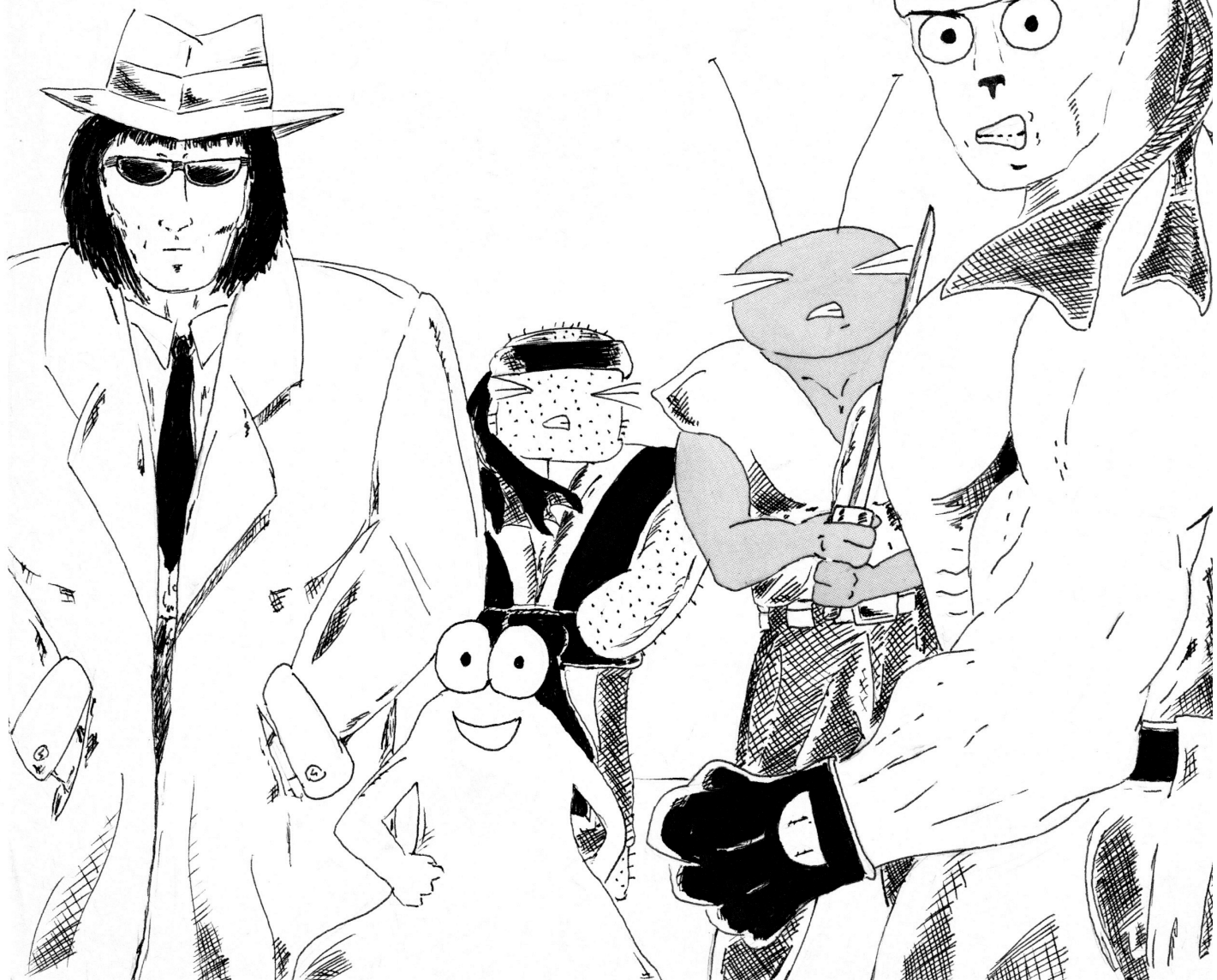


# AMOEBA

ADVENTURES

THE FEW.  
THE PROUD.  
THE DEMENTED.





## The Story So Far:

We all know what it's like. You're just sitting there minding your own business, just watching TV or something suitably mindless, when all of a sudden this mental midget comes up to you, sits down, and starts yakking away and won't shut up:

"How do I explain this? OK, it's like this: there are these five guys, OK?"

"First you got Prometheus, and he's the whaddaya call, *catalyst* for the whole shebang. He's a amoeba, you know, a *protoplasm*! He came down to this city, Spongopolis, on a weird world called Earth-Spongy from outer space one day, and became real famous there..no one's really sure why, that's just the way these things happen, right?"

"Then there's Rambunny, who's like Peter Rabbit with a bazooka..he's basically a good guy who's not a very *nice* guy, if you see what I'm sayin'.

"Of course you can't forget Doctor Spif, who's this doctor guy who also invents all these gadgets and fights crime with them when he's not doin' doctor-type things. He's the kinda guy who ends up wearing the lampshade on his head at parties.

"There's also Ninja Ant and Karate Kactus, who are cousins, even if they don't happen to be from the same species. They're both oriental kung-fu master dudes. Ninja Ant, whose real name is Mitsubishi, is the young know-it-all and Karate Kactus, also called Isuzu, is the old master.

"This bunch of nutcases ended up getting together when Prometheus, that amoeba I was talkin about, ticked off this psycho named the Asbestos Mushroom. The guys all got together and cleaned the Mushroom's clock pretty good, but not before the fungus zapped Pro with this death ray thingamajig he had.

"You still following me? Good. So, Prometheus doesn't die when he's blasted by the Mushroom's toy...instead, he gets turned into this honest-to-God superhero, funky tights and all. He changes his name to the Promethean, and tells the other guys that he wants to form a superhero team.

"Well, they decided to call themselves the All-Spongy Squadron, and go on to fight geeks like Tinkertoy, a turtle who turned himself into a giant cheap pop-art sculpture.

"Then everything goes to hell, when these armored giants who go by the name 'The Inner Gods' appear in the middle of Spongopolis and kidnap the Promethean, but not before beating the tar out of the All-Spongy Squadron.

"When Pro wakes up, he's been changed back to him former amoeba self. The Inner Gods tell him some, uh, *enigmatic* information about his secret origins. From what they told him, Prometheus was *really* created by these Gods to be their champion in this future war of the Gods, and *they're* the ones who saved him from the Mushroom's death ray by temporarily giving him the body of his future self.

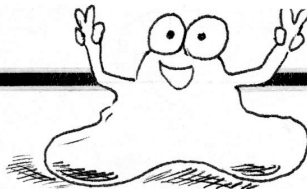
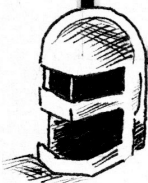
"I see you don't get it. Neither did Pro, but the Gods just send him back to Spongopolis, leaving Pro and the others with a big mess to clean up and a lot of unanswered questions.

