

Protoplasm Press

7

APR

\$1.00

# AMOEBA

ADVENTURES™

**DETAILS OF  
DESIGN  
PART TWO**

OK, OK, THEN...  
WE'LL CALL  
IT A DRAW...



# ***The Slimeball Speaks:***

I want to thank you, the reader, for helping me make **Amoeba Adventures** into the modest success it is today. I hadn't really seen this title lasting, but it sure looks like it will for a few more years at least, so I'm going to start doing something I didn't think I'd ever do.

Subscriptions, starting with next issue. Here's the pitch. For \$5.00, you'll ensure yourself of receiving the next four Protoplasm Press publications. That **includes** specials and one-shots like **One-Celled Tales** or the coming **Spif** solo adventure, so you won't miss anything. I pay postage, you get the comics hot off the press, and we're all living full and enriched lives. What a deal!

\*\*\*

Some Nikommendations to get off my chest, great small press books worth checking out, stuff like Nat Gertler's slice-of-life **Live and Loves Of The Average Panther**. This is one of the best s-o-l books out there, and it's a mere 50¢ from Nat at I-8 Village Green, Hi-Nella, NJ 08083.

Anyone who's ever gone to college will appreciate **All-Steve Comics #5**, with its sordid tales of college admission processes. For a mere 25¢ and a stamp from Steve Leach at 639 Colonial Ave, York, PA 17403, how can you go wrong? It even has free stickers! Yop! Finally, there's the new offering from Terence Anthony's Madheart Press, what I consider one of the best s-p books I've ever seen, **Shadowtown #1**. This takes place in a not-so-hard-to-imagine future when black Americans are segregated into their own separate nation, New Africa. Great story, great characters, great art! Don't let the \$2.75 price tag throw you, it's **huge** and well worth it. Madheart Press is PO Box 7185, Santa Cruz, CA 95061. Try to snag all these great books, you'll thank me later!

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A final word about **Prometheus: The Silent Storm**, the all-star AIDS-awareness jam adventure of the Squadron coming in June: **don't** miss it!



AMOEBADVENTURES #7, April, 1992. Published bi-monthly. All contents are C 1992 Nik Dirga. All rights reserved. Protoplasm Press, PO Box 2230, University MS. 38677. This one's for the SS crew, homeboys!



THE STORY SO FAR?  
OK, YOU ASKED FOR IT.  
TO YOUR RIGHT }  
IS THE HOMICIDAL  
DEMI-GOD MASTER  
MACABRE. HE'S  
THE ONE RESPONSIBLE  
FOR OUR HEROES'  
PREDICAMENT.

OUR HEROES, OF  
COURSE, BEING  
THE ONES IN A  
RATHER NASTY  
FIX.

MR. SPIF,  
RAMBUNNY,  
AND NOT  
FORGETTING  
RAOUL THE  
BOY COCKROACH!

THEY'D BEEN  
SEARCHING FOR  
THEIR KIDNAPPED  
COMRADE PROMETHEUS.

THE TRAIL  
LED TO  
MACABRE'S  
TWISTED  
DIMENSION,  
ONE WHERE  
HE IS LORD.

UNFORTUNATELY, THE  
SOMEWHAT HOTHEADED  
RAMBUNNY TICKED  
OFF MAC A BIT, SO  
WITH A WAVE OF HIS  
HAND HE TELEPORTED  
THEM AWAY, SCATTERING  
THE GUYS THROUGHOUT  
HIS DIMENSION.

MASTER MACABRE'S  
THREE HUNSMEN  
ARE WAITING FOR THEM.

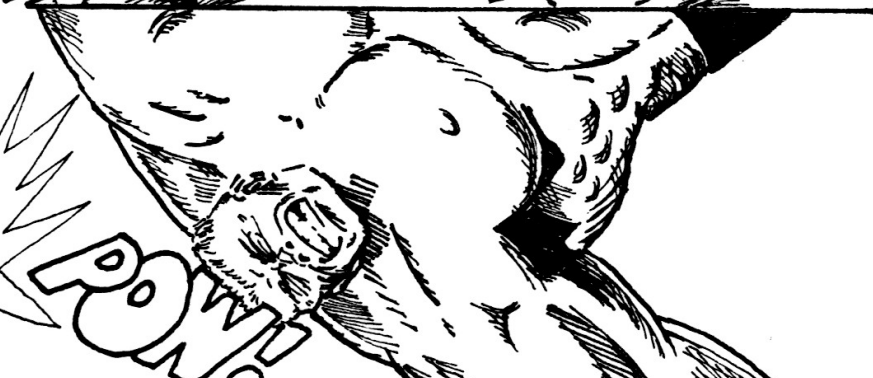
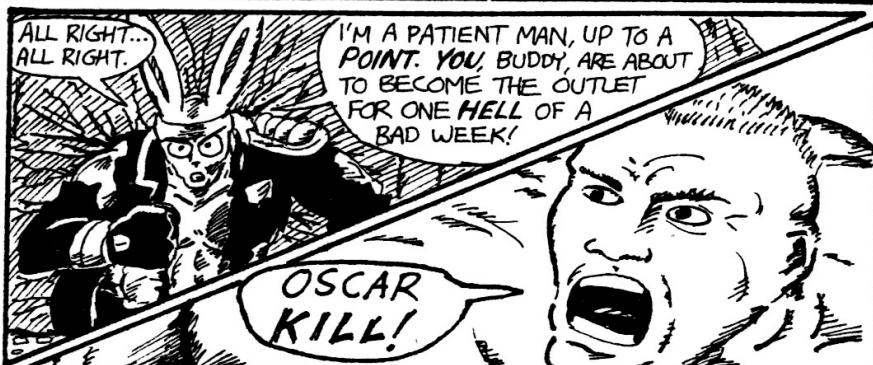
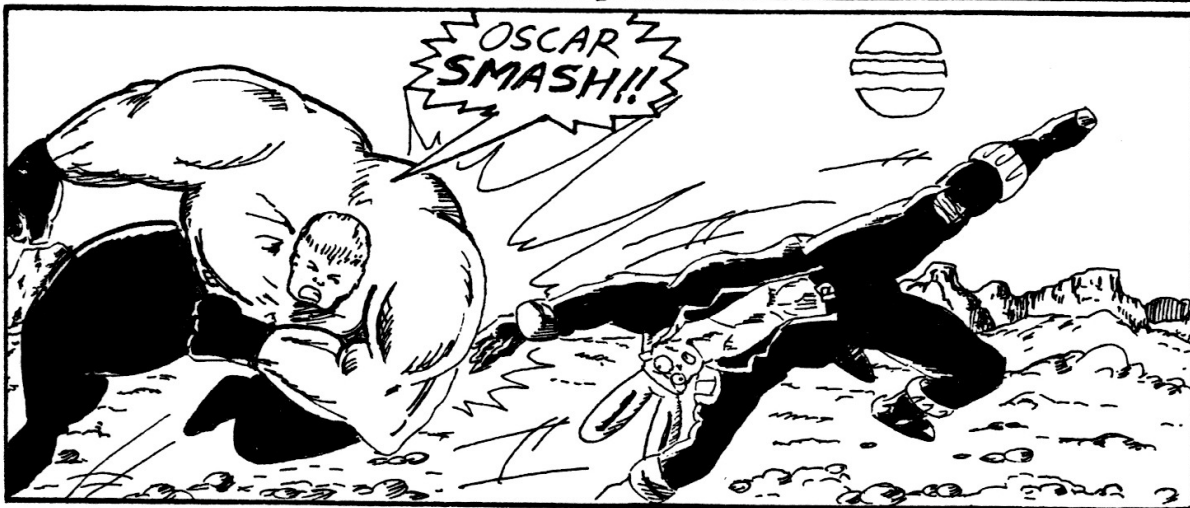
WRITTEN, DRAWN AND LETTERED BY  
"MR. PROTOPLASM"

