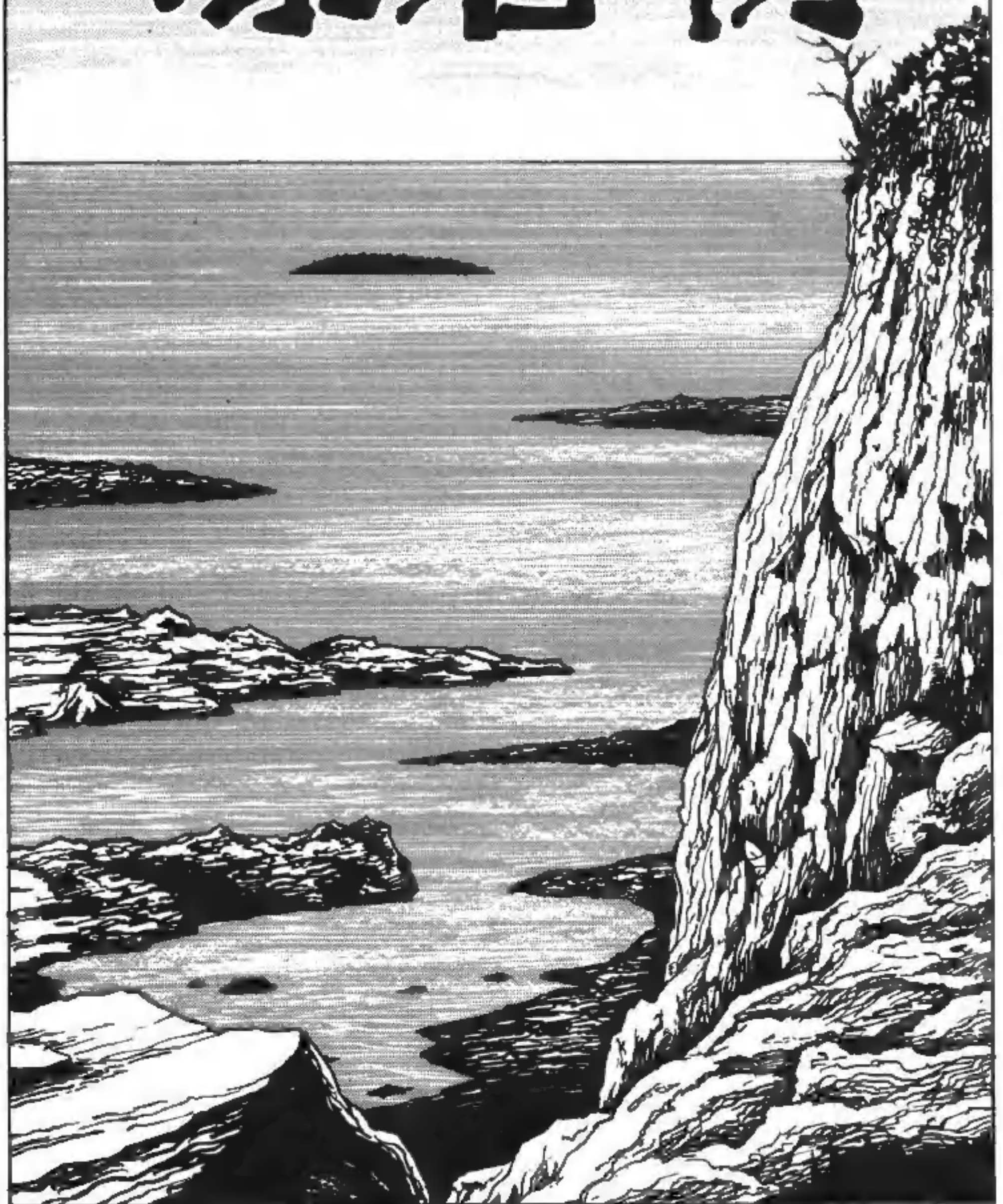


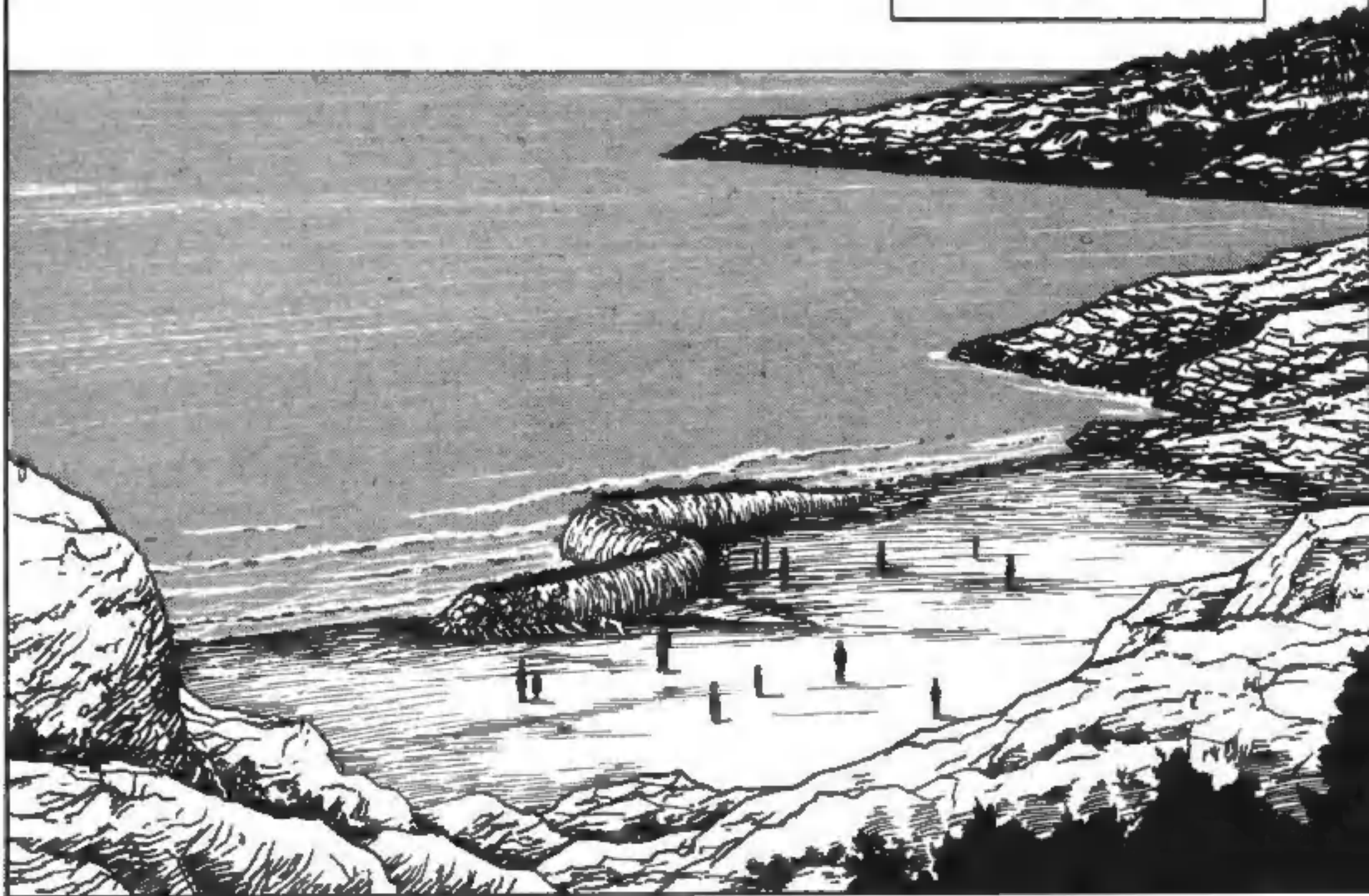
THING THAT DRIFTED ASHORE

ひょう ちやく ぶつ
漂着物



COMMISSIONED BY GUROTAKU

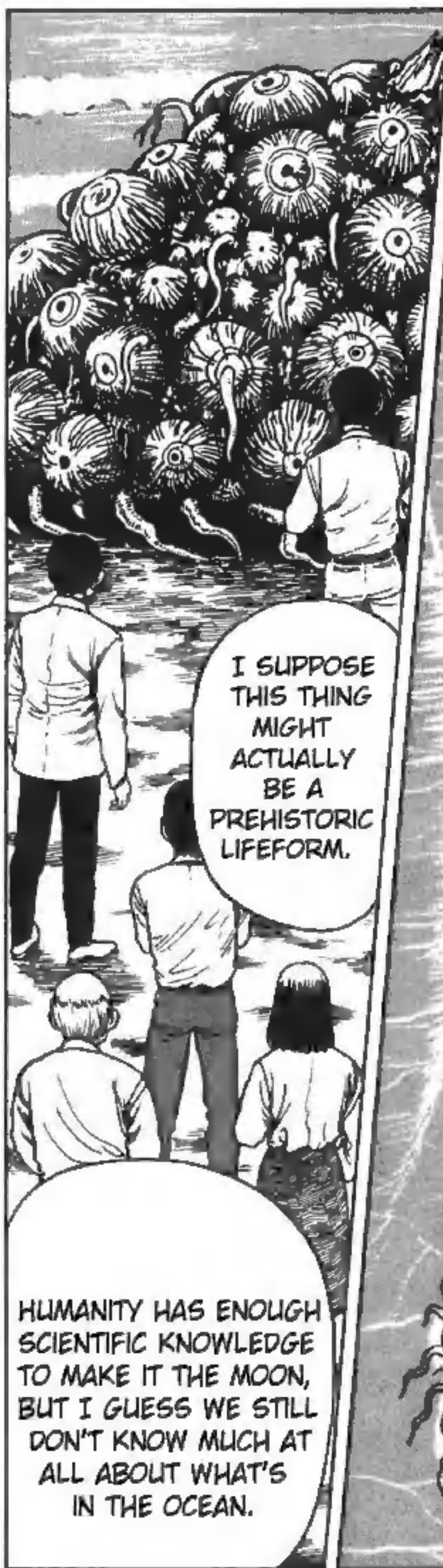
THE CORPSE OF A
GIGANTIC CREATURE
CRASHED ONTO A
CERTAIN SHORE
IN THE PACIFIC
OCEAN.





BY THE TIME I GOT
