

APPEARING IN  
**MIRACULOUS CIRCUMSTANCES**  
FOUR UNIQUE ACTS

**HEAD IN A LION'S MOUTH**

WANDER THE MAGICAL MAZE WITH JAMES FORTEY  
ANIMAL TAMER EXTRAORDINAIRE AND FATHER OF THREE!

**THE WORLD IN FLAMES**

GAZE INTO MYOPIC ROBERT MOULDER'S CRYSTAL BALL  
ASTONISHING REVELATIONS!  
IS THERE LIFE AFTER THE TORY GOVERNMENT?

**TWELVE INCHES OF COLD STEEL**

MARTIN McCORRY SWORD SWALLOWER  
VERBAL THRUT AND CUST  
IN A DISPLAY OF DAZZLING DYSLEXIC DEXTERITY!

**TERRIFYING RISK TO LIFE AND LIMB**

THE ANONYMOUS GEOFF CHAMBERS—HUMAN CANNONBALL  
EXPULSED FROM THE EARTH'S BOWELS!

**GRAND PARADE**

BROUGHT TO YOU AT GREAT EXPENSE  
WONDERS OF MANY MINDS  
APPEARING HERE AND IN FUTURE ISSUES OF  
**MIRACULOUS CIRCUMSTANCES**

PREVIEW ISSUE

35p

**MIRACULOUS CIRCUMSTANCES**



INSIDE  
NUCLEAR HOLOCAUST!  
—WE GO INTO THE MAGGIEBUNKER!

TALES FROM OLDE LONDON

PLUS  
A NEW HERO WITH A DIFFERENCE!

# Editorial

## A Fishing Expedition

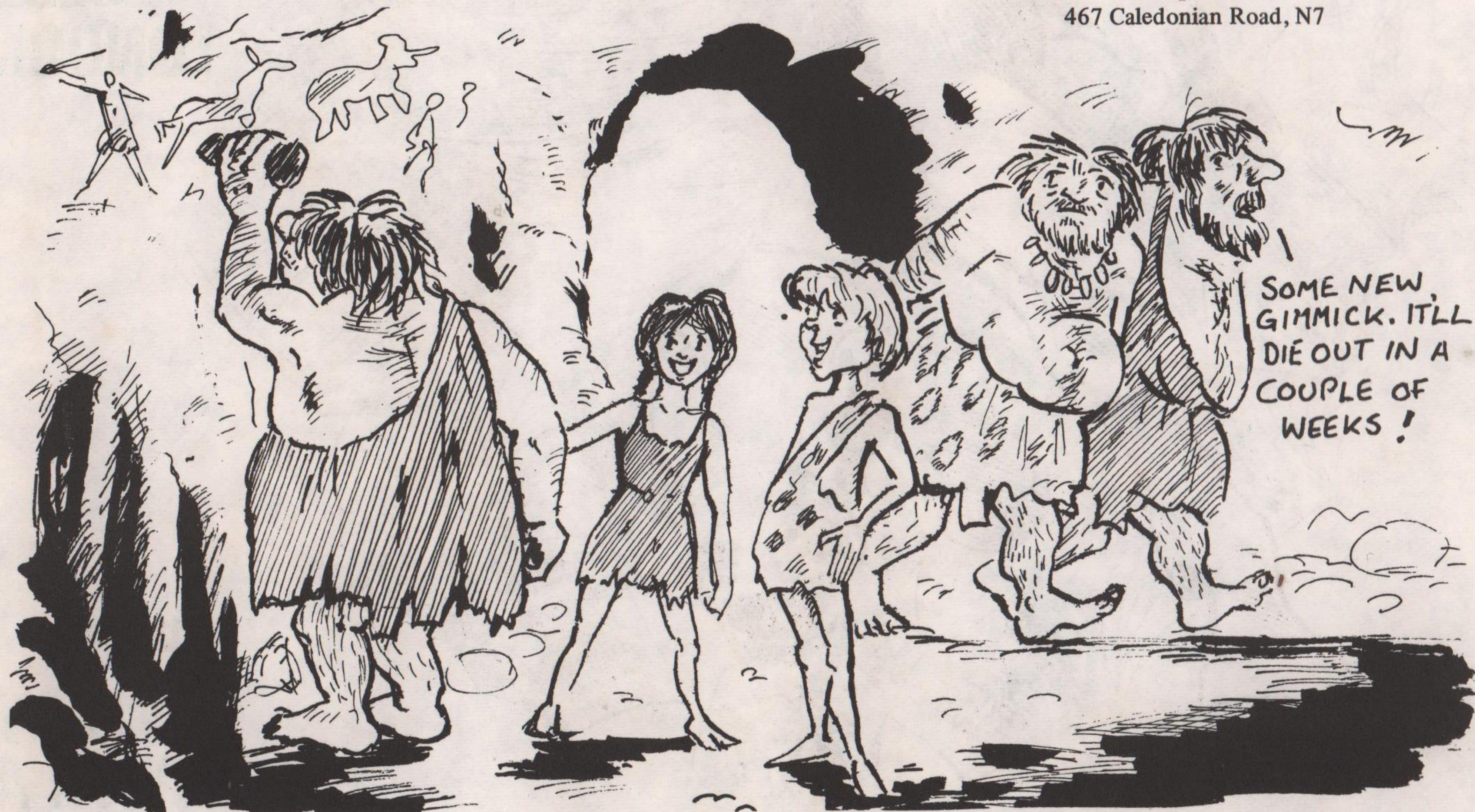
Why a special preview issue? The answer is that the people involved in the production of this magazine are indulging in a spot of fishing, and what they're hoping to land is you — the reader.

Miraculous Circumstances, originally conceived of over 18 months ago and named after an old Regency Broadsheet, is intended to be a regular 32 page strip cartoon magazine. Bi-monthly to start with (the eventual aim is to produce a montly magazine) it will be produced and published by the writers and artists collectively and will feature at least two extended serial strips each issue. Take a look at the special preview pages and you'll see the high quality of work that we plan to bring you in future issues. Whether these strips, plotted and drawn with meticulous and loving care, reach the audience we think they deserve, depends entirely on that most important ingredient of any magazine; its readership.

The economics of small publications are horrifying: 2/3 of the cover prices goes on distribution alone, so if you subscribe, our share of the cover price soars. A profit which we can then put back into providing a bigger, better magazine. Our success depends, not on persuading you to buy this publication at your local newsagent, but in getting you to subscribe direct.

To give you a taste of things to come and because we want to get everything right from the start, we asked some of the writers and artists involved to come up with some one off strips, which together with our preview pages make up this low priced 16 page sampler. If you like what you see, write and let us know. If you have any criticisms write and tell us while we still have time to do something about it. All your letters will be welcomed; we might not be able to reply to every one personally, but you will have our sincere gratitude.

Miraculous Circumstances will not be one of those magazines that appear only to disappear almost instantaneously; too much hard work has gone into it for us to allow that to happen. The original M.C. lasted for exactly one issue back in the 1820's. We intend to do a whole lot better than that and you can help by subscribing NOW! Have we got you hooked yet? Read the magazine carefully and then let us know. We'll still be sitting here, fishing.



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- 13-15 The Witch Hunt — Bob Moulder

## Subscriptions

At the moment we have fixed neither a price nor a date for our next issue. We will, however, retail it to subscribers for not more than 60p. If you are interested send us a cheque/postal order made payable to Luddite Enterprises for the above amount. If we can make Miraculous Circumstances any cheaper we will refund the difference.

