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ADVENTURES™



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THE DARK AGES • 2 OF 8

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AMOEBIA ADVENTURES #21

# THE DARK AGES

PART TWO:

# Faith.



Written and created by Nik Dirga

Pencils, inks and letters by Max Ink

*Cacography Consultant: Ann Bostic*

“Faith? Faith is an island in  
the setting sun...”  
—Paul Simon, “Proof”

**Previously:** In the last several months, we have seen the mysterious Dark One slowly marshal his strength towards the utter destruction of the All-Spongy Squadron. Now, he has finally made his move, with a devastating assault on Rambunny in Columbus, Ohio, that ended with the hero apparently falling to his death. Meanwhile, back in Spongopolis, the rest of the Squadron is dealing with the strange disappearance of Prometheus...

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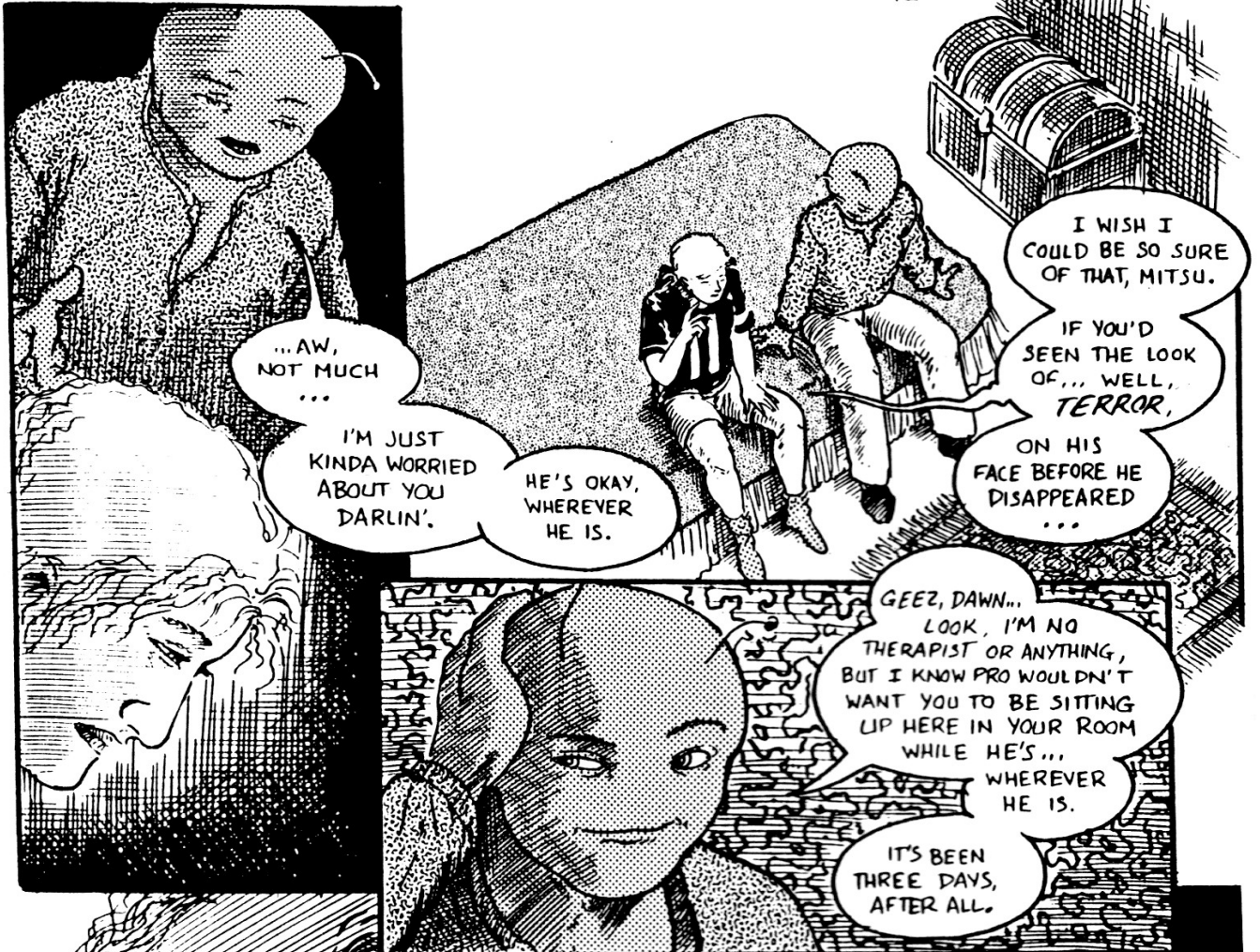
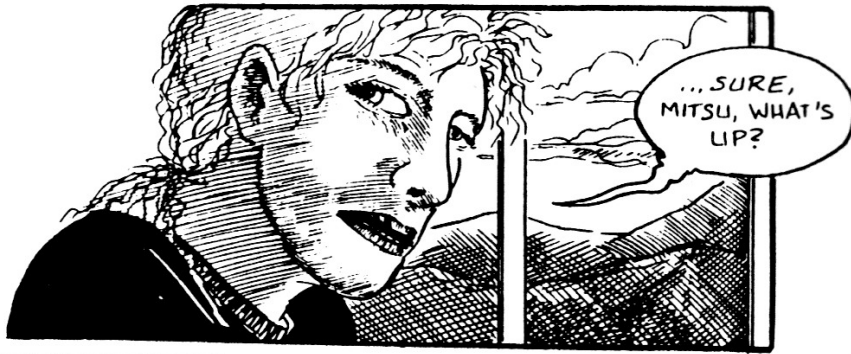


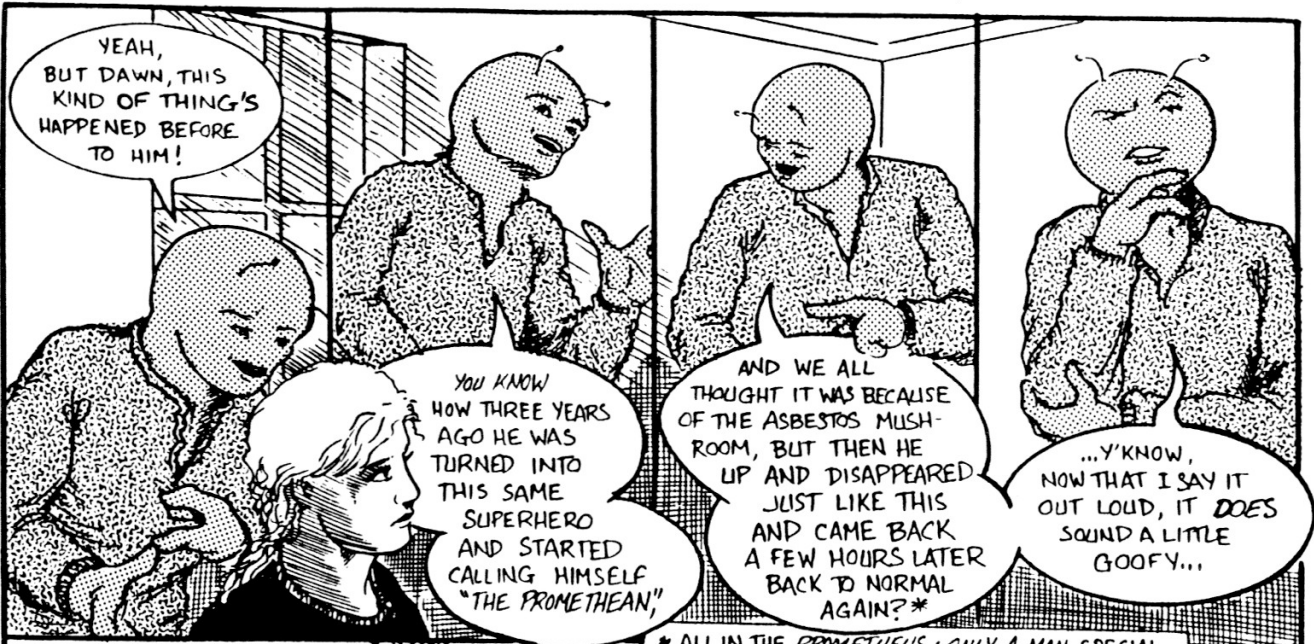
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DAWN?

CAN I COME IN A SEC?





YEAH, BUT DAWN, THIS KIND OF THING'S HAPPENED BEFORE TO HIM!

YOU KNOW HOW THREE YEARS AGO HE WAS TURNED INTO THIS SAME SUPERHERO AND STARTED CALLING HIMSELF "THE PROMETHEAN,"

AND WE ALL THOUGHT IT WAS BECAUSE OF THE ASBESTOS MUSH-ROOM, BUT THEN HE UP AND DISAPPEARED JUST LIKE THIS AND CAME BACK A FEW HOURS LATER BACK TO NORMAL AGAIN?\*

...Y'KNOW, NOW THAT I SAY IT OUT LOUD, IT DOES SOUND A LITTLE GOOFY...

