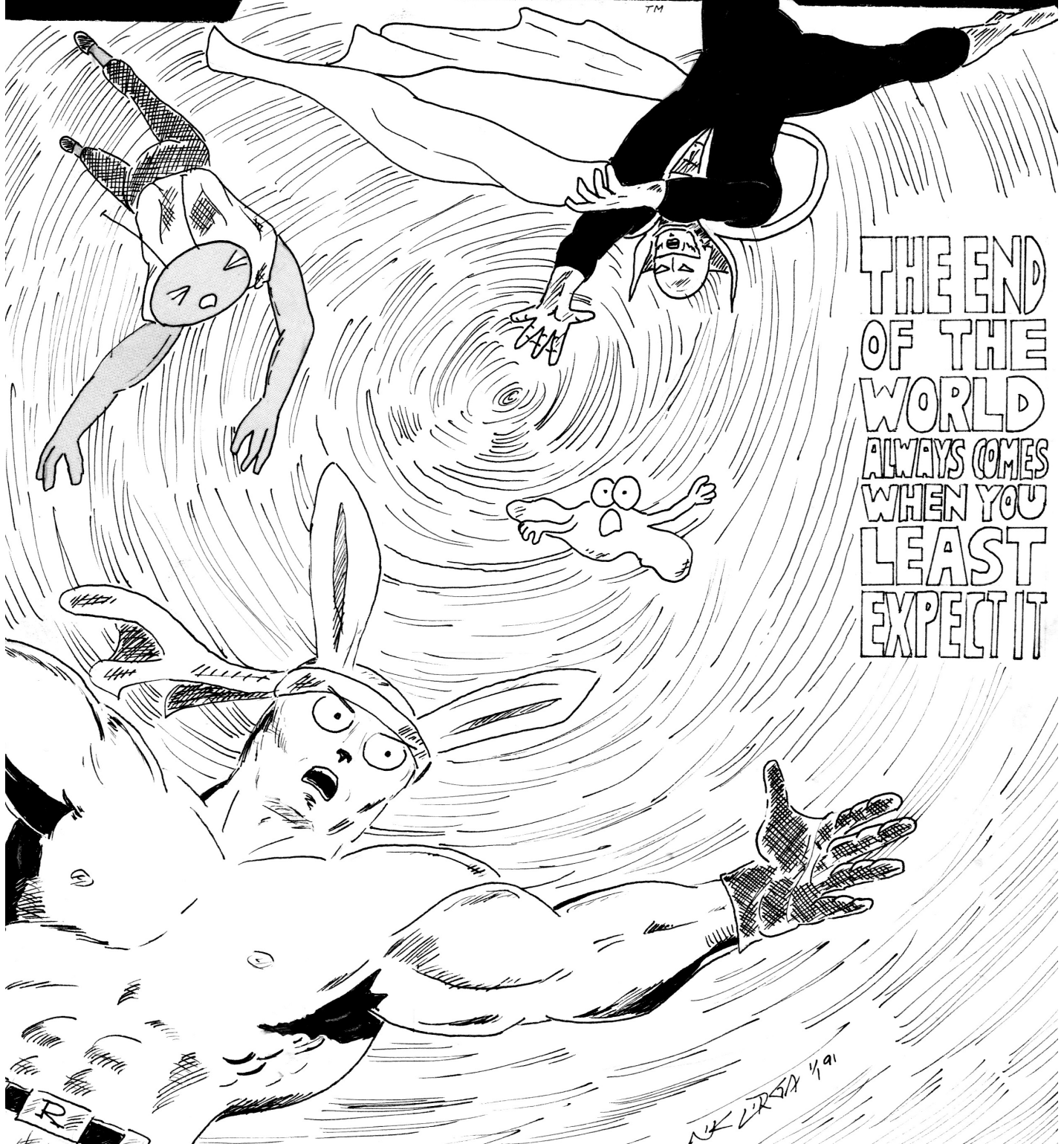


PROTOPLASM PRESS™  
3 FIFTH ANNIVERSARY  
MAY 1986-1991

# AMDERA

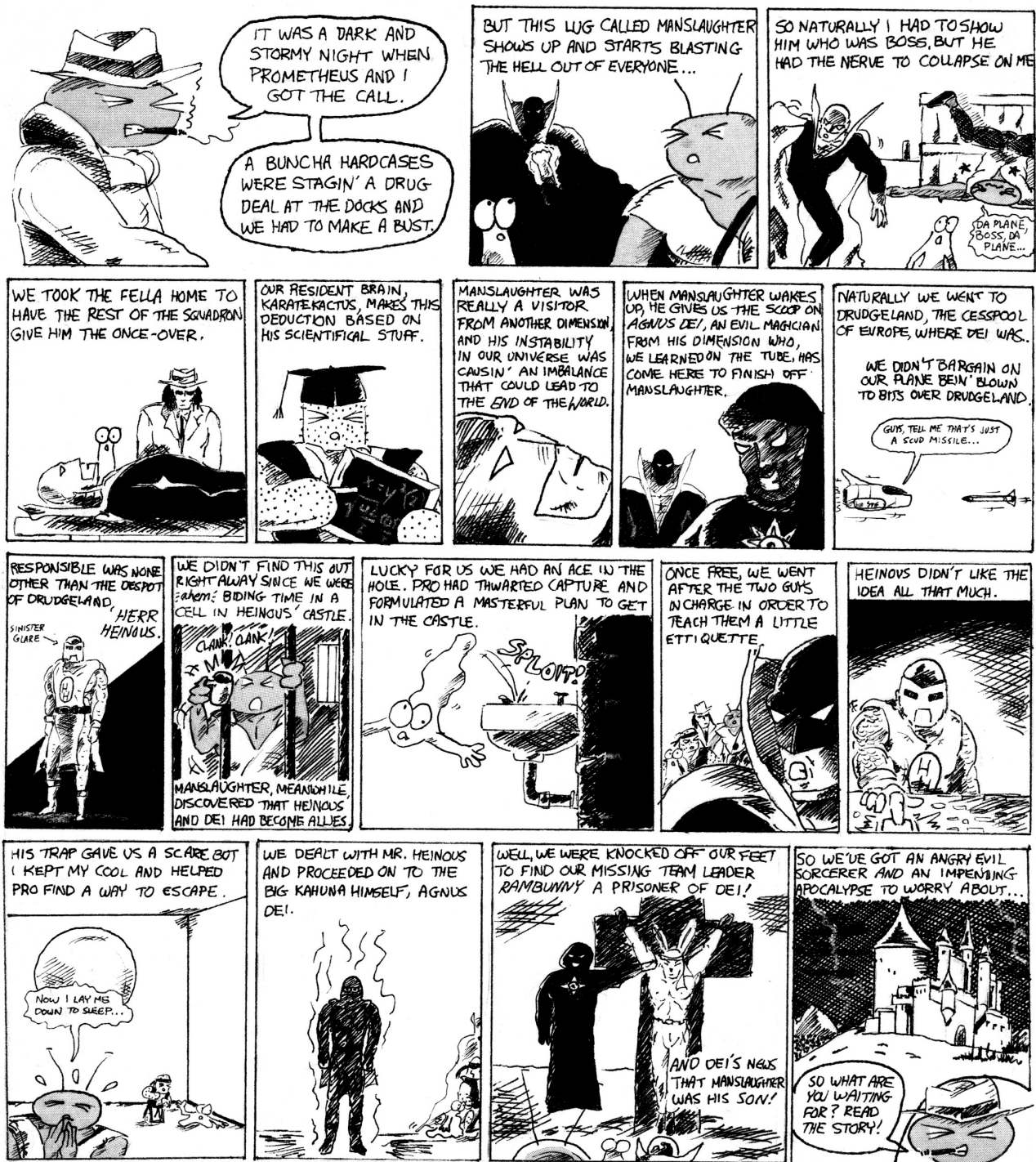
## ADVENTURES

\$2.00





If you haven't been following this so far, you'll probably be without a clue. Therefore, we've asked Ninja Ant to provide a brief summary of our last two issues:





# IT'S THE END OF THE

## THE VISITOR

---Conclusion---  
Written and drawn by  
Nik Dirga  
For the Tomato Warriors

GREETINGS, MY SON!  
YOU'RE JUST IN TIME  
FOR A LITTLE SACRIFICE...  
AND AFTER THAT...  
THE END OF THE WORLD!

