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ADVENTURES™

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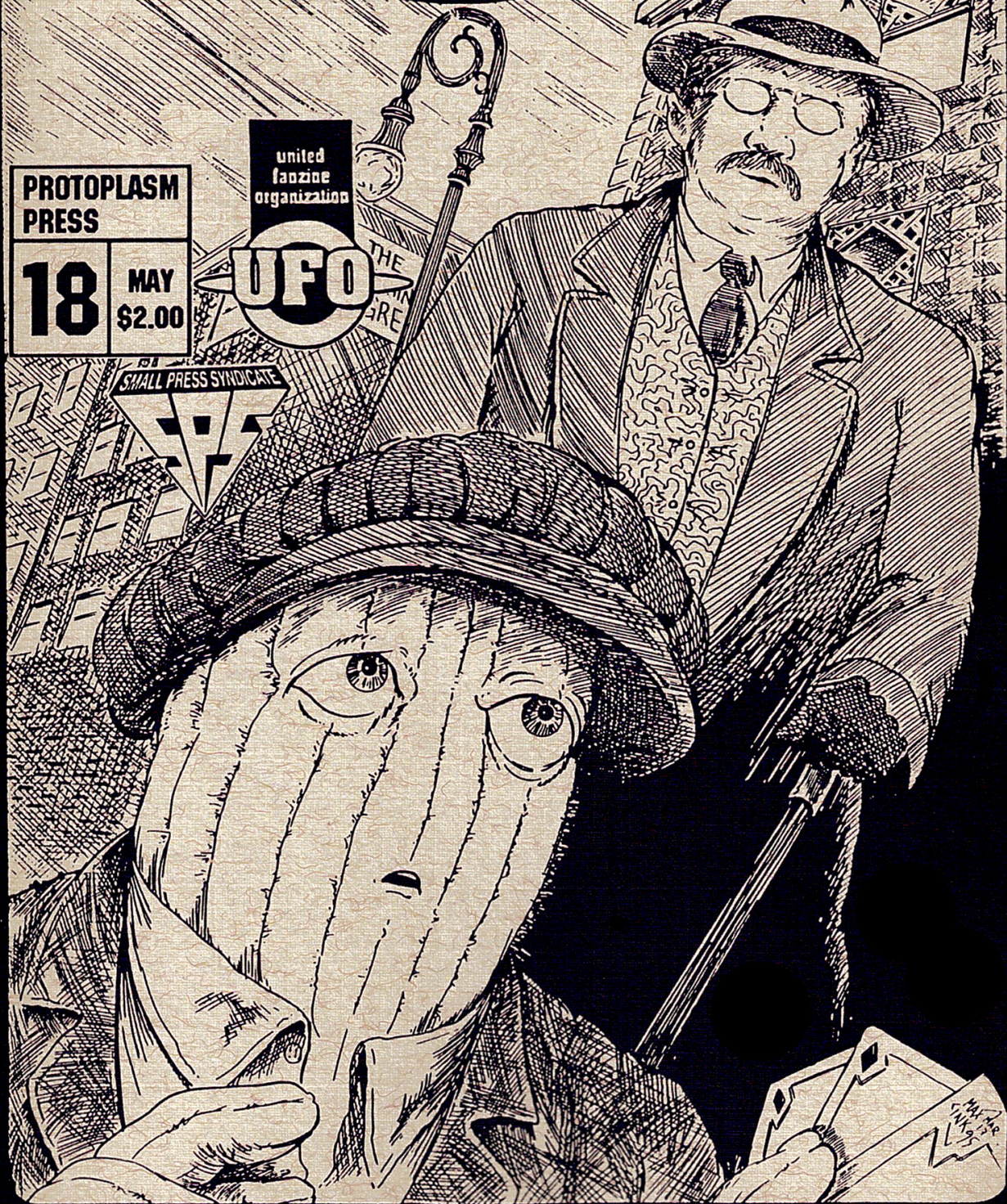
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Amoeba Adventures #18

"The Strange Light In The Eyes Of The Truly Mad"

Written by Mr. Nik Dirga • Drawn by Mr. Max Ink

The Story So Far...

Last issue, we saw the return of old friend Rambunny after a long absence. His visit coincided with Christmas Eve, and a bad cold for Prometheus. Rambunny dragged Spif and Ninja Ant out for a raucous night on the town, which culminated in a good old-fashioned bar brawl with the gang's old foes, The Gorilla Gang. Afterwards, Ninja Ant returned home to discover that his girlfriend Kyoko had found a new man and was leaving town with him. Devastated, he returned to the Amoebacave and was talked into going "on patrol" with Karate Kactus and Rambunny. Though they didn't find any crime to fight, the strange Christmas Eve sojourn still managed to teach both Ninja Ant and Rambunny a little something about life, love and friendship... even if they *didn't* get to bust any heads in the process.



SPIF



PROMETHEUS



DAWN STAR



KARATE KACTUS



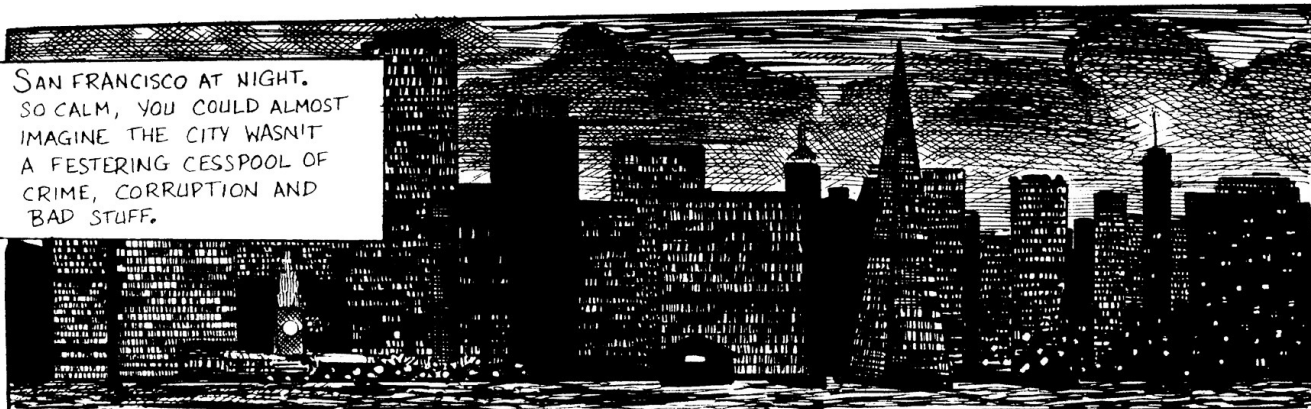
NINJA ANT



...SPECIAL GUEST
STAR: THE PERIOD

Amoeba Adventures #18, June, 1995. Published every three months on average by Protoplasm Press, P.O. Box 2230, University, MS 38677-2230. Additional copies \$2.00 ppd. Subscriptions: 4 issues for \$8. *Amoeba Adventures* and all related material are ©1995 Nik Dirga, all rights reserved. Artwork ©1995 Max Ink. Please make checks payable to Nik Dirga. Free catalog available upon request. Gragga fragga garble goo.

SAN FRANCISCO AT NIGHT.
SO CALM, YOU COULD ALMOST
IMAGINE THE CITY WASN'T
A FESTERING CESSPOOL OF
CRIME, CORRUPTION AND
BAD STUFF.



THE STRANGE LIGHT

I'M THE GUY WHO CLEANS
OUT THE CESSPOOLS. SOME
WOULD CALL ME A LUNATIC,
SOME WOULD CALL ME INSANE,
BUT I LIKE TO JUST THINK
OF MYSELF AS SOMEWHAT
INTENSE.



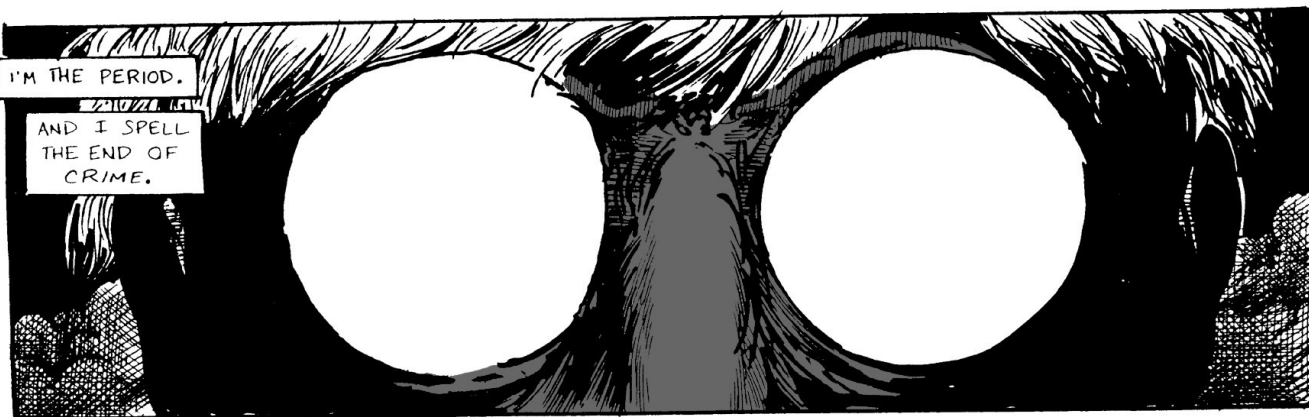
IN THE EYES OF

I'M THE SAVIOR OF THE
GOOD PEOPLE, THE
DECENT PEOPLE—
THE PEOPLE WHO STILL
CAN'T ACCEPT THAT
"THE WALTONS" IS NO
LONGER ON THE AIR.



THE TRULY MAD

I'M THE PERIOD.
AND I SPELL
THE END OF
CRIME.



WORDS Nik Dirga PICTURES Max Ink



...GEEZ!
WHAT'S IN
DESE T'INGS,
ROCKS?

OY, DIS IS
GONNA GIVE ME
A HERNIA FOR
SURE...

FASTER,
YOU MORONIC FOOLS!
WE ONLY HAVE SO LONG
BEFORE THE POLICE
WILL ARRIVE!

urmph!

urak.



HA!HA!HA! WORK, MY FRIENDS,
WORK! SOON, I WILL BE
MASTER OF THE KNOWN
WORLD! ...FOR IN THESE
BOXES ARE SEVERAL TONS
OF ... GRANITE!

I told
you dey was
rocks...

SILENCE!



...YES,
"ROCKS" TO THE
ORDINARY LAYMEN,
BUT TO THE IMMENSE
GENIUS OF THE
ASBESTOS MUSHROOM
THEY BECOME SO
MUCH MORE!