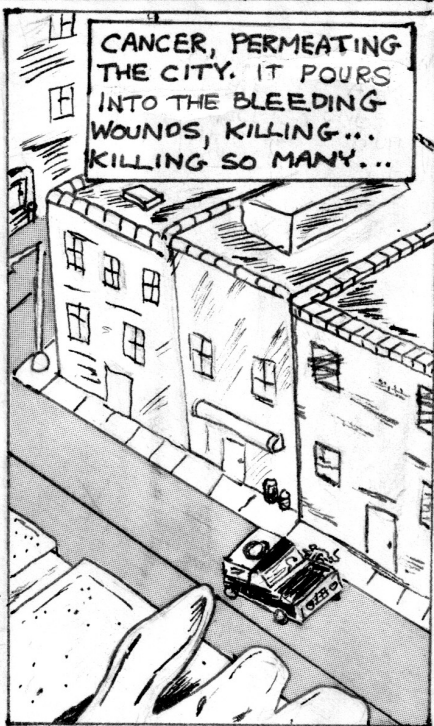
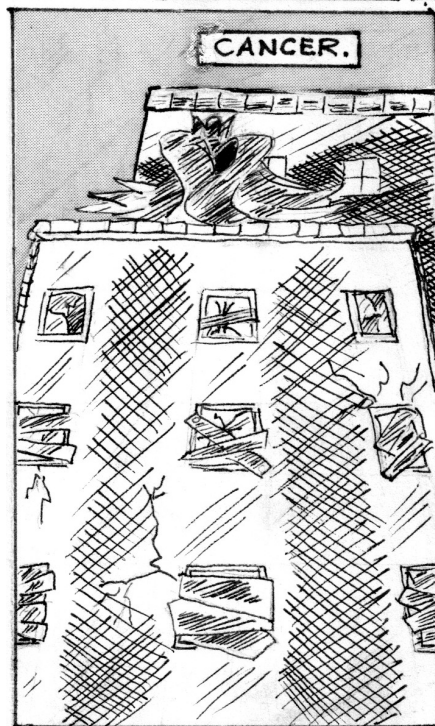
"Now it's three months after all this happened, and the All-Spongy Squadron has seen better times: Rambunny has gone on some secret mission for the Government, Dr. Spif is going more wacko than ever, and Karate Kactus has found himself stuck with the job of leading a team that currently consists of a disturbed ex-doctor, a cocky ninja warrior, and an amoeba who's going through a major identity crisis.

"Elsewhere, this fellow named Manslaughter is on the way to Spongopolis, searching for someone or something, and it's like..um, well...maybe I should start over again..."

At this point one feels the urge to strangle this person and continue watching the *Simpsons*.

-Nik Dirga, Oxford, Mississippi, 11-8-90





TONIGHT, MANSLAUGHTER  
DINES ON YOUR CORPSES.

THE  
**VISITOR**  
PART ONE

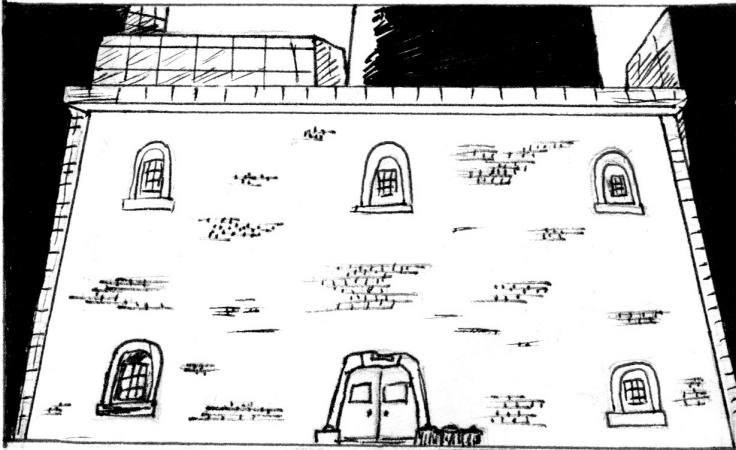
Written and drawn by  
NIK DIRGA

*Dedicated to friends old and new.*



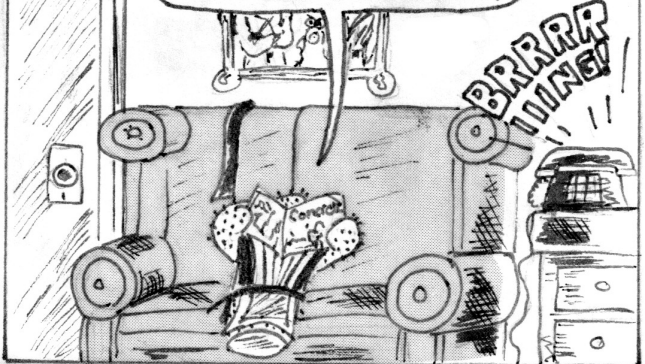


SIX BILLION YEARS LATER...(JUST KIDDING!)  
IN A DOWNTOWN SPONGOPOLIS TOWNHOUSE:



INSIDE..

"..BOTH ADULTS. AND YOU'RE  
HARDLY EQUIPPED TO  
SYMPATHIZE WITH A MAN  
AND A WOMAN WHOLLY  
IN LOVE." ..RRING? HUH?



**I GOT IT!**



THAT HAD BETTER  
BE FOR YOU.

PROMETHEUS? HOLD ON,  
I'LL GET..NO. WAIT. I'M  
PROMETHEUS! I--OH,  
HELLO, INSPECTOR  
YASHINSKY.



WHAT?!? ARE YOU SURE?  
YES. UH-HUH. YEAH, DUDE.  
JE COMPRENDS. O-TAY! BYE..



WHAT WAS  
THAT ALL  
ABOUT?

**ACTION,  
KARATE KACTUS,  
ACTION!**

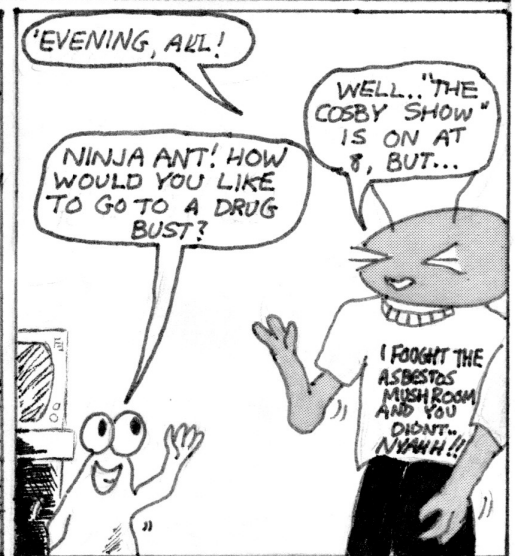


'EVENING, ALL!

