

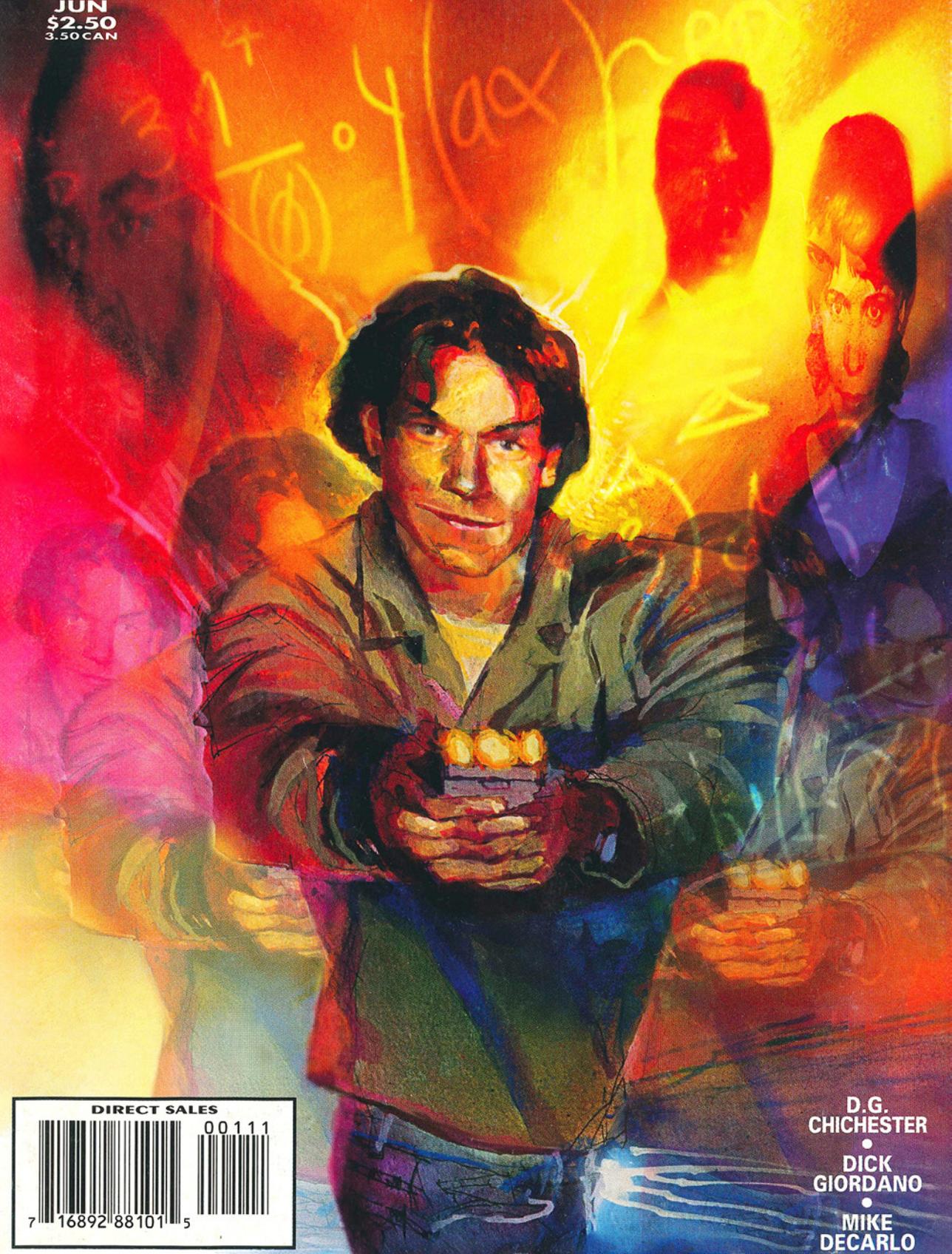
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D.G. CHICHESTER
•
DICK GIORDANO
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MIKE DECARLO

EARTH, THIRD PLANET FROM THE SUN.

THIS IS NOT GOOD-- THIS SOIL HAS BEEN RECENTLY TURNED! IT COULD BE EVIDENCE OF A COLONY ENTRANCE...

WHEN DID YOU ADD "INDIAN TRACKER" TO YOUR TALENTS, PROFESSOR?

MY DEAR MISS WELLS...

...I COUNT A DOCTORATE IN ENTOMOLOGY AMONG MY NUMEROUS CREDENTIALS!

AND I THOUGHT YOU WERE JUST GOING NATIVE ON US!

LET'S JUST KEEP MOVING! IT'S HOW WE'VE STAYED AHEAD OF THOSE THINGS THIS LONG!

CHILL OUT, REMBRANDT. THE TIMER SAYS 33 SECONDS TO THE GATEWAY!

WRONG, Q-BALL--

RMMBULLKKK

--WE'RE
OUT OF
TIME NOW!

LOOKS LIKE
YOU WERE
RIGHT,
PROFESSOR!

SUPERIOR
INTELLECT IS
THE CROSS I
BEAR!

PHILOSOPHERS DREAM
THAT LIFE IS ABOUT
INFINITE POSSIBILITIES.

IT TOOK A PHYSICIST
NAMED QUINN MALLORY
TO MAKE THAT A REALITY.

THIS IS EARTH, BUT IT'S ONE
OF A MULTITUDE ACROSS
PARALLEL DIMENSIONS.

ON THIS WORLD, MANKIND'S EVOLUTION
WAS CUT SHORT, AS NATURE FAVORED
A MUTANT STRAIN OF HYMENOPERA.

SHR TOOM

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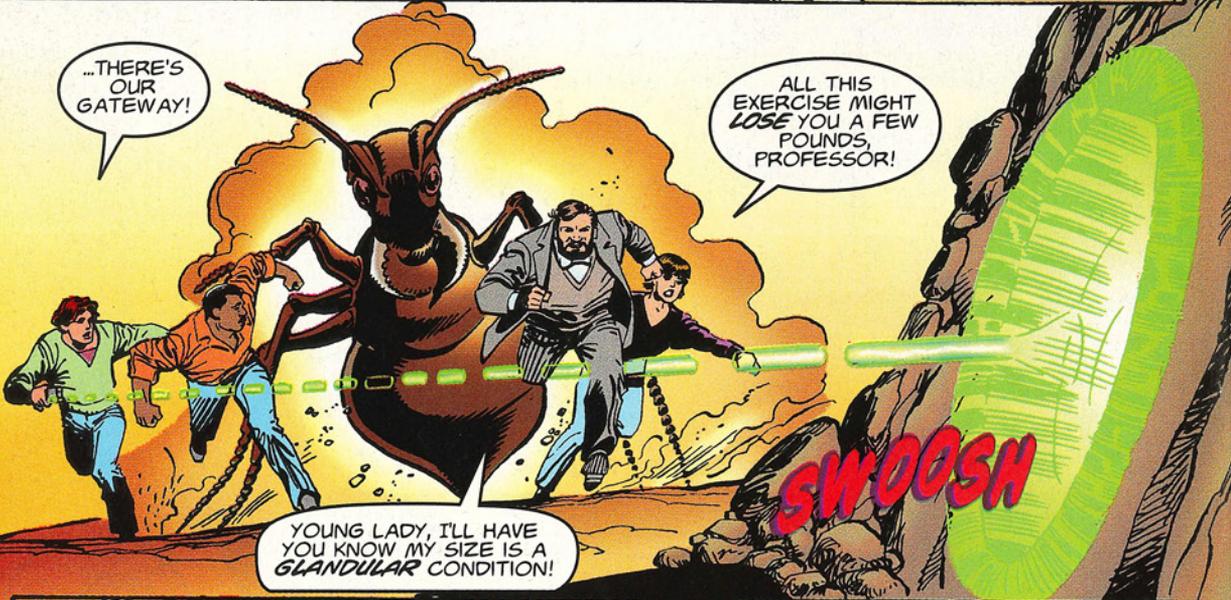
THAT'S THE BIOLOGICAL ORDER MORE COMMONLY KNOWN AS *THE ANT*.