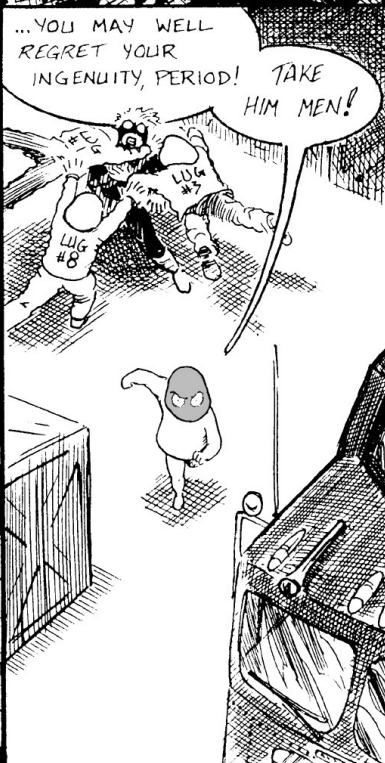
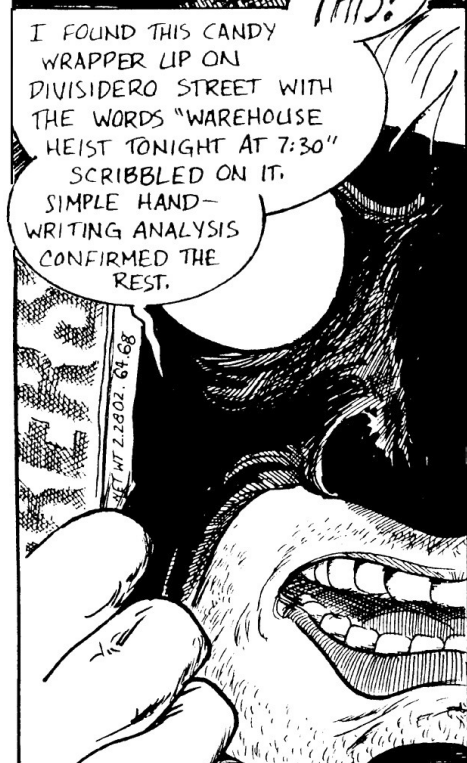
...WITH MY MASTER PLAN
AT HAND, I CAN FINALLY TRIUMPH
OVER THOSE ACCURSED WRETCHES
IN THE ALL-SPONGY SQUADRON, THOSE
BLASTED DO-GOODERS WHO'VE THWARTED
MY SCHEMES SO MANY TIMES BEFORE.*
...BUT FOR NOW, I BIDE MY TIME.
AFTER ALL, SAN FRANCISCO HAS
NO HEROES TO WORRY ABOUT!



WHO--?!?

NOT SO
FAST, FUNGUS!
YOU RECKONED WITHOUT
THE RAW FIREPOWER OF
THE PERIOD!

* most recently in AAB5-AUK









HOLY
JEEZ!



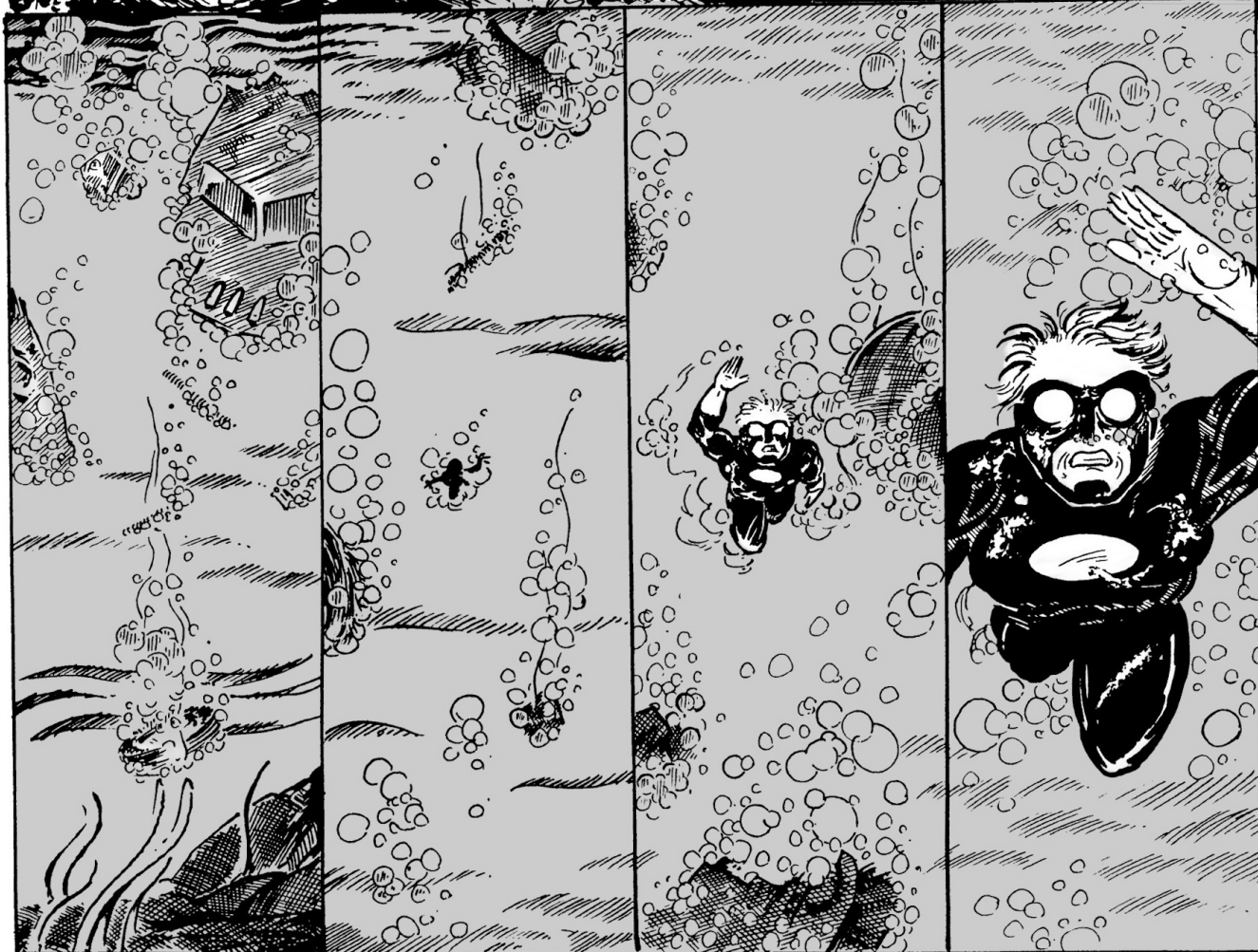
NOBODY COULDA
SURVIVED
THAT ONE!



AW,
PERIOD...

YOU
CRAZY,

CRAZY
KID...





HAHAHA!
I, HERR HEINOUS,
HAVE DEFEATED
RAMBUNNY! WHO
WILL STOP ME NOW?

argh... OH,
IF ONLY NINJA
ANT WERE
HERE!

WHAT HO!
IT IS I, NINJA ANT!
TAKE THAT, FOUL
MISCREANT!

CURSES!
FOILED AGAIN!

WHEN!
YOU SAVED MY
LIFE AGAIN,
NINJA...
...oops.

NO, THIS
IS PRETTY
AMUSING.
GO
ON!

shuffle.
shuffle.
shuffle.

PLAYING
WITH THE PROTO-
TYPES AGAIN,
MITSU?

WELL, MISTER
KANE, HOW'S THE
PRODUCTION
COMING?

EXCELLENT,
SPIF, BUT PLEASE,
CALL ME "SLOOP."
"MISTER KANE" IS MY
FATHER.

THESE
THINGS ARE
REALLY COOL!
WE'RE
GONNA BE
RICH!

I JUST WISH YOU GUYS
HAD MET WITH THE REST
OF US BEFORE DECIDING
TO SELL THE RIGHTS
TO OUR NAMES
THOUGH...



AW, LOOSEN UP, PRO! WE PLEDGED TO DIVIDE ALL THE PROFITS EQUALLY AMONG US!

AND BESIDES — WON'T IT BE GREAT TO GO TO Q-MART AND SEE OUR LIKENESSES ON THE SHELVES?

Jenner Toys

YES, OUR RESEARCH INDICATES A GREAT MARKET FOR SUPER-HERO TOYS THESE DAYS.

WAIT UNTIL YOU SEE OUR VIDEO GAME LINE!

THAT'S RIGHT, PROMETHEUS. JENNER TOYS PRIDES ITSELF ON MAKING QUALITY PRODUCTS.



AND PRO, I'VE BEEN ACTING AS CONSULTANT TO MAKE SURE NONE OF THESE ALL-SPONGY SQUADRON PRODUCTS ARE INCONSISTENT WITH OUR IMAGE. NO "KARATE KACTUS BUBBLE BATH" OR ANYTHING SO GAUCHE.



YEAH! CHECK OUT THE LIFELIKE NINJA-KICK ON MY ACTION FIGURE!

THE FIRST SHIPMENT OF ACTION FIGURES ARRIVES AT OUR WAREHOUSES ON FRIDAY. THEY'LL HIT STORES WITHIN A WEEK, AND FROM THEN ON JUST SIT BACK AND WATCH THE MONEY ROLL IN!

WOO HOO
YEAH!



...um,
SLOOP..

COULD WE HAVE A MOMENT ALONE?

OH, SURE!
I WANTED TO GO GET SOME COFFEE ANYWAY. ANYTHING FOR YOU GUYS?



NO, THAT'S OK.





OKAY, PRO,
WHAT'S BUGGING
YOU?
I COULD
TELL YOU WANTED
TO TALK.

WELL...
IT'S NOT
MUCH.

I GUESS...
I JUST WANTED
TO THANK YOU GUYS
FOR TAKING THIS
INITIATIVE.

IT MAY BE
A LITTLE... WELL,
TACKY, BUT IT'S A
WAY TO EARN
MONEY.

...MONEY WE
ALL DESPERATELY
NEED NOW... I MEAN,
WE SHOULD'VE SEEN
THIS COMING.

NONE OF US
HAVE REALLY HAD
A REGULAR JOB
FOR A COUPLE OF
YEARS NOW.

WE SEEMED
CONTENT TO COAST
ALONG ON YOUR OLD
FORTUNE AND MY
INHERITANCE.

YEAH, BUT
HAVING OUR OLD PLACE
BLOWN UP LAST YEAR, AND
REMODELING THAT DANK,
MUSTY CAVE INTO SOMETHING
LIVEABLE PRETTY MUCH ATE
UP OUR FORTUNE,
DIDN'T IT?

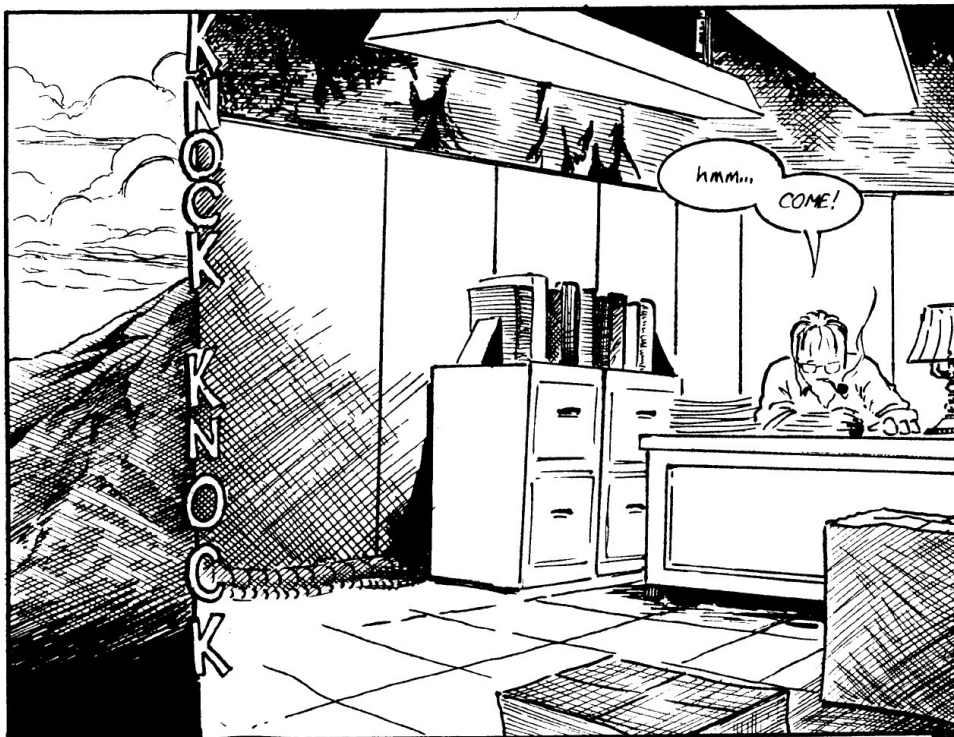
SO WE'RE
REDUCED TO SELLING
TOYS AND MAKING PUBLIC APPEARANCES
LIKE DAWN AND I ARE DOING THIS
AFTERNOON, EH? I'D ALWAYS THOUGHT
SUPERHEROING WAS A PAID
POSITION.



