



UNCANNY

X-MEN[®]

ISSUE 402



WWW.MARVEL.COM



CASEY • GARNEY • MORALES

MARVEL PG

DIRECT EDITION

40211

7 59606 02461 2

\$2.25 US \$3.50 CAN

UTILITY OF MYTH

STAN LEE
PAGES 7-8

UNCANNY

X-MEN

FEARED & HATED
BY A WORLD
THEY HAVE SWORN
TO PROTECT

PREVIOUSLY... Mysterious mutant abductions have taken place at Long Island's new Federal Correctional Facility while Sean Cassidy (aka BANSHEE) emerges as leader of a new mutant police force, the X-CORPS, with a headquarters based just outside Paris, France.



KURT WAGNER
aka NIGHTCRAWLER
TELEPORTATION,
ABILITY



BOBBY DRAKE
aka ICEMAN
COLD TEMPERATURE
ORGANIC
ICE CONTROL



WARREN
WORTHINGTON III
aka ARCHANGEL
FLIGHT DUE TO
NATURAL WINGS



JONATHAN
STORM
aka CHAMBER
bio BLASTS



STACY X
PHENOMENE
CONTROL

JOE CASEY
WRITER
RON GARNEY
PENCILER

MARK MORALES
INKER
RS & COMICRAFT'S
SAIDA TEMOPONTE
LETTERS

HI-FI DESIGN COLORS
PETE FRANCO
ASSISTANT EDITOR
MARK POWERS
EDITOR

JOE QUESADA
EDITOR IN CHIEF
BILL JEMAS
PRESIDENT

THE UNCANNY X-MEN®: Vol. 1, No. 402, February, 2002. (ISSN #1063-401X) Published by MARVEL COMICS, a division of MARVEL ENTERTAINMENT GROUP, INC., OFFICE OF PUBLICATION, 10 EAST 40TH STREET, NEW YORK, NY 10016. PERIODICALS POSTAGE PAID AT NEW YORK, N.Y. AND AT ADDITIONAL MAILING OFFICES. Published monthly. Copyright © 2001 Marvel Characters, Inc. All rights reserved. Price \$2.25 U.S. per copy in the U.S. and \$3.95 in Canada. Subscription rate for 12 issues (in U.S. dollars): U.S. \$27.00, Canada \$37.00 (GST #R127032852), foreign \$39.00. 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 condition that it shall not be sold or distributed with any part of its cover or markings removed, nor in a mutilated condition. THE UNCANNY X-MEN® (including all prominent characters featured in this issue and the distinctive likenesses thereof) is a trademark of MARVEL CHARACTERS, INC. POSTMASTER: SEND ADDRESS CHANGES TO THE UNCANNY X-MEN, c/o MARVEL SUBSCRIPTION DEPT., P.O. BOX 32 NEWBURGH, NY 12551. TELEPHONE # (800) 217-9158. FAX # (845) 566-7828. Printed in the U.S.A. PETER CUNEO, Chief Executive Officer; AVI ARAD, Chief Creative Officer; GUY KARYO, Chief Information Officer; BOB GREENBERGER, Director - Publishing Operations; STAN LEE, Chairman Emeritus.



I ASSUME YEH HAVENT COME ALL THIS WAY T'SEE ME...

NEIN... NOT EXACTLY.

BUT WE ARE UNDERSTANDABLY CURIOUS AS TO WHAT'S GOING ON HERE, BANSHEE.



AYE, I CAN IMAGINE...

FEAR NOT, FRIENDS. I AM AS CLEAR-HEADED AS I'VE EVER BEEN. AND YEH CAN DISPENSE WITH THE FORMALITIES. WE'RE ALL FAMILY HERE. I'M PARTICULARLY PLEASSED TO SEE YOU, JONO.

WELCOME TO X-CORPS HEADQUARTERS.



"X-CORPS"...?

SEAN... WE'RE HERE TO TAKE PART IN THE G8 ECONOMIC SUMMIT. THIS YEAR THEY'RE DISCUSSING THE RISING MUTANT CONDITION. I'M HERE TO SPEAK ON OUR BEHALF.

