

FUTURE QUARRE

ISSUE #3 - £3.00



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QUAKE CONTROL

Welcome to the third, but most definitely not the final, issue of FutureShock! There are the usual twisted tales and strange new worlds, but also this issue we have the return of the characters from Alex Mussons' Myth Control now featuring in "Myth Management", in much the same way DR and Quinch and Nemesis went from appearing in one-offs to having their own series. Also new this issue we have "Aftershocks" a look at some of the comic's stories that have thrilled in the past.

Stay tuned for FutureQuake 4, and news of even more exciting things to come!

Arthur Wyatt
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Cover By Paul J Holden

Back Cover By Matt Timson

THE CONTROL BUNKER, SOMEWHERE DEEP UNDERGROUND...

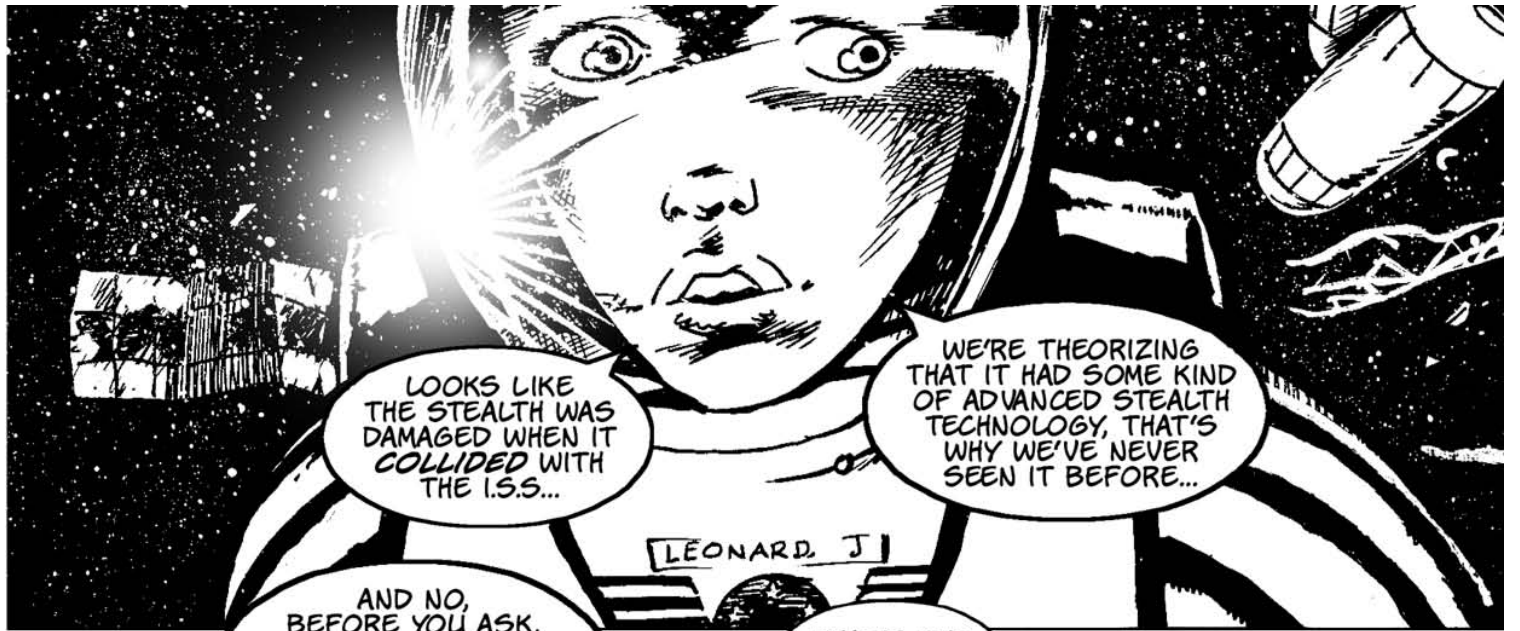
GIVE ME VISUAL!

GIVE ME SOUND!

EXTINCTION LEVEL EVENT

WRITTEN BY ARTHUR WYATT, DRAWN & LETTERED BY TIM TWELVES

...NOT A SPACESHIP AS WE THOUGHT. IT'S AN X-RAY LASER THE SIZE OF AN AIRCRAFT CARRIER...



LOOKS LIKE THE STEALTH WAS DAMAGED WHEN IT COLLIDED WITH THE I.S.S...

WE'RE THEORIZING THAT IT HAD SOME KIND OF ADVANCED STEALTH TECHNOLOGY, THAT'S WHY WE'VE NEVER SEEN IT BEFORE...

LEONARD J

AND NO, BEFORE YOU ASK, THERE'S ABSOLUTELY NO WAY THIS IS SOVIET ERA TECHNOLOGY. THIS THING MAY NOT BE FROM AROUND HERE AT ALL...

WHAT'S THE STATUS, MAC?

IT'S GOING BETTER THAN I EXPECTED. IN FACT, I'D SAY I'M ONLY A KEYSTROKE AWAY FROM DECRYPTING TELEMETRY ON THIS BABY!



HERE GOES...



OOPS...

V
R
R
R
M
M
M
-
M
-
M
M
M
M
M
M
M
M
M
M



JANE,
WHAT THE HELL
IS GOING ON UP
THERE?!

FIFTY MORE
OF THOSE THINGS
JUST APPEARED OUT
OF NOWHERE!

JUDGING
FROM THE VIBRATION,
I'D SAY WE'VE TRIGGERED
SOME KIND OF FIRING
SEQUENCE...

UM...
WHAT HAPPENS
IF THESE THINGS
FIRE?

MASSIVE DAMAGE
TO THE EARTH'S SURFACE,
PROBABLY CUTTING DOWN TO AN
UPPER MANTLE LAYER AND CORRESPONDING
DAMAGE TO THE ATMOSPHERE AS
DEBRIS IS THROWN UP...



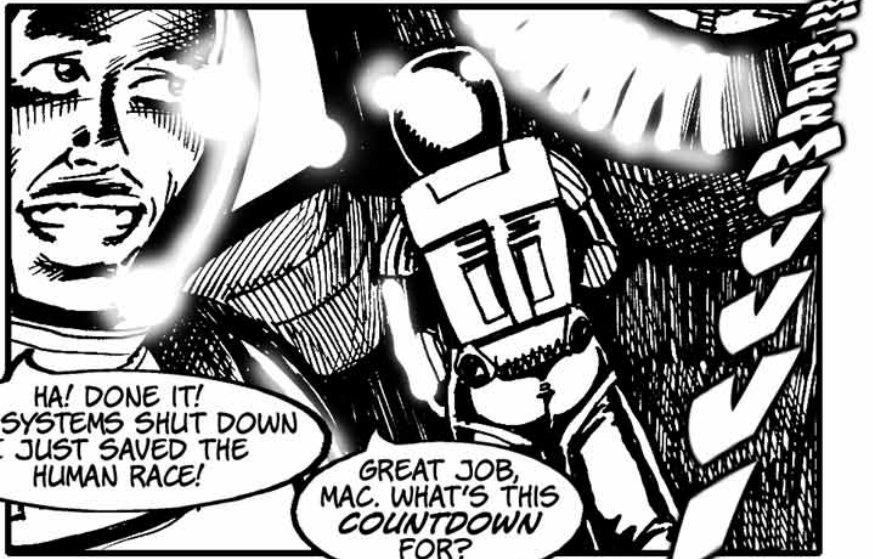
EXTINCTION
LEVEL
EVENT...

IN
PLAIN
ENGLISH?

THE END
OF LIFE AS WE
KNOW IT.



THE INTERFACE IS NO GOOD! I'M GOING TO HAVE TO ACCESS THE UNDERLYING SYSTEMS DIRECTLY!

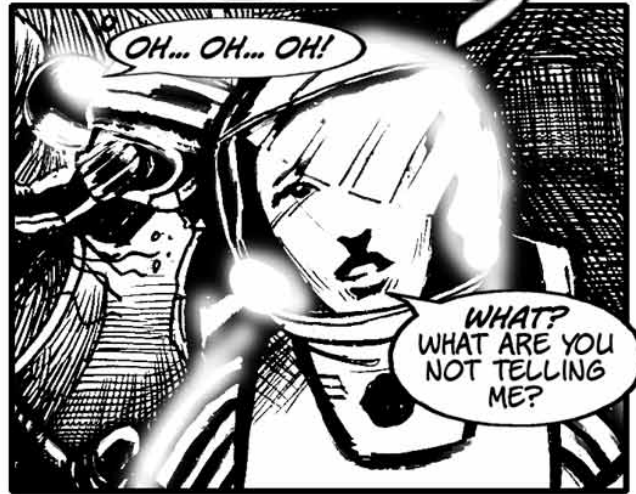


HA! DONE IT! ALL SYSTEMS SHUT DOWN I JUST SAVED THE HUMAN RACE!

GREAT JOB, MAC. WHAT'S THIS COUNTDOWN FOR?



OH SHI...



OH... OH... OH!

WHAT? WHAT ARE YOU NOT TELLING ME?



UNH... IT'S NOT A SYSTEM SHUTDOWN... IT'S A SYSTEM-WIDE SELF DESTRUCT.



HANG ON... I THINK I'VE GOT...

JANE? MAC?
ARE YOU THERE,
OVER...

WE'VE LOST
SIGNAL. RESPOND,
OVER...

SENSORS SHOW
THE LASERS SELF
DESTRUCTING...
JANE? MACK?

AT LAST!
AFTER 65 MILLION YEARS
SLEEPING IN DARKNESS, THE
MACHINES OF OUR OPRESSORS
HAVE BEEN SWEEPED FROM THE
SKIES BY MERE
MAMMALS!

