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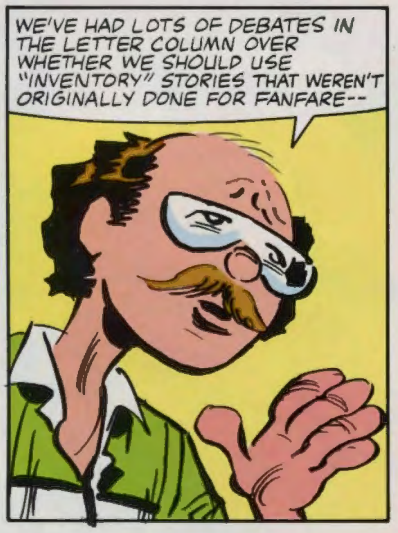
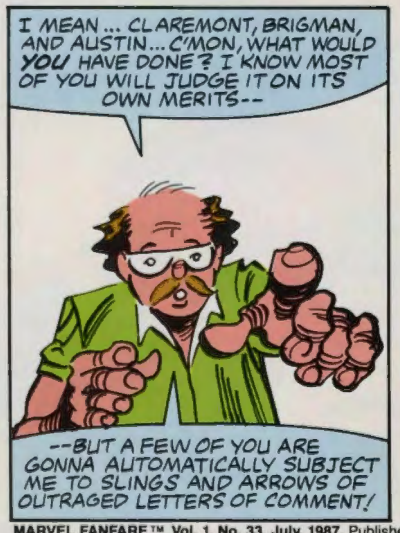
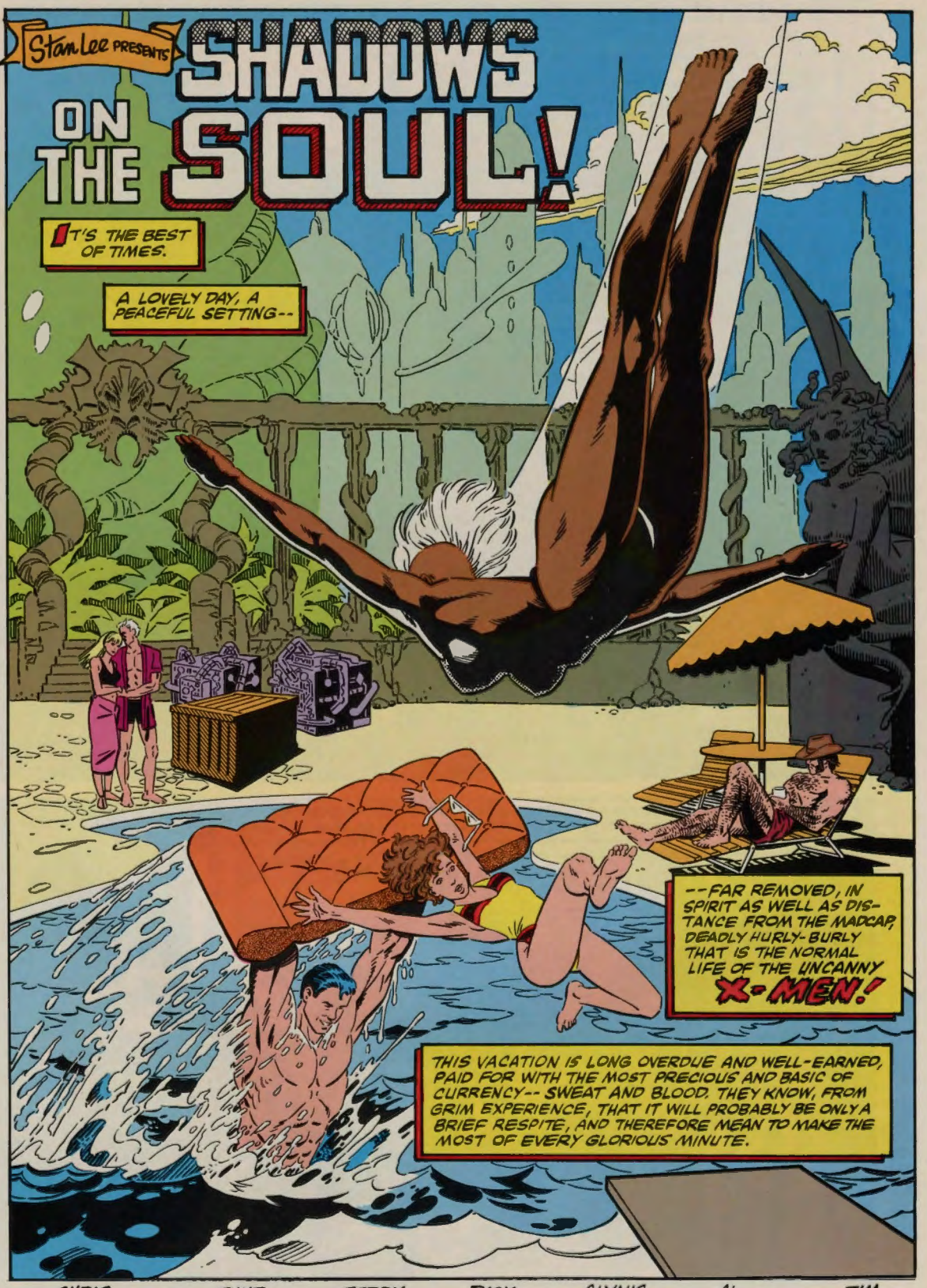




MARVEL FANFARE™ Vol. 1, No. 33, July, 1987. Published by MARVEL COMICS, A NEW WORLD PICTURES COMPANY, James E. Galton, President. Stan Lee, Publisher. Michael Hobson, Group Vice-President. Milton Schiffman, Vice-President, Production. OFFICE OF PUBLICATION: 387 PARK AVENUE SOUTH, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10016. **SECOND CLASS POSTAGE PAID AT NEW YORK, N.Y AND AT ADDITIONAL MAILING OFFICES.** Published bi-monthly. Copyright © 1987 by Marvel Entertainment Group, Inc. All rights reserved. Price $1.50 per copy in the U.S. and $2.00 in Canada. Subscription rate $18.00 for 12 issues. Canada and Foreign, $20.00. No similarity between any of the names, characters, persons, and/or institutions in this magazine with those of any living or dead person or institution is intended, and any such similarity which may exist is purely coincidental. This periodical may not be sold except by authorized dealers and is sold subject to the conditions that it shall not be sold or distributed with any part of its cover or markings removed, nor in a mutilated condition. MARVEL FANFARE (including all prominent characters featured in the issue), and the distinctive likenesses thereof, are trademarks of the MARVEL ENTERTAINMENT GROUP, INC. **POSTMASTER: SEND ADDRESS CHANGES TO MARVEL FANFARE, 387 PARK AVENUE SOUTH, 9TH FLOOR, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10016.** PRINTED IN CANADA.



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SPECIAL THANKS TO "QUESTPROBE" EDITOR BOB BUDIANSKY

THE ISLAND--NESTLED IN THE HEART OF THE INFAMOUS BERMUDA TRIANGLE--IS UNLISTED ON ANY CHART; ITS PRESENCE MASKED FROM PRYING EYES BOTH BY ITS OWN ELDRITCH NATURE AND AN ARRAY OF SOPHISTICATED ELECTRONIC DEFENSES.

THE ARCH-VILLAIN HAS BECOME A HERO, AND HIS BITTEREST FOES, THE X-MEN --WHO DEFEATED HIM THAT DAY--ARE NOW, IF NOT QUITE HIS FRIENDS, THEN AT LEAST HIS ALLIES.

PIOTR NIKOLIEVITCH, IF IT ISN'T TOO MUCH TROUBLE...

... I'D APPRECIATE COLOSSUS'S HELP WITH THIS CRATE.

A PLEASURE, TOVARISCH MAGNETO.

I'VE MISSED YOU.

AND I YOU, LEE.

YOU SOUND SURPRISED.

I AM.

OHO? ASHAMED TO CARE FOR A "HUMAN," O CHAMPION OF MUTANTKIND, SELF-STYLED SAVIOR OF YOUR PEOPLE?

IT IS OLDER THAN HUMAN CIVILIZATION -- PERHAPS EVEN THAN THE RACE ITSELF -- AND FOR UNCOUNTED EONS, LAY ABANDONED, DESOLATE, FORGOTTEN ON THE FLOOR OF THE ATLANTIC.

... UNTIL MAGNETO, MUTANT MASTER OF MAGNETISM, RAISED IT TO THE SURFACE, TO SERVE AS HIS BASE OF OPERATIONS FOR AN ATTEMPTED CONQUEST OF THE EARTH.

A LOT HAS CHANGED SINCE THEN.

A THOUGHT TRANSFORMS THE YOUNG RUSSIAN'S BODY FROM FLESH AND BLOOD TO SUPER-STRONG ORGANIC STEEL, AND OFF HE GOES...

UNNERVED TO CARE AT ALL, IN THIS WAY, FOR ANYONE.

IT'S BEEN SO LONG, ALEYTYS. I NEVER THOUGHT TO BE SO BLESSED...

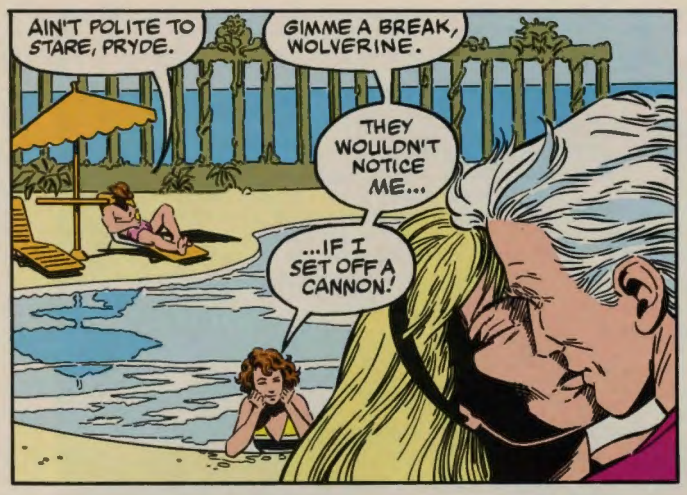
... A SECOND TIME.

I UNDERSTAND. WE ALL HAVE SHADOWS ON OUR SOULS -- LOSSES THAT, AT THE TIME, SEEMED TOO TERRIBLE TO BEAR, THAT WE THOUGHT WOULD SCAR AND TAINT US FOREVER --

-- BUT THOSE DAYS ARE PAST, MY LOVE. YOU HAVE A NEW LIFE -- BETTER, NOBLER RESPONSIBILITIES -- AS THE HEADMASTER OF PROFESSOR XAVIER'S SCHOOL FOR GIFTED YOUNGSTERS.

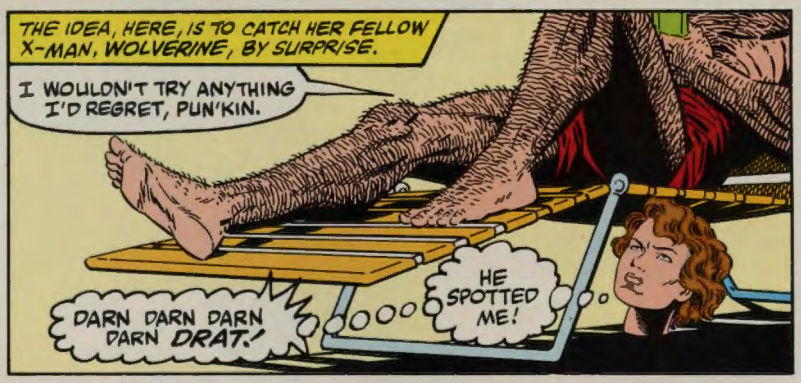
LET THE FUTURE, FOR US, BE FULL OF HOPE. NO SHADOWS, ONLY LIGHT.

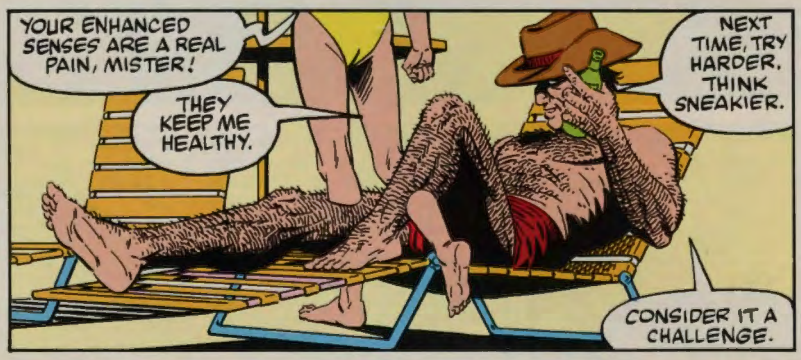
A LOVELY DREAM. TIME WILL TELL WHETHER OR NOT IT BECOMES REALITY.


AIN'T POLITE TO STARE, PRYDE.
GIMME A BREAK, WOLVERINE.
THEY WOULDN'T NOTICE ME...
...IF I SET OFF A CANNON!

