



**FBI**



JULY  
1989

**5**

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# ARMED & DANGEROUS™

PART 5 OF 6

AT LAST! HE'S BACK!  
BUT NOW HE'S  
"ONLY A MAN"



NK  
6-88

# PROMETHEUS™

created by  
nik dirga



Five individuals, gathered together by fate to champion the causes of justice and honor in a world that reality has no hold over. Here, on Earth-Spongy, exist these heroes. They are:

**Ninja Ant**, the sometimes cocky and overbearing but always loyal young ninja warrior.

**Doctor Spif**, the fun-loving genius crime fighter who always has an ace up his sleeve.

**Karate Kactus**, Ninja Ant's cousin and teacher, he is quiet yet deadly when his anger is aroused.

**Rambunny**, the massive seven-foot tall rabbit who's been fighting for good since before the second world war. His strength, invulnerability, and combat knowledge make him an invaluable ally.

And **Prometheus the Protoplasm**, the little amoeba from another universe who has managed to get swept up in this life of danger and action, while still retaining his normal chronically nervous personality.

Each of these people encountered and fought besides Prometheus against his greatest foes, and realizing they had a common bond--a love for adventure--they banded together to form a new crimefighting force in the streets of Spongopolis.

Of course, they still haven't thought of a good name for their team yet.

This is typical.

**Last Issue:** Prometheus' greatest nightmare came true when his foes **Kronos** and the **Asbestos Mushroom** banded together to destroy him. Even with all of his allies at his side, the battle seemed hopeless. Prometheus and friends triumphed, but the Asbestos Mushroom treacherously fired a weapon at Pro's back, and Pro collapsed in a cloud of smoke. From the smoke, however, a shadowy humanoid figure strode forth... Was this Prometheus, or something worse?

**PROMETHEUS 5** Published pretty damn near never by Protoplasm Productions, a division of Lading Images Inc, 207 Race Street, Grass Valley, CA 95945. Copyright ©1989 Protoplasm Productions. All rights reserved. The stories, characters, and incidents mentioned in this magazine without satirical purpose are entirely fictional. All characters featured in this issue and distinctive likenesses thereof are trademarks of Protoplasm Productions.





DEFEATING THE NOTORIOUS PENGUIN GANG WAS CHILD'S PLAY FOR THE INVULNERABLE HERO! BUT STILL, DESPITE HIS HEROISM, ONE QUESTION RAGES THROUGH SPONGOPOLIS...



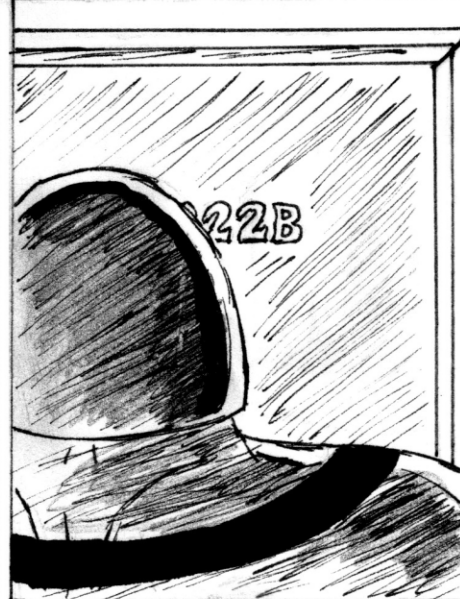
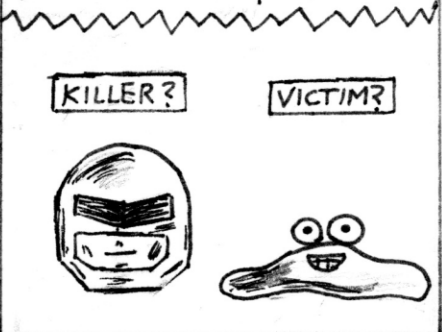
..WHO IS THE PROMETHEAN? IN OTHER NEWS, THERE IS STILL NO SIGN OF PROMETHEUS THE PROTOPLASM SINCE HIS DISSAPEARANCE AFTER LAST WEEK'S BATTLE AGAINST THE ASBESTOS MUSHROOM!



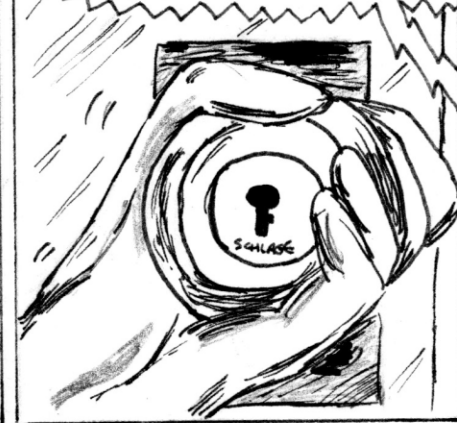
THE ASSOCIATES OF PROMETHEUS SHOWED A TYPICAL REACTION TO THE PRESS WHEN INTERVIEWED.



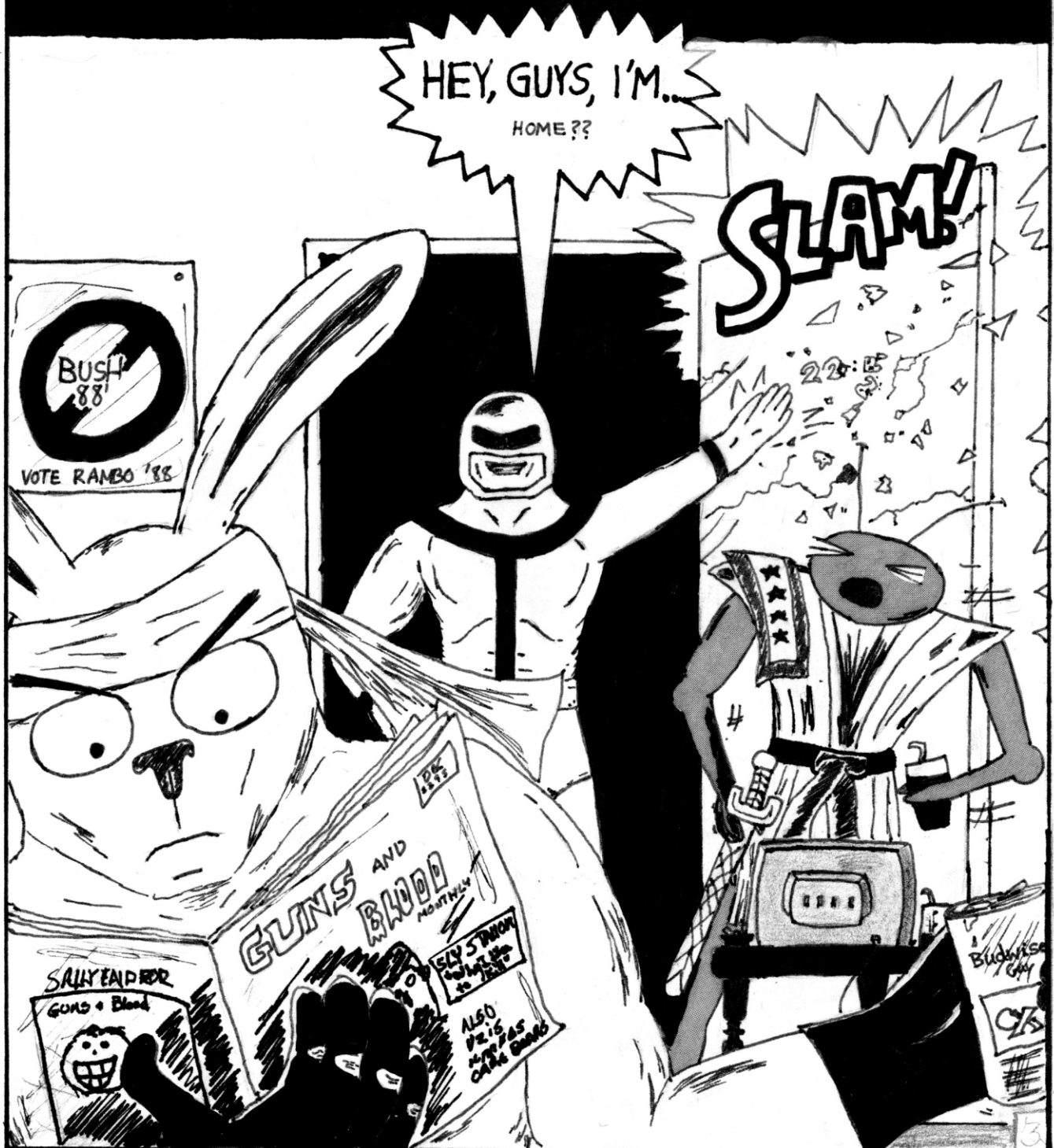
THIS STATION BELIEVES THAT THE APPEARANCE OF THE PROMETHEAN AT THIS TIME IS NO COINCIDENCE! WICU NEWS CHARGES THAT THE PROMETHEAN HAS ABDUCTED, AND HAS EVEN POSSIBLY KILLED PROMETHEUS THE PROTOPLASM!