PREPARE
THE DRILLS! IT'S
TIME TO RETURN TO
THE SURFACE!!

THE
END!

myth MANAGEMENT



CHAMP.

ADMINISTRATOR
CHAMP.

- IN:
**THE RHYTHM IS
GONNA GET YOU...**

INCIDENT AT WEMBLEY STADIUM: ENCHANTING
MUSIC EMANATES FROM WITHIN, INTOXICATING
ALL WHO HEAR IT. POWERLESS TO RESIST,
HUNDREDS FLOCK TO THE STADIUM, CLAMBERING
OVER THE CARS MAROONED OUTSIDE...



YEAH! YEAH! BABY! BABY!

THE MUSIC! ANNOYING,
YET SO... CATCHY!

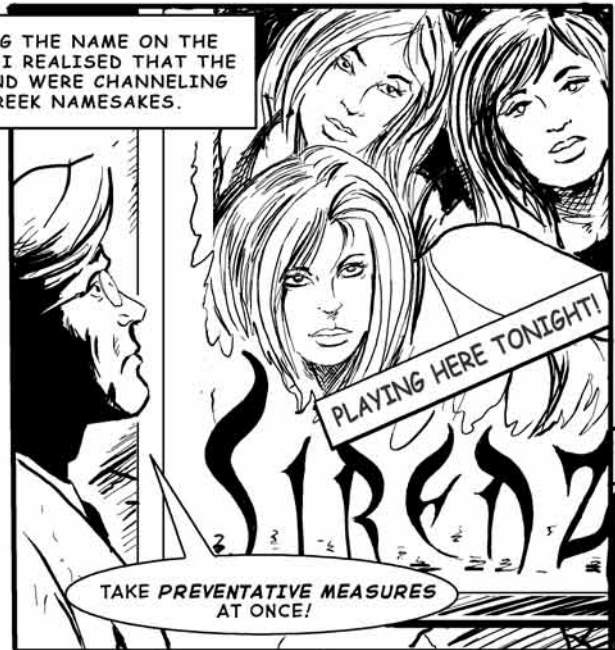
CAN'T... RESIST!

WHENEVER A MYTH TRESPASSES INTO
THE HUMAN SPHERE, OUR DEPARTMENT
IS SENT IN TO SUPPRESS IT.



THEOGONY DETECTOR'S GOING
CRAZY - AND WHAT IS THAT
INFERNAL RACKET?

SPOTTING THE NAME ON THE
POSTER, I REALISED THAT THE
GIRL BAND WERE CHANNELING
THEIR GREEK NAMESAKES.



TAKE PREVENTATIVE MEASURES
AT ONCE!

RADIO FOUR SHOULD DO
THE TRICK - VOLUME TO
MAXIMUM!

CAN'T RESIST. IT'S TOO...
BOOTILICIOUS!



I HAD TO STOP THE SIREN'S SONG BEFORE
THEY CAUSED PERMANENT DAMAGE - THE
PAPERWORK WOULD BE CONSIDERABLE.

Welcome to Gardeners'
Question Time...

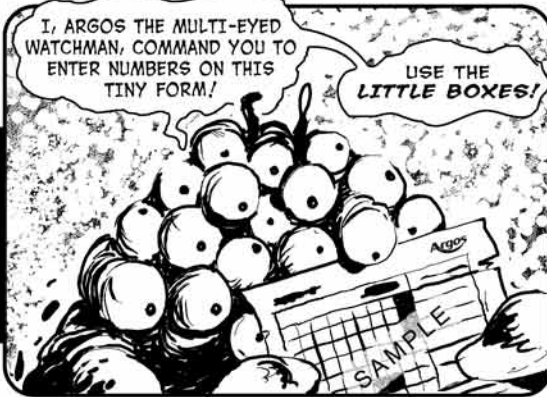
DO EXCUSE ME!



WRITER: ALEX MUSSON
ARTIST: MIKE DONALDSON

WE'LL BE RIGHT BACK AFTER THESE IMPORTANT MESSAGES:

MYTH MANAGEMENT IS BROUGHT TO YOU BY...



I, ARGOS THE MULTI-EYED WATCHMAN, COMMAND YOU TO ENTER NUMBERS ON THIS TINY FORM!

USE THE LITTLE BOXES!



TROJAN BRAND CONDOMS

FOR THE MAN HUNG LIKE A HORSE

THE GIRL BAND WERE COMPLETELY UNDER THE MYTH'S CONTROL, BUT PERHAPS A DOSE OF REALITY COULD BREAK THE ENCHANTMENT...

A SOLUTION PRESENTED ITSELF IN THE FORM OF ONE OF THE ESTABLISHMENT'S CLEANING STAFF.



...without digressing
hesitation or regret



MY APOLOGIES, MISS...

... BUT I REQUIRE YOUR ASSISTANCE.

I ONLY HOPED IT WOULD BE ENOUGH TO ROUSE THE SINGER'S NATURAL INSTINCTS...



FAP!

PIKEY BITCH!!

AH, THE 'TWEEDY EFFECT!

AND THUS THE SPELL WAS BROKEN.



PLEASE, ALLOW ME.

THANKS. I... I GUESS THAT'LL BE THEIR LAST PERFORMANCE FOR A WHILE.



MUSIC TO MY EARS!

ADDITIONALLY, THEIR CD IS DOING WONDERS FOR MY GERANIUMS.

VARK, THE HERO OF THIS LITTLE TALE, BY IMPERIAL COURT ORDER IS IN JAIL

...MURDERING, LYING, LECHEROUS THIEF, YOUR EXPLOITS QUITE DEFY BELIEF!

I REALLY CANNOT BELIEVE MY EARS! I'LL SEND YOU DOWN FOR One Million Years!



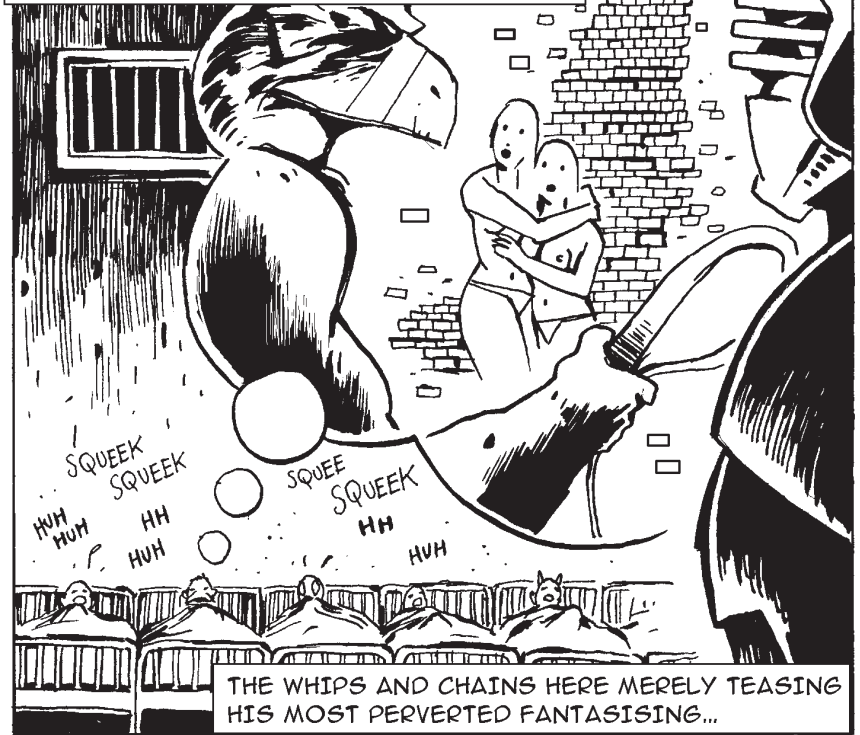
SKRT SKRT

VARK STARTS HARD TIME ON THE PRISON FARM

WITH ME NO MILKDRONE'S SAFE FROM HARM! I SLIT AND KNIFE, CHOP, KILL AND CUT SO SEND ME ANOTHER ONE TO BUT!



SURROUNDED BY MEN, NO GIRLS IN SIGHT VARK PASSES MANY LONELY NIGHTS



SQUEEK SQUEEK SQUEE SQUEEK HUH HUH HH HUH

THE WHIPS AND CHAINS HERE MERELY TEASING HIS MOST PERVERTED FANTASISING...

ONE EVENING, OUR VARK HE LISTENS TO V'LXPKW, WHOSE PROBOSCIS GLISTENS, TELL OF A PLANET

IT'S NAME IS HABES

AND IT HAS A POPULATION OF NAUGHT BUT BABES!



"GO PAST THE CRAB NEBULA, THEN TURN LEFT
PAST THE YAWNING GALACTIC CLEFT
FIGHT THROUGH THE WORMHOLE, PASS ARCTURUS 3
AND BEFORE YOU LAID OUT YOU SHALL SEE..."

"A FEMALE PLANET! WHAT A SIGHT!
ALL DAY THEY SUNBATHE, AND AT NIGHT:
OH AT NIGHT, LET ME TELL YOU, FRIENDS
THERE'S FUN FOR ALL AND IT NEVER ENDS..."

PLANET OF THE BABES

YOU REALLY EXPECT ME TO BELIEVE ALL THIS?

