

100 PAGES **FEATURING JUDGE DREDD** **DEVLIN WAUGH** **BLACK SIDDHA** **FAMILY**
SLAINE **DARKIE'S MOB** **AND** **THRILL-POWER OVERLOAD – THE CONCLUSION!**

J U D G E D R E D D



MEGAZINE 205



street
bash kid!

'A MAN NEEDS
BLOOD ON
HIS HANDS!'

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KREELERS BEWARE – YOUNG MIDDENFACE IS OOT TO GI'E YOU LUMPS!

STRIPS

JUDGE DREDD

Monkey On My Back
Part 2

05-19



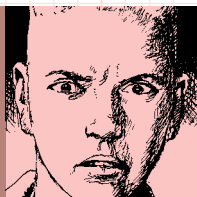
Flashback to Mega-City One, 2099 AD: having questioned Chief Judge Goodman's sudden decision to allow mutants the run of the city, Judges Dredd and Chambers have gone AWOL into the Cursed Earth, to investigate a crash site linked to Goodman's recent change of character ...

Judge Dredd created by John Wagner & Carlos Ezquerra

YOUNG MIDDENFACE

Mutopia Part 1

23-30



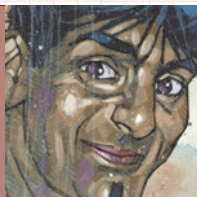
Warped by radioactive fallout and oppressed by the vicious Kreeblers, mutants are the underclass of 22nd century Britain. After leading a Glasgow jailbreak, teenager Archibald 'Middenface' McNulty is on the run with unlikely mutie Bonnie Charlie Prince ...

Middenface McNulty created by John Wagner, Alan Grant & Carlos Ezquerra

BLACK SIDDHA

Bad Karma Part 4

71-76



Rohan Bhandara is more than just a Londoner: he's a Cosmic Knight, cursed by bad karma from his past lives. The Lords of Karma have told Rohan he must atone for the crimes of one of these lives – his incarnation as the fearsome Black Siddha – by becoming a hero himself!

Black Siddha created by Pat Mills & Simon Davis

FAMILY

Part 5

87-92



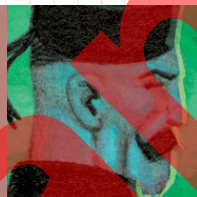
Odysseus City, the near future. The Family are a select cadre, bonded by blood, whose powers extend way beyond the usual – as OCPD cop Kurt has learned to his cost. But now someone's setting wiseguy against wiseguy: a man they killed 22 years in the past!

Family created by Rob Williams & Simon Fraser

DEVLIN WAUGH

Red Tide Part 4

93-98



Devlin Waugh – exorcist, occultist and blood-drinker. Ten years ago, he quashed a monstrous infestation at the Aquatraz prison. Now, transporting the sunlight-immune nosferatu Lilit to the nearby Helsing Institute, Devlin abandons ship after a vampire attack – and is all at sea!

Devlin Waugh created by John Smith & Sean Phillips

FEATURES & REGULARS

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John Ridgway

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The final chapter!

EDITOR'S LETTER

Stuff goes wrong here all the time: mislaid artwork, misremembered conversations, misplaced captions ... missing editors. Hopefully you, dear reader, never get to see the depths of incompetence to which we can occasionally sink.

Unfortunately, last issue, you did. In a cock-up to rival those classic issues of 2000 AD with the Anderson – Psi-Div pages in the wrong order ... or the missed episode of the hugely lavish, hugely involved John Smith dragon epic ... or even the time they mixed up two different strips' balloons ... yes, Megazine 204 saw the reprinted *Future Shock* where we missed out the middle page!!!

If, like reader Gary Watson of Northumberland – who tore the abridged *Solo Flip* out of Meg 204 and sent it back with a stinking letter – your disappointment at missing out on the central portion of the Brian Bolland classic remains unassuaged, rest assured the untruncated *Solo Flip* is now available to view on our website: go to www.2000adonline.com/promo/soloflip.php

And do please accept my apologies. On uncovering such a grievous error, I sent myself to Mek-Quake right away. He sent me back minus several vital organs from my

midriff. Which seems entirely fair in the circumstances.

