

23 \$1.95 US  
\$2.75 CAN  
JUL 98

DAVID  
KIRK  
RIGGS

# SUPergirl

## TENSION IN THE AIR!

GUEST-  
STARRING STEEL™



DIRECT SALES



02311>

7 61941 20783 4

# DOUBLE-EDGED SWORD

PETER DAVID · WRITER  
LEONARD KIRK · PENCILS  
ROBIN RIGGS · INKS  
PAT PRENTICE · LETTERS  
GENE D'ANGELO · COLORS  
DIGITAL CHAMELEON · SEPS  
FRANK BERRIOS · ASSISTS  
MIKE MCAVENNIE · EDITS

"EVERY MAN HAS A RIGHT TO  
UTTER WHAT HE THINKS TRUTH,  
AND EVERY OTHER MAN HAS A  
RIGHT TO KNOCK HIM DOWN FOR IT."

-- SAMUEL JOHNSON, 1780

"FOR GOD'S SAKE, LET US  
FREELY HEAR BOTH SIDES!"

-- THOMAS JEFFERSON, 1814

STANHOPE UNIVERSITY  
STUDENT UNION



STUDENTS  
AGAINST  
TAYLOR  
LANDERS!

NO  
RACIST  
TALK!

NOT  
BIGOT  
ZONE!

LANDERS  
GO  
HOME!

FREE SPEECH  
YES!  
RACISM  
NO!

FREEDOM  
FROM  
BIGOT

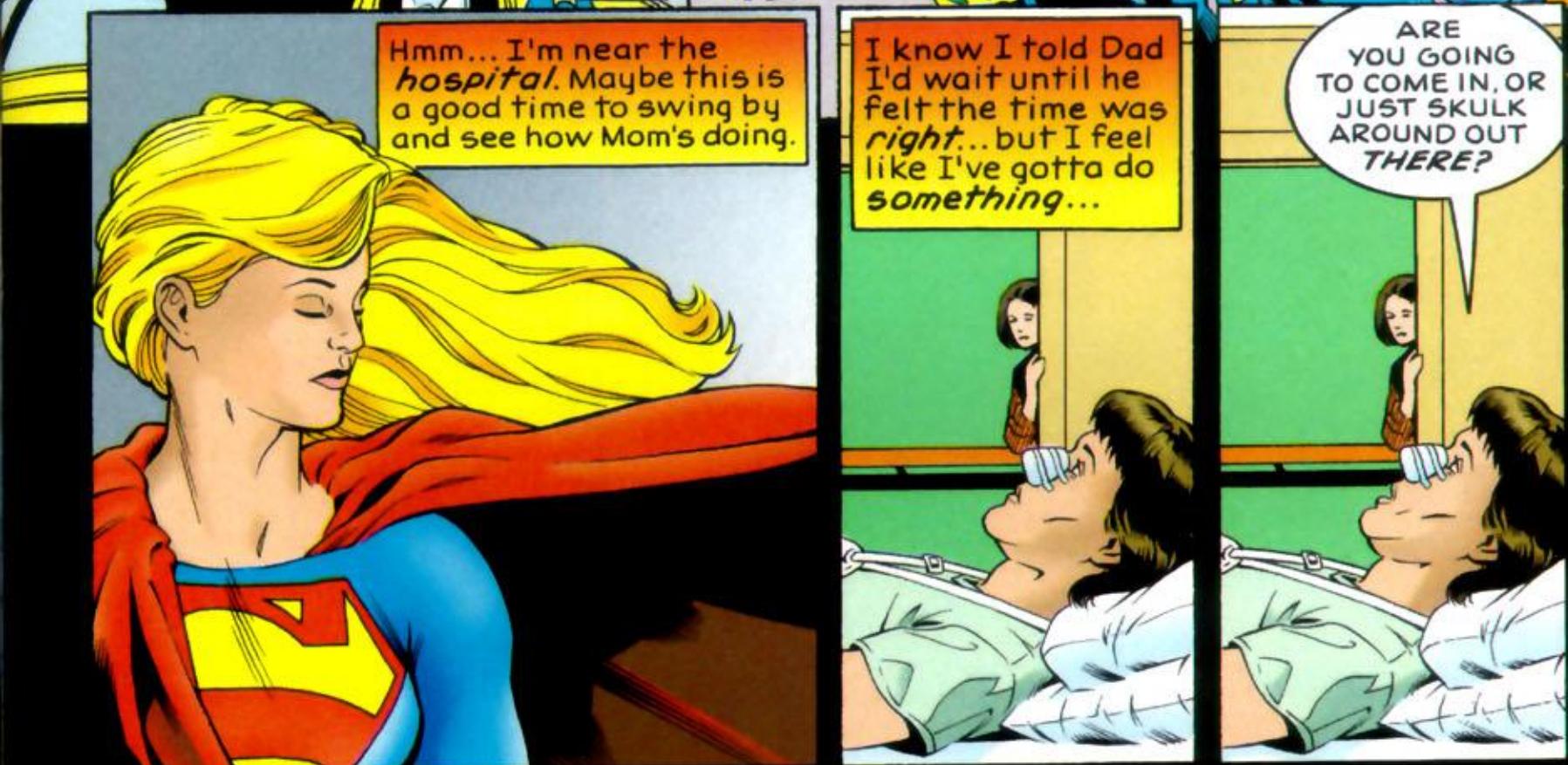
SUPERRGIRL 23, July, 1998. Published monthly by DC Comics, 1700 Broadway, New York, NY 10019. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to SUPERRGIRL, DC Comics Subscriptions, P.O. Box 0528, Baldwin, NY 11510. Annual subscription rate \$23.40. Canadian subscribers must add \$12.00 for postage and GST. GST # is R125921072. All foreign countries must add \$12.00 for postage. U.S. funds only. Copyright © 1998 DC Comics. 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. Printed on recyclable paper. Printed in Canada.

