

Protoplasm Press

8

JUNE

a mere
\$1.00



AMOEBA

ADVENTURES

HOLY AMOEBIA-PERIL!!
CAN PRO DEFUSE
THIS TIME BOMB
OF A TRAP BEFORE
IT'S TOO LATE?!?

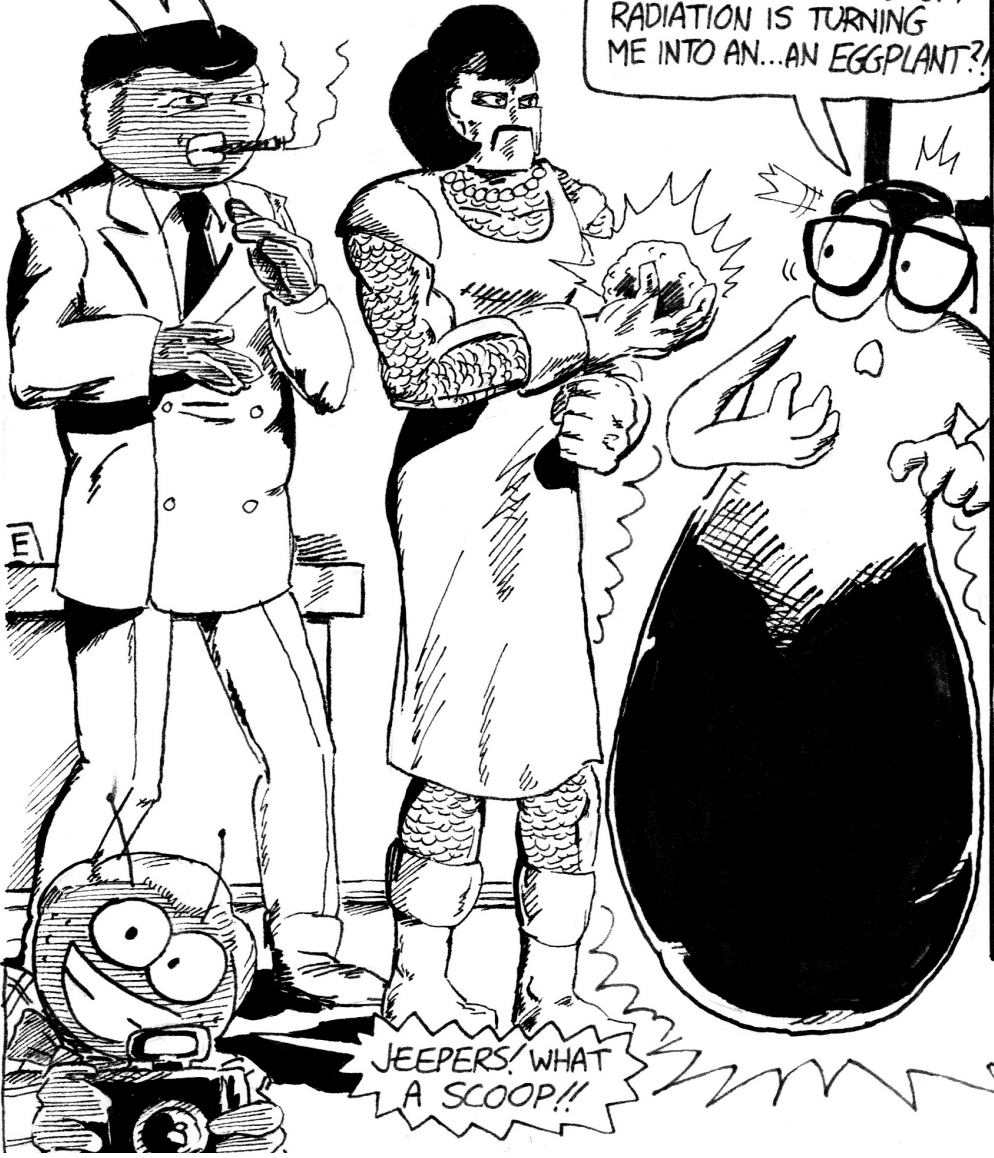
PROMETHEUS, I KNOW YOU
ARE AMOEBAMAN... AND
THIS MAUVE PROTOPLASMITE
WILL PROVE IT!

GREAT CAESAR'S GHOST!!

GREAT SCOTT! THAT'S
NOT LOIS! IT'S MY
ARCH-ENEMY HERR
HEINOUS! AND THAT
BIZARRE MAUVE PLASM
RADIATION IS TURNING
ME INTO AN...AN EGGPLANT?!

Don't you
love those
covers that
have absolutely
nothing to do
with the
story inside?
What's that?
You don't?
Ah. Well...oh.
OK, but
inside you
still get
**DETAILS OF
DESIGN**
plus the fate
of Prometheus!

Just ignore
the cover, OK?



JEEPERS! WHAT
A SCOOP!!

The Slimeball Speaks

It figures it'd take me 7 issues to think up something as basic as offering subscriptions... Since #7 came out, seven of you have been kind enough to sign up, much more than I'd hoped for. Sure, it's around 1/100000 what an issue of *X-Forks* or whatever sell, but we secretly know we're better anyway. Thanks to all who signed up...now go recruit your friends! Family! Pets! Strangers on the side of the road! Look for the ad somewhere in here for more info, if you're one of those who ain't subscribed yet. It'll change your life. Honest.

Before I forget, don't miss out on getting *Prometheus: The Silent Storm*, the all-star AIDS story with art by (deep breath) John Hurley, Quinton Hoover, Max Ink, Anthony Gray, Lynn Allen, Doug Lumley, myself, and a cover by Larry Nibert of *The Ruz* fame. Look at the ad on the back cover for more info, I got things to say here!

This part's for those who want to know little technical details, if you aren't them then skip ahead to the part where I start to bitch everyone out. OK, You'll notice a slight change in the art style as of this issue (no, not "it got good," you schmuck!)...I've abandoned using zip-a-tone. Besides being hard to find since the company went out of business, it's also a pain in the ass and doesn't reproduce half as well as it should. So, I'm using linework instead to indicate tones of grey. This also gives me a chance to change around Ninja Ant a bit...I've now given him and Karate Kactus actual *eyes*, and also bulked out NA some, giving him a neck and little details like that. I'd never really progressed the design of those two from when I created 'em way back in '86, so it was about time. Wake up now, time for the ranting section, kids!

Since becoming involved in small press, I've noticed what a lot of disparate factions form up this "network" we got here. The common bond is that everyone's doing what kind of comics *they'd* like to see, not what the "mass market" wants, be it Liefeld or McFarlane this week. I think that's great, the diversity of small press is its main appeal to me.

