

1985-1995  
**10th**  
ANNIVERSARY

**AP**  
ANTARCTIC  
PRESS

**2**  
SEPT.  
1995

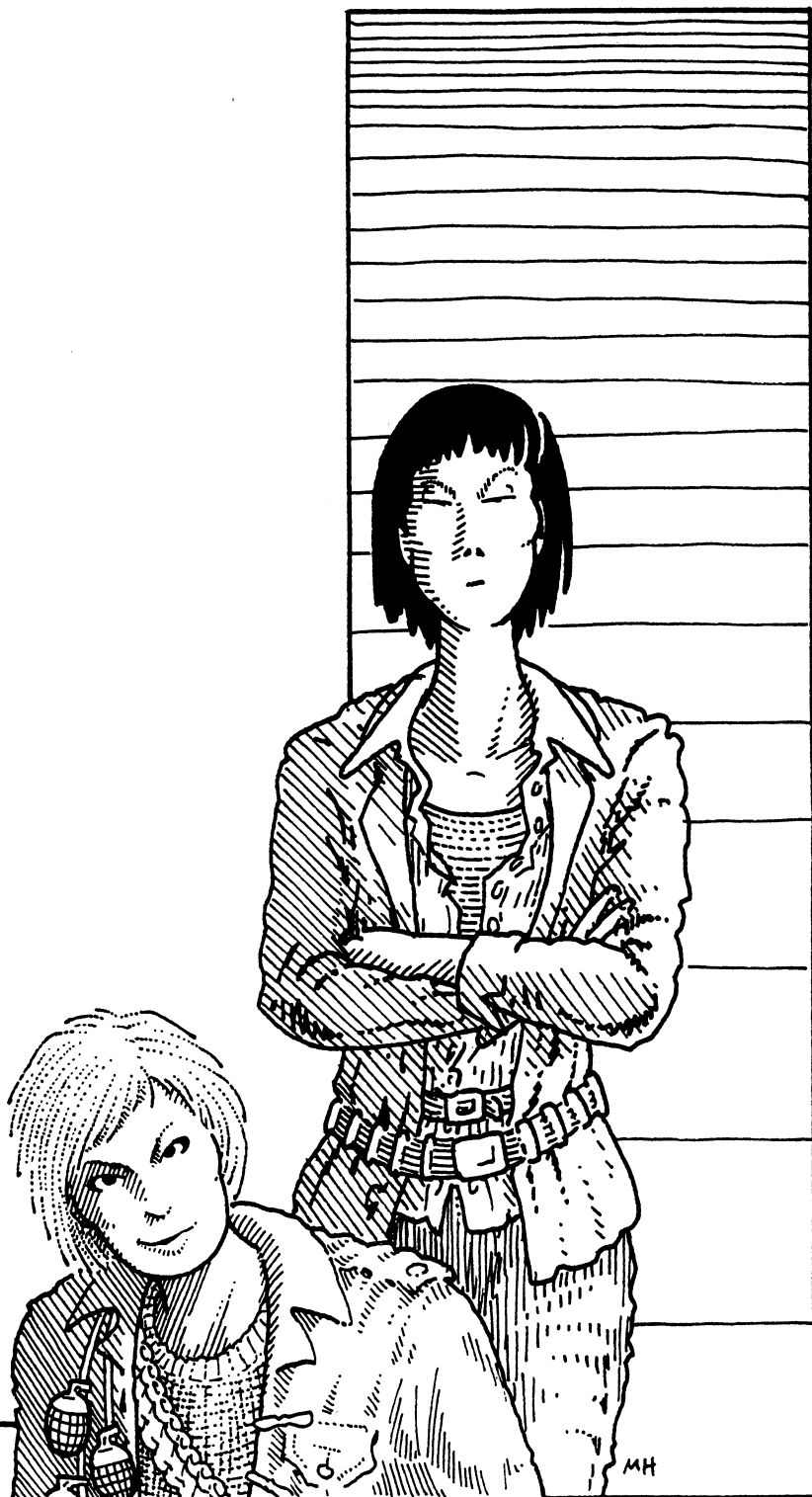
\$2.75  
U.S.  
\$3.85  
Can.

ADVENTURE

# Weird Fall

by MATT HOWARTH

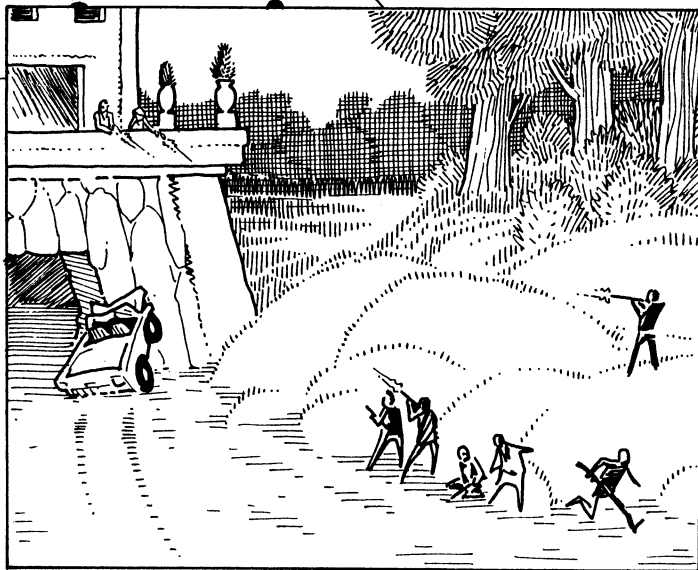




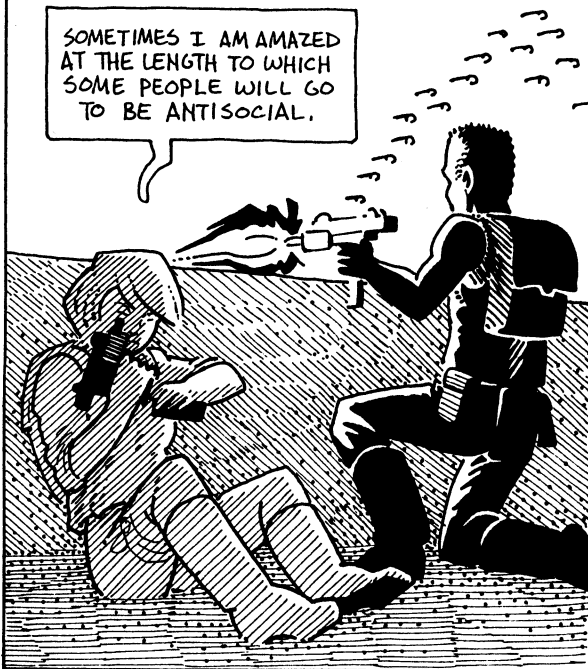
# Inscrutable Incidents on the ROAD to GIZA

17-9.12

NYTA AND MURPHY WERE CROSSING THE ITALIAN COUNTRYSIDE WHEN THEY WERE AMBUSHED BY AN ARMED GROUP OF STRANGERS.

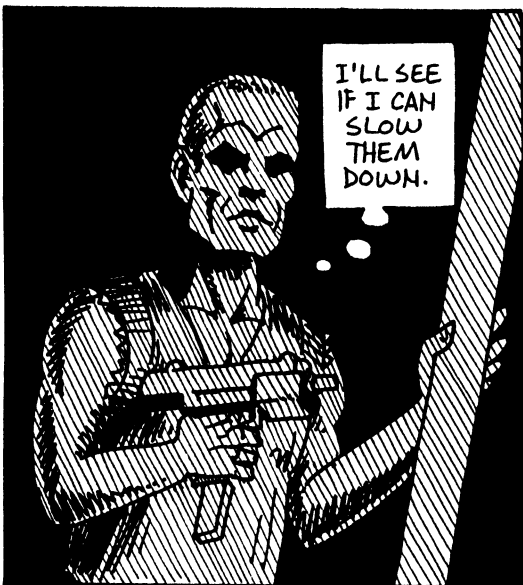
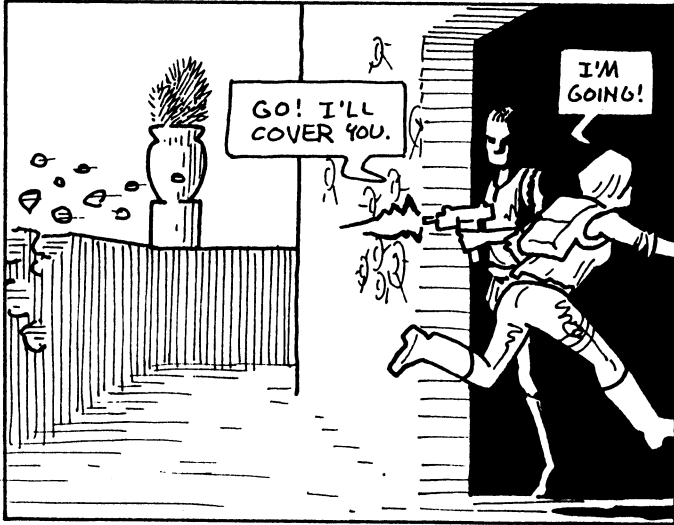


SOMETIMES I AM AMAZED AT THE LENGTH TO WHICH SOME PEOPLE WILL GO TO BE ANTISOCIAL.

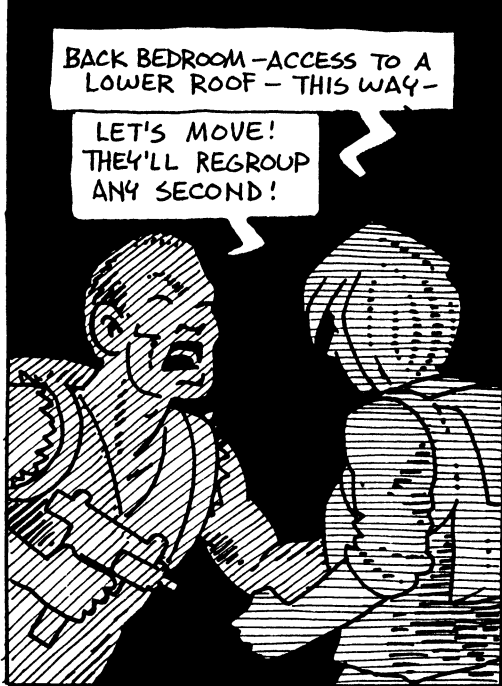


THIS IS NO GOOD. WE HAVE TO PULL BACK.









BACK BEDROOM - ACCESS TO A LOWER ROOF - THIS WAY -

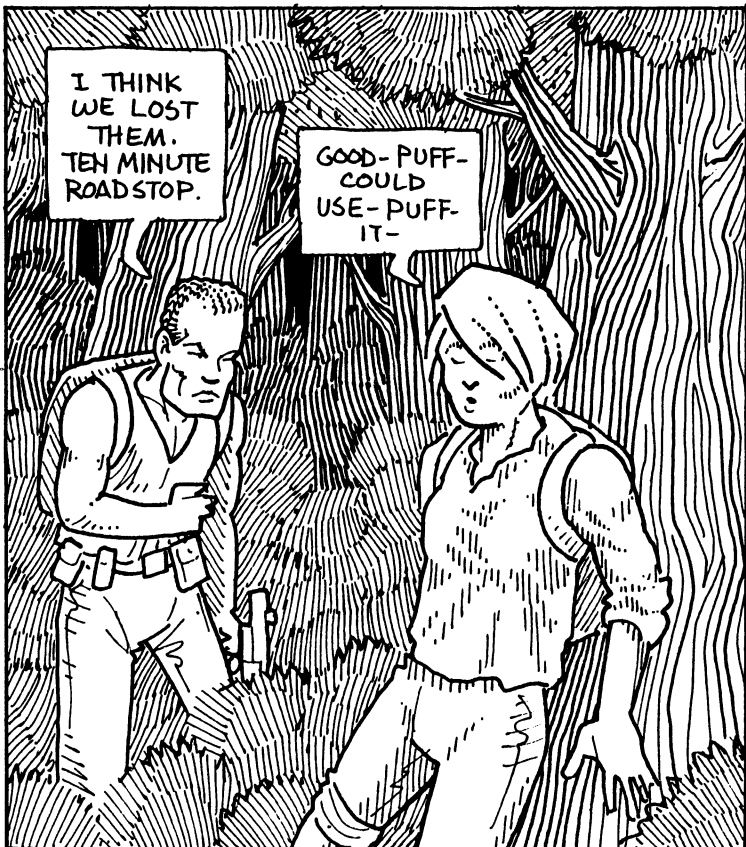
LET'S MOVE!  
THEY'LL REGROUP  
ANY SECOND!



THEY'RE  
AWFULLY  
WELL-ARMED  
FOR  
"FARMERS".

TRUE...

I JUST DON'T  
UNDERSTAND  
WHY A BUNCH  
OF FARMERS  
WOULD ATTACK  
US LIKE THIS.



I THINK  
WE LOST  
THEM.  
TEN MINUTE  
ROADSTOP.

