

TORGO!

BOOK #1



TORGO: An Introduction

by Rob Imes

The contents of this issue have been in the making for a long time -- forty years to be exact.

It was in late 1980 or early 1981, around the time that I turned 10 years old, that I began drawing a one-page superhero strip called "**Torgo!**" (the title usually had an exclamation point at the end). I was in 5th grade and drew each episode on a single piece of paper, and kept doing them because my classmate Matt Seidl seemed to enjoy them.

The character Torgo was an android who fought for good, having rebelled from his evil creator **Dr. Ogrot**. (Ogrot is Torgo spelled backwards, of course.) Ogrot created an army of robot foes for Torgo to fight (most notably Claw, who had a claw on the end of one arm), and I was perhaps inspired by Captain Marvel's arch-foe Dr. Sivana in creating Ogrot.

Torgo (in name anyway) was inspired by the obscure Lee-Kirby character whose original appearance had recently been reprinted in *Marvel's Greatest Comics* #74 (Nov. 1977). Marvel's Torgo looked like a robot whereas mine had a helmet like Iron Man's (I got rid of the opening for the mouth in the mid-1980s). I also liked the jagged edges on Giant-Man's gloves, so in the 1980-81 episodes, I had Torgo wearing similar gloves, although later abandoned that idea because it seemed to clash with the rest of his costume.

I wrote and drew just over thirty of these one-page Torgo strips, concluding with a #31 (or #33, evidently I had lost count), drawn on the back of a school newsletter dated March 1981. That final strip is included in this issue, spread across two pages to make it easier to view, since the paper size on this final installment was 8.5" x 14". (The rest had been drawn on 8.5" x 10" paper.)

My classmate Matt offered to buy all 30+ Torgo episodes from me, which I was happy to agree to. So that all of the sheets would be together, they were put in a folder, and I drew a picture of Torgo on the front of it. (I have reprinted that drawing as the cover of this new issue.) On the back of the folder, I started doing a faithful recreation of the very first Torgo strip. Unfortunately, I only did the first 5 panels of this redraw before turning my attention elsewhere, and never got back to it. Anyway, the comics belonged to Matt, and I think he tried to continue the redrawn #1, beginning a new panel, but also gave up the attempt. That unfinished redrawn version of #1 also appears in this issue.

Unfortunately that is all that survives of my 1980-81 Torgo comics: the final episode (#31/33), the unfinished redrawn #1, and the cover image. But I'm to blame for this, since shortly after he bought the Torgo strips, Matt evidently felt bad about having the strips and gave them all back to me. That was back in the early 1980s, and I haven't seen them since the mid-1980s, so I assume that they accidentally got thrown away back then.



(Above drawing circa 1985)

In 1982, I started writing comic book scripts in a journal about a superhero named Captain Universe (another name owned by Marvel, although I had thought up the name before I saw the Marvel character) and eventually I added Torgo to the storyline. It was in these strips that it was established that Torgo lived on a parallel Earth called Concord, and that is where most of his adventures take place. Torgo and Captain Universe, along with a Moon Knight-lookalike called Major Megoin, were the "big three" of a JLA-style group called The Protectors (also later called The Galactians, when The Protectors looked a little too obvious and generic a name). I drew a few illustrations of the group, but drew no comics featuring them. Shown in this issue are a few such illos from the 1980s that feature Torgo, including one for a

TORGO Book One

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fantasy-based series called "Trapworld" (I always liked that name). Another superhero strip I had an idea for during the early 1980s was "The Soldier and the Cyborg" (which also has a nice ring to it). While unrelated to Torgo, it does feature an android hero and so I've included two pages that I drew circa 1983 (unfortunately all that were done).

In 1986, I attempted to revive Torgo with a new series of one-pagers, picking up the numbering where it left off. But **Torgo #34** (also in this issue) was the only one that I did of this 1986 version. Also around that time, I drew three short parody one-page strips using the character. **Turdo #2 & 3** are included here; I haven't found #1 (although perhaps it's for the best!).

Back then, I drew these pages on any scrap of paper available, even ruled notebook paper (like "Turdo" was), with no thought of how that might affect its future preservation. While I have allowed some of the earlier pages to retain a "warts and all" look for this issue, others I felt were worthy of spending some time trying to restore them to their original state. In some cases this meant spending hours manually erasing lines that had bled through from the other side of the page. Happily the reproduction in this collection is the best available, even though I wasn't able to access the original artwork for some of the strips and had to rely on photocopies I had made.