To this catalogue of woe must be added the fact that this issue sees publication of the final instalment of *Thrill-Power Overload!*, David Bishop's outstanding history of 2000 AD. It's been a riveting tale full of twists, turns, brilliance and bastardy, and it's not all told just yet: the Galaxy's Greatest publishes every week, so there are new anecdotes (like the one about the Megazine editor who missed out the middle bit of a *Future Shock*, for example) crying out to be added all the time. And I know for a fact that many hours of the interviews conducted by David as part of his painstaking research have gone unused, cut purely for reasons of space. Many of you have asked if an expanded 'director's cut' version of *TPO!* might make it into book form: it's not impossible. You'll hear it here first.

David's now started work on a new feature series for the Meg, beginning in just a few months' time. With our *Darkie's Mob* reprints scoring such a bullseye, it's a good time to look at how British boys' comics won the Second World War. Don't miss it!

Right. Let's get outta here before anything else goes wro

Alan



21



31



47

THIS ISN'T CATAPULTS AND FOOTBALL IN THE STREET. THIS IS REAL!



78



205
COVER ART

TARTAN TERROR!

ART
MARK
HARRISON



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LET'S TRYST AGAIN ...

I'm writing in response to Trystan Mitchell's letter in **Megazine** 204. How wrong can one person be? I'm new to the **Meg** and have only been reading since the start of the year. I have to say that I have enjoyed every issue I've read so far. So much so, that I've got my local newsagents to get me in a copy especially each month. In reference to the complaint by Trystan Mitchell about the removal of the square spine, shouldn't that be reserved for magazines anyway? The **Megazine** is a comic and all comics I've seen so far are stapled in the same way as the **Megazine**. As they say, if it's not broke, don't fix it.

I do agree partially with Trystan Mitchell in one respect though. I enjoy the **Megazine** so much that I do wish some of the stories were a little longer. Mind you, the shorter stories do retain the suspense and mean I want to come back next month, so maybe that's a good thing. As for **2000 AD Gold**, it's a great opportunity for someone in my situation to catch up on what I've missed since the comic launched. Maybe some of the changes made to the **Megazine** before I started reading were implemented in an effort to cut back costs, but if that means that the **Megazine** can survive for me and other to enjoy for longer, then what's wrong with that?

Anthony Henderson (Partington, Manchester)

CAMP FOLLOWER

I could write in and say how wrong Mr Mitchell was about the value of the **Megazine**, but I don't think I'll bother because either he's stopped reading it or he had his mind changed by your reply (either way, loads of people will tell him anyway). I think the best thing to do is look at the stories and evaluate from there. The **Dredd** in 204 is interesting and a past story is needed whilst **2000 AD**'s **Dredd** battles the Aliens, but I hope it's more like Garth Ennis' **Punisher** than **Helter Skelter** which simply never gelled. I'm not a fan of **Family**, I have to say, as we seem to have been launched into the deep end of the pool here. A one-part prologue would have helped. **Devlin Waugh** has more impact here than **Chasing Herod** in **2000 AD** which is a good thing – especially with Mr MacNeil on art duties.

I think the real reason I write though, is the comment in the editor's box about gay heroes. I think it's funny they talk about Marvel releasing the 'first gay hero' when, in point of fact, Northstar (now of the X-Men) has been an openly gay character since the 1980s!

Alun Rundle (Newport, South Wales)

JULIET: BRAVO!

Knowing how much you all appreciate feedback and how it can affect the direction of the **Megazine**, I wanted to tell you how absolutely stunned I am with the quality of issue 204. With the exception of the **Sláine** reprints (seen them so many times) the line-up is utterly superb. I love the way **Family** has developed, and am already into the characters. The new **Devlin** story continues John Smith's fine tradition of writing although I sometimes feel a little

nostalgic for the days when he seemed to be tripping while scripting. **Black Siddha** has a very good line in humour and Pat Mills seemingly has an affinity for his new background material. I'm a big fan of his work when he isn't too preachy, and after his **Heavy Metal** plug I bought an issue to read his **Requiem – Vampire Knight**. Frankly, I'd rather see reprints of that in the **Megazine** than **Sláine** ...