IT'S TIME, PEOPLE!



GET READY...



...THERE'S OUR GATEWAY!

ALL THIS EXERCISE MIGHT LOSE YOU A FEW POUNDS, PROFESSOR!

YOUNG LADY, I'LL HAVE YOU KNOW MY SIZE IS A GLANDULAR CONDITION!

SWOOSH



AND I THOUGHT SPIDERS WERE BAD...



BACK OFF,
BUG-EYES!

YOU'LL LIVE
TO *SING*
ANOTHER DAY,
REMBRANDT!

FWRAAK

HARDLY
MUSIC TO MY
EARS!

COME ALONG,
MR. BROWN!

MY KINDA
WOMAN, WADE--



--NOW CLEAR THE
WAY! I'M *OUTTA* THIS
ANT FARM!

NO "LADIES
FIRST"?



ALLOW ME
TO ACT AS
YOUR
ESCORT!

POMPOUS AS
ALWAYS,
PROFESSOR... BUT
CHIVALROUS!



IT'S BEEN
SWELL,
UGLY!



...WE'LL SEND
YOU GUYS AN
INVITE TO OUR
NEXT *PICNIC*!

KRRAAM

THE GATEWAY
SLAMS SHUT.



BUT ON THE *BRIDGE* BETWEEN DIMENSIONS, THE *SLIDE* HAS JUST BEGUN.

NONE OF THEM KNOW WHERE IT'S GOING TO LEAD. IT TORE THEM AWAY FROM THEIR EARTH--THEIR LIVES.

$SE(g,0) = \frac{1}{2} \{g_1, x_1\}$
 $3R^{11} = 3M$
 $Y_2 C$
 h
 MP
 ΔP^2
 $+$
 $+$
 M

USE YOUR BRAINS, YOU BLISTERING IDIOTS!

PROFESSOR MAXIMILLIAN ARTURO.

I GOT TEARS IN MY... FRO...

REMBRANDT "CRYING MAN" BROWN.

POPPLER WADE

HONESTLY? THE STORE'S TRYING TO OVERCHARGE YOU...

WADE KATHLEEN WELLS.

EINSTEIN WAS RIGHT...JUST OFF BY A DECIMAL POINT!

GERM DA

QUINN MALLORY.



AND TOGETHER, THE *SLIDERS* ONE HOPE IS THAT THE NEXT GATEWAY WILL SLIDE THEM BACK HOME.

GWWAAAF!

ALWAYS A PLEASURE!



AT LEAST THERE'S BUILDINGS HERE -- IT COULD BE *OUR* EARTH!



I DON'T THINK SO! SAN FRANCISCO'S CABLE CARS ARE OLD...BUT *THIS*?

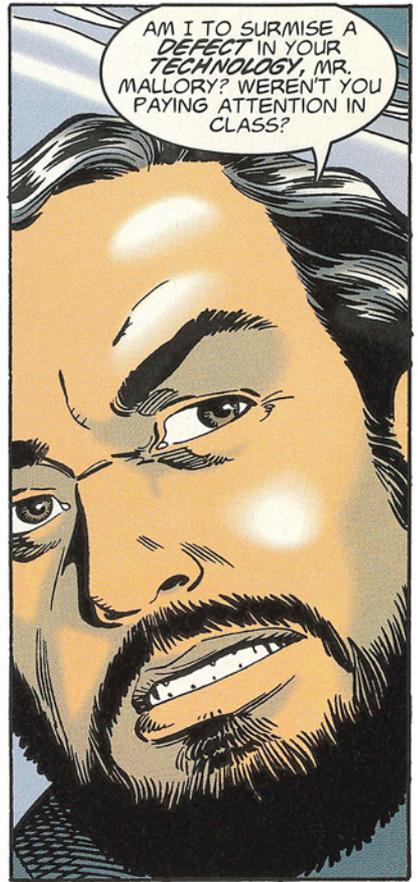
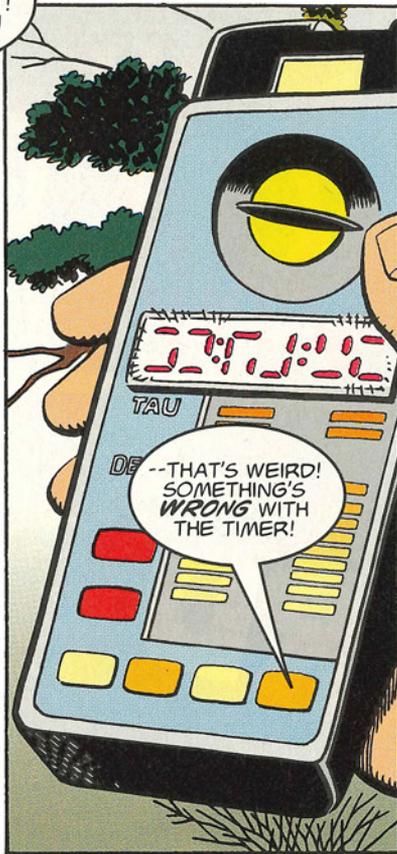
IT'S LIKE SOME KIND OF DRY ROT.

SIWNAAK



...AND IT LOOKS LIKE IT'S TAKEN OVER THE WHOLE CITY!

BUT WE'VE BEEN *GONE* SO LONG! WHAT IF SOMETHING HAPPENED IN *OUR* DIMENSION? HOW COULD WE KNOW?





...I HAVE DEVELOPED
A *THEORY* ON YOUR
PROBLEM!

DEFINITELY
AIN'T HOME!

WHAT
IS IT?

CALM DOWN--
IT'S OKAY!



IT'S THE *RAZE!*
THEY'LL *DESTROY*
US ALL!

SO FEW NOW...
SO *FEW* OF US
LEFT!



