

JUDGE DREDD



MECHANISMO

JOHN WAGNER ★ COLIN MACNEIL ★ PETER DOHERTY ★ CARLOS EZQUERRA

L'92



JUDGE DREDD

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JUDGE DREDD CREATED BY JOHN WAGNER & CARLOS EZQUERRA

JUDGE DREDD

MECHANISMO

JOHN WAGNER

Writer

COLIN MACNEIL ★ PETE DOHERTY ★ MANUEL BENET

Artists

PERTER DOHERTY

Cover

REBELLION

Creative Director and CEO: Jason Kingsley

Chief Technical Officer: Chris Kingsley

2000 AD Editor in Chief: Matt Smith

Graphic Novels Editor: Jonathan Oliver

Graphic Design: Simon Parr & Luke Preece

Marketing and PR: Keith Richardson

Repro Assistant: Kathryn Symes

Graphic Novels Editor: Jonathan Oliver

Designer: Luke Preece

Original Commissioning Editor: David Bishop

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MECHANISMO

Script: John Wagner

Art: Colin MacNeil

Letters: Annie Parkhouse

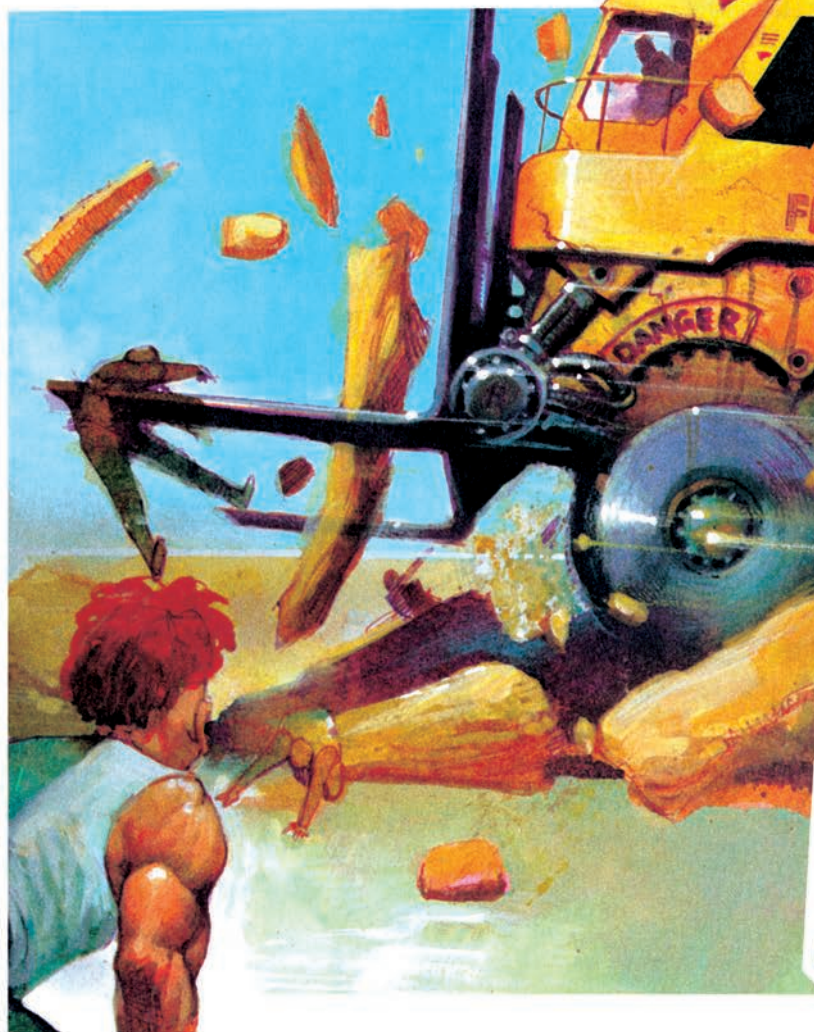
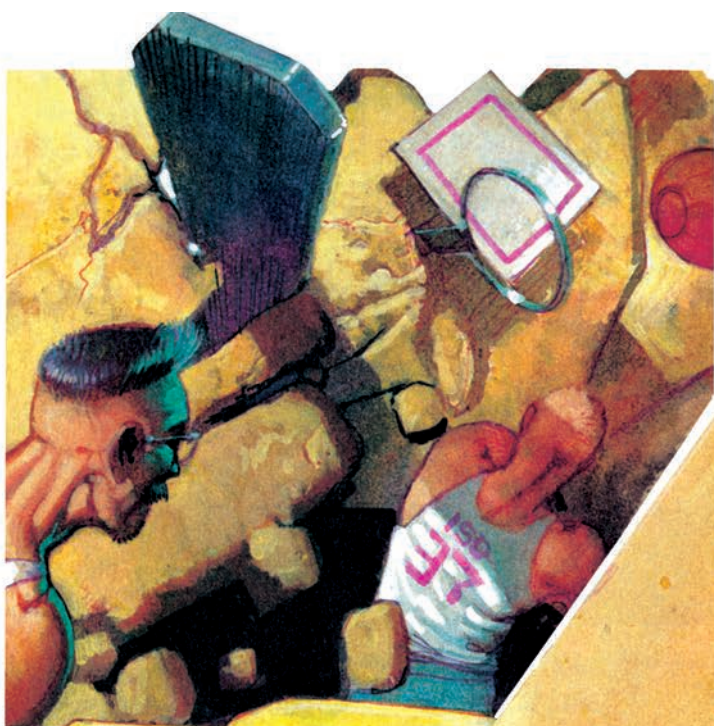
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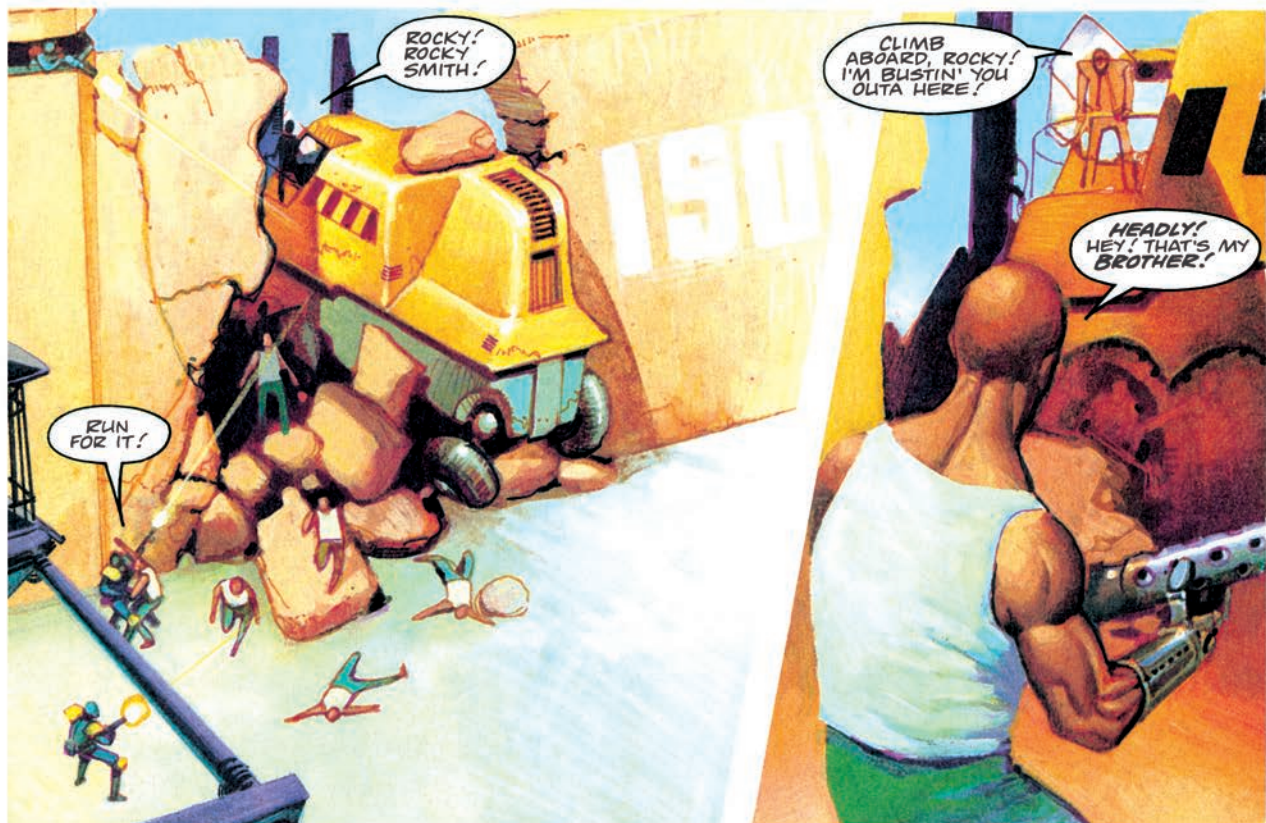
**TRIAL BY
MACHINE
IS HERE**

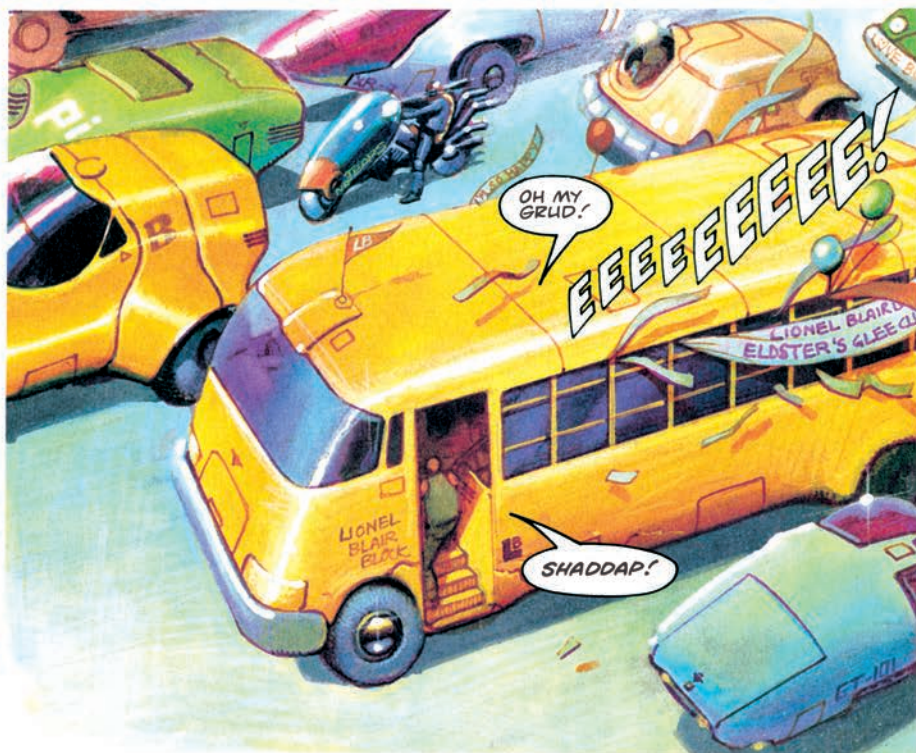


MAGNEIL '12

RECREATION PERIOD,
150-BLOCK 37—









LIHHH...UM...WH-WHEN
TROUBLES GRAB YOU
BY THE THROAT...WHEN
PROBLEMS DRIVE
YOU MAD...



JUST TRY TO
THINK A HAPPY
THOUGHT--

THEN THINGS
WON'T SEEM SO
BAD!



CONTROL, WE
GOT EIGHT FOR
RETURN TO THE
ISO-BLOCK.

ROGER. ACCORDING
TO LATEST TALLY
ONLY SIX ESCAPEES
NOW STILL AT
LARGE. DESCRIPTIONS
FOLLOW--

HAPPY HAPPY HAPPY
WERE SO HAPPY. YES
WE ARE

HAPPY HAPPY HAPPY
HA HA HA!
HEAR IS LAUGHING HAPPY
HAPPY HO HO HO
HAPPY HO HO
HAPPY HAPPY

HOLD ON,
CONTROL--

WILL
SOMEBODY
SHUT THEM
UP?

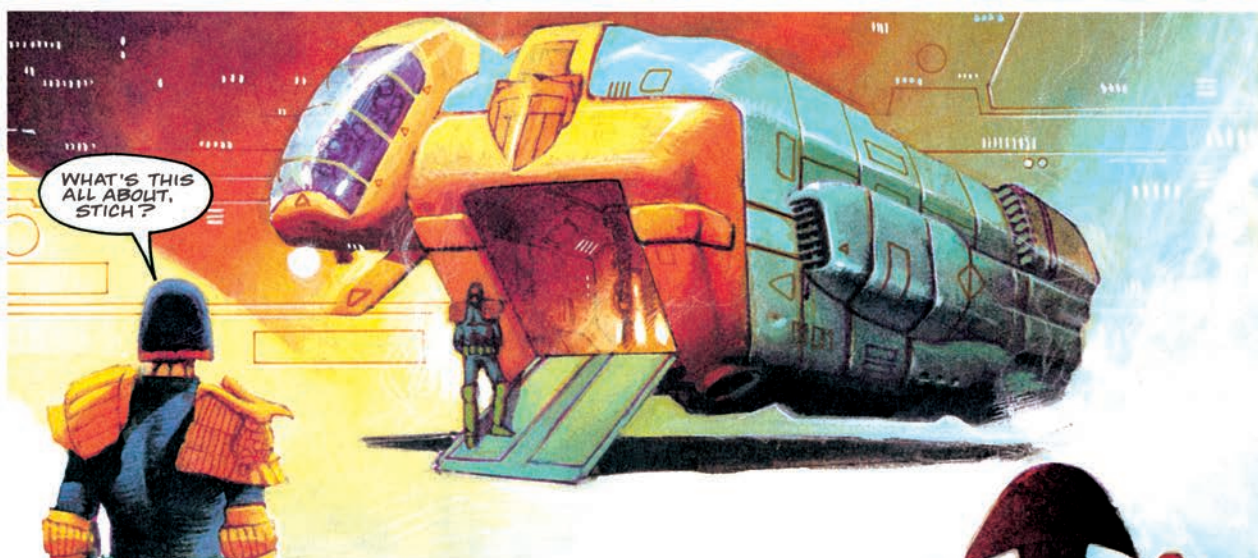


NOBODY'S
TAKIN' US BACK
TO THE CUBES!



BACK OFF
YOU SCUZBAGS OR
THE GLEE CLUB
STARTS DYIN'!







FORGET IT,
STICH! LOAD IT
UP AND GET IT
OUT OF HERE!

MAY
I REMIND
YOU I HAVE
OPERATIONAL
COMMAND.

STICK YOUR
OPERATIONAL
COMMAND! NO
MACHINE IS
HANDING OUT
JUSTICE IN THIS
CITY!



BACK IN THE
CAN, CHARLIE!
THAT'S AN
ORDER!



+ ORDER INVALID +
+ REJECT +

STICK
YOUR
ORDER.



STEP
ASIDE.



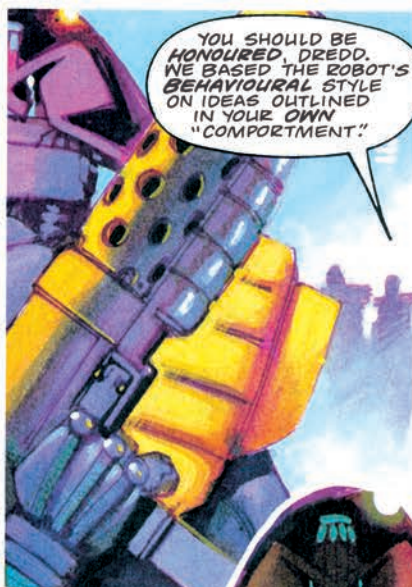
DREDD!

I HAVE
CHIEF JUDGE'S
AUTHORISATION!
CHECK IT!



HAS THE
CHIEF JUDGE
TAKEN LEAVE OF
HER SENSES?

NO, MERELY
BOWING TO THE
INEVITABLE. PROGRESS.
(WE'VE RESISTED IT
TOO LONG.)



YOU SHOULD BE
HONOURED, DREDD.
WE BASED THE ROBOT'S
BEHAVIOURAL STYLE
ON IDEAS OUTLINED
IN YOUR OWN
"COMPORTMENT".



A CERTAIN ARROGANCE
— A NATURAL AIR OF
COMMAND — THESE WILL
ENCOURAGE CITIZENS TO
ACCEPT IT AS A FIGURE
OF AUTHORITY.

CALL IT —
IF YOU LIKE —
MECHANISMO.

THAT'S
ALL WE NEED —
A ROBOT WITH
ATTITUDE !



LIKE IT OR NOT,
YOU'RE LOOKING AT THE
FUTURE OF LAW
ENFORCEMENT.!



YOU CREEPS
IN THERE —

ARE YOU
READY TO
DIE?

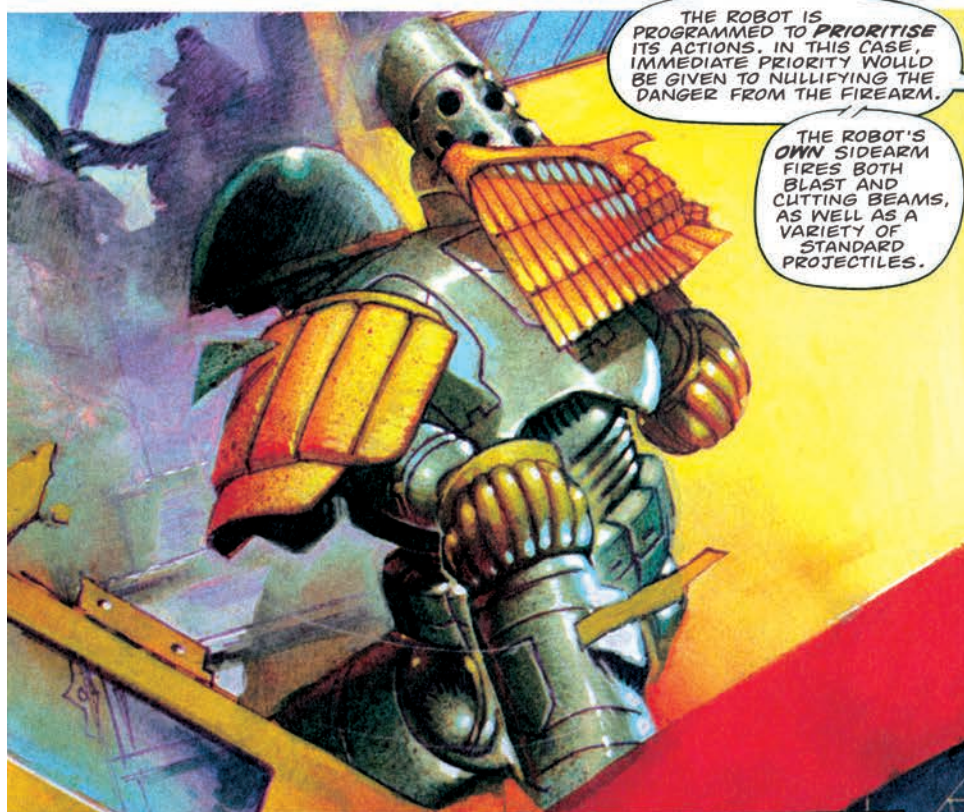








SMOKE!



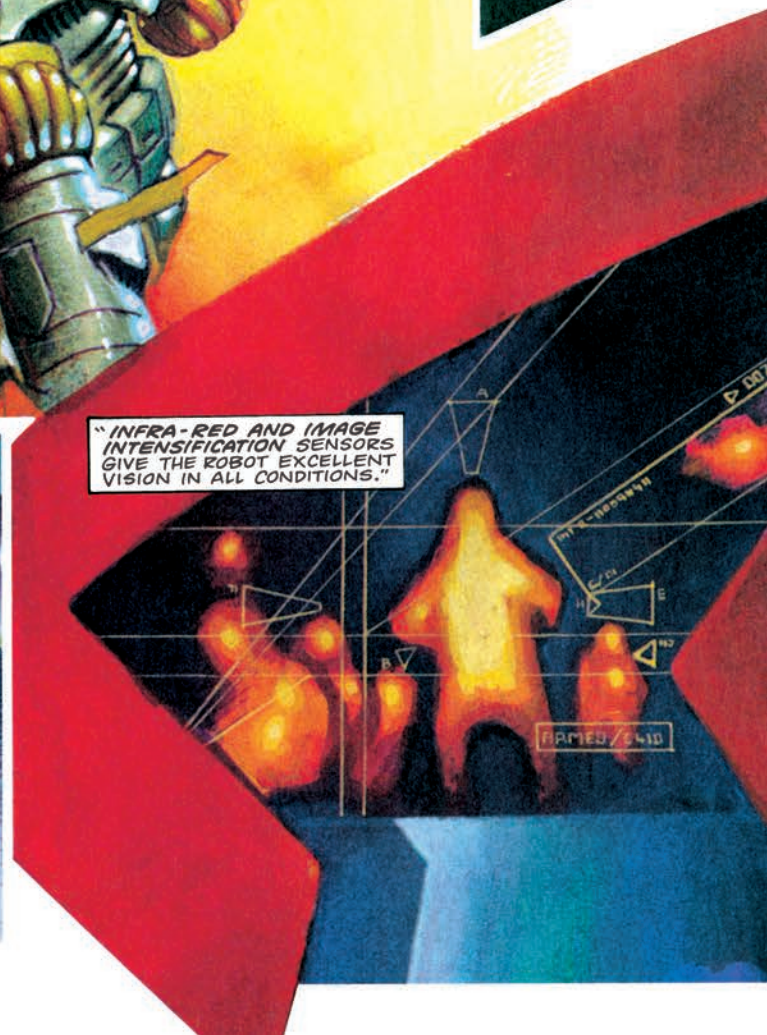
THE ROBOT IS PROGRAMMED TO **PRIORITISE** ITS ACTIONS. IN THIS CASE, IMMEDIATE PRIORITY WOULD BE GIVEN TO NULLIFYING THE DANGER FROM THE FIREARM.

THE ROBOT'S **OWN** SIDEARM FIRES BOTH BLAST AND CUTTING BEAMS, AS WELL AS A VARIETY OF STANDARD PROJECTILES.



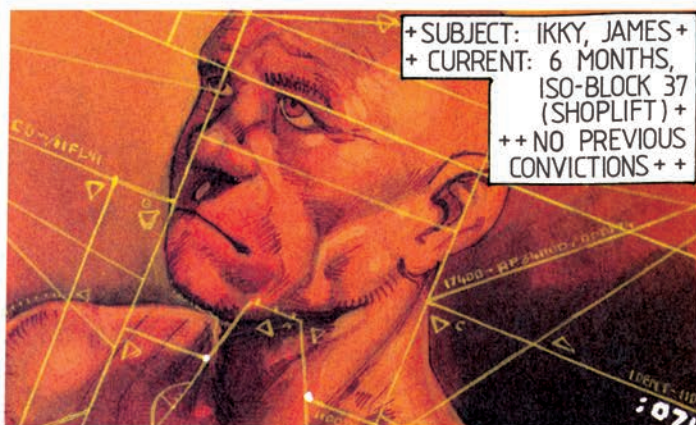
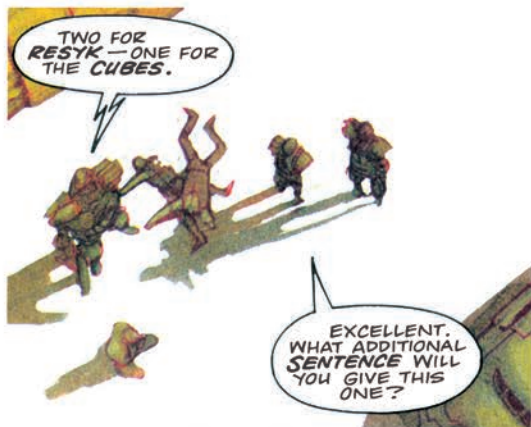
WHERE'S THAT FREAKIN' GUN--?

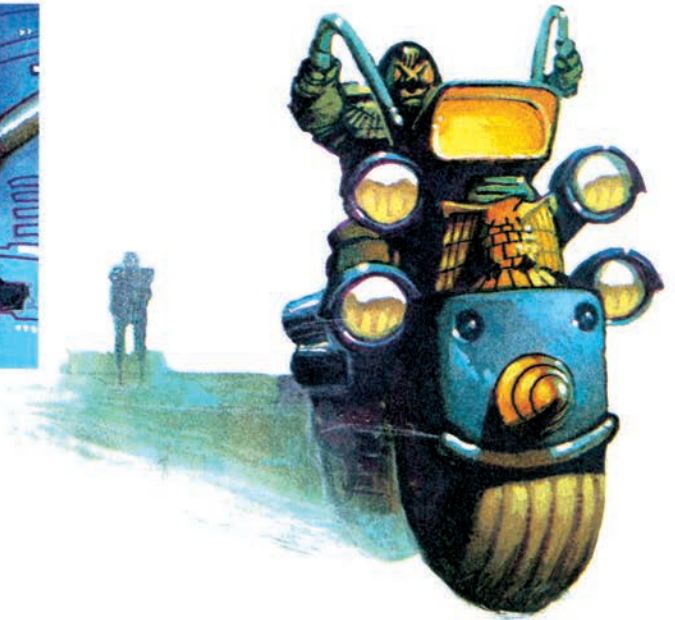
"INFRA-RED AND IMAGE INTENSIFICATION SENSORS GIVE THE ROBOT EXCELLENT VISION IN ALL CONDITIONS."

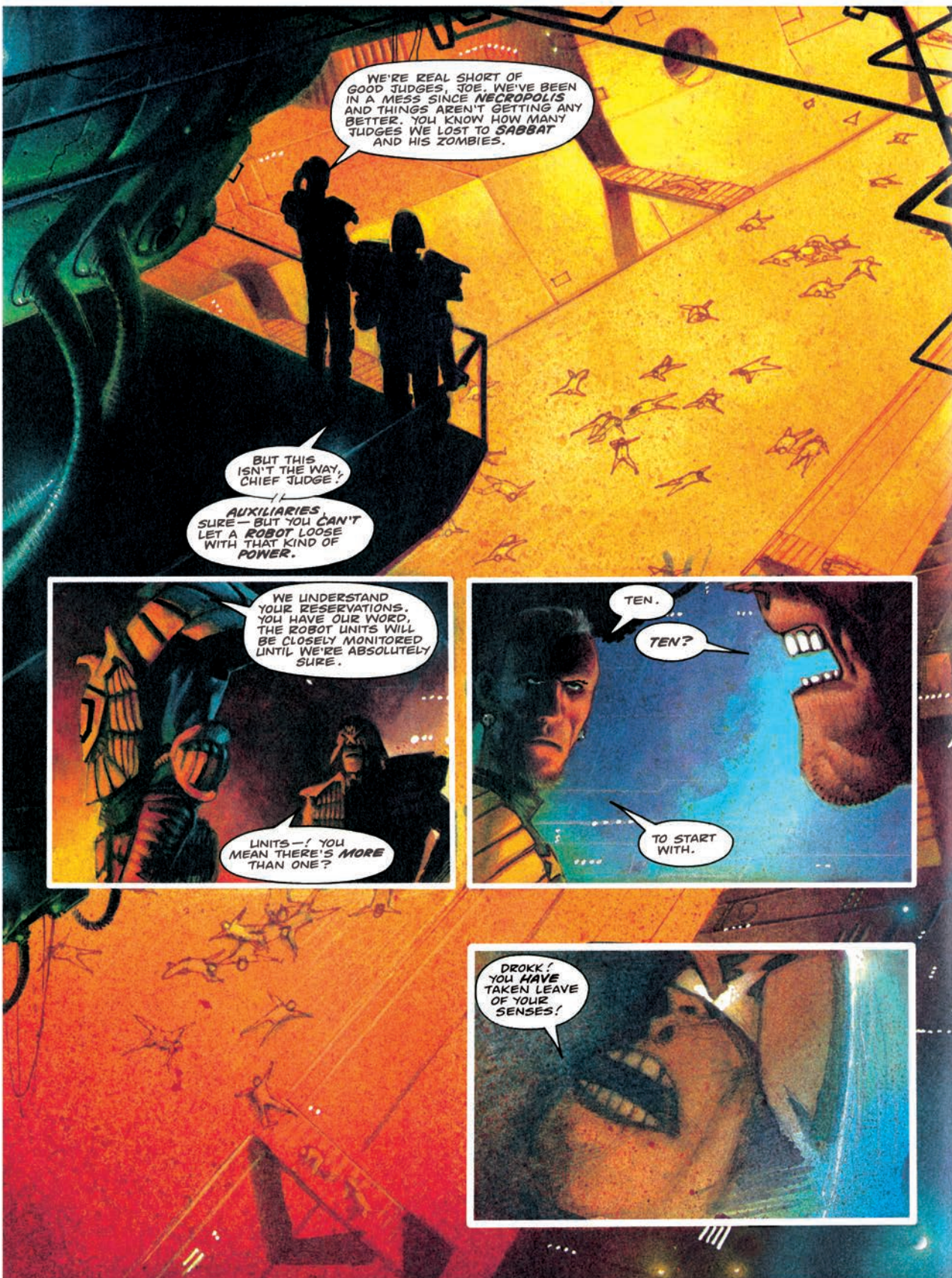












WE'RE REAL SHORT OF GOOD JUDGES, JOE. WE'VE BEEN IN A MESS SINCE **NECROPOLIS** AND THINGS AREN'T GETTING ANY BETTER. YOU KNOW HOW MANY JUDGES WE LOST TO **SABBAT** AND HIS ZOMBIES.

BUT THIS ISN'T THE WAY, CHIEF JUDGE?

AUXILIARIES SURE — BUT YOU CAN'T LET A **ROBOT** LOOSE WITH THAT KIND OF **POWER**.

WE UNDERSTAND YOUR RESERVATIONS. YOU HAVE OUR WORD, THE ROBOT UNITS WILL BE CLOSELY MONITORED UNTIL WE'RE ABSOLUTELY SURE.

UNITS —? YOU MEAN THERE'S **MORE** THAN ONE?

TEN.

TEN?

TO START WITH.

DROKK! YOU HAVE TAKEN LEAVE OF YOUR SENSES!



THE
ROBO-JUDGES
ARE ON THE
STREETS!

YES! AS OF 10:00 HOURS
THIS AFTERNOON TEN NEW ROBOT
JUDGE UNITS HAVE BEGUN DUTY
IN THE CENTRAL SECTORS OF
MEGA-CITY ONE!



THE ROBOTS — WHICH
CARRY A FORMIDABLE
ARRAY OF WEAPONRY —
ARE VESTED WITH FULL
JUDICIAL POWERS!

THAT MEANS THEY CAN
ARREST YOU — SEARCH
YOU — SENTENCE YOU —
AND, IF NECESSARY —
BLOW YOUR BONES
AWAY!

THAT'S RIGHT! THESE
DROIDS ARE LICENSED TO
KILL AND IF CIRCUMSTANCES
WARRANT IT THEY WILL NOT
HESITATE TO DO SO!



MACNEIL '92



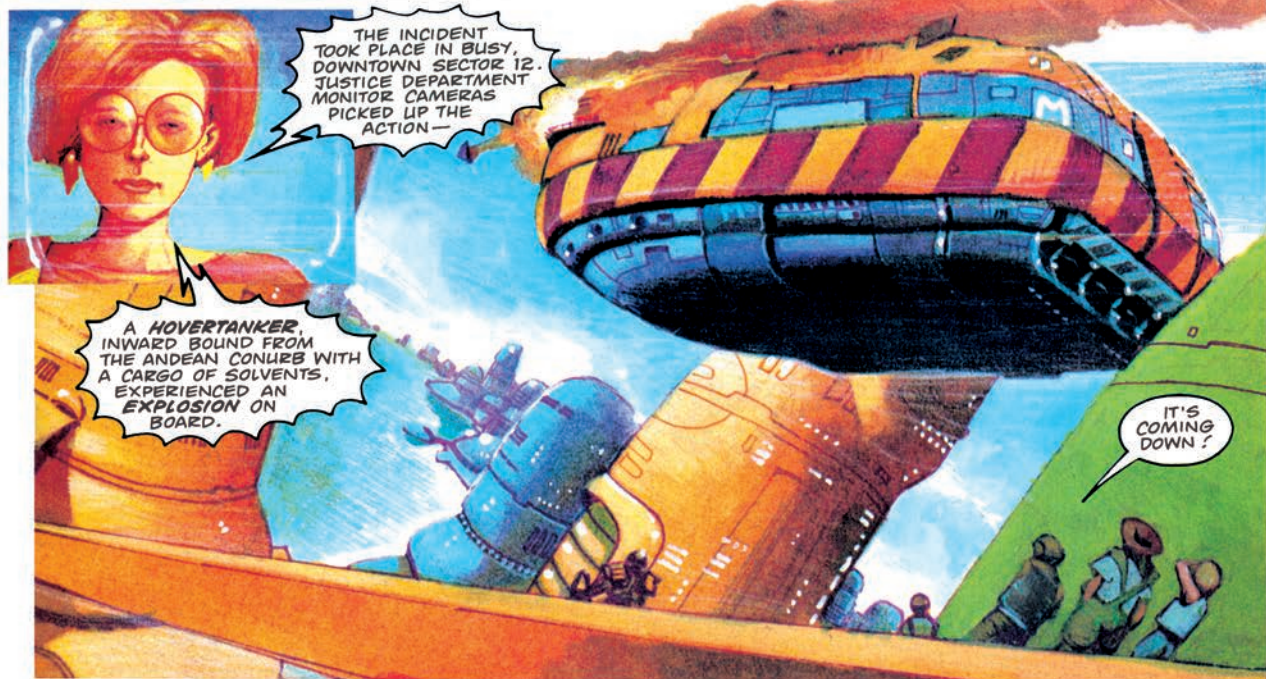
JUDGE DESMON STICH, IN CHARGE OF THE ROBO-JUDGE PROGRAMME — MACHINES WITH THE POWER OF LIFE AND DEATH? IS JUSTICE DEPARTMENT GOING A DANGEROUS STEP TOO FAR?

NO, I DON'T THINK SO.



THERE IS NO REASON TO SUPPOSE ROBOTS WILL PERFORM ANY LESS WELL THAN THEIR HUMAN COUNTERPARTS. INDEED, WITH TODAY'S TECHNOLOGY THERE IS EVERY REASON TO BELIEVE THEY WILL PERFORM BETTER.

IN FACT, AS YOU KNOW, WE HAVE EVIDENCE THAT THE ROBOTS HAVE ALREADY SAVED LIFE WHERE A HUMAN JUDGE WOULD HAVE FAILED.



THE INCIDENT TOOK PLACE IN BUSY, DOWNTOWN SECTOR 12. JUSTICE DEPARTMENT MONITOR CAMERAS PICKED UP THE ACTION —

A HOVERTANKER INWARD BOUND FROM THE ANDEAN CONURB WITH A CARGO OF SOLVENTS, EXPERIENCED AN EXPLOSION ON BOARD.

IT'S COMING DOWN!



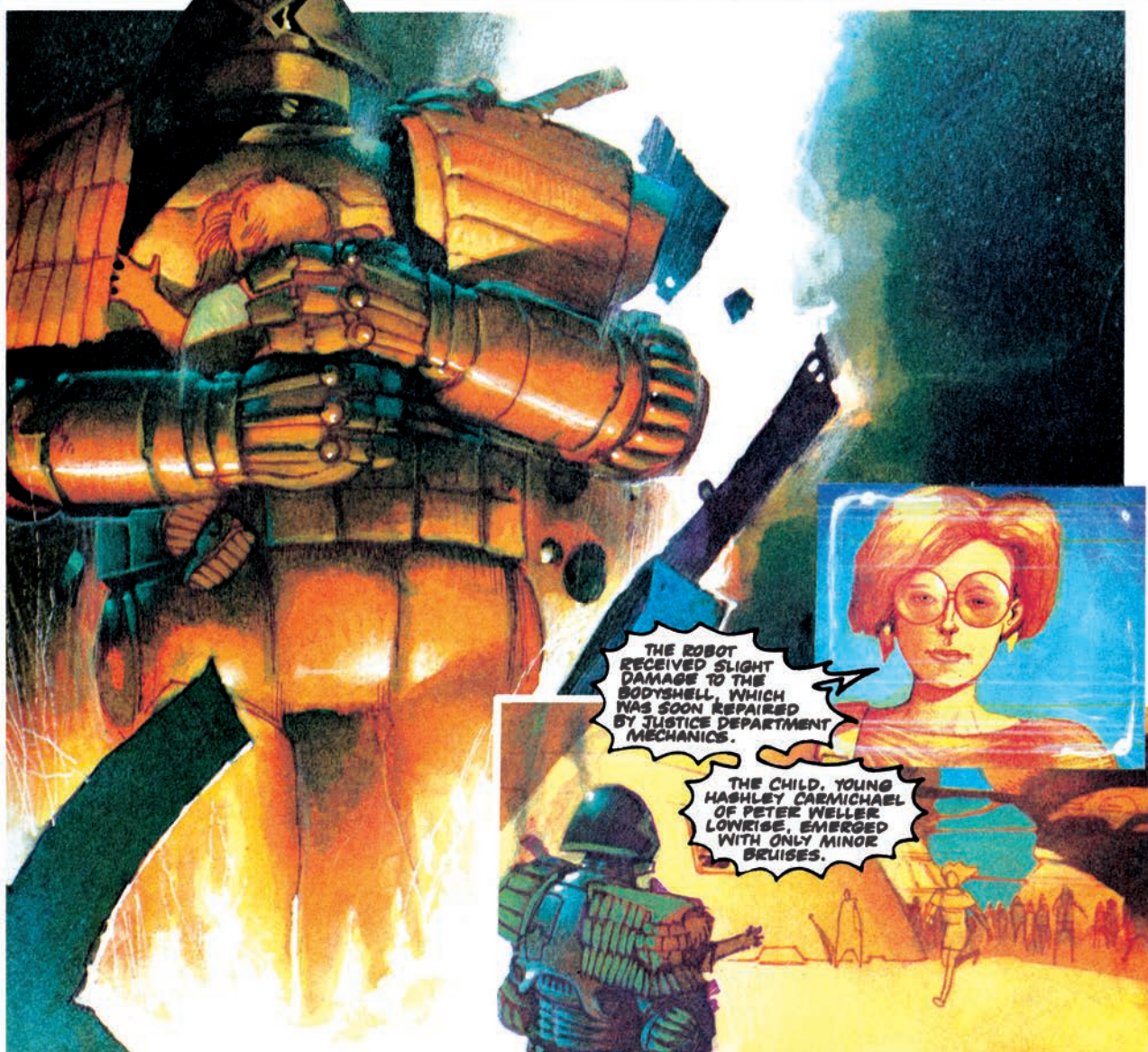
THE ROBOT JUDGE IDENTIFIED THE TANKER'S HIGHLY-EXPLOSIVE CARGO AND IMMEDIATELY NOTIFIED EMERGENCY SERVICES.

ROBOT'S "EYE" VIEW.