"AND LIKE ANY STORY  
WORTH ITS INK, YOU  
HAD TO HAVE ALL OF  
THE NECESSARY  
INGREDIENTS."



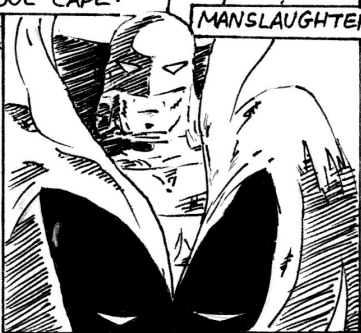


# WORLD AS WE KNOW IT



THE MYSTERIOUS  
VISITOR FROM  
ANOTHER DIMENSION  
WITH THE REALLY  
COOL CAPE:

MANSLAUGHTER



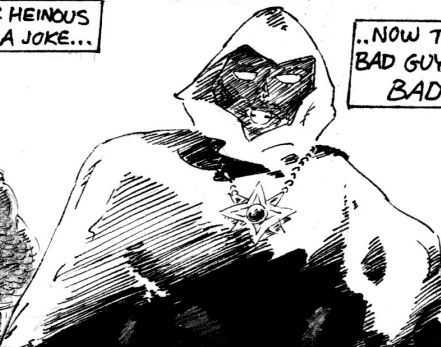
AND THE  
BAD GUYS:

WELL, OK, HERR HEINOUS  
WAS KIND OF A JOKE...



BUT AGNUS  
DEI...

...NOW THIS  
BAD GUY WAS  
BAD.





IN A NUTSHELL: DEI HAD RAMBUNNY, AND HE WAS GONNA USE HIS POWER TO KILL HIS SON, MANSLAUGHTER.

DON'T WORRY, IT ALL MAKES SENSE EVENTUALLY.

YOU'VE GIVEN A MERRY CHASE, MY SON, BUT THE TIME FOR RUNNING IS AT AN END.

I'M SURPRISED YOU CAME TO ME... YOUR LACK OF COURAGE IS WELL KNOWN IN OUR OWN REALM, TRUE?

RAMBUNNY? BUT HE'S ON SOME GOVERNMENT MISSION!

WELL, IT LOOKS LIKE THE GOVERNMENT'S GOT SOME ODD MISSIONS GOING NOWADAYS.

MANSLAUGHTER.. DEI'S YOUR FATHER?

"YOUR DEATH WILL BE SHORT AND SWEET."

THERE'S NO WAY IN HELL WE'LL LET THAT HAPPEN, MAGICIAN!

Wait, Isuzu. Let's see what we're really up against.

THE PIECES ARE ALL IN PLACE, CACTUS. DO YOU THINK I WASN'T PREPARED FOR THIS WORLD'S HEROES?

IT SAVES ME THE BOTHER OF HUNTING YOU DOWN AGAIN... AND WITH THE POWER I SHALL GAIN FROM THE SACRIFICE OF THIS FELLOW...

PROMETHEUS SAID IT AGAIN: "IS HE YOUR FATHER?"

YES. HE IS.

AND OF COURSE, WE'D ALL FORGOTTEN ABOUT HERR HEINOUS, A MAN WHO WASN'T HAVING THE BEST OF DAYS.

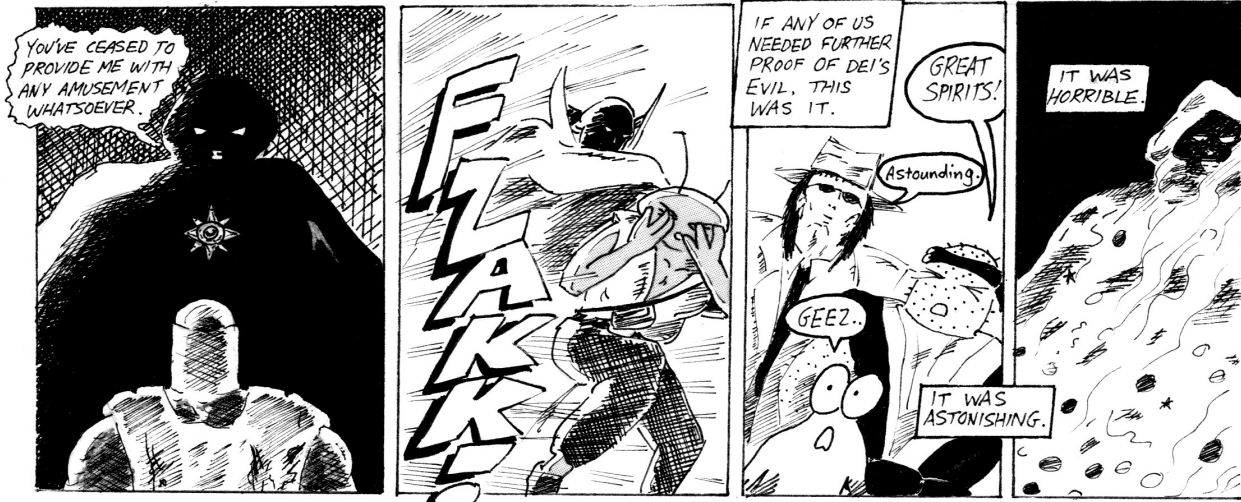
A MAN WHO SUDDENLY REALIZED THAT HE'D BEEN JERKED AROUND FROM HERE TO CHINA AND BACK.

NGGAHH...

LIAR!

ZARK!

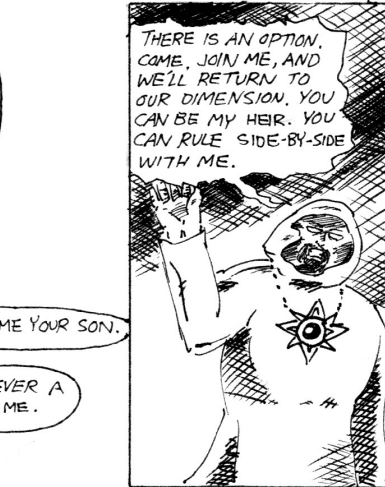
HOW'S THAT FOR FORESHADOWING?



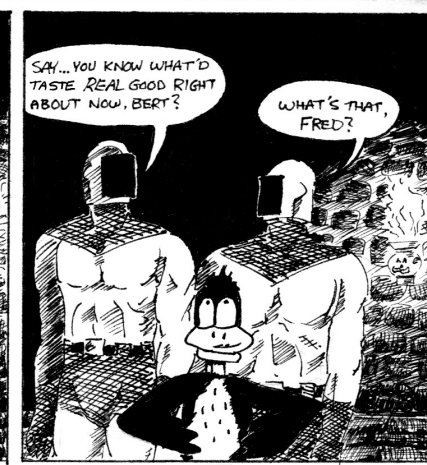
IT WAS... POULTRY.

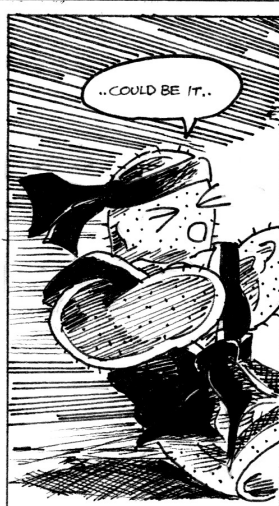


AND THEN THE ROOF  
FELL IN...  
LITERALLY.



