

HCU

CONFIDENTIAL

ISSUE 3

HCU

Confidential

#3

\$1.00

Pub GIRAF

Network

Sponsor U.F.O.



Welcome!!! This is the third issue of HCU:Confidential. We are glad that you picked up this copy to act as a companion to the series. Sometimes things can seem out of hand when working with so many characters or threads. Many ask will it all come together? It will. It does. Trust me! Check out the behind the scenes mini-comic part one with this issue of just exactly how Michael Faraday got his mechanical nature over in Parallel-World. I really hope you enjoy this issue!

CREDITS...

Story/Plot/Art by Jason Bullock

Letters by Hero Central Studio

Cover by Jason Bullock & colors by Steve Lisefski

Publisher – GIRAFNetwork

Sponsor- United fanzine Organization

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HeroCentralUniverse, while starting out as a side project in indie publishing, has grown into its own diverse universe of characters, conflicts, and manifest destiny. The heroes and villains are often times self appointed driven even if they are somewhat misguided. How can one tread morality of black and white in a world of grey?

Over the initial issues everyone has seen that the gods and heroes of the Pantheon Rising took to respond to the threat of the evil that was loosed from its warded cloister. Six months into their search, the Pantheon found that evil had grown craftier than in eons past. It simply could not be found by such beings with powerful presences as their own. Evil and its minions would not come out of hiding. While Evil took to the shadows, a Dark General was risen from his grave by undead and loyal minions of magic and fringe science. Dracula soon was on the scene building his Army of Blood by creating minions to place across the globe. He allied himself with a mad German scientist, Dr. Wunderkind, to build mechanical and biological weapons that he could not. Dracula soon realized that he was raised up on the mingling of his own blood and that of his old revenant Renfield. Renfield was a threat to him while was free to roam about. It was in the bowels of Castle Stepgardt that Renfield encountered another captive of Dracula, Flora Ironwood. The General sought to make her his thrall. He was to find she could not be turned, so she was put into the Arena to become his Shield maiden. It was this psychic attack and kidnapping of the alien female plant humanoid and lover of Michael Faraday that pulled the two Parallel-Worlders into this awful predicament. Michael Faraday now fights against the Minions of the Dark General of the Army of Blood to find his love, Flora Ironwood, before it is too late. It is this quest that the two aliens attract the attention of one Sinbad the Sailor from the Pantheon Rising. He hopes they will survive to be recruited to Hero Central.

TBC...

Previously...

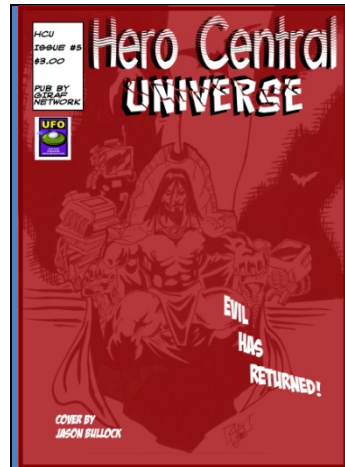
In the last couple of Issues we found out...



In Issue #4, we are given a unique look into one of the results of the Amulet of Power being loosed back into the World. It has brought about Ragnarok in the Realm of Asgard, a dimension connected to our own world from eons past in worship and glory. Sigard, the last Valkyrie and host to fallen spirits, is given the dream by Baldr of Asgard's fall and its possible return to glory. wielding the Gloves of Baldr, Sigard must hide among humankind till she

can procure the Amulet to resurrect her people. In the meantime she assumes the heroic identity of Uberfraulein. Despite her ever changing visage because of housing the Valkyrie, Sigard has a daunting task on her shoulders.

In Issue #5, our senses are shocked with the actual look into the raising of the Dark General, Dracula. Using the empowered blood of Renfield, the energy of the Amulet of Power, and the guidance of Dr. Wunderkind's fringe science, Dracula lives once more. Renfield soon realizes how he is once again disposable and worries for his life as the word has come to Dracula through the Temptress that they have captured what they believe is a changeling being or something of the Fae for their master to create into his secret weapon against mankind. Little does he know that blossoming flower is an alien plant humanoid. He only knows that it is something he desires to control.





PARALLEL WORLD,
SIXTEEN MONTHS AGO.
X-DELTA TEAM .

THIS WORLD'S ELITE
RESPONSE ACTION
TEAM NOW ON THE
SCENE OF AN ATTACK
ON HOME SOIL.

