

TWENTY NAUTICAL MILES DUE SOUTH OF THE FARALLONS OFF THE COAST OF CALIFORNIA...

...300 FEET STRAIGHT DOWN.

HAND IT OVER; I'M NOT GOING TO SAY IT AGAIN...

...THE DISK FOR THE GIRL.

HOW COME IT'S ALWAYS THE GIRL WHO GETS TAKEN HOSTAGE?

SHUT UP, DAVE.



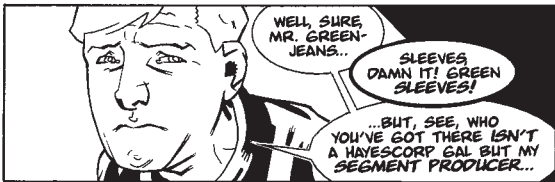


LOOK, YOU'VE GOT WHAT YOU'VE WANTED SO FAR -- THE OIL PLATFORM HAS SHUT DOWN, AND THIS KELP FARM IS NO LONGER THREATENED..

...WE'VE BROADCAST EVERY ONE OF YOUR DEMANDS. THERE'S NO REASON TO KILL ANYONE ELSE.



WHAT'S ANOTHER DEAD HAYESCORP EMPLOYEE, MORE OR LESS? THEY ALL WORK FOR HIM.



WELL, SURE, MR. GREEN-JEANS...

SLEEVES, DAMN IT! GREEN SLEEVES!

...BUT, SEE, WHO YOU'VE GOT THERE ISN'T A HAYESCORP GUY BUT MY SEGMENT PRODUCER...



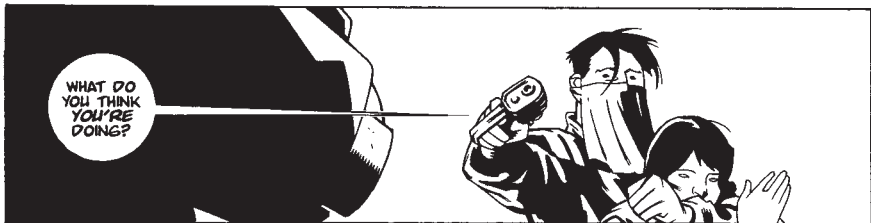
GAL?..



DON'T YOU UNDERSTAND?

HE'S TRYING TO TAKE OVER.

LOOK, GIVE ME THE DISK, OR THE...



WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING?



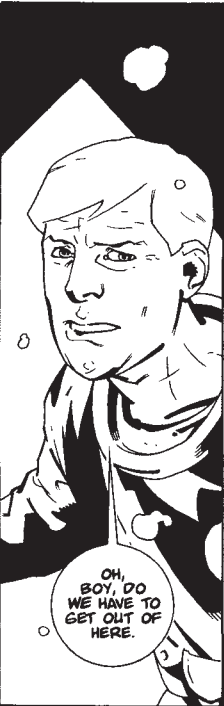
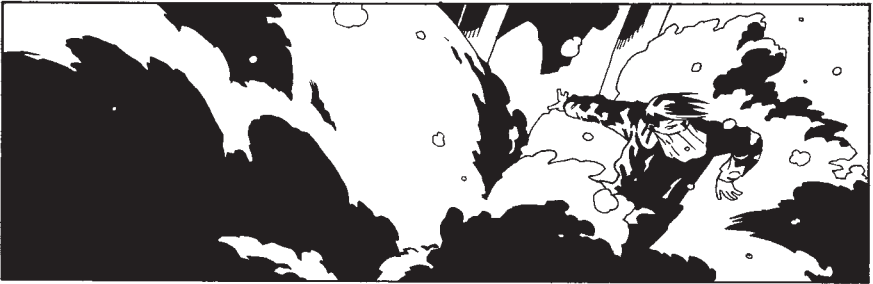
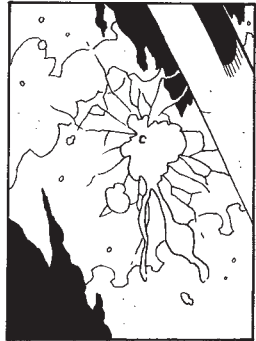
ME? I'M JUST SHOOTING AN ESTABLISHING SHOT...

BLAM



...TO YOUR HEAD!

YIKES!



OH, BOY, DO WE HAVE TO GET OUT OF HERE.



EVERY BODY GET TO THE NEWSVAN. NOW!