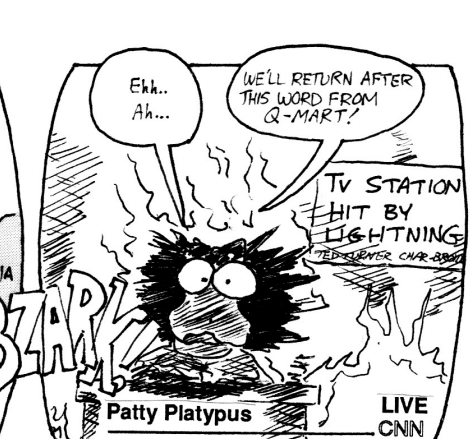
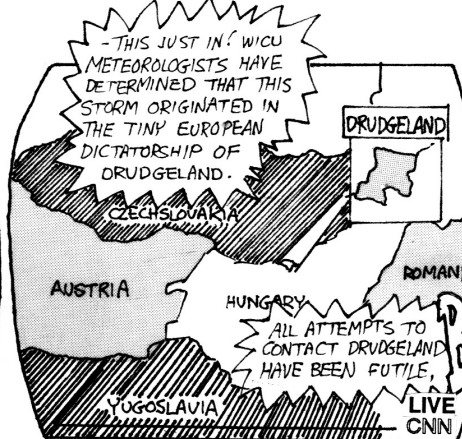
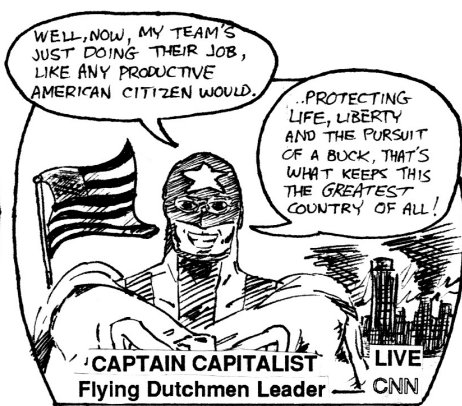
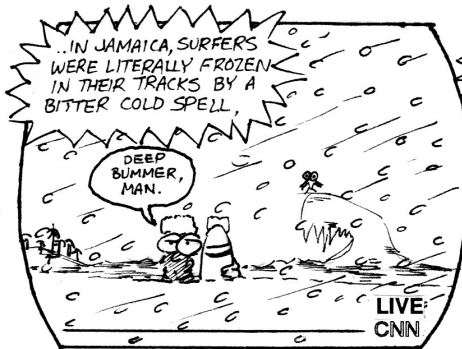
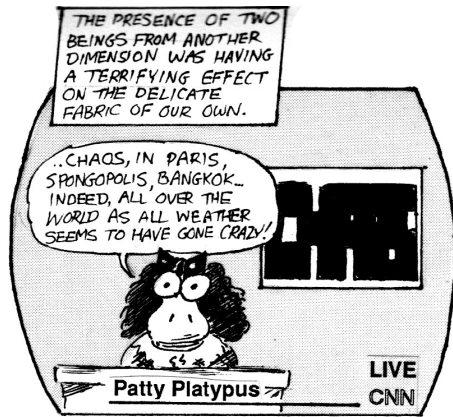
MEANWHILE, DOWNSTAIRS,  
THE CALVARY (SUCH AS IT  
WAS) RUSHED TO HELP:

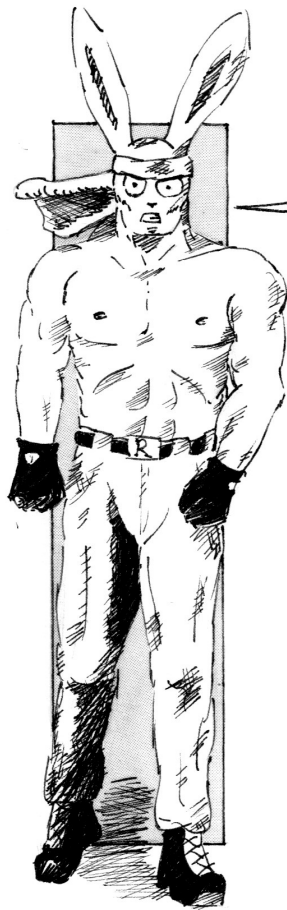
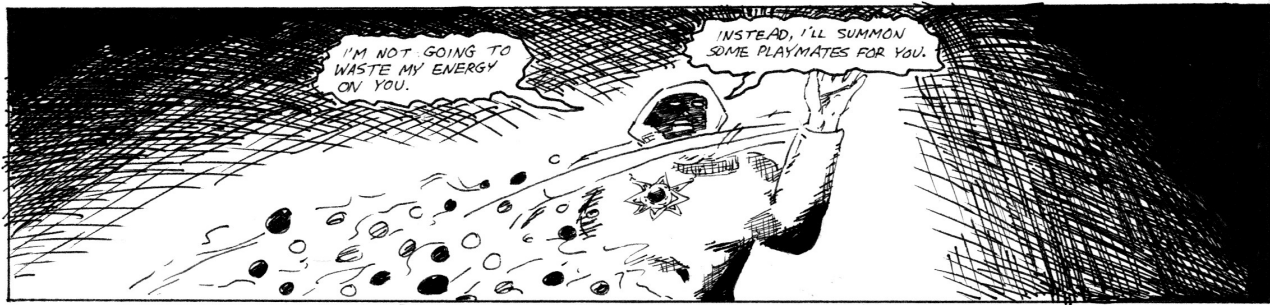










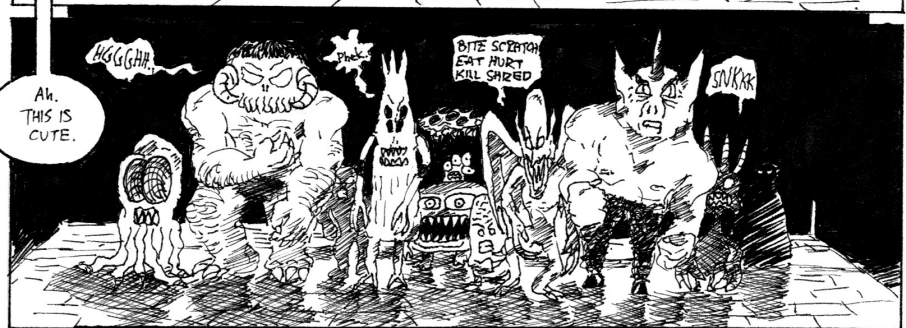
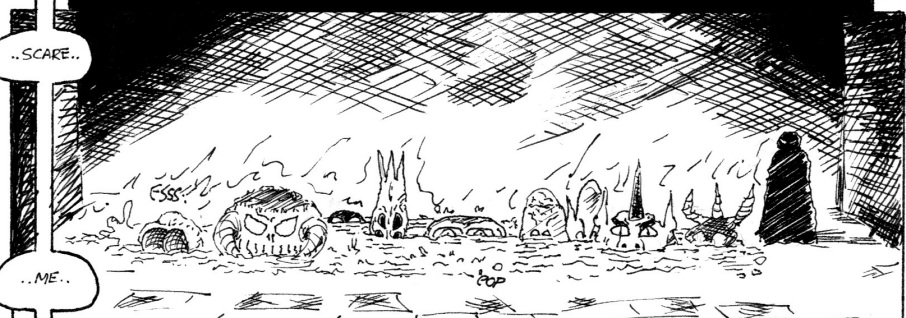
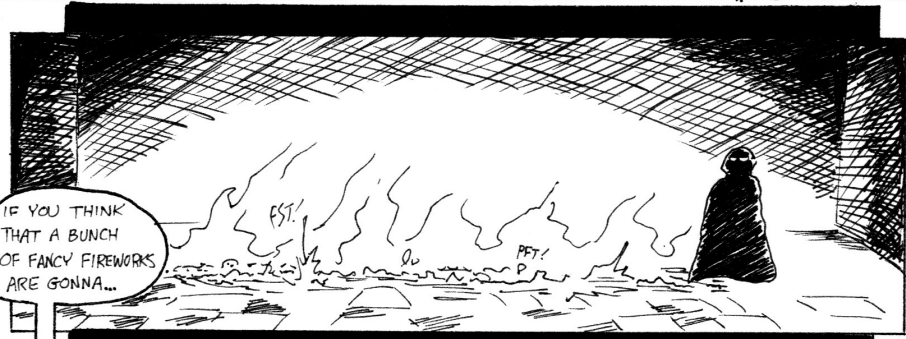


IF YOU THINK  
THAT A BUNCH  
OF FANCY FIREWORKS  
ARE GONNA...

..SCARE..

..ME..

AH.  
THIS IS  
CUTE.



DEMONS WERE  
SUPPOSED TO BE  
LIKE GOBLINS  
AND ELVES AND  
DRAGONS...  
THINGS OF MYTH.



THEN THIS WAS THE MOST REALISTIC MYTH I'D EVER SEEN.

STAND YOUR GROUND, GUYS. STAND YOUR GROUND...

TELL YOU WHAT- I'LL STAND MY GROUND RIGHT BACK HERE, OK?