\* ALL IN THE PROMETHEUS: ONLY A MAN SPECIAL.



OKAY, MITSU, I GET YOUR POINT. BECOMING A RECLUSE WAITING FOR HIM TO RETURN ISN'T GOING TO DO ME ANY GOOD.

I JUST HATE FEELING SO HELPLESS ABOUT IT ALL.

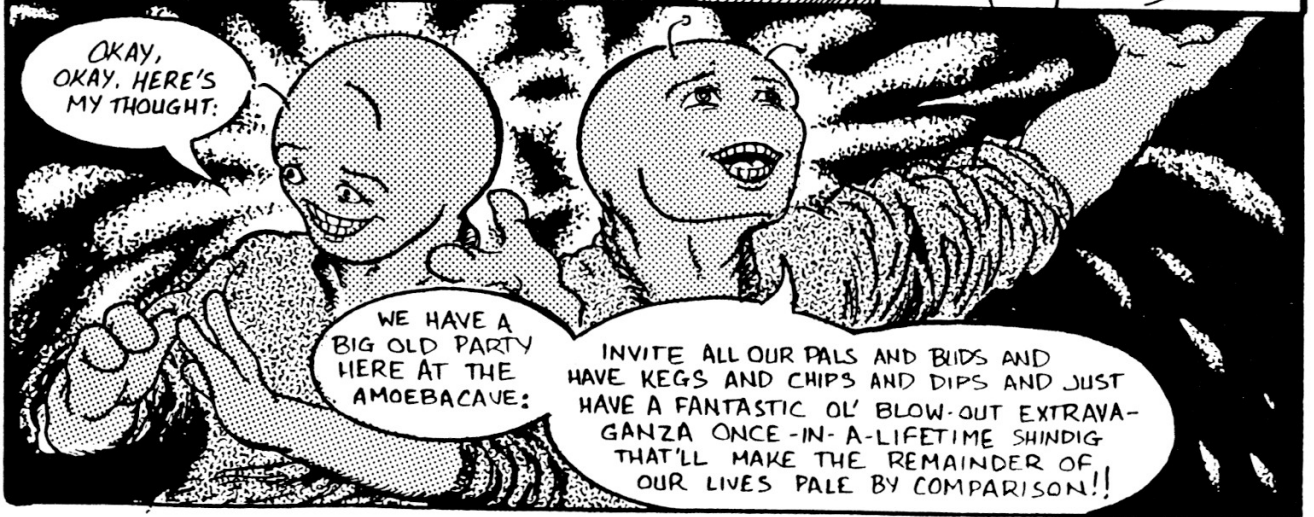


AW, DAWN, THERE'S LOTS WE CAN DO!

We could throw a party, maybe...



SAY AGAIN?



OKAY, OKAY. HERE'S MY THOUGHT:

WE HAVE A BIG OLD PARTY HERE AT THE AMOEBACAVE:

INVITE ALL OUR PALS AND BIDS AND HAVE KEGS AND CHIPS AND DIPS AND JUST HAVE A FANTASTIC OL' BLOW-OUT EXTRAVAGANZA ONCE-IN-A-LIFETIME SHINDIG THAT'LL MAKE THE REMAINDER OF OUR LIVES PALE BY COMPARISON!!





SPIF, OLD SOD! ANY PLANS FOR FRIDAY?

WHATCHA MAKIN'?

SHHH!

...IT'S A VERY DELICATE PIECE DESIGNED TO SENSE AND LOCATE GENETIC PATTERNS REGARDLESS OF THEIR DIMENSIONAL VIBRATORY STATE. I INTEND TO USE IT TO FIND PROMETHEUS.



HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN AT THIS, ANYWAY?

SPIF, YOU'VE JUST GOTTA LOOSEN UP, SON! WE MAY JUST HAVE TO WAIT AND SEE WITH PROMETHEUS, LIKE LAST TIME.

PERHAPS. WHY?

A PARTY, MI AMIGO! A GRAND PARTY HERE IN THE AMOEBACAVE, WITH ALL OF OUR FRIENDS GATHERED TOGETHER IN THIS TIME OF STRUGGLE! A BASH THE LIKES OF WHKH YOU'VE NEVER SEEN!

WHAT DAY OF THE WEEK IS IT?

...I CAN'T ACCEPT THAT HYPOTHESIS, OLD BUDDY.

SHEESH... YOU SCIENTIST TYPES, I DUNNO... THINK YOU CAN CLEAR A FEW HOURS IN YOUR SCHEDULE TOMORROW NIGHT?

HA!

ONLY YOU, MITSU, COULD POSSIBLY CONSIDER THE DISAPPEARANCE OF A DEAR FRIEND THE IMPETUS FOR A PARTY!



HEY, SO YOU'RE IN? GROOVY!

... BUT SPIF, IF YOU DON'T MIND... CLEAN YOURSELF UP A LITTLE BEFORE THE GIG. OKAY? YOU'RE KINDA RIPE.

OUT, BUG BOY.



ABSOLUTELY NOT!

...BUT KARATE KACTUS...

DON'T "KARATE KACTUS" ME, MITSU!

I CAN'T EVEN BELIEVE YOU'D CONSIDER THROWING A PARTY AT A TIME LIKE THIS!

PRO MISSING, DAWN DISTRAUGHT... HARDLY CAUSE FOR CELEBRATION, I'D SAY.



BUT SPIF AND DAWN SAID IT WAS OKAY!

...GO ON.

HONEST, COUSIN, I'M NOT TRYING TO MAKE LIGHT OF WHAT'S HAPPENED! BUT I KNOW AND YOU KNOW THAT WE CAN'T SIT AROUND HERE GOING NUTS ABOUT SOMETHING WE JUST CAN'T HELP RIGHT YET—DAWN MOPING, SPIF TURNING INTO DOCTOR FRANKENSTEIN DOWNSTAIRS, AND YOU BEATING THE HECK OUT OF ALL OUR PUNCHING BAGS.

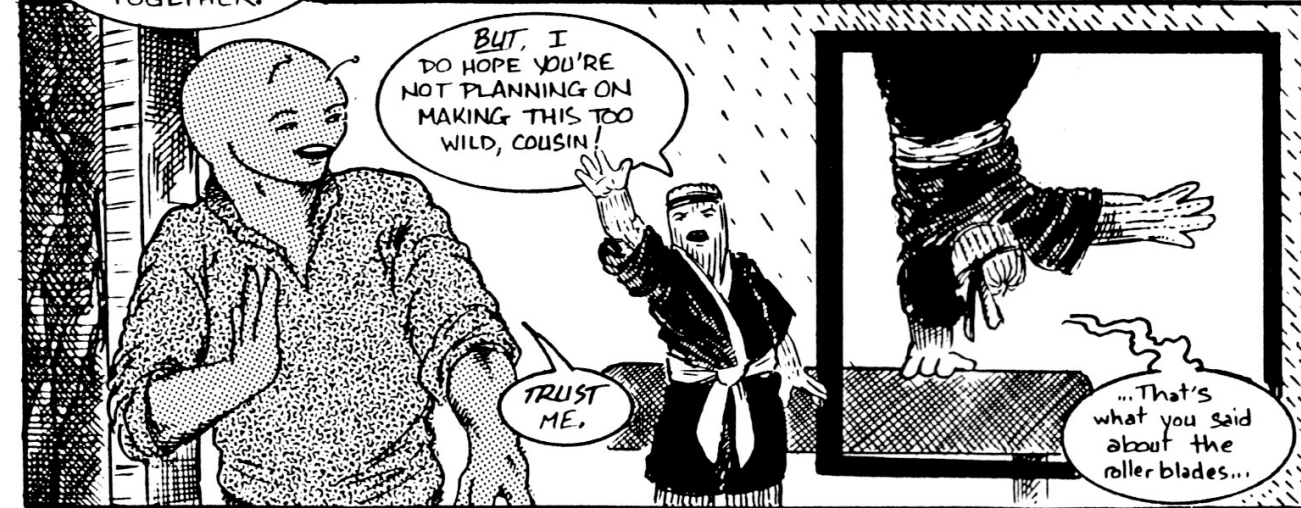
WE NEED A BREAK.

HM. MAYBE YOU ARE RIGHT, MITSU. IT COULD BE GOOD FOR US.

YESSSSS!

LOOK, ISUZU, I THINK IT'S A GOOD IDEA! IT'LL BRING US CLOSER TOGETHER.

Umph!



BUT, I DO HOPE YOU'RE NOT PLANNING ON MAKING THIS TOO WILD, COUSIN!