BUT I WON'T LIE TO YOU. WHAT YOU'VE SET UP HERE... IS A CONCERN FOR US.

I DON'T SEE HOW. WE'RE ALL WORKING TOWARDS THE SAME GOALS.

I'M NOT TOO SURE ABOUT THAT. MEIN FREUND. THIS LOOKS TO ME LIKE A MILITARY OPERATION.

WE HAVEN'T HEARD FROM YOU IN MONTHS. AND THEN, SEEMINGLY OUT OF THE BLUE, WE LEARN OF THIS PLACE.

WHAT IS IT THAT YOU'RE DOING HERE?





I'M PROTECTING THE DREAM, KURT. YOU REMEMBER THE DREAM, DON'T YEH?

IN SO MANY WAYS, I'VE SOUGHT TO SERVE THAT DREAM WHAT CHARLES XAVIER ESPOUSED, I'VE CARRIED WITH ME ALWAYS, THROUGH EVERY INCARNATION I'VE TAKEN PART IN.

I'VE SEEN IT FROM ALL SIDES, AND YET, HISTORY HAS BORNE OUT THE FLAWS IN MANY OF THESE INCARNATIONS.

NO OFFENSE INTENDED, LADS...

...BUT SO MUCH HAS HAPPENED. THE SCHOOL ANNEX CLOSING. CHARLES GOING PUBLIC...



...AND MOIRA NOW GONE.

MY LADY LOVE.

I REALIZE THESE EVENTS HAVE TOUCHED YOU PERSONALLY, SEAN. PERHAPS MORE SO THAN ANY OF US...

BUT THIS RESPONSE SEEMS RATHER EXTREME, DON'T YOU THINK? WE ARE ON THE FRONT LINES OF MUTANT PERCEPTION IN THE WORLD. IS THIS THE IMAGE WE WANT TO PORTRAY? IS THIS THE MESSAGE WE WANT TO SEND?



THIS IS THE MESSAGE I WANT TO SEND.

WHY DON'T I SHOW YOU AROUND BEFORE YEH MAKE ANY FURTHER JUDGMENTS...

THIS IS THE COMMAND CENTER.

STATE OF THE ART IN EVERY WAY. WE'VE EVEN GOT A TAP ON CEREBRA, WHERE XAVIER'S STAFF HAS RETURNED TO THE TASK OF TRAINING MUTANTS... THE X-CORPS HAS JURISDICTION OVER THINGS ABOVE AND BEYOND SIMPLE LOCATION AND RESCUE.

ALL THAT YOU SEE HERE IS DEVOTED TO ONE SPECIFIC PURPOSE...

...THE STRICT POLICING OF THE MUTANT POPULATION.

THAT'S QUITE A JOB, SEAN. YEAH, YOU MIGHT HAVE TOOLS... BUT DO YOU HAVE THE TALENT? YOU CAN'T JUST SET UP HOUSEKEEPING LIKE THIS AND EXPECT THE REST OF THE WORLD TO CHEER...

YOU KNOW THIS IRISH COP...?

HE WAS HEADMASTER AT THE SCHOOL I WENT TO.

HE'S A GOOD MAN. I NEVER FIGURED ON THIS...

