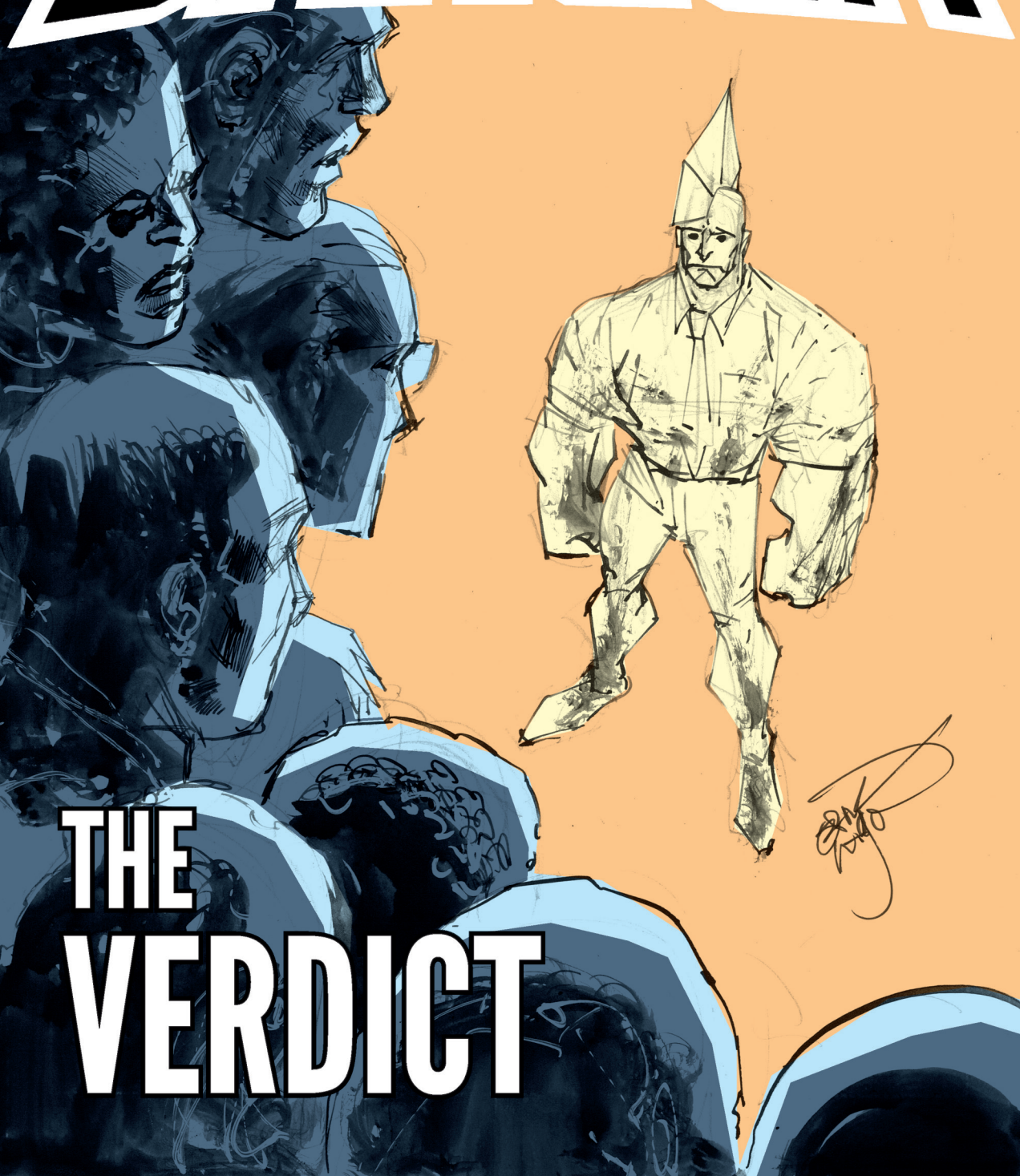




**SAVAGE<sup>®</sup> 185**

# **DRAGON**



# **THE VERDICT**

# SAVAGE<sup>®</sup> DRAGON

by  
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**MIKE TORIS**  
Flats

**GAVIN HICCINBOTHAM**  
Editor

**JOSH EICHORN**

raising his tray table to the upright  
and locked position.

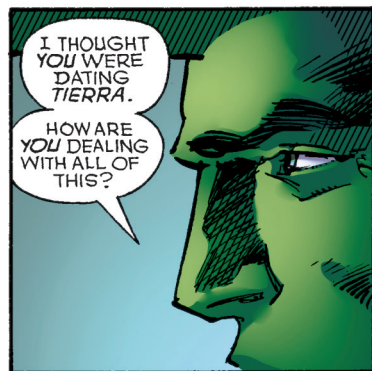
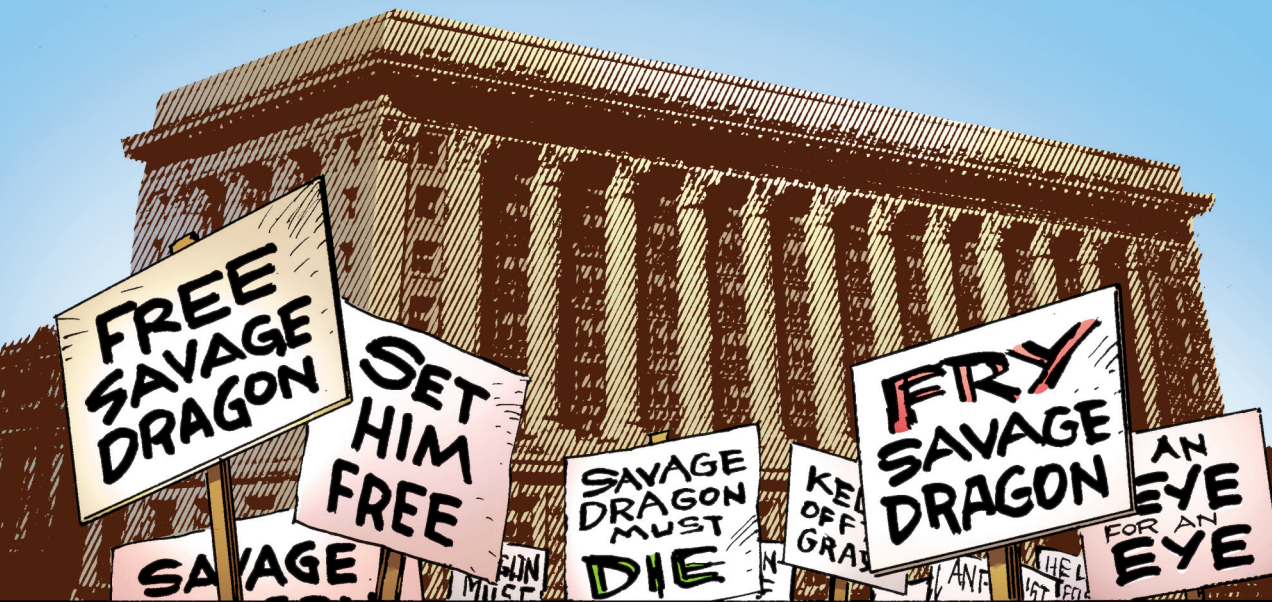


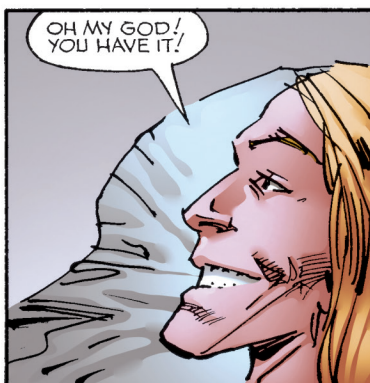
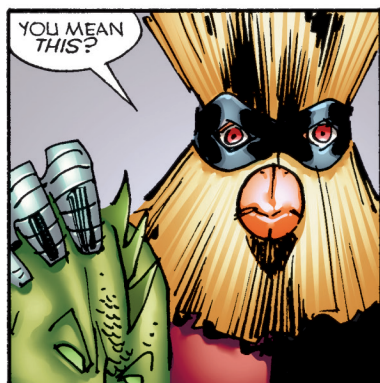
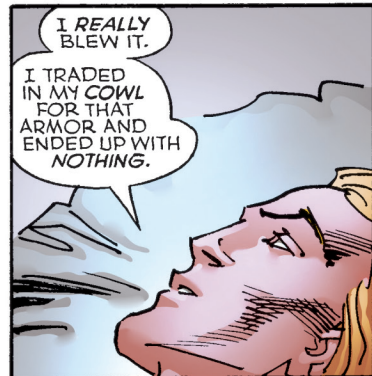
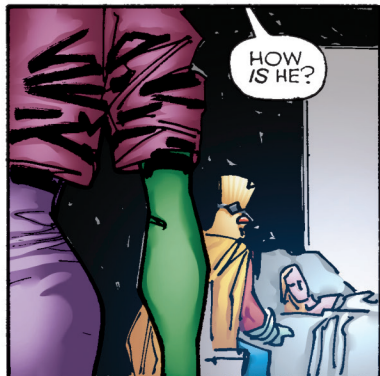
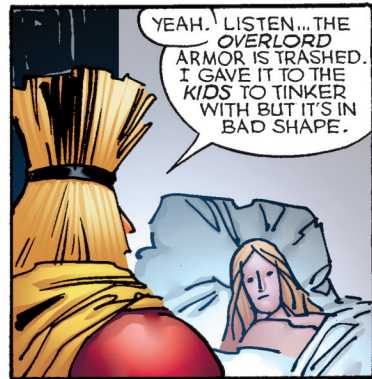
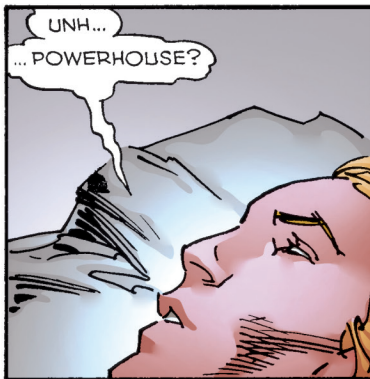
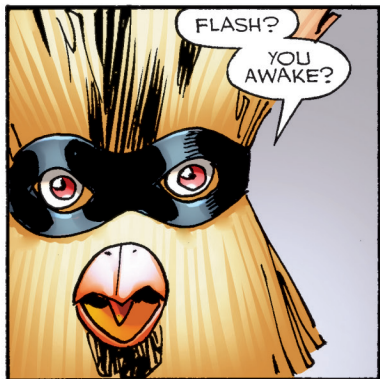
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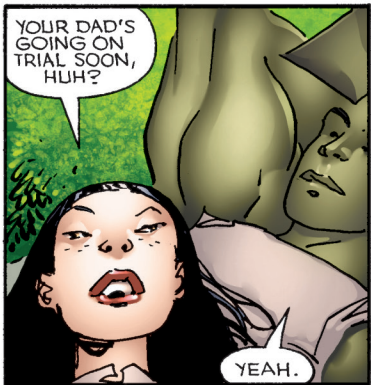




I DON'T GET WHY GARFIELD HATES MONDAYS... HE'S A CAT! HE DOESN'T HAVE TO GET UP EARLY, AND GO TO WORK!

AND HIS OWNER WORKS AT HOME... IT'S NOT LIKE HE HAS TO GET UP EARLY EITHER... HE NEVER LEAVES THE HOUSE! WHAT'S THE BIG WHOOP?

THESE ARE NOT THOUGHTS THAT KEEP ME UP AT NIGHT.



YOUR DAD'S GOING ON TRIAL SOON, HUH?

YEAH.



NOT THE HOMECOMING HE WAS HOPING FOR.



IT'S PRETTY MESSED UP.

AND THERE'S NOTHING I CAN DO ABOUT IT.



TOO MANY THINGS IN MY LIFE ARE OUT OF MY CONTROL. DAD... ANGEL... FRANK... TIERRA...



WHAT ABOUT ME?

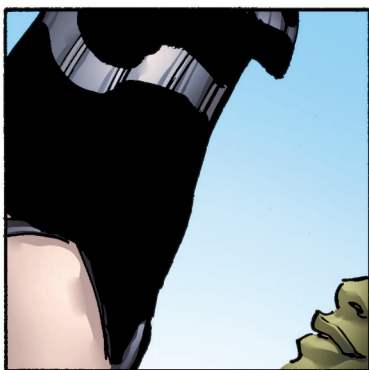
YOU?

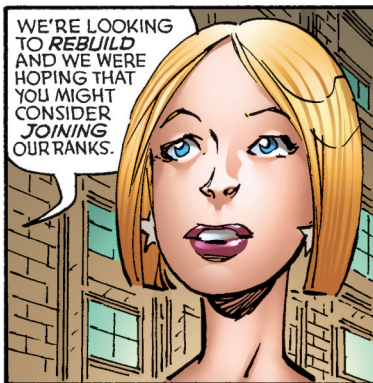
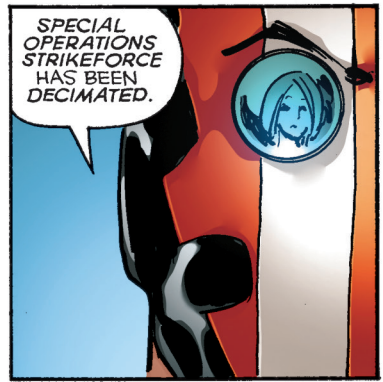
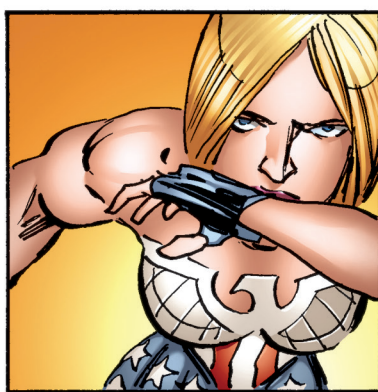
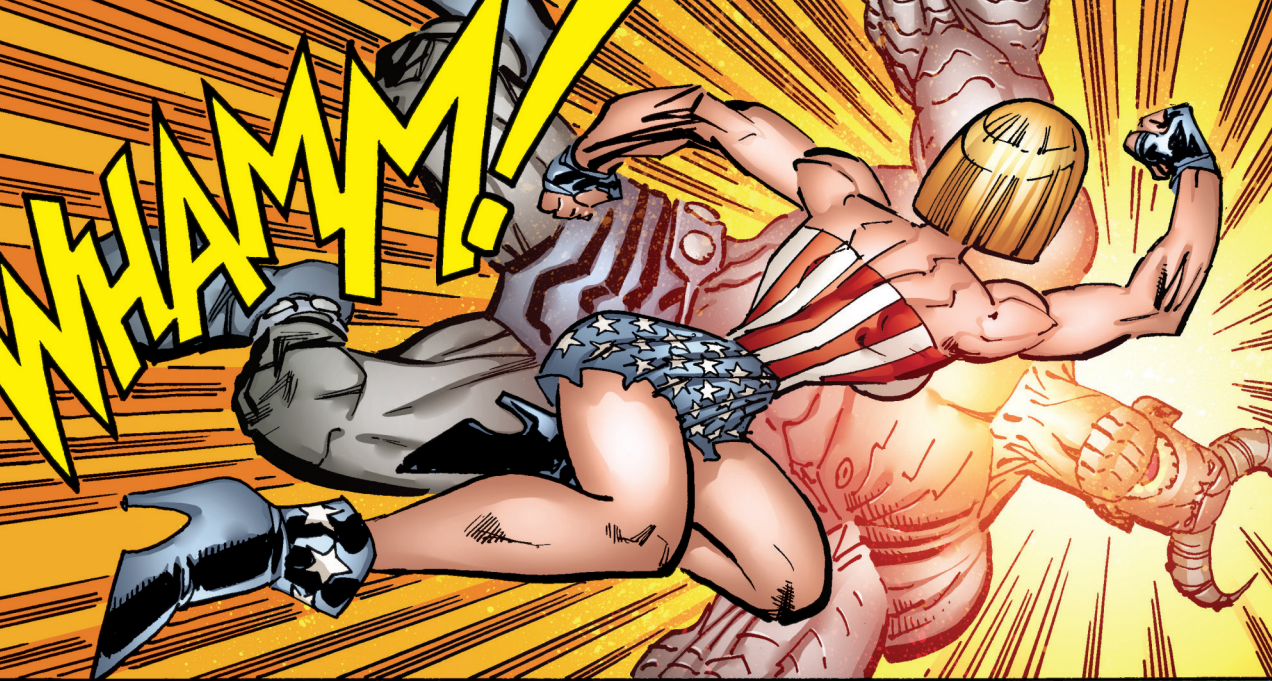
I CONTROL YOUR EVERY MOVE!

