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*P.I.E.R.R.E. and the Agents of R.E.A.S.O.N.*

Keith Aoki

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# **P.I.E.R.R.E.<sup>1</sup> and the Agents of R.E.A.S.O.N.<sup>2</sup>**

**Keith Aoki\***

## **PROLOGUE**

*There once was a man named Pierre*

*Who to Legal Pundits said:*

I just don't care,  
for all your implausible schemes  
and high-minded dreams,  
dreamt up to hide Reason's disrepair.

*So see this story, my friend*

*And perhaps in the end*

*You can draw*

*Your own conclusions there.*

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<sup>1</sup> Phenomenologic Iterative Eschatologic Revanchist Rogue Existentialists (P.I.E.R.R.E.); see also Pierre Schlag, *THE ENCHANTMENT OF REASON* (1998).

<sup>2</sup> Rational Epistemic Analytic Systemic Ontologic Normativos (R.E.A.S.O.N.)

\* Professor, University of Oregon School of Law. Sincere thanks for encouragement and comments to Pierre Schlag, Anthony Paul Farley, Maria Grahn-Farley, Michael Fischl, Phyllis Goldfarb, Peter Goodrich, Duncan Kennedy, Bert Westbrook, as well as Dean Dennis Lynch and the rest of the participants in the February 2002 "Beyond Right and Reason" Symposium hosted by the University of Miami School of Law. Particular gratitude is due to Professor Martha Ertman for introducing me to Maurice Sendak's book, "PIERRE: A CAUTIONARY TALE IN FIVE CHAPTERS AND A PROLOGUE," (Harper & Row, 1962) thereby providing both a conceptual frame and a jumping off point. Thanks are also due to the work of Jim Steranko, Jack Kirby and Stan Lee who created "NICK FURY, AGENT OF S.H.I.E.L.D." for Marvel Comics in the 1960s and served as a stylistic touchstone and inspiration. And thanks to Francisco Goya & Beto Juarez.

AT THE LAW REVIEW EXECUTIVE MEETING...



THANKS FOR COMING ... TONY'S GOT SOMETHING TO BRING UR...

YEAH, WE HAVE A PROBLEM!! SINCE WE ACCEPTED THIS "PIERRE" SYMPOSIUM, WE HAVEN'T SEEN ANY PIECES WITH MORE THAN 20 FOOTNOTES!!

MY CITE-CHECKERS ARE COMPLAINING...

I WARNED THE BOARD ABOUT THIS...

YES, BUT...



WE MUST DO SOMETHING! THE LACUNAE ARE SAPPING OUR JURISPRUDENTIAL MOXIE!!



GUESS WHAT...? I HAVE A PLAN...



BUT YOU ALWAYS HAVE A PLAN! WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO WITH THESE PIECES??



WELL... WE COULD JUST START OVER?... HEH!

COME ON, GET REAL! NOW, SOME OF THESE PIECES CAN BE "DOCTORED" UP INTO RESPECTABLE LEGAL SCHOLARSHIP... BUT...



GET A LOAD OF THIS...