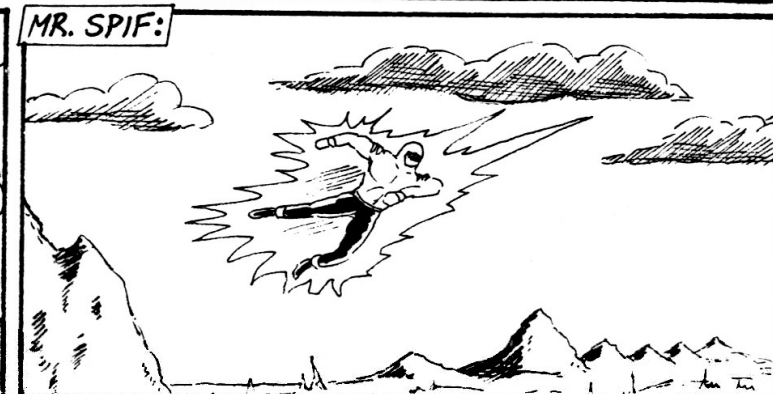
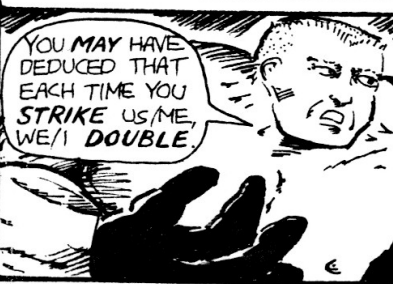
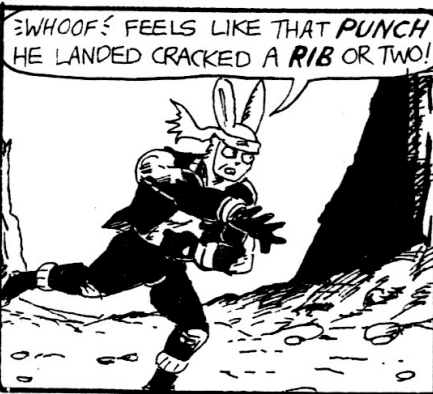
**NIK DIRGA**

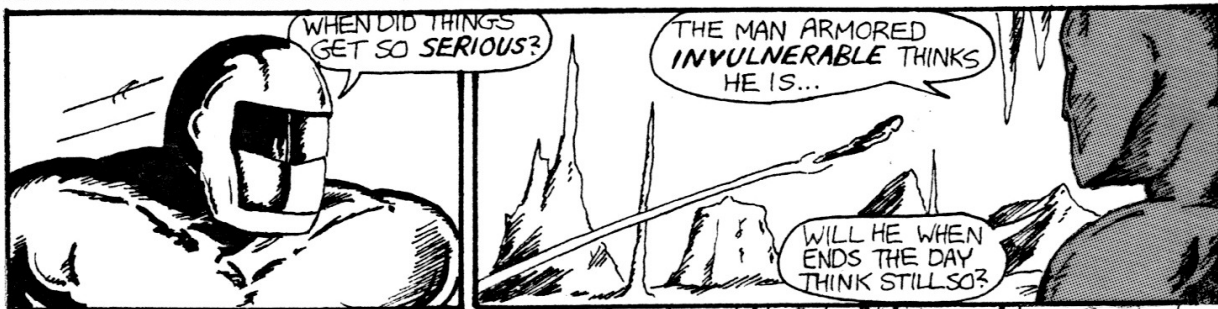
for Alecia, wherever ©92 NK  
she is in the world.

AND NOW?

