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Written by Harold Ramis, Doug Kenney, and Chris Miller

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DACRON Republican Democrat

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City\_

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Heavy Metal

Vol. II, No. 3

July 1978

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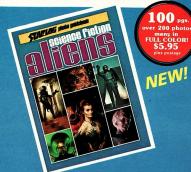
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Z w W 0

A sad month for HM acolytes, as we lose "Barbarella" & the weerd bunjuv garagderz from "1996," at least for the nonce. "Barbarella" will be appearing soon as a book, though. Few, too few, recognized that "1996" folks spoke Canadian, the langwidj of the fyudjer, eh?

We are, however & at last, resuming Druillet's "Gail" (chapter 1 was in HM #3). Lone Sloane rides again.

You may have noticed several journals now breaking out like acne on newsstands, entries all in the *Heavy Metal* look-alike contest. Accept no substitutes.

There is some loose talk above the 45th floor abt *Heavy Metal* movie. Discussions are, so to speak, animated. Arzak on the silver screen? Urm in the flicks? Stay tuned.



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# CHAIN MAIL



Dear Sean and Valerie:

I don't normally complain, but the April issue provoked this. The main thing that irritates me is that you often don't continue stories for several months. I speak of "Ulysses." "Diabolical Planet," and a few others which I have forgotten, because it has been so long.

Second, is the choice of fiction. Of course, this all depends on one's taste, but I feel that such stories as "A Rose for Ecclesiastes" and "Close Encounters of the Third Kind" do not really fit in with a publication such as Heavy Metal. Do not get me wrong, please. I feel these stories have their own very good points, but they also have their very own place.

Oh yes, it is also getting very difficult to understand "1996." I know that it adds to the effect of this mutant civilization and all that, but it gets kind of tough at times trying to decipher the

What do I like then? Well, I happen to be very glad that "Den" is continuing. I always enjoy a nice Moebius piece. I really enjoyed the story "The Ruse" by Thomas Bridges, and well, the list goes on. It's just those things above that prevent me from being totally satisfied with your fine magazine.

Kevin Thomson Tacoma, Wash.

Dear K.T.,

We publish "Diabolical Planet" as fast as we get it from our French friends, and "Ulysses" became a book...and a preview of "Close Encounters" was hard to turn down...but thanks for your interest and criticism. Yours, in the hope of total satisfaction.—Eds.

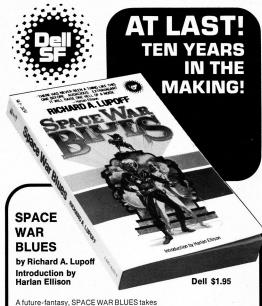
Dear Eds:

My heartiest congratulations on Heary Metal's anniversary: may you live long and prosper. I would like to commend your magazine for the high quality of artwork and excellent reproduction quality. I am a graduate art history major working on my thesis. "The New Wave of Comie Art; and a lot of my research is done around your artiests. I would like my thesis to cover foreign artists as well as American, but I am having trouble locating information on one artist in particular. Jean Giraud. alias Moebius. Would you tell me where I could pick something up in English dealing with Jean's background, say for instance, a biography, autobiography, or interview?

> Craig Schindler Kingsburg, Calif.

Dear C.S.,

And, as Groucho would say, "Thank you." Know of nothing about Moebius in English, but will send along, under separate cover, a recent article from a Paris paper, Le Monde, with English precis. O.K.?—The Eds.



A future-fantasy, SPACE WAR BLUES takes you to earth-colonized planets where interplanetary racial bigotry is rampant!

"There has never been a thing like this one before. Audacious! Extravagant! It will raise one hell of a noise."

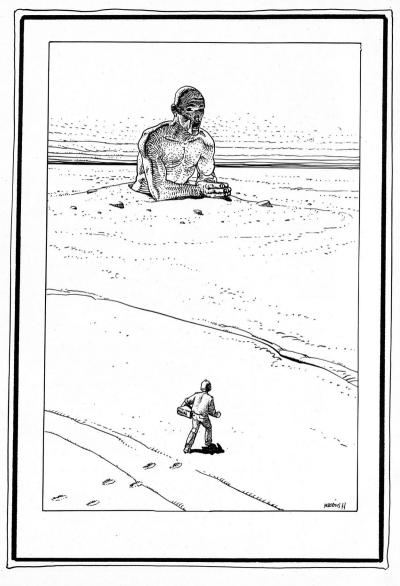
—Harlan Ellison
"A tour-de-force! Brings author

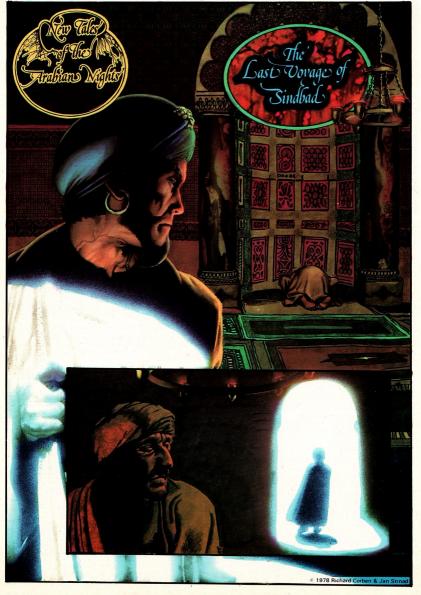
Richard A. Lupoff to the front ranks."

—Theodore Sturgeon

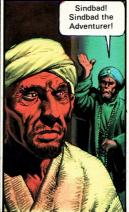


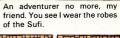
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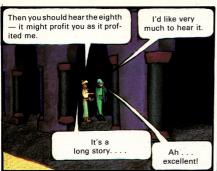


... but can I believe my eyes? Of all men to renounce wealth and luxury !...

My last article of worldly value I presented to the Caliph Harun al-Rashid, and I was glad to be rid of it. But tell me . . . have we met?





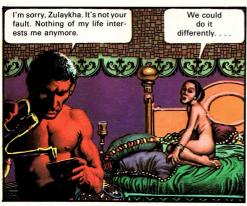


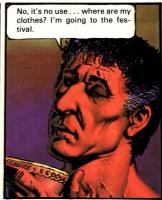
Know then that some time after my seventh voyage I again grew restless and bored. My wife no longer excited me — though I loved her still — and I became increasingly hard to live with.

