

THE LAST SON OF A BITCH OF KLEPTON



A Cautionary tale by Scott Bieser

WITH APOLOGIES TO JERRY SIEGEL AND JOE SHUSTER

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IN THE FAR REACHES OF GALACTIC SPACE WE FIND THE PLANET **KLEPTON** -- A STRANGE WORLD DOMINATED FOR AGES BY THIEVES AND SCAM ARTISTS...



THIS TECHNOLOGICALLY ADVANCED CIVILIZATION CONTAINED A HIERARCHY WITH COMMON THUGS, PICKPOCKETS, GRIFTERS AND INVESTMENT ADVISORS ON THE BOTTOM ...



AND AT THE TOP, AN ELITE CLASS CALLED THE **SONZABITCHES**, WHO WERE THE MOST SKILLFUL AND SUCCESSFUL SCAM ARTISTS OF ALL, AND PRETTY MUCH RAN EVERYTHING.



OUR STORY CONCERNS ONE PARTICULAR SONZABITCH, NAMED **GORE-EL**, WHO WAS UNHAPPY THAT HE'D LOST A RECENT BID TO BECOME THE KING OF THE SCAMMERS.



TO BE CONTINUED!

THE PLANET KLEPTON --
A STRANGE WORLD
DOMINATED BY THIEVES AND
SCAMMERS AND RULED BY
AN ELITE CLASS KNOWN AS
THE SONZABITCHES....



ONE PARTICULAR SONZOFABITCH, **GORE-EL**, LOST
A BID TO BECOME KING OF THE SCAMMERS, AND
SPENT A FORTNIGHT SECLUDED IN HIS PALACE,
SULKING AND CONTEMPLATING

FRIGGIN'
DUBB-YA STOLE THE
THRONE FAIR AND SQUARE.
HOW DO I FIX HIS
CLOCK?



GORE-EL SET HIS ROBOT SPIES TO MONITOR
DUBB-YA AND HIS CRONIES. WHAT HE LEARNED
INTRIGUED HIM.

SO DIKT-CHA
IS THE REAL
MASTERMIND.

BUT
WHAT'S UP WITH ALL
THESE SECRET
MEETINGS?



THEN, NINE MONTHS INTO THE REIGN
OF DUBB-YA AND DIKT-CHA...

HOLY CRAPP!
SOMEONE BLEW
UP THE
MONEY-BIN!



THAT SOMEONE WAS QUICKLY
IDENTIFIED BY THE PLANETARY LIARS.

ROYAL OFFICIALS
HAVE REVEALED THAT THE FORCES
BEHIND THIS ATTACK WERE THE EVIL
TERRIERS FROM SODD RAY.



LNN es rule police acted within departm

KING DUBB-YA
HAS ISSUED A DECLARATION
OF WAR AGAINST THESE
TERRIERISTS.

GENIUS!

BUT GORE-EL, WHO HAD BEEN
WATCHING DIKT-CHA CLOSELY,
NEW THE REAL SCORE.



TO BE CONTINUED!

THE PLANET KLEPTON -- A STRANGE WORLD DOMINATED BY THIEVES AND SCAMMERS AND RULED BY AN ELITE CLASS KNOWN AS THE SONZABITCHES....

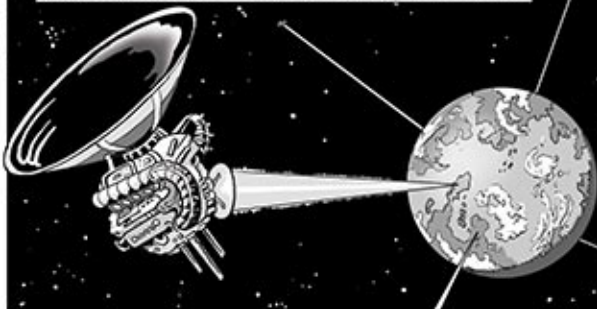


KLEPTON'S ADVANCED CIVILIZATION GETS MOST OF ITS ENERGY FROM ITS SUN, ALTHOUGH NOT DIRECTLY.



