

PREVIEW

THE MATRIX

COMICS
VOLUME 2



LARRY & ANDY WACHOWSKI • PETER BAGGE • MICHAEL OEMING
POPPY Z. BRITE • TROY NIXEY • TIM SALE • GREGORY RUTH
VINCE EVANS • TED MCKEEVER • PAUL CHADWICK • BILL SIENKIEWICZ
KAARE ANDREWS • DAVE DORMAN • KERON GRANT • SPENCER LAMM

BOYD
MANN

FAREWELL PERFORMANCE

STORY BY **JIM** **KRUEGER**

Two time Addy Award winner, Jim Krueger, graduated from Marquette University with a Journalism degree. After becoming a creative director at Marvel Comics, he changed track and worked freelance, creating new properties and writing comics, including the award-winning EARTH X trilogy, and X-MEN. Jim is now also president of 26 Soldiers, his own comic book publishing company. Original titles by Jim include FOOT SOLDIERS, ALPHABET SUPES, THE CLOCK MAKER, and we will soon see THE LAST STRAW MAN in stores. Currently Jim is working on GALACTIC for Dark Horse Comics, JUSTICE LEAGUE for DC Comics, and another short film.

For more information about Jim and his work, please visit www.jimkrueger.com.



ART BY **TIM** **SALE**

Tim Sale was born in upstate New York, but has long since moved to the West Coast. He studied art at the University of Washington, and comic illustration at Buscema's School of Comic Art before moving on to pencil the graphic novels THIEVES' WORLD and inking Warp Graphics' MYTH ADVENTURES. Tim's work has appeared in such comics as SUPERMAN: FOR ALL SEASONS, DAREDEVIL: YELLOW, and BATMAN: LONG HALLOWEEN. His most recent series, HULK: GRAY, done in collaboration with Jeph Loeb has been collected in a hard cover edition. A retrospective of Tim's work was published in July of 2004, titled TIM SALE: BLACK AND WHITE.

COLOR BY **JASON** **KEITH**

An Eisner Award nominee for his color work on EL CAZADOR, at age 22 Jason Keith is young but accomplished. He has worked on Marvel Comics' titles NEW X-MEN, UNCANNY X-MEN and DOOM RETURNS, and on CrossGen titles SCION, SOJOURN, LADY DEATH, and BRATH. Jason has also worked on the Image series THE GIFT, written by Raven Gregory. Currently, Jason is coloring a new mini-series called SAMURAI: HEAVEN AND EARTH for Dark Horse Comics, written by Ron Marz and illustrated by Luke Ross, as well as coloring the bi-monthly series DOC FRANKENSTEIN, written by the Wachowski Brothers.

FAREWELL PERFORMANCE



Look at him. There must be at least seventy pounds of chains holding him. I count five industrial strength locks, not to mention 150 gallons of water pressure.



And in less than sixty seconds, he'll be free.

Most people want to know how he does it.



writer **Jim Krueger**
art **Tim Sale**

letters **Richard Starkings & Jimmy Betancourt**
colors **Jason Keith**
editor **Spencer Lamm**
based on concepts by **Larry & Andy Wachowski**



I want to know why.

DÉJÀ VU

STORY & ART BY **PAUL CHADWICK**

American writer and artist Paul Chadwick is best known for his acclaimed comics series *CONCRETE*, about a thoughtful man trapped in a brutish rock-coated body. He has worked widely in comics, with collaborators including Doug Wheatley, Alan Moore, John Bolton, Jimmy Palmiotti, Ron Randall and Harlan Ellison, sometimes drawing, sometimes writing. Earlier he worked as a storyboard artist on such films as *STRANGE BREW* and *PEE WEE'S BIG ADVENTURE*. A new *CONCRETE* series, *THE HUMAN DILEMMA*, is in release this winter. Chadwick is currently drawing Harlan Ellison's *SEVEN AGAINST CHAOS*, and writing the week-by-week story of the Massive Multiplayer Online game, *THE MATRIX ONLINE*. He lives in Washington State.





MY WIFE IS SENSITIVE.

SHE'S NOT CUT OUT, IN SOME WAYS, FOR THE REAL WORLD.

THE MILDEST CRITICISM CUTS DEEP.

SALDSMEN LOVE HER; SHE FALLS UNDER THEIR SPELL.

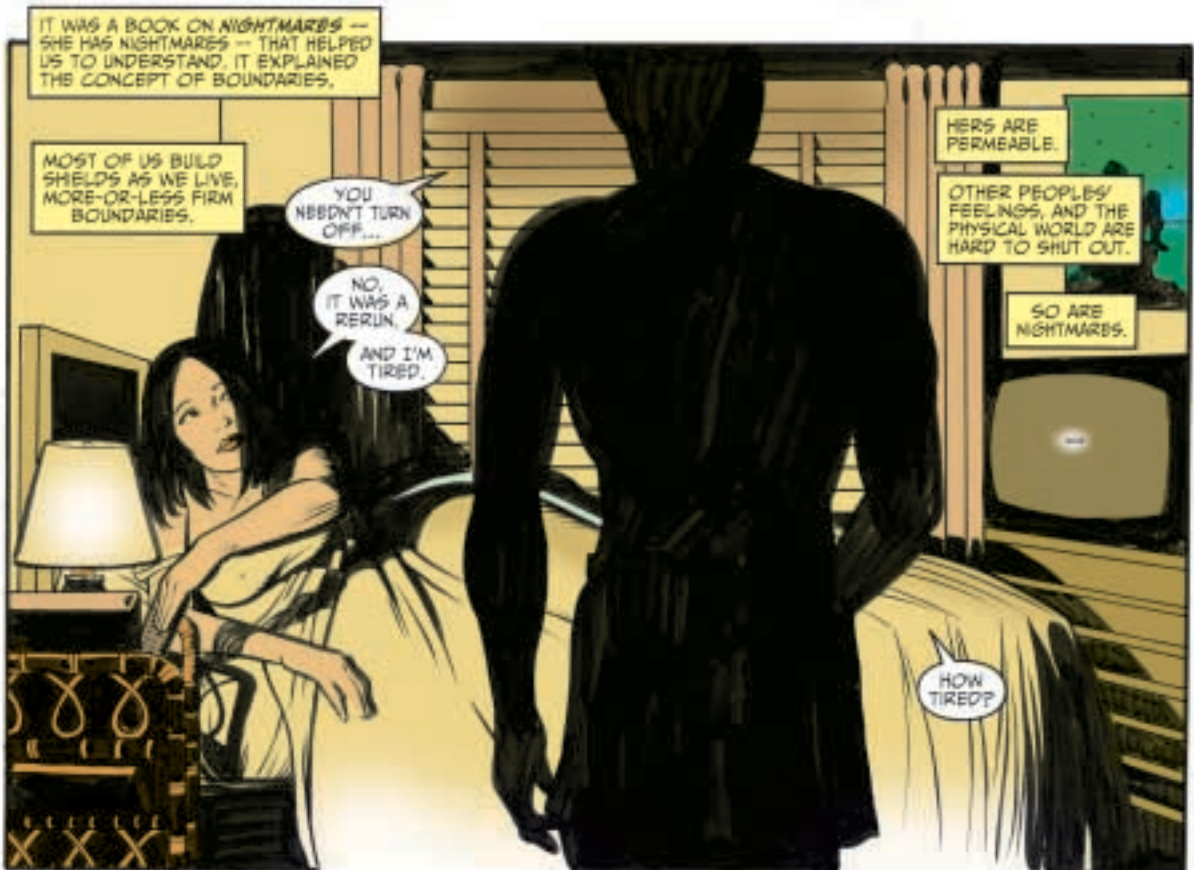
IT'S EVEN PHYSICAL... HER EYES ARE LIKE 20/10, HYPER-ACUTE.

