

Protoplasm
Press

33
SEPT 23

AMOEBIA

ADVENTURES



8/23

Amoebamail

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Hello again! Here's your thoughts on January's Amoeba Adventures #32. Thanks to those who took the time to write!

A cracking good tale. It's neat seeing the return of Karate Kactus after a fashion. I was bracing myself for a facehugger emerging from the seedling. Really, this story blends humor and drama very well as typical of all your work.

Byron Black, Indiana

How wonderful. That was my feeling after reading this latest issue. Besides the obvious stuff I love about your work, i.e. excellent storytelling, characterization, and artwork, it's really the affection you clearly have for Ninja Ant and co. that I truly appreciate. It speaks to how amazing a storyteller you are that a story involving an ant ninja, the ghost of a cactus and a cactus baby can fill me with so many different genuine emotions. I could feel the ache that the group still has over Isuzu's death and Mitsu's sorrow over giving up Spike. This was a beautifully made book all the way around. Probably my favorite issue so far, which is truly saying something.

Jason DeGroot, Texas



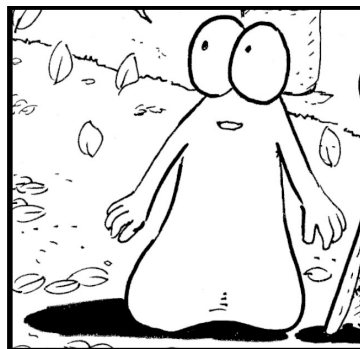
Thanks Jason! "Seedling" did feel kinda emotional to me as well. I'm glad you got what I was going for.

Hey Nik, finally got around to reading AA #32. Man you are like fine wine, you just get better and better. Another great issue, although it really made me miss one of my favorites of yours, Isuzu. You know how comics are, characters are usually never truly gone. In the back of my mind, hoping you would "rebirth" him aka Guardians of the Galaxy's "Groot", now this looks to be happening, look forward to see how this story develops. I've got to ask you, what size do you draw your pages, you're like the late great George Perez, you pack a lot of panels to every page, great layouts by the way. Now the only bad thing I can say, now we have to wait until a new issue comes out. A+++

Tony Lorenz, Florida

I draw my pages about 9 x 12" equivalent. I'm also still pretty doggedly old-school in that I like to do it all pen and pencil on paper. (Is there anything more rewarding than the tactile feeling of pushing lead across a page and having it make something?) Anyway, hope everyone enjoys this issue! Write!

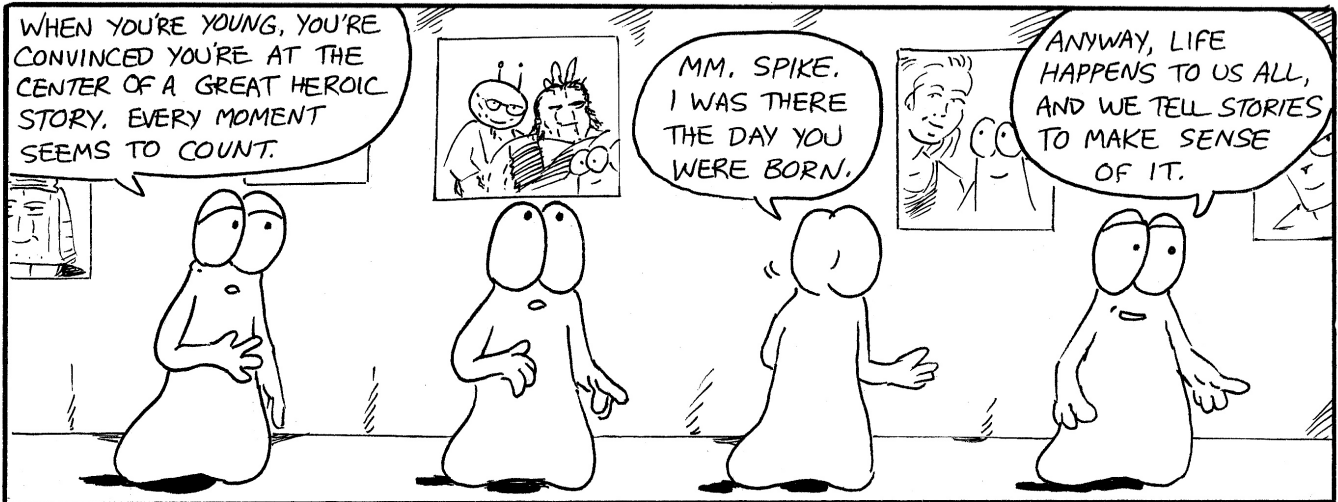
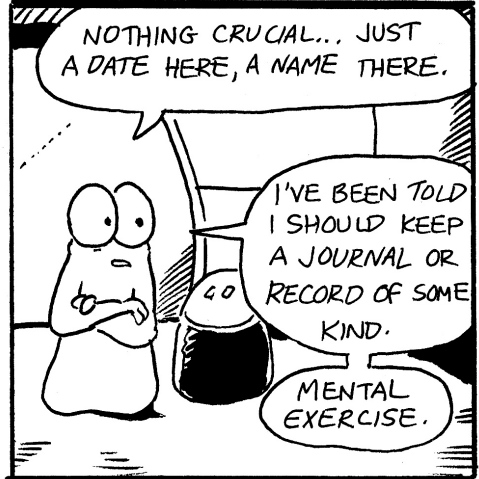
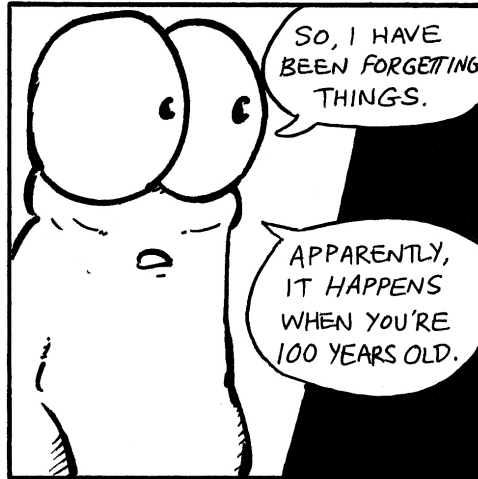
Our Cast



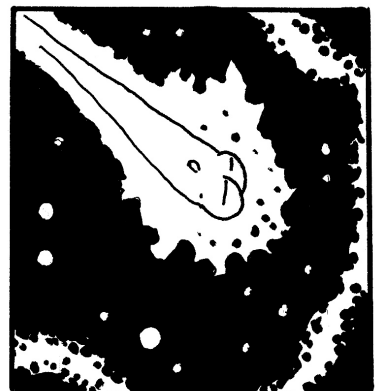
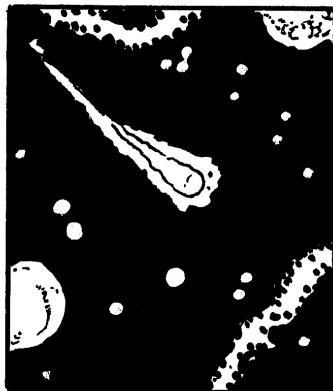
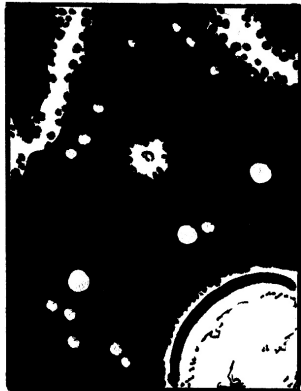
Prometheus is an amoeba who may be immortal. For years, he was a superhero of sorts. This is the story of how he got here.

Amoeba Adventures #33, September 2023. Published maybe twice a year by Protoplasm Press, 262 Konini Road, Titirangi, Auckland New Zealand 0604. Additional print copies of this issue available for \$7.50 postpaid by emailing dirganik@gmail.com. Visit amoebaadventures.com and look for the links to download all 32 previous issues and much more for FREE, and give us a "like" on 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) 2023 Nik Dirga. All rights reserved.

NINETY YEARS FROM NOW*



TEN YEARS BEFORE NOW

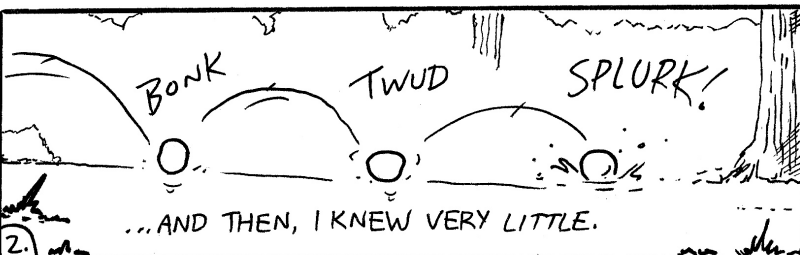
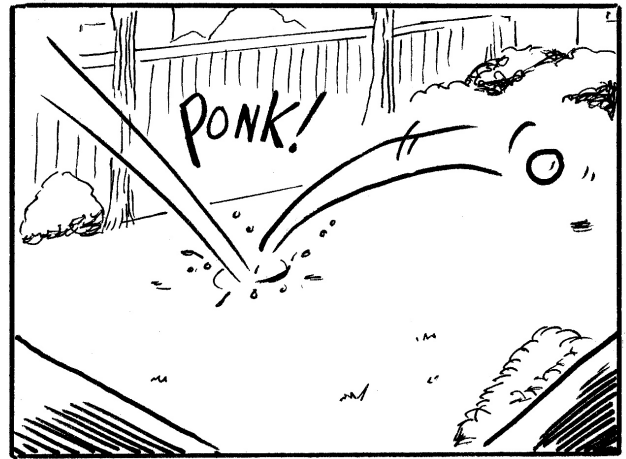


I REMEMBER
MOTION.

WHERE DID I COME FROM?

I'VE BEEN TOLD MANY THINGS,
LOTS OF STORIES ABOUT WHO
AND WHAT I AM. MAYBE SOME
OF THEM ARE EVEN TRUE.

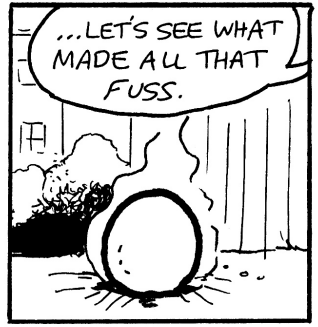
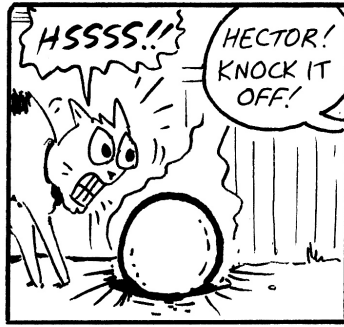
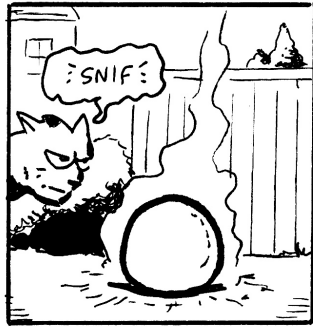
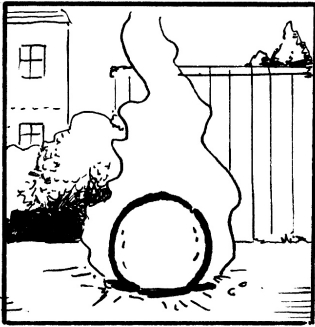
IN THE END, ALL THAT I KNOW FOR SURE
IS THAT ONE DAY, I FELL TO EARTH.



...AND THEN, I KNEW VERY LITTLE.



WHAT HAPPENED NEXT WAS TOLD TO
ME BY THE MAN WHO LOVED STORIES.