KLEPTON'S THICK ATMOSPHERE AND STRONG MAGNETIC FIELD SHIELDS THE PLANET FROM MOST OF ITS SUN'S DEADLY RADIATION -- BUT ALSO MOST OF ITS POTENTIAL ENERGY.

SO THE KLEPTONIANS CONVERTED THEIR FIVE SMALL MOONS INTO GIANT SOLAR RADIATION COLLECTORS, CONVERTING THE ENERGY TO FOCUSED MICROWAVES BEAMED DIRECTLY TO RECEIVING STATIONS ON THE PLANET SURFACE.



MAINTAINING SHIELDING AND LIFE SUPPORT FOR HUMANS ON THESE STATIONS WAS CONSIDERED TOO EXPENSIVE, AND KLEPTONIANS HATED GOING OFF-WORLD ANYWAY.

SO THEY CREATED A GENETICALLY-ENGINEERED RACE OF **TERRIERS** WHO WERE JUST INTELLIGENT ENOUGH TO OPERATE AND MAINTAIN THE EQUIPMENT, AND COULD BE SUSTAINED AT MUCH LOWER EXPENSE.

NOW, THE RULING SONZABITCHES WERE BLAMING THE TERRIERS FOR DESTROYING KLEPTON'S MONEY BIN.

BUT **GORE-EL** HAD BEEN WATCHING THE RULERS CLOSELY AND KNEW WHAT WAS REALLY GOING ON...

HELL, THERE AIN'T NOTHING HERE WORTH STEALING!



OUR EVIDENCE PROVES THOSE **TERRIERISTS** TURNED THEIR DEADLY MIKERPHONES ON OUR GREATEST MONUMENT!

THAT'S 'MICROWAVES,' FOOL

AND WE WON'T GET FOOLED AGAIN!



TO BE CONTINUED!

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WITHIN DAYS OF THE MONEY BIN
DESTRUCTION, THE TERRIERIST
MASTERMIND WAS IDENTIFIED.
TERRIER RUSH BOWWOW'S
FRIGHTENING VISAGE WAS
BROADCAST ON ALL THE
DISSEMBLER NETWORKS.



KING DUBB-YA LAID OUT HIS PLANS AT A DISS CONFERENCE.

WE ARE
IN A WAR AGAINST
TERRIERS!

WE MUST
INVADE AND CAPTURE
ALL THE MIKERWAVE
STATIONS!

BUT
YOU SAID THE
ATTACK CAME
FROM ONLY ONE
STATION.

THE WAR
AGAINST TERRIERS
MUST BE FOUGHT
ON MANY FRONTS,
AND MAY TAKE
MANY YEARS!



BUT...

LISSEN,
MAC, YER EITHER
WITH US OR WITH
THE TERRIERS!
GOT IT?

Y-YESSIR!



THE ROYAL COURT DISCUSSES STRATEGY.

THIS IS
GONNA COST A
GINORMOUS
AMOUNT OF
MONEY.

THAT'S
SORT OF
THE
POINT.

BUT IF
WE RAISE
EXTORTION
RATES, THE
MARKS
MIGHT
REVOLT.



NOT A PROBLEM.
WE JUST HAVE THE ROYAL
COUNTERFIETER CRANK UP
THE MONEY PASSES

ROGER
WILCO!



MEANWHILE, GOR-EL
IS WATCHING VIA HIS
SPY-ROBOTS...

JUST AS I
SUSPECTED.

I SEEM
TO BE OUT OF ICE
CREAM.



TO BE CONTINUED!

