



NO. 2
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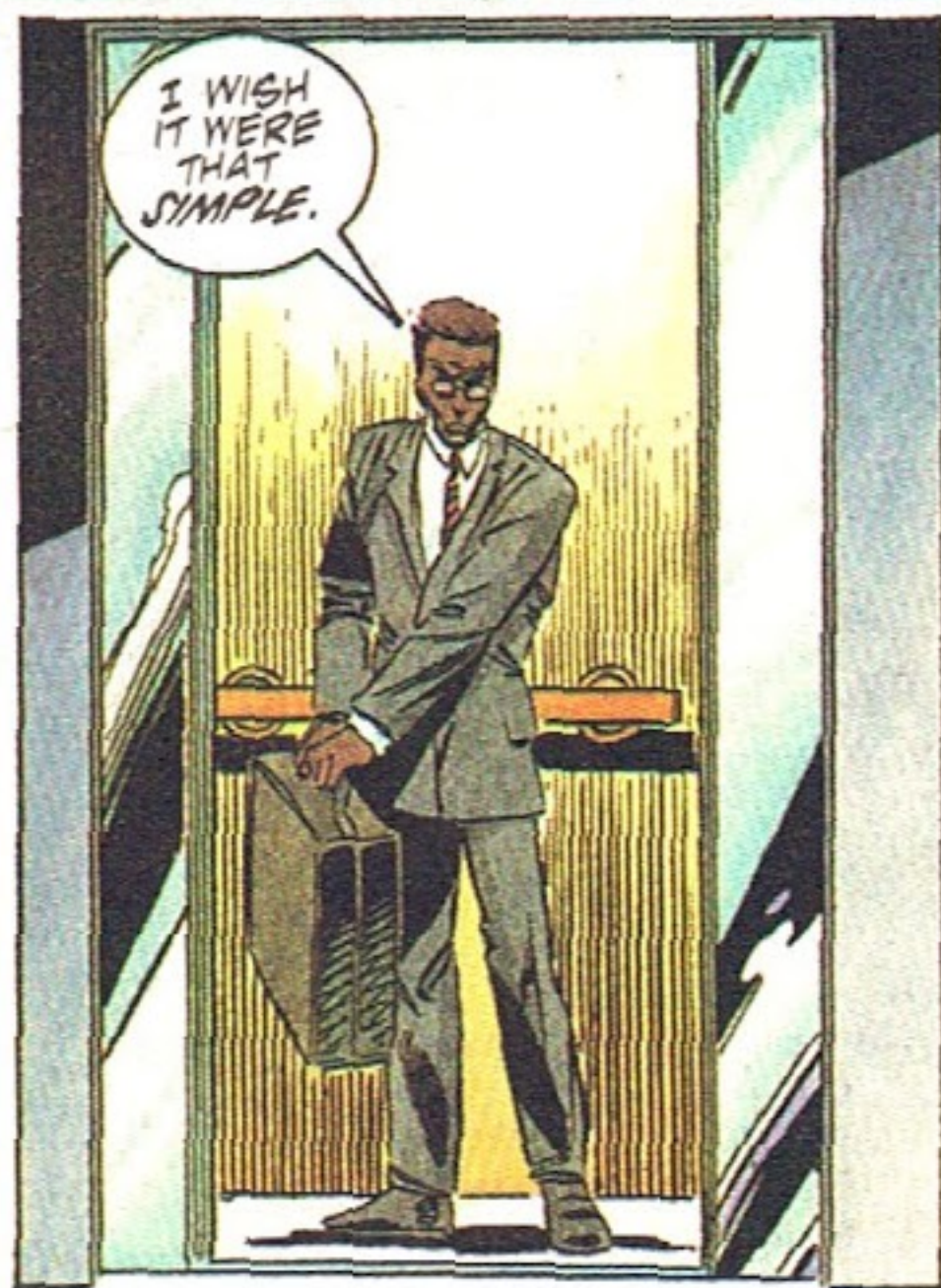
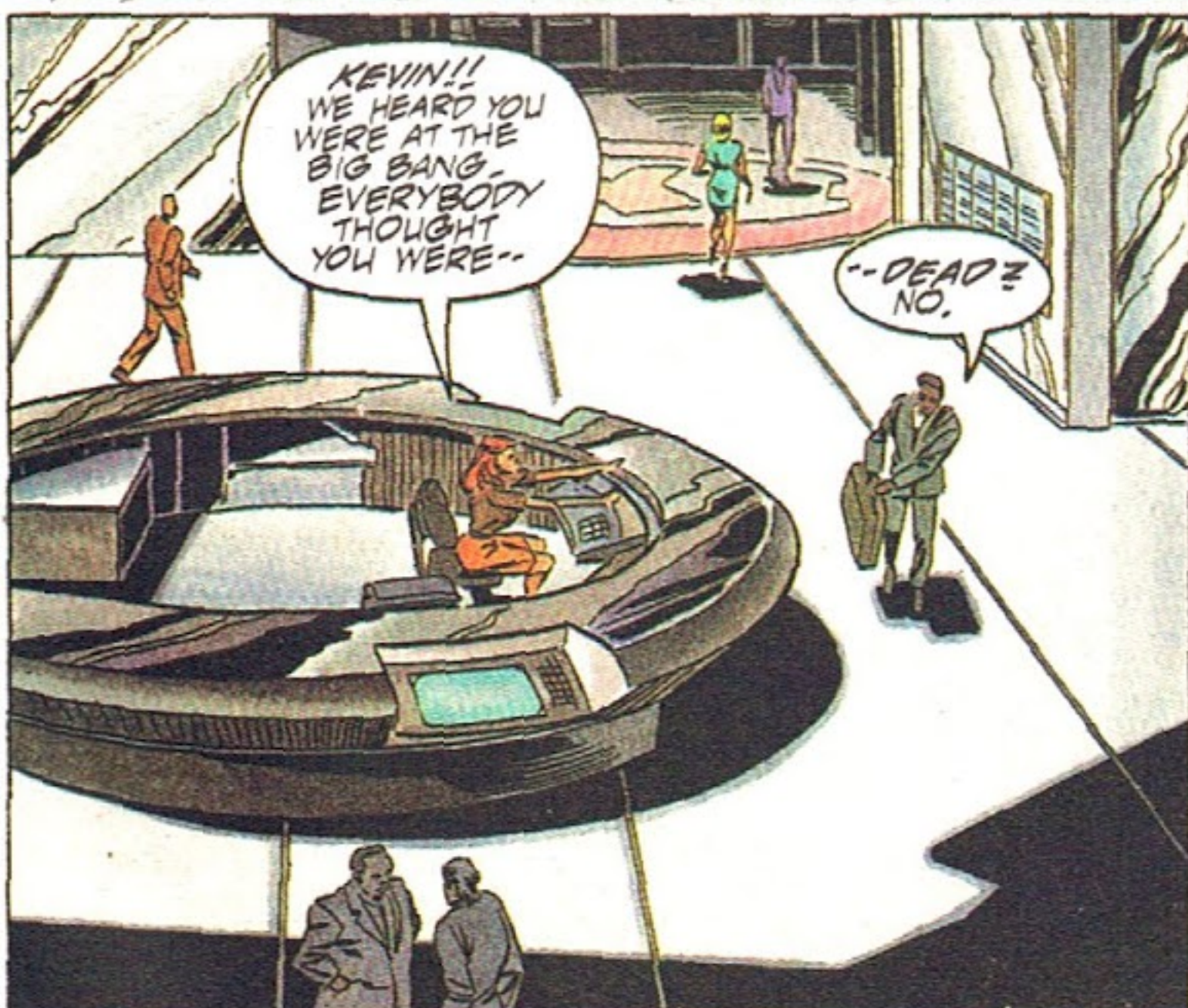
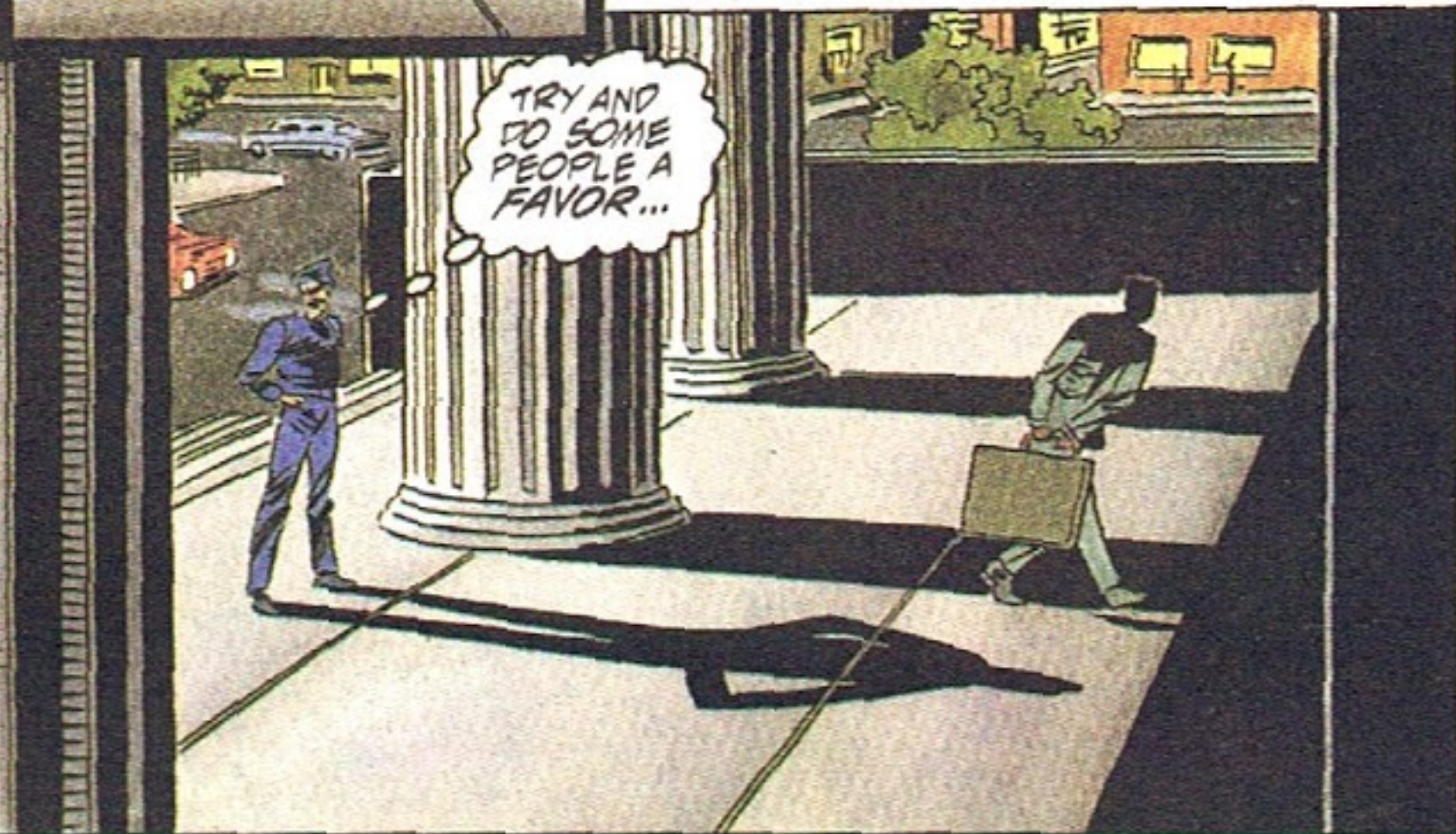


