



PROTOPLASM
PRESS

15 SEPT
\$1.50



MAXAUG
INK '94
INKED
BY TYIM
COURTS

THE SLIMEBALL SPEAKS

Whoo boy – it's been a long summer! For those of you who didn't hear, I was fortunate enough to spend the summer in New York City as an editorial intern for *Billboard* magazine! It was a fantastic experience, and I really learned a lot about journalism and my hopeful future-career. I also managed to get several articles printed and loads of free music! Plus, I got to meet and hang out with some of the groovy small-pressers in the NY area: Tim Kelly, Amy Frushour, Rich Watson, Bob Elinskas, Tony Consiglio, Travis Kramer and of course, the groovy Joe Meyer, inker to the stars!

....

Speaking of Joe "I Got A Rock" Meyer, special thanks go to him for the inking assist on the first ten pages o' this issue. Of course, thanks as always to partner in crime Max Ink, and to Tyim Courts for inking this issues' fab cover!

....

Wow! *Amoeba* plugs are everywhere these days! Thanks to Max's tireless working of the Midwest convention circuit and my...well, I know I do *something* around here...but anyway, good stuff's a' poppin' up everywhere about this crazy lil' comic lately! Dave Sim not only plugged AA in *Cerebus* #181, he printed a keen pin-up of Prometheus, Rambunny and some aardvark dude by Max! Tony Isabella had some kind words to say about AA in *Comics Buyers' Guide* #1081! *Factsheet Five* #52 gave a rave review to last issue, and Sam Gafford plugged us in his new 'zine *Sez Who!* Plus, for you aficionados out there, there's an interview with me in an upcoming issue of Scott Davis' *Web-Line*, a brand-new newsletter focusing on alternative comics – send Scott a buck at 33 Congress St., Manchester NH 03102 for a copy!

....

I've been keeping my hand in the small press pond lately, even if a new issue of AA's been a while in comin' – here's a handy guide if you're interested in checking out some fine comics that just happen to have work by me in them. I've written a short story for Tony Lorenz' keen

continued on page 25

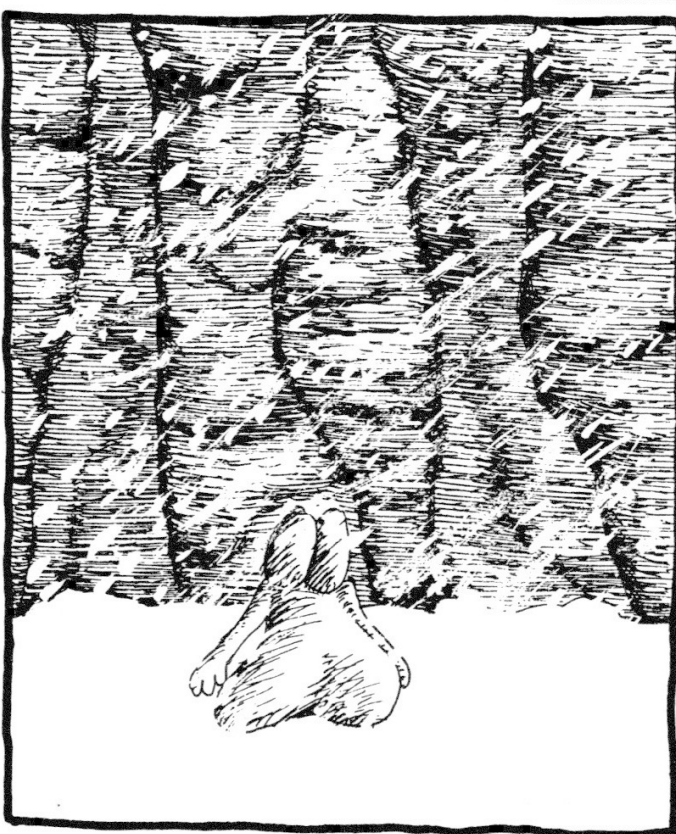
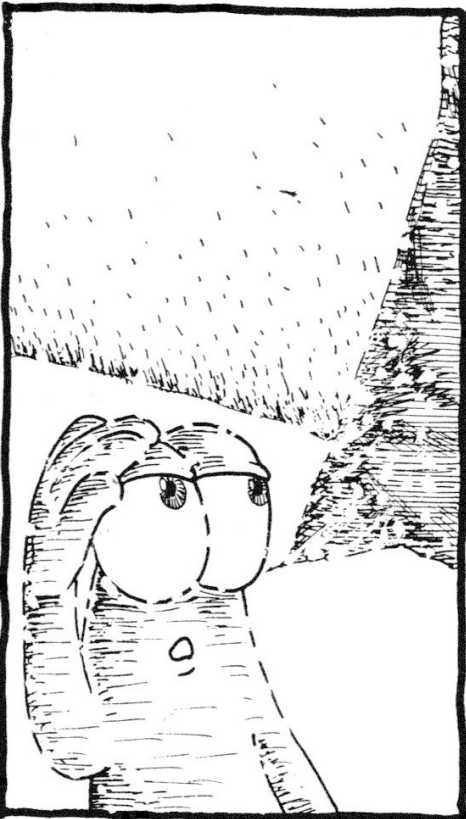
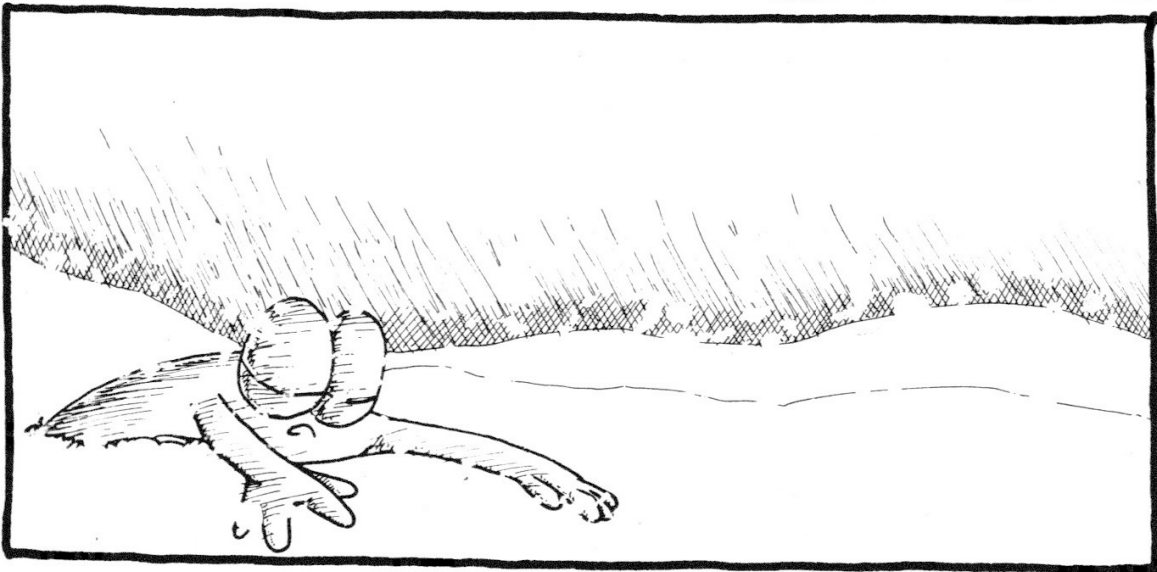
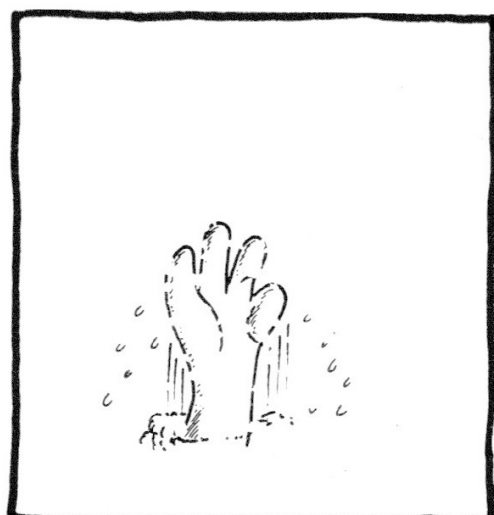
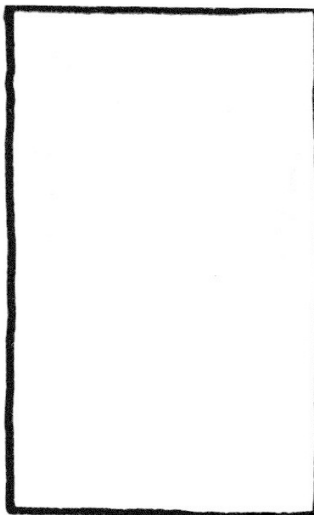
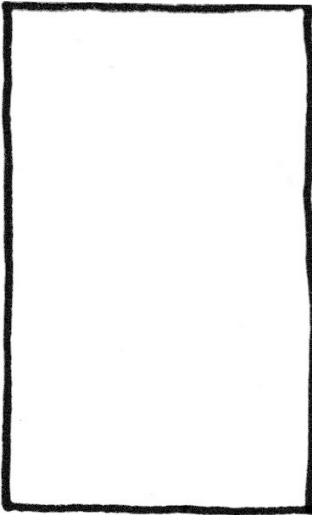
AMOEB ADVENTURES