"BELIEVE IT OR NOT, THE PLANET EXISTS
TO FIND IT WOULD TAKE A DIFFICULT HUNT
BUT THE REWARD IS THERE IN BREAST AND
stimulating intellectual conversation with like-minded people

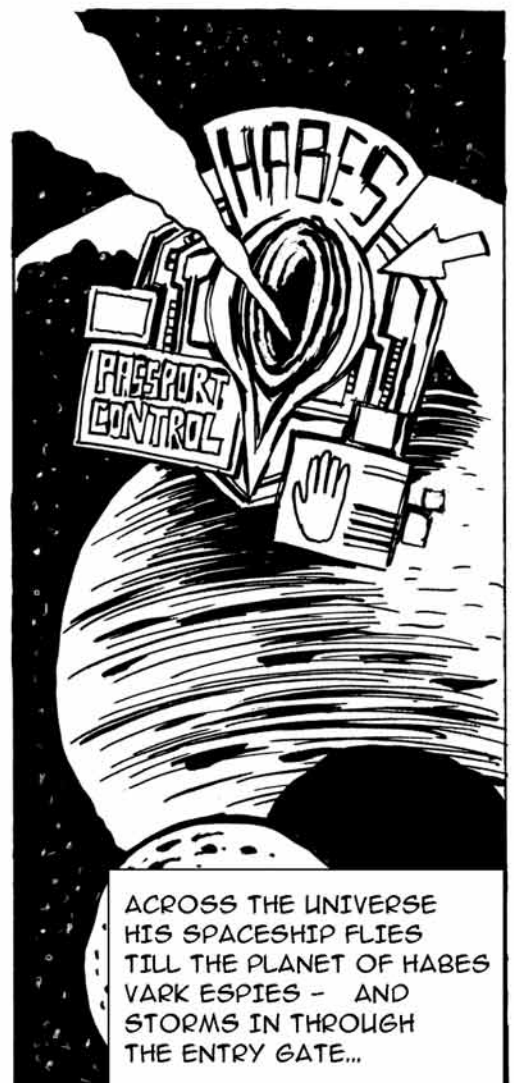
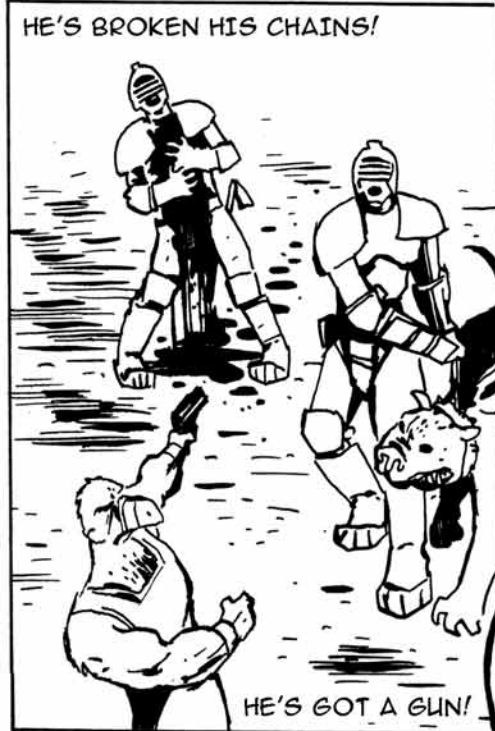
V'LXPKWR, BUDDY, I CAN'T DEDUCE
HOW IN THIS PLACE THEY REPRODUCE...?

SCRIPT: JAMES MACKAY

ART: CHRIS ASKHAM

AH, WELL, THAT'S THE BEST PART, YOU SEE
THOUGH REQUIRING A TIMELY VICTORY
JUST ONE LUCKY MAN PER GENERATION
BECOMES THE MEANS TO THEIR INSEMINATION!





VARK GETS DOWN ON HIS KNEES, HE PRAYS

JUST GIVE ME THE CHANCE TO SPEND ONE DAY AMONG THIS PLANET'S POPULATION? I'LL PAY YOU TO GET ME PAST THIS STATION!



TRADESMAN'S ENTRANCE

AN OFFICER, EYEING HIS STOLEN MONEY, SAYS SHE'LL LEAD HIM TO THE HONEY



BUT AS HE VICTORIOUSLY SHOUTS...



SHE HITS HIS HEAD AND KNOCKS HIM OUT!

VARK, HIS CONSCIOUSNESS REGAINED FINDS THAT IN SLEEP HE'S BEEN RESTRAINED. HE DEMANDS ANGRILY TO KNOW WHY THEY'VE DECIDED TO TREAT HIM SO?

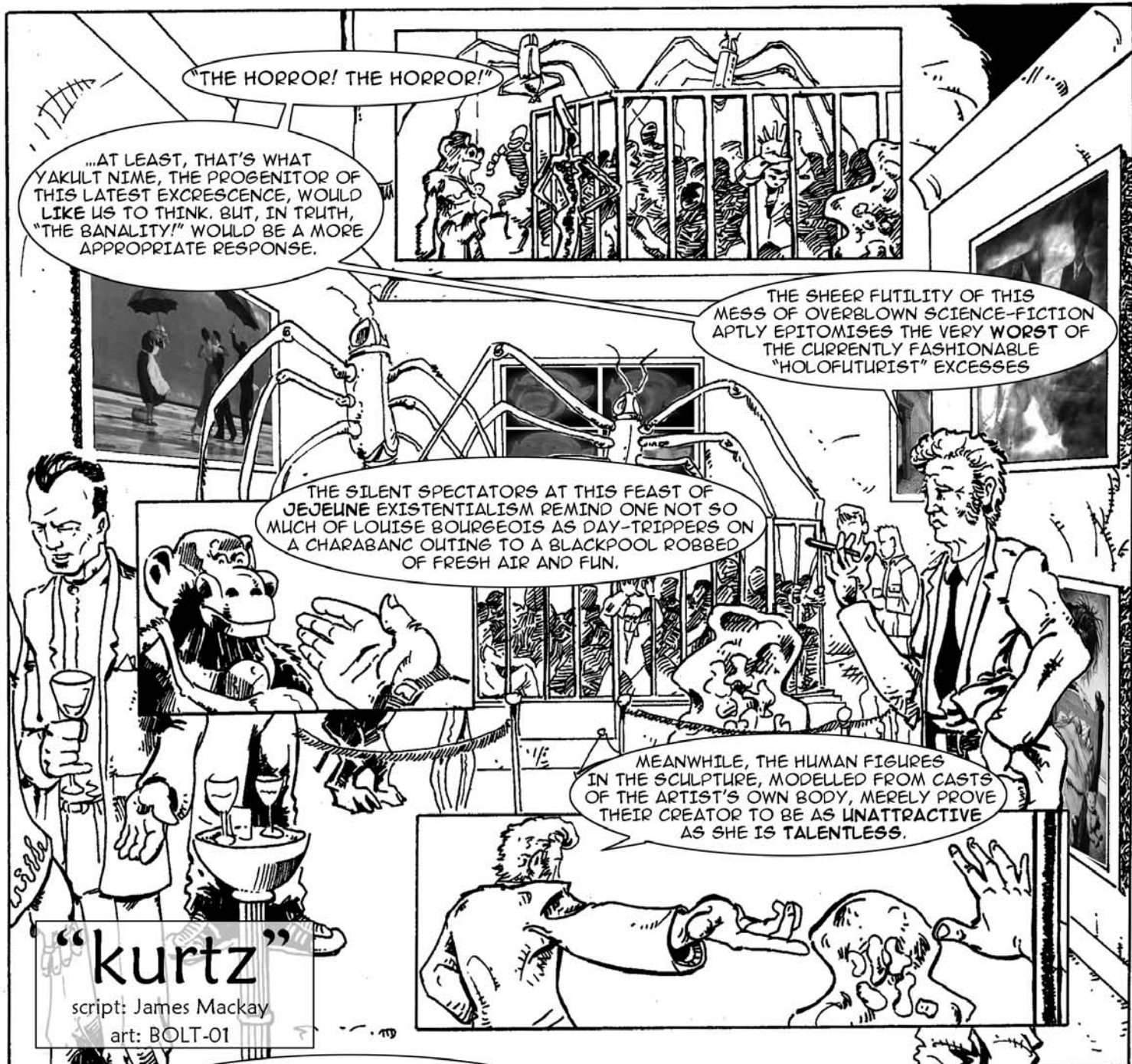


OH, GREAT GROBBEDLUK, CAN IT BE? THEY'RE GOING TO DO SOME SURGERY?



HE REALISES, THEN, AS HE FEELS THE KNIFE HE'S GETTING TO HABES... BUT AS A WIFE!





"THE HORROR! THE HORROR!"

"...AT LEAST, THAT'S WHAT YAKULT NIME, THE PROGENITOR OF THIS LATEST EXCRESCENCE, WOULD LIKE US TO THINK. BUT, IN TRUTH, "THE BANALITY!" WOULD BE A MORE APPROPRIATE RESPONSE.

THE SHEER FUTILITY OF THIS MESS OF OVERBLOWN SCIENCE-FICTION APTLY EPITOMISES THE VERY WORST OF THE CURRENTLY FASHIONABLE "HOLOFUTURIST" EXCESSES

THE SILENT SPECTATORS AT THIS FEAST OF JEJUNE EXISTENTIALISM REMIND ONE NOT SO MUCH OF LOUISE BOURGEOIS AS DAY-TRIPPERS ON A CHARABANC OUTING TO A BLACKPOOL ROBBED OF FRESH AIR AND FUN.

MEANWHILE, THE HUMAN FIGURES IN THE SCULPTURE, MODELLED FROM CASTS OF THE ARTIST'S OWN BODY, MERELY PROVE THEIR CREATOR TO BE AS UNATTRACTIVE AS SHE IS TALENTLESS.

"kurtz"
script: James Mackay
art: BOLT-01



BYRON KNITWELL'S REALLY DOING A NUMBER ON "KURTZ", ISN'T HE?

YEAH? WELL, HE CAN STICK HIS REVIEW UP HIS...



WAIT! DON'T TOUCH THAT!



WHAT THE--?

THE STATUES!

WHAT'S HAPPENING?

DON'T TOUCH!

WHAT THE HELL HAVE YOU DONE?