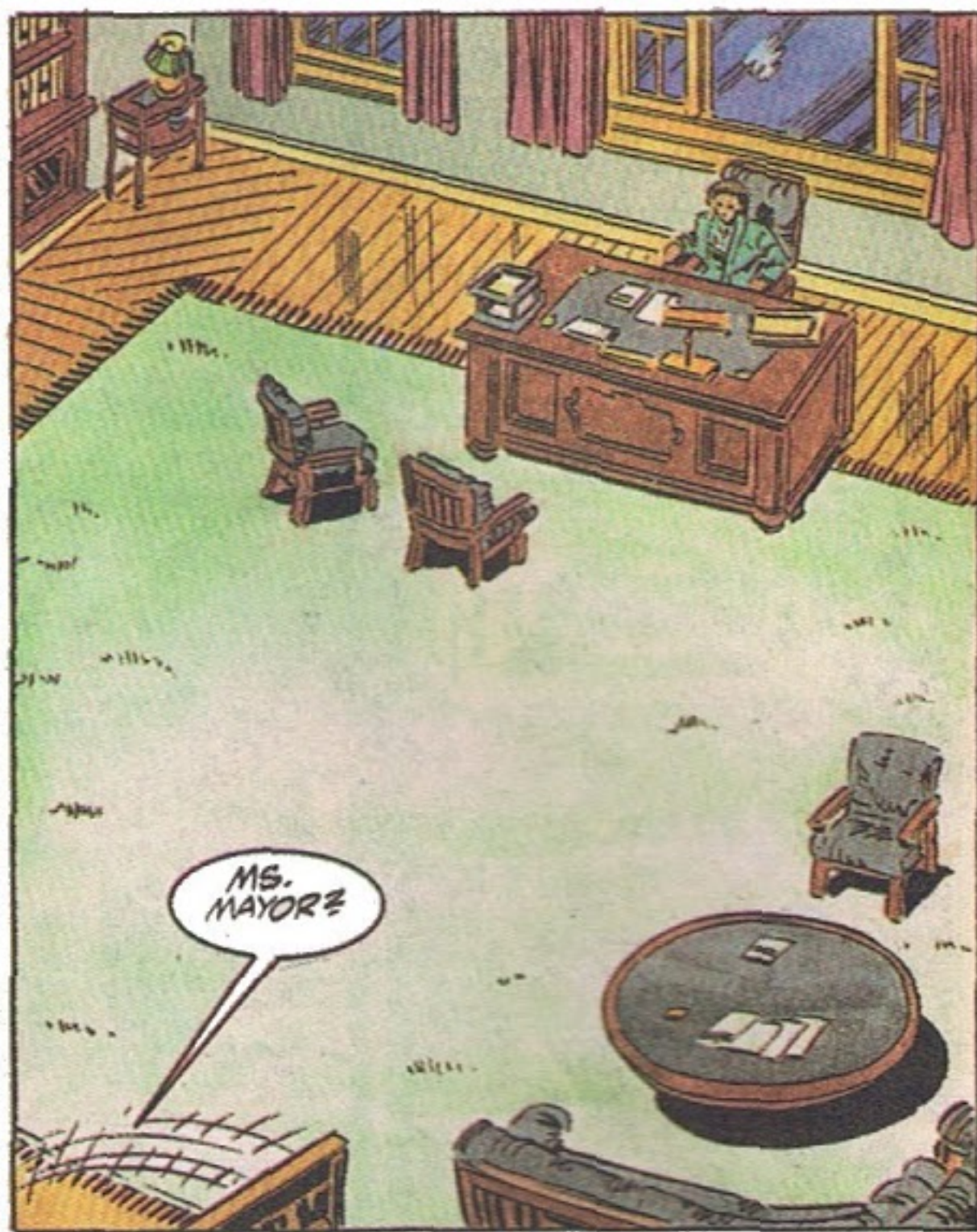
WOLFE

STOP! DO NOT HOP ON COP!



CITY HALL.
FOUR HOURS
AGO.





CITY HALL.
RIGHT NOW...

THOMASINA JEFFERSON,
THE MAYOR OF THE CITY
OF DAKOTA, IS BEING
HELD HOSTAGE.

THE POLICE ARE STALEMATED
BY DOZENS OF ARMED GUN-
MEN WHO ARE NOW IN
CONTROL OF THE BUILDING.

THE COMMISSIONER HAS
CALLED IN S.H.R.E.D.
(SPECIAL HEAVY-EQUIPMENT
RAPID EMERGENCY
DEPLOYMENT), AN ELITE
POLICE UNIT.

COINCIDENTALLY, ICON AND
THE ROCKET OFFERED THE
POLICE SOME SUPERPOWERED
ASSISTANCE ONLY MOMENTS
BEFORE S.H.R.E.D.'S ARRIVAL.

S.H.R.E.D. IS IN
THE PROCESS OF
DECLINING
THAT OFFER...

RAKE ACTION

Dwayne McDuffie
Writer

M.D. Bright
Penciller

Mike Gustovich
Inker

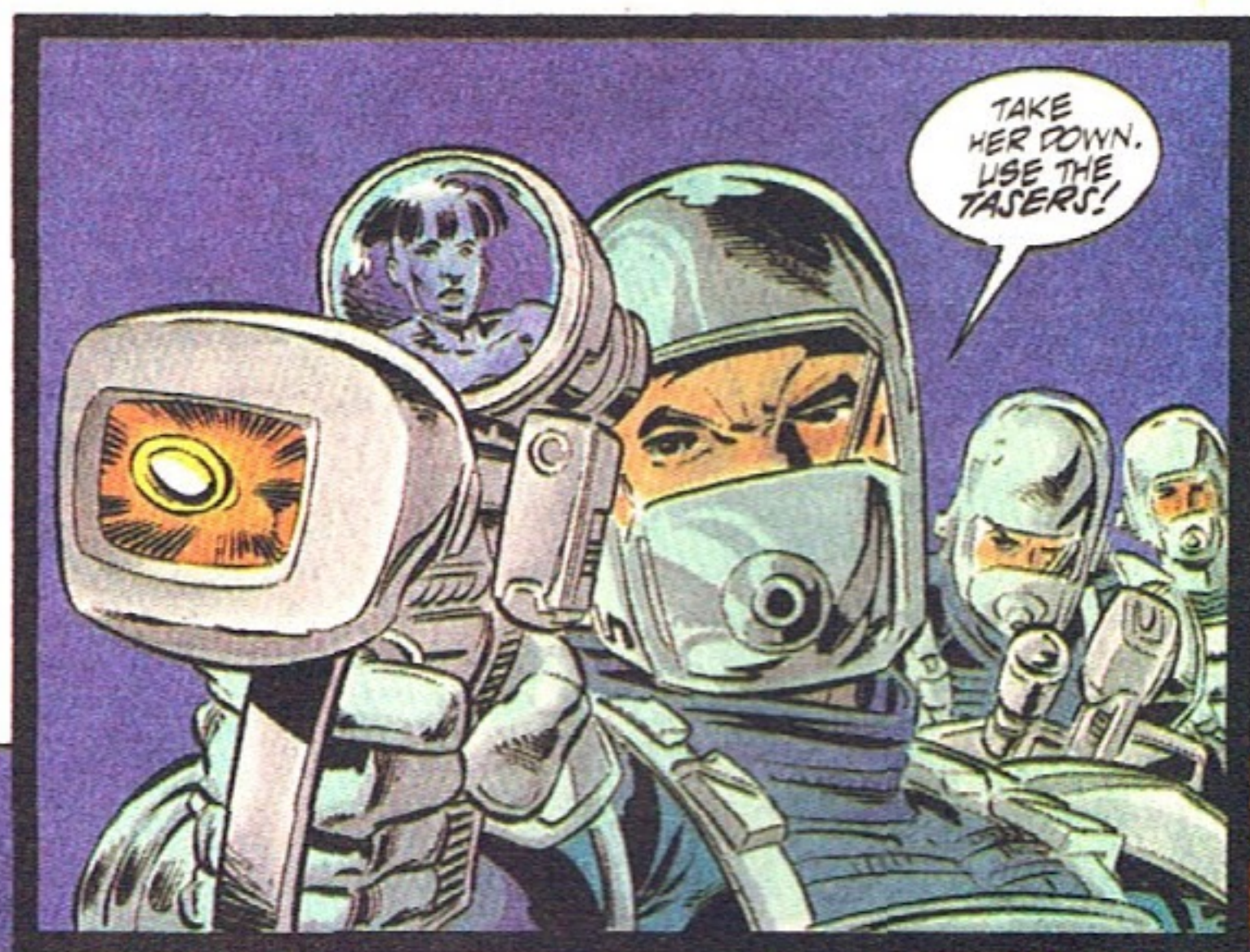
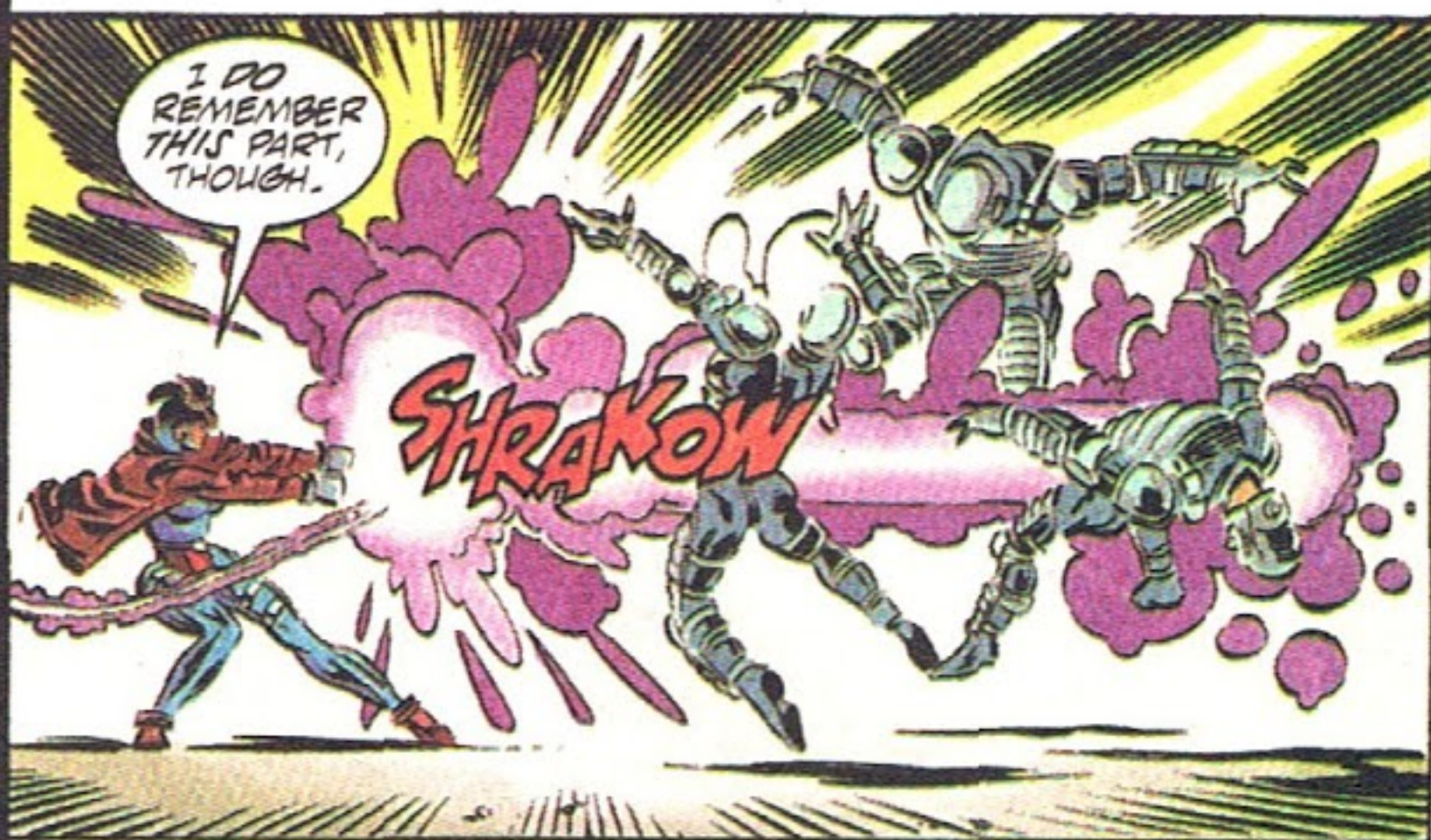
John Cebollero
Colorist