TO THE BEACH, THERE
WERE ALREADY MANY
ONLOOKERS CROWDING
AROUND THE THING
THAT DRIFTED ASHORE.





I HEARD THAT
A WHALE GOT
BEACHED IN
THE NEWS THIS
MORNING, BUT..

IT SEEMS
TO HAVE
A BODY
LENGTH OF
AROUND
30 M.

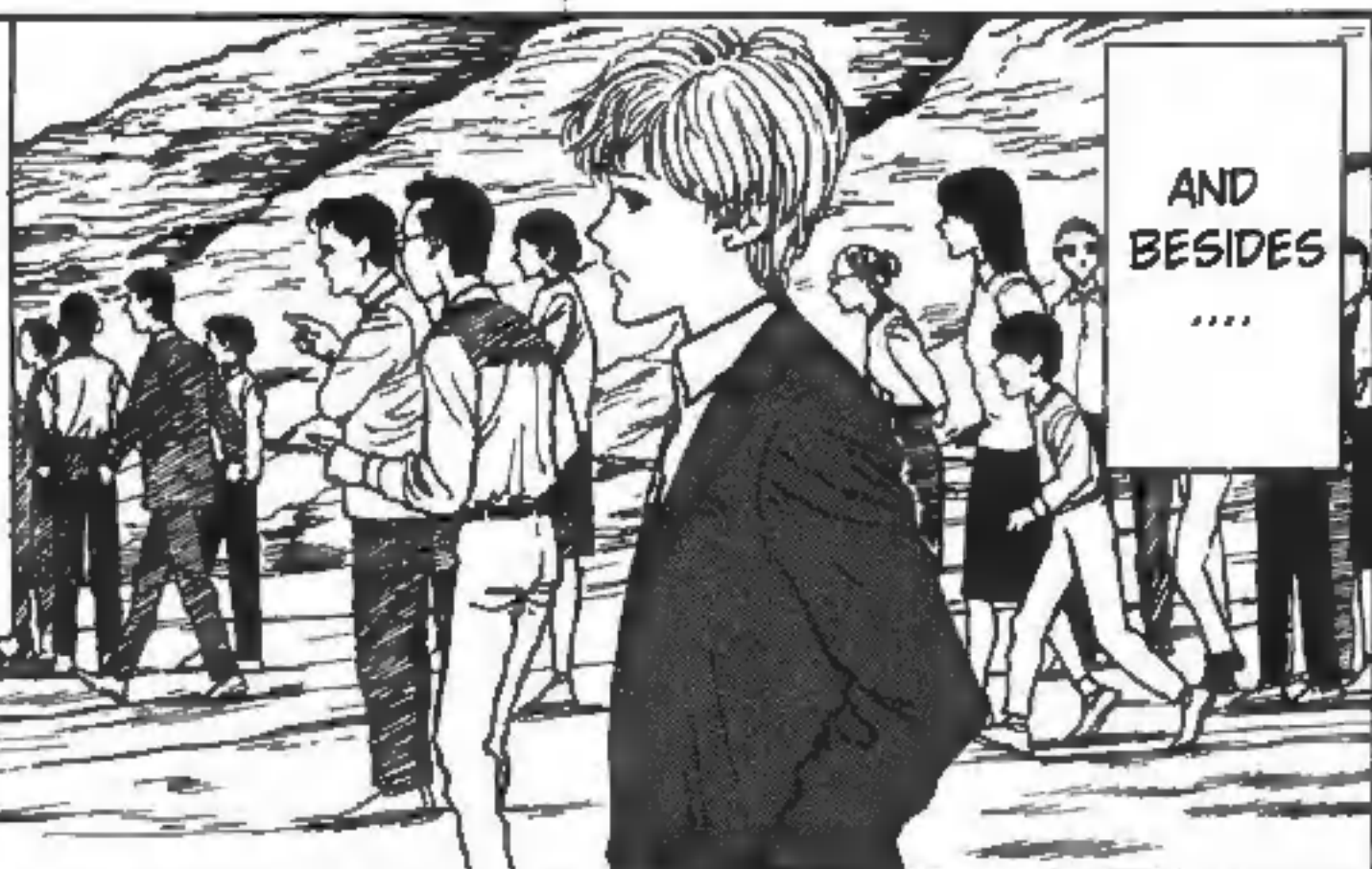
I SUPPOSE
THIS THING
MIGHT
ACTUALLY
BE A
PREHISTORIC
LIFEFORM.