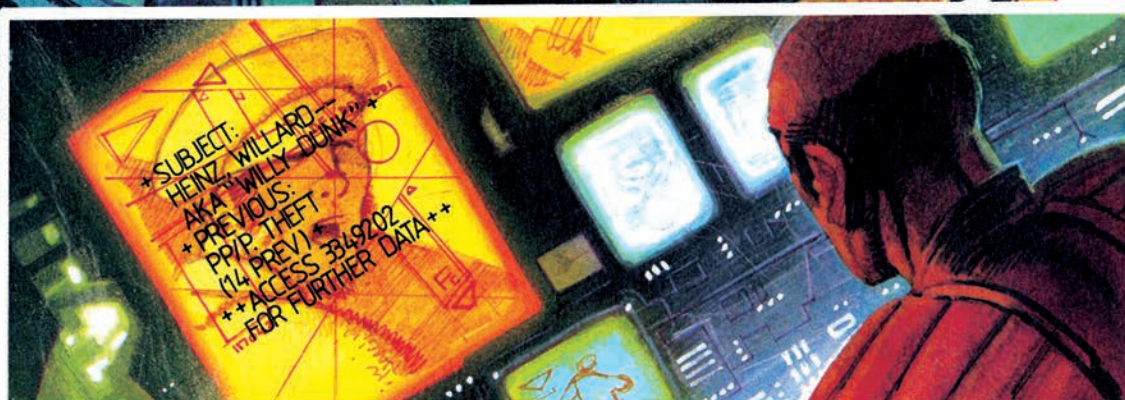


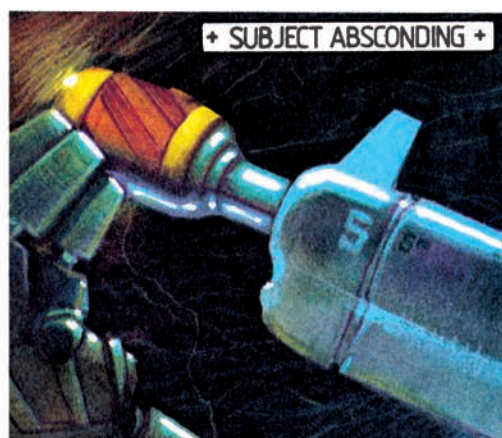


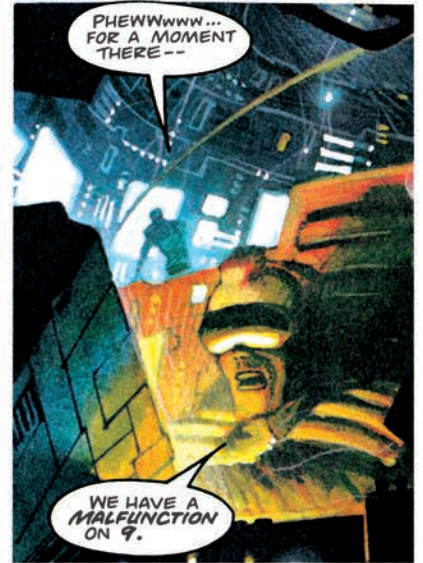
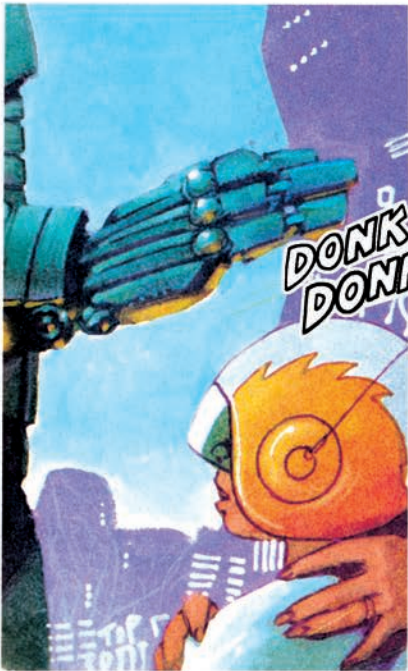
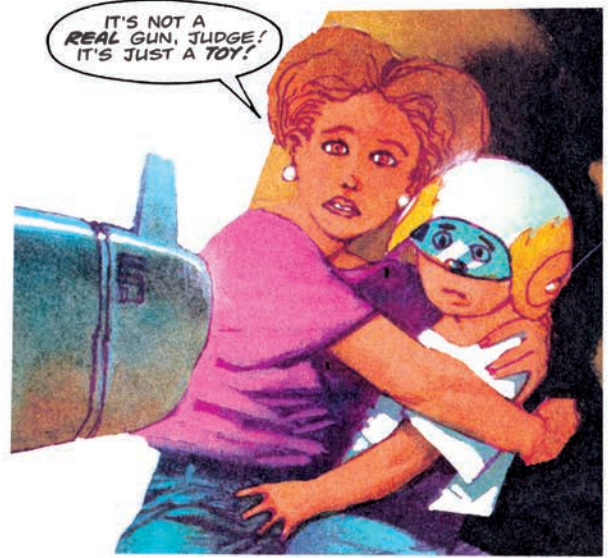
HASHLEYYY!

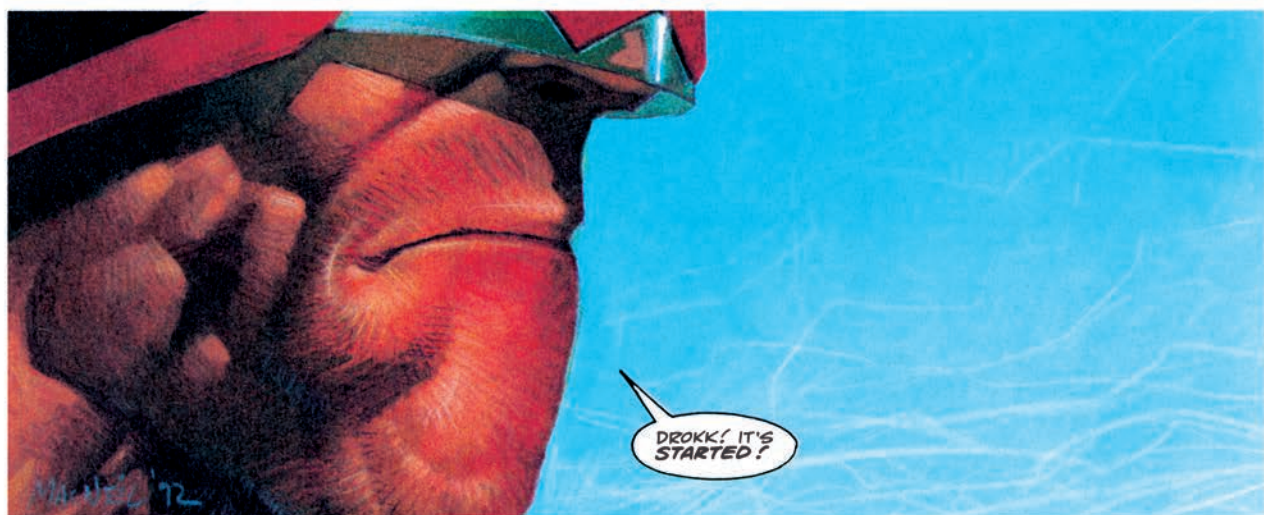


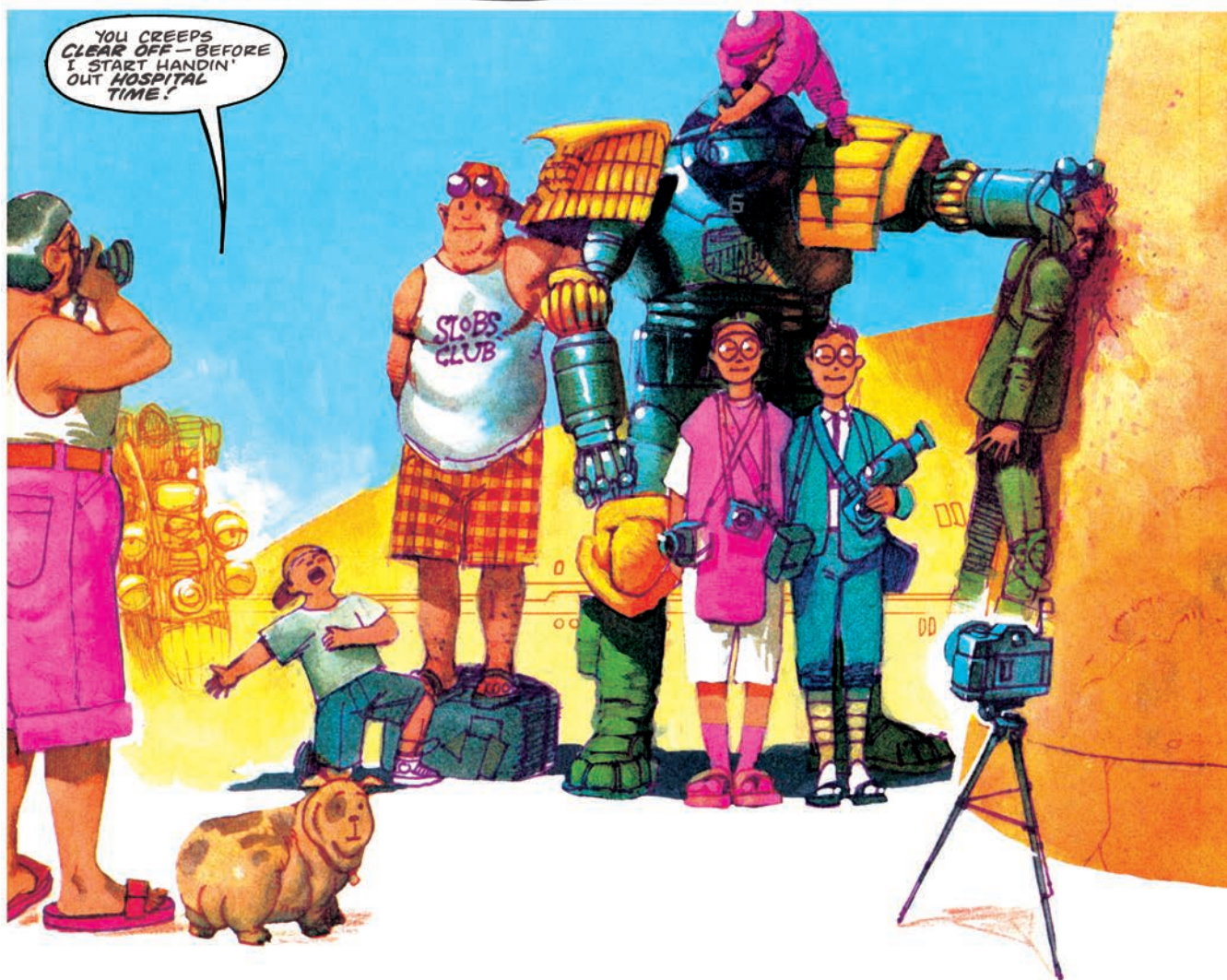


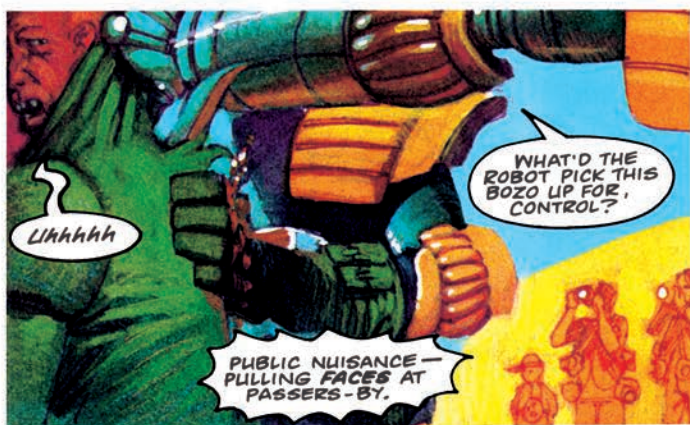












LIHHHH

WHAT'D THE
ROBOT PICK THIS
BOZO UP FOR,
CONTROL?

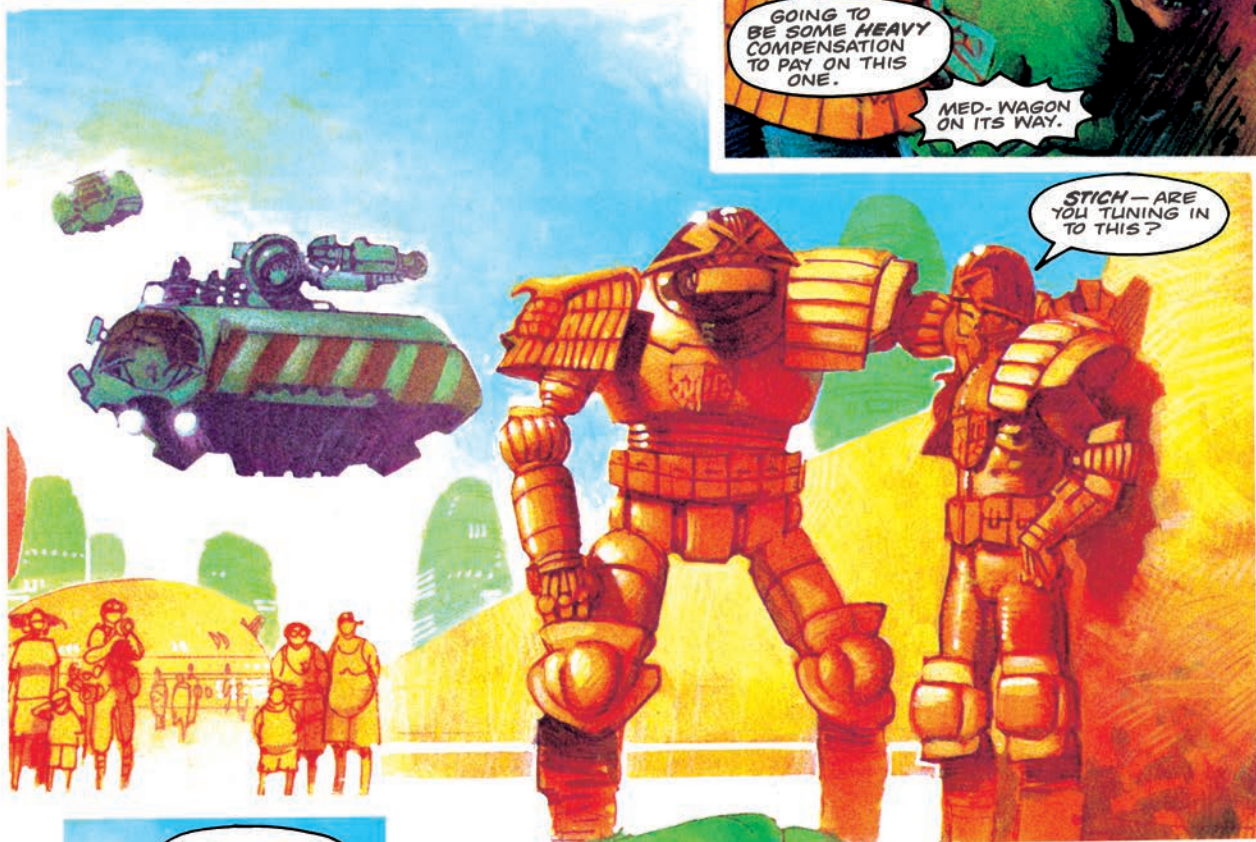
PUBLIC NUISANCE—
PULLING FACES AT
PASSERS-BY.



IT'S CURED THAT
PROBLEM ANYWAY—
POOR SUCKER HASN'T
GOT A FACE LEFT TO
PULL.

GOING TO
BE SOME HEAVY
COMPENSATION
TO PAY ON THIS
ONE.

MED-WAGON
ON ITS WAY.



STICH— ARE
YOU TUNING IN
TO THIS?

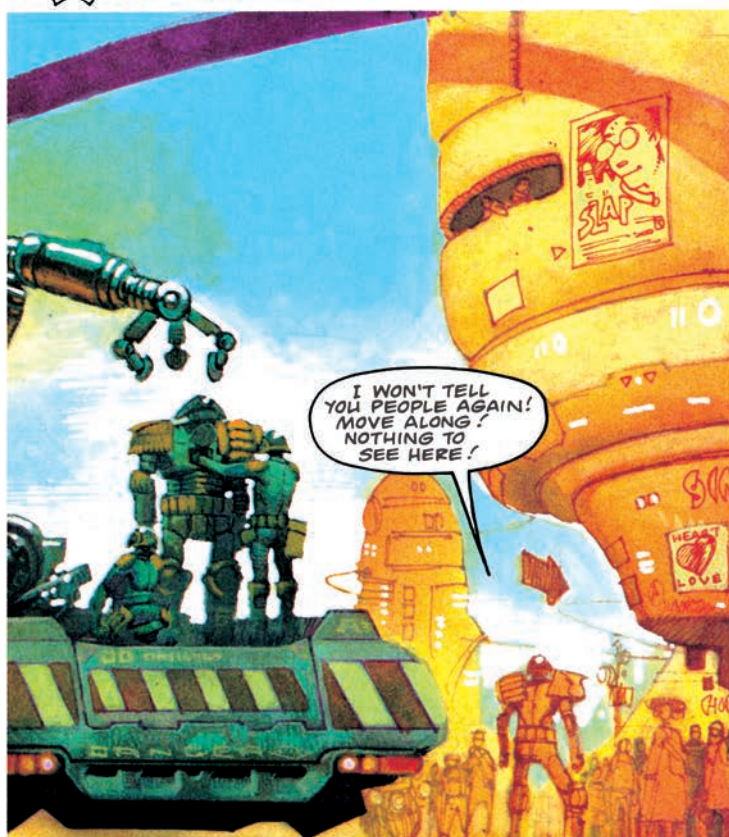


AFFIRMATIVE.



WHAT WE HAVE
HERE, STICH, IS THE
FIRST CITIZEN
ILLEGALLY INJURED BY
ONE OF YOUR ROBOTS.
IT'S PURE LUCK HE
WASN'T KILLED.

THAT'S
NONSENSE AND
YOU KNOW IT.







CAN'T FIX THE ROBOT HERE. WE'LL HAVE TO TAKE IT IN.



WHAT WENT WRONG?

CAN'T BE ABSOLUTELY SURE TILL I'VE STRIPPED IT RIGHT DOWN, BUT I RECKON THE PROBLEM'S IN THE AVR BOARD HERE...



SEE, YOU GOT DEFINITE SIGNS OF OVERHEATING THERE ...

AVR?



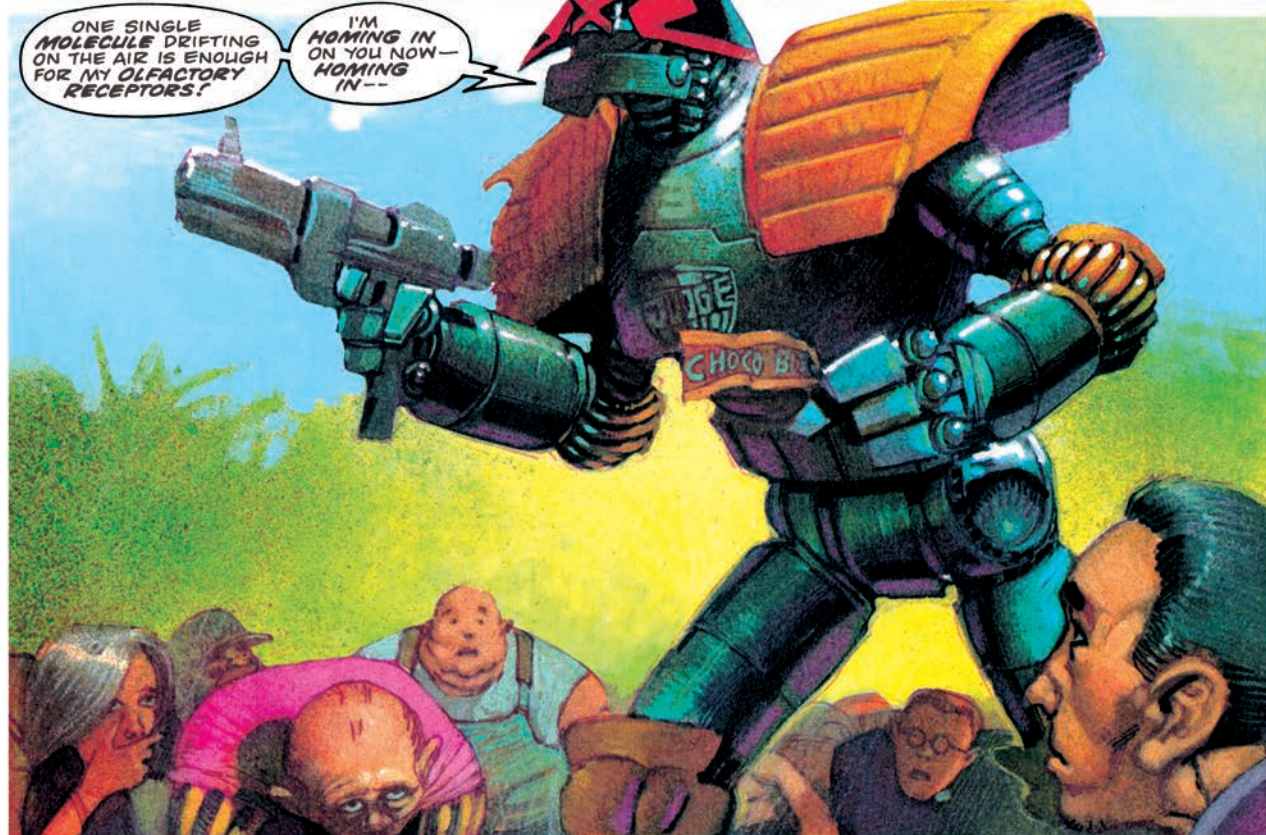
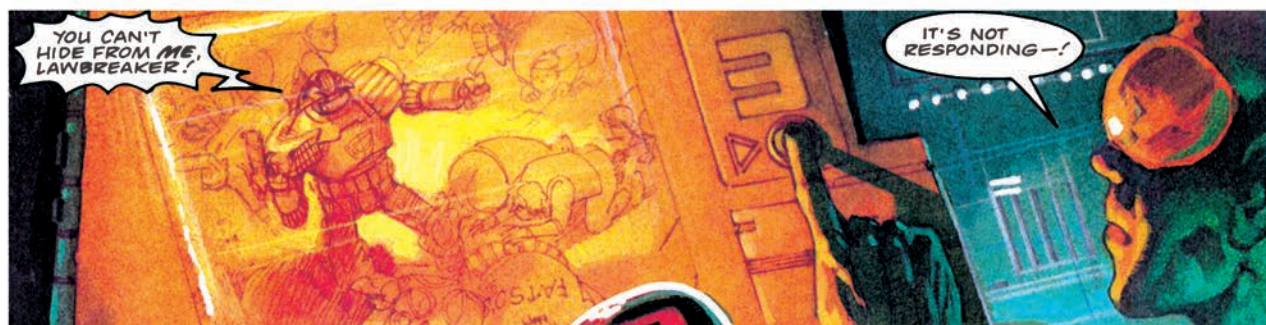
AUTOMATIC VARIABLE RESPONSE. IT REGULATES THE ROBOT'S BEHAVIOURAL PROGRAMME — ALLOWS IT TO ADOPT THE APPROPRIATE ATTITUDINAL RESPONSE TO ANY GIVEN SITUATION.

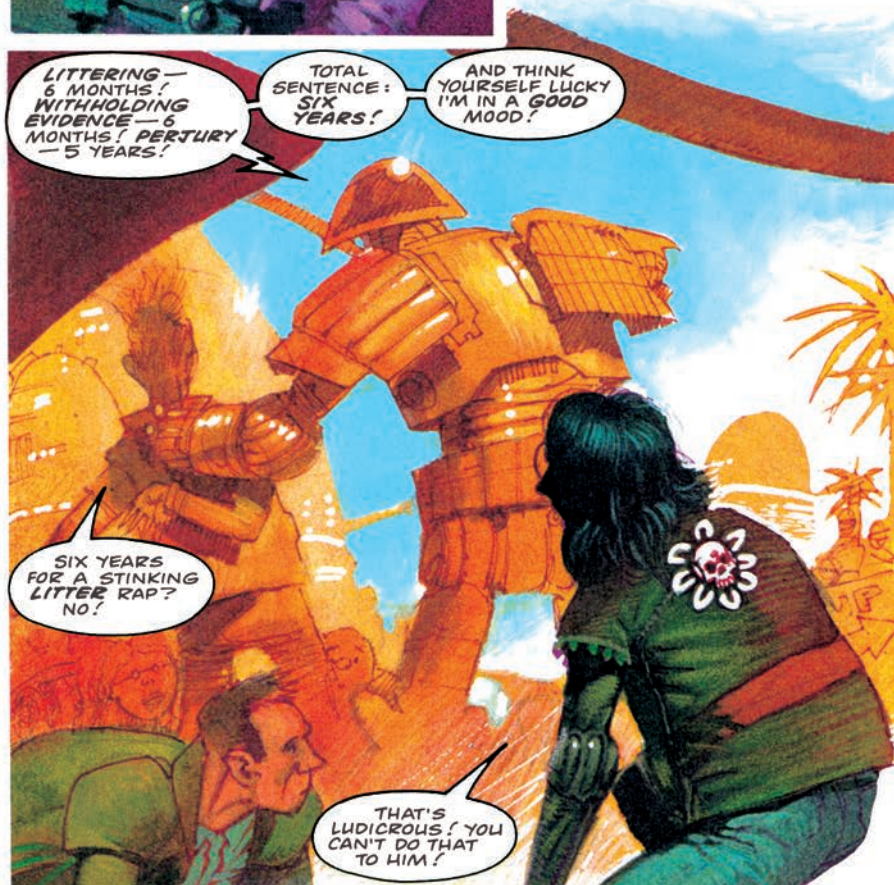
MY GUESS IS IT'S JUST A FAULTY RESISTOR, LETTING TOO MUCH JUICE THROUGH. THE ROBOT JUST GOT OVER-AGGRESSIVE.



TOO MUCH MECHANISMO?

YOU GOT IT.







WHAT ABOUT THE
REST OF YOU? ANYONE
ELSE WANT TO TELL ME
MY JOB? ANY OTHER
WISEGUYS?

NO—ALL
KEEPING VERY
QUIET NOW, AREN'T
WE? AND WHY?

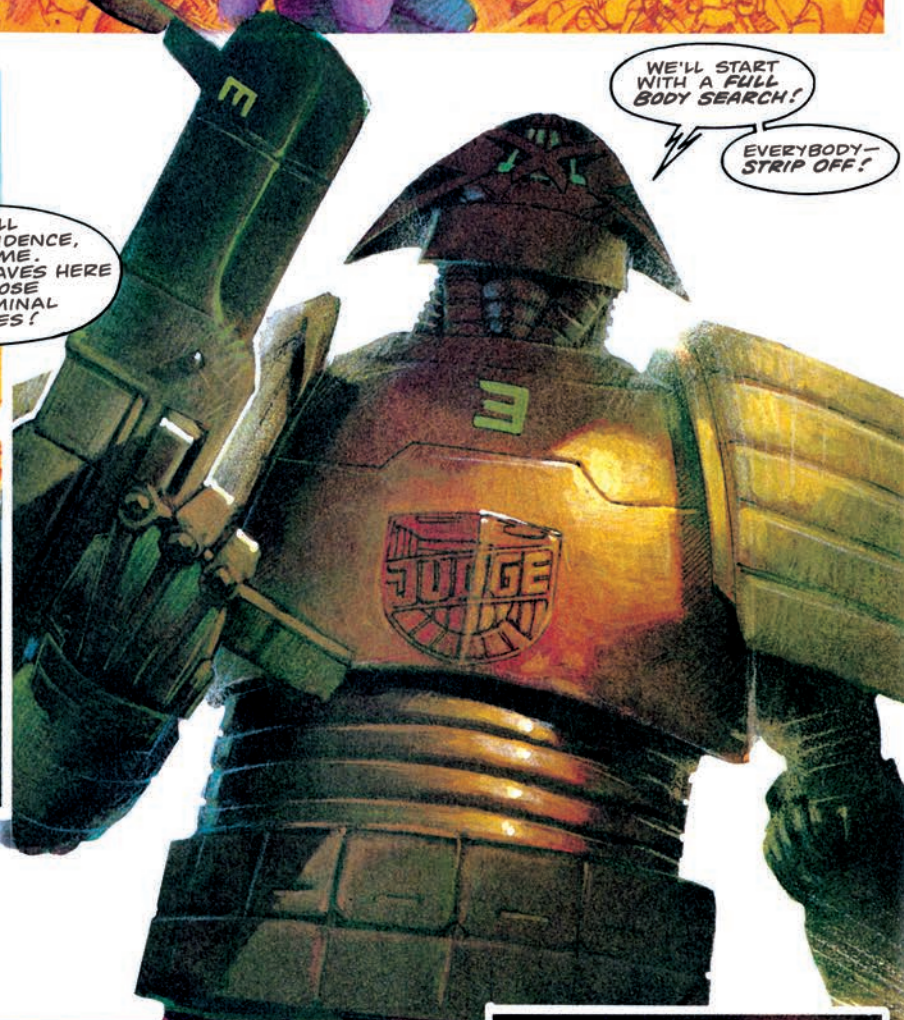
I'LL TELL
YOU WHY!



BECAUSE YOU'RE
LAWBREAKERS! EVERY
ONE OF YOU!

ALL HIDING YOUR
GUILTY SECRETS—HOPING
I'LL PASS YOU BY—HOPING
I WON'T PICK YOU...

WELL, I'LL
GET THE EVIDENCE,
BELIEVE ME.
NOBODY LEAVES HERE
TILL I EXPOSE
YOUR CRIMINAL
ACTIVITIES!



WE'LL START
WITH A FULL
BODY SEARCH!

EVERYBODY—
STRIP OFF!



IT
JUST WON'T
RESPOND!

GIVE ME
THE MIKE!

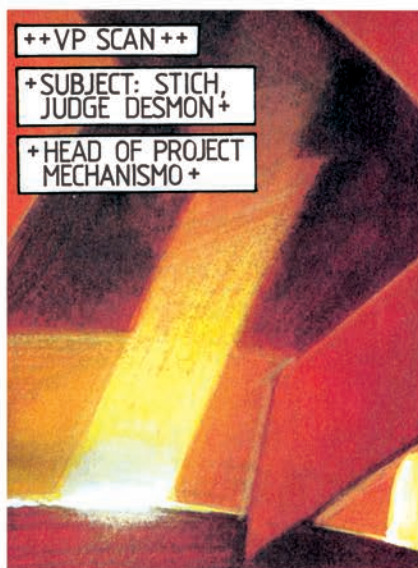
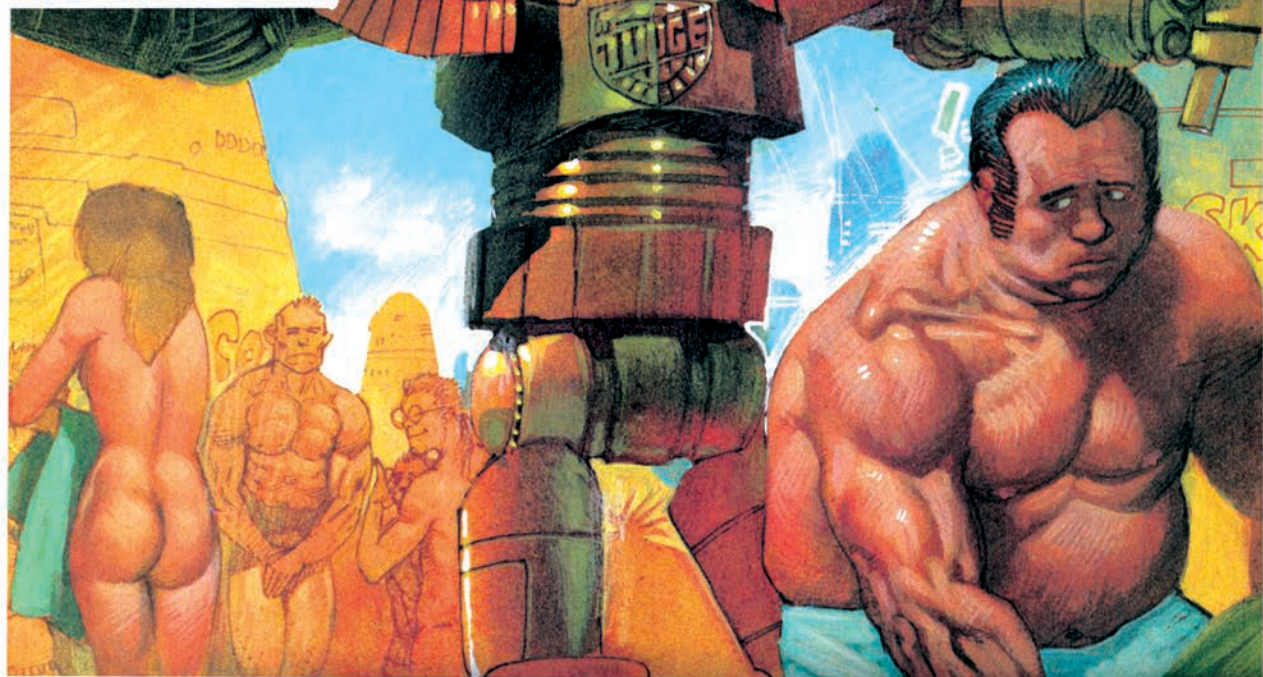
++ESTABLISH GUILT++

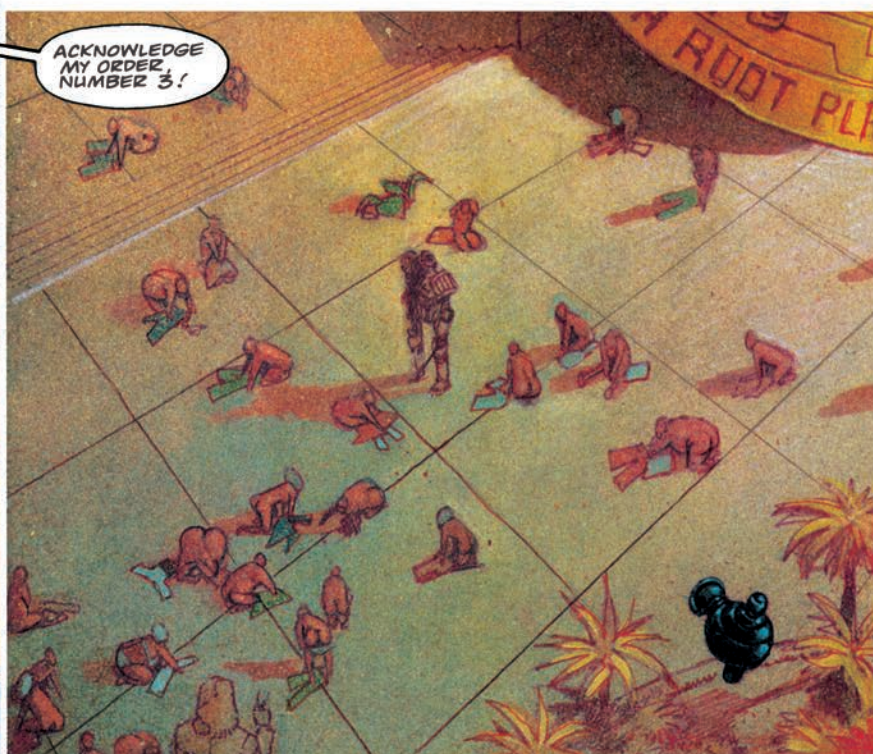
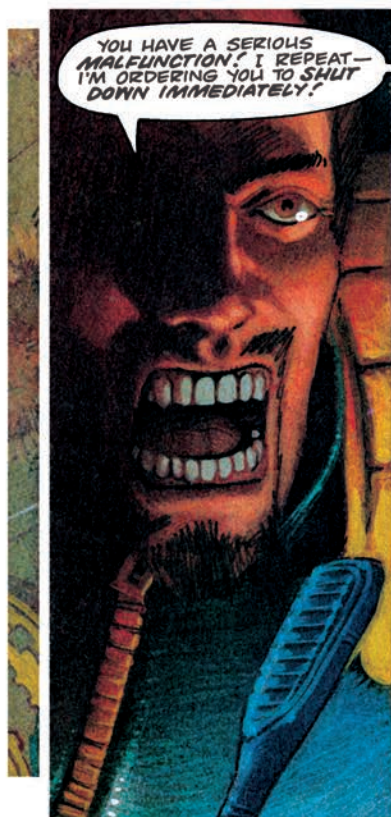
+STRIP SEARCH+

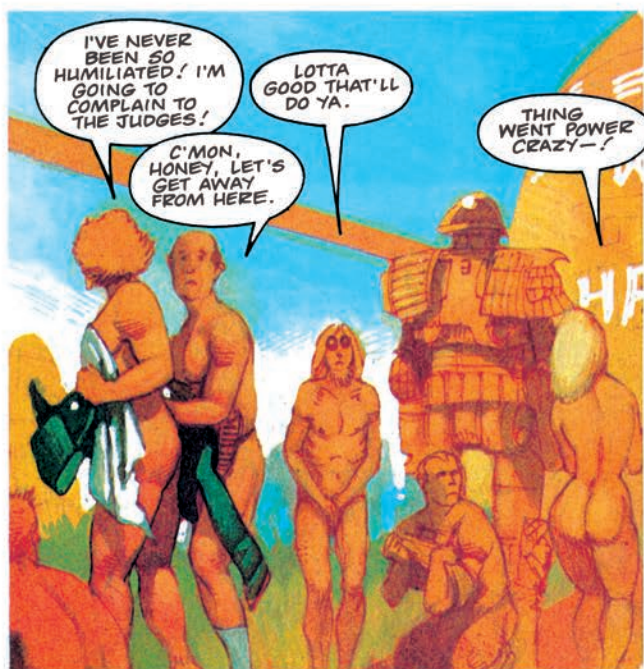
+STRIP SEARCH+



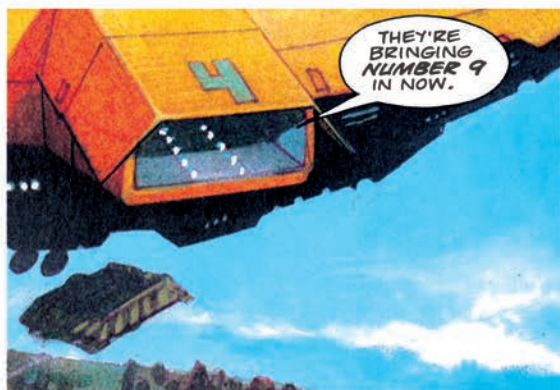
NUMBER 3!
THIS IS
JUDGE STICH!
SCANALYSE
MY VOICE!