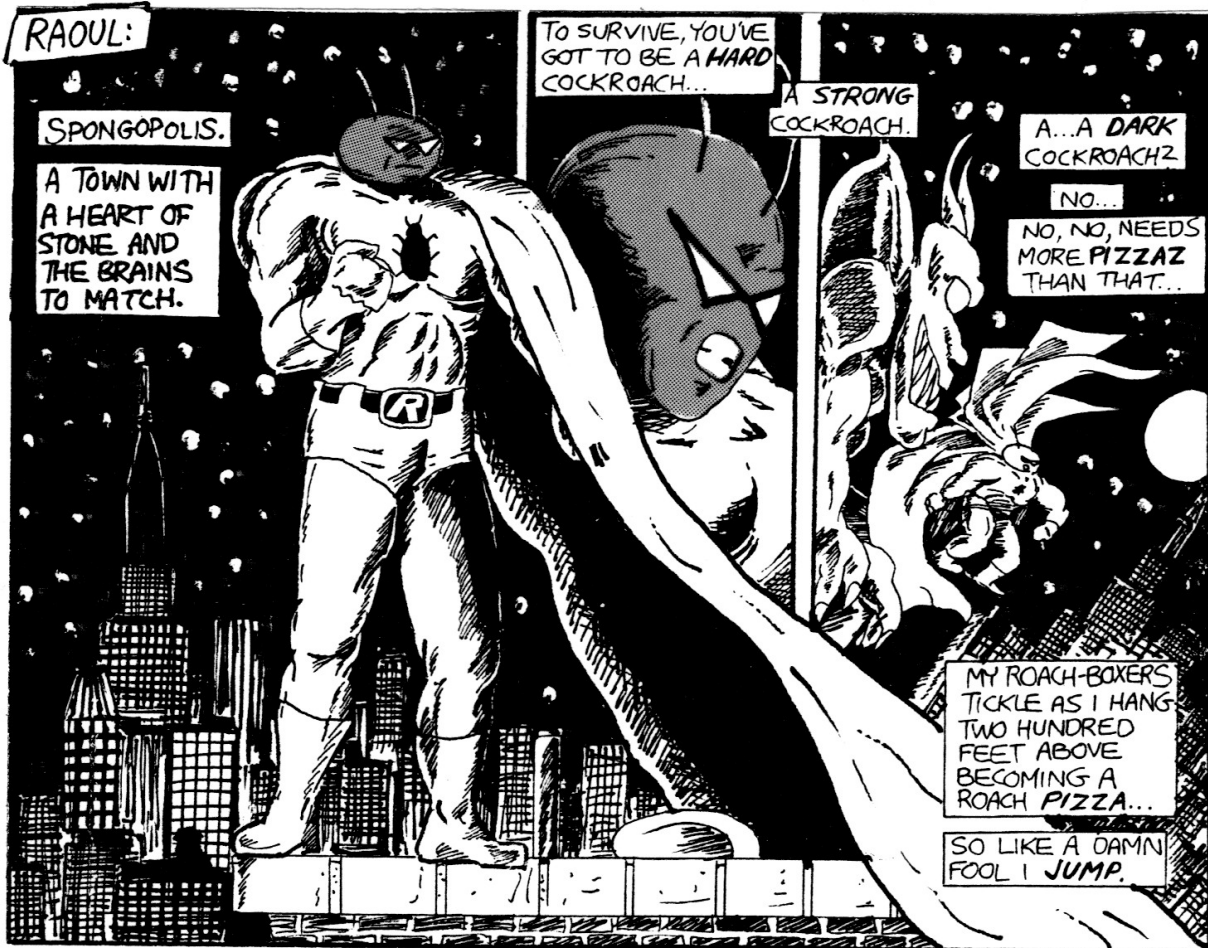
NOW THINGS  
GET WORSE.











RAOUL:

SPONGOPOLIS.

A TOWN WITH  
A HEART OF  
STONE AND  
THE BRAINS  
TO MATCH.

TO SURVIVE, YOU'VE  
GOT TO BE A HARD  
COCKROACH...

A STRONG  
COCKROACH.

A...A DARK  
COCKROACHZ

NO...

NO, NO, NEEDS  
MORE PIZZAZ  
THAN THAT...

MY ROACH-BOXERS  
TICKLE AS I HANG  
TWO HUNDRED  
FEET ABOVE  
BECOMING A  
ROACH PIZZA...

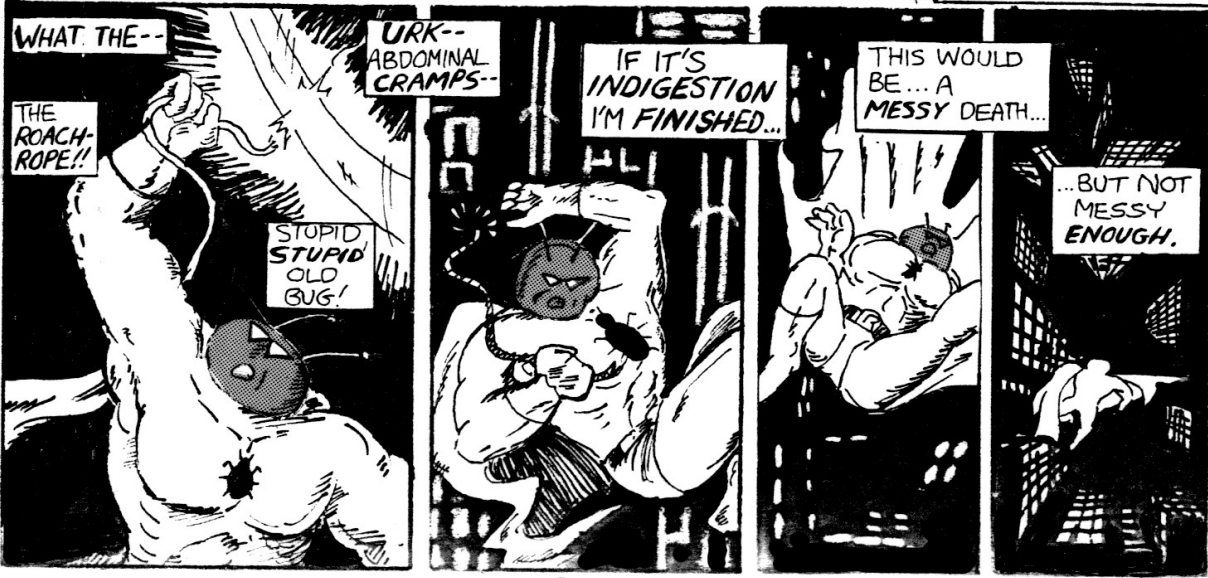
SO LIKE A DAMN  
FOOL I JUMP.



THE WIND SHOVES HOT  
LASAGNA IN MY FACE AND  
TRIES TO MAKE ME EAT IT.

I RIDE IT LIKE A KID  
ON HIS FIRST BIKE,  
COCKY AND IMPOTENT.

WHILE IN MY GUT  
THE CREATURE WRITHES  
AND SNARLS AND  
TELLS ME I SHOULD'VE  
SKIPPED THE CHINESE  
FOOD FOR DINNER...



WHAT. THE--

THE  
ROACH-  
ROPE!!