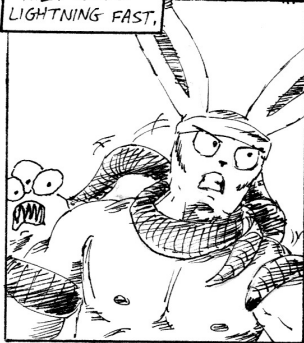


YOU DIDN'T COME ALL THIS WAY TO SEND DEMONS AGAINST ME, DID YOU?

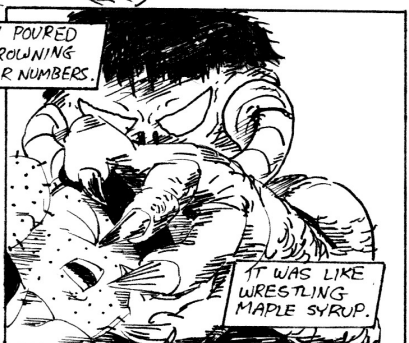
MARK!

THE DEMONS ARE TO DISPOSE OF YOUR ALLIES. I SAVED YOU FOR MYSELF.

THEY WERE LIGHTNING FAST.

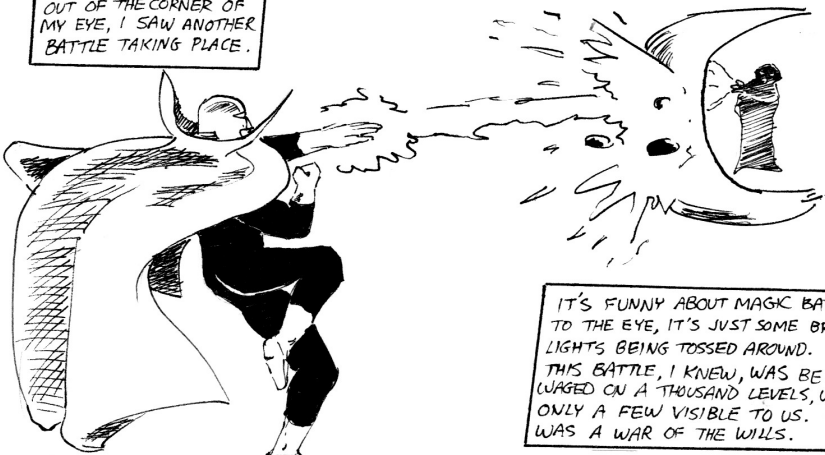


AND THEY POURED ONTO US, DROWNING US BY SHEER NUMBERS.



IT WAS LIKE WRESTLING MAPLE SYRUP.

OUT OF THE CORNER OF MY EYE, I SAW ANOTHER BATTLE TAKING PLACE.

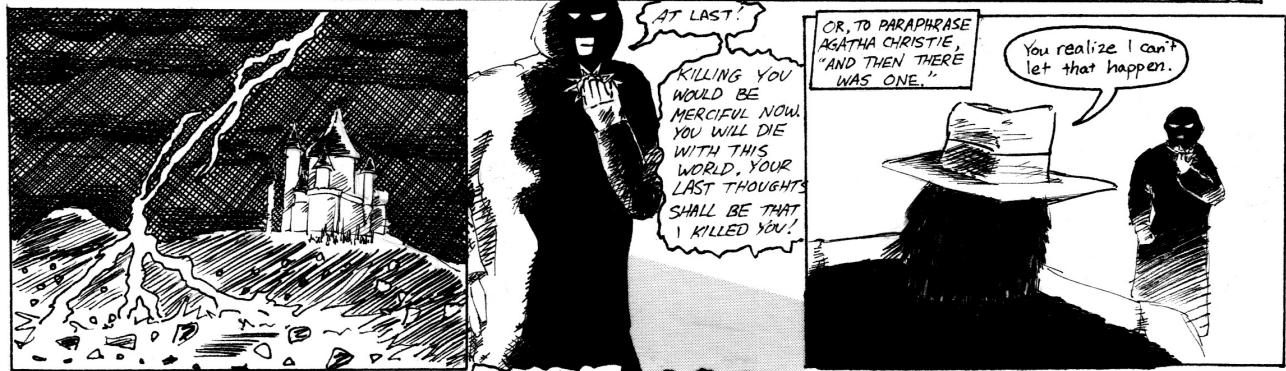


IT'S FUNNY ABOUT MAGIC BATTLES: TO THE EYE, IT'S JUST SOME BRIGHT LIGHTS BEING TOSSED AROUND. YET THIS BATTLE, I KNEW, WAS BEING WAGED ON A THOUSAND LEVELS, WITH ONLY A FEW VISIBLE TO US. IT WAS A WAR OF THE WILLS.

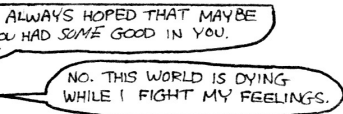
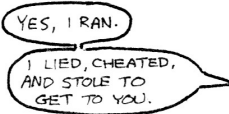
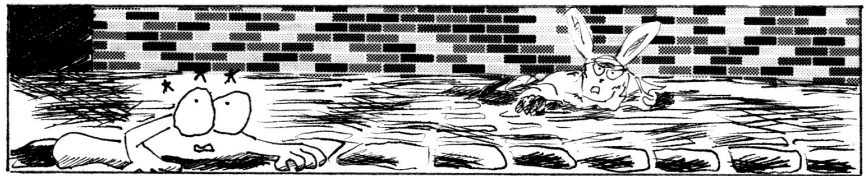


THAT'S IT. I QUIT!







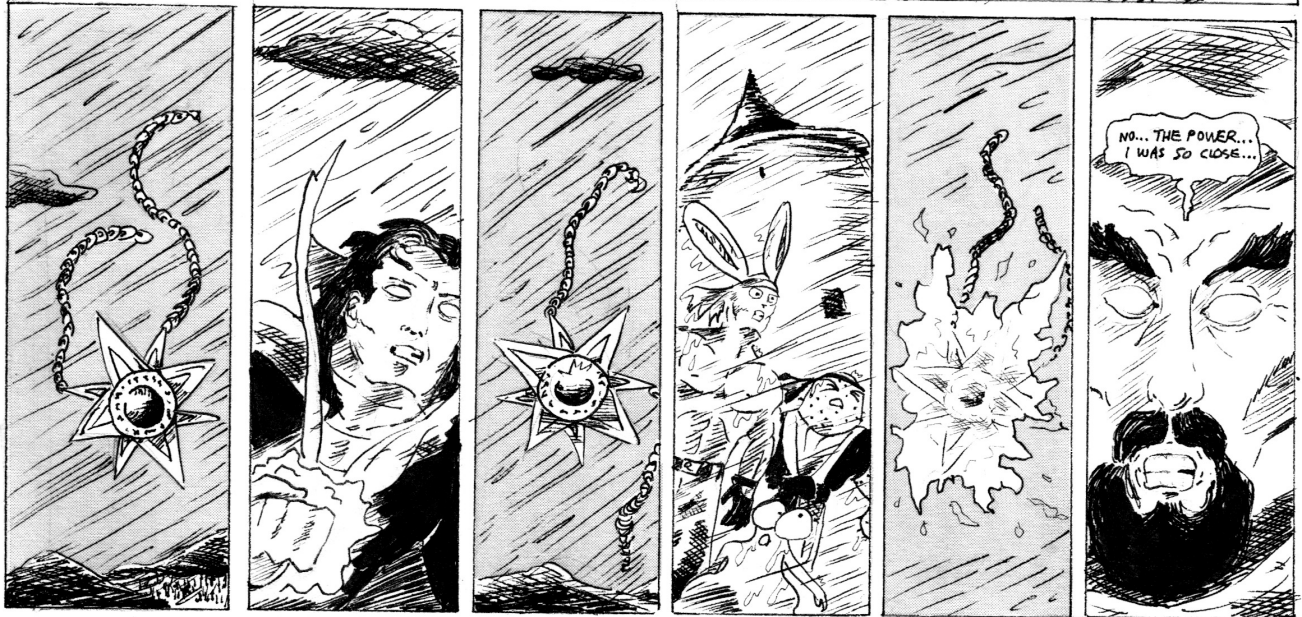
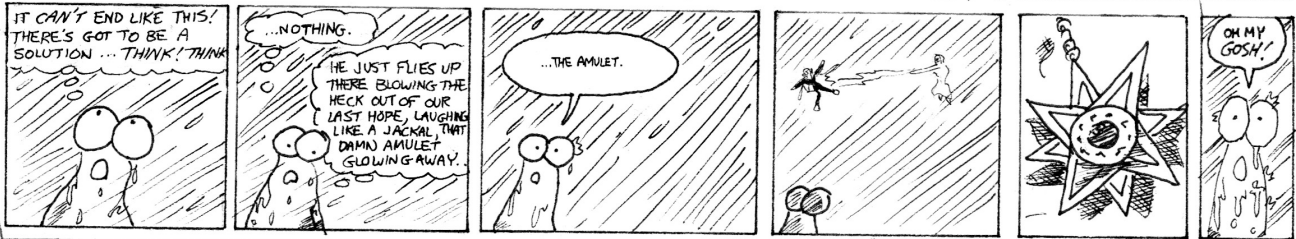


