

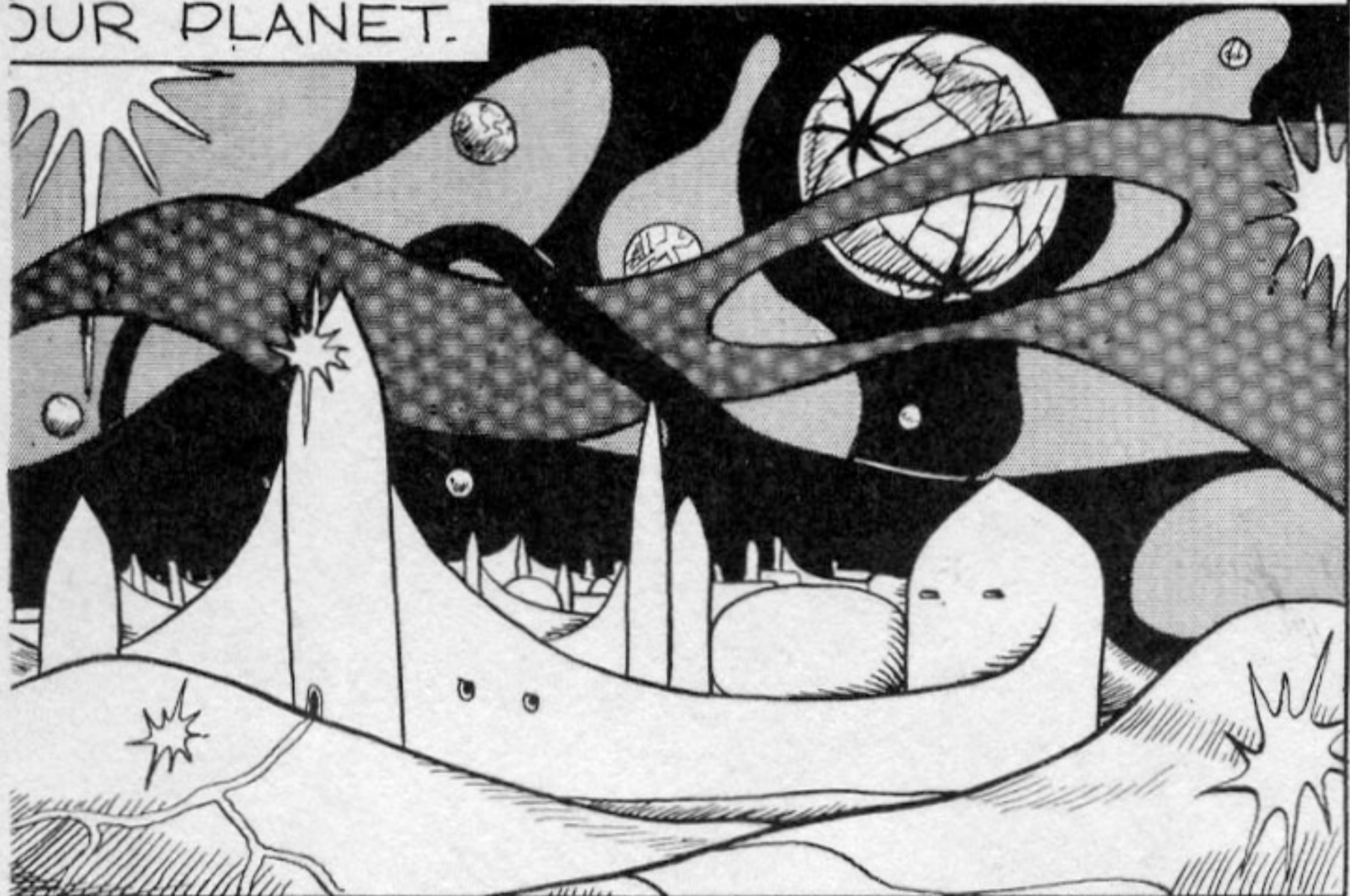
"AN AWESOME INHERITANCE"



THE ORIGIN OF THE
FANTASTIC NEW HERO—
BLACK
FALCON

STORY AND
ART BY
DAVE HERRING

DICTATORS ARE NOT LIMITED TO OUR EARTH ALONE. IN THIS STRANGE DIMENSION THERE RESIDES A DICTATOR WHO COULD PUT OUR HITLERS AND STALINS TO SHAME. WE ARE NEEDED FORTUNATE THAT FATE PLACED HIM IN THIS FOREIGN LAND RATHER THAN ON OUR PLANET.

