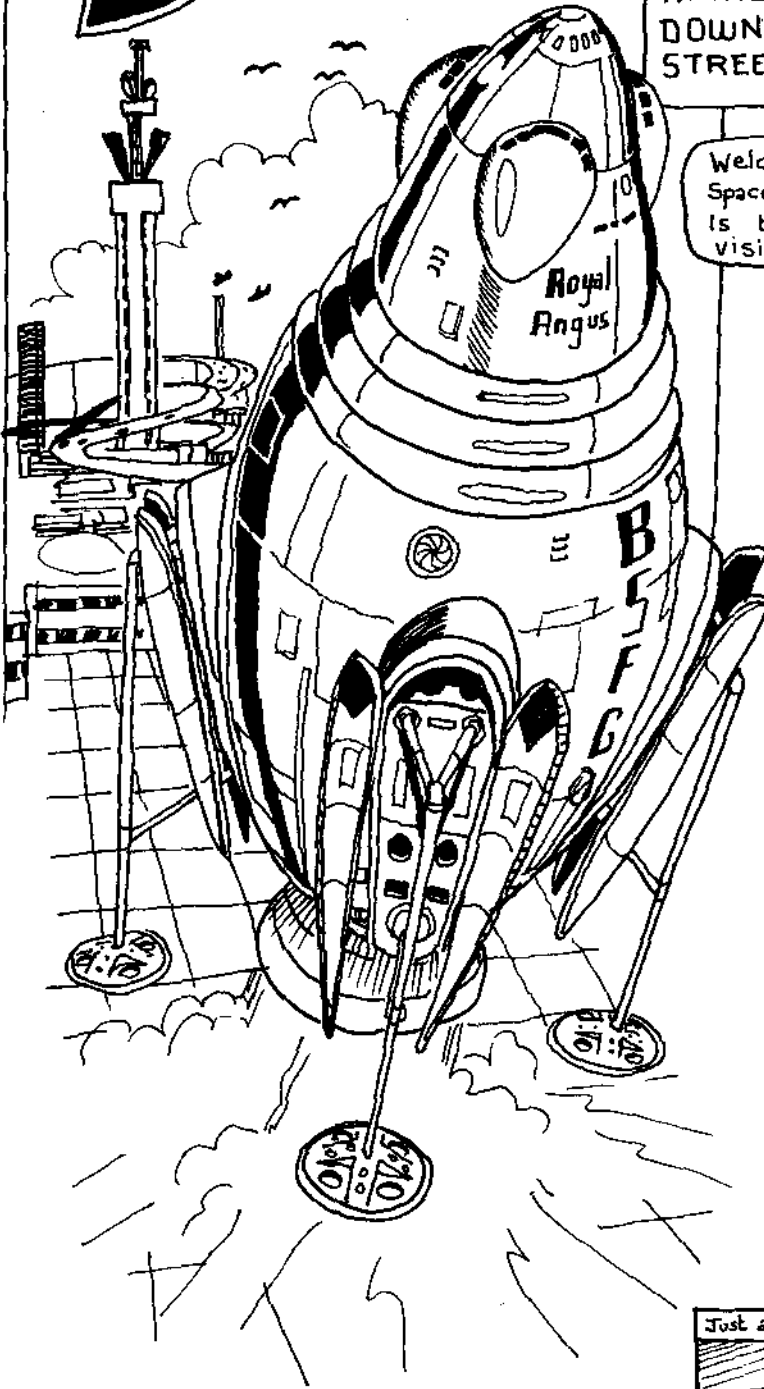


# BRUM: 2184

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BRUM 2184 - THE MIGHTY ROYAL ANGUS TOUCHES DOWN AT THE NEW STREET SPACEPORT...

PASSPORT CONTROL



Welcome to Earth Spaceman Smith... Is this your first visit?.....



Yeah, one weeks leave and I intend to make the most of it.....

OUT



Just think, me Ernest Smith, from Mars, with a week on Earth ... and in ancient Birmingham, birthplace of the industrial revolution and the most exciting and exotic city in the galaxy! - It reminds me of an old video....

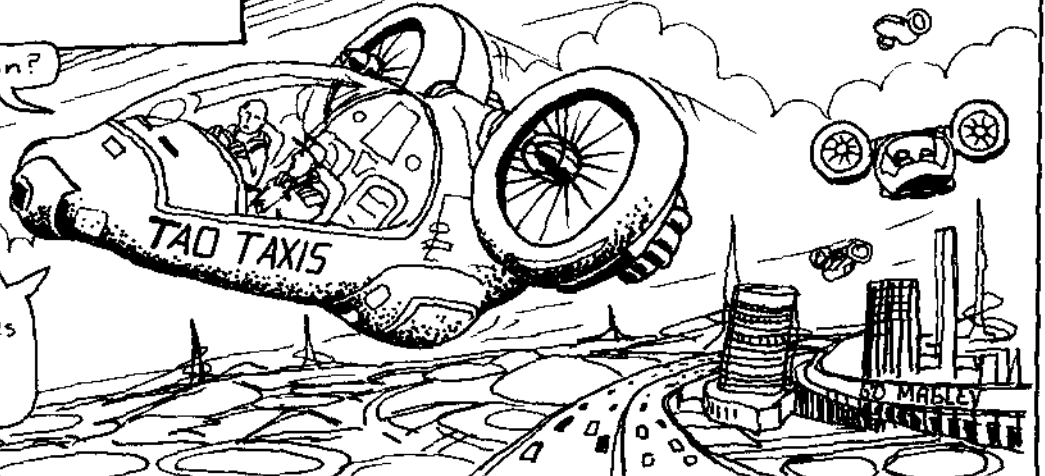
BIRMINGHAM - BIRMINGHAM - A WONDERFUL TOWN!

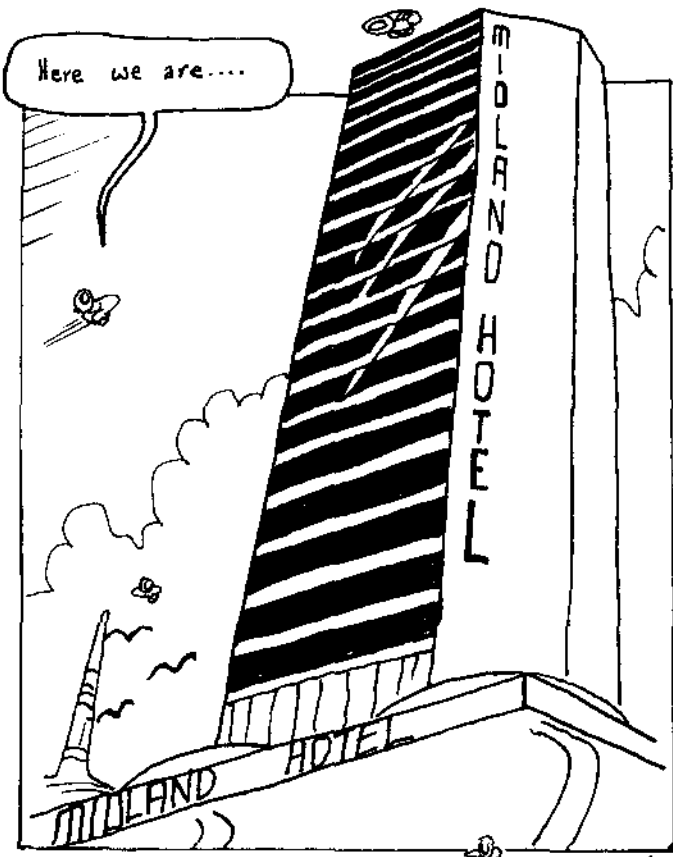
Just a few moments later.

where to spaceman?

The best hotel in town please....

I should have known. You British Space Fleet Guard types are always loaded with credit when you hit port.....





