

D. W. BRADLEY'S

CYBERMAGE

DARKLIGHT

AWAKENING



THE
EDEN
MATRIX
PRESS

D. W. BRADLEY'S

CYBERMAGE™

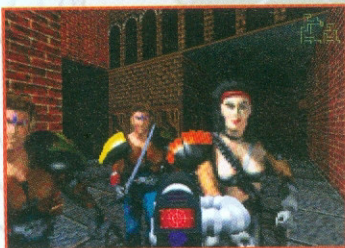
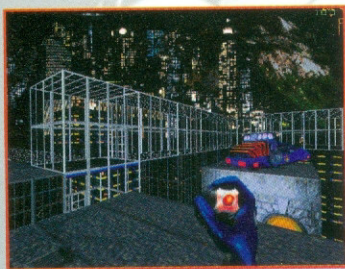


This comic is based on the computer game *CyberMage: Darklight Awakening* by D. W. Bradley — the newest adventure from one of the world's most popular and successful computer game designers. These *CyberMage* comics chronicle the CyberMage's adventures outside of the events of the game.

D. W. Bradley is an internationally acclaimed author and designer, and has won numerous gaming awards for his creations *Heart of the Maelstrom*, *Bane of the Cosmic Forge*, and *Crusaders of the Dark Savant*, the three epic adventures that form the capstone to the best-selling *Wizardry*® series, from Sir-tech Software.

Now D. W. Bradley has combined his talents with the resources of ORIGIN Systems, the company that produces the legendary *Ultima*® and *Wing Commander*® series, to create an entirely new fantastic action-adventure. In *CyberMage: Darklight Awakening*, you become a cyber-hero, using your strange, alien powers to survive in a dangerous, futuristic world. Now, more than ever

before, you can immerse yourself in the game action, through first-person perspective and the game's simple but powerful control interface. In *CyberMage*, fans will find all the strange and unexpected plot twists, exotic and mysterious characters, challenging puzzles and (most of all) non-stop action that are the hallmark of a D. W. Bradley game.



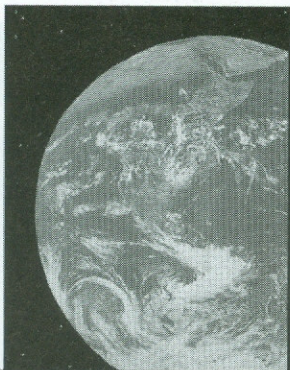
Software © 1995, David W. Bradley. CyberMage is a trademark of David W. Bradley. All other materials © 1995, ORIGIN Systems, Inc. Origin, Ultima and Wing Commander are registered trademarks of ORIGIN Systems, Inc. Darklight Awakening is a trademark of ORIGIN Systems, Inc. Wizardry is a registered trademark of Sir-tech Software, Inc.

A.D. 2000
BY THE TURN OF THE CENTURY,
PROFIT HAS BECOME THE ONLY LAW.

HUGE CORPORATE STRUCTURES
BEGIN TO REPLACE GOVERNMENTS
AS THE REAL WORLD POWERS
ON PLANET EARTH.

TECHNOLOGY ADVANCES UNCHECKED,
WITH THE SOLE PURPOSE OF FUELING
THE CORPORATE POWER MACHINE.

A.D. 2005
THREE PERMANENT SPACE
STATIONS ARE LAUNCHED INTO
ORBIT, EACH CONTROLLED BY
A COMPETING CORPORATION...

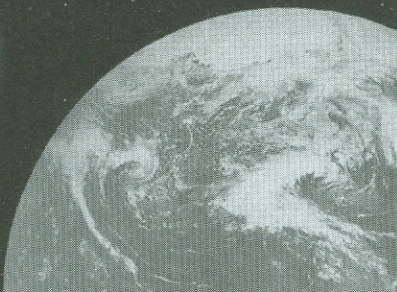
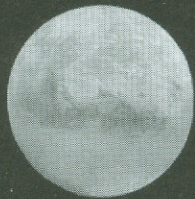


... IN THE SAME YEAR, THANOS
CORP. SETS THE TONE FOR THE
FUTURE BY PROCLAIMING ITSELF
TO BE A SOVEREIGN COUNTRY.

THANOS CLAIMS ALL
TERRITORY WITHIN A 200-MILE
RADIUS OF ITS CORPORATE
HEADQUARTERS AND ENLISTS
ITS OWN FUSION-POWERED
AIRCRAFT AND TANKS TO
PROTECT THESE NEW BORDERS.

RATHER THAN CHALLENGE THE
MOVE, 27 OTHER LEADING
CORPORATIONS IMMEDIATELY
FOLLOW SUIT.

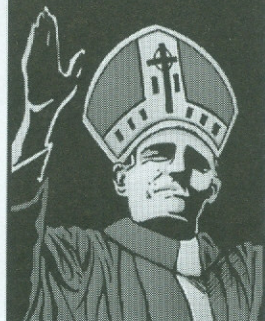
A.D. 2010
THE WORLD'S FIRST
PERMANENT MOON BASE
IS ESTABLISHED BY
TEVAR ENTERPRISES.



TWO GENE BANKS ARE CREATED BY
RIVAL CORPORATIONS. THE FIRST
CLONING AND REGENERATION HOSPITAL,
DESIGNED FOR HUMAN BODY REPLACEMENT,
OPENS ITS DOORS TO THE PUBLIC.

GLOBAL RELIGIOUS LEADERS JOIN
FORCES IN A DESPERATE LAST ATTEMPT
TO REGAIN SOME OF THEIR FORMER
POWER.

THEY LAUNCH A FANATIC CAMPAIGN
OF SPIRITUAL RETRIBUTION AND
DIVINE SCARE TACTICS, BUT THEIR
EFFORTS EVENTUALLY SPLINTER INTO
LITTLE MORE THAN A SCATTERING OF
MANIACAL CULTS AND SECRET
COVENS.