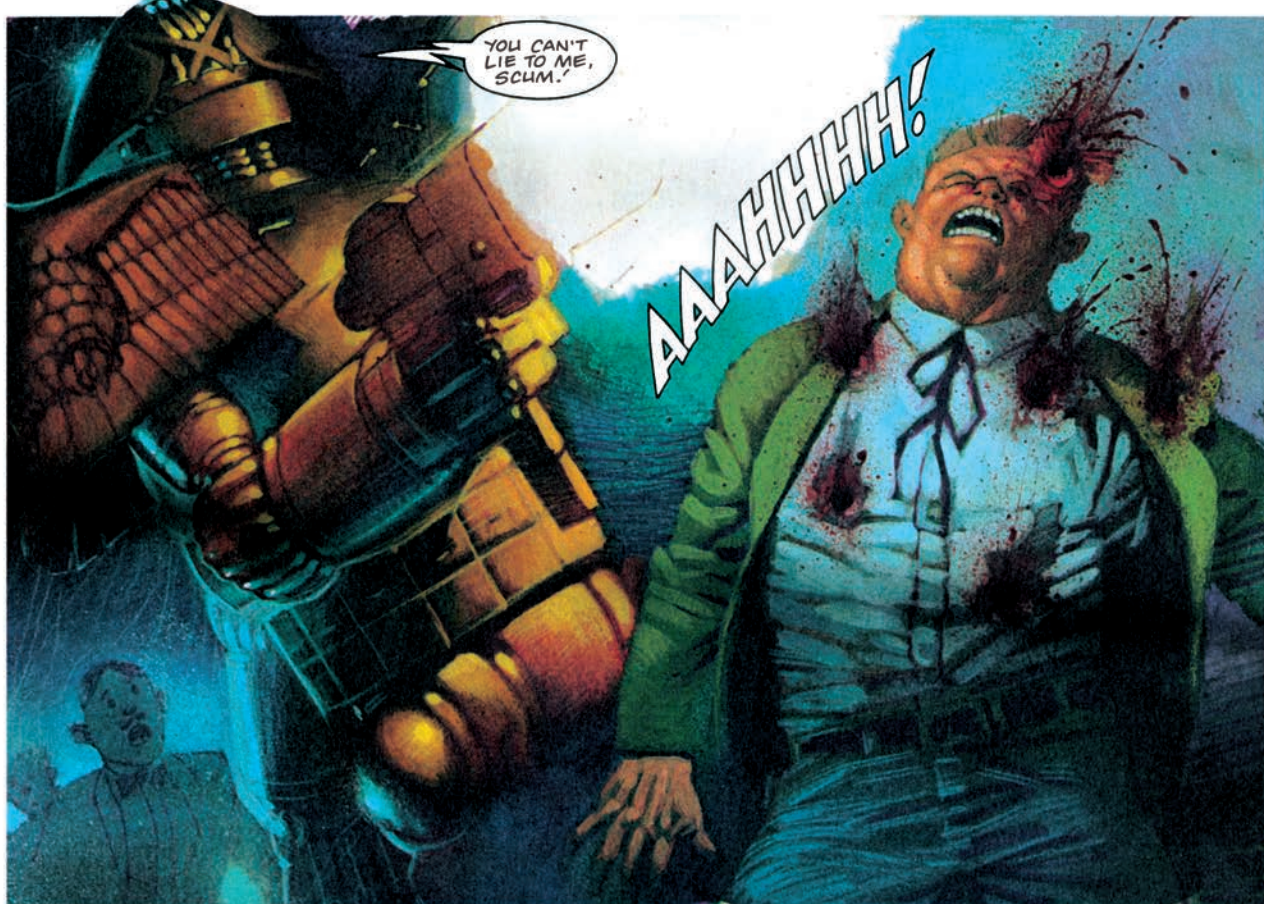


+ SUBJECT:
ENGLES, FLIP--AKA
"CRAZYFACE"+
+ WANTED:
HOMICIDE, NARCO (7DDV),
SUSP/AB PENDING +
++ACCESS 1580071 FOR
FURTHER DATA++



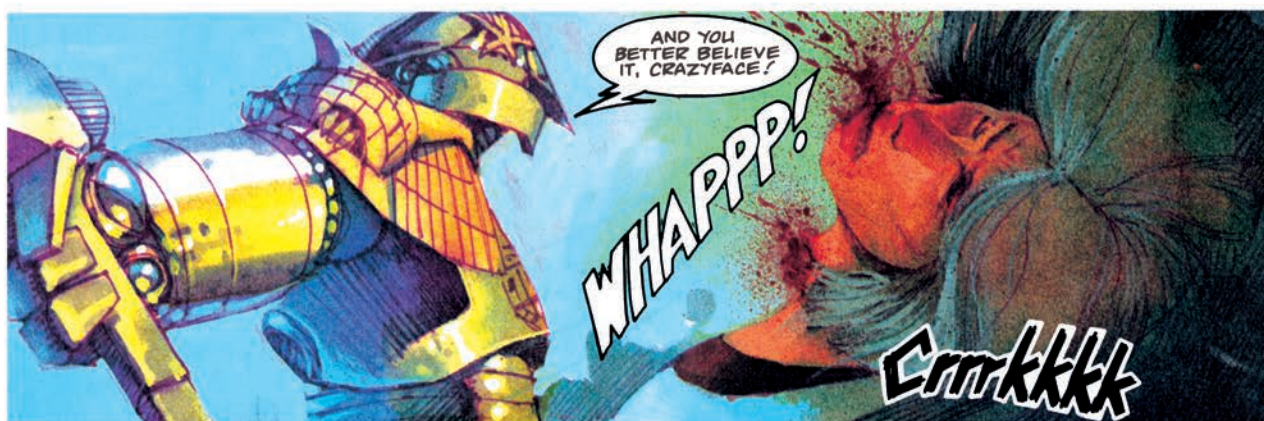
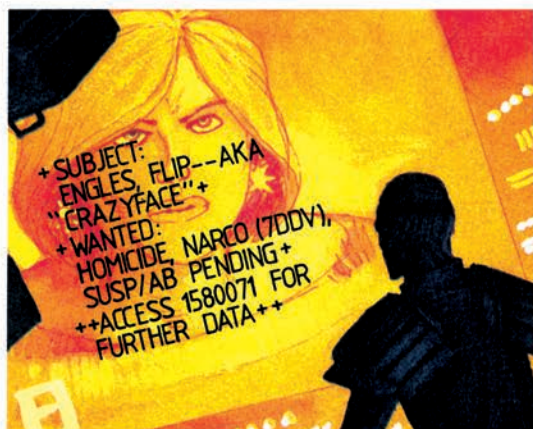
IT IDENTIFIED ONE
PATRON AS THIS FLIP
"CRAZYFACE" ENGLES
—WRONGLY, I'M
CERTAIN.

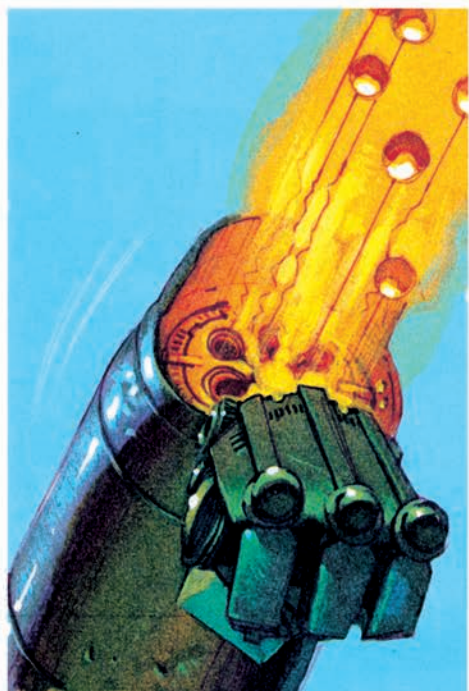
NOW IT'S
DOING THE SAME
THING!

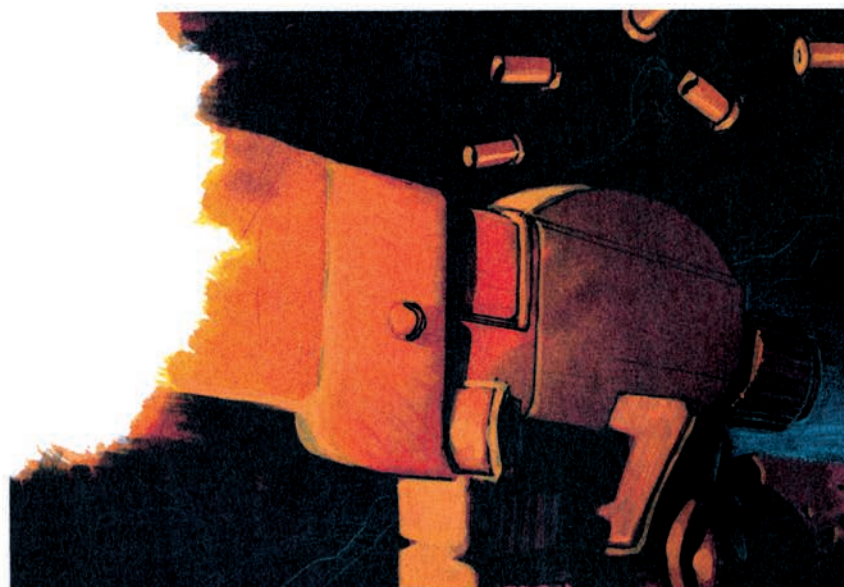
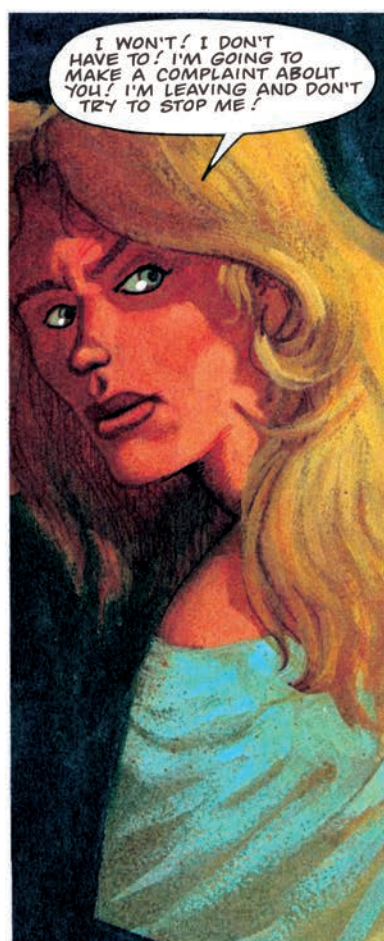
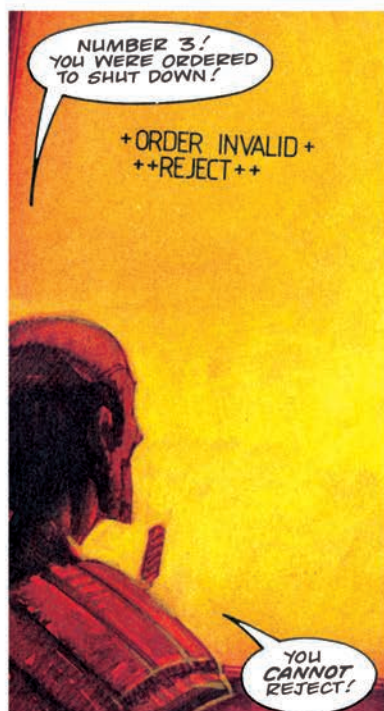


YOU CAN'T
LIE TO ME,
SCHUM.

AAAAHHHH!



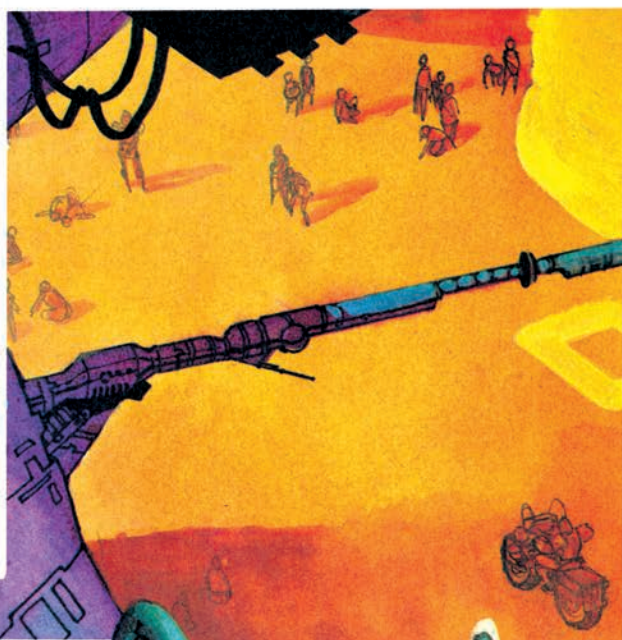


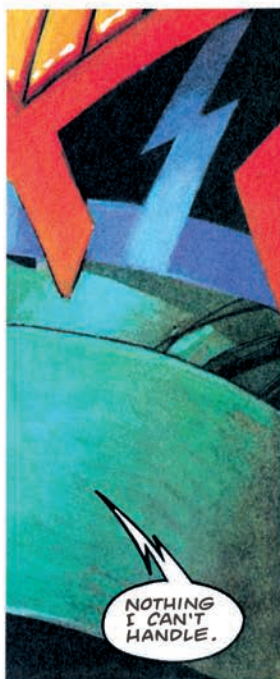


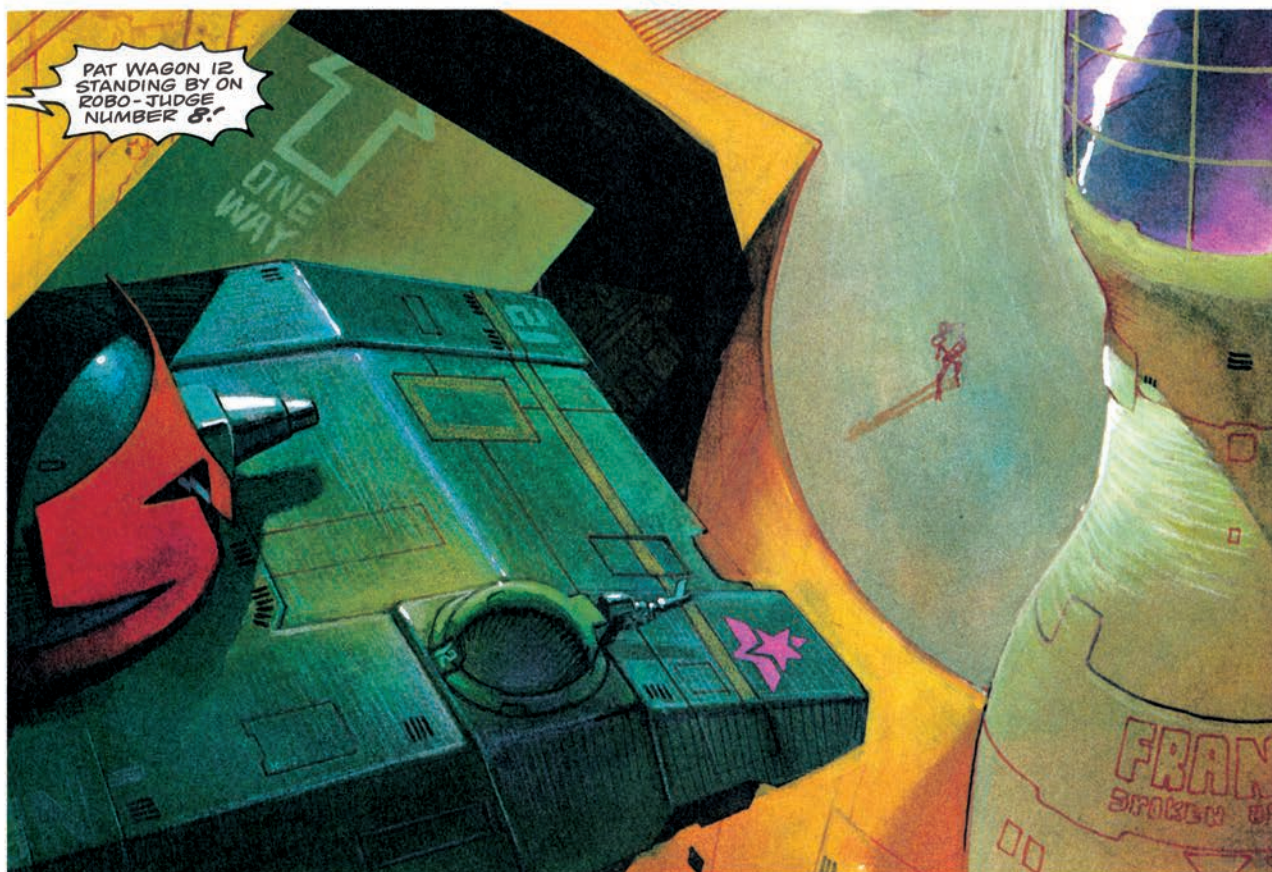






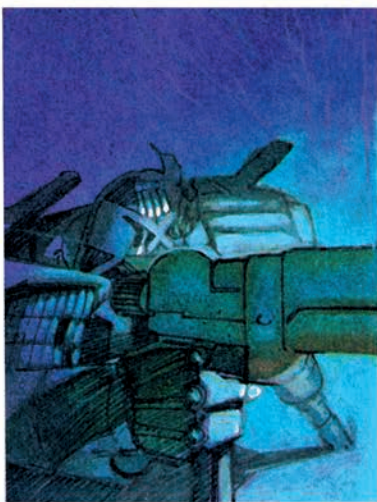
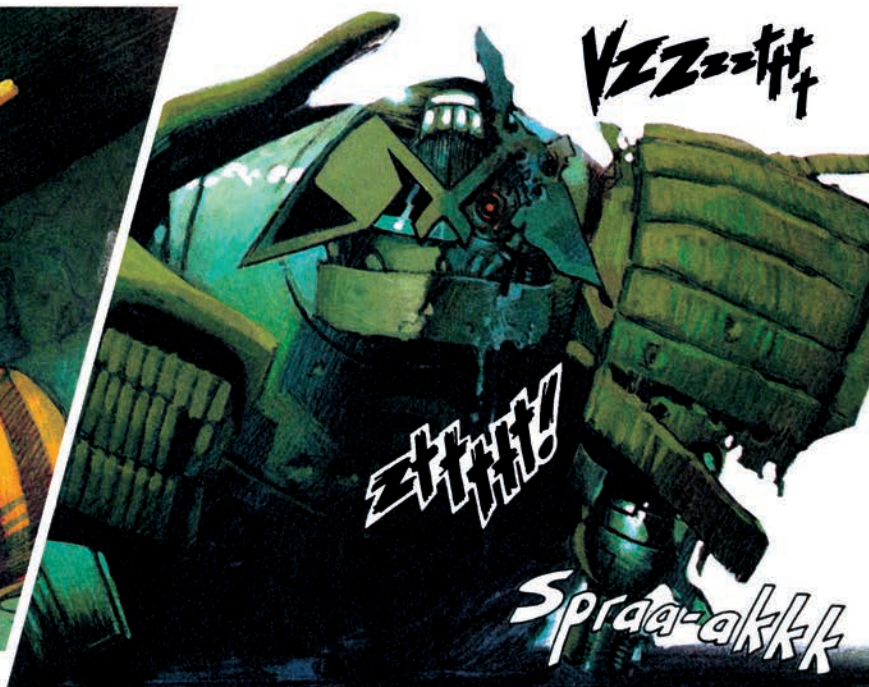


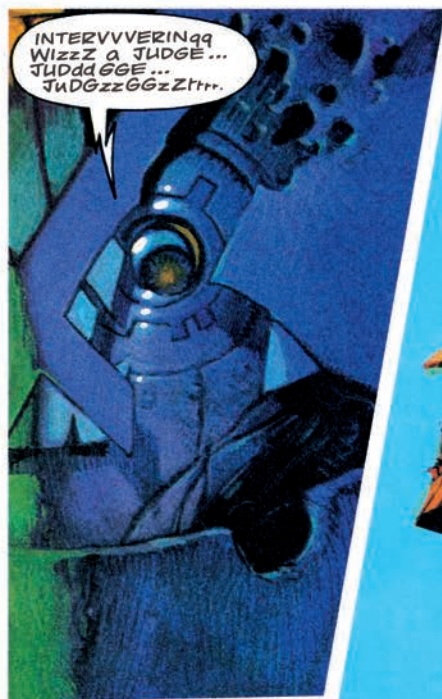




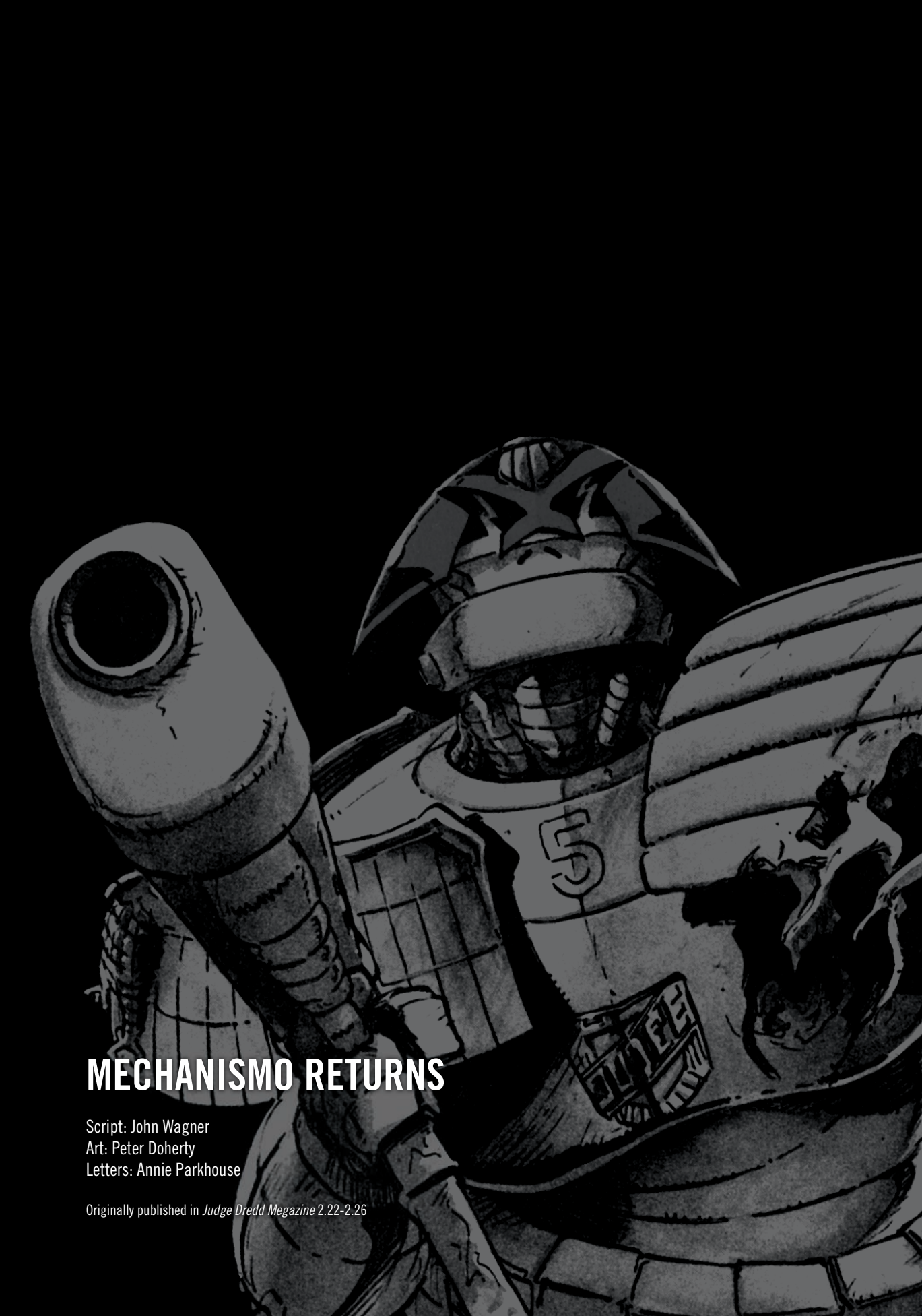








MACNEIL '92



MECHANISMO RETURNS

Script: John Wagner
Art: Peter Doherty
Letters: Annie Parkhouse

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THE
ROBO-JUDGES
ARE GONE!

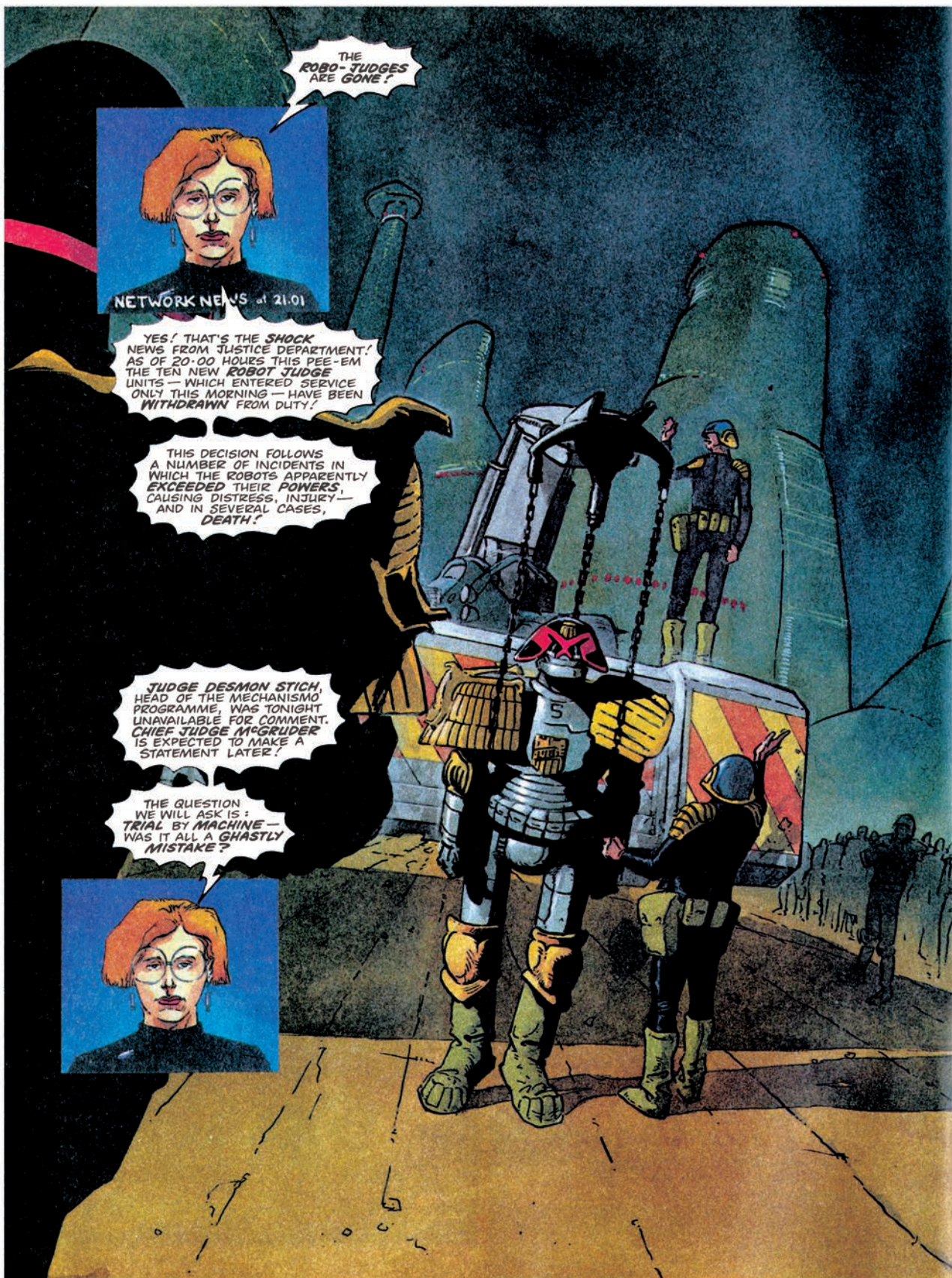
NETWORK NEWS at 21.01

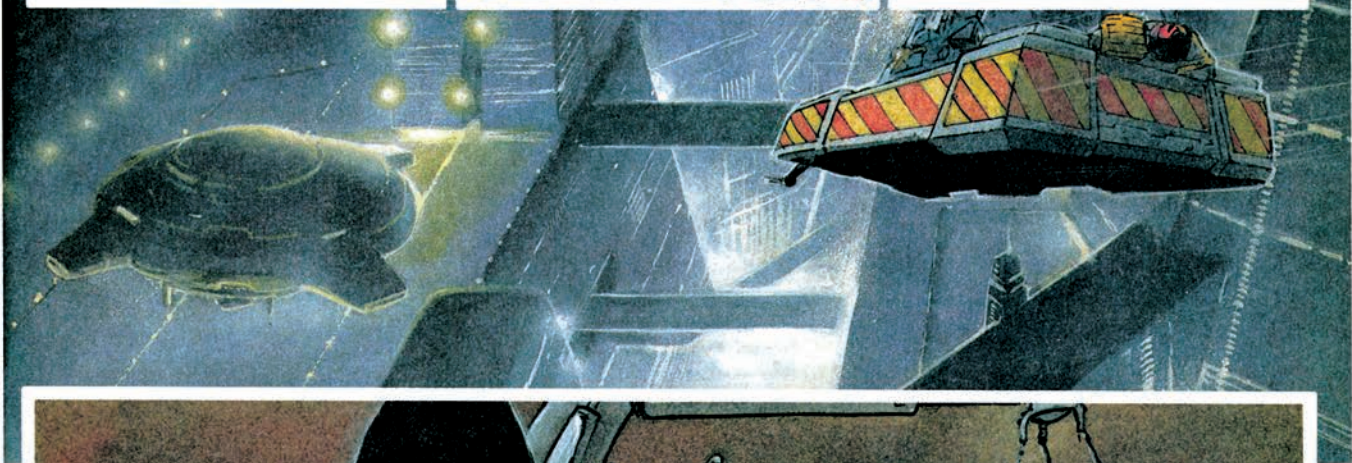
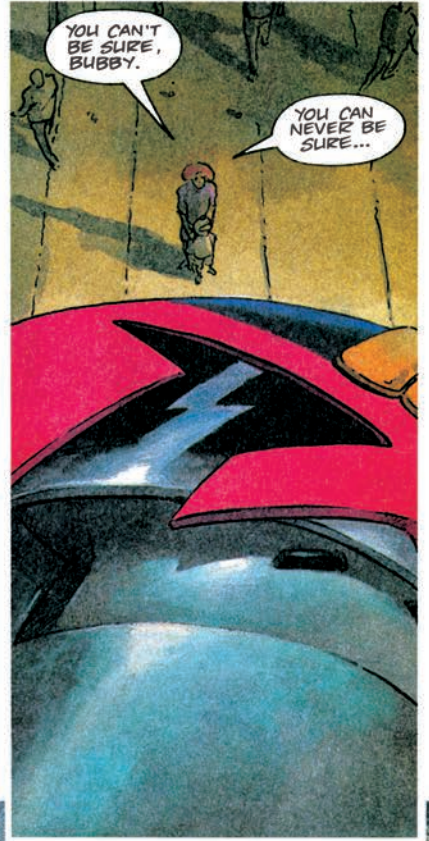
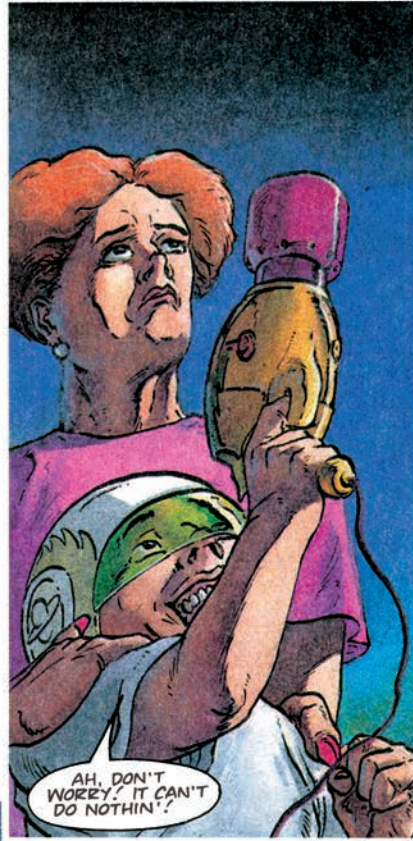
YES! THAT'S THE **SHOCK**
NEWS FROM JUSTICE DEPARTMENT!
AS OF 20.00 HOURS THIS PEE-EM
THE TEN NEW **ROBOT JUDGE**
UNITS — WHICH ENTERED SERVICE
ONLY THIS MORNING — HAVE BEEN
WITHDRAWN FROM DUTY!

THIS DECISION FOLLOWS
A NUMBER OF INCIDENTS IN
WHICH THE ROBOTS APPARENTLY
EXCEEDED THEIR **POWERS**,
CAUSING DISTRESS, INJURY —
AND IN SEVERAL CASES,
DEATH!

JUDGE DESMOND STICH,
HEAD OF THE MECHANISMO
PROGRAMME, WAS TONIGHT
UNAVAILABLE FOR COMMENT.
CHIEF JUDGE MCGRUDER
IS EXPECTED TO MAKE A
STATEMENT LATER!

THE QUESTION
WE WILL ASK IS:
TRIAL BY MACHINE —
WAS IT ALL A **GHASTLY**
MISTAKE?









FOR CRYIN' OUT LOUD, JOE, WE HAD 60 MILLION DEATHS IN NECROPOLIS—YOU THINK THIS CITY'S GOING TO MISS A FEW MORE?



AND THAT'S GOING TO BE YOUR LINE TO THE PEOPLE, IS IT?

GIVE US *SOME* CREDIT.



"VERY REGRETTABLE—A FEW ISOLATED INCIDENTS—ROBOTS WITHDRAWN FROM SERVICE, GENEROUS COMPENSATION PAID"... YOU KNOW THE DRILL.

IT COMES TO THE SAME THING.

AND WHEN THE HEAT'S DIED DOWN YOU'LL STICK THE ROBOTS RIGHT BACK OUT THERE ON THE STREETS AGAIN!

REPAIRED, OF COURSE.



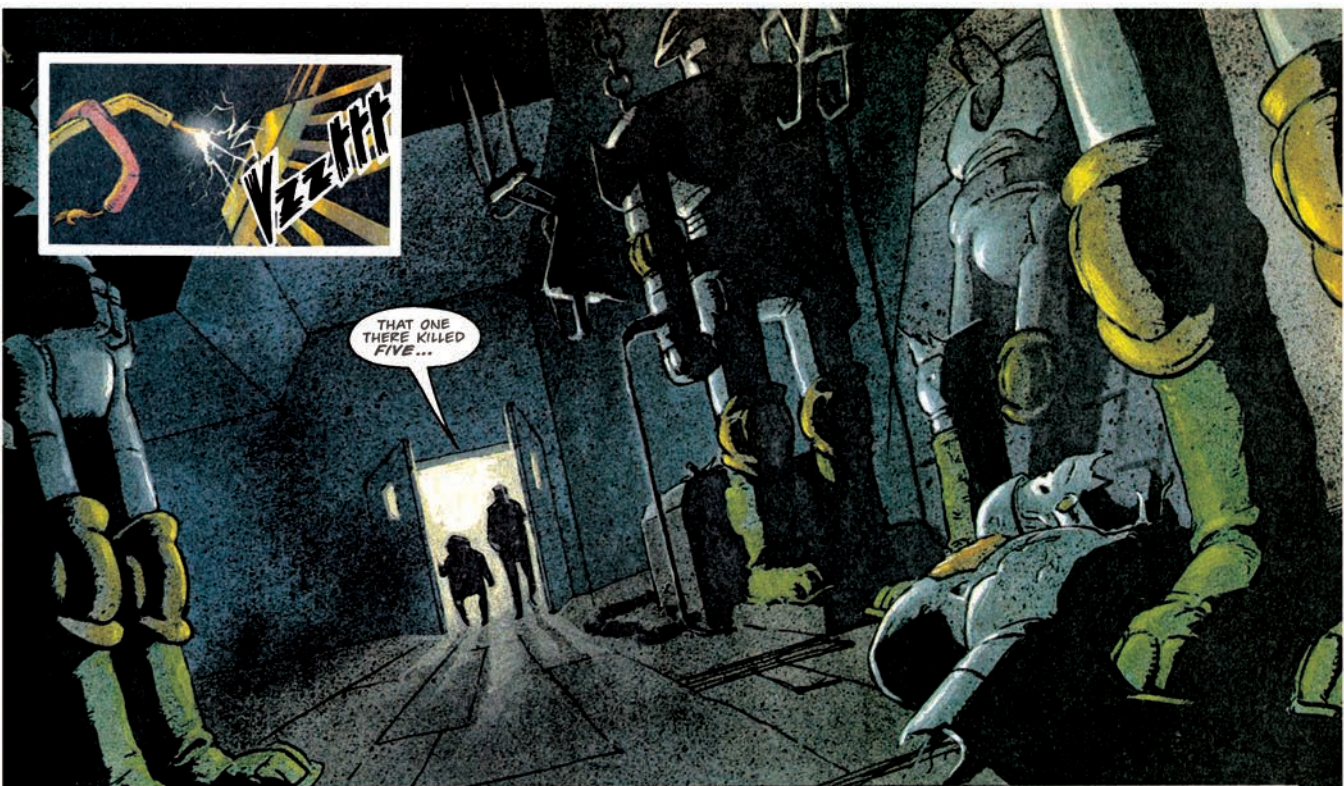
I DON'T BELIEVE THIS!



THE FAULT'S QUITE SIMPLE TO CORRECT.

IF IT'S THAT SIMPLE WHY DIDN'T YOU DO IT *BEFORE* YOUR ROBOTS KILLED SIX PEOPLE?







HE HIT IT FULL POWER WITH BOTH LASER CANNONS AND IT STILL DIDN'T STOP IT. TOOK ANOTHER BLAST TO FINISH THE JOB. YESSIR.

THEY MUST BE REAL TOUGH.

THEY'RE IMPRESSIVE MACHINES, NEIL, THAT'S FOR SURE.

WHAT DO YOU RECKON THEY'LL DO WITH THEM?



SCRAP 'EM. THAT'S ALL THEY CAN DO.

CAN'T EVER TRUST 'EM TO GO OUT JUDGING AGAIN.



C'MON. LET'S YOU AN' ME GO GRAB THAT GAME OF CHIGGERS.

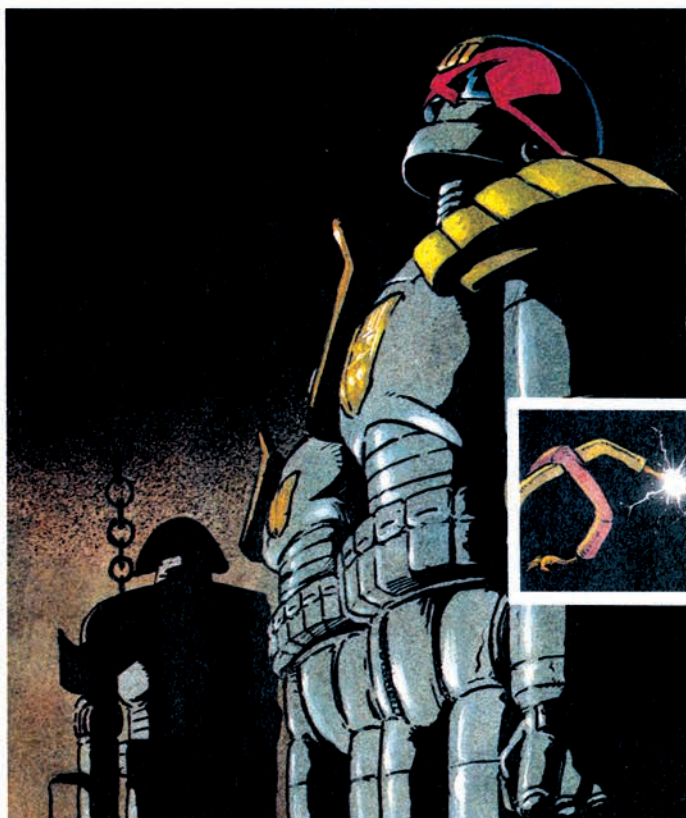
GO EASY ON ME TONIGHT, GIL.