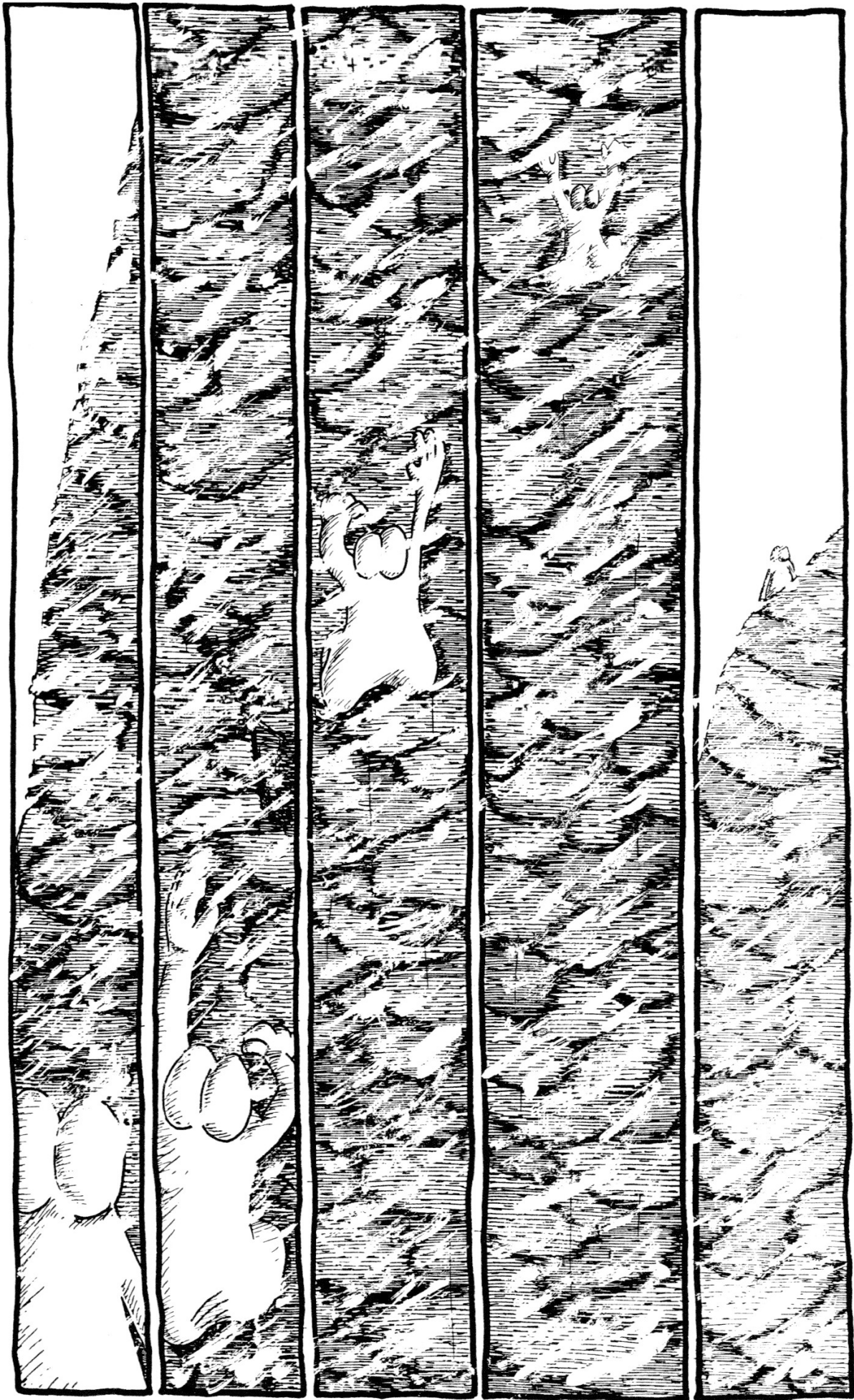
Issue 15

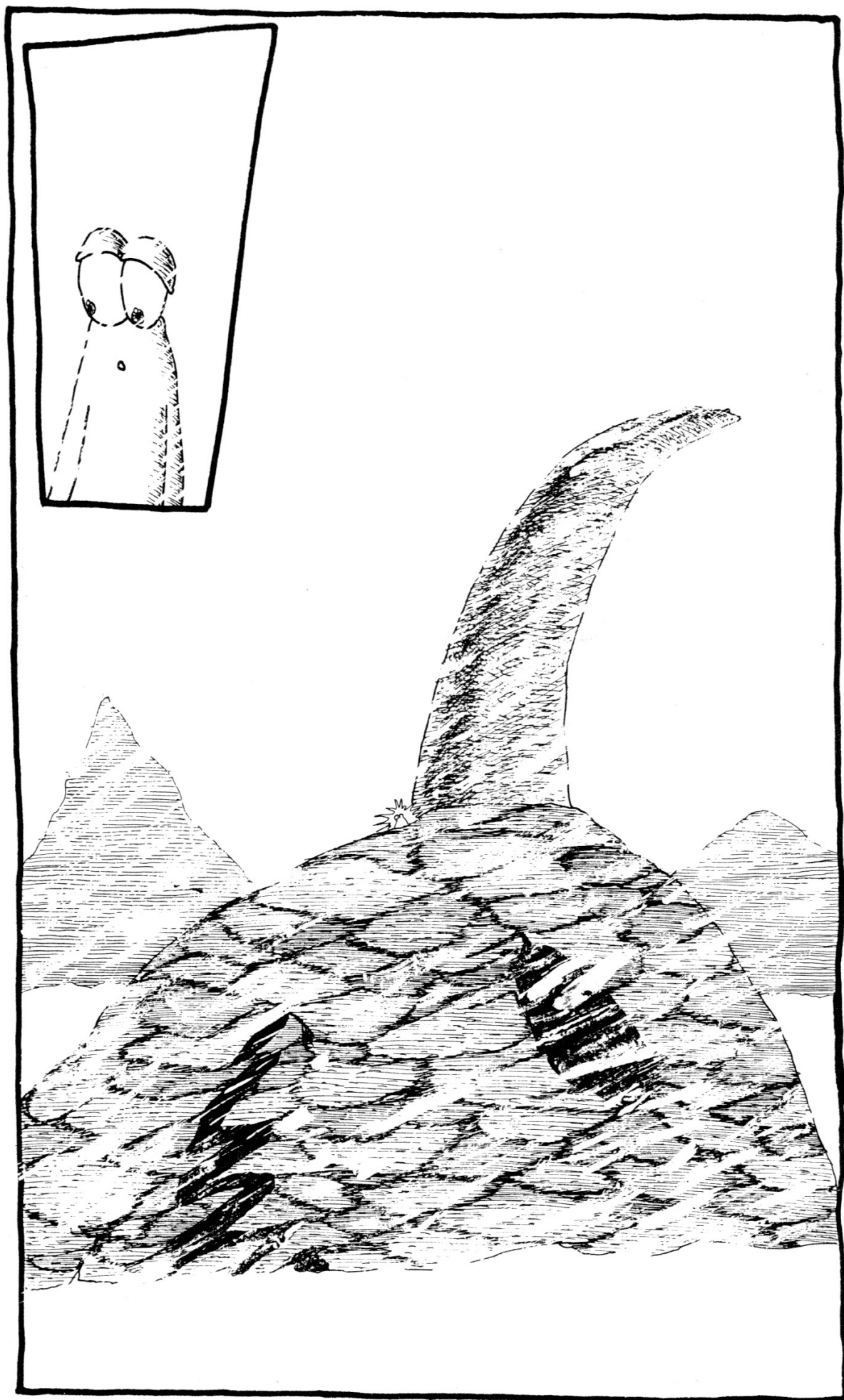
September, 1994

The story so far: The All-Spongy Squadron is a motley group of would-be heroes who keep learning that reality is not kind to heroes. One of them, Prometheus, an erstwhile amoeba, recently killed his enemy Macabre, and has been dealing with the repercussions. His friend Dawn wants to help him, but can't reach him. Prometheus is holding his rage within, as his passion slowly builds to a boil...

Amoeba Adventures is published bi-monthly by Protoplasm Press, P.O. Box 2230, University MS 38677-2230. Contents ©1994 Nik Dirga. All rights reserved. You copy, you die. Additional copies available for \$1.50 postpaid. We are a member of the Small Press Syndicate, a keen group of folks – contact J. Kevin Carrier at 8913 Eldora Drive, Cincinnati OH 45236 for info on th' gang.

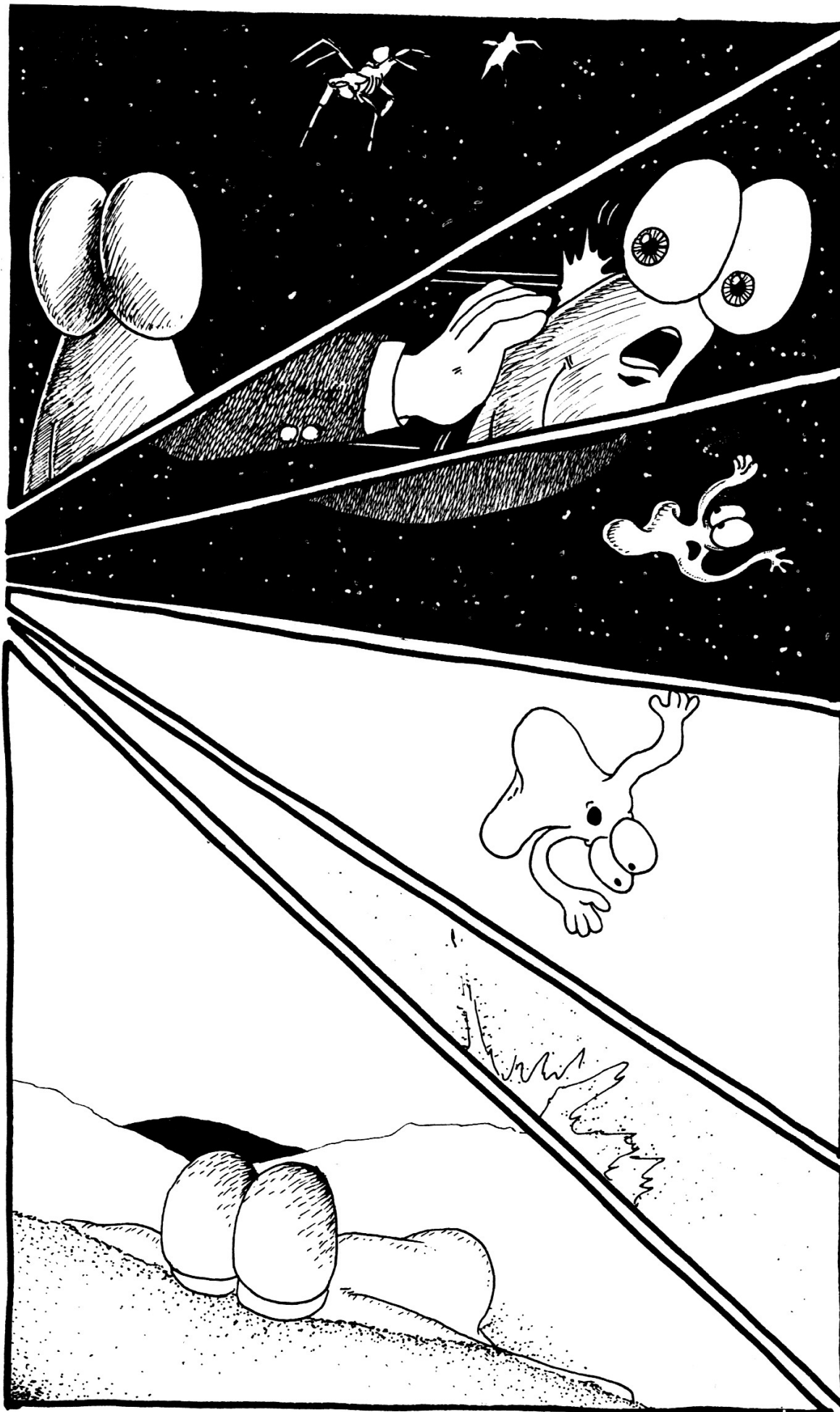


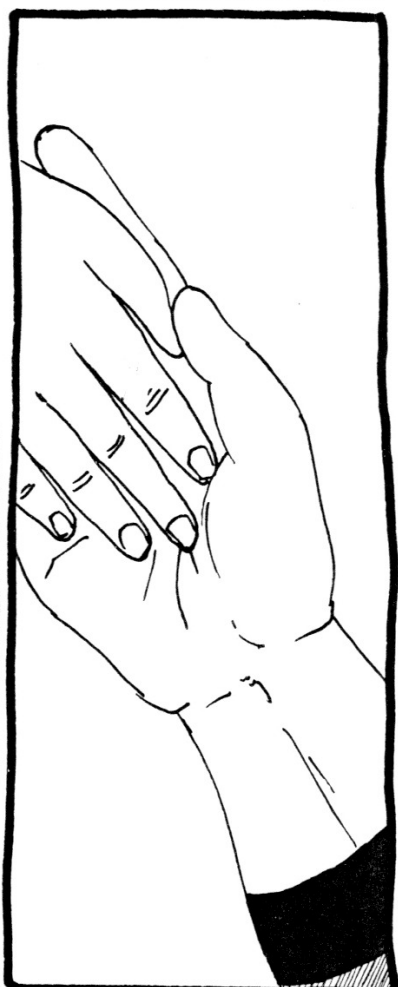
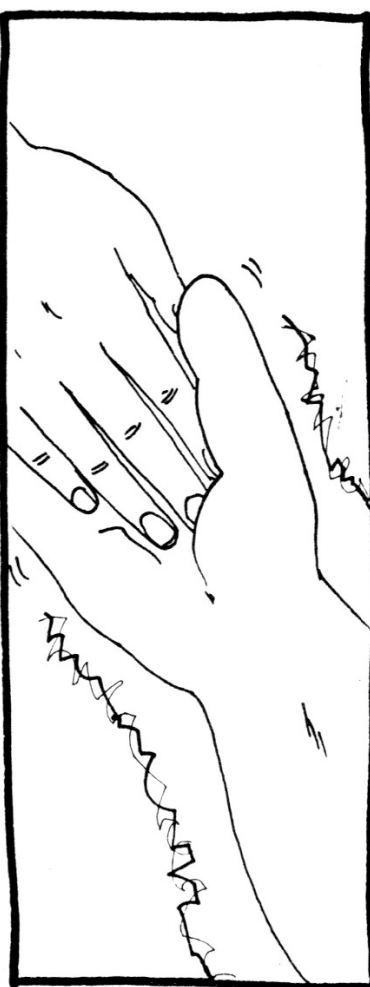
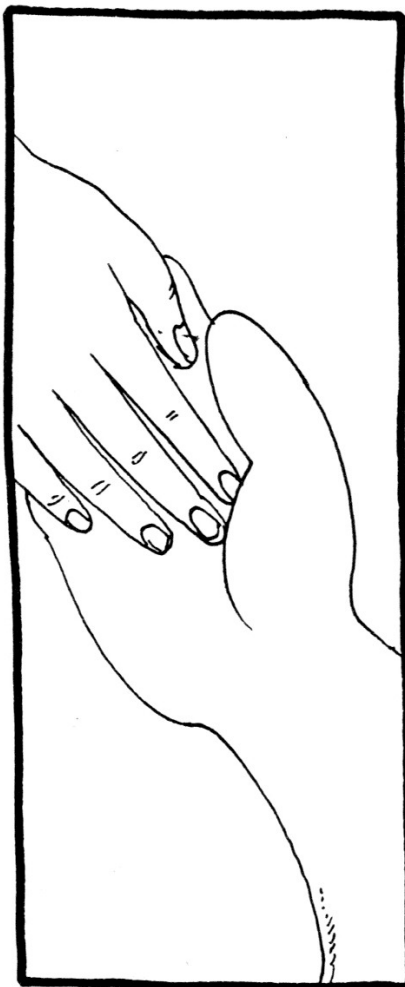
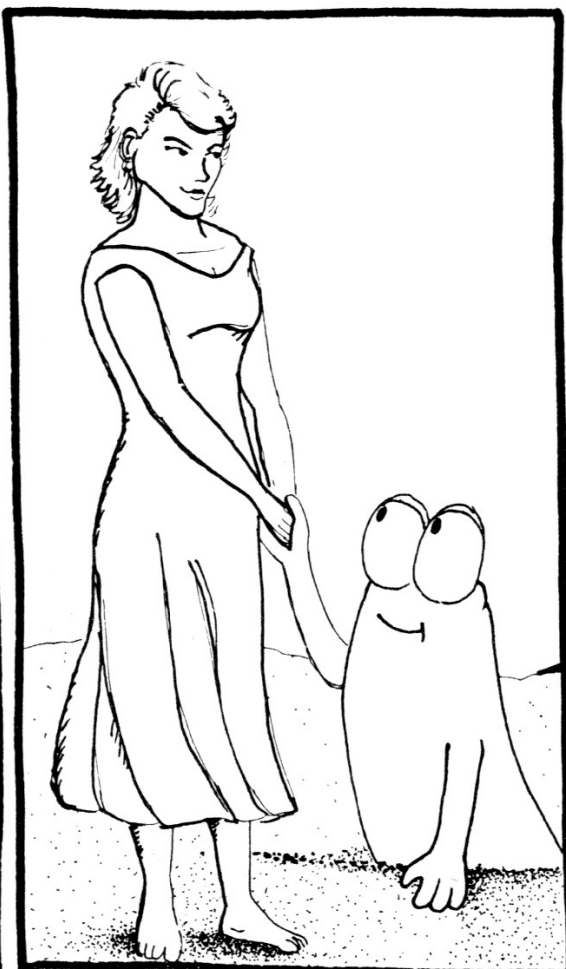
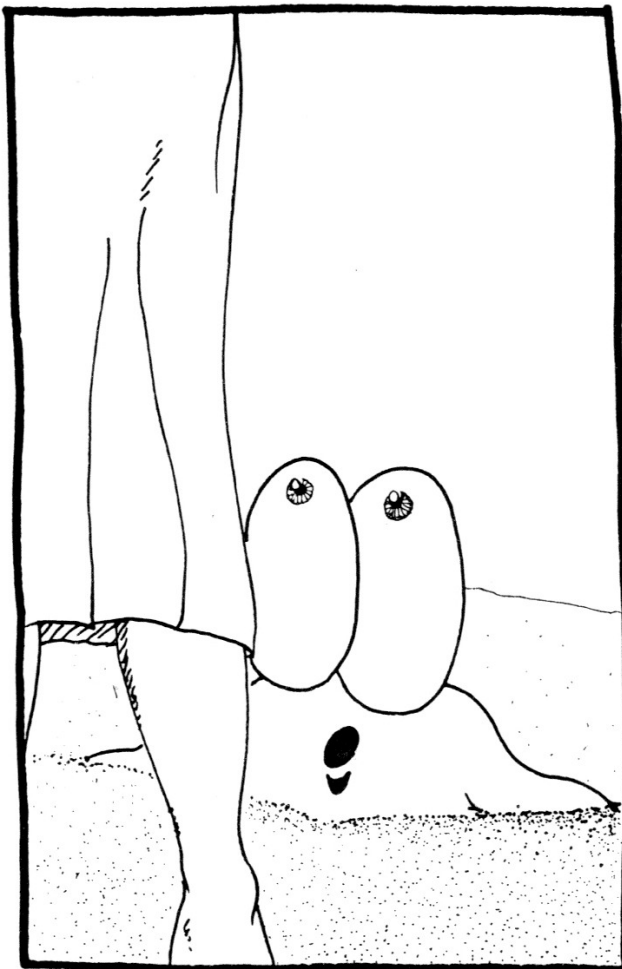