But, a lot of "artsy" small-pressers have gotten it in their head that any comic with a super-hero in it has to be garbage, that you can't tell a *serious* story with super-folk. I get letters occasionally or read someone commenting that my comics are "good, for superhero crap." I'm not arguing the quality of my comics, because frankly I'm the harshest critic of all on them...they're miles away from what I'd like to see. But to dislike it because of the genre I chose to use to tell my story? That's biased as all get out!

Now listen up! Who the hell got into comics *without* reading "superhero crap"? And what image does 99.9% of the world have of comics? *Cerebus*? *Yummy Fur*? No, they think Batman or Superman. This knee-jerk reaction of people trying to write off the major focus of their industry is not only stupid, but self-destructive. If someone tells a kid of 10 or so, who's reading and loving the new *Spider-Man*, that it's "crap" and shoves a copy of *Love And Rockets* under his nose, he'll probably never want to read a comic again.

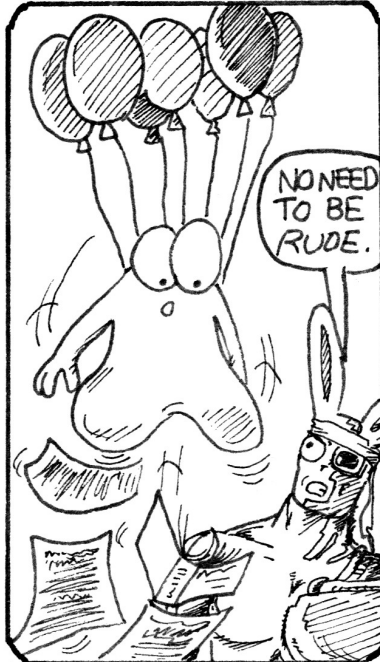
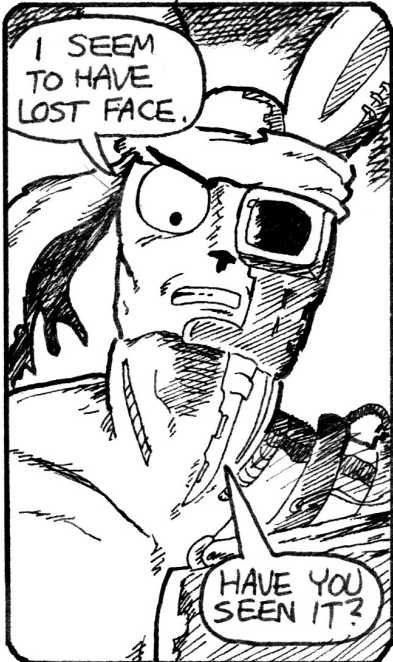
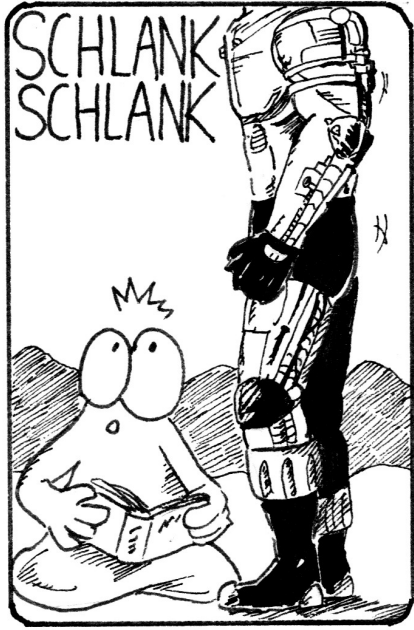
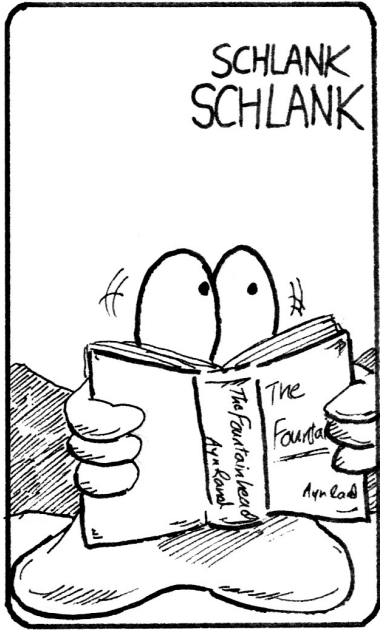
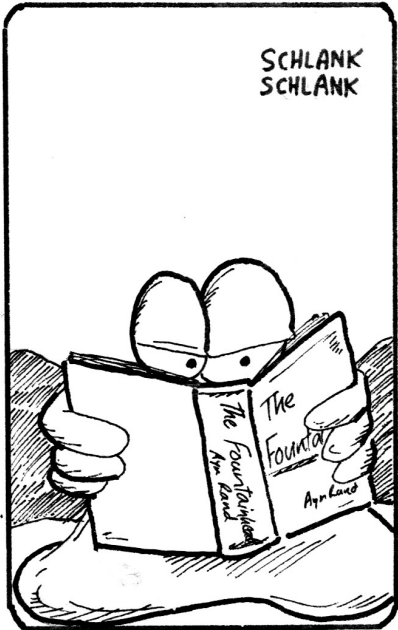
Everything has its place in this field. I think the work I'm doing is just as valid as Dave Sim's or Chester Brown's, and just as important to me as theirs is to them. *Yes*, it's got super-heroes in it! Does that make it any less good? If you don't like my work because you think the writing stinks or the art sucks, hey, great! If you don't like it because it *happens* to have super-heroes in it, then you're just blinding yourself to a lot of good stuff out there.