SHUTTERBUG,
MUTANT ACROBAT
AND TELEPORTER

MICHAEL FARADAY,
WEAPONS GENIUS
AND INVENTOR

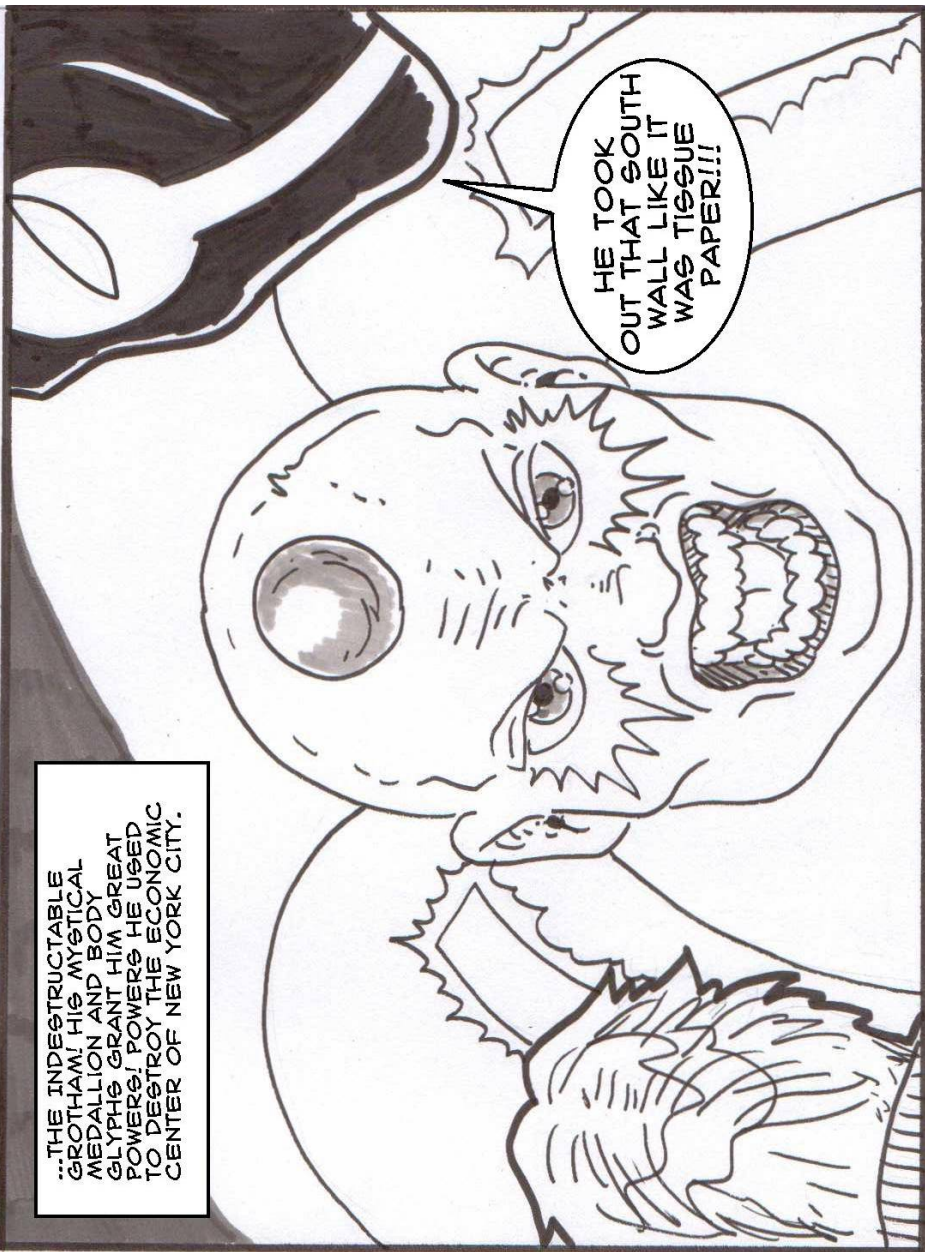
FLORA IRONWOOD,
HUMANOID PLANT
ASSASSIN

THUNDER,
SUPER
STRENGTH

THE TEAM HAS FOUND
THE CAUSE OF THE
DESTRUCTION OF THE
WORLD TRADE TOWER....