A.D. 2015

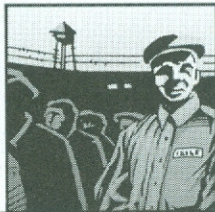
WARS CEASE TO BE FOUGHT BETWEEN NATIONS. CORPORATIONS WITH THE MOST MONEY, THE MOST TECHNOLOGY, BECOME THE NEW PATRONS OF THE REMAINING NATIONAL MILITARY FORCES.

THE FORMER GOVERNMENTS OF THE WORLD ALL BUT VANISH, LEAVING CIVILIZATION TO FEND FOR ITSELF AGAINST THE CORPORATE MACHINE.



BETWEEN THE CORPORATE NATIONS, WARS TAKE THE FORM OF ESPIONAGE AND MARTIAL LAW.

LESS DEVELOPED NATIONS BECOME THE TESTING GROUNDS FOR THE NEW CORPORATE MILITARY FORCES.



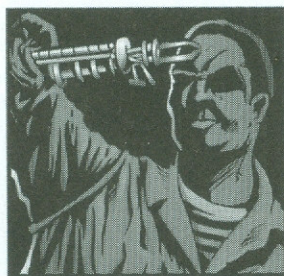
CORPORATE GREED FULLY REVEALS ITS AWFUL CAPACITY FOR DESTRUCTION IN THE MARS WAR. THE TEVAR MOON BASE, WHICH HAD BECOME A SELF-SUSTAINING COLONY, CLAIMS EXTRATERRITORIAL JURISDICTION OVER MARS, BUT TEVAR'S BITTER RIVAL, GENDYNE TECHNOLOGIES, LAUNCHES A PRE-EMPTIVE STRIKE BY ESTABLISHING ITS OWN SETTLEMENT ON THE RED PLANET.

TEVAR RETALIATES AGAINST GENDYNE'S PRODUCTION FACILITIES ON EARTH, DESTROYING TWELVE MAJOR CITIES IN THE PROCESS. MILLIONS DIE BEFORE THE COMPANIES SETTLE INTO AN UNEASY TRUCE.

HOPING TO AVOID SUCH COSTLY CONFLICTS IN THE FUTURE, THE CORPORATE NATIONS FORM A GLOBAL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL AND GIVE LIP SERVICE TO AN ALLIANCE CALLED THE CORPORATE STATES.

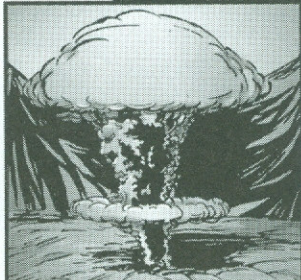
ELECTRONIC NEURAL IMPLANTS ARE INTRODUCED TO AUGMENT HUMAN BRAIN CAPACITY.

SURGICALLY ATTACHED MECHANICAL ENHANCEMENTS TO THE HUMAN BODY BECOME FASHIONABLE, SPAWNING THE FIRST GENERATION OF CYBERWEAR.



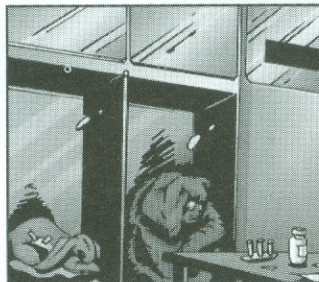
A.D. 2020

MOST MAJOR INNER CITIES BECOME WAR ZONES - BASTIONS OF RESISTANCE AGAINST CORPORATE CONTROL.



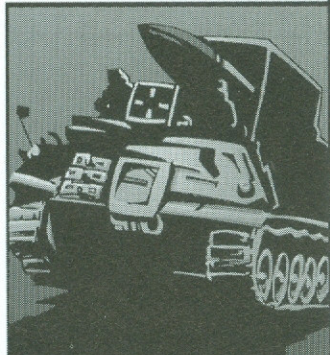
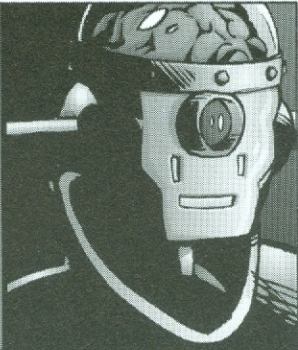
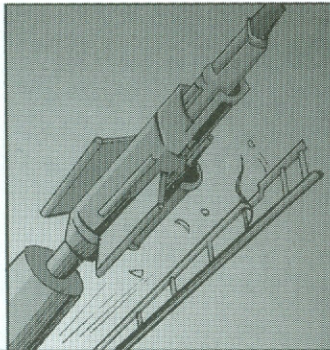
CORPORATE WARS FOR DOMINANCE OF ELECTRO-MECHANICAL TECHNOLOGIES FADE AS GENETIC ENGINEERING BEGINS TO DEFINE VAST NEW TERRITORY FOR ADVANCEMENT.

HYBRID BEINGS - KNOWN AS "EXOTICS" - ARE FIRST ENGINEERED TO LEAD THE CORPORATE RACE FOR POWER.



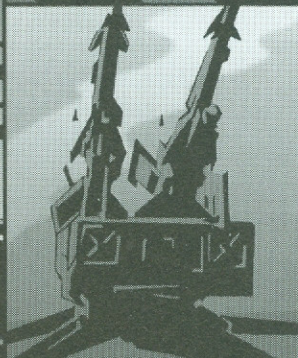
A.D. 2025

SARCORP LAUNCHES THE FIRST INTERSTELLAR ROCKET, WITH A CREW OF SIX NEUTRONIC BRAIN ROBOTS.

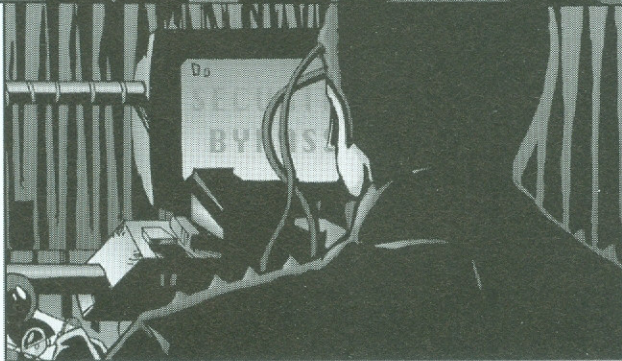


THE CORPORATE STATES
BEGIN WAGING ALL-OUT WAR
UPON INNER-CITY REBELS.