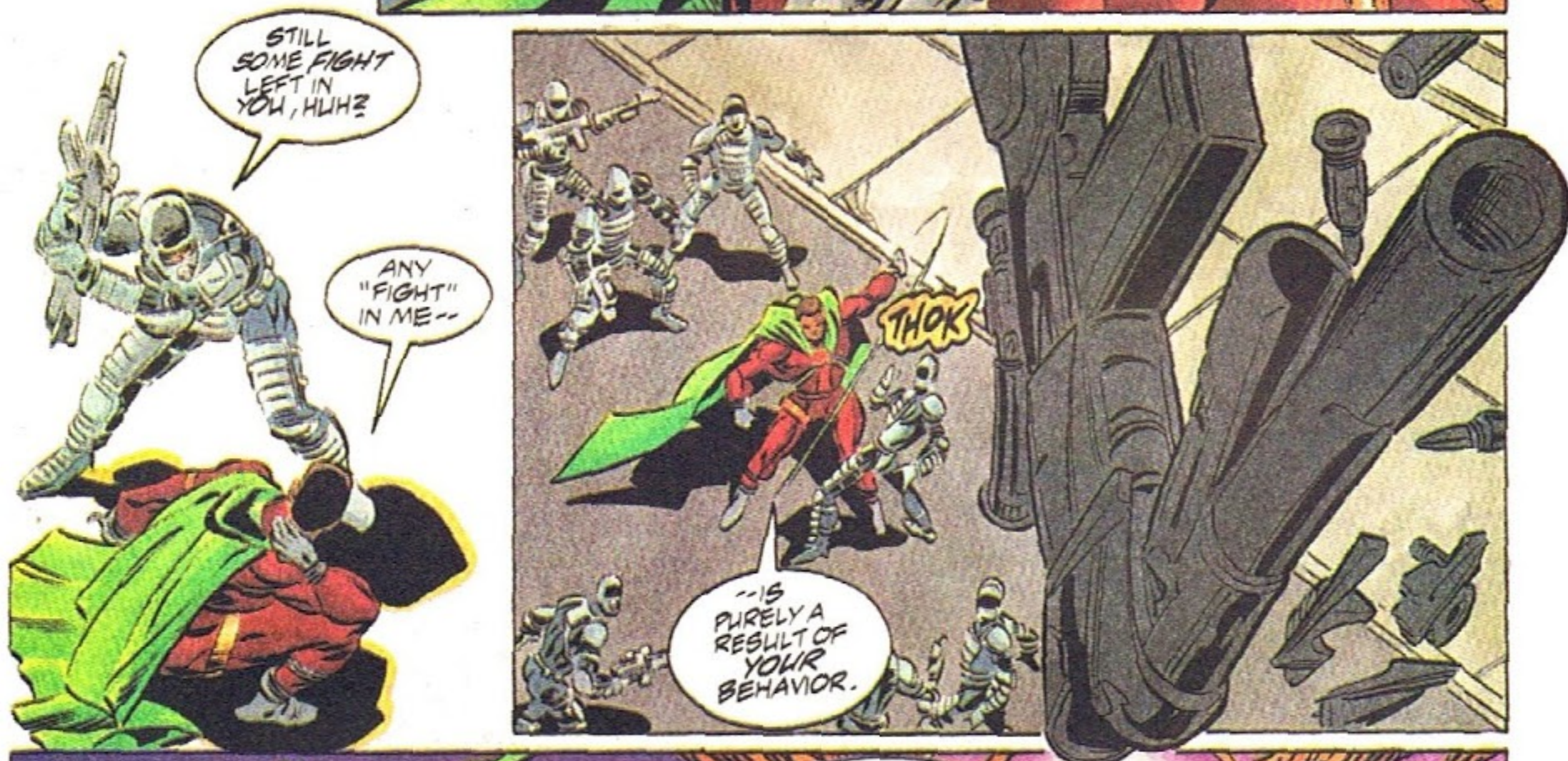
Steve Duto
Letterer

ICON 2, June, 1993. Published monthly by DC Comics, 1325 Avenue of the Americas, New York, NY 10019. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to ICON, DC Comics Subscriptions, P.O. Box 0528, Baldwin, NY 11510. Annual subscription rate \$18.00. Canadian subscribers must add \$8.00 for postage and GST. GST # is R125921072. All other foreign countries must add \$12.00 for postage. U.S. funds only. Copyright © 1993 Milestone Media Inc. All Rights Reserved. All characters featured in this issue, the distinctive likenesses thereof, and all related indicia are trademarks of DC Comics. The stories, characters and incidents mentioned in this magazine are entirely fictional. For advertising space contact: Tom Ballou, (212) 636-5520. Printed on recyclable paper. Printed in Canada. DC Comics. A division of Warner Bros.—A Time Warner Entertainment Company





