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On Late Night With David Letterman?

# AMOEBA

ADVENTURES™

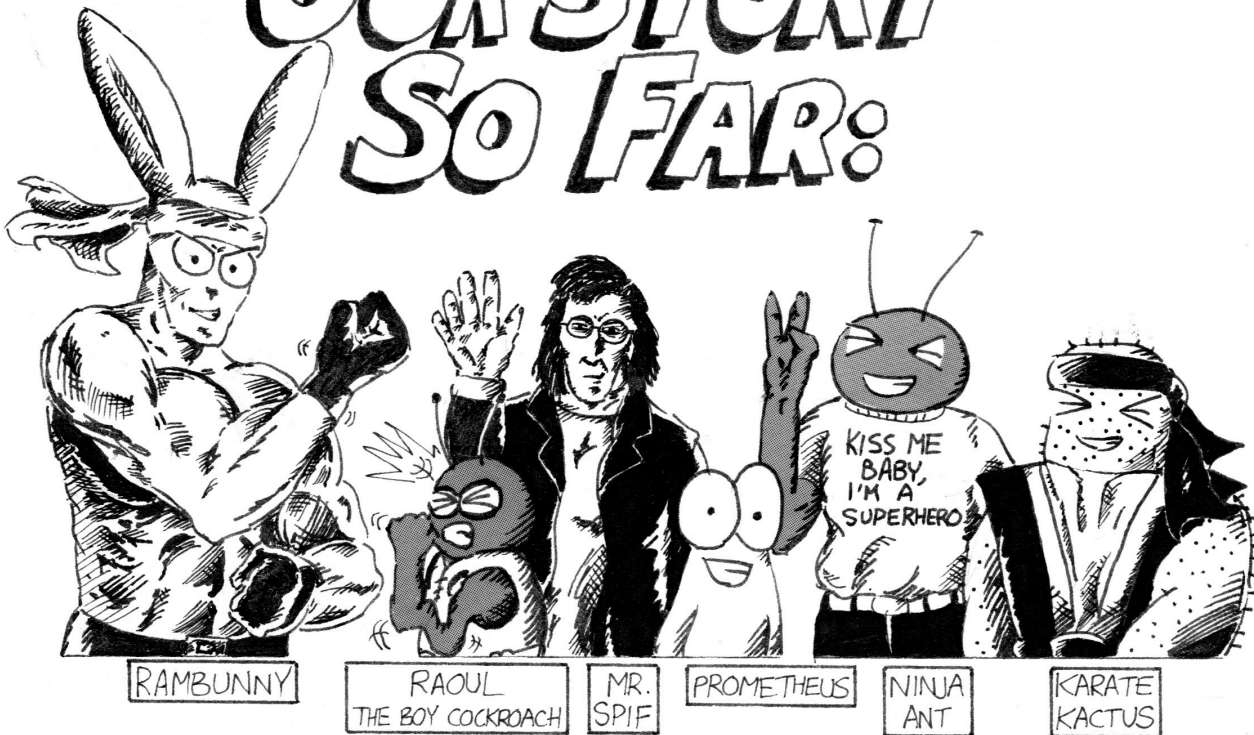
KRISH!

KIDS, HAVE WE GOT A  
SHOW FOR YOU! MY  
GUESTS ARE THE  
**ALL-SPONGY SQUADRON...**  
AND TONIGHT WE'RE  
GONNA MAKE TELEVISION  
**SQUIRM!**





# OUR STORY SO FAR:



**A**fter the final battle with **Agnus Dei** and the tragic death of **Manslaughter**, the **All-Spongy Squadron** decided it was time for a break. **Ninja Ant** and **Karate Kactus** took the opportunity to make a visit to their homeland, Japan, while **Rambunny**, **Prometheus**, and **Mr. Spif** did some catching up with the concept of relaxation. Of course, it didn't last, as Pro and Rambunny stumbled across a bank robbery by the **Gorilla Gang**, lead by **King Krong**, that'd been terrorizing Spongopolis. They had the apes on the ropes until the untimely arrival of the mysterious **Raoul the Boy Cockroach**, who so disrupted affairs that the gorillas escaped, leaving the guys with more than enough humiliation to go around.

When they returned to Headquarters; through means they haven't even figured out yet, Raoul got himself elected onto the team, and while Rambunny indoctrinated him into the secretive cult of superheroism, Prometheus went to relax at a nearby coffee shop. There he met a kindly priest who helped him work out some of the things that'd been troubling him. Upon returning to HQ, Pro found Rambunny, Raoul, and Spif forming a battle plan to "nail those apes once and for all." Then came the final showdown with the Gorilla Gang, at the Spongopolis Savings and Loan building. Although King Krong's treachery nearly cost the guys their lives, Prometheus still managed to track down Krong and save the day.

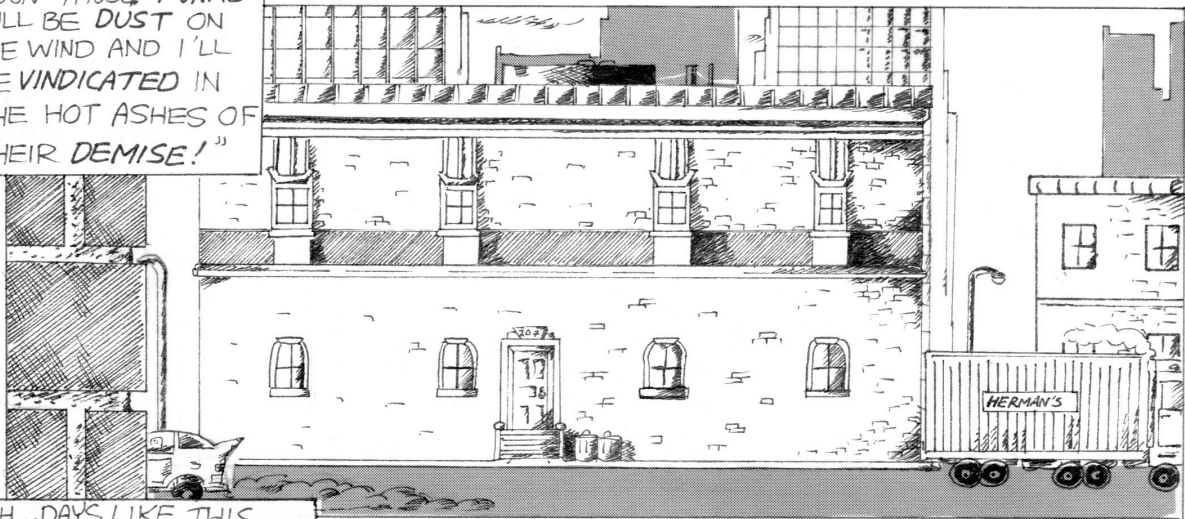
So now it's apparently time to relax again. Well, think again, because an old foe of the Squadron is planning some mischief for them, while in Japan, Ninja Ant and Karate Kactus' vacation isn't working out the way they'd like it...

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"MUSHROOM WAR JOURNAL  
ENTRY #30046: SQUATTED  
DOWN IN THE HEART OF  
SPONGOPOLIS LIKE SOME  
BLOATED TOAD LIES MY  
TARGET... THE HEADQUARTERS  
OF THE ALL-SPONGY  
SQUADRON!!!"



"SOON THOSE PUNKS  
WILL BE DUST ON  
THE WIND AND I'LL  
BE VINDICATED IN  
THE HOT ASHES OF  
THEIR DEMISE!"



"AH... DAYS LIKE THIS,  
IT'S GREAT TO BE  
ONE OF THE BAD GUYS!"









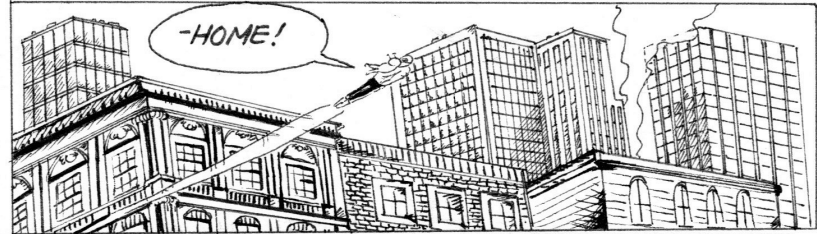
S-SOMEHOW, I DIDN'T THINK I'D NEED TO BRING AN AIR-SICK BAG!!

YEAH - THIS BATTLE ARMOR HANDLES LIKE A DREAM! I IMAGINE IT'LL COME IN HANDY AGAINST THE CHARACTERS WE TEND TO GET MIXED UP WITH!



JEEPERS! THAT SURE IS A BIG BLAZE OVER THERE!

HMM--FUNNY, IT ALMOST LOOKS LIKE...



-HOME!



"HERE'S TO PRETTY GIRLS WHO WENT TO OUR HEADS..."

"HERE'S TO WITTY GIRLS WHO WENT TO OUR BEDS."



A...AN INTERESTING TOAST, PROMETHEUS.

...FROM A PLAY I SAW ONCE, FATHER.



AH...SO, IT SOUNDS LIKE YOU'RE IN A BETTER STATE OF MIND THESE DAYS.

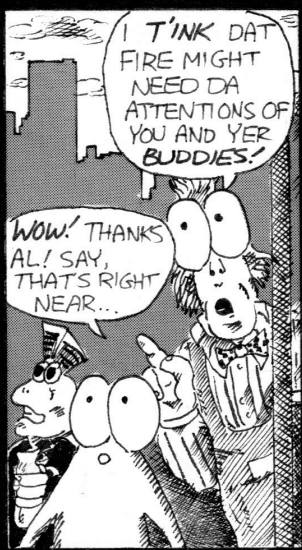
WELL...YEAH, EVER SINCE OUR LITTLE TALK,\* I FEEL MUCH MORE SURE OF MYSELF YOU KNOW?

\* - LAST ISSUE. - N.



PROMET'EUS! I T'INK DERE'S SUMTHIN' YA NEED TA SEE!

HUH? OK, AL!



I T'INK DAT FIRE MIGHT NEED DA ATTENTIONS OF YOU AND YER BUDDIES!

WOW! THANKS AL! SAY, THAT'S RIGHT NEAR...



-HOME.



FATHER, PROMETHEUS SAID HE HAD TA RUN--DAT YOU'D UNDERSTAND.

QUITE ALL RIGHT, AL, QUITE ALL RIGHT.

AS IT SAYS IN THE GOOD BOOK,

...“A PRUDENT MAN SEES DANGER AND TAKES REFUGE, BUT THE SIMPLE KEEP GOING AND SUFFER FOR IT.”

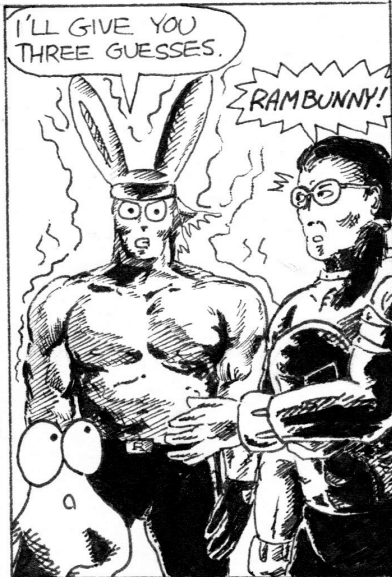
HOLY MACARONI!!!  
PRO-WHAT HAPPENED?

IT'S GONE. ALL GONE.



MY HOUSE.

HOW?



I'LL GIVE YOU THREE GUESSES.

RAMBUNNY!



TIME'S UP!

SOMETHING TELLS ME MAYBE THIS MOLTEN MASS OF CIRCUITRY AND PLASTIQUE - THAT IT WAS A BOMB.

SOON ENOUGH--

OUR FINDINGS AGREE WITH YOURS, RAMBUNNY-- A BOMB DID IN YOUR HEADQUARTERS.