It was the festival of Id al-Fitr, I had already broken the Prophet's injunction against wine, and Satan made it fair in my sight to blame my good wife for my

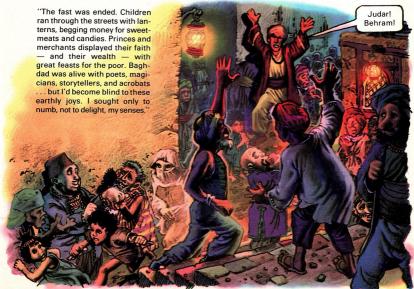


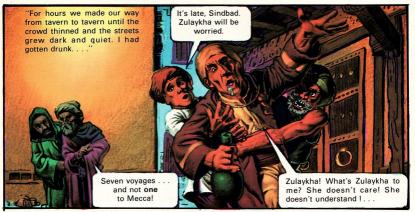
















She's a jewel of Allah! Did you see her navel? A man could















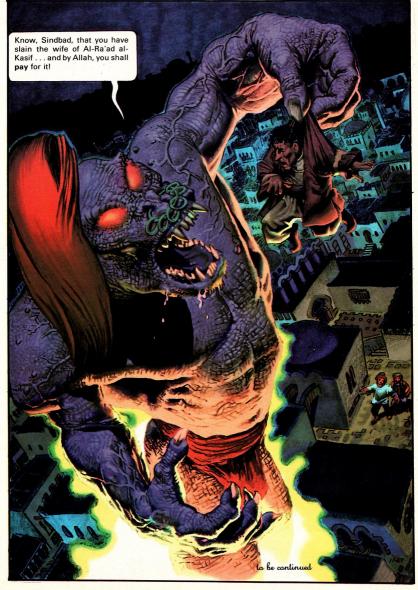




















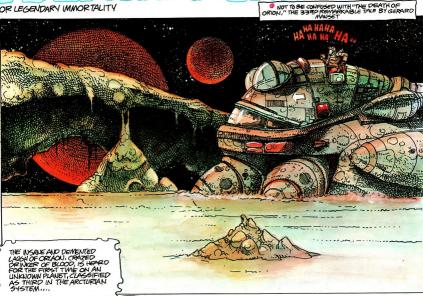








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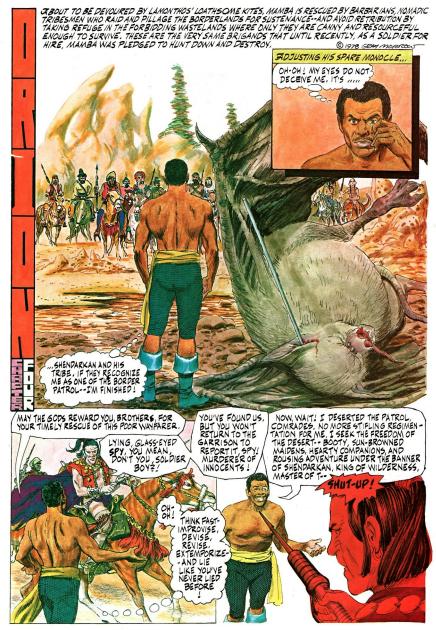


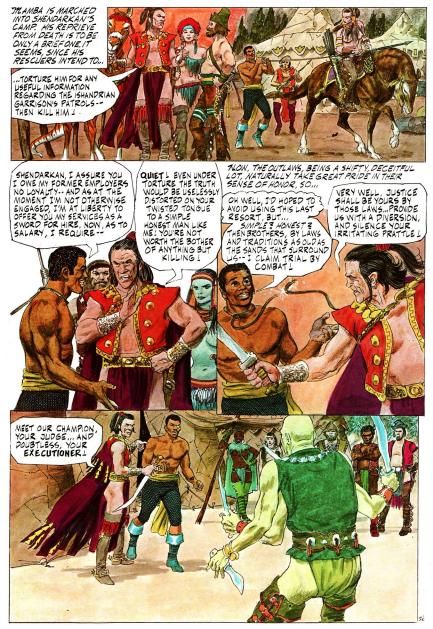


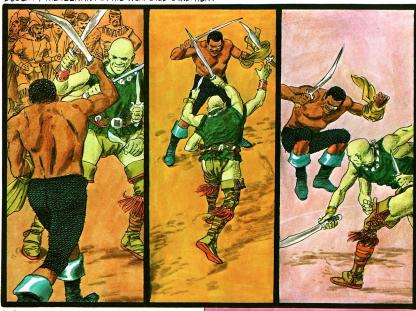






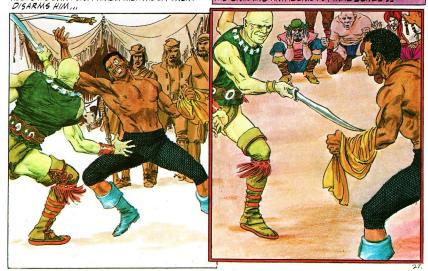






"WHILE THE STRANGELY SILENT SONS AND DAUGHTERS OF THE DESERT WATCH, THE BLACK GLADIATOR HOLDS HIS OWN FOR A TIME... THEN HIS OPPONENT

.... AND THE SILENT ASSEMBLAGE BREAKS INTO A ROAR HONLING FOR THE FINISH WHILE MAMBA AWAITS HIS GRINNING ANTAGONISTS FINAL LUNGE 11



DESCENDING INTO THE MAELSTROM OF SWIRLING FUMES, ORION'S ALREADY BEFOGGED SENSES ARE ASSAULTED BY A BATTERY OF ILLUSIONS--MIGHTY ARMIES, GREAT HOSTS OF ALIEN WARRIORS, PINNACLED CITIES OF BASALTIC CRYSTAL, FABULOUS BEASTS, AND OVER ALL...THE MOCKING VISAGE OF THE SENSUOUS CIRCE -



In a terrific battle with the beast which begins in MID-AIR AND TERMINATES FAR BELOW...







