

**VERTIGO**

warren  
ELLIS

darick  
ROBERTSON

rodney  
RAMOS

ISSUE **56**  
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2.50 can 4.25

SUGGESTED FOR MATURE READERS

\* LATE EDITION \* \* \* \*

# TRANSMETROPOLITAN™



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DIRECT SALES

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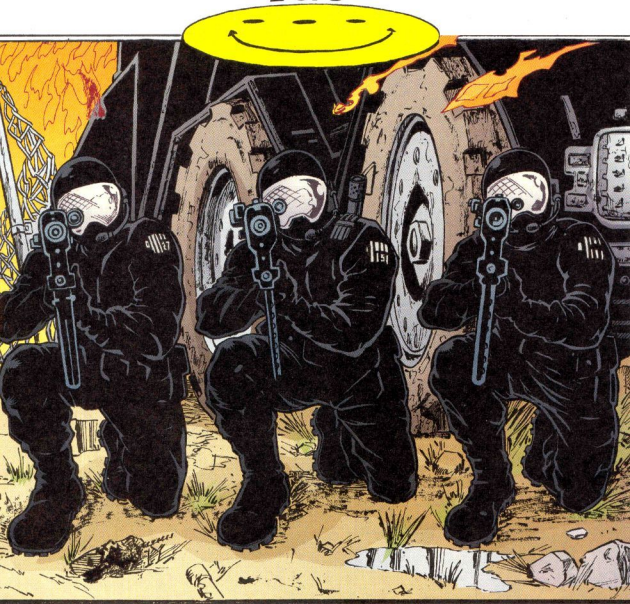
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**DARICK ROBERTSON &  
RODNEY RAMOS** draw

# HEADLONG

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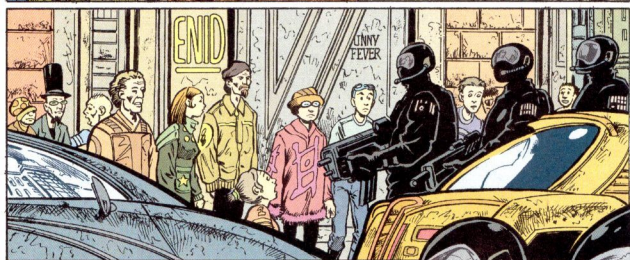
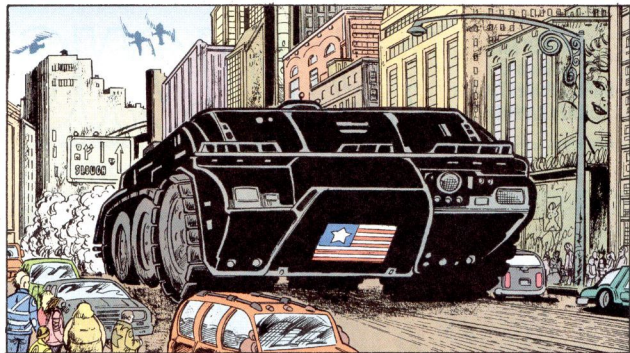
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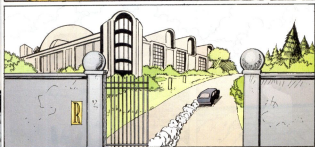
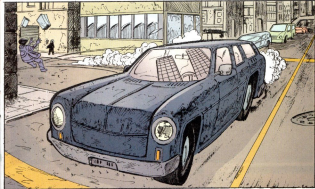


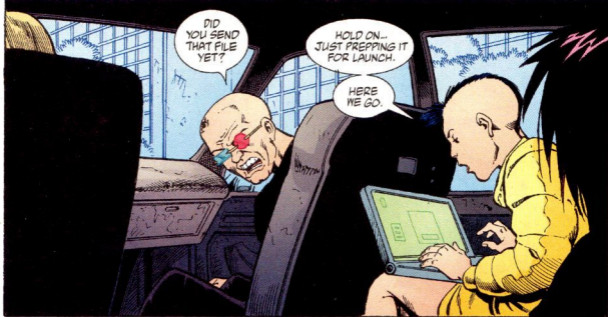
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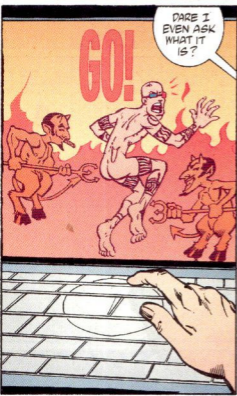




DID YOU SEND THAT FILE YET?

HOLD ON... JUST PREPPING IT FOR LAUNCH.

HERE WE GO.



DARE I EVEN ASK WHAT IT IS?

GO!



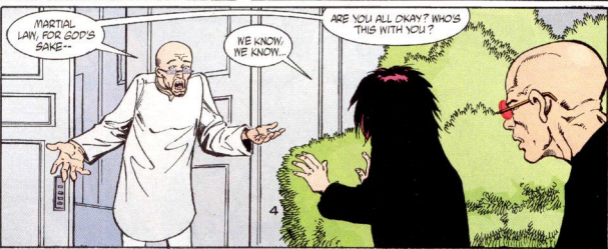
SOMETHING I SAVED FOR A RAINY DAY.