...IT'D BE NICE, WOULDN'T IT?

STILL, WE'VE GOT OUR TOYS FOR NOW, AND I HAVE A FEW PATENTS COMING THROUGH... ENOUGH TO EAT ON, AT LEAST.

... BUT WHAT ABOUT MY LAVISH TASTES? CAN'T I STILL GET THAT PORSCHE?



hmm...

COME!

ISUZU, ARE YOU BUSY?



NOT AT ALL, DAWN. JUST TRYING TO PAY A FEW BILLS.

WHAT CAN I DO FOR YOU?

UM... WELL, HERE'S THAT BOOK I BORROWED.

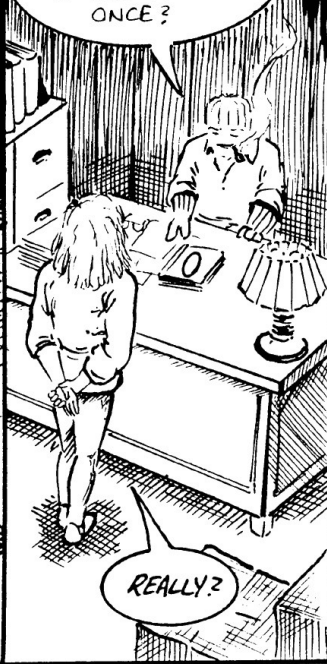
THANKS A LOT.

I REALLY ENJOYED IT.

AH YES, "THE RISE OF THEODORE ROOSEVELT"

A TRULY REMARKABLE MAN, DAWN. DID YOU KNOW I MET HIM ONCE?

MMM HMM. IT WAS 1915; I WAS TEN YEARS OLD. HE HAD JUST RETURNED FROM HIS GREAT EXPEDITION TO SOUTH AMERICA. I WAS WHAT COULD CHARITABLY BE CALLED A "STREET URCHIN" IN NEW YORK CITY, HAVING BEEN ABANDONED A FEW YEARS BEFORE.



REALLY?



I WAS SITTING ON A CURB WITH SOME OF MY FELLOW VAGRANTS, WHEN THERE WAS A GREAT COMMOTION. PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT WAS COMING, THEY SAID. "PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT!" HE WAS SHOPPING FOR BOOKS OR SOMESUCH — A GREAT READER, HE WAS.



HE CAME AROUND THE CORNER, ALL BY HIMSELF — WALKING WITH A CANE. HE WAS THE BIGGEST MAN I HAVE EVER SEEN... AND I MEAN "BIG" IN ALL RESPECTS. TO US CHILDREN, HE SEEMED THE SIZE OF THE WORLD. HE HAD THIS BOOMING VOICE AND A MOUTH FULL OF HUGE TEETH, AND WAS LOVING ALL THE ATTENTION HE WAS GETTING WALKING DOWN THE STREET. THEN HE SAW ME. I WAS COWERING DOWN THERE, AWESTRUCK. DO YOU KNOW WHAT HE SAID TO ME?



"TIGHTEN UP!"

AND THEN HE WALKED ON.

"TIGHTEN UP!"

...AND I DID.



...ISUZU...

DID THAT REALLY HAPPEN?



OF COURSE!

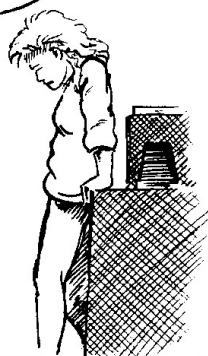
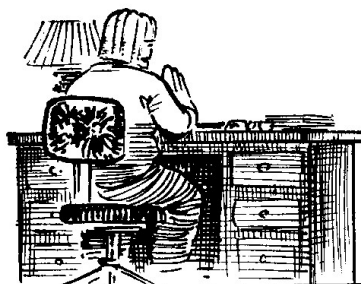
...AND EVEN IF IT DIDN'T IT'S A FINE ANECDOTE.

NOW, TELL ME WHAT'S ON YOUR MIND. YOU CAME IN HERE WITH SOMETHING TO SAY.



IT'S ... NOTHING.

IT'S ABOUT YOU AND PROMETHEUS, ISN'T IT?





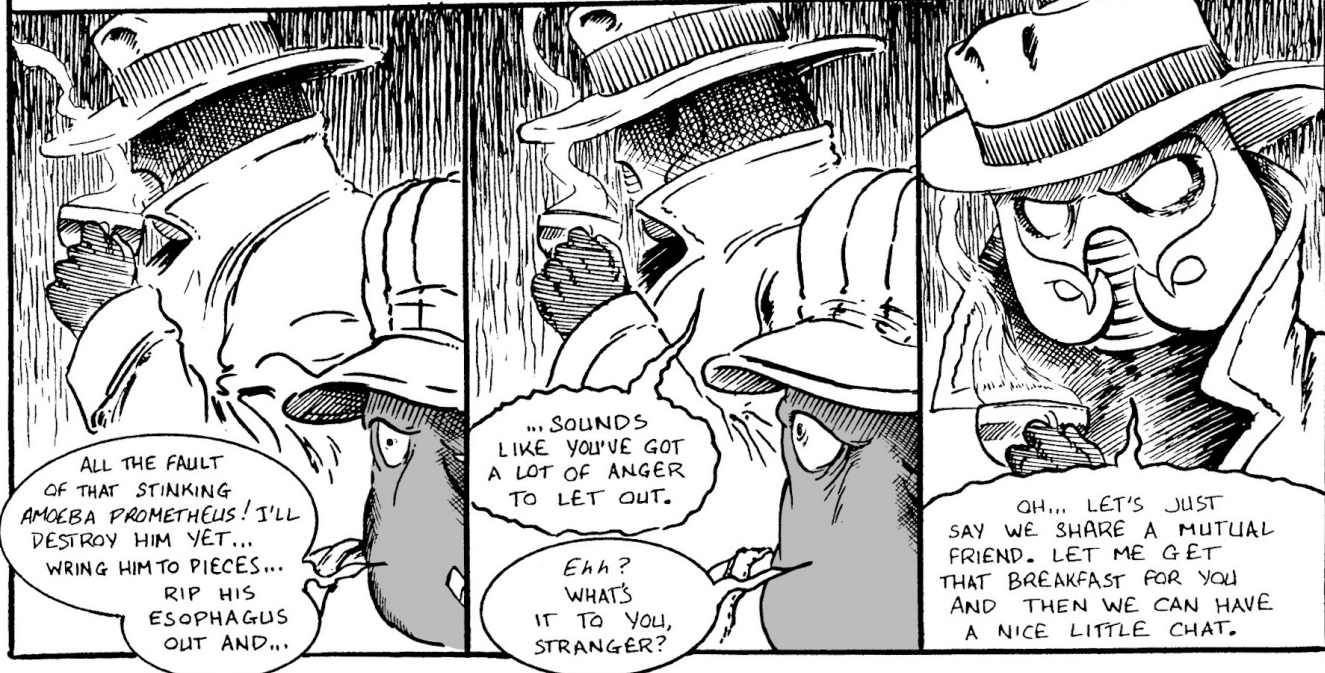
...YOU... YOU BRING THE HALVES TOGETHER IN HIM.

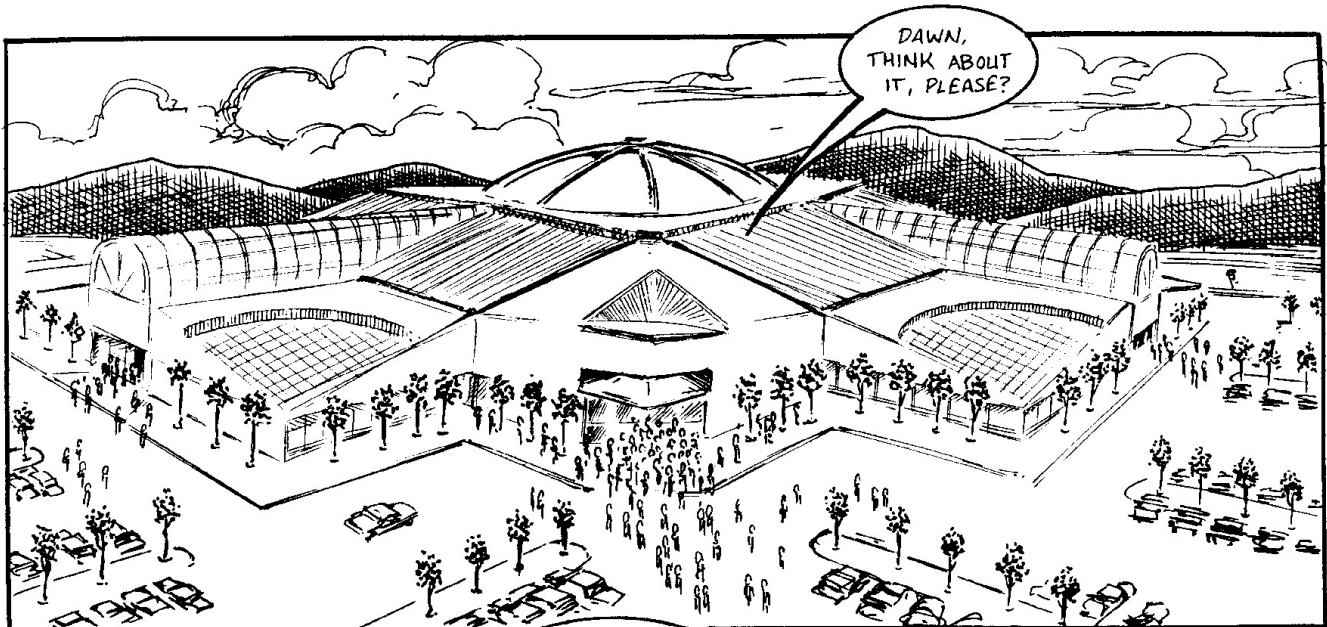
HE SEEMS HAPPY NOW, TRULY HAPPY FOR THE FIRST TIME IN A LONG WHILE.

HOW COULD I DISAPPROVE OF THAT?

I HAVE NEVER KNOWN SOMEONE SO WEAK THAT WAS ALSO SO VERY STRONG ...