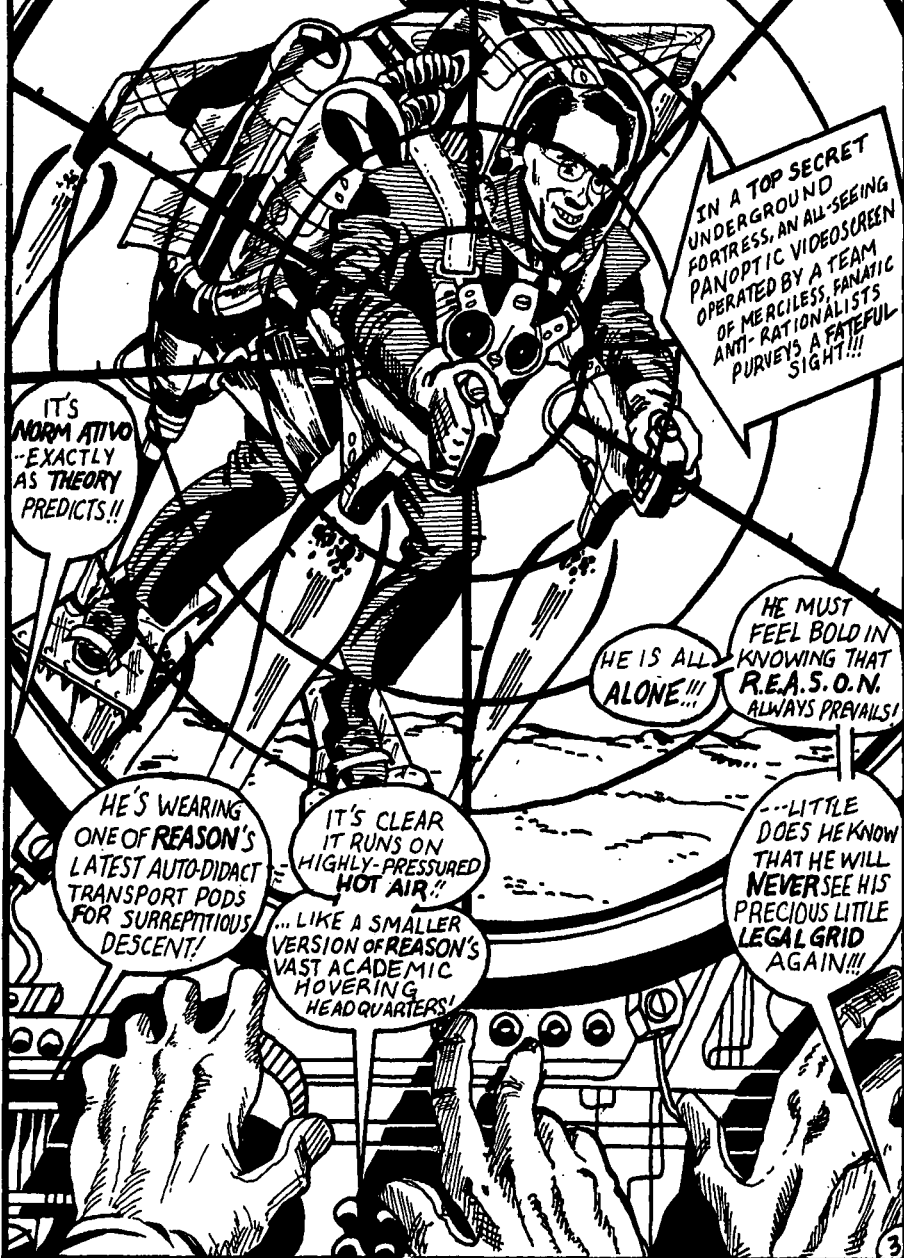


HMMM... YOU MEAN SOMEONE SENT DRAWINGS IN? A... COMIC STRIP???

YOU SEE WE DO HAVE A PROBLEM...

**NORM ATIVO, AGENT OF R.E.A.S.O.N.!**  
RATIONAL EPISTEMIC ANALYTIC SYSTEMIC ONTOLOGIC NORMATIVOS

# BLOWBACK!



IT'S  
**NORM ATIVO**  
--EXACTLY  
AS THEORY  
PREDICTS!!

IN A TOP SECRET  
UNDERGROUND  
FORTRESS, AN ALL-SEEING  
PANOPTIC VIDEOSCREEN  
OPERATED BY A TEAM  
OF MERCILESS, FANATIC  
ANTI-RATIONALISTS  
PURVEYS A FATEFUL  
SIGHT!!!

HE IS ALL  
ALONE!!!