IT IS A CONCERTED EFFORT
TO CAUTERIZE THE FESTERING
POCKETS OF POVERTY-
STRICKEN DISCONTENT THAT
REFUSE TO BE HEALED BY
THE GLEAMING PROMISE OF
CORPORATE STERILITY.



REBELLIOUS FACTIONS DIG IN
DEEPER, THEN RETALIATE
WITH A BARRAGE OF
COORDINATED INDUSTRIAL
AND ELECTRONIC SABOTAGE.

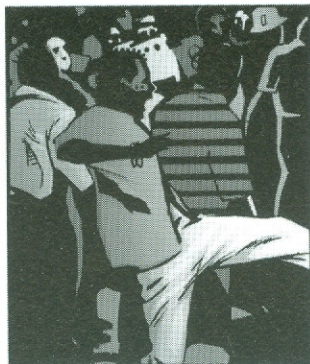




A.D. 2028

SARCORP ROCKS THE SCIENTIFIC ESTABLISHMENT WITH PHYSICAL PROOF THAT TELEKINETIC AND TELEPATHIC ABILITIES EXIST AND CAN BE TAPPED.

BY SETTLING OVERNIGHT MORE THAN 6,000 YEARS OF DEBATE OVER SUPERNATURAL PHENOMENA OF ALL KINDS, THE SARCORP EXPERIMENTS DRAW THOUSANDS OF FANATIC VOLUNTEERS.



MANY OF THESE TEST SUBJECTS COME BACK AS RAVING MADMEN. SEVERAL OF THESE DEMENTED GRADUATES PROCLAIM THEMSELVES TO BE MESSIAHS AND LEAD THEIR FLOCKS INTO THE WILDERNESS.

IN AN UNPRECEDENTED MOVE, SARCORP OFFERS REVOLUTIONARY NEW TECHNOLOGIES TO THE CORPORATE STATES IN EXCHANGE FOR RAW RESOURCES FROM THE MEMBER STATES.

A.D. 2030

SARCORP FORMS A NEW ALLIANCE WITH THE CORPORATE STATES TO HELP "ERADICATE ALL POVERTY" THROUGH NEW TECHNIQUES DEVELOPED AT A TOP SECRET RESEARCH LABORATORY...



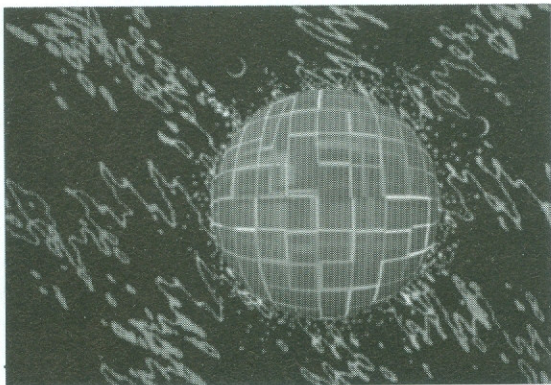
... IT IS A THINLY VEILED LICENSE FOR THE USE OF TELEPATHIC POWERS TO FERRET OUT THE REMAINING INNER-CITY REBELS.



A.D. 2040

RUMORS OF A SPECTACULARLY SUCCESSFUL RAID ON THE SARCORP MATRIX QUICKLY SPREAD AND ARE AS QUICKLY STIFLED. ALTHOUGH IT IS UNCLEAR WHETHER THE RUMORS ARE BASED ON AN ACTUAL SECURITY BREACH OR REBEL-PLANTED MISINFORMATION, SEVERAL WELL-KNOWN REBEL HACKERS CLAIM TO HAVE ACQUIRED BOTH POWERFUL TECHNOLOGY AND "HORRIFYING" DETAILS ABOUT HOW SARCORP IS GAINING ITS TECHNOLOGY FROM AN EVIL RACE OF ALIENS CALLED THE SRI-FENG.

THE INCIDENT, KNOWN AS THE BLACK SUN AFFAIR IN THE HIGHEST CORPORATE CIRCLES, IS LATER DEEMED TO BE THE SINGLE GREATEST FEAT IN COMPUTER INFILTRATION EVER ACHIEVED.





DATELINE MARCH 22, 2044
THIS BROADCAST BROUGHT TO YOU BY:
ORIGIN SYSTEMS, INC.
ADHESIVE MEDIA, INC.

REPORTED BY
RUBREY ACAULEY
BASED ON INVESTIGATIONS BY
D.W. BRADLEY
FILMED BY
ASHLEY UNDERWOOD
EMBELLISHED BY
CHAD TOWNSEND
LIGHTING AND COLOR EFFECTS BY
ASHLEY UNDERWOOD
EDITED BY
DAVID LADYMAN

ALTHOUGH FEW DETAILS ABOUT LIFE ON MARS MAKE IT TO EARTH THESE DAYS, SOURCES SAY THAT MARCH 22 IS CELEBRATED THROUGHOUT THE RED PLANET AS INDEPENDENCE DAY.

WHY DON'T PEOPLE CARE ABOUT ANYTHING IMPORTANT ANYMORE?

LIVEFEED

NEWSNET

IT WAS EXACTLY FOUR YEARS AGO THAT MARS NATION PROCLAIMED ITS SEPARATION FROM EARTH, AND BACKED THE MOVE WITH DEADLY FORCE.

WITHOUT PROVOCATION, MARS NATION ANNOUNCED ITS COMPLETE WITHDRAWAL FROM THE SOLAR SYSTEM, CLAIMING ITS FUTURE GENERATIONS WOULD BETTER OFF UNDER SELF-DETERMINATION.

