

Protoplasm  
Press

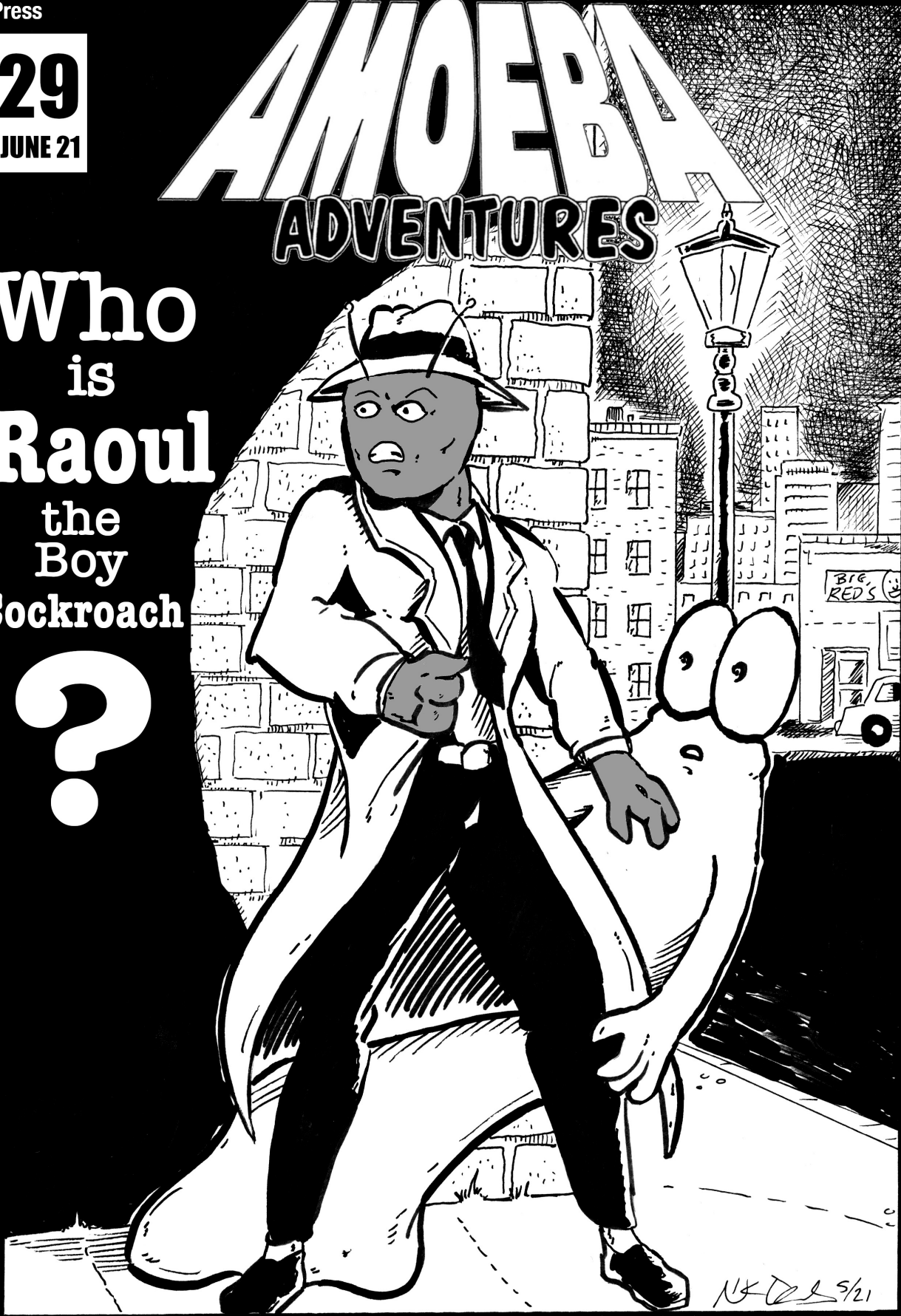
**29**  
JUNE 21

# AMOEBA

## ADVENTURES

Who  
is  
**Raoul**  
the  
Boy  
Cockroach

?





# The Slimeball Speaks

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**H**ere we are again, with the second all-new Amoeba Adventures comic for the new millennium!

Of course, after a years-long hiatus, I decided the obvious thing to do this issue was to craft a story based on forgotten dangling plot threads from my almost 30-year-old small press comics.

Let me explain myself.

So, while digging up all my old comics and notes from back in the day as I was digitising them for online republication, I was struck by the strange fate of one Raoul the Boy Cockroach, who debuted in Amoeba Adventures #4 and then mysteriously vanished forever in Amoeba Adventures #13 with a throwaway gag about him going to prison.

What really happened to Raoul after all these years in comics limbo, I wondered, and where would he be now?

That's the goofy genesis of this very strange romp, which I hope is still enjoyable to anyone who likes a good detective story and a few pratfalls. It was an enjoyable chance to bring back a rather fun character and to also turn the spotlight on Ninja Ant, one of my favourite Amoeba Adventures cast members, and the inexplicably amusing to me image of him as a private detective.

Hopefully this all doesn't read as an endless exercise in continuity wrestling and is a fun read for all without even knowing who Raoul is or reading those long-ago Amoeba tales (however, you can still download all those old issues as free PDFs right over at the [amoebaadventures.com](http://amoebaadventures.com) section of my website).

Thanks once again for all those who had kind words to say about my long, long-delayed return to small press comics and Amoeba Adventures, and hope you enjoy "Who Is Raoul The Boy Cockroach?"

**Next: The spotlight turns to two other long-missing members of the Amoeba cast. Look for it by Christmas!**

**Amoeba Adventures #29, June 2021.** Published maybe twice a year, if stamina holds out, by Protoplasm Press, 262 Konini Road, Titirangi, Auckland New Zealand 0604. Additional print copies of this issue available for \$7.50 postpaid. Visit [amoebaadventures.com](http://amoebaadventures.com) and look for the link to download all 28 previous issues and much more for FREE, and give us a "like" on [Facebook.com/amoebaadventures](https://www.facebook.com/amoebaadventures) where occasionally I'll remember to post rare art and coming attractions. Amoeba Adventures, Prometheus the Protoplasm and all other characters are (C) 2021 Nik Dirga. All rights reserved.





IT WAS A RAINY TUESDAY. MY FAVORITE KIND OF TUESDAY. THE AIR WAS WET WITH MYSTERY, AND I FORGOT TO WEAR MY GALOSHES.

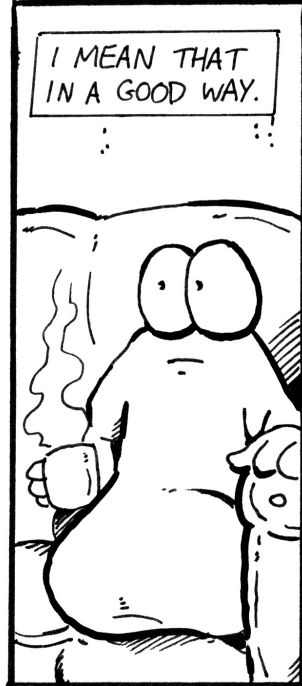
YEAH, I WAS NEW TO THE GAME, BUT I WAS READY TO PLAY WITH THE BIG BOYS.

THEY CALL ME NINJA ANT, ANT DETECTIVE. IF CRIME'S BUGGING YOU, I'M THE BUG TO BUG CRIME BACK.



THIS LATEST JOKER ON MY DOORSTEP WAS A CHARACTER.

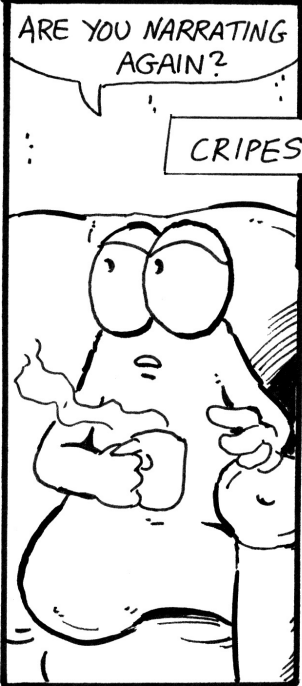
WE WENT WAY BACK. HE'S A REAL SLIMEBALL.



I MEAN THAT IN A GOOD WAY.



MITSU...



ARE YOU NARRATING AGAIN?

CRIPES!



...SORRY, PROMETHEUS. JUST EXCITED. IT'S A BIG DAY!

I WAS JITTERY, LIKE A WHISKEY SOUR WITH HOT SAUCE. I'D SUNK A LOT INTO THIS PLAY, AND PRO KNEW THE SCORE.

THIS DETECTIVE AGENCY IS AN AWESOME IDEA, MITSU!

I CAN'T BELIEVE IT'S BEEN SIX MONTHS SINCE WE HUNG OUT!

WELL, SINCE DAWN'S VISITING HER DAD, SEEMED LIKE A GOOD TIME TO CATCH UP!

N. ANT  
DETECTIVE  
SERVICES  
- NO CREDIT -

THIS IS LOOKING GREAT!

YA KNOW, SINCE THE ALL-SPONGY SQUADRON RAN ITS COURSE...\*

I'VE BEEN TRYIN' TO FIGURE OUT WHAT'S NEXT FOR OL' NINJA ANT!

\* AA#27!

...AND IT HITS ME - I LIKE SOLVIN' PUZZLES AND I LIKE FIGHTIN' CRIME. SO...

I'M PROUD OF YOU, BUDDY - IT TAKES GUTS TO START YOUR OWN BUSINESS.

BETWEEN THIS, SPIF TEACHING AND DAWN STARTING HER NEW JOB... MAKES ME FEEL A BIT SLACK!

HEY! DIDJA SEE MY COMMERCIAL?

