

RED
cape
comics

Vol.1
Issue 1

BLAZE

GAY CRUSADER



MATURE
M
READERS

FIRST ISSUE!
COLLECTORS ITEM

00816

RUMOUR HAS IT THAT THE MAGNIFICENT CAPTAIN ASTRO SERIES OF COMICS WAS BROUGHT TO AN UNTIMELY END BY THE PRESSURE OF NEGATIVE ATTITUDES TOWARDS THE CAPTAIN'S AMBIGUOUS SEXUALITY. AMBIGUOUS MY ASS. CAPTAIN ASTRO WAS THE PROUDEST, GAYEST, MOST FABULOUS SUPERHERO TO EVER GRACE THE COMIC BOOK SHELVES WITH HIS PRESENCE. HAD HE NOT BEEN CENSORED AND CONSTRAINED BY HIS COWARDLY DISTRIBUTORS, I'M CERTAIN THE CAPTAIN WOULD HAVE PROUDLY DECLARED HIS GAY IDENTITY TO THE WORLD. SADLY, HE'LL NEVER HAVE THAT CHANCE. THE CAPTAIN'S PASSING LEAVES A VOID IN THE COMIC UNIVERSE. SOMEONE MUST TAKE HIS PLACE AS THE WORLD'S PREEMINENT GAY SUPERHERO.

MEET RAGE.

RAGE IS EXPLODING OUT OF THE CLOSET AND INTO THE WORLD TO FIGHT INTOLERANCE AND DEFEND THE FABULOUS CITIZENS OF GAYOPOLIS.

WE ARE VERY PROUD TO PRESENT RAGE: ISSUE #1. MAY YOU ENJOY READING THESE PAGES AS MUCH AS WE'VE ENJOYED CREATING THEM. OUR HOPE IS THAT RAGE CAN IN SOME WAY PAY TRIBUTE TO THE LEGACY OF OUR FALLEN HERO, CAPTAIN ASTRO.

Michael Novotny Justin Taylor

RAGE

GAY CRUSADER

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WELCOME TO GAYOPOLIS: AN INTIMIDATING CITY FILLED WITH LIMITLESS OPPORTUNITY...



...AND DANGER.

...SEVERE DANGER FOR AN UNFORTUNATE NINETEEN YEAR OLD COLLEGE STUDENT, BUT THAT'S LATER... OUR STORY BEGINS FRIDAY AFTERNOON: AN ENTIRE WORK WEEK'S TENSION LEVEL HAS SWELLED TO ITS LIMIT, AND THIS CITY NEEDS RELEASE. ONE MAN SEEMS TO FEED OFF THE ENERGY. HE'S CONFIDENT. HE'S HUNGRY FOR EXCITEMENT. HE'S A COMMANDING PRESENCE AS HE STROLLS HOME FROM THE OFFICE...



...COULD HE BE EVEN MORE IMPRESSIVE ONCE HE'S OUT OF HIS WORK CLOTHES?

GOD!
WHAT A
HUNK!

GOD!
WHAT A
HUNK!

(SIGH)
I KNOW.

THE ANSWER IS YES! FOR THIS IS NO ORDINARY EXTRA-ORDINARILY GOOD LOOKING MAN. THIS IS RAGE: PROUD DEFENDER OF THE CITIZENS OF GAYOPOLIS.

AND IF YOU THINK RAGE WOULD LET A PURSE-SNATCHER RUIN THE START OF A PERFECTLY GOOD WEEKEND...

NOT TODAY, FUCKER.



WHAT THE..?



WH, WHAT WAS I JUST DOING....?

!?!

AH, JUST ENOUGH TIME TO CHANGE OUTFITS.

...YOU'D BE WRONG.



RAGE IS THINKING CLUBWEAR. HOWEVER, BACK AT THEIR SECRET LAIR, HIS PARTNER ZEPHYR IS IN FULL SUPERHERO MODE.



BABYLON: WHERE THE MOST FABULOUS CITIZENS OF GAYOPOLIS LOSE THEMSELVES IN THE NEVERENDING THUMP-THUMP. IT GIVES OUR HEROIC DUO A REMINDER OF WHAT THEY'RE FIGHTING FOR, A REASON TO CONTINUE THEIR SECRET BATTLE...