THINK WE SHOULD LEAVE THE CAR OUT HERE? IF IT GETS SPOTTED--

I'M DAMN SURE THEY KNOW WHERE WE ARE BY NOW ANYWAY.

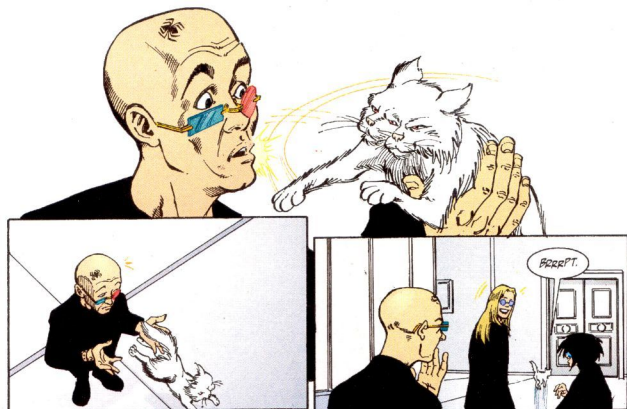
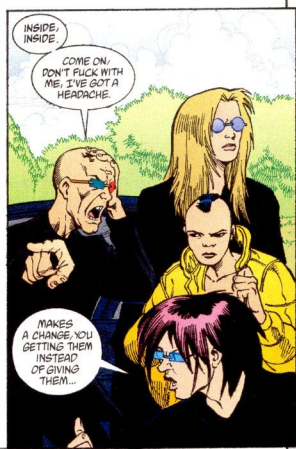
WE GOT BETTER THINGS TO WORRY ABOUT.



MARTIAL LAW, FOR GOD'S SAKE--

WE KNOW, WE KNOW...

ARE YOU ALL OKAY? WHO'S THIS WITH YOU?



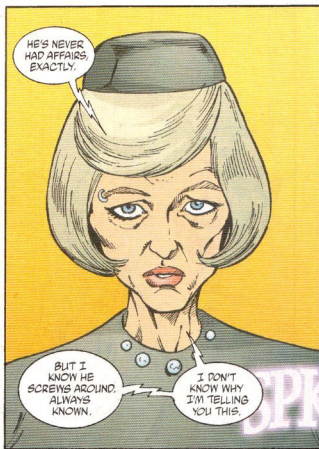


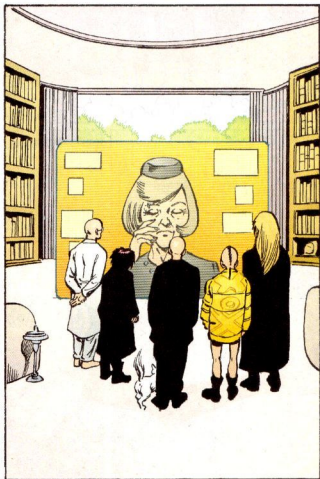
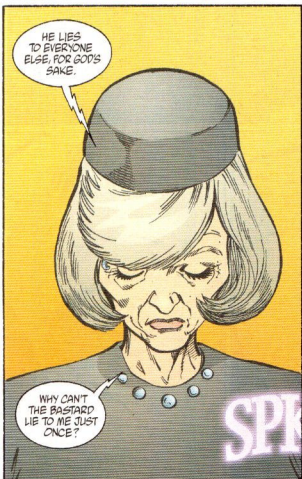
# Judith Callahan

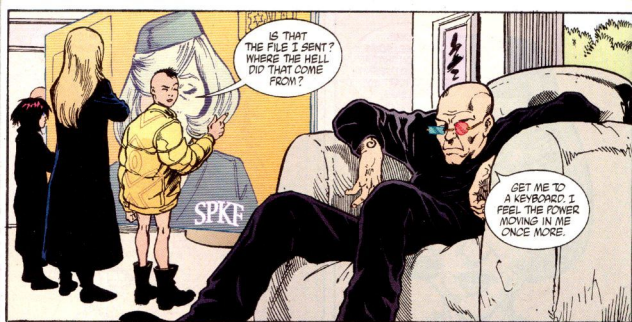
The late First Lady

Found on THE HOLE moments ago

SPKF

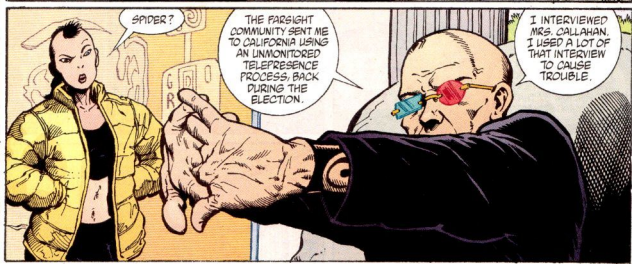






IS THAT THE FILE I SENT? WHERE THE HELL DID THAT COME FROM?

GET ME TO A KEYBOARD. I FEEL THE POWER MOVING IN ME ONCE MORE.