MARS NATION OBLIVIOUSLY ALONG WITH THEM, IF ANY ACTION

ENDED
SOON
EVEN

EVERYONE'S TOO CONSUMED BY GREED TO CARE ... UNLESS THERE'S SOMETHING IN IT FOR THEM.

PRERECORDED

NEWSNET

THE CITIZENS OF MOON COLONY WAITED NERVOUSLY FOR THE TWELVE HOURS OF INTENSE NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN EARTH AND MARS, THEIR LIVES HANGING IN THE BALANCE.

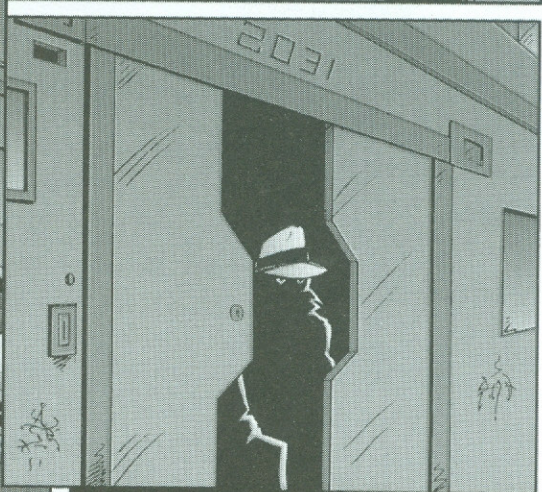
FEW PEOPLE COULD FORGET THE BRUTAL NUCLEAR CONFLICT THAT RESULTED WHEN MARS NATION FIRED THE FIRST MISSILE IN 2015.

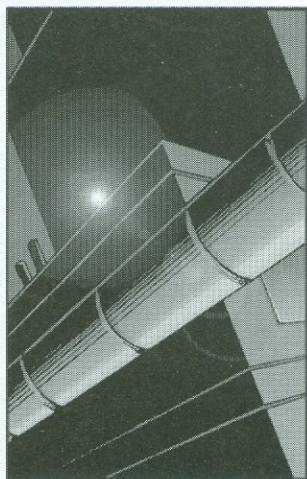
IN THE END, THE EARTH AND MOON AGREED TO TERMINATE THE MARS NATION AND GO THEIR SEPARATE WAYS WITHOUT FURTHER CONTACT.

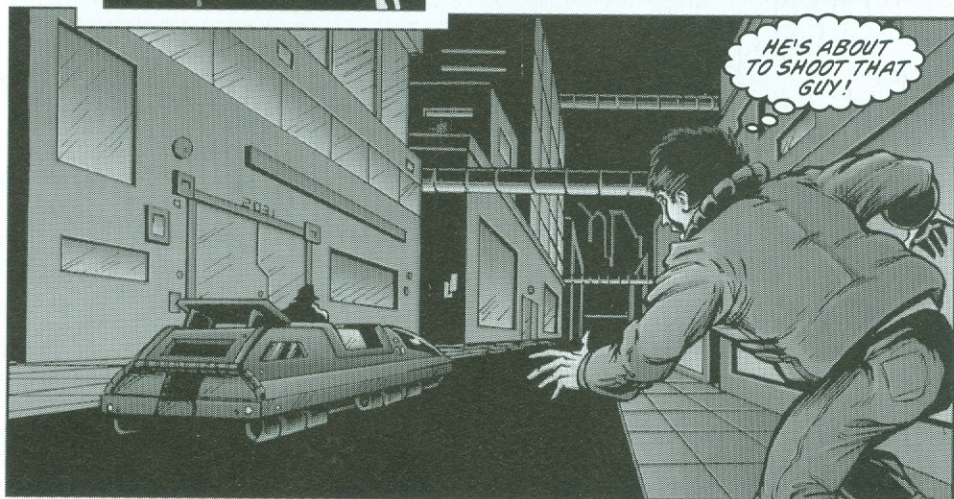
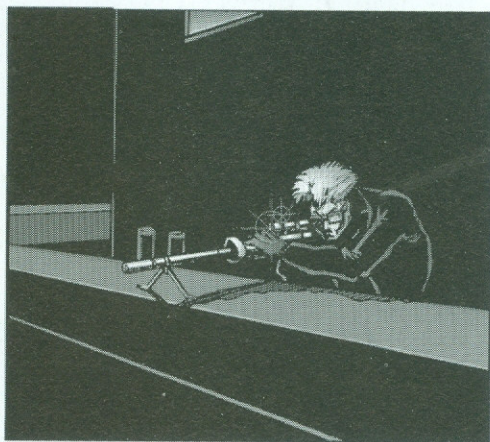
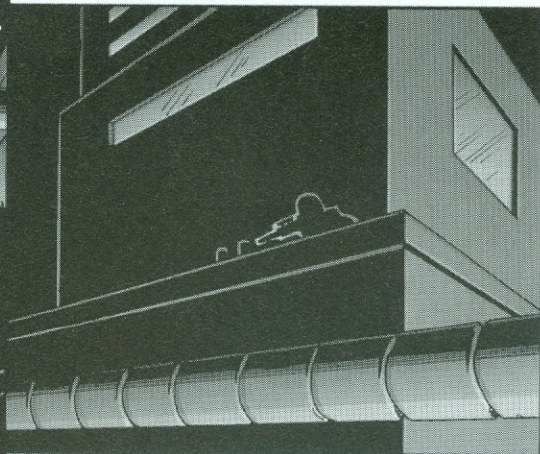
I'M SO TIRED OF THIS MARS STORY I COULD PUKE.

LIVEFEED

NEWSNET









LOOK OUT!



HE'S GONNA SHOOT!

