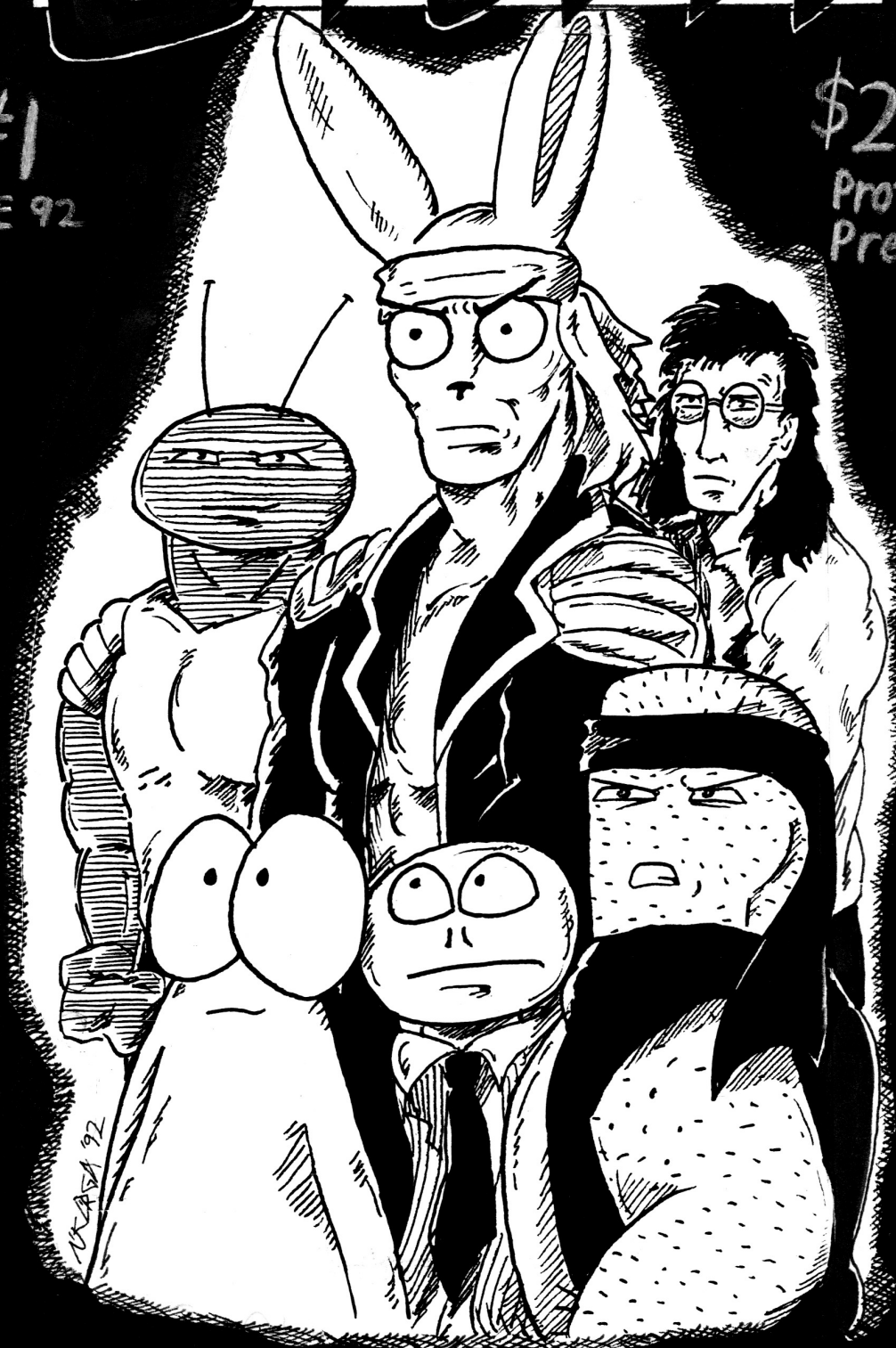


PROMETHEUS: ^{The} Silent Storm

#1
JUNE 92

\$2.00
Protoplasm
Press



The Slimeball Speaks PO Box 2230, University MS 38677

I'd like to thank all of you for joining me here for *Prometheus: The Silent Storm*. This project means a great deal to me, and your support of it both encourages me for future projects of this nature and helps me get the message across to others as well. Thank you!

Now that I've gotten the sappy obligatory stuff out of the way, this wasn't entirely a peaches & cream project to pull off. A plague of moving hit many of the artists, including myself, in the midst of work, and it was fun hunting for artists who suddenly disappeared from reality for a period of time. Max Ink's disappearance actually caused me to dream that the reason for his absence was that he was in jail for impersonating a preacher named Max X. The next night, I dreamed that Matt Feazell broke in my home and vandalized all the SS pages by whiting out Rambunny in every panel and redrawing him as a stick figure. I really must stop eating those pizzas before bedtime...


Such a monumental effort in small press couldn't have been done alone, and I'd like to take a second or two and thank those who contributed to this special, and not just the artists... Troy Hickman, for helping a bit with the script, Brad Parnell, "understudy #1," and especially Peter David, who wrote *Incredible Hulk* #388, which came out just as I was beginning the voluminous research for this sucker, and his story helped me figure out what mood and direction I wanted to take here. I hope I managed to do this without ripping off his story in any way, if I didn't, Peter, my apologies. Also, check out that *Hulk* if you haven't for a very touching and wonderful little story. And it goes without saying that I'd like to thank each and every one of these talented gentlemen and one lady for their contributions to *Silent Storm*, thanks to you all... Lynn Allen, Anthony Gray, Quinton Hoover, John Hurley, Max Ink, Doug Lumley

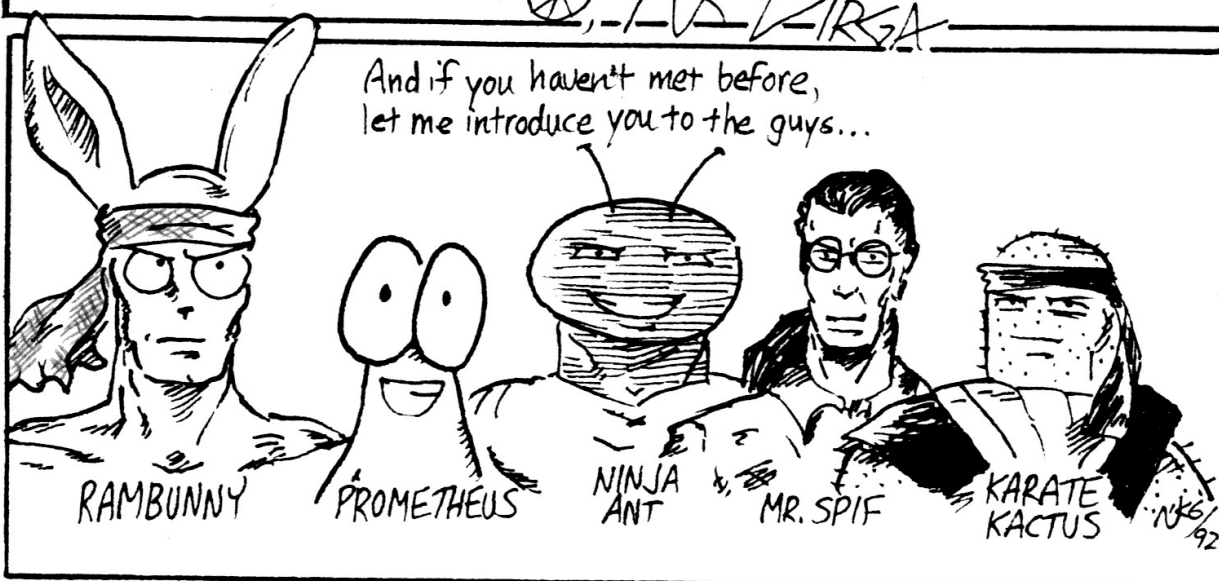
Finally, let's talk about AIDS.

I don't really want to get too heavily into my own personal thoughts on AIDS, since I think I've spelled them out pretty well in the story itself. But I would like to talk about loss. We all know loss. We've all experienced it, be it a girlfriend, or moving away from home, or even death. Loss cuts deep and heals slow. And that's what AIDS does, when you get down to it. It causes loss. It doesn't strike just "faggots" or "druggies," it doesn't avoid and it doesn't discriminate. And if you *think* for just one minute that AIDS only strikes homosexuals and drug addicts, then you're just lining up to be one of the victims.

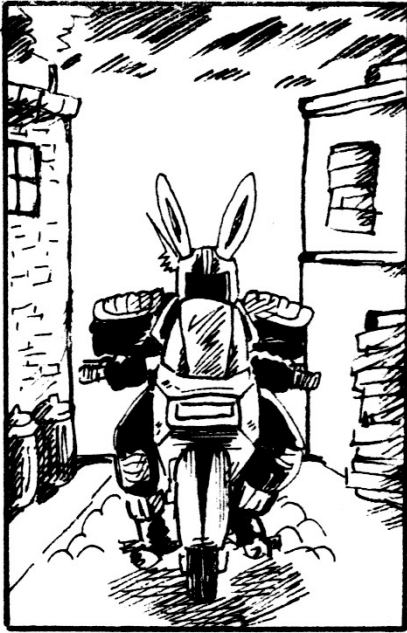
Every day, someone somewhere loses someone to AIDS. For many of us, we only look up when someone famous dies...from my personal experiences, the death of Freddie Mercury of Queen last fall was pretty damn tragic. Or Robert Reed, father of TV's "Brady Bunch," who died just as I was finishing this up. I've yet to have any friends succumb to AIDS, but I'd be kidding myself if I thought I'd never have to deal with AIDS up close and personal. And if I'm not careful, if *every single one of you* aren't careful, then we'll end up dealing with it a lot more up close and personal than we'd like.

In conclusion, let me just say what you've heard a thousand times, and what no one should *stop* saying until there's no need to... ***if you have unprotected sex with anyone you aren't 100% sure about, use a condom, or make sure that they do. If you shoot drugs, for God's sake use a clean needle, you don't need to get screwed up any worse. And teach your friends, your kids, your lovers...teach them to think.*** Think before you act, folks. Anyone. Anywhere. It's not a scare tactic, it's not some liberal plot, and it's not going to go away anytime soon. It's *life*. Or death. Make your choice.

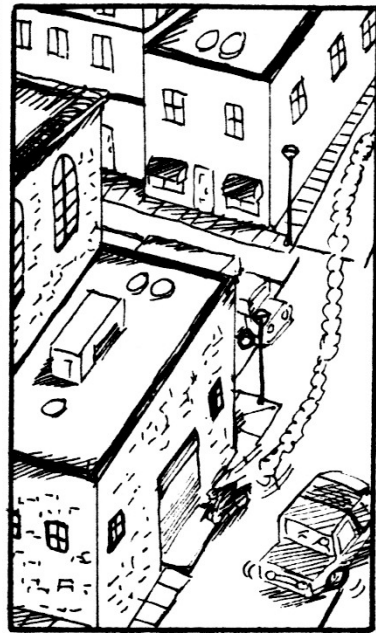
 - NIK DIRGA



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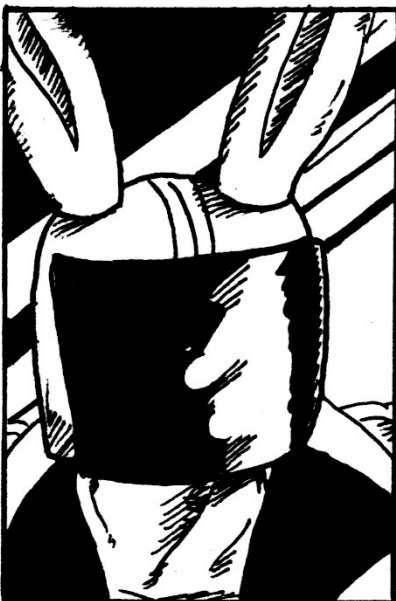
Protoplasm
Press presents



Written by
Nik Dirga



Drawn by...
Pg. 1: Nik Dirga
2,3: Nik & John Hurley, inks
4-6: John Hurley
7-11: Quinton Hoover &
Anthony Gray, inks
12: Max Ink & Nik, inks
13-15: Lynn Allen & Nik, inks
16-18: Doug Lumley
19-23: Anthony Gray &
Quinton Hoover, inks
24-30: Max Ink
31,32: Nik Dirga

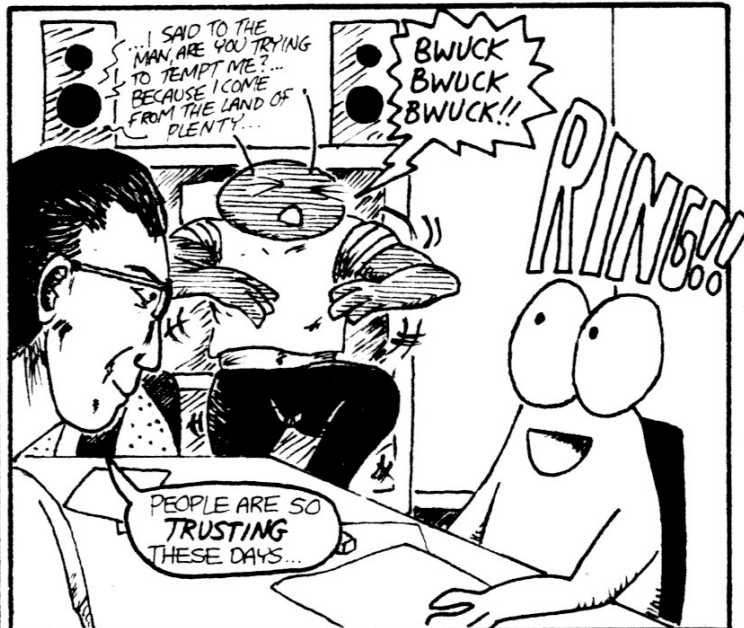
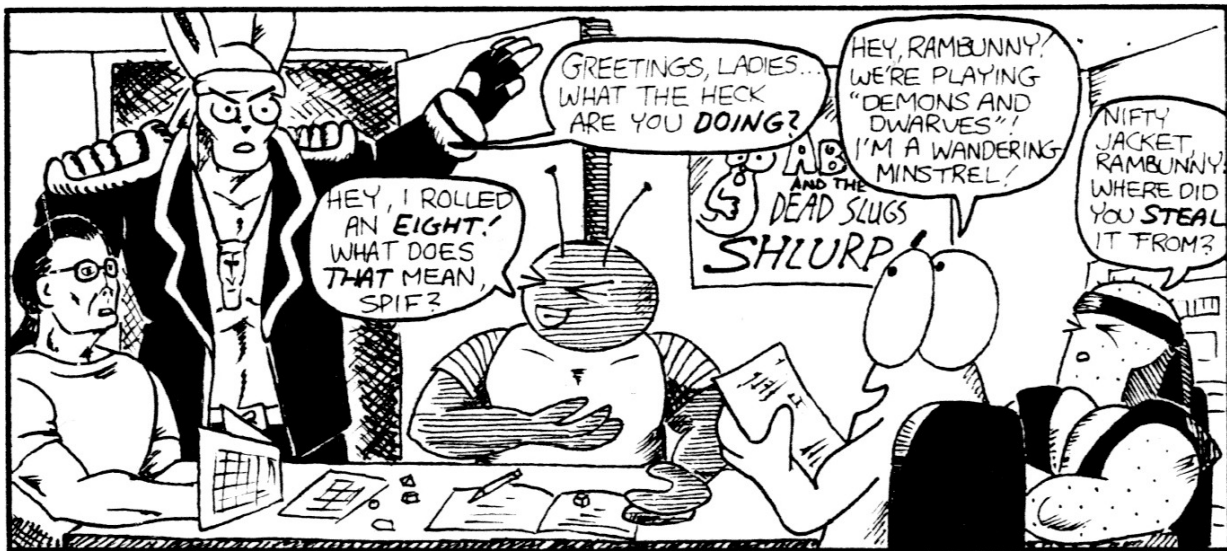


