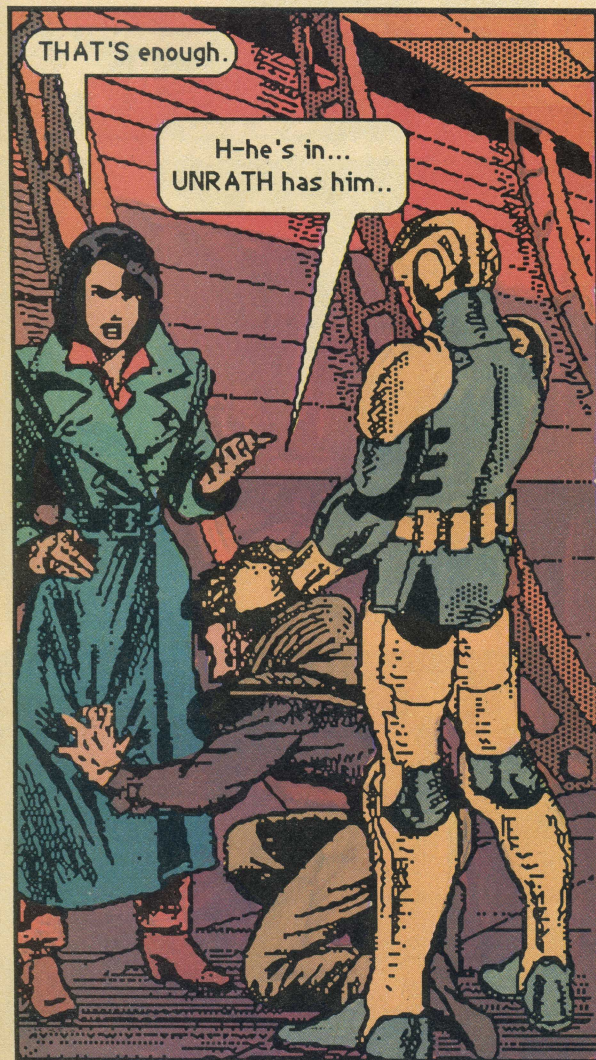
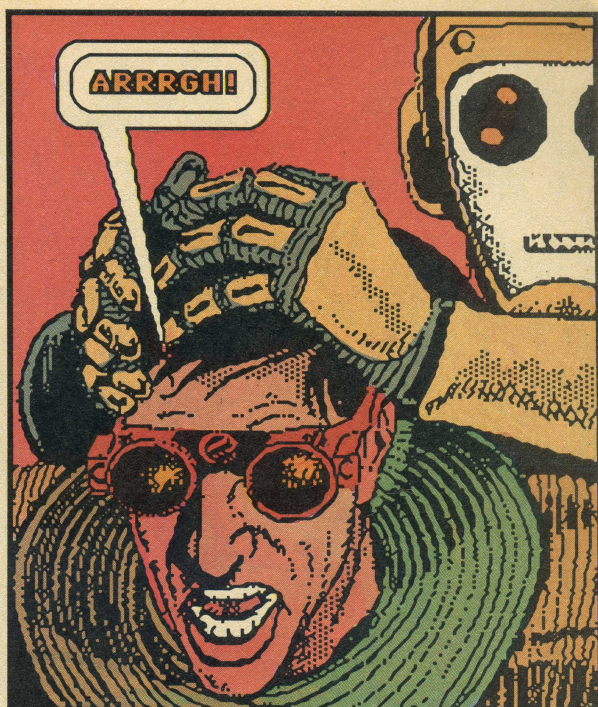
And this time,  
we mean the Badger!  
The further exploits of Nexus,  
Judah, and the Badger  
in the mysterious  
bowl-shaped world.

