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THE REAL GHOSTBUSTERS 9

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THE OFFICIAL STAMP OF APPROVAL!



The COMIC MAGAZINE ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA was formed back in 1954. It's goal was to insure the quality of the comics you can purchase on your local newsstand. The quality of editorial content is very carefully observed by the CMAA, (A.K.A. THE COMICS CODE).

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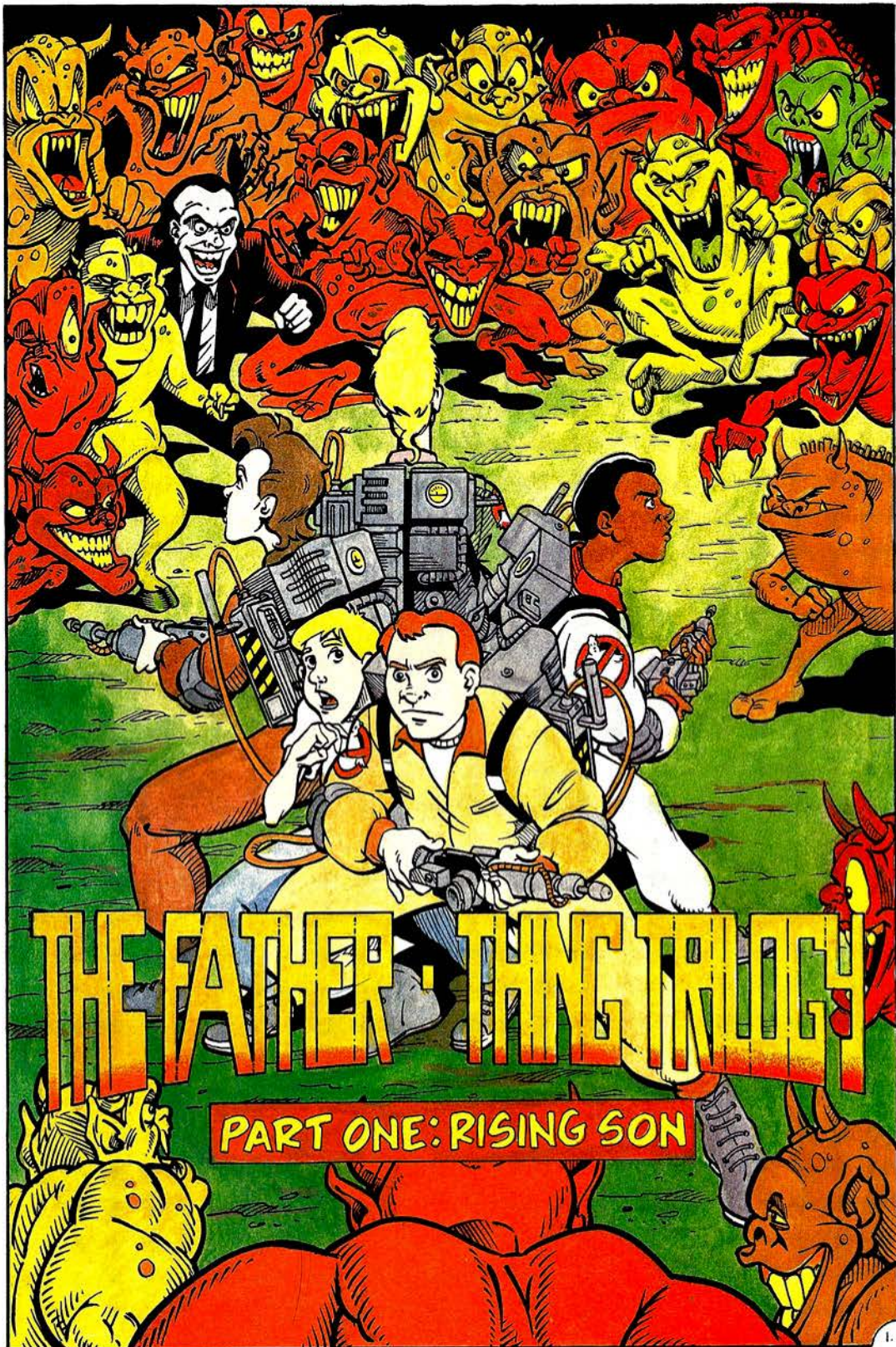
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Tony Caputo
Publisher



THE FATHER-THING TRILOGY

PART ONE: RISING SON

THESE ARE THE GHOSTBUSTERS. EGON SPENGLER, RAY STANTZ, PETER VENKMAN, AND WINSTON ZEDDEMORE. A CONFLUENCE OF CIRCUMSTANCES CREATED THIS TEAM. CALL IT SERENDIPITY, CALL IT FATE. THEY'VE SAVED THE CITY AND THE WORLD MORE THAN ONCE. TONIGHT THEY ARE GOING TO TAKE THE FIRST STEP ON A ROAD TO THEIR GREATEST CHALLENGE—TO SAVE THE SOUL OF A CHILD.



IT'S MIDNIGHT IN THE COLD HEART OF WINTER. STRANGE READINGS DREW THEM TO THIS ESTATE NEAR THE CITY. EXPECTING GHOSTS, THEY DISCOVERED A COVEN OF WITCHES INSTEAD.