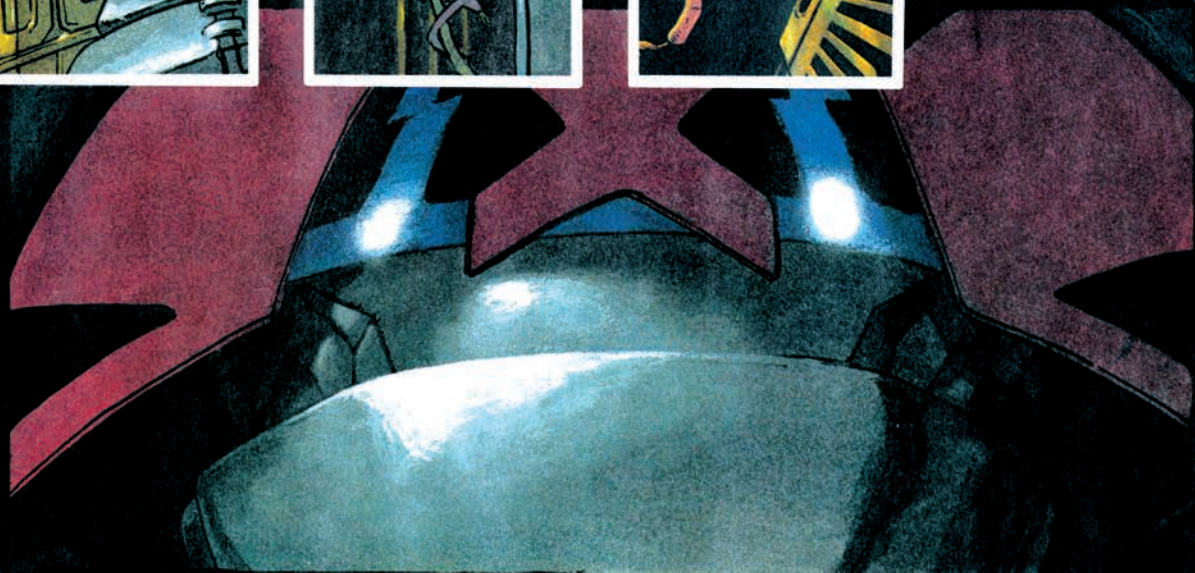
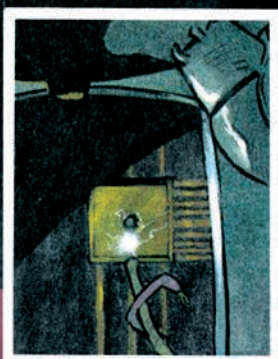
GOTTA PLAY TO WIN. THAT'S YOUR TROUBLE, NEIL. YOU'RE TOO NICE. YOU LACK THE KILLER INSTINCT.



NOT LIKE THEM BABIES IN THERE HUH? BOY, SOME NIGHTWATCH DROIDS THEY'D MAKE.

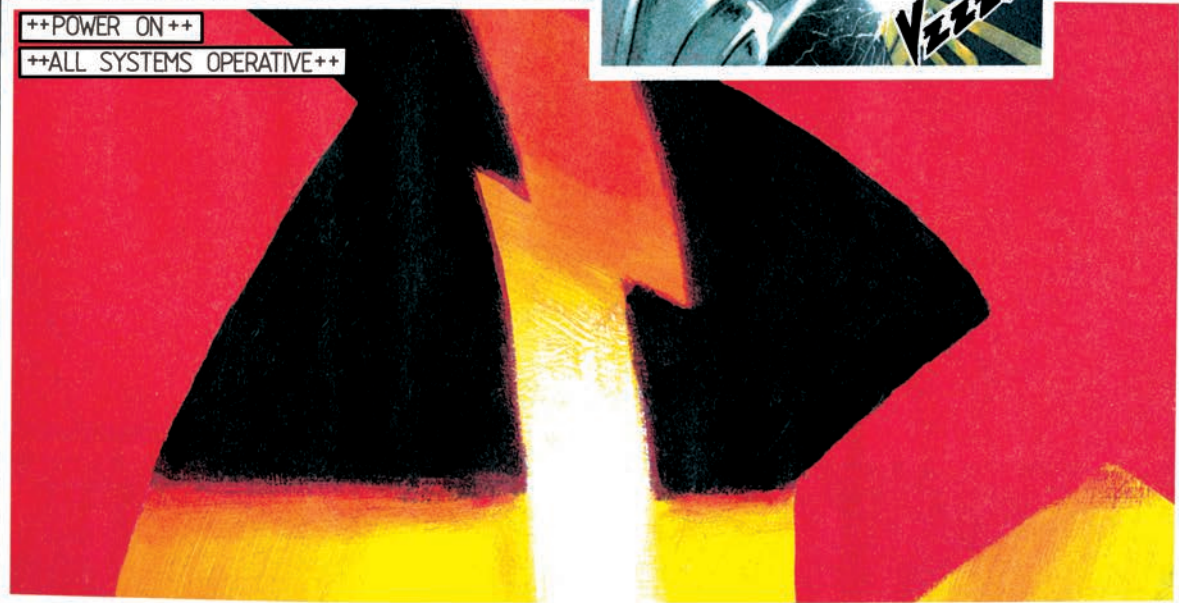
PLAY CHIGGERS WITH THEM, BOY. THEY'D BLOW YOUR BONES AWAY!

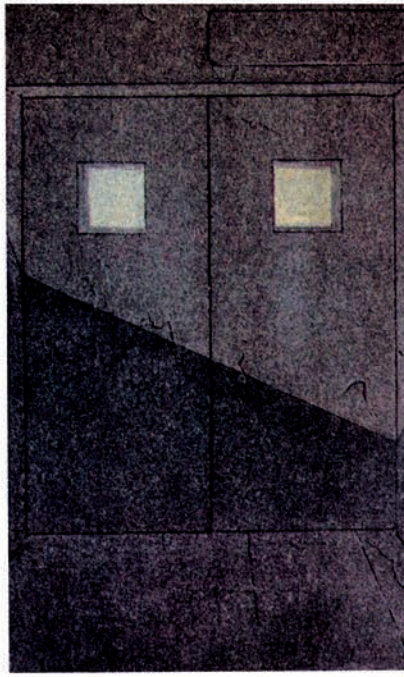
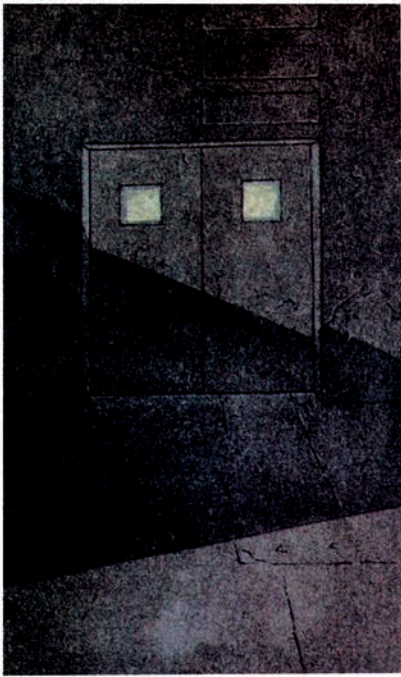


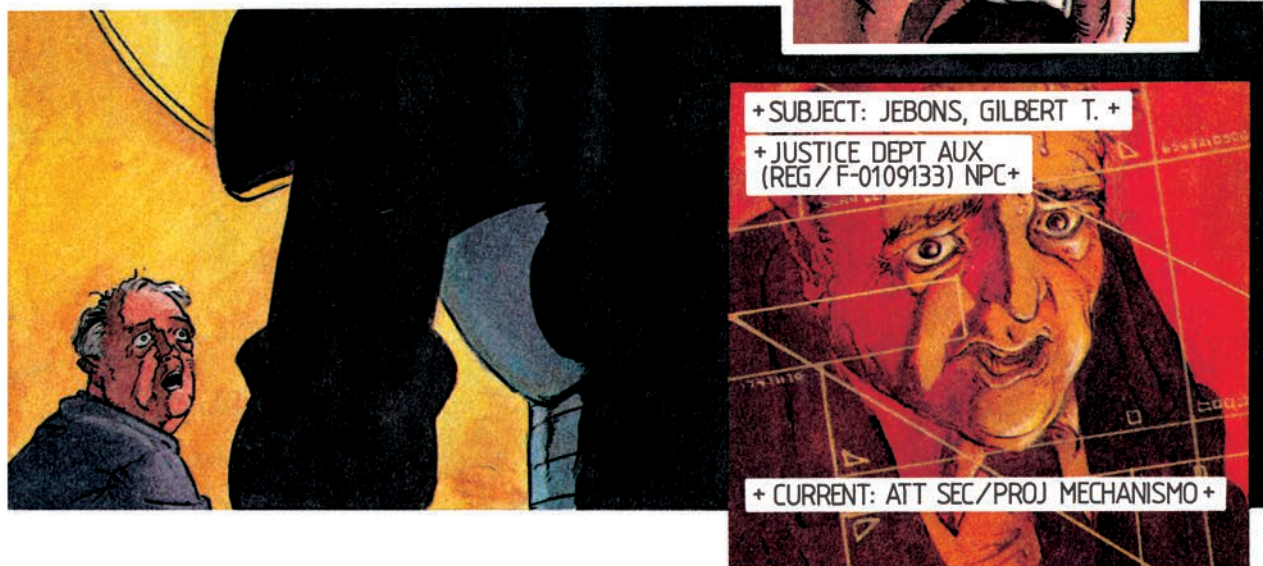
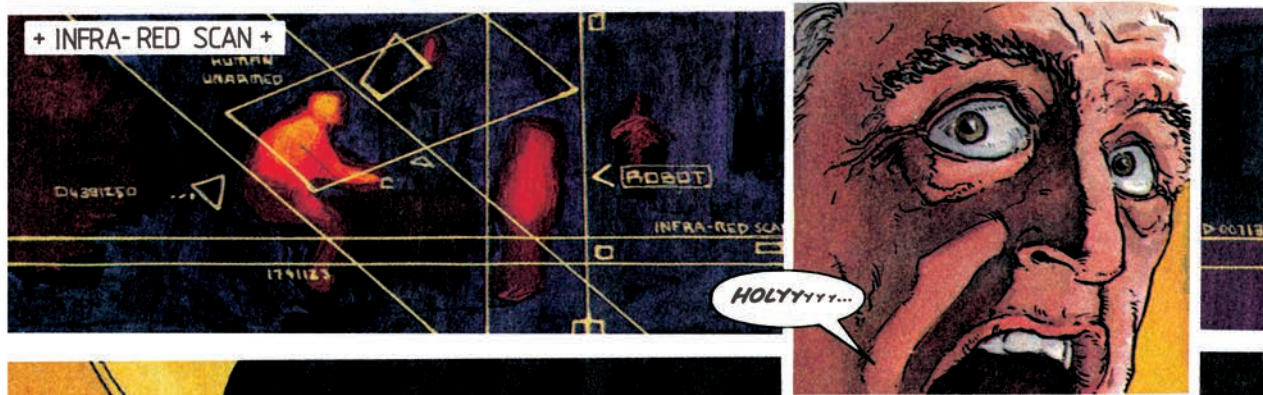
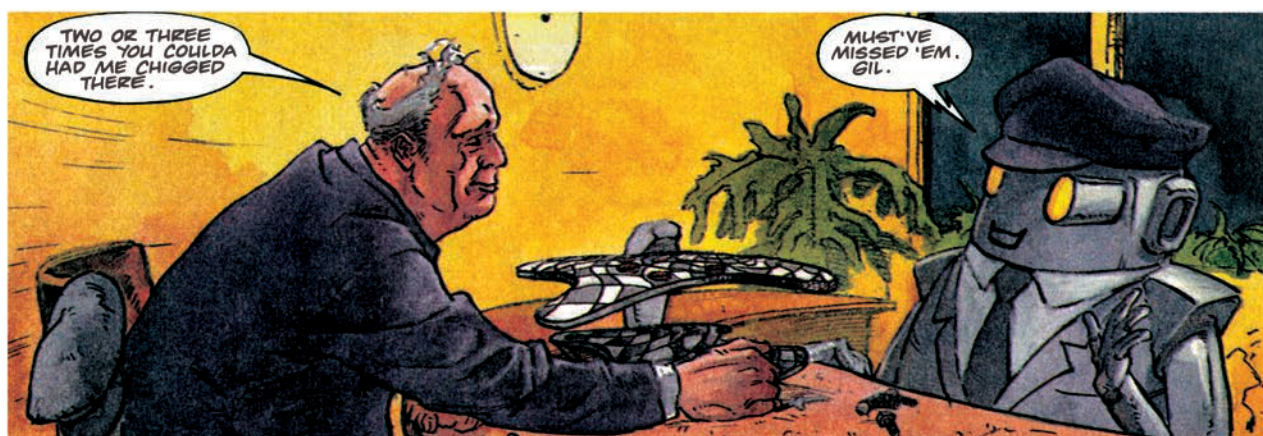


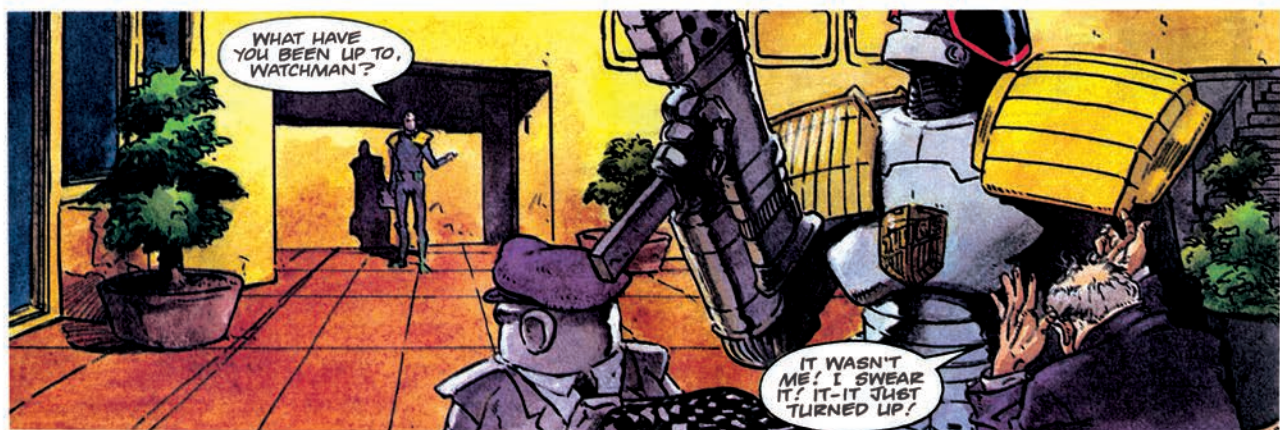
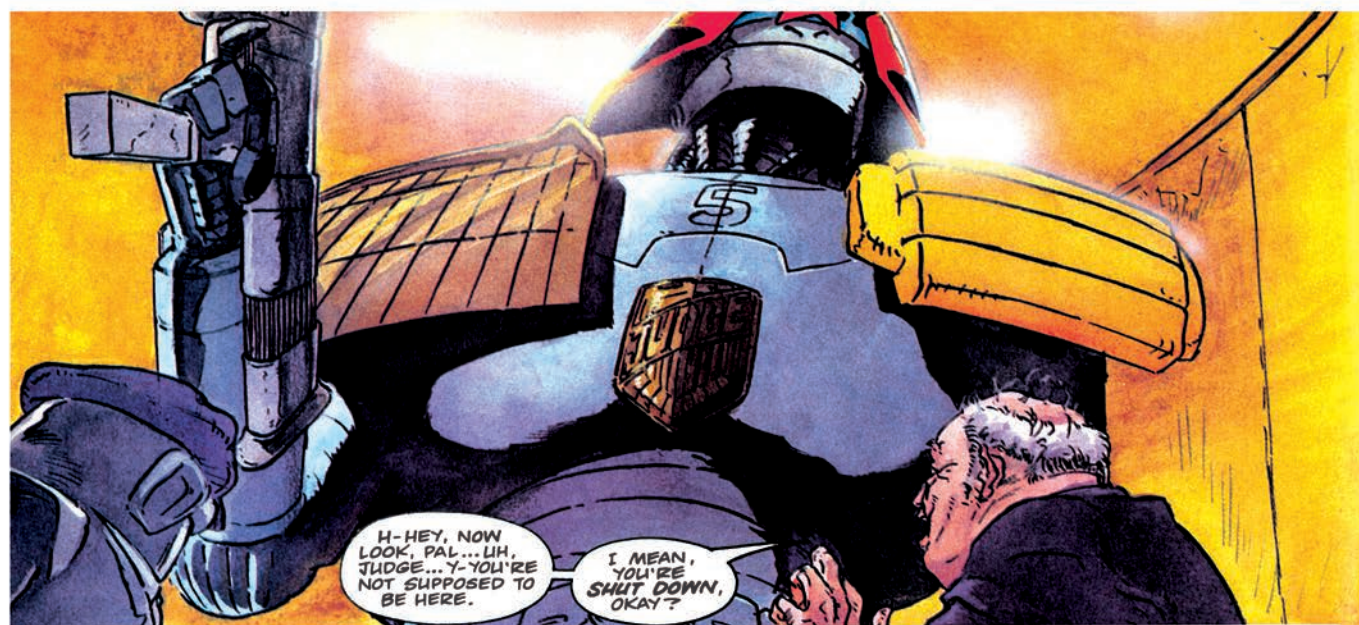
++POWER ON++

++ALL SYSTEMS OPERATIVE++









+ REPLAY + REPLAY + REPLAY +

SCRAP 'EM.
THAT'S ALL THEY
CAN DO.

CAN'T EVER
TRUST 'EM TO GO
OUT JUDGING
AGAIN.

+ ORDER INVALID +
++ REJECT ++

I AM A
JUDGE. I MUST
DO MY DUTY.

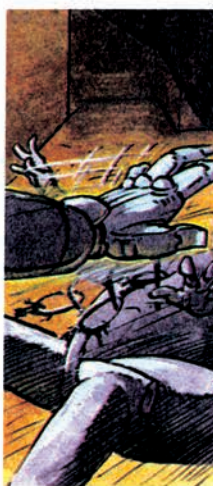
WARNING!
INTERFERING WITH A
JUDGE IN THE EXECUTION
OF ITS DUTY IS A SERIOUS
OFFENCE!

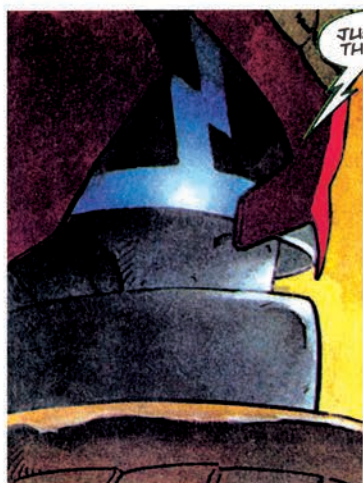
I'LL
INTERFERE
ALL RIGHT--!

BLAM

BLAM

BLAM





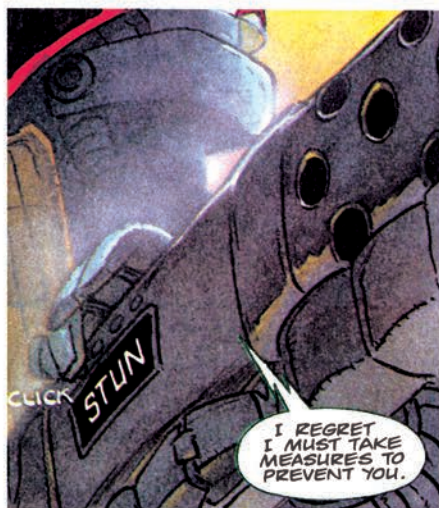
JUST ONE
THING—



I CALCULATE A
99.99430 PROBABILITY
YOU WILL IMMEDIATELY
REPORT THESE OCCURRENCES
TO JUSTICE DEPARTMENT.



SUCH ACTION IS
LIABLE TO IMPEDE
ME IN THE EXECUTION
OF MY DUTIES.



I REGRET
I MUST TAKE
MEASURES TO
PREVENT YOU.



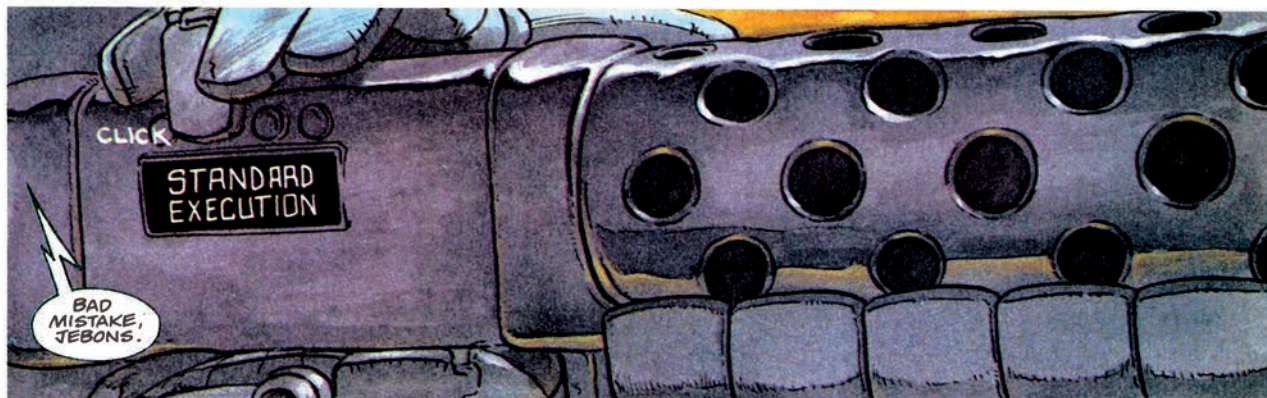
NO!
DEAR GRUD NO!
I AIN'T GONNA
TELL NOBODY—!



++ LIE ++

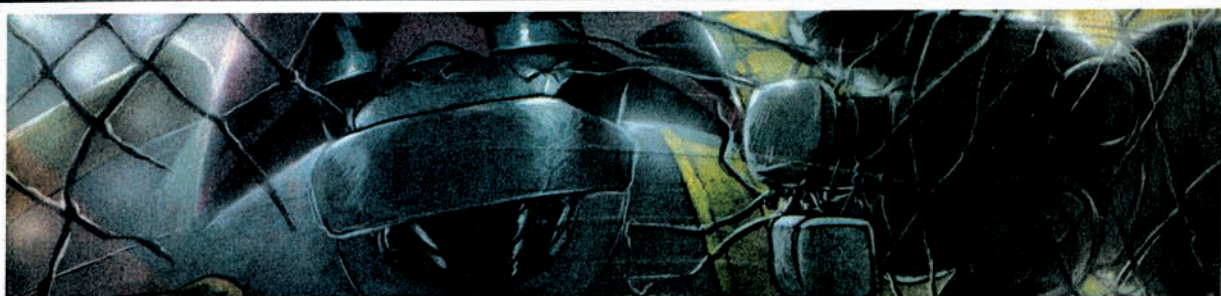
++ LIE ++

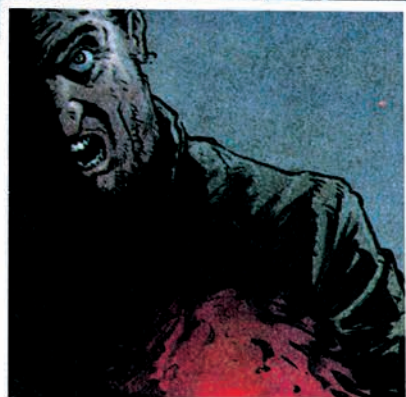
++ LIE ++

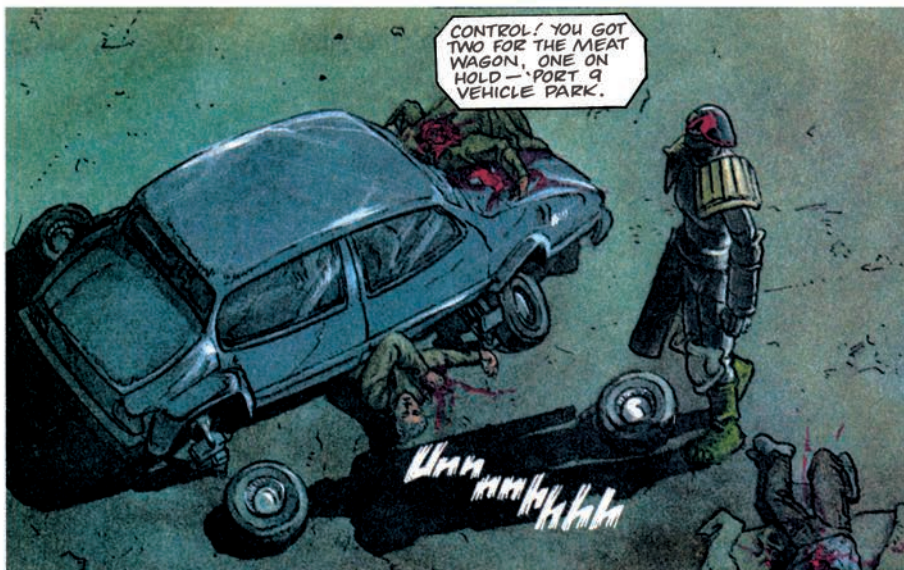


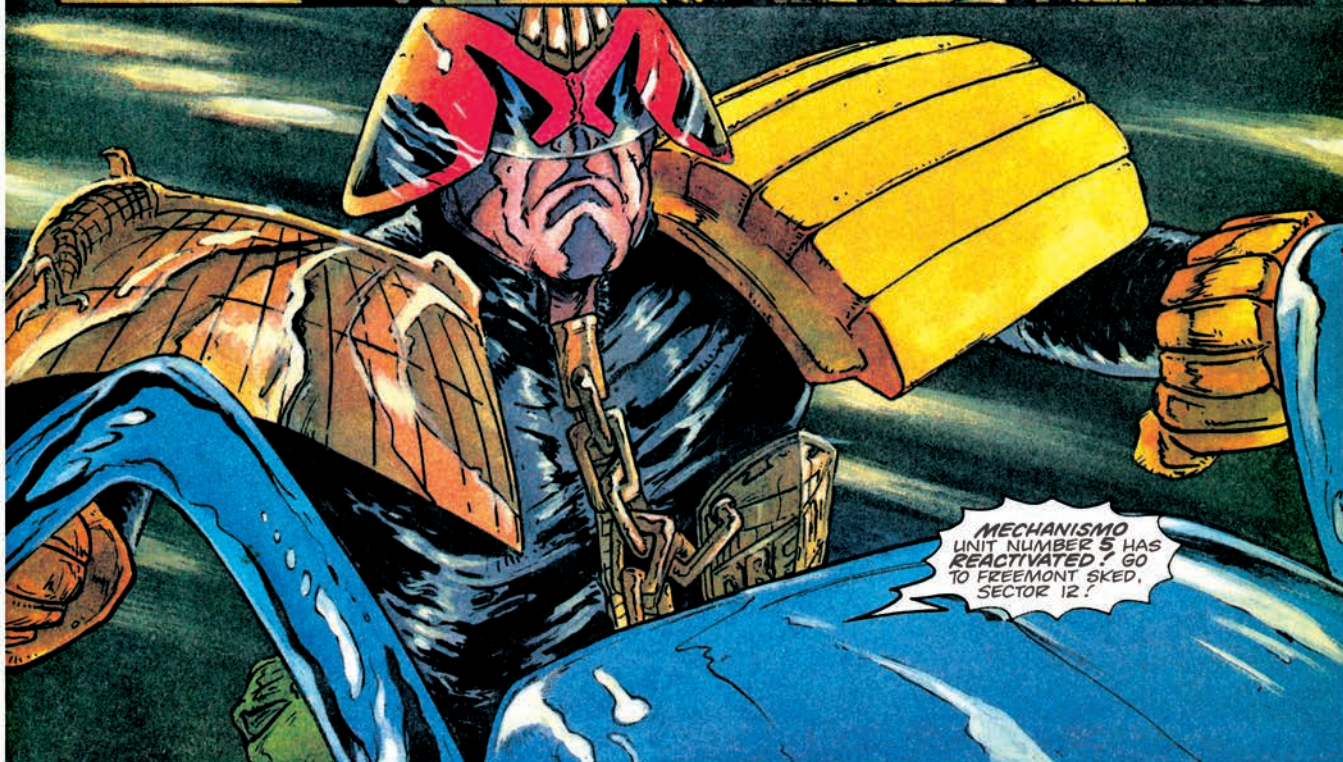
BAD
MISTAKE,
JEBONS.



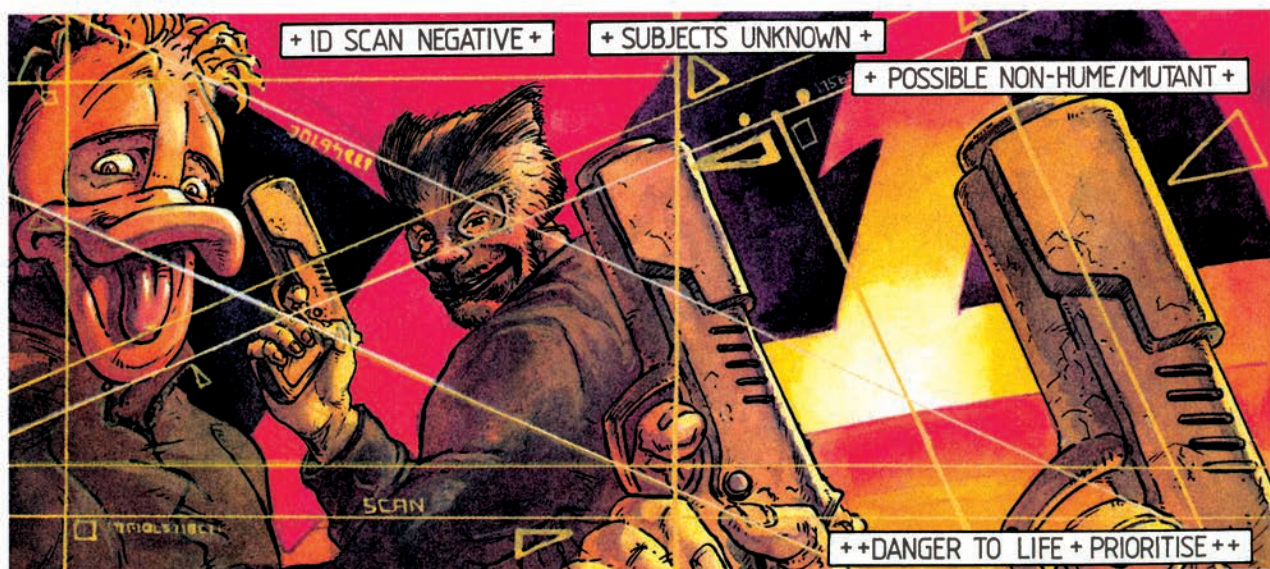


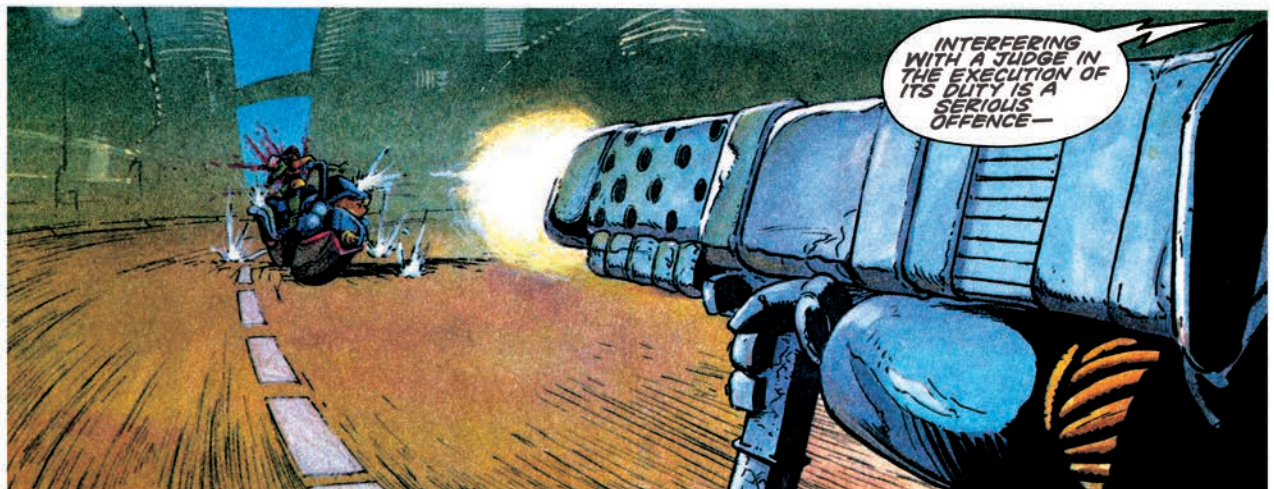
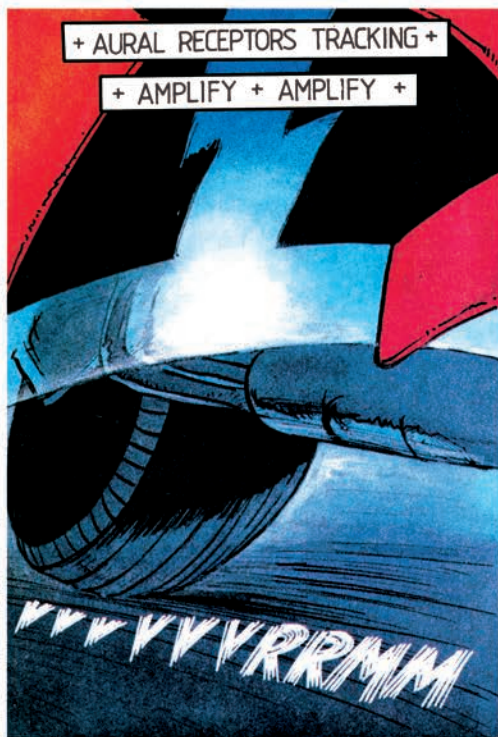


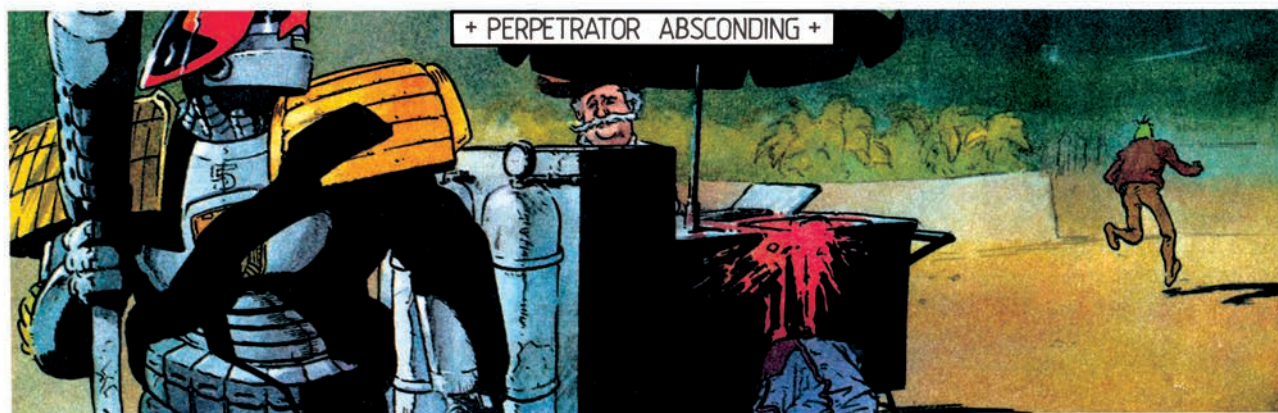




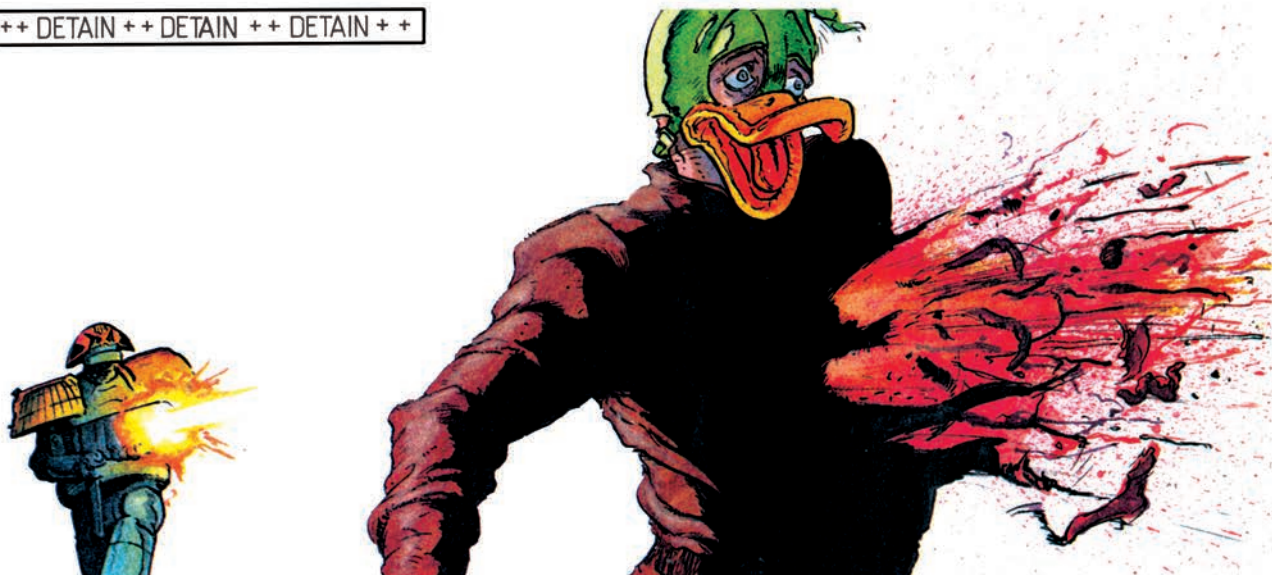


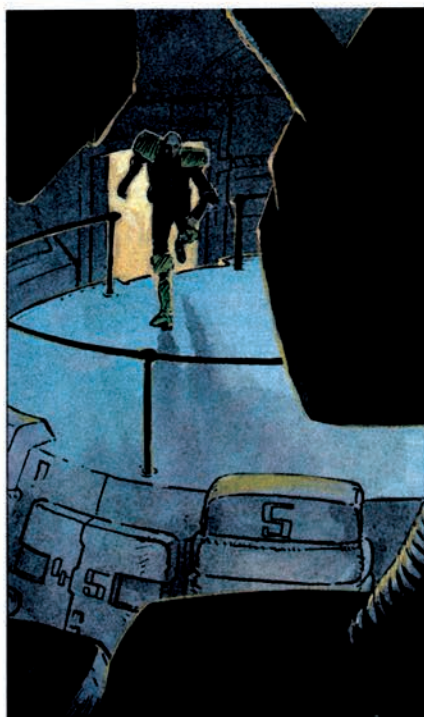
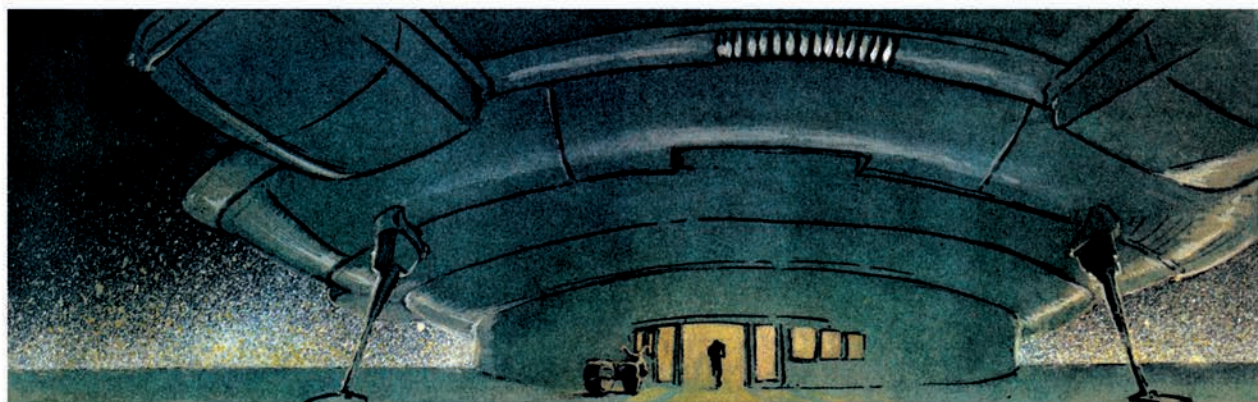


