

HCU:

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Bullock &
Lisefski



Wiki-Myths: Raiden

“Raiden or Raijin was created by the divine pair Izanami and Izanagi after the creation of Japan. There is a legend which says the eight lightning gods were charged with protection of the Dharma by the Buddha. This kind of syncretism is not unusual in Japan, even after the Buddha-kami separation order. The iconography of the Raijin and Fuujin gods has been heavily influenced by Buddhist art, itself influenced by Greek and Indian art.



In Japanese culture

Some Japanese parents tell their children to hide their belly buttons (or navels) during thunderstorms. This is due to a folk belief that Raijin is sometimes credited with eating the navels or abdomen of children, and in the event of thunder, parents traditionally tell their children to hide their navels so that they are not taken away. Raijin's companion is the demon Raiju. In Japanese art, the deity is known to challenge Fūjin, the wind god.

Raijin is a well-known deity and his fame has spawned characters in many forms of Japanese media. He is often mocked, for example in an episode of *KyoroChan*, or in *Katamari Damacy* where he is one of the largest and most valuable objects in the game that the Prince can roll into his damashi ball of trash. In the tokusatsu series *Madan Senki Ryukendo*, all three Madan Warriors, right after transforming, say their names followed by the word "Raijin!", which stands for "wake up!" or "stand up!".

In Western culture, Raijin is usually known as Raiden (rai (雷, thunder) + den (電, lightning)), and depicted as a tall monk wearing a large straw hat (these hats are used widely throughout Asia to keep off rain), with the power to create storms, thunder, and lightning. The first use of this archetype was an appearance with other Eastern elemental gods in the 1986 film *Big Trouble in Little China*, though Lei Gong, a similar Chinese god, might have influenced the character in the film.




Lesser of Two Evils?

“Choosing between good and evil is not what’s difficult. What’s more difficult is to choose the evil that is more good.”- The Siege. This is the epitome of a difficult decision. But really, what makes a difficult decision? Difficulty is often gauged by the severity of the outcome. We would deem the decision to pick fruit loops or cheerios less difficult to make than say, which swim class to put our kids in. So what makes your breakfast choice less difficult? Well when you analyze the outcomes of choosing one cereal over the other, the result will be that you’ll be less hungry than when you started, and the worst case scenario being that you would of rather had fruit loops that day. Compare that to choosing which class your kids go to, the outcome becomes much more complicated. For example, it is possible that the instructor with which your children attend will have no effect on their survival. But there is also the possibility that the choice of teacher will greatly alter their lives. With no means to tell for sure, one can only investigate each outcome as best as possible, and finally make that difficult decision. Every single day we have to make thousands of decisions. Some are as simple as what time to get out of bed, what to eat for breakfast, or what clothes we are going to wear. However not all decisions are easy, in our personal lives and work lives we sometimes have to make difficult or complicated decisions. This sets the basis for the factors that affect decisions and how we handle them. In comics characters are no different. They too have thousands of variables to consider when being written. In many cases they change from a world of moral absolutes to a day Of hazy greys. This is when abject moral judgment is fraught between the choice of Two negative options hoping they will present a positive outcome.

How do you create a sound balance to make the correct decision and to what do You base that decision? The importance of establishing a sound knowledge base is the foundation for good ethical values. As DesJardins outlines “acts and choices that aim to promote human well-being are acts and choices based on ethical values” (DesJardins, 2009). While many of us may not face the same conditions that an army bomb squad will, we will however face difficult situations nonetheless. Nobody wants to be faced with making difficult decisions, but it is inevitable in life. Just like in The Hurt Locker where Sergeant Sanborn says riding back in the Humvee , “you realize every time you suit up, every time we go out, its life or death, you roll the dice, and you deal with it” (Bigelow, 2008). We do not have the luxury of choosing which situations we are faced with, but we do have to deal with them. With a strong understanding of our surroundings and values we can enable ourselves to make the difficult decisions to the best of our ability. Our Heroes are no different in the comic Where we place them in such a position.

It is imperative that we strive towards that balance in life. While not all our decisions will be the best ones, we should work towards educating ourselves and exploring the options as best as possible. By doing this we can ensure that we are better equipped to handle situations as they arise. Fini.




PARALLEL EARTH. MICHAEL FARADAY AND HIS UNCLE THE COLONEL OF THE G'MAR MILITARY STAND OFF.