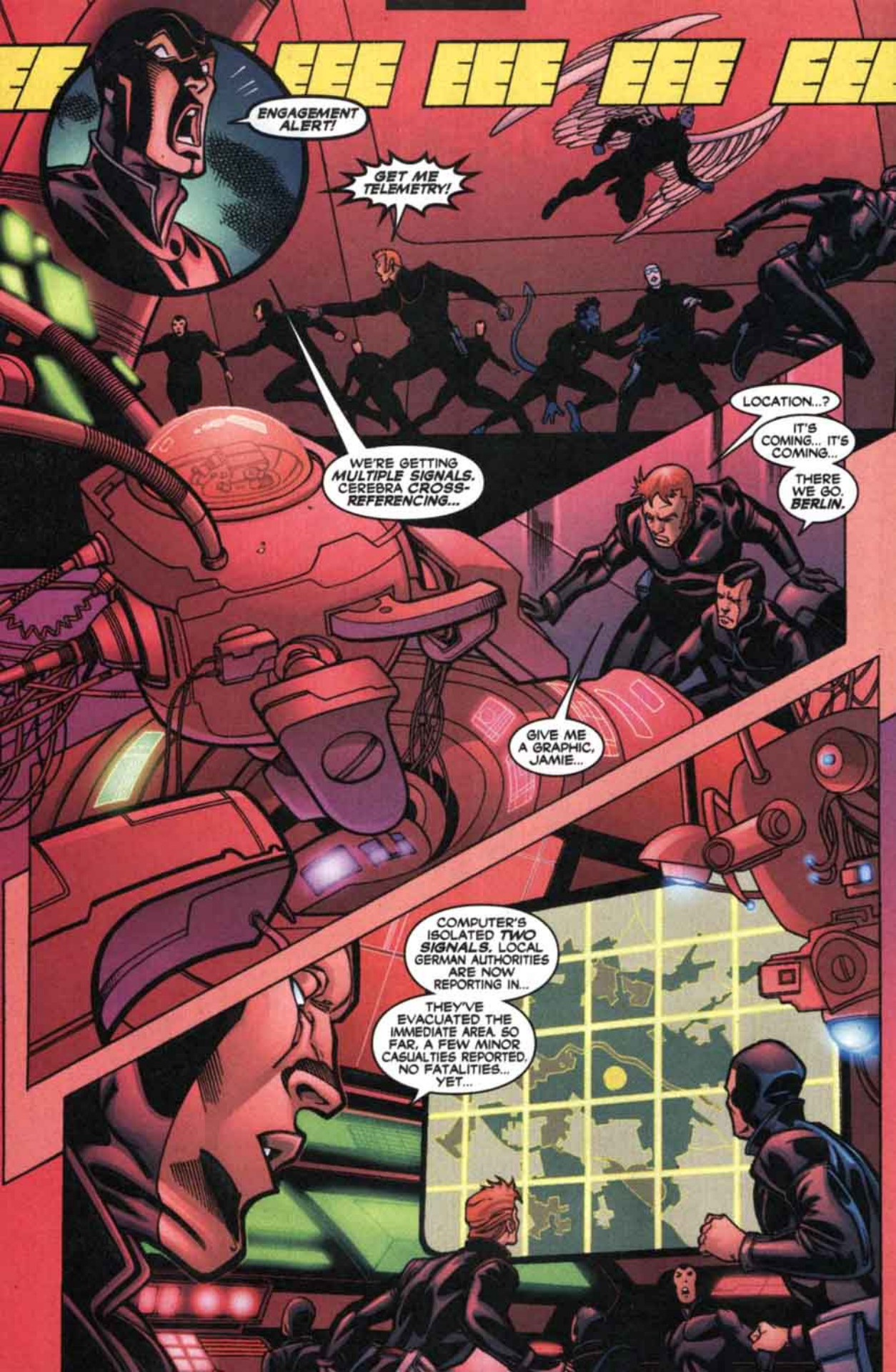
...WHY DO ALL THE GUYS WORKING HERE LOOK ALIKE...?

RIGHT. SO, TELL ME SOMETHING...

YEH ALL KNOW MY HISTORY. INTERPOL. THE X-MEN. A TEACHER TO YOUNG MUTANTS. I'VE WORKED BOTH SIDES OF THE LAW. LOOKING BACK, IT'S OBVIOUS THAT EACH ENDEAVOR WAS... LACKING IN SOME WAY.

I DON'T WORRY ABOUT THE HUMAN POPULACE. WHAT THREAT ARE THEY WHEN WE CONTINUE TO FIGHT AMONGST OURSELVES... HELL-BENT ON DESTROYING OURSELVES...? SOMEONE MUST MAINTAIN ORDER.

BY ANY MEANS NECESSARY.



ENGAGEMENT ALERT!

GET ME TELEMETRY!

WE'RE GETTING MULTIPLE SIGNALS. CEREBRA CROSS-REFERENCING...

LOCATION...?

IT'S COMING... IT'S COMING...

THERE WE GO. BERLIN.

GIVE ME A GRAPHIC, JAMIE...