TRUST ME,

...That's what you said about the rollerblades...



...YOU KNOW, ONE WOULD THINK A TEAM OF WORLD-FAMOUS SUPER-HEROES WOULD HAVE BETTER PARKING AVAILABLE...

...NARTH, WE DIDN'T HAVE TO WALK UP TOO FAR...

IGUBALA! NARTH BOK! HOLA! WELCOME TO CASA de SPONGE!

WOW, CHECK YOU OUT! THIS ISN'T A FORMAL PARTY, IS IT?

THANKS FOR INVITING US UP, MITSU!

WE DON'T SEE YOU GUYS ENOUGH!

SO WHO ALL IS HERE, ANYWAY?

OH...

NAH, I'M JUST MY USUAL STYLISH SELF! GOOD TO SEE YOU KIDS AGAIN!



...PRETTY MUCH EVERYBODY!



THERE'S SOMEONE I'D LIKE YOU TO MEET!

NARTH BOK, IOUBALA, THIS IS MY DATE, KILLIAN — SHE'S A PROFESSIONAL MODEL!

IT'S NICE TO MEET YOU BOTH.

THE PLEASURE'S ALL MINE.

UM, YES...



YOU GUYS MINGLE! SAY HI TO THE OTHERS! WE'VE GOT THE ROUNDS TO DO, YOU KNOW...

I THOUGHT HE WAS STILL SEEING KYOKO...

WELL, GUESS NOT.

HEY, THERE'S DR. CHEN!

...IT WAS THEN I BECAME FULLY AWARE OF THE GREAT POWER HE POSSESSED...

AMAZING, SIMPLY AMAZING ...

WHERE ARE THE KEGS AT, ANYWAY?

SO WHERE'S THAT FREAKIN' DOGHLUMPER RAMBUNNY AT?

HE OWES ME A DAMN DRINK!

I'M SO GLAD YOU WERE ABLE TO COME BY, E'MELLE...

I LIKED YOU BETTER WITHOUT YOUR BEARD...

...REALLY, LIKE EVEN CUTER IN PERSON...

...SO THEN.

LIKE,

SHE SAID TO HIM,

LIKE...

... YOU DON'T SAY?...

WOW, I DIDN'T REALIZE YOU GUYS KNEW SO MANY PEOPLE!

...er, ACTUALLY, POWERWUS, WE AREN'T SURE WHERE RAMBUNNY'S SITUATED THESE DAYS...

ACTUALLY, I'M NOT SURE WE DO...

WELL, THINGS HAVE BEEN SO CRAZY WITH THE DIVORCE AND ALL...

IT FEELS GOOD TO GET OUT SOME.

MOM, LOOKIT! LOOKIT!



A FINE CELEBRATION, MITSU! YOU'VE DONE WELL!

\*HIC\*  
AWW—  
AZ, IT AIN'T HARDLY NOTHIN!  
\*HIC\*



HEY, DAWN, EVERYTHING ALL RIGHT?

...OH, ALEX, IT'S OKAY...

JUST IF I HEAR ONE MORE PERSON ASK ME "WHERE'S PROMETHEUS," I MIGHT SCREAM. I ALMOST WISH EVERYONE KNEW AS MUCH AS WE DID, I WOULDN'T FEEL SO ALONE.



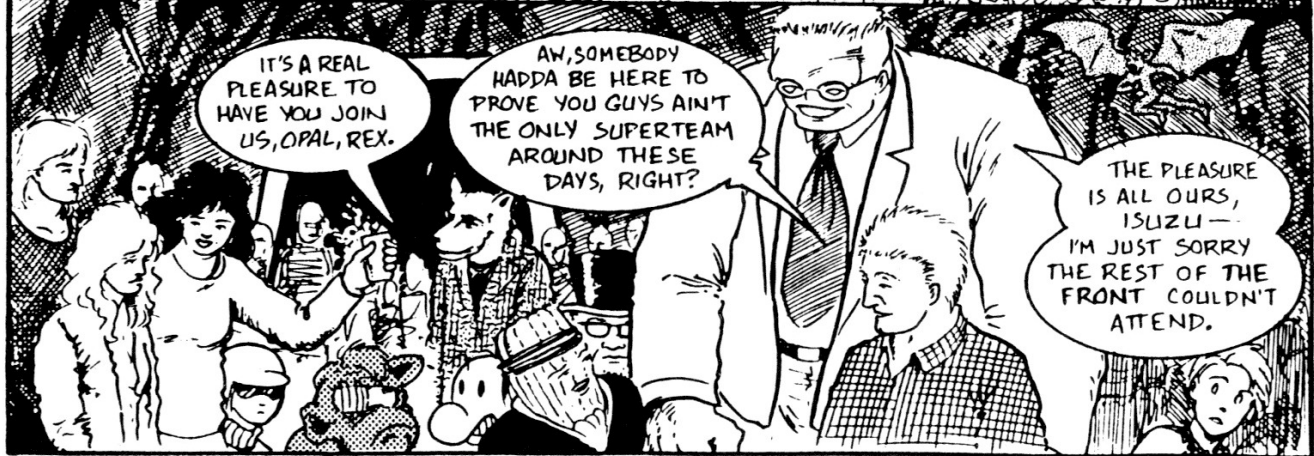
DAWN, YOU'RE DOING FINE. SURROUNDED BY OUR FRIENDS, EVERYONE LAUGHING... JUST PUT PROMETHEUS OUT OF YOUR MIND. IN THIS LIFE, WE SHOULD WORRY ABOUT THE FEW THINGS WE CAN CONTROL, RATHER THAN ALL THE ONES WE CAN'T, RIGHT?



OKAY, OKAY, ALEX, YOU GOT ME.

I'M GONNA STOP SITTING HERE MOPING, AND YOU, MY FRIEND, ARE GOING TO JOIN ME IN THE KITCHEN FOR A BEER!

NOW THAT'S MORE LIKE IT! BRING ON THE FLAGONS OF ALE!



IT'S A REAL PLEASURE TO HAVE YOU JOIN US, OPAL, REX.

AW, SOMEBODY HADDA BE HERE TO PROVE YOU GUYS AIN'T THE ONLY SUPERTeam AROUND THESE DAYS, RIGHT?

THE PLEASURE IS ALL OURS, ISUZU— I'M JUST SORRY THE REST OF THE FRONT COULDN'T ATTEND.



WHOOOPS!

SORRY, GUYS!

HOW'S YOU ALL DOIN'?

BETTER IF YOU GIMME ONE OF WHAT YOU BEEN HAVIN', BUDDY!

OLE!

...AND HOW'S OUR MOST MYSTERIOUS PATIENT?

SEE FOR YOURSELF.

THANK YOU, NURSE...

EMERGENCY HOSPITAL

...NO CHANGE, I SEE.

BROKEN BONES, CONTUSIONS, INTERNAL INJURIES, POSSIBLE BRAIN DAMAGE...

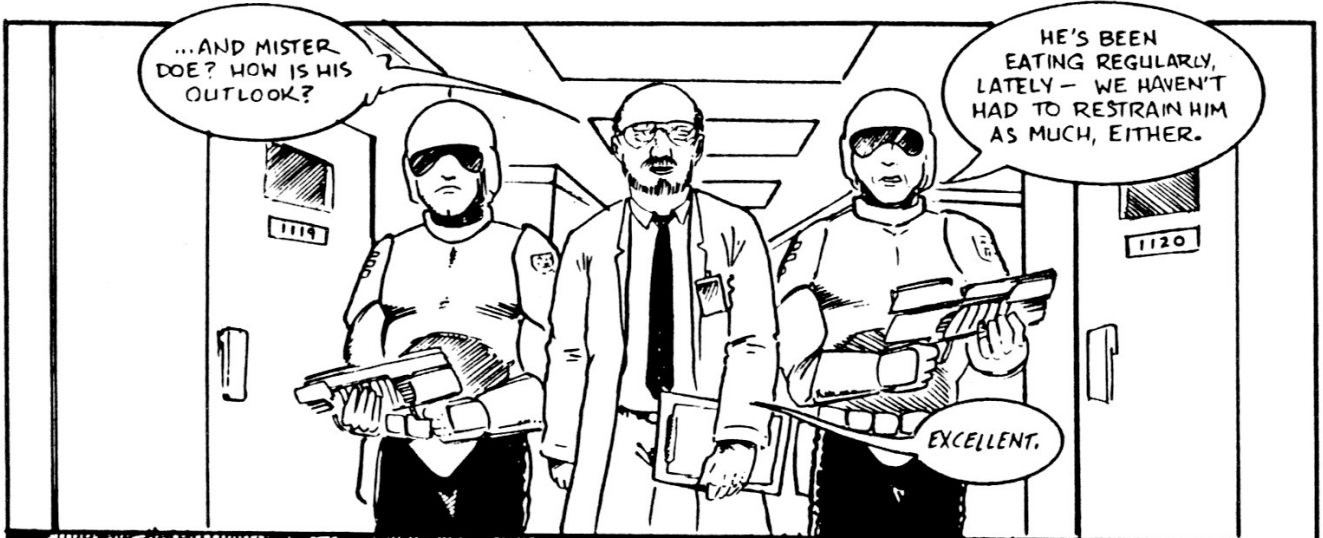
...YOU KNOW, NURSE. I'VE NEVER SEEN A MAN AS BATTERED AS THIS ONE STILL MANAGE TO LOOK SO DAMNED MAD.