LEVEL C
SUBSECTION 327



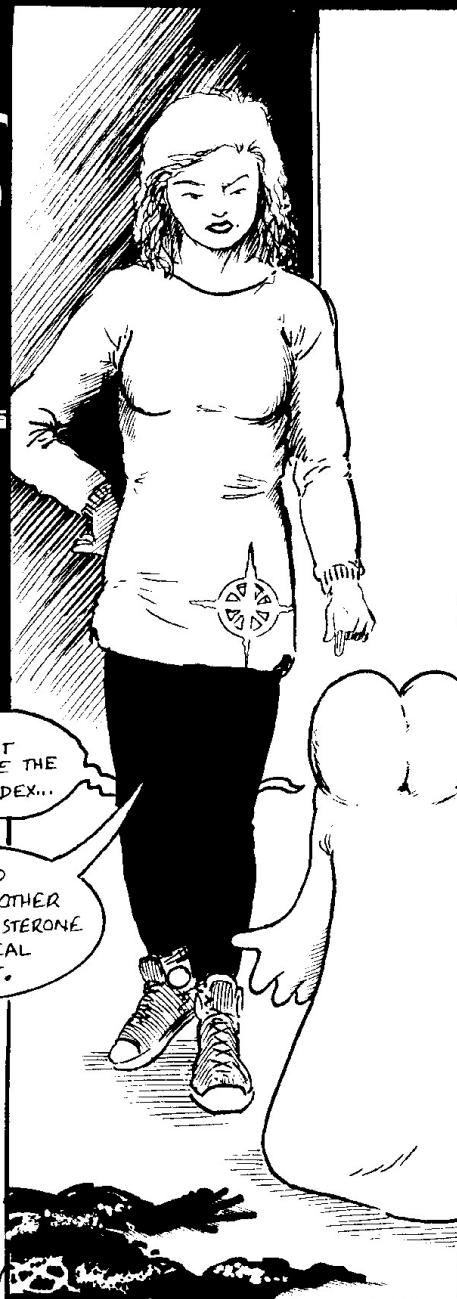
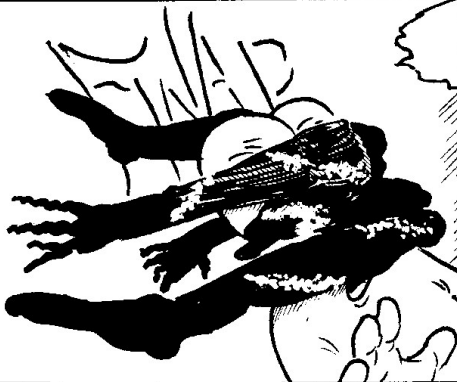
BUT DAWN,
IT'S YOUR
COSTUME!

IT'S... IT'S...
TRADITIONAL!

FORGET IT!
I'M TIRED OF
DRESSING UP LIKE
SOME BIMBO!

TRADITION
THIS!

I'M WEARING
THIS INSTEAD.
IT'S COMFORTABLE
AND PRACTICAL.



NOW JUST
BE YOURSELVES
OUT THERE — DO
SOME TRICKS,
FLYIN', WHATEVER
YA DO,
AND SMILE PRETTY
FOR THE CAMERAS!
YOU'LL BE FINE.

I CAN'T
BELIEVE WE'RE
DOING MALL
OPENINGS...

YOU AND
TEN MILLION OTHER
RAGING TESTOSTERONE
CASES. DEAL
WITH IT.

...BUT
I LIKE THE
SPANDEX...

"DOING"
MALL
OPENINGS?

ARE
MY EARS
PLUGGED?

PRO, THIS AIN'T NO MALL - IT'S A LUXURIOUS
MULTI-MEDIA ENTERTAINMENT COMPLEX
WITH OVER 300 STORES, 3 MOVIE
THEATERS, 50 RESTAURANTS, A
COMMUNITY COLLEGE,
A USED CAR LOT,
AND FOUR GYMS!

IT'S THE
WAVE OF THE
FUTURE,
BABIES!

STILL, MISTER
HOOCH, YOU HAVE
TO ADMIT IT'S A BIT...
WELL, BENEATH
US.

PHILLIPS
LOTT'O
CARS

BENEATH
YOU? LOOK WHO'S
ALL HOITY-TOITY, eh,
PRO? NAW, LOOK,
THE MAYOR HISSELF
IS OUT THERE,

AND THAT
SINGER, WHAT IS NAME,
AND A WHOLE BUNCHA
OTHER BIG BOYS.
IF THEY CAN DO IT,
YOU CAN TOO!

AND DON'T
FORGET THE HEALTHY
FEE YOU GUYS IS
GETTIN' FOR THIS!

...IT'S WHAT
KEEPS US
GOING.

...AND A USED
CAR LOT AND FOUR
GYMS! YES, SPONGOPOLIS
MEGA MALL IS THE
FUTURE OF INTERACTIVE
RETAILING AS WE ENTER
THE INFORMATION HIGHWAY!
IT'S A BOLD NEW COMPONENT
IN TODAY'S COMPETITIVE
RETAIL ENVIRONMENT!

...You know,
I'd much rather be
saving the world
right now.

"Pride goeth
before a fall,"
hon.

Oh good,
something else to
look forward
to.

...BUT WITHOUT FURTHER ADO, LET'S BRING OUT OUR FIRST SPECIAL GUESTS.

THEY'RE SPONGOPOLIS' HOTTEST CRIMEFIGHTERS, AND HOLY EXHIBITION, HAVE THEY GOT A SHOW FOR US!

LET'S WELCOME THE ALL-SPONGY SQUADRON'S PROMETHEUS AND DAWN STAR!

...AREN'T THEY AMAZING?

LOOK AT THAT SKILL LADIES AND GENTLEMEN!

SHE'S GRACEFUL, SHE'S BEAUTIFUL, AND IF SHE WEREN'T ON FIRE SHE'D BE EVERY MAN IN SPONGOPOLIS' DREAM GIRL!

PROMETHEUS ISN'T JUST A CHARMING PERSONALITY, INDEED, HE'S A FELLOW WITH MANY FACES!

HE'S SO CUTE!

I THINK HE'S GROSS.

LOOKIT THAT!

WOW! HURT?

WOW!

YIKES.

YOWZA!

WHOA!

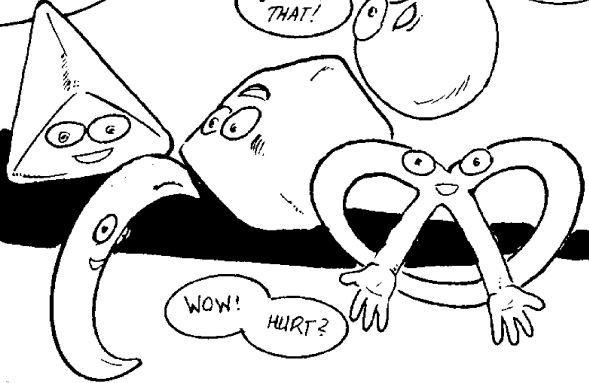
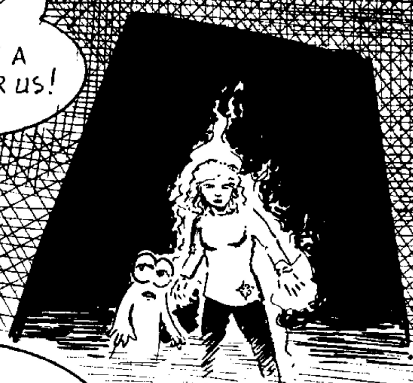
WHAT IS THAT?

IT'S A PHOENIX

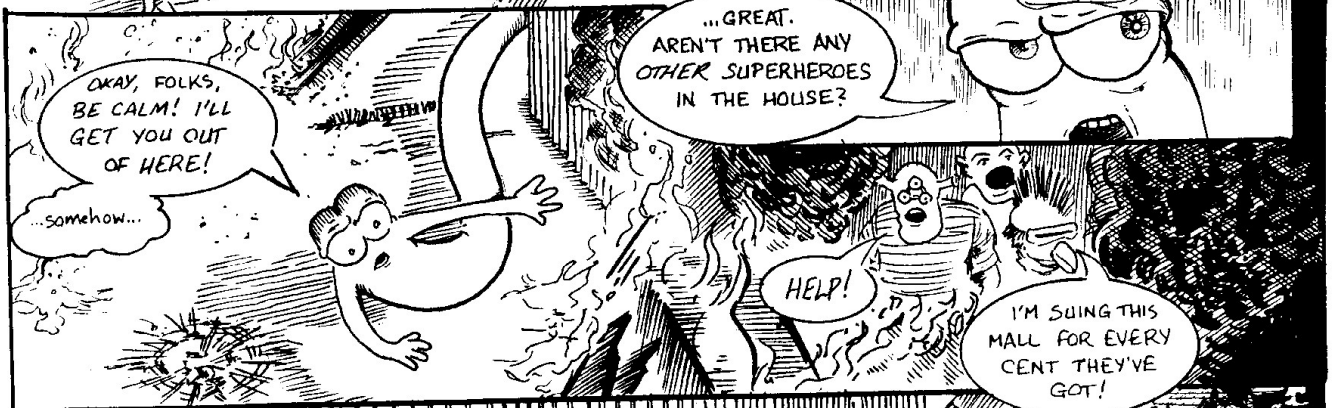
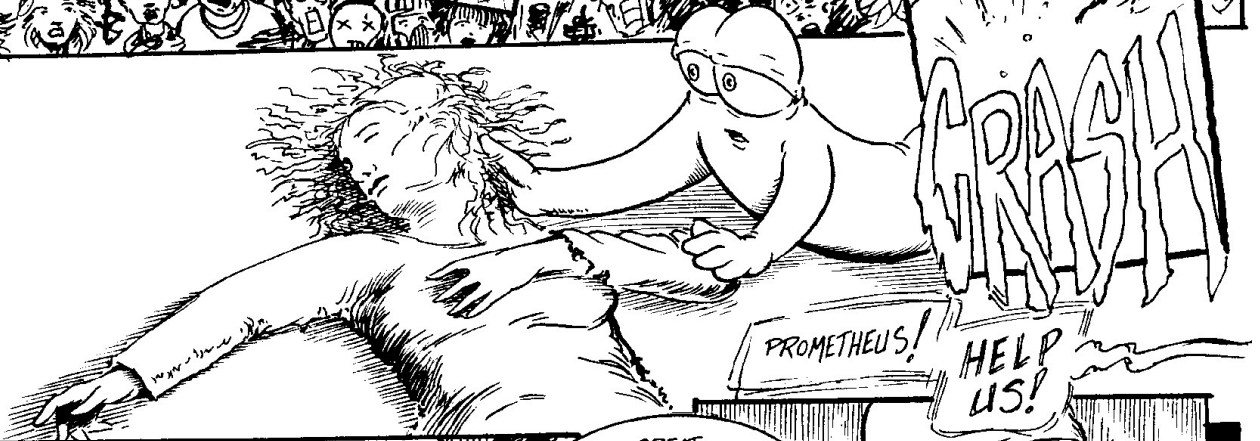
HEY, GORGEOUS! WHERE'S THE SPANDEX?