COLONEL,
PUT DOWN YOUR
WEAPON AND
SURRENDER!



FARADAY YOU
MAY BE MY NEPHEW BUT
REALIZE YOUR TEAM IS
OUTMATCHED. CONTINUE
YOUR EXPERIMENTS
AND YOU WILL BE
ELIMINATED.



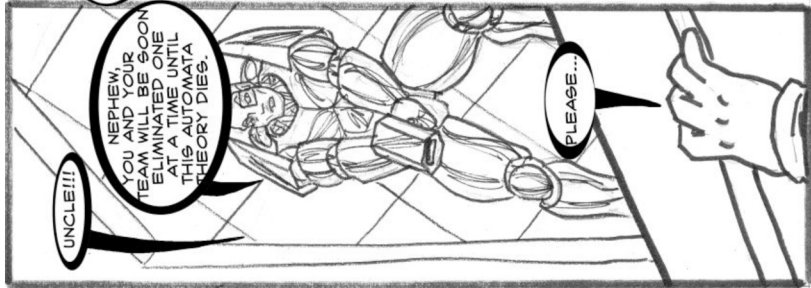
SURRENDER
YOURSELF!

NEVER!

AN ABANDONED ELEVATOR
SHAFT AWAITS MICHAEL
FARADAY'S REFUSAL TO
HIS UNCLE'S VIEWS.



BUG I'VE
BEEN HIT!



UNCLE!!!

NEPHEW,
YOU AND YOUR
TEAM WILL BE SOON
ELIMINATED ONE
AT A TIME UNTIL
THIS AUTOMATA
THEORY DIES.

PLEASE...



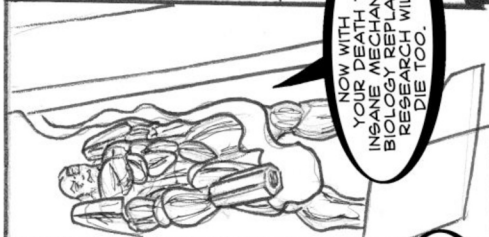
THIS IS
INSANE! MY WORK
ON CYBERNETICS AS
ORGANO-REPLACING
WILL BE SAVING
EARTH-HANS!



THOSE
EXPERIMENTS
WERE RULED AS
ILLEGAL BY THE
COMMITTEE
FARADAY.
ACCEPT
IT!