YOUR SKIN...IT'S SO
SMOOTH! YOU STILL
HAVE *LIFE* IN YOU. I-I
WAS LIKE YOU--



...THERE'S NOTHING LEFT TO SAVE!

I THINK I'M GOING TO BE SICK--



AKCHOO! JUST MY ALLERGIES!

OH, OH I'M SORRY.



V-VACUUM CLEANERS MUST BE BIG BUSINESS ON THIS EARTH...HEH.

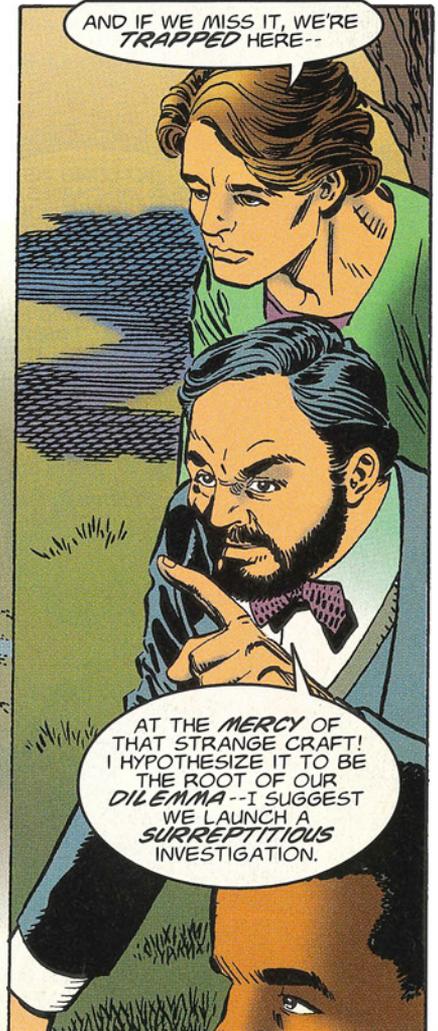
A FORM OF MOLECULAR ABRIGATION!

LIKE THE BONDS OF THE ATOMS WERE BROKEN DOWN AND--



DO YOU MIND? SHE WAS A HUMAN BEING, NOT A SCIENCE PROJECT!

WE-WE MIGHT BE NEXT, WITH THE TIMER ACTING SCREWY, WE CAN'T KNOW WHEN THE GATEWAY'S DUE!



AND IF WE MISS IT, WE'RE TRAPPED HERE--

AT THE MERCY OF THAT STRANGE CRAFT! I HYPOTHESIZE IT TO BE THE ROOT OF OUR DILEMMA--I SUGGEST WE LAUNCH A SURREPTITIOUS INVESTIGATION.



SHORTLY, AND SEVERAL STORIES UP...

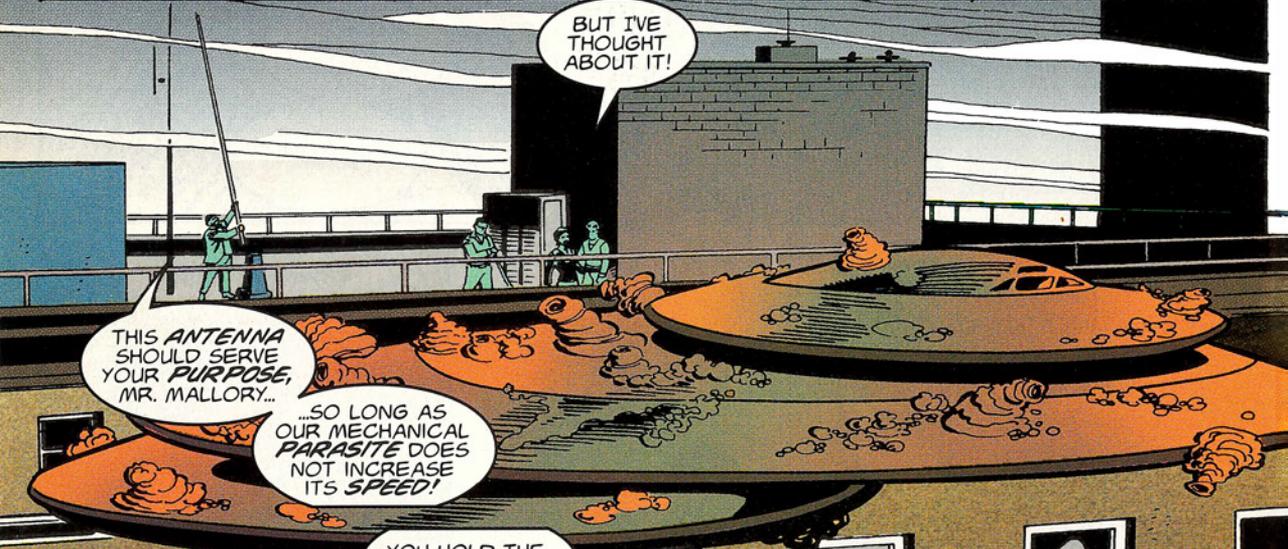
I DON'T LIKE THIS, QUINN--



--IT IS *NOT* A GOOD IDEA!

C'MON WADE, IT'S LIKE BUNGIE-JUMPING!

YOU'VE NEVER DONE THAT!



BUT I'VE THOUGHT ABOUT IT!

THIS ANTENNA SHOULD SERVE YOUR PURPOSE, MR. MALLORY...

...SO LONG AS OUR MECHANICAL PARASITE DOES NOT INCREASE ITS *SPEED!*

YOU HOLD THE TIMER...JUST IN CASE--



DON'T EVEN THINK IT!



YOU'RE TIED OFF AND READY TO ROLL, Q-BALL!



BE CAREFUL, QUINN.

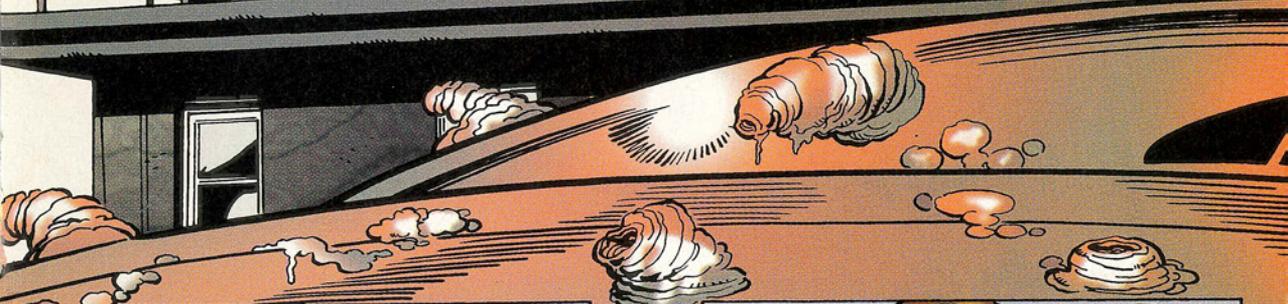
NO WORRIES, PROFESSOR!



I AM THE MODEL OF THE PHYSICAL PHYSICIST!

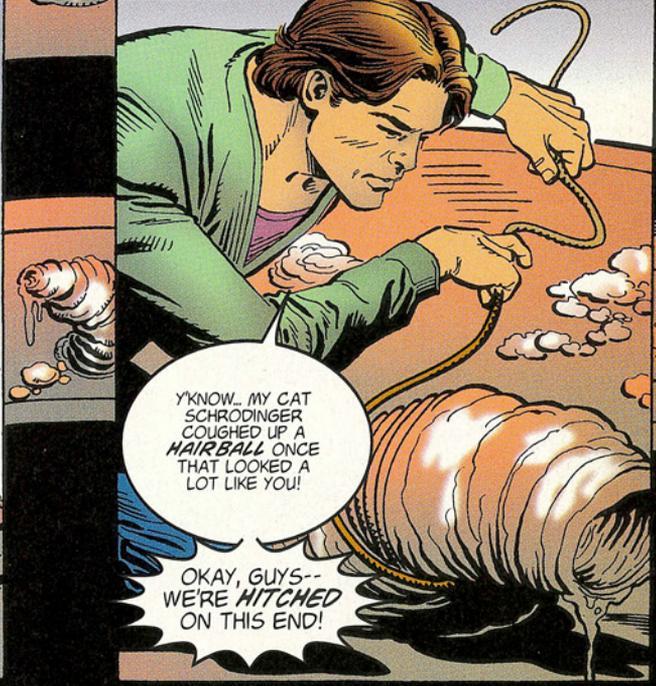


YIKES... THAT'S A LOT FURTHER DOWN FROM UP HERE!



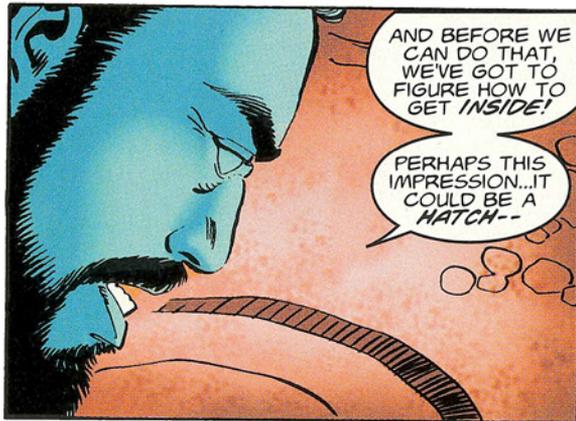
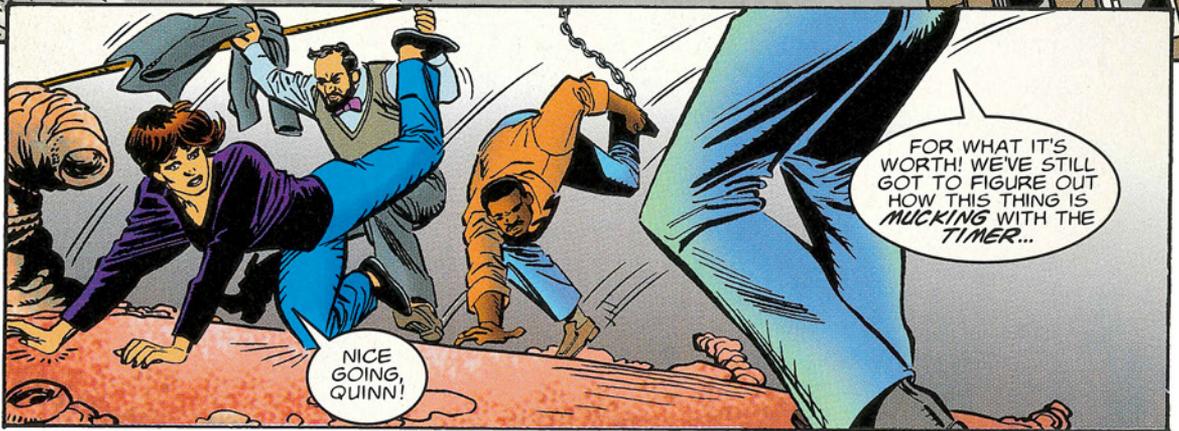
U L L K F !

THIS THING FEELS AS BAD AS IT LOOKS!



YKNOW... MY CAT SCHRODINGER COUGHED UP A HAIRBALL ONCE THAT LOOKED A LOT LIKE YOU!

OKAY, GUYS-- WE'RE HITCHED ON THIS END!





WHATTA YOU KNOW? IT *WAS* A HATCH!

WELL, HE *IS* BRILLIANT!



GUESS I STILL DO HAVE A FEW THINGS TO LEARN FROM YOU, PROFESSOR!

CAREFUL, MR. MALLORY, I CAN STILL *FAIL* YOU WHEN WE GET BACK TO *CLASS*!



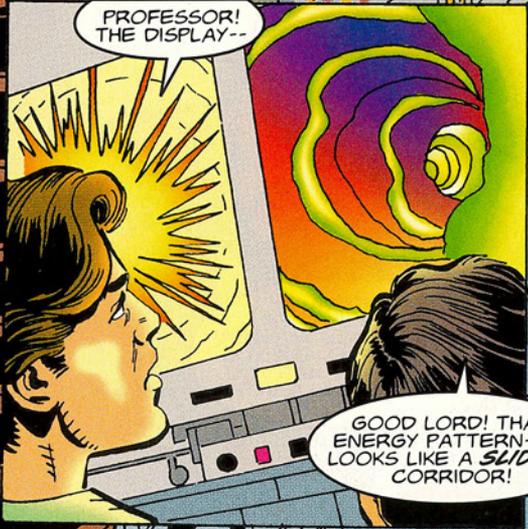
NOW THIS IS HOMEY...



...IF YOU'RE INTO *CLAUSTROPHOBIA*!

TALK ABOUT FEELIN' THE *SQUEEZE*! REMINDS ME OF TRYING TO GET *ROYALTIES* OUTTA MY RECORD COMPANY!

NOTICE THERE ARE *NO CURVES*! ALL RIGHT ANGLES...AND *FLAT SURFACES*!



PROFESSOR! THE DISPLAY--

GOOD LORD! THAT ENERGY PATTERN-- IT LOOKS LIKE A *SLIDING CORRIDOR*!



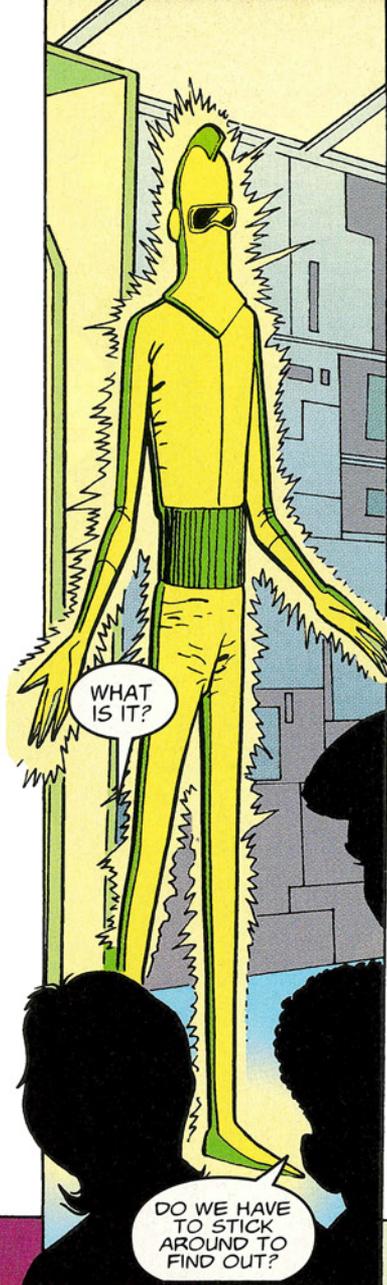
OH-OH, *EGGHEADS* ON THE LOOSE! "WADE! THAT THINGAWHATZIT--"

"GADZOOKS! IT LOOKS LIKE A *NUCLEAR GIZMOID*--"



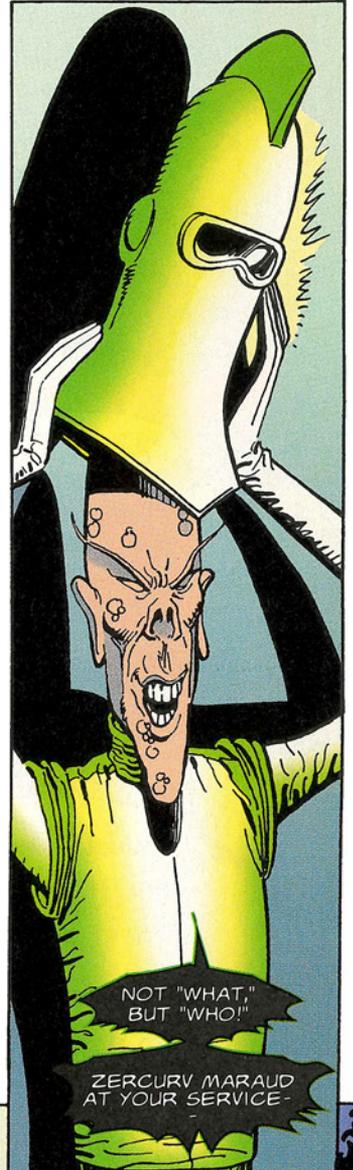
--ME AND MY BIG MOUTH!

Q-BALL! PROFESSOR!



WHAT IS IT?

DO WE HAVE TO STICK AROUND TO FIND OUT?



NOT "WHAT," BUT "WHO!"
ZERCURV MARAUD AT YOUR SERVICE-



--AND MOST DELIGHTED TO SEE YOU AGAIN, QUINN MALLORY!

HOW-HOW DO YOU KNOW ME?

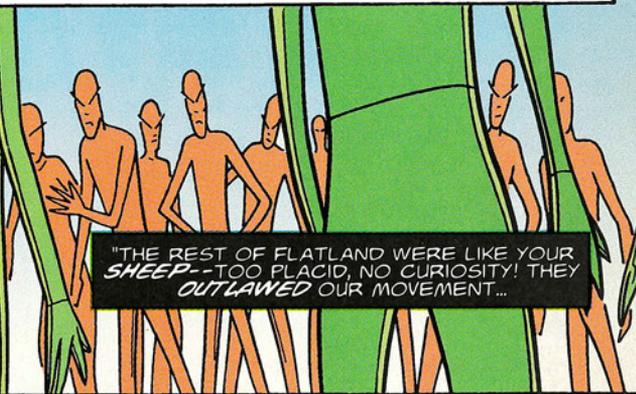
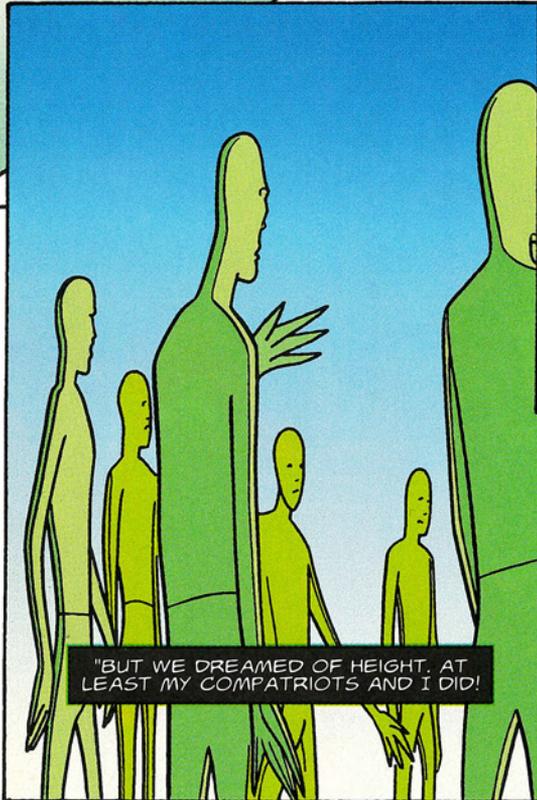
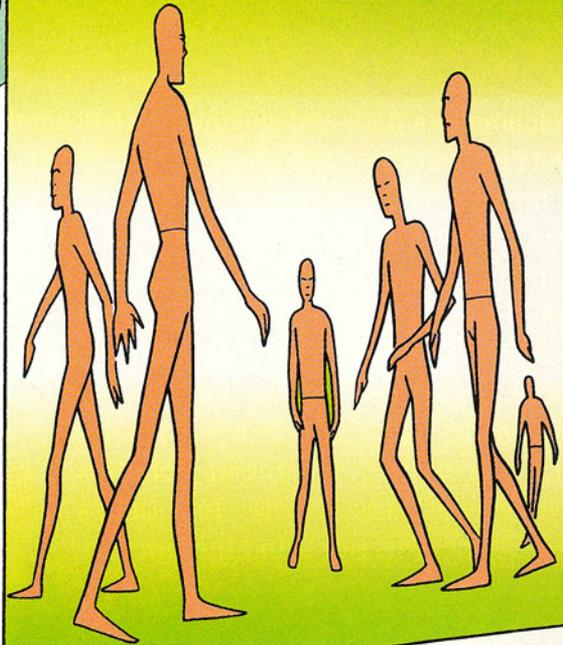
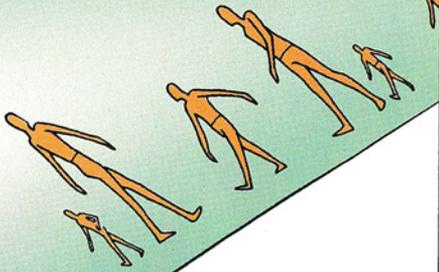


ONE OF MANY QUESTIONS WE DEMAND YOU ANSWER! EXACTLY WHO ARE YOU --AND WHAT ARE YOU DOING ON THIS EARTH?

WE ARE THE ZERCURVIANS-

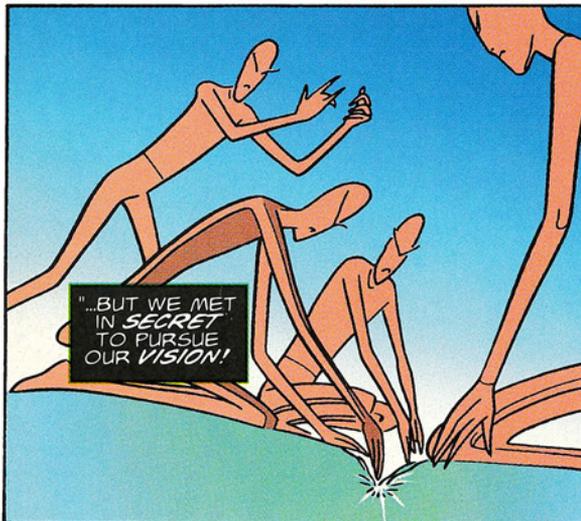
"- ORIGINALLY FROM A STRICTLY *TWO-DIMENSIONAL* REALITY! WE WERE *FLATLANDERS*, WITH LENGTH AND WIDTH...

"...BUT NO KNOWLEDGE THAT THERE WAS ANYTHING BEYOND OUR *TWO PLANES* OF EXISTENCE!



"BUT WE DREAMED OF HEIGHT. AT LEAST MY COMPATRIOTS AND I DID!

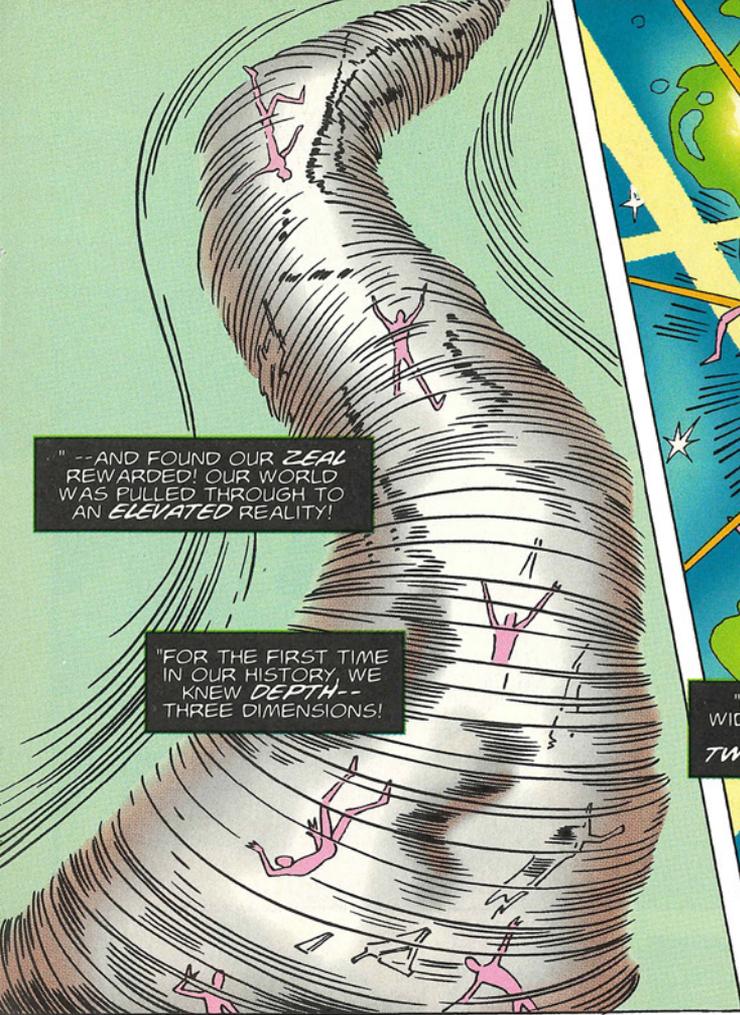
"THE REST OF FLATLAND WERE LIKE YOUR *SHEEP*--TOO PLACID, NO CURIOSITY! THEY *OUTLAWED* OUR MOVEMENT...



"...BUT WE MET IN *SECRET* TO PURSUE OUR *VISION*!

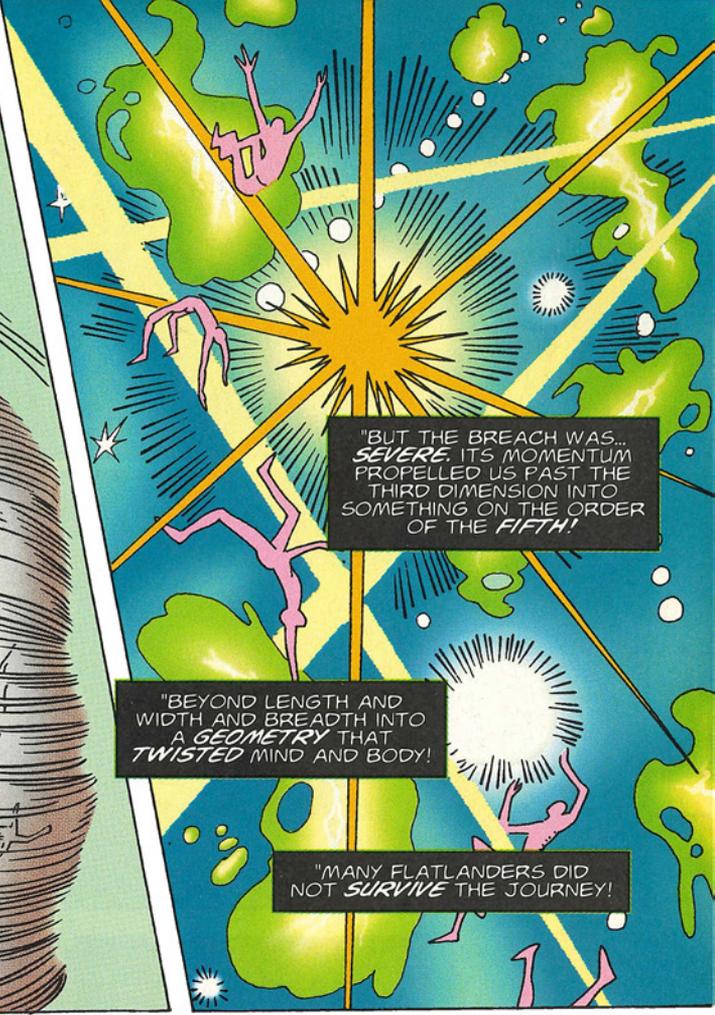
"WE DISCOVERED A WAY TO *BREAK* THROUGH THE *LEVEL HORIZON*--"





"--AND FOUND OUR **ZEAL** REWARDED! OUR WORLD WAS PULLED THROUGH TO AN **ELEVATED REALITY!**"

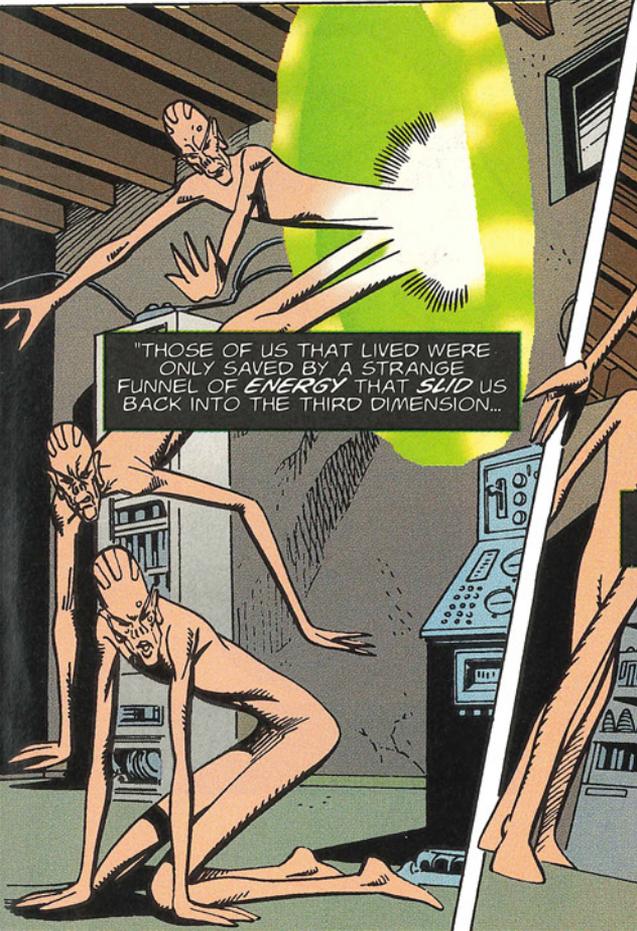
"FOR THE FIRST TIME IN OUR HISTORY WE KNEW **DEPTH--** THREE DIMENSIONS!"



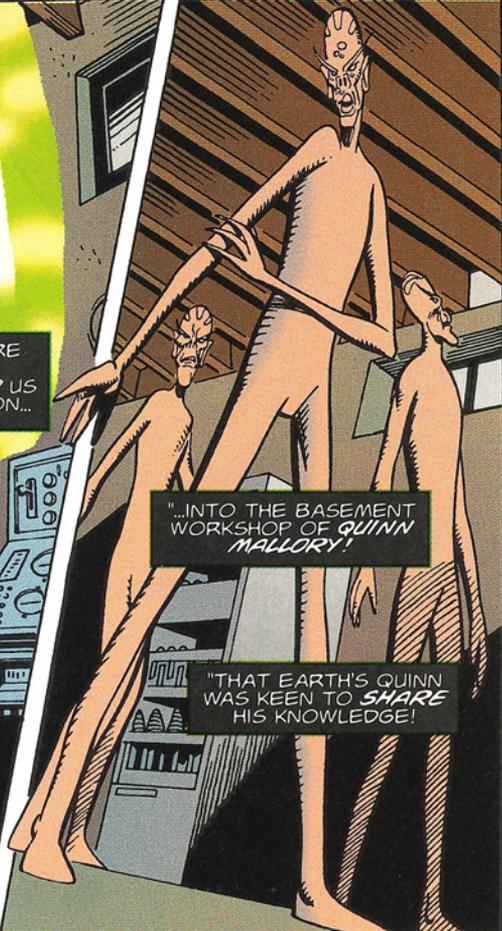
"BUT THE BREACH WAS... **SEVERE.** ITS MOMENTUM PROPELLED US PAST THE THIRD DIMENSION INTO SOMETHING ON THE ORDER OF THE **FIFTH!**"

"BEYOND LENGTH AND WIDTH AND BREADTH INTO A **GEOMETRY** THAT **TWISTED** MIND AND BODY!"

"MANY FLATLANDERS DID NOT **SURVIVE** THE JOURNEY!"



"THOSE OF US THAT LIVED WERE ONLY SAVED BY A STRANGE FUNNEL OF ENERGY THAT **SLID** US BACK INTO THE THIRD DIMENSION..."



"...INTO THE BASEMENT WORKSHOP OF **QUINN MALLORY!**"

"THAT EARTH'S **QUINN** WAS KEEN TO **SHARE** HIS KNOWLEDGE!"



"WOW."

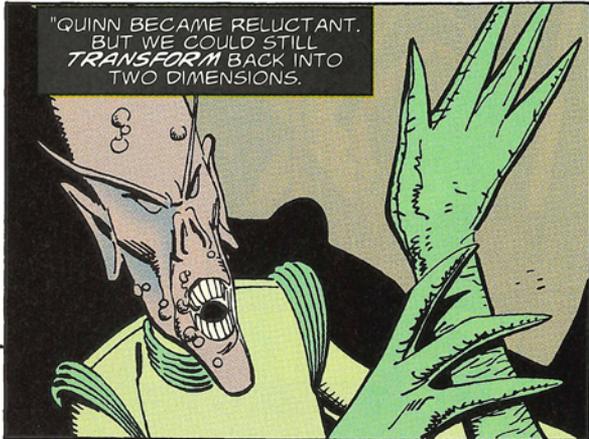
"HE REVEALED TO US THE **SECRETS** OF HIS **SLIDING** PROCESS."



"WE SHARED NEWS OF OUR TRAVELS...AND THEIR SIDE-EFFECTS!"

"OUR DETOUR THROUGH THE FIFTH DIMENSION LEFT US HUNGRY FOR THREE-DIMENSIONAL ENERGY."

"AND IF WE DIDN'T FEED, WE WOULD LOSE OUR NEW FORMS."

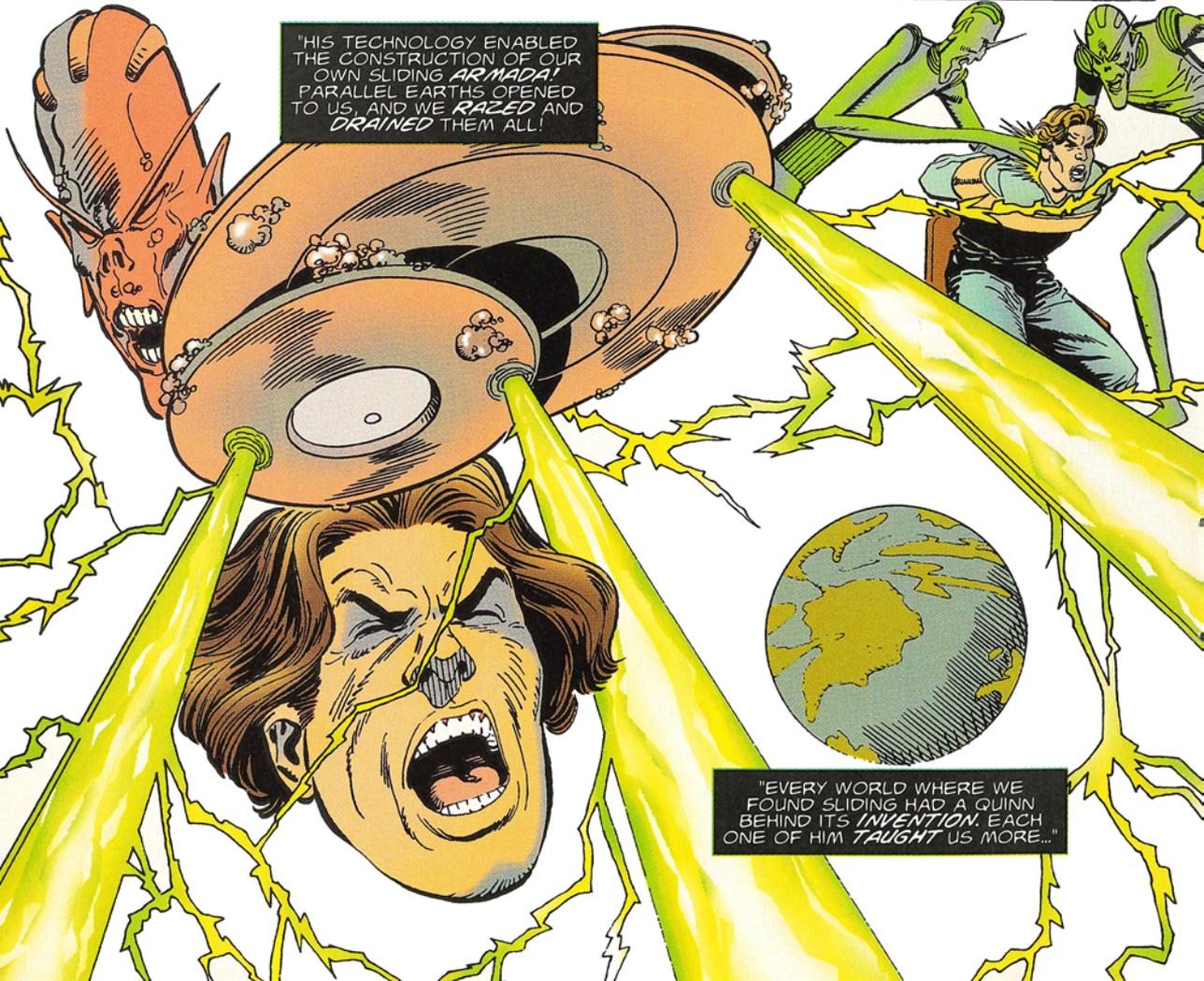


"QUINN BECAME RELUCTANT, BUT WE COULD STILL TRANSFORM BACK INTO TWO DIMENSIONS."



THANK YOU FOR YOUR... HOSPITALITY!"

"AND IN 2-D, WE COULD SLICE BETWEEN A 3-D OBJECT'S ATOMS. IT IS AN AGONIZING PROCESS--AND FATAL!"



"HIS TECHNOLOGY ENABLED THE CONSTRUCTION OF OUR OWN SLIDING ARMADA! PARALLEL EARTHS OPENED TO US, AND WE RAZED AND DRAINED THEM ALL!"

"EVERY WORLD WHERE WE FOUND SLIDING HAD A QUINN BEHIND ITS INVENTION. EACH ONE OF HIM TAUGHT US MORE..."



"BUT OUR EDUCATION IS STILL NOT COMPLETE!"

AND YOU EXPECT ME TO HELP TEACH YOU?

YES! ALTHOUGH WE'VE LEARNED HOW TO NAVIGATE BETWEEN DIMENSIONS--



--WE ARE STILL DEPENDENT ON WAITING FOR A GATEWAY TO OPEN! YOU WILL CHANGE THAT!



AND WE WILL FEED AT WILL...!



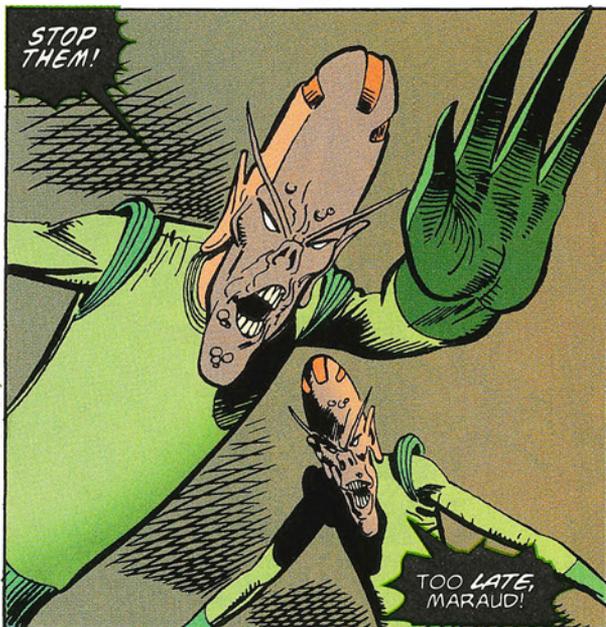
MAN, I THOUGHT AGENTS WERE BAD NEWS!

YOU'RE-YOU'RE A MONSTER!



I SUPPOSE WE ARE!

THEY CAN LITERALLY COME OUT OF THE WALLS! WE'RE TRAPPED!



A WORLD AWAY, AND MANY HOURS LATER.

THIS INTERNET HOOKUP CONFIRMS THE GRIM FACTS. IN 1947, A UFO CRASHED OUTSIDE ROSWELL, NEW MEXICO.

IT WAS THE *VANGUARD* OF AN ALIEN *INVASION*! THESE EXTRATERRESTRIALS STRUCK A DEAL WITH THIS EARTH'S LEADERS.



WHAT KIND OF DEAL?

POWER, RICHES. TWENTY-FOUR DOLLARS AND SOME GLASS BEADS.



ALL IN EXCHANGE FOR *FARMING* OUT THE REST OF THE HUMAN *POPULATION* TO THE ALIENS.



IN OTHER WORDS, WE JUST SLID OUT OF THE FIRE AND INTO THE *FRYING PAN*...

RETURN TO THIS DIMENSION IN 30 DAYS FOR THE THRILLING CONCLUSION TO *SLIDERS*!