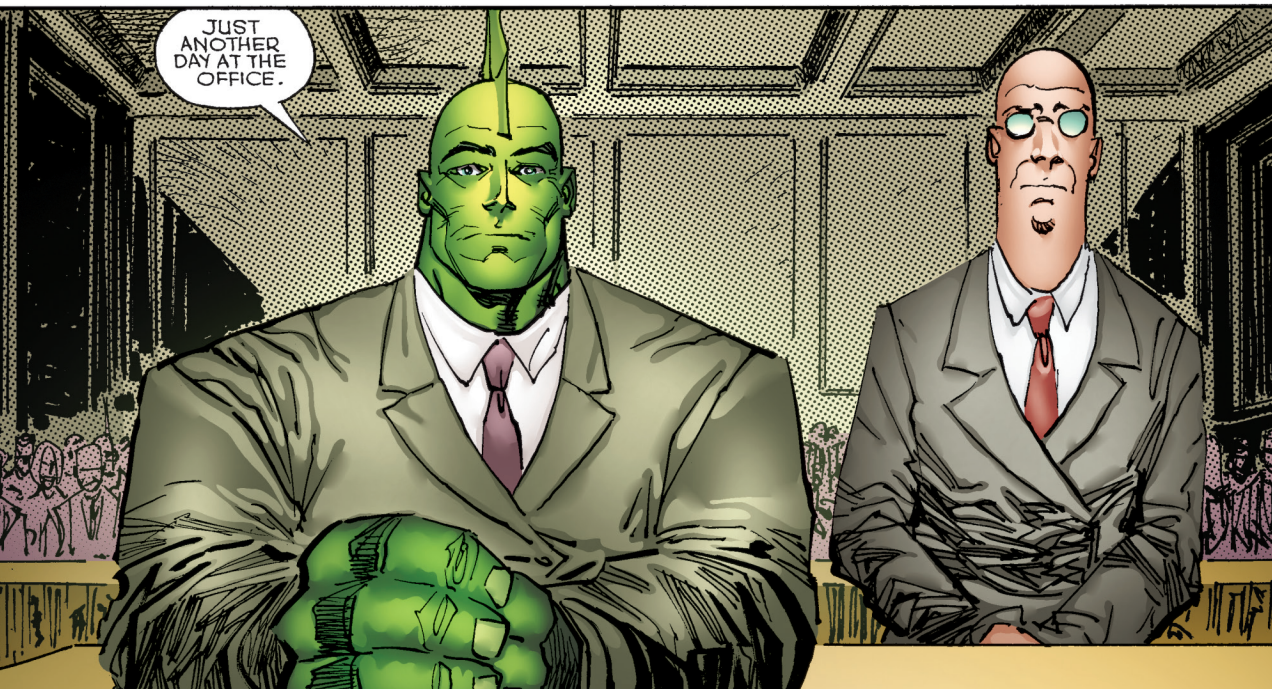
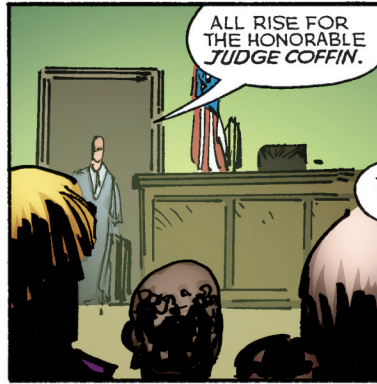
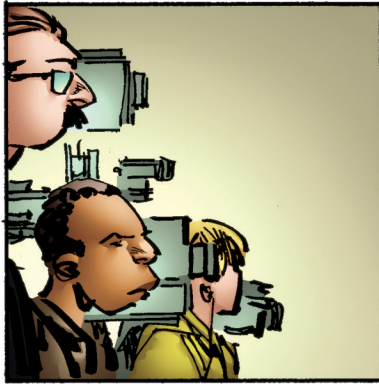
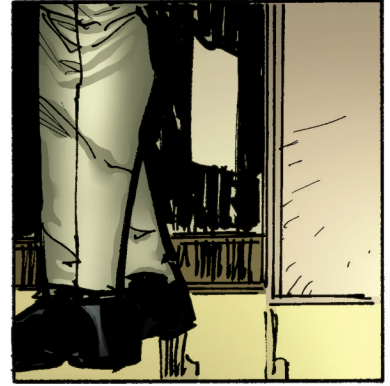
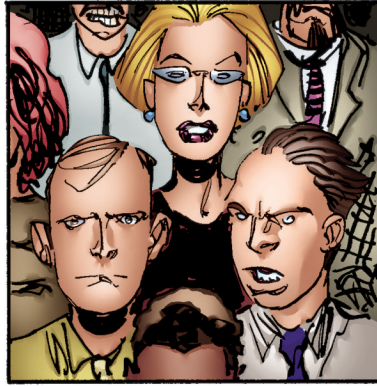
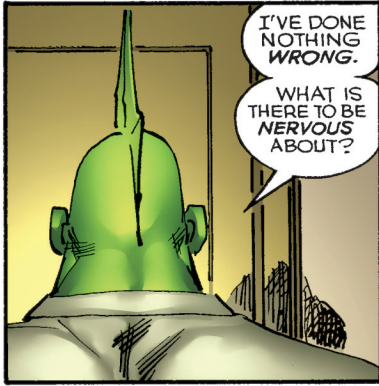
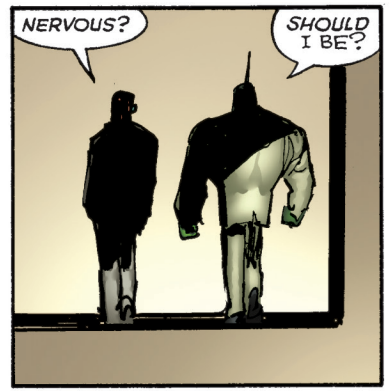
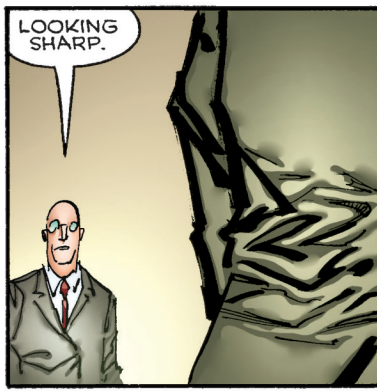
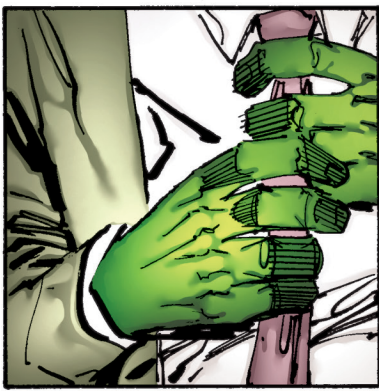


=KAKK! =

I'M KIDDING! I'M KIDDING!

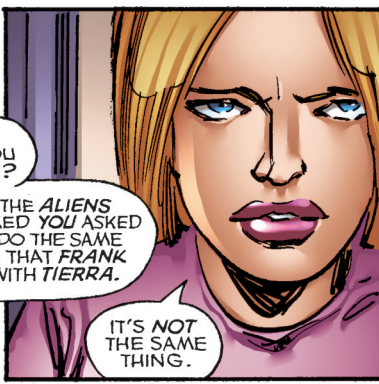








WHAT ARE YOU DOING?  
 WHEN THE ALIENS ATTACKED YOU ASKED ME TO DO THE SAME THING THAT FRANK DID WITH TIERRA.



IT'S NOT THE SAME THING.



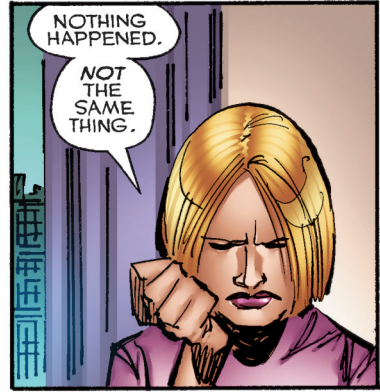
IT'S THE EXACT SAME THING!  
 YOU ASKED ME TO GO TO BED WITH YOU! YOU FIGURED THE WORLD WAS ENDING.



WE DIDN'T DO ANYTHING!



IF I THOUGHT IT WAS AS HOPELESS AS YOU DID-- AND I DID WHAT YOU WANTED ME TO-- IT WOULD HAVE BEEN THE SAME THING.



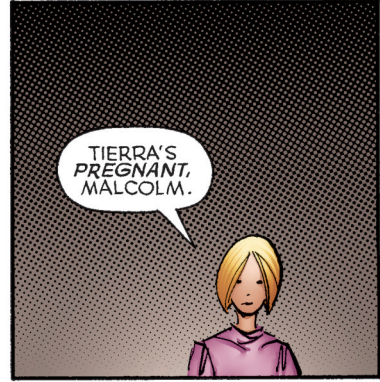
NOTHING HAPPENED.  
 NOT THE SAME THING.



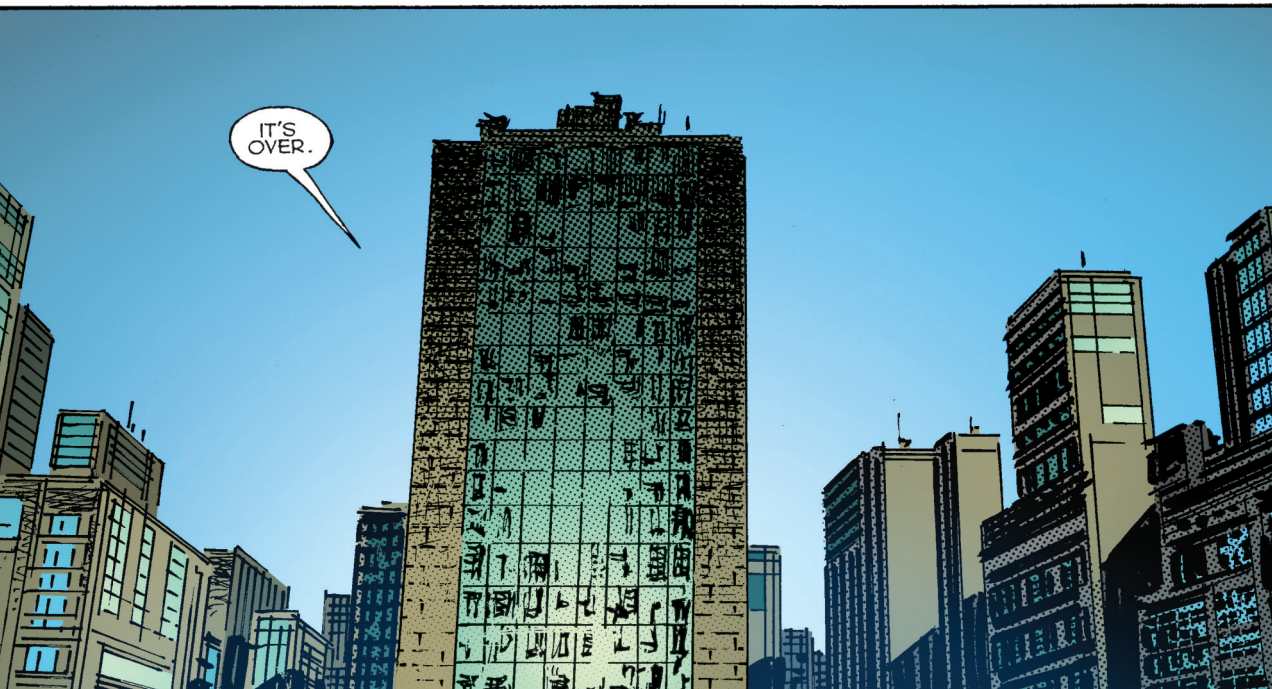
I JUST THINK YOU'RE BEING A LITTLE HARD ON FRANK.  
 HE MADE A MISTAKE.



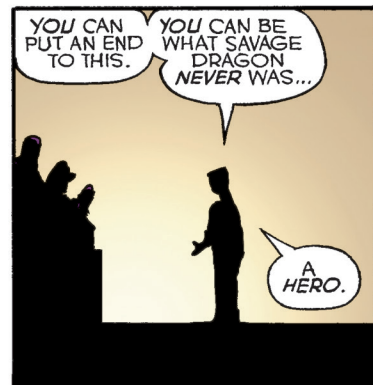
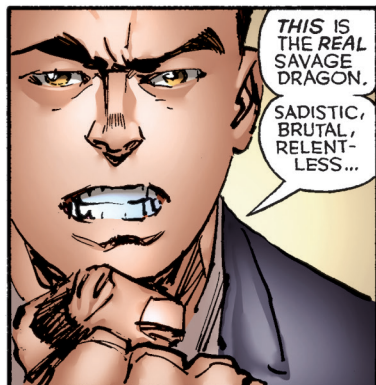
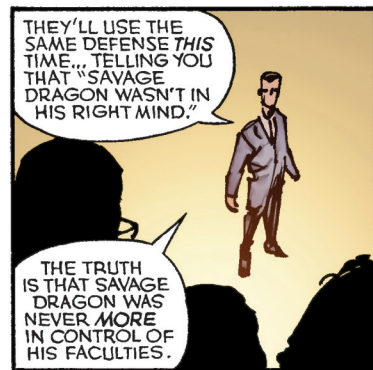
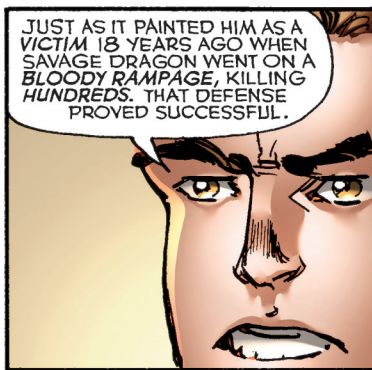
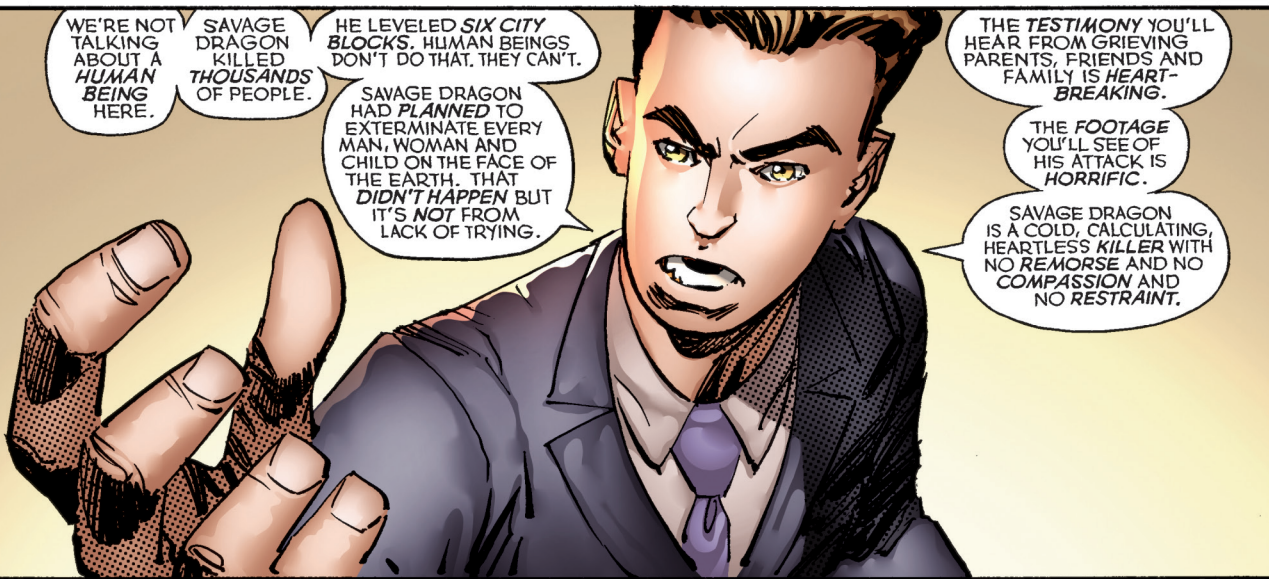
BUT HE STILL LOVES YOU... AND YOU STILL LOVE HIM... AND IT WOULD BE PRETTY TRAGIC IF YOU THREW ALL THAT AWAY BECAUSE OF IT.



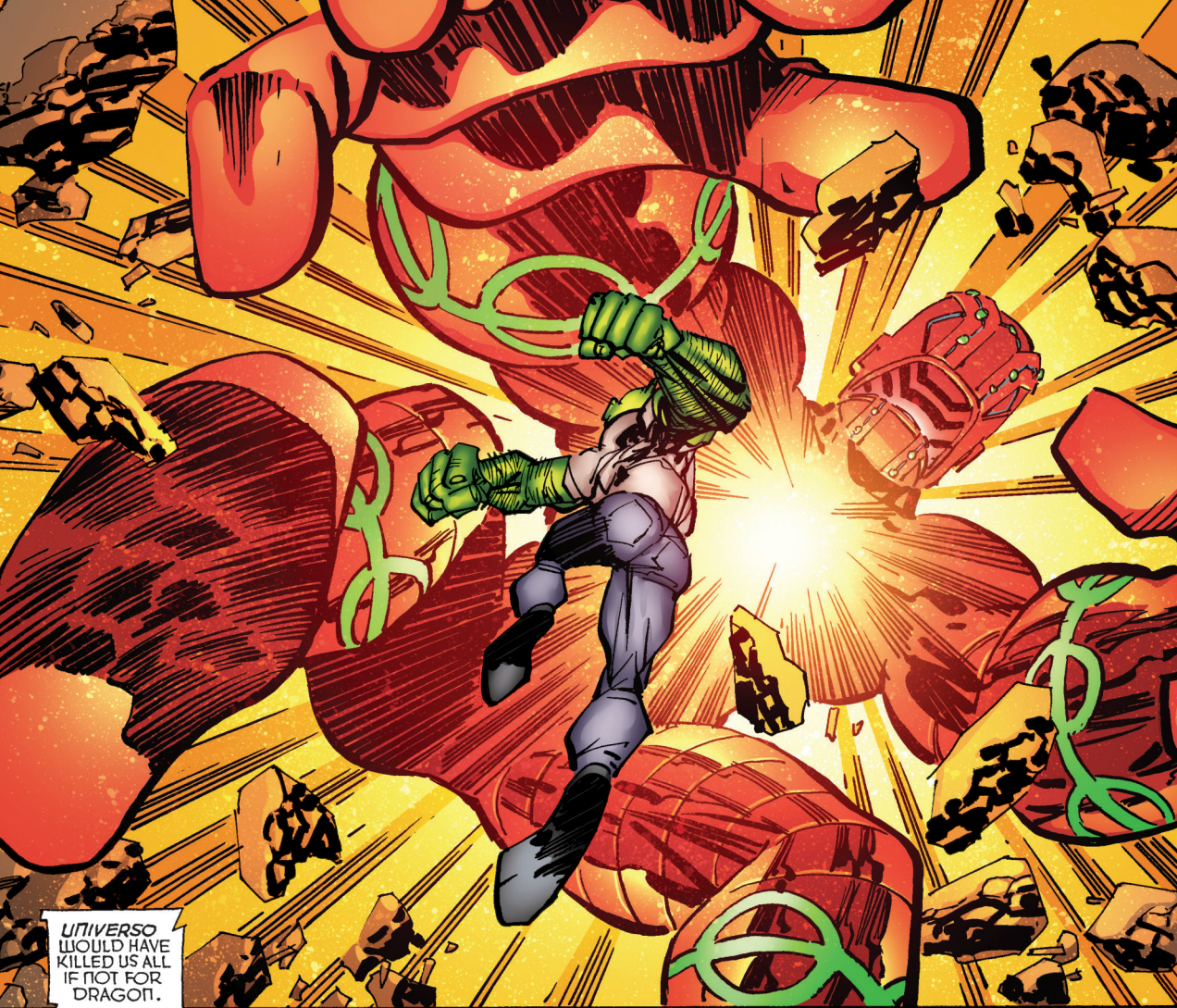
TIERRA'S PREGNANT, MALCOLM.



