

SPARTA

Swamp thing Month Oct/Nov
No. 25 Identification 34371



30c
NO. 25
NOV.
30686



YELLOW TS

THE
BATTLE
YOU
DEMANDED!

THE NEW SWAMP THING

VS. THE WINGED WONDER

BLACK TS



SPECIAL GUEST
STAR--
HAWKMAN!

ERNIE
CHAN
1979

ERNIE
CHAN
1976

RED TS

BLUE TS

WRITTEN OFF
11 -30- 77

CHUA IGALUA

80

David Anthony Kraft
850 Seventh Ave #806
New York, NY 10019

17 page plot

SWAMP THING #25

PAGE 1:

We pick up a few minutes after the end of last ish; it's about noon; the locale, as you'll recall, is Oregon--the "Blue Mountains." Coming toward us is a pick-up truck...one of those that rides very high off the ground, about a 1975 model. Off in the background lies the battered, tipped-over remains of the car that was destroyed last ish, along with a lot of ripped up ground. Do a real mood trip on this splash...lots of background, the sun casting dark shadows here and there...moody. And this splash page is something special in the way of design, in that this scene is actually contained in a box occupying only the lower two-thirds of the page. There is a design motif of Swamp Thing battling Hawkman overlapping the top part of the panel, and coming up in front of the title (see attached sketch)... This particular comic book has always had exceptional artwork, Ernie; you did a nice job on the previous issue, and I hope you'll continue and even increase the lavish visuals this time around, since Hawkman and Swampy together are plenty interesting from a purely artistic standpoint. I very much look forward to seeing what you do with this ish!

PAGE 2:

Now we see that Alec and Ruth are riding in the open box of the pick-up. They're both pretty tattered and beaten, after last issue's encounter with Thrudvang. They've hitched a ride. Their hair blows in the wind, as they carry on a conversation. They have their arms around each other, leaning up against the back of the cab. Alec is worried about Ruth, and vice versa. They talk. Inside the cab, by the way, are three of the loggers; on their way home after last ish's encounter with Thrudvang--we only catch an occasional glimpse or silhouette of them through the rear window of the cab. Suddenly, Alec is once more overcome with severe pain--as he was previous to the battle with Thrudvang--and he collapses in Ruth's lap, face contorted in agony. He forces himself back up to a sitting position and says he'll be all right. Last panel is of the pick-up approaching the home of Alec's brother (the mailbox and so forth was shown at the end of #22; the place itself appeared in #'s 23/24).

PAGE 3:

Ruth and Alec climb out, and assure the driver that they will be all right, thanking him for his assistance. Alec totters weakly as the pick-up disappears and Ruth goes dashing into the house after his brother. We get a close-up of him, and a shot of him shambling toward the lab. Ruth comes back out of the house, puzzled that his brother is nowhere to be found. She comes up beside Alec, who is leaning against an open doorway, and stops in startled surprise. Final large panel is a shot of the lab, all in shambles, broken up. Something ominous has happened to Alec's brother.

PAGE 4:

Ruth has taken a step into the lab, as Alec still stands leaning against the way. A ray of sunshine splashes down, cutting a swath across him, over one of his arms and across one of his legs. To his immense horror, Alec begins to grow roots, and his arm becomes mossy and vine-grown. Simultaneously, he is once again overcome with pain. At sight of this, Ruth panics and says he has to get to a hospital at once. She helps him around to the side of the house, where her Volkswagen beetle is parked, and hustles him inside. They speed off for Portland. (Note: On the preceding pages, be sure to get at least one close-up on each page...except splash... and use facial expressions to convey the horror and the drama of what's going on, as well as using plenty of backgrounds and a liberal lacing of mood.)

PAGE 5:

Scene change. Back at site of the accident last ish, a black limo has pulled up, and striding toward the wreckage is Sabre; behind him, coming from the car, is Solomon Smith; inconspicuous, but discernible, is a third person still in the car. Close-up of Sabre and Smith discussing what must have happened. Then a shot of them, standing atop the chasm shown at end of last ish; this is an upshot, framing them against the sky, but they are pointing down directly at us as if we were at the bottom of the chasm. A shot of them climbing down--in which we see Sabre standing at the bottom, while Smith is just in the process of following him down, and another foot or pair of feet is visible at panel top, following Smith. At chasm bottom is Thrudivang--pitifully smashed and yet still alive at river's edge, caught between some big rocks. He looks up in recognition and hope at Sabre's approaching, pleading for help with his eyes. Sabre raises his sword/arm, and brings it down (tho we don't see it impale Thrudivang). He is absolutely merciless. Final shot is of him looking vengeful and deadly as he swears that he will find Swamp Thing and settle his debt for once and all!

PAGES 6 & 7:

This is a two-page spread, so design it for maximum impact (as you did last ish), tho you need not use exactly the same layout. Be creative and very dramatic. This is a scene change, and we close on Ruth and Alec in car. She's strained and worried at the wheel, while beside her Alec is obviously attempting to fight off something he cannot hope to fight off. Gradually, bit by bit, he's becoming the Swamp Thing. It's still early afternoon. They are speeding into Portland-- show a freeway exit sign or whatever. Alec begins shouting at Ruth that he can't hold the change off much longer, and just then a police car appears behind them, sirens going and lights flashing. They're now in downtown Portland, Oregon (research this, please from an encyclopedia if nothing else). Fearing that he's going to harm Ruth, and suddenly overcome by the change, Swamp Thing bursts from the car, tearing the door askew, but not entirely off. Pedestrians are shocked and amazed. Very dramatic, particularly now that Swampy is violently crazed and dangerous and not in control of himself. Final panel is most dramatic, with Swamp Thing loose on the street, and police piling out of their car and shooting at him and all that.

PAGE 8:

Scene change. Hawkman and Hawkgirl, aboard their orbiting starship. Open with an establishing shot of the ship, and since it's a rather lame design, enhance it with forced perspective or something. Inside, everything is futuristic, ultra-technological. Hawkman is angry, frustrated. He's just received a call from his homeworld of Thanagar, telling him he's no longer authorized to wear the police uniform, etc., and he's really pissed off. After all these years of service, this is the thanks that he gets. He converses with Hawkgirl, pounds a computer or wall in frustration, and ultimately makes a solemn-faced vow just as he gets a special frequency signal from his automatic scanner. Going over, he monitors a police broadcast (they're orbiting just above Portland, Oregon, presently) about a monster running berserk, so he grabs a bill-- a hafted weapon with broad hook-shaped blade and a curved spike at the back--along with his usual mace, and departs hurriedly.

PAGE 9:

A nice lone shot of Hawkman appearing, diving down out of the sky. Below, Swamp Thing has pretty well laid waste to an entire street on his rampage. The police car has been tipped over, and police are firing to no avail from behind it. Swampy is impervious to bullets, since they merely are imbedded in or pass thru his muck. Swooping down, Hawkman comes at Swampy, striking him with his swinging mace. It hits hard, knocking a few chunks of rotting vegetation off our man-monster, but not hurting him significantly. Swampy in turn grabs the mace, shattering it in his grip and using it to deliver whiplash along the length of its chain.

PAGE 10:

Hawkman is sent crashing violently into a light pole. Police recognize him, and an order is passed to stop shooting, while he kneels on hands and knees, head down, momentarily stunned in the street. Swampy races away, escaping. In last panel, we see a pair of feet and a hand extended to help Hawkman up.