Brought to you by:  
**Mike Baron, Keith Giffen,  
and Rick Bryant**

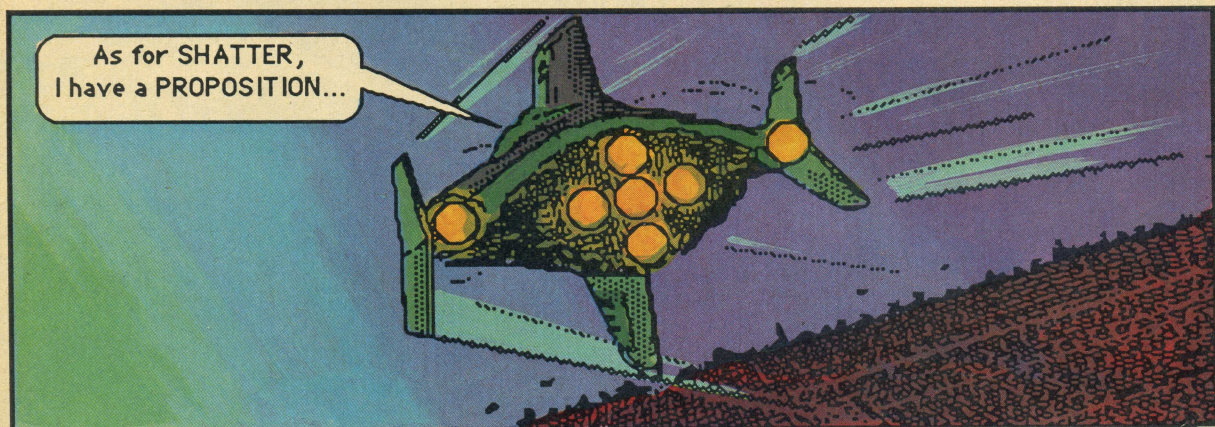
**On sale in March**

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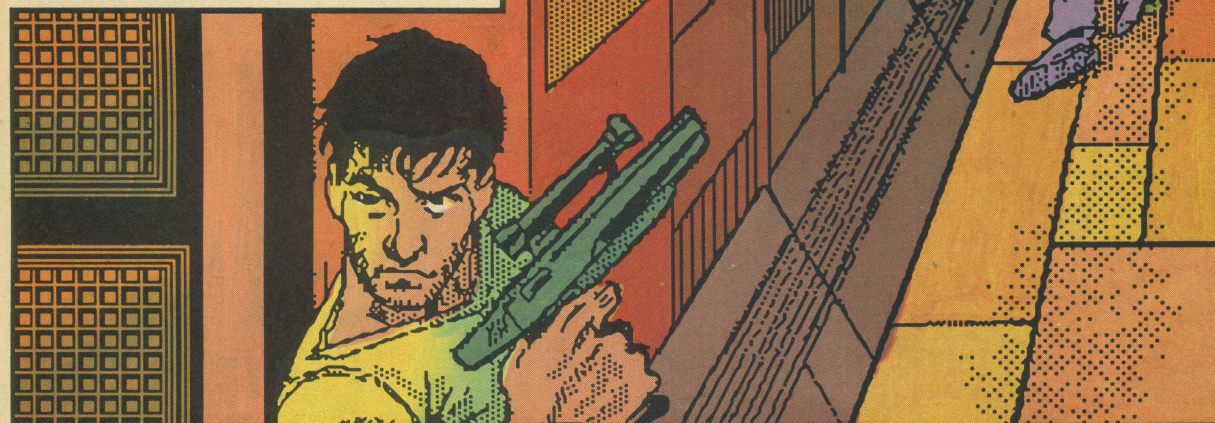
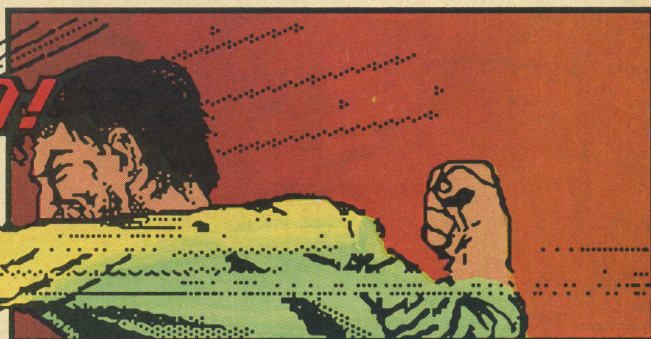
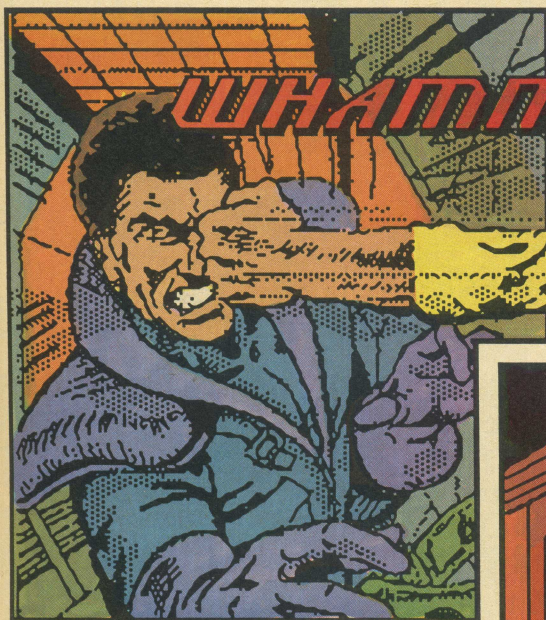
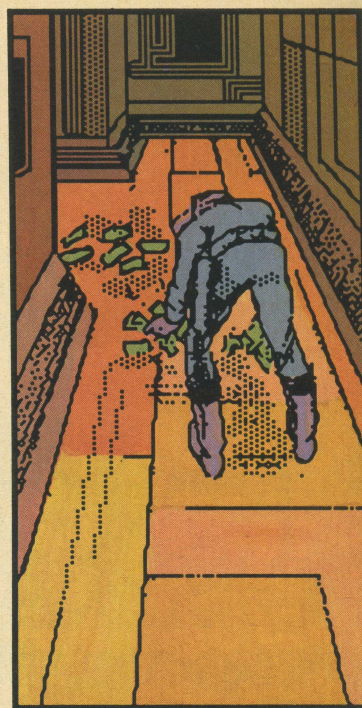
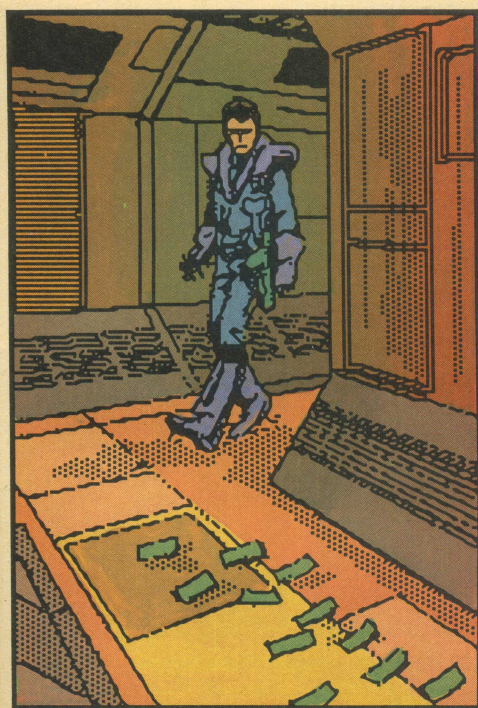