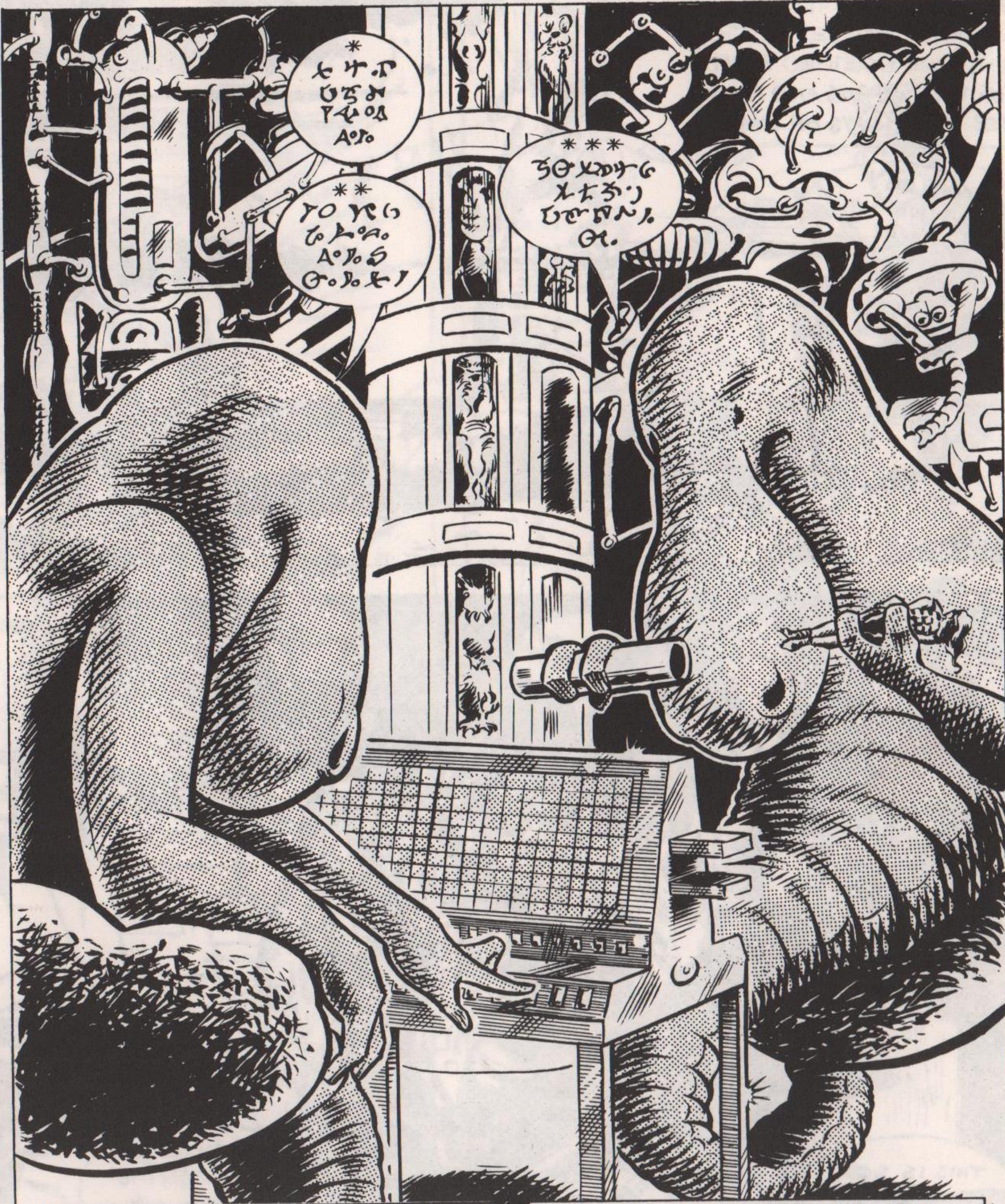
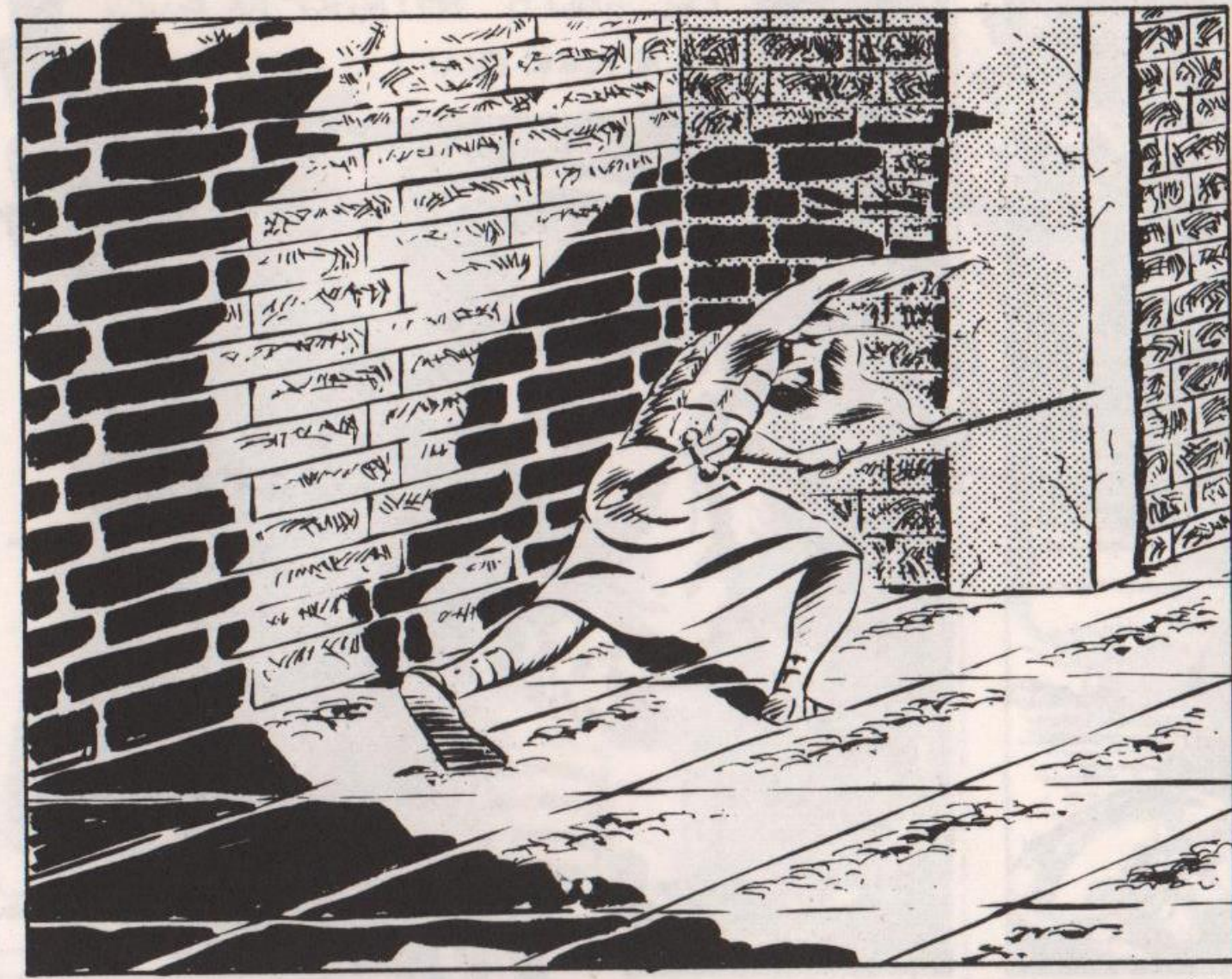
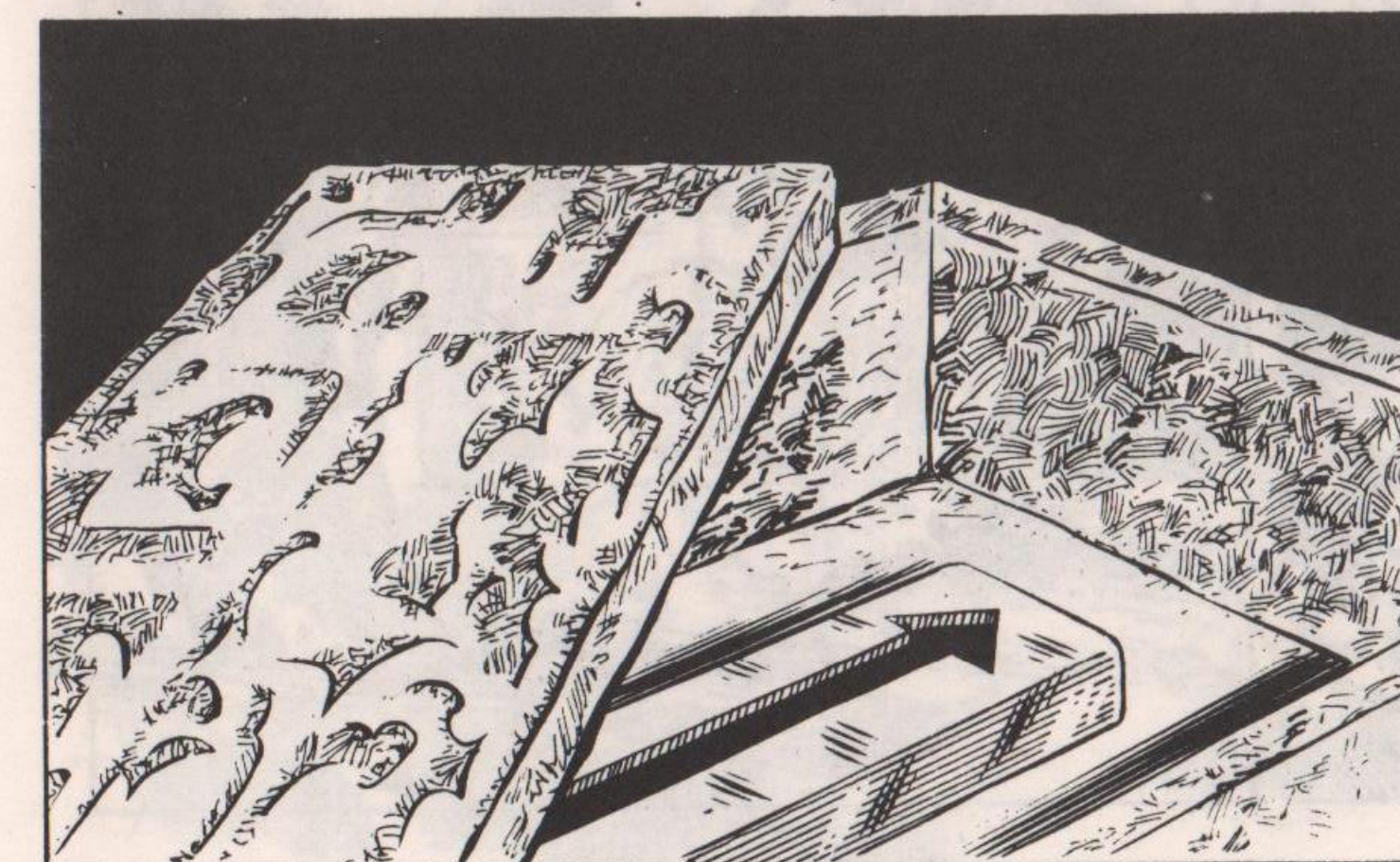
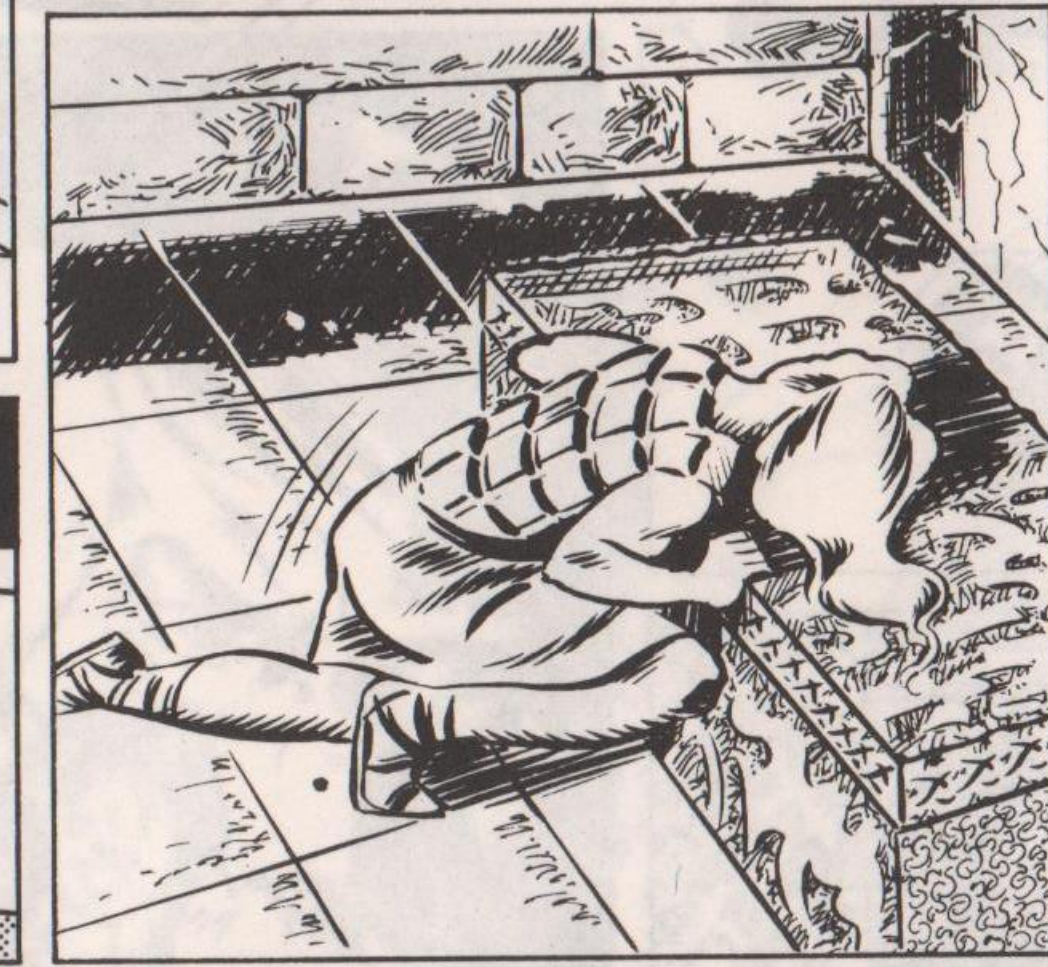
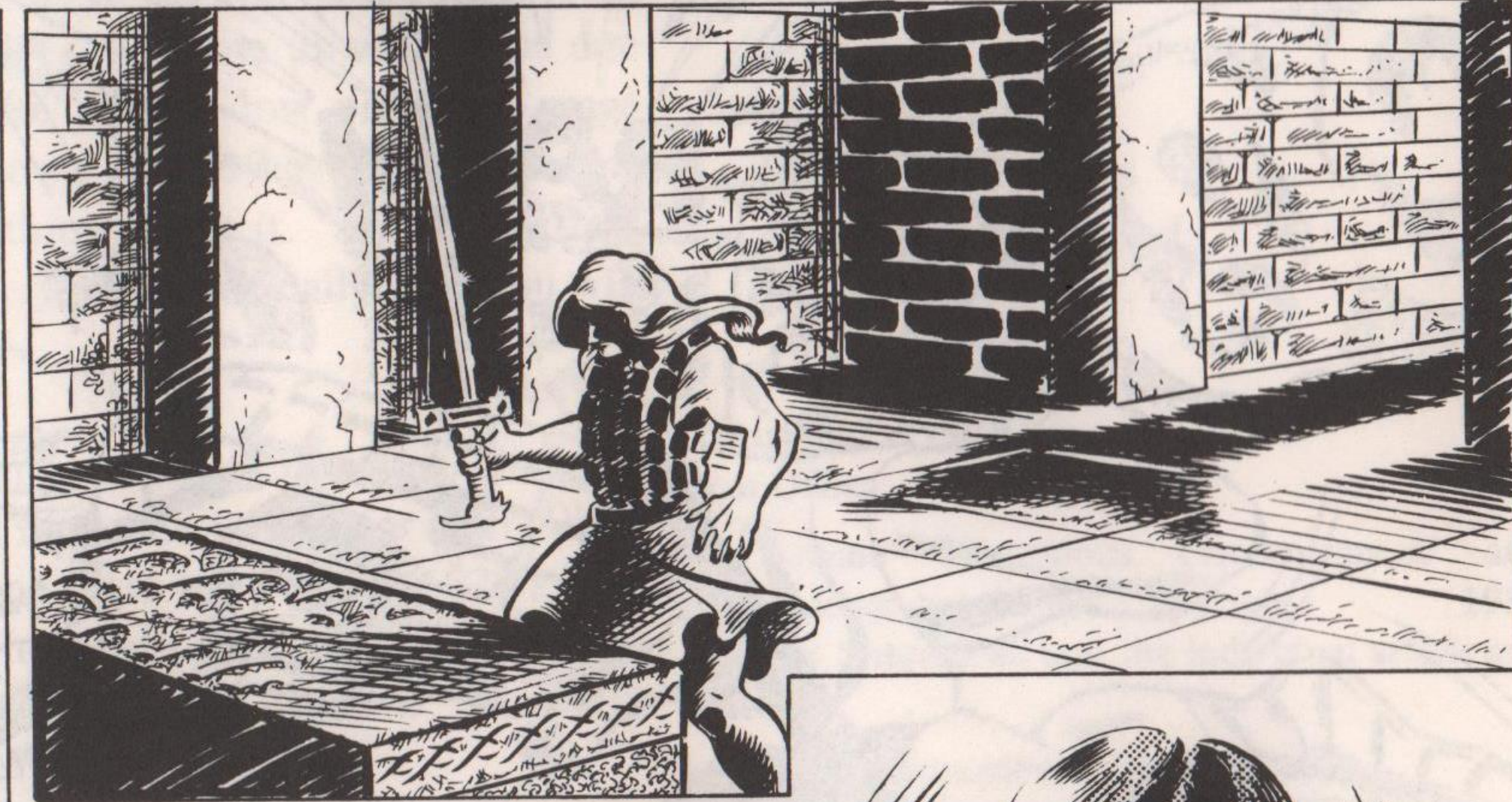
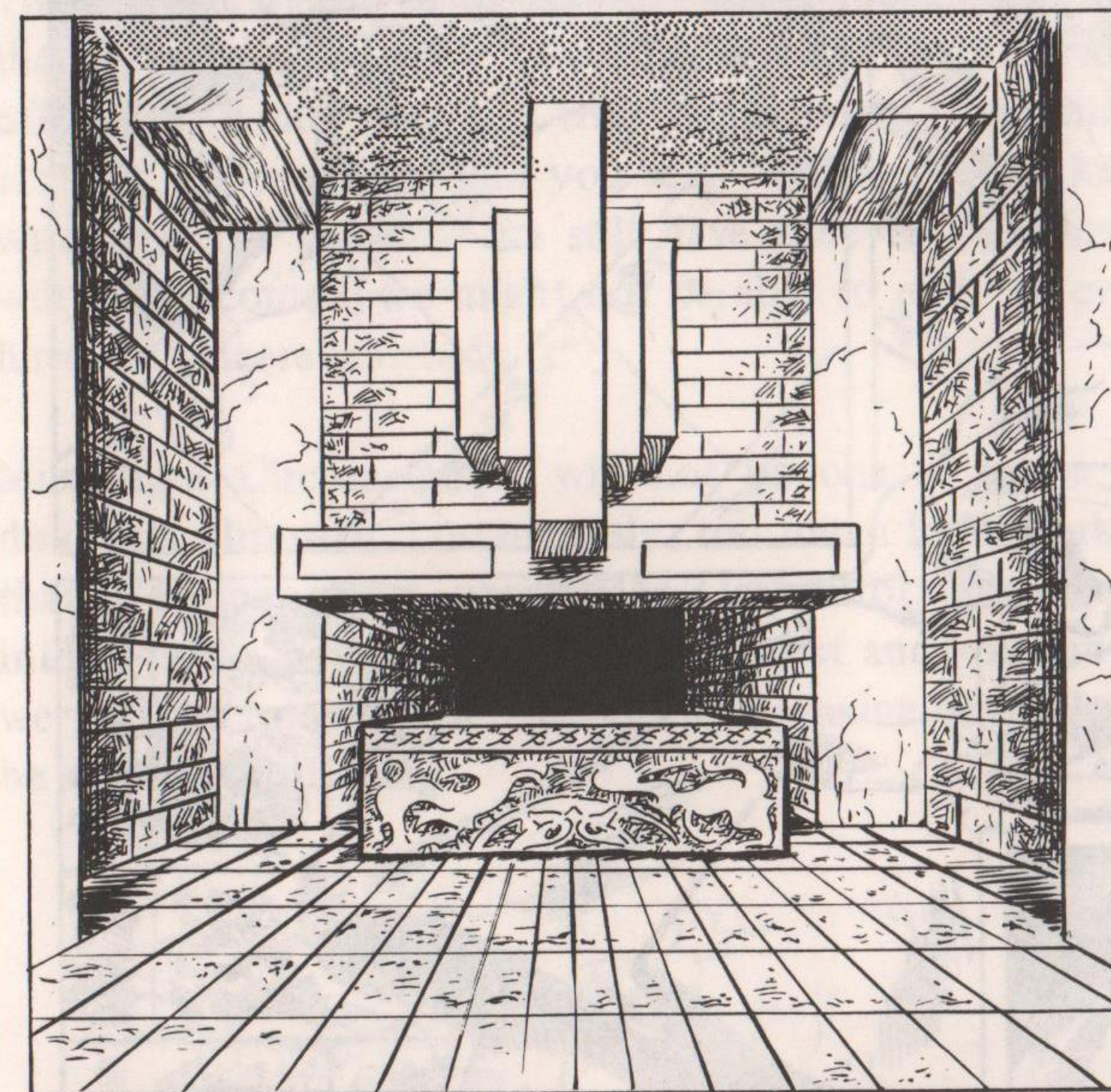
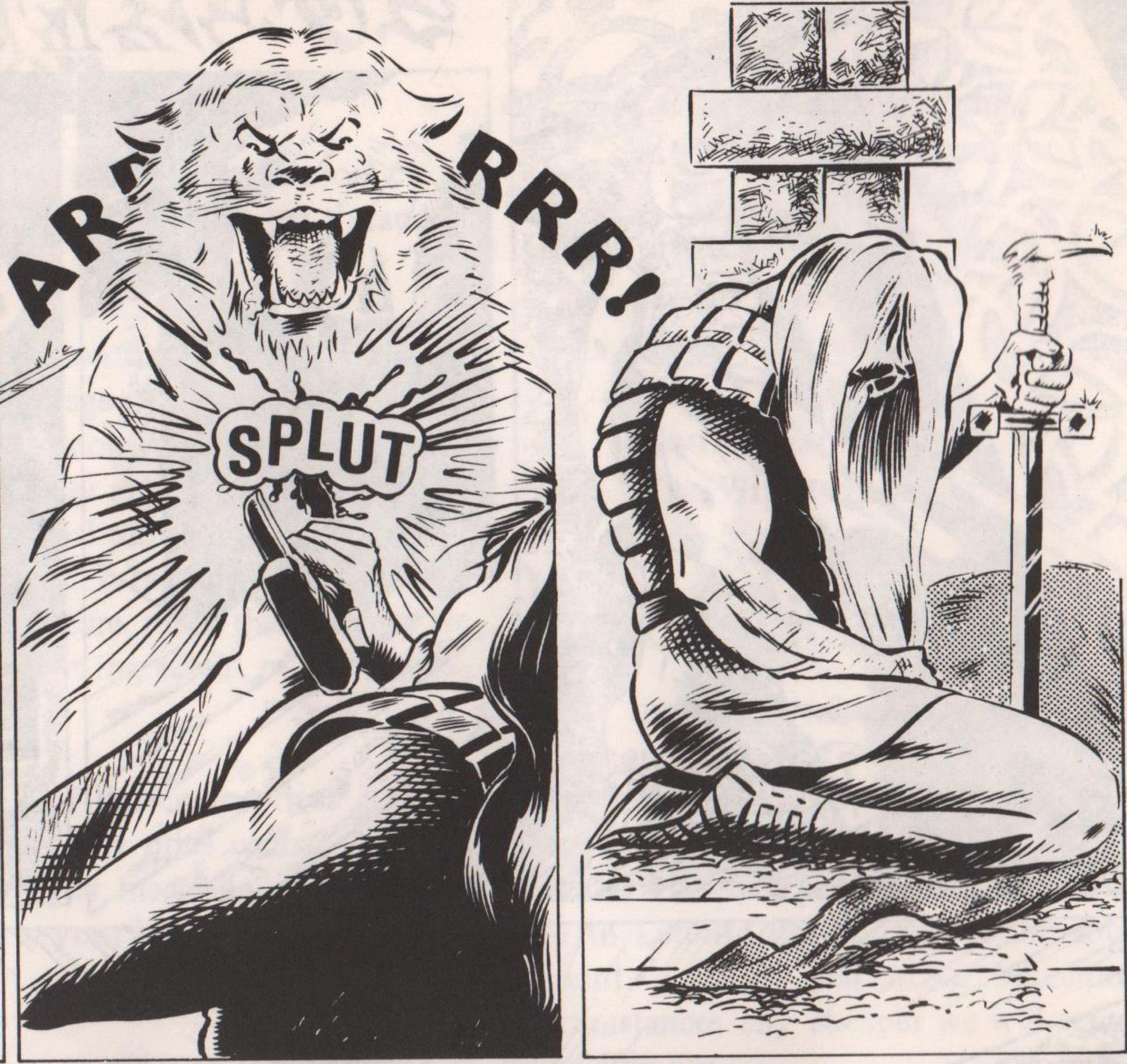
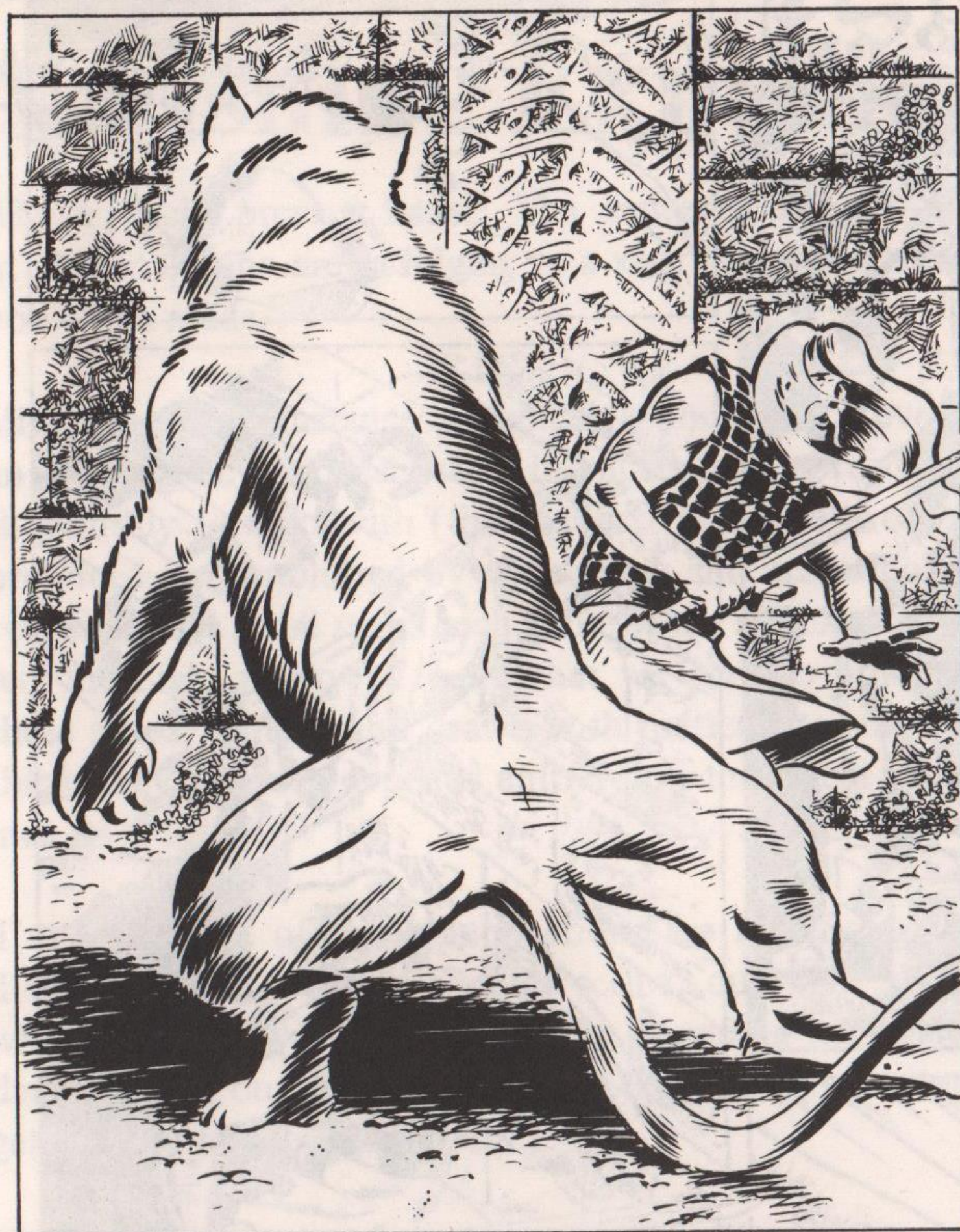
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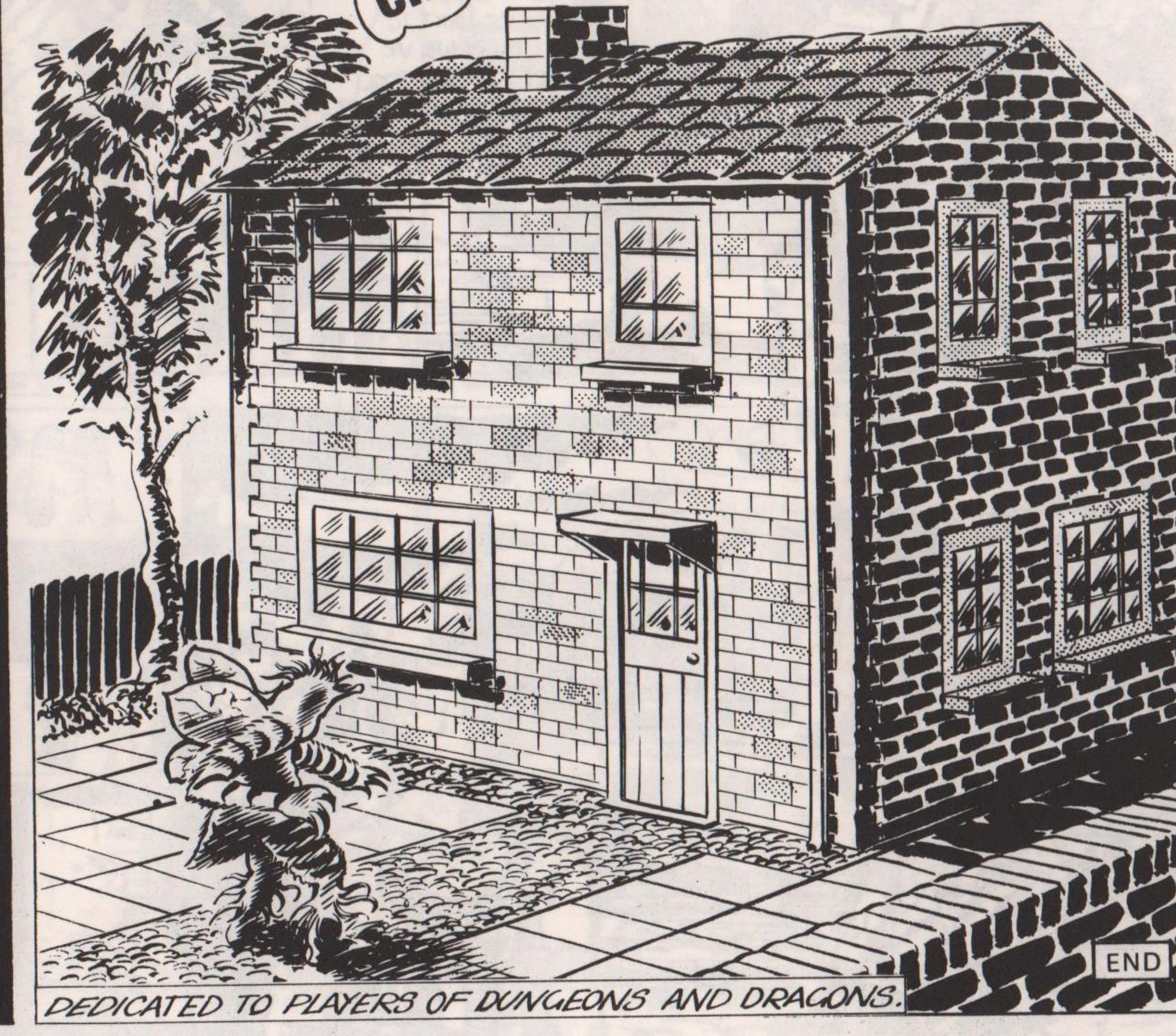