PAGE 11:

The hand and feet turn out to belong to none other than Sabre. Behind Sabre, as usual, stands Smith. Sabre introduces himself as a member of a federal investigating agency, presenting a false credential, and proceeds to convince Hawkman that he must join them in the effort to stop Swamp Thing, who is running amok. Smith joins in on the conversation. Hawkman indicates Sabre's arm and asks whether it's customary for Federal agents to be so lethally equipped, which gives Sabre a chance to launch into a flashback on how he lost the arm. He blames Swamp Thing, of course. We see Sabre as his former self, John Zero (see ST #13), in the moody dank swamp, prowling with a rifle, while he claims to have been stalking illegal alligator poachers. Next we see Zero look up suddenly in alarm as Swamp Thing appears before him, ominous and shadowy and menacing.

PAGE 12:

Swampy throws Zero to the gators, then turns and stalks away into the mottled shadows of the swamp, as the gators thrash away at their unexpected prey. While this is shown, Sabre is telling how he was left to die in the swamp, but how he somehow, through sheer determination, got out...but lost his arm. This entire flashback sequence should be no more than a couple panels on page 11 and a couple on this page. No more than five panels, total. Now we get another shot of Hawkman facing Sabre and Smith as that mysterious person whom we earlier saw parts of makes his forceful appearance. It's Alec's missing brother! He elbows his way between Sabre and Smith, to face Hawkman. He tells him that the Swamp Thing killed his brother Alec (a deliberate lie), and that it is a menace which must be destroyed. He is very vehement...more than a little crazed. Hawkman is convinced by all of this that Swampy is indeed a terrible murdering monster who must be stopped. He agrees to work with Sabre and his people to apprehend and kill the beast, and we get a shot of them looking on as Hawkman flies off in the direction in which Swampy disappeared.

PAGE 13:

Scene change. We see Swamp Thing running, taking big steps along one of the fabulous skyways (airborne free-ways that arch high over the Willamette River which divides Portland into two). He's angry, confused,

looking for the swamp and finding only more noise, more humans, more confusion. By now, it's late afternoon, and the sun is almost setting. It is important to establish the setting for this final confrontation with Hawkman, since it's extraordinarily visual and exciting. Please do. Also, go for a three-panel sequence of Swampy running toward us; he's farther away, running up the freeway/skyway; then he's closer, while over his shoulder in the sky appears a distant speck; then we get a close-up of Swampy's face, and in the sky over his shoulder, much closer, too, is Hawkman, flying after him and still carrying the bill weapon. He's been convinced that Swampy is a murdering monster, and is therefore prepared to kill him. Swampy twists just as Hawkman lunges down at him from the sky, thrusting his weapon into Swampy's muck-encrusted chest and perhaps partially through him. The haft snaps off, and Swampy tears the weapon out of himself and backhandedly smacks Hawkman aside with a brutal blow from the haft. Remember to use close-ups every now and then.

PAGE 14: Hawkman turns in mid-air and comes back down at Swampy, feet first, having turned up his gravity disc. Thus he strikes Swampy with enormously magnified gravity, knocking him backward through the concrete and metal guardrail of the skyway and into space. Far below is the river, and part of Portland can be seen beyond that. But Swampy moves fast and grabs hold of Hawkman, pulling him along. Hawkman strikes him, futilely but powerfully, angering Swampy.

PAGE 15: Full page scene of Hawkman and Swamp Thing locked together in combat, while suspended in the air. Swampy has his fist pulled back to deliver a thunderous blow that will land (on next page) directly in center of Hawkman's chest. A really dramatic, stunning full page artistic tour-de-force!

PAGE 16: Swampy's blow connects, smashing Hawkman's chest disc, which is what controls his anti-gravity powers. We see the surprise on his face, the shock of the blow. It sends them flying apart, and in a three-panel sequence we see Swampy fall toward the river far below. The sun is setting, and it is dark down below. Meanwhile, Hawkman is unconscious and flips over on his back helplessly, floating higher and higher toward space, his anti-grav unit permanently damaged. Make this very dramatic, since this is the last we see of him this ish, and this could well be his doom if he reaches the airlessness of space.

PAGE 17:

Final story page. Swamp Thing lies knocked out, half in and half out of the water at mucky shore's edge; the sunlight does not filter down here; night is approaching, and in a three-panel sequence we see him change back to Alec (throw a heavy shadow over his crotch. Ruth comes down to help him up; she's been watching, and couldn't get up onto the skyway due to police blockades and traffic being jammed, etc. He's very groggy, puzzled, doesn't really know or remember what happened. She helps him into the battered VW and they drive off into the night, the door he tore askew earlier roped shut. Impart an air of the tragic to this. We should really feel sorry for both of them--and fearful, for the final panel is a shot of Sabre, Smith and Alec's brother; the latter two are just in background; as Sabre laments this failure, but threatens to unleash another of Colossus' elementals...next ish!

Final note:

This is a rollicking adventure story, Ernie, and I can't wait to see the combination of Swamp Thing mood and sheer action. Go berserk! This is a classic confrontation between two of National's most interesting characters, and I'm anxious as all hell to see how you handle it. Good luck!

--David Anthony Kraft

17 February 1976

David Anthony Kraft

861-4423

SWAMP THING #25

PAGE ONE

I

Banner: The Surprise Saga You NEVER Expected to See!
Burst: SWAMP THING vs. HAWKMAN
Title: THE SKY ABOVE! (Fancy letters; improve on mine, please.)
Credits: (As indicated on actual page.)

2

Caption 1: It is late morning here in the Blue Mountains of rural Oregon.
Cap 2: The last half hour has been an eternity--
Cap 3: --but now it's over, and the threat of Thrudvang the Earth Master is only a terrible memory.
Footnote 4: *As told in issue #24. --Joe. (Very small letters.)
Balloon to truck 5: Thanks for the lift--our car's totalled!
Balloon to truck 6: Yeah, I see that.

PAGE TWO

1

Driver 1: And I bet I know exactly how it happened, too!

Driver 2: Some seven-foot freak did the same damned thing to our logging truck just up the mountainside!

Alec 3: Well, he won't be doing any more damage. Ever.

Alec 4: He took a plunge to the bottom of the gorge.

2

Alec 5: ^{can't ignore it any longer} But I finally realize there's some kind of curse on me. I attract death and misfortune.

Alec 6: I should have stayed in the swamp, where I belong!

Ruth 7: Don't say that, Alec--it's not true!

3

Ruth 8: You need love now, not self-pity. You've got to--

Ruth BRST 9: ALEC--!

Alec 10: ~~SAKK~~ (Wavy balloon)

Alec 11: Th-the pain--again!

*Only if it's
worse than
before*

*Just... a little... dizzy
spell, Ruth!*

4

Ruth 12: Hold me, Alec--and maybe the pain will be a little easier to bear!

*Stop zeting noble, Alec, and hold me close.
going through clenched teeth*

Ruth 13: Maybe. I know you're in pain.

5

Alec 14: I-I'll be all right, Ruth.

Ruth 15: Will you, Alec?

Ruth 16: Will you?

6

Section 17: An uneasy silence ensues, a silence in which answers are ^{we can't see thoughts so} unknown and unvoiced.