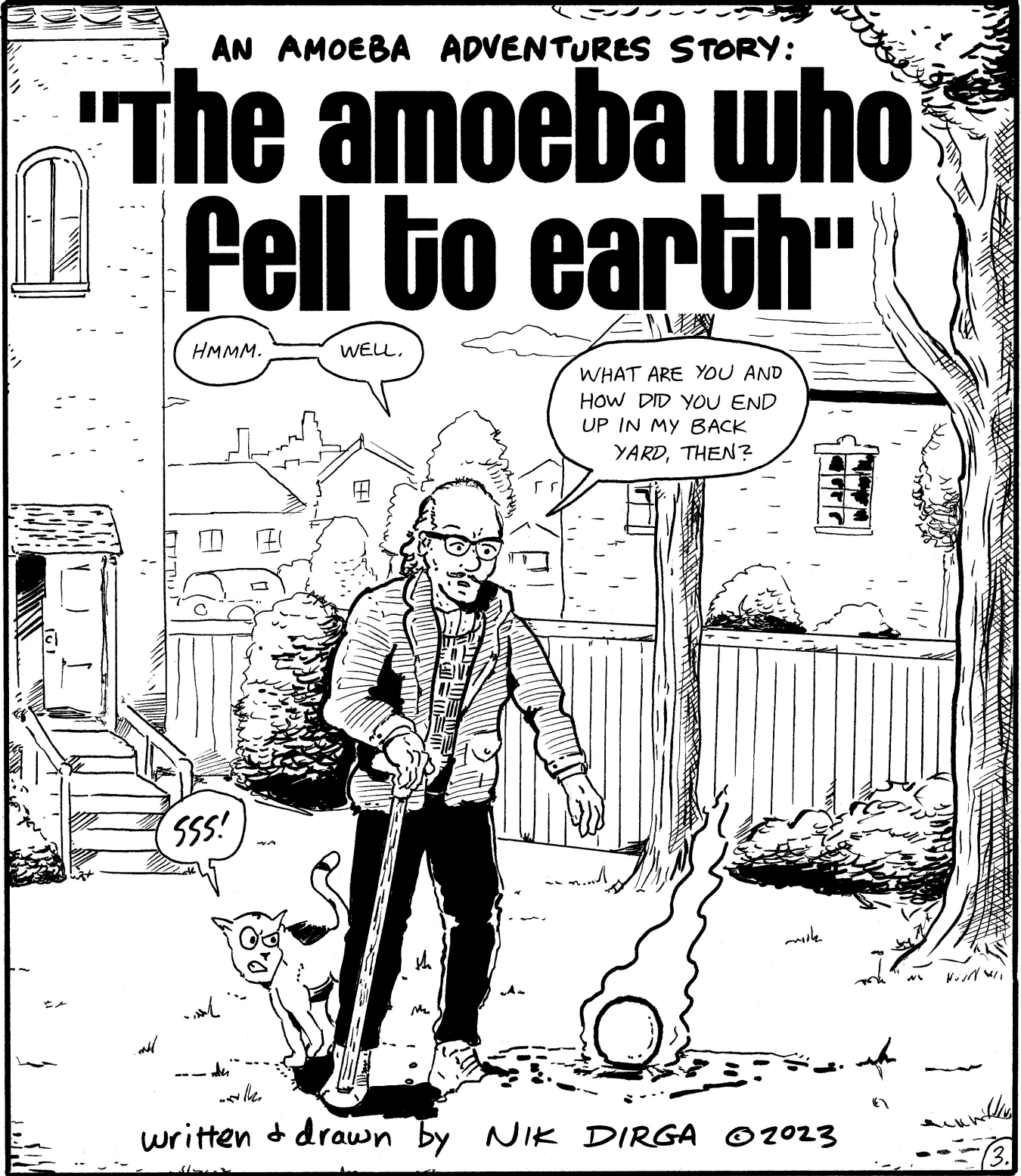
AN AMOEBA ADVENTURES STORY:

"The amoeba who fell to earth"

HMMM. WELL.

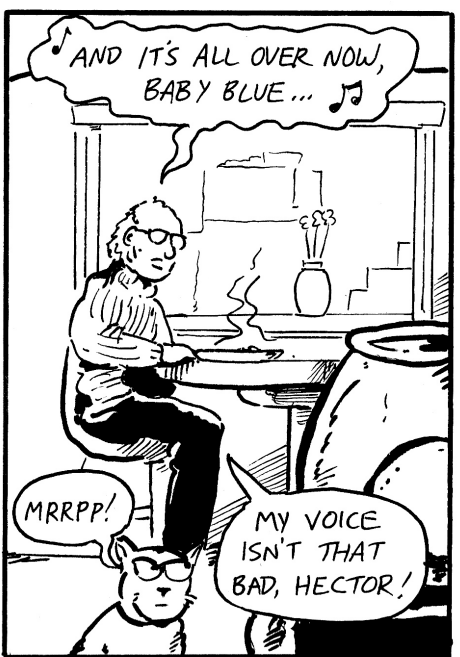
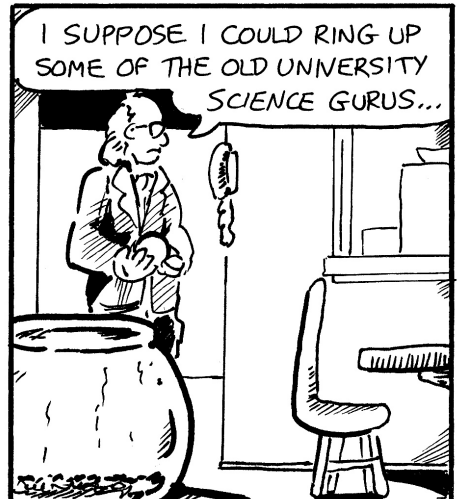
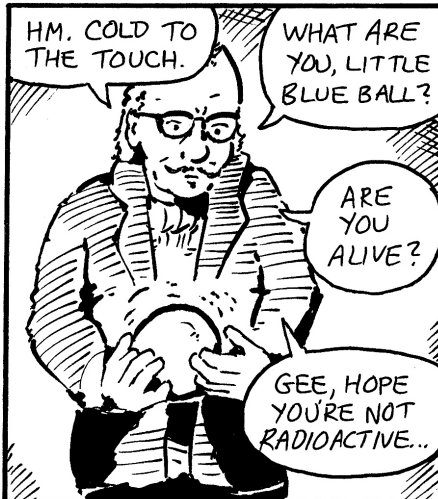
WHAT ARE YOU AND HOW DID YOU END UP IN MY BACK YARD, THEN?

SSS!

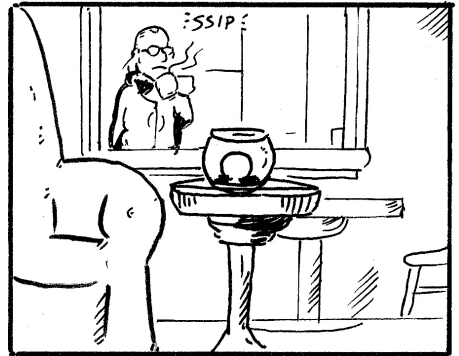
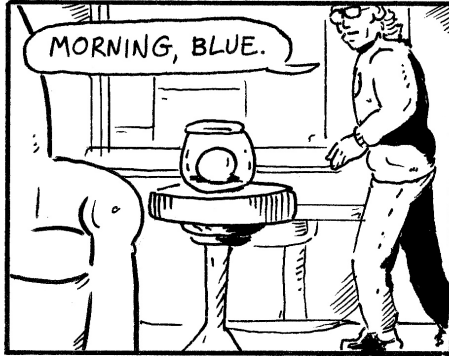
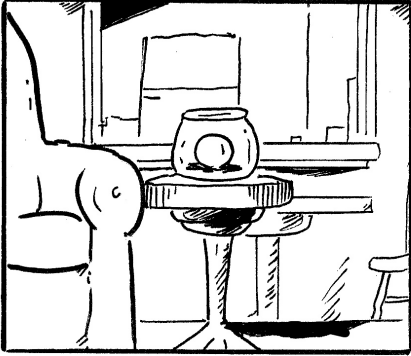


written & drawn by NIK DIRGA ©2023

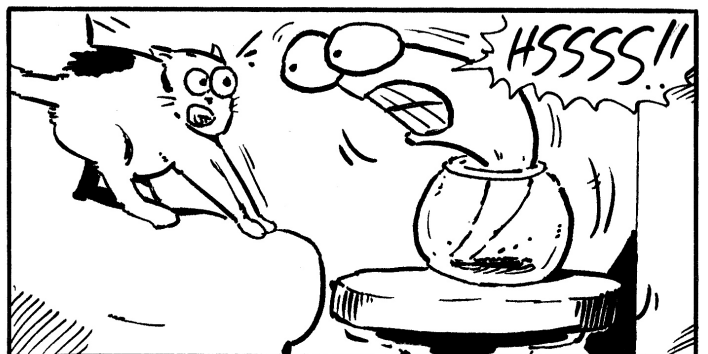
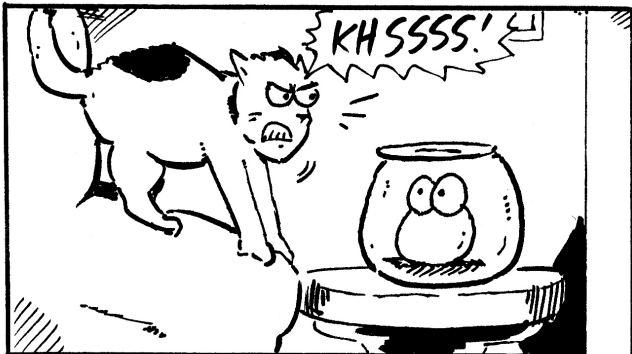
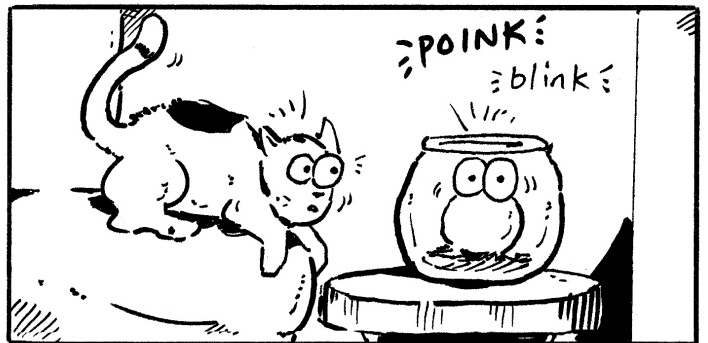
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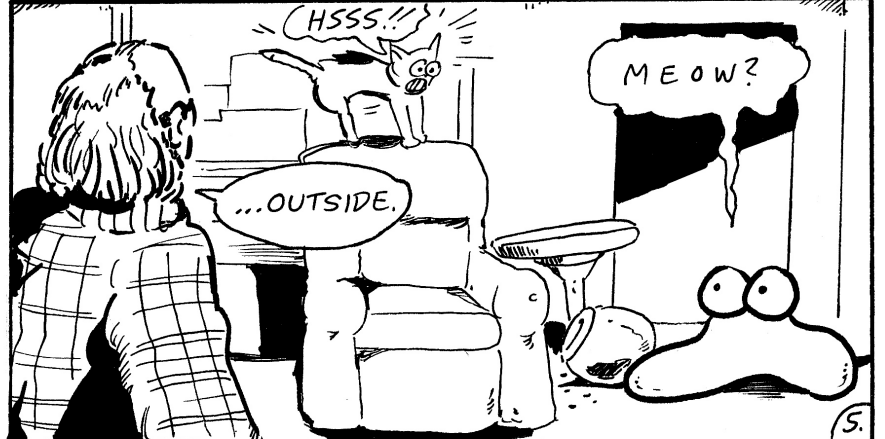
DAY 5



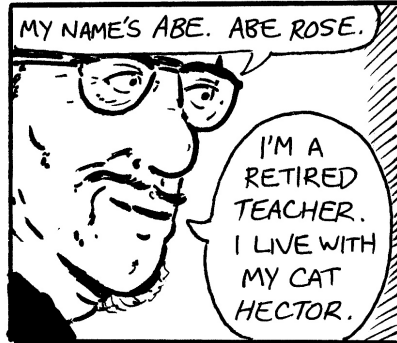
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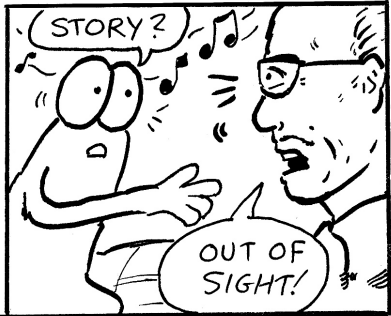
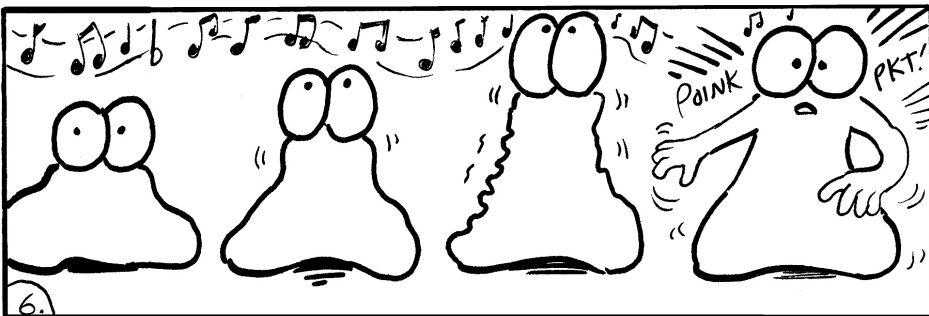
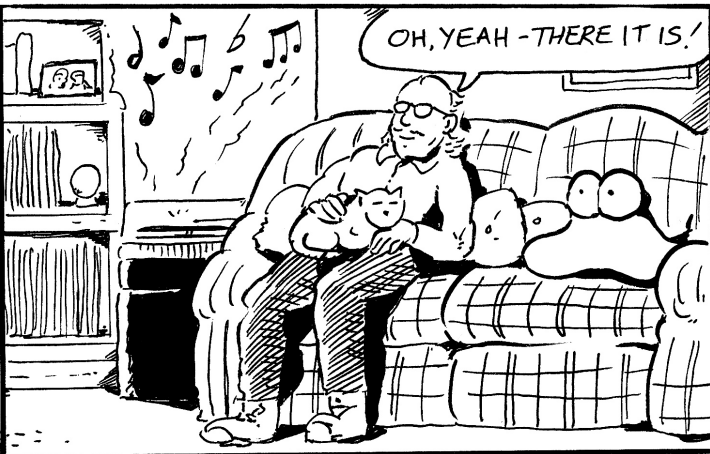
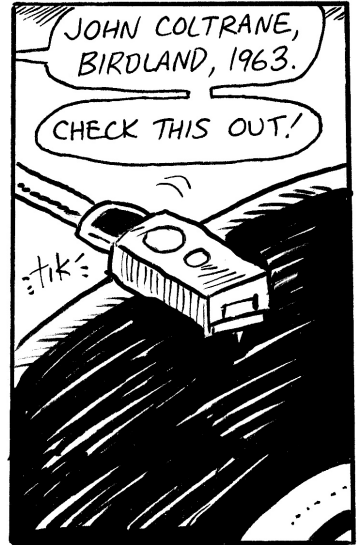
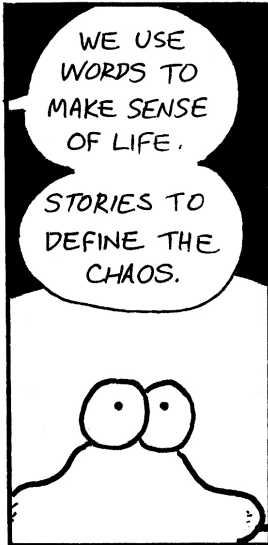
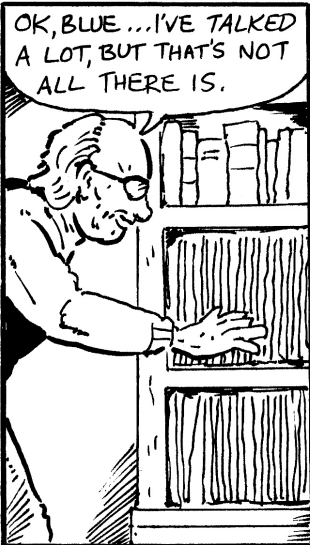
CRASH!!!
MRRRR!!!
SSSSS! crinkle!
THWUP!