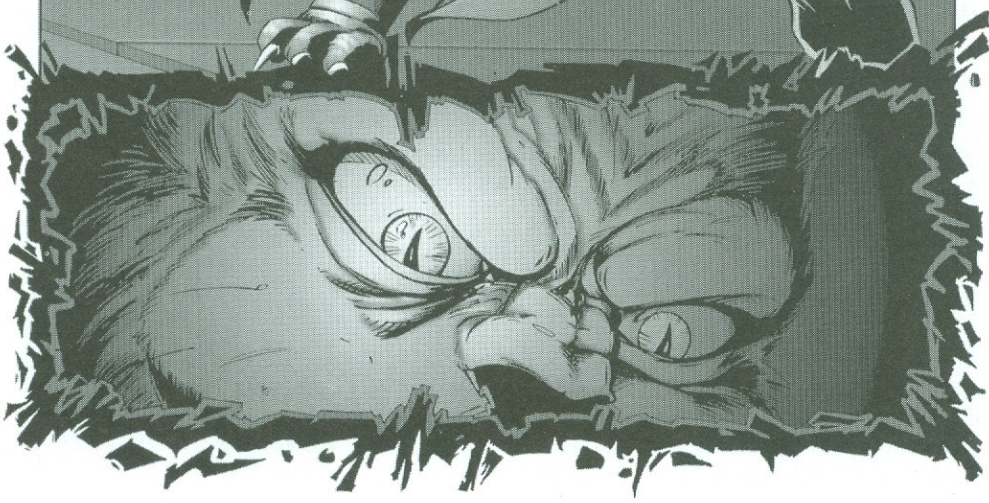


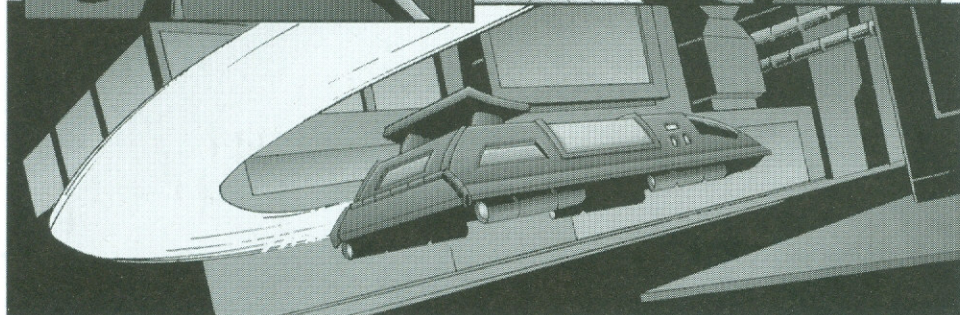
GRRR!

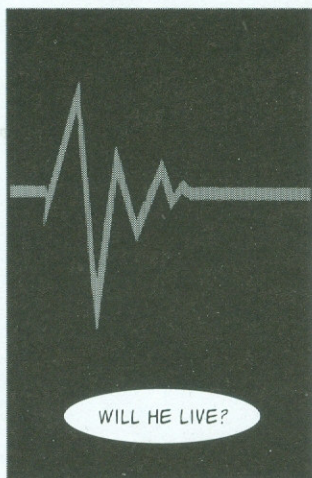
UUNGH!

VAP
VAP
VAP
VAP

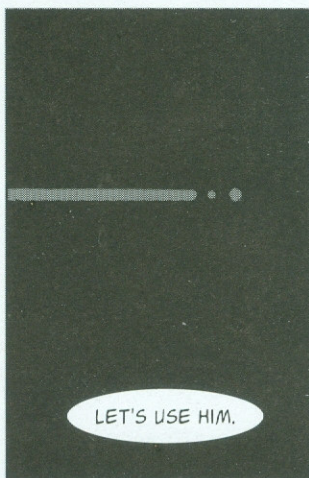
GRRAAR!







WILL HE LIVE?



LET'S USE HIM.



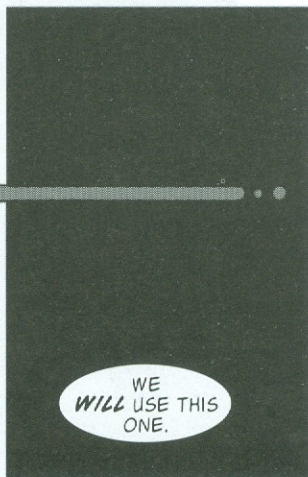
BUT SIR,
WE'VE ALREADY
PREPARED OUR
SUBJECT



... WE'VE SPENT
MONTHS GETTING
READY FOR TONIGHT'S
OPERATION, AND WE'VE
NEVER TESTED
THIS ONE...



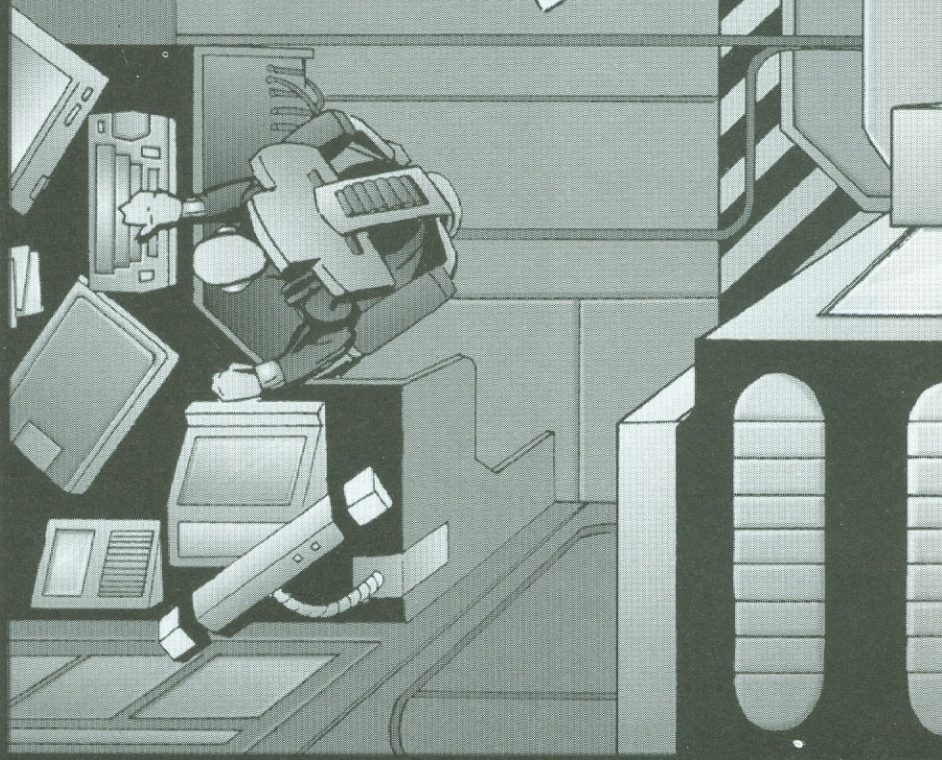
... WE DON'T
EVEN KNOW IF IT WILL
WORK... WE JUST CAN'T
RISK IT - WE DON'T KNOW
ANYTHING ABOUT
HIM!