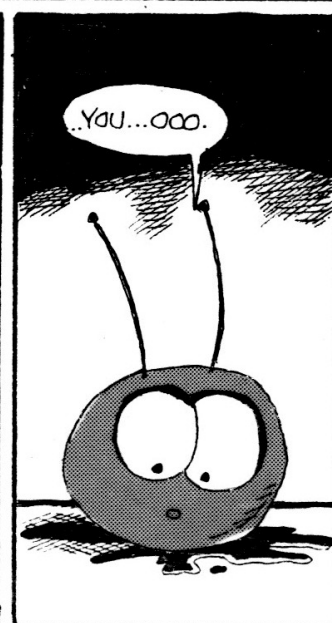
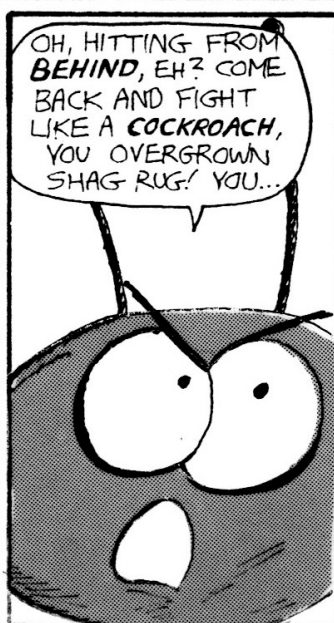
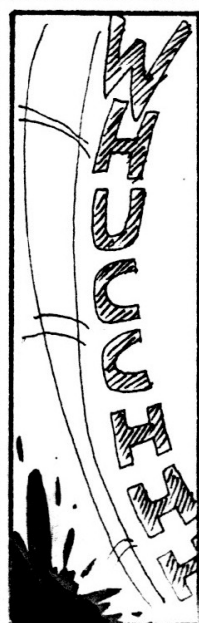
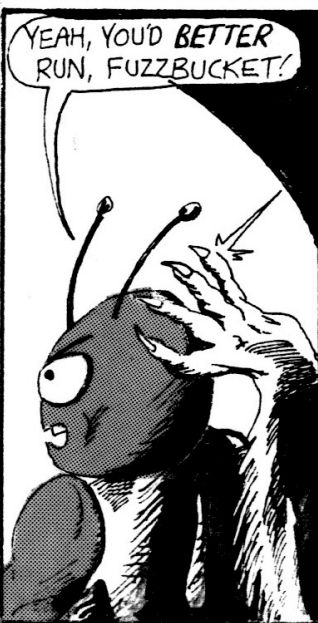
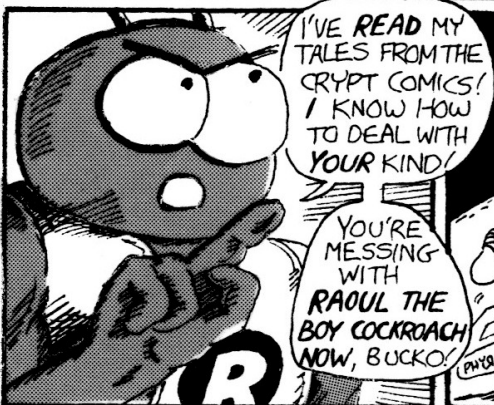
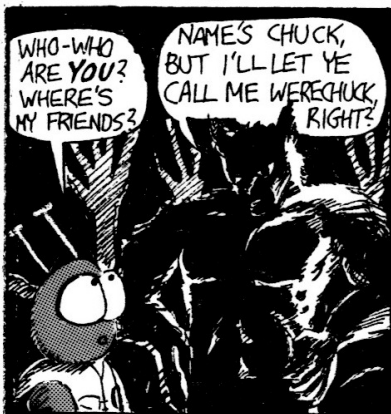
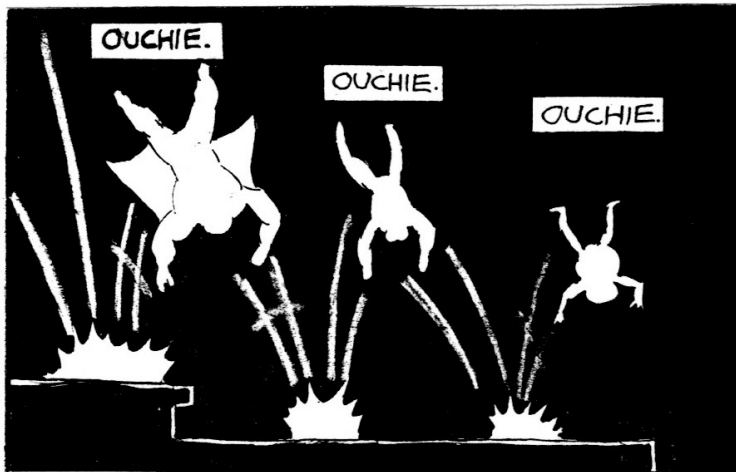
URK--  
ABDOMINAL  
CRAMPS--

STUPID  
STUPID  
OLD  
BUG!

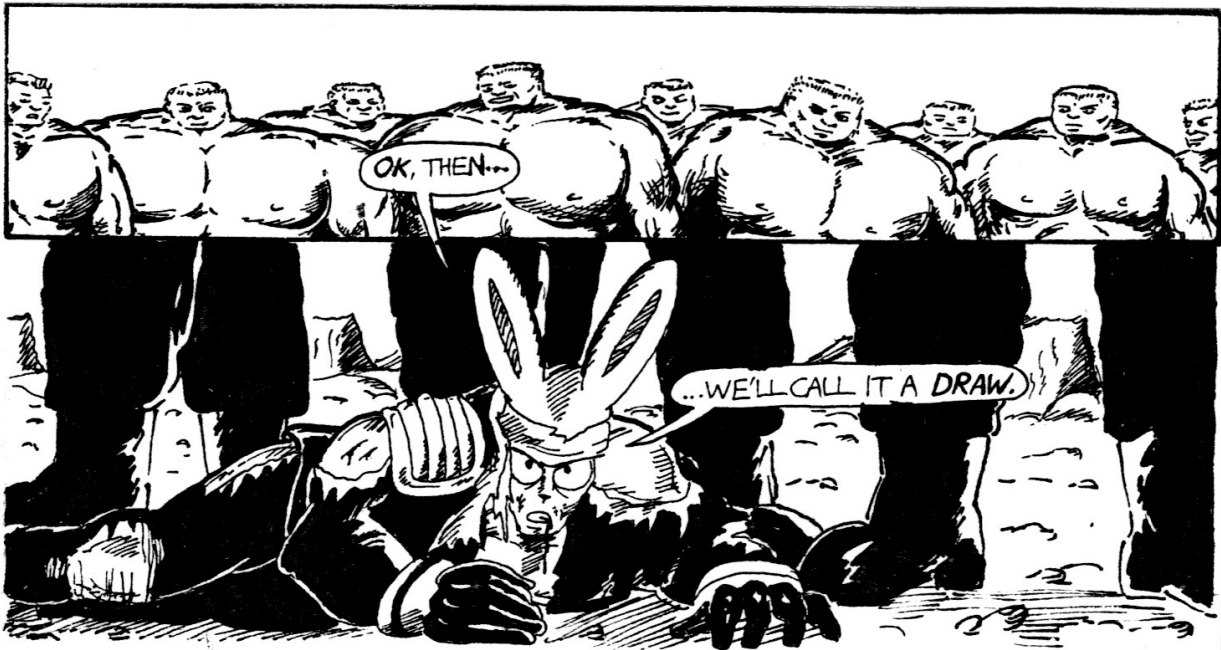
IF IT'S  
INDIGESTION  
I'M FINISHED...