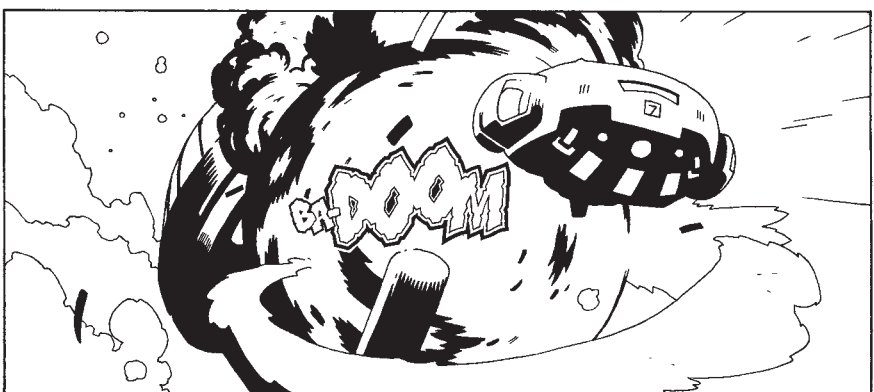
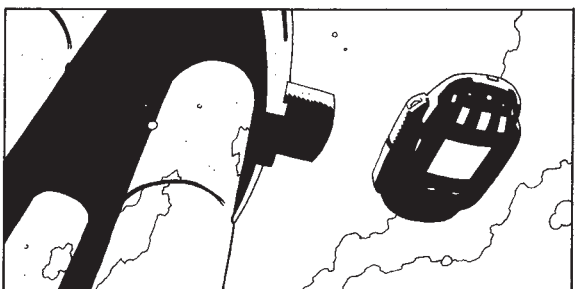
BUT...

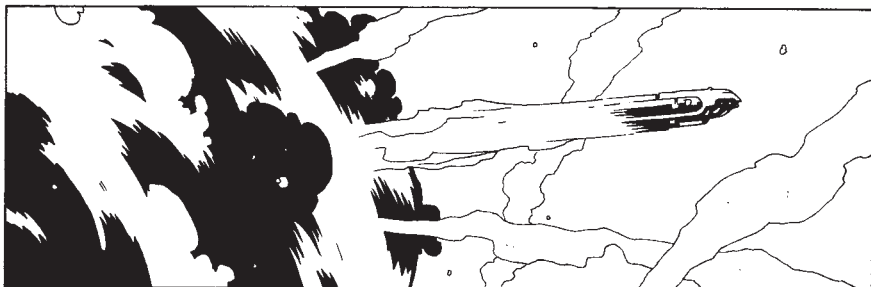


FORGET IT. HE'S GONE.



ALL RIGHT; ALL RIGHT... I'M RIGHT BEHIND YOU, SPARKY.



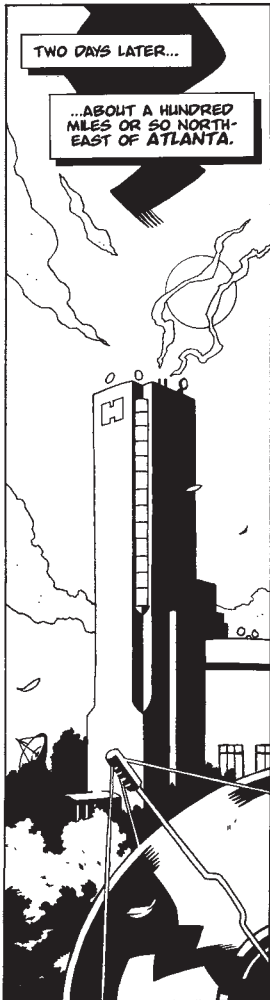


WELL,
THAT GUY
WAS ALL
WET.



FIRST
ROUND'S ON
ME, FOLKS.

ASTRONAUTS IN TROUBLE : LIFE FROM THE MOON IS BROUGHT TO YOU BY :
LARRY YOUNG **MATT SMITH** **MIMI ROSENHEIM**
WRITER CREATOR ARTIST EDITOR





AND THE SELENOLOGISTS? THEY'VE GOT THEIR DATA READY?

YES. EVEN THE ICE MINES ARE GOING.

MR. HAYES? MISTER HAYES!



EXCUSE ME, SIR.



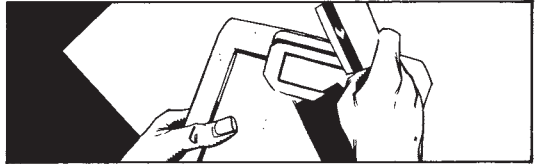
AUSTIN, JR. RICHARD O.

MM-HMM.