COLD GETS TO HER, BADLY.

LINEN SHEETS SCRATCH.

DÉJÀ VU

PAUL CHAD WICK



IT WAS A BOOK ON NIGHTMARES -- SHE HAS NIGHTMARES -- THAT HELPED US TO UNDERSTAND. IT EXPLAINED THE CONCEPT OF BOUNDARIES.

MOST OF US BUILD SHIELDS AS WE LIVE, MORE-OR-LESS FIRM BOUNDARIES.

YOU NEEDN'T TURN OFF...

NO, IT WAS A RERUN, AND I'M TIRED.

HERS ARE PERMEABLE.

OTHER PEOPLE'S FEELINGS, AND THE PHYSICAL WORLD ARE HARD TO SHUT OUT.

SO ARE NIGHTMARES.

HOW TIRED?

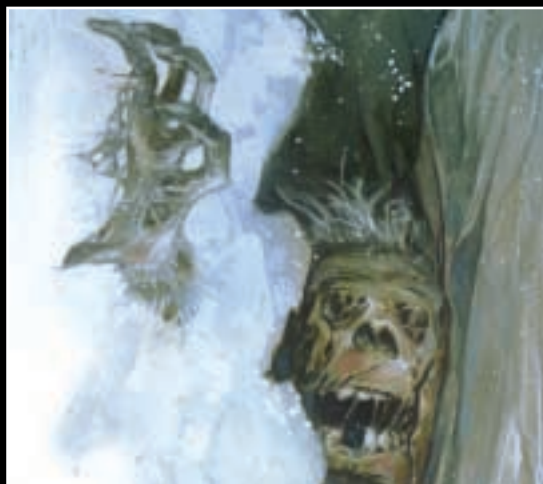
SYSTEM FREEZE

STORY BY **POPPY Z.**
BRITE

Poppy Z. Brite is the author of seven novels, three short story collections, and much miscellanea. Early in her career she was known for her horror work, producing genre classics/notorieties such as *LOST SOULS*, *DRAWING BLOOD*, and *EXQUISITE CORPSE*. More recently she has turned her attention to a critically acclaimed series of novels and short stories set in the New Orleans restaurant world. The first of these, *LIQUOR*, was published by Three Rivers Press in 2004; the followup, *PRIME*, is due in March 2005. More information and excerpts may be found at www.poppyzbrite.com. Brite lives in New Orleans with her husband Christopher, a chef.

ART BY **DAVE**
DORMAN

Eisner Award-winning artist Dave Dorman was born in Michigan in 1958. He attended one year at the Joe Kubert School of Comic Art before deciding he wanted to pursue the medium of painting. Besides creating an abundance of *STAR WARS* art over the last twelve years, his painting style has led him to illustrate book and magazine covers, including the two paperback series *ALIENS* and *SURFING SAMURAI ROBOTS*. Additionally, Dave has painted trading cards such as the *STAR WARS GALAXY* and *SKYBOX MASTERSERIES: MALIBU ULTRAVERSE*. He also collaborated with Steve Bisette on *ALIENS: TRIBES*, an illustrated novel that brought him the Eisner Award in 1993. His current project is *WASTED LANDS*, for which he has teamed up with award-winning writer Del Stone Jr.



SYSTEM FREEZE



written by POPPY Z. BRITE
illustrated by DAVE DORMAN
edited by SPENCER LAMM
based on concepts by
LARRY & ANDY WACHOWSKI

Plodding toward the summit of Everest, high above Camp Three where every step felt like a life's work and every breath made her pray she'd be able to take the next one, Fria Canning saw her first dead body. It was a Japanese man in a red climbing suit, huddled in a fetal position beneath an outcropping of rock. He must have been here since last season, maybe longer; at these altitudes it was almost impossible to retrieve the bodies of dead climbers, and the mountain became their sepulcher.

One of the man's mittens was gone, exposing a withered, clawlike hand. His face was as dark and scoured as the rock, a grimacing mask that no longer looked human. Fria had to unclip from the ropes to get around him. As she did, she said a quick silent prayer for him, a wish that the mountain spirit Chomolungma might welcome him, and then she kept climbing.

She didn't think of the corpse again until fifteen minutes later, because fifteen minutes later she was dying.

It happened so fast, only a heartbeat to break through the deceptive crust of snow, less than that to fall a hundred feet, and then the shock of impact. Fria felt something snap in her thigh, something give in her shoulder. She'd plunged into a hidden crevasse, landed on some sort of ledge deep within the ice. Her harness had been attached to the ropes, but either her carabiners or the harness itself had failed. She couldn't move to check; hot knives of pain sliced at her when she tried.

Fria tried to assess her situation. She lay on her right side facing a wall of ice that soared up nearly as far as she could see, only a faint gray smudge of daylight wavering at the top. The outer layer of the ice was translucent, webbed here and there with white fissures. Deeper in, the ice turned a delicate, almost metallic blue. Beyond that - as deep as Fria's eye could see - was an opaque core of darkness.