I've left the best part of this issue to last. The **Juliet November** story is truly amazing, and the art on pages 2,3 and 5 in particular is, in my opinion, some of the best and most powerful ever in the **Megazine**. I have re-read this story several times already. I'm hoping like hell you have more planned for the creative team and character.

Chris Haynes (Ripponden, Sowerby Bridge)

Juliet November artist Graham Manley is currently illustrating Shakedown, a two-part John Wagner Dredd which sees the return of a perp from the past. And who's to say that Juliet's fire has gone out?

BLACK BALLS ...

The usual guff about being a reader from Prog 1 and all that, but over the years an indifferent **Megazine** reader, due to the lack of quality that too often crept in. I hope that at last the **Meg** is getting the care and attention it needs ...

JD is always excellent, and it's great to see Ennis back, hopefully with a good story. Nice idea so far, so here's hoping. **Black Siddha** seems to be Pat Mills arsing on about mystical shite again, and it sucks. **Juliet November** was pretty good, with good old school art. **Family** is OK, if a little poorly plotted, and **Devlin Waugh** is shaping up very nicely. Keep it up, but for God's sake put Mills out to pasture.

Alan Holloway (via e-mail)

Black Siddha has become the Marmite of the Megazine – you either love it or hate it, as this next correspondent proves. But only after reviving a long-running debate which must die soon ... mustn't it?

... BLACK GOLD!

I just thought I'd defend the photograph on the front of **Megazine** 4.18. It was very well done. I hope you portray other characters using actors in future – **Devlin Waugh** would be a good one. As for the woman who's been a **2000 AD** reader for over twenty years and was ashamed to be seen with her copy ... many women actually like dressing in outfits that would suit Durham Red. They can be found at shops and events connected with comics, science fiction, role-playing games, paganism, piercing, motorbikes etc and I expect some of them read the **Megazine**.

On a different subject, **Black Siddha** is amazing. A perfect combination of fantastic art and a subject that really gets away from the tried-and-tested formulas. Keep up the good work.

Mark Alexander (Forest Hill, London)

WAGONS REPORT NO CONTACT WITH DREDD OR CHAMBERS, CHIEF JUDGE. YOU WANT ANOTHER SWEEP?

NEGATIVE. ORDER THEM TO RETURN AND REFUEL. I WANT THEM PREPPED FOR TAKE-OFF BY 07:00.

JUDGE DREDD

MONKEY ON MY BACK PART 2

CHIEF JUDGE, ABOUT THIS NEW OP YOU ORDERED... I'VE BEEN GETTING QUERIES FROM SOME OF THE PILOTS AND CREW CHIEFS, AND I WANTED TO REQUEST CONFIRMATION --

YOU'VE GOT IT.

SIR?

YOU ASKED FOR CONFIRMATION. THAT WAS IT.

UH...YESSIR. I'LL NOTIFY YOU WHEN THEY LAUNCH.

WAGON CONTROL OUT.

From an idea by John Higgins

SCRIPT
GARTH ENNIS
ART
JOHN HIGGINS
LETTERS
TOM FRAME



HOW'S IT FEEL TO
BE A FUGITIVE FROM
JUSTICE, DREDD?

LOUSY.



NO GOING
BACK NOW.

WOULD YOU LOOK AT THIS?
ELECTRICAL STORMS, IMPOSSIBLE
TERRAIN, POISONOUS WATER, EVERY
INDIGENOUS LIFEFORM HOSTILE...

HOW THE
HELL DID LAWSON
DO IT?



