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AT LAST! BEYOND THE MOVIE! BEYOND THE GALAXY!

STAR WARS

EXTRA!

IN THIS ISSUE:
THE DEADLY
MISSION OF
LUKE
SKYWALKER!

EIGHT AGAINST A WORLD!



STAN LEE PRESENTS: **STAR WARS** THE GREATEST SPACE FANTASY OF ALL!

ROY THOMAS & HOWARD CHAYKIN
WRITER/EDITOR ARTIST/CO-PLOTTER

JOIN IN
WELCOMING
ABOARD

TOM PALMER AS EMBELLISHER
IN RESIDENCE!

T. PALMER, colors
J. COSTANZA, letters

ARCHIE GOODWIN,
CONSULTING EDITOR

EIGHT — FOR ADUBA-3

A QUIET INTERLUDE
AT THE LOCAL CANTINA:

NOW, WOULD YOU THREE GUYS MIND RUNNING THAT PAST ME AGAIN?

YOU SAY YOU'VE GOT A JOB FOR ME--IF I DON'T HAVE AN "UNFORTUNATE AVERSION TO DYING"?

SORRY, KIDS, BUT THAT DOESN'T SOUND QUITE LIKE WHAT I WAS LOOKING F--

UH OH! NOW WHAT??

WHAT'S YOUR BEEF, TALL-DARK-AND-UGLY-AS-SIN?

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AZOORA IS MINE,
SEE--AND YOU'D BETTER
KEEP AWAY FROM HER!

AZOORA! I DON'T KNOW WHO YOU'RE--

THE BLUE-SKINNED
GIRL YOU WERE
TALKING TO BEFORE,
THAT'S WHO.

LOOK,
PAL, I DON'T
EVEN KNOW
WHERE SHE
WENT.

SO WHY DON'T
YOU JUST
WADDLE ALONG
BEFORE MY
WOOKIEE FRIEND,
CHEWBACCA,
TAKES YOU APART?

BAH! I'M NOT AFRAID OF
ANY SKINNY BAG OF FUR.

YOU'RE GOING
TO GET IT,
STAR-HOPPER!

FRANKLY,
I DON'T
WANT IT...

...SO YOU
CAN HAVE
IT BACK!



WELL?
ANY
MORE
TRICKS?

OKAY, SO
A WOOD
CHAIR
WON'T
HURT YOU.

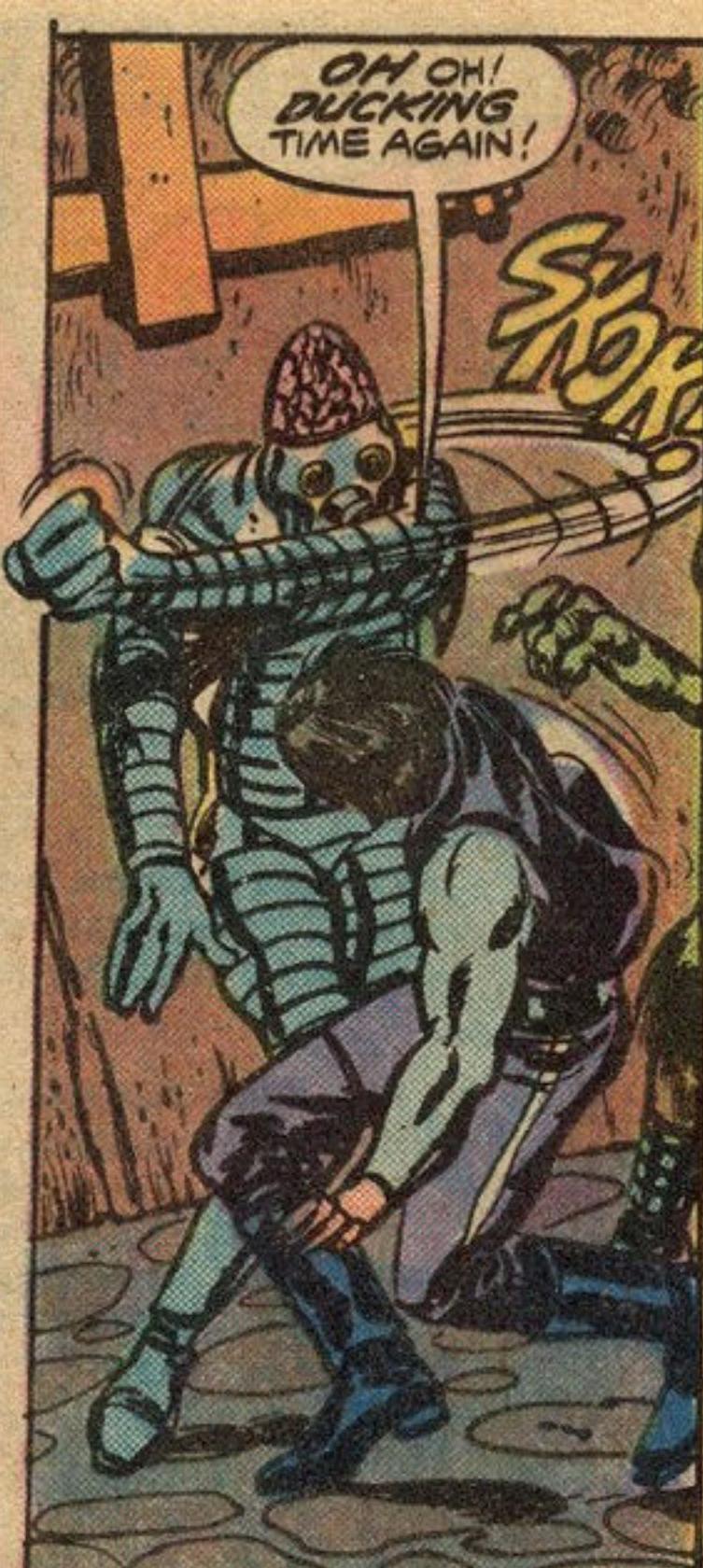
ALL RIGHT,
CHEWIE-- I
GUESS YOU'LL
HAVE TO--

CHEWIE--?

NOW
WHERE IN
BLAZES
DID HE--



--GO?





AS SWIFTLY AS IT
BEGAN, THE BATTLE
ROYAL IS OVER...

GRRONK!

NO GRUDGES
NOW, OLD BUDDY.

AFTER ALL, WE
WON, DIDN'T WE?

AND, AS IS USUAL
IN SUCH CASES,
THE VICTORS ARE
THE ONES WHO ARE
LEFT STANDING.