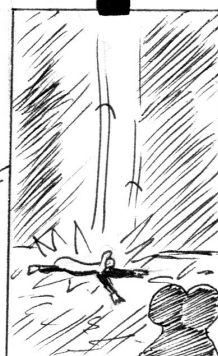




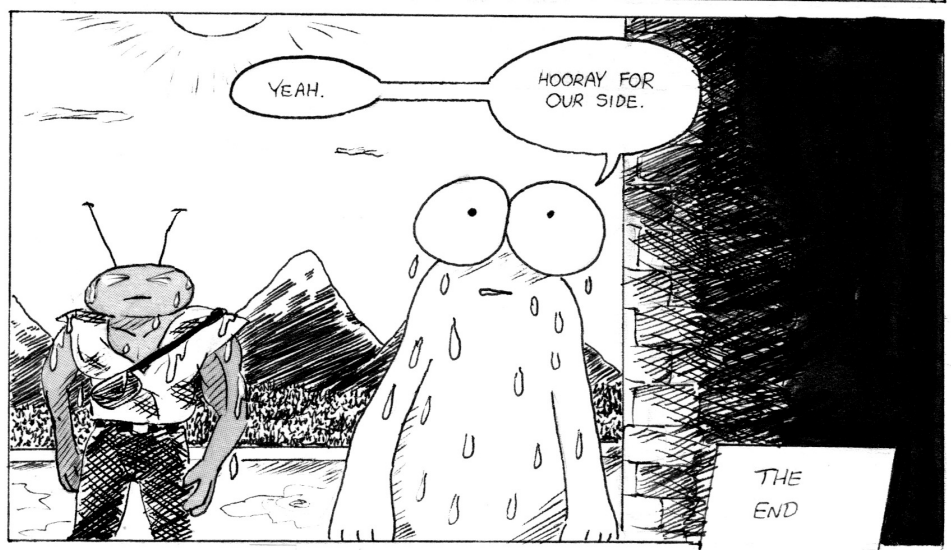
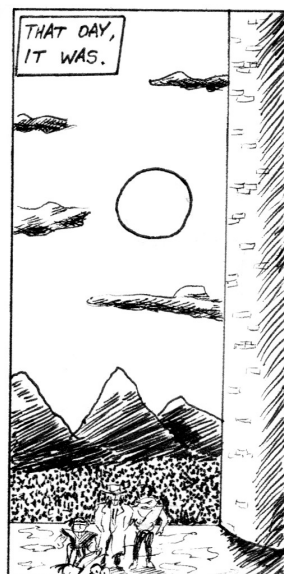
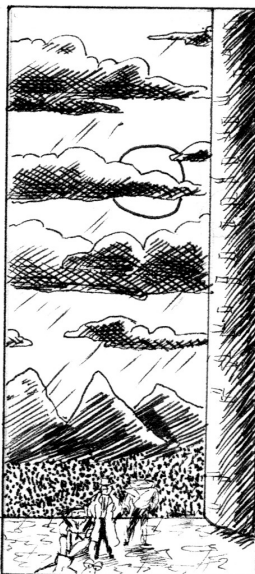
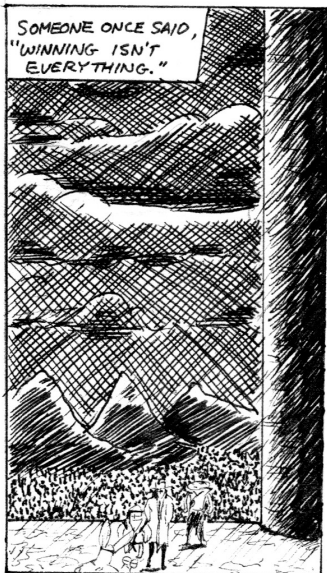




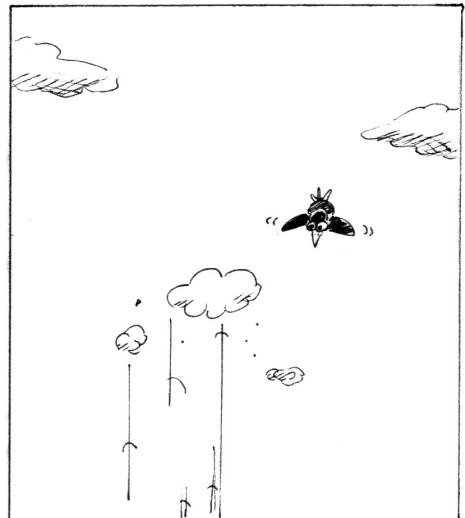




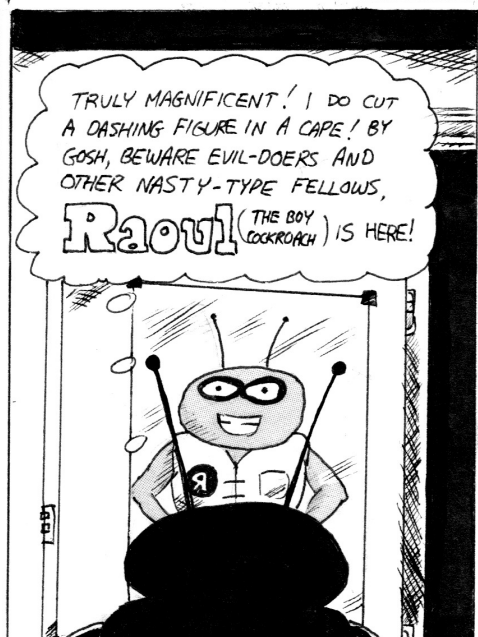
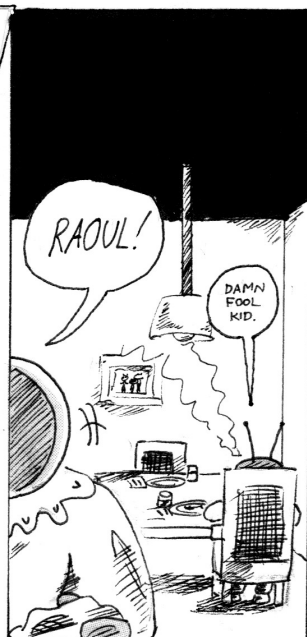




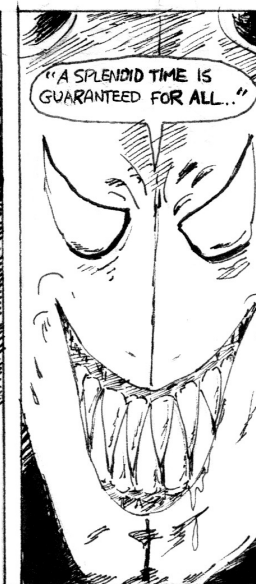
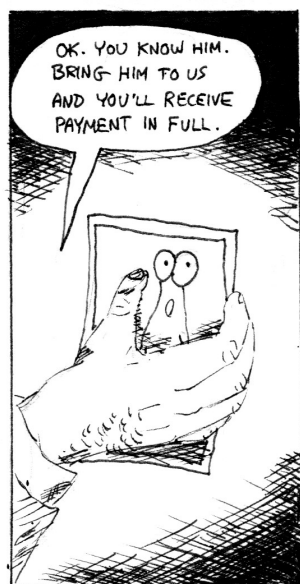
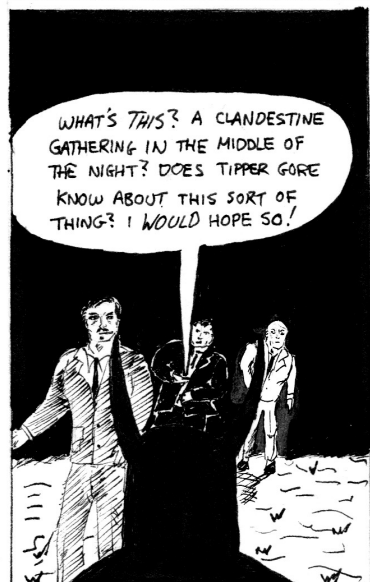
# EPILOGUE 1: SOMEWHERE OVER EASTERN EUROPE



# EPILOGUE 2: AN APARTMENT IN SPONGOPOLIS



# EPILOGUE 3: A MEETING PLACE



## NEXT:

THE ROACH TAKES A DARE,  
THE APES GO APE,  
THE DOC LOSES THE HAT,  
THE AMOEBA MEETS THE  
MAN OF THE CLOTH,  
AND THE ANT GOES HOME!

