

FADING IMAGE  
GRAPHICS



#4 AUGUST  
1987

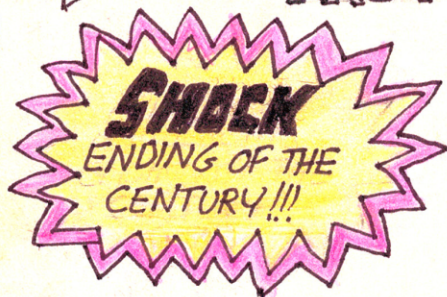
ISSUE  
FOUR  
OF  
SIX

\$2.50

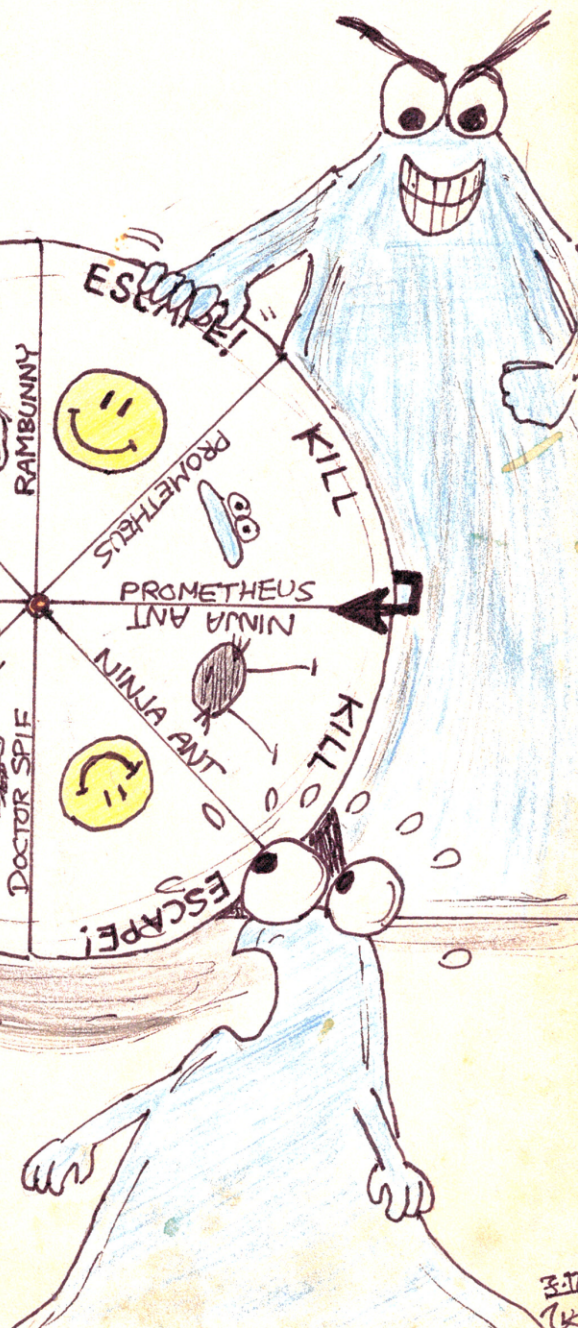
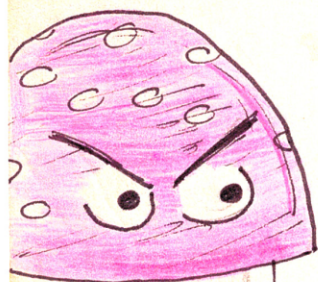
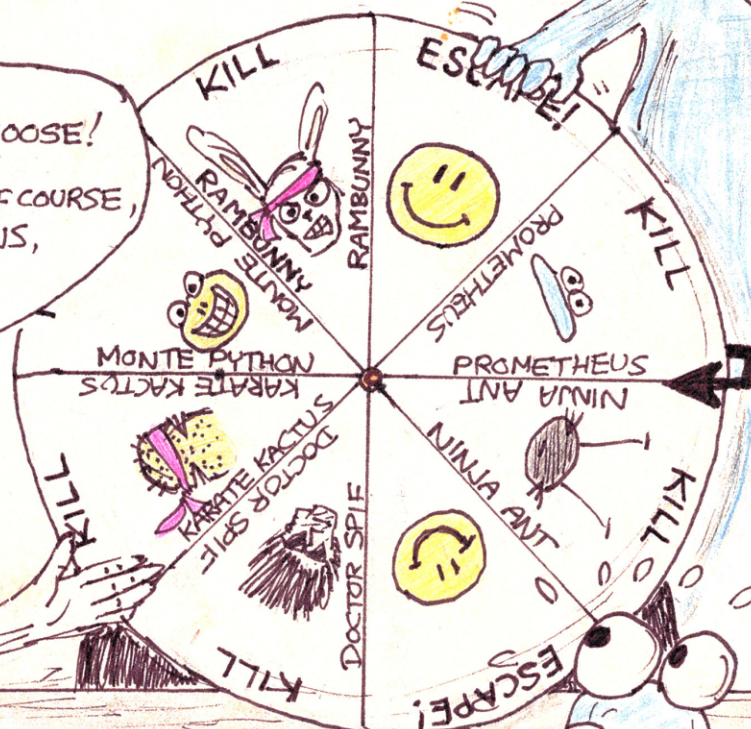
THE ADVENTURES OF AN AMOEBA....

# PROMETHEUS™

THE  
PROTOPLASM



COME ON, PROMETHEUS, CHOOSE!  
EITHER PLAY "THE WHEEL OF  
MISFORTUNE"..OR YOU DIE! OF COURSE,  
NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS,  
***You Lose!!***



3.11  
74



## OUR STORY SO FAR:

Prometheus the Protoplasm was once part of an enormous ball of slime that rocketed through space for billions of years, until it committed suicide in a star. Out of this inferno came two parts of the ball..the kindly Prometheus, and the evil Kronos. Pro landed on Earth first, becoming famous. Soon after, the evil Kronos came as well, and started to wreak havoc. Only a cunning plan of Pro's sent the giant rocketing back into space again.\* But all was not calm as the evil Asbestos Mushroom attacked Prometheus, and the amoeba survived this attack only because of the assistance of newfound friends Rambunny and Dr. Spif. The mushroom was defeated. For the moment.\*\* After being released from the hospital, Pro was soon ambushed

by a brainwashed Ninja Ant. The sneak attack left Pro helpless as the ant began to gain popularity among the citizens of Spongopolis. But thankfully, the ant's cousin, an individual called Karate Kactus, persuaded Pro to attack Ninja Ant and regain fame. And so, Prometheus confronted the ant on the stage of the Monte Python Show, in a brawl which ended with Ninja Ant senseless. It wasn't over yet, though, as mere seconds after Ninja Ant was dethroned, the trio was surprised by both the Asbestos Mushroom and Kronos.. a truly unstoppable team!\*\*\* Now, join Prometheus and his friends for a final battle against his two deadliest enemies..in "Doomsday For an Amoeba!"

\*-In PROMETHEUS #1

\*\*-In PROMETHEUS #2

\*\*\*-In PROMETHEUS #3

### SO WHO ARE THESE GEEKS, ANYWAY?





NK presents: **PROMETHEUS THE PROTOPLASM™**

THE PLACE:  
ABC STUDIOS!!

THE TIME:  
MOMENTS AFTER A CLIMACTIC  
BATTLE WITH NINJA ANT!!

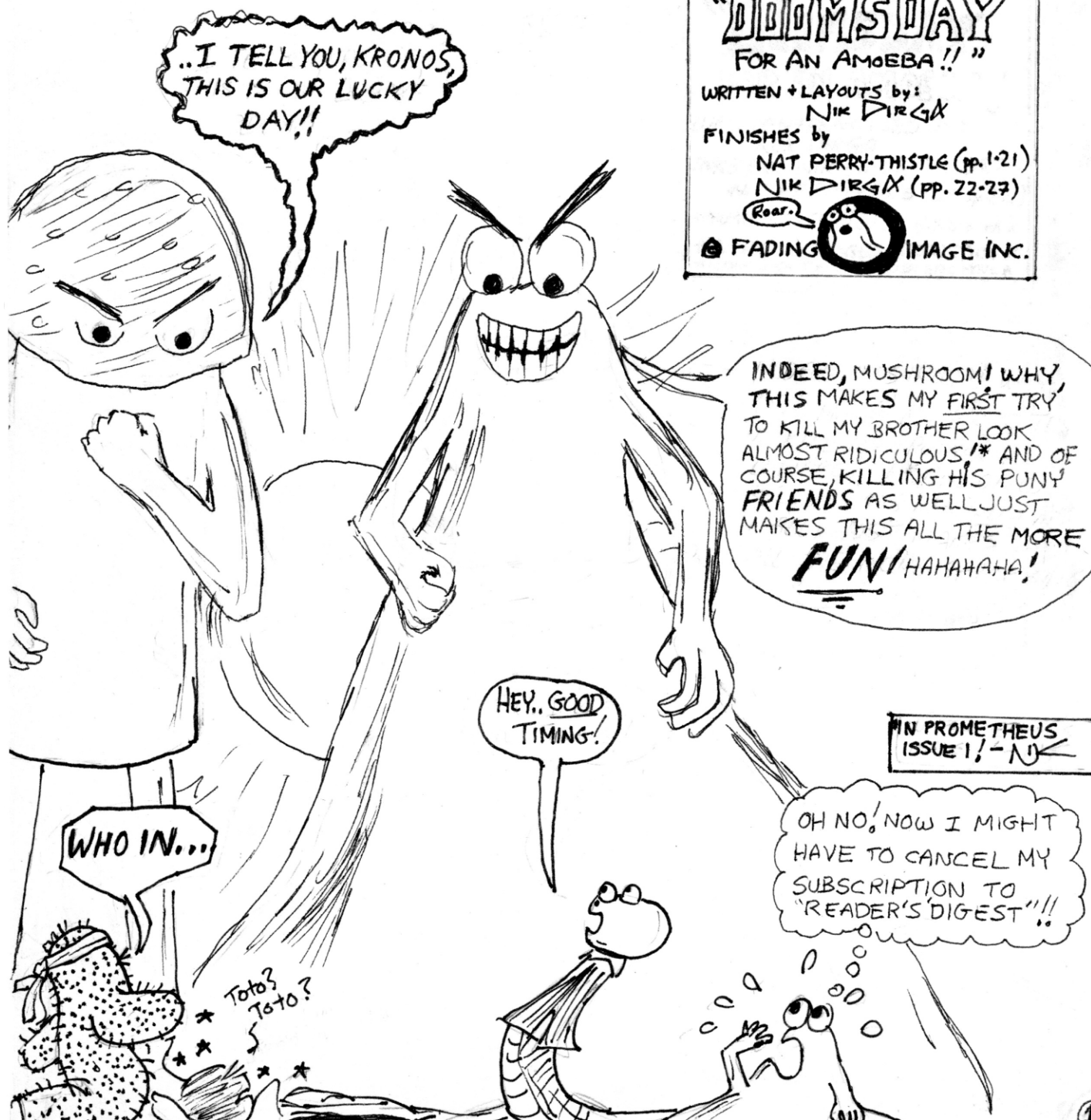
THE EVENT:

**"DOOMSDAY  
FOR AN AMOEBA!!"**

WRITTEN + LAYOUTS by:  
NIK DIRGAX

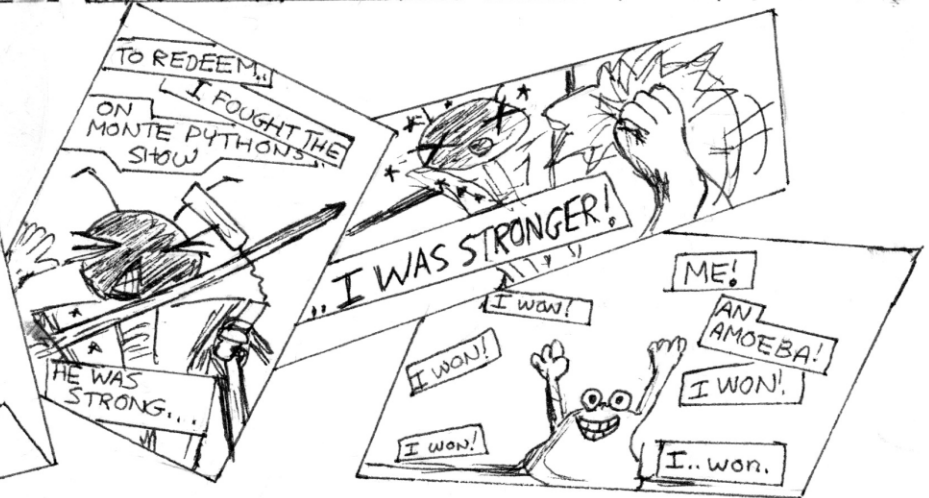
FINISHES by  
NAT PERRY-THISTLE (pp. 1-21)  
NIK DIRGAX (pp. 22-27)

Rear.  FADING IMAGE INC.