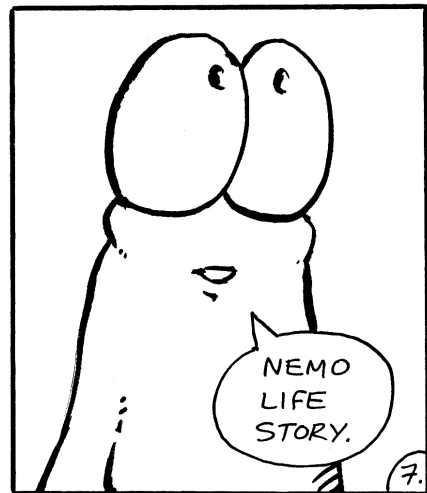
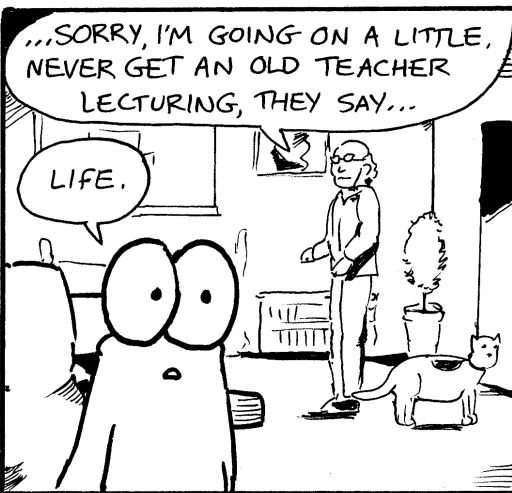
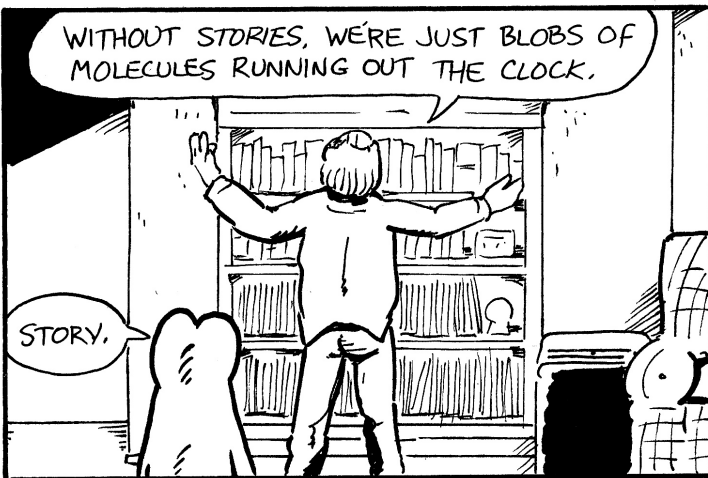
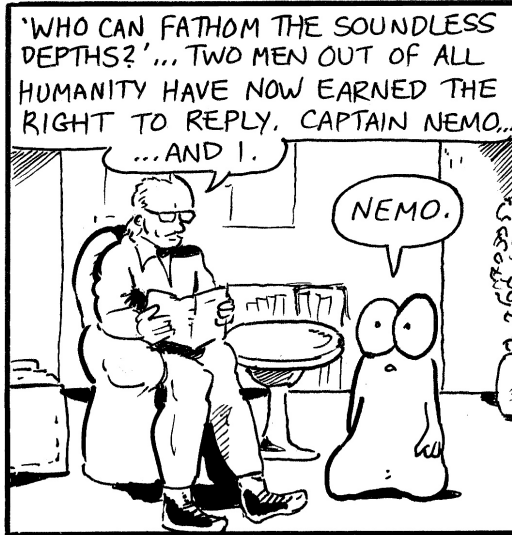
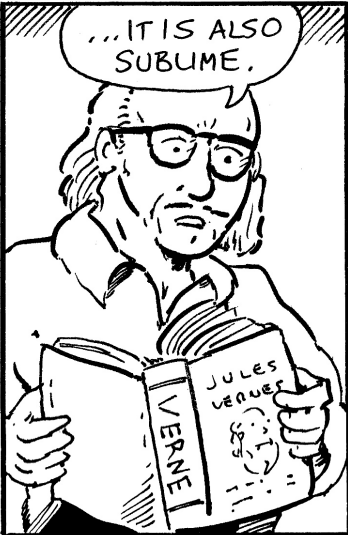
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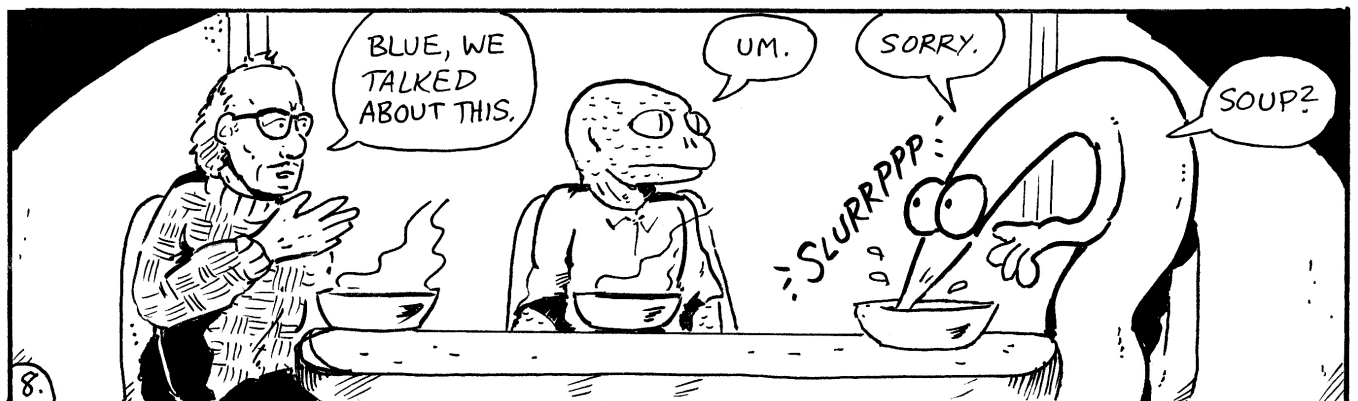
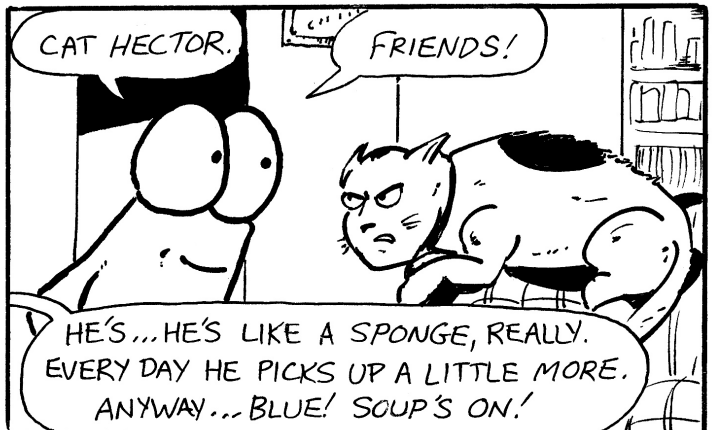
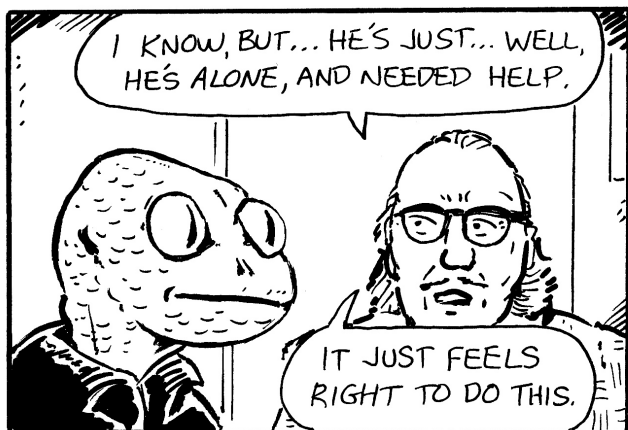
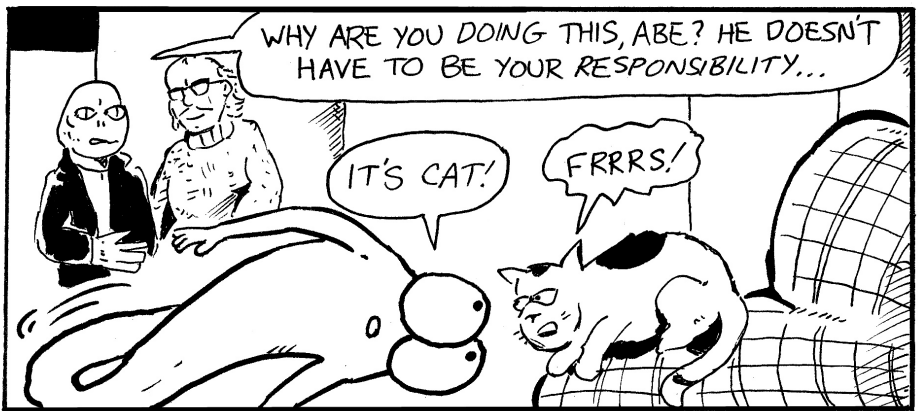
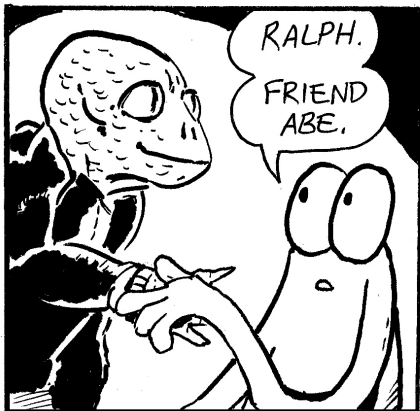
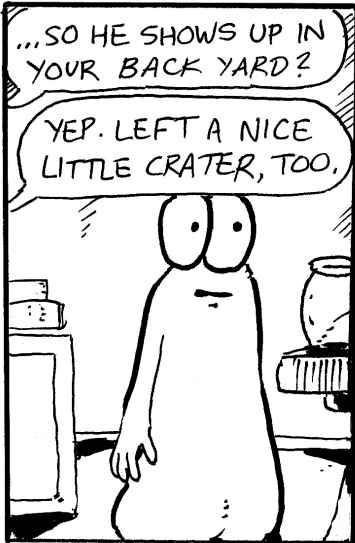
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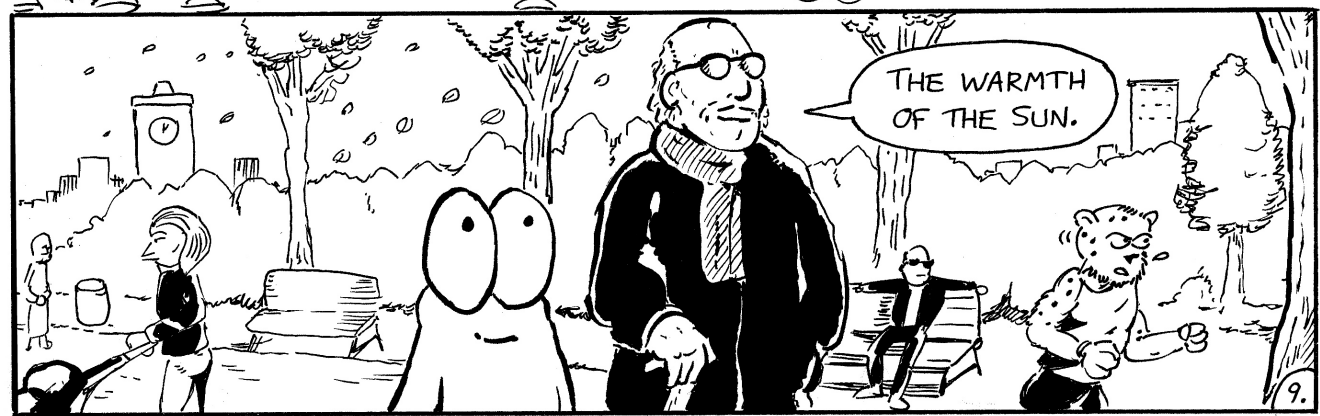
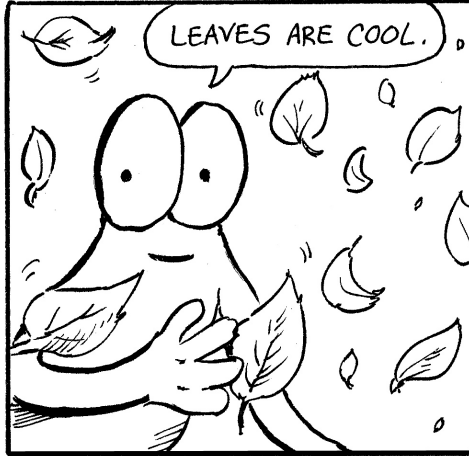
DAY 20