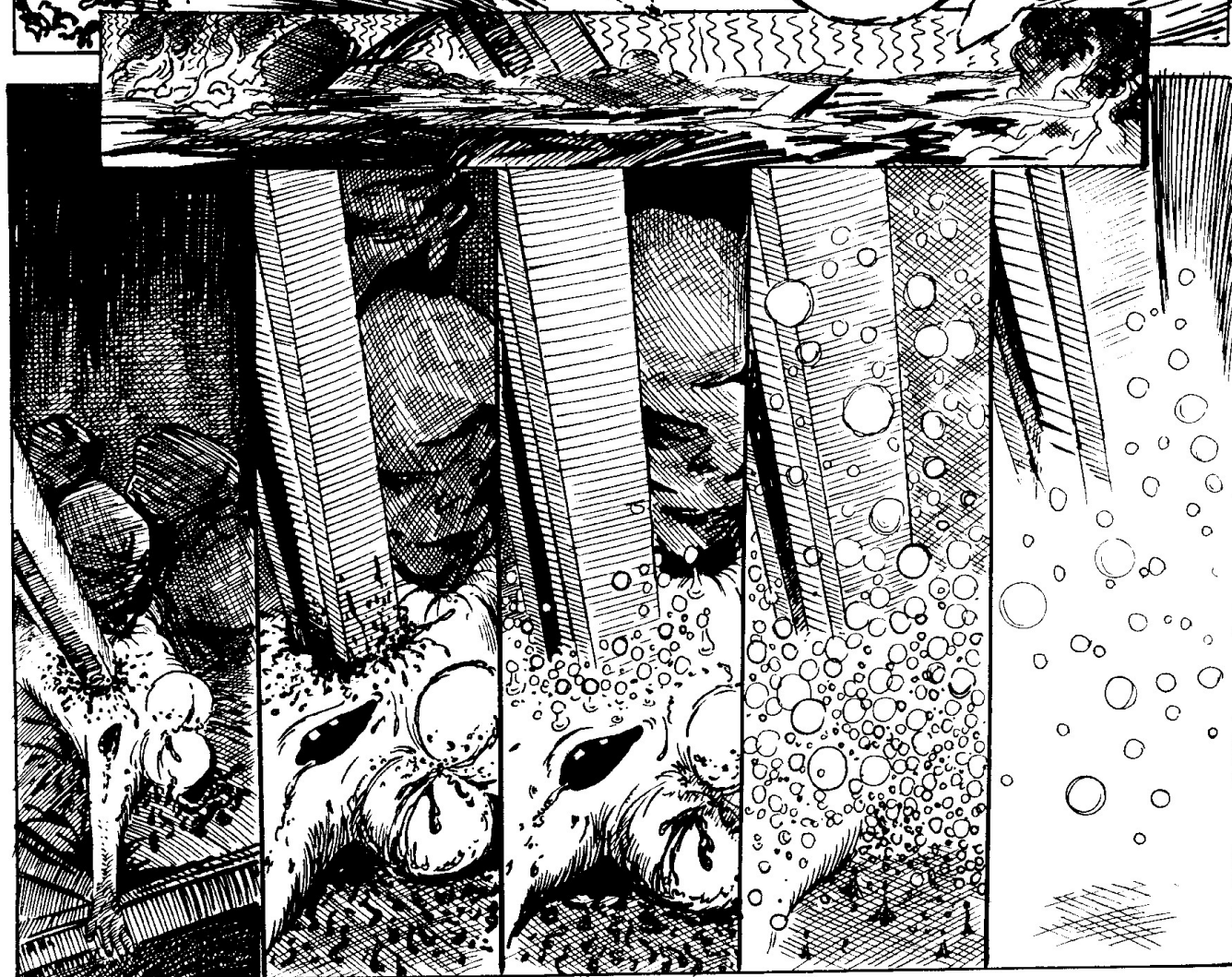
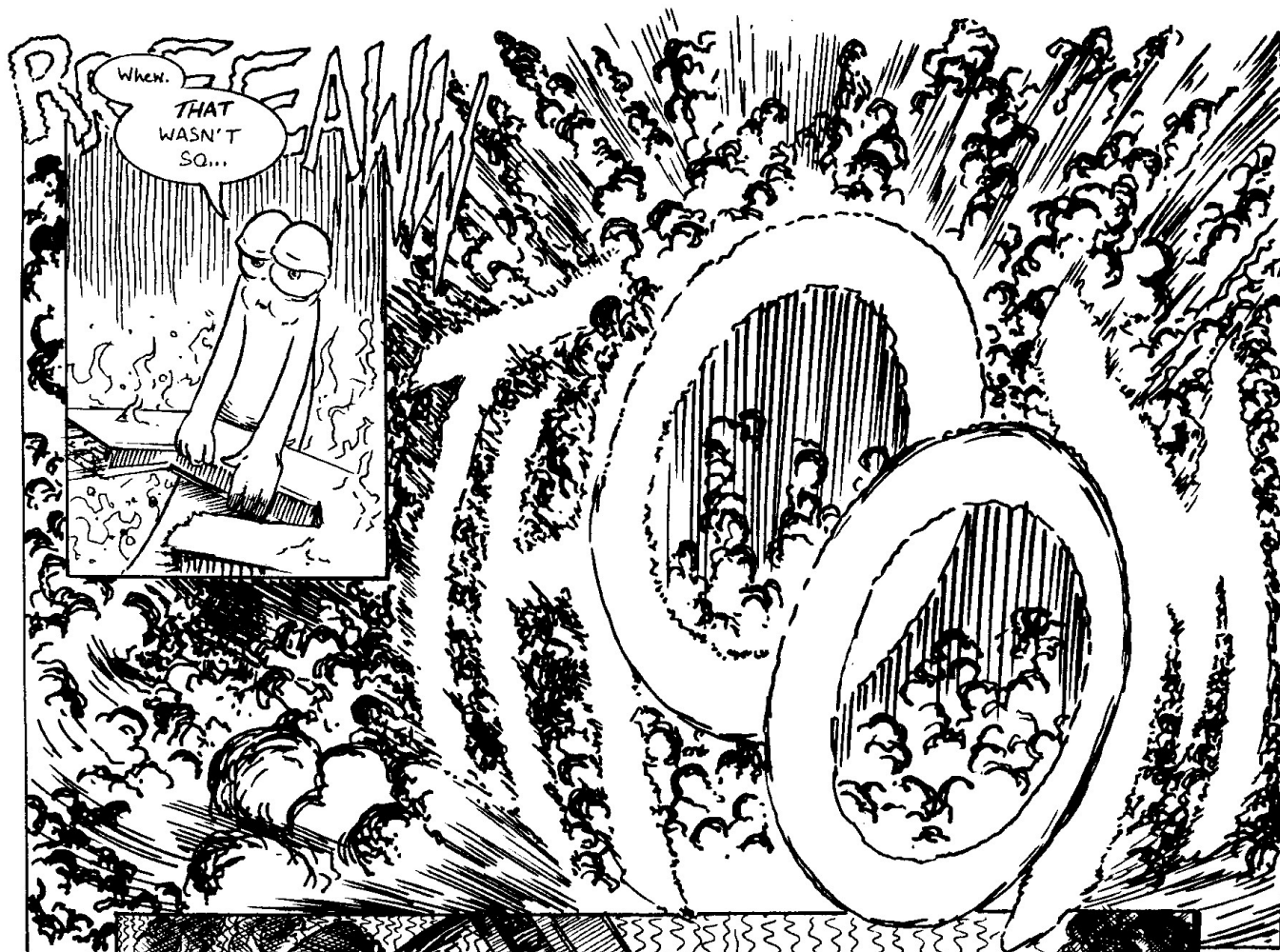
AAH!

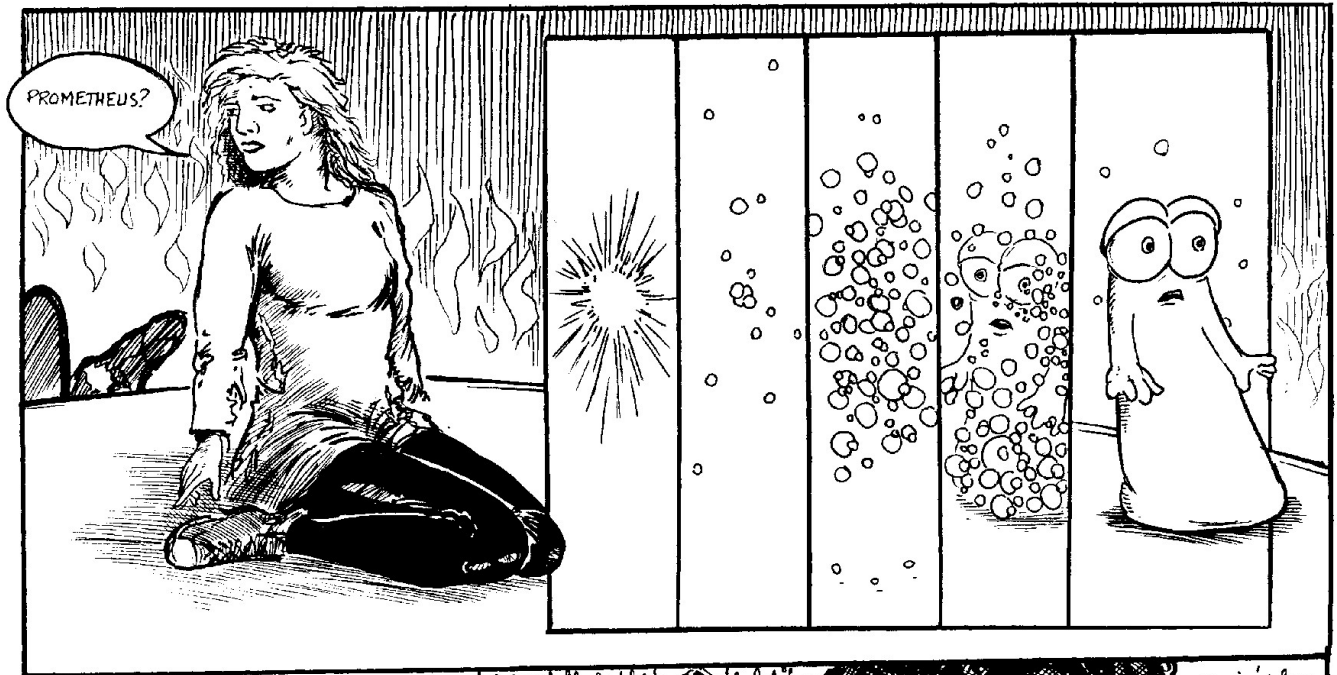
EE!









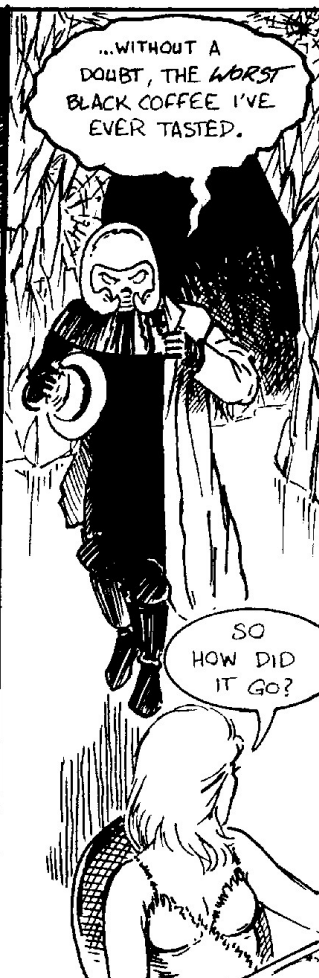




NORTH?