Section 18: The silence endures until the ride ends at a familiar

PAGE THREE

1

Driver 1: Look, it ain't any of my business, but if I was you, fella, I'd see a doctor real soon!

Alec 2: I am a doctor.

Ruth 3: He'll...he'll be okay here.

Driver 4: I sure hope so, lady.

Ruth 5: Thanks again for the ride.

2

Alec 6: Ruth, don't! You shouldn't be running. You need rest.

Ruth 7: I'll rest, Alec--after I help your brother set up the lab to run some emergency tests on you!

Alec 8: Now?

Alec 9: Can't they wait?

Ruth 10: You know they can't!

3

Alec TB 11: She's right. The pain keeps coming back, and each time...

Alec TB 12: ...it's worse!

4

Alec TB 13: Thanks to Edward, I'm no longer Swamp Thing--*

Footnote 14: *See issue #24. --Joe.

Alec TB 15: --tho I never expected--

5

Alec TB 16: ~~such severe side effects!~~

(CONTINUED.)

6

Alec TB 17: Did the sudden change put too much stress on my system--
or am I somehow regressing?
Ruth 18: Oh wow. (Tiny letters)
Ruth 19: The lab, Alec--
Ruth BRST 20: --look at the lab!

7

Alec 21: Good Lord--NO! SKIRMISH
Alec 22: First, Sabre*--then the attack on the highway--now this!

8

Footnote 23: ^{*He} ⁱⁿ ~~Swamp~~ Thing #23. --Joe.
Alec 24: Everything smashed to pieces--and Edward...gone!
Alec 25: Someone wants me, Ruth--and apparently they'll stop
at nothing...
Alec 26: ...as they've just made clear!
Ruth BRST 27: What next, Alec--what next?

PAGE FOUR

1

Alec 1: I guess that's up to them. All I care about now is sparing you and my brother!

Ruth 2: But--

Alec 3: But what, Ruth? You know I...I....

Ruth 4: Alec--what's wrong?

2

Alec BRST 5: PAIN--!

Ruth 6: If only I could help...

Alec 7: But you can't--!

3

Alec 8: No one can help me!

Alec 9: Even Edward failed, don't you see?

4

Alec 10: Lord, have mercy--

Alec BRST 11: --I'm turning back into the SWAMP THING!

5

Ruth 12: Fight it, Alec--don't give in! Your brother's car is still here...

Ruth 13: ...I'll drive you to a doctor!

Alec 14: It's no use, Ruth.

6

Ruth 15: ^{admission}
Despair is an admission of defeat. Please try

Ruth 16: ...for me.

Alec 17: I'll...try.

(CONTINUED:1

PAGE FOUR

7
to complete

Ruth 18: It'll take more than an hour to reach Portland.
Ruth 19: Can you last that long?
Ruth 20: Alec?
Alec 21: I...I think so.

8

Caption 22: There is no more to be said. Now, it's all a matter
of time...
Cap 23: ...and fate.

PAGE FIVE

1

Caption 1: Several miles behind, along the same highway...
Sabre 2: It is as we feared, Smith!
Sabre 3: Thrudvang, the Earth Master, has already eliminated our prey!
Smith 4: So it would seem, Sabre--
Smith 5: --yet I see no bodies.

2

Sabre 6: Indeed. Let's have a look around, shall we?
Smith 7: Right.

3

Sabre 8: Over here, Solomon!
Sabre 9: There's a body down below...

4

Sabre 10: ...and it belongs to Thrudvang!

5

Sabre 11: Hey--he's still alive!

6

Sabre 12: *and* He thinks we came to help him.
Sabre 13: What a laugh!

7

(Silent)

8

Sabre 14: So Dr. Alec Holland escaped Thrudvang. Well, I swear to you, Smith--
Sabre BEST 15: --he won't escape from us!

PAGES SIX & SEVEN

1

Caption 1: Nor will he escape his own destiny...

Alec 2: How much farther, Ruth?

Ruth 3: We're almost there already, Alec. You can make it!

Alec 4: I'm not so...sure.

2

Alec 5: Sudden pain tearing at me from inside...my metabolism is...changing--

Alec BRST 6: --and I can't STOP it!

3

Alec 7: Hit the brakes, Ruth--!

Alec 8: NOW! (Open letters)

Sound: SKREEEE

4

Ruth 9: oh dear god (very small letters in normal size balloon)

Caption 10: In muted tones, Ruth Monroe mutters those words to herself over and over again. She doesn't know what else to do.

ST cap 11: For here in the midst of downtown Portland, Oregon, Dr. Alec Holland has once more become the mossy man-brute known as...

Old logo 12: SWAMP THING

Sound: ZRAKK

ST cap 13: And, judging by his abnormally violent behavior--

ST cap 14: --he is no longer capable of rational thought while in the massive form of a monster!

misshapen?

(CONTINUED.)

PAGES SIX & SEVEN (continued:)

5

Unbordered
Caption 15:
(stat neg)

Instead, he acts in confusion, his mind a maelstrom of
conflicting emotions and distorted perceptions!

Cop 16:

Freeze, freak--or I'll shoot!

Caption 17:

As ever, harsh reality makes no allowances for innocent
victims of circumstance.

PAGE EIGHT

1

Caption 1: In fact, sometimes it encourages even the most unlikely events...and fosters the most unfortunate misunderstandings.

Cap 2: Passing high overhead at the moment is an orbiting Thanagarian spacer, base of operations for the two extra-terrestrials known as Hawkman and Hawkgirl...

2

Hawkman BRST 3: Look, Shayera--

Hawkman 4: --we're getting an emergency readout on our routine monitoring of local Earth police frequencies!

Kate
Hawkgirl 5: There's a monster running amok in Portland!

3

Hawkman 6: And according to the alert, bullets have proven useless against it! I'm going down there to help defeat it!

Hawkgirl 7: Alone?

Hawkman 8: I'm in the mood for some action!

4

Hawkman 9: But stay on stand-by--in case I need you.

Hawkman 10: Okay?

Hawkgirl 11: Okay, Katar--and be careful!

5

Caption 12: Thus, scant seconds later, the winged wonder hurtles through the sky over Portland.

Cap 13: His target: Swamp Thing!

Cap 14: _____

PAGE NINE

1

Unbordered
caption 1:

His weapons: a war mace, an assegai and surprise.

2

ST Caption 2: Meanwhile, in the streets below, Swamp Thing seeks
only escape...

ST Cap 3: ...yet is goaded into violent rampage by the repeated
assault of a shocked and panicking city police force!

Cop BURST 4: Damn!

Cop 5: It would take a bazooka to stop that thing!

Other cop 6: Hold your fire, Captain--

Sound: SPEEOWWW

3

Other cop 7: --all of a sudden, we've got unexpected aid!

ST Caption 8: Hawkman swoops down from the heavens like an avenging
angel--

ST Cap 9: --swoops and strikes--

ST Cap 10: --swiftly, silently...savagely!

Sound: SHTOOOM!

4

Unbordered
caption 11:

Unfortunately, he has made the mistake of misjudging
the sensational speed and power of this muck-enrusted
mockery of a man...

5

(Silent)

6

Unbordered
caption 12:

...and thus he is shot backward in violent whiplash...

Sound: SSSWWAAPPPPPPPPPPP!