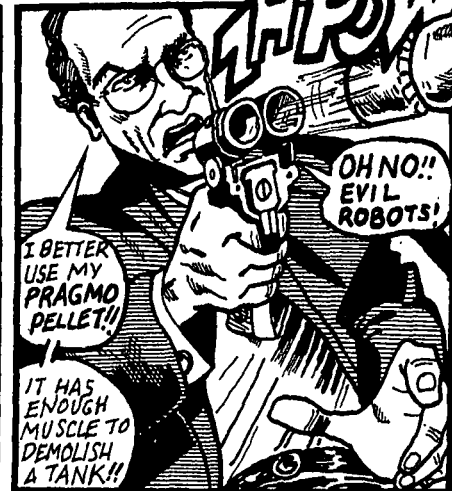
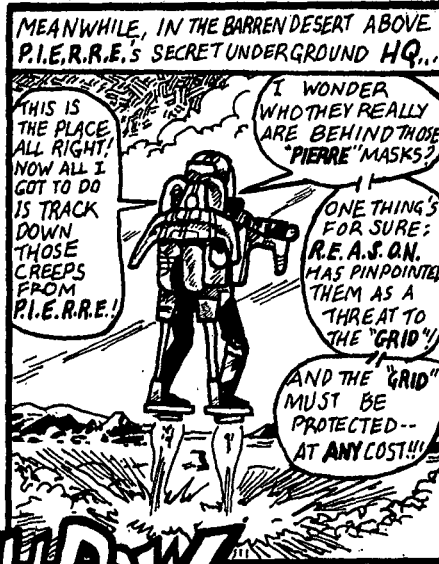
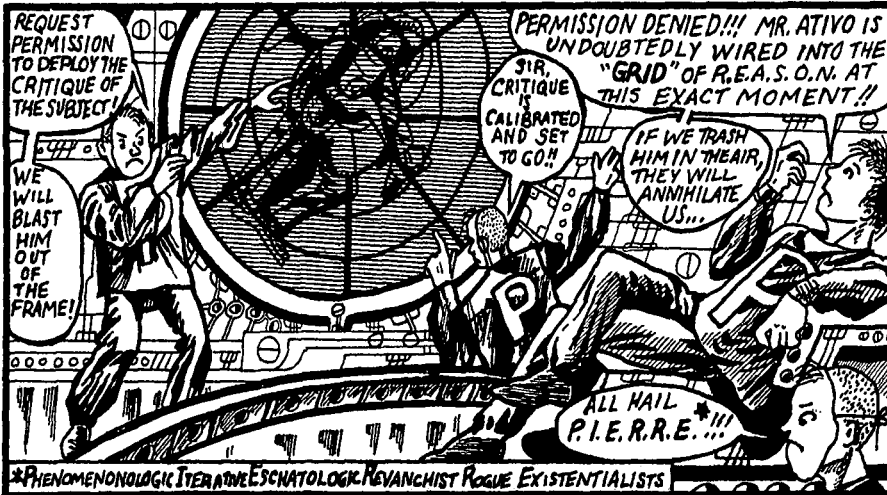
HE MUST  
FEEL BOLD IN  
KNOWING THAT  
**R.E.A.S.O.N.**  
ALWAYS PREVAILS!

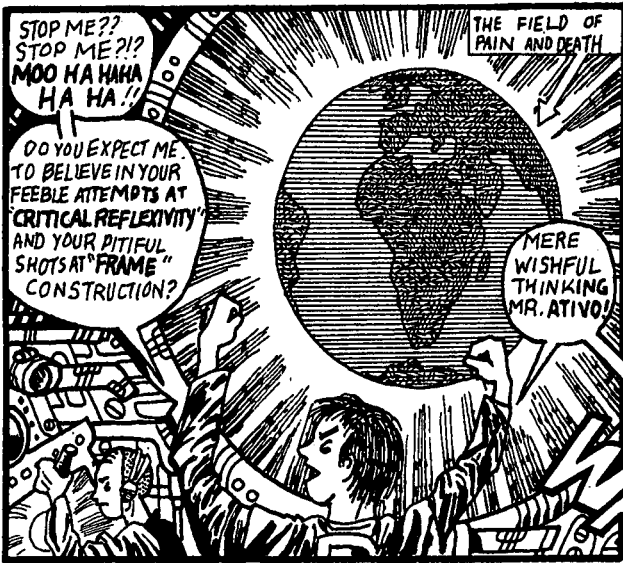
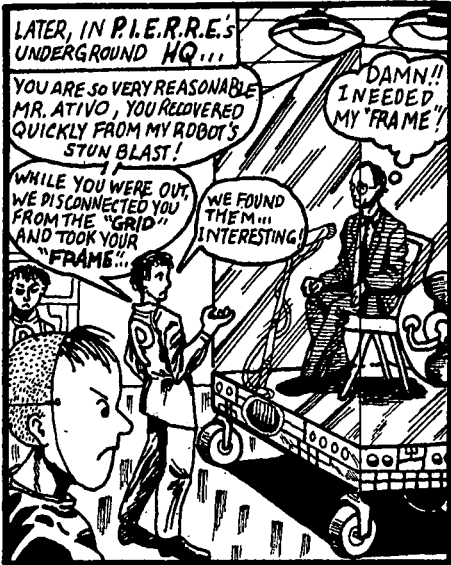
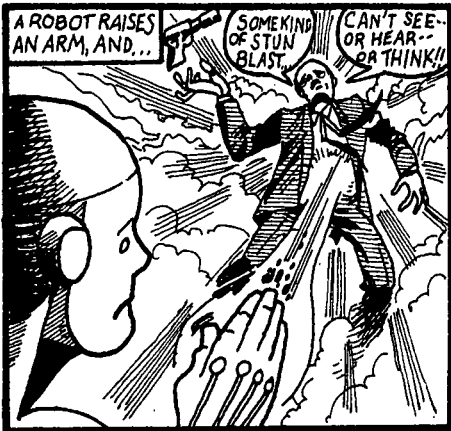
HE'S WEARING  
ONE OF REASON'S  
LATEST AUTO-DIDACT  
TRANSPORT PODS  
FOR SURREPTITIOUS  
DESCENT!