IT'S OVER.





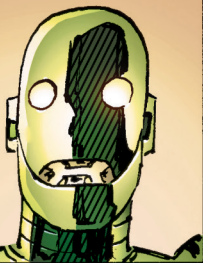


UNIVERSO WOULD HAVE KILLED US ALL IF NOT FOR DRAGON.

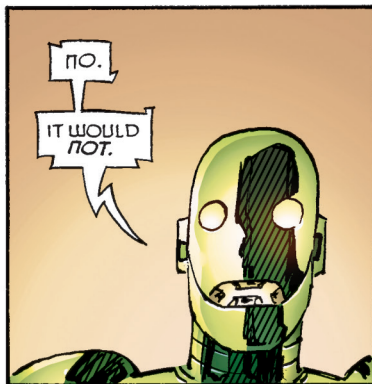
DRAGON SAVED THE WORLD.

POPE OF US WOULD BE HERE IF NOT FOR HIM.

AND THAT WAS THE *SECOND* TIME SAVAGE DRAGON SAVED THE WORLD.



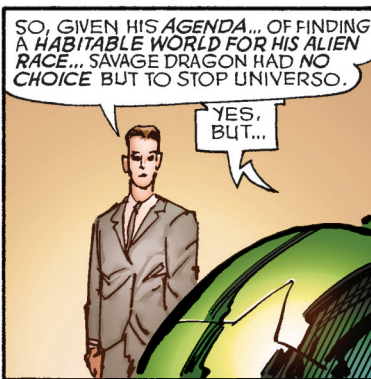
IF HE *SUCCEEDED*... IF UNIVERSO HAD BEEN *SUCCESSFUL* AND DRAINED THE WORLD OF ITS ENERGY... WOULD IT HAVE BEEN *HABITABLE*?



NO.  
IT WOULD *NOT*.



SAVAGE DRAGON HAD TO DEFEAT UNIVERSO IF HE WANTED THE EARTH TO BE HABITABLE THEN?  
YES.



SO, GIVEN HIS *AGENDA*... OF FINDING A *HABITABLE* WORLD FOR HIS *ALIEN RACE*... SAVAGE DRAGON HAD *NO CHOICE* BUT TO STOP UNIVERSO.

YES, BUT...



NO FURTHER QUESTIONS.

SEBASTIAN KHAN--  
CYBERFACE-- HAD TAKEN  
OVER THE WORLD. HE HAD  
COMMANDED THE WORLD'S  
TECHNOLOGY AND HAD A  
LEGION OF DEADLY ROBOTS  
AND MARTIAN TECHNOLOGY  
AT HIS BECK AND CALL.

DRAGON  
ORGANIZED THE  
RESISTANCE.

KHAN'S REGIME WAS  
ENDED. DRAGON HIMSELF  
STRUCK THE FINAL BLOW--  
TRAPPING CYBERFACE IN A  
CONTAINMENT CELL ON A  
SPACE STATION, SHUT OFF  
FROM THE PLANET EARTH.

DRAGON  
RESTORED  
ORDER TO THE  
WORLD, PUTTING  
WORLD LEADERS  
BACK IN  
PLACE.

"SAVING THE  
EARTH," IN THIS  
CASE, IS SOMETHING  
OF AN **OVER-  
STATEMENT**, DON'T  
YOU THINK?

THESE  
WERE DARK  
TIMES.

NO DOUBT.  
BUT CERTAINLY  
THIS **CYBERFACE**  
CHARACTER  
WOULD HAVE TO  
HAVE BEEN  
DEALT WITH BEFORE  
DRAGON'S RACE  
COULD SAFELY  
TAKE OVER, NO?

DRAGON HAD  
NO IDEA HE WAS  
OF ALIEN ORIGIN  
AT THAT POINT.  
HE WAS ACTING  
TO SAVE  
MANKIND.

DIDN'T SAYGE  
DRAGON HELP  
HIS ADOPTED  
DAUGHTER'S ALIEN  
COMPANION  
TAKE OVER THE  
WORLD?

NO.  
NO, THAT IS A  
**MISREPRESENTATION**  
OF THE EVENTS.  
DRAGON  
SAVED THE  
WORLD FROM  
MR. GLUM.

"MR. GLUM"  
LIVED WITH  
SAVAGE  
DRAGON AND  
HIS FAMILY.

SAVAGE DRAGON  
**IGNORED** HIS THREAT  
AND ALLOWED THIS WORLD  
CONQUEROR TO LIVE IN  
HIS HOME FOR  
SEVERAL YEARS.

IS THAT A  
**"MISREPRESENTATION**  
OF THE EVENTS"?

NO.

THIS **ISN'T** GOING  
QUITE AS SMOOTHLY  
AS I HOPED.

WE'LL  
HAVE  
OUR  
TURN.

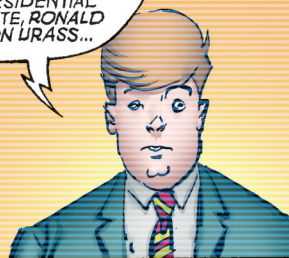
AS THE TRIAL ENTERS ITS **FOURTH** MONTH, AN ANXIOUS NATION SITS TRANFIXED BY THEIR TELEVISIONS.



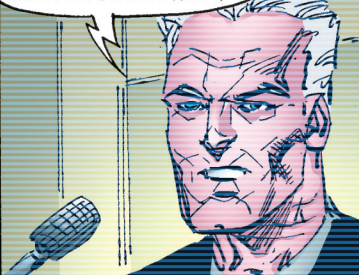
SAVAGE DRAGON STANDS ACCUSED OF KILLING 2056 PEOPLE, DESTRUCTION OF PROPERTY, AND CANNIBALISM, AMONG OTHER THINGS.



A PARADE OF CHARACTER WITNESSES, CELEBRITIES, VICTIMS AND WIDOWS HAVE SAT IN THE WITNESS STAND, INCLUDING SAVAGE DRAGON'S FORMER PRESIDENTIAL RUNNING MATE, RONALD WINSTON URASS...



THERE WAS A GOOD SAVAGE DRAGON-- AND THIS MONSTER KILLED HIM. THE HEROIC SAVAGE DRAGON IS DEAD. THIS IS NOT THAT MAN.



THERE WERE TWO SAVAGE DRAGONS, YOU SEE, AND THEY WERE SLUGGING IT OUT-- AND DESTROYING EVERYTHING IN SIGHT.



SAVAGE DRAGON BASHED HIS TWIN'S HEAD IN. THEN HE REACHED INTO HIS SKULL AND STARTED...



... EATING.

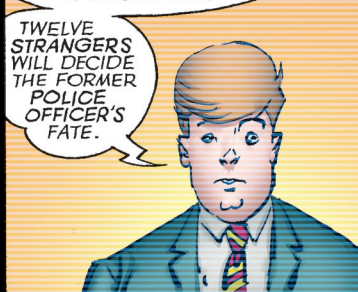
MEANWHILE, OUTSIDE THE COURTHOUSE, THE CROWD OF SAVAGE DRAGON'S SUPPORTERS AND OPPONENTS SEEMS TO GROW BY THE HOUR.



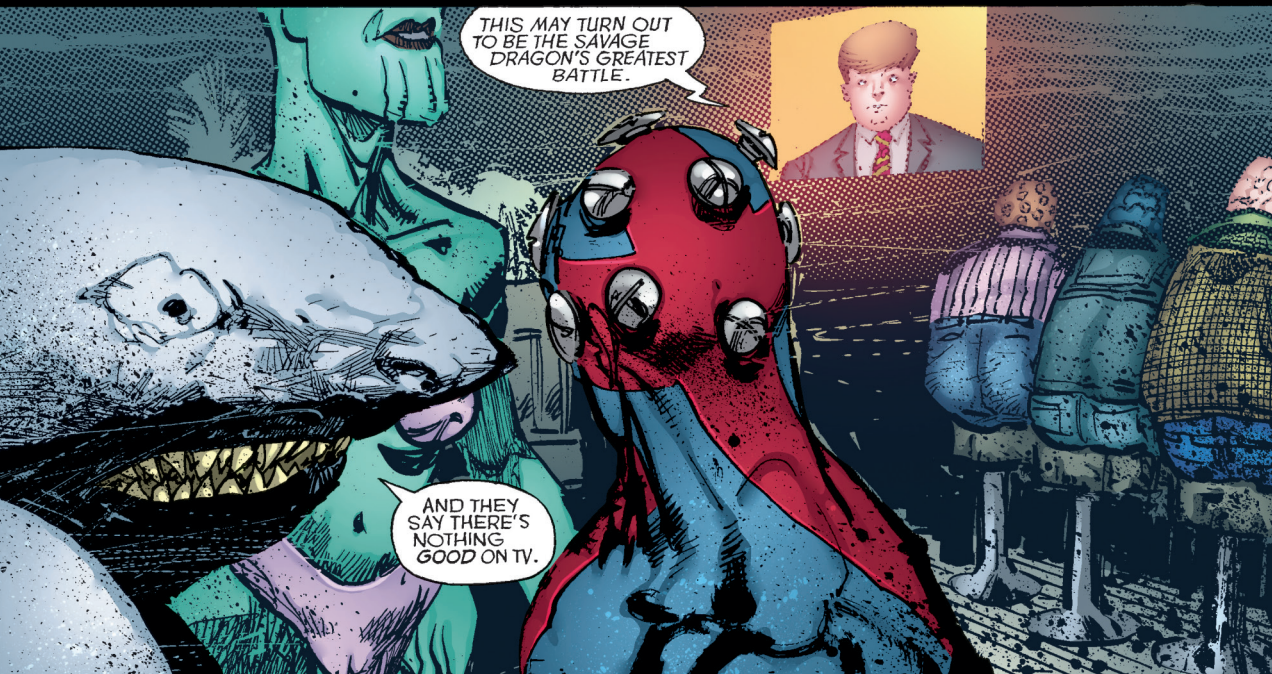
I DON'T KNOW WHY WE'RE WASTING TAXPAYERS' MONEY ON THIS TRIAL-- THERE'S FOOTAGE OF SAVAGE DRAGON KILLING PEOPLE! HE'S OBVIOUSLY GUILTY!



TENSIONS RUN HIGH AS THE TRIAL CONTINUES. SAVAGE DRAGON'S VERY LIFE HANGS IN THE BALANCE.



TWELVE STRANGERS WILL DECIDE THE FORMER POLICE OFFICER'S FATE.



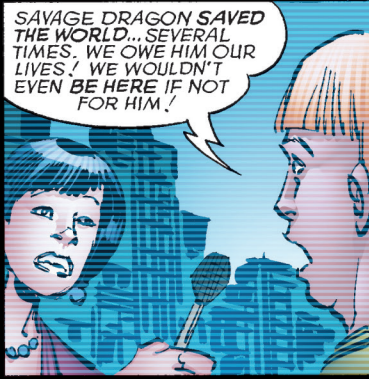
THIS MAY TURN OUT TO BE THE SAVAGE DRAGON'S GREATEST BATTLE.

AND THEY SAY THERE'S NOTHING GOOD ON TV.





HE SAVED US ALL!



SAVAGE DRAGON SAVED THE WORLD... SEVERAL TIMES. WE OWE HIM OUR LIVES! WE WOULDN'T EVEN BE HERE IF NOT FOR HIM!



BY SOME MIRACLE HE HAS BEEN RETURNED TO US FROM BEYOND THE GRAVE. OUR FAITH HAS RESURRECTED HIM... RETURNED HIM TO HIS HOME... HOW CAN WE DO THIS?

WHAT HAVE WE BECOME?

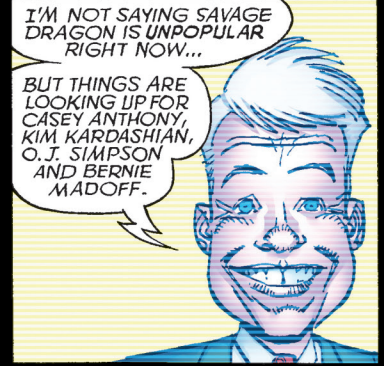


CHURCH LEADER REVEREND CECIL PARASOL FROM THE CHURCH OF SAVAGE DRAGON.

BUT REVEREND PARASOL DOES NOT SPEAK FOR EVERYBODY...

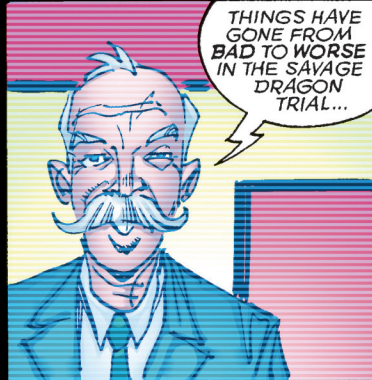


INCREASINGLY, THE TIDE OF PUBLIC OPINION IS TURNING... AGAINST THE SAVAGE DRAGON.



I'M NOT SAYING SAVAGE DRAGON IS UNPOPULAR RIGHT NOW...

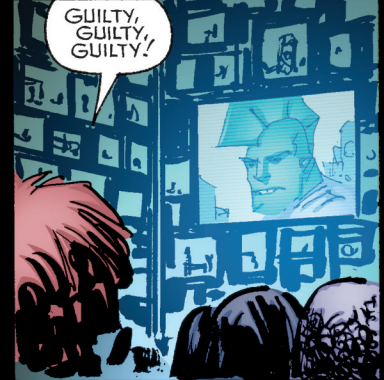
BUT THINGS ARE LOOKING UP FOR CASEY ANTHONY, KIM KARDASHIAN, O.J. SIMPSON AND BERNIE MADOFF.



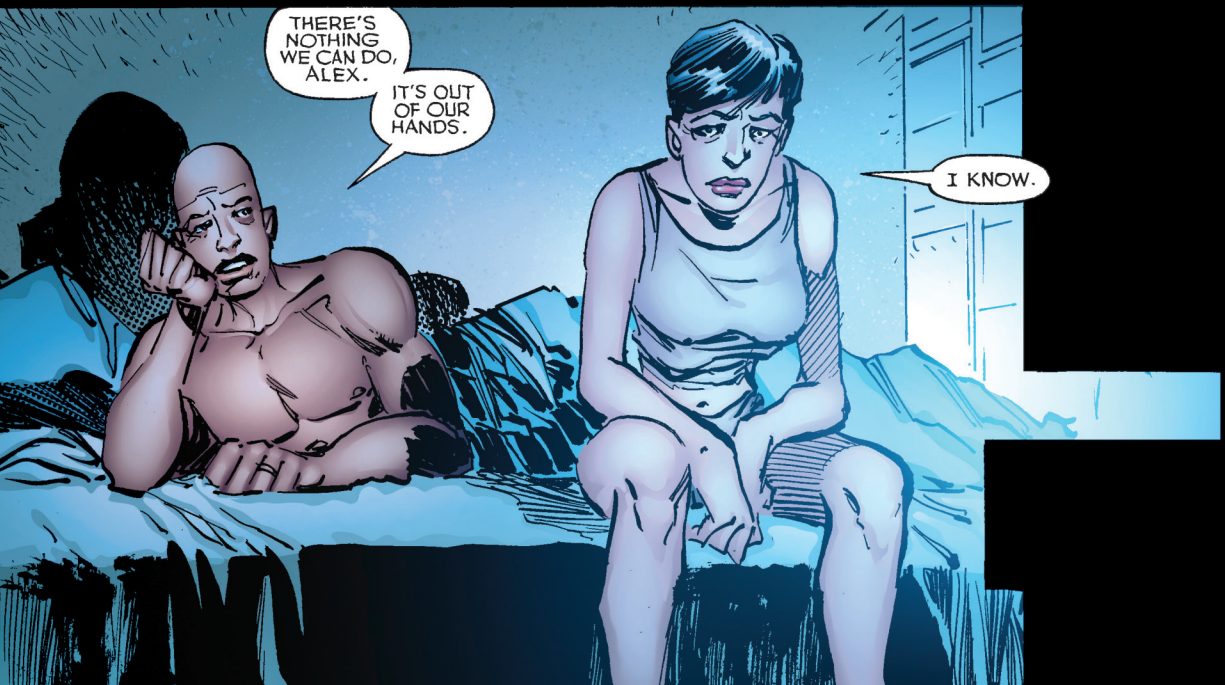
THINGS HAVE GONE FROM BAD TO WORSE IN THE SAVAGE DRAGON TRIAL...