WHY NORTH?

YOU JUST DESTROYED A SHOPPING MALL YOU MORONS, WHY ARE YOU GOING NORTH?



...WITHOUT A DOUBT, THE WORST BLACK COFFEE I'VE EVER TASTED.

SO HOW DID IT GO?



SPLENDID, MINDMASTER, ...

MIGHT I ASK, WHAT ARE YOU WEARING?

IF YOU HAVE TO ASK, DARLIN', I'M DOING SOMETHING WRONG.



...I'M LONELY OUT HERE, DARKIE.

NONE OF THESE OTHER FREAKS YOU'VE HIRED HOLD ANY APPEAL TO ME.

BUT THERE'S SOMETHING ABOUT A MAN IN A MASK...



"DARLIN'..." PLEASE PUT SOME CLOTHES ON. WE MAY AMUSE OURSELVES... AFTER OUR GOALS ARE MET.

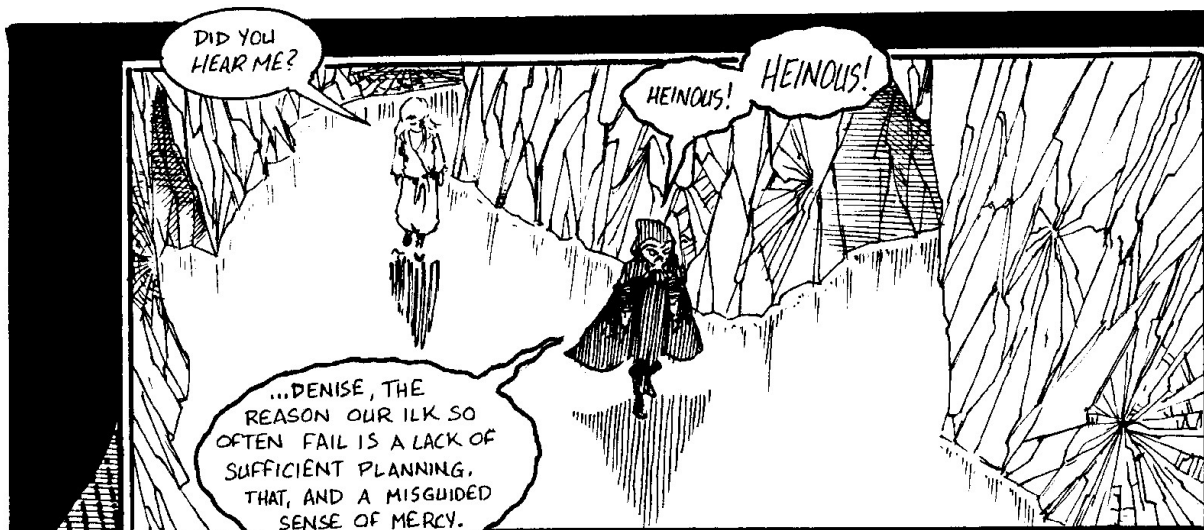
YOU ARE NOT WITHOUT YOUR CHARMS... BUT WE HAVE A JOB TO DO.



VENGEANCE, VENGEANCE, VENGEANCE.

YOU SURE HAVE A ONE-TRACK MIND, "DARK ONE."

WHEN ARE WE GONNA STOP PLOTTIN' AND START ACTIN'?



DID YOU
HEAR ME?

HEINOUS!

HEINOUS!

...DENISE, THE
REASON OUR ILK SO
OFTEN FAIL IS A LACK OF
SUFFICIENT PLANNING.
THAT, AND A MISGUIDED
SENSE OF MERCY.



YES,
SIR?

I UNDERSTAND
YOUR IMPATIENCE,
DENISE.

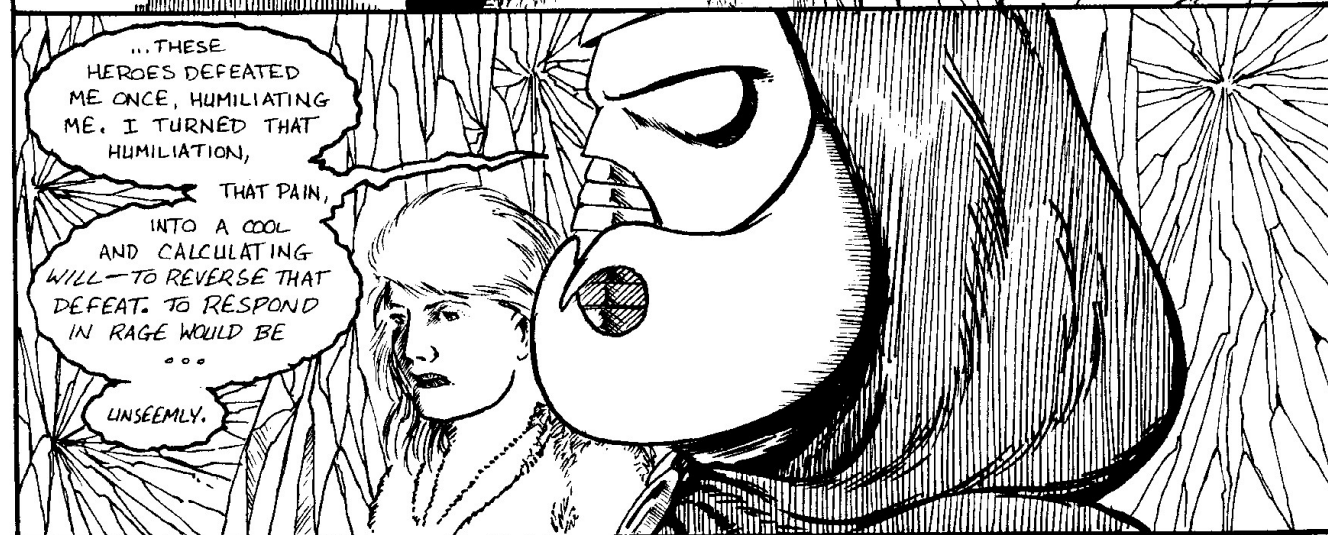
CONSIDER
OUR GOAL TO BE
ANALOGOUS TO A
GAME OF CHESS—
THE GOAL IS TO
PEN IN THE QUEEN,
SO SHE IS UNABLE
TO ACT.

IT MAY NOT BE
AS PRETTY, AS FLASHY
AS A FULL-OUT ASSAULT,
BUT IT CERTAINLY IS
MORE EFFECTIVE.

ASSEMBLE THE
REST OF OUR FRIENDS.
OUR FIRST STRIKE WILL
TAKE PLACE BEFORE
THE END OF THE
WEEK.

YES SIR!

I NEVER
DID LIKE
CHESS.



...THESE
HEROES DEFEATED
ME ONCE, HUMILIATING
ME. I TURNED THAT
HUMILIATION,

THAT PAIN,
INTO A COOL
AND CALCULATING
WILL—TO REVERSE THAT
DEFEAT. TO RESPOND
IN RAGE WOULD BE

UNSEEMLY.



PROMETHEUS
AND HIS FRIENDS
WILL FIND THEY HAVE
NOWHERE TO HIDE
...
NOWHERE
AT ALL.



HEE! HEE! HEE!
LOOK AT
THIS! WE'RE POP
CULTURE ICONS!



GREAT, WE'RE
THE NEXT
BEAVIS AND
BUTT-HEAD.



I STILL THINK
YOU HAD
THEM MAKE
MY FIGURE
TOO SHORT.



JUST THINK,
GUYS! WITHIN DAYS
WE'LL BE IN THE BED-
ROOMS OF HALF THE
KIDS IN AMERICA!

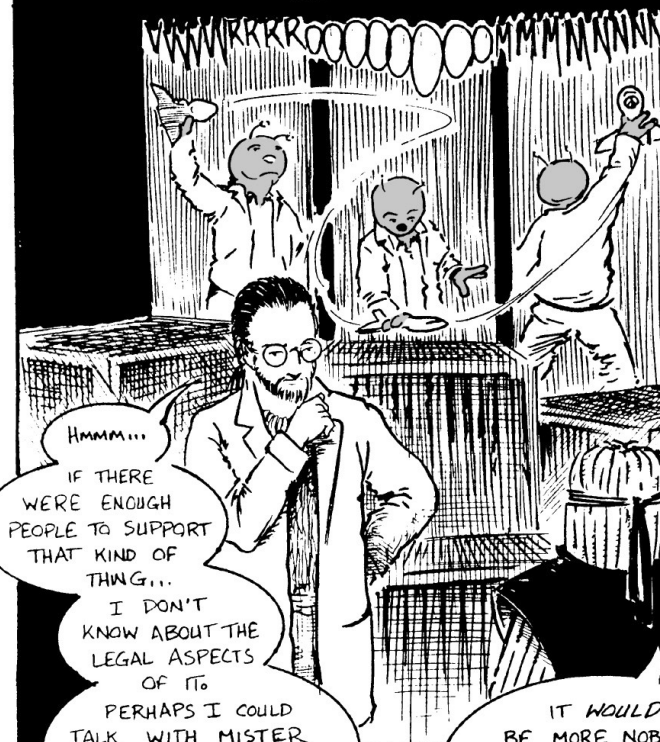


WHY ARE THERE
FIVE DIFFERENT
TYPES OF NINJA
ANT ACTION
FIGURES?

"SPACE
NINJA ANT?"

"BUCCANEER
NINJA ANT?"

YOU KNOW, I'VE BEEN TRYING TO THINK OF OTHER WAYS TO KEEP US FINANCIALLY SOLVENT. I'M NO LAWYER, SPIF, BUT WHAT DO YOU THINK OF THE IDEA OF MAKING US A NON-PROFIT CORPORATION DEPENDENT ON DONATIONS?

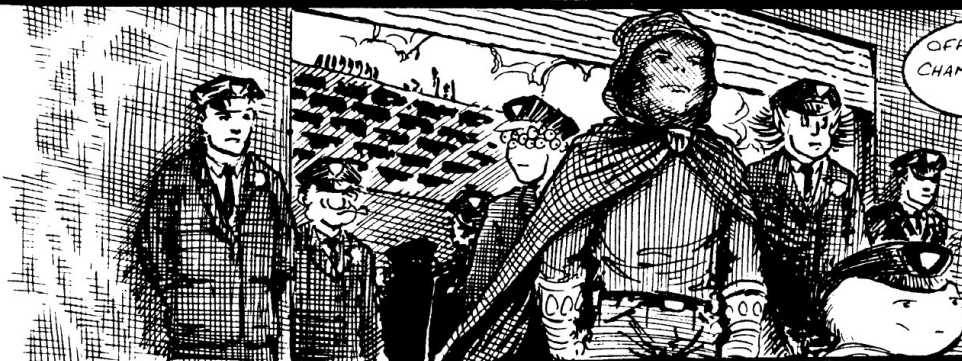


HHMM...
IF THERE WERE ENOUGH PEOPLE TO SUPPORT THAT KIND OF THING...

I DON'T KNOW ABOUT THE LEGAL ASPECTS OF IT.

PERHAPS I COULD TALK WITH MISTER FOOSTER, OUR LAWYER AND SEE WHAT CAN BE DONE.

IT WOULD BE MORE NOBLE THAN JUST HAWKING ACTION FIGURES TO MAKE MONEY...