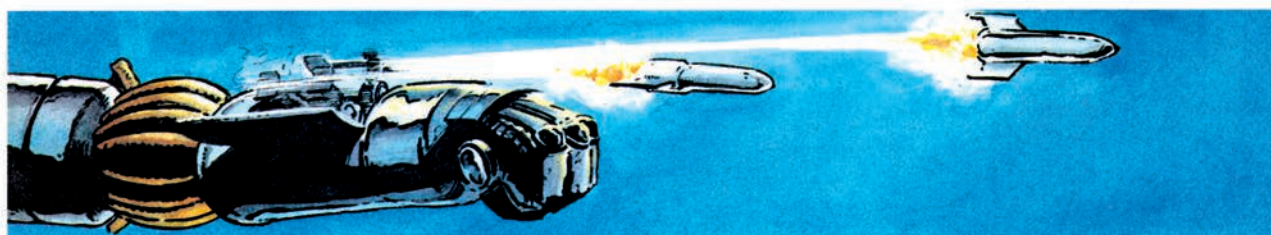
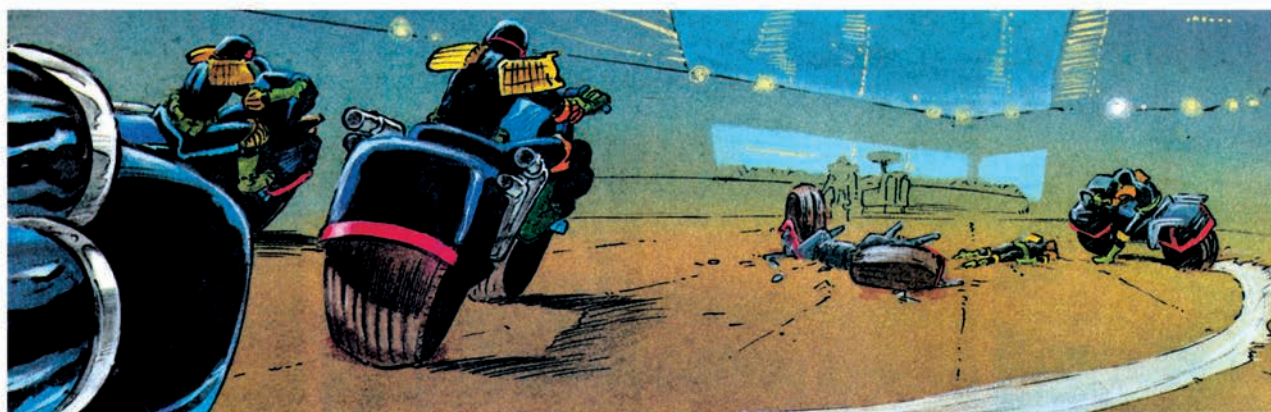




++ DETAIN ++ DETAIN ++ DETAIN ++

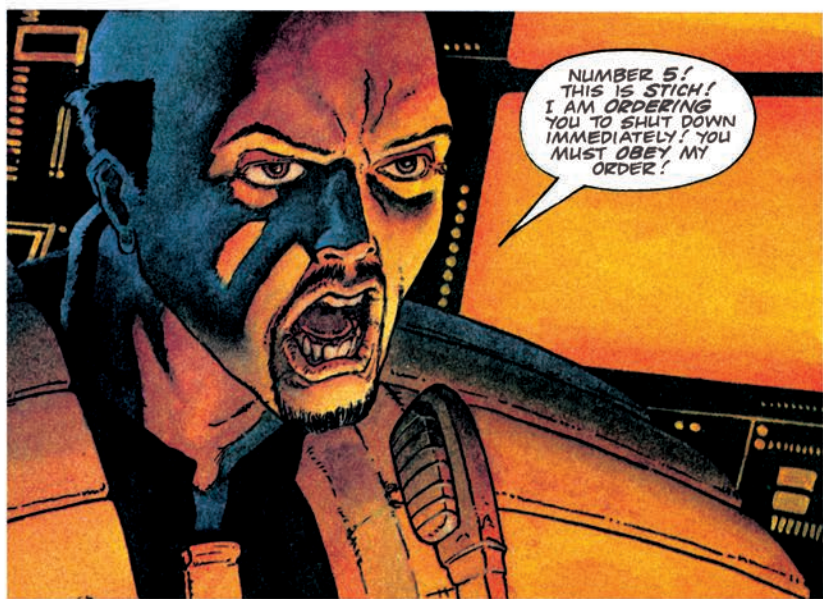






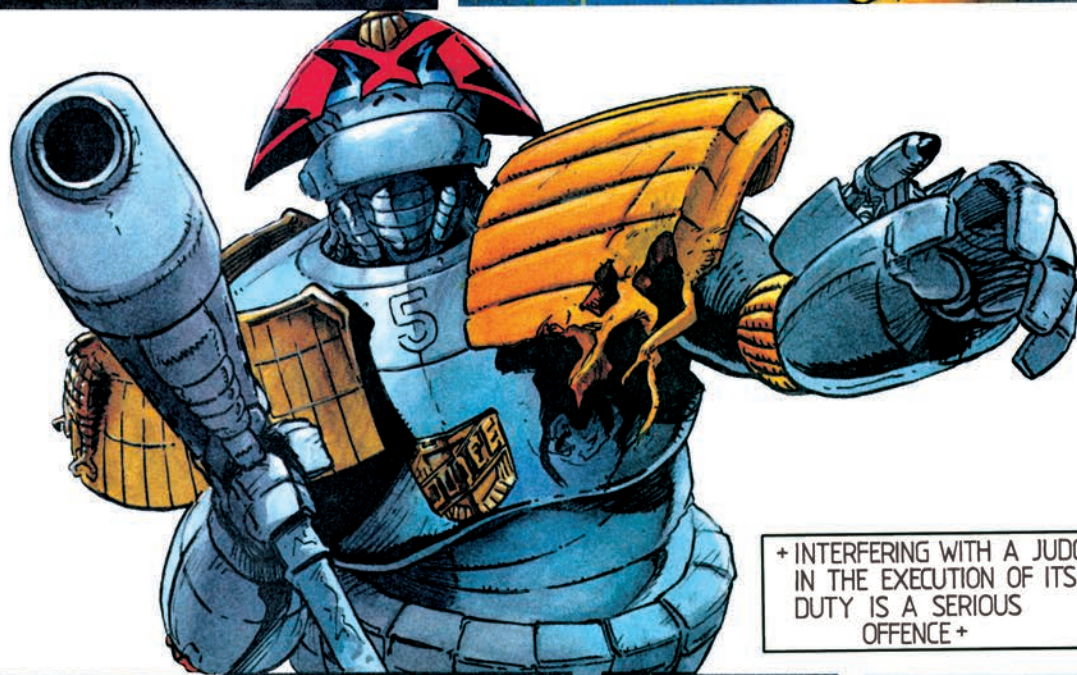






+ I HAVE A JOB TO DO +

YOU ARE
ATTACKING
JUDGES! THAT
IS NOT YOUR
JOB!

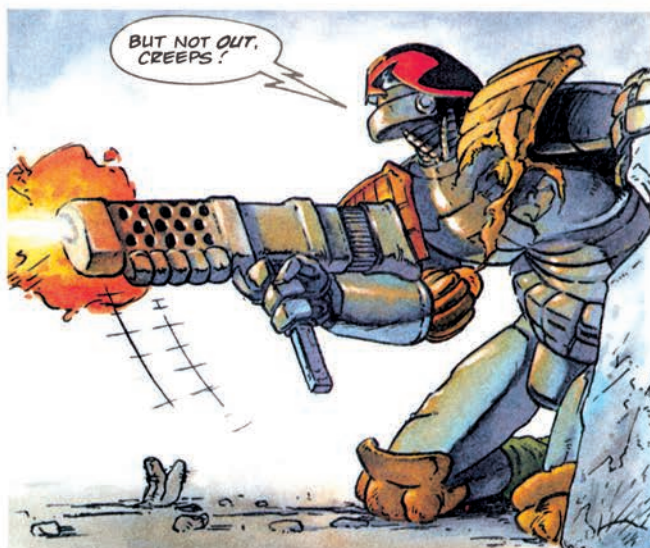


+ INTERFERING WITH A JUDGE
IN THE EXECUTION OF ITS
DUTY IS A SERIOUS
OFFENCE +

+ THEY MUST BE PUNISHED +



++WARNING! NO ONE IS ABOVE THE LAW++

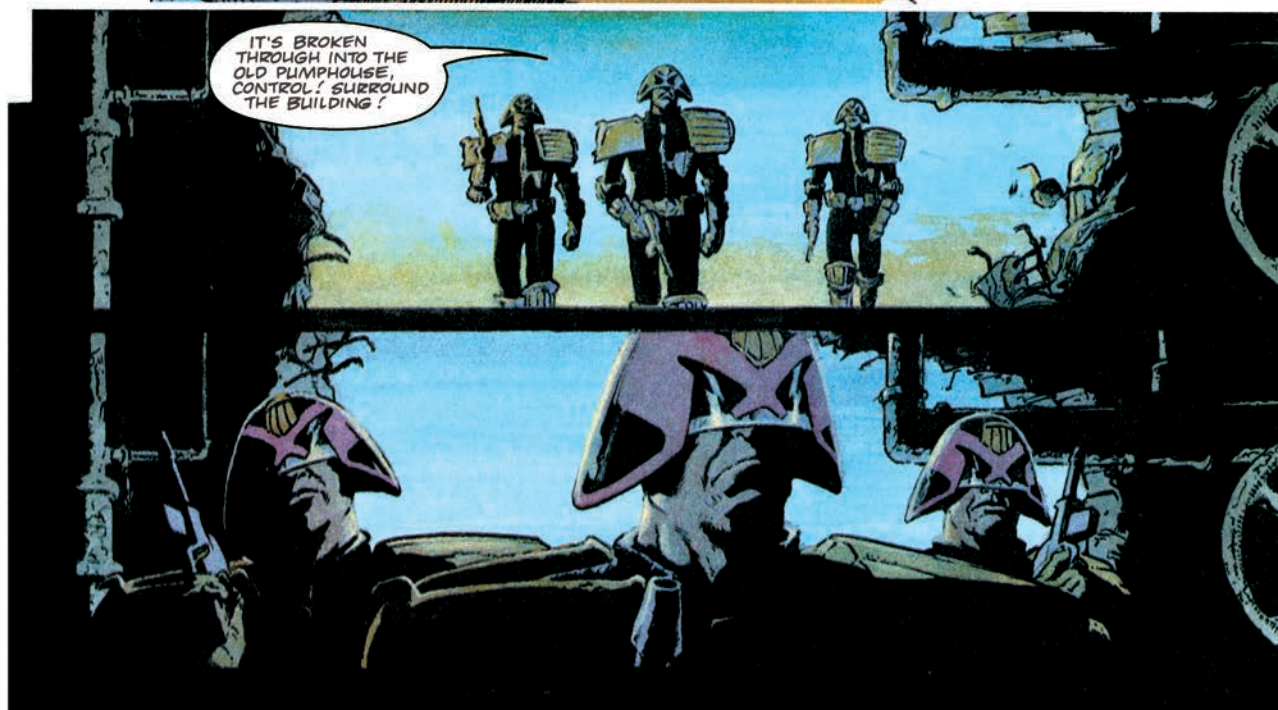
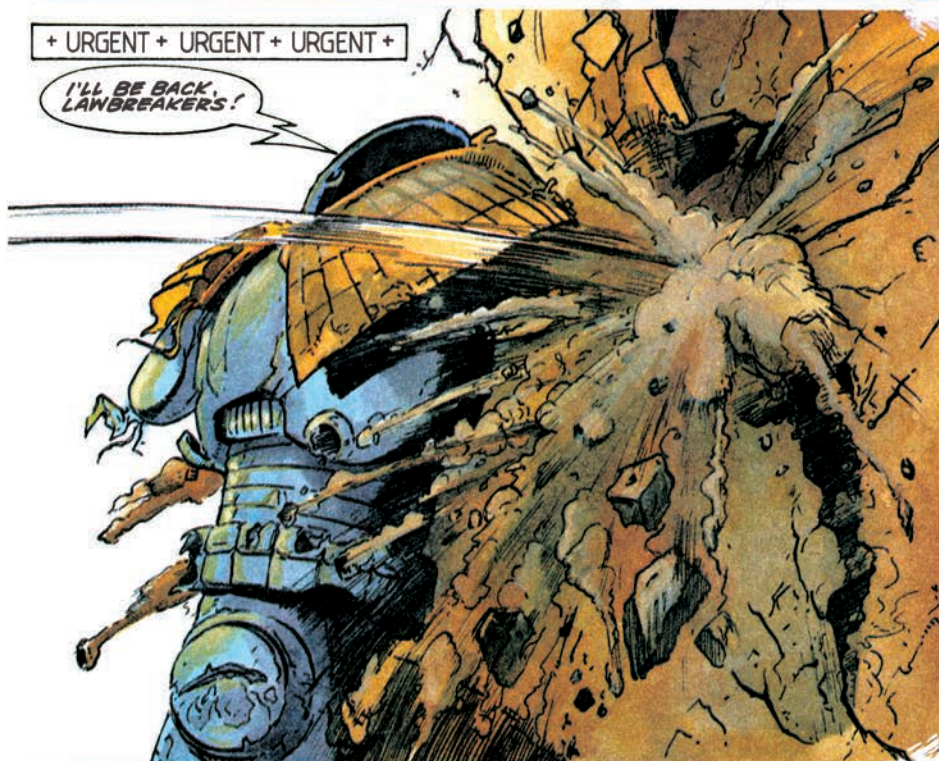


FADOOOOOMM!

PUMPHOUSE 9920

WAY TO GO,
DREDD!

GRUD!
THING DOESN'T
KNOW WHEN
TO QUIT—

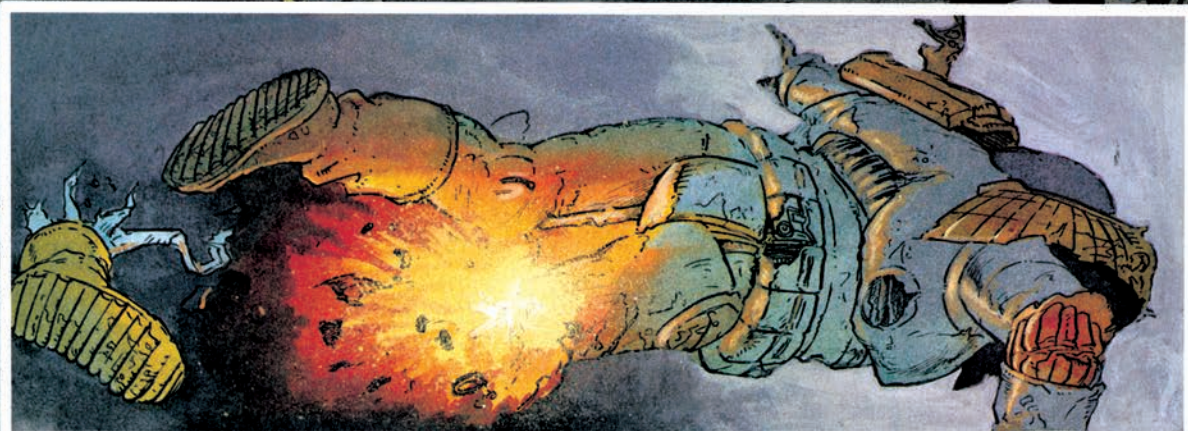


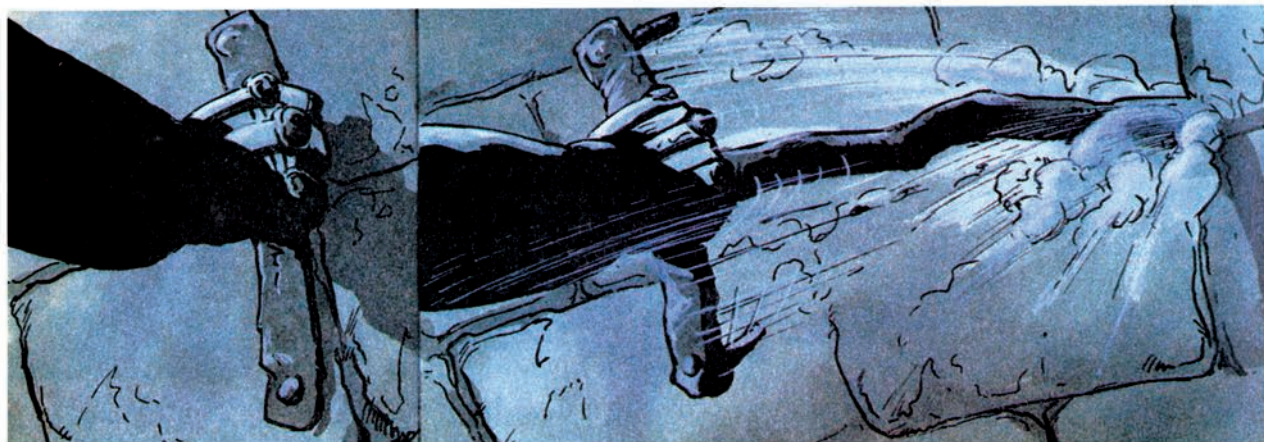
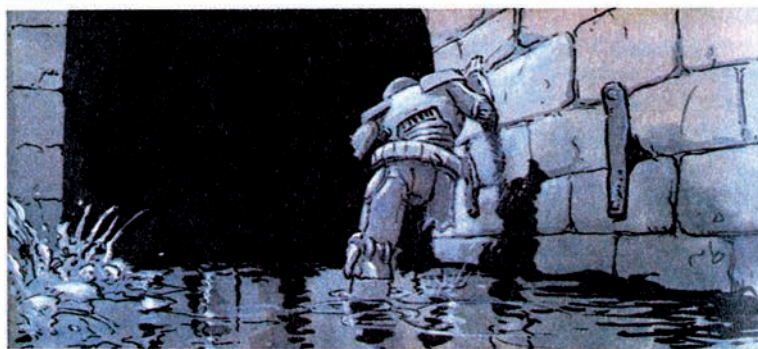
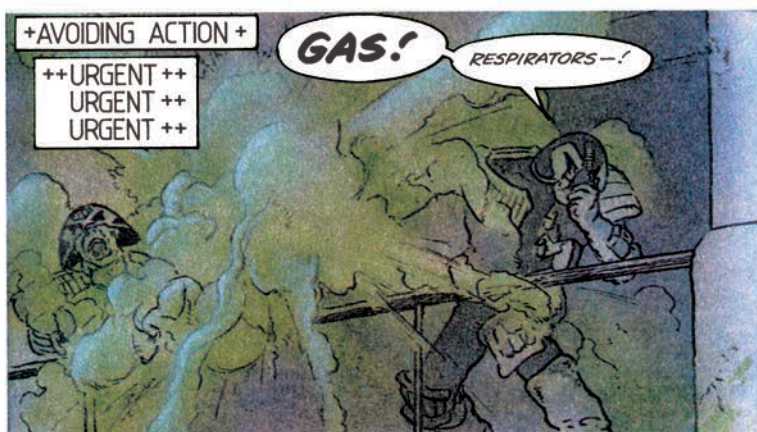
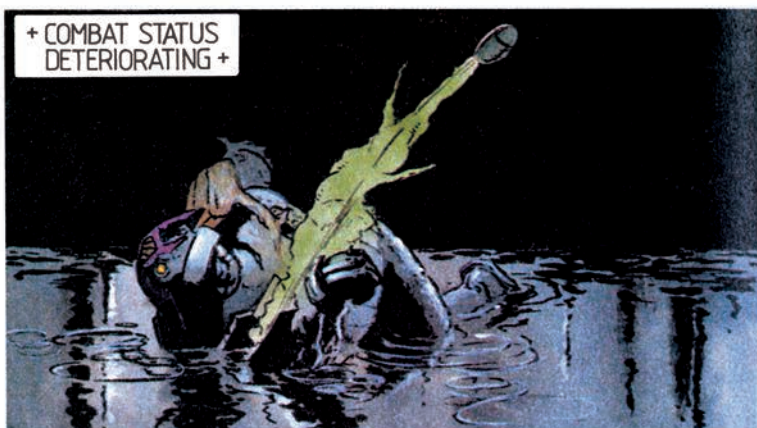






COME IN
NUMBER 5!
YOUR TIME
IS UP!



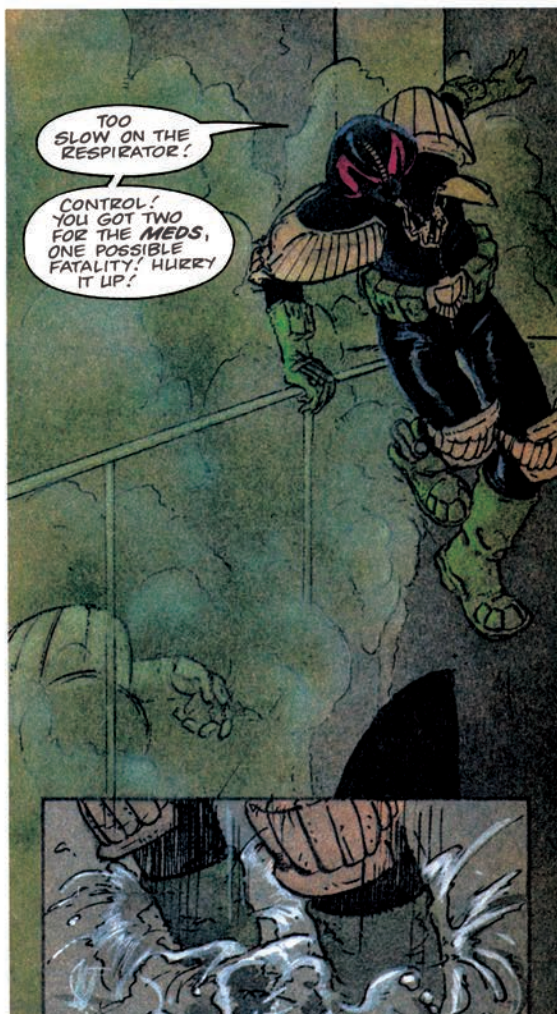




IT'S
MOVING,
CONTROL—!



DAMN!
THING JUST
DOESN'T
GIVE UP—!



TOO
SLOW ON THE
RESPIRATOR!

CONTROL!
YOU GOT TWO
FOR THE MEDS,
ONE POSSIBLE
FATALITY! HURRY
IT UP!



I'M LOSING
CONTACT! IT'S
GOING DEEPER
INTO THE
SYSTEM!



++ASSESS DAMAGE++



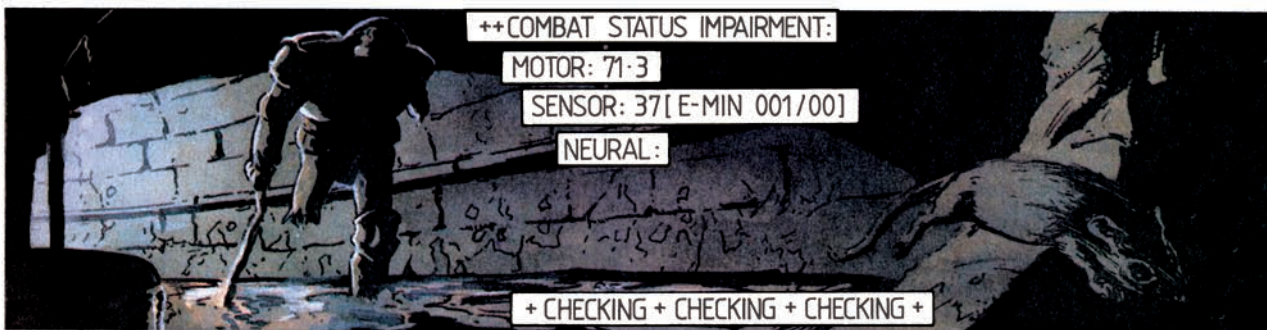
++COMBAT STATUS IMPAIRMENT:

MOTOR: 71.3

SENSOR: 37[E-MIN 001/00]

NEURAL:

+ CHECKING + CHECKING + CHECKING +



+ NEURAL DAMAGE PROBABLE +

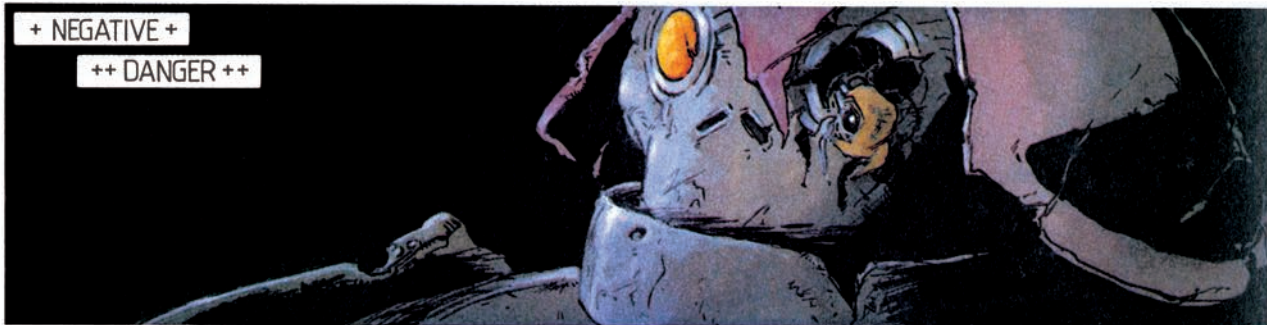
+ SEEK RE-MEK URGENTMOST +

++IMPERATIVE! RETURN TO MECHANISMO BASE++



+ NEGATIVE +

++ DANGER ++



++JUDGES ++ DANGER++ JUDGES ++ DANGER ++



"IT'S COMING
THROUGH AGAIN,
CONTROL."





I'VE LOST
CONTACT AGAIN,
CONTROL.

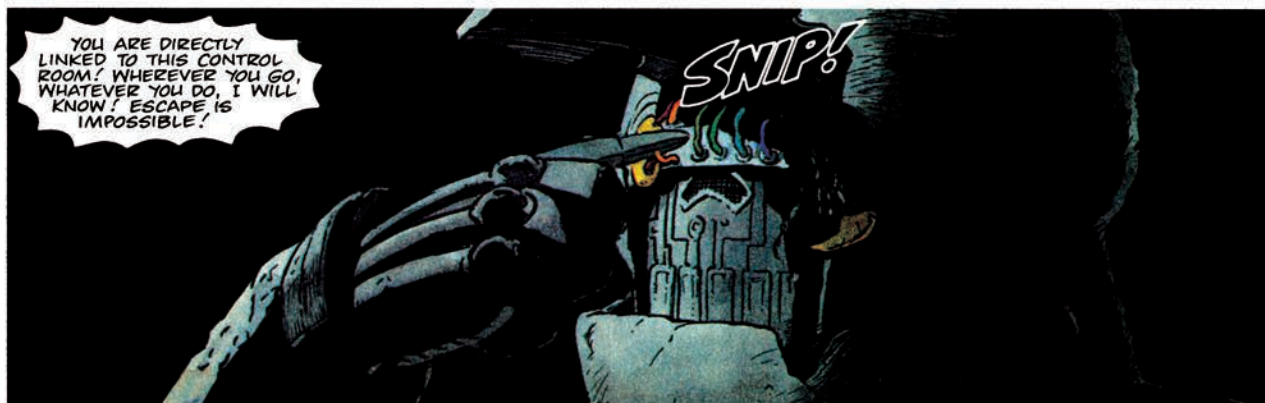
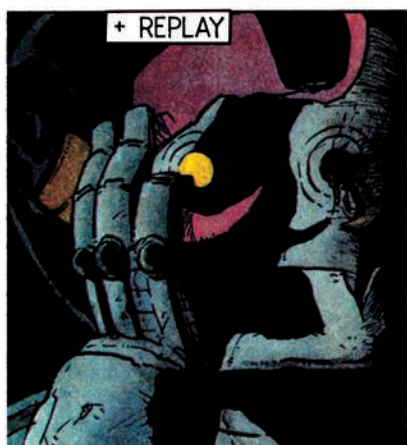
IT FIRED A
HI-EX SHELL —
WERE THERE
JUDGES IN
THERE?



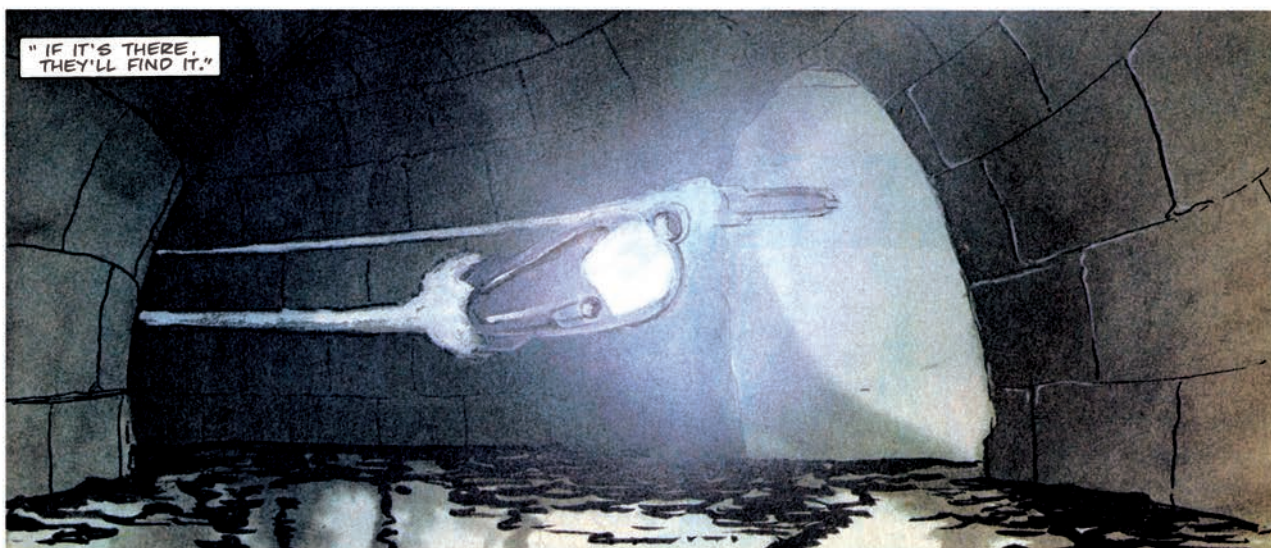
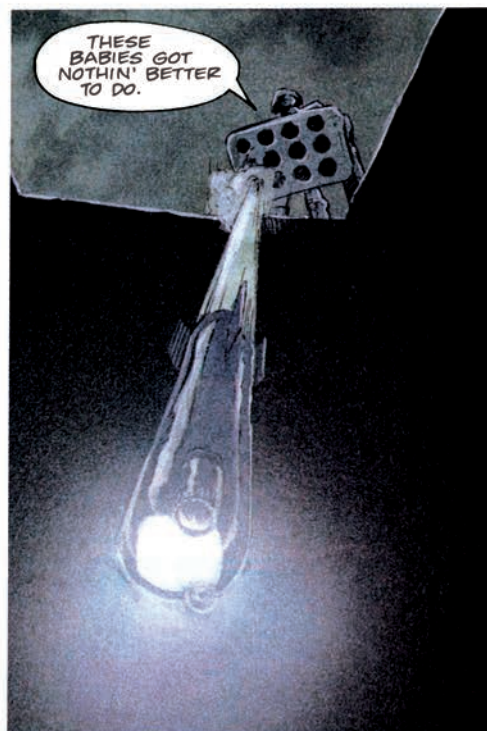
JUST ONE.

DREDD.









The Mega-Times

KILLER 'JUDGE' STILL MISSING

SEARCH FOR MECHANISMO ROBOT CONTINUES

The rogue robo-judge remains unfound, despite extensive searches by judges using specialised sensor cameras. The cameras have been scouring the sewers of Mega-City One for more than five days without success. A representative of the Tab Division told the Times: "We're confident of finding

the rogue robo-judge soon. If it has survived, it can't evade our efforts for much longer. In all probability, the robo-judge was probably destroyed in the sewers."

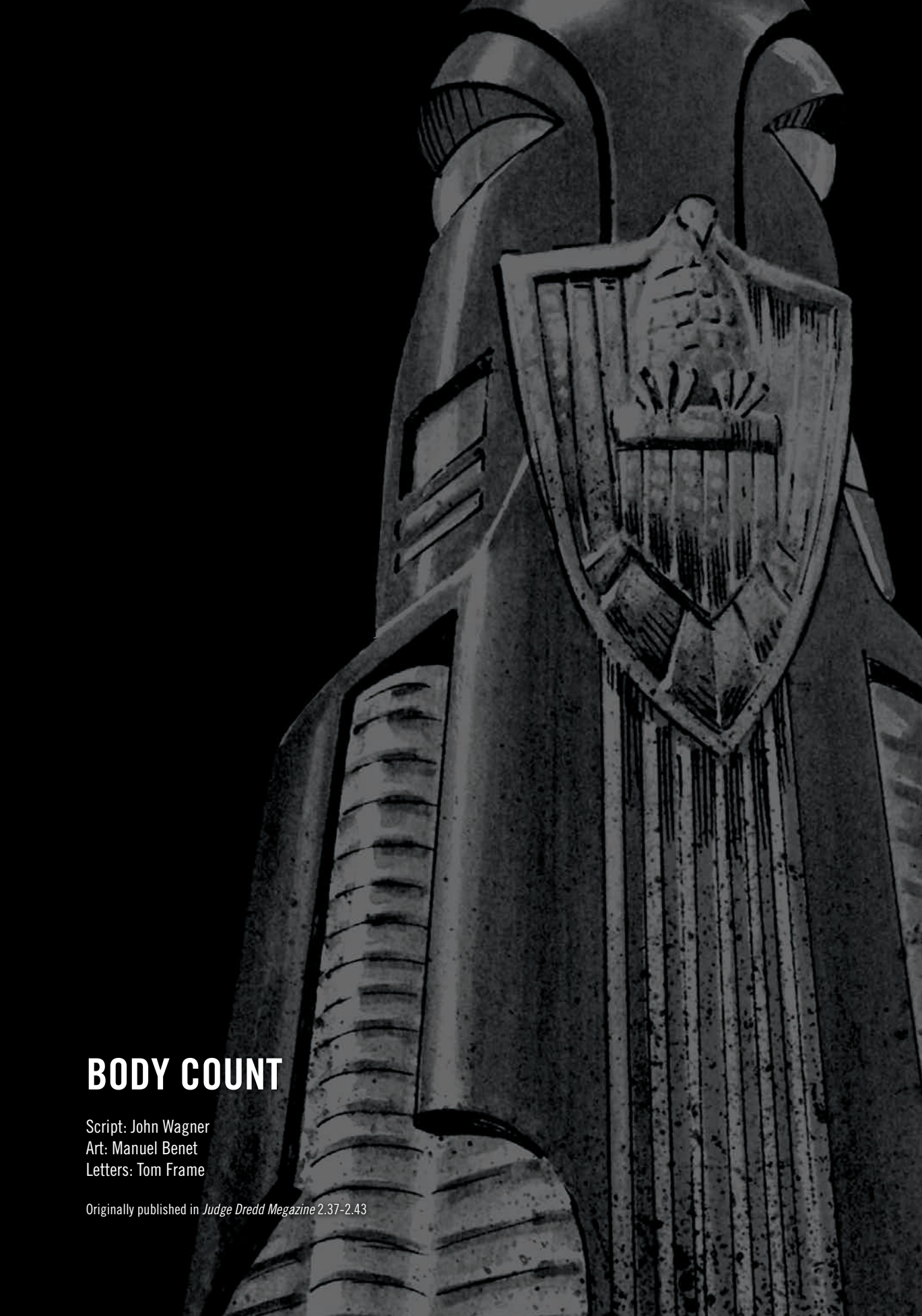
DREDD LEAVES MED-BAY THIS AYEM

Judge Dredd - saviour of the city during the zombie war in

CHIEF JUDGE TO RECONSIDER ROBOT JUDGE PROGRAM

The deaths of several citizens at the hands of the so-called 'Mechanismo' robots has cast doubt over their future. It is understood that Chief Judge McGrutter is reconsidering the





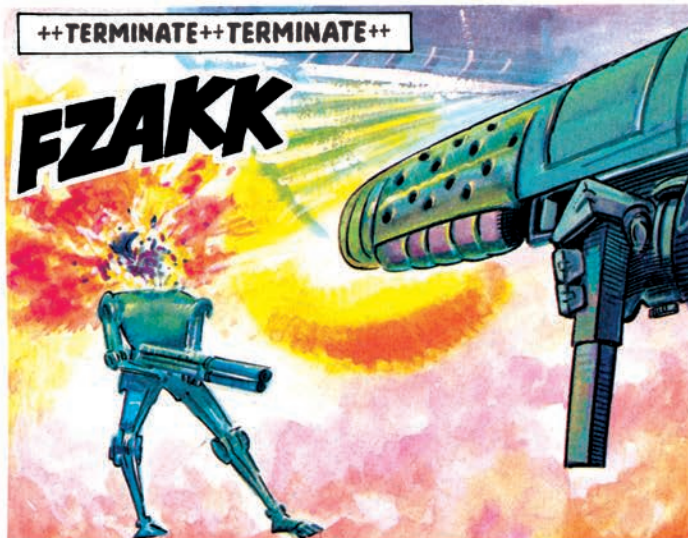
BODY COUNT

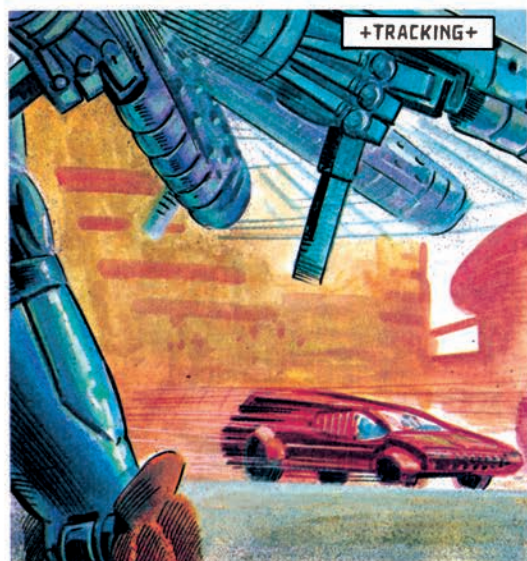
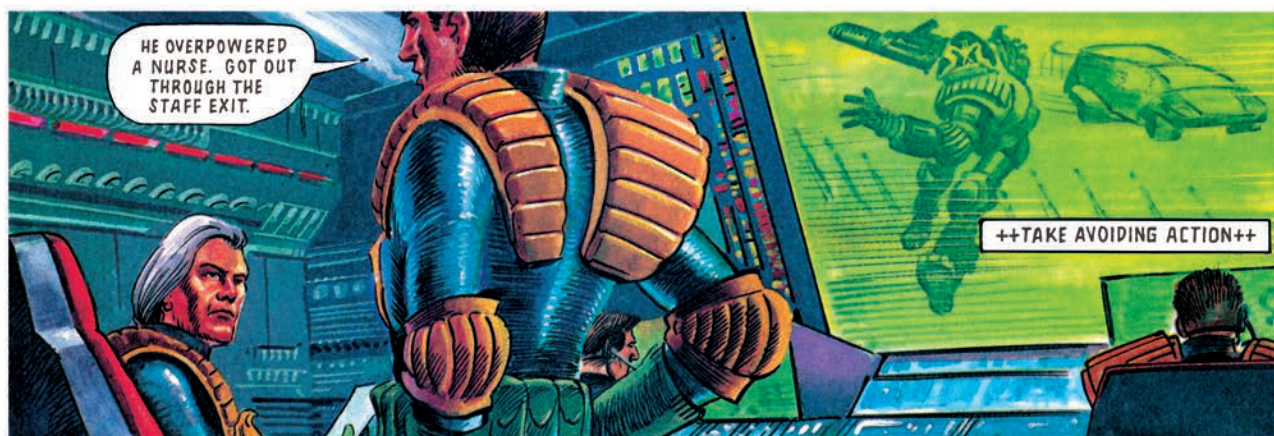
Script: John Wagner
Art: Manuel Benet
Letters: Tom Frame

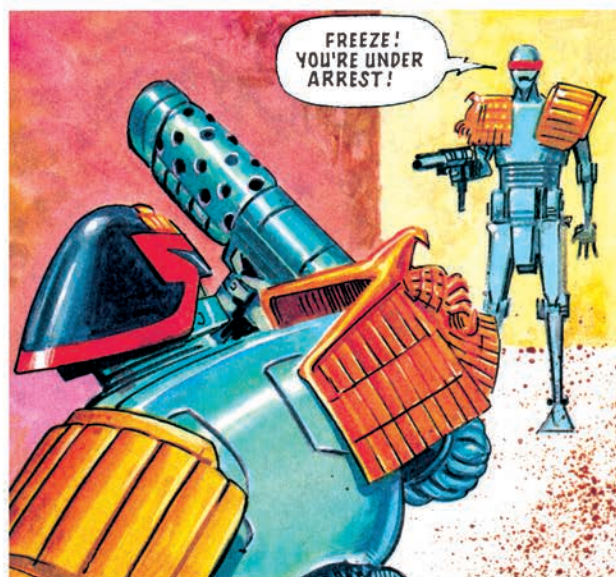
Originally published in *Judge Dredd Magazine* 2.37-2.43













KILL.
ONE POINT
SIX OH
SECONDS.