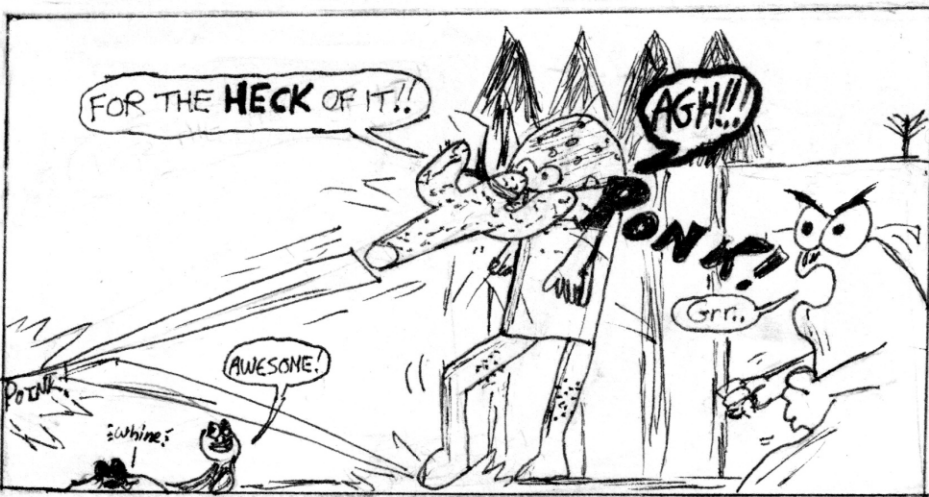
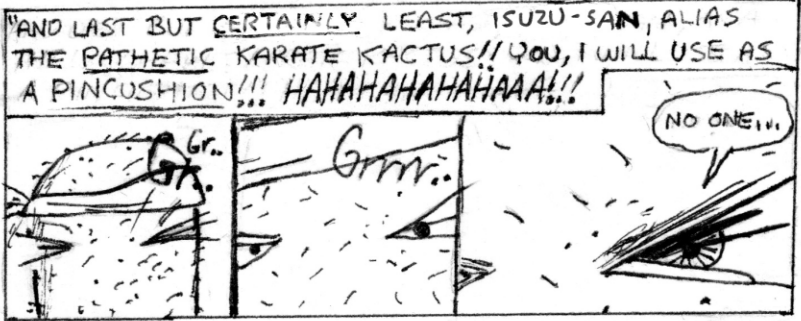
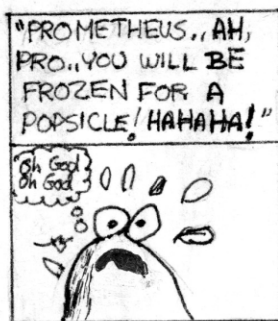
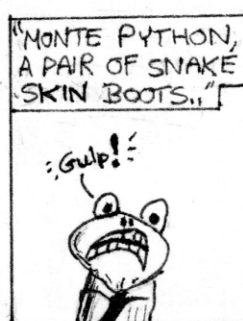
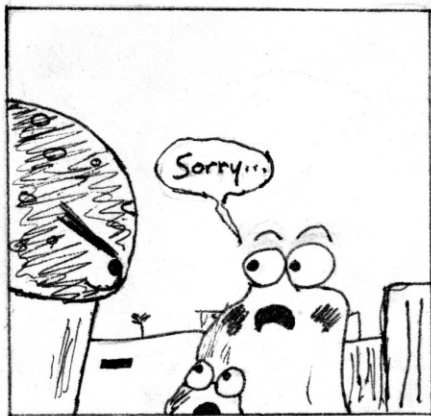


IN PROMETHEUS  
ISSUE 1! - NK

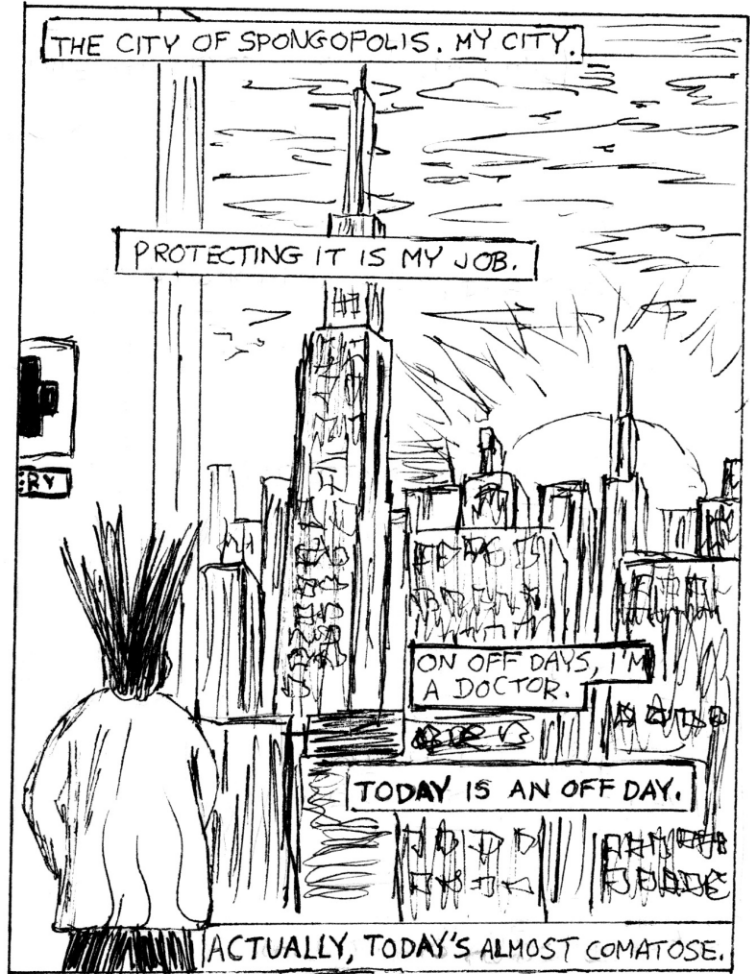
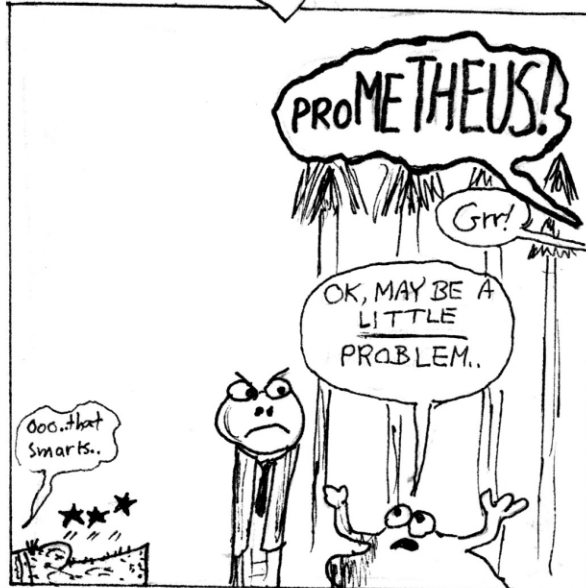
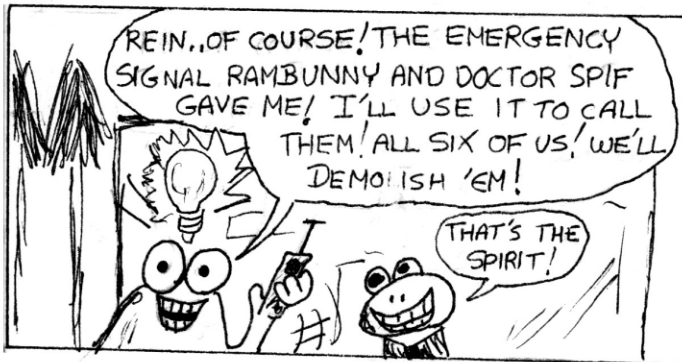
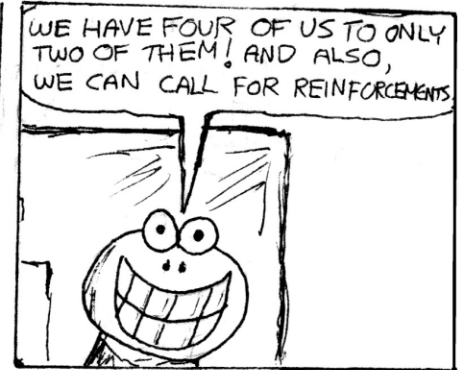
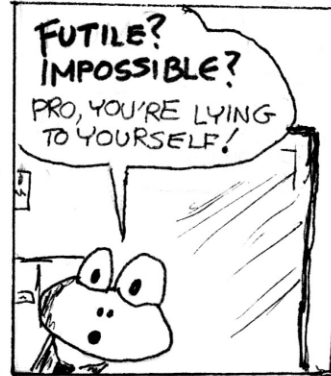