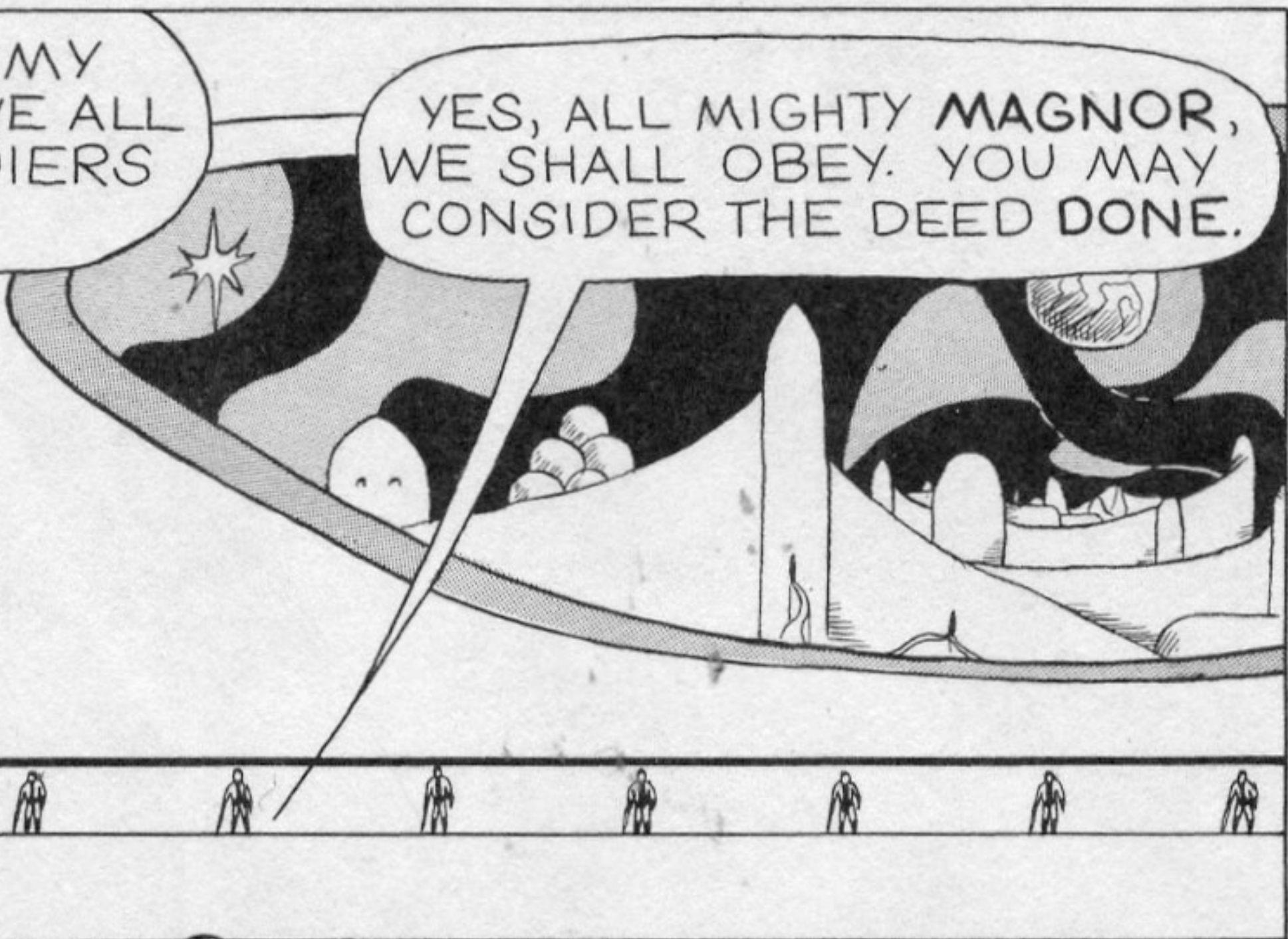
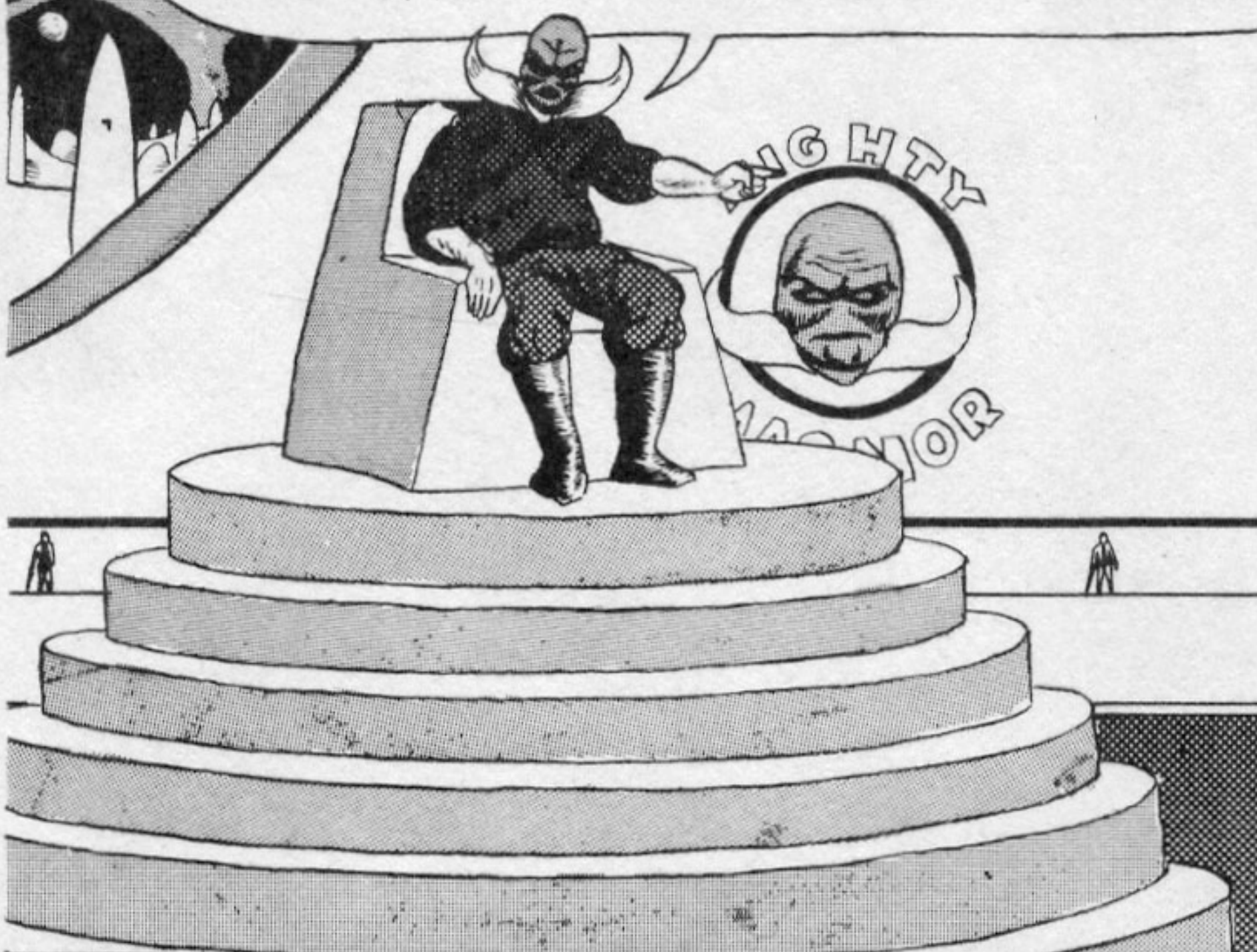