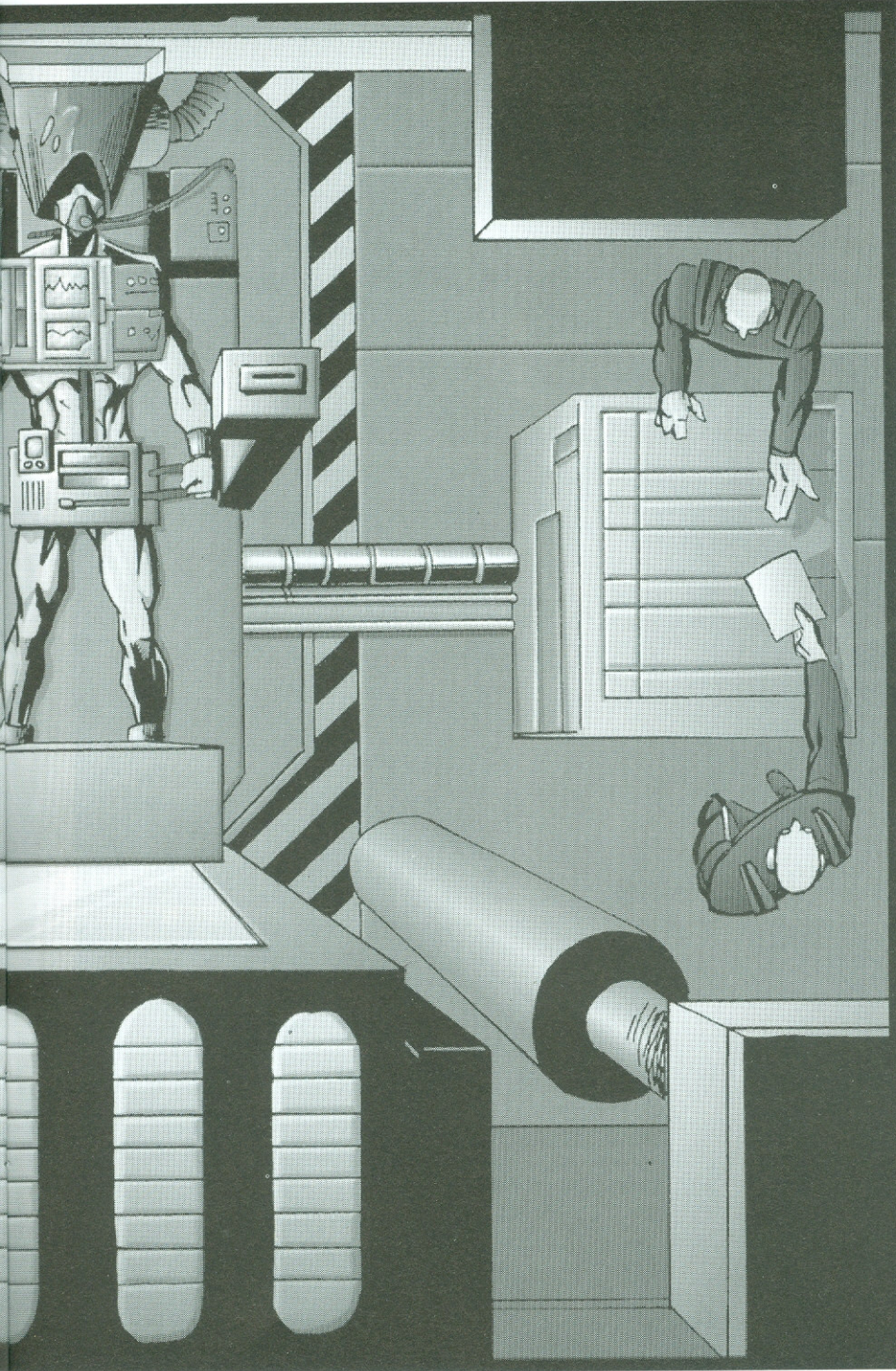


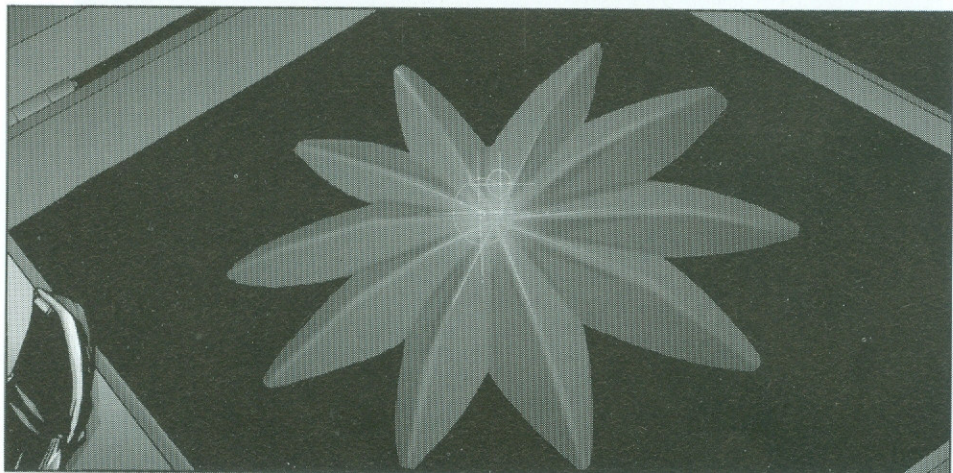
WE
WILL USE THIS
ONE.