ALL THIS AND MORE IN:  
**AMOEBA ADVENTURES #4!**

SAME BAT-TIME,  
SAME BAT-CHANNEL!

\* COMING THIS AUGUST TO  
ENLIGHTENED MAILBOXES EVERYWHERE!



## THE SLIMEBALL SPEAKS:

I feel so...so...collegiate! It's a wonderful day in early May, and I just got back from a luxurious afternoon sunbathing at the lake, trying to summon forth that California tan I once had. AA #3 is just about done now, all that's left are a few errant panels and laying down the (ecch) tones. Advice for aspiring small-press artists: never use tones. Mastering the X-acto knife alone cost me a few minor parts of my anatomy. Anyway, it's getting near that time when I walk proudly into the copy shop to bring my masterpiece into published existence! So I'd best get on the ball and write some commentary stuff for the letters page before I once again get swept up in school work here at the good ol' U of Mississippi.

A couple of major protoplasmic announcements need to be made, so let's get those out of the way. First off, in case you're one of those odd readers who skip the cover and go straight to the story, 1991 marks the fifth anniversary of Prometheus' creation, which began humbly enough in a boring science class in 8th grade, a time which seems eons ago now.

Back in 1986, I found myself drawing little "mini-comics" to avoid the drudgery of high school life. These mini-comics got more and more elaborate as time went on, and PROMETHEUS #1-6 form the basis for the series I've got now. PROMETHEUS, the first series, was really for my own pleasure, just a way of expelling those creative energies that tend to build up. In this series, I built a world and entire mythology for my amoeba to inhabit. Bizzare characters ranging from a six-foot tall rabbit with an attitude to an evil mushroom who wanted a certain protoplasm's head on a plate emerged in this series. "Only A Man," the epic that ran from PROMETHEUS #3-6, told the tale of, among other events, the forming of the All-Spongy Squadron, the debut of Ninja Ant and cousin, Prometheus' brief transformation into a superhuman, the final battle between Pro's "evil twin" Kronos and the Squadron, and the introduction of three god-like beings who claim to have *created* Prometheus.

Well, I decided last year I wanted to go for it "for real" this time, and try my hand semi-professionally in the small press arena. I've gotten favorable critical and public reaction to AA# 1 & 2, favorable enough to convince me to continue for quite some time.

So here we are with "The End Of The World As We Know It," and the end of "The Visitor" as well. I kind of surprised myself with how serious the story ended up becoming, awful dramatic for a "funny" book. Some people say that it's easier to write drama than comedy...if that's true, did I take the easy way out? I'm not sure, I think I did what the story called for, but let me know what you think of "The Visitor." Too serious? Too long? Too complicated?

For the next few issues, though, we're having self-contained stories that take place in Spongopolis, so as to show more of this crazy town briefly seen in #1. Next issue we've got the introduction of Raoul the Boy Cockroach and the rampage of the Gorilla Gang, and in #5 our heroes will appear on none other than "Late Night With David Letterman" to celebrate Pro's fifth birthday. Down the line a bit, I've got planned another trilogy that will deal with the mysterious fellow introduced on the very last page of this issue and answer the question: what do all the normal human beings do in this warped universe of mine?

\*\*\*\*\*

And now for the bad news. Rising costs in printing and postage have forced me to do the unthinkable... AMOEBA ADVENTURES, as of next issue, will be shrunk down to about 3/4 of the size it is now. It's be in what's known as a "digest" size, about the size of a piece of 8 x 11 paper folded in half. I didn't really want to do this, but publishing a 25 or so page magazine is what we call financially idiotic. I couldn't bear to finish off "The Visitor" in anything less than pulse-pounding 8 x 11 size, so next issue will be the first in the new pre-shrunk series. The price will go down to around \$1.50-\$1.95 per issue, so there is a bright side. To make a profit, I should realistically price this issue at around \$3.95, but I think I'd lose all my friends that way. (Hah! *What* friends, Nik?)

\*\*\*\*\*

I've ranted and raved enough for this time. I need to go increase my UV ray count outside some more, so I'll let you move on to the rest of the page. Do drop me a line and let me know what you liked/disliked about this ish, and pin-ups and stuff are welcome for possible publication if you feel inclined, send clean Xeroxes if you want to keep the original. Stay spongy and I'll see you in August in the new pint-size AMOEBA ADVENTURES!



MAIL

PO Box 2230  
UNIVERSITY MS 38677

It is an inspiration to see such work from a rising star in the comic book world. I found it impudent, with a sassy touch of lime. "Talented?" Well, I don't know about *that*...

-Nat Perry-Thistle, serving Uncle Sam somewhere...

(I think you got "Amoeba On The Run" confused with the cheap wine you were obviously drinking when you wrote this letter-N.)

Letters can be sent to the address above. Letters may be edited for clarity, and any letters that mention stubble or facial hair at all will be chewed up into a ball and mailed back to the sender.

I stand in awe of your latest masterwork. Smooth action, funny dialogue, talking slimeballs; what more could you ask for? You can quote me on that.

-John "I Also Answer To Elvis, But Only If You Say It Nicely" Hurley, lost in the void

Wonderful! Stupendous! Splendiferous! Why, if we had these guys running the government, we'd all be sipping tomato juice in hot tubs watching Brady Bunch-a-thons under the split pea sky of Spongopolis. An evolutionary masterpiece!

-Sun Ezzell, Humboldt, California

(Actually I think it'd be "Gilligan's Island"-a-thons, but otherwise I like it--N.)

AA looks great. It is by far the best comic unavailable on the market today and I am proud to list it among my comic collection. Each issue seems better than the last, although the first was great and I have only received two. The art on several of the pages in issue two was particularly dynamic, especially page 13. Page 9 was great, it made me laugh a lot, but stop insinuating that "Haw-kuh" is not intimidating. I do have a question about Ninja Ant's powers, however. Does he have a self-regenerating power similar to Wolverine's? On page 18 his left antenna gets pretty much roasted, yet at the bottom of the page his antenna seems healed. How does he get his antenna erect so fast? Is it healing power or his ancient Japanese heritage (ginseng perhaps)? This is highly interesting to me so please reply soon.

Unfortunately, I have noticed a problem in AA that should be enough to earn me a nik-prize (If you're going to copy Marvel covers, might as well go all the way). On page 15, panel #8, a fairly close up drawing of Manslaughter depicts him with a small amount of stubble, obviously the result of being unable to shave for a few hours. However, when we next see Manslaughter close up, on page 20 panel #3, he has no facial hair. Is this horrendous error by a novice writer/artist/letterer/colorist/editor that threatens to irredeemably flaw the starkly realistic storyline and art that we have unwaveringly followed thus far? No, of course not. Our illustrious writer/artist/letterer/colorist/editor would never allow such a thing. The solution should be obvious to all of his loyal fans. It is probably an intentional foreshadowing of a new and exciting power of Manslaughter's of which we are currently unaware. I believe that it is a side-effect of the expression of Manslaughter's powers. Unleashing his power bolts must trigger within his body a complex chemical-biological-physiological reaction similar to that experienced by us upon the consumption of coffee. The warm feeling that we experience while drinking coffee is actually an imperceptible amount of skin-tightening brought about by caffeine. Manslaughter must undergo this reaction but on a much larger scale, with a force great enough to sever his beard bristles at the roots. Since Manslaughter discharged his powers on page 17, this would explain the missing stubble on page 20. It would also explain the small streak of black dots falling from Manslaughter's face on panel #3 of page 20 which gave me the idea. Clever, Nik (Or are those just toner flakes on my copy?).