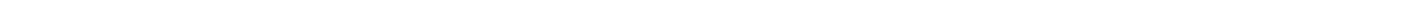
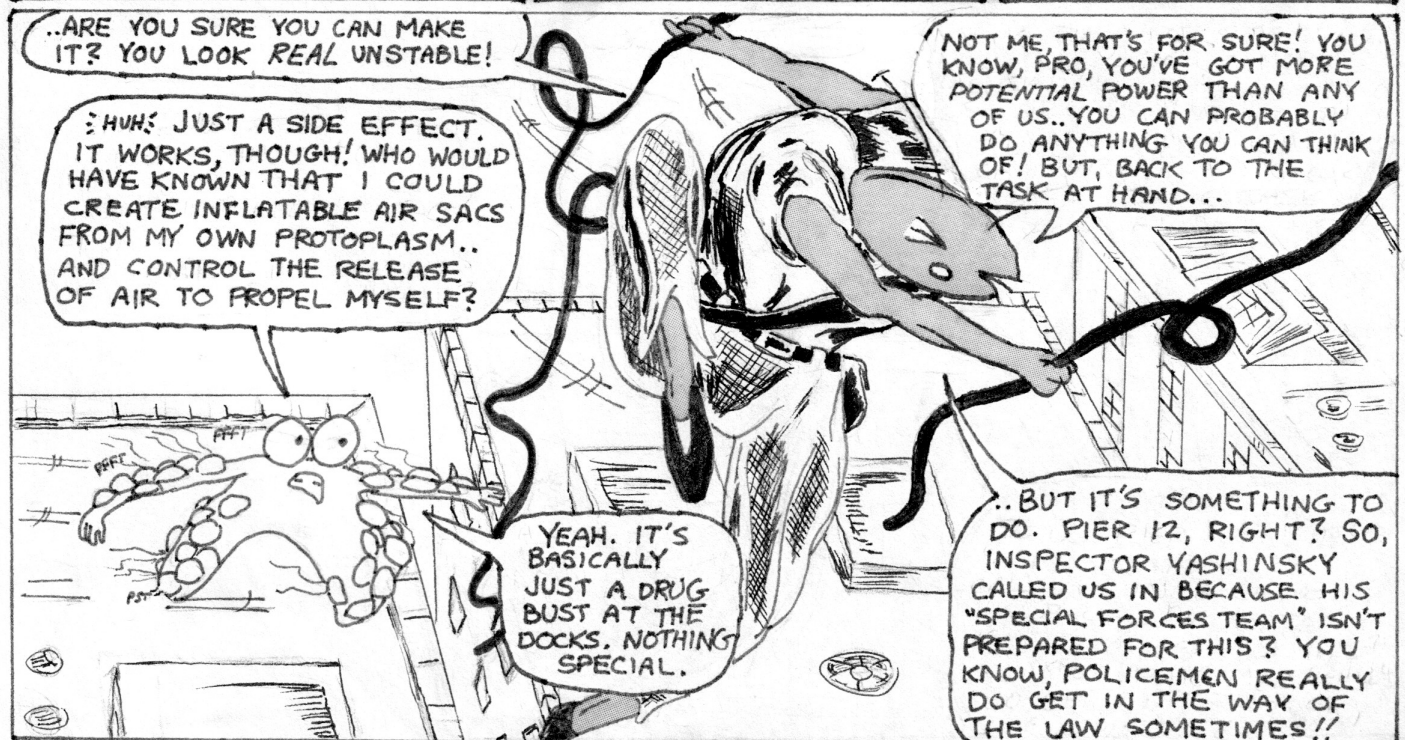
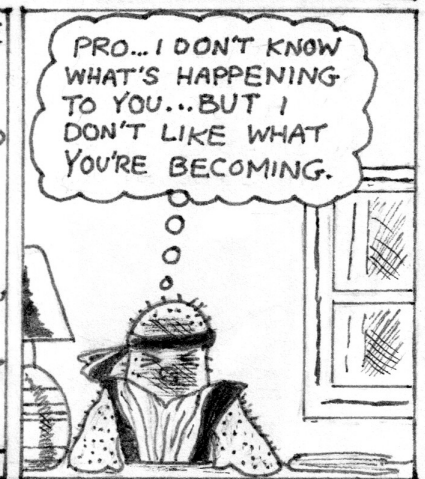
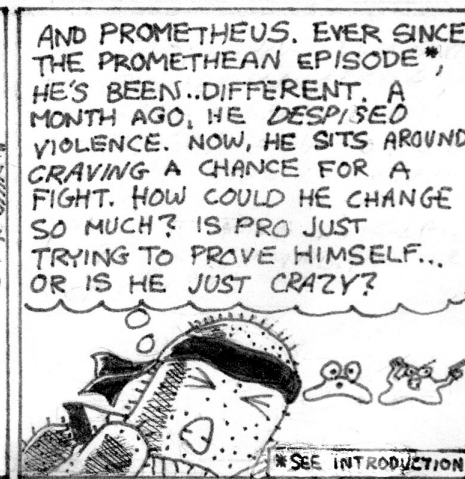
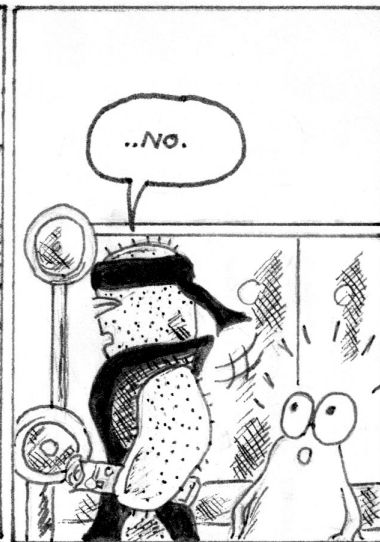
NINJA ANT! HOW  
WOULD YOU LIKE  
TO GO TO A DRUG  
BUST?

WELL.. "THE  
COBBY SHOW"  
IS ON AT  
8, BUT...

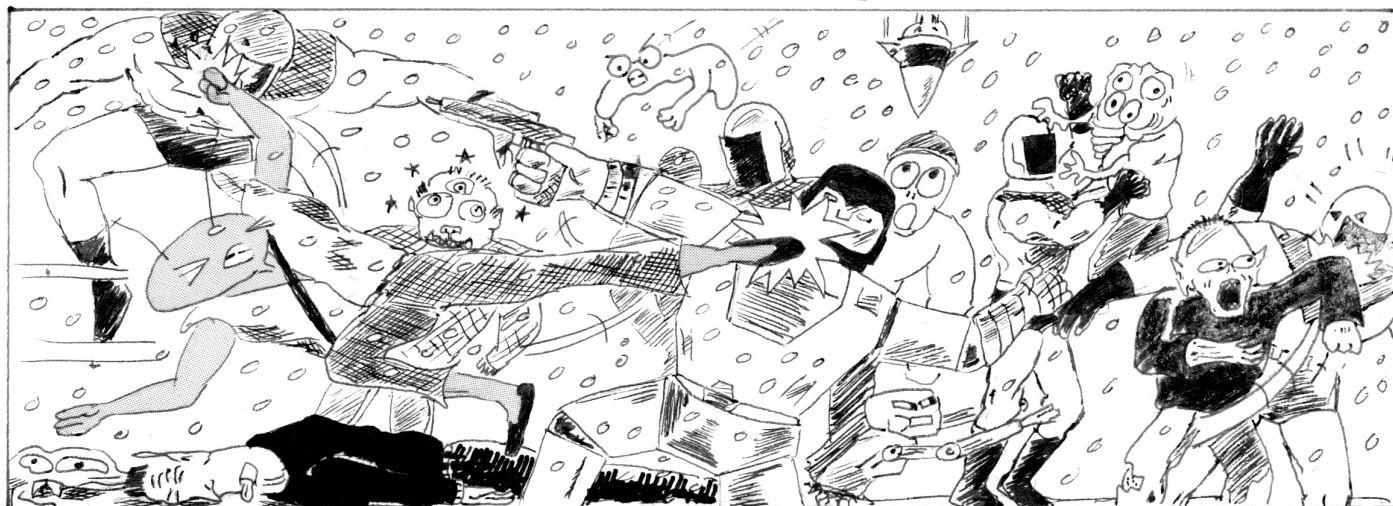
I FOUGHT THE  
ASBESTOS  
MUSH ROOM  
AND YOU  
DIDNT.. NYAH!!



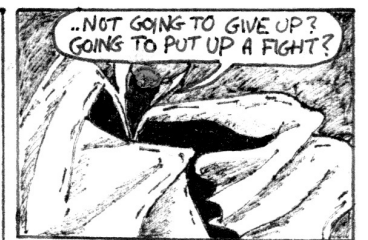
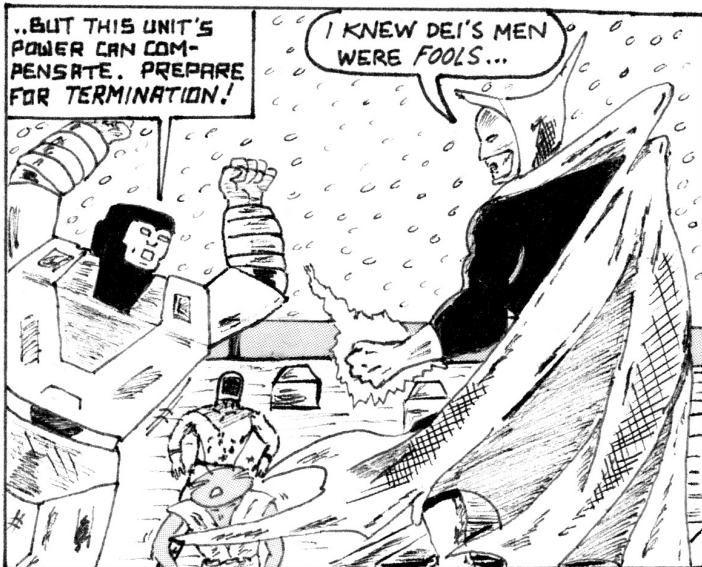
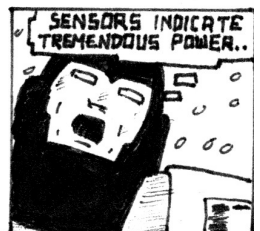
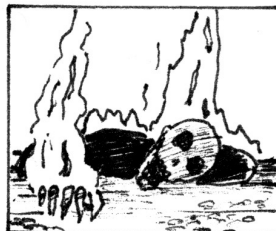