BUT A TRUE HERO NEVER RESTS LONG...



... A NIGHT OFF QUICKLY BECOMES A CALL TO DUTY.

RAGE AND ZEPHYR SCAN THE SHADOWY STREETS OF GAYOPOLIS



MOMENTS LATER...





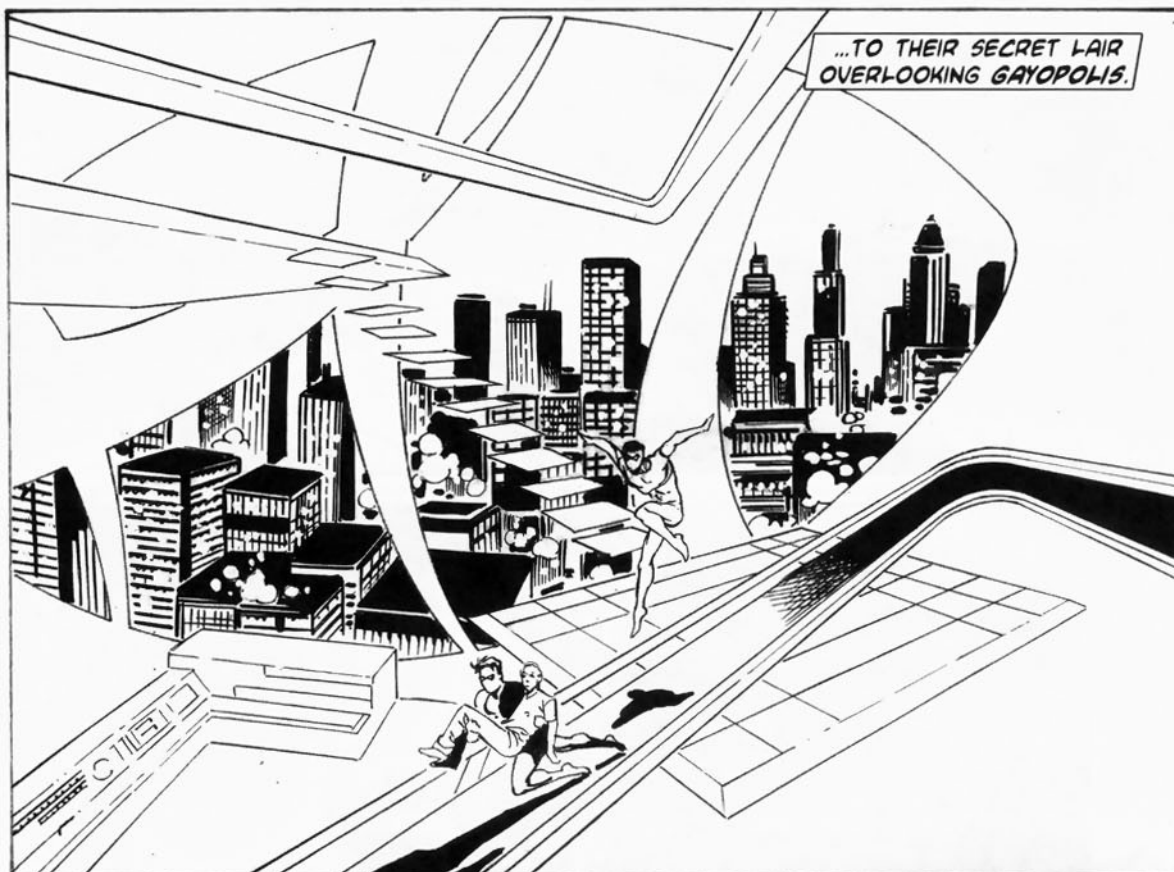


FUCKING
COWARDS!



RAGE RELEASES THE FULL FORCE OF HIS FURY
IN THE FORM OF A MIND-DISTORTION RAY...







THE HEALING PROCESS BEGINS.



RAGE

SKETCHBOOK

WELCOME TO THE **RAGE** SKETCHBOOK!
WE WANTED TO PROVIDE YOU WITH A
BEHIND THE SCENES LOOK AT ALL OF THE
WORK THAT WENT INTO DESIGNING **RAGE**!



