

MARVEL  
COMICS

# THE UNCANNY

APPROVED BY THE  
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AUTHORITY

X-MEN

DEC '96 339

## BROTHER US. BROTHER

W. CRAIG  
WILLIAMS

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3:14 A.M.

A NOT ATYPICAL EVENING HERE AT THE XAVIER INSTITUTE IN SALEM CENTER, NEW YORK.

FOR THIS, I CAME ALL THE WAY TO WEST-CHESTER?

BETTER I SHOULD HAVE STAYED IN MANHATTAN!

**BOOM!**

**BOOM!**

**BOOM!**

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NO.  
WHAT YOU  
SHOULD HAVE  
DONE --

-- WAS  
NOT HAVE  
BOTHERED TRYING  
TO TAKE THE X-MEN  
UNAWARE IN OUR  
OWN HOME!

WHILE YOU  
HAVE SOMEHOW  
MANAGED TO MAKE  
YOUR WAY THROUGH  
OUR AUTOMATED  
DEFENSES --

-- I  
CAN ASSURE  
YOU THAT YOU WON'T  
GET PAST  
ME!

THWIPP

NOT  
WHILE YOU'RE  
CARRYING A GUN  
THE SIZE OF  
BROOKLYN,  
I'M NOT!



SO,  
LET'S LOSE  
THE PEZ DIS-  
PENSER...

...AND  
SETTLE THIS  
SPIDER-MAN TO  
MUTANT.

!?!?

AND  
JUST FOR  
THE RECORD,  
I'M NOT EVEN SURE  
YOU'RE NOT THE  
INTRUDER  
HERE.

WAK

YOU  
SURE AS HECK  
DON'T LOOK LIKE  
ANY X-MAN I  
REMEMBER!



STAN LEE PRESENTS:

# FIGHT AND FLIGHT!

SCOTT LODWIG  
SCRIPT

ADAM KUBERT & CEDRIC JIMON PENCILLERS  
JESSE DELPERDANT & SCOTT HAMMILL INKERS

AS & COMICART BY JIMMY  
SB & TEAM BUCCIA COLORS

BOB HARRAS  
EDITOR & CHIEF



...ALLOW  
YOUR FAVORITE  
BLUE-FURRED BUDDY TO  
ASSURE YOU THAT  
BISHOP --

-- TYPE-A  
PERSONALITY  
THAT HE IS --

-- IS  
BOTH A  
GENTLEMAN, A  
SCHOLAR, AND AN  
X-MAN IN GOOD  
STANDING.

AND  
CYCLOPS  
AND MARVEL  
GIRL!

AND  
WOLVERINE!

SORT  
OF.

MARVEL  
GIRL?

BISHOP.  
SPIDEY.

BISHOP.  
SPIDEY.

UH,  
HIP

HELLO.

BEAST?!



NOT THAT IT ISN'T A PLEASURE SEEING YOU AGAIN, SPIDER-MAN...

'SPECIALLY SINCE THERE AIN'T THAT MANY OF US GOOD GUYS LEFT.

...BUT WHAT BRINGS YOU OUT THIS NIGHT?

A WARNING.

WOLVERINE REFERS TO THE RECENT LOSS OF HEROES IN BASHLAUGHT. **FOURWALL UNDISCOVERED** - Bob



I RECENTLY LEARNED FROM A... A FRIEND... THAT J. JONAH JAMESON --

-- NO FRIEND OF MINE, YOU KNOW --

IS USING HIS DAILY BUGLE NEWS-PAPER TO SNIFF OUT MAJOR DIRT ON GRAYDON CREED.

SEE RECENT ISSUES OF X-MAN TO GET A HINT AS TO THE PROBLEM. - Bob



WHA--?! I-I'M GETTING AN IMAGE FROM SPIDER-MAN'S MIND...

... SOMEONE, HIS FRIEND, TALKING TO JAMESON?

BUT... WHY AM I SEEING THIS? I DIDN'T ATTEMPT TO READ HIS MIND WITH MY TELEPATHIC POWERS!\*



JEAN?

IT'S NOTHING, SCOTT.

WE'LL TALK LATER.



I FIGURED 'CAUSE CREED IS RUNNING FOR PRESIDENT ON AN ANTI-MUTANT PLATFORM...