I MEAN, REALLY!
ADULTS ARE SUPPOSED TO SET AN EXAMPLE!
AND WHAT CAPTAIN FORRESTER SEES IN MAGNETO...

...I DON'T KNOW.
NO ACCOUNTING FOR TASTE, THAT'S FOR SURE.
KITTY PRYDE'S CODENAME IS SHADOWCAT AND HER MUTANT POWER ENABLES HER TO PHASE THROUGH SOLID OBJECTS.

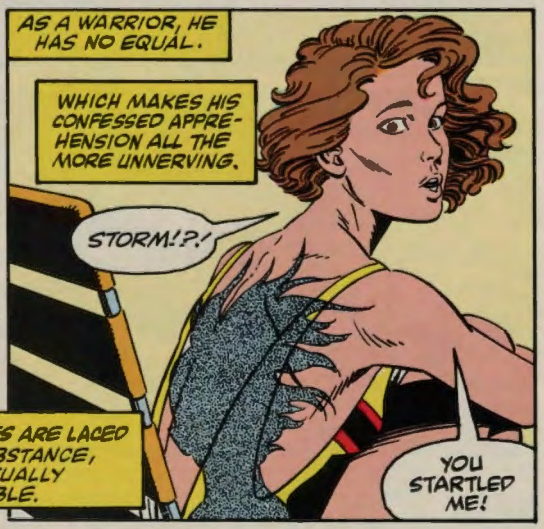

THE IDEA, HERE, IS TO CATCH HER FELLOW X-MAN, WOLVERINE, BY SURPRISE.
I WOULDN'T TRY ANYTHING I'D REGRET, PUN'KIN.
DARN DARN DARN DARN DRAT!
HE SPOTTED ME!


YOUR ENHANCED SENSES ARE A REAL PAIN, MISTER!
THEY KEEP ME HEALTHY.
NEXT TIME, TRY HARDER. THINK SNEAKIER.
CONSIDER IT A CHALLENGE.

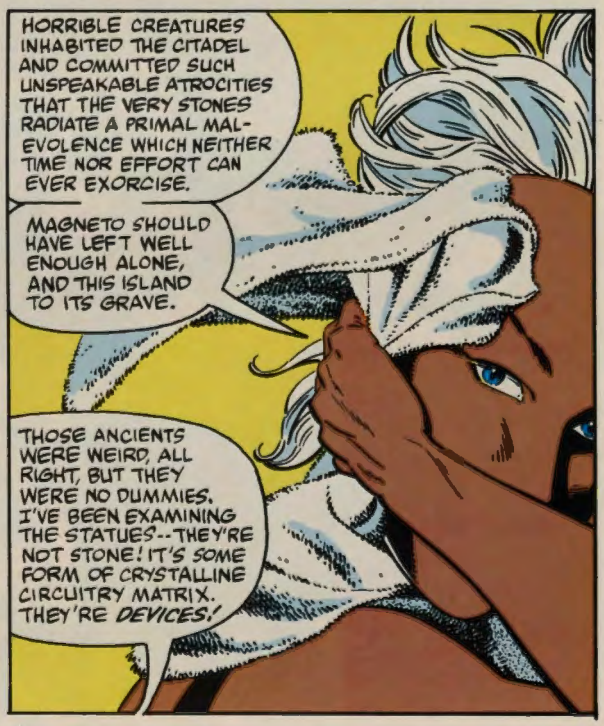
BY THE WAY, SINCE YOU LOST, YOU OWE ME A CASE OF BROWN'S.
BEER-- YUCK!
YOU WIN, I'LL BUY LEMONADE.
YUCK!
WHAT'S THE MATTER, KID? YOU COLD?
IT'S THIS ISLAND. I WISH WE WERE THROUGH PACKING MAGNETO'S GEAR AND ON OUR WAY HOME.
PLACE GIVES ME THE CREEPS.

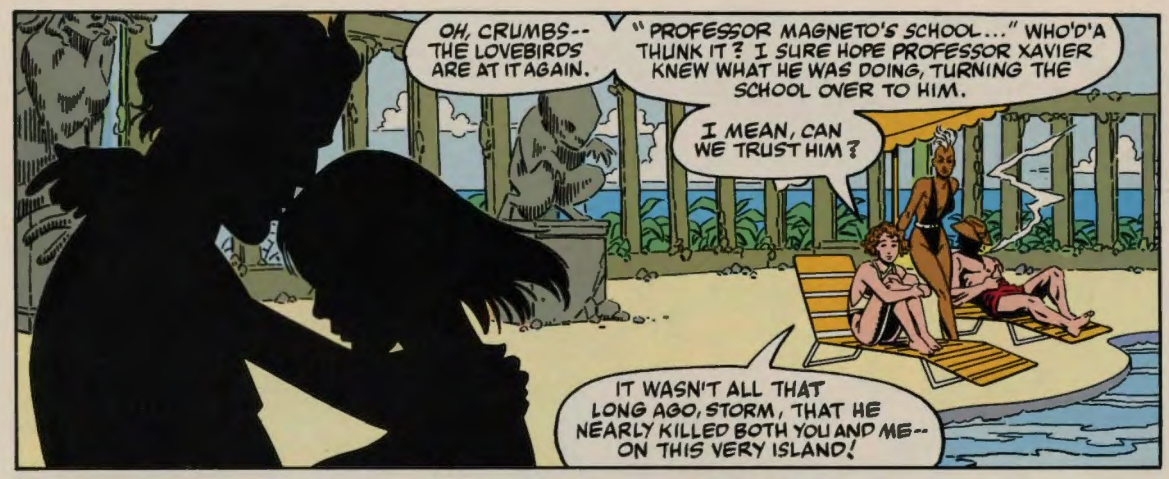
NO ARGUMENT THERE.
I THOUGHT NOTHING FAZED YOU?
ONLY A FOOL IS NEVER SCARED, CHILD.
HANGIN' AROUND THIS ROCK'S LIKE BEIN' ON NIGHT PATROL. YOU'RE ALWAYS ON EDGE, EXPECTING AN ATTACK. YOU CAN'T SEE 'EM, BUT YOU KNOW THE ENEMY'S OUT THERE, WATCHING...

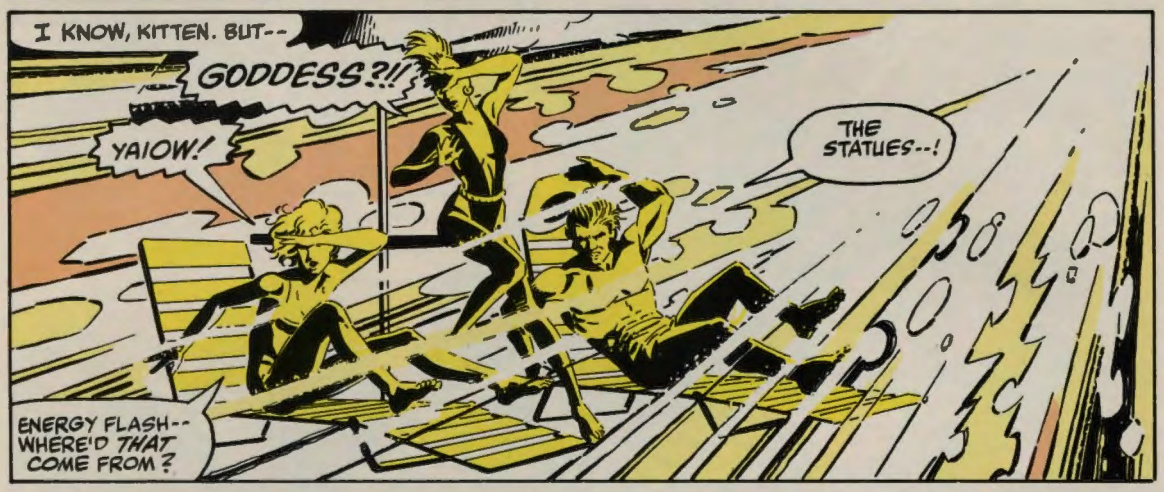
...WAITING FOR YOU TO DROP YOUR GUARD.
SNIKT
THE CLAWS ARE ADAMANTIUM. THEY CAN CUT THROUGH ANYTHING.
WOLVERINE'S BONES ARE LACED WITH THE SAME SUBSTANCE, MAKING THEM VIRTUALLY UNBREAKABLE.


AS A WARRIOR, HE HAS NO EQUAL.
WHICH MAKES HIS CONFESSED APPREHENSION ALL THE MORE UNNERVING.
STORM!?!
YOU STARTLED ME!

MY APOLOGIES, KITTEN.
I, TOO, DISLIKE--DISTRUST--THIS PLACE, AND WILL BE GLAD TO BE QUIT OF IT.
IT IS... EVIL.


HORRIBLE CREATURES INHABITED THE CITADEL AND COMMITTED SUCH UNSPEAKABLE ATROCITIES THAT THE VERY STONES RADIATE A PRIMAL MALEVOLENCE WHICH NEITHER TIME NOR EFFORT CAN EVER EXORCISE.
MAGNETO SHOULD HAVE LEFT WELL ENOUGH ALONE, AND THIS ISLAND TO ITS GRAVE.
THOSE ANCIENTS WERE WEIRD, ALL RIGHT, BUT THEY WERE NO DUMMIES. I'VE BEEN EXAMINING THE STATUES--THEY'RE NOT STONE! IT'S SOME FORM OF CRYSTALLINE CIRCUITRY MATRIX. THEY'RE DEVICES!

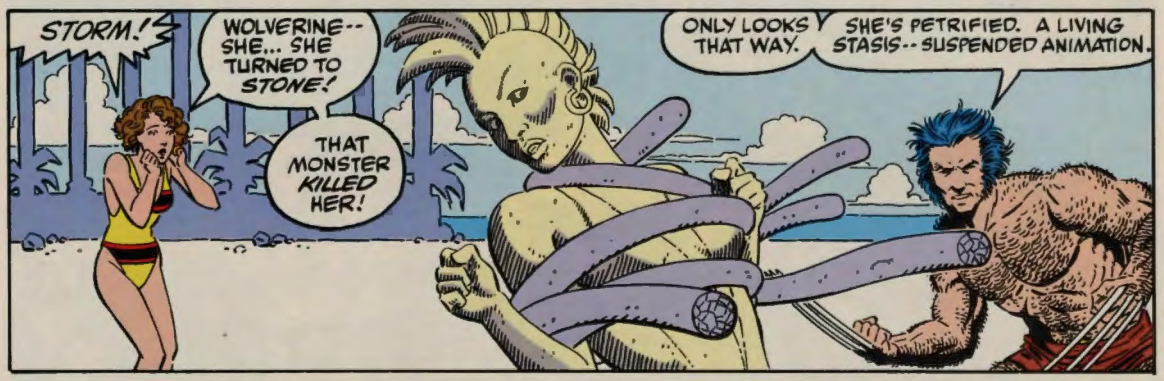

OH, CRUMBS-- THE LOVEBIRDS ARE AT IT AGAIN.
"PROFESSOR MAGNETO'S SCHOOL..." WHO'D'A THUNK IT? I SURE HOPE PROFESSOR XAVIER KNEW WHAT HE WAS DOING, TURNING THE SCHOOL OVER TO HIM.
I MEAN, CAN WE TRUST HIM?
IT WASN'T ALL THAT LONG AGO, STORM, THAT HE NEARLY KILLED BOTH YOU AND ME-- ON THIS VERY ISLAND!


I KNOW, KITTEN. BUT--
GODDESS?!!
YAIOW!
THE STATUES--!
ENERGY FLASH-- WHERE'D THAT COME FROM?

THEY'RE ALIVE!
AND ATTACKING!!

WOLVERINE--?!
ON MY WAY, BOSS.
TOO BAD STORM LOST HER POWERS.
ONE GOOD SHOT OF LIGHTNING...

...WOULD BLAST ALL THESE BOZOS TO POWDER.
INSTEAD, WE GOTTA TAKE CARE OF BUSINESS...
...THE HARD WAY.


STORM!
WOLVERINE-- SHE... SHE TURNED TO STONE!
THAT MONSTER KILLED HER!
ONLY LOOKS THAT WAY.
SHE'S PETRIFIED. A LIVING STASIS-- SUSPENDED ANIMATION.

I'LL WAGER THESE ARE GUARDIAN UNITS, INTENDED TO PROTECT THE CITADEL.
AN UNCHARACTERISTICALLY HUMANE MEANS OF DOING SO--
--UNLESS... THE MASTERS OF THIS PLACE HAD A REASON FOR TAKING THEIR FOES ALIVE?
WITH CONSUMMATE EASE, MAGNETO'S POWER LIFTS TWO MASSIVE GENERATORS...

... AND USES THEM TO DISPATCH HIS OPPONENT.
DO NOT LET THEM TOUCH YOU, X-MEN.
OR YOU'LL BE FROZEN LIKE STORM!
LET ME DEAL WITH THEM, FROM A DISTANCE.

EASIER SAID THAN DONE, CHUM.
SUCKERS ARE POPPIN' UP LIKE MAGGOTS.
MY PHASING POWER DISRUPTS ELECTRONIC CIRCUITRY. IF I CUT THROUGH A STATUE, MAYBE I CAN--

--OH, NO!
THE STATUE ISN'T AFFECTED--
--BUT I AM!
KITTY!