COMPUTER'S ISOLATED TWO SIGNALS. LOCAL GERMAN AUTHORITIES ARE NOW REPORTING IN...

THEY'VE EVACUATED THE IMMEDIATE AREA. SO FAR, A FEW MINOR CASUALTIES REPORTED. NO FATALITIES... YET...



ALL HANDS... TO YOUR STATIONS! THIS IS NOT A DRILL!

JAMIE... CROSS-REFERENCE THOSE SIGNALS. LET'S SEE IF IT'S ANYONE WE KNOW...



SEAN--

PLEASE... LET US DO OUR JOB, KURT. KEEP YOUR PEOPLE AT BAY.

THIS IS EXACTLY THE KIND OF LAWLESSNESS WE'RE HERE TO INTERCEPT AND CONTAIN.



WELL, THEY CERTAINLY OPERATE WITH MILITARY PRECISION...

MAYBE, BUT HE'S CREEPING ME OUT WITH ALL THE DRILL SERGEANT POSTURING... THIS ISN'T THE SEAN I KNOW...



DATA BANKS ARE STILL SEARCHING FOR POSITIVE IDENTIFICATIONS...

BUT WHOEVER THEY ARE, THEY'RE DOING QUITE A BIT OF DAMAGE TO GET AT EACH OTHER.

VERY WELL, THEN. A SERIOUS SITUATION CALLS FOR A SERIOUS RESPONSE...



...SEND IN THE BASTARD SQUAD.

BERLIN



«LET'S GO,
MEN!»

«ALL WEAPONS--
LOCKED AND LOADED!
THESE MUTANTS WILL
NOT TEAR OUR CITY
APART!»

«FOR
HUMANITY!»

YOU MIGHT AS
WELL GIVE IT UP, STYGER!
I KNOW SOME PEOPLE WHO'LL
PAY MILLIONS TO GET YOU
ON THE DISSECTION
TABLE—!

YOU DON'T
KNOW WHO
YOU'RE DEALING
WITH! I'LL SNUFF
YOU OUT LIKE
A MATCH!

I'M
ALIVE AND
I'M STAYING
THAT WAY!

WATCH
IT—!

GENETIC
SAVAGES...!
GET BACK IN
FORMATION—!



<DONT LET YOUR GENETIC RACE DOWN! PREPARE TO ENGAGE>

<READY... AIM... FI-->



I DONT THINK SO.

YOU WANNA LEAVE A JOB LIKE THIS TO THE PROFESSIONALS.

AVALANCHE TO SURGE... YOU'RE ON.

FRY
YOU LIKE
BACON—

VEEARGGH!

NNGHH!

COPY THAT,
AVALANCHE.

YOU
TWO ARE
LUCKY.

I'M
A LITTLE NEW
AT THIS. STILL GOT
SOME CONTROL
ISSUES...

IF I WASN'T
WEARING THIS
RESTRAINER PACK...
YOU'D BOTH BE
FRIED...

WHAT
A GREAT
STORY.

YOU MIGHT
WANNA LOSE THE
PACK, SPARKY.



DAMN.

NICE ONE,
NEWBIE.

LET'S
NOT WASTE TIME
SPARRING
WITH
THESE PUNKS. LET'S
CALL IN THE **HEAVY**
ARTILLERY AND BE
DONE HERE...



GROUND
CONTROL
TO MAJOR
TOM...

YOU'VE GOT
THE COORDINATES...
AS **EXACT** AS YOU'RE
GONNA GET. WE'VE GOT
SOME KIND OF **HOME-**
TOWN MILITIA TRYING
TO MUSCLE IN ON THIS
SQUABBLE...



SEND
DOWN MR. BIG
SO WE CAN ALL
GO HOME...



COPY
THAT.

PACKAGE
IS AWAY...



SEISMIC
REGISTERS ARE
COLLATING. THEY
PROBABLY FELT THAT
IN MOSCOW...

...BUT THE
SITUATION
HAS BEEN
QUELLED.

VERY GOOD.
WE'RE IN THE
HANGAR,
SOON TO BE
EN ROUTE...

BANSHEE... HOW DID
YOU AMASS THIS
EQUIPMENT SO
QUICKLY? THE
COST ALONE--

YOU'D BE
SURPRISED
WHAT I CAN
COME UP
WITH,
KURT...

...A FEW SECRET SWISS BANK ACCOUNTS,
SEIZED AND FROZEN BY INTERPOL YEARS
AGO. I EVEN UNCOVERED A FORGOTTEN
FACTOR THREE ACCOUNT. THROW IN
A FEW SYMPATHETIC VENTURE
CAPITALISTS AND AN ABANDONED
A.I.M. FACILITY, AND WE'RE
IN BUSINESS.

YOU'RE
WELCOME TO
COME ALONG, IF
YEH WISH. JUST KEEP
A RESPECTABLE
DISTANCE.

AND,
I'D APPRECIATE IT
IF YEH ALL KEPT AN OPEN
MIND, AS WELL. I CAN'T
PROMISE YOU'LL BE LIKING
EVERYTHING YEH SEE.

WHY DO I GET
THE FEELING YOU'VE
JUST MADE THE
UNDERSTATEMENT
OF THE YEAR...?

LEAD THE
WAY, SEAN.
WE'LL BE RIGHT
BEHIND YOU.





WELL, THAT WAS EASY...



...THOUGHT THESE JOKERS MIGHT PUT UP MORE OF A FIGHT.

MAYBE NEXT TIME, DUKES.

THINK I COULD SLAP THESE GUYS AROUND A BIT BEFORE THE BOSSMAN GETS HERE? Y'KNOW... JUST FER FUN...?

DOUBTFUL. HERE HE COMES...



SIGH

WHAT A MESS, EH...?

YOU KNEW IT WOULD BE WHEN YOU SENT THESE GUYS IN...



SEAN!

AM I TO UNDERSTAND YOU HAVE KNOWN CRIMINALS SERVING UNDER YOU?! THESE MEN ARE KILLERS! HOW CAN YOU POSSIBLY--

KURT... I ASKED YEH WITH RESPECT TO PLEASE STAY OUT OF OUR WAY. ALL WILL BE EXPLAINED, I ASSURE YOU.

NOW, IF YOU'LL EXCUSE ME...



LET ME OUTTA THIS THING--!

HEEEYY... DO I KNOW YOU?!

YEH MIGHT, IF NOT...
...YEH WILL.



WELL DONE, GENTLEMEN. YEH SHOWED THE PROPER RESTRAINT.

LOAD THESE TWO AND LET'S MOVE OUT.



AVALANCHE... THE FREAKIN' BLOB...? I DON'T KNOW THE OTHER ONE... BUT I DON'T LIKE THE LOOKS OF THIS...

ME NEITHER. THIS IS MUCH MORE SERIOUS THAN WE COULD'VE IMAGINED.



KURT... WHAT THE HELL IS SEAN THINKING?! HE'S GOT THOSE NUTS ON HIS PAYROLL?!

I'M AS CONFUSED AS YOU ARE. HE SEEMS TO BE IN CONTROL OF THESE MEN, OR RATHER, THEY SEEM TO BE CONTENT TO FOLLOW HIS ORDERS.

TRUST ME, WE WILL GET TO THE BOTTOM OF THIS...

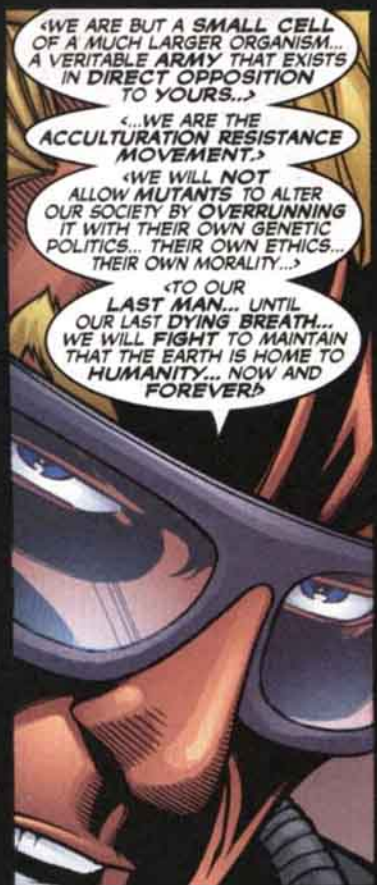
DIBS ON THE FAT GUY.