IT'S TOO BAD HE'S MOST LIKELY NEVER GETTING OUT OF THAT BED AGAIN...

...BECAUSE IF HE EVER DID —

I SURE PITY THE GUY WHO DID THIS TO HIM.





...WHAT DO YOU THINK?

WELL, DON'T YOU EVER TELL MITSU THIS, BUT I THINK IT WAS A GOOD IDEA.

IT'S BEEN GREAT TO SEE ALL OF OUR FRIENDS AGAIN, EVERYONE'S HAVING A BLAST...

CONCERT!

...AND NO MAJOR PROPERTY DAMAGE HAS BEEN DONE.

HEY, DAWN, CAN YOU DO US A FAVOR?

SURE, ALEX, WHAT IS IT?

KREACH!



WELL, WE'RE OUT OF GUINNESS, AND THAT IRISH GUY FROM *THE FRONT* IS REFUSING TO DRINK ANY OF "THAT BLEEDIN' DOMESTIC CRAP" AS HE CALLS IT.

...NOW HERE'S A NOBLE USE FOR MY POWERS. A BEER RUN.

YOU MIND RUNNING DOWN TO THE QUIK-E FOR A SEC?

WOO!

THANKS, DAWN! I'LL GO TELL MR. DOYLE TO STOP TEARING UP THE KITCHEN...

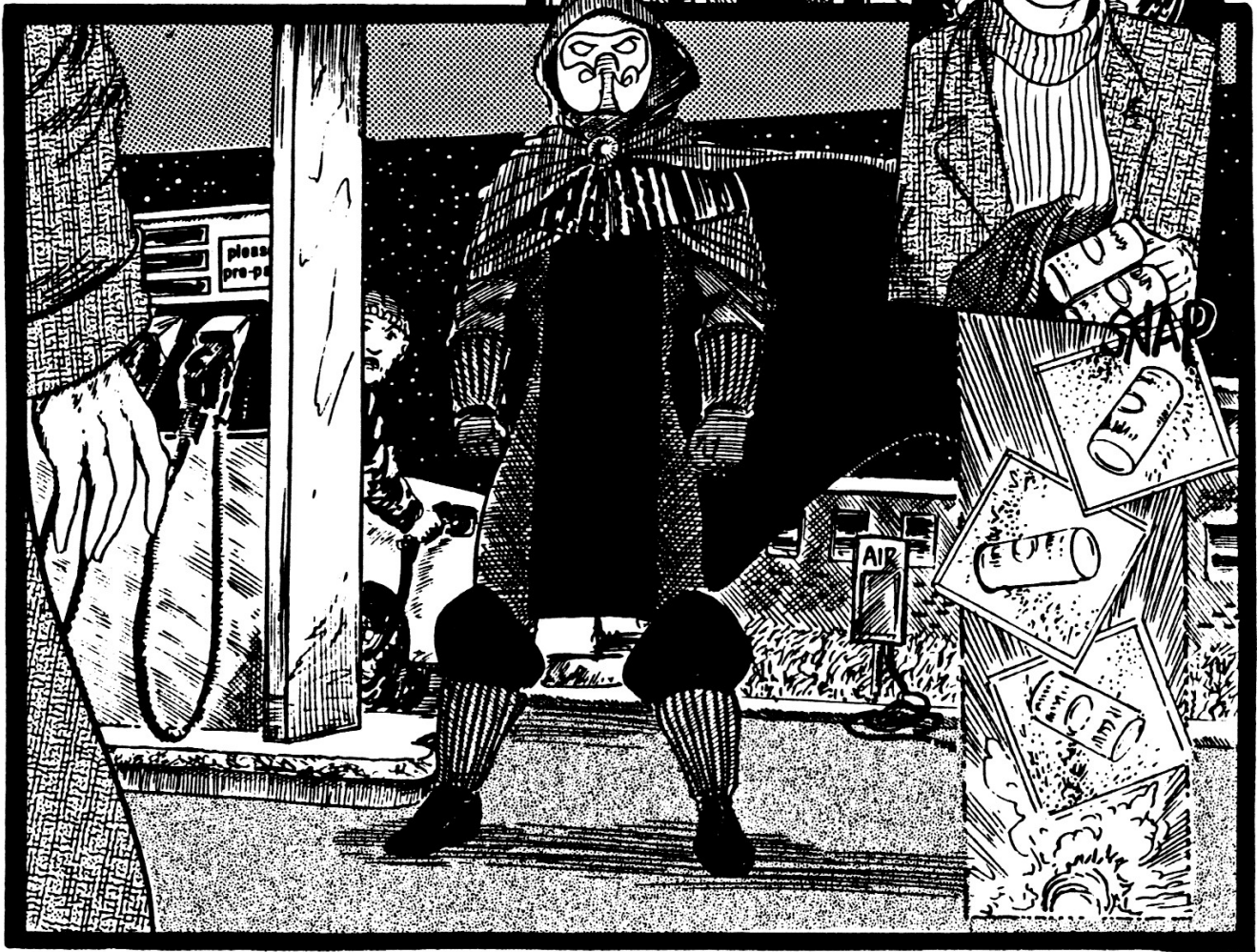
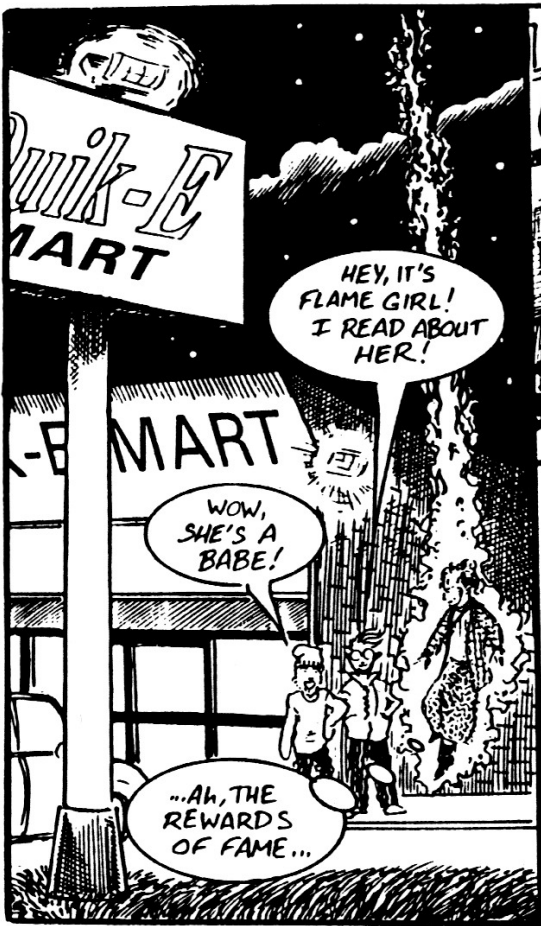
ALL FOR A GOOD CAUSE, YOUR BAD LUCK TO BE THE ONLY ONE OF US WHO CAN FLY, EW?