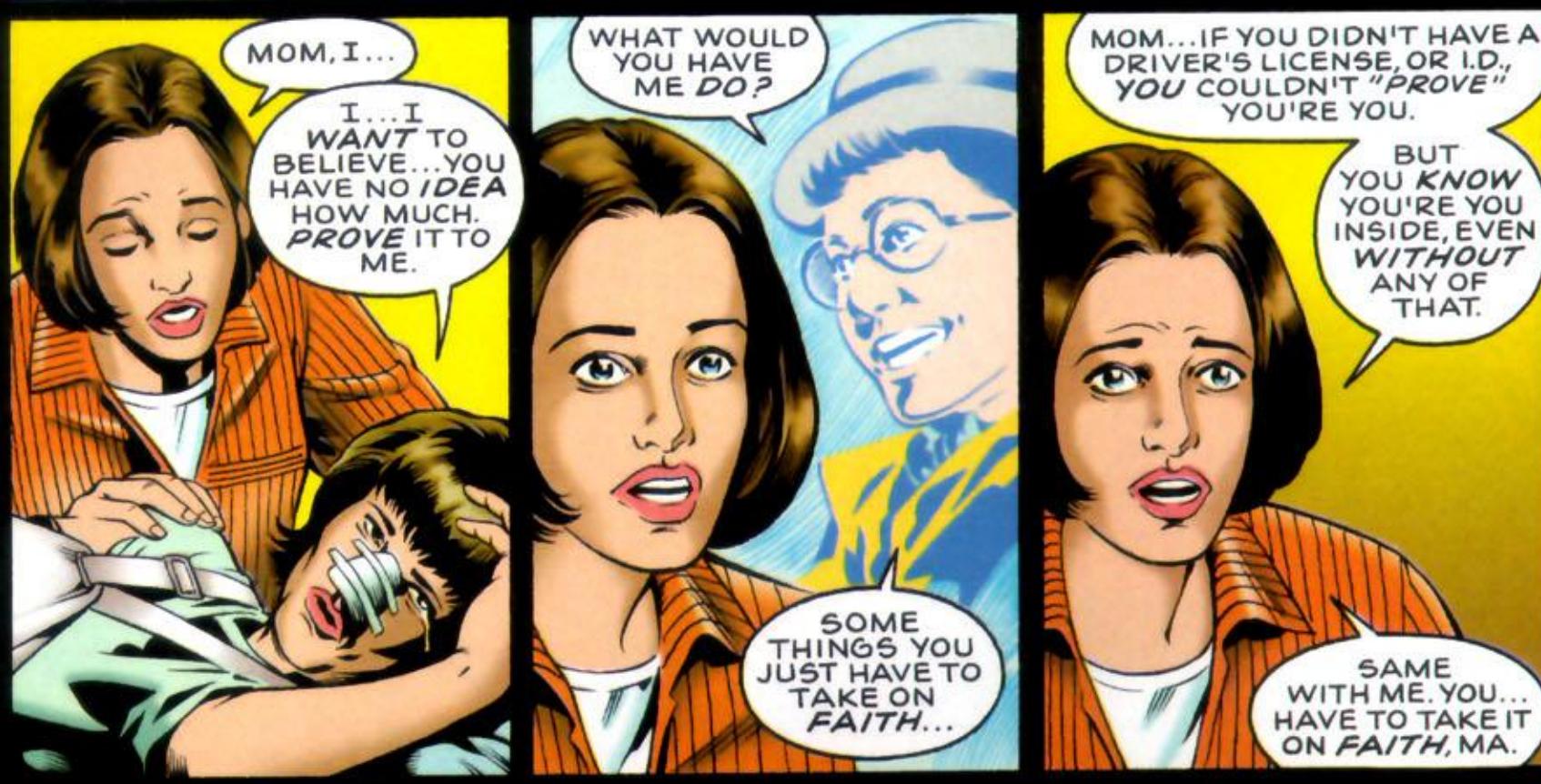
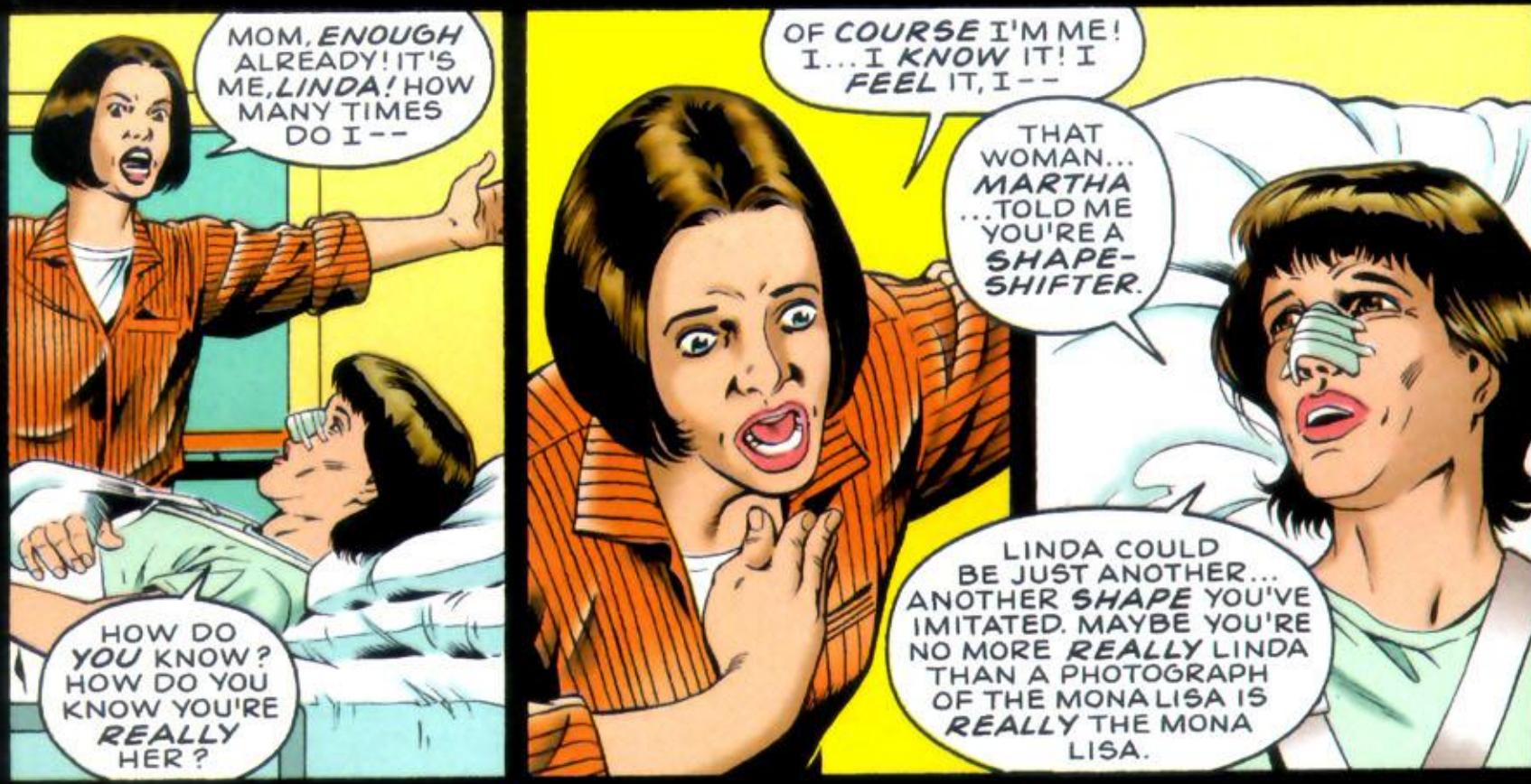
DC Comics  
A DIVISION OF WARNER BROS.—A TIME WARNER ENTERTAINMENT COMPANY



Read more FREE comics on [ReadComicOnline](#)







SOME THINGS YOU JUST HAVE TO TAKE ON FAITH...

MOM... IF YOU DIDN'T HAVE A DRIVER'S LICENSE, OR I.D., YOU COULDN'T "PROVE" YOU'RE YOU.

BUT YOU KNOW YOU'RE YOU INSIDE, EVEN WITHOUT ANY OF THAT.

SAME WITH ME. YOU... HAVE TO TAKE IT ON FAITH, MA.



Mattie always had a knack for getting along with my father... even in the old days, when he and I were barely speaking. She was like the *only* means of communication between us.

Maybe she could give me some *advice* on...

LEESBURG HOSPITAL:  
A CENTURY  
OF SICK PEOPLE

YOU'RE THE ONE WHO WAS HAVING LUNCH WITH THE DANVERS GIRL, RIGHT? AND THAT GUY, FRACTURE, GRABBED HER AND TOOK OFF WITH HER?

SHE'S OKAY! JUST WANTED TO LET YOU KNOW! I DROPPED HER OFF AT HER HOUSE A WHILE AGO!

Ah. It's Andy. Excellent. A loose end I can tie off.

That's about as close as I want to get to Andy at the moment. Considering that she was hitting on me over lunch...

I still have zero idea how to deal with that.

MMMM... NICE BUTT.

071

DEAN KANE, I APPRECIATE YOU AND DR. LANDERS TAKING THE TIME TO MEET WITH ME.

I'M SURE YOU'RE VERY BUSY, WHAT WITH YOUR HACKING SO MANY PEOPLE OFF.

SO WHERE ARE YOUR HORNS, DR. LANDERS? I'VE HEARD YOU'RE PRETTY MUCH THE DEVIL INCARNATE.

MR. SHARP, I'VE BEEN CALLED A LOT WORSE THAN THAT, TRUST ME.



I HAVE OPINIONS THAT ARE UNPOPULAR. SO DID COPERNICUS... AND JESUS. I'D PREFER NOT TO BE CRUCIFIED OR EX-COMMUNICATED. OBVIOUSLY, BUT I'LL STAND BY MY THEORIES.

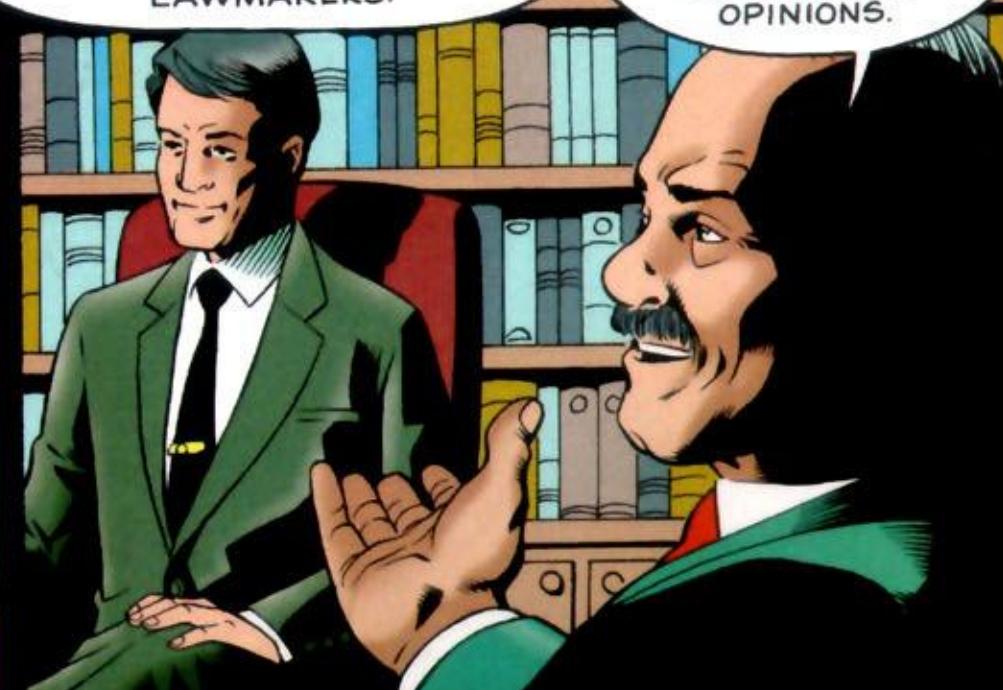
AND MY RESEARCH INDICATES THAT, QUITE SIMPLY, THE BLACK POPULATION OF THIS COUNTRY STANDS TO BE THE ULTIMATE RUINATION OF IT.

BETWEEN THE LOWERING OF QUALITY IN THE WORKFORCE DUE TO AFFIRMATIVE ACTION, THE REWARDS GRANTED VIA WELFARE FOR THE UNCONTROLLED BIRTHING OF CHILDREN WHO WILL BE POORLY EDUCATED AND A DRAIN ON RESOURCES, THE...

YOU UNDERSTAND HOW RACIST THAT SOUNDS? AND DEAN KANE, THE SCHOOL ENDORSES DR. LANDERS' POSITION?

THE SCHOOL ENDORSES ONLY A FREEFLOW OF IDEAS. DR. LANDERS IS ON A NATIONAL TOUR PROMOTING A NEW BOOK, AND HE VOICES IDEAS THAT COULD INFLUENCE LAWMAKERS.

LIKE IT OR NOT, HE'S NEWS. WE'LL DO THE STUDENTS NO FAVORS BY SHIELDING THEM FROM OPINIONS... EVEN UPSETTING OPINIONS.





Steel! Haven't seen him since the Millennium Giants.

He sure put some noses out of joint during that whole mess.

FIRST... I WANT YOU TO UNDERSTAND THAT I BELIEVE IN FREE EXPRESSION.

I BELIEVE IN THE FIRST AMENDMENT. BUT EVEN THE FIRST AMENDMENT IS NOT ABSOLUTE. THERE ARE LIMITS WHERE IT PRESENTS A DANGER TO THE HEALTH AND WELL-BEING OF THE POPULACE.

I KNOW THIS MAN, THIS DR. TAYLOR LANDERS, SOCIOLOGIST AND ANTHROPOLOGIST. I KNOW THE POISON HE SPEAKS. IN HIS WORDS, IN HIS ACTIONS, HE SLANDERS AN ENTIRE RACE OF PEOPLE.

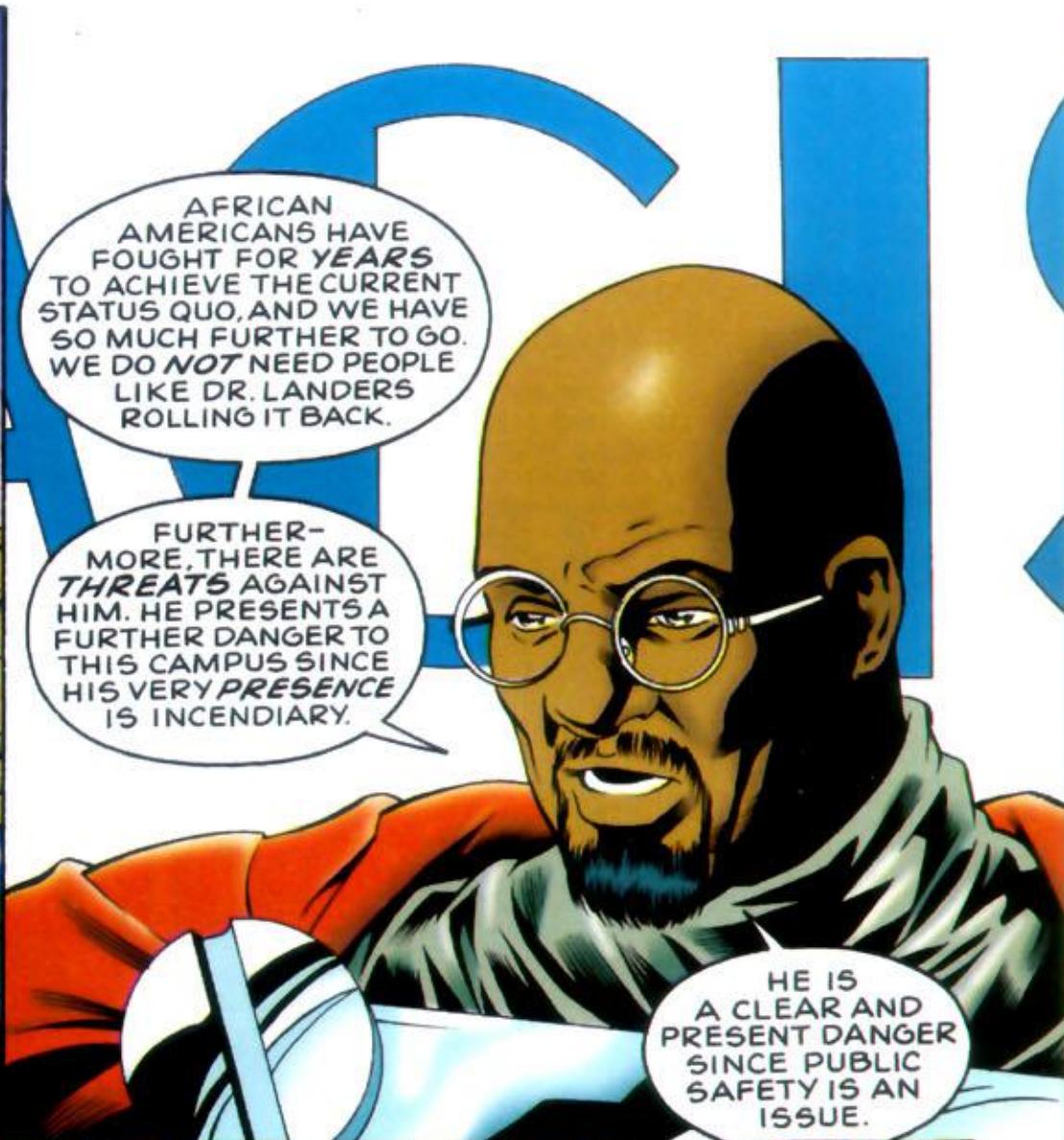
HE FOSTERS HATRED AND ENCOURAGES BELIEFS THAT WILL INEVITABLY LEAD TO VIOLENCE AGAINST PEOPLE OF COLOR. THERE ARE CERTAIN WORDS WHICH NEED NOT BE LISTENED TO, AND SHOULD NOT BE UTTERED.

I URGE YOU: DO NOT USE VIOLENCE. INSTEAD, CREATE A PICKET LINE AND PEACEFULLY RAISE YOUR VOICES IN PROTEST, TO DROWN OUT THE POISON. THIS IS YOUR RIGHT AS PROUD AFRICAN-AMERICANS.

THE HECKLER'S VETO, DR. IRONS? IS THAT WHAT YOU'RE ADVOCATING?

AND... YOU ARE...?

CUTTER SHARP,  
LEESBURG TRIB.



IT WASN'T THE FIRST AMENDMENT THAT GOT US THAT! IT WAS THE BLOOD AND BODIES OF OUR BROTHERS!

BROTHERS GO HUNTING

YOU COMPARE THAT SLIMEBALL LANDERS TO DR. KING?! THE HELL WITH YOU!

Oh, this is not good.

A Telekinetic burst'll deflect that rock, but this is getting real ugly real quick...

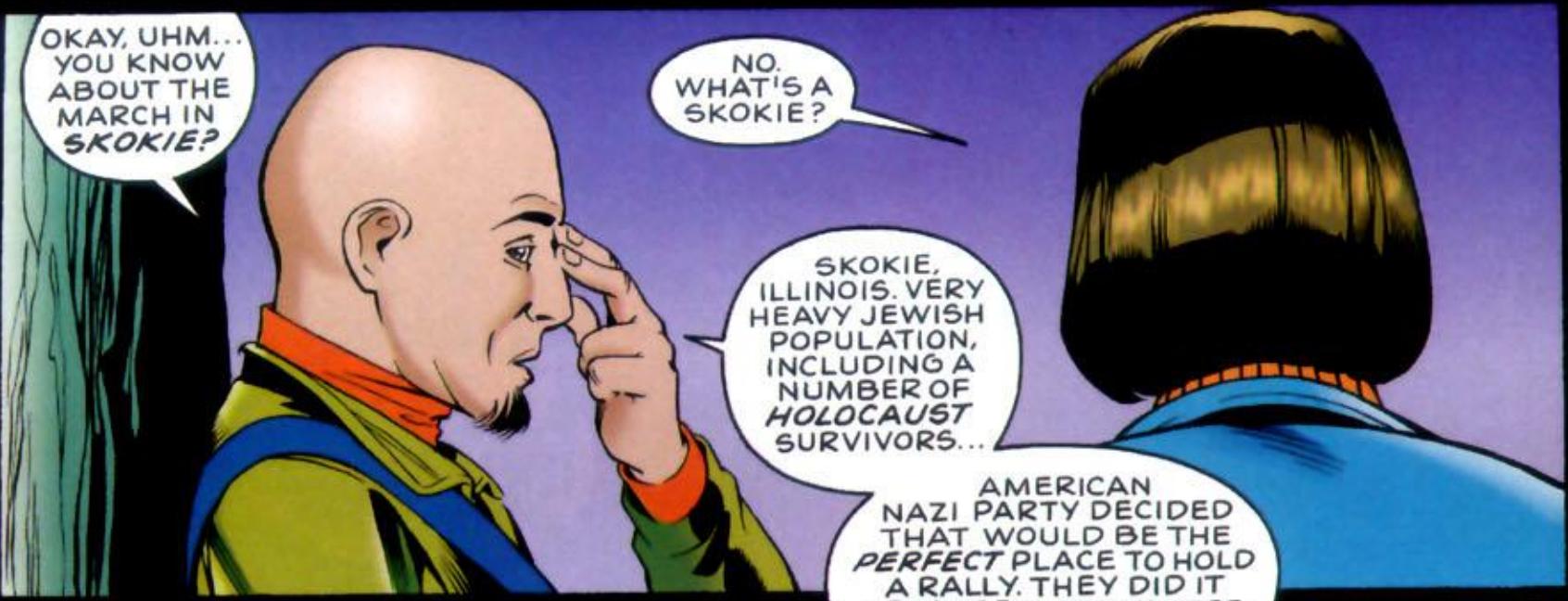
STAY BACK, PEOPLE! THIS ISN'T WHAT THIS RALLY IS SUPPOSED TO BE ABOUT!