GOOD - PUFF -  
COULD  
USE - PUFF -  
IT -

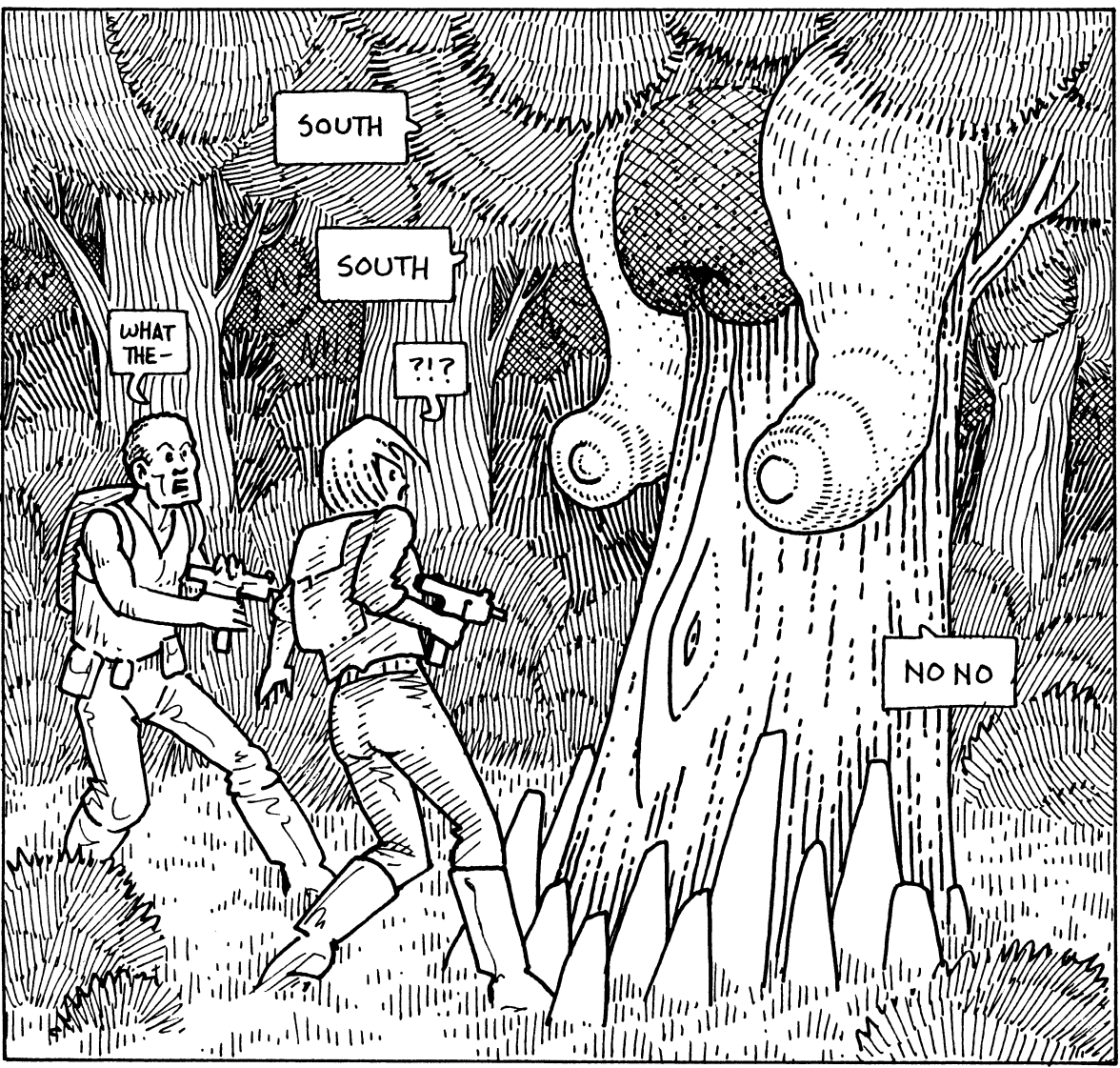


YOU'RE  
RIGHT,  
NYTA.

POSSIBLY  
PARAMILITARY,  
BUT DEFINITELY  
NOT FARMERS.

WE'RE  
JUST  
PASSING  
THROUGH  
ON OUR  
WAY  
SOUTH.

WHOEVER THEY  
ARE, WE DON'T  
WANT ANY  
TROUBLE.



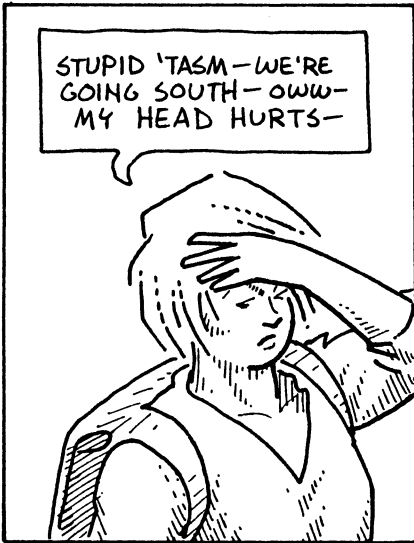
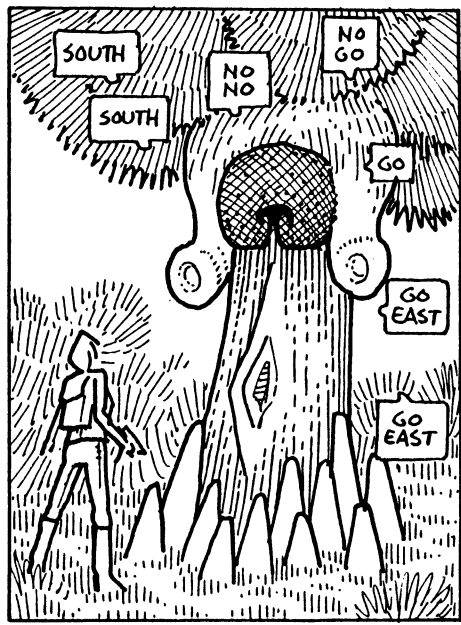
SOUTH

SOUTH

WHAT  
THE-

?!?

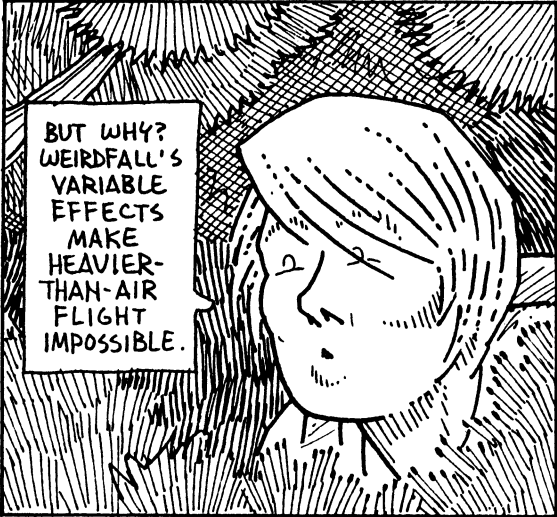
NONO





UH OH...I THINK  
WE FOUND WHAT  
THOSE "FARMERS"  
WERE PROTECTING.

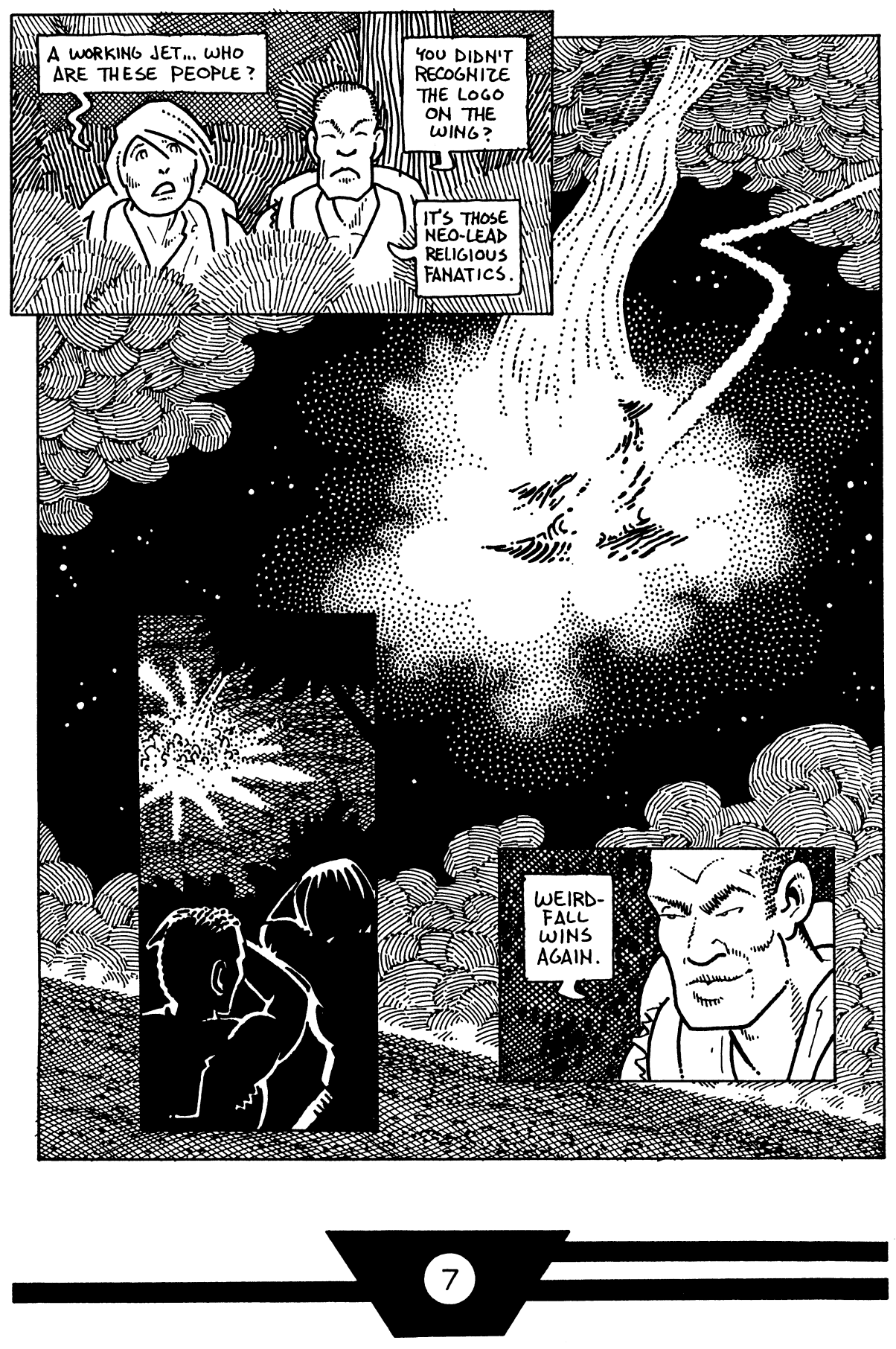
AN  
AIR FIELD!



BUT WHY?  
WEIRDFALL'S  
VARIABLE  
EFFECTS  
MAKE  
HEAVIER-  
THAN-AIR  
FLIGHT  
IMPOSSIBLE.



APPARENTLY  
NOT TODAY.

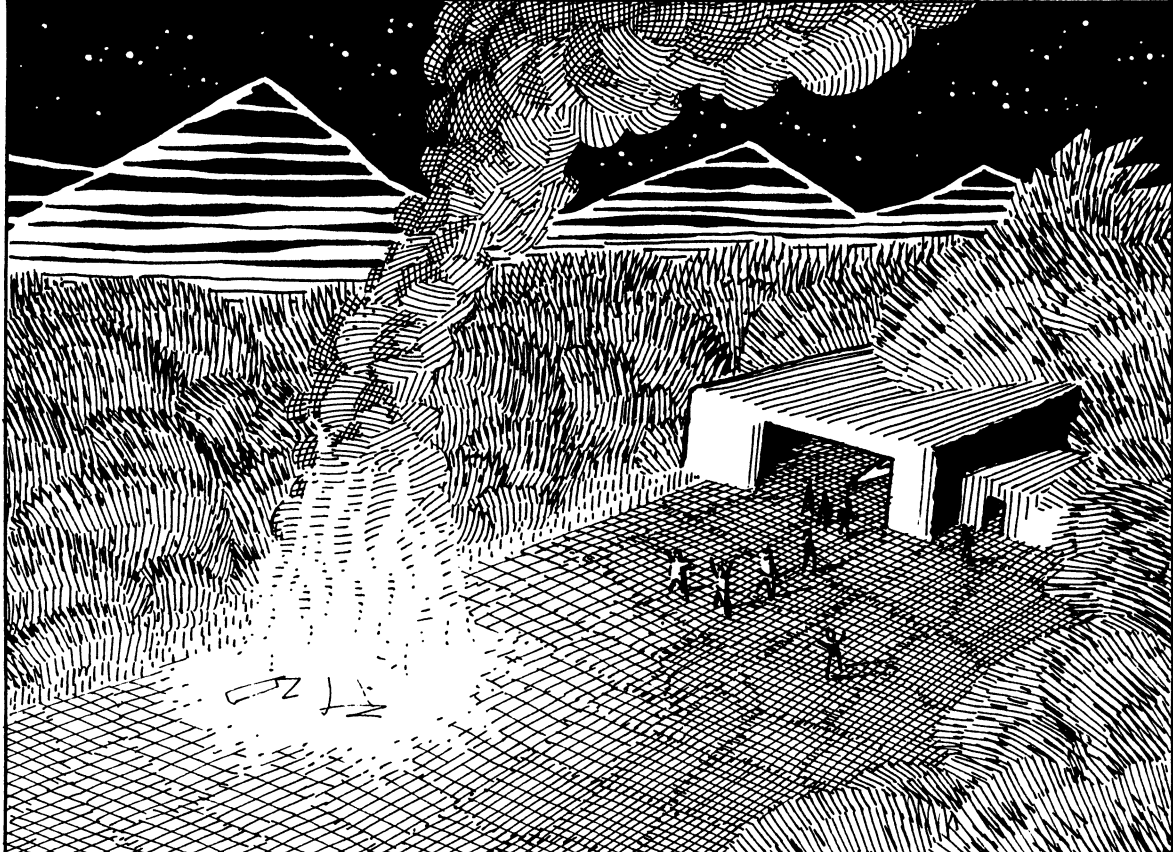


A WORKING JET... WHO  
ARE THESE PEOPLE?

YOU DIDN'T  
RECOGNIZE  
THE LOGO  
ON THE  
WING?

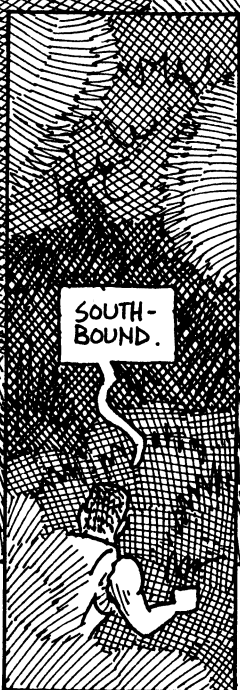
IT'S THOSE  
NEO-LEAD  
RELIGIOUS  
FANATICS.

WEIRD-  
FALL  
WINS  
AGAIN.

