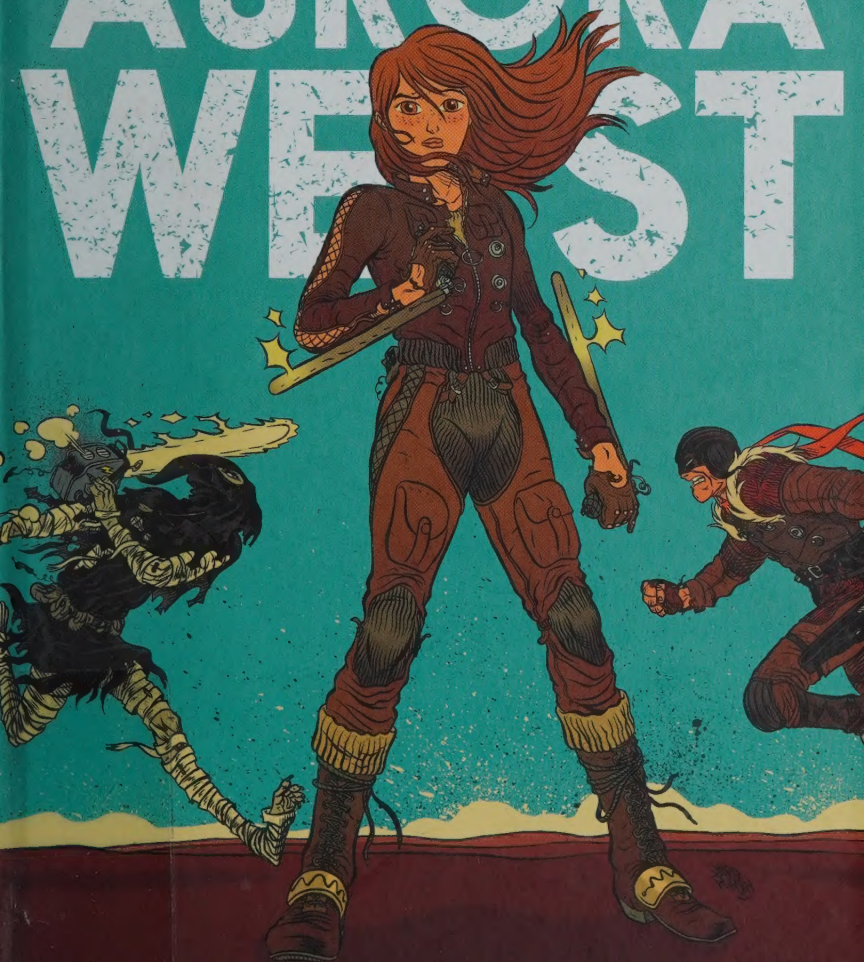


FROM THE #1 NEW YORK TIMES-BESTSELLING AUTHOR OF

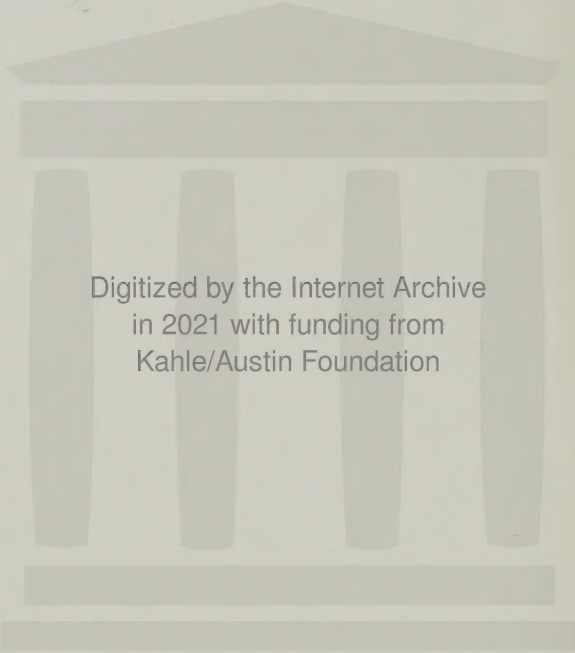
BATTLINGBOY

THE RISE OF

AUROLA WEST



PAUL POPE • JT PETTY • DAVID RUBÍN



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THE RISE OF AURORA WEST



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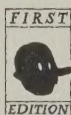
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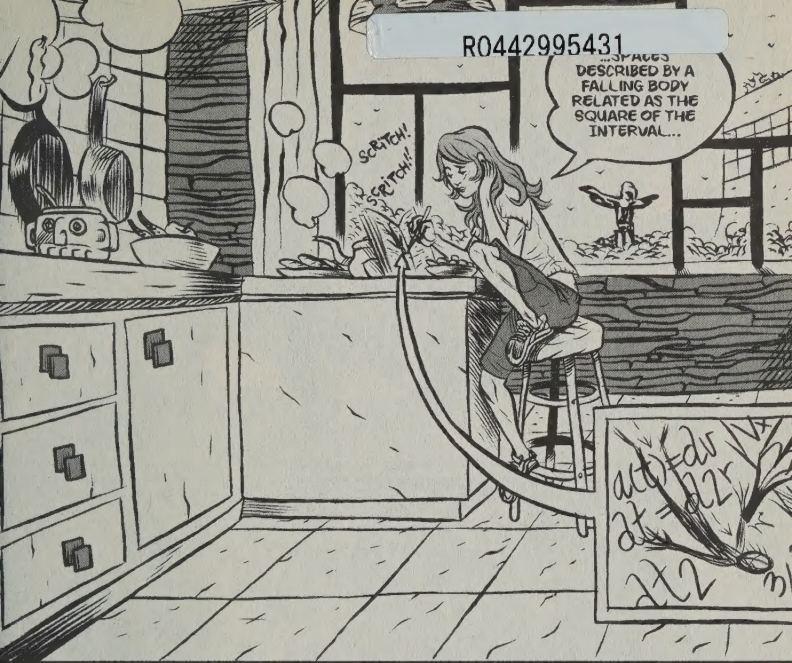
:01

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New York

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...SPACES
DESCRIBED BY A
FALLING BODY
RELATED AS THE
SQUARE OF THE
INTERVAL...

SCATCH!
SQUITCH!

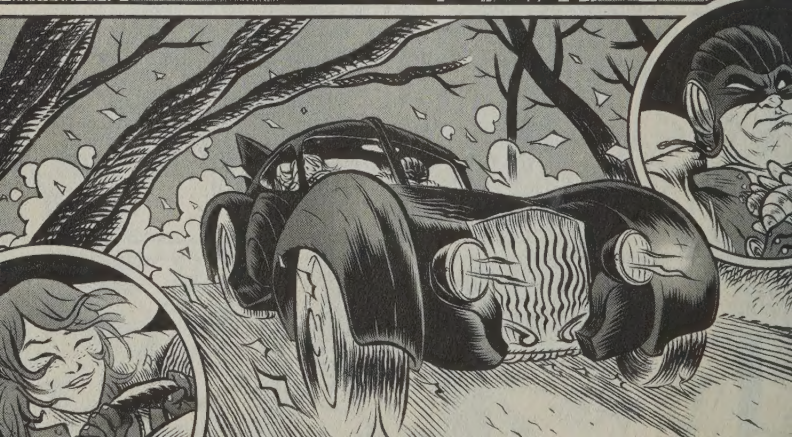


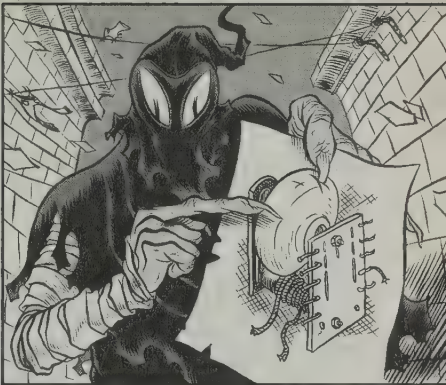
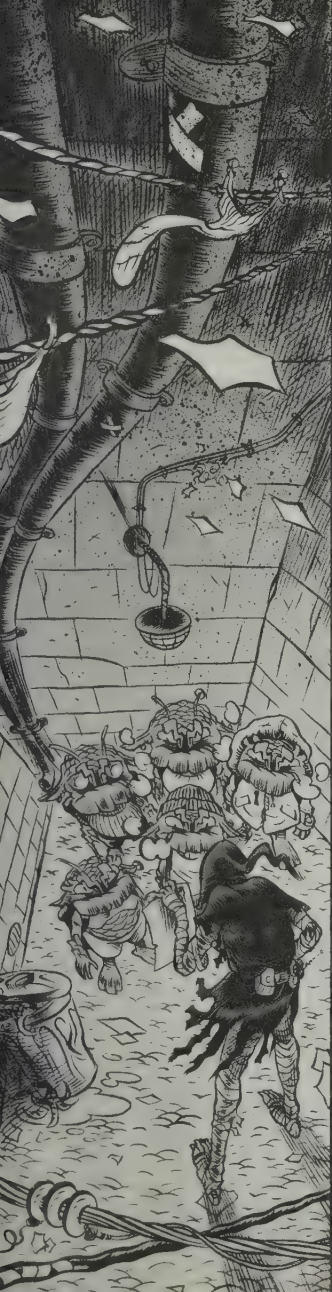
YOU ABOUT DONE
WITH THAT HOME-
WORK, AURORA?



WHEN YOU
FINISH,
SUIT UP
AND MEET
ME IN THE
WEAPONS
ROOM.







WE HUNT MONSTERS.

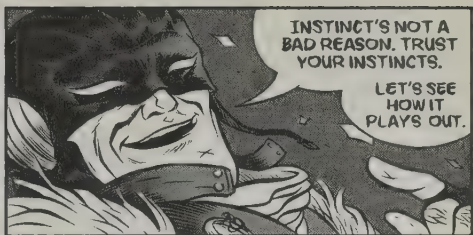
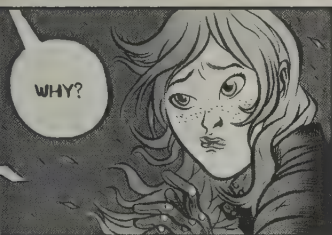
THE TALL ONE'S
COIL, FROM
SADISTO'S GANG.

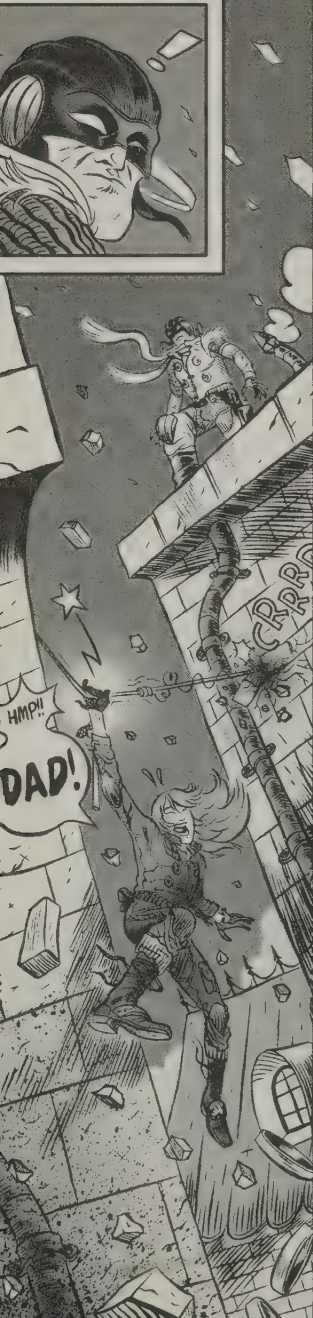
THE SHORT
ONES WORK
FOR A SQUID
WITCH NAMED
MEDULA.

YOUR CALL:
WHO DO WE
FOLLOW?

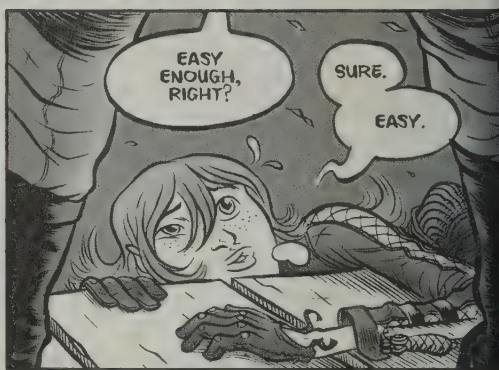
UM, THE
SHORT
ONES?







GET AHOLOF THAT DRAINAGE SPOUT AND PULL YOURSELF UP.



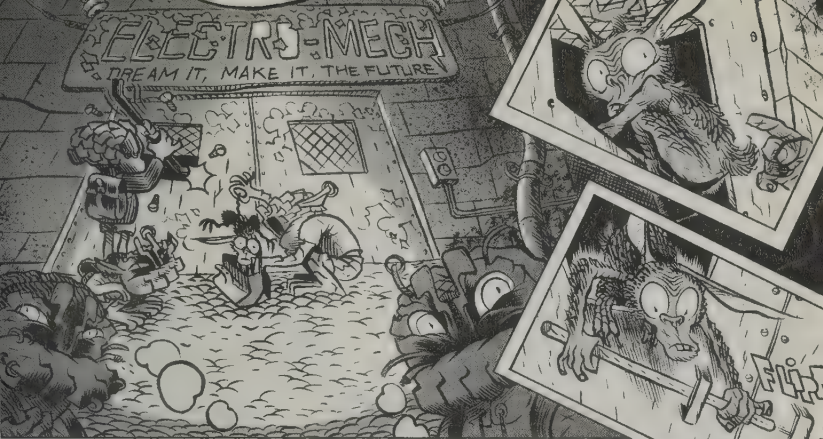
EASY ENOUGH, RIGHT?

SURE.

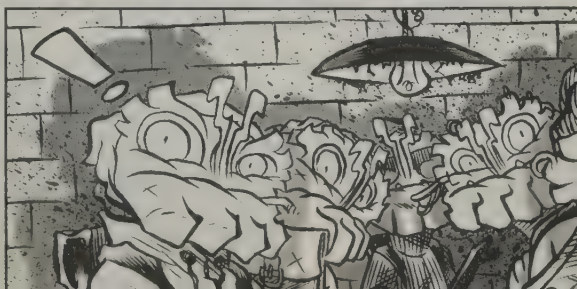
EASY.

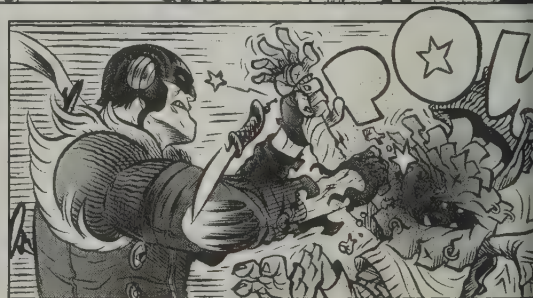
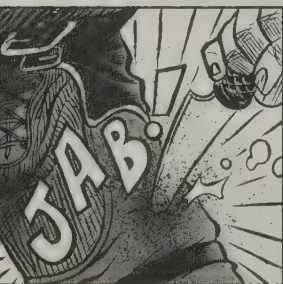


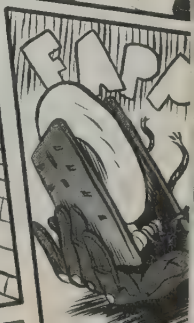
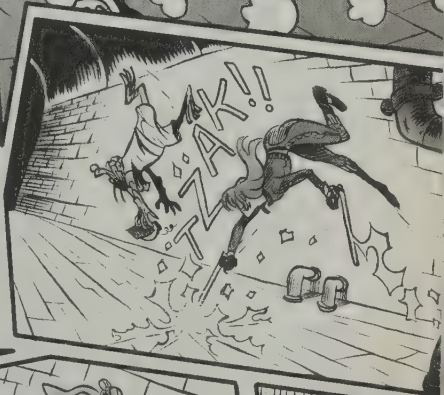
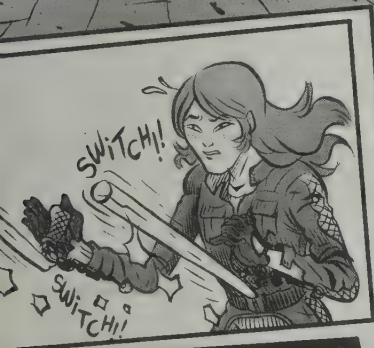
ON YOUR FEET, WE DON'T WANT TO LOSE THEM.

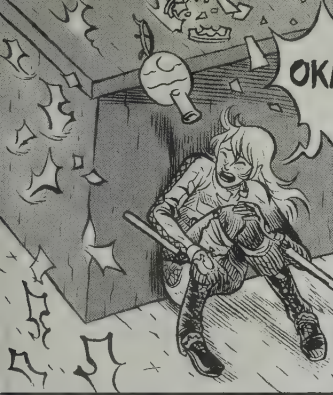


THINGY. HERE. WE'VE GOT IT.

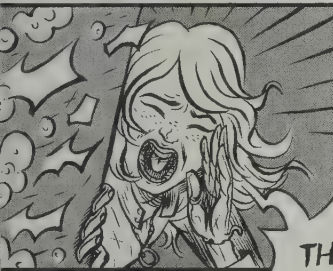








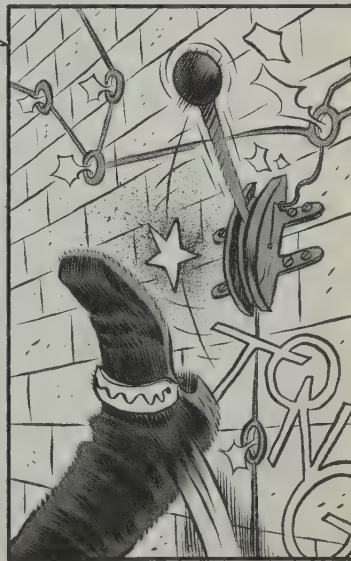
OKAY!!

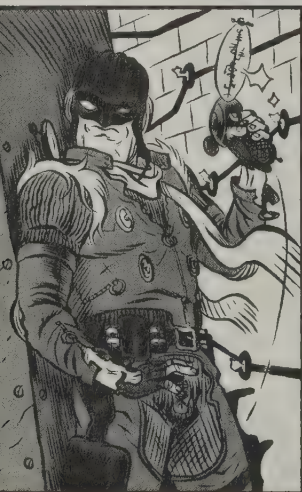
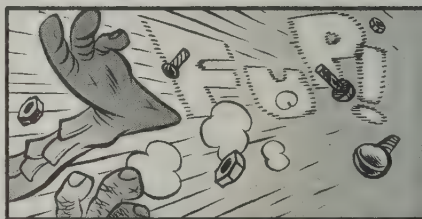
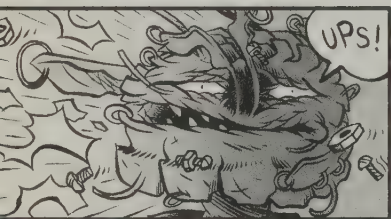
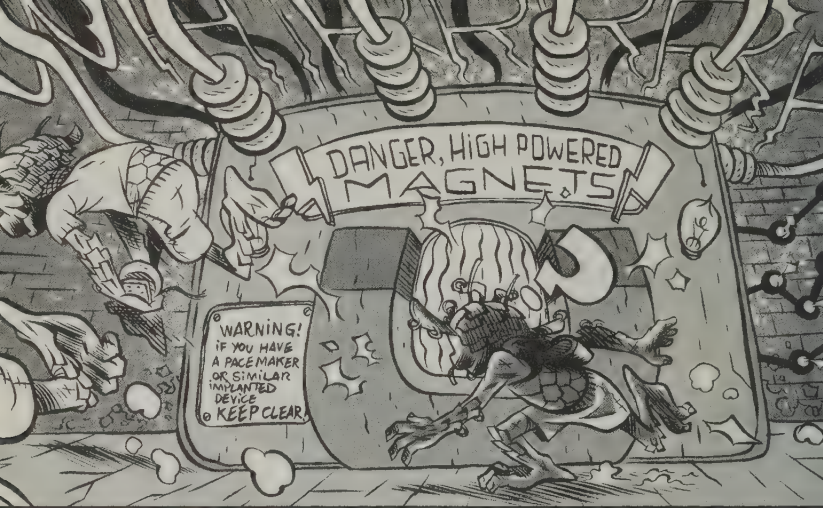


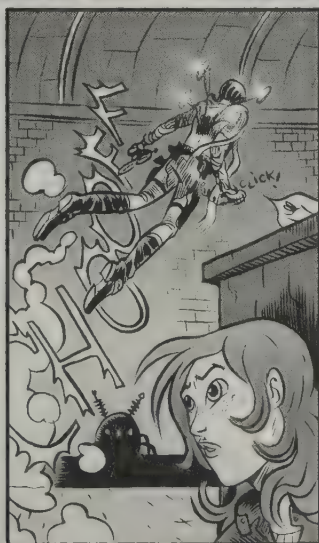
THEY'RE
GETTING
AWAY!!!

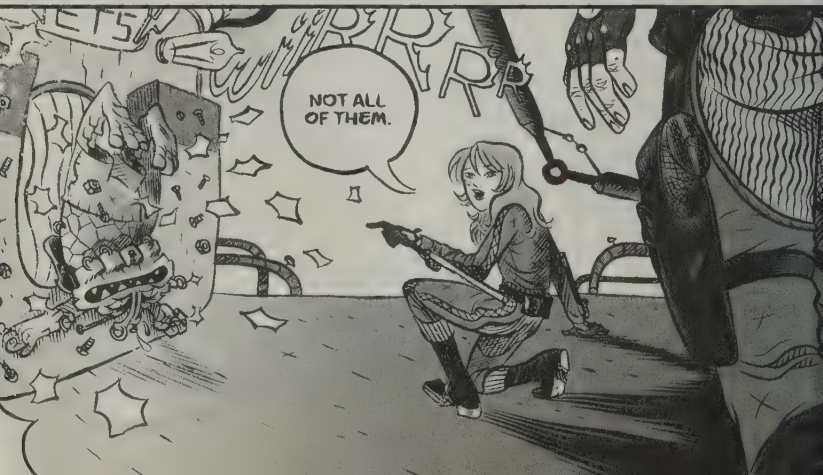
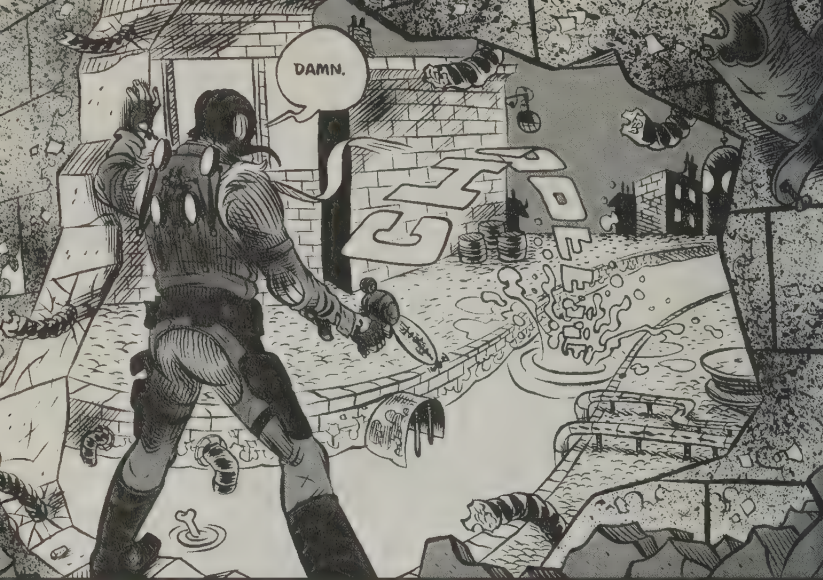


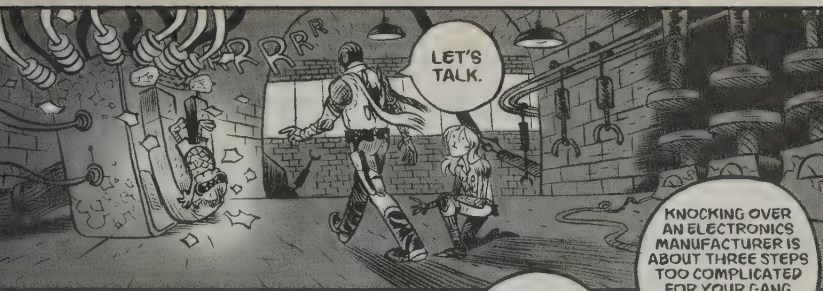
NOT ALL
OF THEM.











LET'S
TALK.

KNOCKING OVER
AN ELECTRONICS
MANUFACTURER IS
ABOUT THREE STEPS
TOO COMPLICATED
FOR YOUR GANG
OF HALF-WIT
BOTTOMFEEDERS.



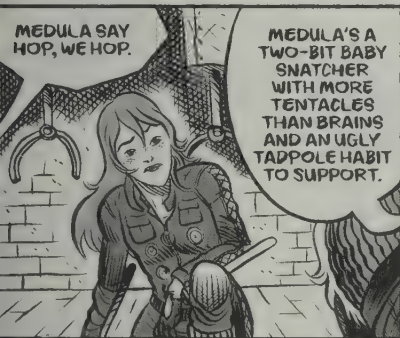
PLEASE. NO WANT.
DO NOT DO NOT DO NOT.



WHAT'S
THE STORY
HERE,
RUNT?

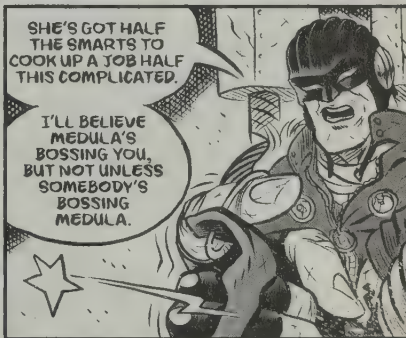
NO
WANT
HURT.

CHK!
DUCK HUNT
FROGGY SNACK
MAMA.



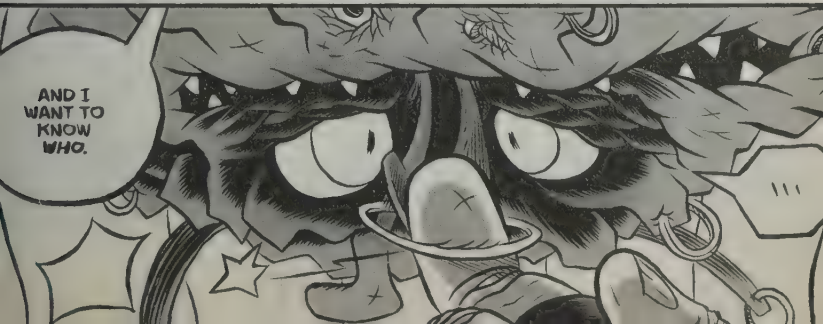
MEDULA SAY
HOP, WE HOP.

MEDULA'S A
TWO-BIT BABY
SNATCHER
WITH MORE
TENTACLES
THAN BRAINS
AND AN UGLY
TADPOLE HABIT
TO SUPPORT.

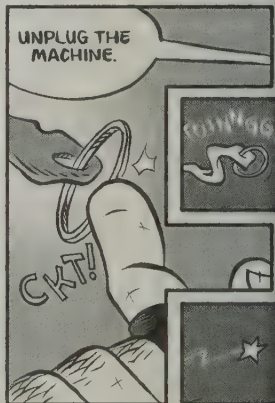
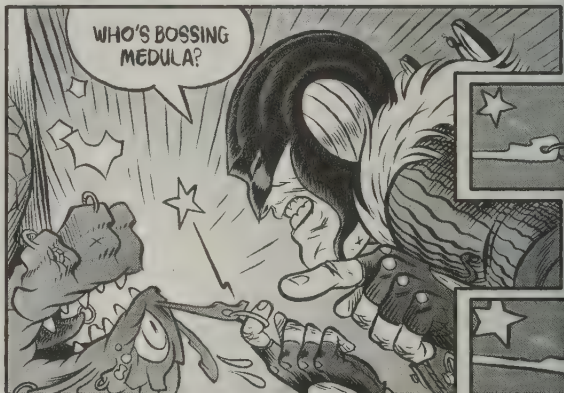
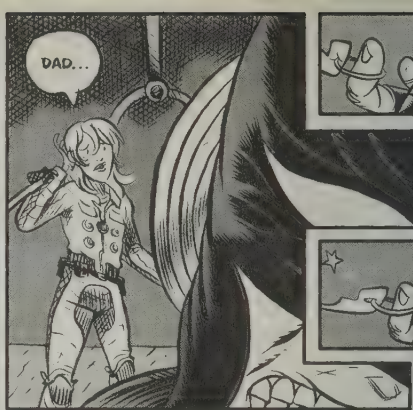


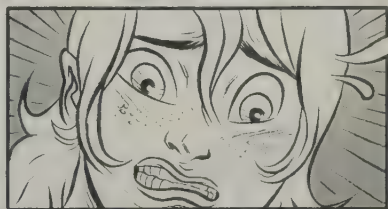
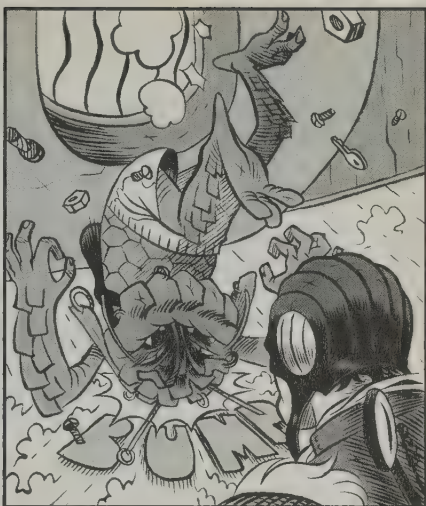
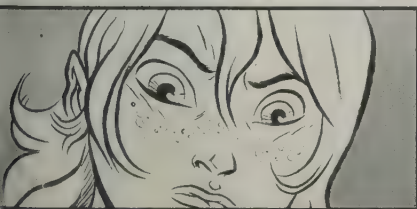
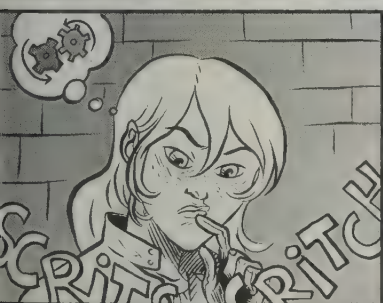
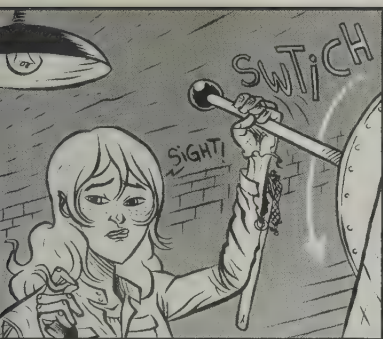
SHE'S GOT HALF
THE SMARTS
TO COOK UP A
JOB HALF
THIS COMPLICATED.

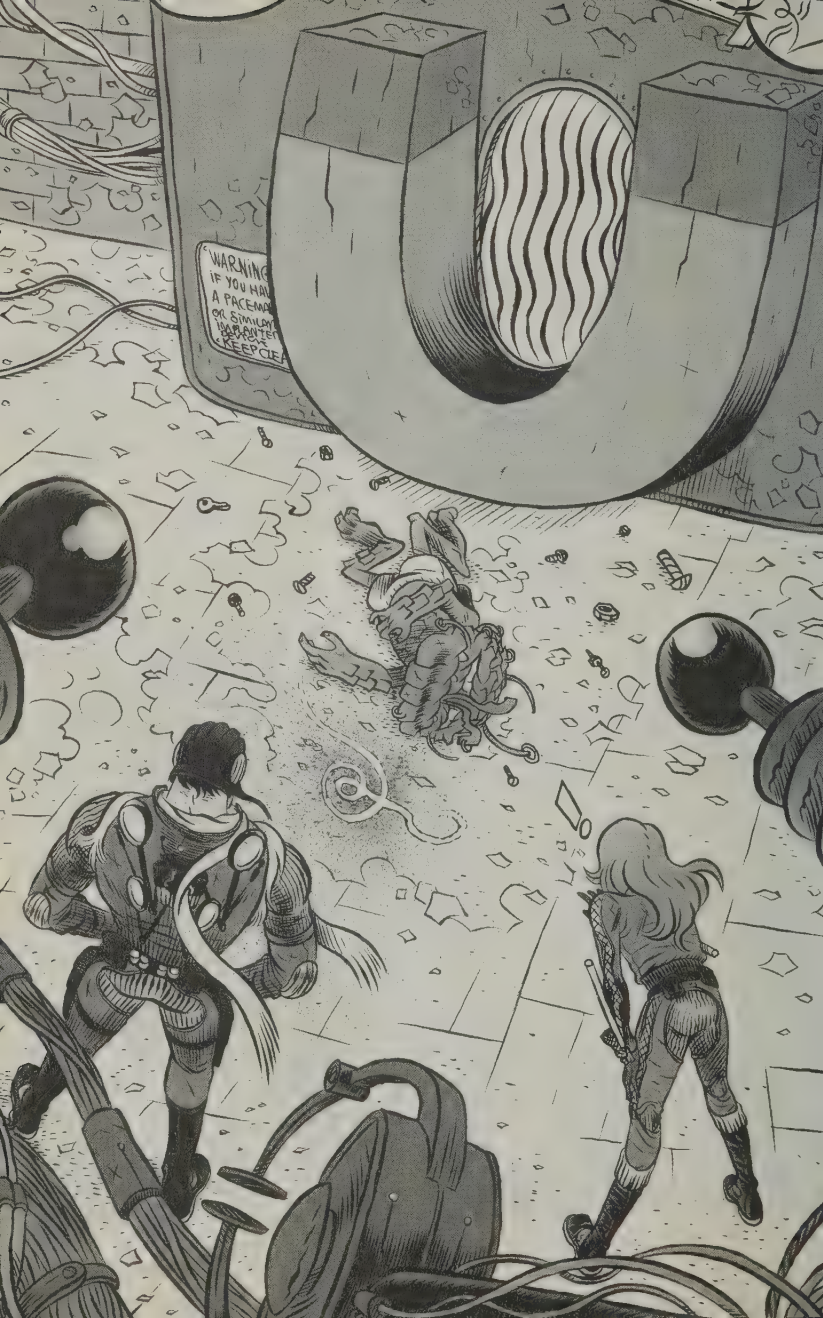
I'LL BELIEVE
MEDULA'S
BOSSING YOU,
BUT NOT UNLESS
SOMEBODY'S
BOSSING
MEDULA.