If she died here, the glacier would chew her up and eventually spit her out somewhere lower on Everest. She'd heard of it before, climbers disappearing into

THE KING OF NEVER RETURN

STORY & ART BY **TED MCKEEVER**

Ted McKeever's published career began in 1987, when he wrote and illustrated EDDY CURRENT, as well as the comic TRANSIT. Following that, Ted wrote and painted PLASTIC FORKS, which led to drawing METROPOL between '91 and '92. During 1993 Ted worked on a story titled ENGINES for BATMAN: LEGENDS OF THE DARK KNIGHT, then he and writer Peter Milligan brought the comic THE EXTREMIST into being. Ted's personal favorite work is INDUSTRIAL GOTHIC from 1995; Ted wrote and illustrated, Lou Stathis edited. Other contributions Ted has made are to Marvel's ULTIMATE TEAM UP, issues 12 and 13 with SPIDER-MAN and DOCTOR STRANGE in 2001, and he wrote and illustrated the 18th issue of Marvel's TANGLED WEB with Spider-Man, adding a new character to the universe, Spellcheck. Ted also painted the graphic novels WONDER WOMAN: THE BLUE AMAZON, BATMAN: NOSFERATU and SUPERMAN: METROPOLIS. Currently, Ted is illustrating the DC Comics series ENGINEHEAD, written by Joe Kelly.

COLOR BY **CHRIS CHUCKRY**

After fifteen years as a colorist, Chris Chuckry has worked on many different titles for many different publishers. Founder and former president of the color studio Digital Chameleon Ltd., Chris now runs his own studio, Frogrocket Inc. He is also an accomplished illustrator. Another recent collaboration with Ted McKeever is the DC Comics mini series, ENGINE HEAD.



THE KING OF NEVER RETURN.

WE'RE NOT IN THIS ALONE.

THERE ARE PLENTY OF US OUT THERE.

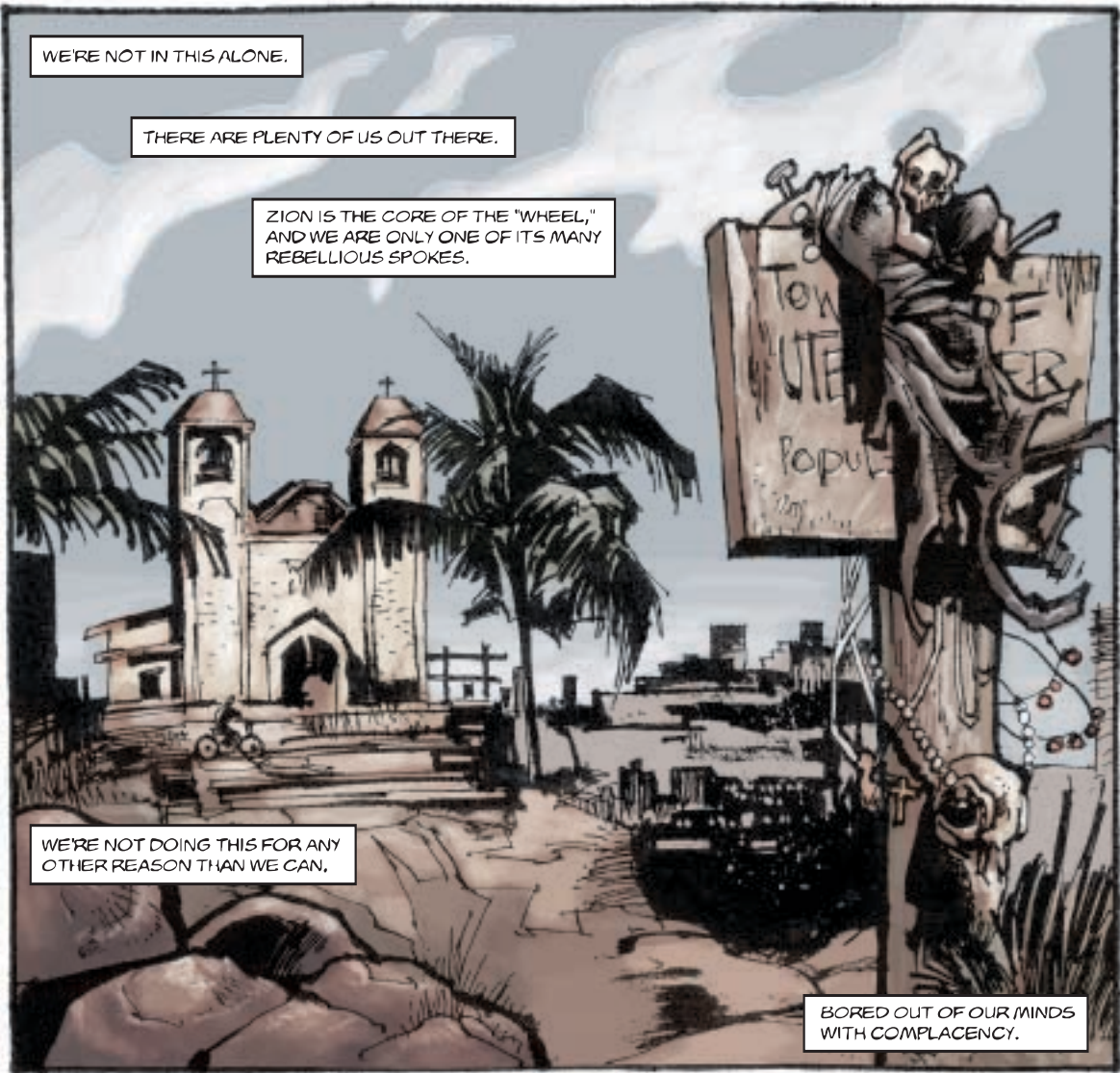
ZION IS THE CORE OF THE "WHEEL,"
AND WE ARE ONLY ONE OF ITS MANY
REBELLIOUS SPOKES.

WE'RE NOT DOING THIS FOR ANY
OTHER REASON THAN WE CAN.

BORED OUT OF OUR MINDS
WITH COMPLACENCY.

IF THERE WAS NOTHING
BUT THE "REAL" WORLD,
COULD WE BEAR IT?

NO, NOT "US."