«AND WHO MIGHT YOU BE...?»

«MY NAME'S NOT IMPORTANT, MUTANT! BUT MY MISSION IS!»

«FINE, AND YOUR "MISSION" WOULD BE...?»



«WE ARE BUT A SMALL CELL OF A MUCH LARGER ORGANISM... A VERITABLE ARMY THAT EXISTS IN DIRECT OPPOSITION TO YOURS...»

«...WE ARE THE ACCULTURATION RESISTANCE MOVEMENT.»

«WE WILL NOT ALLOW MUTANTS TO ALTER OUR SOCIETY BY OVERRUNNING IT WITH THEIR OWN GENETIC POLITICS... THEIR OWN ETHICS... THEIR OWN MORALITY...»

«TO OUR LAST MAN... UNTIL OUR LAST DYING BREATH... WE WILL FIGHT TO MAINTAIN THAT THE EARTH IS HOME TO HUMANITY... NOW AND FOREVER!»



«ACCULTURATION RESISTANCE MOVEMENT, HOW TIMELY...»



«THIS IS JUST THE OPENING SALVO! WE SHALL DO BATTLE AGAIN... UNTIL THE A.R.M. DELIVERS THE FINAL, KILLING BLOW TO THE VERY LAST MUTANT!»



I'M SURE.

WE SHOULD'VE LET DUKES HAVE 'EM.

YOUR LIFE OF ETHICAL COMPROMISE IS OVER, MISTER PETROS. GET USED TO IT.

SEAN!
WAIT--!

IS THIS WHAT
THE "X-CORPS" IS ALL
ABOUT? HEAVY MUSCLE
TACTICS? AGGRESSIVE
MILITARISM? A
MUTANT POLICE
STATE?!

YEAH, MAN!
WHAT ARE YOU
TRYING TO PROVE?!

I THINK I'VE
ALREADY *PROVED* IT.
WE WERE PAST DUE FOR
A NEW *IDEA*, DON'T
YEH THINK?

REACTIONARY
CONCEPTS PLUS
REVOLUTIONARY EMOTION.
THIS IS HOW WE
ACHIEVE *UNITY*.

MEIN GOTT,
I'VE NEVER
SEEN HIM SO...
DRIVEN.


HE'S
CERTAINLY
GOT A LOTTA
SPUNK FOR
AN *OLD*
GUY.

BEFORE, I
WOUL'DVE MERELY
QUESTIONED HIS
METHODOLOGY,
BUT SEEING SOME OF
HIS *RECRUITS*...

AGREED.
WE NEED
TO FIND OUT
EXACTLY *WHO*
IS INVOLVED
IN *CASSIDY'S*
OPERATION...
AND *WHY*...


HE IS A
MORAL MAN. I
KNOW THAT. HIS
MOTIVES ARE NOT
IN QUESTION. BUT
THERE ARE TOO
MANY *UNCERTAIN*
VARIABLES. FOR
INSTANCE...

...HOW IS HE
KEEPING THESE
CRIMINALS *IN*
LINE...?




IT'S BEEN TWELVE HOURS, MISS YOSHIDA. WHAT HAVE YEH GOT FOR ME?

OR SHOULD I CALL YEH SUNPYRE?




ONLY IN THE FIELD, SIR.

WE'VE GOT THEM PROPERLY SEDATED FOR NOW. DATA CROSS-REFERENCING HAS ALLOWED US TO IDENTIFY THEM BOTH.



THE FIRST ONE HAS ONLY ONE KNOWN ALIAS... THE APPARENT CODE NAME, **FEVER PITCH**. HIGH-INTENSITY, ORGANIC FLAME CAPABILITIES. AS YOU CAN SEE, GAINING CONTROL OF HIS MUTANT ABILITIES HAD A FEW EXTREME DERMATOLOGICAL SIDE EFFECTS. IT SEEMS HE ONCE KIDNAPPED A FEW OF YOUR FORMER STUDENTS. NOW HE'S A FREELANCE MERCENARY.

THE OTHER IS NAMED **NILS STYGER**. GENOSHAN BY BIRTH. WE'RE STILL TRYING TO DETERMINE THE EXTENT OF HIS MUTANT GIFTS.




AN INTERESTING SIDE NOTE... WE DID A FULL BODY SCAN ON HIM. HE WAS ONCE INFECTED BY THE **LEGACY VIRUS**. I SUPPOSE IT WAS ELIMINATED FROM HIS CELLS WHEN THE CURE WENT AIRBORNE LAST YEAR...



POOR PETER... GIVING HIS LIFE TO ELIMINATE A **MUTANT PLAGUE** BROUGHT UPON US NOT BY A HUMAN ENEMY... BUT BY ANOTHER **MUTANT**.

HE WAS A GOOD SOLDIER... AND A GOOD FRIEND.



YES, WELL... IN ANY CASE, WE CAME ACROSS SOME COMPUTER RECORDS THAT CONNECTED STYGER— OR, AT LEAST, HIS ALIAS, **ABYSS**— TO THE OLD MUTANT UNDERGROUND AS WELL AS A GENOSHAN SCIENTIST NAMED **RENEE MAJCOMB**. PERHAPS SHE DIED IN THE SENTINEL MASSACRE...

THEY'RE BOTH FAIRLY UNSTABLE, SIR. AS FIELD OPERATIVES--

--I DON'T KNOW IF IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE TO CONTROL THEIR OBVIOUS VIOLENT TENDENCIES...



WE'LL SEE, MISS YOSHIDA...
...WE'LL SEE.

ROME

GENTLEMEN,
AS WE BEGIN DAY
TWO OF THE SUMMIT,
I WANT TO **THANK**
EVERYONE FOR THEIR
INSIGHTS ON THE ISSUES
WE'VE DISCUSSED...

AS PRESIDENT
OF THE EUROPEAN
COMMISSION, IT'S BEEN
MY PLEASURE TO
ALSO ACT AS HOST
THIS YEAR.

I SHOULD REMIND
YOU THERE WILL BE DINNER
SERVED IN THE EAST WING OF
THE EMBASSY FOLLOWING THE
PRESENTATION ON TERRORISM
AND THE INTERNATIONAL
COALITION'S ECONOMIC
NEEDS.


THIS AFTERNOON WE HAVE
A LAST MINUTE ADDITION TO
THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA.
GIVEN RECENT EVENTS IN BOTH
GENOSHA AND GERMANY,
THIS IS AN ISSUE THAT
CANNOT BE
IGNORED.

GENTLEMEN,
WOULD YOU PLEASE
WELCOME THE
CHAIRMAN EMERITUS
OF WORTHINGTON
INDUSTRIES IN
THE U.S....

...MISTER WARREN
WORTHINGTON.

THANK YOU,
PRESIDENT PRODI,
AND THANK YOU, TO
THE **G8 LEADERS**
FOR ALLOWING ME
THIS OPPORTUNITY
TO SPEAK.

MY
INTEREST HERE
TODAY IS NOT
AS A **BUSINESS-
MAN...** BUT AS
A **MUTANT.**



EACH YEAR, THIS "INFORMAL CLUB" OF WORLD POWERS CONVENES IN A SPIRIT OF GLOBAL COOPERATION. THIS YEAR, YOU FACE AN ISSUE PERHAPS MORE RELEVANT THAN ANY IN MODERN HISTORY...

...THE PROLIFERATION OF THE MUTANT POPULATION.



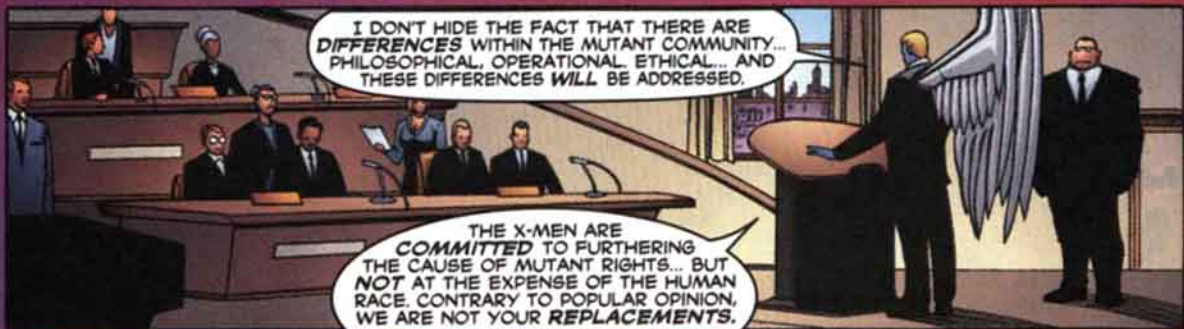
WE KNOW ABOUT THE RUMORS YOU'VE BEEN HEARING. WE KNOW THERE IS A MEASURE OF FEAR...
...FEAR OF THE UNKNOWN.



LOOK AT ME, GENTLEMEN. I HIDE NOTHING.

THOSE OF US WHO HAVE ALIGNED OURSELVES WITH CHARLES XAVIER'S INITIATIVES HAVE DONE SO WITH THE SINCERE HOPE THAT PEACEFUL CO-EXISTENCE IS NOT ONLY A POSSIBILITY... BUT AN INEVITABILITY.

I CAN SEE THE SUSPICION IN YOUR EYES. YOU'VE HEARD ABOUT US. YOU'VE NO DOUBT HEARD ABOUT THE X-CORPS PROGRAM. YOU ARE UNDERSTANDABLY NERVOUS.



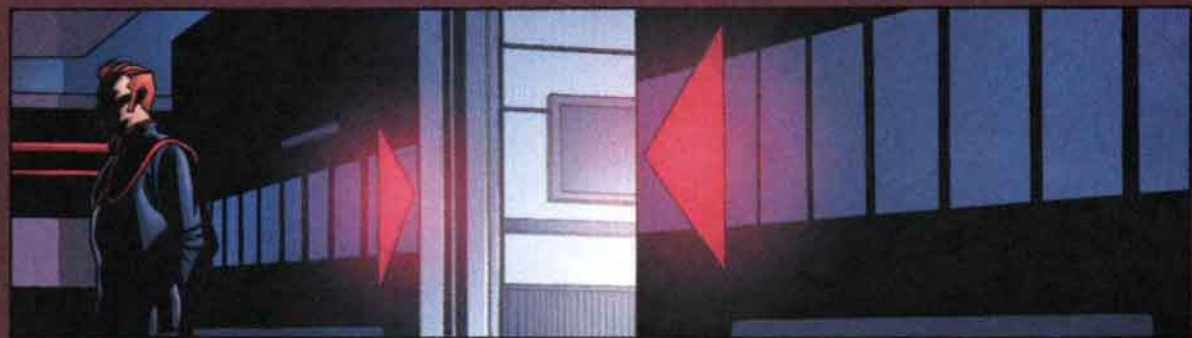
I DON'T HIDE THE FACT THAT THERE ARE DIFFERENCES WITHIN THE MUTANT COMMUNITY... PHILOSOPHICAL, OPERATIONAL ETHICAL... AND THESE DIFFERENCES WILL BE ADDRESSED.

THE X-MEN ARE COMMITTED TO FURTHERING THE CAUSE OF MUTANT RIGHTS... BUT NOT AT THE EXPENSE OF THE HUMAN RACE. CONTRARY TO POPULAR OPINION, WE ARE NOT YOUR REPLACEMENTS.



I COME TO YOU AS A POTENTIAL ALLY IN AN EVOLUTIONARY PROCESS THAT WE MUST NOT TAKE LIGHTLY. THIS IS NOT ABOUT GENETICS. THIS IS ABOUT POLITICAL EVOLUTION... SOCIAL EVOLUTION...

THIS IS ABOUT THE FUTURE, GENTLEMEN, AND I HAVE BROUGHT THE FIGHT TO YOU.





TIME
TO TEST
YOUR LIMITS,
LASS...

DON'T
LET ME
DOWN.

TO BE CONTINUED