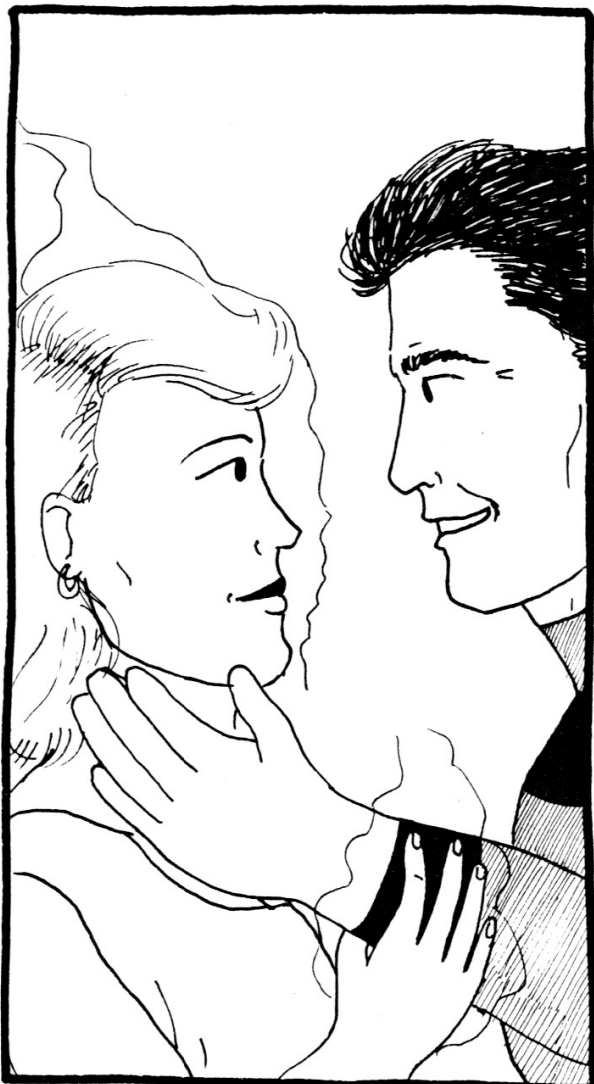


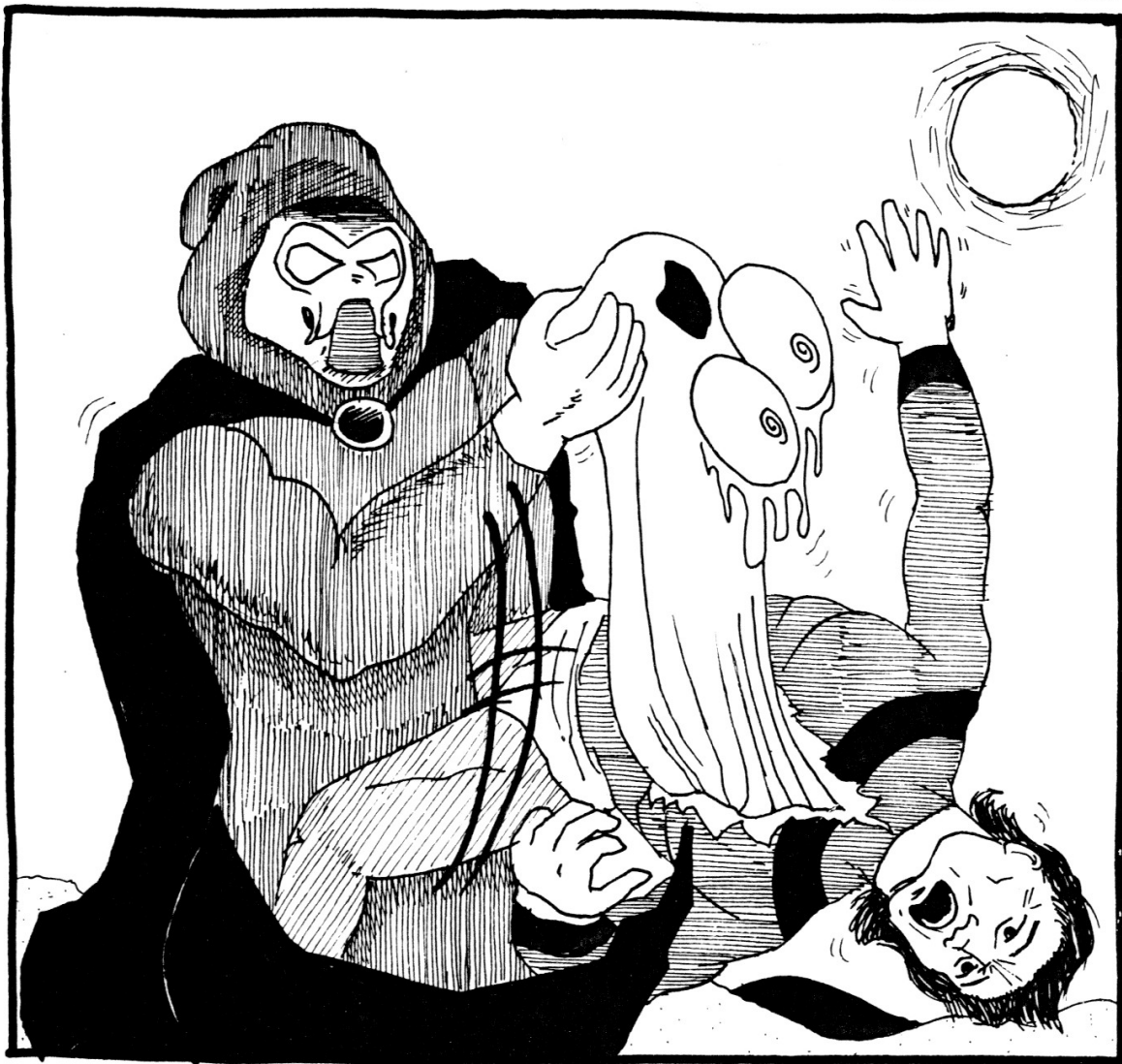


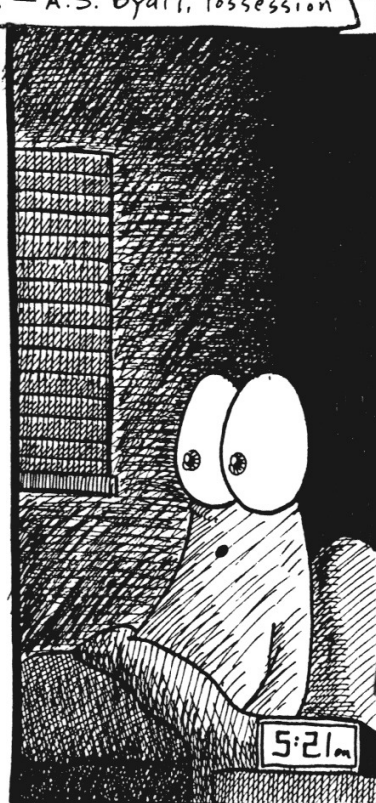
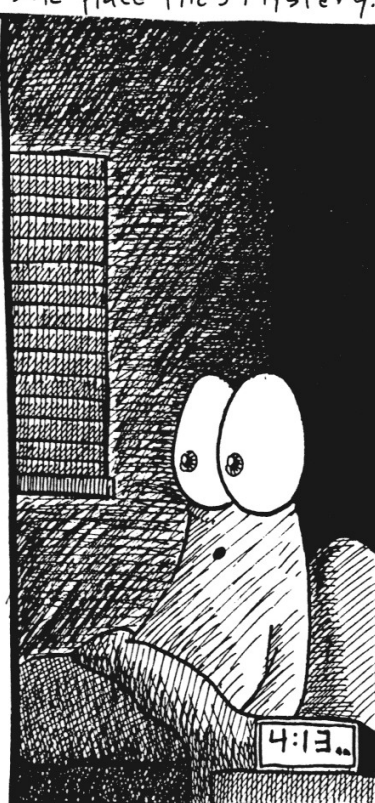
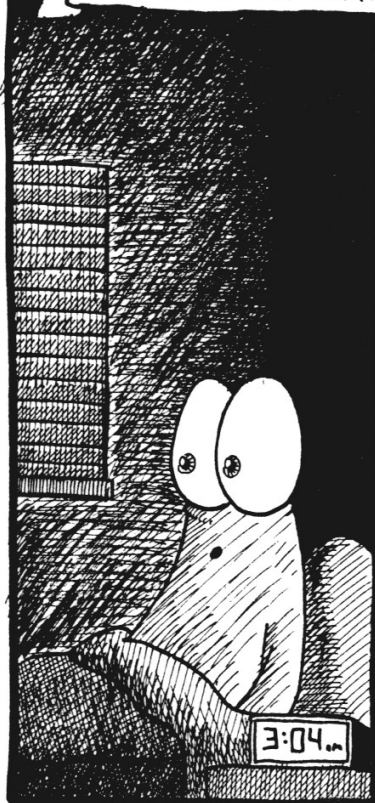
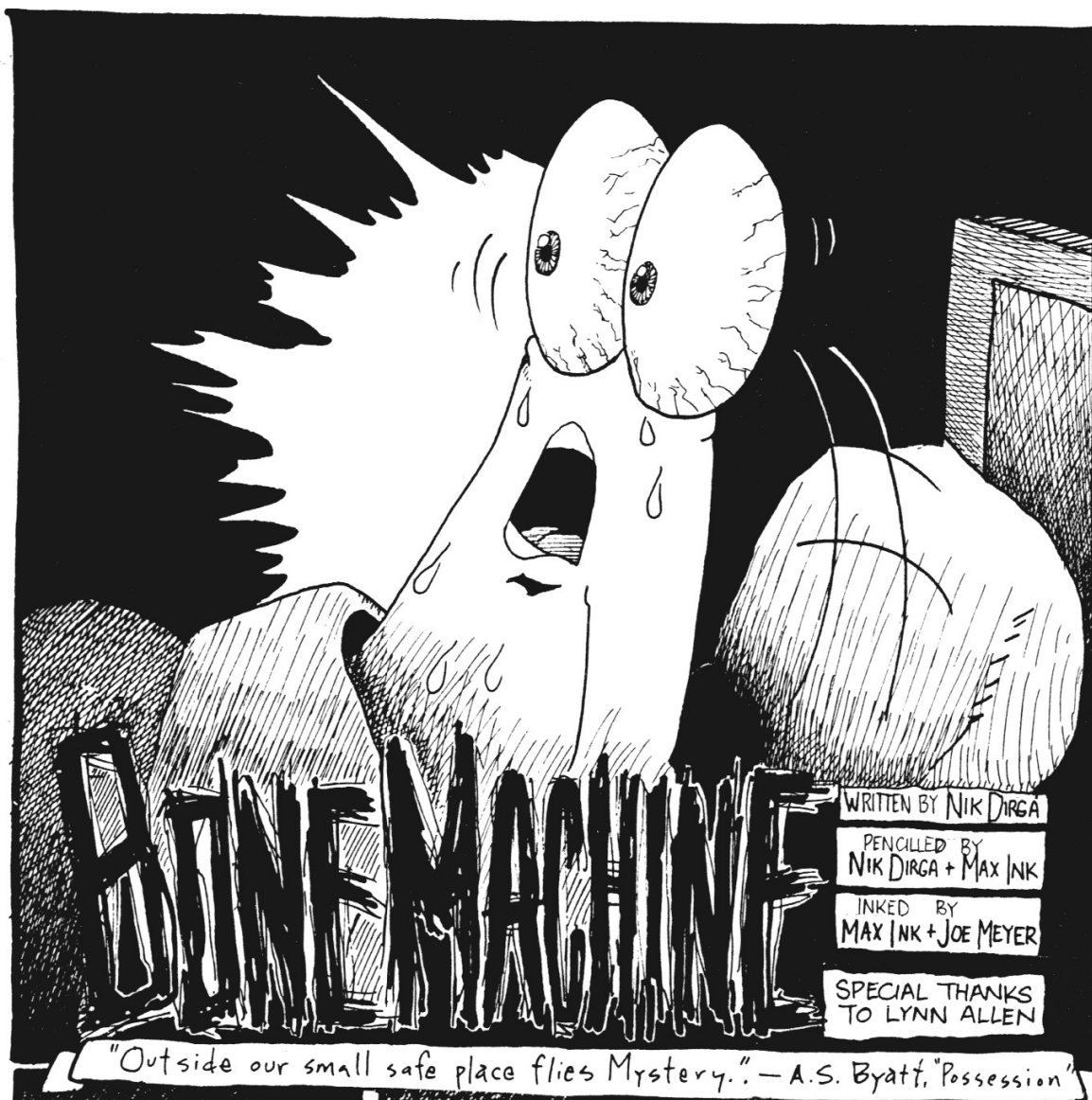