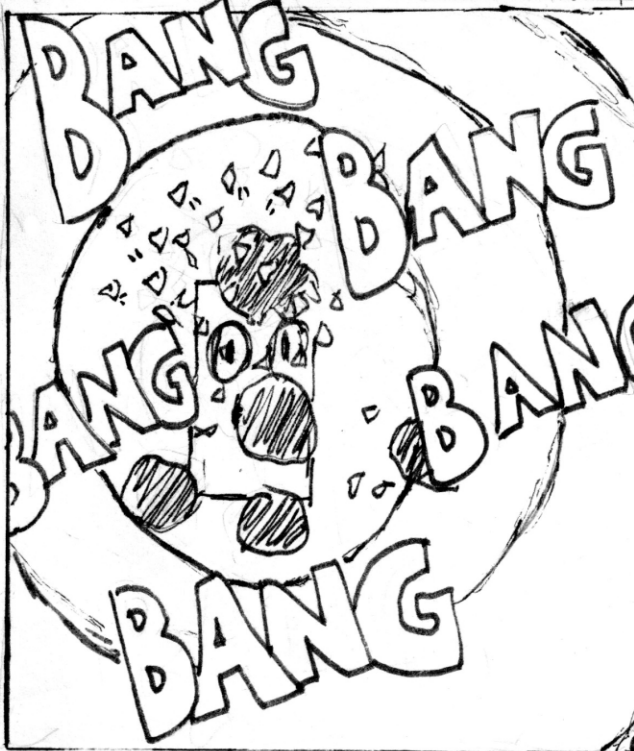
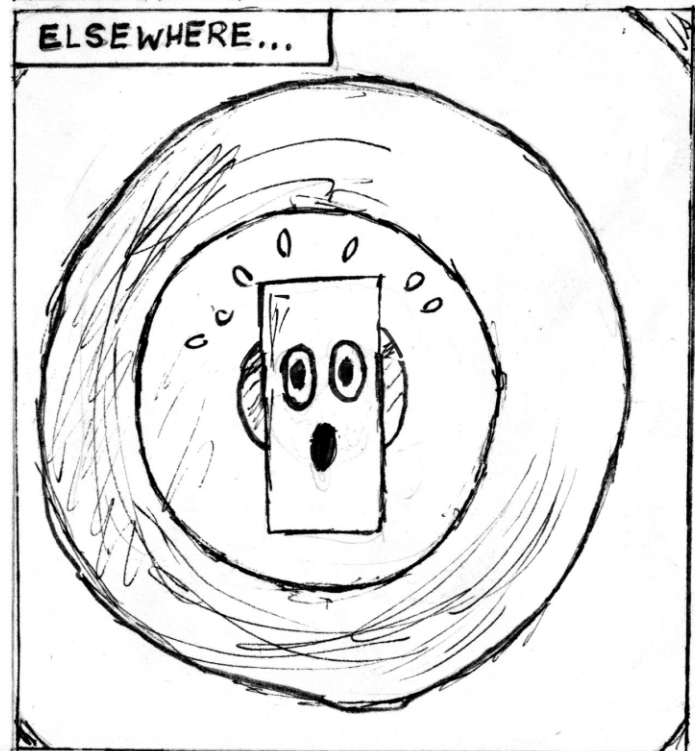
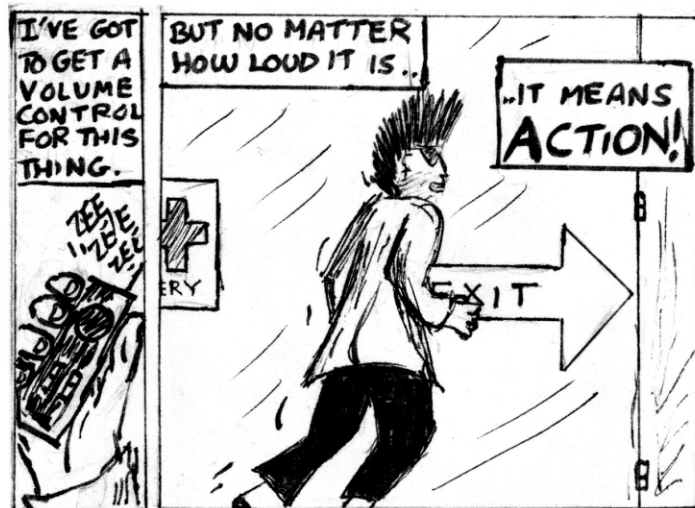
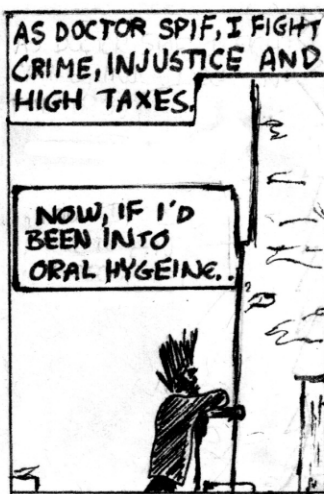
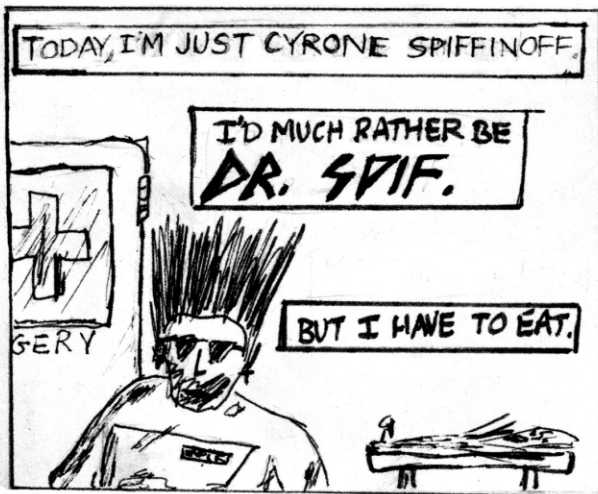


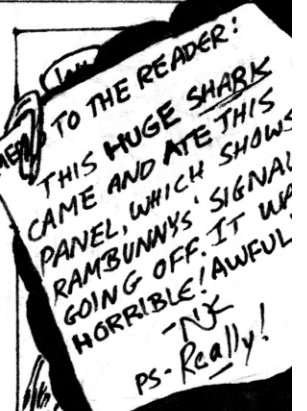
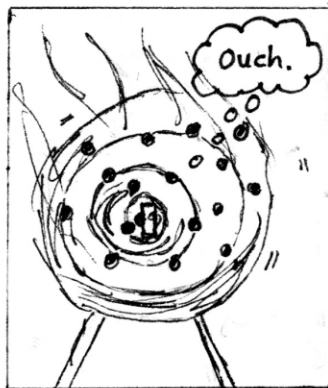






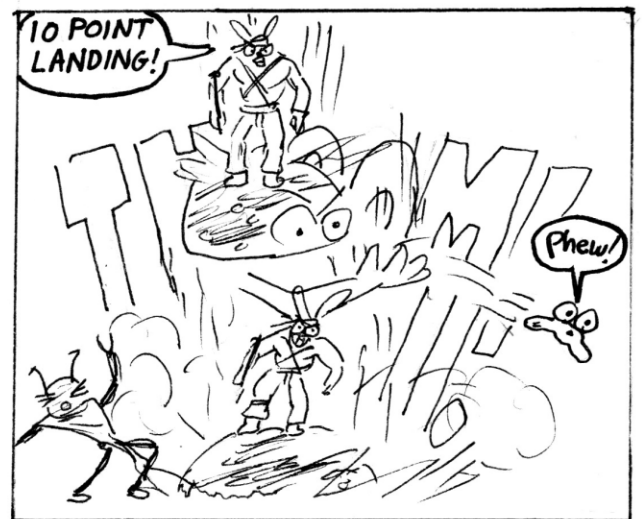
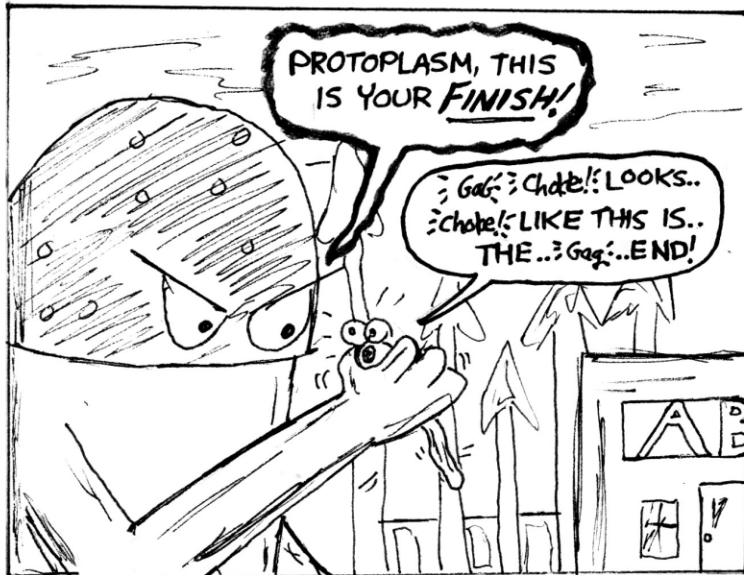














MEANWHILE..IN DOWNTOWN BURGERTOWN..

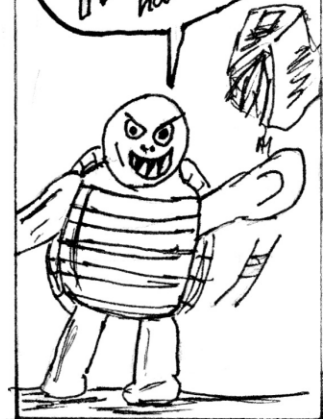
THEY LAUGHED AT ME..  
THEY CALLED ME A FOOL!  
BUT NO MORE!



EVEN THIS "AMOEBA" IS  
MORE RESPECTED THAN I!  
I SHO.. WAIT!! I CAN BE  
FAMOUS BY DEFEATING  
PROMETHEUS! NO ONE  
WILL EVER LAUGH AT  
ME! I WILL BE SUPREME!



I..  
**DOCTOR  
TERRAPIN!**  
hahahaha!



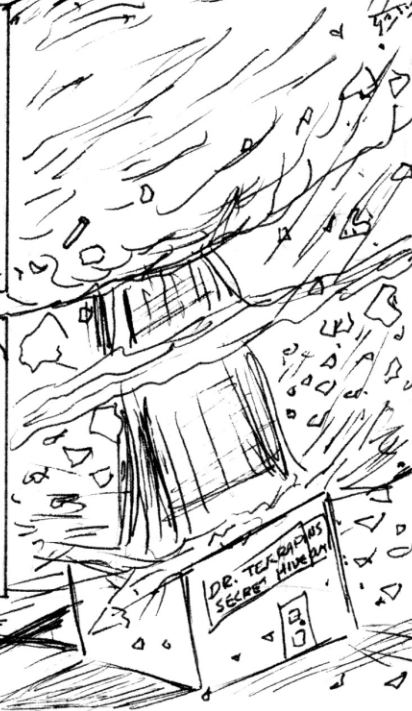
FOR YEARS, I WAS CALLED A NERD..  
BUT I MADE IT BIG! I EARNED  
MILLIONS\$ FROM THE ROYALTIES  
ON MY AMAZING INVENTIONS!



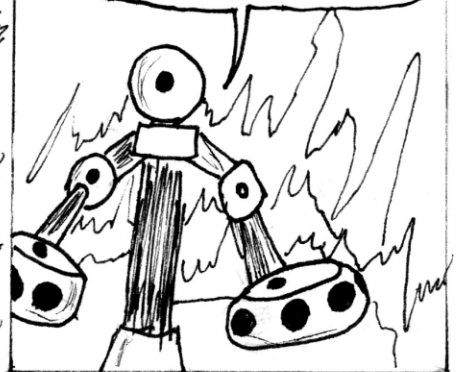
BUT..I MADE JUST ONE ERROR..  
AND MY GREATEST INVENTION..  
THE MATTER-CHANGER.. FAILED!!  
PEOPLE WHO ONCE CHEERED ME  
LAUGHED AT ME! I WENT..  
**INSANE!** WHY ELSE WOULD  
I BE TALKING TO A TEST TUBE?



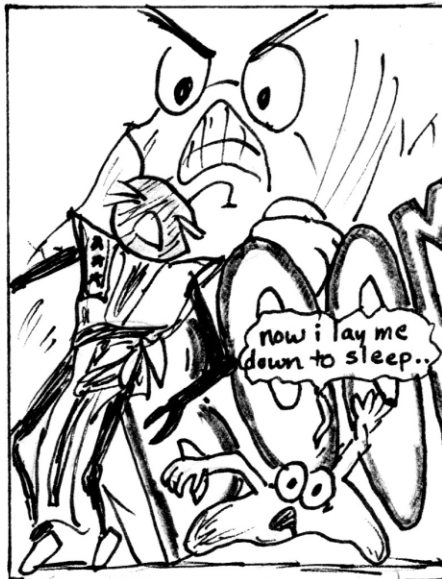
BUT THE TIME FOR TALK  
IS OVER!! WITH THIS  
SERUM, I WILL TURN INTO  
A MIGHTY, UNSTOPPABLE  
**MONSTER!** OR  
ELSE, I'LL HAVE HEARTBURN!



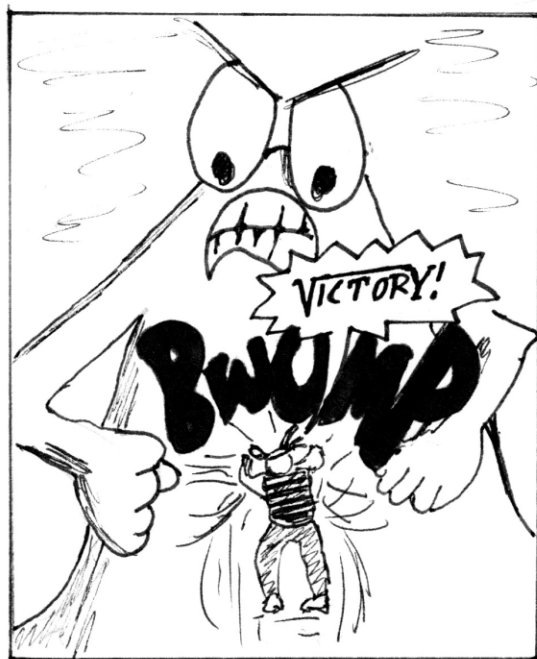
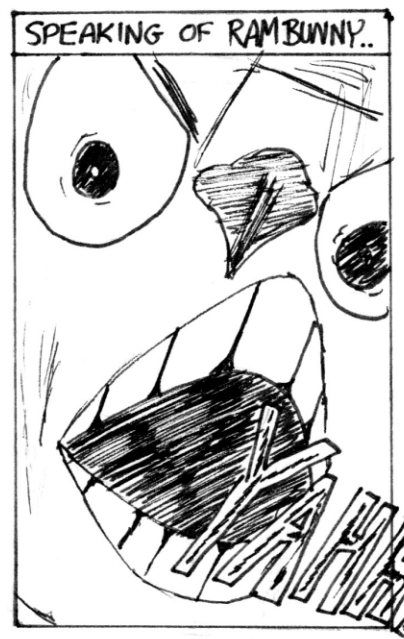
IT WORKED! I AM NOW A  
MAN.. OR TURTLE.. OF WOOD  
AND CHEAP PLASTIC! I AM..  
**TINKERTOY!**



MEANWHILE, BACK AT THE RANCH..