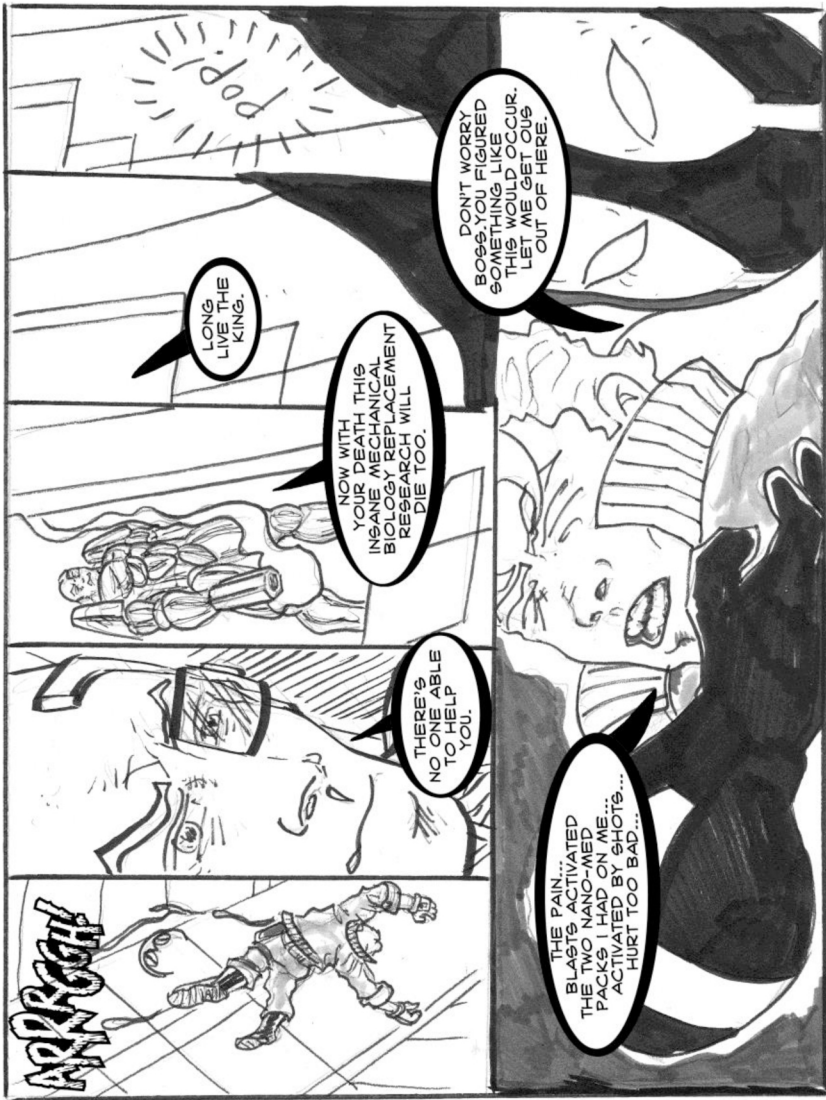


THERE'S
NO ONE ABLE
TO HELP
YOU.



NOW WITH
YOUR DEATH THIS
INSANE MECHANICAL
BIOLOGY REPLACEMENT
RESEARCH WILL
DIE TOO.

LONG
LIVE THE
KING...



DON'T WORRY
BOSS, YOU FIGURED
SOMETHING LIKE
THIS WOULD OCCUR.
LET ME GET US
OUT OF HERE.

THE PAIN...
BLASTS ACTIVATED
THE TWO NANO-MED
PACKS I HAD ON ME...
ACTIVATED BY SHOTS...
HURT TOO BAD...

OUTSIDE ON THE DESTROYED
BUILDING'S PROPERTY...

HERE WE
ARE BOSS

WOW,
SHUTTERBUG!
THESE NANNITES
HAVE ALMOST
PATCHED
WE UP.

NICE ENOUGH
FOR YOU TO JOIN
THE PARTY,
MICHAEL.

ALRIGHT YOUR
GIANT! YOUR
MASTER HAS BEEN
SUBDUED NOW!
SURRENDER!

NO ONE
COULD GET THE
DROP ON THE
COLONEL!


NOT
EVEN
HIS
PUNK
NEPHEW

HEY!


STAY BACK
BOSS. THOSE NANO-
THINGS ARE STILL
HEALING YOU.

DON'T
WORRY DEAR
WE CAN DEAL
WITH THIS
TOADSTOO!






JUST TRY
IT, LITTLE FLOWER.
I WONDER IF YOU
BLEED RED?



LET
ME SHOW
YOU!



NEED
A
HELPING
HAND?




NOW ENTERING THE CITY
AT SKYRISE LEVEL.



COORDINATES
LIEUTENANT?



RECEIVING
YOU, MAJOR.



THIS IS GURT.
CENTRAL I'M ALMOST
ON THE SIGNAL.