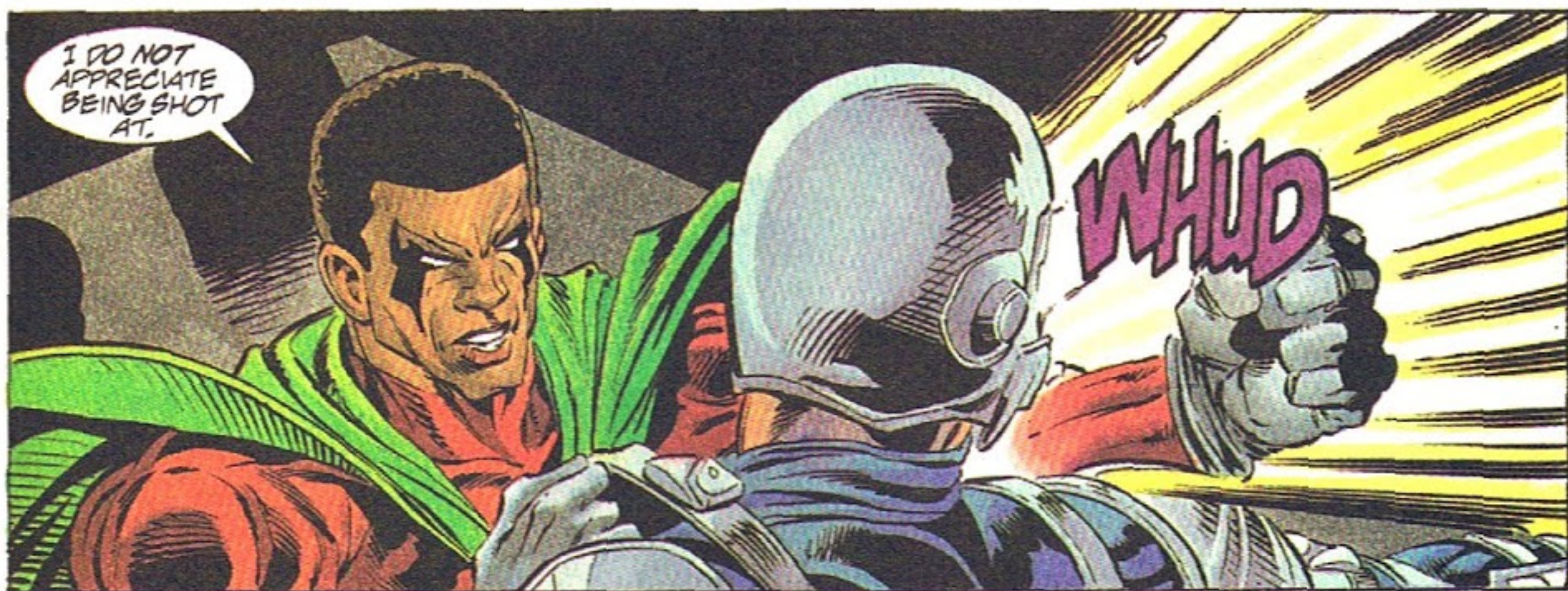


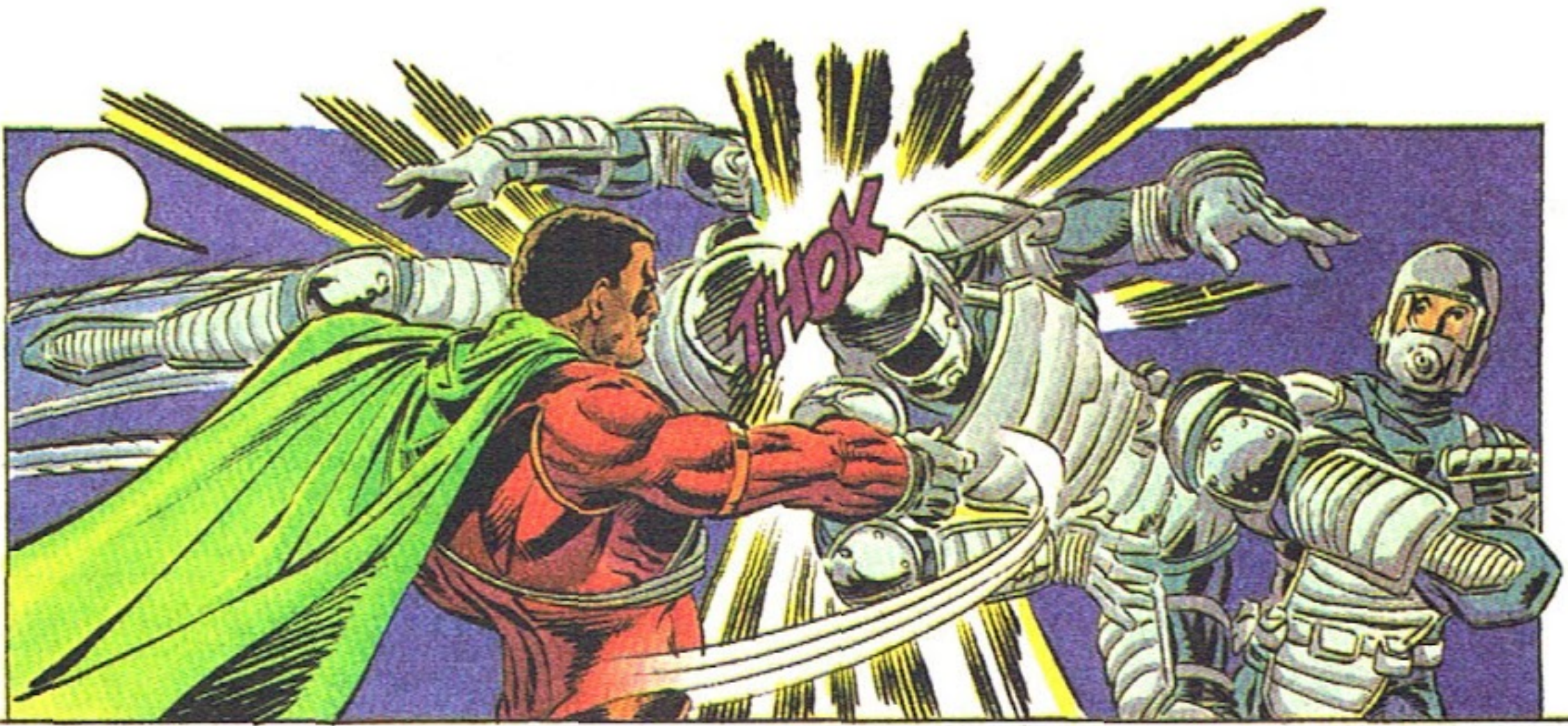




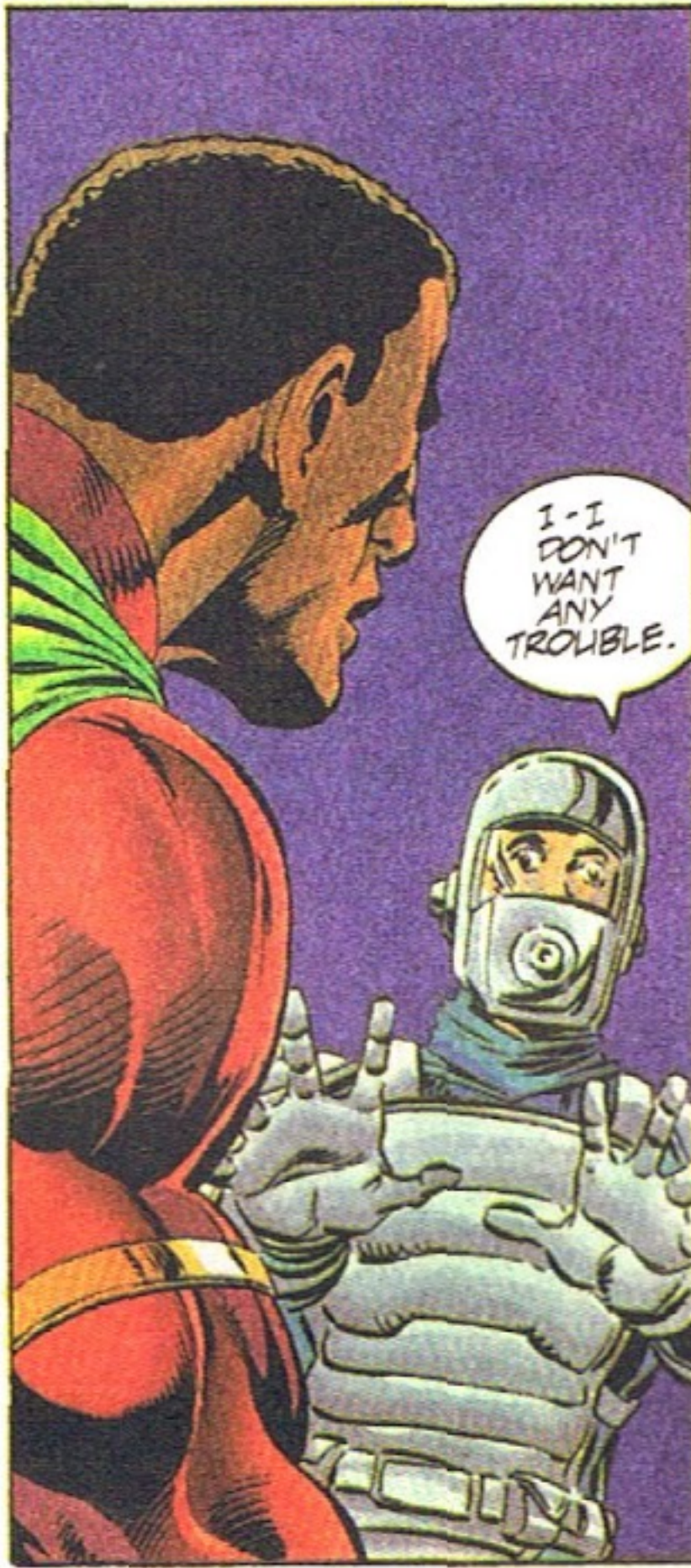
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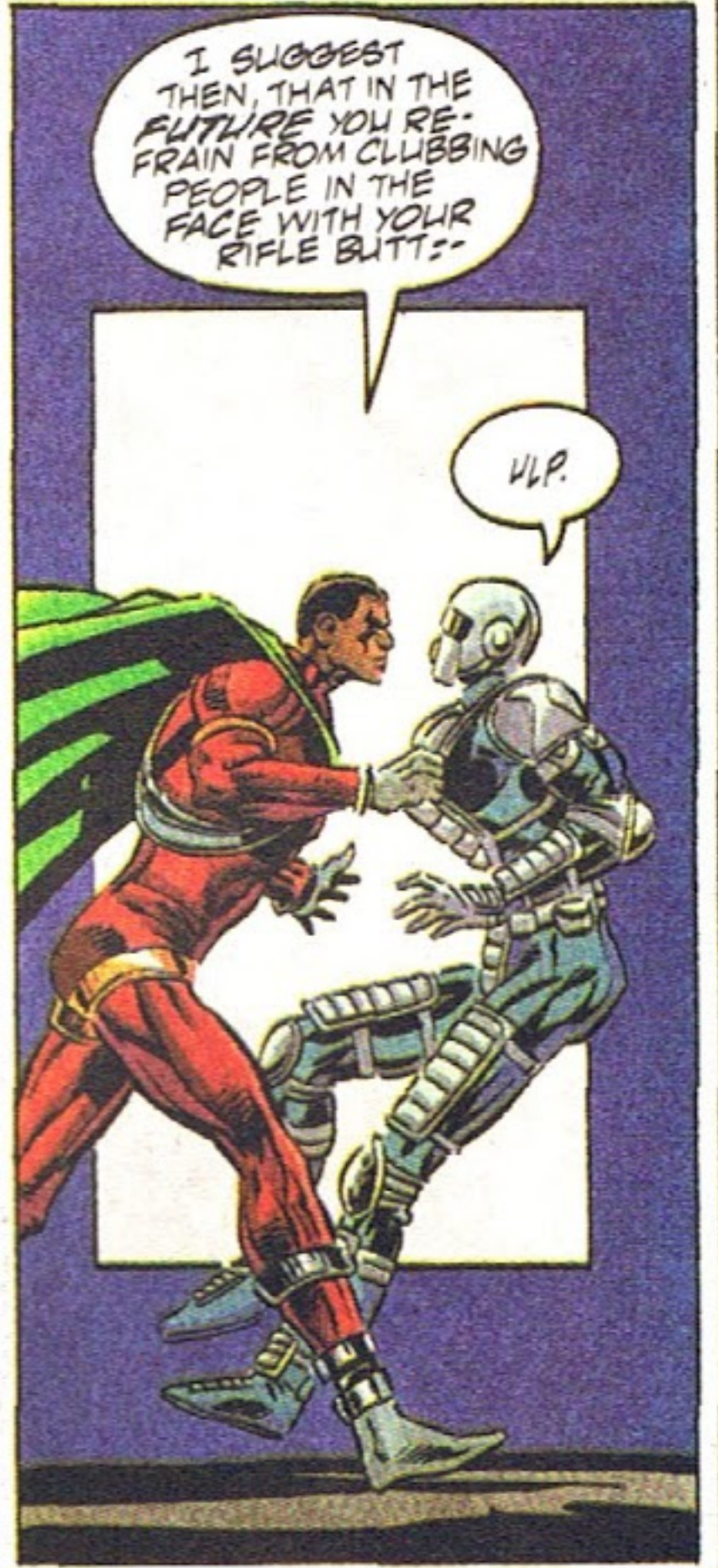




PLEASE...
DON'T...

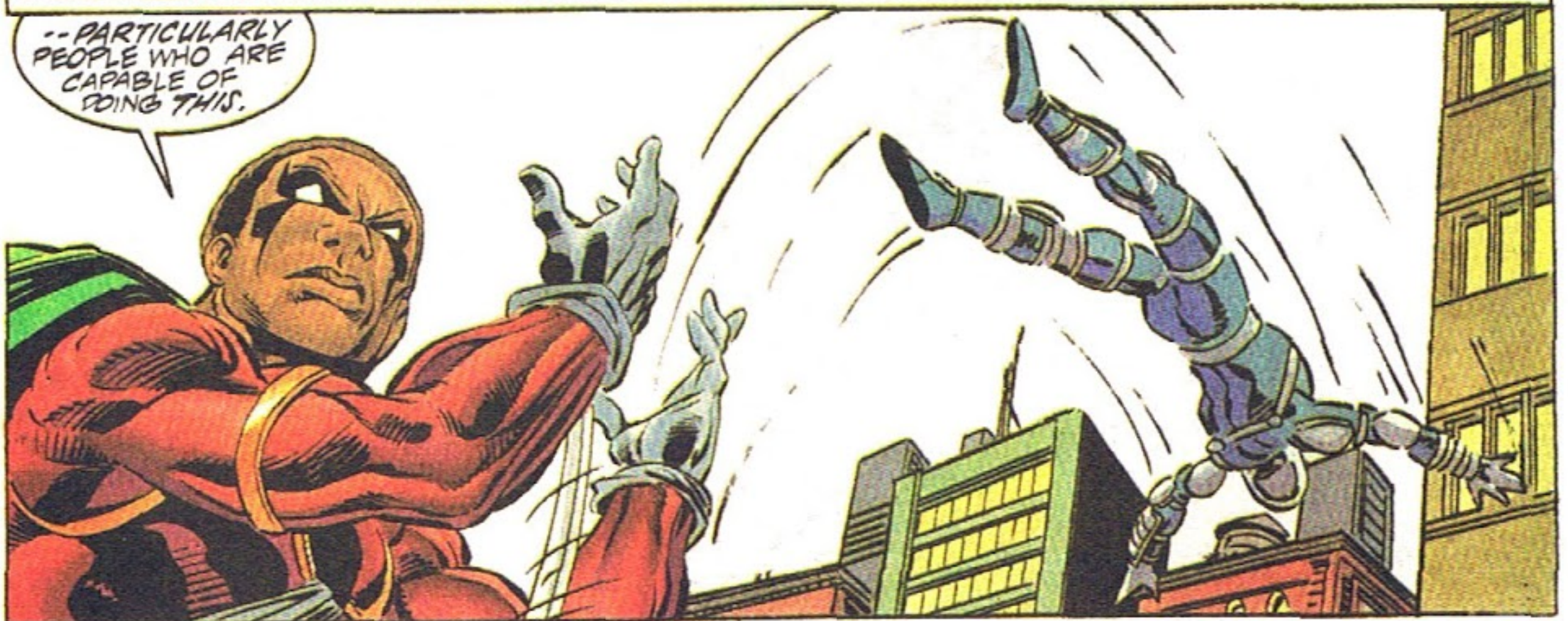


I-I
DON'T
WANT
ANY
TROUBLE.



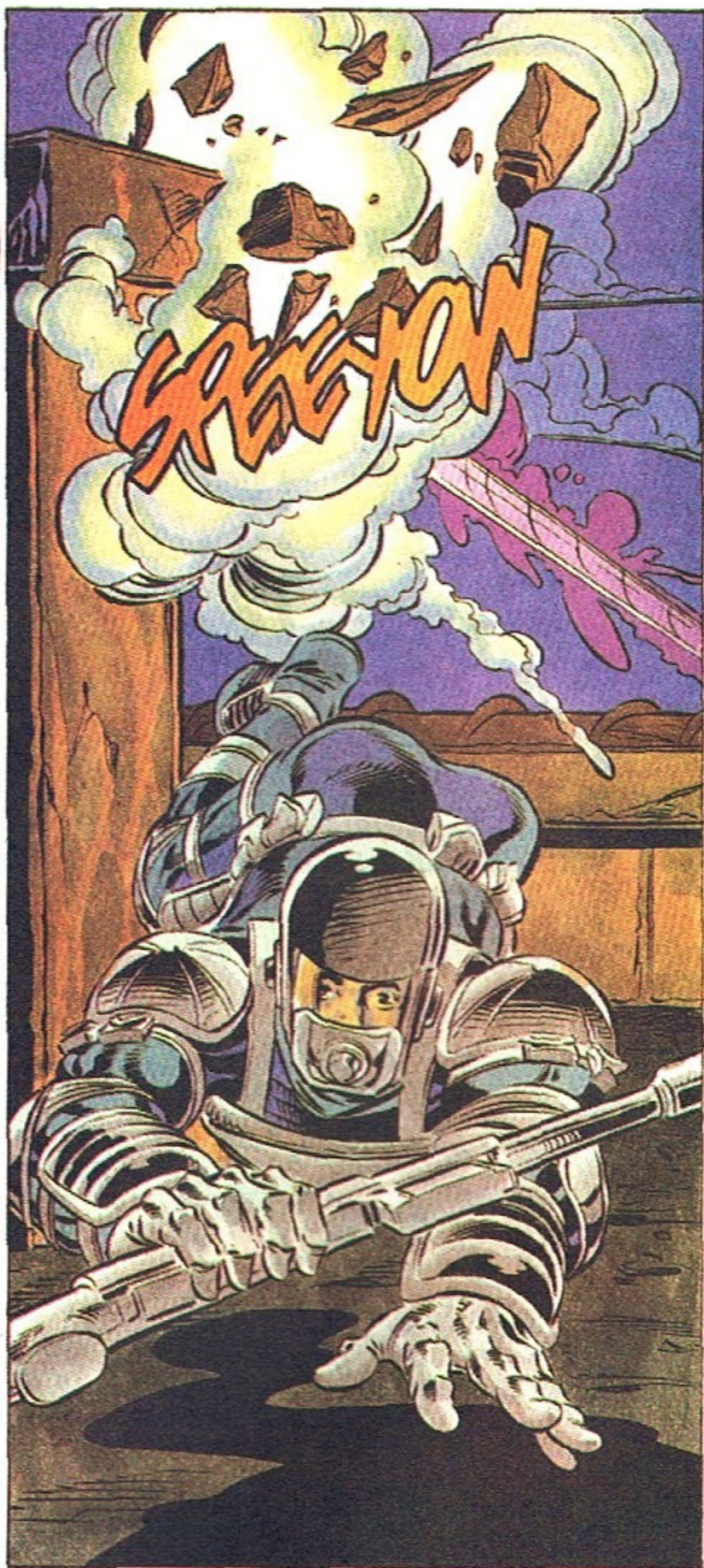
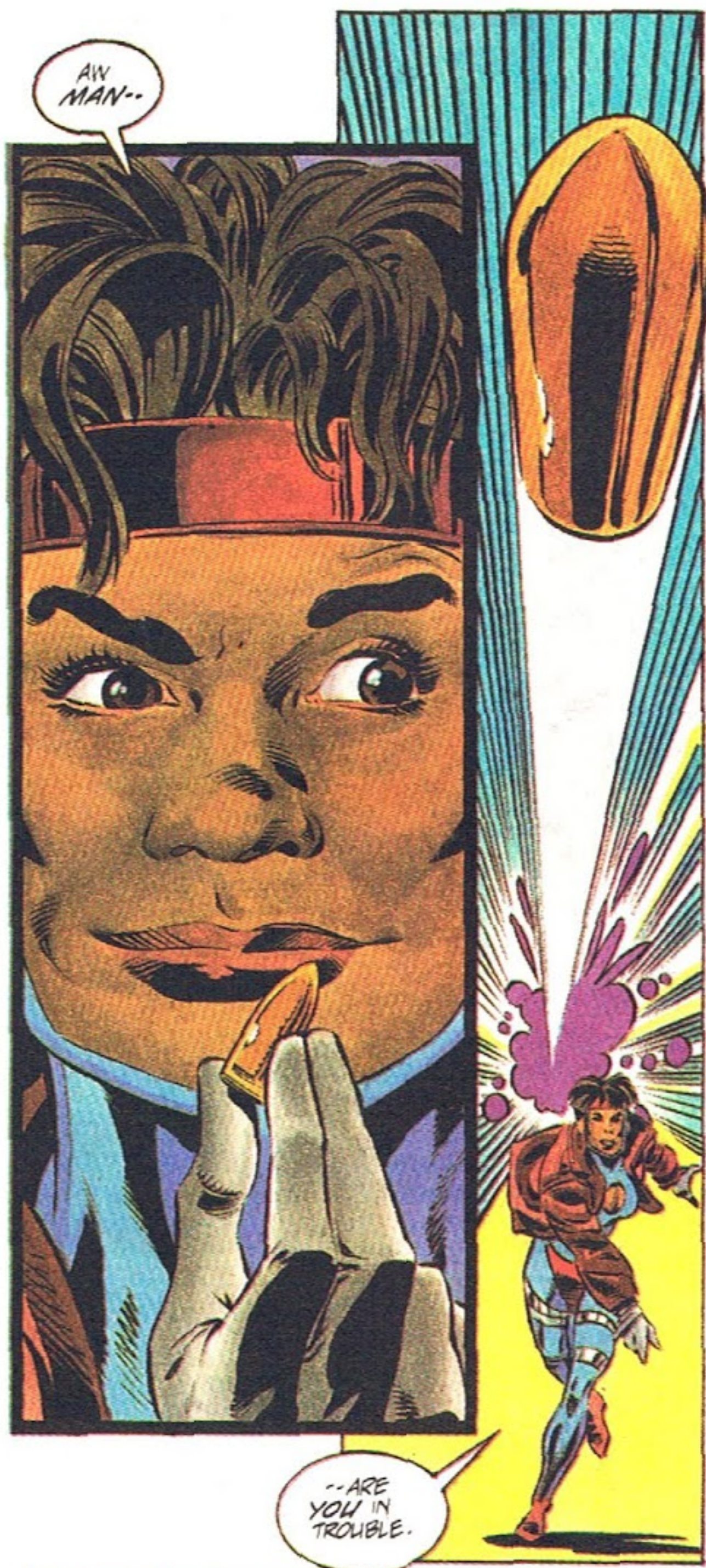
I SUGGEST
THEN, THAT IN THE
FUTURE YOU RE-
FRAIN FROM CLUBBING
PEOPLE IN THE
FACE WITH YOUR
RIFLE BUTT:-

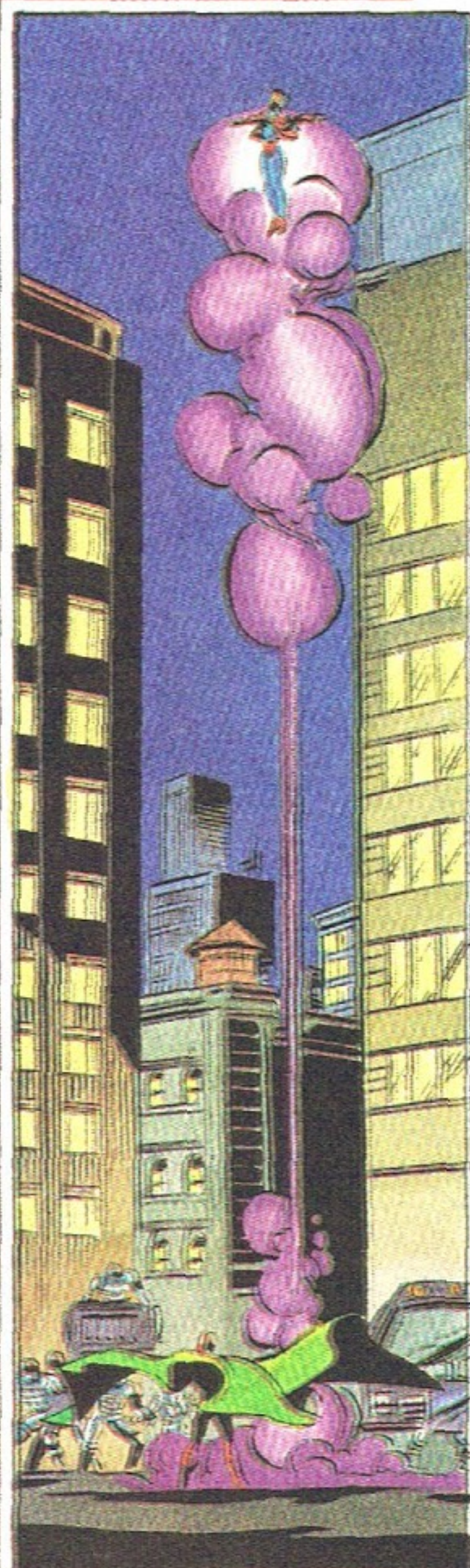
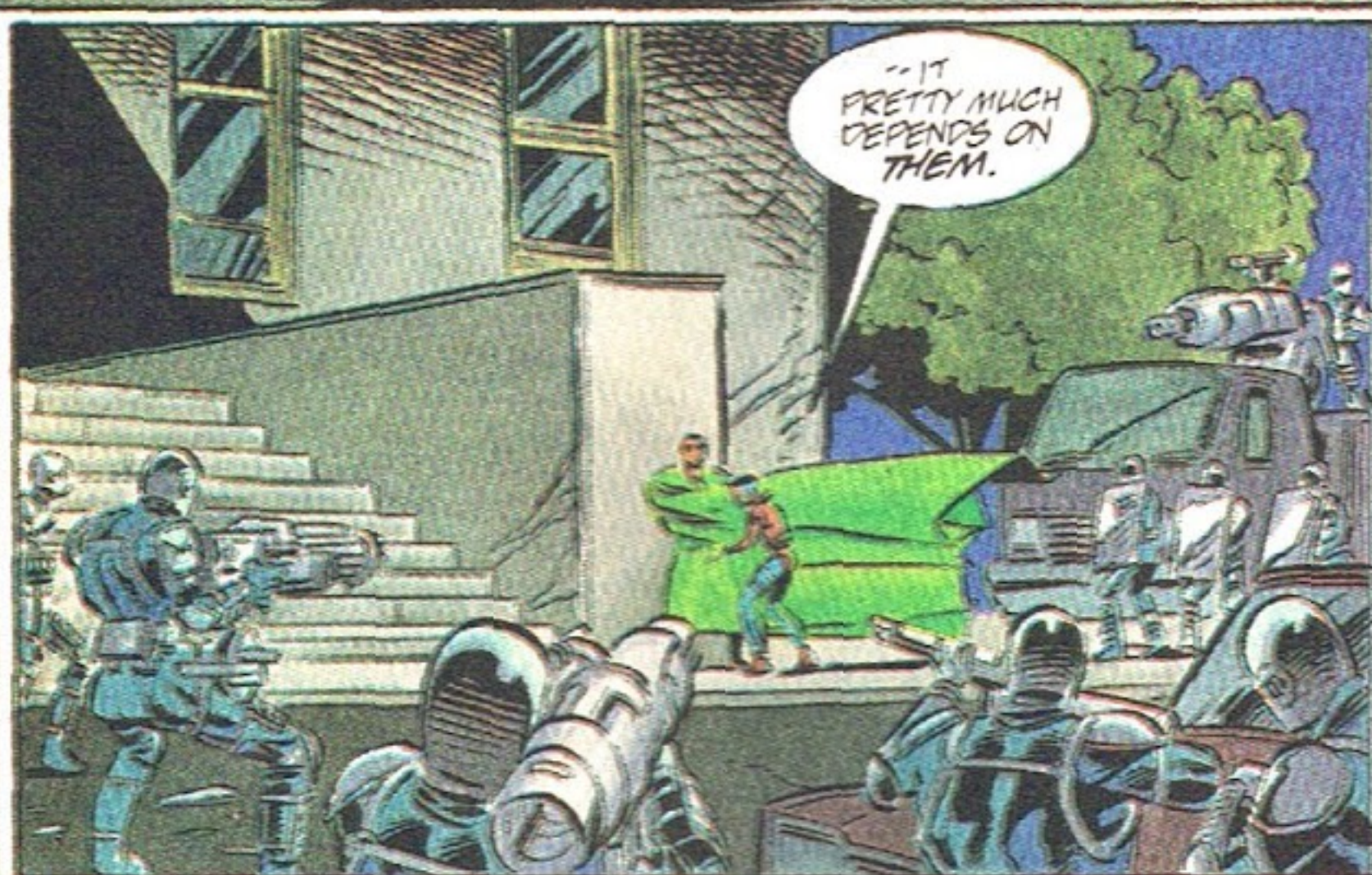
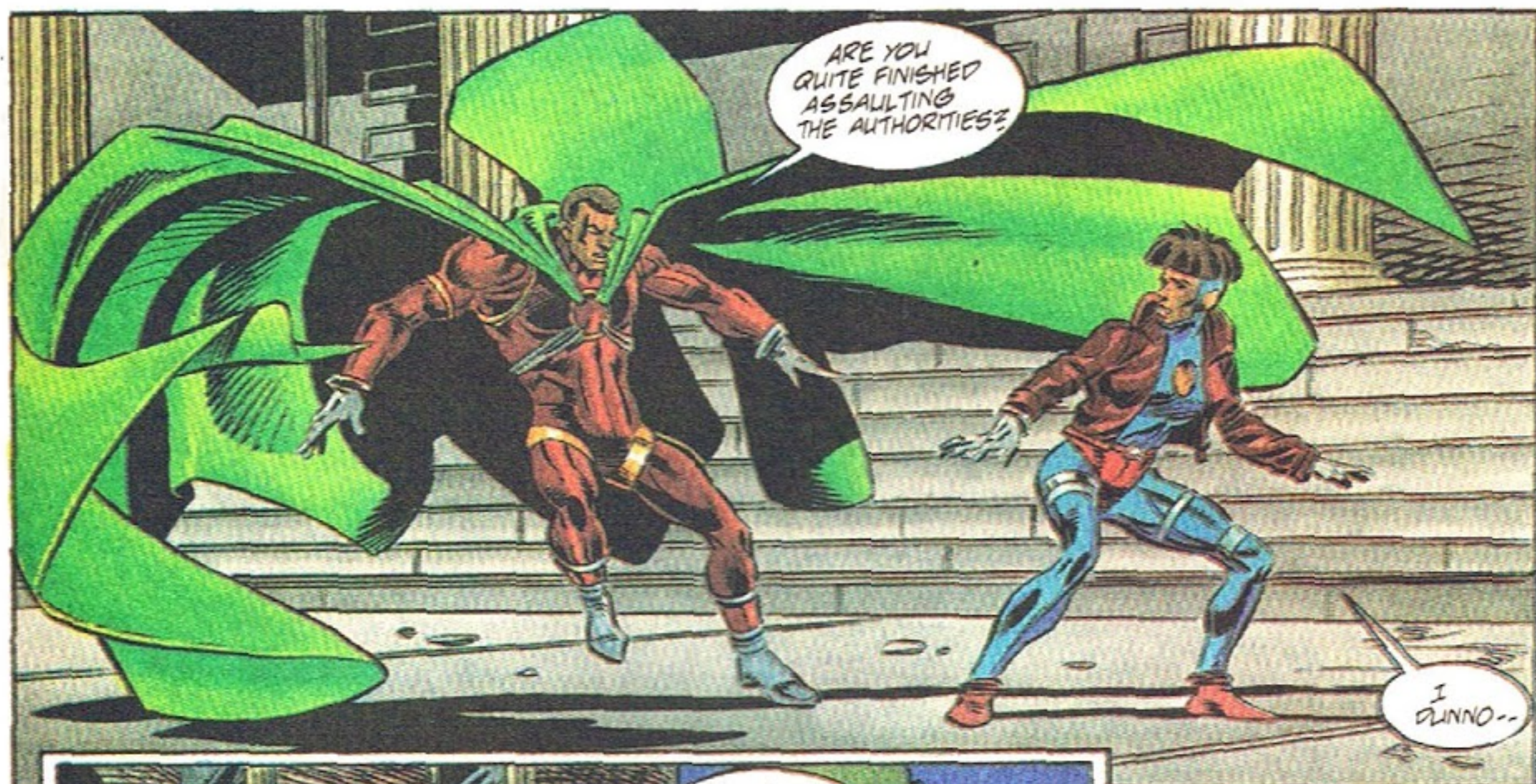
V.L.P.



--PARTICULARLY
PEOPLE WHO ARE
CAPABLE OF
DOING THIS.





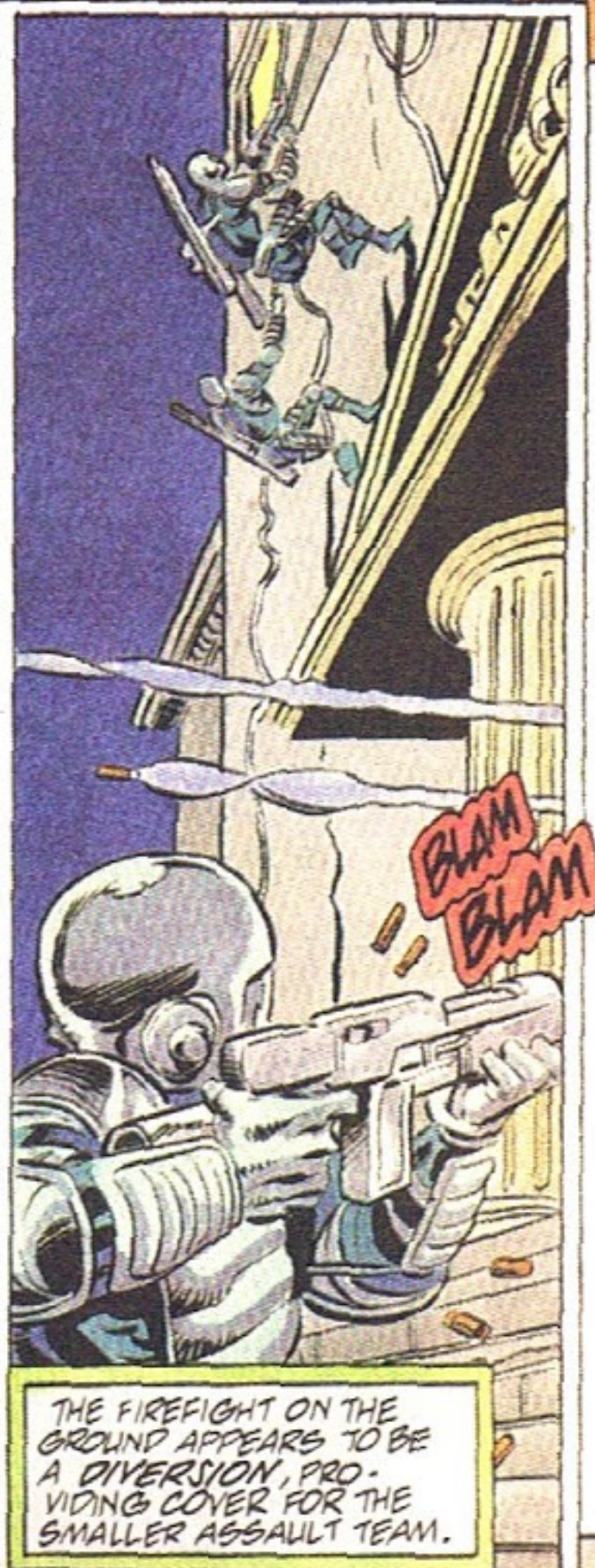




THE S.H.R.E.D. OFFICERS
REPUTATION FOR
BRUTALITY SEEMS WELL-
EARNED. BUT WITH THAT
COMES A DEGREE OF
EFFECTIVENESS UN-
PARALLELED BY ANY
POLICE UNIT I'VE EVER
SEEN.

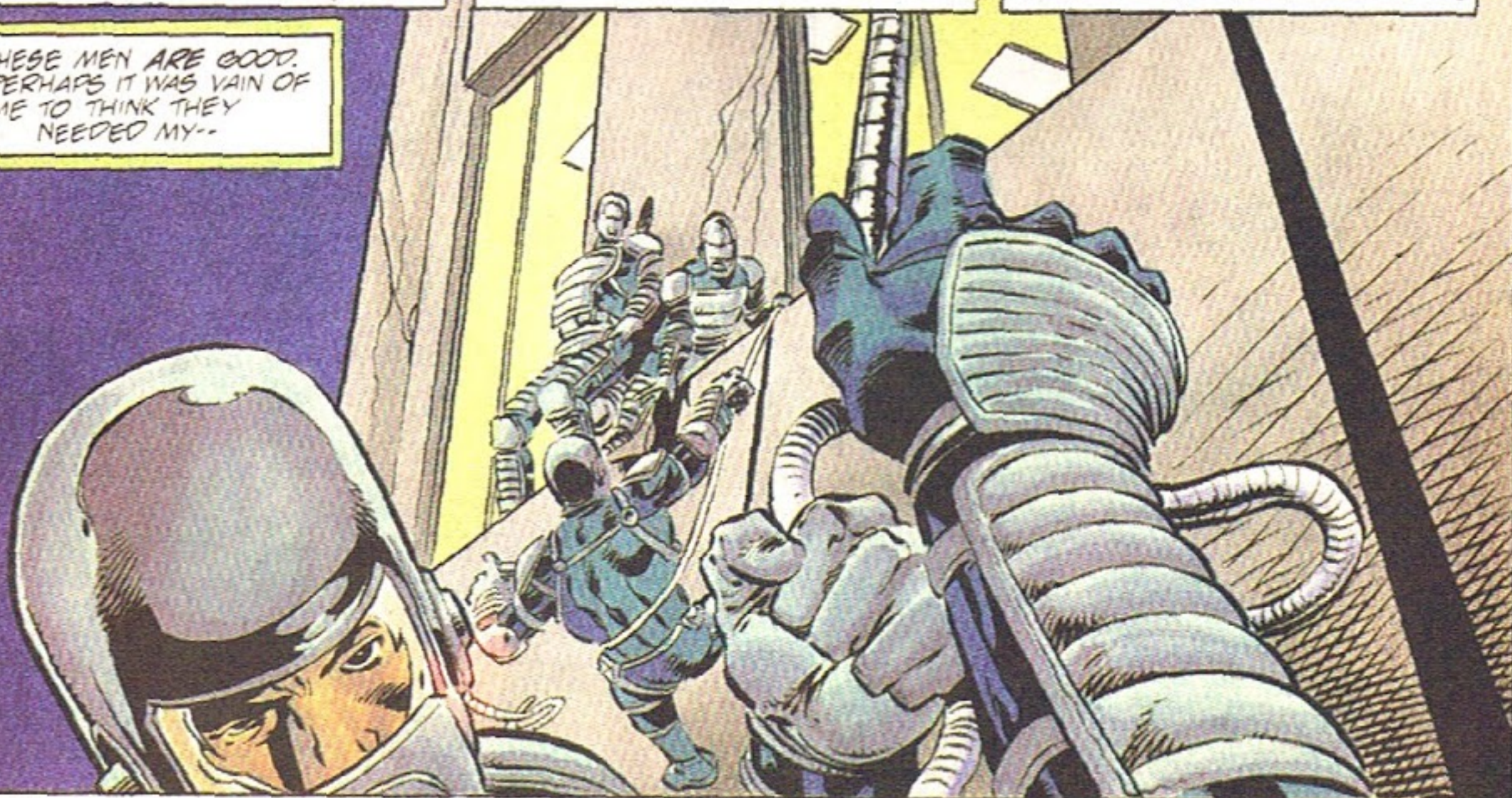
THE POPULACE
FEARS THEM BECAUSE
OF THEIR POWER.
AND S.H.R.E.D.
FEARS ME BECAUSE
OF MINE.

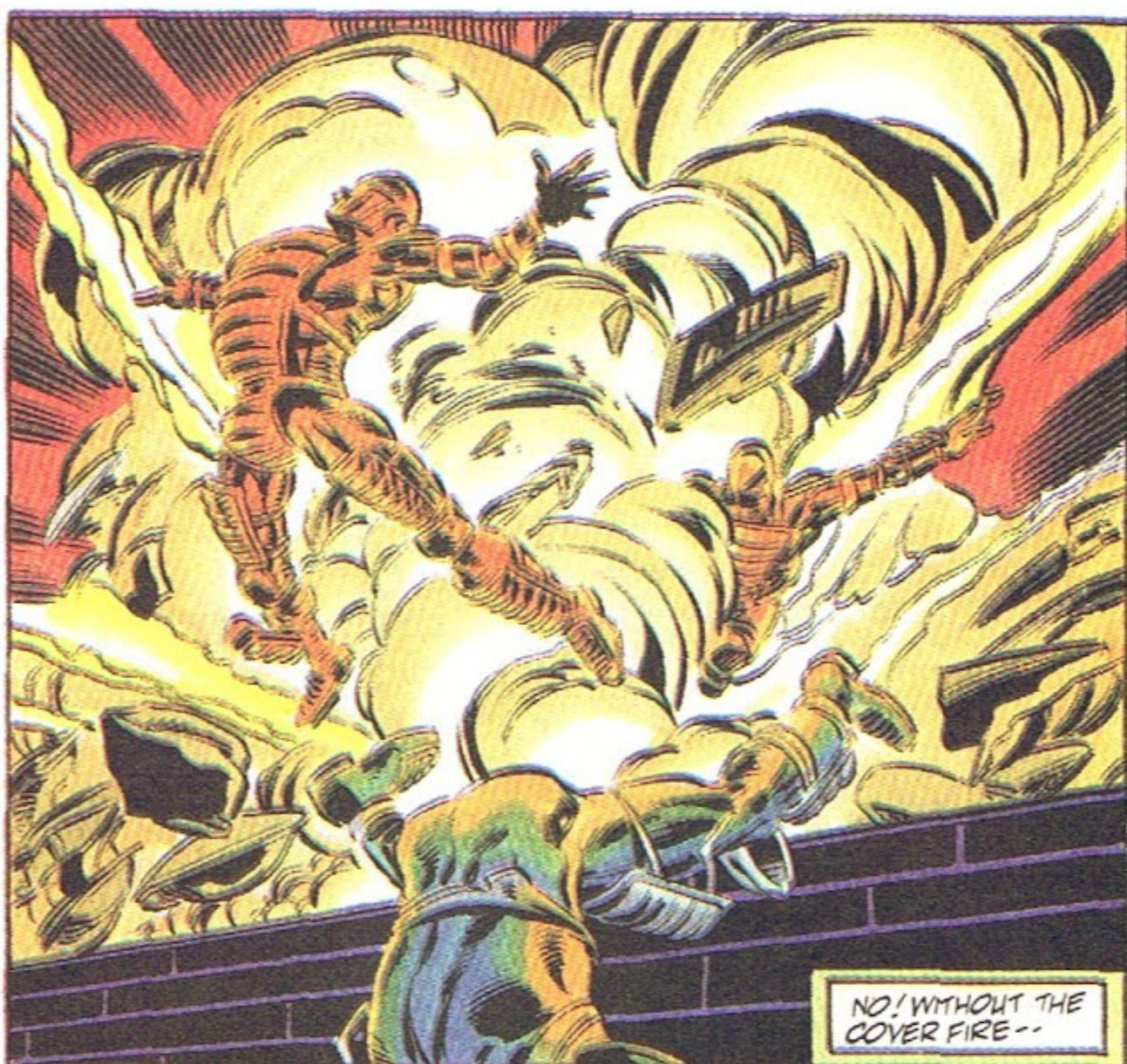
THE BEST THING FOR
THE MAYOR RIGHT NOW
IS IF I STAND ASIDE
AND LET THEM DO
THEIR JOB.