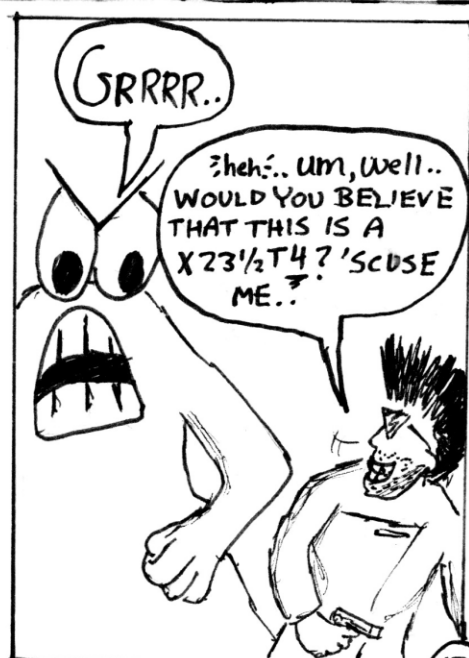
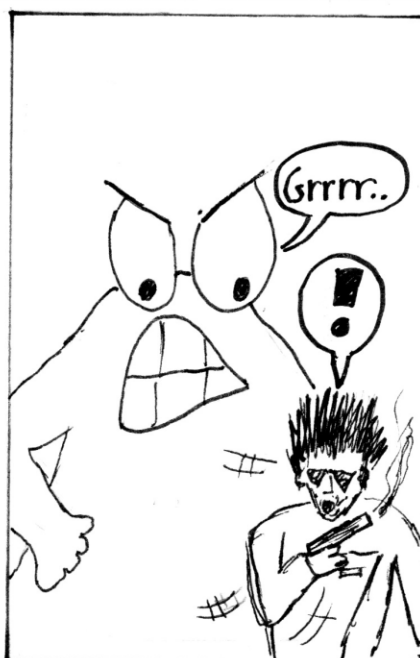
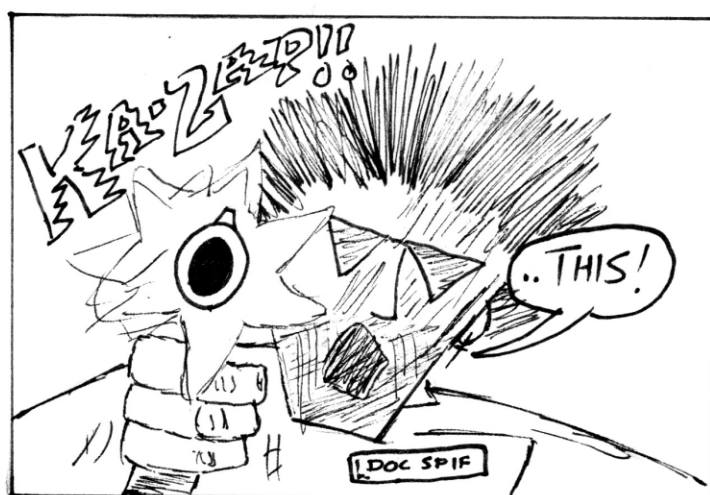
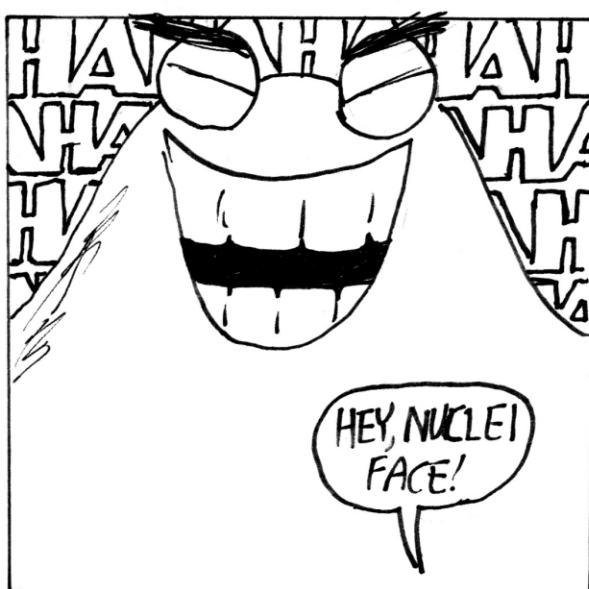


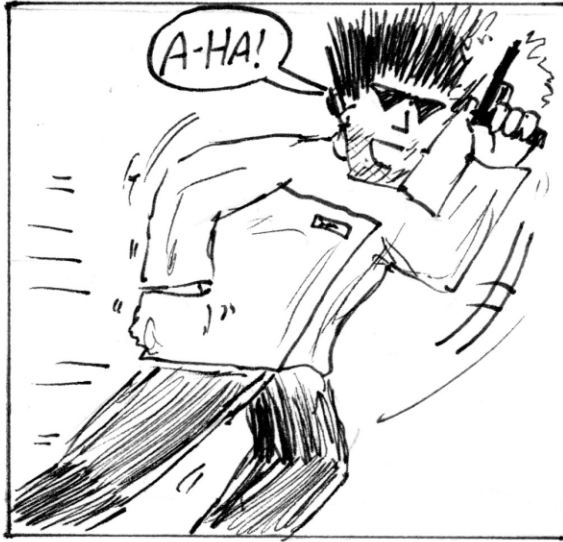


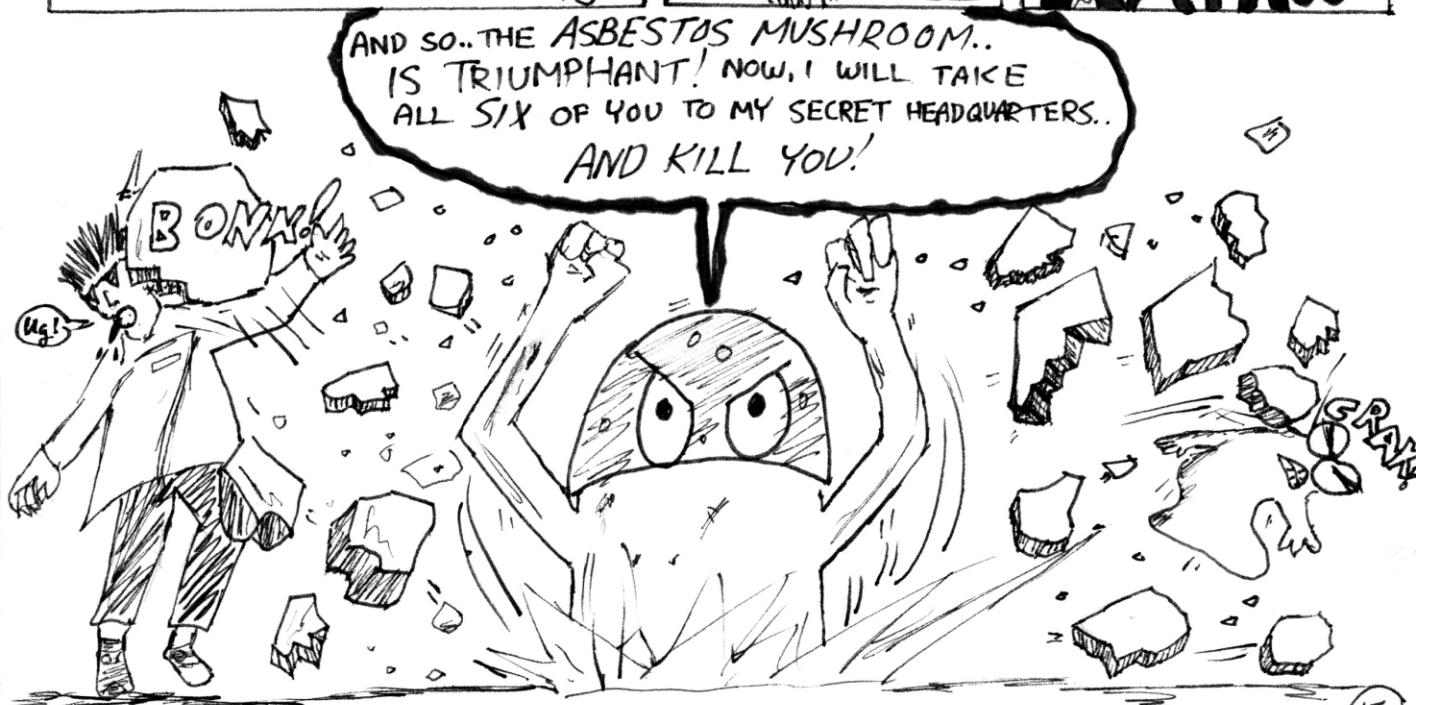




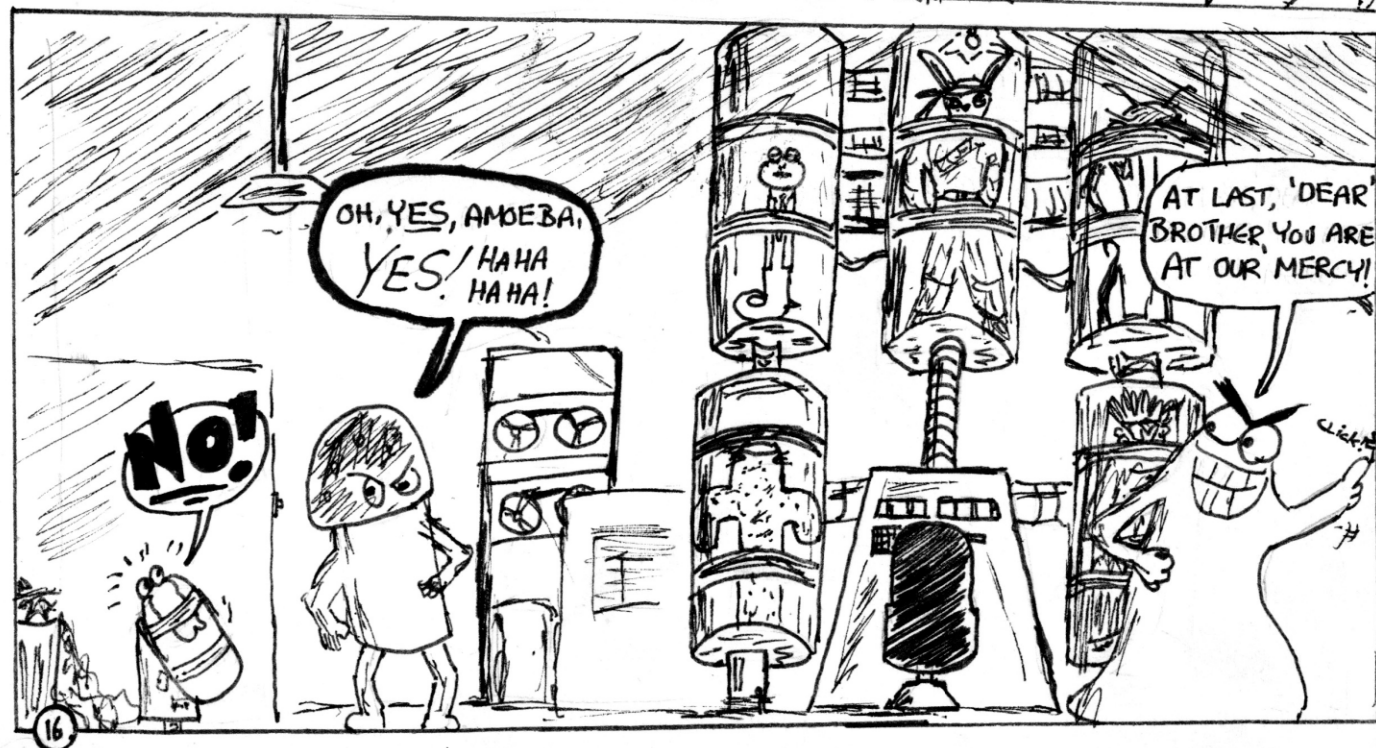
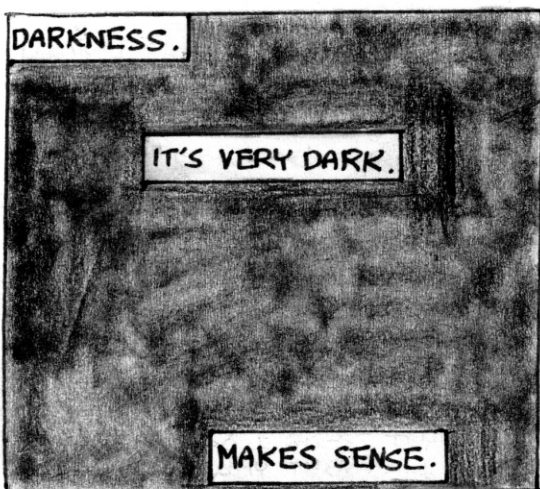