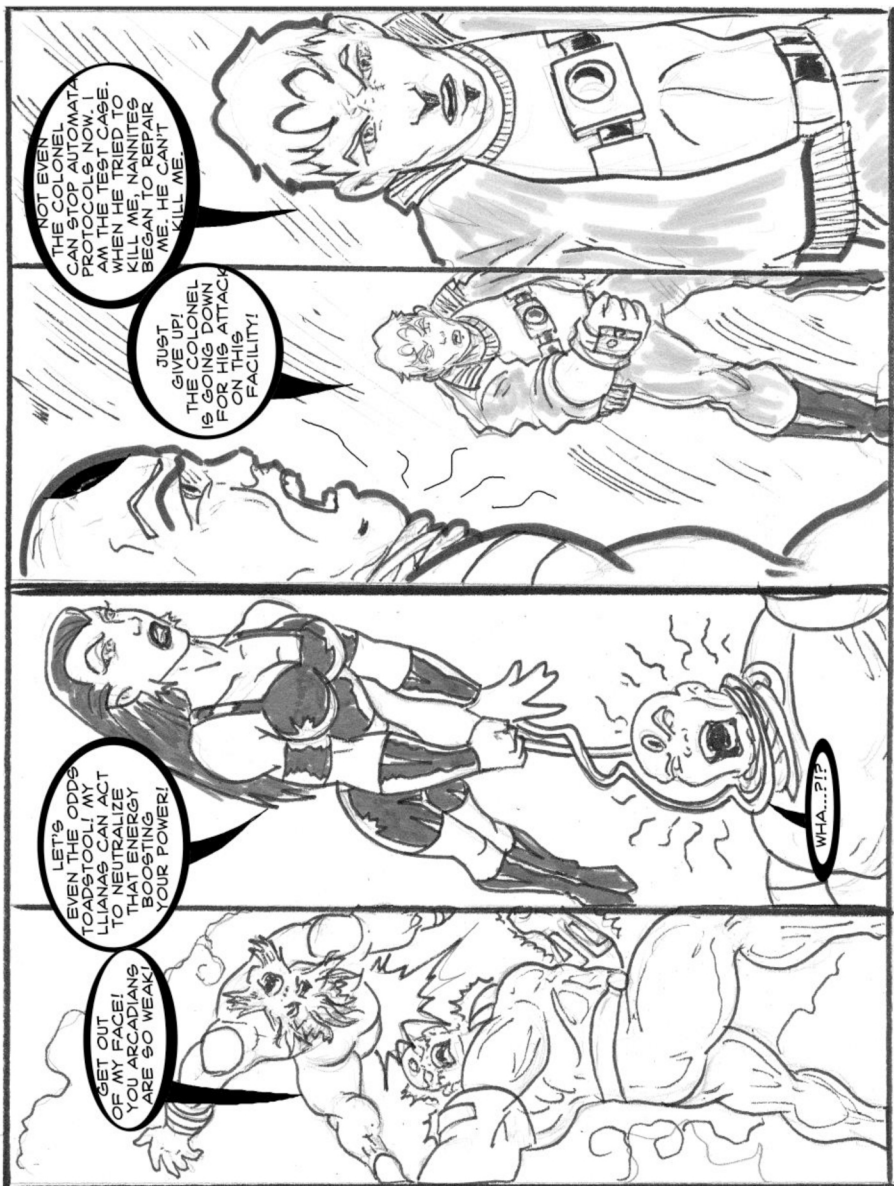
SIR,
WE ARE
TRACKING
SIGNALS
AT 112 LAT,
65 LONG.



FARADAY
WHAT HAVE YOU
DONE? SIX CLIKS
HAVE BEEN MADE
AGAINST YOUR
NANOTECHNOLOGY.
WHAT HAVE YOU
DONE?

New Alliances!





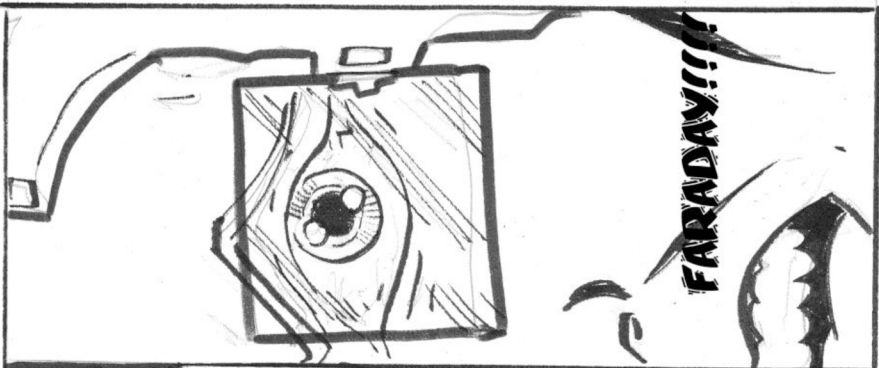
NOT EVEN THE COLONEL CAN STOP AUTOMATA PROTOCOLS NOW. I AM THE TEST CASE. WHEN HE TRIED TO KILL ME, NANNITES BEGAN TO REPAIR ME. HE CAN'T KILL ME.

JUST! GIVE UP! THE COLONEL IS GOING DOWN FOR HIS ATTACK ON THIS FACILITY!

LET'S EVEN THE ODDS! EVEN THE ODDS! MY TOADSTOOL MY LLIANAS CAN ACT TO NEUTRALIZE THAT ENERGY BOOSTING YOUR POWER!

GET OUT OF MY FACE! YOU ARCADIAN ARE SO WEAK!

WHA... PIP...



FARADAY!!!



STAY WHERE YOU ARE NEPHEW AND I'LL COME FIND YOU. I CAN FINISH WHAT I STARTED.