AN ASSET TO THE SYSTEM

PLOT & ART BY TROY NIXEY

Troy Nixey has illustrated a number of notable creators' work. They include Mike Mignola who wrote: *BATMAN: THE DOOM THAT CAME TO GOTHAM* and *BATMAN: THE GASWORKS*, Neil Gaiman who wrote (with P. Craig Russell adapting): *IT'S ONLY THE END OF THE WORLD AGAIN*, and Matt Wagner who wrote *GRENDDEL: BLACK, WHITE & RED*. Troy co-created the comic mini series *JENNY FINN* with Mike Mignola; he created the *BACON* comic as well as the critically acclaimed comic, *TROUT*. His favorite project to date was a story he wrote and drew in *BART SIMPSON'S TREEHOUSE OF HORROR #7*. Recent work includes *DETECTIVE COMICS #796*, written by Andersen Gabrych, *BATMAN: LEGENDS OF THE DARK KNIGHT #183*, and *BATMAN: WAR DRUMS...* and there will, of course, be more *TROUT*!



An Asset to the System



WHEN I WAS FIVE, MY FATHER DIED FROM A GLIN WOUND TO THE HEAD, BREAKING AND ENTERING, TWO ARMED MEN.



WE HAD JUST FINISHED MOM'S MEATLOAF AND PEAS, WE WERE HEAVY, BLOATED AND UNSUSPECTING.

MOM WASN'T RAPED, BUT ONLY BECAUSE THE POLICE ARRIVED.

I SAW THE WHOLE THING FROM BEHIND THE TELEVISION.



I'VE WANTED TO BE A POLICE OFFICER SINCE...

I'M NEVER GETTING IN, NOT AT THIS RATE. I'VE RE-WRITTEN THIS PARAGRAPH TEN TIMES AND...

IT STILL SOUNDS LIKE I WANT TO BE DIRTY HARRY, AND I'M RUNNING OUT OF TIME.



DAMN, LATE FOR WORK.


A PATH AMONG STONES

STORY & ART BY **GREGORY
RUTH**

Greg Ruth's versatility is seen within the three Matrix stories he's done, and also on display in *M.A.R.S.*, *SUDDEN GRAVITY*, *FREAKS OF THE HEARTLAND* (with Steve Niles), and *CONAN: BORN ON THE BATTLEFIELD* (with Kurt Busiek). Greg has also produced a series of murals and designs for the New York Transit Museum in Grand Central Terminal, and illustrations for an animated music video for Prince. His latest offering is a new graphic novel series entitled *THE LUNATICS!*, and a trilogy of illustrated prose novels called *THE WOODLAND CHRONICLES*.



Emma P.
Session 1
February 12, 2002



I WOULD
NEVER CALL
YOU A LIAR.



IT'S NOT THAT I
THINK YOU'RE LYING
TO ME EMMA...

...I WANT TO
HELP YOU GET
BETTER.

BUT I'M
NOT SICK.

OKAY, EMMA-

LET'S PICK THIS
UP AGAIN NEXT
WEEK, SHALL WE?

RUN, SAGA, RUN

ART & COLORS BY **KERON** **GRANT**

Originally from Jamaica, Keron Grant cites comic artist influences Hiroaki Samura, Carlos Pacheco and Ed McGuinness; other inspiration comes from a variety of Baroque and Renaissance artists. His first published work was a pinup in the back of one of the last issues of PITT. Since then, Keron has worked on various comics, including the interior and cover of FANTASTIC FOUR: MANGAVERSE #1, and interiors and covers for IRON MAN numbers 41 to 47.



SAGA TALMER IS ONE OF A HANDFUL OF CHILDREN STUDYING UNDER THE ORACLE. MOST CONSIDER IT A PRIVILEGE. SAGA ISN'T MOST CHILDREN.

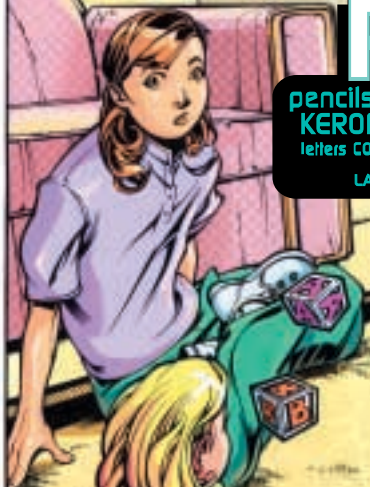


RUN, SAGA, RUN

pencils & colors inks
KERON GRANT ROB STULL
letters COMICRAFT • edits SPENCER LAMM
based on concepts by
LARRY & ANDY WACHOWSKI

SHE'S BEEN CALLED A
RABBLEROUSSER, A JOKESTER,
EVEN A REBEL.

MORE OFTEN THAN NOT,
SHE GOES TOO FAR.



WRONG NUMBER

PLOT & ART BY VINCE EVANS

Vince Evans is an artist primarily for comic, book, and video covers. He is best known in comics for his realistic SPIDER-MAN poster. He has worked on THE PUNISHER and BLACK PANTHER comics, as well as painted covers for CONAN, X-MEN and CAPTAIN AMERICA. Lately he has been working on movie posters including the 75th anniversary re-release of METROPOLIS which was used extensively here and in Paris. Currently Vince is working on a comic creation of his own. Born in New York City, he now lives in New Jersey with his wife Laurie.

COLOR BY JASON KEITH

An Eisner Award-nominee for his color work on EL CAZADOR, at age 22 Jason Keith is young but accomplished. He has worked on Marvel Comics' titles NEW X-MEN, UNCANNY X-MEN and DOOM RETURNS, and on CrossGen titles SCION, SOJOURN, LADY DEATH, and BRATH. Jason has also worked on the Image series THE GIFT, written by Raven Gregory. Currently, Jason is coloring a new mini-series called SAMURAI: HEAVEN AND EARTH for Dark Horse Comics, written by Ron Marz and illustrated by Luke Ross, as well as coloring the bi-monthly series DOC FRANKENSTEIN, written by the Wachowski Brothers.





LIVING DANGEROUSLY K,
AS USUAL. THERE ARE AGENTS
ALL AROUND YOU! WAIT, I'VE GOT
SOMETHING. WHAT THE HELL?
I KEEP LOSING THE HACK,
BUT THERE IS NOTHING
ELSE NEAR YOU.

I NEED
AN EXIT!
NOW!

IT'LL WORK.
WHERE?