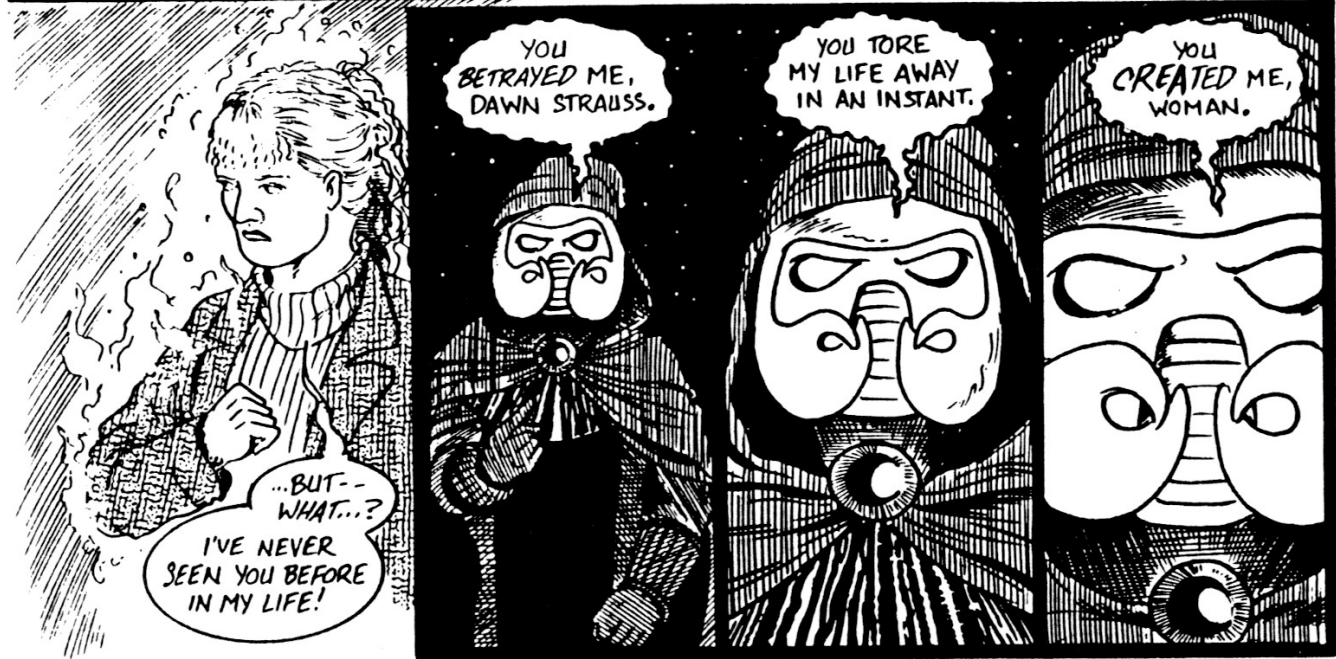
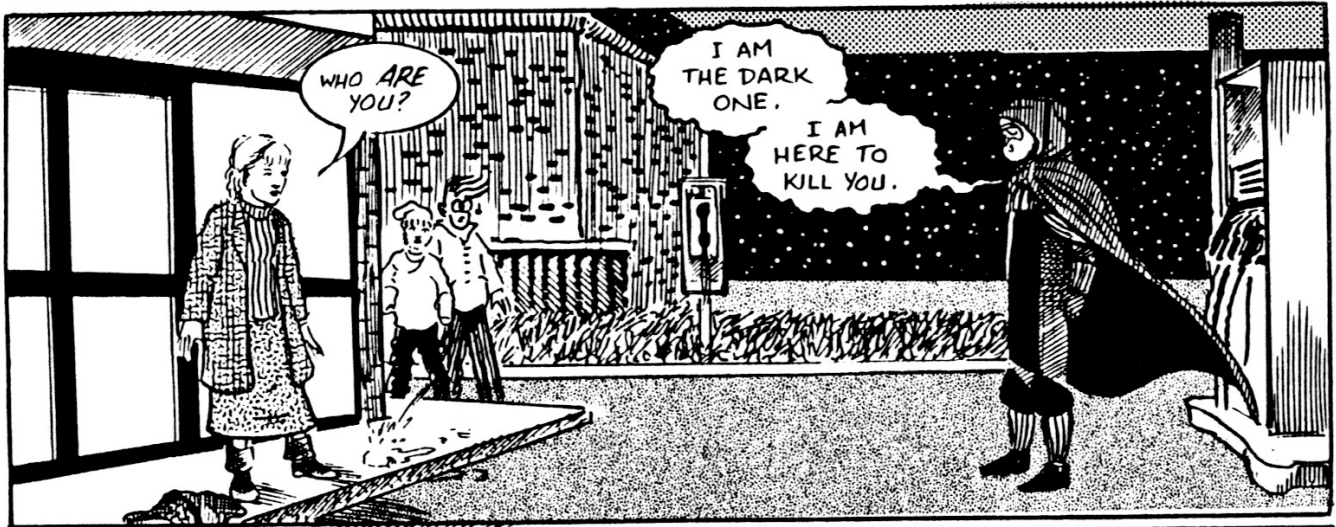


...IF PRO WERE HERE, THIS WOULD ALMOST BE A PERFECT DAY.

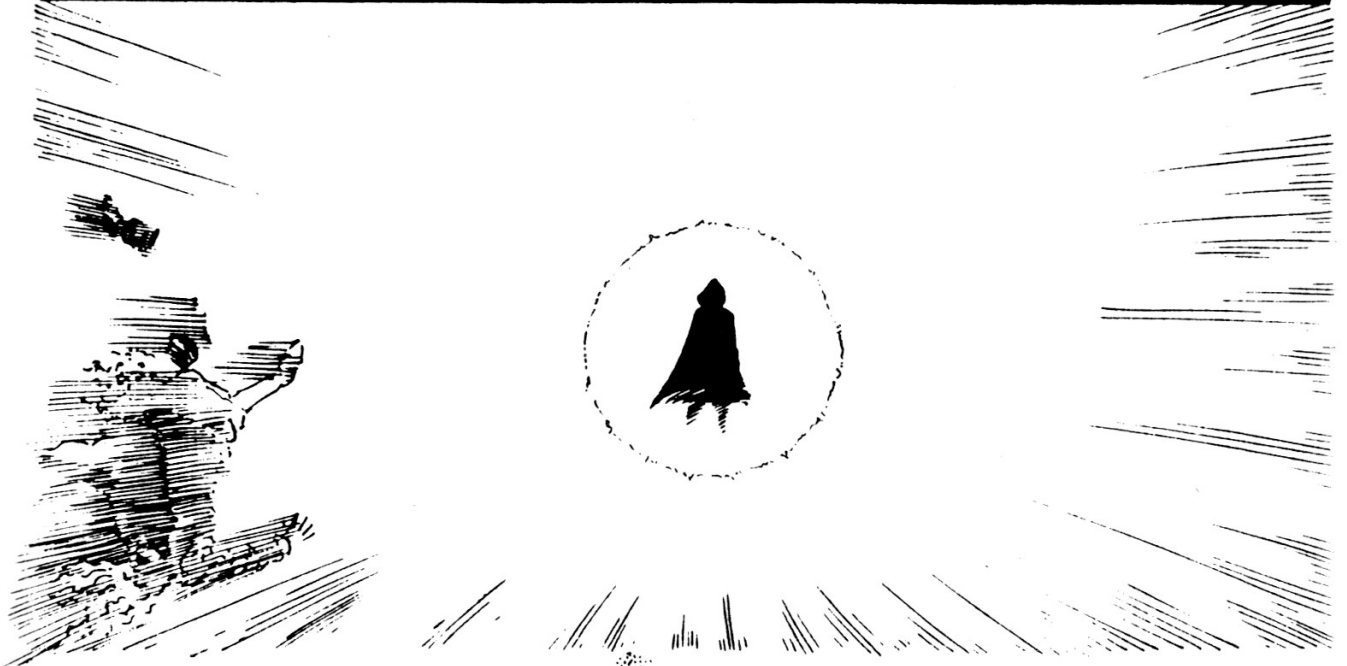
I JUST CAN'T GET HIM OUT OF MY HEAD ENTIRELY...

SOMEHOW, MAKING A BEER RUN SEEMS LIKE THE LAST THING I SHOULD BE DOING...











ooh...

...MAN...

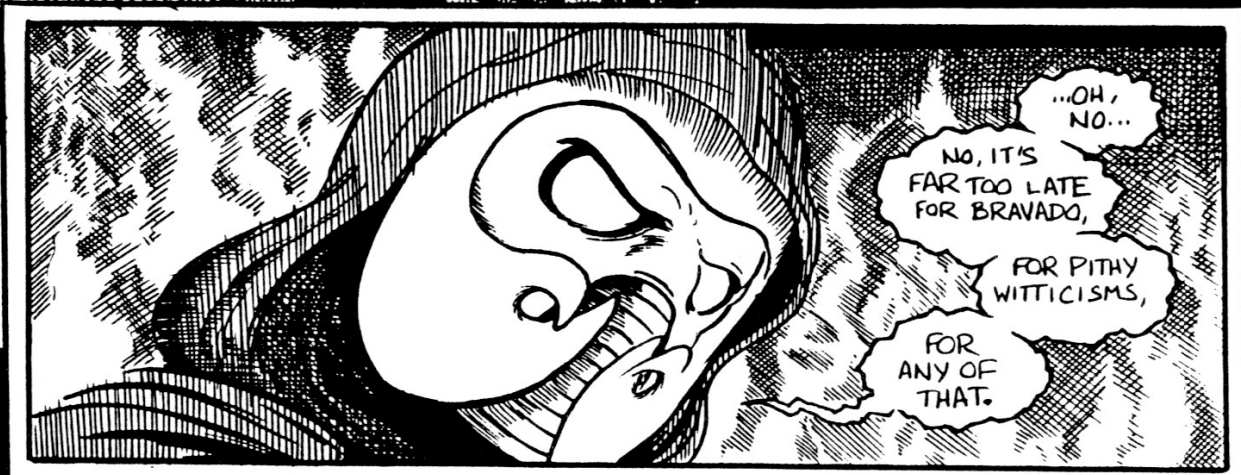
...AN IMPRESSIVE  
SHOW OF FORCE,  
DAWN,  
BUT  
WOEFULLY  
ILL-PLACED.