... YOU GUYS WOULD WANT TO KNOW.

FIVE HOURS LATER...

... AT FALL'S EDGE, VIRGINIA --

-- HOME OF THE GOVERNMENT-SANCTIONED TEAM OF MUTANTS KNOWN AS X-FACTOR...

ONE SHOT. THAT'S ALL IT WILL TAKE.

A PURE AMERICA IS A SAFE AMERICA!



WHAT A LEAD STORY THAT'LL MAKE -- Eh, CNN?

"RAVEN DARKHOLME, THE SHAPE-SHIFTING MUTANT ANARCHIST NAMED MYSTIQUE --

"-- USED HER CONNECTIONS AS A MEMBER OF X-FACTOR TO GET CLOSE ENOUGH TO ASSASSINATE GRAYDON CREED...

"... HER SON."

IT'S THE ONLY WAY TO ENSURE THE UNITED STATES DOESN'T BECOME A GIANT GRAVEYARD FOR MUTANTS..

WHAT ARE YOU WATCHING, MYSTIQUE?

NOTHING!

WHAT ABOUT YOU, FORGE?



WHAT WAY-COOL TECHNO-MABOB ARE YOU WORKING ON?

NOTHING!

JOIN ME FOR BREAKFAST, RAVEN?



I'LL BE ALONG IN... A... MINUTE.

WHA --?!





COMPUTER --  
FREEZE FRAME.

FURTHERMOOO.

FROZEN.



ENHANCE SECTION  
A-7.

ENHANCED.

CROSS-  
REFERENCE  
WITH X-MEN:  
FILES AND  
IDENTIFY.

CROSS-  
REFERE--

IDENTIFIED:  
ROBERT DRAKE,  
X-DESIGNATE.  
ICEMAN.



THE  
X-MEN HAVE  
PLANTED ONE OF  
THEIR OWN ON  
CREED'S SUPPORT  
STAFF...

... RIGHT  
UNDER HIS  
NOSE?

NOT ONLY  
AM I SUITABLY  
IMPRESSED --

-- BUT  
THIS CHANGES  
EVERYTHING.



AT THAT MOMENT...

... AT JFK INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, IN NEW YORK CITY...

FLIGHT 139, BRITISH AIR'S NEW YORK TO LONDON CONCORDE EXPRESS, NOW BOARDING.

THIS IS ONE OF THOSE FEW OPPORTUNITIES WHERE I'M FORTUNATE ENOUGH THAT AS DOCTOR HENRY MCCOY --

-- I STRADDLE THE LINE BETWEEN MUTANT OUTLAW AND FORMER AVENGER WHO HAPPENS TO BE A RESPECTED BIO-PHYSICIST.

WHICH ALLOWS ME TO MOVE ABOUT IN PUBLIC MORE FREELY THAN OTHER MUTANTS --

-- AND THUS MAKES IT EASIER TO KEEP TABS ON JAMESON WITHOUT AROUSING SUSPICIONS.

I'M GETTING CLOSER, RIGHT?

PARDON MOI?

I MUST BE GETTING CLOSER TO THE TRUTH ABOUT CREED, OTHERWISE YOU WOULDN'T BE TAILING ME.

CREED?

ACTUALLY, MR. JAMESON, I'M ON MY WAY TO MUIR ISLE TO CONSULT ON A CASE.

IT IS ONLY A FORTUITOUS COINCIDENCE THAT WE'RE ABOARD THE SAME FLIGHT.

YEAH.

RIGHT.



HARD TO BELIEVE ALL THAT'S HAPPENED WITH PROFESSOR XAVIER IN THE PAST FEW WEEKS...

... THAT HE COULD BE EVEN PARTIALLY RESPONSIBLE FOR ONSLAUGHT.

BUT I CAN'T WORRY ABOUT THAT NOW. NOW THAT THE PROFESSOR HAS TURNED HIMSELF OVER TO THE GOVERNMENT...

... LEADERSHIP OF THE X-MEN HAS FALLEN TO ME.

STILL, THERE'S A PART OF ME THAT WONDERS HOW HE WOULD HANDLE SOMETHING LIKE THIS.

IN X-MEN #57  
Bob.

WOULD HE BE PROUD? DISAPPOINTED?