SPIDER?

THE FARSIGHT COMMUNITY SENT ME TO CALIFORNIA USING AN UNMONITORED TELEPRESENCE PROCESS, BACK DURING THE ELECTION.

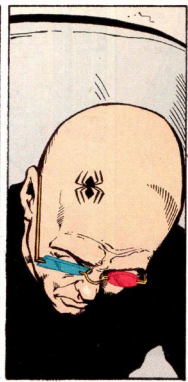
I INTERVIEWED MRS. CALLAHAN. I USED A LOT OF THAT INTERVIEW TO CAUSE TROUBLE.



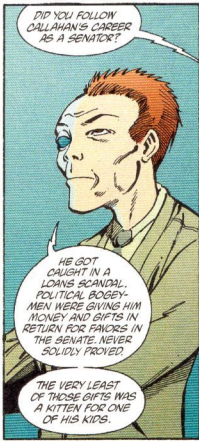
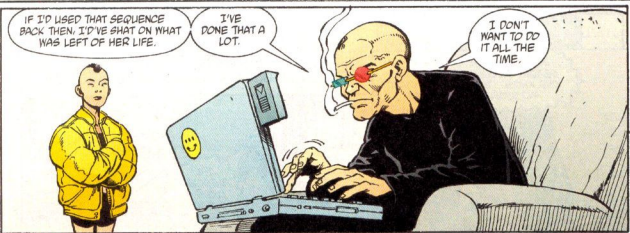
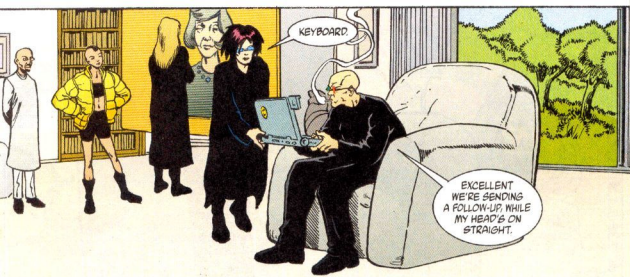
BUT YOU SAVED THIS.

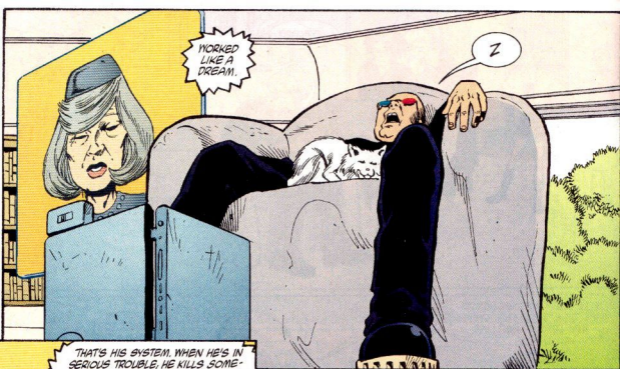
THAT'S RIGHT, I NEVER USED THIS. I HID IT.

WHY?

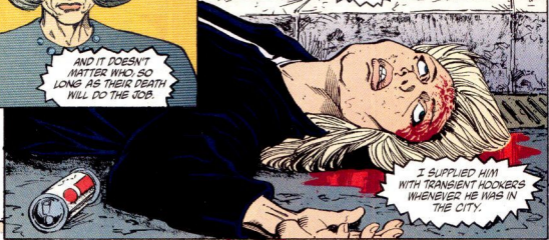


SHE SEEMED SO SAD.



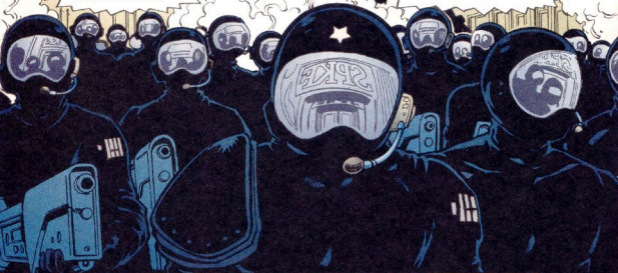


THAT'S HIS SYSTEM. WHEN HE'S IN SERIOUS TROUBLE, HE KILLS SOMEONE WHOSE DEATH IS TO HIS DIRECT AND IMMEDIATE ADVANTAGE.



SO WHEN CALLAHAN  
STARTED CLEANING UP HIS  
TRACES IN THE CITY--

--HE WHACKED THE  
GUY WHO HE THOUGHT SUPPLIED  
HIM WITH ALL THE HOOKERS.



YOU  
KNOW  
WHAT KILLS  
ME? I GOT  
PULLED AS A  
SUSPECT. THE  
COFS KNEW I  
RAN TRANSIENT  
GIRLS, AND  
CALLAHAN AND  
HIS PEOPLE  
DIDN'T.

SPKE

AMAZING.





HOW WE DOING?

LOSING ACCESS TO THE WORLD, IS HOW WE'RE DOING. I'M GETTING ONE FEED CHANNEL SHUT DOWN EVERY THIRTY SECONDS.

AND THE CORPORATE FEED-SITES ARE GETTING WEIRD.



I THINK THEY'RE SHUTTING DOWN AREAS OF THEIR SITES THEMSELVES.

WHOA. I HAVE MAIL.

DICK CAVETT UNIVERSITY STUDENT FEEDSITE... LINK'S LEADING ME SOMEWHERE...



...HA.

CHEEKY BASTARDS. THEY'VE HACKED THE CAMPUS SECURITY CAM SYSTEM...



OH.



WAKE HIM UP.

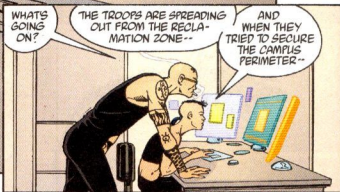
YELENA! GET A TELEVISION ON!

I DON'T THINK THE TV IS GOING TO CARRY THIS...



WHERE'S  
DICK CAVETT  
UNIVERSITY?

WINTERHOLD--  
JUST NORTH OF  
THE RECLAMATION  
ZONE.



WHAT'S  
GOING  
ON?

THE TROOPS ARE SPREADING  
OUT FROM THE RECLA-  
MATION ZONE--

AND  
WHEN THEY  
TRIED TO SECURE  
THE CAMPUS  
PERIMETER--



BACK THE  
FUXX UP,  
SECURE THE  
PERIMETER?

SEEMS THE NATIONAL GUARD  
ARE STARTING TO RESTRICT MOVEMENT.  
THEY WANTED TO LOCK THE CAMPUS UP  
FOR A FEW HOURS WHILE THEY  
SECURED THE DISTRICT.

JESUS  
CHRIST.



TV'S ON. WHAT'RE WE  
LOOKING FOR?

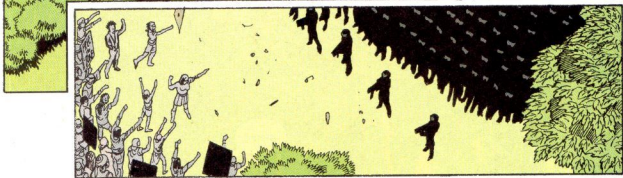
ANYWAY,  
WHEN THEY  
TRIED TO SECURE  
THE PERIMETER,  
THE STUDENTS  
CAME OUT TO  
MEET THEM.

SOME  
OF THEM  
HAVE PUT THE  
CAMPUS AMBIENT  
SECURITY CAMS ON  
FEED. CHECK  
THIS OUT.



SHIIIT.

LIVE



...NO, NO, I'M SORRY, BUT THERE'S NO REASON TO LEAVE THE PRESS ROOM OPEN.

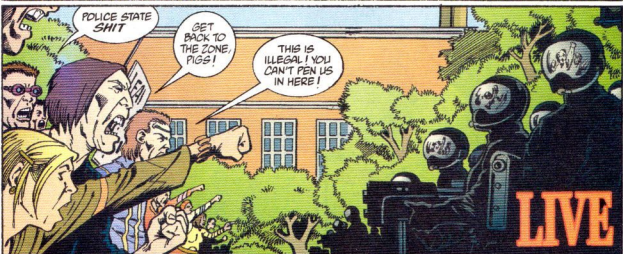
NO. THERE WILL BE NO FURTHER OPEN BRIEFINGS TO THE PRESS TODAY.

LISTEN, YOUR PRESENCE HERE IS A PRIVILEGE, NOT A RIGHT...



--IMPROMPTU  
PEACEFUL PROTESTS  
BY STUDENTS AGAINST  
GOVERNMENT TROOPS  
SPREADING OUT  
BEYOND THE  
RECLAMATION  
ZONE--

LIVE

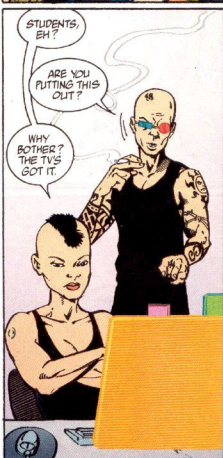


POLICE STATE  
SHIT

GET  
BACK TO  
THE ZONE,  
PIGS!

THIS IS  
ILLEGAL! YOU  
CAN'T PEN US  
IN HERE!

LIVE



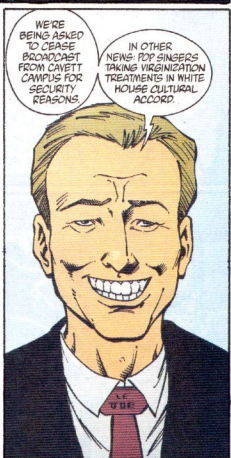
STUDENTS,  
EH?

ARE YOU  
PUTTING THIS  
OUT?

WHY  
BOTHER?  
THE TV'S  
GOT IT.



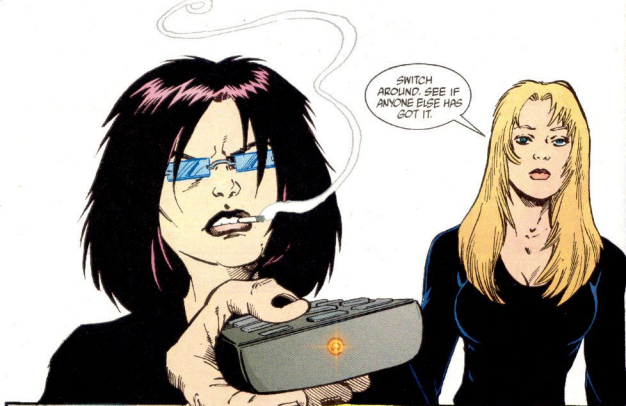
HUH?



WE'RE  
BEING ASKED  
TO CEASE  
BROADCAST  
FROM CAVETT  
CAMPUS FOR  
SECURITY  
REASONS.

IN OTHER  
NEWS: POP SINGERS  
TAKING VIRGINIZATION  
TREATMENTS IN WHITE  
HOUSE CULTURAL  
ACCORD.

L.E.  
GUE



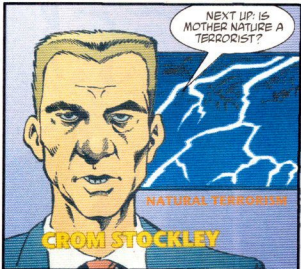
SWITCH AROUND. SEE IF ANYONE ELSE HAS GOT IT.



EBOLA COLA--  
REFRESHMENT  
THAT DEVOURS.



NECROTIZING-  
FASCITIS CHIC: IS  
IT UNAMERICAN?



NEXT UP: IS  
MOTHER NATURE A  
TERRORIST?

NATURAL TERRORISM

**CROM STOCKLEY**



--GOVERNMENT TROOPS ARE  
IN THE BUILDING, APPARENTLY  
FOR OUR PROTECTION AGAINST  
DISSIDENT ACTIVITY.

WE ARE BEING  
TOLD THAT THE  
ZONE HAS BECOME  
A HOTBED OF CIVIL  
DISOBEDIENCE.

CAVETT  
UNIVERSITY, BEING  
CLOSE TO THE  
ZONE, HAS BEEN  
DESIGNATED  
A "DISSIDENCE  
HOTBED" AND  
"MARTIAL LAW  
RESISTANCE  
SECTOR"--

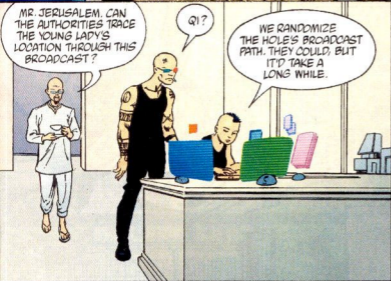
**SPIKE**



HAVE YOU STILL GOT THE LINK?

YEAH. THEY'RE TRYING TO JAM AMBIENT CAMS, BUT THE AREA'S TOO BUSY.

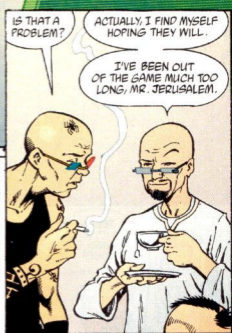
GOING LIVE WITH IT.



MR. JERUSALEM, CAN THE AUTHORITIES TRACE THE YOUNG LADY'S LOCATION THROUGH THIS BROADCAST?

Q1?

WE RANDOMIZE THE HOLE'S BROADCAST PATH. THEY COULD, BUT IT'D TAKE A LONG WHILE.



IS THAT A PROBLEM?

ACTUALLY, I FIND MYSELF HOPING THEY WILL.

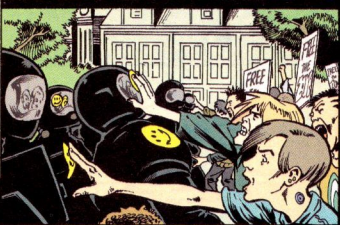
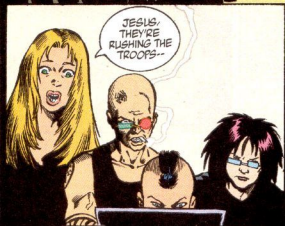
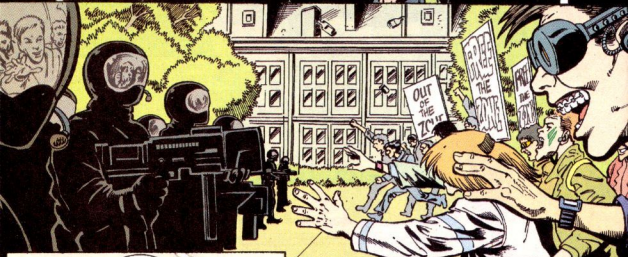
I'VE BEEN OUT OF THE GAME MUCH TOO LONG, MR. JERUSALEM.

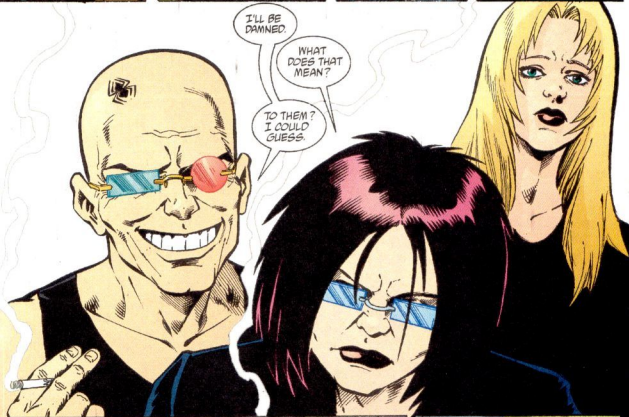


POLITICAL FIGHTING IS A DISEASE. I'VE HAD A LONG PERIOD OF REMISSION, BUT I AM STILL QUITE INFECTED.

LIKE YOU.

GOD, LOOK AT THIS...





I'LL BE DAMNED.

WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?

TO THEM? I COULD GUESS.



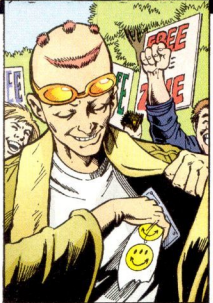
POLICE BRUTALITY. AN UNFAIRLY PROSECUTED SECTOR OF SOCIETY. CORRUPTION. RESISTANCE.

MEANS THEY KNOW WHERE THEY LIVE.

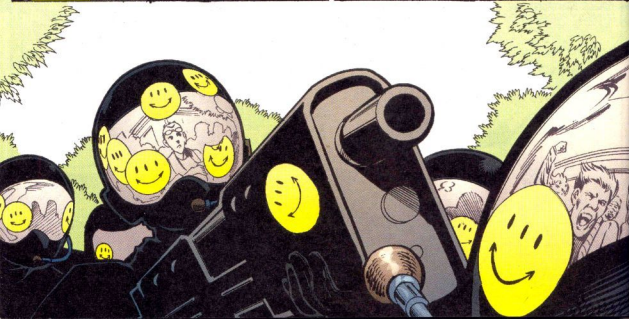
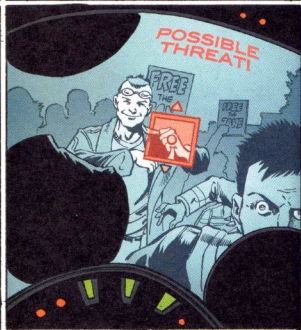
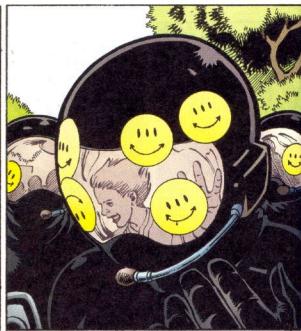


THERE, LOOK-- HANDHELD MAKERS.

THEY'RE PRINTING THE THINGS OFF RIGHT THERE.



FREE  
LIVE



The purpose of this column, so I've been told, is to find a cleverly oblique way to introduce you to my new Vertigo series and, if possible, entice you to buy it. Fair enough, but I'm fresh out of oblique, and my ready supplies of clever are low enough that I really ought to save what's left for the paying work. So I've decided to take the road less traveled in this case and simply tell you a bit about my new series and ask you to buy it. Here goes:

My new series is called *Fables*. It concerns the adventures of the best-known characters from fable and folklore living in exile in modern New York, on the run from an unknown adversary whose armies have conquered and occupied their fabled homelands. It stars, among others, such old favorites as Snow White, Rose Red, Bigby Wolf — you should be able to figure out who he is — and Prince Charming, portrayed in ways you won't find in kids' animated movies. It's an ongoing series. I'm writing it and a rotating group of some of the best artists in the business is drawing it including Lan Medina (*WONDER WOMAN SECRET FILES*), Steve Leialoha (*THE SANDMAN PRESENTS: DEADBOY DETECTIVES*) and Mark Buckingham (*Peter Parker, DEATH*).

I think it's a pretty good story, and I hope you'll consider buying it.

# ON THE ledge

Well, that was relatively painless, and since we've got some space left, I'll entertain a few questions from the readership.

Is it dangerous?

No, not really. Oh sure, if you're not careful you could get a nasty paper cut from the pages, but I

wouldn't go so far as to call it dangerous. Oh, you meant the ideas in the story? No. We skipped the danger to go straight to entertaining.

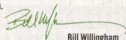
Then is it at least subversive?

I don't think so, except to the extent that we've taken out the requisite showtunes and put back the sex, violence, horror and human misery that were stripped out of these tales way back when. We've also bucked the latest trend in fable-based entertainment by reducing the fart jokes by as much as 35% in some issues.

If you're not even trying for dangerous or subversive, then what is this series doing in the VERTIGO stable?

That's a good question, but we've unfortunately run out of space, so you'll just have to find out for yourself when *Fables* appears May 8th in your local comic shop.

Thanks too much.



Bill Willingham

## IN STORES THIS MAY

### FABLES #1 (NEW MONTHLY SERIES)

Led by Snow White, a reformed Bigby Wolf, and a slew of others, the secret community of Fabletown is adjusting to life among the "mundanes" in contemporary Manhattan. But this is no fairy tale, and when Snow White's estranged sister, Rose, goes missing — her apartment a bloody crime scene — it's up to Snow and Mr. Wolf to find the culprit. *Created and written by Bill Willingham. Art by Lan Medina and Steve Leialoha. Variant covers by James Jean (painted) and Alex Maleev.*

### HUMAN TARGET: FINAL CUT (HARDCOVER)

Christopher Chance is hired to impersonate an aging film actor marked for death by an extortionist who preys upon the Hollywood glitterati. What seems like an open and shut case results in Chance's being hired to find a missing child actor, and his cover leads him down a dangerous trail of deceit, violence and obsession. As Chance slips further into his cover identity, will he ever find a way back to his true self? *Written by Peter Milligan. Art and cover by Javier Pulido.*

### THE NAMES OF MAGIC (TRADE PAPERBACK)

Reprinting the 5-issue miniseries, *THE NAMES OF MAGIC* finds Tim Hunter reunited with the four mystics from the original *THE BOOKS OF MAGIC* miniseries. Tim learns of the existence of the White School — a refuge where he might be protected from the deluge of forces trying to claim his power for themselves. Before he can gain entry, he must find his true name, while an ancient secret society tries to track him down. *Written by Dylan Horrocks; art by Richard Case; painted cover by John Bolton.*

### 100 BULLETS #36

The conclusion of "The Counterfifth Detective." Private Eye Milo Garret's spiral continues, as he finally uncovers the truth about exactly why he's been left a scarred, broken man. *By Azzarello & Rissa. Painted cover by Johnson.*

### AMERICAN CENTURY #15

Harry Kraft discovers a warehouse full of stolen paintings, but the Nazi loot is the key to a pompous French art dealer's plan to flood the world with near-perfect frauds. Thanks to hard-boiled Harry, 1950's Paris will never be the same. *By Chaykin & Tischman. Art by Luke Ross and John Stokes. Painted cover by Glen Orbik.*

### CODENAME: KNOCKOUT #13

"Fleshback 1932: Arrivederci, Roma" — a stand-alone issue. In Mussolini's Italy, Go-Go's anarchist mother, Fiorella Pindo, battles Angela's secret agent grandmother, Pearlite Gates. Throw in the pint-size Italian spitfire Bamboletta, and it's a Golden Age she-devil spectacular! *Written by Rodi. Art by Amanda Conner and Jimmy Palmiotti. Cover by Gioiello.*

### THE CRUSADES #15

As the Ash Wednesday Killer steps up his schedule of slaughter, ingenue reporter Venus Koshtopiak and Detective Adidas Petronas cross paths in their quest to crack the case...and in their search for love. *By Seagle, Jones & Randall. Painted cover by Aron Wiesenfeld.*

### HELLBLAZER #174

The conclusion of "Ashes and Dust." The investigation into the death of John Constantine comes to a grisly end as FBI Agent Frank Turro confronts the tragic individual responsible, but not before people from Constantine's past converge on the insane scene. *By Azzarello & Frusin. Painted cover by Tim Bradstreet.*

### HUNTER: THE AGE OF MAGIC #11

The conclusion of the 4-part "The Evil Gene." Dr. Fabien's deadly virus of love is large in London, and Tim must stop it before the entire city is consumed. But in doing so, he must upset the balance of good and evil permanently. *By Horrocks, Case & Bird. Painted cover by Jon Foster.*

### LUCIFER #26

Death of the Endless has come to Lucifer's cosmos, to confront not one, but two supposedly immortal beings. Her intentions are far from clear, but her actions will prove both terrible and irrevocable. *By Carey, Gross & Kelly. Painted cover by Christopher Moeller.*

### MIDNIGHT, MASS. #2

VERTIGO's new horror, fantasy, romance, mystery miniseries continues. Picture a lone farmhouse, under a moonless sky. Through the window a TV is playing. Two figures are watching TV. One is human. One is not. Adam and Julia Kadmon undergo their most desperate adventure...one that will change the way they work forever. *By Ruzum, Saiz & Palmiotti. Cover by Tomer Hanuka.*

### S.C.I.-SPY #4 (OF 6)

Sebastian Starchild learns the truth behind his mysterious origin, what the Hunger Bugs really are and whence they come, and the devastating secret Motherbank has been harboring for nearly a thousand years! *By Moench, Gulacy & Palmiotti.*

### TRANSMETROPOLITAN #56

Martial law is expanding out from the Reclamation Zone to take control of the City, martial law run from the White House, and a President savaged by Spider Jerusalem—who's now on the lam. *By Ellis, Robertson & Ramos. Cover by Gene Ha.*

## EVENTS NEXT MONTH...

### THE FILTH #1 (OF 13)

Grant Morrison returns to VERTIGO with his first creator-owned series since *THE INVISIBLES*. Loaded with febrile imagery and Byzantine plot twists, *THE FILTH* is a mind-wrenching journey where nothing is exactly what it seems. But what is it about? That would be telling... *Written by Grant Morrison. Art by Chris Weston and Gary Erskine. Cover by Carlos Segura.*

### 100% #1 (OF 5)

Six star-crossed characters meet in the urban twilight of Manhattan, 2038. Ensnared in the underbelly of futuristic boxing and hardcore strip clubs, each character experiences sex, love and entertainment at 100% impact. A so-fi "graphic movie," the series is created, written and illustrated by Paul Pope and features black, white and gray interiors and full-color covers.