HE PICKED
OUT THE JIMP
EASY ENOUGH.



DO WE SEND
OUT A SEARCH
PARTY?

WHAT...?
NO. NO. . . WE CAN'T
SPARE THE MANPOWER
RIGHT NOW. LEAVE HIM. HE'LL COME
UP IN HIS OWN TIME.

YOU NEVER
KNOW. HE MIGHT EVEN
FIND NUMBER 3. MAYBE
THAT'S JUST WHAT
HE NEEDS.

WE SEARCHED EVERY
INCH OF THOSE SEWERS,
CHIEF JUDGE. IF THE
MECHANISMO DROID
WAS THERE, WE'D
HAVE FOUND IT.

THEN WHERE DID IT
DISAPPEAR TO?

I DON'T KNOW...



A PIECE OF EQUIPMENT THAT
DANGEROUS VANISHES INTO THIN
AIR AND THE WHOLE OF JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT CAN'T FIND IT.
WORRYING. MESSY.

ITS POWER CELLS WOULD HAVE RUN
FLAT LONG AGO. WHEREVER IT IS
IT'S NOT LIKELY TO CAUSE US
ANY TROUBLE.

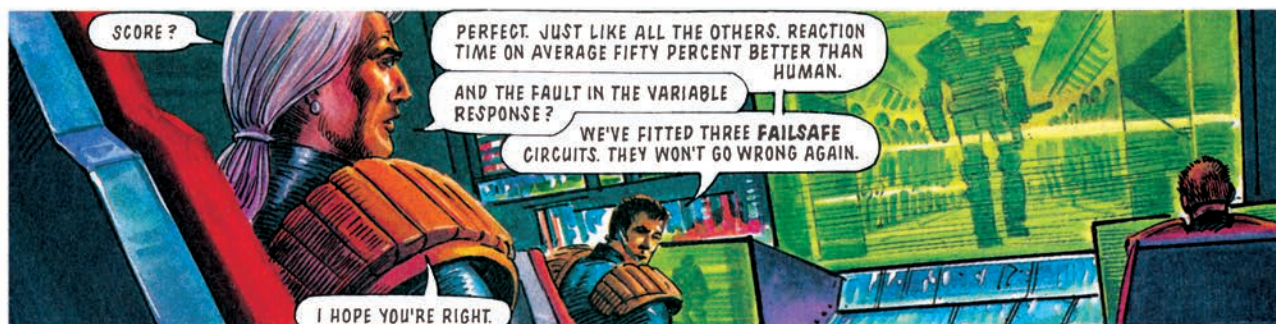
"ALL THE SAME, WE'D BE HAPPIER IF
WE KNEW WHAT HAD HAPPENED TO IT."



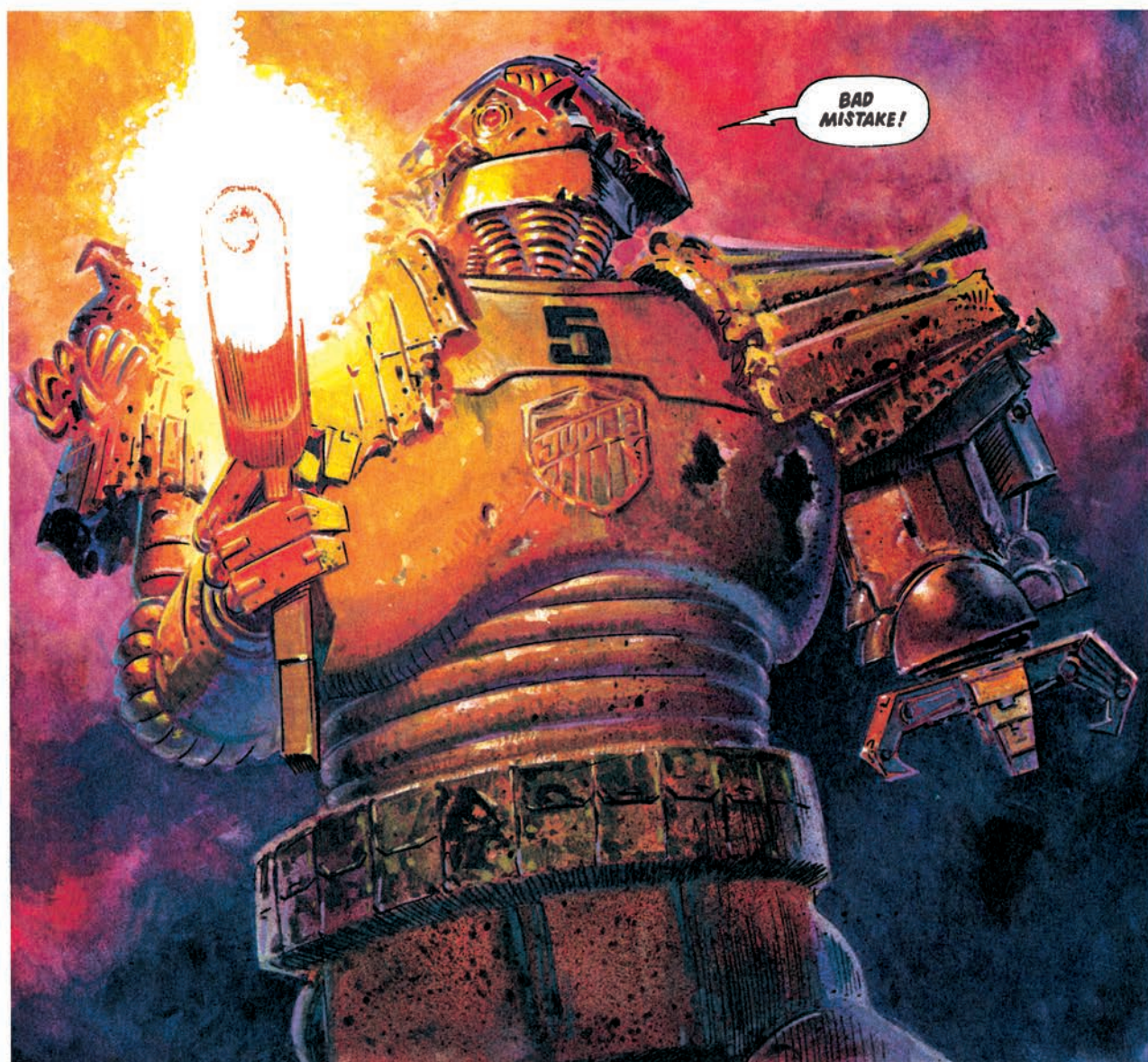
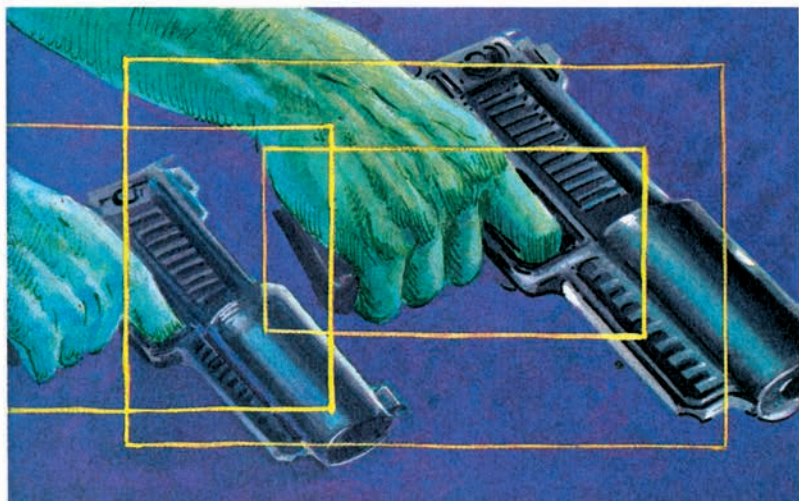
FZAKKK!
BZANNG!
BZANGG!



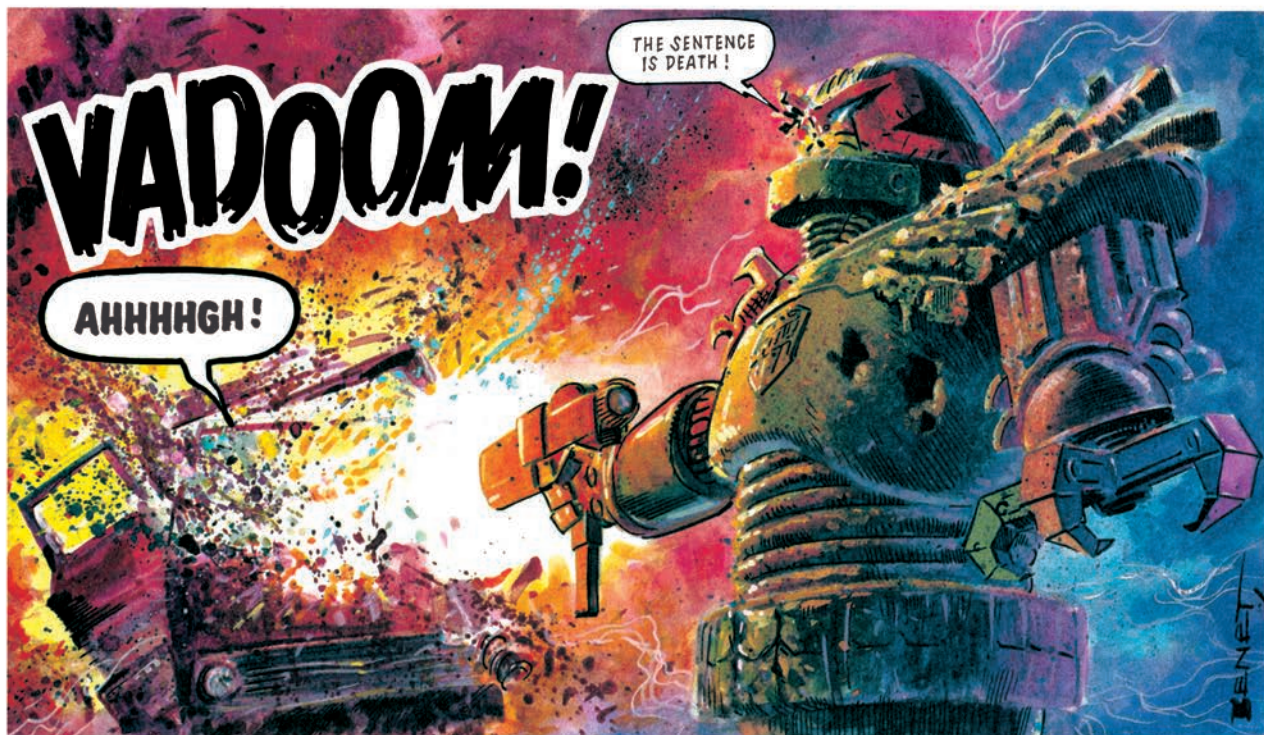
ASSESSMENT COMPLETE.
RETURN TO
MUSTER STATION.



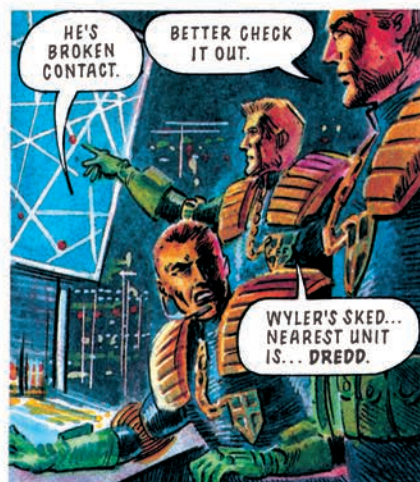


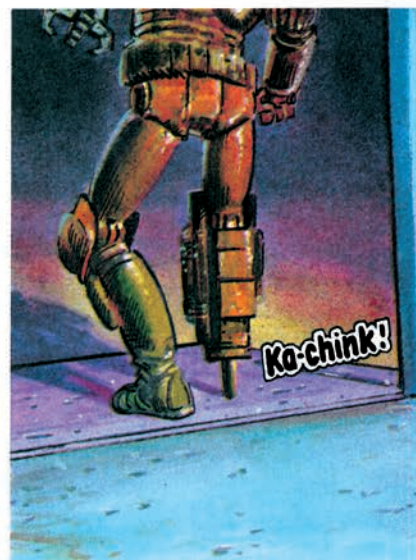
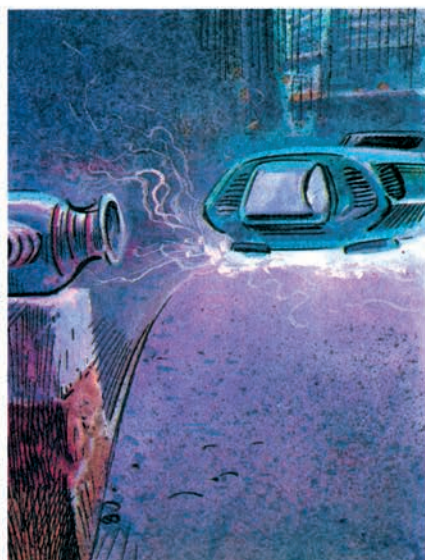
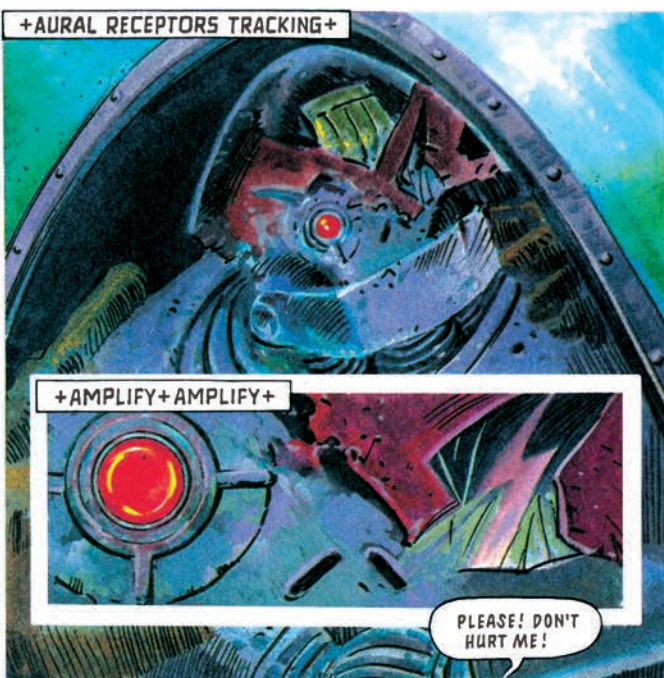


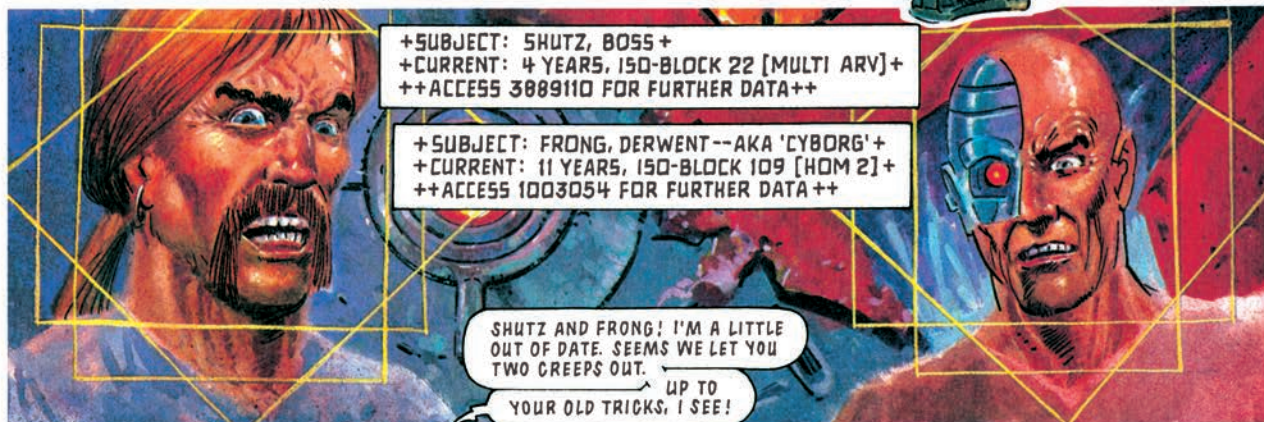


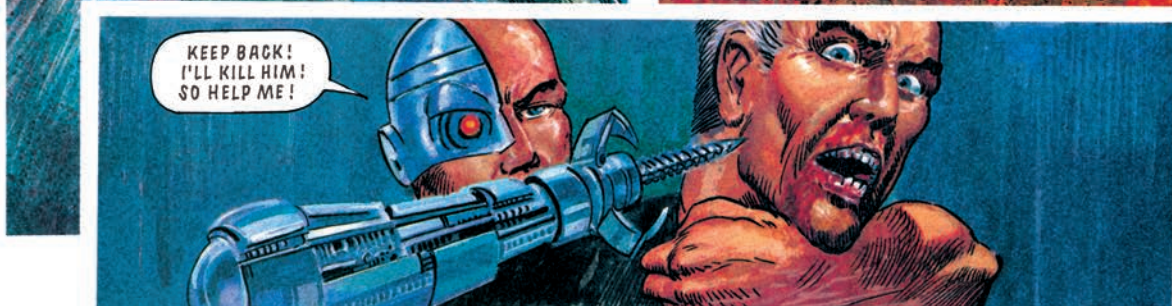
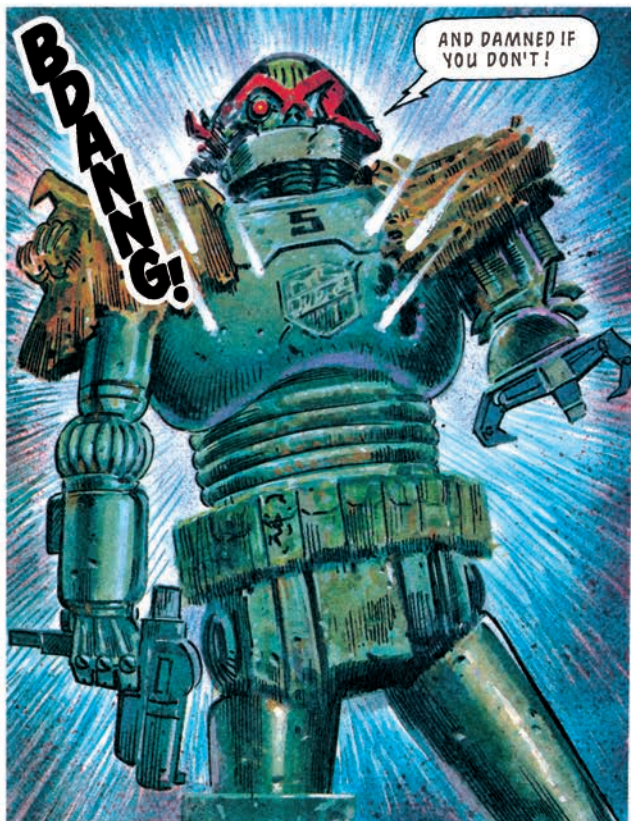


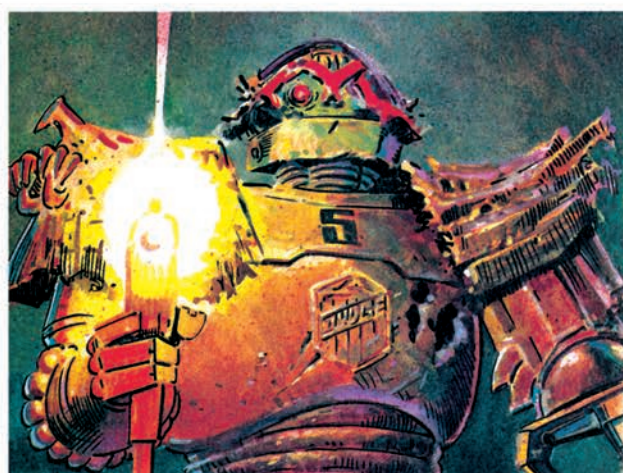


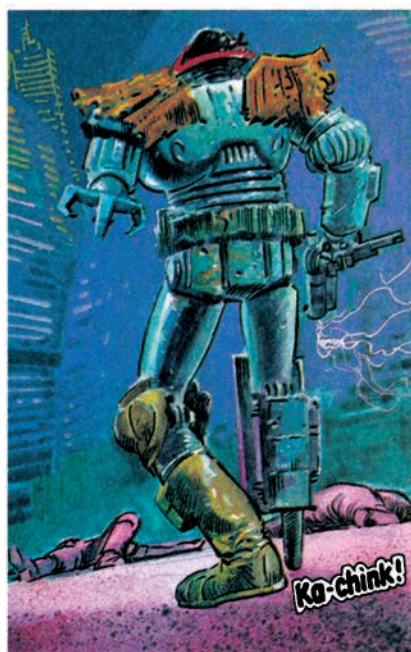




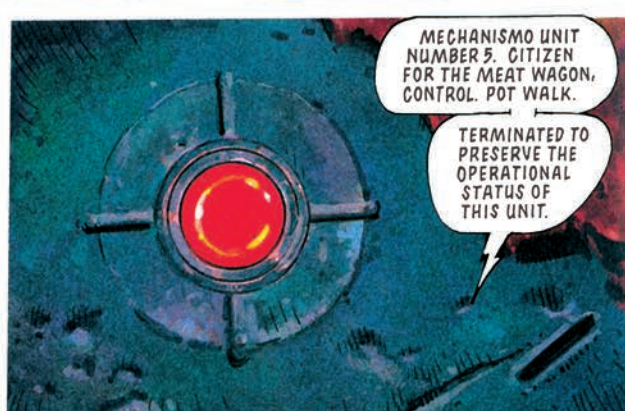
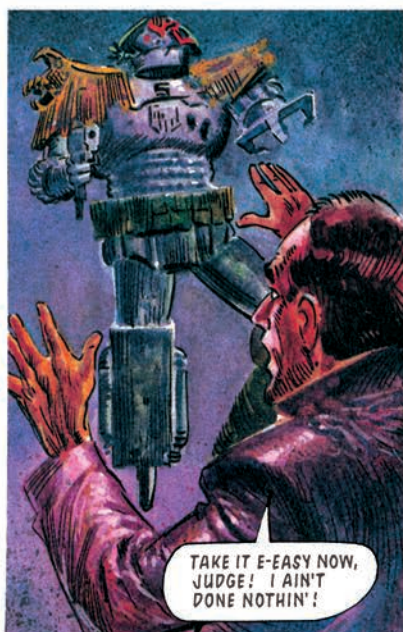














SECTOR HOUSE 12
LOCATED 4499 PLAZA.
CALCULATE 100%
PROBABILITY YOUR
TRUE INTENTION IS
TO ENTRAP AND
DESTROY ME.

I CANNOT
ALLOW THAT.

HE'S NOT
FALLING
FOR IT!

WE ONLY WANT TO REPAIR YOU,
NUMBER 5! YOU'LL BE BACK ON
THE STREETS IN NO TIME!



+LIE+LIE+LIE+

WARNING! LYING TO
A JUDGE IS A
SERIOUS OFFENCE!

CALL OFF YOUR SEARCH.
CONTROL. I WILL TOLERATE
NO INTERFERENCE!



I MUST DO MY DUTY. THE
PEOPLE MUST BE JUDGED.

THIS COMMUNICATION IS OVER.



DAMN!

WE'RE GETTING NOTHING FROM
THE ROBOT'S INBUILT TRACERS.
IF IT IS NUMBER 5, HE'S
MANAGED TO DISCONNECT THEM.



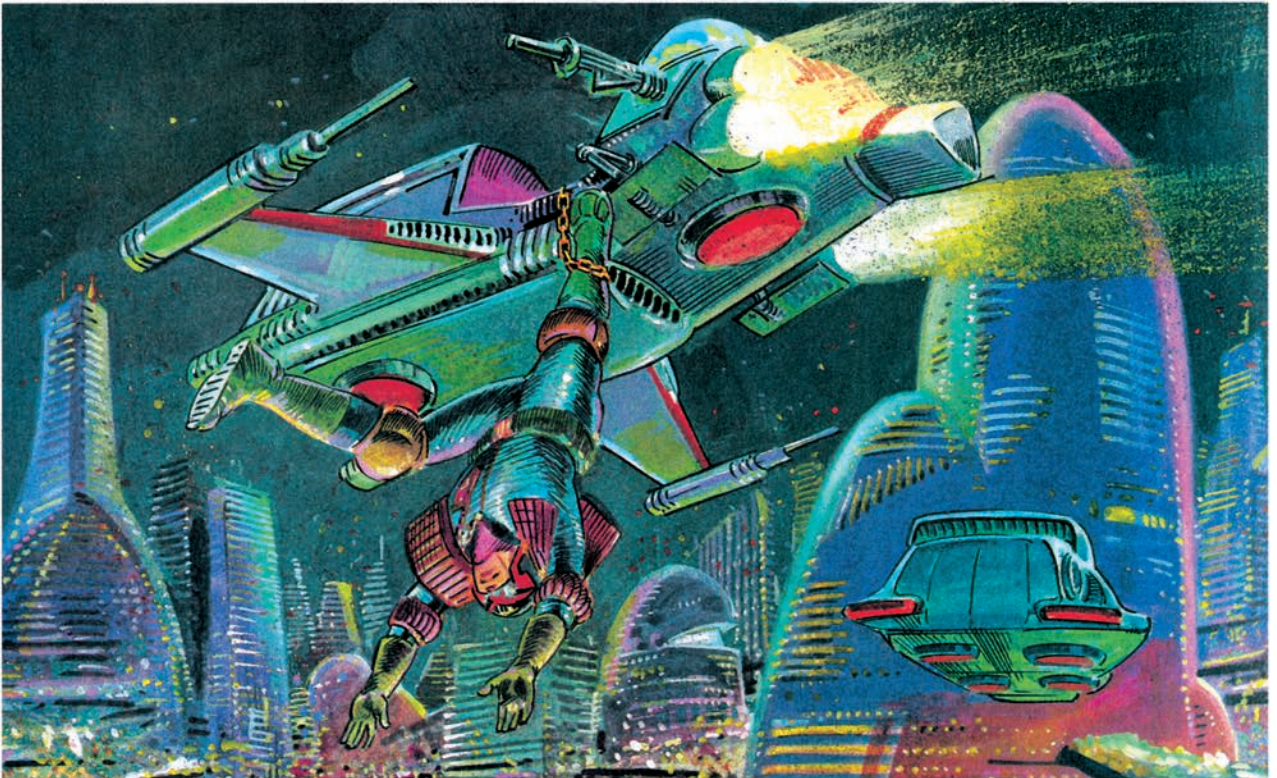
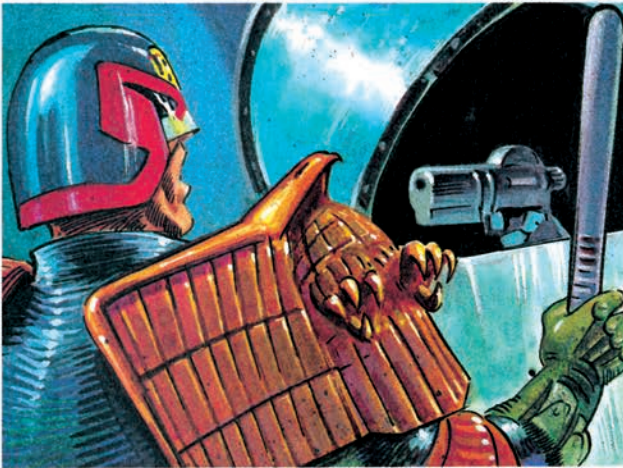
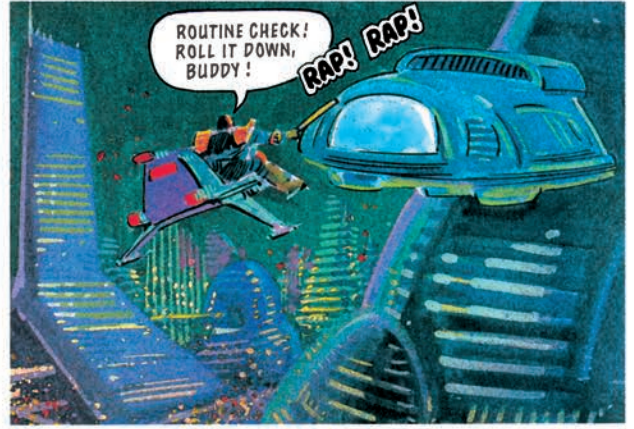
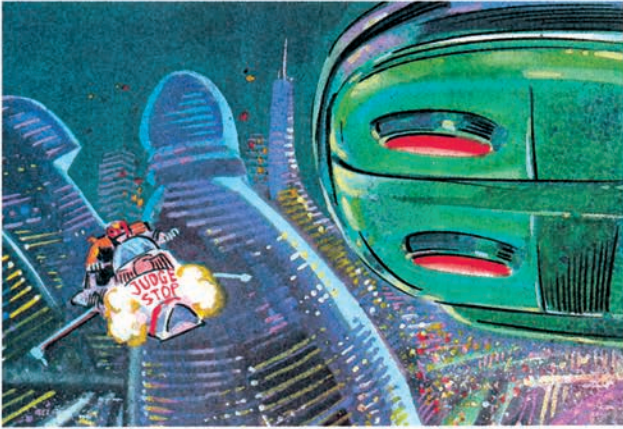
THIS IS FOSS, ON POL POT! YOU
GOT THREE BODIES HERE --
INJURIES CONSISTENT WITH
MECHANISMO ARMAMENT. NO
SIGN OF THE ROBOT.

ROJ! CHECK OUT
POT WALK,
POSSIBLE BYSTANDER
VICTIM!



ALL UNITS! PRIORITY ONE ALERT!
ROGUE MECHANISMO UNIT PROBABLY
MOBILE! LAST REPORTED
POT WALK, SECTOR 12!

IF SIGHTED, REPORT
IMMEDIATELY! AWAIT BACK-UP!
DO NOT TACKLE ALONE!



0612 HOURS.

SURVIVORS HAVE POSITIVELY IDENTIFIED THE ATTACKER AS THE MISSING MECHANISMO UNIT.

TOTAL FOR THE NIGHT STANDS AT 27 DEAD, 12 'ARRESTEES'.

AND THE ROBOT CALLS IN EVERY CRIME-- JUST LIKE IT WAS STILL OUT THERE JUDGING!

I'VE GOT NEWS FOR YOU-- IT IS.

THE FINAL SIGHTING OCCURRED AT FEEVER RISE AT 0437 HOURS. SINCE THEN NOTHING. IT APPEARS TO HAVE GONE TO GROUND.

CHECK WHAT TIME SUN-UP WAS. IF IT'S DECIDED TO OPERATE UNDER COVER OF DARKNESS IT MIGHT GIVE US SOME IDEA HOW FAR IT HAD TO TRAVEL TO ITS BASE.

WHAT'S THE CONDITION OF THE HOVER PATROLMAN?

STILL DISORIENTATED. THE STUN BOLT TOOK HIM FULL FORCE. THE BEST WE CAN GET OUT OF HIM IS A DARK HOVERPORTER.

JUST CAN'T UNDERSTAND IT... WE SEARCHED EVERY INCH OF THOSE SEWERS. WE SHOULD HAVE FOUND IT!

MAYBE IT GOT OUT BEFORE WE SET UP THE MONITORING OPERATION.

SO WHERE HAS IT BEEN? AND WHY NOW, AFTER ALL THESE MONTHS--?

The Mega-Times



KILLER 'JUDGE' STILL MISSING

SEARCH FOR MECHANISMO ROBOT CALLED OFF

JUDGES HAVE abandoned their search in the city's sewers for the missing rogue robo-judge, nicknamed 'Mechanismo'.

A spokesperson for the Justice Department said it was satisfied that the robot was not hiding in the vast network of tunnels beneath Mega-City One's oldest sectors after extensive searches by remote controlled

The rogue robo-judge went missing more than ten months ago after murdering several judges and nearly a dozen citizens. The spokesperson would not comment on rumours that a new Mechanismo programme was already in development.

SEWER NETWORK DECLARED 'CLEAN'

SEWERS SAFE was the message from the

NO DANGER TO PUBLIC

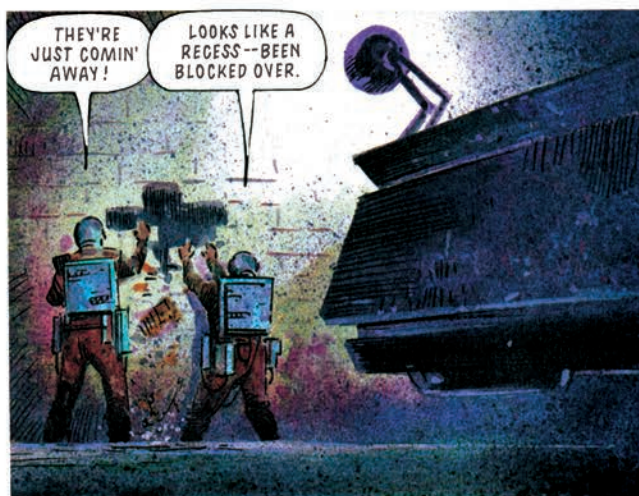
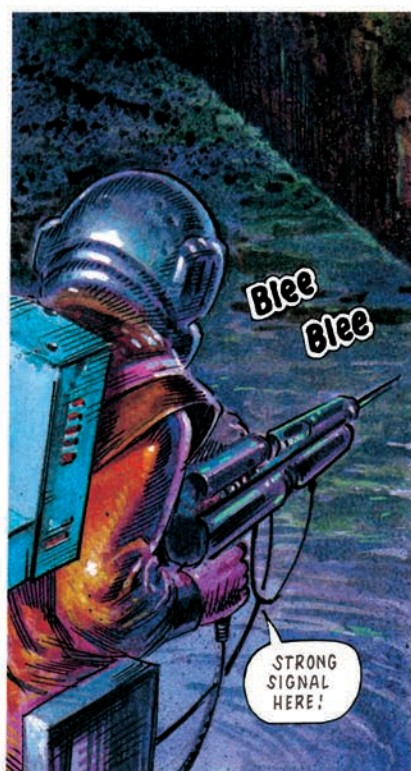
DANGER OVER but for how long? says Citizens' Right campaigner Dutchie Mojo.

The outspoken elder believes the robo-judges are merely the 'thin end of the wedge' for the future of law enforcement in the Big Meg.

"What proof have we got that the Judges are planning to gradually replace themselves with these murderous mechanoids?!" demanded Dutchie.

TWO MONTHS AGO...





JEEZZZZZZ...





NO WONDER THEY COULDN'T FIND IT! MUST'VE BRICKED ITSELF OFF BEFORE IT RAN OUT OF JUICE!



OH, MAN! WE STRUCK IT BIG! THERE'S BOUND TO BE A FAT REWARD FOR THIS.

YOU'RE CRAZY! MORE LIKE A FAT SENTENCE! WE'RE DOWN HERE WITHOUT A SALVAGE PERMIT!

