

**BIO**  
COMICS

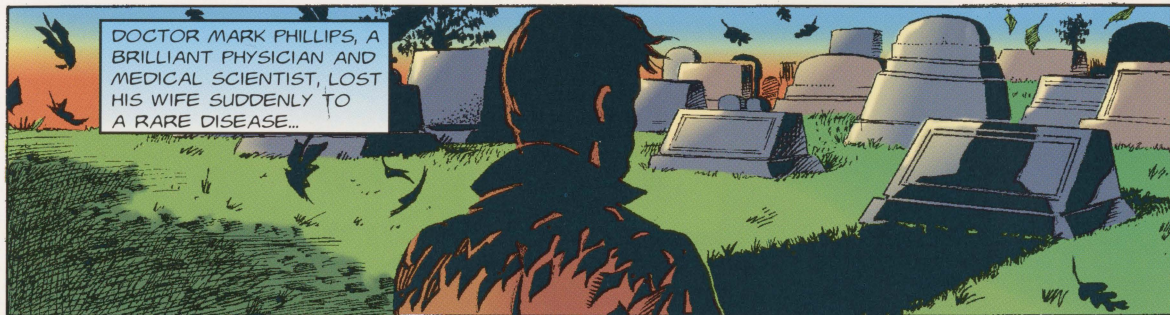


**ATTACK OF THE HEP-B VIRUS!**

# CAPTAIN **BIO**



# THE ORIGIN OF **CAPTAIN BIO**

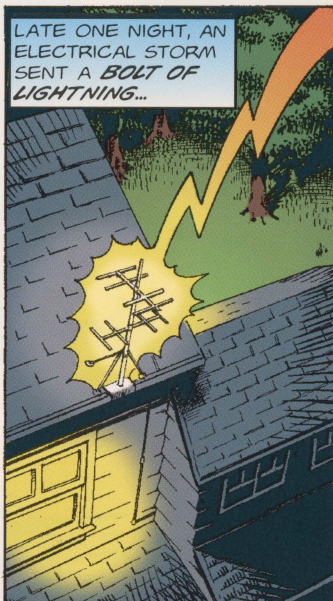


DOCTOR MARK PHILLIPS, A BRILLIANT PHYSICIAN AND MEDICAL SCIENTIST, LOST HIS WIFE SUDDENLY TO A RARE DISEASE...



AFTER THE TRAGEDY, HE DEVOTED HIS LIFE TO SOLVING THE MYSTERIES OF MEDICAL SCIENCE...

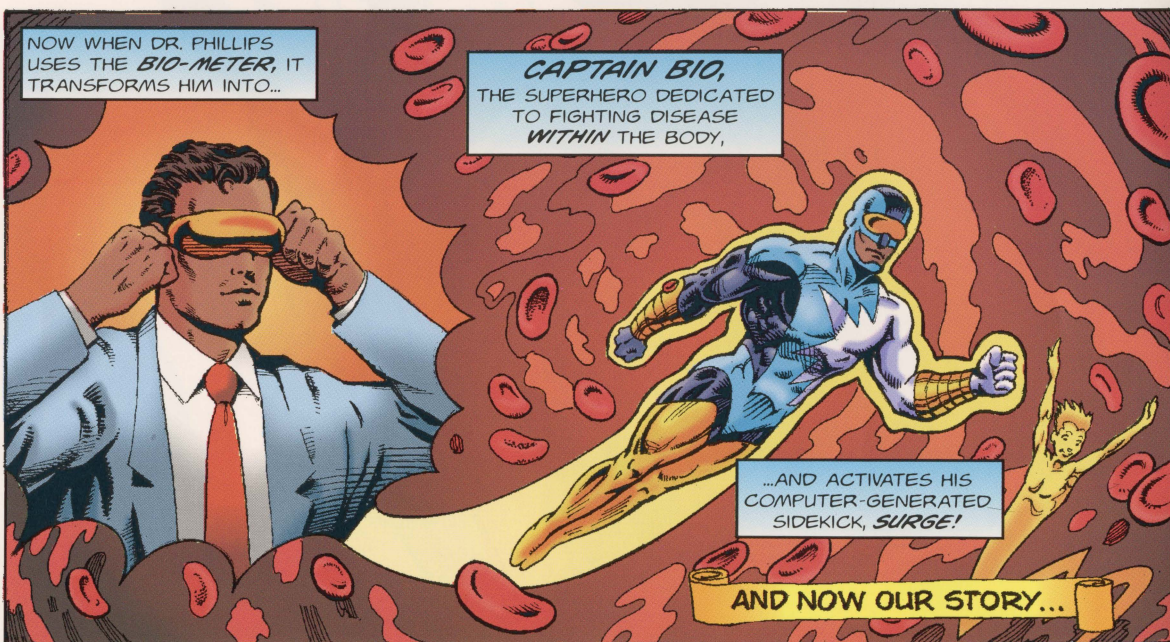
...LEADING TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF AN AMAZING DIAGNOSTIC TOOL — THE **BIO-METER!**