YOU GOT **CRIME!**  
I GOT THE **TIME!**

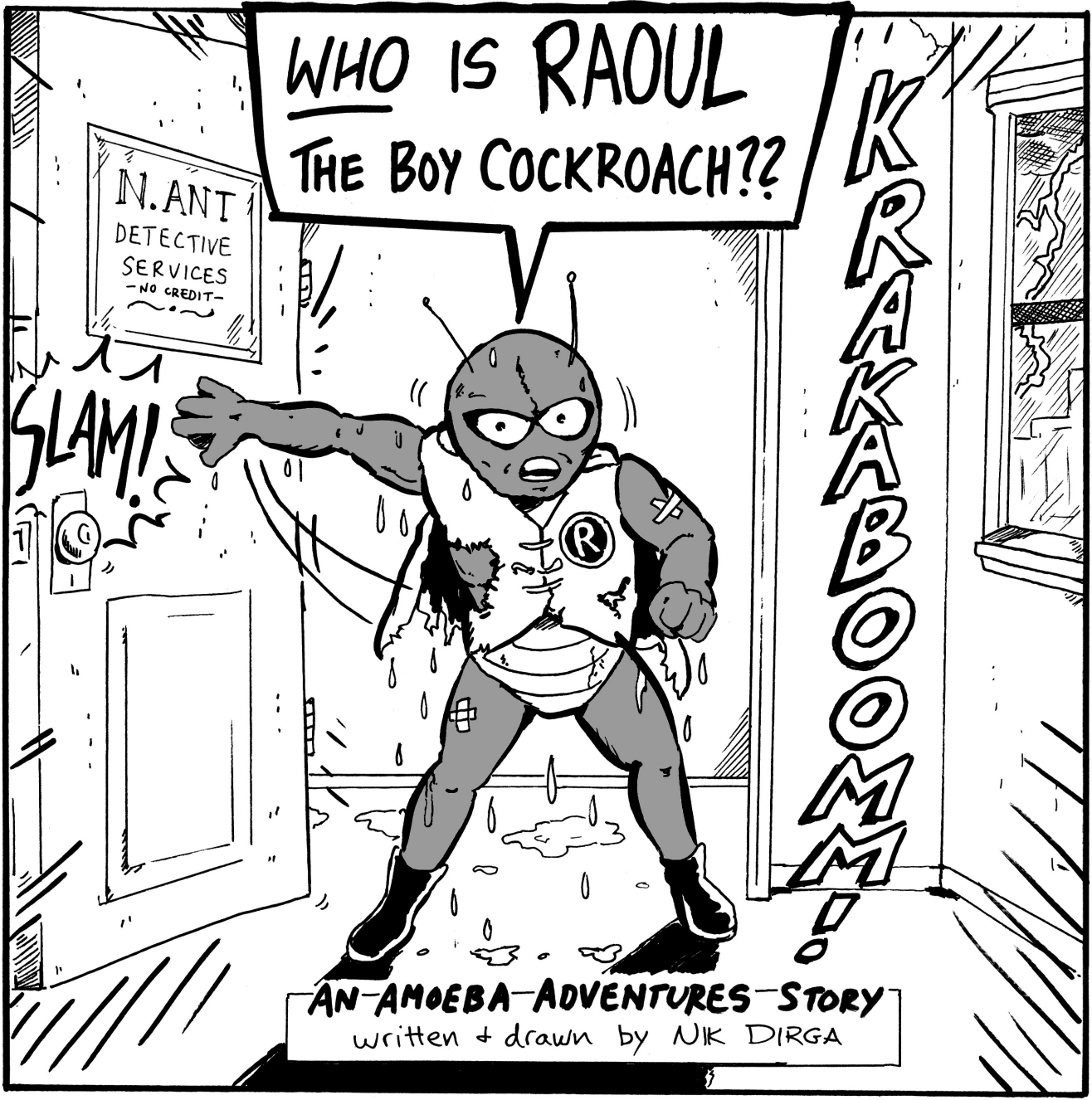
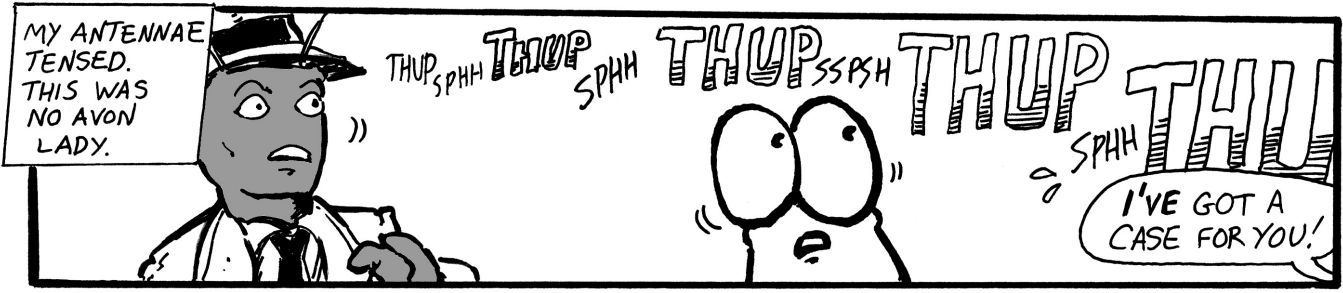
YES.

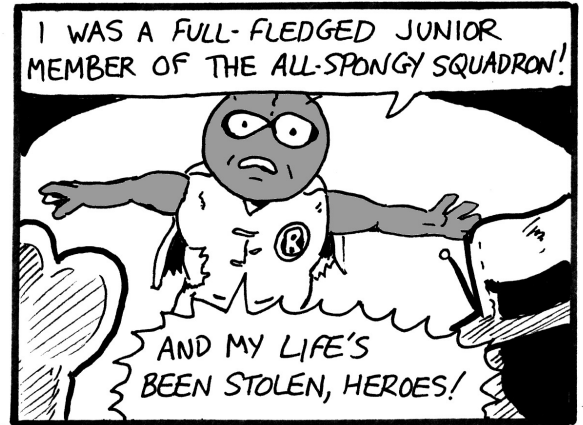
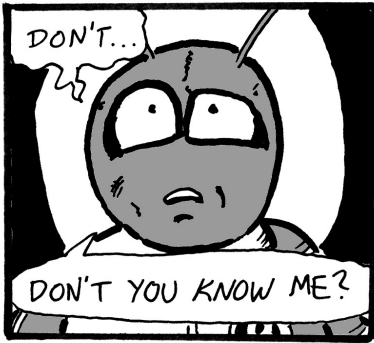
YES, I DID.

KA-  
**THUMP!**  
SpHh

CRIME!  
TIME!  
1-800-  
NANT  
toll-free!

SpheW!  
WHAT WAS THAT?





IT SEEMS LIKE JUST YESTERDAY I WAS BUT A PLUCKY SCHOOLBOY WHO WORSHIPPED SUPERHEROES FROM AFAR!

WHEN SPONGOPOLIS SAW ITS NEW HEROES - PROMETHEUS, SPIF, RAMBUNNY - I WAS HOOKED!



TOGETHER, WE TOOK ON THE APPALLING ASBESTOS MUSHROOM!

WE WENT ON DAVID LETTERMAN!

WE SNUFFED OUT THE MUCUS MENACE OF DOCTOR PHLEGM!

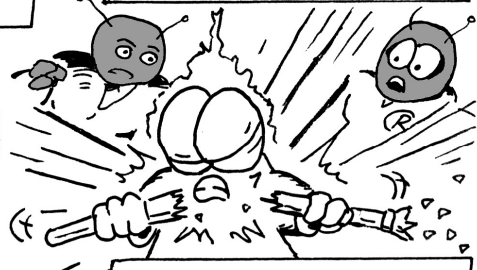
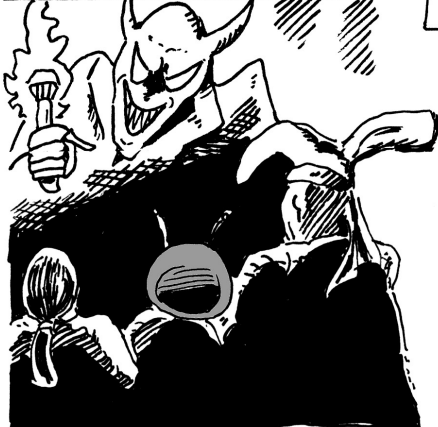
...we never were invited back to Letterman...

I... I was quite glad to miss that one!

BUT HOLY NEMESIS! THAT WAS NOTHING COMPARED TO MACABRE, A COSMIC BOUNTY HUNTER WHO KIDNAPPED PRO!

MACABRE WASN'T EVEN HUMAN, BUT SOME KIND OF DEMON WHO COULD SWAP BODIES WITH HIS MAGIC WAND!

IT WAS ONLY THANKS TO PRO SNAPPING THAT SCOUNDREL'S WAND THAT VICTORY WAS OURS!



THAT - THAT WAS OUR FINEST HOUR, HEROES!

\* HISTORIC EVENTS FROM AA#5,6,10 & 11 - NUK!

HOO BOY, THAT MACABRE STILL GIVES ME THE SHAKES!

AND THEN... AND THEN...

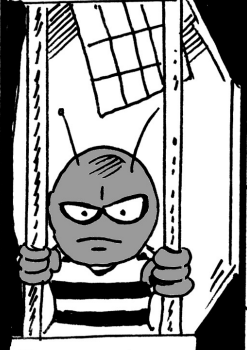
ALL I SEE IS RED.

≡ahem≡  
I WAS BOY COCKROACH NO MORE AFTER THAT EPIC CLASH!



NO, I WAS A NIGHTROACH! A DARK AVENGER IN THE SHADOWS!

THEN...  
WELL... IT'S A LITTLE FUZZY.



BUT I ENDED UP IN PRISON.

MISUNDERSTANDING.

PRISON? YOU WERE A KID!



GEE, WE REALLY SHOULD HAVE CHECKED UP ON YOU...

RAOUL, I KNOW NOW YOU WERE THERE... BUT... DIDN'T YOU JUST QUIT? GO HOME?



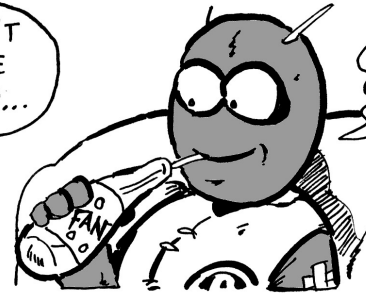
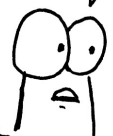


THE KID SPUN ONE HECK OF A YARN.

I LET HIM HAVE MY FANTA. HE LOOKED LIKE HE NEEDED IT.



I STILL DON'T SEE WHY WE FORGOT YOU...



SLRRPP!