YOUR STATUE'S EATEN BYRON KNITWELL!

I NEVER MEANT FOR THIS TO HAPPEN...

ARRRRGGGH!

I FOUND THIS OLD DEVICE... I THOUGHT IT WOULD HOLD THEM...

IS IS REALLY EXCITING STUFF, Z'PURL

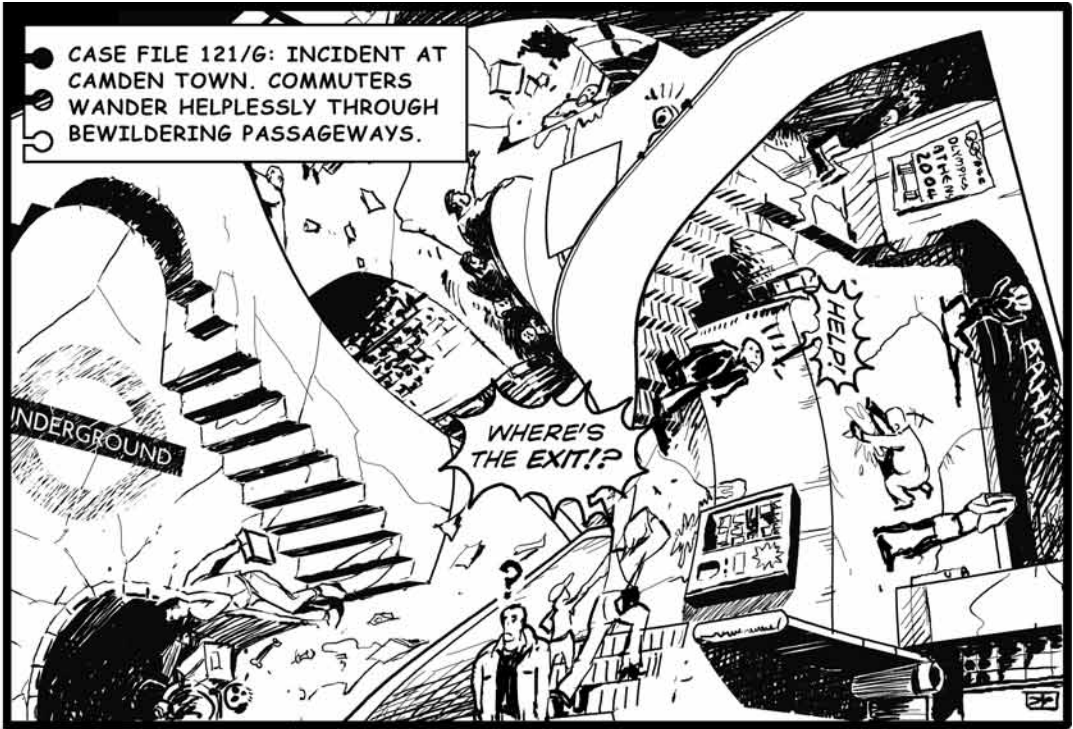
YAH, I'M HAPPY WITH IT.

TRENDY ARTIST Z'PURL HAM'ATH WOULD HAVE US BELIEVE "ZOO" REPRESENTS A QUANTUM LEAP. INSTEAD, IT IS SIMPLY ANOTHER WEARYING DOG MESS ON THE PAVEMENT OF POSTMODERN ART...



THANK YOU, JEEVES.

GOING UNDERGROUND



CASE FILE 121/G: INCIDENT AT CAMDEN TOWN. COMMUTERS WANDER HELPLESSLY THROUGH BEWILDERING PASSAGeways.

TUBE SERVICES WERE DOWN, SO WE TOOK THE LEY LINE.



STAY ALERT - WE'RE NOT IN ZONE 1 ANY MORE!



OUR FIRST CONCERN SHOULD BE TO KEEP TRACK OF OUR MOVEMENTS.

RED TWINE?

BLUE TOOTH!

AS AN ADMINISTRATOR IN HER MAJESTY'S DEPARTMENT OF MYTH MANAGEMENT, ONE MUST UTILISE THE VERY LATEST TECHNOLOGY.

(SOME CALL US THE 'GENTLEMEN IN TWEED', THOUGH I DISLIKE BOTH THE TERM AND ITS RATHER UNFORTUNATE ACRONYM.)

FRESH DUNG ON THIS COPY OF METRO - CERTAINLY CONSISTENT WITH...



BUT BEFORE ANYONE COULD SAY 'MIND THE CRAP'...



We'll be back after these important messages...

MYTH MANAGEMENT IS BROUGHT TO YOU BY...

Madonna's new album on sale now at **MARYSTORE**

IN BED WITH GOD

Sailors

best enjoyed on the rocks.

DAMMIT, I TOLD YOU TO STOP PLAYING BLOODY WONDERWALL!

GOOD LORD!

KEEP MUSICIANS ALIVE

SOUL

Hipswitch

I DECIDED TO, AH...

...TAKE THE BULL BY THE HORNS

DROP THAT MAN AT ONCE, SIR! THERE IS NO NEED TO ACT LIKE A RUFFIAN!

NO NEED...? I'M AN ARCHAIC PERSONIFICATION OF THE DEVOURING BEAST, FOR ZEUS' SAKE! AND YOU TRY MEETING NEW PEOPLE WHEN YOU LOOK LIKE THIS!

TELL YOU WHAT, OLD THING - GET RID OF THIS MISERABLE LABYRINTH AND I HAVE A SOLUTION THAT COULD SUIT YOU ADMIRABLY!

THE INTERNET - WHERE HIDEOUS PHYSICAL APPEARANCE AND STUNTED COMMUNICATION ABILITY ARE NO CONSTRAINT...

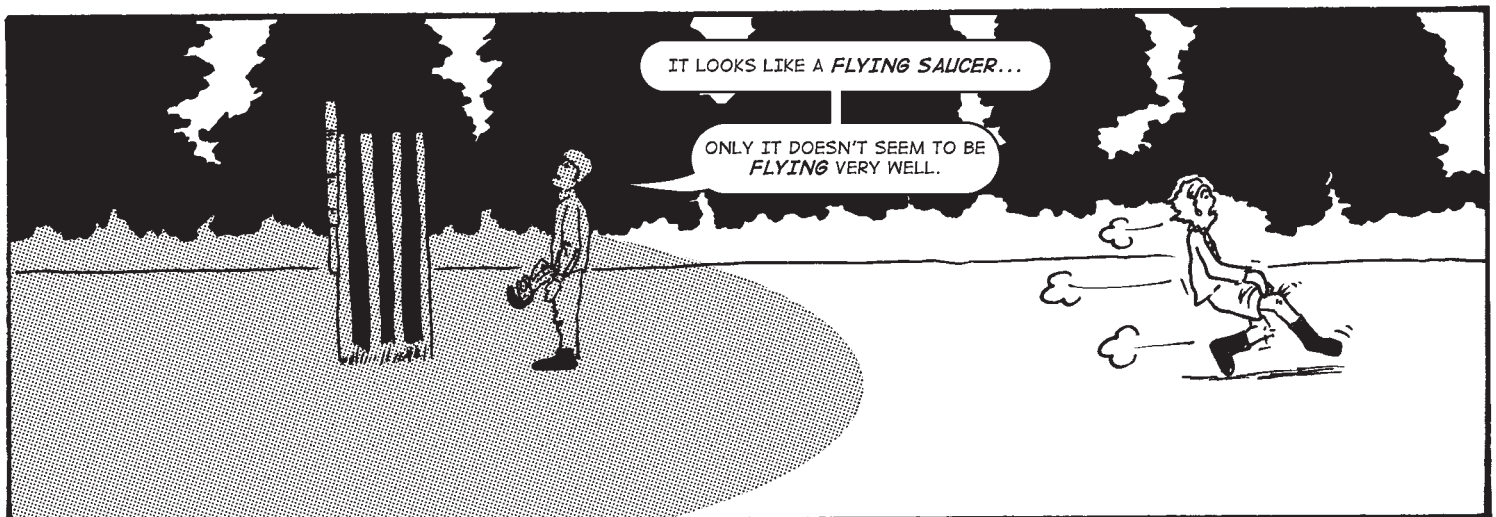
THANKS, MYTH MANAGEMENT!

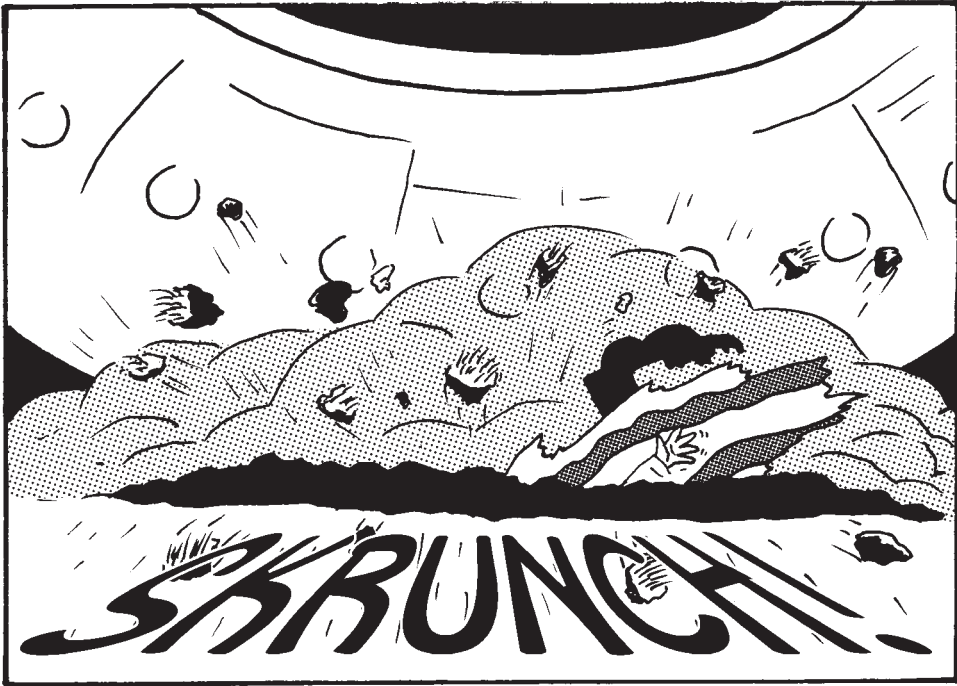
... AND TALKING BULL IS POSITIVELY ENCOURAGED.