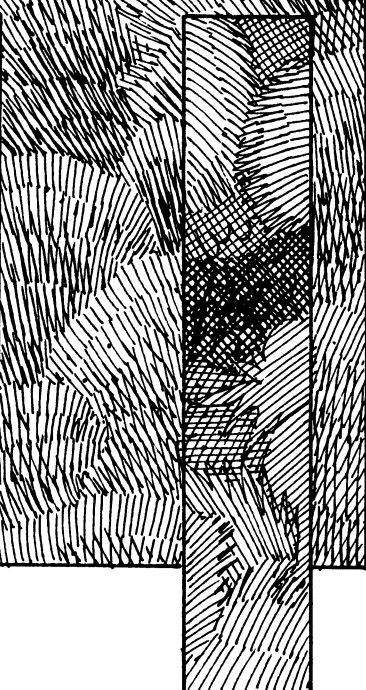


IT COULDN'T HAPPEN  
TO A MORE DESERVING  
GROUP OF FANATICS.

NOT A BAD  
DIVERSION TO  
COVER OUR  
EXIT EITHER.



SOUTH-  
BOUND.

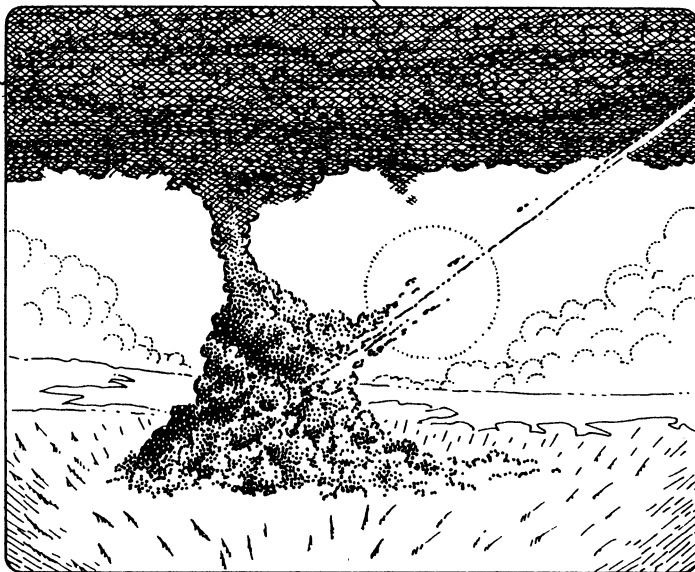




# WEIRDFALL

17-3.14

THE FIRST REPAIR SHIP EXPERIENCED CORE DISPLACEMENT UPON ENTERING THE ATMOSPHERE. AFTER SEVERAL ERRATIC COURSE CHANGES, THE SHIP EXPLODED SCARCELY FIVE KILOMETERS ABOVE THE SURFACE IN A TUNDRA WOODLAND AREA.



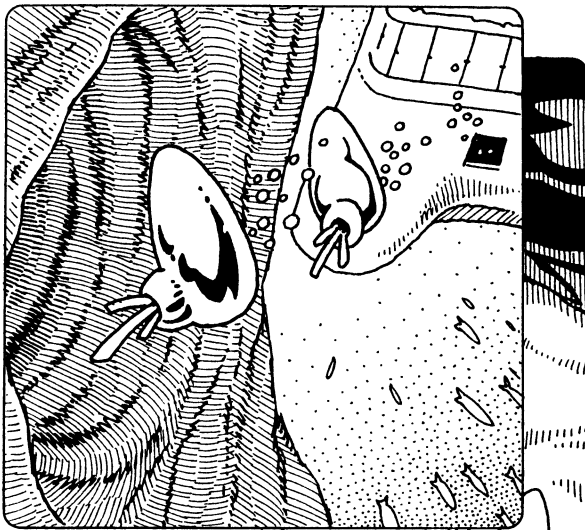
MANKIND FAILED TO COMPREHEND THE SCOPE OF THIS INCIDENT, WHICH WAS LATER TO BECOME KNOWN AS THE GREAT SIBERIAN EXPLOSION OF 1908.

THE FIRST SHIP HAD BEEN ON A ROUTINE CHECK-UP VISIT. THE SUBSTANCE WEB WAS ACTUALLY OPERATING AT PEAK EFFICIENCY BEFORE THE EXPLOSION.

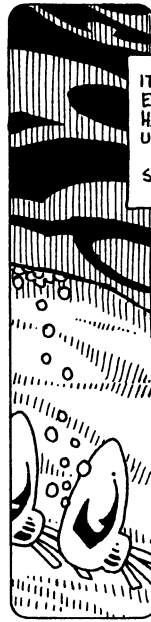
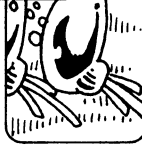
THE SECOND SHIP CAME INVESTIGATING DEVIANT READINGS ON THE REGIONAL WEB (WHICH WERE CLEARLY LINKED TO THE DISAPPEARANCE OF THE FIRST SHIP). ALTHOUGH IT EXPERIENCED A TURBULENT ENTRY INTO THE WORLD'S ATMOSPHERE, THE SECOND SHIP SAFELY REACHED THE SURFACE.

DESCENDING INTO RUSSIAN LAKE BAIKAL THE SECOND REPAIR SHIP APPROACHED THE ACCESS TUNNEL.

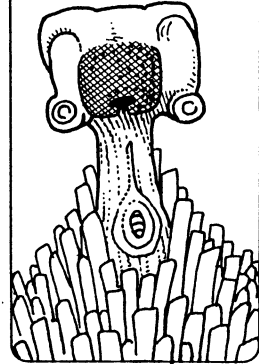




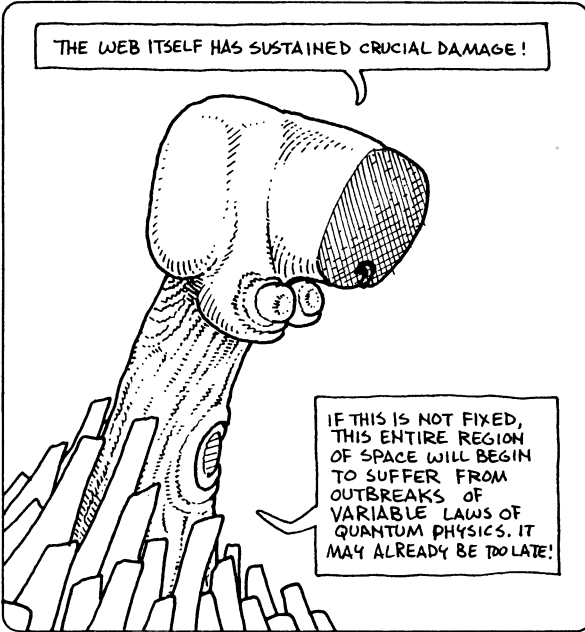
ALREADY WARY OF THE SITUATION, THE COMMANDER OF THE SECOND SHIP SENT TWO OBSERVATION DRONES OUT TO ASSESS THE DAMAGE TO THE WEB.



IT APPEARS THAT SOME FREAK EXPLOSION ON THE SURFACE HAS DISRUPTED THE WEB'S USUAL FUNCTIONS, CAUSING FLUCTUATIONS IN THE STABILITY OF REGIONAL QUANTUM CONSTANTS.



AIR LEAKS?



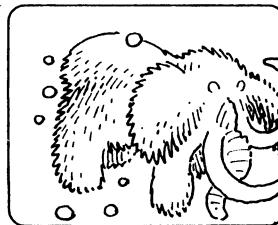
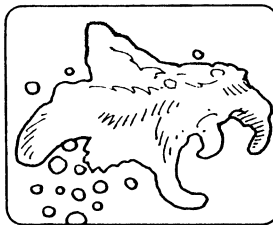
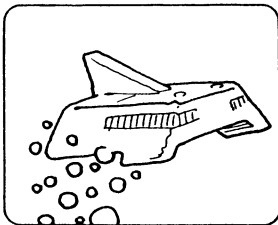
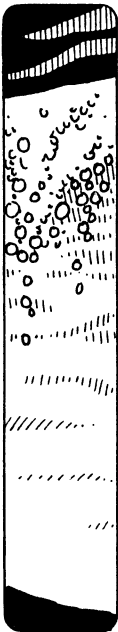
THE WEB ITSELF HAS SUSTAINED CRUCIAL DAMAGE!

IF THIS IS NOT FIXED, THIS ENTIRE REGION OF SPACE WILL BEGIN TO SUFFER FROM OUTBREAKS OF VARIABLE LAWS OF QUANTUM PHYSICS. IT MAY ALREADY BE TOO LATE!

UNFORTUNATELY, THE COMMANDER'S WORST FEARS WERE ACCURATE.

AS THE WOUNDED WEB'S FLUCTUATIONS INCREASED, HE WATCHED AS THE DRONES EVAPORATED FROM METAL INTO LOOSE GAS.

AND ALTHOUGH THE SECOND SHIP STRUGGLED TO ESCAPE, THE FLUCTUATIONS CHANGED IT INTO THE CORPSE OF A WOOLLY MAMMOTH.



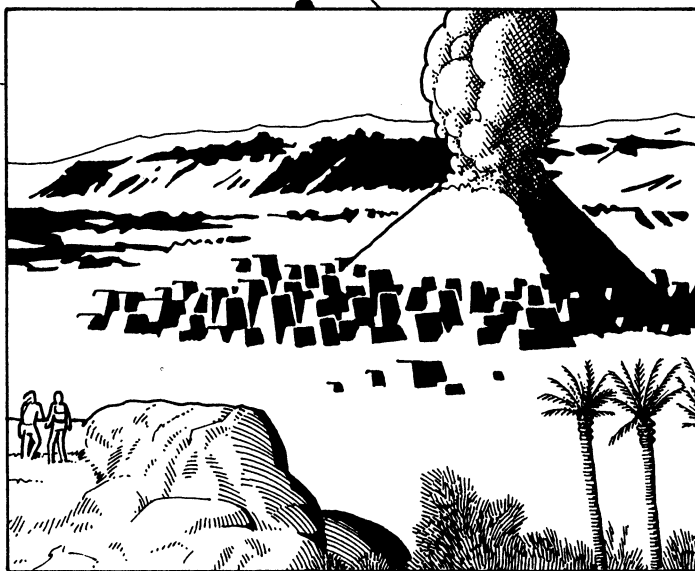




# SAND CASTLES

17= 5.64

THE NILE HAS LAID DRY FOR SIX YEARS NOW, EVER SINCE THE MOTHERSHIP OF THE FLORR-SAND HEADRIDERS CAME TO PERCH ATOP ONE OF THE GIZA PYRAMIDS (WHICH IS NO SURPRISE, CONSIDERING HOW MUCH THE HEADRIDERS SHUN WATER).



IT TOOK US THREE MONTHS TO WALK HERE FROM NAPLES, BUT AT LEAST WE—  
WHAT'S THE MATTER, NYTA?

SINCE WHEN IS THERE A PYRAMID IN THE MIDDLE OF WHERE THE RIVER USED TO BE...?

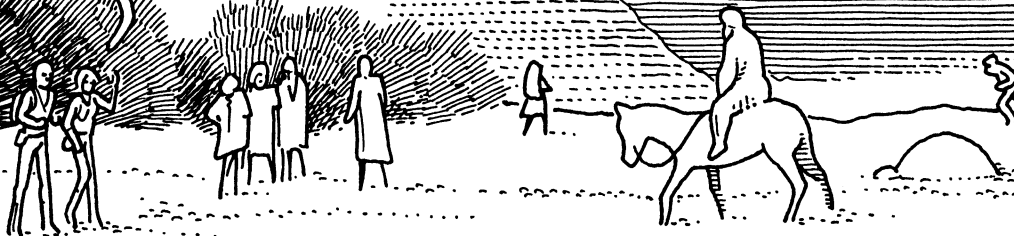


SINCE THE DAMNED HATTERS STARTED TO MOVE IT AROUND! SEE? THIS TYPE OF ARROGANCE IS EXACTLY WHY THE HATTERS MUST BE DESTROYED.

SHH! KEEP YOUR VOICE DOWN, MURPHY.



WE'RE ON **THEIR** TURF NOW,  
REMEMBER? WE WANT TO  
REMAIN INCONSPICUOUS.



SORRY, NYTA... I JUST HATE THE  
HATTERS SO MUCH... IT'S HARD  
TO STAY CALM SO CLOSE TO THEIR  
MOTHERSHIP AT LONG LAST...

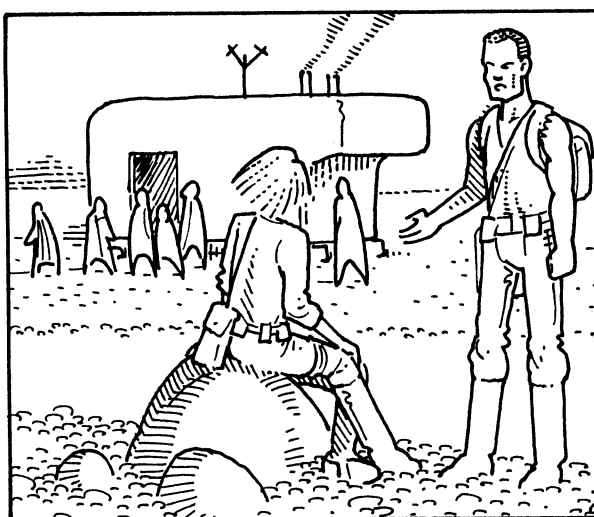
TRY.



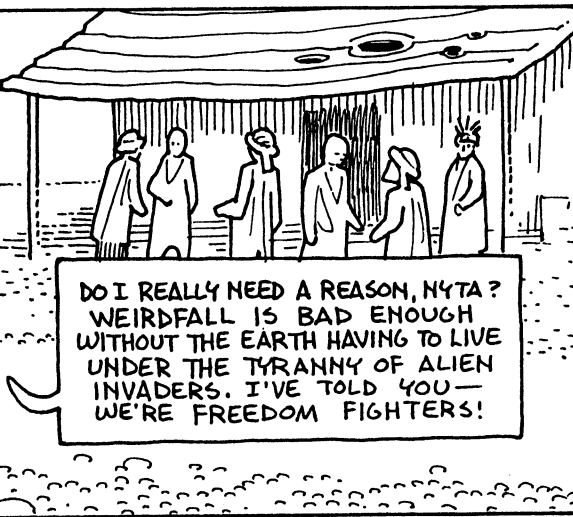
YES... IT'S TAKEN US  
OVER A YEAR TO GET  
THIS CLOSE. WE  
MUSTN'T SHOW OUR  
HAND TOO SOON.