PAGE TEN

1

Caption 1: ...sent streaking awkwardly through the late-afternoon air, until he comes to an abrupt and almost skull-splitting stop!

Sound: FRANG

Cop 2 BURST: Holy smokes!

Caption 3: For Hawkman, further conflict is momentarily out of the question!

2

ST Caption 4: As for the Swamp Thing, consternation and chaos fog mental clarity...

ST Cap 5: ...and ^{obscure}~~arose~~ even anger!

3

Unbordered
Caption 6: He stands for an uncertain instant over his fallen foe--

Hawkman 7: Ungh-kk

4

Unbordered
Caption 8: --then, his brain seething and roiling, he turns away,

Unbordered
Caption 9: And runs.

5

ST Cap 10: Runs in a random yet frantic search for solitude.

Cop 11 BURST: Hey!

Cop 12: The freak's escaping!

Hawkman 13: And...it's all...my...fault...

Sounds: ZZNG SKKKEOWW KBIAM KBIAM

ST Cap 14: Misunderstood, inarticulate, the great brute bolts toward the setting sun without once looking back.

(CONTINUED.)

PAGE TEN (continued.)

6

Off-panel
balloon 15:

~~-----~~ You tried, Hawkman--that's what counts. You tried.

Off-panel
balloon 16:

Let's have a talk.

Hawkman 17:

Thanks. But who--?

PAGE ELEVEN

1

Sabre 1: Allow me to introduce myself. Codename: Sabre.
Sabre 2: I'm a Federal agent for the U.S. internal security organization known as Colossus.
Sabre 3: The Swamp Thing is our headache.
Hawkman 4: Right now, fella--
Hawkman 5: --he's my headache, too! Literally.
Sabre 6: I know what you mean.
Sabre 7: Listen, maybe this is the wrong time to ask--

2

Sabre 8: --but we could really use your continued help to capture that monster!
Sabre 9: What do you say?

3

Hawkman 10: I'll cooperate, Sabre. Brief me on details.
Sabre 11: Believe it or not, that grisly creature is a demented master criminal!
Hawkman 12: Is that so?

4

Sabre 13: You bet it is. We've tracked him cross country, all the way from the Florida Everglades--
Sabre 14: --and we ain't about to let him escape now!
Hawkman 15: I see.
Hawkman 16: You speak with great conviction.

5

Sabre 17: And with good reason, Hawkman. This artificial swordarm of mine ain't exactly standard issue.

(CONTINUED.)

PAGE ELEVEN (continued.)

- Caption 18: "I had a right hand once...
- Cap 19: "...before my first encounter with the Swamp Thing!"
- Footnote 20: *For the truth about Sabre's meeting with Swampy, see issue #13. --Joe. (Very small print)
- Caption 21: "I was slogging through the marsh, searching for the unknown killer who had recently committed several brutal slayings in the area--

6

- Unbordered
caption 22: "--when out of the shadowy depths of the bog stalks a seven-foot slime beast!
- Cap 23: "And in it's red-rimmed eyes--
- Cap 24: "--I saw death!

PAGE TWELVE

1

- Caption 1: "I had found the murderer--
Cap 2: "--a miry, malformed demon--
Cap 3: "--and I was to die for my discovery!

2

- Cap 4: "Ruthlessly, deliberately, the Swamp Thing threw me to the waiting gators!
Cap 5: "I was lucky to lose only my hand."

3 & 4

- Sabre 6: But--somehow--I survived, to stagger from the swamp hours later...dazed, delerious and near death!
Sabre 7: Since then, I've sworn to stop that monster!
Sabre 8: Tell him the rest, Prof. Edward Holland.
Edward 9: I can verify everything Sabre says--
Ed 10: --because the Swamp Thing is really my brother--
Ed 11: --Dr. Alec Holland, a renegade scientist! I tried to help him, but he destroyed my lab and almost killed me.
Hawkman 12: He's got to be caught!

5

- Ed 13: Precisely. He's desperate--dangerous--and deadly.
Ed 14: Will you risk another confrontation with him, Hawkman?

6

- Hawkman 15: I will. And, gentlemen, I assure you--
Hawkman BRST 16: --this time, I'm ready!

PAGE THIRTEEN

1

ST Caption 1: Portland is Oregon's largest city; to the aimlessly
scuttling Swamp Thing, it is an unnatural environment
that seems endless.

ST Cap 2: Fragmentary flashes of uncomprehending fear alternate
with anger--

2

Unbordered
caption 3: --like some berserk lightning storm of emotions in the
great brute's head.

ST Cap 4: Tempestuous, unrelenting--

3

ST Cap 5: --the mind-storm rages--

ST Cap 6: --rendering him oblivious to pursuit!

4

Unbordered
Cap 7: From behind, borne ever closer on the warm, wettish
wind--

Unbordered
Cap 8: --comes Hawkman.

5

ST Cap 9: Fooled by the extravagant fabrications of Sabre and
Prof. Edward Holland, he gives no quarter...

Hawkman 10: Heads up, you homicidal horror--

6

Hawkman 11: --you're about to be spearred and subdued!

Sound: SPLURT

7

Sound: PLOK


8


ST Cap 12: It takes more than a mere spear to subdue a being made of
pulp and primal ooze!

Sound: BRUNNSE

PAGE FOURTEEN

1

 Caption 1: It takes strategy and the ability to recover rapidly from awestruck surprise.

 Cap 2: It takes a talent for sudden, unexpected action!

Sound: HWAK

2

Unbordered
Caption 3: And, sometimes, even that is not enough!

Hwkmn BRST 4: Let go, you mute, murdering menace!


ST Cap 5: Tenaciously, Swamp Thing tightens his grip.


ST Cap 6: The survival instinct is strong within him.

3

Hawkman 7: Let go, ogre--before I pound you!

Unbordered
Caption 8: The massive man-monster is understandably loathe to take the long fall from the sky-spanning freeway to the wind-rippled waters of the Willamette River far below!

 Cap 9: Hawkman, however, is in no mood for mercy.

 Cap 10: His mission is to overcome an alleged killer!

4

Hawkman 11: All right, Swamp Thing--I warned you!

Sound: SWOPP

Unbordered
caption 12: Until now, the harrassed, misunderstood, nearly-mindless muck creature has reacted with surprising restraint to considerable provocation.

Unbordered
Cap 13: Until now...

PAGE FIFTEEN

1

ST Caption 1: ...but not any longer!

ST Caption 2: His spontaneous and explosive wrath causes him to forget all else! ~~enraged~~ Angry beyond control--

BURST Cap 3: --the SWAMP THING strikes back!

Sound: SLAGG!

ST Cap 4: His single enraged blow not only separates the two airborne adversaries, but it also smashes Hawkman's chest medallion and renders him unconscious!

PAGE SIXTEEN

1

Caption 1: Thus, the winged wonder floats helplessly skyward--
ST Cap 2: --while the mossy man-brute plummets like a misshapen
missile thru the twilight!

2

Caption 3: And, even should Hawkman awaken--
Unbordered
Cap 4: --he would be as powerless to halt his inexorable ascent
as Swamp Thing is to prevent his equally inexorable
descent.

3

Unbordered
Cap 5: For the seriously-damaged medallion device on the
Thanagarian's chest controls his anti-gravity belt--
--and he is ⁴repelled by gravity's
Caption 6: --and it is now stuck on permanent up!