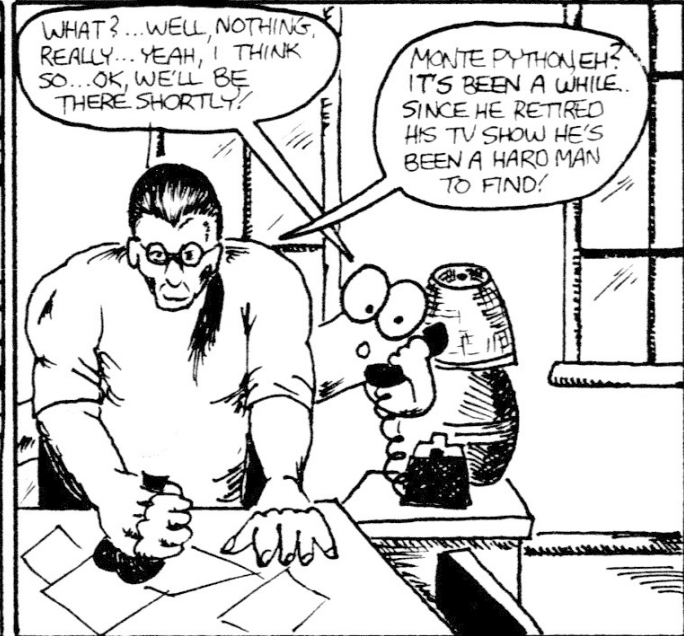
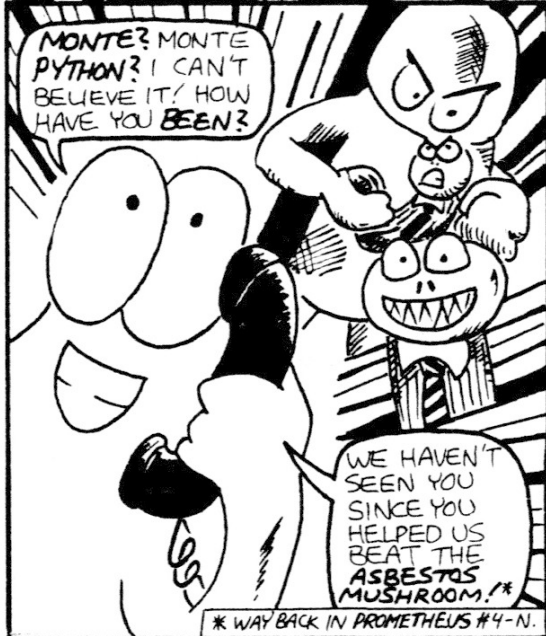
PROMETHEUS:

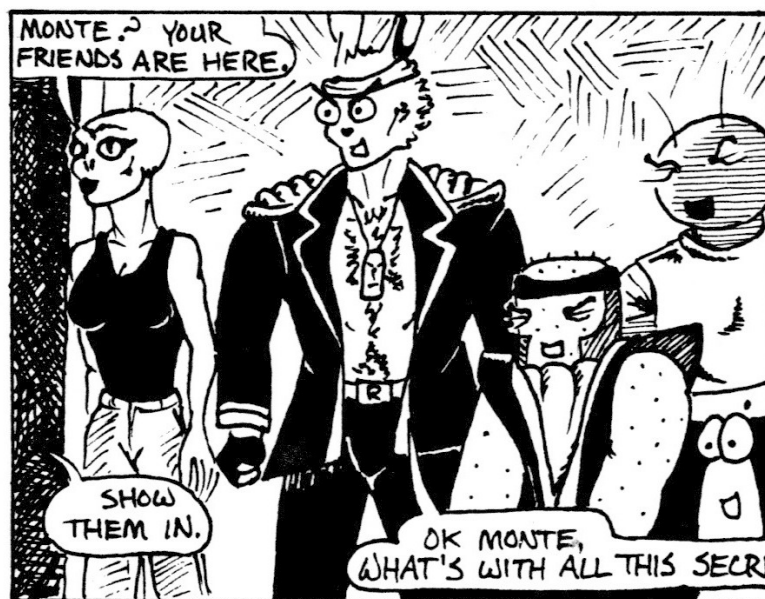
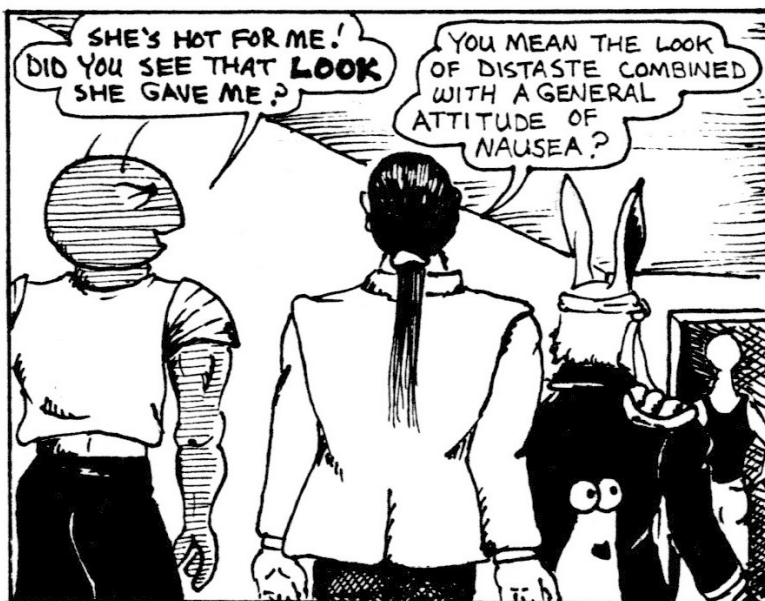
The
*Silent
Storm*

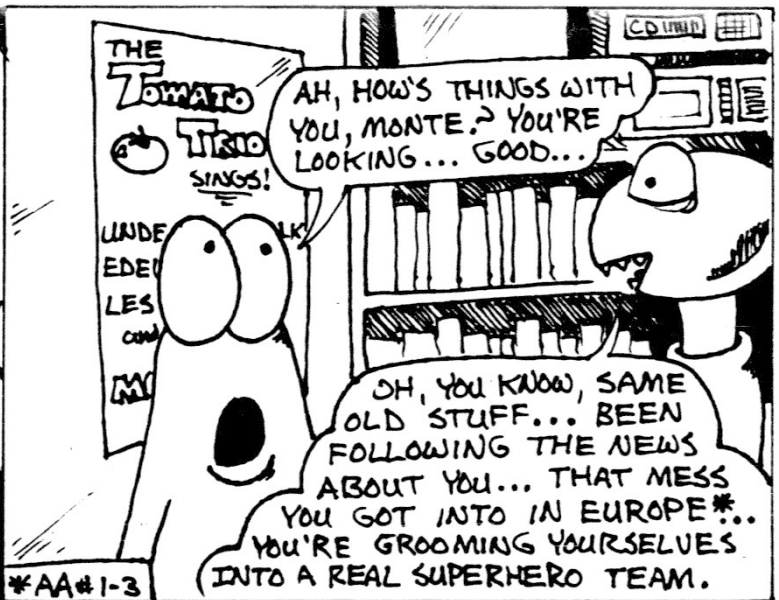


This story takes place between AMOEBA ADVENTURES #3 + 4 - NK.









MONTE HAS AIDS AND
HE'S GOING TO
DIE!

NOT EXACTLY. HE HAS THE HIV-VIRUS. EVENTUALLY
IT WILL PROBABLY DEVELOP INTO AIDS, THEN
HE'LL PROBABLY DIE. THANK YOU,
ANGEL OF DEATH.
WHAT ARE WE GONNA
DO, GUYS?

I CAN'T
BELIEVE THIS.

I DIDN'T EVEN KNOW HE WAS GAY.

Do? Do? HE GOT HIMSELF
INTO THIS MESS, I DON'T SEE HOW
WE HAVE TO DO ANYTHING!

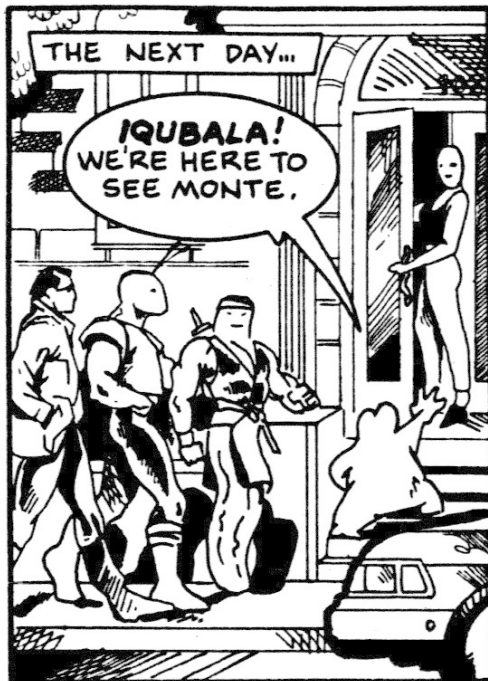
THAT'S NOT
REALLY FAIR,
RAMBUNNY, SURE,
HE MAY BE GAY,
BUT HE'S STILL
OUR FRIEND.

HE LOOKED SO SICK...
IS IT POSSIBLE HE'S
ALREADY GETTING
AIDS?

I CAN'T SAY FOR
SURE. I LOST MY
MEDICAL LICENSE
BEFORE AIDS BECAME
AN EPIDEMIC.

I'LL TELL YOU WHAT
I'M GOING TO DO, I'M
GOING TO GET OUT OF THIS
GROUP OF WHINERS AND
GO FIND SOME CROOKS
TO BEAT UP!

I THINK IT'S GREAT
WE HAVE A LEADER SO
CALM AND RATIONAL,
DON'T YOU?



THE NEXT DAY...

Iqubala!
We're here to
see Monte.

THEN YOU'D BETTER
COME WITH ME...
HE'S AT THE CLINIC
THIS MORNING FOR
SOME TESTS.

LIKE
A RIDE?

WOULD I...

URK!

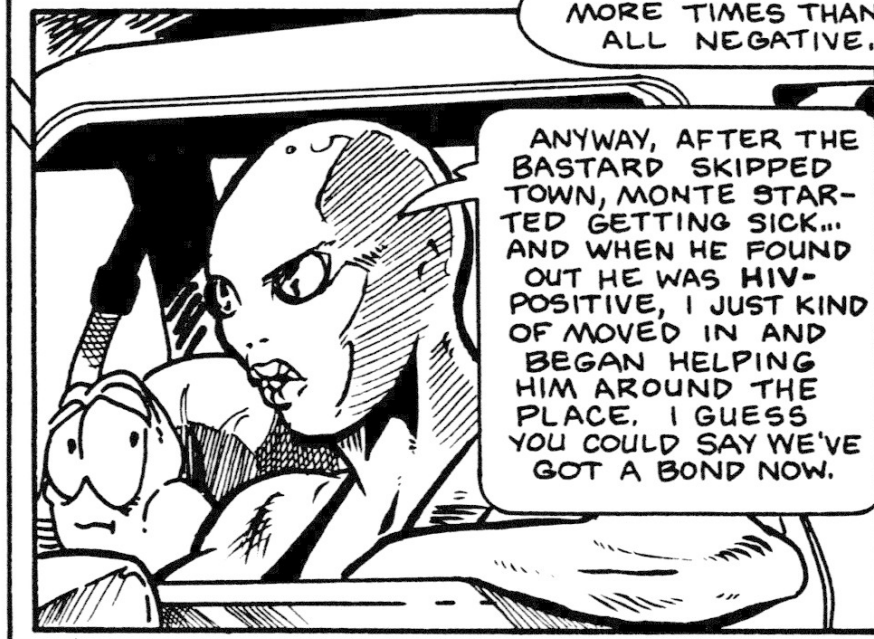
SO, HOW DID YOU
AND MONTE MEET?



WHEW...

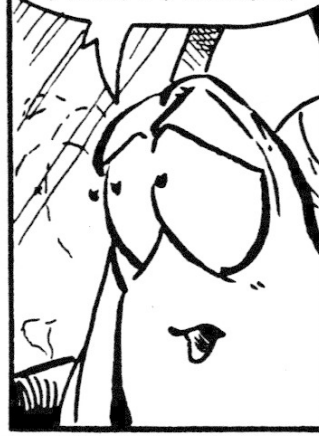
ACTUALLY, IT'S KIND OF FUNNY IN
A SICK WAY... YOU SEE, THE MAN
WHO INFECTED MONTE WAS ALSO
MY EX-LOVER.

YES, I KNOW. I'VE BEEN TESTED
MORE TIMES THAN I CAN COUNT.
ALL NEGATIVE... SO FAR...

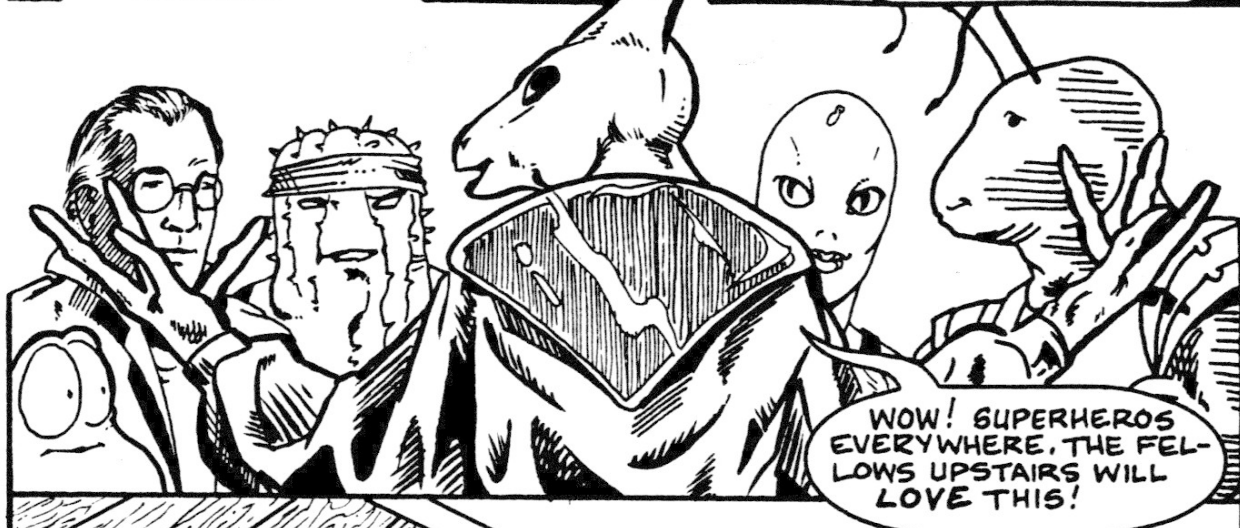


ANYWAY, AFTER THE
BASTARD SKIPPED
TOWN, MONTE STAR-
TED GETTING SICK...
AND WHEN HE FOUND
OUT HE WAS HIV-
POSITIVE, I JUST KIND
OF MOVED IN AND
BEGAN HELPING
HIM AROUND THE
PLACE. I GUESS
YOU COULD SAY WE'VE
GOT A BOND NOW.