IT'S CLEAR  
IT RUNS ON  
HIGHLY-PRESSURED  
HOT AIR!!

... LIKE A SMALLER  
VERSION OF REASON'S  
VAST ACADEMIC  
HOVERING  
HEADQUARTERS!

...LITTLE  
DOES HE KNOW  
THAT HE WILL  
NEVER SEE HIS  
PRECIOUS LITTLE  
LEGAL GRID  
AGAIN!!!

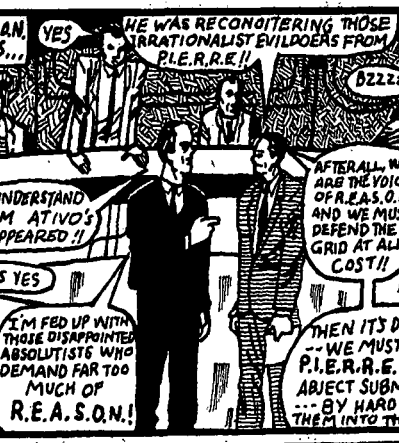




MEANWHILE, HIGH ABOVE MEGATON CITY, THE FLYING COMMAND CENTER OF R.E.A.S.O.N. HOVERS...



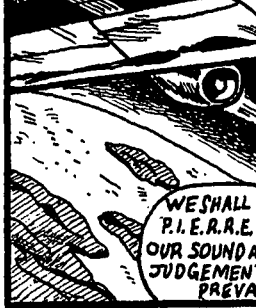
INSIDE THE MASSIVE CRAFT LIES THE HEADQUARTERS OF R.E.A.S.O.N., VORACIOUSLY DEVOURING INFORMATION,



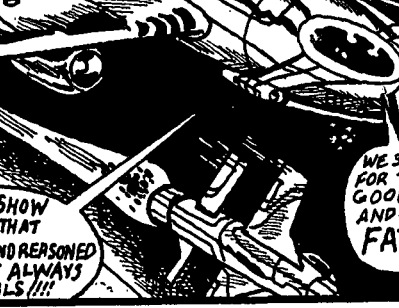
CEASELESSLY DEPLOYING THE GRID OF SURVEILLANCE



AS THE HIGH COUNCIL OF R.E.A.S.O.N. JUDICIOUSLY DELIBERATES...



HE WAS RECONSIDERING THOSE IRRATIONALIST EVILDOERS FROM P.I.E.R.R.E.!!



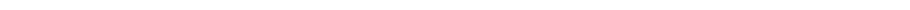
YES YES YES, WE WERE ALL AGREE WITH EACH OTHER...



NOW THAT WE'VE MAPPED P.I.E.R.R.E.'S LOCATION, WE MUST DEPLOY OUR TRUMPER MISSILES, "ASIF" BOMBERS AND OUR SELF-REFLEXIVE "SMART" BOMBS!!!

OUR MISSION IS CRYSTAL CLEAR!! WE MUST PROCEED WITHOUT MERCY OR RESTRAINT... THE MINIONS OF P.I.E.R.R.E. MUST NOT BE ALLOWED TO BURROW IN AND CARVE OUT ANY EXCEPTIONS!!

WE STRIKE FOR TRUTH, GOODNESS AND... FATE!!!





IN P.I.E.R.R.E.'S UNDERGROUND BUNKER...

THE FOOLS!!! THEY SEEK TO ATTACK ME WITH THEIR PITIFUL TOYS!

THEY ARE UNAWARE I AM OBSERVING THEIR EVERY LITTLE FUTILE MOVE... LITTLE DO THEY KNOW HOW READY FOR THEM I AM!!