INDEED, THIS 'PROMETHEAN' MAY BE IN LEAGUE WITH THE MUSHROOM! A TRIAL DATE HAS BEEN SET FOR THE ASBESTOS MUSHROOM, WHO, ALONG WITH KRONOS...



# ONLY A MAN



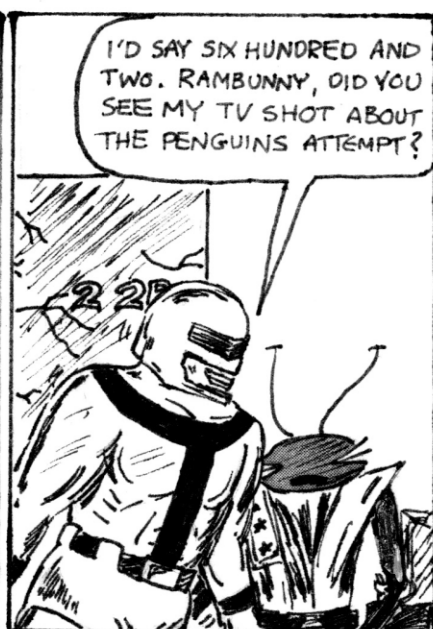


Whoops.



...SORRY...

"SORRY?" HOW MANY TIMES HAVE I TOLD YOU NOT TO SLAM THE DOOR!?!/



I'D SAY SIX HUNDRED AND TWO. RAMBUNNY, DID YOU SEE MY TV SHOT ABOUT THE PENGUINS ATTEMPT?



YEP. KINDA CALM FOR MY TASTES, HOWEVER.



...SO, WHERE IS EVERYONE?

I USED TO BE TALL!



DR. SPIF'S AT WORK. KARATE KACTUS IS OUT SHOPPING, AND MONTE'S FILMING IN PARIS!



MAN! HOW TALL ARE YOU?



SEVEN FEET AND A SMIDGE. DON'T TELL ME YOU FEEL A BIT THREATENED, AFTER ALL, RAMBUNNY..



...I'M ONLY A MAN!



A MAN? I DON'T KNOW. A SUPERMAN, MORE LIKE IT, BUT THAT'S BEEN USED, PROMETHEUS!



OH! Er.. I MEAN, UM, PROMETHEAN!

YOU..YOU SAID IT! YOU SAID MY OLD NAME!





WHY DID YOU HAVE TO REMIND ME??



I GUESS IT WAS TOO MUCH TO HOPE THAT HE'D OPEN THE DOOR FOR ONCE...

man..

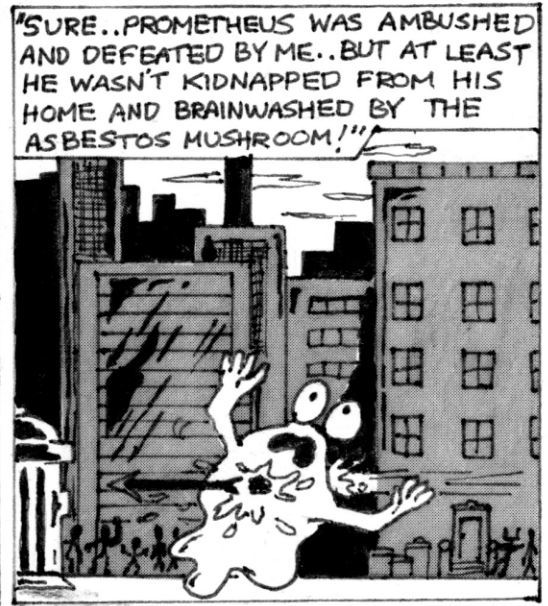


THIS IS ALL MY FAULT! THAT POOR DOOR'S DEATH IS IN MY HANDS! BUT.. WHY DID HE GET SO MAD?



HEY, YOU GOTTA REMEMBER..HE'S BEEN THROUGH A LOT LATELY!

WE'VE ALL BEEN THROUGH A LOT!



"SURE..PROMETHEUS WAS AMBUSHED AND DEFEATED BY ME..BUT AT LEAST HE WASN'T KIDNAPPED FROM HIS HOME AND BRAINWASHED BY THE ASBESTOS MUSHROOM!"



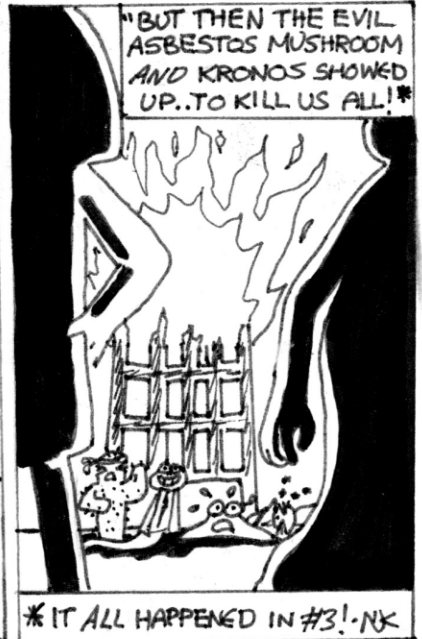
"AND WHEN MY COUSIN KARATE KACTUS WAS HELPING PRO OUT."

"..WHO WAS HELPING ME?"



NO, ALL YOU GUYS CARED ABOUT WAS WHINY LITTLE PRO, WHO MANAGED TO SCRAPE TOGETHER A LITTLE COURAGE TO FIGHT ME..BUT THEN, TO MY SURPRISE..

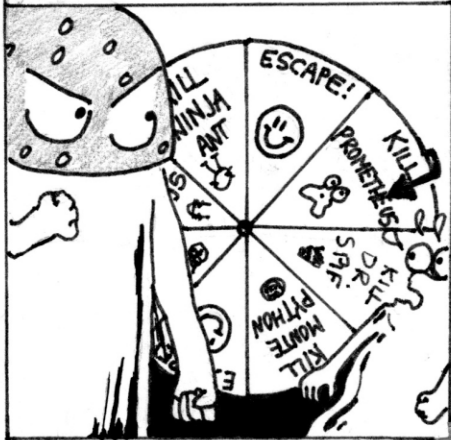
"..HE WON!"



"BUT THEN THE EVIL ASBESTOS MUSHROOM AND KRONOS SHOWED UP..TO KILL US ALL!"