THIS DOESN'T
LOOK LIKE A
WHALE NO
MATTER
WHAT.

HUMANITY HAS ENOUGH
SCIENTIFIC KNOWLEDGE
TO MAKE IT THE MOON,
BUT I GUESS WE STILL
DON'T KNOW MUCH AT
ALL ABOUT WHAT'S
IN THE OCEAN.

IT HAS A
GROTE-
SQUE
HEAD.

I HATE THE OCEAN.
WHY DID I GO
THROUGH ALL THE
TROUBLE TO SPEND
HALF A DAY
JOURNEYING TO A
PLACE LIKE THIS.
I'M NOT EVEN
SURE MYSELF.

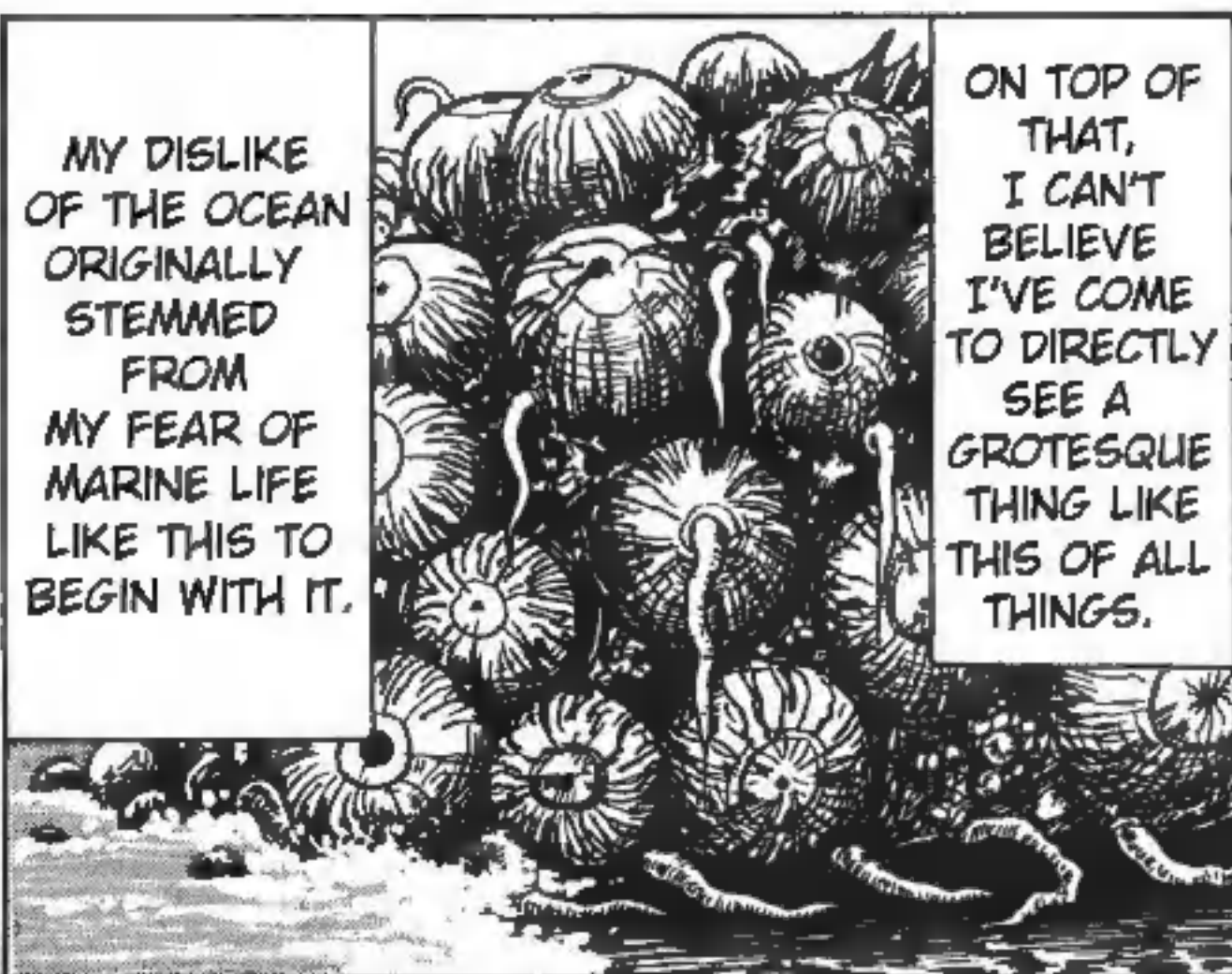


AND
BESIDES
....



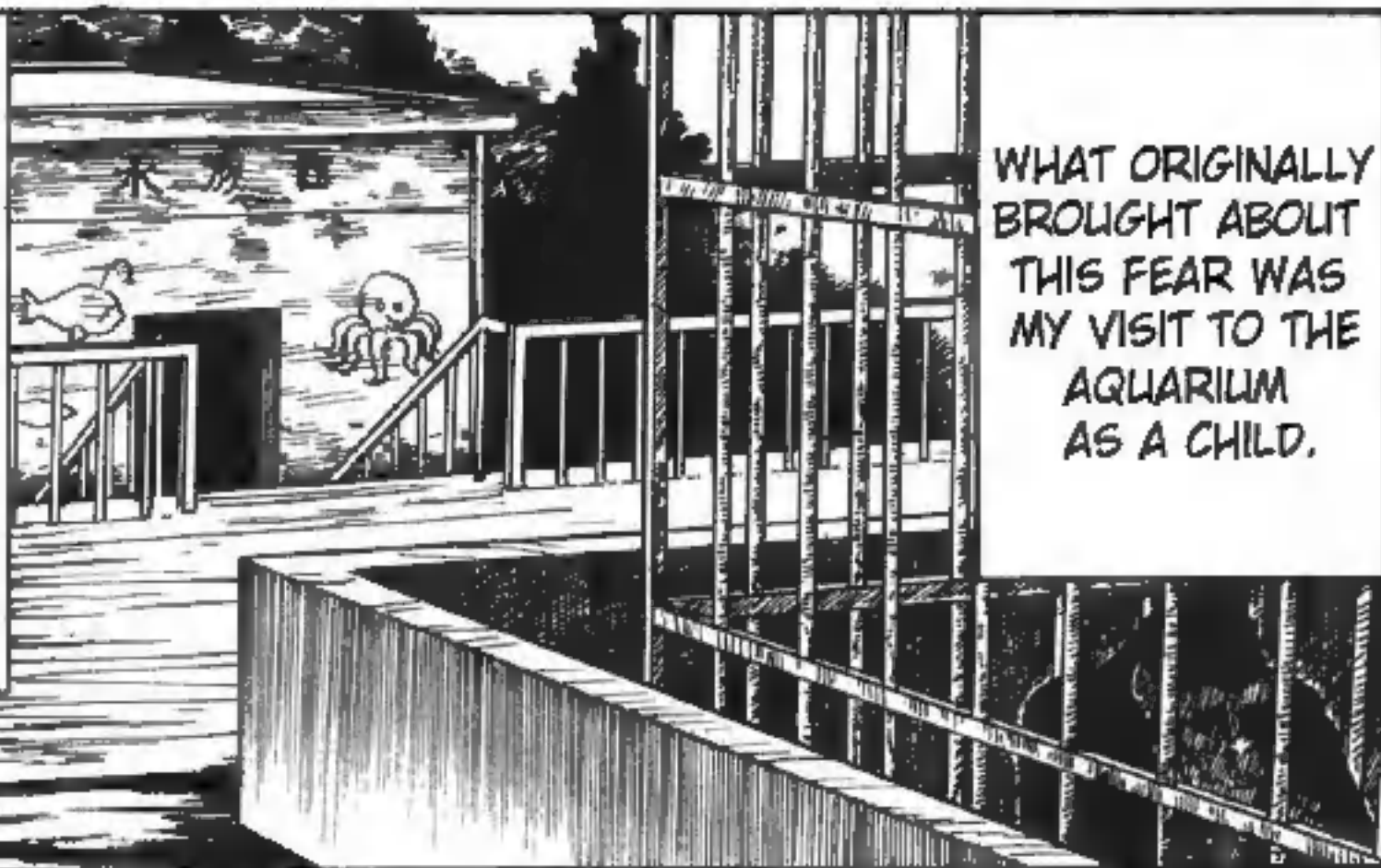
...FEAR OF
CREATURES
FROM
THE DEEP
OCEAN...

MY DISLIKE
OF THE OCEAN
ORIGINALLY
STEMMED
FROM
MY FEAR OF
MARINE LIFE
LIKE THIS TO
BEGIN WITH IT.



ON TOP OF
THAT,
I CAN'T
BELIEVE
I'VE COME
TO DIRECTLY
SEE A
GROTESQUE
THING LIKE
THIS OF ALL
THINGS.

IT WAS A SMALL
AQUARIUM SET
UP INSIDE THE
DECLINING ZOO OF
A CERTAIN TOWN.



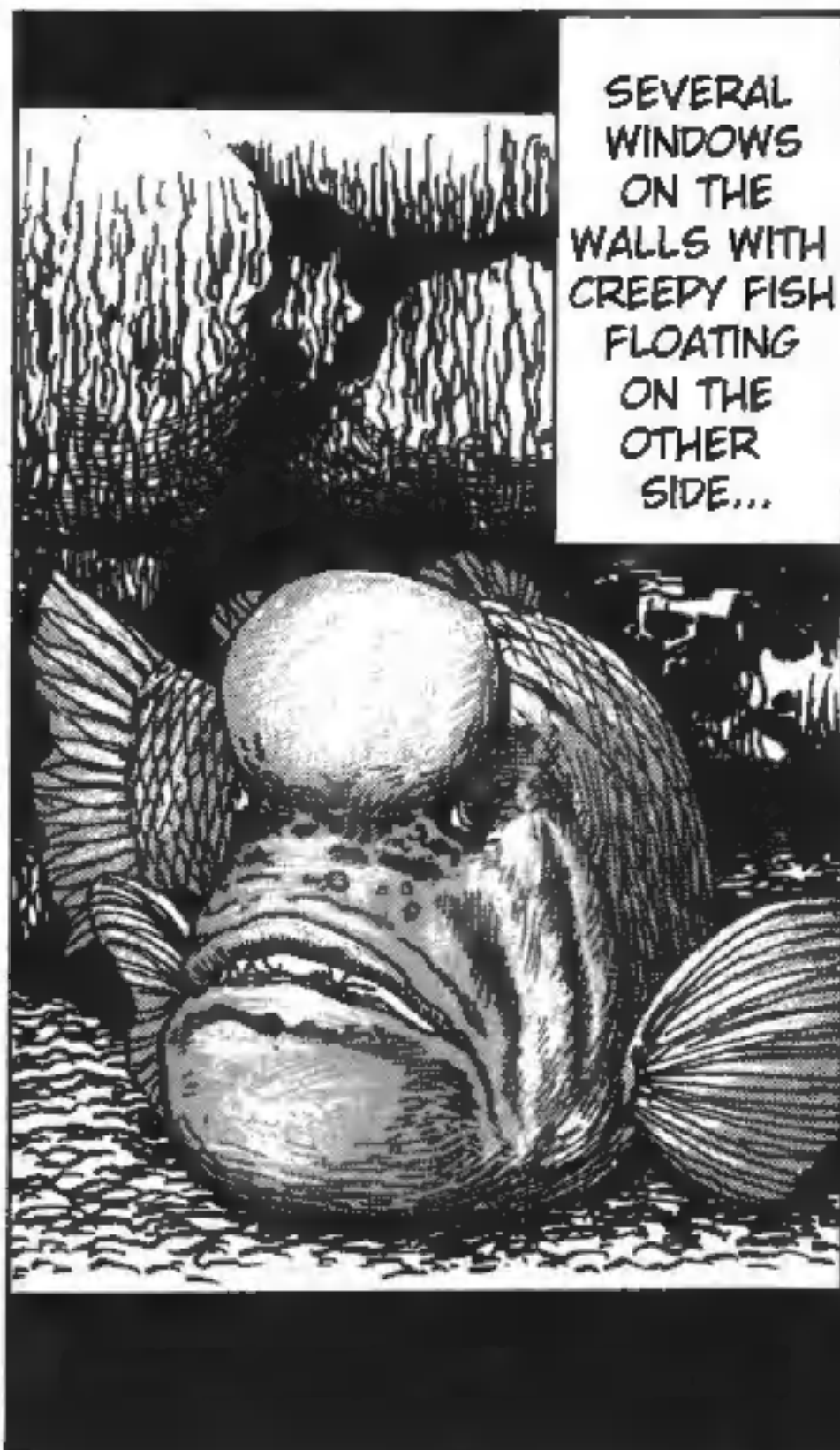
WHAT ORIGINALLY
BROUGHT ABOUT
THIS FEAR WAS
MY VISIT TO THE
AQUARIUM
AS A CHILD.



I STILL CAN'T
FORGET THE
BIZARRE
WORLD OF
THAT HALF
UNDERGROUND
DARK BUILDING
EVEN NOW.



IT FELT LIKE
THEY WERE
BEINGS THAT
HAD BEEN
FORGOTTEN
BY ALL THE
UNIVERSE.



SEVERAL
WINDOWS
ON THE
WALLS WITH
CREEPY FISH
FLOATING
ON THE
OTHER
SIDE...

THE DREAM IS
ALWAYS THE SAME.

.....
I KEEP DRIFTING
IN THE DEEP SEA.

EVER SINCE
THEN, I'VE
OFTEN
DREAMED
OF THE
OCEAN.

AND THEN I
ENCOUNTER THE
KIND OF BIZARRE,
GROTESQUE
GIANT FISH THAT
HAVE CONTINUED
TO LIVE SINCE
ANCIENT TIMES.



HMM



PERHAPS
THOSE PARTS
EMITTED LIGHT
LIKE AN
ANGLER FISH.



PLEASE HAVE A LOOK.
THERE ARE
A LOT OF CURIOUS
PROTUBERANCES
INSIDE ITS BODY...
WHAT DO YOU
SUPPOSE THEY ARE?



JUST
IMAGINING
IT SENDS
CHILLS DOWN
MY SPINE.

THEN THIS GIANT
CREATURE
PROBABLY
SWAM THROUGH
THE PITCH
BLACK DEEP
OCEAN WHILE
JUST BARELY
ILLUMINATING
IT.



NOW IT'LL
PROBABLY START
DECAYING THAT
MUCH FASTER.

..IT'S
GOTTEN
PRETTY
HOT...



YOU SHOULD
GO REST IN
THE SHADE.

サササ

WELL IT'S
NO WONDER
GIVEN THE
HEAT AND
THIS
STENCH...

...HOW
KIND OF
YOU TO SAY
THAT...

NO... I GOT
A LITTLE
BIT DIZZY...

WHAT'S THE
MATTER?
...ARE YOU
NOT FEELING
WELL?







HE WAS A
PASSENGER
OF THAT SHIP.
IN THE END,
NO TRACE OF
HIM WAS
EVER FOUND.

I WONDER IF YOU
REMEMBER IT.....
7 YEARS AGO A FERRY
SUNK DURING A STORM
OFF THE COAST OF IZU
AND A LOT OF PEOPLE
ENDED UP DISAPPEARING,
RIGHT?



...ACTUALLY,
SOMEONE
I KNEW WAS
SHIPWRECKED
AT SEA.



...HE WAS
ACTUALLY
MY
FIANCE
.....



THAT'S
HORRIBLE
.....
WAS HE
A FRIEND?

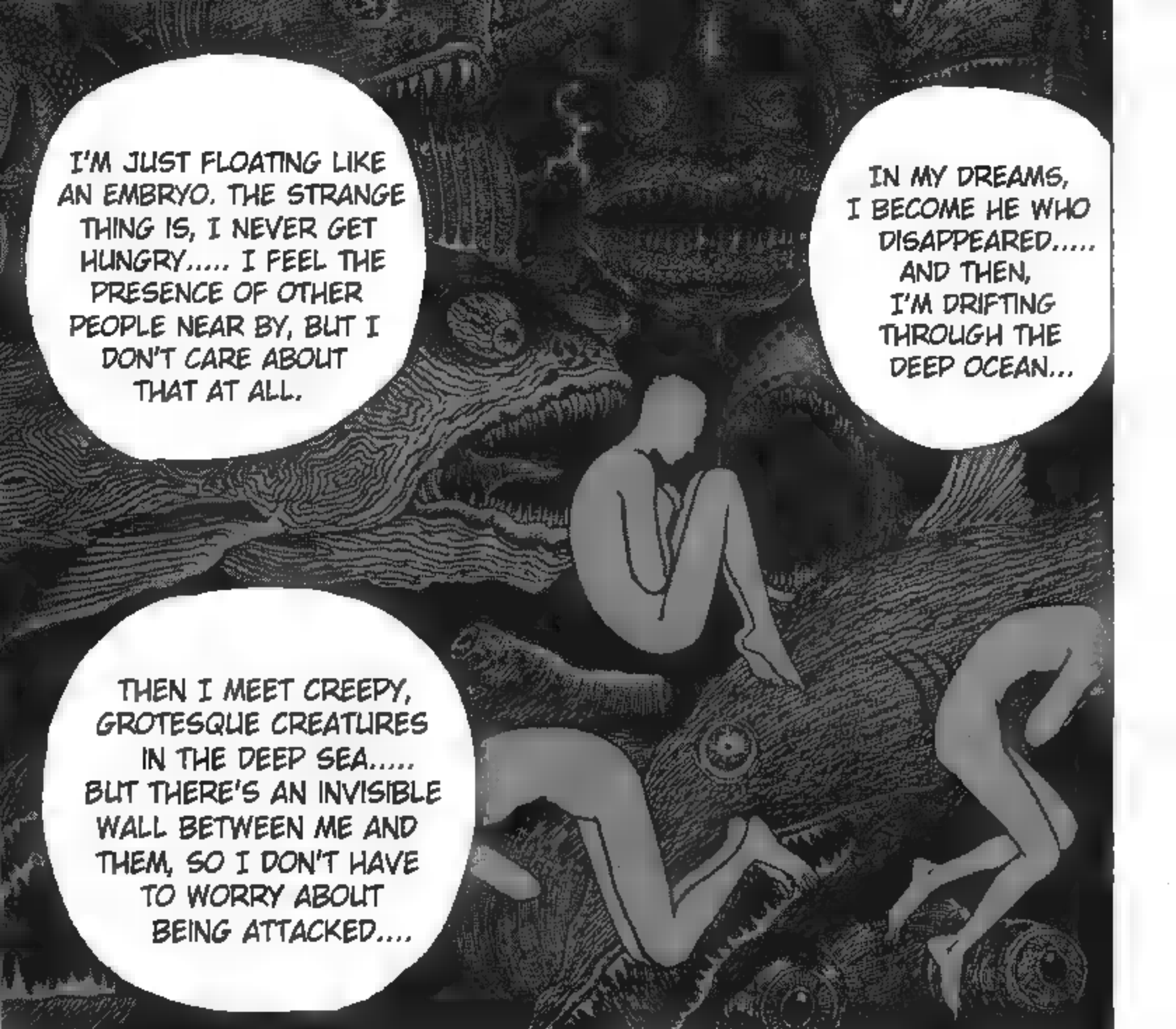


...BUT
SOMETIMES
I DREAM
OF THE
OCEAN.

HE COULDN'T
BE ALIVE
ANY MORE,
RIGHT?
I'VE
ALREADY
GIVEN UP
HOPE.




...THAT'S
HARSH...



I'M JUST FLOATING LIKE
AN EMBRYO. THE STRANGE
THING IS, I NEVER GET
HUNGRY..... I FEEL THE
PRESENCE OF OTHER
PEOPLE NEAR BY, BUT I
DON'T CARE ABOUT
THAT AT ALL.

IN MY DREAMS,
I BECOME HE WHO
DISAPPEARED.....
AND THEN,
I'M DRIFTING
THROUGH THE
DEEP OCEAN...

THEN I MEET CREEPY,
GROTESQUE CREATURES
IN THE DEEP SEA.....
BUT THERE'S AN INVISIBLE
WALL BETWEEN ME AND
THEM, SO I DON'T HAVE
TO WORRY ABOUT
BEING ATTACKED....



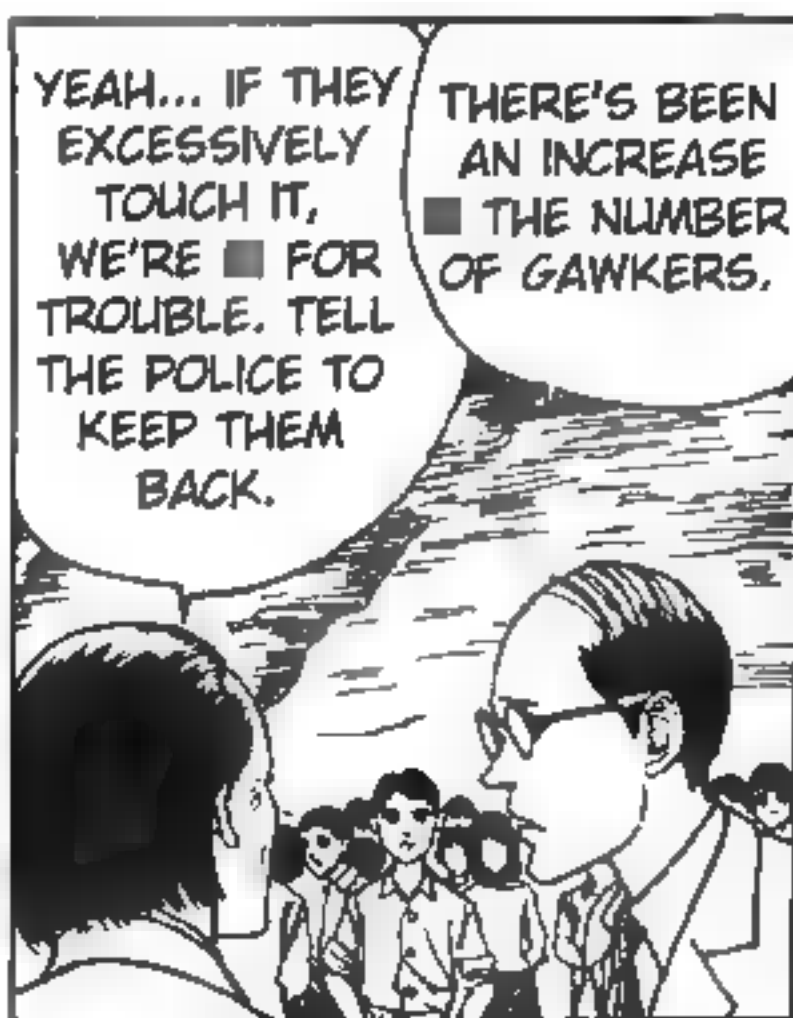
HOW STRANGE..
I ALSO HAVE A
VERY SIMILAR
DREAM
OCCASIONALLY
.....

IT'S
ALWAYS
THE
SAME
DREAM.



I GET SO
TERRIBLY
FRIGHTENED
THAT I START
TO FEEL LIKE
I'M GONNA
LOSE MY
MIND.





YEAH... IF THEY EXCESSIVELY TOUCH IT, WE'RE ■ FOR TROUBLE. TELL THE POLICE TO KEEP THEM BACK.

THERE'S BEEN AN INCREASE ■ THE NUMBER OF GAWKERS.



?

EH?
WHAT?

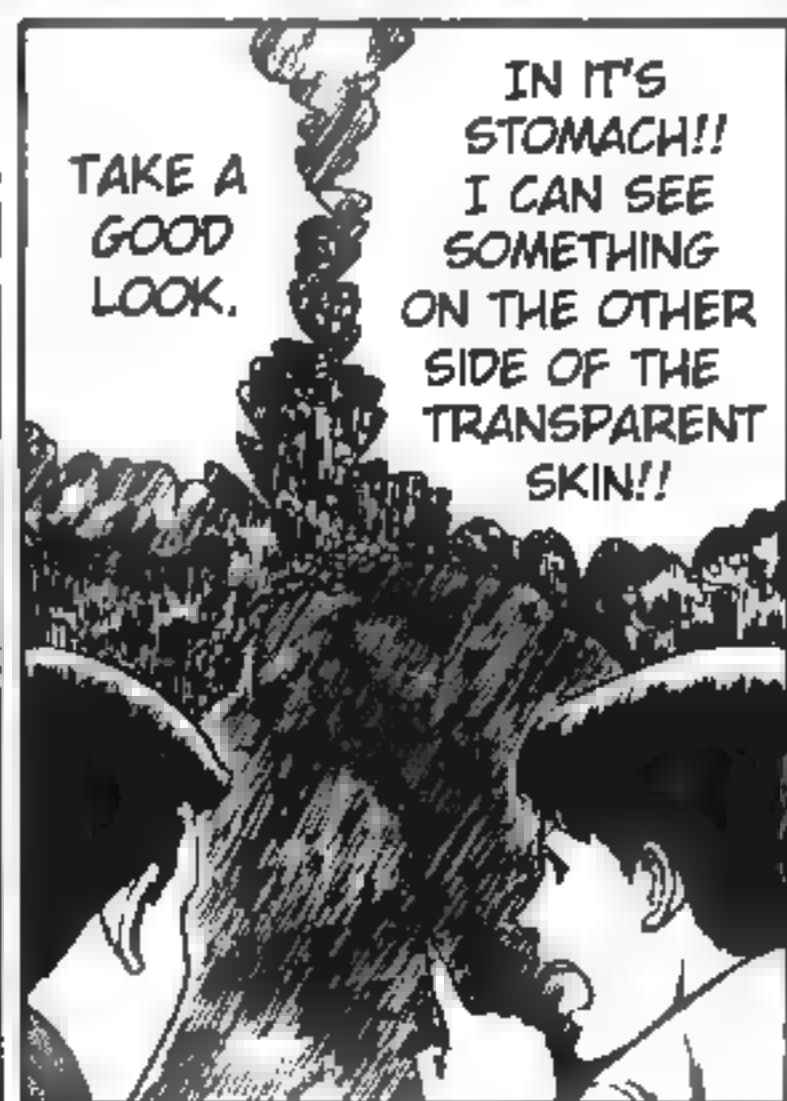
HEY...
THERE'S
SOMETHING
INSIDE.



WHAT?
WHAT'S THE
MATTER?

WAH!
IT'S
TERRIBLE!

AH...IT'S
TRUE.
WHAT
IS IT...



TAKE A
GOOD
LOOK.

IN IT'S
STOMACH!!
I CAN SEE
SOMETHING
ON THE OTHER
SIDE OF THE
TRANSPARENT
SKIN!!


IT'S
PEOPLE.