...AND WHERE  
ARE YOUR  
TEAMMATES  
NOW?

WHERE  
PRAY TELL, IS  
YOUR AMOEBIA  
LOVER?

...screw  
you...



...OH,  
NO...

NO, IT'S  
FAR TOO LATE  
FOR BRAVADO,

FOR PITHY  
WITTICISMS,

FOR  
ANY OF  
THAT.



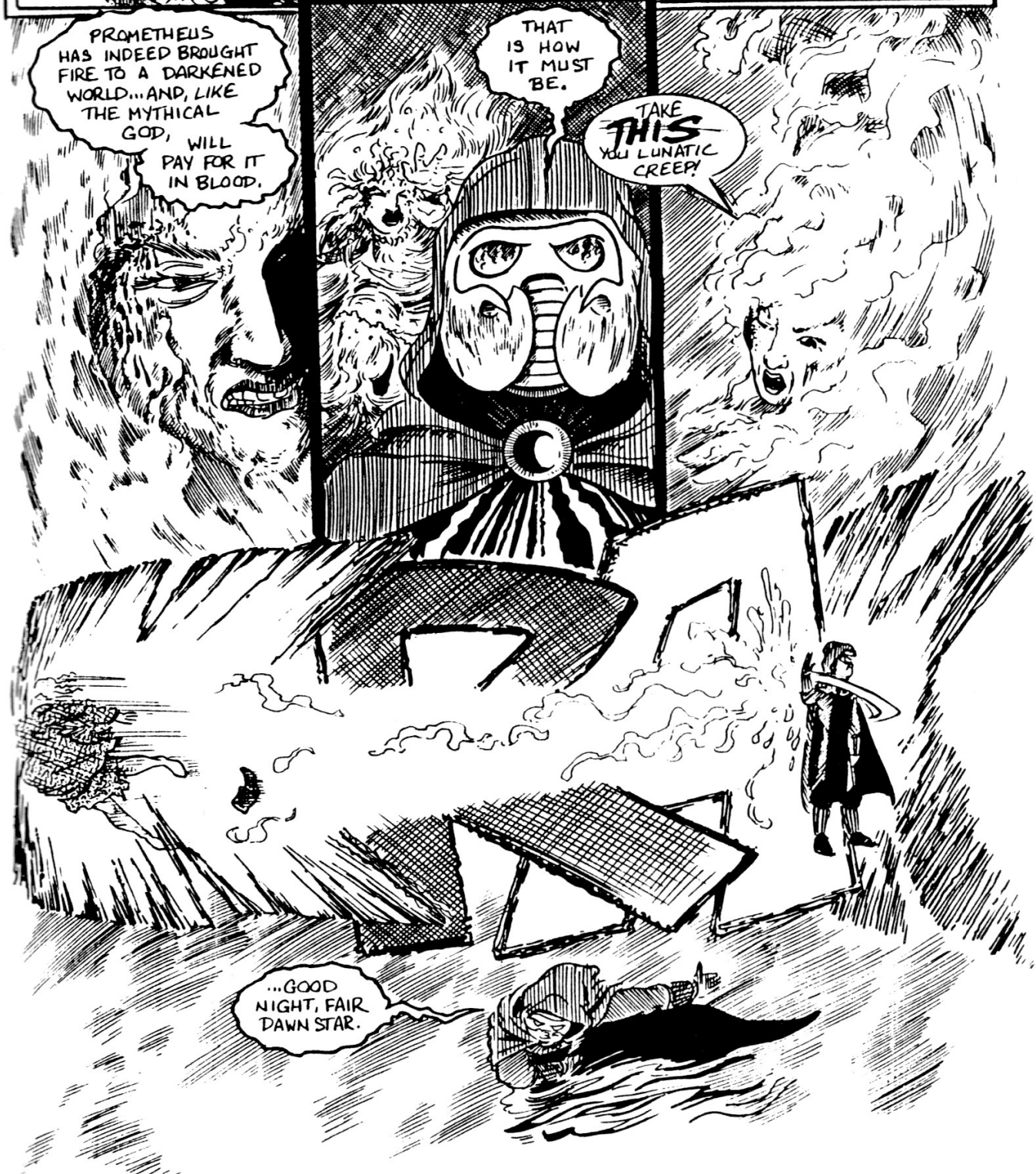
...WHAT A FEARSOME AND BEAUTIFUL POWER YOU HAVE, DAWN.

THE VERY FLAMES OF CREATION FLOWING IN YOUR VEINS ...

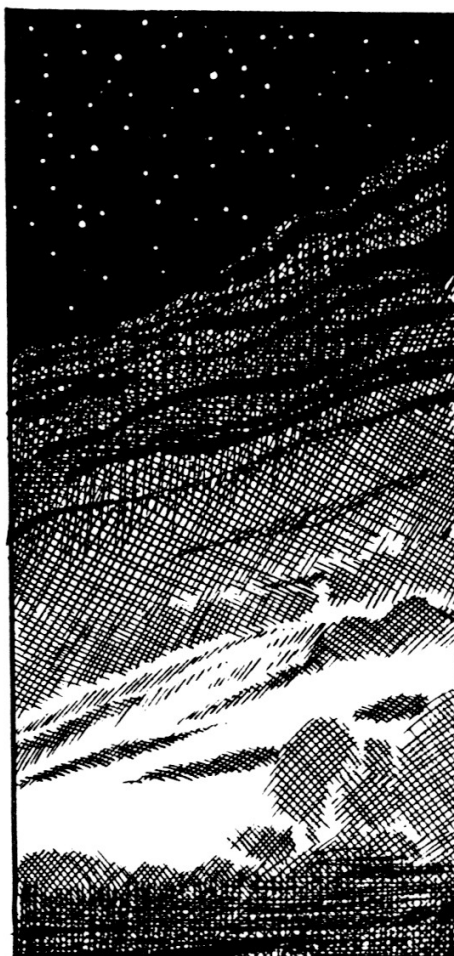
PROMETHEUS HAS INDEED BROUGHT FIRE TO A DARKENED WORLD...AND, LIKE THE MYTHICAL GOD, WILL PAY FOR IT IN BLOOD.

THAT IS HOW IT MUST BE.

TAKE **THIS** YOU LUNATIC CREEP!



...GOOD NIGHT, FAIR DAWN STAR.







MACABRE!

IT'S ABOUT TIME YOU GOT HERE!

...CARE FOR A SCONE?

**NEXT: A HIGHER TRUTH**

## the slimeball speaks

...AS WE WERE frantically rushing around back in November putting *Amoeba Adventures* #20 and our *Fifth Anniversary Special* together in time for the Mid-Ohio Con, I got a package in the mail from Canada. Opened it up to find... a Prometheus pinup by Dave Sim??! Max had asked the *Cerebus* creator at one of the Spirits of Independence stops if he'd be able to do a sketch of one of our characters for our fifth anniversary — we'd both forgotten about it by November, received the sketch but didn't have any room left for it in the *Fifth Anniversary Special*! Argh! Well, as you all saw, we managed to stick it on the back cover last issue, but didn't have time to mention anything about it on the inside. So... thanks, Dave, for your incredible support of us and small press in general. You are the wind beneath our wings, er, or something like that. A tip of the hat also goes to *Flash*, *Thor* and *Wonder Woman* writer Bill Messner-Loebs, a fan of *Amoeba* and one heck of a nice guy to boot, who supplied us with our back cover sketch this issue.

...There's a little restructuring going on here at Protoplasm Press as we march boldly into 1996. Max and I have decided to divvy up our responsibilities starting with this issue... All correspondence, "fan mail," subscription and back issue orders will still go to me down here in the heart of darkness, but if you're a *retailer* interested in carrying AA in your store, please contact Max Ink at our brand-new Protoplasm Press Ohio Division office: 276 Mainsail Drive, Westerville OH 43081, phone (614) 899-1809. Also, Max is still offering a selection of *Amoeba Adventures* original art for sale; drop him a line or call him if you're interested in purchasing some — it makes a fine wall decoration, trust me! Max is also currently being "shadowed"... no, not by the CIA, but by a local high school student named Michael Yao, who's hoping to pick up some tips from the Max-ster as part of a school project.