PUNCH!

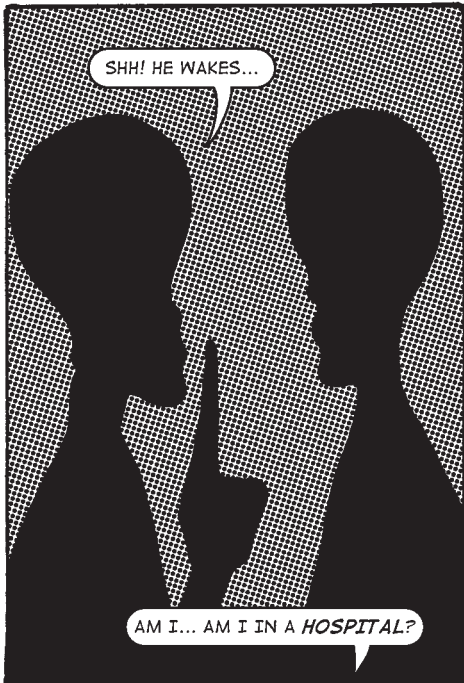
Performed by
Mr Arthur Wyatt
↓
Mr Mark Wilson





...IRRESPONSIBLE. YOU *KNOW* OUR ANTIGRAVITY IS UNSTABLE AT LOW ALTITUDES

BUT I WAS WATCHING THE FUNNY LITTLE MAN SHOW!



SHH! HE WAKES...

AM I... AM I IN A HOSPITAL?



YES. WE WILL HEAL YOU

REST



WAKE NOW.

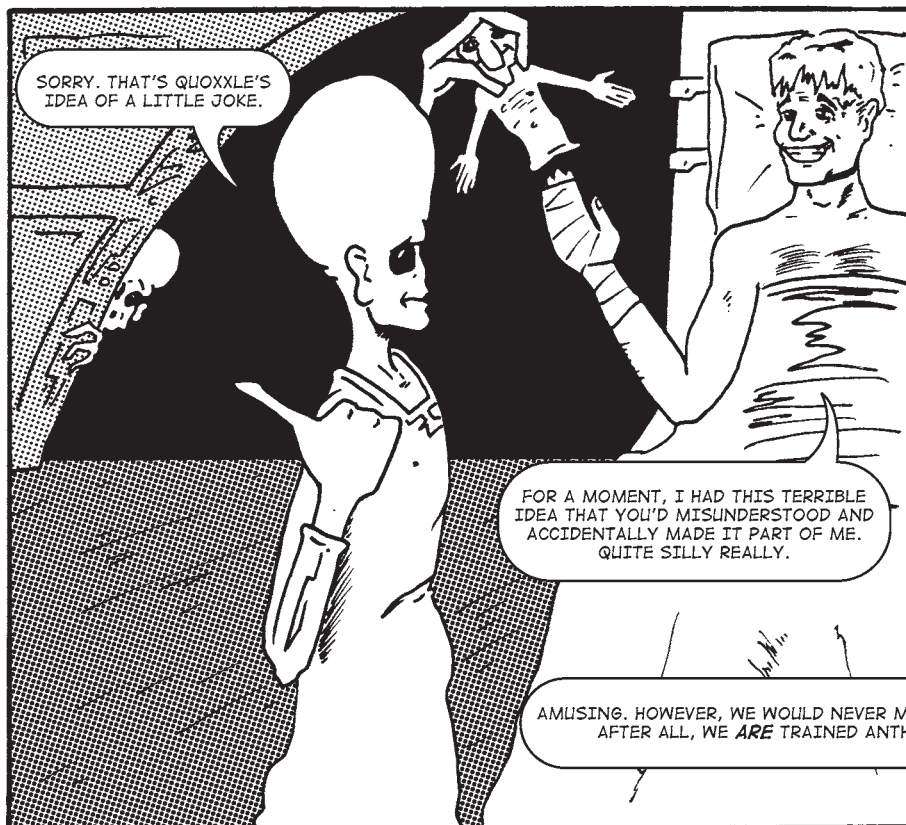
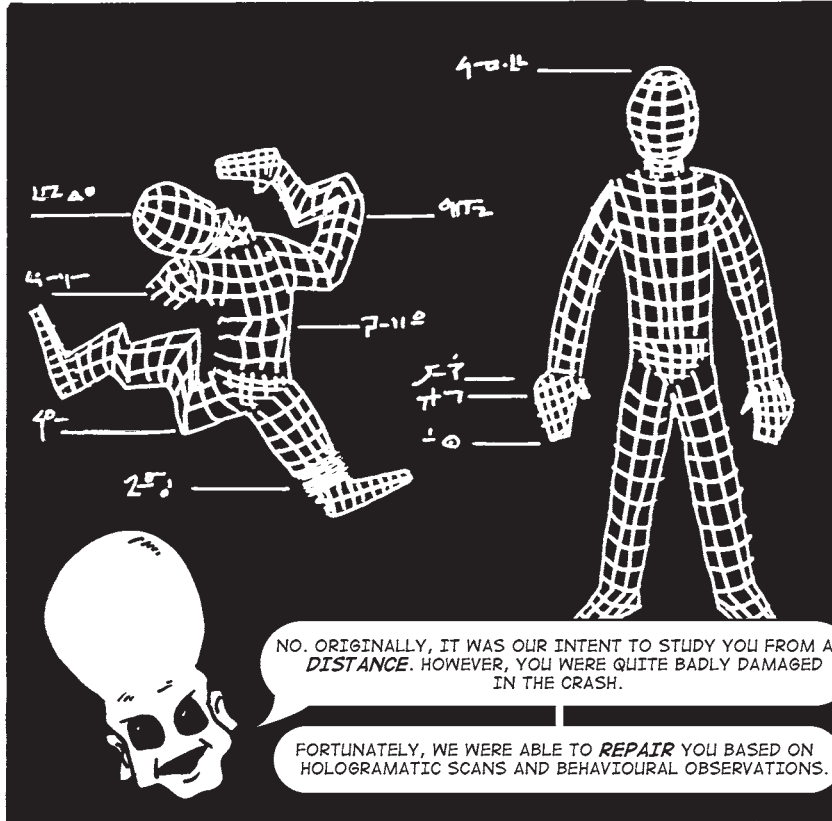
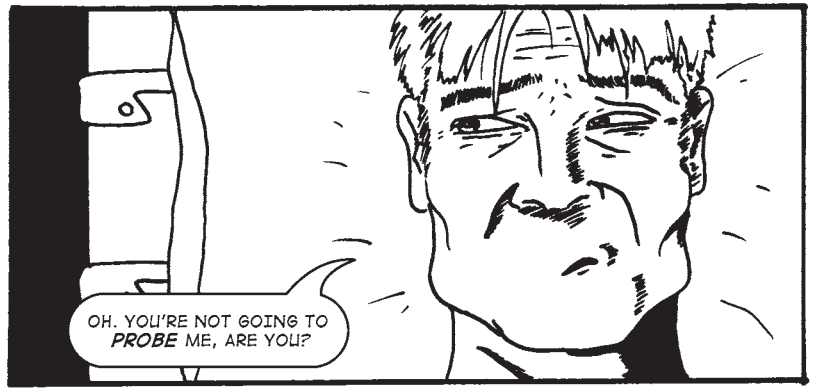
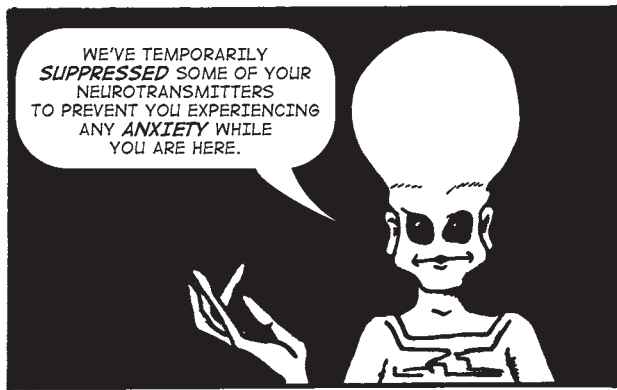


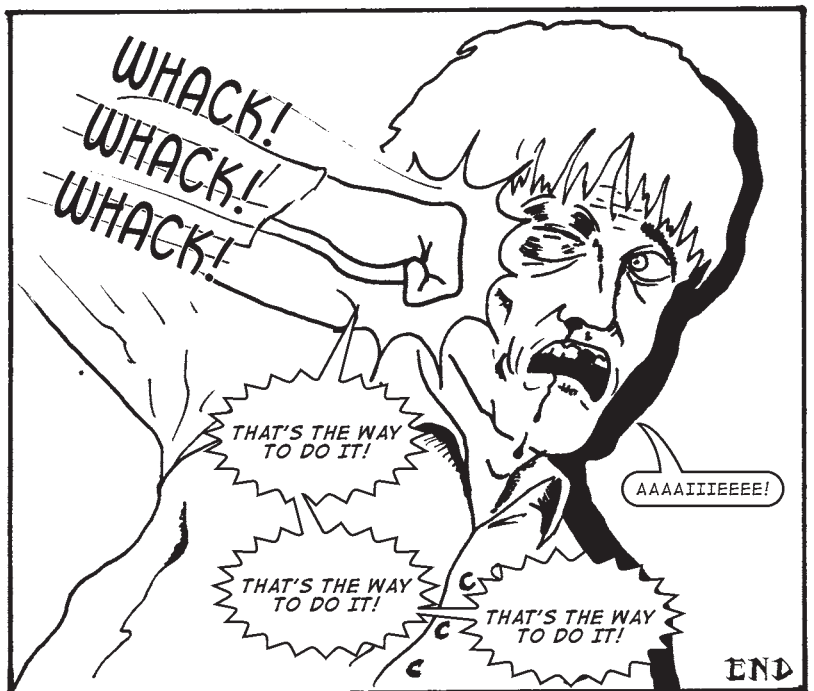
WHERE AM I?