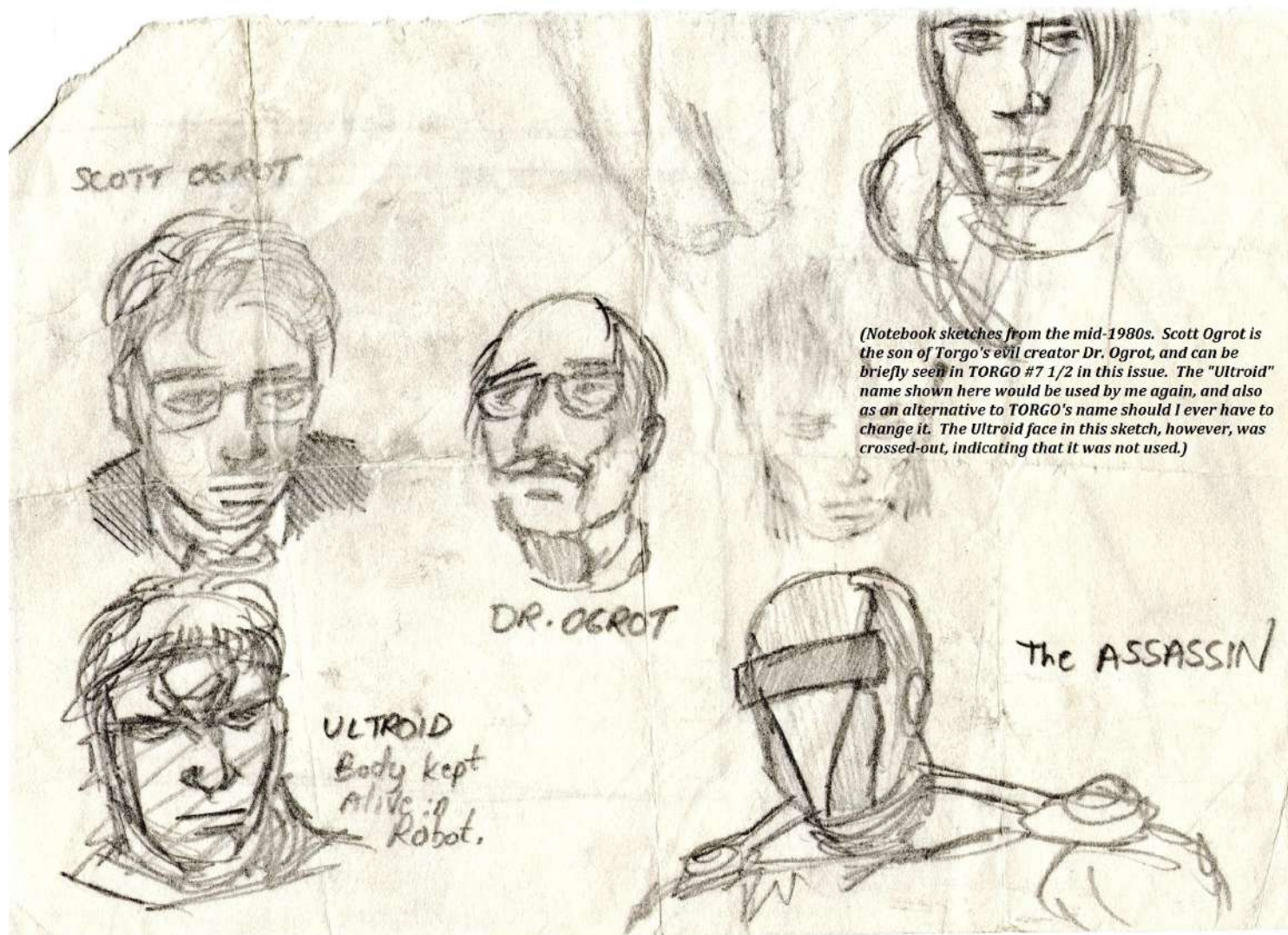
By 1989, my friend Matt Seidl had moved to England and I was regularly writing letters to him. One day I thought it would be fun to draw up new one-page Torgo stories for

him, drawn on the backs of my letters. I started fresh with a new #1, subtitled "The New Beginning," and did seven of them (#1-7) before calling it a day. I made xeroxes of the strips before sending them off to Matt, but stupidly I wasn't concerned about quality control and the left page edge is severely cropped on my photocopies.

A few years ago, when I was thinking of doing a reprint of my Torgo strips, I asked Matt for copies of those seven strips, and he was able to email me scans of all but #7. So, I have extended the left page edge on my xerox of #7 and filled in the missing material to make it complete. You may be able to detect the addition yourself, but if not: everything above and below the "19" in "1989" was added in 2021.

In 1990, I drew some more Torgo one-pagers for Matt, starting with #8. (These reference the old-time radio series *The Hall of Fantasy*, and I printed #8-10 in my OTR fanzine *Tune In* in 1992.) I soon realized I'd not picked up the story where #7 had left off, so I drew a #7 1/2 to fill the gap (drawn around the time I drew #10, but placed in numerical order for this collection). I don't know if I did a #12, but I did draw half of a #13 (retelling Torgo's origin) before calling it quits again. I did draw an undated #1 ("*Night of the Ghouls*"), probably in the early 1990s, but there was no #2. And that was the last Torgo strip I did.

Nonetheless, I had fun drawing these, and in fact #10 ("*Red Blood and Candy*") is one of my favorite comics that I've ever done. Will I ever draw another Torgo story? As the saying goes: only time will tell!





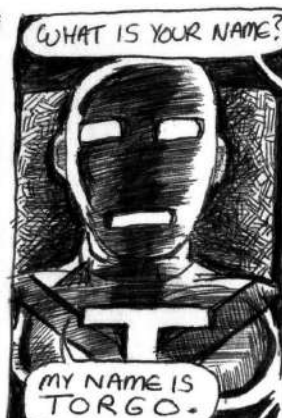
(Above: The unfinished recreation of TORGO #1 (circa Dec. 1980), drawn in 1981 when I was 10 years old. The original TORGO #1, along with TORGO #2 through #30 from 1980-1981, no longer survive. Below: An unfinished TORGO strip from Dec. 1990, done when I was 20 years old, telling the origin of TORGO.)

TORGO!

#13 by R. James

THE ORIGIN OF TORGO!

10th ANNIVERSARY





On this page, and the next page, is the final TORGO strip, #31 (or #33, the original number was written over at some point) from March 1981.

I think that my friend Matt crossed off the "The End" box at the bottom (last panel on next page), perhaps intending to continue the series.

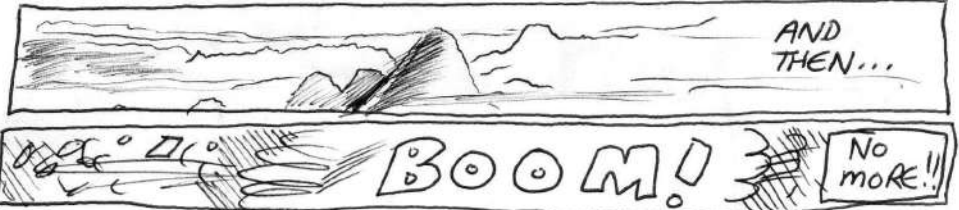


TORGO!