Unbordered
Cap 7: He disappears from sight as--

ST Caption 8: --below--

5

ST Cap 9: --the Swamp Thing also disappears...

ST Cap 10: ...noisily...

ST Cap 11: ...and with extremely violent impact!

ST Cap 12: Down here, the sunlight has long since faded into dusk,
and the transition into evening is ^{well} underway.

Sound: KER-SKLOOSH!

PAGE SEVENTEEN

1

ST Caption 1: Moments later, when a festering, slime-strewn figure emerges from the depths of the Willamette--

2

ST Cap 2: --to collapse wearily in the shadows along the mossy bank, gasping greedily for air--

3

ST Cap 3: --another kind of transition is underway:

Caption 4: The transition from muck-encrusted monstrosity to misery-haunted man!

4

Ruth BRST 5: Alec--!

Ruth 6: I tried to follow you back there, after you became the Swamp Thing, but there were police barricades everywhere!

Ruth 7: Then I saw you fall from the freeway--

Ruth 8: --so I got down here before them!

Alec 9: Ruth! Wh-Where am I? What have I...done?

Alec 10: Can't...remember!

5

Ruth 11: You're in trouble, Alec--wanted by the police. And... Sabre's with them...commanding them!

Alec 12: Are you sure of that?

Ruth 13: I saw him, Alec--

6

Caption 14: "--and he still wants to kill you! I know he does. We've got to go into--"

Sabre 15: --hiding, Smith.. they've gone into hiding!

(CONTINUED:)

PAGE SEVENTEEN (--continued.)

Smith 16: How utterly futile.

Sabre 17: Indeed. But they have yet to learn that there is truly
no escape from Colossus!

Sabre 18: Tomorrow they shall be taught a lasting lesson, Solomon!
I swear it. For at dawn we unleash--

Sabre BRST 19: -- the Fire Master! (Open letters on name)