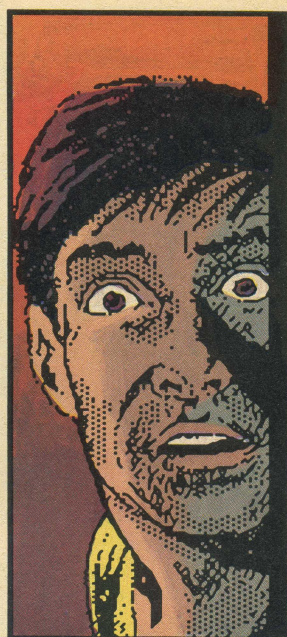
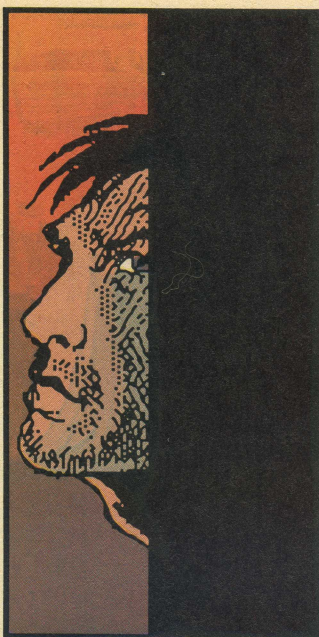
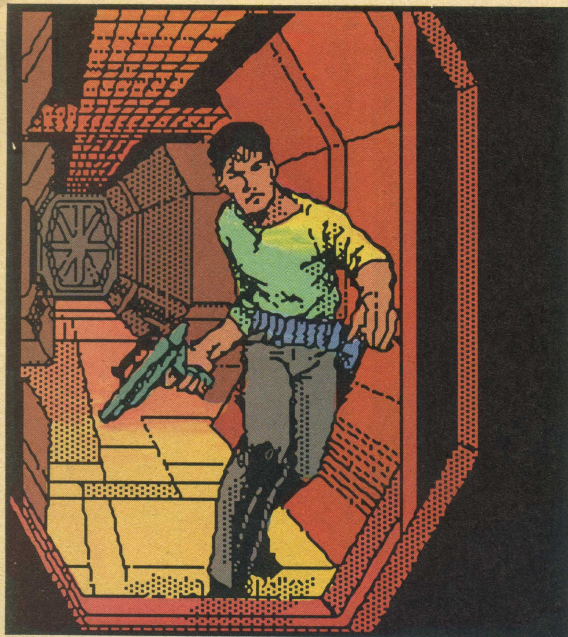