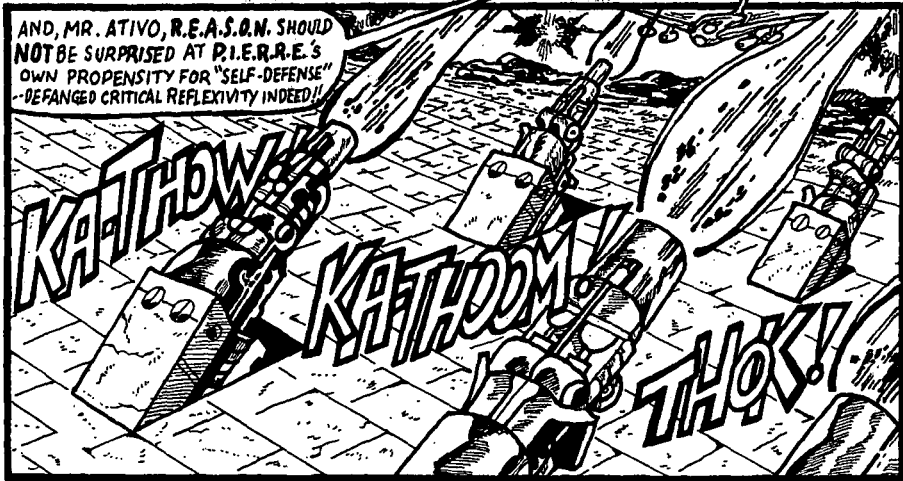


DON'T YOU REALIZE YOUR INSANE SCHEME WILL NEVER WORK!! THE GRID IS EVERYWHERE--IN THE FOOD YOU EAT, THE AIR YOU BREATHE!!

WISHFUL THINKING, MR. ATIVO!!

IF YOU COME TO YOUR SENSES AND RELEASE ME YOU'LL GET AN ENDOWED CHAIR AT YALE FOR STARTERS! COME ON, BE REASONABLE!!

AS FOR YALE, I (AND P.I.E.R.R.E.) DON'T CARE!!!



AND, MR. ATIVO, R.E.A.S.O.N. SHOULD NOT BE SURPRISED AT P.I.E.R.R.E.'S OWN PROPENSITY FOR "SELF-DEFENSE" --DEFANGED CRITICAL REFLEXIVITY INDEED!!



HURRY, YOU DOLTS! I MUST HAVE MY DISGUISE IN PLACE IMMEDIATELY!!!

YES MASTER!! LOWER THE FACIAL MORPH DERMATO HOOD AT ONCE!!

SIR, YOU ARE PREPARED FOR MORPHING



SET THE FACE MORPH PROGRAM TO MAXIMUM!!

IT IS DONE, SIR!!

WITHIN MOMENTS, YOU WILL HAVE A NEW FACE!! YOU WILL BE AN INDISTINGUISHABLE REPLICIA OF NORM ATIVO, AGENT OF R.E.A.S.O.N.!!



DOES THIS MORPH MEET YOUR DESIRE, SIR?

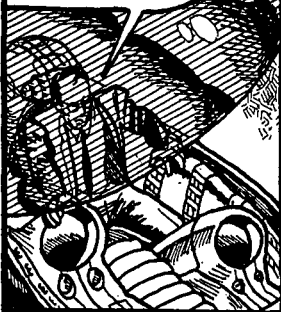
AH, YES... EXCELLENT. ATIVO'S MOTHER COULDN'T TELL US APART!!



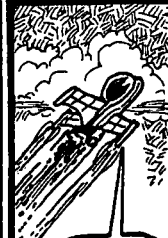
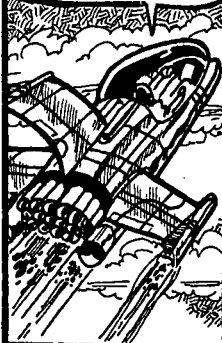
I MUST DON ATIVO'S  
PROFESSORIAL GARB...



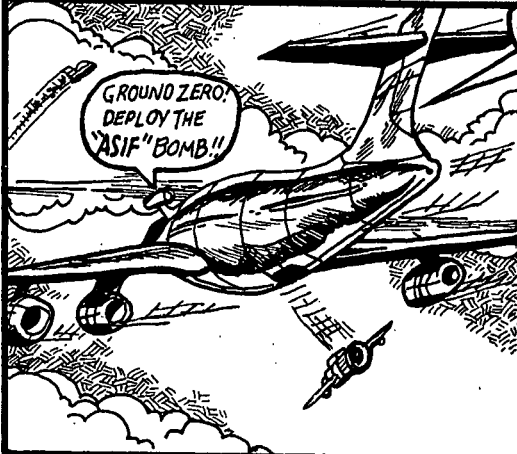
AND WHILE R.E.A.S.O.N.'S  
ASIF STRATO BOMBERS  
CLOSE IN... I SHALL ESCAPE  
THEIR BOMBS IN MY  
NEUTRONIC JET CRUISER...