BUT WHO COULD'VE--



WHO? WELL GOLLY GEE, PRO, IT'S NOT LIKE WE'VE MADE ANY ENEMIES, RIGHT?

TINKERTOY, KRONG, HERR HEINOUS... IT COULD BE ANYONE!

I'VE CHECKED AROUND... MY EQUIPMENT IN THE BASEMENT MADE IT, BUT NOT--

LOOK, GUYS! I FOUND SPIF'S TRANSZAPPER!



RAOUL, WATCH IT WITH THAT--



ZOT!

OOPS.

GREAT. SO, HOW DO WE TURN THIS INFLATABLE PENGUIN BACK INTO THE FIRE CHIEF WHEN THE REVERSOTRANSZAPPER WAS LOST IN THE FIRE?

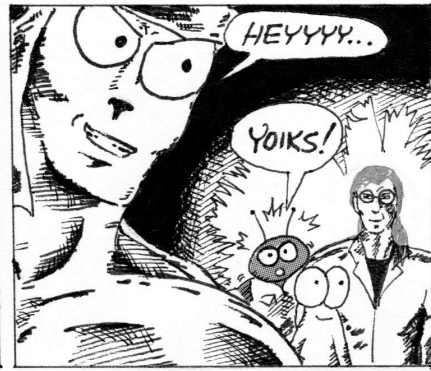


OOPS.

SO NOW WHAT?



I THINK... I KNOW A PLACE WE CAN GO.







HMM... I HAVEN'T BEEN HERE IN OVER A YEAR... SINCE BEFORE WE FORMED THE SQUADRON.

THIS IS WHERE I MET KARATE KACTUS... AND HE CONVINCED ME TO KEEP ON GOING WHEN I WAS DOWN.\*

\*-PROMETHEUS #3



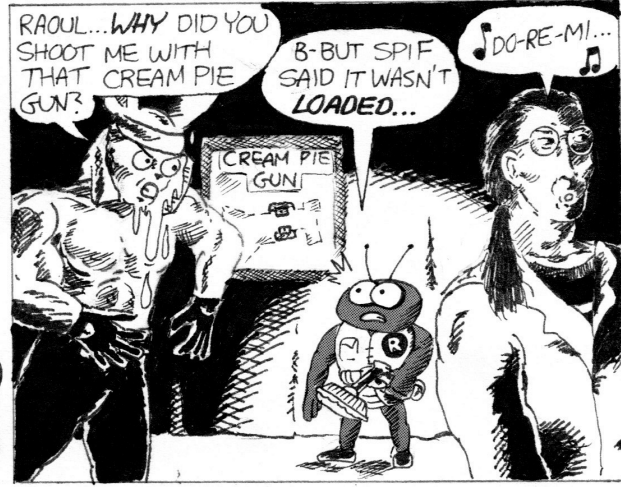
IN A WAY, IT SEEMS LIKE YESTERDAY.

BUT THE OLD DAYS ARE GONE, AND THEY'RE BETTER LEFT ALONE.



HEY, PRO, I WOULDN'T- HEY!

SPLAT!



RAOUL... WHY DID YOU SHOOT ME WITH THAT CREAM PIE GUN?

B-BUT SPIE SAID IT WASN'T LOADED...

DO-RE-MI...



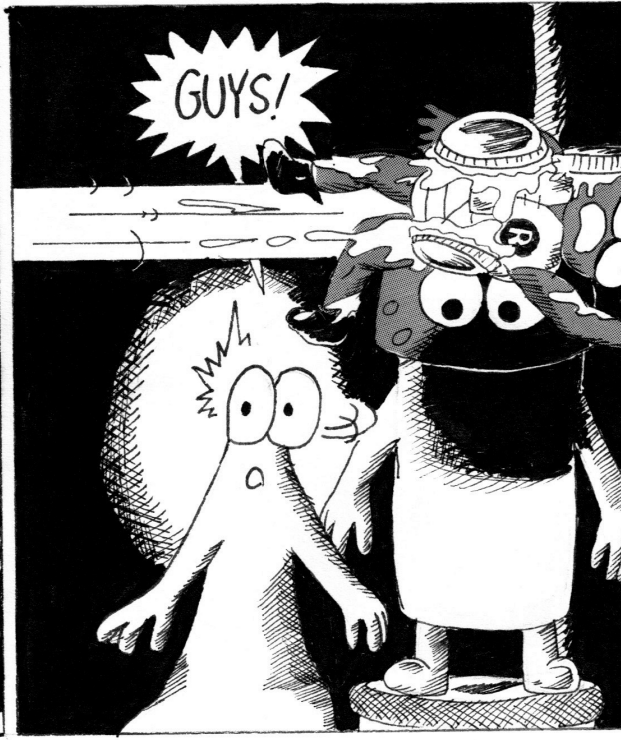
GYACKKKKTHPPPT!

ROGUE'S GALLERY

THE ASBESTOS MUSHROOM... THE FIRST FOE WE EVER FACED...\*

I WONDER WHATEVER HAPPENED TO-

\*-PRO #4, TO BE PRECISE--N



GUYS!



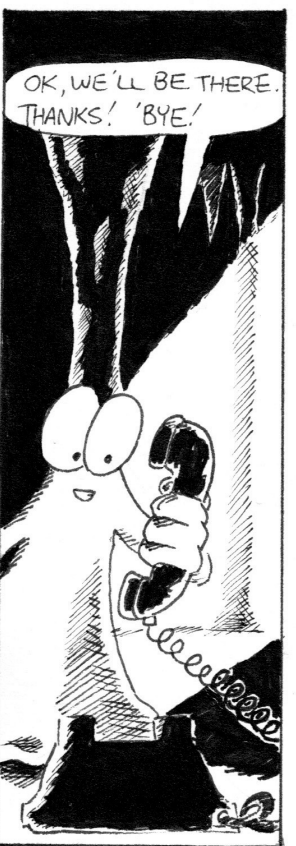
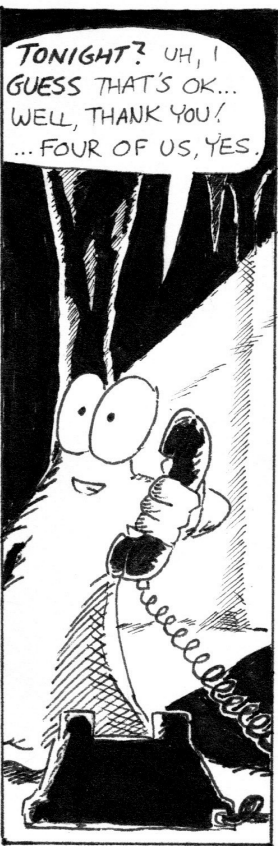
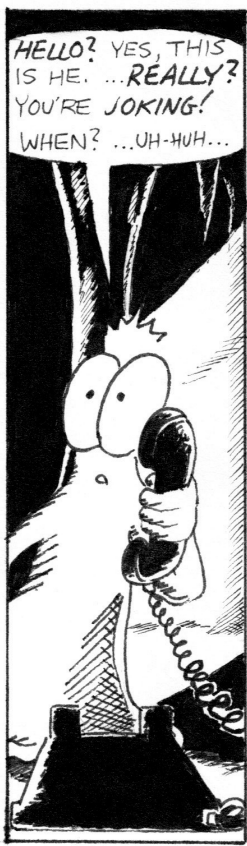
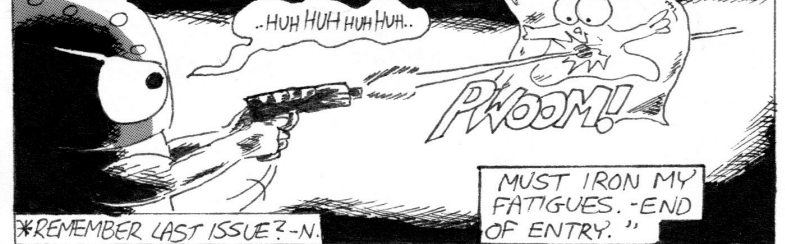
"MUSHROOM WAR JOURNAL  
ENTRY #30052: I BLEW IT.  
THE PUNKS LIVE.



NOTHING, I REPEAT,  
NOTHING BEATS THE  
CRISP SMELL OF A FRESHLY  
OILED .45 MAGNUM! AHH...



THOSE BOZOS IN THE GORILLA GANG STILL MANAGED TO GET  
BUSTED *DESPITE* THE FANCY WEAPONS AND GADGETS I  
SOLD KRONG!... ACTUALLY, I'M GLAD. I WANT THE PLEASURE  
OF EMBALMING PROMETHEUS MYSELF!







BOY OH BOY, JUST GLUE YOURSELF TO THAT CHAIR, BECAUSE OUR GUESTS TONIGHT ARE NONE OTHER THAN THE ALL-SPONGY SQUADRON!



BUT THAT'S NOT ALL... ONE WORD, KIDS: ELVIS!

I KNOW, YOU'VE GOT TO CATCH YOUR BREATH NOW! SO LET'S SAY HI TO OUR FRIEND PAUL!



LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, MR. PAUL SHAFFER! PAUL, ARE YOU AS READY AS I AM TO GREET TONIGHT'S GUESTS?



IT JUST GETS BETTER AND BETTER, DOESN'T IT? HERE I THOUGHT NOTHING COULD TOP OUR "TOUR OF DAVE'S CLOSET" SHOW!

HEH-HEH! WELL, ENOUGH IDLE CHIT-CHAT! LET'S BRING OUT OUR FIRST GUEST...

FIRST HE WAS DEAD, THEN HE WAS CLONED, AND NOW HE'S BEEN REINCARNATED AS A SIX-FOOT MUSKRAT! FOLKS, A BIG HAND FOR THE KING.



AH LUV YEW, BABIES, AH REALLY DO!

ELVIS PRESLEY!!

IN THE GREEN ROOM...

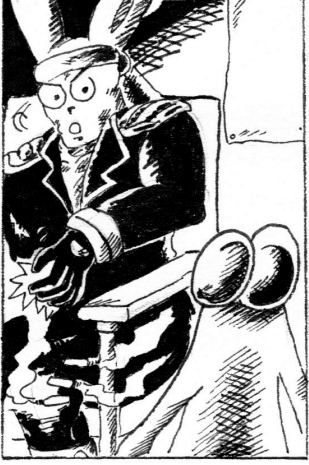


LOVE ME TENDER...

SAY, RAMBUNNY, ARE YOU NERVOUS OR SOMETHING?

ELVIS?

N-NERVOUS? HELL NO! IT'S NO BIG DEAL! WHAT'S A FEW MILLION VIEWERS?



WORRIED ABOUT THE MUSHROOM?



NO... NOT REALLY. IT MAY NOT HAVE EVEN BEEN HIM!

BABES! LET'S DO THIS TV THING!



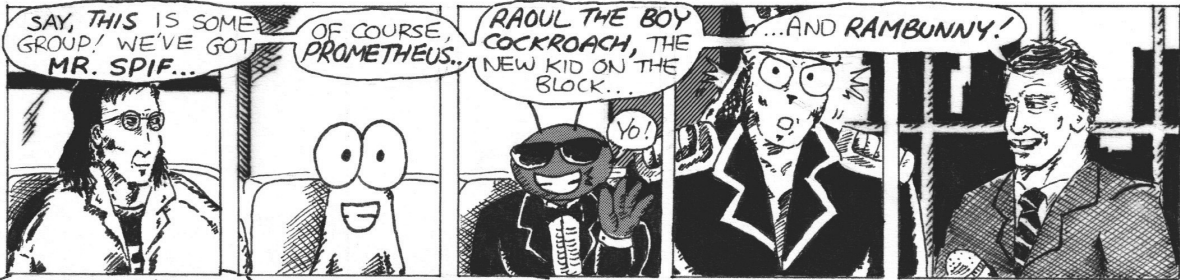
MUSHROOM WAR JOURNAL ENTRY #30079: THE PUNKS ARE STUPIDER THAN I THOUGHT. NOW I CAN HAVE MY VENGEANCE ON LIVE TV!