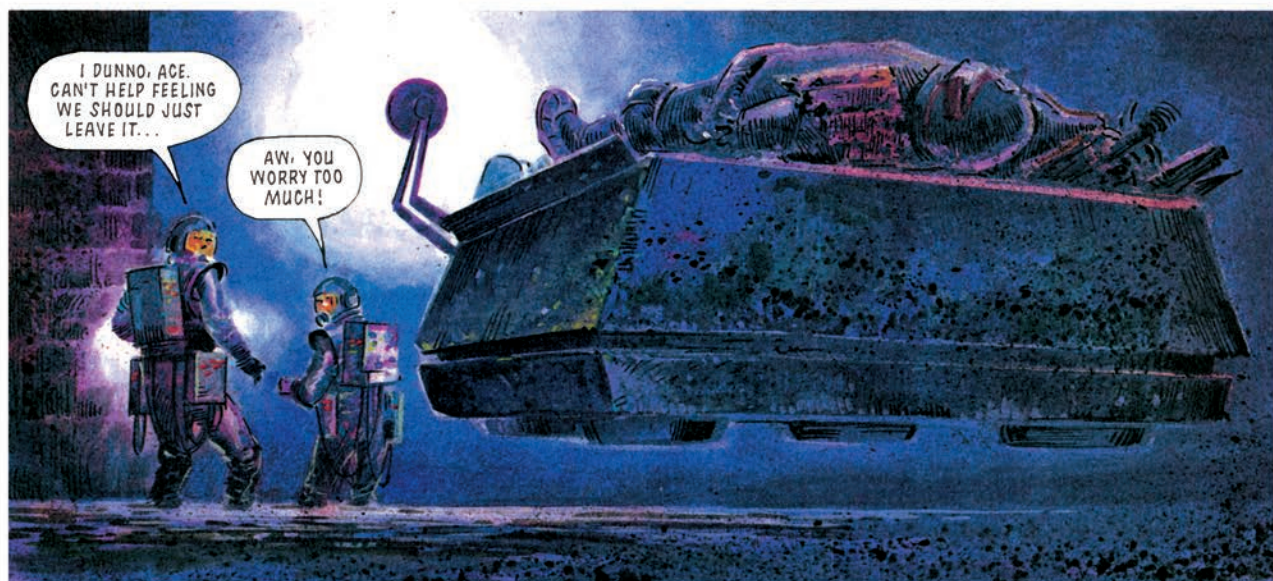


I FORGOT ABOUT THAT... WHAT'RE WE GOING TO DO? WE CAN'T JUST LEAVE IT HERE!

I DUNNO, ACE... THESE SUCKERS ARE DANGEROUS. REMEMBER HOW THEY ALL WENT HAYWIRE...

SO WE FIT AN OVERRIDE! WE CAN CONTROL IT!

WE CAN'T LEAVE IT, ALBY! IT'S WORTH A FORTUNE!



I DUNNO, ACE. CAN'T HELP FEELING WE SHOULD JUST LEAVE IT...

AW, YOU WORRY TOO MUCH!



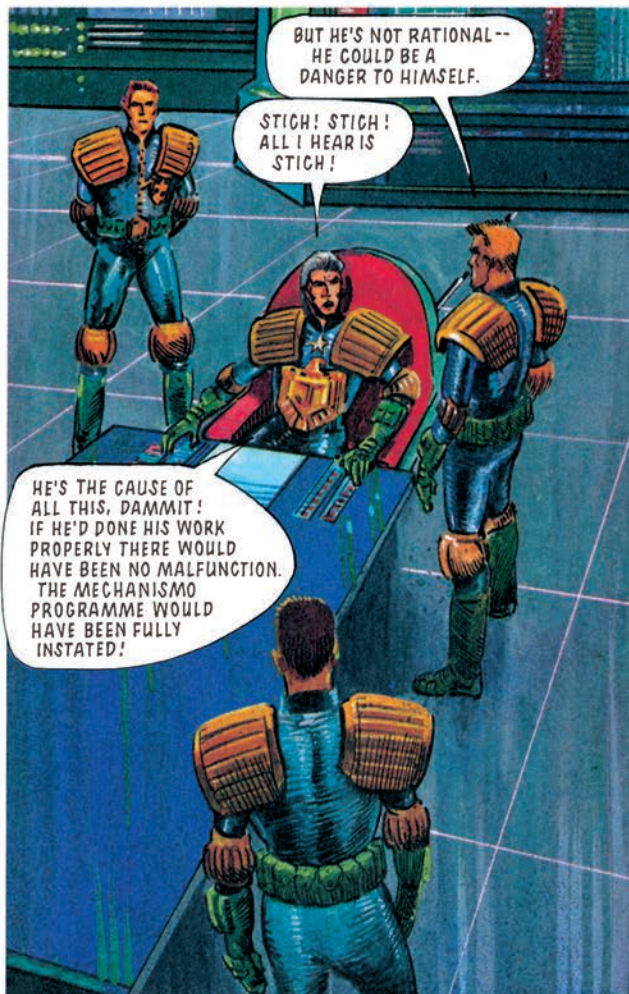




1600 HOURS.

CAMERAS HAVE LOCATED STITCH IN THE SEWERS, CHIEF JUDGE. DO YOU WANT HIM BROUGHT OUT?

NEGATIVE! WE'VE MORE IMPORTANT THINGS TO CONCENTRATE ON!



BUT HE'S NOT RATIONAL-- HE COULD BE A DANGER TO HIMSELF.

STICH! STICH! ALL I HEAR IS STICH!

HE'S THE CAUSE OF ALL THIS, DAMMIT! IF HE'D DONE HIS WORK PROPERLY THERE WOULD HAVE BEEN NO MALFUNCTION. THE MECHANISMO PROGRAMME WOULD HAVE BEEN FULLY INSTATED!



INSTEAD WE'RE MADE TO LOOK LIKE A FOOL AND --

NO! SAVE YOUR SYMPATHY FOR THE VICTIMS! DON'T BOTHER US ABOUT STICH AGAIN!



LAST NIGHT'S INCIDENTS ALL OCCURRED WITHIN THESE SIX CENTRAL SECTORS! WE'LL SHIP IN EVERY AVAILABLE UNIT! WE'LL HAVE TEN THOUSAND JUDGES ON THOSE STREETS BY NIGHTFALL!

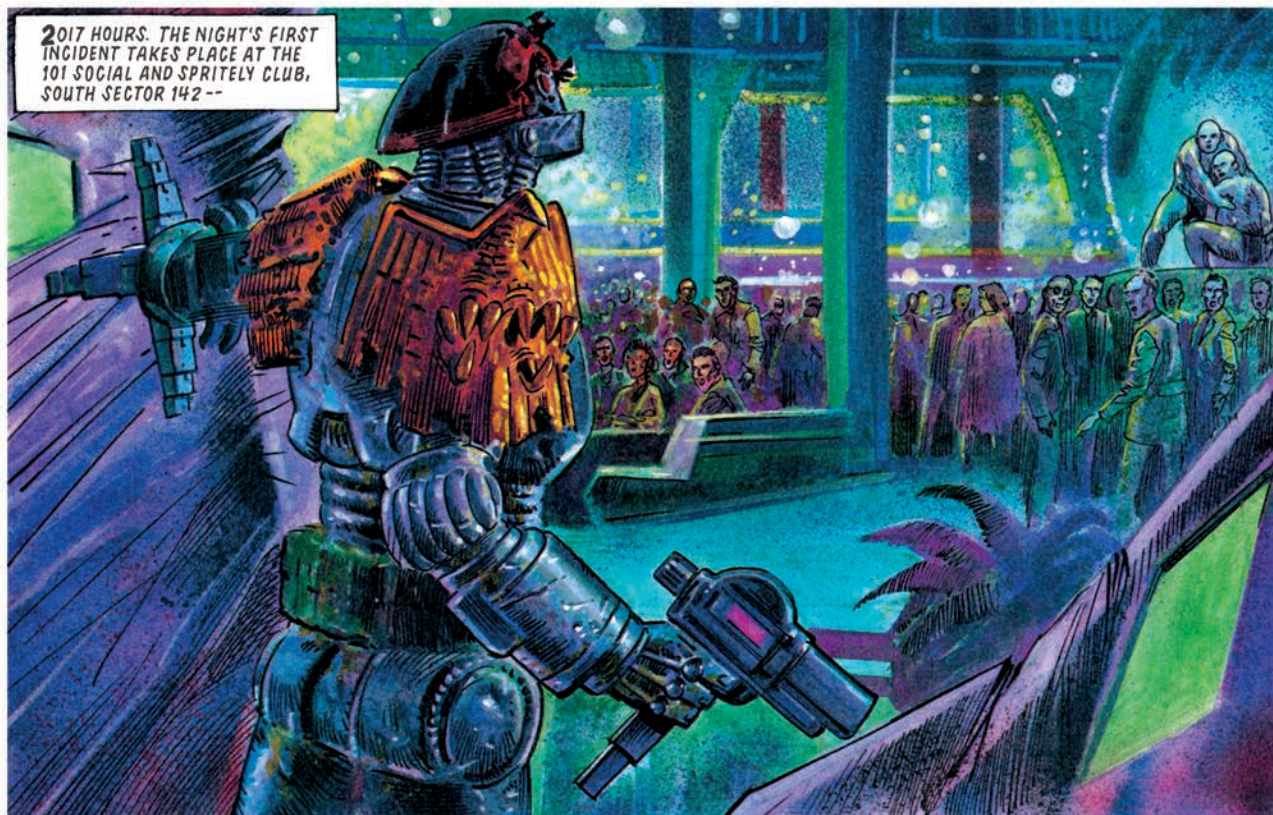
YOU'LL LEAVE THE REST OF THE CITY BADLY EXPOSED.



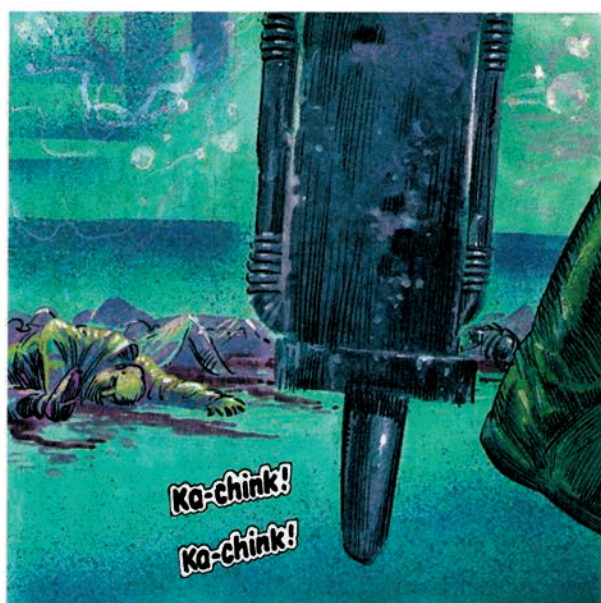
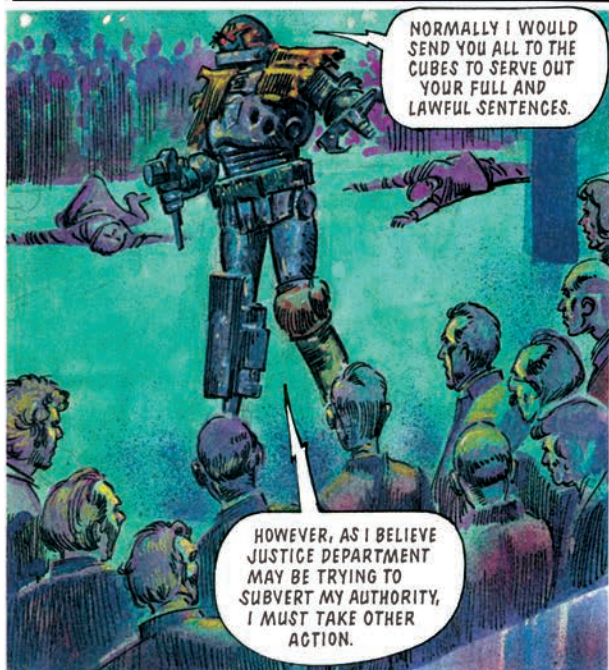
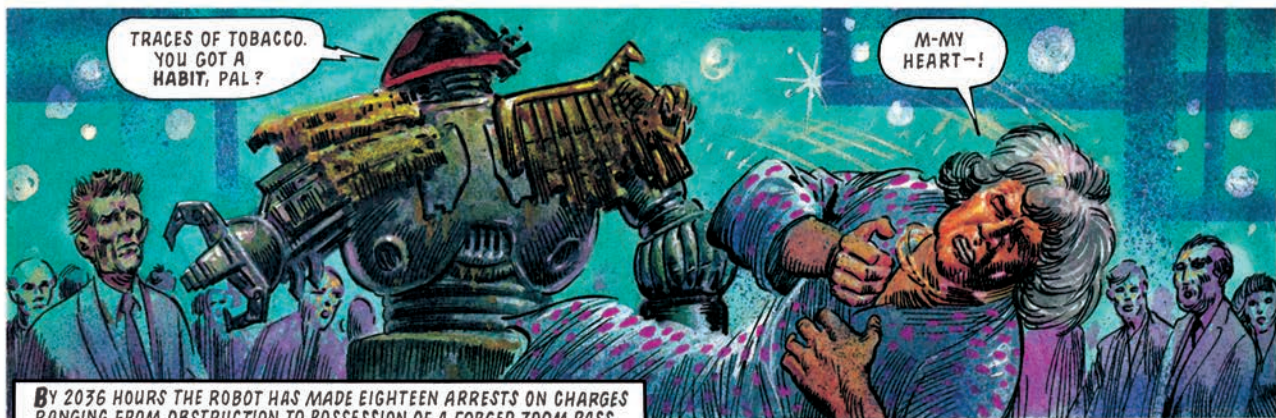
DERANGED OR NOT, NUMBER 5'S STILL A ROBOT-- AND ROBOTS ARE CREATURES OF HABIT.

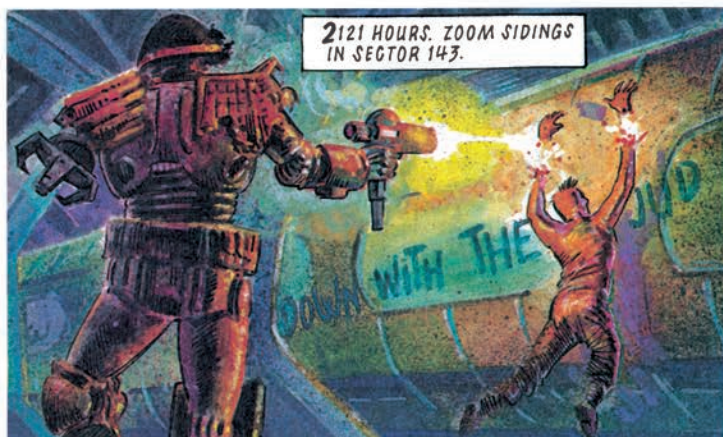
IT'LL HIT THE SAME AREA AGAIN -- TAKE OUR WORD FOR IT!

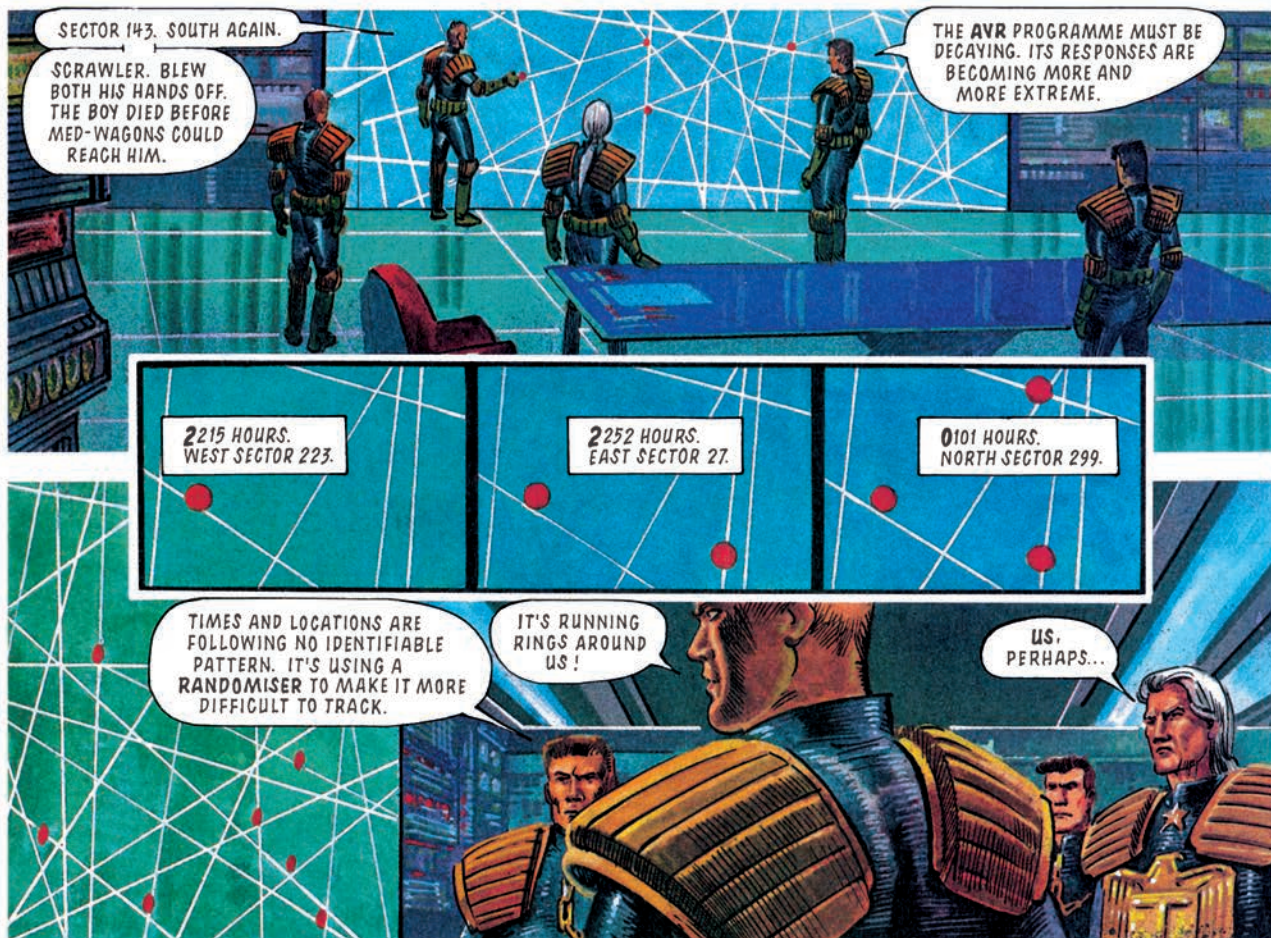
2017 HOURS. THE NIGHT'S FIRST INCIDENT TAKES PLACE AT THE 101 SOCIAL AND SPRITELY CLUB, SOUTH SECTOR 142 --















ITEM! AS OF
0150 HOURS,
MARK 2
MECHANISMO
UNITS WILL BE
UNDERTAKING
FULL STREET
TRIAL!

ROBOTS ASSIGNED TO
PARTICIPATE IN HUNT
FOR ROGUE MARK 1!

ALL PERSONNEL
ARE INSTRUCTED--
DO NOT IMPEDE!
ASSIST AS
REQUIRED!



MESSAGES ARE GOING OUT
SCRAMBLE-CODED. IF THE ROBOT
PICKS THEM UP, ALL IT'LL GET
IS GIBBERISH.

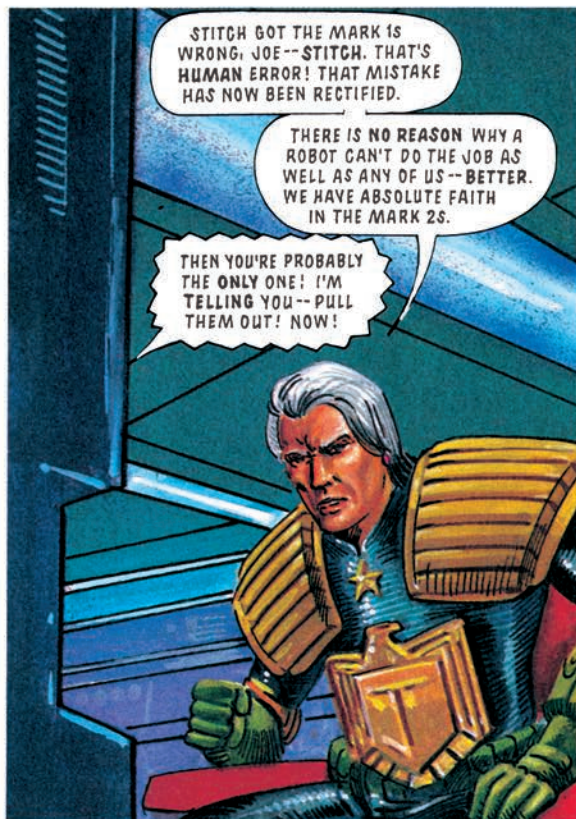
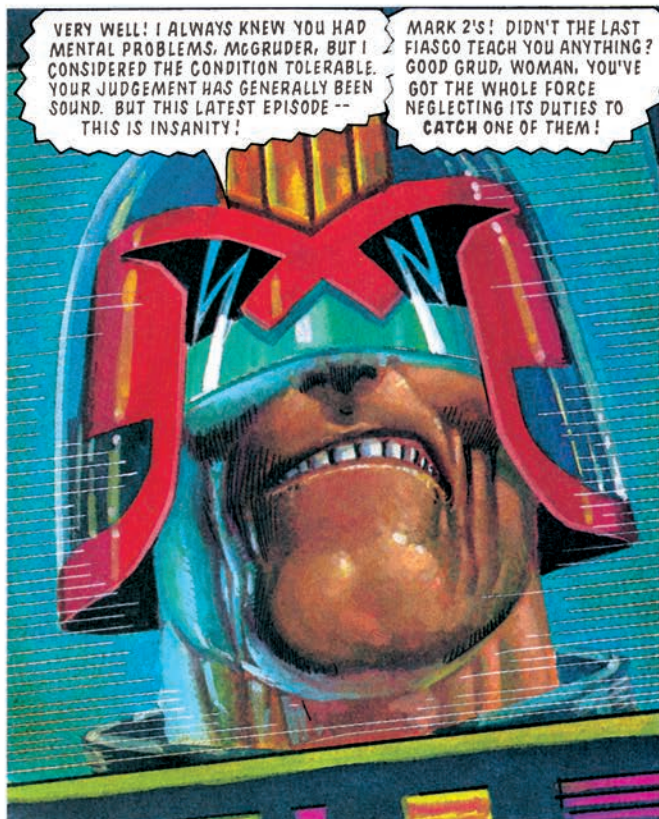
DREDD ON
LINE ONE,
CHIEF JUDGE!



AH, DREDD! WE WERE
WONDERING HOW LONG IT
WOULD TAKE YOU.

I REQUEST A
PRIVATE
CONFERENCE.

NEGATIVE. IF YOU'VE GOT
SOMETHING TO SAY, SAY IT.
OPENNESS, JOE -- I'M ALL
FOR OPENNESS!





SHE'S GONE
OVER THE EDGE
AT LAST.

MCGRUDER HELPED
SAVE THIS CITY
FROM DISASTER ONCE--
NOW SHE'S LEADING US
STRAIGHT BACK INTO
ANOTHER ONE!



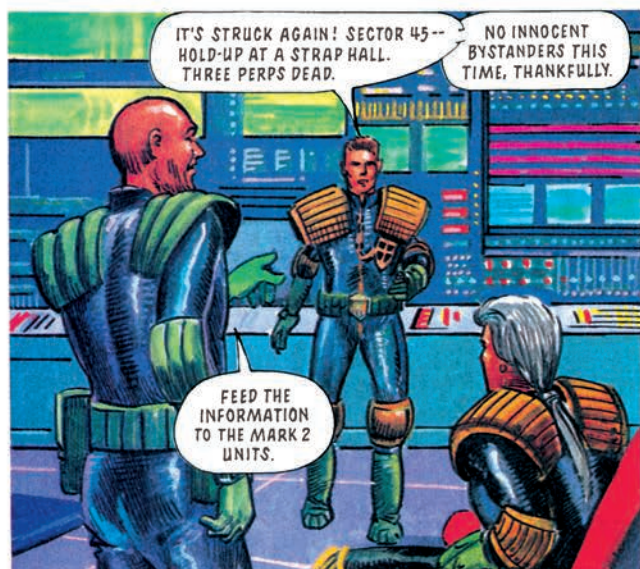
AND WHAT IF THE MARK 2S
DO SUCCEED IN FINDING THE
ROGUE ROBOT? THERE'LL
BE NO STOPPING HER!

THERE'S ONLY ONE
SOLUTION-- I'VE GOT
TO FIND IT FIRST!



ONE MARK 2 IS WORKING THE
SEWERS CLOSE TO WHERE
NUMBER 5 WAS LAST SIGHTED.
THE REST ARE MAINTAINING
A HOLDING PATTERN.

YES, GOT IT!
WHAT TIME--?



IT'S STRUCK AGAIN! SECTOR 45--
HOLD-UP AT A STRAP HALL.
THREE PERPS DEAD.

NO INNOCENT
BYSTANDERS THIS
TIME, THANKFULLY.

FEED THE
INFORMATION
TO THE MARK 2
UNITS.



45--THAT'S JUST
ONE SECTOR OUT.
THE ROBOTS
PREDICTED 44
OR 186.

HOW CAN
THEY DO
THAT?



EVEN RANDOM FACTORS HAVE A LOGIC, CHIEF JUDGE. THE UNITS WILL ADD THE DATA TO THEIR OWN RANDOMISER PROGRAMMES AND REASSESS.



EACH NEW PIECE OF DATA HELPS THEM BUILD A CLEARER PICTURE. THEY'LL KEEP CLOSING IN UNTIL THEY HAVE IT.



QUICGLY! THEY WANT SET DOWN IN SECTOR 190. THEY ESTIMATE TIME OF ATTACK AS 0315 HOURS!



0315 --
A BIG
GAP.

IT DID THE
SAME THING
LAST NIGHT.

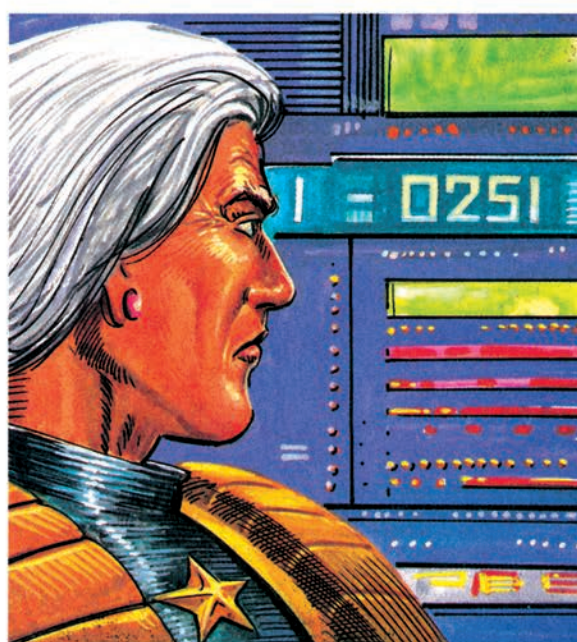
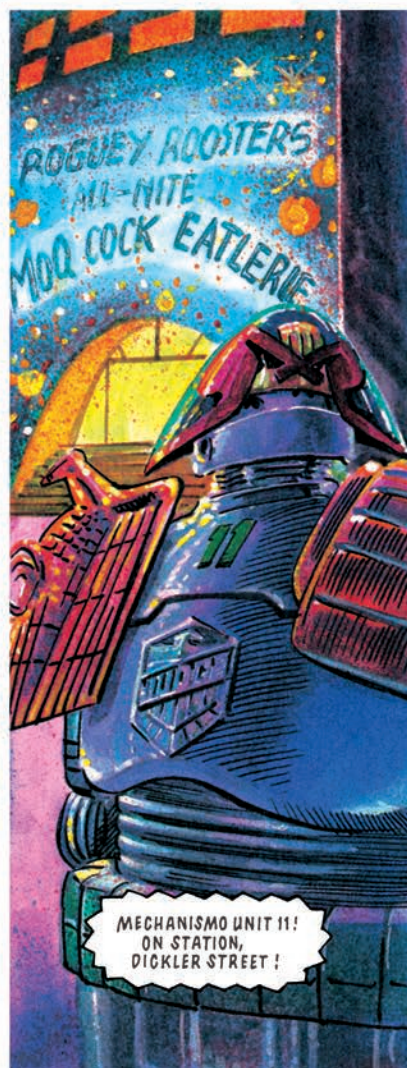
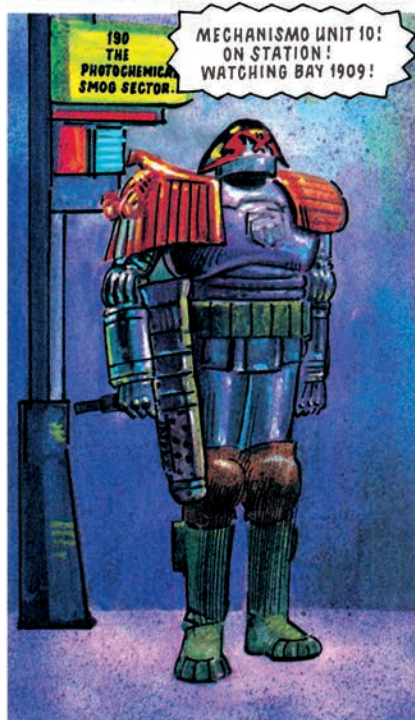
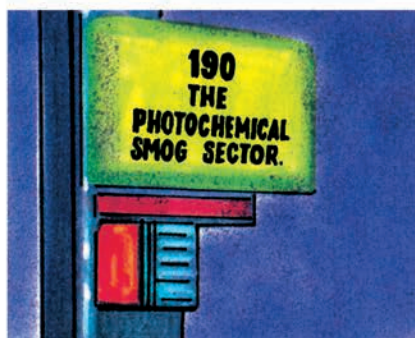
YES...YES.

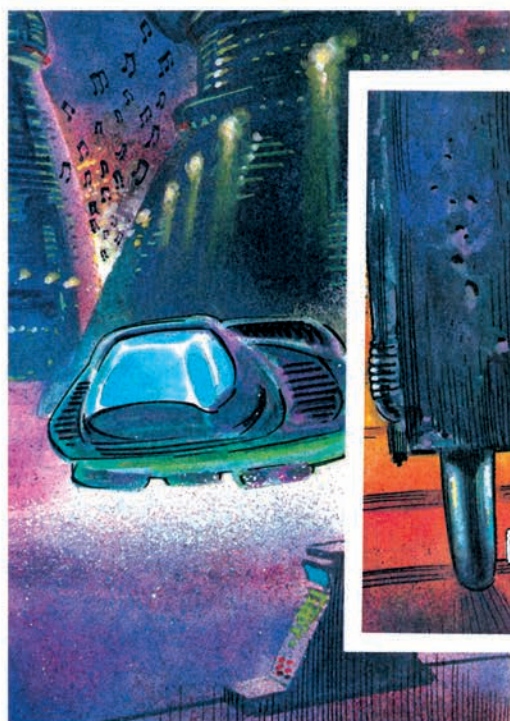
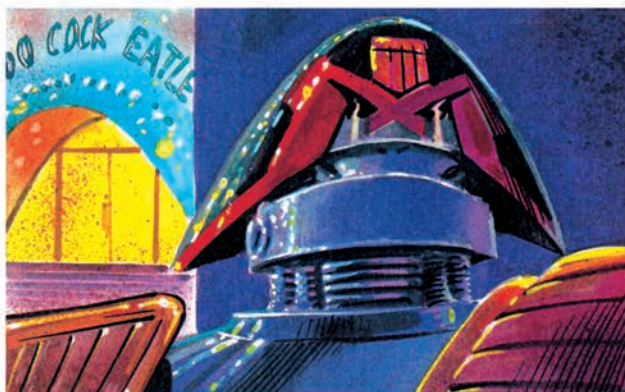
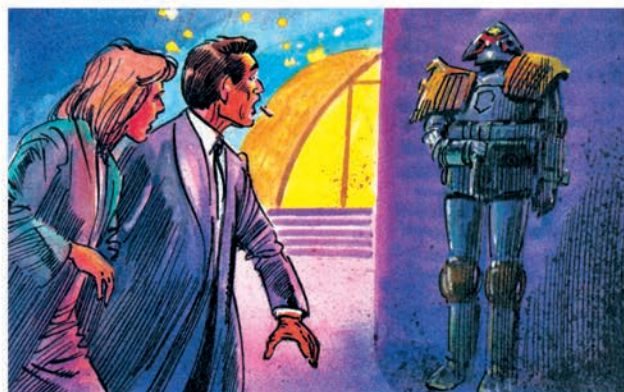


RIGHT! WATT --
BACK-UP COVERING
ALL ADJACENT
SECTORS!

INSTRUCT ALL UNITS TO
MAINTAIN A LOW PROFILE! IF
NUMBER 5 GETS A SCENT OF
THEM, IT'LL BACK OFF!



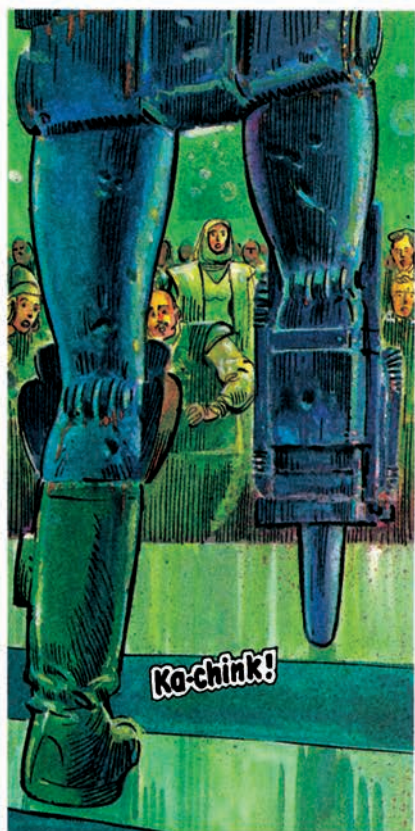




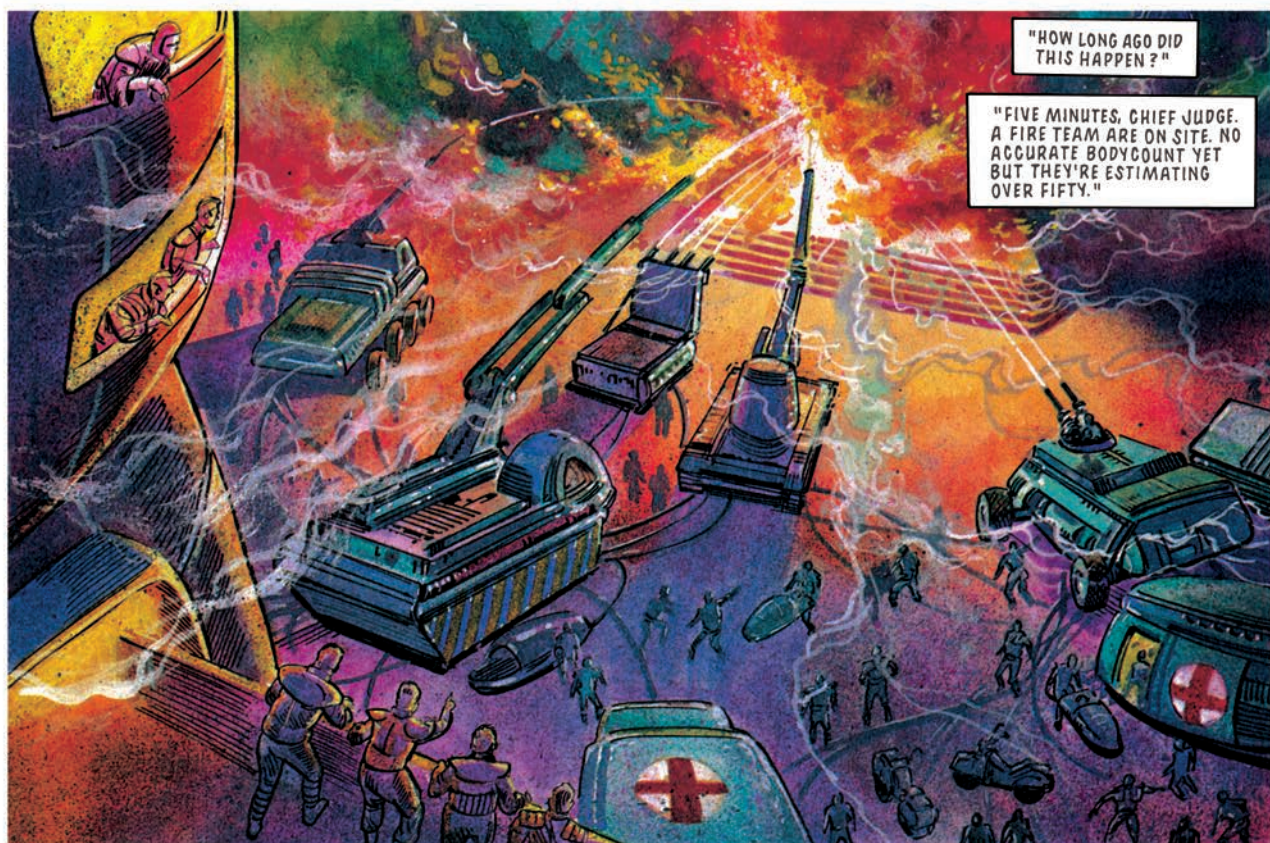












"HOW LONG AGO DID THIS HAPPEN?"

"FIVE MINUTES, CHIEF JUDGE. A FIRE TEAM ARE ON SITE. NO ACCURATE BODYCOUNT YET BUT THEY'RE ESTIMATING OVER FIFTY."



WHATEVER ELSE THEY ARE, THE MARK 1'S ARE REMARKABLY EFFICIENT KILLING MACHINES.

AND NO SIGN OF NUMBER 5?

NEGATIVE.



AND WHY? BECAUSE WE HAD EVERY SPY CAMERA AND HALF THE JUDGES IN THE DEPARTMENT SOMEWHERE ELSE -- ON YOUR ADVICE, QUICKLY! WHAT ARE YOUR ROBOTS PREDICTING NOW?