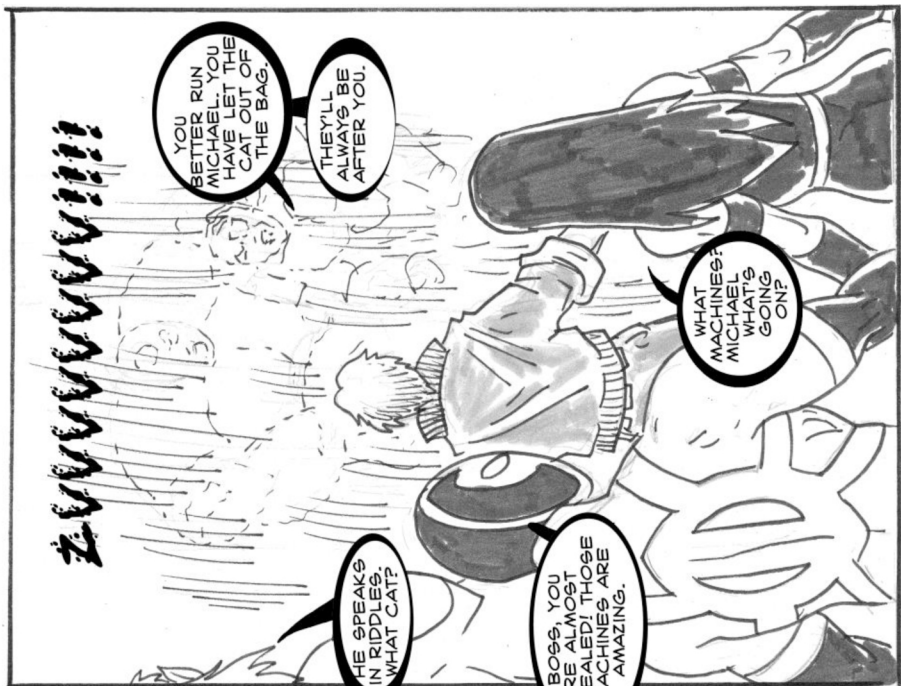
I DON'T THINK SO "UNCLE". I'M TAKING MY ACTIVE AUTOMATA RESEARCH TO WHERE YOU CAN'T FIND ME.

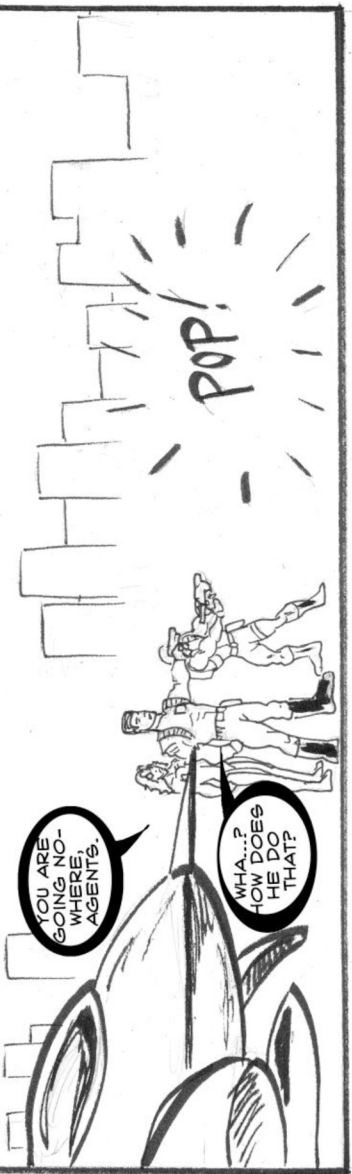


DID YOU HEAR THAT ONE COLONEL? I KNOW YOU ARE LISTENING

YOU'RE STILL ALIVE?! I SHOT YOU AND DROPPED YOU DOWN THAT ELEVATOR SHAFT. HOW COULD YOU SURVIVE THAT?

DON'T WORRY ABOUT THAT COLONEL I DID!





THE COLONEL'S TRANSPORT
WHIRLS HIM AWAY



I CAN'T
BELIEVE HE
WAS HOLDING
THOSE MACHINE
PACKS ON
HIS PERSON.



WE'LL BE
MEETING AGAIN SOON,
MY NEPHEW. VERY SOON.
DON'T YOU WORRY, THERE
WILL BE NO PROOF OF
YOUR MIRACULOUS
SURVIVAL DUE TO
THOSE BIOLOGY
REPLACING ROBOTS
OF YOURS!



DEAD MEN
TELL NO
TALES!

FIN!



Catch Me Up..

With the time between the publishing of the double sized digest comics, small details can be lost as easily as the main plot can masquerade the main characters in the story. So what this article will do is try to give everyone a basic cliff notes version of who the main characters are and where the story has developed in their timeline. This article may also present several items that may have only been recently uncovered in the last comic or so. If you have a comment or want to send us a letter about it all, please do so!

What we know now is that some three thousand years ago on Earth, powerful heroes and beings who became known as gods fought side by side against evil forces out to subdue mankind. Evil was fought back many times but pride and wrath turned some of those heroes more like the people they were protecting becoming less virtuous. They decided to sleep away the years to protect themselves from such mortal influences that evil had left behind in their wake. This group now known as Pantheon Rising would only “awaken” in times of mankind’s distress when evil would threaten good’s very survival. From that point they slept in a far away place called the Quantum Valley.

The Pantheon Rising consisted of Isis, alien being who set up herself as a goddess in ancient Egypt; Herakles, a hybrid mutant of super strength from mortal and alien “god” Zeus in ancient Greece; Sinbad, Persian adventurer whose artifacts binding captured djinn helped him protect mankind; Raiden, long lived self proclaimed guardian of the Realm of the Middle Kingdom as his own home was in a nearby dimension; Solomon, the wisest king who ever lived in ancient Israel whose knowledge came from many supernal sources ; Merlyn, self proclaimed sorcerer and king maker of the British Isles whose control over quantum dynamics could only be called magical.

For hundreds of years these protectors awoke to defend the threats against their own lands and peoples, only to fall back into torpor to await the need of their help once again. In the year 2011, a plot most heinous rose to resurrect a powerful agent of darkness to bring the lands of mankind to their bloody knees. The Amulet of Power was recovered from its Vatican City prison by minions of Dr. Wunderkind and Dracula’s successor Tempress. This action was catastrophic as it not only brought a dark energy back into the realm of Earth, but it also caused a domino effect in nearby dimensions. Ragnarok was brought about in Asgard. Thousands were killed in the great battle. One surviving Valkyrie, Sigard Baldrkin, found herself taking up Balder’s gauntlets to find that source of power to resurrect Asgard as the prophecy stated. Coming to our realm, Sigard assumed a heroes name, Uberfraulein, from the local papers and she began tracking down the energy signature of the power that destroyed her world. The Vega Stargate was also damaged at that moment in Parallel Earth deep in space during an attack on the living cruise ship Geotode was attacked by a phalanx of world conquering

Orbitals, mechanical Imperialists who believe their right to the Universe should be supreme among the species. At that moment, Michael Faraday and his plant based girlfriend Flora Ironwood were on Geotode for a vacation. Faraday, a nano-cybernetic scientist from his world and the only living example of the synthesis of man and machine from his home world where such things are outlawed, has prying eyes watching him. The Orbitals attack on the ship wrecks the Stargate sending the ship into our dimension. Trapped on our world Faraday works feverishly to rebuild their transport home while Flora has taken up a local job to raise funds for their needs. Orbitals also were transported to our dimension bringing strange quantum radiations that exposed graduate student Daniel Renquist while on his studies abroad in the Mongolian desert. He soon discovered he had gained spatial based abilities in massive proportions also exuding that strange energy signature from the other dimension. Donning a costume and calling himself Dr. Sidereal, he came back to the USA from his experience.

Archaeologist Dr. Amahl el-Farohk had discovered a secret cache of alien based technology in the Sahara Desert leading away from the straits of Egypt. His discovery of a reversed engineered intelligence called Wedjet led him to create a powerful malleable alien armor. Finding himself protecting the people's of the Middle East as the high flying Jade Scarab, el-Farouhk reunited with his college days crush from America, Lylac Greystoke. Her own lineage for adventuring and discoveries in China with the Ghost Sword of Khan, Lylac decided to stay wherever her love was. Back in the American Great Rockies, the alien Orbitals decided to begin to build their empire here involving the Native American Shaman Kachina with the death of part of his family.