# SCORING A BULL'S-EYE WITH THE HUMAN TARGET

Groundbreaking Vertigo scribe Peter Milligan (SKREEMER, SHADE THE CHANGING MAN, ENIGMA, THE EXTREMIST, and current fan favorite X-FORCE) and European artist Javier Pulido (HELLBLAZER, FLINCH, ROBIN: YEAR ONE) have crafted HUMAN TARGET: FINAL CUT, a riveting, multilayered graphic film noir novel which brings readers into the dangerous world of Christopher Chance, master-of-disguise-for-hire. We cornered the creative team to get the skinny on what it's all about.

**SUBCULTURE:** What were your first jobs in comics?

**MILLIGAN:** If I can remember... it was probably a little punk series for a British music magazine called NME (New Music Express). The story was called THE ELECTRIC HOAX and was drawn by Brendan McCarthy (actually it was his creation). My first work besides that was for 2000 AD.

**PULIDO:** I started my comics career in Spain, doing some short stories and a four-issue miniseries — MENTAT — for Spanish editors, in 1996.

**SUBCULTURE:** How did this project come about?

**MILLIGAN:** Axel Alonso, who had initially commissioned me to write the first series, asked me if I wanted to write another. Because the first series had been well received, and because I had enjoyed writing it and felt that there was more in Chris Chance's character that I wanted to excavate, I agreed, and then set about coming up with this story, FINAL CUT.

**PULIDO:** Former Vertigo editor Tony Bedard got in touch with me in late 2000 inviting me to work in the project. I thought it was a great opportunity. I had really liked the first HUMAN TARGET miniseries and have great admiration

for Peter Milligan's work, so I accepted it.

**SUBCULTURE:** Which artists and writers have influenced your work?

**MILLIGAN:** Because Brendan McCarthy and Brett Ewins were the first people I knew who were working in the industry, it would have to be them.

**PULIDO:** A lot of them. The list would be too long... I try to be influenced by all of the work I like, and there's a lot of good stuff out there.

**SUBCULTURE:** What fascinates you about the character of Christopher Chance?

**MILLIGAN:** I think my take on him is different from previous writers. What fascinated me, and what I wanted to explore in my first book and now FINAL CUT, is the idea of this man who is a master at impersonating other people but who is less good at being a whole, functioning individual himself. Whether this is because he spends so much time impersonating other people... or whether he's good at impersonating other people because of the fragile nature of his own personality is a theme that runs through the story...

**PULIDO:** In my opinion, and in the way Peter Milligan writes him, he's basically a person who takes his job too seriously, and then it becomes his whole life. I think it's a very real subject, very representative of our society.

**SUBCULTURE:** If a film adaptation of HUMAN TARGET were announced (take note, Hollywood!), who do you see playing Christopher Chance?

**MILLIGAN:** My choice would be George Clooney. If he played his cards right.

**PULIDO:** Obviously, George Clooney.

**SUBCULTURE:** What's the best advice you ever got (in or out of comics)?

**MILLIGAN:** My God, what a difficult question! Let's see... I had an uncle who once advised me never to trust a man who wore brown shoes.

**PULIDO:** Life is more than work.

**SUBCULTURE:** How do you think of the state of the comics industry at the moment?

**MILLIGAN:** I don't exactly have my finger on the pulse, but from here it seems to be in a healthier state than it has been for some time.

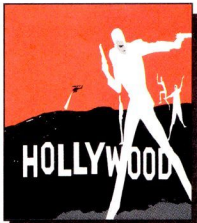
**PULIDO:** For me it is more than good. There's a lot of great stuff for reading and learning from! It looks like the market is starting to open to genres other than superheroes, and I have the opportunity to work on great projects.

**SUBCULTURE:** If you had only one book, movie and record while stranded on a desert island, what would be your choices?

**MILLIGAN:** Since this is one of those questions that may incriminate me, I'm sure you will understand if I do that thing you Americans do with the Fifth Amendment.

**PULIDO:** GHOST WORLD x 3!

**HUMAN TARGET: FINAL CUT, an original 96-page hardcover graphic novel, is in stores this month.**



**SUB** Welcome to SUBCULTURE, a fact-packed, semiregular supplement to our regular ON THE  
**CULTURE**

**LEDGE** feature. Where LEDGE gives you up-to-the-minute listings on VERTIGO monthly releases and a look at a spotlight project in the creator's own words. SUBCULTURE takes you even further behind the scenes on current projects, gives exclusive tidbits on new ones, and so on. It's enough to spin your head — which is, after all, the finest VERTIGO tradition there is.