...THE INDESTRUCTABLE
GROTHAM! HIS MYSTICAL
MEDALLION AND BODY
GLYPHS GRANT HIM GREAT
POWERS! POWERS HE USED
TO DESTROY THE ECONOMIC
CENTER OF NEW YORK CITY.

HE TOOK
OUT THAT SOUTH
WALL LIKE IT
WAS TISSUE
PAPER!!!





WHERE IS
HE GROTHAM?!
WHERE IS GENERAL
KALE? WHERE
IS MY UNCLE?!

BETTER
TO WORRY
MORE ABOUT
ME LITTLE
MAN.

INTEL SAYS
THAT HE'S PRETTY
MUCH INDESTRUCTABLE
AS LONG AS THAT
MAGIC COIN IS ON
HIS HEAD.

BETTER SWITCH
TO A HIGH VELOCITY
ION WEAPON AND
NOT THAT LASER.

STORY & ART
JASON BULLOCK

LETTERS
HERO CENTRAL STUDIO

PUBLISHER
GIRAFNETWORK





OKAY TEAM.
HOW DO WE TAKE
GROTHAM OUT?
SHUTTERBUG?

SEE IF
I CAN TELEPORT
THAT GOLD COIN
OF HIS UGLY
MUG.

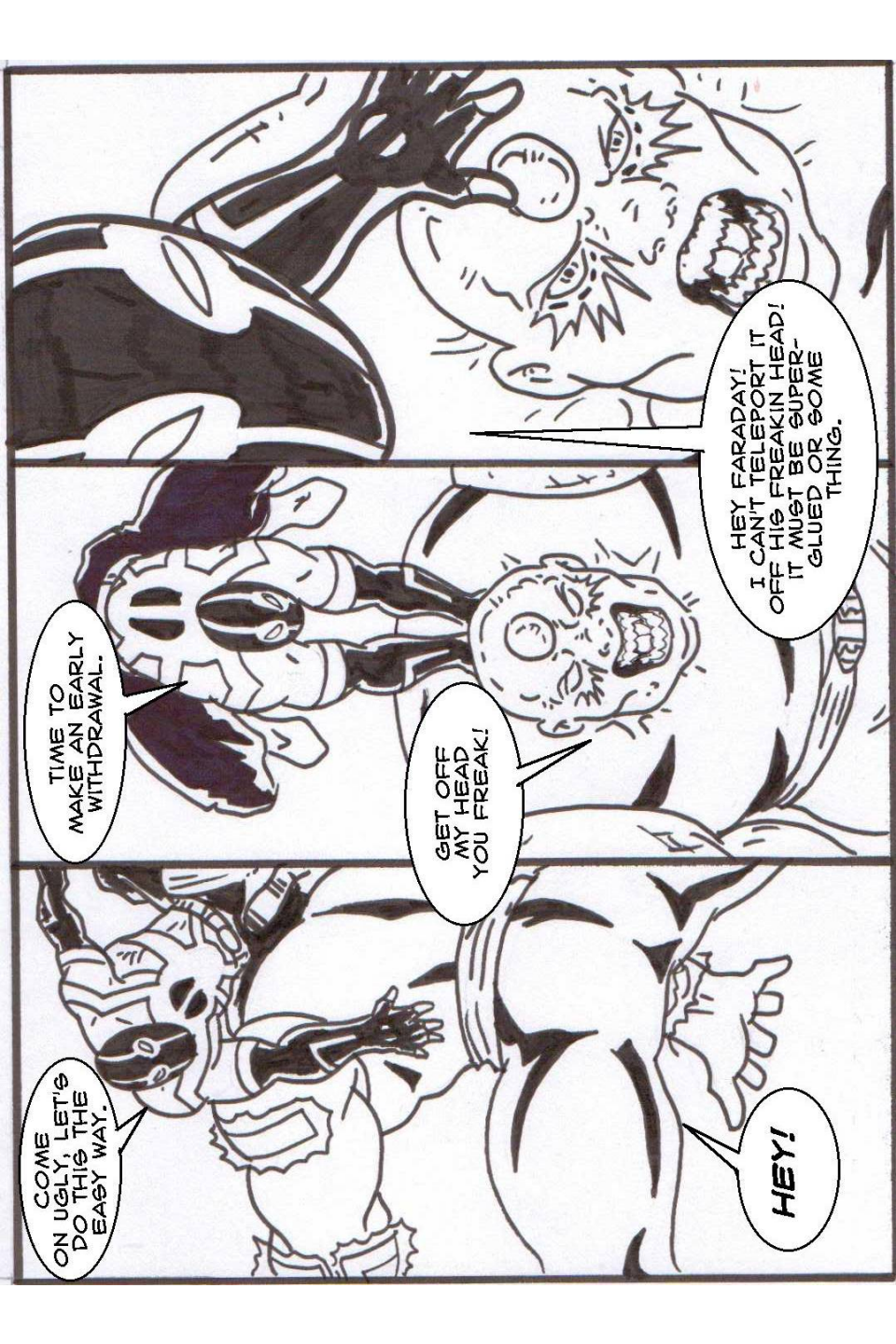
FLORAP
THUNDER?