\*IT ALL HAPPENED IN #3!-NK

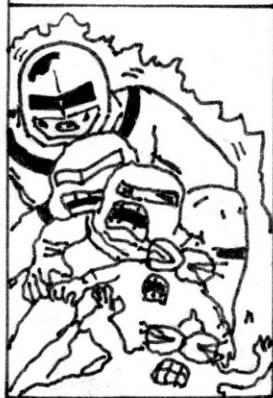
THEY CAPTURED US ALL..AND FORCED PRO TO PLAY A SADISTIC "WHEEL OF MISFORTUNE" GAME..!



YET THE MUSHROOM DIDN'T KNOW WHEN TO QUIT..AND HE SHOT PROMETHEUS WITH WHAT HE THOUGHT WAS A DEATH RAY GUN.



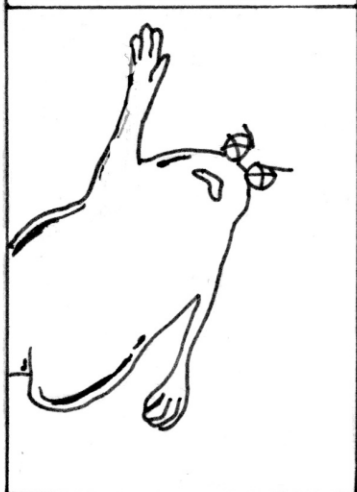
IT WASN'T! SOMEHOW OL' AB USED THE WRONG GUN ON PRO.. AND: 'WHAM!' INSTANT SUPERMAN!''\* \*IT HAPPENED IN #4!



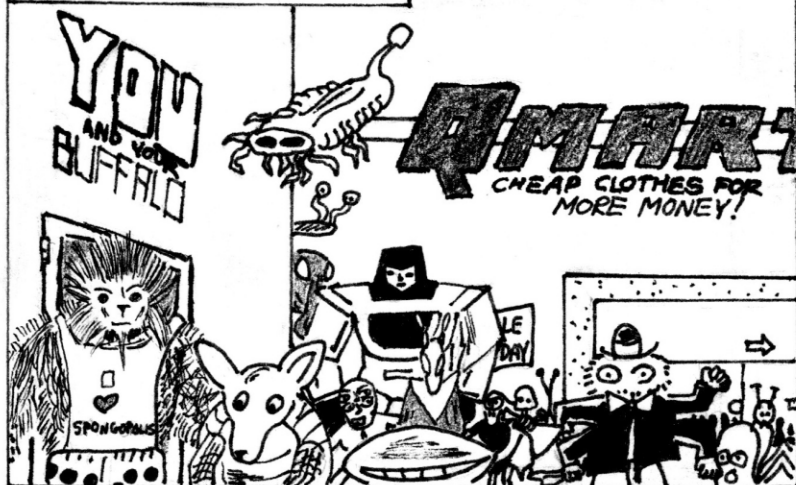
AND NOW THE DAMNED IDIOT HAS GIVEN UP!



INTERLUDE: A PLACE FAR BEYOND THE WALLS OF REALITY AND INSANITY, BEYOND LIFE..LIES THE BODY OF KRONOS, THE "BROTHER" OF PROMETHEUS THE PROTOPLASM..



DOWNTOWN SPONGOPOLIS:



WHOA! THIS IS AMAZING! JUST A FEW SHORT WEEKS AGO I WAS A RETIRED HERO WITH NO FUTURE! NOW, I'M THE HOTTEST THING SINCE MICROWAVE OVENS!



..AND, AS A SUPER HERO, I NEED THE PROPER OUTFIT!

AHA! THE ORIENTAL PLANT HEROES LINE IS ON SALE!!



WOW! THE PERFECT OUTFIT! WHERE IS THE CHANGING ROOM?



LATER..MUCH LATER..

HEY, MORTS, WILL YOU GO CHECK ON THAT GUY IN STALL TWO? HE'S BEEN IN THERE A LONG TIME!

SURE, SUE!



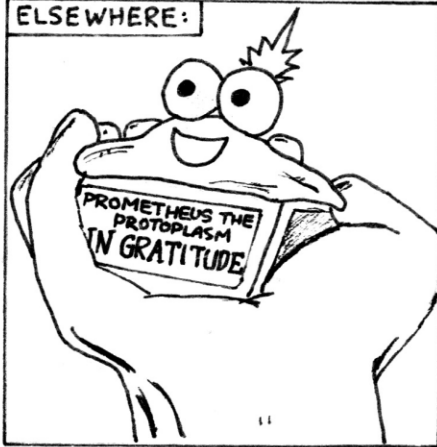
TA-DA..PRESENTING THE NEW KARATE KACTUS FOR 1990!

DO YOU TAKE THE JAPANESE EXPRESS CARD?



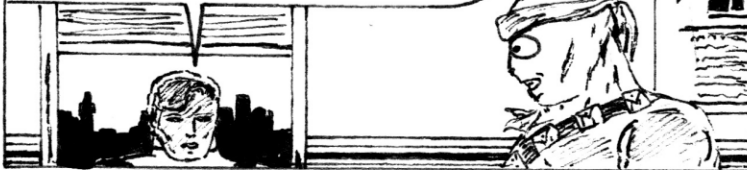


ELSEWHERE:



HOW YOU DOING?

LOOK AT ME, RAMBUNNY! I'VE GOT SO MUCH POWER.. I'M NEAR-INVULNERABLE, SUPER-STRONG, I CAN FLY.. YOU NAME IT, I CAN DO IT! THEN TELL ME WHY DOES IT FEEL LIKE...



..THIS LIFE IS A LIE?

SO YOU WANT TO BE NORMAL AGAIN, EH? I THOUGHT THAT WAS IT.



HEH.. DOESN'T MAKE SENSE, DOES IT? I MEAN, THERE'S NO COMPARISON BETWEEN THIS AND MY OLD FORM, YOU KNOW? BUT I CAN'T HELP MISSING MY OLD BODY..

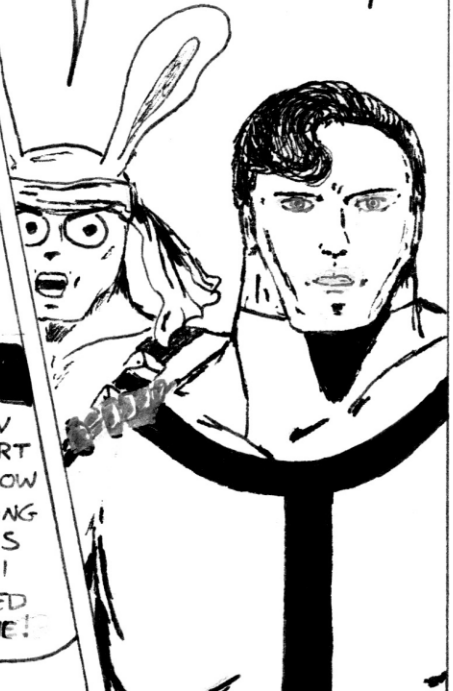


AND I WANT IT BACK.

LOOK, IF YOU WANT YOUR OLD BODY BACK, I JUST MIGHT KNOW A WAY..