MORNING.



OH, THAT'S IT—
BURN, BABY, BURN!

TWO POINT FIVE
THOUSAND
FAHRENHEIT
AND HOLDING,
SPIF.

RECORD THOSE
STRESS LEVELS,
ALEX! HOW YOU
FEELING
DAWN?

OH... PRETTY
HOT, ACTUALLY...

CUTE, OK,
DAWN, CUT.

SHE'S FORMIDABLE,
SPIF. BUT FOR THE
LIFE OF ME, I
CAN'T TELL HOW
SHE GENERATES
THAT FIRE! IT'S
ALMOST AS IF IT
COMES FROM
INSIDE HER!

EXACTLY.

HOWDY, KIDS!
WHAT'S
COOKIN'?

DAWN,
ACTUALLY.

OH YEAH? GIVING
HER THE *ONCE*
OVER, EH?

TESTING HER,
NINJA ANT.

AND **DON'T**
TOUCH THE
EQUIPMENT.

AS A MATTER OF FACT, MITSU, I WANTED THE TESTS DONE. AFTER WHAT HAPPENED TO HANK... *

I WANTED TO KNOW MORE ABOUT WHAT'S GOING ON INSIDE ME.

A GOOD IDEA, TOO. DAWN, BUT AS FAR AS WE CAN TELL, YOUR POWERS ARE FINITE.

BUT WE STILL KNOW NOTHING MORE ABOUT WHY I EVEN HAVE THEM!

AT THE RISK OF SOUNDING UNSCIENTIFIC... MAYBE THERE ARE SOME THINGS MAN WAS NOT MEANT TO KNOW.

I'M JUST WORRIED... CRANE CLAIMED TO TAKE THESE POWERS FROM ME WITH HIS MACHINES*, BUT I'VE NEVER BEEN ABLE TO DO THINGS LIKE HANK OR DAWN.

...THAT'S WHY WE'LL BE TESTING YOU NEXT PRO. AS FOR DAWN... MY RESULTS **DO** SET A LIMIT FOR YOUR SKILLS. THERE SEEMS TO BE NO CHANCE OF YOU LOSING CONTROL.

THERE YOU GO, GUYS —

IF YOU CAN'T TRUST ALEX, WHO CAN YOU TRUST?

THANKS FOR THE CONFIDENCE, SPIF. YOU KNOW, THE WHOLE IDEA OF SUPER POWERS **DEFIES** SCIENCE, DAWN.

MY OWN TIME POWERS, WHILE I HAD THEM* WERE LITERALLY ILLOGICAL... BUT STILL **REAL** REGARDLESS.

uh, WELL, SPIF AND I HAVE A MEETING TO GO TO.

WHOOPS!

SO... WHY SO DRESSED UP BIG GUY?

--WHICH I'M HERE TO REMIND HIM OF.

*LOST IN #10 AUK again

#IN #11 AUK

#IN #8-AUK







AT LAST!
THE ALL-SPONGY
SQUADRON!

COME, FOOLS,
TO YOUR DOOM AT
THE FEET OF THE
MINDMASTER!

MAN,
THIS IS
GREAT!

WE HAVEN'T GONE
UP AGAINST SUCH A
CLICHÉD SUPER-VILLAIN
IN A LONG TIME!

HECK, ALL SHE
NEEDS TO DO IS GIVE
A LONG-WINDED EXPOSITION
RELATING TO HER ORIGIN
AND I'LL BE IN HERO
HEAVEN!

ENOUGH
CHATTER!

TAKE HER
SQUADRON!

SURRENDER,
VILLAINESS, AND GIVE
IN TO AN HONORABLE
DEFEAT!

ARE WE
SUPPOSED TO TALK
LIKE THAT WHEN
ATTACKING?



YOU FOOLS! I'M ONE
OF THE MOST SKILLED
PSYCHICS IN THE WORLD!
I HAVE FULL MASTERY
OF THE POWER OF
MY MIND!

DO YOU
HONESTLY EXPECT
YOUR PUNY SWORDS
AND FIREBURSTS
TO COMPARE?

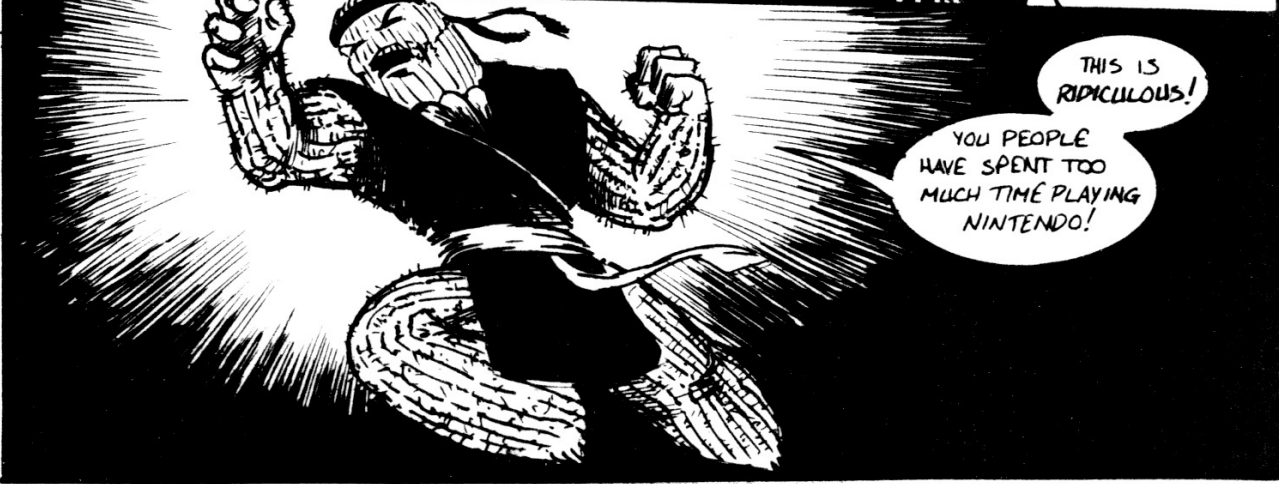
FLY!

URK!

DOWN!

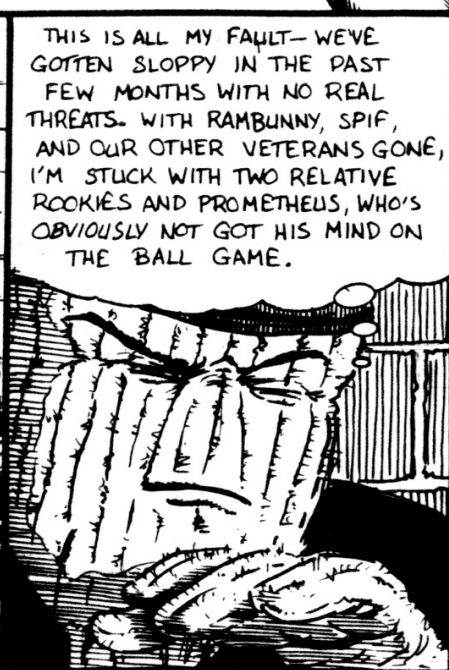
JEEZ
ARE YOU
ALRIGHT?

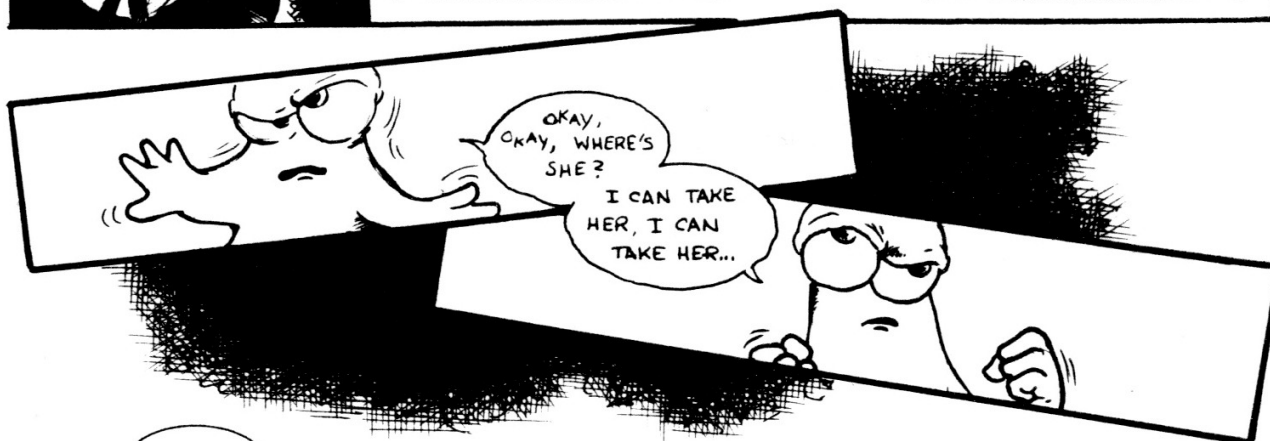
...GUESS I
HAVEN'T HAD
ENOUGH
PRACTICE AT
THIS KIND
OF THING AFTER
ALL, HUH?



THIS IS
RIDICULOUS!

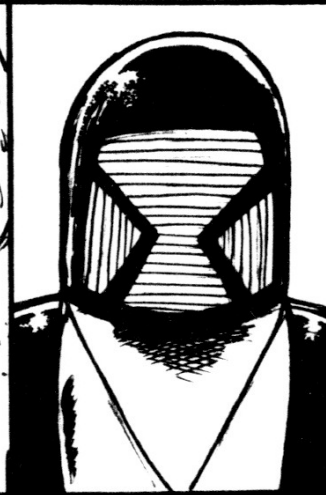
YOU PEOPLE
HAVE SPENT TOO
MUCH TIME PLAYING
NINTENDO!