LATE ONE NIGHT, AN ELECTRICAL STORM SENT A **BOLT OF LIGHTNING...**



...THAT ALTERED THE DEVICE



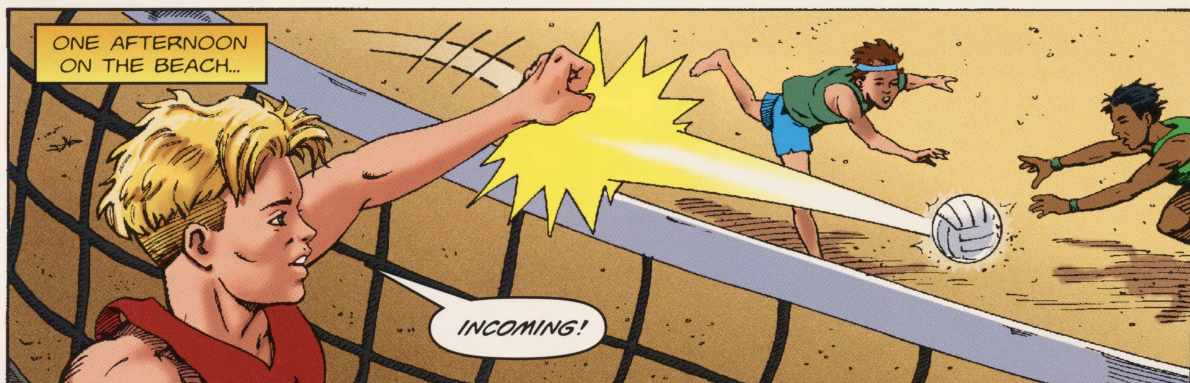
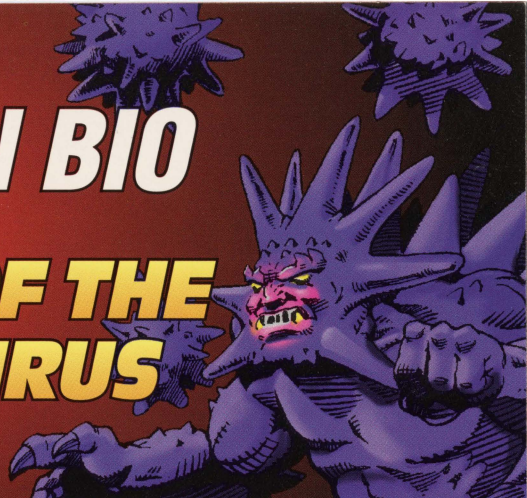
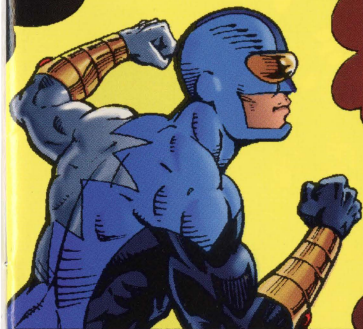
NOW WHEN DR. PHILLIPS USES THE **BIO-METER**, IT TRANSFORMS HIM INTO...

**CAPTAIN BIO**, THE SUPERHERO DEDICATED TO FIGHTING DISEASE *WITHIN* THE BODY,

...AND ACTIVATES HIS COMPUTER-GENERATED SIDEKICK, **SURGE!**

**AND NOW OUR STORY...**

# CAPTAIN BIO and ATTACK OF THE HEP B VIRUS



ONE AFTERNOON ON THE BEACH...

INCOMING!



AWESOME SHOT, KEVIN! WE WON

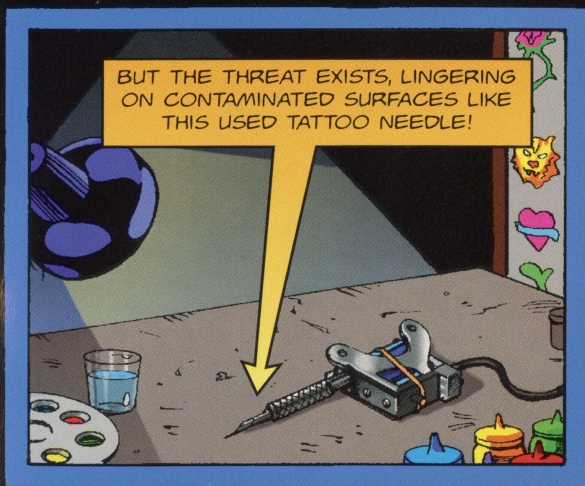
HEY, NO SWEAT, FRANKIE! WE'RE A DYNASTY IN THE MAKING!



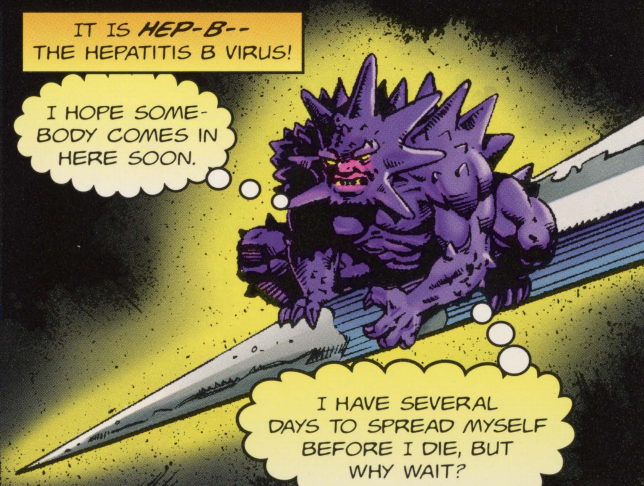
MEANWHILE, JUST DOWN THE BOARDWALK, DANGER LURKS IN LOU'S TATTOO SHOP...

LOU'S TATTOOS & BODY PIERCING

IT'S A DANGER TOO SMALL TO BE SEEN BY THE HUMAN EYE...



BUT THE THREAT EXISTS, LINGERING ON CONTAMINATED SURFACES LIKE THIS USED TATTOO NEEDLE!



IT IS HEP-B-- THE HEPATITIS B VIRUS!

I HOPE SOMEBODY COMES IN HERE SOON.

I HAVE SEVERAL DAYS TO SPREAD MYSELF BEFORE I DIE, BUT WHY WAIT?

THIS USED NEEDLE HAS NOT BEEN STERILIZED!

GOOD!  
NOW I CAN GET INTO A BODY AND DO SOME LIVER DAMAGE!

BACK ON THE BEACH...