BUT HE, AS ALL DICTATORS MUST, WILL SOON BE DESTROYED. THE SOURCE OF HIS POWER OVER THE KINGDOM HAS BEEN TAKEN AWAY BY A VALIANT REBEL.



THE CRIMINAL, GRODD, HAS STOLEN MY BLACK RAIMENT FROM WHICH I DERIVE ALL MY POWER. YOU, MY FAITHFUL SOLDIERS MUST KILL HIM AND BRING IT BACK.

YES, ALL MIGHTY MAGNOR, WE SHALL OBEY. YOU MAY CONSIDER THE DEED DONE.



THERE HE IS, WEARING THE BLACK COSTUME OF MAGNOR. AFTER HIM!

NO, WAIT!



HE HAS ENTERED THE CAVERN OF THE DEAD. NONE WHO HAVE ENTERED HAVE EVER RETURNED. HE IS SURELY DEAD. IF WE FOLLOW WE TOO WILL DIE. WE MUST RETURN TO MAGNOR.



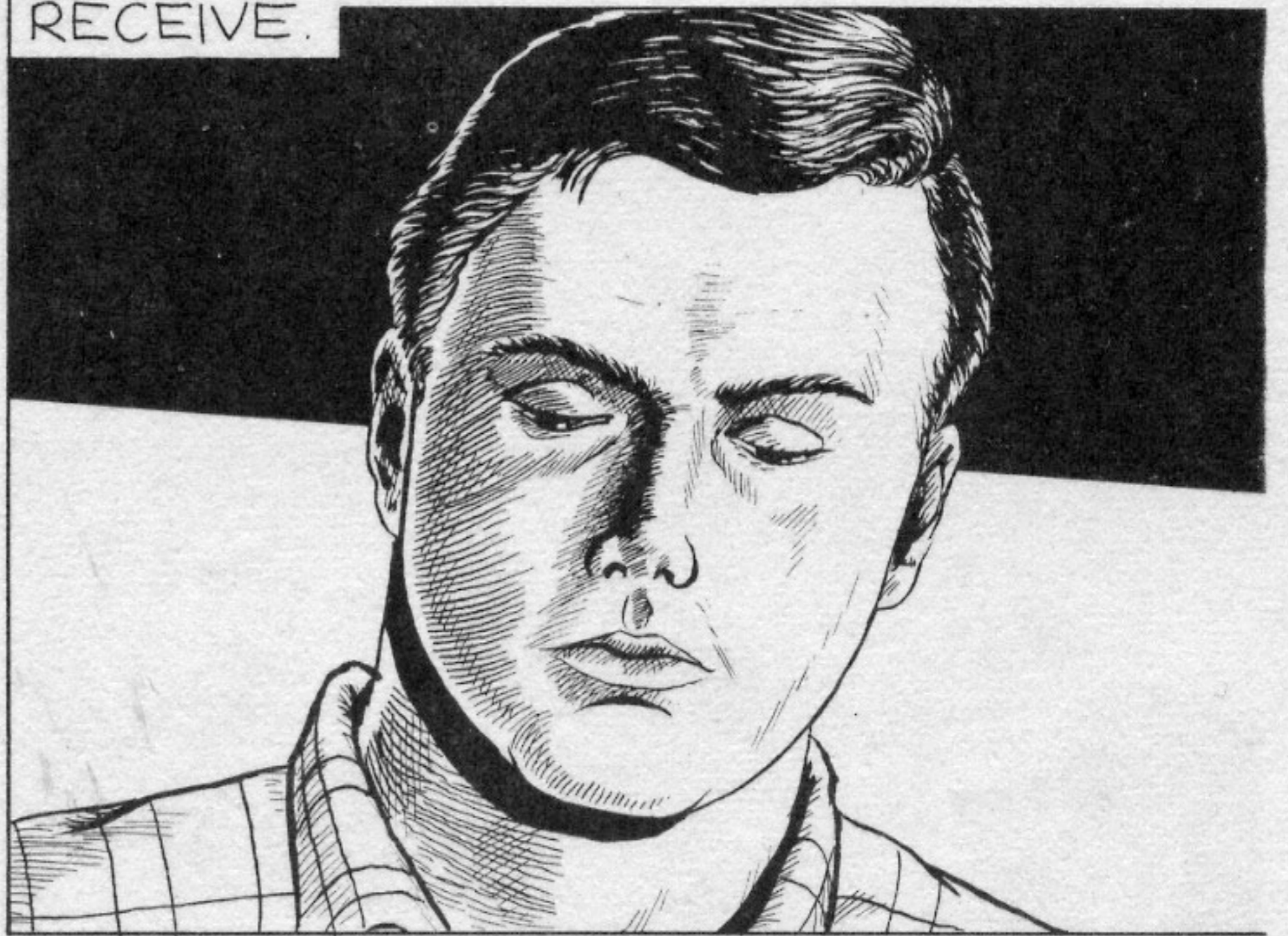
ON THE VERY SPOT WHERE THOSE WARRIORS STAND, THERE SITS A SENIOR COLLEGE STUDENT IN OUR OWN DIMENSION. HIS ROOMMATE IS LEAVING FOR A DATE.