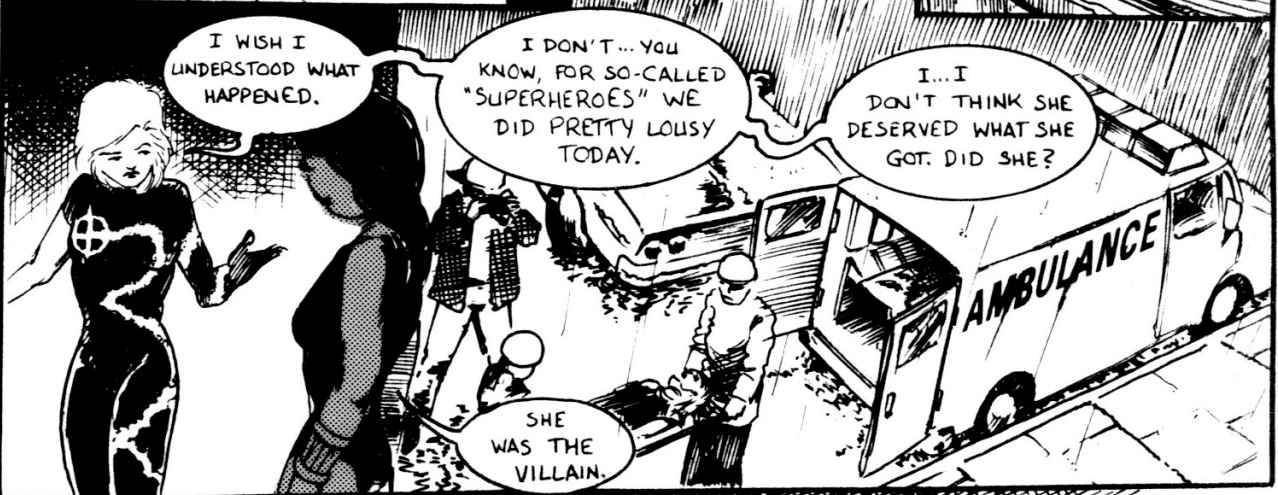


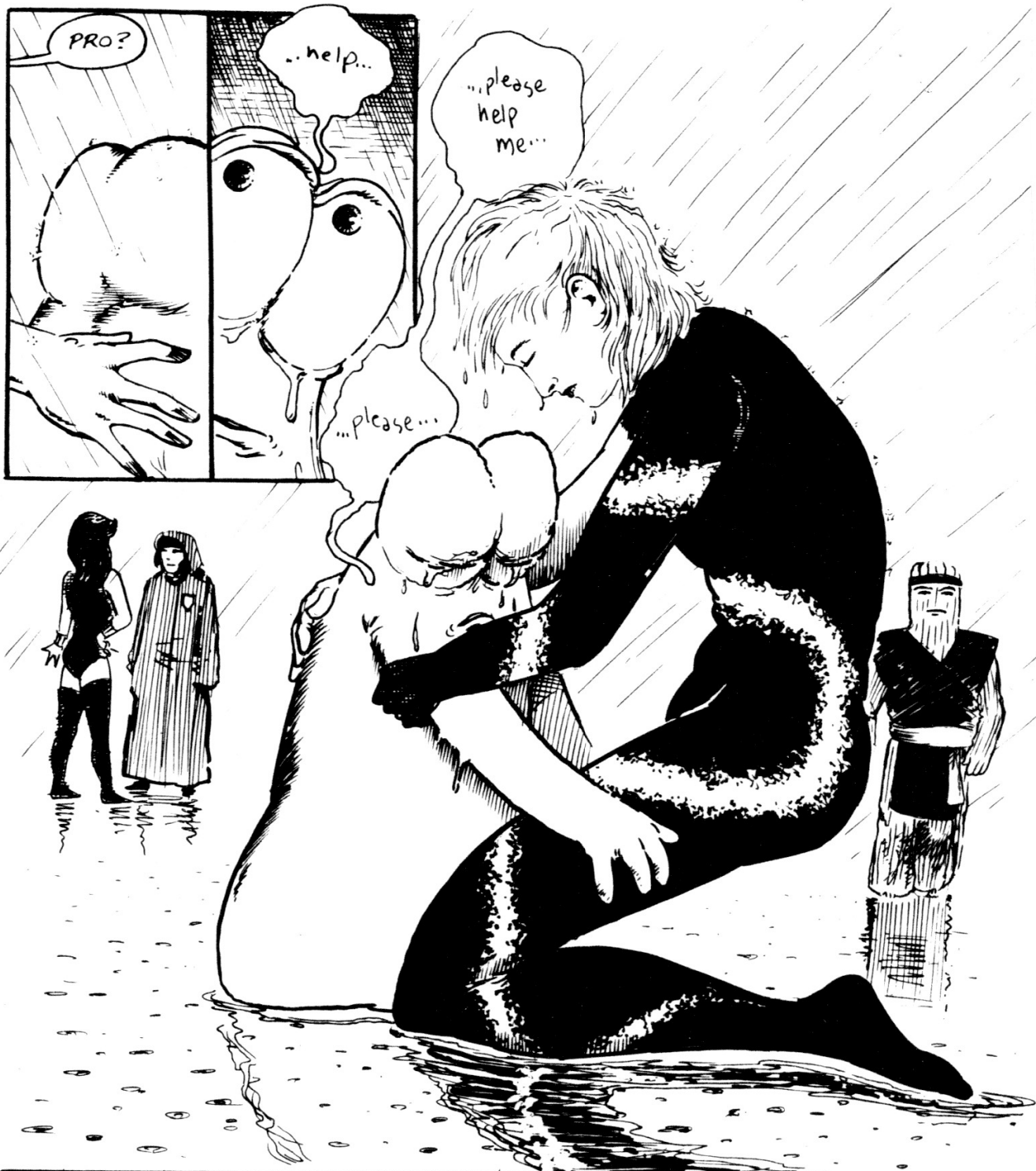


YOU WANT
IT, LADY? YOU
WANT IT?

YOU GOT
IT.

AND YOU'RE
WELCOME TO
IT.







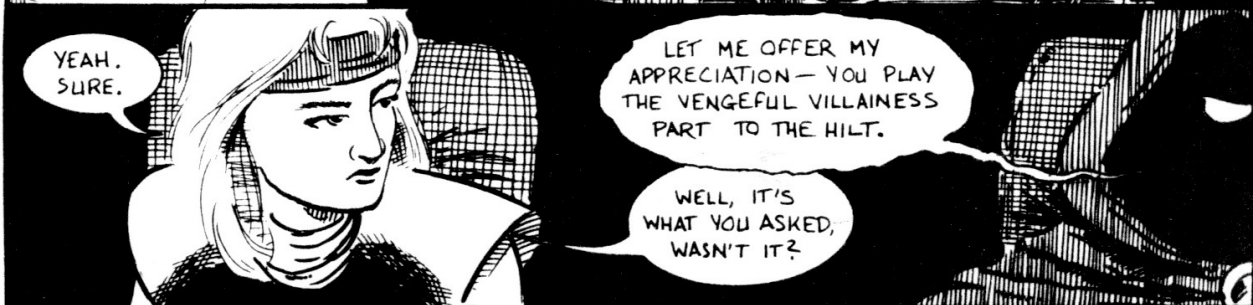
WHO
THE
HELL?

--OH,
IT'S YOU.

WHY THE HELL
ARE YOU CONGRATULATIN'
ME? THEY WHIPPED
ME!

THAT LITTLE
AMOEBAL... WHAT
DID HE DO TO
ME?

PATIENCE, DENISE.
ALL WILL BE REVEALED
SOON.



YEAH.
SURE.

LET ME OFFER MY
APPRECIATION— YOU PLAY
THE VENGEFUL VILLAINESS
PART TO THE HILT.

WELL, IT'S
WHAT YOU ASKED,
WASN'T IT?



CHRIST,
THE STUFF I
GET HOOKED
UP WITH...

DENISE, TONIGHT WAS
JUST THE OVERTURE FOR A
SYMPHONY OF DESTRUCTION
THAT WILL SOON BEGIN TO
PLAY IN EARNEST.

THE DETAILS OF
THIS DESIGN ARE
JUST BEGINNING TO
SHOW THEMSELVES.

MY SWEET
MINDMASTER, WHEN IT
COMES TO 'FANCY', ELEGANT
DEATH AND ANNIHILATION
FOR ALL THOSE WHO ARE
OR EVER WERE A PART OF
THE ALL-SPONGY SQUADRON
...

JEEZ, AREN'T
YOU TALKING
FANCY NOW?

...
THERE'S
ONLY ONE
DARK ONE.



NOW... LET'S
SEE IF WE CAN
FIND A GAS
STATION.

NEXT:
TIME'S UP

END

AMOEBA MAIL

Larry Blake
69306 St. Rt. 124
Reedsville, OH 45772

...I liked #13 a lot. Real character work going on. Nice goofy feel to it, much better than teeth-gritting psychotics shooting at each other. Your artwork is individual and well done too. You cram lots into each page – really stuff to read! Much more substantial than the trendy anti-story big panel pages the pro-mainstream shoves down fanboys' throats. I really respect someone who has the taste and integrity to do it their own way. It makes it real and lets it work to its fullest potential.

(Amen, Larry! Larry Blake is, of course, a small press legend who publishes the way cool NIGHTSTAR. Send him a couple bucks for some issues and check out small press at its absolute best! – Nik)

Will Pfeifer
505 N. Market St. #5
Rockford, IL 61107

Amoeba Adventures #13 was a nice, fun, almost slapstick issue. I like seeing the heroes step out of the superduds and put

WILL EISNER
STUDIOS, INC.

TO MAX INK OCT 4, 1993
276 MAINSAIL DR.
WESTERVILLE, OH. 43081

DEAR MAX -
I'VE CAREFULLY STUDIED
THE SAMPLES YOU SENT ME
OF YOUR FORTHCOMING WORK
I WOULD CERTAINLY ENCOURAGE
YOU TO GO AHEAD... IT IS A
WELL-CONCEIVED IDEA.
CONSTRUCTIVELY I WOULD
SUGGEST THAT YOU SIMPLIFY
YOUR CHARACTERS - THEY SEEM
TO GET LOST IN A WRANGLE OF
"TECHNIQUE"... TOO MUCH CROSS-
HATCHING - WHERE SIMPLE
BLACKS WILL DO.
YOU HAVE GOOD COMPOSITIONS
IN PANELS - BUT MAKE THE BALLOON
LETTERING LARGER... YOU ARE
DEALING WITH A STORY THAT
NEEDS THE TEXT -
GOOD LUCKS TO
COMICART

Above: Yes, THE Will Eisner. Max sent him a preview of #14 last fall, and the legendary man himself was gracious enough to send a nice comment to Max. Couldn't resist printing this.

on some civilian clothes to hit the town. I really enjoyed seeing Herr Heinous make his appearance as a lounge singer prior to the big fight scene. And wasn't that Fone and Phoney Bone I saw at a nearby table? I have to say, though, my absolutely favorite part was when the "them balloons come in any funny shapes" line was overheard on the TV set on page 14. "Raising Arizona" is one

Continued from inside cover of my all-time favorite films.

space-opera *Futuro Tierra*, that ought to appear in #23 – 50¢ from Tony at 8708 Friendship Court, Tampa FL 33634. A Prometheus/Sparky the Dog “Minimalist Team-Up” appears in Pam Bliss’ *Fifth Anniversary All-Star Sparky Jam* – get that and some keen *Sparky* back issues from Pam for a coupla bucks at P.O. Box 304, Valparaiso IN 46384. And if you’re the least bit interested in small press, *don’t* miss the Small Press Syndicate’s newsletter *Rap Sheet* #50, the special all-comics issue - featuring contributions from each of its almost-fifty members, including Eric Hampton, Allen Angel, Bob Elinskas and thousands more – a special never-before-seen three-page Prometheus story written by me and drawn by Max Ink will appear in this issue! Grab a copy, it’s sure to be a small press classic! \$2 or so from Chairman J. Kevin Carrier, 8913 Eldora Drive, Cincinnati OH 45236.

....

Late-breaking news: *Amoeba Adventures* has won Best Digest Comic in the 1994 *Small Press Feedback!* Awards, and placed well in several other categories. Wow! Congrats to the other winners (except Troy Hickman, whose mafia connections obviously paid off here) and my thanks to all who voted for us! You like me, you really like me!

That’s all I got space for now, folks! Drop me a line if you get a chance! And don’t forget to check out the *Rambunny* and *Spif* solo books, out now! Peace!

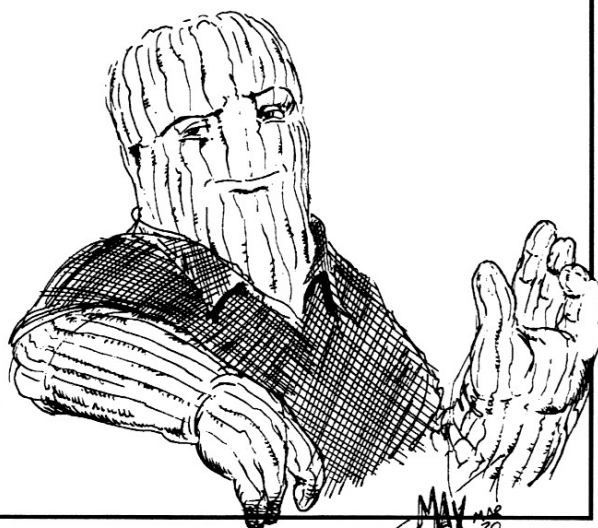
—N*IRGA

Jason Light
18 Teresa Lane
Chalfont, PA 18914

#13 was like an after-dinner mint in relation to #12. A very fun story with a sprinkling of action. I still have to say the art doesn’t grab me but it’s a matter of style, not competency. I prefer a more stylized art style while you seem to be going for a more realistic look. You say tomayto, I say tomahto. The writing is solid, though, and the characters well-developed.

(Thanks, Jason! All of you punks out there order Jay’s Mister Mayhem mini right this second if you haven’t already – a buck or two should get you all five issues)

NEXT: Hows about next issue being a time-travel adventure, in which the guys and gals end up in dinosaur land – that’s right, it’s “Jurassic Amoeba,” by yours truly and Max Ink! Plus, the return of Iqubala and some more doings by the Dark One! Woohoo!

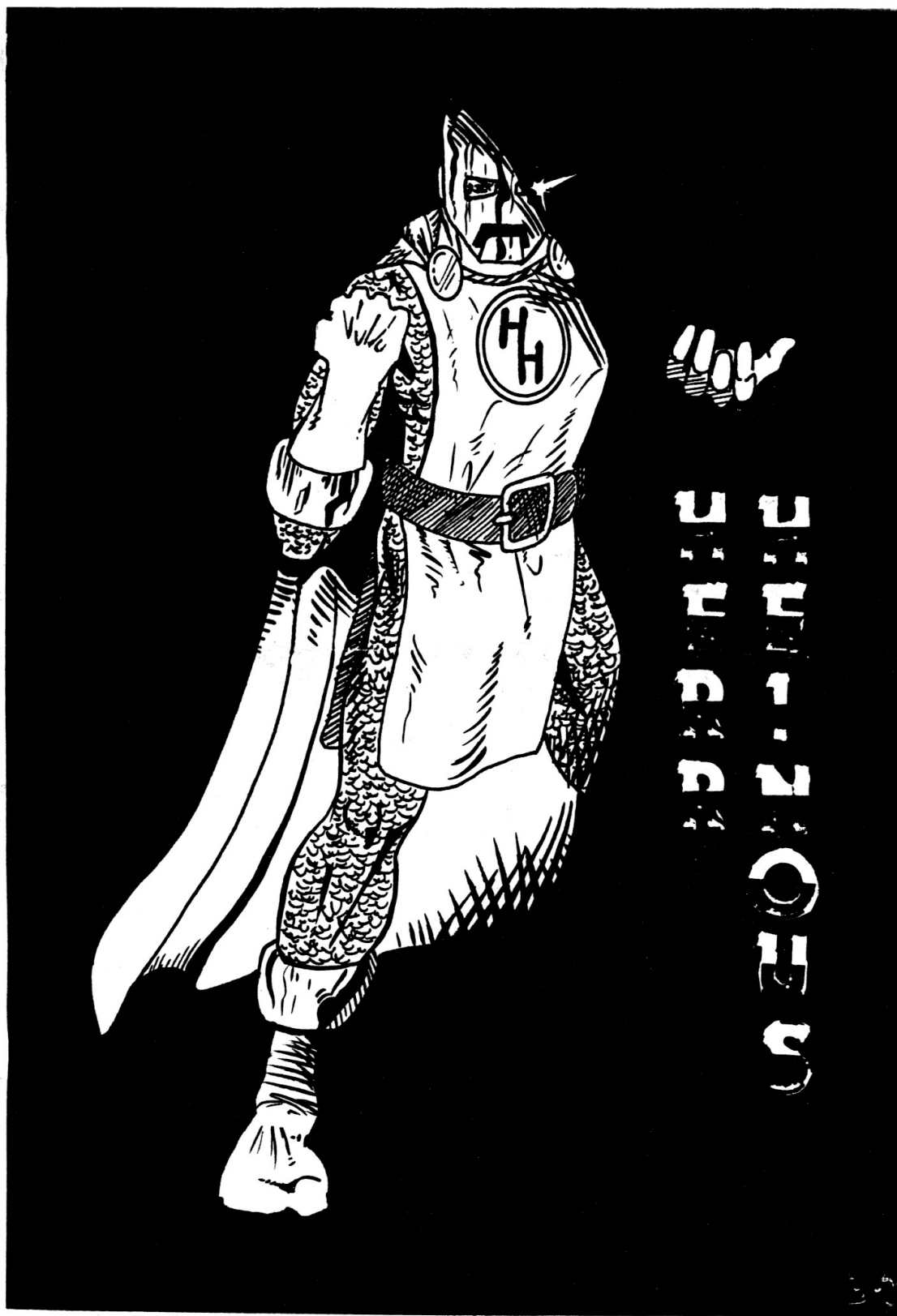


PIN-UP GALLERY



-J. Kevin Carrier

PIN-UP GALLERY



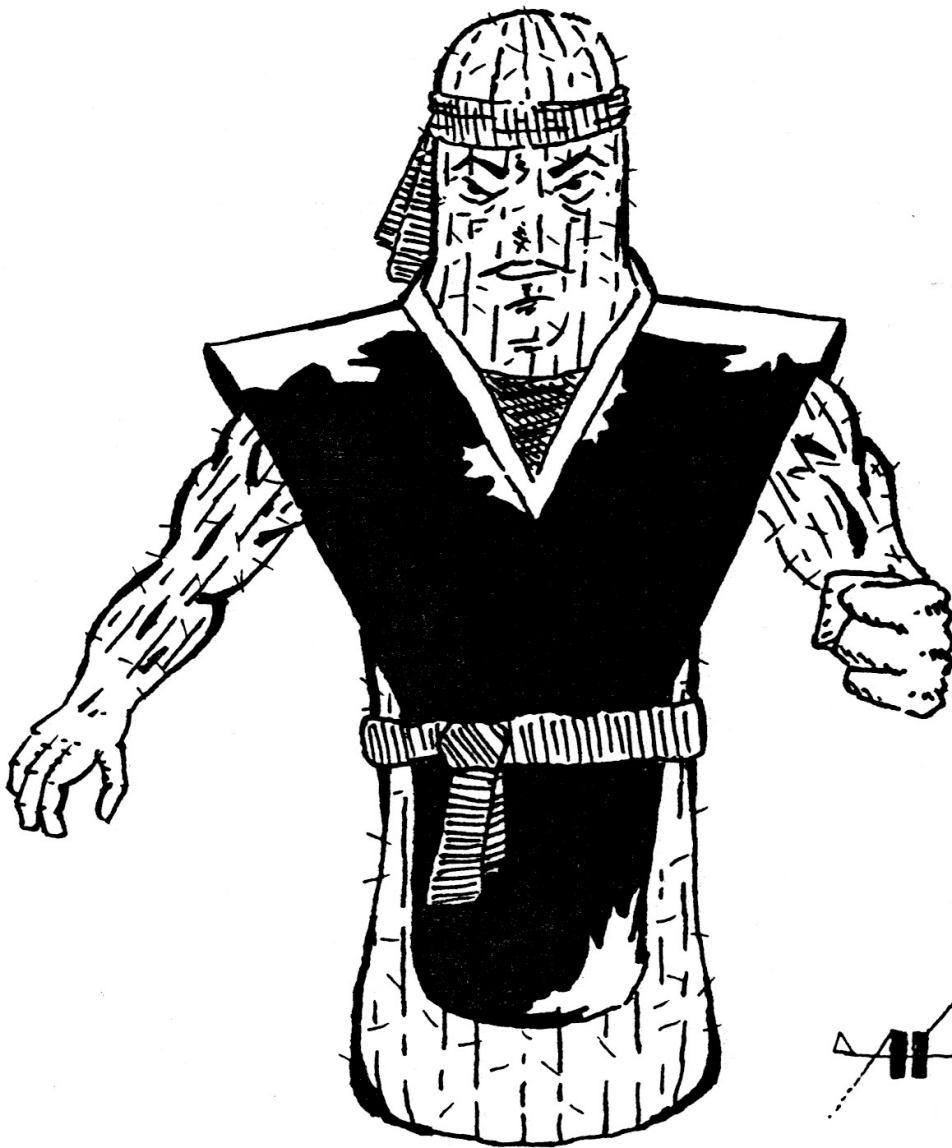
THE
PIN-UP
GALLERY

-Anthony Gray

PIN-UP GALLERY

Karate

KACTUS



-Andrew M. Ford



GET INKED!

Meet Amoeba Adventures artist Max Ink at these conventions in the Ohio/Kentucky area!



SEPT. 11 – Indianapolis, IN
Quality Inn - Shadeland Ave.
North of I-70

SEPT. 24 – Louisville, KY
Ramada Inn - Brownsboro Rd.
Exit 22 off I-264

SEPT. 25 – Lexington, KY
Ramada Inn - Newtown Pike
Exit 115 off I-75

OCT. 9 – Cincinnati, OH
Howard Johnson - Chester Rd.
Exit 15 off I-75

OCT. 23 - Columbus, OH
Days Inn - Dublin/Granville Rd.
Exit 117 off I-71

NOV. 6 - Dayton, OH
Holiday Inn - Dryden Rd.
Exit 50-A off I-75

For more information about any of these shows, call Jeff Bruce at 513-922-2316 or 1-800-859-1594. OR, call Max himself (he's lonely) at 614-899-1809!



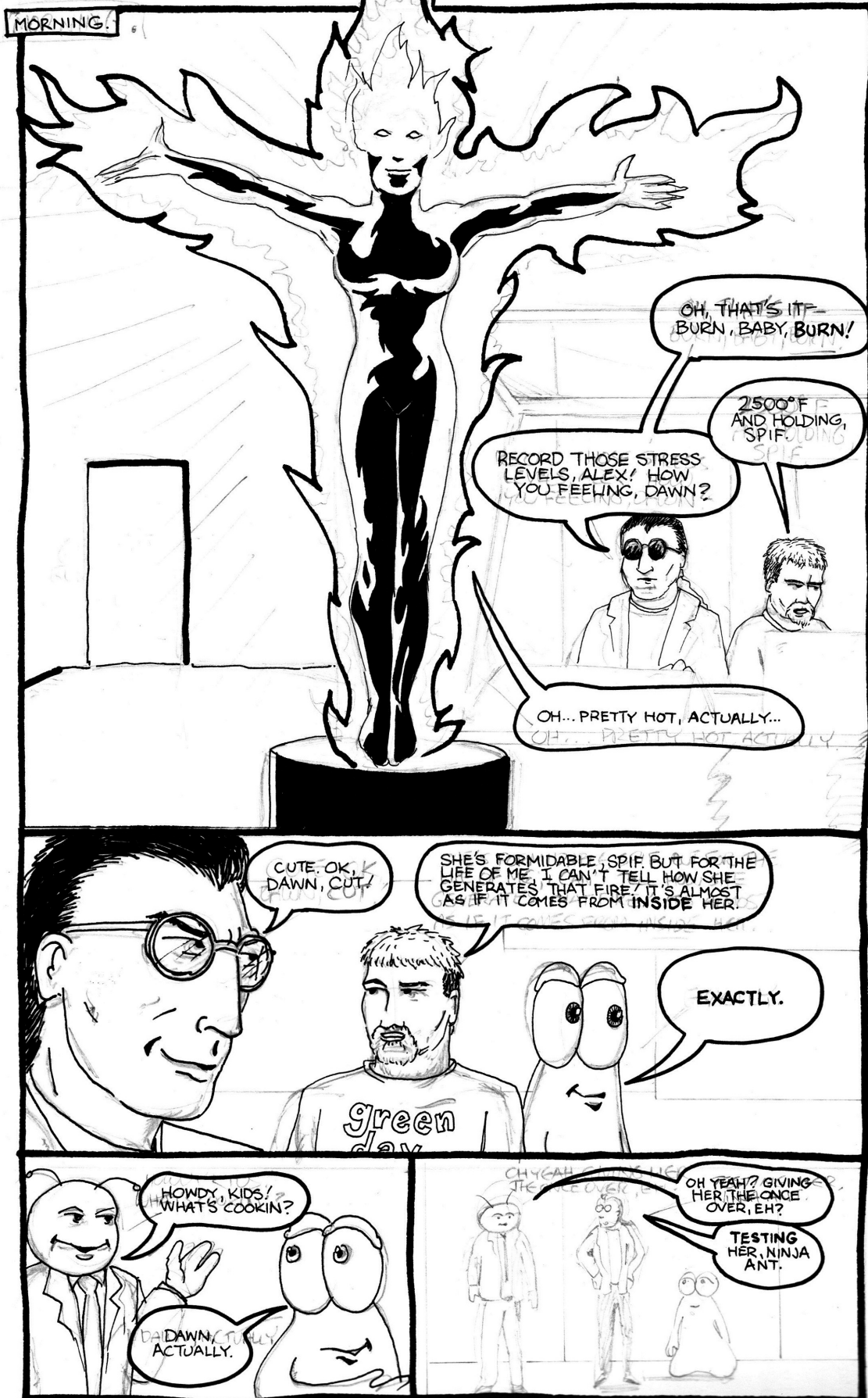
KYOKO and NINJA ANT ©1994 NIK DIRGA

SPECIAL 2020 BONUS SECTION

This issue's cover by Max Ink was inked by excellent artist Tyim Courts. Here's a look at the art without logos and such.



At one point, I was going to pencil the entire issue and Joe Meyer was going to ink it. I drew most of the first 10 pages while living in New York City and Joe inked some of them at the NY Public Library.

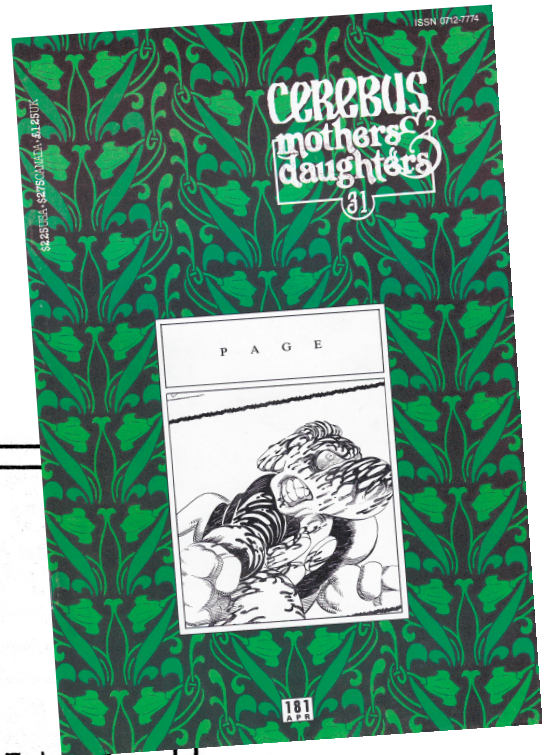


Joe only partially completed these two pages I had pencilled, but it's an interesting look at alternate art for pages 11 and 12. Fortunately Max was able to do the second half of the story.



Dave Sim's Cerebus was a massive influence on both Max and I. (The entire trippy dream sequence that starts this issue owes a lot to the look of Sim's "Church and State" storyline.)

It was a real treat to see a long letter by Max published in Cerebus #181, complete with artwork by him of a little alternate-universe team-up.



Rambunny and Prometheus meet some gray guy with his tone missing.

aside each month, or week (if you

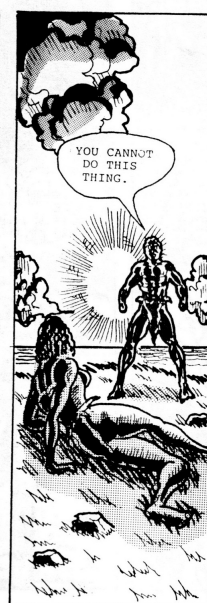
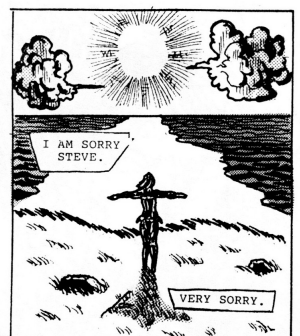
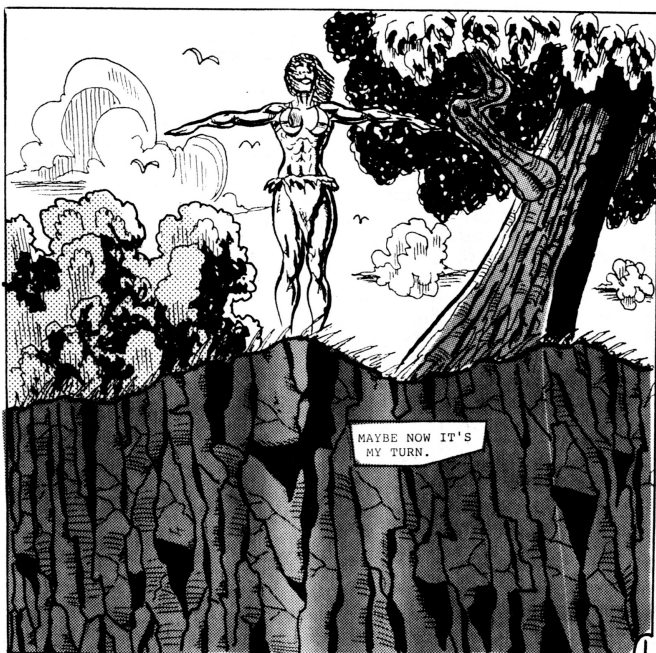
The gentleman that I work with on



Tony Lorenz's "Futuro Tierra" was a fun sci-fi epic of the 1990s that ran for 25 issues.

I enjoyed writing a little side story of one of the characters, Cassandra, processing her traumatic past during a quiet moment aside from the main story.

"Baptism", with art by Tony, appeared in Futuro Tierra #22.

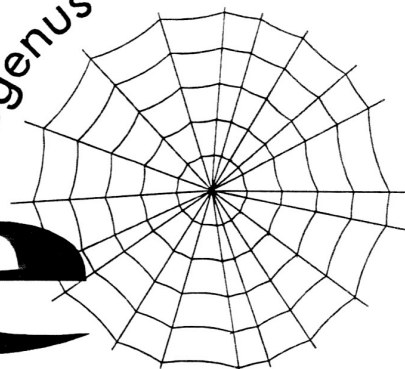


Scott Davis featured an interview with me during my summer in New York City in his cool zine Web Line #44. It's featured here and on the next two pages.

Featuring a special print by

Nik Dirga

Eugenus



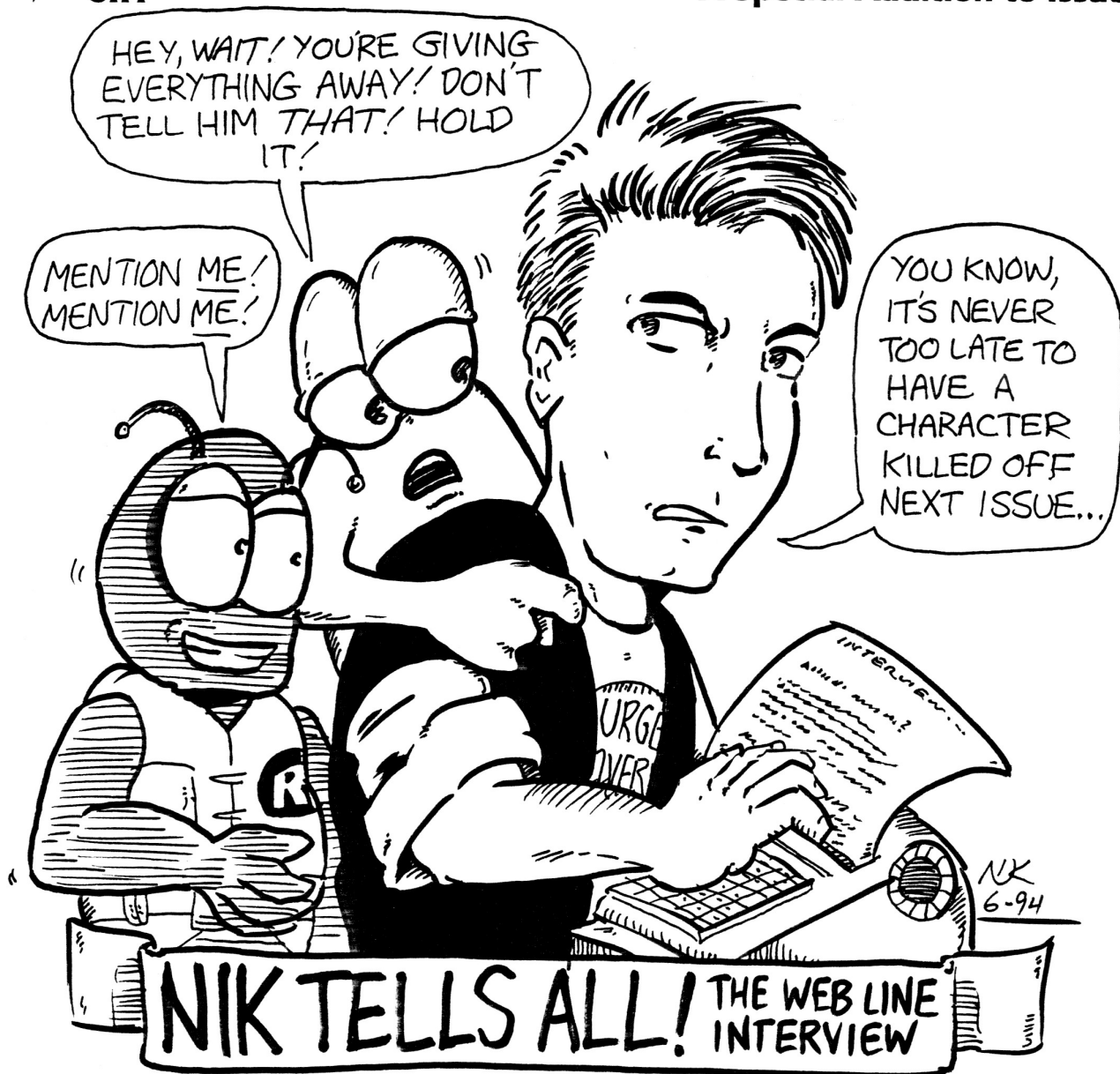
The continuing adventures of

Web Line

The Monthly Newsletter of Web Head Comics

The

A Special Addition to Issue #44



NIK DIRGA INTERVIEW

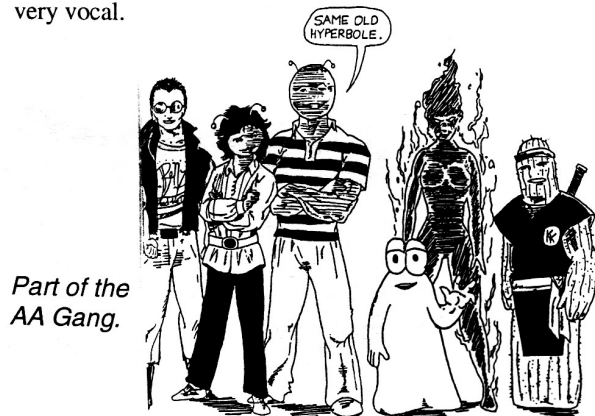
Nik Dirga is almost certainly a small press legend. His small press comic *Amoeba Adventures*, a warped superhero action/comedy/drama with such lively characters as Prometheus the Protoplasm, Rambunny, and Ninja Ant, has been highly acclaimed in the pages of *The Comicast*, *Small Press Report*, and *Self-Publisher*, among other places. #15 is due out in August. Other projects by Nik included his one year stint on the daily newspaper strip "Jip" for the *Daily Mississippian* and short stories for Tony Lorenz' *Futuro Tierro* and Sam Gafford's *Eternity*. Every comic he puts out comes with two staples FREE!

1. How long have you been in the comic business and how did you get into doing comics?

I've been involved in "organized" small press since fall 1990, when I put out the first issue of *Amoeba Adventures* and had it favorably reviewed in Tim Corrigan's "Fanzine Guide" for CBG. My comic involvement stretches back much further, though, to my junior high days when I'd aimlessly sketch the adventures of Prometheus the Protoplasm on notebook paper during exquisitely boring science lectures. Although I've dumped notebook paper for Bristol board, it's still pretty much the same thing today.

2. What do you like and dislike about working in comics?

Well, small press is a pretty different arena than "pro comics" are. Obviously there's an incredible amount of creative freedom - you can put out pretty much anything you want and at least one person will read it. That freedom gives small press its charm; you can run the gamut from the highly polished pro-level work of someone like Larry Blake down to "notebook paper comics," and yet it's all still acceptable. I think the freedom is what I appreciate most about small press. What I like least is kind of a down side of that freedom: you'll occasionally run across untrustworthy characters in small press - artists who will disappear in the middle of a project, twits slamming you in their own magazines over your daring to honestly critique their work, orders never filled, that kinda thing. Luckily, the jerks are a minority in small press, they just tend to be very vocal.



3. Who are your influences, both as a writer and as an artist?

Oh boy. As a writer, I'd probably be hard pressed to list my first 500 influences, but here's a shot: John Updike, Kurt Vonnegut, Philip Roth, Hugh Lofting, Chekhov, Milan Kundera, Alan Moore, John Byrne... As an artist, I have to say the one biggie for me has always been John Byrne, who to me exemplifies fun, thought-provoking comics. Neal Adams, Dale Keown (pre-Image), Frank Miller and John Romita Jr. are among the rest.

4. Do you keep up with the current comics, small press included and going on the assumption that you do, what are you currently reading?

I find it harder and harder to read the majority of today's comics. The whole Image field of storytelling appalls me to the very core - all flash and no substance. The only Marvel comic I currently collect is Peter David's absolutely superlative *Incredible Hulk*, the closest thing to perfection in comics today. I'm still hanging on to several DC titles, mainly the Superman line, Flash and Sandman. Among independents, there's Dark Horse's Legend line, Peepshow, Hate, and Cerebus just to name a few. There's also several small pressers I'd put right up there in the big leagues if I had my way: Troy Hickman, Jay Marcy, Michael Neno, Larry Johnson, Andrew M. Ford, etc. etc...

A page from *Amoeba Adventures*.



5. What are you reading currently, other than comics?

Usually, I'm juggling about ten novels at once. I think it's extremely important for a writer, in any genre, to be well-read - if not you get Rob Liefeld. My "summer project" is plowing my way through James Joyce's *Ulysses*, which may end up being my life-long project. I just finished a great book called *A History of the World in 10 1/2 Chapters* by a Brit named Julian Barnes, and am currently re-reading Ayn Rand's *The Fountainhead*.

6. For our aspiring artists out there, what type of materials do you use to draw?

First and foremost, I'm a writer these days...my partner in crime Max Ink draws a lot of my stories (including *Amoeba Adventures* #11, 14 and the upcoming 16), but on the stuff I do draw (like *JIP* and a Flaming Flag story for *Amoeba* #15), I use these nifty Penstix pens that come in a variety of widths - the "F" size can nicely emulate a small brush, and saves you from tattooing your shirt, desk, floor with ink while inking.