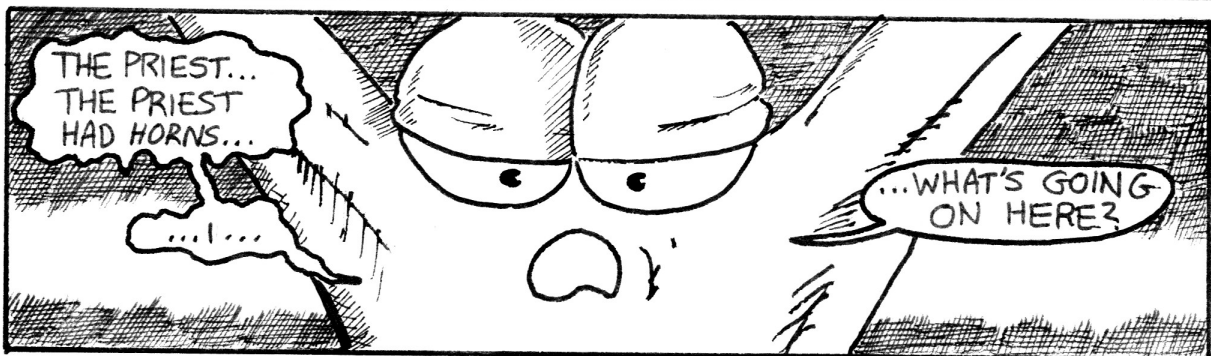
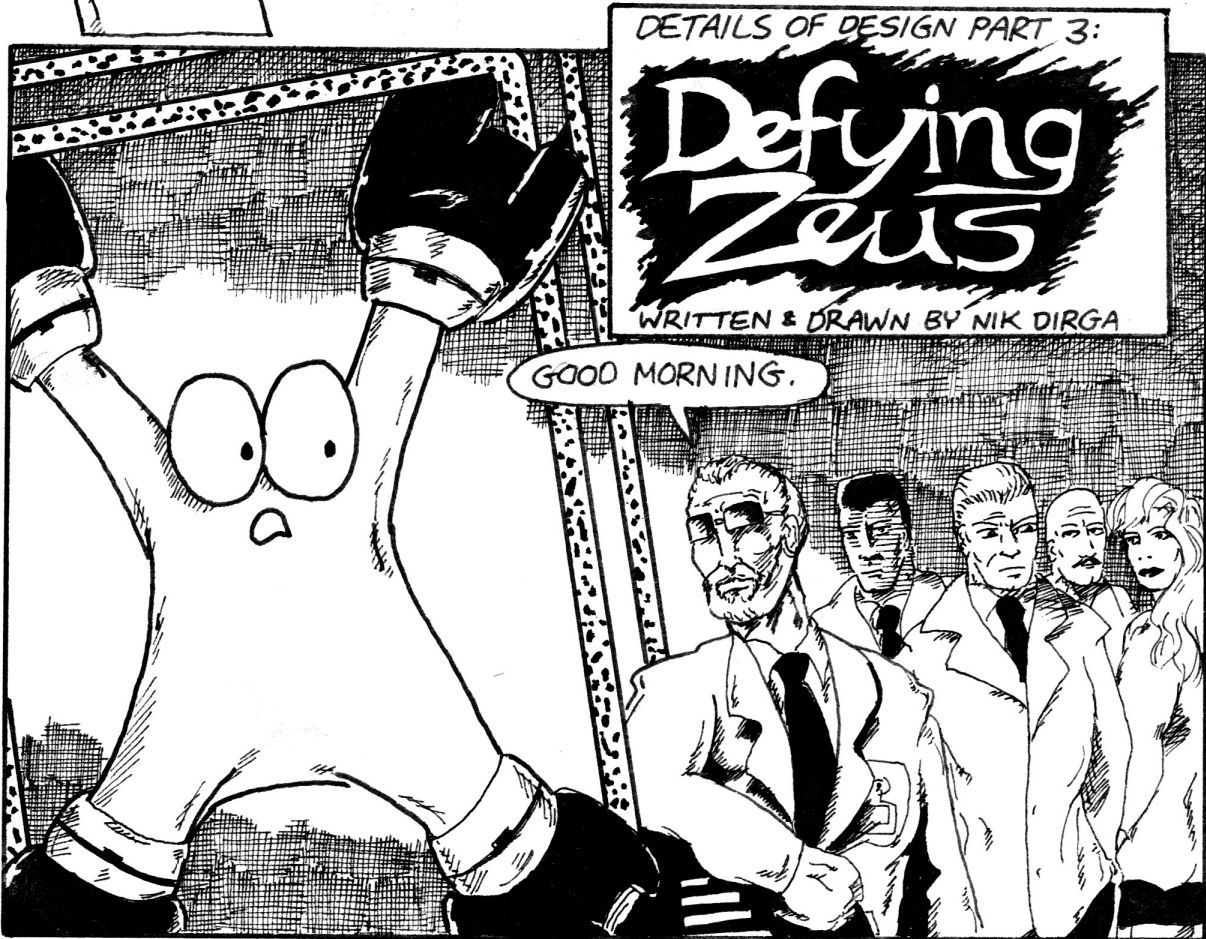
Good super-hero comics can be produced, and continue to be produced. I'm not going to deny that there's a lot of junk out there, especially these days, but you can still hunt and find a little treasure. Off the top of my head, anything Peter David writes for Marvel, or DC's *Doom Patrol*, *Sandman*, and *Swamp Thing*. Or what about *Concrete*? Not a superhero title, you say? What's not superhero about a man made of rock who was given his body by aliens? The approach is all that's new and different (and damn good, but I digress).

Sure, there's superhero comics that still think a fight scene and a short "scene at home" constitutes a plot, or that "Urgh...Now you know, Mister Malicious, Captain Stovetop is my forgotten *son* I had with Lethal Lass! And by the way, I've left my wife! Now I'm going to punch you through this building!" constitutes dialogue, and if you really want to see that change, if you really want to see *good* super-hero comics...

Then do them yourself. That's what small press is all about.

AMOEBAS ADVENTURES #8, June, 1992. Published bi-monthly. All contents are C1992 Nik Dirga, and can be reproduced for purpose of review only. All rights reserved. Protoplasm Press c/o Nik Dirga, PO Box 2230, University MS 38677. Additional copies can be had for \$1 plus a first-class stamp. Ask for our free catalogue!





A GOOD QUESTION, PROMETHEUS
ALLOW ME TO INTRODUCE
MYSELF. I AM DR. ISAK CRANE.
AND YOU ARE MANKIND'S
SALVATION.



S-SALVATION??
WHAT ARE YOU-



WE HAVE GONE
TO GREAT
LENGTHS TO
OBTAIN YOU.
HIRING THE
SERVICES OF
MACABRE*
CREATING THIS
INSTALLATION...

*AS SEEN IN #6 + 7.

ALL FOR OUR GOAL-
TO RELEASE THE
POWER YOU
POSSESS!



BUT LET
ME EXPLAIN.

DARWIN SPELLED IT OUT
SO WELL -- SURVIVAL
OF THE FITTEST.

OBVIOUSLY, HE HAD
MANKIND IN MIND.

BUT THAT'S NOT
WHAT'S HAPPENING.



MUTATES--BEINGS
LIKE YOURSELF ARE
BECOMING DOMINANT
OVER MAN.

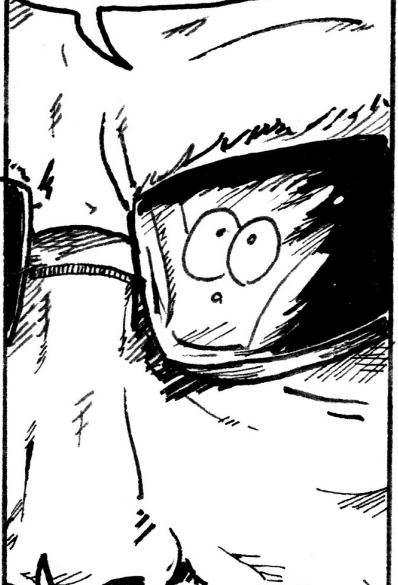
AND WHY NOT? YOU
HAVE THE GENETIC
QUIRKS, THE
ADAPTATIONS TO
THRIVE IN TODAY'S
WORLD.