SHIFT SIGHT
TO ULTRAVIOLET TO
SEE THE WAVELENGTH
HIS MAGIC USES.

HIT
HIM
HIGH!

**DELTA TEAM
EXECUTE
PLAN!!!**

DELTA TEAM MOVES WITH
SUCH PRECISION AS A WELL
OILED MACHINE. THIS TEAM
HAS SEEN MANY A MISSION.



COME
ON UGLY, LET'S
DO THIS THE
EASY WAY.

TIME TO
MAKE AN EARLY
WITHDRAWAL.

GET OFF
MY HEAD
YOU FREAK!

HEY FARADAY!
I CAN'T TELEPORT IT
OFF HIS FREAKIN' HEAD!
IT MUST BE SUPER-
GLUED OR SOME
THING.

HEY!

I SAID
GET OFF MY
HEAD!!!

WHAT
DO YOU SEE
FLORA?

THAT
ENERGY HE'S
USING IS VISIBLE.
IT'S A HIGH ENERGY
BANDWIDTH.

IS THAT
ALL YOU
PUNKS GOT
TO GIVE?!

TOSS ME
HIGH, THUNDER.
I'M GOING FOR A
HIGH ION BLAST!

SURE
THING
BOSS!

WHAM!

UFO CHECKLIST

The United Fanzine Organization (UFO) is a co-op of small press comics publishers and creators dedicated to setting a higher standard of quality in independent and alternative press. The members mutually aid each other in the promotion and production of their publications. Any small-press publisher who is interested in membership in the UFO should contact the Chariman, **Steve Shipley**, by postal mail at **1823 Eastgate Rd., Toledo, OH 43614** or you can email him at steveshipley7@gmail.com Visit us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/groups/42714039664/

TETRAGRAMMATON FRAGMENTS! #233:

The new issue of the UFO Newsletter that is the central forum for members, containing columns & artistic work that can't be found anywhere else. Available for \$2.00 postpaid from **Steve Shipley** (see address above).

BEYOND HUMAN #3: The continuing saga of a monstrous teen outcast and his cruel tormenters. 28-page B&W digest-size comic with color cover for \$4.00 postpaid from **Hal Jones**, **615 Mountain Springs Estates, Odenville, AL 35120**. You can email Battleline Comics at kjones003@centurytel.net or visit www.haljonesbeyonddhuman.com

DITKOMANIA #88: The "international issue" of this fanzine about comics creator Steve Ditko looks at how his work has been seen in other countries. 32-page B&W digest for \$2.50 postpaid in the USA from **Rob Imes**, **13510 Cambridge #307, Southgave MI 48195** or email robimes@yahoo.com for more info.

FANTASY THEATER #22: New adventure of the female barbarian Gloriana, plus a backup tale about Capella. A letters page (including fan art) rounds out this 32-page B&W digest-size comic for \$2.00 postpaid from **J. Kevin Carrier**, **1800 Leven Lane, Milford, OH 45150**. Email jkcarrrier@aol.com for more.

HERO CENTRAL UNIVERSE #6: Introducing Egyptian superhero Jade Scarab, plus the return of Flora Ironwood in this mythological saga. This 24-page B&W digest comic with color cover is \$3.00 postpaid from **Jason Bullock**, **P.O. Box 2684, Loganville, GA 30052**. You can email Jason@girafnetwork.com for more info or visit <http://www.girafnetwork.org>

HERO CENTRAL, JR. #1: a new series that introduces a teen superhero team! Full color 16-page digest for only \$2.00 postpaid from **Jason Bullock** (address above).