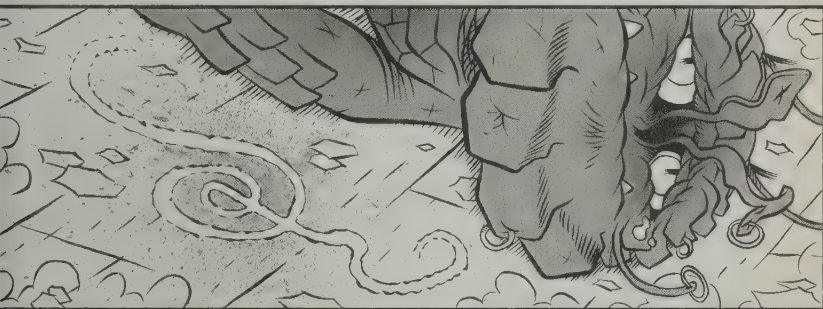
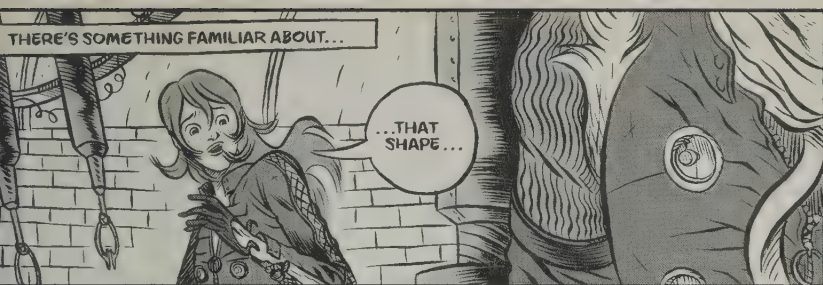
AND I
WANT TO
KNOW
WHO.



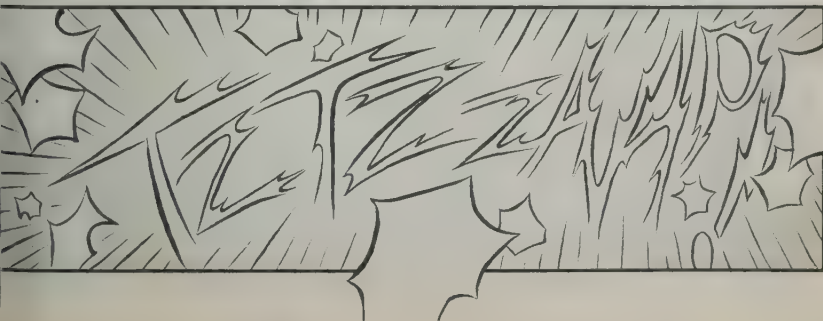


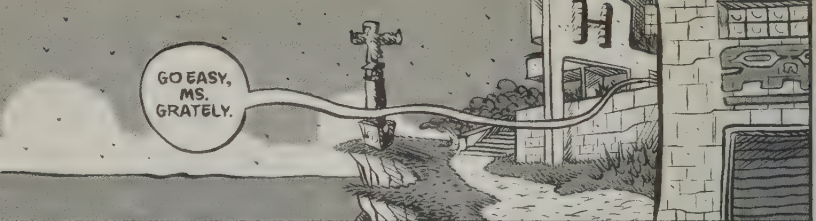


THERE'S SOMETHING FAMILIAR ABOUT...



THERE'S NO JAIL FOR MONSTERS.





GO EASY,
MS.
GRATELY.



NOT AS
DUNG AS
I USED
TO BE.

HOLD
STILL.

DON'T CALL
ME "DAD"
WHEN WE'RE
WORKING. I
HAVE TO BE
AN IDEA.

WHAT DO YOU THINK
THAT SHAPE WAS? THE
SPIRAL THAT MONSTER
DREW IN THE DUST?

A FORCE
OF
NATURE.

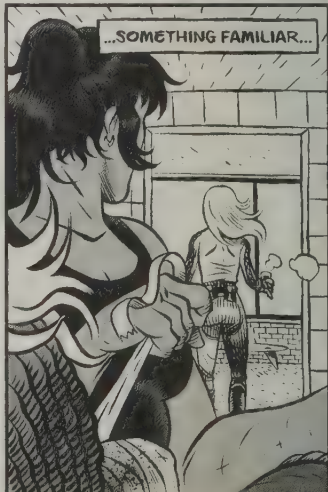
VE SEEN ITS LIKE BEFORE.
YOUR MOTHER THOUGHT
HEY WERE "CHOPS," LIKE
A SEAL. THE MONSTERS
DON'T HAVE A WRITTEN
LANGUAGE.

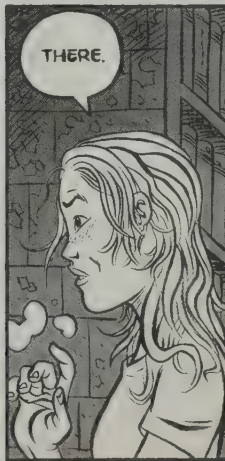
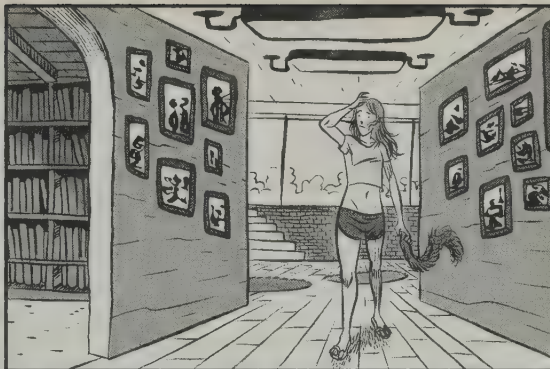
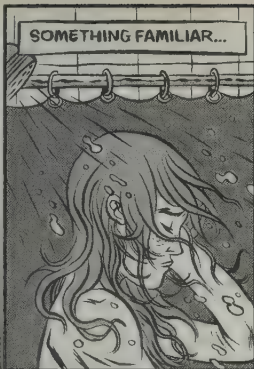
BUT SOME OF THEM USE
CHOPS, LIKE THAT SYMBOL.
OFTEN IT'S COPIED FROM
A BIRTHMARK ON THE
MONSTER'S BODY.
SOMEWHERE BETWEEN
A DOG MARKING ITS
TERRITORY, A CALLING
CARD, AND A SIGNATURE.
WHY? IT MEAN
SOMETHING TO YOU?

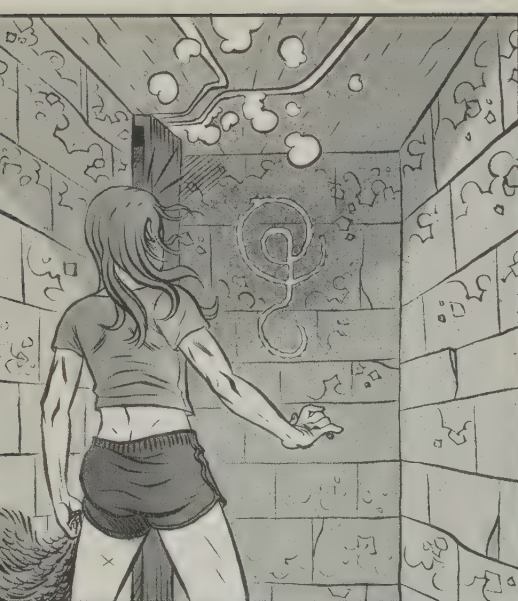
...SOMETHING FAMILIAR...



NO,
THERE'S
JUST...



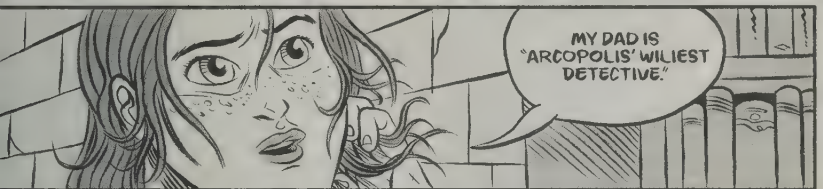






YOU DID THAT
WITH YOUR DAD'S
LETTER OPENER
WHEN YOU WERE
THREE YEARS
OLD.

I PUT THAT
SHELF THERE SO HE
WOULDN'T FIND OUT
YOU'D BEEN CARVING
UP THE WALLS.



MY DAD IS
"ARCPOLIS' WILDEST
DETECTIVE."



NOBODY
SUSPECTS AN
INSIDE JOB.

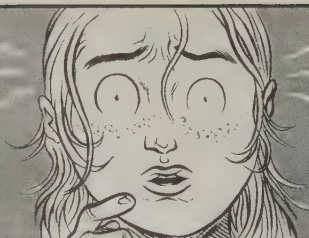
BUT WHAT
DOES IT MEAN,
THE SHAPE?



THAT WOULD BE
MR. WURPLE.

HE WAS
YOUR
IMAGINARY
FRIEND
FOR A FEW
MONTHS.

I DON'T
REMEMBER
THAT AT
ALL.



CLAC!

YOU WERE
FOUR YEARS
OLD WHEN
HE LEFT.

YOU SAID
HE HAD TO GO
TO WORK.

I SHOULD
HAVE SANDED
THAT OFF AND
REFINISHED
THE WALL A
LONG TIME
AGO.

I SAID HE
HAD TO GO
TO WORK?



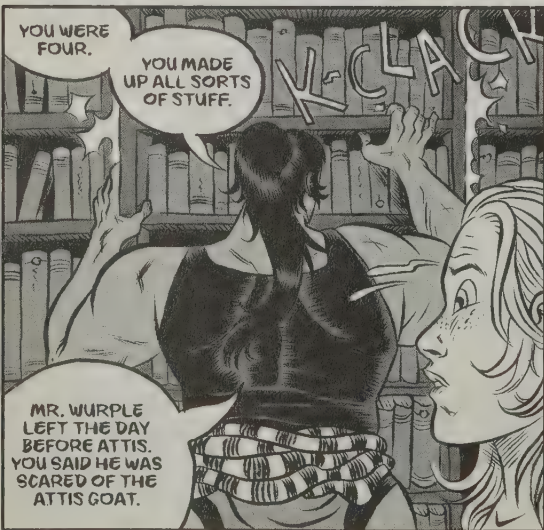
YOU WERE
FOUR.

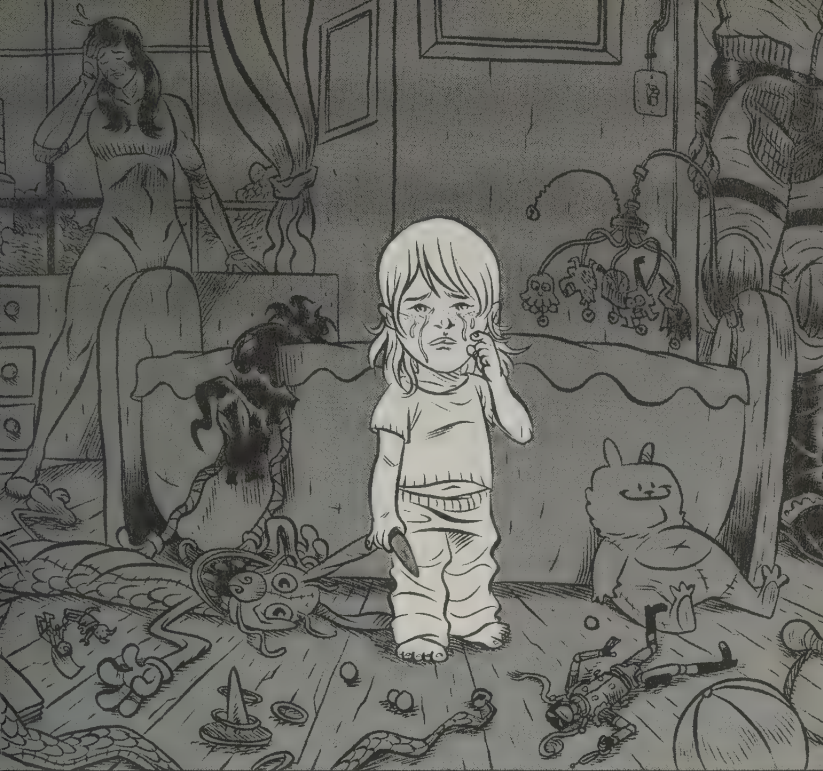
YOU MADE
UP ALL SORTS
OF STUFF.

K-CLACK

MR. WURPLE
LEFT THE DAY
BEFORE ATTIS.
YOU SAID HE WAS
SCARED OF THE
ATTIS GOAT.

ATTIS DAY,
WHEN I WAS
FOUR....?



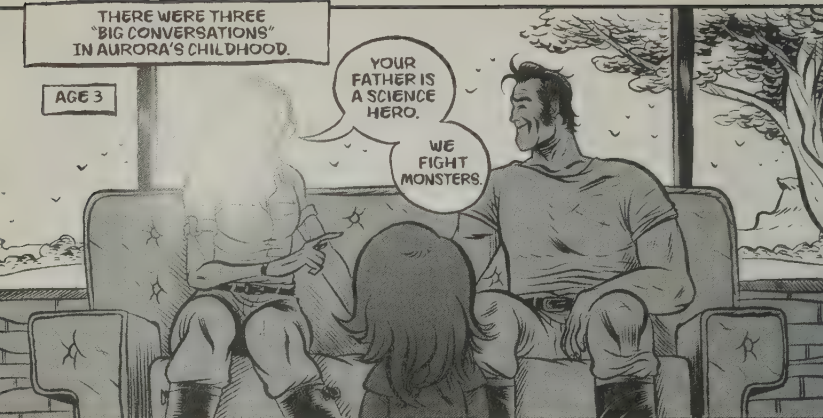


THERE WERE THREE
"BIG CONVERSATIONS"
IN AURORA'S CHILDHOOD.

AGE 3

YOUR
FATHER IS
A SCIENCE
HERO.

WE
FIGHT
MONSTERS.



AGE 7

I SHOULD TELL
YOU THE STORY
OF HOW YOUR
MOM DIED...



AGE 14

I'M GOING
TO TRAIN
YOU TO FIGHT
MONSTERS.



THE STORY OF HOW
ROSETTA WEST DIED.

WE HAD JUST
STRUCK A MAJOR
VICTORY AGAINST
THE MONSTERS.

TOGETHER.

I DON'T KNOW IF
YOU REMEMBER HOW
SMART AND FIERCE
YOUR MOTHER WAS.



I AGREED
TO DO A PRESS
CONFERENCE WITH
THE MAYOR AND
CHIEF OF POLICE.

IT WAS
ARROGANT AND
FOOLISH.

I THOUGHT
IT WOULD HELP
MAKE ME A
SYMBOL. HOPE
FOR HUMANITY,
FEAR IN THE
EMPTY PLACE
WHERE A
MONSTER'S HEART
SHOULD BE.

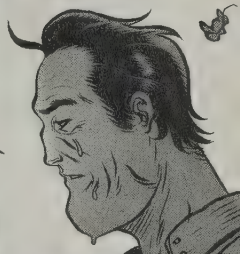


SHE WAS ON HER
WAY TO THE PRESS
CONFERENCE WHEN SHE
WAS DRAWN
INTO AN ALLEY.

I LIKE TO THINK
SHE WAS COMING TO
THE AID OF A CHILD
IN TROUBLE.



AND A
MONSTER
KILLED
HER.



I SCoured
THE CRIME SCENE
FOR DAYS.

BREWER'S ALLEY.

SHE WAS KILLED BY
A SEVEN-FINGERED
MONSTER.
IMMENSELY
STRONG. AND I
NEVER FOUND HIM.
I LOOKED AND
LOOKED, BUT IT
WAS IMPOSSIBLE.



IT WAS...

...THE LAST TIME
I DID A PRESS
CONFERENCE.

PARADED
MYSELF IN FRONT
OF THE CAMERAS.
I SHOULD HAVE
BEEN THERE FOR
YOUR MOTHER AND
I WON'T MAKE THAT
MISTAKE AGAIN.



THERE'S
NOTHING
IN MY LIFE
NOW BUT
JUSTICE
AND
DISCIPLINE.

NOTHING.

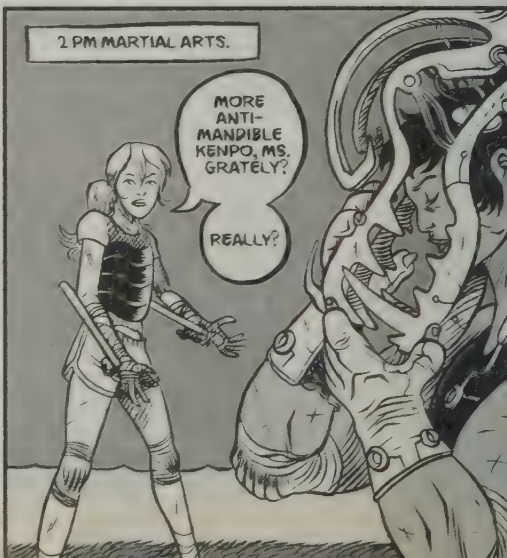
THERE ISN'T
SPACE FOR
ANYTHING
ELSE.

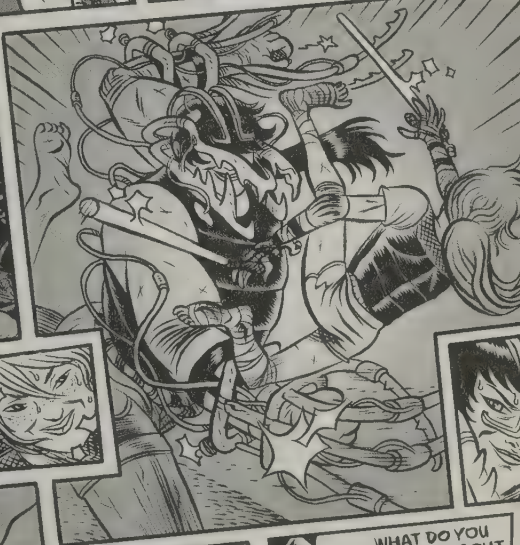
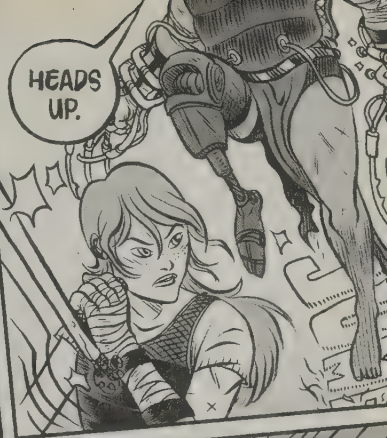
DO YOU
UNDERSTAND?

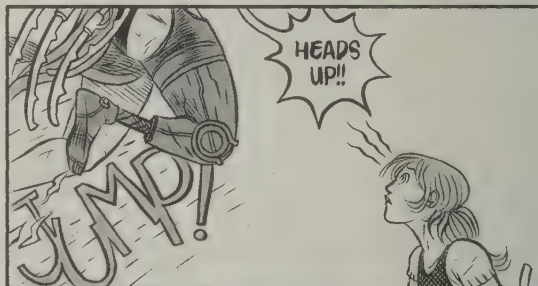
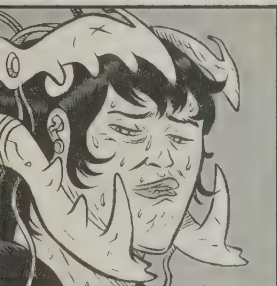


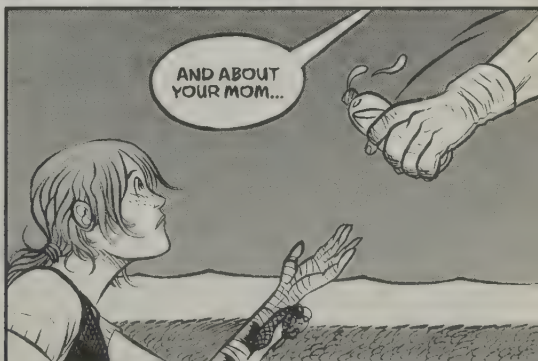
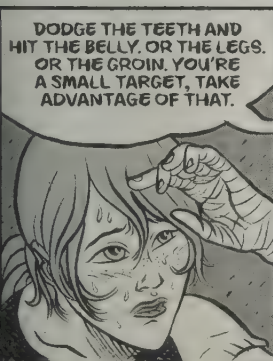
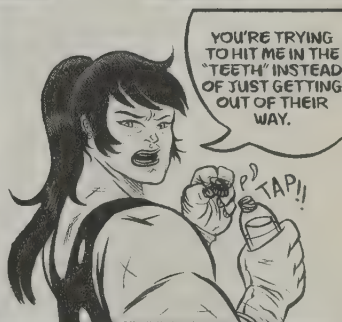
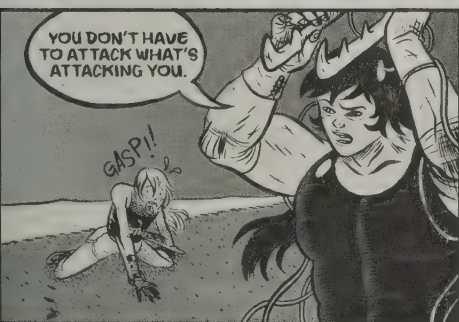


BACK TO THE ROUTINE. 7 AM
SQUAB PRACTICE WITH THE
GIRLS AT ST. IGNOMIOUS PREP.









YOU'RE TOO YOUNG TO REMEMBER WHAT IT DID TO HIM, TRYING TO FIND THE MONSTER WHO KILLED HER.

HE DID NOTHING ELSE FOR A YEAR. HE STOPPED SLEEPING, STOPPED EATING.

IMAGINE HOW YOUR FATHER WOULD FEEL ABOUT A MYSTERY HE COULDN'T SOLVE.

IMAGINE THAT MYSTERY IS ABOUT THE THING...

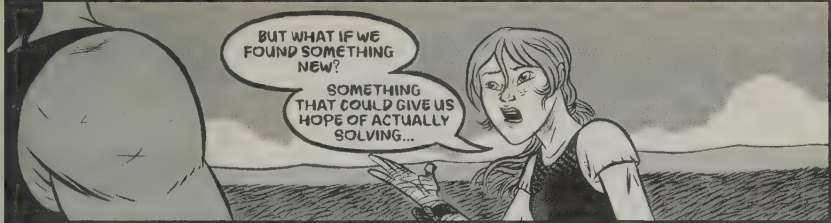
ONE OF THE THINGS HE LOVES MOST IN THIS WORLD. HOW THAT WOULD TEAR HIM APART. TRYING TO FIND YOUR MOM'S KILLER NEARLY DESTROYED YOUR FATHER.

AND IN THAT TIME THE MONSTERS MULTIPLIED UNCHECKED. THE CITY WAS NEARLY OVERWHELMED.

IT TOOK YEARS OFF HIS LIFE AND DID WHO KNOWS HOW MUCH DAMAGE TO ARCOPOLOIS.

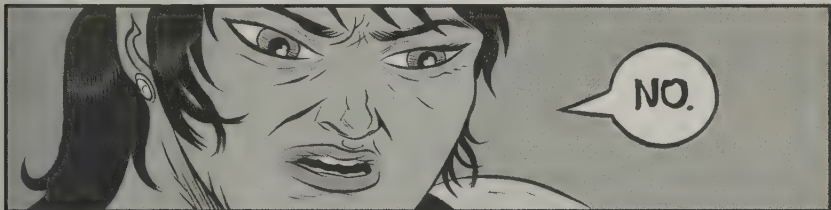
WE LOST SO MANY CHILDREN IN THOSE MONTHS.





BUT WHAT IF WE
FOUND SOMETHING
NEW?

SOMETHING
THAT COULD GIVE US
HOPE OF ACTUALLY
SOLVING...



NO.



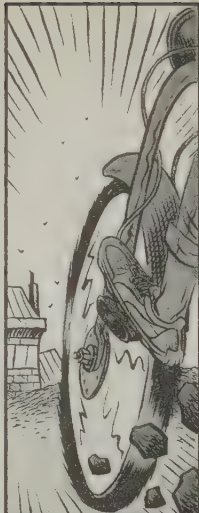
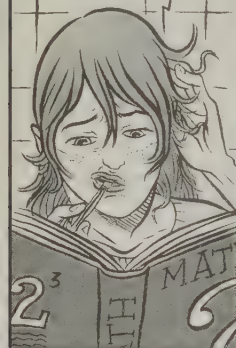
IT ALREADY
COST TOO
MUCH.

IT WOULD
ONLY HURT
YOUR DAD.

LET IT LIE,
ROAR.

3 PM, MATH

RASP!
RASP!



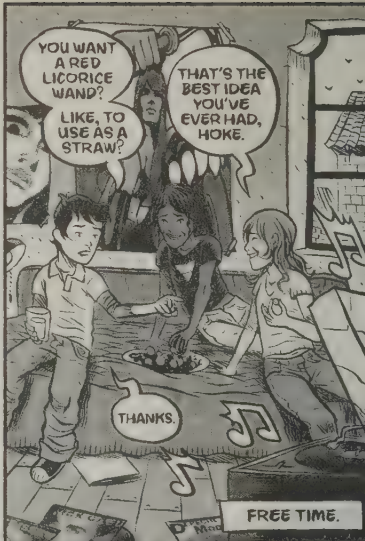
YOU WANT
A RED
LICORICE
WAND?

LIKE, TO
USE AS A
STRAW?

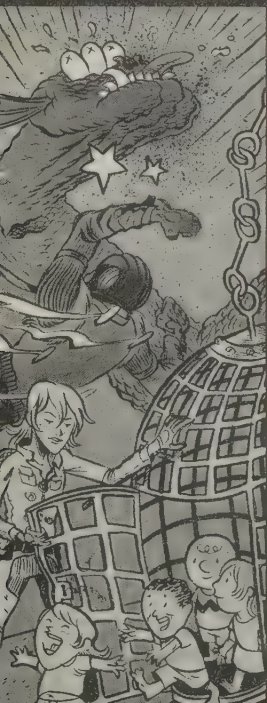
THAT'S THE
BEST IDEA
YOU'VE
EVER HAD,
HOKE.

THANKS.

FREE TIME.



CURFEW AT DUSK, WE HUNT MONSTERS



DON'T BE
AFRAID TO
USE THOSE
ELBOWS!

ZAP!



THE ABBEY
BELLS...

BONG BONG

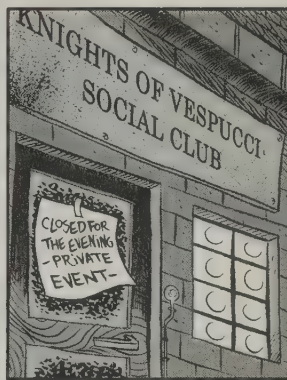


NINE
O'CLOCK
ALREADY.

THEY'RE
FIVE
MINUTES
EARLY.

IT'S A SIGN.

THE CAPTAIN
WANTS TO
MEET.



I THOUGHT
THAT DOOR
WAS LOCKED.

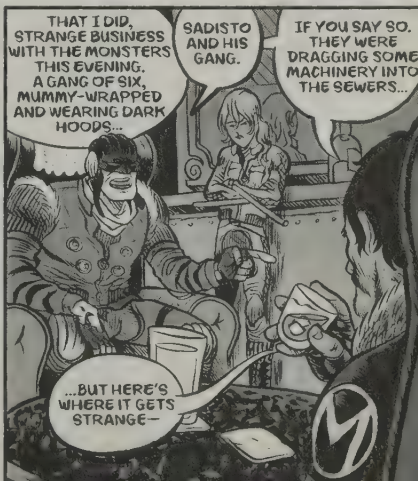
IT
WAS.

IS THAT
YOUR
LITTLE
GIRL?



YOU RANG
THE BELLS.

THAT'S MY
APPRENTICE.



THAT I DID,
STRANGE BUSINESS
WITH THE MONSTERS
THIS EVENING.
A GANG OF SIX,
MUMMY-WRAPPED
AND WEARING DARK
HOODS...

SADISTO
AND HIS
GANG.

IF YOU SAY SO.
THEY WERE
DRAGGING SOME
MACHINERY INTO
THE SEWERS...

...BUT HERE'S
WHERE IT GETS
STRANGE—



THEY WERE IN THE ALLEY BEHIND THE 1ST PRECINCT STATION.

RIGHT UNDER YOUR NOSES. WHY WOULD THEY RISK IT?

SEARCH ME. WE TRIED TO STOP THEM. GOT THREE MEN IN THE HOSPITAL FOR THE TROUBLE.

THEN WHY? THEY COULD REACH THE SEWERS FROM A HUNDRED PLACES IN THE CITY...

IT'S OFF OUR PATROL.

MONSTERS GOT AWAY CLEAN.

UM.

FIRST NIGHT YOU TOOK ME OUT, YOU SAID WE COULD SKIP THE BLOCKS AROUND MUNICIPAL SQUARE.

SINCE THERE'S SO MANY POLICE THERE.

SHE'S RIGHT.

IT'S THE PERFECT PLACE IF ALL YOU'RE TRYING TO DODGE IS HAGGARD WEST.

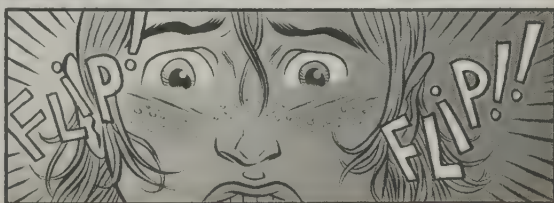
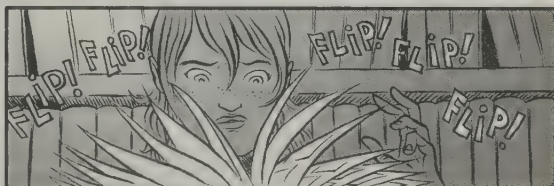
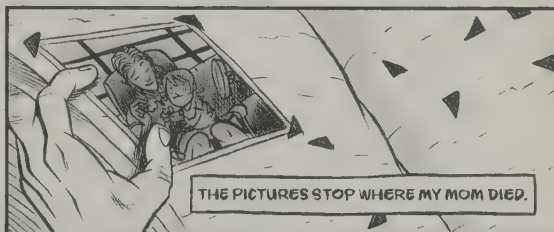
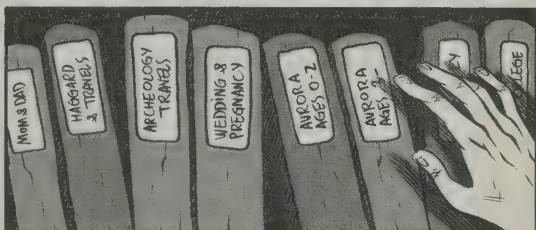
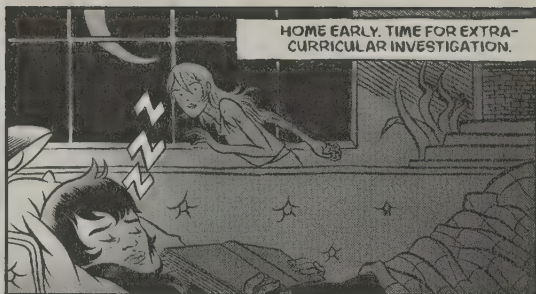
SO WE GO TO THE 1ST PRECINCT, SEE IF WE CAN PICK UP SADISTO'S TRAIL?

