

CHUICES MADE



T'S A TYPICALLY HOT LAS VEGAS AFTERNOON. THE SLOT MACHINES IN Caesar's Palace are jammed with tourists jamming quarters into the machines with machine-like efficiency. Slightly after one p.m., Jerry Montrose (aka Pyre) steps out of a casino elevator and makes his way to the buffet. Heads turn and patrons gently nudging each other as he passes. Some are clearly pleased to see him, while others seem nervous. But the slot machines continue to be fed.

"I'd rather have him for us than against us," explained convention attendee Tyler Frontiere. It's a sentiment shared by many casino employees and visitors. "Starting ten years ago, things went a little nuts," commented casino floor manager Fred Casey. "It's dangerous out there. We needed protection. Jerry provided it."

Others, however, aren't so sure. "He scares me," said one hotel guest who declined to be identified. "If he loses his temper and decides to torch the place and everyone in it, who's going to stop him?"

It's an uneasy alliance shared by 23 other

recreational and corporate locations that have hired Specials for protection after the events ten years ago that made a national concern into a worldwide problem.

"It's better than what happened in Chicago," a hotel employee commented. "I mean, we still got jobs, we still work, people still come around. I've got friends and relatives in Chicago, and I'm worried sick about them. Nobody's heard a word. Nobody goes in, nobody comes out. Who knows what's going on there with Maas in charge?"

Such questions require a look back before we can look forward to what the future might bring.

Chicago: No one gets out, or in.



Jerry Montrose waves outside Caesar's Palace.

TEN YEARS AFTER THE

fact, despite the best efforts of Special Prosecutor Hamilton Sinclair, two congressional hearings and a Senate investigation, contradictions continue to thwart any attempt to form a full understanding of the events that changed the American landscape forever.

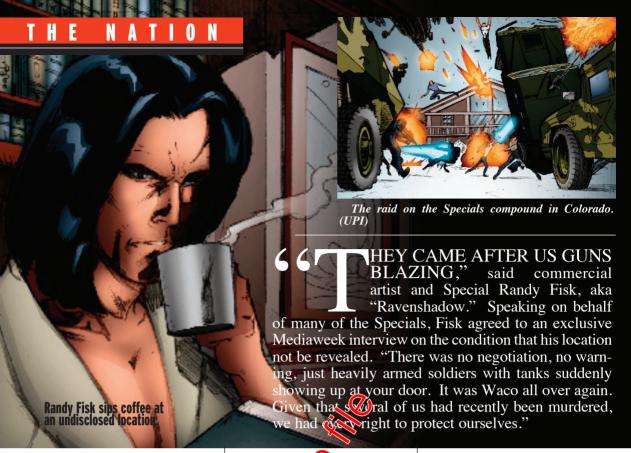
Some events, however, are indisputable. It is known that concerns were raised by some members of the Senate that a group of Specials were allegedly planning to use their enhanced abilities to overthrow the Government. This, in turn, led to several closed Senate hearings, at which time still-sealed evidence and testimony were given to the Senate Judiciary Committee.

Following those hearings, a decision was made to invoke the Stanwick Powers Act, enacted when the existence of the Specials was detected, which authorized the Senate to locate, detain and question the Specials to determine which these charges could be substantiated.

What is less certain is the sequence of events that took place in the days and weeks after subpoenas and warrants were issued by the Senate.



The Senate Select Committee on Specials invokes the Stanwick powers Act.



"The charge that certain individuals associated with the government's actions were also responsible for the death of several of the Specials is hardly new," one anonymous source in the Senate Judiciary panel snapped back. "They've been making that claim for ten years and haven't produced a shred of proof. For all we know some

proof. For all we know, some of them may have killed their own kind to provoke just this kind of situation. Remember, they're not human in the way we understand that word to mean. Seeing what they've done to the rest of the world since then, who knows what they're capable of doing to each other?"

In her first public comment on the subject in over a year, United States Attorney General Luanne Michaels told Mediaweek "There's no question that, in the attempt to detain these individuals for questioning, mistakes were made. On the other hand, it must be remembered that

these were dust appointed officers of the court serving legally obtained warrants and subpoenas. They were met with resistance, and given the power of the opposition, had no choice but to differ themselves."

to the charge that infrared reconnaissance video footage of the raid on the Specials com-

pound in Colorado shows armed soldiers firing on fleeing Specials — who despite their unique abilities were still civilians — Michaels responded, "The FBI computer labs have demonstrated repeatedly that the hot-spots in question are not gunshots, they are reflections of sunlight."

Another Justice source com-



Atty. General Luann Michaels at a press conference.

mented. "It's unfair to accuse us of over-reacting because we came armed with guns when these people are guns, walking, living weapons. It looks worse for us in the pictures, but the real danger was always on the other side."

While there's no question that a half dozen soldiers and a stillundetermined number of Specials were killed during the siege at their Colorado compound, the facts blur again when it comes to the details of the conflict.

"They [the Specials] always told us there were high powers and low powers and medium powers among them, but that day in Colorado we found out that was a lie," said a Justice Department source. "They were all high-powers. Which proves we were right to believe they were withholding information about the extent of their abilities. If they were conspiring in one area, then it makes it that much easier to believe they were conspiring in another."

But according to Randy Fisk, the situation is more complicated than the administration portrays. "Whenever one of us dies, his latent energy is transferred back to the rest of us as a group. The surge happened after a number of us died. At some point, the



The aftermath of the Colorado siege.

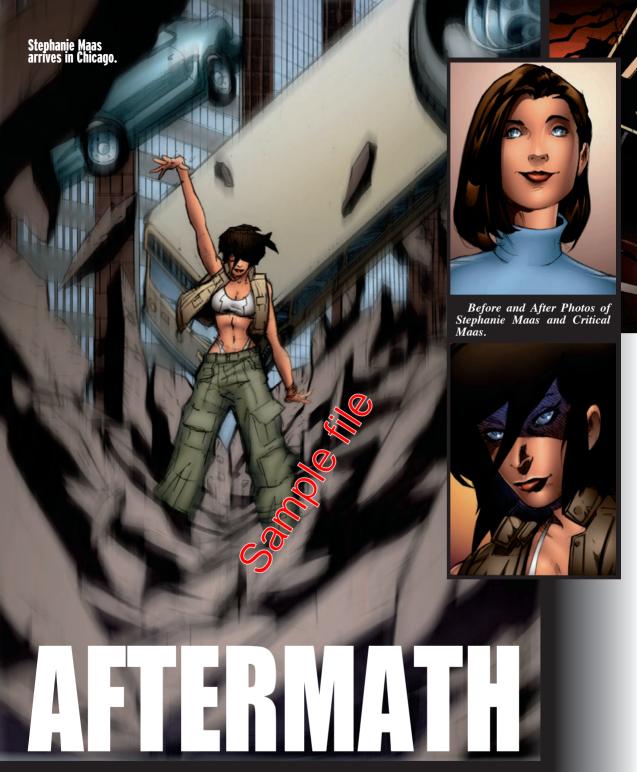
It's unfair to accuse us of over-reacting... these people are guns, walking, living weapons.

— ATTY. GEN. MICHAELS

energy transfer hit critical mass. Suddenly we all found our abilities multiplied tenfold, or several hundred fold, depending on where each of us was on the power scale when the surge hit." Dismissed by the administration as improbable, some scientists, such as Dr. Lowell Francis of Harvard's High Technology Research Lab, have suggested that this scenario is possible. "Energy cannot be created or destroyed," Francis told Mediaweek. "It can only be transformed from one state or condition to another. So yes, such a transfer of energy could theoretically take place among the Specials."

Because many scientists have taken opposing sides in this debate, it is doubtful that there will ever be any conclusive proof demonstrating that either there really was a so-called "surge" in power, or that the Specials were withholding information concerning the extent of their abilities may never be known.

What is certain is that the events of that day have had far reaching and enduring consequences for all Americans.



"I THINK IT WAS AROUND SUPPER TIME — six, maybe six-fifteen — when we saw this young woman come down out of the sky in the middle of the street," remembers Henry Ducet, an unemployed cab driver, previously of Chicago. "She stood there, looking around for a while, like she'd just moved in and was deciding where to put the furniture.

"NEXT THING WE KNEW, THERE WAS THIS BLUR, and the streets began to pull up all around us. Sidewalks, streets, concrete...it all just started coming down around us. Was she upset? Yeah, I'd say so."