RIGHT IN FRONT
OF YOU, BROWNSTONE
NUMBER 333, FIRST
FLOOR.

I'M
ON MY WAY.
DON'T WAIT!

I'M PATCHING
THE CALL THROUGH
NOW.



WEIRD, THE
PHONE CHECKS OUT
FINE. I HATE THESE
BOGUS JOBS.



WHAT?

THAT CALL
IS FOR ME.

WRONG NUMBER

PLOT & ART BY VINCE EVANS
COLORS BY JASON KEITH • EDITS BY SPENCER LAMM
BASED ON CONCEPTS BY LARRY & ANDY WACHOWSKI

BROADCAST DEPTH

STORY & ART BY **BILL** **SIENKIEWICZ**

Bill's innovative use of collage and illustration methods to tell a story have won him many major awards, including the 1983 Kirby Award for Best Artist, and Europe's top honor, the Yellow Kid Award, for the comic ELEKTRA: ASSASSIN. He wrote and illustrated the critically acclaimed STRAY TOASTERS. His most recently published work includes TESTAMENT and PRECURSOR, a collection of watercolors and non-computer-enhanced work. Bill has exhibited throughout the USA and the world, and has also produced work for magazines, CD covers, and the Olympics. He received two Emmy® Award nominations for production and character design on the television series "WHERE IN THE WORLD IS CARMEN SAN DIEGO?". Other projects include posters and storyboards for films such as UNFORGIVEN, THE GREEN MILE and THE GRINCH. He is currently illustrating the Marvel Comics series BLACK WIDOW.



IT'S NOT QUITE TEN A.M. AND LENA, ROLLINS AND I ARE ALREADY ON THE BEACH...

BUT DON'T LET THE SUN AND SAND FOOL YOU. THE THREE OF US ARE ACTUALLY STRAPPED TO OUR SEATS ON BOARD OUR SHIP THE CALAPPIDAE, WHICH WE LOVINGLY REFER TO AS "THE GREY GHOST" BECAUSE OF HER SIMILAR APPEARANCE TO THE CRAB OF THE SAME NAME.

WE'RE IN THIS LITTLE DIGI-CARIBBEAN CORNER OF THE MATRIX TO SCOUT FOR "POTENTIALS."

DEFINED AS PEOPLE WHO POSSESS SPECIFIC QUALITIES OF ENLIGHTENMENT, AWARENESS AND/OR THE ABILITY TO BEND ASPECTS OF THE MATRIX TO THEIR WILL.

IN SHORT, THEY HAVE WITHIN THEM NASCENT POWER TO SEE THROUGH AND ALTER THE DIGITAL SKRIM THAT SUFFOCATES OUR COLLECTIVE CONSCIOUSNESS LIKE SO MUCH TROPICAL HUMIDITY...

THE WORD CAME DOWN FROM THE ORACLE HERSELF - DIRECTLY TO ME - WHICH DROVE MY CREWMATES NUTS. "WHY YOU?" THEY ASKED -- MAYBE THEIR SKEPTICISM HAS MORE TO DO WITH ENVY THAN ACTUAL VALID REASON...

BROADCAST DEPTH

STORY & ART BY BILL SIENKIEWICZ

EDITS BY SPENCER LAMM

BASED ON CONCEPTS BY LARRY & ANDY WACHOWSKI

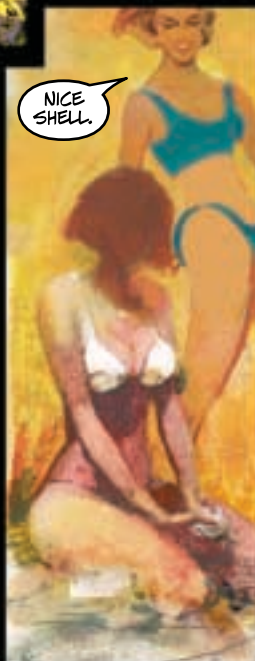


THE FACT THAT SHE CHOSE TO TELL ME MADE PERFECT SENSE - AT LEAST TO ME.



MAYBE BECAUSE I HAVE SOME EXPERIENCE WITH POTENTIALS - MY TWIN EIGHT YEAR OLD GIRLS ARE AT THIS VERY MOMENT ON BOARD A SHIP FULL OF THEM - HOVERING SOMEWHERE NEAR BROADCAST DEPTH, WHERE THEY'RE BEING TESTED TO SEE IF THEY'VE GOT "THE RIGHT STUFF" -- OR ANY STUFF AT ALL.

I'M VERY PROUD OF THE GIRLS, BUT LIKE MOST MOMS, I JUST MISS THEM.



NICE SHELL.



I SAID, "NICE SHELL," MAGGIE ...

HUH? -- OH, YEAH. PRETTY.



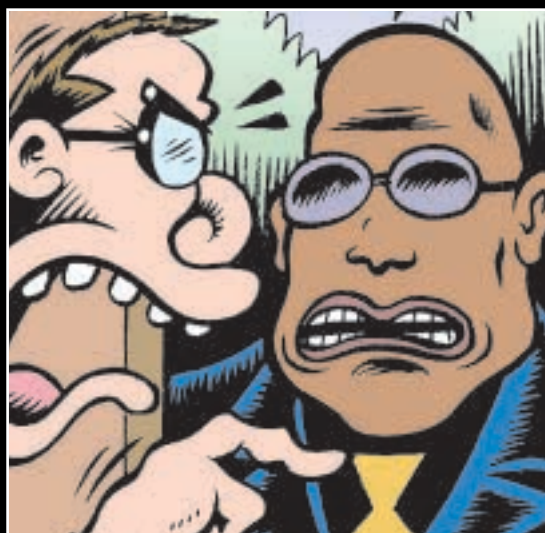
MAKES A PRETTY NECKLACE TOO, DON'TCHA THINK?

I KNOW, IT'S ONLY CODE, BUT IT'S STILL SOMETHING I'LL NEVER GET TO SHARE WITH MY LITTLE GIRLS ...

WHO SAYS YOU CAN'T GET GOOD HELP THESE DAYS?