-Nathaniel Levine, student at UC Davis and possible victim of psychiatric experimentation

(OKKKKK...I think we all know where the real toner flakes are, don't we, Mr. Levine? Let me tell you right now we aren't discussing Ninja Ant's antenna erection in this column in any way, shape or form because I happen to like not being an object of Jesse Helm's attentions.

About your nik-prize, yes, you are correct! Manslaughter is in fact a mutant!! The truth is out! Hey, kids, buy multiple copies before we have to do a second printing! Available now for a limited time is a special silver-ink edition bagged, signed, numbered, and basted in a light cream sauce! Order now! --N.)

#### TOP TEN REASONS "AMOEBA ADVENTURES" HASN'T YET BECOME A MEDIA SENSATION:

10. Worries about kids trying to emulate Rambunny and massacring entire subdivisions
9. Creator busy orchestrating Milli Vanilli comeback tour
8. "Official Dr. Spif Hair Care Products" line caused baldness in laboratory rats
7. Agent makes rude noises into phone when asked about merchandising deals
6. Karate Kactus action figure with "real cactus prickles" a bad idea
5. Marvel won't let Wolverine star and get disemboweled by Ninja Ant
4. Bush just won't let up on demands that creator give up job and become his running mate in '92
3. Just can't give in to corporate demands to make Prometheus "cuter" by drawing him with "Bambi eyes"
2. Creator made lousy judgement call by passing on "Teenage Mutant Ninja Amoeba Adventures" as title
1. Schwarzenegger wants too much money to play Rambunny in movie version

### SORRY, KIDS!

AMOEBA ADVENTURES #1 & 2, and PROMETHEUS #1-6 are all out of print at this time. A solution to this problem will be figured out by next issue, so stay tuned for further bulletins.

NEXT: "Trying To Lead A Normal Life" takes our heroes in a whole new direction as Ninja Ant and Karate Kactus give a startling announcement, Mr. Spif changes his clothes again, Prometheus gets coffee, Raoul wants to join up, and the Gorilla Gang makes its move! Be here for AMOEBA ADVENTURES #4, coming late this summer!