PAPER & INK #3: The newest issue of this review-zine covering the world of small-press and indie comics. This issue has an interview with *Tales of Fantasy* creator **Larry Johnson** plus many reviews or recent releases. Only \$2.00 for a 4-issue subscription from **Steve Shipley**, **1825 Eastgate Rd., Toledo, OH 43614** or email steveshipley7@gmail.com

PLAGUE #1: Sam Gafford reprints his tale of alien invasion & scientific complicity in this debut issue. A 28-page B&W digest comic book, available for \$3.00 from **Sam Gafford**, **624 Metacom Ave., Warren, RI 02885**. Email lordshazam@yahoo.com for more info.

***PPFSZT! #37:** The new issue of this classic anthology has a science fiction theme, with comics by **Dan Burke**, **Rock Baker**, **Brian Wayne Powell**, and more! Full-size 56-page B&W comic with color covers. Available for \$6.75 postpaid from **Jim Main**, **13 Valley View Rd., Brookfield, CT 06804**. Email jmain44@aol.com for more info, or visit www.mainenterprises.ecrater.com

SLAM BANG #47: Dan Burke takes over the long-time anthology (previously published by Allen Freeman) with comics ranging from slice-of-life to pure satire. This 52-page full-size magazine is printed in full color. Available for \$10.00 postpaid from **Dan Burke**, **2334 NE Holiday Ave., Unit 4, Bend, OR 97701** or visit him on the web at www.attackearth.com for more info.

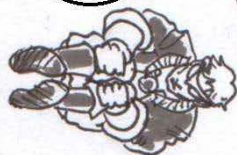
TALES OF FANTASY #58: this issue features the return of **Zooy**, this comic's signature character, in a brand new science fiction adventure, "The Mighty Yammmites" plus Dream Diary, a lengthy letters column and Space Cat. 40-page digest size comic for \$3.00 from **Larry Johnson**, **31 Greenbrook Rd., Hyde Park, MA 02136**. You can email LewBrown75@yahoo.com for more info or visit www.LarryJohnsonartist.com.

THE BRIDE OF ODD: Thick digest-sized trade paperback by **Dan Burke** containing satire, articles, conversations from the UFO Facebook page, and more. Available for \$9.99 at www.amazon.com

UNREAL #0: A new anthology comic revival of the classic zine by **Rod Snyder**, which is available *only* as a free PDF from **Jim Main**. Email him at jmain44@aol.com

VALIANT EFFORTS Vol. 3 #2: Return of The Golden Protector! Full-size 24-page B&W comic with a color cover. Available for \$3.00 postpaid from **Don Ensign**, **250-A S. Paseo Cerro, Green Valley, AZ 85614**. Email him at donsensign@yahoo.com

DELTA TEAM RESIDENT STRONG
GUY, THUNDER HAS USED THIS
PLAY ONCE TOO MANY TIMES,
TOSSING THEIR FEARLESS
LEADER INTO THE FRAY.



TASTE
A HIGH
YIELD
U-V BLAST!







HE'LL TELL
YOU PUNK, IF HE
DOESN'T KILL YOU FIRST.
HA! THAT BURN IS
ALREADY HEALING. YOU
BETTER RUN BEFORE
I CAN SEE AGAIN.

UPSTAIRS IN THE
RUBBLE OF THE
WORLD TRADE TOWER.



GENERAL DEACON KALE,
CELEBRATED WAR HERO OF
EARTH'S PRO FORCE LEGION.
HIS ACTIONS THIS DAY HAVE
CHANGED MANY WORLDS.



NOW
WHERE IS
MY UNCLE,
THE GENERAL,
GOTHAM?

WHY SEND YOU
TO DESTROY THIS
PLACE?



IS THAT
ALL THIS IS?
SURRENDER NOW
GENERAL! DROP
THE WEAPON!

WITHOUT
WARRIORS LIKE
MYSELF FARADAY,
YOUR PRETTY LITTLE
WORLD WOULDN'T BE
SO FREE. THAT
FREEDOM COSTS.

LOWER
YOUR
WEAPON.

A MEXICAN
STANDOFF,
WITHOUT ANY
MEXICANS.

GENERAL
KALE! UNCLE...
WHAT ARE YOU
HEAR FOR? WHY
THIS BUILDING?

IT'S
QUITE SIMPLE
MICHAEL. THIS
IS A FUND
RAISER.

Wiki-Myths

SINBAD THE SAILOR !