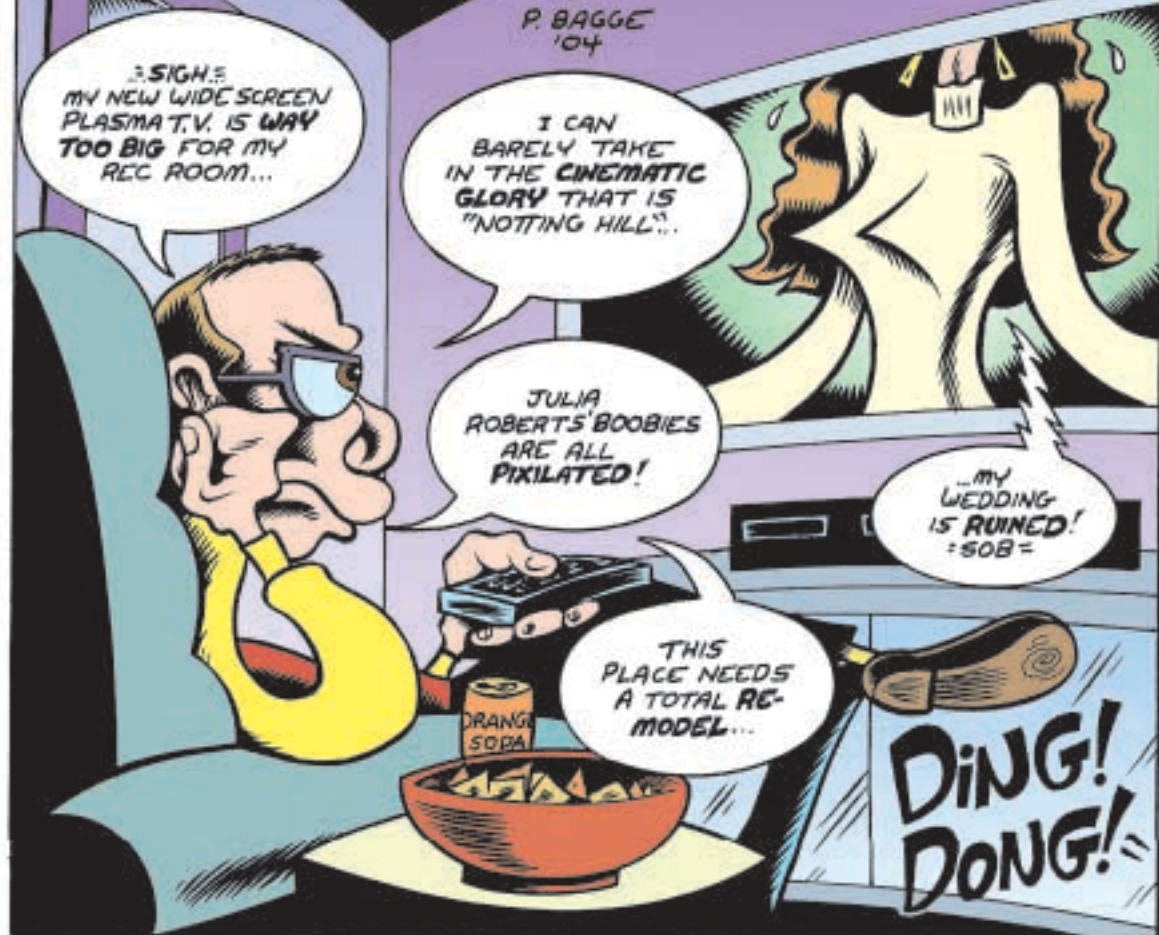
STORY & ART BY PETER BAGGE

Peter Bagge's debut comic strip was seen in *The East Village Eye* in 1980, and he continued to be published regularly in other periodicals, such as *High Times* and *Screw*. In 1985 Peter's first self written and illustrated title came into being: *NEAT STUFF*. That was followed in 1990 with *HATE*, a semi-autobiographical comic series set in Seattle, written and illustrated by Peter. A voracious artist, Peter has completed comic strips and other works of art, including *DONNA'S DAY: MISSIVE DEVICE*, a 16 page color mini comic, and gag panels which appear in *KUTIE*. Other works can be found in *YEAH!*, *DETAILS*, and the one-shot look at Marvel's favorite web-slinger, *STARTLING STORIES: THE MEGALOMANIACAL SPIDER-MAN*. In addition to more *HATE*, be sure to check out Peter's monthly comic *SWEATSHOP* from DC Comics.



WHO SAYS YOU CAN'T GET GOOD HELP THESE DAYS?

BY
P. BAGGE
'04



SIGH
MY NEW WIDE-SCREEN
PLASMA T.V. IS WAY
TOO BIG FOR MY
REC ROOM...

I CAN
BARELY TAKE
IN THE CINEMATIC
GLORY THAT IS
"NOTTING HILL"...

JULIA
ROBERTS' BOOBIES
ARE ALL
PIXILATED!

...MY
WEDDING
IS RUINED!
=SOB=

THIS
PLACE NEEDS
A TOTAL RE-
MODEL...

**DING!
DONG!**



WHO COULD
THIS BE AT
SUCH AN UNGODLY
HOUR?

IT BETTER NOT BE
ONE OF THOSE GREENPEACE
HIPPIES AGAIN, OR
I'LL...

**=DING!
'DONG!
'DING!**



HEY, PAL,
CAN YOU
READ?

I GAVE
AT THE
OFFICE!

I KNOW WHO
YOU'RE LOOKING FOR,
AND I CAN HELP.

NO
SOLICITORS

SAVIORS

STORY BY **SPENCER
LAMM**

A graduate of NYU for film and literature, Spencer was an editor at Marvel Comics, once shelved fiction at STRAND BOOKS and spent an excruciating year in advertising. He eventually got around to establishing REDPILL PRODUCTIONS, the design company behind TheMatrix.com as well as numerous other film websites. Books Spencer has edited include THE ART OF THE MATRIX, THE MATRIX COMICS: VOLUME ONE, and the book you are holding in your hands. He lives in NYC.



ART BY **MICHAEL
OEMING**


Michael Oeming is the co-creator of the Eisner Award-nominated series, POWERS, in collaboration with writer Brian Michael Bendis. His art also appears in the series HAMMER OF THE GODS and BASTARD SAMURAI, among others. His career started early, inking books for Innovation Comics at the age of 14, which prepped him for inking Marvel Comics titles like AVENGERS and DAREDEVIL. Currently, Michael has just finished a run on Marvels' THOR, ending the 40 year old series and has illustrated QUIXOTE, a modern day retelling of the classic novel. Michael now lives in New Jersey with his wife, son and two mice named Mack and Bendis! For more information about Michael, go to www.mike-oeming.com.