NO COMMENT.



GUILTY, GUILTY!



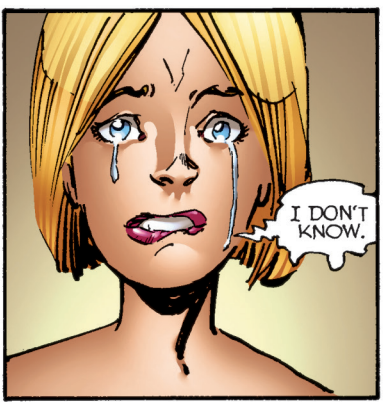
THERE'S NOTHING WE CAN DO, ALEX.

IT'S OUT OF OUR HANDS.

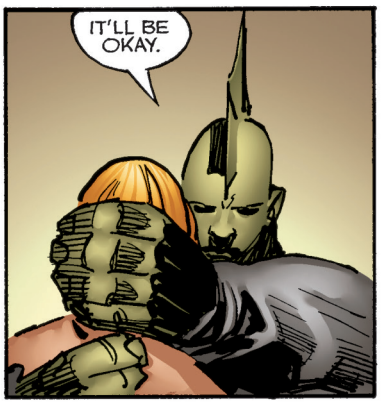
I KNOW.



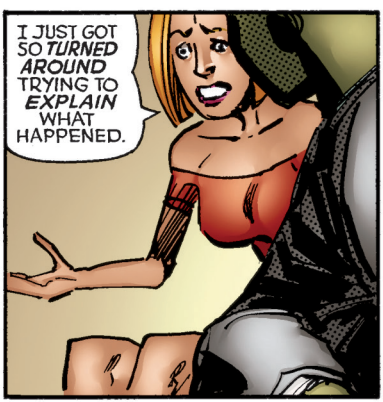
WHAT HAPPENED UP THERE?



I DON'T KNOW.



IT'LL BE OKAY.

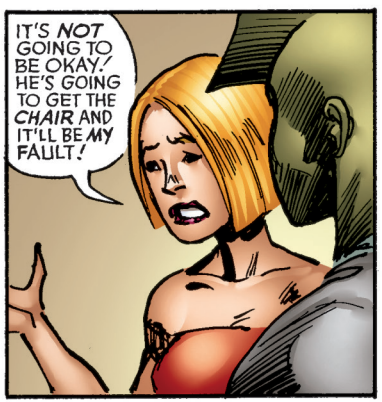


I JUST GOT SO TURNED AROUND TRYING TO EXPLAIN WHAT HAPPENED.

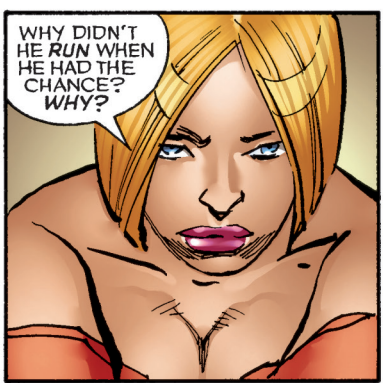


OH, GOD.

IT'LL BE OKAY.



IT'S NOT GOING TO BE OKAY, HE'S GOING TO GET THE CHAIR AND IT'LL BE MY FAULT!



WHY DIDN'T HE RUN WHEN HE HAD THE CHANCE? WHY?

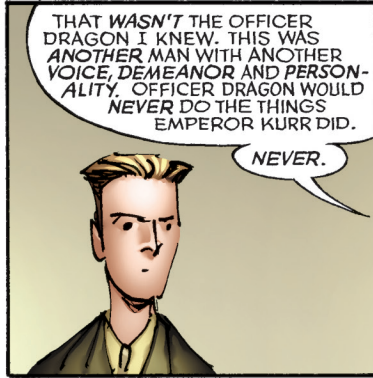
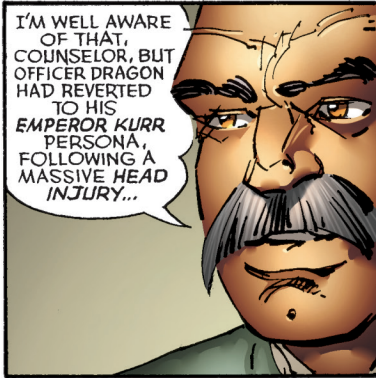


HE HAD FAITH IN THE SYSTEM, ANGEL.



HE'LL GET THROUGH THIS.

HE ALWAYS DOES.





A LITTLE MORE THAN TWENTY YEARS AGO, I WAS BORN.

BEFORE THAT, I WAS EMPEROR KURR-- AN ALIEN DICTATOR WHOSE QUEST WAS TO FIND A HABITABLE PLANET FOR HIS ALIEN RACE.

WHEN EMPEROR KURR FOUND EARTH AND HAD PLANNED TO MAKE IT INTO THEIR HOME, RENEGADE SCIENTISTS REBELLED, WIPING OUT EMPEROR KURR'S MIND AND REPLACING IT WITH SEVERAL DAYS' WORTH OF EARTH'S TELEVISION BROADCASTS.

I WOKE UP ON EARTH WITH NO MEMORY OF MY EVIL PAST. I WAS RECRUITED BY LIEUTENANT FRANK DARLING TO JOIN THE CHICAGO POLICE DEPARTMENT AND HELP THEM COMBAT THE FORCES OF EVIL.

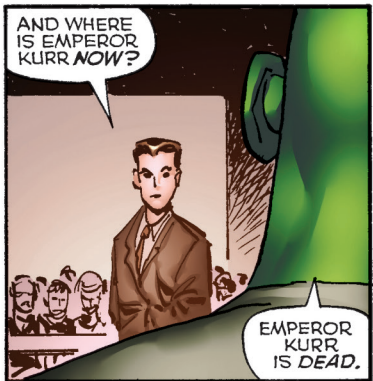


EMPEROR KURR IS YOUR ORIGINAL PERSONALITY, THEN?



THE BODY I CALL HOME WAS ONCE HOME TO EMPEROR KURR.

SAME HOUSE-- DIFFERENT HOME-OWNERS.



AND WHERE IS EMPEROR KURR NOW?

EMPEROR KURR IS DEAD.



IS HE?



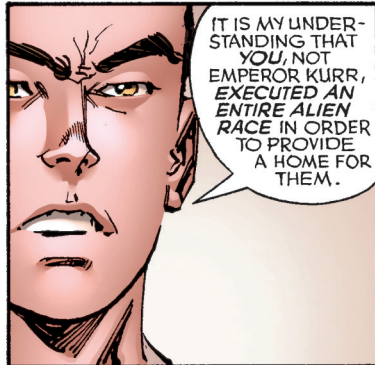
YES.

WHEN I WAS RECENTLY PUT BACK TOGETHER, ALL TRACES OF EMPEROR KURR WERE REMOVED.



I UNDERSTAND THAT YOUR ALIEN RACE HAS FOUND A HOME AT LAST.

YES.



IT IS MY UNDERSTANDING THAT YOU, NOT EMPEROR KURR, EXECUTED AN ENTIRE ALIEN RACE IN ORDER TO PROVIDE A HOME FOR THEM.

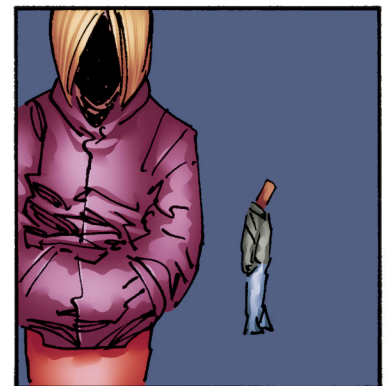
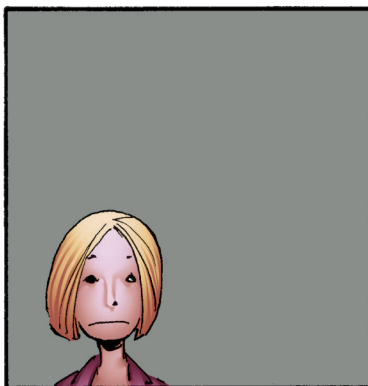
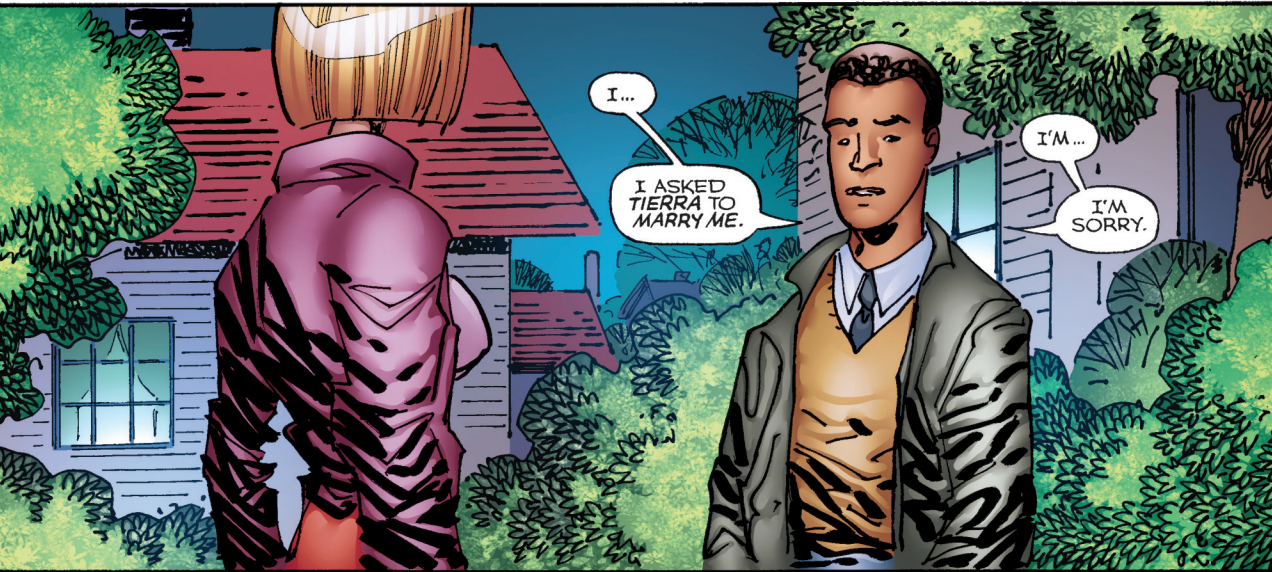
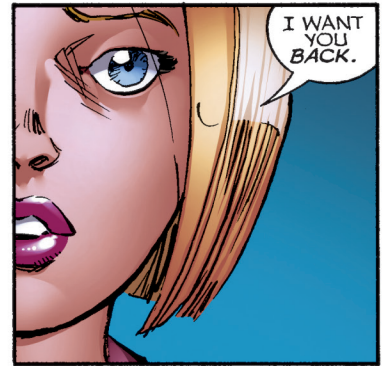
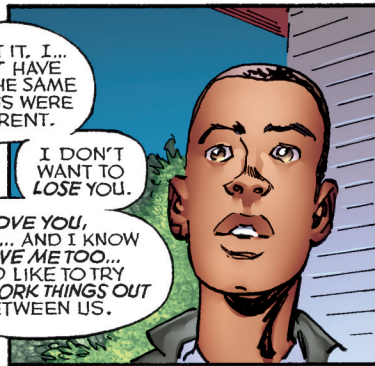
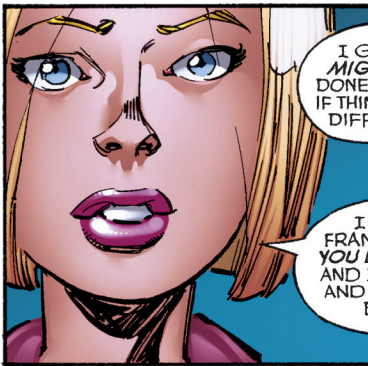
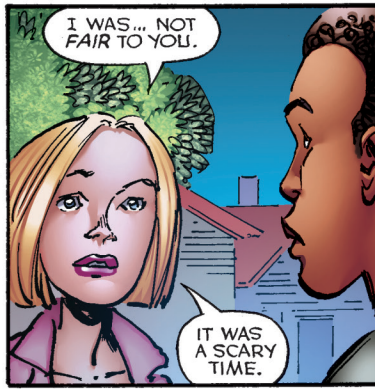


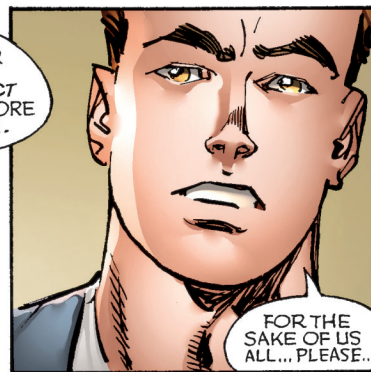
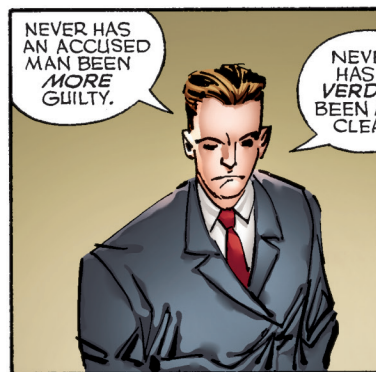
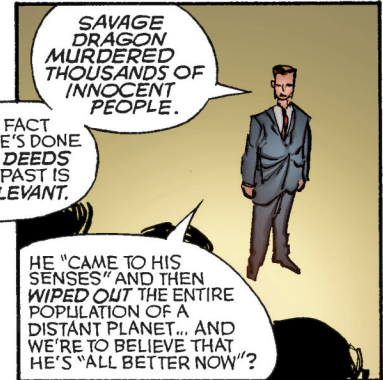
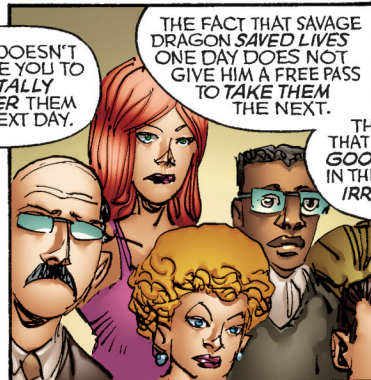
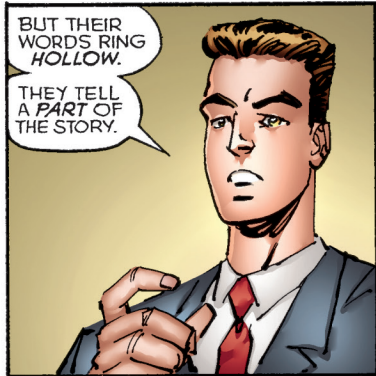
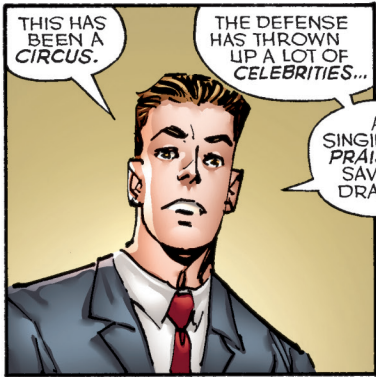
THAT IS CORRECT.

BUT THERE'S MORE TO IT THAN THAT...



NO FURTHER QUESTIONS.



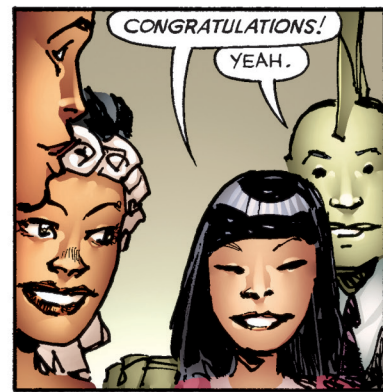
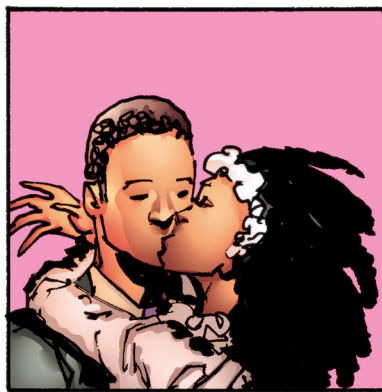




I DO.



I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU MAN AND WIFE.  
YOU MAY KISS THE BRIDE.



CONGRATULATIONS!  
YEAH.



THANKS FOR BEING HERE, MALCOLM.

I KNOW YOU'VE GOT A LOT GOING ON RIGHT NOW.

NO SWEAT.

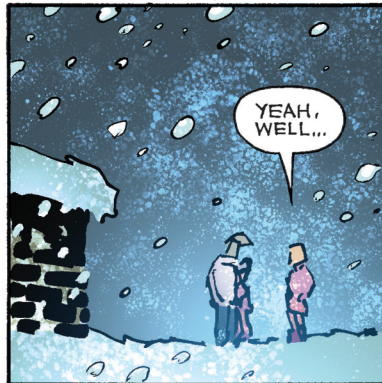


IT'S DONE?  
YEAH.

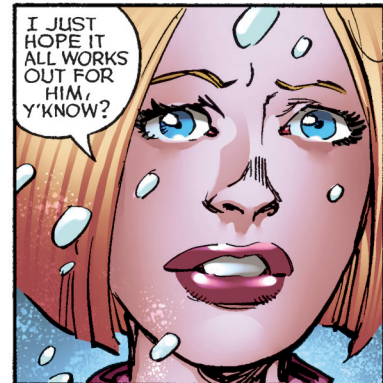


I GUESS THAT'S THE END OF THAT.