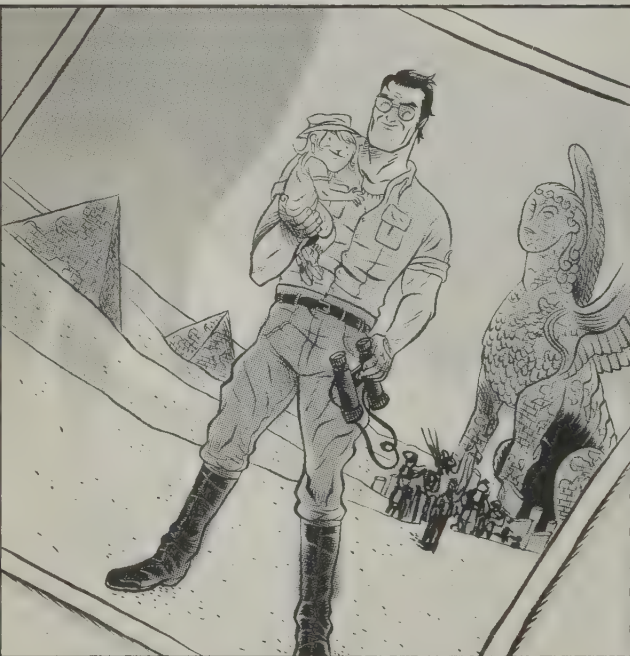
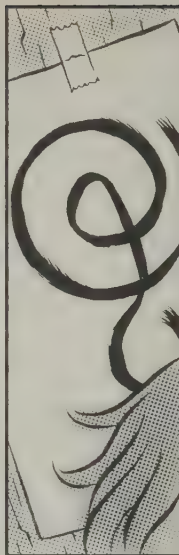
KNIGHTS of VESPUCCI SOCIAL CLUB
HALL ROOM

THAT'S WHERE I'M GOING.

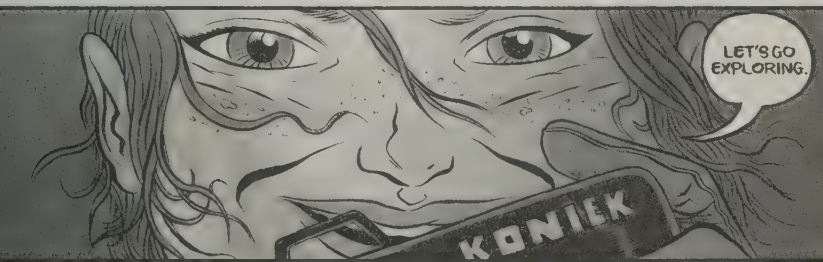
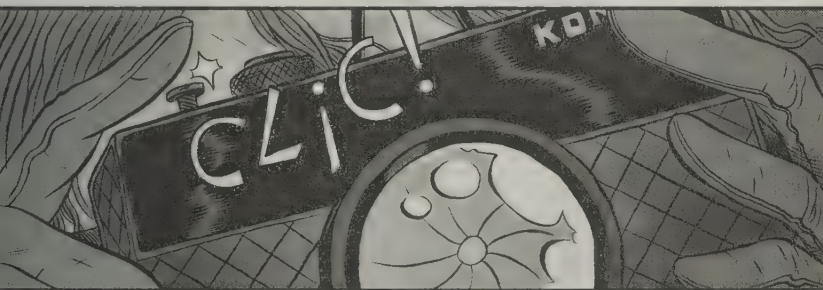
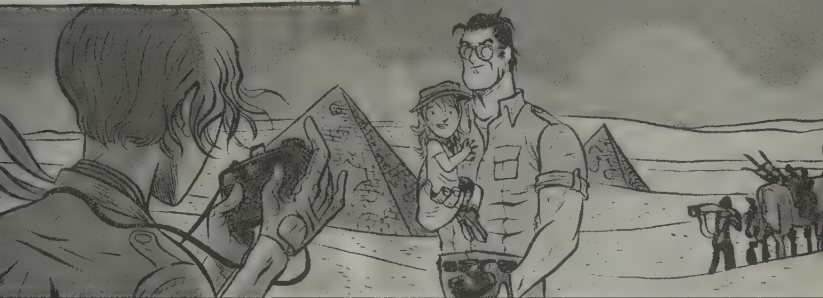
YOU'RE HEADING HOME IT'S A SCHOOL NIGHT.

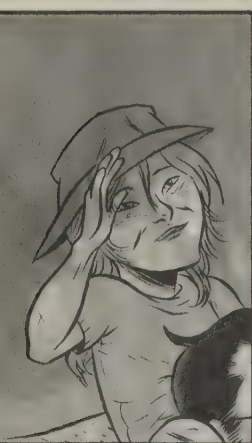
CHUK!





OUTSIDE AXELANDRIA,
COPTIC MERIDIA. ELEVEN YEARS AGO.





HOW OLD
DO YOU
THINK
THAT IS?

A... A
MILLION
MILLIONS
YEARS?



CLOSE.

ABOUT
FOUR
THOUSAND.



AT LEAST. THE GREAT SPHINX OF
AXELANDRIA, ABU AL HUL, "THE
TERRIFYING ONE." THEY SAID HE WAS THE
NIGHTMARE OF A CHILD KING—ENDLESS
POTENTIAL FOR DESTRUCTION, THE
IMPOSSIBLE RIDDLES THAT WEIGH UPON
THE HEAD THAT WEARS THE CROWN.



THE CITY WAS "THE
BEAUTIFUL DREAM OF
CIVILIZATION"; THAT
MONSTER WAS ITS
NIGHTMARE.



DON'T TRY TO KEEP
UP WITH YOUR MOM
ONCE SHE GETS GOING.

THE PHARAOH WHO BUILT THE
SPHINX RULED OVER AN EMPIRE THAT
INCLUDED ALL OF THE SAHARA, MOST
OF ARABIA, HALF OF THE COPTIC
MERIDIAN, EVEN PARTS OF HELENA.
THEY HAD TECHNOLOGIES THAT
WE'RE STILL TRYING TO DIG UP
AND UNDERSTAND.

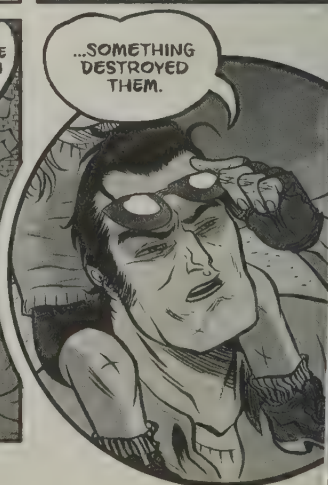


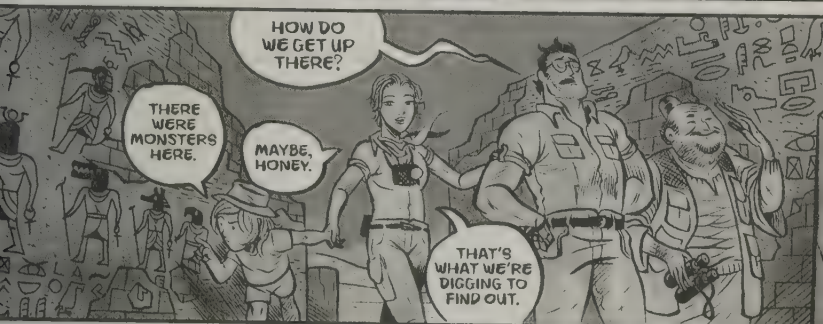
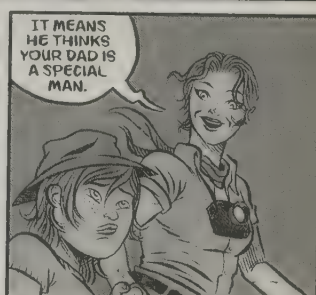
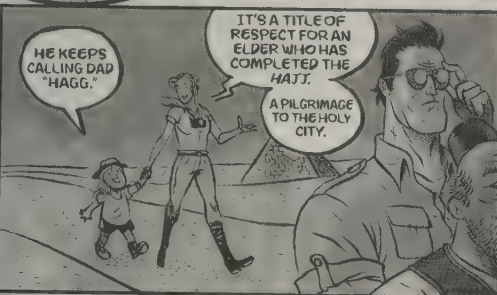
HAGG. SIR.
THERE IS
WHAT YOU
SEEK.

IN SOME WAYS
THEY WERE MORE
ADVANCED THAN
WE ARE TODAY.

SO WHAT
HAPPENED
TO THEM?

...SOMETHING
DESTROYED
THEM.





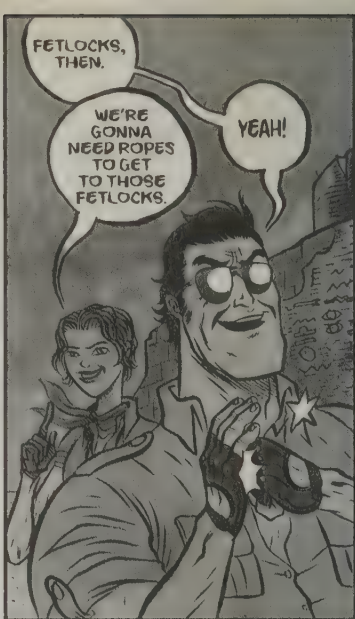


YOUSEFF SAYS
THE ETCHINGS
ARE UP
AROUND THE...

... WHATEVER YOU
CALL A SPHINX'S
KNEES.

I DON'T THINK
ANYBODY COULD
TELL YOU THAT
YOU WERE
CALLING THEM
BY THE WRONG
NAME.

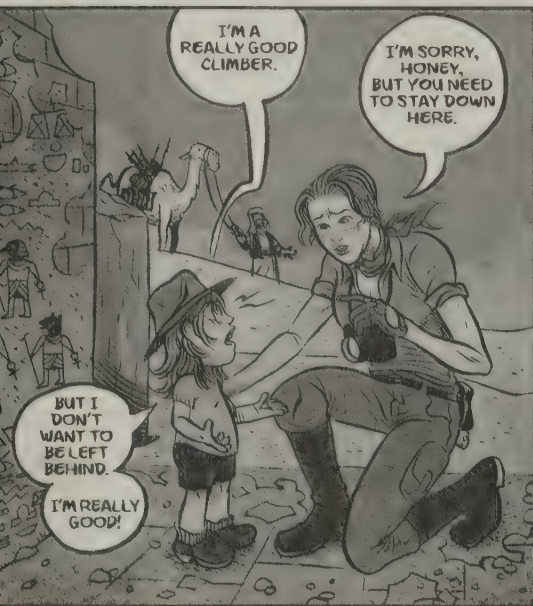
I DUNNO.
FETLOCKS?



FETLOCKS,
THEN.

WE'RE
GONNA
NEED ROPES
TO GET
TO THOSE
FETLOCKS.

YEAH!



I'M A
REALLY GOOD
CLIMBER.

I'M SORRY,
HONEY,
BUT YOU NEED
TO STAY DOWN
HERE.

BUT I
DON'T
WANT TO
BE LEFT
BEHIND.

I'M REALLY
GOOD!

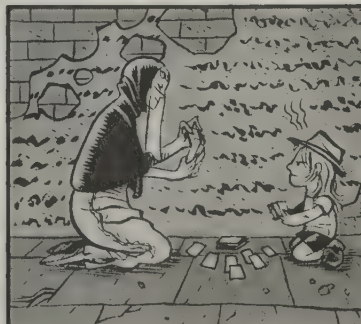
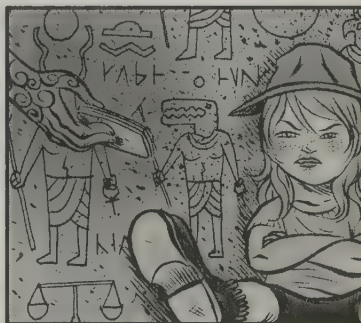
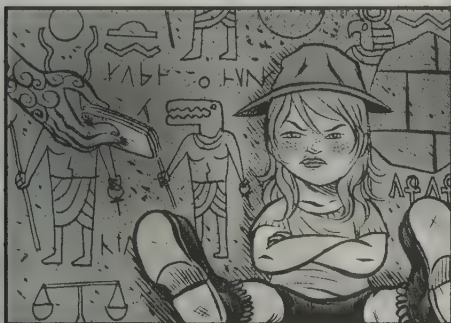


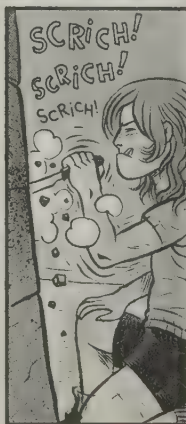
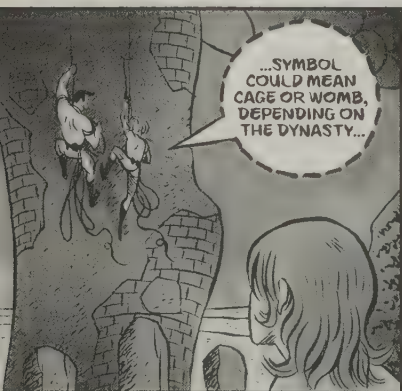
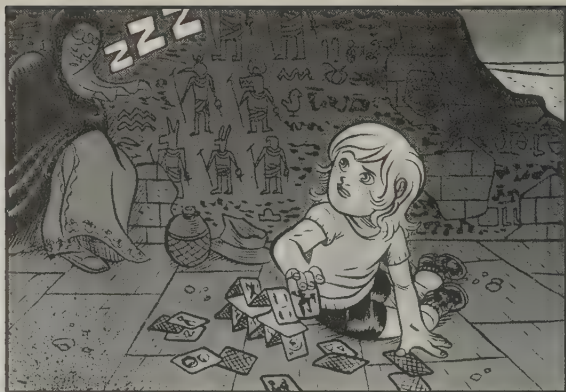
YOU'LL BE ABLE TO SEE US
RIGHT ABOVE YOU.

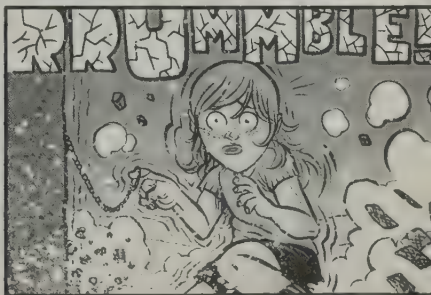
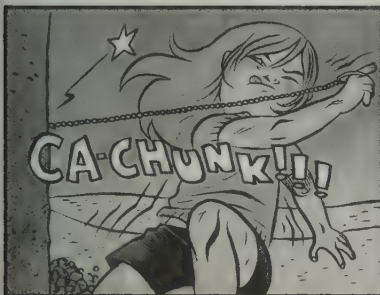
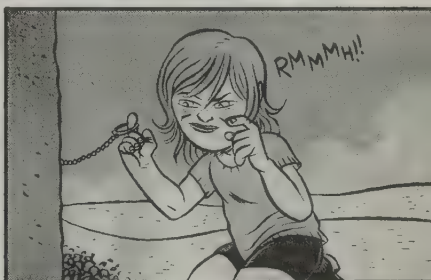
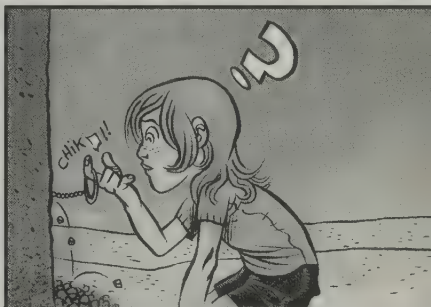
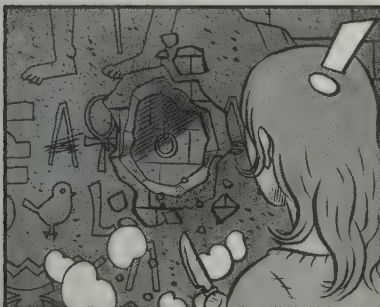
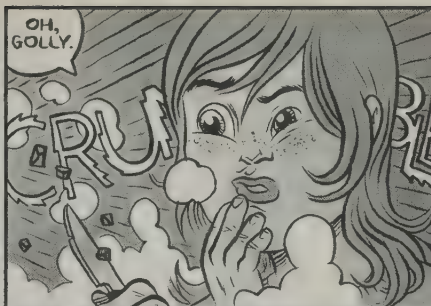
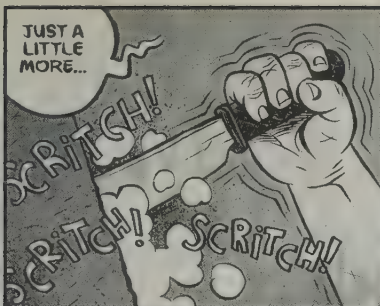
I'LL TAKE LOTS
OF PICTURES.

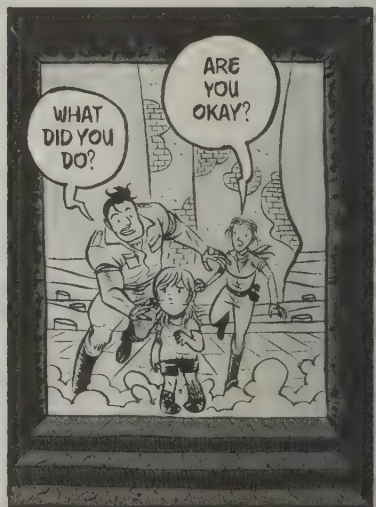
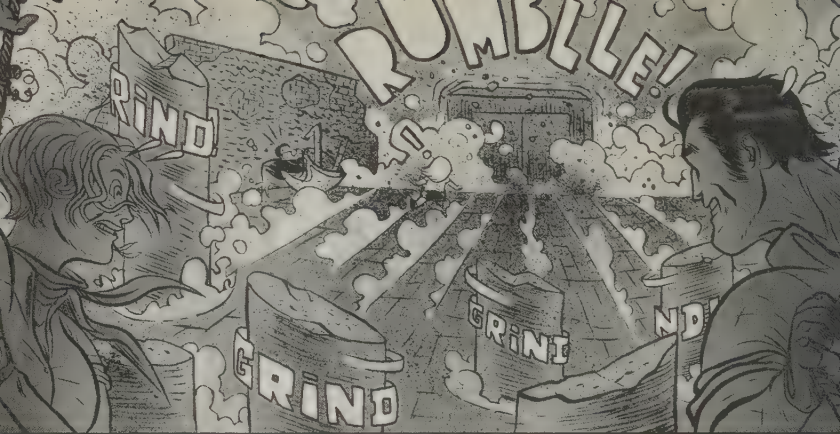
AND YOU'LL HAVE LOUTFI
TO KEEP YOU COMPANY.

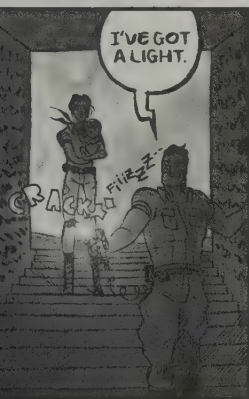
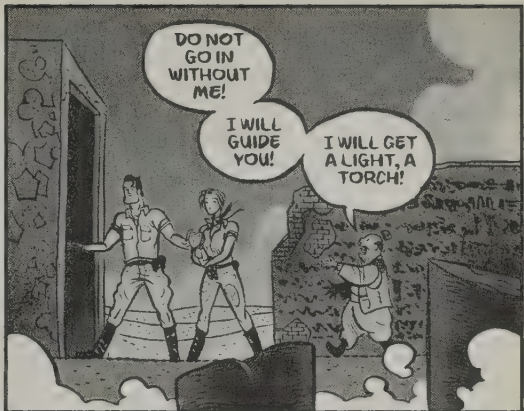
HMP!!

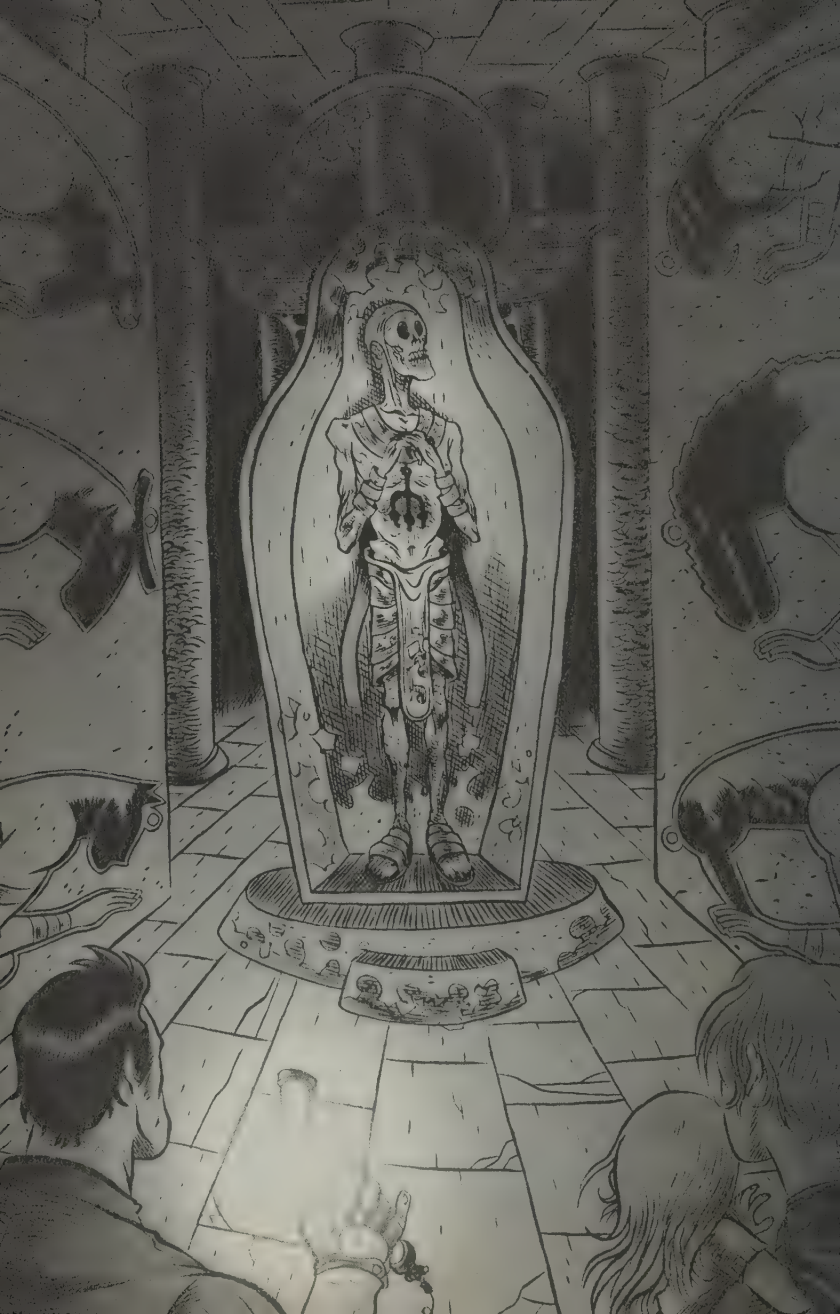


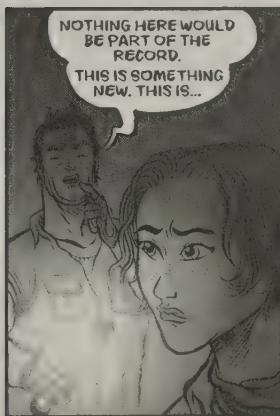
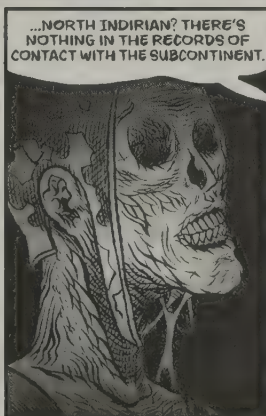
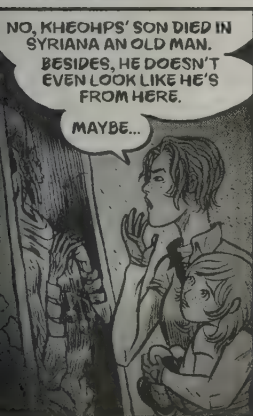
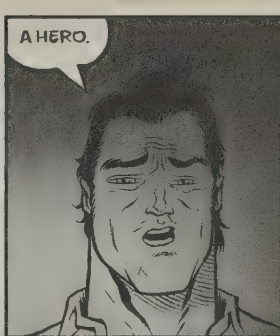
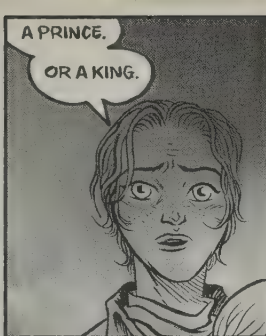


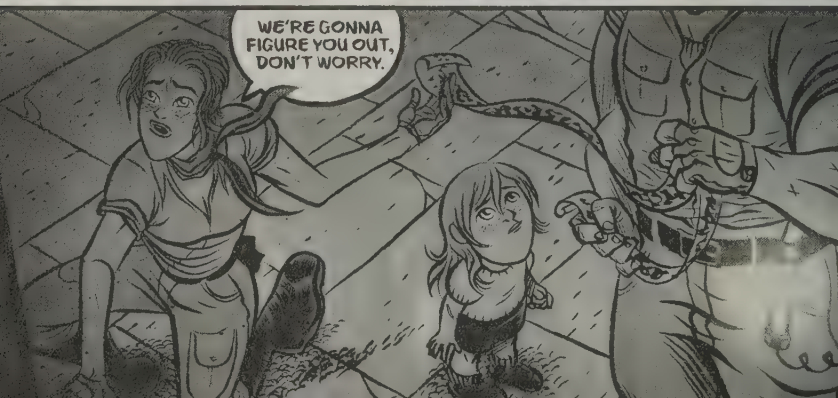
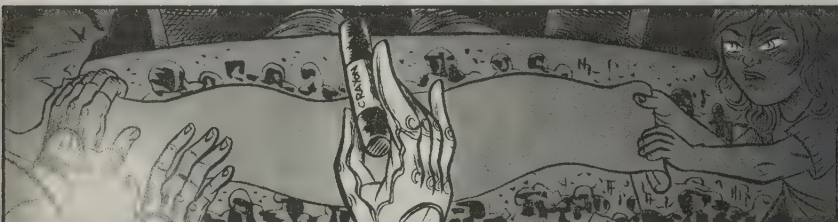
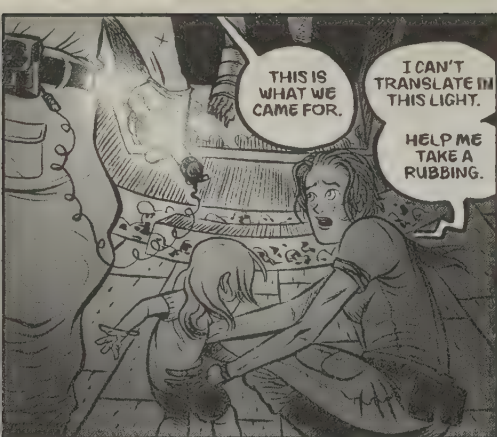














I'LL SLEEP HERE, MAKE SURE
YOUSEFF AND HIS FRIENDS
DON'T PLUNDER THE TOMB
BEFORE YOU GET BACK WITH
THE CRATES.



SO WE CAN
PLUNDER
IT?



WE'RE
SCIENTISTS.



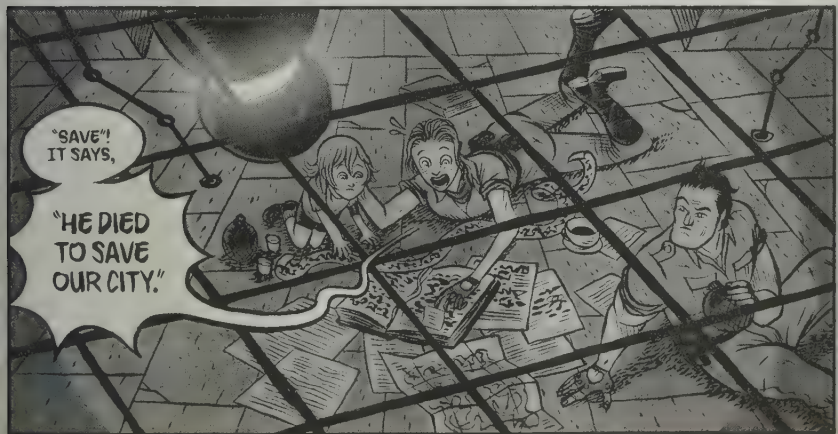
I FOUND A
MATCH!



GREAT JOB,
AURORA!

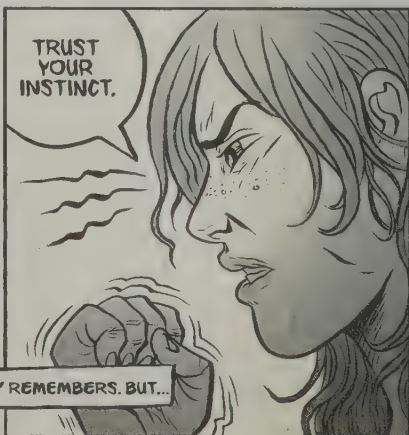
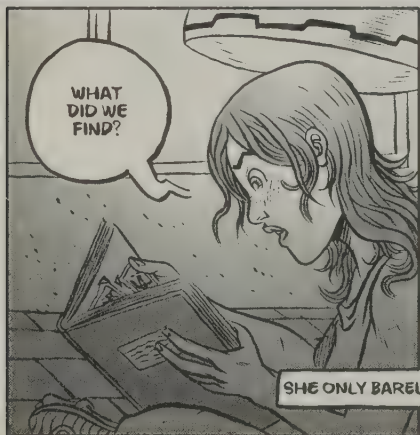
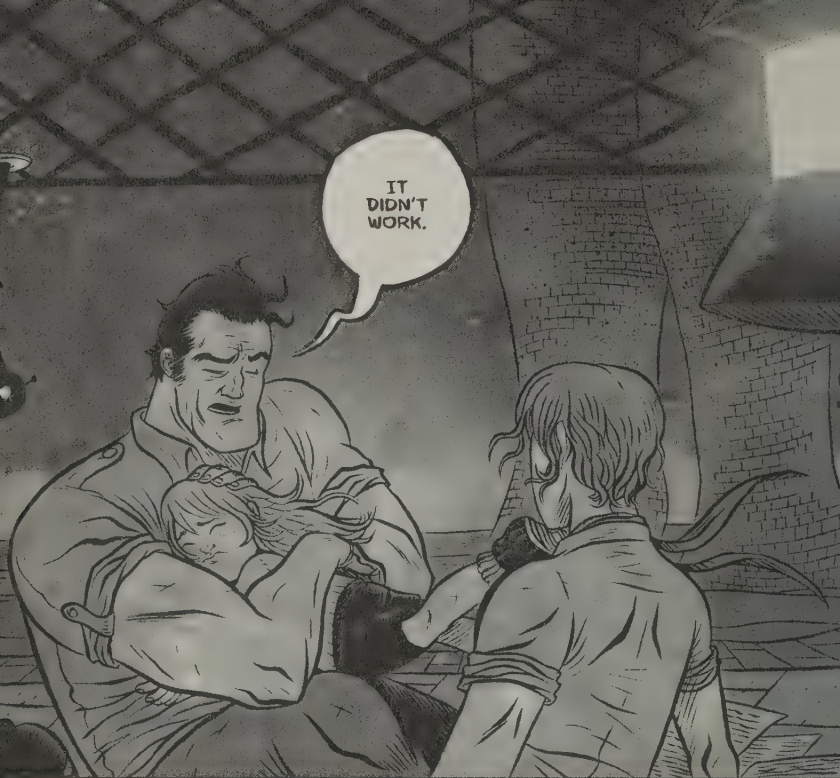
WHAT
DOES IT
SAY?

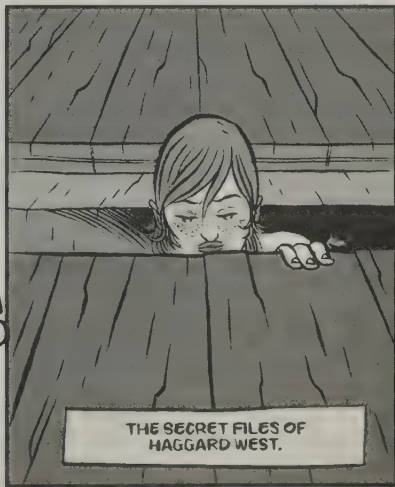
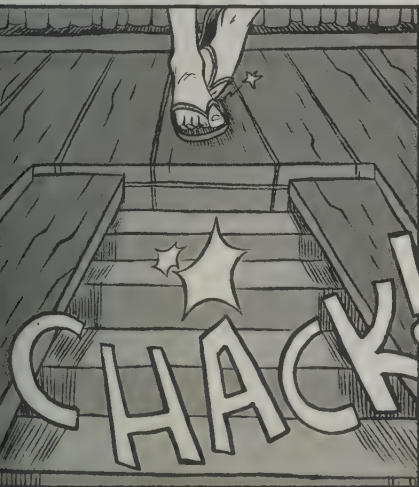
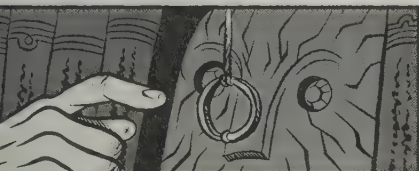
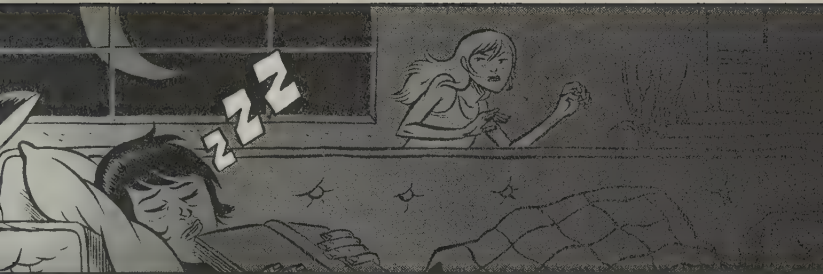
THAT'S...
EITHER "LIFT"
OR "RESCUE,"
OR...