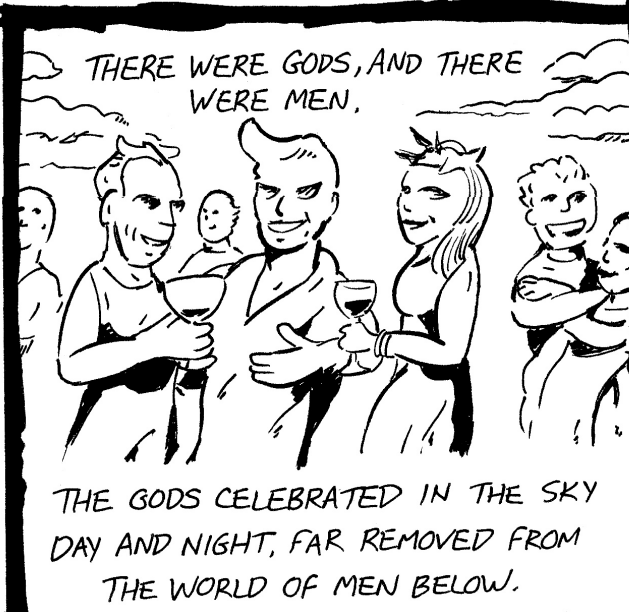
DAY 26



DAY 37



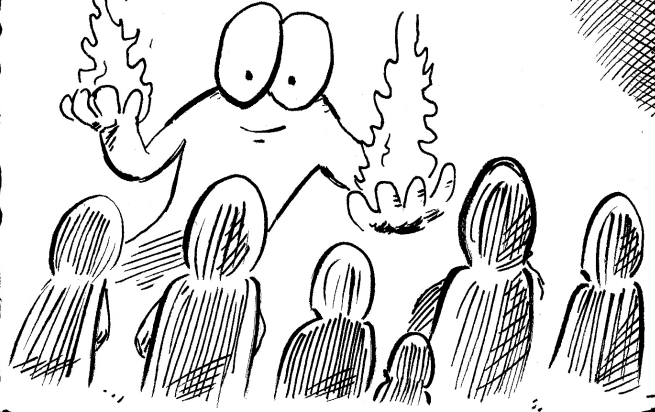
DAY 43



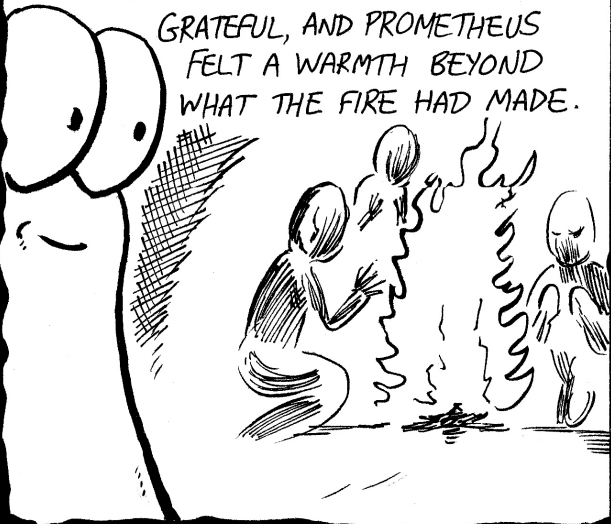
ONE NIGHT WHILE DZAO SLEPT, PROMETHEUS CREPT INTO HIS CHAMBERS AND SNIPPED A LOCK OF HIS FLAMING HAIR.



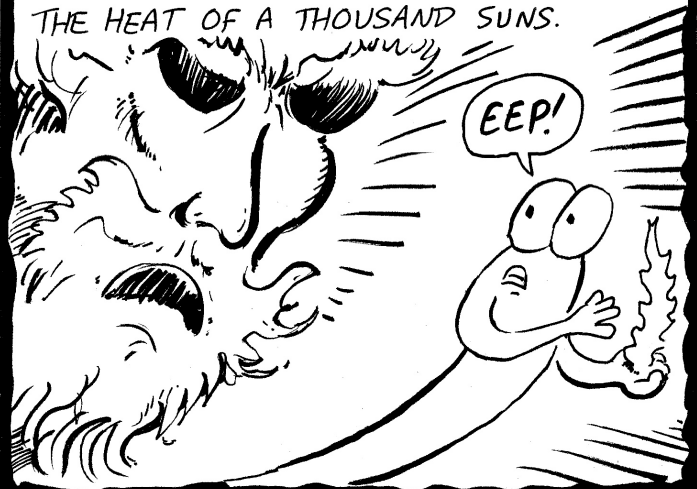
HE KNEW HE MIGHT BE PUNISHED, BUT PROMETHEUS BROUGHT FIRE TO THE WORLD BELOW.



THE PEOPLE WERE AMAZED AND GRATEFUL, AND PROMETHEUS FELT A WARMTH BEYOND WHAT THE FIRE HAD MADE.



NEEDLESS TO SAY, HIS GIFT DID NOT GO UNNOTICED. DZAO AWOKE AND RAGED WITH THE HEAT OF A THOUSAND SUNS.



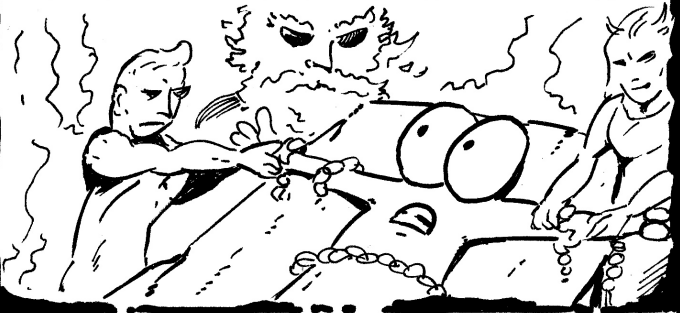
BUT THE GIFT HAD BEEN GIVEN.

DZAO'S FIRE SPREAD AND MULTIPLIED, AND EVEN A GOD COULD NOT STOP WHAT HAD STARTED.



THE WORLD WAS NEVER AGAIN WHAT IT HAD BEEN BEFORE.

DZAO VOWED TO PUNISH PROMETHEUS, AND SENTENCED HIM TO PERPETUAL TORMENT.

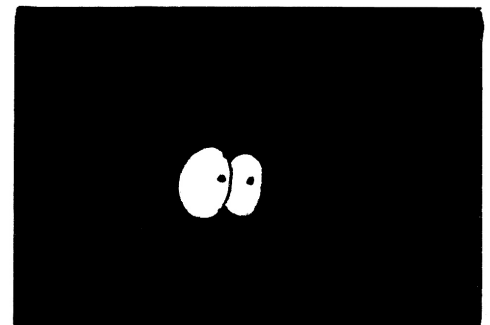
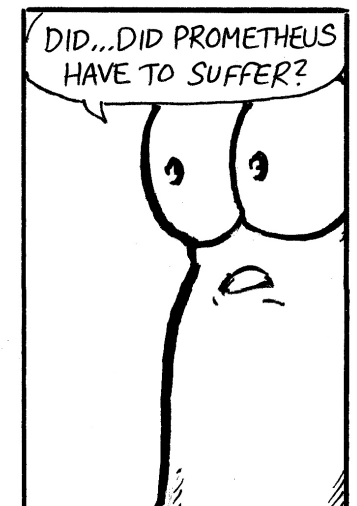
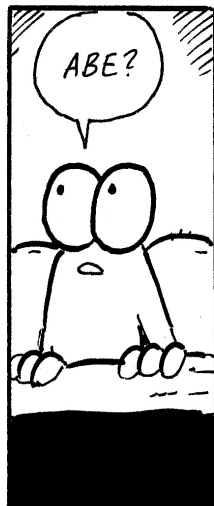
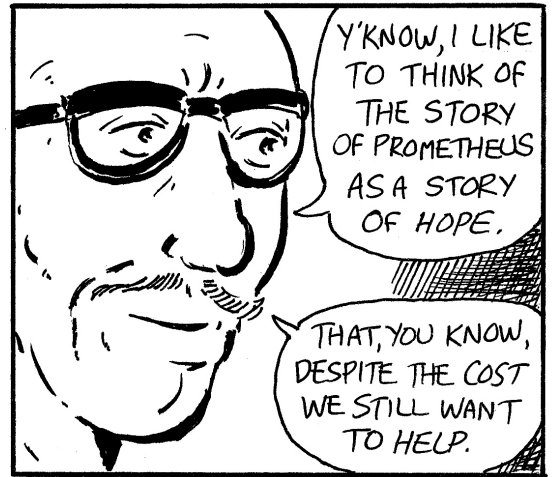
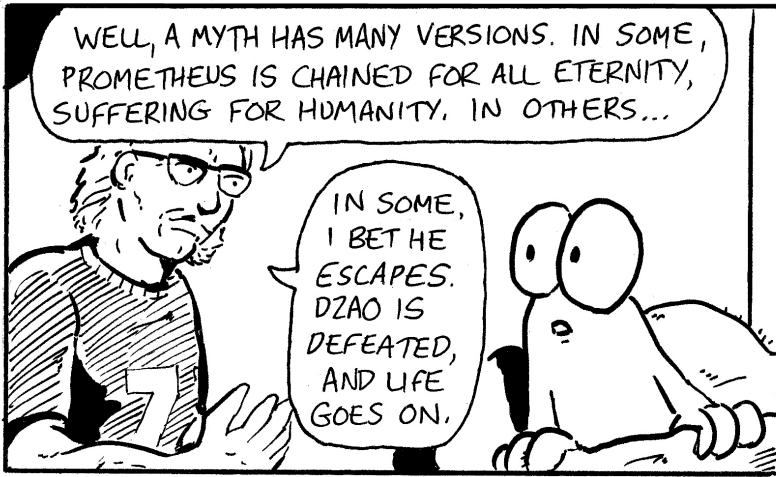


PROMETHEUS WAS CHAINED TO A MOUNTAIN, AND THEN... AND THEN...

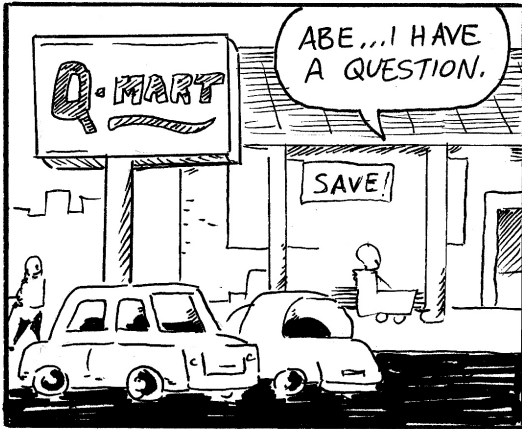


EESH. I FORGOT THIS GETS A BIT GRAPHIC.