TOM, WHY DON'T YOU EVER GO OUT AND HAVE SOME FUN? ALL YOU DO IS STUDY.

IT'S JUST THAT I WAS COUNTING ON GRADUATING THIS JUNE.



YES, THOMAS EDWARDS IS A SHY YOUNG MAN BUT HE IS REALLY A VERY FINE PERSON. HE DESERVES AND IS CAPABLE OF HANDLING THE GIFT HE IS ABOUT TO RECEIVE.

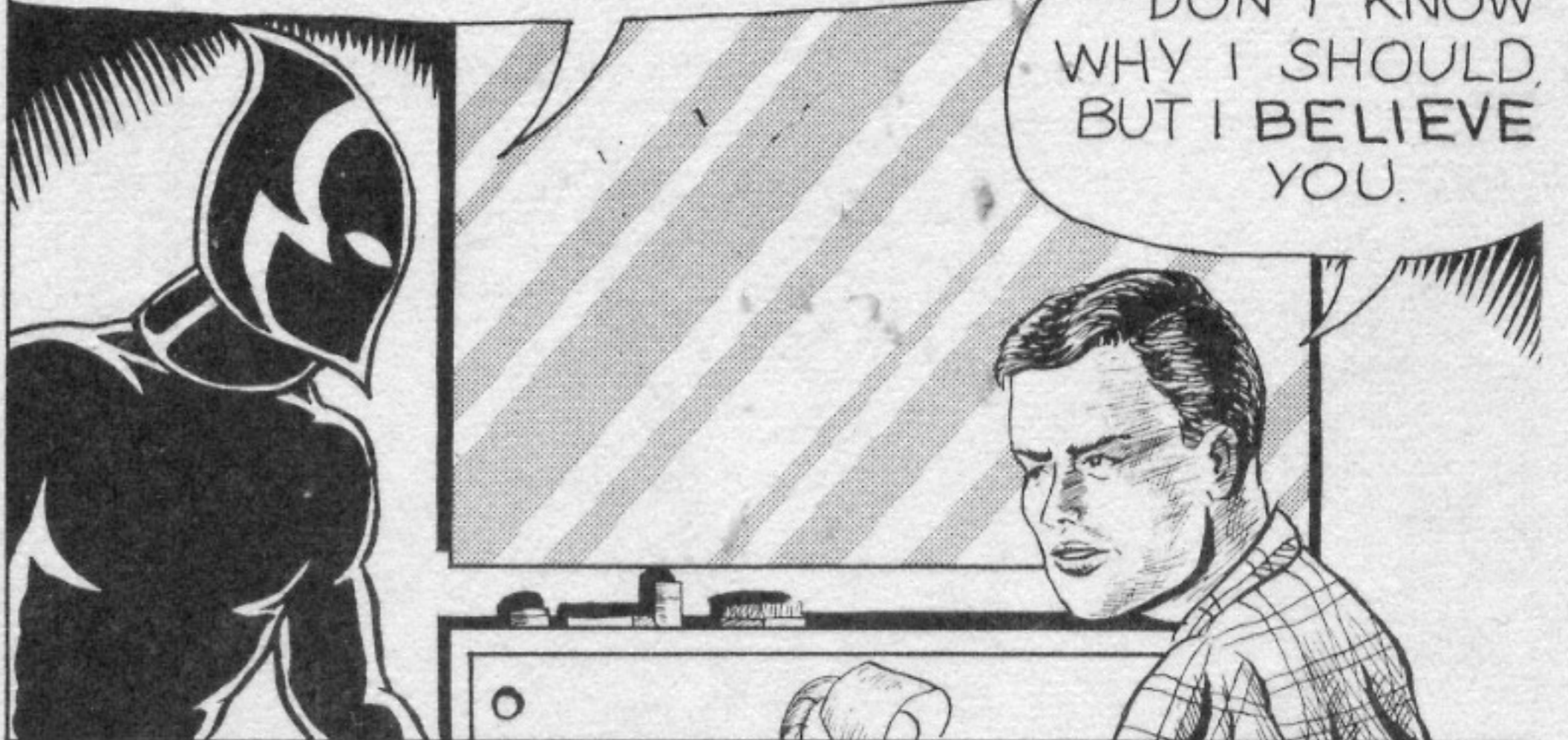


MEANWHILE GRODD HAS DISAPPEARED IN THE CAVERN OF THE DEAD. HE KNEW THAT IF HE HAD A PROLONGED FIGHT WITH MAGNOR'S MEN HE WOULD EVENTUALLY BE DEFEATED AND MAGNOR WOULD REGAIN HIS POWER. TO KEEP THIS FROM HAPPENING HE RISKED ALMOST CERTAIN DEATH. HE DID NOT KNOW THAT NO ONE EVER RETURNED FROM THAT CAVERN BECAUSE IT WAS A PASSAGEWAY OUT OF THE DIMENSION. TO TOM'S SHOCK, GRODD IS NOW ENTERING OUR DIMENSION THROUGH AN OPENING IN THE MIDDLE OF HIS ROOM.

THE SIGHT OF GRODD FRIGHTENS TOM BUT SOMEHOW GRODD CONVEYS THE IMPRESSION THAT HE MEANS NO HARM.

PLEASE, DO NOT FEAR ME. I WILL NOT HURT YOU. I AM FROM A DIMENSION OTHER THAN YOURS. I HAVE COME HERE TO ESCAPE MY ENEMIES.