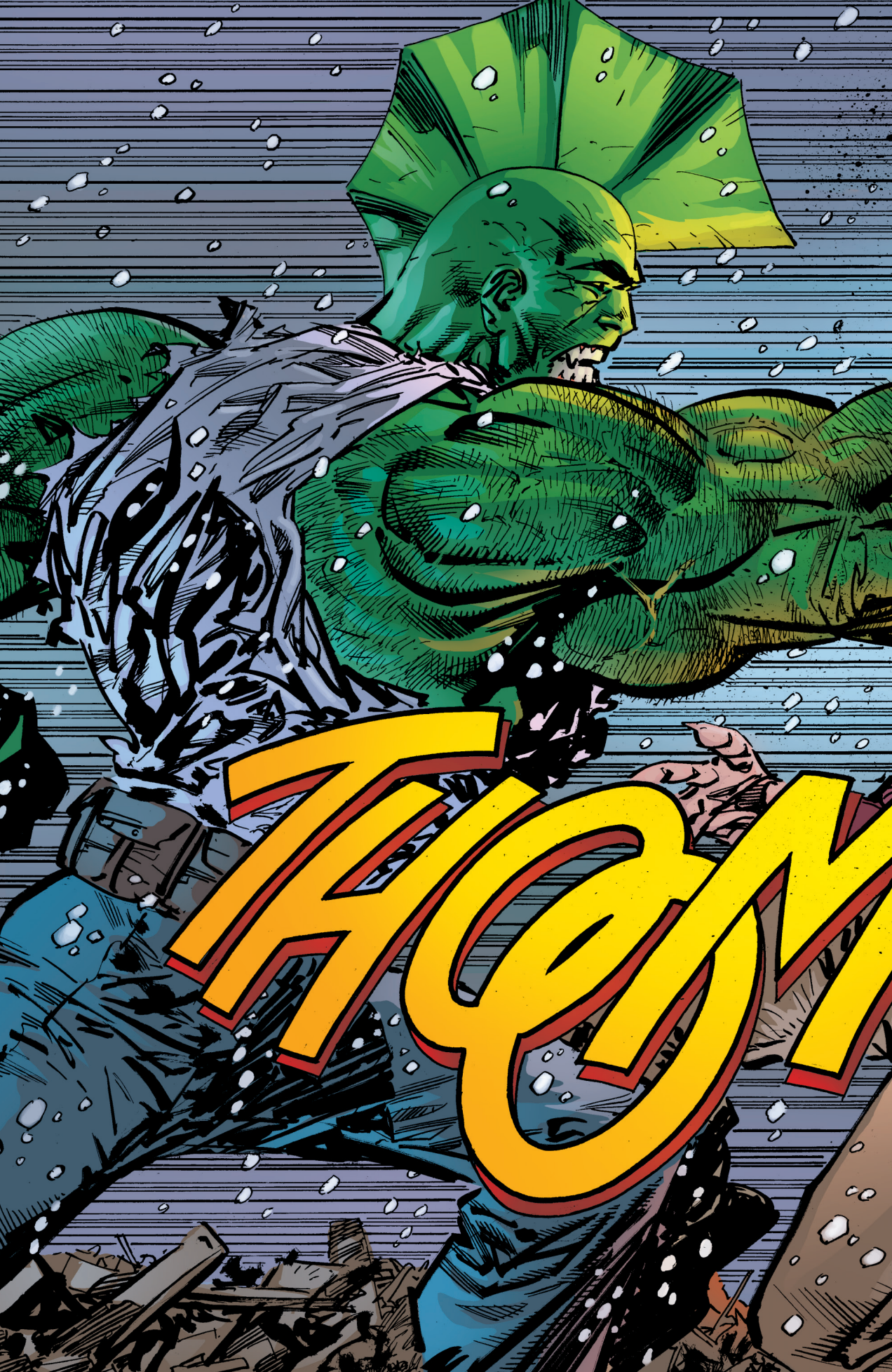
YEAH.



YEAH, WELL...



I JUST HOPE IT ALL WORKS OUT FOR HIM, Y'KNOW?







YOUR HONOR, THE MEMBERS OF THIS JURY FIND THE DEFENDANT GUILTY.



MISTER DRAGON!

MISTER DRAGON!

DO YOU HAVE ANY COMMENT FOR...



BELIEVE HIM! FREE VAGABOND DRAGON!

SLAY THE DRAGON! AN EYE FOR AN EYE

KILL THE KILLER



THAT'S IT, EH?

IT'S OVER.

THAT'S THE VERDICT. SENTENCING IS IN THREE MONTHS. OF COURSE WE'LL APPEAL!

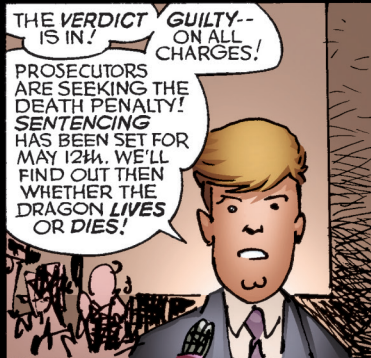


WE'LL APPEAL! DON'T WORRY-- IT'S NOT OVER!

WE'LL APPEAL!



IT JUST NEVER ENDS, DOES IT?



THE VERDICT IS IN!

GUILTY-- ON ALL CHARGES!

PROSECUTORS ARE SEEKING THE DEATH PENALTY! SENTENCING HAS BEEN SET FOR MAY 12th. WE'LL FIND OUT THEN WHETHER THE DRAGON LIVES OR DIES!



NOW WHAT?

NOW, LITTLE BROTHER...?

THIS IS WHERE IT ALL GOES TO HELL.

e-mail: Erik@savagedragon.com

visit our website at [www.savagedragon.com](http://www.savagedragon.com)

The reality is...in a real trial there are far too many words said to fit it any one comic book. If I was to depict everything that went on in an actual murder trial I could easily fill another 185 issues-- only with guys sitting in the witness box being cross examined instead of mind-blowing brawls. So, by necessity--you're getting the highlights reel. Malcolm did testify, as did hundreds of other people, we just didn't get to hear each and every one of them and even those we did hear from--it was all one-sided.

As you might expect...this is one of the more grueling issues to work on. Ten panels a page--a ton of dialogue--I'm beat.

But enough of that.

A few issues back I ran a blank letters page. That void compelled a lot of people to write in--many for the first time--and so I'm expanding the letters pages this time out to accommodate them. There'll be a backup story next month...but in the meantime...it's all you...

Erik,

First, let me say I'm not one to write, I never have been, I've been a loyal follower since issue one and the one time I did write to a book is when you were doing Nova, I begged them not to cancel that book and the editor that wrote back said the rumors were false, Nova wouldn't be canceled anytime soon, then it was canceled the following month... so you can see why I wouldn't be inclined to write, but seeing how issue 179 got NO mail, I'm appalled.

Just keep up the good work, Dragon is a MUST read as far as I'm concerned.

Sincerely,

Kelly Godwin

I can get behind that.

Dear Mr. Larsen:

It is now 13 years since I had my letter published in issue 65. The best letter page I have been a part of has been the one in Savage Dragon. I never want to see a letters page like the one in issue 181 so here I am, more than a decade later, writing again.

I am viewing comics on a different level now than when I was younger. Now dialogue and story are my main motivators in my decision on what to buy, instead of the flashy page or the hot artist on a book. Art is still an important part of a comic book but a good twist, or a great cliffhanger will get me to continue to buy a series. Issue 181 had all the things I like. Savage Dragon is consistently a great comic book.

God is dead. I'm fifty! Get out there and vote! A new age is dawning. And it's going to be awesome! I'm going back to Earth. All great moments in this issue. I am so excited to know Dragon is coming back to Earth, or intending to do so, with Darklord leaving him alone in the ship that might have Dragon in some interesting stories, maybe exploring new worlds. We still have Darklord and Overlord (lordy that's too many lords) in the series with their intentions not revealed, leaving the direction in the book open. And I love it. What is next?

Thank you for all these years in Savage Dragon, you keep them coming, I'll keep buying.

Regards,

Jorge Garcia

Reynosa, Tamaulipas, Mexico

Thanks for checking in again, Jorge. Hopefully the occasion which compelled you to write won't reoccur but even if it doesn't...don't be a stranger, okay? It's nice to hear from readers, longtime fans and newcomers.

Mr. Larsen:

I have been a fan of yours since the issue you did of the Hulk, your entire Amazing Spider-Man and Spider-Man run, and then followed you to image. I collected Savage Dragon in the beginning, then not as much as my comic collecting died down a bit, but I always would check in, and I would definitely get the specials and anniversary issues. Any issue I ever get I would always read the letters page. This may go back to my early days of collecting and always loving the letter pages of comics, and I have to say that after collecting comics since 1984, I have never once written a letter. I have thought about it at different times, but nothing every quite pushed me to take action. Until I picked up Savage Dragon 181 and saw the blank letters page because no one wrote in about 179.

So I have been motivated to write a letter about 179. I am not sure if it is because I will be the only to have written about it, or if it is because I want to read 179 and see why that would be the one issue no one else wrote about.

Art-wise, this issue is a good representation of what you do. It is very dynamic and fun. Your style is a lot looser than it used to be, and although I like it better when it is tighter and more polished, your brushwork shows the confidence you have in your work, and the storytelling is spot on.

The story itself has lots of ramifications from things that have been building to setting things up for what is to come. I loved how it showed other Image characters also dealing with this worldwide attack. The whole thing really is epic in its storytelling, crossing through space and even visiting Atlantis undersea.

This issue had a nice letters page, and it even answered a question I always wondered, who is Josh Eichorn? That just goes to show how important these letters pages are! And speaking of letters, I have to mention what a great letterer you have in Tom Orzechowski.

I am not sure why this comic itself did not generate any letters. I read an interview that you did about this comic before it came out so the effort was there

to promote it. I think it is one of things that you are at this many issues and people may start to just take it for granted. There are not many comics that have this high of a number nowadays. Your Savage Dragon number is 15 times what the main DC books are at now, how messed up is that?

In closing, I feel I have to put in a list of questions because you will always answer every single one no matter what:

1. Which Spawn was that in this issue: Al Simmons or Jim Downing?
2. Which Shadowhawk is that?
3. Why does the Savage Dragon race have Ninja Turtle feet?
4. When is the next issue of Image United coming out?
5. When is the next issue of the Next Issue project coming out?

Thank you for your time, your work is still appreciated by this long time fan.

Vince Cracchiolo

Detroit, Michigan

crackcomics.com

1. Jim.

2. Paul Johnstone.

3. The real question is; why do the Turtles have Dragon feet? He had them first.

4. I wish I could tell you.

5. I can't say for sure. Putting together one of these books is like herding cats. A lot of folks and characters to line up.

Dear Erik,

I just read SD 181 and I wanted to share with you how much I absolutely enjoyed it. Aside from father clobbering son and God getting killed, I am overjoyed that Dragon is returning to Earth. I won't pretend I wasn't sad when he "died" before, but I knew that if he was alive, he would eventually return to Earth! I found the fight between Dragon and Krull absolutely hilarious. For Dragon being so fierce a fighter, it is clear that his skills were learned and not in his genes! The issue was a delight to read, as it always is! Thanks for making such a damn fine comic!

Aaron Kessel

PS: What's up with Angel wanting to make sweet, sweet love to Malcolm? That's... a little odd.

Not as odd as you might think. They're not related and until recently they weren't even raised in the same house. They're related by marriage only and really--not even that--Dragon married the Savage World Jennifer Murphy--he never actually married Angel's real mom--so, although it may seem a bit weird--it's not THAT weird.

Dear Erik,

I really enjoyed Savage Dragon #181 a lot!

I know that quite often the cover scenes are just symbolic, not reflecting any specific event in the interior, but this time, the cover scene of Dragon floating in space seemed farther off from actual events than usual. There's no time in the issue where Dragon is not pretty well in control of the situation, so the "Lost in Space" motif doesn't really fit. Was the story meant to go another way, and then you revised it? Anyway, it was a cool visual, so I'm not complaining.

The Dragon/Krull fight was fun, though a little surprising. From the imposing way that Krull appeared whenever he beamed down to Earth, the impression I always got was that he would be more powerful. Though I guess that restoring Dragon's mind and body from the mess of the Virus/Kurr issues was a major achievement, and it makes sense that Krull wouldn't be as good a brawler as Dragon. I did enjoy the minimal backgrounds and simple color scheme of the fight pages. Another successful experiment on your part in how to compose comic book pages, using just white, green and yellow.

Back on Earth, The plotline of Will-Angel-and-Malcolm-ever-have-sex-or not? seems to be moving in the direction of NOT, which is a big relief to me. Frankly, this whole teen sexuality plotline has been making the tone of the book rather uncomfortable for a while now. Once upon a time, we knew that there would be plenty of sex between consenting adults in the book, and that was enjoyable and healthy. The move to young teenage characters made everything a bit dicey and potentially creepy. So far you've never crossed the line that would make me afraid to carry my Savage Dragon comics across the Canadian border, but some issues came close. You're navigating a minefield here, and while I trust your judgment, I'll be relieved when all the kids are over 18.

I'm looking forward to Dragon getting back to Earth, and seeing more of Overlord and Darklord. I love the young hoodie version of Darklord, and I can't wait to see what his latest world-conquering scheme will be. So far, he mainly has just been concerned with saving the Earth from Dragon, so I am a little surprised that he didn't put up any objection to Dragon returning to Earth. Maybe that's why he's flying ahead, to prepare some sinister welcome for Dragon's arrival? And by the way, the visual of Darklord flying through space was super cool, so thanks for that!

Finally, Tom Orzechowski's lettering is as brilliant as ever. Thanks for showing the world how it should be done!

Best Wishes,

Peter Urkowitz

10 Glendale St

Salem MA 01970

**I was going for a symbolic shot with that cover: Dragon--alone in space--and like many of them--it's not meant to be taken literally. It worked for me.**

Hi Erik,

I love reading Savage Dragon and have been around since issue #1 of the mini-series. At times, it has been the sole comic I have picked up after gradually dropping everything else I used to collect. I dropped those books either because they started to suck or, maybe, I just outgrew them. But Savage Dragon has never let me down for both story and art. But damn, it sucks waiting for the next issue! I remember a time when Savage Dragon was the stalwart of Image publishing: Every month a new issue. But over the years you have taken several, unannounced, hiatuses. You left me, your faithful reader, hanging, wondering if you were ever coming back. At one point I thought you were truly done and I quit going to comic shops looking for new issues of S.D. I lamented that my comic book collecting days were over. One day I walked into a comic shop and saw 3 new issues. Hell, yeah! My point is that schedule is king. You go 5, 6, 7 months with no new issue and people start to assume you've moved on. Why bother writing a letter? Oh, well, that's my 2 cents on that.

As for issue 181: Excellent! I like that it focused on Dragon this issue. He had a lot of good things to say to his people but I think he made a big mistake leaving them so soon. I am thinking this will be fodder for future tales.

You had Dragon find out his age which was interesting but I found myself wondering if he looked up his parents' names, as well. That could be an interesting story. For Dragon to have assumed power, wouldn't he have had to defeat his father (or Mother?!?) in combat? And why was Kerr such a dick compared to the rest of his peace loving people? Inquiring minds want to know!

I just read that issue #68 of Supreme will be your last. Does this mean we can expect to see more Savage Dragon on a regular basis? Don't get me wrong, I like what you're doing on Supreme but I'd rather see more Savage Dragon.

Cheers!

Mike Makuch  
Huber Heights, OH

**I'm trying, I'm trying. But honestly--they don't always come easy and when the choice is good or on time--I generally opt for good (or as close to good as I'm capable of producing). This particular issue took me much longer than I would have liked.**

Erik,

After reading issue 181, I felt obligated to chime in. First and foremost, I've been a Savage Dragon fan since the very beginning... always loved whatever direction you felt the book needed to go (well, maybe not Universo and the flying umbilical heralds... but hey, nobody's perfect). A letters page is an overlooked gem these days and if I may, I wanted chime in with some comments/questions of my own... numbered of course... those were always my favorite type of fan mail to read.

1. With AllGod dead, will we see more magical/mythical characters popping up to fill the void? It's a path I don't believe you've gone too far down..

2. Have you watched The Wire? It was a great show. I'd love to see a Vicious Circle gang that's influenced by its seedier characters and smaller scale stories..

3. More Firepower. I always thought his armor to be sweet, and I'm glad to know the character's not dead... yet.

4. Is Malcolm going to fight an Evil Robot Mecha Dragon in the future? I just wanna be prepared if so.

5. If you could swipe one character for your book from Marvel, who'd it be?

6. Same question, but DC, who'd it be?

7. Issue #200 is looming... do you have anything planned out already storyline-wise? How about merchandise?

That's all that's on my mind now. Hope you get a crap ton of letters now and the Fin-Addicts keeps on keeping on.

Shawn Daly

P.S. This book is awesome sauce.

**1: I dunno. I'm not a huge fan of such characters because of the whole "no rules" aspect, which seems like cheating. You know, Dr. Strange is in trouble but then--BAM--he says yet another series of words and--he's defeated the bad guy. But I never say never.**

**2: I haven't seen it. I watch no TV.**

**3: I'll get to him...shortly.**

**4: How can he not?**

**5: The Thing. Spider-Man is a good choice too though.**

**6: Captain Marvel...just because they can't seem to figure out how to make him fly.**

**7: Working on that.**

Erik my man,

Hats off for over 181 issues of Savage Dragon! First time writing in, though I'm on the boards, long time fan. Well, about ten years. I knew of Dragon in the '90s and saw the cartoon, but got more into comics in the 2000s. When I noticed you had done every issue yourself, of course it went right to the top of my must read list. What you're doing is mind-blowing, quality and quantity meeting for an uninterrupted run of pure magic like this, it's almost unheard of. This book f\*\*\*in' cooks.