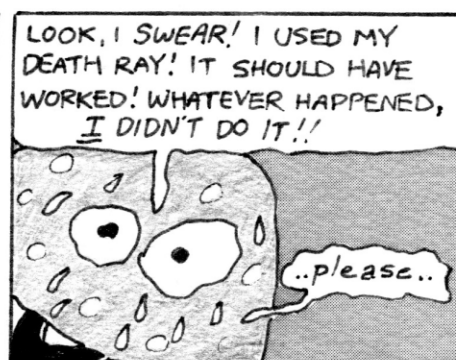
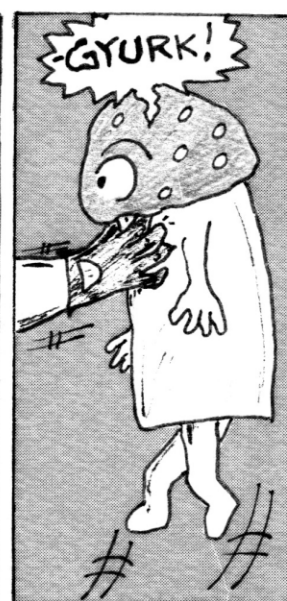
YEAH? WHAT?

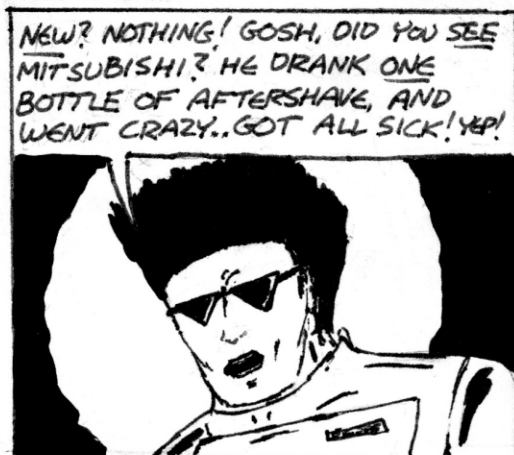
WHAT SAY WE PAY A VISIT TO AN OLD FRIEND OF YOURS..

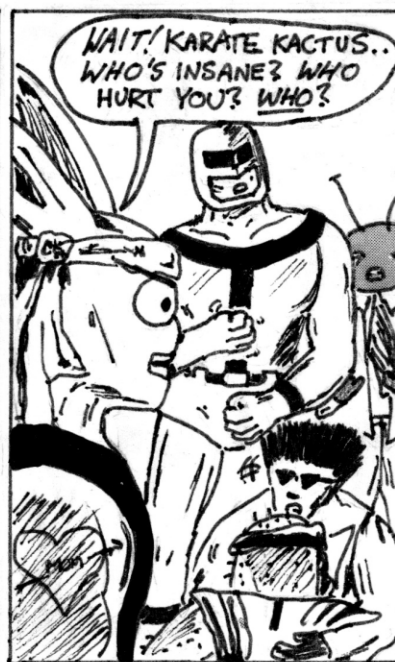
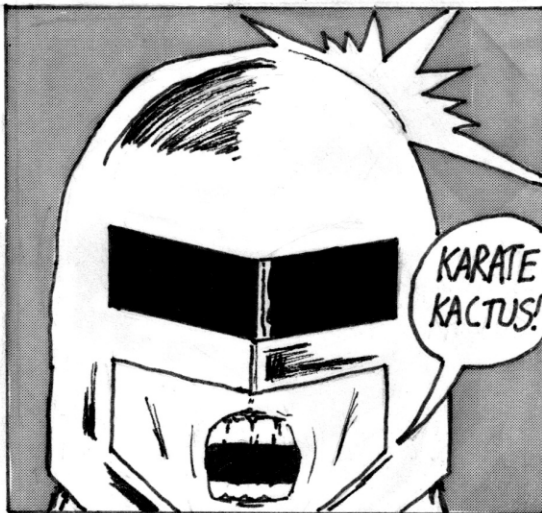
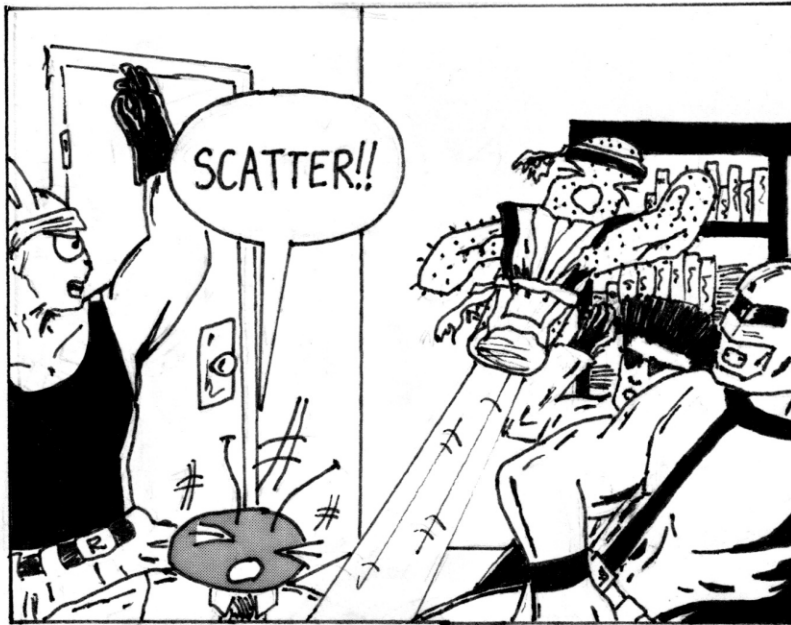


YOU REMEMBER HOW I USED TO RUN? I SORT OF SLID ALONG? OR HOW I COULD STRETCH AS LONG AS I WANTED? I ALWAYS USED TO HATE THE WAY I WAS.. BUT I WAS CREATED THAT WAY.. AND IT'S ME!











# RATHOOM!

HELLO CHAPS! SINCE I AM A VILLAIN, I SUPPOSE I MUST BE UNIFORM AND GIVE THE TRADITIONAL SWAGGERING INTRODUCTION! VERY WELL THEN! HEROES, I AM **TINKERTOY!!**\* AND I'M AFRAID YOU FELLOWS ARE ABOUT TO "SHUFFLE OFF THE MORTAL COIL," AS THE ADAGE GOES!

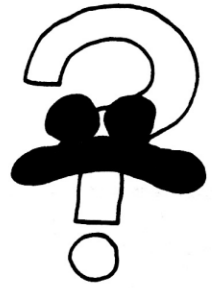
YOU'VE GOT TO BE KIDDING.

-NEED IT BE SAID? TO BE CONCLUDED IN PROMETHEUS #6!

\*FROM #4, page 9!



# Where Was He?



It's been almost two years since PROMETHEUS #4 came out. Where's Prometheus been since then, and why did it take two years to put together only 12 pages of story? Well, Pro's been in that artistic limbo known as writer/artist's block. He's escaped, but it's not like he hasn't been trying over the last 22 months.

PROMETHEUS #5 went through multiple incarnations before it finally was finished. The story went from 12 to 26 to 12 pages in length, and numerous subplots were born or discarded. At first, immediately after #4, I drew this sketch to be a rudimentary design for the cover. It was OK, but basic and kind of cliché looking. It went into the "has possibilities" stack. It didn't resurface.

At that point, the plot of #5 included a major scene where Promethean and Rambunny were fed up with the negative image that Promethean had (a hint of this is seen on page 2) with the press. They decided to stage a fake fight, where Promethean would admit he killed Prometheus, and then Rambunny would beat him, and then..

Well, as you can see, it didn't make much sense to me, either, and eventually the entire plot thread was dropped.

I mean, if you're a seven foot tall guy who hangs around with rabbits and oriental cacti, are you really gonna care what the media thinks?

Visually, though, this cover had a lot going for it. I liked the black background, and the basic ominous feel of the whole scene. It got attention. Except for Rambunny's enormous mouth, it was almost perfect. This was probably my favorite of all of my proposed covers for #5.

(I also loved the little "angel" Prometheus in the top left-hand corner box.)

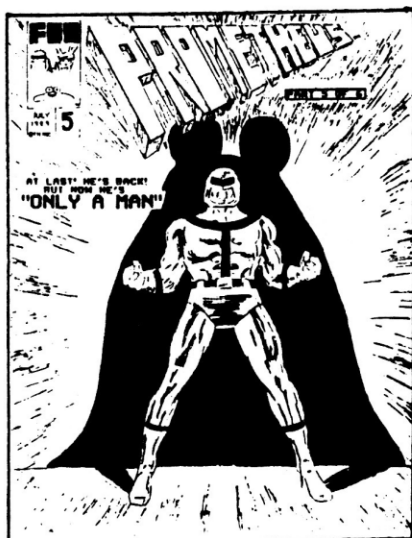
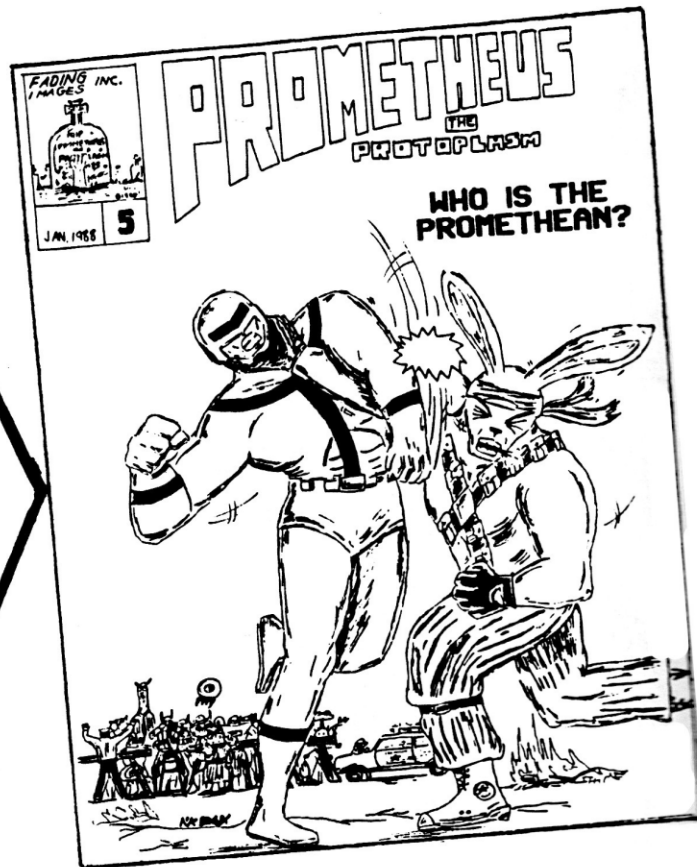


So I tried again.  
At this point, I didn't know what the heck was going on with the plot, so I drew a sort of catch-all cover featuring Rambunny and Promethean pounding the living hell out of each other.

It was a pretty nice design, but there were some problems. There was no back ground design--shouldn't there be buildings behind them or something? And when I finally decided on deleting the "image" plot thread, it made no sense whatsoever. It looked like one of those "fake" comic book covers--you know, the ones that have a scene that has nothing to do with the story inside, and it's just there to draw attention? So this one went into the trash.

And at that point, the whole issue pretty much ground to a standstill. This was around March or April 1988, and I was tired of this. I couldn't figure out how to redo pages 8 and 9 without the "image" storyline, and I was basically burnt out. PROMETHEUS #5 went into the closet.

Until now.  
Writer's block has faded away into nothingness, and Pro has been pounding on my head, trying to get out.  
At long last, it was time to take PROMETHEUS #5 out of the closet.



I finished up the story easily, and was surprised at how quickly I did it. I managed to figure out a new design for the cover, one that didn't really give away the story, but drew attention without being false. It was a really striking cover, and I liked it. This one stayed.  
So now, after almost two stinking years of fiddling around, PROMETHEUS #5 is finished.  
I've been debating whether or not to wait another year or two to start #6, but I figure, when the fire's burning... Well, I've rambled on enough. I thought these old cover designs would interest some of you. If not, then just avert your eyes below to the NEXT ISSUE BOX.  
He, I've got a story to start.

*Nik Dirga*  
-Nik Dirga

**NEXT ISSUE:** Ok, this time for sure coming out before summer ends! Now, with this big cliffhanger and all.. Oh, yes, let's go for the traditional hype style: linkertoy vs. our heroes to the death! (not really) What is the secret of the guys new headquarters? (it's not paid for yet) And at last, the return of Kronos! (wow, it's been a whole issue since we've seen him!) Not to mention the merely-magnificent debut of the Inner Gods..and the true origin of Prometheus! (merely-magnificent? that's funny by itself! oh, go home!)

NEXT ISSUE:

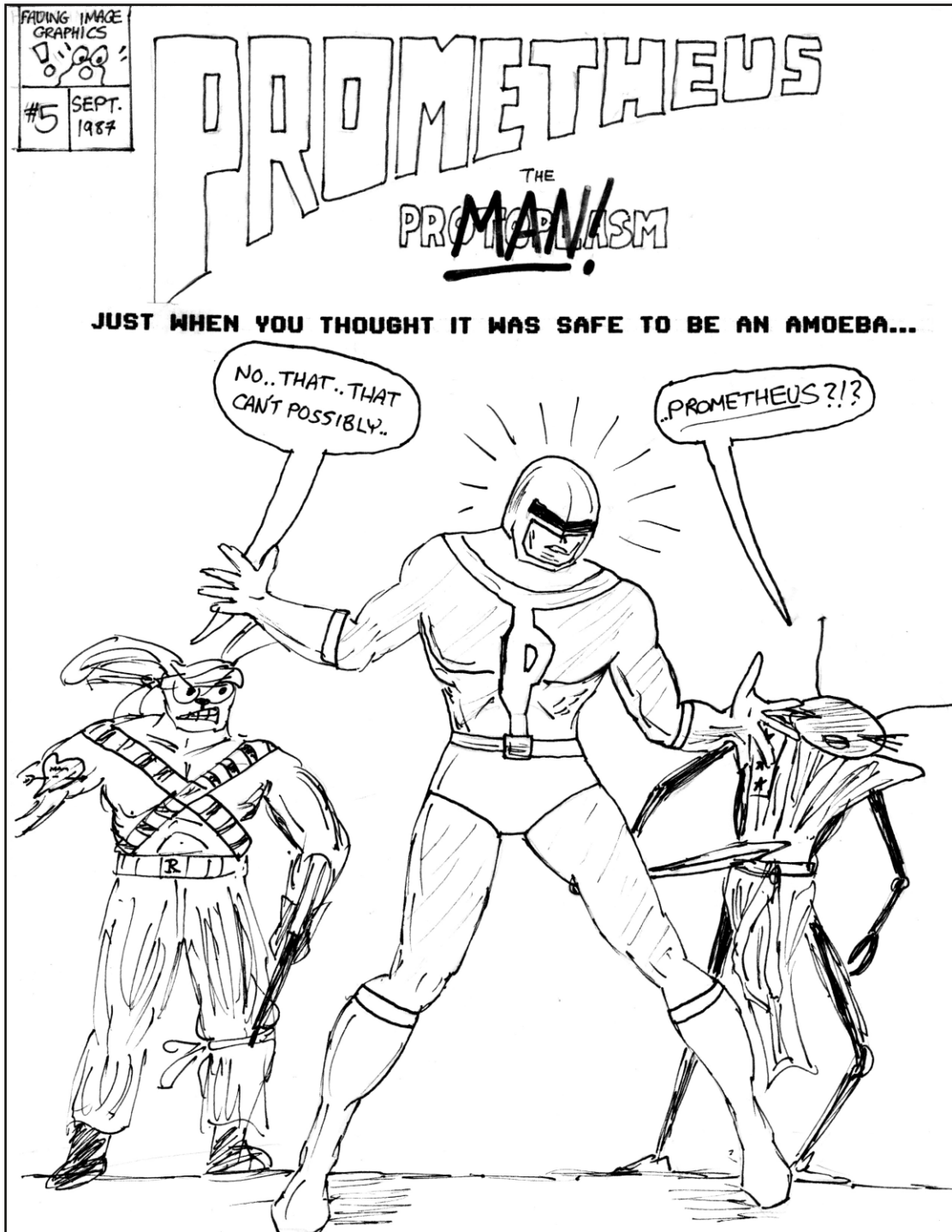
YOU KNOW THE  
TRUTH.  
NOW FIND OUT  
WHAT REALLY  
HAPPENED.



# SPECIAL BONUS SECTION

The story of Prometheus #5 changed an awful lot while I fiddled with it for two years, with no less than four alternate cover versions done and several plot ideas thrown out entirely. These covers on the following pages mostly feature a story thread that never quite worked out.

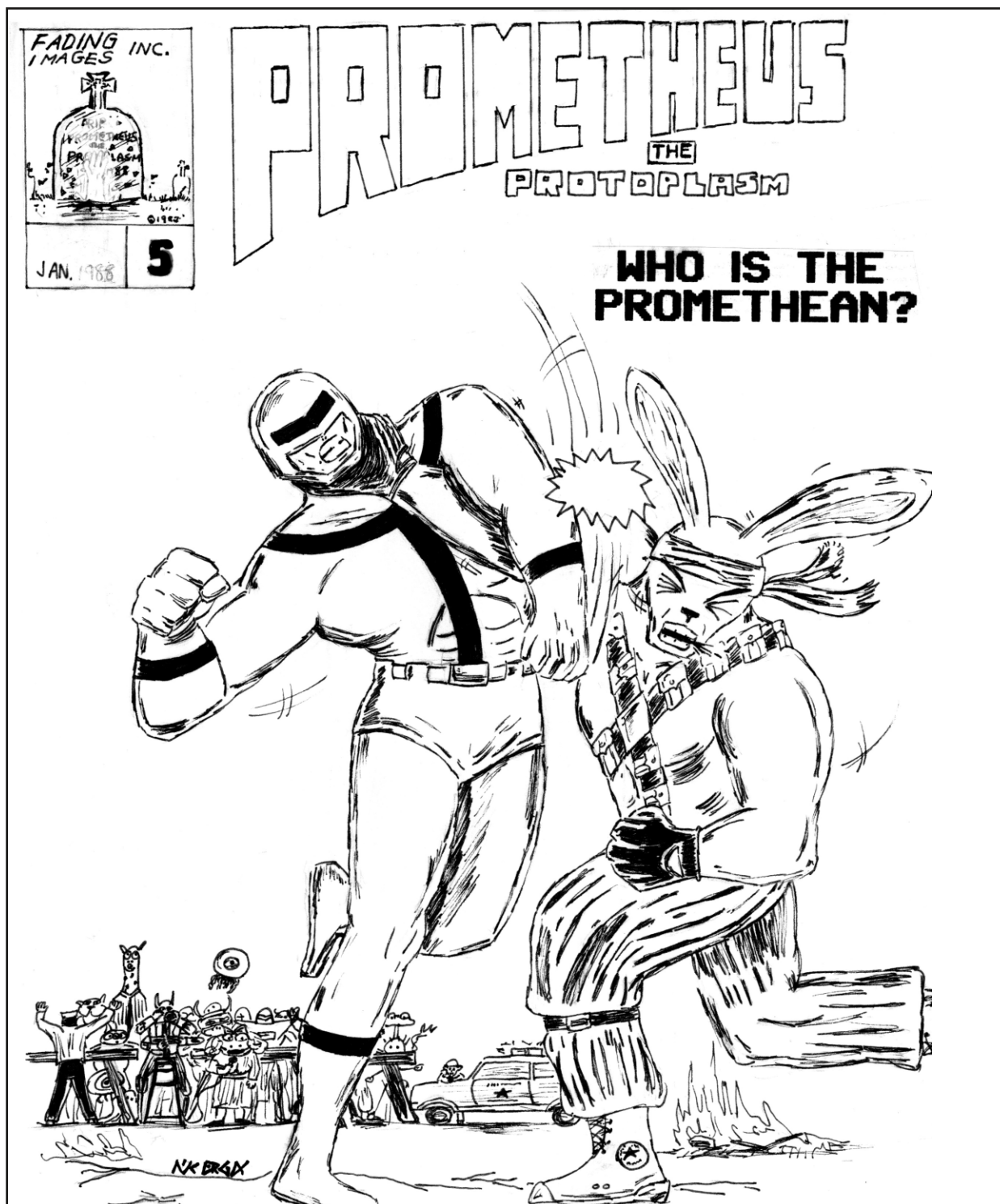
This issue took me nearly two years to complete its meagre 12 pages after Prometheus #4. Some of that was being a typical teenage slacker who had um, discovered girls. Part of it was the sheer difficulty for me in drawing The Promethean, a more or less “human” character when I was used to drawing amoebas, rabbits and punk rockers.





To make up for my lack of skills I ended up heavily swiping from my comic book idols at the time like Frank Miller, Jim Starlin and John Byrne, whose work I unabashedly homaged (read: “ripped off”) for several panels in this issue.

(If you dig out some of Byrne’s old Superman comics, you’ll find a handful of panels I basically redrew whole. In my defense, I was like, 16 at the time and pretty much nobody saw this comic back then, and also in my defense, the abominable drawings on the bottom of page 8 are me at the time without swiping.)



The end result is a rather melodramatic combination of superhero angst and what would become Amoeba Adventures, but it's still an issue I look fondly back at doing and see that many of the characters started to sound like "themselves" here, particularly Ninja Ant and Rambunny. (Spif was still acting like a punk-rock hoodlum, and why on earth did I draw him smoking on page 9?) I love page 7, where I really embraced the "populated by bizarre critters" aspect of Spongopolis and finally stopped having Karate Kactus wander around stark naked. And I also discovered Zip-A-Tone to properly shade Ninja Ant's skin tone! Revelatory!

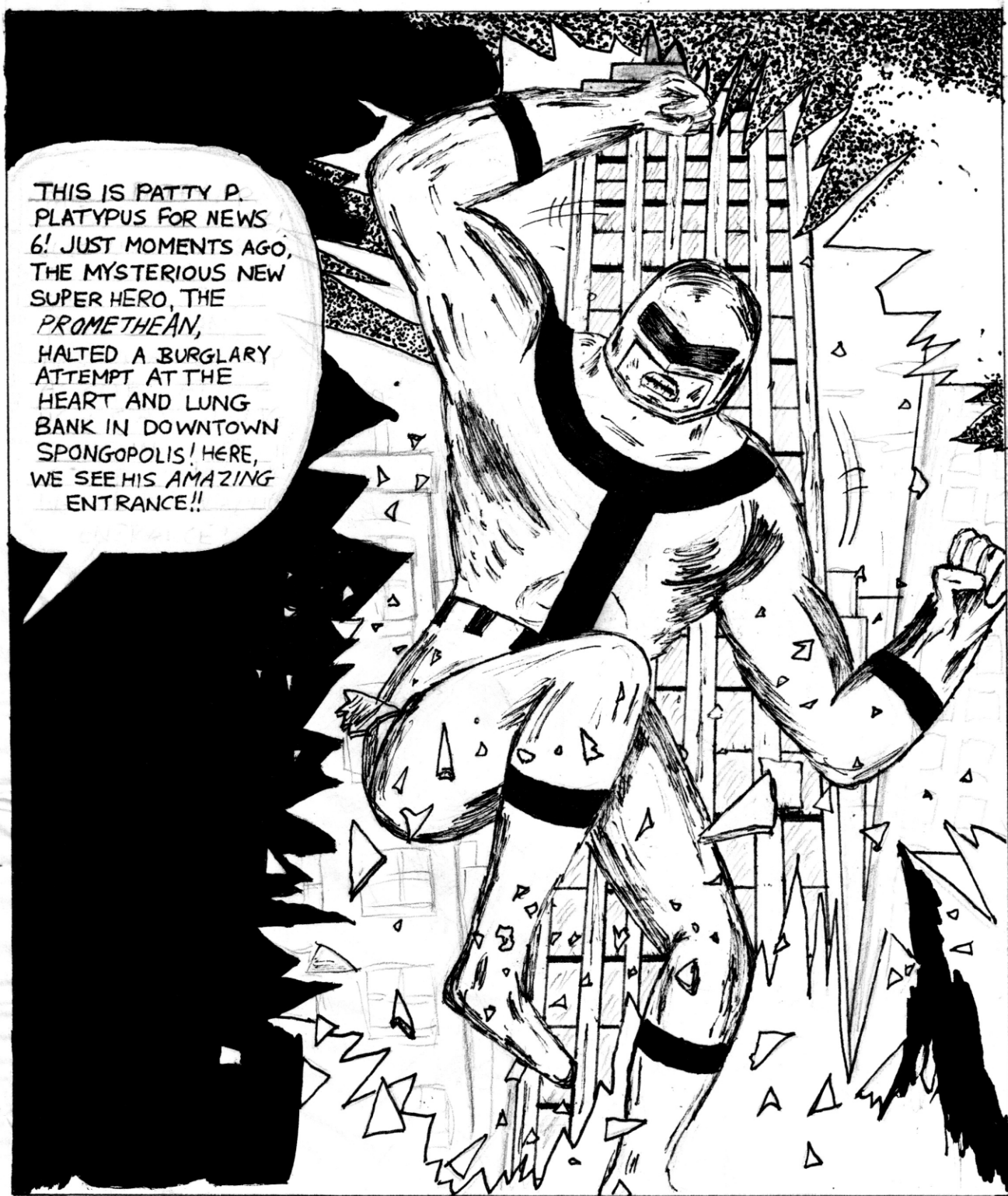




This cover draft (#4?) was far too graphic and over-the-top for the tone of Prometheus' adventures, really. Blame it on a steady diet of Frank Miller Daredevil.



Digging through old boxes of comics stuff, I realised that I apparently never throw anything out, because I found several "lost" pages from Prometheus #5 and my rough plot for the issue, which details a very different comic indeed. This kind of hard-core geekery is probably mainly of interest to me, but in the interest of completism, it's all included here.





As briefly explained at the end of the issue, Prometheus #5 was originally going to include an entire bizarre interlude where Prometheus and Rambunny try to deal with the news reports that the Promethean killed Prometheus, as hinted at on page 2.





After playing around with this idea and pencilling a different version of pages 8 and 9, I think I realised how inane and complicated this whole idea was and just threw it out entirely.





The plot synopsis for #5 (reprinted from my teenage notes in full) has a story that's pretty similar to what was published but then takes a deep swerve around Page 10 to include the whole faked identity plot, plus the trial of the Asbestos Mushroom and Rambunny telling his origin story to the entire gang!

PLOT FOR PROMETHEUS THE PROTOPLASM #5  
By Nik Dirga

✓ PAGE ONE: Promethean breaks into a store window. Off-screen speaker talking about the sudden appearance of "The Promethean" in the last few days in Spongopolis, and how Promethean halted a robbery at Finn's Heart and Lung Bank this afternoon. Full page shot.

✓ PAGE TWO: Scene shows Promethean hitting penguin crook, backing up to reveal TV screen. A newscaster appears, Patty Platypus of Channel 6 Eye See You News. Crosses back and forth between conversation about Promethean, filling reader in on events of #4, including announcement of Asbestos Mushroom's trial, and a shadowy figure stealthily stealing his way across rooftops and entering a secret cave. Last panel shows figure about to open door, sound of TV can be heard from within. Divided into three horizontal rows of three panels, making a tic-tac-toe effect. (ccu)

✓ PAGE THREE: Title over all: "Only Human", credits at right top. Give credits whimsically. Shows Promethean slamming open door and entering room where Rambunny and Ninja Ant are watching the TV. Ninja Ant looks startled, pulling sword. Rambunny looks nonchalant, drinking a beer. Promethean announces, "Hey Guys, I'm Home!". Full page shot.

✓ PAGE FOUR: Ninja Ant rebukes Promethean for entering so noisily. Promethean apologizes, then asks them if they saw his news shot. Rambunny nods. Promethean is obviously real excited over recognition. He asks where Karate Kactus, Monte Python, and Doctor Spif are. Rambunny mutters that Karate Kactus is off shopping, Monte Python filming in London, and Dr. Spif has to work. Promethean takes off helmet as Ninja Ant is talking and slips, calling him "Prometheus." Pro looks shocked. Divided into mish-mash panels.

✓ PAGE FIVE: Prometheus says, "Why did you have to remind me?", and storms out of room. Ninja Ant is all, "Oh gosh, what did I do? I'm so stupid." Rambunny says that he'll get over it, as Ninja Ant reflects on events of #3 and 4, up to where Mushroom and Kronos show up at tail of #3. Divided into mish-mash panels.

✓ PAGE SIX: Reminiscence concludes, and Ninja Ant also fills in on what happened after Pro got shot in #4, and mentions Kronos mysterious disappearance. Also mentions that the five acquired Asbestos Mushroom HQ as their living quarters until they can find better ones. Scene shifts briefly to a white limbo, where Kronos is floating in status. A conversation is going on between two off-stage individuals. "It is almost time." "Yes. And Prometheus is about to know..the truth!" Very ominous. Divided into mish-mash panels.

✓ PAGE SEVEN: Downtown. Karate Kactus is in a shopping mall, window-shopping. People are recognizing him from coverage of the "Prometheus/Mushroom War" in #3 and #4. Karate Kactus reflects that it is good to be famous. He turns into a nearby Q-Mart in the mall. He is looking through the "Oriental Plant Heroes" line of clothing. Later. A salesgirl asks Karate Kactus, obviously in a changing room, if everything is OK. In response, Karate Kactus dramatically breaks open door of stall, displaying a new outfit, with black headband and somewhat like Ninja Ant's costume. He says, "I'll take it! Er..do you take Mastercard?"

✓ PAGE EIGHT: Rambunny walks into darkened room. He is holding Pro's helmet. He asks, "Pro? Are you in here?" Pro snuffles out a yes. He is sitting on a bed. Rambunny sits down next to him, and they have a little talk about Pro now being..human, and how he has to accept that he may never be a protoplasm again. But, the gun may also wear off. Prometheus cheers up. Divided into mish-mash panels again.

✓ PAGE NINE: Rambunny asks Pro if he remembers when they first met, when Pro first came to Earth, and Rambunny thought he was his old foe, the slime. Brief flashback.

✓ <sup>NINE</sup> PAGE TEN: Rambunny and Pro continue talking. Subject turns to Pro's new alias, the Promethean. Rambunny brings up fact that if..when..Pro turns back to normal, what about the Promethean? Pro thinks, and cooks up an idea...and starts whispering it to Rambunny. Important not to let readers know what plan is.

✓ <sup>TEN</sup> PAGE ELEVEN: In Asbestos Mushroom's HQ. Ninja Ant is dressing for "a hot date" when Doctor Spif walks in. He has shaved. Ninja Ant asks him what happened to the beard he was growing. Doctor Spif says it got all bloody when he was performing surgery, and blood doesn't wash out. Ninja Ant suddenly has to run to bathroom. Promethean and Rambunny walk in, welcome Spif. Ask him if he got a new helicopter after he crashed into the Empire State Building the other day. He says he did. Suddenly, through the window Karate Kactus crashes in!