NOW, WHAT
SAY WE GO
SEE WHY
THOSE
PEASANT
TYPES JUST
OFFERED US
A JOB?

WE COULD
USE
ONE
Y'KNOW.

NOW, FRIEND, AS
YOU WERE SAYING,
BEFORE WE WERE
SO CRUDELY
INTERRUPTED...?

WE ARE LOWLY
FARMERS FROM
A VILLAGE IN THE
POORER PARTS
OF THIS
PLANET...

THAT'S
WHAT I CALL
STARTING OUT AT
THE BOTTOM!

BEG
PARDON,
SIR?

SORRY. GUESS
I'LL HAVE TO
SHELF MY SENSE
OF HUMOR FOR A
WHILE, EH, CHEWIE?

ANYWAY
...WHAT'S
YOUR
PROBLEM,
LITTLE
FRIEND?

MY NAME IS RAMZ,
AND I WAS SELECTED
TO COME HERE
WITH THE OTHERS
TO FIND... I DO
NOT KNOW QUITE
HOW TO SAY
IT...

...A
CHAMP-
ION... A
PRO-
TECTOR,
SO TO
SPEAK!

SO FAR, I LIKE
THE SOUND OF IT.

I WAS JUST GETTING TO THAT, CHEWIE.

HE IS A DEVIL... HE
AND HIS MEN!

MY FURRY FIRST MATE
WANTS TO KNOW JUST
WHO OR WHAT YOU
WANT US TO PROTECT
YOU FROM.

UH OH! SOUNDS
LIKE WE'RE OUT-
NUMBERED BEFORE
WE EVEN START.

BUT, WE ARE
DIRELY IN NEED
OF A CHAMPION,
MASTER SOLO...

HRUK?

"... SOMEONE WHO WILL DEFEND US FROM THE CLOUD-RIDERS, AND FROM SERJI-X!"

"HE AND HIS MEN--OUTLAWS WHO LIVE IN THE MIST-SHROUDED HILLS OUTSIDE OUR VILLAGE--COME FORTH EACH YEAR AT ABOUT THIS TIME TO EXACT TRIBUTE FROM US, WHO HAVE BARELY ENOUGH TO FEED OURSELVES!"

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"AYE, THAT IS THE NAME OF THEIR LEADER--
SERJI-X ARROGANTUS--THE ARROGANT ONE!"

"THEY STAMPEDE OUR BANTHAS, WHICH WE RAISE FOR FOOD AND TRANSPORTATION..."

"IF WE TRY TO RESIST, THEY WILL BURN OUR MEAGRE CROPS, WHICH SCARCELY FEED US WELL IN THE BEST OF YEARS..."

"AND THEY CARRY OFF OUR WIVES, OUR DAUGHTERS...MERELY TO AMUSE THEMSELVES!"

I HAVE SAID THAT THEY ARE DEVILS, MASTER SOLO... AND THERE IS NO OTHER WORD THAT FITS THEM SO WELL.

WE HAVE LITTLE MONEY, BUT WE CAN OFFER YOU FOOD... AND SHELTER.

YOU MUST HELP US, MASTERS... OR OUR VILLAGE WILL SOON CEASE TO BE!"

YEAH, THAT'D
BE A REAL LOSS
TO THE GALAXY,
ALL RIGHT!

BEG
PARDON?

SKIP
IT!

OKAY,
WE'LL
TAKE
THE JOB.

BUT, I WANT TO RECRUIT A FEW MORE
OF THESE DOWN-ON-THEIR-LUCK
SPACERS BEFORE
WE LEAVE FOR YOUR
VILLAGE.

SPREAD
THE WORD,
HUH?

YES, MASTER SOLO...!

ADUBA-3'S FOURTH-CLASS SUN HAS SCARCELY
SET WHEN A PROCESSION OF ALIENS BEGINS
TO FORM A LINE OUTSIDE AN UPSTAIRS DOOR
IN THE RUN-DOWN CANTINA.

WHY THEY CAME TO ADUBA-3 IN THE
FIRST PLACE, OR WHERE THEY CAME
FROM, NO MAN CAN TRULY SAY...

...LEAST OF ALL
HAN SOLO, WHO
DOESN'T BELIEVE
ANYBODY.

NEXT!

WELL, WE'VE SEEN
TEN SPACERS
SO FAR, AND UP TILL
NOW NOT ONE OF
THEM KNEW WHICH
END OF THE BLASTER
WAS UP.

I KINDA HOPED YOU'D
BE DIFFERENT... BUT
I DON'T EVEN SEE
YOUR GUN.

MY NAME IS NEDJI...
AND I NEVER USE
ONE.

SORRY, PAL, BUT
THE KIND OF GUY WE'RE
LOOKING FOR DEFINITELY
ISN'T ONE WHO SPECIAL-
IZES IN THUMB-
WRESTLING.

SEND IN THE
NEXT GUY,
WILL YOU?

GURK!
Huh? You
still here?
I thought
I said--

I HEARD YOU, BUT
I STILL WANT THE
JOB... FOR REASONS
I'D RATHER NOT
GO INTO.

COOK, I'M A BIT
PRESSED FOR TIME
RIGHT NOW, SO GET TO
THE POINT, OKAY?

WHATEVER
YOU SAY!

ZIK
ZIK
ZIK



ALTHOUGH,
I MUST
WARN
YOU...



...I TEND
TO COME
A LOT
CLOSER
THAN THOSE
QUILLS
STUCK IN THE
WALL DID!

SEEMS EVERYBODY
AROUND HERE TONIGHT IS
MAKING A POINT.



I'LL
DO MY
BEST.

TRY NOT TO
SHOOT UP ANY
OF OUR OTHER
PROSPECTS ON
THE WAY OUT,
OKAY?

I'M SURE
YOU WILL.

NEXT!

NOW
WHO THE--?
I AM
DON-WAN
KIHOTAY...

...OF THE
JEDI
KNIGHTS!



WHAT'RE YOU TALKING
ABOUT, OLD MAN? THE
JEDI HAVE BEEN OUT-
LAWED SINCE THE RISE
OF THE EMPIRE...!

NONETHELESS, I AM A
TRUE JEDI... MASTER
OF "THE FORCE,"
AND WIELDER OF THE
LIGHTSABRE.

THUS, IT IS MY
SACRED DUTY TO
TRAVEL THE GALAXY,
CHAMPIONING THE
CAUSES OF PEACE
AND JUSTICE.



I PRAY YOU, LET ME
JOIN YOU, YOUNG SIR,
IN WHATEVER HOLY MISSION
YOU UNDERTAKE... THAT I
MAY CONTINUE TO BE WORTHY
OF THE NAME OF JEDI KNIGHT!

HAKROOO

YEAH, I KNOW HE'S
CRAZY, CHEWIE...
DOESN'T EVEN
REALIZE DARTH
VADER
DESTROYED
THE JEDI,
YEARS
AGO.



BUT, HE
WON'T
GET IN
THE WAY
TOO
MUCH...!

ALL RIGHT, DON-WAN...
YOU'VE MADE THE
TEAM!

BUT ONLY IF YOU
SWEAR TO UPHOLD THE
REPUBLIC, AND SERVE
AS DEFENDER OF THE
RIGHT, AND SO FORTH.

I DO SO
SWEAR,
YOUNG
SIR!



THEN RISE... BUT
WATCH IT WITH THAT
LIGHTSABRE.

MY ETERNAL THANKS, YOUNG SIR! DON-WAN KIHOTAY WILL NOT LET YOU DOWN.

THAT'S PEACHY! NOW MOVE IT, POPS-- WE AIN'T GOT ALL NIGHT OUT HERE IN THE LOBBY, Y'KNOW.

OH, WELL, LEASTWAYS I'M NEXT, SO WE CAN FINALLY GET THIS SHOW ON THE ROAD BEFORE SUN-UP.

OUTTA MY WAY, RODENT! I JUST FOUND OUT THAT NEW GUY IS HIRIN' SPACERS...

AND I WANT SOME MONEY SO'S I CAN GET OFF THIS ROCK!

I AIN'T NO RODENT, CAP'N...

AN' I'M NEXT IN LINE, SO WHY DONTCHA JUST--

...BUT I REALLY GOTTA INSIST THAT YOU HAUL YOUR WART-COVERED CARCASS BACK TO THE END'A THE LINE, Y'KNOW?

YOU MEAN YOU WAS NEXT!

NOW, OPEN UP IN THERE, PAL, AND LET ME--

'SCUSE ME, JUNIOR...

URG!

BLAST OFF, RODENT-- OR THERE'S PLENTY MORE FISTS WHERE THAT ONE CAME FROM!

I AIN'T ABOUT TO DOUBT IT, PAL.

BUT, LIKE I SAID BEFORE...



STAR-WORDS

% MARVEL COMICS GROUP, 575 MADISON AVE., N.Y.C. 10022

SPECIAL NOTE: This issue, for a change, we're going to start with one of the very few almost-totally *unfavorable* comments we've received to date on STAR WARS #1-4. Perhaps the letter, and its answer (detailing some of the difficulties inherent in adapting the movie "Star Wars" into comics form the way we did it), will be of interest; at least, we hope so...!

People,

About a year ago I stopped collecting comics because they were getting too expensive for my tastes. However, I came out of my hermitage long enough to pick up issues 1-4 of STAR WARS at a recent convention.

Because of my devotion to the movie, I was utterly disgusted at the job you people have done on the comic end.

First of all, Roy's adaptation is, to say the least, horrendous. He's added things that don't need to be added, giving the reading a fourth-grade look. Why he can't spell "Wookie" right is beyond me. I think fame has gone to the Thomas head so that he thinks he can do whatever he wants just because he is who everybody claims he is. ROY THOMAS, BOY WONDER! I'm amazed you don't try to put that in a comic-book.

Let me say before I rip into Howie Chaykin that I really enjoyed the poster he did a year ago. But the artwork in issue #1 just left me cold. Most of it seemed as if it were just hacked out and not given the time he could have given it. No doubt it was the upper echelons that made him move his tush faster than he could move his pen. Luckily, Leialoha's inks, as well as his superior coloring methods (Oh, Marie, Marie! You should be baking cake for the peasants rather than doing a guillotine job on issue #1) has saved the series somewhat.

I haven't seen #5 yet, although I know it's out. All I ask now is that when you go on with the series, after Roy's mutant adaptations of the novel, please, *please* get a pro sci-fi man in to do the stories or call, in Don McGregor, who did such a beautiful job scripting the Killraven series, rather than have STAR WARS turn into another super-hero mag (God love 'em for themselves, though). And don't take it too hard, Roy—you can write all of Ben Grimm's dialogue forever.

Don DeContreras
Garden Grove, CA

For which sop Roy thanks you muchly, Mr. D., but all the same he rather thinks he'll continue with STAR WARS instead for a while. Trying to answer your letter in somewhat politer terms than it was phrased, we'll simply state that, as far as we (and most readers) can tell, Roy (with or without Howie) added little or nothing that the original screenplay (and paperback book adaptation thereof) did not include; it's simply that several scenes were either not filmed at the last minute, or else scrapped in favor of a more viable running-time for the film. Thus, Luke's boyhood chum Biggs Darklighter disappeared almost entirely from the film, except as one of the fighter pilots in its climax, hardly even identified by name. Thus also, the scene in which Luke Skywalker himself sees the boarding of Princess Leia's fleeing craft by Darth Vader's men (p. 2 of issue #1), also in the script and book, were included in the comics format but not the finished movie.

This type of thing is all but inevitable when, as Roy and Howie did, you adapt a film from merely a screenplay and a series of stills because the movie itself is not yet finished. This is why the aliens in the background of the already-famous "Cantina Sequence" are vastly different from those Howie drew; these were added in the last few weeks before the film opened, long after Howie had drawn the issue. Even the opening crawl of copy (both the famed "Long ago in a galaxy far, far away" line and the copy that followed) were changed just prior to the movie's premiere; what you saw in our issue #1 was what Roy, Steve Leialoha, and letterer Tom Orzechowski were privileged to see in a rough cut of the film screened at George Lucas' home a few months prior to opening. (Hapless Howie never did get to see the movie till he'd laid out all six issues, while Roy was scripting the second one before he saw even the rough cut.)

All this is not so much by way of apology, since Roy and Howie don't feel they owe anybody one, as by way of explaining certain discrepancies between the comic-book and the movie. Given the Star Wars Corporation's stated desire to see at least two issues of a STAR WARS comic-mag on the stands before the movie opened, it was impossible to have done things much differently.

And, to answer your other comments briefly:

(1) As stated above, Roy will probably continue to write and edit STAR WARS for a while. Killraven is dead, and Chewbacca lives. We'd like to keep it that way.

(2) Howie wasn't so much rushed on issue #1 (though that probably entered the picture slightly) as trying out a particular style of artwork.

(3) George Lucas spells "Wookiee" with two "e's," not one, and it's everything else *besides* Marvel Comics (including program booklets issued by the Star Wars Corporation itself) which is wrong there. That may change in the future, just to keep everything consistent, but in the meantime Roy prefers to spell Chewbacca's generic name the way that his creator does. He just wishes everyone else would shape up.

(4) Far from simply betting out the STAR WARS comic as you suggest, Roy spent (as did Howie) long hours for no pay at the Lucasfilm offices on the Universal movie-lot, talking with writer/director Lucas and with media projects director Charles Lippincott about the way the series should be handled. He's spent more hours with them, as well as the movie's stars Mark Hamill and Harrison Ford, since then, getting all the feedback he can on how things should go in future stories. Since both movie and paperback sequels are projected and George naturally wishes to keep them all consistent, this is a far more complicated project even than writing/editing books like CONAN or TARZAN, let alone other comic-mags.

Don, believe us when we tell you we haven't printed and rebutted your letter in full to belittle you. However, perhaps a lesson can be learned here by you and others who are too quick to criticize things when they don't even begin to understand the situation. Namely, Roy and Howie, like the rest of Marvel's writers and artists, are working professionals who labor within a prescribed set of guidelines, trying to turn out a product which is both pleasing to them and saleable for the publisher. That the STAR WARS comic was selling well and being enthusiastically received even before the movie came out, at a time when there had been virtually no publicity whatever about the film, shows that they may just know what they're doing.

Give 'em a break, huh? They're smarter than you give them credit for, and in the long run you may just make yourself look foolish. Nobody gains from that, not even us.

And now, because we've just room left for a random sampling of the overwhelmingly *favorable* response to our STAR WARS mag so far—!

Move over, Howard and Spidey! STAR WARS is here!

Richard J. Bakowski
Elmwood, CT 06110

STAR WARS #4 was superb in every sense of the word.

Steve Pipe
Cupertino, CA 95014

The comic adaptation is a cultural experience. Marvel, you're beautiful!

Elbert B. Franklin
Houston, TX 77098

STAR WARS should get an annual next summer!

Burt Glass
Milford, OH

ADDENDUM: As these words are penned, the first several issues of STAR WARS have become a comic-book phenomenon. Not only are second editions of the first several issues (identified clearly by the word "Reprint" on the cover) going on sale, and not only is the second STAR WARS TREASURY hitting the newsstands, but Ballantine Books has combined the first six issues of the comic into a special paperback-size edition, on sale even as we speak. Between these three editions and the original comic-book edition, more than two million copies of Roy and Howie's "Star Wars" adaptation have seen print—and the lads, as well as Marvel, couldn't be more delighted!

DON'T PAY HIM ANY MIND,
SOLO! HE GETS UPPITY
SOMETIMES, BUT HE'S
REALLY DEVOTED TO ME...
LIKE A PET.

MORE
LIKE A LANDSPEEDER
IS DEVOTED TO THE
MAN BEHIND THE
STEERING WHEEL!

WE CAN
ALWAYS
USE A
GOOD
ROBOT,
SON.

BUT GIVE ME
THREE GOOD
REASONS WHY
WE SHOULD TAKE
YOU ALONG!

AH-
HAW!

SHUT UP, EFFIE!

BECAUSE I'VE STUCK ON
ADUBA-3 ALL MY LIFE,
AND IF I DON'T GET OFF
IT, I'M GONNA GO NUTS...
THAT'S WHY!

EVER FIRED THAT
BLASTER AT ANYTHING
BIGGER THAN A SAND-
RAT?

SURE...
LOTS OF
TIMES, AT--
AT--

DUNE-
CACTUSES,
RIGHT?

WELL, YEAH...
BUT JUST GIVE
ME A CHANCE,
AND I'LL--

HANNA!
PUT ON
YOUR
RETRO-
ROCKETS!

YOU KNOW, YOU REMIND ME
OF ANOTHER COCKY KID
I USED TO KNOW... NAME
OF LUKE SKYWALKER.

IT HASN'T
BEEN ALL THAT
LONG SINCE I
SAW HIM,
BUT THINGS
WERE MOVING
PRETTY FAST
WHEN I LEFT.

I WONDER
WHAT HE'S
UP TO, RIGHT
ABOUT NOW...!

AND, EVEN
AS HAN SOLO
MUSES...

...EVENTS ARE MOVING
QUICKLY ON THE FOURTH
MOON OF THE DISTANT
PLANET YAVVY, UN-
NUMBERED LIGHT-YEARS
AWAY.

FOR, SINCE THE DESTRUCTION OF
THE GALACTIC EMPIRE'S DREADED
DEATH STAR, THE REBELS ON
THAT VERDANT WORLD HAVE BEEN
ON CONSTANT VIGIL...

...THOUGH ONLY
A FEW TELLTALE
RECONNAISSANCE,
JUTTING UP OUT OF
THE THICK JUNGLE,
WOULD GIVE THEM
AWAY.

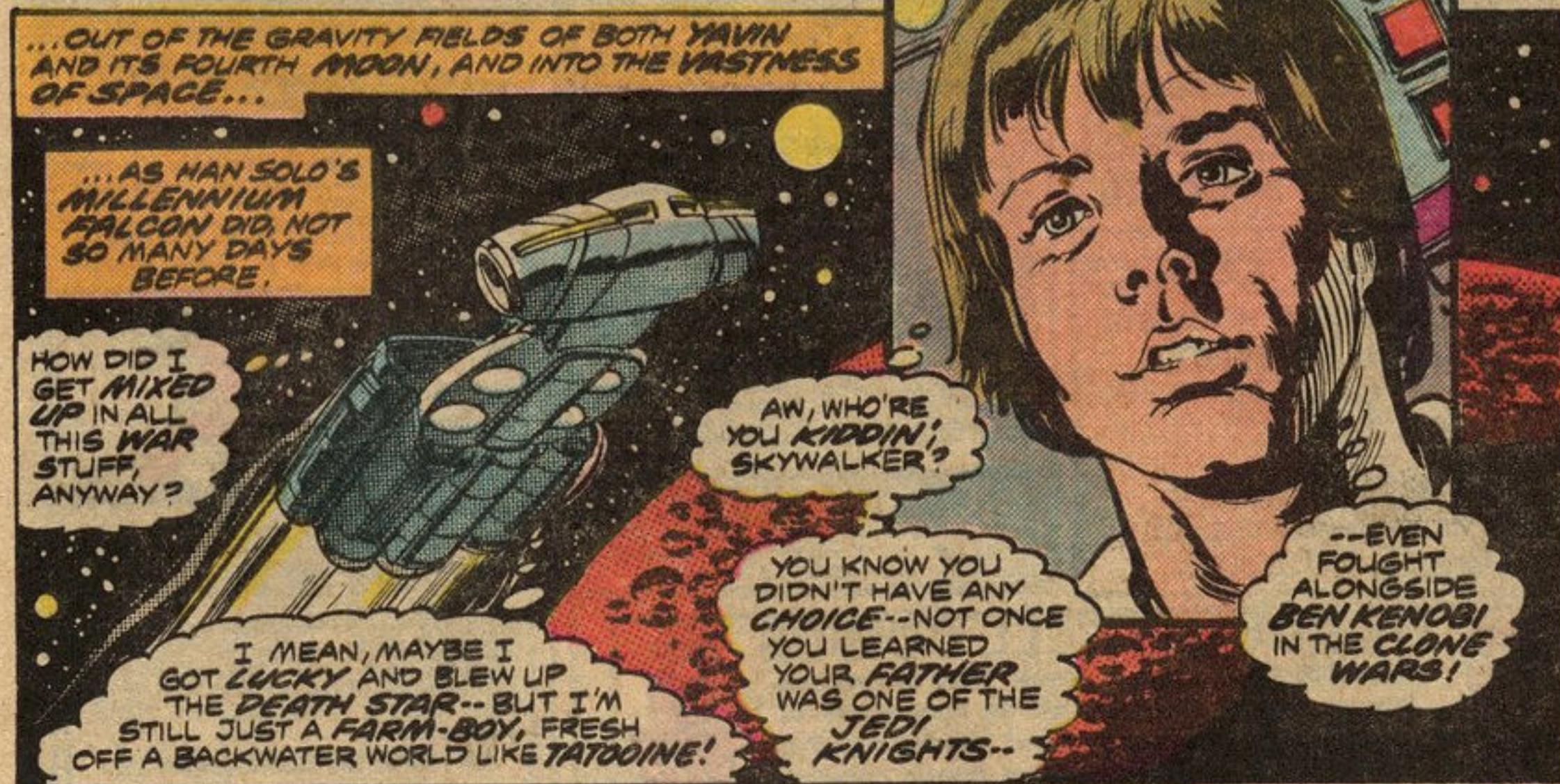
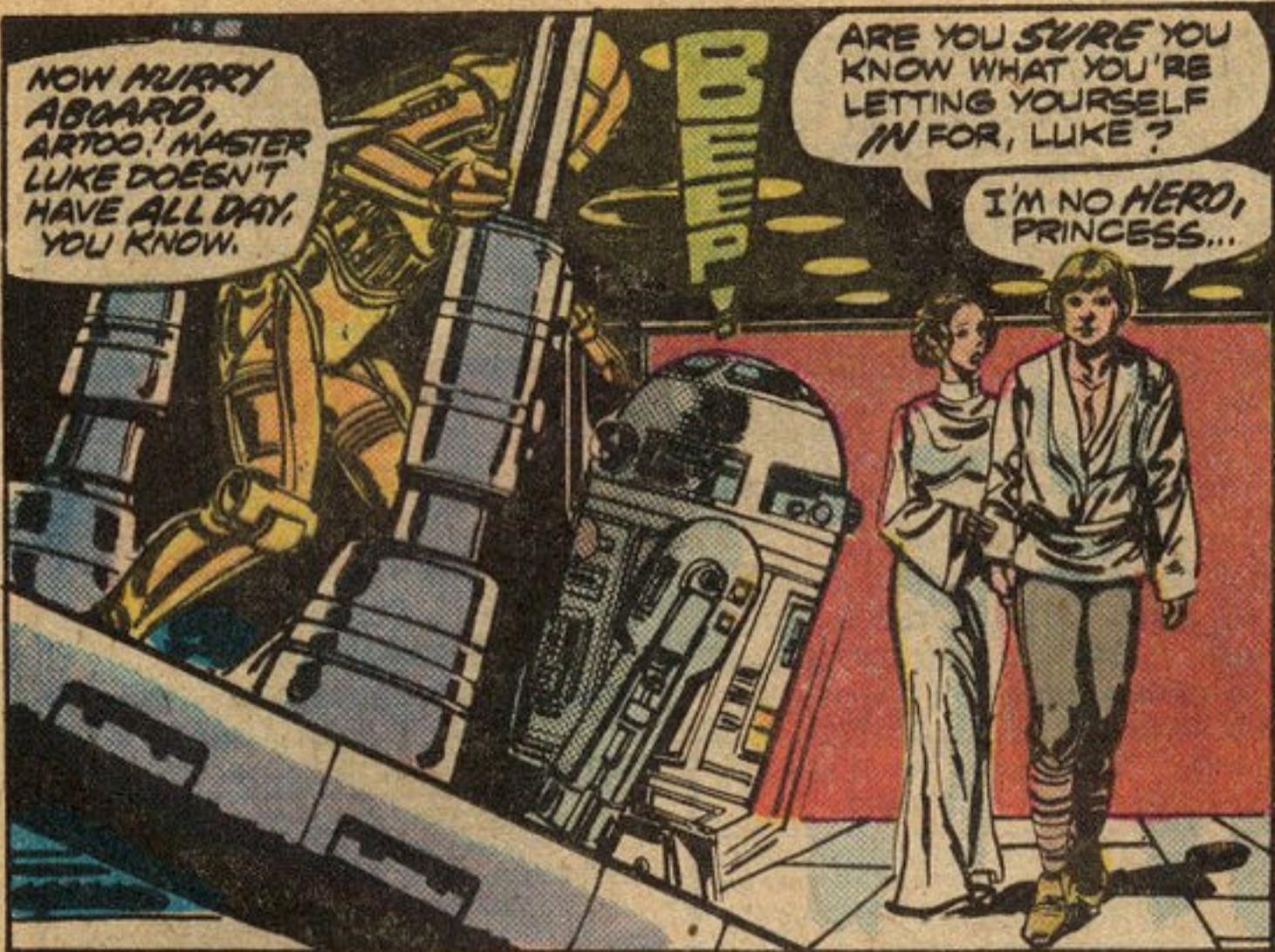
WHILE
BENEATH
THE SURFACE
OF YAVVY...

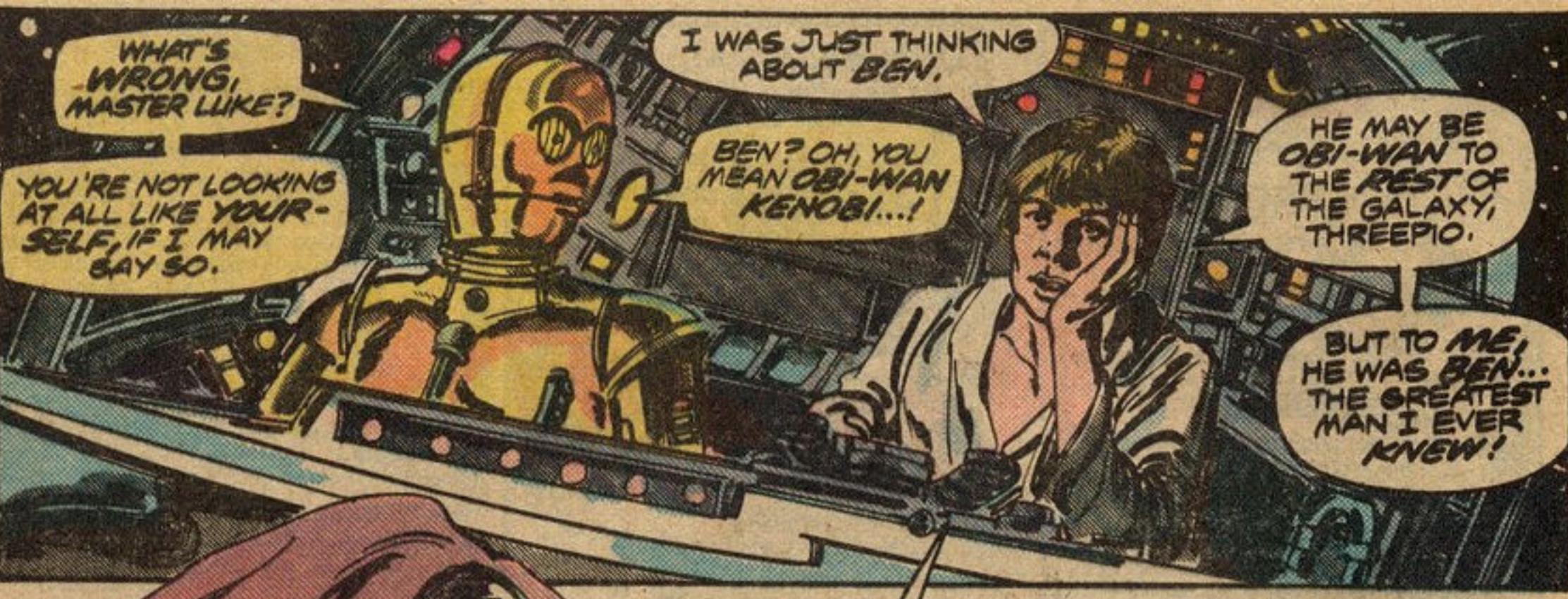
OH, LIKE... I
WISH ANYONE BUT
YOU WERE
GOING...!

AS DO WE ALL, YOUR
MAJESTY... BUT, NO ONE
HERE HAS PROVEN
HIMSELF AS GOOD A
STAR-PILOT AS
YOUNG LUKE...

AND SKILLED,
FAST FLYING
IS JUST WHAT WE
NEED AT THIS
MOMENT IN
TIME!

I WON'T LET YOU DOWN, GENERAL DODONNA!





WELL, SOLO? YOU GONNA TAKE ME AND MY TRAKKIE ALONG?

SORRY, KID. I GUESS MY MIND JUST WANDERED OFF FOR A SECOND THERE.

ALL RIGHT, YOU CAN COME. I'LL SHOW YOU HOW TO USE THAT BLASTER LATER.

THAT'S GREAT BY ME, SOLO.

C'MON, EFFIE...

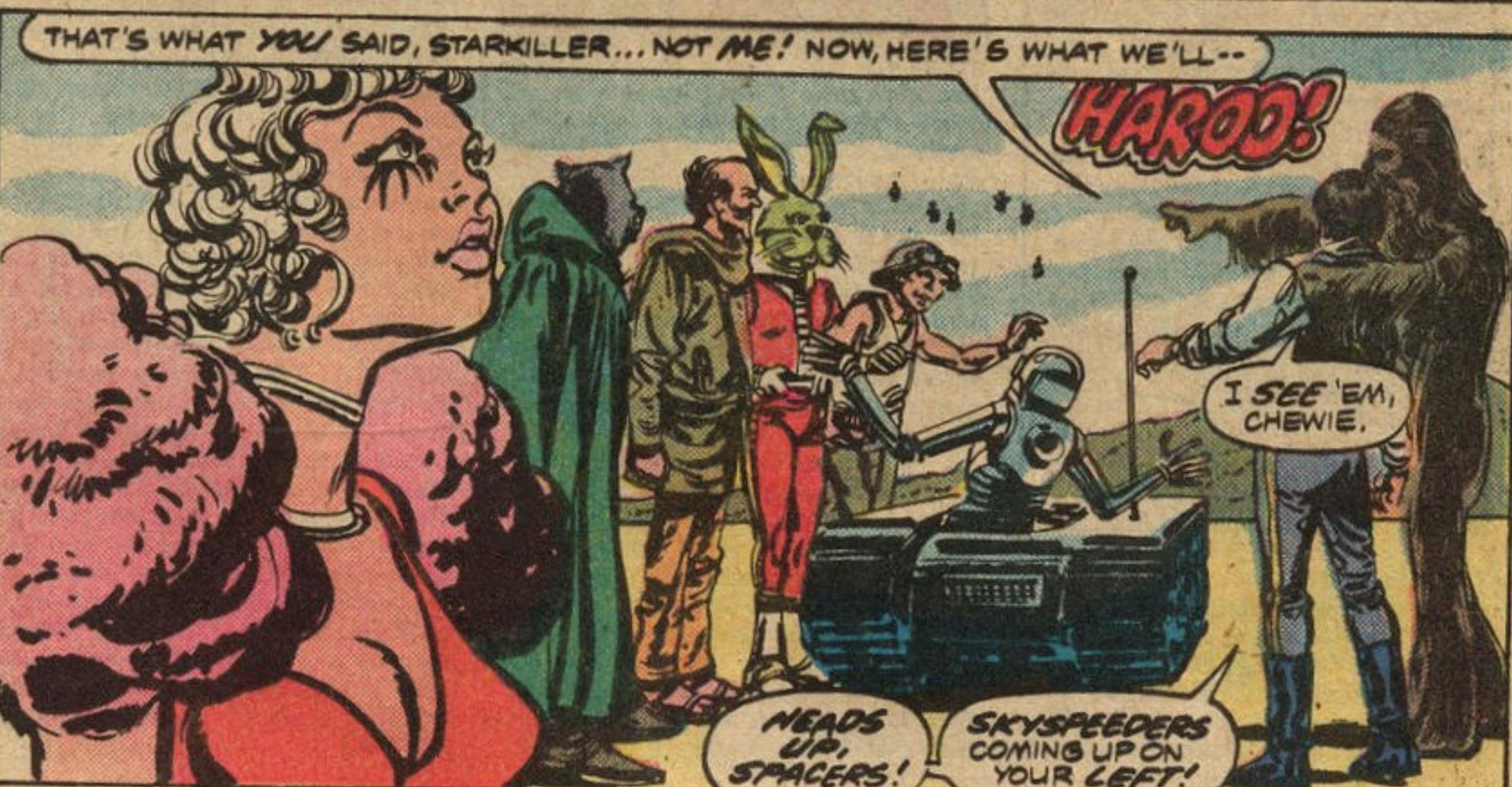


AT DAWN, OUTSIDE THE WALLS OF THE SPACEPORT TOWN...

WELL THEN THERE NOW! GLAD TO SEE ALL YOUR SMILING FACES THIS BRIGHT MORNING.

HEY, SOLO-- WHERE'S THAT SHIP OF YOURS?

I THOUGHT YOU SAID YOU WERE BLOWING THIS CRUM-MY ROCK!





MARVEL BULLPEN BULLETINS

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STAN LEE'S SOAPBOX

Hey, culture lovers, here's a Thanksgiving treat for you! I won't try to sell you a single thing anywhere in this column! Instead, I'll let you in on a *secret*—shattering secret! Ready? Here it is! Even the mighty moguls of Marvel can make a mistake! And the one we made a few issues back is a real cymbal-clanger! If you're the one holdout in all of comicdom who didn't notice it, this is for you. Last August, right here in the *cosmos-splitting Soapbox*, I asked you to try to guess what PIZZAZZ was. I figured we'd make a little game out of it and I'd clue you in next issue. But who knew—WHO KNEW—my over-eager little staff would be putting a big, full-page, full-color AD for PIZZAZZ right on the inside front cover of all those very same mags??!! There I was tryin' to tease you, slyly asking you to guess about something that was fully and completely described on a previous page in the same magazine! Talk about having egg all over your face! This time I got the whole chicken! Oh well, waddaya expect from a guy who could never remember whether his own character was called Bruce Banner or Bob Banner! Hey, speaking of that, here's another nutty thing that could only happen in the wacky world of Marvel. As you know, Universal Studios just completed a live-action, 2-hour special TV movie of everybody's favorite lolly green giant. (In fact, THE INCREDIBLE HULK may be prime-timing it on the tube by the time you read these imperishable words!) Anyway, what do you think they called ol' Doc Banner? Bruce? Uh-uh! Bob? Forget it! They decided to name him Dave! What there is about our recalcitrant little rampager that makes it so tough for people to get his name right I'll never know! But there you have it, more living proof that—despite what you've always thought—even the minions of Marvel are sometimes less than perfect! But keep it to yourselves, huh? We'd hate the competitish to find out that we're merely flesh and blood! Look, in case I'm sounding too humble, don't worry. One of these days, if we ever do something right, I'll tell you about that, too!

Excelsior!

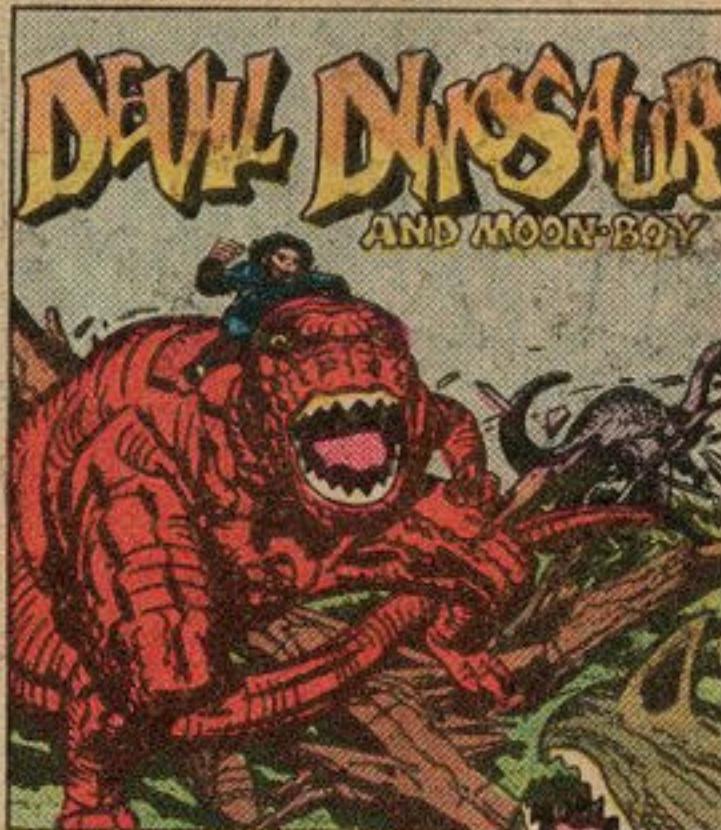
ITEM! Hey, we've been promising and promising to give you the scoop on JACK "King" KIRBY's two new titles just as soon as the time was right. Well, we have first issues on both of them sitting with us right now, so the need for secrecy is certainly past. First off—and we'll bet most of you were already

expecting this—there's MACHINE MAN. If the title's not quite familiar to you, it's because we felt a brand new feature ought to be launched with a brand new name, but Machine Man is most-certainly *Mister Machine*, whose adventures in the now-defunct 2001 book drew more comment and acclaim than any other stories in that searing science-fiction series. With cyborg super-heroes still rampaging on TV and star-warring robots stealing scenes at motion picture theaters, Jack's mechanized man with the all-too-human feelings ought to be one of his biggest successes yet! For his second title, Jack proves that there's no time or topic he can't bring the distinctive Kirby touch to by taking you into the primitive conflicts of earth's prehistoric past for the adventures of DEVIL DINOSAUR. We're betting that if you dig our GODZILLA book (and from cards, letters, and sales reports we've got to conclude that more than a few of you do), this one just *has* to be your mixture of monstrous mayhem! Both of these bombshells should be bursting your way in about a month's time, so watch these pages for further announcements!