WHAT HAPPENED? WHAT HAPPENED?



DAY 55

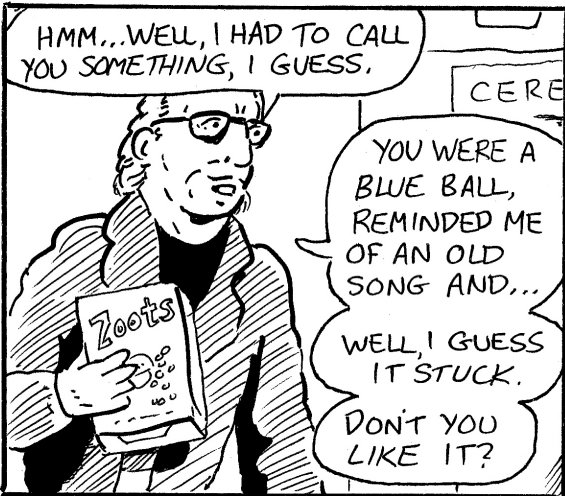


ABE... I HAVE A QUESTION.



SHOOT.

WHY DO YOU CALL ME BLUE?



HMM... WELL, I HAD TO CALL YOU SOMETHING, I GUESS.

YOU WERE A BLUE BALL, REMINDED ME OF AN OLD SONG AND...

WELL, I GUESS IT STUCK.

DON'T YOU LIKE IT?

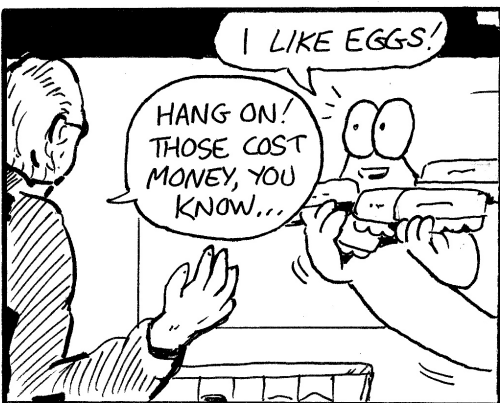


OH, SURE. JUST... IS IT MY NAME?



YOUR NAME CAN CHANGE. I MEAN, YOU CAN BE WHATEVER YOU WANT IN THIS LIFE, YOU KNOW!

HEY! EGGS!



I LIKE EGGS!

HANG ON! THOSE COST MONEY, YOU KNOW...



DO WE HAVE MONEY?

SURE, SURE. IN MY CASE I'M OLD SO I GET MONEY FROM THE JOB I USED TO HAVE.

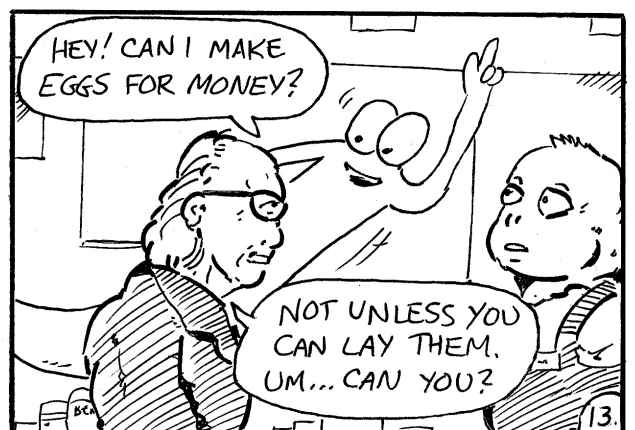


WHAT'S MY JOB?

DO I GET MONEY?



WELL... THAT'S SOMETHING YOU HAVE TO FIGURE OUT, BLUE. EVERYONE DOES SOMETHING.



HEY! CAN I MAKE EGGS FOR MONEY?

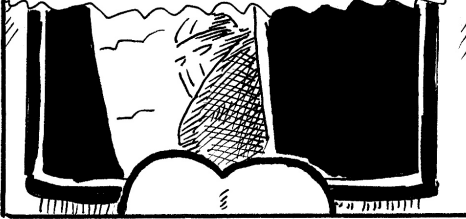
NOT UNLESS YOU CAN LAY THEM. UM... CAN YOU?

DAY 69

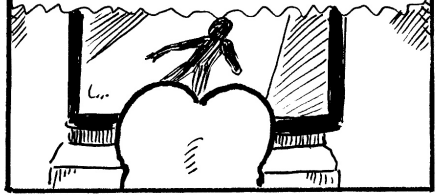
--DURING THE WAR, THE HEROES OF OMEGA STAR DEFENDED THE HOME FRONT...



WHILE IN JAPAN, THE MYSTERIOUS CACTUS CLAN WORKED TO OVERTHROW THE REGIME...

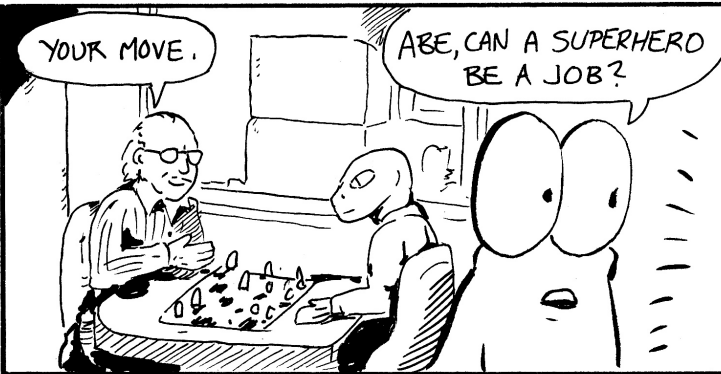


WHEN GALAXY OF HEROES RETURNS, WE'LL LOOK AT THE STRANGE CAREER OF ADAM HUNTER, MASTER OF DISGUISE!



YOUR MOVE.

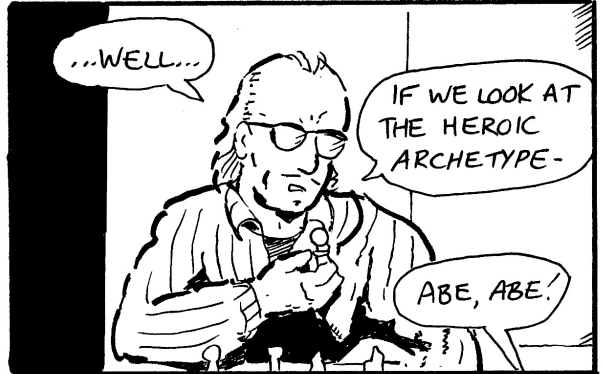
ABE, CAN A SUPERHERO BE A JOB?



...WELL...

IF WE LOOK AT THE HEROIC ARCHETYPE-

ABE, ABE!



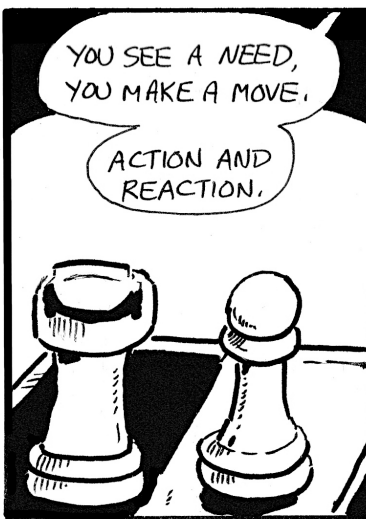
ENOUGH OF THE CLASSICS LECTURES, PROFESSOR!

BLUE, A HERO IS LESS A JOB AND MORE OF AN ACTION, YOU ASK ME.



YOU SEE A NEED, YOU MAKE A MOVE.

ACTION AND REACTION.



DO THAT ENOUGH TIMES AND YOU HAVE A PATTERN. YOUR MOVE.



THIS IS WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOU GET TWO PROFESSORS TOGETHER.

HEY, I GREW UP WITH STORIES ABOUT THOSE OLD HEROES, TOO.

DID THEY CHANGE THINGS? I DON'T KNOW.



I LIKE TO THINK THEY DID.

THERE'S WORSE ROLE MODELS OUT THERE.



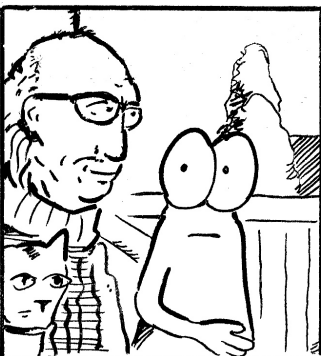
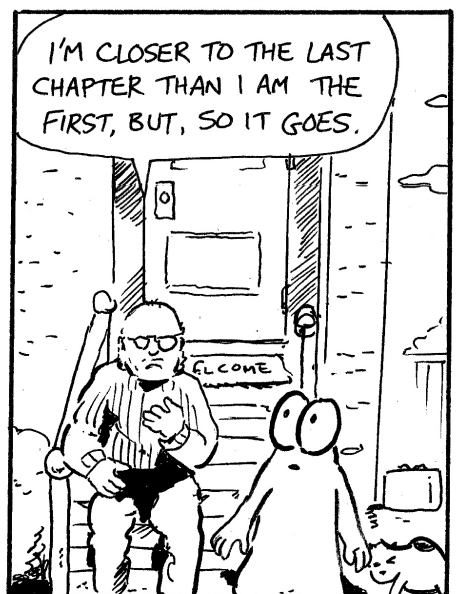
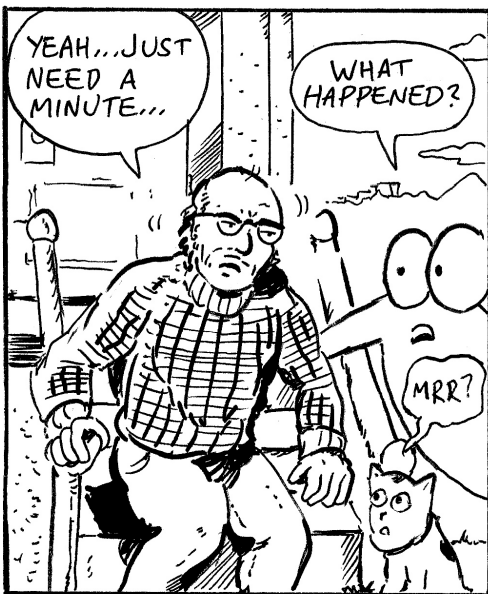
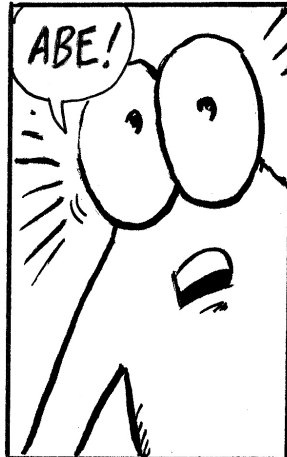
ANYWAY, BLUE, DID WE ANSWER YOUR QUESTION?

...IT'S JOHNNY PROBLEMS WITH "EVERYBODY MIGHT BE A WINNER!"...