OH BABY...



AND HERE THEY ARE... SPONGOPOLIS' SELF-PROCLAIMED DEFENDERS, AND A SWELL BUNCH OF FOLKS IN THEIR OWN RIGHT...  
**The ALL-SPONGY SQUADRON!**



SAY, THIS IS SOME GROUP! WE'VE GOT MR. SPIF...

OF COURSE, PROMETHEUS...

RAOUL THE BOY COCKROACH, THE NEW KID ON THE BLOCK...

...AND RAMBUNNY!



...AND THIS ISN'T EVEN ALL OF YOU, RIGHT?

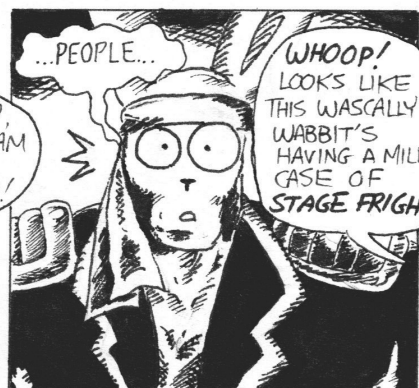
WELL, DAVE, NINJA ANT AND KARATE KACTUS ARE IN JAPAN.

NOW THAT'S A DARN SHAME!



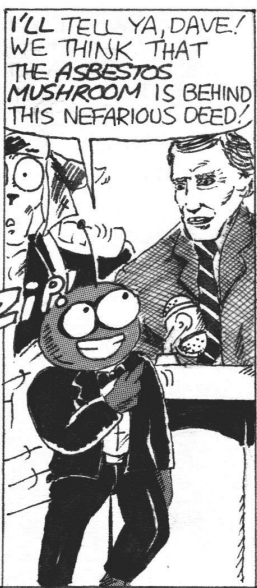
SO WHAT'S THIS ABOUT YOUR HEADQUARTERS BEING BLOWN TO BITS, FELLAS?

RAMBUNNY YOU'RE TEAM LEADER... FILL US IN!



...PEOPLE...

WHOOH! LOOKS LIKE THIS WASCALLY WABBIT'S HAVING A MILD CASE OF STAGE FRIGHT!



I'LL TELL YA, DAVE! WE THINK THAT THE ASBESTOS MUSHROOM IS BEHIND THIS NEFARIOUS DEED!



BOY, ISN'T THAT JUST LIKE A FUNGUS?

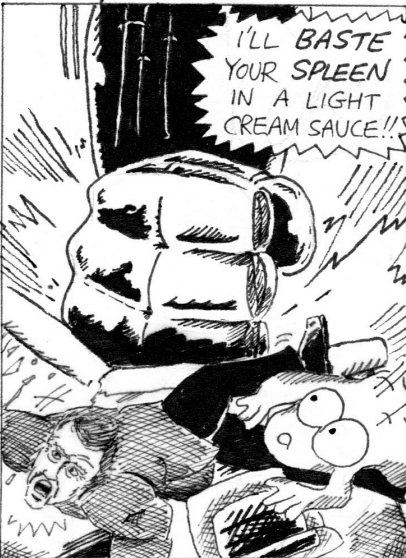
SERIOUSLY, NOW--AREN'T YOU SUPER GUY'S BREAKING SOME UNION RULE BY NOT WEARING LONG TIGHTS?



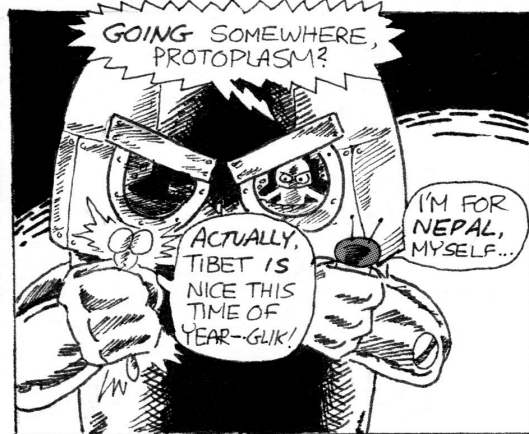
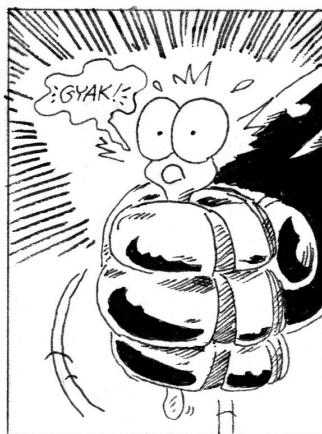
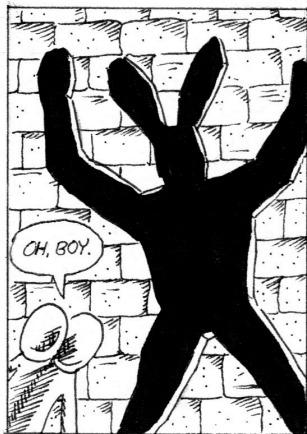
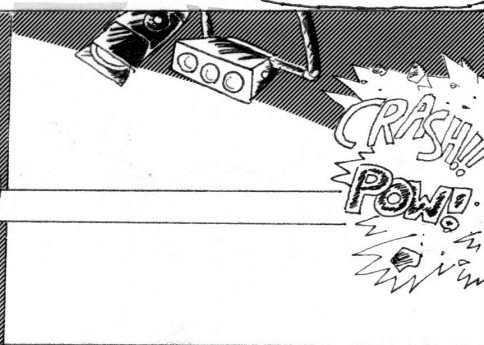
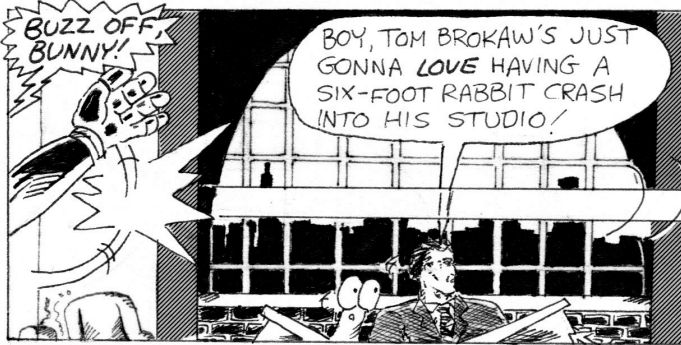
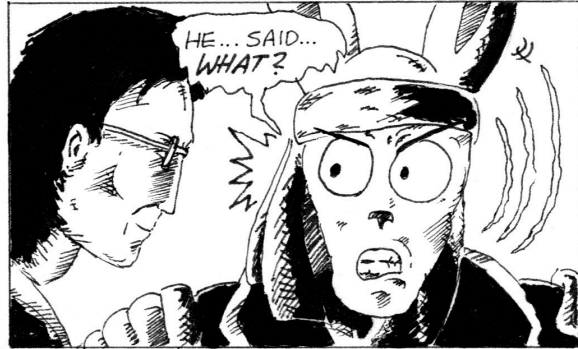
WELL, DAVE, WHILE SOME OF OUR ILK FIND THAT STYLE VERY LIBERATING, OTHERS OF US FIND THAT IT CONTRIBUTES TO A HIGH STERILITY RATE...

IT DOESN'T TERRIBLY ENHANCE YOUR SOCIAL LIFE, EITHER.

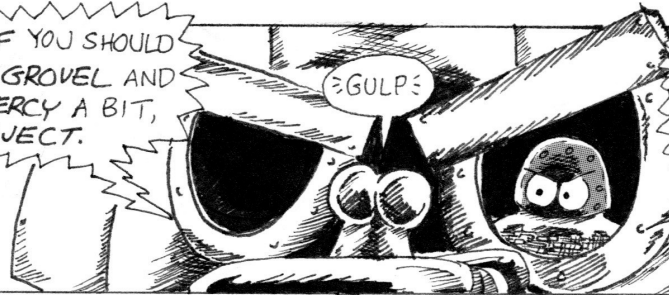
OY...







HOWEVER, IF YOU SHOULD CHOOSE TO GROVEL AND BEG FOR MERCY A BIT, I WON'T OBJECT.



IT WON'T KEEP ME FROM FILETING YOU, OF COURSE, BUT I WOULDN'T BE A CONSCIENTIOUS BAD GUY IF I DIDN'T ASK...



I CAN'T BELIEVE I DIDN'T BRING ANY WEAPONS!

I'VE GOT A SHARP PENCIL YOU CAN USE!



OR MAYBE I'LL RIP YOUR NOSE OFF AND... WAIT, YOU DON'T HAVE A NOSE...

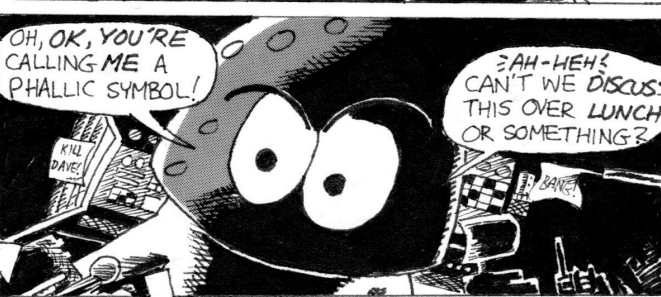
BOOORING...



**BWOOM!**

HOLD IT, FUNGUS! THE TIME FOR RANDOM, SENSELESS VIOLENCE IS AT AN END!

--SOON AS I BLOW YOU AWAY, THAT IS...



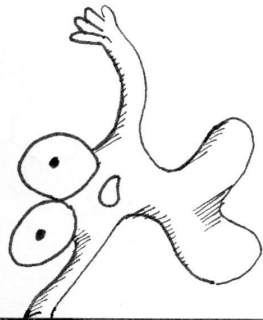
OH, OK, YOU'RE CALLING ME A PHALIC SYMBOL!

SAH-HEH! CAN'T WE DISCUSS THIS OVER LUNCH OR SOMETHING?

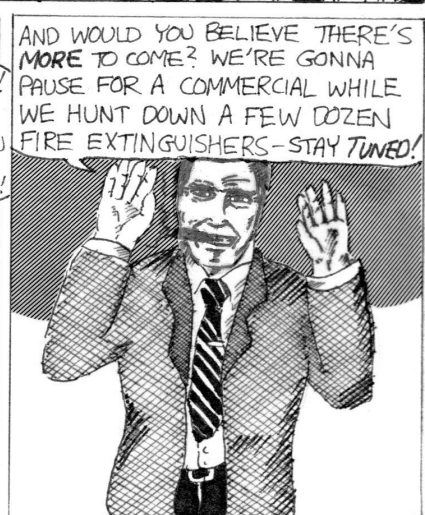


SORRY, SHROOM, THE JIG'S UP!

CHILI CON CARNE... BABY.



# ROOM!





SOON:



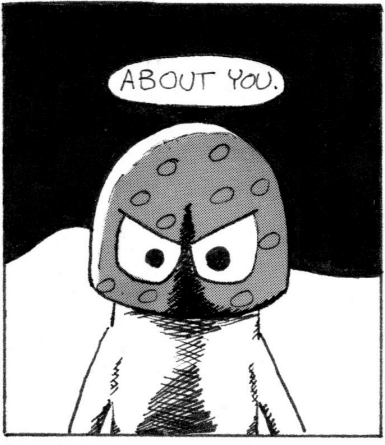
THANKS AGAIN, DAVE!  
 COME AGAIN ANYTIME, GUYS. SHAME ABOUT THAT STAGE FRIGHT, RAMBUNNY.  
 AND I EVEN KNOW TWO CHORDS! SEE?  
 IT WASN'T STAGE FRIGHT!  
 I JUST DON'T THINK IT'LL WORK OUT.