YOU ARE ABOARD OUR CRAFT.

BIP!
BIP!

I'VE BEEN ABDUCTED BY ALIENS... FUNNY, I WOULD HAVE EXPECTED TO BE MORE SCARED THAN THIS.





myth MANAGEMENT



— IN: —
**WE DON'T
NEED
ANOTHER
HERO**

CASE FILE #27B/6:
INCIDENT AT
MARBLE ARCH.



GLOBAL WARMING IS ON THE RISE,
MULTINATIONALS ARE CALLING
THE SHOTS, WAR AND POVERTY ARE
ON THE INCREASE...

HAVING REPAIRED TO
A LOCAL HOSTILLERY
AFTER ANOTHER HARD
DAY CASTING OUT
DAEMONS AND SMITING
THE PAPERWORK, I
DECIDED TO TAKE IN
SOME AIR.

PROVIDENCE HAD IT
THAT I WAS PASSING
SPEAKER'S CORNER
WHEN I FELT A
SUDDEN SURGE IN
THE EGOSYSTEM...



IF WE DON'T ACT NOW,
OUR CHILDREN WILL...

AAGH! MY HEAD!
WHAT THE..?

THE SUDDEN MANIFESTATION
CREATED A SHOCKWAVE,
KNOCKING ME TO THE FLOOR.



I HEED THE CALL! MY PEOPLE
ARE DESPERATE, DESPONDENT
AND REPRESSED,
BUT I WILL LEAD THEM
TO VICTORY!



WHO IS THIS 'APATHY'?
A WINGED HELL-BEAST
DEVOURING THE FIRST
BORN? A SORCERER, CAST
A SPELL OF MISERY OVER
THE LAND?

AAGH! I'VE GOT LATTE ALL
OVER MY LOUIS VUITTON!

WRITER: ALEX MUSSON
ARTIST: MIKE DONALDSON

We'll be back after these important messages...

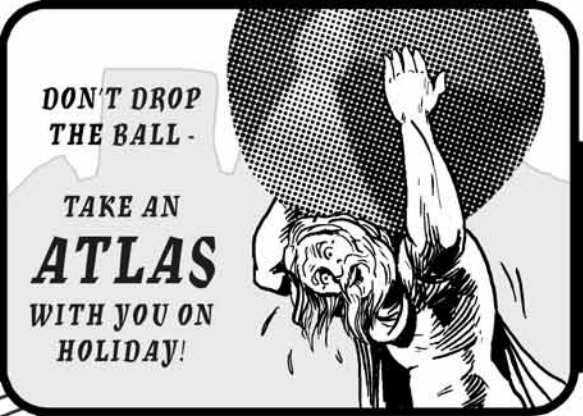
MYTH MANAGEMENT IS BROUGHT TO YOU BY...



Demon
INTERNET

Hellishly fast bandwidth for only £5.99 a month!*

*may require your eternal soul



DON'T DROP THE BALL -

TAKE AN **ATLAS** WITH YOU ON HOLIDAY!

IGNORING THE RIDICULOUS HISTORICAL HISTRIONICS, I ORDERED THE INTERLOPER TO DESIST.

HOLD IT, PERSEUS! I CAN ASSURE YOU THIS UMBRELLA IS FULLY LOADED!



LET ME BE A CONDUIT FOR

YOU CANNOT STOP ME, FOR I TAKE MY POWER FROM THE PEOPLE THEMSELVES!



THEIR RAGE!

THEIR PURPOSE!

THEIR RIGHTEOUS ANGER!

I SHALL... OH.



- IT SEEMS PERSEUS OVERESTIMATED THE PEOPLE'S 'RIGHTEOUS ANGER'.
- NOT SO OFTEN I GET SUCH AN EASY CASE.



BUT AT HEADQUARTERS THAT EVENING, I FOUND MYSELF SOMEWHAT RESTLESS.



WHATEVER HAPPENED TO OUR DUNKIRK SPIRIT? TO BRITISH DERRING-DO?

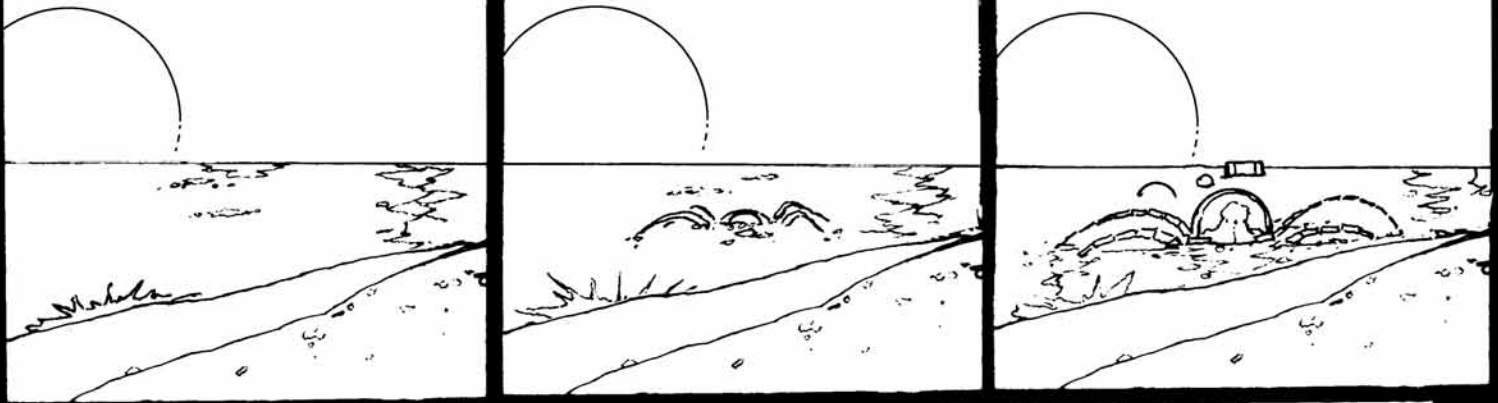
HAVE WE REALLY BECOME SO COMPLACENT? PERHAPS I SHOULD BE DOING SOMETHING ABOUT IT...



AH WELL, I'M SURE IT CAN WAIT UNTIL TOMORROW.

OUTER SPACE

SCRIPT: ARTHUR WYATT ART: ADRIAN BAMFORTH

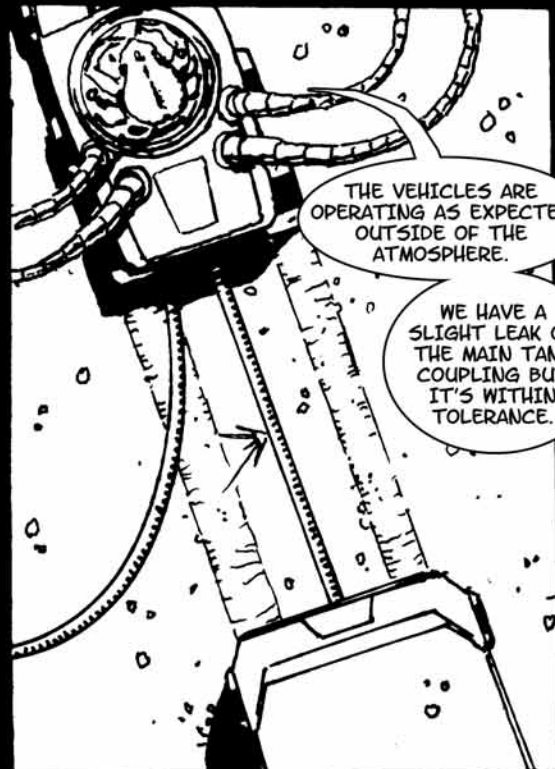


IN THE NAME OF PEACE AND PROGRESS I CLAIM THE POLAR PROMINENCE AND OUTER SPACE FOR THE WEST TRENCH PROTECTORATE.

MY GOD, IT'S MORE STRANGE AND BEAUTIFUL THAN I'D IMAGINED.

STAY FOCUSED, DOCTOR.

SYSTEMS CHECK?

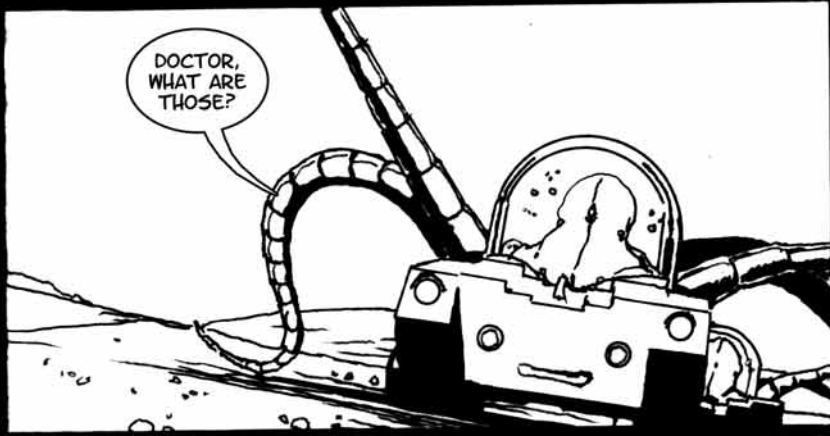


THE VEHICLES ARE OPERATING AS EXPECTED OUTSIDE OF THE ATMOSPHERE.