COLOR BY **JONATHAN
LUNA**

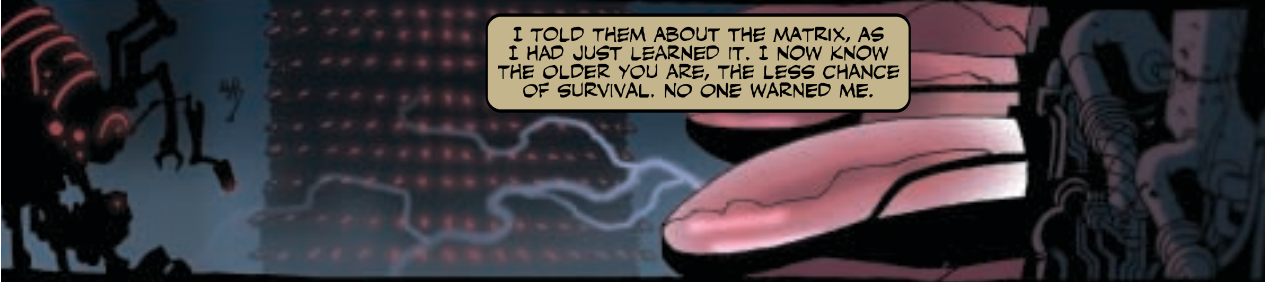
Jonathan Luna was born in California and launched into a military child life, living in Iceland, Virginia, Sardinia, Sicily, and back in the US. Drawing comics since he was six years old, he attended and earned a Bachelor's Degree of Fine Arts in Sequential Art from the Savannah College of Art and Design in 2001. His experience also reaches into the field of web design. Jonathan currently resides in the Washington, DC metro area again, where he is constantly writing and drawing the Image comic book ULTRA with his brother, Joshua Luna, and eating giant bags of dried mango. You can find more information about Jonathan at www.jonluna.com or www.lunabrothers.com.

SAVIORS

WRITTEN BY SPENCER LAMM
ART BY MICHAEL OEMING
COLORS BY JONATHAN LUNA
LETTERS BY COMICRAFT
BASED ON CONCEPTS BY
LARRY & ANDY WACHOWSKI




LAST WEEK MY PARENTS DIED. NOT BY GUN OR KNIFE OR POISON. THEY DIED IN PAIN, WITH ME WATCHING. THEY WERE THRASHING IN WHAT SEEMED A SHARED HEART ATTACK BUT WERE CONVULSING FROM SOMETHING FAR WORSE.



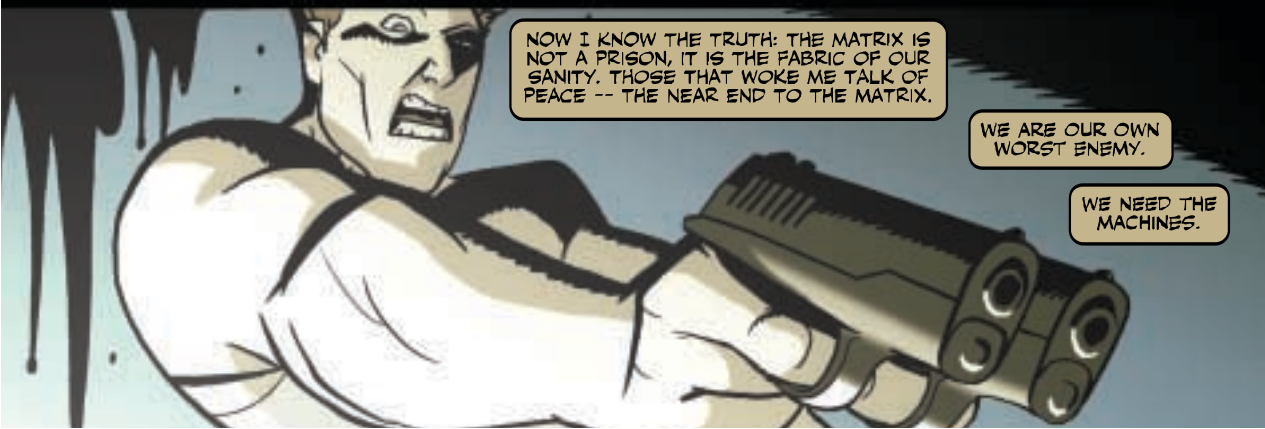
I TOLD THEM ABOUT THE MATRIX, AS I HAD JUST LEARNED IT. I NOW KNOW THE OLDER YOU ARE, THE LESS CHANCE OF SURVIVAL. NO ONE WARNED ME.



THEY DIED ON EXIT.



I'D LIKE TO BELIEVE THEY ENJOYED ONE LAST MOMENT, AWAKE. THE TRUTH, OF COURSE, IS NOT THAT INNOCENT. THEY WERE AWAKE AND OVERWHELMED. THEY DIED FROM THE SHOCK. THEY DIED IN TERROR.



NOW I KNOW THE TRUTH: THE MATRIX IS NOT A PRISON, IT IS THE FABRIC OF OUR SANITY. THOSE THAT WOKE ME TALK OF PEACE -- THE NEAR END TO THE MATRIX.

WE ARE OUR OWN WORST ENEMY.

WE NEED THE MACHINES.

I KANT

STORY & ART BY **KAARE** **ANDREWS**

A native of Canada, Kaare Andrews has been reading comic books as long as he can remember. Most acclaimed for his digitally painted HULK and SPIDER-MAN covers, he has recently moved into writing and illustrating series for Marvel Comics; titles include issues of TANGLED WEB SPIDER-MAN, X-MEN UNLIMITED and MARVEL MANGAVERSE SPIDER-MAN. Kaare has also directed music videos (Tegan and Sara, Jane Siberry and Mike Clark) and award-winning short films, written a screenplay, and in between comics is working on a feature horror film. His photography has appeared in publications such as SPIN magazine, THE LONDON TIMES and MTV.com. Kaare is currently working on SPIDER-MAN/DOCTOR OCTOPUS: YEAR ONE and is ready to take on the world with his creator owned series HIRO (along with Ron Turner) and a new SPIDER-MAN project that he will be both writing and drawing.