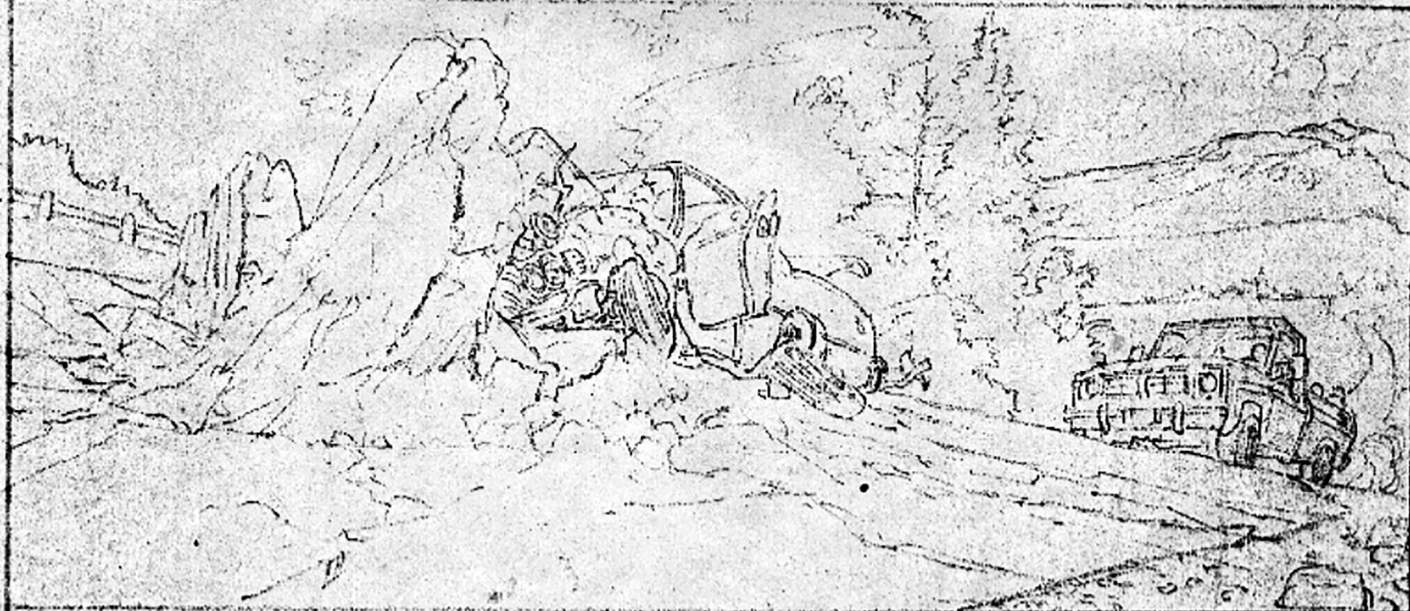
Blurb 20: --to be continued--

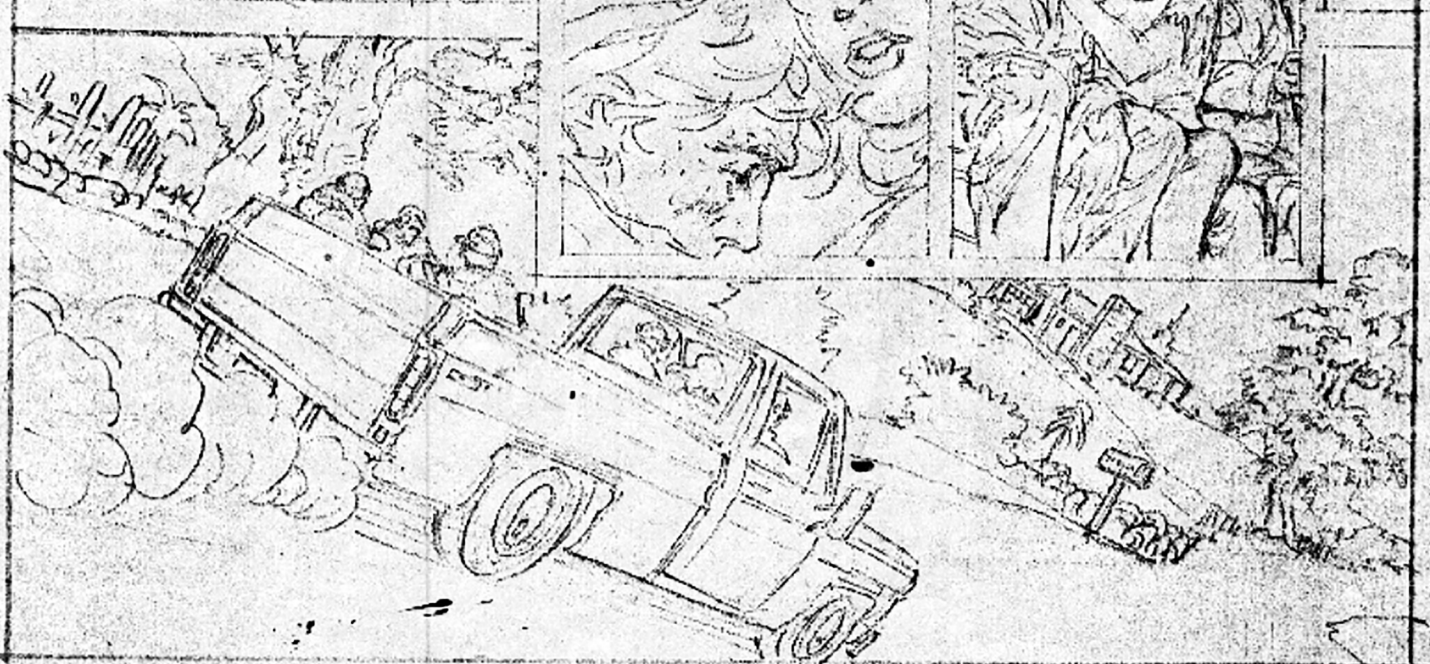
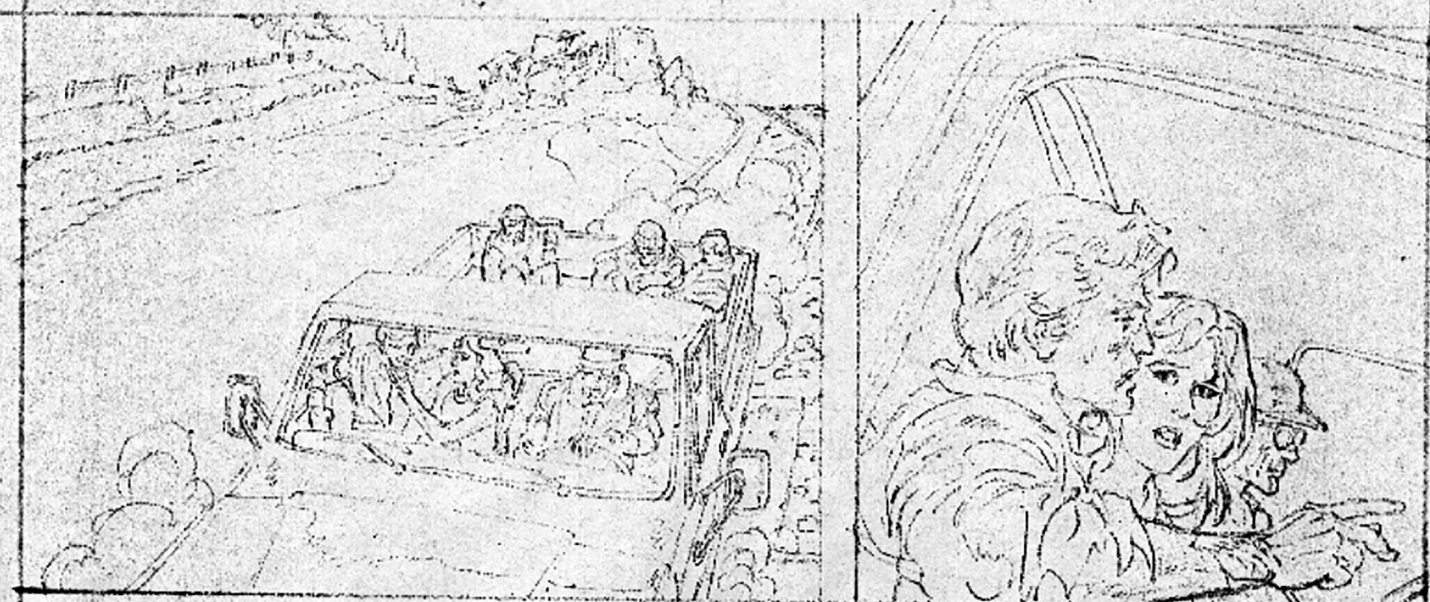
--David Anthony Kraft