THEN THERE'S ANOTHER VOICE THAT WHISPERS "DO WHAT YOU FEEL IS RIGHT."

OF COURSE, THAT'S JEAN... BUT SHE'S MY WIFE, WHAT IS SHE SUPPOSED TO SAY?

AT LEAST WE'RE PLAYING IT AS SAFE AS WE CAN. BEAST OUT IN THE OPEN...

... ME ON HAND AS BACK-UP...

"... AND STORM AND JOSEPH TRAILING US WHILE CLOAKED IN THE BLACKBIRD."

ORORO, DEPRIVED OF MY OWN MEMORIES FROM WHEN I WAS MAGNETO --

-- I'VE BEEN STUDYING THE PERSONNEL TAPES TO FAMILIARIZE MYSELF WITH THE X-MEN, AS YOU'VE SUGGESTED.

I GET THE IMPRESSION THERE'S SOME CONNECTION BETWEEN CYCLOPS AND CABLE.

CAN YOU EXPLAIN IT TO ME?

I WOULD BE HAPPY TO, JOSEPH.

GET COMFORTABLE. THIS WILL TAKE A WHILE.

THE LONDON WILSHIRE HOTEL...

NICK BANDOLVERIS IS A BRAVE MAN.

AS A REPORTER FOR THE DAILY BUGLE...

... HE'S ALWAYS PRIDED HIMSELF ON NEVER TURNING DOWN AN ASSIGNMENT BECAUSE OF THE DANGER INVOLVED.

IN THE LAST TWENTY-FOUR HOURS, HOWEVER, HE'S COME TO REALIZE...

... THAT PRIDE DOES INDEED GO BEFORE THE FALL.

I CAN'T SEE ANYONE, BUT I KNOW THEY'RE OUT THERE... WAITING.

THESE PEOPLE WILL DO ANYTHING TO KEEP ME FROM REVEALING THE TRUTH I UNCOVERED.

THE TRUTH ABOUT GRAYDON CREED...



A TRUTH THAT -- UNLESS I REVEAL IT TO JAMESON, TO THE REST OF THE WORLD --

-- IS GOING TO COST ME MY LIFE --

-- NOT TO MENTION THE LIVES OF A LOT OF INNOCENT PEOPLE.

... THE TRUTH ABOUT HIS PARENTS.

BOTH MUTANTS -- RAVEN DARKHOLME AND VICTOR CREED -- AND BOTH CRIMINALS -- MYSTIQUE AND SABRETOOTH!





LATER --

-- SOMEWHERE OVER THE ATLANTIC...

SO, EVEN THOUGH CABLE IS CLEARLY OLDER THAN CYCLOPS...

... HE IS ACTUALLY THE SON OF SCOTT, AND A CLONED JEAN --

-- WAS INFECTED WITH A VIRUS BY APOCALYPSE AND TRANSPORTED INTO THE FUTURE BY A SISTERHOOD OF SOMETHING CALLED THE ASKANI --

-- ONLY TO LATER BE RAISED BY SCOTT AND THE REAL JEAN WHO WERE IN DIFFERENT BODIES AT THE TIME --

-- WHO EVENTUALLY HAD TO LEAVE HIM THERE WHICH FORCED HIM INTO THE ROLE OF THE ASKANI-SON --

-- AND LATER CABLE WHO ULTIMATELY CAME BACK IN TIME TO SAVE THE WORLD FROM APOCALYPSE WHO IS ACTUALLY THE PERSON WHO STARTED IT ALL?

IS... IS THAT ALL OF IT?



EXCEPT FOR THE PART ABOUT CABLE'S SISTER.



SISTER?

MORE OF A HALF-SISTER FROM HIS FATHER'S POSSIBLE FUTURE REALITY.



EER  
EER  
EER

BY THE GODDESS -- THE SENSORS ARE PICKING UP A SHIP DROPPING OUT OF CLOAK MODE...

"... DIRECTLY ABOVE  
THE JET WE HAVE  
BEEN FOLLOWING!"

LOW AND  
ABOARD.

"ULLO. JUST  
SO WE'RE  
ALL ON THE SAME  
PAGE: THIS JET IS  
NOW UNDER THE  
AUSPICES OF THE  
BROTHER-  
HOOD OF  
MUTANTS."