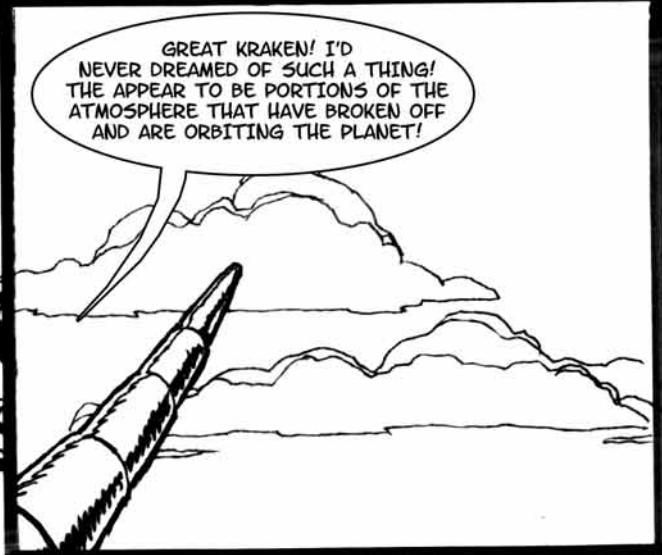
WE HAVE A SLIGHT LEAK ON THE MAIN TANK COUPLING BUT IT'S WITHIN TOLERANCE.

OK, LET'S GO!





DOCTOR,
WHAT ARE
THOSE?



GREAT KRAKEN! I'D
NEVER DREAMED OF SUCH A THING!
THE APPEAR TO BE PORTIONS OF THE
ATMOSPHERE THAT HAVE BROKEN OFF
AND ARE ORBITING THE PLANET!



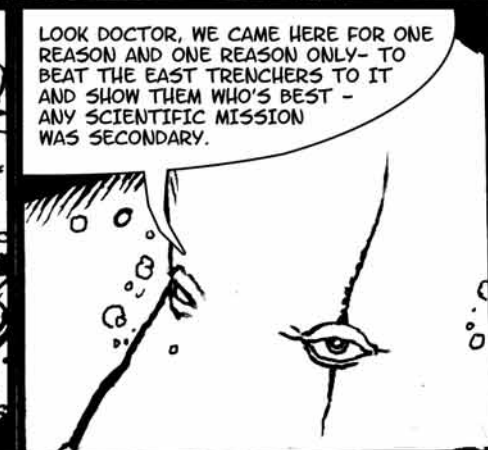
SIR, LOOKS
LIKE THE MAIN TANK
LEAKS GETTING
WORSE.



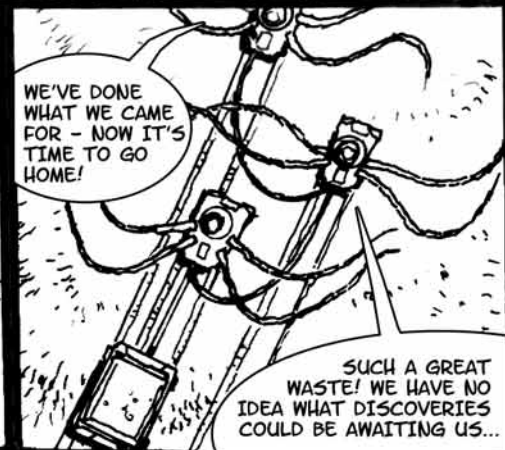
OK, TIME
TO WRAP THINGS
UP HERE.



CAN WE WAIT JUST A WHILE? I THINK
THESE MAY BE PRIMITIVE PLANTS.
SEE HOW WITHOUT AIR TO SUPPORT
THEM THEY CLING CLOSE
TO THE GROUND?



LOOK DOCTOR, WE CAME HERE FOR ONE
REASON AND ONE REASON ONLY- TO
BEAT THE EAST TRENCHERS TO IT
AND SHOW THEM WHO'S BEST -
ANY SCIENTIFIC MISSION
WAS SECONDARY.

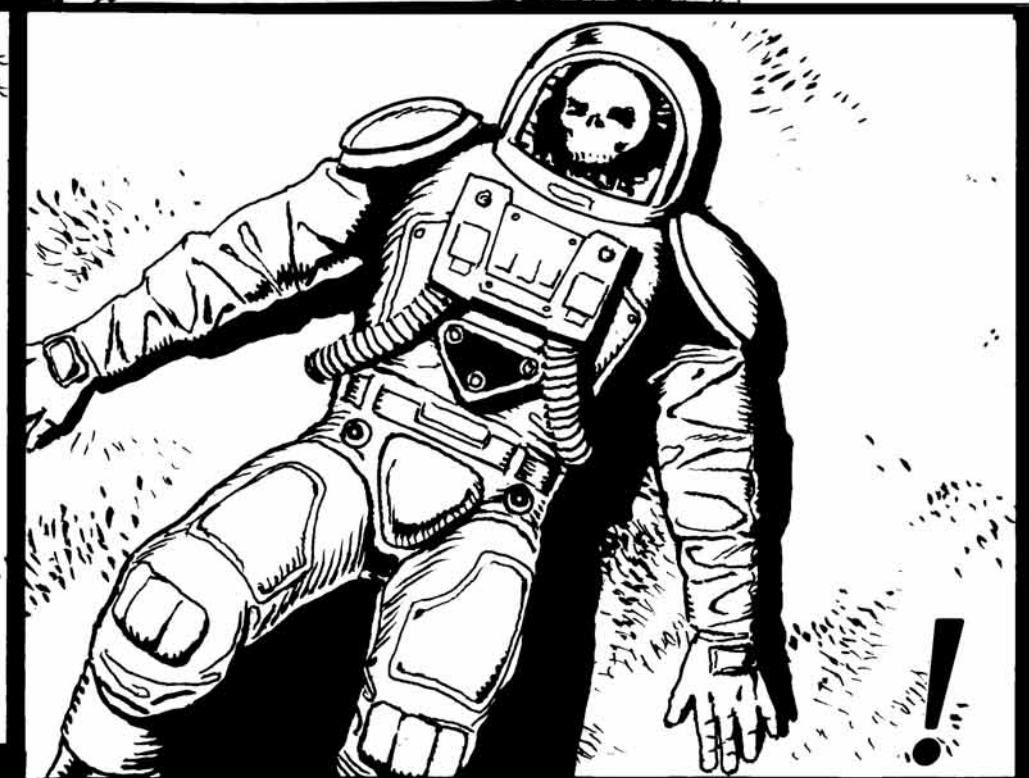


WE'VE DONE
WHAT WE CAME
FOR - NOW IT'S
TIME TO GO
HOME!

SUCH A GREAT
WASTE! WE HAVE NO
IDEA WHAT DISCOVERIES
COULD BE AWAITING US...



...JUST
OVER THOSE
HILLS.



**FUTURE
QUAKE**

AFTERSHOCKS

THE SHOCKING TALES OF THE PAST WHICH REVERBERATE TODAY...

Paul Scott, Solar Wind editor

Back in the early eighties, Eagle was relaunched as an action adventure comic for boys. While it kept Dan Dare, very little of what could be termed the original Eagle remained. This was a new comic, for a new generation of readers. One of its selling points was the photo strip, previously largely confined to the teen romance stories, here it was giving us Doomlord, Sgt. Streetwise and The Collector among others.

The Collector was the short story section, and the host of the tale, was an elderly, refined man who just so happened to collect oddments and items of interest. Each item had a story behind it. A grisly story.

'Profits of Doom' appeared in issue 12 and was written by Alan Moore, probably a contender in any short story poll. And while this story isn't perhaps my favourite amongst all the ones he did, it does particularly suit my own warped viewpoint.

A man enters a grubby comic shop, behind the counter is a grubby beady eyed manager. The man approaches and offers to sell his collection of old fifties comic 'Tomb of Torture'. The manager's eyes light up, they are worth a fortune, especially issue 27. He'd never even seen that one before.

Despite the customer explaining that he needs the money for his ill wife, he only receives a mere £20. The shop manager looks at his price guide, the comics are worth nearly £300, not including issue 27! He finds out that issue may have been printed towards the end of the comic's life, and is probably worth thousands.

Content with his deal, he sits down and decides to read the comic. It's quite scary even before he reaches the part where a man enters a grubby comic shop, and sells his comics to help his sick wife. The manager is even more alarmed when he sees his own picture in the comic.

He hears a noise at the door, investigates and finds nothing, but returns to be greeted by a (nicely painted) tentacle, which drags him into the comic, where he will reside with all the fiends and monsters. Silence. Then the door to the house is forced, and the customer enters. He picks up issue 27 of Tomb and Torture, and leaves, smiling. Justice has been done.

The Collector of course **paid** a fair price for his copy.

I enjoy it now as a fun tale, old comic sellers (with some honourable exceptions) seem to take an awful lot from comics, but put very little back. So sending the parasites into some form of comic hell, why it's almost too good for them. But as a child these stories were genuinely chilling. The characters in 'The Collector' stories regularly got their comeuppance for their ghastly behaviour.

So ask yourself. Did **you** pay a fair price for this comic?