WHOA-- EXCUSE ME, DAVE! WAIT! CAN I TALK TO HIM ALONE FOR A MOMENT?  
 SORRY, THAT'S AGAINST REGULATIONS, SON!  
 THERE'S FREE DONUTS IN THE GREEN ROOM!  
 TAKE YOUR TIME!



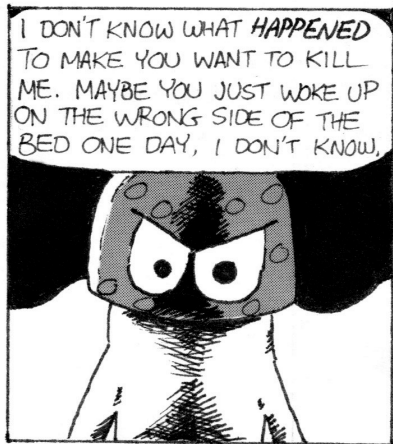
HELLO.  
 I WANTED TO TALK.



ABOUT YOU.



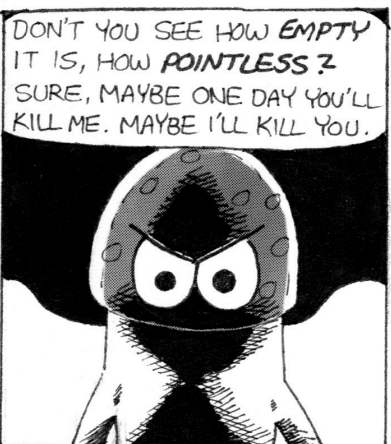
ABOUT ME.



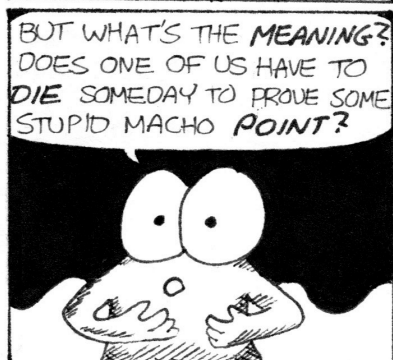
I DON'T KNOW WHAT HAPPENED TO MAKE YOU WANT TO KILL ME. MAYBE YOU JUST WOKE UP ON THE WRONG SIDE OF THE BED ONE DAY, I DON'T KNOW.



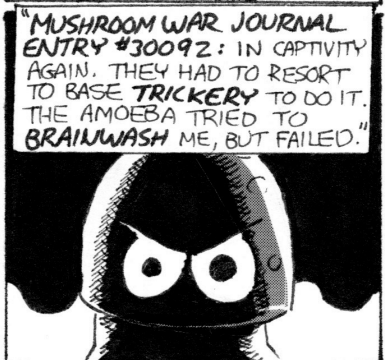
BUT IT'S GOT TO END.



DON'T YOU SEE HOW EMPTY IT IS, HOW POINTLESS? SURE, MAYBE ONE DAY YOU'LL KILL ME. MAYBE I'LL KILL YOU.



BUT WHAT'S THE MEANING? DOES ONE OF US HAVE TO DIE SOMEDAY TO PROVE SOME STUPID MACHO POINT?



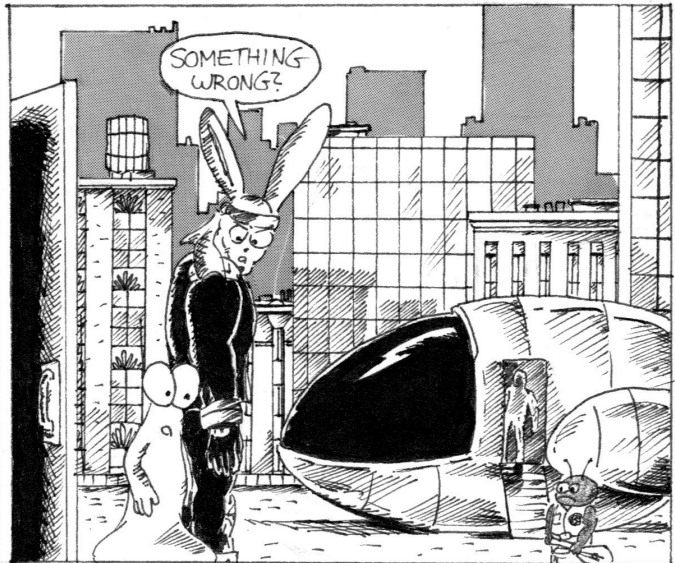
"MUSHROOM WAR JOURNAL ENTRY #30092: IN CAPTIVITY AGAIN. THEY HAD TO RESORT TO BASE TRICKERY TO DO IT. THE AMOEBA TRIED TO BRAINWASH ME, BUT FAILED."



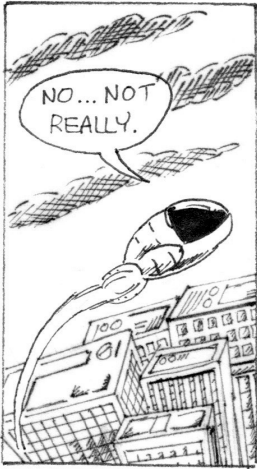
ALL RIGHT. ALL RIGHT. SUBJECT YOURSELF TO THIS DAILY CRUCIFIXION OF HERO-BASHES-VILLAIN, VILLAIN-BASHES-HERO.



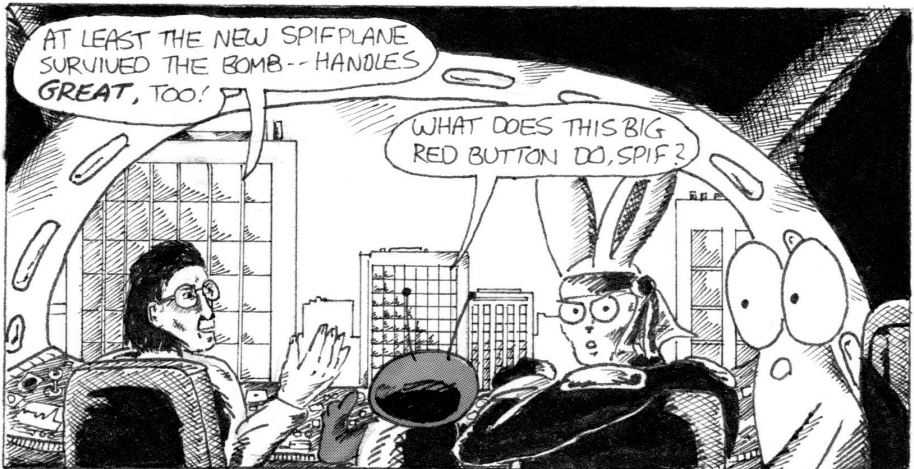
JUST LEAVE ME OUT OF IT.



SOMETHING WRONG?

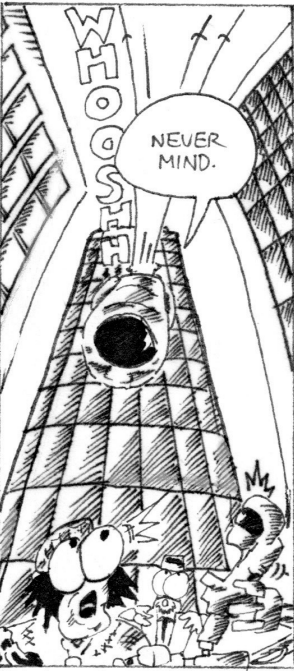


NO... NOT REALLY.

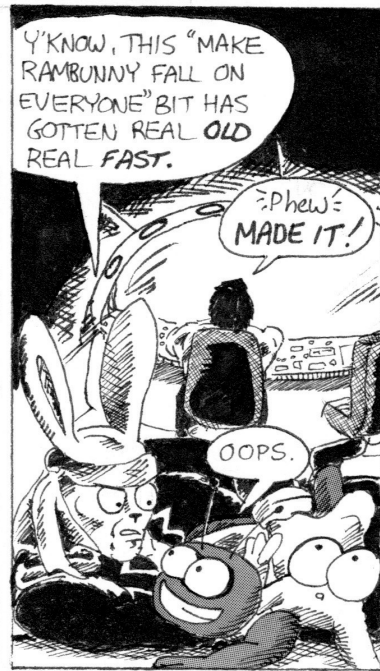


AT LEAST THE NEW SPIPLANE SURVIVED THE BOMB-- HANDLES GREAT, TOO!

WHAT DOES THIS BIG RED BUTTON DO, SPIF?



NEVER MIND.



Y'KNOW, THIS "MAKE RAMBUNNY FALL ON EVERYONE" BIT HAS GOTTEN REAL OLD REAL FAST.

~Phew~ MADE IT!

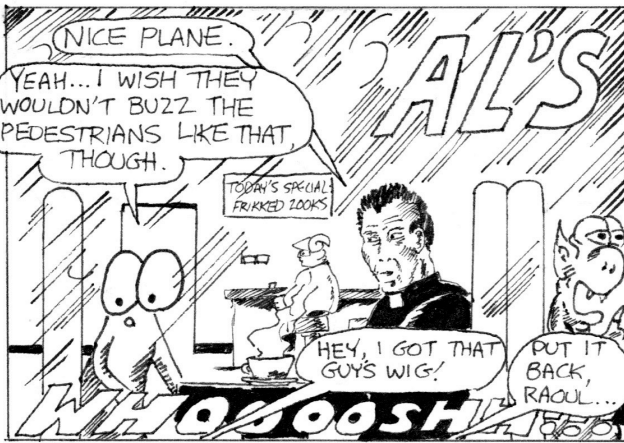
OOPS.



SPIF, CAN I GET YOU TO DROP ME OFF DOWNTOWN?

AFRAID WE WON'T MAKE IT BACK WITH THE "BOY BLUNDER" COPILOTING?

NO... I JUST WANNA VISIT A FRIEND.



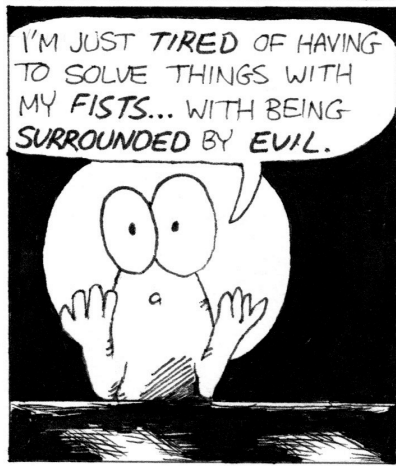
NICE PLANE.  
YEAH... I WISH THEY WOULDN'T BUZZ THE PEDESTRIANS LIKE THAT, THOUGH.

**AL'S**

HEY, I GOT THAT GUY'S WIG!  
PUT IT BACK, RAOUL...



YOU HAVE POWERFUL FRIENDS.  
MAYBE TOO MUCH SO FOR THEIR OWN GOOD.  
WHAT DISTURBS YOU SO?



I'M JUST TIRED OF HAVING TO SOLVE THINGS WITH MY FISTS... WITH BEING SURROUNDED BY EVIL.



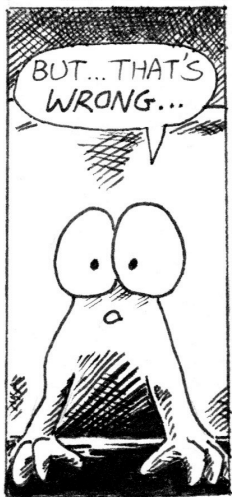
PERHAPS EVIL AND MACHISMO GO HAND IN HAND.  
MAYBE YOU'RE RIGHT... CAN'T I BE A MAN WITHOUT BEING AN ANIMAL?