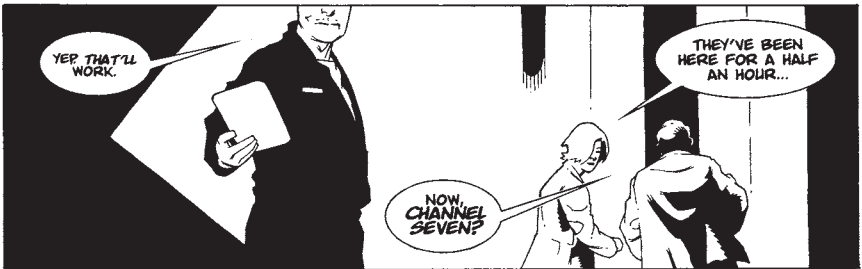
WEST BUILDING ONE NEEDS YOU TO SIGN OFF ON THIS, SIR.



THANKS, RICK. WHAT IS THIS? SOME KIND OF FUEL CONSUMPTION REPORT?



SOMETHING LIKE THAT, SIR.



YEP THAT'LL WORK.

THEY'VE BEEN HERE FOR A HALF AN HOUR...

NOW, CHANNEL SEVEN?



"...IN THE UPSTAIRS CONFERENCE ROOM."

I DON'T HAVE TIME FOR THIS

YES, DAVE, YOU DO.

HAYES PAID THE STATION OUR WEEK'S SALARY, JUST TO FREE US UP FOR THIS ONE MEETING TODAY.

IF HE WANTS US TO SIT IN A CIRCLE AND RECITE THE ALPHABET BACKWARDS WHILE WE WAIT, WE WILL.



DAMN, I WILL, BUT FOR ANOTHER WEEK'S PAY.

I MEAN, A MAN'S GOT HIS PRIDE, SPARKY.



DRUNK AGAIN LAST NIGHT, HECK?



BACKWARDS ALPHABET? ISN'T THAT SATANIC?

DRUNK THE NIGHT BEFORE, TOO.



I DON'T HAVE TIME FOR THIS

I'M SORRY TO HEAR THAT, MISTER ARCHER...



...I WAS KIND OF HOPING I COULD GET THE MOST TRUSTED MAN IN NORTH AMERICA TO PLAY BALL ON MY TEAM.

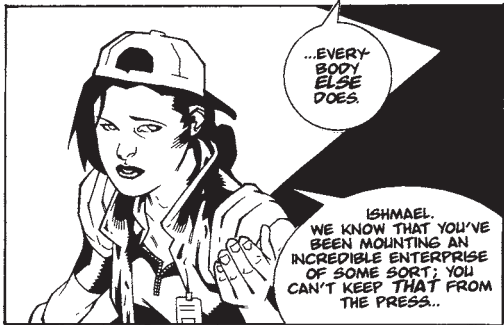


OH, GOD... I MEAN... BUT, I...

WHILE "THE MOST TRUSTED MAN IN NORTH AMERICA" SPLUTTERS, MR. HAYES, LET ME ASSURE YOU...



IT'S MY HOPE WE'LL BE WORKING TOGETHER. PLEASE; CALL ME ISHMAEL...



...EVERY BODY ELSE DOES.

ISHMAEL, WE KNOW THAT YOU'VE BEEN MOUNTING AN INCREDIBLE ENTERPRISE OF SOME SORT; YOU CAN'T KEEP THAT FROM THE PRESS...



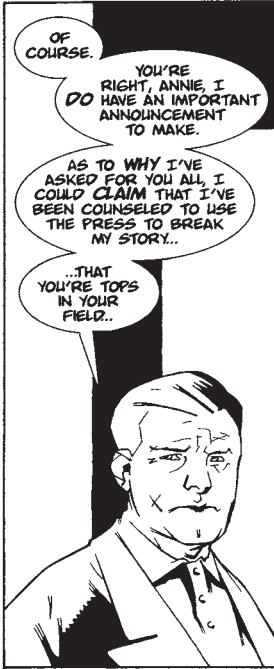
...AND THERE'S BEEN A LOT OF ACTIVITY IN AND AROUND MANY OF YOUR CORPORATE HOLDINGS.

I ASSUME YOU'VE GOT SOME SORT OF AN ANNOUNCEMENT TO MAKE, BUT I'M AT A BIT OF A LOSS AS TO WHY YOU'VE ASKED TO SEE US.

YOU'RE ABSOLUTELY RIGHT, MS. FRANKLIN...

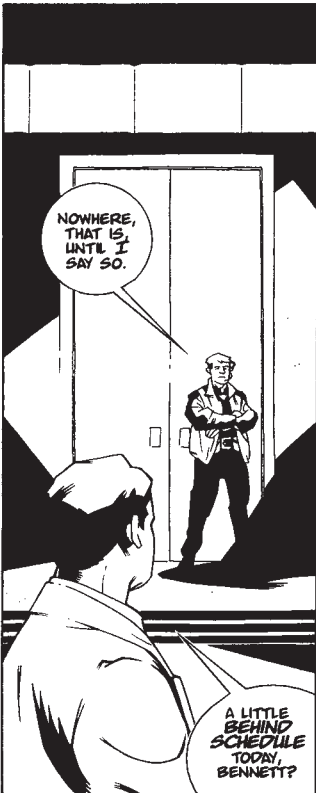


ANNIE.