WE'LL BEAT YOU NEXT TIME, WHEN IT REALLY COUNTS!

KEEP DREAMING!

C'MON, FRANKIE, LET'S DO SOMETHING COOL TO CELEBRATE!

OKAY. ANY IDEAS?

SOON, IN THE TATTOO SHOP...

MAN, THESE ARE SO COOL! WHICH ONE ARE YOU GETTIN', FRANKIE?

I DON'T KNOW ABOUT THIS, KEV...

NOTHIN' TO WORRY ABOUT, KID! WE USE ONLY THE BEST EQUIPMENT IN THIS JOINT!

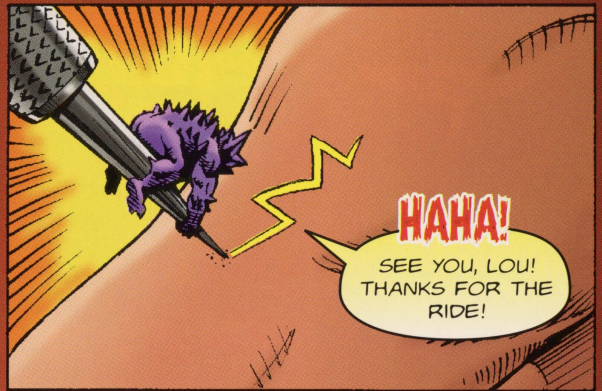
THANKS, BUT I'LL PASS.

WELL, I'M NOT YELLOW! I WANT THIS ONE, LOU!

GOOD CHOICE, KID. IT WILL LOOK COOL.



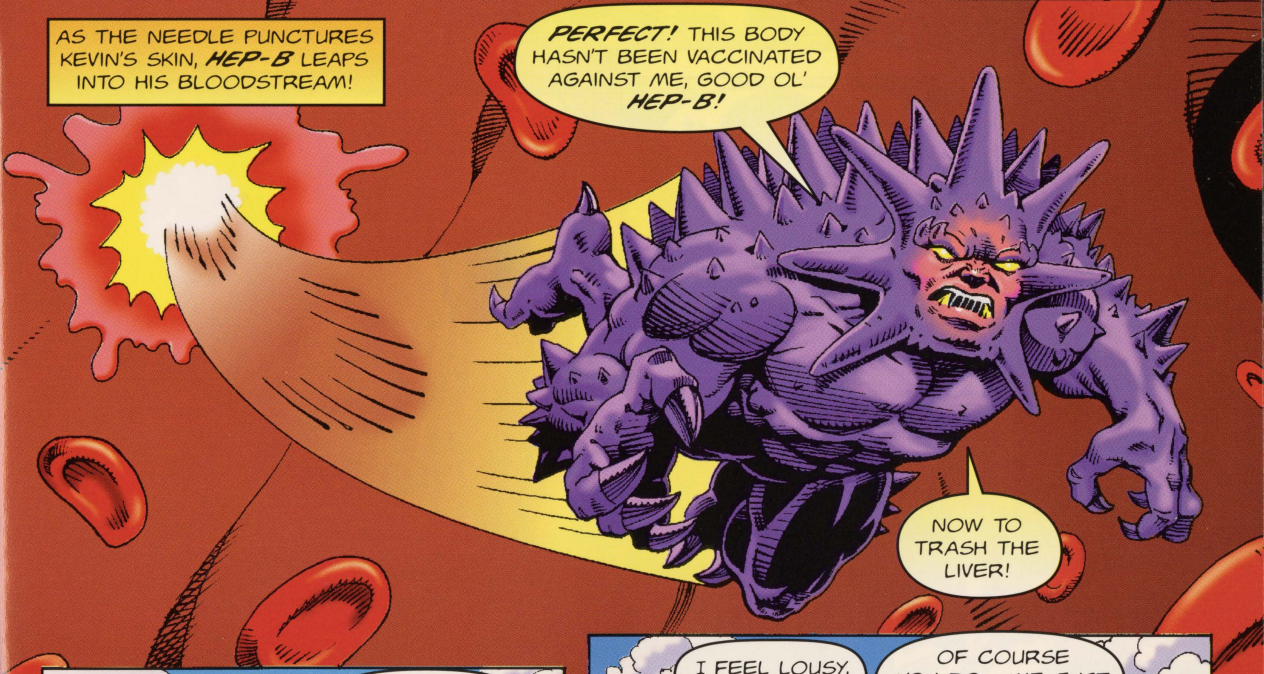
DARN! I'M OUT OF NEEDLES-- I GUESS THIS USED ONE WILL DO.



HAHA!  
SEE YOU, LOU!  
THANKS FOR THE RIDE!

AS THE NEEDLE PUNCTURES KEVIN'S SKIN, **HEP-B** LEAPS INTO HIS BLOODSTREAM!

PERFECT! THIS BODY HASN'T BEEN VACCINATED AGAINST ME, GOOD OL' **HEP-B!**



NOW TO TRASH THE LIVER!

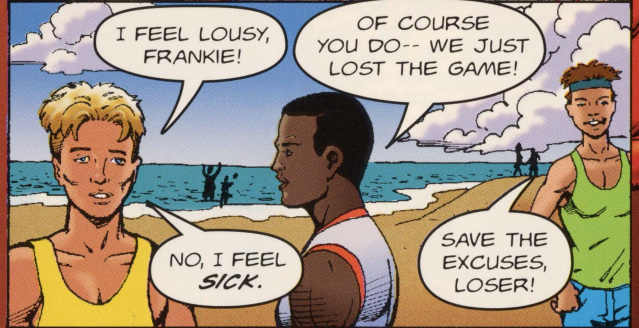


MONTHS LATER...

HEY KEV, WHAT'S GOING ON, MAN? THAT WAS AN EASY SPIKE!

MISSED AGAIN!

WE WIN!

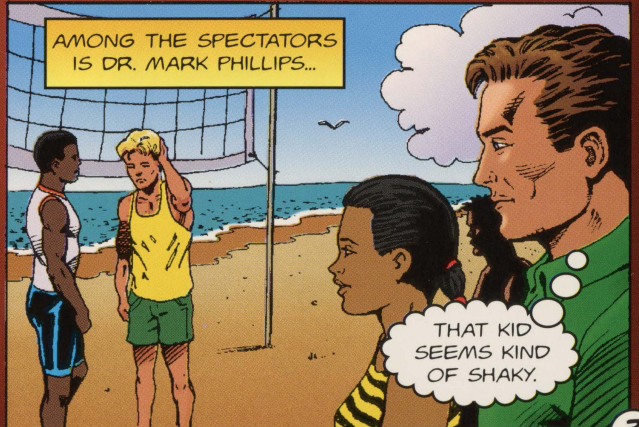


I FEEL LOUSY, FRANKIE!

OF COURSE YOU DO-- WE JUST LOST THE GAME!

NO, I FEEL SICK.

SAVE THE EXCUSES, LOSER!



AMONG THE SPECTATORS IS DR. MARK PHILLIPS...

THAT KID SEEMS KIND OF SHAKY.



HI, I'M A DOCTOR. IS HE OKAY?

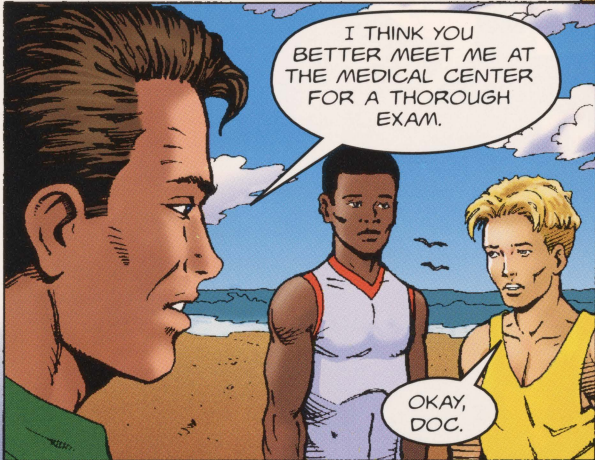
I DON'T KNOW. HE'S BEEN REAL *T*TIRED LATELY.



HMM... YELLOW IN THE EYES AND SKIN. THIS COULD BE SERIOUS.

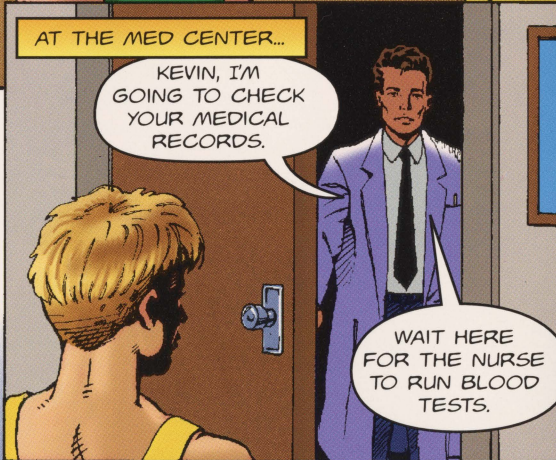
HOW ARE YOU FEELING?

MY BODY ACHES ALL OVER, AND I FEEL LIKE I'M GONNA GET SICK!



I THINK YOU BETTER MEET ME AT THE MEDICAL CENTER FOR A THOROUGH EXAM.

OKAY, DOC.



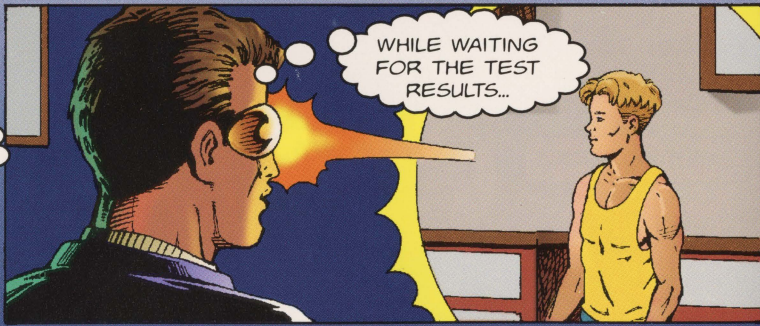
AT THE MED CENTER...

KEVIN, I'M GOING TO CHECK YOUR MEDICAL RECORDS.

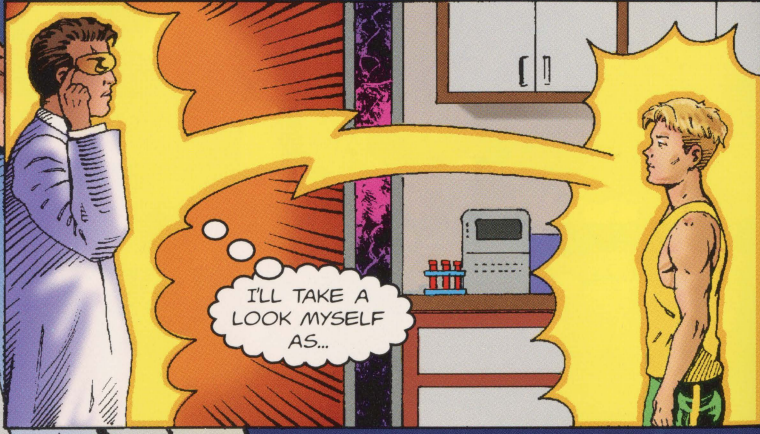
WAIT HERE FOR THE NURSE TO RUN BLOOD TESTS.

IN THE NEXT ROOM, DR. PHILLIPS DONS THE *BIO-METER*...

I BELIEVE KEVIN MAY HAVE SOME LIVER DAMAGE.



WHILE WAITING FOR THE TEST RESULTS...



I'LL TAKE A LOOK MYSELF AS...

# CAPTAIN BIO!

HEY CAP! WHAT'S HAPPENING?

FOLLOW ME THROUGH THE BLOODSTREAM, SURGE! WE HAVE SOME INVESTIGATING TO DO!

SUDDENLY, CAPTAIN BIO IS STUNNED BY A FAST-MOVING OBJECT!

OOOMPH!

CAP!

I'M OKAY, SURGE! JUST HAD THE WIND KNOCKED OUT OF ME!

WHAT WAS THAT?

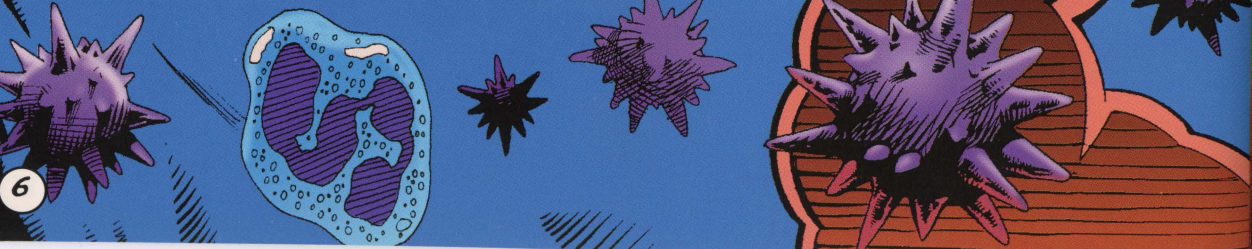
I'M NOT SURE, BUT I THINK WE'LL FIND THE ANSWER IN THE LIVER AREA!

WOW, THIS LIVER LOOKS LIKE IT COULD HAVE PROBLEMS!

IT'S INFECTED WITH HEP B, SURGE!

THIS IS A PRIVATE PARTY, BOYS.

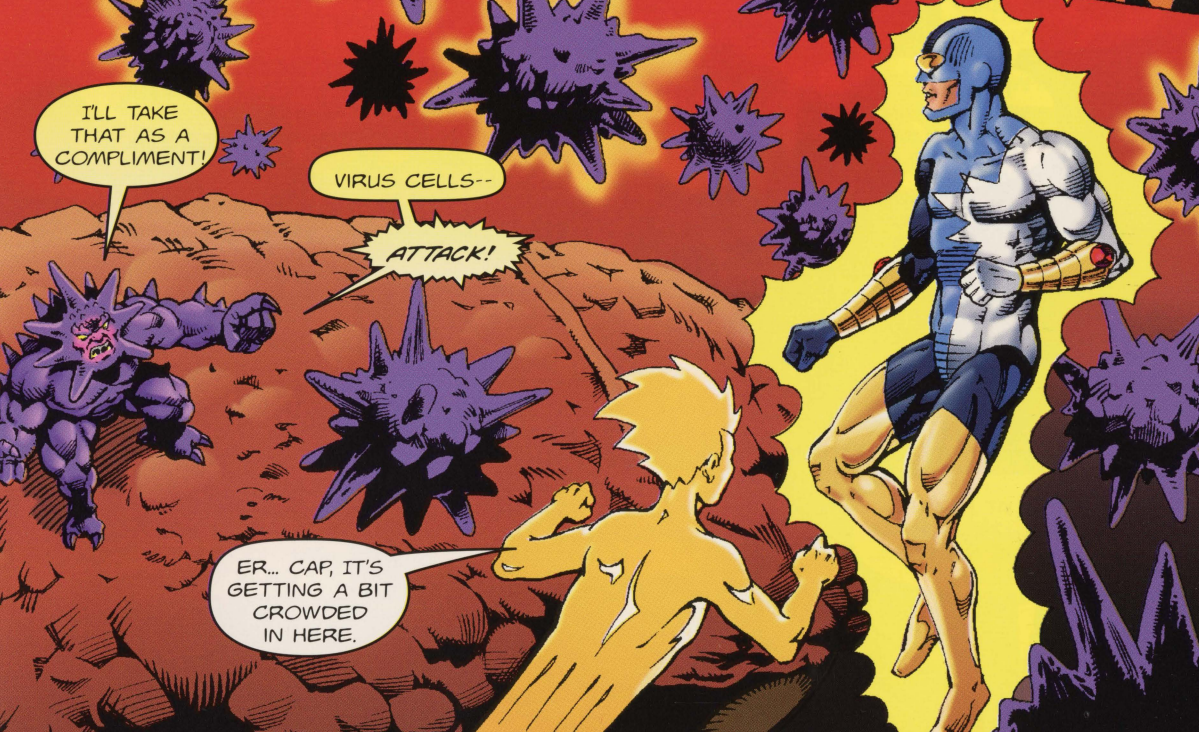
AND YOU ARE NOT INVITED!







I'VE SEEN CASES OF HEPATITIS B BEFORE, BUT NOT MANY ARE THIS SERIOUS!



I'LL TAKE THAT AS A COMPLIMENT!

VIRUS CELLS--

ATTACK!

ER... CAP, IT'S GETTING A BIT CROWDED IN HERE.

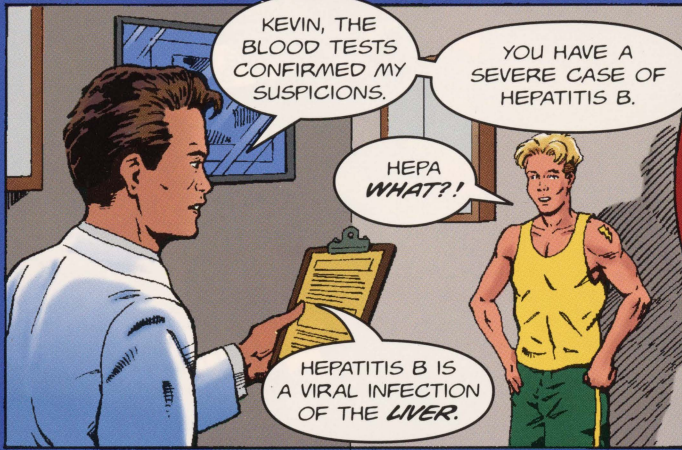


WE'VE GOT THE INFO WE NEED, SURGE! I'M GOING TO HURRY BACK...



"...TO TELL KEVIN!"

BACK IN THE OFFICE...



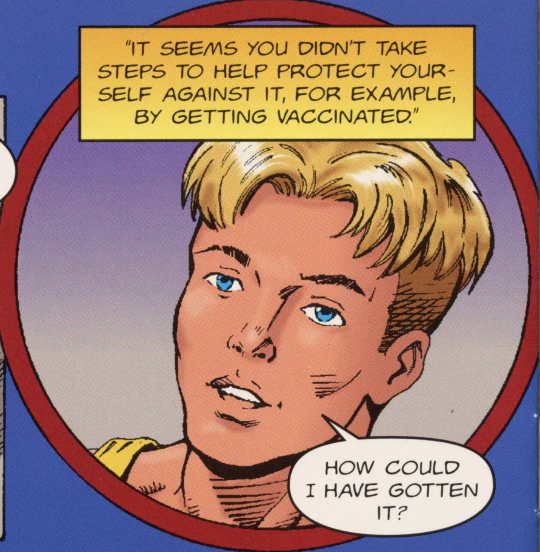
KEVIN, THE BLOOD TESTS CONFIRMED MY SUSPICIONS.

YOU HAVE A SEVERE CASE OF HEPATITIS B.

HEPA WHAT?!

HEPATITIS B IS A VIRAL INFECTION OF THE LIVER.

"IT SEEMS YOU DIDN'T TAKE STEPS TO HELP PROTECT YOURSELF AGAINST IT, FOR EXAMPLE, BY GETTING VACCINATED."

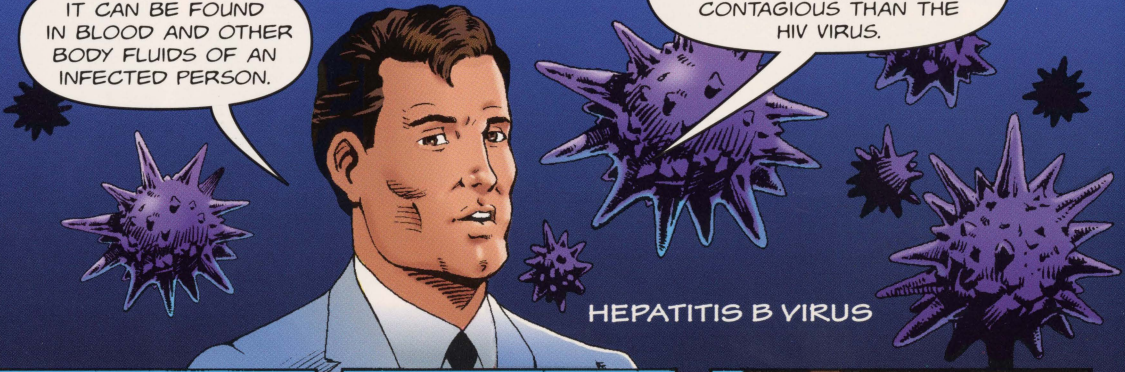


HOW COULD I HAVE GOTTEN IT?

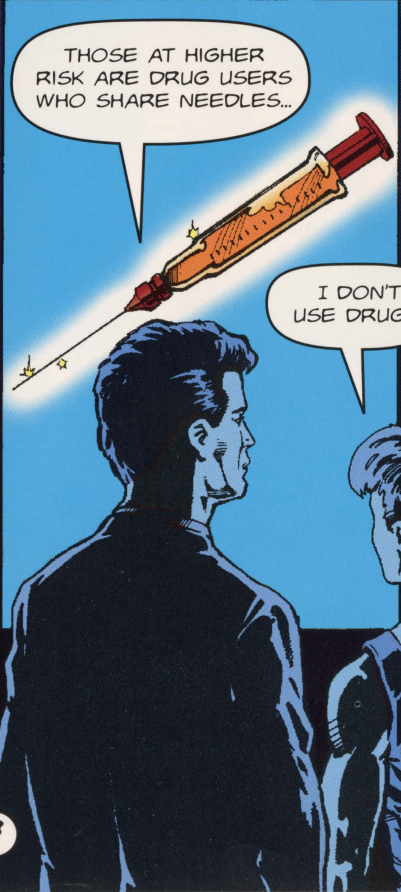
UNFORTUNATELY, THERE ARE MANY WAYS.

IT CAN BE FOUND IN BLOOD AND OTHER BODY FLUIDS OF AN INFECTED PERSON.

HEPATITIS B CAN LIVE FOR SEVERAL DAYS ON CONTAMINATED OBJECTS AND CAN BE MORE CONTAGIOUS THAN THE HIV VIRUS.



HEPATITIS B VIRUS



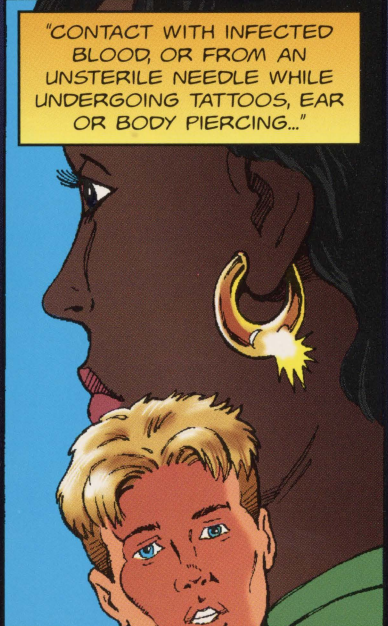
THOSE AT HIGHER RISK ARE DRUG USERS WHO SHARE NEEDLES...

I DON'T USE DRUGS!



"WELL, THERE ARE OTHER WAYS: UNPROTECTED SEXUAL CONTACT..."

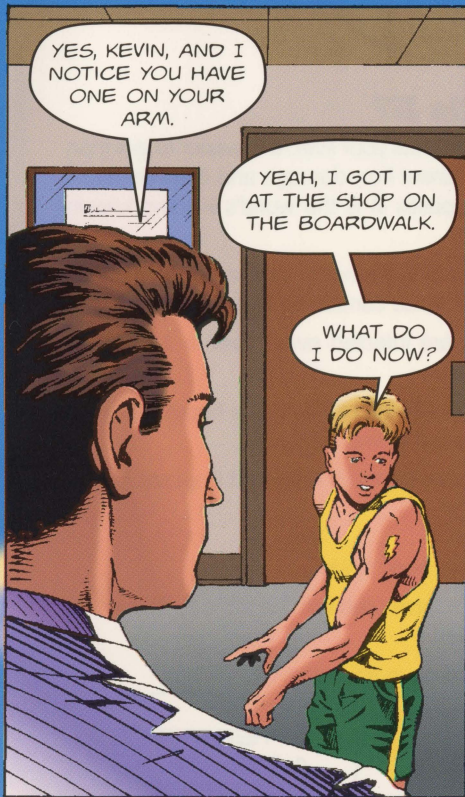
I DO HAVE A GIRLFRIEND...



"CONTACT WITH INFECTED BLOOD, OR FROM AN UNSTERILE NEEDLE WHILE UNDERGOING TATTOOS, EAR OR BODY PIERCING..."



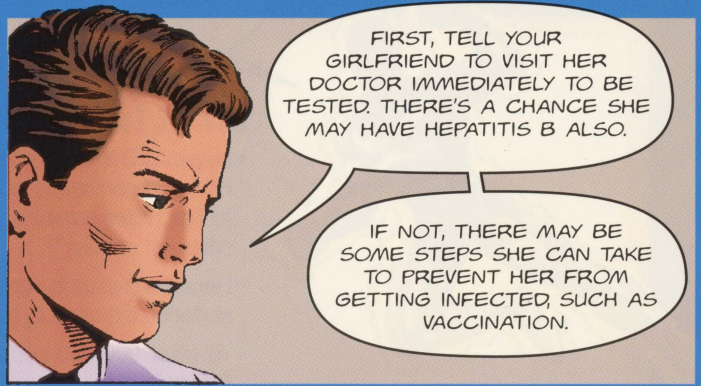
DID YOU SAY TATTOOS?



YES, KEVIN, AND I NOTICE YOU HAVE ONE ON YOUR ARM.

YEAH, I GOT IT AT THE SHOP ON THE BOARDWALK.

WHAT DO I DO NOW?



FIRST, TELL YOUR GIRLFRIEND TO VISIT HER DOCTOR IMMEDIATELY TO BE TESTED. THERE'S A CHANCE SHE MAY HAVE HEPATITIS B ALSO.

IF NOT, THERE MAY BE SOME STEPS SHE CAN TAKE TO PREVENT HER FROM GETTING INFECTED, SUCH AS VACCINATION.



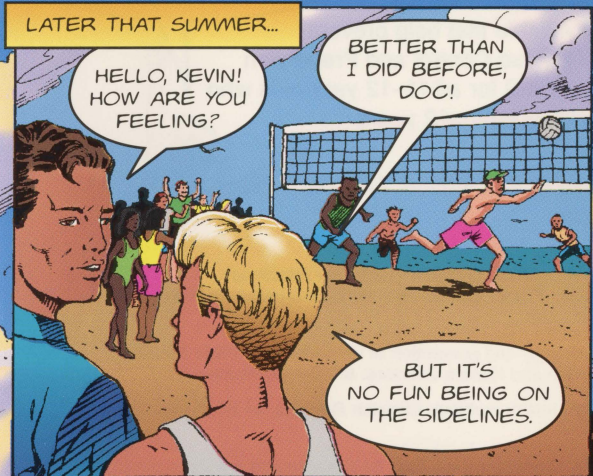
WILL I BE OKAY?

WE WILL MONITOR YOU ON A REGULAR BASIS.

IT COULD TAKE A WHILE, BUT MOST PEOPLE RECOVER COMPLETELY.

SOMETIMES, THOUGH, HEPATITIS B CAN LEAD TO SERIOUS LONG-TERM PROBLEMS.

LATER THAT SUMMER...



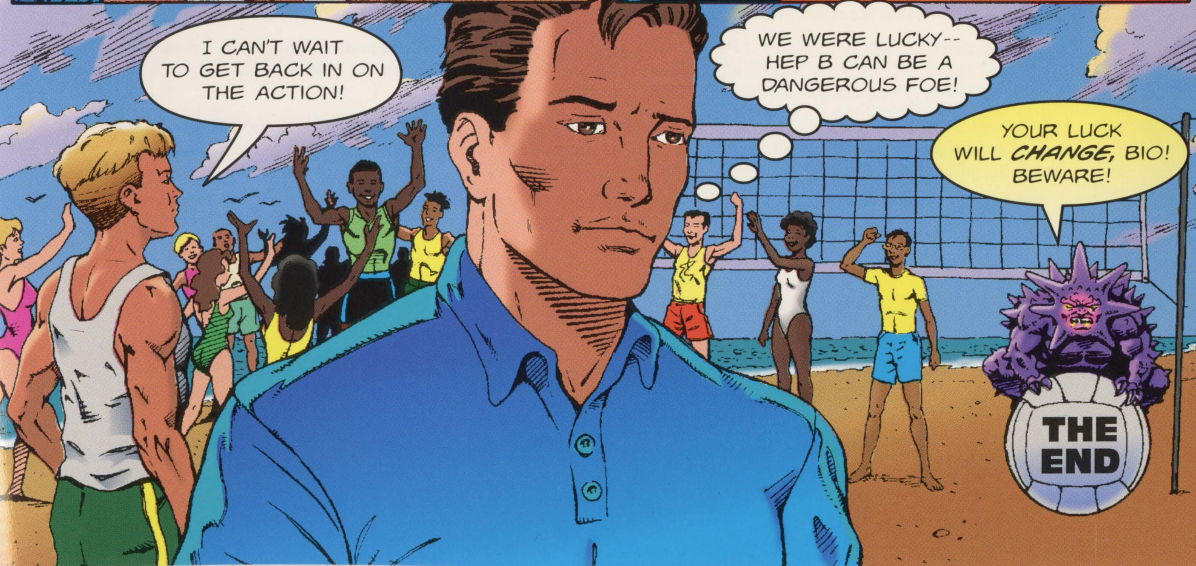
HELLO, KEVIN! HOW ARE YOU FEELING?

BETTER THAN I DID BEFORE, DOC!

BUT IT'S NO FUN BEING ON THE SIDELINES.



YES!




I CAN'T WAIT TO GET BACK IN ON THE ACTION!

WE WERE LUCKY-- HEP B CAN BE A DANGEROUS FOE!

YOUR LUCK WILL CHANGE, BIO! BEWARE!

THE END



WHAT YOU  
SHOULD KNOW ABOUT  
HEPATITIS B!

## What is hepatitis B?

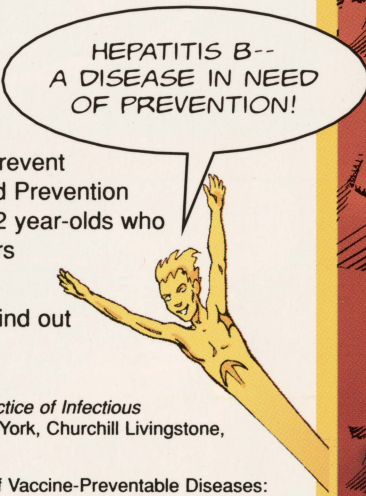
- Hepatitis B is a virus that affects your liver. It is easier to get than HIV, and can cause permanent liver damage and even death.<sup>4,5</sup> In fact, after smoking, hepatitis B is the world's leading known cause of cancer.<sup>2</sup>
  - Hepatitis B virus is capable of surviving for days on environmental surfaces exposed to body fluids containing hep B virus.
  - At least 200,000 people are infected every year in the United States.<sup>5</sup>
- More than 1.25 million people in the United States are chronically infected with the hepatitis B virus and are at an increased risk of dying from chronic liver disease or liver cancer.<sup>5</sup>
- 4,000 – 5,000 people die every year in the United States from hepatitis B-related illnesses.<sup>5</sup>

## How do you get hepatitis B?

- Hepatitis B is a virus that is spread through blood and other body fluids.
- It can be spread through contact with an unsterile needle contaminated with hepatitis B. This could occur during tattooing, ear or body piercing, or drug injection.<sup>1</sup>
- It can enter your body through sexual contact or through breaks in your skin.<sup>1</sup>
- It can be spread by sharing a toothbrush, or a razor with someone who is infected.<sup>1,2</sup>

## Can hepatitis B be prevented?

- YES. People at risk can modify their behavior and take special precautions. In addition, there are vaccines available that help prevent hepatitis B in many people. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends vaccination against hepatitis B for *all* 11–12 year-olds who have not already been vaccinated, and for adolescents >12 years old who may be at increased risk for infection.<sup>6</sup>
- Talk to your doctor about the benefits and risks of vaccination. Find out if vaccination against hepatitis B is right for you.



HEPATITIS B--  
A DISEASE IN NEED  
OF PREVENTION!

### References

1. Robinson, W. S., Hepatitis B Virus and Hepatitis D Virus. *Principles and Practice of Infectious Diseases*, eds. G. L. Mandell, J. E. Bennett, and R. Dolin, Fourth Edition, New York, Churchill Livingstone, 1995, pp. 1406-1439.
2. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: Epidemiology and prevention of Vaccine-Preventable Diseases: Hepatitis B, eds. W. Atkinson, et al., Department of Health and Human Services: 9:125-144, January 1996.
3. Scott, R. L.: Hepatitis B: Action plan for a preventable health problem, *Clinician Reviews*; 41-80, September 1993.
4. Beekman, S. E., Henderson, D. K.: Healthcare workers and hepatitis: Risk for infection and management of exposures, *Infect. Dis. Clin. Pract.* 1(6): 424-428, 1992.
5. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: Hepatitis B virus infection: A comprehensive strategy for eliminating transmission in the United States through immunization: Recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP), *MMWR*, 1995. Draft statement.
6. Immunization of Adolescents: Recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices, the American Academy of Pediatrics, the American Academy of Family Physicians, and the American Medical Association. *MMWR* 45(RR-13): 1-16, November 22, 1996.

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