THIS IS THE WORST! THERE'S A KID DOWN THERE!

I'M COLD INSIDE, AND IT'S NOT FROM THE WEATHER.



LET'S DO IT, GUYS!

PETER, GO FOR THE BOY. WE'LL COVER YOU.



THE GHOST-BUSTERS! BUT THEY'RE TOO LATE! THE MESSENGER HAS SEEN THE BOY!



THEIR POWER BRINGS PAIN, BUT ASTORATH'S POWER BRINGS FINALITY!!



I WILL DELIVER THE TRUTH TO MY MASTER. YOU HAVE NOT LONG TO WAIT, BOY!



I'VE GOT THE KID, BUT WHAT'S HAPPENING NOW?



IT'S OVER.



THIS KEEPS GETTIN' WORSE! THERE'S NOTHING LEFT IN THESE ROBES BUT ASHES!



THE OTHERS ARE THE SAME WAY. THE DEMON CONSUMED THEM WHEN IT VANISHED.

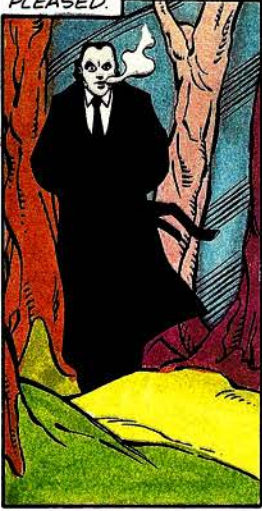
THIS LOOKS EXTREMELY BAD.

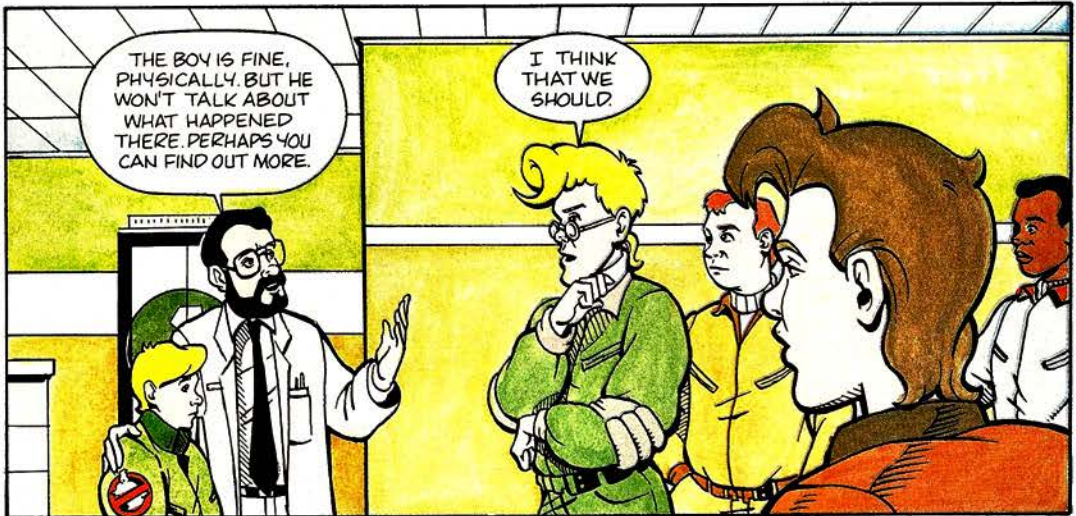


ARE YOU OKAY, KID? WHO WERE THESE PEOPLE?

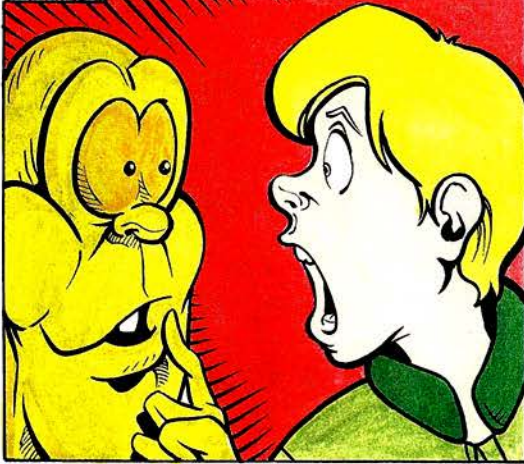
THEY WERE MY FAMILY.

WHEN THE GHOSTBUSTERS DRIVE OFF, THEIR DEPARTURE IS OBSERVED BY A MR. BLAQUE, AND HE IS NOT PLEASED.





BUT AFTER WHAT HAPPENED THAT NIGHT, SHANNON IS NOT PREPARED TO MEET A GHOST IN PERSON.



HEY, IT'S OKAY! IT'S JUST SLIMER.



HEY, I SCREAMED THE FIRST TIME I SAW THE BIG, GREEN SPUD, TOO! BUT HE WON'T HURT YOU.

YEAH, HE'S JUST A BIG, GREEN MASCOT.



BUT IF HE TRIES TO KISS YOU, THAT'S WHEN YOU GOTTA DUCK!



BECAUSE IT'LL BE LIKE KING KONG BLOWING HIS NOSE ON YOU!



I THINK I FEEL SICK.

I KNOW THAT I DO!



YOU CAN STAY HERE TONIGHT, SHANNON. WE'LL TALK SOME MORE IN THE MORNING.

AND DON'T WORRY IF YOU HEAR ANY ALARMS IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT. IT JUST MEANS WE'RE ANSWERING A CALL OF NATURE GONE WILD.

IF YOU WANT, I'LL SHOW YOU MY COMIC BOOK COLLECTION TOMORROW.

THANKS.



HEY, WHATEVER'S REALLY WRONG, I UNDERSTAND. IT'S NOT EASY BEIN' A KID. BELIEVE ME, I KNOW.

THANKS, PETER.

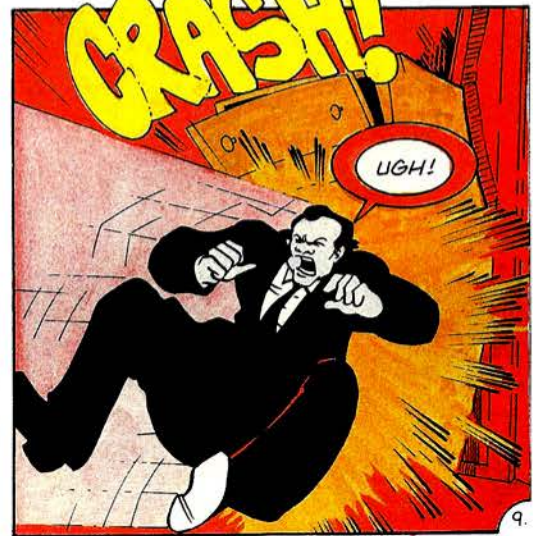
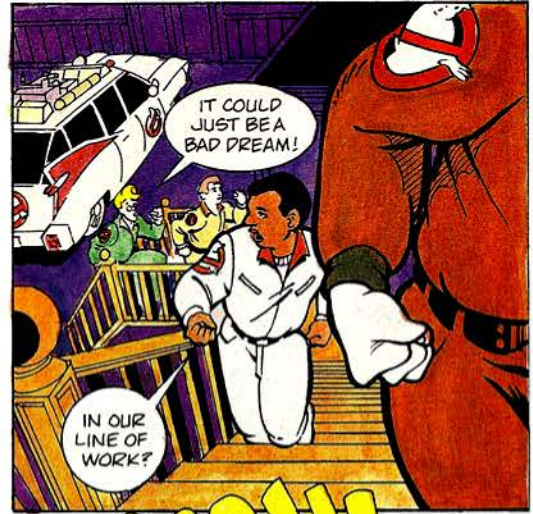


BUT JUST OUTSIDE, THE MYSTERIOUS MR. BLAQUE IS WATCHING AND WAITING.



ALONE AT LAST, AND HE'S TOLD THEM NOTHING!





SO YOUR POWERS ARE AWAKENING! BUT THEY'RE UNTRAINED AND YOU'RE STILL IGNORANT OF WHAT YOU'RE CAPABLE OF, WHILE I...



NEXT TIME TRY THE FRONT DOOR, BOZO, OR BETTER YET, DON'T COME AT ALL!



YOUR POWERS VERSUS MINE, VENKMAN! ARE YOU TRULY UP TO IT!



ANY TIME!



SCIENCE VERSUS SORCERY IS ALWAYS AN UNPLEASANT AND UNPREDICTIBLE CONCOCTION. ANOTHER TIME, THEN, WE WILL MEET AGAIN!



NOT A SIGN OF HIM!





TONIGHT STARTED OUT WEIRD AND JUST KEPT GOIN'!

IT'S OBVIOUSLY NOT SAFE TO LEAVE YOU ALONE, SHANNON. COULD YOU TELL US WHY?



I CAN'T! NOT YET! I NEED TIME TO THINK!

YOU MEAN YOU WON'T TELL US WHO JUST INVADED?!



THERE'S NO REAL HARM DONE, YET.

WE'LL DROP IT FOR NOW, BUT YOU'LL HAVE TO MOVE INTO THE MAIN SLEEP AREA WHERE YOU CAN BE GUARDED.



I'LL WATCH HIM TONIGHT.

PETER IS VOLUNTEERING FOR SOMETHING?



PETER! YOU STAYED THERE ALL NIGHT?

SURE I'VE BEEN MEANING TO GET AROUND TO COUNTING THE CRACKS IN THE FLOOR, THE WALLS, THE CEILING...



I'M STARVED!

I THOUGHT YOU SAID YOU WERE SHANNON?!



IN THE BREAKFAST NOOK OF THE FIREHOUSE.

COFFEE!
COFFEE!

I JUST NOTICED. WE'RE ALL OUT. YOU'LL HAVE TO GET SOME MORE.

NO COFFEE?! THAT'S LIKE SAYING THERE'S NO FOOD, OR THERE'S NO AIR!



EGON TOLD ME WHAT YOU DID, PETER, AND I'M VERY PROUD OF YOU, NOT TO MENTION STUNNED NOW YOU GET SOME SLEEP THAT'S WHAT YOU REALLY NEED.

SLEEP. I REMEMBER SLEEP. IF I DO SLEEP, MY BODY WON'T BE ANGRY WITH ME ANY MORE.

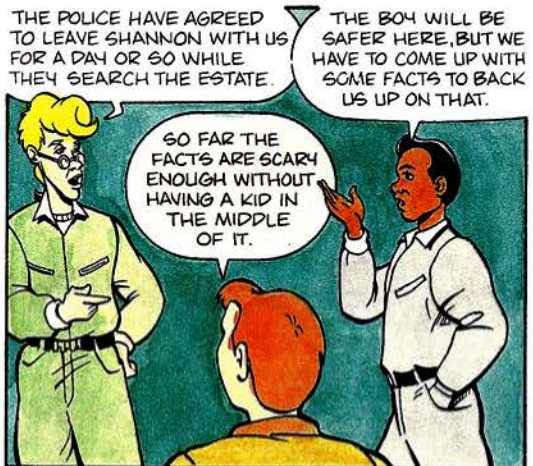
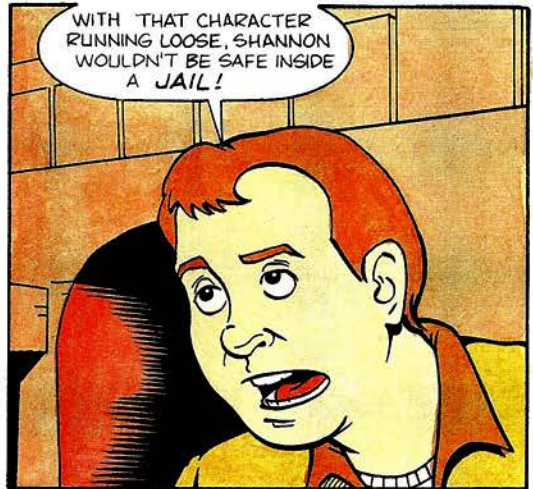
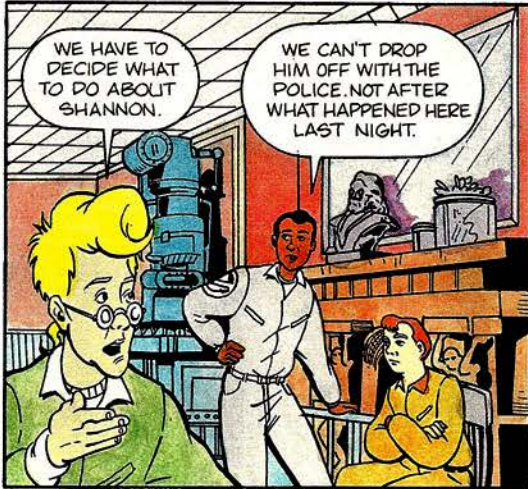


YOU LIKE PETER, DON'T YOU?

YEAH, HE'S NEAT.

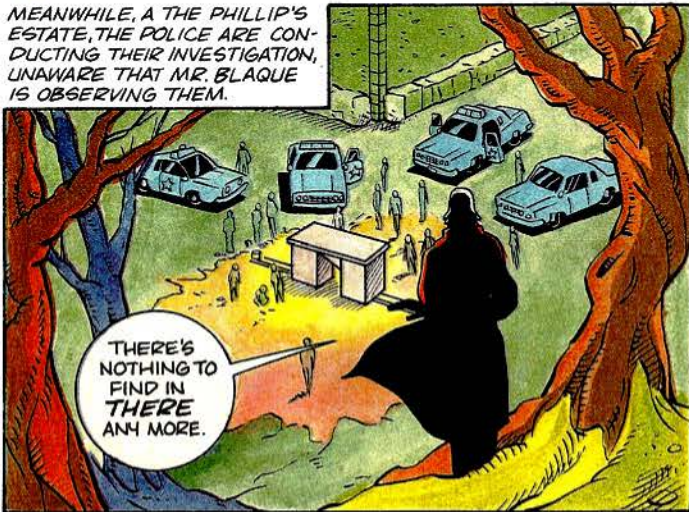


HE'S SEEMS TO LIKE YOU A LOT, TOO. YOU'LL FIND THERE'S MORE TO PETER THAN MEETS THE EYE. I KID HIM, BECAUSE THAT'S WHAT HE WANTS HE ALMOST NEVER OPENS UP TO US.





MEANWHILE, AT THE PHILLIP'S ESTATE, THE POLICE ARE CONDUCTING THEIR INVESTIGATION, UNAWARE THAT MR. BLAQUE IS OBSERVING THEM.



AND EVEN IF THE BOY DOES TALK, THE ENORMITY OF THE TRUTH IS SUCH THAT NO ONE WILL BELIEVE HIM UNTIL IT'S TOO LATE!



THE ALIGNMENT OF THE PLANETS WILL SOON BE PERFECT FOR THE FINAL ECLIPSE AND THE COMING OF ASTORATH.



GIANT FULL COLOR PIN-UP



**THE REAL
GHOSTBUSTERS™**







NOWTM
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HOW CAN YOU HAVE AN **AUTOGRAPHED** POSTER OF CAPT. STEEL?

THAT'S A LONG STORY, BUT WE WORKED WITH HIM ONCE WHEN HE VISITED OUR WORLD.

IF YOU SAY SO, YOU SURE HAVE A LOT OF COMICS.



MY PARENTS NEVER THREW OUT MY COMICS WHEN I WAS A KID OR USED THEM AS AN EXCUSE WHEN I WAS BAD OR DID POORLY IN SCHOOL.

WHAT WERE YOUR PARENTS LIKE?



LIKE MOST PARENTS, I GUESS. THEY DIDN'T DISCOURAGE ME FROM READING COMICS, BECAUSE, HOW MANY KIDS REALLY ENJOY READING? SO THEY ENCOURAGED ME.

I LIKE READING. I READ A LOT OF BOOKS, SINCE I COULDN'T GO OUT ANYWHERE.



WHAT ABOUT SCHOOL?

I HAD TUTORS. MR. BLAQUE WAS ONE OF MY TEACHERS. NOW HE WANTS TO TAKE ME



THAT GUN LAST NIGHT?

I NEVER KNEW THE TRUTH UNTIL THE OTHER DAY, JUST BEFORE MY THIRTEENTH BIRTHDAY. NO ONE WAS SURE UNTIL IT HAPPENED.

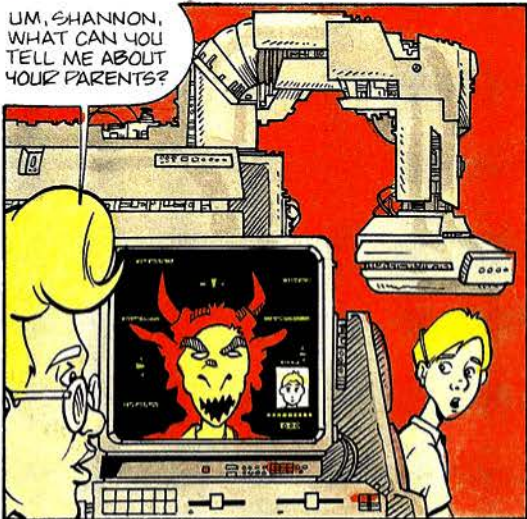


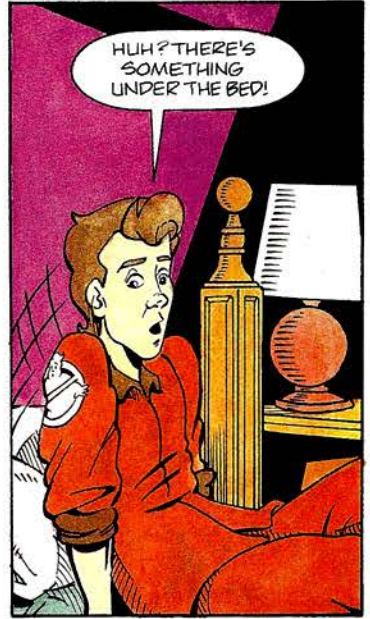
WHAT? WHAT HAPPENED?

SOMETHING LIKE THIS.

DOES THIS MAKE ME A MONSTER?







THE FORCES CONGEAL. THE PATH OF THE ECLIPSE WILL SHROUD THE CITY, AND THEN SHANNON PHILLIPS WILL EMBRACE HIS HERITAGE.



JUST AS THE REST OF THE WORLD WILL EMBRACE THE HORROR OF ASTORATH!



LEAVE THIS PLACE WHICH HAS BEEN CONSECRATED AS THE NEW HOME OF HIS INFERNAL MAJESTY THE LORD HIGH ASTORATH!



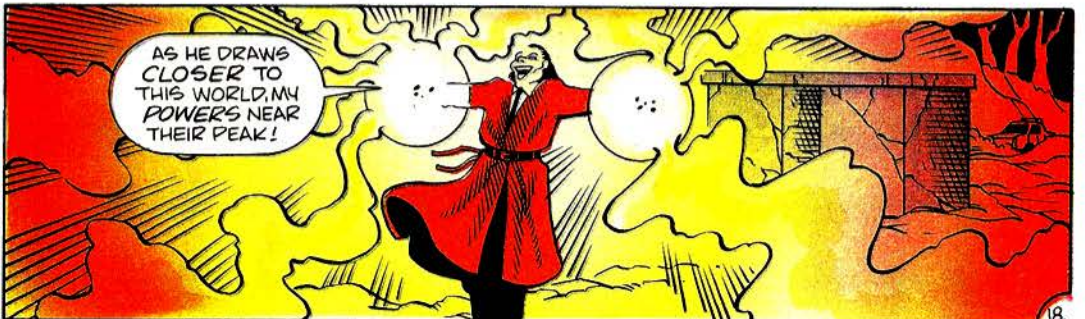
BEGONE FROM THIS PLACE AND RETURN ONLY WHEN YOU HAVE SEEN THE BLACK LIGHT AND CRAWL TO PAY HOMAGE TO YOUR DARK FUTURE!



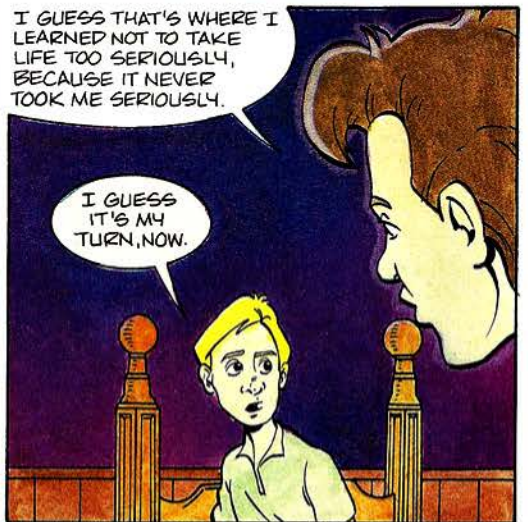
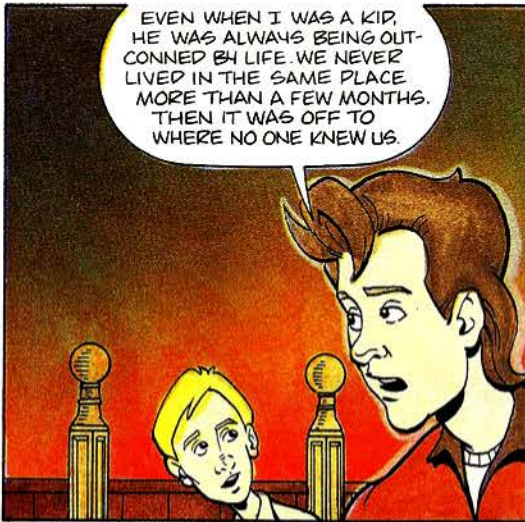
ASTORATH, BLESS THIS FEEBLE WORLD WITH THE TERROR OF YOUR GAZE! I, YOUR REGENT ON THIS MUDDY PLANET, YOUR AGENT OF DESTRUCTION, NATHANIEL BLAQUE, AWAIT YOUR SHATTERING TRUTH!



AS HE DRAWS CLOSER TO THIS WORLD, MY POWERS NEAR THEIR PEAK!



BACK AT THE FIREHOUSE.



"MY MOTHER WAS A WITCH. I DIDN'T REALLY UNDERSTAND UNTIL RECENTLY WHEN SHE TOLD ME THAT I'D BEEN RAISED TO BE SOMEONE SPECIAL—TO BE A PART OF A CEREMONY THAT WOULD CHANGE THE WORLD."

"I DIDN'T WANT TO BE A PART OF IT, BUT SHE SAID IT WOULD MEAN HER LIFE IF I DIDN'T."





ASLEEP, SHANNON DREAMS OF HOW BLAQUE MADE CERTAIN HE WASN'T PART OF THE COVEN CEREMONY.



AND HOW THE COVEN WERE THUS TRICKED INTO GOING TO THEIR DEATHS.





THE ECLIPSE DRAWS NEAR, MY PRINCE, AND SOON I SHALL DRAW YOU NEAR, AND YOUR FRIENDS WILL BE HELPLESS TO STOP ME!!

UNTIL, FINALLY, SHANNON FORCES THE DREAM TO END.



NO! HE'S COMING CLOSER!



WHAT IS IT?

HE'S COMING! I CAN FEEL IT! THE ECLIPSE WILL LET HIM PASS THROUGH!

LET WHO PASS THROUGH? THERE'S NO ECLIPSE IN THIS HEMISPHERE FOR A YEAR.



IT WASN'T JUST A DREAM!



SEE, I TOLD YOU!

THIS CANNOT BE A NATURAL PHENOMENON!

BUT WHAT DOES IT REALLY MEAN?

THESE READINGS ARE SHOOTING OFF THE SCALE!



SHANNON, WHAT DOES THIS HAVE TO DO WITH YOU?

HE'S COMING FOR ME! AND THE WHOLE WORLD WILL CHANGE! I SAW IT IN MY DREAM!



WE MUST ASSUME HE'S CORRECT! AN UNSCHEDULED ECLIPSE IS A SUPERNATURAL OCCURRENCE OF A SUPREMELY HIGH ORDER!

WHAT DO WE DO? WE'RE TALKING THE MOON AND THE SUN HERE!

BLAQUE SAID THAT WHEN HE CAME I'D HAVE THE POWER TO DO ANYTHING. MAYBE I CAN PROTECT YOU!



FORM A CIRCLE! TAKE MY HANDS! WHERE'S JANINE?

SHE LEFT FOR THE STORE TO GET SOME COFFEE!

Oh, no...



I'M SORRY, JANINE. I WANTED TO SAVE YOU, TOO.



AT THE MOMENT THE FULL ECLIPSE IS REACHED, POWER RADIATES OUTWARDS IN A WAVE IN ALL DIRECTIONS.



PEOPLE SHADE THEIR EYES...



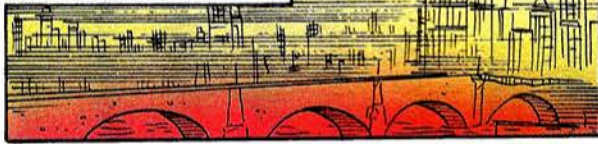
ONLY TO OPEN THEM AGAIN AFTER THE POWER HAS TRANSFORMED THEM.



NO ONE SEEMS TO BE SPARED THIS TRANSFORMATION OF BODY AND SOUL.



THE WAVE SWEEPS THE WORLD, HITTING LONDON...



PARIS ...



MOSCOW...



TOKYO...



THE RADIATING WAVE CEASES, BUT THE ECLIPSE REMAINS AS THOUGH FROZEN IN THE SKY.

AS SHANNON DROPS HIS PROTECTIVE SHIELD, THEY SEE THINGS STANDING ON ROOFTOPS, HOWLING INTO THE SKY, SHOUTING THE NAME ASTORATH



CONTINUED
NEXT
ISSUE!

LETTERS:

I would like to take this opportunity to dedicate this letters page to a very special group of this book's readers, the young children, namely the ones who are yet too young to read, but who are, none-the-less, some of this comic's most loyal followers. It is my hope that THE REAL GHOSTBUSTERS will leave a healthy impression on them and help them through some of childhood's difficult transitions.

The following letter responses were written by James Van Hise.

My name is Jason.

I am four years old. I got GHOST BUSTERS comic books from my Aunt Katy for my birthday. I like Ray and Slimer. I like the pole in their house and GHOST BUSTER packs. I like their car Ecto 1. It's cool. I like Janine, the girl that types, and I like the scary people and the scary ghosts. I think the Stay Puff Marshmallow Man is really big, and I want them all for Christmas.

Dear NOW Comics,

My heartiest compliments on THE REAL GHOSTBUSTERS comic. I am a Ghostbusters fan who prefers the characterization in the cartoon over the ones in the movie. Naturally, the recent mutations the series has undergone have

left me wishing I could get my hands on the responsible party. But NOW Comics has come to the rescue. Your comic shows that things like continuity, intelligence, and humor still mean a great deal to somebody. And believe me, it still means a great deal to us, the fans. Myself and several others here, (and on the East Coast, too) are trying to start an official Ghostbusters fan club, and we all feel the same.

One particular issue came to heart...#5. I have always been a werewolf enthusiast, but no interpretation coincided with my beliefs on Lycanthropy.

Jim Van Hise was so on the mark with my theories, it was almost as if he had written it for me. John Tobias, Brian Thomas, and Rich Powers, take a bow for the perfect blend of woman and wolf. I found myself envying Irena and her family inheritance.

All I can say is thank you for bringing that story to me, and don't ever stop putting out THE REAL GHOST BUSTERS. You may not think many adults care if the quality of a "kid's comic" is maintained at their level of standards, but there are a lot of us, but we're just not organized...yet. My appreciation and admiration,

Nora Salisbury
12538 Oxnard ST #5
N. Hollywood, CA

Your comments about REAL GHOSTBUSTERS are most welcome. We feel that it is a comic which both kids and adults can appreciate. We salute those comic book stores which recognize this and who display the comic with both the children's books and the regular comic titles. The werewolf story in issue #5 is one which I have been wanting to tell for a long time.

Dear NOW,

I enjoy your comic of the REAL GHOSTBUSTERS. The art of John Tobias is superb. It looks alot like on tv. I think you should let Ken Steacy do the cover work. Issue numbers five and six are the best. I really liked the werewolf story alot. I think that NOW Comics are very colorful.

I am curious to know something. Will you show an issue where the Ghostbusters go into space or something like that? The reason I ask is because in issue number six, Egon is building Ecto-3, and he wouldn't build it for nothing. Oh well, time will tell. Keep up the good work!

Jason O'Neill

The Ecto-4 was introduced and unveiled in #7, so that it would be ready and on hand for its real need in issues 10 & 11, where it will go to the edge of space, and then...

Dear **THE REAL GHOSTBUSTERS**,

I wanted to say how much I like your comic. It's funny and exciting. I just got the fourth issue today, and I love it. I was very happy to read that there is a sequel to the movie. The first movie was amazing!

Once I found an old vacume cleaner handle with a switch on it, and I use it as a proton gun. I'm trying to make a pretend ghost detector, but so far no luck. I would also like you to send me information on the Ghostbusters sequel like, what's it about? Are the Ghostbusters played by the same actors? I would really like to know.

Stuart Boyarsky
2666 Maner Ln
N. Bellmore, NY
11710

The Ghostbusters sequel will appear in the summer of '89, and the plot details are still hush-hush at this point, but all of the actors who originally played the Ghostbusters are back in uniform.

To who it may concern, I would like to find out more information about the Ghostbusters convention in San Diego in the summer of 1989.

Mark Bailly
5802 S. Cherokee
Va Beach, VA
23462

NOW Comics and their Ghostbusters display will appear at the San Diego Comic-Con, Aug. 3-6, 1989. It's a full scale comic book convention covering everything in the field. For

more information write: P O B o x 17488, S a n Diego, CA 92117.

Dear Sirs:

In 1984, the movie Ghostbusters premiered. Although I didn't want to see it at first, I quickly fell in love with it and it has remained my favorite film.

In 1986, **THE REAL GHOSTBUSTERS** cartoon made its debut. Like its predecessor, I originally didn't care for it...but it grew on me (kind of like a spore, mold, or fungus) and is now my favorite television show.

In 1988, the comic book adaptation of **THE REAL GHOSTBUSTERS** arrived on the scene. The pattern continued; I didn't like it at first either!

The story ideas are excellent, but they are never explored to their full potential—the plots seem to get muddled and lose their intensity before they finish. The endings often lose impact they could have, and seem slapdash, as though something is left out.

For instance, issues 3, 4 and 5 are all screaming for a sequel, practically begging to be continued, yet when the next issue comes out, there's not even any mention about the previous storyline.