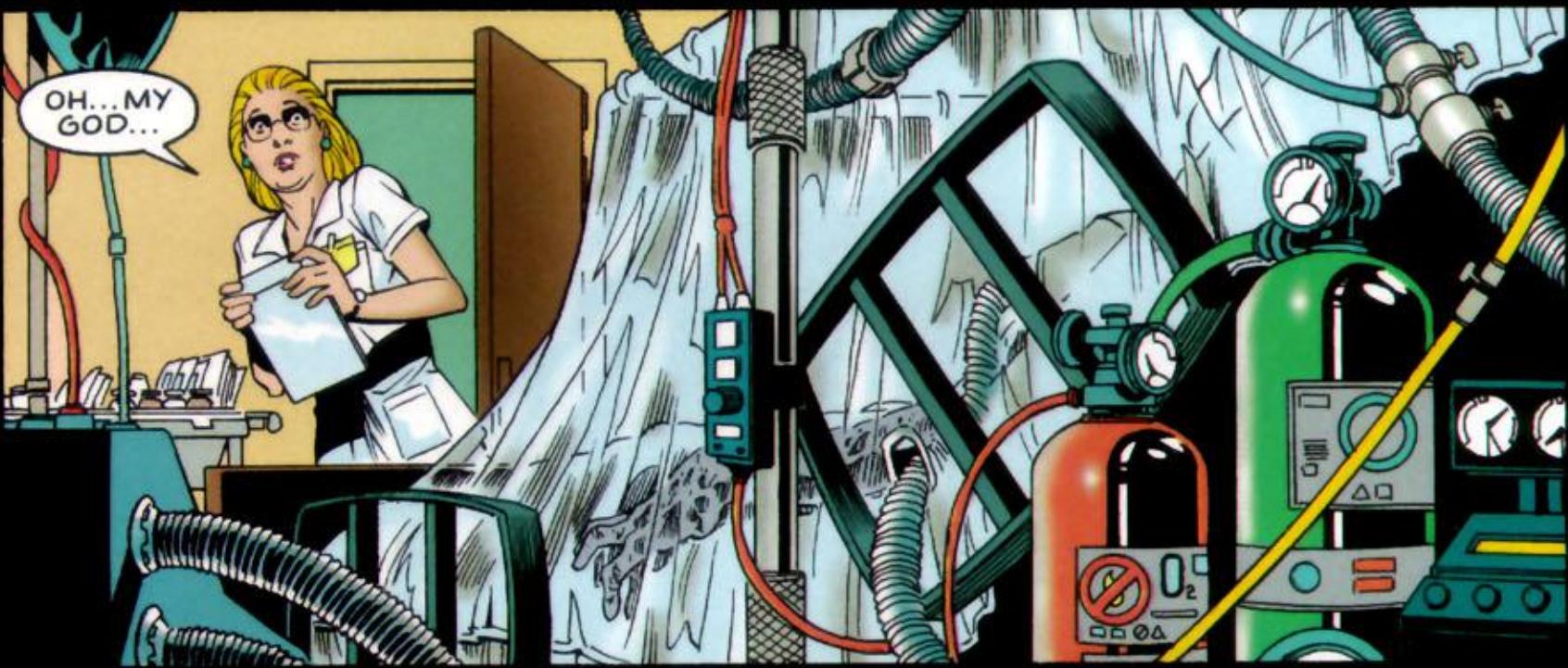
I'D GET OUT OF HERE IF I WERE YOU, SON.

IF YOU INSIST....

CALMLY, FOLKS! HE'S A REPORTER. HE'S PAID TO ASK QUESTIONS. DON'T ATTACK THE MAN JUST FOR DOING HIS JOB.







It's a gorgeous day. Far too nice a day for people to be screaming at each other.

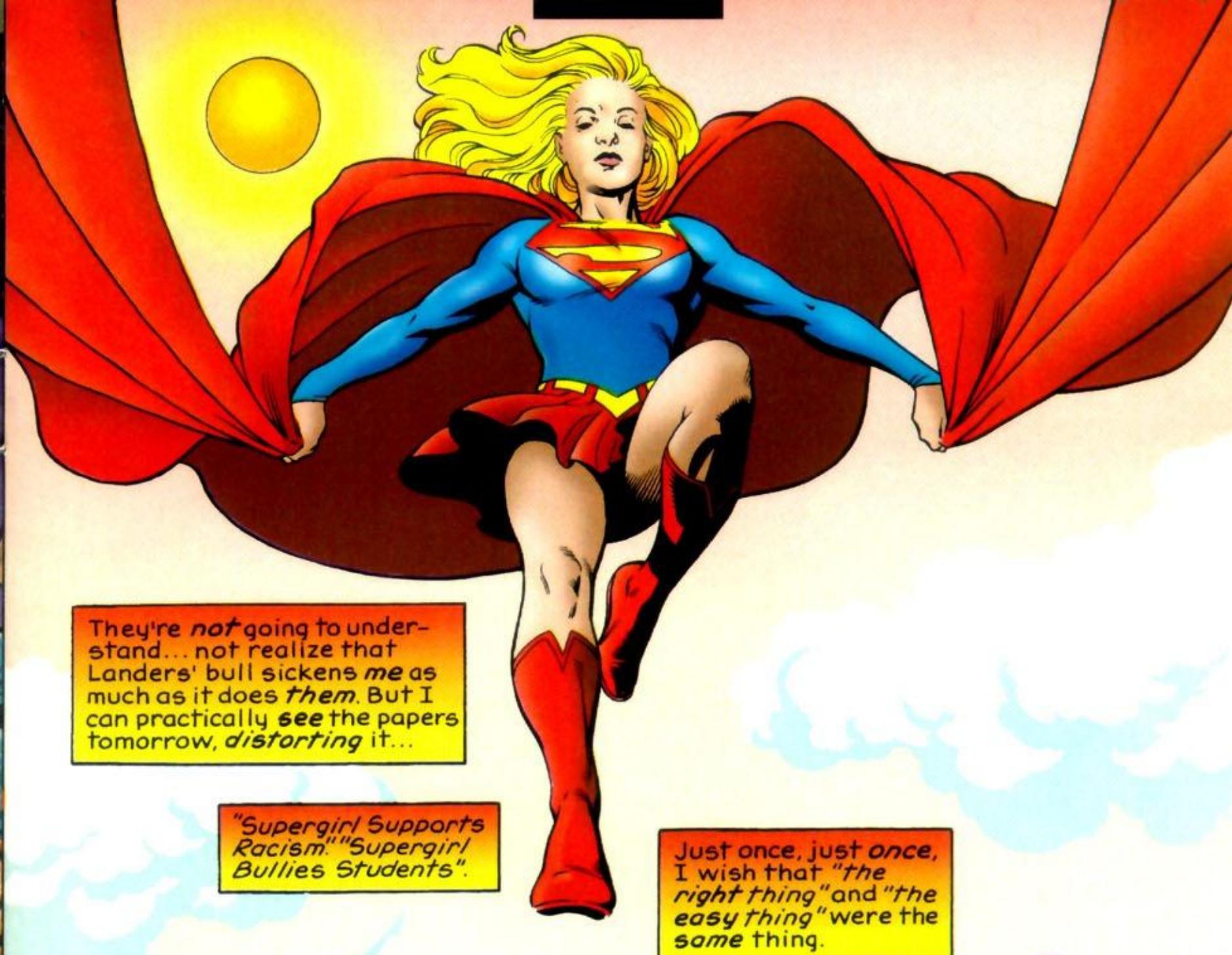
But there they are **any-way**. Picketers blocking the entrance to the Student Union, while the police are trying to escort Landersthrough.

And students on **both** sides, half of them shouting accusations of racism, the other half angry that anyone's trying to tell them who they **can** and **can't** listen to.

I see a couple of black officers in the group. This must be tearing them apart. But you have to **admire** them: They're doing their job.

And I have the sick feeling that I'm going to have to do mine. It's **not** going to make me real popular. And I'll feel like I'm letting Mattie down.





Thanks, Steel. Glad I could count on y--

RETURN.

OOOOOFFF!!

WHAAM!

RIOTS,  
DR. IRONS?  
PROTEST?  
PROVING MY  
POINT BY  
SHOWING  
THE DANGER  
YOUR PEOPLE  
PRESENT?

THE DANGER IS  
PRESENTED BY  
YOU, DR. LANDERS.  
BY YOU AND YOUR  
RACIST BELIEFS.  
BY YOUR...

YOU WEAR THE "S"  
AND YOU FIGHT FOR  
PREJUDICE?

JUST MAKING  
FRIENDS EVERY-  
WHERE, AREN'T  
YOU, STEEL?

I FIGHT  
FOR IDEAS,  
STEEL. WHO'S  
GOING TO DECIDE  
WHICH IDEAS GET  
SPOKEN? YOU?  
ME?

AND WHAT WILL HAPPEN WHEN PEOPLE DON'T SAY WHAT'S ON THEIR MIND? THEN WHAT HAVE YOU GOT?

A MORE POLITE, MORE THOUGHTFUL, AND MORE RESPONSIBLE SOCIETY.



WHAT THE HELL--?  
WHAT ARE YOU--?



BRAKoom

HUH? THAT NOISE...!

THE STUDENT UNION!

SOMEONE BLEW IT UP AS SOON AS LANDERS GOT IN!

The next moments are somewhat confusing, as the building blazes. Inside, a black officer is trapped by debris...

...and discovers a most unexpected savior.

COME ON!

OH, HELL!

RELAX, GENTLEMEN! I'VE GOT YOU COVERED!

STEEL! EVAC, PLEASE!

SIT TIGHT! I'M CHECKING IF ANY MORE PEOPLE ARE IN THERE!





WORK  
ON IT.

YOU...  
SAVED MY  
BUTT. PARDON  
MY ASKING,  
BUT...



...WELL  
THANK  
YOU.