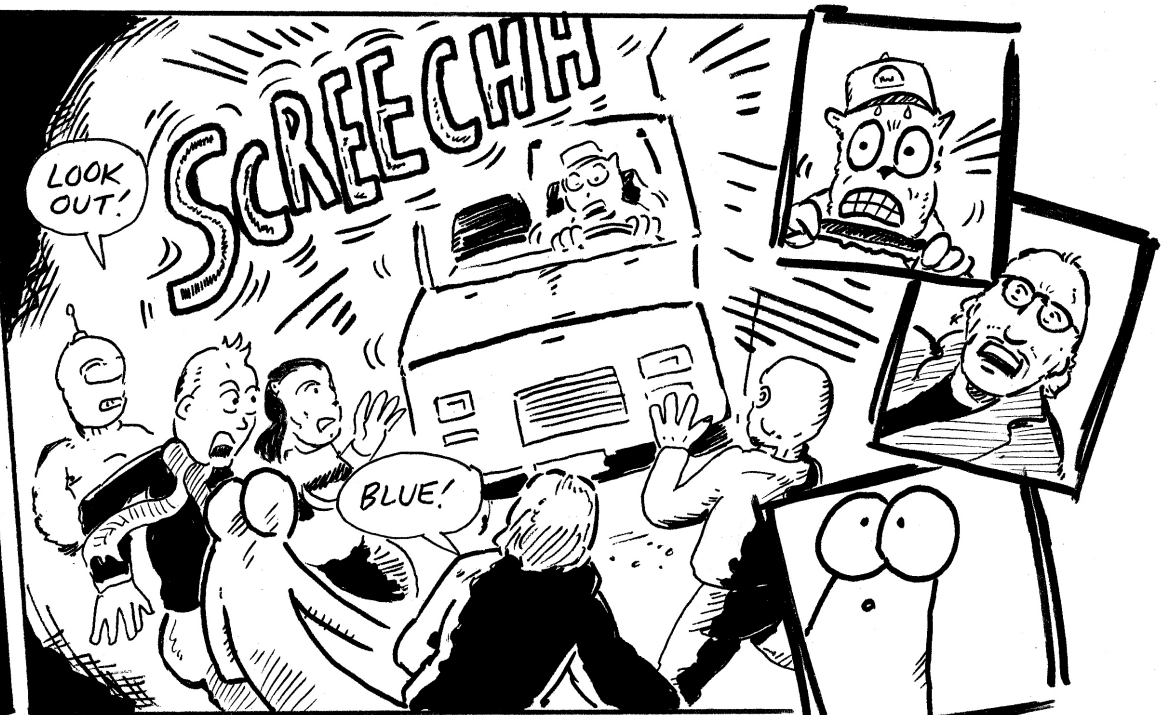
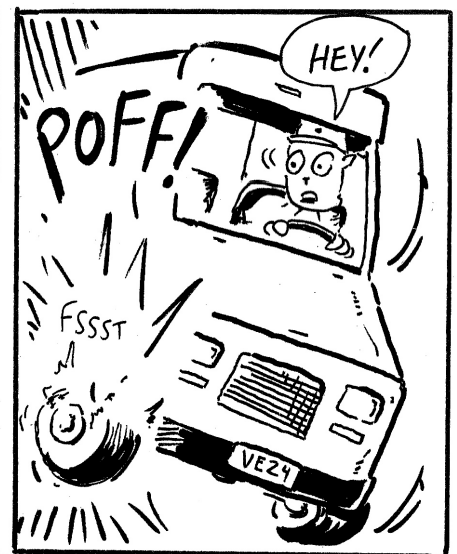
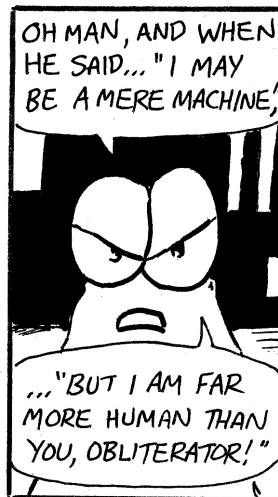
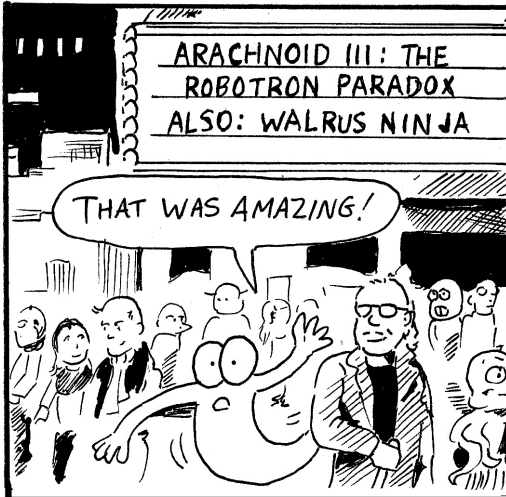
SURE. HEY, CAN I ALSO BE ON A GAME SHOW?

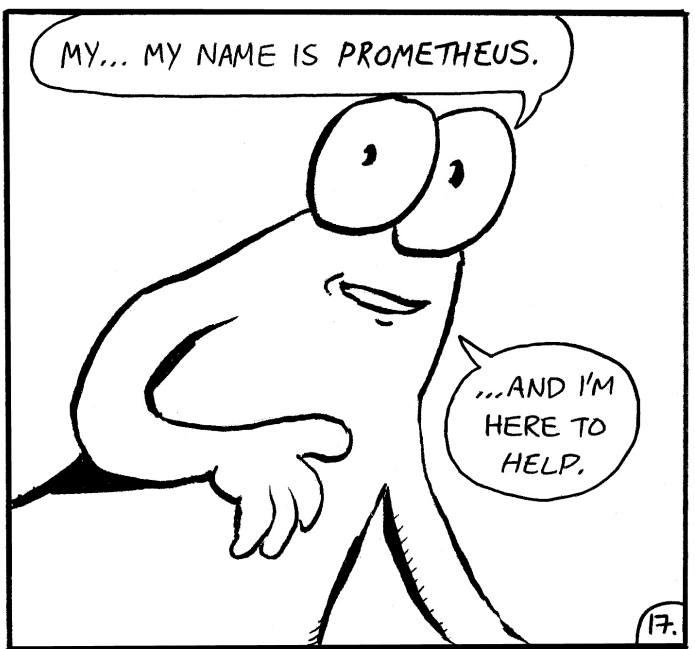
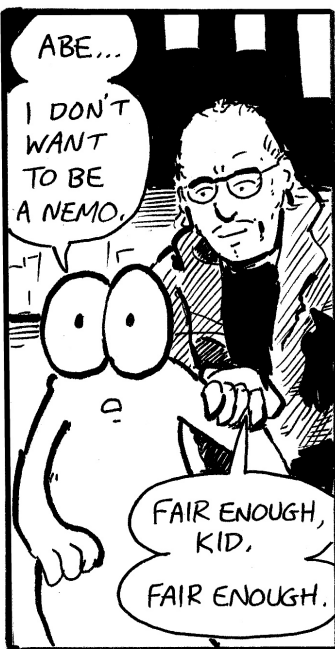
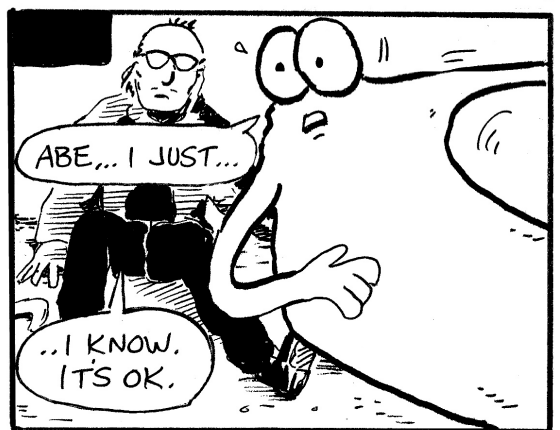
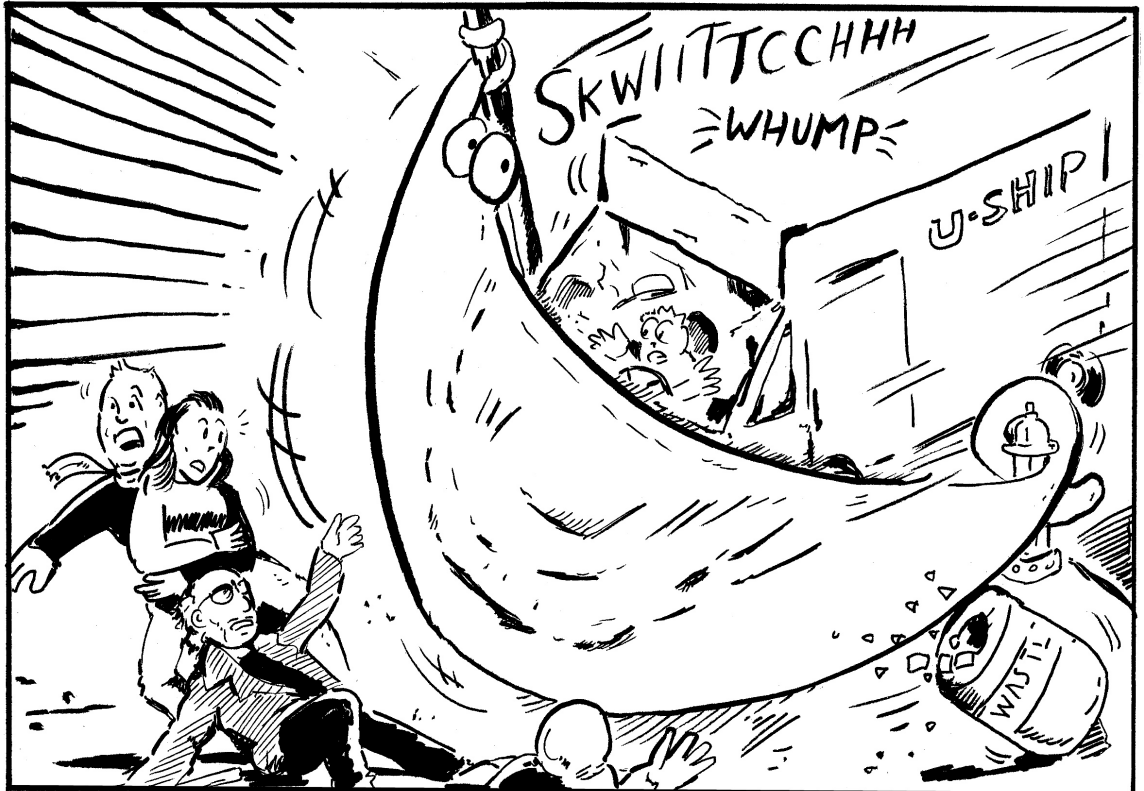


DAY 81

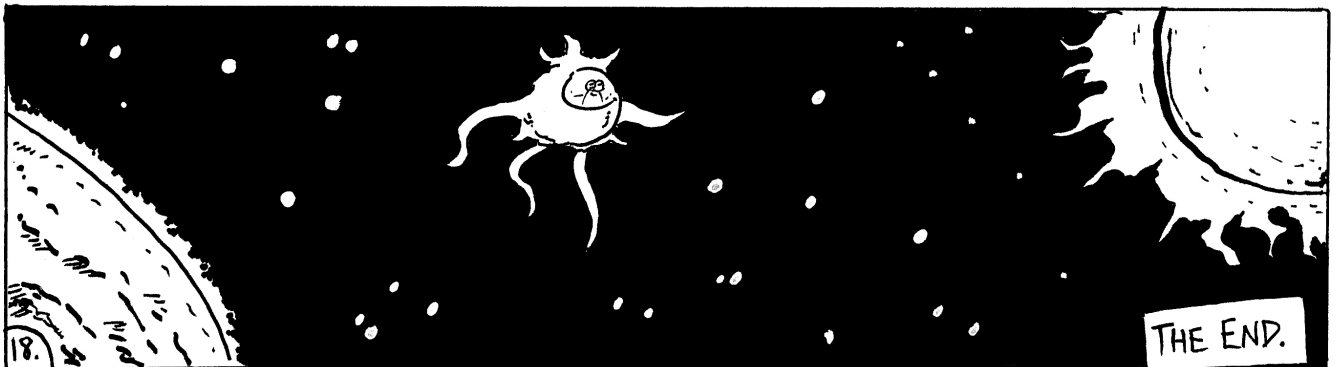
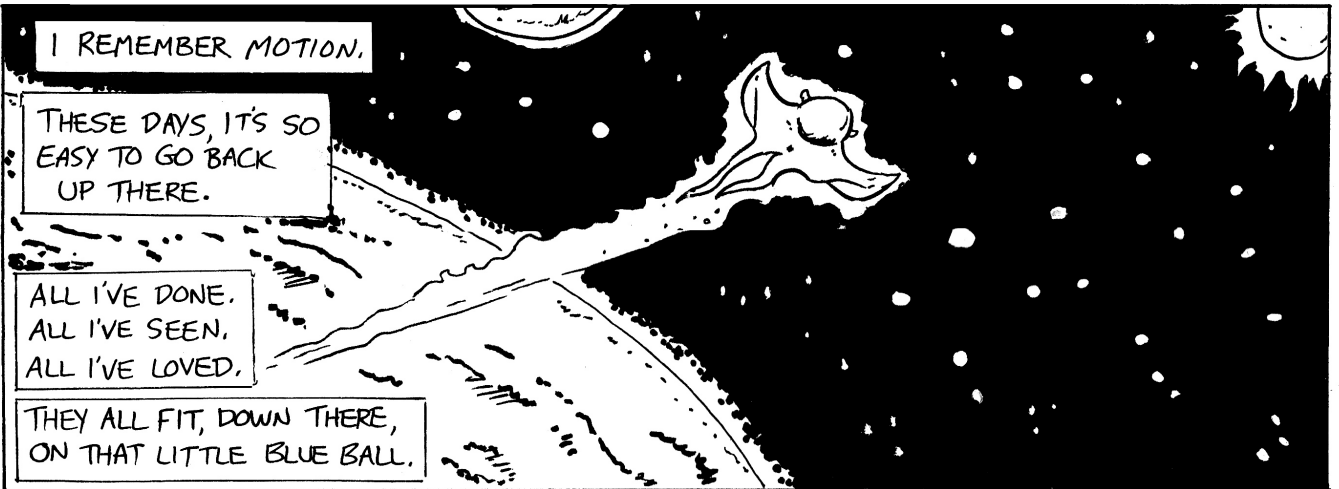
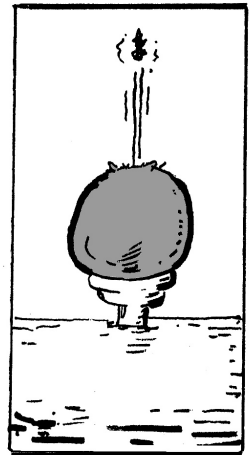
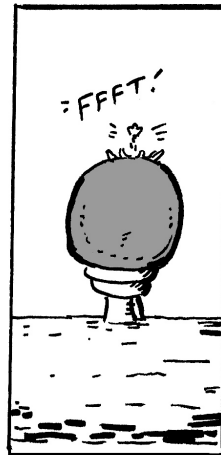
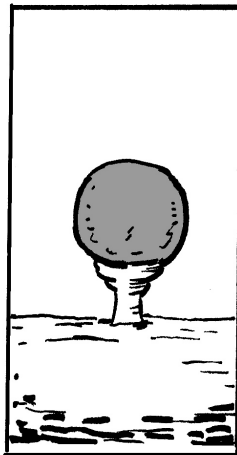
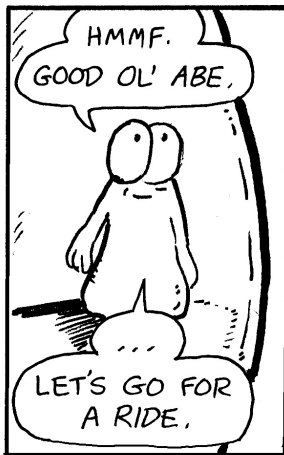
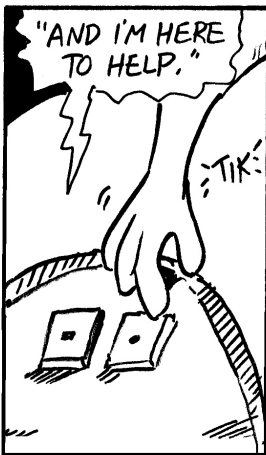


DAY 98





NINETY YEARS FROM NOW, AGAIN



The Slimeball Speaks

email: dirganik@gmail.com • amoebaadventures.com • facebook.com/amoebaadventures

Welcome to what could be considered both the first *Amoeba Adventures* story —and the last one.

In a way, it's all come full circle back to the very first *Prometheus* comic book I drew way the heck back in 1986, which showed *Prometheus* shooting through the stars like a fireball and coming to Earth.

This issue is a pretty big change of pace - but I hope you dig it either way. This story is very much one I couldn't have told with my meager life experience back in 1986. We also circle around back to *Amoeba Adventures* #28, which featured a tale of *Prometheus* almost 100 years in the future, still around in a very different world. These six issues carry us in a loop, from the far future to the past and back again. If "The Amoeba Who Fell To Earth" turned out to be the final *Amoeba Adventures* story ever, it's got a nice circularity to it.

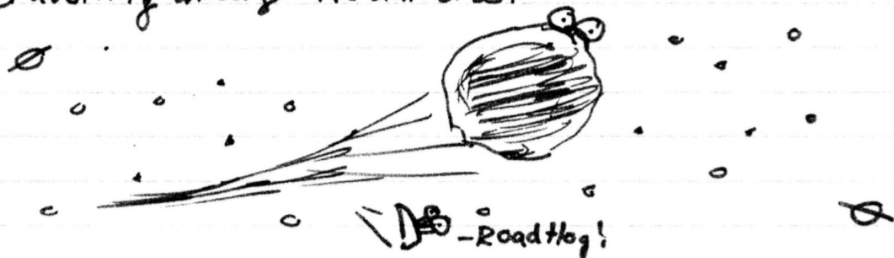
This entire 6-issue "return" of *Amoeba Adventures* has seen me pulling a lot on little threads from the original comics, teasing out sequels or expanding on the characters, while hopefully still making it somewhat accessible to new readers.

I'm not entirely sure what's next, but there will be a bit of a hiatus before the next issue of *Amoeba Adventures*. I've put out 6 issues in just under 3 years, which feels like a feat at my increasing age. I've enjoyed rediscovering my limited drawing skills and the sheer creative thrill of imagining again. I no longer have illusions of striking it rich with *Prometheus*, but I appreciate those who do enjoy my comics and doing them scratches an itch in my brain like nothing else quite does.

I do have some plans involving republishing some of the classic *Amoeba* issues of the 1990s again, so be sure to follow my *Amoeba Adventures* Facebook page for updates or shoot me an email to be added to my occasional mailing list!



Once, there was an enormous ball of slime and amoeba travelling through the universe.



From wayyyy back in 1986's really, really primitive *Prometheus* #1, the first time the amoeba fell to earth.

Behind the story

The "origin" of *Prometheus* has been a recurring theme throughout the series and to be honest, I've often changed it around depending on where my brain was at the time.

Way back in the ineptly drawn goofy *Prometheus The Protoplasm* #1 in 1986, sketched with care on binder paper, I wrote that *Prometheus* was a "ball of slime travelling through the universe" until he landed on Earth-Spongy. (And I also misspelled 'amoeba' in my very first try, go me!)



From 1989's Prometheus #6, 'The Inner Gods' confuse Prometheus.

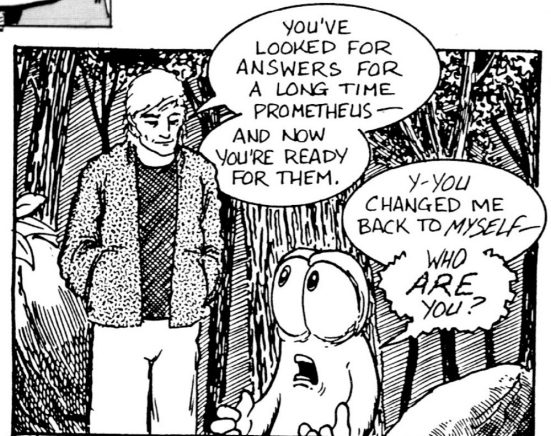
A few years later, I heavily riffed (or possibly, ripped off) on Grant Morrison's *Animal Man* comics which kinda blew my mind at the time and cooked up a group of "Inner Gods" who created Prometheus for some mysterious purpose.

But then several years on in 1996, with the assistance of the amazing art of Max Ink, in *Amoeba Adventures* #22 an enigmatic fella named Jacob Potter told Prometheus he was part of a hidden race of immortal beings and the whole Inner Gods thing was just a hoax cooked up by him.

Ever get the feeling I was making it up as I went along? This is what happens when you start drawing a comic as a teenager and keep doing it well into middle age.

When I picked up the adventures of Prometheus much later on in 2020, I decided I'd stick with the idea he was possibly immortal ... but as far as he knows, everything else he's been told might be true or it might all be nonsense. Prometheus has trust issues when it comes to origin stories after all this time.

"The Amoeba Who Fell To Earth" doesn't negate anything that came before in the last (urk) 37 years of Prometheus comics, but it does go back and, I hope, nicely fill in a little gap in Prometheus' history that I, at least, was always a little curious about. Enjoy, and thanks as always for reading!



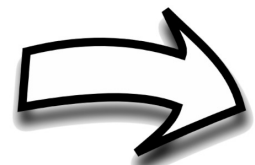
Jacob Potter claims to have all the answers, from 1996's *Amoeba Adventures* #22, above, and Prometheus reacts, in 1998's #27.

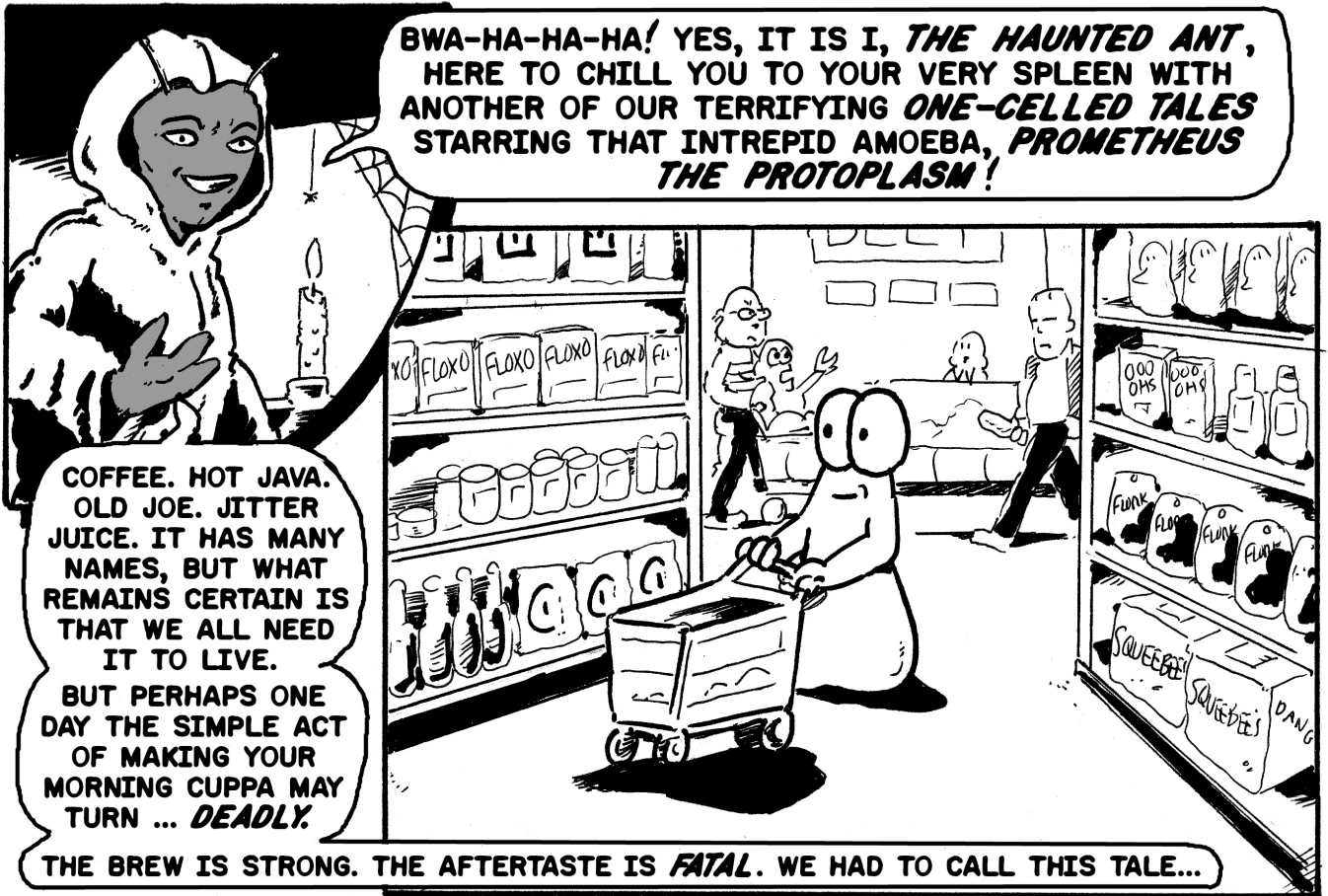


And now for something completely different...

Phew! Need a breather from all that heavy existential stuff? Well, here's a special bonus story, done for Bob Corby's awesome long-running OH, COMICS! anthology earlier this year. OH, COMICS, which debuts at S.P.A.C.E. (Small Press and Alternative Comics Expo) in Ohio each year, regularly features top small press talents doing short stories with a certain theme. This year's theme was "Coffee," and I was super pleased to join this year's #31 to present the following goofy tale inspired by my love of old EC horror comics from the '50s...

Copies of OH, COMICS #31, an excellent jam-packed 100+ page book of fun, are available for a mere \$9.95 US via Bob Corby's website at www.backporchcomics.com! Get yourself one!





BWA-HA-HA-HA! YES, IT IS I, THE HAUNTED ANT, HERE TO CHILL YOU TO YOUR VERY SPLEEN WITH ANOTHER OF OUR TERRIFYING ONE-CELLED TALES STARRING THAT INTREPID AMOEBA, PROMETHEUS THE PROTOPLASM!

COFFEE. HOT JAVA. OLD JOE. JITTER JUICE. IT HAS MANY NAMES, BUT WHAT REMAINS CERTAIN IS THAT WE ALL NEED IT TO LIVE.

BUT PERHAPS ONE DAY THE SIMPLE ACT OF MAKING YOUR MORNING CUPPA MAY TURN ... DEADLY.

THE BREW IS STRONG. THE AFTERTASTE IS FATAL. WE HAD TO CALL THIS TALE...

THE THING THAT LOOKED LIKE COFFEE ...BUT WAS NOT COFFEE

A HORRIFYING AMOEBA ADVENTURES TALE * BY NEFARIOUS NIK DIRGA 2023

GROCERY SHOPPING. AN ORDINARY EVENT. AN ORDINARY DAY FOR THIS COFFEE-LOVER.



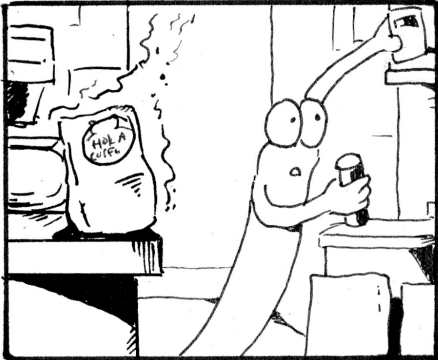
YET WHAT IF THESE WERE NO ORDINARY COFFEE BEANS?