It's been great these past couple years, Emperor Dragon, the historic issue 175, all groovy stuff and I can't wait for Dragon on trial. Love that cover! Great to have the big guy back in the spotlight more.

I'm all about you writing exactly what you intend for your creation, but since it's a letter I'll throw my two cents in. I especially love the early Dragon stuff. That feel of being on the streets in a crazy town, but with lovable side characters in tow. A great mix of "gritty" street stuff, while also having bombastic superhero

characters with humor and a very unique mix of styles. The darker palette, heavier use of shadow, I love black ink. I also dig Dragon using huge guns from time to time, which he did in a recent issue I noticed, and appreciated, ha yes. Though it's also great how the book constantly evolved from there, the Kirby FF style pulp sci-fi stuff, the "comic strip" family adventures that were fun and touching, those issues that covered a whole year, any experiment like that has always been a treat.

Do you ever get the urge to throw some more of that hard boiled city noir flavor into the mix again? Plus, with the way you both honor and send-up the '60s or '70s style stuff, doing that for late '80s/early '90s comics would be a potential goldmine. Maybe have Dragon put those huge boxy sunglasses back on for the hell of it. Hell, maybe Dragon has a midlife crisis and very self aware tries "cool" things? And one thing I'd dig is Dragon moving back to Earth. Oh, and when are the kids out of High School? I hope they have a 20s slacker period, or start a metal band.

Now, my crazy suggestion. The entire cast somehow gets transported to the year 2089, or time itself is transformed so that everyone is who they are now, but in 2089. Now we're living in a sweet cyberpunk version of Chicago. Sold?

Oh and the random censorship question. As an independent comic book, I take it you can put anything you want in it? Lets say you had a two page spread involving Dragon and several naked women. Would that fly? Seems to work for some comics, Bomb Queen or Tarot: Witch of the Black Rose, etc. Not that sex appeal is the key to this book, though when Rapture was around...

Anyway, through all the styles and eras, we can all agree that Savage Dragon is the best comic on stands. Crazy it doesn't have a movie yet. Love seeing where you take it, and I can't wait for issue 200. And 300... 700?

Rock on, Erik!

Ian (PsychoGoatee)

**All excellent suggestions. Although I am hesitant to commit to a specific future. Those seldom pan out.**

Hey Erik,

Dragon #181 was another excellent entry in the series, you rarely let me down. The father/son death match was hilarious. Of course Krull never stood a chance. I liked the way Dragon handled everything with his people. Dragon has evolved into quite the leader and I am happy to see that his people finally have a happy ending for now.

And finding out Dragon's age is a fun nugget of information. The guy's got plenty of years left in him. I plan on sticking around to see what happens. It should be a hoot.

I just have a few questions... .

1. How much more awkward is it going to be between Malcolm and Angel?

2. You've done a Superman team-up, but any chance of maybe Batman or Spider-Man hanging with Fin-Head?

3. I'm hoping there's still no end in sight. The empty letters page has me worried. Can I still plan on Savage Dragon being around for a good while?

Benjamin Wade

Altamonte Springs, FL

**1: Give it time.**

**2: There's always a chance.**

**3: I sure hope so. The best way to insure that is to spread the word. We can always use a few more readers.**

A slap in the face.

That's what it felt like to me, so it must have been a million times worse for you. I know how hard it is to create something, and how lonely it feels to be working in a room with no positive feedback to motivate you to struggle through the ennui, distractions and inertia and just get the job done.

Without someone taking the time to recognize your efforts, it must feel as if you are pushing sh\*\* up a hill, and getting nowhere fast.

So, Erik, I apologize. I apologize for not taking the time to let you know that I enjoy each and ever issue of Savage Dragon, how it is the first comic I grab from my standing order at my local and the first one I read when I get home.

I have only written once in the past, as I believed I had to say something meaningful. Something that would contribute to the book in the same way that letters from Augie de Blicek, Jr. or Olav Beemer or Nick Justus or Cam Stylez have. I was worried that I would come off too much like an idiot, spewing idle inanities and asking idiotic questions.

But the blank letters page in SD#181 was a slap in the face that woke me up. I never want to see a blank space like that again. Therefore you will receive a letter from me every month, regardless of how stupid I think it will be (which they won't be - I am a reasonably savvy bloke who can string words together, this fear I have is just ridiculous)

I am sure you have received mail on issues 180 and 181, as there were big moments in both that must be commented on, and you will also receive a heap more mail after the blank page (Hmmm, can we refer to it as "Lettersgate" ?? Seems appropriate at US election time !). Be that as it may, I will send a letter every month. Hopefully it will be one of many, but even if it is the only one I reckon it is important that I, as an avid reader and massive fanboy geek for Savage Dragon take the time each month to thank you Erik, creator extraordinaire, for producing such an amazing title month in, month out for twenty years

See you,

Brett Harris

**Looking forward to that. Keep 'em coming.**

Hey Mr. Larsen,

Just finished Savage Dragon #181. Another excellent issue, so thanks for that. I loved the opening fight sequence between Dragon and Krull. Your pencils and

inks have seemed tighter the last couple of years. I really like it and am impressed that your art continues to improve and develop after so many years. The coloring is the best it's ever been, as well.

A couple of questions. Are you still on track for a release of the Ultimate Collection? I'm really looking forward to that so I hope so. Also, it seems there have been no Savage Dragon solicitations the past couple of months. Is the book on hiatus? Is it going bimonthly? Please say no. Anyway, please keep fighting the good fight. I love Savage Dragon and will keep buying it as long as you keep writing and drawing it.

Drew Woodworth

**The Ultimate Collection has stalled for the moment. Too much missing material...that I know is somewhere...and I'd rather not get it all rescanned and re-colored if I can help it.**

Hey Erik,

This is my first letter to the creator...so please, be gentle.

1- Stoked that Dragon is back as Dragon. The Emperor Dragon run and Kurr were awesome. Dragon's return showed me how much of the pleasure comes from his unflappable, wise-ass personality. Savage when savagery is required, but usually solid on his feet and doing the right thing. It's been said ol' one-armed Lt. Frank Darling was the moral compass. Bulls\*\*t. Dragon is.

2- Savage World, Dark World, Tuesday, Thursday...no matter how you slice it, all Dragon's lovers are gone, married with (wrist-bound) kid, or dead 2-3 times over. He honored the memory of Jennifer Murphy by waiting, and it seems like he's finally healed up about it. Probably no guy approaching 50 can feel entirely carefree and new again, but this feels like Dragon's chance. No online dating (he tried it). No PG-13 subtlety and discretion (as in #175). No resurrections (Abner Cadaver, get your voodoo hands off old-school Rapture). But here's my vote that the days of hot babes return.

3- Loved the alien invasion. The grid-drawings of battle in #180 really did it for me. I also loved seeing olde-english Thor and Greek-letter Hercules ('that's Herakles to you!') get a beat down. Shame the aliens left before finishing those bastards off. Shame, really, to see the aliens disappear entirely from the planet, because unstoppable villains are hard to come by -- especially those who can defeat gods, Vicious Circle ('please, it's circle now'), and all the supers. My hope and vote is that in spite of the AllGod thing a splinter cell has remained, gone underground, and created some sort of nest/hive/breeding ground, so Malcolm and Dragon can go on an Aliens- or Heinlein-inspired bug hunt right here on Earth.

4- Most important of all, BRING BACK OPENFACE!

Craig Gotsill  
San Francisco

PS, I'd settle for a chomping swarm of mini-OpenFaces. 10" tall. A freak genetic experiment that survived from his and Octopus' lab. I mean, I'm insane but I'm reasonable. Love the book.

**Thanks. I'm working on it, okay?**

Erik,

I'm a self-published author. I'm picky as hell with what I read -- I look for good storytelling.

Savage Dragon is cream of the crop.

I started reading back in '92 when Image formed. I got out of comics a couple of years later (I believe the last Dragon issue I'd read was #23 or #24). But a few months ago, whilst randomly surfing about, I saw that SD was STILL GOING! HOLY SH\*\*!!!

I'm happy to say that many back-issues later, I am now all caught up. Amazing stuff. What I'm most impressed with is the consistent quality. Not a single issue has sucked. Most of them were beyond awesome.

That takes something.

Anyways...I tip my hat to you, sir. I just finished up the alien invasion storyline, and now I find myself in a unique position I haven't found myself in for a long, long time...I actually have to WAIT for the next issue to come out.

Dammit :D

Keep up the good work.

Steven Montano

PS. I'm going nuts trying to figure out who the new Overlord actually is. I'm sure in spite of my wild ass theories you'll still manage to surprise me. You always do.

**Hope that worked out for you.**

Hey Erik,

A few thoughts on SD 180,

"The Way it Must Be" begins by echoing not only Dragon's origins, but also the recent atrocities committed by his malignant personality, Emperor Kurr. Are they really so different? A subversion of Kurr's decimation of Earth, in this reality Dragon may be indeed fulfilling his role as the "Chosen One". Only time will tell, and the promise of a "Blood Match" between Father and Son only further affirm the mythological overtones in this issue.

While perhaps a flaw to some, observing that it is not Malcolm who solves the problem and eliminates the threat makes for powerful character development. He and Angel are faced with insurmountable odds, beyond the limits of their powers or experience. Yet Malcolm presses on in the face of certain death, refusing to submit to the omnipresent chaos of the invasion. His rejection of Angel's proposition also highlights Malcolm's nobility, as we saw with Mr. Apples awhile back. His courage and initiative to seek out Rex only seals the deal for this reader.

On display may also be the Final Battle of The Gods. The invasion and evisceration of the citizens of Godtown promotes the threat of the Tyrannians as

one of the most formidable foes this book has unleashed. Without the benefits of biological weapons. I wonder; would Dragon have fared any better than Malcolm? Thor and Herakles' last stand along with Zeek is a nice touch, hope they both make it out in one piece. Color it a Deus Ex Machina, but it's totally appropriate that AllGod sacrifices himself to tame the rampant chaos. A myth as old as civilization itself, his sacrifice mirrors the Creation story in Genesis or the Mid Eastern myths of Gilgamesh. The page also revisits the layout of Giant Zombie Bin Laden's similar defeat a few issues back, cementing the Savage World's apprehension and paranoia regarding super beings post-Khan/Glum/Solar Man/Kurr. One thing's for sure, it's citizens have one helluva resolve.

No letter would be complete without saluting Tom for his excellent hand crafted lettering, and thanking Nikos and Mike for their outstanding coloring this book. The praises for Gary and Frank's Vanguard episode merit another letter entirely, so let me instead echo my previous requests for more work from Mr. Fosco within the Dragonverse! SD is quite an epic ride these days. All in all, another life affirming issue. Keep up the excellent work!

J.R Green  
Richmond, VA

**I think it's unrealistic to expect that our hero is responsible for every victory in these pages. Sometimes he's just a guy caught up in a bigger happening-- and sometimes he's the one who saves the day. That, I think, is more realistic. If Malcolm saves the day every time it becomes too preposterous and he becomes too powerful.**

Hey Erik,

Twenty years! Twenty! I've been reading Savage Dragon since the miniseries, and I think this might be the second time I've written in -- the first time I was around 17, from memory, and now I'm 34. I didn't even have an email account back then!

I've been a big fan of your artwork since I first clapped eyes on it, which is why I followed you from your stint at Marvel over to Image. What has made me stick with Savage Dragon, though, is that it's really a comic book fan's comic book. That might read like a back-handed compliment, but I mean it sincerely. What has always been great about Savage Dragon (aside from the artwork) is the knowing playfulness with the plots, art references and characters. I'm sure there is a lot that escapes my attention (especially the DC references!) but I like that, as a reader, I'm being spoken to with nudges, nods and winks. It's like a reward for being a grown man who has read funny books for longer than he probably should, you know? And it's subtle! Savage Dragon has been a flat-out enjoyable read on top of the subtext. Crossovers have consequences, time moves in a (pretty much) linear fashion and characters develop. It's all the things that, as a fanboy, I wished would happen with the larger properties over at the other companies, but I only get it here in such large doses.

On a technical level, I also enjoyed seeing your experiments with coloring and lettering in previous issues. It's nice to see someone testing ideas in a genre notorious for staying within very rigid conventions, down to the letter case.

Speaking of convention, it'd be good to see Savage Dragon printed in color on uncoated/newsprint stock next time you do anything retro. Actually, I just like the way comics look on uncoated paper. There. That's my fan request -- do what you do, only on uncoated paper.

When trying to review 20 years of reading a title like Savage Dragon, it's hard not to get nostalgic when attempting to explain what I like about it. So, before I dip into some questions, I'll note this: when I go into my local comic book store, I always scan the shelves for the latest issue of Savage Dragon because I'm looking forward to it. It'd be a great pity were that to stop.

I hear you hold your pen weirdly. How weird can it be, though? What's so odd about it? Are we going to see any more hordes of fantastic disposable villains, along the lines of the Vicious Circle? You can take that as an open request rather than a question, if you like. You always do great street-level villains, and I want to see more!

In #181, Dragon manages to advocate representative democracy as a panacea to all problems, after beating the sh\*\* out of his son in front of a crowd, in a pretty bold act of Mary Sue-ness (Oh come on, you didn't think this letter would be all praise, did you?). What challenges does a character like Dragon face when he can beat anyone he really disagrees with? Is it just a coincidence that he can physically enforce politics "he" happens to agree with, and those politics prevail? Oooh, it's like a metaphor for the USA!

A lot of the comic industry seem to be keen to move titles to digital platforms in the hope it will boost flagging fortunes (are they flagging?), and from what I've seen so far they've come up with the kind of content we saw on CD-ROMs in the mid-1990s. What are your thoughts on comics in general for the next 5 years? Will iPads save us all? Is anyone talking about innovations in print, price, format or distribution that you think is relevant for Savage Dragon or Image?

Thanks, Erik. I really appreciate what you've done with this comic. You keep making them, I'll keep buying them.

Leigh Milward,  
Australia

**I dunno that this is the best forum for discussing possible formats and options for the future of comics. Ultimately, it comes down to the readers and what they're willing to support. If readers insist that everything look the same in order to buy it--that's what will likely happen. If readers are more willing to take a chance on other things-- well, then there's that.**

**And if you really want to see my grip in action-- there are several videos on YouTube showing me drawing sketches.**

Hey guys!

I have loved Savage Dragon for longer than I can remember. I have a very fuzzy memory of the series from my childhood possibly as a TV show? But then while

in my local comic store I had a moment of epiphany connecting to my childhood realizing that you guys were still doing these comics. Now I buy the new one every time it's released. So I commend the work that you are doing, and wanted to write and let you know that I have appreciated this since the beginning. Thank you.

Andy Fleischer  
Louisville, KY

**Thank you. And there was indeed a Savage Dragon cartoon show. It aired from 1995 to 1996 on the USA Network.**

Erik,

It's amazing to me that I have stayed with ONE comic since its introduction back when Image FIRST started. I've been off and on with Spawn cuz I was more in love with the art than story. Cyber Force was cool. WildC.A.T.S was cool. Youngbl-, well, it was colorful. Pitt had potential! Wetworks was cool as hell (when it DID come out). ShadowHawk was pretty cool. I hop from book to book a lot because a lot of teams never stay on a book long enough to establish a good run and IF they do, they end up leaving!

Anyway, your book (Dragon, of course), has had SO many f\*\*\*in' adventures, cool ass plot twists, and the book has still managed to stay fresh after ALL this time! Despite the LATENESS sometimes, Savage Dragon to this day has always made me come back for more. That's the purpose of a comic, right? I hate that Dragon seems to have gotten lost in the sea of comics out there. It's such a treat but no one knows about it like a lot of us Dragon/Larsen fans would like! I'd wager it doesn't bother you as much but it others me sometimes what comic books sell that are not as imaginative as Dragon but sell sh\*\* loads.

SIGH.

I like how you handle Dragon and Angel's relationship and their adjustment to the superhero life style. I like how Dragon did his spiel with 'his people' and walked away. Dragon vs. Son was funny as hell by the way. Thanks for that fight. LOL! The seasoned veteran vs. the supposed mirror opponent. Classic. Also weird that there was no letters page in the back of ish 181.

I'm in the Air Force (besides being a full time firefighter) and after seeing that, I was compelled to write out my personal feelings on your most awesome comic book. If I can take out the time, ANYONE can! This is my second letter ever to you. I've never written more than once to a publisher but your book definitely deserves it and tons more letters. Keep up the good work, sir!

Adrian Mckinnie

**Will do, pal. Will do.**

Erik,

YOU ARE THE F\*\*\*IN' MAN.

Savage Dragon is WAY Better than Cerebus, and you are on track to best him. IN COLOR. Keep going man. MY favorite issue was the one where SD goes to meet the LITTLE ORPHAN ANNIE IS THE GODWORLD from issue 87 back in 2004 or something. I loved the art style in that issue.

Anyway what I want to get to is. I just watched the Nickelodeon series of Turtles and it was awesome thanks to your awesome series with Gary Carlson and Frank Fosco. My absolute favorite Turtles RUN.

You guys should pick it back up one day at issue #24 there's an unofficial one out there that really sucks in terms of the art but really blows minds.

But seriously if you guys don't get a IDW TPB for that whole run, an omnibus, then there's really something wrong. The IDW ART SUCKS. IMAGE ART IS SOOOO MUCH BETTER.

Also presidential stuff. Barack Obama is the Man. I'm so glad we finally have a Black President in the United States.

Thanks for all the Years of Great work.

I Do a comic under a pen name called the Unusual Adventure (Ad-Venture Comics)

I'd love it if you critiqued it at a convention sometime.