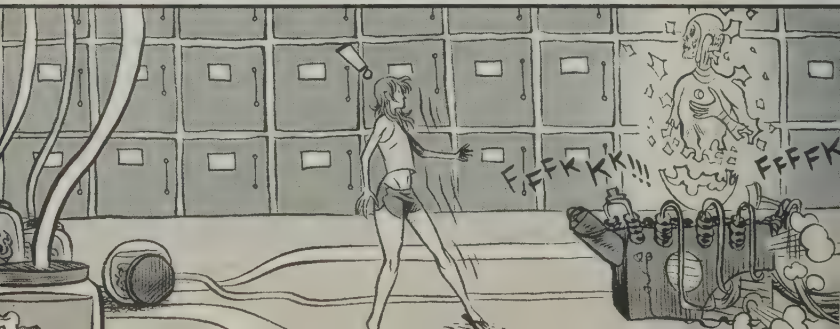
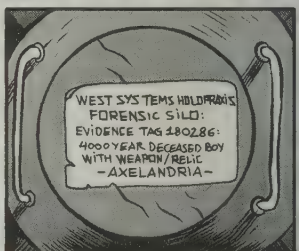
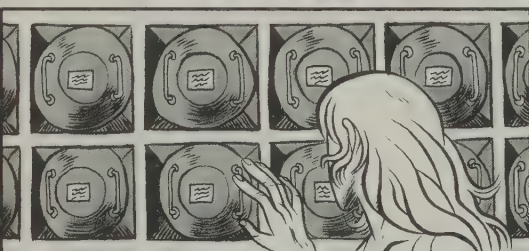
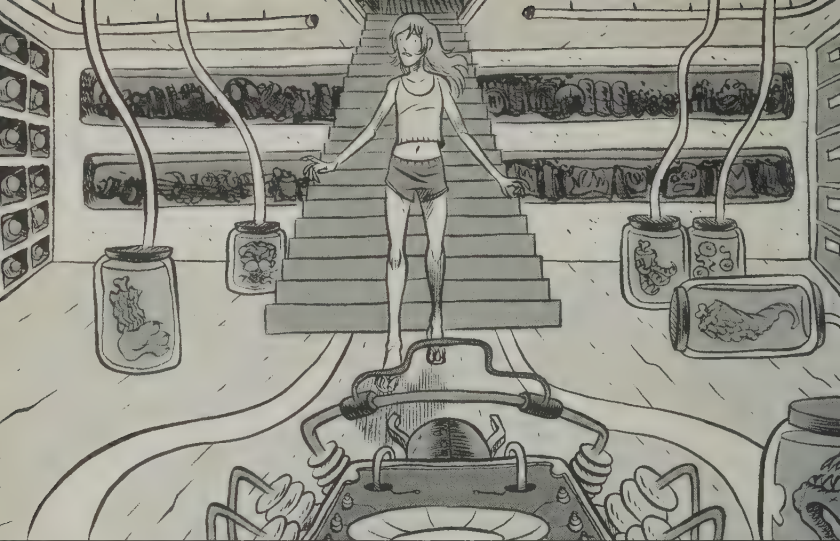
"SAVE!"
IT SAYS,

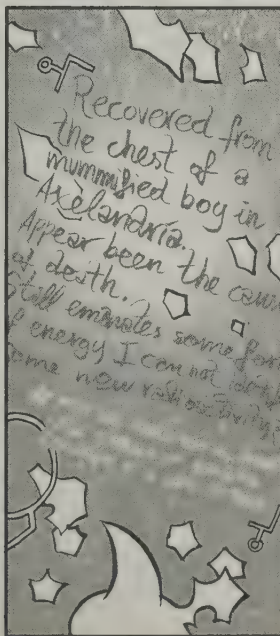
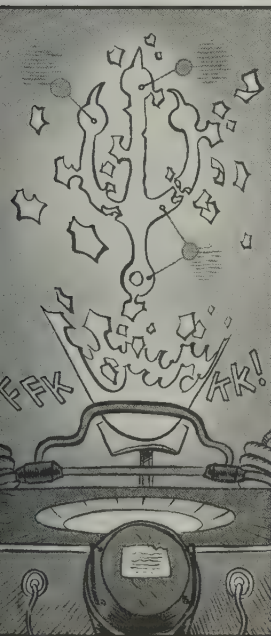
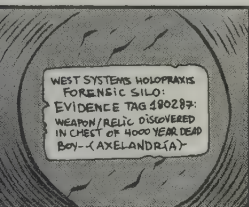
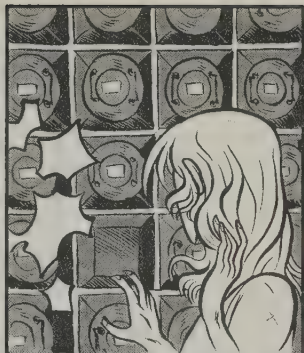
"HE DIED
TO SAVE
OUR CITY."

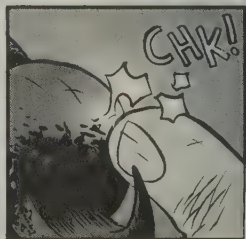
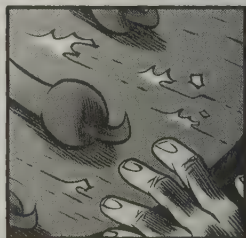
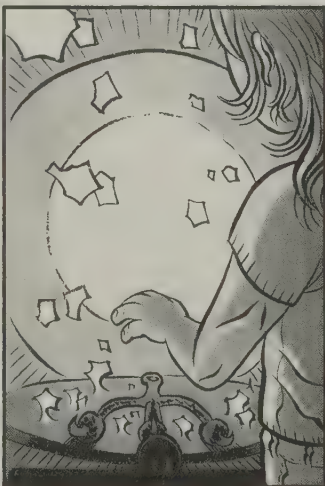
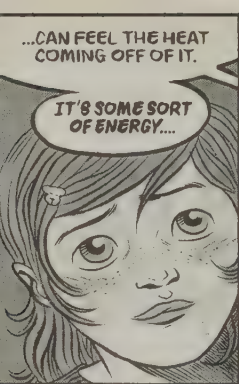


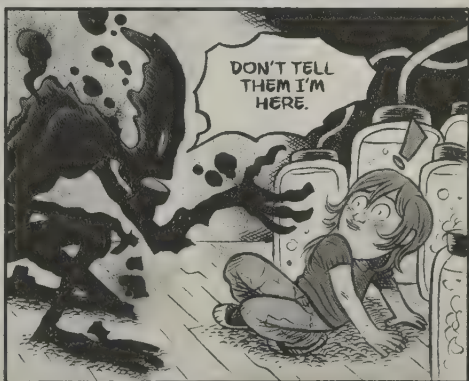
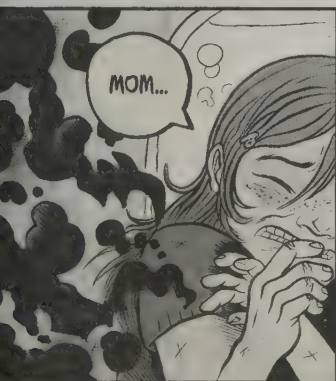
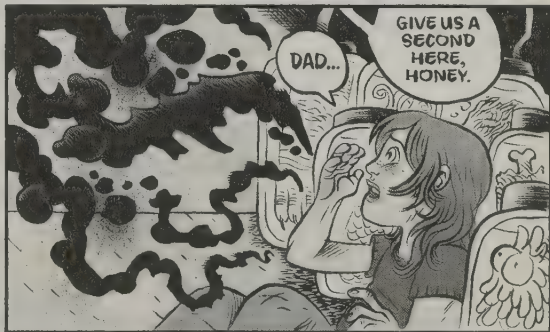
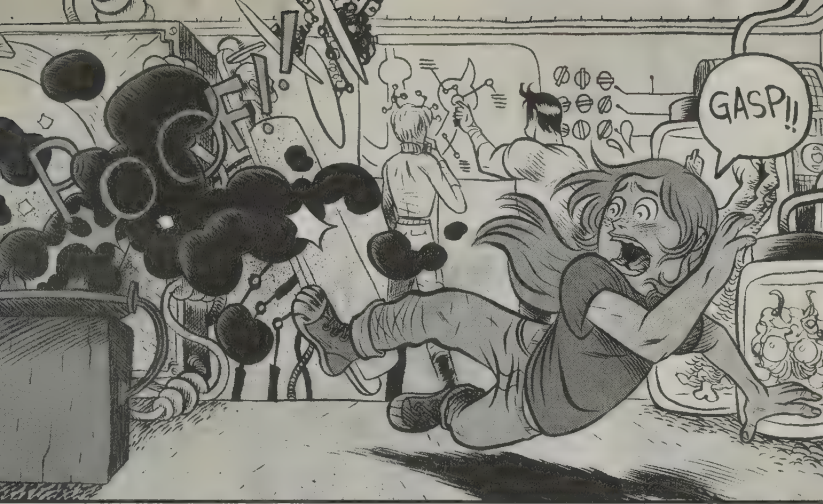


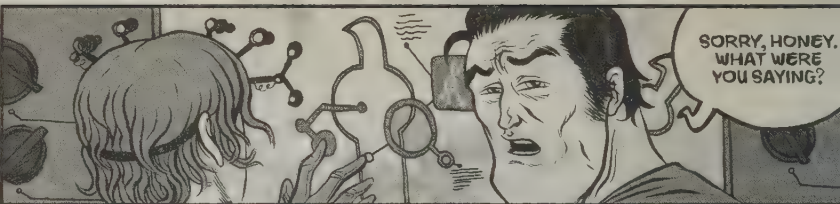
THE SECRET FILES OF
HAGGARD WEST.

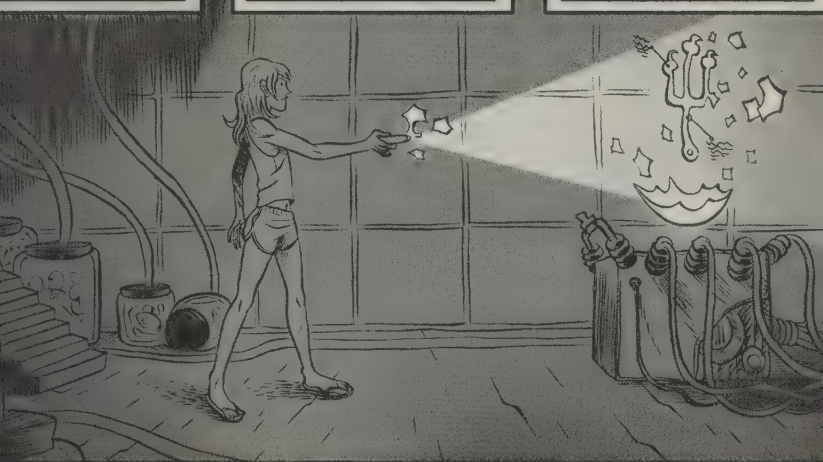
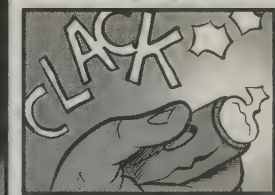
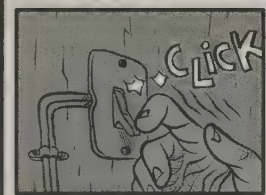
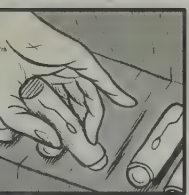


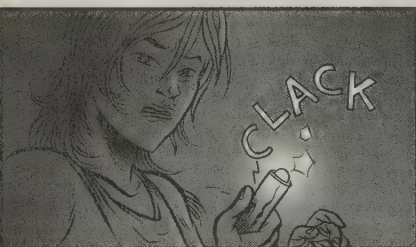
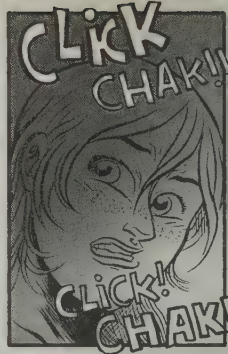
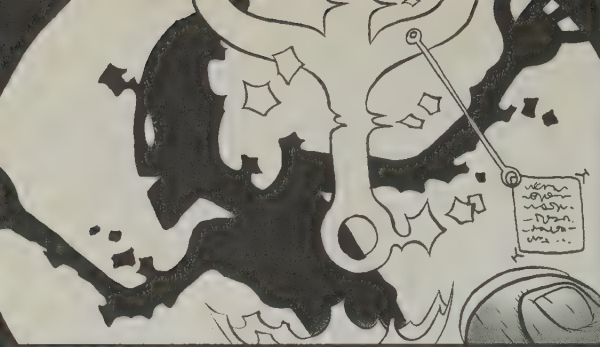












HEY,
DAD.

AURORA.

WHAT ARE
YOU DOING
HERE?

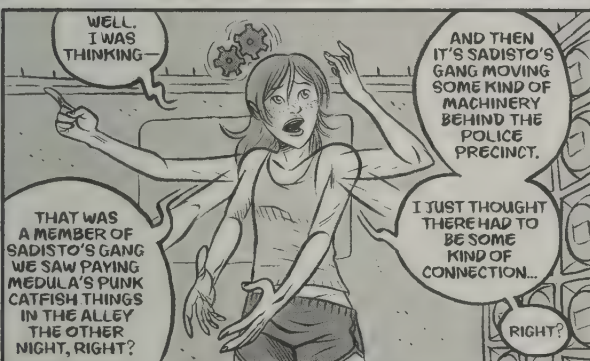


I WAS...

...LOOKING
FOR FILES ON
SADISTO'S
GANG.



YEAH?



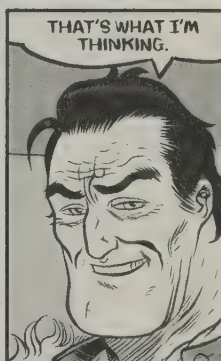
WELL,
I WAS
THINKING—

AND THEN
IT'S SADISTO'S
GANG MOVING
SOME KIND OF
MACHINERY
BEHIND THE
POLICE
PRECINCT.

I JUST THOUGHT
THERE HAD TO
BE SOME
KIND OF
CONNECTION...

RIGHT?

THAT WAS
A MEMBER OF
SADISTO'S GANG
WE SAW PAYING
MEDULA'S PUNK
CATFISH THINGS
IN THE ALLEY
THE OTHER
NIGHT, RIGHT?



THAT'S WHAT I'M
THINKING.



THE FILES
YOU WANT
ARE HERE.

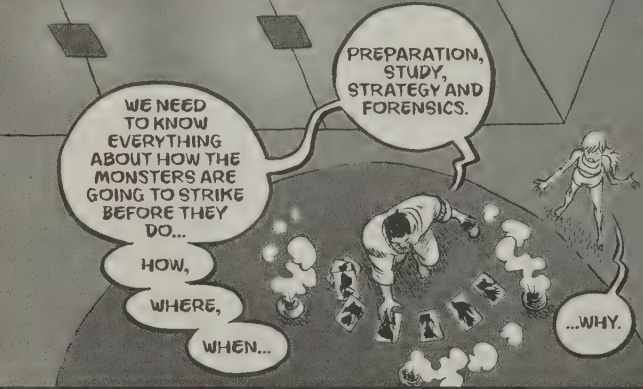
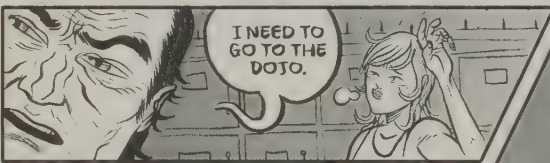
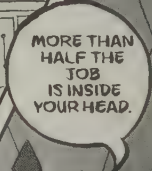
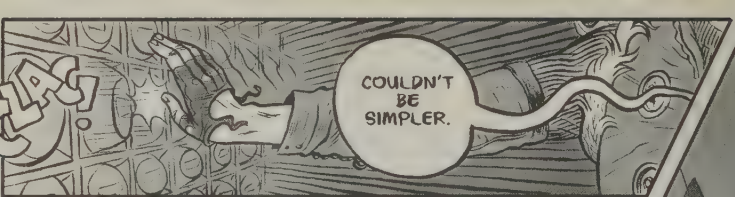
I CAN NEVER
FIND ANYTHING
IN THIS PLACE.

...IN THE N-W
FILE STACK FOR
HIS AREA OF
OPERATION, SUB
CATEGORIZED
BY THREAT LEVEL
ORANGE-RED.

THE
WEST ALPHA-DECIMAL
SYSTEM. EASIEST THING
IN THE WORLD:

1 OR Ø FOR
LIVING OR
DEAD, H FOR
HUMANOID,
TWO DIGITS
FOR YEARS
ACTIVE...

(IN
THIS
CASE
TEN)





I LEARNED
TUATARA MEDITATION
FROM A BLIND MONK
TWENTY YEARS AGO IN
A SHI-FAN TEMPLE
IN AL-LHASA.

WITH ENOUGH DISCIPLINE,
HE COULD REGAIN SIGHT
THROUGH HIS INNER EYE,
BUT ONLY IN THE PAST.

THE TECHNIQUE
EXPLOITS THE
ENORMOUS AMOUNT
OF INFORMATION
YOUR SENSES
ABSORB THAT DON'T
NECESSARILY FIND
PURCHASE IN
YOUR MIND.



HAPTIC CHANGES IN AIR PRESSURE,
ECHO-LOCATION, SENSE WE DON'T
HAVE NAMES FOR. IT REQUIRES
EMPTINESS. LEAN INWARD AND
ALLOW YOURSELF TO FALL.



THE BELLS PROVIDE THE MANTRA.
EVERYTHING ELSE...
ABSOLUTE SILENCE FROM
HERE ON OUT.



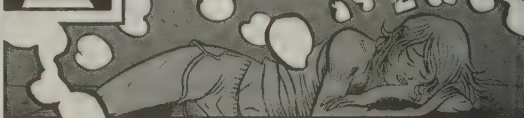
BONG - OOOOMMM

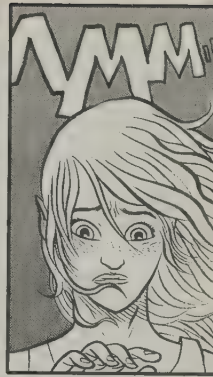
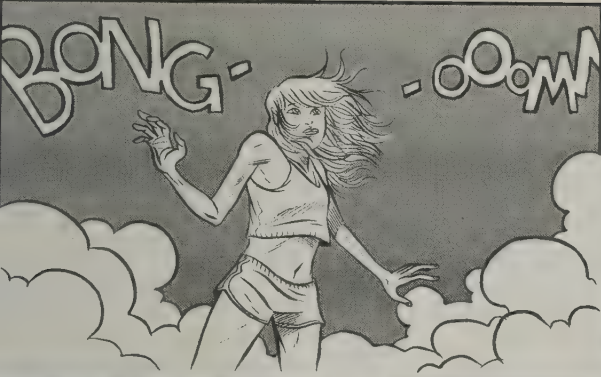


BONG - OOOOMMM

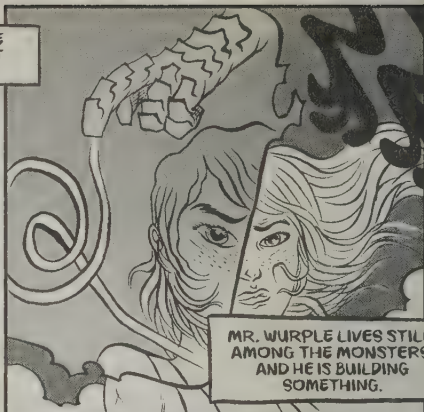


BONG - ZZZZ - OOOOMMM



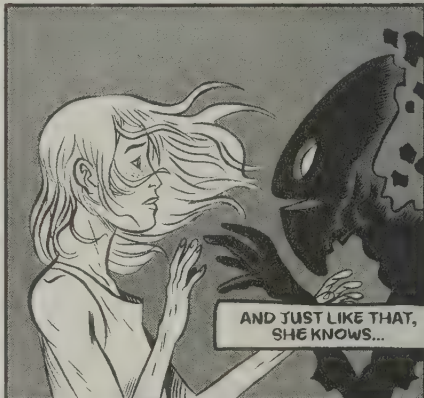
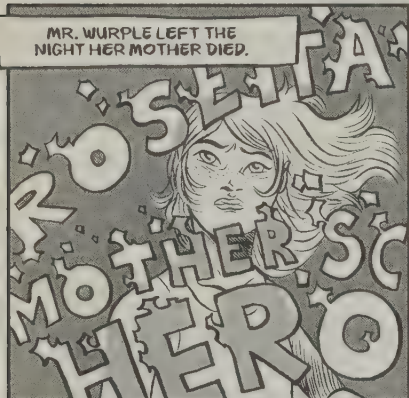


MR. WURPLE WAS REAL, BORN OF SOME
ANCIENT EVIL THAT MURDERED A GREAT
HERO AND HIS CITY.

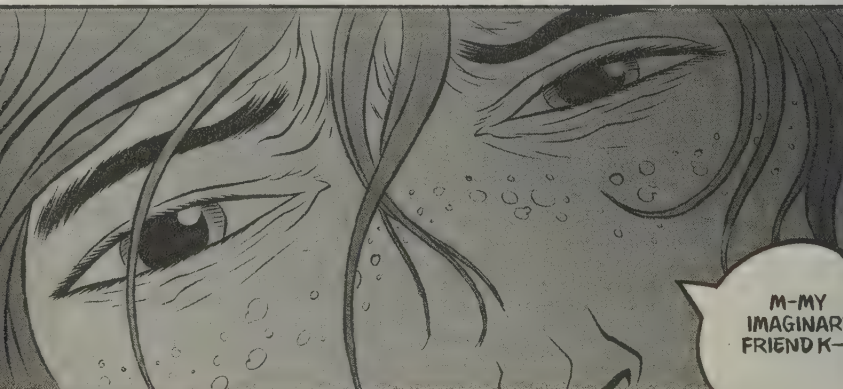


MR. WURPLE LIVES STILL.
AMONG THE MONSTERS.
AND HE IS BUILDING
SOMETHING.

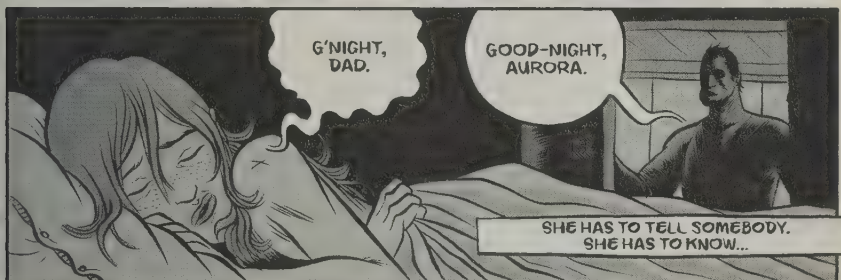
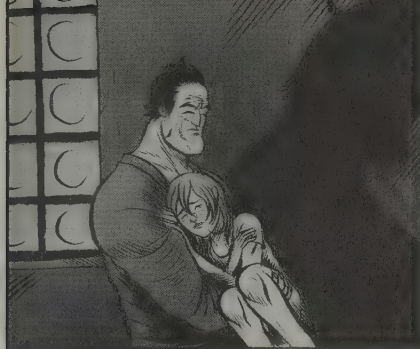
MR. WURPLE LEFT THE
NIGHT HER MOTHER DIED.

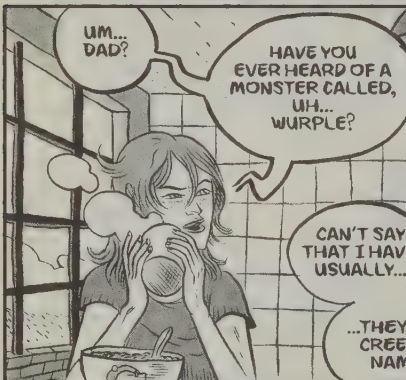


AND JUST LIKE THAT,
SHE KNOWS...



M-MY
IMAGINARY
FRIEND K—





UM...
DAD?

HAVE YOU
EVER HEARD OF A
MONSTER CALLED,
UH...
WURPLE?

WURPLE?

CAN'T SAY
THAT I HAVE.
USUALLY...

...THEY HAVE
CREEPIER
NAMES.



SADISTO.

MARROWSNATCHER.
MUCKMOUTH.
THE GRIEVE...



GOOD
MORNING!

G'MORNING.

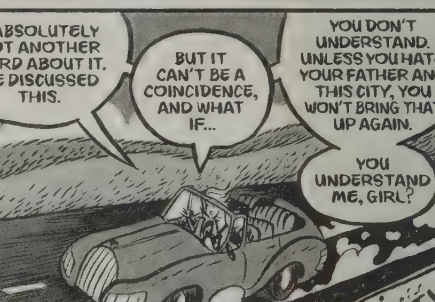
I GOT A MESSAGE FROM
CORTO. HE'LL BE ABLE TO
SNEAK AWAY A BATTERY
PROTOTYPE FOR US THE
NIGHT AFTER NEXT.



EXCELLENT.
NOW
WHO'S THIS
WURPLE...

AURORA'S
GOING TO
BE LATE
FOR
FENCING.

I'LL
TAKE
HER.



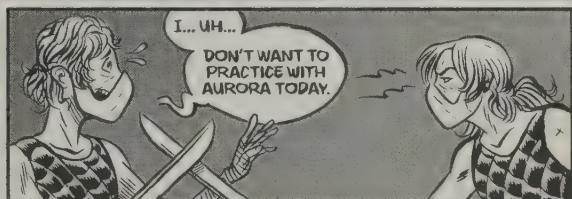
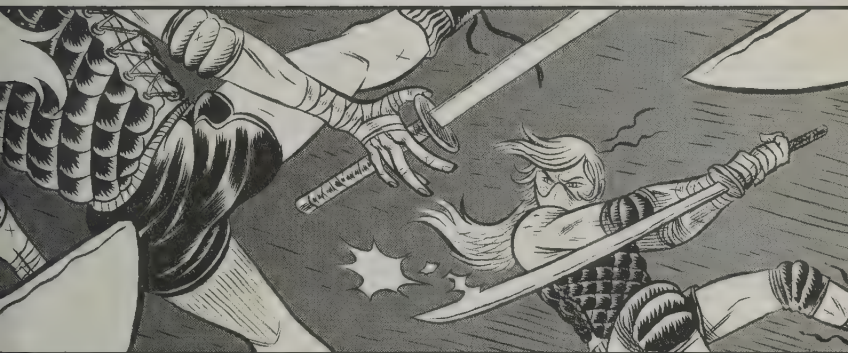
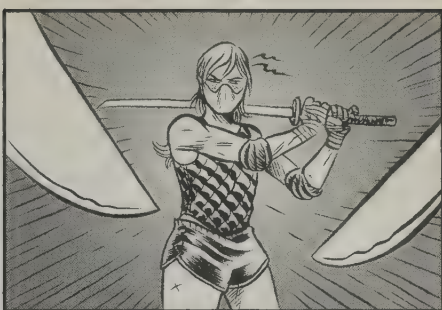
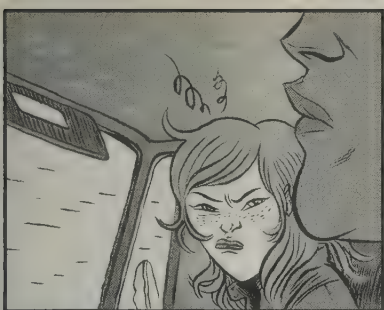
...ABSOLUTELY
NOT ANOTHER
WORD ABOUT IT.
WE DISCUSSED
THIS.

BUT IT
CAN'T BE A
COINCIDENCE,
AND WHAT
IF...

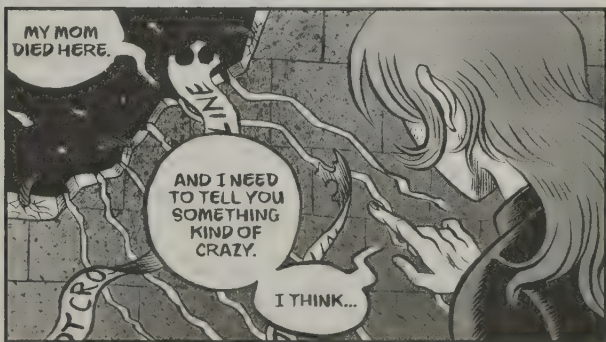
YOU DON'T
UNDERSTAND.
UNLESS YOU HAT
YOUR FATHER AND
THIS CITY, YOU
WON'T BRING THAT
UP AGAIN.

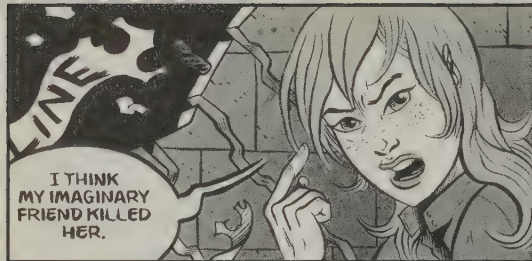
YOU
UNDERSTAND
ME, GIRL?

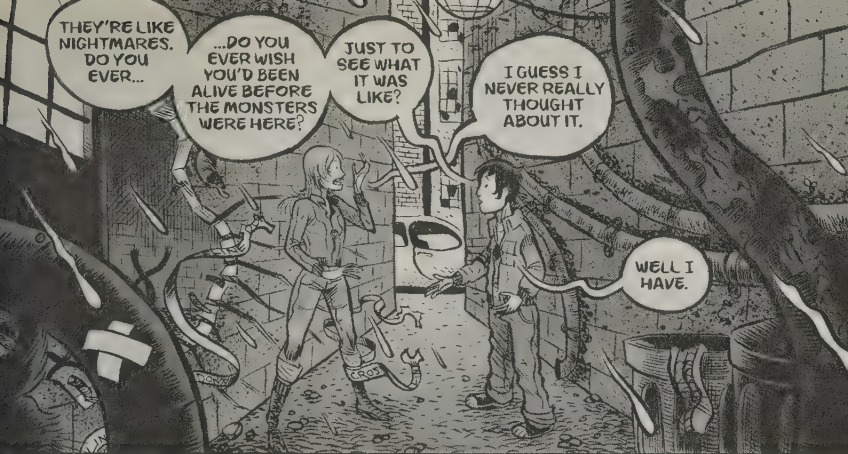
ARCO CITY











THEY'RE LIKE NIGHTMARES. DO YOU EVER...

...DO YOU EVER WISH YOU'D BEEN ALIVE BEFORE THE MONSTERS WERE HERE?

JUST TO SEE WHAT IT WAS LIKE?

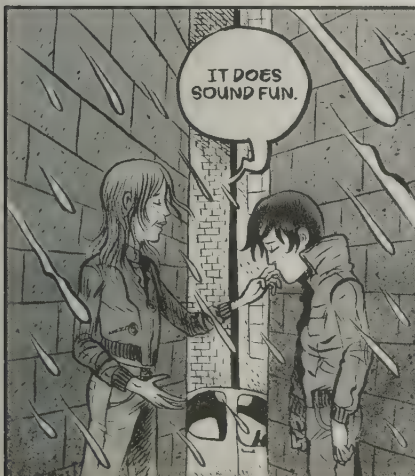
I GUESS I NEVER REALLY THOUGHT ABOUT IT.

WELL I HAVE.

I SAW A PICTURE OF MY PARENTS WHEN THEY WERE YOUNG.

THEY WERE AT A MOVIE, ON A DATE. AT NIGHT. 'CAUSE THERE WAS NO CURFEW THEN.

SO KIDS COULD JUST... IT JUST SOUNDS LIKE SO MUCH FUN. GOING OUT TO SEE A MOVIE AT NIGHT INSTEAD OF WATCHING THE TELEVISION AT HOME.



IT DOES SOUND FUN.

SO WHAT ARE WE LOOKING FOR?

CLUES YOUR IMAGINARY FRIEND LEFT?

I GUESS SO.

I DON'T KNOW. I'M STILL LEARNING HOW TO DO THIS WHOLE...

...MONSTER HUNTER THING.

IN THE
TRANCE
LAST NIGHT,
I REALIZED
THAT WHATEVER
SADISTO AND
HIS GANG ARE
BUILDING
CAN'T BE
UNDERGROUND.

STUDY UP
ON THAT
DOSSIER,
YOU'LL WANT
TO BE ABLE
TO IDENTIFY
THEM BY
THEIR ROBES.

SADISTO, COIL, NAILS, GRIEG,
KORNER, KRIEG, WALRUS,
BROTHER RUM... THEY ALL
LOOK THE SAME.

YOU'LL GET
THE HANG
OF IT.

HOW DO WE
FIND THEM?

IT'S A QUIET NIGHT.

THE CHILDREN'S
HOSPITAL IS THERE,

THE ORPHANAGE THERE,

AND JUVIE HALL FOUR
BLOCKS PAST IT.

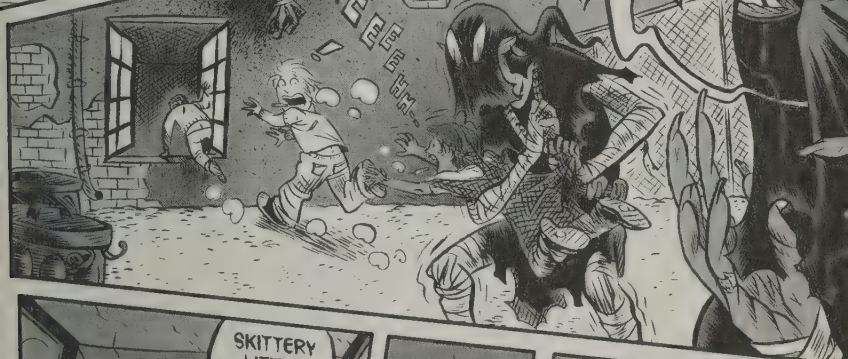
WE JUST WAIT
FOR THE SCREAMS.

BUT THAT COULD
BE ALL NIGHT...





**DON'T LET
THEM ESCAPE!!!
BROTHER RUM!
KORNER! WE NEED
AT LEAST SIX
TONIGHT!**



**SKITTERY
LITTLE
APES!**

GAH!

CRAB

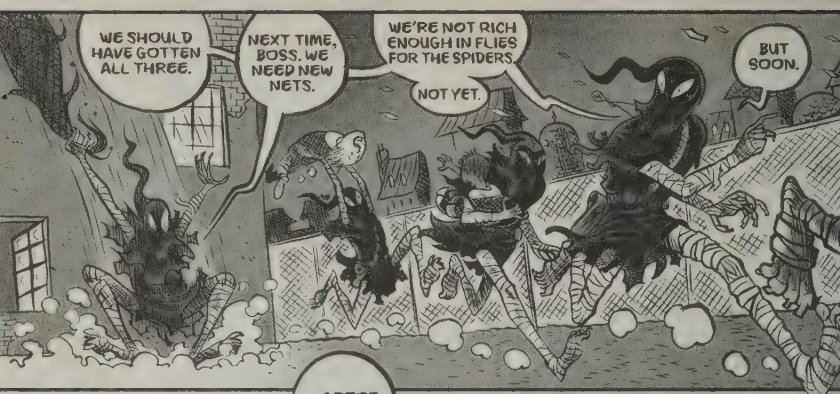


**USE THE NETS,
YOU CRETINS!**

COIL!

**I'M
ON IT.**

**RIGHT
HERE,
SADISTO.**



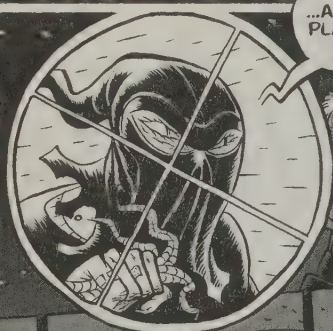
WE SHOULD HAVE GOTTEN ALL THREE.

NEXT TIME, BOSS, WE NEED NEW NETS.

WE'RE NOT RICH ENOUGH IN FLIES FOR THE SPIDERS.

BUT SOON.

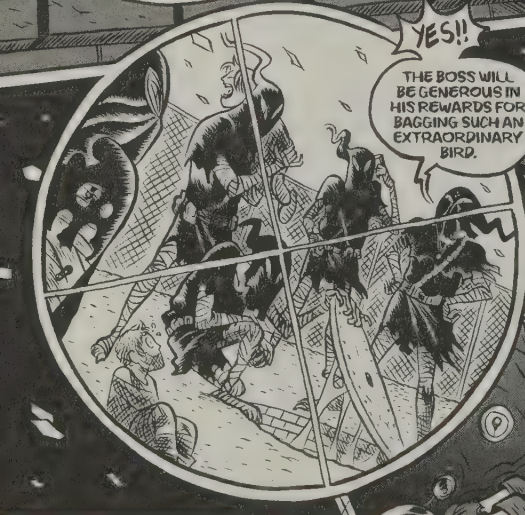
NOT YET.



...AFTER PLAN H.

THEY'RE GETTING AWAY WITH THE KIDS...

WAIT. LET THEM TALK.

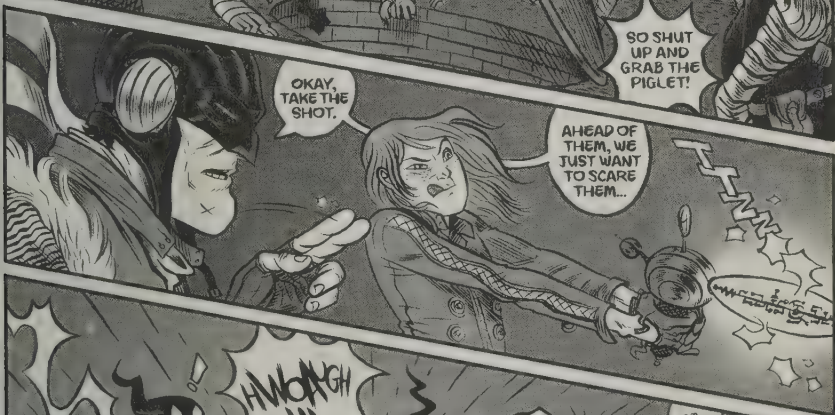


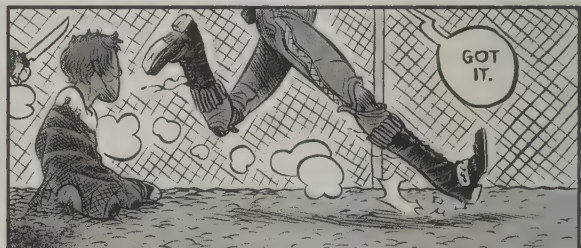
YES!!

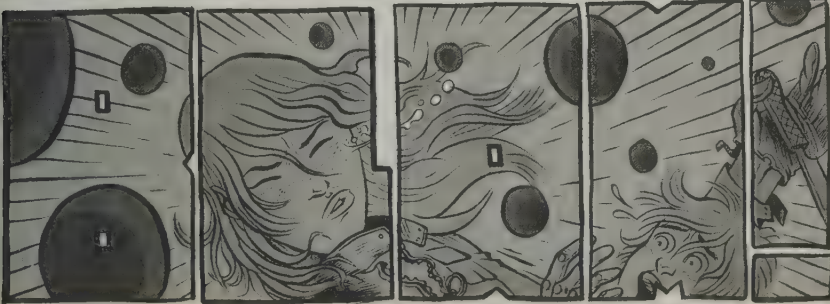
THE BOSS WILL BE GENEROUS IN HIS REWARDS FOR BAGGING SUCH AN EXTRAORDINARY BIRD.

DAD...

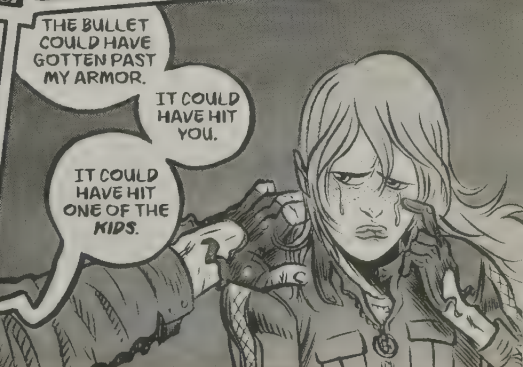
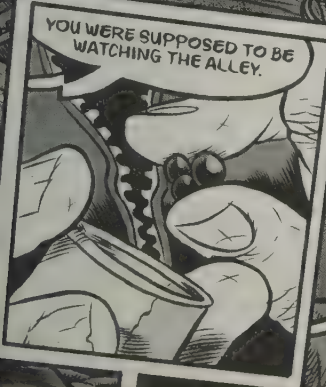
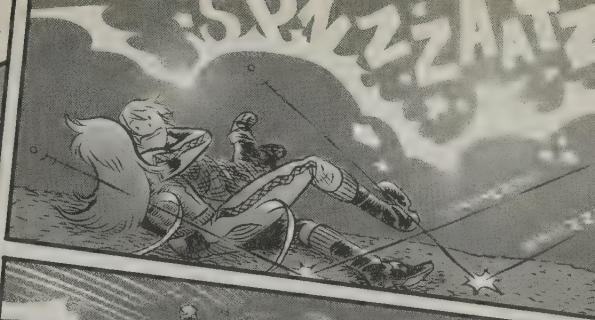
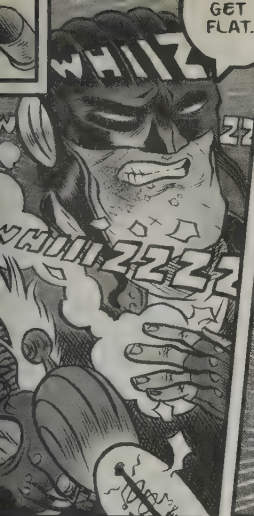
HOLD STEADY, I NEED TO HEAR...

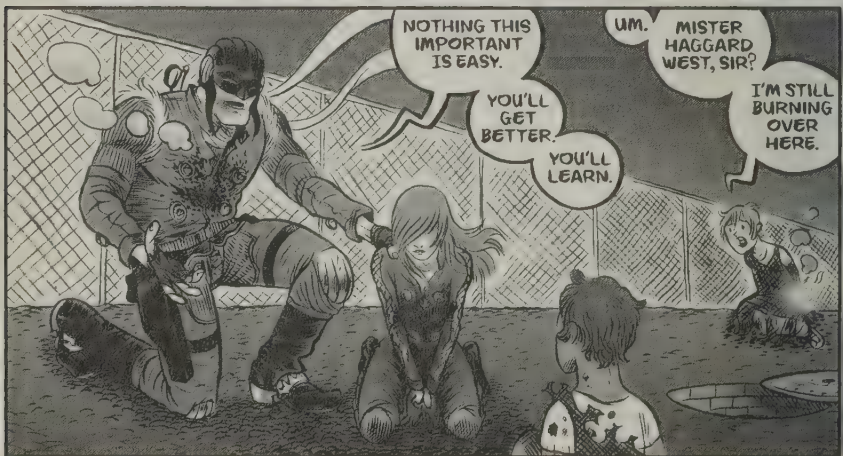
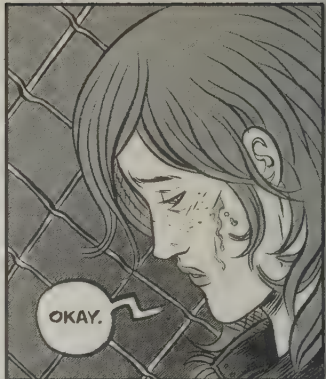
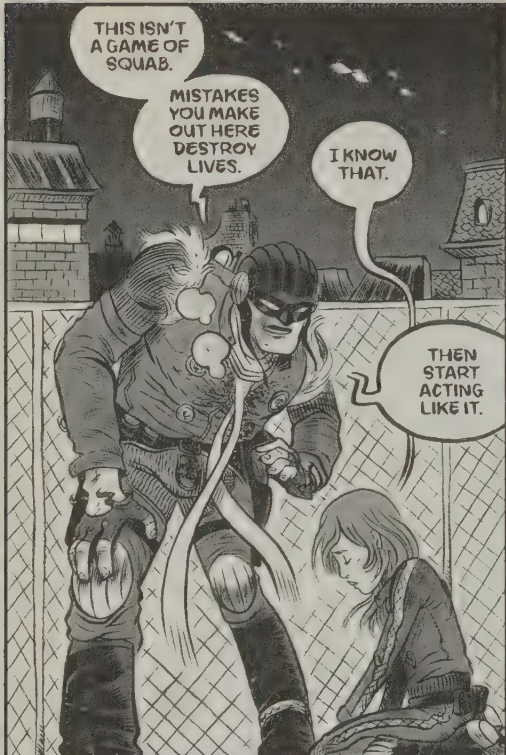


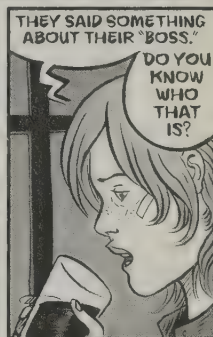


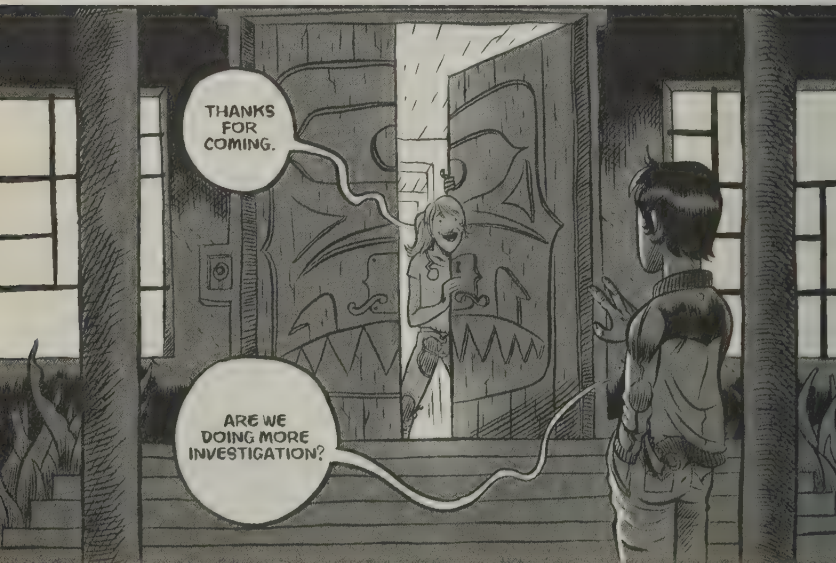
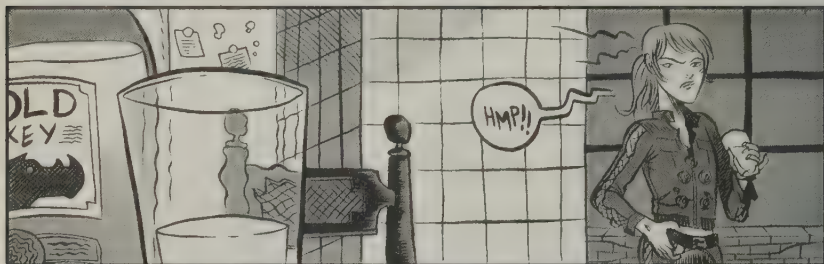
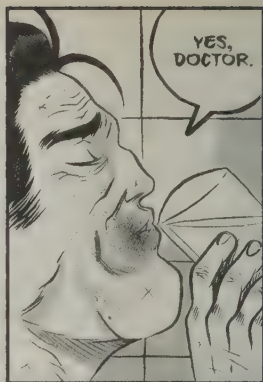


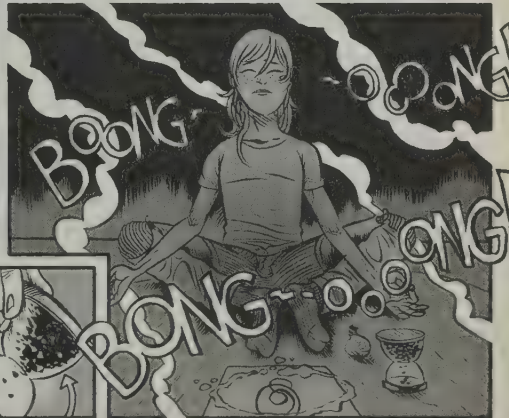
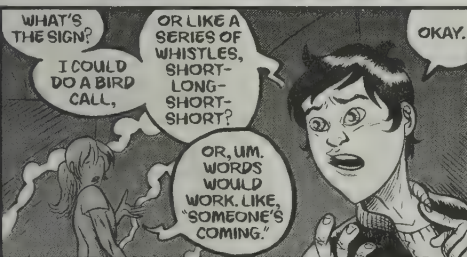
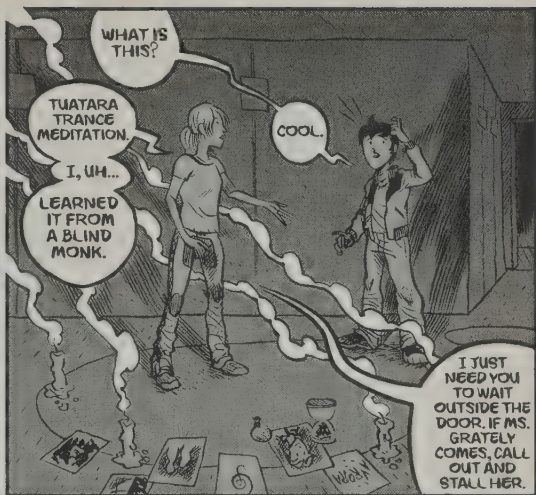
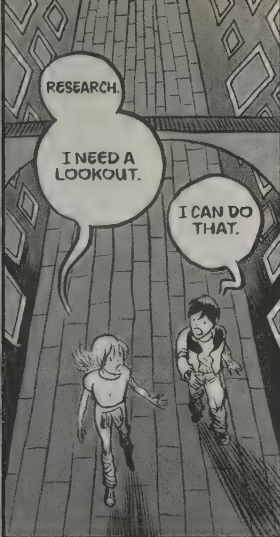














...MOM?

AND WHAT LETTER IS THAT?

UM.

D?

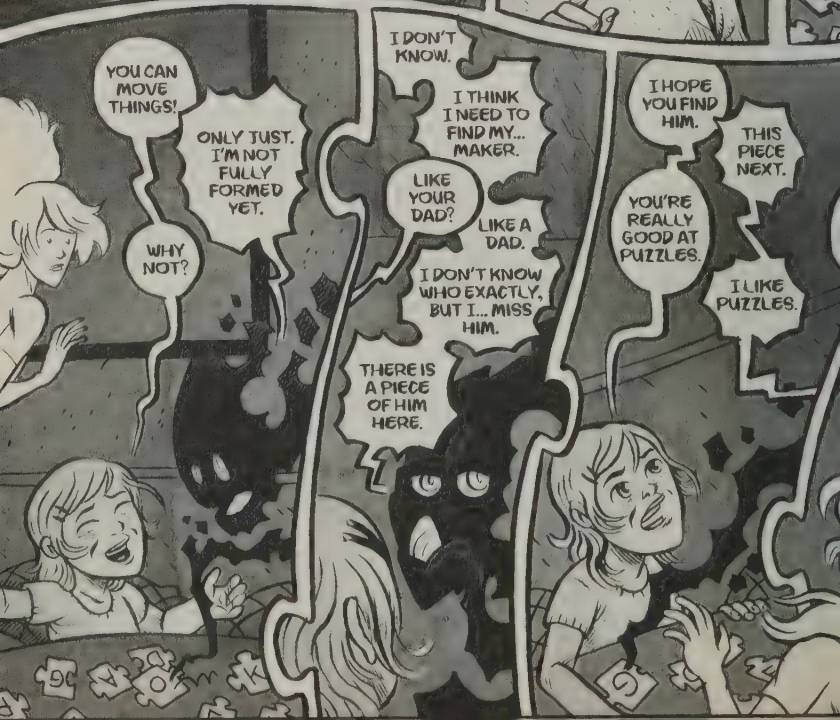
THAT'S RIGHT!

WHAT D-WORDS DO YOU KNOW?

IS IT "DAD?"

YOU'LL HAVE TO FINISH THE PUZZLE AND FIND OUT.

I'M GOING TO GO GET OUR TEA.



YOU CAN MOVE THINGS!

ONLY JUST. I'M NOT FULLY FORMED YET.

WHY NOT?

I DON'T KNOW.

I THINK I NEED TO FIND MY... MAKER.

LIKE YOUR DAD?

LIKE A DAD.

I DON'T KNOW WHO EXACTLY, BUT I... MISS HIM.

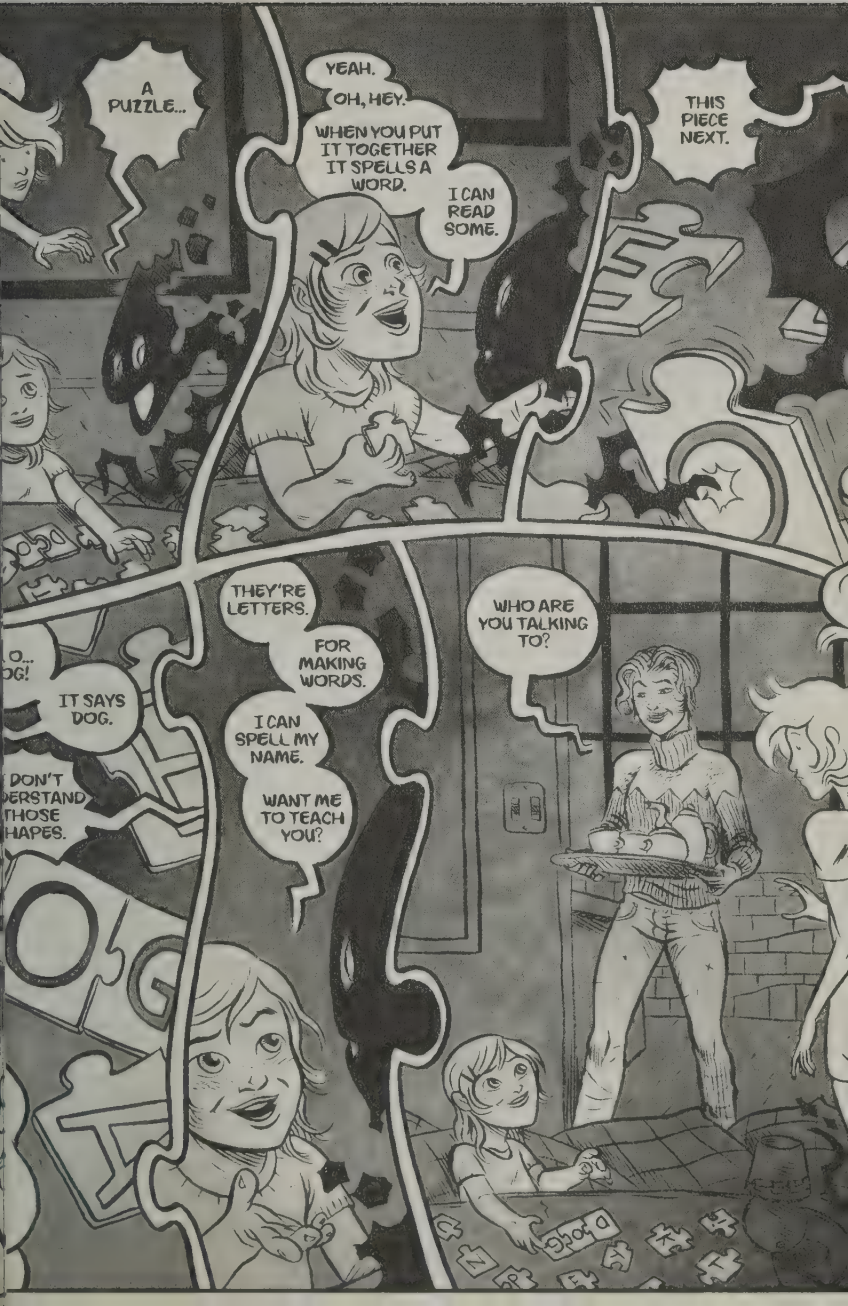
THERE IS A PIECE OF HIM HERE.

I HOPE YOU FIND HIM.

THIS PIECE NEXT.

YOU'RE REALLY GOOD AT PUZZLES.

I LIKE PUZZLES.



A
PUZZLE...

YEAH.

OH, HEY.

WHEN YOU PUT
IT TOGETHER
IT SPELLS A
WORD.

I CAN
READ
SOME.

THIS
PIECE
NEXT.

THEY'RE
LETTERS.

FOR
MAKING
WORDS.

I CAN
SPELL MY
NAME.

WANT ME
TO TEACH
YOU?

WHO ARE
YOU TALKING
TO?

IT SAYS
DOG.

O...
OG!

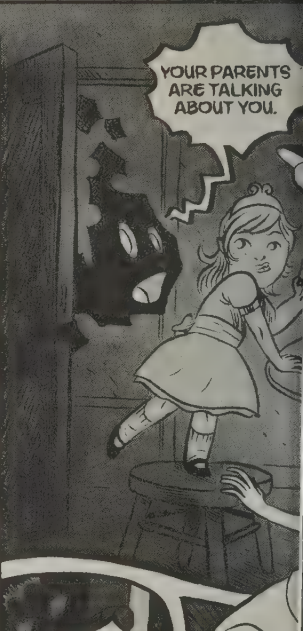
DON'T
UNDERSTAND
THOSE
HAPES.



MY
FRIEND.



MY
FRIEND...

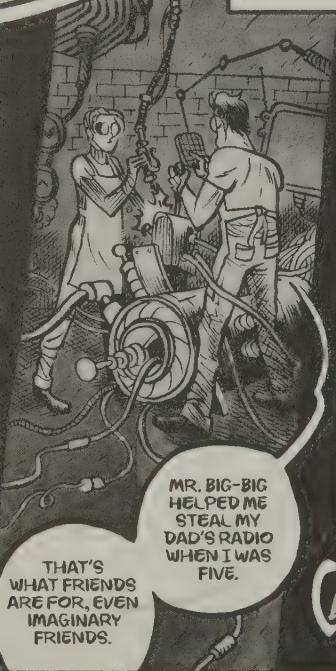


YOUR PARENTS
ARE TALKING
ABOUT YOU.



WHAT
IS THAT
BEAUTIFUL
MACHINE?

WE
REALLY
REALLY
SHOULD
GO.



MR. BIG-BIG
HELPED ME
STEAL MY
DAD'S RADIO
WHEN I WAS
FIVE.

THAT'S
WHAT FRIENDS
ARE FOR, EVEN
IMAGINARY
FRIENDS.

SUCH A
DELICIOUS
SECRET TO
UNTANGLE.

AREN'T YOU...
CURRRIOUS?



THIS IS
DAD'S
OFFICE.

WE'RE NOT
SUPPOSED
TO...

SHHHH.

YOU ARE
HERE.

...I HAD ONE
WHEN I WAS
A CHILD.

THERE
ARE
SECRETS
TO HEAR.

SHE SAID
HE HELPED
HER SOLVE
A PUZZLE.

KE-
CRASH

WHAT
ARE YOU
DOING?

I'M
SORRY!

I DIDN'T
SEE
ANYTHING!

I WAS
JUST...



IT'S OKAY, HONEY.

NOBODY WAS DOING ANYTHING WRONG AND YOU DON'T HAVE TO SNEAK.

WE WERE JUST WORKING.



WHAT'RE YOU DRAWING, ROAR?

MY NAME.

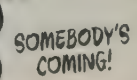
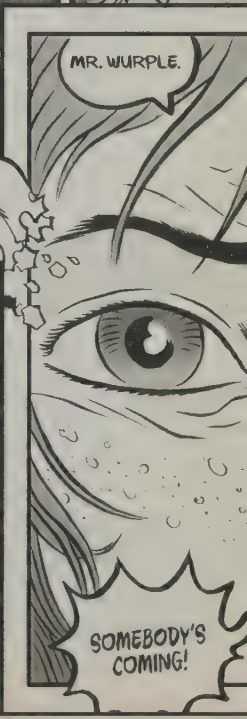
SOME FIREMEN.

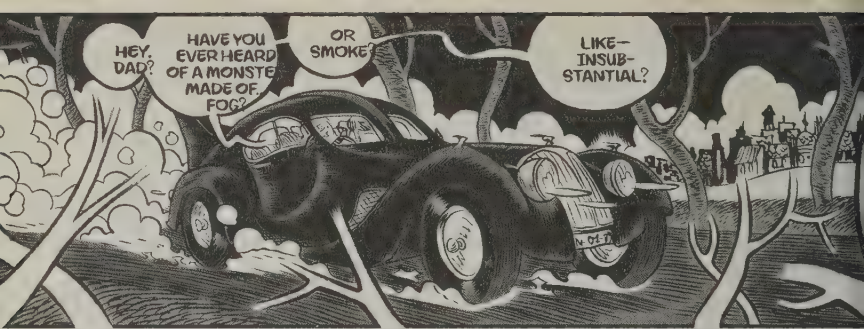
I'M A FIRE DRAGON.

COOL.

WHAT ABOUT THIS ONE IS THAT SNAIL.

KINDA LOOKS LIKE A WHIRLPOOL.





HEY, DAD?

HAVE YOU EVER HEARD OF A MONSTER MADE OF FOG?

OR SMOKE?

LIKE—INSUBSTANTIAL?

A GASEOUS MONSTER? HMM.

WE'LL HAVE TO LOOK THROUGH THE FILES, BUT NOTHING COMES TO MIND. THERE WAS TORBI, WHO WAS A SORT OF AMPHIBIOUS WOMBAT-TYPE BIPED THAT I DISCOVERED WAS ANIMATED BY SENTIENT SLIME.

KILLED HIM WITH BAKING SODA.



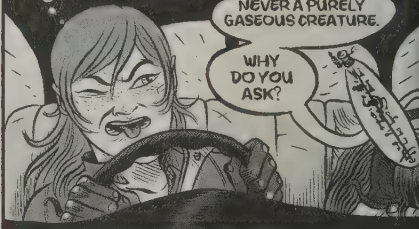
OR SULFIRRIK, WHO COULD PRODUCE A CLOUD OF NOXIOUS GAS FROM THE SPHINCTERS ALONG HIS THORAX. I DOUSED HIM IN TAR AND HE INFLATED UNTIL HE EXPLODED.

YUK!

BUT NO,

NEVER A PURELY GASEOUS CREATURE.

WHY DO YOU ASK?

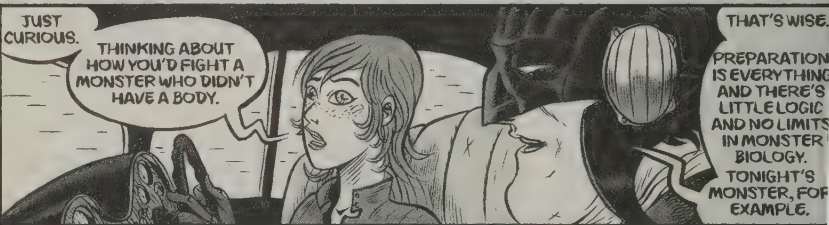


JUST CURIOUS.

THINKING ABOUT HOW YOU'D FIGHT A MONSTER WHO DIDN'T HAVE A BODY.

THAT'S WISE.

PREPARATION IS EVERYTHING AND THERE'S LITTLE LOGIC AND NO LIMITS IN MONSTER BIOLOGY. TONIGHT'S MONSTER, FOR EXAMPLE.



TONIGHT?

WE'RE GOING TO CROWD.



SPLASH!



TERRIBLE
FRIENDS AND
NO GOOD
CHOICES.

SUCH A LIFE
OF ROTTEN
LUCK.

MAYBE A
SUNTAN
IN THE
MORNING.

A ROTTEN
DEATH TO
SQUASH A
ROTTEN
RUN.



CROWARD,
YOU WORM'S
LUNCH.

DELIGHTED
AS
ALWAYS.

GARCONS,
SOME
LIGHT.



HIDEY,
MEDULA.

I WAS JUST
THINKING ON THIS
NICE LITTLE TIDY POOL
OF FROG BABIES I SEEN
A LITTLE HOURS BACK
FILLED WITH BITTY
WRIGGLING BABIES I
OUGHT TO GO BACK
AND SCOOP UP AND
BRING HERE TO
YOU ON ACCOUNT
OF YOU BEING
SO PRETTY
AND...

PLUG THAT
LEAK
BEFORE
IT KILLS
YOU,
CROWARD.

THAT'S
JUST WHAT
I WAS
THINKING.

SO
GLAD WE
AGREE.

AND ON THE SUBJECT OF
TADPOLES, I COULDN'T
HELP BUT NOTICE THAT
HALF A MOON BACK
SADISTO WAS
PAYING ME
AN EVEN DOZEN
WRIGGLERS FOR A JOB.

AND THEN
I MENTION
BETWEEN SIPS
OF TURPENTINE
IN THE STRICTEST
CONFIDENCE TO MY
GARDONS THAT I
WOULD HAVE DONE
THE JOB FOR THREE.



ROTTEN
SORRY BAD
LUCK ALL
AROUND,
SUCH...

LET ME
FINISH.

I'M JUST GETTING
TO THE SAD PART.

THE NEXT JOB,
SADISTO HAS
LOWERED MY
PAYMENT TO
THREE LITTLE
WRIGGLERS, BARELY
ENOUGH TO KEEP
THE ITCH AT BAY.

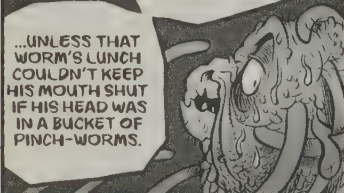
SUCH A
COINCIDENCE!

AND I BEGIN
TO WONDER...

HOW WOULD
SADISTO
KNOW?

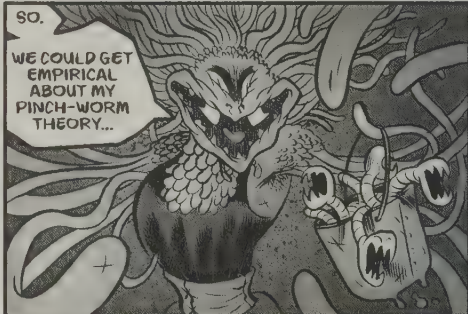
UNLESS SOME SIMMERING
WORM'S LUNCH WHO CAN'T
KEEP HIS MOUTH SHUT AND
KNOWS WHERE I TAKE MY
MORNING TURPENTINE
WITH THE BOYS...

...UNLESS THAT
WORM'S LUNCH
COULDN'T KEEP
HIS MOUTH SHUT
IF HIS HEAD WAS
IN A BUCKET OF
PINCH-WORMS.

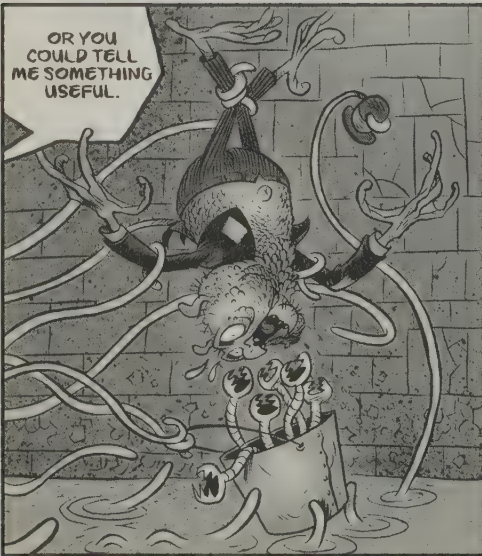


SO.

WE COULD GET
EMPIRICAL
ABOUT MY
PINCH-WORM
THEORY...



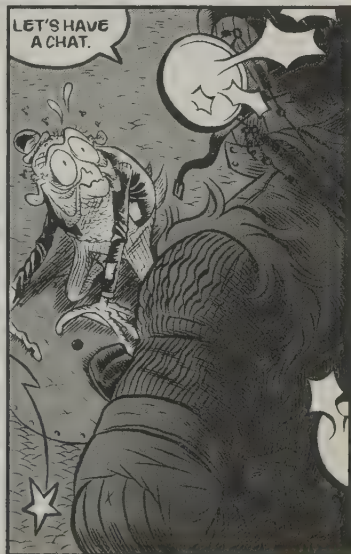
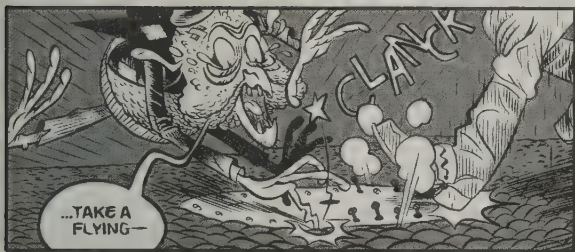
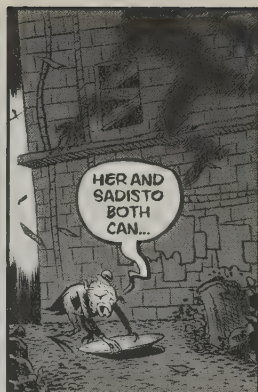
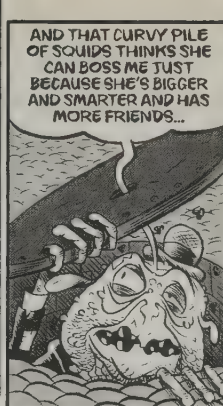
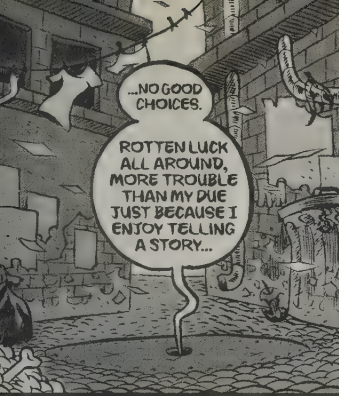
OR YOU
COULD TELL
ME SOMETHING
USEFUL.

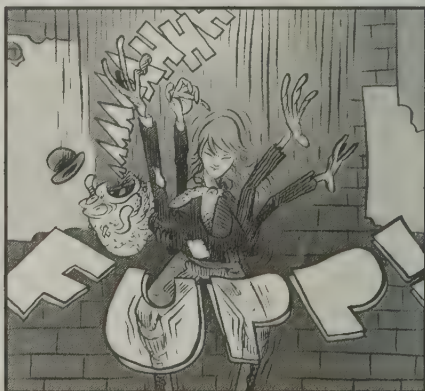
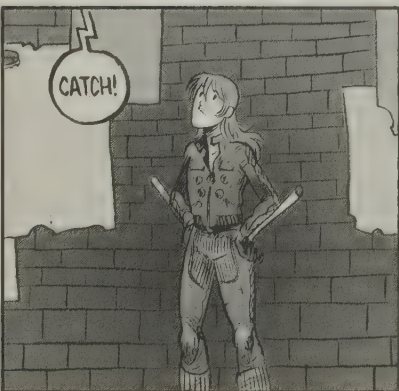
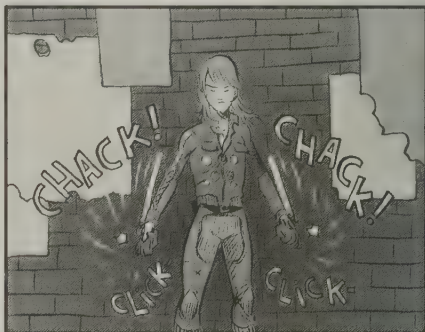
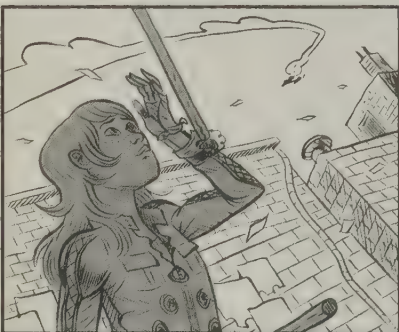
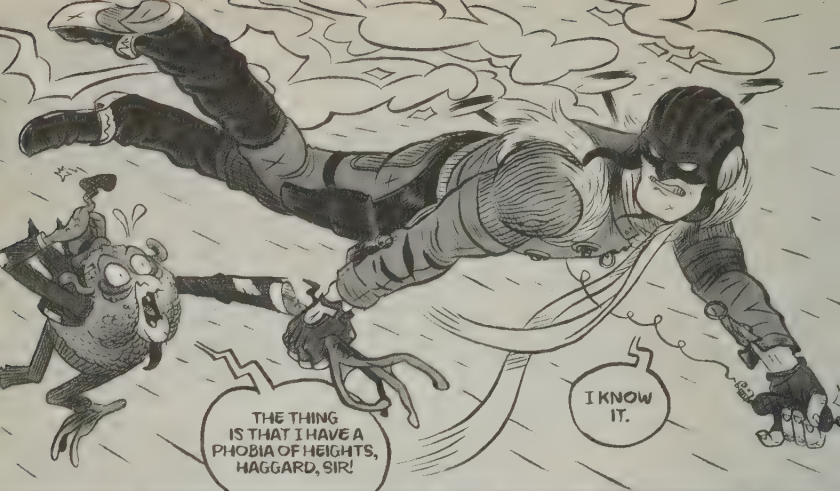


DO YOU WANT TO KNOW WHAT
MR. SADISTO'S MACHINE IS?

THE MACHINE MR. COIL
IS MAKING?







TOMORROW!

**TOMORROW
AT MIDNIGHT
MEDULA
DELIVERS THE
LAST PIECE
TO SADISTO'S
GANG AND THEY
FINISH THE
MACHINE!**

**OVER EASY,
THEY SAID.**

**LAST PIECE
OF WHAT?**

**I DON'T
KNOW, TOO
COMPLICATED
FOR MY HEAD.
ALL
TANGLY.**

**WHERE
DOES THE
DELIVERY
HAPPEN?**

**I DON'T KNOW.
OVER EASY,
THEY SAID IT
WOULD BE
OVER EASY.**

**DON'T FLY
ME AGAIN.**

**IS THAT WHAT
MONSTER PEE
SMELLS LIKE?**

YEAH.

GROSS.

**DROP
HIM.**

**WE'RE JUST
GONNA LET
HIM GO?**

**CROWARD'S TOO INCOMPETENT TO
POSE ANY KIND OF REAL THREAT
AND HE'S A GOOD SNITCH TO BOOT.**

**WE NEED
TO FIND
SADISTO'S
GANG.**

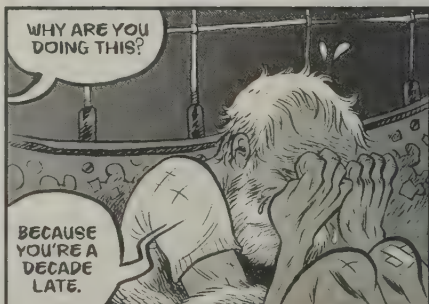
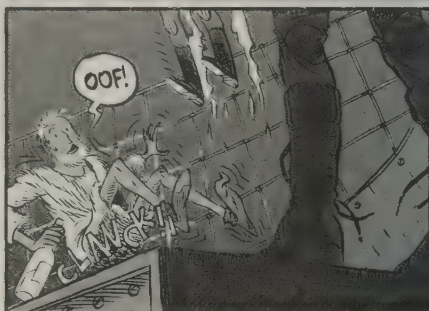
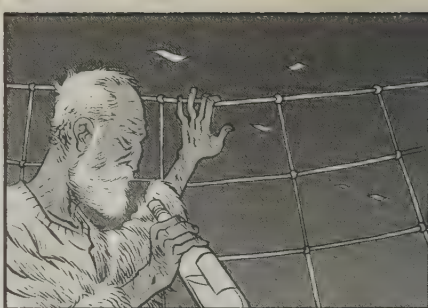
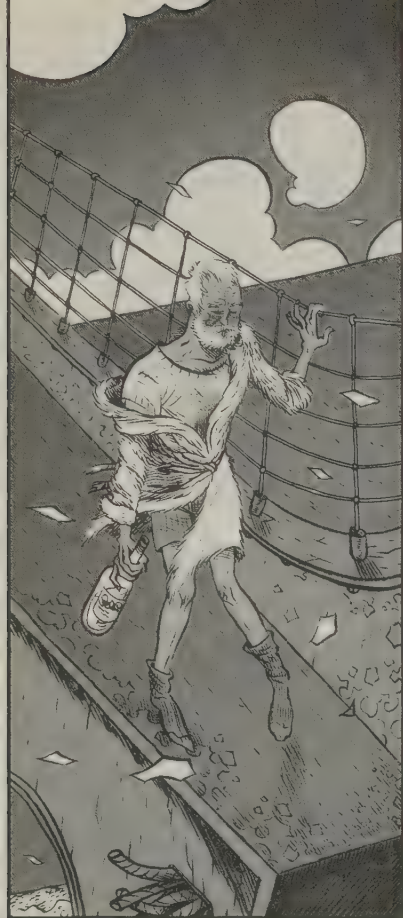
**WOULDN'T THIS
BEEASIER IF I
HAD MY OWN
JET PACK?**

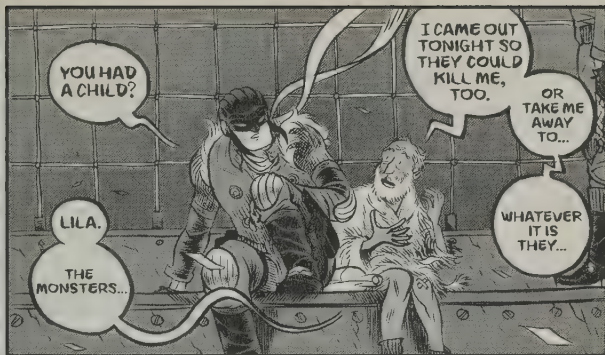
**NOT UNTIL YOU'RE
EIGHTEEN, YOU
KNOW THAT.**

**A JET
PACK'S NO
SAFER THAN
STRAPPING
A BOMB TO
YOUR BACK.**

**IS THAT A
MONSTER?
ON THE
GODEL'S
BRIDGE?**

NO...





YOU HAD A CHILD?

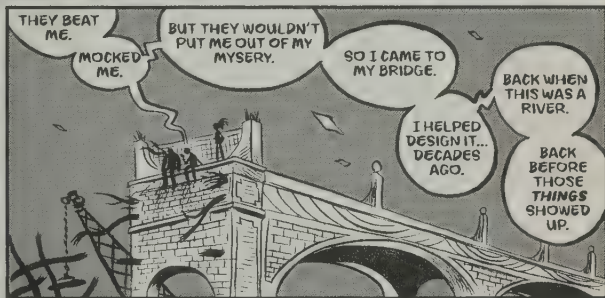
I CAME OUT TONIGHT SO THEY COULD KILL ME, TOO.

OR TAKE ME AWAY TO...

WHATEVER IT IS THEY...

LILA.

THE MONSTERS...



THEY BEAT ME.

MOCKED ME.

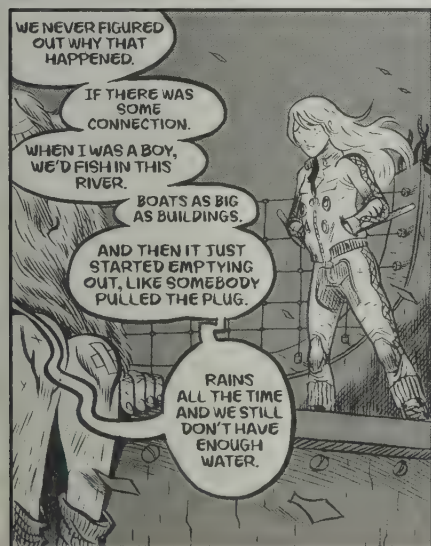
BUT THEY WOULDN'T PUT ME OUT OF MY MYSTERY.

SO I CAME TO MY BRIDGE.

I HELPED DESIGN IT... DECADES AGO.

BACK WHEN THIS WAS A RIVER.

BACK BEFORE THOSE THINGS SHOWED UP.



WE NEVER FIGURED OUT WHY THAT HAPPENED.

IF THERE WAS SOME CONNECTION.

WHEN I WAS A BOY, WE'D FISH IN THIS RIVER.

BOATS AS BIG AS BUILDINGS.

AND THEN IT JUST STARTED EMPTYING OUT, LIKE SOMEBODY PULLED THE PLUG.

RAINS ALL THE TIME AND WE STILL DON'T HAVE ENOUGH WATER.



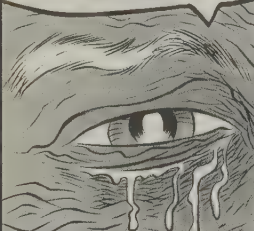
I BUILT A BRIDGE OVER A DRY RIVER.

FATHERED A CHILD I'LL NEVER SEE GROW.

YOU SHOULD JUST LET ME JUMP.

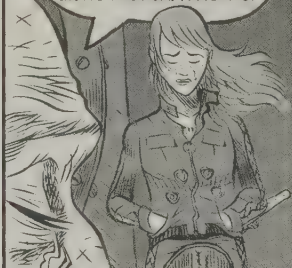
YOU CAN'T GIVE UP.

OF COURSE I CAN.
EVERYBODY'S GIVEN UP.
A CITY WITHOUT CHILDREN
IS A CITY WITHOUT HOPE.
YOU DON'T GET TO MY AGE
WITHOUT REALIZING THAT
EVERYTHING YOU SWEAT AND
BLEED TO BUILD WILL BE DUST
AND FORGOTTEN IN A
FEW YEARS.

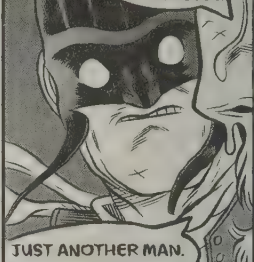


AND THE ONLY THINGS YOU CAN
MAKE WORTH SOMETHING ARE
YOUR CHILDREN.

YOU PUT EVERYTHING INTO
THEM, REALIZE YOU NEVER
REALLY LOVED ANYTHING
UNTIL THEY CAME ALONG.



YOUR WHOLE LIFE.
AND SOME MONSTER TAKES
IT AWAY JUST LIKE THAT.
AND THE "HERO"
WHO'S SUPPOSED
TO PROTECT THE
THINGS
YOU LOVE IS...
WORTHLESS.

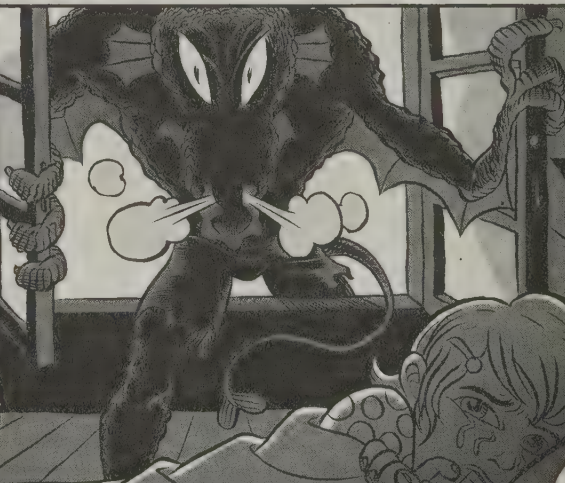


JUST ANOTHER MAN.

LILA
WAS FIVE
YEARS OLD
WHEN THEY
TOOK HER.

SHE
HAD JUST
STARTED
SCHOOL.

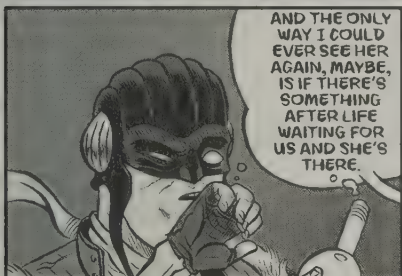
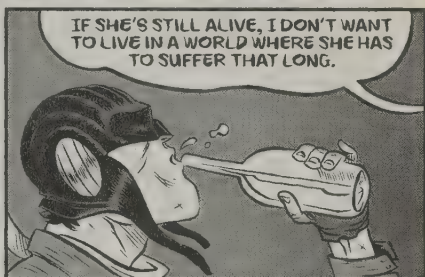
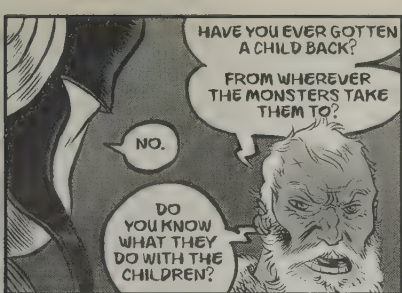
HER MOM
WAS STILL
ALIVE THEN,
SHE LOOKED
JUST LIKE
HER.

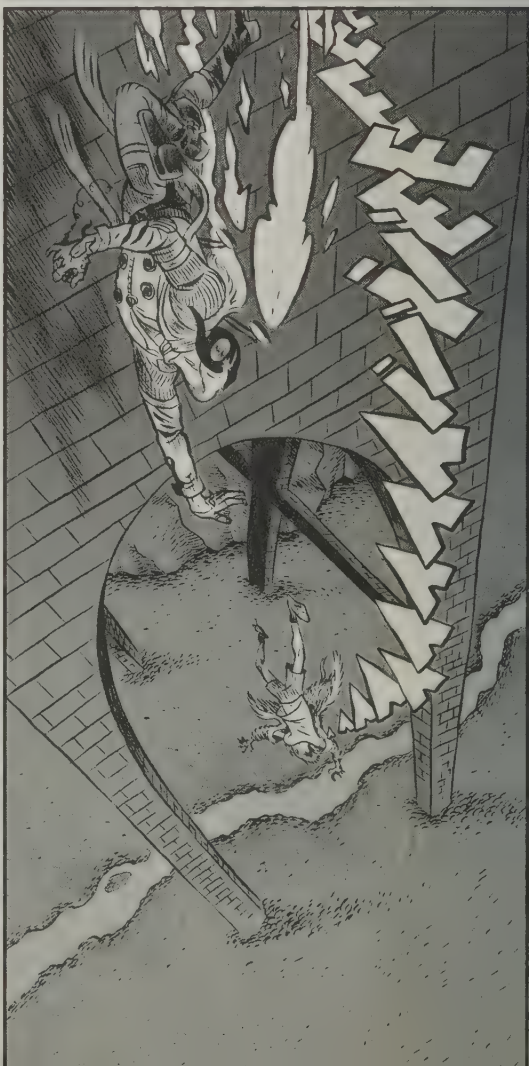


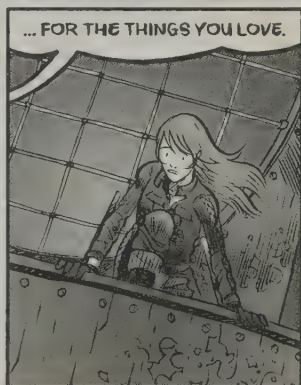
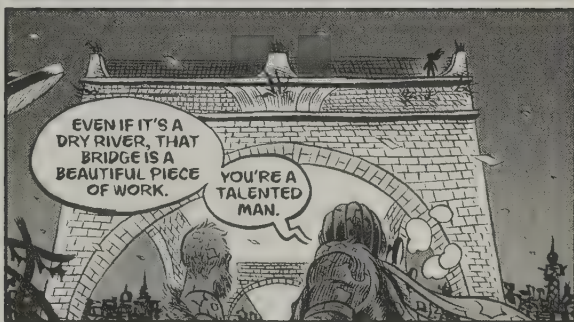
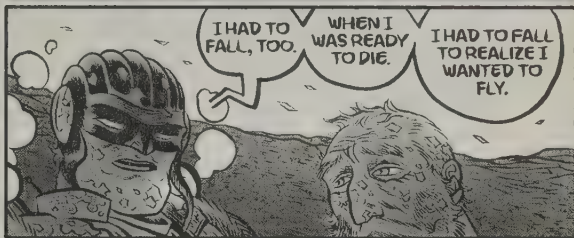
SHE WAS
LEARNING
TO READ.

SHE...









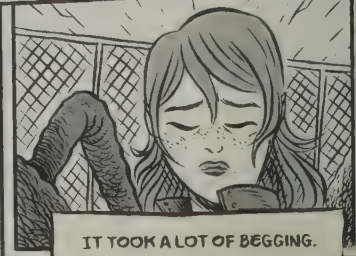


THE REST OF THE NIGHT,
HE FIGHTS TO SHAME
THE SAVAGERY OF
HIS INHUMAN FOES.

YOU'RE GONNA
TELL ME WHERE
SADISTO IS OR
YOU'RE GONNA
BEG ME TO LET
YOU DIE!!



HAGGARD WASN'T LYING.



IT TOOK A LOT OF BEGGING.



YOU LET
AURORA
STAY OUT
ALL NIGHT.

I GUESS
I DID.

WE'LL GET
SOME REST,
WE HAVE TO
MEET CORTO
AT FIVE.

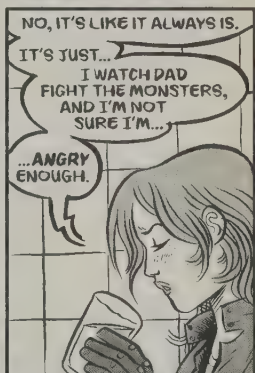


CORTO, GOOD
LORD. IT'S
BEEN YEARS.

G'NIGHT,
GIRLS.

WE'LL SKIP
MORNING CLASSES.
YOU NEED SLEEP...

YOU ALL
RIGHT?
SOME CLOSE
SCRAPES OUT
THERE?



NO, IT'S LIKE IT ALWAYS IS.

IT'S JUST...
I WATCH DAD
FIGHT THE MONSTERS,
AND I'M NOT
SURE I'M...

...ANGRY
ENOUGH.

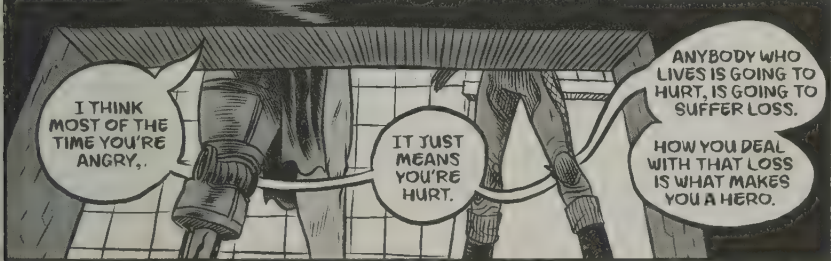


DO YOU
WANT TO
BE THAT
ANGRY?

I DON'T
THINK
SO.

I
MEAN,

COULD I
BE A HERO
OTHERWISE?

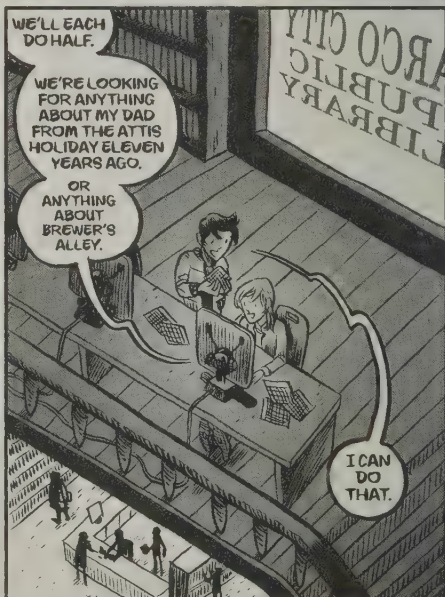
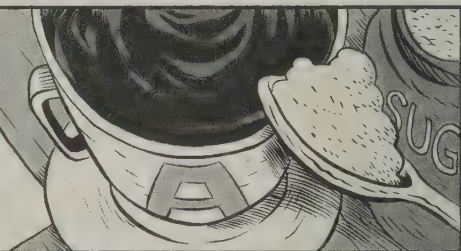
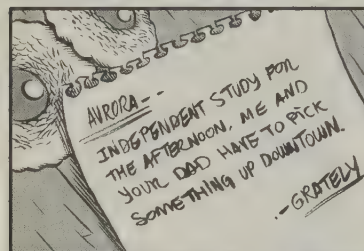
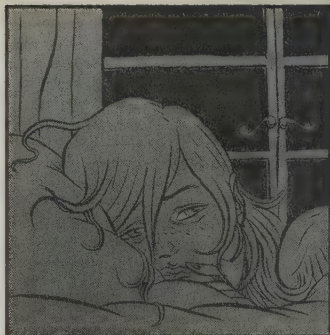
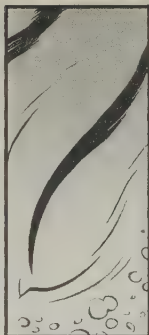


I THINK
MOST OF THE
TIME YOU'RE
ANGRY,

IT JUST
MEANS
YOU'RE
HURT.

ANYBODY WHO
LIVES IS GOING TO
HURT, IS GOING TO
SUFFER LOSS.

HOW YOU DEAL
WITH THAT LOSS
IS WHAT MAKES
YOU A HERO.





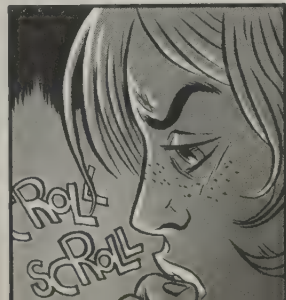
the Monsters of Arcopolis: WEST IN PEACE



Science Hero Haggan
West deals savage
blow to city's monster
problem.



ttis Goat wishes "Scrappy Holidays" to needy
p. 7



MONSTER MASH

HEROIC HAGGARD WEST DEFEATS MONSTERS WITH SCIENCE AND MUSCLE

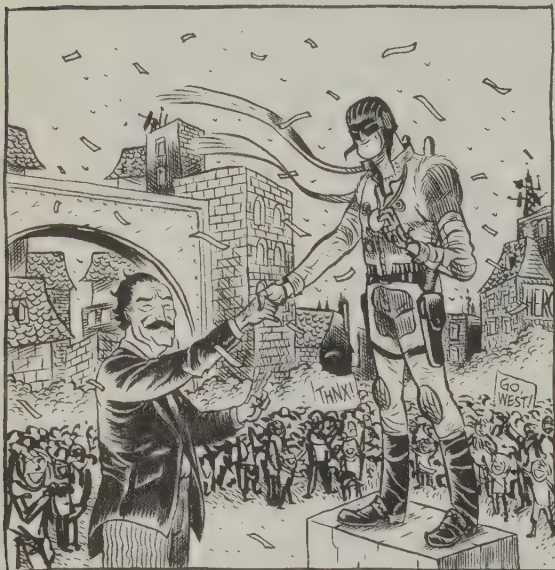


PHOTO CREDIT: AC WIRE



PHOTO CREDIT: S. GRATELY

After years of struggle, Arcopolis' own son Haggard West may have finally put an end to the inhuman menace threatening our city's children.

Using what he describes as a "Plasma Cannon," Haggard destroyed the entrance to the monsters' underground lair.

Dozens were surely killed in the initial blast, without the loss of a single human life. The remaining monsters, a reckless and uneducated mob of swarthy psychopaths, will certainly succumb to starvation, infighting, or fatal despair in the coming months.

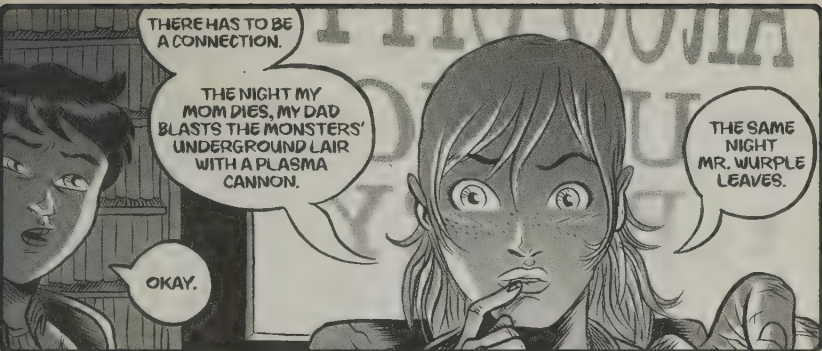
The Mayor described Mr. West as, "An inspiration and model for our young people. A self-made man, he exemplifies all the wealth and glory you can achieve through education, calisthenics, and a ceaseless dedication to the public good."

The people of Arcopolis have lived in the spreading shadow of the monster problem for nearly a decade now. Tonight those good people can rest a little easier.

Mr. West made his fortune through inventions as varied and invaluable as the Westwave Oven™, Carbon Copy™, West-o-Matic Gearbox™, and Catlick Straps™. But with the rise of the monsters, he found a new calling and turned his inestimable brain to the welfare of our children.

"I have a daughter," he said from the podium, "I know the fear we've had to live with for too long. Today, that ends."

He also gave credit for the conception and construction of the Plasma Cannon to his wife and partner, Rosetta West, and their assistant and photographer, Svetlana Goodley. The comely ladies of the West Manor were unfortunately delayed at the last moment and unable to attend the ceremony.

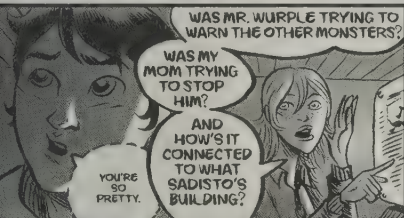


THERE HAS TO BE A CONNECTION.

THE NIGHT MY MOM DIES, MY DAD BLASTS THE MONSTERS' UNDERGROUND LAIR WITH A PLASMA CANNON.

THE SAME NIGHT MR. WURPLE LEAVES.

OKAY.

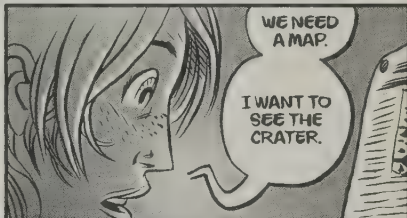


WAS MR. WURPLE TRYING TO WARN THE OTHER MONSTERS?

WAS MY MOM TRYING TO STOP HIM?

AND HOW'S IT CONNECTED TO WHAT SADISTO'S BUILDING?

YOU'RE SO PRETTY.



WE NEED A MAP.

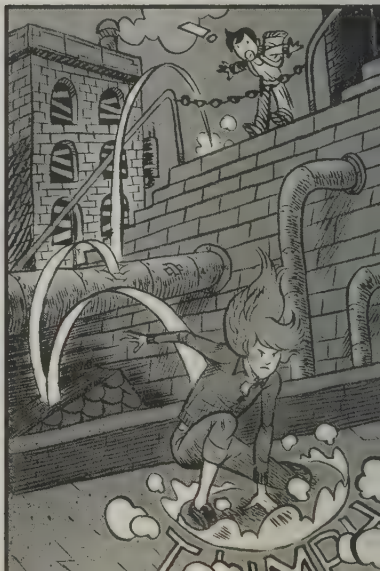
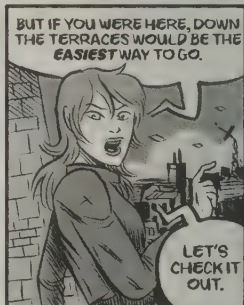
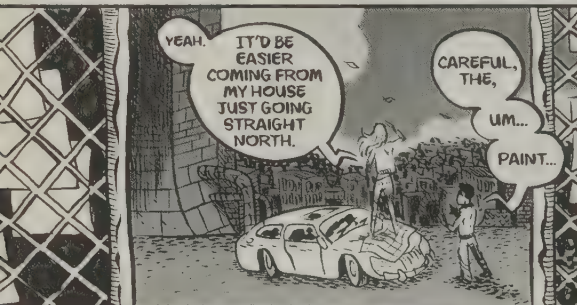
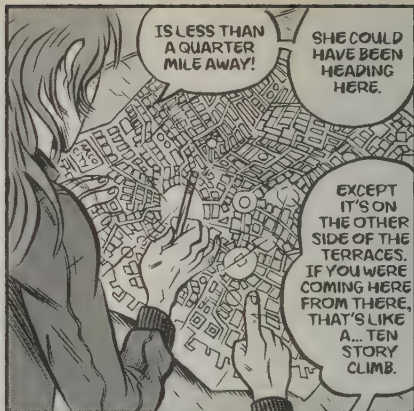
I WANT TO SEE THE CRATER.