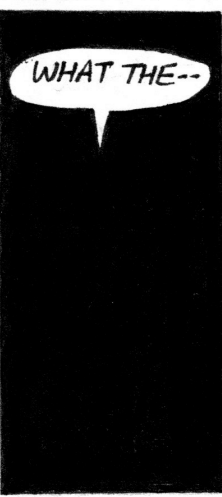
I GUESS I JUST DON'T UNDERSTAND MEN... OR EVIL, FOR THAT MATTER.



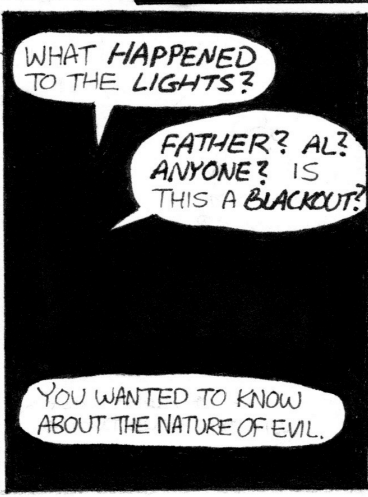
MY SON, EVIL HAS A POWERFUL SIREN'S SONG... ONE THAT GRIPS YOUR HEART WITH TENDRILS OF STEEL. IT'S THE ULTIMATE DRUG, THE ULTIMATE HIGH... A LICENSE TO DO ANYTHING YOU WANT... BUT MOSTLY, EVIL IS JUST SO MUCH FUN...



BUT... THAT'S WRONG...



WHAT THE--



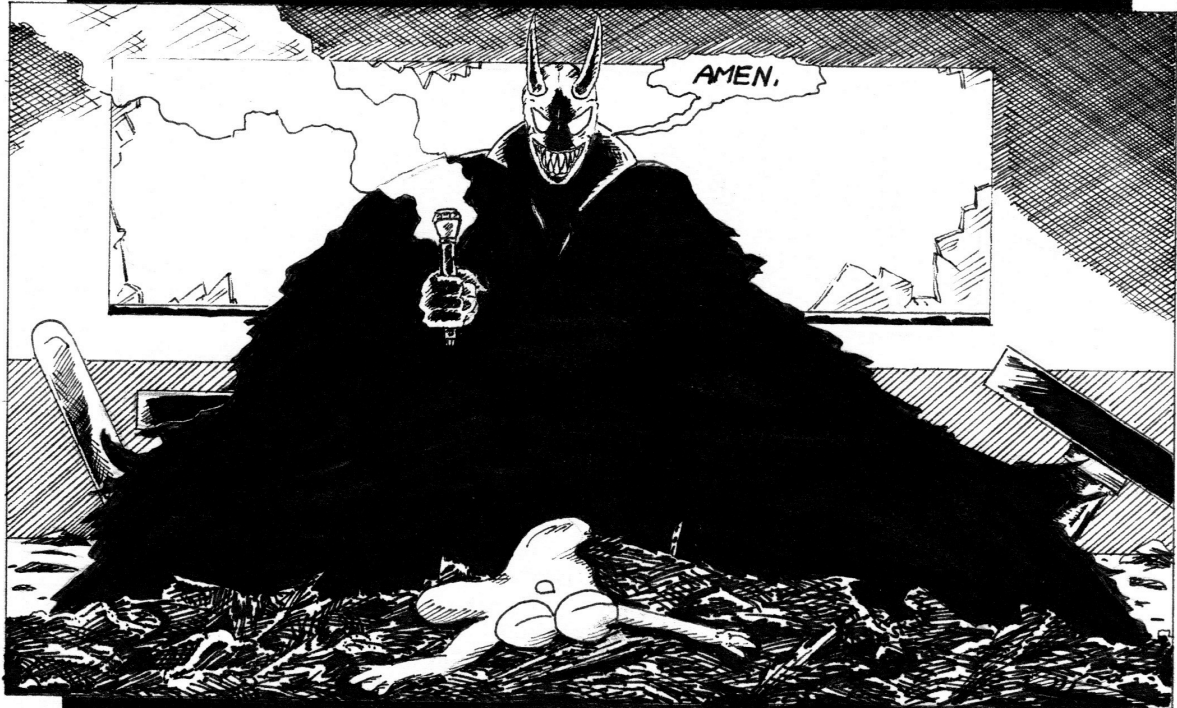
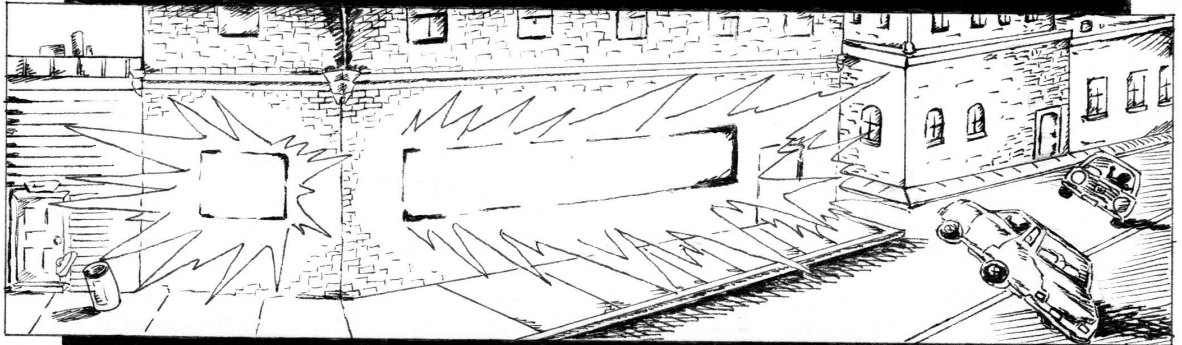
WHAT HAPPENED TO THE LIGHTS?  
FATHER? AL? ANYONE? IS THIS A BLACKOUT?

YOU WANTED TO KNOW ABOUT THE NATURE OF EVIL.



HELLO? WHO IS THAT?  
THE INSIDIOUSNESS OF EVIL IS THAT IT IS IN EVERYWHERE. IT IS IN EVERYONE.





•N•E•X•T•

DETAILS • OF • DESIGN

WHEW! WHAT A CLIFFHANGER THERE, RIGHT KIDS?

HI, I'M KARATE KACTUS, SUPPOSEDLY ONE OF THE MAIN CHARACTERS IN THIS COMIC. WELL, I WAS, UNTIL THEY DECIDED TO SHIP ME AND MY COUSIN MITSUBISHI (NINJA ANT TO THE WORLD AT LARGE) OFF TO JAPAN LAST ISSUE.

SEE, WAYYYY BACK IN PROMETHEUS #3, THE ASBESTOS MUSHROOM - YEP, SAME BOZO WHO JUST GOT HIS BUTT KICKED AGAIN - WELL, HE KIDNAPPED NINJA ANT FROM JAPAN, HIS HOME, AND BRAINWASHED HIM AS PART OF SOME BIG VENDETTA AGAINST PRO.

OF COURSE, IT ALL GOT WORKED OUT, BUT NINJA ANT NEVER DID GO BACK, SINCE WE ALL GOT SO INVOLVED IN THE TEAM THING.

BUT, SINCE WE ALL NEEDED A BREAK AFTER THAT AGNUS DEI EXPERIENCE, MITSU AND I DECIDED IT WAS TIME FOR A SHORT VACATION - SO NIK AND SPECIAL GUEST JOHN HURLEY HAVE UNITED TO BRING YOU THE TALE OF:



# NINJA ANT™ AND KARATE KACTUS' EXCELLENT ADVENTURE

OR "ONE ORDER OF SUSHI, WELL DONE."

Plotted by Nik Dirga + John Hurley  
Scripted by Nik  
Drawn by John  
Tones by Nik  
Endless hours of frustration by Nik and John

MITSUBISHI! WE MISSED YOU SO MUCH! LOOK AT YOU! YOU'RE SKIN AND BONES! YOU'VE BEEN EATING THOSE **AMERICAN** CHEESEBURGERS, HAVEN'T YOU? COME GIVE YOUR MOTHER A HUG, YOU WANT TO BREAK YOUR MOTHER'S HEART.?

I'M SURE SHE'S REALLY ITALIAN..

HI, MOM.

DON'T YOU "MOM" ME, YOUNG MAN! TWO MONTHS YOU'VE BEEN GONE AND ALL YOU CAN SAY IS "HI MOM." GO AND JOIN SOME CRAZY SUPER-HERO TEAM AND GET STEPPED ON BY GIANT MUSHROOMS AND ALL YOU CAN SAY IS "HIMOM?"

I LOVE YA, MA.

HMMMPH— COME HERE, WE'VE GOT MITSU'S FAVORITE ALL READY— BOILED SQUID INTESTINES.

YOU'RE A DISCRIMINATING EATER...

MITSU! YOU'RE BACK! WADDYA BRING ME, HUH.? COOL, IS THIS A REAL SWORD? WOWZERS! HAVE YA GOTTEN TO KILL ANY BAD GUYS YET.? HUH, HUH.?

EAT MY SHORTS BART

HI SPUNKY. HOW'S MY KID BRO.? HE'S FAILING ALGEBRA IN SCHOOL!

AH, I NEVER USE THE STUFF ANYWAY.

HI YA COUSIN ISUZU! SHOW ME SOME KUNG FU MOVES PLEASE.?

THAT'S KARATE. I'LL SHOW YOU HOW TO KILL A MAN WITH YOUR TONSILS WHEN YOUR MOM ISN'T AROUND.

SWELL!

MY BRO KICKED BUTT ON THE TURTLES

I WOULDN'T, HE'S LIKELY TO USE IT ON HIS ALGEBRA TEACHER!

EAT, EAT, EAT! WHERE'S HONORABLE GRANDFATHER TOYOTA?

I'LL GET HIM. YO! MOST HONORABLE GRANDFATHER DINNER!

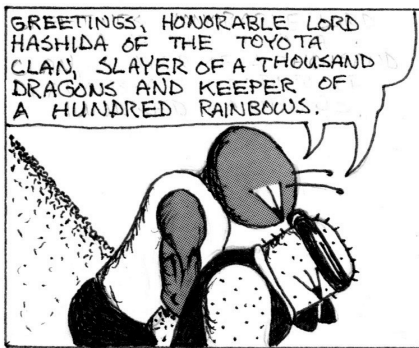
TAILS!

NOW I KNOW WHY I LEFT JAPAN...





CAN MY ANCIENT EYES BE DECEIVING ME? IS THIS MY GRANDSON MITSUBISHI AND ISUZU-SAN I SEE BEFORE ME?

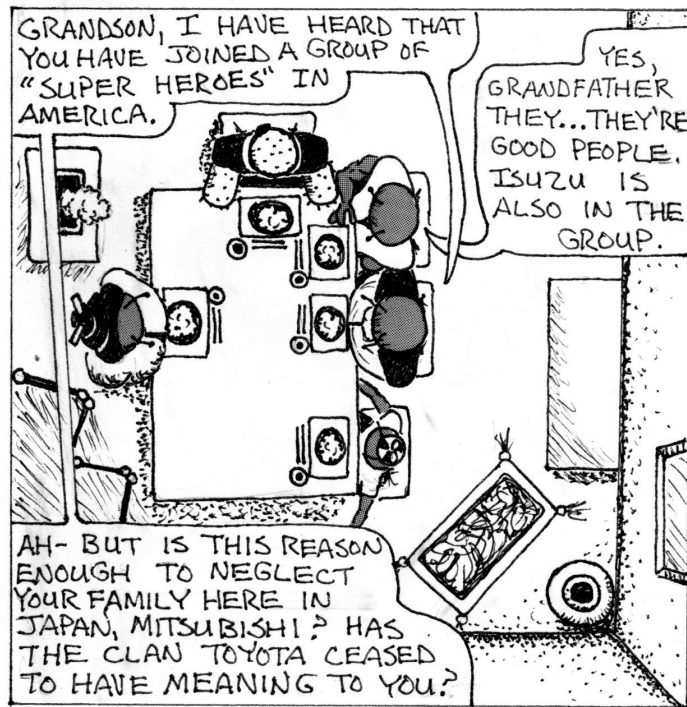


GREETINGS, HONORABLE LORD HASHIDA OF THE TOYOTA CLAN, SLAYER OF A THOUSAND DRAGONS AND KEEPER OF A HUNDRED RAINBOWS.