THIS WOULD  
BE... A  
MESSY DEATH...

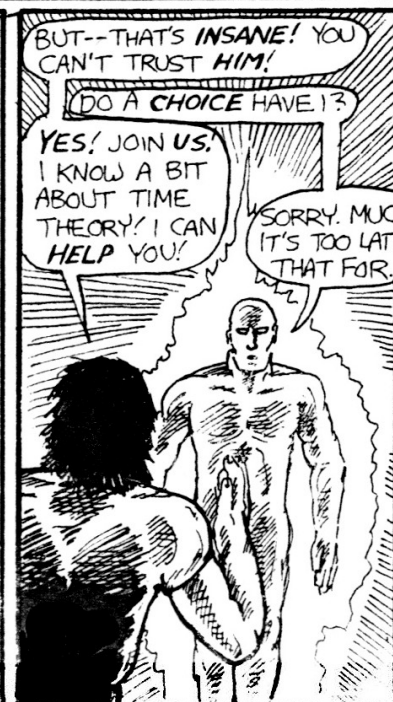
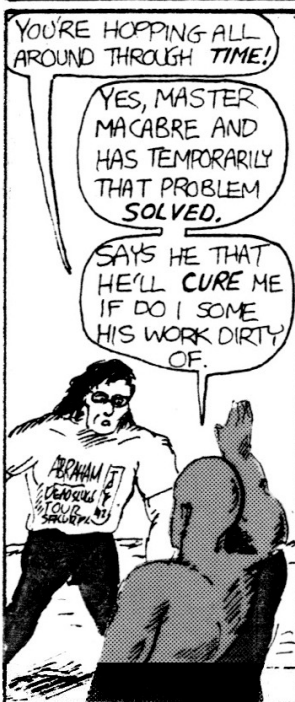
...BUT NOT  
MESSY  
ENOUGH.



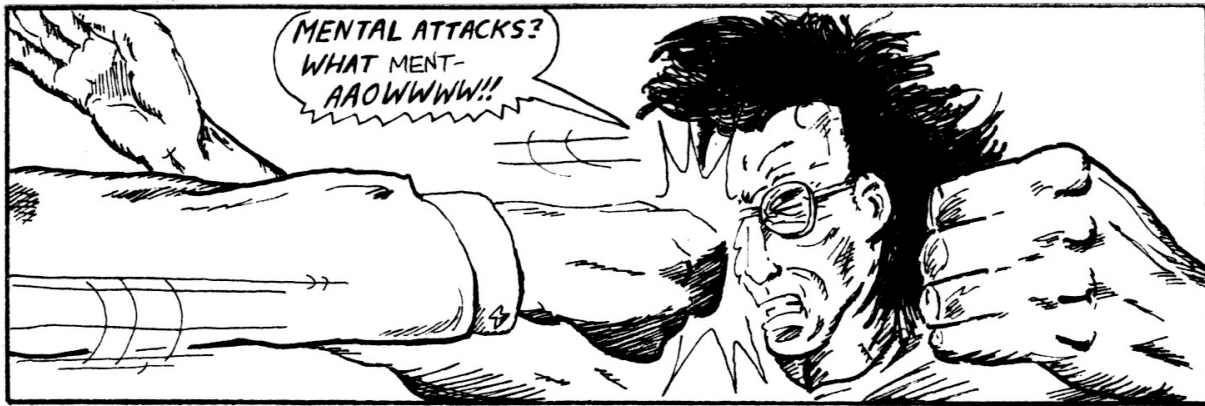


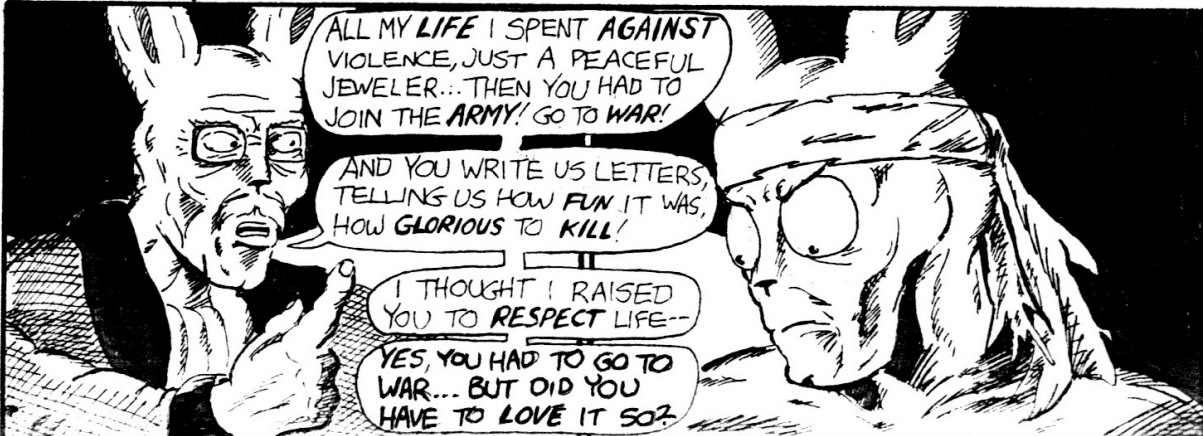
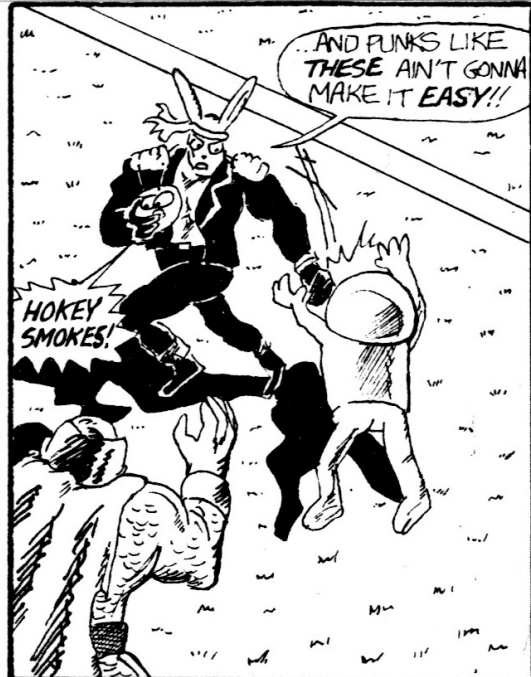