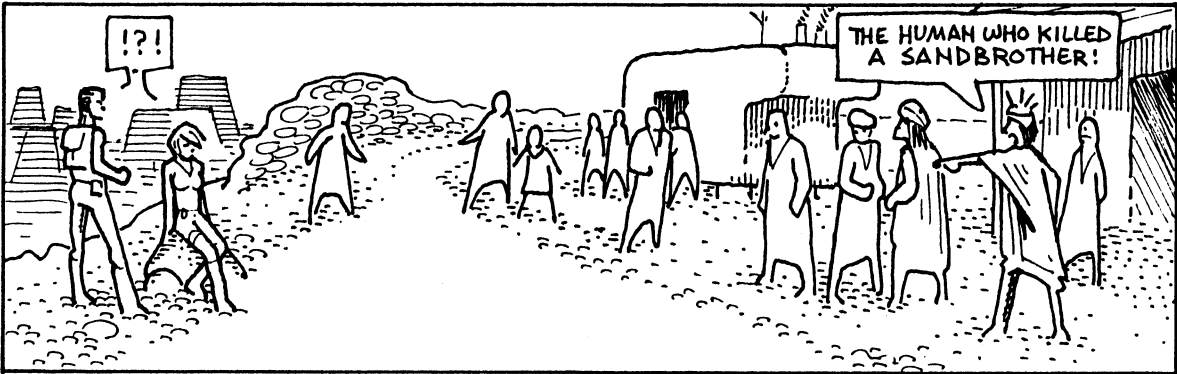
Y'KNOW, MURPHY  
...WE'VE BEEN  
WAGING YOUR  
PRIVATE LITTLE  
WAR AGAINST  
THE HATTERS  
FOR YEARS...

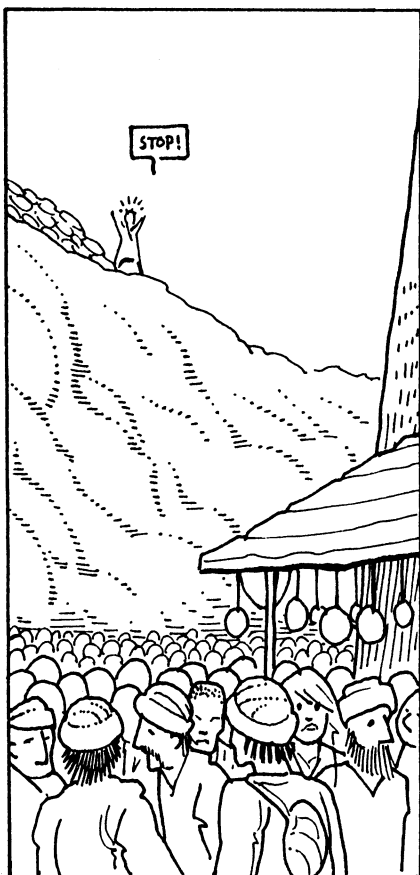
AND YOU'VE  
NEVER  
SAID WHY  
YOU HATE  
THEM SO  
MUCH.

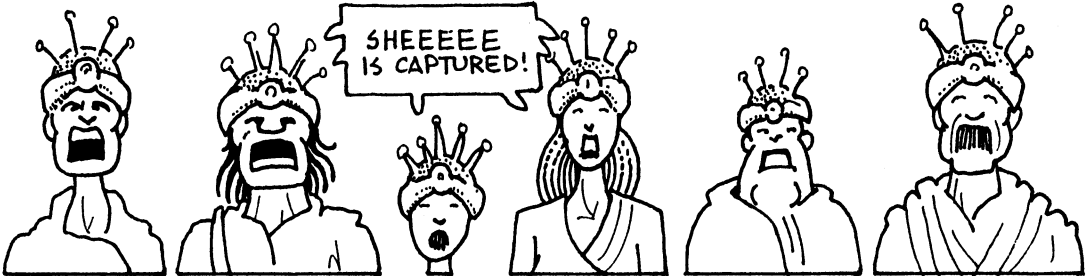
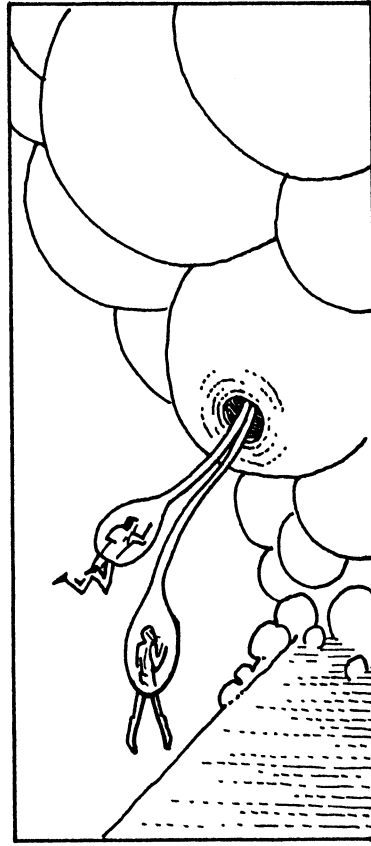
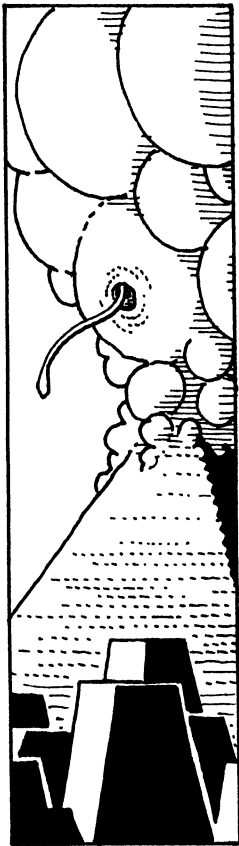
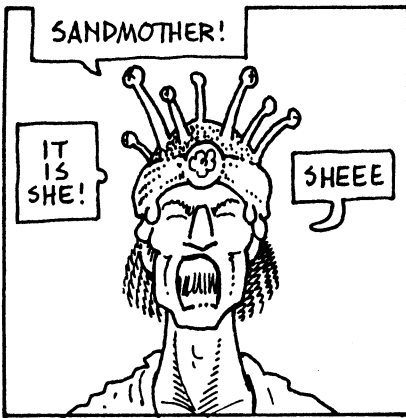


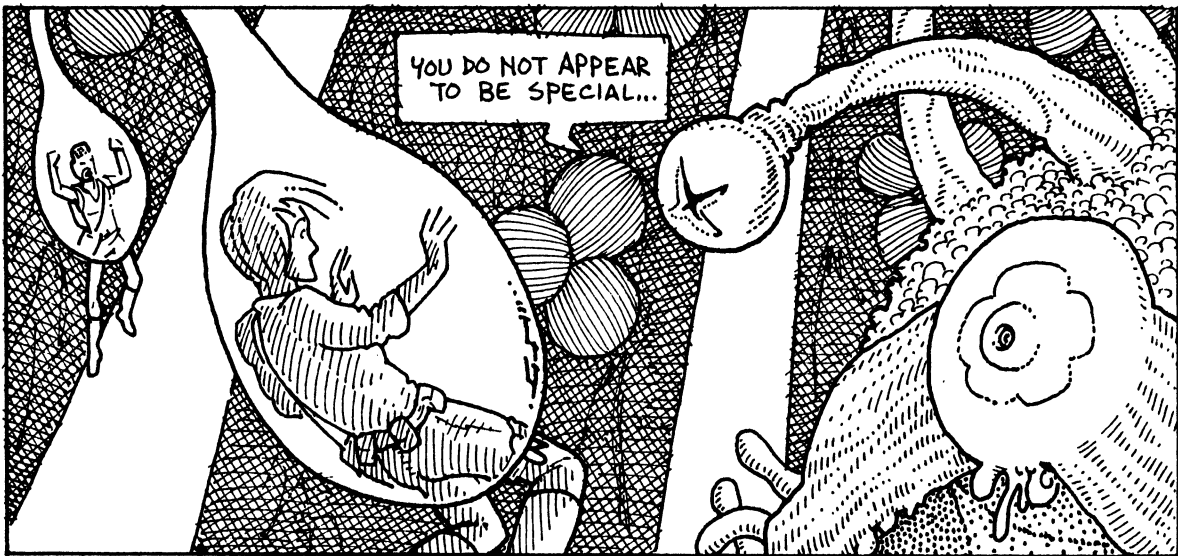
DO I REALLY NEED A REASON, NYTA?  
WEIRDFALL IS BAD ENOUGH  
WITHOUT THE EARTH HAVING TO LIVE  
UNDER THE TYRANNY OF ALIEN  
INVADERS. I'VE TOLD YOU—  
WE'RE FREEDOM FIGHTERS!











TELL ME, HUMAN, HOW  
DID YOU MANAGE TO  
KILL THAT WHICH  
CANNOT BE KILLED?

BELIEVE  
ME... IF  
I KNEW,  
I'D SHOW  
YOU HOW.

I AM THE DOMINANT  
SANDMOTHER. NOTHING  
YOU CAN DO COULD  
HARM ME, HUMAN.

MY CONTROL OF THIS SECTOR OF SPACE  
IS ABSOLUTE! I HAVE SPUN MY SPINE  
FAR INTO THE DEPTHS OF YOUR WORLD...

...DOWN THROUGH THE  
MANTLE PLATES AND THE  
MOLTEN SLAG...TO THE  
REALITY BEAST THAT  
SLEEPS AT YOUR  
WORLD'S CORE.



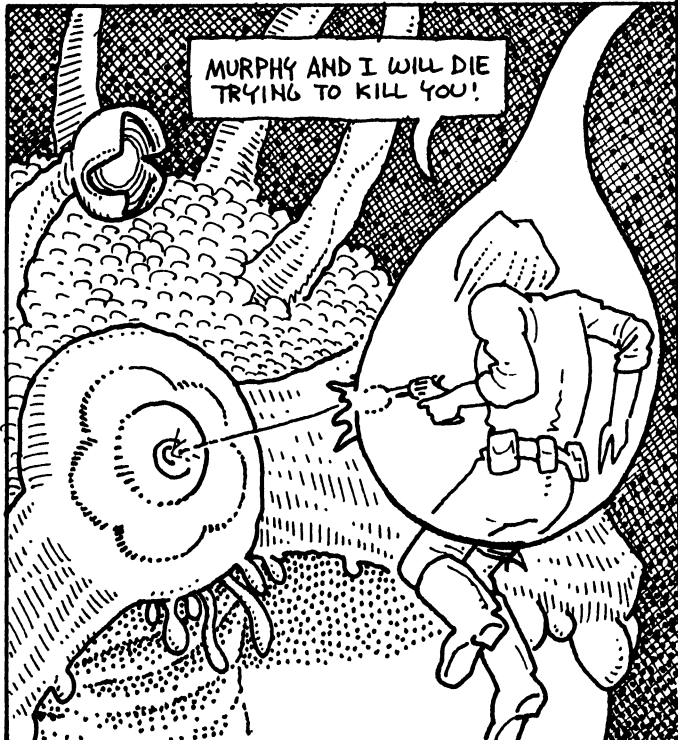
YOU WILL LEARN TO CHERISH  
FLORRISM AND SERVE THE  
ALMIGHTY SANDMOTHER!

IN A  
PIG'S  
EYE!

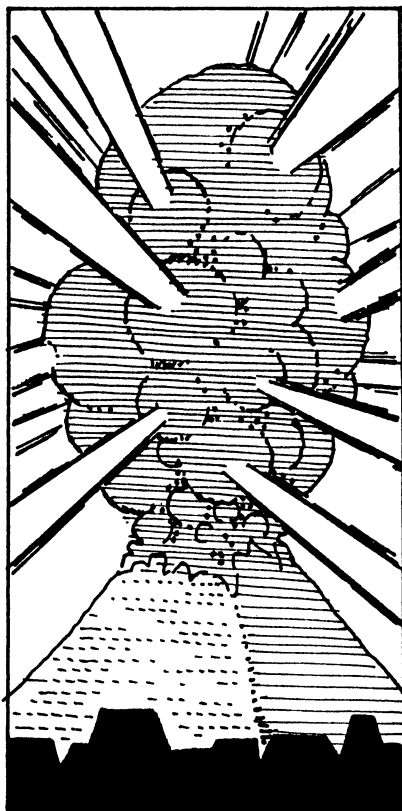
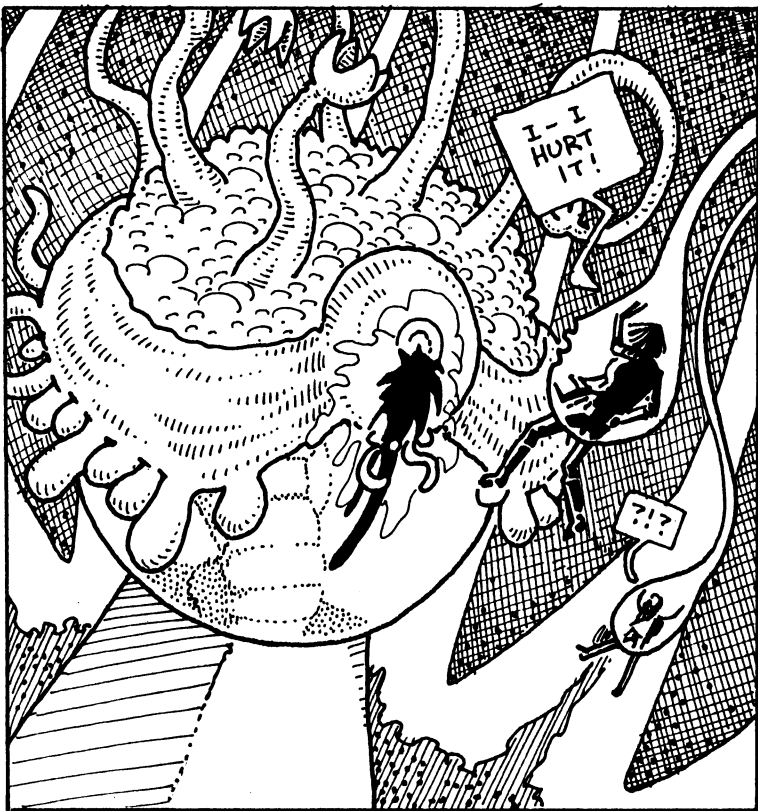
YEAH!