HE COULDN'T, CHAMBERS. YOU
CAN'T WALK A THOUSAND KAYS ACROSS
THE CURSED EARTH -- NOT WOUNDED,
LOW ON RATIONS AND WITH ONLY A
HANDGUN FOR PROTECTION.

NOT UNLESS
YOU'VE GOT
HELP...

EXACTLY.



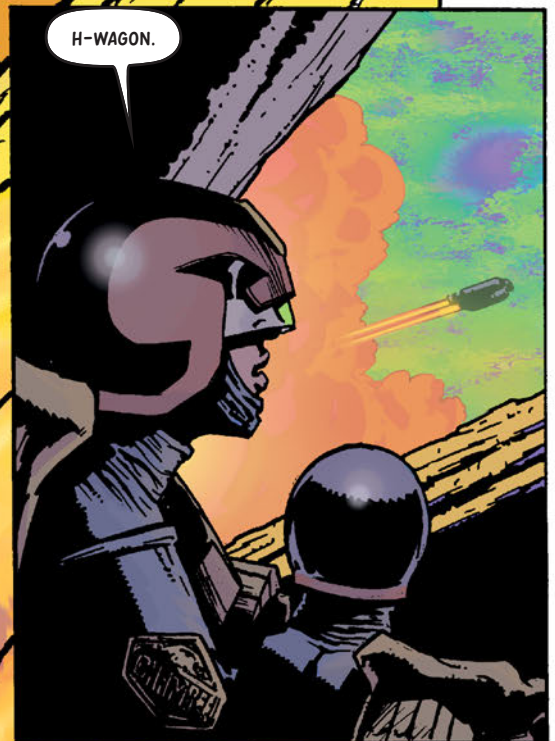
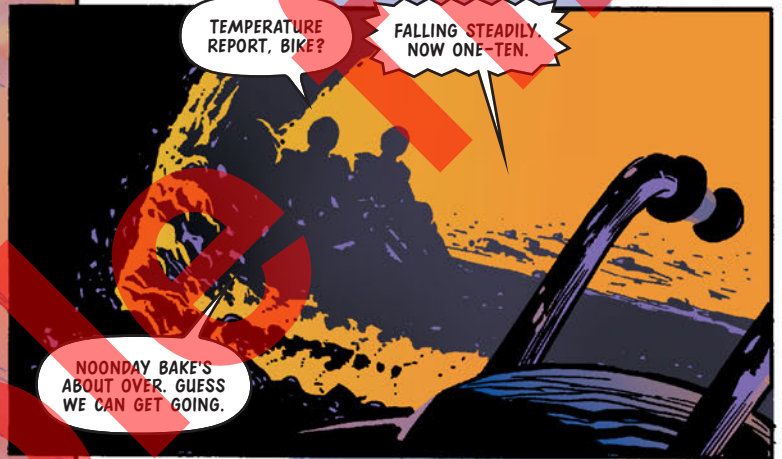
IF SOMETHING DID
COME BACK WITH HIM,
THAT COULD BE WHAT
PROMPTED HIS SUICIDE.

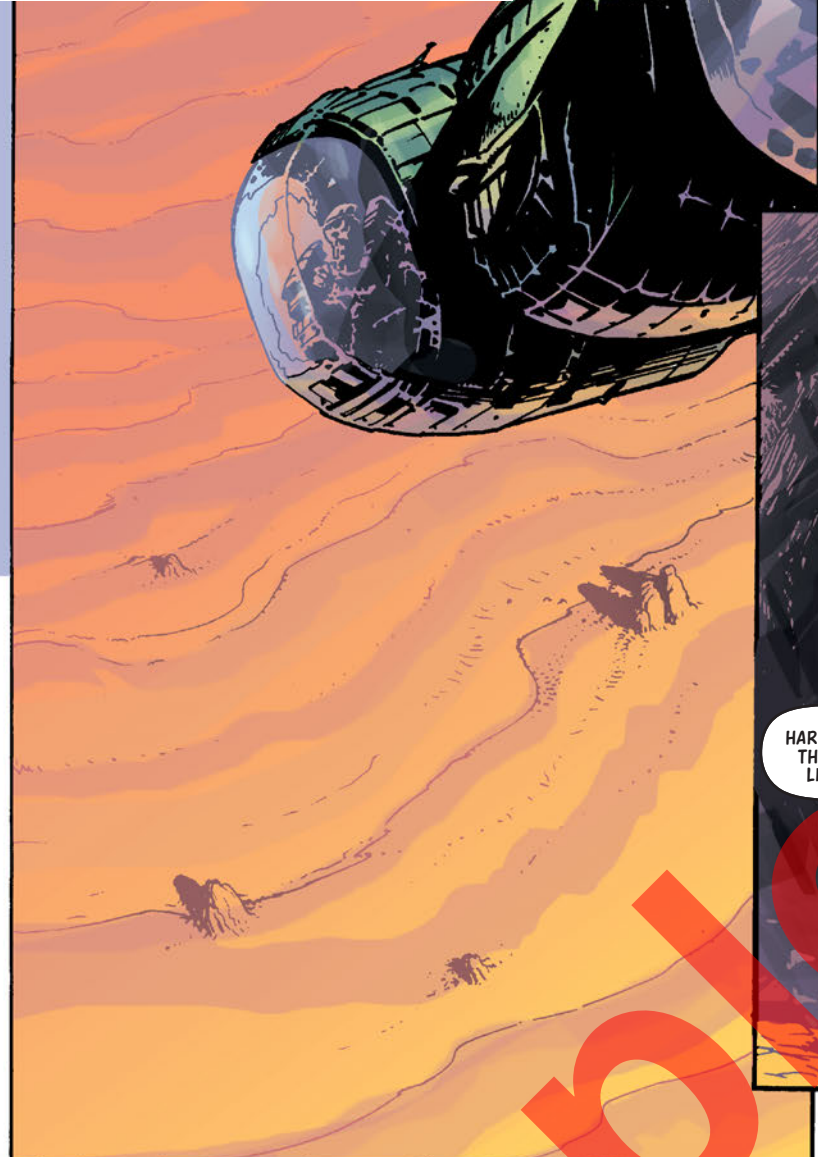
AND WENT ON TO
AFFECT THE CHIEF
JUDGE? BRR.

WELL, BIKE'S LOCKED ON
TO THE PROJECTED ROUTE
HIS WAGON WAS ON WHEN
IT CRASHED...



SOMETIME AROUND
NOON TOMORROW, WE
OUGHT TO KNOW THE
TRUTH.





WHAT'RE THOSE?

HARD TO TELL. THINK HE'S LEAVING.



YEAH.

NOT AFTER US, THEN...



WELL?



BAD NEWS.

MUTANTS IN WELCOME IN MEGA-CITY ONE
THE GENETIC LAWS AND REGULATING MUTANT HAVE BEEN REPEALED. THE BIG MEG WELCOMES HER MUTATED CHILDREN HOME.
Chief Judge Charles Jones

'I KNEW THIS WOULD HAPPEN.'

GOTTA BE HITTING A FIVE-FIGURE COUNT. AND EVERY DROKING ONE OF 'EM HEADED FOR THE MEG...

THOSE DAMN LEAFLETS. WHAT DO THEY THINK THEY'RE GOING TO FIND?

FOOD, SHELTER, MEDICAL AID, SECURITY...

REVENGE, MORE THAN ANYTHING ELSE.

THIS TRUE?

MUTIES WELCOME WELCOME IN THE BIG MEG NOW, HUH? TRUE? SAY?

MAYBE WE START WELCOME RIGHT HERE! MAYBE HAVE LAWBOY SWEETMEATS FOR SUPPER! MAYBE HAVE LAWBITCH FOR FUN!

SAY?

SAY?!?

BIKE?

BRACKABRACKABRAKKA

ROJ.

**BUDDA
BUDDABUDDA**

ALL?

ALL.

HEATSEEKERS.

HI-EX.

SAY!

BAKOOOM

...uuhh...