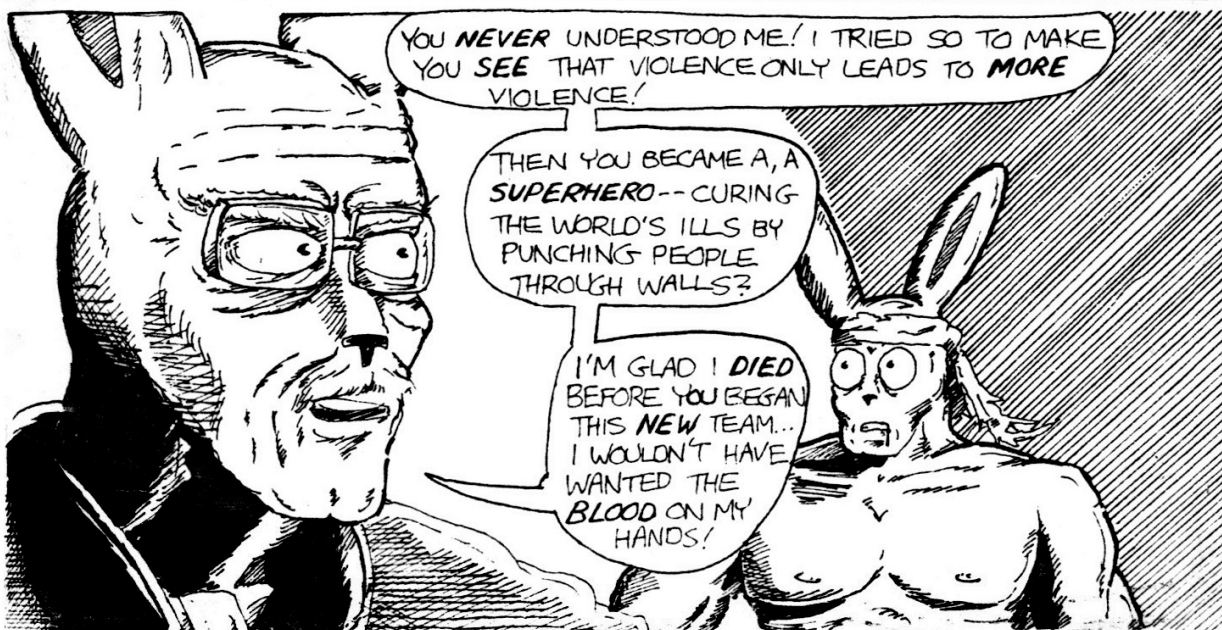
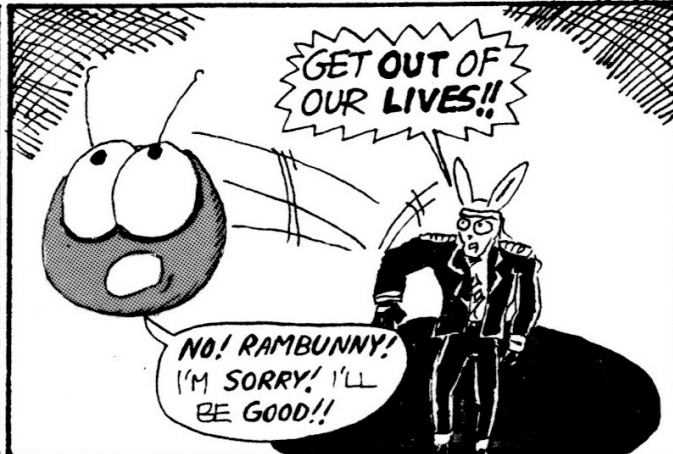
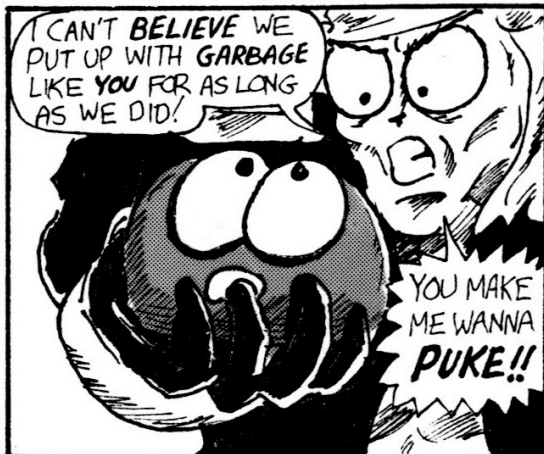












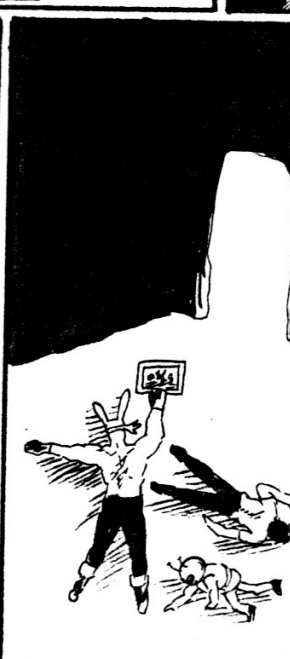
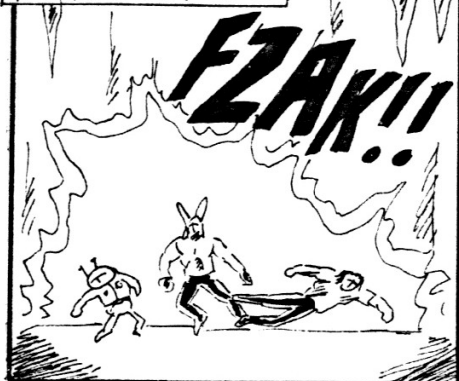




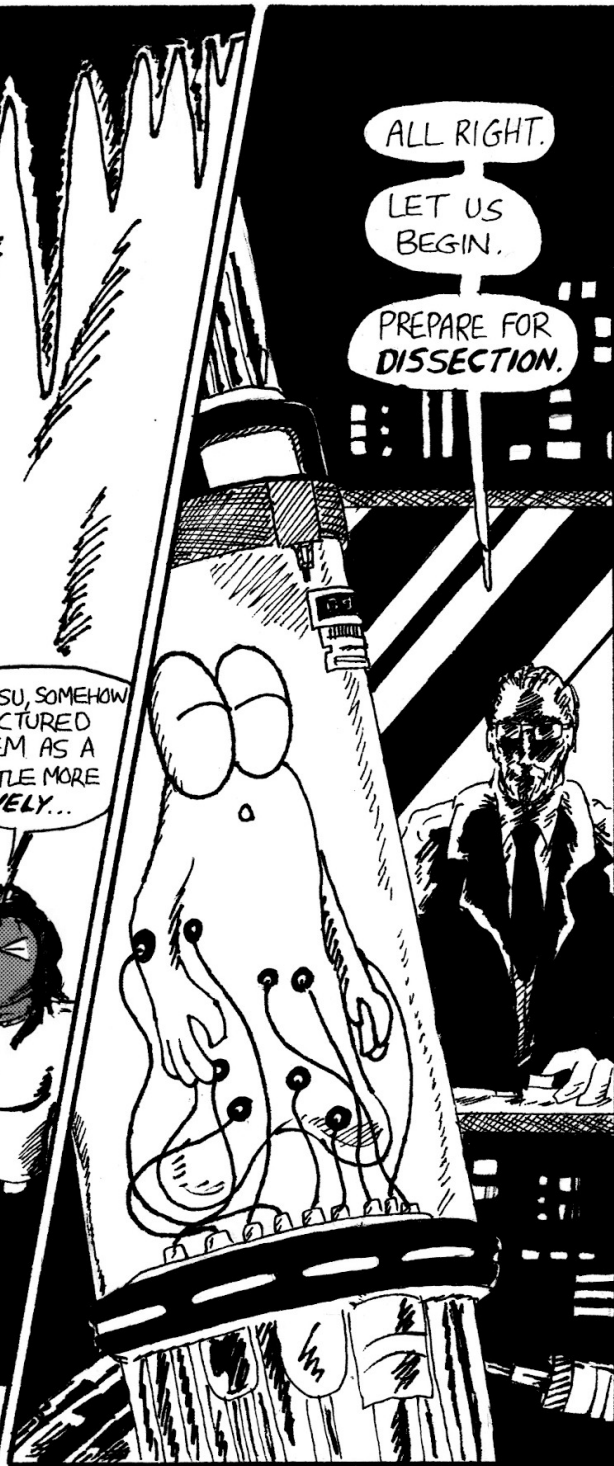




THE AMOEBA CAVE:







"We make companions out of air and hurt them, so they will defy us, completing creation."

-John Updike, *Rabbit Redux*

**NEXT:**  
**Defying Zeus**

# Amoebamail

**Protoplasm Press, Po Box  
2230, University MS 38677**

*(Well, my plea for letters in #5 was heeded...but don't stop now! Keep it up! I'll now turn this page over to you and try to keep my big mouth shut--Nik)*

Thanks for the copy of AA#5. From the looks of things it appears that you've been working with these characters for a while. Considering this, it's good to see that the stories hold up on their own, without researching into the entire universe you have created.

All this and you're funny too. I found myself laughing out loud with AA #5. I'm talking about "Prime Time." I saw several TV references in the strip, besides David, like the speech on the 15th page of the story. I thought the music should've started up for that one.

Larry Nibert  
244 E McCreight  
Springfield OH 45503

*(Thanks Larry! Larry, besides doing the cover for June's Prometheus: The Silent Storm, also puts out The Ruz, a keen little space opera. It's only \$1.50 postpaid, check it out! Now I'll shut up again--N.)*

Nik Dirga..."the funniest man alive..." ha ha, now *that's* a good one. You're wonderful babe, don't ever change. AA #5 showed up today and we had a lovely chat about maniac mushrooms and cockroaches in tuxedos (my wife and I just got over an infestation of Raoul's German cousins) and of course- devilish priests.

Loveliest conversation I've had all year (this is February, isn't it?) Your writing is (as always) superb, *perfect* for the format.

However...you wanted input on your art. Your rendering of these cartoony characters need not change in any way (unless you want them to, of course). The backgrounds, although, are overdue for a revision and resettlement. The building on page eight looks like a

a cardboard cut-out. And on the following page, David introduces Elvis "Muskrat" Presley...if we could see through Mr. Letterman's desk, his feet would be in his knees. Perspective, m'boy, *perspective*...it's just how ya see things (in relation to each other, that is).

Max Ink  
Columbus, Ohio

*(Congrats to Max and lovely wife Missy on the birth of their son, Aaron Emmanuel, March 18--N.)*

The NA and KK back-up: another neat story. If he's not already, John Hurley should be doing a book of his own. Some thoughtfulness to the layouts, and a "weightiness" to the rendering than appeals to me. I especially liked his depiction of Ginzu. Also a sense of understatement to his art that really works. Keep an eye on this guy (he's going for your wallet!).

Troy Hickman  
Lafayette, Indiana

*(John's thinking seriously about putting out a book of his own, I'll plug it here when he does. That's about it for now...thanks to those who wrote in that I couldn't print..Steve Leach, Chris Terry, and others. Don't forget, the all-star jam Prometheus: The Silent Storm is coming in mid-June! Until June, stay spongy!--Nik Dirga)*

**NEXT:** So what's happening to Prometheus? The story is revealed next in AMOEBA ADVENTURES #8, "Defying Zeus." You'll find out the sinister plans of the mysterious Dr. Crane, and also be there for the genesis of the two *newest* members of the All-Spongy Squadron! See you in June!