I... I DON'T KNOW WHY I SHOULD, BUT I BELIEVE YOU.



WHAT THE?!



GRODD SOON REALISES WHY NONE HAVE RETURNED FROM THIS DIMENSION.

UH....I CANNOT SURVIVE IN THE ATMOSPHERE OF YOUR DIMENSION. AH, I AM SLOWLY DISINTEGRATING.



MUST REMOVE THE BLACK RAIMENT IN HOPE THAT IT DOES NOT DISINTEGRATE WITH ME. PERHAPS IT CAN SERVE YOUR PEOPLE WELL. IT MUST NEVER RETURN TO MY HOME.



YOU MUST PUT IT ON. HURRY, FOR MY ENEMIES MAY FOLLOW ME HERE. IT WILL GIVE YOU THE POWER TO DEFEAT THEM.

I UNDERSTAND, BUT WHAT IS THIS POWER THE RAIMENT, OR WHATEVER YOU CALL IT, WILL GIVE ME?



DENSITY CONTROL. IT ENABLES THE WEARER TO ACTUALLY CHANGE THE DENSITY OF HIS BODY MASS AT ANY GIVEN POINT. TO PROTECT YOURSELF FROM HARM YOU MAY WILL YOUR BODY DENSITY TO DECREASE TO SUCH AN EXTENT THAT OTHER MATTER WILL ACTUALLY PASS THROUGH YOU. THIS ALSO ENABLES YOU TO PASS THROUGH SOLID OBJECTS.



YOU MAY ALSO WILL YOUR DENSITY TO INCREASE GREATLY. THIS ENABLES YOU TO MAKE ANY PART OF YOUR BODY A LETHAL WEAPON. FOR INSTANCE, YOU CAN KNOCK DOWN A SOLID WALL WITH ONE BLOW FROM A FIST WEIGHING SEVERAL TONS



AS YOU CAN SEE, IT IS AN AWESOME RESPONSIBILITY TO CONTROL SUCH POWER. I CAN SEE INTO YOUR MIND. I KNOW YOU WILL HANDLE IT PROPERLY. AHH... I AM GOING NOW... REMEMBER... EH... IT MUST NOT... RETURN TO M-MAGNOR...



MAGNOR? THAT MUST BE HIS ENEMY

I WILL NOT FAIL YOU. I SENSE THAT WHAT YOU SAY IS RIGHT.

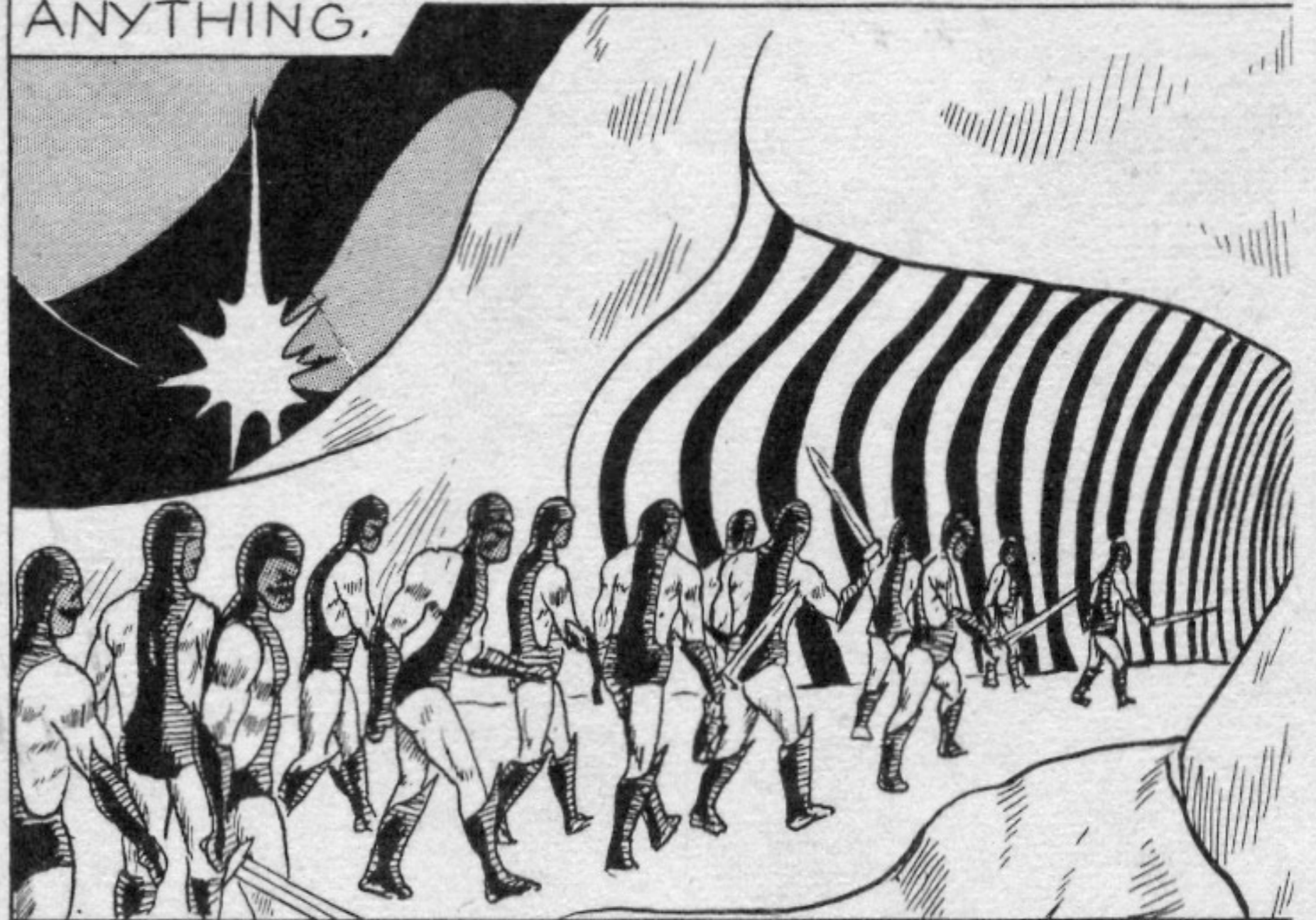


AT THE SAME MOMENT MAGNOR'S MEN HAVE REPORTED TO THEIR LEADER OF GRODD'S ESCAPE...