WHY DID THE STATUES SUDDENLY COME TO LIFE?! WHY DO THEY ATTACK US?!!
WORRY ABOUT THAT LATER! FIRST, PULL KITTY FROM THE POOL BEFORE SHE DROWNS--
--WOLVERINE-- BEHIND YOU!

WHAMMO!
TOO LATE!
AND SINCE NONE OF US HERE CAN FLY, THERE IS NONE TO CATCH HIM.

HIS MUTANT FAST-HEALING POWER SHOULD ENABLE HIM TO SURVIVE THAT BLOW, AND HIS LANDING.
BUT HE WILL HAVE A LONG SWIM BACK.
HOPEFULLY, BY THEN, THIS BATTLE WILL BE OVER.
IN THAT LAST THOUGHT, COLOSSUS IS QUITE CORRECT.

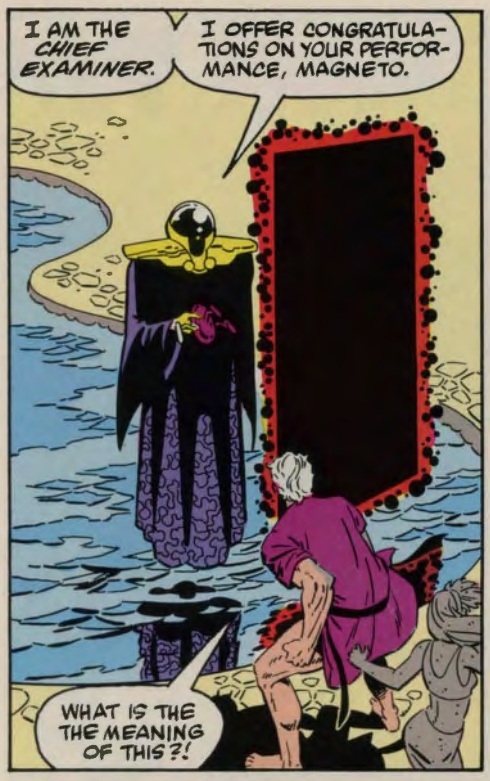
HIS MISTAKE COMES IN ASSUMING...

...THAT HE WILL BE THE VICTOR.
?!?

THESE ARE THE LAST OF THE STATUES --AM I THE ONLY ONE LEFT ?!
I MUST DRAW OUR ENEMY'S FIRE, FIND A WAY TO PROTECT THE X-MEN WHILE THEY REMAIN PETRIFIED AND HELPLESS.

HAH! IT'S BECOMING INSTINCTIVE TO THINK OF OTHERS BEFORE MYSELF.
CHARLES, MY DEAR OLD FRIEND, IF YOU COULD BUT SEE ME NOW.
COME, LEE-- WHILE--
--ALEYTYS?!!

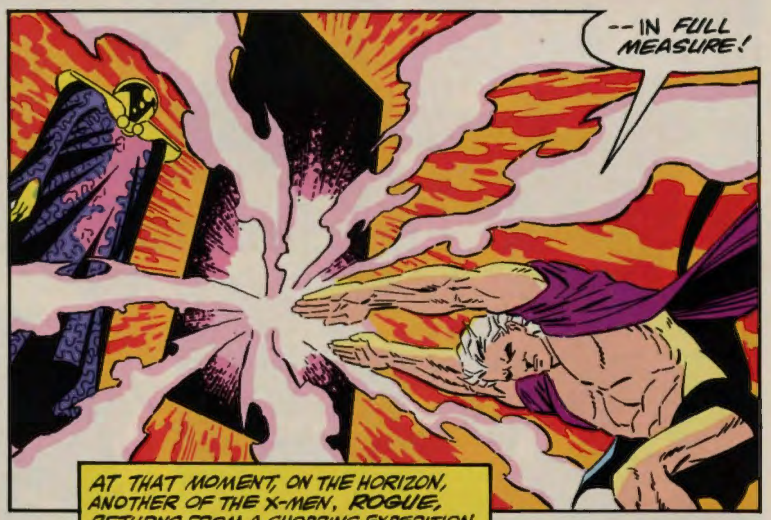
SHE IS UNHARMED AS ARE THE OTHERS.
THE STASIS EFFECT IS TRANSITORY. IT WILL PASS WITHIN THE SPAN OF A TERRESTRIAL HOUR.
WHO--?! OUR FOE--IT MUST BE--SHOWING HIMSELF NOW THAT HE BELIEVES HE HAS US AT HIS MERCY...
... AS I, MYSELF USED TO DO, IN LESS HONORABLE DAYS.

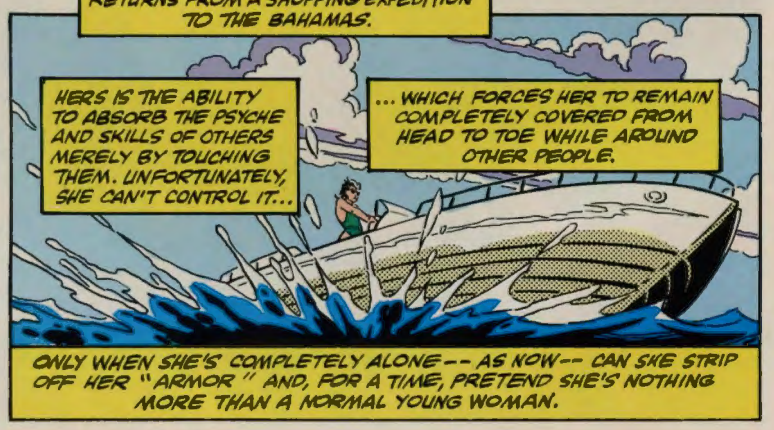

I AM THE CHIEF EXAMINER.
I OFFER CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR PERFORMANCE, MAGNETO.
WHAT IS THE THE MEANING OF THIS?!

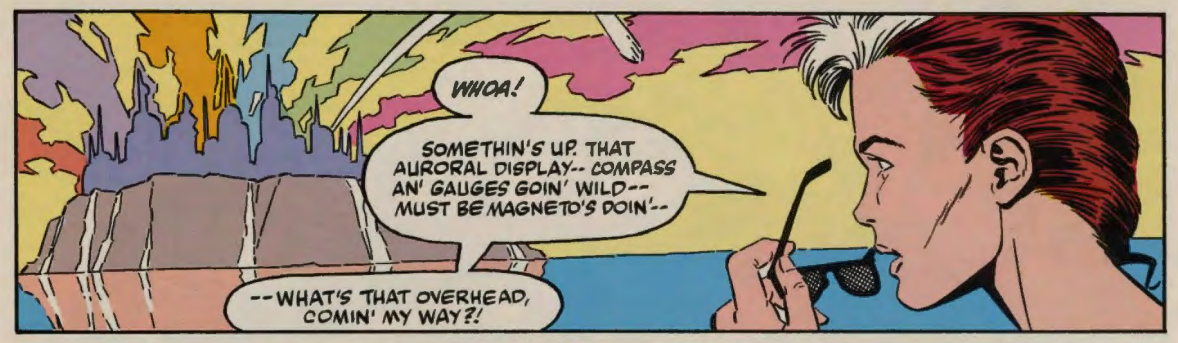
MY EVALUATION OF YOU AND YOUR COMPANIONS IS COMPLETE. SINCE YOU ARE THE SURVIVOR-- AND EASILY, THE MOST POWERFUL OF THE GROUP--
--I REQUIRE YOU TO PASS THROUGH MY SCANNING PLATE.

AND IF I REFUSE?
THAT IS NOT AN OPTION.
YOU SPOKE OF MY POWER, EXAMINER.

NOW, FEEL IT--


--IN FULL MEASURE!


AT THAT MOMENT, ON THE HORIZON, ANOTHER OF THE X-MEN, ROGUE, RETURNS FROM A SHOPPING EXPEDITION TO THE BAHAMAS.
HERS IS THE ABILITY TO ABSORB THE PSYCHE AND SKILLS OF OTHERS MERELY BY TOUCHING THEM. UNFORTUNATELY, SHE CAN'T CONTROL IT...
...WHICH FORCES HER TO REMAIN COMPLETELY COVERED FROM HEAD TO TOE WHILE AROUND OTHER PEOPLE.
ONLY WHEN SHE'S COMPLETELY ALONE-- AS NOW-- CAN SHE STRIP OFF HER "ARMOR" AND, FOR A TIME, PRETEND SHE'S NOTHING MORE THAN A NORMAL YOUNG WOMAN.


WHOA!
SOMETHIN'S UP. THAT AURORAL DISPLAY-- COMPASS AN' GAUGES GOIN' WILD-- MUST BE MAGNETO'S DOIN'--
--WHAT'S THAT OVERHEAD, COMIN' MY WAY?!

CAN'T BE--!
BETTER MAKE SURE.

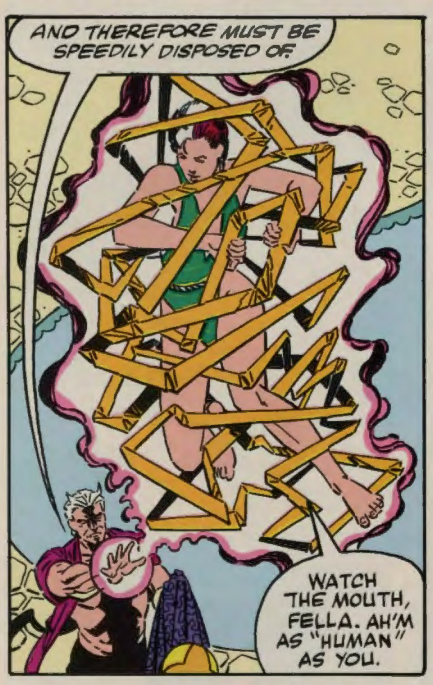
GLORY--IT IS! WOLVIE!
DROPPIN' LIKE A ROCK...

... AN' STIFF AS A BOARD.
HOPE THIS AIN'T PERMANENT, PAL.
BAD TROUBLE, HAS TO BE!

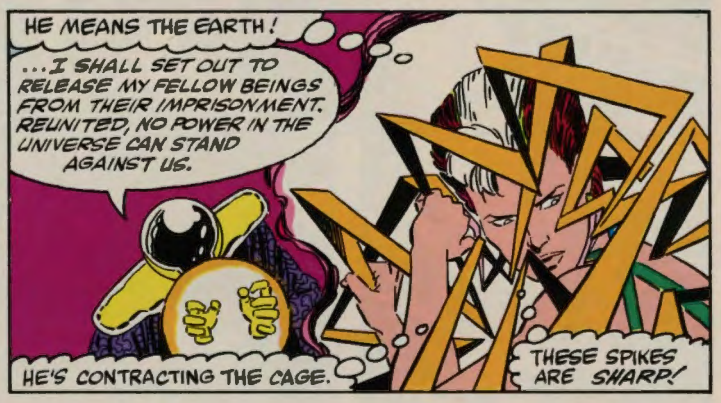
MY POWER DIDN'T WORK!
BUT IT SHOULD HAVE, EVEN IF HE WAS UNCONSCIOUS.

ONLY REASON AH KNOW OF IT WOULDN'T...
...IS IF HE WAS DEAD.
MAGNETO--WHY ALL THE FIREWORKS, MAN--?
UH-OH.
AH GOT A BAD FEELIN'...
FREE!
MIRACLE OF MIRACLES-- AT LONG LAST, I--AM--FREE!!

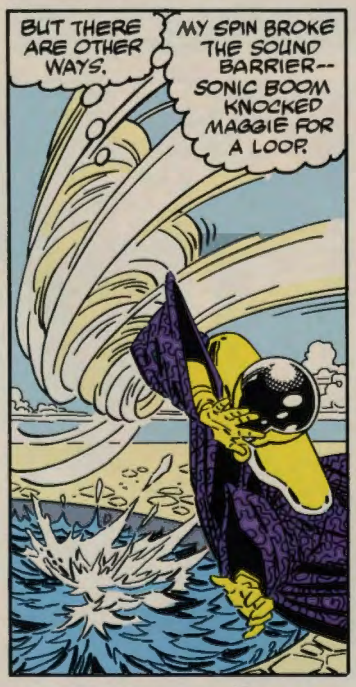
HIS EYES, SHININ' WITH A WEIRD LIGHT.
AN' WHERE'D HE GET THAT OUTFIT--HEY?!
YOU ARE MY SOLE POTENTIAL THREAT, HUMAN.


AND THEREFORE MUST BE SPEEDILY DISPOSED OF.
WATCH THE MOUTH, FELLA. AH'M AS "HUMAN" AS YOU.