FOR TOO LONG HAVE NORM  
ATIVO AND R.E.A.S.O.N.  
BLOCKED P.I.E.R.R.E.!  
HA! THAT TIME IS NOW PAST!!

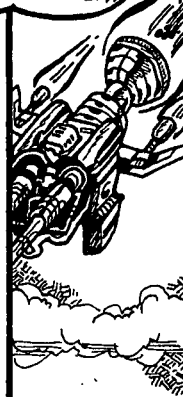


P.I.E.R.R.E.'S  
MOMENT IS  
NOW...AND  
R.E.A.S.O.N.  
IS POWERLESS  
BECAUSE I  
HAVE FOUND  
THE ULTIMATE  
HIDING PLACE!!



GROUND ZERO,  
DEPLOY THE  
"ASIF" BOMB!!

... "ASIF" BOMB  
LAUNCHED!!



LET THEM STICK THAT  
IN THEIR PIPES AND  
SMOKE IT! MANANA!





**BACK AT R.E.A.S.O.N.'S HEADQUARTERS...**

P.I.E.R.R.E.'S STRONGHOLD HAS BEEN UTTERLY AND COMPLETELY DESTROYED!

HOORAY! R.E.A.S.O.N. TRIUMPHS YET AGAIN!!

THIS IS AGENT ATIVO REQUESTING PERMISSION TO BOARD...

PERMISSION GRANTED!!

YES YES YES

**AS THE FAUX NORM ATIVO DEPLANES...**

HEY NORM!! YOU SURE KICKED P.I.E.R.R.E.'S BUTT!!

YO NORM!! YOU SURE KICKED P.I.E.R.R.E.'S BUTT!!

THANKS GUYS, BUT IT'S JUST ANOTHER DAY! I HAVE TO TALK TO THE BOSS! GOTTA GO!!

**IN THE SANCTUM SANCTORUM OF R.E.A.S.O.N., THE CHIEF REFLECTS...**

OPERATION BLOWBACK

IT LOOKS LIKE "OPERATION BLOWBACK" IS A SMASHING SUCCESS!

SIR, YOU HAVE THE REPORT THAT SHOWS HOW P.I.E.R.R.E. WAS ERADICATED--YOU KNOW OUR MOTTO: "TAKE RIGHTS SERIOUSLY!"

ANH... AGENT ATIVO!! CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR MISSION!

OPERATION BLOWBACK

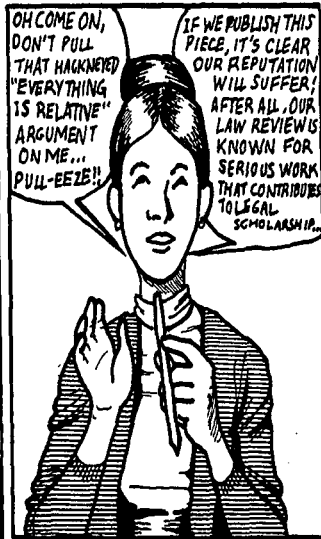
SIR, I CAME TO SEE YOU IN PERSON TO TELL YOU THAT THE JIG IS UP FOR THE GARD OF R.E.A.S.O.N.! YOU SEE...

MUH?! WHAT IN HELL ARE YOU SAYING WHAT?!

OPERATION BLOWBACK

THE "REAL" NORM ATIVO IS DEAD, BLOWN TO BITS BY "ASIF" BOMBS! P.I.E.R.R.E. SURVIVES AND I AM HERE TO DESTROY R.E.A.S.O.N. FROM WITHIN!!!

NEXT: R.E.A.S.O.N. WITHOUT END?!



*So, the Pundits did scold  
But failed to behold  
The fact that Pierre didn't care  
About how reason's delusion<sup>3</sup>  
Leads to entropic confusion  
And the further dissolution  
Of Legal Thought into thin air.*

The "Moral" of P.I.E.R.R.E.  
may be: **BEWARE!**

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<sup>3</sup> "El Encanto de la Razón Produce Monstruos También" ("The Enchantment of Reason Produces Monsters Too").