"It's ALWAYS party time in the Tanks."

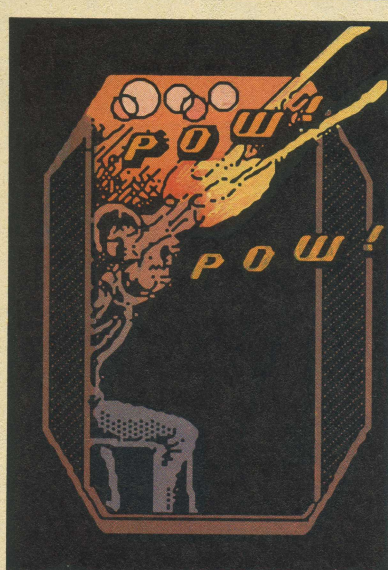
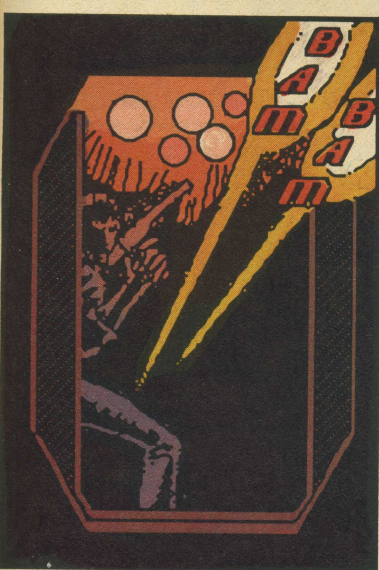
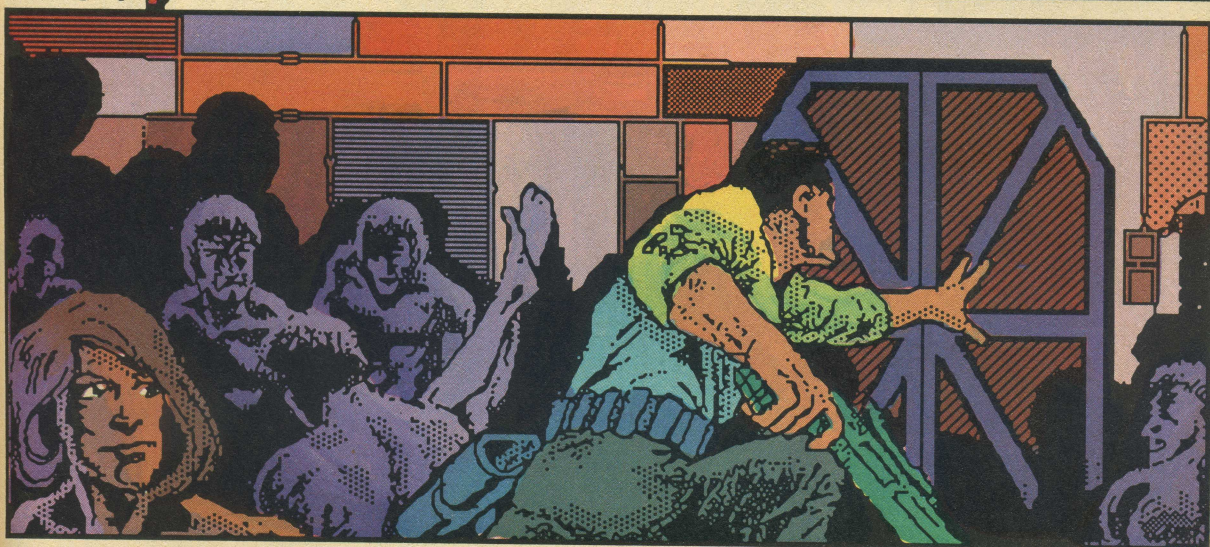


WHOOPI!

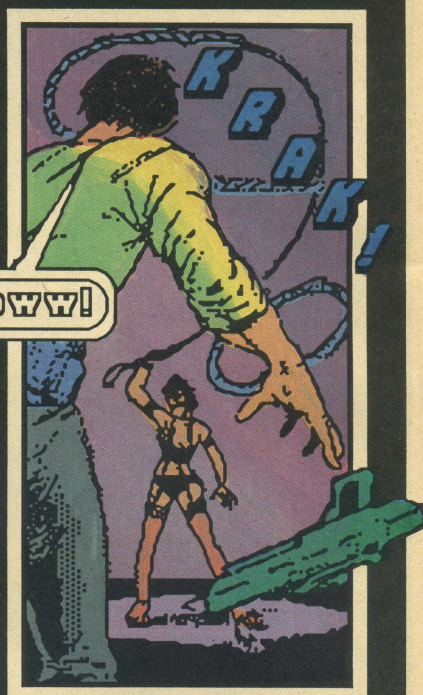


BLAM!







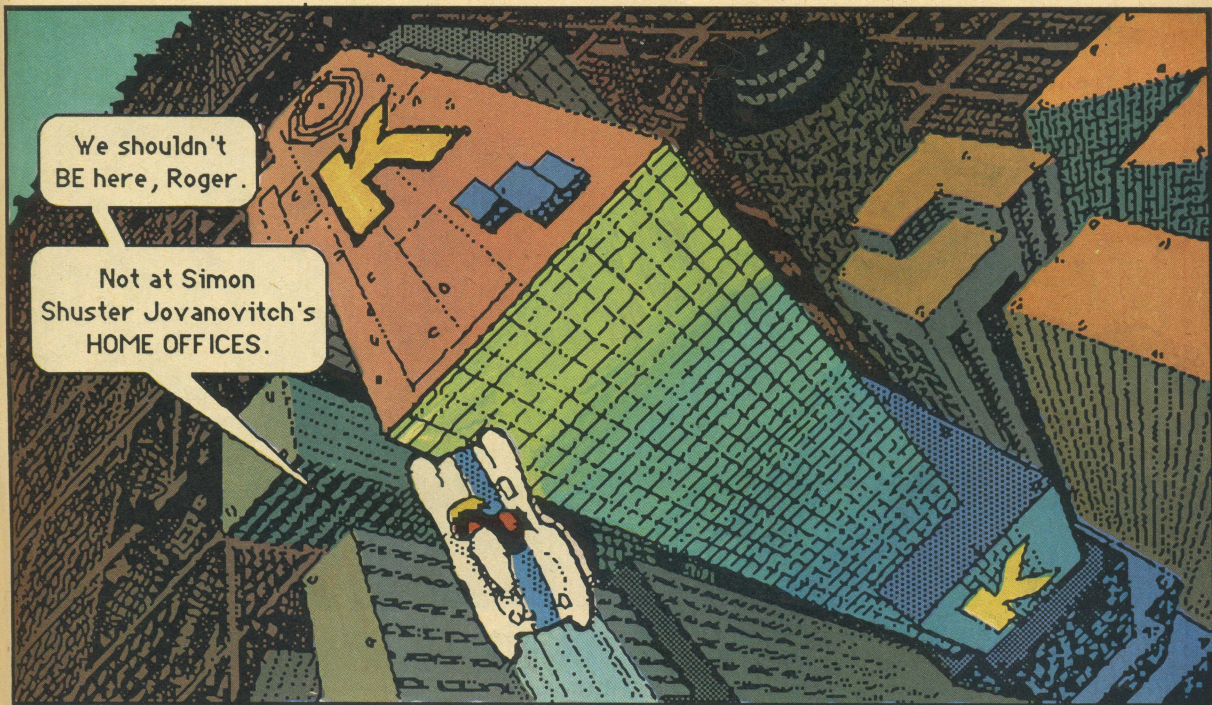


There aren't many ways  
INTO the Tanks.



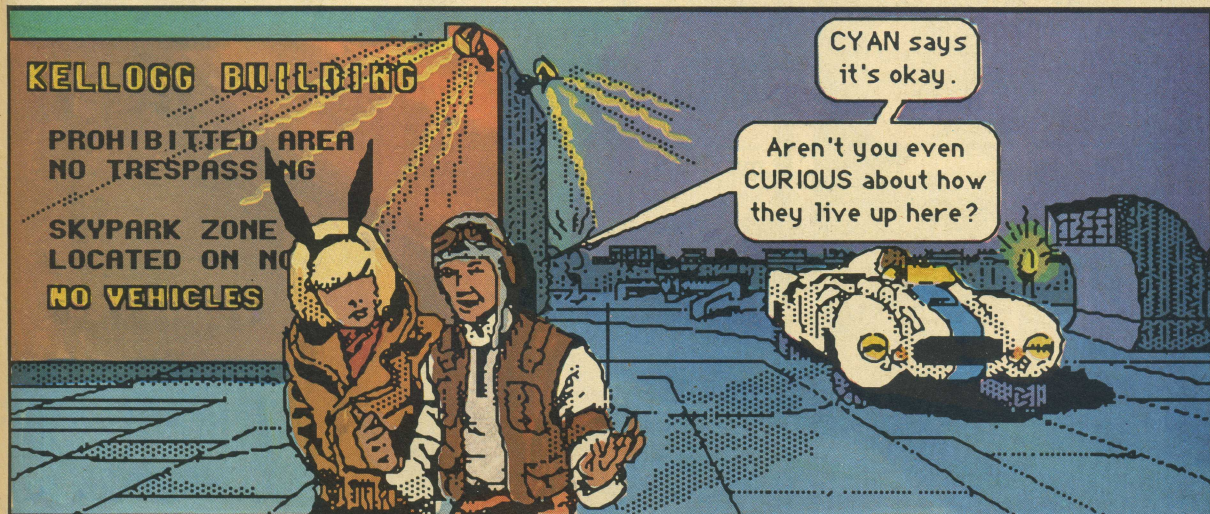
And maybe there's  
no way OUT.





We shouldn't  
BE here, Roger.

Not at Simon  
Shuster Jovanovitch's  
HOME OFFICES.



**KELLOGG BUILDING**

**PROHIBITED AREA  
NO TRESPASSING**

**SKYPARK ZONE  
LOCATED ON NO  
NO VEHICLES**

CYAN says  
it's okay.

Aren't you even  
CURIOUS about how  
they live up here?



Perhaps you are  
ALSO curious about  
how they DIE?





URBAN MACH,  
Executariat  
Upper Echelon.

You're above  
your LEVEL,  
artisan.

Maybe you're looking  
for THIS!

SSJ's data on their  
RNA promotion? MANY  
people seem to be  
looking for it.

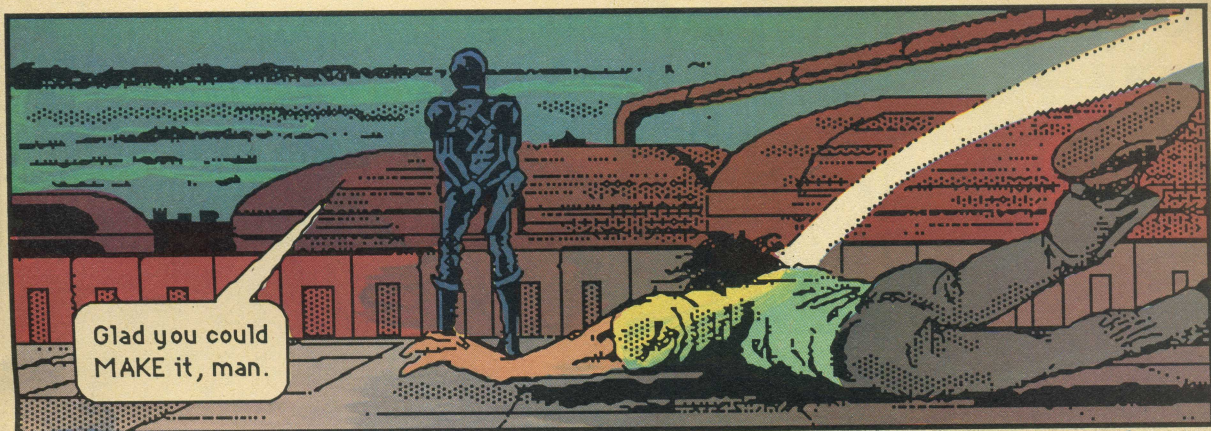
**RATS-D-  
THE-ATTIC  
PROJECT**

There's a BAD sector  
in SSJ - and I intend  
to UNCOVER it!