RESTORING HIS STRENGTH WITH ITS FLESH, HE REGAINS SUFFICIENT STRENGTH TO EXPLORE HIS SURROUNDINGS.

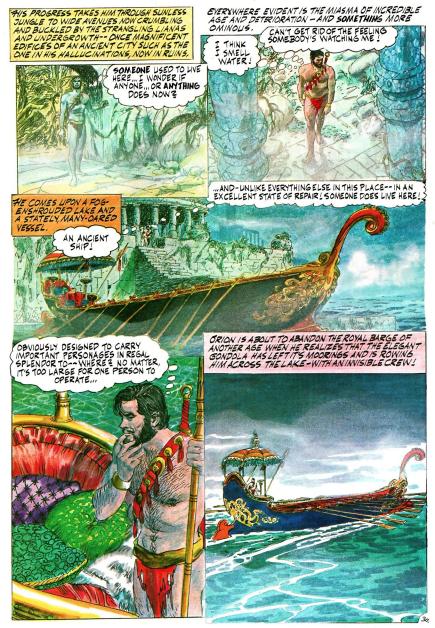


THE LOST SEA CONCEALS AN IMMENSE CONCAVITY IN THE EARTH A LUSH OASIS OF TERRARIUM IN A BOWL WITH WEIRD FOLIAGE - BUT SICKLY TWISTED SOMEHOW OBSCENE AND PERMEATED WITH AN AURA OF DECAY AND DEATH!

... I CAN BREATHE HERE BUT I'M STILL LIGHT-HEADED...FOOD HELPED-NO MORE MIRAGES... BUT THIS ATMOSPHERE IS HEAVIER THAN AIR....I FEEL AS THOUGH I'M WALKING UNDERWATER ..



PLWAYS ONE TO GO THROUGH OR OVER AN OBSTACLE RATHER THAN AROUND IT, OR ION PENETRATES THE BRUSH SEEKING THE MOST DIRECT ROLTE OUT OF THE MISTY VALLEY. A JUNGLE IN THE MIDDLE OF THE DESERT WELL, AT LEAST I'VE SOLVED THE MYSTERY OF THE LOST SEA" - NO, COME TO THINK OF IT NO ANSWERS, JUST MORE QUESTIONS!





EVERYONE SOON BECOMES TOO DRUNK TO NOTICE THAT THE GUEST OF HONOR SEEMS TO SPILL MORE THAN HE DRINKS ... ALL SAVE ONE ...

FIWARE THAT HIS POSITION WITH THE UNTRUST WORTHY MARAUDERS IS AT BEST A PRECARIOUS ONE, MANBA MAKES PLANS TO ABANDON HIS NEW-FOUND COMPANIONS AT THE EARLIEST OPPORTUNITY.

CAREFUL PROBING AMONG THE MORE GARRALOUS KNIGHTS OF THE DESERT REVEAL NO CLUE TO THE WHEREABOUTS OF ORION OR LAMONTHOS, WHOM HE IN-TENDS TO REQUITE FOR ENSLAVING HIM.







74/5 QUESTIONS DO REACH THE EARS OF FELINA, A MYSTERIOUS GIRL WHOSE GARMENTS CONCEAL EVERYTHING BUT HER CATEYES, THROUGH THE AGENCY OF HER EYER ALERT SERVANT, URZA...



500N ....

ANY RATE

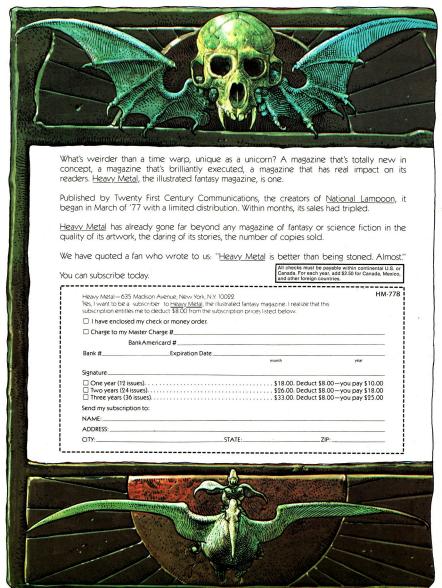
WHO'S ARGUING ? LET'S GO! WE'LL AID YOU IN YOUR SEARCH, GLASS-EYE, FOR REASONS OF OUR OWN, ARGUMENT IS USELESS, YOU COULDN'T GET A MILE FROM THIS CAMP WITHOUT OUR HELP AT

FROM A HIDING PLACE ARE WITHDRAWN MEAGER SUPPLIES, STOLEN AND STORED IN ANTICIPATION OF JUST SUCH A NEED FOR AN ESCAPE.



WHEREVER ORION GOES, LAMONTHOS WILL NOT BE FAR BEHIND, AS SOON AS WE PICK UP THE TRAIL MY USE FOR THIS FOOL WILL BE ENDED!







The <u>National Lampoon</u> Black Sox!

#### Well, here's your chance.

All you have to do is purchase one of these great, three-quarter-sleeved ball shirts with the team name blazing from its face, and you automatically become a member of the team.

Pick your own position—first, second, third, short, fourth—anything Choose your own place in the lineup Steal when you want to steal Hit whom-

ever you care to hit with the ball • Pick your own nickname—Babe, Too-Tall, Queenie, et al. • It's a white shirt, beautifully printed in St. Louis blue and made from 100 percent machine washable cotton • The girl, incidentally, is on the team. She's Karen Allen of the forthcoming National Lampoon's Animal House film.

You can buy the shirt—or nine of them—for \$6.00 each in large, medium, or small, plus 60 cents for postage and handling.