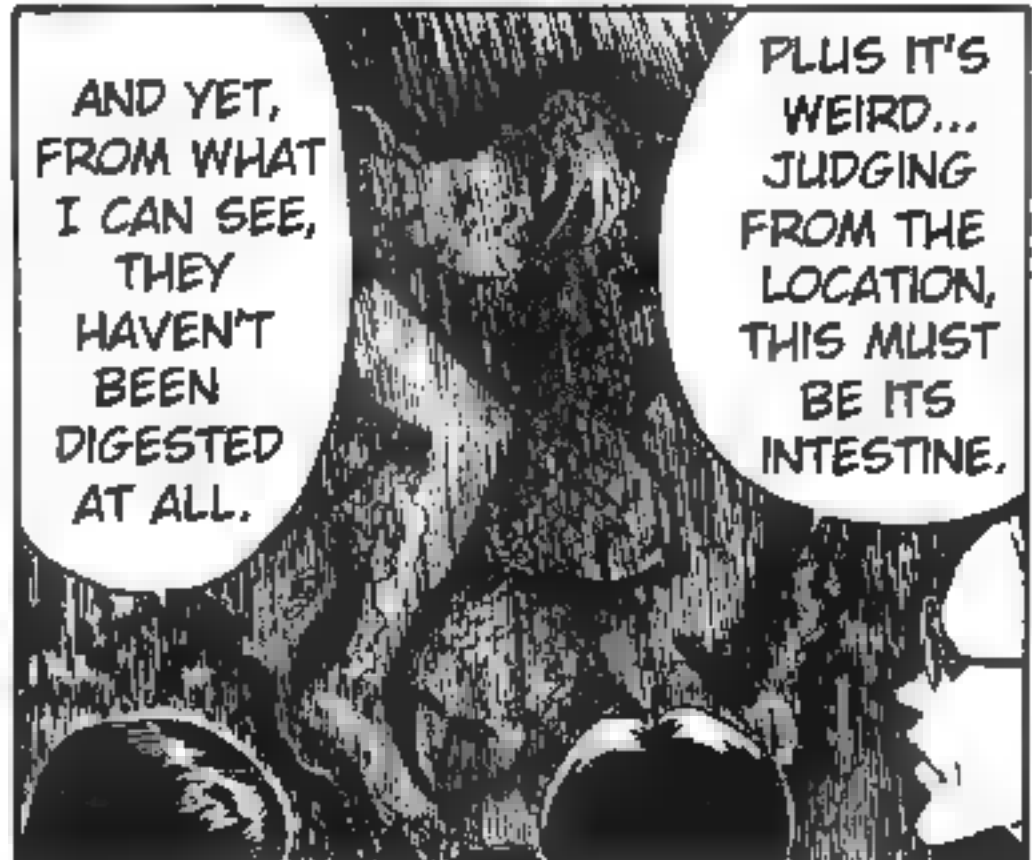
THIS IS
TERRIBLE.

AH... I SEE
PEOPLE OVER
HERE TOO.



IT'S PEOPLE.
IT'S PEOPLE.
THERE ARE
PEOPLE IN ITS
STOMACH!!

AND THERE
ARE MANY
OF THEM.



AND YET,
FROM WHAT
I CAN SEE,
THEY
HAVEN'T
BEEN
DIGESTED
AT ALL.

PLUS IT'S
WEIRD...
JUDGING
FROM THE
LOCATION,
THIS MUST
BE ITS
INTESTINE.



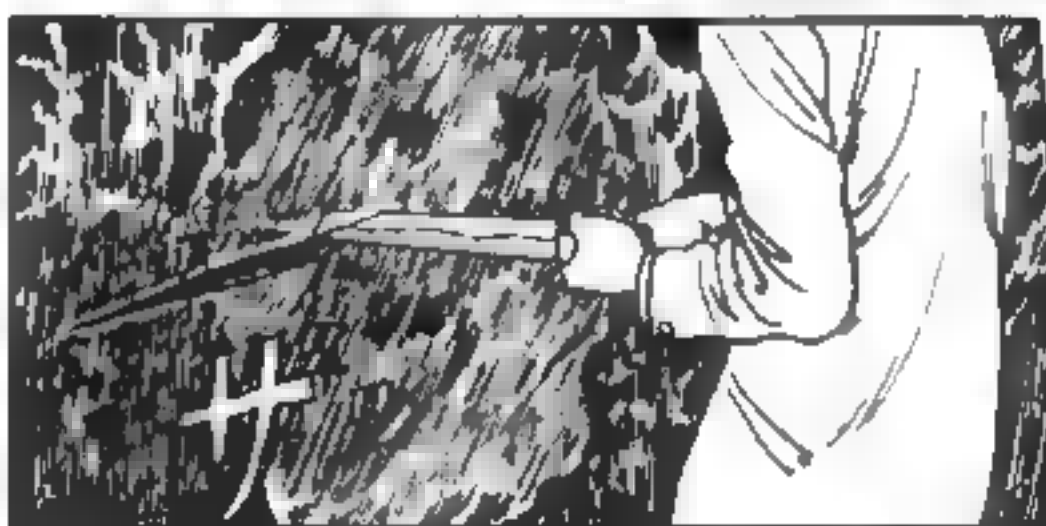
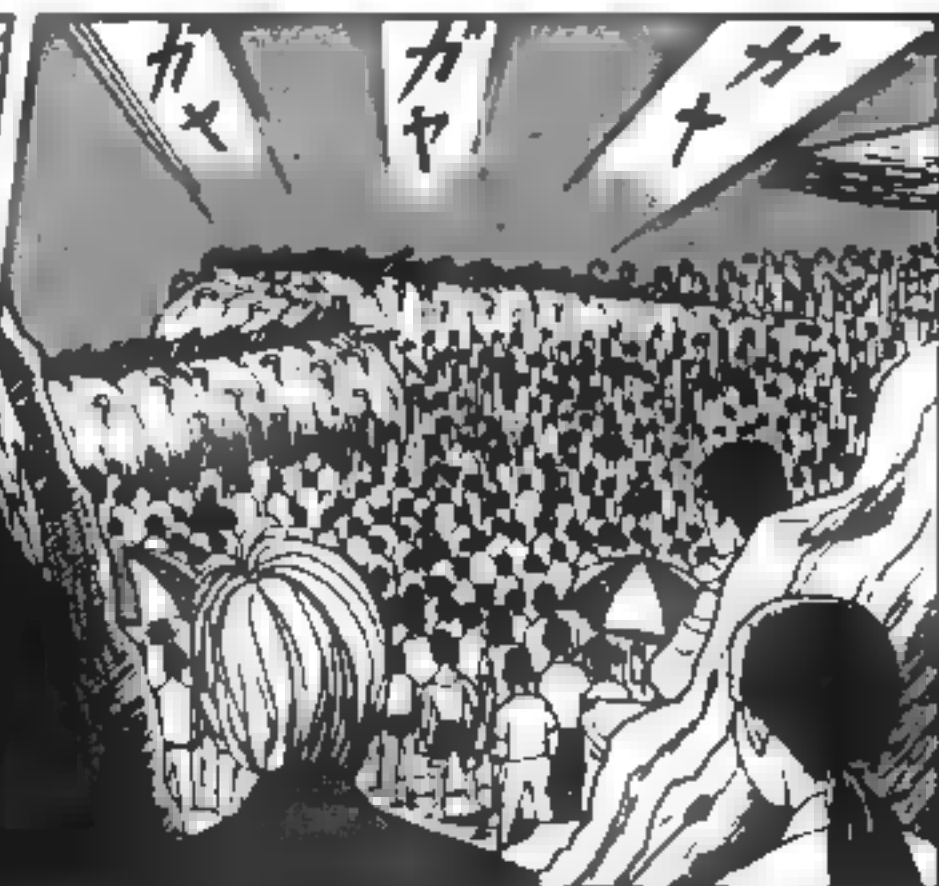
HOW
TERRIFYING.

THIS THING
IS A PEOPLE
EATING SEA
MONSTER.