Here we are....



Here's your Key sir.....  
The local speculative fiction group  
is meeting here tonight so the  
bar will be open till late...

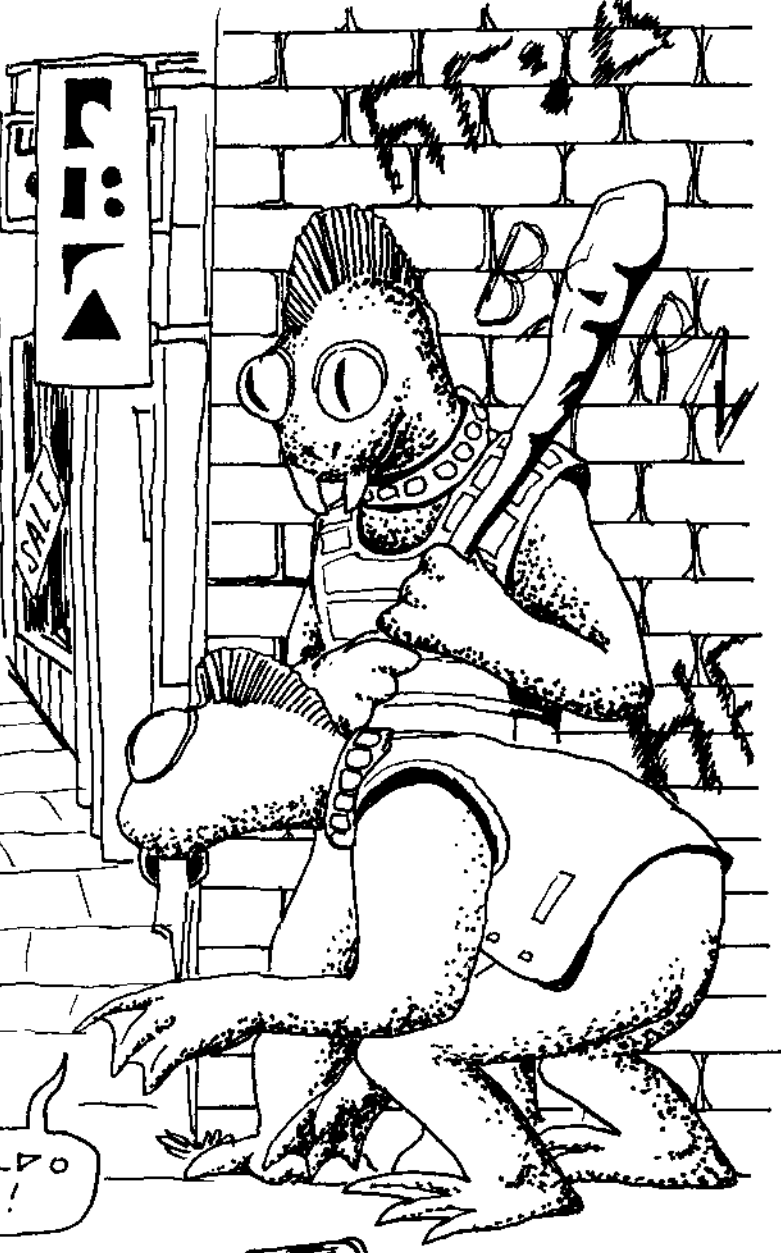
Great!



A SHORT TIME LATER.....  
ERNEST IS OUT  
TO DELIGHT IN  
THE SITES OF  
BIRMINGHAM....  
BUT HE'S ABOUT  
TO MEET SOME  
OF BIRMINGHAM'S  
IMMIGRANT  
POPULATION...

Dum de dum...

WHAT WILL  
HAPPEN?  
FIND OUT  
NEXT  
ISSUE...



ГОД:ЛЕОДВЛГО  
ЛИОГЛГО!



# BRUM 2184

The story so far - Spaceman Ernest Smith is on leave in Birmingham - He's about to meet some old friends....



JUMPING JUPITER! Xxeian and Zarrow my two old Zylan buddies! Talk about a small Universe!

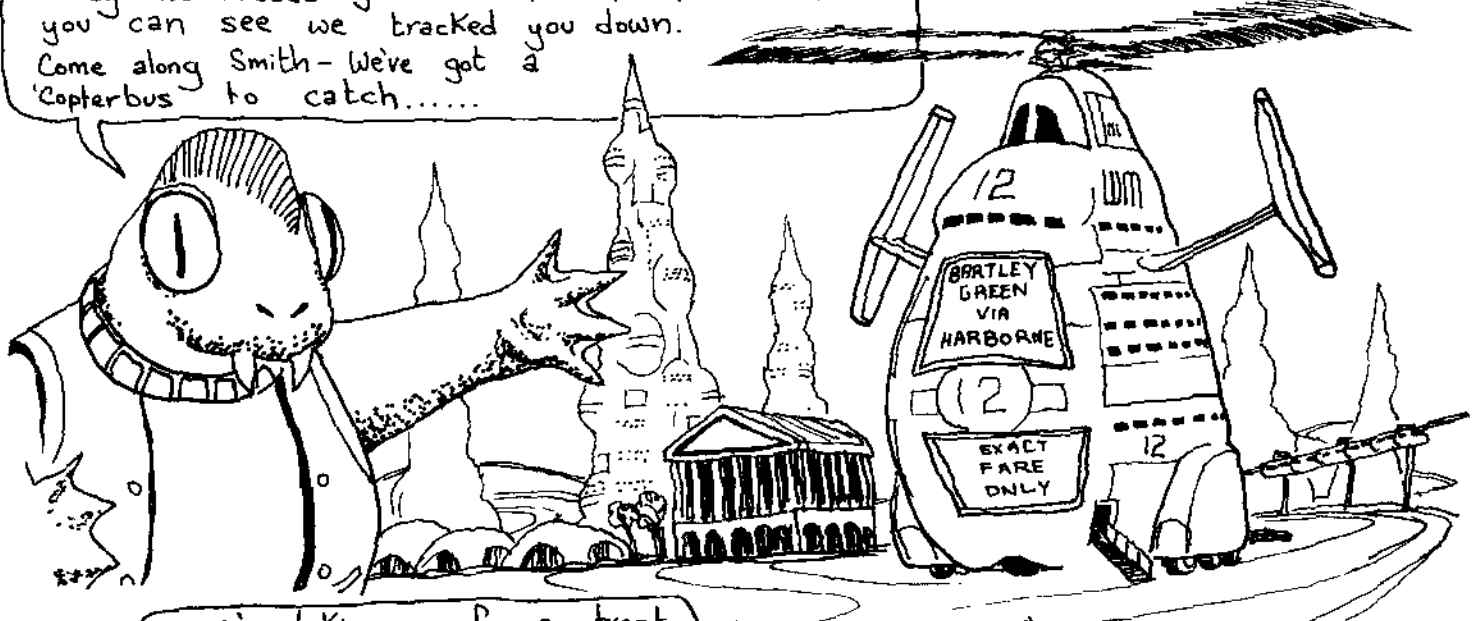
Suprise! Suprise!

GREETINGS SMITH! We offer our ceremonial Weapon to you in friendship!

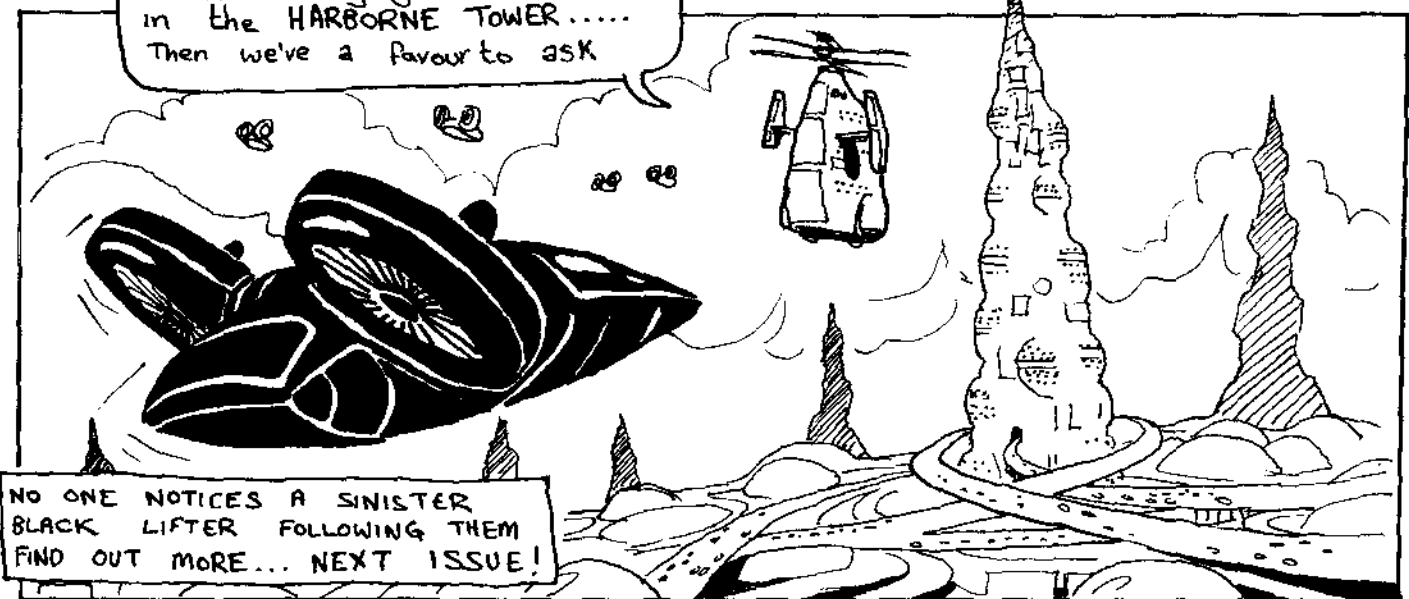
I heard you two had settled in Birmingham after your stint with the B.S.F.G!

©JohnDell 1984

We heard the "Royal Angus" was due into New Street today - We missed you at the spaceport but, as you can see we tracked you down. Come along Smith - We've got a 'Copterbus to catch.....



We're taking you for a treat in the HARBORNE TOWER..... Then we've a favour to ask



NO ONE NOTICES A SINISTER BLACK LIFTER FOLLOWING THEM FIND OUT MORE... NEXT ISSUE!

# BRUM: 2184

SPACEMAN SMITH, ON LEAVE IN BIRMINGHAM HAS MET TWO OLD FRIENDS. THEY TAKE HIM TO "THE PROGRAMMER AND DRAGON" A PUB IN THE HARBORNE TOWER.....

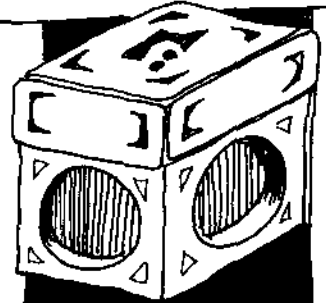
So whats the favour chaps?

When we settled here in Birmingham our father came with us....

However, he died two weeks ago....

HIS LAST WISH WAS THAT HIS ASHES SHOULD BE SCATTERED ON ZYLAN HIS BIRTH-PLACE.

WHICH IS WHERE THE ROYAL ANGUS IS HEADING ON ITS NEXT TRIP.



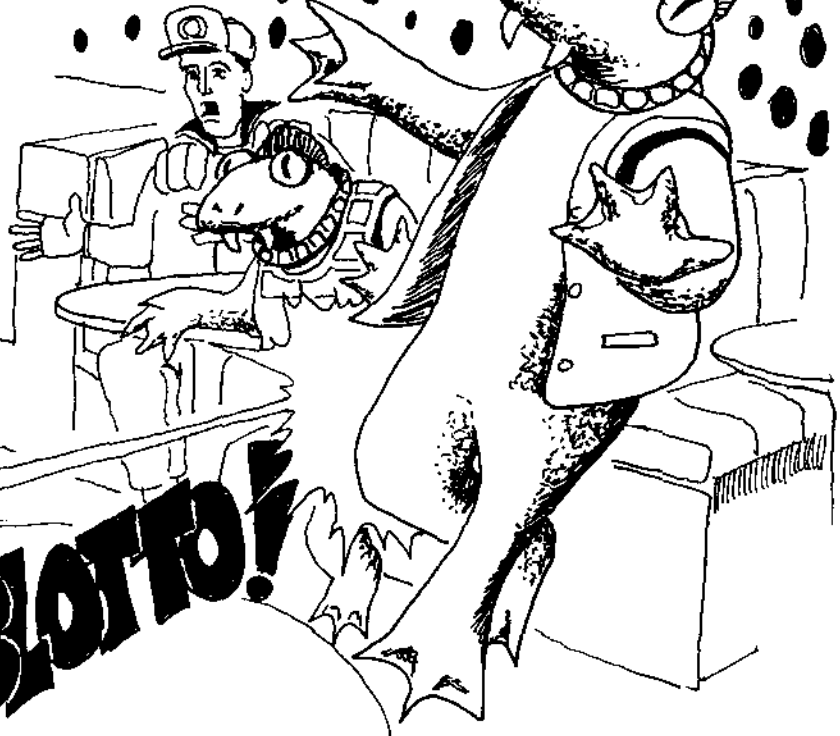
I'D BE ONLY TO GLAD TO DO THAT FOR YOU LADS....

The pilot of the black lifter watches from a corner...

A TOAST TO THE OLD ZYLAN'S MEMORY!

IT'S MY ROUND... I'LL SET THEM IN...

AAAAGH!



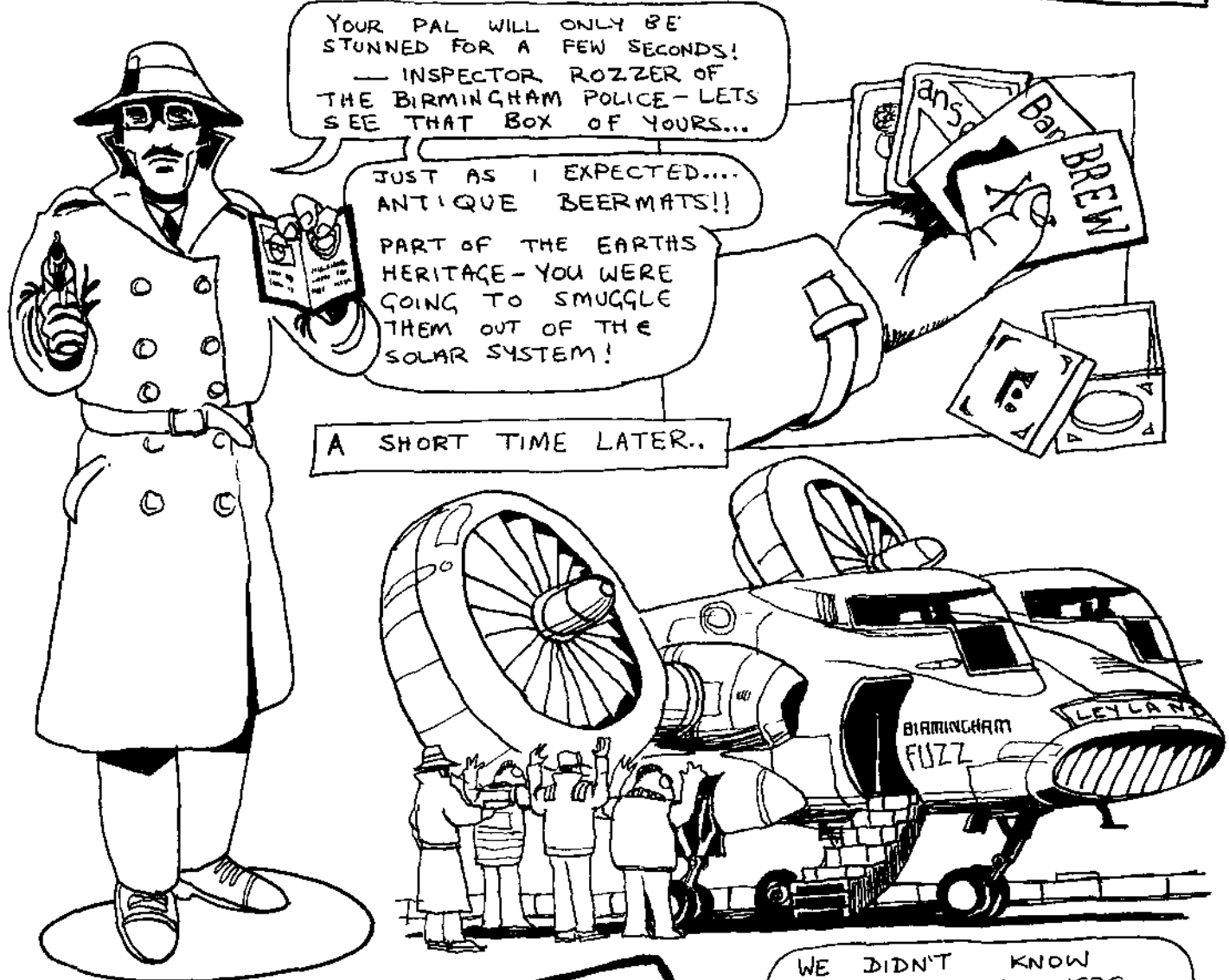
SUDDENLY....

You're not going ANYWHERE!

SEE THE NEXT EPISODE..

# BRUM: 2184

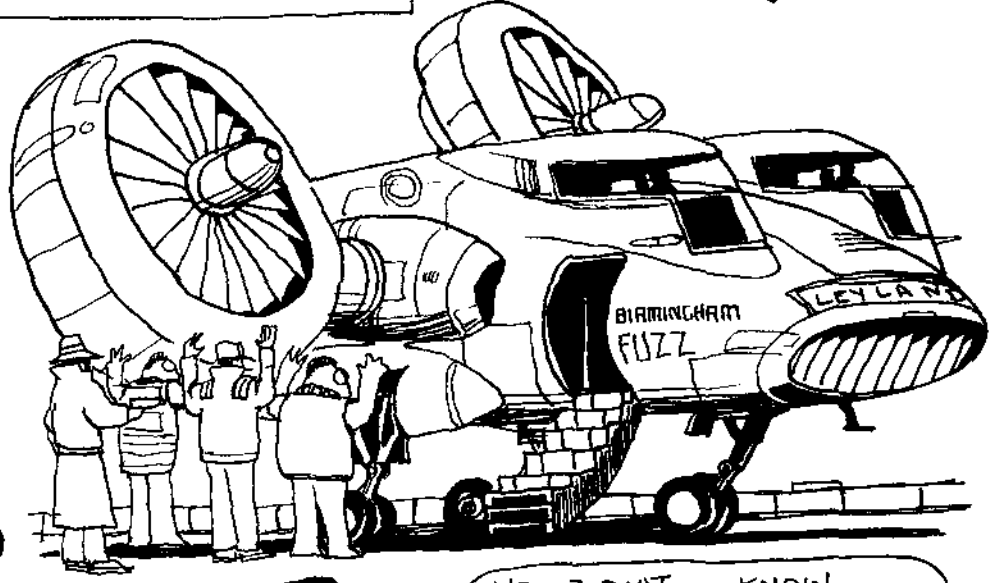
WHILE ON LEAVE IN BIRMINGHAM, SPACEMAN SMITH AND A COUPLE OF FRIENDS ARE HAVING A DRINK WHEN THEY ARE INTERRUPTED....



YOUR PAL WILL ONLY BE STUNNED FOR A FEW SECONDS! — INSPECTOR ROZZER OF THE BIRMINGHAM POLICE — LETS SEE THAT BOX OF YOURS...

JUST AS I EXPECTED... ANTIQUE BEERMATS!! PART OF THE EARTH'S HERITAGE — YOU WERE GOING TO SMUGGLE THEM OUT OF THE SOLAR SYSTEM!

A SHORT TIME LATER..



© JOHN DELL 1984

WE DIDN'T KNOW THE BEERMATS WERE THERE — WE JUST PICKED UP THE SEALED BOX AT THE CREMATORIUM!!

SO WHATS THE STORY CHAPS...



TO BE CONTINUED...

THE LIE DETECTOR TEST HAS CLEARED YOU ERNEST SMITH.... BUT THE TEST WILL NOT WORK ON ZYLAN - SO YOUR FRIENDS WILL BE STAYING HERE...

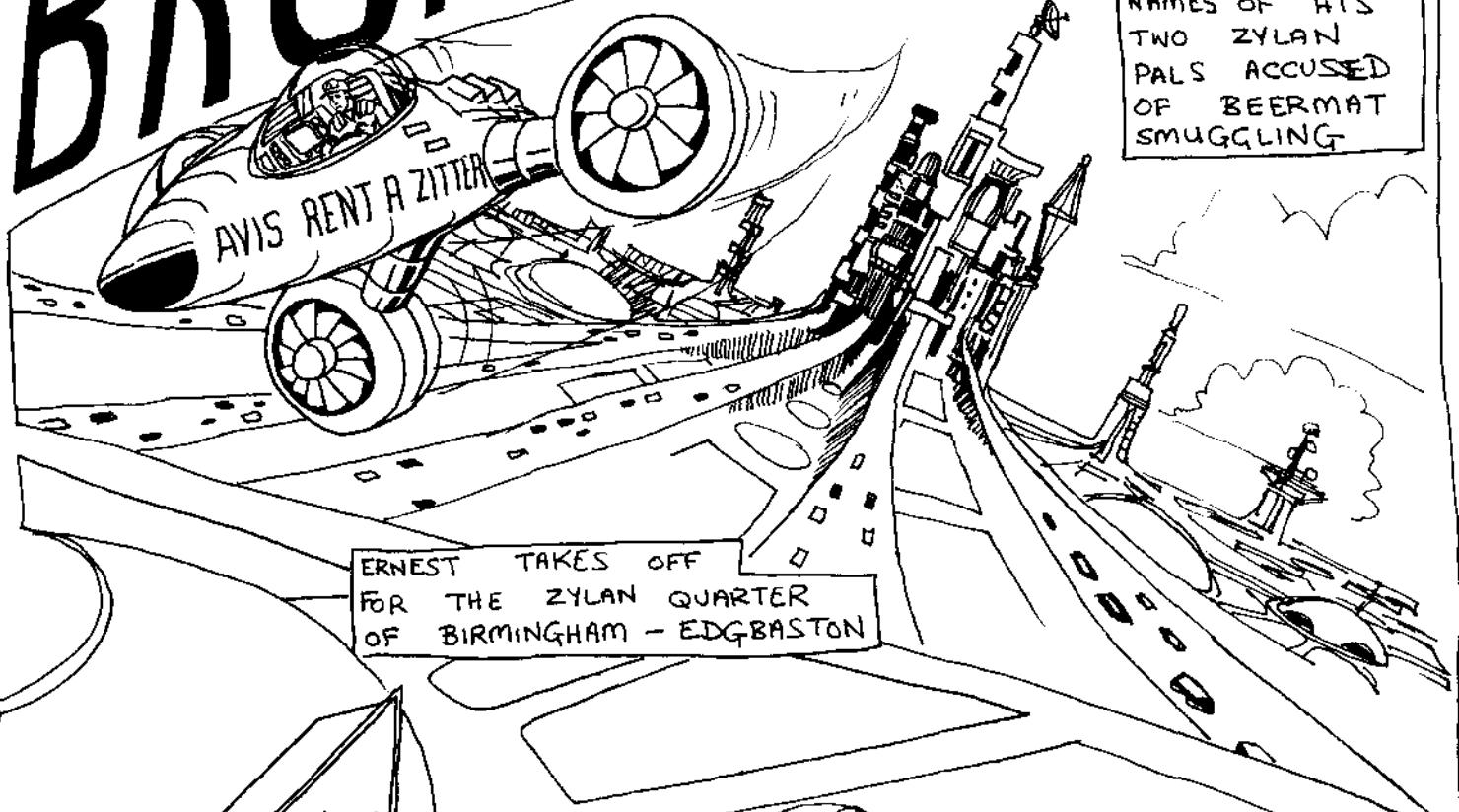
DONT WORRY OLD CHUMS! I'LL GET YOU OUT OF THIS!