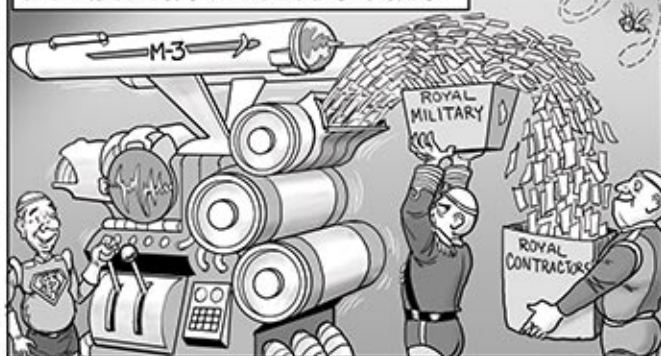
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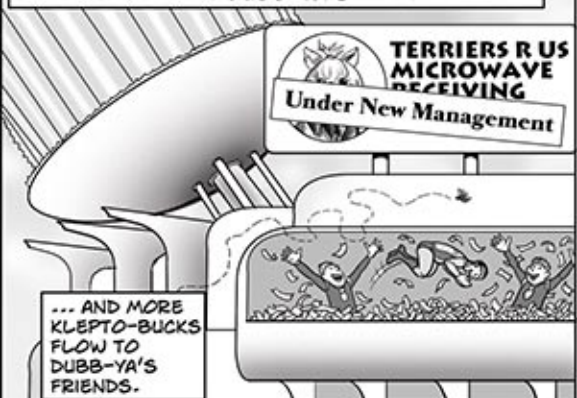
**AS THE DUBB-YA / DICT-CHA
REGIME PURSUES ITS WAR ON
TERRIERS, GOR-EL HAS HIS OWN
SPY-BOTS WATCHING THEIR EVERY
MOVE...**



**WITH THE ROYAL COUNTERFEITER RUNNING HIS PRESSES
AT WARP SPEED, BILLIONS OF KLEPTO-BUCKS FLOW
INTO THE COFFERS OF DICT-CHA'S FRIENDS.**



**THE TERRIERS ON THEIR MICROWAVE SATELLITES ARE
QUICKLY SUBDUED (BUT NOT TOO QUICKLY). NOW THE
STATIONS ARE UNDER DUBB-YA'S CONTROL ...**



**WOW, THIS
TERRIER WAR IS THE MOST
AWESOME, BEAUTIFOUS SCAM
I'VE EVER SEEN!**

**THE QUESTION
NOW IS, HOW DO I
TOP IT?**



**DOGGONE
IT, THIS ICE
CREAM HAS
MELTED.**



HHMMMMMM...



TO BE CONTINUED!

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A STRANGE WORLD
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ONE PARTICULAR
SONOFABITCH,
GOR-EL, WHO
HAD THE THRONE
OF KLEPTON
STOLEN FROM HIM
BY **DUBB-YA** AND
DICT-CHA,
WATCHED THEM
PULL ONE OF THE
GREATEST
SCAMS IN
KLEPTONIAN
HISTORY, THE **WAR**
ON **TERRIERS**.
BUT NOW HE HAD A
PLAN OF HIS
OWN....



FIRST,
I GOTTA GET BACK
INTO PRESENTABLE
SHAPE.

HELLO,
DORB-EL? GET
DUMB-EL AND **NOB-EL**
ON THE LINE.

I WANNA
CALL IN SOME
FAVORS.



WELL, YES,
I DID ONCE PROMOTE
RESEARCH ALONG THE LINES
YOU SUGGEST, BUT IT'S BEEN
DISCREDITED.

DORB-EL, I WANT
YOU TO TURN IT INSIDE
OUT, AND PUSH IT LIKE
YOUR LIFE DEPENDS
ON IT.

DUMB-EL WILL
HANDLE THE P.R.
ANGLE, AND **NOB-EL**
WILL GIVE IT AN ELITE
IMPRIMATEUR.

YOU'RE
ASKING ME TO
PUT MY PHONEY-
BALONEY
CREDIBILITY
ON THE LINE.

HOW
WOULD YOU
LIKE TO BE
THE **FIFTH**
RICHEST
MAN ON
KLEPTON?

WHEN
DO WE
START?



TO BE CONTINUED!

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GOR-EL KEEPS TRACK OF HIS
ARCH-RIVALS, DUBB-YA AND DICT-CHA, VIA
HIS ROBO-SPIES AND MEDIA CONTACTS....

SO THEIR WAR
ON TERRIERS IS GOING ABOUT
LIKE I EXPECTED....



ONLY THE TERRIERS CAN
STAND TO LIVE ON THOSE POWER
STATIONS, AND THEY ARE REALLY
ANGRY ABOUT GETTING INVADED.