YEAH... I GUESS
DEATH DOES
BRING PEOPLE
PRETTY CLOSE.









BOY, IT SURE WAS GREAT OF YOU GUYS TO DO THIS FOR US... THE WORLD TENDS TO FORGET US SOMETIMES, OR JUST WRITE US OFF.



SO, YOU HAVE AIDS TOO, THEN?

YEAH, ME TOO... I'M WORKING HERE AND HELPING OUT SINCE MY WIFE DIED.



I'm sorry.

WELL, WE ALL ARE. YOU KNOW, AIDS COULDN'T HAVE BEEN MORE PERFECTLY TAILORED FOR THE TIMES... IT FORCES PEOPLE TO LOOK AT THE THINGS THEY DON'T WANT TO... SEX, HOMOSEXUALITY, DRUG USE... AND, OF COURSE, DRAWS ON THEIR PREJUDICES LIKE NOTHING ELSE, TOO.



YOU MEAN SHE--

YEAH, SHE WAS PRETTY... CAREFREE... WITH HER AFFECTIONS BEFORE WE MET. SHE DIED LAST YEAR, RIGHT AFTER I FOUND OUT I HAD IT, TOO.



HEY, LOOKS LIKE THE SHOW'S OVER--THINK I'LL GO GRAB ME SOME JOHN HANCOCKS!

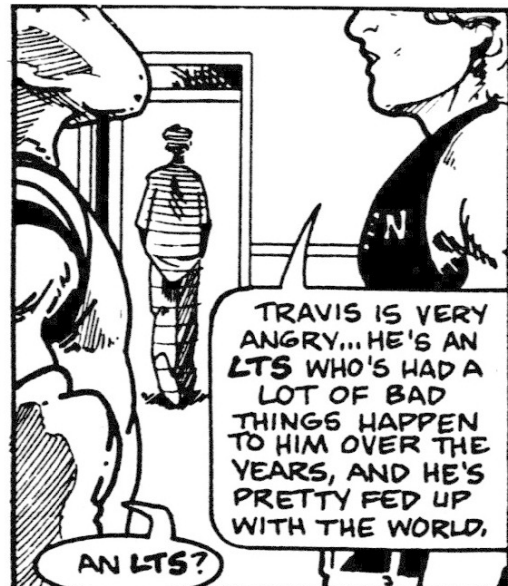


HEY, DO YOU WANT ONE TOO? DON'T BE SHY.



YEAH, RIGHT.

WHAT'S HIS PROBLEM?



TRAVIS IS VERY ANGRY... HE'S AN LTS WHO'S HAD A LOT OF BAD THINGS HAPPEN TO HIM OVER THE YEARS, AND HE'S PRETTY FED UP WITH THE WORLD.

AN LTS?

SORRY, THAT'S A LONG TERM SURVIVOR, WHO'S MADE IT WITH AIDS FOR OVER THREE OR SO YEARS. TRAVIS HAS HAD IT SEVEN, AND STILL ALIVE AND KICKING. BUT HIS BITTERNESS HASN'T GONE AWAY ANY.



OH YEAH, DEFINITELY. I DON'T KNOW, THOUGH... WITH ME, I FEEL MORE LIKE I'M BEING PUNISHED FOR SOMETHING, THAT I DON'T HAVE THE RIGHT TO BE ANGRY, Y'KNOW?

GUESS THAT'S A BIG PROBLEM, eh? BEING BITTER... JUST GIVING UP AND HATING THE WORLD.

WHO'S THAT POOR GUY?

THAT'S ELY... HE DOESN'T HAVE VERY LONG LEFT, I'M AFRAID. WE'VE DONE ABOUT ALL WE CAN... GIVEN HIM ENOUGH DRUGS SO HE DOESN'T FEEL THE PAIN, BUT HE CAN'T LAST MUCH LONGER...



"HE HAS PNEUMOCYSTIS CARINII AND A HOST OF OTHER NASTY DISEASES TEARING HIM APART,"



Where's my canteen?...

"AND YOU CAN'T DO ANYTHING?"

"JUST KEEPING THE PAIN AWAY IS A FULL-TIME JOB. HE'S GOT NO IMMUNE SYSTEM LEFT, ESSENTIALLY..."

"THE VERY AIR WANTS TO KILL HIM, IT SEEMS LIKE."

I need to find my canteen...



I PACKED IT FOR YOU, ELY... IT'S RIGHT HERE...

That's good...

"THAT'S JEROME, HIS LOVER... HE HAS NO SIGN OF AIDS YET..."



"BUT HE ALREADY HAS ENOUGH PAIN TO DEAL WITH ANYWAY."



yeah...



BUSY NIGHT?

WHAT THE HELL?

OH, IT'S YOU.



YOU GOT A LOT OF AIR TIME ON THE NEWS... "RAMBUNNY LAUNCHES ONE-MAN CRIME FIGHTING WAYE," "RAGING RABBIT RAISES HELL"...

I'VE HAD BUSIER.



THERE'S A LOT OF DIRT OUT THERE.

SO YOU SAY. MONTE MISSED YOU AT THE CLINIC TODAY.



BETTER THINGS THAN VISITING A FRIEND WHO'S DYING? LOOK, SOMETHING IS SERIOUSLY BUGGING YOU AND YOU NEED TO TELL ME WHAT IT IS SO I CAN HELP. YOU'RE BEING RATHER ARROGANT,

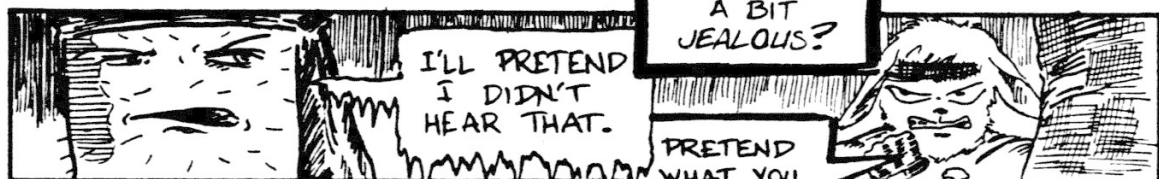
I HAD BETTER THINGS TO DO.

SO DID WE.



EVEN FOR YOU.

SO WHEN IS THAT YOUR BUSINESS? LOOK, YOU'VE GOT YOUR JOB, AND I'VE GOT MINE! JUST 'CAUSE I'M KICKING A LITTLE SLIMEBALL BUTT OUT THERE WHILE YOU'RE BABY-SITTING A BUNCH OF QUEERS,



MAYBE YOU'RE A BIT JEALOUS?

I'LL PRETEND I DIDN'T HEAR THAT.

PRETEND WHAT YOU WANT...



I'M GOING OUT TO GET MORE ACTION.

A LITTLE TESTOSTERONE IS A TERRIBLE THING.

EARLY THE NEXT MORNING, AT THE CLINIC:

WELL, TELL ME DOC, WILL I EVER PLAY THE PIANO AGAIN?



MONTE, LET ME PUT IT THIS WAY... YOU KNOW WHAT T-CELLS ARE, RIGHT? THE CELLS THAT FIGHT INFECTIONS, THE ONES THE HIV VIRUS KILLS, WHICH LEADS TO AIDS?

YEP.



A NORMAL T-CELL COUNT IS BETWEEN 700 AND 1200... YOURS IS DOWN TO ABOUT 40.

OH, LORD...



MONTE, MAN, I'M SO SORRY...



THERE'S GOT TO BE DRUGS OR SOMETHING THAT WILL HELP HIM, RIGHT?



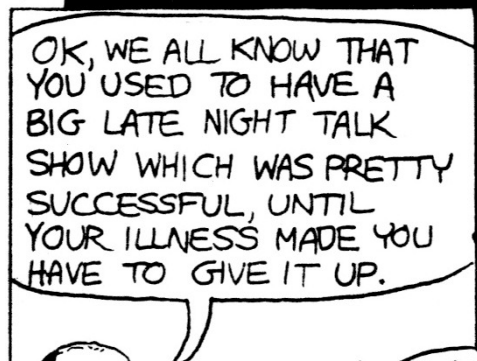
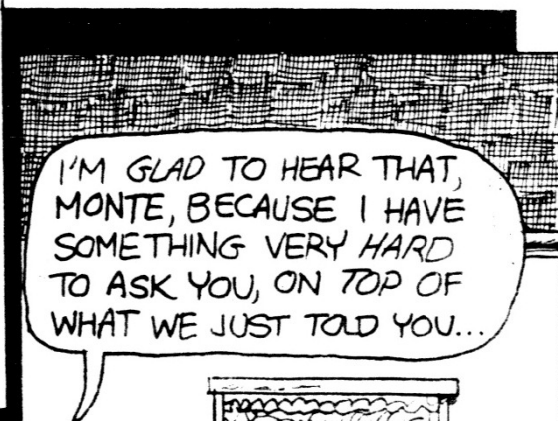
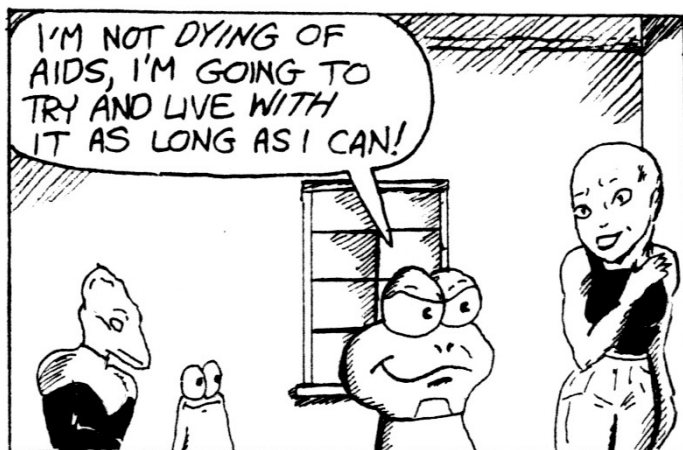
WELL, THERE'S AZT, WHICH SLOWS THE HIV VIRUS DOWN...

...BUT BY NOW IT'S GETTING TOO LATE FOR THAT TO DO ANY GOOD FOR MONTE. ANYWAY, AZT ONLY SLOWS THINGS DOWN... THERE IS NO CURE.

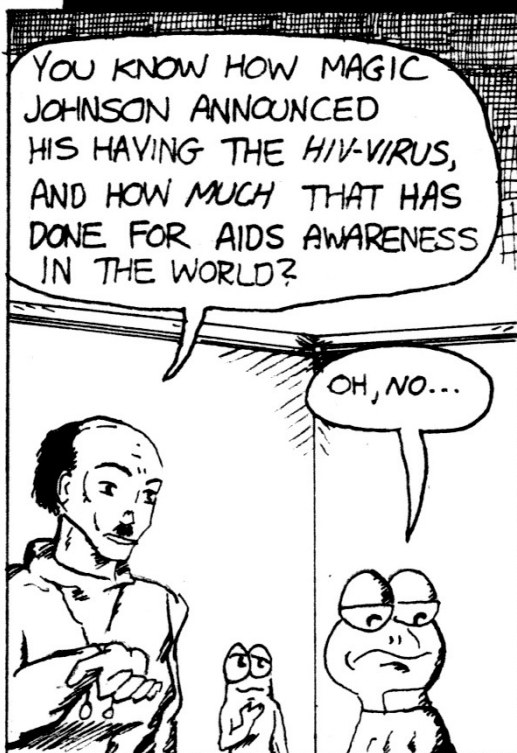
I REALLY AM SURROUNDED BY ANGELS OF DEATH.

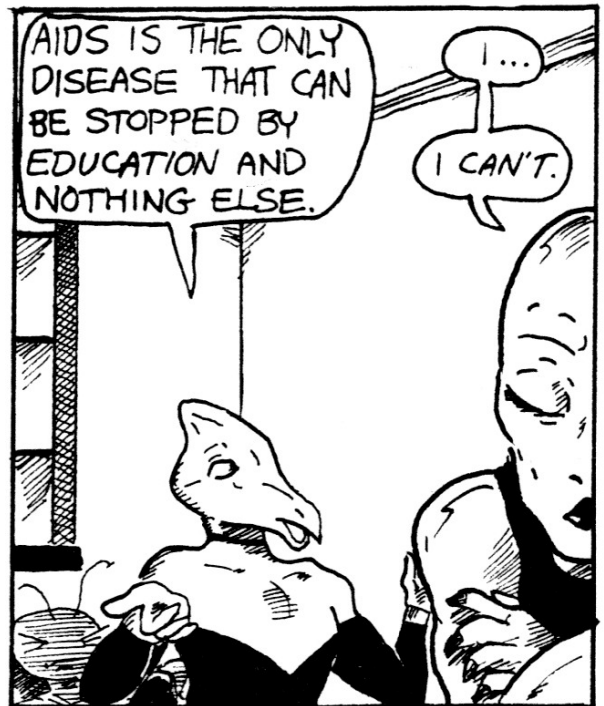
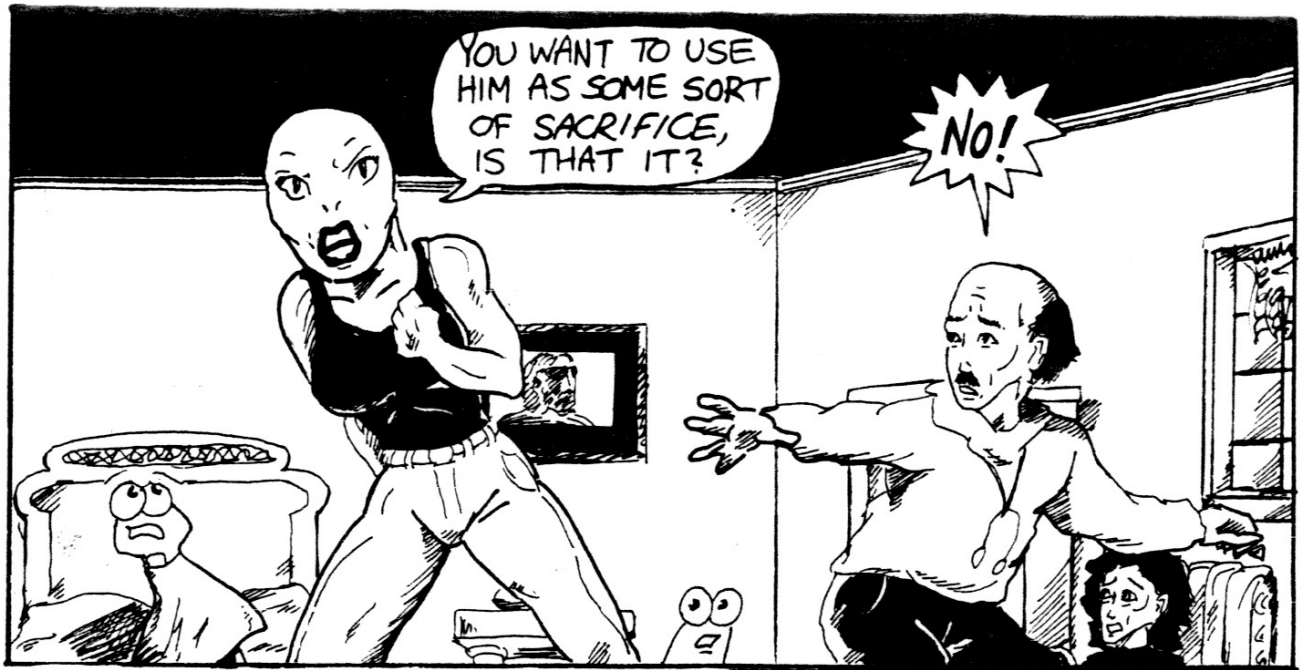
LOOK, LOOK, EVERYONE, I'M NOT DEAD YET, AM I?