22 March 1976

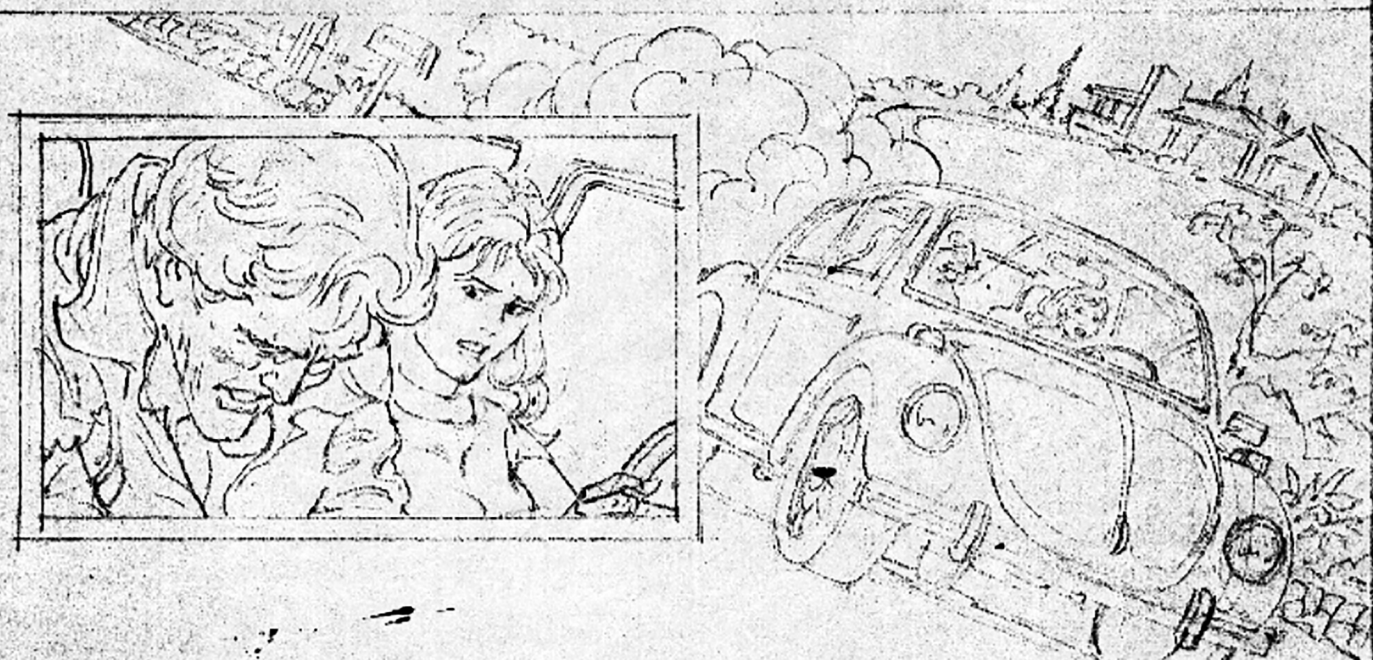


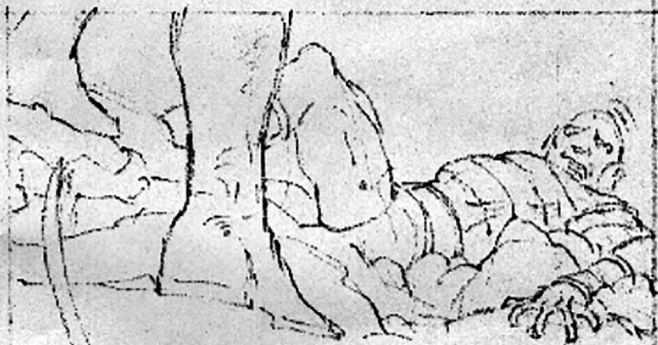
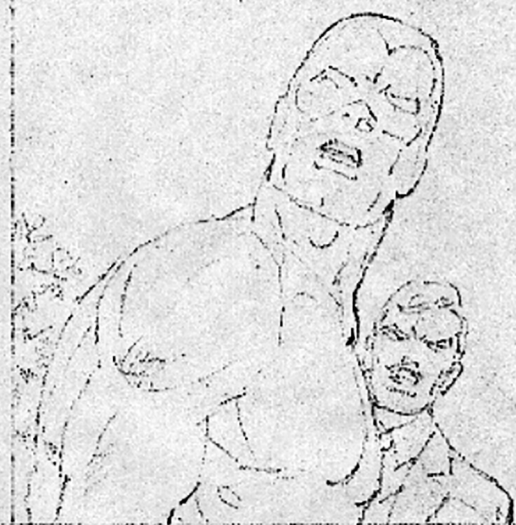
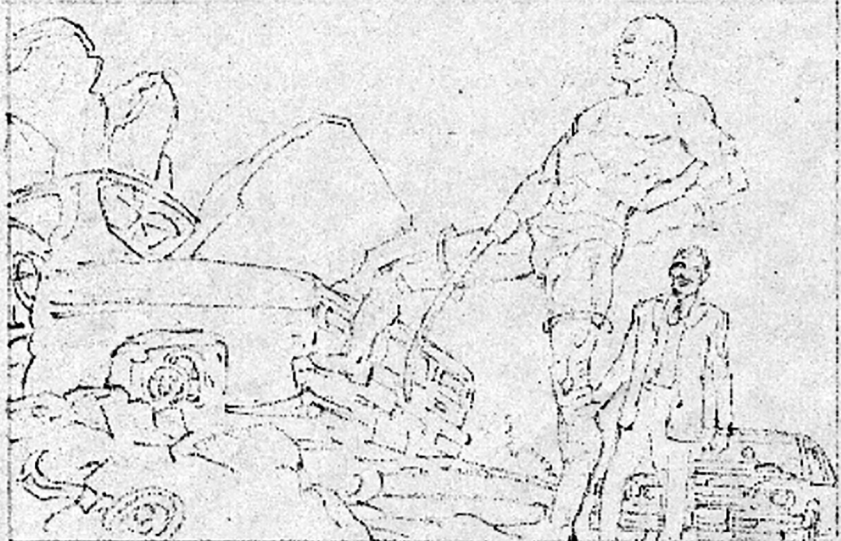
SWAMP THING

















--IT LOOKS LIKE WE MAY HAVE A **GUARDIAN ANGEL!**

HAWKMAN SWOOPS DOWN FROM THE HEAVENS PRECISELY LIKE AN **AVENGING ANGEL--**

--SWOOPS AND STRIKES--

--SWIFTLY, SILENTLY... SAVAGELY!--

UNFORTUNATELY, HE HAS MADE THE **MISTAKE** OF MISJUDGING THE SENSATIONAL **SPEED** AND **POWER** OF THIS MUCK-ENCRUSTED **MOCKERY** OF A MAN ...



UNGH! WHIPLASH... BEING SHOT BACKWARD...



HE STREAKS AWKWARDLY
THROUGH THE LATE-
AFTERNOON AIR--UNTIL
HE COMES TO AN
ABRUPT, ALMOST SKULL-
SPLITTING STOP!

LINGH-KK

FRANG

AS FOR THE SWAMP THING,
CONSTERNATION AND
CHAOS FOG MENTAL
CLARITY...

...AND
OBSCURE
EVEN
ANGER!

HE STANDS FOR AN
UNCERTAIN
INSTANT OVER
HIS FALLEN
FOE...

I WAS..
TOO
CARELESS..

HOLY
SMOKES!

FOR HAWK-
MAN, FURTHER
CONFLICT IS
MOMENTARILY
OUT OF THE
QUESTION!

...THEN, HIS BRAIN
SEETHING AND
ROILING,
HE TURNS
AWAY.

AND RUNS.

RUNS IN A RANDOM
YET FRANTIC
SEARCH FOR
SOLITUDE.

MISUNDERSTOOD, INARTI-
CULATE, THE GREAT
BRUTE BOLTS TOWARD
THE SETTING SUN
WITHOUT ONCE
LOOKING BACK.

HEY!

THE
FREAK'S
ESCAPING!

AND... IT'S
ALL... MY...
FAULT...

ZZNNG

YOU TRIED, HAWKMAN
--THAT'S WHAT COUNTS.
YOU TRIED.

LET'S
HAVE A
TALK.

THANKS.
BUT
WHO--?



"I HAD FOUND
THE
MURDERER--"

"--A MIRY,
MALFORMED
DEMON--"

"--AND I WAS
TO DIE FOR MY
DISCOVERY."

"RUTHLESSLY, DELIBERATELY, THE
SWAMP THING THREW ME TO
THE
WAITING
GATORS!"

"I WAS
LUCKY
TO LOSE
ONLY
MY
HAND."

BUT--SOME-
HOW-- I SURVIVED,
TO STAGGER FROM
THE SWAMP HOURS
LATER... DAZED,
DELIRIOUS AND
NEAR DEATH."

--BECAUSE
THE SWAMP THING
IS REALLY MY
BROTHER--

SINCE
THEN, I'VE
SWORN TO
STOP THAT
MONSTER."

--DR. ALEC HOLLAND,
A RENEGADE SCIENTIST?
I TRIED TO HELP HIM, BUT
HE DESTROYED MY LAB
AND ALMOST KILLED
ME.

I CAN VERIFY
EVERYTHING
SABREY
SAYS--

TELL
HIM THE
REST, PROF.
EDWARD
HOLLAND.

HE'S GOT
TO BE
CAUGHT."

PRECISELY.
HE'S DESPERATE--
DANGEROUS--AND
DEADLY.

WILL YOU
RISK ANOTHER
CONFRONTATION
WITH HIM,
HAWKMAN?

I WILL.
AND, GENTLEMEN,
I ASSURE
YOU--

--THIS
TIME, I'M
READY!"



PORTLAND IS OREGON'S
LARGEST CITY; TO THE
AIMLESSLY SCUTTling
SWAMP THING, IT IS AN
UNNATURAL ENVIRONMENT
THAT SEEMS ENDLESS.

FRAGMENTARY
FLASHES OF UN-
COMPREHENDING
FEAR ALTERNATE
WITH ANGER--

--LIKE SOME BERSEK
LIGHTNING STORM OF
EMOTIONS IN THE
GREAT BRUTE'S HEAD.



TEMPESTUOUS,
UNRELENTING--



--THE MIND-
STORM
RAGES--

--RENDERING HIM
OBLIVIOUS TO
PURSUIT.



FROM BEHIND, BORNE
EVER CLOSER ON THE
WARM, WETTISH WIND--

--COMES HAWKMAN.



FOOLED BY THE EXTRAVAGANT
FABRICATIONS OF
SABRE AND PROF.
EDWARD HOLLAND,
HE GIVES NO
QUARTER...

HEADS UP, YOU
HOMICIDAL
HORROR--



--YOU'RE ABOUT TO
BE SPEARED AND
SUBDUED!



PLOK



IT TAKES MORE THAN A MERE
SPEAR TO SUBDU A BEING
MADE OF PULP AND PRIMAL
OOZE!

RRUNNHH

IT TAKES **STRATEGY** AND THE ABILITY TO RECOVER **RAPIDLY** FROM AWESTRUCK SURPRISE.