(A)



(B)

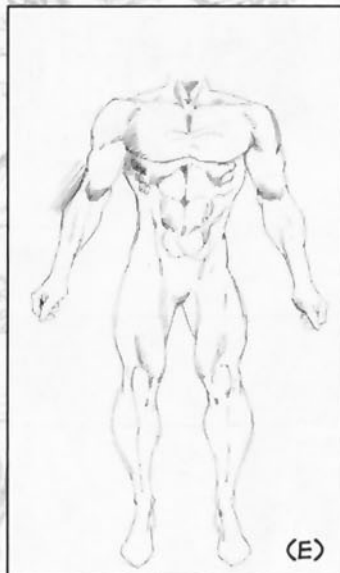


(C)

THE EARLIEST GLIMPSE OF THE FINAL **RAGE** DESIGN CAME IN THE FORM OF THE "**RAGE IS COMING**" TEASER POSTER. THE CHARACTER DESIGN FOR THAT POSTER WENT THROUGH A NUMBER OF CHANGES BEFORE IT GOT TO YOUR TV SCREEN. **FIGURE A** WAS THOUGHT TO BE VERY DYNAMIC, BUT IT DIDN'T QUITE WORK IN SHADOW, AS THE IMPACT OF HIS FIST WAS LOST. **FIGURE B** WORKED MUCH BETTER IN THAT REGARD, BUT THE POSE WAS THOUGHT NOT TO BE 'ICONIC' ENOUGH. FINALLY, WITH **FIGURE C**, THE POSE WAS SET AND **RAGE** WAS BORN. BUT HOW DID WE EVEN GET TO THIS COSTUME DESIGN?



(D)



(E)



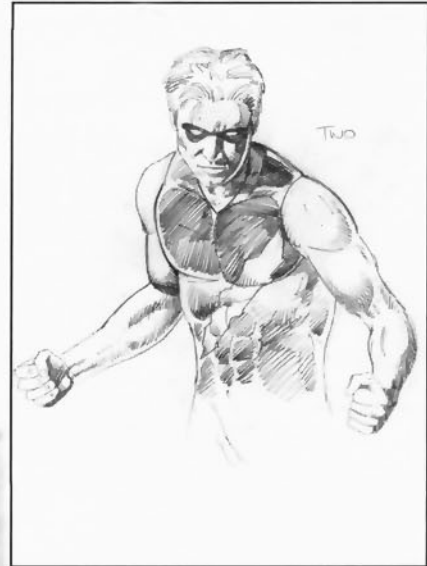
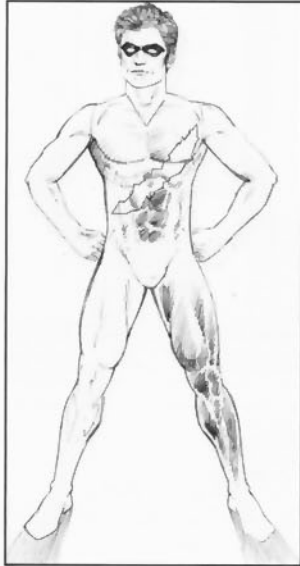
(F)

FIRST, WE HAD TO DESIGN **RAGE**'S BODY TYPE. TRADITIONALLY, SUPER HEROES HAVE FAIRLY EXAGGERATED BODIES. THE INITIAL DESIGNS (**FIGURES D + E**) HAD **RAGE** MUCH BULKIER AND MORE MUSCULAR, A BODYBUILDER'S BUILD. HOWEVER, SINCE **RAGE** IS MODELLED ON THE CHARACTER 'BRIAN', WE FELT IT WAS IMPORTANT THAT **RAGE**'S PHYSIQUE MATCHED BRIAN'S OWN, PERHAPS SLIGHTLY MORE IDEALIZED. IN **FIGURE F**, WE SLIMMED DOWN THE HIPS, 'TIGHTENED UP' THE MUSCLES IN THE ARMS, LEGS, AND CHEST, AND GAVE **RAGE** MORE OF A SWIMMER'S BUILD. STILL IDEALIZED, BUT MORE REALISTIC.

RAGE

SKETCHBOOK

THE COSTUME DESIGN FOR RAGE WAS ACTUALLY NAILED DOWN FAIRLY EARLY, WITH THE MOTIF BEING THE RIP ACROSS HIS CHEST. BELOW ARE SOME OF THE DESIGNS FOR THE FINAL 'RAGE IS HERE' POSTER AND STANDUP SHOWN IN THE SECOND SEASON FINALE.



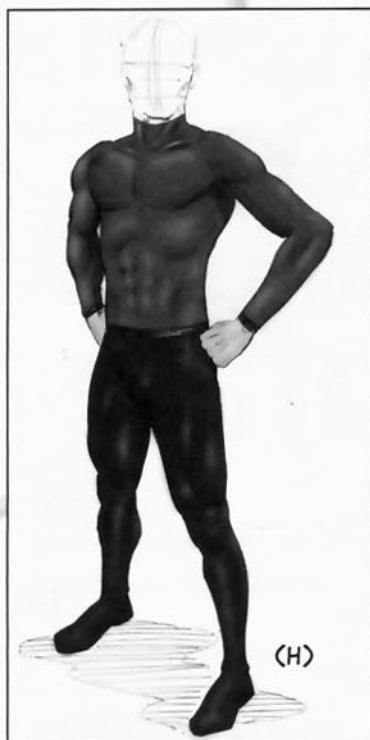
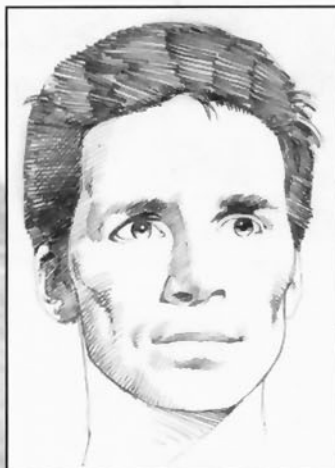
THE FINAL CHARACTER DESIGN APPROVED, THE NEXT MOST IMPORTANT STEP WAS TO ACCURATELY CAPTURE THE LIKENESSES OF THE ACTORS. GALE HAROLD AS BRIAN/RAGE WENT THROUGH A NUMBER OF REVISIONS, PARTICULARLY FOR HIS MASK DESIGN, AND YOU CAN SEE A NUMBER OF THEM BELOW. THE FINAL DESIGN IS **FIGURE 6**.



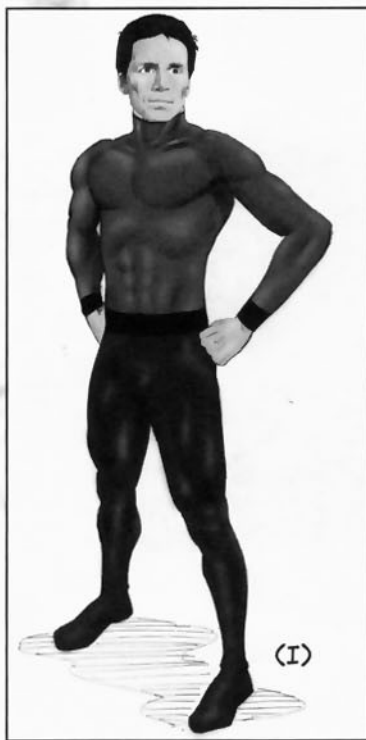
AS MANY VARIATIONS AS RAGE WENT THROUGH, HIS ERSTWHILE PARTNER ZEPHYR WAS RELATIVELY UNCOMPLICATED. THE LIKENESS OF ACTOR HAL SPARKS (WHO PLAYS MICHAEL/ZEPHYR) WAS REALIZED FAIRLY QUICKLY, AS WAS HIS MASK DESIGN.

THE COSTUME DESIGN IS A VARIATION ON 'MICHAEL'S' TYPICAL ATTIRE, JEANS AND A T-SHIRT. THE EARLY DESIGNS (FIGURES H-J) FOLLOWED THIS PATTERN. THE FINAL DESIGN WAS SEEN ON THE QAF SEASON 2 FINALE, AND IN THE COMIC (PANEL EXCERPTED BELOW AS FIGURE K).

FIGURE L IS ZEPHYR'S LOGO, THE CHINESE SYMBOL FOR WIND.



(H)



(I)



(J)



(K)



(L)

RAGE

SKETCHBOOK

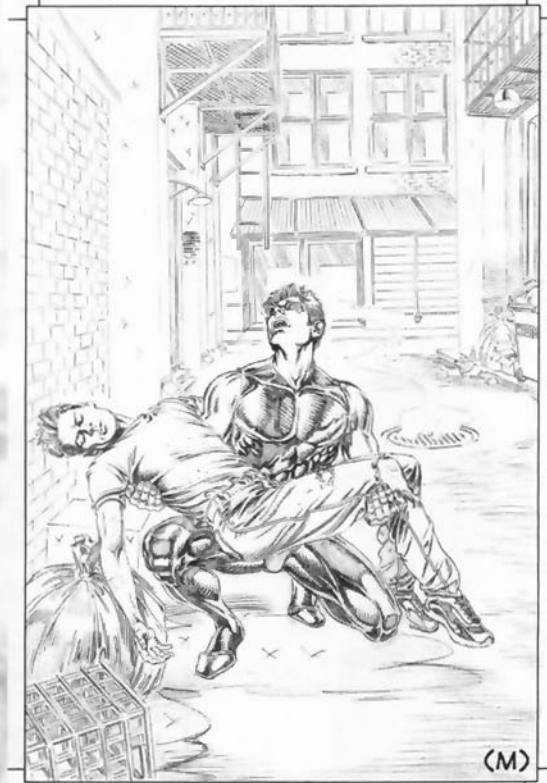
HERE ARE SOME OF THE PRODUCTION PIECES THAT WENT INTO THE CREATION OF THE **RAGE** COMIC AND TV MATERIAL!

FIGURE M (RIGHT) IS THE ORIGINAL PENCILED COVER TO THE **RAGE** COMIC THAT YOU'RE HOLDING IN YOUR HANDS! THE PENCIL ART WAS COMPLETED BY COMICS LEGEND JERRY ORDWAY, AND USED PHOTO REFERENCE FROM A PHOTO SHOOT SPECIFICALLY CONDUCTED FOR THE COVER (**FIGURE N**).

THE COVER WAS THEN INKED AND COLORED BY QAF STAFF COMIC ARTIST JON KENT. THE WHOLE PIECE WAS COMPLETED VERY QUICKLY DUE TO THE TIGHT SCHEDULE OF THE SHOW.

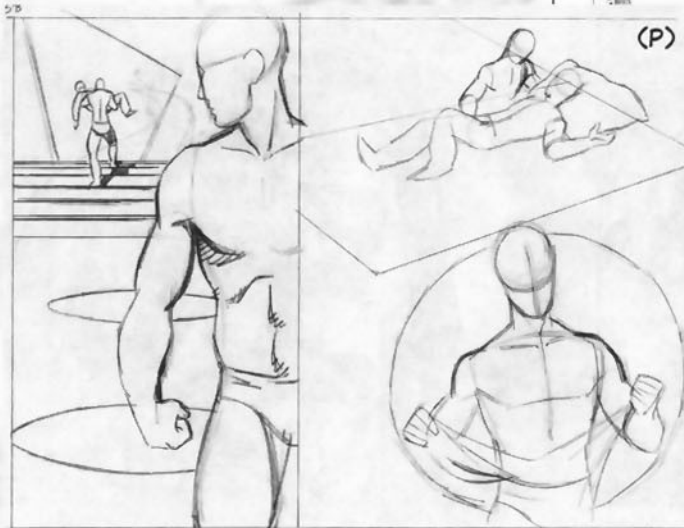


(N)



(M)

FIGURE O IS THE ORIGINAL PENCIL SKETCH THAT WAS DONE FOR THE ANIMATED SEQUENCE OF **RAGE** FLYING IN BRIAN'S DAYDREAM. THAT'S THE ACTUAL PITTSBURGH SKYLINE, AS WELL AS THE BACK OF THE 'BABYLON' CLUB SIGN.



(P)



(O)

FIGURE P IS THE ROUGH BREAKDOWN FOR ONE OF THE INTERIOR PAGES OF THE COMIC BOOK. THESE ROUGHS WERE GIVEN TO THE ARTISTS, WHO TRANSLATED THEM INTO FINISHED ART.