MAY THE MEDITATIONS OF THE SACRED TIDE CARRY YOU THROUGH THE RAGING STORMS.

KEEP MY BOWELS FROM DISGORGING HEAVILY.



GRANDSON, I HAVE HEARD THAT YOU HAVE JOINED A GROUP OF "SUPER HEROES" IN AMERICA.

YES, GRANDFATHER THEY...THEY'RE GOOD PEOPLE. ISUZU IS ALSO IN THE GROUP.

AH- BUT IS THIS REASON ENOUGH TO NEGLECT YOUR FAMILY HERE IN JAPAN, MITSUBISHI? HAS THE CLAN TOYOTA CEASED TO HAVE MEANING TO YOU?



WELL, I-

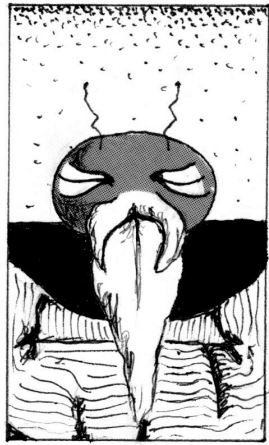
NOW HOLD ON A MINUTE HERE!! MITSU WAS FORCED TO LEAVE JAPAN- HE DIDN'T SET OUT TO OFFEND YOUR FAMILY HONOR, AND NOW, WELL... HE'S WITH THE SQUADRON TRYING TO DO SOME GOOD IN THE WORLD.



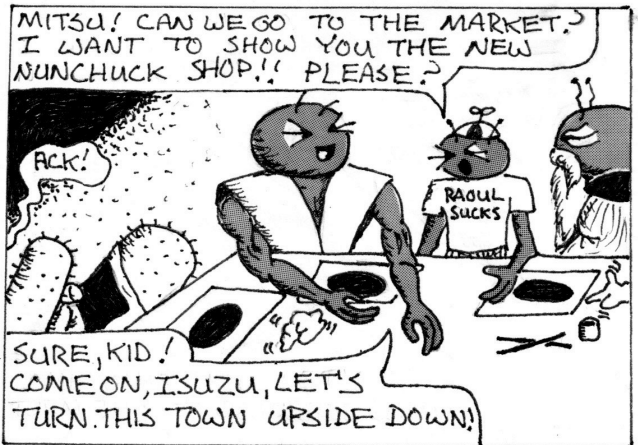
IF A FLY HAD A CHANCE TO SAVE A HUMAN AT THE COST OF HIS OWN LIFE, WOULD HE DO SO?

NMPH!

YOU USED TO TELL ME THAT PROVERB WHEN I WAS YOUNG, ASK ME TO FIND THE ANSWER. YES, THE FLY WOULD. I WOULD.



YOU HAVE- WHAT'S THE PHRASE?-"DONE WELL BY ME," GRANDSON.



MITSU! CAN WE GO TO THE MARKET? I WANT TO SHOW YOU THE NEW NUNCHUCK SHOP!! PLEASE?

ACK!

SURE, KID! COME ON, ISUZU, LET'S TURN THIS TOWN UPSIDE DOWN!

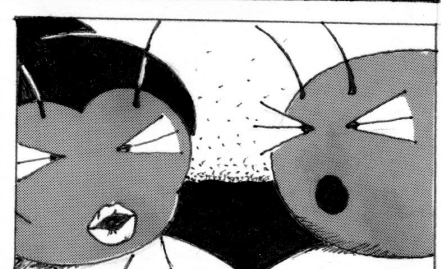


HUH?!



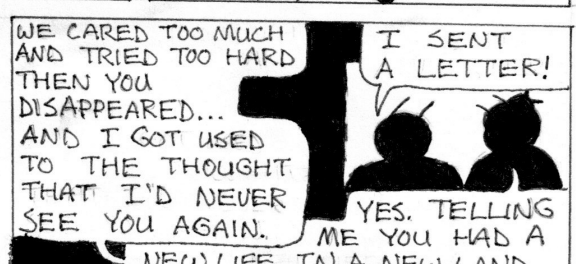
KYOKO?

CAN I HELP- MITSUBISHI - YOU'RE BACK?!



SO HOW- WHAT HAVE- I'M SORRY.

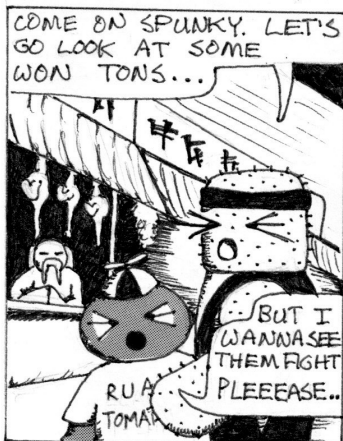
WE WERE BOTH SORRY. A LONG TIME AGO, MITSU.



WE CARED TOO MUCH AND TRIED TOO HARD THEN YOU DISAPPEARED... AND I GOT USED TO THE THOUGHT THAT I'D NEVER SEE YOU AGAIN.

I SENT A LETTER!

YES. TELLING ME YOU HAD A NEW LIFE IN A NEW LAND.



COME ON SPUNKY. LET'S GO LOOK AT SOME WON TONS...

BUT I WANNA SEE THEM FIGHT PLEEEASE..

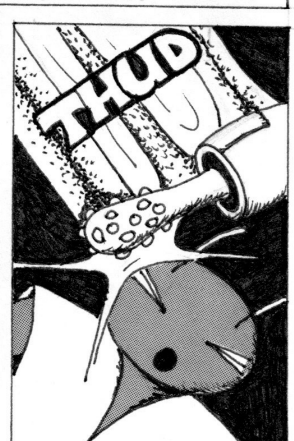
RU A TOMAT



I - WE WERE DONE AND OVER BEFORE I WAS KIDNAPPED. WE'D BOTH DECIDED TO MOVE ON. I HAD TOO MANY SCARS TO FACE YOU THEN, BUT I NEVER WANTED TO LOSE YOUR FRIENDSHIP.

I KNOW. I DIDN'T WANT TO LOSE YOU EITHER.

I'M... I... OH, HELL WHY DID WE HAVE TO FALL IN LOVE IN THE FIRST PLACE? ALL IT GIVES YOU IS A HEADACHE!



THUD

AT LAST THE PRODIGAL SON RETURNS! DOG, DID YOU THINK I WOULD SO SOON FORGIVE OR FORGET THE INSULT TO MY HONOR YOUR VERY LIFE PRESENTS?

GINZU! NO!

DUH... LOOK AT THE PRETTY BIRDIES...

UNWORTHY SNAKE!

I SWORE MANY YEARS AGO I WOULD AVENGE MYSELF WITH YOUR BLOOD, AND NOW -

GINZU OL' PAL, SOUN'S LIKE YOUR LIPS FLAP AS MUCH AS THEY EVER DID...

IGNORANT FOOL! LET'S SEE HOW FLIPPANT YOUR TONGUE IS WHEN IT'S CUT OUT...

HIYA

POW!

COUSIN, YOU ALL RIGHT?

YEP I'LL TAKE ALL FIVE OF 'EM ON AT ONCE...





YOU'VE PLACED YOUR HAND IN A WASP'S NEST, OLD MAN...



LET'S SEE IF YOUR LUCK HOLDS AGAINST ME NOW.



YOUR FUNERAL, SON.

HOLD IT!

I, MITSUBISHI OF CLAN TOYOTA, CHALLENGE YOU, GINZU KNIFE OF CLAN TUPPERWARE TO A DUEL OF HONOR!

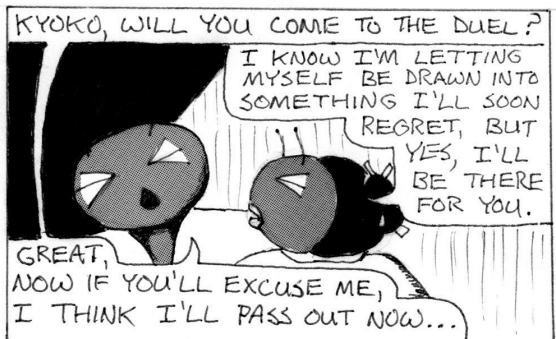
BOTH OF YA...



YOUR ARROGANCE IS HUMDROUS, PUP, BUT TO REGAIN MY SOILED HONOR BY BESTING YOU IN MORTAL COMBAT IS A CHANCE I MUST TAKE. VERY WELL. ON THE SECOND SUNSET FROM NOW, WE WILL MEET AGAIN, AND ONLY ONE OF US WILL WALK AWAY.



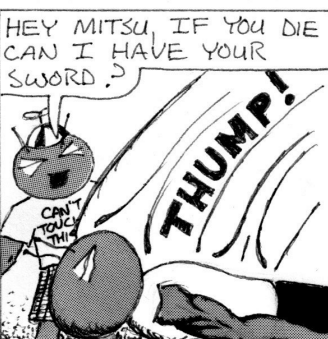
YEAH, SAME TO YOUR MOTHER! CHARMING FELLOW THERE. I LIKE TO THINK SO.



KYOKO, WILL YOU COME TO THE DUEL?

I KNOW I'M LETTING MYSELF BE DRAWN INTO SOMETHING I'LL SOON REGRET, BUT YES, I'LL BE THERE FOR YOU.

GREAT, NOW IF YOU'LL EXCUSE ME, I THINK I'LL PASS OUT NOW...



HEY MITSU, IF YOU DIE CAN I HAVE YOUR SWORD?

CAN'T TOUCH THIS

THUMP!

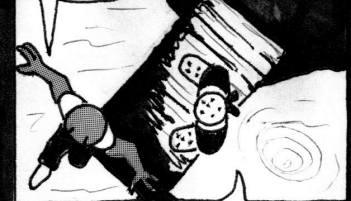
TWO DAYS LATER



BALANCE AND COORDINATION ARE GOING TO BE IMPORTANT IN BEATING GIJZU. HE'S GOT THE EDGE WHEN IT COMES TO RAW POWER.



YEAH, YEAH, I KNOW... I'M NOT A NOVICE ANYMORE COUSIN.



RIGHT... WHAT'S THE STORY WITH YOU TWO, ANYWAY?

OH, GIJZU AND I GO WAY BACK. WE USED TO GET IN FIGHTS IN KINDERGARTEN...



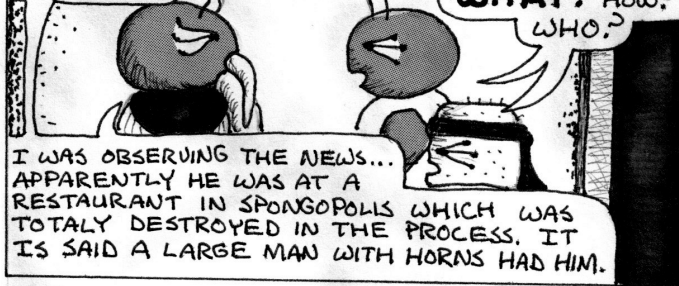
MAYBE THOSE CHEESEBURGERS MADE YOU SHRINK...



GUYS! HEY GUYS, THERE'S NEWS FROM AMERICA FOR YOU!