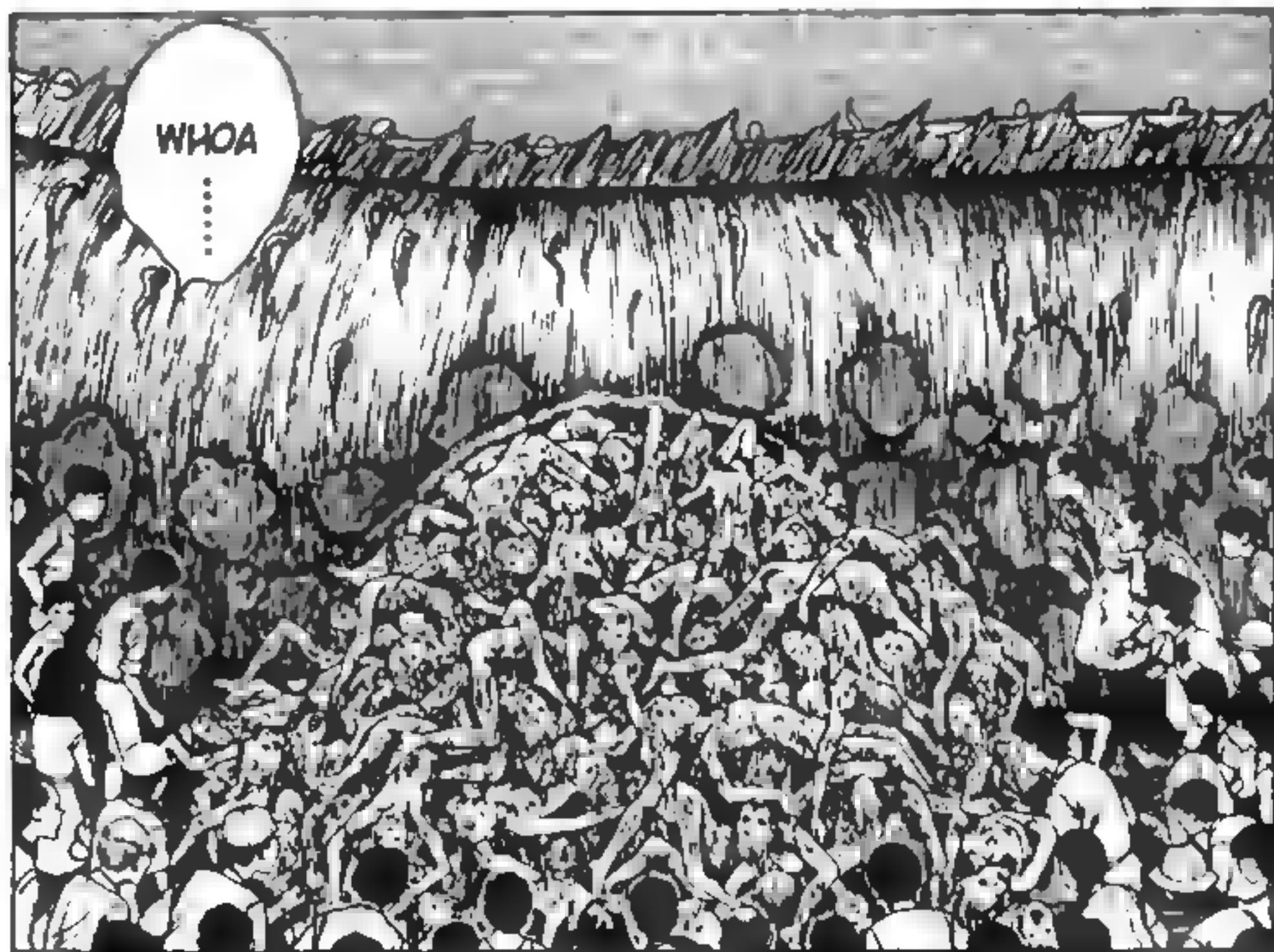


ANYWAY, HURRY
UP AND CUT
OPEN ITS
STOMACH AND
TAKE OUT
THE VICTIMS.

BUT WHEN
DID IT EAT
SO MANY
PEOPLE!!











TADA-SHI-SAN!!



.....
THIS
PERSON
IS...



AH
!!



MY FIANCE WHO
WAS SHIP
WRECKED OFF THE
COAST OF IZU
7 YEARS AGO!!

IT'S... IT'S
TADASHI-SAN.



YES... THIS
IS TADASHI-SAN!!

...ARE YOU
SURE
YOU'RE NOT
MISTAKEN?



WHAT
DID YOU
SAY?

THAT'S ABSURD.
THERE'S NO WAY
IT COULD BE
POSSIBLE!!



DID THEY
SURVIVE
FOR A WHOLE
7 YEARS IN
THE GUTS
OF THIS
CREATURE
AFTER BEING
SWALLOWED?



HOWEVER
WHY ARE
THEY
ALIVE...

THE ACCIDENT
OFF THE COAST
OF IZU. ..IT WAS
AN ACCIDENT THAT
CERTAINLY DID
CREATE DOZENS
OF MISSING
PEOPLE.

THEN YOU'RE
SAYING THESE
PEOPLE ARE
ALL THE
PASSENGERS
FROM BACK
THEN!?



IT'S ME. MIE.
CAN'T YOU TELL
.....
TADASHI-SAN!!



TADASHI-
SAN!!
TADASHI-SAN,
ANSWER ME!



KAH!

THING THAT DRIFTED ASHORE





..THEY'RE
JUST LIKE
PARASITES
.....



HURRY UP
AND SUBDUE
THEM.....

KYA



BUT IS IT REALLY
POSSIBLE FOR A
HUMAN BEING TO
SURVIVE AS A
PARASITE IN THE
BODY OF ANOTHER
ANIMAL.....

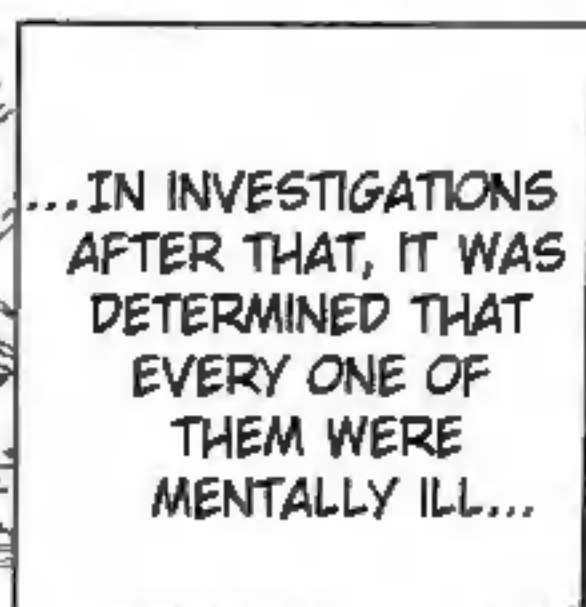
...
I SEE
...

YES.....
DO YOU SUPPOSE THEY
WERE SURVIVING IN ITS
GUTS BY ABSORBING
NUTRIENTS TAKEN IN BY
THE CREATURE?

...EH? DID
YOU SAY
PARASITES?



WHAT DO YOU
SUPPOSE THEY
SAW IN THE
DEEP OCEAN
THROUGH THAT
TRANSPARENT
SKIN.....



...IN INVESTIGATIONS
AFTER THAT, IT WAS
DETERMINED THAT
EVERY ONE OF
THEM WERE
MENTALLY ILL...

THING THAT DRIFTED
ASHORE *END