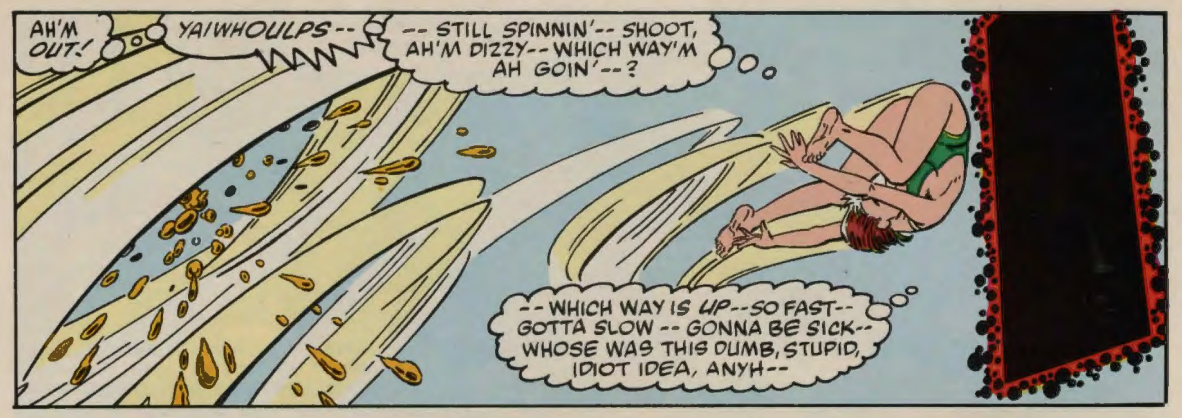
AT LEAST, AH WAS.
I HAD NOT ANTICIPATED MY LIBERATION BY SUCH A MEANS...
...BUT NEITHER SHALL I LET SUCH A GOLDEN OPPORTUNITY GO TO WASTE.
ONCE I HAVE MASTERED THIS PALTRY ORB...


HE MEANS THE EARTH!
...I SHALL SET OUT TO RELEASE MY FELLOW BEINGS FROM THEIR IMPRISONMENT. REUNITED, NO POWER IN THE UNIVERSE CAN STAND AGAINST US.
HE'S CONTRACTING THE CAGE.
THESE SPIKES ARE SHARP!

THIS AIN'T THE OCCASION TO TEST THE LIMITS OF MY INVULNERABILITY.
HIS MAGNETIC POWER HOLDS THE CAGE TOGETHER, TOO TIGHTLY FOR ME TO BREAK.

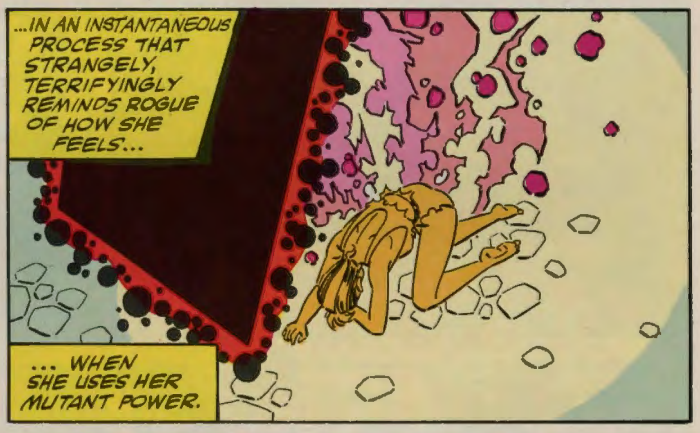

BUT THERE ARE OTHER WAYS.
MY SPIN BROKE THE SOUND BARRIER--SONIC BOOM KNOCKED MAGGIE FOR A LOOP.

GOTTA GO FASTER... FASTER...
...'TIL ATMOSPHERIC FRICTION MELTS THE STEEL.


AH'M OUT!
YA!WHOULPS--
-- STILL SPINNIN'-- SHOOT, AH'M DIZZY-- WHICH WAY'M AH GOIN'--?
-- WHICH WAY IS UP--SO FAST-- GOTTA SLOW -- GONNA BE SICK-- WHOSE WAS THIS DUMB, STUPID, IDIOT IDEA, ANYH--

OW!
HIT SOMETHING--
STUCK--
--LIKE A BUG TO FLYPAPER.
GOT TO PUSH MYSELF OFF-- BEFORE THINGS GET WORSE--!

THEN, SHE SCREAMS.
...AS MIND AND BODY LOSE COHESION, DISSOLVE AND REFORM...

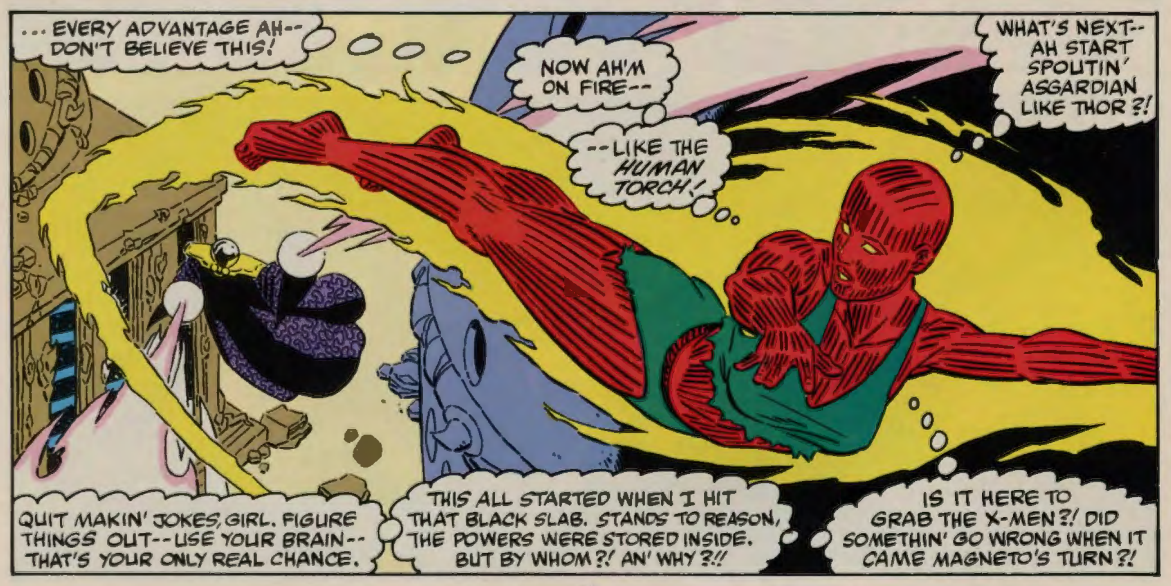

...IN AN INSTANTANEOUS PROCESS THAT STRANGELY, TERRIFYINGLY REMINDS ROGUE OF HOW SHE FEELS...
... WHEN SHE USES HER MUTANT POWER.

THIS IS NOT FUN.
AH'M SEEIN' THINGS-- COLOR PERCEPTION'S GONE ALL SCREWY.
WAIT--IT AIN'T MY EYES AT ALL, IT'S ME!
AH'M GREEN!!

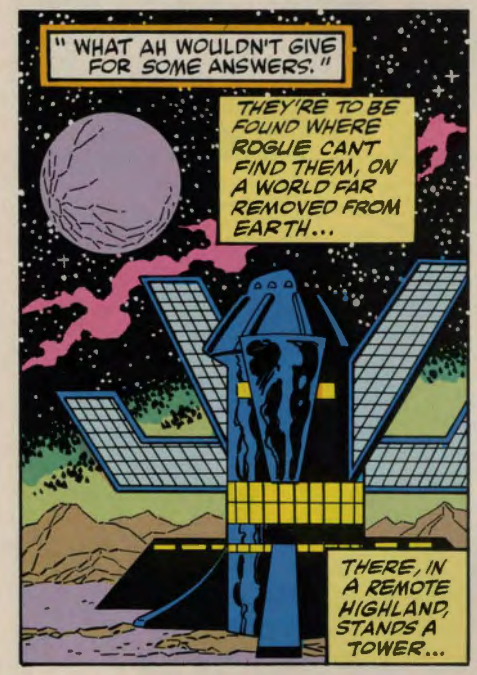
FORTUNE FAVORED YOU ONCE, HUMAN.
BUT WITH EACH PASSING SECOND, I BECOME MORE FAMILIAR WITH THIS SHELL...
... MORE PROFICIENT WITH ITS ABILITIES.
LIGHTNING BOLT-- MOVE GIRL, OR BE FRIED!
AH'M A LOT BIGGER, TOO. REMINDS ME OF WHEN THE X-MEN SCRAPPED WITH THE AVENGERS, AN' AH ABSORBED THE SHE-HULK'S POWER.*
*X-MEN ANNUAL # 9 --AL.

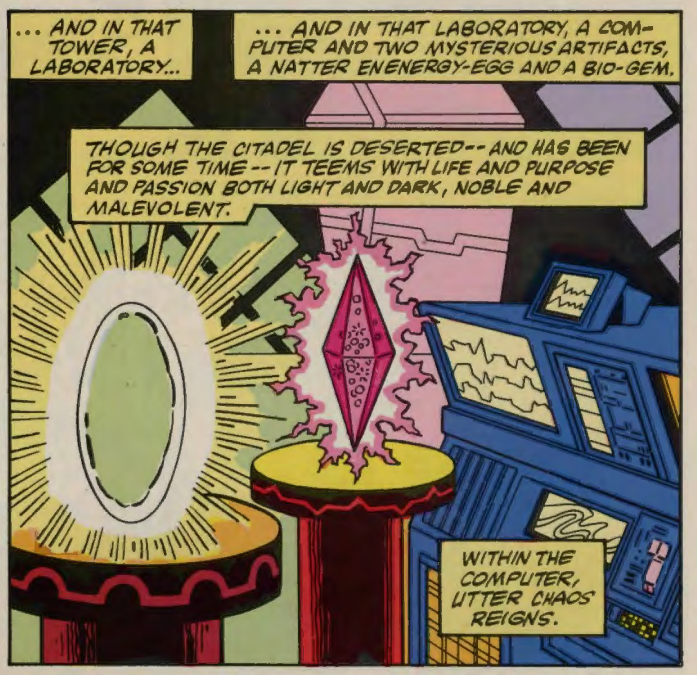
WEIRDER AND WEIRDER.
AH CAN STICK TO WALLS!
SPIDER-MAN DOES THAT, RIGHT? WISH AH KNEW MORE ABOUT HIM.
WHY'S MY HEAD BUZZIN'?!
SUDDENLY GOT AN ITCH TO...

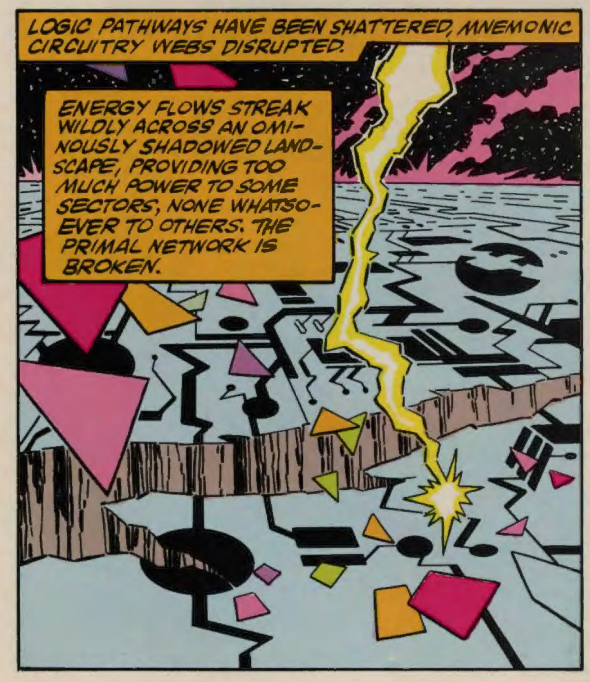
...VA MOOSE ?!?
THAT WAS TOO DARN CLOSE FOR COMFORT.
THE BUZZ-- WAS IT SOME KIND'A WARNIN'?!
AH SURE HOPE SO. AGAINST MAGGIE, AH'M GONNA NEED...

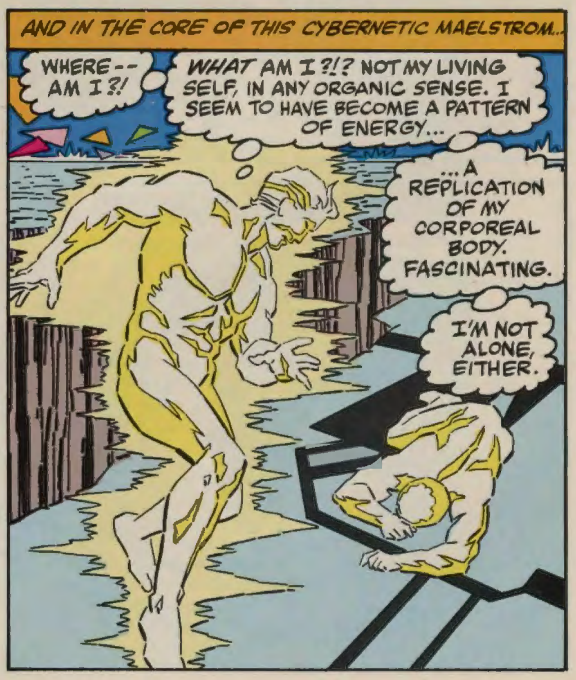

... EVERY ADVANTAGE AH-- DON'T BELIEVE THIS!
NOW AH'M ON FIRE--
--LIKE THE HUMAN TORCH!
WHAT'S NEXT-- AH START SPOUTIN' ASGARDIAN LIKE THOR?!
QUIT MAKIN' JOKES, GIRL. FIGURE THINGS OUT--USE YOUR BRAIN-- THAT'S YOUR ONLY REAL CHANCE.
THIS ALL STARTED WHEN I HIT THAT BLACK SLAB. STANDS TO REASON, THE POWERS WERE STORED INSIDE. BUT BY WHOM?! AN' WHY?!!
IS IT HERE TO GRAB THE X-MEN?! DID SOMETHIN' GO WRONG WHEN IT CAME MAGNETO'S TURN?!

HE AIN'T TALKIN' OR ACTING LIKE HIMSELF.
HAS HE BEEN POSSESSED?
THAT'S A BIG PROBLEM. MEANS AH HAVE TO FIND A WAY TO BEAT HIM WITHOUT HURTIN' HIM.
HECK, AH POSSESS THE POWERS O' THREE TOP HEROES-- PLUS MY OWN --SHOULD BE A PIECE O'CAKE.
TOO MANY QUESTIONS, THOUGH, TOO MANY UNKNOWNS.

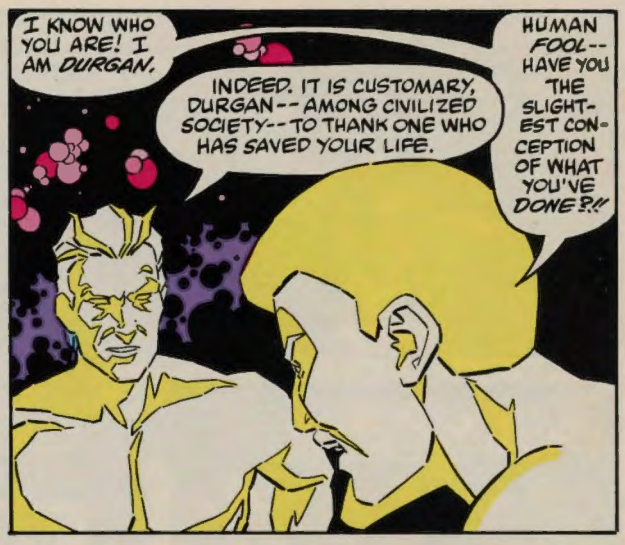

" WHAT AH WOULDN'T GIVE FOR SOME ANSWERS."
THEY'RE TO BE FOUND WHERE ROGUE CANT FIND THEM, ON A WORLD FAR REMOVED FROM EARTH...
THERE, IN A REMOTE HIGHLAND, STANDS A TOWER...


... AND IN THAT TOWER, A LABORATORY...
... AND IN THAT LABORATORY, A COMPUTER AND TWO MYSTERIOUS ARTIFACTS, A NATTER ENENERGY-EGG AND A BIO-GEM.
THOUGH THE CITADEL IS DESERTED-- AND HAS BEEN FOR SOME TIME -- IT TEEMS WITH LIFE AND PURPOSE AND PASSION BOTH LIGHT AND DARK, NOBLE AND MALEVOLENT.
WITHIN THE COMPUTER, UTTER CHAOS REIGNS.


LOGIC PATHWAYS HAVE BEEN SHATTERED, MNEMONIC CIRCUITRY WEBS DISRUPTED.
ENERGY FLOWS STREAK WILDLY ACROSS AN OMINOUSLY SHADOWED LANDSCAPE, PROVIDING TOO MUCH POWER TO SOME SECTORS, NONE WHATSOEVER TO OTHERS. THE PRIMAL NETWORK IS BROKEN.

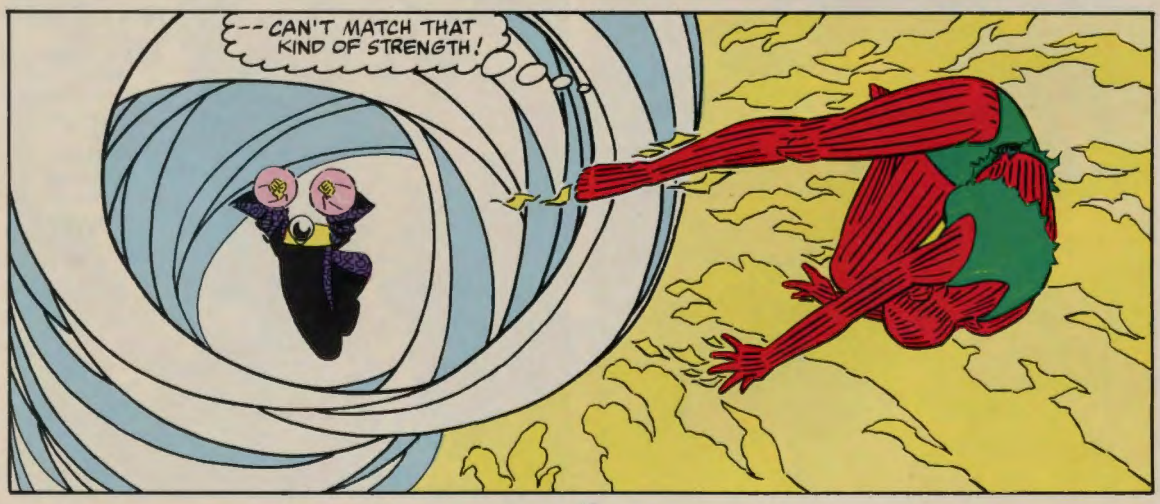

AND IN THE CORE OF THIS CYBERNETIC MAELSTROM...
WHERE -- AM I?!
WHAT AM I?!? NOT MY LIVING SELF, IN ANY ORGANIC SENSE. I SEEM TO HAVE BECOME A PATTERN OF ENERGY...
...A REPLICATION OF MY CORPOREAL BODY. FASCINATING.
I'M NOT ALONE, EITHER.

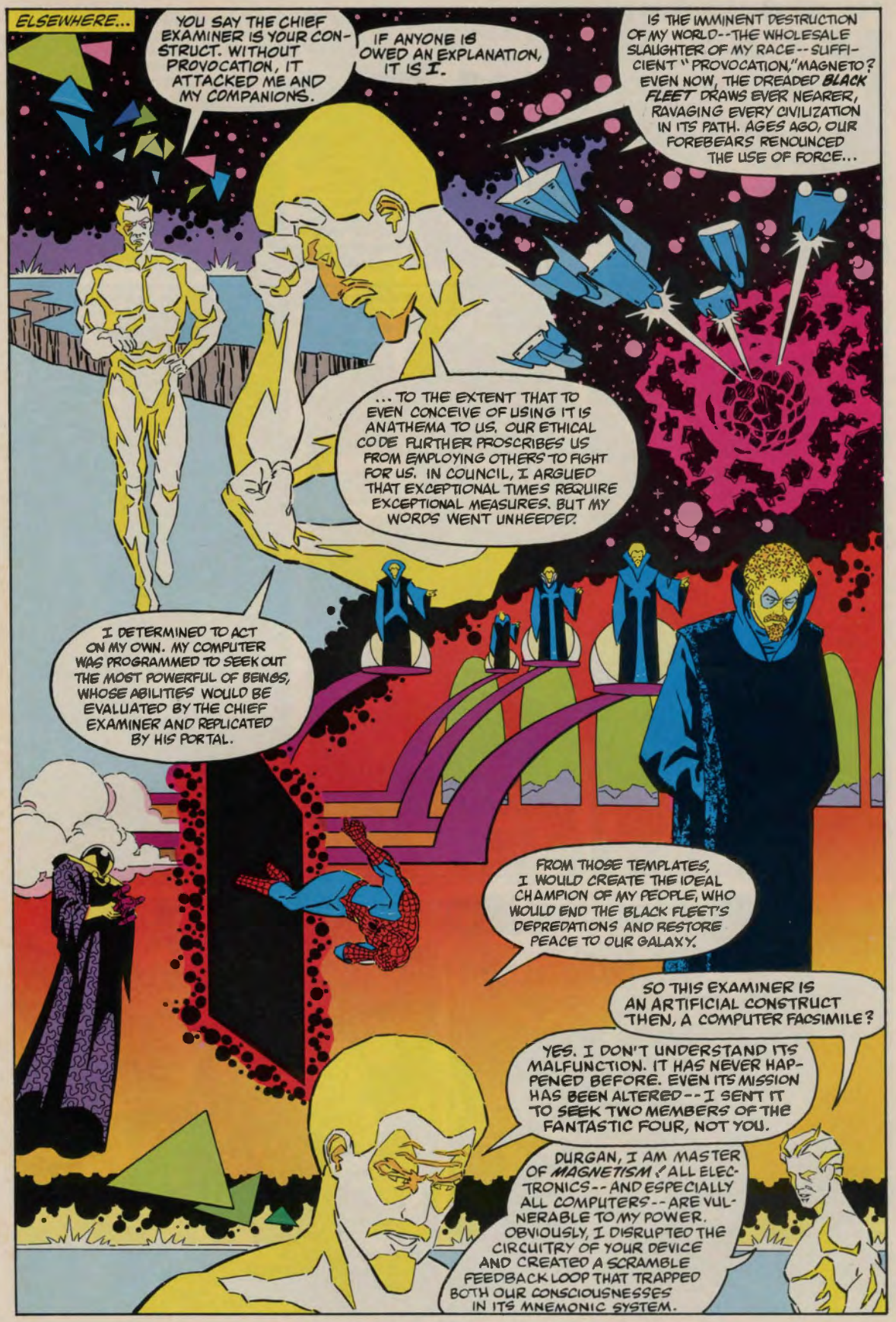
THIS BEING'S LIFEGLOW IS VERY DIM. THAT CAN'T BE A HEALTHY SIGN. PERHAPS A PORTION OF MY OWN ESSENCE WILL RESTORE HIM...
...WITHOUT UNDULY WEAKENING ME.
I AM MAGNETO...

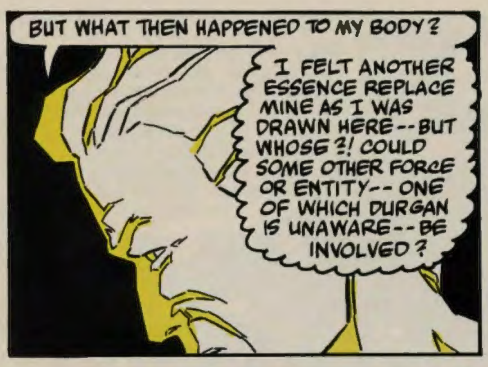

I KNOW WHO YOU ARE! I AM DURGAN.
INDEED. IT IS CUSTOMARY, DURGAN -- AMONG CIVILIZED SOCIETY -- TO THANK ONE WHO HAS SAVED YOUR LIFE.
HUMAN FOOL -- HAVE YOU THE SLIGHTEST CONCEPTION OF WHAT YOU'VE DONE?!!

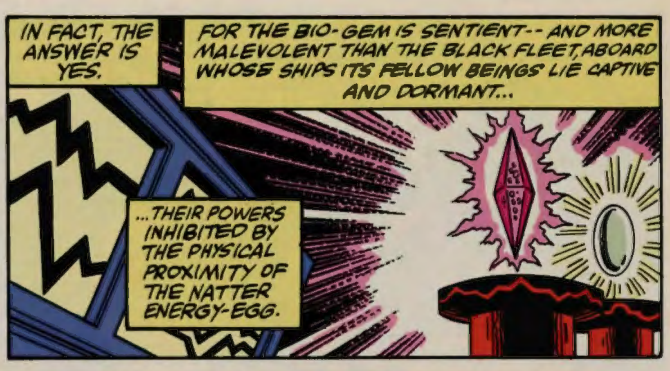
MEANWHILE...
TRY A TORCH STUNT -- CIRCLE FAST AS I CAN...
...AN' CREATE A WHIRLWIND THAT'LL SUCK THE OXYGEN AWAY FROM MAGGIE...

... AN' KAYO HIM -- WHOOPS?!
HE'S COUNTERED WITH AN ENERGY VORTEX!
SUCKER CAN TAP INTO THE MAGNETIC FIELD OF THE EARTH ITSELF --


-- CAN'T MATCH THAT KIND OF STRENGTH!

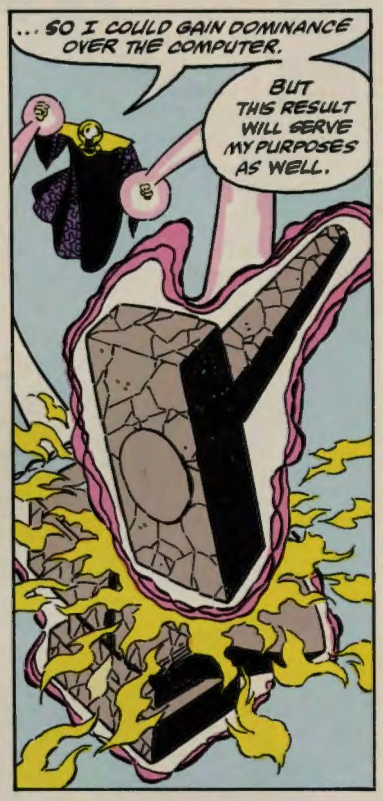

ELSEWHERE...
YOU SAY THE CHIEF EXAMINER IS YOUR CONSTRUCT. WITHOUT PROVOCATION, IT ATTACKED ME AND MY COMPANIONS.
IF ANYONE IS OWED AN EXPLANATION, IT IS I.
IS THE IMMINENT DESTRUCTION OF MY WORLD--THE WHOLESALE SLAUGHTER OF MY RACE--SUFFICIENT "PROVOCATION," MAGNETO? EVEN NOW, THE DREADED BLACK FLEET DRAWS EVER NEARER, RAVAGING EVERY CIVILIZATION IN ITS PATH. AGES AGO, OUR FOREBEARS RENOUNCED THE USE OF FORCE...
...TO THE EXTENT THAT TO EVEN CONCEIVE OF USING IT IS ANATHEMA TO US, OUR ETHICAL CODE FURTHER PROSCRIBES US FROM EMPLOYING OTHERS TO FIGHT FOR US. IN COUNCIL, I ARGUED THAT EXCEPTIONAL TIMES REQUIRE EXCEPTIONAL MEASURES. BUT MY WORDS WENT UNHEEDED.
I DETERMINED TO ACT ON MY OWN. MY COMPUTER WAS PROGRAMMED TO SEEK OUT THE MOST POWERFUL OF BEINGS, WHOSE ABILITIES WOULD BE EVALUATED BY THE CHIEF EXAMINER AND REPLICATED BY HIS PORTAL.
FROM THOSE TEMPLATES, I WOULD CREATE THE IDEAL CHAMPION OF MY PEOPLE, WHO WOULD END THE BLACK FLEET'S DEPREDATIONS AND RESTORE PEACE TO OUR GALAXY.
SO THIS EXAMINER IS AN ARTIFICIAL CONSTRUCT THEN, A COMPUTER FACSIMILE?
YES. I DON'T UNDERSTAND ITS MALFUNCTION. IT HAS NEVER HAPPENED BEFORE. EVEN ITS MISSION HAS BEEN ALTERED--I SENT IT TO SEEK TWO MEMBERS OF THE FANTASTIC FOUR, NOT YOU.
DURGAN, I AM MASTER OF MAGNETISM! ALL ELECTRONICS--AND ESPECIALLY ALL COMPUTERS--ARE VULNERABLE TO MY POWER. OBVIOUSLY, I DISRUPTED THE CIRCUITRY OF YOUR DEVICE AND CREATED A SCRAMBLE FEEDBACK LOOP THAT TRAPPED BOTH OUR CONSCIOUSNESSES IN ITS MNEMONIC SYSTEM.

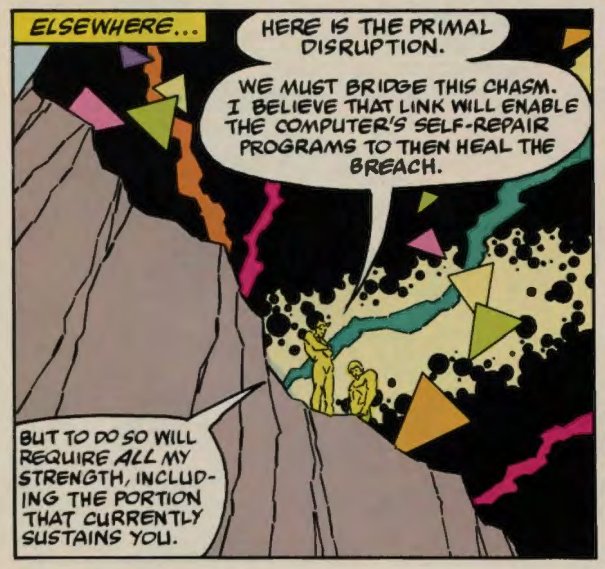

BUT WHAT THEN HAPPENED TO MY BODY?
I FELT ANOTHER ESSENCE REPLACE MINE AS I WAS DRAWN HERE--BUT WHOSE?! COULD SOME OTHER FORCE OR ENTITY--ONE OF WHICH DURGAN IS UNAWARE--BE INVOLVED?


IN FACT, THE ANSWER IS YES.
FOR THE BIO-GEM IS SENTIENT--AND MORE MALEVOLENT THAN THE BLACK FLEET, ABOARD WHOSE SHIPS ITS FELLOW BEINGS LIE CAPTIVE AND DORMANT...
...THEIR POWERS INHIBITED BY THE PHYSICAL PROXIMITY OF THE NATTER ENERGY-EGG.

DURGAN THOUGHT ME A SIMPLE ARTIFACT, THE CRETIN. BUT WHEN HE PROJECTED HIS LIVING CONSCIOUSNESS INTO HIS COMPUTER...
...I BECAME ABLE TO USE MY OWN PSYCHIC ABILITIES TO AFFECT IT. GRADUALLY, CAREFULLY, I HAVE INCREASED MY INFLUENCE.

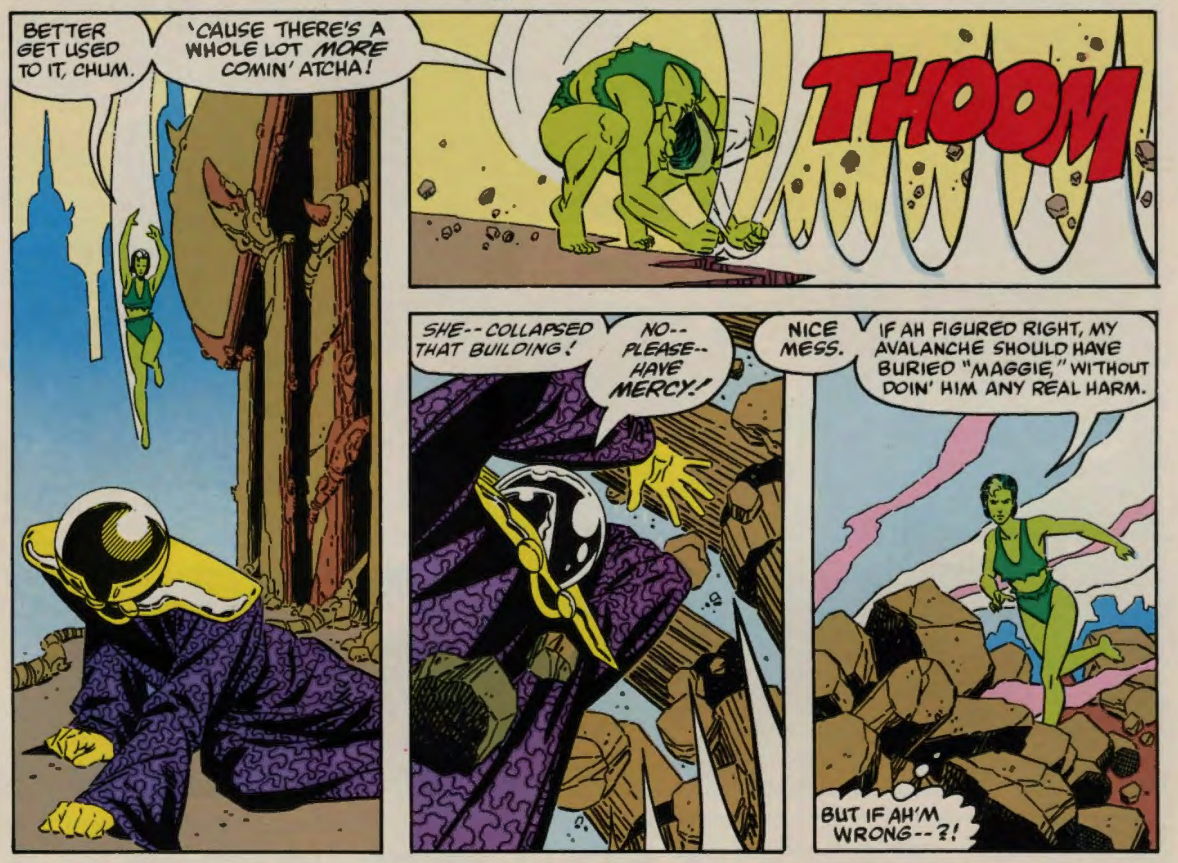
LEARNING OF MAGNETO'S EVIL POWER FROM THE COMPUTER, I PROGRAMMED IT TO SEEK HIM OUT.
MAGNETO--EVIL? HIS COMPUTER NEEDS UPDATIN'!
I HAD THOUGHT TO USE THAT POWER TO OBLITERATE DURGAN'S PSYCHE-SELF...


...SO I COULD GAIN DOMINANCE OVER THE COMPUTER.
BUT THIS RESULT WILL SERVE MY PURPOSES AS WELL.

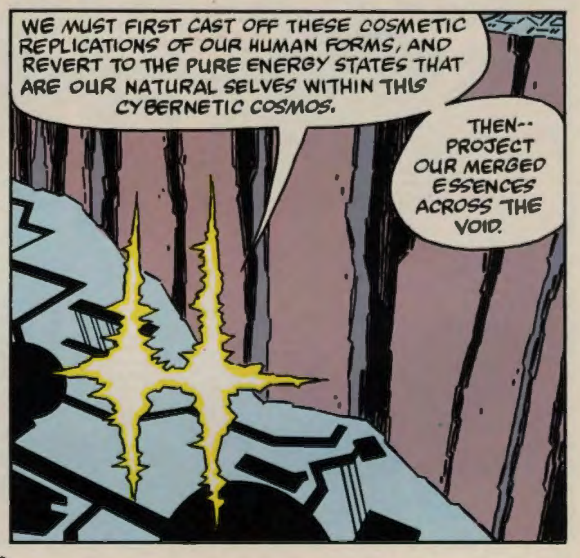

ELSEWHERE...
HERE IS THE PRIMAL DISRUPTION.
WE MUST BRIDGE THIS CHASM. I BELIEVE THAT LINK WILL ENABLE THE COMPUTER'S SELF-REPAIR PROGRAMS TO THEN HEAL THE BREACH.
BUT TO DO SO WILL REQUIRE ALL MY STRENGTH, INCLUDING THE PORTION THAT CURRENTLY SUSTAINS YOU.

MOREOVER, I SUSPECT YOUR INNATE AWARENESS OF YOUR CREATION WILL PROVE INTEGRAL TO THE RESTORATION OF ITS PROPER FUNCTION.
SEPARATE, WE HAVE NO CHANCE. TO SUCCEED WE MUST COMBINE OUR ENERGIES.
IF WE FAIL, MAGNETO--WHAT BECOMES OF MY MISSION?! MY PEOPLE?
IT IS BECAUSE OF YOUR BLIND DEDICATION TO THIS MISSION THAT THE X-MEN ARE IN DANGER!

SURPRISE, DODO.
AIN'T YOU HEARD, NOTHIN' CAN CRUSH THE HULK.
THANK HEAVEN FOR SMALL FAVORS.
AIE OWW!
I COMPREHEND--FOR THE FIRST TIME, I FEEL--PHYSICAL PAIN!


BETTER GET USED TO IT, CHUM.
'CAUSE THERE'S A WHOLE LOT MORE COMIN' ATCHA!
THOOM
SHE--COLLAPSED THAT BUILDING!
NO--PLEASE--HAVE MERCY!
NICE MESS.
IF AH FIGURED RIGHT, MY AVALANCHE SHOULD HAVE BURIED "MAGGIE," WITHOUT DOIN' HIM ANY REAL HARM.
BUT IF AH'M WRONG--?!

ELSEWHERE...
I WILL GO ALONE THEN, IF I MUST. THE X-MEN ARE MY... FRIENDS. I WILL NOT BETRAY THAT NEWLY WON TRUST BY ABANDONING THEM.
I AM ASHAMED. I HAVE THOUGHT ONLY OF MYSELF, OF MY NEEDS AND DESIRES, UNCARING OF THE EFFECT THEY WOULD HAVE ON OTHERS.
I WILL HELP YOU, MAGNETO, WHATEVER THE RISK.


WE MUST FIRST CAST OFF THESE COSMETIC REPLICATIONS OF OUR HUMAN FORMS, AND REVERT TO THE PURE ENERGY STATES THAT ARE OUR NATURAL SELVES WITHIN THIS CYBERNETIC COSMOS.
THEN--PROJECT OUR MERGED ESSENCES ACROSS THE VOID.

IT SEEMS SO FAR-- MAGNETO, SOME FORCE RESISTS US!
THE SAME MALEVOLENCE I FELT WHEN I WAS DISPLACED!
WE MUST FIGHT IT, DURGAN!

I-- DO NOT KNOW HOW!
REACH-- WITH ALL YOUR HEART AND SOUL!
PROVE, MAN, THAT YOU--
-- AND YOUR WORLD--
ARE WORTH SAVING!

I-- LIVE!
I AM UNHARMED!