DISTRIBUTION BY
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COLLECTIBLES

Sinbad the Sailor is a fictional sailor and the hero of a story of Middle Eastern origin who hails from Basrah, living during the Abbasid Caliphate. During his voyages throughout the seas east of Africa and south of Asia, he has fantastic adventures going to magical places, meeting monsters, and encountering supernatural phenomena.

The collection is tale 120 in Volume 6 of Sir Richard Burton's 1885 translation of *The Book of One Thousand and One Nights* (*Arabian Nights*) (despite criticisms regarding the translation and the commentary of the Burton edition, it remains the most extensive collection of *Arabian Nights* tales in English and is hence often used for reference purposes).

While Burton and other Western translators have grouped the Sinbad stories within the tales of Scheherazade in the *Arabian Nights*, they apparently originated quite independently from that story-cycle and modern translations by Arab scholars often do not include the stories of Sinbad or several other of the *Arabian Nights* that have become familiar to Western audiences.



A traditional privateer for the caliph, Sinbad was never above taking a bribe, gift, treasure or lover. He was only more in love with himself than others.



Why Did You Do That?

Why Did You Do That?

This article is designed to take a few interview questions that have been posed to me over the past year about the HCU and the way its mechanics seem to have been flowing. I hope you find an answer to your question among the pages. If not then send me your question at jasonb@girafnetwork.com to answer in future issues. Thanks everyone!

1. Why did you choose those specific heroes and gods to be against the Army of Dracula?

A. Well I loved cartoons in the late 1970's and 1980s. There was a show called Freedom Force where Isis recruited her fellow adventurers like Hercules, Merlin, and Sinbad to help her fight evil from the valley of Time. I always thought those were some terrific characters that would be great to team up against a truly nasty foe in our modern era. So I took a leaf from their book and went with some of those same icons since they are public domain and added a couple more. So we end up with this Pantheon of heroes rising up against this evil force in a new age, an age without heroes to protect them. Therefore, I called them the Pantheon Rising, consisting of Isis, Herakles, Merlyn, Sinbad, Solomon, and Raiden. Each of these heroes had taken an oath to come back to our plane should an evil so foul raise its head again to threaten mankind. Once the Amulet of power was unearthed by Dracula's minion, Renfield, the heroes awoke to a new call for help.

So in homage to one of my favorite cartoons, I decided to genuflect their importance once again to a newer demographic. So ancient heroes are once again on the scene alongside mortal man after hundreds of centuries of slumber. Everyone gets to see my interpretation of how divine beings might act in the modern era on top of that.

2. Why did you decide to introduce so many characters and all at the beginning of the series?

A. I felt that once I introduced several of the Pantheon Rising characters then their own plans to create proxies in our world. They in turn could help find the evil that had risen. It wasn't a smart plan I grant you, but then the series is about showing divine characters in a more mortal bound world of truth and consequence. Even the thread with Faraday and Ironwood from Parallel-Earth, actions in our dimension have affected their universe as well. The catastrophic results in Asgard are also indicative of this once we learn that the character of Uberfraulein is the last of her kind, officially speaking, trying to rectify matters. I wanted to introduce mortal characters and alien characters right alongside the original Pantheon to populate a consolidated effort within the story to defeat the forces of evil. I beg everyone's patience as the cast makes their introduction to become the team known as Hero Central. Diversity of character leads to ultimate drama, the driving force behind most comics today.

3. Which heroes are on the team roster?

A. When the readers find the crescendo of the story arc, the team consists of Jade Scarab, Lylac Greystoke, Michael Faraday, Flora Ironwood, Dr. Sidereal, Uberfraulein, Aesys, Kachina, and Emrys. The Pantheon Rising characters Isis, Herakles, Sinbad, Solomon, Merlyn, and Raiden are acting more like mentors to the team.

4. What is the connection between Hero Central Universe and HCJr web comic?

A. Well its quite simple. Deciding that mankind needs a new generation of protectors, he decides to train his hand picked warriors. Seneca, Kineto, Kidd Achilles, Quanta, Morrigan, and Cyber One become a younger force for good against the colluding organization under Dr. Wunderkind called KRAKEN. They answer to Raiden for their missions but also

find themselves in trouble on their own. There is a crossover planned with the Junior heroes and our HeroCentral team later this year. Till then you'll have to watch our "kids" online each week to see what they are up to.