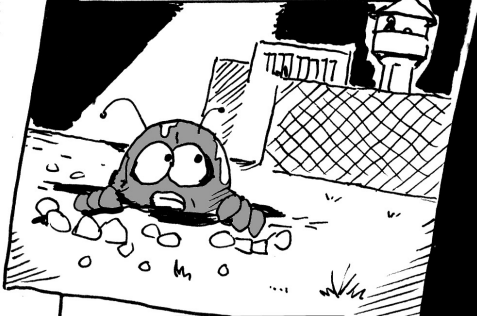
IT'S A PRICKLY POSER, FRIENDS!



AFTER MY WRONGFUL IMPRISONMENT, THINGS GOT COMPLICATED.

IT'S JUST ALL RED. A RED BLUR.

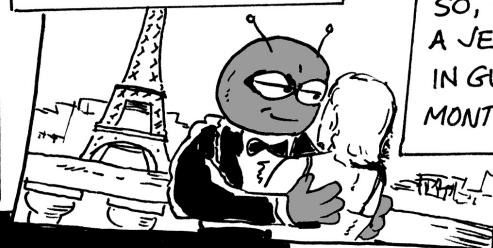
Ahem: TO CLEAR MY NAME, I BROKE OUT OF PRISON. BUT AT WHAT COST?



I WAS A ROACH ON THE RUN! FORCED TO FLEE TO FOREIGN SHORES AND START ANEW!



GOSH, BUT IT WAS A CRAZY TIME! SPIES, DAMES AND ROGUES!



SO, I BECAME A JEWEL THIEF IN GLAMOROUS MONTE CARLO...

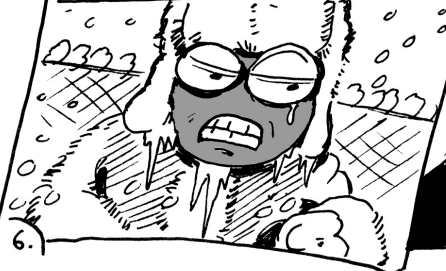
YOU WHAT NOW?



OH, SURE, IT WAS FUN, GLOBETROTTING AND MADCAP CAPERS...



BUT WHEN I WAS STRANDED IN A SIBERIAN LABOR CAMP, I KNEW IT WAS TIME TO GO HOME.



AND THEN...

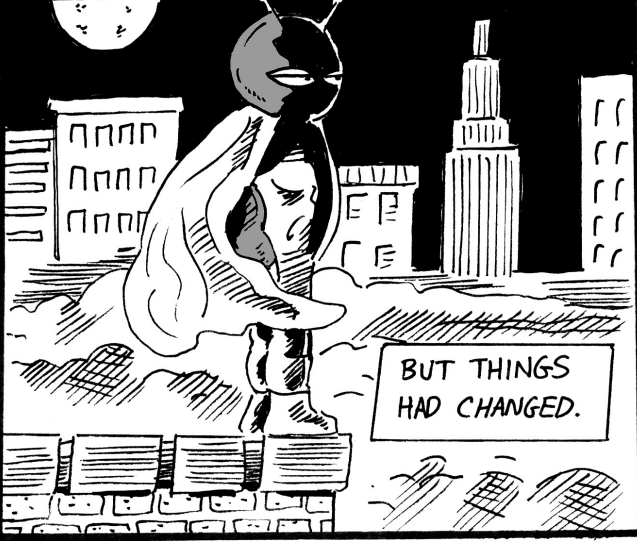
AND THEN...



RED?

BLUR.

NEVERTHELESS! I RETURNED TO SPONGOPOLIS, ONCE A MERE KID SIDEKICK, NOW SEASONED IN THE WAYS OF THE WORLD! RAOUL, THE FULLY-GROWN COCKROACH!



BUT THINGS HAD CHANGED.



I TRIED TO GO HOME. BUT MY PARENTS WERE NOWHERE TO BE SEEN.

IT WAS LIKE THEY'D VANISHED.

A Post

I WENT TO THE AMOEBACAVE. IT WAS BOARDED UP AND ABANDONED.

KEEP OUT

HOW MUCH HAD CHANGED IN MY EXILE?

AND WHY? WAS I CRAZY?

THEN, I SAW A TV COMMERCIAL...

I KNEW IT!

HOW'D YOU LIKE MY RHYMES?

...SIGH.

GUYS... SOMETHING HAPPENED TO ME. MY MEMORY IS FULL OF HOLES AND NOT MUCH ABOUT THE LAST FEW YEARS MAKES SENSE.

NOW THAT I'M BACK HERE AND SEE YOU, IT'S CLEAR...

THIS IS A GIANT CONSPIRACY! WAS IT A NEFARIOUS PLOT BY ONE OF THE SQUADRON'S OLD FOES? REVENGE FOR OUR UNWAVERING VALOR IN THE FACE OF VILLAINY?

I NEED TO KNOW WHO I AM.

THIS WAS IT. THE BIG ENCHILADA.

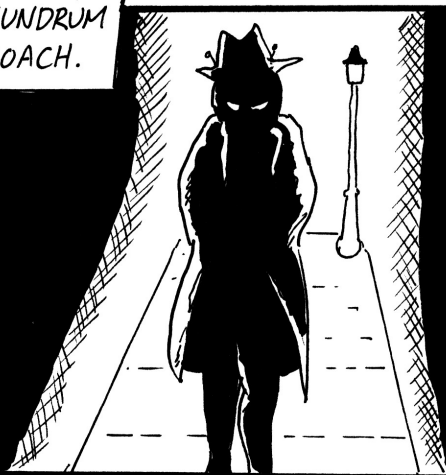
RAOUL... YOU NEED HELP. YOU NEED AN ANT TO DIG IN AND SOLVE THIS MYSTERY.

AND AS GOD IS MY WITNESS...

I AM THAT ANT!

CASE FILE #1 - THE CONUNDRUM OF THE CANCELED COCKROACH.

IT WAS CLEAR THE KID MESSED WITH THE WRONG MAN'S TACO.



THIS ONE WENT DEEP. MIND CONTROL, MAYBE? WHO'D WANT THE KID OFF THE TABLE SO BAD?

I WAS GOING TO BITE INTO THIS BURRITO OF A CASE AND TASTE THE CHEESE OF TRUTH.

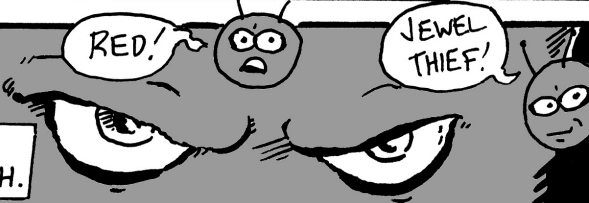
NOTE TO SELF: MAYBE SKIP THE TACO TREE LUNCH SPECIAL TOMORROW.

STOLEN!

RED!

JEWEL THIEF!

CLUES SHIMMED IN MY MIND LIKE DANCERS AT THE CASBAH.



I KEPT COMING BACK TO 'RED.' RED, THE COLOR OF DAMES' LIPS AND SPILLED GUTS.

I WAS GONNA WORK MY WAY DOWN SLEAZE BOULEVARD, THE WORST STREET IN SPONGOPOLIS.

DETECTIVE TIP: IT'S ALL ABOUT ASKING THE RIGHT QUESTIONS.

COCKROACH!!



I'D BRING MY PALS - MISTER RIGHT, AND MISTER LEFT.

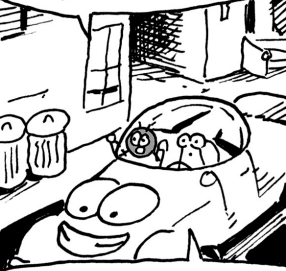


WHO'S GONNA TALK ABOUT THE COCKROACH??

BING!

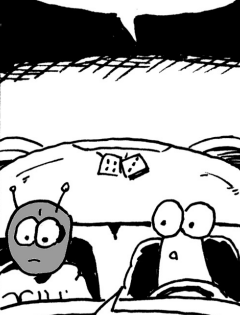


"WAIT IN THE CAR," HE SAYS. "THIS IS PROFESSIONAL SPY WORK," HE SAYS. I'VE WORKED FOR MI-6, YOU KNOW!



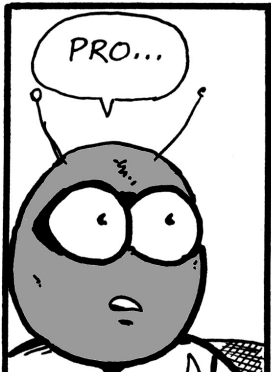
I CAN'T BELIEVE MITSU TOOK MY OLD CAR..

SO - HOW ARE YOU DOING, RAOUL?



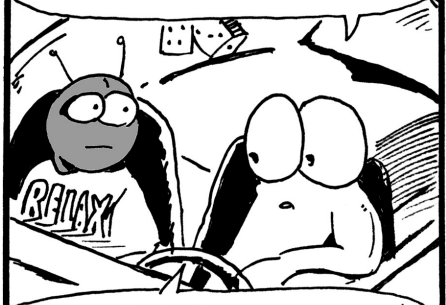
JEEZ, IT'S BEEN YEARS. YOU WERE JUST A KID.

PRO...

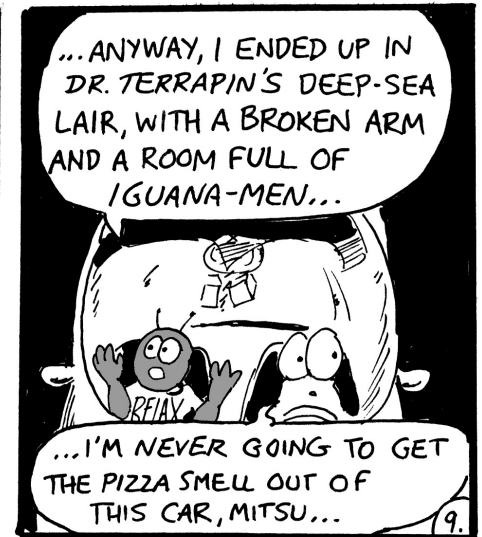
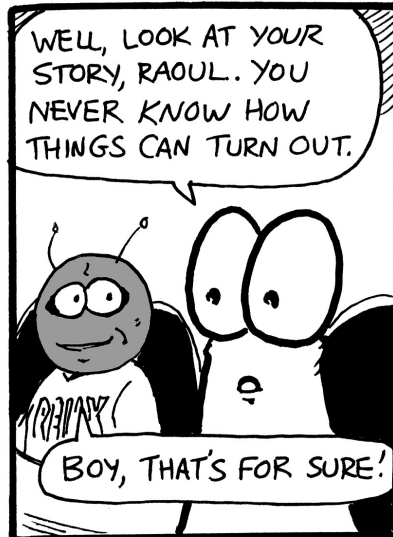
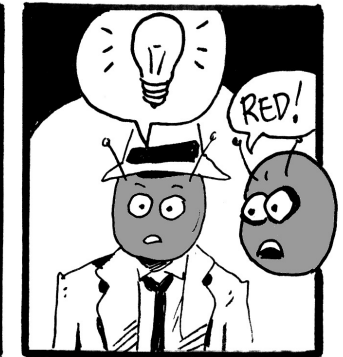
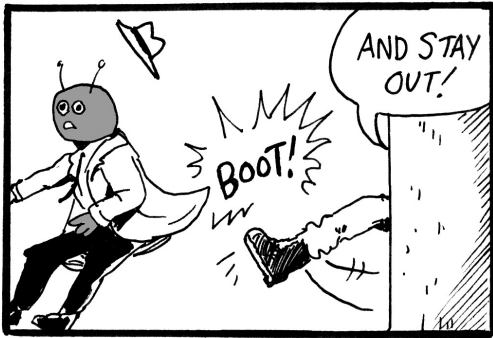


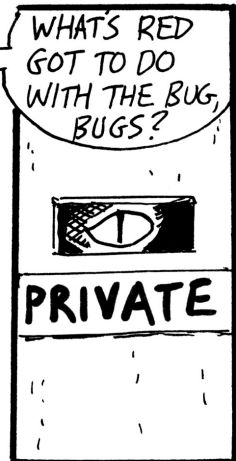
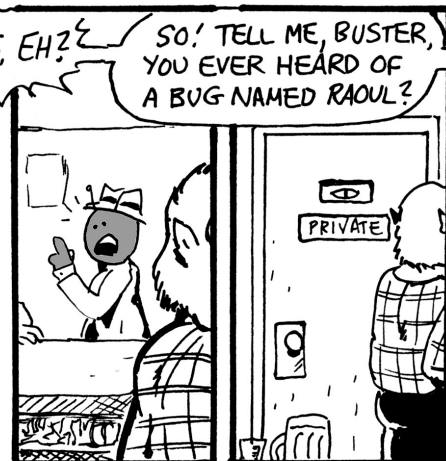
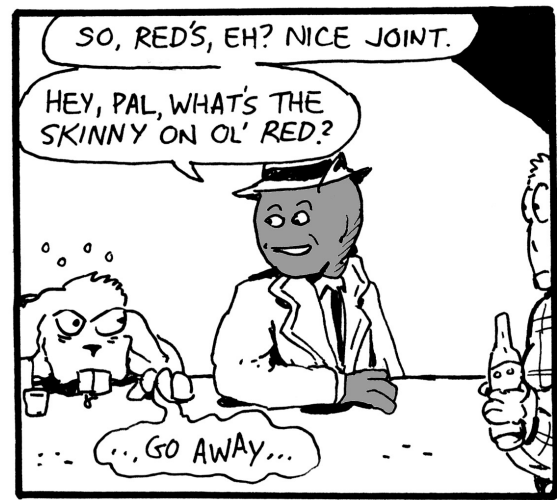
HOW COULD YOU GUYS FORGET ME? I THOUGHT WE WERE PALS.

WE... WE DIDN'T TRY TO FORGET YOU, RAOUL. IT'S LIKE A FOG THAT'S JUST LIFTING.

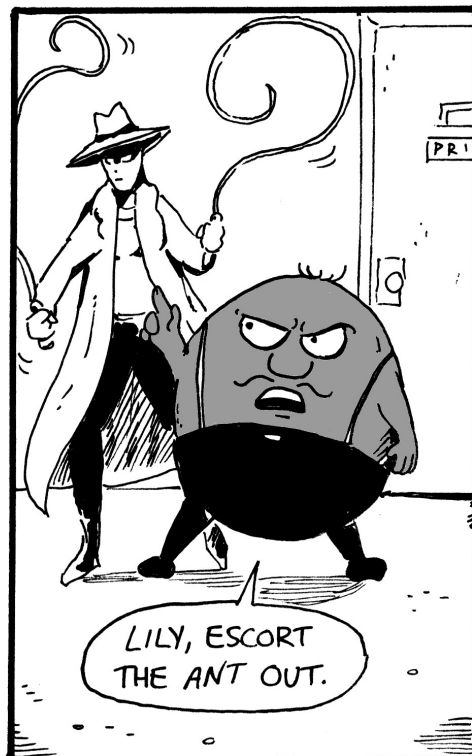
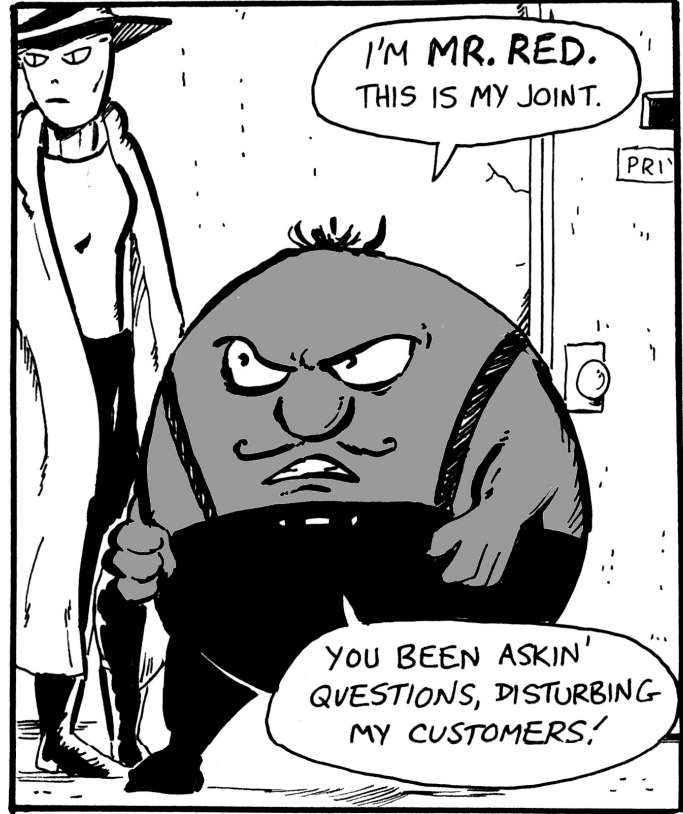


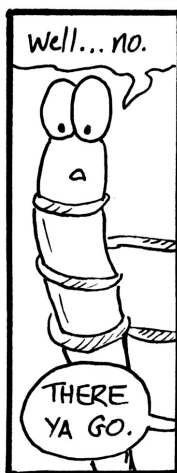
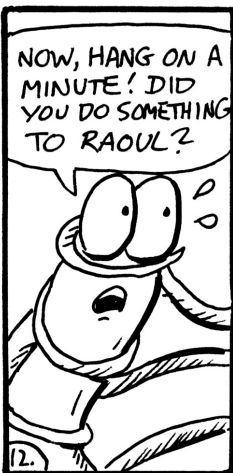
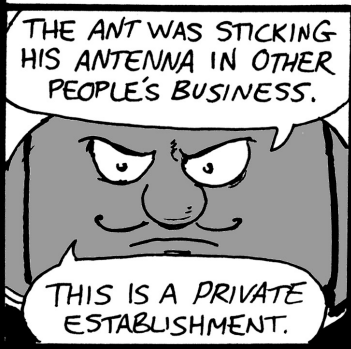
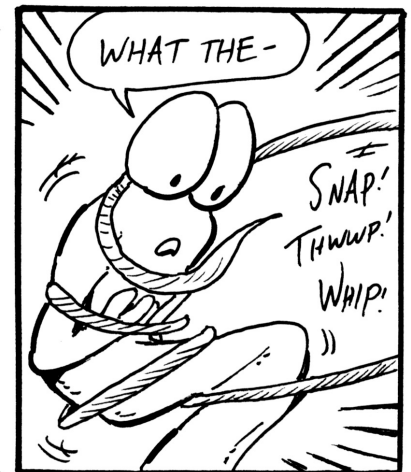
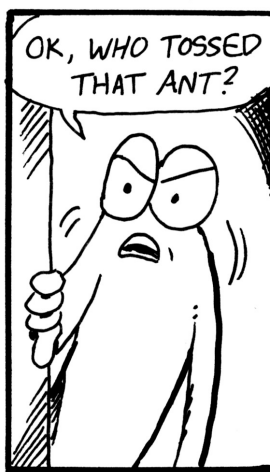
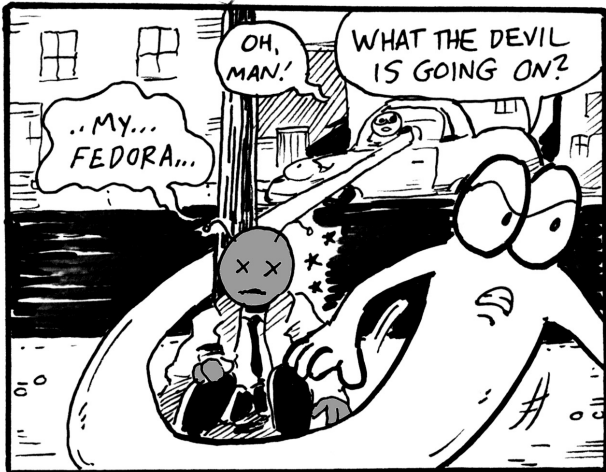
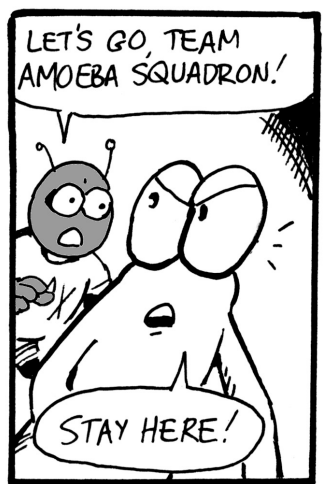
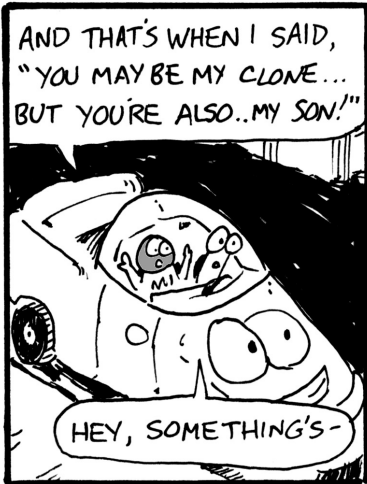
MITSU CAN FIND OUT WHAT'S HAPPENED. UNDERNEATH THE GOOFINESS, HE'S A REAL PROFESSIONAL.



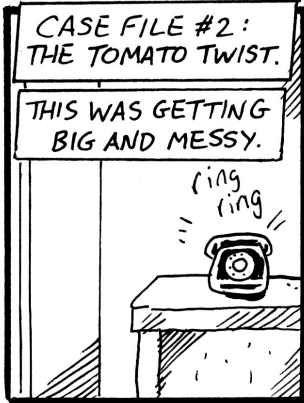












OK, MITSU, GOOD LUCK AND  
SAY HEY TO PRO FOR ME...

UH HUH.

STOP CALLING ME YOUR WATSON.

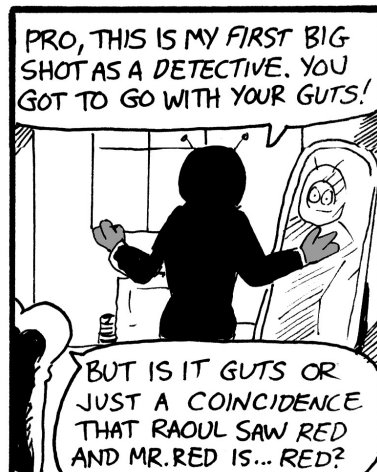
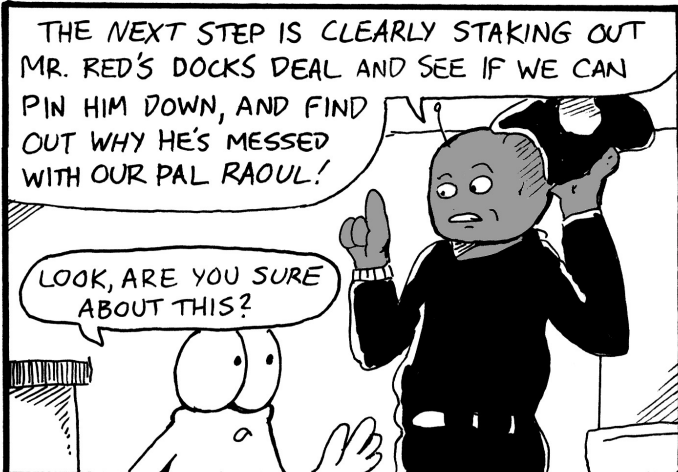


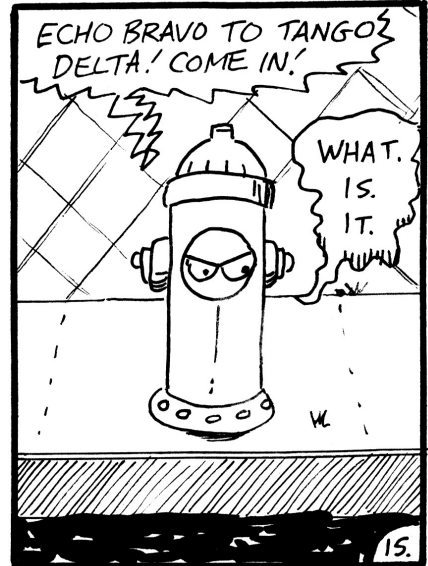
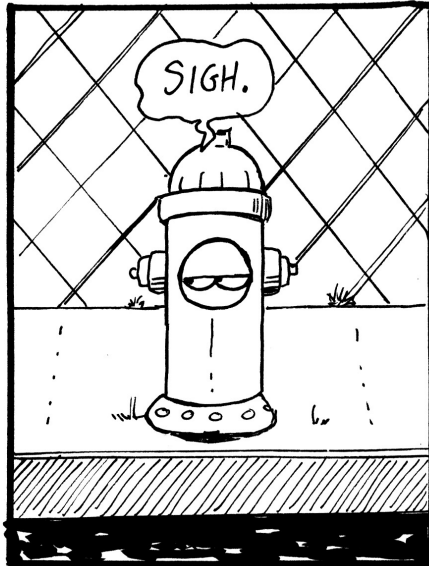
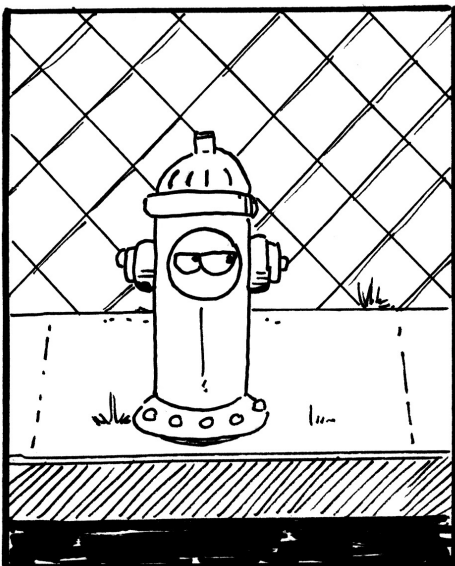
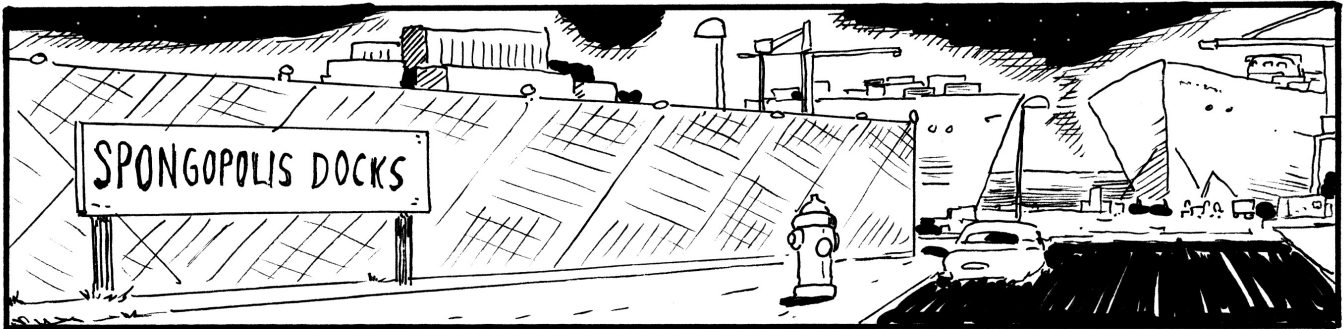
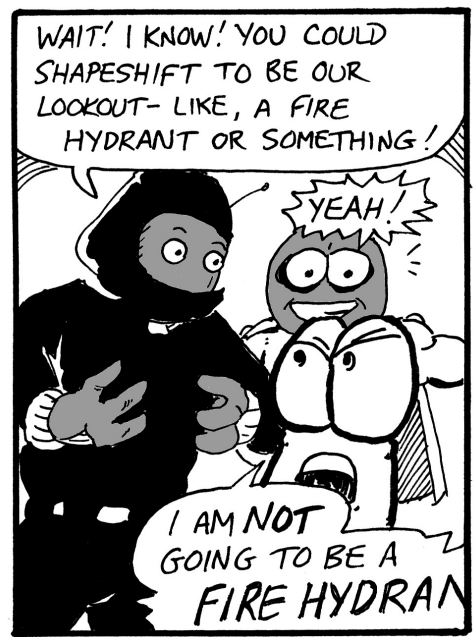
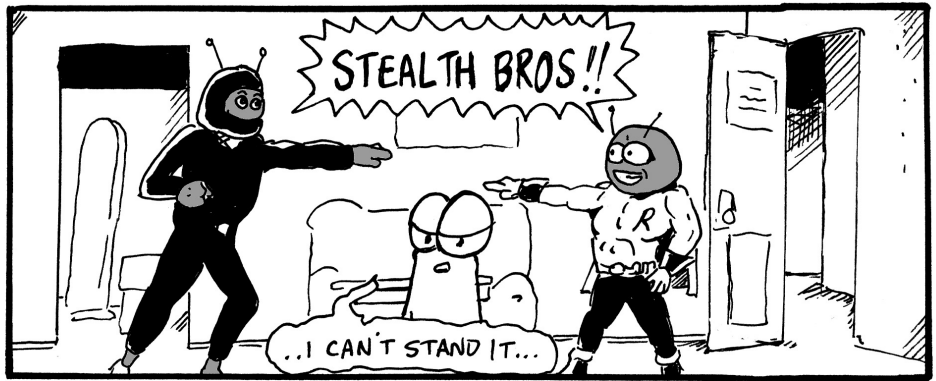
AND LOOK - SERIOUSLY- YOU  
NEED TO BUY A COMPUTER.

THAT'S LIKE DETECTING  
101 THESE DAYS, PAL.

SEE YOU.

THE DOC GAVE ME HIS DIAGNOSIS.  
IT WAS UP TO US TO DISH OUT SOME MEDICINE.  
...I DON'T KNOW ABOUT THIS...



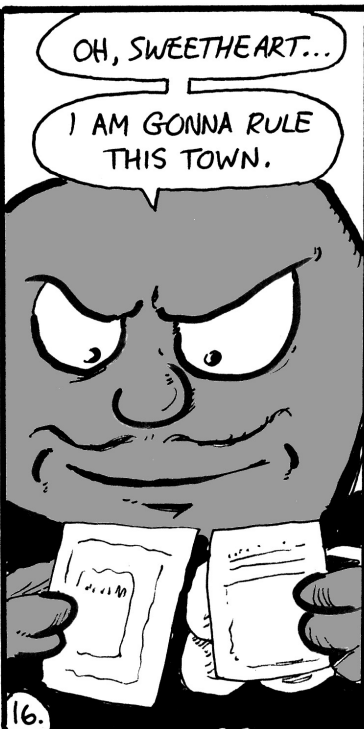
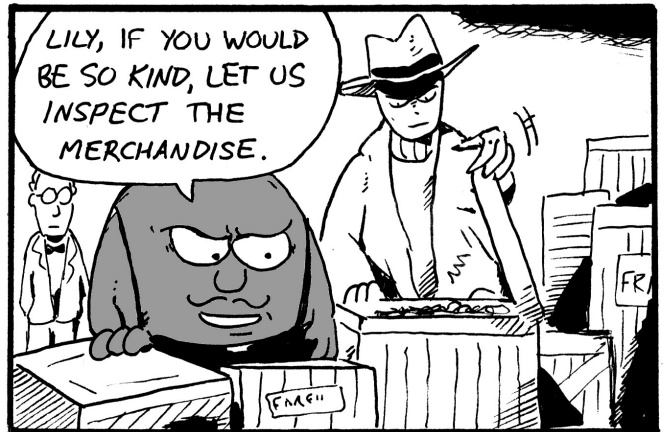
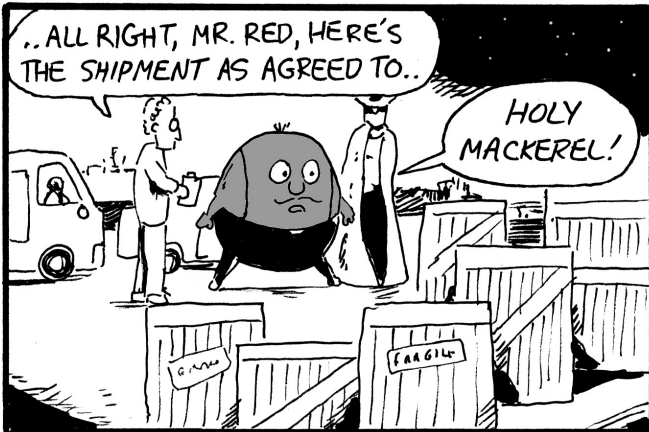


CASE FILE #3: DEATH ON THE DOCKS.

GREAT SCOTT! WOULD THIS DARING RAID FINALLY LEAD TO THE REDEMPTION OF RAOUL?

OK, PRO, TELL US WHAT YOU SEE!

SHHH!







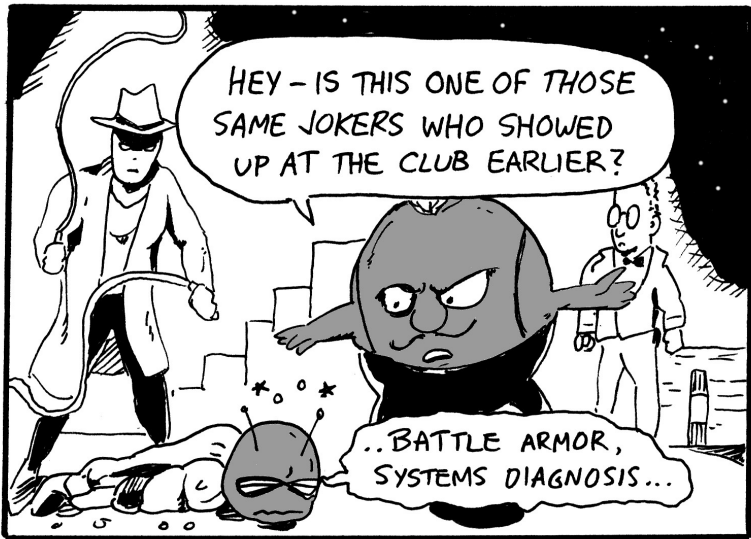
WHAT THE-

thump  
CLANK

URK!

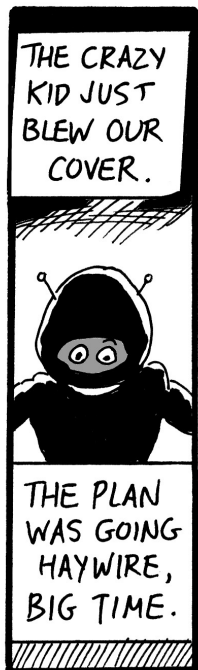


GUYS?  
WHAT'S GOING ON?



HEY - IS THIS ONE OF THOSE SAME JOKERS WHO SHOWED UP AT THE CLUB EARLIER?

..BATTLE ARMOR, SYSTEMS DIAGNOSIS...



THE CRAZY KID JUST BLEW OUR COVER.

THE PLAN WAS GOING HAYWIRE, BIG TIME.



OH, WELL...

LET'S DETECT THE HECK OUTTA THIS CASE!

NO, WAIT...

1-2-3, INVESTIGATE!



WHAT IS THIS, SOME KIND OF INSECT CONVENTION?

NINJA STANCE!

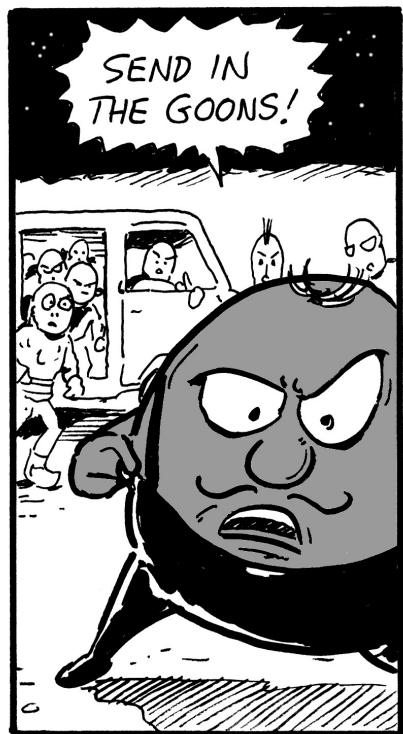
BATTLE ARMOR, POWER UP!



I DON'T KNOW WHO YOU GUYS ARE WORKING FOR..

BUT YOU AIN'T GETTIN' MY SECRETS!

BATTLE ARMOR, READY WEAPONS!



SEND IN THE GOONS!



BATTLE ARMOR, SHIELDS UP - URKK!

GOONS!

I KNEW IT'D BE GOONS!

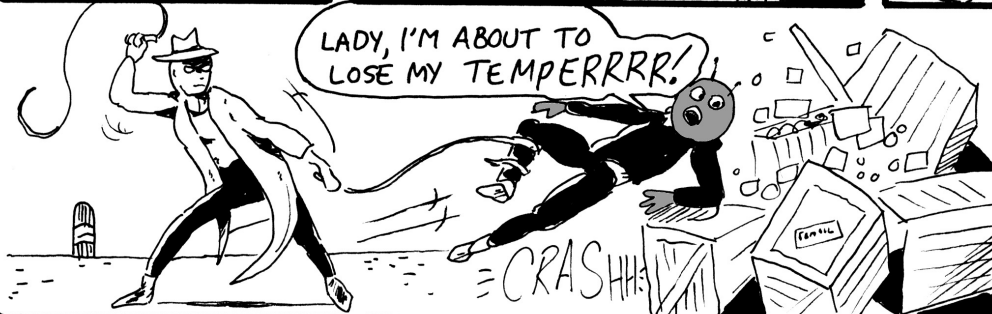


CRASH BANG!

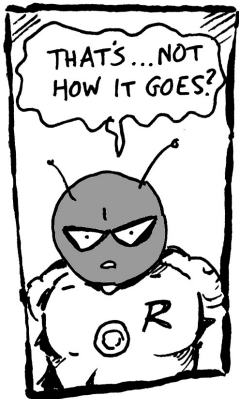
SHATTER

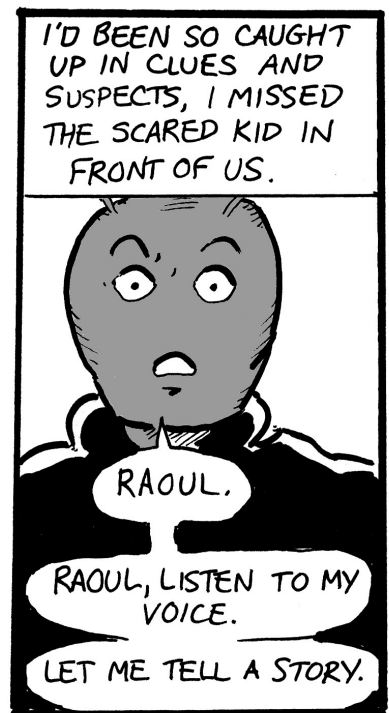
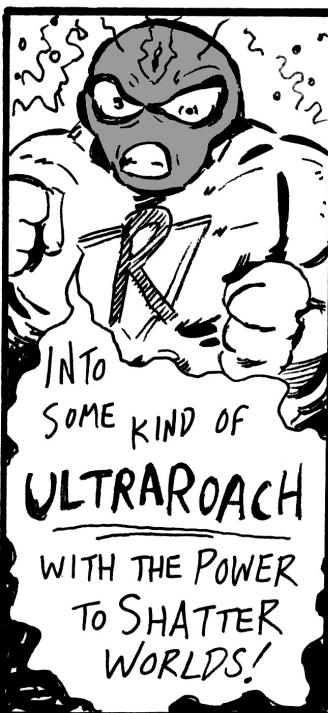
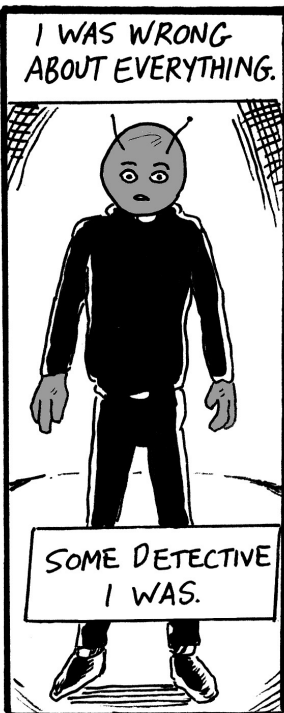
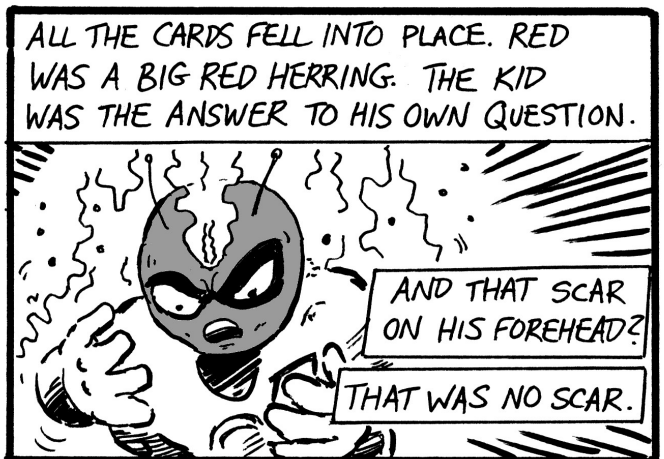
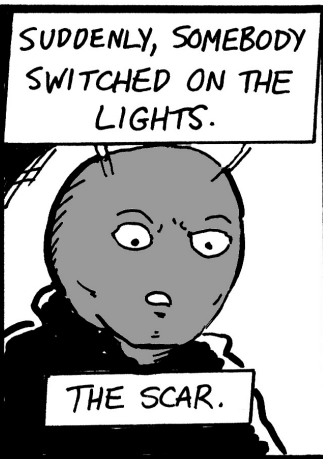
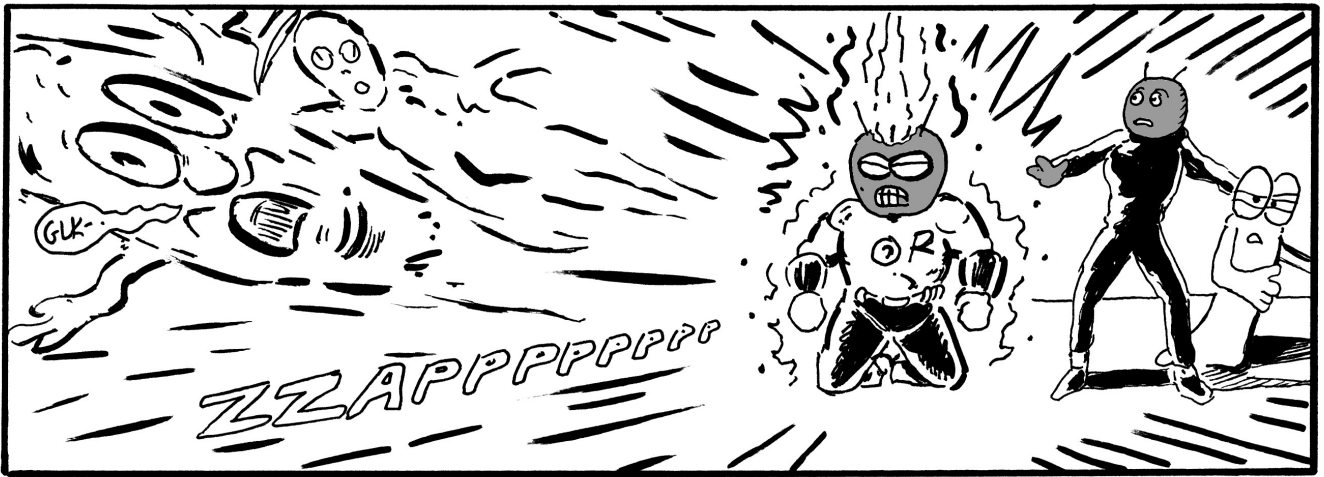
OOFF! MY SPLEEN!

OH, FOR CRYIN' OUT LOUD...

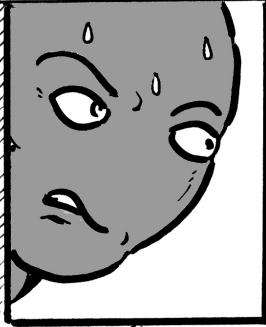








...WELL, THERE WAS THIS KID NAMED RAOUL...



AND HE WANTED NOTHING MORE THAN TO BE A SUPERHERO.

AND WOULD YA BELIEVE IT - HE ACTUALLY DID IT! HE JOINED UP WITH SOME OTHER COOL AND REMARKABLY HANDSOME HEROES.

...I'M THE HERO...

BUT THEN SOMETHING HAPPENED.

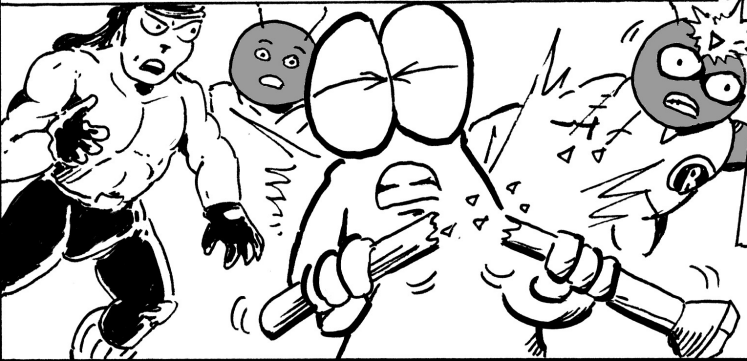


THE GOOD GUYS MET A REAL BAD GUY CALLED MACABRE.

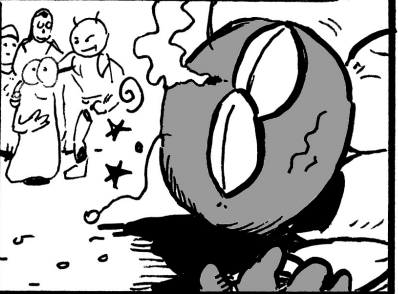
HE WAS MORE POWERFUL THAN ANY BAD GUY RAOUL HAD SEEN. BUT WE - WELL, PRO-BEAT HIM! CRACKED THE WAND THAT HELD HIS ESSENCE INTO PIECES.

PIECES.

LIKE A TINY PIECE. ALMOST A SPECK.



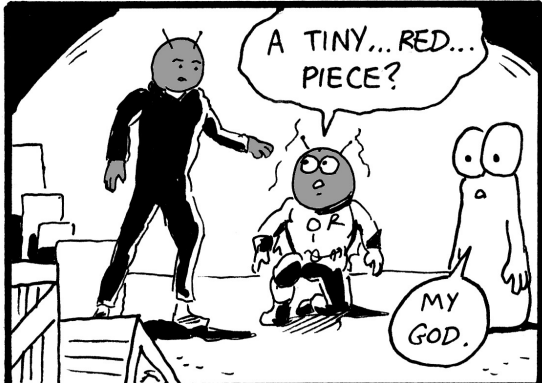
IT LEFT JUST A LITTLE RED SCAR, BUT THAT SPECK WAS STRONG ENOUGH TO MAKE ONE HECK OF A SPLASH!



MACABRE COULD TWIST REALITY.

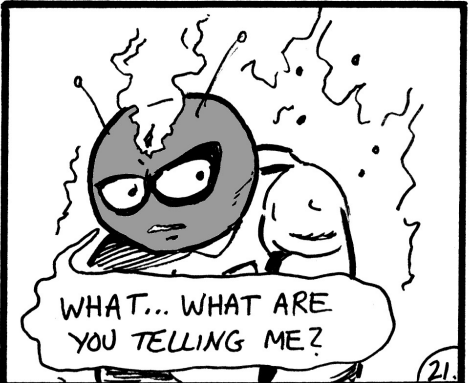


AND ONE TINY BIT OF WHAT MADE HIM TICK WAS STUCK IN YOU.

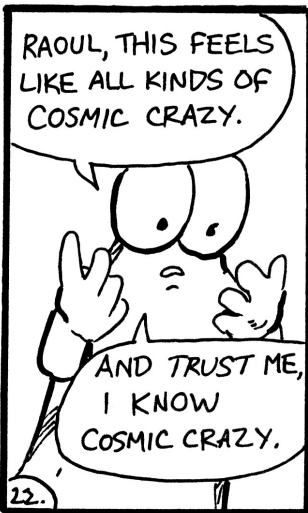
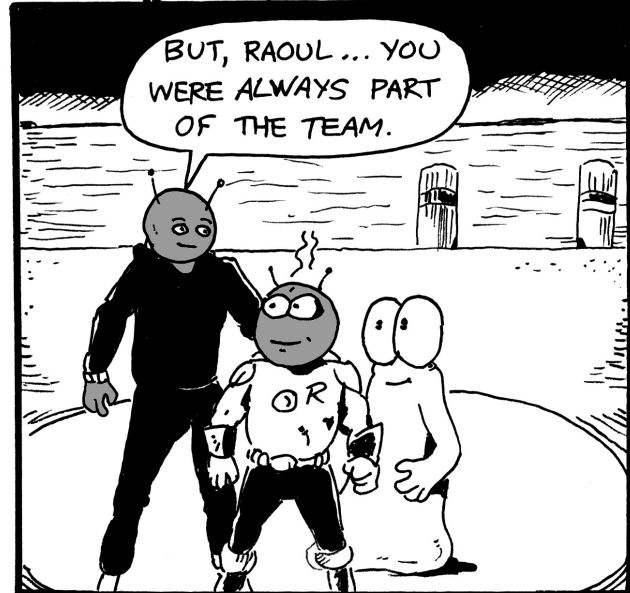
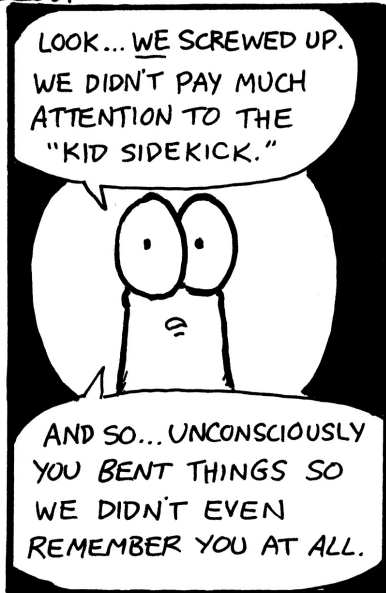
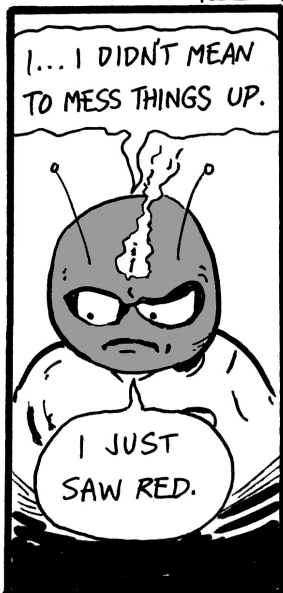
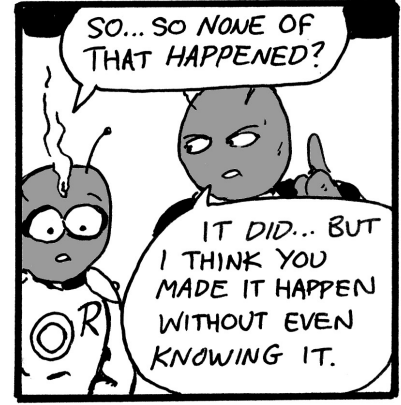
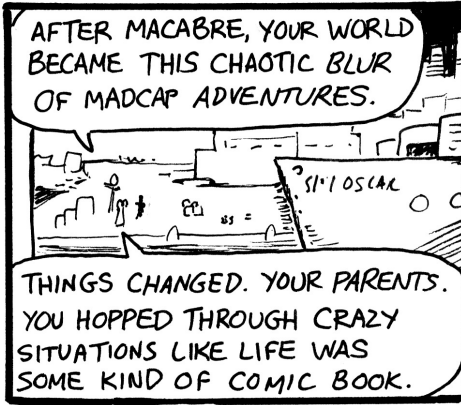


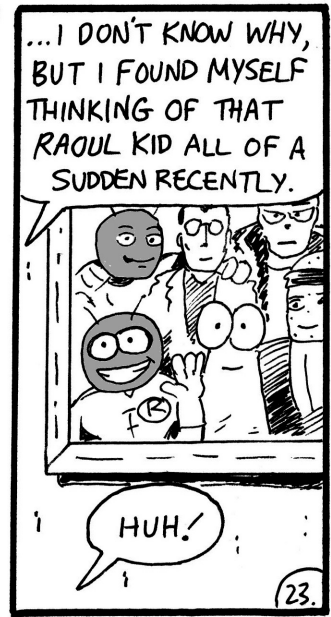
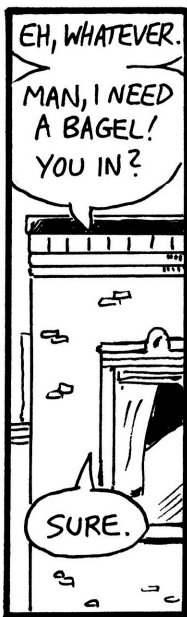
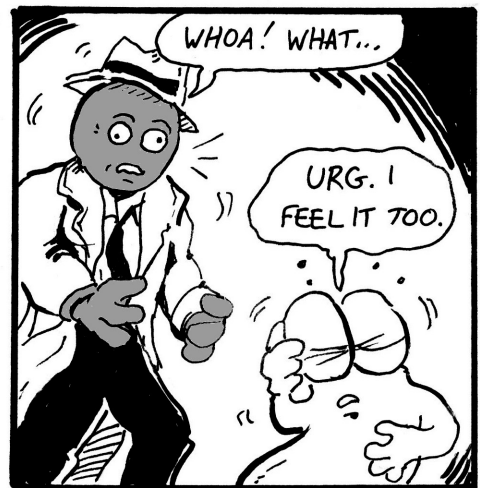
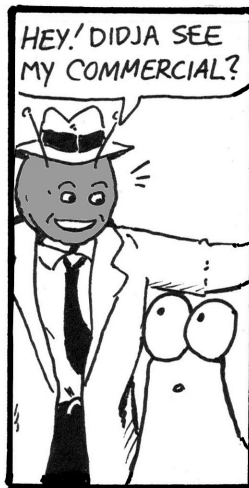
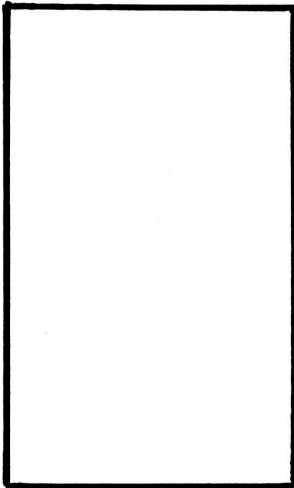
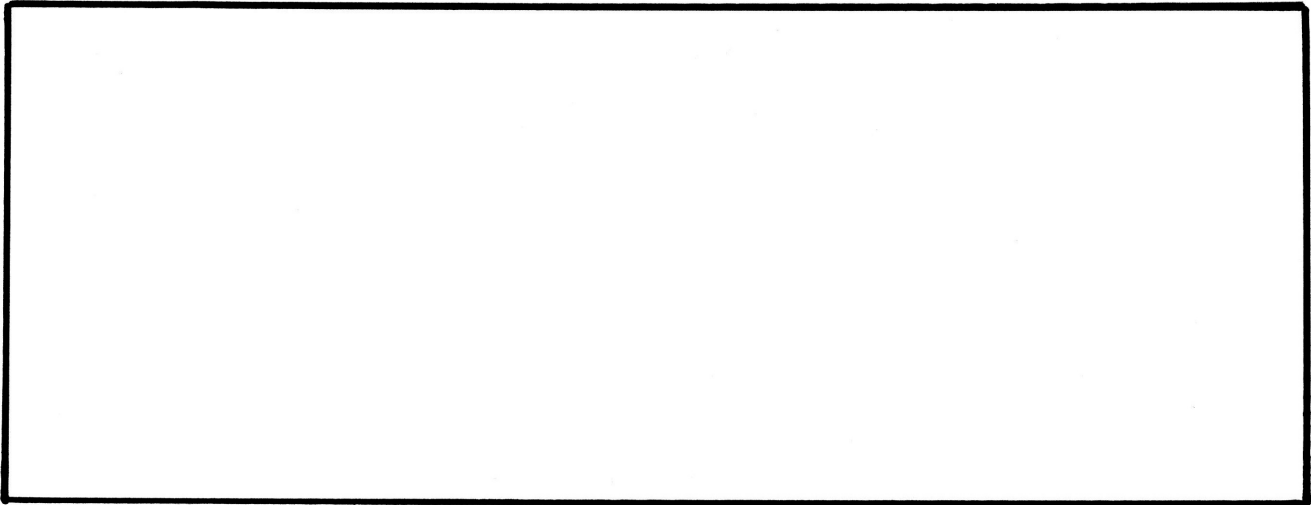
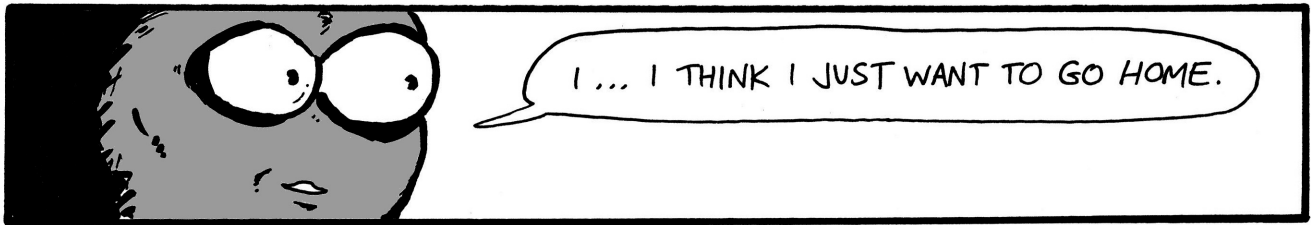
A TINY... RED... PIECE?

MY GOD.

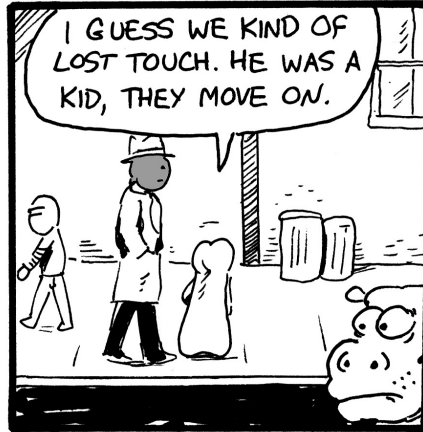


WHAT... WHAT ARE YOU TELLING ME?











# Amoebamail

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Here's a few words from the digital world on Amoeba Adventures #28 by some kind pals - feel free to send along any thoughts on this issue as well!

A package of comic-book goodness just arrived on my doorstep all the way from the mythical land of New Zealand! My old pal Nik Dirga has been revisiting his classic "Amoeba Adventures" characters from back in the day, and I can confirm he has lost none of his knack for combining the melancholy and the absurd.

- J. Kevin Carrier, Ohio

It's great to see you getting back into creating/publishing comics again. AA #28 was a fun read—Mr. 100 was a different take on superheroes. That was interesting...what do you do when you realize you have limited number of powers and you're getting towards the end? The Ninja Ant short story was good for a quick laugh.

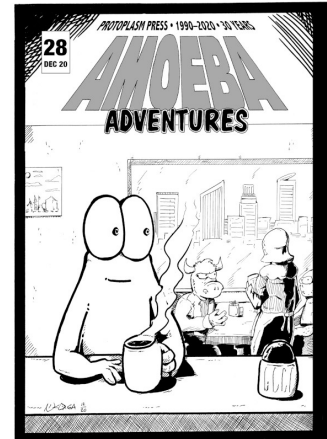
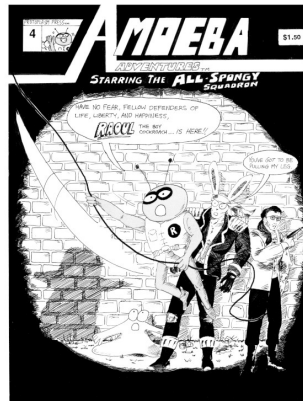
- Joe Bagdon, Virginia

On "Prometheus Drinks Coffee": Nik, this is so good. I can't imagine it's something you could've done in your 20s. You need the perspective of about half-century of living to be able to think of it and execute it so skillfully. And the pen-penultimate panel is fabulous--as good as anything I've ever seen you draw. Keep it up!

- Chris Goodwin, Mississippi



## THE REST OF THE STORY...



All of the 1990s issues of Amoeba Adventures have been uploaded to the cybersphere as FREE PDF downloads. Witness the first appearance of Raoul the Boy Cockroach and much more. All 29 issues of Amoeba Adventures, special issues and solo adventures and much more! Most issues also feature bonus rare art, notes and more from back in the day.



## AMOEBAADVENTURES.COM



Still available: The Amoeba Adventures Archive digital publication, 130 pages of rare and unseen material, including the very first appearances of Prometheus, Rambunny and Spif, stories by Troy Hickman, Max Ink and others, a cover gallery and much more, a mere \$2.00 for the download!

# NEXT ISSUE