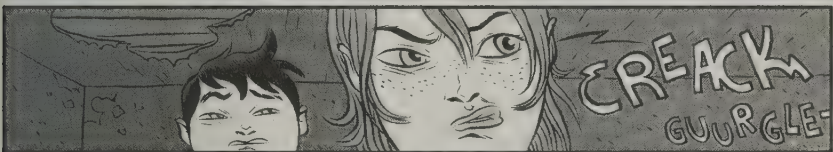
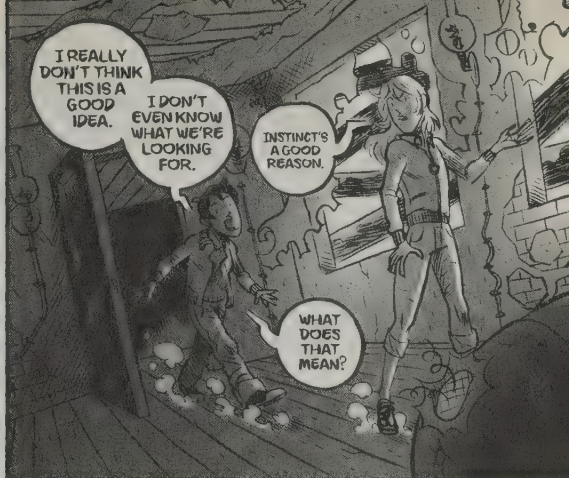


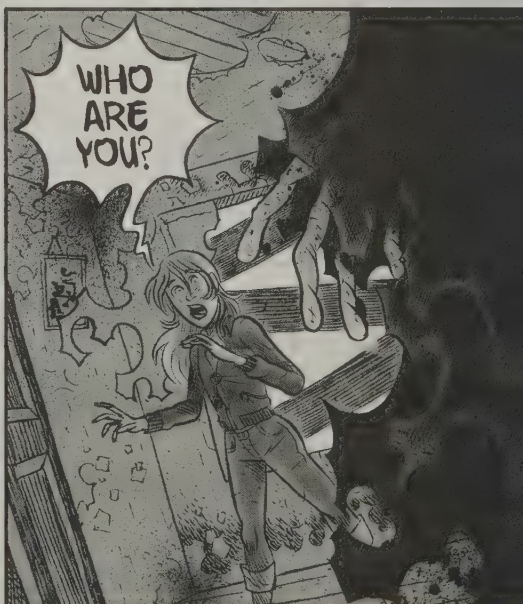
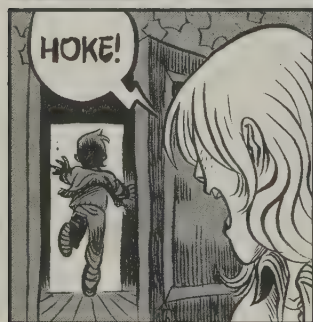
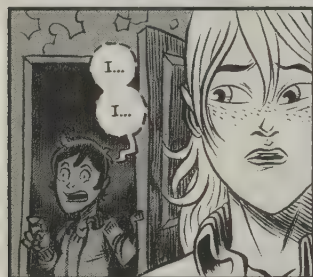
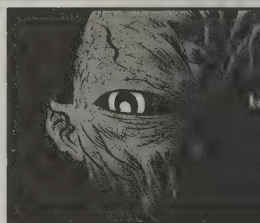
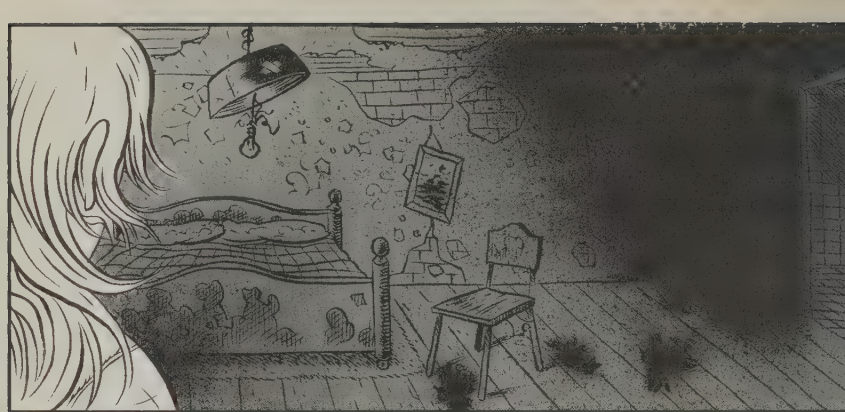
IT'S GOING TO BE CURFEW SOON, AURORA.

WE REALLY OUGHTA... MAYBE GO BACK TO MY HOUSE?

WATCH SOME TV OR SOMETHING?









HE WAS SUPPOSED TO BE
HERE AN HOUR AGO.



CORTO'S
ALWAYS
LATE.

HE'S
FLUCCISH.

WE'RE
LOSING
SUNLIGHT
AND I NEED
TO GET TO
WORK.

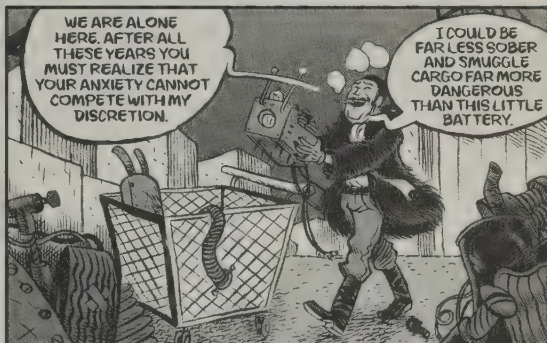
SOMETHING
BIG IS GOING
DOWN WITH
SADISTO'S
GANG.



HAGGARD,
OLD COMRADE!!

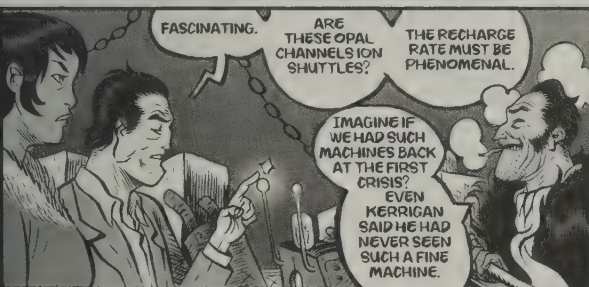
CORTO.

KEEP
YOUR
VOICE
DOWN.



WE ARE ALONE
HERE. AFTER ALL
THESE YEARS YOU
MUST REALIZE THAT
YOUR ANXIETY CANNOT
COMPETE WITH MY
DISCRETION.

I COULD BE
FAR LESS SOBER
AND SMUGGLE
CARGO FAR MORE
DANGEROUS
THAN THIS LITTLE
BATTERY.



FASCINATING.

ARE
THESE OPAL
CHANNELS ION
SHUTTLES?

THE RECHARGE
RATE MUST BE
PHENOMENAL.

IMAGINE IF
WE HAD SUCH
MACHINES BACK
AT THE FIRST
CRISIS?
EVEN
KERRIGAN
SAID HE HAD
NEVER SEEN
SUCH A FINE
MACHINE.



BRAND KERRIGAN? YOU
SHOWED IT TO BRAND? YOU
TOLD ME THE SHIPMENT
WAS SECRET.



KERRIGAN IS A
UNIVERSALIST.
ONE OF US.

YOU WORRY
TOO MUCH.

IF WE CAN REVERSE ENGINEER THIS POLYMER AND MINIATURIZE THE MECHANISM, I COULD CUT DOWN THE RECHARGE RATE ON MY BLASTERS BY A FACTOR OF...

I WAS
WRONG, OLD
FRIEND!

RUN!

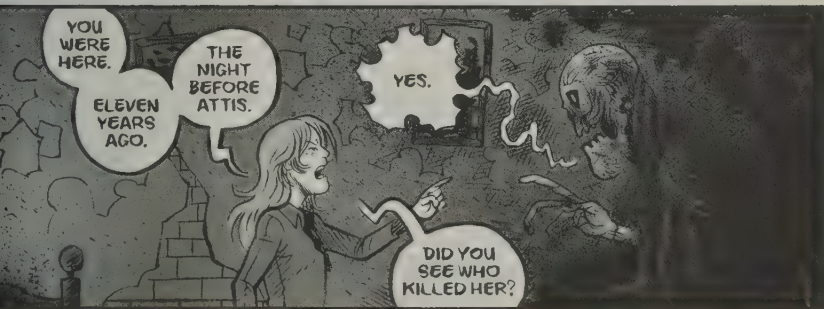
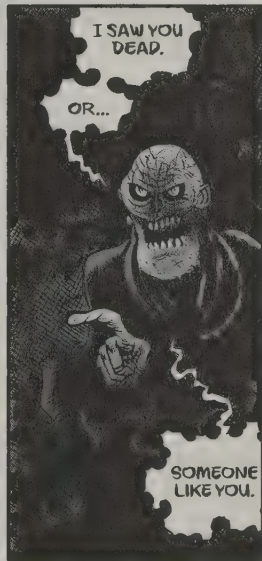
ZUT!

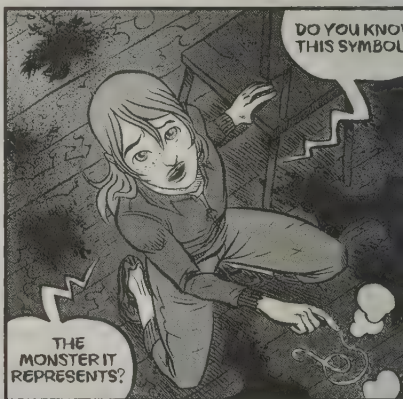
GET THE
BATTERY!

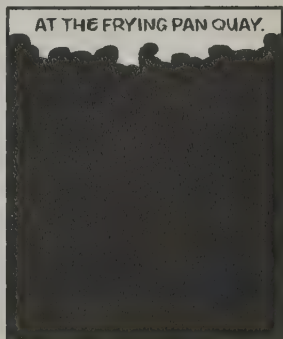
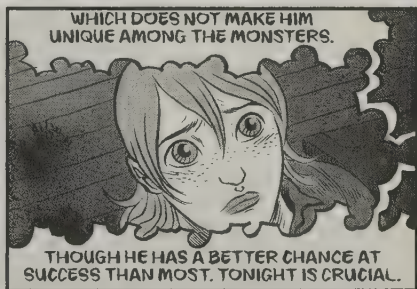
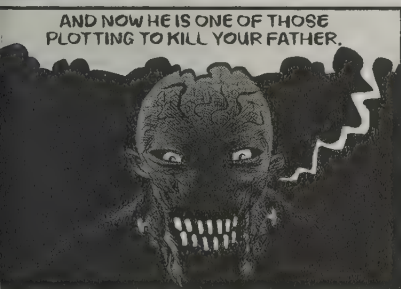
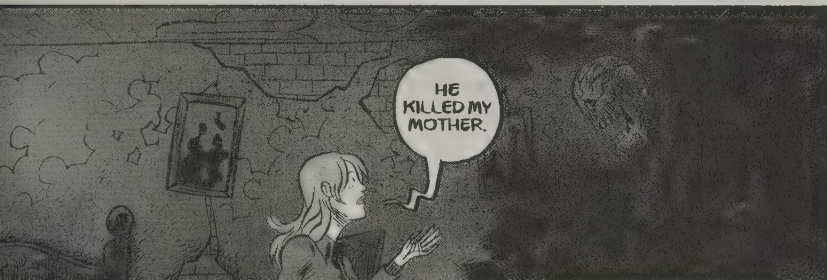
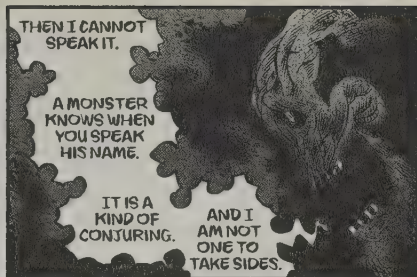
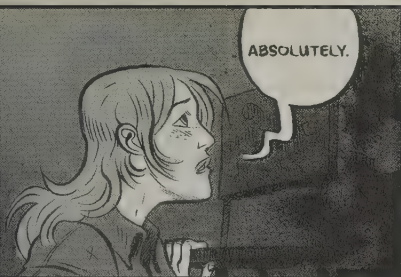
KILL
ANYTHING
THAT GETS
IN YOUR
WAY...

WHAT WEAPONS DO WE
HAVE?

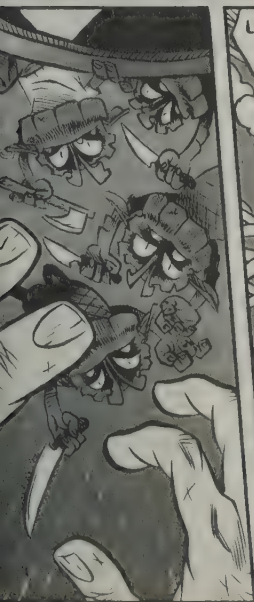
OH
BOY.















THEY
DIDN'T
KNOW WHO
WE ARE.

NOT
WITHOUT
THE
FLIGHT
SUIT.

WE
HAVE TO
FOLLOW
THEM.

THEY'LL
LEAD US
RIGHT TO
SADISTO,
WHATEVER
HE'S...



AGH!

I HAVE
YOU.

HELL.

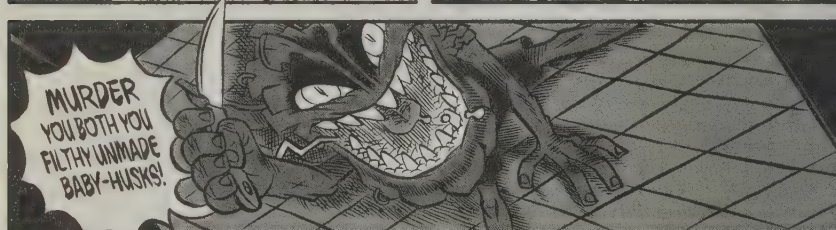
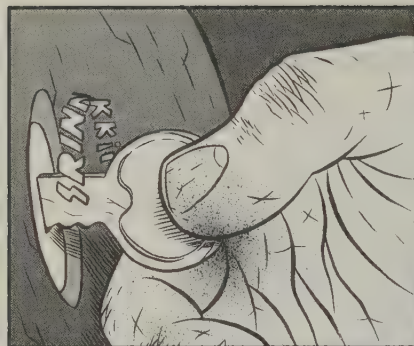
THEY
MESS'D
UP MY
KNEE...

I...

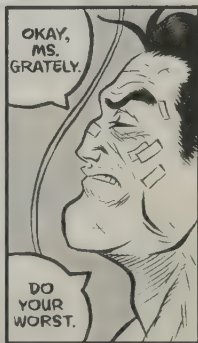
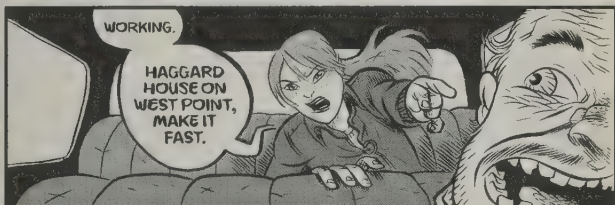


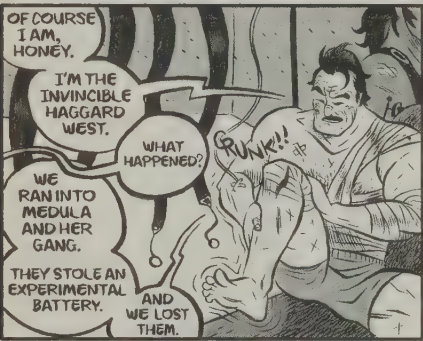
I WON'T
COMPLAIN.

I HAVE
ONE OF THE
MONSTERS
IN THE
TRUNK.



TAXI!!!





OF COURSE I AM, HONEY.

I'M THE INVINCIBLE HAGGARD WEST.

WE RAN INTO MEDULA AND HER GANG.

THEY STOLE AN EXPERIMENTAL BATTERY.

WHAT HAPPENED?

AND WE LOST THEM.

RUN!!



WHAT?
HOW DID YOU FIGURE THAT OUT?

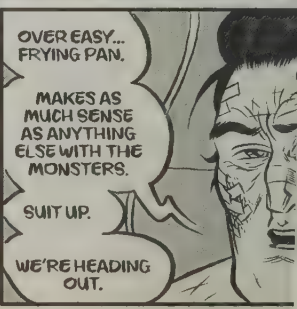
um...

SO DID CROWARD...



I KNOW WHERE THEY'RE GOING—
WHERE WE FIND SADISTO.
THE FRYING PAN QUAY.

"OVER EASY."
MEDULA'S LACKEY SAID "OVER EASY."

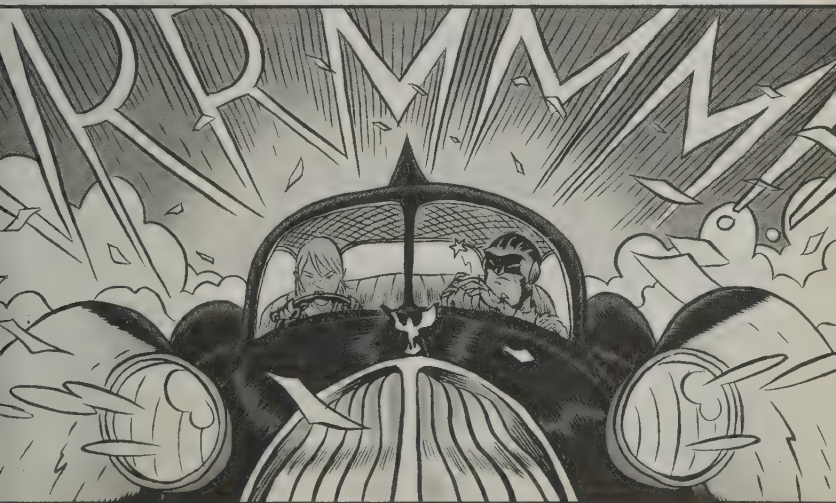
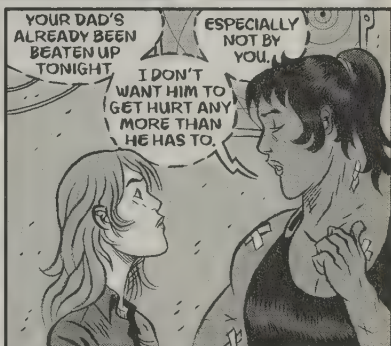
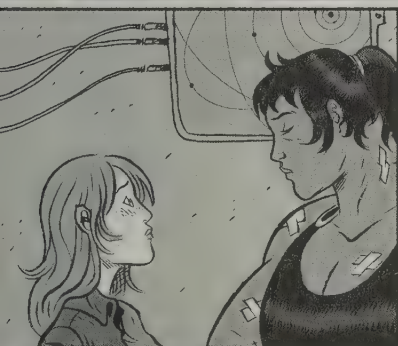


OVER EASY...
FRYING PAN.

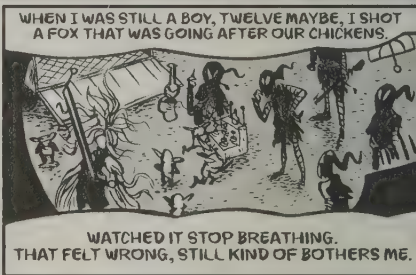
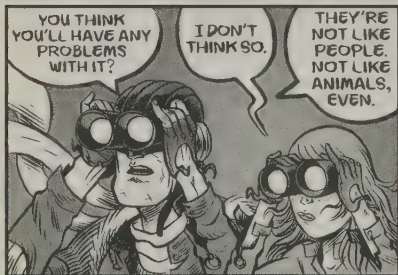
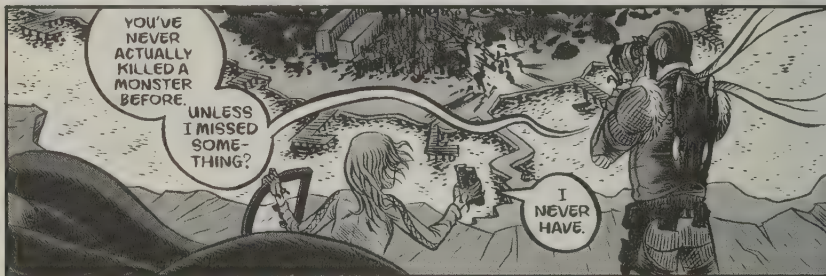
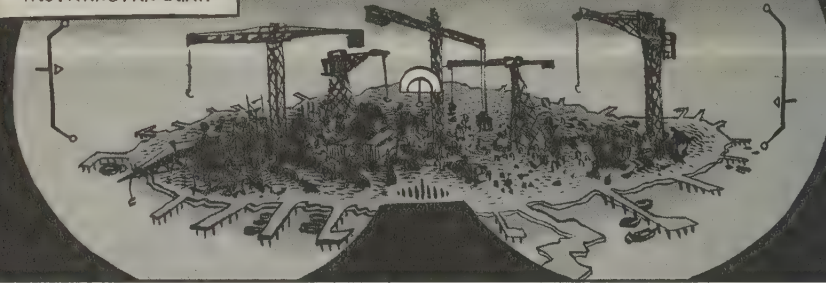
MAKES AS MUCH SENSE AS ANYTHING ELSE WITH THE MONSTERS.

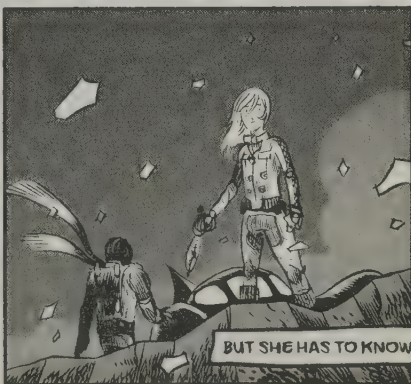
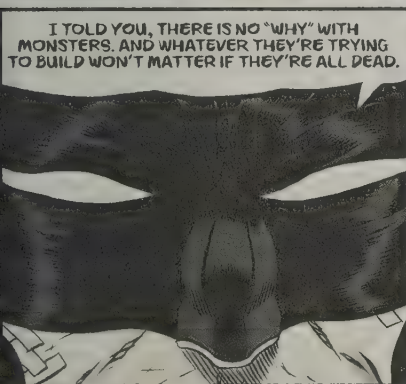
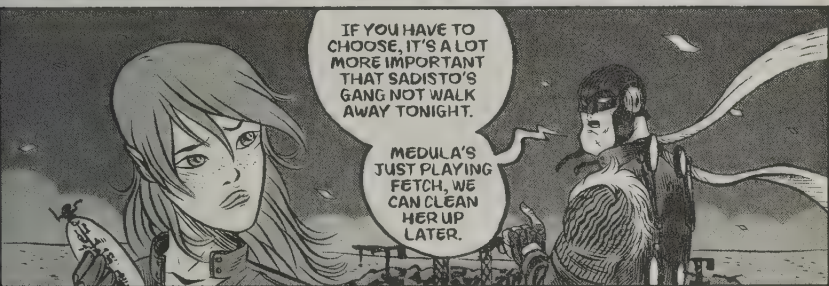
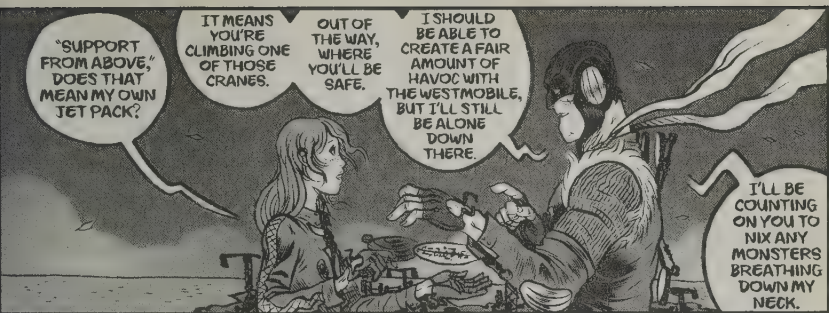
SUIT UP.

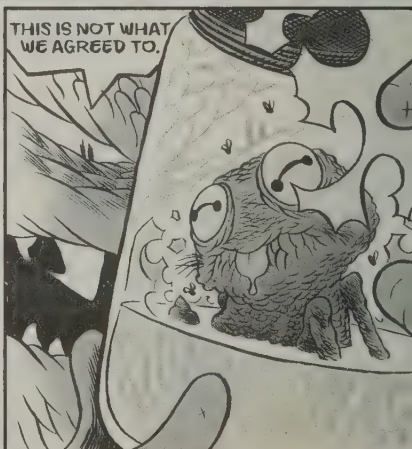
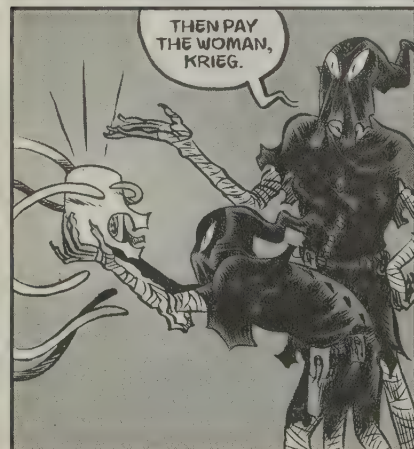
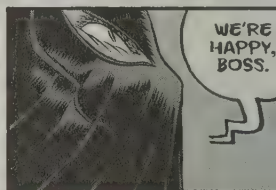
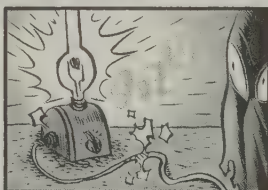
WE'RE HEADING OUT.

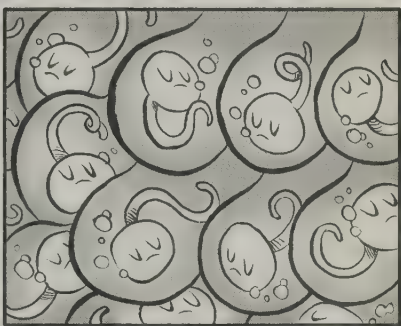
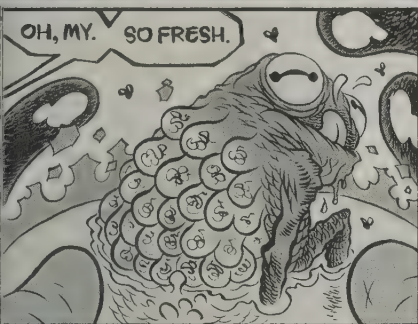
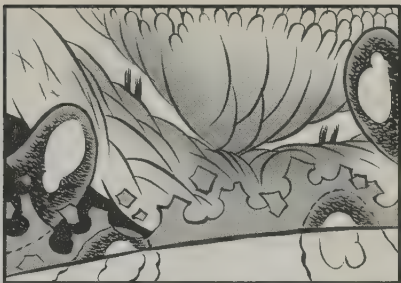


THE FRYING PAN QUAY.

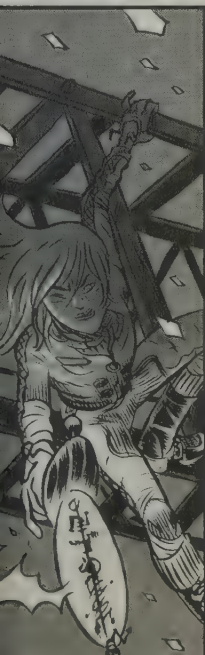
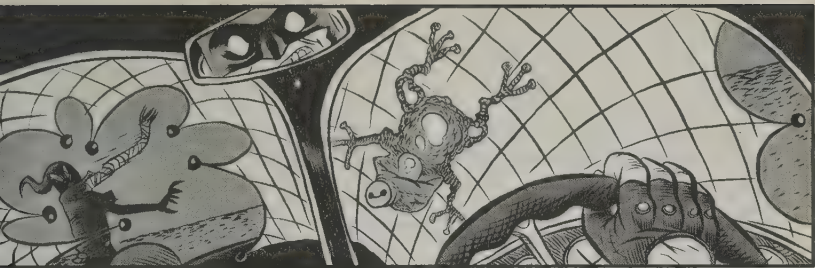


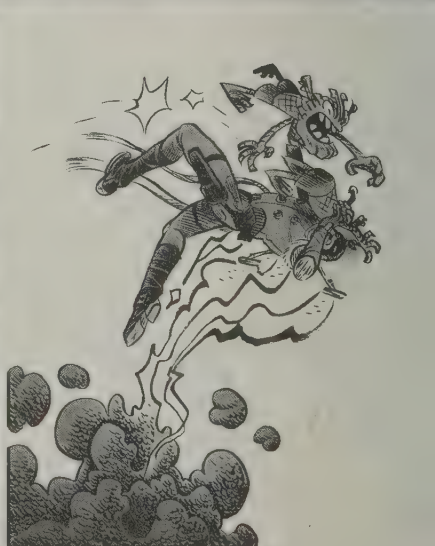
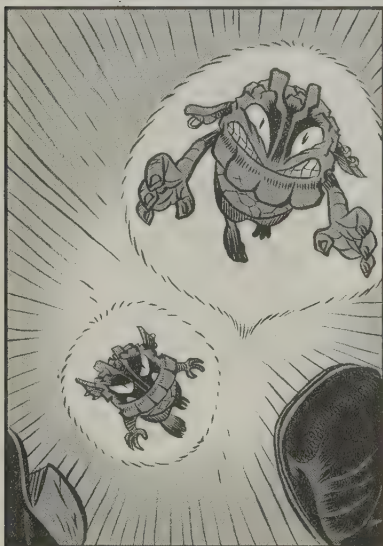
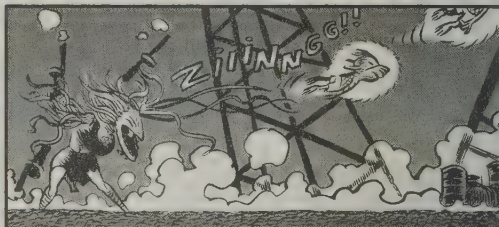


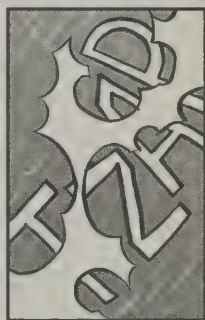
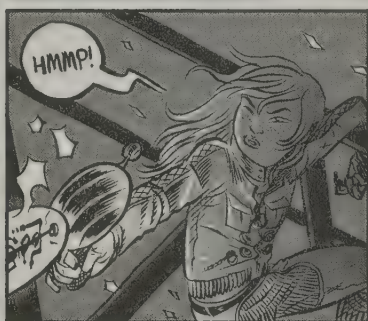
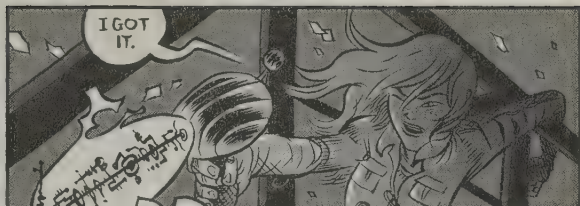


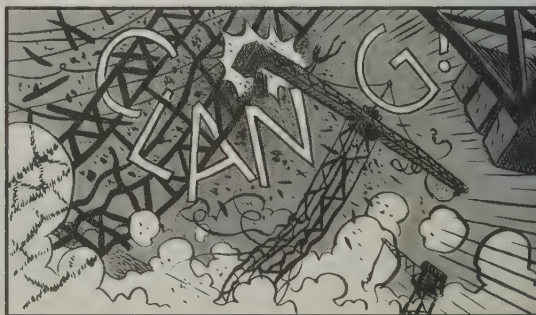
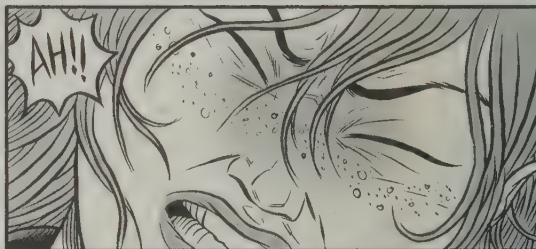
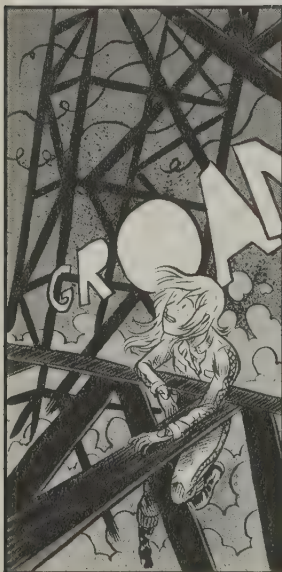
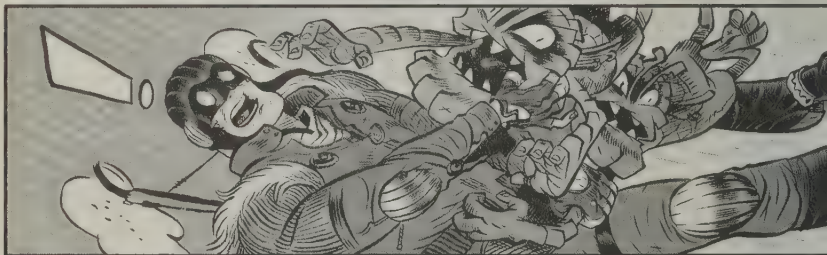