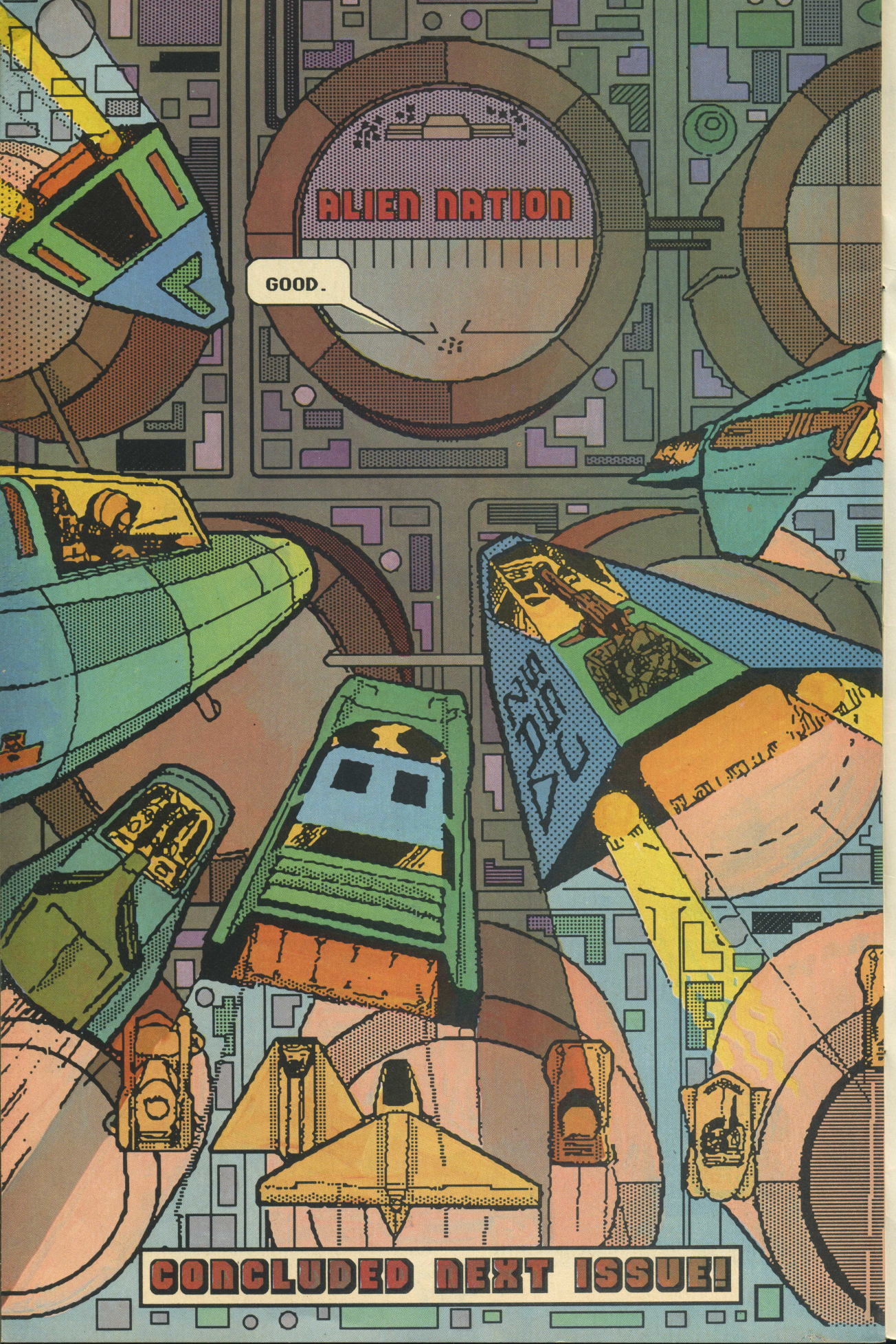
So you two can answer  
my QUESTIONS, or you can  
RETURN to your level...

...and YOUR level is  
a LONG way down.









**ALIEN NATION**

GOOD.

**CONCLUDED NEXT ISSUE!**



She thought the costume would make her a HERO.

It made her a VICTIM . . . and a KILLER.

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