# SILENT STORM

## PREVIEW

Coming in June is *Prometheus: The Silent Storm*, an all-star AIDS awareness-themed jam, featuring art by some of small press' best. I thought you might like seeing some of the sketches I've gotten by contributors. Clockwise from right: Rambunny by Larry Nibert, Mr. Spif by Lynn Allen and inked by Nik, and Ninja Ant by Max Ink and inked by Nik.



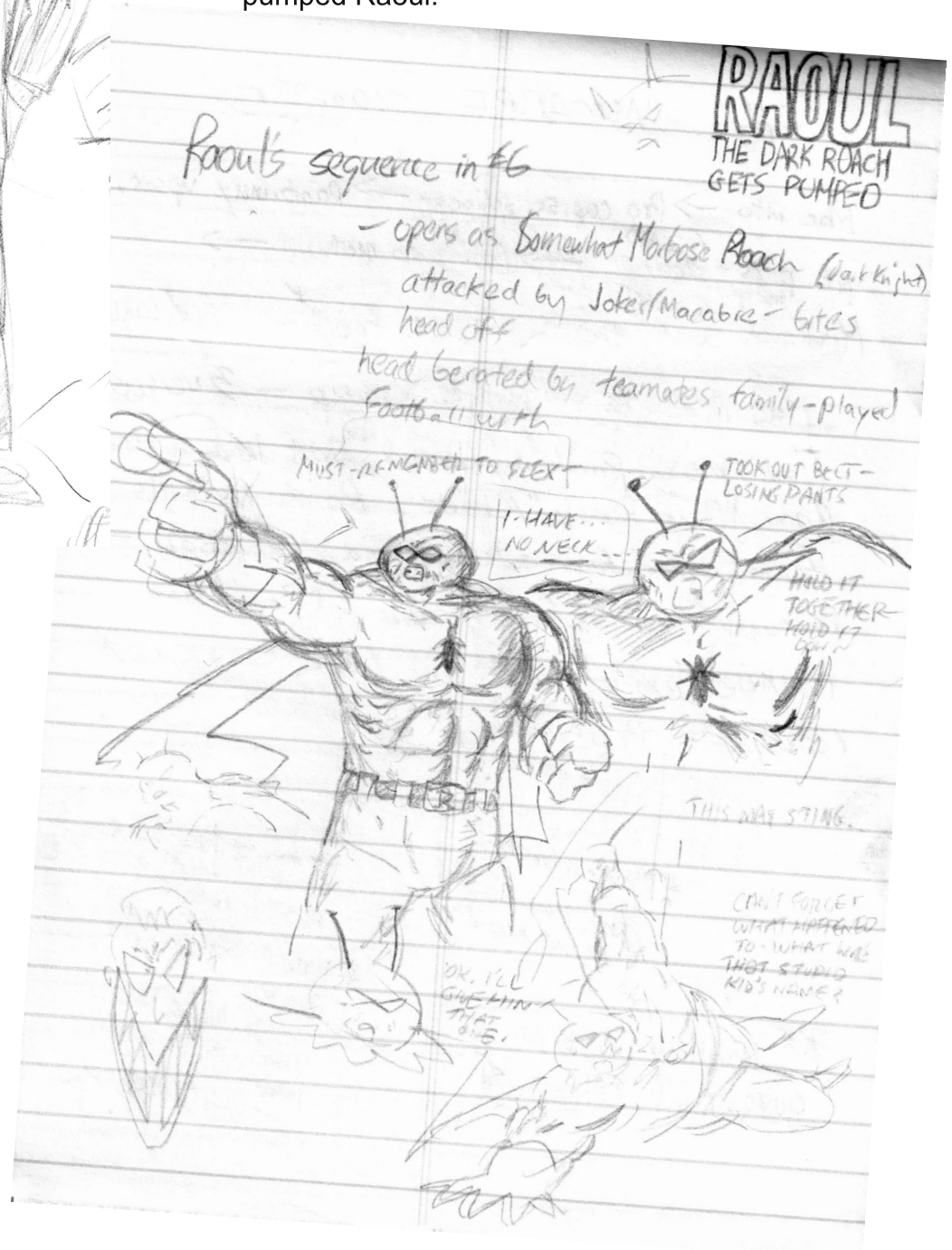


# SPECIAL 2020 BONUS SECTION

#7 was one of the more surreal issues of AA, mostly set in Macabre's surreal dream world with the characters being tortured in odd ways.

This issue was the closest I ever came to hints about Rambunny's origin. I often speculated doing a Rambunny origin issue but in the end, it was better to leave him a bit of a man of mystery. After all, Wolverine became a lot less interesting once they finally revealed his past.

At left, a sketch of Rambunny's father. Below, super-pumped Raoul.



# AN IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT:

URG: NIK ASKED US TO GRUNT -  
TO TELL YOU THAT PROTOPLASM  
PRESS IS TEMPORARILY - HMP -  
MOVING! FROM MAY 15 TO SEPT. 1,  
SEND ALL ART, LETTERS AND STUFF TO

**P.O. BOX 650  
HERNANDO, MS 38632**

THIS IS GASP! - IS ONLY FOR THE SUMMER!  
AFTER SEPTEMBER 1, ALL MAIL GOES  
BACK TO THE OLD ADDRESS (PO BOX 2230...)!!

HURK! SO HOW  
COME RAMBUNNY  
GETS TO KICK  
BACK BY THE  
POOL?

AMOeba  
ADVENTURES #8  
and  
PROMETHEUS: THE  
SILENT STORM  
WILL COME OUT  
SIMOTANEOUSLY  
IN MID-JUNE!  
\$3.50 for BOTH!

NK 4.24.92  
-after Maguire-

Way back in the pre-internet days the only way to let people know you'd changed your address temporarily was through a postcard.



A "pin-up" I did  
for Lynn Allen, a  
Rambunny fan.  
Rambunny was  
not amused.



Somewhere around this time in mid-1992, I joined the United Fanzine Organization, a cool group of self-publishers who've been around in some form now for more than 50 years. I was in the UFO for the rest of the time I was in small press and really enjoyed it.

Below is the first of several covers I ended up doing for the UFO newsletter, Tetragrammaton Fragments.