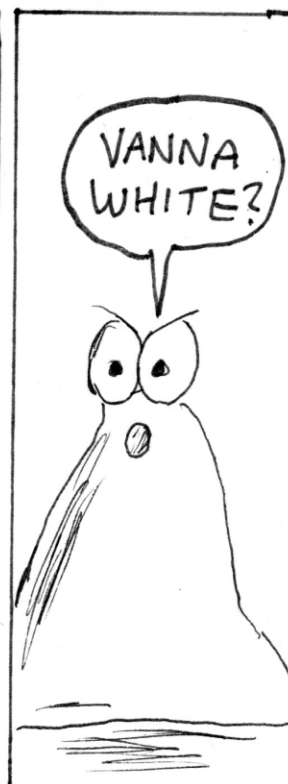
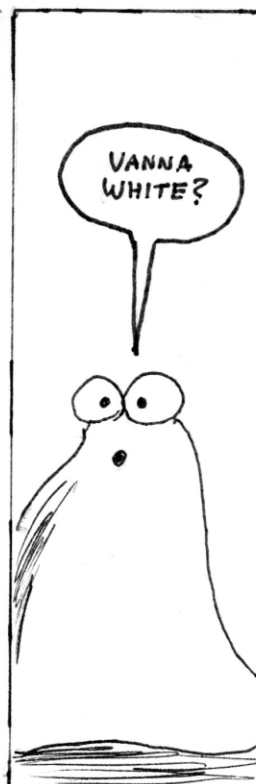
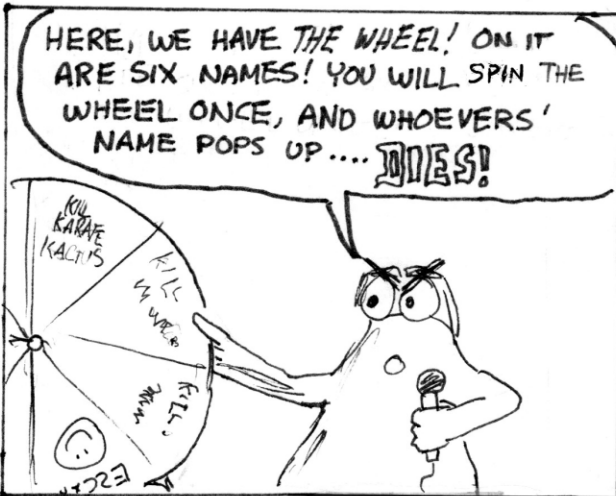






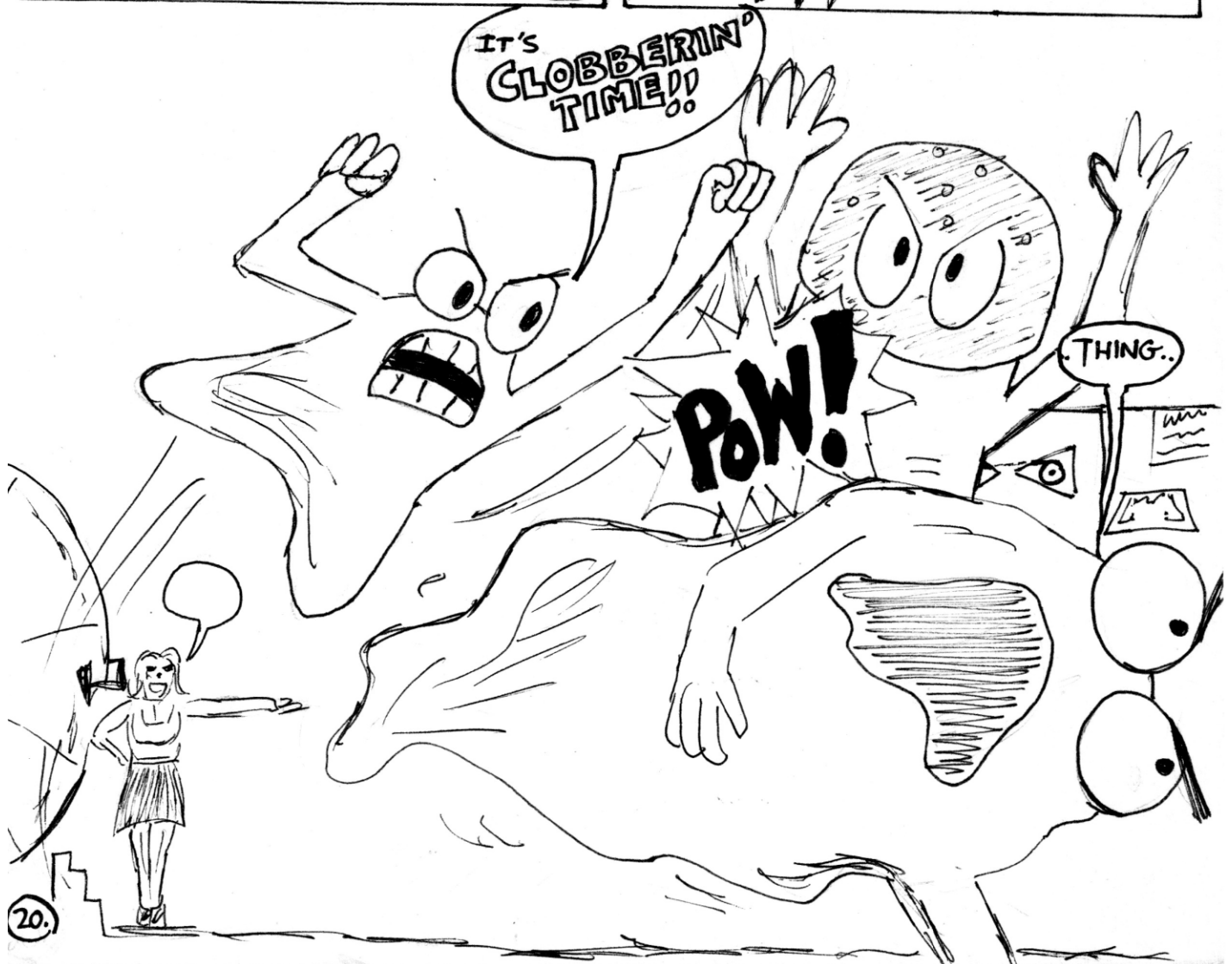


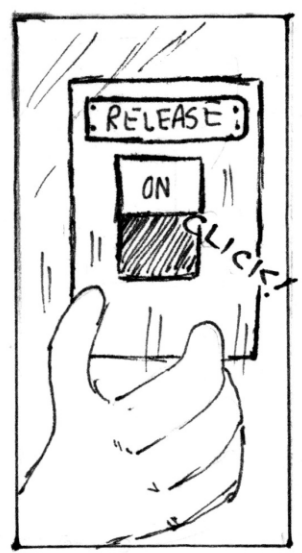
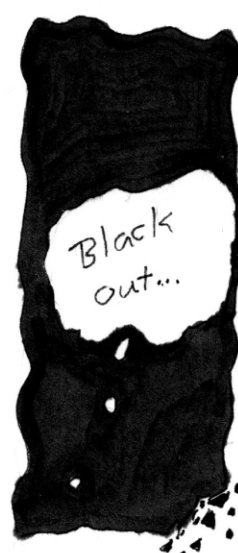
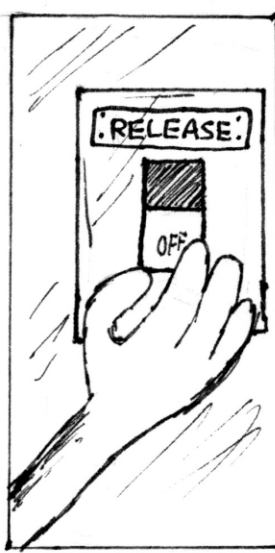
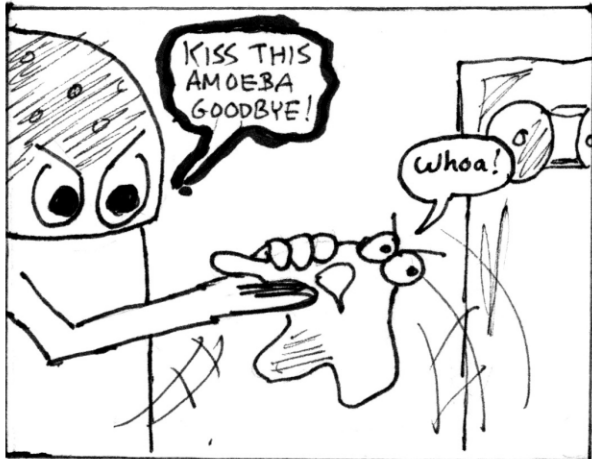
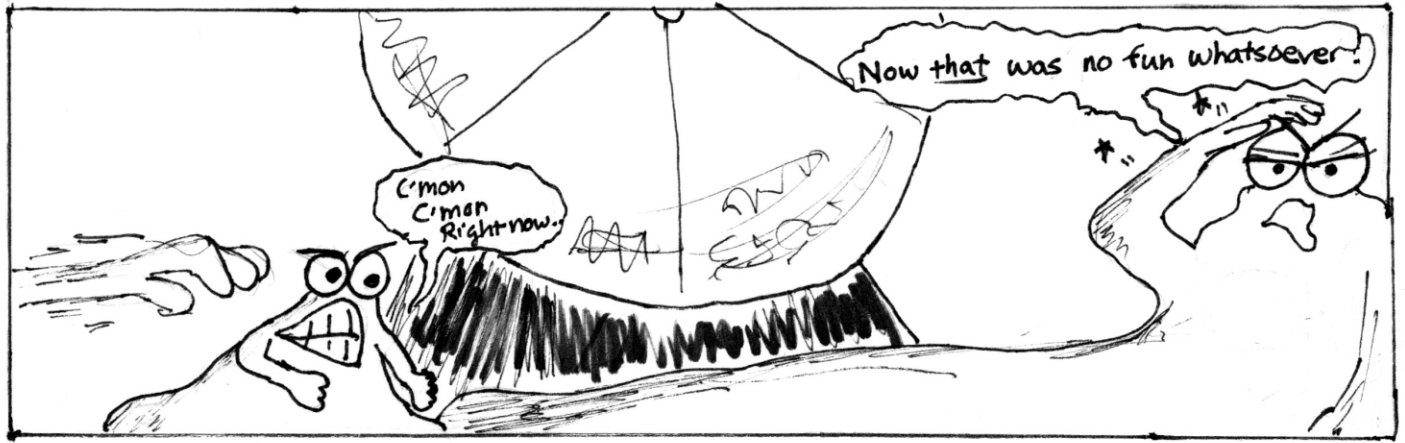














A VALIANT ATTEMPT,  
SLIME..BUT A TOTALLY  
USELESS ONE! YOU ONLY  
KNOCKED KRONOS OUT  
FOR A MINUTE! HE WILL  
SOON WAKE UP!



NOT IF *I*  
CAN HELP IT!

CRASH!