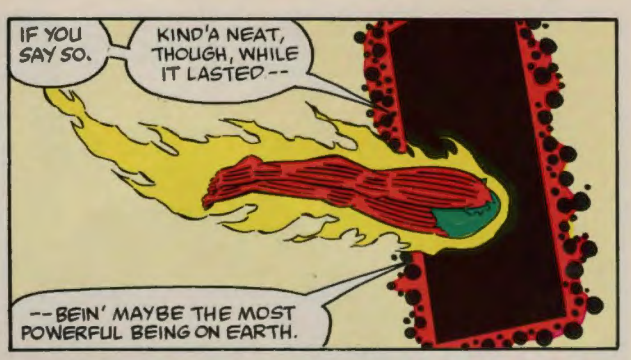
A REAL TRANSITORY CONDITION, CLOWN!..
...UNLESS YOU TELL ME-- RIGHT QUICK-- HOW TO PUT MAGNETO...
...BACK WHERE HE BELONGS!

AT THAT SAME MOMENT...
SUCCESS!
MAGNETO, WE'VE DONE IT!

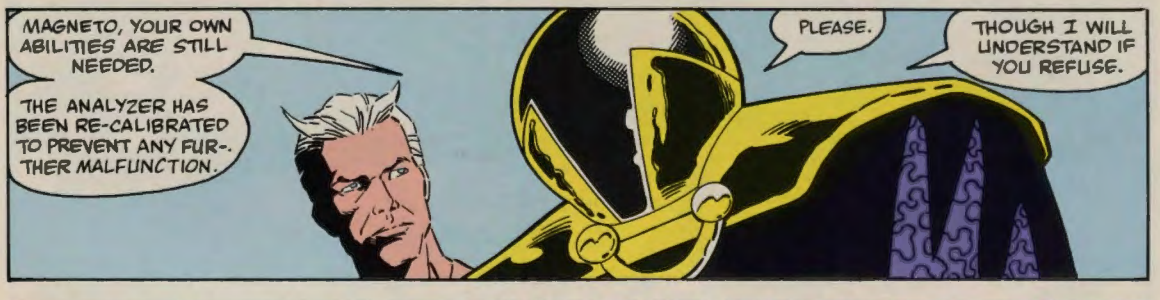
PROPER ORDER IS BEING RESTORED THROUGHOUT MY NETWORK.
I FEEL MYSELF REGAINING CONTROL OF THE CHIEF EXAMINER. WHATEVER FORCE OPPOSED US IS NOW GONE. I CAN SCAN NO TRACE OF IT ANYWHERE.
BE CAREFUL, DURGAN, BE CERTAIN.
I SHALL. BUT BEFORE I DO ANYTHING FURTHER...

"...LET ME SEND YOU HOME."
YOU YOURSELF, BABE? OR DO I HAVE TO BOP YOU AGAIN?
I...AM, ROGUE.
AND I ADVISE YOU NOT TO TRY.

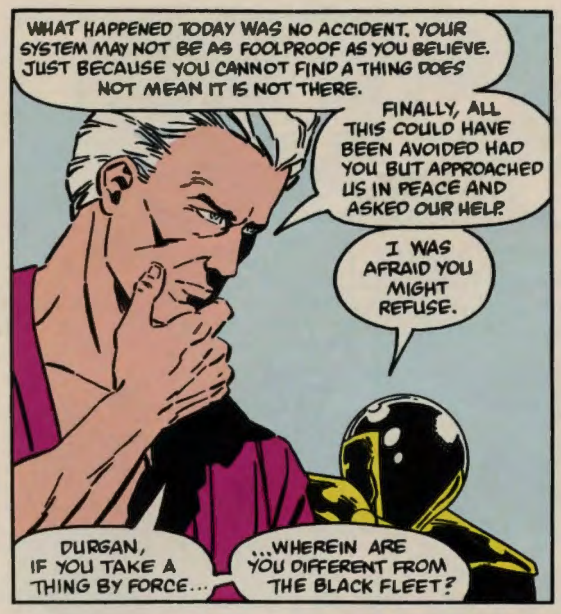
SOON...
...AFTER A GREAT MANY EXPLANATIONS...
ALL AH HAVE TO DO IS PASS THROUGH THAT MINI-MONOLITH?
AND YOU WILL BE RESTORED TO YOUR NORMAL SELF, YES.

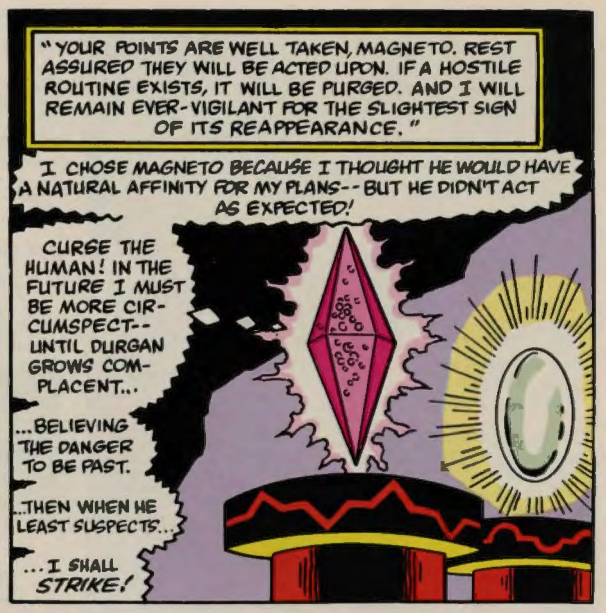

IF YOU SAY SO.
KIND'A NEAT, THOUGH, WHILE IT LASTED--
--BEIN' MAYBE THE MOST POWERFUL BEING ON EARTH.

Whooooa!
THAT WAS WILD!


MAGNETO, YOUR OWN ABILITIES ARE STILL NEEDED.
THE ANALYZER HAS BEEN RE-CALIBRATED TO PREVENT ANY FURTHER MALFUNCTION.
PLEASE.
THOUGH I WILL UNDERSTAND IF YOU REFUSE.

I GIVE FREELY OF MYSELF, DURGAN.
IN RETURN, I CHARGE THAT YOU THINK--TRULY THINK--ON WHAT YOU DO HERE.
AS ROGUE SAID, THE HEROES YOU PREVIOUSLY COPIED GAVE HER EXTRAORDINARY POWER. ADD TO THAT NOW, MY OWN.
WE HAVE LEARNED--SOMETIMES THROUGH HARD EXPERIENCE AND A BITTER COST--THE LIMITS OF WHO WE ARE, AND THE RESPONSIBILITIES.
YOUR DEVICE REPLICATES THE POWER, BUT NOT THE KNOWLEDGE.
BE CAREFUL NOT TO MISUSE IT.

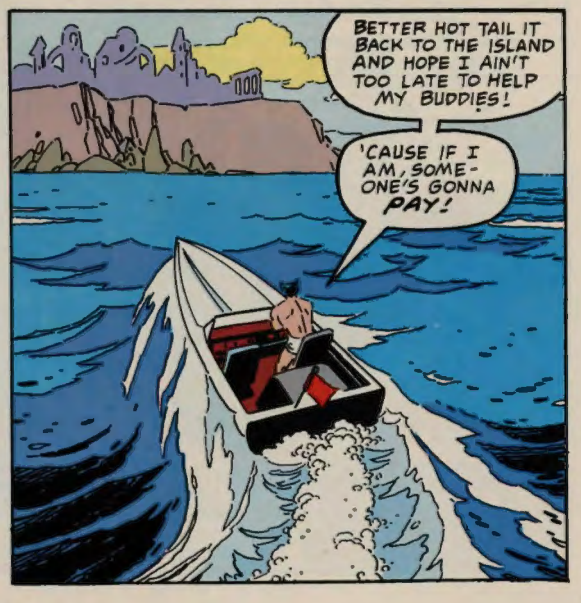

WHAT HAPPENED TODAY WAS NO ACCIDENT. YOUR SYSTEM MAY NOT BE AS FOOLPROOF AS YOU BELIEVE. JUST BECAUSE YOU CANNOT FIND A THING DOES NOT MEAN IT IS NOT THERE.
FINALLY, ALL THIS COULD HAVE BEEN AVOIDED HAD YOU BUT APPROACHED US IN PEACE AND ASKED OUR HELP.
I WAS AFRAID YOU MIGHT REFUSE.
DURGAN, IF YOU TAKE A THING BY FORCE...
...WHEREIN ARE YOU DIFFERENT FROM THE BLACK FLEET?

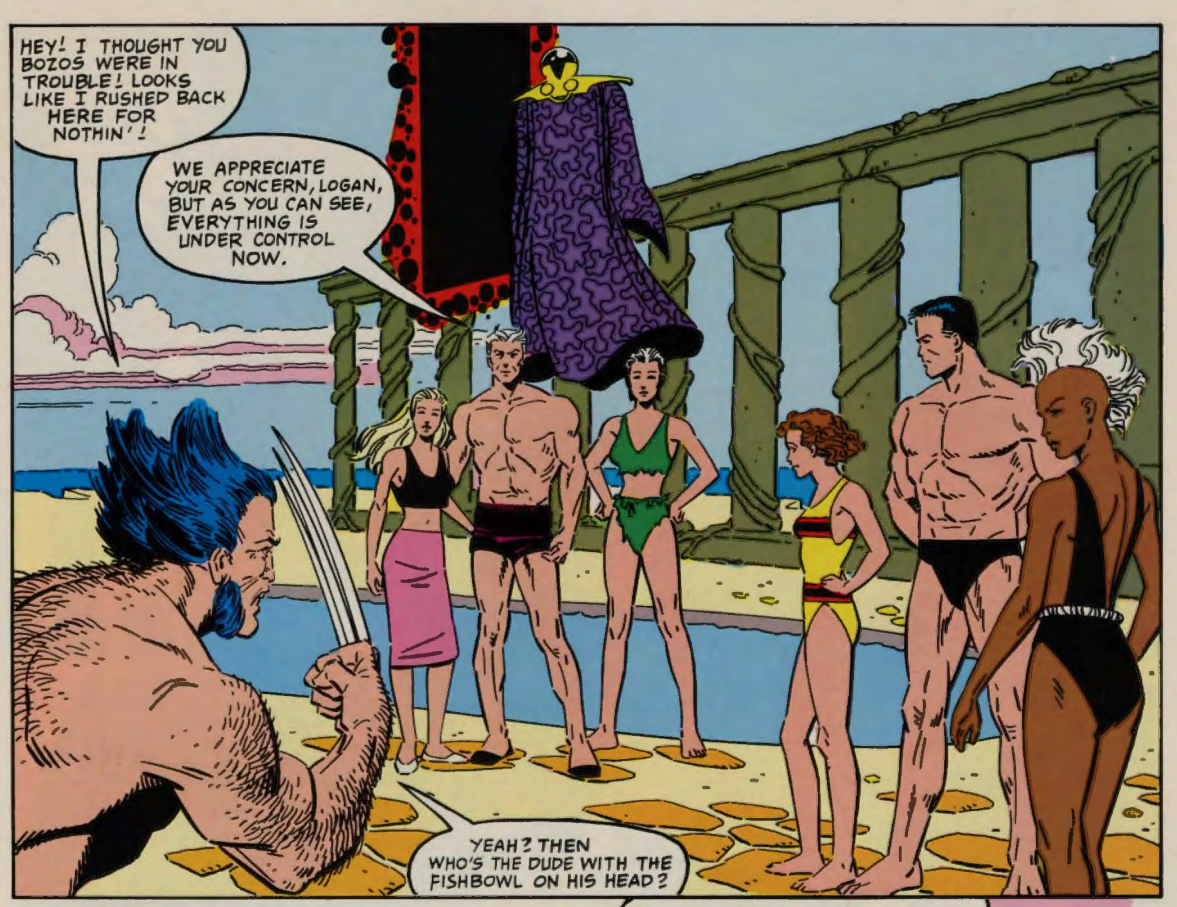

"YOUR POINTS ARE WELL TAKEN, MAGNETO. REST ASSURED THEY WILL BE ACTED UPON. IF A HOSTILE ROUTINE EXISTS, IT WILL BE PURGED. AND I WILL REMAIN EVER-VIGILANT FOR THE SLIGHTEST SIGN OF ITS REAPPEARANCE."
I CHOSE MAGNETO BECAUSE I THOUGHT HE WOULD HAVE A NATURAL AFFINITY FOR MY PLANS-- BUT HE DIDN'T ACT AS EXPECTED!
CURSE THE HUMAN! IN THE FUTURE I MUST BE MORE CIRCUMSPECT-- UNTIL DURGAN GROWS COMPLACENT...
...BELIEVING THE DANGER TO BE PAST.
..THEN WHEN HE LEAST SUSPECTS...
...I SHALL STRIKE!

UNNH! I FEEL MYSELF BECOMING FLESH, AGAIN!
I, TOO, STORM, BUT KITTY--! SHE HAD FALLEN INTO THE POOL!

AND I'M STILL HERE, YA BIG LUG! LUCKY THING ROCKS DON'T NEED TO BREATHE!