PROMETHEUS THE PROTOPLASM HAS BEEN KIDNAPPED.



WHAT! HOW? WHO?

AND THE OTHERS? DID THEY SAY ANYTHING ABOUT THEM?



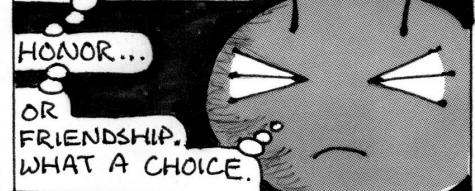
I KNEW SOMETHING LIKE THIS WOULD HAPPEN!



OH NO...



MY HONOR WILL BE RUINED... I'LL BE DISGRACING THE CLAN TOYOTA. BUT WHO KNOWS WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF WE DON'T RETURN?





THE CHOICE IS YOURS TO MAKE, GRANDSON.



HE'S MY FRIEND, DAMN IT.



PREPARED TO MEET YOUR GODS, INSECT?

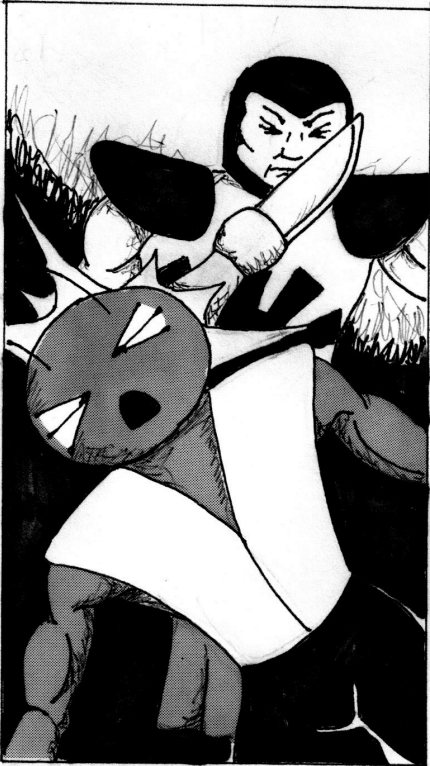
NO. I HEREBY FORFEIT THIS DUEL. GIWZU KNIFE HAS WON, AND I ADMIT HIS SUPERIORITY.



ARRGHH!



COWARD!

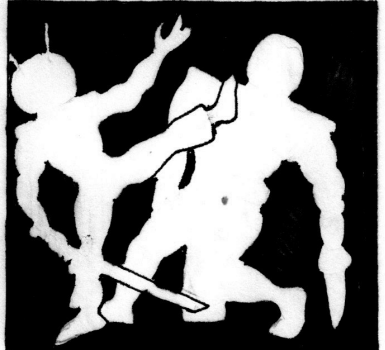
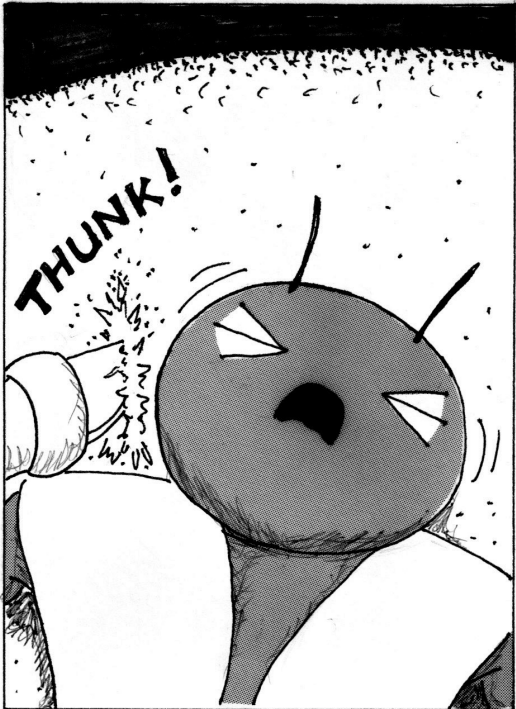
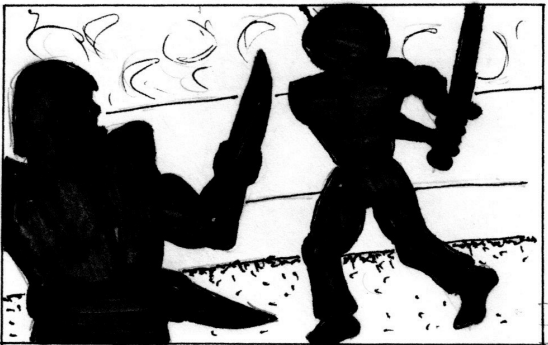
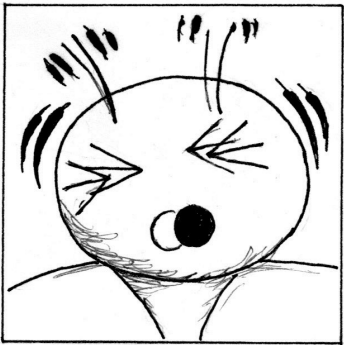


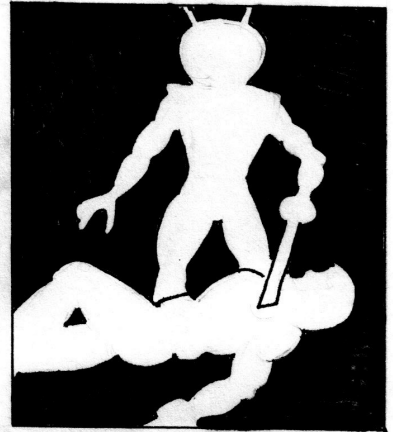
NO. THIS IS MITSUBISHI'S FIGHT NOW.



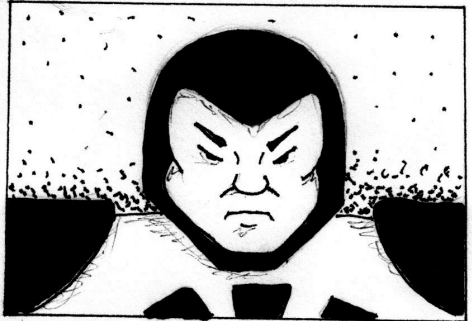
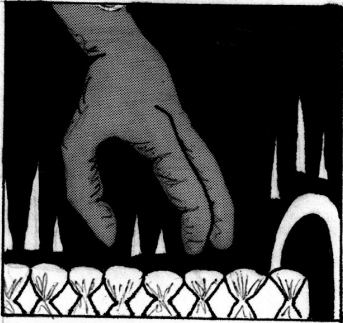
YOUR SWORD, MITSUBISHI.







WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR? I AM DISHONORED. SLAY ME NOW RATHER THAN RUIN ME AGAIN.



GINZU...  
THE ONLY PERSON WHO HAS DISHONORED YOU...  
IS YOURSELF.



MITSUBISHI, YOU HAVE HONORED THE CLAN TOYOTA THIS NIGHT. RETURN TO AMERICA AND HONOR US ALL. OUR THOUGHTS ARE WITH YOU.

AND MINE WITH YOU, GRANDFATHER.



KYOKO... NOW I'M LEAVING YOU AGAIN.

NO, YOU'RE NOT. I'M GOING WITH YOU. I WANT TO SEE WHAT YOUR NEW WORLD IS LIKE.



THE END

AW, C'MON, THIS IS GROSS!

WINTER  
ISSUE

NO. 5

# ALL PONGY Squadron

10¢

A  
PP  
PUBLICATION



## Featuring

PROMETHEUS - NINJA ANT  
- RAMBUNNY - KARATE KACTUS - MR. SPIF,  
AND RAOUL, THE BOY COCKROACH in brand  
new episodes as personally related at the  
first meeting of the Spongy Society of Amoeba



## **The Slimeball Speaks:** *The Ongoing Tale Of A Boy And His Protoplasm*

I don't know about you, but churning out these 44 and 36-page issues left and right is starting to take its toll. Well, after this sucker you're holding, I'm moving back down to a far more palatable 24-28-pages for the foreseeable future.

Although it's been about 3 to 4 months since *Amoeba Adventures* #4 came out, things have been anything but dull around here. In the last few months, I've put out *One-Celled Tales* #1, *Prometheus Saves The Earth ?* #1, and countless reprints of old issues from the Protoplasm Press catalog, which got a larger response than I'd estimated. The point is, I haven't been resting on my laurels. Not that I'm even really sure where my laurels are, but I digress...

I've also been working highly on strengthening my rendering skills. The main comment that seems to come up in reviews of AA is that the art is, to use Jim Pack's comment, "scratchy." Although Jim tends to slap that title on every comic whose art he dislikes, I can see what "scratchy" means... not to put it all on the printing process, but the really fine lines tend to drop out during it, and of course now that I'm reducing the art for digest size, things get even more "scratchy" in these parts.

I'm attempting to remedy that, though, mostly through varying line thickness extensive studying of some of my personal fave artists, and just through utilization of the one single most important magic trick for artists...*practice*. Looking at the art of fellows I admire, like Neal Adams or Barry Windsor-Smith, I'm trying to take a page from their book and adapt it to my own style, whatever that may be at the moment. So how are the results? I'd be interested in input on the art for this issue...the last two issues have been more or less gearing me up to tackle the upcoming trilogy, and I hope I'm up to par for it.

\*\*\*\*\*

Enough artsy prattle. I'd like to take this opportunity to extend a special thanks to all involved in the mega-success (well, it's sold more copies than anything else I've done, it may even turn a profit!) *Prometheus Saves The Earth? #1*. Thanks to Max Ink, Quinton Hoover, Erik Kaye, John Hurley, Matt Fezell, and David M. Pitts for all the time and effort. And if you still haven't checked *PSTE?* out, by all means do so! Not only are there contributions by all the aforementioned talents, there's also "Perspective," an all-new short story starring the Squadron, and the soon-to-be-legendary first team-up of Prometheus and Matt Fezell's Antisocialman. All this

and much more is crammed into a 44-page digest, still available for \$2.50 from yours truly!

\*\*\*\*\*

Since I had so much fun putting together *Prometheus Saves The Earth?*, I've taken the masochistic route and begun preliminary plans for a "sequel." This project, currently titleless, will deal with the AIDS epidemic, in a special story in which the Squadron is forced to deal with this terrible disease first-hand. This one will take the format of a jam...that is, I'll write out a script and anyone who wants to do a few pages for the story may do so. If anyone out there believes they'd like to draw a few pages for this project, and considers themselves to be at least of marginal artistic skill, drop me a line and we'll take a meeting.

\*\*\*\*\*

An enormous tomato-thanks goes out to John "Sheer And Utter Hell" Hurley, who drew "Ninja Ant and Karate Kactus' Excellent Adventure" located within this issue. We came up with the idea last summer, and I really think the results are quite special. Thanks, John, I owe you one. Where can I get my "Raoul" T-shirt? And gracious thanks to Nathaniel, who inspired it by treating me to my first taste of sushi this summer, although not without my requisite spilling of the water pitcher. Finally, thanks to Troy Hendrickson and Doug Lumley for their hilarious pin-up homage to *All-Star Comics* #3, keep the faith, guys!

\*\*\*\*\*

Finally, a few words about the project I'm *really* excited about, and that's the major new storyline set to begin in these pages. You saw the events set into motion in this here issue, with what I hope was a somewhat startling cliffhanger ending. *Amoeba Adventures* #6-8 will now follow the story of Prometheus' kidnapping, and all the myriad consequences of it. What's this mini-epic called, you ask? Well, as it says on the bottom of page 18, it's "Details Of Design." In this storyline, lots of things are gonna happen...just to tantalize you a bit, in it we'll see at least two members leave the team, two new members join, and at long last the question of *who* exactly this fellow is that's kidnapped Pro and been making foreboding appearances for some time now. All this and more, kids, begins next issue in the pages of *Amoeba Adventures* #6. And now you know as much about what's cooking here at Protoplasm Press as I do...see you in late February!