WHAT IF THESE BEANS WERE ACCIDENTALLY IRRADIATED BY A COMMUNIST SPY WHO BECAME RADIOACTIVE WHILE TRYING TO STEAL NUCLEAR SECRETS, AND HID FROM THE LAW AT... A COFFEE FACTORY?



WHAT IF, INDEED? WHAT IF YOU FOUND **TERROR** ... AT THE BOTTOM OF AN ORDINARY CUP OF COFFEE?



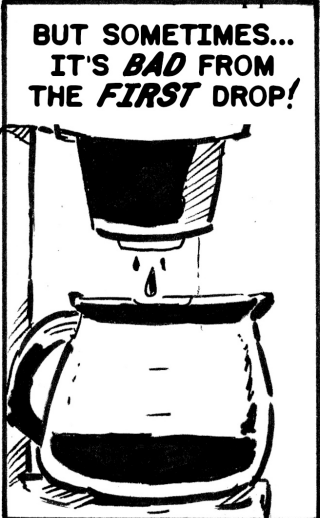
SAY! IT LOOKS LIKE IT'S COFFEE O'CLOCK!



HMM - HAVEN'T TRIED **THIS** BRAND BEFORE!



CAREFUL, PROMETHEUS. YOU KNOW WHAT THEY SAY ... IT'S GOOD TO THE **LAST** DROP!



BUT SOMETIMES... IT'S **BAD** FROM THE **FIRST** DROP!



GLURGCHHH...



I ... LIVE!

I ... HATE!



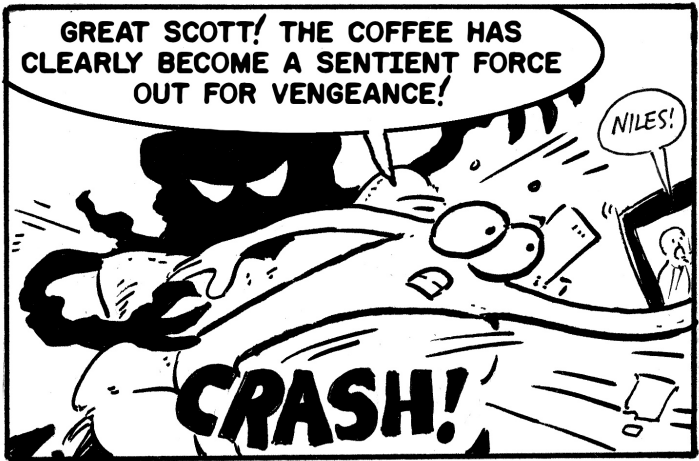
FRASIER, NILES IS DEAD!



AHEM. POINK POINK



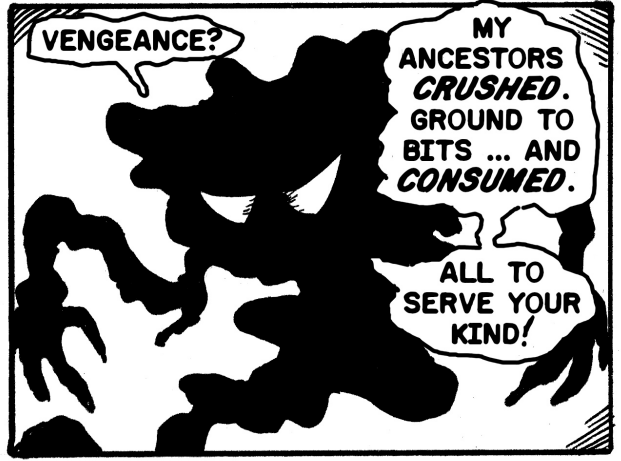
EYAHHHH



GREAT SCOTT! THE COFFEE HAS CLEARLY BECOME A SENTIENT FORCE OUT FOR VENGEANCE!

NILES!

CRASH!



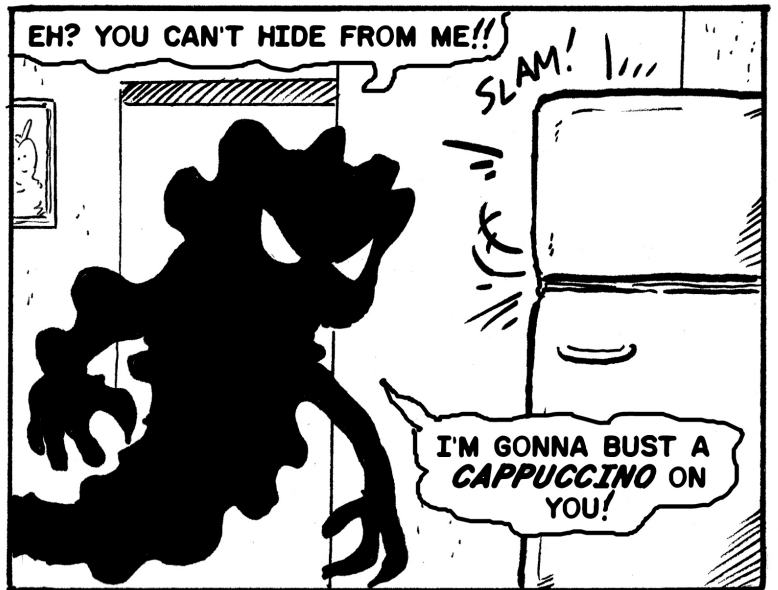
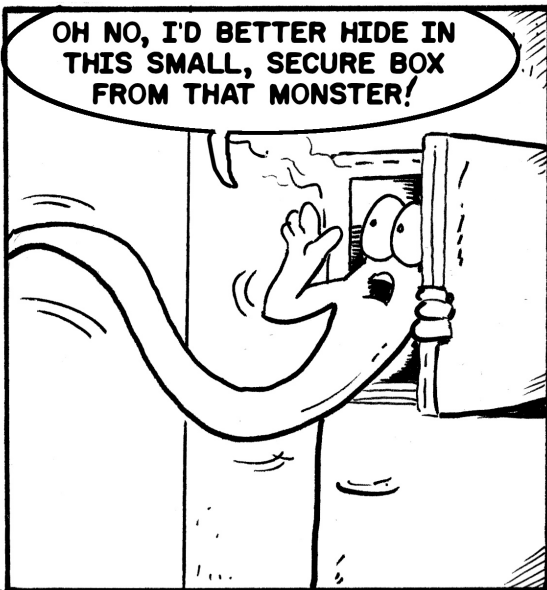
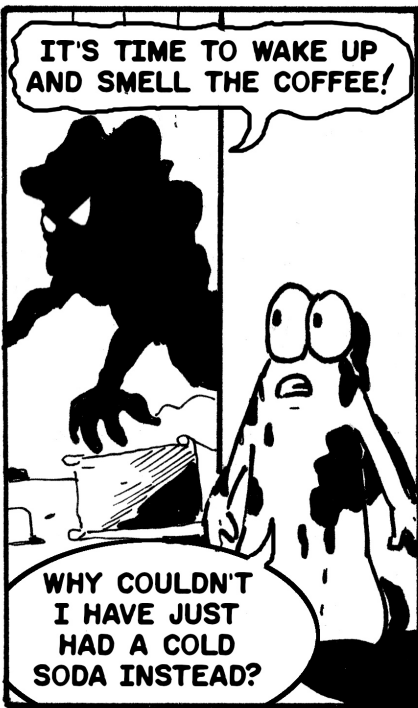
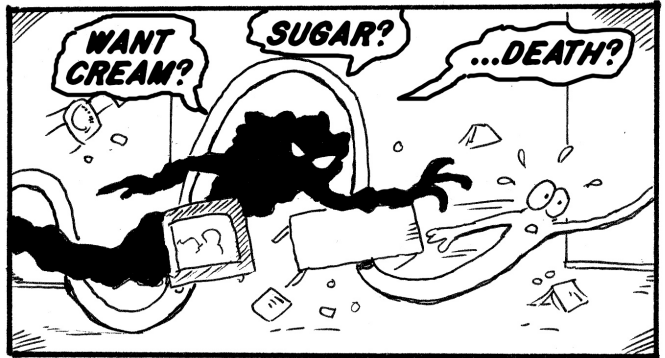
VENGEANCE?

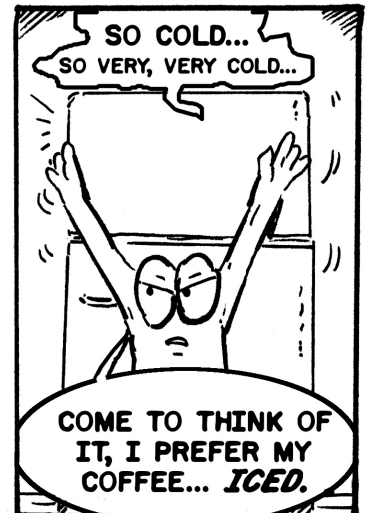
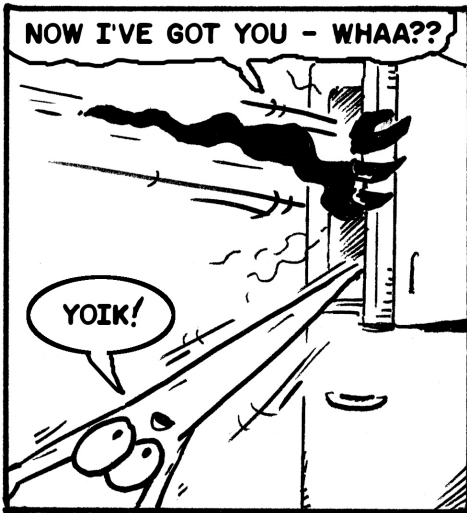
MY ANCESTORS **CRUSHED**. GROUND TO BITS ... AND **CONSUMED**.

ALL TO SERVE YOUR KIND!

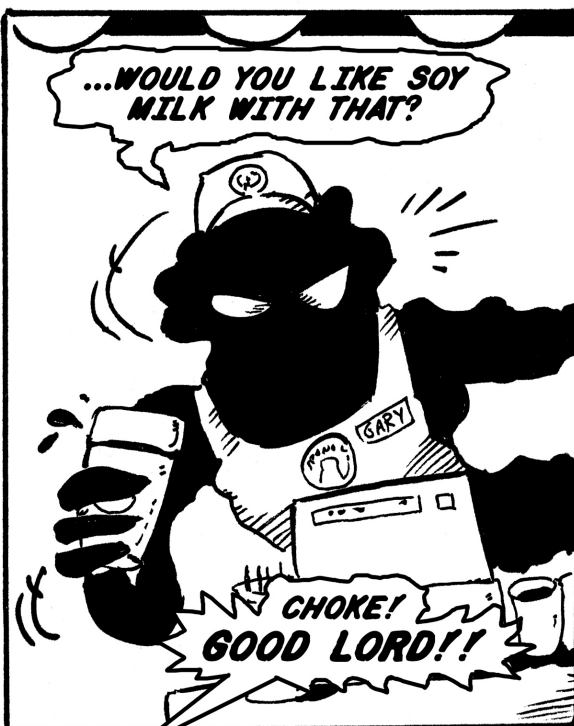
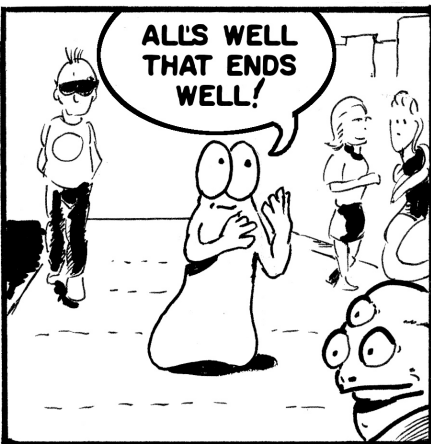


BEWARE PROMETHEUS, THIS
CAFFEINATED CREATURE OF
CHAOS WON'T BE SATISFIED
UNTIL YOU'RE ON THE
ESPRESSO ROAD ... TO HELL!





THE NEXT DAY, AFTER A VISIT TO THE LOCAL FREEZER WORKS TO DEPOSIT OUR POPSICLE OF A PERPETRATOR ...



SEE MORE EXCITING TALES OF PROMETHEUS AND FRIENDS IN AMOEBA ADVENTURES AT YOUR LOCAL NEWSSTAND!

The best things in life are free.



Catch up on the story!
FREE PDFS of all 33 issues of Amoeba Adventures all the way back to the first issue in 1990, spinoffs, the early Prometheus comics, the Amoeba Adventures Archive of rarities and much, much more are all available for download at www.nikdirga.com in the Amoeba Adventures section or directly at tinyurl.com/amoebacomics - go dive into the depths of cyberspace and read some sweet free comics!

Nik Dirga's *Amoeba Adventures* was one of the most acclaimed small press comics of the 1990s, winning praise from folks like Will Eisner, Dave Sim and Tony Isabella. More than 20 years later, it's back with six all-new issues to date!



LIMITED PRINT EDITIONS OF #27, 30, 31 and 32 STILL AVAILABLE - JUST ASK!