NOBODY'S GOING ANYWHERE...



NOWHERE, THAT IS, UNTIL I SAY SO.

A LITTLE BEHIND SCHEDULE TODAY, BENNETT?



NO, SIR. THIS MORNING'S PERIMETER BREACH.

I TOOK CARE OF IT

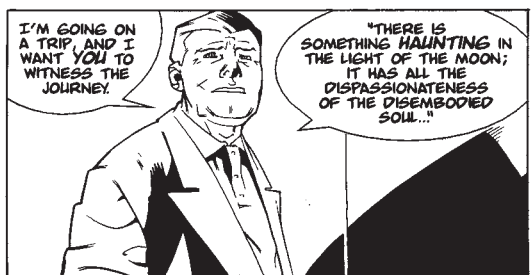
SECURITY? CHANNEL SEVEN?



>CLEAR<

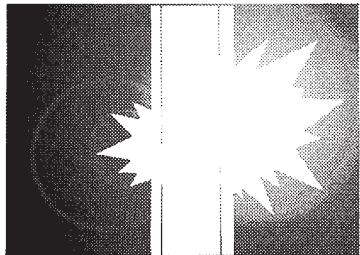
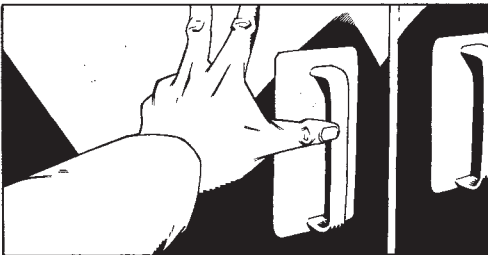
OK. THEY'VE BEEN PASSED. NOW YOU CAN GO.

WELL, THEN, MY NEWS TEAM, I HAVE SUCH A SIGHT TO SHOW YOU.



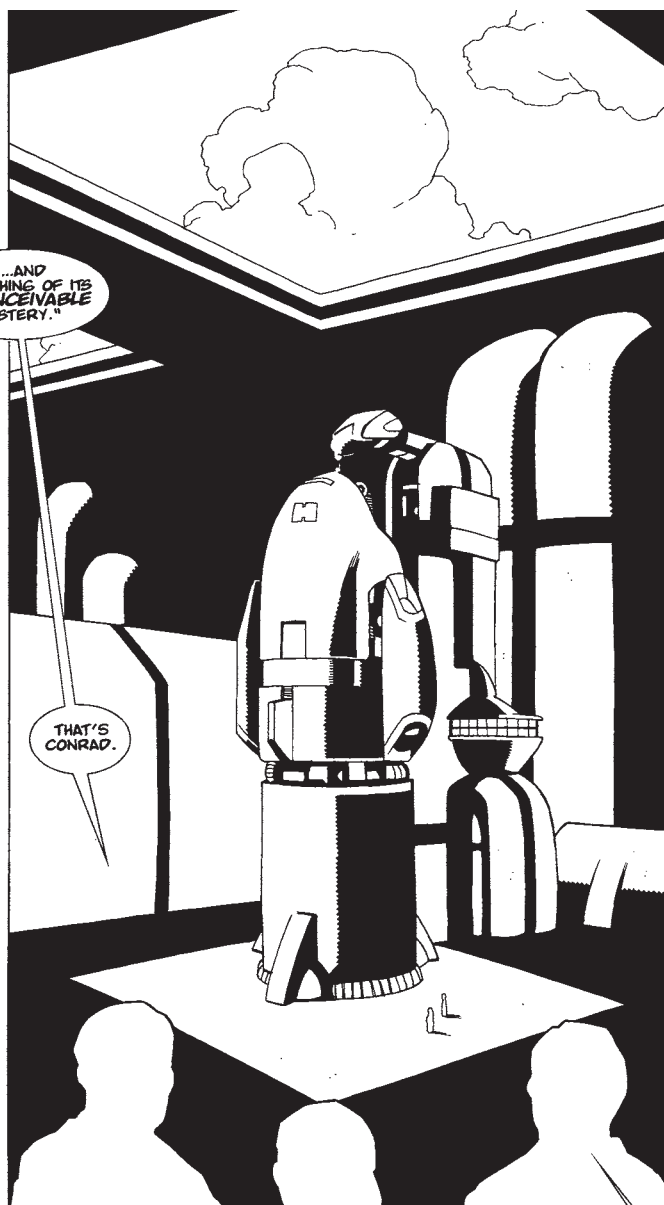
I'M GOING ON A TRIP, AND I WANT YOU TO WITNESS THE JOURNEY.

"THERE IS SOMETHING HAUNTING IN THE LIGHT OF THE MOON; IT HAS ALL THE DISPASSIONATENESS OF THE DISEMBODED SOUL..."



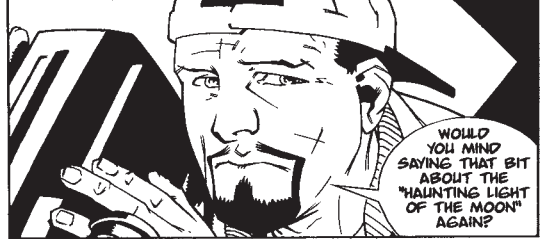
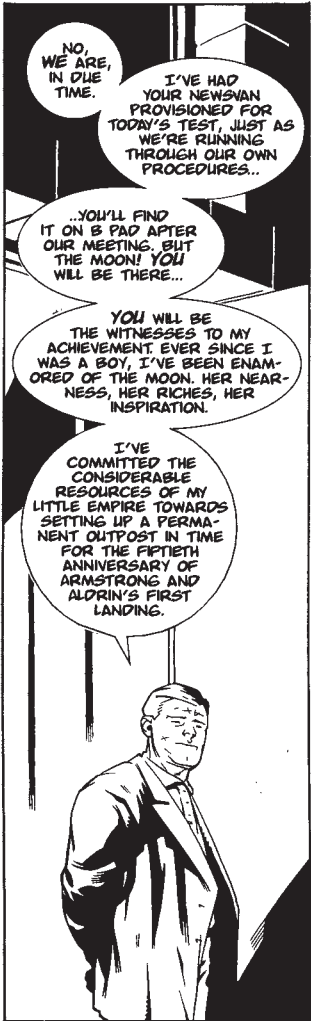
"...AND
SOMETHING OF ITS
INCONCEIVABLE
MYSTERY."

THAT'S
CONRAD.



ROBERT?

JOSEPH.





YOU'VE CALLED UP CHANNEL SEVEN, AND WE'RE HERE LIVE AT HAYESCORP WORLD HEADQUARTERS WHERE BILLIONAIRE INDUSTRIALIST ISHMAEL HAYES HAS JUST MADE A STARTLING ANNOUNCEMENT...

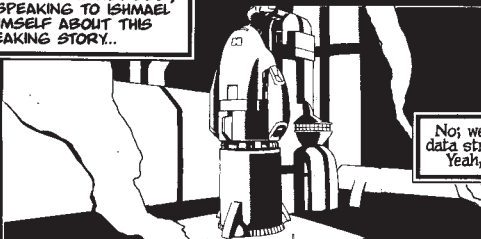
That's right, I said get Christine pulling all the DVD we have of HayesCorp... and get me some human interest crap on the billionaire, too.

UNDERGROUND, SAFE FROM THE PRYING EYES-IN-THE-SKY, GUARDED AGAINST GOVERNMENT MEDDLING BY APPLYING THE CONSIDERABLE ECONOMIC RESOURCES AVAILABLE TO HIM...



Yeah, security is run by some guy named Berniell. See if you can get him to spring for some footage from their house cameras.

...HAYES HAS MADE HIS BOYHOOD DREAM COME TRUE: HE'S GOING TO THE MOON! IN THIS EXCLUSIVE CHANNEL SEVEN NEWSFEED, WE'LL BE SPEAKING TO ISHMAEL HAYES HIMSELF ABOUT THIS BREAKING STORY...

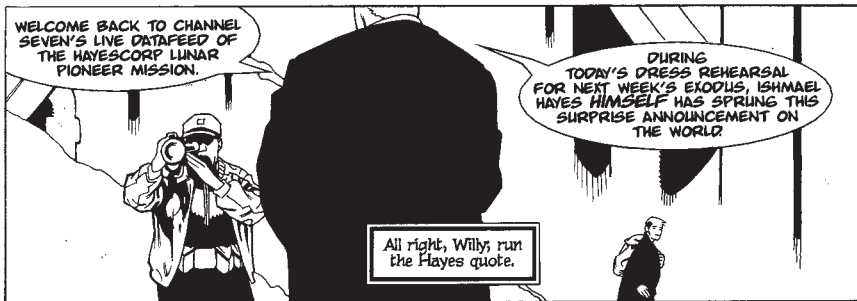


No, we're on site! We've got a data stream feeding to you now. Yeah, that's the Moonship.

...AS THE MAN WHOM PLANET NEWS HAS DUBBED "THE WORLD'S RICHEST MAN" GETS READY TO CELEBRATE THE FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF MANKIND'S FIRST MOONWALK BY SETTING UP A PERMANENT BASE AND MINING COLONY. WE'LL BE BACK AFTER THIS



...and...we're clear. Fifteen seconds for tonight's shows and another fifteen for the shells, and then we're back on again. Get ready, Dave.



WELCOME BACK TO CHANNEL SEVEN'S LIVE DATAFEED OF THE HAYESCORP LUNAR PIONEER MISSION.

DURING TOON'S DRESS REHEARSAL FOR NEXT WEEK'S EKODUS, ISHMAEL HAYES HIMSELF HAS SPRUNG THIS SURPRISE ANNOUNCEMENT ON THE WORLD?

All right, Willy, run the Hayes quote.



"...hear that, Mister Archer. I was kind of hoping I could get the Most Trusted..."

The other one! The other one!



"I'm going on a trip, and I want you to witness the journey."

Mort Willy, you screw-ball.

Sorry, sorry.



"Er... since we're experiencing technical difficulties, let's see if I can get close to Mister Hayes for a quote in real-time. Mister Hayes; Mister Hayes...!"

"Good afternoon, Dave."



"Mister Hayes, funding mankind's return trip to the moon must be an incredible undertaking."





"Well, sure it is, Dave. Good thing I've got some deep pockets!"

HONEY, I'M HOME. HERE'S A BOTTLE OF TEQUILA; ASK ME ABOUT MY DAY.



I'LL BET THAT BASTARD HAYES NEVER THOUGHT ABOUT WHAT THIS'LL DO TO THE WORLD, TO THE ENVIRONMENT, TO ME!

HOW MUCH DOES HE NEED? HE PLAYS ALL TWELVE NOTES IN HIS SOLO ALREADY.



"Actually, I'll admit, there have been a few setbacks..."

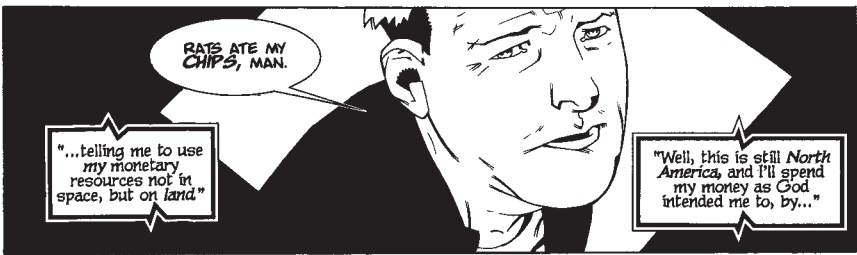
"There's Goldberg up on Capitol Hill, and trying to work around his legion of tax vampires..."



SECURITY BREACH ON THE LAUNCH PAD!

"...and then there's those eco-terrorists, Greensleeves, who continue to insist..."

"...that I spend my money, my money, I emphasize, here, Dave..."

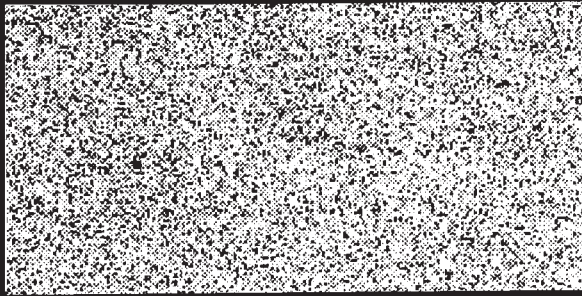


RATS ATE MY CHIPS, MAN.

"...telling me to use my monetary resources not in space, but on land"

"Well, this is still North America, and I'll spend my money as God intended me to, by..."





ARE WE BACK ON? IS IT...? IT'S PANDEMONIUM HERE... IT'S... CONFUSION AND CHAOS... APPARENTLY THERE'S BEEN AN EXPLOSION AT THE GANTRY OF THE HAYESCORP MOONSHIP...

Dave, we've got somebody taking credit already. Lemmie patch in the station downlink...

...I KNOW THEY WERE TOPPING OFF THE LIQUID HYDROGEN TANKS FOR TODAY'S DRY-RUN... BUT THIS DOESN'T LOOK LIKE IT CAME FROM THE FUEL FEEDS...



...WE WILL NOT STAND IDLY BY AS GREEDMONGERS AND CHARLATANS ENTERTAIN THEMSELVES AND A CYNICAL WORLD WHILE CHILDREN STARVE, FORESTS DIE, AND OCEANS FERMENT IN THE PUDDLED WASTES OF MANKIND IN TWENTY MINUTES...

...GREENSLEEVES OPERATIVES IN THE BASTARD HAYES' OWN CAMP WILL BETRAY HIM AND TAKE THE HOLY MOTHER EARTH'S VENGEANCE. WE HAVE INSTALLED A BOMB BEARING A DEADLY AIRBORNE TOXIN WHICH WILL LEAVE THE INNOCENT ANIMALS UNSCATHED BUT DESTROY THE DEFLER, MAN.

IN TWENTY MINUTES, THE TOXIN WILL BE RELEASED, AND ALL WILL DIE.

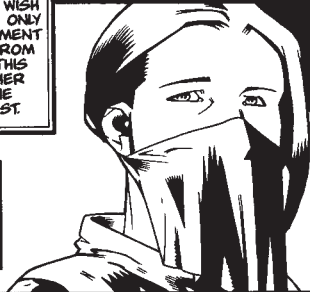


WE HAVE ALLOWED YOU A SOLUTION, FOR WE HAVE NO WISH TO HARM INNOCENTS WHOSE ONLY CRIME WAS THE POOR JUDGMENT TO ACCEPT EMPLOYMENT FROM HAYES. WE HAVE PLANNED THIS DEMONSTRATION OF MOTHER EARTH'S POWER FOR THE DEMON'S PRE-LAUNCH TEST.

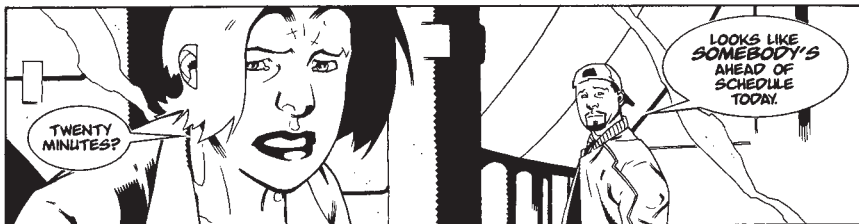
...ALL FOUR ROCKETS...

TELL HIM IF HE DETONATES THE SELF-DESTRUCT MECHANISM ON HIS ROCKETS...

...THE CONFLAGRATION WILL STERILIZE THE TOXIN. YES INNOCENT LIVESTOCK WILL PERISH WHEN THE CARGO SHIPS EXPLODE, BUT WE FEEL WE ARE SAVING THEM FROM EXECUTION. BETTER TO DIE A HERO'S DEATH THAN END UP AS LONDON BROIL ON A RICH MAN'S PLATE.



HE HAS TWENTY MINUTES TO DECIDE.





I AGREE, BENNETT. THE MOONSHIP IS FULLY STOCKED, BECAUSE OF TODAY'S TEST.

FUEL, SUPPLIES, EQUIPMENT, THE WORKS.

WHAT?

IT WAS A DRESS REHEARSAL. EVEN THE CARGO SHIPS WERE FULLY SUPPLIED.



THINK, AND BE QUICK ABOUT IT, ELISABETH. THE TERRORISTS SAID WE'LL DIE IF WE DON'T BLOW UP THE SHIPS...

...BUT THE HEAT AND FLAME WILL STERILIZE THE TOXIN.



WELL, I'M NOT PREPARED TO FORGO ALL OF OUR HARD WORK.

...AND THINK OF THE GREAT PR SPIN WE CAN PUT ON IT WHEN WE SAVE THE LIVESTOCK THAT EVEN GREENSLEEVES WAS WILLING TO DESTROY.

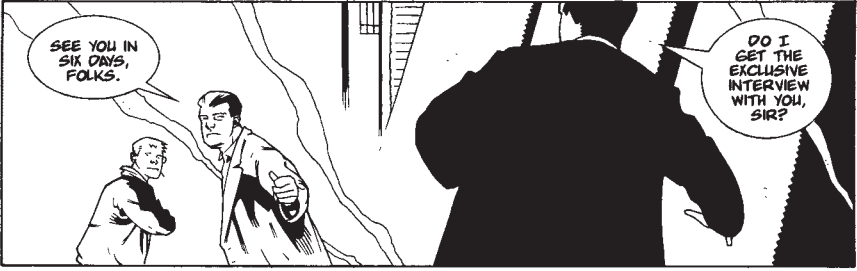


WHERE'S THE STORY, DAVE?

WE ALWAYS FOLLOW THE STORY.

EVEN IF IT'S GOING STRAIGHT UP.

WE'RE GOING UP, TOO, AREN'T WE? HAYES SAID THE NEWSMAN WAS PROVISIONED AS PART OF THE TEST.



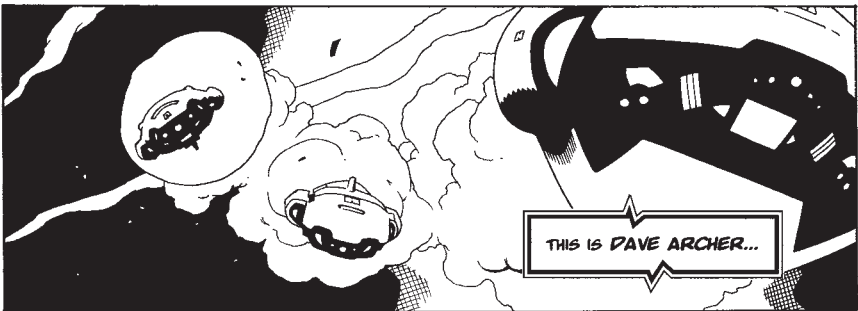
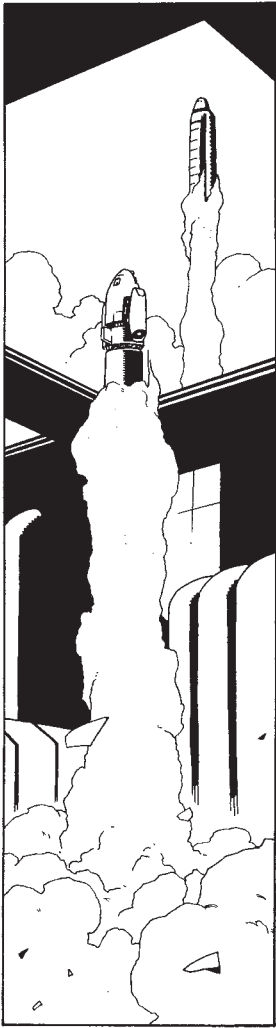
SEE YOU IN SIX DAYS, FOLKS.

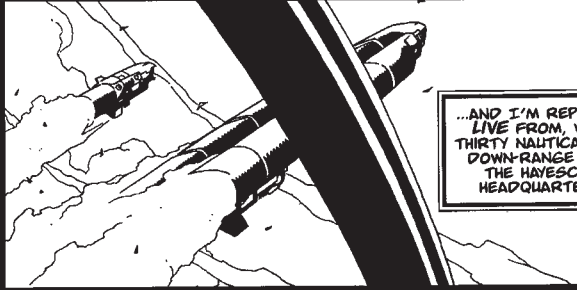
DO I GET THE EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW WITH YOU, SIR?



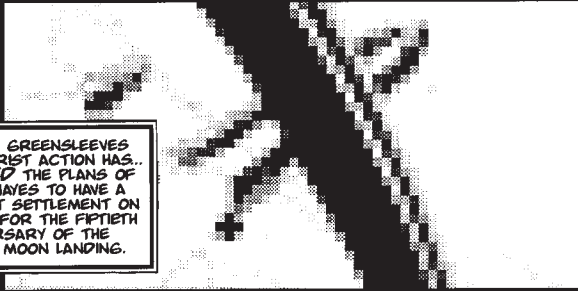
TELL YOU WHAT, DAVE...

...IF THERE'S ANYONE ELSE UP THERE, YOU MIGHT WANT TO TALK TO THEM BEFORE YOU TALK TO ME.

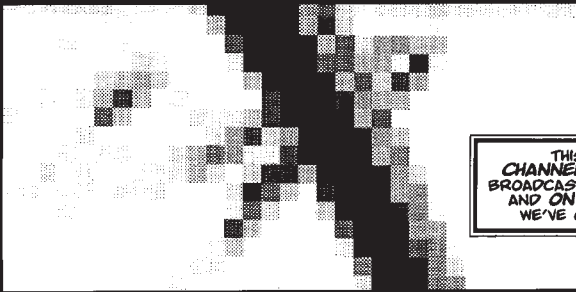




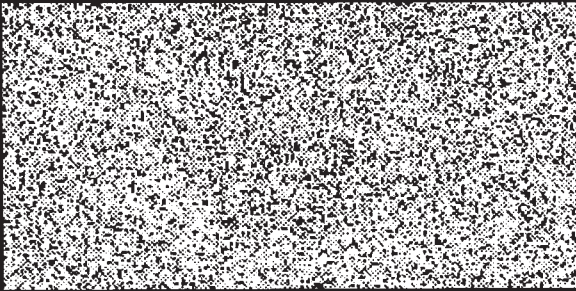
...AND I'M REPORTING
LIVE FROM, WHAT?
THIRTY NAUTICAL MILES
DOWN-RANGE FROM
THE HAYESCORP
HEADQUARTERS..



..WHERE A GREENSLEEVES
ECO-TERRORIST ACTION HAS..
ADVANCED THE PLANS OF
ISHMAEL HAYES TO HAVE A
PERMANENT SETTLEMENT ON
THE MOON FOR THE FIFTIETH
ANNIVERSARY OF THE
APOLLO 11 MOON LANDING.



THIS IS
CHANNEL SEVEN,
BROADCASTING LIVE IN
AND ON THE AIR.
WE'VE GOT A...



Rats.