## **Amoebamail**

**Protoplasm Press, Po Box  
2230, University MS 38677**

*Amoeba Adventures* #3 was that rarest and most amazing of things, a comic which combined humor and pathos, and neither at the expense of the other. Even though I missed the beginning of the show, I was not in the least bit lost, and I found I had an instant affection for the characters (Prometheus and Mr. Spif being favorites so far). It had everything needed for a great small press book: energy, personality, and a fascistic duck. And that final panel on page 19: wow! I touched me in places my

girlfriend has yet to find. This is a comic to be watched for in the future, and its creator is a man to be observed for psychological diagnosis.

(And then, soon after this first missive arrived on my doorstep, another equally gracious one appeared--N.) Thanks for AA#4; another great issue. Some of my favorite parts:

\*The cover

\*Nikommendations- helpful, and the sort of thing that

makes small press what it is ( a high-fiber natural laxative)

\*pg. 1- neat title layout

\*pg. 3- Pro/Rambunny conversation

\*pg. 7- interesting. A Grant Morrison homage here? The writing style indicates it (and what about Rambunny's clothes?).

\*pg. 11-13- Nice dialogue and, of course Velcro-Man (maybe he could return with the All-Fastener Squadron: Snap, The Zipper, and Queen of Buttons!).

\*pg. 20- crowd scene

\*pg. 22- nice moment with Rambunny

Actually, I think I prefer this as a digest; it seems tighter somehow that #3 (and I've always been fond of the digest format anyway). Besides, as I am only twelve inches tall, the large size was unwieldy.

Troy Hickman  
906 S. 18th St.  
Lafayette, IN 47905

*(Troy, we're all praying for your recovery. Hey, thanks again for the keen pin-up and all the kind words. Troy and partner in crime Doug Lumley also put out a few minis of their own, so drop them a line and ask them to send you some. {they might like some cash too})*

On *Amoeba Adventures* #4: After I got used to your style, I suddenly noticed that your silly-drawn innocent bystanders who appear on every page are totally delightful! I would like to see you move the background to the foreground, and concentrate on them and what they do. They seem more genuine, spontaneous, and sincere than your foreground characters, Do more with them.

**NEXT: It's been hinted at for months, you've been teased about it for quite a few issues now, and finally, it's here: "Details Of Design," the three-parter that will change every single character irrevocably. It starts with a bang in "Macabre," in which Rambunny, Spif, and Raoul set off to find the kidnapped Prometheus, and become entangled in a nightmare far greater than any they've ever faced. That's in *Amoeba Adventures* #6, due out in late February or so.**

(Prometheus comes out of the same well as they do, while the other characters seem more derivative)

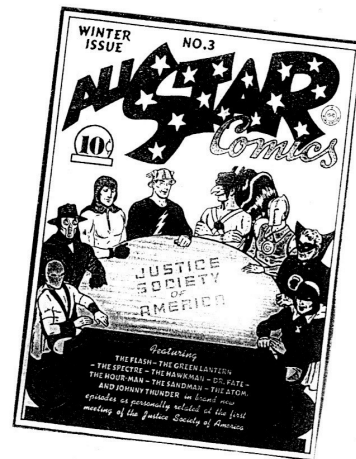
Erik Kaye

Eugene, Oregon

*(Erik, you bring up some good points. I'm glad you like my "innocent bystanders," "I always love drawing them. And in the "Details of Design" story, I'm going to tackle a bit of the conflicts that occur in a world where everyone is kinda wacked out, and show that the dynamics that motivate us are all the same. As for your comments about the derivative nature of some of my characters, I agree. Really, they all began as parodies...Rambunny of the Stallone school of acting, Spif of a kinda Batman/Shadow genre, and of course Ninja Ant and Karate Kactus are self-evident. But I'm trying to add dimension to them, and I think you'll appreciate what happens to Rambunny in #6. -Nik)*

Hey! I want letters! I figured that I got about 1 letter for every 10 people that read *Amoeba Adventures* #4...don't statistics like that just break your heart? If you want to see your name in lights, or cheesy print, drop me a line! I even take critical letters!

Here's the inspiration for Troy & Doug's way cool pin-up...*All-Star Comics* #3, from way, way, way back in 1940 or so! This was the very *first* super-team comic, paving the way for such luminaries as the JLA, the Avengers, the inX-austble Men, and even the All-Spongy Squadron itself! History..



# NEXT MACABRE

Protoplasm Press' crowning achievement, at least for this year, is PROMETHEUS SAVES THE EARTH?, a huge 44-page anthology collecting some of the greatest talents in small press for environmentally themed stories aimed at raising public awareness towards our world's precarious state. Six great talents plus one Nik have sent in all new stories for PSTE?

Check out PROMETHEUS SAVES THE EARTH? for the paltry sum of \$2.50, and enjoy some of the best small-press material you'll see collected in one place all year!



# AMOEBIA ADVENTURES

The entire selection of back issues of AMOEBIA ADVENTURES and PROMETHEUS are now available, all the way back to the somewhat unrefined beginning.

**PROMETHEUS #3** Blessed with somewhat primitive artwork, this is the one that starts off the four-part "Only A Man" epic, and introduced Ninja Ant and Karate Kactus to the world.  
PROMETHEUS3 (16 pgs) \$1.00

**PROMETHEUS #4** The debut of the All-Spongy Squadron, as Prometheus, Dr. Spif, Rambunny, Ninja Ant and Karate Kactus join forces against the twin terror of the Asbestos Mushroom and Kronos.  
PROMETHEUS4 (32 pgs) \$2.50

**PROMETHEUS #5** Prometheus copes with some drastic changes in his life, while Karate Kactus goes shopping and some penguins get their butts kicked.  
PROMETHEUS5 (16 pgs) \$1.00

**PROMETHEUS #6** The grand finale! Everything that Prometheus knew about his origins is wrong. Now comes the time to learn "The Truth." This is the one that tells it all!  
PROMETHEUS6 (28 pgs) \$2.00

**ONE-CELLED TALES #1** The amoeba rummage sale...a selection of pin-ups, rejected covers, and unfinished stories from the PROMETHEUS era, including "A Protoplasm On Elm Street" and "Prometheus Meets Snoopy." For those who want it all.  
ONECELL1 (20 pgs) \$1.50

**AMOEBIA ADVENTURES #1** The new series, telling the continuing tale of the All-Spongy Squadron's adventures. "The Visitor" trilogy kicks off with the introduction of the mysterious Manslaughter and Agnus Dei.  
AMOEBIA1 (24pgs) \$1.50

**AMOEBIA ADVENTURES #2** It's "Amoeba On The Run," as Prometheus alone has to free his friends from the clutches of Herr Heinous. Plus, Agnus Dei makes his move.  
AMOEBIA4 (28 pgs) \$2.00

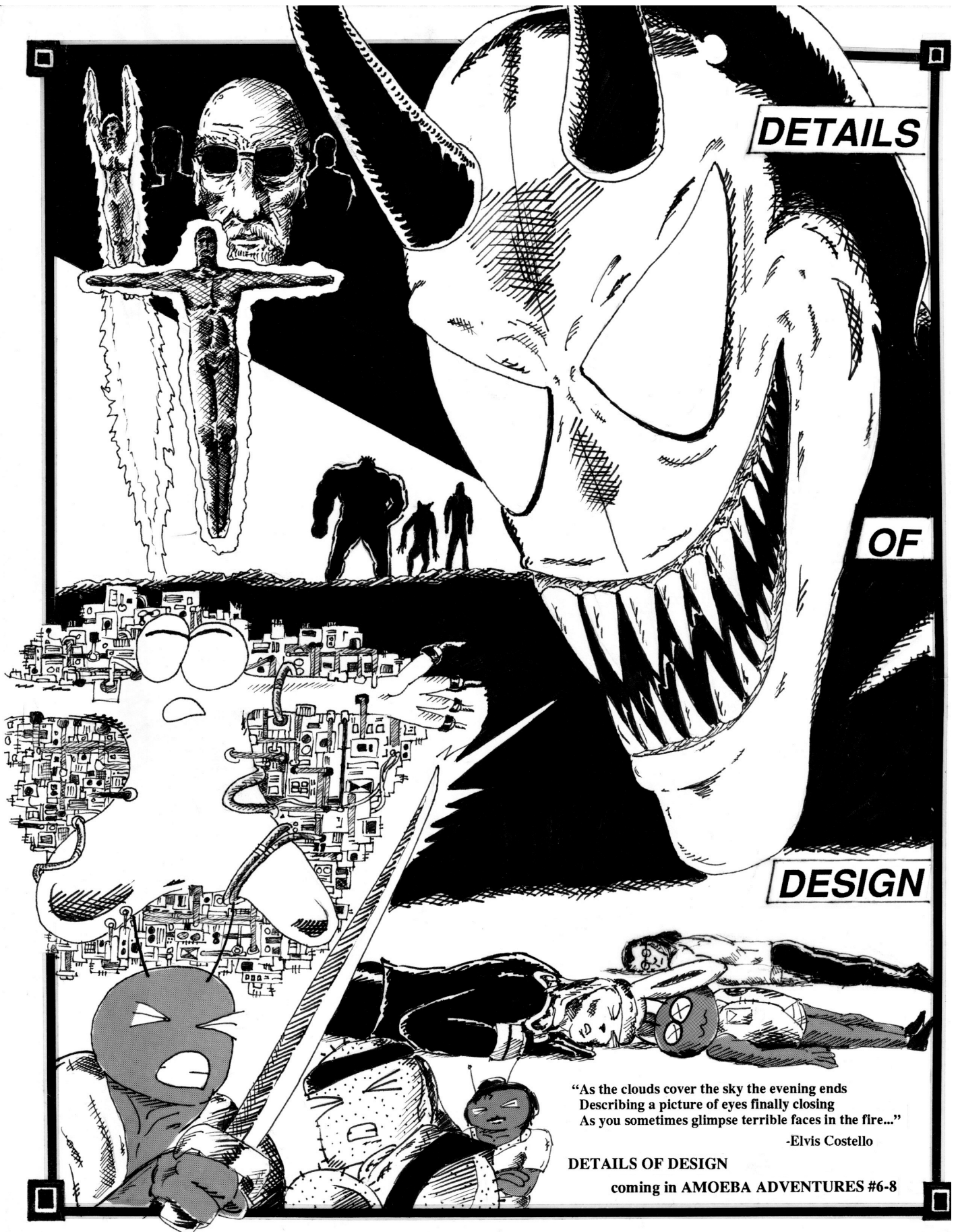
**AMOEBIA ADVENTURES #3** "The Visitor" concludes in an all-out battle against Agnus Dei, in which one of the good guys will die. Not to be missed.  
AMOEBIA3 (28 pgs) \$2.00

**AMOEBIA ADVENTURES #4** Boy cockroaches? Larcenous apes? Coffee shops? And Velcroman? The guys find themselves "Trying To Lead A Normal Life" after "The Visitor," with predictable results.  
AMOEBIA4 (24 pgs) \$1.50

Shipping & Handling: 1 item, 52 cents, 2-3 items, \$1.00, 4 or more, \$2.00. All checks payable to Nik Dirga so I don't get laughed at in the bank. Allow a few weeks for delivery.

Send orders to Protoplasm Press, PO Box 2230, University, MS 38677.





**DETAILS**

**OF**

**DESIGN**

“As the clouds cover the sky the evening ends  
Describing a picture of eyes finally closing  
As you sometimes glimpse terrible faces in the fire...”  
-Elvis Costello

**DETAILS OF DESIGN**

coming in AMOEBA ADVENTURES #6-8



Guest Artist John Hurley explores the sensual theory of penguin lust on a lonely Friday night.