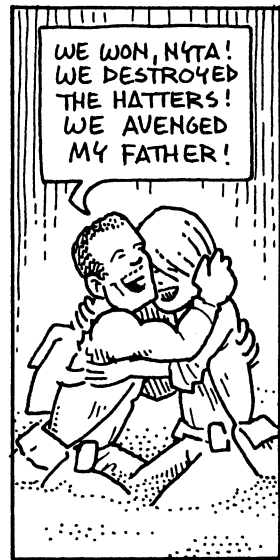
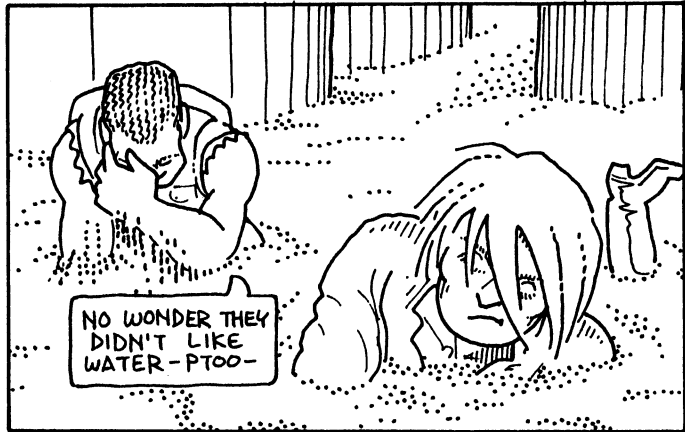
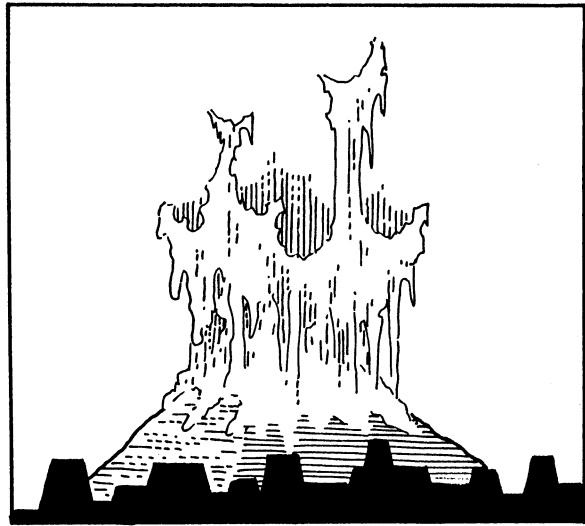
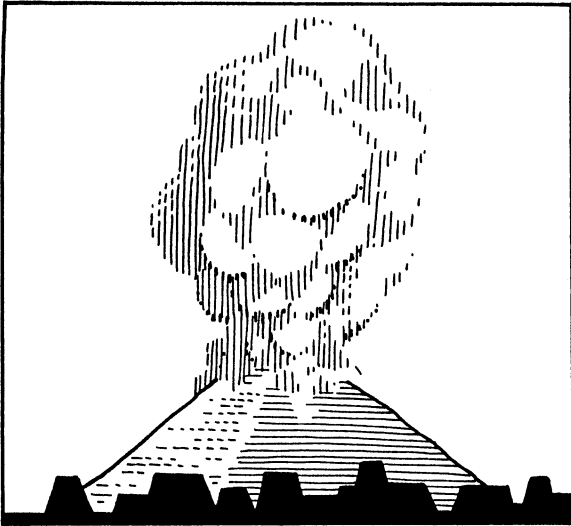


MURPHY AND I WILL DIE  
TRYING TO KILL YOU!



I - I  
HURT  
IT!

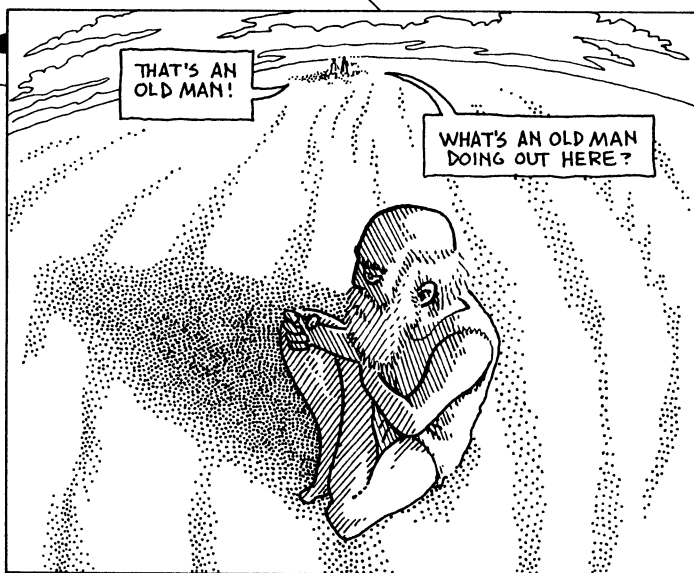




# STARCHILD TREMOR

17-6.66

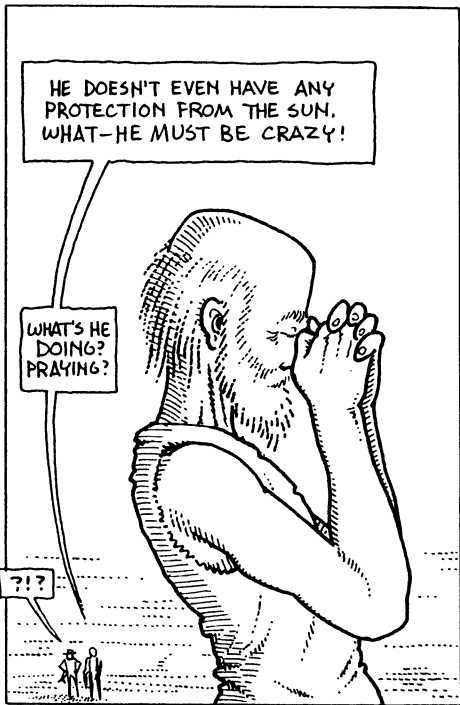
IN 1942 WEIRDFALL  
LEVELED THE  
TIBETAN MOUNTAIN  
RANGE AND REVERSED  
THE REGION'S  
CLIMATE.



THAT'S AN  
OLD MAN!

WHAT'S AN OLD MAN  
DOING OUT HERE?

FOR THE LAST THREE  
DECADES, THE AREA  
HAS REMAINED AN  
ARID DESERT,  
PROVIDING TRAVELERS  
WITH AN EASIER  
AND DRIER ROUTE  
TO CHINA.



HE DOESN'T EVEN HAVE ANY  
PROTECTION FROM THE SUN.  
WHAT-HE MUST BE CRAZY!

WHAT'S HE  
DOING?  
PRAYING?

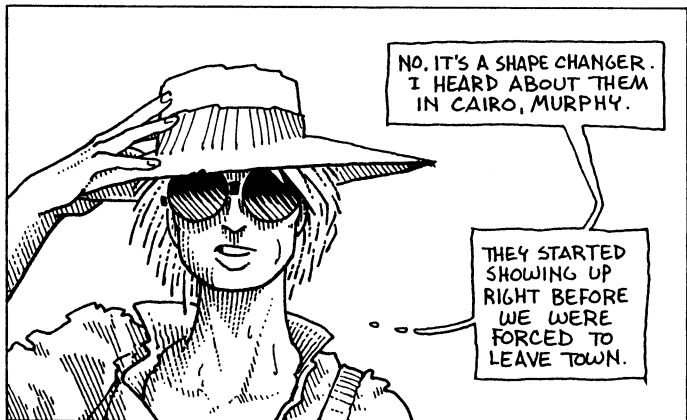
?!?



WHAT THE-?



IT'S A  
HALLUCINATION!



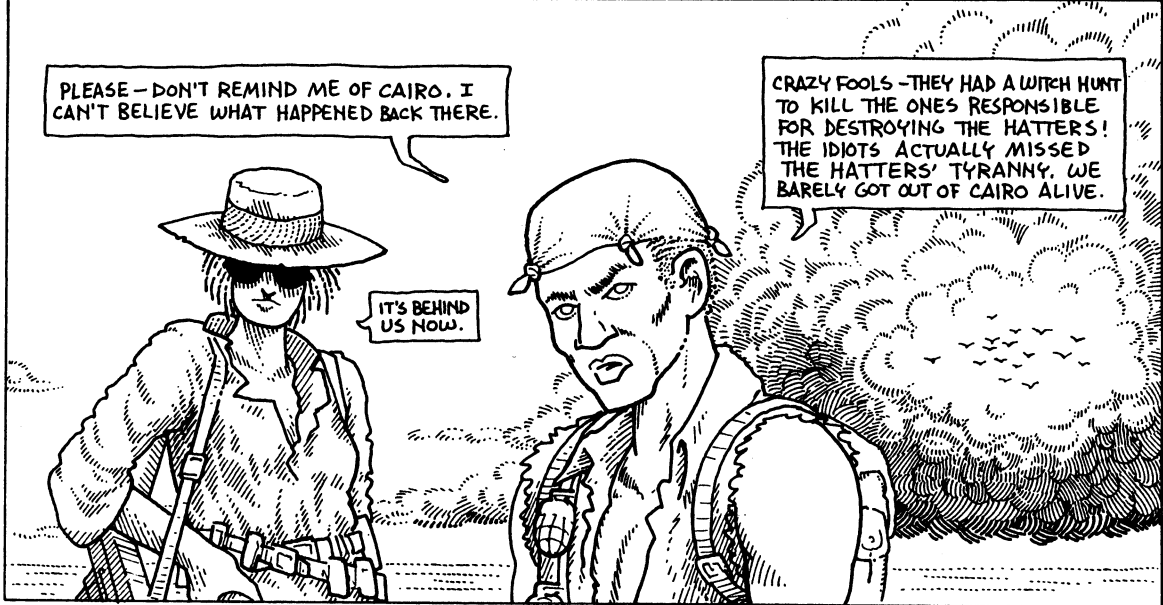
NO, IT'S A SHAPE CHANGER.  
I HEARD ABOUT THEM  
IN CAIRO, MURPHY.

THEY STARTED  
SHOWING UP  
RIGHT BEFORE  
WE WERE  
FORCED TO  
LEAVE TOWN.

PLEASE - DON'T REMIND ME OF CAIRO. I CAN'T BELIEVE WHAT HAPPENED BACK THERE.

IT'S BEHIND US NOW.

CRAZY FOOLS - THEY HAD A WITCH HUNT TO KILL THE ONES RESPONSIBLE FOR DESTROYING THE HATTERS! THE IDIOTS ACTUALLY MISSED THE HATTERS' TYRANNY. WE BARELY GOT OUT OF CAIRO ALIVE.

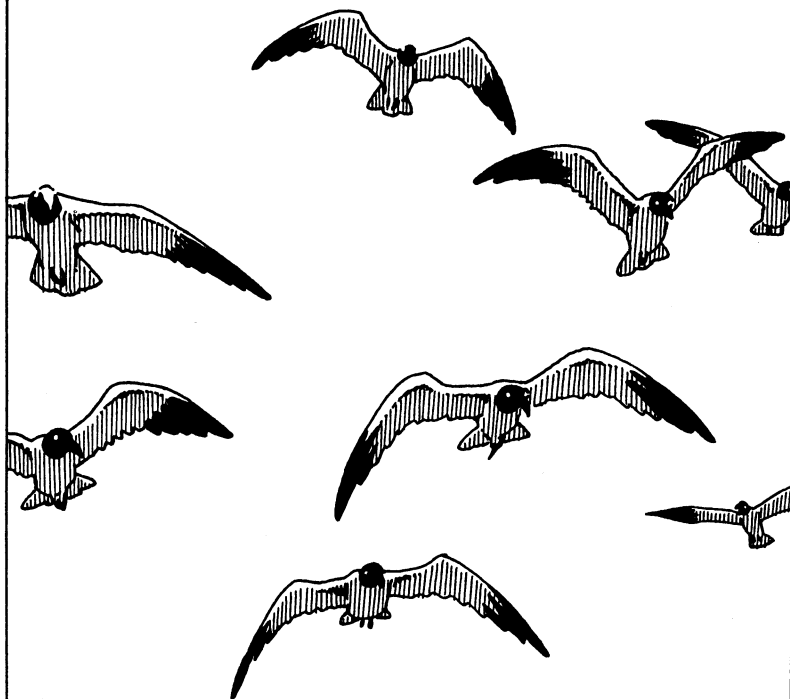


WHAT'S THAT?

...SEA GULLS?

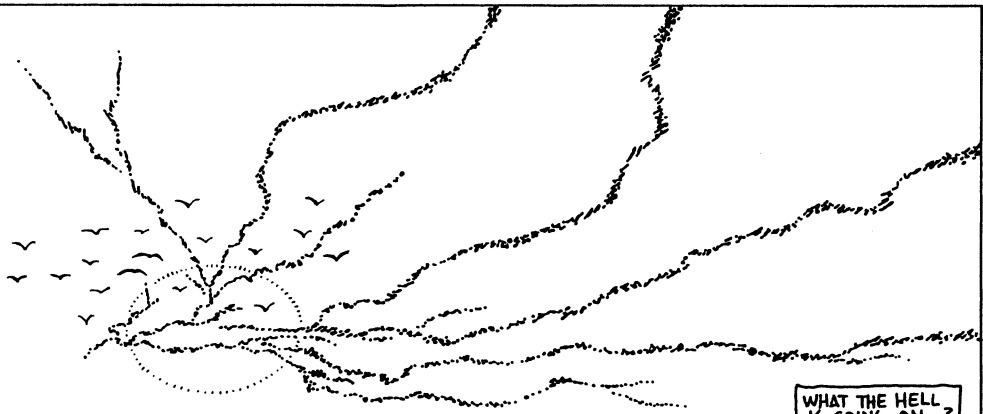
IN THE MIDDLE OF A DESERT?

THEY MUST BE MORE HALLUCINATIONS.