IT IS TIME.









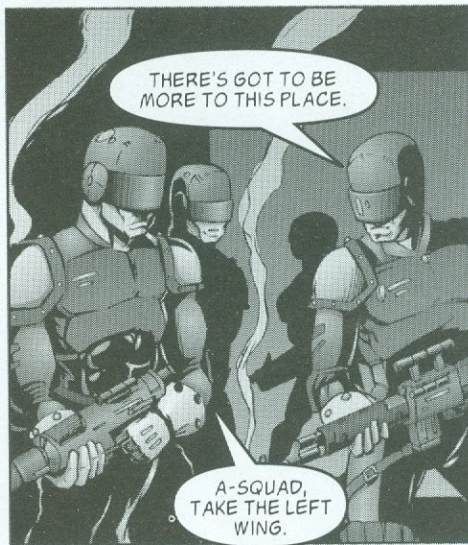
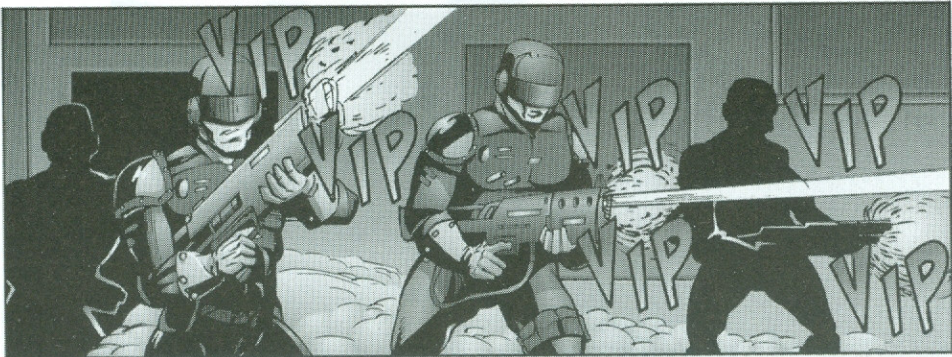
DATeline OCTOBER 5, 2044

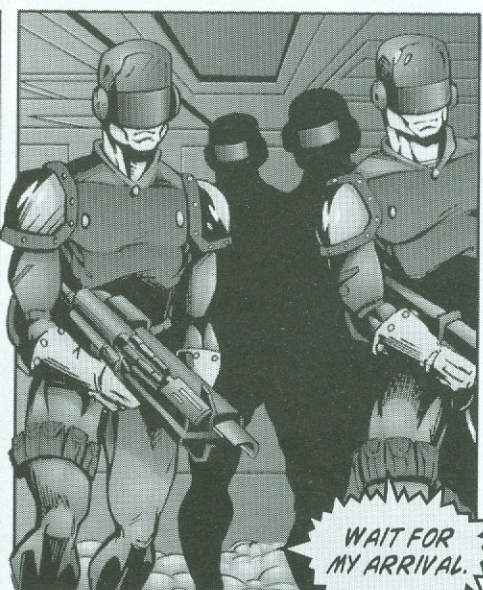
FSSSSHH...

LET'S GO, BOYS!

BLAST
EVERYTHING YOU
SEE!

KRASH!





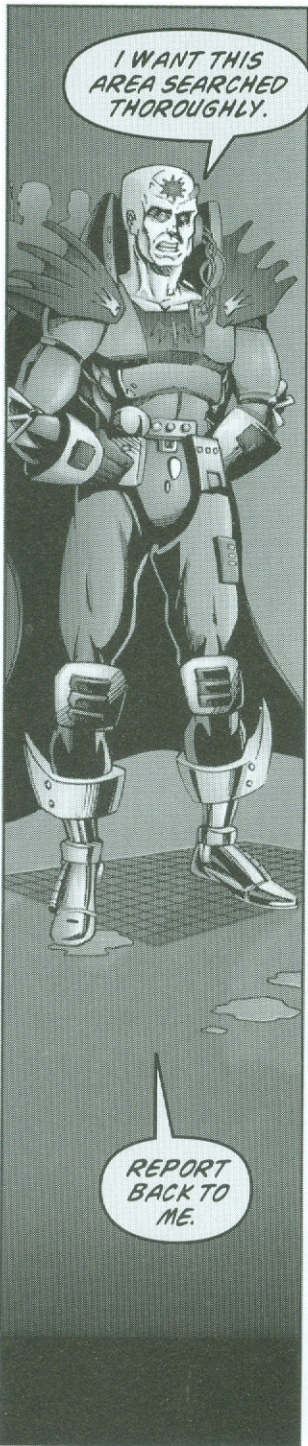
A group of men in dark suits and balaclavas are in a hallway. One man in the center is looking towards the viewer with a slight smile. The hallway has a tiled floor and a drop ceiling with fluorescent lights.

WHAT HAVE
YOU FOUND?

NOTHING, SIR.
THERE'S NO TRACE
OF THE TARGET
SPECIMEN.