#34

©1986 r.imes—

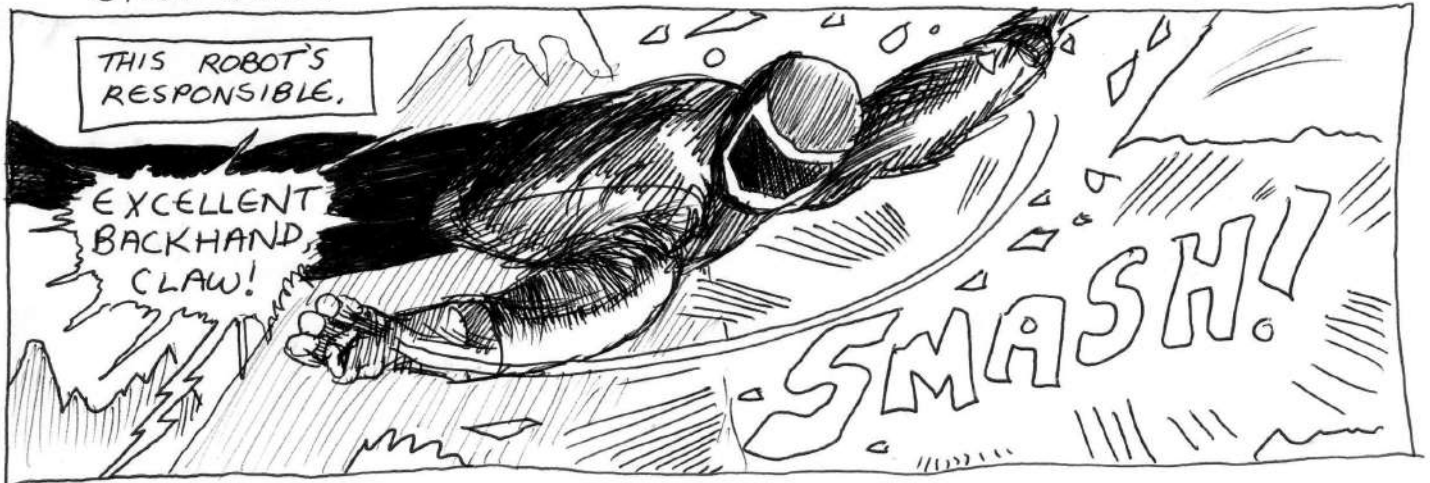
A LONELY MOUNTAINTOP...



AND
THEN...

BOOM!

No
more!!



THIS ROBOT'S
RESPONSIBLE.

EXCELLENT
BACKHAND,
CLAW!

THIS SCIENTIST IS
RESPONSIBLE FOR THE
ROBOT.



EXCELLENT,
INDEED.



HIS NAME'S
OGROT.



HIS
NAME'S
CLAW.



HIS NAME'S
TORGO!

WHAT'S UP,
CLAW?
?



AND THUS, THE BRIEF
BATTLE ENSUES...

LOOK OUT,
CLAW!!
IT'S
TORGO!!



A BATTLE WHO'S
WINNER WAS, ALAS,
NEVER IN DOUBT...

CLAW.



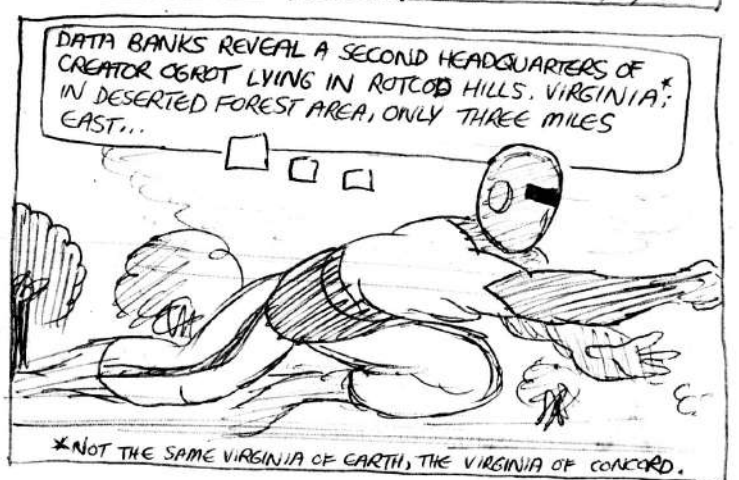
to be continued...

TORGO!

1

THE NEW BEGINNING

©1989 by r.imes



Next:

My
Brother,
MY
ENEMY!

DON'T MISS IT!

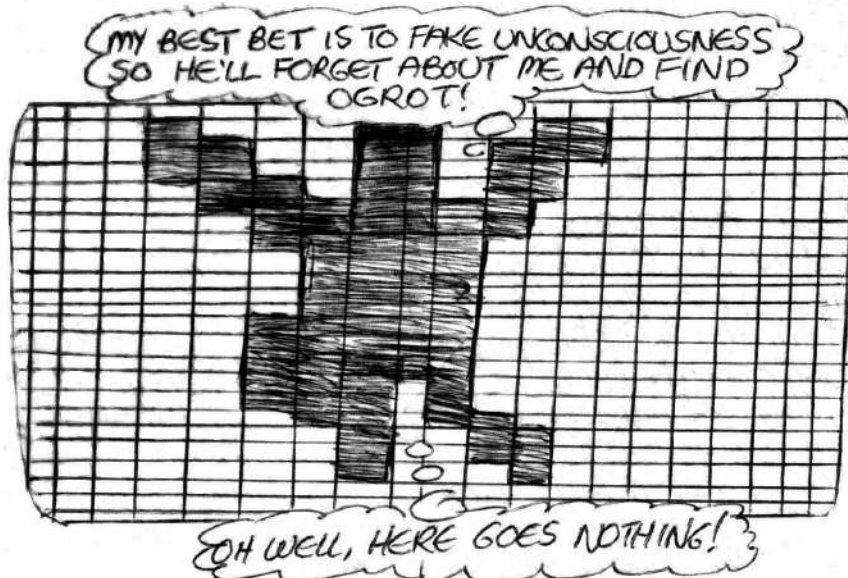
TORGO!

#2

• The New Beginning •

"My Brother,
My Enemy!"

©1989 by rob imes



TO BE CONTINUED...

TORGO!

3

• THE NEW BEGINNING •

©1989 by rob imes



NEEDLESS TO SAY: To be Continued!!

TORGO!