YOU FOOLS, HE HAS TRICKED YOU. ALL OF YOU, GO INTO THE CAVERN OF THE DEAD AND BRING BACK MY RAIMENT. YOU MUST FIND SOME WAY OF RETURNING WITH IT. WITHOUT THE BLACK POWER, WE ARE ALL AS GOOD AS DEAD!



AND SOON MAGNOR'S ENTIRE ARMY COMES TO THE SPOT WHERE GRODD ESCAPED. THEY NOW KNOW IF THEY CANNOT BRING BACK THE BLACK OUTFIT, THEY WILL DIE, THEY ARE READY TO FACE ANYTHING.



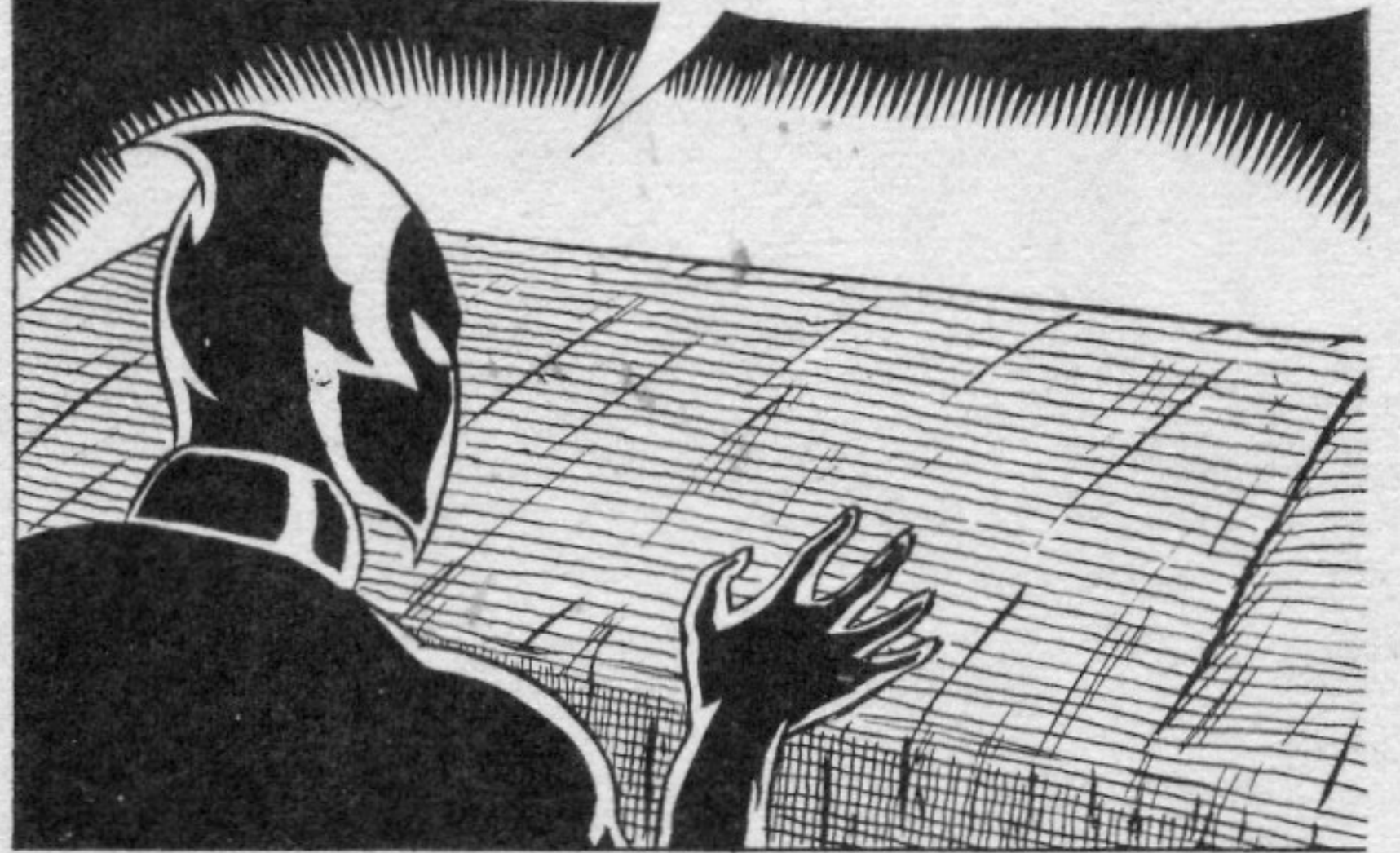
THE DESPERATE MEN ENTER INTO THE FORSAKEN CAVERN AND AS THEY REACH A CERTAIN POINT, ONE BY ONE THEY DISAPPEAR.

FEAR NOT IS THIS END NOT BETTER THAN THE ONE WE WOULD FACE AT THE HANDS OF OUR FELLOW CITIZENS?

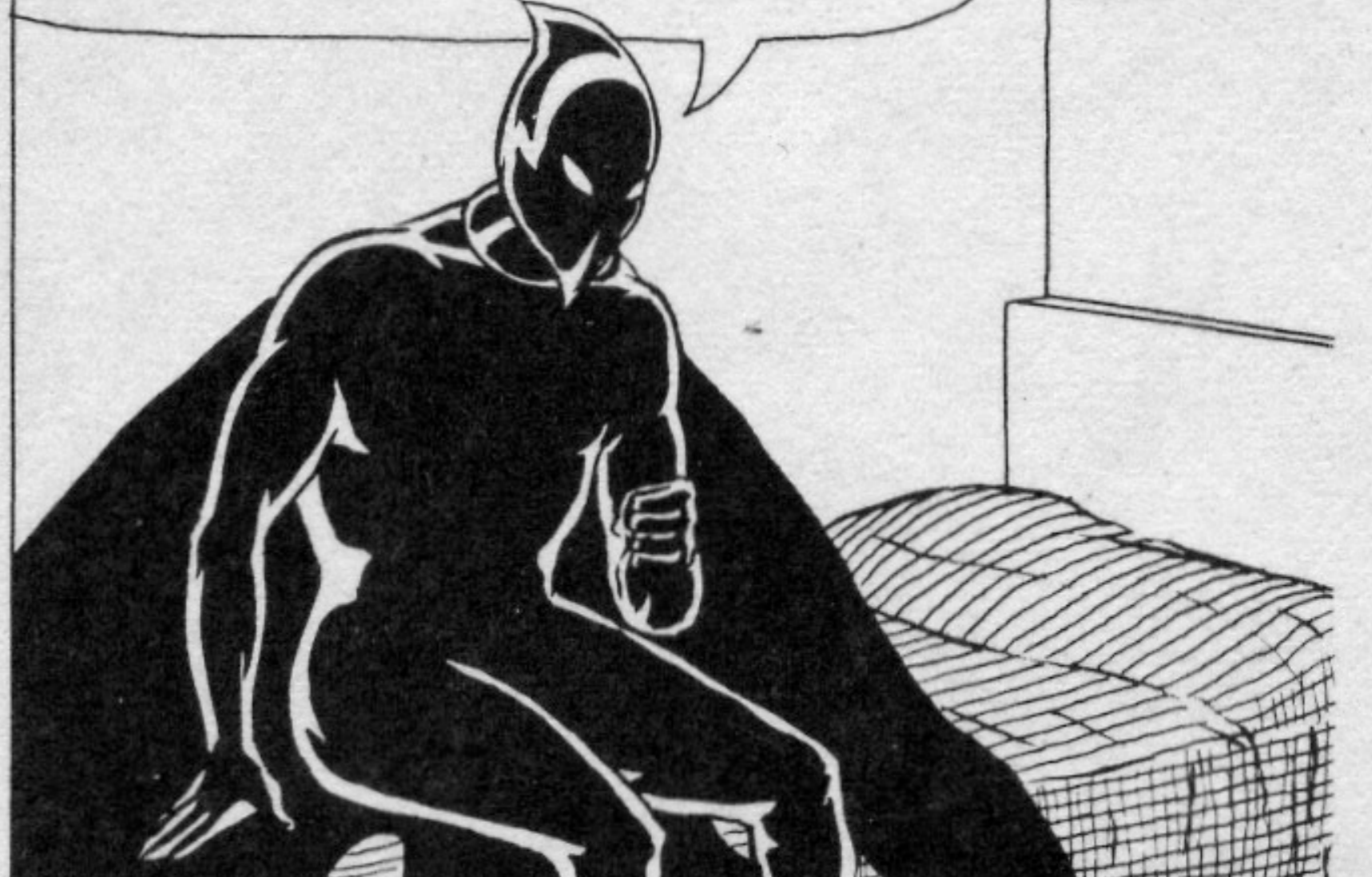


THE BRAVE GRODD FINALLY DIES...

H-HE'S G-GONE! PERHAPS HE NEVER EXISTED. COULD THIS HAVE BEEN SOME SORT OF WILD DREAM? B-BUT I STILL HAVE THE BLACK COSTUME ON.



YES, HE WAS REAL ALRIGHT. I ALSO BELIEVE WHAT HE SAID WAS TRUE. THAT MEANS I AM THE SOLE OWNER OF A POWER SO GREAT IT HELD THE POPULATION OF AN ENTIRE DIMENSION IN SLAVERY. BUT AM I CAPABLE OF USING IT CORRECTLY?



BUT TOM'S MEDITATION OVER HIS INHERITANCE IS ABRUPTLY ENDED...



IT IS GRODD!
KILL HIM!



HIS ENEMIES!
THEY THINK THAT
I AM HE.



AT A MENTAL COMMAND, TOM'S BODY
DENSITY DECREASES...

HE WAS RIGHT.
SOLID OBJECTS
PASS RIGHT
THROUGH...



DEATH
TO
GRODD!

NOW TO SEE HOW
INCREASED DENSITY
WORKS... **WOW!**

EDWARDS FINDS IT EASY TO WIELD HIS NEW POWER. BUT HE IS NOT AWARE OF THE MENTAL STRAIN IT IS CAUSING...

SCRATCH ANOTHER WEIRDO FINK!



WHAT'S THE MATTER FELLA? CAN'T YOU EVEN KAYO A PUNY EARTHMAN?



THAT'S RIGHT FELLAS, GET IN LINE.



I HAVEN'T PLAYED WITH DOMINOS IN YEARS!



AFTER SEVERAL MINUTES OF FIGHTING, TOM BEGINS TO WEAKEN...



W-WHAT'S HAPPENING?!