I DO ENJOY THESE FANTASY ROLE PLAYING GAMES - BUT I WISH MY CHARACTERS WEREN'T KILLED SO OFTEN. \*

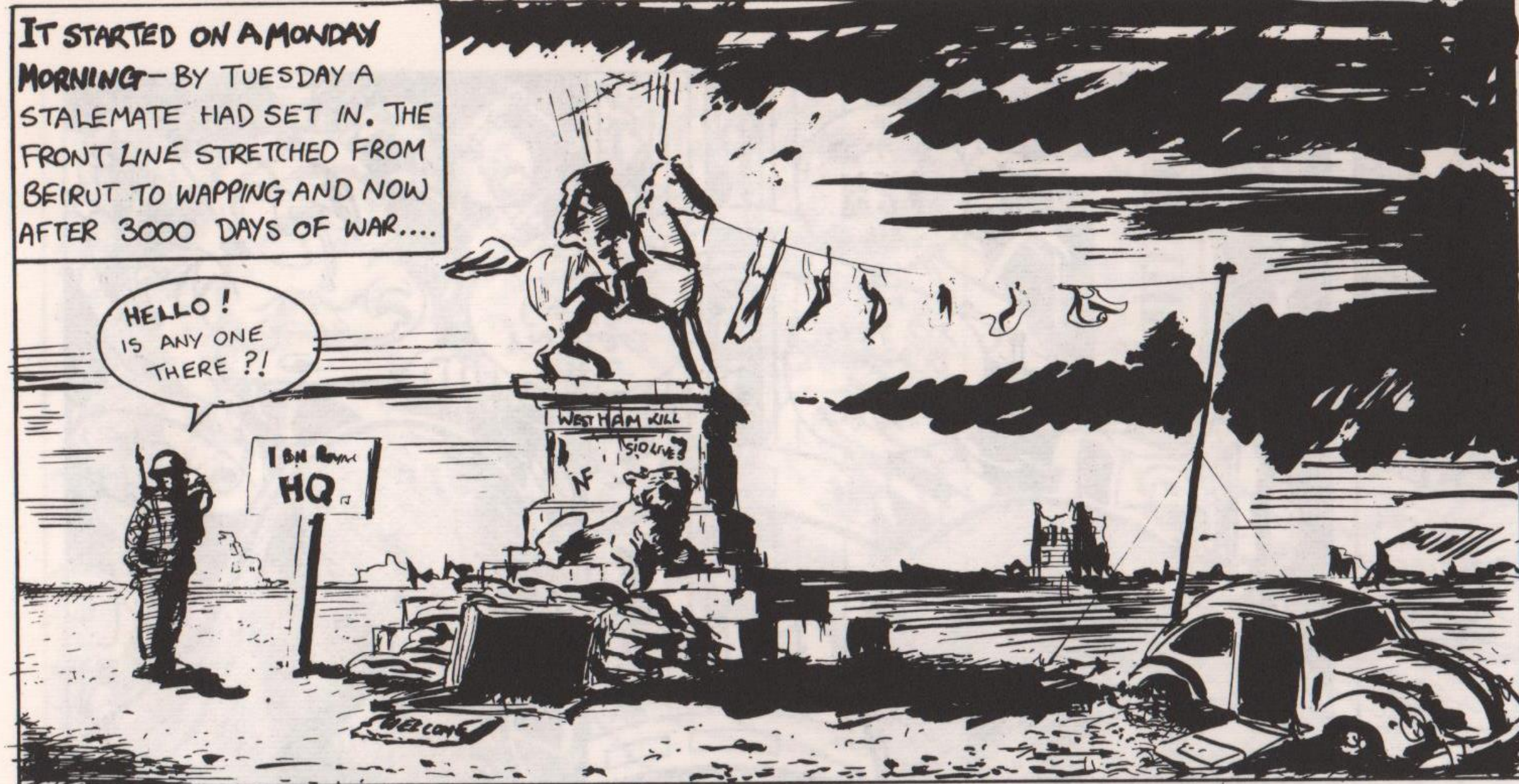
WELL IF YOU WILL INSIST ON USING THESE EXOTIC HUMAN TYPES - GIVE ME A RIGELLIAN MOTHMAN ANY DAY, ANYWAY YOUR TURN TO BE LABYRINTH-KEEPER, I SUPPOSE IT'S ANOTHER OF YOUR BIZARRE SET UPS? \*\*

I'M AFRAID IT IS A TRIFLE 'EXOTIC,' LET'S SEE WHAT YOUR MOTHMAN MAKES OF THIS... \*\*

click



DEDICATED TO PLAYERS OF DUNGEONS AND DRAGONS.



IT STARTED ON A MONDAY MORNING - BY TUESDAY A STALEMATE HAD SET IN, THE FRONT LINE STRETCHED FROM BEIRUT TO WAPPING AND NOW AFTER 3000 DAYS OF WAR....

HELLO!  
IS ANY ONE  
THERE?!



JUST ONE PINT TODAY PLE...  
OH HALLO YOU MUST BE FINCH  
OUR NEW CHAP! ... COME IN!



IT'S BEEN PRETTY  
QUIET HERE LATELY  
... NOT BEEN MUCH  
ACTION ...



Я ПОДА  
ЕШАЯ \*!!



BANG!!  
BANG! BANG!  
BANG!



HI MAN!

SARGE!

AND I'M CAPTAIN  
CHIPPERHAM, THE  
O.C. HERE .....



DUMP YOUR STUFF!  
I'LL SHOW YOU ROUND  
THE POST .....



RIGHT! SPACE INVADERS  
ARE OVER THERE NEXT TO  
THE DISCO... THEN WE'VE  
GOT THE BAR AND THE POOL  
HALL OVER HERE NEXT TO  
THE SEX SHOP... COME!  
I'LL TAKE YOU OVER TO THE  
STORES .....



AH Q.M. THIS IS  
FINCH... HOW ARE  
THINGS GOING?

WELL STILL  
NO SIGN OF THAT  
NEW ABBA ALBUM  
YET SIR.....



WASN'T THAT  
AN ENEMY SOLDIER  
SIR? WHY DIDNT  
YOU SHOOT HIM?

OH WE ONLY  
PRETEND TO SHOOT ONE  
ANOTHER NOW - THERE'D BE  
NO ONE LEFT ALIVE BY NOW  
OTHERWISE, THAT WAS ONLY  
BORIS ANYWAY....



NO FINCH,  
IT'S UP TO US TO  
KEEP THIS WAR  
GOING TILL THE  
POLITICIANS, CAN  
DECIDE WHOSE WON  
IT... ER EXCUSE  
ME....

DRRRING  
DRING DRING



CHIPPERHAM  
SPEAKING...  
... YES... YES  
... GREAT!

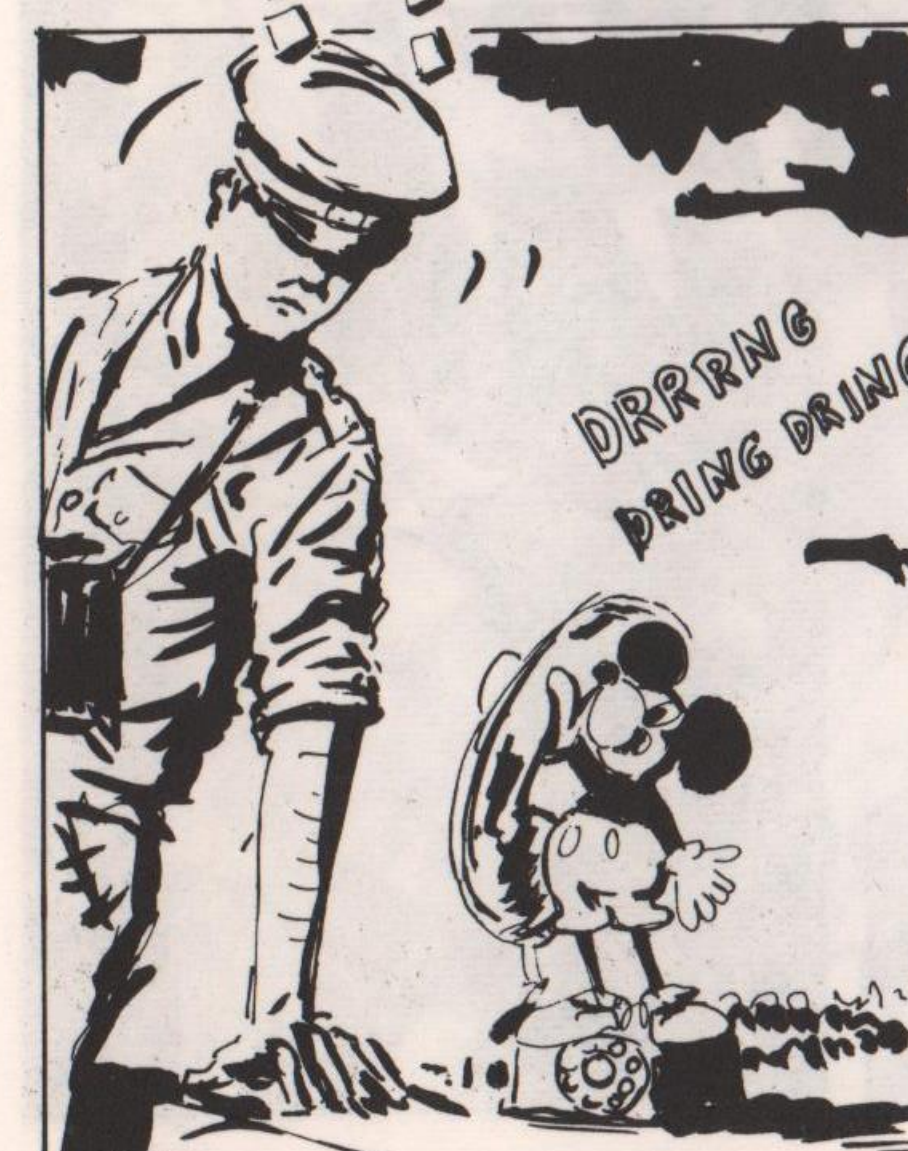


GOOD NEWS  
CHAPS!.....  
WORLD WAR III  
IS OVER!



MCDONALDS  
ARMY CATERING

OK I'LL  
CHASE IT UP.....  
AH FANCY A BURGER  
FINCH... PIZZAS ARE  
NEXT TO THE PUB



DRRRING  
DRING DRING



CHIPPERHAM...  
YES... YES... WHAT!  
WORLD WAR FOUR  
HAS JUST STARTED



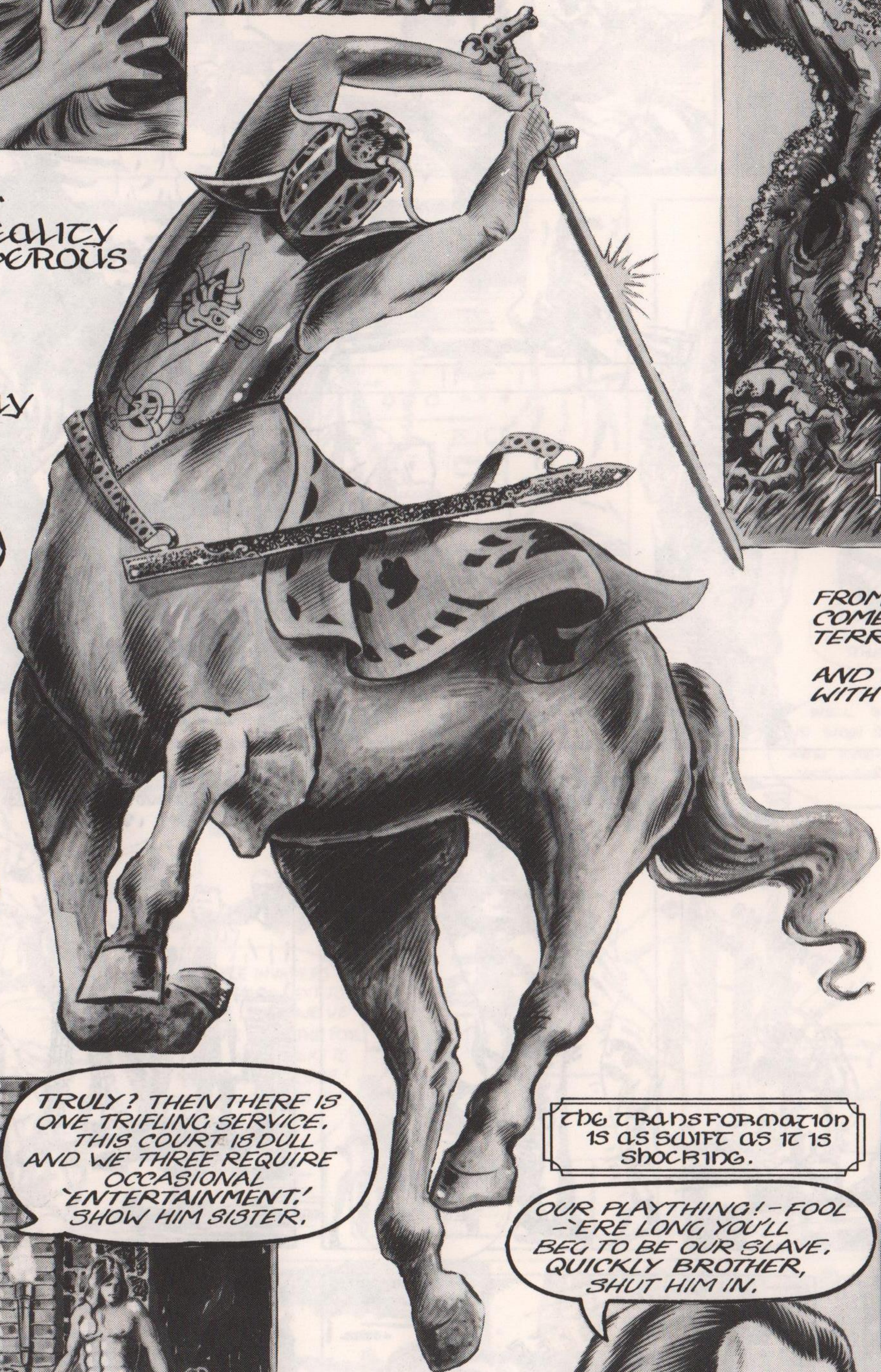
CRUMP!



A WORLD OF HARSH REALITY AND DANGEROUS DREAMS

Where legend is a way of life

BY JIM FORTEY AND MARTIN MCGRORY



TOO OLD TO FIGHT, I CAN DO NO MORE... NOW YOU MUST SAVE MY DOUGHTER!

with these words the old man expires.

FROM A NEW CREATIVE TEAM COMES A NEW AND TERRIFYING LAND AND A HERO WITH A DIFFERENCE!

OVER TWO YEARS IN THE MAKING, AT LAST THE SAGA BEGINS IN ISSUE ONE OF MIRACULOUS CIRCUMSTANCES ON SALE SOON



TRULY? THEN THERE IS ONE TRIFLING SERVICE, THIS COURT IS DULL AND WE THREE REQUIRE OCCASIONAL 'ENTERTAINMENT.' SHOW HIM SISTER.

THE TRANSFORMATION IS AS SWIFT AS IT IS SHOCKING.

OUR PLAYTHING! - FOOL - HERE LONG YOU'LL BEG TO BE OUR SLAVE, QUICKLY BROTHER, SHUT HIM IN.



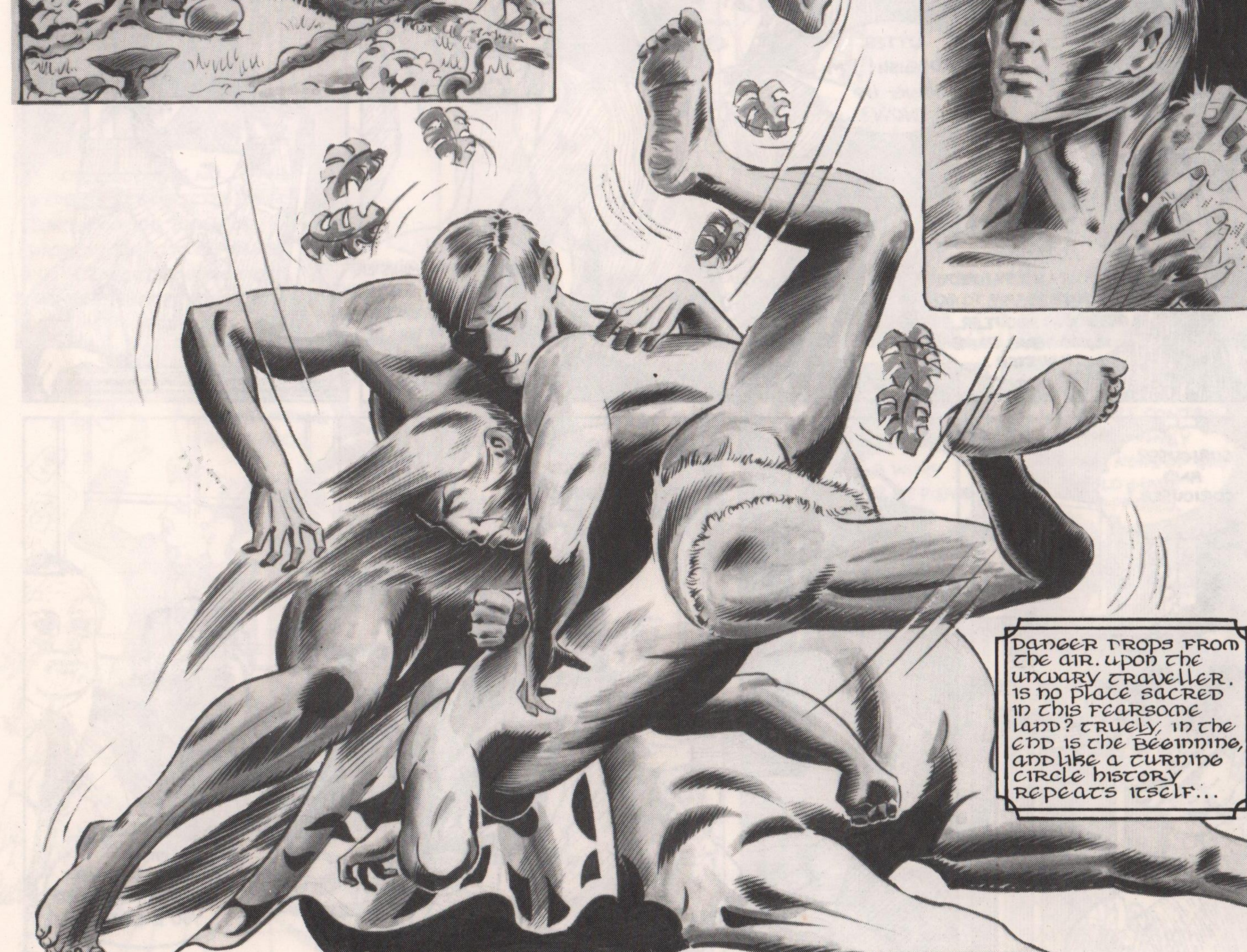
SHCEEEEEEC!!



THE TREE STANDS: A MUTE MONUMENT TO THE OLD MAN'S SPIRIT. IT IS A PLACE OF BITTER MEMORIES, HAUNTED BY REGRET FOR WHAT HAS PASSED.

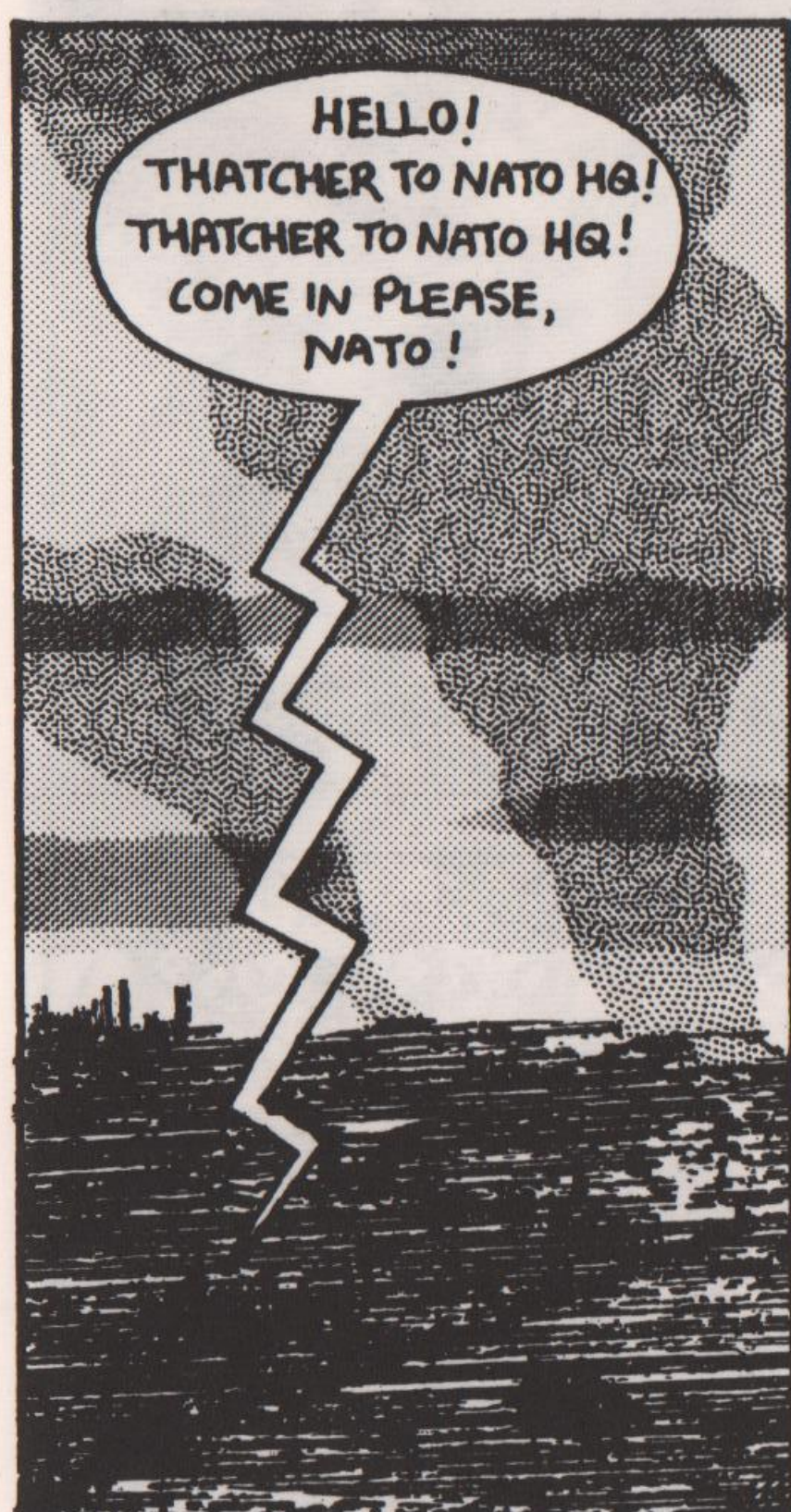


now haunted also by the more tangible present.



DANGER DROPS FROM THE AIR. UPON THE UNDAARY TRAVELLER. IS NO PLACE SACRED IN THIS FEARSOME LAND? TRULY, IN THE END IS THE BEGINNING, AND LIKE A TURNING CIRCLE HISTORY REPEATS ITSELF...

more thrilling tales of world war three



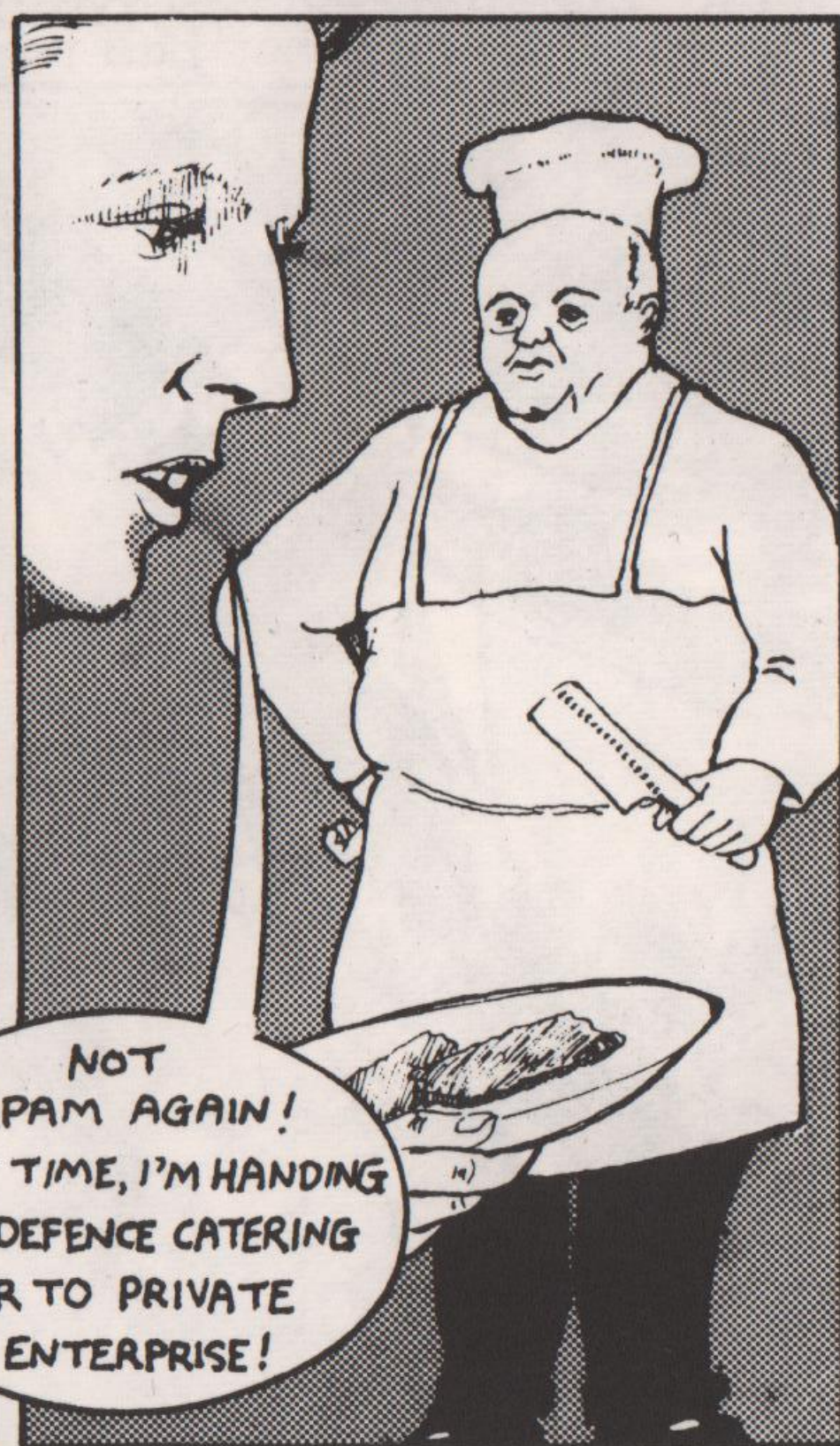
HELLO!  
THATCHER TO NATO HQ!  
THATCHER TO NATO HQ!  
COME IN PLEASE,  
NATO!



THEY'RE  
NOT ANSWERING  
GEOFFREY. MUST BE  
SOMETHING WRONG  
WITH THE LINE TO  
BRUSSELS.

NEVER  
MIND PRIME MINISTER.  
COME AND HAVE SOME  
BREAKFAST.

NOT  
SPAM AGAIN!  
NEXT TIME, I'M HANDING  
CIVIL DEFENCE CATERING  
OVER TO PRIVATE  
ENTERPRISE!



WHAT'S  
IT LIKE OUTSIDE  
TODAY KEITH?



UTTER  
RUBBISH! I'M  
GOING UP  
NOW!

NO! NO!  
PLEASE PRIME MINISTER!  
AT LEAST WAIT UNTIL  
NEXT MONTH, WHEN THE  
RADIOACTIVITY WILL BE  
DOWN TO SINGLE  
FIGURES!



STRANGE...  
I CAN'T SEE  
ANY SIGN OF  
BOMB DAMAGE

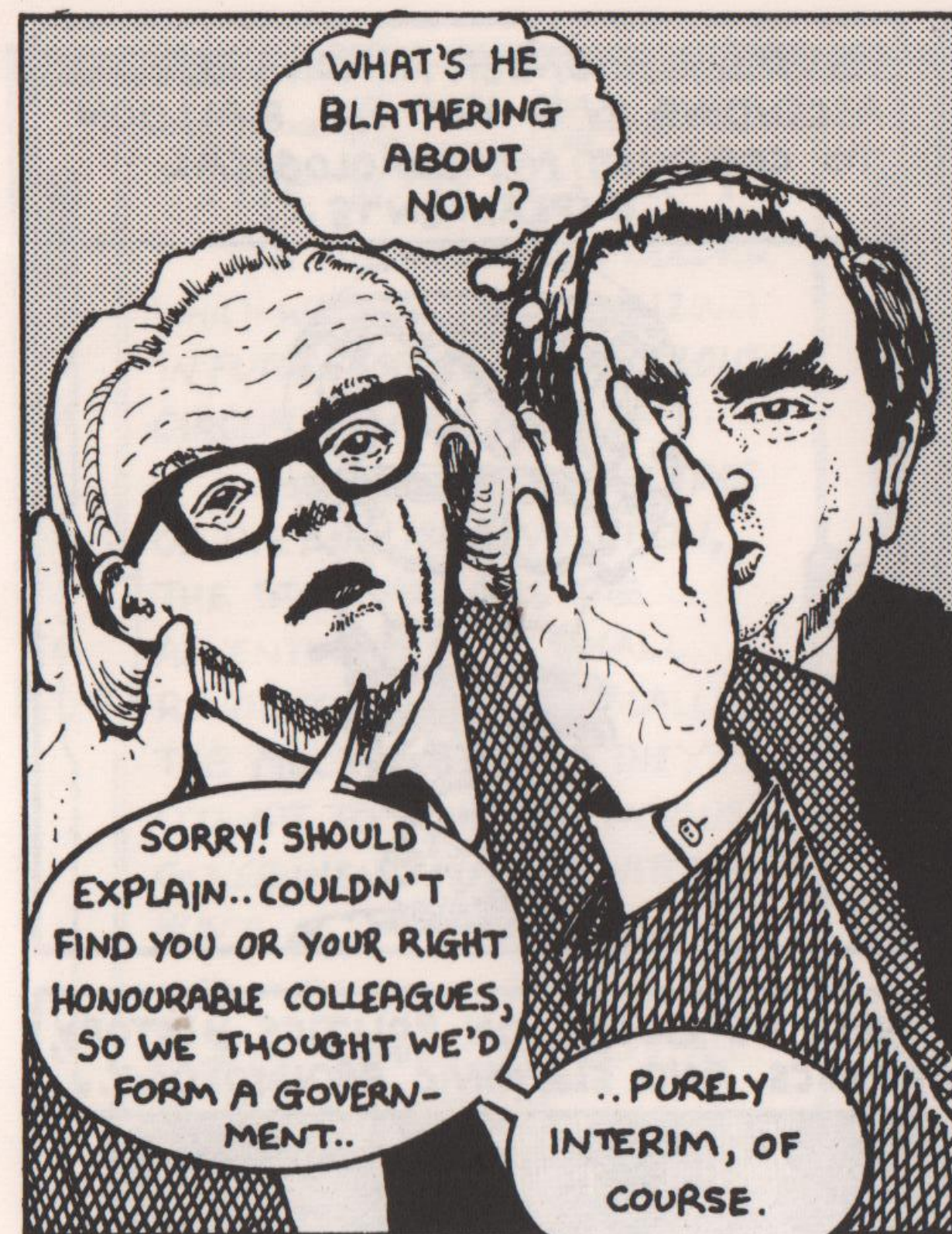


CURIOUSER  
AND  
CURIOUSER!



AND  
WHAT DO YOU  
THINK YOU'RE  
PLAYING AT  
MICHAEL?