NO!  
HE'S  
FREE!!

Ohhhh..



HANDS OFF,  
MUSHROOM!

THIS IS TOTALLY  
IMPOSSIBLE!  
I CAN'T BE BEATEN!  
I AM SUPREME!

OK, MUSHROOM,  
THE JIG'S UP!

YEAH!



er.. EXCUSE US! IS THIS  
WHERE THE CROSSTOWN  
BUS STOPS?



Oh  
Great!  
oh  
No!

# NO!

DIRTY RATZIN'  
FRATZIN'  
FUNGUS!

BAP!  
BAP!

BOP!  
BOP!

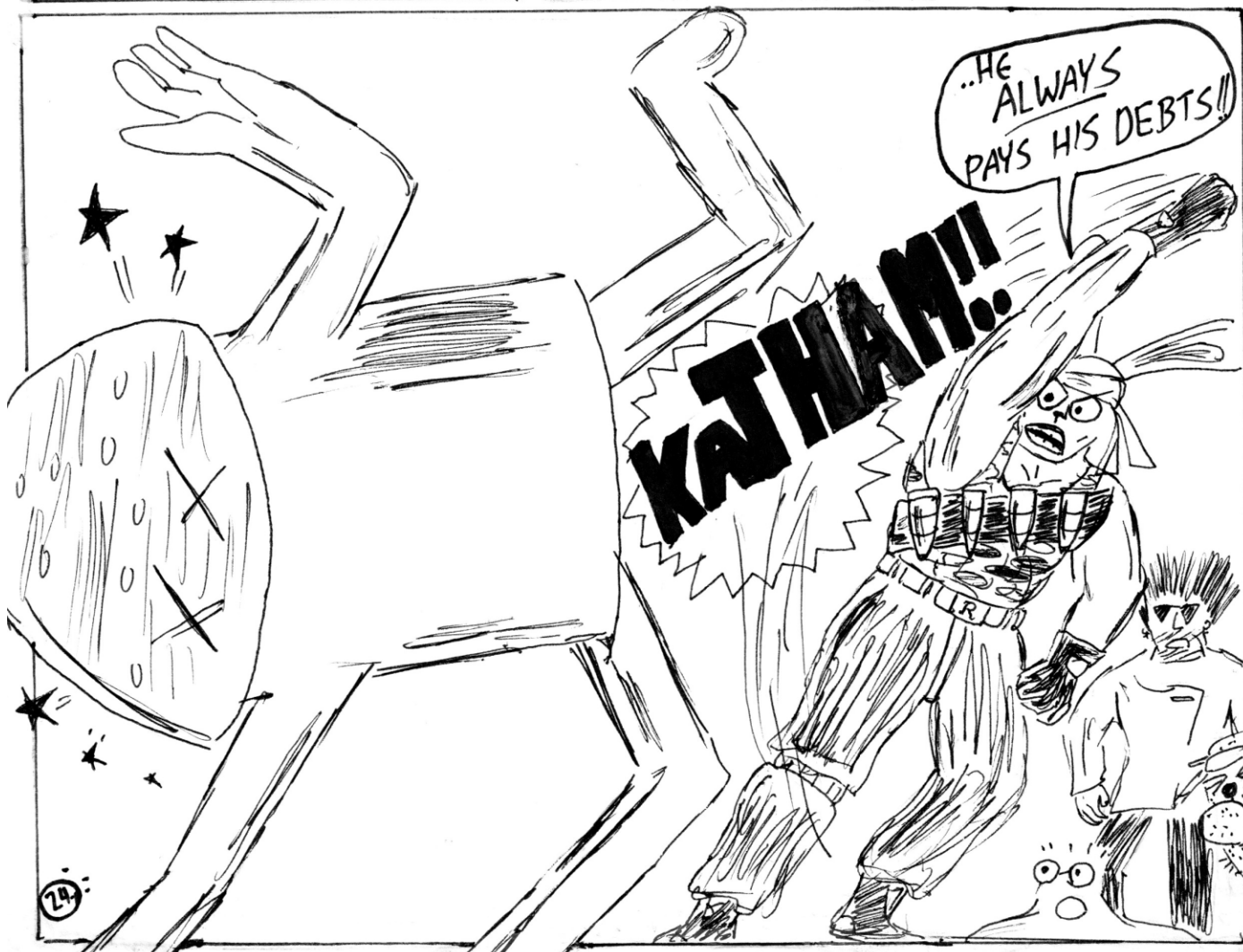
HI-YAAAAAH!

AW, CUT IT OUT  
WITH THE "NO"'S  
ALREADY!

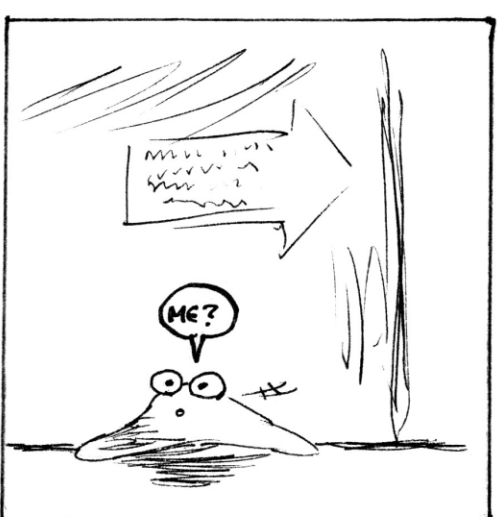
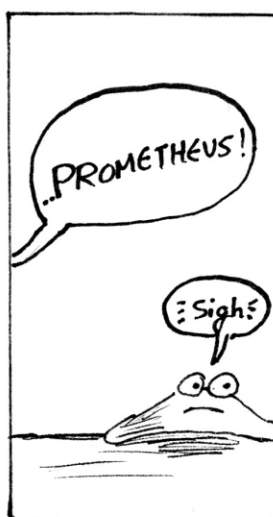
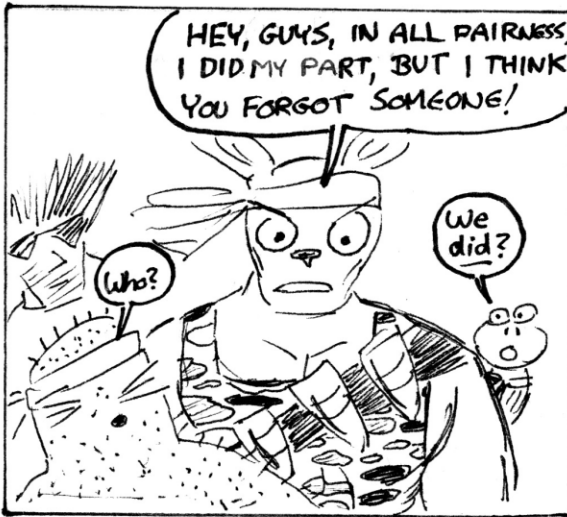
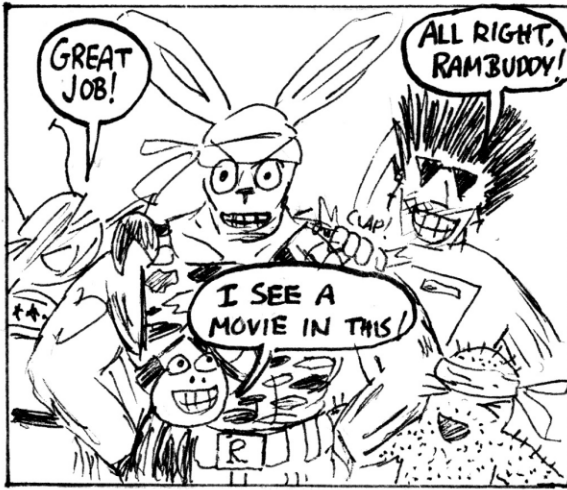
KONK  
KONK!

I LOVE A  
GOOD FIGHT!

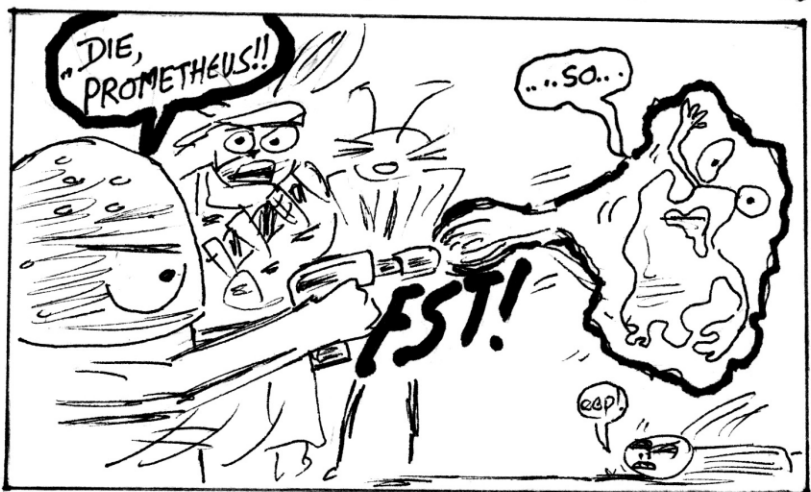
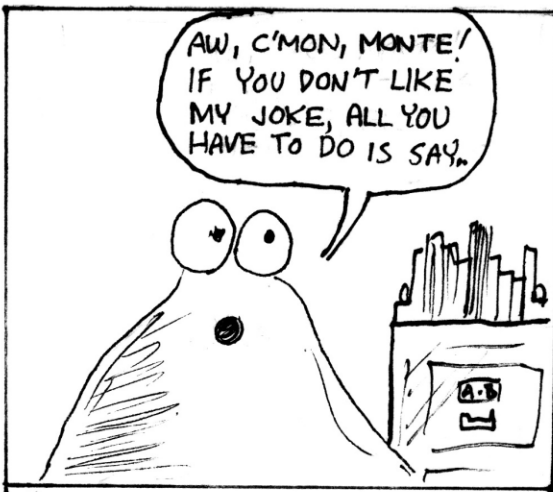
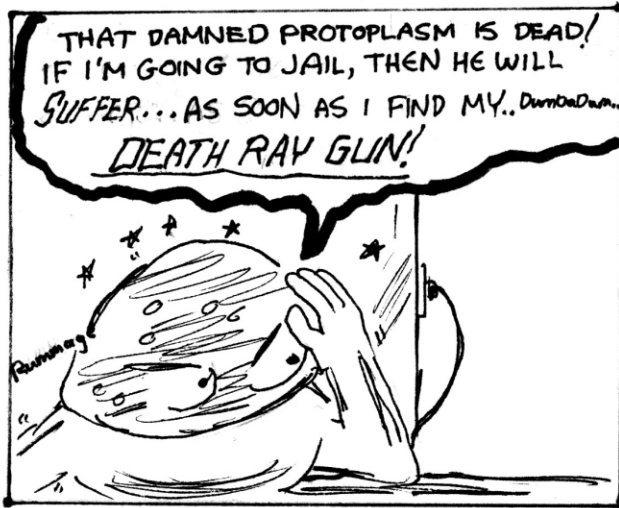
ZOT!