Aside from my gripes, I'm still going to read the comics. Maybe I'll even say they're my favorite someday! In 1990, who knows what latest incarnation of Ghostbusters I'll be able to dislike? Maybe the sequel will be out by then.

Alex Newborn

As you've already seen, issue #6 was a sequel to #5, while #7 tied up the loose ends from #4 and a major character from #3 will make a surprise appearance in #10. I'm glad you're sticking with us. I think we'll surprise you, particularly with the three-part story in issues 9-11.



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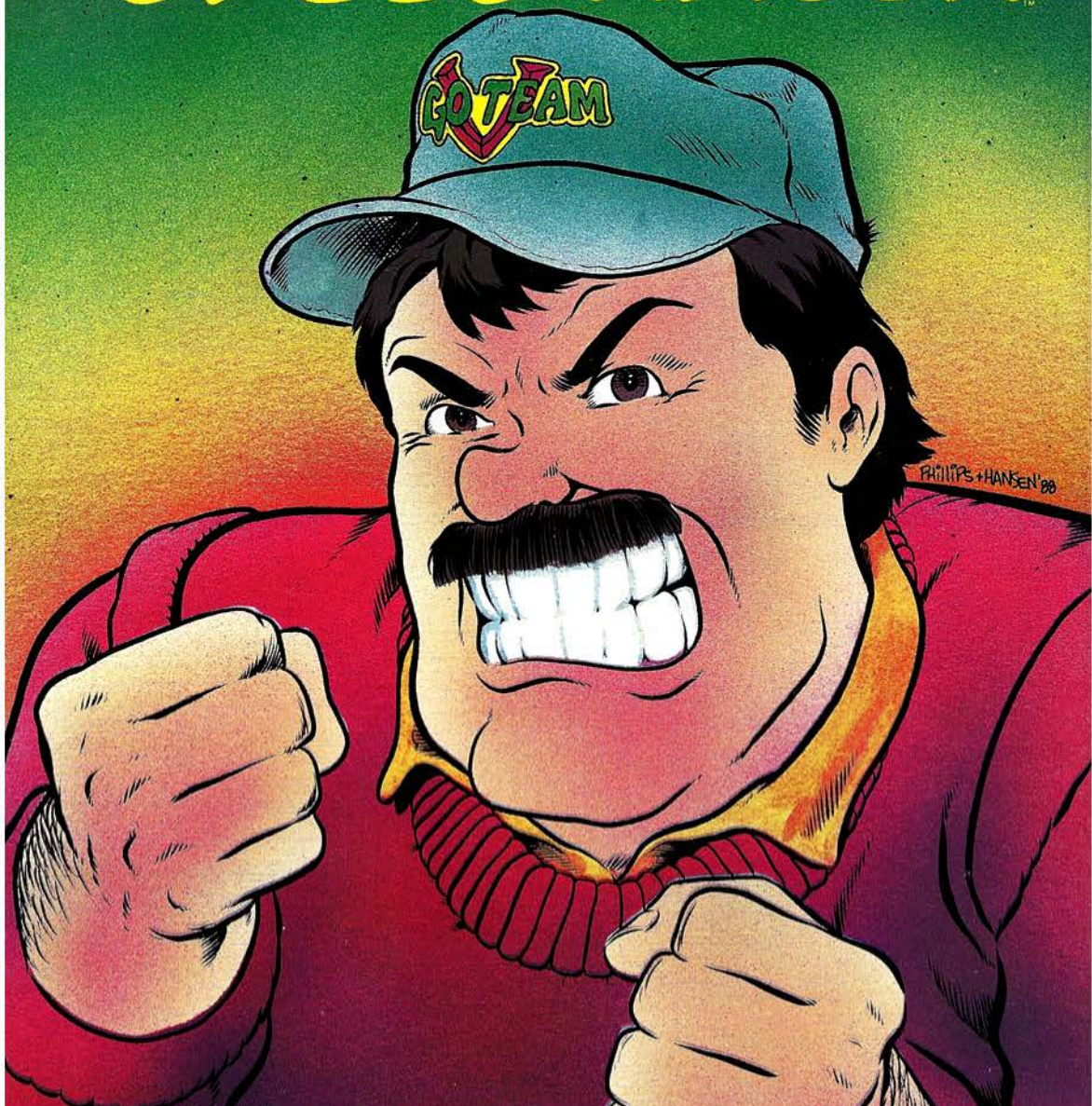
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 YOU TOO CAN TAUNT YOUR FEEBLE-MINDED FRIENDS LIKE I DO!

SPEED RACER



POPS RACER

AGE: None of your business.

HOME: San Francisco, California.

PROFESSION: Inventor, Automotive engineer/designer.

HOBBY: Wrestling.

LAST BOOK READ: *GRAVES, INC.*, Pat Brady.

LATEST ACCOMPLISHMENT: Designs for a MACH 7
HAVEN'T DONE YET, BUT WILL: Look for my son Rex.

WHY I DO WHAT I DO: Because.

QUOTE: "...Finally, someone big enough for me ta clobber!..."

PROFILE: Sweet, caring, and loud. "WHAT!!!"

HIS ADVENTURES: Monthly within the pages of
SPEED RACER, from NOW COMICS.

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