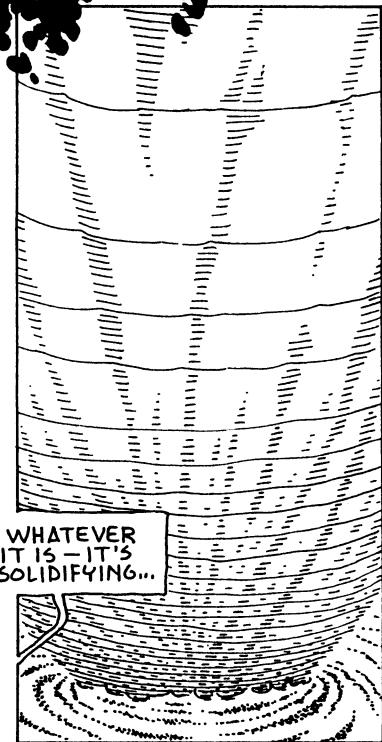
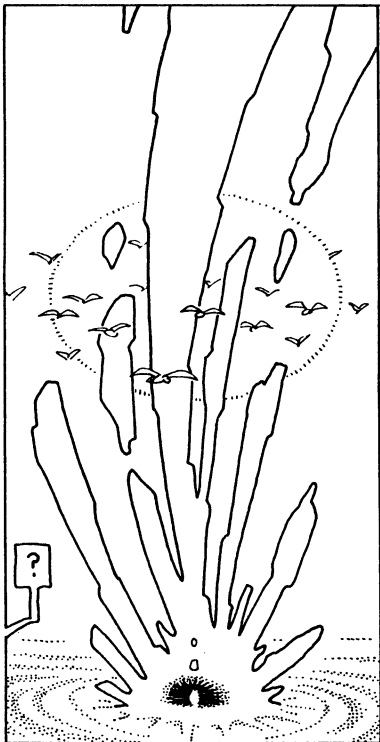
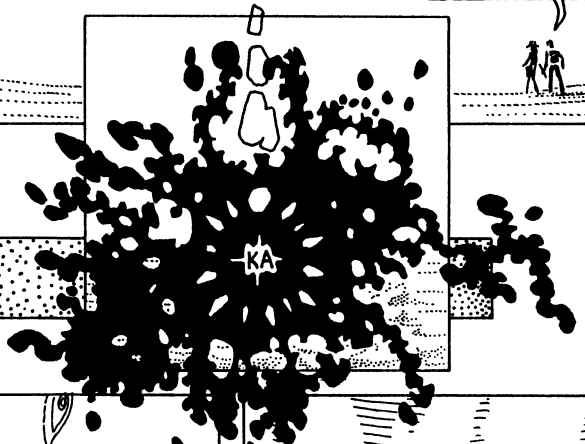


YEAH...LIKE THE OLD MAN AND THE MOUNTAIN GOAT.

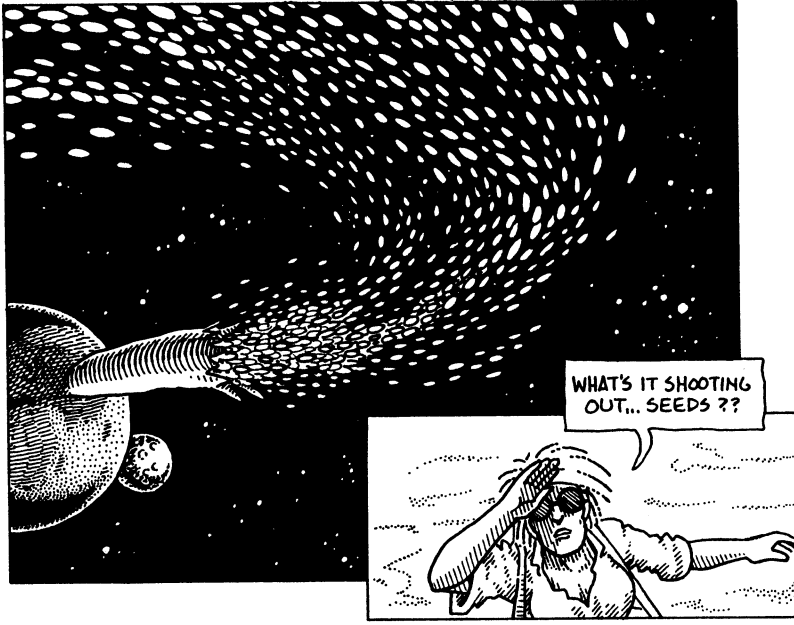
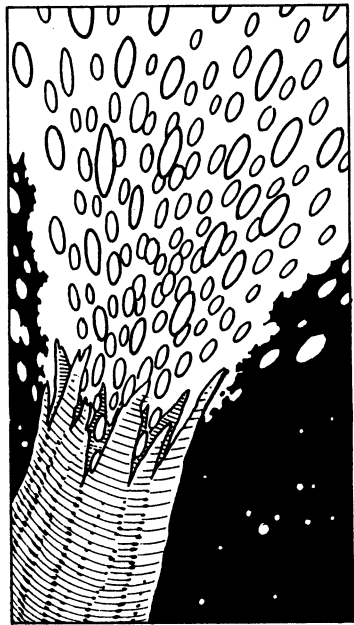
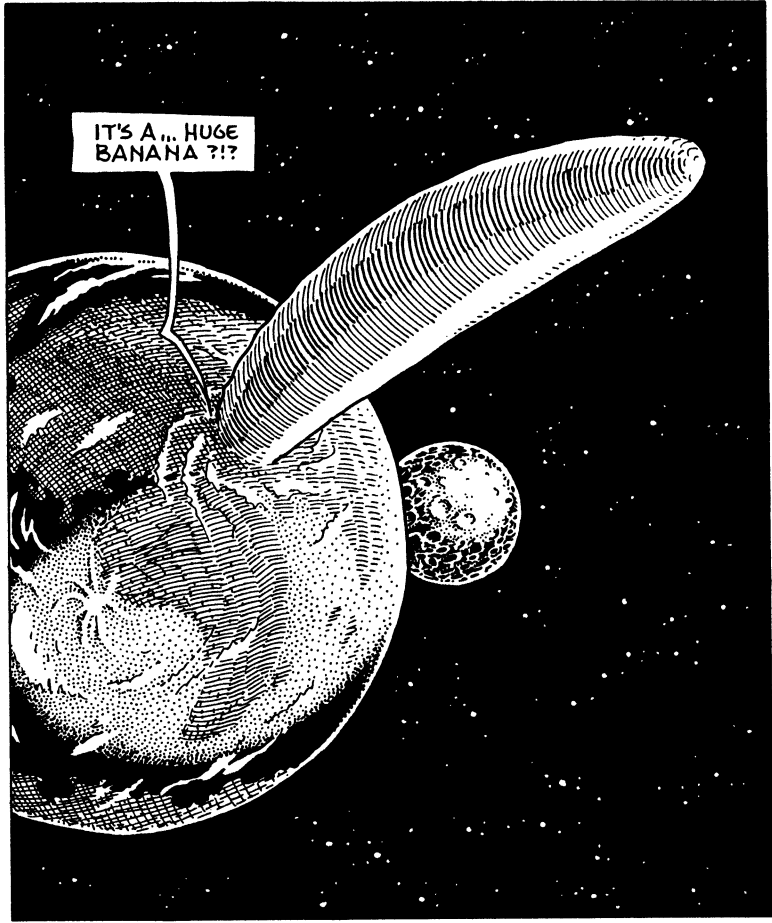
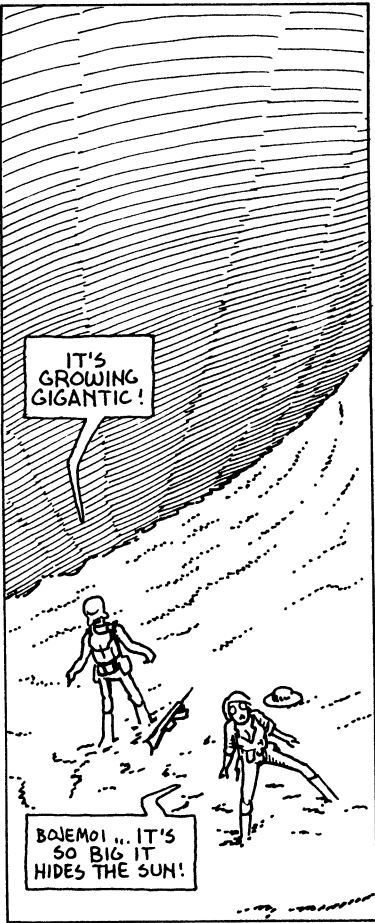


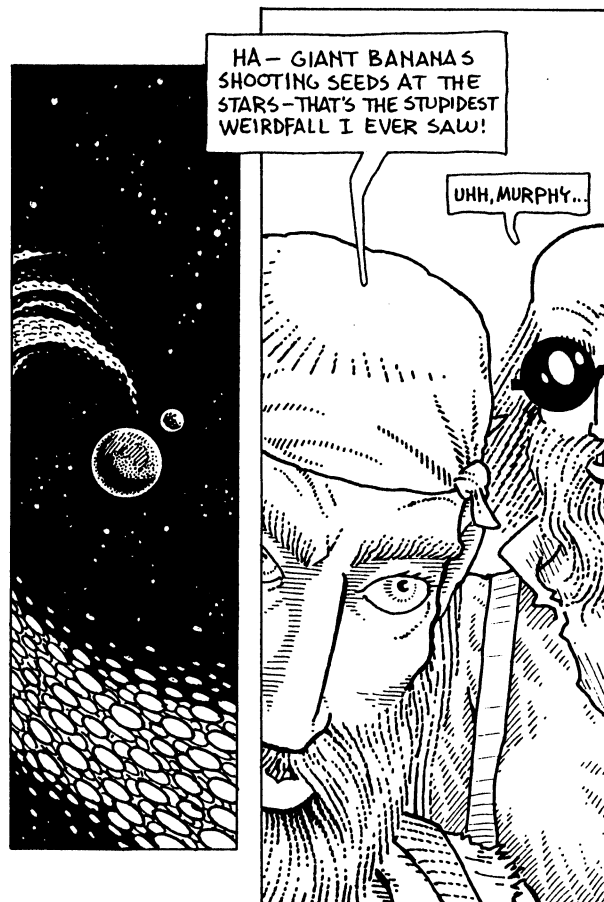
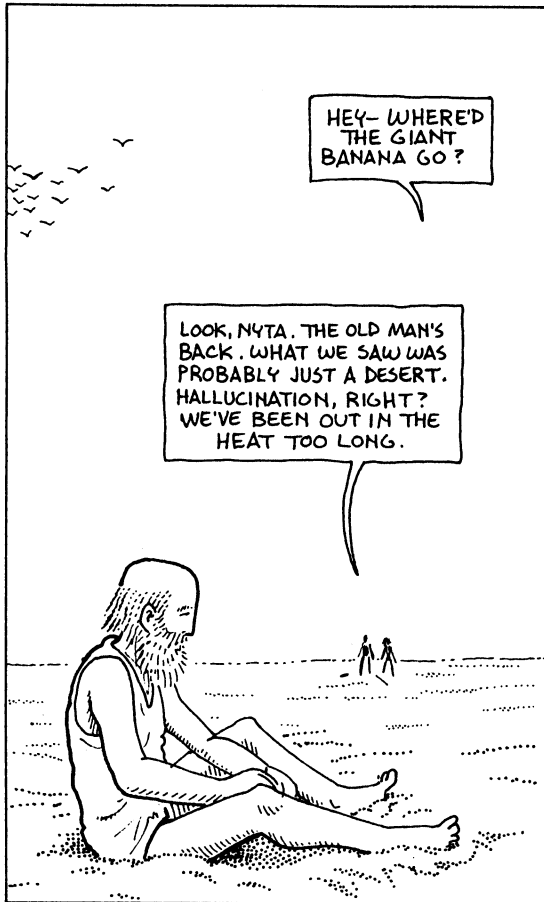
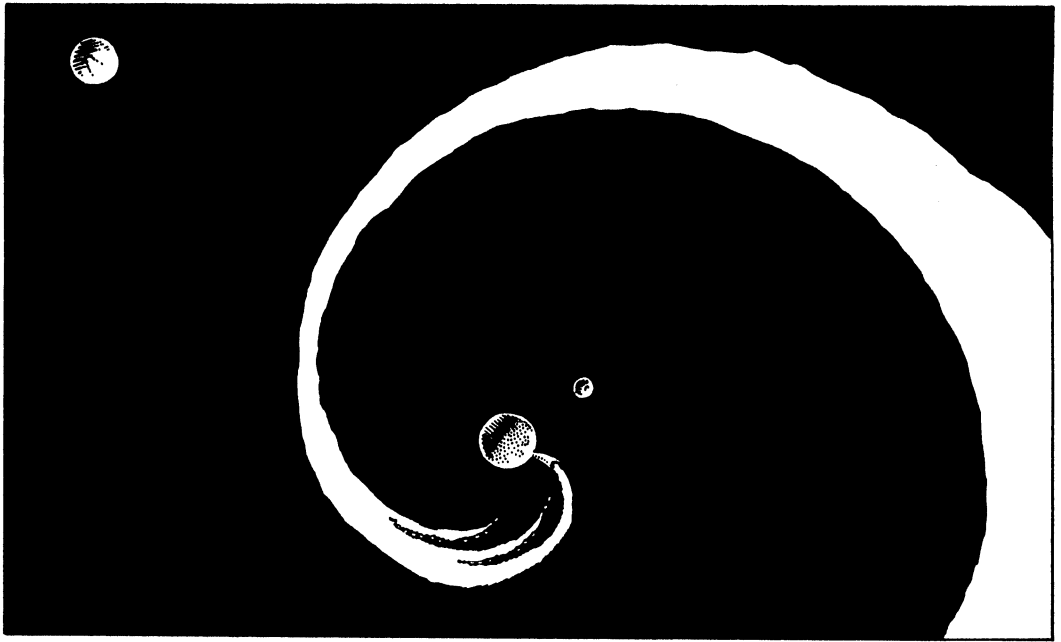