VAAAAAAAAA

STAY  
CALM, DO AS  
YOU'RE TOLD, AND  
THE POSSIBILITY  
EXISTS THAT  
YOU MIGHT  
LIVE.

OPPOSE  
US? YOU  
DIE.

HE --  
HE'S TALKIN'  
INSIDE MY  
HEAD!

I CAN  
DO A LOT WORSE  
THAN THAT, MY  
FRIEND, IF YOU  
DON'T SETTLE  
DOWN!

THAT SAID:  
EVERYONE  
MAKE SURE YOUR  
SEATBELT IS  
SECURELY  
FASTENED...

... THE  
RIDE IS ABOUT  
TO GET A BIT  
"BUMPY."

BHAKOOM

US  
SERIEST MEN  
B. HARRIS  
M. POWERS

HAVOK?!

YOU'RE  
THE LEADER  
OF X-FACTOR --  
WHAT ARE YOU  
TRYING TO PULL  
HERE?

I'M  
THE FORMER  
LEADER OF  
X-FACTOR,  
JAMESON!

I  
GOT TIRED  
OF LIVING LIFE  
ON THE END OF A  
VERY SHORT  
LEASH --

-- AND  
UNLIKE A LOT  
OF OTHER MUTANTS  
I KNOW, I'VE DECIDED  
TO DO SOMETHING  
ABOUT IT.

IT'S COME TO  
THE BROTHERHOOD'S  
ATTENTION THAT YOU'VE  
DECIDED TO MAKE  
TOPPLING CREED YOUR  
BUSINESS.

WE  
WANT TO MAKE  
IT CLEAR WE DON'T  
NEED YOUR  
HELP!

WE  
DON'T NEED  
ANY HUMANS'  
HELP!

BEAST,  
HAS HE GONE  
INSANE?

SO  
IT WOULD  
APPEAR.

-URMPH-  
I  
RECOGNIZE  
THAT **POWER**  
**SIGNATURE...**  
AND I HAVE TO  
ADMIT THAT I'M  
SURPRISED.

SHOULDN'T  
YOU BE HOME  
COVERING IN THE  
MANSION...  
... BIG  
BROTHER?

ALEX.

# CRASH

DON'T  
MAKE ME HURT  
YOU.

AND HOW COULD  
YOU DO THAT,  
SCOTT --  
WHEN  
OUR YOUR OPTIC  
BLASTS AND MY  
PLASMA ENERGY  
CANCEL EACH  
OTHER OUT?

JAMESON,  
THOUGH, HE'S  
ANOTHER  
STORY.

HE'S  
PROBABLY  
VERY SUSCEPTIBLE  
TO MY CENTRIC  
BLASTS...

... WOULDN'T  
YOU THINK?



WHA -- ?!  
THE ANTI-GRAY  
UNIT... HOW DID  
YOU KNOW?

IT'S  
THE NEWEST  
ADDITION TO YOUR  
COSTUME, ALEX --  
I DID THE  
MATH.

BUT  
THERE'S NOTHING  
TO KEEP US  
GROUNDED!

THAT  
WAS THE POINT,  
TO GET YOU AWAY  
FROM THE INNOCENT  
PEOPLE ON  
BOARD!

BESIDES,  
I THOUGHT THIS  
WOULD GIVE ME THE  
OPPORTUNITY TO TALK  
SOME SENSE TO  
YOU.

YOU'RE  
CRAZY, YOU'RE  
GOING TO KILL  
US BOTH!

I'M  
CRAZY?

I'M  
NOT THE  
ONE SHEARING  
OFF THE TOPS OF  
COMMERCIAL  
JETS, AM  
I?



DO YOU WANT TO TELL ME WHAT THIS IS ALL ABOUT, ALEX?

IT'S ABOUT WHAT IT'S **ALWAYS** BEEN ABOUT, SCOTT.

IT'S ABOUT **CONTROL!**

FROM THE **MOMENT** OUR MOTHER TOSSED US OUT OF THAT **PLANE...**

... BOTH YOU AND I, OUR LIVES HAVE BEEN IN **FREEFALL!**

I'M THROUGH WITH NO LONGER BEING IN CONTROL OF MY POWERS -- MY **OWN MIND!**

I **REFUSE** TO BE HUNTED BY ONE **SENTINEL** AFTER THE NEXT!

I CAN THINK OF **EIGHT DIFFERENT INCIDENTS** WHEN MY THOUGHTS HAVE BEEN CONTROLLED BY ONE **MUTANT LUNATIC** OR **ANOTHER...**

... SINCE THE **MOMENT** I WAS **FIRST DRAGGED** INTO THE **X-MEN!**

**NEVER AGAIN, CYCLOPS!**

FROM **THIS MOMENT ON, I AM IN CONTROL!**



**ALEX!**

**BRAKOOOM**

NOT!  
GOOD!

I GIVE US  
ABOUT AN EIGHTH  
OF A SECOND  
BEFORE THE JET  
SPINS COMPLETELY  
OUT OF CONTROL...

IF  
ANYONE HAS  
ANY SIGNIFICANT  
BACK-UP PLANS,  
NOW WOULD  
BE...  
... THE  
TIME...  
... TO...

... ASSUMING  
THE STRESS  
DOESN'T REDUCE  
IT TO SO MUCH  
SHRAPNEL  
FIRST.

WE'VE...  
STOPPED?!

JOSEPH --  
YOU HAVE  
DONE IT!

JUST AS  
YOU SUGGESTED,  
STORM! BUT ALTHOUGH  
I'VE MANAGED TO  
MAGNETICALLY  
HOLD IT  
TOGETHER...

... LANDING  
THIS JET SAFELY  
MAY NOT BE WITHIN  
THE SCOPE OF MY  
ABILITIES!



A MORE EXPERIENCED VERSION OF MYSELF MIGHT HAVE --

WHA --?!

YOU ARE BEING FIRED UPON BY THE BROTHERHOOD!

ZUT ZUT ZUT

I WILL RUN INTERFERENCE WITH THE BLACKBI--

DON'T BOTHER, OROO. SOME THINGS --

SPTING

SPTING

SPTING

-- LIKE SELF-DEFENSE --  
-- JUST COME NATURALLY!

BRZLATZ

NOW TO CONCENTRATE ON THE MATTER AT HAND.



ALEX—  
WHAT'S  
HAPPENED  
TO YOU?

YOU'RE  
**NOT**  
LISTENING  
TO ME,  
SCOTT!

FOR THE FIRST  
TIME IN MY LIFE—  
**NOTHING IS  
HAPPENING**  
TO ME!

NO  
"LIVING  
PHAROAH" OR  
"ERIC THE  
RED!"

NO  
"MALICE" OR  
THE "GENOSHAN  
MAGISTRATE!"

NO  
"BLACK  
BEAST!"

I'M NOT  
LIVING UNDER  
THE WING OF  
PROFESSOR  
XAVIER --

-- OR  
IN THE SHADOW  
OF MY BROTHER  
ANYMORE!

DON'T  
YOU GET  
IT, SCOTT --  
FOR THE FIRST  
TIME IN MY  
LIFE, I AM  
FREE!

**FREE!**

**BOK**

ALEX?!

I'M  
FINE,  
SCOTT.

?!  
**CLK**

WORRY  
ABOUT  
YOUR-  
SELF...



HE...  
LEFT?

HE  
TELEPORTED --  
AND ACTUALLY  
LEFT ME HERE...  
TO DIE?

BY THE  
GODDESS,  
CYCLOPS --  
-- THIS  
IS MUCH  
CLOSER THAN IT  
SHOULD HAVE  
BEEN!  
ARE  
YOU ALL  
RIGHT?

THANKS,  
STORM -- BUT I'M  
NOT THE ONE I'M  
WORRIED ABOUT  
RIGHT NOW.

IT SEEMS  
LIKELY THAT  
HAVOK IS CAUGHT  
IN THE THRALL OF  
ANOTHER  
TELEPATH.

ACTUALLY,  
I THINK I  
BELIEVE HIM WHEN  
HE SAYS WE MAY  
BE LOOKING AT  
THE REAL  
ALEX...

... FOR THE  
FIRST TIME IN  
HIS LIFE.

HEAVEN  
HELP US ALL...  
IF HE'S  
RIGHT.

**MEANWHILE...**

HEATHROW,  
THIS IS FLIGHT 139  
FROM THE UNITED  
STATES!

WE'RE  
LANDING ON  
RUNWAY NINE-  
L-NINER!

NEGATIVE,  
FLIGHT 139!

YOU ARE  
NOT CLEARED  
TO LAND! I  
REPEAT --

I'M NOT  
ASKING YOU,  
HEATHROW --

! -- I'M  
TELLING  
YOU!

ACKNOWLEDGED,  
FLIGHT 139.

Umm...  
CLEARED TO LAND,  
RUNWAY NINE-L-  
NINER.

AMAZING --  
I'M EVEN PICKING  
UP THE TRANSMISSION  
BETWEEN THE PILOT AND  
THE AIR-TRAFFIC  
CONTROLLER...

... WHICH,  
I GUESS, MAKES  
SENSE CONSIDERING  
MY MIND AND BODY  
ARE SO ATTUNED TO THE  
ELECTRO-MAGNETIC  
LINES OF  
FORCE.

BUT  
BETWEEN  
THAT AND BEING  
ABLE TO LAND THIS  
JET, IT BEGS THE  
QUESTION --  
-- JUST HOW  
POWERFUL  
AM I?



MCCOY --  
ISN'T THAT  
MAGNETO OUT  
THERE?!

IT...  
WOULD SEEM  
TO BE,  
YES.

BUT... HE  
JUST SAVED  
US ALL,  
NOP

IT...  
WOULD, uh,  
SEEM SO,  
YES.

Um.  
YES.

YES, I  
WOULD SAY THAT,  
**DEFINITELY**  
HE SAVED  
US.

-- BUT DON'T YOU THINK  
YOU X-MEN HAVE  
ENOUGH OF A HARD  
TIME WITH PUBLIC  
RELATIONS AS  
IT IS...

... YOU  
DON'T NEED TO  
GO AROUND  
RECRUITING EVIL  
MUTANTS?

WELL,  
SURE -- WHEN  
YOU PUT IT LIKE  
**THAT ...**

SO  
YOU'RE  
ALSO SAYING...  
MAGNETO IS ONE  
OF THE X-MEN,  
NOW...

YES,  
YOU COULD  
SAY HE IS ONE OF  
THE X-MEN  
NOW.

SORT  
OF.

IN A  
WAY.

LOOK,  
MCCOY, I'M NOT  
THE KIND OF GUY  
TO LOOK A  
RESCUE IN THE  
MOUTH--

I  
DON'T KNOW  
IF I WAS  
SUPPOSED TO --  
-- BUT I  
ACTUALLY  
ENJOYED  
THAT.



**N**EARBY...

C'MON,  
JONAH...  
C'MON.

I DON'T KNOW  
WHAT IS KEEPING  
YOU, BUT IF YOU DON'T  
GET HERE **SOON**, I'M  
GOING TO --

... ON A FOG-  
SHROUDED  
STREET IN  
LONDON...

NICK?

IT'S  
ABOUT TIME  
YOU GOT  
HERE!

YOU  
HAVE NO IDEA  
WHAT I'VE UNCOVERED  
ABOUT CREED'S  
FAMILY!

ACTUALLY,  
MISTER  
BANDOUVERIS --

-- I KNOW  
**EXACTLY**  
WHAT YOU'VE  
LEARNED.

YOU --  
YOU'RE NOT  
JAMESON?!

I  
NEVER  
SAID I  
WAS.

PLEASE.

PLEASE  
DON'T KILL  
ME.

I WON'T  
TELL ANYONE  
WHAT I  
KNOW.



NO...

# ZARP

... YOU WON'T!

YOU WON'T TELL A SOUL.

FOR THE MOMENT, GRAYDON CREED SERVES A VALUABLE -- IF TENUOUS -- FUNCTION WITHIN THE MACHINATIONS OF OPERATION: ZERO TOLERANCE.

IF IT MEANS ANYTHING, I'M GENUINELY SORRY YOU GOT INVOLVED.

BUT THEN... SACRIFICES MUST BE MADE, NICK.

SACRIFICES MUST BE MADE.

FOR WHILE THERE IS BOUND TO BE MUCH BLOOD-SHED IN THE FINAL SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEM OF MUTANTS --

-- IT IS UNFORTUNATE THAT OUR SIDE SHOULD BE ONE OF THE FIRST CASUALTIES.