The Pantheon Rising began to search for some five months across the face of the Earth to find this evil. Some began to seek other realms as well to find this growing evil from the shadows. Dr. Wunderkind with his minions, Dr. Cooper, Major Antov, and the clones known as The Calvins forced Renfield to give back the power of his own blood having been reinforced by one of the greatest Vampyres in mankind's history as part of a malicious experiment of mad science and dark supernal forces. All this to raise that warrior of blood from his state of suspended death. Dracula arose by the efforts of this mad criminal organization called KRAKEN. Also released from the Amulet of Power was its guardian, the White Templar. The Templar found a sacrifice to give to his master unlike anything on Earth, a woman bound from the form of a blossom. Templar's minions of shadow captured Flora Ironwood from her home in New York City while Faraday was working on reviving their transport. Kilborne, a shape shifting assassin from Faraday's world, had taken to completing his assignment to kill Faraday and Ironwood as that would be expected should he/she return home to Parallel Earth. Faraday now embarked on following every clue, every lead, and every option he had to find the ones responsible for kidnapping his girlfriend. Flora was given to Dracula as a gift but he was unable to enthrall her. With Dr. Wunderkind's technology, Dracula experimented on Flora and created a plant based series of homonculae called the Ghulle Du, to wreak havoc in cities abroad.



The 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 own publications. Any small-press publisher interested in applying for membership in the UFO should contact the UFO Chairman: **Rob Imes, 13510 Cambridge #307, Southgate, MI 48195** or you can email him at robimes@yahoo.com The official UFO website: <http://unitedfanzineorganization.weebly.com>

TETRAGRAMMATON FRAGMENTS!!

#233: This is the UFO Newsletter, the central forum for UFO members, containing columns and artwork that can't be found anywhere else. 32 digest-size B&W pages for \$2.50 postpaid in the USA from **Rob Imes, 13510 Cambridge #307, Southgate, MI 48195** or you can email him at robimes@yahoo.com for more info.

DITKOMANIA #93: This issue of the fanzine devoted to Stevc Ditko features the Charlton movie monsters Gorgo and Konga! A 48-page B&W digest-size fanzine for \$3.00 postpaid from **Rob Imes** (address above).

FANTASY THEATER #23: A Lady Spectra and Lizard Man team-up by **Steven Myers** and **J. Kevin Carrier**, plus another adventure of the female barbarian **Glorianna** by **J. K. Carrier**. A 56-page B&W digest-size comic (with color covers) available in print for \$3.50 from www.indyplanet.com and also available digitally for 99¢ from www.indyplanet.com/digital

HERO CENTRAL UNIVERSE #10/11:

Special double-issue of this action epic featuring mythic modern heroes. 44-page B&W digest-size comic (with color cover) for \$6.00 from **Jason Bullock, P. O. Box 2684, Loganville, GA 30052**. Email herocentralstudio@gmail.com for more info or visit HCU on the web at <http://www.herocentral.org>

HERO CENTRAL JUNIOR #2:

Still available: A 16-page full color digest comic for \$2.50 from **Jason Bullock** (address directly above).

THE IMAGINATION LINK #48:

Alan Sisson's long-running fanzine joins the UFO with this new issue! A horror prose tale; a 6-page comic strip; and a history of the *Collectors Club Newsletter*. 24-page B&W digest-size zine (with color covers) for \$3.50 postpaid from **Alan Sisson, P. O. Box 92, Whiteland, IN 46184** or email a1960boomer@yahoo.com

TALES OF FANTASY #63:

This special issue commemorates the 50th anniversary of ZOOY, with a never-before-seen adventure from 1964! 52-page B&W digest with color covers (and centerspread) for \$3.00 postpaid in the USA from **Larry Johnson, 31 Greenbrook Rd., Hyde Park, MA 02136**. Email LewBrown75@yahoo.com or visit www.LarryJohnsonartist.com

TALES OF FANTASY #64: "Tales

of the BSI!" leads off this issue as a robot attacks, in a story inked by **Dan Burke**. There's also a fantasy short by **Larry Johnson**, who also has an autobiographical strip about cartooning in his high school days. Plus: a 9-page letters column! A 44-page B&W comic (with color cover) for \$3.00 postpaid from **Larry Johnson** (address above).

THE DAMNED THING Vol 2 #1:

The return of the zine devoted to horror! This issue contains articles on **M. R. James**, **Clive Barker**, the 1934 movie *The Black Cat*, and more! Available for \$5.00 postpaid from **Sam Gafford, 624 Metacom Ave., #103, Warren, RI 02885**. Email: lordshazam@yahoo.com