CHARACTER STUDY #327: POSSIBLE NEW HAIRSTYLES FOR MISTER SPIF



THE MOHAWK LOOK



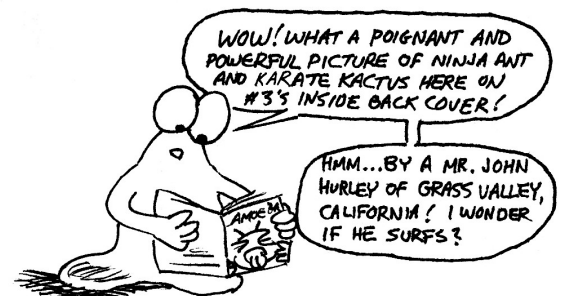
THE BARBARA BUSH COIF



THE MILLI VANILLI 'DO



THE CHARLIE BROWN EXPERIMENT

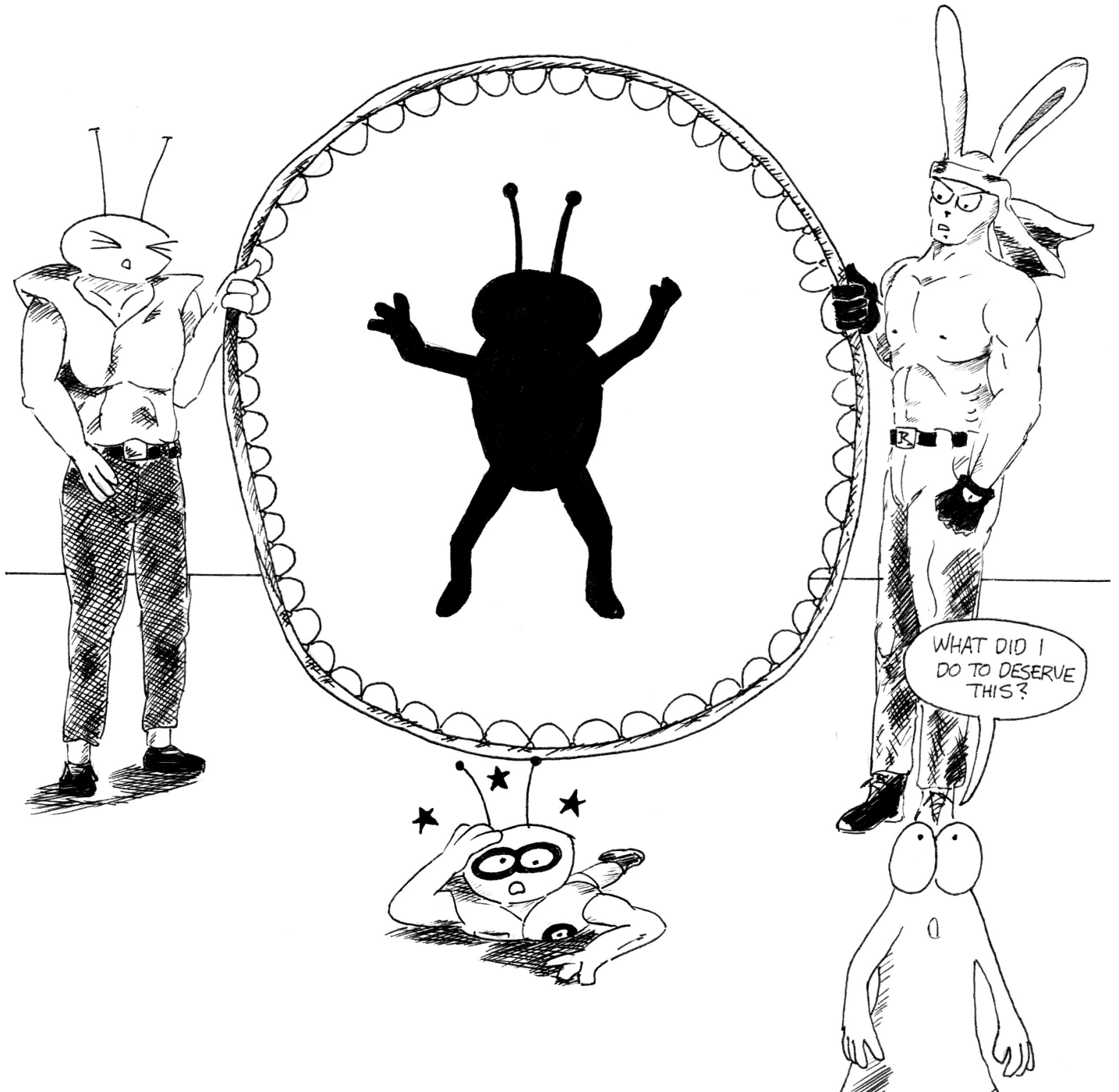




John Hurley '91



# NEXT!

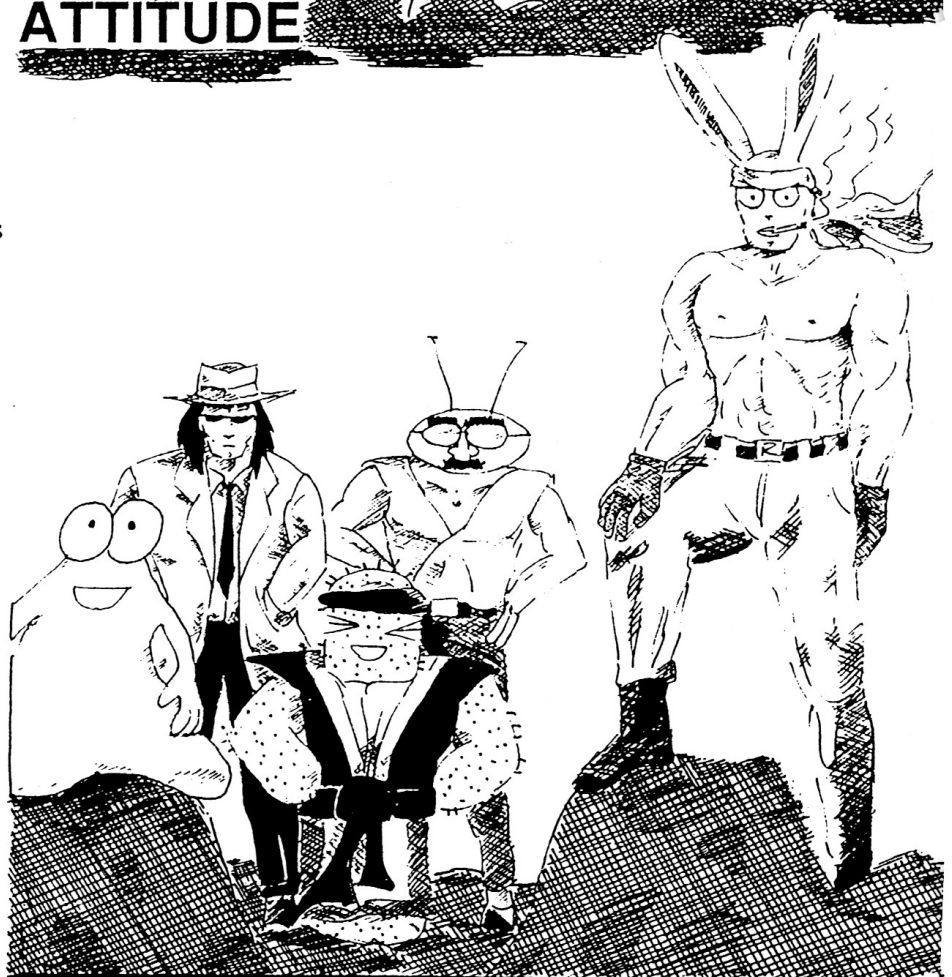


# The ALL-SPONGY SQUADRON™

## SUPERHEROES WITH AN ATTITUDE

"AMOEBA ADVENTURES #2 is even better. Jammed with story and art, hard work, and a lot of serious thought. The characters--Prometheus, Ninja Ant, Karate Kactus, Mr. Spif, and others--really came to life for me this time. The storyline is deeply involved, well paced, and occasionally hilariously funny. I know talent when I see it (or *read* it in this case), and creator Nik Dirga is going to leave his mark on this industry someday."

-Tim Corrigan, *Comics Buyer's Guide*



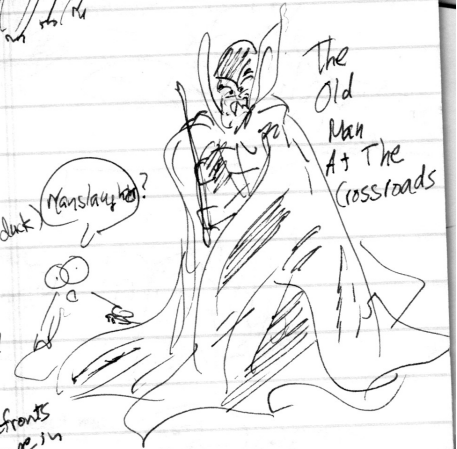
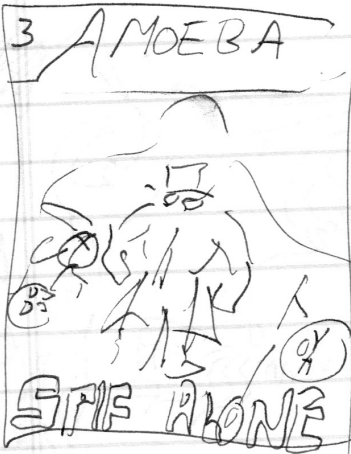
NK91

# SPECIAL 2020 BONUS SECTION

"The Visitor" storyline in Amoeba Adventures was mostly me trying to figure out how to tell a story. Elements in it like the whole Manslaughter/Agnus Dei conflict were pretty different from the tone of the rest of the series, and many of the characters hadn't quite found their voices yet.

#3: "CHECK AND MATE"

Spif takes off glasses in front of Dei

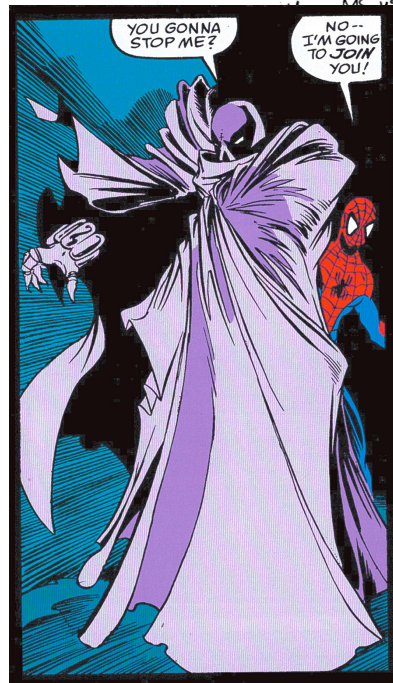


#3 Confrontation (HH introduct)

HH prologue PG1  
Dei  
Rambunny  
summoned  
Defeat guys  
ex. Spif who confronts  
DEI - change in  
character here  
Spif & MS back -  
origins revealed  
Final Battle  
Death of Dei & MS  
Epilogue(s)?  
PG 20  
PG 21 22?

Narration of #3:  
SPIF?  
REBORN?

Epilogue: 21H returns to  
normal in midair  
Zhou cameo  
MMac return



Not McFarlane art.

Todd McFarlane art.

I've never been a great artist, but I was trying. I was still heavily in my Todd McFarlane worship phase (see: every shot of Manslaughter and his cape), and an AWFUL lot of the "superhero" poses in #1-3 were swiped liberally from other, better artists.





Spr's narration  
(past tense)

"This was the big one."  
"We'd fought mushrooms,  
and tinkertoys, met  
Gods and somehow  
lived to tell about it."

But none of that mattered now..

"I saw evil."

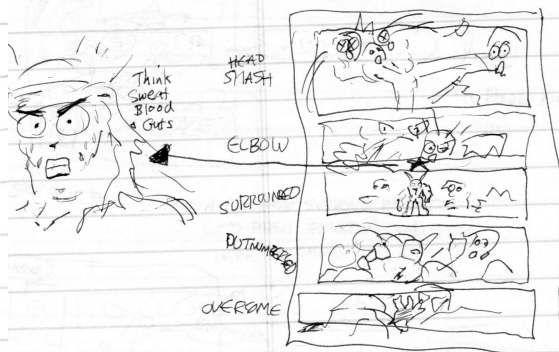
"As the ~~sky's~~ tears  
dried on our faces, we  
knew that we'd seen our  
greatest battle.. and"



My battered notebook of the first 5-6 issues of Amoeba Adventures show me working out a lot of ideas and layouts.

#3 was also the final issue at "magazine" size (8 1/2x11"). I FINALLY started to bring my sketchy art and too-small lettering under control with future issues. A lot of #3 is obsessively over-drawn (cross hatching everywhere!) and too fussy. It didn't reproduce very well in photocopied zines.

The Ramtunny page,  
during demon fight:  
pg 9 or so  
(dialogue back four's)



Pg 7. BUNNY BACK!

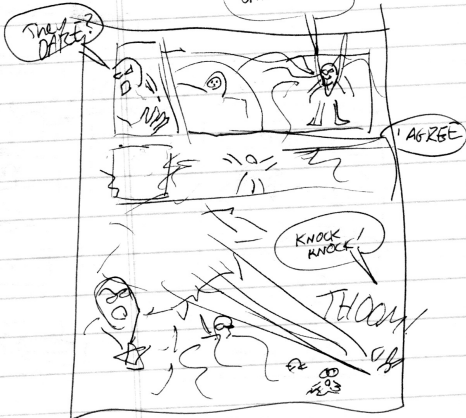


★ ANT! I TOLD YOU  
ONCE BEFORE - LET'S  
EXPERIMENT WITH  
ANTENNAE REMOVAL!!

★ - ah-heh... NICE BUNNY.  
NICE BUNNY WABBIT....

NUKUR  
UNDERESTIMATE

Pg 8



Page  
"But Heortleious shall be triumphant!  
Ha ha ha; hark! hacthachack"



MS' death speech...

"Did I do it? Is it over?"

"Yes. Yes, he's dead."

"Thank God.. The voices...  
they've stopped.."

