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THE BLUE DYNAMO

DAWNING OF THE DYNAMO

GRABBING THE WEIGHTED CORD, HE TAKES A BREATH AND STEPS INTO SPACE...

I THINK I'VE FINALLY MANAGED A SOLUTION TO MY TRANSPORTATION PROBLEMS...

JUST ENOUGH WEIGHT-REDUCTION TO MAKE ROPE-SWINGING A BREEZE...

WITHOUT MAKING ME FEEL LIKE I'M FILLED WITH HELIUM...

THE WRIST-SETTING ON 2.5, HIS FLIGHT IS GRACEFUL AND NEARLY EFFORTLESS...

THE CITY IS HYATTVILLE AND THE TIME IS THE PRESENT...

PRESENTING A SUPERIOR COMICS "GROUND LEVEL" SUPER-HERO!



MUCH BETTER!
NOW I..... WHAT'S
THIS? I DON'T
BELIEVE IT...

TWO CRIMINAL-
TYPE PEOPLE IN THE
ACT OF BREAK-AND-
ENTER...

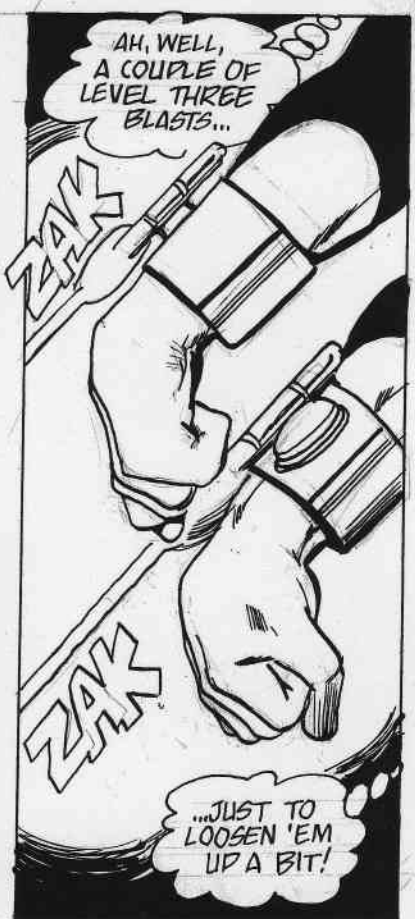
LUCKY ME!
SPARRING
PARTNERS AT
LAST

NOW I WON'T
HAVE TO CALL
RENT-A-CROOK!



ALMOST WISH
THERE WAS A
PHOTOGRAPHER
AROUND...

...RECORD
MY FIRST CASE
FOR POSTERITY...



AH, WELL,
A COUPLE OF
LEVEL THREE
BLASTS...

ZAK

ZAK

...JUST TO
LOOSEN 'EM
UP A BIT!



AS I DROP
HEROICALLY
INTO THE
FRAY...



STAND
WHERE YOU
ARE!

OR FACE
THE WRATH
OF THE...

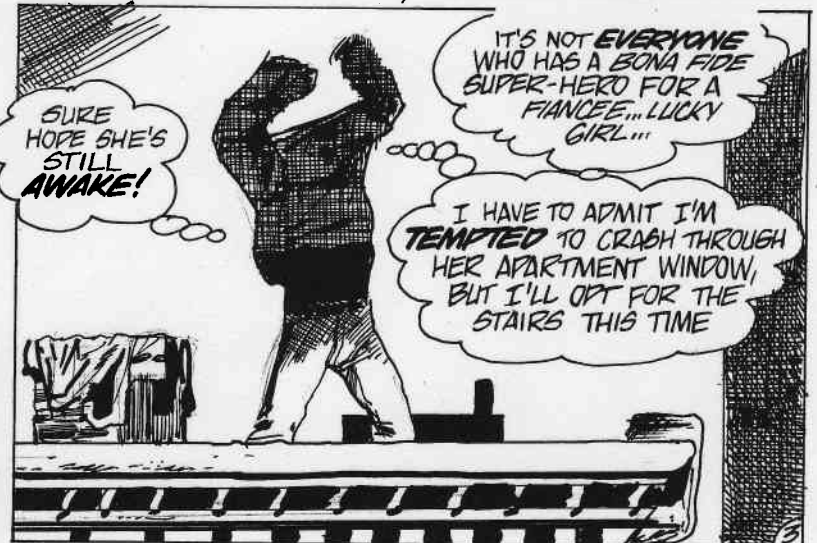


BLUE...uh...

...DYNAMO.



ONE HOUR AND MANY MILES LATER, THE DYNAMO COMES TO A REST...





HOWEVER, MOMENTS LATER,

SHOWING HIS BEST SIDE--SEEN HERE-- HE SEEMED DETERMINED TO PROVE SOME KIDS NEVER GROW UP... AND THAT THEY OFTEN READ TOO MANY COMIC BOOKS...

WELL-- YOU MADE THE ELEVEN O'CLOCK NEWS, RICH-- HAPPY?

THEY'RE TREATING YOU LIKE A JOKE RICH-- A BIG ONE...



LOOK-- I NEVER WANTED ANY FAME OUT OF THIS ...MY INTENTION WAS TO FIGHT CRIME IN...

THAT'S A LOAD OF BULL, RICH...!



I WATCHED YOU SHOW OFF IN THAT COSTUME-- "TESTING" IT OVER AND OVER... IT WASN'T HARD TO FIGURE!

YOU WANTED THE LIMELIGHT -- TICKER TAPE PARADES...

YOU WANTED TO PLAY **BATMAN** AND BE THANKED FOR IT WITH A KEY TO THE CITY!



GROW UP RICH-- THIS IS REAL-LIFE NOT COMIC BOOKS ...