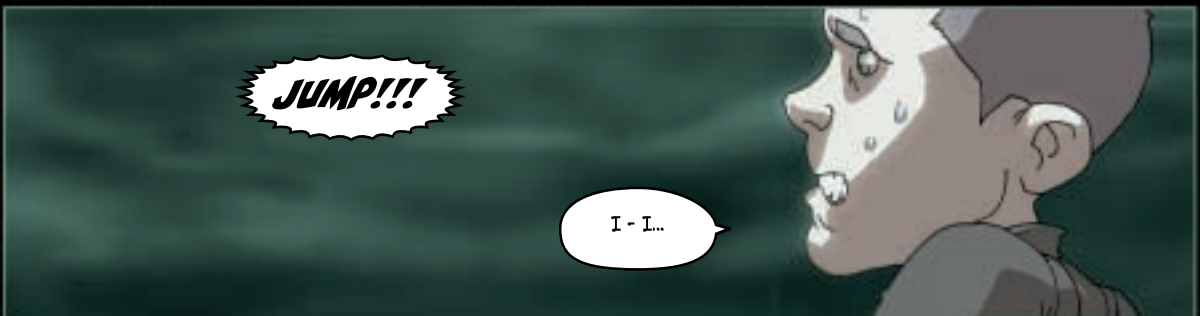
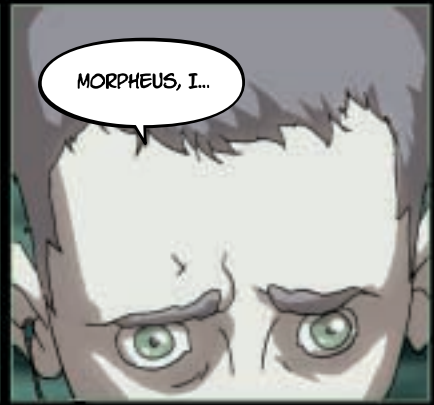


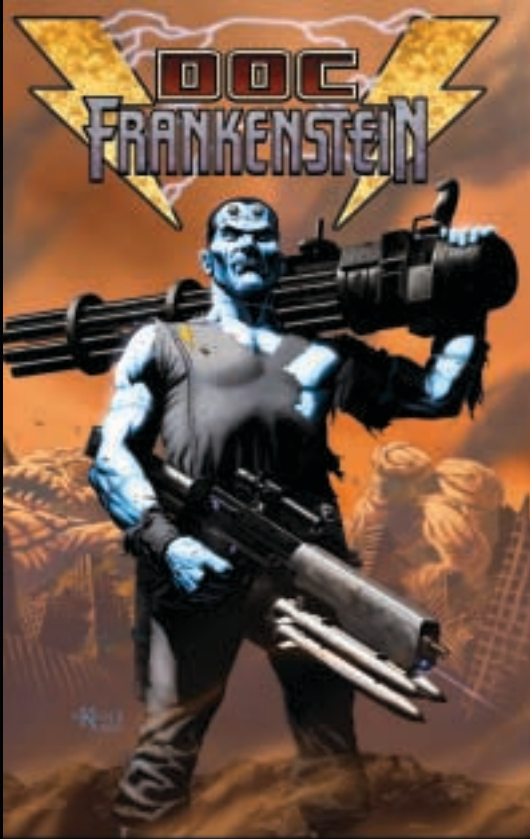
3D MODELING BY **RON** **TURNER**

Ron Turner is an art director and conceptual artist who comes from the world of television animation. Some of the properties he has worked on include BEAST MACHINES, HEAVY GEAR and HOT WHEELS. Currently Ron "The Hammer" Turner is breaking all the rules by introducing 3D modelling into the world of comics, and is ready to battle his way to the World Tag Team Championship with the creator owned comic book series HIRO along with Tag Team partner Kaare "The Mexican Princess" Andrews.

COLOR BY **DAVE** **MCCAIG**

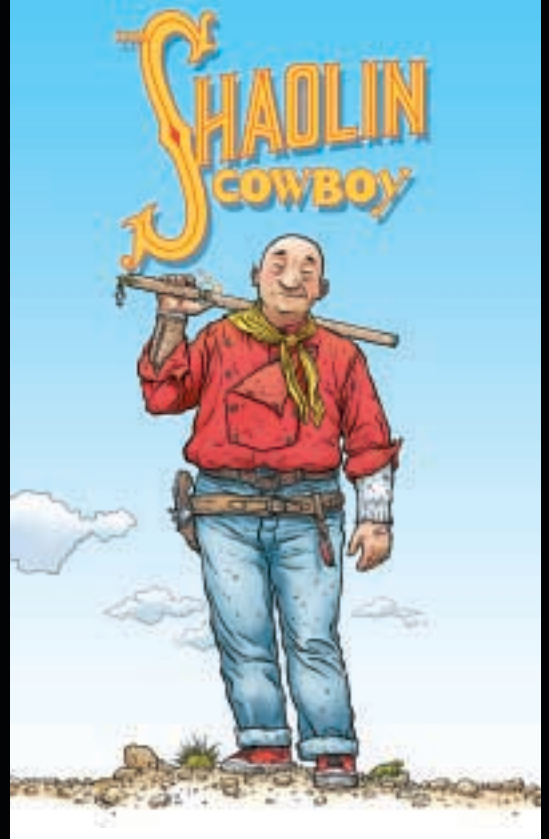
Dave McCaig has been working in comics for 12 years, but is perhaps best known for his coloring work on the Dark Horse comics STAR WARS line. With work on SUPERMAN: BIRTHRIGHT for DC and various X-MEN titles for Marvel under his belt, McCaig is also a distinguished illustrator in his own right, having painted covers and pinups for various publishers. Currently Dave is coloring ADAM STRANGE for DC comics, as well as handling lead color design on the Warner Bros. cartoon, THE BATMAN, where he uses his unique palette and style to bring Gotham City to life every week. For more info visit www.dave-co.com.





**CO-CREATED BY
GEOF DARROW & STEVE SKROCE
WRITTEN BY
THE WACHOWSKI BROTHERS
ILLUSTRATED BY STEVE SKROCE**

**ISSUE #1 IN COMIC SHOPS
NOVEMBER 2004**



**CREATED, WRITTEN & ILLUSTRATED BY
GEOF DARROW
FEATURING AN ASS-OLOGUE BY
THE WACHOWSKI BROTHERS**

**ISSUE #1 IN COMIC SHOPS
DECEMBER 2004**