BUT NOT FOR LONG.
MAN SHOULD BE -- DESERVES
TO BE -- SUPREME!



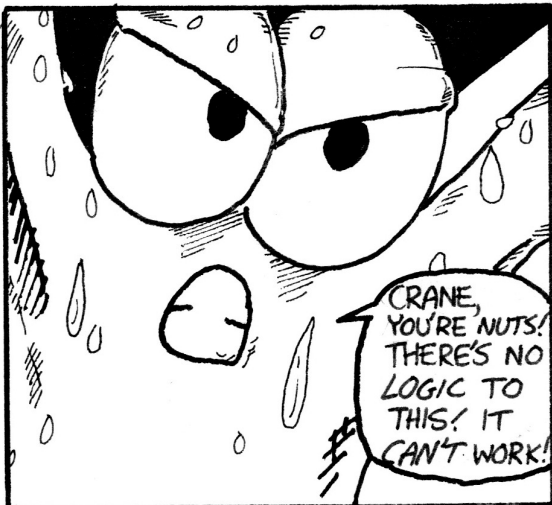
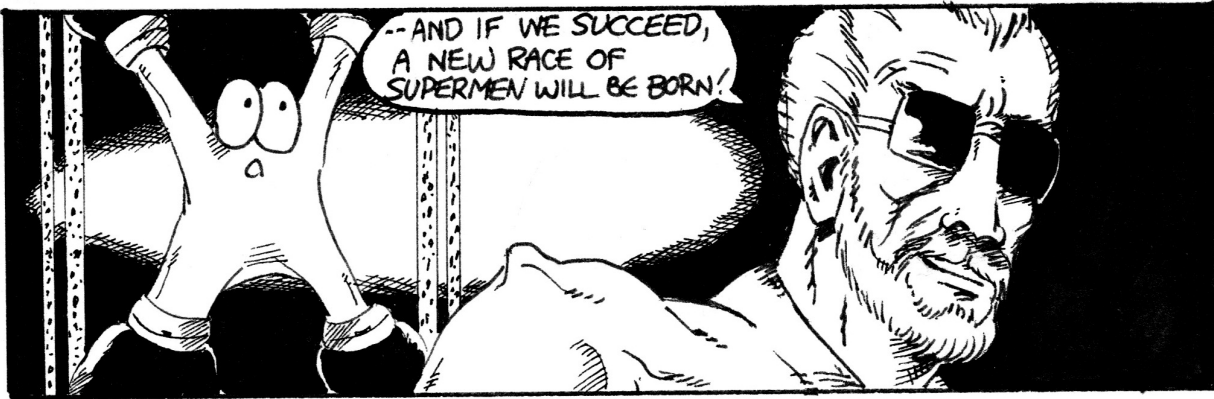
BUT - WHERE
DO I COME
INTO THIS?

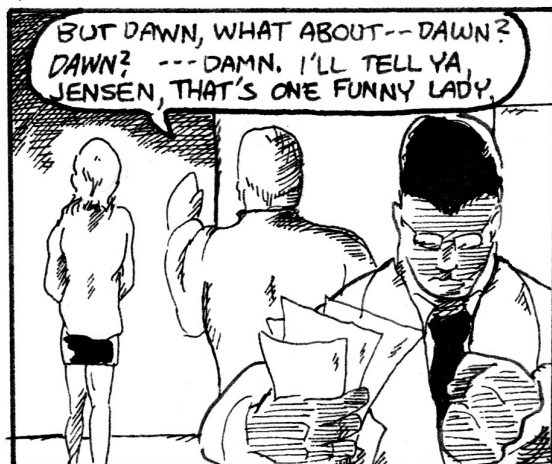
YOU POSSESS MANY
EXTRAORDINARY POWERS,
PROMETHEUS.



OUR GOAL IS TO TRY TO
TRANSFER THEM TO A
HUMAN SUBJECT.

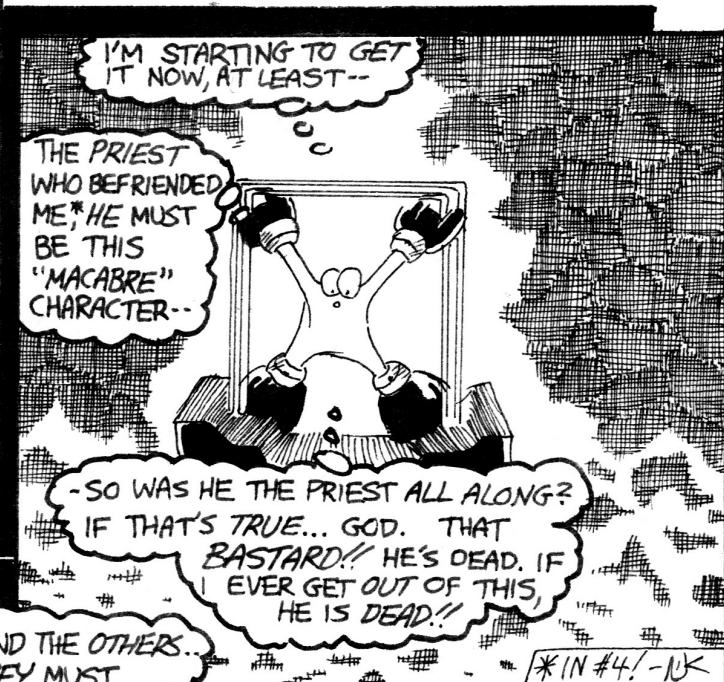
UNFORTUNATELY, THIS
WILL RESULT IN YOUR--
TERMINATION.







~SIGH~
THERE ARE GOOD DAYS AND THERE ARE BAD DAYS...

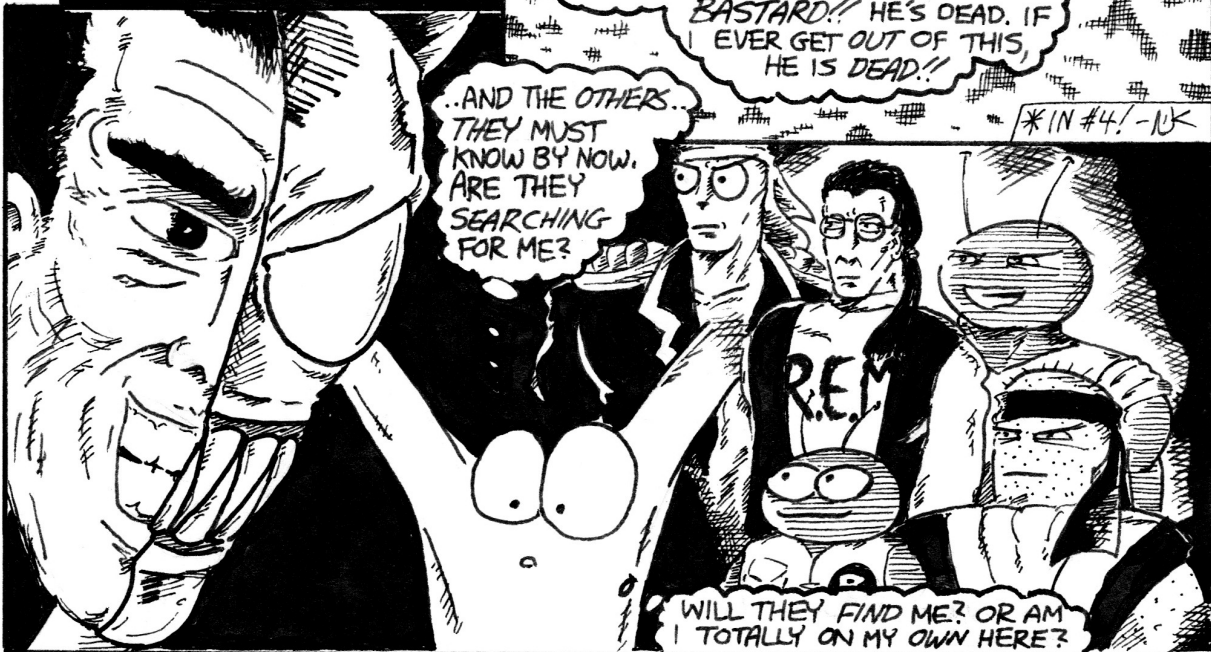


I'M STARTING TO GET IT NOW, AT LEAST--

THE PRIEST WHO BEFRIENDED ME, HE MUST BE THIS "MACABRE" CHARACTER--

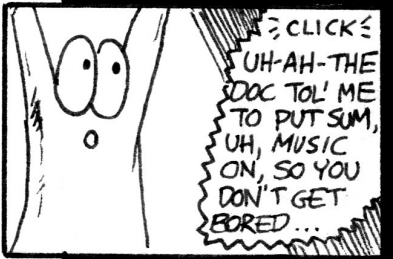
-SO WAS HE THE PRIEST ALL ALONG? IF THAT'S TRUE... GOD. THAT BASTARD!! HE'S DEAD. IF I EVER GET OUT OF THIS, HE IS DEAD!!

IN #4!-10



..AND THE OTHERS.. THEY MUST KNOW BY NOW. ARE THEY SEARCHING FOR ME?

WILL THEY FIND ME? OR AM I TOTALLY ON MY OWN HERE?



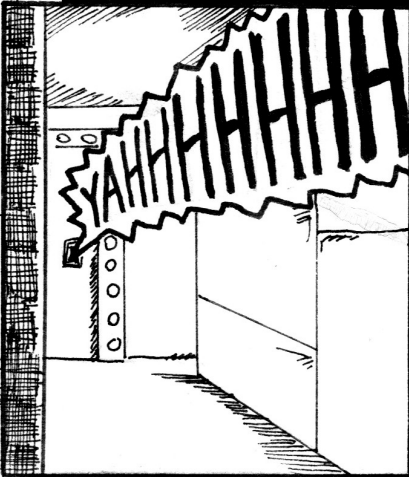
~CLICK~
UH-AH-THE DOC TOL' ME TO PUT SUM, UH, MUSIC ON, SO YOU DON'T GET BORED...



~CLICK~
SO I CHOSE DIS MYSELF!
~CLICK~
GIMME THAT OL' TIME COUNTRY MUSIC... Yee-haw!



A STRUMMIN' MY BANJO
AHHHHH!!



YAAAAHHHHH



AHHHH



MR. JENSEN.

MS. STRAUSS...



--WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU DOING?

I THOUGHT WE AGREED NOT TO LET ON WE KNOW EACH OTHER!

I KNOW, HANK.

BUT WE BOTH THOUGHT IT WAS--SUSPICIOUS THAT CRANE WAS GOING AROUND HIRING THE WORLD'S BEST SCIENTISTS FOR SOME TOP SECRET "PROJECT TO BETTER MANKIND."

IT WAS YOUR IDEA, SINCE YOU DIDN'T TRUST--

WHEN I SIGNED ON, I DIDN'T FIGURE IT'D INVOLVE KIDNAPPING AND MURDER!



I DIDN'T--OH, FORGET IT!

YOU NEVER DID LISTEN TO ME!



LET'S JUST ADMIRE THE VIEW, OK?

DAWN...

WE'VE BEEN FRIENDS SINCE UCLA... LONG ENOUGH FOR ME TO KNOW THAT YOU'VE GOT SOME NOTION.



NOTION? ME? NOT A CARE IN THE WORLD, HANK.

...NOT A ONE.

LOOK AT THIS COLORADO NIGHT, HANK.

JUST LOOK.



YES, IT DOES BEAT NEW YORK.

HANK, I THINK WE SHOULD FREE HIM.



PROMETHEUS?!



YOU'RE CRAZY!!

HANK, LISTEN! CRANE'S PLAN WILL KILL HIM, REGARDLESS IF IT WORKS!



I'M NOT GOING TO BE A PARTY TO MURDER!

WHAT ABOUT THE MONEY? I'M-

SO THAT MONEY MEANS MORE THAN HIS LIFE?

WHAT IF CRANE'S RIGHT? THEY'RE TAKING OVER, DAWN! WE CAN'T LET THEM!

FUNNY--I THOUGHT YOU, OF ALL OF US, KNEW ABOUT PERSECUTION.



THAT WAS LOW, DAWN.

I'M SORRY, BUT DO YOU SEE? DR. CRANE IS CORRUPTING US!

I WILL ADMIT PROMETHEUS HAS DONE A LOT FOR MANKIND...

BUT IF THIS IS WHAT IT TAKES TO SUCCEED, I'D RATHER THE WHOLE DAMN HUMAN RACE GO DOWN THE TOILET.

YOU'RE RIGHT.

A LOT? HANK, CRANE AND HIS KIND ARE THE ONES WHO BLAME THOSE WHO ARE DIFFERENT FOR THEIR OWN SHORTCOMINGS.

WHAT?

I DON'T KNOW ABOUT YOU...

YOU'RE RIGHT, OK?

I'LL DO IT.

I DIDN'T WANT TO BE RICH AND SUCCESSFUL ANYWAY.



THANK YOU, HANK! YOU WON'T REGRET THIS!

NOW, I'VE BEEN WATCHING CRANE'S "SECURITY" AND IT'S A JOKE!

WE CAN BE IN AND OUT LIKE THAT!

SO - WHEN?

TONIGHT OF COURSE!

FIGURES.

I REALLY CAN'T BELIEVE I'M DOING THIS.

WELL, HANK, IF WE SURVIVE THIS, MAYBE I'LL MAKE IT WORTH YOUR WHILE.



WHAT?

WHAT'S THAT MEAN?

DAWN?!?

UH-HUH.

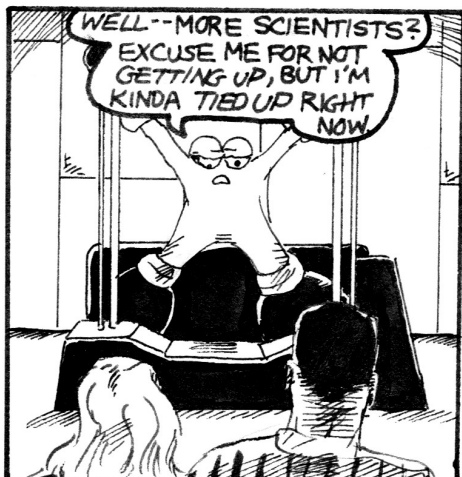


SOON--
NO ONE AROUND.

OK- THE ACCESS CODE WORKS!



WE'RE..
IN?



WELL--MORE SCIENTISTS?
EXCUSE ME FOR NOT GETTING UP, BUT I'M KINDA TIED UP RIGHT NOW



SO WHAT DO YOU WANT?
MORE PSEUDO LOGIC AND XENOPHOBIC RANTS? MORE-

-IF YOU'D CALM DOWN FOR A SEC, I'D TELL YOU! I'M DAWN STRAUSS, AND THIS IS HANK JENSEN- AND WE'RE HERE TO FREE YOU!

FREE--REALLY?
HONEST, BUT WE'VE GOT TO MOVE FAST!



GREAT! I HAVE A SCORE TO SETTLE WITH A FEW FOLKS...

HEY... WEREN'T YOU WITH THE OTHER SCIENTISTS EARLIER?



YEAH. WE WERE...
LET'S JUST SAY WE HAD A CLASH OF IDEOLOGIES.

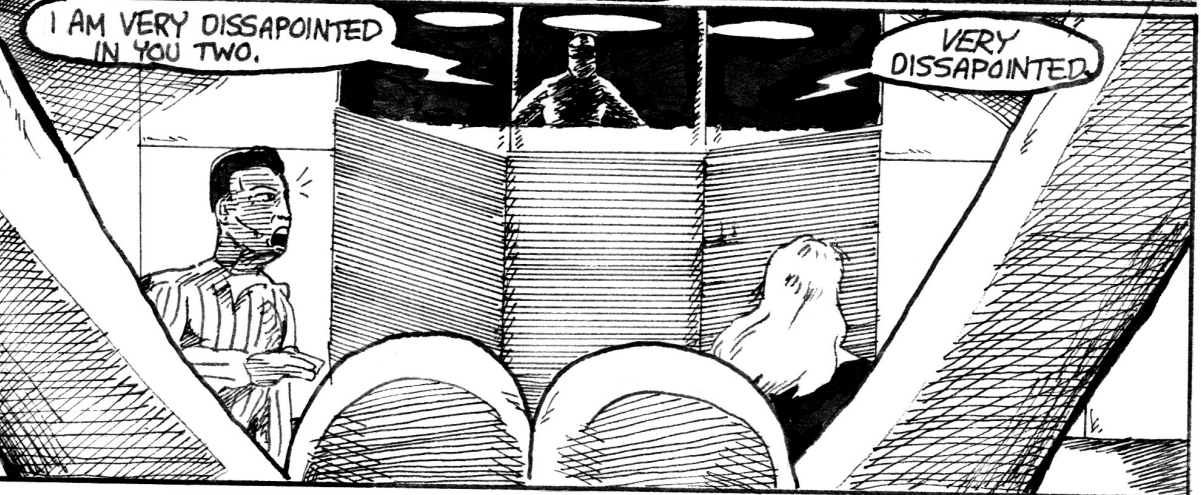


HOW GOES IT?
ROTTEN! THIS LOCKING SYSTEM IS INCREDIBLE!

...MUCH BETTER THAN THE OTHER SECURITY. IT'S ALMOST LIKE THIS WAS SOME SORT OF-

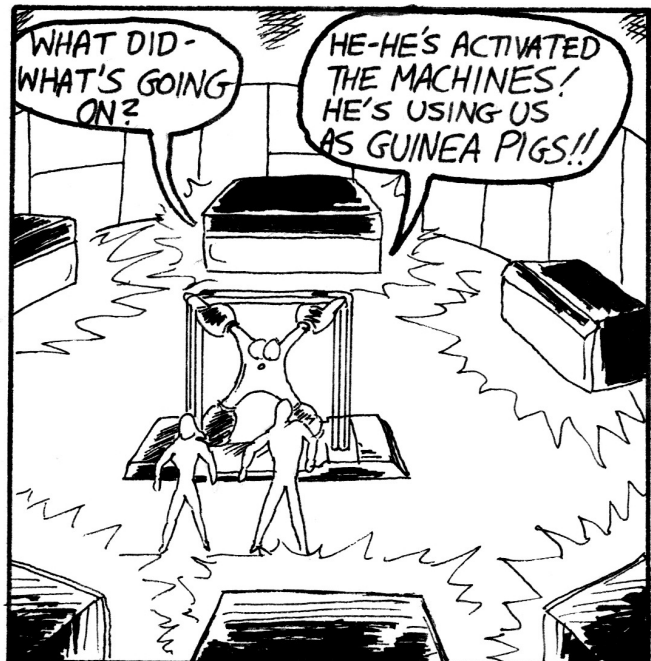


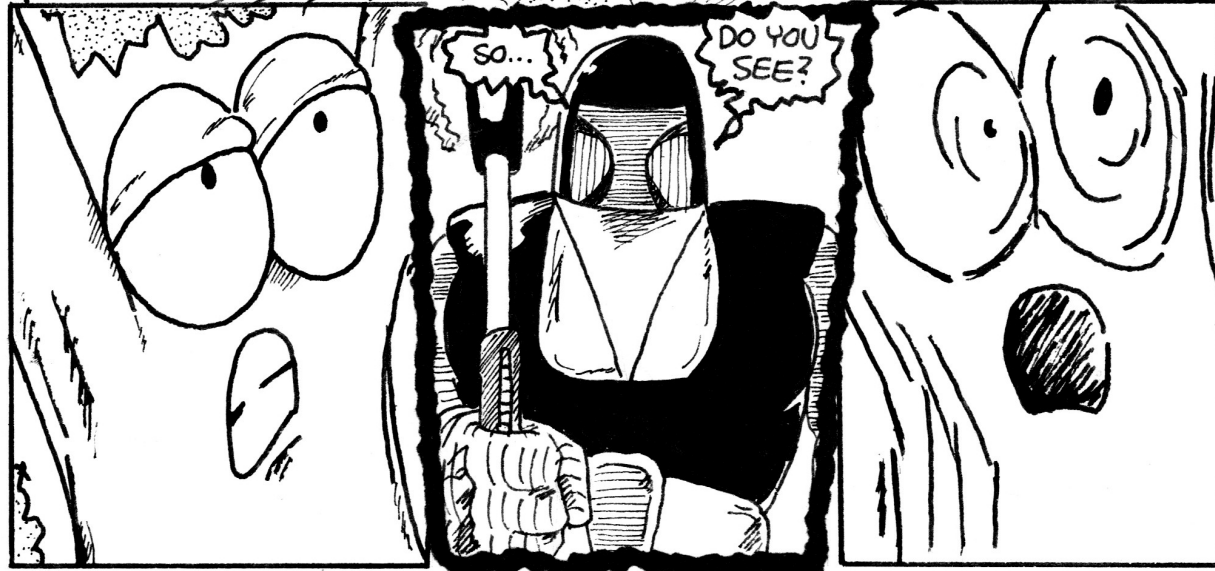
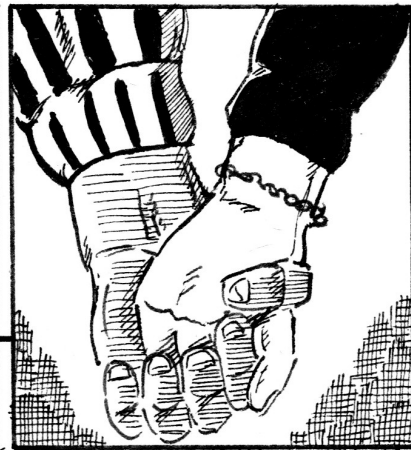
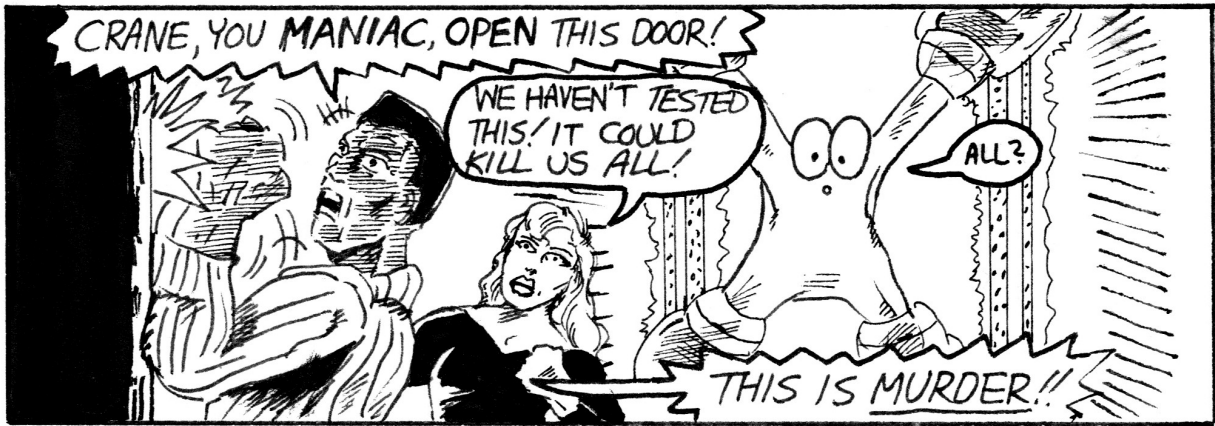
- TRAP.

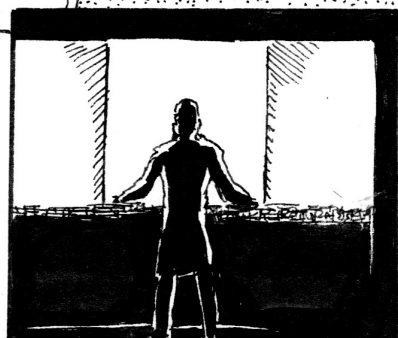
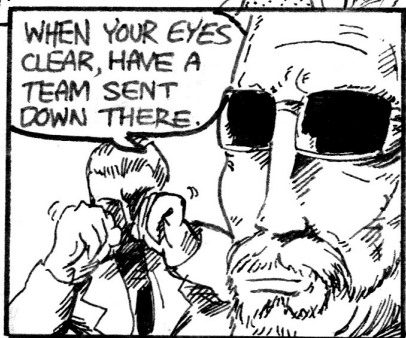
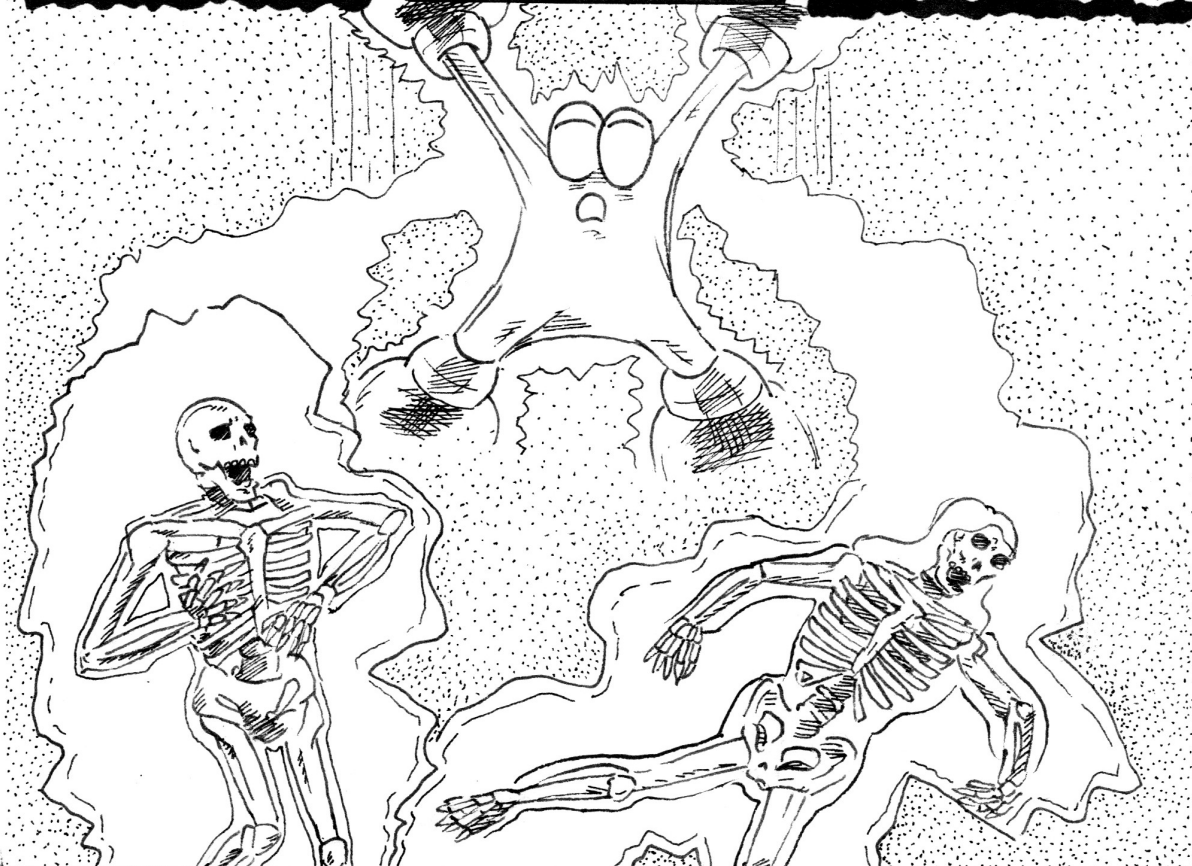
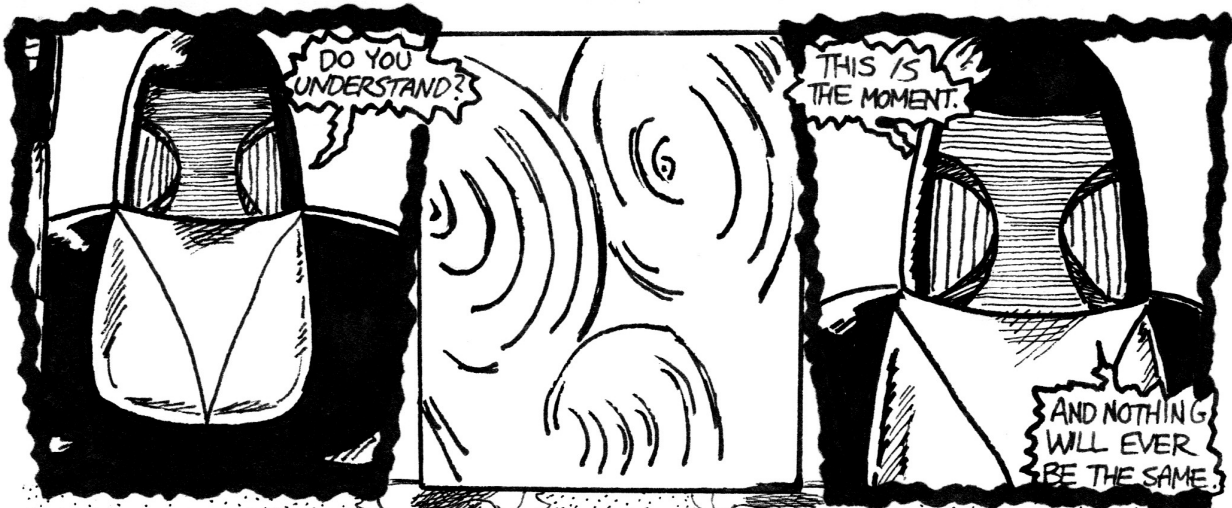


I AM VERY DISSAPPOINTED IN YOU TWO.

VERY DISSAPPOINTED







"Something moving in
taste it in my mouth and in my heart
it feels like dying
slow
letting go of life..."

-Peter Gabriel

NEXT:
ELEMENTAL FORCES

Amoebamail

PO box 2230, University, MS 38677-2230

Thanks for #6 of *Amoeba Adventures*. I enjoyed the bizzare mix of characters (Pepsi-Head on the street scene on pg. 7 made me chuckle. At first I thought he was Marshmallow head from the *Stickboy* comic book--same cylindrical shape, and pointy nose--but then I noticed the Pepsi logo) and also that the story manages to be both noir and light-hearted, skillful that.

Patrick Keleher
New Rochelle, New York

(Well, Patrick, let me be the first to tell you that "Pepsi-Head" will soon be receiving his own 12-issue limited series, with art by John Byrne, Barry Windsor-Smith, Dave Sim, and a cover by Pablo Picasso. Hope to see you reading it! What? What's that? They what? Cancelled out? Oh well...sorry, Patrick, looks like the guys wimped out on me, no Pepsi-Head limited series now. Gosh, I coulda been as famous as Rob Liefield...maybe even had a Levis 501 commercial....-Nik)

I thought #7 was great... lots of excellent character development. I especially liked Spif's confrontation with his dual identities and the Raoul *Dark Knight* spoof. Hilarious!

Terence Anthony
Santa Cruz, California



(Terence also sent a swell little doodle of Raoul along which I got a laugh out of-N.)



Amoeba Adventures #7...even though this is only the second issue I've seen of this series, this is by far my favorite comic book series. That includes small press, independent, mainstream, any of 'em... This is my favorite, nothing else even comes close! I love Raoul. I'd like to see a special Raoul one-shot or maybe a special all-Raoul issue of *AA*.

Your writing is hilarious and you have a cartoon style to match. This would make a great independent comic! Hell, if I was an independent publisher I'd put it out. There are a few things that would have to rise like a little better inking (although that has improved) and pro lettering. Don't get me wrong, your lettering is perfectly readable, it's just you'd be surprised how much better it looks done by a pro.

Chris Terry
Westfield, Indiana

(This letter was printed solely as an excuse to booster my ego. Thanks Chris! And now what Amoebamail column would be complete without a word from...Troy Hickman!)

Contrary to popular belief, I'm not dead, just a slumbering behemoth beneath the waves, waiting to once more surface and eat a major metropolis (nah, then I'd gain this damn weight back). Glad to hear from you.

Thanks more than the English language can convey for *AA* #7. Chronologically, here are some of the high point for me:

*Glad to see a Nikommendation for *All-Steve Comics*. It's one of my favorites and Steve's a swell guy.

*Oscar. The geometric intelligence angle was a nice touch.

*Raoul's similes. They struck me like...like a dead rat in a tampon factory, like a runaway Good Humor truck on the streets in Hong Kong, like an impotent street department worker on the planet Mongo.

*Spif's force of will. I like that guy.

*The art, which, as always, is much like Oscar in its progress.

I wouldn't miss this comic for all the tease in China, so I'm enclosing a five spot (it's a good thing a subscription doesn't cost a thousand dollars or I'd have to send you a g-spot). Does this also entitle me to the fine selection of Protoplasm snack cakes (I especially like the Rambrownies)?

Troy Hickman
Lafayette, Indiana

(And on that note, yet another spine-tingling installment of Amoebamail draws to a stunning if not altogether amazing end, like a runaway elephant on codeine plunging over a cliff, like a Democratic candiate for president in November, like...hey, Troy, you're right! Those similes are fun! -Nik)

NEXT:

?



**One of these
heroes has AIDS.**

**The most deadly
kind of storm is
a silent one.**

**PROMETHEUS:
The Silent Storm**

**A 36-Pg. Adventure of
The All-Spongy Squadron by
some of small-press' best.**

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