#4

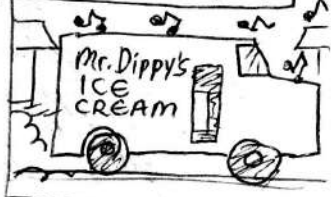
• THE NEW BEGINNINGS •

©1989 by rob imes

IT'S A NORMAL DAY IN ROTCOD HILLS, VIRGINIA! KIDS ARE PLAYING, DOGS ARE BARKING, RELIGIOUS FOLLOWERS ARE PRAYING IN MASS ON THEIR FRONT LAWNS...



AND MR. DIPPY IS ON THE REGULAR BEAT, MAKING HAPPY THE LIVES OF BOTH YOUNG AND OLD...



HEY! IT'S DIPPY-TIME! LET'S GO GET SOME ICE CREAM!



HIYA, BOYS & GIRLS! WHAT'LL YOU HAVE (duh) TODAY?



YESSIEEE, DIPPY'LL HAVE THAT (duh) COMIN UP IN A-



- JIFFY?



Next:
BROTHER
TAKE
MY
HAND
DON'T
MISS IT!

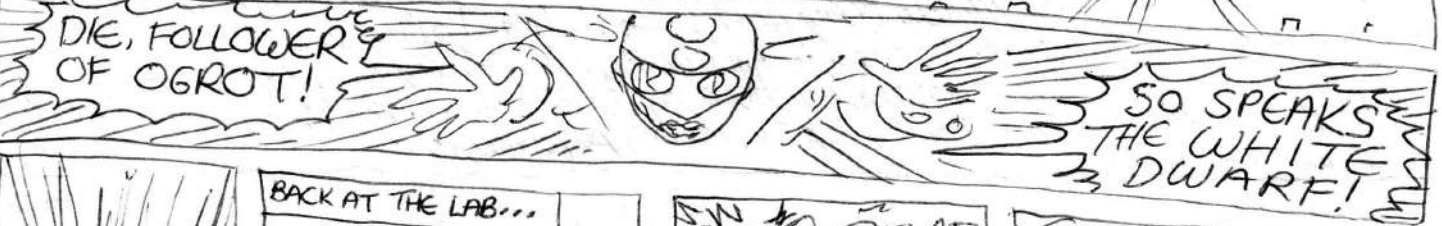
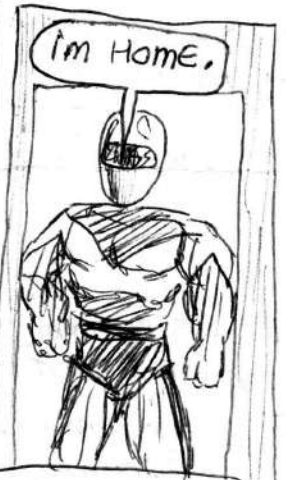
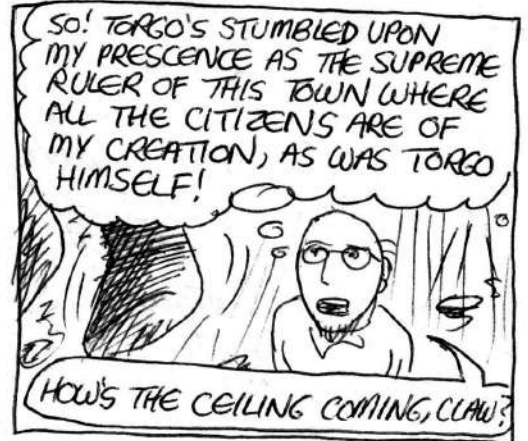
TORGO!

#5

• THE NEW BEGINNING •

"Brother Take My Hand"

©1989 by rob imes



TORGO!

#6

• THE NEW BEGINNING •

©1989 by rob imes

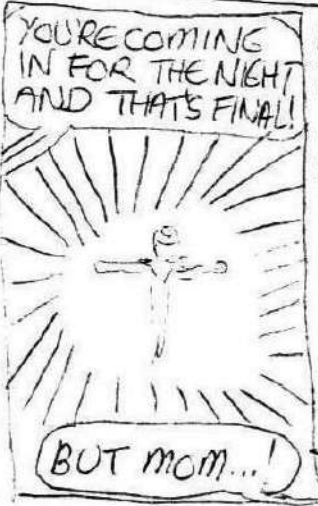
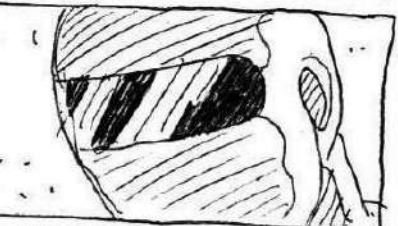
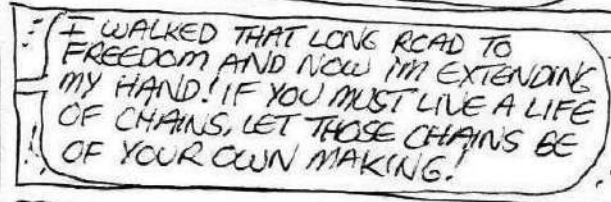
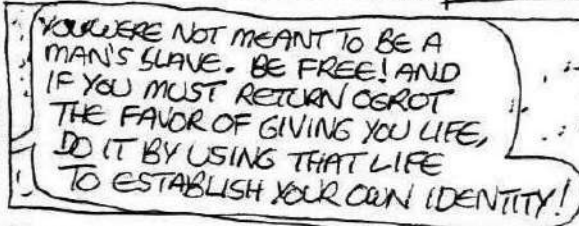
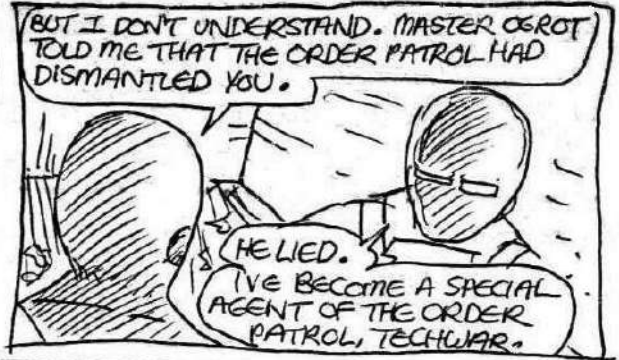


TORGO!

#7

• THE NEW BEGINNING •

©1989 by rob imes



Next:
YOU
LIGHT
UP
MY
LIFE
BE HERE!

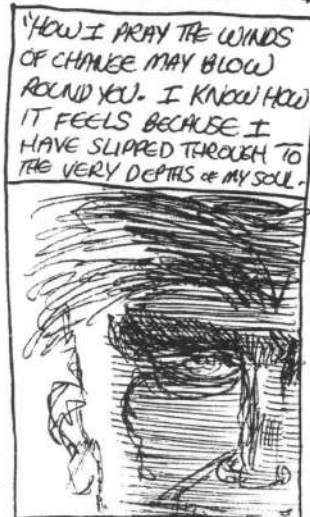
TORGO!

#7½

• THE NEW BEGINNING •

"You Light Up My Life"

©1990 by rob lmes



NEXT

The Return of the Hero

Be There!

TORGO!

THE MAN-MADE MACHINE!

#8: "Return of the Hero"!

by R. Imes

©1990/NOV 1



NEXT: Tennis with Frank and Emery!! BE THERE!!

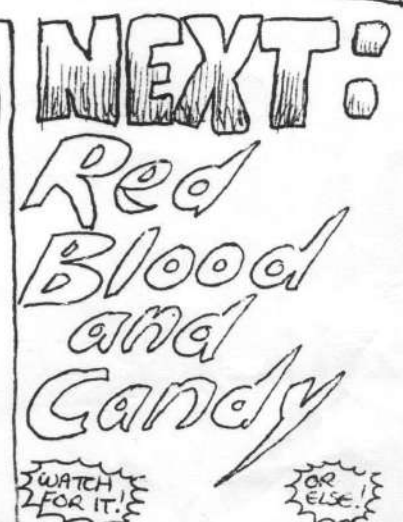
TORGO!

THE MAN-MADE MACHINE!

#9: "Tennis with Frank and Emery"

by R. Imes

©1990/Nov 2

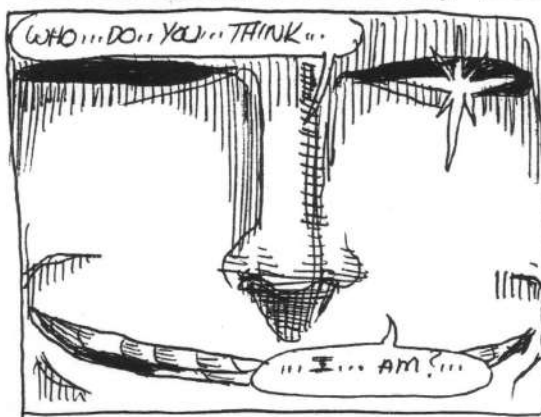


TORGO!

THE MAN-MADE MACHINE!

#10: "Red Blood and Candy"

©1990 by rob imes



NEXT:
He Who Follows Me
DON'T MISS IT!

TORGO!

THE MAN-MADE MACHINE!

#11: "He Who Follows me"!

by R. Ima ©1990/Dec 1

REALLY, EMERY, YOU MUST BE SEEING THINGS! I DON'T SEE ANY... GLOW!!!



MAYBE I'LL HEAD ON HOME--GET TO BED-- THIS HEAT IS GETTIN' TO ME!



I HATED TO LIE TO EMERY LIKE THAT, BUT I COULDN'T RISK HIM DISCOVERING MY TRUE IDENTITY!



I MUST FACE THIS TASK ALONE!



IT'S BEEN TWENTY HOURS NOW... SOON I'LL DIE... AGAIN...



DIE, HUMAN!

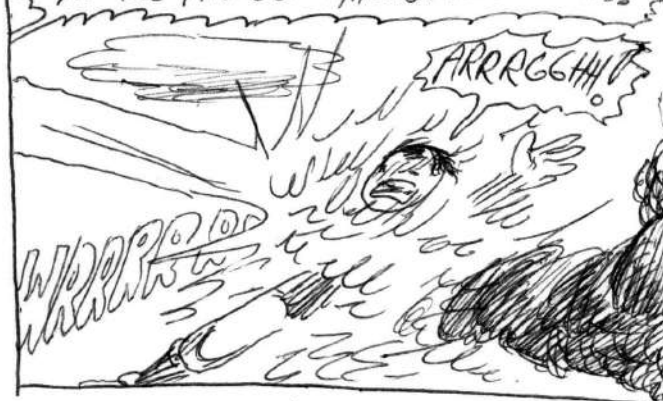
WHAT-? THE GLOW IS-- A WOMAN!



DIE!!



AT THE HANDS OF THE WHITE DWARF!!



WRONG, WOMAN! YOU BUT MELTED AWAY MY HUMAN DISGUISE! NOW YOU SHALL FACE ME AS I TRULY AM!!



PREPARE YOURSELF, WOMAN--- TO FACE--



THE WRATH OF TORGO!

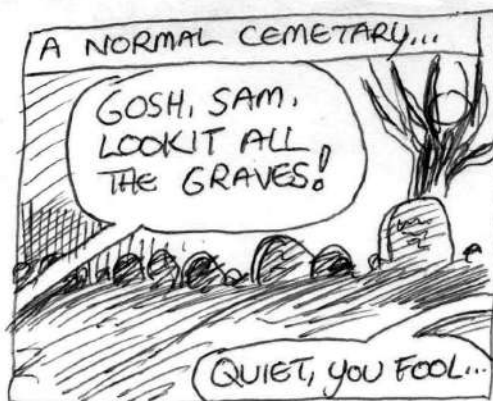
To Be Continued...

TORGO!

THE MAN-MADE MACHINE!

1

"Night of the Ghouls"

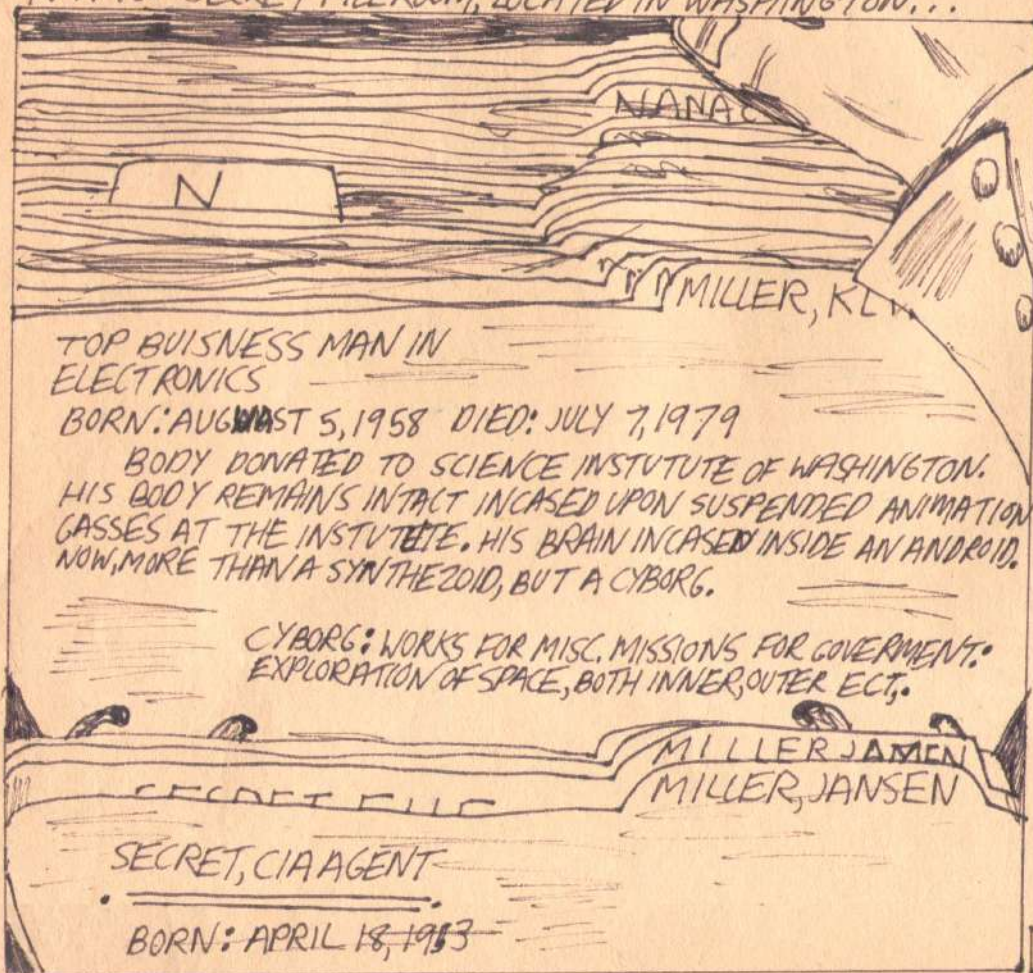




On the next several pages are various odds and ends related to the TORGO strip, as noted in this issue's introduction. Above is a "Trapworld" drawing from 1987 with Torgo shown in the middle. (The warrior Blood is shown at left, and I just made up the guy on the right as I drew the picture.) The TORGO #2 cover ("Felicia") is from around 1985, and was going to be about a woman who had a car accident that was restored to life by becoming a cyborg thanks to Doctor Ogrot. (This idea was used later in the 1989 Torgo strips.) The "TURDO" strips were done for laffs in high school circa 1985. "The SOLDIER and The CYBORG" strip was drawn circa 1983, and those two pages were all that were drawn.

THE SOLDIER™ AND THE CYBORG™

IN A TOP SECRET FILEROOM, LOCATED IN WASHINGTON...



DONE BY ROB JAMES

PLUS: ALSO IN THIS ISSUE...

"IF THE PAST BE NOT DEAD!" AND

"FROM WHENCE STALKS THE MAN-BEAST."

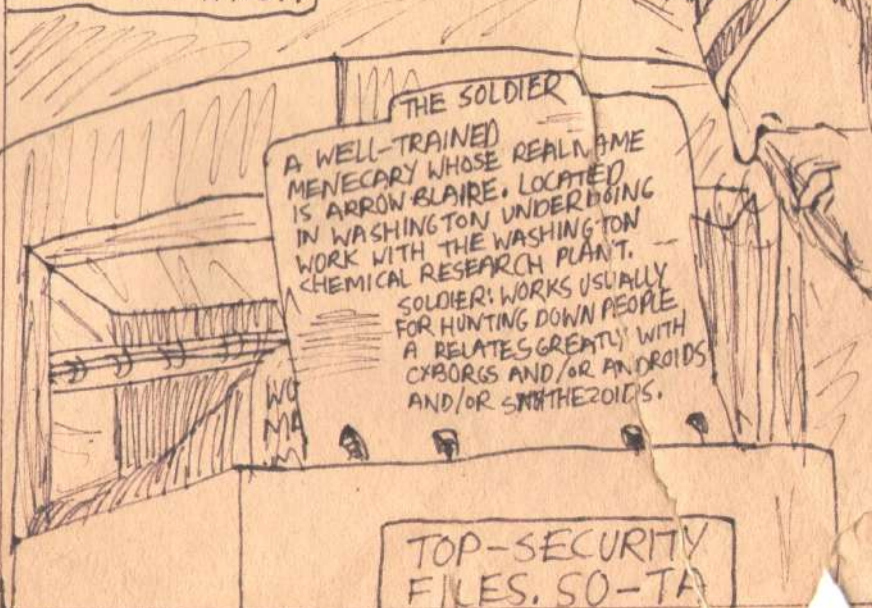
THE MAN SCRIBBLES DOWN THE NAME OF "KLINE MILLER, THE CYBORG" DOWN IN HIS NOTES...

02451 SECURITY FILES 024652



THEN HE LOOKS DOWN FATHER IN THE FILES, WHERE...

HE FINDS... THIS!!



THE NEXT
DAY, AT
THE
WASHINGTON
CHEMICAL
RESEARCH
PLANT...



EEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEE!



EEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEE!



EEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEE!

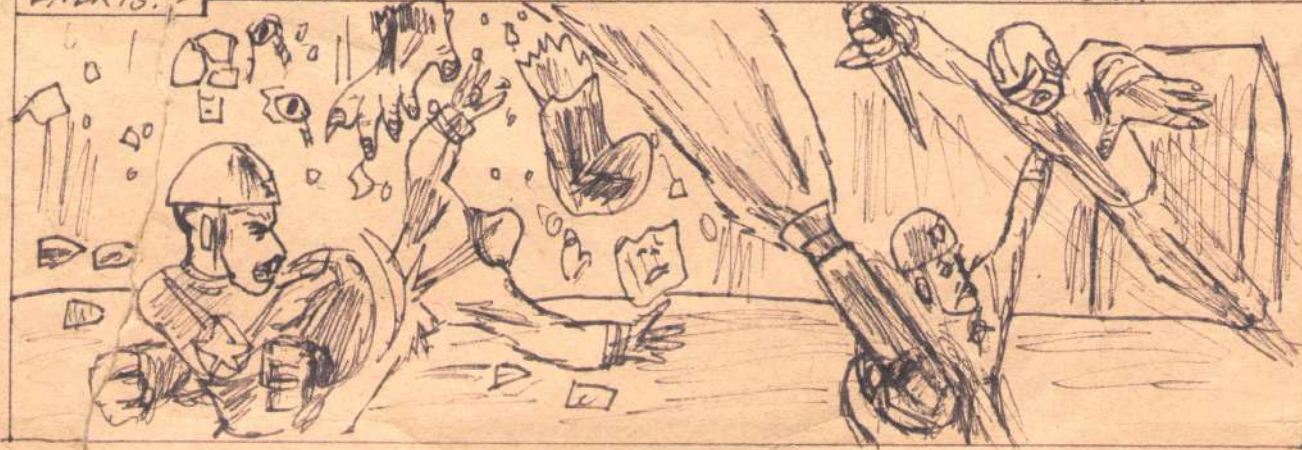


HIS NAME IS HERALD JOHNSON,...
THE SOLDIER... AND HE IS CON-
FUSED...

YOU THERE!
WHAT'S GOING ON?

WHAT
DOES IT
LOOK
LIKE?

"THERE'S A FULL-SCALE WAR GOING ON, SON! OUR COMPETITION, THE SCIENCE INSTITUTE OF WASHINGTON, IS ATTACKING THE BUILDING! THAT'S WHY WE GOTTA PROTECT YOU, BECAUSE IT'S YOU THEY WANT. AND THEY JUST MIGHT GET YOU, TOO.... THE WAY THIER DRIPPIN' US LIKE FLIES. NOW BACK OFF... BEFORE YA GET HURT... LEAVE THE ROUGH STUFF TO THE EXPERTS!"





! To Be CONTINUED.....!!!!



Who knows what ADVENTURES AWAIT?? KEEP YOUR EYES PEELED FOR MORE ASININE EPISODES IN THE "LIFE" OF TURDO, MAD-MAN BY MACHIGANE