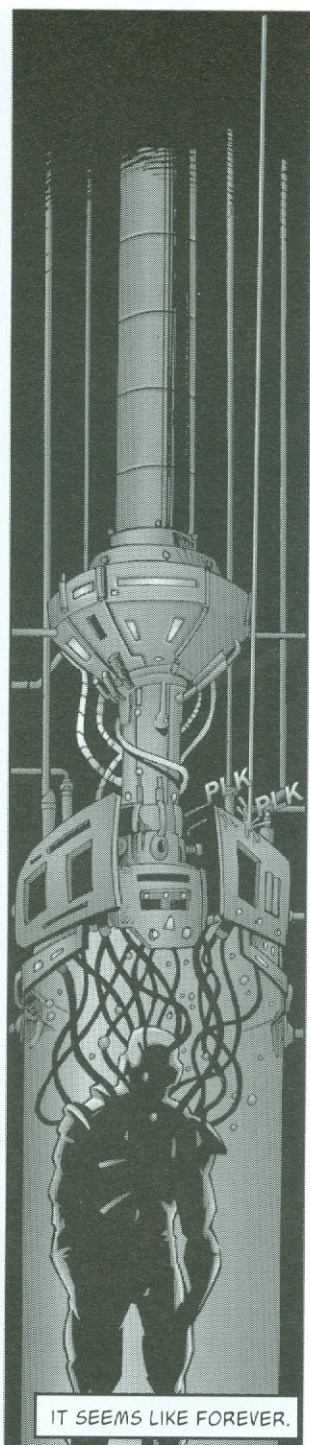
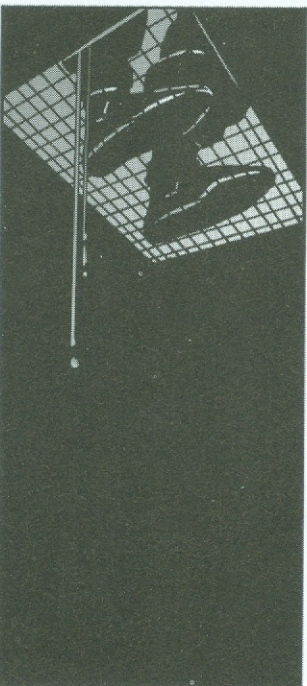
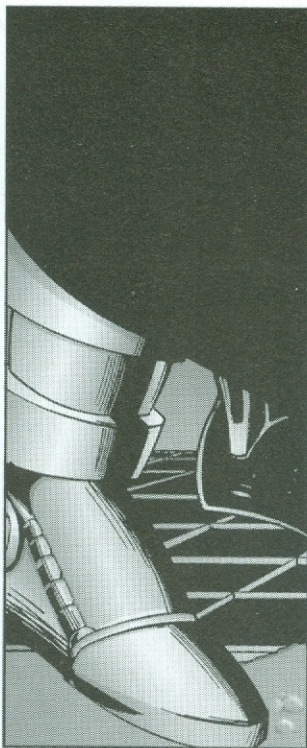


DAMN!



I WANT THIS
AREA SEARCHED
THOROUGHLY.


REPORT
BACK TO
ME.




IT SEEMS LIKE FOREVER.



HOW LONG *HAS* IT BEEN...?



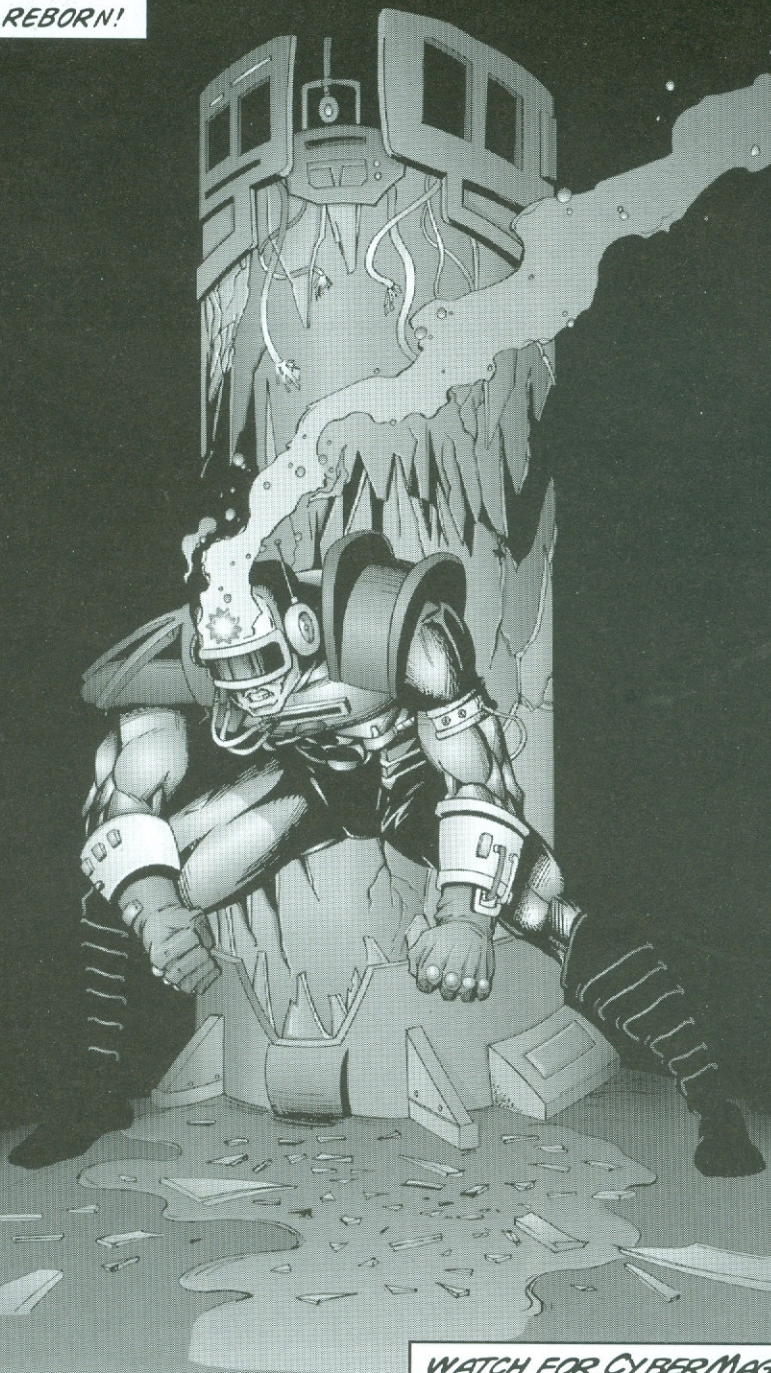
PULSE QUICKENING...



...UUUNNGH!

KROOSH!

I AM REBORN!



*WATCH FOR CYBERMAGE #2,
COMING SOON!*