OFFICER CHAMBERLAIN? * WHAT CAN WE DO FOR YOU?



KID, I HATE TO DO THIS, BUT I GOTTA ASK YOU GUYS TO FREEZE.



WHAT? WHAT'D WE DO?

*LAST SEEN IN SPIF#1 - NUK





THE PERIOD! THE MUSHROOM! THE DARK ONE!
And The SHOCK ENDING Of The Year! All In...PRISONS Coming In 60 Days!

**THEIR GREATEST CHALLENGE.
THEIR FINEST HOUR.
THEIR END.**



THE DARK AGES

Everything ends.

Beginning in *Amoeba Adventures* #20.
Written by Nik Dirga and drawn by Max Ink.

the slimeball speaks...



...THIS ISSUE starts an exciting different direction I'll be taking *Amoeba Adventures* in for the next year or two. From #11-17, I did self-contained, character-driven stories with the aim of exploring everyone's psyche a little bit. From the sound of it, I did OK at it — the last seven issues have been the most highly acclaimed so far. Of course, I'm sure a great deal of this is due to the outstanding art of Max Ink, who drew 5 of the last 7 issues.

Anyway, this issue is the preamble for the voluminous eight-part tale "The Dark Ages," that begins with #20. I hope that "The Dark Ages" manages to keep all of you out there interested — it's the story I've been waiting five years to tell!

As for this issue... special thanks go out to Troy Hickman, who "developed" the character of The Period in our one-shot *Spif* #1, from a brief description by me. He wouldn't be the same loveable homicidal maniac without Troy's input. And of course, this issue also sees the return of the Asbestos Mushroom, one of my favorite

characters to mess with.

I also want to give a hearty thanks to all of you who've been writing in lately — for the first time, I've been getting too many letters to fit in the issue! Keep it up, folks. Big press may be nice, but the best fans are definitely the ones in small press.

Kudos and thanks department: I plugged the wonderful book *The Rise of Theodore Roosevelt* by Edmund Morris this issue; and even talked Max into puttin' ol' Teddy himself on the cover! The book is well worth seeking out — came out in 1978 or so, I think, and an exciting portrait of a compelling man. Thanks also to The Laughing Ogre crew, Bob Elinskas, and our featured pin-up artists for their various acts of kindness bestowed on Max and I during production of this issue. See you in 90 for "Prisons!"

AMOEBAMAIL

Send those witty letters of comment to P.O. Box 2230, University MS 38677-2330.

Jerzy Drozd
Mt. Pleasant, Michigan

Thanks for the copies of *Amoeba Adventures*. I think what you guys are doing is great. It reminds me of *Justice League* when Keith Giffen and J.M. DeMatteis were writing it. Not that your book is a carbon copied *Justice League*, oh no. It just has the same levels of drama, humor, and adventure of the human condition that is (and has been) lacking in this industry.

As for AA #16 & 17, what can I say? They were beautiful. Most comics that approach the attitude that your comics have come off with (seemingly) contrived ideas and arbitrary dialogue. Your stories flow very naturally, and your characterization is anything but arbitrary. Usually, you'll find comic team books have the obligatory strong guy, the fast guy, the smart guy, etc. Your book doesn't do that at all. In fact, it's more along the lines that these are people who happen to be super-heroes.

I really like the superficial antics of Ninja Ant. He seems like the funny older brother that you can never quite talk to on a personal level (you know, you'd be weird and all that). Karate Kactus, as stuffy and fatherly as he is, is a very endearing character. While Rambunny can seem like a scumbag at times, he's got that "big Palooka dope" thing about him that makes you like him. As for Pro, the seemingly main character of the series, he appears to me to be the most identifiable character of the team, full of anxiety and self-involvement.

All in all, a very interesting group of people, and a well crafted story so far. I was miserable when Giffen left DC to do his *Trencher* stuff, but now I see there's no reason for it, now that *Amoeba Adventures* is here to put the meaning back into comic stories. Whenever I hear people say how superhero books are dead, I always mention AA to them, to set the record straight (well, I always mention my book, too. And *F-Man*...

jeez, I guess you're not so special).

(Folks, if you like *Amoeba Adventures*, check out Jerzy's book *The Front*, another nifty pseudo-superhero experience — a couple of bucks from him at P.O. Box 221, Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858)

David Shipley
Toledo, Ohio

Hiya bud! Thanks for sending my dad and I *Amoeba Adventures* #17! But unfortunately my dad doesn't like to share so he ripped the comic in half! I have the top half so I don't know how it ends! Here's two dollars for another copy of #17!

(Sheesh, you think you *know* someone... Steve Shipley, chairman of Pizazz Comics, renowned small press legend... and comic vandal. What kinda father *are* you, Shipley?)

John Hurley
Grass Valley, California

I have to start off by saying that I was blown away by #17. The artwork was fabulous; it seems that Max put more time and effort into each panel, and the attention to detail immeasurably enriched the drawing. This issue was more visually impressive than any of the others you've put out.

My one complaint in this department has to do with the layout. The arrangement of the panels was occasionally awkward, and disrupted the flow of the book. It took me a minute to figure out what was happening on the page with Karate Kactus, Ninja Ant and Rambunny helping out the old lady during their slow night on the town, and I had to read from right to left on a couple other pages.

In the story department, I finally got what I've been waiting for! I always wanted Ninja Ant to be more than just comic relief, and this issue did it. I actually cringed when he got dumped, which means that he became more real in that moment. Ninja Ant always seemed such a flat character.

Some of the others haven't been totally fleshed out either, but I often found him annoying. This issue made Ninja Ant sympathetic, and that can't help but carry over to the future.

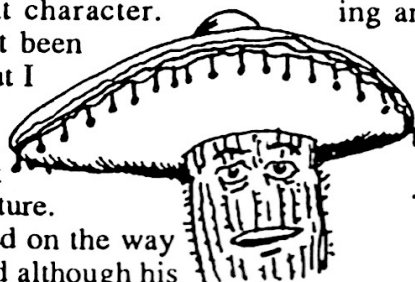
I haven't even commented on the way you handled Rambunny, and although his

return was well done, I consider this to be Ninja Ant's issue. Thanks for the good read.

Will Pfeifer
Rockford, Illinois

...I think, of all the comics I read, small-press or pro, *Amoeba Adventures* does the best job of making me suspend disbelief and lose myself in the story for a half-hour or so. I read almost no superhero comics these days, thinking I've either seen it all after 20-plus years of reading 'em or that most of the hyper-violent, ultra collectible books hold absolutely no interest for me. But *Amoeba Adventures* is different. Your stories and characters really are something original despite some obvious (and appropriate) superhero influences, like Byrne's excellent run on the *Fantastic Four*. When I first saw *Amoeba Adventures* (issue 11), I was briefly put off by the mix of humans (Spif), anthropomorphic animals (Rambunny, Ninja Ant) and the rest (Karate Kactus, Pro). But I quickly got to know them as characters, and now I just take it all for granted. At first, I would've reacted to Pro and Dawn hooking up with a "what the hell is he doing?" but now it seems fairly natural and intriguing. (It could make quite an Eros book too, Nik Troy's right.)

And how about that art? Max just gets better and better every issue. His layouts are always fresh, he knows when to use background detail (page 4, panel 3) and when not to (page 3, last panel). His strength with facial impressions (like in the "Ninja Ant gets dumped" scene... man, who among us hasn't been there?) makes the adventures of an amoeba, a cactus, and ant and a giant rabbit believable. As the popular wisdom goes, anyone can draw a fight scene (well, okay, except for Rob Liefeld) but it takes real talent to draw the quiet moments. Max is clearly a real talent. I'd argue that most of the best small press comics (and alternative comics, for that matter) are the result of a writer/artist's single vision, but you and Max are definitely the exception. Your writing and his art perfectly complement each other.



OLE!

(Will also did the kooky little illo to the left... Isuzu with his Christmas sombrero!)

Larry Johnson
Jamaica Plain, Massachusetts

Amoeba Adventures #17 was a real quality effort in line with previous issues. With Max Ink's consistent style the series seems to have a well-lived in look, and I mean in a beneficial way. Rambunny's return visit harkened back to an older style adventure, and the scene at Seamus O'McMalley's bar with the Gorilla Gang was a hoot! It was a fun mix of distinct personalities.

But right after this comedy we are hit with a serious exchange between Ninja Ant and his one-time girlfriend Kyoko. This was a realistically handled scene: his slow realization of his current status and introduction to her new beau, his drunken sweeping motion knocking the couple's photo to the floor as he storms out, the sudden remorse he feels. But then I couldn't help but give a knowing chuckle to his pining later about a car sparkling in the gutter reminding him of Kyoko's eyes (inane as it appears, this is also true to life).

It seems Rambunny belongs somewhere else now and this visit served as a nostalgic meeting to gain perspective on the past and present. Funny, with Prometheus's illness (the cold), I just had a suspicion that it might be something more serious, and perhaps... mysterious. I detect something brewing inside of him ready to burst forth someday. But this is just a suspicion.

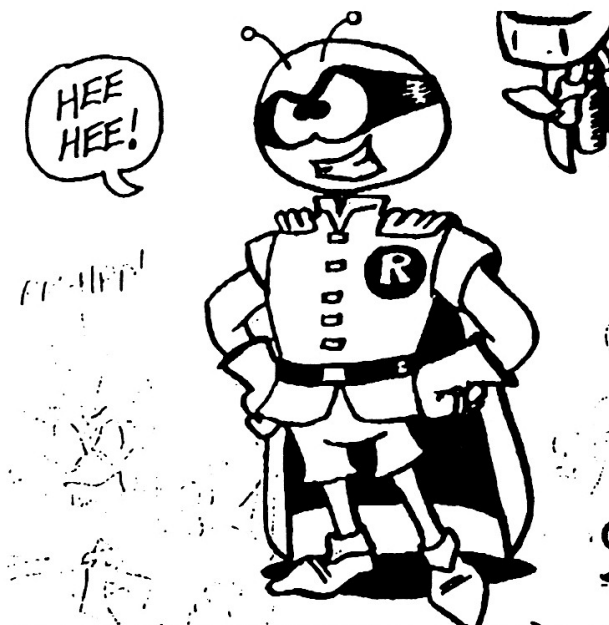
Max Ink's art is in top form and his layouts continue to impress me. I've been influenced in my own work by his pushing out of conventional panel design. Keep up the good work! And I was sad to hear of the passing of Eric Hampton, and such a tragic end too. There's too much hate in this world.

(Amen to that, Larry.)

Jason Marcy
Hamilton, Ontario

Geez, about *Amoeba Adventures* #17: well, you make me wanna cry. Yet another masterpiece from two skilled creators. How do you keep knocking these babies out? Unlike Mike Neno, I enjoy the emotional stuff. It's what makes your book stand out from other superhero fare. *Spawn* this ain't, and thank God for that!

Ninja Ant's romance falling apart: you know, Nik, there's no other book I can think



Cool Raoul the Boy Cockroach sketch by Denny Stephens... practice for a collaboration we might do one of these days.

of that shows, in my mind, the real consequences of superhero life. The collapse of this pair's relationship played out like I was in the room, it was so vividly real. Great stuff.