7. What would you say is your favorite work that you've done, so far?

I think *Amoeba Adventures* #11 is currently my strongest story. It came after a mini-epic that ran from #6-10 called "Details of Design" and was intended as a good jumping on point for new readers - one of those stories where everyone just pauses and takes a breath. I really felt like I sustained a complete narrative in that one, with some nice transitions - plus Max's gorgeous art didn't hurt. I recommend that issue to anyone new to AA.

8. Could you give us a preview of any work that will be coming out from you in the future?

This summer, I've been working as an intern for Billboard magazine in New York City, so my time has been cut a bit short for small press. Still, I've attempted to get a few long-in-the-works stuff out. *Amoeba Adventures* #15 ought to be out in August; that's a nifty issue that lets me get inside the character of Prometheus and explore his mind a bit. It's got art by me, Joe Meyer, and Max Ink. Also coming this summer is the long-awaited Spif solo comic, a spin-off with one of the most popular characters from AA. It's written by Troy Hickman from a plot by me with some absolutely stunning art by Max Ink. My pals Dave Berns and Eric Hampton are currently working on the art for *Rambunny* #1, a new semi-regular spinoff title with stories by me that ought to be out this fall sometime. My main concern is to get up through *Amoeba* #18 out by the end of the year. Heck, making it to #15 is a pretty rare accomplishment in small press, anyway, but I think the next few issues of *Amoeba* are really going to excite both new and old readers alike. We'll have a time-travel adventure (mostly so Max can draw dinosaurs - yes, it's "Jurassic Amoeba!") in #16, the origin of *Rambunny* in

#17, and a two-parter in #18 & 19 that brings back the villain the Asbestos Mushroom, puts Spif in jail, and gets things rolling for the new multi-part storyline, "The Dark Ages," that begins in #20 next year.

9. Any closing comments?

Only that I encourage anybody out there who's a budding cartoonist with some stories to tell or a writer wanna-be to check out small press! It's a great launching pad for newcomers and a lot of fun in its own right! We'll take anybody, and there's tons of clubs, review magazines, and people to meet in this strange little subculture. I wouldn't trade my years in small press for anything in the world, since it's given me a chance to have other people read the stories I've always been interested in telling - and heck, some of them even like them!

Nik's summer address is 75 Third Ave. Box #2065, New York, NY, 10003. If you happen to get this later than September and want to contact Nik, write to the editor and we'll get you his current address.



Factsheet Five was the utterly awesome "bible" of the zine movement - not just comix, but personal zines, music zines, punk zines and a million more. Each issue was like a phone book packed with cool counter-culture stuff you could buy. They gave us a few very nice reviews during our time, such as the one from #54, below.

COMIX

Underground comix have seen many ups and downs. There seems to be a huge movement of independent comic publishing. New publishing houses, new artists, and titles. If you want variety forget your local comic shop, and do your comic shopping here instead.

A

Vol. 1, #4. William Brown retired his President Bill character but fortunately he's now doing Citizen Bill, all done in his unique scratchboard style. In addition to the strips, William Brown included a rant about Haiti in which he explained how he came to support this military invasion. Nice stuff. It looks like they're based very closely on *Citizen William Brown's* real life. No trades/back issues available. Price:\$2. Subs:\$10 for 6 issues. William Brown, P.O. Box 5216, Takoma Park, MD 20913-0216 (12 pages/half-legal/DTPed/RSF)

•A-GIRL ETC. •

Vol. 1, #1, March, 1994. For those of you who can never get enough of Elizabeth Watsin's A-Girl, fun by the many friends and! of the contributors are Pt Aleksander Zograf. Very en until the next issue of A-C Fernando Drive, #231, Bur

#1. These are some comix t (available for \$2). Included think before she talks; A-Gii why male superheroes arer draw her a naked Vampy women really look; A-Girl t a naked woman. Price:\$1. #231, Burbank, CA 91502

#1, Summer, 1994. Chris E the past six years and in this William E. Patten. Together one-shot. This comix is basic the illos, with the results bei with a beginning that at firs slowly descends into somet meshing the story and char: just how creative and engag statement required. Price:\$1 12508-3354 (16 pages/half-legal/DTPed/RON)

•ACTION GIRL COMICS •

#1. And yet another new publication from Sarah Dyer's Action Girl Enterprises. She's now editing this comic for Slave Labor (besides everything else). Great contributions from Leanne Franson, Megan Kelso, Jessica Abel, Ms. Phink, and of course Sarah. She made a point of keeping it a clean all-ages book but that doesn't restrict the quality and enjoyment of this work. Price:\$3. Sarah Dyer, Action Girl, P.O. Box 060380, Staten Island, NY 10306 (24 pages/comic/polished/RSF)



•ADVENTURE STRIP DIGEST •

#5, September, 1994. Private investigator Rob Hanes is back again, courtesy of Randy Reynaldo. "The Assassin" is another top-notch story and introduces a new character to the Rob Hanes' universe with the debut of Tiffany Lance, a beautiful journalist who gets caught in some big time trouble. Clearly influenced by Milton Caniff, Reynaldo's art has its own unique style that sets him quite a bit ahead of most small-press zines.

Chances are high you will fall for this guy's stuff in a big way. Lots of adventure and non-stop action from start to finish. No trades/back issues available/prints letters. Price:\$2. Randy Reynaldo, WCG Comics, 3765 Motor Avenue, Suite 1121, Los Angeles, CA 90034 (32 pages/digest/DTPed/RON)

•ADVENTURES OF OLIVIA •

#4, Fall, 1994. Before I go any further, I have to state that this is for adults only and an age statement is required. I say this up front, for all the kids out there. Now for you adults, this is a decent comix, if you are into the type of publications put out by Brad Foster. Now I don't usually like these types of zines, but I did enjoy this one. What made this one even more enjoyable is the back-story. Olivia was created by Robert Outlaw and started working with Brad on this back around 1987 and created a lot of notes, layouts, and sketches for the series. Unfortunately, Robert died in August of 1992 due to complications of his long fight with diabetes, but Brad continued the adventures of Olivia. Doing Olivia is one way Brad keeps the memory of Robert Outlaw alive, which isn't a bad thing after all. Art for this issue is by Jack Cleveland, with Brad providing inks. The art is beautiful, big, and detailed. The whole package ends up being a great bargain. If you are into this kind of comix, this one you should definitely try out. No trades/back issues available/age statement required. Price:\$6. Jabberwocky Graphix, P.O. Box 165246, Irving, TX 75016 (36 pages/broadsheet/polished/RON)

•AMOEBA ADVENTURES •

#15, September, 1994. Boy is Eric Hampton in trouble now! You see, all year

•AMOEBA ADVENTURES •

#15, September, 1994. Boy is Eric Hampton in trouble now! You see, all year Eric has been running a hard race as the best digest comic producer around, in my book. I thought Eric had done an incredible job with the last issue of *Kari and the Pirate*. Last year, Nik's *Amoeba Adventures* won an Editor's Choice Award from Small-press Report as best digest, but this year it has been in stiff competition with Eric. Leave it to Nik to put out another great issue of *AA*, which serves to open up a whole new can of worms and a nefarious villain from the past returns yet again. Superhero action with lots of fun thrown in. Nik has probably developed some of the best characters in all of small-press and as an added bonus, you are going to be treated to the art of Max Ink. Pick up this issue and you will see why it is such an award winning book. Likes trades/back issues available/prints letters. Price:\$2. Nik Dirga, Protoplasm Press, P.O. Box 2230, University, MS 38677-2230 (32 pages/digest/DTPed/RON)

BABY SUE (standard/DTPed/RSF)

•BELLA'S RHAPSODY •

#4. More like chapters in a graphic novel than a comic book. Each page features several sketches on a page, some with text, some without. It all seems so victorian and elegant. The art is a bit odd and stark for my tastes but I can see how this would be very appealing. Price:\$1. Subs:\$4 for 4 issues. Rufus Wainwright, GS Lanning, St. Sauner Des Mont's, PQ 30R 1R0, Canada (12 pages/digest/RSF)

BETTY PAGE

#2. A big new, very campy comic staring everyone's favorite stripper, Ms. Betty Page. In this surreal hodgepodge familiar characters from pop culture invade the book to provoke and annoy Betty. In this issue Betty totally punks out. She jams with the Ramones, sings with Johnny Rotten, gets surreal with Dali, and is joined by many other vamps. No trades/back issues available/age statement required. Price:\$4. Dirk Vermin, Fetish Press, P.O. Box 27801, Las Vegas, NV 89102 (24 pages/standard/polished/RSF)

•BEYOND HELP •

#1. From the outside this book seem rather unassuming but once you open it up you're instantly drawn in. Mr. P. Morrisette started out studying "real" art in school but was inspired to turn to comix. Thankfully so, cuz he's got a real talent for illustration, inking, and structures. Two comic pieces and one bit of fiction. The first story is an almost wordless comic that illustrates a surreal citizens' revolt through the power of the word "penis." The second piece about a dying man, I am less excited about but his short story, about

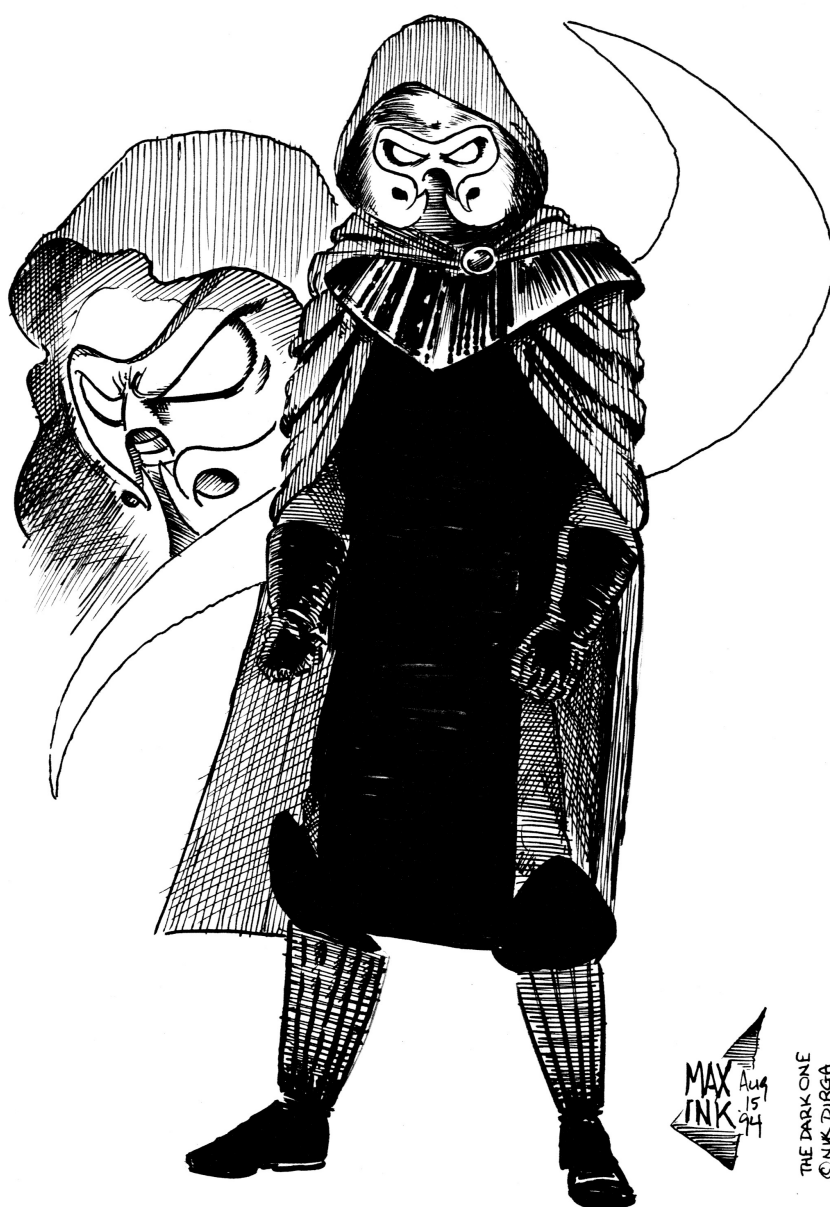
"Mindmaster" was a villain from the old comics I drew as a kid who finally appeared in Amoeba Adventures #15 (with a sex change). At one point she was to first appear in an "Amoeba Adventures Annual" that never happened, teaming up with Asbestos Mushroom.

...THE THINGS ONE HAS TO
GO THROUGH IN ORDER TO
CONQUER THE WORLD...

YOUR SKIN, SOFT AS
SILK ... YOUR HAIR,
LIKE FLAXEN WOOL...



Max Ink's redesign of my
old Mindmaster sketches.



MAX
INK Aug
15
94
THE DARK ONE
©INK DIRGA



Prometheus appeared in a fun cameo in Pam Bliss' anniversary minicomic for her groovy creation, Sparky The Dog.

REVEALED AT LAST!
THE SPARKY-PROMETHEUS
CONNECTION:

