



As created on 5/1/06, author: R.v.Densen

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## Introduction

Probeersel.com is a non-conformist online comics community site that was activated on May 16, 2002 by René van Densen, hosted by Protagonist.nl. More about the site is disclosed in the section 'History'. This document shows some of the statistics and interesting events of the past half year, and is intended only for the Probeersel.com audience to read. No rights can be derived off the publication of this document; it is merely for general information to those who are interested.

## History

Probeersel.com started out as a 'comics' section on R.v.Densen's personal homepage in 1999, then hosted on Xoom.com, which later became NBCI.com after a merger with NBC. Xoom hosted a wide range of personal homepages and offered 500MB of storage space, which even, say, a 5-part philosophical graphic novel won't exceed. To improve the odds of the site, or more specifically the then still under development graphic novel quintology 'Probeersel', being found and read, the comics section got a second URL which was provided by V3.com. From that moment on, the comics could be read from <http://welcome.to/probeersel> and they are still accessible from there, today. Welcome.to/probeersel evolved into a separate site rather than a sub-section of Van Densen's personal page, when NBCI decided to stop hosting personal homepages and all of the site became homeless in August 2001.

Van Densen decided to try his luck with [www.topcities.com](http://www.topcities.com) and created a webpage for the comics alone. In February 2002, the site got a large design and content structure make-over. Since the Probeersel graphic novel quintology, still considered the center of the site, had by then been finished and published online, the time was ripe to structure the site better. The goal was to make sure the Probeersel books would be read, and also to try and found a (small) community of new and struggling comic artists with promising material to publish their material for free. To further aid the promotion and accessibility of the site, the URL [www.probeersel.com](http://www.probeersel.com) was activated with Protagonist on April 24, originally only as a 'virtual' URL until Topcities objected to the amount of data traffic it generated and tossed it offline for a day. Van Densen decided to start paying for the hosting of the site, thereby ensuring that the content would remain available as long as he would be able to pay the bill. Probeersel.com was born.

Over the years the community developed into a real non-conformist comics site, often featuring unconventional material, where the artists are not afraid to blaspheme or use nudity, death, excrement, political statements or anything else they want to express. Probeersel.com strongly believes in freedom of speech and does not in any way censor what the artists in this community decide to publish. New members are admitted only after they pass an audition with the site's staff, who are there to ensure Probeersel.com remains the unusual mix of comic styles and opinions that it is today.

In 2002, artists Joep van Abeelen ('Retirement') and Gregory Cathalina ('God.inc') joined the site. This was also the year the first edition of the Probeersel.com t-shirts could be won for free. In 2003, Satan ('Macadamia') and Sionnain Comeaux ('The Whole Truth') joined as well. In 2004, Béné van Gansbeke, Troy Titane, Patrick G. Smith, Bandirah and Jon Hancock joined the site, bringing the total number of artists at that point to 10. In August 2003 the staff was formed, one member of which wasn't mentioned in this list: Tom Geelen, technical staff.

By the end of 2004, Béné van Gansbeke decided to go solo, thus becoming, to date, the first and only artist to leave our non-conformist community. Just before his departure, Argibald joined the site. In 2005, Benjamin Kikkert, Marz, Elizabeth Neerenberg, Matt Baay, Secher Nbiw and Wouter Goudswaard joined the site as well, bringing the total number of artists currently publishing on Probeersel.com to 16.

2004 meant more changes, in fact, as the second T-shirt competition started off, and in October 2004, the dynamic site's content was migrated to MySQL instead of the text-based database setup Van Densen had initially invented, thus making the site more stable, faster, and ensuring the hosting server won't buckle under pressure of large amounts of visitors.

2005 brought a lot of publications, on- and offline, for several of the Probeersel.com artists, as well as collaborations between them and between other artists. On May 1st 2005 Probeersel.com had its first comics convention debut on the ClickBurg convention in Tilburg, the Netherlands.

The site has been slowly but surely gaining a fanbase and increasing visitor traffic, and is here to stay.

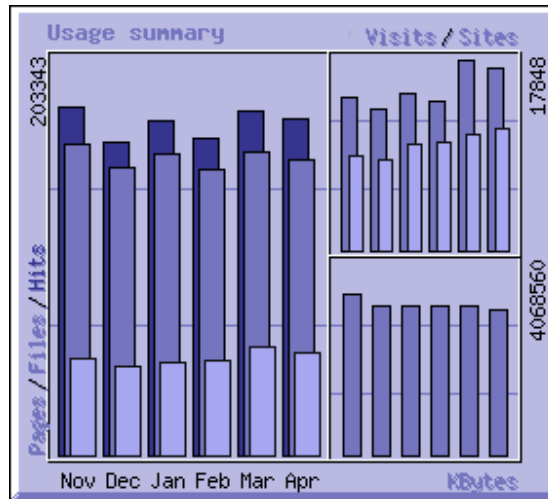
WWW.PROBEERSEL.COM  
NON-CONFORMIST ONLINE COMICS COMMUNITY

# HALF YEAR STATUS REPORT

NOVEMBER 2005 - APRIL 2006

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## Traffic Report



The past half year has shown a reasonable stability in terms of total traffic.

<b>November 2005:</b>	<i>daily average of visits: 478</i>	<i>total: 14353</i>
<b>December 2005:</b>	<i>daily average of visits: 427</i>	<i>total: 13266</i>
<b>January 2006:</b>	<i>daily average of visits: 472</i>	<i>total: 14638</i>
<b>February 2006:</b>	<i>daily average of visits: 498</i>	<i>total: 13965</i>
<b>March 2006:</b>	<i>daily average of visits: 575</i>	<i>total: 17848</i>
<b>April 2006:</b>	<i>daily average of visits: 568</i>	<i>total: 17046</i>

All time highest before this period:  
*Daily average of visits: 568 – April 2005*  
*Total visits: 17067 – May 2005*

The bandwidth allowance at Protagonist is currently 8 Gb, and the traffic went rather well in that department too:

<b>November 2005:</b>	<i>daily average of pages: 1652</i>	<i>total Kbytes that month: 3420432</i>
<b>December 2005:</b>	<i>daily average of pages: 1458</i>	<i>total Kbytes that month: 3165631</i>
<b>January 2006:</b>	<i>daily average of pages: 1526</i>	<i>total Kbytes that month: 3185742</i>
<b>February 2006:</b>	<i>daily average of pages: 1719</i>	<i>total Kbytes that month: 3183551</i>
<b>March 2006:</b>	<i>daily average of pages: 1809</i>	<i>total Kbytes that month: 3196072</i>
<b>April 2006:</b>	<i>daily average of pages: 1750</i>	<i>total Kbytes that month: 3097889</i>

All time highest before this period:  
*Daily average of pages: 1703 – October 2005*  
*Total Kbytes: 4300542 – April 2005*



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## Countries

As in previous years, there was a lot of variety in the countries of this site's audience. An overview:

Hits		Files		KBytes		Country
564	0.06%	562	0.06%	5341	0.03%	Argentina
7798	0.79%	7509	0.84%	353068	1.88%	Australia
6143	0.62%	5893	0.66%	129250	0.69%	Austria
32474	3.27%	30569	3.42%	531647	2.83%	Belgium
2757	0.28%	2568	0.29%	30923	0.16%	Brazil
10705	1.08%	9903	1.11%	227869	1.21%	Canada
2332	0.23%	2213	0.25%	52426	0.28%	Czech Republic
6270	0.63%	5833	0.65%	99010	0.53%	Denmark
9926	1.00%	9206	1.03%	239514	1.27%	Finland
10494	1.06%	10289	1.15%	129608	0.69%	France
17149	1.73%	16585	1.86%	232588	1.24%	Germany
5110	0.51%	4929	0.55%	49574	0.26%	Hungary
4219	0.42%	4072	0.46%	48931	0.26%	Italy
1351	0.14%	1221	0.14%	41266	0.22%	Japan
4262	0.43%	3785	0.42%	92013	0.49%	Malaysia
4559	0.46%	4225	0.47%	63571	0.34%	Mexico
1226	0.12%	1112	0.12%	10842	0.06%	Morocco
230226	23.19%	188493	21.12%	3854287	20.48%	Netherlands
191899	19.33%	173635	19.45%	3996575	21.24%	Network
1751	0.18%	1703	0.19%	53616	0.28%	New Zealand (Aotearoa)
3303	0.33%	2995	0.34%	111562	0.59%	Non-Profit Organization
4438	0.45%	4297	0.48%	63667	0.34%	Norway
348	0.04%	347	0.04%	3894	0.02%	Peru
1474	0.15%	1374	0.15%	18237	0.10%	Philippines
5984	0.60%	5787	0.65%	73206	0.39%	Poland
5558	0.56%	4630	0.52%	57594	0.31%	Portugal
302	0.03%	241	0.03%	6042	0.03%	Singapore
7014	0.71%	6252	0.70%	132153	0.70%	Sweden
2653	0.27%	2616	0.29%	28480	0.15%	Switzerland
483	0.05%	441	0.05%	6203	0.03%	Taiwan
452	0.05%	401	0.04%	3347	0.02%	Thailand
4185	0.42%	3877	0.43%	39535	0.21%	Turkey
19789	1.99%	18620	2.09%	303810	1.61%	United Kingdom
3478	0.35%	3063	0.34%	73639	0.39%	United States
148230	14.93%	137188	15.37%	2870677	15.26%	Unresolved/Unknown
225173	22.68%	205473	23.02%	4423941	23.51%	US Commercial
7688	0.77%	9692	1.09%	315030	1.67%	US Educational
1037	0.10%	1012	0.11%	43761	0.23%	US Military

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## Current content

### Currently updating:

#### - **Ain't No Sunshine**

Pop music criticism, expressed by photographed excrement, by René van Densen.

#### - **Argibald (Dutch)**

Irregularly appearing absurdist cartoons, by Arbibald.

#### - **Astielen Kiekaert (Dutch)**

A weekly dose of absurdism, by Bandirah.

#### - **BunBuns**

Wordless comics about creepy bunnies, by Matt Baay.

#### - **Penguism**

An irregularly updating comic featuring a penguin in a pink tutu who used to be a human policeman and now goes to train the penguins to conquer the world, by Sionnain Comeaux & René van Densen.

#### - **RexRex (Dutch)**

A daily Dutch literary oneliner or dialogue, by Troy Titane.

#### - **The Grim DotCom / NetScythe**

A weekly comic starring the adventures of the Grim Reaper who finds that what he loves doing most needs an update, by René van Densen.

### On hiatus / finished:

#### - **Ambience**

Sci-fi story, by Satan (on temporary hiatus).

#### - **Autobiopsy**

A 24-Hour Comic, by René van Densen (published as complete story).

#### - **De Kreup Vallende Histie (Dutch)**

A bidaily Dutch dose of absurdism, by Bandirah. (ended late 2004)

#### - **Earth Harvest**

A comic involving aliens and fast food, by Jon Hancock (on temporary hiatus).

#### - **Fatal Saga**

Online graphic novel, tells the tale the quest of the immortal Blaze, by Patrick G. Smith (published as complete story).

#### - **God .inc**

A daily comic strip starring the Lord himself, by Gregory Cathalina (ended March 3, 2004).

#### - **In Het Geheel Doorsnijden (Dutch)**

More random absurdist cartoons by Troy Titane (on temporary hiatus).

#### - **Jeffrey (Dutch)**

If the bee and the flower could talk, what would they say ? By Troy Titane (on temporary hiatus).

#### - **Kalkedodder (Dutch)**

A daily Dutch dose of absurdism, by Bandirah. (ended December 2005)

#### - **Luchtgitarist**

Irregularly appearing comics about an air guitarist, by Wouter Goudswaard (on temporary hiatus).

#### - **Lucky Shot**

Short sci-fi story, by Patrick G. Smith (published as complete story).

#### - **Maak Het Verhaal Af En Kleur De Plaatjes / Finish The Story And Colour The Pictures**

A comic strip with a new look at how abstract a comic could be, by René van Densen (ended 1998).

#### - **Macadamia**

A weekly trip to academic insanity, by Satan (on temporary hiatus).

#### - **Milk, Sex & Cookies**

Film Noir on the farmgrounds, by Elizabeth Neerenberg (on temporary hiatus).

#### - **One Year In Satan's Purrrgatory**

A weekly comic strip (52 episodes total) about two guys and their psychotic cat, by René van Densen (ended 2002).

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### **Current content (cont.)**

**- Opgedragen Aan Een Zieke Maatschappij / Dedicated To A Sick Society**

Full-page comics with a gritty but idealistic approach, by René van Densen (ended 1998).

**- Paco & Manolo**

Two creepy men on a bench harassing one another, by Marz (on temporary hiatus).

**- Prejudges**

A 12-Hour Comic, by Gregory Cathalina (published as complete story).

**- Probeersel Graphic Novel Quintology**

Graphic novel in five parts about a young man who tries to get his memory back and the symbolic adventures he has along the way, by René van Densen (ended 2001).

**- RCH**

Short stories that symbolise themes in society, by Gregory Cathalina (published as complete stories).

**- Real Life (English / Dutch)**

An irregularly published collection of cartoons by Benjamin Kikkert (on temporary hiatus).

**- Retirement**

A graphic novel about an addict and a god, by Joep S. van Abeelen (on temporary hiatus).

**- To Every End**

A short story with a very personal storyline, by Sionnain Comeaux (published as complete story).

**- The Artificial Real**

A series of several other short stories, currently containing 'Chalk', 'Reaper, Baby' and 'Rock', by René van Densen (published as complete stories).

**- The Illogical Box**

Irregularly updating comic, by Secher Nbiw (on temporary hiatus).

**- The S[w]ingin' Titties**

A pair of endlessly optimistic breasts sings the night away while cancer strikes, by Troy Titane (on temporary hiatus).

**- The Whole Truth**

A weekly comic featuring Koyasu and Isis, freakish creatures from some dimension not our own, in which everything said is spoken in a semi-confusing and paradoxical way, by Sionnain Comeaux (on temporary hiatus).

**- Vice Versa**

A short story, by Sionnain Comeaux (published as complete story).

**- Worst Case Scenario (Dutch)**

A daily Dutch thought on the most bizarre situations for promotional sausage, by Joep van Abeelen & René van Densen (ended October 12, 2004).

The site also contains above mentioned artists' biographical information and some loose comics, artwork, cartoons, t-shirt designs, wallpapers and other downloads.

### **Special Events of the past half year**

- Argibald was present at the "Festival Mooie Woorden" in Utrecht, November 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> 2005. He was signing his new book, "Als maandagochtend een gestalte had", there was an exposition of his cartoons and artwork, he joined other artists of magazine De Inktpot to give drawing lessons to children, and his graduation piece of animation was shown.

- On November 20<sup>th</sup> 2005, in alternative jazz/blues café Paradox in Tilburg, Bandirah and Troy Titane presented their book, "Op verzoek van Ruud Vreeman", which collected their collaborative columns and cartoons. It was a very cultural evening with music, column and poetry readings, and various other performances. Argibald and René van Densen were also elements in the show.

- On December 18<sup>th</sup>, a second presentation of their book was given, this time in Haarlem. Reportedly three people showed up and the authors decided to get drunk in a bar where they were treated really friendly by several women.

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### **Special Events of the past half year (cont.)**

- Bandirah's Kalkedodder ended, and a selection of the best cartoons was made. Everything that didn't make the selection was removed from the site. He then proceeded to start the Astielen Kiekaert series, on a weekly bases, and launched his own site at <http://www.bandirah.nl>.
- The Grim DotCom featured a bonus animated Christmas card.
- Troy Titane returned triumphantly with all new RexRex episodes and effortlessly passed the 500<sup>th</sup> episode.
- René van Densen started a webcomic that he calls "Not Just Not Suitable For Work But Not Suitable For Anywhere" – the comic's called Ain't No Sunshine and features pictures of excrement that review music.
- Bandirah had a cartoon published in the CJP section of Dutch newspaper De Volkskrant.
- Argibald's debut book was widely reviewed, in 8Weekly, Veronica Magazine, Haarlems Dagblad, Stripschrift, Goddeau.com, MYX magazine, StripNieuws and ComicBase.nl.
- Sionnain Comeaux and René van Densen returned with new episodes of Penguism.
- After the launch of their book, Bandirah and Troy Titane stopped making columns. Instead, they now create a weekly poetic cartoon commenting on cinema, entitled "Emblemata Cinematographicae", on TilburgZ.nl.
- René van Densen was amongst the comic artists who did a guest comic celebrating the one year anniversary of [www.lekkerjaap.nl](http://www.lekkerjaap.nl).
- Slet Magazine issue four featured several pages of Bandirah cartoons.
- Probeersel.com was nominated for the "Vzzzbx Awards", a semi-satirical initiative by Belgian (web)comic artist Sh3LI4C. The actual awards ceremony will take place in Leuven, België, on May 20<sup>th</sup> 2006. Probeersel.com was nominated in categories "Best WebComic Group-site" and "Best WebCartoon Group-site". For more information, see <http://vzzzbx.shellac.be>.
- René van Densen stopped publishing The Grim DotCom on <http://strips.bloggo.nl> when he introduced a second comic story into it titled NetScythe. Instead, he now publishes semi-random topical cartoons there, which however are Bloggo-exclusive and will not appear on Probeersel.com. So if you wish to check them out, you should visit Strips.Bloggo.nl.

### **Trivia**

You wouldn't believe what the statistics sometimes tell us... Here's a few search strings that people found the site on, that really cracked us up. There were a lot more, but we thought these were the funniest...

- "scared cartoons"
- "voetbal"
- "john allison"
- "wall wallpaper"

### **Expectations and Plans**

- We are currently – yes, *finally* – working on a major site redesign. It will not only retire the now nearly five year old blue design (or most of it), but it will also feature improved navigation and layout, and several new useful bits of functionality, like a forum and RSS feeds.
- We hope to be able to launch this new design before or on the 5<sup>th</sup> of August this year. We don't know if we'll be able to make it, but that same day we are celebrating our 5 year anniversary in the Cul de Sac, August 5<sup>th</sup>. This evening will be full of performances from several Probeersel.com artists and will feature music, comedy, animation and lots more. You are all invited!
- Bandirah is about to launch his first big debut book of cartoons. More news to come soon, keep an eye on Probeersel.com or Bandirah.nl for that.
- And finally, we expect, as usual, that there will be new comic artists joining, new comics coming up, new interesting things for our visitors and our artists, etc., etc.

### **Conclusion**

Probeersel.com RULES !! Please keep visiting, we promise it'll be worth it.

René van Densen, May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2006, Tilburg