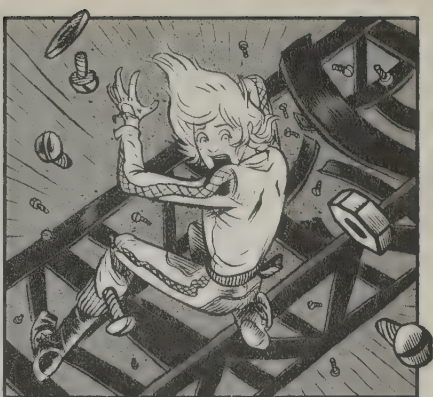
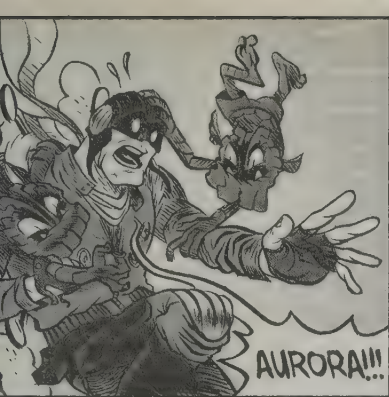


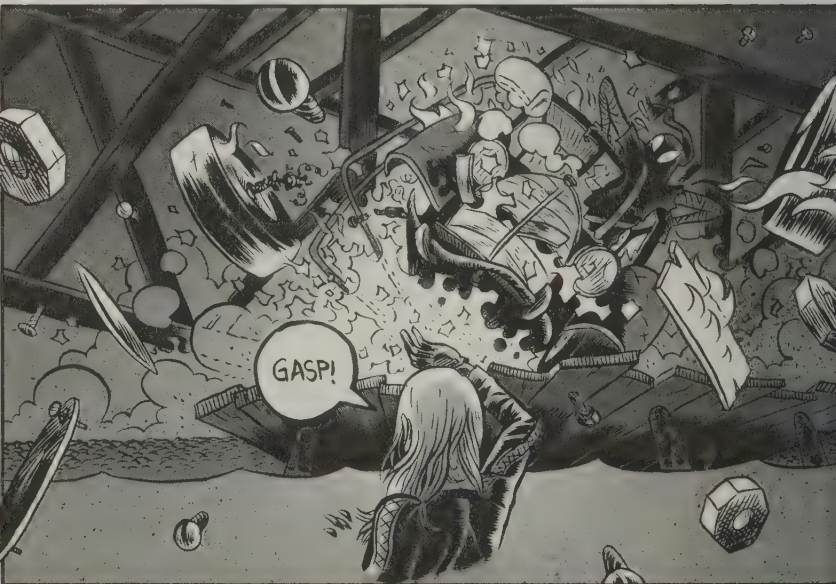
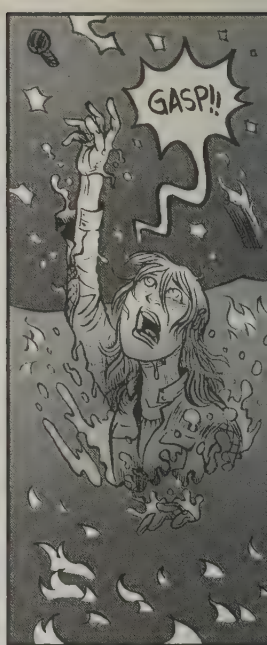
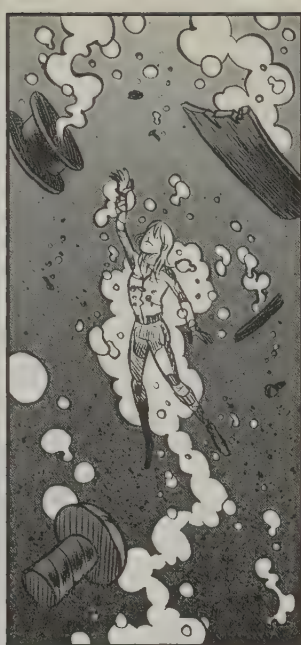
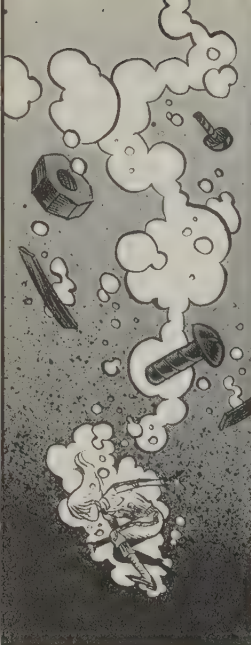


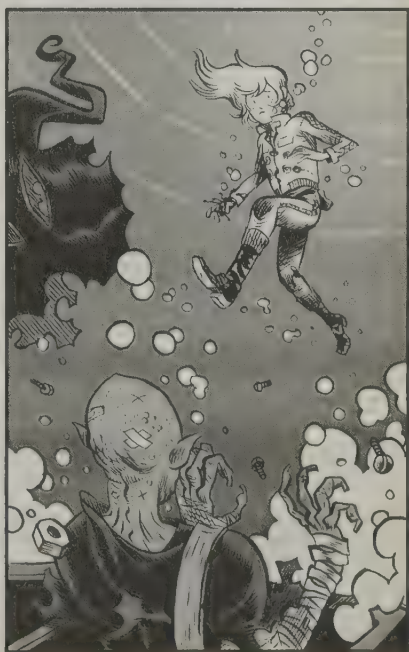
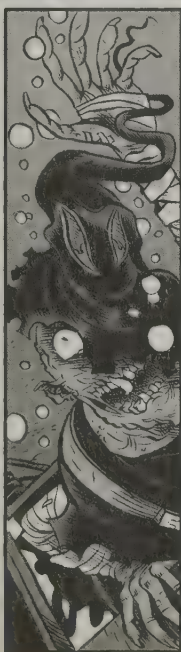
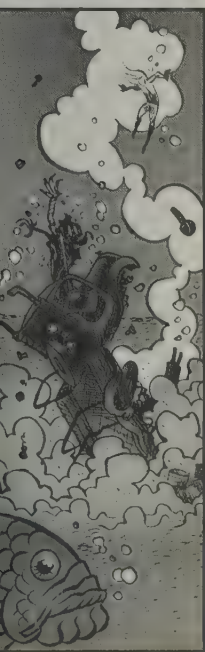


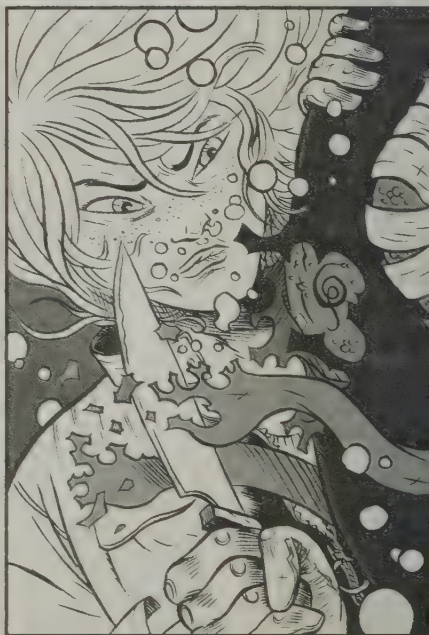
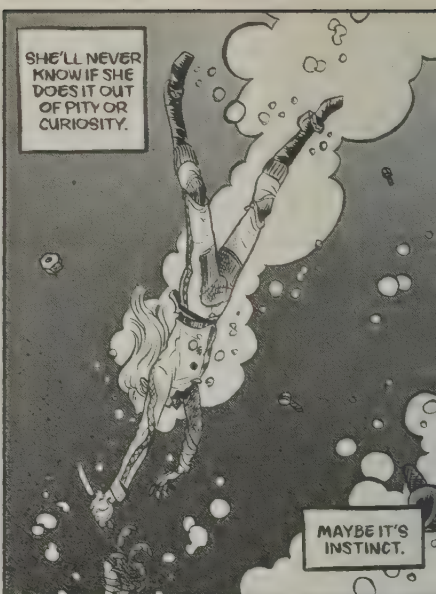
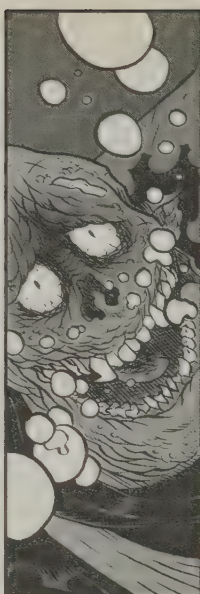
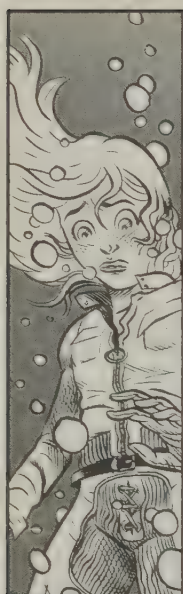


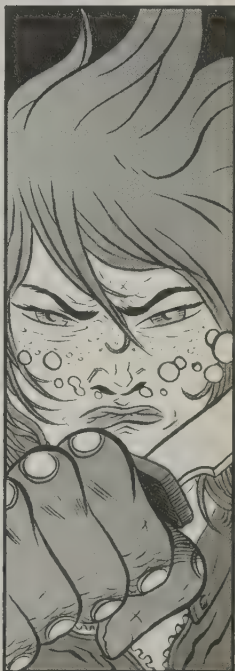
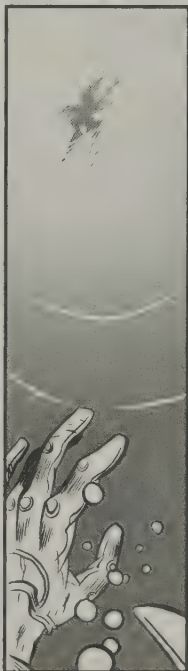
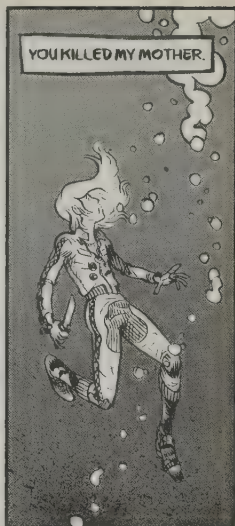


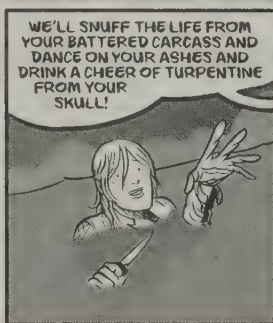
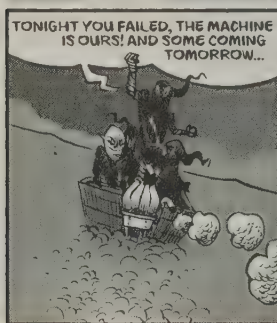
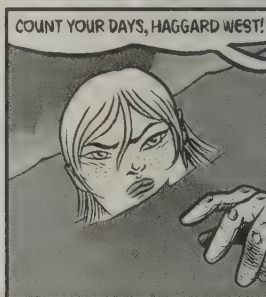
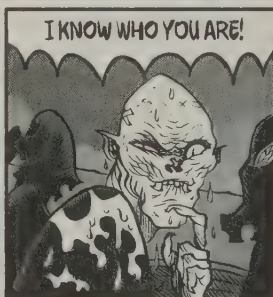
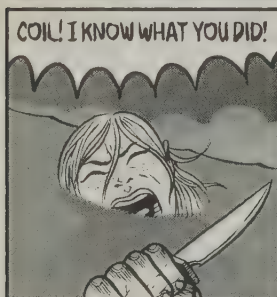
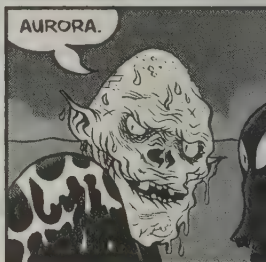
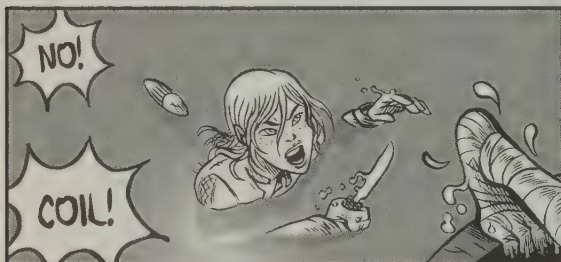
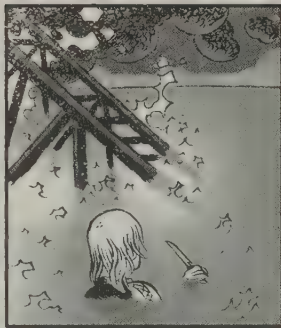
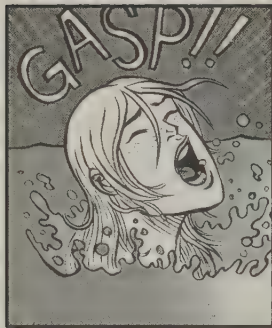


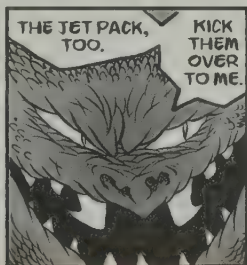
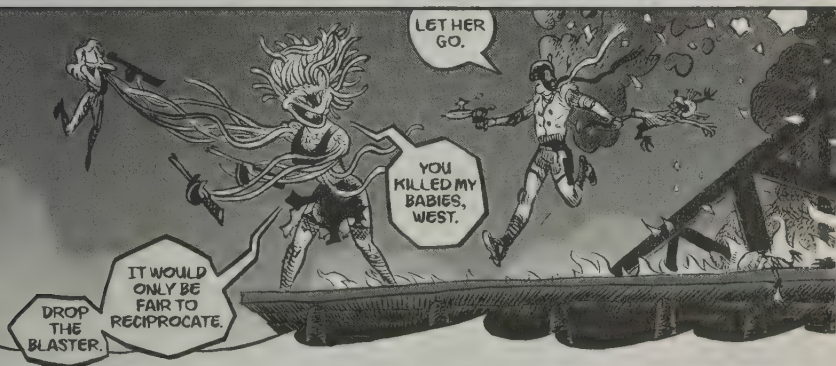
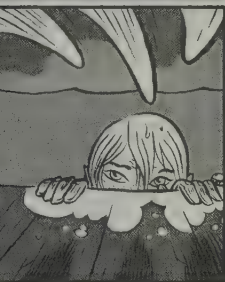
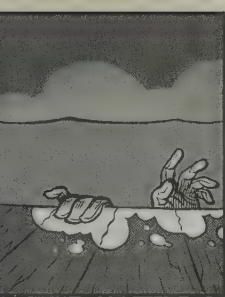


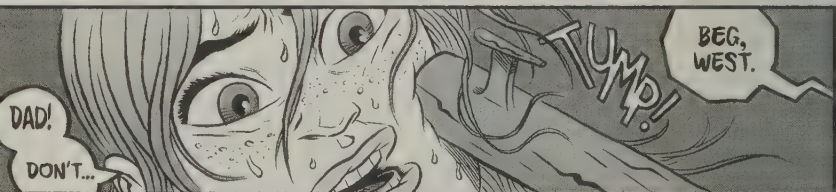
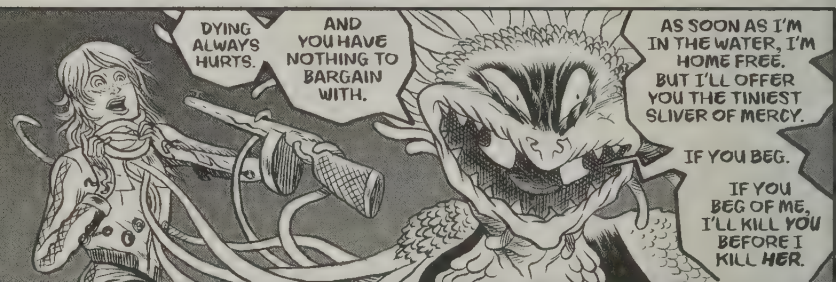
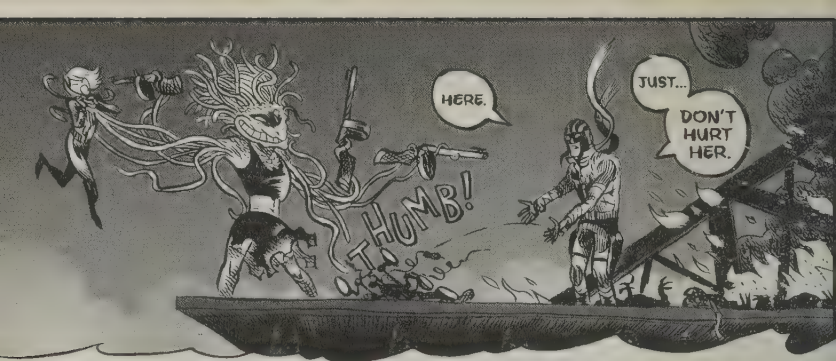


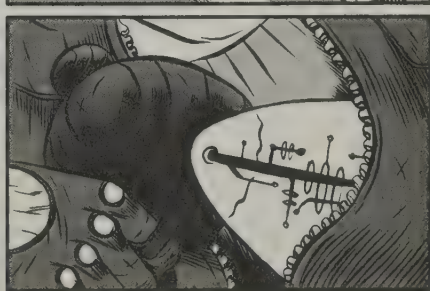
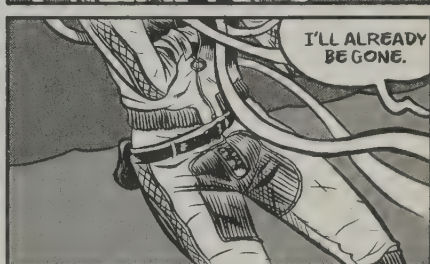
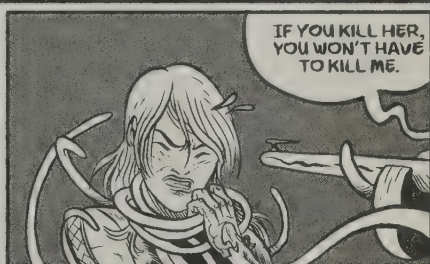
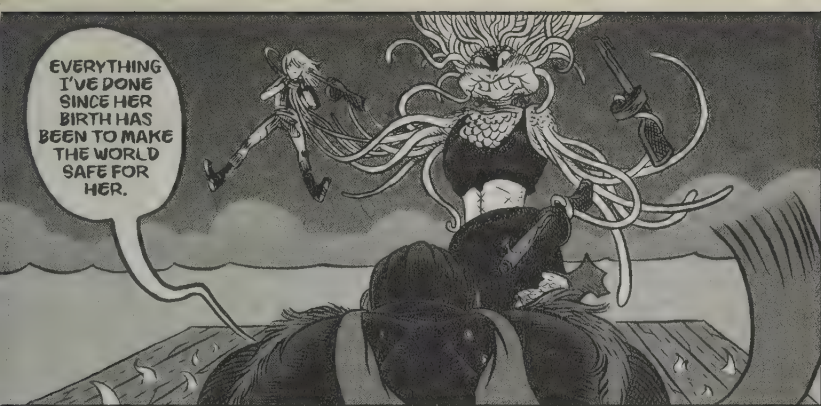


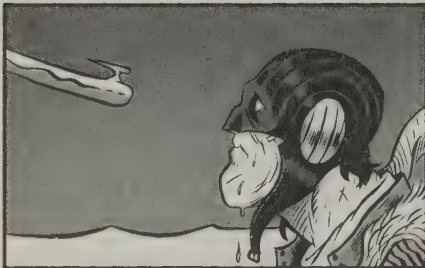
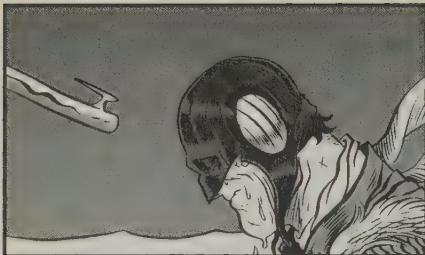


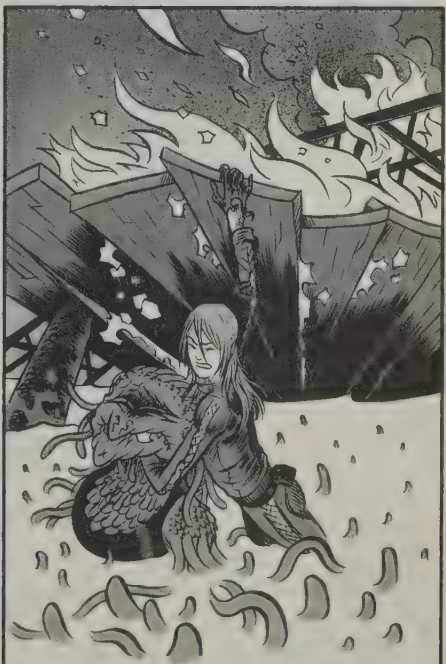


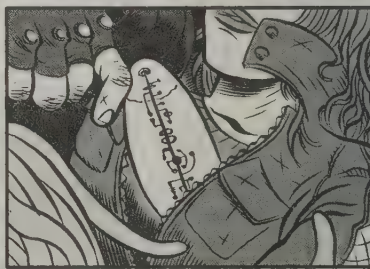
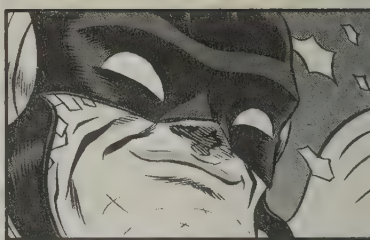


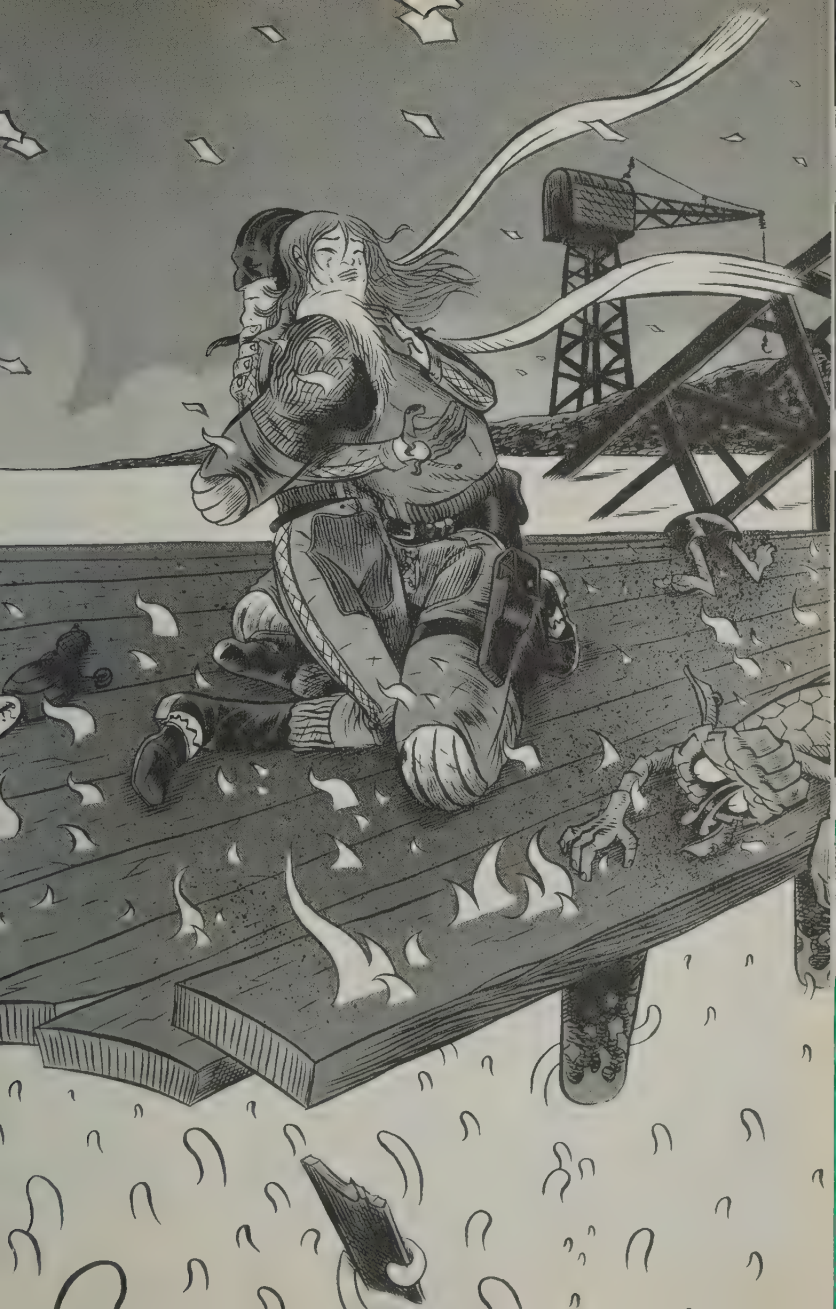














...ALL THE
PIECES IN
PLACE.



NOW
IT'S JUST A
MATTER OF
TOOLS AND
TIME.

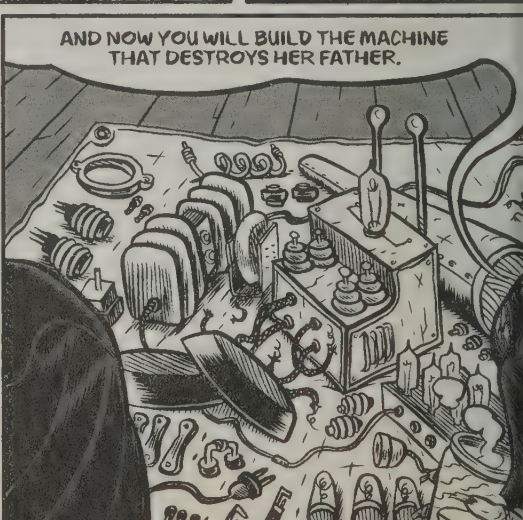


THE GIRL
SAID SHE
KNOWS YOU.

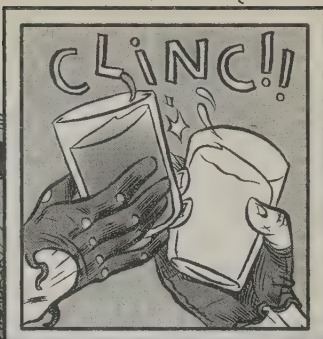
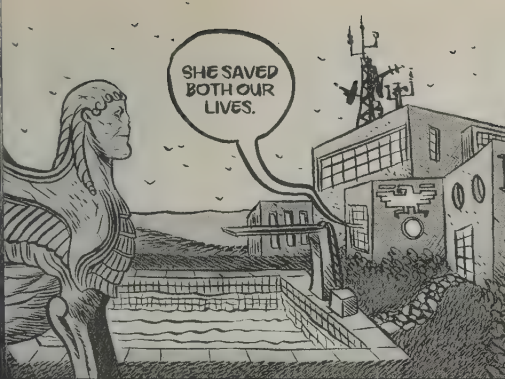


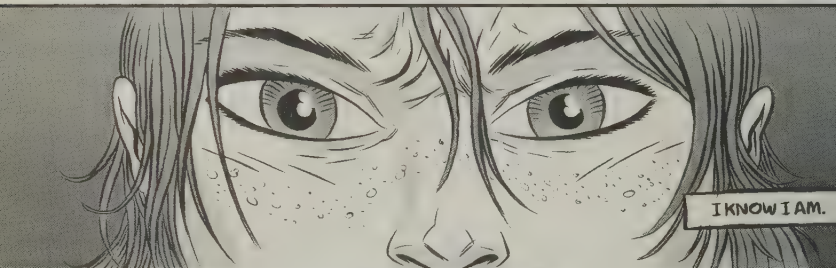
SHE WAS MY
ANIMUS.

GLUB

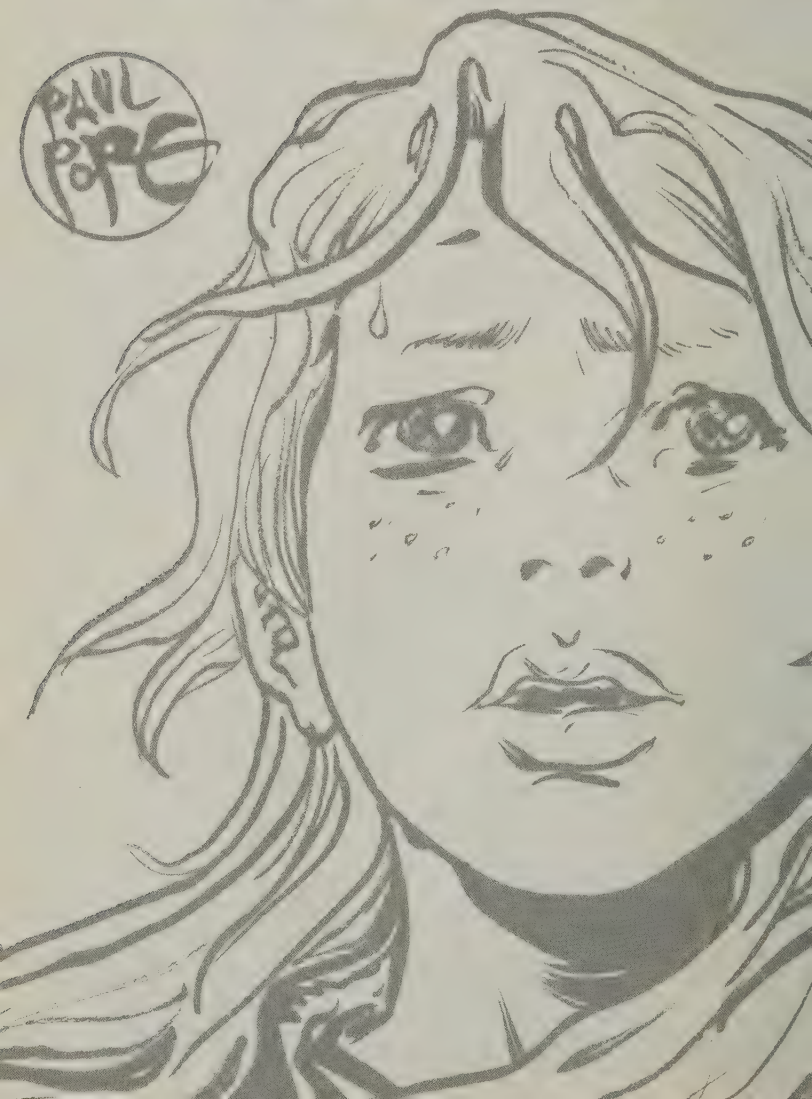


AND NOW YOU WILL BUILD THE MACHINE
THAT DESTROYS HER FATHER.



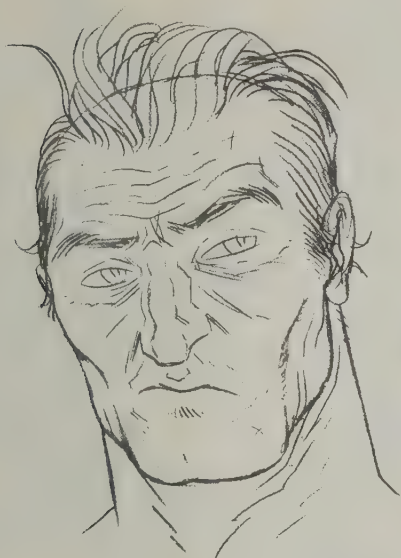


AURORA'S ADVENTURE CONTINUES IN
BATTLING BOY:
THE FALL OF THE HOUSE OF WEST



FROM THE SKETCHBOOKS OF DAVID RUBIN

HAGGARD WEST
(WITHOUT MASK)



DAVID
RUBIN

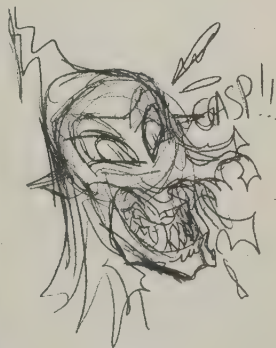
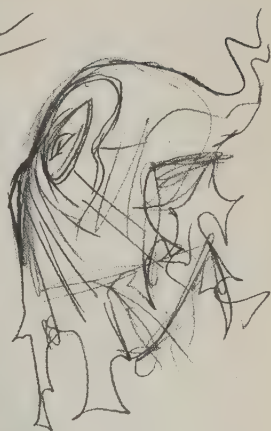


MONKE
RABBO



SADISTO

Coil



DAVID
RUBIN

*JET-PACK:
THIS WAY OR
HAGGARD WAY? →

ZIP!!

ELBOW

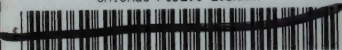
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