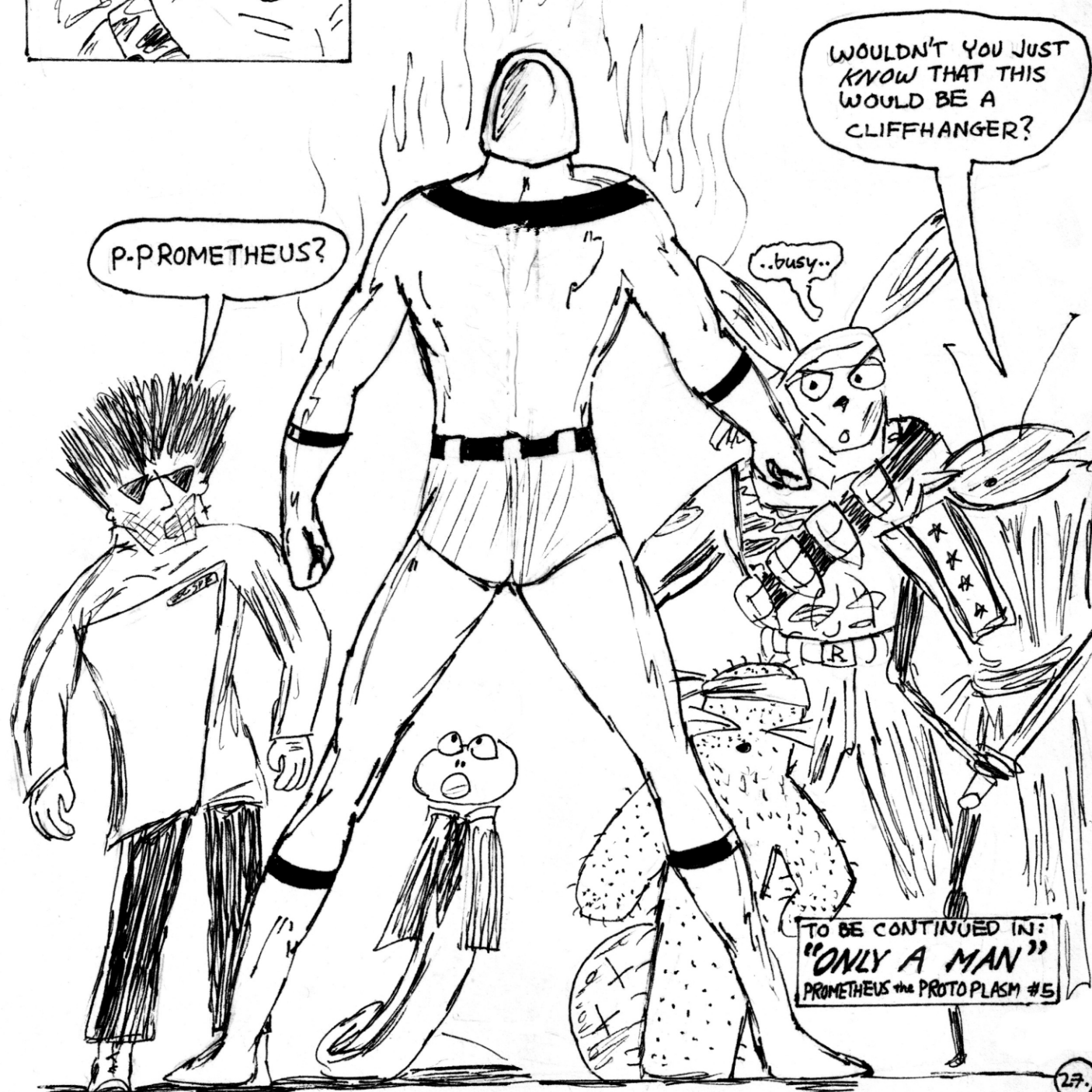






SPECIAL NOTE: THIS IS THE FIRST TIME RAMBUNNY WAS SEEN NOT FROWNING! -NIK





# THE SLIMEBALL

## SPEAKS™



"FOR THE WHINY LITTLE PROTOPLASM IN ALL OF US"

### The Evolution of an Amoeba..Part I

It was a dark and somewhat cloudy afternoon. I was in downtown Bangkok, reminiscing about that war..the war no one walked away from without losing an arm, a leg, or a loved one. I suffered in Vietnam. I lost my teddy bear.

Sure, laugh. The other guys did. Called me a sissy, a wimp.

I suppose that's why, one night, when I had watch, I pulled out an axe and chopped every single man in my squad into 473 pieces, all very similar to each other.

But that was 'Nam.

This is 1987.

I was in that bar in Bangkok, when this drunken old sailor walked up to me and said, in a panic-stricken voice, "Beware the Protoplasm..."

I turned to yell at the old coot for disturbing my reminiscence, but stopped short when I saw his eyes. Sad, old, wrinkled, blind..but yet, so knowing. He saw into your soul, and with a cry and a wink, ripped a tiny part of it free, to take home with him, and..you knew. I turned again to stare at my glass of V-8. Neither one of us spoke. Finally, after an empty glass sat before my eyes, I asked. "what protplasm?"

He didn't turn, just continued to stare out the window, at the slowly sinking sun. "You know, a sun is a thing of wonder..and yet, so much sorrow. When they die..I always thought death was a dark monster who steals our dreams..but a sun's death is so very bright.."

I understood. The man just walked out the door, saying just one word.."Prometheus.."

And so it began..

-Nik Drgax

PART II NEXT ISSUE.

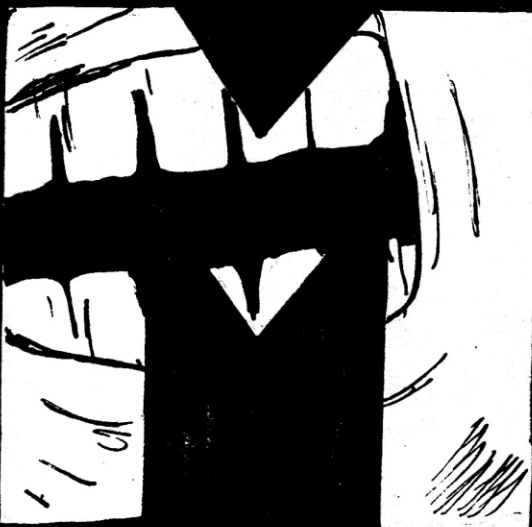
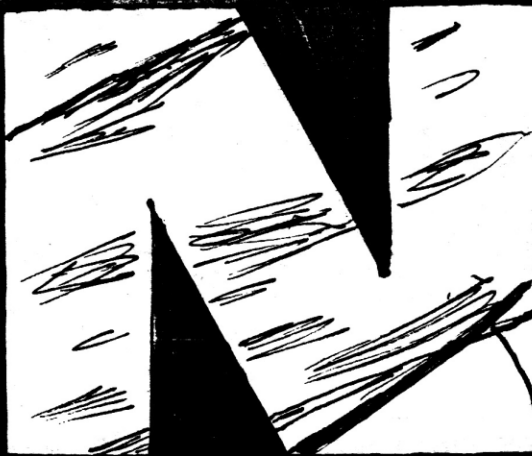
**NEXT ISSUE:** Prometheus has to cope with a new look..and Ninja Ant goes bezerk! The Asbestos Mushroom goes on trial! Rambunny tells the story of how he first met Prometheus..and his secret origin is finally revealed! All this and the first attack of Tinkertoy in "Only Human", by Nik and Nat! Plus, Part I of "A Protoplasm on Elm Street"



# THE TEAM-UP OF THE YEAR!

## NINJA ANT AND DON RICKLES!





THE ORIGIN OF THE RAMBUNNY.  
NEXT ISSUE.

IN 1967 A RABBIT NAMED PETER SPENT 15 MONTHS IN VIETNAM AS A SOLIDER IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY. HE WAS WOUNDED TWICE AND RECIEVED A BRONZE STAR FOR BRAVERY IN COMBAT. HE ALSO BECAME THE INVULNERABLE HERO NAMED RAMBUNNY.

OVER TWENTY YEARS LATER RAMBUNNY IS NOW A FAMOUS SUPER-HERO, CRUSADING FOR JUSTICE. HE IS ALSO THE ONLY SUPER-HERO WHO HAS EVER RECIEVED THE PURPLE HEART.

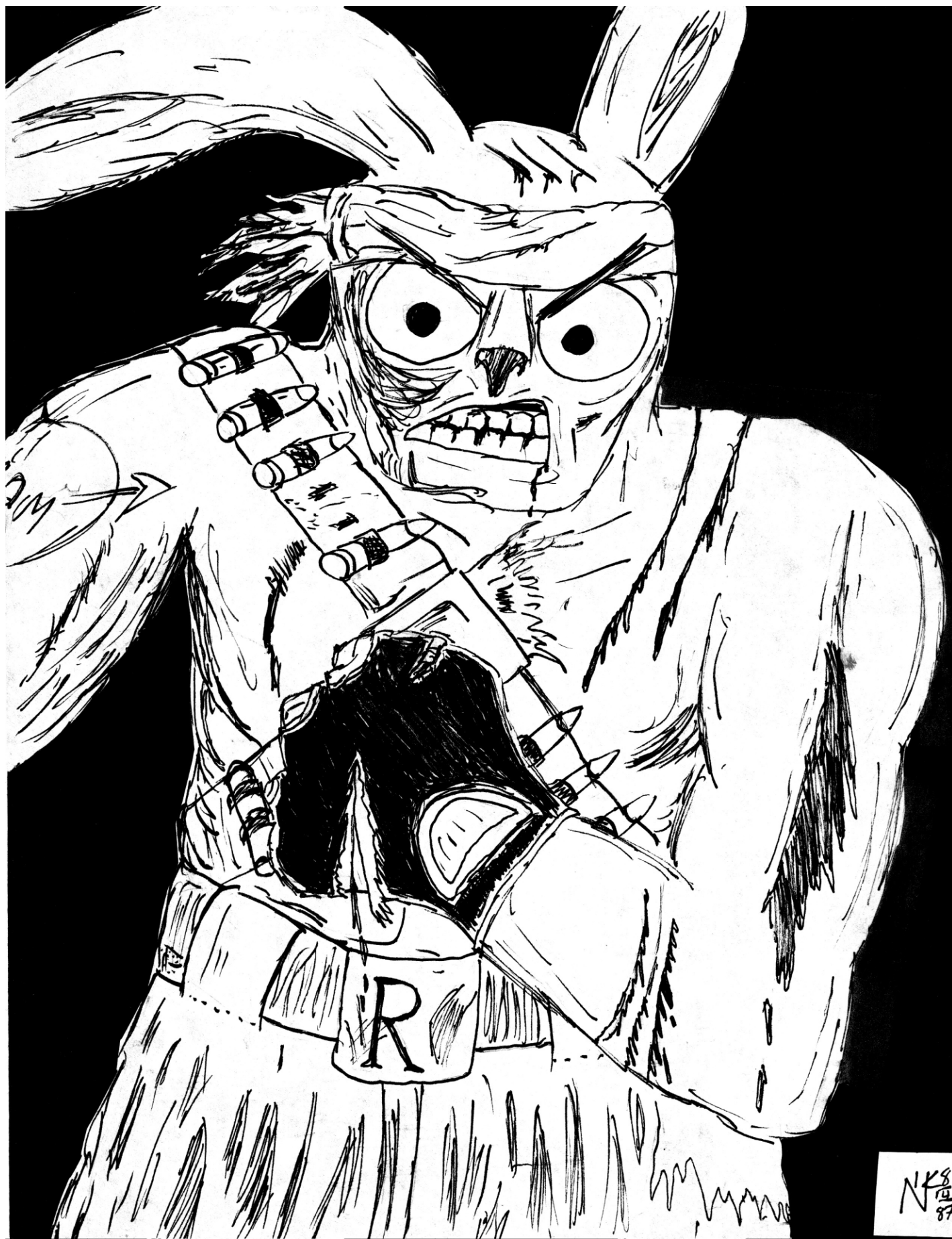
RAMBUNNY HAS COME A LONG WAY FROM VIETNAM. BUT HE HAS NOT LEFT IT BEHIND.

THERE WERE THE MEN HE KNEW AND FOUGHT WITH IN A WAR THEY COULD NOT WIN THE FEELINGS OF FEAR, COMRADESHIP, RAGE, AND LOVE THAT WON'T GO AWAY FOR ALOT OF PEOPLE. ESPECIALLY THE ONES WHO LOST PIECES OF THEIR LIVES OR THEIR BODIES THERE.

RAMBUNNY WAS, AND IS A SOLIDER. AND HE FOUGHT IN A WAR THAT HAS LEFT A SCAR ON HIS SOUL FOREVER

HE FIGHTS ON.

FOR WHAT, HE DOES NOT KNOW.



# SPECIAL BONUS SECTION

This was by far the longest and most “epic” comic young Nik produced, featuring the grand introduction of the All-Spongy Squadron. It was a mildly more professional step up from Prometheus #1-3, wherein I drew a color cover, learned the value of lettering in ALL CAPS, panel borders, and even added the help of an inker for most of the issue to tidy up my inept pencil art, in the form of my childhood pal Nate Perry-Thistle, who often got roped into being my creative lackey. It all kind of felt like the comics I could see in my head were coming into reality. This PDF version is scanned from the original art, warts and all, which I remarkably have somehow managed to hold on to ever since 1987!