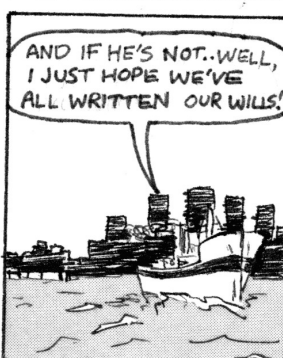
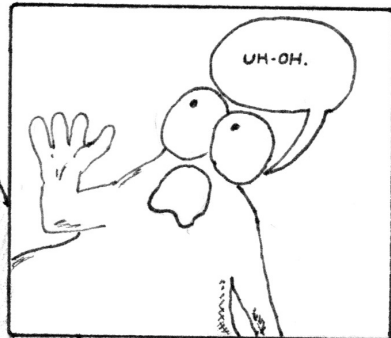






\*MOST RECENTLY BY THE INNER GODS IN PROMETHEUS #6. -NR







BACK AT THAT SAME OLD DOWNTOWN SPONGOPOLIS TOWNHOUSE:





REMEMBER ALL HE'S BEEN THROUGH IN THE LAST FEW MONTHS. SURE, HE USED TO BE THE LAUGH-A-MINUTE, CAREFREE, DEVIL-MAY-CARE DR SPIF, BUT THAT WAS... BEFORE.

"BEFORE?" YOU SOUND LIKE A BAD NARRATOR!

SHADDAP! BEFORE - ahem - THE FORMING OF THE ALL-SPONGY SQUADRON, SPIF WAS A PART-TIME CRIMEFIGHTER, YET NOW HE HAD TO GIVE MORE OF HIMSELF - THUS HE WAS CONFRONTED WITH A TOUGH CHOICE - WOULD HE BECOME A COMMITTED SUPERHERO, IDOLIZED BY MILLIONS, WORSHIPPED BY LOTSA CHICKS - OR A MEAGER DOCTOR, SUBJECT TO FREQUENT MALPRACTICE SUITS?

OO, TOUGH CHOICE.

WELL, FOR HIM, IT WAS! UNFORTUNATELY, HE DIDN'T GET A CHOICE. THE AMA TOOK AWAY HIS MEDICAL LICENSE BECAUSE OF HIS "OUTSIDE ACTIVITIES," AND DOCTOR SPIF WAS A DOCTOR **NO MORE!**

uh, PRO?

SORRY. ANYWAY, SPIF WAS DEPRESSED. NOT THE BEST TIME FOR HIM TO BE ATTACKED BY HIS GREATEST FOE, STILES, MAN OF 1,000 HATS, EACH ONE MORE LETHAL THAN THE LAST! STILES DEFEATED SPIF UTTERLY, HUMILIATING HIM COMPLETELY.

SPIF'S WEAK SPOT WAS HIS EGO. WITH IT CRUSHED, HE WAS A BROKEN MAN. HE DISSAPEARED FOR SEVERAL WEEKS, UNTIL SUDDENLY, ONE DAY HE RESURFACED AS...

**MISTER**

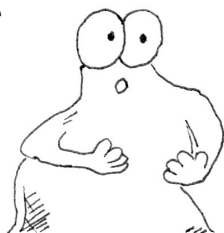


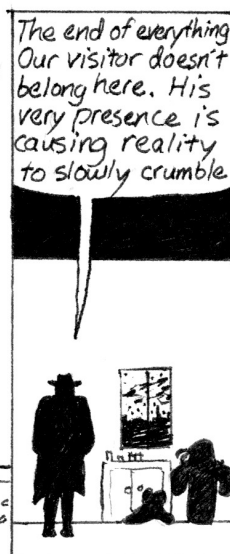
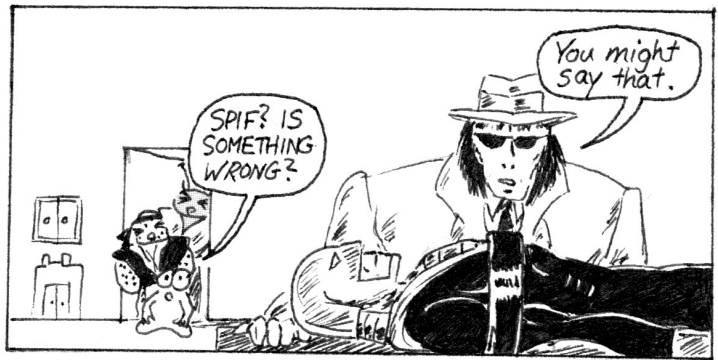
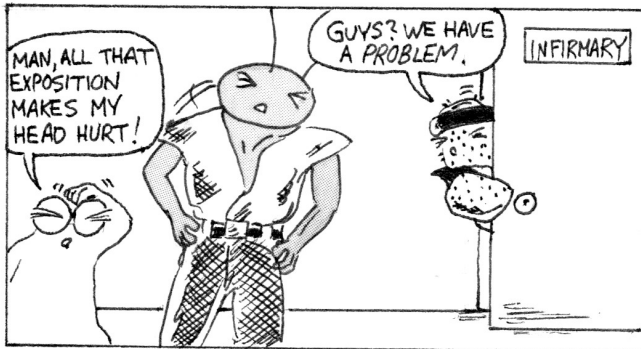
...MAN OF THE PEOPLE!

HEY, NEAT! HOW DID YOU LEARN TO SPEAK IN LOGOS?

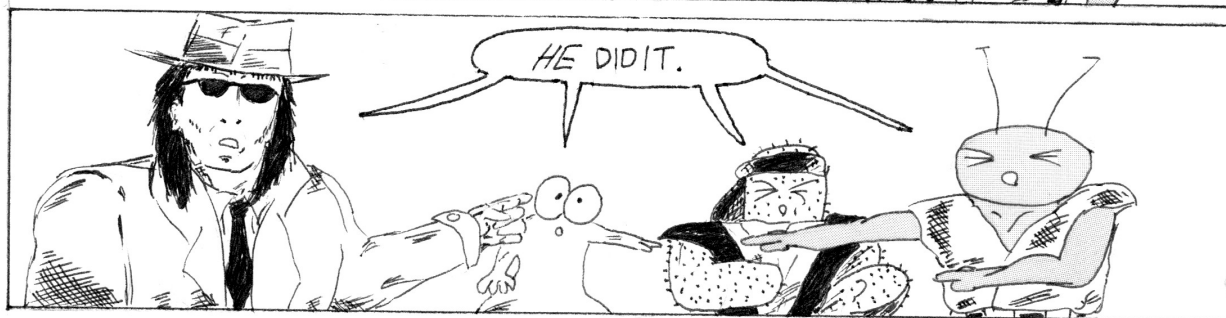
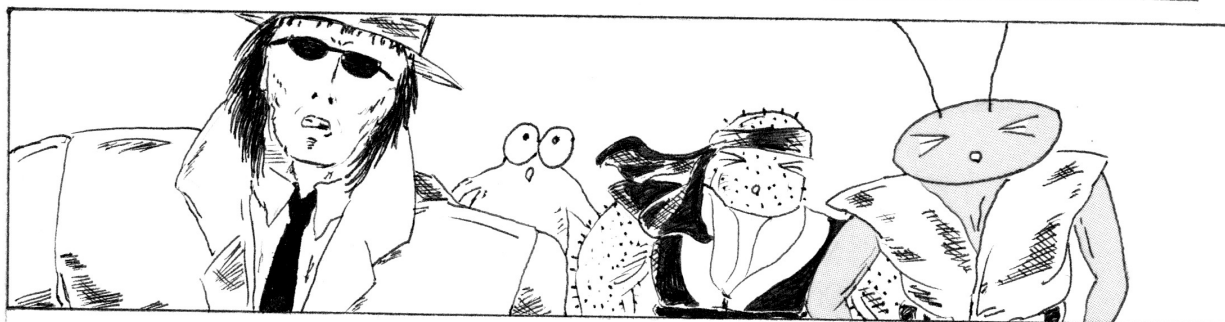
YOU PICK IT UP AFTER BEING IN THIS BUSINESS FOR A WHILE. SO, NOW D-um, MISTER SPIF HAS REJOINED THE ALL-SPONGY SQUADRON, BUT HE'S A DIFFERENT PERSON NOW... SULEN, MOROSE, OBSESSED WITH JUSTICE... SORT OF LIKE RAMBUNNY WAS AFTER HE SAW "BATMAN" FOR THE SEVENTEENTH TIME!

oh, DON'T REMIND ME. REMEMBER HOW STUPID HE LOOKED WITH THOSE BAT-EARS?











LATER, AFTER INTRODUCTIONS ARE GIVEN...

SO YOU WERE AFTER THEM, TOO?

ALL I KNOW IS THAT WE GOT A REPORT ABOUT A BUST AND THOSE TWO WENT!



THE MEN ON THE BOAT WERE HIS. ALL MY EFFORTS LED ME THERE. THEN YOU TWO SHOWED UP, AND...

...THEN WHAT?

YOU COLLAPSED, AND WE BROUGHT YOU BACK HERE.



LOOK, DON'T YOU THINK IT'S TIME YOU TOLD US WHAT THIS IS ALL ABOUT? I, MYSELF, WOULD LIKE TO KNOW WHY WE GOT FRIED.



YES. YES, I OWE YOU THAT MUCH. I-I FEEL LIKE I'M SANE AGAIN FOR THE FIRST TIME IN DAYS. ALL OF THIS MADNESS..I'VE BEEN LIKE A WILD ANIMAL. I'M SO SORRY FOR ATTACKING YOU..

BUT NOW-NOW IT'S ALL COMING BACK TO ME. THE SEARCH-BEING LOST-I..I SUPPOSE I SHOULD START AT THE BEGINNING, WITH THE INHUMAN CREATURE CALLED...

HEY, THAT'S OK!  
SHH, HE'S EXPOSITONING

...AGNUS DEI."



"..HE..OR SHOULD I SAY "IT"? IS A SORCERER, ONE OF THE LAST..AND DEFINITELY THE MOST POWERFUL. THE MOST EVIL."

"THIS STANDOFF WENT ON INTERMINABLY, UNTIL..."



"DEI CREATED HIS ULTIMATE WEAPON. ALL OF HIS POWER WAS POURED INTO IT."

"I HAVE MADE IT MY MISSION IN LIFE TO DESTROY THIS MONSTER."



"MANY TIMES WE FOUGHT, NEITHER SIDE LOSING FOR GOOD. MY ELECTRICAL POWERS WERE A MATCH FOR HIM."

"I WAS UNPREPARED. HE CAUGHT ME OFF GUARD, AND I HAD NO CHANCE."



"THE NEXT TIME I KNEW ANYTHING, I WAS IN AN ALLEY ON THE WEST COAST."

"MY MEMORY WAS GONE, MY POWERS NEARLY SO."

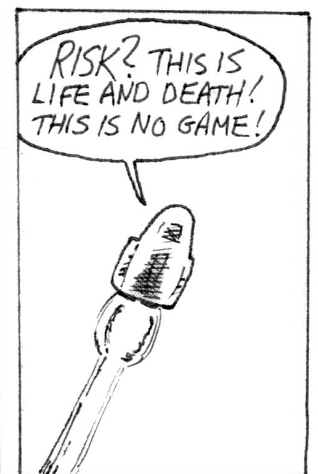
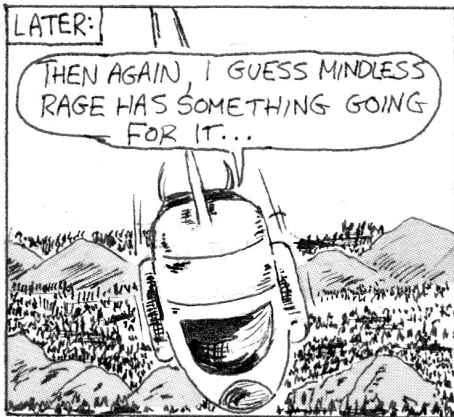


"AS MY MEMORY RETURNED, I BEGAN TO HUNT FOR DEI, WHICH EVENTUALLY LED ME TO THE DOCKS."

"BUT MY EXHAUSTION CAUGHT UP TO ME..I COLLAPSED..AND NOW..."







AH, DRUGELAND- SAID TO BE ONE OF MOST BACKWARD,  
 AND UNDERDEVELOPED NATIONS IN EUROPE. DEMOCRACY IS  
 UNKNOWN HERE...AND THE WHOLE CESSPOOL IS RUN BY  
 AN IRON-CLAD RULER, WHO'S ONLY  
 KNOWN AS "HERR HEINOUS"...OR SO IT  
 WAS, UNTIL THIS "REVOLT" BY DEI.

HAVE YOU BEEN READING THE ENCYCLOPEDIA  
 ALL THE WAY THROUGH AGAIN, KARATE KACTUS?

IT'S A BAD HABIT OF MINE..USTEN, PRO,  
 I DON'T LIKE THIS. NONE OF IT MAKES  
 SENSE. WE'VE ESTABLISHED THAT  
 MANSLAUGHTER WAS SENT HERE BY  
 DEI, FROM SOME OTHER DIMENSION. SO  
 LOGICALLY, THIS AGNUS DEI WE'RE AFTER  
 SHOULDN'T EXIST! DID DEI FOLLOW  
 MANSLAUGHTER HERE TO FINISH HIM  
 OFF? AND DOES THIS SPEED UP THE  
 DESTRUCTION SPIF WAS TALKING ABOUT?

MAYBE WE SHOULD  
 TELL MANSLAUGHTER  
 WHAT WE SUSPECT.

I THINK YOU'RE  
 RIGHT. LET'S  
 GO.

IN A MYSTERIOUS HIDDEN  
 FORTRESS OOZING WITH  
 EVIL (OOO, YUCKY!):

MASTER! WE HAVE  
 AN UNIDENTIFIED  
 AIRCRAFT ENTERING  
 OUR BORDERS!

IS IT CARRYING  
 WEAPONS?

ACCORDING TO  
 OUR SCAN, IT'S  
 FULLY ARMED.

SOMEONE'S DISCOVERED  
 OUR PLANS ALREADY?  
 RESOURCEFUL PEOPLE...

"...BLAST THEM OUT  
 OF THE SKY."

er..ah...MR. MANSLAUGHTER,  
 SIR? ah- ISUZU HAS  
 SOMETHING TO TELL YOU!

HEY!

Oh no.

Oh lord! The controls  
 are being jammed!  
 It's a pulse missile!

WHAT?  
 SPEAK UP,  
 SPIF! WHAT'S  
 HAPPENING?

Oh.  
 NEVER  
 MIND.

NOW!



**KABWHOOOM!!**

**HAAAA!** AND SO  
WILL BE THE FATE  
OF ANY WHO DARE  
OPPOSE... (DRAMATIC PAUSE)

**HERR  
HEINOUS!**



**NEXT: THINGS GET WORSE...**



# The SLIMEBALL Speaks!



This issue marks both a beginning and an ending in the ongoing saga of Prometheus. It was begun long ago and far away in a Galaxy called "California," during one of my slow spots on finishing the story chronicled in PROMETHEUS #1-6.

I finally finished the original PROMETHEUS series with a tale known as "The Truth" in January of this year. It was a great weight off my back. I started PROMETHEUS back in December 1986, and now, a great deal of paper and experience later, I'd finished! I wasn't in any hurry to continue the adventures of the newly-formed All-Spongy Squadron.

Then came college, and a summer of upheaval, when I moved to Mississippi (aka "the armpit of the world"), went back to California, then returned to Mississippi again.

I had begun a bold new chapter in the story of Nik as the fall of 1990 began. I was no longer the same person I'd been when PROMETHEUS #6 was finished. I'd been through many changes ranging from geographical to emotional in the last ten or so months. Then, as I began to settle into the routine of classes and parties here at Ole Miss, I heard a voice coming at me from the desk drawer.

"Nik," it whispered, "Nik...we're waiting for you..."

With such a powerful call begging my artistic presence, how could I deny it?

I tore open the drawer, and in a two-day long mad frenzy in which paper and ink flew every which way throughout my miniscule dorm room, completed the rough story that was supposed to take place after PROMETHEUS #6, that had been lying around long enough to need a good quart of Oil of Olay applied before I could finish it. Thus was born AMOEBA ADVENTURES #1, which would feature the continuing tale of an amoeba named Prometheus and his comrades-in-arms.

So ended the first issue. Begun in California a good two years ago, before even PROMETHEUS #5 had been completed, and finished in the eleventh floor of a dormitory in Mississippi, forging the ultimate link between my past and my present, there was AMOEBA ADVENTURES #1.

And now here it is for you to read, peruse, and otherwise inspect. Let me know what you think. Write to me at the address below, and give me opinions on what is sure to be the first of a long series of protoplasm-orientated magazines.

Until #2...

AK DIRSA



The author peruses a copy of #6 whilst trying to look dignified.

AMOEBA ADVENTURES No. 1, November, 1990. Published occasionally by Protoplasm Productions, PO Box 2230, University, MS 38677. Copyright @1990 by Protoplasm Productions. All rights reserved. The stories, characters, and incidents mentioned in this magazing without satirical purpose are entirely fictional. All characters featured in this issue and the distinctive likenesses thereof are all trademarks of Protoplasm Productions. \*PheW\*

Cough Cough Cough...

WHAT HAPPENED TO  
FREE SPEECH??

HELLO. I AM VINCENT P. CROISSANT, OF  
"PROMETHEUS THE PROTOPLASM PRODUCTIONS".

IT WAS KETCHUP!!

DUE TO THE GRAPHIC AND UNECESSARILY  
VIOLENT EVENTS PICTURED IN THE PREVIOUS  
STORY, WE HAVE BEEN FORCED TO RETAIN  
ALL CAST MEMBERS IN THE DRESSING ROOM  
UNTIL WE "DISCUSS" THIS ISSUE WITH THE  
CREATIVE STAFF.

FASCIST PIG!

OF COURSE, THIS MAY DELAY THE NEXT ISSUE  
OF THIS PERIODICAL. WE WILL EITHER ATTEMPT  
TO REHILIBATE THESE DEMENTED, VIOLENT  
"ACTORS"...

OINK! OINK!

..OR SHOOT THEM.



NK 9-5-87

# YOU WANT MORE PROTOPLASM?



## WE'LL GIVE YOU MORE PROTOPLASM!

### NOW AVAILABLE FROM PROTOPLASM PRESS:

*Amoeba Adventures #1:* The new series begins here! In part one of "The Visitor," the mysterious Manslaughter joins forces with the All-Spongy Squadron to hunt down the inter-dimensional sorcerer Agnus Dei. At stake: the known universe.

AMOEBAS 1 (24pp).....\$1.50

*Amoeba Adventures #2:* In "Amoeba On The Run," Prometheus is alone as the rest of the guys are captive of the European dictator Herr Heinous...but is Heinous really in charge, or is the sorcerer Agnus Dei?

AMOEBAS 2 (28pp).....\$2.00

*Amoeba Adventures #3:* The conclusion of "The Visitor" has Manslaughter and the Squadron versus Agnus Dei in a battle for the fate of the world...and one of the Squadron will die before it's all over.

AMOEBAS 3 (28pp) .....\$2.00

*Amoeba Adventures #4:* "Trying To Lead A Normal Life" picks up after "The Visitor," with the guys trying to come to grips with the future. But the debut of Raoul the Boy Cockroach and the menace of the Gorilla Gang won't let them.

AMOEBAS 4 (24 pp).....\$1.50

*Amoeba Adventures #5:* (Coming In December) Special two-story issue--in America, the Squadron goes on "Late Night With David Letterman" and faces the return of the Asbestos Mushroom, while in Japan, Ninja Ant and Karate Cactus meet Ginzu, in a tale drawn by John Hurley.

AMOEBAS 5 (36 pp).....\$2.50



Please enclose 52¢ postage for 1 comic, \$1 for 2, and \$2 for 3 or more.  
Make checks payable to Nik Dirga, *not* "thet durned funnee-book feller," *please!*  
Send orders to ProtoPlasm Press, PO Box 2230, University, MS 38677.

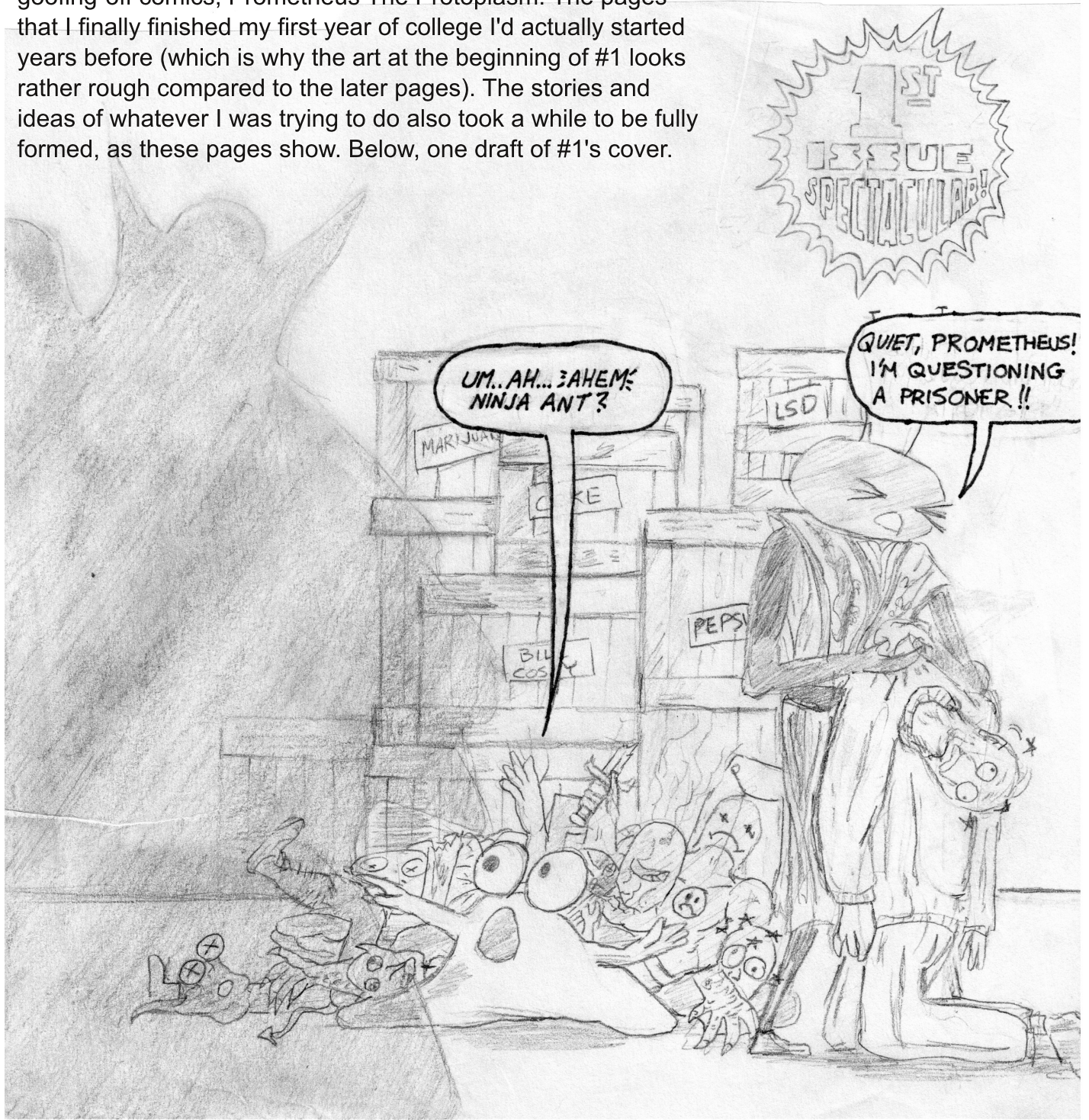


# NEXT:



# SPECIAL 2020 BONUS SECTION

Amoeba Adventures #1 was a long time in gestation. I started it sometime around 1988 as a continuation of my high school goofing-off comics, Prometheus The Protoplasm. The pages that I finally finished my first year of college I'd actually started years before (which is why the art at the beginning of #1 looks rather rough compared to the later pages). The stories and ideas of whatever I was trying to do also took a while to be fully formed, as these pages show. Below, one draft of #1's cover.






Another draft of #1's cover, ripping off DC's iconic Justice League #1, which nobody else had ever done before or since.


(Instead, I ripped off an X-Men issue for the final cover.)









Early character notes to myself. The whole "Dr. Spif/Mr. Spif" thing was a misguided attempt to react to how dark comics often were in the 1990s. Spif wouldn't really "be" Spif until #4.

 PROMETHEUS - honest. cares about the welfare of others. very interested in helping protect innocent - as in founding of A.S. Squadra Strong-willed. Brave under pressure. ~~Bad~~ Bad self-image because of lack of physical power, but getting better. Smart, inventive. Very badly witty under combat situations - dry sense of humor. A good guy, basically.

 RAMBUNNY - honorable, hard-edged, takes no B.S. from anyone. Aggressive. Often cynical. Despises those who take advantage of weak. Very experienced fighter, having been around since WWII. Wise in a "Patton" way. Sometime gets a bit fanatical. Loved the movie "Rambo." You know the type. Some doubt about skill, et. after years of action.

 NINJA ANT: (Mitsu Bishi) - Young warrior type. Also honorable. Bit cocky and headstrong - thinks he can take on the world type. Very loyal to friends. Talks a lot. Likes U.S. but misses homeland. Not so "smart" sometimes - can make "fatal" errors.

 KARATE KACTUS (Isuzu-San) - Old martial arts master (not as old as Rambunny) who's really on the surface a kindly gentleman, bit of an aristocrat. Under that, though, is an incredible warrior. Very good leader - in control, not overbearing or harsh. "Quick as a tack." Think Miyagi.

  DR. SPIF - A funny, devil-may-care guy, who fights crime "as long as it's fun." Seems very shallow. Genius w/electronics, gadgets.

JOHN SPIF - After losing medical license and other things through machinations of Stiles, Spif becomes grimmer. Obsessed with "righting wrongs." Vengeful. Naughty guy.

Another sketch of concept art  
sometime in the late '80s. Raoul  
would finally debut in #4. Robotron,  
who's totally NOT ripping off  
Marvel's Vision here, was another  
old childhood character. I have no  
idea who Jenny Page was meant to  
be other than a Kitty Pryde copycat  
and thankfully she never ever saw  
the light of day outside this one  
sketch. Sheesh.

THE *ALL-NEW*  
**ALL-SPONGY  
SQUADRON!**



They Are..

**JOHN  
SPIF**  
PRIVATE EYE

**ROBOTRON**  
**RAOUL**  
The Boy Cockroach

**KARATE  
KACTUS**

**JENNY  
PAGE**  
★★★★★

Oh yeah, and PROMETHEUS!



24 11 11x8

cut

Number 5

"This is a tale  
which begins  
and ends  
with a bang,  
with several  
other noteworthy  
events taking  
place inbetween.

It is a story about  
heroes, much like



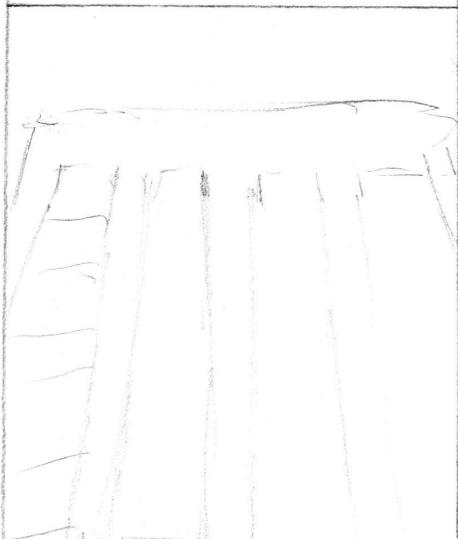
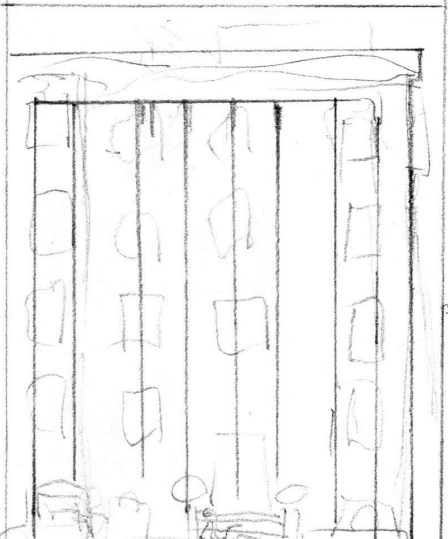
A little unsure after so  
many years, but  
probably a draft of what  
became this issue's  
page one.

Our chronicle  
takes place  
on the world  
which God made  
on the eighth day,  
while he was  
still hanging  
from his "resting  
on the seventh  
day.

etc.



This pretty  
adequately  
describes  
the world  
known to its  
inhabitants as  
"Earth-Spangy."





WINTER  
ISSUE:



Manslaughter was more of a plot device than an actual character, mostly done because I was a total fanboy for Todd McFarlane's early Spider-Man artwork and liked how he drew capes. Manslaughter actually came along a few years before McFarlane's Spawn despite his very Spawny look. His often cringeworthy dialogue - "Tonight, Manslaughter dines on your corpses?" - was probably meant as parody but didn't quite work.

The following never-published text pages were from weird attempts to "reboot" Prometheus before I finally got around to doing Amoeba Adventures and discovered small-press comics. It's all pretty dire teenage hype written to myself, really, but there's interesting bits about stories I never actually did. Who was The Creature? What was the metamorphosis of Ninja Ant? We'll never know.



Irrational, impossible, illogical..

Prometheus the protoplasm is all of the above and more.

A creature formed from the very clay of the gods, molded into an amorphous shape, given life, and sent to be alternately a warrior/coward/wanderer/philosopher/hero on the decidedly odd world of Earth-Spongy, Prometheus is anything but normal.

This introduction serves as a background to those who have never encountered the grey-blue amoeba, and as a recap to those few who have.

In the beginning..

Prometheus the Protoplasm first saw light of day as a doodle scratched out on homework late at night, back in 1986. He soon developed into much more.

The original Prometheus the Protoplasm was a prankster, a gag, basically comic strip material. He roamed around aimlessly for a while, until the idea to give him a whole comic book to showcase his dubious talents struck me. This book was called **PROMETHEUS THE PROTOPLASM** (fittingly) and went on for a whole 4 issues. In the first issue, Prometheus the Protoplasm met Kronos, his estranged evil brother. The second, he matched wits with the Asbestos Mushroom. In the third and fourth, a multi-issue saga began. Prometheus the Protoplasm met Ninja Ant, who appeared to be a glory-seeking fraud, but really wasn't. In actuality, he was the hypnotized pawn of the Asbestos Mushroom and Kronos, who had yes, teamed up to do away with our hero. At the end of **PROMETHEUS THE PROTOPLASM #4**, Prometheus and his friends Karate Kactus (cousin of Ninja Ant), Ninja Ant, Rambunny, Dr. Spif, and Monte Python (no relation to a British comedy troupe) had defeated the evil duo..but Prometheus had been struck by some mysterious ray that transformed him into--gasp!--a human being!

This is where the first series left off, on this shocking cliff-hanger. Well, a few people--Aaron Teeling, for one--may wonder, "what the hell happened?" Answers are forthcoming.

The duo of myself and sometimes-inker Nat Perry-Thistle had begun **PROMETHEUS THE PROTOPLASM #5**. Actually, 8 pages were finished out of the 16 or so written. One of those pages is reproduced on the inside back cover. But soon, too many other things came in the way of completing that illustrious number 5. So, Pro was shelved. But now he's back.

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And definitely a lot better.

Now for the essentials. Who's where, why's what, where's who and why not? The "Crisis On Earth-Spongy" is why.

As a result of an attempt to make Earth-Spongy more coherent, some characters were eliminated, others drastically, totally changed, still others remained the same. Two characters, Kronos and Monte Python, no longer exist in this reality. Another, the Asbestos Mushroom, may be reintroduced at a later date. Karate Kactus and Ninja Ant got new costumes. Doctor Spif lost his medical license and became a shadowy private detective. But the two favorites, Rambunny and Prometheus, remained the same. Essentially. Prometheus the Protoplasm is no more..now it's just Prometheus. Also, the episode where Prometheus was turned into a man remains clinically the same..different villain, but Prometheus was still transformed into the "Promethean" for a time. And as a result of that, Prometheus' frame of mind and attitudes toward justice and crime-fighting have also changed, as Karate Kactus notices. And Prometheus is also more powerful, more versatile now. Witness the flying amoeba on page 4 if you don't believe it.

Then there's the format change. Only 10 pages? Well, in order to sidestep that time lag between issues, the decision was made to shorten them considerably. This way, #1 could come out before June 10, and hopefully #2 and maybe even #3 during the summer. To add a little zest to this, a new format for story-telling was decided. I have always been a big fan of the old-time movie serials, the ones with cliff-hangers at the end of every week. So, after much deliberation, **AMOEBA ADVENTURES** was born. With only 10 pages an issue, we had to have a good story. A good villain. A good "introductory" series that didn't seem too "introductory."

Manslaughter was born.

And **AMOEBA ADVENTURES** had a story.

A helluva story, too.

The format. **AMOEBA ADVENTURES** is going to rotate, basically. First up is this 5 or 6 part story introducing Manslaughter, who will either save the earth..or destroy it! After that..well, we may have the two-part never-before told origin story of Prometheus..or a new multi-parter introducing the Creature..or a multi-parter featuring the metamorphosis of Ninja Ant!

I like what we've got planned. I hope you do too.

Writer and wanna-be artist,

NK DIRGA

Nik Dirga

NEXT ISSUE: Manslaughter versus our heroes! Rambunny! The new Dr. Spif! And the possible end of all life on Earth-Spongy, in "Fallen Angel," part two of "The Visitor."

## PROMETHEUS THROUGH THE YEARS



1986  
(THE PHILOSOPHICAL YEAR)



1987  
(THE PARTY YEAR)



1988  
MIGHT MAKE RIGHT!

Amoeba Adventures #1 was very much a work in progress by an 18-year-old geek, and it took me a few issues to decide on the right tone for the series. There's a mix of parody, straight superhero action and awkward jokes that makes me cringe a fair bit now, but also glimpses of the somewhat better work to come.

Besides the "Mister Spif" fiasco, other weird bits this issue include Prometheus "flying" in a vaguely grotesque way (you'd never see that again!), Karate Kactus acting a lot less mature, and in general the team acting way more "superhero" than they ever would again.





AMOEBA  
ADVENTURES  
a new series

Some more notes I made in the early days, possibly a plan to "relaunch" the series at some point (again, hazy memory fails).

1. a grand farce introducing

Rambunny Prometheus  
DawnStar Spif  
Raoul Ninja Ant  
Karate Cactus  
plus: Kyoko

and a multitude of persinimous villains.

Mr. Bones  
Thug Tinkertoy?

2. a romantic interlude?

Spif Dawn  
Ninja Ant Kyoko



an armored villain most heinous

Pro, Rb + Raoul Take in a movie?

3 the history of Rambunny

Rambunny Humphrey Bogart!



his son

Pro worries about self yet again

plus: reprint Dr. Phlasm tale?

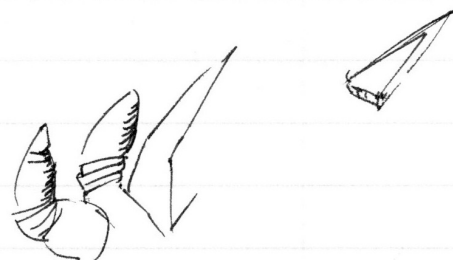
4/5 beginning a two-parter  
that holds omens + portents

R's son.  
Spif The Period  
Mushroom? Chamberlain

chess  
game...

KK Dawn  
Promethens

comes: Dark One?



Who IS the **Dark One?**

- Agnus Dei
- Crane
- Manslaughter
- Trochi's son
- Manslaughter's brother
- Hank
- Kronos
- Macabre?

one of  
the team.

There's a lot here that later came into the series (The Period, seen at left, debuted in #18), and a lot of other ideas that sort of vanished into the ether. I'm still intrigued by the lines about "the history of Rambunny" with "Humphrey Bogart?" scribbled next to it.

## INTRODUCTION

Prometheus first entered this dimension as a doodled cartoon drawn during an exquisitely boring science class of mine. He was not at all the refined and sensitive individual he is today, as is obvious by glancing at his debut, located in the back somewhere. Instead, he was a loud-mouthed anarchist. I prefer to think of this fellow as the Prometheus of Earth-2 (in-joke).

But today, Pro has changed substantially. His slow evolutionary process began with THE PHILOSOPHICAL ADVENTURES OF PROMETHEUS THE PROTOPLASM #1, from late 1986. Looking at these four early adventures of Prometheus represented here, one can see a slow maturing..not only in art and writing styles, but in the characters themselves. Pro is no longer the spineless little wimp he appeared to be in "Prometheus The Protoplasm." Of course he and the whole cast will continue their growth in volume two, especially Pro. He will make his debut into manhood (in-joke #2) explosively, and will discover the truth about himself. Also, we'll see more of Tinkertoy, and meet Manslaughter and the Inner Gods. Sounds pretty funky to me. And, if the art in this TOTALLY turns you off, well, if you look at the "new art" (covers and chapter headings, mostly), that's how volume two is shaping up to look. And I must admit, I'm pretty proud of it. Pro has escaped from the void of "writer's block" he's been dwelling in ever since #4 came out in September 1987 (almost two years, God!) and I'm charged up and ready to jump into the insane world of Earth-Spongy again.

Earth-what? Yes, Earth-Spongy! This is the part for new readers. You'll meet the characters as the story progresses, but the world..well, suffice it to say that it is out of this world! Earth-Spongy is a world in the distant future (or maybe past or even present) that the laws of reality have chosen to avoid. Here on Earth-Spongy, walking toasters and oriental cacti stroll the streets of Spongopolis together. Dancing lima beans entertain at smoky nightclubs owned by grunting peccaries. Little salt shakers own accounting firms. Protoplasms and seven-foot tall rabbits protect the innocent. And yet, in all this oddity, the world is still the same as ours! Drugs are rampant, the streets are filled with homeless, there is crime, death, and far worse.

Earth-Spongy is a lot different from our Earth, but it has a common need: a need for heroes. Prometheus, Rambunny, Ninja Ant, Doctor Spif, Karate Cactus, and others are the Batman and Spider-Man of this world.

After all, who said heroes had to be human?

-Nik Dirga, 7-2-89