OH,  
HELLO... WE WERE  
WONDERING WHERE  
YOU'D GOT TO



WHAT'S HE  
BLATHERING  
ABOUT  
NOW?

SORRY! SHOULD  
EXPLAIN... COULDN'T  
FIND YOU OR YOUR RIGHT  
HONOURABLE COLLEAGUES,  
SO WE THOUGHT WE'D  
FORM A GOVERN-  
MENT..

..PURELY  
INTERIM, OF  
COURSE.

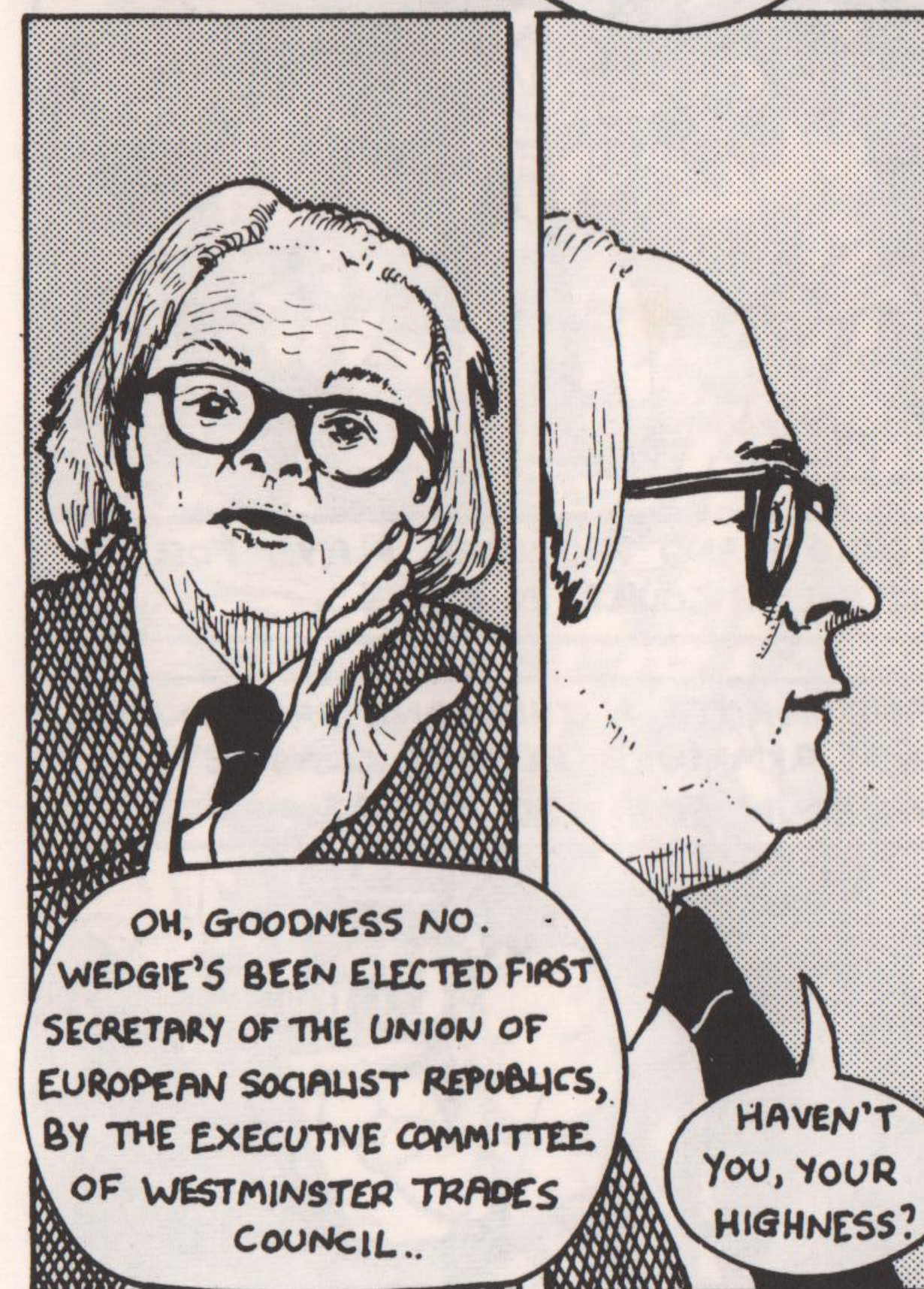


.. BUT THE  
BOMB!! WHAT  
ABOUT THE  
BOMB??



CALLED OFF! SCRATCHED  
FROM THE CALENDAR! WEDGIE  
HERE GOT ON TO HIS FRIENDS  
IN THE KGB AND SORTED  
IT OUT IN NO TIME!

.. AND  
YOU MADE THAT..  
..THING.. PRIME  
MINISTER?



OH, GOODNESS NO.  
WEDGIE'S BEEN ELECTED FIRST  
SECRETARY OF THE UNION OF  
EUROPEAN SOCIALIST REPUBLICS,  
BY THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE  
OF WESTMINSTER TRADES  
COUNCIL..

HAVEN'T  
YOU, YOUR  
HIGHNESS?



- BY 43  
MILLION VOTES  
TO NIL, WITH NO  
ABSTENTIONS.



GREETINGS  
SISTER! MAY WE  
PRESENT OUR LORD HIGH  
COMRADES, EARL ARTHUR  
OF BARNSELY, BARON REG  
OF WOOD GREEN, AND  
KEN, DUKE OF  
PADDINGTON.



'OW DO?

EVENIN'

WOTCHA



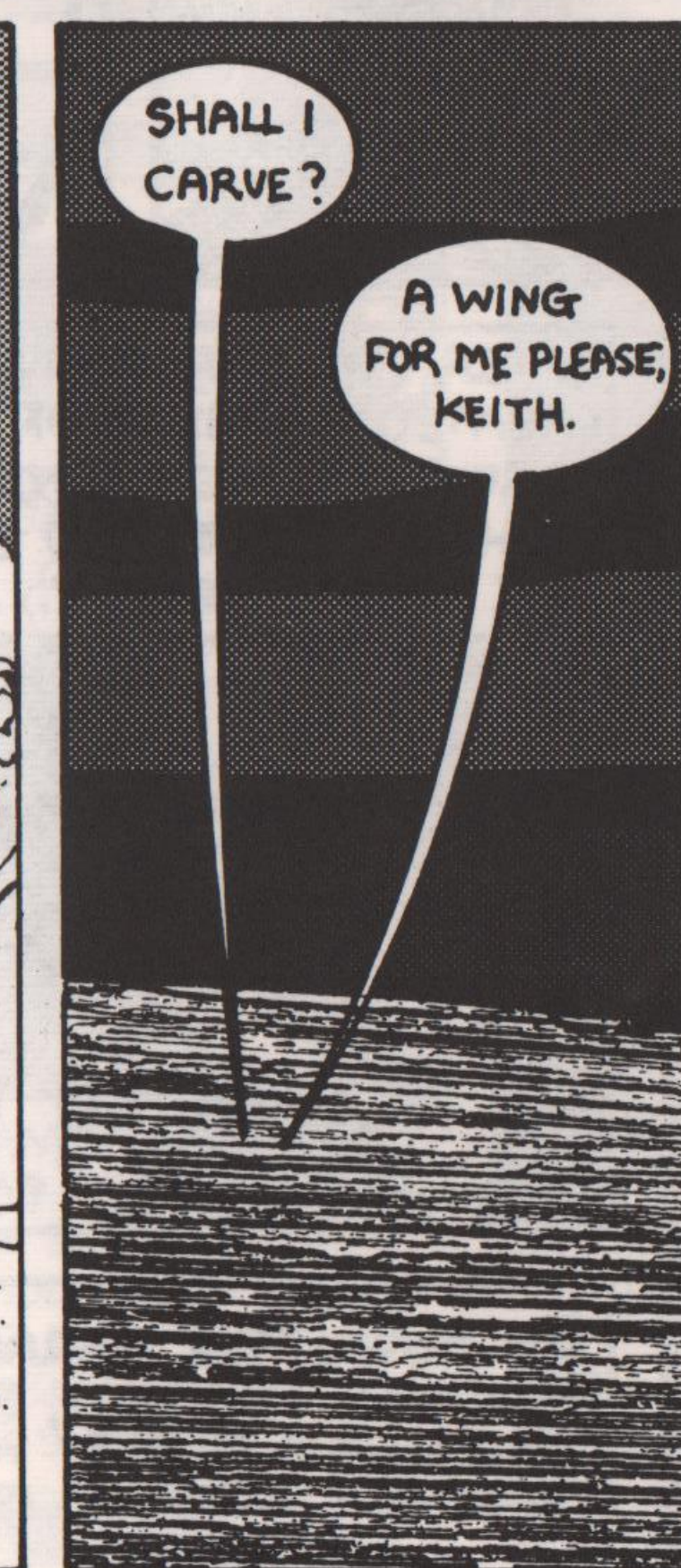
WHY,  
YOU'RE NOTHING  
BUT A PACK  
OF..

SHE'S  
DELIRIOUS

IT  
WON'T BE  
LONG  
NOW!

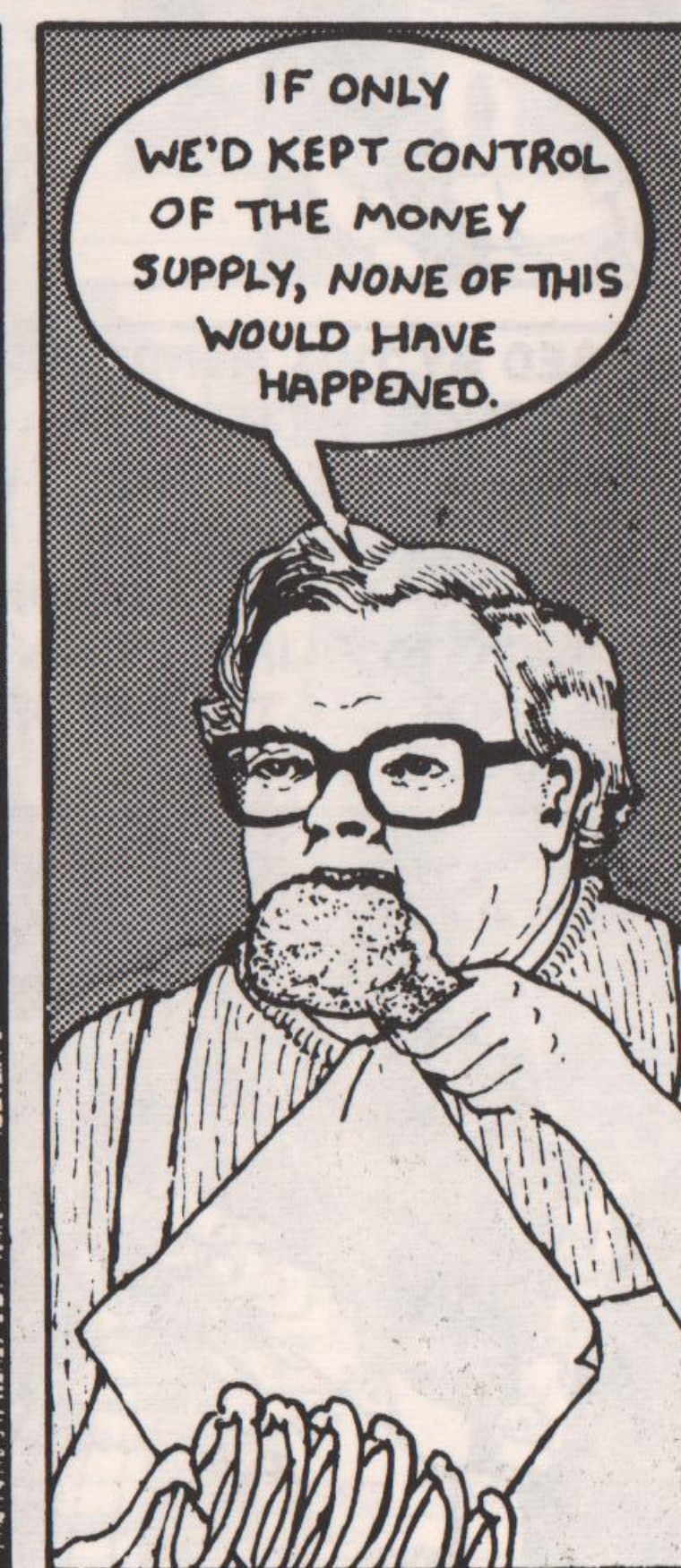
THAT'S  
THE LAST OF  
THE SPAM.

PUT  
THE OVEN ON  
WILLY.



SHALL I  
CARVE?

A WING  
FOR ME PLEASE,  
KEITH.



IF ONLY  
WE'D KEPT CONTROL  
OF THE MONEY  
SUPPLY, NONE OF THIS  
WOULD HAVE  
HAPPENED.

**Count Jan Potocki (1761-1815)**



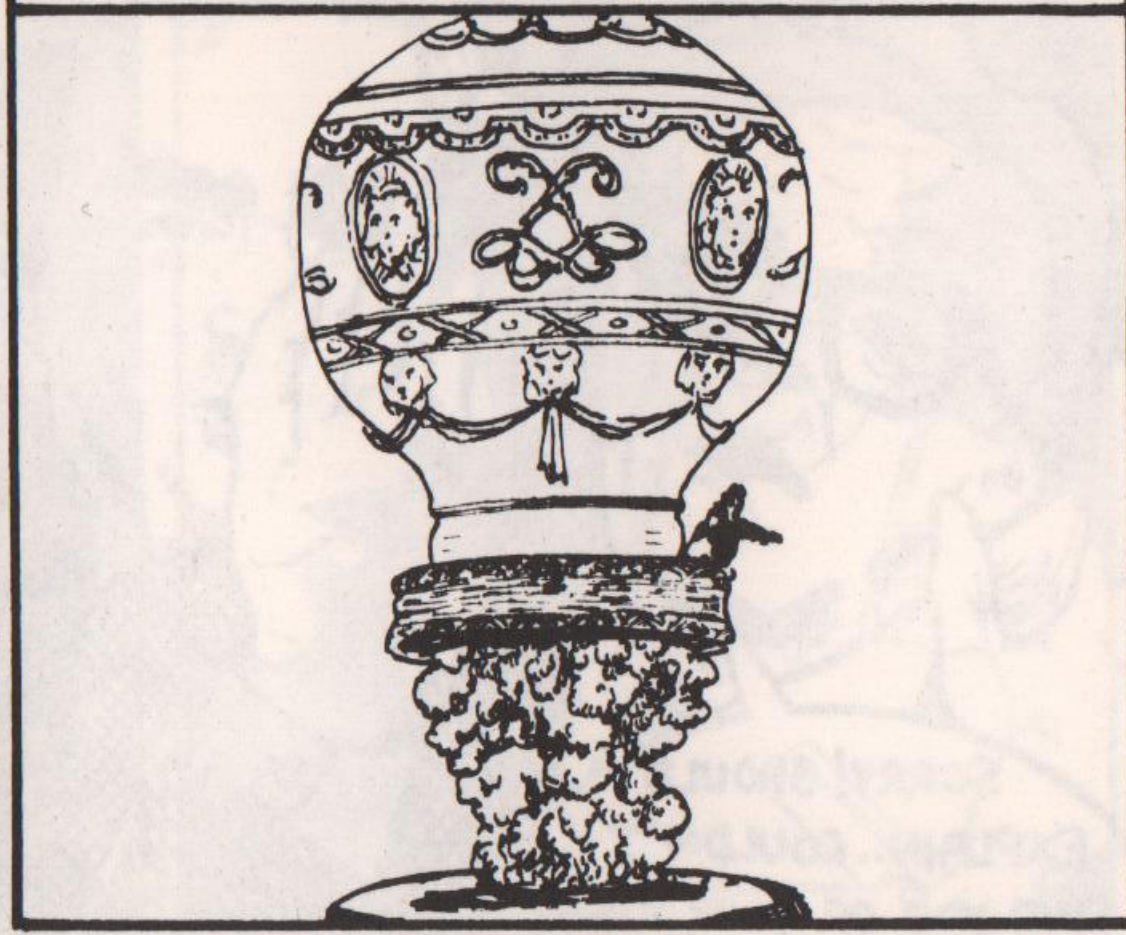
.. WAS A POLISH ARISTOCRAT WHO SUPPORTED REVOLUTION IN FRANCE, POLAND, AND HOLLAND...