<sup>ELEVEN</sup> PAGE TWELVE: Karate Kactus gets up. Shows off his new suit, and mentions his strong dislike for writers who insist on dramatic entrances. Ninja Ant re-enters. Rambunny and Promethean say that they both have a mission, and must go. Others bid them farewell. Later. Scene shifts to downtown. Tinkertoy (from #4) is hiding in an alley. He is upset, because Prometheus disappeared before he could fight him. Suddenly, he sees Promethean fly overhead. He thinks (a ponderous process) and realizes that one hero is as good as another, leaps into the air after Promethean.

<sup>ECC..</sup> PAGE THIRTEEN: Promethean is flying along quickly. He is late for his and Rambunny's plan. It wasn't my fault a cat was stuck in a tree, he thinks. Suddenly, Tinkertoy hits him with a flying tackle, screaming, "Popularity is mine!" and both fall to the street. Tinkertoy has a headache. Promethean explains that he is late for a mission, and wouldn't he mind beating someone else up right now instead? Tinkertoy swings at Promethean, missing. Promethean is upset as he dodges another powerful blow. Scene switches, showing a watch face. It says 9:34. Rambunny, at a unrevealed location, is mad.

PAGE FOURTEEN: Promethean dodges yet another punch by Tinkertoy, when suddenly a light comes on in his head. He remembers that he isn't the weak amoeba he was before! He is strong and invulnerable! And Tinkertoy is "cheap wood and plastic". Saying, "I told you to quit..", Promethean reigns up, and smashes a powerhouse blow into Tinkertoy.

PAGE FIFTEEN: Tinkertoy, now in about six thousand pieces spread around Fifth Avenue, is defeated. Promethean flies off, muttering "what a loser." Tinkertoy's rolling head comes to a rest on a busy sidewalk. He asks passerby for help, but most look at him like he's a demented turtle scientist. Tinkertoy screams, "And they say NEW YORKERS won't get involved!" Scene switches to a Channel Six "Eye See You" Newscast being filmed live at a TV station. Patty Platypus and Georgio Giraffe are commenting on "Iran-Contradiction Sales". Suddenly, a foot seen in foreground says, "HOLD IT!"

PAGE SIXTEEN: Promethean is seen in shot. He says "This is my show now!" All cameras turn to him. Scene switches to Dr. Spif and Karate Kactus watching TV at AMHQ. They are shocked. Promethean starts: "I want you all to know..I am an alien from the planet Vetrusia! And while I have pretended to be a hero these last few days, I am really an evil alien invader! And you may have noticed that Prometheus the Protoplasm had disappeared at the same time that I arrived! Now know the truth! I KILLED PROMETHEUS THE PROTOPLASM..AND NOTHING CAN STOP ME NOW!" Reaction shots from all over, from individuals watching TV to Patty Platypus. Suddenly, Rambunny crashes through a doorway, fists clenched. "WANNA BET?", he screams.

PAGE SEVENTEEN: Rambunny tackles Promethean. Two begin to fight, evenly matched thanks to Promethean's strength. Neither is winning, until Rambunny smashes a movie set over the Promethean's head. Promethean falls to the ground, unconscious. Rambunny looks victorious. Suddenly, laughter bursts out off stage. Prometheus mutters, "I don't think they felt for it.."

PAGE EIGHTEEN: A director comes over to Rambunny. "That was great! Best laugh all year!", he praises. Rambunny looks shocked, and Promethean pokes his head up. "Huh?", he says. Director goes on to explain how the whole fight was so unconvincing, etc., that everyone knew it was hoax. After all, it was nothing like real life! Director asks two to sign contract. Later. Back at HQ, Rambunny is still mad at Promethean. "Stupidjerkmakesalouslyplan..", etc. Ninja Ant says he's going to trial of Asbestos mushroom, and asks if anyone wants to go. Promethean volunteers, says that at least Rambunny won't crucify him there.

PAGE NINETEEN: Ninja Ant and Promethean standing, at back of courtroom. Judge P.P. Peking, an oriental Panda bear, presides. Guards bring Asbestos Mushroom in. Trial begins, brief history of Asbestos Mushroom's crimes told. Finally, trial begins, and comes to point where Judge asks whether or not Asbestos Mushroom pleads guilty or not. He pleads non-guilty, of course. Ninja Ant screams, "LIAR!!!", and jumps up to attack him.

PAGE TWENTY: Ninja Ant grabs Mushroom, and Promethean tries to restrain him, but Ninja Ant knocks him across room. He pulls out sword. Asbestos Mushroom begs. Ninja Ant says, "I could kill you. I should. You took me away from my family, brainwashed me, and hurt me, all for a stupid revenge scheme! I will never be the same. Yes, mushroom, I could kill you. But then I'd be as evil as you." With that, Ninja Ant stalks out of the courtroom. Promethean follows.

PAGE TWENTY-ONE: Back at AMHQ. Promethean is reading newspaper. Rambunny walks in, grabs front page. There is a headline about troops left in Vietnam. Rambunny throws paper across room in disgust. Doctor Spif, Ninja Ant, and Karate Kactus enter. They ask what the problem is. Rambunny says that it goes back to his beginnings. Then he says, "Do you guys want to know the whole story behind Rambunny?" Everyone nods. Rambunny starts to relate how he was once a peace-loving rabbit named Peter, back in the late 60's. But he was drafted for the Vietnam war, as an infantryman.

PAGE TWENTY-TWO: There, Rambunny continues, he saw more blood and death than he ever wanted to see again. But, one day, his entire platoon was killed by a bomb, and only he survived, terribly wounded. He wandered aimlessly for days, next to death, and then stumbled upon a Viet Cong village. The villagers took him in, and treated him. He was amazed. He had harmed and killed these people, and they still helped him. Soon, he was shown to an elderly rabbit named Professor Tung, a Japanese professor whose plane had crashed and he had come to live here. Tung claimed to know the secret to eternal life.

PAGE TWENTY-THREE: Still hurt badly, Rambunny agreed to be the test for Tung's potion of invulnerability. He took it, and in that moment, he became..Rambunny! But, mere minutes later, the entire village was ransacked by a platoon of soldiers..American ones! Shocked and hurt, Rambunny decided from that moment forth, he would fight for no one flag..for truth, justice, and most importantly of all, Rambunny would fight for peace.

PAGE TWENTY-FOUR: As Rambunny concludes his story, everyone is amazed, stunned, and saddened by the amazing story behind him. Breaking the tension, the phone rings. The police, calling to tell the five that a being called Tinkertoy is ransacking Spongopolis. As everyone prepares for battle, Promethean says just to stay, he can handle this joker on his own. They consent, and Promethean leaves.

PAGE TWENTY-FIVE: Downtown. Tinkertoy is tearing up Spongopolis, screaming "Where is Promethean?" Suddenly, Promethean swoops down from the sky and smashes Tinkertoy into a toy shop. Toys go flying. Promethean tells Tinkertoy he never should have come back for more punishment, and the two begin to fight. But then, Tinkertoy has Promethean trapped in his hand, and suddenly, without warning..Promethean the man changes back to Prometheus the Protoplasm!

PAGE TWENTY-SIX: Tinkertoy tightens his grip, though he doesn't know what happened. Prometheus is struggling, about to be crushed, and Tinkertoy laughs, "AT LAST! THE END OF PROMETHEUS..AND TINKERTOY IS TRIUMPHANT!!" Full page shot. Says in caption box at bottom, "To be continued in.."THE TRUTH!"