God's admittedly hectic life may take four issues and four months of regular time, so that adds to the continuity confusion and creates situations like, having Peter Parker sunning himself in the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN while having a snowball fight in the same month's TEAM-UP or SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN. What we try to do is to occasionally leave time gaps between the end of one adventure and the start of another, so that an imaginative and industrious Marvelite can figure: "Ah! The Hulk was in Hoboken, New Jersey when he polished off Orloff the Orthodontist last issue, but this month's mag opens with him kicking sand in a bully's face on Pismo Beach! Getting there probably took him several days. That could explain why he had time to help Nighthawk and Hellcat in the bean-eating contest several issues ago in the DEFENDERS!" We think it's one of really fun fringe benefits of being a Marvel fan, and judging from some of the well-worked-out theses that a lot of you keep sending our way, you're in agreement. Try it sometime... We may not always agree on the exact course of Marvel history, but trying to plot may be the greatest parlor game since Twenty Questions.

ITEM! We know most of you are probably starting to think about Thanksgiving turkey, but as this is being written there's still a smidgen of Summer left, so we'll bow to the browbeating of the Bullpen Softball Team and inform you that despite a slow start, the titanic ten are finishing the season strong with victories over Doubleday Books and rival comics group, Warren Publishing. No small part of these victories have come from such stellar performers as Vivacious VILMA FALCON, who in addition to working in our Subscription Department manages to pitch, hit, and field like a pro, and to Devastating DAVIDA LICHTER-DALE and Ramblin' RICK PARKER of art production, who usually carry the beer.

ITEM! Let's close out with a swift parade of plugola and call your attention to such goodies now available as our \$1.00, 80-page, Giant MAN FROM ATLANTIS comic. This is a special to kick off the series we'll be doing about TV's undersea superstar and offers two bonus-length comic stories plus articles, pin-ups and photos of Mark Harris and Company. When we say this is a big one, we're really being literal! Also, the second in our full-color paperback collectors' editions is out. First was SPIDER-MAN. This time around it's the FANTASTIC FOUR. Another paperback in the Marvel manner is our illustrated version of STAR WARS. If you missed the Treasury Edition or regular monthly mags, here's your chance to make it up; if you've become a Star Wars completist, here's one more item you can't live without. And last, for younger readers and TV cartoon aficionados, this month sees the appearance of the all-new, all original FLINTSTONE'S CHRISTMAS PARTY featuring your favorite Hanna-Barbera characters in a gift-size Treasury book! Look for 'em all... and for us in this same spot next time.



ITEM! You know, one of the things we're most often asked in the jillions of letters you people are good enough to send us is usually something like: "Hey! If Thor is trapped by the Cosmic Hairdresser's Rinse-and-Set machine in his own book, how is he able to fight side-by-side with the Vision, Iron Man, and the Scarlet Witch against the Giant Wontons of Fu Manchu in the latest AVENGERS?" Vexing as this type of dilemma is to all continuity buffs—and most of the Bullpen counts itself in the forefront of those ranks—there's a reasonably simple explanation, one put forward by STAN THE MAN himself in this very column several years back, which bears repeating every now and then for those of you who dropped in late to the Marvel Universe. Obviously, all of the adventures taking place in all of our various titles are not happening at the same time. What the mighty Thor is doing in his own book—to stick with our example—may be happening before or after what's going on in the AVENGERS. Also, Marvel time is not the same as real time. Showing four hours of the Thunder

AND UNLESS I MISS MY GUESS... THOSE ARE THE CLOUD-RIDERS WE WERE HIRED TO PROTECT A VILLAGE FROM!

Solo! DO YOU WANT US TO--?

EVERYBODY KEEP YOUR BLASTERS IN YOUR HOLSTERS!

LET THEM MAKE THE FIRST PLAY!

THERE'S ONLY SIX OF 'EM! WE COULD--

DO WHAT? HALF OUR GUYS DON'T EVEN USE BLASTERS.

...AND IT'S EASY TO SEE WHO TIPPED THEM OFF!

HELLO, GRUESOME! BEAT UP ANY CAME BRUSH-MICE ON YOUR WAY TO TELL THE BIG BOYS?

A SPACER'S GOT TO GET BY THE BEST WAY HE CAN, STAR-HOPPER!

JUST DON'T PRESS YOUR LUCK, OR I'LL--

NO, IT'S OBVIOUS THEY HEARD ABOUT US, AND CAME TO HAVE A LITTLE TALK...

YOU WILL NOT FIRE, WARTO, UNLESS I GIVE THE WORD!

WELL, MR. SOLO?

MAY I ASSUME WE MEET UNDER A FLAG OF TRUCE?

I'M FRESH OUT OF BANDANAS, BUT YOU'RE ON SERJI-X...

YOU ARE SERJI-X ARROGANTUS, AREN'T YOU?

AN UNFORTUNATE TITLE, FOR ONE OF SUCH DELICATE SENSIBILITIES AS I.

BUT, WE HAVE COME A LONG WAY, SO LET US NOT SPEND WORDS, EH?

YOU HAVE BEEN APPROACHED BY FARMERS FROM A CERTAIN VILLAGE... TO WHICH THEY HAVE ALREADY RETURNED.

FORGET YOUR MISSION, I AM PREPARED TO OFFER YOU A MINIMAL SUM...

...THOUGH I'M SURE IT WILL BE MORE THAN THOSE IGNORANT PEOPLE CAN GIVE YOU.

THEY'RE GIVING US ALL THEY CAN, FRIEND... AND THAT'S THE BEST PAY I'VE EVER HAD.

A SAND-RAT LIKE YOU COULD NEVER BEGIN TO MATCH THEIR PRICE,

NOW I'VE GOT AN IDEA: HOW'S ABOUT YOU AND YOUR MEN LEAVE THAT VILLAGE ALONE THIS YEAR, AND WE WON'T HAVE ANY TROUBLE!

SUCH UNEXPECTED BRAVADO-- FROM ONE WHO LEADS WOMEN, CHILDREN, AND STARSHIP REJECTS!



NEXT: SHOWDOWN ON A BARREN WORLD!