IT TAKES A TALENT FOR SUDDEN, UNEXPECTED ACTION!

AND, SOME-
TIMES,
EVEN
THAT
IS NOT
ENOUGH.

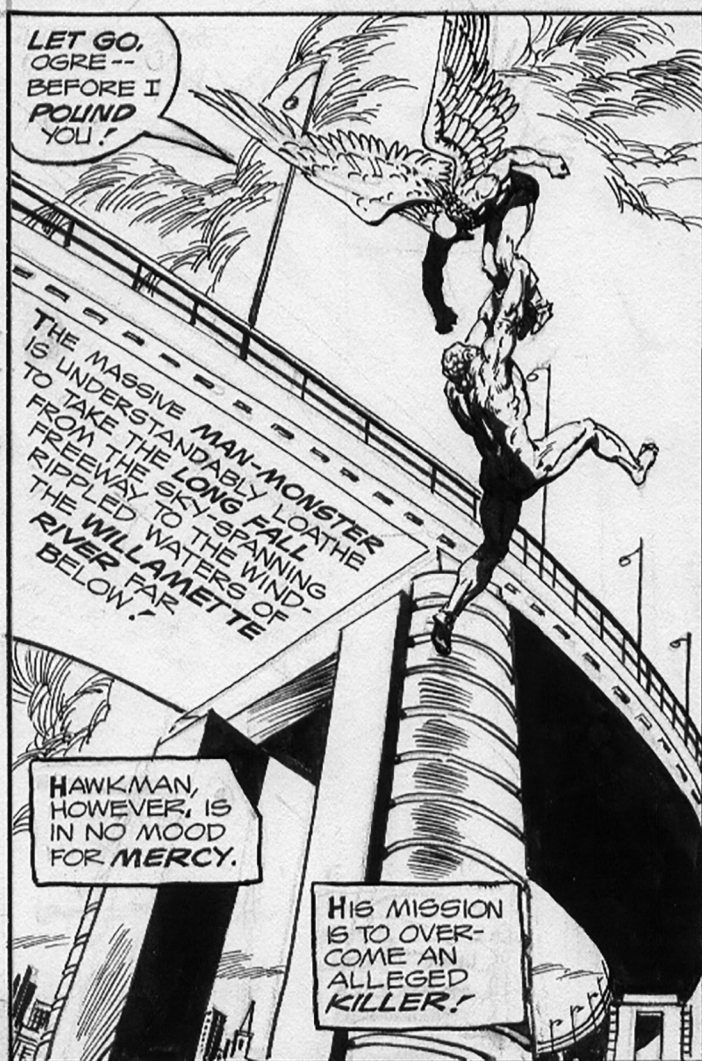


LET GO,
YOU MUTE,
MURDERING
MENACE!

TENACIOUSLY,
SWAMP THING
TIGHTENS HIS GRIP.

THE SURVIVAL INSTINCT IS
STRONG WITHIN HIM.

LET GO,
OGRE--
BEFORE I
POUND
YOU!



THE MASSIVE MAN-MONSTER IS UNDERSTANDABLY LOATHE TO TAKE THE LONG FALL FROM THE SKY-SPANNING FREEWAY TO THE WIND-RIPPLED WATERS OF THE WILLAMETTE RIVER FAR BELOW.

HAWKMAN, HOWEVER, IS IN NO MOOD FOR **MERCY**.

HIS MISSION IS TO OVER-COME AN ALLEGED **KILLER!**

ALL
RIGHT,
SWAMP
THING--I
WARNED
YOU!

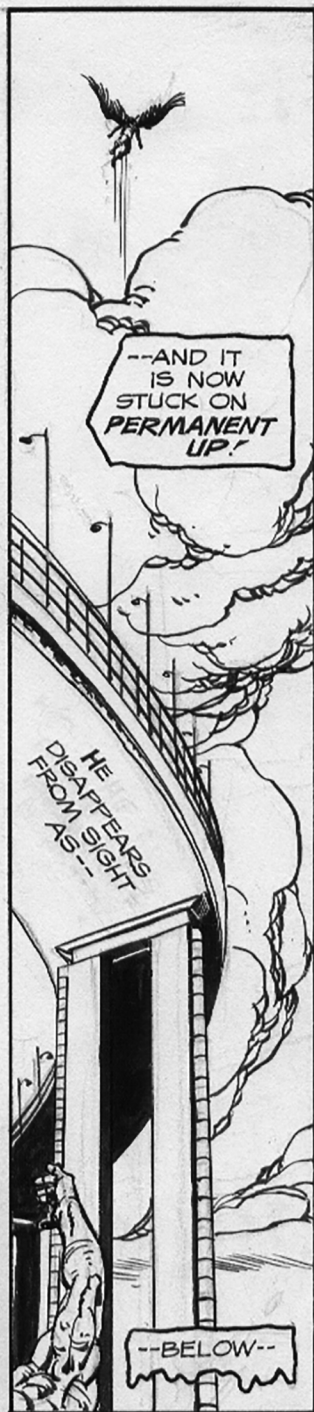
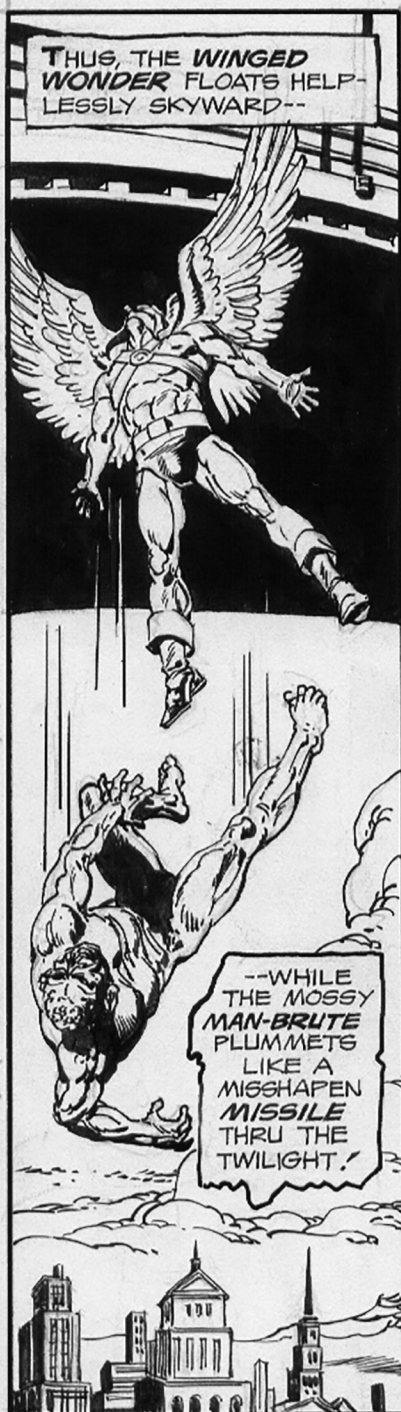
UNTIL NOW, THE HARRASSED, MISUNDERSTOOD, NEARLY-MIND-LESS **MUCK CREATURE** HAS REACTED WITH SURPRISING **RESTRAINT** TO CONSIDERABLE **PROVO-CATION**.

SWAPP

UNTIL NOW...









NEXT ISSUE!