# BRUM 2184

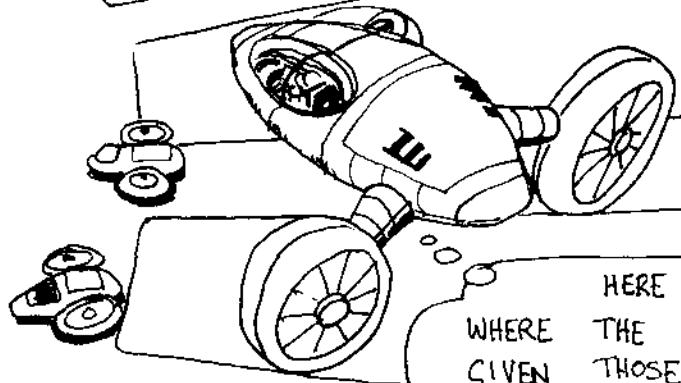
© JOHN DELL 1984

SPACEMAN SMITH MUST CLEAR THE NAMES OF HIS TWO ZYLAN PALS ACCUSED OF BEERMAT SMUGGLING



ERNEST TAKES OFF FOR THE ZYLAN QUARTER OF BIRMINGHAM - EDGBASTON

ARCHIE'S CREMA TORIUM  
TRADITIONAL ZYLAN RITES



HERE WE ARE - WHERE THE BOYS GOT GIVEN THOSE BEERMATS!



ER, HELLO - IS THIS WHERE I CAN ORGANIZE A FUNERAL?

ER, PROBABLY NOT SIR. WE ONLY CATER FOR THE LOCAL ZYLAN COMMUNITY. WE DO THE WHOLE TRADITIONAL CEREMONY, INCLUDING ARRANGING

THE TRANSPORT BACK TO ZYLAN OF THE ASHES TO BE SCATTERED NEAR THE PLACE OF BIRTH....

SO UNLESS YOU WANT TO ARRANGE A ZYLAN SERVICE THE BEST PLACE FOR YOU TO ARRANGE A FUNERAL WOULD BE JIMMYS ON LIVERY STREET...

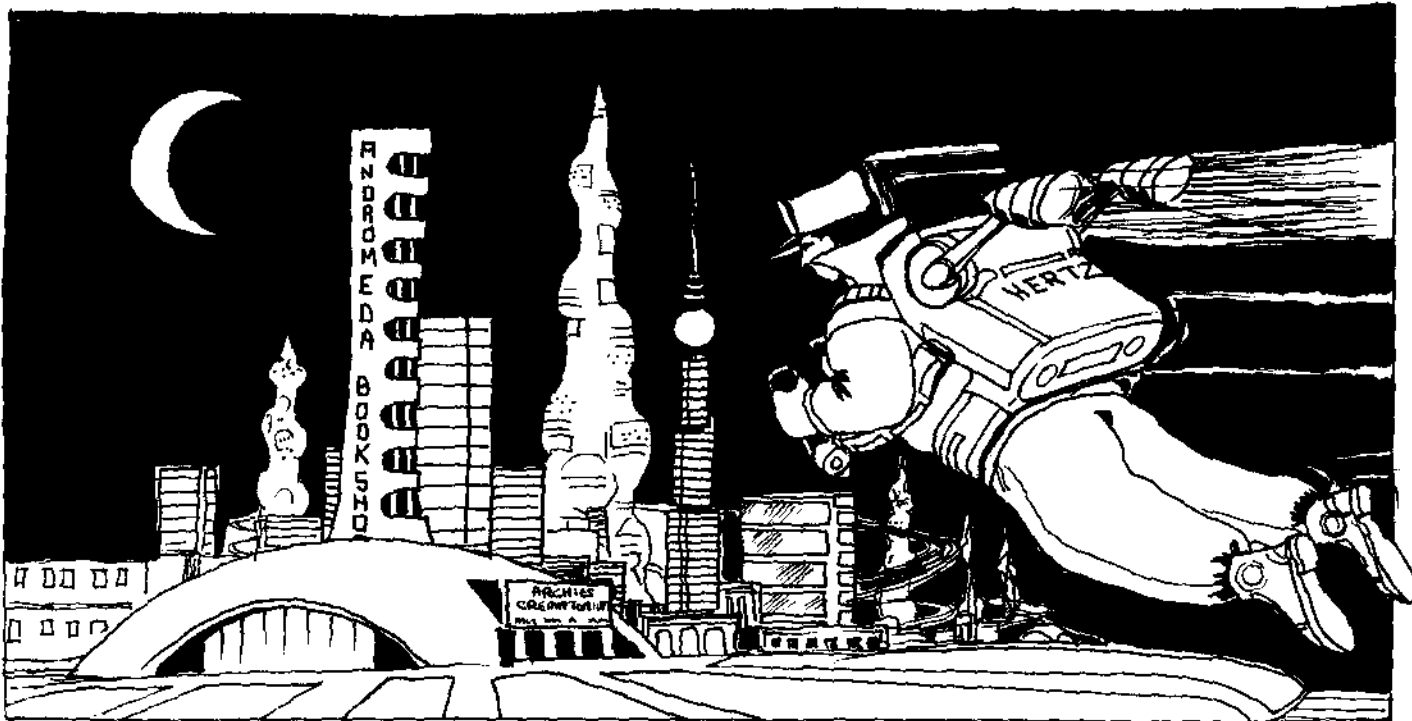
THERE'S SOMETHING FUNNY ABOUT THAT PLACE - I'LL HAVE TO DO A LITTLE SNOOPING AFTER DARK!



OH WELL THANKS ANYWAY... CHEERIO!



WHAT HAS ERNEST LET HIMSELF IN FOR? FIND OUT NEXT ISSUE.



ERNEST SMITH MUST CLEAR HIS FRIENDS OF BEERMAT SMUGGLING.....

# BRUM 2184

HIS ONLY CLUE - A CREMATORIUM CALLED - ARCHIES. -

USING A JET-PAC ERNEST ALIGHTS ON THE ROOF OF "ARCHIES"

TRUSTING LOT THESE BRUMMIES!



SWISH!

NOW LETS SEE..

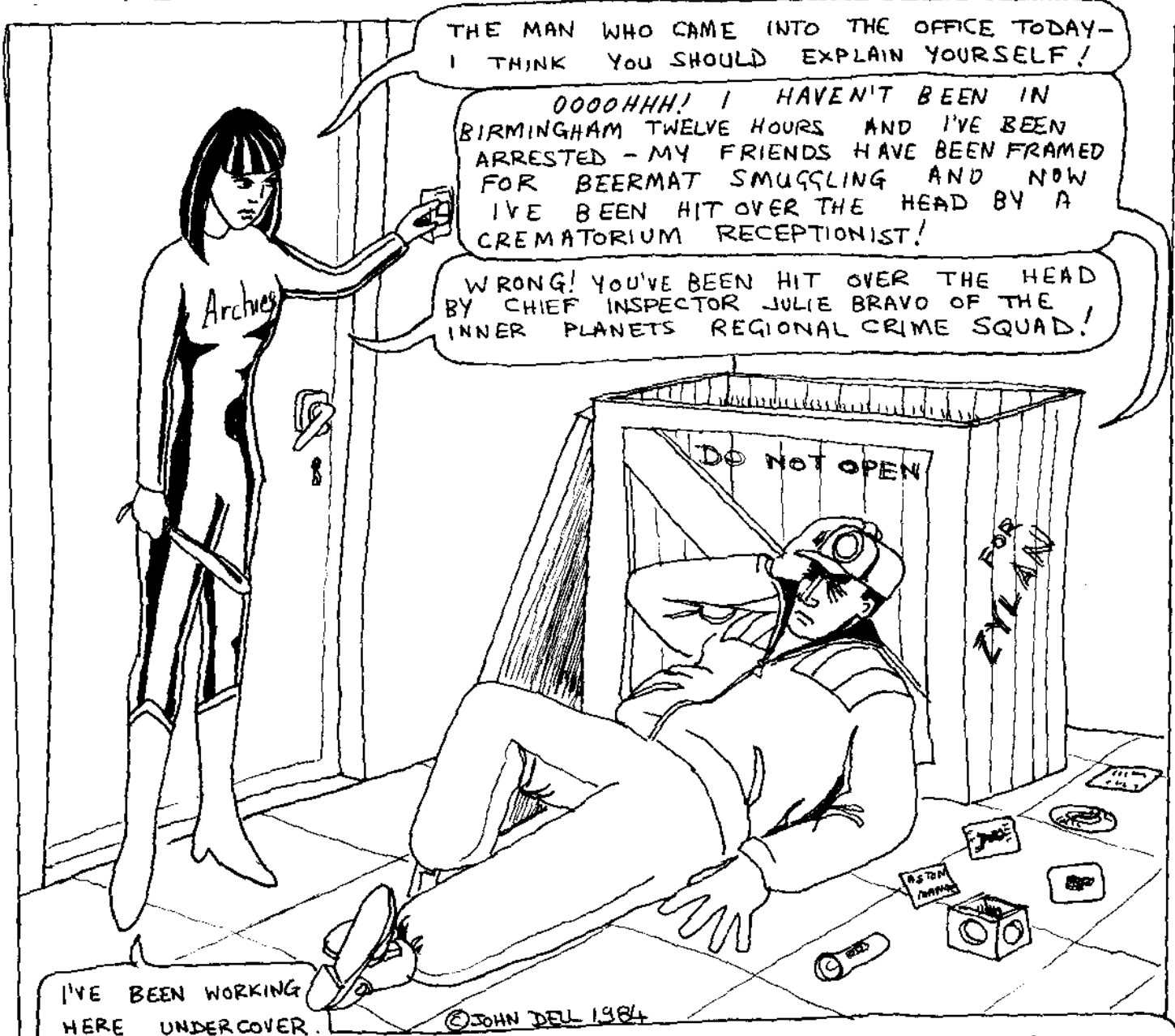
BUT THEN!



Bop!

UUG!





THE MAN WHO CAME INTO THE OFFICE TODAY - I THINK YOU SHOULD EXPLAIN YOURSELF!

OOOOHHH! I HAVEN'T BEEN IN BIRMINGHAM TWELVE HOURS AND I'VE BEEN ARRESTED - MY FRIENDS HAVE BEEN FRAMED FOR BEERMAT SMUGGLING AND NOW I'VE BEEN HIT OVER THE HEAD BY A CREMATORIUM RECEPTIONIST!

WRONG! YOU'VE BEEN HIT OVER THE HEAD BY CHIEF INSPECTOR JULIE BRAVO OF THE INNER PLANETS REGIONAL CRIME SQUAD!

I'VE BEEN WORKING HERE UNDERCOVER.

©JOHN DELL 1984

WE'VE SUSPECTED ARCHIE WINBURN, THE OWNER OF THIS ESTABLISHMENT, AS THE MAN BEHIND BEERMAT SMUGGLING OUT OF THE SOLAR SYSTEM FOR SOME TIME NOW - TONIGHT I GAINED ENTRANCE TO HIS STORE ROOM HERE AND FOUND ALL THE EVIDENCE I NEED - HE'S BEEN SMUGGLING THE BEERMATS OUT IN THE SEALED BOXES MEANT TO TAKE THE REMAINS OF ZYLAN'S FOR THE JOURNEY BACK TO THEIR HOME PLANET...



BUT THATS GREAT!! - WE'LL BE ABLE TO CLEAR MY FRIENDS! - YIPPEE!

NOT SO FAST! FIRST YOU MUST COME WITH ME ON A LITTLE TRIP - ON THE WAY YOU CAN TELL ME ABOUT YOUR ADVENTURES TODAY!

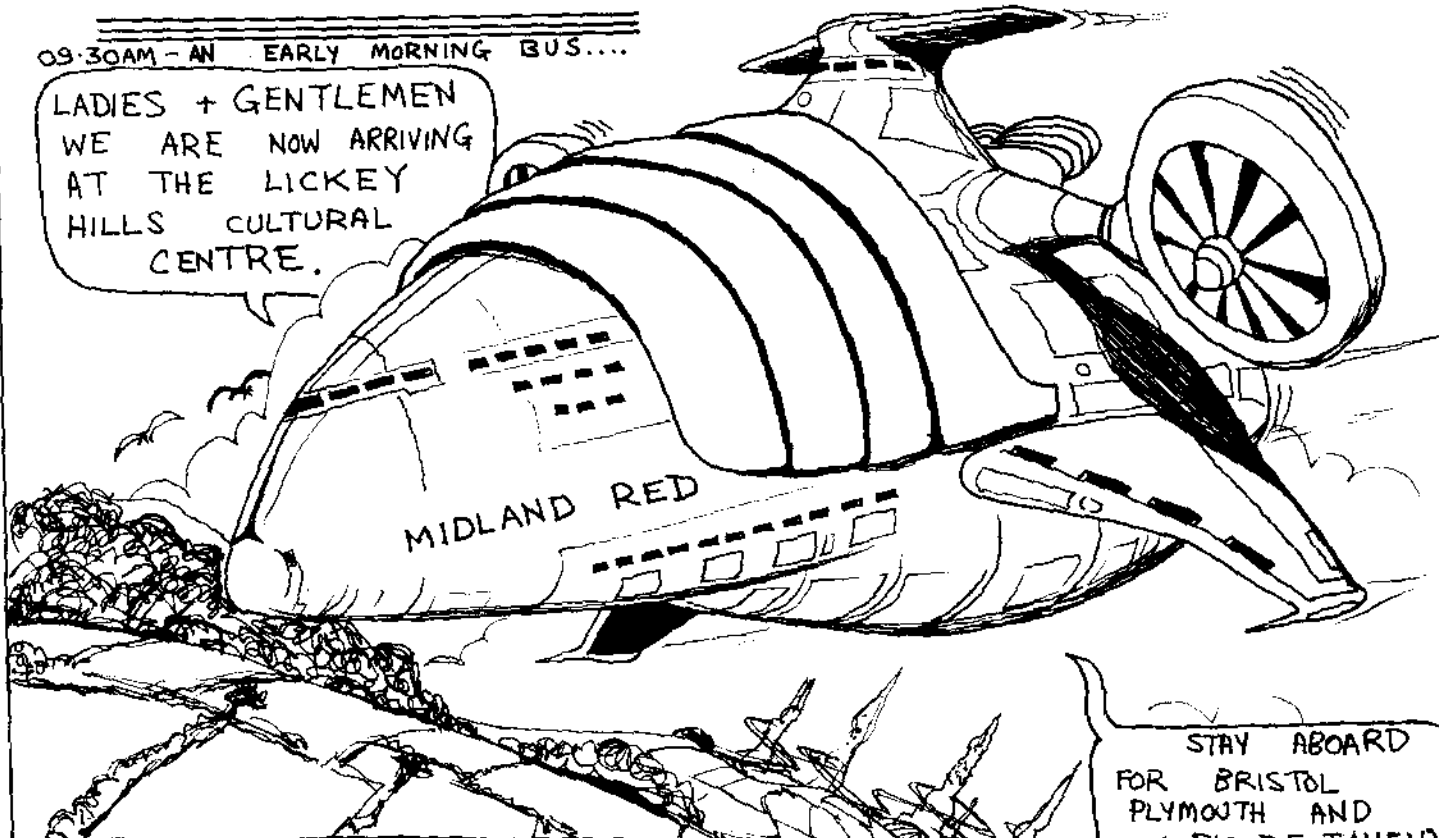
WHAT IS IN STORE FOR SMITH NOW? FIND OUT - NEXT EPISODE!

# BRUM 2184

SPACEMAN ERNEST SMITH HAS JOINED UP WITH CHIEF INSPECTOR JULIE BRAVO TO TRACK DOWN THE FRAMER OF HIS FRIENDS WITH BEERMAT SMUGGLING....

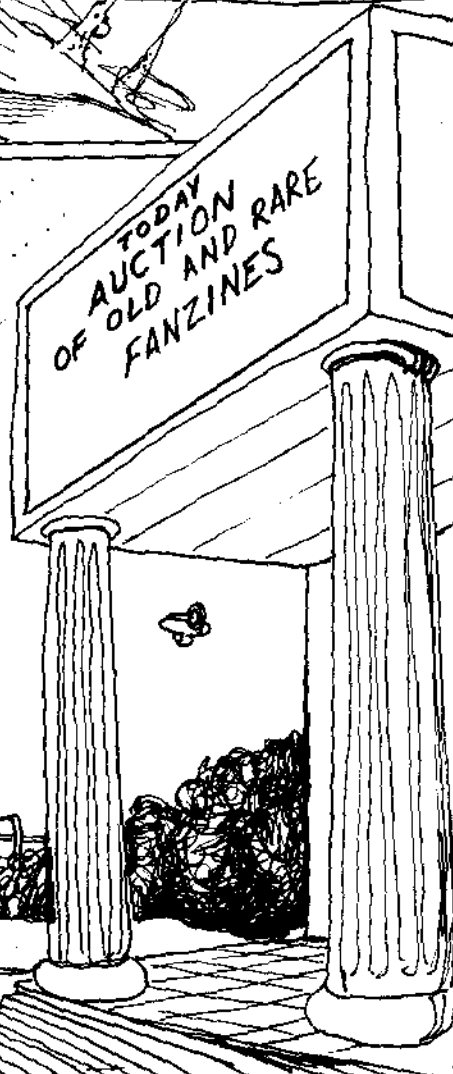
09:30AM - AN EARLY MORNING BUS....

LADIES + GENTLEMEN WE ARE NOW ARRIVING AT THE LICKEY HILLS CULTURAL CENTRE.



STAY ABOARD FOR BRISTOL PLYMOUTH AND RIO DE JANEIRO

THE DAVID HARDY INSTITUTE OF INTERGALACTIC ART? FOLLOW THE MONORAIL THEN TAKE THE FIRST RIGHT - YOU CAN'T MISS IT!



THIS IS WHERE OUR MAN IS!





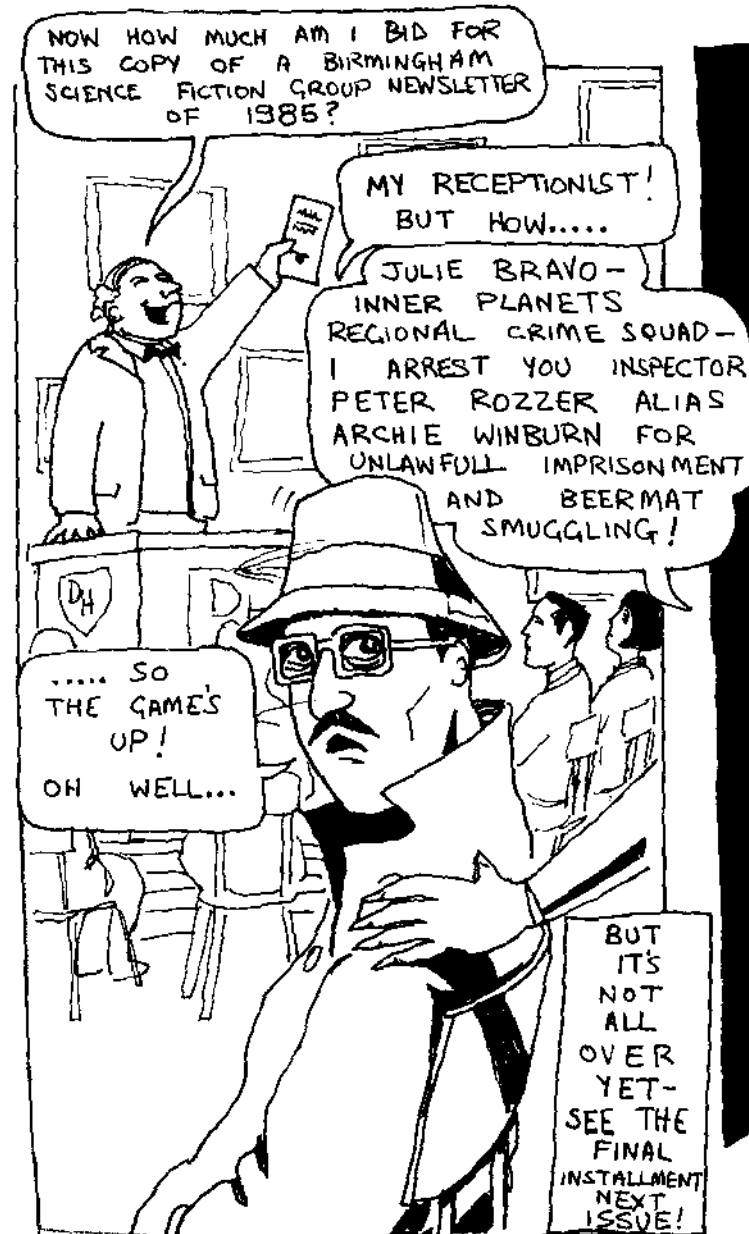
INSIDE...

THERE HE IS "ARCHIE" HIMSELF - INDULGING HIS PASSION FOR ANTIQUES!

SUFFERING SATURN - IT'S INSPECTOR ROZZER!

OF COURSE - NO WONDER THE SMUGGLING REMAINED UNDETECTED SO LONG!

© JOHN DELL 1984



NOW HOW MUCH AM I BID FOR THIS COPY OF A BIRMINGHAM SCIENCE FICTION GROUP NEWSLETTER OF 1985?

MY RECEPTIONIST! BUT HOW....

JULIE BRAVO - INNER PLANETS REGIONAL CRIME SQUAD - I ARREST YOU INSPECTOR PETER ROZZER ALIAS ARCHIE WINBURN FOR UNLAWFULL IMPRISONMENT AND BEERMAT SMUGGLING!

.... SO THE GAME'S UP! OH WELL...

BUT IT'S NOT ALL OVER YET - SEE THE FINAL INSTALLMENT NEXT ISSUE!



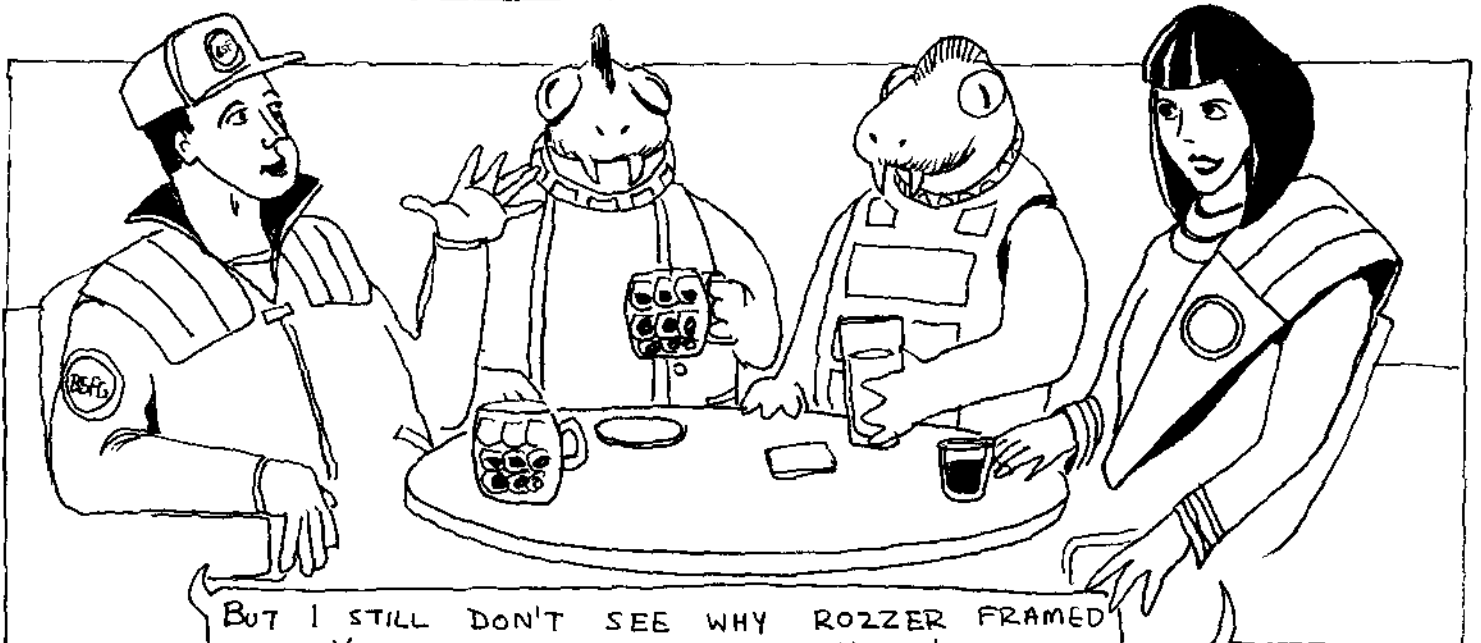
.... IT'S A FAIR COP!

AUBURN ACTUALLY!

GRON

# BRUM 2184

IN THE GENERAL WOLFE PUB  
NEAR THE ASTON GALACTIC UNIVERSITY.  
JUST BEFORE CLOSING TIME (10:30pm)



BUT I STILL DON'T SEE WHY ROZZER FRAMED  
XYEIAN AND ZARROW HERE!

ACCORDING TO RITUAL THE ASHES OF A DEAD ZYLAN MUST BE  
SCATTERED ON HIS HOME WORLD - ROZZER'S "ALL IN ONE CREMATION DEAL"  
MEANT HE TOOK CARE OF SHIPPING THE REMAINS BACK TO ZYLAN IN  
SEALED BOXES - OF COURSE HE WAS REALLY SENDING OUT BEERMATS WHICH  
WERE REMOVED AND FAKE ASHES SUBSTITUTED BY AN ACCOMPLICE OF HIS  
ON ZYLAN. - YOUR FRIENDS HERE CAME TO HIS OFFICE AND DEMANDED THE  
ASHES OF THEIR FATHER WHILE ROZZER WAS OUT - I HANDED THEM OVER  
AND IT WAS ROZZER'S ANGER WHEN HE FOUND OUT WHAT HAD HAPPENED  
THAT MADE ME SUSPECT THERE WAS  
SOMETHING FISHY ABOUT THOSE SEALED  
CASKETS -

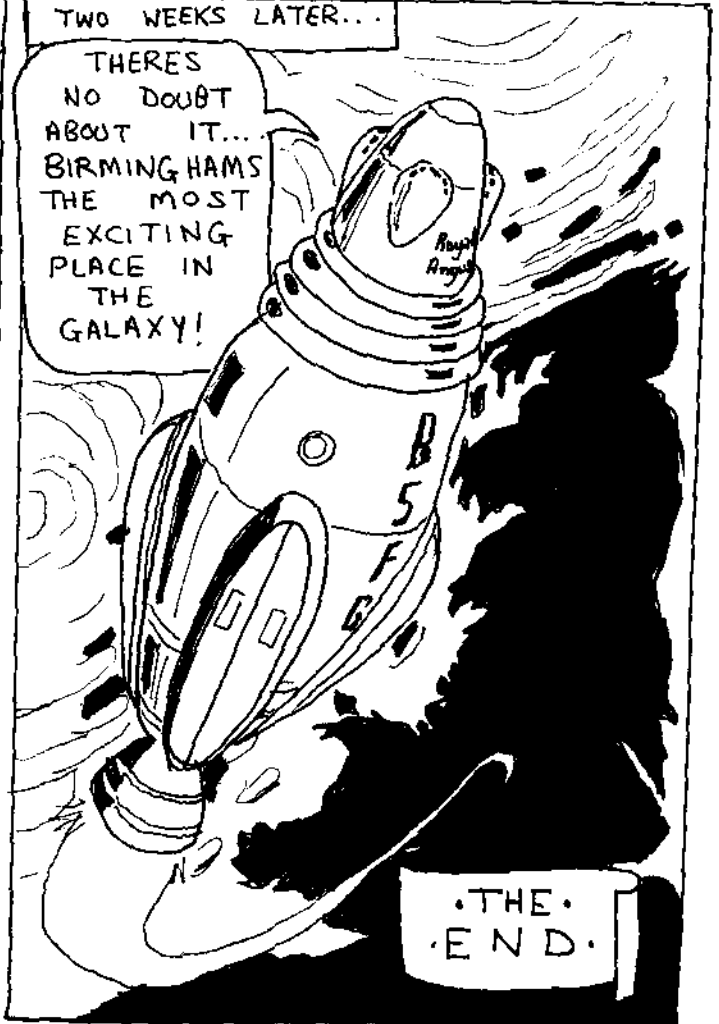
OF COURSE WHEN I WOULD HAVE COME  
TO OPEN THE BOX ON ZYLAN THE  
WHOLE DIRTY BUSSINESS WOULD HAVE BEEN  
BLOWN - ROZZER HAD TO STOP THAT  
AND FRAMING THE LADS  
WAS HIS ONLY HOPE!

WHAT ARE YOU  
GOING TO DO NOW  
ERNEST?

MAKE THE MOST  
OF THE REST OF  
MY LEAVE - SEE  
THE SIGHTS OF  
BIRMINGHAM - THE  
HANGING GARDENS  
OF DIGBETH -  
THE LEARNING  
ROTUNDA OF  
BIRMINGHAM - AND  
GENERALLY HAVE  
A GOOD  
TIME!

TWO WEEKS LATER...

THERES  
NO DOUBT  
ABOUT IT...  
BIRMINGHAM'S  
THE MOST  
EXCITING  
PLACE IN  
THE  
GALAXY!



THE  
END.