... FOUGHT PIRATES IN THE MEDITERRANEAN...



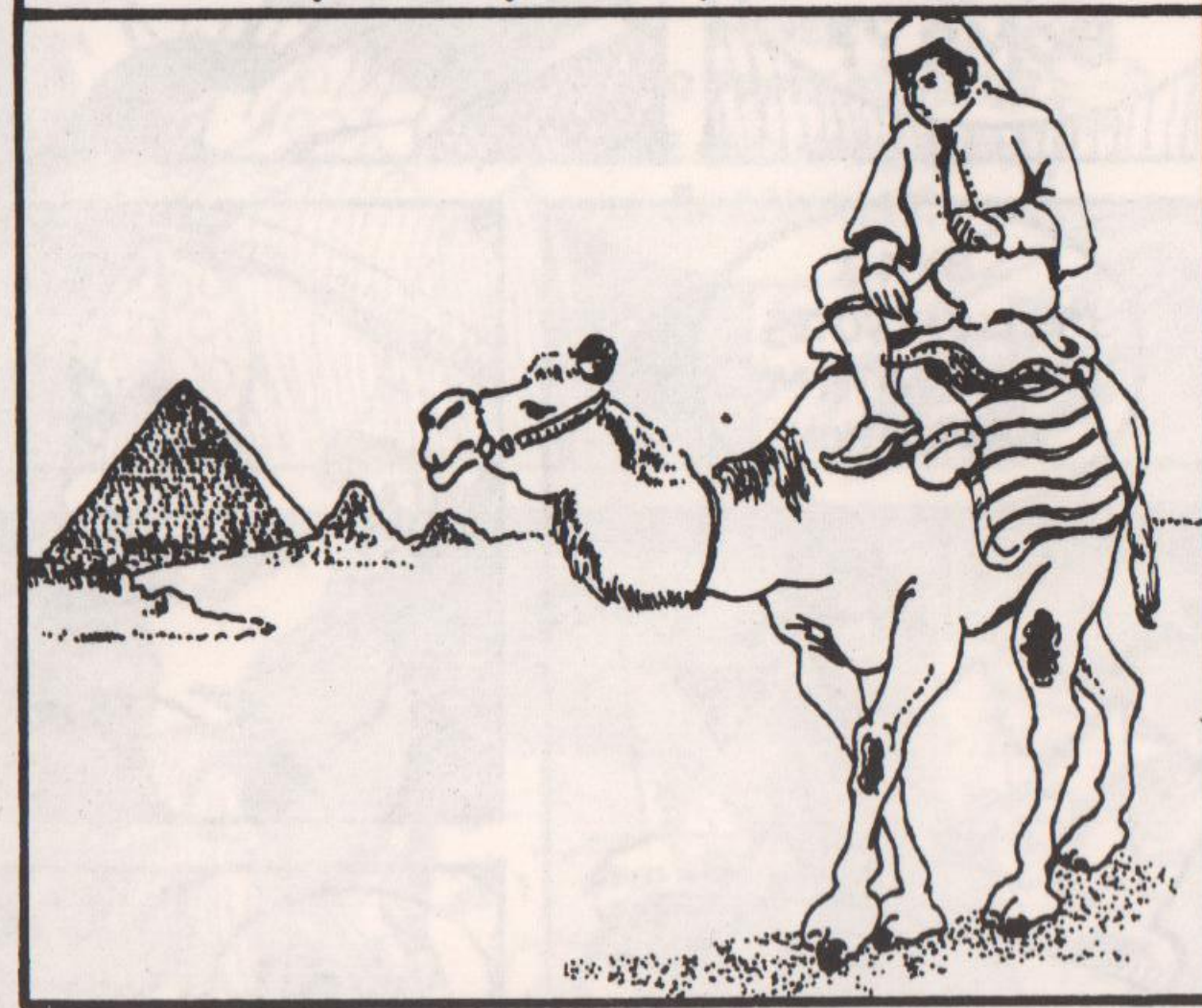
... WAS A PIONEER AERONAUT, ASCENDING IN A HOT AIR BALLOON TO CONDUCT METEOROLOGICAL EXPERIMENTS...



.. ACCOMPANIED BY HIS TURKISH SERVANT AND A PET POODLE.



HE WROTE EXTENSIVELY ABOUT HIS TRAVELS IN TURKEY, EGYPT, SPAIN, AND MOROCCO...



AS WELL AS BOOKS ON POLITICS, HISTORY, ECONOMICS, AND SLAVONIC ARCHAEOLOGY...



HE WROTE AND PRODUCED PLAYS FOR THE POLISH COURT IN EXILE...

.. AND LED AN EXPEDITION TO OUTER MONGOLIA, AS AN AMBASSADOR OF THE CZAR.



IN HIS SPARE TIME, HE INDULGED IN NUMEROUS LOVE AFFAIRS...



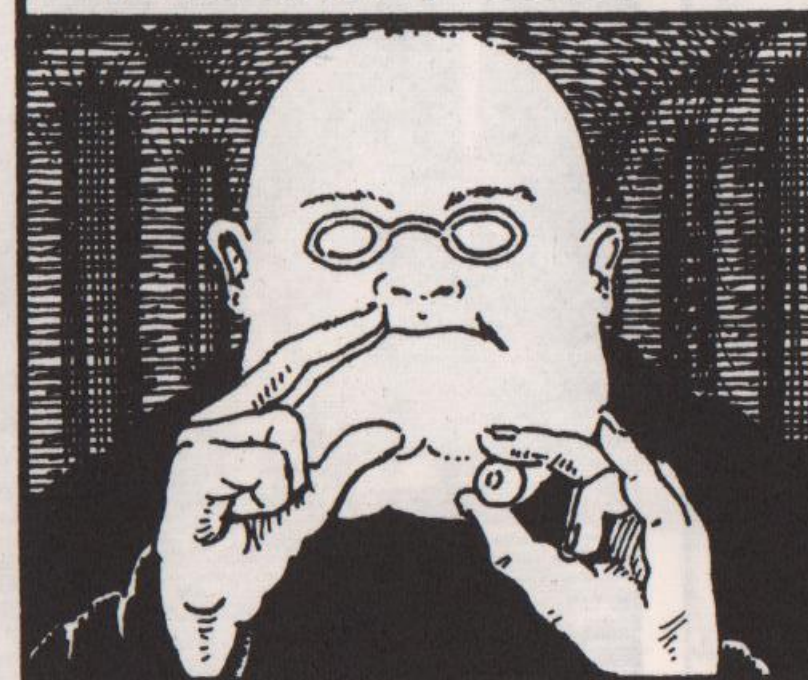
.. AND WROTE A THOUSAND PAGE NOVEL, WHICH REMAINED ALMOST COMPLETELY UNKNOWN FOR 150 YEARS.



BORED BY THIS MUNDANE EXISTENCE, HE RETIRED TO HIS ESTATE IN THE UKRAINE, WHERE, IN A FIT OF MORBID DEPRESSION, HE TOOK TO FILING DOWN THE KNOB ON THE LID OF A SILVER SAMOVAR.



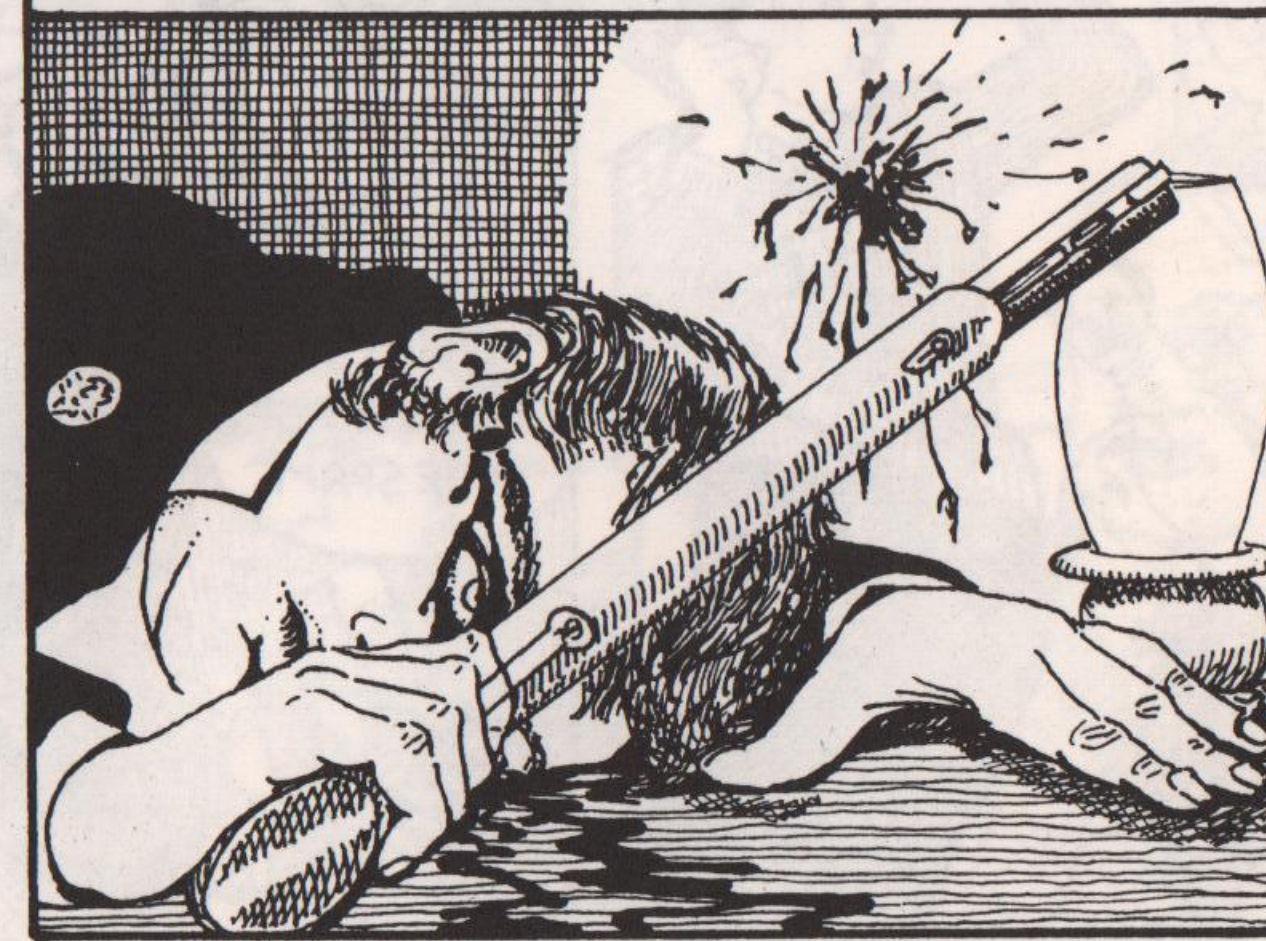
AFTER TWO YEARS, HAVING CREATED A SPHERE OF THE REQUIRED DIMENSIONS, HE HAD IT BLESSED BY THE LOCAL PRIEST...



.. PUT IT IN THE BARREL OF HIS PISTOL...



... AND BLEW HIS BRAINS OUT.



HIS NOVEL, "THE SARAGOSSA MANUSCRIPT" WAS TRANSLATED INTO POLISH. THE FRENCH ORIGINAL WAS LOST, BUT VARIOUS VERSIONS AND PARTIAL TRANSLATIONS HAVE APPEARED, INCLUDING A FILM BY WOJCIECH HAS, AND A FRENCH T.V. PLAY. THE FIRST STRIP CARTOON VERSION STARTS IN ISSUE ONE OF MIRACULOUS CIRCUMSTANCES

(TO BE CONTINUED)

**THE WITCH-HUNT**

A STORY BY BOB MOULDER WHICH WE SHALL BE SERIALIZING IN FUTURE ISSUES OF MIRACULOUS CIRCUMSTANCES.

SET IN LONDON AT THE TIME OF THE ENGLISH REVOLUTION, THE STORY FOLLOWS THE ADVENTURES OF A SMALL REVOLUTIONARY GROUP CALLED THE MUCKRAKERS AS THEY ATTEMPT TO COMBAT A VICIOUS GOVERNMENT INSPIRED WITCH-HUNT

A BEVY OF SATANISM, POLITICS AND GOOD OLD-FASHIONED CRUELTY; ALL IN "THE WITCH-HUNT"



THE MUCKRAKERS MEET TO DISCUSS THE WITCH HUNT WHICH IS CAUSING FEAR AND ALARM IN THE CITY



AND FURTHERMORE I FEEL THIS IS AN ATTEMPT TO INTIMIDATE AND DIVIDE THE LOWER CLASSES.....

MILES DIGBY IS CHAIRING THE MEETING.....



THANKS JOHN - TIM I THINK YOU HAVE SOME MORE FACTS.....

YES, THE WITCH HUNT IS BEING DIRECTED BY A THEOLOGIAN CALLED METHODIUS STUBBE. WE KNOW NOTHING ABOUT HIM, BUT HE DOES HAVE A LOT OF SUPPORT - INCLUDING CROMWELL.



TIM CRISP - AN ACCOUNTANT TO WEALTHY MERCHANTS



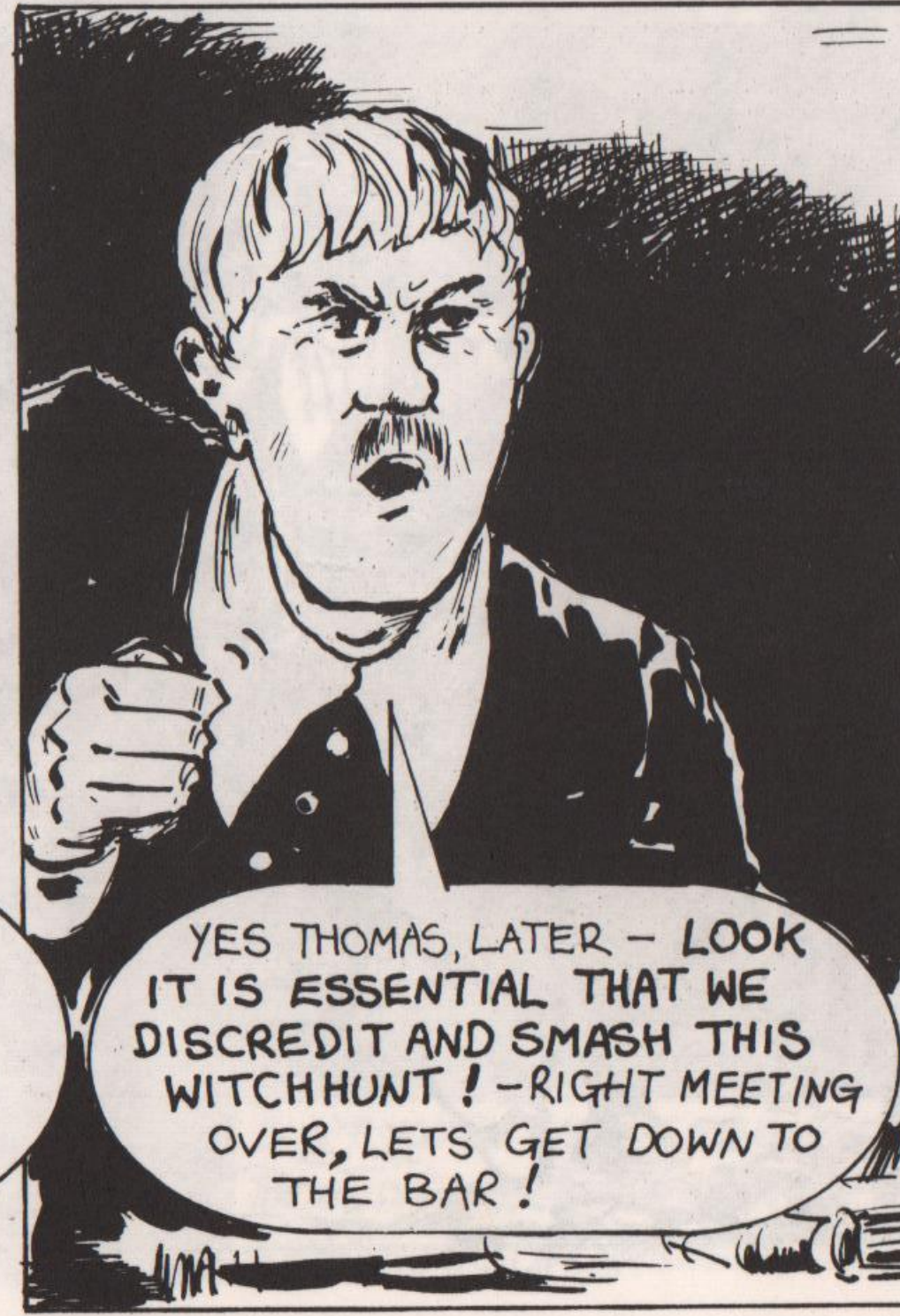
IT'S DOG EAT DOG! PEOPLE ARE DENOUNCING NEIGHBOURS, RIVALS ANY BODY.....

ROGER BOURNE - A SCRIVENER



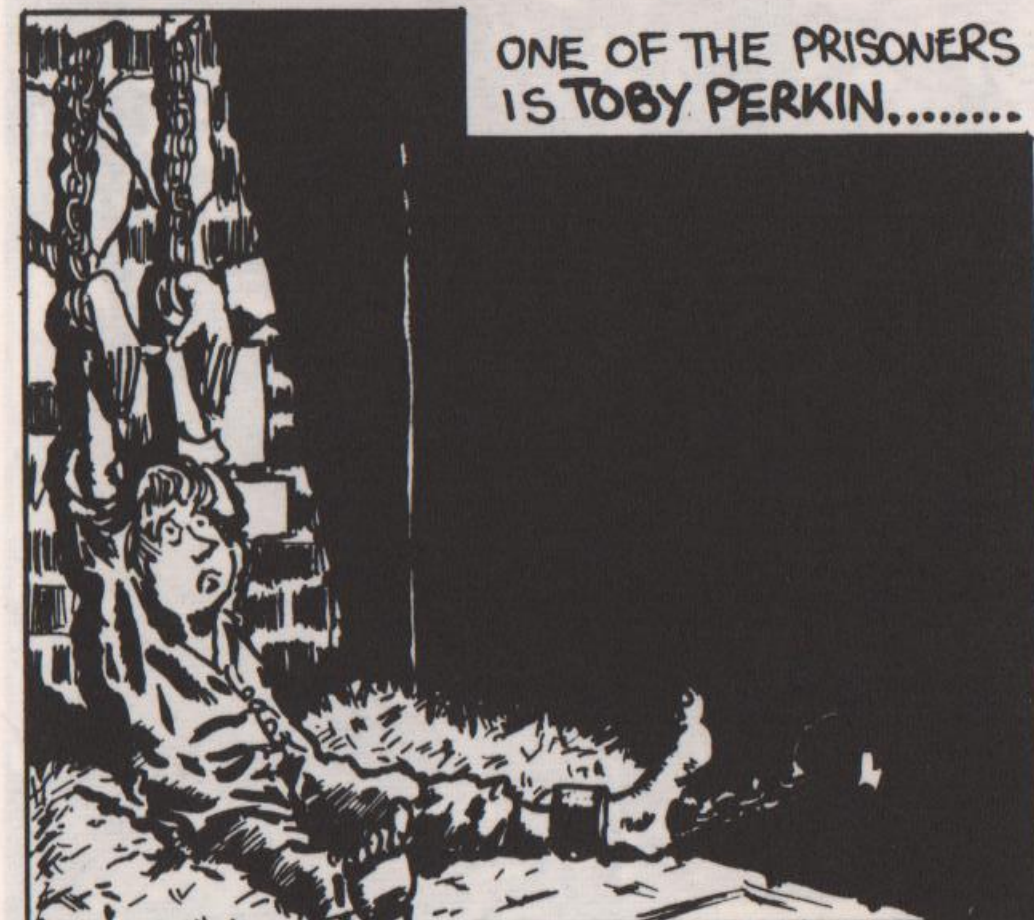
THOMAS TRIMBY CHIPS IN.....

I SAW A WOMAN ARRESTED YESTERDAY; SHE WAS CAUSING A SCENE IN A BAKER'S. SHE SAID THE BAKER WAS DEFINITELY FIDDLING THE WEIGHTS. THEY SAID THAT TO KNOW THIS SHE MUST HAVE PRACTISED BLACK MAGIC..... WHICH REMINDS ME.....



YES THOMAS, LATER - LOOK IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT WE DISCREDIT AND SMASH THIS WITCH HUNT! - RIGHT MEETING OVER, LETS GET DOWN TO THE BAR!

AS THE MUCKRAKERS MEETING BREAKS UP, STRANGE EVENTS ARE UNFOLDING AT BAYNARD'S CASTLE - A GRIM MEDIEVAL FORTRESS WHICH IN FORMER TIMES HAD BEEN A ROYAL RESIDENCE BUT NOW SERVED AS A PRISON.....



ONE OF THE PRISONERS IS TOBY PERKIN.....

ON THIS BLEAK DAY THE DOOR TO TOBY'S CELL OPENS AND.....



DUE TO THE BAD WEATHER AND THE TENSE ATMOSPHERE IN THE CITY, THE HANGINGS ARE BEING CARRIED OUT IN SECRET ON A RICKETY OLD GALLOWS IN THE CASTLE COURTYARD.....



THIEVES, MURDERERS, DEBTORS ARE ALL HOUSED IN THIS CASTLE, BUT DOWN IN THE CRYPT ARE A SPECIAL CATEGORY, FOR HERE ARE THE WITCHES, WARLOCKS AND NECROMANCERS - ALL CONDEMNED TO DEATH AND ALL COMPLETELY INNOCENT.....

WATCHING OVER THEM IS THE TURNKEY - LUGWORM

GIVE FOOD! FOR PITY SAKE!  
'OW ABOUT SOME HUSH! CAN'T A MAN EAT 'IS DINNER IN PEACE?.....

NEVER MIND LAD WIV ANY LUCK THE ROPE 'LL BREAK YER NECK BEFORE IT CHOKES YER TE DEAF!



ARISE WITCH! THE FIRES OF HELL AWAIT YOUR RETURN!!

SO YOU WON'T BE NEEDING A COAT LUV! (SNIGGER)

LORD LOOK DOWN ON THIS CREATURE!  
PER 150M ET CLM  
IPSO ET CLM IN PRO  
SERVANT OF SATAN

R-R-ROPE!?! BUT I THOUGHT W-W-WITCHES WERE BURNT AT THE STAKE.....NOT THAT IT MAKES MUCH DIFFERENCE I S'POSE...ULP

NAA! BURNING AT THE STAKE IS TOO EXPENSIVE.....GOVERNMENT CUTBACKS.....CHEAPER T'USE ME OLD DEARS WASHING LINE THAN BURN ALL THAT WOOD N' BINDINGS



NOW WHERE'S THAT HANGMAN GOT TO - WE'VE GOT ANOTHER TEN HANGINGS TO GET THROUGH YET

THE HANGMAN'S NOT 'ERE.... E' SAID E' FELT 'ANGING HAD BE - COME A DEBASED, OVERSUBSCRIBED, POPULARIST ARTFORM AN' AS SUCH E' IS UNABLE T'PERFORM UNTIL E'S EVOLVED NEW CONCEPTS N' NEW VALUES THAT SUFFICIENTLY EQUATE THE CONTRADICTIONS THAT ARE INHERENT IN SOCIETY, VIS A VIS THE....

\*BAYNARD'S CASTLE STOOD CLOSE TO THE PRESENT DAY SITE OF BLACKFRIARS STATION.



CUT THE DRIVEL! GET THAT SWINE OUT HERE IMMEDIATELY!!



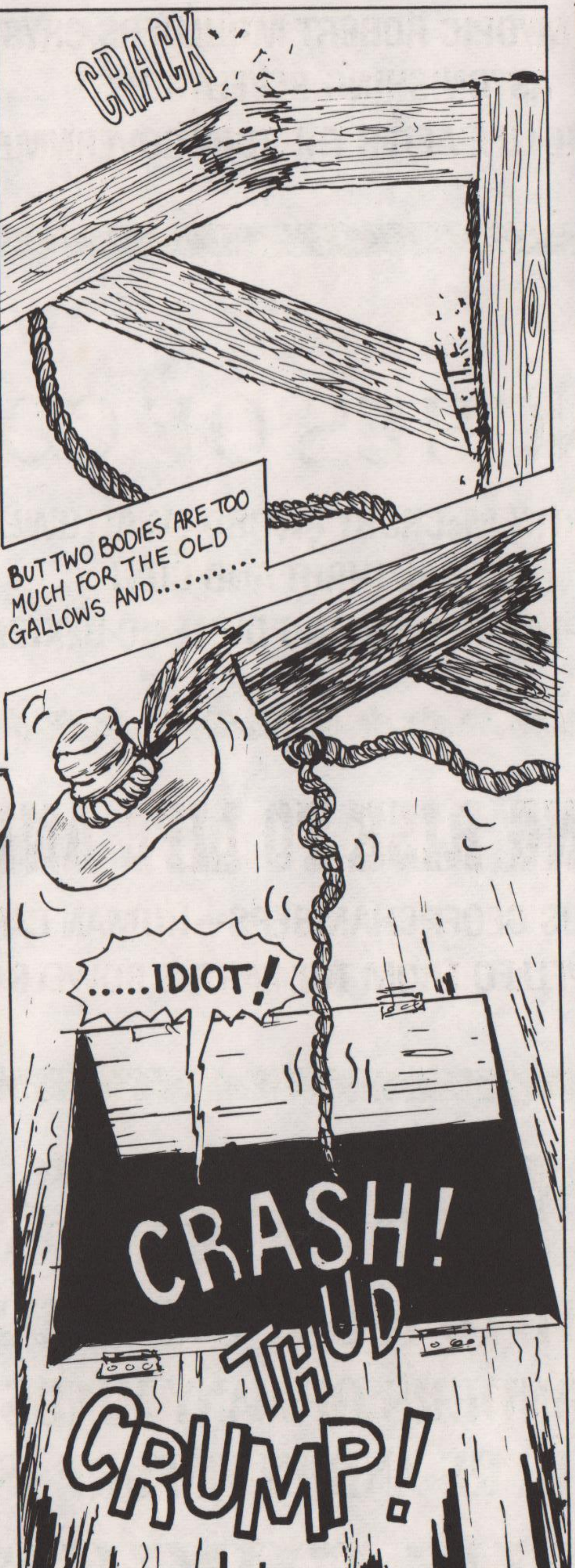
BUT TEN MINUTES LATER.....

ER E' SES E' UNDERSTANDS E' MAY BE INCONVENIENCING YOU, BUT E' FEELS IT WOULD LACK INTEGRITY T'PERFORM ANY 'ANGINGS AT THE MOMENT.

OH GOD, THIS ISN'T HAPPENING. OK WE'LL HANG THIS ONE OURSELVES AND I'LL DEAL WITH THAT BASTARD LATER.....



NOT YET! YOU.....



CRACK

BUT TWO BODIES ARE TOO MUCH FOR THE OLD GALLOWNS AND.....

.....IDIOT!

CRASH!  
THUD  
CRUMP!



RIGHT THAT SHOULD DO....NOW! ALL YOU HAVE TO DO LUGWORM IS TO PULL THAT LEVER!



CAPTAIN FLETON!?! YOU ALRIGHT GUVNOR?.....

LUGWORM!....GET ME OUT OF HERE!!!

DON'T YOU BE CAUGHT HANGING AROUND - ORDER YOUR COPY OF MIRACULOUS CIRCUMSTANCES NOW!