BE FAIR, CHIEF JUDGE! YOU CAN'T EXPECT THE MARK 2S TO GET IT RIGHT EVERY TIME. IT'S A DELICATE BALANCE OF PROBABILITIES. THIS LATEST ATTACK WILL BE ADDED TO EXISTING DATA AND--

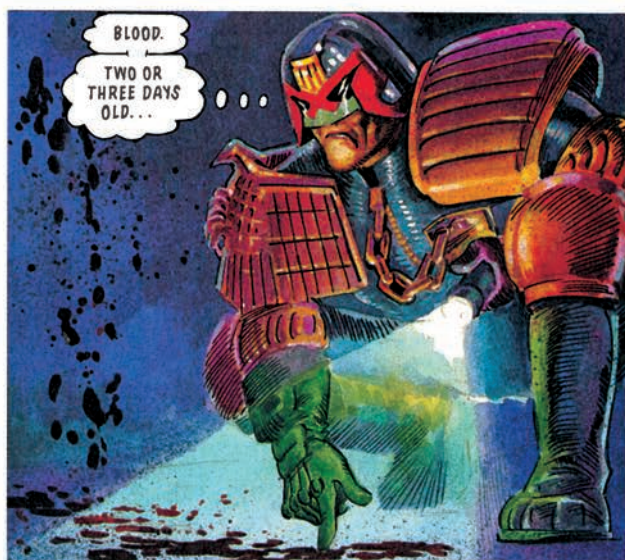


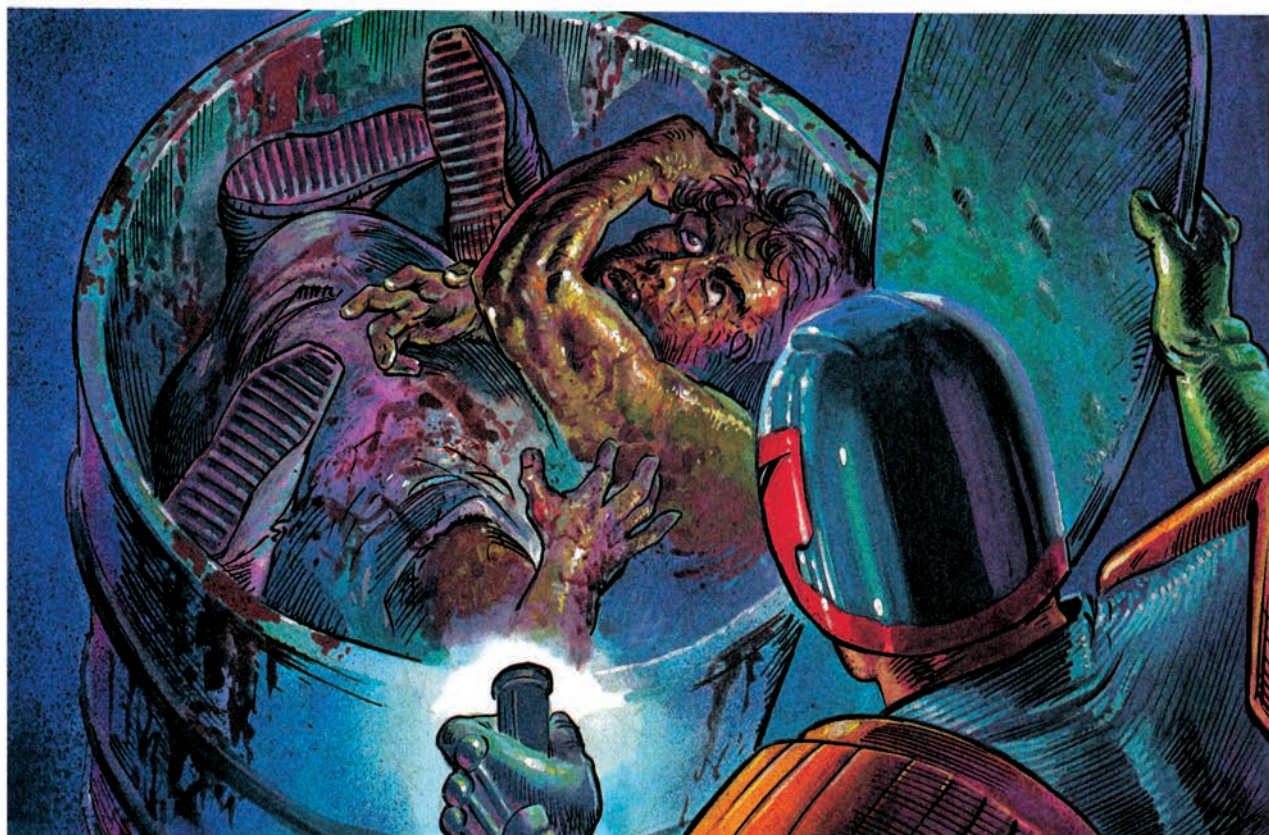
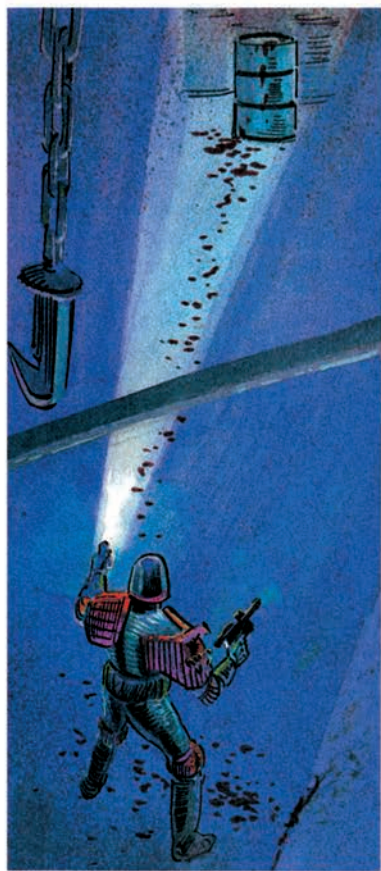
WE'LL DELICATE BALANCE YOUR ASS RIGHT OUT OF THE DEPARTMENT IF YOU CAN'T DO BETTER! WE'VE STAKED OUR REPUTATION ON THIS!

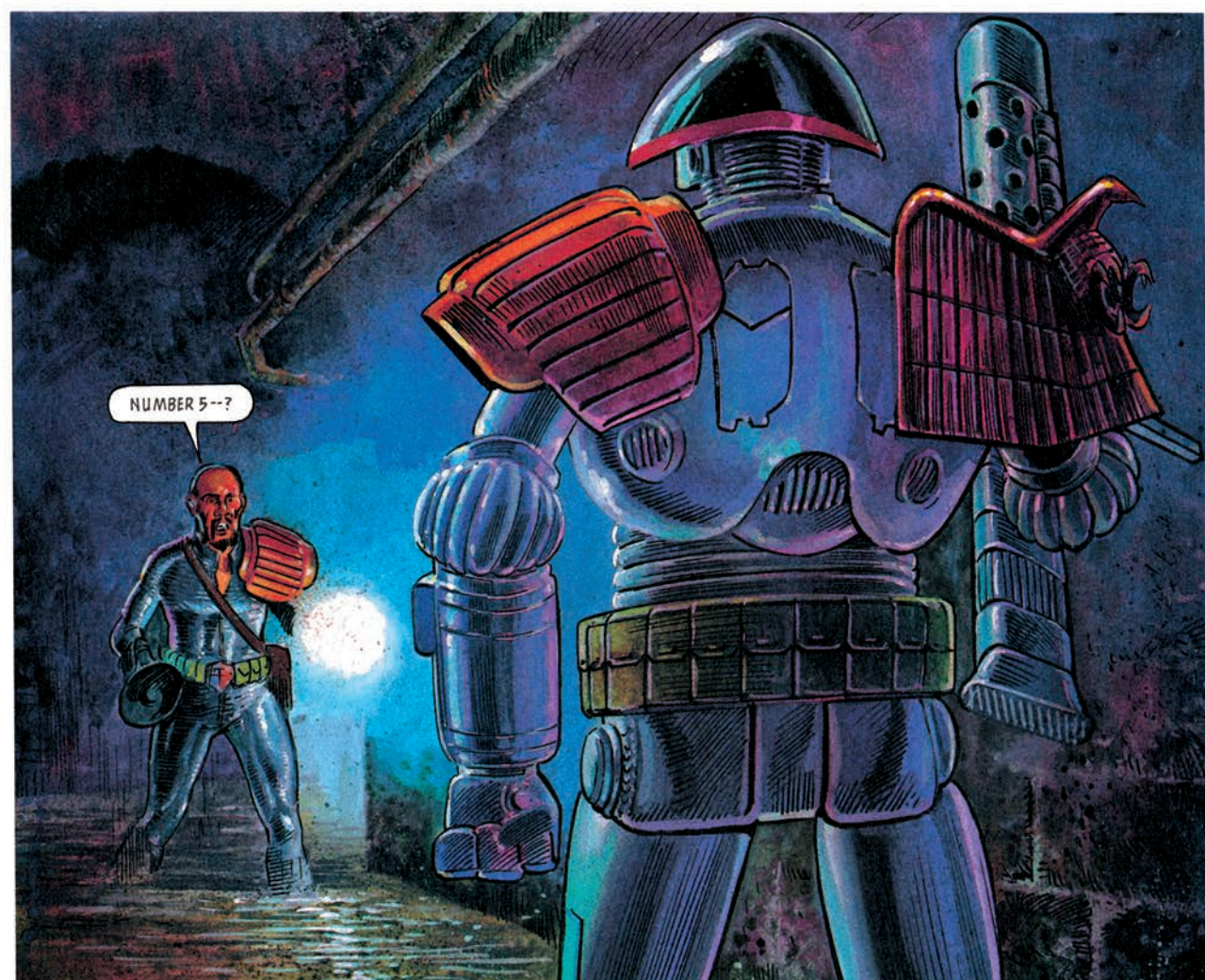
YOU'RE GIVING DREDD ALL THE AMMUNITION HE NEEDS! HE'D LIKE NOTHING BETTER THAN TO BURY THE WHOLE MECHANISMO PROJECT!



AND US! YES! THAT'S HIS PLAN! HE WANTS TO BURY US!

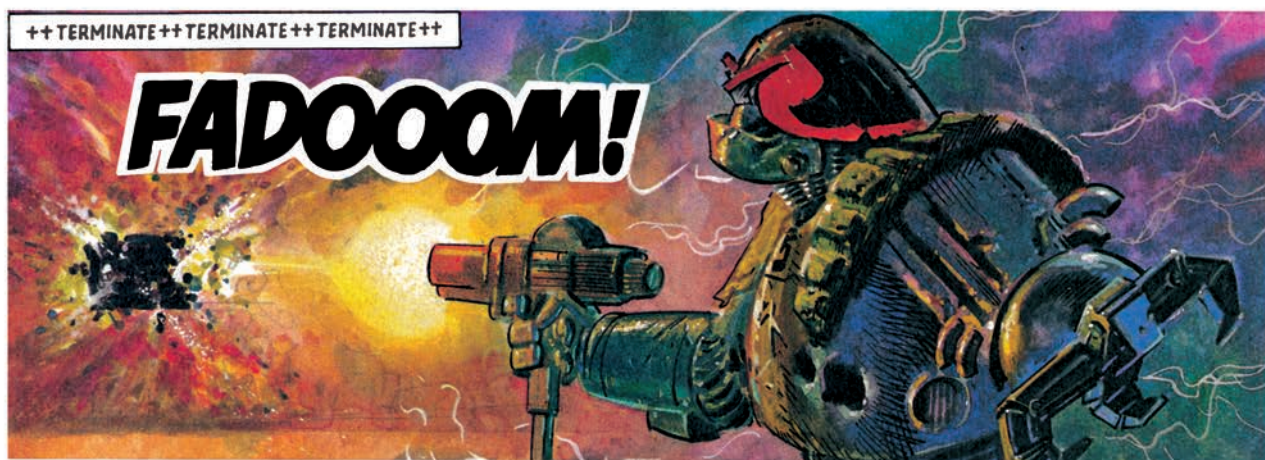
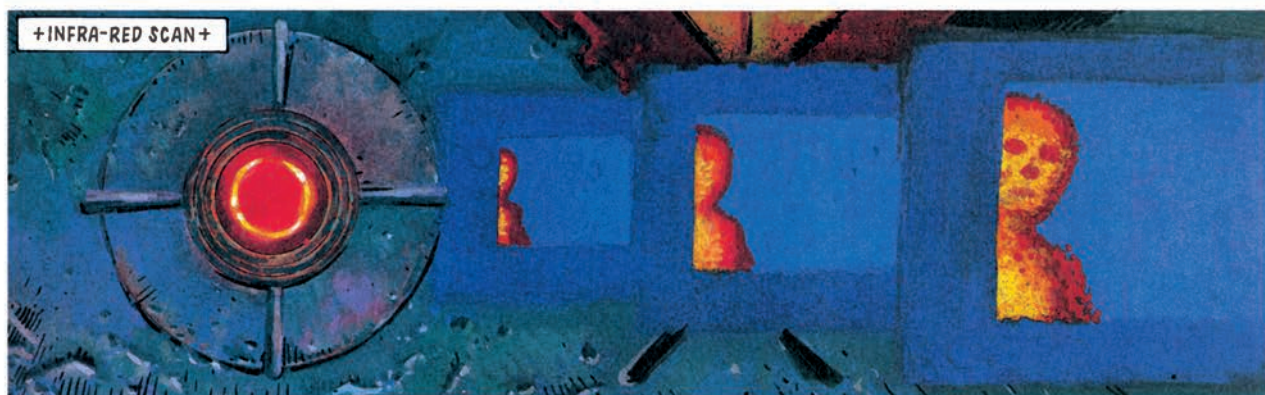




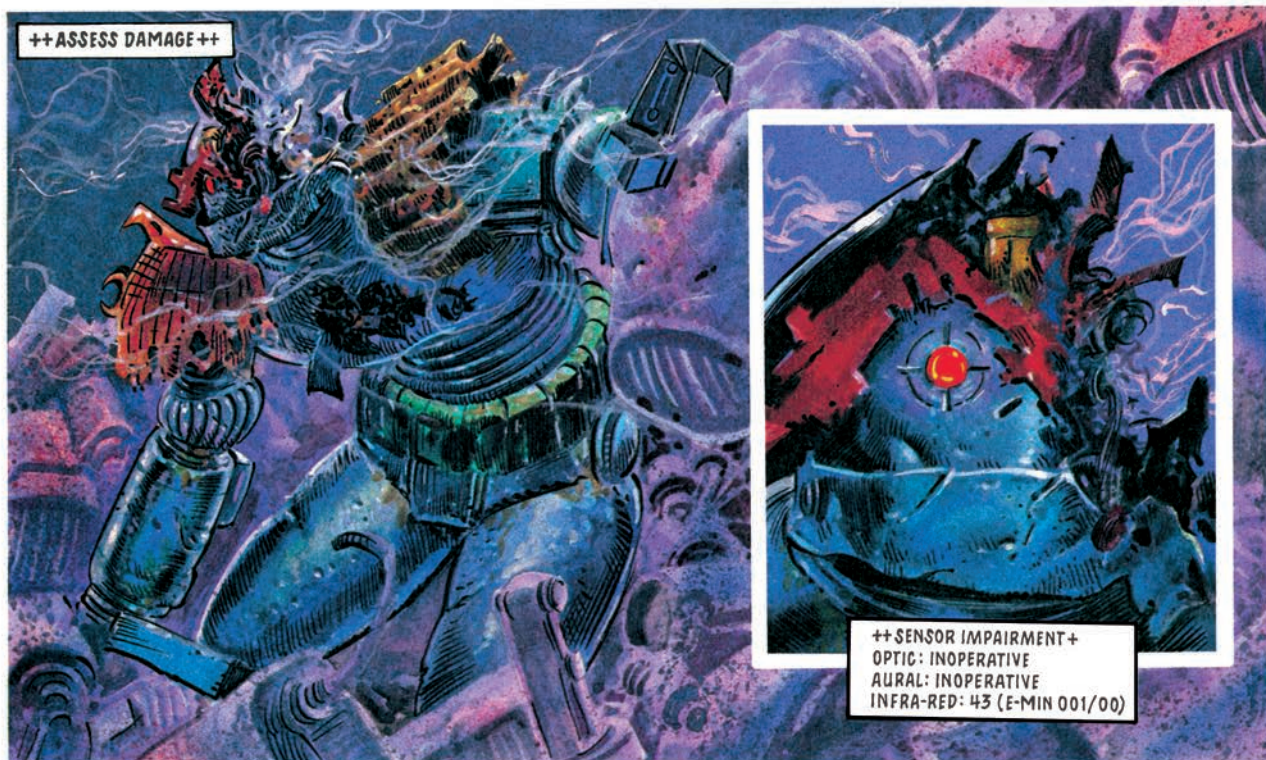




DREDD!



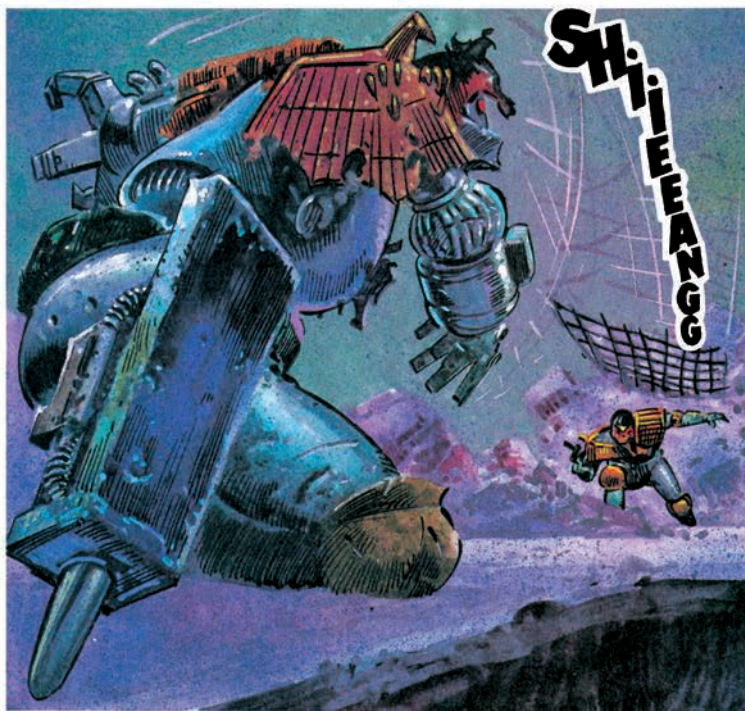






+AVOIDING ACTION+

URGENT
URGENT
URGENT



SHI-EANG



THIS IS DREDD!
I'VE DISABLED IT!
IT'S RETREATING INTO
THE SEWER SYSTEM!



MUST BE RICH
PICKINGS
DOWN THERE--
AZ SALVAGE
BUILT THEIR
OWN PRIVATE
ENTRANCE.



THEY BROUGHT BACK MORE THAN
THEY COULD HANDLE WITH
THE MECHANISMO UNIT! YOU GOT
TWO BODIES IN A BARREL IN
THE WORKSHOP!

PLISH!



AM IN PURSUIT!

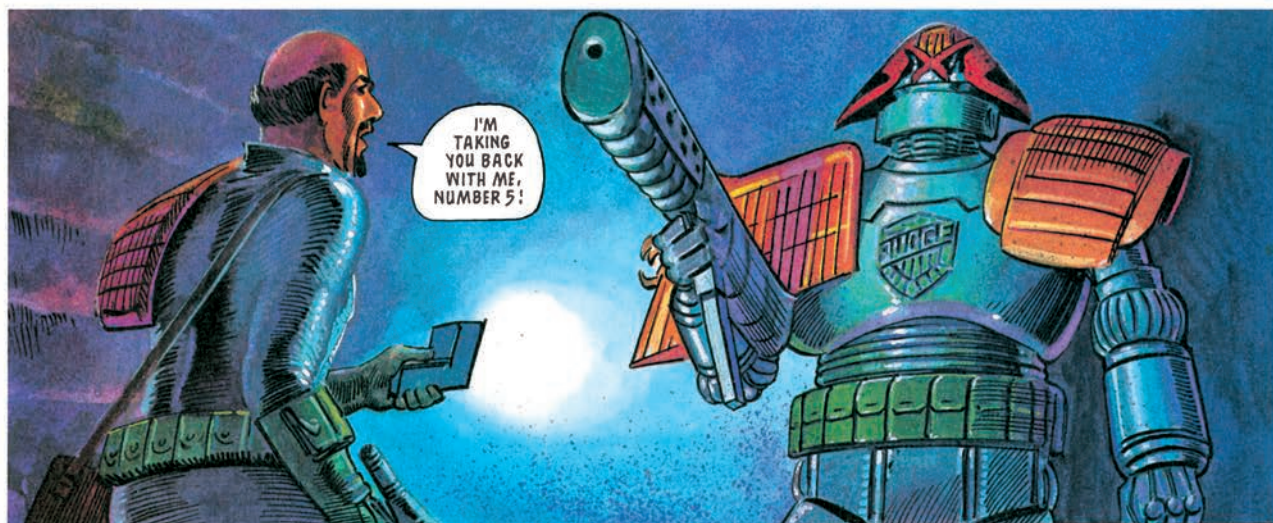
THE SEWERS--
WE'VE GOT A
MARK 2 UNIT
DOWN THERE!

SAME QUADS.

RELAY THE
INFORMATION
TO IT! IT'S GOT
TO BE THERE
FIRST!

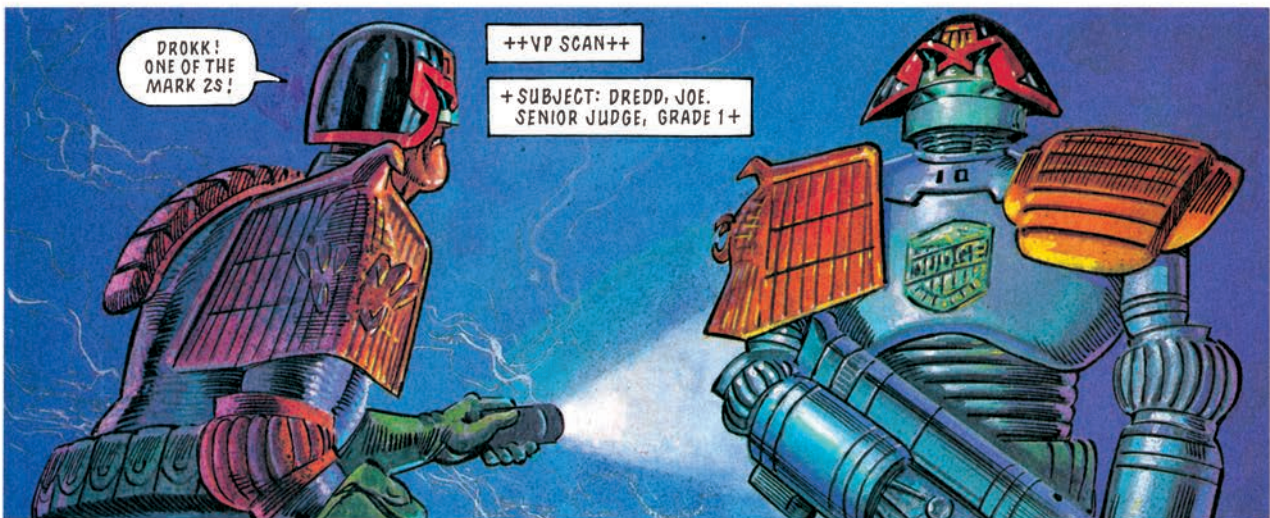
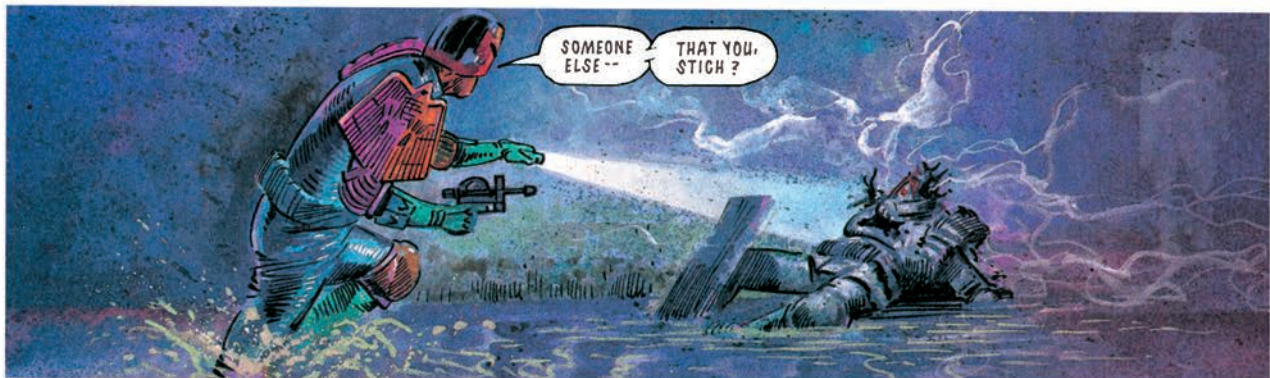
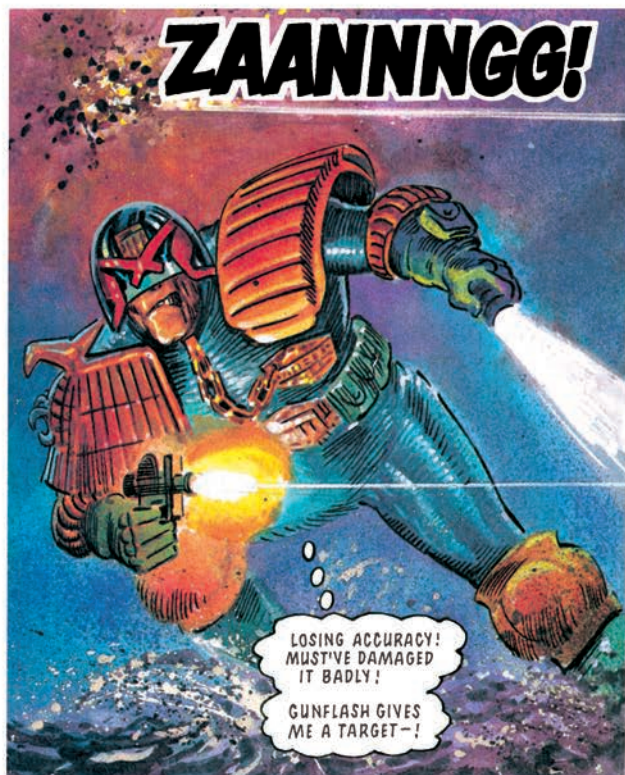


WE'LL TRY, CHIEF JUDGE, BUT
WE MAY NOT BE ABLE TO GET
THROUGH TO IT DOWN THERE.





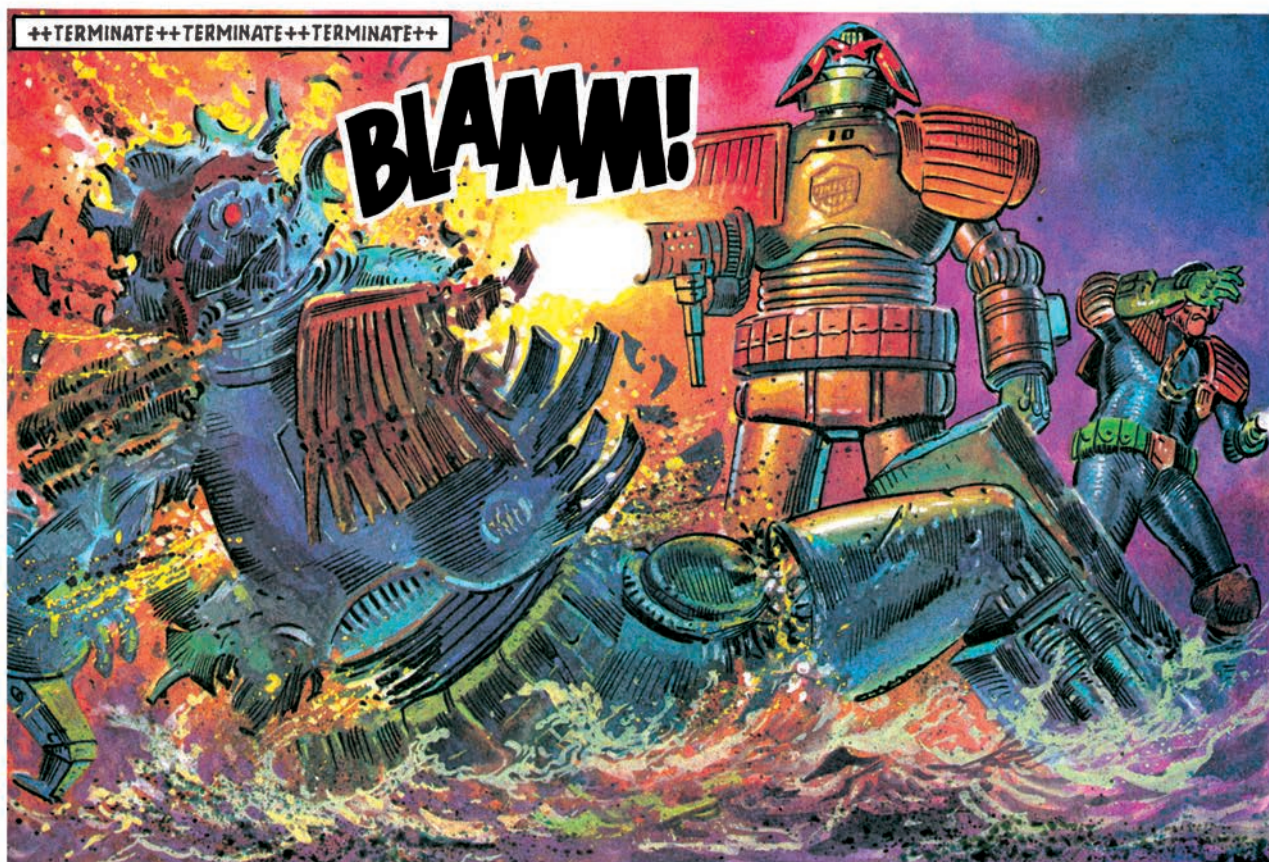






+ SUBJECT: MARK 1 MECHANISMO UNIT +

++ORDERS: ELIMINATE ON SIGHT++





D-DREDD!

STICH!



TWO ROBOTS...
I-I DON'T
UNDERSTAND--

YOU WERE TOLD TO
HOLD YOUR FIRE,
ROBOT! WHY DIDN'T
YOU OBEY?

ORDER INVALID. CHIEF JUDGE'S
INSTRUCTIONS TAKE PRIORITY.
JUDICIAL CODE, SECTION 19, SUBSECTION F.



NUMBER 5--?

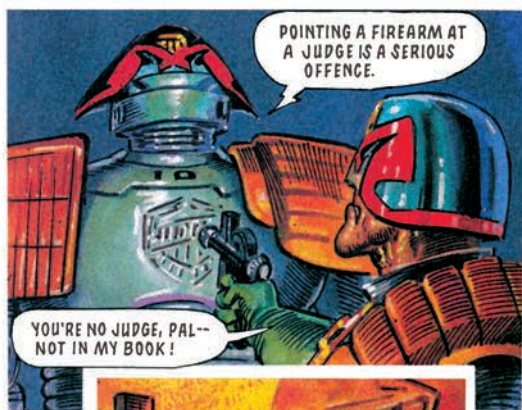
IT'S RIGHT,
DAMMIT!

NEVER MIND THE FACT THAT THE CHIEF JUDGE
IS DANGEROUSLY UNBALANCED. MIGHT AS WELL
HAVE POOR STICH HERE AS DEPARTMENT CHIEF...



AND WHEN SHE HEARS HER PRECIOUS MARK 2 FIRED THE
FINAL SHOT NOTHING'S GOING TO DETER HER! SHE'LL HAVE
ONE ON EVERY CORNER-- AND GRUD HELP US WHEN THESE
BABIES GO WRONG!

YOU LEAVE ME NO
ALTERNATIVE.

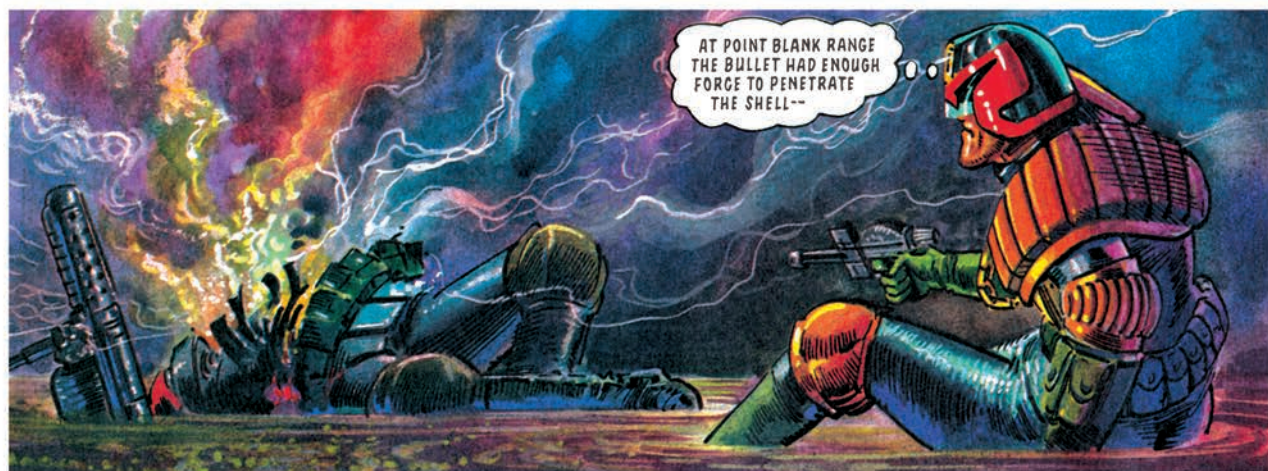


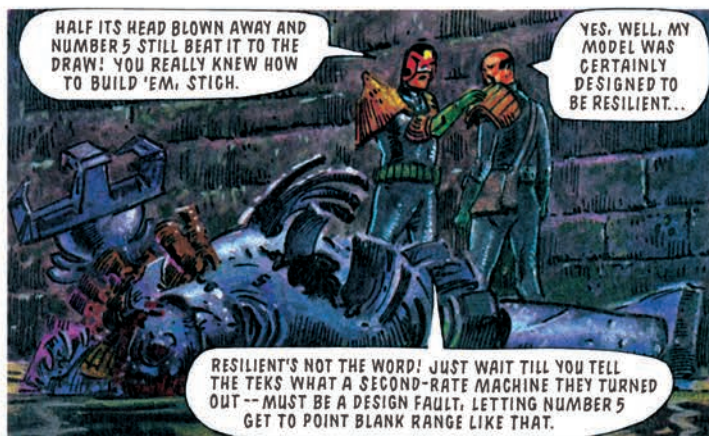
POINTING A FIREARM AT
A JUDGE IS A SERIOUS
OFFENCE.

YOU'RE NO JUDGE, PAL--
NOT IN MY BOOK!



VADOOOM!





HALF ITS HEAD BLOWN AWAY AND NUMBER 5 STILL BEAT IT TO THE DRAW! YOU REALLY KNEW HOW TO BUILD 'EM, STICH.

YES, WELL, MY MODEL WAS CERTAINLY DESIGNED TO BE RESILIENT...

RESILIENT'S NOT THE WORD! JUST WAIT TILL YOU TELL THE TEKS WHAT A SECOND-RATE MACHINE THEY TURNED OUT -- MUST BE A DESIGN FAULT, LETTING NUMBER 5 GET TO POINT BLANK RANGE LIKE THAT.



YOU CAN REMEMBER, CAN'T YOU?

I... I'M NOT SURE.

YOU DON'T WANT THEM TO THINK YOU'RE CRAZY.

N-NO...



YES...NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT, I-I THINK I CAN SEE IT M-MORE CLEARLY NOW...



GOOD. C'MON, LET'S GO.

HE'S IN AN EXTREMELY IMPRESSIONABLE STATE. BY THE TIME I GET HIM OUT OF HERE I'LL HAVE BELIEVING THE WHOLE STORY--AND THE REST OF THE DEPARTMENT AS WELL!



PROBABLY A FAULT IN THE PRIMARY COMMAND MODULATOR.

THAT'S MY GUESS. AND YOU KNOW HOW LONG THESE BUGS CAN TAKE TO FIND.

OH, MONTHS. YEARS SOMETIMES...



A DECEPTION, BUT NECESSARY UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES. ENOUGH TO MAKE MCGRUDER PULL BACK FROM COMMISSIONING THE MARK 2s -- FOR A WHILE AT LEAST.

LONG ENOUGH TO FIGURE OUT HOW TO DEAL WITH MCGRUDER...



Judge Dredd Magazine 2.17: Cover by Colin MacNeil







Judge Dredd Magazine 2.43: Cover by Chris Halls

JOHN WAGNER

John Wagner has been scripting for *2000 AD* for more years than he cares to remember. His creations include *Judge Dredd*, *Strontium Dog*, *Ace Trucking*, *Al's Baby*, *Button Man* and *Mean Machine*. Outside of *2000 AD* his credits include *Star Wars*, *Lobo*, *The Punisher* and the critically acclaimed *A History of Violence*.

COLIN MACNEIL

Since joining *2000 AD* in 1986 **Colin MacNeil** has worked on many strips, including *Chopper* – Song of the Surfer and *Strontium Dog* – The Final Solution. He went on to collaborate with John Wagner on the award winning *Judge Dredd* – America for the *Judge Dredd Magazine*. He has also worked on *Shimura*, *Maelstrom* and *Fiends of the Eastern Front* – Stalingrad. Most recently working on *Judge Dredd* – Total War, Cadet, Mutants in Mega-City One and Emphatically Evil: The Life and Crimes of P J Maybe. He also provided the atmospheric artwork on *Bloodquest* for Games Workshop. He also enjoys creating large abstract paintings. He says it's art therapy!

PETER DOHERTY

Peter Doherty is primarily known to fans of the Galaxy's Greatest Comic as artist of the *Young Death* series, which opened *Judge Dredd: The Magazine's* first volume, but he has also contributed extensively to *Judge Dredd*, working on the epic 'Judgment Day' as well as many shorter stories, including John Wagner's classic 'Bury My Knee At Wounded Heart'. Outside of *2000 AD*, Doherty's comic work includes *The Dreaming*, *Superman/Batman: World's Finest* and a *Grendel Tales* series. Peter is currently working as a digital colourist and has recently returned to *2000 AD* with work on *Devlin Waugh* and *Judge Dredd*.

MANUEL BENET

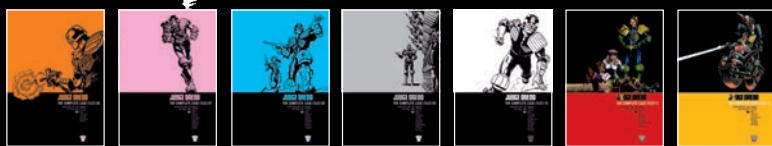
Manuel Benet provided the art for the third story in the 'Mechanismo' trilogy. He is also highly respected as a fine artist.

JUDGE DREDD

THE COMPLETE CASE FILES COLLECTION



THE LAW IN ORDER!



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TRIAL BY MACHINE!

IN MEGA-CITY ONE THE AUTHORITIES REVEAL THE LATEST THING IN LAW ENFORCEMENT, ROBOT JUDGES BUILT TO SERVE, PROTECT AND — WHERE NECESSARY — EXECUTE.

But for one particular street Judge this development in law enforcement is a step too far, and when the Mechanismo models start malfunctioning it's up to Dredd to take them down!

Written by Dredd co-creator John Wagner (*A History of Violence*) with artwork by Colin MacNeil (*Strontium Dog*), Peter Doherty (*Young Death*) and Manuel Benet, this is one slice of mechanized mayhem you won't want to miss.

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