Savage Dragon's Fin Design is the Best Thing to Happen to Comics since the Turtles in 1984.

Peace Erik, You da man.

Fan Forever,

Will Moloney

**Thanks for that.**

Erik,

Just read Savage Dragon 181... awesome as usual Erik... I figured Angel would play the "mistake" role with Malcolm... Dragon should be happy that he's lived to almost see 50! Then again he could have been a slow aging immortal... but now he knows...wonder what his race will evolve into in the coming years...and the letters page... WTF? Lol my letter must've got lost which is why I'm writing this on your page! I know I wrote a letter to 179 because I was ecstatic about my first ever published letter in comics! Anyhoo keep up the good work E. Here's to #200 in 2013! Or early '14... saying those years make me feel so old... LOL.

Norv Henry AKA Slim Jim Longfoot

**Getting old sure beats the alternative.**

Hello Erik,

I've been reading Dragon since the late '90s and it's always a fun ride, still one of my most anticipated books every month.

You're always doing fun and interesting things with your book and characters, and I appreciate that. The one thing that irks me about Dragon is when you're committed to other projects or obligations. When you were president of Image for a while for instance, you did a fantastic job running the company, but Dragon suffered for it.

I'm not sure if it's time passing differently for me, but it doesn't feel like you're taking the time to build your world like you used to. The Savage Land stories were great, and I've heard from other fans that this was something of a sore spot for them; but I loved that run and hoped to have a little more of it.

Speaking of doing more with what you have, when Angel and Malcolm were trapped in Dimension-X I always wanted to see you do more with them. Either in the book or as a back up. Build up their characters even more, not to say you haven't in the years since; but it would have been a lot of fun seeing some Kamandi inspired adventures featuring young Malcolm and Angel.

Now it feels like you're speeding past potentially cool stories again.

I was excited to see Malcolm and Angel come to the foreground on the book. I love that time passes in real time, or close enough, in Dragon and that you're doing things with your book that other companies tap dance around or just plain reboot.

The biggest failing though is you spent years building Dragon and his world, and it feels like you're short sheeting Malcolm and Angel. I want to see new and original villains that are gunning specifically for these characters. I want to see the relationships between Malcolm and Angel and their foes develop the same way Dragon and Mako, or Dragon and Powerhouse did as an example.

Now you're bringing Dragon back to Earth so soon? This is an opportunity for Dragon in space stories as a back-up or as a side story. Take time to have Dragon explore his culture and hop around the galaxy to discover a new home world.

This assumes Dragon makes it back to Earth.

You create one of my favorite comics every month for the past 14 years, but I'd love to see you take some time to let these stories unfold and expand in a more natural feeling fashion like the olden days. Is there a reason why you're telling stories at such a breakneck pace now?

Thanks for the comics, your colorful commentary online, and fun characters. Keep up the good work.

Greg Golembiski

**There's a method to my madness. Hang in there.**

Hello Erik,

Issue 181: I am glad that Dragon whipped his sons butt so easily. I wouldn't have believed it otherwise, because Dragon is more experienced and his son never fought the real fight before. For me, the Dragon race is a bunch of p\*\*\*\*, so full of raw power and strength and yet they behave like sheep. They could do something good in the Universe with their abilities, but they choose not to do anything. It's a good thing Dragon leaves them, either that or he should try to teach and lead them, so that they can evolve into something greater. But he saw that this would be a lost cause, I suppose.

What is with the blank backgrounds in the first few pages. Did you left them because of deadline problems, or was it because you just saw it fit?

Keep it going,

Daniel Matzinke

Germany

BTW: Please tell me which character you bought recently? I read about that on a news site. You don't have to tell anybody else, just print it here. Ok, I know the answer: Just wait and see...

**It's ANT. I bought ANT from Mario Gully. And the blank backgrounds during the fight sequence was to emphasize the stark sterility of Dragon's people's world.**

Dear Erik,

I'm glad Dragon is still around and I applaud you for the weirdness that he went through, or at least his mind, err his body, no Kurr's body, no Virus's, oh whatever, I'm just wondering if Dragon will find his way home, or if there will be further space adventures ('judging' from the future covers he'll be back). I have to say that the coloring has improved since the initial run of Nikos and Mike started. They added too much shine on the skin of all characters to my taste, but now that it is toned down they are really adding to your art.

1. I was wondering if there is any significance to the fluorescent blues and reds used in this issue: do they point to older comic coloring?

The death of AllGod is really turning the old 'dues ex machina' storytelling contraption on its head: I love it!

With a lot mileage under his belt Savage Dragon is still going strong as far as I'm concerned, however I do need to reread the series at some point when I find the time, because there are many questions that I have:

1. What ever happened to the evil Dart storyline?
2. Will we ever revisit Jennifer? Her demise seem so...so off-screen.
3. Where did Darklord come from when he restored Dragon?
4. Dare I ask the truth about the indefinite holdup of Image United? Yes, I do: what is the truth about indefinite holdup of Image United?
5. How fast do you typically draw a single page?
6. Who is Dragon's arch-nemesis in your opinion?
7. Whatever happened to Barbaric, Ricochet and the rest of Freak Force?
8. How many issues of Freak Force were released?
9. Darklord flying in space wearing sneakers. Good stuff! Thanks for cramming this book full of extras all the time. I loved the extra pages of Vanguard, especially the tie-in to the main book was clever.
10. How many Kalyptans survived the Tyrranean invasion?

Erik thanks for a wonderful book, that I hope you will be able to produce for a long time to come.

Best wishes from the Netherlands,

Eduard Meijer

**1: She'll be back before you know it.**

**2: Maybe.**

**3: That remains a mystery.**

- 4: People aren't getting the work done. It's as simple as that.
- 5: I average 3-4 hours per page.
- 6: Himself.
- 7: I'll touch on them. They appeared recently.
- 8: There were 18 issues and then a three-issue miniseries some time later.
- 9: Thanks.
- 10: I'm not actually sure about that. I would guess there are a few out there somewhere but there aren't a lot.

Dear Erik,

Upon reading #181 I think I've come to the conclusion that you're not a fan of peace and are probably a republican..... Aside from that rather astute observation, I rather enjoyed seeing dragon's people finally find a home, even if it did come at the expense of vanguards people. I have a feeling that planet will go to hell in perhaps a Lorella in a Cleopatra type ruler/slave way. Speaking of ancient civilizations that did exist, any chance of an Atlantis/underwater arc? I know I can't be the only one who wants this. In closing, while I still love the series; I bet the pope dropped it after this issue. Cause we all know he reads Savage Dragon but, he's a bible fanboy. And all that pull your head out of your ass talk from Dragon doesn't jive with Catholic canon. Oh well, thanks.

Mike Boychuk  
Ontario, Canada  
PS Chicago Bull appearance?

**He's dead, dude.  
And...not so much of a Republican as it turns out.**

Hello Mr. Larsen,

I have always been a fan of Savage Dragon since I bought issue #1 of the mini series when I was a kid. Unfortunately I have not followed up on the Dragon as much as I would have liked. I have picked up issues here and there as I got older. Recently I bought a Savage Dragon figure from The "Legendary Heroes" line and I loved it. I loved it so much I decided to see what Dragon was up to. I bought the latest issue at the time. (#180) Needless to say I was lost, however thanx to Comixology and fan letters I was able to backtrack and put together the story to catch me up to current events. I was totally blown away and amazed by what has transpired in Dragon's universe. You have truly kept Dragon going in interesting and sometimes heartbreaking stories that I absolutely enjoy. Again it made me regret not being on the Dragon ride all the way but going forward I intend to hang on till issue 200 and beyond. Kudos, Mr. Larson. (Yes I said Kudos!)

That being said I just wanted to comment on issue 181. I truly and wholehearted concur with Dragon's statements on religion. It is the exact reason why I do not believe in any religion that follows antiquated doctrines of any sort. Of course I do not mean to insult or offend people that belong to any numerous types of religion. If it works for you then so be it. I am a spiritualist and I do choose to believe in God. I used to be Catholic but I chose to question the practices and beliefs of said religion. The answers I received were illogical and hypocritical. It did not work for me and so I moved on and I am much happier for it.

I hope I didn't come off preachy and stuff, I just wanted to write to say thank you for all the interesting Dragon stories and the many more to come.

A renewed fan,  
Denny Lopez  
Hollywood, CA

**As long as you keep preaching the good word about Savage Dragon--I have no complaints!**

Hi Erik,

I don't get to write in to all the comic books that I love all that often. Reason being is that on any average day I don't have enough minutes in the day to read as much as I'd like, much less write e-mails into a couple dozen books a month. I have a feeling that with the busy schedule that you and most other folks keep now-a-days, you can identify with this.

But, my goal with this e-mail was not to scold you for scolding us. It was to sit and take a moment to let you know that even without a letter sent after having read every Savage Dragon issue, it has been one of my favorite comic books since the first issue of the initial mini-series. Savage Dragon has more imagination and guts than most every other comic book being published now and then. You're never afraid to take giant leaps with your character and universe, whether that means killing characters or planets, or having the book go through major plot-line shifts not just once a year but pretty much every issue. Savage Dragon has been a cop, a super hero, a politician, dead, an alien, and a whole bunch of other things. And when he changes his costume or career or whatever else, things don't just go back to norm as most comics have the habit of doing.

So, we've established that I like that book. On top of that, I have always admired your professionalism and stubborn nature as a creator. To write and draw 181 issues in a row with no end in sight is an amazing feat. The fact that throughout that run you also worked on a bunch of other books ranging from Aquaman to Wolverine and now to Supreme makes that track record even more impressive. Remember that time when Jim Lee did Savage Dragon 13, and then to keep your run intact you went back and did your own 13th issue? Amazing! I look forward to at least 120 more issues, and will take pride in my part in the phenomena as a fan who has purchased every issue and spin-off book and occasional action-figure.

Anyhow, sorry you didn't get any letters. I will do my best to check in more often.

Josh Stafford  
Ontario

**Thanks, man.**

Hey, Erik,

I just finished reading SAVAGE DRAGON #182, and I loved Captain Stewart's eloquence. Stewart's immortal words – "Aw, hell...!" – captured exactly what I was thinking about Malcolm's fight with Overlord. That was intense! And so was Malcolm and Angel's fight with Thunder-Head and WarGod. But, awesome fight scenes aside, I really liked the compassion that Malcolm showed Thunderhead, and the comic's acknowledgement that the world's problems don't always require smack downs and jail time. Work quickly, sir; I'm eager to see Malcolm's fate in SAVAGE DRAGON #183.

Jeremy Beebe  
Kansas City, MO

**Done!**

Erik Larsen,

I love everything about this comic, from the story lines, to the creative characters, to the fact that you do all your own art. But most importantly, I wanted to congratulate you on the 40th Anniversary since the creation of Dragon and the 30th Anniversary since Dragon's first appearance was published. It is amazing that he has withstood the test of time and how far it's all come. You truly have a forever fan in me. Thank you and keep the hits coming!

Andy Gibson,  
Central Iowa

**Thank you.**

**To those not already in the know--I created the Dragon when I was a kid and drew his unpublished adventures throughout grade school and high school. He first saw print in Graphic Fantasy #1 published in 1982. And what a long strange trip it's been.**

Erik,

Savage Dragon #182. Such a fantastic issue!!! Not only was I pleased as punch to see some old friends make an appearance (Dung, Powerhouse, etc.), it was a blast to learn more about Thunder-Head's "origins" with him being Malcolm's brother!!!

I wanted to also applaud you on the spiritual aspect being brought back up within your book in regard to the "AllGod" ramifications and the "Church of Savage Dragon." I personally agree with the church-leader's opinion that it is the right of all people to believe in whatever their afterlife will be...or won't be, if the belief is that there is no God or afterlife. I feel that our world would be such a better place if we would all be tolerant of just allowing each other to believe in something that makes us better people in the end

As I'm sure many of your readers can agree, I am very excited to see the big reveal as to who the new Overlord is. This issue seems to lean towards Frank Jr. being behind the mask...but I know how you can take a completely different turn in your storylines, which is still the number one reason that I have kept reading your book. Can't wait to find out in issue 183!

In regard to the back-up tales in SD, will there be more installments of Vanguard by Gary Carlson and Frank Fosco? Or will you begin a series of villain spotlights as recently alluded to in your Q&A to issue 182?

Thanks!  
Jonesy  
Phoenix, AZ

**There will be any number of things showing up in these pages. Next issue, for example, that means Zeek by Gavin Higginbotham and Frank Fosco.**

Erik,

Good issue! All kind of interesting sub plots floating around. It started off with a great little battle and once again, death rears its ugly head as WarGod bites the dust! I thought that was a cool name and it still amazes me that you're so willing to kill off potentially interesting characters so quickly. But you always manage to come up with even more interestingly named villains, so I won't complain too much. You're turning Thunderhead into something special. I was surprised that he's Malcolm's alternate dimension "brother", is that a new revelation or did I just miss something?

I have a feeling you have long term plans for him. It's interesting, Thunderhead is kind of the opposite of Malcolm, while both have Rapture for their mother, Malcolm's father is a superhero, Thunderhead's was a supervillain. Malcolm's powers and parentage have made him famous while Thunderheads have made him an outcast. I kinda feel sorry for him. I think there's lots of story potential there. He could end up being Malcolm's best friend or his greatest enemy.

Lots of other cool tidbits in this issue. Angel being offered a spot on the police department. The rise of the church of the Savage Dragon. And I was very happy to see Powerhouse again. He's a favorite and I'm hoping he shows up more often. And Malcolm getting trashed by Overlord! I guess we'll get to see Malcolm's fast healing ability at its best. Overlord is still kind of an enigma to me, he's ruthless and is quick to kill but he doesn't seem completely evil. He's always mouthing noble sounding platitudes but with him the ends always justifies the means. I guess that truly defines a great villain, someone who doesn't see himself as a villain. And it looks like we find out his identity next issue. And Savage Dragon is conspicuous by his absence. Last we saw him, he was being abandoned in deep space by Darklord. I thought you were leading up to Dragon returning to earth but now, I don't know....Let's face it Erik, you never do the obvious. That's all for now, I look forward to the next issue. And I just want to say it was a blast finally meeting you at the New York Comic Con. You are a hell of a nice guy and the highlight of the convention for me!

Take care,  
Don Massi  
25 Thompson Ave.  
Mt. Ephraim, NJ 08059

**Thanks, man. I enjoy the hell out of that show.**

Erik,

Issue 182 was a fun issue that definitely seemed to be moving along at a nice clip. I enjoyed it and look forward to the possibility of Angel on the police force. I wanted to just drop some questions on you:

1. If Dragon comes back, would the Church in his namesake declare him a false idol?
  2. Does Powerhouse even age? If so, is it only in chicken years, or superfeak-chicken years?
  3. Savage Dragon pint glasses? Does it help if I say please?
  4. Overlord is great, but he seems to just fly around yelling at people recently. Is he gonna do something big soon?
  5. So with the Rock House diner gone, are we gonna see Rock, Zeek and co. soon?
  6. Could these Vicious Circle snippets indicate another Gang War type storyline?
  7. What are the odds Thunder-head and Malcolm go to the underworld to look for their parents?
  8. Can we see more Firepower?
- That's it for now. Keep up the good work!
- Shawn D.  
New Jersey

**1: More like the second coming.**  
**2: I would suppose so. A lot of the descendants of the gods seem to age slower but his human counterpart would certainly show signs of it if he were to change back.**

- 3: Not really.
- 4: Not at this point, no.
- 5: It's being rebuilt.
- 6: We'll be seeing a lot more of the Vicious Circle in the issues to come. Where they're at war with each other remains to be seen.
- 7: No. Rapture and SkullFace are dead. And Malcolm knows where his dad is--and it's not the underworld.
- 8: Soon.

Hey Erik,

I'm trying really hard to restrain myself from dishing out the over the top positive praise you deserve. It's one thing to be on a hot streak for a year or two, but twenty? Come on Erik, what are you trying to do? Everyone knows that you're supposed to take a huge dip in quality as the years go on, not maintain or exceed that quality. Sigh. What can I say? You still got it.

Issue 182 had everything a good comic is supposed to have and then some. I'm glad to see that you brought back the big banana that is Thunder-Head. There is something about this guy and I liked when he first appeared back in 171. His latest appearance only exemplifies my interest in the character and broadens who he is and what he may become. Not only is he an unique character, he's also Malcolm's half brother! I would say he's my favorite of your creations in the last 10 years or so and I'm going to be keeping my eye out for him.

Glad to see the letters back in the issue as the morbid letter page of 181 was scarier than Dragon being mutilated by Hellrazor and Cutthroat. That page legitimately scared me.

It was nice to see the one page spotlight on the VC. The fact that you can create characters as easy it is to make a peanut butter and jelly sandwich for others has always been a big mystery. The wrinkle dude looks sympathetic, yet psychotic all in the same panel. No easy task. You're one of the few comic creators with a true sense of character designs, alongside Kirby. Seems like you're in good company. Also, it looks like father time hasn't been on friendly terms with Dung. The poor guy is looking a lot worse for wear since we last saw him.

Glad to see an issue focused on Malcolm and Angel as it seemed like they were regulated to the side lines for the past few issues. Seeing Malcolm sympathizing with Thunderhead and later going ballistic with Overlord in the same issue shows us how complex and how many layers this character truly has.

1. While Overlord may be in the gray spectrum of good and evil, Malcolm sure doesn't see it that way. What is it about Overlord that makes Malcolm flip at the sight of him?

2. You killed WarGod! While, we have assumed that Jerry the kid from 171 was WarGod's son, you have remained silent. Is Jerry his son, or does his bloodline end with him?

