

Curtis S. Niles

**ARMORED
COMICS**

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KROME™

GWP



HOME INVASION

KROME

HOME INVASION



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MAX, YOU AROUND?



OF COURSE I AM, WHERE ELSE WOULD I BE? WHAT'S UP?



NO KIDDING?! WHAT HAPPENED?



FROM THE WAY THE WOOD IS EATEN INSIDE, IT LOOKS LIKE TERMITES.

BUT--?



BUT I'VE INSPECTED THIS HOUSE BEFORE, AND THIS IS WAY TOO MUCH DAMAGE TOO SOON.



SO YOU WANT ME TO CHECK IF ANYTHING NOTEWORTHY HAS HAPPENED AROUND THERE RECENTLY.

RIGHT. MEANWHILE, I'M GOING TO TAKE A CLOSER LOOK AT THE PROBLEM...

Click!

Armored Home Inspections Presents:

HOME INVASION



...AS
KROME!

Krome created by Curtis Niles • Story: Chris Buchner
Pencils: Hector E. RODriguez • Gray Scales: Jet Amago
Letterer: Johnny Lowe • Cover Art: Shahir Shakir





ISH-OM,
WORSE THAN
THAT--

THOSE WINGED REPRODUCTIVES
LOOK LIKE THEY'RE ABOUT READY TO
TAKE OFF FOR THE NEXT HOUSE AND
START UP ANOTHER COLONY!



THOSE ARE MY
PRIORITY. I NEED TO
STOP THEM FROM GETTING
OUT AND RUINING THIS
NEIGHBORHOOD LIKE THEY
DID THIS HOUSE.

BE
CAREFUL.



AREN'T I
ALWAYS?

KLANGGG!



SPRANGGG!



UH-OH--!

SOLDIER
CASTE, COMING TO
PROTECT THE COLONY,
WAS WONDERING WHERE
THESE GUYS WERE
HIDING.



NUTS! CAN'T PENETRATE
THEIR ARMORED
SEGMENT.

SHING!



ZAT!

AND MY
SHOCK BOLTS
ARE JUST MAKING IT
ANGRY AT THIS
SIZE!



UNGH!

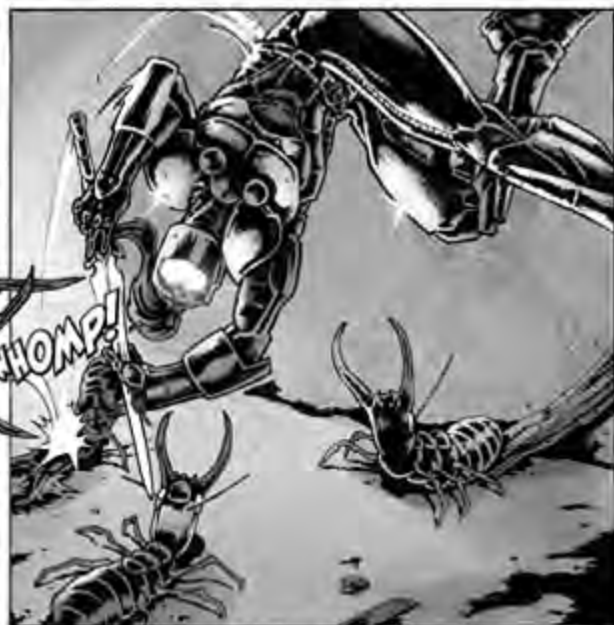
CHING!



I THINK YOU
SHOULD GET OUT
OF THERE!



WORKING
ON IT!







A WORD ABOUT TERMITES

BY CURTIS NILES

THERE IS MUCH THAT CAN BE SAID ABOUT THE PERILS A HOME OR STRUCTURE FACES. NONE CAN BE MORE OBSCURE AND YET AS DESTRUCTIVE THAN THE TERMITE, KNOWN TO THE INSECT ORDER AS "ISOPTERA".

TERMITES ARE VERY INTERESTING, AND YET THE PUBLIC KNOWS VERY LITTLE ABOUT THEM. THEY HEAR TALES OF TERMITES DEVOURING PORTIONS OF A HOME'S FRAMING RESULTING IN EXPENSIVE HOME REPAIRS, ALL OF WHICH ARE NOT COVERED BY HOME OWNER'S INSURANCE. THOUGH THEY CAN LITERALLY DO THIS, IT WOULD TAKE A LARGE COLONY, AND SIGNIFICANT TIME, TO ACTUALLY CAUSE A HOUSE CATASTROPHIC STRUCTURAL DAMAGE.

IN THIS INFORMATIONAL COMIC, WE LOOK AT THE EASTERN SUBTERRANEAN TERMITE, (RETICULITERMES FLAVIPES) THE INSECT. THOUGH THERE ARE MORE THAN 2000 SPECIES, THE DISTINGUISHING TRAIT OF THE TERMITE IS THAT IT IS A TWO SEGMENTED INSECT, WHEREAS ALL OTHERS ARE THREE SEGMENTED. THEY HAVE A HEAD AND AN ABDOMEN. THEY ARE THE ONLY KNOWN INSECTS THAT CAN ACTUALLY DIGEST WOOD CELLULOSE. OTHER WOOD DESTROYING INSECTS SUCH AS CARPENTER ANTS, CARPENTER BEES, AND VARIOUS WOOD DESTROYING BEETLES AND WASPS MAY BORE INTO WOOD, NEST IN WOOD, SPEND PARTS OF THEIR LIFE CYCLE IN WOOD, BUT ONLY THE MIGHTY TERMITE ACTUALLY HAS THE ABILITY TO CONSUME WOOD.

TERMITES ARE SOCIAL INSECTS THAT HAVE AN ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE. THEY LIVE IN LARGE NESTS AND HAVE VARIOUS TYPES OF INDIVIDUALS THAT PERFORM SPECIFIC FUNCTIONS WITHIN THE COLONY. DIFFERENT CASTES EXIST IN THE TERMITE COLONY. INDIVIDUALS, WHICH ARE MORPHOLOGICALLY AND FUNCTIONALLY DIFFERENT FROM OTHER INDIVIDUALS IN A COLONY, MAKE UP A CASTE. THREE CASTES ARE COMMONLY FOUND IN MOST TERMITE COLONIES:

1. THE REPRODUCTIVE CASTE CONSISTS OF THE QUEEN AND THE KING TERMITES, AS WELL AS, ANY SUPPLEMENTAL REPRODUCTIVE TERMITES.
2. THE WORKER CASTES ARE THE TERMITES THAT MAKE UP THE MAJORITY OF THE TERMITES IN A GIVEN COLONY. THE WORKERS CONSIST OF BOTH MALES AND FEMALES. THEY ARE WINGLESS, USUALLY WITHOUT COMPOUND EYES, USUALLY UN-PIGMENTED, AND THUS WHITISH IN COLOR. THE WORKER'S DUTIES INCLUDE, FORAGING FOR FOOD, FEED THE QUEEN, SOLDIERS AND YOUNG, CONSTRUCT AND REPAIR THE MUD TUBES, GROOM THE REPRODUCTIVES, SOLDIERS, AND YOUNG. THEY ALSO HELP DEFEND THE COLONY WHEN NEEDED.
3. THE SOLDIER CASTE'S PRIMARY FUNCTION IS TO DEFEND OF THE COLONY. SOLDIERS OF THE EASTERN SUBTERRANEAN TERMITE ARE EASILY RECOGNIZED BY THEIR LARGE HEADS AND MANDIBLES (FEATURED IN THIS ISSUE). THEY USE THESE MANDIBLES TO BITE ANY INVADERS, WHICH MAY ATTACK THE COLONY. SOLDIERS ARE NOT PRODUCED IN QUANTITY UNTIL THE COLONY IS FARTHER ALONG IN ITS DEVELOPMENT. SOLDIERS CANNOT FEED THEMSELVES. THEY ARE FED BY THE WORKERS. THE SOLDIERS OF MOST SPECIES ARE WITHOUT EYES. SOME SPECIES HAVE SOLDIERS WITH VERY TINY EYES.

ARMORED'S HOME INSPECTOR AND HIS OFFICE SUPPORT (MAX) ARE OUT TO SAVE THEIR SERVICE COMMUNITIES FROM THE VARIOUS PERILS THAT FACE PROPERTY OWNERS, ONE STRUCTURE AT A TIME. THIS ISSUE COVERS TERMITES, HOWEVER, THERE ARE MANY OTHER ASSAILANTS A HOME FACES. MOLD, RADON, AND WATER ARE JUST A FEW OTHER VILLAINS THAT CAN CAUSE SIGNIFICANT DAMAGE TO STRUCTURES. IT IS OUR GOAL TO EDUCATE THE PUBLIC WE SERVE, WITH ENTERTAINING PUBLICATIONS THAT WILL HELP ANSWER SOME OF THE QUESTIONS THEY HAVE, AND ERASE THE FEARS ASSOCIATED WITH THE LACK OF KNOWLEDGE. ENJOY OUR FIRST ISSUE OF ARMORED COMICS!



**PRESIDENT: CURTIS S. NILES SR.,
ARMORED HOME INSPECTIONS, LLC
UPPER DARBY, PA**

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CURTIS NILES SR. HAS BEEN IN THE REAL ESTATE INDUSTRY SINCE 1994. PRIOR TO HOME INSPECTIONS, HE OWNED AND OPERATED A CONTRACTING COMPANY, WHICH PERFORMED VARIOUS CONTRACTING SERVICES FROM MASSACHUSETTS TO MARYLAND.

IN HIS COMPANY'S HISTORY, HE HAS PERSONALLY PERFORMED EVERY ASPECT OF HOME IMPROVEMENT/REMODELING ON ALL TYPES OF HOMES, FROM NEW CONSTRUCTION TO 100+ YEAR OLD HISTORIC HOMES. THIS PROVIDED HIM WITH SIGNIFICANT, AND IN DEPTH KNOWLEDGE OF VARIOUS TYPES OF CONSTRUCTION METHODS. THOUGH IN HIS CAREER HE HAS COMPLETED NUMEROUS COMMERCIAL PROJECTS, HE MAINTAINED A FOCUS ON HISTORIC HOMES AND IS RENOWN IN HIS AREA FOR QUALITY WORKMANSHIP.

CURTIS IS COMMITTED TO TRUTH, HONESTY, AND EDUCATION AS HE CARRIES OUT HIS VARIOUS ROLES AS; PRESIDENT OF HIS COMPANY, NEW INSPECTOR TRAINER/MENTOR, VICE PRESIDENT OF NAHI, AND PAST PRESIDENT (BOARD OF DIRECTORS) OF THE LOCAL SOUTHEAST NAHI CHAPTER (NAHIPA). WHILE UNDER HIS 4 YEAR LEADERSHIP AS PRESIDENT, HIS CHAPTER EARNED THE COVETED 2008 NAHI CHAPTER AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING CHAPTER PROMOTION, MEMBERSHIP, AND LEGISLATIVE INITIATIVE. AS PAST CHAPTER PRESIDENT, HE WAS INSTRUMENTAL IN THE CURRENT DRAFTING OF THE PROPOSED HOME INSPECTOR LAW CURRENTLY IN THE STATE LEGISLATURE. HE ESTABLISHED HIS CHAPTER'S E-NEWSLETTER, AND HAS AUTHORED NUMEROUS ARTICLES IN NATIONAL PUBLICATIONS. CURTIS IS ALSO THE RECIPIENT OF THE 2007 NAHI MEMBER OF THE YEAR AWARD, AND WAS ELECTED TO THE NATIONAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS IN 2008. HE PRESENTLY SERVES NAHI IN THE OFFICE OF VICE PRESIDENT FOR 2010, AND IS THE CHAIRMAN OF NAHI'S MARKETING COMMITTEE.

CURTIS IS ALSO RECOGNIZED IN HIS AREA'S JUDICIAL SYSTEM AS AN EXPERT WITNESS. HE MAINTAINS THE FOLLOWING LICENSES/CERTIFICATIONS AND/OR AFFILIATIONS: RADON MEASUREMENT BY THE PA DEP, PA DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE CERTIFIED PEST TECHNICIAN, PA LIC. REAL ESTATE AGENT, CERTIFIED MOLD INSPECTOR (CMD) BY THE ENVIRONMENTAL SOLUTIONS ASSOC., AFFILIATE MEMBER OF THE LOCAL BOARD OF REALTORS, HE IS A NAHI CERTIFIED REAL ESTATE INSPECTOR (CRI), AND IS A NAHI INSPECTOR TRAINER (NIT). HE IS A DEVOTED HUSBAND, LOVING FATHER OF FIVE CHILDREN, AN AVID MOTORCYCLIST, AND OBVIOUSLY ENJOYS COMICS!

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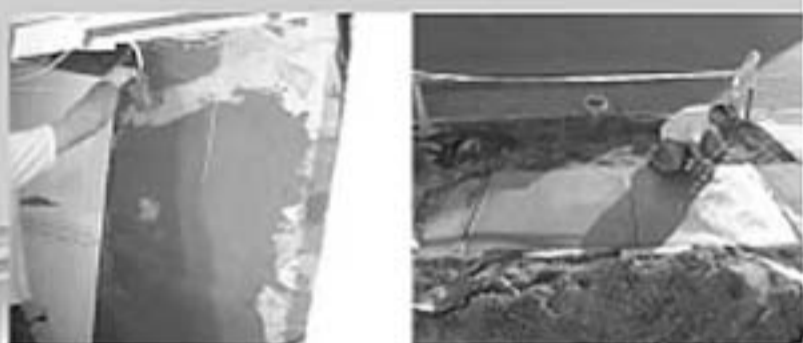


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