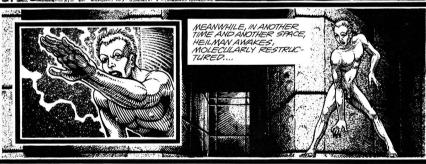
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JOIN THE TEAM	

#### NATIONAL LAMPOON

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Yes, I would like to join the team. Send meT-shirts, at \$6.00 each. Enclosed find \$	(Please include
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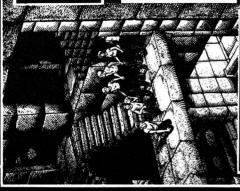




BENEATH HIM, OTHER BEINGS HOLD EACH OTHER'S HANDS IN ORDER NOT TO LOSE EACH OTHER IN THE MULTI-GRAYTATIONAL MAZE...,

THESE SPEECHLESS CREATURES APPEAR TO BE PRISONERS OR SLAVES... THEY FORM A LONG, STRAIGHT LINE...,



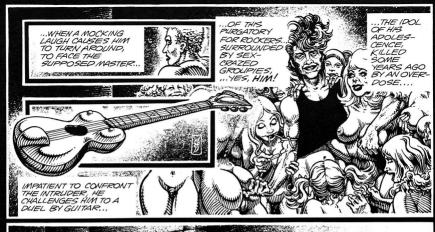








...HE FINDS HIS WAY BLOCKED BY A CREATURE WHOSE MANNER IS OPPRESSNELY AUTHORITATIVE. AS IF, BY REFLEX ALONG HE KICKS HIM, UNDER THE EMPTY GAZE OF THE SILENT SERVITUDE OF THE OPPRESSED...

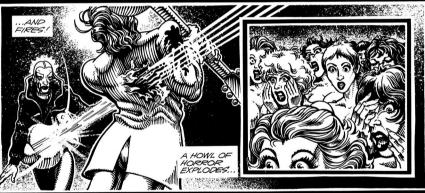


























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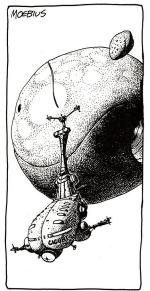
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HM #5/AUGUST, 1977: In which the saga of Polonius begins, The Long Tomorrow concludes, World Apart and Den continue, all amidst talking plants, samurai, puppets, sex, and violence. (\$3.00)

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HM #7/OCTOBER, 1977: Packed with knights, ladies, jet pilots; insanity, reincarnation, and other harlmless pastimes; 10 pages of color Moebius; the Airtight Garage, Den, and Polonius redux; and fiction by Theodore Sturgeon. (83.00) HM #8/NOVEMBER, 1977: With nine color pages by Moebius and Rimbaud, the conclusions of both Polonius and World Apart, expugs, intellectual mollusks, birth and death stars, and a great new Harlan Ellison story—the heaviest Heavy Metal yett (\$3.00)

HM = 9/DECEMBER, 1977: This time, went up to 10 Apages to bring you the complete saga of Druillet's anti-hero, Vuzz, a chapter from Close Encounter of the Third Kind, and Fortune's Fool by Chaykin and Wein, in addition to full-color contributions from regulars Corben, Macedo, Claveloux, and Moebius, (\$3.00)

HM = 10/JANUARY, 1978: We got Morrow to illustrate Zelazny, we got Lob and Pichard to update Ulysses, we got Meehan to do Heavy Metal calendar girl, we concluded Conquering Armies, and continued Den. Of course, you knew about the Incas, fog lights, and the time warp. (\$2.00)

HM ±11/FEBRUARY, 1978: Wherein begin the new adventures of Barbarella, naked to her enemies and nude to her friends, and of Urm the Fool in his quest for revenge. Wraparound cover and center spread by Nino. A trip to Venus, the Crusader and the Witch, and Moebius down the rabit hole. With the usual unusual, like Den (£20 den)

HM = 12/MARCH, 1978: In which we learn the evils of witch-hunch and the perils of witchcraft, the problems of mass transit, and the dangers of hitchhiking. Plus, the first swashbuckling episode of Orion. More Barbarella. More Urn. And still more Den. (\$2.00) HM=13/APRIL, 1978: Big deal first anniversary issue, with 30-page insert from Paradise 9 by all concerned. Also, amidst the king must die, death's duel, and the undead, Barbarella gives birth. Oh, and the sexual acrobatic epilogue to Den. (\$2.00).

HM #14/MAY, 1978: Does in Urm the Mad, locates El Dorado, goes to pieces on a bicycle, buys a cannibal clock, time-travels, and cerebrally tap-dances with Nino. Not to mention Orion and Barbarella.

HM #15/JUNE 1978: This time, we go too far. For instance, the excite new Corben, Shahrazad, the neurotic, Evolution, the ecstatic, More Than Human, the erotic Barbarella, and the eratic Them Changes. And an excerpt from Sabre, and the origins of Heilman...



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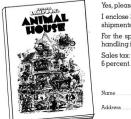
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GALACTIC GEOGRAPHIC

### HARVEST ON INSADOR

ne of the Thousand Wonders of the Galaxy, the giant platforms of Insador seem to march over the dusty horizon, while on the rolling plains below, the Troadis harvest the oil of the green santooth plant (lower right), a mologen whose nourishing oil is a staple and trade good of the inhabitants of this dry world.

Despite the potential wealth brought by a controlling interest in the oil, the insect-like Troadis employ only the harvesting methods of their ancestors, such as the worm-powered transport (seen with carts of santooth at right) and the spine-winged Jaardis to carry the oil to trade depots. They trade for foods, tools, and machinery. Their fascination with machines with lights and buttons has motivated many traders to build pseudomachines for trade, observing long ago that real machines only prove dangerous to the Troadis, who are intellectually very primitive. Two blue Troadis, at left, amuse themselves with a "toy" recently acquired from a Cassanda trader. Above them, drying oil pods hang from the many openings in the ancient stone walls, while in the distance, santooth husks burn brightly with excess oil in a pit at the base of the far monolith-a sign of a very successful season.

The Troadis are the only known civilization to occupy the monoliths, each one housing a community of over 20,000 beings devoted to the growing and processing of its own santooth fields. The origin of the stone structures remains a mystery, but scientists have noted that the monoliths may have been built to humidify the planet, a function they do, in fact, perform. Water from deep underground rises steadily up the columns and moves by osmosis to the cave-riddled platforms. Here, dry air flows through long, parallel caves and gathers moisture from perpetually damp walls. Because it rarely rains, the plants of Insador survive only near the monoliths, which girth the planet and continue to allow the Troadis a harvest tradition famous throughout the galaxy.

From the Stellar Journals of Karl B. Kofoed



48 HEAVY METAL HEAVY METAL 49





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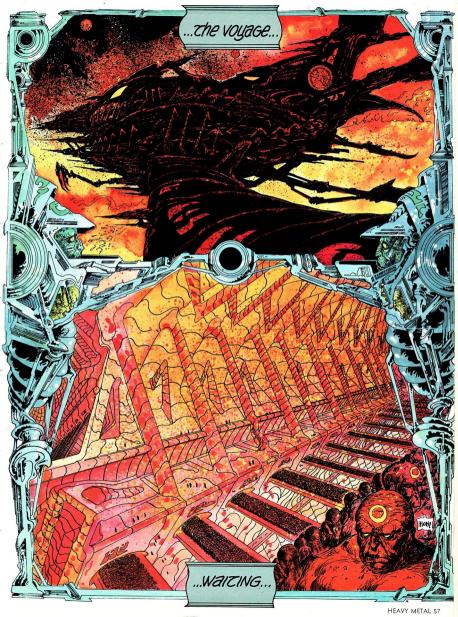
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HEAVY METAL 53









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Zip



"Gimme a blanket! Get a rag, hot water! Hurry now. Feller hurt bad. Picked him up in the woods."

In a moment he was back, carrying a man. "Here," said Mrs. Prodd. She flung open the door to Jack's room.



When Prodd hesitated, she said, "Go on, go on, never mind the spread. It'll wash."

He gently lifted off the blanket in the light. "Oh, my God," he grunted. "He won't last the night."

"We got to try," she said softly.

He lasted the night. He lasted the week, too, and it was only then that the Prodds began to have hope for him. He lay motionless in the room called Jack's room, interested in nothing, aware of nothing except perhaps the light. He would stare out as he lay, perhaps seeing, perhaps watching, perhaps not. There was little to be seen out there. His inner self was encysted and silent in sorrow. His outer self seemed shrunked, unreachable.

"He say anything yet?" Prodd would ask, and his wife would shake her head. After ten days he had a thought; after two weeks he voiced it. "You don't suppose he's tetched, do you, Ma?"

She was unaccountably angry. "How do you mean,

tetched?"

He gestured. "You know. Like feeble-minded. I mean

He gestured. "You know. Like feeble-minded, I mean. Maybe he don't talk because he can't."

"No!" she said positively. She looked up to see the question in Prodd's face. She said, "You ever look in his eyes? He's no idiot."

He had noticed the eyes. They disturbed him. "Well, I

wish he'd say something'



"I guess sometimes the world's too much to live with, and a body sort of has to turn away from it to rest."

The weeks went by, and broken tissues knit and the wide, flat body soaked up nourishment like a cactus absorbing moisture. Never in his life had he had rest and food and.

She sat with him, talked to him. She sang songs. She was a *little brown woman* with colorless hair and bleached eyes, and there was about her a hunger very like the one he had felt. She chattered out everything that was in her mind, except about Jack.

He never smiled nor answered, and the only difference it made in him was that he kept his eyes on her face when she was in the room and patiently on the door when she was not. What a profound difference this was, she could not know; but the flat, starved body tissues were not all that were filling out.

A day came at last when the Prodds were at lunch and there was a fumbling at the inside of the door of Jack's



room. Prodd exchanged a glance with his wife, then rose and opened it. "Here, now, you can't come out like that! Ma, throw in my other overalls."

The ailing man was weak and uncertain, but he was on his feet. They helped him to the table and he slumped there, his eyes cloaked and stupld, ignoring the food until Mrs. Prodd tantalized him with a spoonful. She patted his shoulder and told him it was just wonderful how well he did.

"Well, Ma, you don't have to treat him like a two-yearold," said Prodd.

Later in the night, when he thought she was asleep, she said suddenly, "I do so have to treat him like a two-year-old, maybe even younger. It's like growing up all over again. Faster, but the same road."



He was quiet for a time. Then, "What'll we call him?"
"Not Jack," she said before she could stop herself. "We'll
bide our time about that."

He thought about it for a long time. He said, "Ma, I hope we're doing the right thing." But by then she was asleep.

There were miracles. The Prodds thought of them as achievements, as successes, but they were miracles . . . .



There was the time when Prodd found two strong hands at the other end of a 12 x 12 ...



... and the time Mrs. Prodd found her patient holding a ball of yarn, looking at it only because it was red.



There was the time he found a full bucket by the pump and brought it inside. It was a long while, however, before he learned to work the handle.



When he had been there a year, Mrs. Prodd remembered and baked a cake. Impulsively she put four candles on it.

The Prodds beamed at him as he stared at the little flames, fascinated. His strange eyes caught hers, then Prodd's. "Blow it out, son."



Perhaps he visualized the act. Perhaps it was the result of the warmth from the couple. They laughed together and Mrs. Prodd kissed his cheek.

62 HEAVY METAL



Suddenly something twisted inside. This wasn't the call. It was not even like the exchange he had experienced with Evelyn. But because he could now feel to such a degree, he was aware of the emptiness, and so he did what he had done when he had first lost the girl. He cried.



It was the same tortured weeping that had led Prodd to him in the woods a year ago, and when it stoped, there was something new in his face. "Tm sorry," Prodd said. "Reckon we did something wrong." But his wife said, "It wasn't wrong. You'll see."

sciously that he could absorb a message, a meaning, from hear them; instead, ideas were transmitted to him directly. those about him. He began to hold and turn this ability, as he Ideas themselves are formless and it is hardly surprising that had once held and turned the ball of yarn. The sounds called he learned very slowly to give ideas the form of speech . . . .

He got a name. The night he cried, he discovered conspeech still meant little to him, and he never really learned to



"What's your name?" Prodd asked him suddenly one day.



They were filling the horse trough and there was that about water running in the sun which tugged deeply at



"Lone?" said Prodd, and it could be seen that the syllable meant something to him, though far less than intended. But it would do. The idiot nodded. It was his first conversation: another miracle.

concept. "Name" is the single thing which is me and what I have done and been and learned. He said, "Ul . . . "



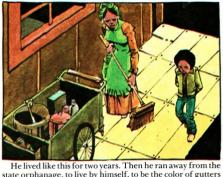
"What is it, son?" All alone. It was all there, the hunger, the loss, waiting for a symbol, a name. He strained, and gasped. "Ul . . . ul . . . lone . . .



It took him five years to learn to talk and always he preferred not to. He never did learn to read. He was simply not equipped. HEAVY METAL 63

There were two boys for whom the smell of disinfectant on tile was the smell of hate. For Gerry Thompson it was the smell of hunger, too, and of loneliness. Hatred was his only warmth in the world, and at six Gerry was very largely a man.

For a six-year-old, the path of memory stretches back for just as long a lifetime as it does for anyone else. Gerry had had trouble enough, loss enough, to make a man of anyone. At six he began to accept, to be obedient, and to wait . . .



state orphanage, to live by himself, to be the color of gutters



be cornered. Gerry Thompson was alone.



For Hip Barrows there was no hunger and no precocious maturity. But there was the smell of hate, surrounding his father the doctor, the deft and merciless hands, the somber clothes. Even Hip's memory of Dr. Barrows's voice was the memory of chlorine and carbolic.

Little Hip Barrows was a brilliant and beautiful child, to whom the world refused to be a straight, hard path of disinfected tile. Everything came easily to him, except control of his curiosity-and "everything" included the cold injections of rectitude administered by his father the doctor.



64 HEAVY METAL

He rose through childhood like a rocket, burnished, swift, afire. His gifts brought him anything a young man might want, friends and honors; but such was the philos-



He was eight when he built his first radio, a crystal set for which he even wound the coils. His father the doctor discovered it and forbade him ever touching so much as a piece of wire again.



He was a brilliant fifteen when he was expelled from pre-medical school for playfully cross-wiring the relays in the staff elevators so that every touch of a control button was an unappreciated adventure.



He even had time for the ROTC. Through it, he eventually learned that in the Air Force it is the majority, not the minority, who tend to regard physical perfection, conversational brilliance, and easy achievement as defects rather than assets

ophy of his father the doctor, who had worked for everything, that Hip's early gained friendships and honors also brought him uneasiness and a sick humility of which he was quite unaware.



He was nine when his father the doctor located his cache of radio and electronics texts and magazines and piled them all up in front of the fireplace and made him burn them, one by one; they were up all night.



At sixteen he was attending engineering school. He always had time to talk and read and think, time to listen to those who valued his listening.



He found himself alone more than he liked and avoided more than he could bear. It was on the anti-aircraft range that he found an answer, a dream, and a disaster...

HEAVY METAL 58

Alicia Kew stood in the deepest shade by the edge of the meadow. "Father, Father, forgive me!" she cried.



She sank down on the grass, blind with grief and terror, torn, shaken with conflict.

Devil, she thought, why won't you be dead? Five years ago you killed yourself, you killed my sister, and still it's "Father, forgive me." Sadist, pervert, murderer, devil . . . man, dirty, poisonous man!

I've come a long way, she thought, I've come no way at all. How I ran from gentle lawyer Jacobs when he came to help with the bodies; oh, how I ran, so that he might not go

I'm not afraid of a whip, I'm afraid of hands and eyes, thank you, Father. But one day I shall live with people all around me; I shall go among thousands on a beach without walls, with a tiny strip of cloth here and there, and let them see my navel; I shall meet a man with white teeth and round, strong arms, Father, and I shall, oh, what have I become, Father, forgive me. I live in a house you never saw, where bright cars whisper past and children play outside the hedge which is not a wall. I look through the curtains whenever I choose, and see strangers. There is no way to make the bathroom black dark, and there is a mirror as tall as I am; and one day, Father, I shall leave the towel off.





But all that will come later, the moving about among strangers, the touchings without fear. Now I must live alone, and think; I must read of the world and its workings, yes, and of twisted madmen like you, Father; Dr. Rothstein insists that you were not the only one, that you were so rare, really, only because you were so rich.

mad and poison me. How I fled from his wife, too, thinking women were evil and must not touch me. They had a time with me, indeed they did; it was so long before I could understand that I was mad, not they. . . . In the cab, when I screamed and couldn't stop, for the people (the hurry), so many bodies, all touching and so achingly visible; bodies on the streets, the stairs, men holding women who laughed and were brazenly unfrightened . . Dr. Rothstein, who explained that there must be man and

Evelyn . . . Evelyn never knew her father was mad. Evelyn never saw the pictures of the poisoned flesh. I lived in a world different from this one, but her world was just as different, the world Father and I made for her, to keep her pure. . . .





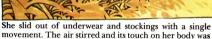
women else there would be no people at all . . . I had to learn this, dear devil Father, because of you; because of you I had never seen an automobile or a breast or a railroad train or a restaurant or a bathing suit or the hair on—oh, forgive me, Father.

66 HEAVY METAL

The picture of her father, dead, calmed her strangely. She rose and looked back into the woods, looked carefully around the meadow, shadow by shadow, tree by



She took a deep breath. She shut her eyes so tight there was red in the blackness. Her hands flickered over the buttons on her dress. . .







She stepped forward into the sun, and with tears of terror pressing through her closed lids, she danced naked, for Evelyn, and begged her dead father's pardon.



When Janie was four, she hurled a paperweight at a lieutenant because of a feeling that he had no business around the house while her father was overseas. The lieutenant's skull was fractured and he was forever unable to recall the fact that Janie stood ten feet away from the

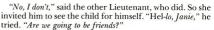
object when she threw it. Janie's mother later whaled the tar out of her for it, which Janie accepted with her usual composure. Strength without control, she sensed once again, had its demerits.

HEAVY METAL 67

"She gives me the creeps," her mother told her other lieutenant later. "I can't stand her. You think there's something wrong with me for talking like that, don't you?"



No. You smell like Major Grenfell. And don't you ever do that again.





Where are you going?



W-Wima . . . this child is . . . telepathic.



Janie achieved a wolfish smile. The Lieutenant left early and never came back.



When Janie was five she began playing with some other little girls. They were toddlers, perhaps two and a half years old, and they looked like twins. On warm days, they would AB HEAVY METAL

skin out of their rompers faster than the eye could follow, casting deliciously frightened glances at the basement door.

Janie discovered that with a little concentration she could move the rompers. To the twins' horror, the clothing rose from the ground in a steep climbing turn—



It seemed nours—weeks—of fascinated anticipation before Janie saw the basement door open. Out came the janitor. "Bonnie!" he bellowed. "Beanie! Look at yew! Where's yo' clothes?"



"Catch you doing that once more, I'll get Mr. Milton come punch yo'ears fulla holes. Heah?" They shrank together, their eyes round, as he lurched back to the door.



—and fluttered to the sill of a first-floor window. The twins jumped up and down in agitation, stretching and craning, twittering . . .



He swooped down on them. "Tryin' th'ow away yo' expensive clothes? Oh, I'm goin' to whop you good!" Janie giggled.



The twins went to the shadows by the wall and whispered to one another . . . .



There was no more fun for Janie that day, or for three more . . . HEAVY METAL 69

Across the street from Janie's apartment house was a park. In a copse of dwarf oak was a hidden patch of bare earth, known only to Janie. From a certain low branch it was an eight-inch drop to the earthen floor...



"He-hee," said the other twin, and Janie did what she had done to the Lieutenant. "Eeep," said the twin—



She hurled a bolt of hatred at them the like of which she had never even imagined before. "Oop," said one. The other said "Eep." Then they were both gone.



They're only three years old, she told herself. Then, "They knew who it was all along, that moved those rompers," she said aloud, in admiration "Ho-Ho! Four days ago they 70 HEANY METAL

... but this time, the very instant her fingers left the branch, she struck the ground flat on her stomach. "Hoho," said a voice, and she received a stinging blow on the rump.



—and disappeared. "Ho-ho." There she was, on a branch above. Both twins were grinning widely.



"Ho-ho." It was very distant, and something made her look across the street. Two little figures sat like gargoyles on the courtyard wall. They waved to her.



couldn't even reach a six-foot sill or get away from a spanking—and now look."

In the vestibule, Janie pressed the shiny brass button marked *Janitor*. "Who push that? You push that?" His voice filled the world.

Well, that's mighty *nice*, but don't you let 'em get in any *mischief* – and see if you cain't keep them *clothes* on 'em.



Janie made her voice all croony the way her mother did. "Mister Widdecombe, my mother says I can play with your girls."









Janie's whole life shaped itself from that afternoon. It was a time of belonging, of thinking alike, of transcendent sharing. She spoke hardly a word, and the twins had not yet learned to talk, but this was incidental to another kind of communion. Janie showed them how she

could get chocolates from the box without going there, and how she could throw a pillow clear up to the ceiling without touching it, though the paint box and easel impressed them most. It was a thing together, a sudden opening, a binding.



The afternoon slid by, smooth and soft and lovely, and when the hall door banged open and Wima's voice clanged out, the twins were still there. "Dear God," she said, "she's got the place filled with niggers!"



"They're going home now," said Janie resolutely, as Wima said to the man, "Honest to God, Pete, this is the first time this ever happened. What kind of a place you must think I run here! Get them the hell out!" She was screaming at the end.



Janie lay in bed as stiff and smooth and contained as a round toothpick. Nothing would get in, nothing could get out; somewhere she had found this surface that went all the way through, and as long as she had it, nothing was going to happen.

But if anything happens, came a whisper, you'll reak.

But if I don't break, nothing will happen, she answered.

But if anything. . .

The dark hours came and grew black, and the black hours labored by.



Her door crashed open and the light blazed. "He's gone and baby, have I got business with you!"

Janie pushed back the covers and thumped her feet down. Without understanding quite why, she began to get dressed in her good plaid dress.

Wima was pounding her fist. "You wrecked my celebration, so you ought to know what I'm celebrating. You don't know it, but I've had a big trouble and I didn't know how to handle it, and now it's all done for me. And I'll tell you all about it right now, baby Miss Big Ears. Because your father—I can handle him any time—but what was I going to do with your big mouth going day and night? That was my trouble, what was I going to do about your big mouth when he got back? Well, it's all fixed, he won't be back, the war fixed it up for me.

She drank from a square-stemmed glass, and waved a yellow sheet. "Smart girls know this is a telegram, and it says here, 'Regret to inform you that your husband.' They shot your father, that's what they regret to say, and now this is the way it's going to be from now on between you and me. Whatever I want to do I do, an' whatever you want to nose into, nose away. Now isn't that fair?"

She turned for an answer but there was none. Janie was gone.

Wima stood in the middle of the living room, not knowing which way to go. She whispered, "Janie?"

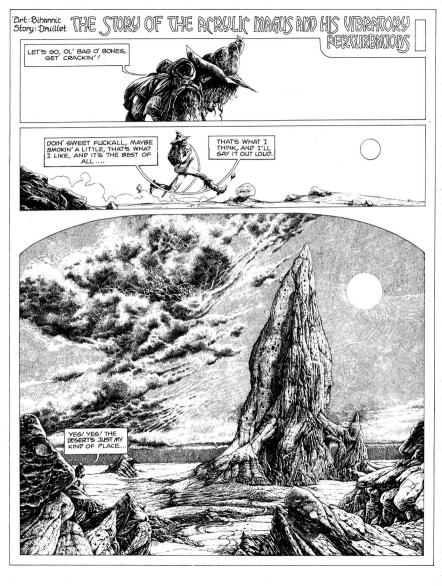
She put her hands on the sides of her face and lifted her face away from it. She turned around and around, and asked, "What's the matter with me?"

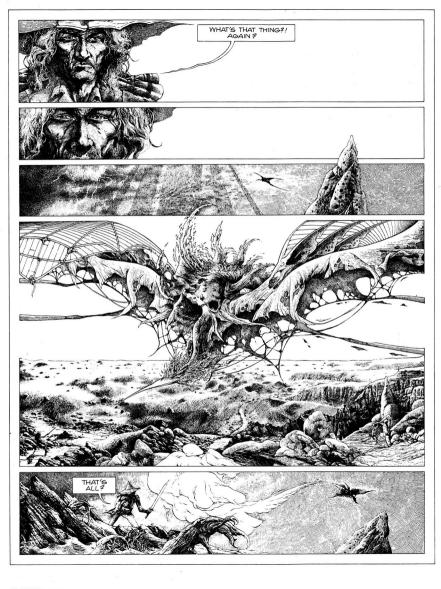


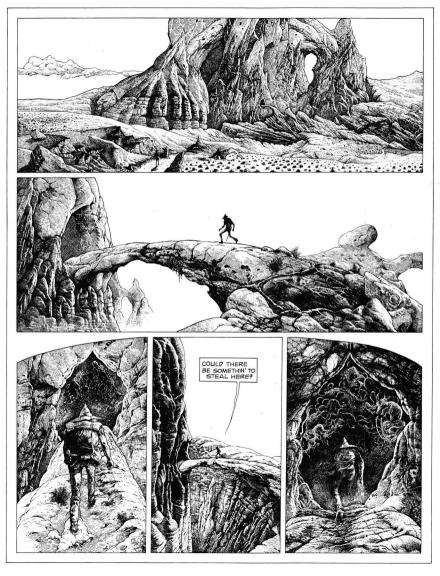




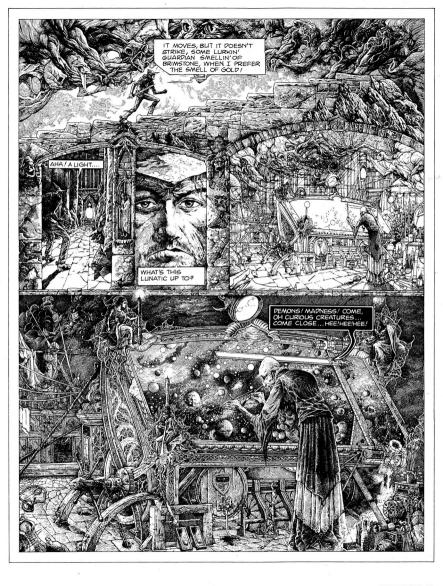
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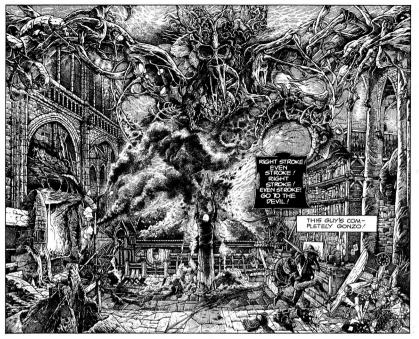








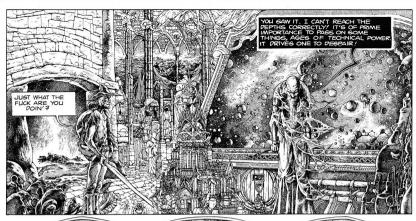








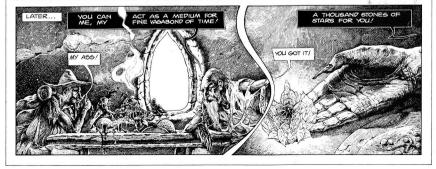


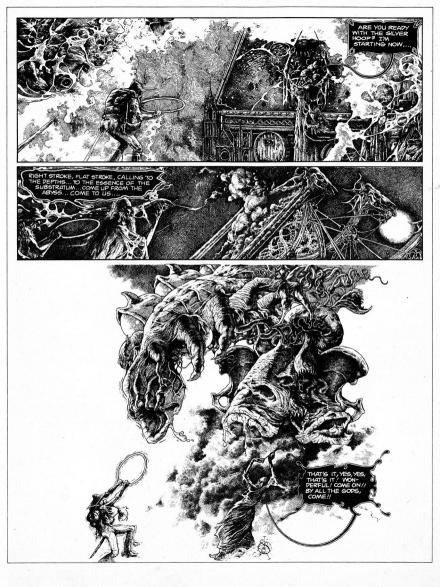






















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BROWN... ARE YOU IN YOUR WORKSHOP?... LITTLE FOXY HAS DISAPPEARED.

OH.' I'M 50...





























































































































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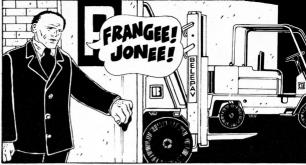












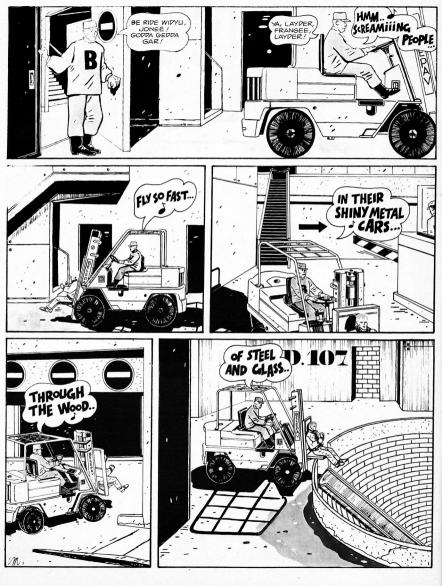


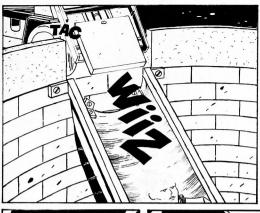
















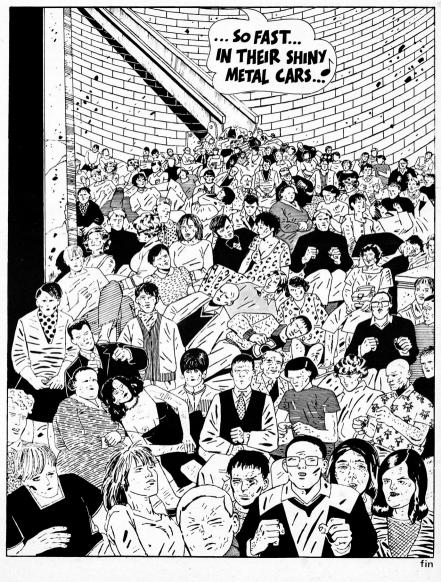












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