...A while back in the pages of the Small Press Syndicate's newsletter *Rap Sheet*, some of my peers like Will Pfeifer, Troy Hickman and Mike Neno took time out to list 50 of the biggest influences on their work. I found this

pretty fascinating stuff that gives an interesting insight into the creator, so I thought I might fill up the rest of my space here this issue by doing the same thing. Thus, my 50 biggest influences on my work, in no particular order: Will Eisner; Peter David's run on *The Incredible Hulk*; L. Frank Baum's *Oz* series; George Orwell's *1984*; Lee & Ditko's and Stern & Romita Jr.'s *Amazing Spider-Man*; Mark Twain; Charles Schulz; *Doonesbury*; Jules Feiffer; Tom Waits; Paul Chadwick's *Concrete*; Woody Allen; Bob Burden and *The Flaming Carrot*; Northern California, where I grew up; William Shakespeare; *Watchmen*; Dan Clowes; *Hepcats*; Peter Gabriel; *All-Star Squadron*; Comedian David Brenner's *Soft Pretzels With Mustard*; Pre-#200 *X-Men*; Pepsi — the hallucinogen of a new generation; Quentin Tarantino; *Star Wars* (the films, comics, toys, *et al*); Alan Moore's "Last Superman Story" (*Action Comics* #583, *Superman* #423); David Cronenberg's 1986 remake of *The Fly*; John Byrne; Hergé's *Tintin*; Theodore Roosevelt; My junior high teacher Mrs. Estin; Kurt Vonnegut, Jr.; Franz Kafka; *Cerebus*; Stephen King; my 1979 trip to Europe; John Irving; Cormac McCarthy; Harlan Ellison; *Guided By Voices*; Hugh Lofting's *Dr. Dolittle* books; *Daredevil: Born Again* by Miller & Mazzuchelli; Abraham & The Dead Slugs (homegrown tapes friends and I did in the mid-80s); Alan Moore's *Swamp Thing*; Grant Morrison; John Updike; Max Ink; Kim Taylor; Chris Matthews & Galaxy Comics; corny though it may sound — life itself, and the endless drama and comedy that plays out around us.

...In this issue's grand party scene, Max and I crammed in as many small press and other comic characters as we could stand. I even made a couple of characters more prominent (I gave them dialogue, in other words). For letting me toss their guys in the mix, thanks to Jason Marcy, creator of Powerwus (write him at 34-337 E. 42nd St., Hamilton, Ontario, Canada L8T 3A6 and send a few bucks for some cool comics), and Jerzy Drozd, creator of The Front (send him a couple o' clams for the latest issue of his superb *Bocefus Comics Presents* at P.O. Box 221, Mt. Pleasant MI 48858).

Yikes, I'm outta space—

Ⓟ, NFKRGA

# Amoebama!l

PO Box 2230  
University MS 38677



**Troy Hickman**  
3200 S. 9th St. Apt. A  
Lafayette, IN 47905

*Amoeba Adventures* #20 was a great example of why this book has lasted for five years. You and Max have crafted what is almost a single (though lengthy) scene, certainly something we don't normally see in comics. We as readers (suddenly I'm plural!) can really feel what Rambunny is going through. You've made us live through it, much the way Lee and Ditko did in the classic *Spider-Man* #33 (I think that's the one; it's the "trapped under rubble" issue). A great job from both you guys.

*(Troy, of course, is one of small press's funniest and most renowned writers, and publisher of such fine books as Holey Crullers! and Twilight Guardian. Drop him a few bucks and ask for his latest. - Nik)*

**Michael Neno**  
P.O. Box 151303  
Columbus, OH 43215

I just had the pleasure of reading *Amoeba Adventures* #18 and 19 together, along with the *Spif* special which I picked up from Max in Pittsburgh. You don't need me to tell you that this series deserves all the acclaim it's getting (by coincidence, I was just reading a copy of *Factsheet Five* in a store this morning, and ran across a highly complimentary review of your series). I imagine a great deal of your readership appreciates AA for being as similarly good as mainstream comics used to be.

It will be interesting to see in which direction the series now turns; I know you better (I think!) than to expect you to "darken" Prometheus (or other characters). One thematic thread I can pick out is that happiness is fleeting and should thus be treasured (i.e. I don't think it's a coincidence that this dark turn of events is happening soon after Prometheus has found himself in love). All I can say is: with the continuance of the present team at the helm, *Amoeba Adventures* is an ipso facto success.

*(Well, Michael, you've likely read the first two parts of "The Dark Ages" by now; hopefully we haven't "darkened" it too much for you. While there are some fairly intense sequences in this*

*saga, I still try to balance it out with moments of levity and light. Michael, by the way, puts out a nifty little comic called The Destructo Force, which is like Jack Kirby by way of David Lynch, and was one of my favorite comics of 1995. Drop him \$2 for a copy today!)*

**Denny Stephens**  
P.O. Box 716  
Ortonville, MI 48462

Congratulations on yet another exciting issue of *Amoeba Adventures*. I'd go into the usual ravings about how good #19 was, except you already know what I'd say and I'm sure you'll have plenty of smoke blown up your butt by the small press community without me having to contribute my own. I have to admit I was disappointed that the team was able to beat the heroin rap so easily. I didn't get the sense that they had actually proven anything, they just konked the Mushroom dude and the next thing I know, "Good work, boys, looks like you've cleared yourselves of this heinous crime." HUH?! In light of the oncoming Dark Ages, I was thinking things would get a lot worse before they'd get better, and I never thought they'd get better so easily or so quickly. It felt like you derailed a possible story tack in favor of some other plot direction.

I'm just hackin' on ya, but I can say this: your series seems to have hit its stride in the last five or six issues. I'm reminded of reading *Cerebus* from its beginnings and seeing a great deal of experimentation and exploration before the story jelled and took on a life and direction of its own. AA seems to be doing this right now. Your last few issues have had a unified look, steady characterization, and a focused, ongoing story. It's clear that from the experience of the previous five years, your writing skills have become solid, and they've melded around Max's art style. You're able at this point to handle a really complex storyline and keep it going with fewer and fewer "burps."

*(Speaking of burps, Denny puts out a nifty little comic about a rather rude and crude superhero named F-Man. The latest issue, #10, a superb Arabian Knights parody, is available from him for a few bucks. And that heroin thing — we haven't heard the last of it, Den! Further developments will happen around #23. Stay tuned!)*

**Mail's been a bit low lately, gang: please keep those cards and letters coming: we really do value your thoughts, comments, criticism, caveats, and so forth! Join us back here in 60 days in *Amoeba Adventures* #22 for "Truth," and the complete origin of Prometheus!**



# Jerry Siegel: 1914 - 1996

*Niknote: I did this column for the Feb. 8 issue of the weekly alternative newspaper I work for. I thought I might share it with our Amoeba Adventures readers as well.*

SOMEONE YOU PROBABLY never heard of died on January 28: a Cleveland, Ohio man named Jerry Siegel. He was 81: an old, old man, but despite his death, and his relative personal anonymity, Jerry Siegel's work will live on forever.

You may have never heard of Siegel, but you *have* heard of his creation. Need a hint? "More powerful than a speeding bullet... able to leap tall buildings at a single bound..." Jerry Siegel and his late partner Joe Shuster were the creators of Superman, a true American legend who has been flying high for almost 60 years in comic books, movies and television.

Superman is one of the 20th century's most instantly recognizable icons, right up there with Mickey Mouse and James Bond. He has appeared in thousands of comic books, dozens of movies, and several TV series since his debut in *Action Comics*#1 in 1938. Clark Kent, mild-mannered reporter; Lois Lane, intrepid journalist; Kryptonite, Superman's fatal weakness — these and countless other fragments of the Superman mythos have long since been absorbed into pop culture.

Jerry Siegel was still just a teenager when he and his buddy Joe Shuster dreamed up the Man of Steel in the mid-1930s. Siegel was the writer, coming up with the cast and endless villains their hero would face. Shuster was the artist, who came up with the distinctive red-and-blue costume and "S" emblem. In 1937, the pair sold the character to DC Comics, where the adventures of Superman are published to this day.

For their creation, Siegel and Shuster received \$130.

Not \$130 each. Just \$130, which wasn't even all that much back in 1937.

Siegel and Shuster ultimately lost out on the uncounted millions of dollars Superman earned for DC. They'd signed away the rights to the character when they sold him, you see. They were just kids, barely in their 20s — \$130 must've seemed like a heck of a lot of money for their little caped crusader.

Siegel and Shuster eventually learned they'd been given the raw end of the deal by DC, and they sued for more money in 1947. For their troubles, they were fired from DC

Comics and didn't get a cent in recompense from the company, which was then one of the biggest comics producers on the planet — a monolith of a corporation, with almost all of its fortune resting firmly on the shoulders of the gaudy four-colored dreams of two teenage boys from Cleveland.