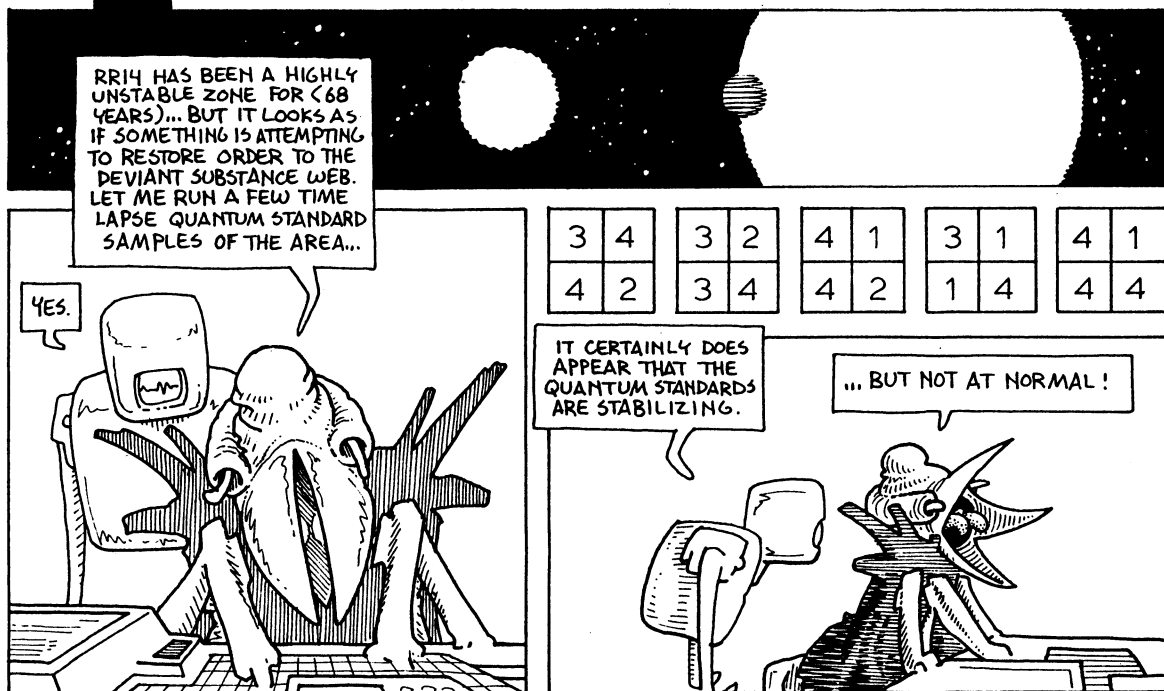
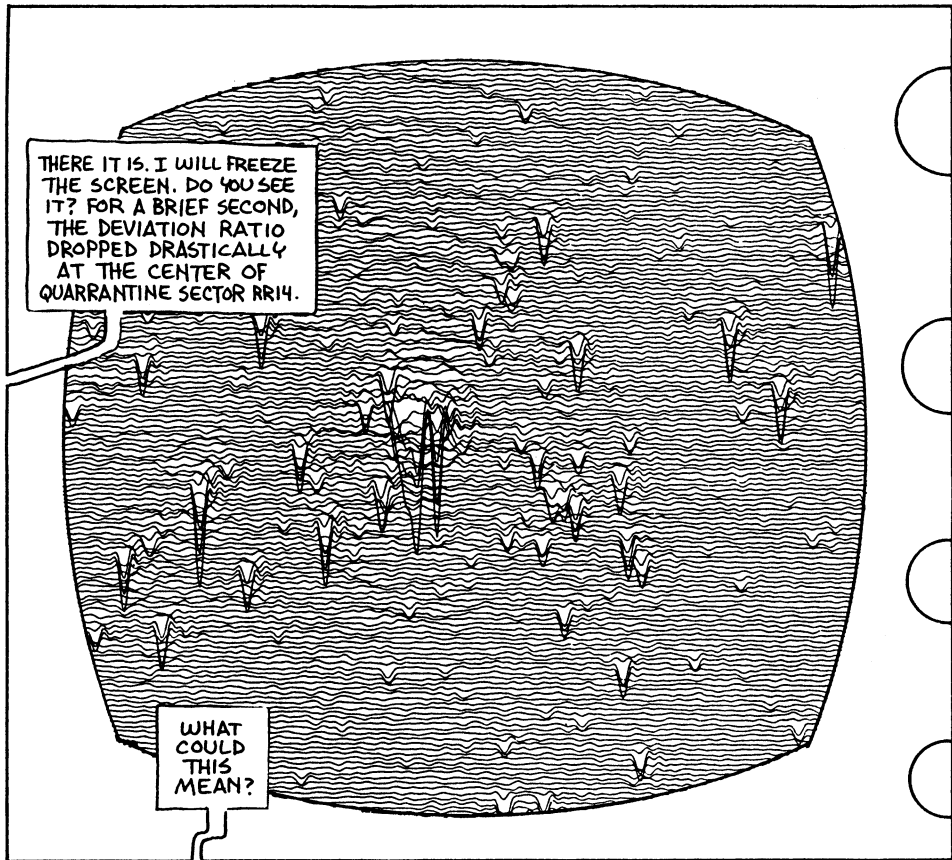
WHAT THE HELL  
IS GOING ON...?



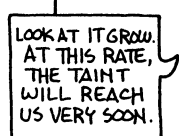
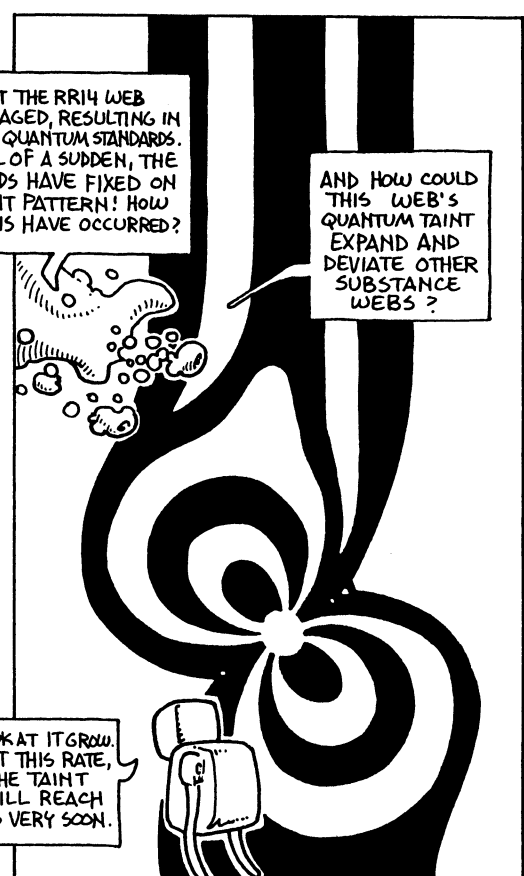
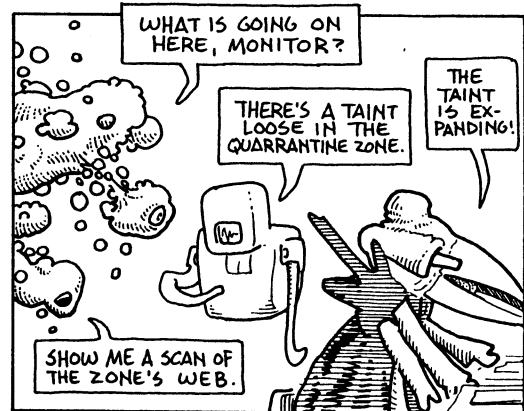
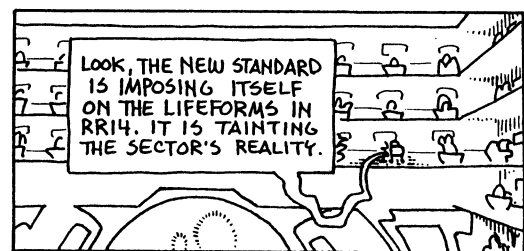
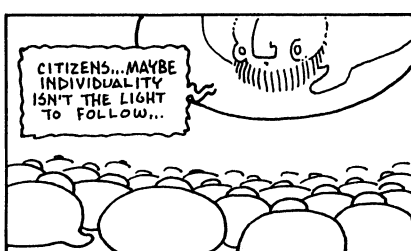
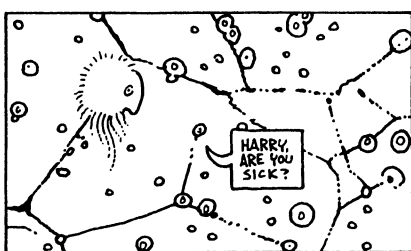
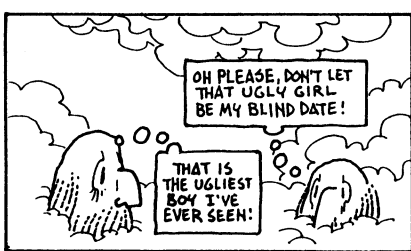
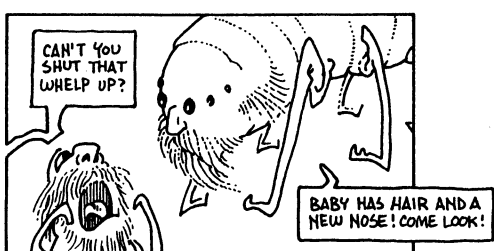
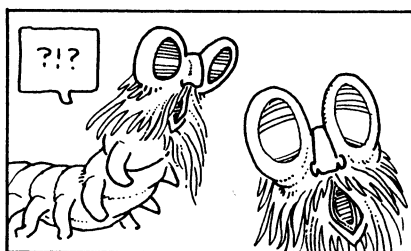
WHATEVER  
IT IS - IT'S  
SOLIDIFYING...

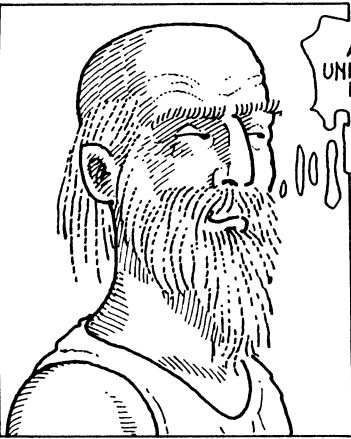




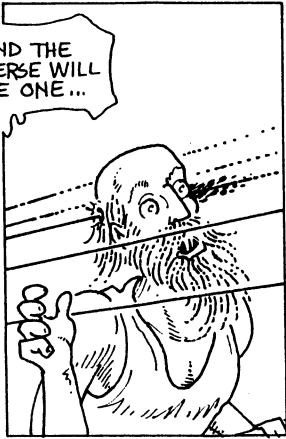




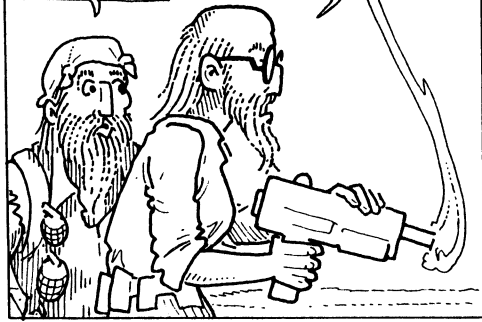




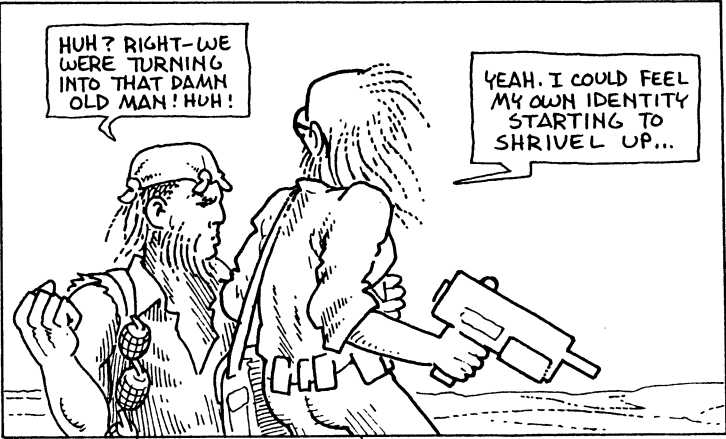
AND THE  
UNIVERSE WILL  
BE ONE...



WHY'D YOU DO  
THAT? WE  
LOOKED LIKE HIM.



EXACTLY!



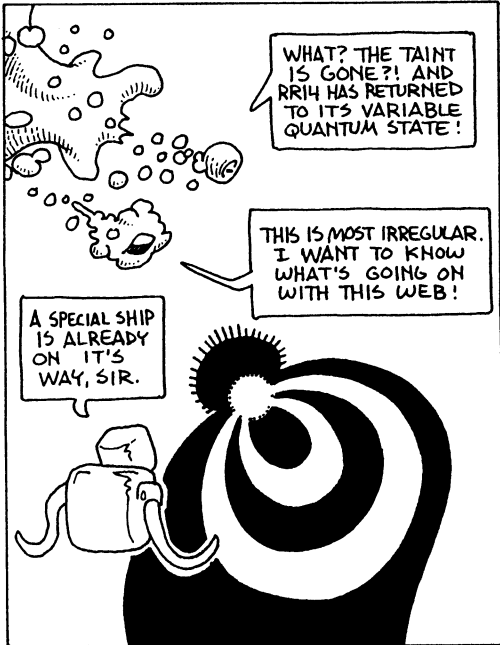
HUH? RIGHT-WE  
WERE TURNING  
INTO THAT DAMN  
OLD MAN! HUH!

YEAH. I COULD FEEL  
MY OWN IDENTITY  
STARTING TO  
SHRIVEL UP...



SOME KIND OF SURVIVAL  
INSTINCT MUST HAVE  
KICKED IN AND I...

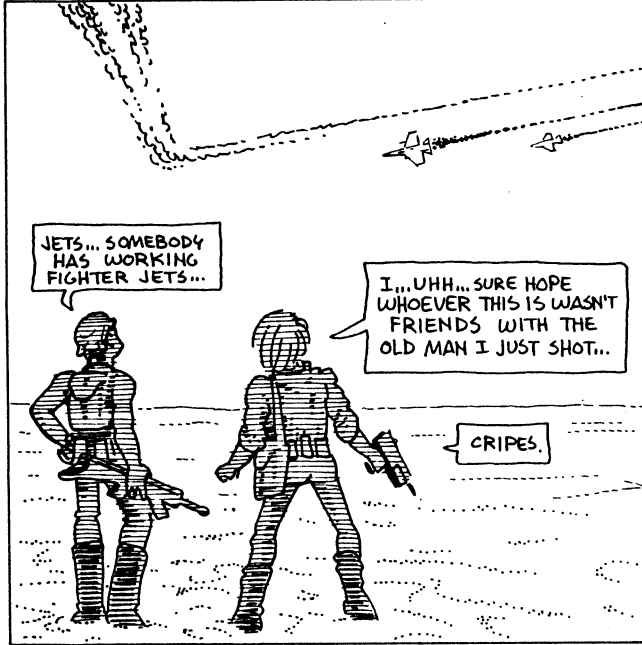
JETS.