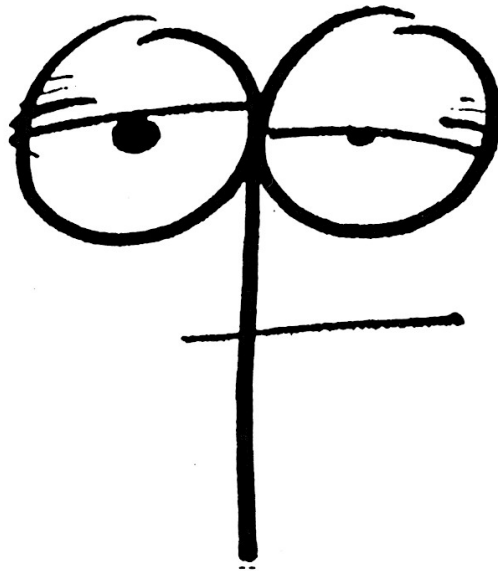
Best of all was Rambunny being in the book! Damn, I miss that big lug. He better be back soon, or I'll sic the Wus on ya!

(You know, a lot of folks mentioned the Ninja Ant/Kyoko scene as their favorite last ish. Oddly enough, it was my *least* favorite! Goes to show you what I know! Oh yeah, Jay: we ain't seen the last of Rambunny yet! How's #20 for you? Jason Marcy, of course, puts out one of the best autobiographical comics out there, *Tales of the Petro-Canada™ Man...* and if you *aren't* reading it, then hop to it! 50¢ each from Jay at 34 Victoria Avenue N. #2, Hamilton, Ontario, L8L 5E1, Canada.)

That's it for this issue, friends... please write in with your comments on this issue! And keep an eye out for...

NEXT: It's the issue we've been leading up to for (gulp!) *five years* — and it'll change the lives of everyone in this comic for good! Be here for "Prisons," the prelude to "The Dark Ages," in 60 days!

AMOEBA ART



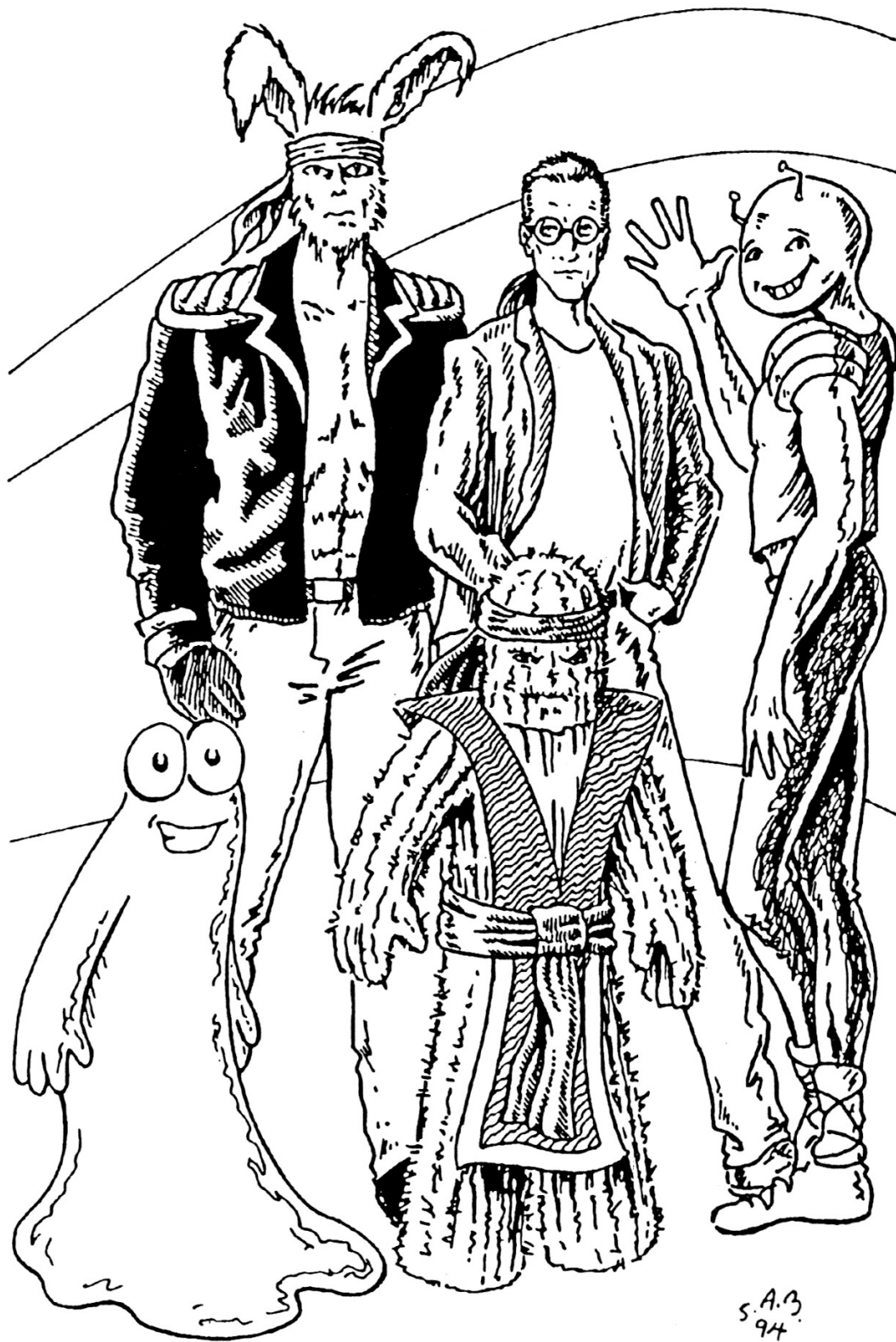
© Matt 74

Matt Feazell, of course, is the godfather of small press as we know it. Buy everything he's ever done from Not Available Comics, 3867 Bristow, Detroit, MI 48212.



Dennis Stephens is freakish yet talented creator of the way-cool *F-Man*, which you can steal for a mere buck or two from him at P.O. Box 716, Ortonville, MI 48462.

AMOEBA ART



Quirky king Scott McClung is the creator of *Burp Boy*, which can be pilfered for a buck or two from him at 537 S. University #6, Norman, OK 73069.

The UFO Checklist

These are the latest releases from the UFO (United Fanzine Organization) co-op, currently available during the Fall of 1994. For information on joining the UFO, contact chairman Jim Pack/ 7534 Kingsgate Way/ W. Chester, OH 45069



TALES OF FANTASY #13
(\$2.50 from Larry Johnson/ 9
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MA 02130-4907)

Larry Johnson busts on the scene again with his beautiful series of magic and the occult. Full color covers adorn this issue! Madame Boogala finds herself in a bit of a problem when she responds to the trouble her son finds himself in. A crack house hides intrigue and action as magic and demons collide in a story with implications way beyond the visual. This is one of the best books published by Larry Johnson and you will miss an opportunity of a lifetime if you miss this one!



AMOEBA ADVENTURES #17
(\$2.00 from Nik Dirga/ P.O.
Box 2230/ University, MS
38677)

Ram Bunny returns to the All Spongy Squadron in this long awaited issue. Holiday cheer can't keep this illustrious crew away from the bad guys. From a barroom brawl to a midnight bawl, the All Spongy Squadron meets life head-on in a story that only Max Ink could draw and Nik Dirga write. If you haven't tried this series, this would be a wonderful time to try it out.



Futuro Tierra #13
(\$1.50+29¢ postage from Tony
Lorenz/ 8708 Friendship Ct./
Tampa, FL 33634)

Larry Blake takes up the art chores in this latest installment of the longest running series in the United Fanzine Organization while Tony continues his writing duties. Cassandra and Steve

follow after the rest of the group as they are taken to New City for incarceration. This story is heating up as the final issue comes next issue. Don't be left out! Purchase this issue now!



**TETRAGRAMMATON
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(\$2.00 from Jim Pack/ 7534
Kingsgate Way/ West Chester, OH
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STILL AVAILABLE!

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(\$1.00 from J. Kevin Carrier/ 8913
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University, MS 38677)

CREATURE OF THE NIGHT #2
(\$1.50 from Michael Hegg/ 37050
Meadowbrook Com. #303/ Fremont,
CA 94536)

TOPICAL STUDIES #11
(\$2.00 from Rick Howe/ 1302 22nd
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SPECIAL 2020 BONUS SECTION



I was a member of the very fun Small Press Syndicate for several years. Max and I jammed on this cover for Rap Sheet #53 during my visit to Mid-Ohio Con in late 1994.

AMOEBA ADVENTURES

**SMALL PRESS REPORT EDITORIAL CHOICE
AWARDS: BEST WRITER**

EVENING, AEL!

WELL... THE CORY SHOW IS ON AT 7, BUT...

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

I FORGOT THE ALIBI FOR THE HIGH ROOM AND YOU COULD MURDER IT!

From #1



AMOEBAS ADVENTURES #4 - Boy cockroaches? Bank-robbing apes? Chats with coffee-drinking priests and Velcroman? Just another day for the gang. Raoul joins the team and the guys recover from "The



SPIF #1 - The token human of the team steps out into his own solo book, plotted by Nik Dirga, written by Troy Hickman and drawn by Max Ink. Learn the secret origin of the man who's been both doctor and fugitive, hero and hunted. Introducing the maniac vigilante. The blood and the howling menace of Stiles, and guest-starring Karate Kactus. Digest, \$2.00

ONE-CELLED TALES #1 - For all Amoeba completists, a sketchbook featuring some of the very first protoplasmic art by Nik Dirga, including such never-before-seen goodies as "A Protoplasm on Elm Street," "Prometheus Vs. Snoopy," and the very first

DR. PHLEGM #1 - The first full-length collaboration of Nik and Max Ink introduces the most mucus-laden villain of all! Raoul and Prometheus do deadly battle in a supermarket with Dr. Phlegm in this highly goofy, highly funny comic. 12 page digest. 50¢

JIP

other stuff

IMITATION CRAB MEAT #1 - Featuring "Roasting Chestnuts," a short tale of Christmas, being 15, and what to do when you're in love with your best friend.

CHIAROSCURO #1 - Collecting a plethora of Nik's *new* strip from the pages of *Oxford Town*. Weird is the key word here - surreal, bizarre and funny strips on everything from James Buchanan to the Beatles to Bob the Rabbit. Plus, the infamous "shivering walnuts." Available in April, \$1.00

PROTOPLASM PRESS C/O NIK DIRGA
P.O. BOX 2230, UNIVERSITY, MS 38677-2230

note from the
publisher

It's the kind of comic I'd want to read myself. For five years now, *Amoeba Adventures* has been gaining both fans and praise. Now with the expressive, detailed art of Max Ink every issue, it's an experience not to be missed. I hope you read this catalog and find your interest piqued, and decide to join Max and I on our Amoeba Adventures. We'd love to have you along for the ride.

- NKIRGA



From #8

AMOeba ADVENTURES #10 - The huge conclusion to "Details of Design." Reunited, the entire All-Spongy Squadron along with a few friends, takes the fight

ing Prometheus, Dawn and Karate Kactus deeper and deeper into her life. Is this the one time the guys find out there are some villains you can't fight? 48 page digest - \$2.50

AMOEBA ADVENTURES #15 - Drawn by Nik, Joe Meyer, and Max Ink, this issue introduces the team's latest foe, the bewitching Mindmaster, who drives Prometheus to



From the



Hurry, Quiver,
Hoover and
Max Ink. Digest,
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