DC was finally shamed into action in the 1970s, when the now-retired Siegel and Shuster reemerged — Joe Shuster legally blind now, from all those years of drawing superheroes in dimly-lit working conditions. The image of these two broken and destitute old men was horrible PR for a company that was now readying the release of its 1979 blockbuster film version of Superman — and so DC Comics, with the magnanimous kind of empty gesture only a corporation can give, awarded Shuster and Siegel a \$20,000 annual stipend for life and restored their creators credits.

\$20,000 each, this time. It wasn't enough. It wasn't nearly enough.

There are many schools of thought about the notion of doing art for profit — and despite the views of some, the creation of Superman *was* art, an art that touched the dreams of millions. Many art purists say that the creation *itself* is the true value. Many art purists say that money itself is inconsequential, that no *true* artist cares about financial gain.

There is money, and then there is justice. Siegel and Shuster's being fired from the company they helped build, and then virtually ignored for 30 years, was an injustice. Their hero was invulnerable to all harm, but his creators were certainly not.

Both of those long-ago teenaged boys who created Superman are dead now — Shuster died in 1992 — but their creation is still flying high. Who knows where the next Jerry Siegel is, the next creator of a legend... who just may find the same fate, stripped of his creation and dignity by a faceless corporate entity he dared to trust?

There is money, and then there is justice.

Jerry Siegel got neither; but through his creation, he got something better, something that outlasts all the greed and money in the world: immortality.



## SLAM-BANG BACK ISSUE EXTRAVAGANZA!

**AMOEBA ADVENTURES #1** - Beginning the continuing saga of the All-Spongy Squadron's adventures! 24 page mid-mag, \$2.00

**AMOEBA ADVENTURES #2** - Prometheus alone has to free his friends from the clutches of Herr Heinous. 28 page mid-mag, \$2.00

**AMOEBA ADVENTURES #3** - "The Visitor" concludes dramatically as someone *dies!* 24 page mid-mag - \$2.00

**AMOEBA ADVENTURES #4** - The introduction of Raoul the Boy Cockroach! 24 page mid-mag, \$2.00

**AMOEBA ADVENTURES #5** - Special double-sized issue guest-starring David Letterman! 36 page mid-mag - \$2.50

**AMOEBA ADVENTURES #6** - Kicking off the five-part "Details of Design" storyline. 16 page digest - \$1.00

**AMOEBA ADVENTURES #7** - Rambunny takes on Macabre. 16 page digest - \$1.00

**AMOEBA ADVENTURES #8** - Where is Prometheus? 16 page digest - \$1.00

**AMOEBA ADVENTURES #9** - The amazing debut of Manipulator and Dawn Star. 24 page digest - \$1.00

**AMOEBA ADVENTURES #10** - The huge conclusion to "Details of Design." 36 page digest - \$2.00

**AMOEBA ADVENTURES #11** - Artist Max Ink and guest-inker Larry Towsley lend their talents to "Little Earthquakes." 28 page digest - \$1.50

**AMOEBA ADVENTURES #12** - Special monumentally anniversary issue featuring guest artists! 72 page digest - \$3.50

**AMOEBA ADVENTURES #13** - Featuring the long-awaited return of Herr Heinous. Winner of the UFO Award for Best Single Comic of 1994. 24 page digest - \$1.50

**AMOEBA ADVENTURES #14** - Max Ink takes charge of both the art and writing in this very special Domestic Violence and Abuse Awareness Issue. 48 page digest - \$2.50

**AMOEBA ADVENTURES #15** - Introducing the Mindmaster. 24 page digest - \$1.50

**AMOEBA ADVENTURES #16** - Max Ink jumps aboard as the new regular artist in "Time's Up!" 44 page digest - \$2.00

**AMOEBA ADVENTURES #17** - At long last, the return of Rambunny! 32 page digest - \$2.00

**AMOEBA ADVENTURES #18** - The Period, The Asbestos Mushroom and more! 32 page digest, \$2.00

**AMOEBA ADVENTURES #19** - A shocking turning point for Prometheus. 32 page digest, \$2.00

**AMOEBA ADVENTURES #20** - Part one of "The Dark Ages," as Rambunny faces the full brunt of The Dark One's wrath. 28 page digest, \$2.00

**PROMETHEUS: THE SILENT STORM** - The All-Spongy Squadron's lives are hit by the AIDS epidemic, as an old friend is revealed to be HIV-positive. Digest, \$2.00

**SPIF #1** - The token human of the team steps out into his own solo book, plotted by Nik Dirga, written by Troy Hickman and drawn by Max Ink. Digest, \$2.00

**DR. PHLEGM #1** - The first full-length collaboration of Nik and Max Ink introduces the most mucus-laden villain of all! 12 page digest, 50¢

**AMOEBA ADVENTURES: ONLY A MAN** - Collecting the legacy of Prometheus #3-12. New cover and introduction. 84-page mid-magazine, \$4.00

**Ordering Information:** All prices include postage. Canadian and foreign orders, please include an extra \$5 for postage. Please make all checks payable to Nik Dirga, *not* ProtoPlasm Press. Please allow 3-5 weeks for delivery. Subscriptions to *Amoeba Adventures* are indeed available at the reasonable price of \$8 for 4 issues/\$10 foreign. We strive for a bi-monthly schedule.

**Send them orders to: ProtoPlasm Press c/o Nik Dirga**

**P.O. Box 2230, University, MS 38677-2230**



# THE UFO CHECKLIST



Here's a list of the latest releases by the members of the United Fanzine Organization, a co-op of self-publishers interested in creating good comics. For information about joining the UFO, contact current Chairman Nik Dirga, P.O. Box 2230, University, Mississippi 38677-2230.

**LOOKING FOR MORE GREAT SMALL PRESS COMICS? CHECK OUT THE LATEST FROM THE UFO, HOME OF SMALL PRESS EXCELLENCE!**



**The Adventurers #5:** John Yeo, Jr.'s acclaimed new superhero series kicks into high gear! Reeling from the death of one of their own, The Adventurers take a fateful step away from their enigmatic leader Grayle, plus, Manimal confronts the mysterious bounty hunter Arsenic. If you liked *Teen Titans*, check this out! 32 page digest, \$1.50 from John Yeo, P.O. Box 4365, Ft. Polk, LA 71459.



**Amoeba Adventures #20:** "The Dark Ages" kicks off with a bang in Nik Dirga and Max Ink's award-winning superhero comedy-tragedy, as Rambunny comes face-to-face with the mysterious Dark One. 28 page digest, \$2.00 from Nik Dirga, P.O. Box 2230, University, MS 38677-2230.



**Amoeba Adventures Fifth Anniversary Special:** Celebrating five years of *Amoeba Adventures*, with pin-ups of the AA gang by artists like Larry Blake, Jerzy Drozd and Rich Watson, plus a look back at the history of one of small press's most unique comics written by Troy Hickman. 36 page digest, \$2.00 from Nik Dirga, address above.



**The Destructo Force #1:** Michael Neno follows up his *This Eternal Flaw* minicomic with this unique comic experience! Who or what is The Destructo Force? Neno expertly combines elements of Jack Kirby, surrealism and plain way-out weirdness for a comic that is like no other out there! Funny, twisted and sometimes shocking, it's \$1.50 from Michael Neno at P.O. Box 151303, Columbus OH 43215.



**Andrubis #1:** Anthony Gray returns to small press in this dynamic tale reintroducing Andrubis, the vampire detective. Gray and artist Daniel Nauenburg bring you a chilling tale of mystery and suspense... Bodies are being exhumed from cemeteries all over Little Falls, New York — why? The answer will shock you! \$1.50 from Anthony Gray, 1123 Miller St. #9, Utica NY 13501.



**Mister Midnite Special #2:** Bob Elinskas's crimelfighter Mister Midnite meets Paul Quinn's *Crew of the Wanderlust* characters Jessica and Samantha Sapphire, in a team-up unlike any you've ever seen as young Samantha, still reeling from the death of her father The Phantom Knight, develops a fixation on Mr. Midnite. Bob Elinskas scripts with wit and warmth, and Paul Quinn delivers his usual sterling, fluid artwork. 75¢ from Bob Elinskas at 1805 Girard St., Utica NY 13501.



**Tetragrammaton Fragments #147:** If you aren't reading the official newsletter of the UFO, you're missing out on the heart of the small press experience — home of small press stalwarts like Larry Johnson, J. Kevin Carrier and Jim Pack, *TF* is where you can read some of the most interesting commentary on small press doings there is, plus much more! \$2.00 for the most recent issue from Chairman Nik Dirga, address above. Also available: *Tetragrammaton Fragments* #140-146, \$2 each or all six issues for a mere \$10 — a special one-time only offer!

A SKETCH ON THE RUN FROM...  
BILL MESSNER-LOEBS

UH-OH...  
I THINK I'M  
ABOUT TO...

*DIVIDE!*



Wm. Loebs 95