WHAT? THE TAINT  
IS GONE?! AND  
RRIH HAS RETURNED  
TO ITS VARIABLE  
QUANTUM STATE!

THIS IS MOST IRREGULAR.  
I WANT TO KNOW  
WHAT'S GOING ON  
WITH THIS WEB!

A SPECIAL SHIP  
IS ALREADY  
ON IT'S  
WAY, SIR.



JETS... SOMEBODY  
HAS WORKING  
FIGHTER JETS...

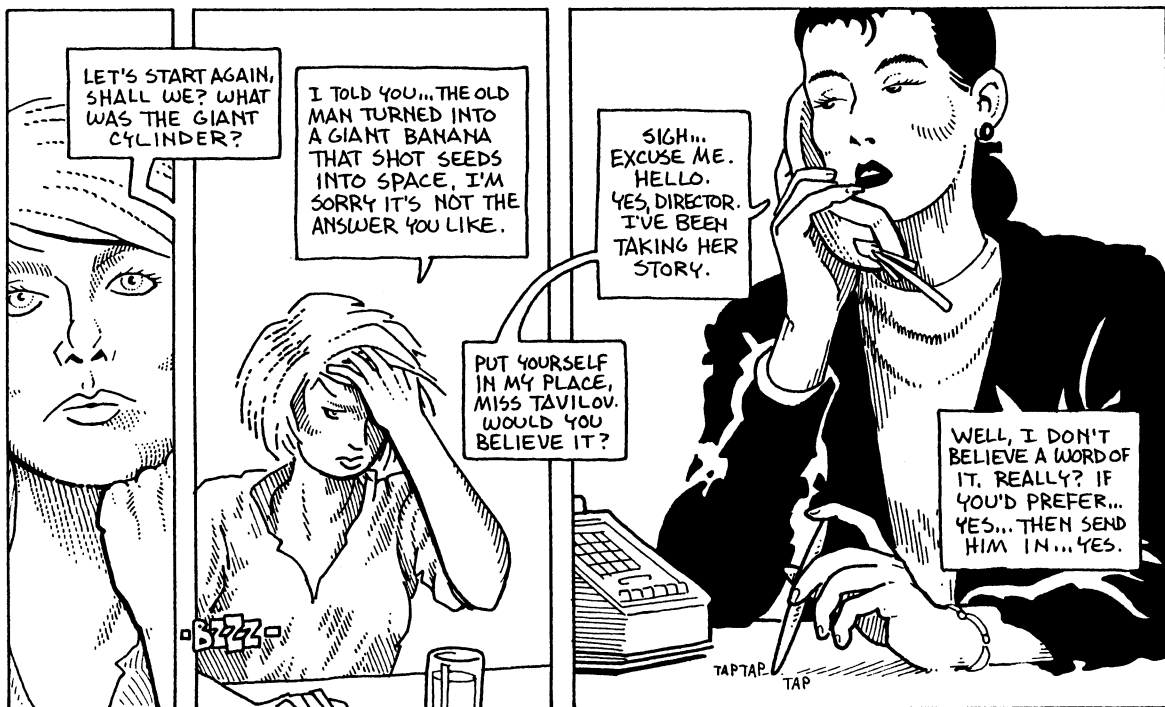
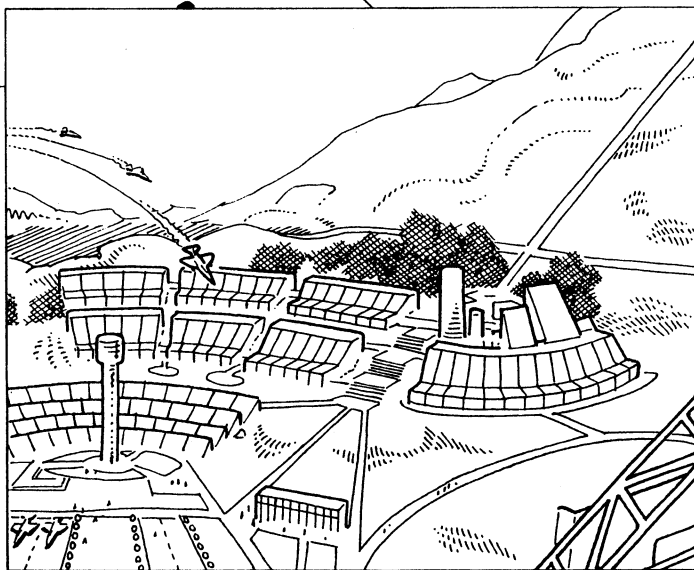
I... UHH... SURE HOPE  
WHOEVER THIS IS WASN'T  
FRIENDS WITH THE  
OLD MAN I JUST SHOT..

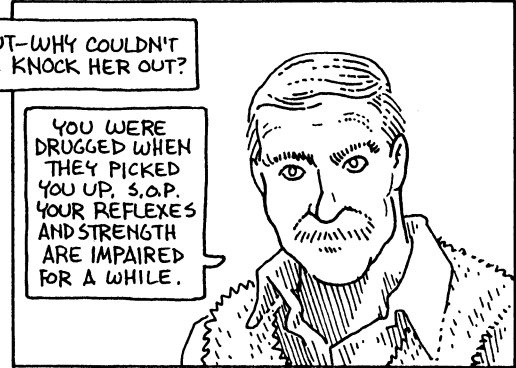
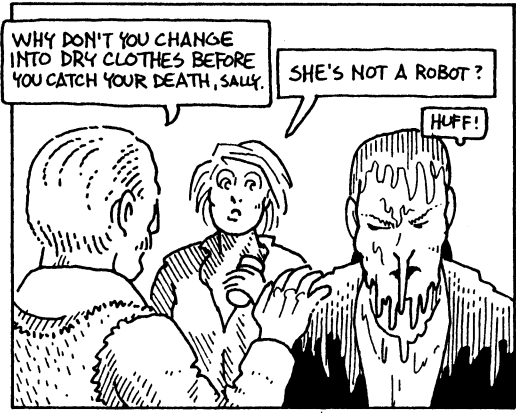
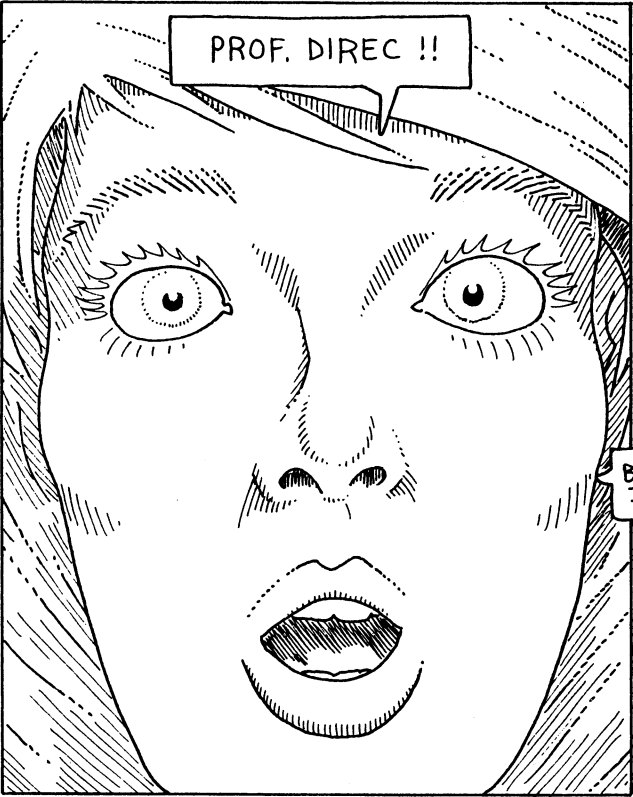
CRIPES.

# THE INTERROGATION PHASE

NY = 5.62

NYTA AND MURPHY ARE TAKEN TO A MYSTERIOUS METROPOLIS FAR NORTH, DEEP IN NYTA'S FROZEN RUSSIAN HOMELAND.





DRUGGED?!  
THEN - HOW DO  
I KNOW YOU'RE  
REALLY  
PROF. DIREC?

YOU COULD BE JUST A MORE  
CLEVER ROBOT - OR SOME  
OTHER SNEAKY ALIEN OR  
WEIRDFALL FIGMENT... I  
DON'T FEEL SO GOOD...  
I... I'M GETTING DIZZY...

RELAX, NYTA. DON'T  
FIGHT THE DRUG. JUST  
FLOW WITH IT... IT WILL  
HELP YOU REMEMBER  
WHAT REALLY HAPPENED  
IN THE TIBETAN DESERT.

...THE OLD MAN  
WHO BECAME  
A GOAT...

EVERY-  
THING IS  
SPINNING -

ANOTHER ALIEN?

FORGET THE ALIEN.  
TELL ME ABOUT THE  
OLD MAN. WHY DID  
YOU KILL HIM?

HE TURNED INTO  
A GIANT BANANA  
THAT SHOT SEEDS  
OUT INTO SPACE...

AND THEN EVERY-  
ONE LOOKED LIKE  
THE OLD MAN...

I WARNED YOU ABOUT GIVING HER TOO MUCH OF THE DRUG, KERRY. SHE IS JUST BABBLING.

I DIDN'T GIVE HER TOO MUCH OF THE DRUG, PROF.

AND SHE'S NOT BABBLING. SHE'S CONFIRMING EVERYTHING THAT MURPHY TOLD US.



FACE THE FACTS, PROF. ONE OF THOSE OLD TIBETAN MONKS FOUND OUT THE TRUTH AND MADE THEIR MOVE BEFORE WE DID. I WONDER IF HE WAS TRYING TO FIX THINGS, OR TAKE CONTROL?

AND THANKS TO NYTA TAVILOV, WE WILL NEVER KNOW, WHAT WAS SHE DOING THERE ANYWAY? HOW DOES SHE FIT INTO ALL OF THIS?

I DO NOT KNOW... BUT WE ARE GOING TO FIND OUT!



# ANTARCTIC BLAST

SEPTEMBER 1995



## PRIDE AND PREJUDICE

by Herb Mallette

Jane Austen — stuffy literature-writing English teabiscuitmum, or internet visionary and the first of the “bad girls”? Well, okay, anybody who’s read Jane Austen (or, more likely, the Cliffs Notes on Jane Austen) can answer that question pretty quickly. Let’s face it, Jane’s idea of a super-heroine was a girl daring enough to roll her sleeves up past the wrist and show off a whole forearm’s worth of skin. And she died of some horrible neural disease or something long before the lightbulb was invented, much less the computer. But believe it or not, I can actually tie her in with both comics and cybersurfing quicker than you can say, “Mansfield Park.” How, you ask?

### Sarcasm.

You see, old Jane wielded a pretty caustic pen at times, and by all accounts had quite a mouth on her as well. So she was well acquainted with sarcasm, irony, and maybe even the Dark Side of The Force. And she knew first-hand all the perils awaiting those blessed (or cursed) with a dry, biting wit. One of her novels was more or less about how much trouble sarcasm can get you into by alienating people who don’t understand or don’t appreciate your attempts at humor. (Like, Duh! Did they need a whole novel to figure that one out in the 18th Century?)

Well, after centuries of literary curmudgeonry, the modern age has more or less grasped the dangers of sarcasm. For instance, (and here comes the computer tie-in) on the net

people use all kinds of little “emoticons” to flag their witticisms for the unwary [such as :) or ;) or the particularly wicked :-> ]. Jane would certainly be pleased to know of all the flame wars avoided by judicious use of these handy little symbols.

And the comic-book tie-in? (Momentary sheepish hesitation.) Well, I, ahem, don’t use emoticons in my comic-book editorials. And anybody who’s been reading these Antarctic Blasts for the past year has probably noticed my propensity for sarcasm at least once or twice. In my July editorial I was a particularly loose cannon, and some feedback from both within the office and beyond indicated that I may have tropped some sensitive toes. If so, I apologize (you bunch of crybabies :)) I’ll try to be more careful in the future.

I also apologize for the cheap use of a literary figure to tenuously hold together what could have been a much shorter essay. Hey, it was all I could think of to fill the space this month.

*Herb Mallette*

Editor in Chief

For more information on Jane Austen, consult your local library ... and just come out with it and admit that you’re a geek.

:) ;) }> |> :) ;) }> |> :) ;) }> |>

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## AP Pro-Files

### Travelling Matt



Antarctic Press’ Matthew High is our Promotions and Sales Guru. We named him Travelling Matt because you can usually find him on the road to some comic convention. He’s also AP’s troubleshooter. If there is a question you need answered, or a problem you need solved, you’ve got to get in touch with this guy ... but try to limit it to just AP related problems. Last time, being the cool, travelling, helpful guy he is, Matthew tried to solve an unrelated problem

and got entangled with some dark lord at the other end of the universe.

He realized that he liked the other side better, so he rammed into a tree (?). Don’t ask, but he did say someone secretly filmed all the action ... he claims he was chasing some princess or other. We don’t buy all of the story either, but he does have a very strange ride.

He vowed to only deal with Antarctic Press stuff from now on. Yay!

Photo by: Ralph Nelson, Jr.

# NOW YOU'RE IN TROUBLE.

Manga Hero



Nee

When Nee is introduced, place a Dagger of Minos Card on him, upon which he gets +2 on attacks. If Talgar, Uu, Byakko, Pony the Red Knight, or Miyuki Cards are present, Nee gets an additional +2 on defense per Card. If a Search for Ingredients Card is used against him, Nee is rendered ineffective for 1 Turn. Cannot target Kyau-Chan (unless paired with Ingredients Card) or Mee (unless paired with Eggs Card). "Why am I always surrounded by good-for-nothing people?" - Nee

GANBEAR'S

# FANTASTIC PANIC™

Antarctic Press' first manga series returns in November with all new-stories of sword and sorcery!

ANTARCTIC PRESS™

