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COMICS

"PERCEPTIONS" PART 1 OF 5

SPIDER-MAN



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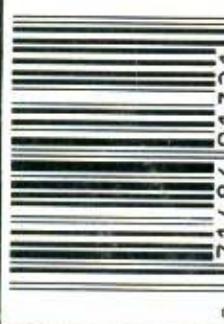
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03



MFARLANE

ARTIST
WRITER • TODD McFARLANE

Routine. That's what it was supposed to be. A routine story.

I'd been sent to cover the possible conflict between loggers and environmentalists as the chain saws got ever closer to another old growth forest.

Yet, unknown to me, it was not the giant trees' continued existence, nor the loggers fight to keep their jobs that would become the Story.

LETTERS: RICK PARKER COLOR: GREGORY WRIGHT

Support to protect the thousand-year-old trees was strong all across British Columbia. The people had another cause to rally behind.

Instead the forest had unlocked one of its hidden doors and released a mysterious, evil legend.

EDITOR: JIM SALICRUP EDITOR IN CHIEF: TOM DeFALCO



I now realize that the dark forests that surround everyone's town, survive with their own rules, their own unknown purpose.

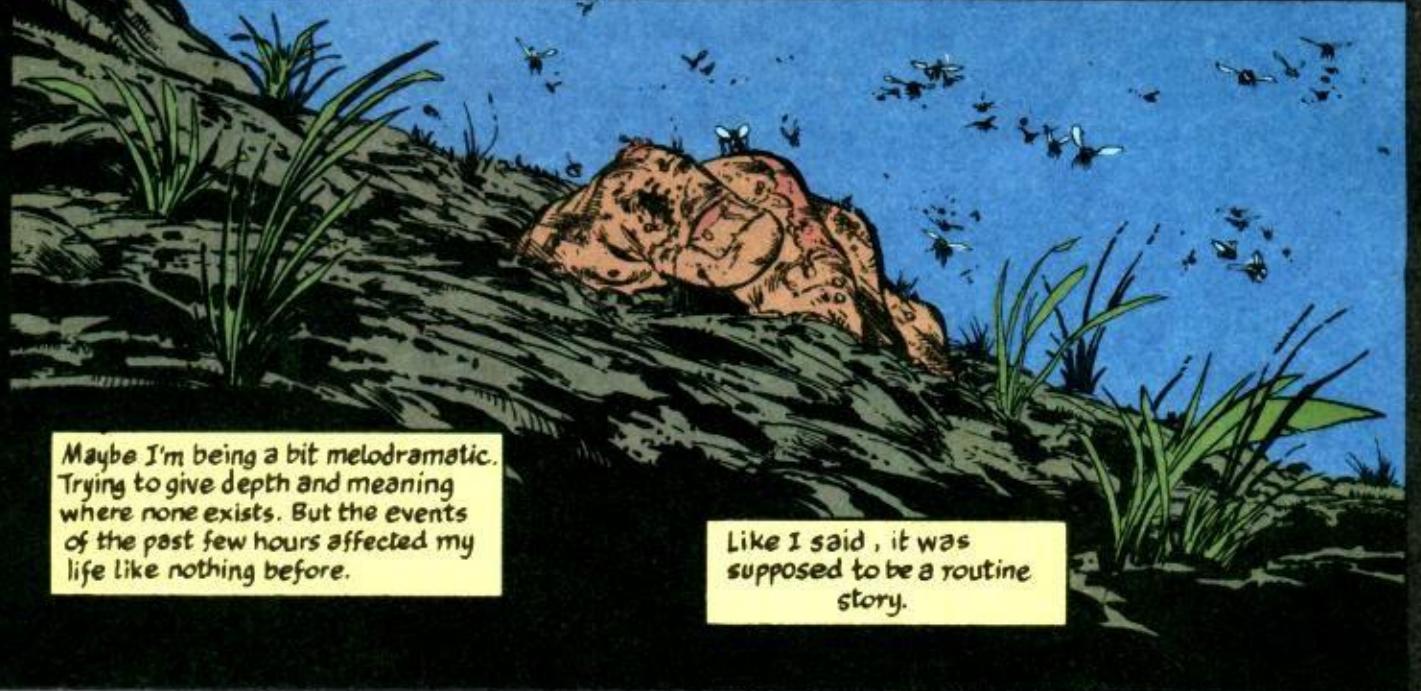
Stan Lee
PRESENTS:

PERCEPTIONS

PART

ONE

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Maybe I'm being a bit melodramatic.
Trying to give depth and meaning
where none exists. But the events
of the past few hours affected my
life like nothing before.

Like I said, it was
supposed to be a routine
story.



Trees. Loggers.
Environmentalists.
We've heard it all
before.



But in the
blink of an
eye--



--My
eye--

-- The mundane took a
sickening twist.

Before I get too far ahead of myself, let me tell you how the events unfolded.

It was about 12:15 a.m. A long day on the road and a late dinner was putting me into Hope, B.C., later than I'd wanted.

The story of my life.

Suddenly, through the midnight fog, I spotted a figure standing in the middle of the road.

Another darn hitchhiker. Always looking for others to complete their journey.

That quick assessment nearly cost me my life.

And my story.



Slowly, and I recall this with such clarity, the creature CALMLY disappeared into the fog and smoke.

But not before it had left behind--



-- a message.

What it had left was the remains of eleven-year-old David Neusel.

Granville
10 cents

The Vancouver Sun

IN 30 MINUTES
I'd show you
Vancouver's
hottest spots
GERALD VAN YERKE
THE VANCOUVER SUN
10 CENTS

BIGFOOT KILLS BOY

I, Anna Brooks, had just set in motion the wheels of hysteria.

Naked. Decayed. Mutilated almost beyond recognition. The body of this tiny child looked no better than a road kill.

I later found out David wasn't the first child missing recently in the valley. Others thought to be runaways were now being speculated upon. Unfortunately, David's parents were the only ones to see the results.

David's mother is now in a hospital.

The R.C.M.P. immediately began a search. Chief Inspector Krahn was to be the media's contact.

For the first time in my life I prayed.

When the authorities arrived, I could barely give them a complete sentence. They questioned me well into the morning. The first deliberate thing I did, almost upon instinct, was call my editor.

Besides the police, what seemed like every male with a gun also began his own search.

They were determined not only to kill the 'BIGFOOT' but to totally annihilate it.



For the next few days everything became a target. Paranoia replaced logic.



The rules were simple. Anything that moved was shot.



The body count of mistaken animals continued to mount.



The media exposure soon grew out of hand.

Granville
CARPET CLEANING

150 cents minimum (outside Lower Mainland)

The Vancouver Sun

Even more frightening was that another young boy had disappeared.



Before we had any answers to David Neusel's murder, a whole new set of questions and fears surfaced.

Bigfoot Kills Again?



Calgary Herald

Sasquatch on Rampage

With these words an area will be forever changed. The area where the

much the little that never was

Combine this with activists out to protect the senseless slaughter of wildlife. Environmentalists still trying to save the trees. Loggers. More police. Scientists. Even more media.

Los Angeles Post

You can begin to grasp the utter chaotic state that this Fraser Valley community was now faced with.

BIGFOOT VICTIM STILL MISSING

The tragic death of young David Neusel had been turned into a circus.

Complete with crowds, lights, and someone to call the ringleader.

Weather
Today: Cloudy with rain possible. High: 56. Wind: 8-10 mph.
Tuesday: Clear and windy. High: 53. Wind: 8-10 mph.
Wednesday: Temp:凉爽: 48-56.
Apt. 21. Details on Page 10.

The Washington Post

Creature Still in Hiding



Grateful Germans Vote to Keen Kohl

Unification Key to

By Max Fisher

Washington Post Staff Writer
BERLIN, Dec. 2—Germans from both sides of their formerly divided country today rewarded Helmut Kohl, leader of the conservative

I keep repeating "Anna Brooks, you were only doing your job."

East Germany is almost identical to that in the west. This means that all of Germany we are the ones trusted to take responsibility." Chalenger Charles Lehto said: "He's a Social Democrat who tried to

LET ME GET THIS STRAIGHT.
YOU ACCIDENTALLY (emphasis
mine) HAD A KNIFE UP TO THAT
DEAR LITTLE OLD LADY'S THROAT
BECAUSE SHE WAS GOING TO BUY
IT AND COULDN'T READ THE
BRAND NAME.

SOUNDS
CONVINCING
SO FAR.

WELL, NOW I'M
WONDERING, MR.
GIN SU, WHAT KIND
OF DEAL YOU CAN
CUT ME. GET IT?

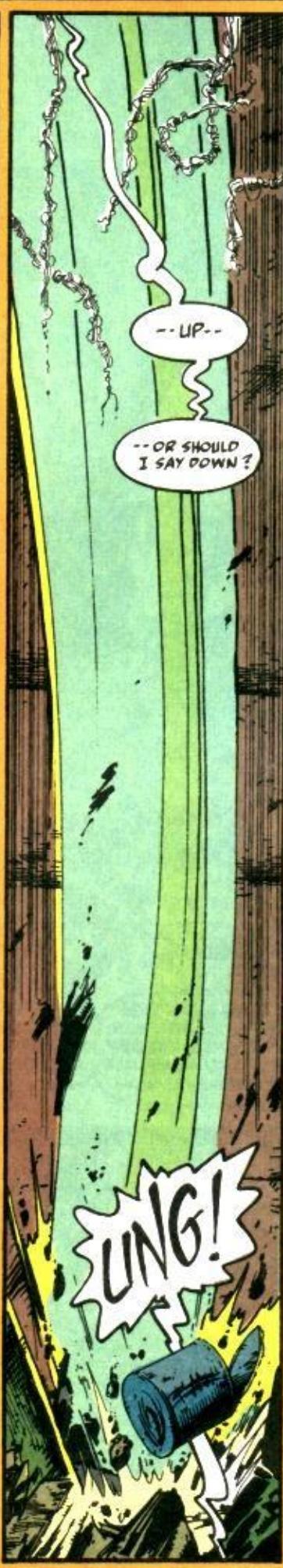
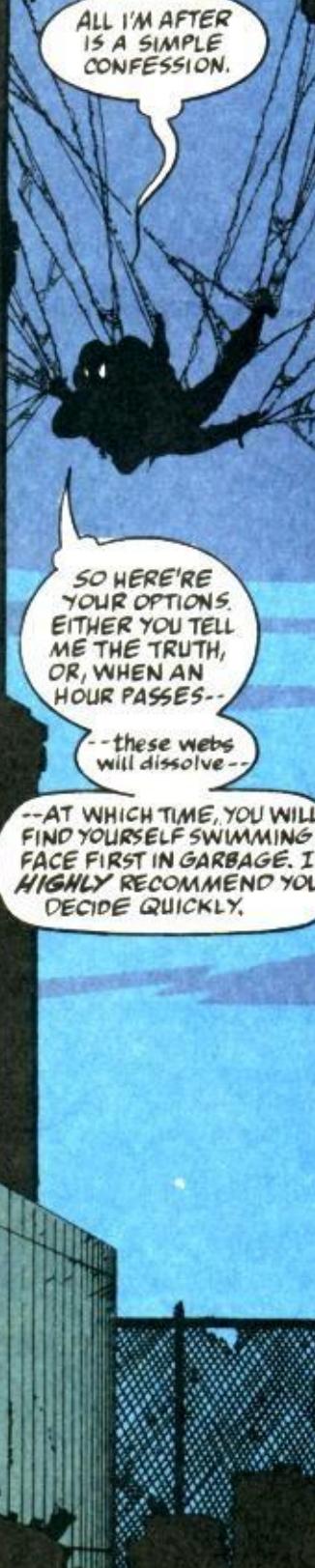
I TELL YOU,
MAN, SHE CAME UP
TO ME FIRST. REGULAR
CUSTOMER, YA KNOW?

OF KNIVES.
I DOUBT IT.

S-SURE MAN, SHE'S THE
WIFE OF THE LOCAL BUTCHER.
THE WERE RECENTLY ROBBED
AND-- COULD YOU MOVE IT A
BIT TO THE LEFT, THANKS--

--ANYWAYS, THEY
WAS ROBBED AND NEEDED
TO REPLACE SOME --UH--
EQUIPMENT, MAN.

LISTEN UP, MAN!
JUST BETWEEN YOU AND
ME, THIS LIE IS GETTING
WAY OUT OF HAND. I'VE
WASTED ENOUGH TIME ON
YOUR TWO-BIT EXCUSES.



I HAVE TO ADMIT,
THAT WAS A PRETTY
AWESOME BELLY-
FLOP.

A QUICK CALL TO THE
AUTHORITIES AND MY
BUSINESS IS DONE HERE.

A CALL LATER...

AND THEY SAY
THE FUN HAS GONE
OUT OF SUPER-
HEROING.

JUST WHEN I THINK
I'VE BEEN IN THIS BUSINESS
TOO LONG, I'M REJUVENATED
BY A NEW BURST OF
CREATIVITY.

MY NEW MOTTO IS
"IF YOU CAN'T SCARE 'EM
INTO HONEST LIFE, THEN
ANTAGONIZE 'EM WHILE
THEY'RE DOWN."

I LIKE
IT.



HATE HAVING
TO LEAVE MY
SWEETIE AGAIN.
I'LL MAKE IT UP
TO HER WHEN I
GET BACK.

DAILY BUG



BUT BEING THE MATURE
SUPER HERO WIFE, SHE UNDER-
STANDS. AND ON TOP OF ALL THAT,
SHE'S GONNA TAPE THE SIMPSONS
AND TWIN PEAKS WHILE I'M
GONE.

ONE HURRIED
EXPLANATION AND
TAXI DRIVE LATER.

SO JONAH DOESN'T WANT
HIS PAPER TO BE LEFT IN THE
DUST WITH THIS SASQUATCH
STORY. FINE, I CAN UNDER-
STAND.

THAT HE CHOSE ME
TO TAKE THE PICTURES,
THAT'S A GIVEN.

BUT-- TO HOOK ME UP
WITH MELVIN GOONER
AS THE REPORTER, THIS
TRIP COULD BE LONGER
THAN I THOUGHT. MAYBE
JONAH'S TRYING TO
TORTURE ME.

HOPE BRITISH
COLUMBIA'S A
NICE PLACE.



Miami Chronicle

Town Gripped with Fear

Illustration by Mark Tex Willingham
Photo by Michael Ochs Archives

Hope, B.C., Canada

It is now the seventh day of this 'EVENT.' My reports will continue to come in on a daily basis until everything is settled. The idea of writing it from my perspective has been suggested by my editor.

Since I broke the story, it seems only natural to tap my own emotions. I am tied to this in some involuntary way. More than that, I actually created this hysteria.

I created it.

But my duty is to report the facts to the people of this province and help guide my paper's journalistic duties.



150 cents minimum outside Lower Mainland)

The Vancouver Sun

Hunter Killed as Search Continues



50 CENTS



Through all of this
I keep asking myself
the same question.



WHY?



What possible meaning
can this have, On a
human level or on
a divine level?



We can only hope the boy
will return home soon --



-- having
lost his way
in the forest,
and that it is
just a matter
of time --



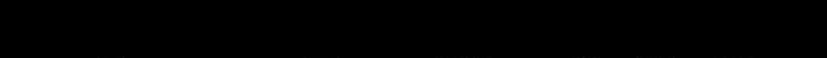
-- before someone
finds him.



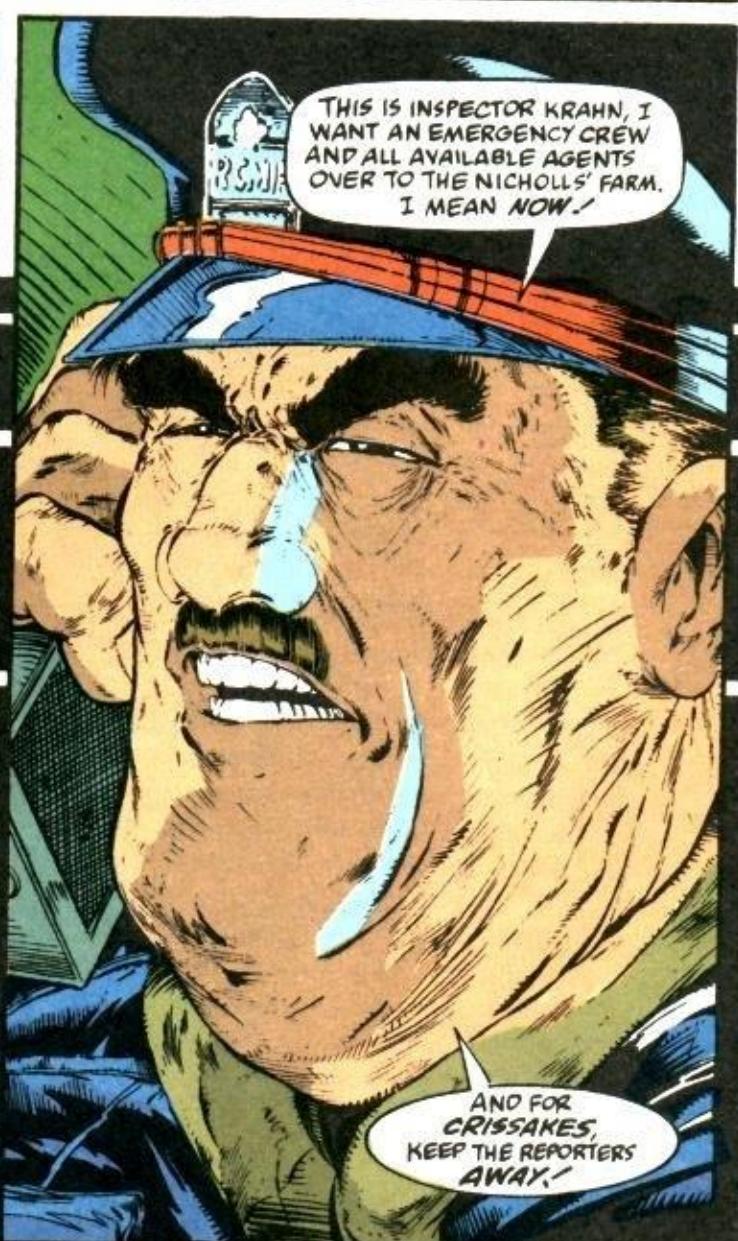
One boy is already
dead. His body so
viciously abused that
forensics still can't
determine the actual
cause of death.



Another boy, BILL RICE,
is still missing. Who
knows what horrors he
has been through.



Safe.





JEEZ! I CAN TELL BY THE REMAINING CLOTHES THAT IT IS LITTLE BILLY RICE. MITCHELL, GET OVER TO HIS PARENTS' HOUSE AND MOVE THEM BEFORE THE MEDIA GETS WIND OF THIS.

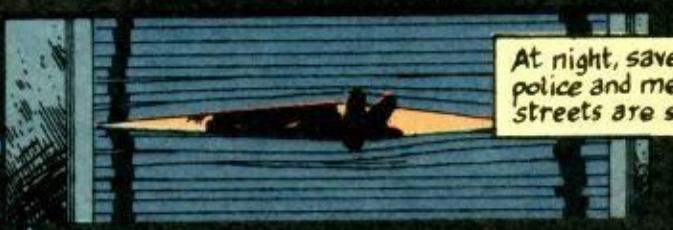
MRS. NEUSEL IS STILL IN THE HOSPITAL WITH HER BREAKDOWN.

THE REST OF YOU BOYS, WE'VE GOT TO GET THIS CREATURE. I'M NOT TALKING IN TWO WEEKS, I MEAN FAST. AS IN TWENTY-FOUR HOURS FAST.

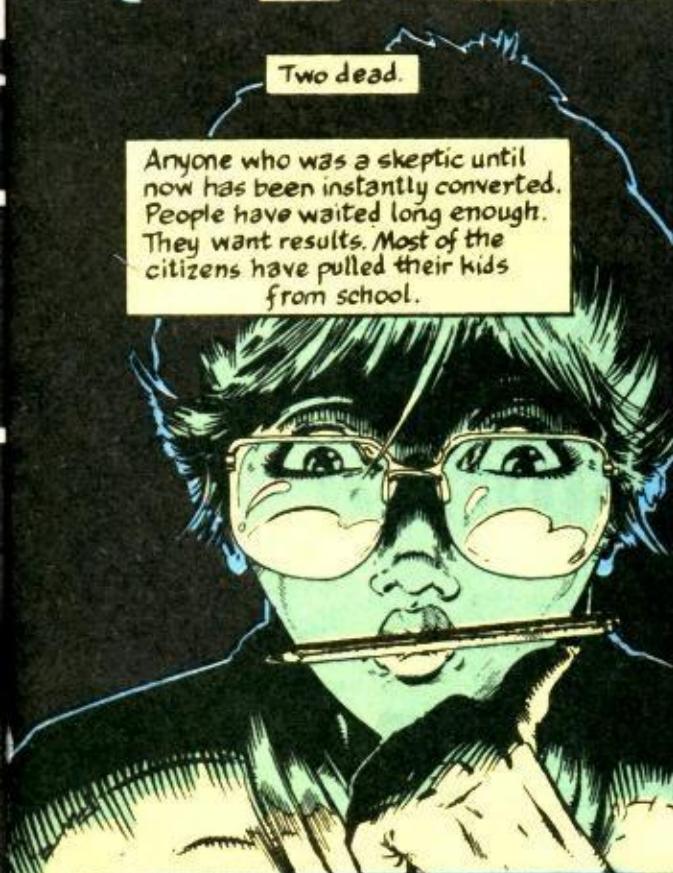
SOMETHING EVIL IS OUT THERE. IT'S OUR DUTY TO BLOW ITS BRAINS OUT.

Two dead.

Anyone who was a skeptic until now has been instantly converted. People have waited long enough. They want results. Most of the citizens have pulled their kids from school.



At night, save for the police and media, the streets are silent.



People hiding their emotions behind steel.



The situation has gotten completely out of control. The media are not helping matters in the least.

Quite the opposite.

Calgary Herald MUTILATED BOY FOUND

Part of the boy's limbs were missing. That seems to be the only worthy fact to us, the media.

DAILY NEWS

35¢

NEW YORK'S PICTURE NEWSPAPER®

KILLING CONTINUES



FINAL

30¢

DAILY BUGLE 30c

THE PICTURE NEWSPAPER™

Partly cloudy chance of snow High 25-30 Details p. 2

BIGFOOT EATS CHILD

CANADA'S NATIONAL NEWSPAPER THE GLOBE AND MAIL

Year, No. 43,995 © 1995

Victim Consumed

Dallas Observer

FLESH-EATER STILL FREE



CANADA'S NATIONAL NEWSPAPER

THE GLOBE AND MAIL

Thursday, December 6, 1990

Year, No. 43-995 © 1990

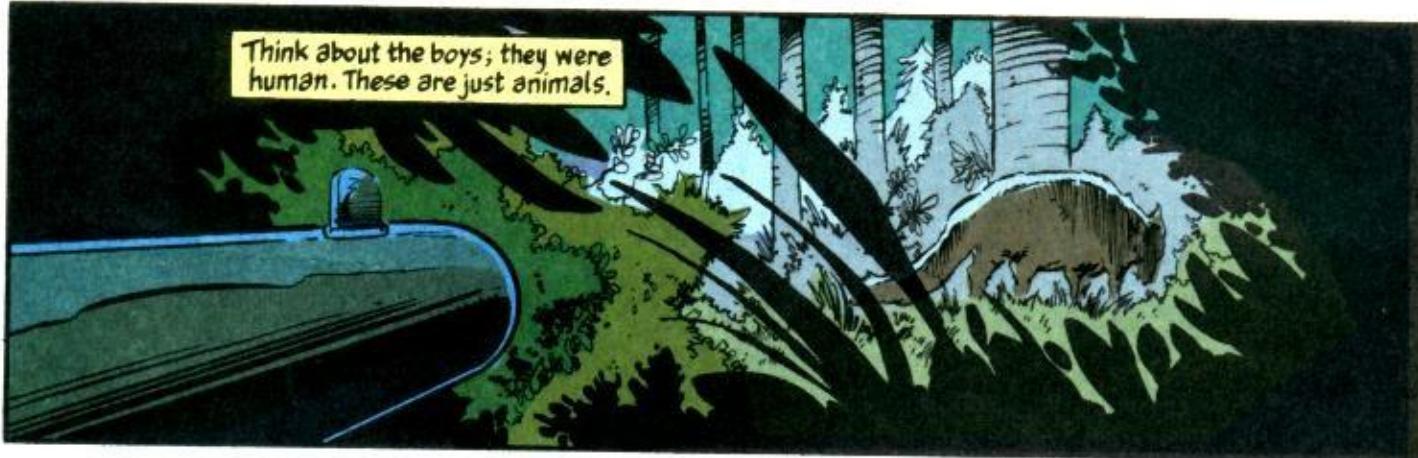
Berserk Sasquatch: No End in Sight

Day nine. It seems like the creature is everywhere again. The town's imagination has torn apart any sense of logic. The beast can't possibly be in eight spots at once.

Rumors begin to fly. Maybe there is a whole race of them. Maybe they are biding time. Waiting to wipe out the entire town. A sadistic smorgasbord. Beast devouring man.

These thoughts people are whispering. It is no longer a circus. Biblical prophecy has taken its place.

My mind is becoming numb. My energy just isn't there. And, more importantly, neither is my heart.



THIS MADNESS
MUST STOP.

Things that
act irrationally.

FINAL

DAILY BUGLE 30c

THE PICTURE NEWSPAPER™

30¢ Thursday, January 30

Partly cloudy, chance of snow. High 25-30. Details p. 2

**BIGFOOT ATTACK—
Hunters Left Alive**