...LOSING CONSCIOUSNESS... MUST ESCAPE!...

WITH ONE LAST DESPERATE EFFORT, TOM DECREASES HIS DENSITY SO THAT HE FALLS RIGHT THROUGH THE FLOOR.



HE'S ESCAPING.

AFTER HIM!

BUT FOR MEN TO WHOM FAILURE MEANS DEATH, A MERE FLOOR MEANS NOTHING.



HE'S WEAKENING... WE MUST KILL HIM NOW BEFORE HE REGAINS HIS STRENGTH.

KA-CRUNCH

COMPLETELY EXHAUSTED, TOM AWAITS HIS DOOM...



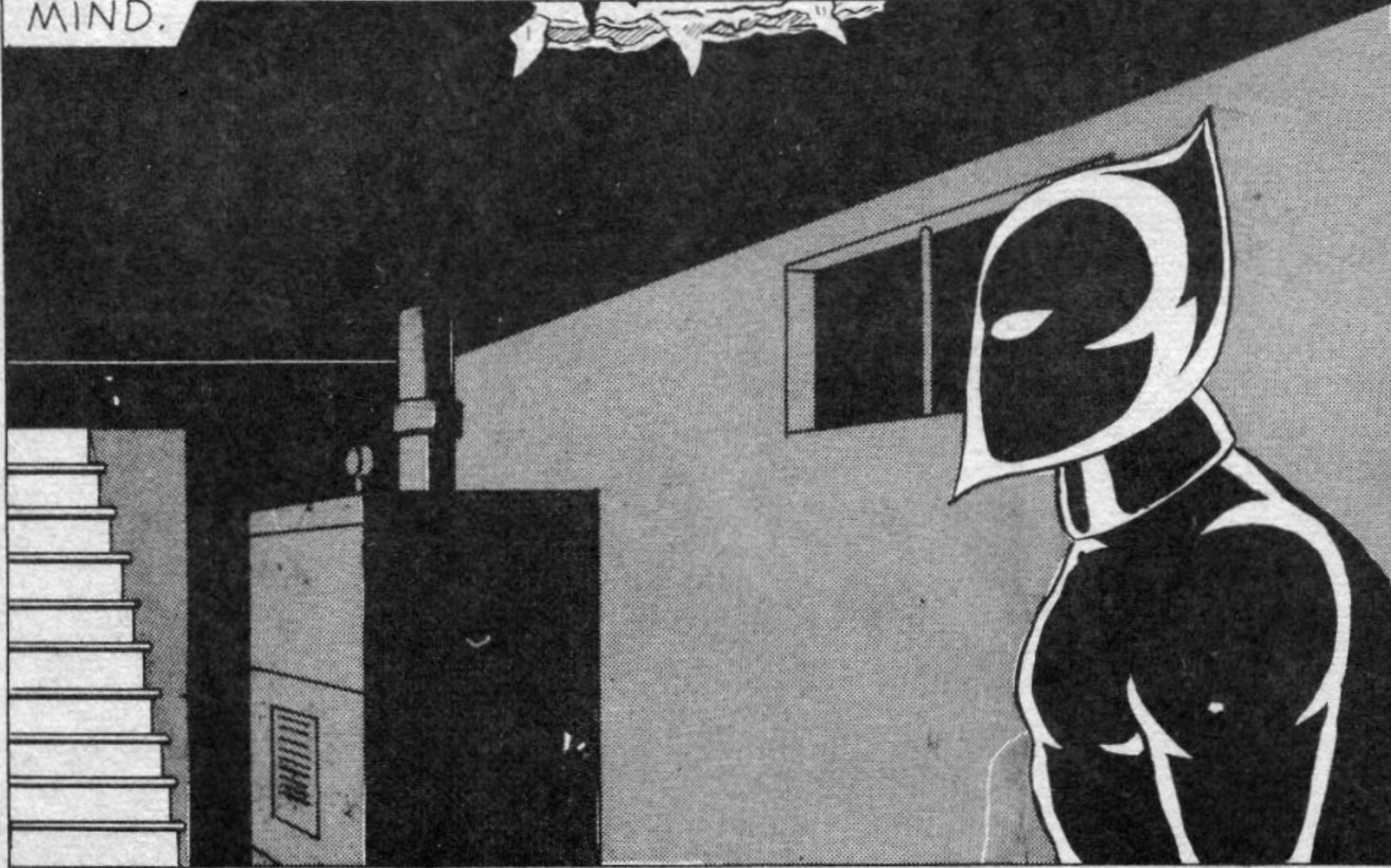
AND NOW TO FINISH THE DEED!

GRODD, NOW YOU DI.... AAAAAHHH!

TOO BUSY IN THEIR FIGHT, MAGNOR'S MEN HAD NOT NOTICED THEY WERE BEGINNING TO DIE. NOW WHEN VICTORY WAS SO CLOSE FOR THEM, FATE WAS AGAIN KIND TO THOMAS EDWARDS.



NOW ALONE IN THE QUIET BASEMENT, THE SIGNIFICANCE OF WHAT HAS OCCURRED BEGINS TO SEEP INTO TOM'S MIND.



FRED WILL BE BACK SOON. GOT TO GET OUT OF THIS OUTFIT.



BACK IN HIS FAMILIAR CLOTHES, TOM RESUMES HIS STUDIES. HE MUST NOT REVEAL WHAT HAS HAPPENED UNTIL HE DECIDES WHAT HE WILL DO WITH HIS NEW POWER.

TOM, WHAT ON EARTH HAPPENED HERE, ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?

I'M FINE.



IT LOOKS LIKE A BULL-DOZER'S BEEN THROUGH HERE. WHAT DID ALL THIS?

AH...ER... TERMITES?