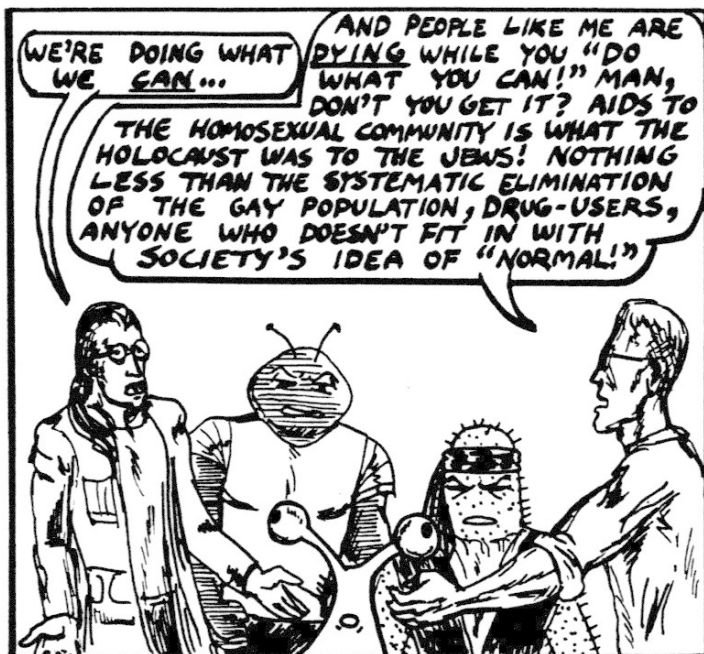




* IN PRO #3



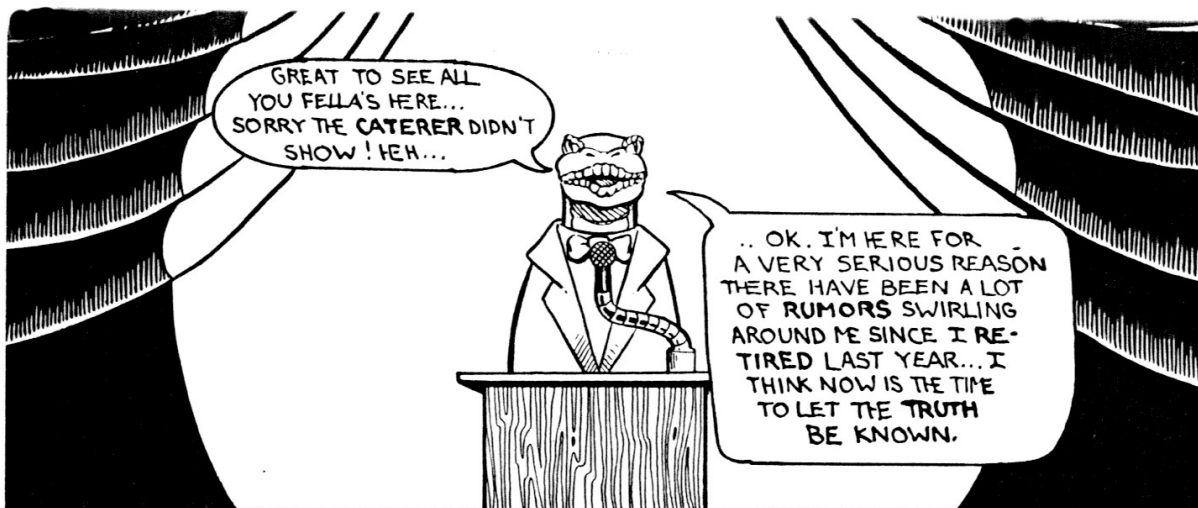












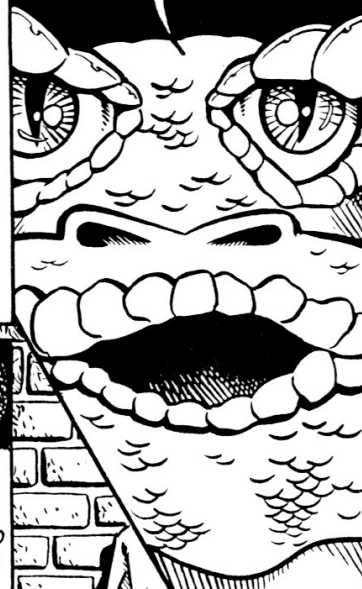
GREAT TO SEE ALL
YOU FELLA'S HERE...
SORRY THE CATERER DIDN'T
SHOW! HEH...

.. OK. I'M HERE FOR
A VERY SERIOUS REASON
THERE HAVE BEEN A LOT
OF RUMORS SWIRLING
AROUND ME SINCE I RE-
TIRED LAST YEAR... I
THINK NOW IS THE TIME
TO LET THE TRUTH
BE KNOWN.



OH, MY
HEAD...NOT
AGAIN...
DAMMIT!

I HAVE
TESTED POSITIVE
FOR THE
HIV VIRUS...



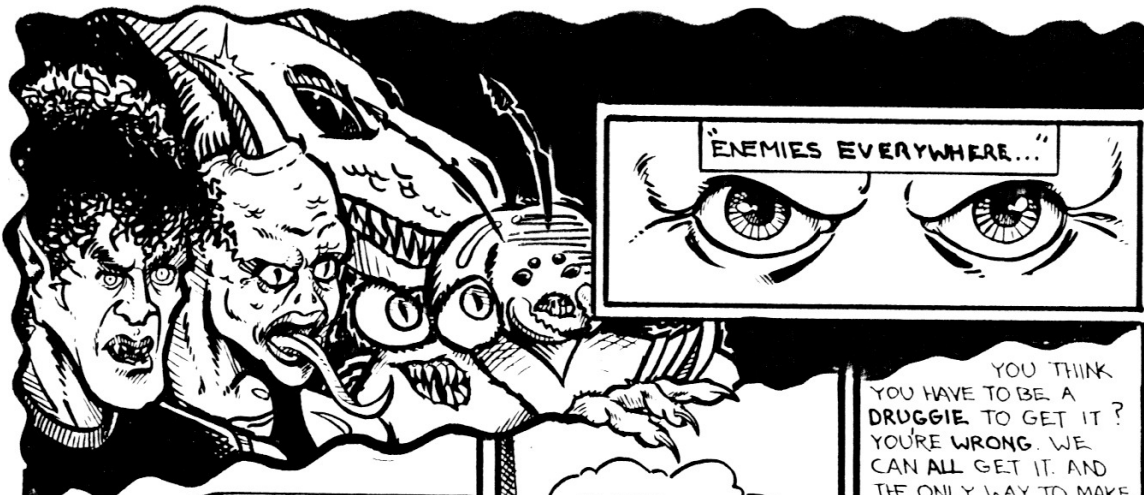
THE CROWD MURMURS... SHOCK, SURPRISE
ARE ON THE NEWIE'S FACES...



I CALLED THIS
PRESS CONFERENCE TO
LET THE WORLD KNOW
AND TO SPREAD THE
WORD... YES... I
HAVE AIDS, BUT I'M
NOT GIVING UP...

... UNTIL
I'M
DEAD...





ENEMIES EVERYWHERE...

AIDS IS THE SILENT STORM THAT SWEEPS OUR LIVES... SILENT BECAUSE PEOPLE REFUSE TO BELIEVE IN IT, REFUSE TO BELIEVE THAT IT COULD HAPPEN TO THEM. A STORM BECAUSE OF THE DEVASTATION IT CREATES. YOU THINK IT'S A GAY DISEASE? YOU'RE WRONG...

I THINK...
... I NEED ...
... SOME AIR ...

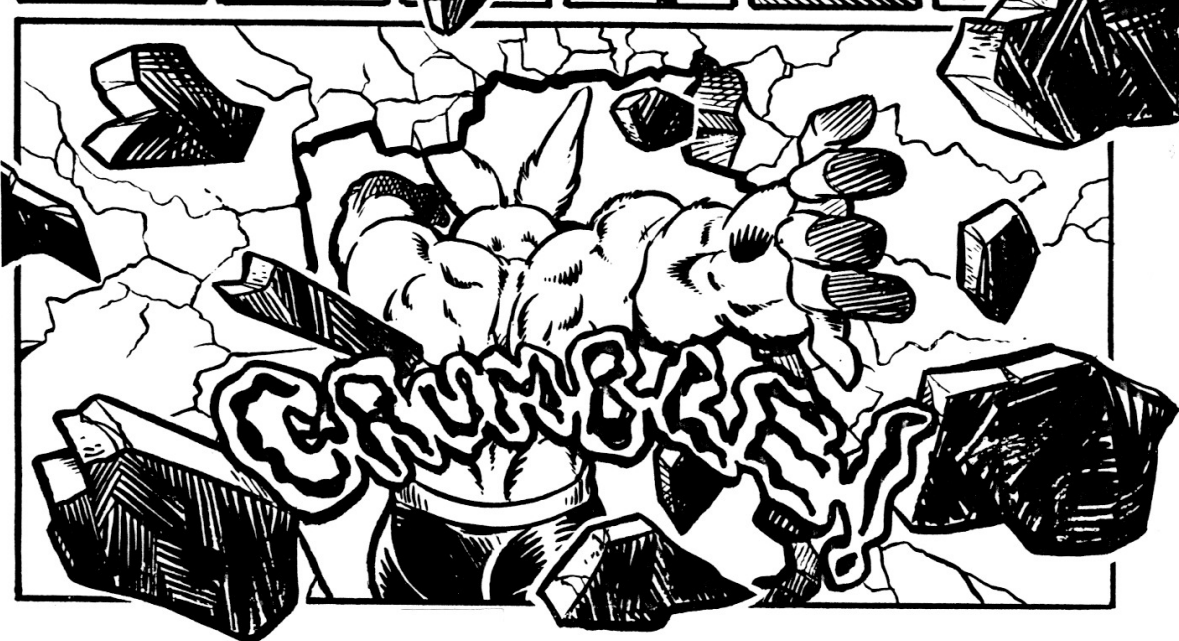
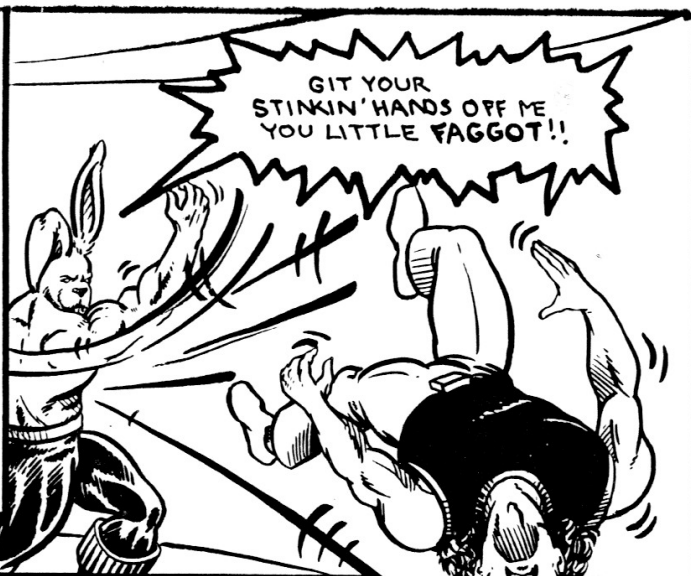
YOU THINK YOU HAVE TO BE A DRUGGIE TO GET IT? YOU'RE WRONG. WE CAN ALL GET IT. AND THE ONLY WAY TO MAKE THE SILENT STORM END IS TO SHOUT THE TRUTH FROM THE ROOFTOPS UNTIL PEOPLE HEAR.

YOU CAN LOOK AT ME AND SEE A "HOMO WITH THAT 'QUEER' DISEASE" OR YOU CAN LOOK AT ME AND SEE A PERSON WHO IS HURTING, AND NEEDS HELP. THE CHOICE IS YOURS. A GOOD FRIEND OF MINE SAID THAT AIDS IS A DISEASE THAT CAN ONLY BE CURED BY EDUCATION... AND HE WAS RIGHT. AND THE FIRST THING TO LEARN IS HOW TO GIVE UP YOUR FEARS AND PREJUDICES...

..MAYBE WHEN THAT HAPPENS WE'LL ALL BE CURED.

RAMBUNNY? ARE YOU OK??





HE HIT A POWER
LINE! WHERE ARE THE
FUSES?

I SHOULD'VE
SEEN THIS COMING...

WHERE'S MONTE + RICK?

WHERE
IS HE?

**HANDS
OFF,
BUDDY!**

TEN BUCKS
SAYS THAT WAS
NINJA ANT TRYING
TO GET LUCKY
WITH IQUBALA...

HEY, I THOUGHT
SHE WAS THE FUSE BOX!

SMAX!

OVER HERE !!
I FOUND RICK AND MONTE !!

YOU SEE? YOU
SEE? YOU CAN'T TRUST
ANYONE! THEY'RE
ALL AFRAID OF US!

.. LET ME THROUGH
DAMMIT !!

NOBODY MOVE!
THIS IS SECURITY!

THIS IS RAMBUNNY
YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT
HERE! PROMETHEUS!

WHERE ARE THE LIGHTS?!

WE'VE GOT TO
GET AFTER HIM AND
STOP HIM !

I THINK RICK'S
GOT A FEW BROKEN
RIBS!

DOES ANY-
ONE KNOW HOW
TO USE A
FLASHLIGHT?

WHEW, WHAT A RIGHT HOOK!

WHAT HE FELT
WAS NO LIGHT
BOX!

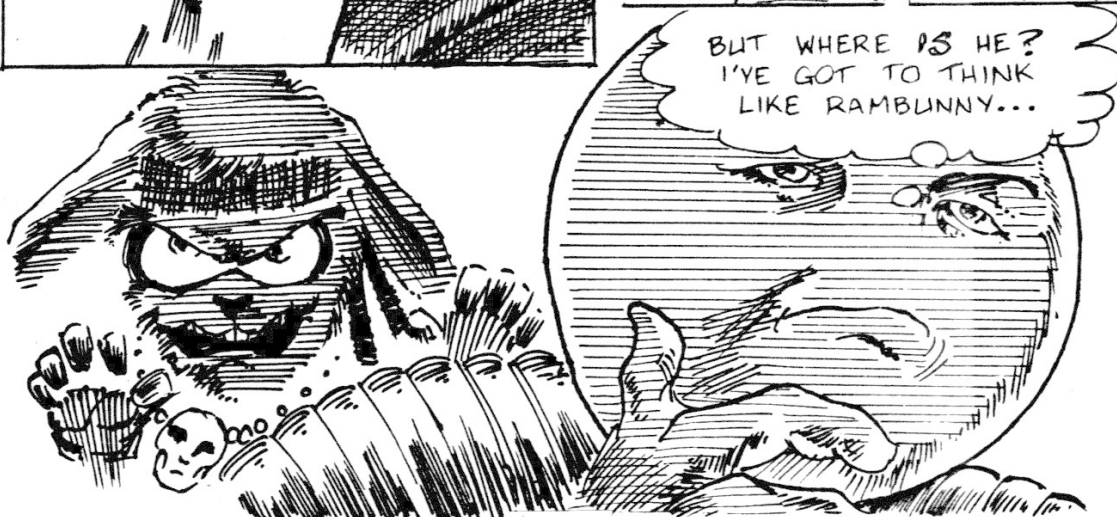
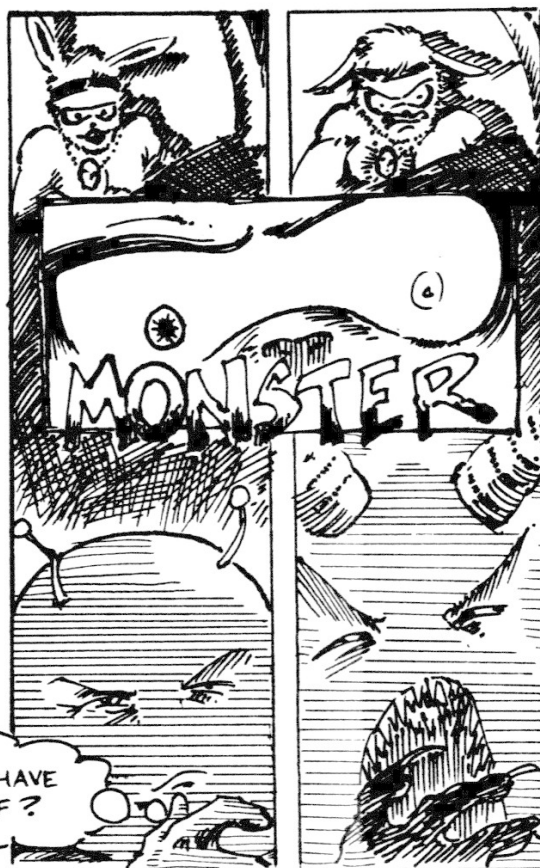
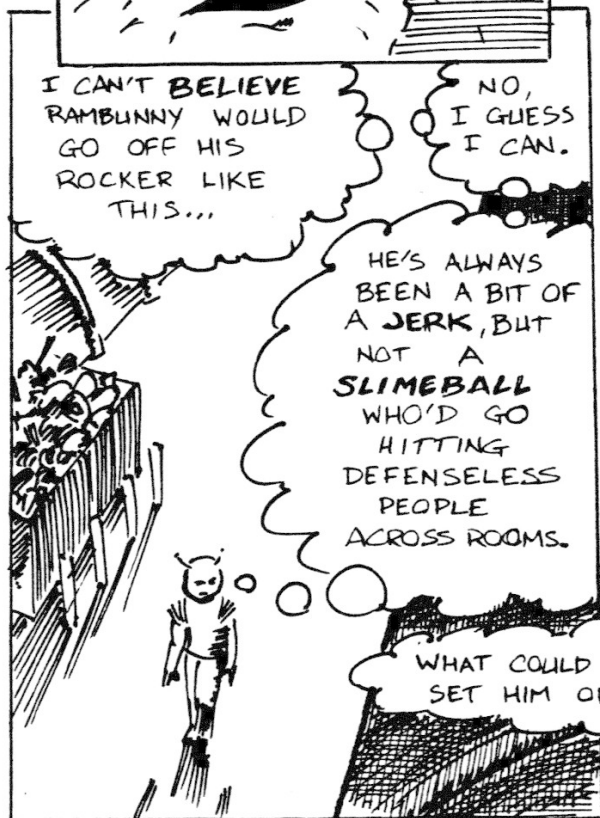
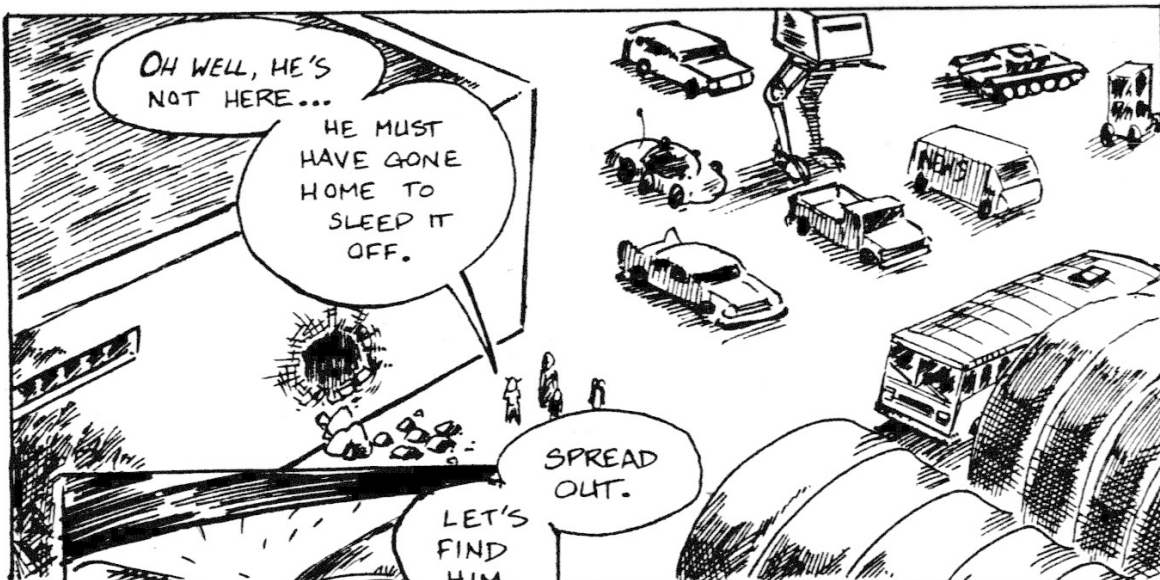
MONTE !!

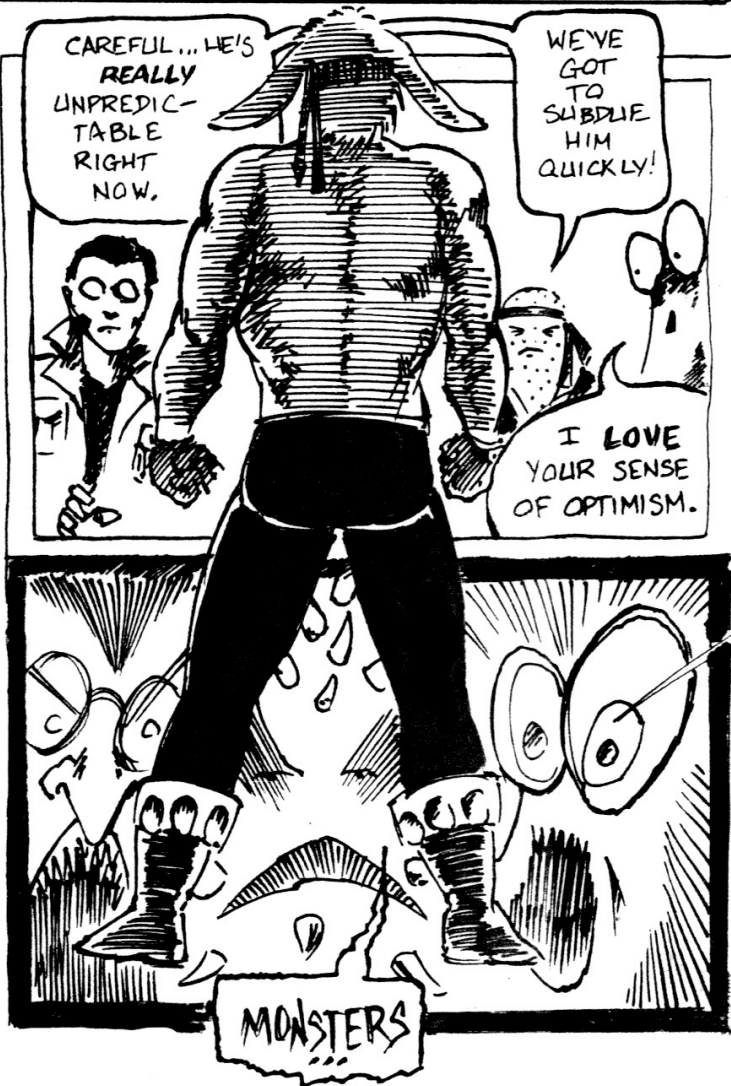
DON'T MOVE
RICK, STAY
STILL.

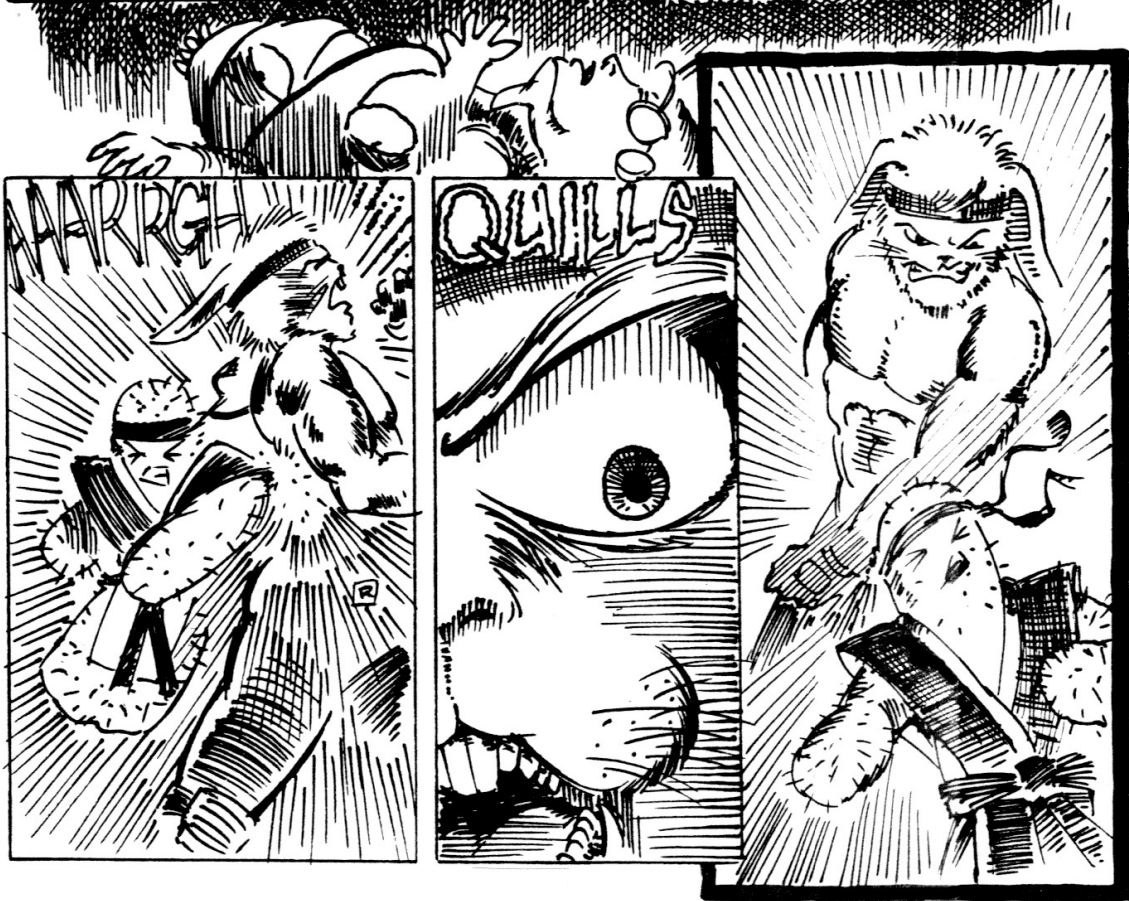
DO WE HAVE TO?
I'M SURE THE
COPS CAN HAND...

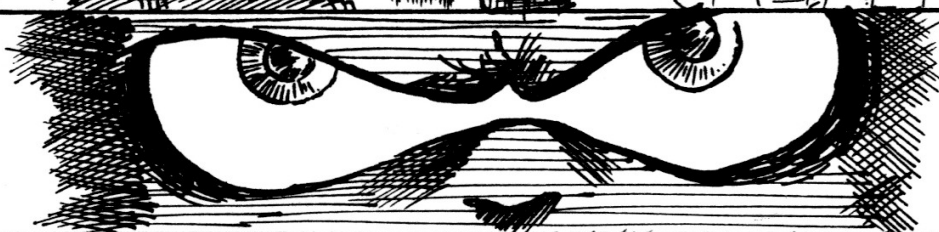
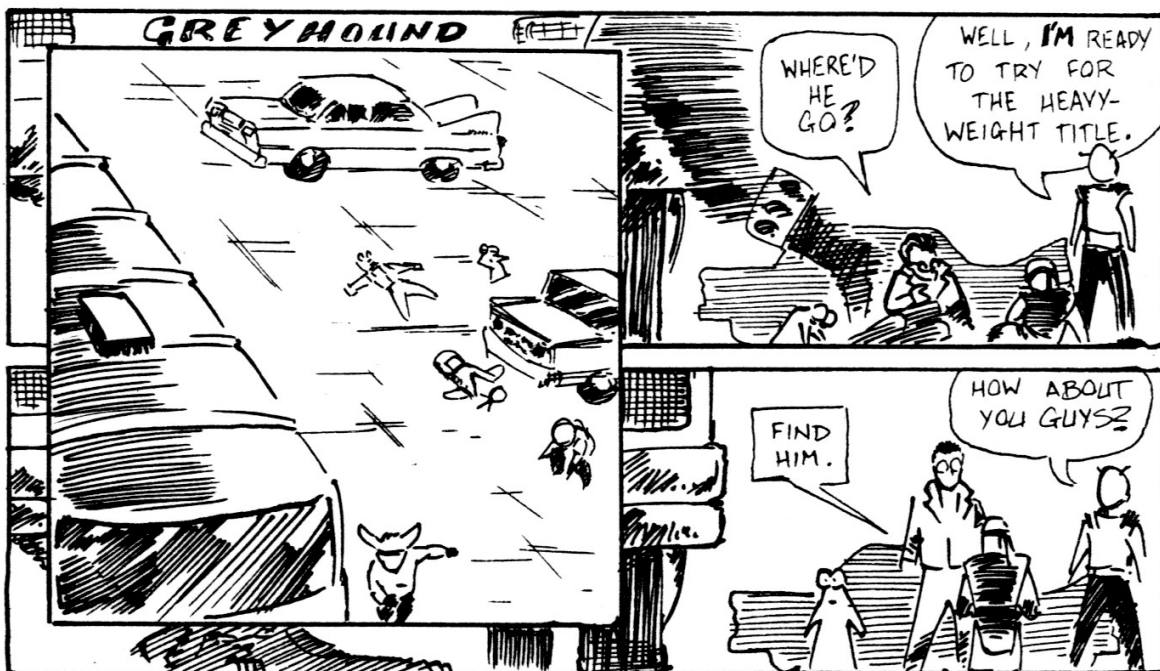
BOY, I HATE BEING NOBLE, SOMETIMES!

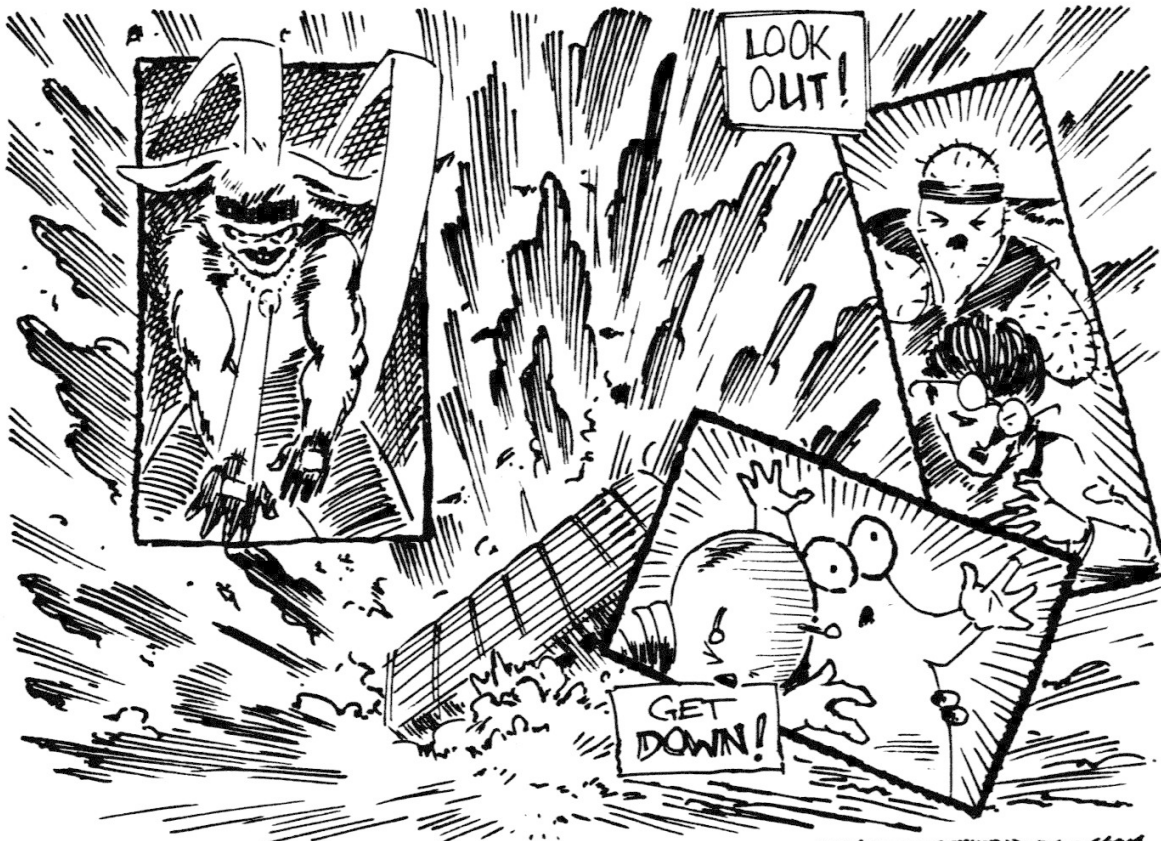


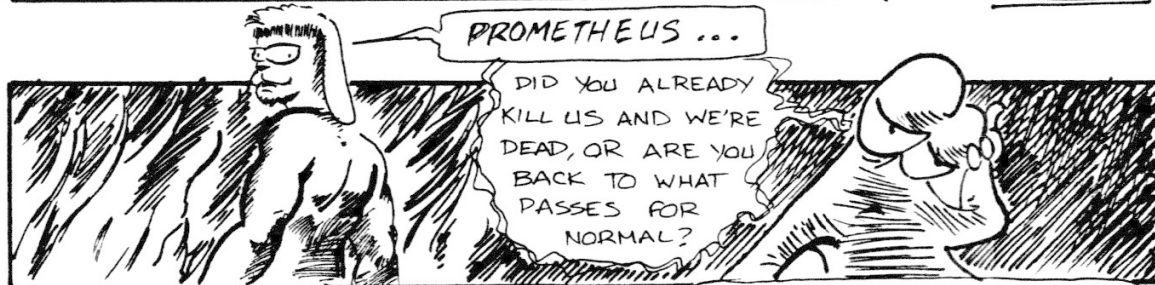
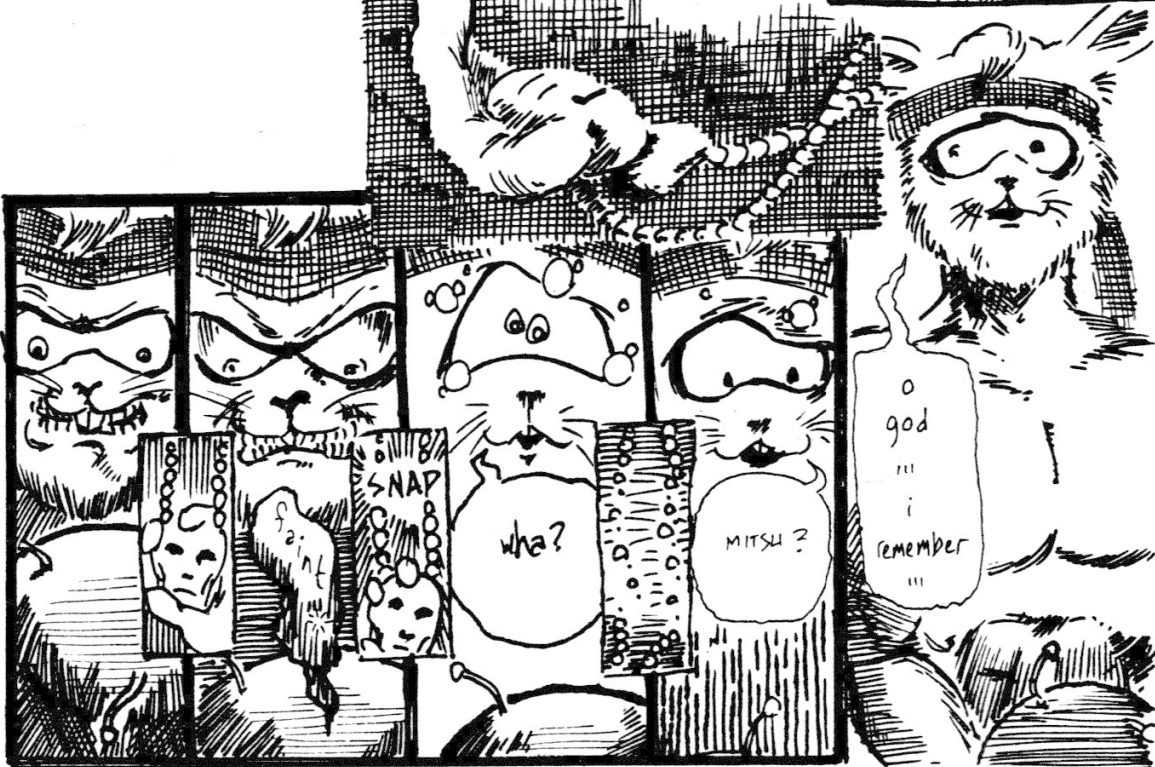
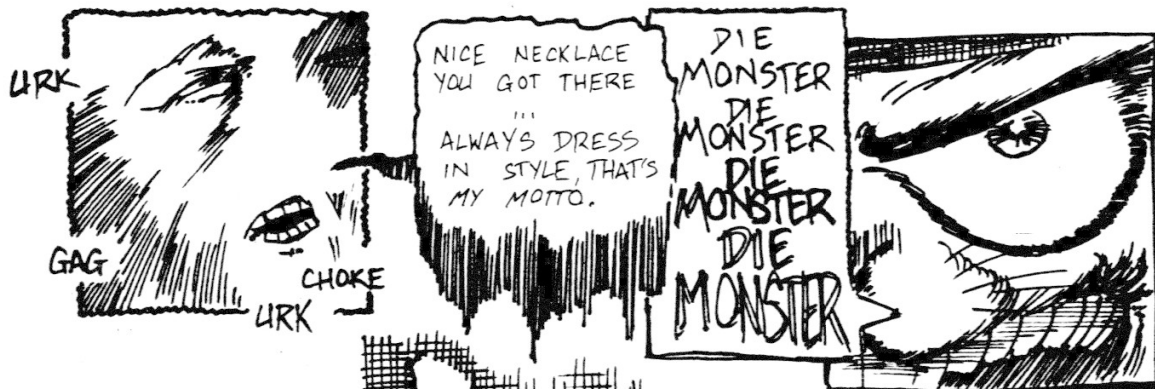






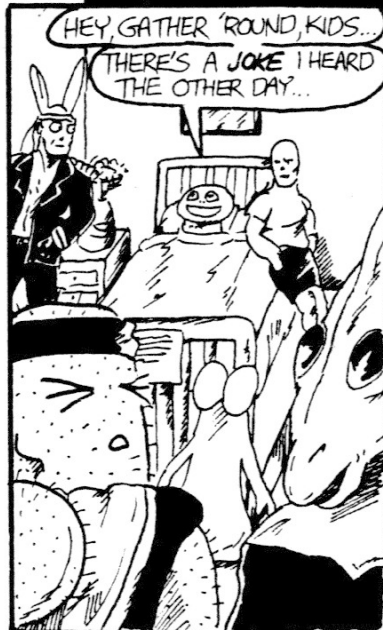












Six months later, while speaking at a local university, Monte collapsed. He was diagnosed with a host of AIDS-related diseases. On June 19, 1992, with Iqubala at his bedside, he died.

"I shall sink into the divine shadow, in a dumb silence and an ineffable union, and in this sinking all equality and all inequality shall be lost, and in that abyss my spirit will lose itself, and will not know the equal or the unequal, or anything else: and all differences will be forgotten. I shall be in the simple foundation, in the silent desert where diversity is never seen, in the privacy where no one finds himself in his proper place."

-Umberto Eco, *The Name Of The Rose*

-for all those who've fallen-

ABOUT them Artists

Lynn Allen is a newcomer to small press...*Silent Storm* is one of her first sp releases. Her innovative *Lex And Domingo* is now being published by Miller Publishing, 602 E. Cherry St., Waukegan, Illinois, 60070, for around a buck, check it out! She's a talent to watch, and we'll be collaborating again when her characters Lex and Domingo will be featured in a team-up with the All-Spongy Squadron in next winter's *All-Spongy Comics* #1.

Anthony Gray's A.G. Graphics is fast becoming a stronghold for some of small-press' biggest names. He puts out a host of fantasy and adventures titles, including *The Bat*, *Power For Hire*, *Dinosaur Man*, *Andrubis*, and with Max Ink, *A.G. Graphix Presents*. All of 'em are available for around \$2 each...he also has a nifty catalog available free, so do yourself a favor and write Anthony at 1105 West St. Apt. 2, Utica, New York, 13501.

Quinton Hoover is truly one of small-press' greats, as I think he proves once again with his work in this issue. I'll beg, borrow and steal to get him to do some more work for me down the line, but for now, he does a host of books for a variety of publishers, and you can also check out his self-published *Squint* for a mere 50c, and ask him what else he's up to! Quint's at 3165 River Park Dr., Baker City, Oregon, 97814.

John Hurley, who is he, what is he? Scientists have yet to discover the truth about this wacky Californian, but when they do I'll let you know what the results are. John's been gradually integrating himself into small press, with a back-up tale in *Amoeba Adventures* #5 and other stuff, and right now, he's working on a Herr Heinous solo story for *One-Celled Tales* #2 and also doing part of the upcoming *Spif* solo story. He also makes a mean chocolate cake.

Max Ink on Max Ink: "What can be said about MAX...he's slow. The artwork's not half-bad, but he's *slow*. If you're patient enough you can see some of his award-winning work in the pages of Ian Shires' *Dungar* and he also has his own book being published by A.G. Graphics called *A.G. Graphix Presents*, which is a magazine-sized comic that showcases a self-contained story written & illustrated by MAX every issue. You can get the latest *Dungar* from Dimestore Productions, PO Box 360041, Strongsville Ohio 44136, and the latest *A.G. Graphix* from Anthony for a mere \$2 (see above)."

Doug Lumley is one half of the next small press giant, or at least a sultry small press midget, *Avernus Comics*. He and partner-in-crime Troy Hickman have thus far put out *Yo-Yo The Dieting Clown* and *Made Up Stuff (Is Stranger Than Fiction)*, and are also preparing *Tales Of The Pathetic Club* for imminent release. *Avernus* stuff is available for \$1 each, from 906 S. 18th St, Lafayette, Indiana, 47905. Also look for Doug & Troy's Rambunny solo story in *One-Celled Tales* #2!

SO?

WHAT ARE YOU
WAITING FOR?!
CHECK THIS STUFF OUT!

Pro hangs out in Amoeba Adventures Issue #8



Join him for a mere \$1.00 plus
a stamp in "Details Of Design"
Part Three.

Available June 30 from Protoplasm Press.

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AVERAGE SUPERHERO
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LOOK LIKE WE'RE NORMAL?

TWO - IF YOU VALUE
CRITICAL OPINIONS,
AMOEBA ADVENTURES
HAS BEEN CALLED "A
GEM" WITH "STRONG
DIALOGUE," "EXCELLENT
CHARACTERS," AND
"HILARIOUS" BY ZINES
LIKE THE COMICIST,
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..AND THREE -
DO YOU REALLY
WANT TO MAKE
THIS RABBIT
MAD?

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CHANGED
MY
LOVE
LIFE!

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This ish:
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STARS:
Wolverine!
Lobo. Ghost
Arder! Punisher!
Just kidding.

☺ Yes! My life is pathetic and worthless! Sign me
up for a four-issue subscription to **Amoeba
Adventures**! Enclosed is five dollars, and the
satisfaction in knowing I can now go on.

☹ Ehh! I'm not convinced! Here's a buck! Give
me a sample copy of the latest issue of **Amoeba
Adventures** and *maybe* I'll subscribe! So there!

☹ Ha! I hate comics! I don't even like your
shoes! Subscribe? NEVER!

Send to:

Protoplasm Press, c/o Nik Dirga, PO Box 2230
University MS 38677-2230. All checks payable to
Nik Dirga, please!

SPECIAL 2020 BONUS SECTION

The cover for Prometheus: The Silent Storm was originally going to be by Larry Nibert, a terrific artist and small press legend. Unfortunately, he wasn't able to finish the cover at the time and I really needed to publish the book. He did send the art on later and it appeared in Amoeba Adventures #12. Sadly, Larry Nibert passed away in 2012. It's a gorgeous cover and I'm sad it didn't make it on the final book instead of my scribbles.



Advertisement for Silent Storm that appeared in Comics Buyer's Guide, among other places.

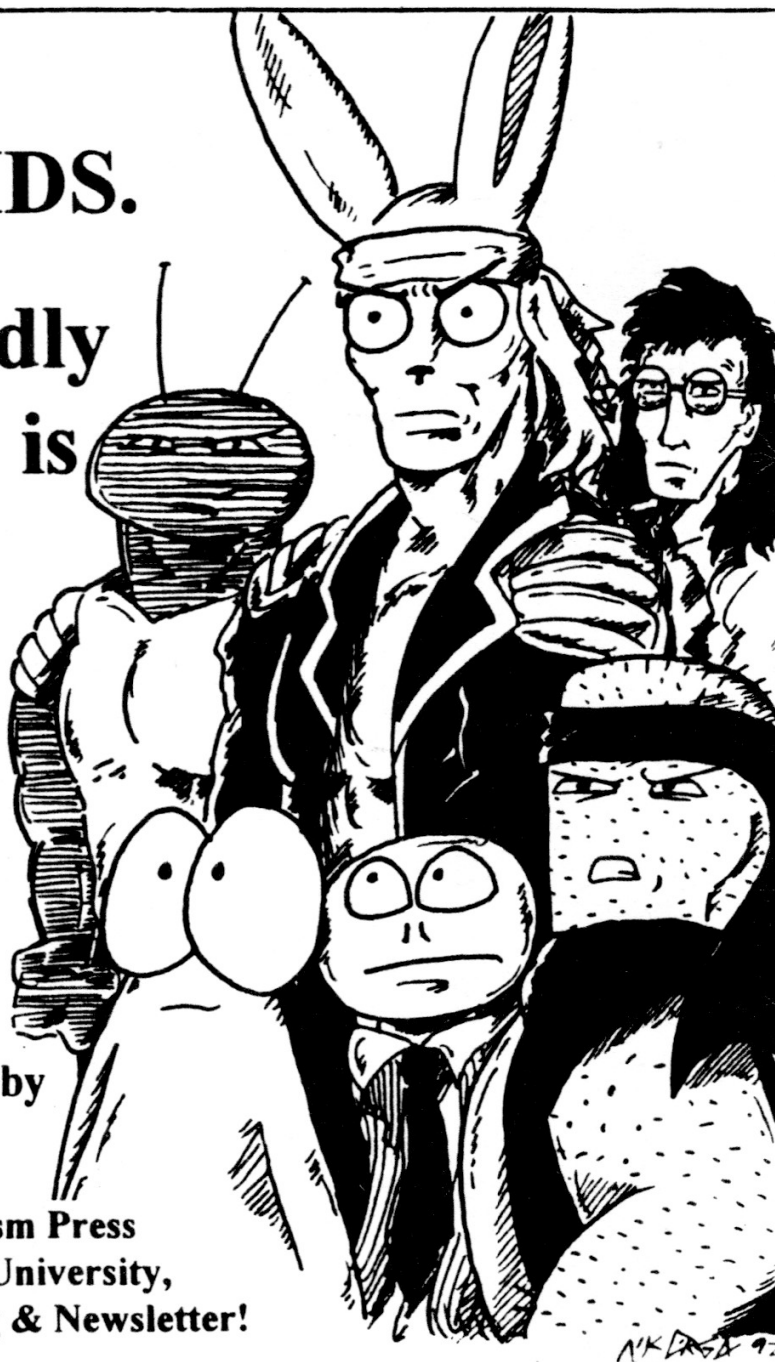
**One of these
heroes has AIDS.**

**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.**

**\$2.00 postpaid from Protoplasm Press
c/o Nik Dirga, PO Box 2230, University,
MS 38677-2230. Free Catalog & Newsletter!**



I decided to do Silent Storm as a "jam comic," with half a dozen or so other artists helping out. I had a nice mix of "professional" small pressers and complete amateurs who ended up being involved, and while like any jam comic it was a mix of styles, it turned into a pretty cohesive whole. I've lost track of some of these folks over the years, but they all did a great job. I think Quinton Hoover's highly polished style was my favourite, and it actually inspired me to change my own art style to be a bit bolder starting with #9 of Amoeba Adventures.

PROTOPLASM PRESS
C/O NIK DIRGA
P.O. BOX 2230
UNIVERSITY, MS 38677
(601) 236-6382

Well, it looks like Barry Windsor-Smith and John Byrne consider themselves too BIG to do a small press project, so I'm going ahead without them. Seriously, though, this is the more-or-less semi-kind-of-final list of SILENT STORM participants and who's doing what. Originally, I'd planned to have the story done chronologically..you know, person doing page 1 would do that page, then xerox it off and send it to person doing pages 2 & 3, who'd do those pages and then...but as you can see, it all grew a bit convoluted, and since I've never been The Great Organizer I've wanted to be...anyway, here you go, you're on your own time schedule...however, I'd like to hear letters of progress from ya. I'm setting a **tenative** deadline of May 15...if that's too soon let me know. Thanks again!

WHO'S A DOIN' WHAT...

cover: Larry Nibert
pg. 1: Nik Dirga, all
pg. 2,3: Nik Dirga, pencils, John Hurley, inks
pg. 4-6: John Hurley, all
pg. 7-10: Quinton Hoover, *pencils*, Anthony Gray, *inks*
pg. 11: Max Ink, pencils, Nik Dirga, inks
pg. 12,13: Lynn Allen, pencils, Nik Dirga, inks
pg. 14-16: Doug Lumley, all
pg. 17-19: Anthony Gray, *pencils*, Quinton Hoover, *inks*
pg. 20-23: Max Ink, all
pg. 24: Nik Dirga, all

~~*I know Anthony expressed interest in inking Quint's work, and in having Quint ink his...I haven't heard from Quint yet, so I'm leaving it to the two of you to work out.~~

Oh, nevermind...

Lynn Allen,
Anthony Gray,
Quinton Hoover
John Hurley
California 95521

Franklin, Kentucky 42134
Utica, New York 13501
Baker City, Oregon 97814
Arcata,

Max Ink, Columbus, Ohio 43227
Doug Lumley c/o Troy Hickman, Lafayette,
Indiana 47905

A few last notes (no, I can't ever shut up, why?) recall again all originals must be able to be shrunk to 4 7/8" x 7 7/8" or very close to that neighborhood. Avoid tones, write or call if any problems pop up, if you need more time or less pages, use thick lines 'cause as any of you who read A #5 could see, thin lines don't come out too well with my print shop, be creative, look both ways before crossing the street, eat lots of beets, and don't even **think** about coming in here wearing those boots, young man! OK. 'Bye now.

Oh yeah, there will be a "plug page" like in PSTE? so let me know what books of yours (if any) you want plugged, cost, and maybe a little teeny piece of art from it.

Silent Storm, and the environmentally themed anthology Prometheus Saves The Earth? from 1991, were definitely the product of a very idealistic 20-year-old's mind. I do look back and cringe a fair bit at the lack of subtlety and overuse of sentiment in both books, but I do like the heart. I don't think I did the best job of using Rambunny's magical "curse" as the action/moral of this story, really, but hey, I gave it a shot.

Below is the first page of the script sent out to the artists.

PROMETHEUS: THE SILENT STORM

Cast of characters:

Prometheus, Rambunny, Mr. Spif, Ninja Ant, Karate Kactus, Monte Python, Iqubala (his nurse/companion), AIDS clinic doctors Jim Tyler and Mordecai Orson, patients Rick Hannah, Travis (no last name given), Arch, Ely, Jerome.

Page 1

A nine-panel page without dialogue, showing Rambunny coming back to the All-Spongy Squadron's downtown house on his motorcycle, juxtaposed with the credits. Rambunny rides into the garage, parks his bike, takes off his helmet, and goes upstairs.

Pages 2-3

Rambunny enters the den, where Prometheus, Ninja Ant, Spif, and Karate Kactus are playing "Demons & Dwarves."

Rb: Greetings, ladies...what the heck are you doing?

Pro: Hey, Rambunny! We're playing "Demons and Dwarves," it's this role-playing game Spif has! I'm a wandering minstrel!

Ninja Ant: Hey, I rolled an eight! What does that mean, Spif?

KK: Nifty jacket, Rambunny! Where did you steal it from?

Rb: Believe it or not, I actually paid for it! You're looking at an employed rabbit now.

Spif: McDonald's was hiring, were they?

Rb: The Spongopolis Museum hired me as a special security guard for...this!

Rambunny displays an ornate carved figure he's wearing around his neck.

Rb: It's an ancient Egyptian talisman recently excavated from the tomb of Mum-Thep...I'm guarding it until the arrangements are made for it to be displayed.

KK: So you're wearing it around your neck? Isn't that a little unsafe?

Rb: Yeah...for anyone who tries to take it from me.

KK: Good point.

NA: Now wait a moment...you're saying because I rolled an eight I have to cluck like a chicken and hop on one foot for fifteen minutes? Right...

Spif: Hey, if you don't trust me look it up in the rules.

NA: Nah, it's your game, you know it better than me...

Ninja Ant proceeds to cluck like a chicken and hop on one foot.

Spif (to Pro): People are so trusting these days...

Phone rings

Pro: Got it! Hello?

Rambunny: Anyway, you can't beat \$50 an hour just to wear a funky necklace...

Pro: Monte? Monte Python? I can't believe it! How have you been? We haven't seen you since you helped us beat the Asbestos Mushroom! (*Back in Prometheus #4)

What? Well, nothing really...yeah...I think so...OK, we'll be there shortly!

See you soon!

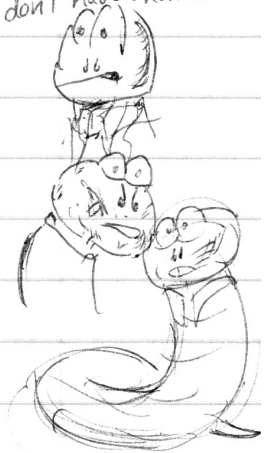
Spif: Monte Python, eh? It's been a long time since we saw him...since he retired from his TV show he's been a hard man to find!

RAMBUNNY \longleftrightarrow tie \longleftrightarrow AIDS VICTIMS

KNOWING YOUR BODY/MIND OUT OF YOUR CONTROL

"I do take 58 pills a day - to deal
Rick with the 1/2 dozen major diseases
that kill us like tb + meningitis

"You know how
hard it is to tailor
a suit when you
don't have shoulders."



Based
Travis on actual
case of
victim
in Williamson
WV (USNWR)
10-12-87

"closed pool in '87 cause I swam in it.
"burned dad's trailer down"

later
o swelling of lymph nodes
o failure of immune funct.

DD1 - another grug

in another
2 years 2nd leading cause of death in 25-44 yr olds
already #2 in males 25-44

HIV becomes AIDS when HIV invades helper-T cells
(helper T-cells die) and makes them replicate
it, which kills them
AIDS occurs when series of diseases attack
body



I actually did a LOT of research on AIDS and
HIV while writing the script, though. Some of my
notes are included here and on the next page
along with various sketches and scribbles.



Characters in PTSS:
 Pro Rambunny Spiff N
 Monte Rick Dr. Jim

1-3 MC
 4,5 Ben
 6
 8-10
 11 Quint
 12-15 John
 16-18
 19.
 20-23
 24



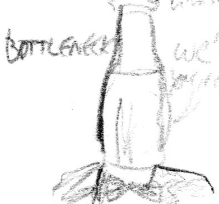
RICK

The Silent Storm



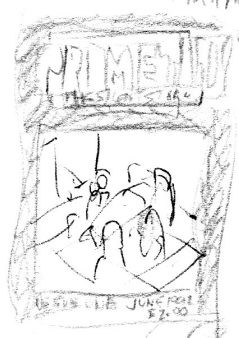
"I don't understand it,
 I don't like it but... I'll
 try."

"Rambunny took
 on both cheeks
 crime ring
 even
 glasshead
 with self"



27 30
 31 32

we'll get
 Max
 Quinton
 John
 Doug
 Ben
 Anthony
 John M



Prod by
 Toy to
 console
 Monte

Rambunny comes in
 Guys playing cards
 Monte calls
 visit Monte
 Few days pass - visit ward
 (Rambunny gets worse)
 Press conference
 backstage Rick gets hit by RB
 RB goes nuts
 Monte passes out
 others vs. Rambunny
 beat him? get necklace
 Weeks pass
 Monte in hospital, guys
 visit "if you can't laugh at the
 end of the world, what
 can you laugh at?"

Rick's ok

"Waggy one-man
 war on crime"



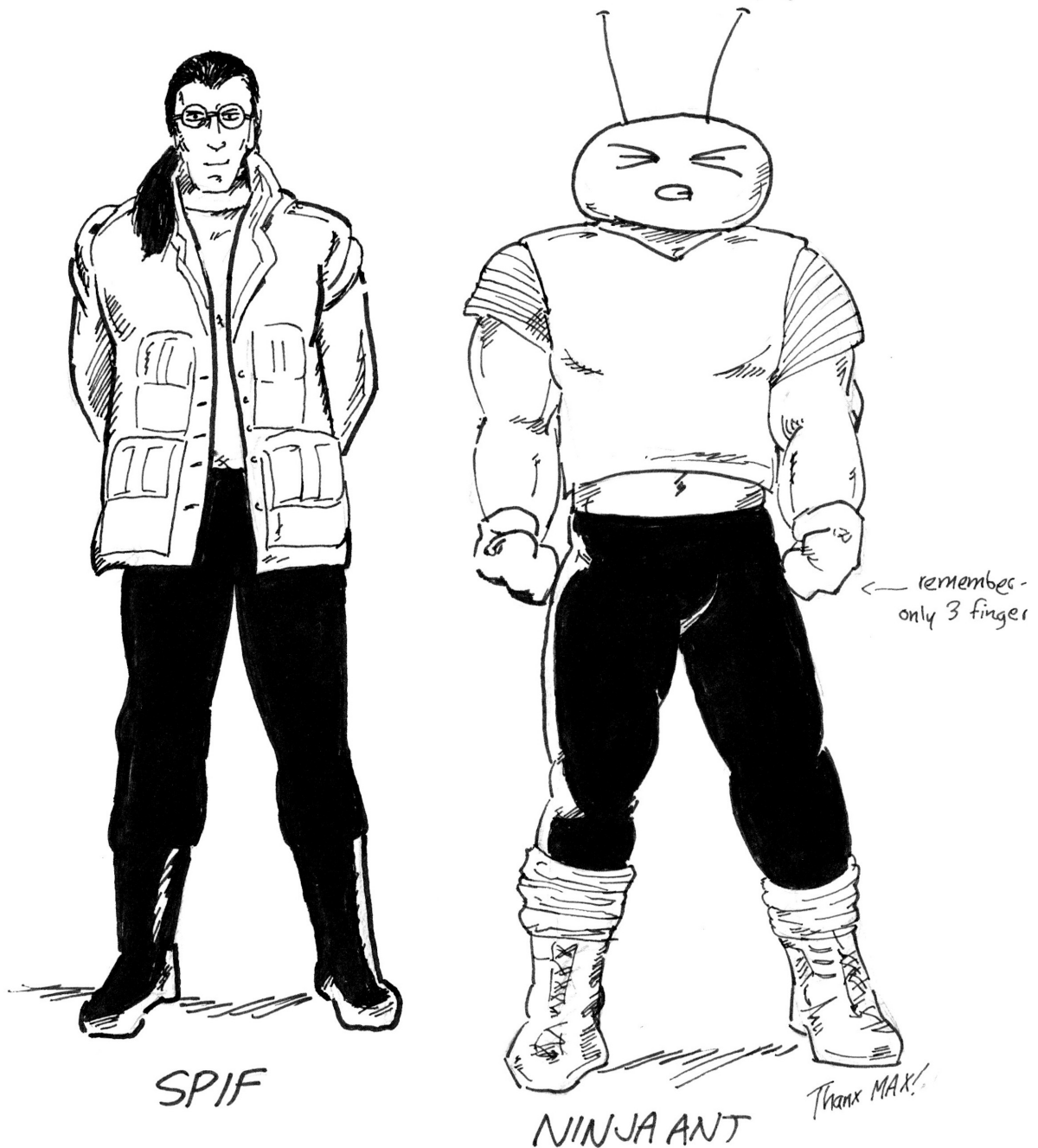
I AM
 PHIDE



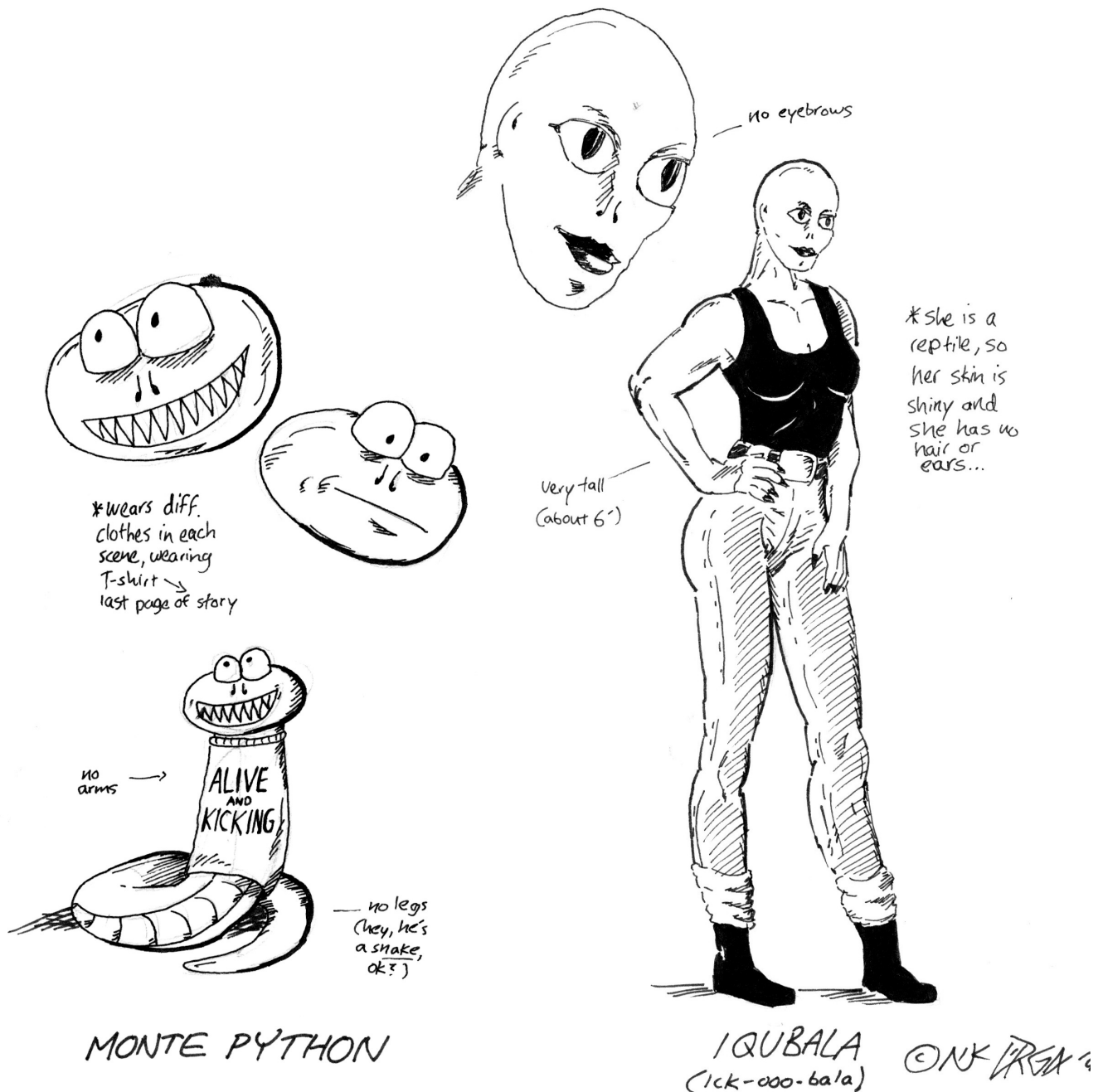
To insure a cohesive "look" to the art I sent out a few guides to the artists for both the regular characters and the guest cast.

In retrospect, the "slant eyes" look a teenage me gave Ninja Ant and Karate Kactus way back in the day was kind of awful. It wasn't meant as racist, just as a kind of cartoony shorthand, but it's not a great look. Seeing how other artists interpreted them in Silent Storm made me gradually redesign them a bit to look less like a Fu Manchu stereotype.

This is just to give you an idea what the characters look like, or in the case of the two dudes below, what they're wearing in SS. -N.

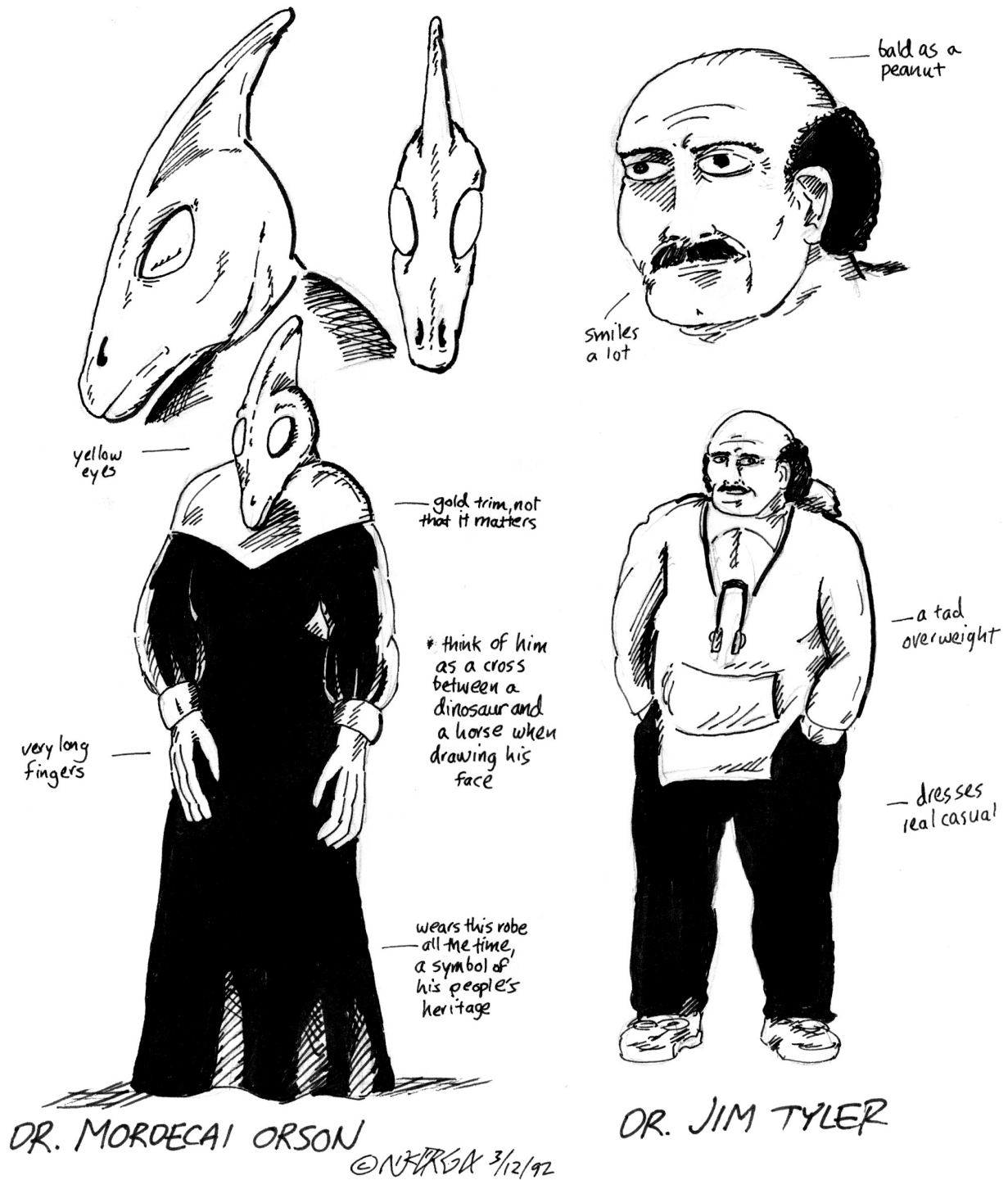


Monte Python (I know, it's a TERRIBLE name) first appeared in my very raw "high school" comics later reprinted in Prometheus: Only A Man. I needed a character to be the "face" of AIDS in Silent Storm and with the rather small supporting cast in the first few issues of Amoeba Adventures he seemed the best choice. While I find a lot of flaws with the story nearly 30 years on, Monte's character, his optimism and can-do spirit, is something I quite like.



Iqubala later turns up in Amoeba Adventures #16, the "dinosaur" issue.

I don't know why, but I always really dug the "alien horse-man" design for Dr Mordecai Orson. He would pop up several times in brief cameos later in the series whenever I needed a doctor.



- minor characters

Arch is a three-foot tall racoon who wears a blue vest & walks on his hind legs.

Jerome and Ely are both black - Ely very thin, almost skeletal

Rambunny and Karate Kactus wear the same outfits they always do, and of course Prometheus is a nudist, as always.

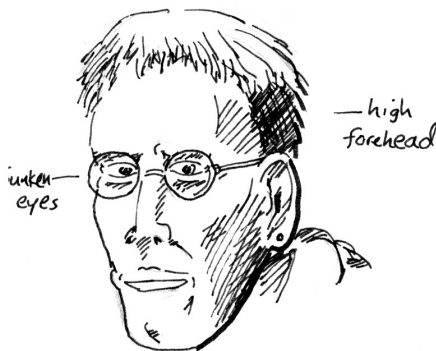


Don't take these as carved-in-stone representations - make these characters your own, using your own styles -- these are just your templates.

Remember that the background characters are only $\frac{1}{3}$ human or so - the rest - use your imagination.

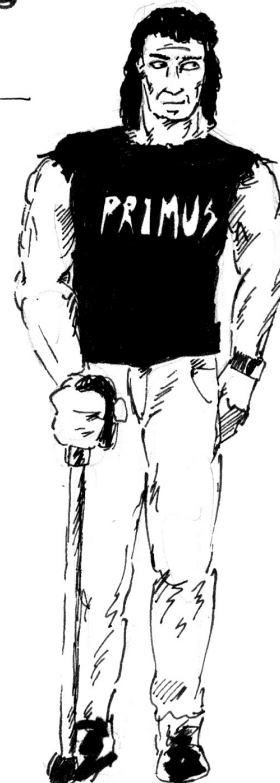
Anything goes - walking toasters, homeless gophers, Armani-clad three-headed mutant Squirrel Monkey stock brokers ... there are no rules and no boundaries here.

3/92



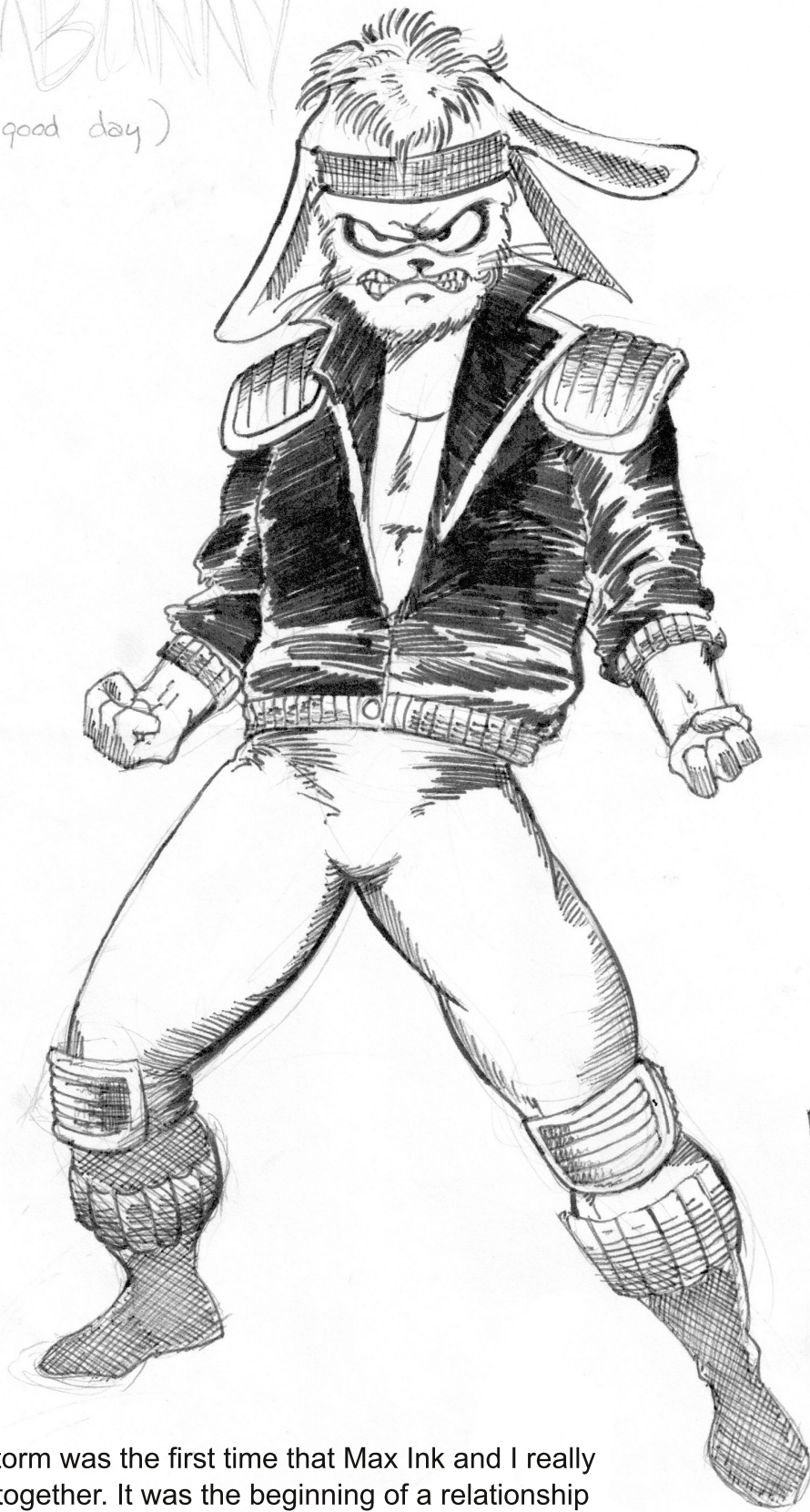
TRAVIS

used to be a fairly big guy, now pretty thin (a lot thinner than this drawing makes him look!)



RICK HANNAH

RAMBUNNY
(on a good day)



Silent Storm was the first time that Max Ink and I really worked together. It was the beginning of a relationship that would last the rest of the series.



SO I LIKE
FLANNEL.
SUE ME.

MAX
INK
AUG
22
92

In retrospect, it was really weird that Karate Kactus had no legs. He wouldn't actually have them until Amoeba Adventures #15, when Max and I realised how much better he looked with them instead of flopping around like a rag doll.

KARATE KACTUS