SO DICT-CHA HAS
NO CHOICE BUT TO DEAL WITH
FUNCTIONARIES WHO WILL BITE HIM ON
THE ASS EVERY CHANCE THEY GET.



HEH-HEH.
LOOKS GOOD ON
HIM.

HOW'S THE
ECONOMIC OUTLOOK,
KRUG-NAM?

WE GOT
TROUBLE,
BOSS.



THE ROYAL COUNTERFEITER
HAS BOUGHT THREE MORE WARP-9
PRINTING PRESSES TO CREATE MONEY FOR
THE WAR, AND AT THE RATE THEY'RE GOING,
THE KLEPTO-BUCK WILL BE WORTHLESS
IN ANOTHER TWO YEARS.

JUST REMEMBER,
YOU DIDN'T HEAR THAT
FROM ME.



RI-I-I-GHT.

LOOKS LIKE I
BETTER KICK MY OWN
SCAM INTO HIGH GEAR.. BUT
I'M STILL NOT DOWN TO MY
SCAMMING TRIM.

THIS
CALLS FOR
INCONVENIENT
MEASURES.



TO BE CONTINUED!

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GOR-EL'S HOME:

PLEASE
FORGIVE THE
INTRUSION, SIR, BUT
YOU SAID TO DELIVER
MY REPORT IN
PERSON AND
...



--WHUH?

IT'S OKAY,
DORB-EL, YOU'RE A
LITTLE EARLIER THAN
I EXPECTED.



GIVE ME THE
SUMMARY AND THEN LEAVE THE
DATA-CRYSTAL SO I CAN STUDY THE
DETAILS LATER.

SHOOKA
SHOOKA
SHOOKA
SHOOKA
SHOOKA
SHOOKA

UM, SO FAR WE'VE
SPENT ALMOST THE ENTIRE
BUDGET DEDICATED TO THE **SCIENCE**
FOUNDATIONS, AND THE FIRST
REPORTS ARE SCHEDULED TO BE
PUBLISHED NEXT WEEK...

WILL
THOSE GIFTS BE
ENOUGH?

WELL, ACTUALLY
WE MAY NEED TO DO
ANOTHER ROUND OF
GIFTING. THE OPPOSITION
IS BOUND TO COUNTER-
SPEND FOR THEIR
VIEWPOINT.



SHOOKA
SHOOKA
SHOOKA
SHOOKA
SHOOKA
SHOOKA

LET THEM.
DUMB-EL HAS AN IDEA WHICH
WILL CUT THEM OFF AT THE
KNEECAPS. WHAT ELSE?

ER, WELL,
THERE'S THIS **ONE**
ITEM I DON'T
UNDERSTAND...



'RECRUIT
AND
INTERVIEW
ONE HUNDRED
CONTESTANTS
FOR A
**BEAUTY
PAGEANT!**

SHOOKA
SHOOKA
SHOOKA
SHOOKA
SHOOKA
...
DING!

I DON'T SEE WHAT THIS HAS
TO DO WITH OUR PLAN, AND
BESIDES SHOULDN'T THAT
BE **DUMB-EL'S**
JOB?



OH, IT'S
JUST A LITTLE
SIDE-PROJECT
OF MINE, AND
DUMB-EL'S
PLATE IS FULL.

YOU
CAN HANDLE
TALKING TO
100 BEAUTIFUL
WOMEN, CAN'T
YOU?

UH, WELL,
CERTAINLY, SIR.

KNEW I
COULD COUNT ON YOU,
DORB-EL.



TO BE CONTINUED!

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**GOR-EL IS A MAN
WITH A PLAN:**

STEAL MY
THRONE, WILL THEY?
I'LL GET ALL THOSE
SONZABITCHES.



**GOOD MORNING AND
WELCOME TO 'THE OFFAL REPORT.'**
I'M **GORD PHULOCRAPULUS**, AND WITH
ME IS FAMED PLANETARY SCIENTIST
DORB-EL, WITH AN ASTONISHING
NEW THEORY:



**WELL, GORD,
ACCORDING TO MY
RECENTLY-COMPLETED
10-YEAR STUDY, WE HAVE
ABOUT 8 WEEKS UNTIL THE
PLANET KLEPTON
EXPLODES!**



**SIMPLY
AMAZING!
AND WHY IS THIS
GOING TO
HAPPEN?**

**IT REALLY
COMES DOWN TO
OUR SOCIETY'S
MATERIALISM AND
GREED, GORD.**



**IT'S OUR DEPENDENCE
ON THOSE EVIL ENERGY COMPANIES
AND THE MICROWAVES THEY'VE BEEN
BOMBARDING OUR PLANET WITH FOR
OVER A CENTURY NOW ...**



**THIS RADIATION HAS
DESTABILIZED THE PLANET'S VERY
CORE AND WILL CAUSE AN EXPLOSIVE REACTION,
DESTROYING OUR WORLD AND EVERYONE ON IT.**

**WOW.
YOU'RE COMPLETELY
SERIOUS ABOUT
THIS.**

**I
WOULDN'T
SHIT YOU,
GORD.**



TO BE CONTINUED!

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-- A STRANGE WORLD
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AND SCAMMERS AND RULED
BY AN ELITE CLASS KNOWN
AS THE SONZABITCHES...



GOR-EL HAS
LAUNCHED A SCHEME
OF VENGEANCE
AGAINST THE OTHER
SONZABITCHES WHO
STOLE HIS THRONE...



HIS COUSIN **DORB-EL**, ONE
OF KLEPTON'S **SCIENCE**
SHILLS, HAS BEEN GOING
AROUND THE DISS PROGRAMS
WARNING THAT THEIR PLANET
IS ABOUT TO **EXPLODE**.



AT FIRST, THE OUTLANDISH CLAIM
IS MET WITH **SKEPTICISM**...



BUT COUSIN DUMB-EL HAS HIS BACK.

YOU'VE DONE
YEOMAN WORK GETTING
THE MEME OUT,
DORB.

NOW IT'S
TIME FOR THE NEXT
PHASE.

LAUGHING
... THEY KEEP
LAUGHING AND
LAUGHING...



ARE YOU
SURE THIS WILL WORK?
THESE PEOPLE ARE ALL
ENTERTAINERS NOT
SCIENTISTS.

EXACTLY.
NOBODY ELSE HAS
MORE POPULAR
CREDIBILITY IN OUR
CULTURE.



BUT THEN, WE
STILL HAVE TO DEAL WITH
THE **ELITES**...

THAT'S
WHERE **NOB-EL**
COMES IN.



TO BE CONTINUED!

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IS KLEPTON DOOMED TO EXPLODE?
THE MOTHER OF ALL DEBATES RAGES
IN HOMES, OFFICES, CHOP-SHOPS,
BARS, RACE-TRACKS, EVERY PLACE
KLEPTONIANS GATHER.



**A TERRIFIED POPULACE
TURNS TO ITS MINISTRY
OF OFFICIAL SCIENCE
FOR ANSWERS...**



**HERE ARE THE YEAR'S
SCIENCE FUNDING REQUESTS,
MINISTER NOB-EL, CATEGORIZED
AS YOU REQUESTED.**



**OKAY,
I'LL TAKE THESE
THREE FROM THE
'OTHER' PILE...**



**AND YOU
CAN TAKE THIS LOT
TO THE RECYCLER
BIN.**



**VERY
GOOD,
SIR.**

**GLAD
YOU SAVED
MY SPECIAL
PROJECT.**



**'AN EXAMINATION INTO
PARAMETERS OF PULCHRITUDE,'
YES. A BEAUTY CONTEST.**

**I CAN UNDERTAND
STEALING THE FUNDS FOR THIS
FROM THE SCIENCE MINISTRY, BUT I
DON'T UNDERSTAND WHY YOU WOULD
DISTRACT YOURSELF AT A
TIME LIKE THIS.**



**CAN'T A
MAN HAVE A
HOBBY?**



**BESIDES,
HAVE YOU
SEEN MY
WIFE
LATELY?**

**ER, NO
COMMENT**

TO BE CONTINUED!