WHILE ABOARD THE X-MEN'S MOTOR LAUNCH...
HOW'D I END UP HERE? LAST THING I REMEMBER, WE WERE FIGHTING THOSE STATUES...

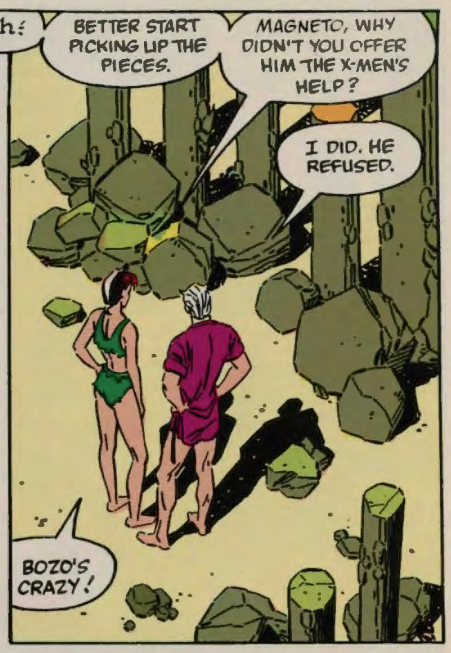

BETTER HOT TAIL IT BACK TO THE ISLAND AND HOPE I AIN'T TOO LATE TO HELP MY BUDDIES!
'CAUSE IF I AM, SOMEONE'S GONNA PAY!

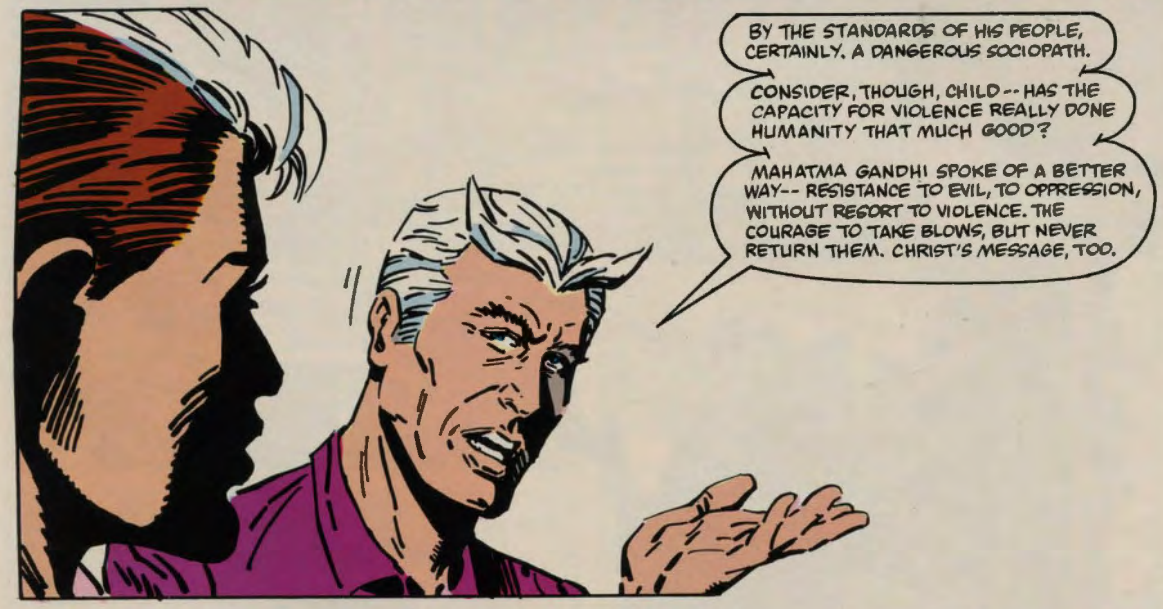

HEY! I THOUGHT YOU BOZOS WERE IN TROUBLE! LOOKS LIKE I RUSHED BACK HERE FOR NOTHIN'!
WE APPRECIATE YOUR CONCERN, LOGAN, BUT AS YOU CAN SEE, EVERYTHING IS UNDER CONTROL NOW.
YEAH? THEN WHO'S THE DUDE WITH THE FISHBOWL ON HIS HEAD?

A MISGUIDED SOUL, WOLVERINE-- ONE WHO HAS LEARNED AN IMPORTANT LESSON HERE, THIS DAY!
THANKS TO YOU, MAGNETO-- TO YOU AND YOUR X-MEN.

I OWE YOU A GREAT DEAL, MY FRIEND.
FAREWELL.

:Sigh:


BETTER START PICKING UP THE PIECES.
MAGNETO, WHY DIDN'T YOU OFFER HIM THE X-MEN'S HELP?
I DID. HE REFUSED.
BOZO'S CRAZY!


BY THE STANDARDS OF HIS PEOPLE, CERTAINLY. A DANGEROUS SOCIOPATH.
CONSIDER, THOUGH, CHILD -- HAS THE CAPACITY FOR VIOLENCE REALLY DONE HUMANITY THAT MUCH GOOD?
MAHATMA GANDHI SPOKE OF A BETTER WAY-- RESISTANCE TO EVIL, TO OPPRESSION, WITHOUT RESORT TO VIOLENCE. THE COURAGE TO TAKE BLOWS, BUT NEVER RETURN THEM. CHRIST'S MESSAGE, TOO.

DURGAN'S RACE EMBODIES THAT NOBLE IDEAL. YET DURGAN, IN HIS ZEAL TO SAVE THEM, MAY IN THE PROCESS COST THEM WHAT THEY HOLD MOST DEAR.
I WISH HIM LUCK--BUT I WONDER IF HIS PEOPLE WILL THANK HIM FOR WHAT HE'S DONE ON THEIR BEHALF. AND MAY YET DO.
WILL HIS VICTORY BE WORTH THE PRICE?
THE END.

A&G 9·83

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IRON
FIST

ELEKTRA

AKIN 85

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New York, New York 10016

ALLEN MILGROM
EDITOR
JOANNE SPALDO
ASSISTANT EDITOR

We like to get your letters. But if you don't want your full address published, please tell us.

Dear Al:

While I've only been reading MARVEL FANFARE regularly since #18, I think that MF #29 is the finest issue that you have done so far. I'm glad you put John's story here instead of the regular title, it was far too special for newsprint. I'm always impressed by Mr. Byrne's art, I hope this is not his last story for MF. It isn't is it?

As for Norm Breyfogle's Captain America story, I can't say that I really cared for it. I liked the action scenes, but found the ending a little hard to swallow; bullies don't reform that easily. However, I think Mr. Breyfogle will be an artist to look out for in the future, his story-telling abilities are first rate.

Now for the request section of the letter: MORE PORTFOLIOS AND PIN-UPS!!! I think that the portfolios are sometimes the best part of MF. To that point, these are the artists I'd like to see do portfolios or pin-ups: Paul Smith, Walt Simonson, John Byrne, Kevin Nowlan, Mark Beachum, Art Adams, Marshall Rogers, and Chris Warner. Plus, I know you're working from inventory stories, but do you think that there might be a story starring the Black Knight in there anywhere? I think a story of his adventures in the 12th Century would be quite interesting. If that can't be done, how about something dealing with the First Celestial Host visit to Earth, maybe by Walt Simonson if he can squeeze it in between drawing X-FACTOR and writing ANIMAX & THOR.

Well, that's about all for now. Thank you for another excellent issue of MARVEL FANFARE. One thing before I go, do you think it would be possible to have Tony Salmons do another story in MF soon? The Daredevil story he did in MF #27 was awesome!!! Bye.

Sincerely,
Kevin Hall
P.O. Box 708
Castlewood, VA 24224

You're right, Kevin, bullies probably don't reform that easily . . . unless they have someone the likes of *Captain America* to inspire them. Your request for more portfolios and pin-ups is being filed under the "Yes" votes for an all-portfolio issue, okay? Most of the artists you mention will certainly be on our list. As for the *Black Knight*, a three-part story featuring Marvel's chivalrous Avenger is in the works.

Dear Al,

When I think of Marvel Fanfare, I think of a deluxe format, bimonthly, high quality production that features the best stories by the best people. Regrettably, I have not always found this to be true. A recent example is the Alpha Flight story you ran which spotlighted Northstar, one of my favorite characters. I found it, well . . . disappointing. However, this letter is most certainly not meant to criticize that issue or any before it. I'm writing because of this month's issue. Why, you ask?

Because it was right on the money!!!

Finally a tale truly belonging in the pages of Marvel Fanfare! Spectacular! This was one of the best Hulk stories I have ever read. The art was gorgeous and I love the idea of a story done fully in splash pages. Wonderful! Superb job, Mr. Byrne!

The back-up was also very good. Plotted, written, penciled, inked and lettered all by the same person?! Wow! Even though Captain America only spoke three words ("Hold it, Craig!") and one "UUHHH . . . " I still call it a good story. Very nice issue. Very nice.

As for the "Portfolio/pin-up potpourri publishing predicament" (Who came up with that name?) I have to say that I love the pin-ups and portfolios and in some issues they are the reasons I buy Fanfare. I would love to see some portfolios by Art Adams, Walt Simonson, John Romita Jr., Mike Mignola, Jackson Guice, Bill Sienkiewicz, Dan Green (watercolors), and Paul Smith. I would like to see pin-ups of Moon Knight, The Black Knight, Beta Ray Bill, Forge, Iron Man (all of 'em; don't forget the I.M. of 2020), Magneto Lockheed, Shadowcat, and why not all the X-Men and New Mutants? Well, that's what I'd like.

Well, that's about it. Please do keep up the good work. The upcoming Moon Knight and Black Knight stories sound good. As for an all pin-up issue, why not do that for your first annual? Thanks for listening.

Alexander St. Cloud
707 McKee Blvd.
Edinburgh, TX 78539

Well, Alexander, it just goes to show you that you don't need a lot of pictures (Hulk story) or a lot of dialogue (Captain America story) to do a good story.

The vast majority of letters we've been receiving seem to support the idea of an all pin-up issue, so unless we get a lot of letters to the contrary it looks like we're going to do it. Your recommendations for artists and characters to be illustrated are being taken under advisement. Thanks for sharing your thoughts about it with us.

Dear Al,

I just received Marvel Fanfare #29 in the mail the other day and I wanted to thank you for an enjoyable issue. The Hulk story was well done. And, although short, the art more than made up for it. When I originally heard about his experimental story in the Hulk I anticipated its arrival with curiosity. Then to my dismay it was not published. I was very disappointed, for I had come to expect nothing but the best from John Byrne and that is what I always got. Then I heard that his story was to be published in Marvel Fanfare and of course, I was not disappointed. By the way Al, you are doing an excellent job taking over the reins on the Hulk. Keep it up!

So much for the lead story. I am sorry to say Al, that I was not excited at all to see another Captain America story in this issue. We have already had several of them as well as Doctor Strange and Daredevil. Please do not continue to print stories with the same characters over and over. Let's see some variety. There is such a multitude of characters to choose from. I realize that you are printing a Moon Knight story next ish and that takes care of one of my requests. But how about an Avengers story or Wolverine. There are many others such as Power Pack, Thor, Spider-Woman, Power Man and Iron Fist, Black Panther, Dreadstar, Alien Legion, Dazzler and the list goes on.

But you get my point Al, show us more variety! To be totally honest I am not very satisfied with this book. Yes, it has had its good issues such as the Spider-Man/Angel/X-Men savage land tale and the Black Widow issues to name a couple. But those have been the exception, not the rule. You promised us the BEST stories, we have had very few. You promised us the best talent, you sometimes delivered. You promised that this would be a comic for the discriminating reader, now deliver. Listen to the readers Al, follow their advice and you cannot go wrong. Do not get me wrong. I don't hate this book, I just don't feel it has lived up to one hundred percent of its potential. I say do a western or a romance or even a detective story maybe do them all. But make them the best and you will get letters of praise from me every sixty days. As for the Portfolio/Pin-up Potpourri Publishing Predicament I vote 'yes' on a couple of conditions. 1) You have the best artists do their best renderings of *all* different characters. 2) Do your best to get a picture of that sweetheart of the Spider mags Mary Jane Watson (Please!)

Thanks for listening, Al.

Ron Krasneck
13638 Pheasant Circle
Lockport, IL 60441

Glad to listen, Ron. You admonish us to listen to our readers and we do. We may not always agree with what they have to say, but that doesn't mean their opinions go unheeded. We have nothing but the highest regard for our fans and accept the praise and criticism we receive with the understanding that all such comments are made with the idea of helping us to improve our efforts. We may not always succeed, but with the help of readers such as yourself, you can be sure we'll keep on trying.

Dear Al,

I've seen Marvel Fanfare in the comic stores for years, but I've always ignored it. *But*, then came along M.F. #29, and WOW! I couldn't believe it. John Byrne, the best writer/penciler this reader has seen, and the Hulk, the best individual super hero. Now I'm ashamed of what I've been missing. You now have one more steady buyer.

Todd Bissell
Concord, CA

Always glad to have hooked a new reader, Todd. Now see if you can't get some of your uninitiated friends to develop the habit too. Remember, Fanfare is non-addictive and not harmful to your health, so if someone offers you Fanfare, just say "Yes!"

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