5. Who are the minions that resurrect Dracula?

A. That's not an easy answer really. Temptress is a vampyre that was created by one of Dracula's childer in the 1800's. She found the living Renfield who had lived his long life as a Ghoul on Dracula's blood. Dr. Wunderkind, leader of a mad science organization called KRAKEN, agreed to work with Temptress to raise the Dark General to command an Army of Blood. Renfield was sent to Vatican City to unearth the Amulet of Power with the intent to resurrect Dracula. It also loosed the dark guardian, the White Templar, which struck out psychically at Flora Ironwood when it was used. Dracula wants to create an army of thralls from her unique blood. with a Young vampyre terrorizing the cities of named Kendra, even the Holy Church is unsafe to protect its parishoners. Also present at the initial resurrection were Dr. Wunderkind's minions Dr. Shay, Head of Bio-Research and Major Antov, Military Field Commander at KRAKEN who is also a dark sorcerer.

Tying together ancient talismans, dark spectral guardians, undead warriors, technocratic fringe scientists, and an evil organization hellbent on world domination, it would seem that Prince Vlad Tepes has played his cards right. In a world filled with such lackluster and melancholy, the scene has indeed been set for a darker hand to bear the reigns.

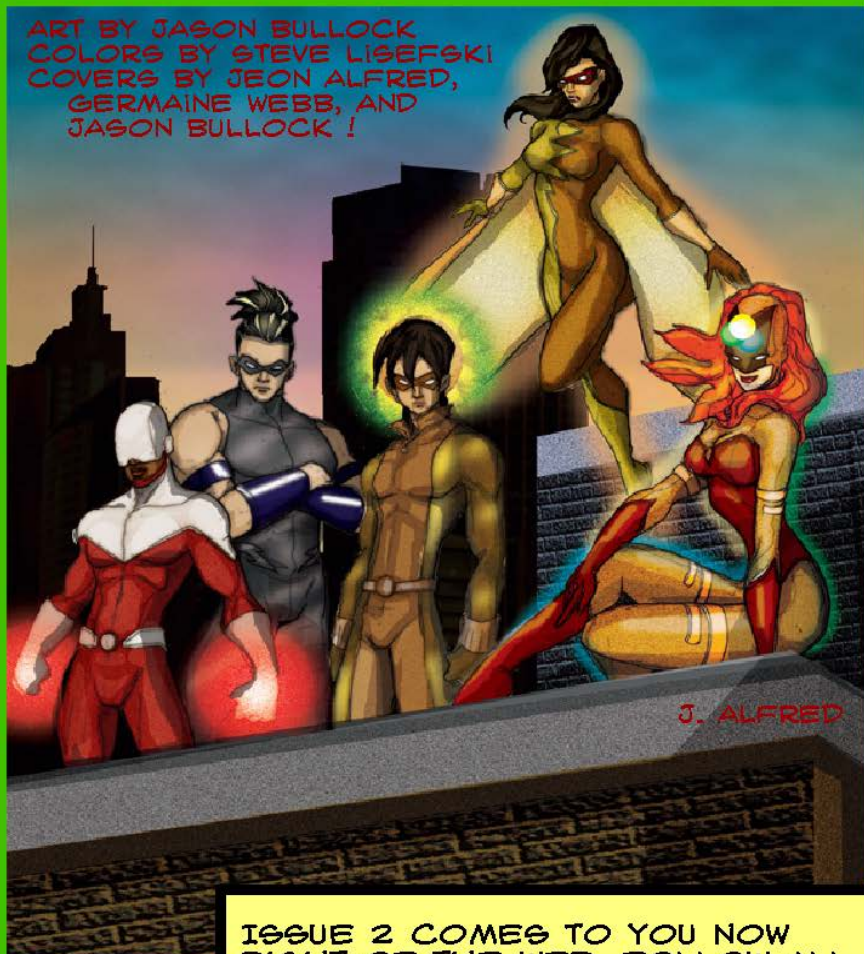
So there are a few answers to what's going on behind the scenes of Hero Central Universe. I am glad we had this time together....um sorry wrong show. It's the End of the World Ragnarok Variety Show not Carol Burnett. If you have a question about HCU that you'd like me to answer , please send me a letter or email and I'll get that answer to you pronto in these pages!

Fini

Hero Central, JR.

THE NEXT GENERATION OF HEROES!

ART BY JASON BULLOCK
COLORS BY STEVE LISEFSKI
COVERS BY JEON ALFRED,
GERMAINE WEBB, AND
JASON BULLOCK !



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