\$1.75
ISSUE TWO

TORGO

The man-made machine



felicia

THE PROTECTORS

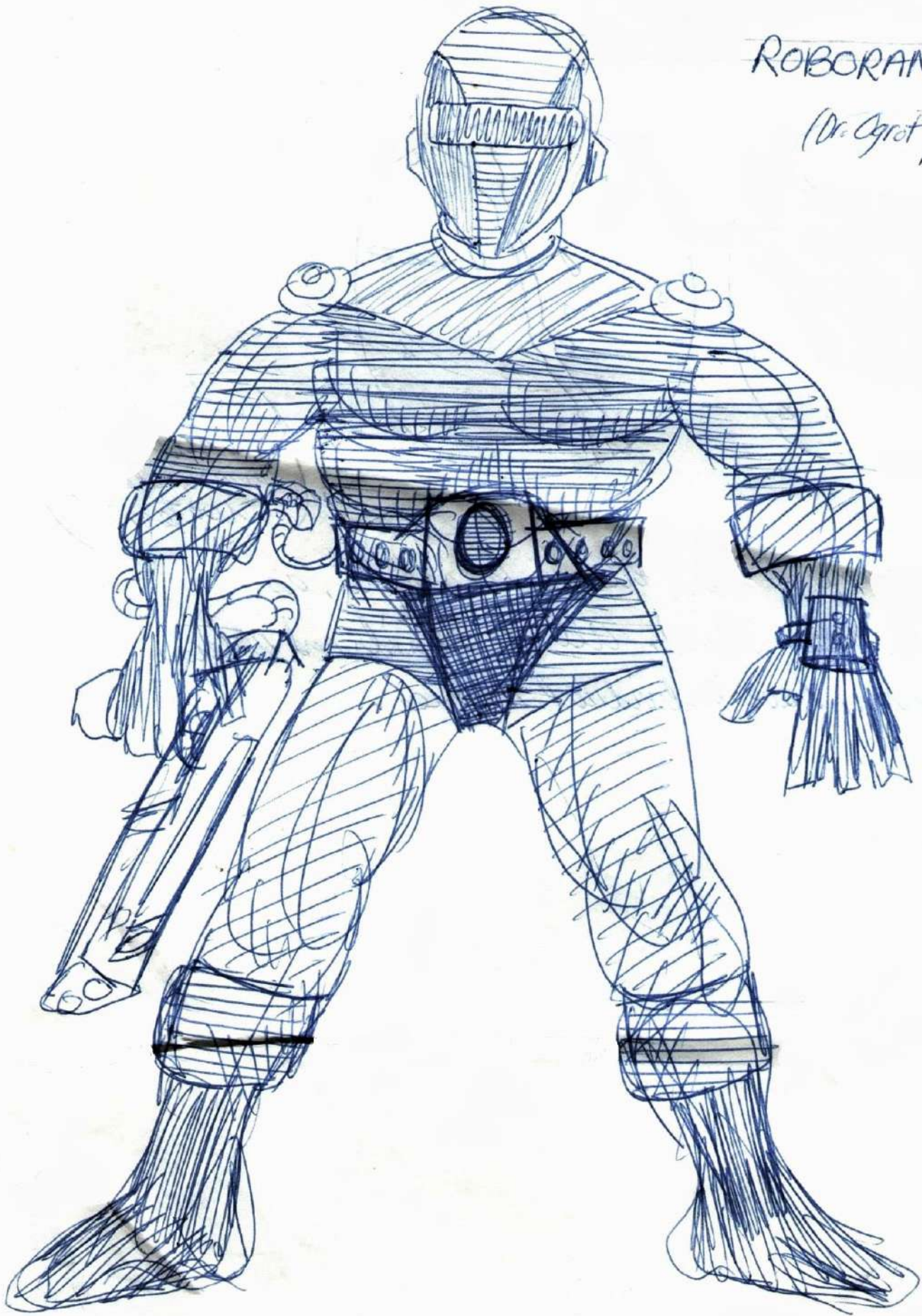


July 28/1987 Rimes



ROBORANGER

(Dr. Ograt Hunkle)
robot



The UFO Checklist

The United Fanzine Organization (UFO) is a group of small press creators who come together to support and encourage each other, and to promote higher standards of quality in small press. Applicants may contact Chairman Steve Keeter, 6825 Tanglewood Bay Drive Apt 113/ Orlando, FL 32821 (stevekeeter@gmail.com)



BRAIN FREEZE #6 (\$4.00 postpaid in the USA/ from Jim Main/ Main Enterprises/ PO Box 93/ New Milford, CT 06776, or mainjim23@gmail.com). The prolific Jim Main releases another fine issue of BRAIN FREEZE!-- The "Slice of Life" issue features true stories by Verl Bond, Simon Mackie, Robert Sodaro and Tom Ahearn, and others. Some of these stories are very moving, and all are very well done. Brad Foster contributes a beautiful front cover!



DEFENDERS OF MARS #4 (\$5.00 ppd. from Verl Holt Bond/ 1663 Blue Heron Lane Jacksonville Beach Florida 32250-5519 email: verlholtbond@gmail.com). The war between the Martians and their Terran allies, and the brutal Pootaan continues! Verl Bond presents a gripping, and sometimes tragic tale, along with some of his finest artwork yet! Threats and violence fail to discourage those fighting for right, and even Pootaan's own soldiers raise an eyebrow when the eventuality of a nuclear response arises!



FLYING PIG PUBLICATIONS PRESENTS #1 (Available for 99 cents from Jim Main at mainjim23@gmail.com . Jim can also be reached at: Main Enterprises/ PO Box 93/ New Milford, CT 06776). This PDF only publication showcases comics, artwork and fiction from the Flying Pig Publications crew of outstanding talents!-- including Verl Hold Bond, Robert Sodaro, Rusty Gilligan, Tom Ahearn, and many, many more! Check out the exciting story of "Ulysses Solomon Occult, Paranormal Detective Meets the Heap!" by John Mundy, or "Miss Hitchbone Reclaims Her Own" by Will Murray. Other contributors include Larry Johnson, Steve Shipley, and more!



MADAME BOOGALA #1 (\$6.00 from Larry Johnson/ 32 Greenbrook Road/ Hyde Park, MA 02136 or by PayPal SEND MONEY to email: LewBrown1@verizon.net). Madame Boogala goes on a supernatural journey when a strange creature-- a man composed of wind-- shows up at her shop seeking her help. Find out the mystery of "Spirit of the Wind" in this debut issue. A 36 page full color comic!



THE RAVEN #1 REPRINT EDITION (\$3.00 ppd from Steve Keeter/ 6825 Tanglewood Bay Drive/ Apt 113/ Orlando, FL 32821 or via PayPal to stevekeeter@gmail.com). Steve Keeter reprints the first issue of THE RAVEN, revealing the dramatic events that

led to THE RAVEN #2! The late, great Tim Corrigan illustrates from Steve's script, and there is plenty of action, and perhaps a touch of controversy. Updated with a new editorial and Checklist.



SUNWING #5 (\$3.00 ppd from Steve Keeter/ 6825 Tanglewood Bay Drive/ Apt 113/ Orlando, FL 32821 (or via PayPal to stevekeeter@gmail.com). Concluding at last the "Sorceress" saga begun by Steve Skeates and Larry Blake, Steve Keeter and artist Scott McClung bring Sunwing and the Titan into 2021! The heroes battle the mad daughter of Doctor Matter and her batwing demons! Meanwhile, in the Dark Dimension, Nightman prepares for battle!



TALES OF THE BROKEN B #1 (\$6.00 ppd from Larry Johnson/ 31 Greenbrook Road/ Hyde Park, MA 02136, or you can order via Paypal, use the SEND MONEY feature to LewBrown1@verizon.net). This beautifully illustrated (in full color!) western ghost story introduces us to Clyde Brittle-- a man truly haunted by his past. Has the ghost of a man he killed returned for vengeance? Clyde and his befuddled best friend Ernie encounter supernatural adventure in the Wild West!



TEAM UFO #1 (\$4.00 US or \$5.00 Canada from Rob Cooley/ 7128 Munsee Ln.Indianapolis, IN 46260, or, Jason Bullock/ HeroCentralStudio P.O.B. 2684, Loganville Ga 30052. This comic book may also be ordered in digital format from either creator: cooleytoons8@gmail.com or herocentrastudio@gmail.com). TEAM UFO #1 is an outstanding collaboration between two of the UFO's finest members and their characters... Rob Cooley's Ghostfire meets Jason Bullock's Victoria Regina! The battle that ensues is one for the record books! Some great storytelling, and this one is non-stop action!



TETRAGRAMMATON FRAGMENTS! (THE UFO NEWSLETTER) (\$3.00 for non-members, or a 6-issue subscription for \$18 from UFO Chairman Steve Keeter/ 6825 Tanglewood Bay Drive Apt 113/ Orlando, FL 32821, or from stevekeeter@gmail.com). The Official Newsletter of the United Fanzine Organization features articles, artwork, and more from co-op members. Many of the greats of small press have been, and are, involved in this influential group.