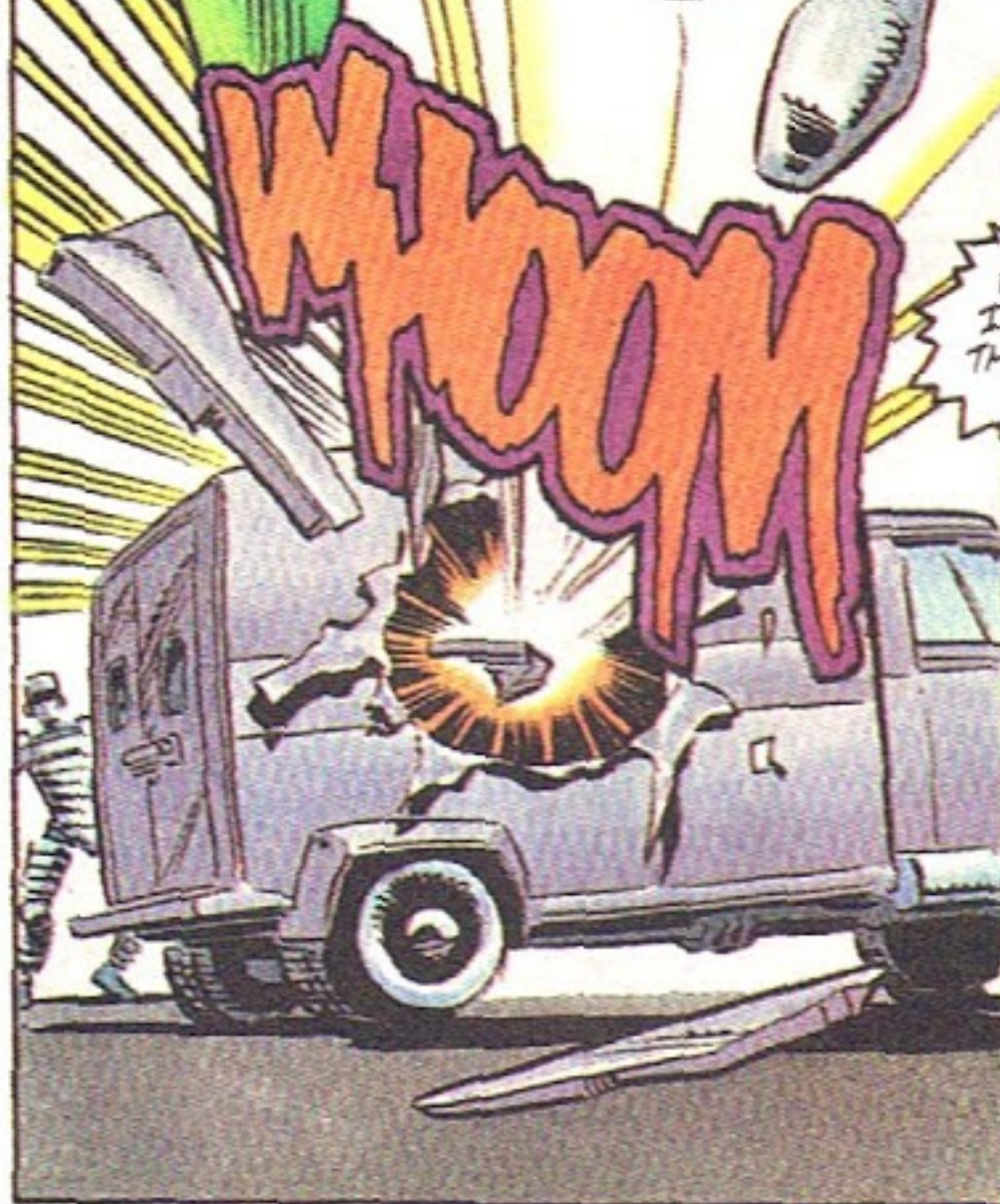


THE FIREFIGHT ON THE
GROUND APPEARS TO BE
A DIVERSION, PRO-
VIDING COVER FOR THE
SMALLER ASSAULT TEAM.

THESE MEN ARE GOOD.
PERHAPS IT WAS VAIN OF
ME TO THINK THEY
NEEDED MY--





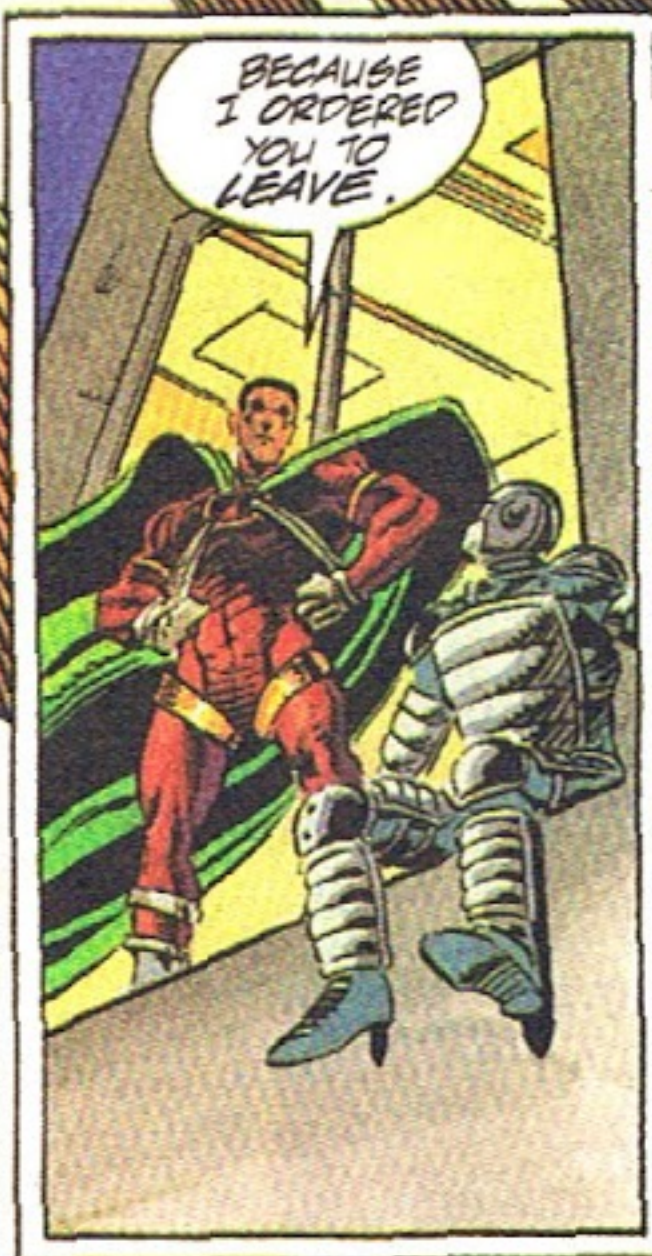


ROCKET!
I'VE GOT
THE BOTTOM
ONE.



GO
LIMP.

N=NO
PROBLEM!









NEXT: GET READY FOR THE BIG PAYBACK!



M I L E S T O N E M E D I A , I N C .
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PUBLISHED MONTHLY WRITE: ICONOGRAPHY MILESTONE MEDIA, INC.
 119 WEST 23rd STREET, SUITE 614 NEW YORK, NY 10011

Cover: M.D. Bright / Mike Gustovich / Noelle C. Giddings

Just as we did with our other titles, we went and distributed black and white copies of **ICON #1** to various elements of the fan community, as well as some of the mysterious cyber-fans lurking on the GENie computer service. These incredibly lucky folks have done themselves justice, once again. If you recognize some of the names from other **MILESTONE** letter columns, you're onto us. Fine.

Dear Matt,

This was the Milestone title I EXPECTED to like.... Oh, it has certain twists, but it really is the closest to the traditional superhero of all of the Milestone titles. There are parallels which could be drawn between **ICON** and **SUPERMAN**, for example. Quite general parallels, of course.

There are also ways in which **ICON** is unique. How many super-heroes, for example, are "recruited" by their sidekicks?

I do look forward to seeing **ICON** defined further, however. His powers are, at this point, a bit vague, a fact that I find very realistic. The writer didn't strain the reader's ability to accept the situation by telling us TOO much, and, instead, told us only enough to arouse our curiosity. I like that; it keeps me interested... and it keeps me reading!

Ray Haynes
 1111 Cordell
 Excelsior Springs, MO 64024

You know, we've heard this "Black Superman" thing several times in the past few months. While there ARE parallels, I think the resemblance doesn't go much beyond Augustus being a "strange visitor from another planet."

Dear Matt and Dwayne,

When **Icon** comes out, it looks like it could be on my "top ten" list. I'm a sucker for **Superman** as it is, and here we've got a black **Superman** (or similar.) I'm wondering how you're going to work the "alien" angle into the story, in addition to the "black" angle, and how they're going to mix. Are we going to get out of Dakota and into space with this character? After all, several stories of **Icon** flying around and dealing with drugs and shoplifting just won't be enough with a character with this potential. I'm hoping for more of a "standard" superhero, with a "black" angle. It's actually shocking sometimes how much of a "white" perspective is given to comics, movies, and books even when there is no racism involved.

I think (hope?) that you guys have learned that there's room for good, standard stories with a subtle shift toward the "black" perspective, as opposed to the "sledge-hammer" approach - always dealing with tough, black, and racist issues. After all the "sledge-hammer" approach usually ends up preaching to those who agree, and turning off those who don't.

By the way, let me take a moment to tell M. D. Bright that I think he's an absolutely excellent artist. He's one of the few (yes I'm unusual these days) artists whom I have followed from title to title, and I'm happy that he's so far stuck with comics that I enjoy. His facial expressions are excellent, as are his "outer-space" scenes (as seen in **Valor**, for instance.) The scene on Page twenty, with his flying with **Rocket**, is excellent, and would make a great poster. M. D. Bright's detail is always just perfect, too - not many blank backgrounds, but not so much detail or superfluous jiggling lines that offer nothing but the false appearance of more complex images. Pun intended.

Greatly looking forward to this one!

Henry T. Colonna III
 PO Box 5152
 Portsmouth, VA 23703

Thanks, Henry, but I just SAID that **ICON** isn't an

African-American Superman! Weren't you listening?

Dear Mr. Wayne,

It seems that Milestone Media has patterned itself after some tried and true concepts, while still giving them an original twist. **HARDWARE** is an angry, revenge-driven character, much like **Batman** or the **Punisher**. **STATIC** has all the wit and snappy patter of a young **Spider-Man**, while the **BLOOD SYNDICATE** experience all the fear and conflict of those other radiation misfits, the **X-MEN**. **ICON**, of course, is a Black **Superman**.

I've enjoyed the **ICON** preview that I was sent. I must admit that the idea of Krypton's Last Son landing in the cotton fields of Mississippi, rather than the corn fields of Kansas, is quite interesting, as well as **Icon's** alien past and naive innocence of racial matters.

Please give **Icon** worthy adversaries who can challenge him physically as well as mentally. And please, don't make him all-powerful. Give him limits and perhaps, weaknesses. And please keep M.D. Bright as artist. Thanks Again.

Mark Pentecost
 14227 Riverview
 Detroit, MI 48223

ONCE AGAIN: He's NOT a "BLACK SUPERMAN!" Look at the last page of **ICON #1**. **ROCKET** makes a reference to **Superman**. **ROCKET** is the one who dressed Augustus up in four-color jammies. The whole **Superman**-emulation thing is HER ideal! If the Hero of Dakota was in any way inspired by the **Superman** mythos, it was because **RAQUEL** was inspired, not any of US!



**NEXT MONTH: WHO - OR WHAT - IS
 PAYBACK? AND WHO - OR WHOM - WILL HE
 HARM? ICON #3, ON SALE IN 30 DAYS!**