3. Many creators grow bored and abandon their characters within a few years, yet you are still going strong after 20. What has kept you interested in these characters for so long? (BTW, thank you for doing this book for as long as you have. I'm sure most of us don't take this for granted)

4. Last time I asked you this question a few years back I screwed up with my spelling, and got an answer I didn't expect. (Damn you, brain!) I'm not sure if you remember the grand master, but was wondering what Rogue Warrior has been up to and if he will be coming out of hiding anytime soon. The man hasn't lost a fair fight yet!

Well, before this turns into a mindless ramble, let me say that you've been hitting those grand slams for some time now. Since picking up my first comic at the sophisticated age of five a little over twenty years ago this is the only comic I've ever felt compelled to write a POSITIVE letter for and I'm guessing that will probably never change. Keep up the good work, because this is one damn good book.

Sincerely,  
Benny Hasa  
San Jose, CA

**I: I think it's the fact that Overlord seemingly killed his dad.**

**2: Jerry is WarGod's son.**

**3: The fact that things keep changing is a big part of why I keep interested.**

**It can change into a different kind of book in a matter of issues (and has).**

**4: He's overdue for a return visit. I'll get around to him.**

To all Fin Addicts,

A few months ago, I made certain suggestions within the Fin Addicts letter pages and it would seem that they've been addressed -- because I took the time to write in (and I am very grateful, if it is indeed the case).

I can go back to earlier issues and catch up on what I had to say about the book. That was almost 20 years ago, in some cases, but what really matters is that I am part of Savage Dragon's publication history. We all are. And these recent requests of mine, whether they went unanswered or not, just another good reason to write in. Please do. Thank you for including us in your book, Erik.

Simon Mallette  
Montreal

**My pleasure.**

Erik,

As always I love the ideas. The ideas are the strong point of Savage Dragon. It is the execution where things are sometimes lacking. The mystery of Overlord's identity is needing some spice this go around and I have to say, if the final revelation about Overlord lacks the impact of Malcolm and Thunderhead's recently revealed connection (called this one upon Thunderhead's first appearance!) then I really, really hope there will be a wonderfully drawn final battle to make up for it. As to Malcolm and Thunderhead, well, Thunderhead is probably my favorite new character of yours in some time. The scene where they sent goons to escort him out of the office was probably the most emotionally believable thing you've written in a good while, but the big reveal of his connection to Malcolm through this world's Rapture didn't feel very BIG. I'll be interested to see where the story of the two "brothers" goes from here, but things felt less like a milestone and more like a speed bump.

Another great idea abandoned before it got properly explored? Dragon leading his people through space. I was really excited by this development and now it seems like Dragon is on his way back home already. We get a fight with a tree monster, Dragon gassing the Tyrreans (sp?), a fight with Krull, andnd that's about it. You are killing me, man. If this entire subplot wasn't fertile ground for stories then I don't know what would be. Everything just seems very by the numbers of late. Dragon turns the Krylan's entire culture upside down, stages elections, and then decides to leave with a simple, "You'll figure things out." Dragon has always been a shade irresponsible, but this is practically out and out unconscionable. Heavily armed revenge squads will be coming to Earth to hunt down Dragon in three years tops, guaranteed.

Anyway, 'bout time to feed the kid soon, so here's a grab bag of quick observations: Angel is kind of a bitch. She has her mother's snappish attitude and Dragon's blunt sarcasm. Not a great combo. If you are still alive after next issue, good luck, Frank Jr.! Where's Daredevil? Missing that guy. Dart too. I'm hoping the whole Church of Dragon thing ends with rival sects both trying to kill their own prophet, Dragon. Yay, religion! Thor needs bionic eyes. Bring back the VC villains! Oh, yeah, who was the smoldering green guy on page 10, panel 5 of #182?

That's all I got time for, chief! Keep Dragon rockin' and I'll keep rollin'!

Greg O'Driscoll  
Blackshear, GA

P.S. Any chance SkullFace will be making a return through the zombified body of WarGod? Please?

**I'm not a big fan of resurrections, Greg. SkullFace is gone.**  
**The smoldering green guy is called Bile.**

Hey Erik,

Just finished Dragon 182, and damn, how about that ending, huh? I've been reading Dragon for years now (and actually just finished my full set by finally tracking down issue 31! Did it the old fashioned way to: by scouring every comic shop in the land!) and I've never thought I had anything worth writing in about, but after this issue I had to. That ending just blew me away, sir! I know the shot Overlord gave Malcolm was mostly to one side, but without his Dads healing factor, can he really survive this one? Any other comic, I would say no, but I never underestimate your love of big deaths (that mean something) and you desire to keep up on our feet. It will be interesting either way. I also have this feeling that Dragon is just going to conveniently arrive at the start of next issue and possibly pound the crap outta Overlord, but what do I know! Okay, gotta hit ya with a few questions/comments:

1. It was great seeing Dung! ...but he is so old! Will he be passing the awesome power of the Dung suit to someone else before he dies? Actually, can he even take the suit off? Can't recall ever seeing him without it.

2. How does Malcolm make the jump to Rapture being Thunder-Heads mother? Did Solar Man really not kill anyone off panel? Was she his only female kill?

3. Do you have long term plans for Thunder-Head and will he just keep being obsessed with his father?

4. I know things are busy, but any chance of a Deadly Duo appearance in the near future?

Anyway, this was a hell of an issue and thanks for putting out the best friggin' comic in the universe!

Your loyal reader,  
Don Smith  
Vancouver, BC, Canada

**1: We'll be getting more into Dung and the rest of the Vicious Circle over the next few issues. We'll find out more then.**

**2: No, she's dead. She would have had Thunder-Head years ago. And no, she was not Solar Man's only female victim. Solar Man killed Tiger, years ago, which was the incident that prompted Sgt. Marvel to first use the God Gun. Once to bring him down and once to bring her back.**

**3: He has father issues, to be sure, but he'll move on. I'm nowhere near done with him.**

**4: I have too many characters. I really do. I'll try to squeeze them in when I can. I do love those guys.**

Erik,

Hey, no title page!

I'm glad the Thunderhead plot was revisited in a relatively timely manner. I was worried that particular thread might dangle for a while. It looks like he'll be back soon, too! I applaud the use of "SHRAKKA-THRA-KOOM!" over the more customary "BRAKKA-BRAKKA-DOOM!" If the super-fans who catalog every \*SD\* villain need a break from that, I would like to see a catalog of every sound effect, sorted by frequency of appearance. Someone get on it!

I see Malcolm shares his father's knack for getting holes blown in him by Overlord. It's nice when traditions are passed down like that.

I really liked the colors in the Vanguard story. I appreciate that you got the various black colors just right (100% black vs. 100% black plus a neighboring color), as seen in the second panel. My only criticism is that I think you might go just a bit overboard on the miss-registration effect sometimes, as on page five. It looks cool, and I realize that actually happens, but it pulls me a bit out of the story. That said, I would fully support an issue or twenty of \*Savage Dragon\* with this coloring style.

I'm torn on the lack of 2012 presidential politics in \*SD\*. On one hand, I'm grateful to have some time where I get to visit a fantasy world, insulated from the existence of Mitt Romney. On the other hand, it would be gratifying to see Dragon punch him out, #119-style. Or maybe Malcolm or Angel could do it. Or all three of them.

Keep making comic books!

Nick Burgess

Boston, Massachusetts

**The jury's still out on title pages. When this book launched as an ongoing series I didn't have them for years. When we made the switch with #76 I was using them but some readers preferred it when I didn't have them and liked it when the stories spilled from one issue into another in the trades.**

**As far as politics go...I just thought I'd done enough with it. It felt like it was time to move on to other things.**

Hi Erik,

So things are getting complicated for Good Ol' Peter Par...I mean Malcolm Dragon. I loved the scene with Overlord in the Gossip Rag's offices - too cool.

You are advancing the plot at a rapid rate of knots too, I am piqued with what will happen with Angel and Frank and the Chicago Police Force offer.

I think the church of SD is ready for somebody to really wig out and go nuts.

Really loving the back to Earth direction. Thunder-head will probably run off and on, but I am sure you will prove me wrong in the next bunch of issues.

Some Requests (Please!!!)

1 - More Zip-tone (or photoshopped) inking. I have no artistic talent but I will goddamn demand that someone with a 25+ year career in visual art acquiesce to my predilections!

2 - A little info on the back-up feature, what is happening if (when?) Vanguard goes away?

As always, a superb funnybook. You keep creating, I'll keep reading.

Regards,

Matt Fogarty

Brisbane, Australia

**1: I'm hot and cold on that. Sometimes it's a great effect-- other times it just seems like something that color can achieve better. But this issue is pretty much loaded with the stuff.**

**2: I actually don't know. I haven't made any long term plans (although Gavin Higginbotham has a lot of them).**

Hey Erik,

Pretty cool to have the focus back on Malcolm and Angel again for issue #182! And the revelation that Thunder-Head and Malcolm are brothers from different Rapture mothers?! Didn't see that coming, but it does add a little twist that I can envision you developing further down the road for sure. I always thought next to HellRazor, that WarGod was just a cool pimpin' visual character. Alas, WarGod shall pimp no more. I hope Thunder-Head finds help eventually in his attempts to resurrect his dad. If Dragon brings down Overlord sometime soon, it would be very cool to see an old school villain like SkullFace return! Speaking of old school, man has Dung aged or what?! Oh-Dey!

Interesting development you've started with the Church Of Savage Dragon. Can't wait to see you possibly bring some crazy religious zealots out of the congregation into the streets of Chicago! Before I bought the issue and saw people mentioning a stained glass fin on the forums, I had some wild visions of what that would be all about. I thought Dragon was going to don an actual slip-over stained glass fin or something. Don't ask me why, I know it wouldn't have made any sense. But I still think that would be a sick visual.

Glad to see Malcolm and Angel reconcile and Malcolm attempt to TCB at the Gossip Rag. I say attempt, because it was even more satisfying to see that sweet splash page of Overlord, and to see him hand Malcolm his @\$\$! Isn't it about time for Malcolm to develop some chest and body hair like his old man? Very nice

rendering and ink spattering on the last page with him getting almost blown in half! It's always satisfying to get those kind of bold cliffhanger pages at the end of an issue. A couple of questions since I never bother...

1. I'm writing this letter the Monday night before election day. Why no Obama endorsement covers or anything like that this time around for 2012?

2. I got a weird feeling after reading the issue a few times. I'm sure it'll be revealed before this possibly sees print, so... Overlord isn't Frank Jr. is he?!

3. I'm enjoying Nikos Koutsis's coloring now a lot more than I used to. How did you come across his work and get him on board as colorist?

4. We're realistically less than two years away from issue #200! In five words or less, can you give us a clue as to what you might be building up to for that monumental issue?

Thanks again for another stellar issue, and holler at you next time!

Good Times,

Nick Justus

Somerville, NJ

**1: Not that it wasn't as important but I just felt as though I'd been there and done that.**

**2: No.**

**3: I tried my hand and coloring (and lettering) for a while but it became apparent that it was not helping my schedule any so I went searching for colorists. Nikos is a talented artist in his own rights and I'd seen a few things he'd colored on his own work and I contacted him to see if he'd be interested in giving it a shot. After having seen his efforts-- I gave him the gig.**

**4: Fist fight.**

Hi Erik,

After years of waiting, planning and scheming, the time is now! I seem to have the letters page all to myself!

Finally, my chance of ever getting published in one seem a thousand-fold. Ever since the beginning of this series have seen people pop up, from Olav Beemer from Zeist, whom some thought to be Overlord himself, to John Byrne, but I digress. Seeing the empty page can only mean a couple of things. People just were really content with reading Savage Dragon and might just had nothing to comment about. Or people all lost internet connecting for a real long time simultaneously.

Either way, I just want to say that ever since the beginning, I've been reading your funnybook, and for the last 20 years been doing so with a lot of pleasure.

Please keep the letters page.

I'll send in a mail every week to fill it if needs be, or draw my rendition of a SD character, anything to maintain this section!

Cheers,

Lennart Boorsma

Amsterdam, The Netherlands

**Writing an occasional letter will do just fine.**

Dearest Erik,

I apologize. I had been meaning to write for a long time, but I just kept forgetting before I ever sat down to type it. I have neglected my responsibilities to my favorite comic since 1992. I will try to be more interactive in the future. You have printed my letters at least four times in the past, starting with issue #24, and this is the only book in which I have been printed. We also had lunch at a convention once. Though for you it was breakfast.

I recently finished reading the giant Thor Omnibus by Walter Simonson, and in the beginning, I was so sure it was your art. The visual style, panel layout, dramatic poses, inks and colors, and even the character designs and armor all looked like yours. I checked the credits, but the art was also by Walt Simonson, not you. So, was that before your time, then? I know of your iconic rendition of Spider-Man, but much of your earlier work was before I got into comics. Was Walt Simonson a big impression on your art style? I still remember it was that very issue of Thor contained in that Omnibus where Thor fought the World Serpent in an all-splash-page issue that was your inspiration for Savage Dragon #7. I think I liked yours better.

Also, I'm so glad you finally resolved Dragon's past. I think this was really a good thing to add to the comic. With so many bloodthirsty invading aliens, it was nice to see the exact opposite kind, and the different problems that brings up. It gave Dragon a lot of good opportunities to explain his personal philosophies, and develop his character a lot more than punching things usually does. Fortunately, there was also some punching things. Sorry I asked about his origin at that convention.

You'll always keep printing copies of Dragon, right? I mean, if you beat Sim's 300 issue run on Cerebus, but with digital copies, it just wouldn't feel right. Please keep going!

Benjamin Bernard

**Walt Simonson was a huge influence. One of many, to be sure, but definitely a major player.**

**And I'll keep going as long as I can. There are certain economic realities that I have to face. If sales drop below a certain level I'll have to give up the ghost (whatever that means) but I would certainly like to continue indefinitely.**

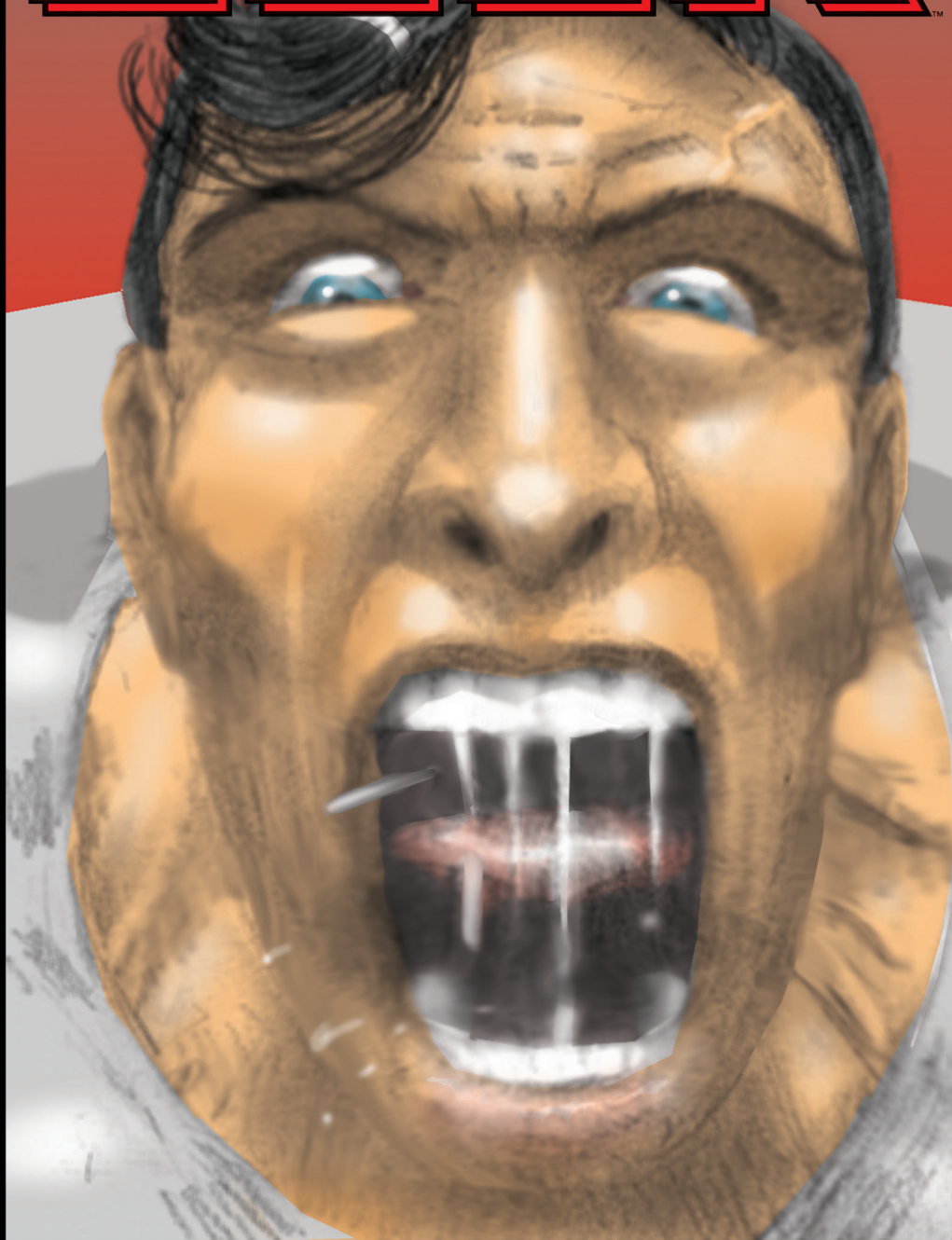
**Thanks for picking the book up in the first place. Tell your friends.**

**-Erik Larsen**

**NEXT: The Long Goodbye.**

**NEXT ISSUE:**

# **ZEEK**



RATED T+ / TEEN PLUS