THE PLANET KLEPTON --
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WITH AN IMPENDING EXPLOSION OF
KLEPTON BEING BLAMED ON THE MICROWAVE
POWER STATIONS, THE POWER COMPANIES
FIND THEMSELVES ON THE DEFENSIVE.

THE
DISSEMBLER
MEDIA ARE KILLING
US, DICT-CHA!

ALL KINDS OF
KOOKS ARE COMING UP
WITH ALTERNATIVE
ENERGY SCHEMES!



THERE'S EVEN TALK OF
BRINGING BACK
PETROLEUM!

IF THAT
CATCHES ON, IT'LL
BE THE CURTAINS
FOR US!



WHAT DOES THE
SCIENCE MINISTRY
SAY ABOUT THIS?

EVERY
STUDY THEY
FUND SUPPORTS
THIS GLOBAL
EXPLOSION
THEORY.



OH, THEY
DO, HUH?

THEN I SUGGEST YOU
GUYS INVEST IN SOME OF
YOUR OWN SCIENCE
STUDIES.

BUT
THAT'S NOT
FAIR! WE'D HAVE
TO USE OUR OWN
MONEY!

YEAH, WHY
CAN'T WE USE OTHER
PEOPLE'S MONEY,
LIKE THE DOOM-AND-
GLOOMERS?



YOU
KNUCKLEHEADS!
THIS ISN'T ABOUT
BEING FAIR, THIS IS
ABOUT OUR
SURVIVAL!

NOW,
GET
BUSY!



HOWEVER...

A LEAKED
MEMO FROM THE
POWER COMPANIES
SAYS THEY ARE SPENDING
MILLIONS ON FAKE
STUDIES TO COUNTER
GLOBAL EXPLOSION
SCIENCE!



NICE WORK,
DUMB-EL.

MY INVOICE
IS IN THE MAIL,
GOR-EL.



TO BE CONTINUED!

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AN INCREASE OF PLANETARY TREMORS SEEMS TO
SUPPORT THE **GLOBAL EXPLOSION THEORY**, WHICH
HAS BECOME AS WIDELY ACCEPTED AS THE LAW OF
GRAVITY, OR THE RULE OF THE SONZABITCHES.

HEY, THIS
CREEP IS A GLOBAL
EXPLOSION
SKEPTIC!

WHAT KIND
OF MONSTER
ARE YOU?

KILL
HIM!



DUBB-YA AND **DICT-CHA** SEE THE WRITING
ON THE WALL, AND DO WHAT ANY
RED-BLOODED SONOFABITCH WOULD DO:

IF YA
CAN'T BEAT
'EM, CO-OPT
'EM.

AS YOUR KING
I AM APPOINTING THE **EL**
FAMILY TO FIND A SOLUTION
TO THIS GLOBAL
EXPULSION CRISIS.



AS LEADER OF THE EL CLAN, **GOR-EL** STEPS
UP TO DIRECT THE AGENDA.

MY COUSIN
NOB-EL HAS
ALREADY SHOWN
US THE SCIENTIFIC
DATA.

COUSIN
DUMB-EL HAS
HELPED SPREAD
AWARENESS OF
THE PROBLEM

AND THE
TRUTH OF THE
MATTER HAS LEFT
POOR COUSIN **DORB-EL**
IN EMOTIONAL
SHAMBLES.



MY FRIENDS, THE
INCONVENIENT TRUTH OF THE
MATTER IS THAT WE'VE ALREADY GONE
PAST THE POINT OF STOPPING THE
EXPLOSION. **KLEPTON IS
DOOMED.**

GASP!



BUT WE
CAN STILL SAVE
OURSELVES! FOR I
HAVE A PLAN.



TO BE CONTINUED!

THE PLANET KLEPTON -- A STRANGE WORLD DOMINATED BY THIEVES AND SCAMMERS AND RULED BY AN ELITE CLASS KNOWN AS THE SONZABITCHES...



HAVING CONVINCED HIS FELLOW KLEPTONIAN THAT THEIR WORLD IS GOING TO EXPLODE, GOR-EL OFFERS A SOLUTION:

ASTRONOMERS HAVE LONG KNOWN OF ANOTHER WORLD SIMILAR TO OURS: **EARTH.**

ROUGHLY 1,000 LIGHT-YEARS AWAY, IT WAS CONSIDERED **TOO PRIMITIVE** TO HAVE ANYTHING WORTH STEALING, SO WE IGNORED IT.



UNDER PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES, OF COURSE, THE PLANET ITSELF IS WORTH STEALING. AND WITH ITS WEAK GRAVITY AND WEAKER INHABITANTS, TAKING IT SHOULD BE EASY.

BUT GETTING THERE WON'T BE -- WE HAVEN'T DEVELOPED THAT KIND OF TECHNOLOGY.



AS IT TURNS OUT, WE DO HAVE ONE EXPERIMENTAL SHIP THAT CAN MAKE THE TRIP -- BUT IT CAN ONLY CARRY THE PILOT.

THEN HOW IN ZOD'S NAME DO YOU PROPOSE TO RESCUE 5 BILLION KLEPTONIANS?



THE POPULATION CAN BE PLACED IN THE O-ZONE. THEN I CAN TAKE THE O-ZONE PROJECTOR WITH ME TO EARTH, AND RELEASE EVERYONE ONCE I GET THERE.

THE O-ZONE? THAT'S WHERE WE SEND OUR ANARCHISTS! ARE YOU CRAZY?



WELL, YOU CAN ALWAYS STAY HERE AND GET BLOWN UP WITH THE PLANET.

I'M SURE THE TERRIERS WOULD LOVE SOMEONE TO KEEP THEM COMPANY IN THE FINAL DAYS.



TO BE CONTINUED!

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**GOR-EL'S SOLUTION TO THE 'GLOBAL EXPLOSION
CRISIS':** PUT THE ENTIRE POPULATION OF KLEPTON IN
THE O-ZONE -- AN EXTRA-DIMENSIONAL PRISON
WHERE THEY NORMALLY SEND THEIR ANARCHISTS --
THEN TRAVEL TO EARTH IN THEIR WORLD'S ONLY
STARSHIP AND LET EVERYONE OUT AT THE DESTINATION.

SO
HOW
CAN WE BE
SURE YOU'LL
LET US
OUT?



MY WIFE
AND ONLY SON
WILL GO INTO
THE O-ZONE
WITH THE REST
OF YOU.

WELL,
I DON'T
KNOW IF
THAT'S
GOOD
ENOUGH.

AND
BESIDES, WITH
EVERYONE GONE,
WHO WILL I HAVE
TO STEAL
FROM?

OKAY, I'M
CONVINCED.



AND SO, THE ENTIRE POPULATION
OF KLEPTON MARCHES THROUGH
THE O-ZONE PROJECTOR.

GLOBAL-EXPLOSION
SKEPTICS ARE MADE
TO GO FIRST.



YOU'LL
THANK US
LATER.

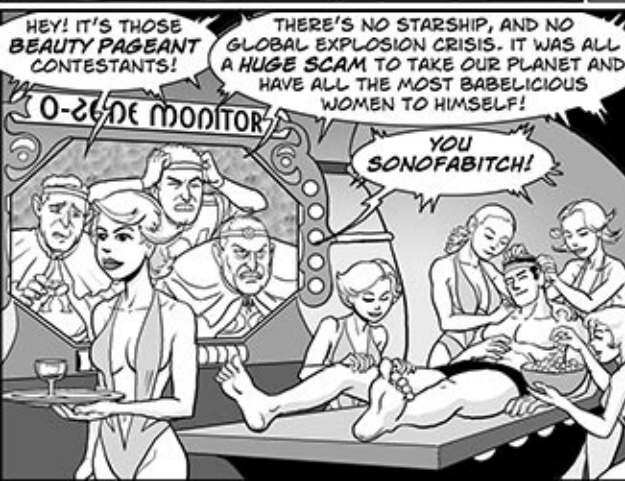


ARE YOU
SURE YOU KNOW WHAT
YOU'RE DOING?

OH,
ABSOLUTELY.
SEE YOU ON THE
OTHER SIDE.



NEXT: THE CONCLUSION!



THE END.