Al Ewing, Writer

"I AM THE BRUTE THAT WALKS!" (Smilin' Stan & Jolly Jack, Journey Into mystery #65) Yeah, you BETTER run. Open on a gigantic half-troll, half-ape-looking bitch tearing up the city! "Run, fools! Flee for your lives! For no one can withstand my onslaught!" No shit! It's a living nightmare according to the narrator, and who can disagree with him especially as HE IS THE BRUTE! Yes! HOW did this amazing circumstance come to be? Well, he used to be a puny scientist worrying about his gal: "She doesn't respect me... she's ashamed of me... Sooner or later she's going to break off with me unless somehow I can become bigger and stronger!"

There's only one solution: "All the muscle building courses from here to Timbuktu couldn't build me up fast enough! But maybe I can find a way to concoct A GROWTH SERUM!" Because THAT WILL BE FASTER. Anyway, he mixes up a fat vial of Ribena in a mere 'several months' and then downs it instantly. The fool! "No -- NO! I wanted to be tall -- but not a GIANT -- not UGLY -- NOT LIKE THIS!!" A page later he's fine with it. "My size will make the very earth tremble! Behold me, humans! BEHOLD THE MONSTER MAN!" And then it's all "ha ha ha" and "little insects". Anyway, then he decides to do some stalking in the magnificent Marvel manner!

After lots of ruckus, kerfuffle and like that his girlfriend realises it's the second-last page and faints. "Now you will be MINE... mine FOREVER!" shouts a big hairy hand. But wait! "MY STRENGTH! It's ebbing away!" Yes, the serum was only temporary and our spindly stalker is back in human form ready to be locked up for destroying the entire city and stuff. Right? RIGHT?

Wrong. Behold the police reaction: "So you're a SCIENTIST, son! Well, if you don't want to tell us what kind of scientific device you used to destroy the monster, I guess you don't HAVE to!" He doesn't even have to lie. He just stands there. Meanwhile his girlfriend sighs "You'll be my hero forever!!" instead of "OMG you are the HYPER PERVERT". Our heroic sociopath proceeds to hurl paper into a blast furnace while screaming "I will destroy EVERYTHING, FOREVER!" in a frankly worrying last panel. The moral? "I should have known that in her wisdom, nature never permits ANYTHING evil to long endure!" APART FROM HIMSELF obviously. EXCELSIOR!!

“Each item had a story behind it. A grisly story...”

Our heroic sociopath proceeds to hurl paper into a blast furnace while screaming "I will destroy EVERYTHING, FOREVER!"

Si Fraiser, Artist

'Black Legacy' by Alan Moore and David Lloyd from the Dr Who Weekly circa 1980. The story scared me at the time and keeps coming back to me over the years since I read it. I only recently discovered it was by Alan Moore (though I should have guessed), David Lloyd was one of the first artists who's work I followed because of this story.

Ok, it wasn't a one-off strictly speaking, it was in 4 parts, but it was reprinted as a single story some years later, so I beg your indulgence on this point.

Cam Smith, Artist

The Muck Monster, from Warrens Eerie magazine 68... Anyone who's seen it will know why.

Probably the most beautifully drawn comic strip I've ever seen. Blew me away as a kid and blows me away as an adult. A lovely story so carefully crafted. Atmospheric, horrific but gentle and beautiful all at once. Intentional and accidental echoes of it have haunted my own work ever since.

Hell, I'm gonna have to dig it out again!

Gary Wilkinson, Writer

Although, unlike *2000AD*, *Starlord* was not exactly famous for its 'shocks' the one that really shat me up was by John Wager from that unfortunately short-lived comic called: 'Good Morning Sheldon, I love you!'

A bloke, 'Sheldon', gets to live in this house-of-the-future-like-place, that caters for his every need and has every luxury you can imagine (I particularly remember a VR-type thing where he has the best seats for the Cup Final). Everything in the house run by this computer. When Sheldon tries to leave the house the computer won't let him, electrifying the door... He tries to get away several times but he just can't get out. Eventually Sheldon breaks down sobbing. The house consoles Sheldon telling him it will look after him.... forever!

There's a time gap and we see the house getting Sheldon up in the morning, taking him into the shower etc... But with the final reveal we see it's actually a skeleton in a bath robe...AIIEEEEEE!!!!

Well it would probably seem pretty tame now, but when you are an impressionable nipper... I still shiver thinking about it and that final frame is burned forever into my cerebral cortex.

CREATORS

Adrian Bamforth

Adrian Bamforth is a commercial illustrator and neglected comic artist, drawing Sinister/Dexter and Judge Dredd for 2000ad to pass the time before global media domination with his own strip "Obese Cat" See his work online at www.adrianbamforth.co.uk

BOLT-01

Bolt-01 has been scribbling scripts for what seems like forever, and he has finally got a comic of his own out. He can be contacted at whistlerstrip@aol.com if you are interested.

Mike Donaldson

Mike Donaldson divides his time between lecturing in Art and Drama, writing absurd songs for his band HipSwitch, and drawing for various small press magazines. He is married to Sarah and has two sons.

PJ Holden

Working out of the basement of a senile ex-Nazi's house, PJ is drawing stuff for 2000AD. Currently, there is a warrant out for his arrest. His vanity requires a whole domain name, which is pauljholden.com

James Mackay

Too busy writing scripts to do comedy bios.

Alex Musson

Alex is the creator/editor of comedy magazine Mustard (mustardmag.org) and writer/performer of stand-up comedy and sketches. His fondness for forward-slashes extends to his website at alexmusson.com/ed. To evict Alex, phone 0800 555 5555. Calls cost 85p/min.

Matt Timson

"Not good enough for the front cover"

Tim Twelves

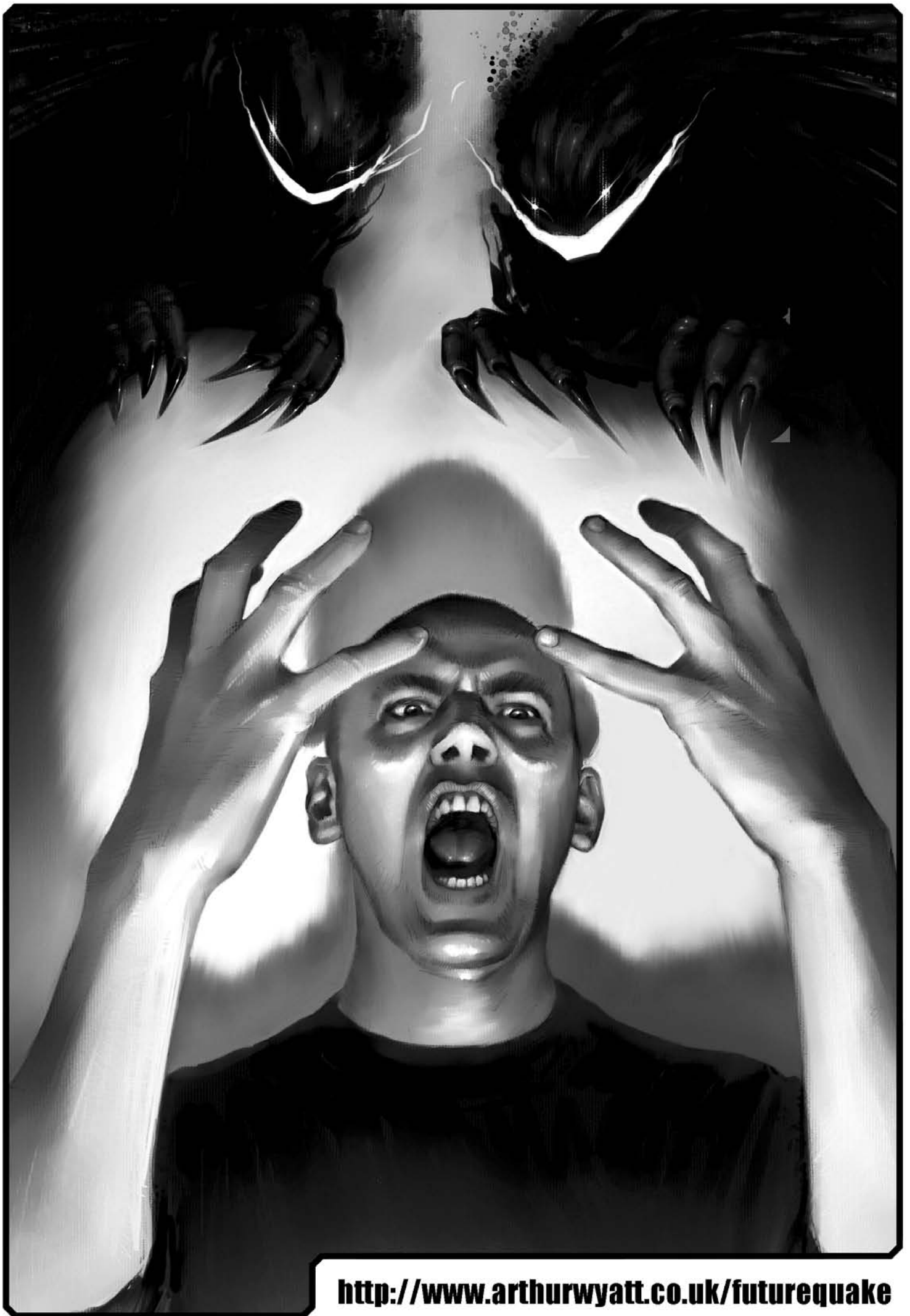
Tim Twelves lives in San Francisco, and presumably rides trams to the top of the hill then barrels down it in a fast car, like Steve McQueen in 'Bullet', ALL THE TIME.

Mark Wilson

Graphic designer and contributor to Solar Wind. Surprisingly doesn't actually smell of wee.

Arthur Wyatt

...is fleeing the country soon after the publication of FutureQuake 3, but will most likely return for next years comics conventions .



<http://www.arthurwyatt.co.uk/futurequake>