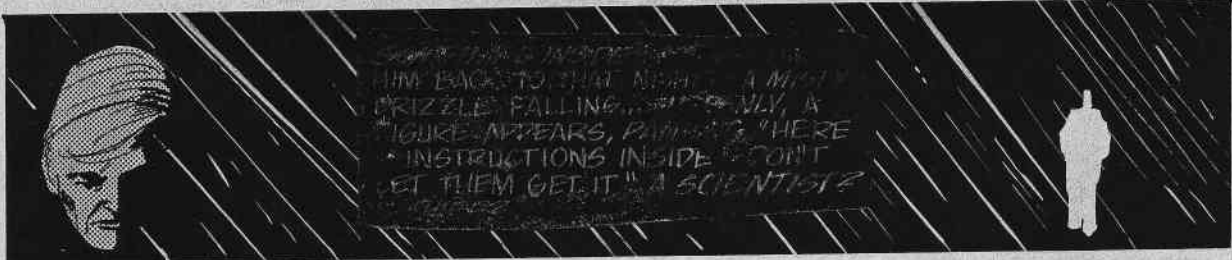
IF YOU REALLY WANT TO HELP, TURN THAT COSTUME OVER TO A SCIENTIST -- OR RESEARCH GROUP! MAYBE THEY CAN FIND A GOOD USE FOR IT...

...INSTEAD OF USING IT TO BUILD YOUR OWN EGO...



I KNOW YOU WON'T LIKE THIS, MARG-- BUT, I **CAN'T!** DON'T ASK ME TO EXPLAIN...

BUT SOMETHING **INSIDE** OF ME CAN'T LET GO OF THAT COSTUME...



"SOMETHING INSIDE ME - IT TAKES HIM BACK TO THAT NIGHT - A MISTY DRIZZLE FALLING... SUDDENLY, A FIGURE APPEARS, PANTING "HERE - INSTRUCTIONS INSIDE - DON'T LET THEM GET IT" A SCIENTIST? A THIEF?"



WHATEVER THE ANSWERS, THEY DIE WITH THE MAN, AS THE NEXT INSTANT EXPLODES IN A SINGLE GUNSHOT! "WHO ARE THEY?" WHY GIVE THE PACKAGE TO ME?"





SHE JUST DOESN'T UNDERSTAND ... HE **TOLD** ME TO MAKE SURE "THEM" DIDN'T GET THE COSTUME...

"THEM" NOWADAYS COULD BE ANYONE FROM THE CIA TO MA BELL! WHO THE HECK DO I **TRUST?**

NOT EVEN A MENTION OF THE GUY'S DEATH IN THE PAPER...

... AND MY ARTICLE IS DUE FOR THE NEXT ISSUE, TO BOOT!



WE LEAVE OUR HERO FOR THE MOMENT AND FOCUS ON A NEARBY ELECTRONICS LAB WHERE WE FIND...

THE DART GLIMS ARE MOUNTED AT LAST! THE HELMET NEARS COMPLETION ...

THE PARTS SHOULD BE ACCURATE TO ONE HUNDRED YARDS WITH ANY LUCK...



OTHERS COULD HAVE INVENTED THE HELMET AND NEURO-DARTS ...

... OR THIS STEEL-REINFORCED COSTUME ...



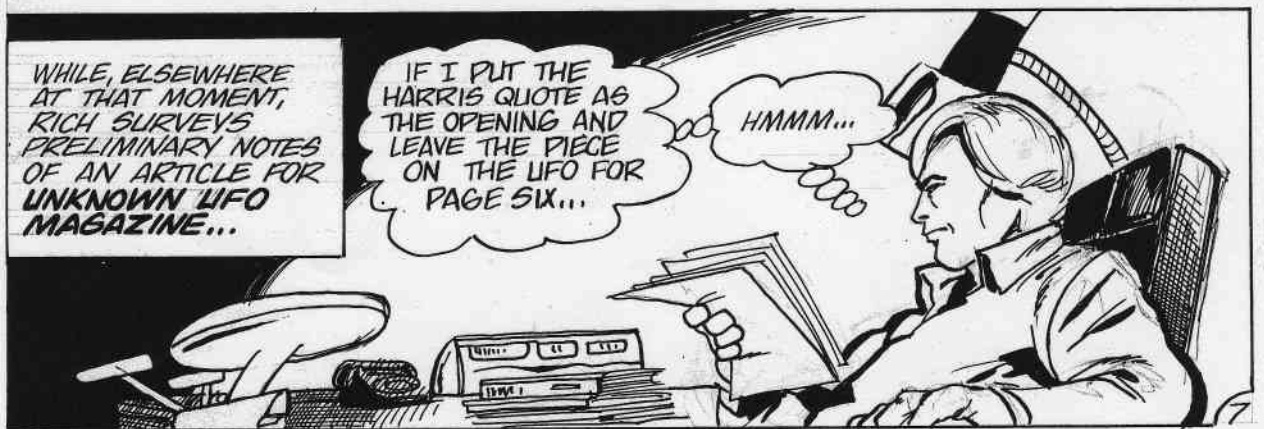
BUT NO OTHER BUT MYSELF COULD WEAR THE TWO HUNDRED PLUS POUNDS WITHOUT DISCOMFORT ...



TOO LONG HAS MANKIND TOLERATED THE WEAK, THE INFERIOR AND THE GENETICALLY IMPURE...

AS DR. GEORGE URIAH, I WAS INCAPABLE OF CHANGING THAT SITUATION...

... BUT NOW, CHANGE IT I SHALL...





DAMN!...

...I JUST CAN'T CONCENTRATE ...



MAYBE A LITTLE FRESH AIR WILL CLEAR OUT THE COBWEBS...



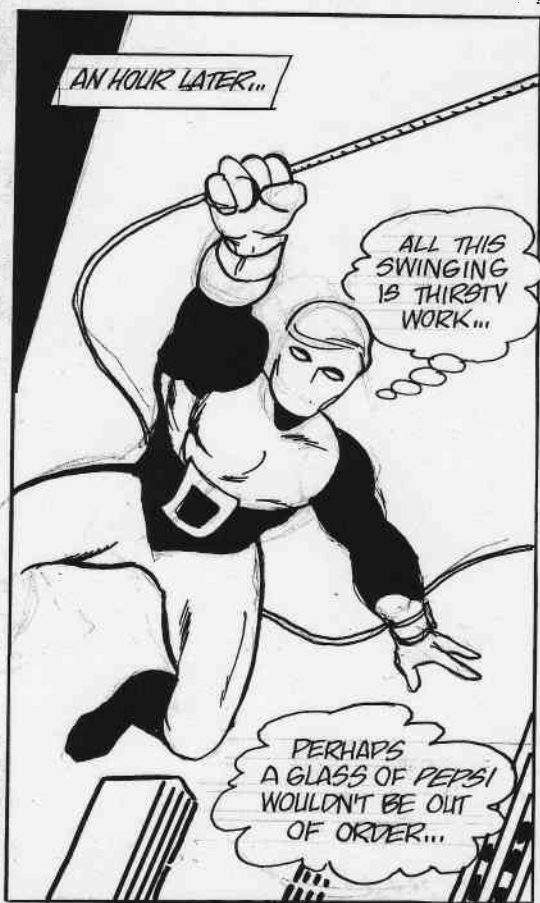
WHO AM I KIDDING?



... COMPARED TO JUMPING AROUND TOWN LIKE A COMIC BOOK HERO ...



... WRITING ARTICLES COMES IN A VERY DISTANT SECOND!

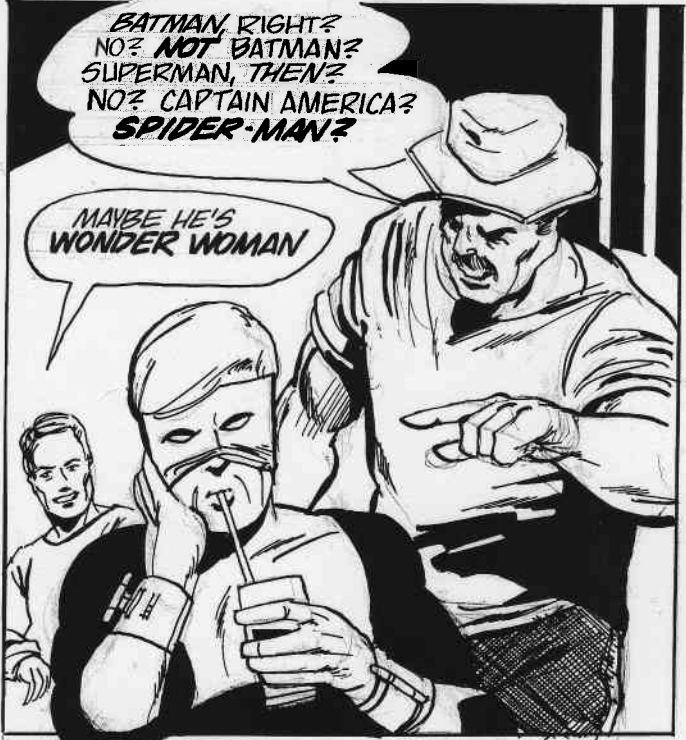


AN HOUR LATER...

ALL THIS SWINGING IS THIRSTY WORK...

PERHAPS A GLASS OF PEPSI WOULDN'T BE OUT OF ORDER...

THE DYNAMO SOON FINDS THERE'S ONE IN EVERY RESTAURANT...



BATMAN, RIGHT?
NO? NOT BATMAN?
SUPERMAN, THEN?
NO? CAPTAIN AMERICA?
SPIDER-MAN?

MAYBE HE'S WONDER WOMAN

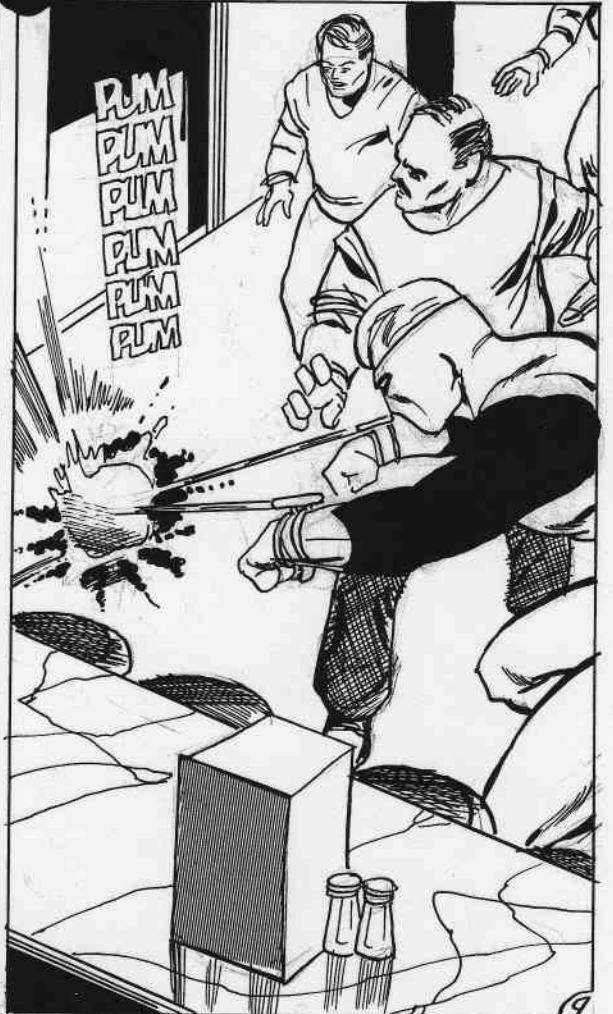


HAW-HAW!
IS THAT IT, KID?
ARE YOU REALLY WONDER WOMAN?

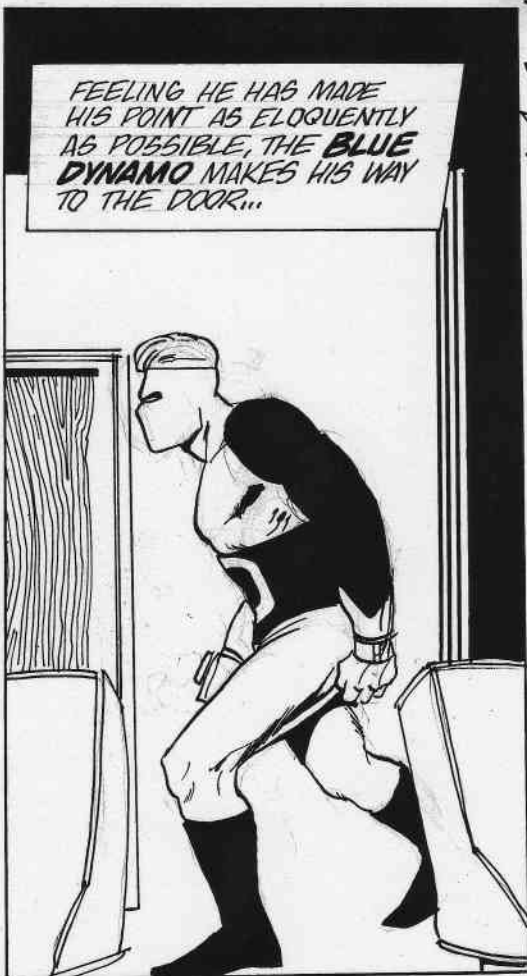


PUM

...eh?



PUM
PUM
PUM
PUM
PUM
PUM



FEELING HE HAS MADE HIS POINT AS ELOQUENTLY AS POSSIBLE, THE **BLUE DYNAMO** MAKES HIS WAY TO THE DOOR...



HEY! I DON'T CARE HOW FANCY YER BRACELETS ARE... THE PEPSI IS STILL FIFTY CENTS!



WITHOUT SPEAKING, THE DYNAMO TURNS --IN THE SAME MOTION--

...WITHDRAWING TWO COINS FROM HIS BELT...

...AND PROJECTING THEM SIX INCHES INTO THE NEAREST WALL...



MARG WOULD SAY I'M BEING **IMMATURE** AS HECK...

BUT, THAT WAS MORE FUN THAN A BARREL OF **CAPTAIN MARVEL** COMIC BOOKS...



THE **BLUE DYNAMO'S** SHOCK IS REAL -- HE HAS BARELY COME TO BELIEVE IN HIS OWN POWERS WHEN HE IS CONFRONTED BY THIS...

...ANOTHER STRANGELY GARBED FIGURE, BATTING ASIDE GROWN MEN LIKE SO MANY INSECTS...

AWAY FROM ME, YOU INSUFFERABLE DOLT...!

...NONE CAN STOP THE INCREDIBLE COBRA!...

PEOPLE IN GLASS HOUSES SHOULDN'T THROW STONES...

...BUT THAT GUY LOOKS LIKE A REFUGEE FROM A COSTUME PARTY







HE WAS READY FOR **THAT** ONE! HAVE TO GET HIM MAD ENOUGH TO FORGET ABOUT USING THOSE DARTS...



THAT'S A GOOD WAY TO GET BRUISED KNUCKLES, **CUDDLES!**...

HE'S POWERFUL, BUT THAT COSTUME MAKES HIM CLUMSY--SLOW...

STILL-- IF ONE OF THOSE BLOWS SHOULD CONNECT ...



WHATSAMATTER, PLAYMATE? SUDDEN ATTACK OF STAGE FRIGHT...?

GRUNT TWICE IF YOU CAN HEAR ME...

I WANTED HIM MAD-- AND I THINK I JUST GOT MY WISH!

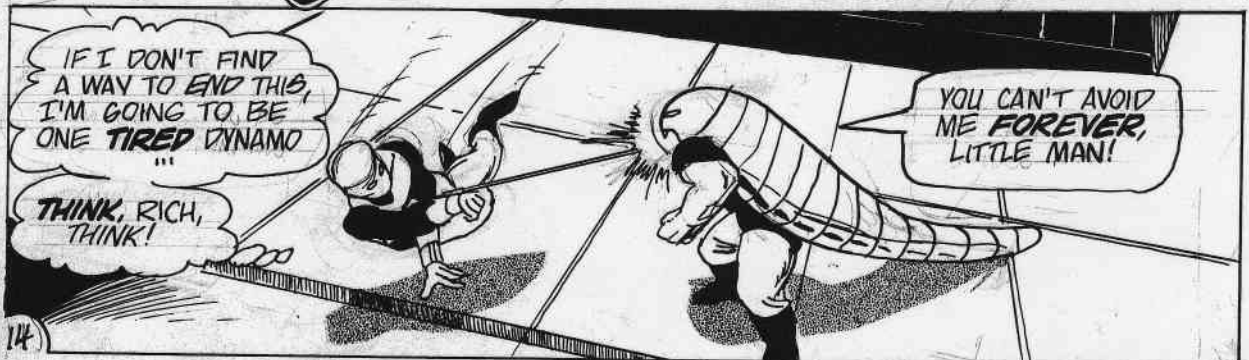
CRUP



THAT ONE HURT HIM, I THINK...

MAYBE HIS FACE ISN'T AS PROTECTED AS IT LOOKS!

THOK



IF I DON'T FIND A WAY TO END THIS, I'M GOING TO BE ONE **TIRED** DYNAMO ...

THINK, RICH, THINK!

YOU CAN'T AVOID ME FOREVER, LITTLE MAN!



I THINK I JUST GOT AN IDEA!



UNHH! WINGED MY SHOULDER THAT TIME...

I HAVE TO HOPE HE'S MAD ENOUGH TO FOLLOW ME A COUPLE OF BLOCKS

LET'S SEE HOW GOOD YOU ARE AT FOLLOW-THE-LEADER...



STILL BACK THERE, CUDDLES?

KEEP TALKING, WORM! SOON ENOUGH, I'LL CATCH YOU...

KRAK



AND WHEN I DO!



...I'LL GRIND YOU UNDER MY HEEL!

CRUNK

WHEN! HE DESERVES TEN POINTS FOR SINGLE-MINDEDNESS, ANYWAY

I'LL BET YOU SAY THAT TO ALL THE BOYS...

THE COBRA FOLLOWS AND WATCHES THE SWINGING, LEADING FIGURE FOR SEVERAL BLOCKS, UNTIL...

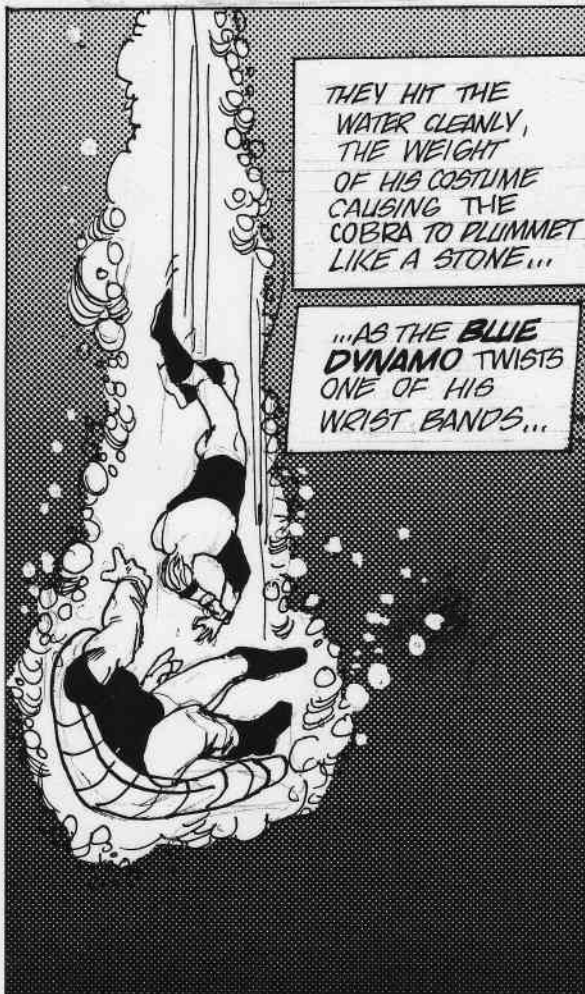




NOW!!
WHILE HE'S
OFF-BALANCE



LUMPF



THEY HIT THE
WATER CLEANLY,
THE WEIGHT
OF HIS COSTUME
CAUSING THE
COBRA TO PLUMMET
LIKE A STONE...

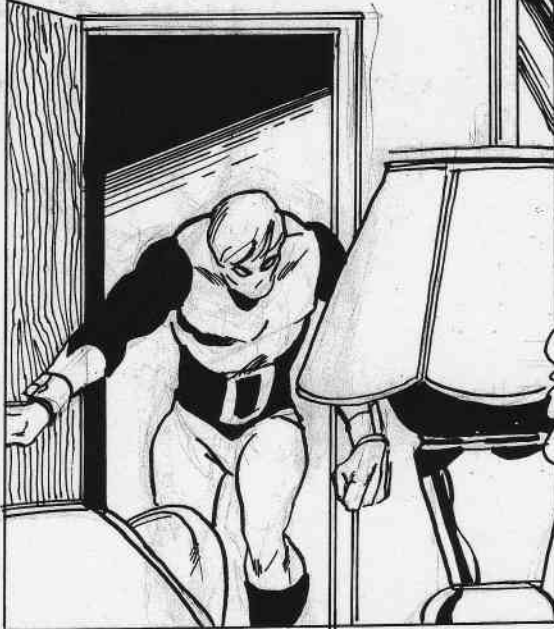
...AS THE BLUE
DYNAMO TWISTS
ONE OF HIS
WRIST BANDS...



...AND INSTANTLY SHOOTS TOWARD THE
SURFACE LIKE A BALLOON...

DON'T THINK
IT HASN'T BEEN
FUN, CUDDLES,
BUT IT
HASN'T...

AND SO, AN HOUR LATER, THE **BLUE DYNAMO** STAGGERS INTO RICHARD HAYDEN'S DOWNTOWN APARTMENT...



GOOD THING THIS BUILDING HAS A BACK ENTRANCE-- IT MIGHT BE SORT OF HARD TO EXPLAIN THESE THREADS...

I COULD USE A **DRINK**-- SAY A TUMBLER OF ADRENALIN ...



AH, WELL-- AT LEAST I'VE MADE THE STREETS SAFE FOR CITIZENS ETCETERA, ETCETERA...



MY SHOULDER FEELS LIKE A WRECKING CREW USED IT FOR TARGET PRACTICE, THOUGH! IF...

... ATTACKED SEVERAL BUILDINGS IN MID-TOWN, DOING IN EXCESS OF FIVE THOUSAND DOLLARS DAMAGE...

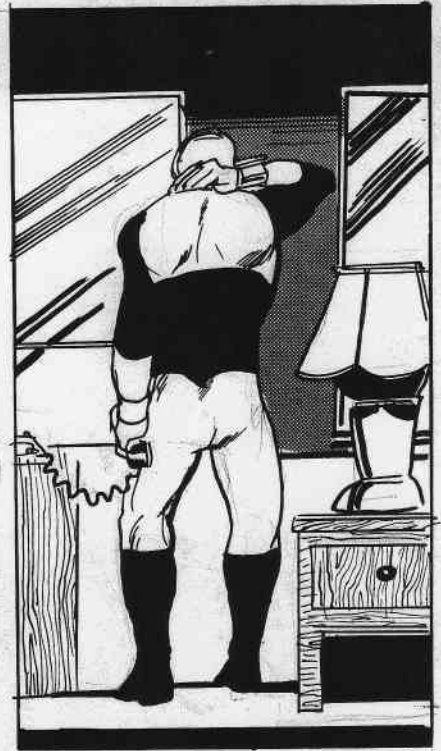
... THE VANDALS REMAIN AT LARGE AND UNIDENTIFIED AT NEWS TIME, THOUGH POLICE HAVE STEPPED UP EFFORTS TO FIND THEM...



FOR SEVERAL MINUTES, RICH STARES AT THE SCREEN, HIS MOUTH OPEN AND FIST CLENCHED...



I RISKED MY **LIFE** FOR THIS CITY AND NOW I'M WANTED AS A COMMON **VANDAL**...





THAT WAS STUPID, IMMATURE, DESTRUCTIVE, USELESS ...

AND SATISFYING AS HELL ...



STILL-- SHE'S RIGHT...

IT'S STUPID TO SWING AROUND TOWN LIKE TARZAN OUT FOR TRICK OR TREAT ...



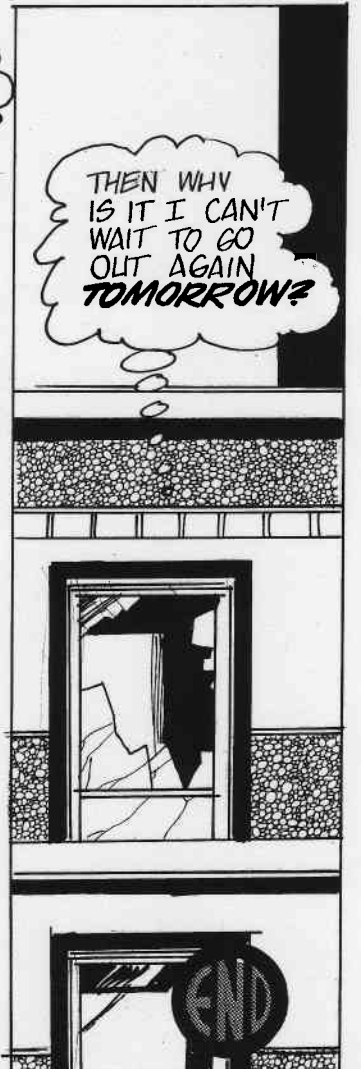
I COULD HAVE BEEN SERIOUSLY INJURED TONIGHT ...

... OR **KILLED!**



I'VE GOT TOO MUCH SERIOUS WORK THAT HAS TO BE DONE ...

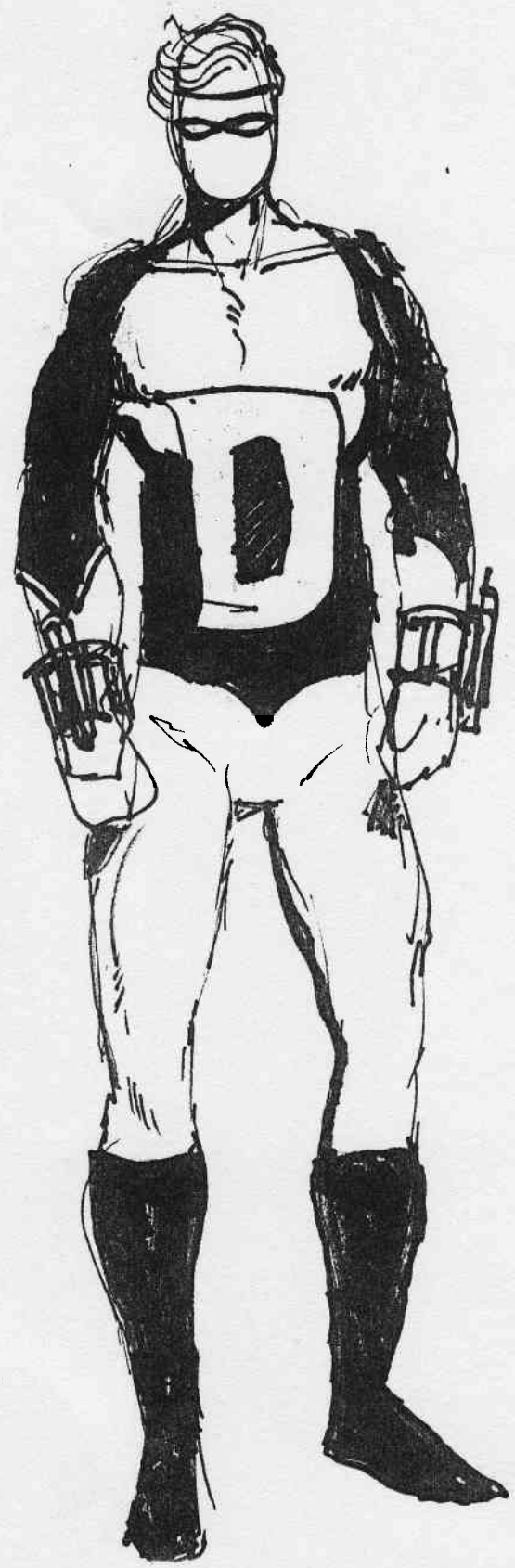
THAT CITY OUT THERE WASN'T BUILT AS A PLAYGROUND FOR ME...



THEN WHY IS IT I CAN'T WAIT TO GO OUT AGAIN **TOMORROW?**

COMICgraphics

The BLUE DYNAMO



HERO CONCEPT no 5

title: THE BLUE DYNAMO

setting: Earth, Hyattville, 1977

BACKGROUND

Richard Hayden is a twenty-two year old freelance writer. His specialty is the occult and "mystery" publications currently enjoying a renaissance. He is returning home late one night when a man stumbles towards him, clutching a bundle, and collapses at his feet. Gives Richard the bundle and, with his dying breath (he has been fatally shot in the chest), explains the contents.

philanthropist

The man is a scientist, who has invented a pair of wrist bracelets which are capable of drawing energy from any powersource and converting it into usable raw power. His intention had been to create a wide range of weapons of this sort and sell them to foreign powers (the highest bidder) for use in limited wars.

betrayal

Too late, he realized that he would not be paid for his inventions. Realized, in fact, that at that very moent, numerous agents of several nations were attempting to kill him and steal his plans and working proto-types. Even as he burned his notes and began to flee, he was shot.

end of the line

Having failed to hide his prototypes, he must now entrust them to Richard Hayden. He mkkes Richard swear that he will use the weapons only for good. And then dies. Hearing footsteps, Richard hurries off, clutching the bundle.

THE BLUE DYNAMO

The bundle contains the bracelets and a costume (wired with miniature circuitry to store energy and to tap energy sources). The bracelets are, essentially, like conductors. Although the energy is emitted from them, the truly sophisticated machinery is wired in the costume. The energy is emitted from the bracelets by snapping the wrists downward. Dials on the bracelets control the amount of energy released (from nil to full nova burst). The amount of energy that can be released is limited to that stored in the costume and it is necessary to allow a recharging period ranging from a few microseconds (tapping a power station or nuclear power source) to minutes (tapping ~~anxxx~~ ordinary household current) to an hour (solar energy, household batteries etc.).

POWER

The power this gives The Blue Dynamo (Richard) is to project heat and light, to offset his own weight (neutralize the effect of gravity on himself) to absorb all forms of energy.

THE BLUE DYNAMO IN ACTION

The result is to make the DYNAMO a kind of limited version of the Human Torch. The heat energy he would project in the course of a battle would generally not be of a level capable of burning something. Rather, he projects his energy in concentrated bursts (like water from a high-pressure nozzle). The energy is capable of shattering concrete, or stopping a car at thirty to forty miles per hour.

By adjusting the dial for full costume dispersal of energy, he neutralizes his own weight. This does NOT mean he can fly. He is capable of leaping large distances (hundreds of yards at a time) and, for example, swinging on a rope by one hand with ease (the bottom of the rope is weighted like a pendulum, so his weight is not required to move with the rope) and climbing up the side of a building by short jumps from windowsill to windowsill. He is also capable of falling from a great height without harm, due to his decreased weight.

As mentioned above, he is capable of projecting energy in the form of tremendous heat (nova burst), but the effect of this is a complete loss of stored energy and a full recharge is required after a nova burst projection.

LIMITATIONS

The costume does not increase his strength per se. The result of this is that he cannot lift something heavy out of his way. In most cases, he can smash it to rubble, or smash a way through it. But his actual "lifting" power is that of a normal adult male.

THE CHARACTERS

Richard Hayden

Richard Hayden, to put it as simply as possible, has been waiting all his life for something like this. Although he pretends to a world-weary cynicism, at heart, he still believes in magic and super-heroes. It is for this reason that he accepts his being cast in the role of the BLUE DYNAMO, virtually without question. As Richard Hayden, he is a relatively uninteresting character, subject to moodiness and with a personality as interesting as warmed-over oatmeal. The Blue Dynamo, however, represents a nearly complete freeing up of his inner self. The Blue Dynamo is brash, self-confident and devil-may-care.

Marg Becker

Hayden's girl-friend. Unlike Richard, her bland, world-weary exterior hides a bland, world-weary interior. She is puzzled by the change in Richard, and is unable to understand his interest in fighting for good and "justice" (she having long ago decided that such words have no application to the "real" world of manipulation and deceit). She tends to serve the role as The Dynamo's conscience. Where he seeks only to use the power he has been given, she doubts not only his right to have it, but its source (Was the scientist telling the truth) and its ability to corrupt Hayden (Is he using the power against the wrong people? What right does he have to use it at all?). She tends, in short, to doubt Richard Hayden is really motivated by altruism and suspects that he might be directed by larger powers he won't tell her about.

Maurice Dalton

The Blue Dynamo's only confidant (besides Marg) and the very liberal managing editor of the Hyattville Record. With a reputation as the defender of every underdog in need of a friend, he staunchly defends The Dynamo against all media and public opinion charges. Though they cannot really be called friends, Dalton is the person the Dynamo turns to when he needs to be told that he is doing good deeds (serving as the antithesis of Marg Becker's negativism).

Janet Stearns

Marg Becker's roommate. Utterly enamoured of The Blue Dynamo, Janet keeps a scrapbook of every news story and magazine article about him. She has constructed an elaborate fantasy existence in which she communicates with The Dynamo via ESP. Her every mention of The Dynamo is galling to Marg who considers Janet's fantasy world another reason that Richard's alter-ego and media image are unhealthy and destructive.

The story

In an ~~a~~ issue-to-issue sense, The Blue Dynamo is a very typical super-hero concept. What will emerge as time goes by, however, is a much larger picture.

The actual situation whereby Richard acquires his powers is larger than it seems. At the same time that he acquires the costume and bracelets, super-menaces begin to appear in the world -- super-villains who seek world-domination and the acquisition of loot much larger than the average robbery or extortion could provide. As Marg notes, with Richard having to zip off to defeat a new powerful super-villain practically every other day, "Things like that just don't happen in the real world." Although the point is lost on a populace being terrified by space monsters and city-destroying robots, it is nonetheless true -- things like that don't happen in the real world.

An alien, his spacecraft in need of refueling, has taken up residence (behind invisibility screens) in the Earth's atmosphere for a few hundred years (a few moments in their lifetime) and is proceeding to refuel in a way that is very common to his civilisation. It is accomplished by providing two or more sentient beings on the subject planet with extraordinary powers (a minor expenditure in energy) and pitting them against each other, to draw off the energy released by their conflict (a major input of energy, depending on how long the conflict lasts).

However, due to a malfunction in his equipment, the alien has allowed too much power for The Blue Dynamo, with the result that he must keep sending more and more powerful opponents against him to keep the energy input going -- the Dynamo keeps defeating his foes faster than the alien expected, resulting in a low energy gain.

This is more or less a long-term idea that will be worked out in future instalments of THE BLUE DYNAMO, and is included here more as an overview of what I am headed for with these stories, than as an actual plot-outline for the near future.

1. THE BLUE DYNAMO

episode one: "The Dawning of the Dynamo!"

outline to:
Jack Schuster
St. Charles Place
Rockville, Md. 20853

24 pages

page one

Splash page of the Dynamo swinging through the city on his weighted rope/cable. It his first major outing as a super-hero and he is awed by the ease with which the neutralization of gravity allows him to move.

page two

Encounters two crooks attempting to break into an apartment. Fight ensues which makes use of most of his gimmicks and abilities as he bests them easily (although their are a couple of minor slip-ups owing to inexperience).

page three

Sound of approaching police sirens "Wait'll I tell Marg how easily I handled these two!" Police tell him to halt, and he leaps away up the face of a building as a newsphotographer gets a picture of him escaping. He reaches his girl-friend's apartmetn and swings in the window. Sheis watching the news.

page four

He doesn't have to tell her what happened, as it is splashed all over the eleven o'clock news, along with the photo which shows only his rear end. "Well, it isn't my most flattering angle..." "Don't be so thick, Rich --- they're treating you like a joke -- like an early Hallowe-en prank..." Little mention is made of the crooks, making it sound like The Dynamo just happened to be at the location and caught making a fool of himself. "if you quit now, maybe this whole thing might be forgotten..."

page five & ~~six~~

flashback to origin of Blue Dynamo.

6 page seven

(Richard departs for his own apartment to finish writing an article on the supernatural.) (Meanwhile, across town, an electronics expert perfects a piece of headgear capable of projecting a deadly neuro-toxin contained in small darts accurately to a distance of one hundred yards, as well as a costume made of woven reinforced steel, capable of deflecting bullets.) "Too long has mankind tolerated the weak, the inferior and the genetically impure" "As Dr. George Uriah, I was incapable of changing that situation...but now, change it I will...")

I STILL DON'T KNOW
WHY I'M SUPPOSED TO
KEEP THE COSTUME AWAY

7 page eight (Chapter two)

"...as the invincible and uncanny COBRA" Illustration of The Cobra super-villain in full costume takes up 2/3 of the page. Remainder of the page is Richard trying to dredge up some inspiration to write his article.

8 page nine

Pitches pages of the manuscript against the wall in disgust at his inability to concentrate. Gets into his Dynamo costume and launches himself up the outside of his apartment building. "Maybe a little fresh air will clear away the cobwebs." "Who am I kidding? As compared to jumping around town like a comic book hero, writing articles comes in a very distant second..."

9 page ten

(Gets thirty swinging around the downtown area) and (decides to stop in at a greasy spoon for a Pepsi.) (Lots of interesting by-play with the owner and customers making "Superman" jokes) and asking him if he plans to save the world from a Martian invasion. Finally tiring of the jokes, The Dynamo removes the owner's hat and, placing it on the counter, proceeds to demolish it with small bursts from his wrist bands.

10 page eleven

Dynamo walks out of the restaurant with everyone behind him open-mouthed and awestruck. "Hey! uh -- thirty-five cents for the Pepsi!" Dynamo places two coins in front of his wrist bands and projects them six inches into the wall behind the proprietor. Muses to himself as he climbs the outside of a building. "Marg would say I'm being immature as heck, but this is better than a barrel of Captain Marvel comic books."

11 page twelve

page twelve

"I guess I got spoiled by that robbery attempt earlier -- the way this town is, I'll be lucky if I find a crime to prevent once a week, let alone every night..." But he speaks too soon as he hears a commotion on the next street. "Yahoo! Maybe there're a couple of tough guys to practice my shooting on" He reaches the edge of the building, and leaps downward under reduced gravity. "What in the..."

12 page thirteen chapter three

Full page of The Cobra under attack, smashing away his attackers and killing them with his darts, enjoying himself immensely. "Get away! That guy's crazy..." Blue Dynamo stands off to one side, ready to attack. "People in glass houses shouldn't throw stones," he thinks to himself, "But that guy looks like a refugee from a costume party."

13 pages fourteen to twenty-one

✓
17 eight page fight scene, marked by bad jokes and puns from Blue Dynamo (a la Spiderman), a total lack of humour on the part of the Cobra, and much destruction of public property in the course of the battle. The battle ends at the waterfront as the Blue Dynamo manages to drag the Cobra with him into the sea. Once there, the Cobra (trapped in his steel reinforced costume) sinks like a stone, while the Dynamo, with the benefit of neutralized gravity bobs to the surface like styrafoam.

18 page twenty-two

Dynamo reaches home where he attends to a variety of wounds and bruises -- none dangerous but very painful. Turns on the television as he does so. "...by the seemingly motiveless assault on the downtown core by two strangely costumed vandals with highly sophisticated weaponry. Leaving in their trail carnage and destruction totalling an estimated quarter of a million dollars." Dynamo is angered by the film footage which appears to show him randomly destroying buildings and property, instead of attacking the Cobra.

19 page twenty-three

The phone rings.. "Oh, hi, Marg. What? -- Not you too? Doesn't anybody believe in heroes anymore?" "What do you mean why did I do it? I thought ripping up half the city with a perfect stranger would be a nice way to kill an evening..." "Look -- I don't want to talk about it now -- I'll call you tomorrow, okay?"

20 page twenty-four

Richard musing on the "glamour" of being a super-hero. "it's stupid to swing around like Tarzan dressed for Hallowe'en"

"I could have been seriously injured tonight -- or killed!"
"I've got too much serious work that has to be done -- that
city out there wasn't built as a playground for me!" Last
panel is a view of the window of his apartment with the
drapes drawn, from the outside. "Then why is it I can't wait
to go out again tomorrow?"