Like a lot of these early comics, Prometheus #4 went through several “drafts.” Here’s an early cover done probably around the time I did Prometheus #2, and a slightly later version on the next page.





THE ADVENTURES OF

# PROMETHEUS

#4



For some reason I even started redrawing the story after a page or so - probably to do it again with better lettering and panel borders. Here's the "first draft" of page 1 and part of page 2. Dig Spif with the pointy beard on page 2!

A gigantic ball of protoplasm races through space. Attempting suicide in a comet, the ball splits into two pieces: Kronos, a huge, evil amoeba, and a heroic slime..

## PROMETHEUS THE PROTOPLASM!

..IN HIS GREATEST BATTLE OF ALL TIME!

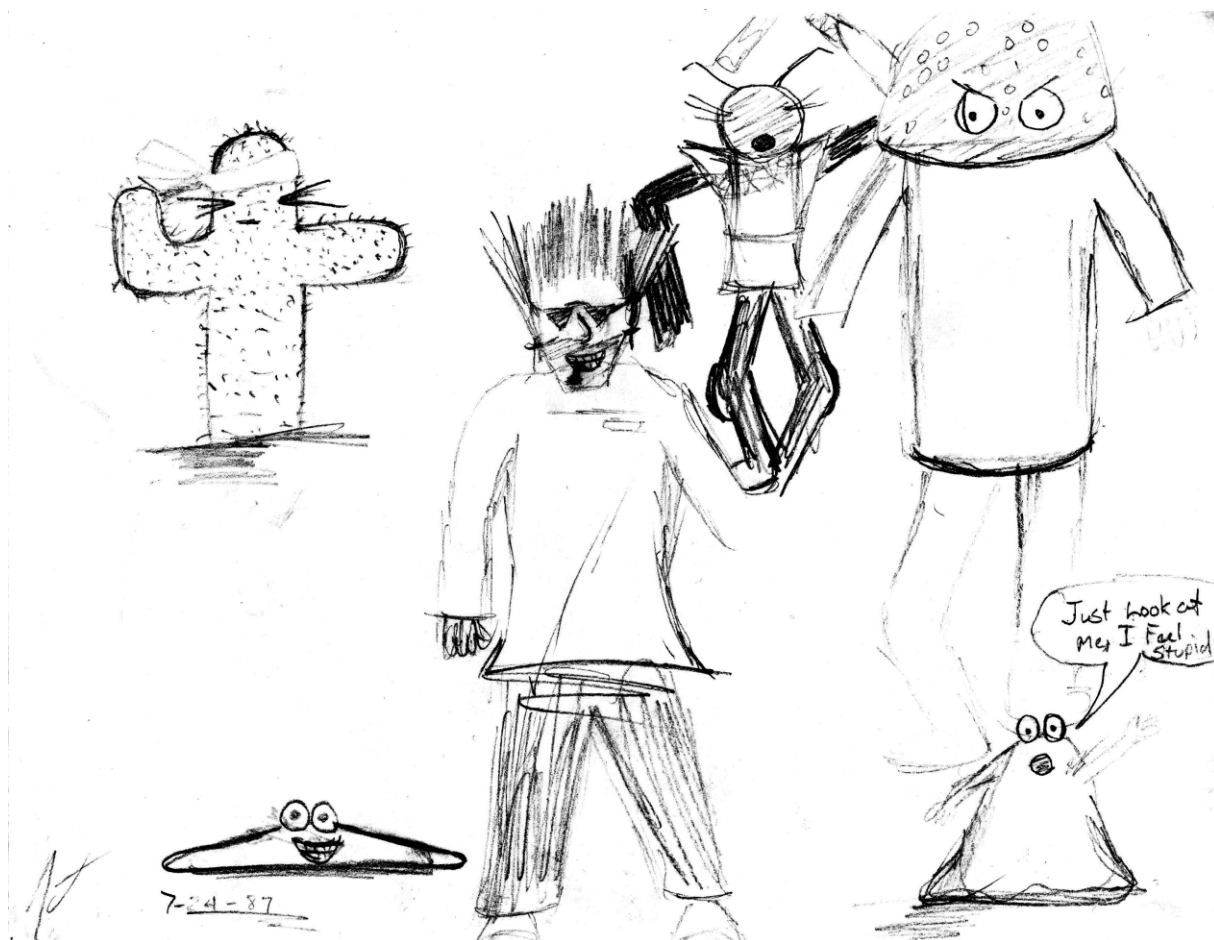
I've been WAITING for this day, Prometheus! Your molecules will be scattered all through Spongopolis when we're through with you!!

Now, now, dear Asbestos Mushroom, at least half of this plan was of my devising! Oh, now my dear brother, don't act so shocked. You knew that the mushroom and I were behind the whole "Ninja Ant" media thing. But somehow, I don't think you expected your two deadliest foes to actually show up, did you, Prometheus?

Uh. Oh.



Below, an early drawing by Nate Perry-Thistle, who kindly helped ink the first 2/3 or so of this issue.





An unused editorial for this issue, discarded after the actual story went a bit differently than I'd imagined, and put together on the super-hip-for-1987 computer my dad had just gotten. On the ACTUAL "Slimeball Speaks" editorial that I wrote for this issue, it's worth noting that pretty much nothing in the "Next Issue" description actually happens in the finished version of Prometheus #5! I had a habit of writing the editorials before I finished the actual comics and things were constantly changing along the way, otherwise known as "making it up as you went along."

## The Slimeball Speaks:

For the whiny little protoplasm in all of us

Dr Spif gets a new look in this issue, and Rambunny returns! Karate Kactus is also back, and Ninja Ant changes sides! Monte Python gets knocked across Hollywood, too! But what about the little amoeba himself? Well, starting with next issue, Prometheus goes on a journey that will take him across the universe in what surely is our most offbeat issue ever!! When he returns..well, lets say, starting in #6, Pro gets a more human outlook on life! And in #7..but let's save that for later!

And by the way, it's pronounced Pro-mee-theus, long o, long e, with an accent on the eus. It is NOT pronounced Pro-men-thus! Just wanted to clear that up..

If you want your own personal copy of any issue of PROMETHEUS, be it to read or to line your garbage can with, send \$1.00 for issues one or two, or \$1.70 for issues three or four, to GIVE ME PROTOPLASM OR GIVE ME DEATH, 207 Race Street, Grass Valley, California, 95945. Checks should be made out to Nik Dirga, NOT to Prometheus. No Money orders, please. Cash accepted but no responsibility if lost..accidently, of course.. heheheheh..

If you have any comments, questions, or, lord forbid, criticism about PROMETHEUS #1-4, send them to THE SLIMEBALL SPEAKS, same address as above. Please. My comments could get stale.

**Mind-Mystery #1:**

Q: WHY DOESN'T NINJA ANT LIKE ROCK'N'ROLL?

uhh... A: BECAUSE IT BUGS HIM!



WHAT? YOU... DISGRACE MY FAMILY, HUH! TAKE THIS SWORD, AND EAT IT! Grr.. "BUGS" indeed... Rabein Fr..

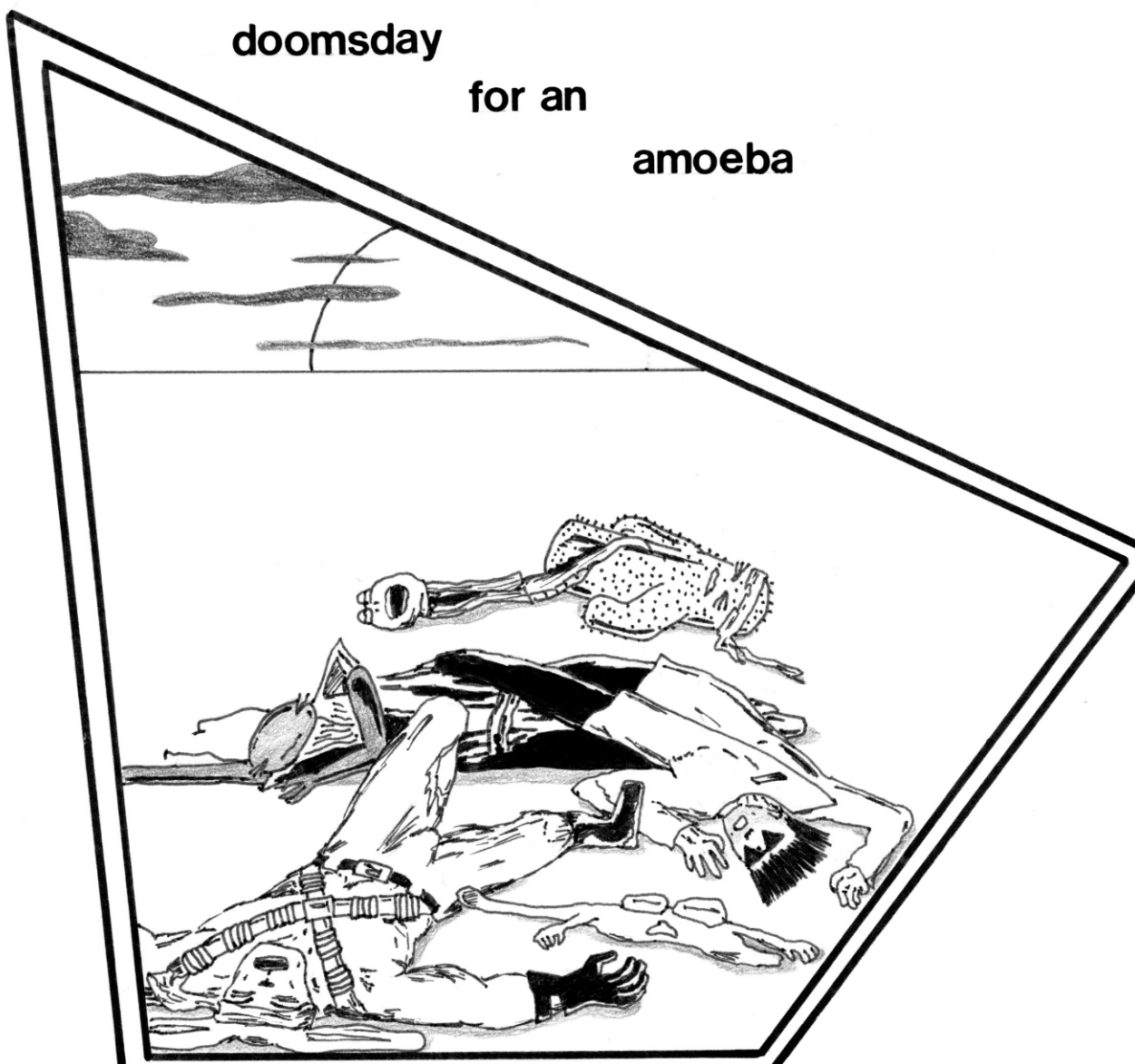
**NEXT: Prometheus is dead..or is he? Meet once again the mysterious voice from #2..and see a special shock ending! A new villain..and the funeral of Prometheus, attended by everyone! It's the wake of the year.. don't forget your black tie, in: "Being Dead", or "I Think I Took a Wrong Turn in Albuquerque", by Nik!**

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A chapter heading for "The Collected Prometheus," a booklet I put together just for friends and family that collected Prometheus #1-4.

**doomsday**  
**for an**  
**amoeba**



Looking back I actually think Prometheus #4 page 9, the brief cameo of "Dr. Terrapin" who wouldn't really appear until next issue, is the best looking page of the issue with some cool panel designs. I doodled an imaginary "Official Handbook" style drawing of Tinkertoy/Dr. Terrapin I never finished. You know, I really should bring back Dr. Terrapin one of these days...

## TINKERTOY

REAL NAME: THOMAS Terrapin

SPECIES: Turtle

SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER: 3740-2692-178E

OTHER ALIASES: Dr. Terrapin, Hey You!

SHIRT SIZE: Small Aquatic Reptile

MOM'S MAIDEN NAME: Shrppt

FAMOUS QUOTE: "It worked! I am now a man...  
or turtle... of balsa wood and cheap plastic!"

BASE OF OPERATIONS: Burgerstown

FAVORITE MOVIE: "Abbott & Costello in Thailand"

FIRST APPEARANCE: PROMETHEUS THE PROTOPLASM #4

SECRET (Shh!) ORIGIN:

