



MARVEL COMICS GROUP 12¢

the X-MEN

APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY

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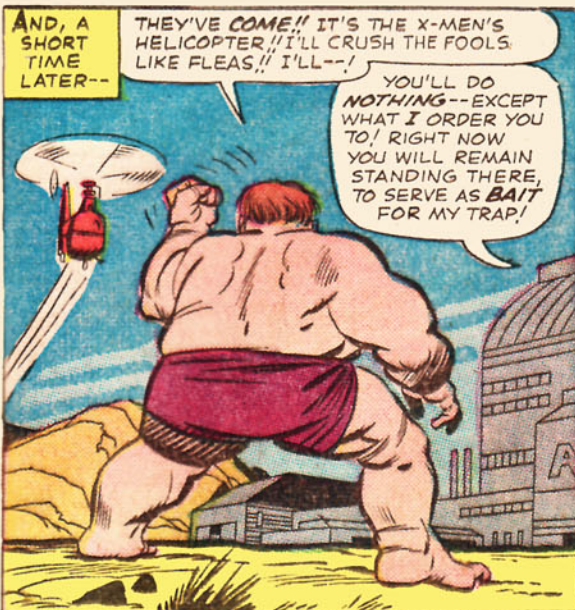
7 SEPT.

THE SURPRISE OF THE YEAR!
IN THIS JAM-PACKED ISSUE, YOU WILL MEET...
the X-MEN'S NEW LEADER!

"THE RETURN OF THE BLOB!"



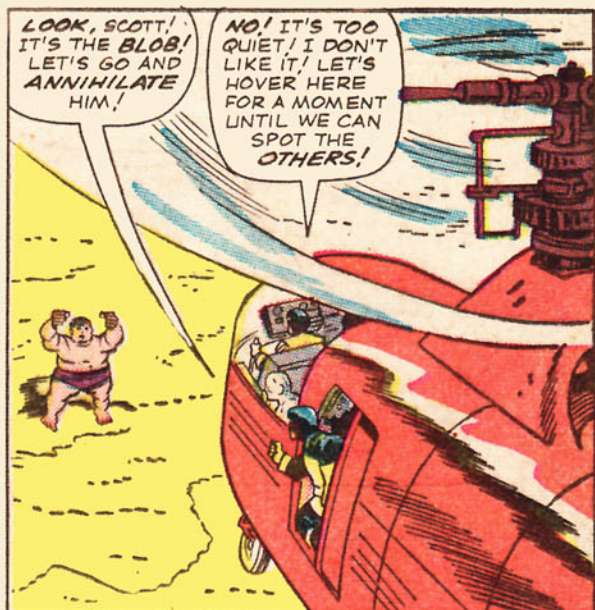
**ALSO CO-FEATURING:
THE EVIL YOU-KNOW-WHO'S**



AND, A SHORT TIME LATER--

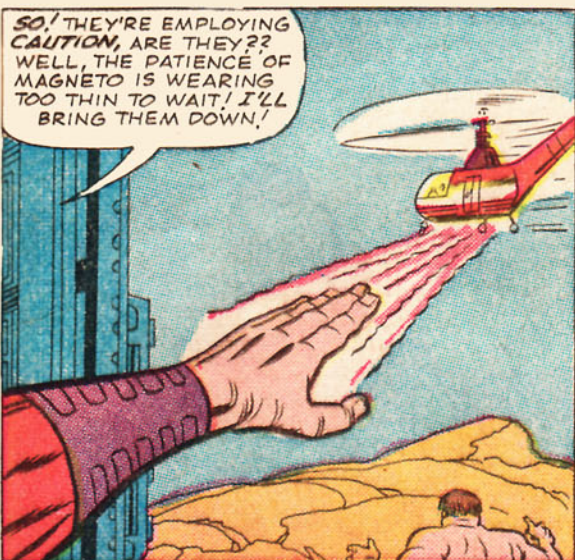
THEY'VE COME!! IT'S THE X-MEN'S HELICOPTER!! I'LL CRUSH THE FOOLS LIKE FLEAS!! I'LL--!!

YOU'LL DO NOTHING-- EXCEPT WHAT I ORDER YOU TO! RIGHT NOW YOU WILL REMAIN STANDING THERE, TO SERVE AS BAIT FOR MY TRAP!

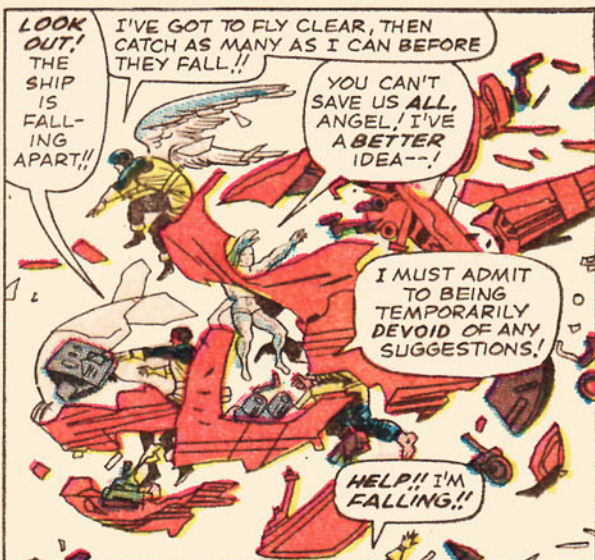


LOOK, SCOTT! IT'S THE BLOB! LET'S GO AND ANNIHILATE HIM!

NO! IT'S TOO QUIET! I DON'T LIKE IT! I DON'T LIKE IT! LET'S HOVER HERE FOR A MOMENT UNTIL WE CAN SPOT THE OTHERS!



SO! THEY'RE EMPLOYING CAUTION, ARE THEY?? WELL, THE PATIENCE OF MAGNETO IS WEARING TOO THIN TO WAIT! I'LL BRING THEM DOWN!



LOOK OUT! THE SHIP IS FALLING APART!! I'VE GOT TO FLY CLEAR, THEN CATCH AS MANY AS I CAN BEFORE THEY FALL!!

YOU CAN'T SAVE US ALL, ANGEL! I'VE A BETTER IDEA--!

I MUST ADMIT TO BEING TEMPORARILY DEVOID OF ANY SUGGESTIONS!

HELP!! I'M FALLING!!

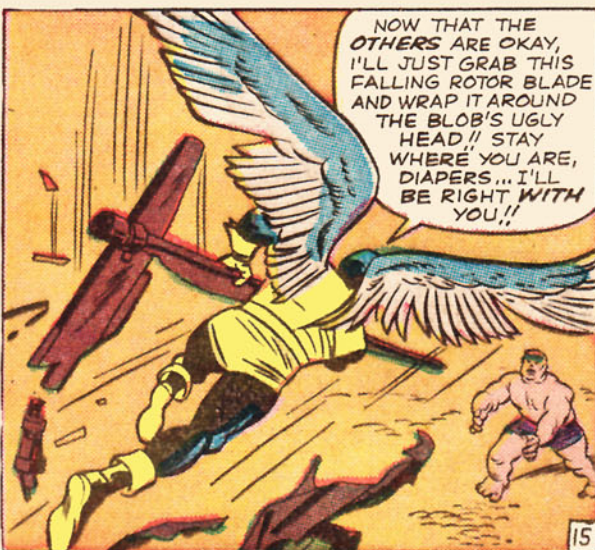


MOVING WITH BREATH-TAKING SPEED, ICEMAN CREATES A QUICK FROZEN ICE SLIDE, LARGE ENOUGH TO BREAK THEIR FALL!

HAPPY LANDINGS, KIDS!

BOBBY! YOU SAVED US!

GOOD WORK, BOBBY!!

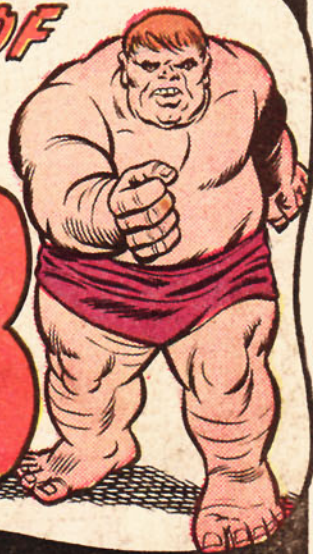


NOW THAT THE OTHERS ARE OKAY, I'LL JUST GRAB THIS FALLING ROTOR BLADE AND WRAP IT AROUND THE BLOB'S UGLY HEAD!! STAY WHERE YOU ARE, DIAPERS... I'LL BE RIGHT WITH YOU!!

X-MEN
THE MOST UNUSUAL
TEEN-AGERS OF
ALL TIME...

THE RETURN OF THE

BLOB



CO-STARRING
MAGNETO

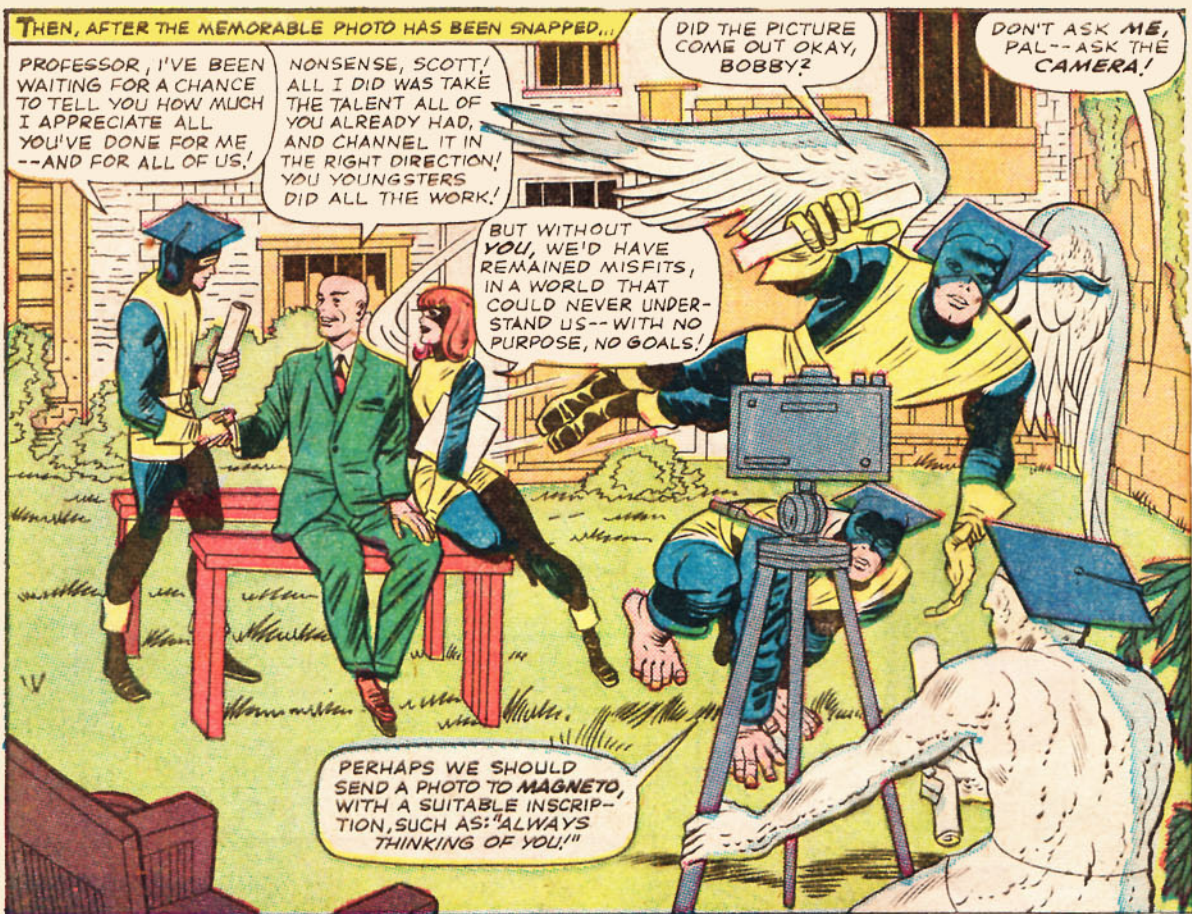


AND HIS **EVIL
MUTANTS**

WRITTEN	WITH ALL THE SPELL-BINDING SKILL OF :	STAN LEE
DRAWN	WITH ALL THE TITANIC TALENT OF :	JACK KIRBY
INKED	WITH ALL THE VIBRANT VERVE OF :	CHIC STONE
LETTERED	WITH ALL THE WORDS SPELLED RIGHT BY :	ART SIMEK



IT'S COME AT LAST! THE MOMENT WE'VE BEEN WAITING FOR! WE ARE LOOKING AT THE UNCANNY X-MEN, ACCOMPANIED BY PROFESSOR XAVIER, AS THEY POSE BEFORE AN AUTOMATIC CAMERA ON THEIR GRADUATION DAY! BUT, PERHAPS THEIR SMILES WOULD NOT COME SO EASILY IF THEY COULD SUSPECT THE INCREDIBLE DANGERS THEY WILL SOON BE FACING!



THEN, AFTER THE MEMORABLE PHOTO HAS BEEN SNAPPED...

PROFESSOR, I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR A CHANCE TO TELL YOU HOW MUCH I APPRECIATE ALL YOU'VE DONE FOR ME --AND FOR ALL OF US!

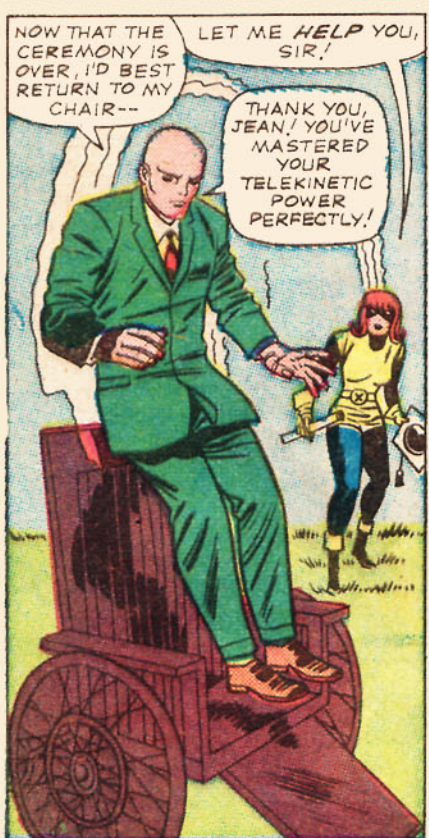
NONSENSE, SCOTT! ALL I DID WAS TAKE THE TALENT ALL OF YOU ALREADY HAD, AND CHANNEL IT IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION! YOU YOUNGSTERS DID ALL THE WORK!

DID THE PICTURE COME OUT OKAY, BOBBY?

DON'T ASK ME, PAL--ASK THE CAMERA!

BUT WITHOUT YOU, WE'D HAVE REMAINED MISFITS, IN A WORLD THAT COULD NEVER UNDERSTAND US-- WITH NO PURPOSE, NO GOALS!

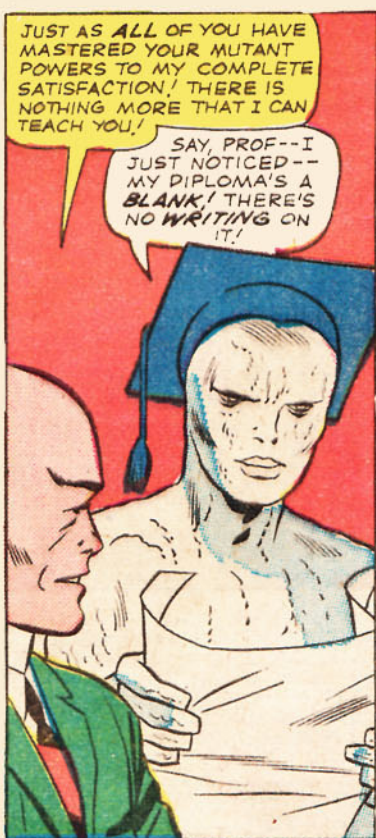
PERHAPS WE SHOULD SEND A PHOTO TO MAGNETO, WITH A SUITABLE INSCRIPTION, SUCH AS: "ALWAYS THINKING OF YOU!"



NOW THAT THE CEREMONY IS OVER, I'D BEST RETURN TO MY CHAIR--

LET ME HELP YOU, SIR!

THANK YOU, JEAN! YOU'VE MASTERED YOUR TELEKINETIC POWER PERFECTLY!



JUST AS ALL OF YOU HAVE MASTERED YOUR MUTANT POWERS TO MY COMPLETE SATISFACTION! THERE IS NOTHING MORE THAT I CAN TEACH YOU!

SAY, PROF--I JUST NOTICED-- MY DIPLOMA'S A BLANK! THERE'S NO WRITING ON IT!



NATURALLY, MY UNCOMPREHENDING FRIEND! IT WAS JUST A PROP FOR THE PHOTO! YOU WOULDN'T EXPECT A DIPLOMA WHICH REVEALS TO THE WORLD THAT YOU ARE A FULL-FLEDGED X-MAN, WOULD YOU?

AS A MATTER OF FACT, I DO HAVE DIPLOMAS FOR YOU WHICH TESTIFY THAT YOU'VE SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED YOUR NORMAL PREP SCHOOL CURRICULUM--AS INDEED YOU HAVE DONE!

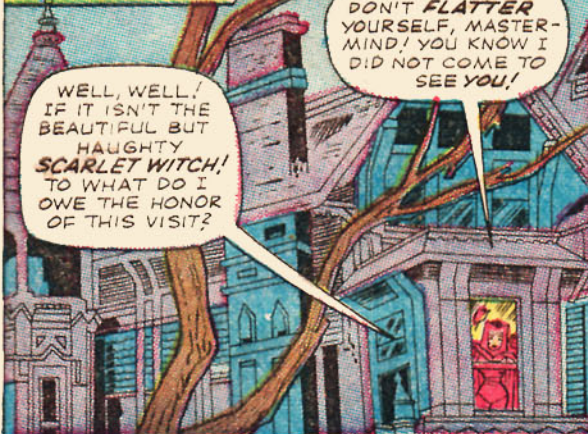
AND NOW, I SHALL NOT BORE YOU WITH LONG SPEECHES, BUT I MUST TELL YOU THIS--YOU ARE EACH MORE THAN MERE HOMO SAPIENS--YOU ARE THE FORERUNNERS OF HOMO SUPERIOR--SUPERIOR MAN! YOU EACH HAVE A PRICELESS EXTRA MUTANT POWER TO BE USED FOR THE GOOD OF HUMANITY--

AND YOU MUST STILL KEEP YOUR X-MEN IDENTITIES SECRET, FOR THE WORLD OF ORDINARY HUMANS IS NOT YET READY TO ACCEPT YOU--WHILE MAGNETO AND HIS BAND OF EVIL MUTANTS STILL SEEK TO DESTROY YOU! AND NOW, IT IS TIME FOR ME TO BID YOU FAREWELL--

YES! I HAVE MANY UNFINISHED TASKS WHICH I MUST NOW TURN MY ATTENTION TO! SO, I MUST LEAVE YOU FOR A WHILE! BUT, BEFORE I GO, I SHALL APPOINT ONE OF YOU AS GROUP LEADER, TO ACT IN MY BEHALF TILL I RETURN...



MEANWHILE, IN A LONELY RAMSHACKLE MANSION WHICH STANDS HIGH UPON A WINDY HILL, HALF-HIDDEN AT THE EDGE OF TOWN, ANOTHER CONVERSATION TAKES PLACE...



WELL, WELL! IF IT ISN'T THE BEAUTIFUL BUT HAUGHTY SCARLET WITCH! TO WHAT DO I OWE THE HONOR OF THIS VISIT?

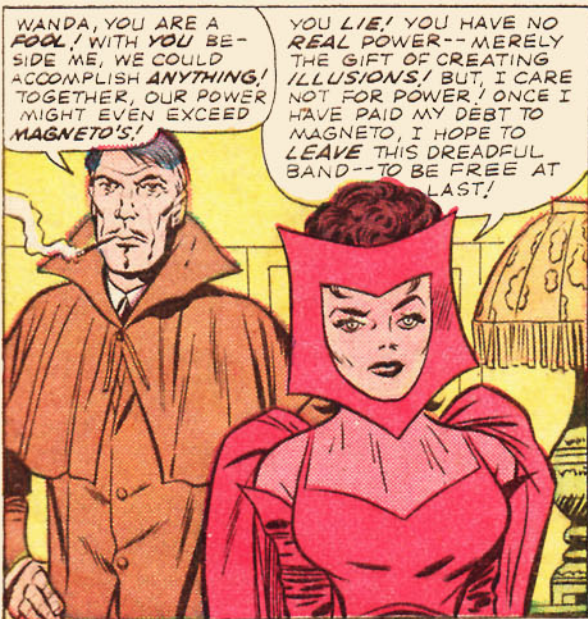
DON'T FLATTER YOURSELF, MASTER-MIND! YOU KNOW I DID NOT COME TO SEE YOU!



MAGNETO HAS SUMMONED ME! WHERE IS HE?

HE HASN'T ARRIVED YET! BUT, WHILE WE'RE ALONE, I HAVE SOMETHING TO SAY TO YOU, MY LOVELY ONE!

NOTHING YOU CAN SAY WOULD INTEREST ME--AND YOU KNOW IT!



WANDA, YOU ARE A FOOL! WITH YOU BE-SIDE ME, WE COULD ACCOMPLISH ANYTHING! TOGETHER, OUR POWER MIGHT EVEN EXCEED MAGNETO'S!

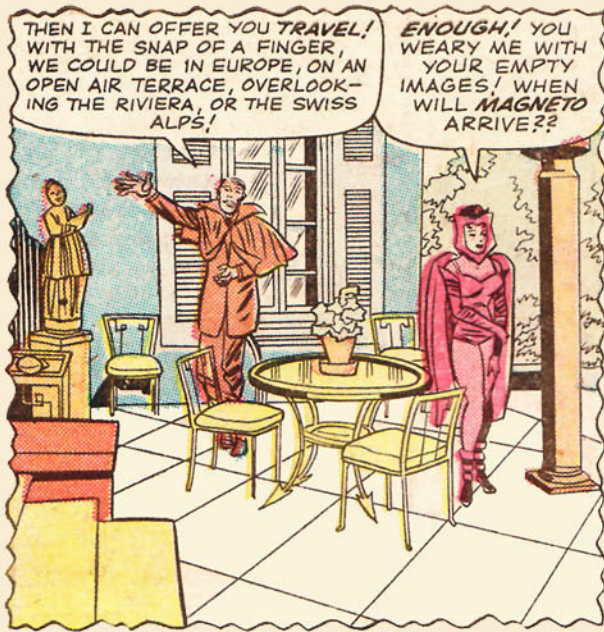
YOU LIE! YOU HAVE NO REAL POWER--MERELY THE GIFT OF CREATING ILLUSIONS! BUT, I CARE NOT FOR POWER! ONCE I HAVE PAID MY DEBT TO MAGNETO, I HOPE TO LEAVE THIS DREADFUL BAND--TO BE FREE AT LAST!



BUT SEE WHAT I COULD DO FOR YOU! AT THE SLIGHTEST GESTURE, I GIVE YOU A PALACE TO RESIDE IN--I CAN SURROUND YOU WITH LUXURY!

WHAT DOES IT MATTER IF IT IS MERELY AN ILLUSION? IT WILL ALWAYS SEEM REAL TO YOU!

NO! WITH YOU, EVEN A PALACE WOULD SEEM LIKE A HOVEL TO ME!



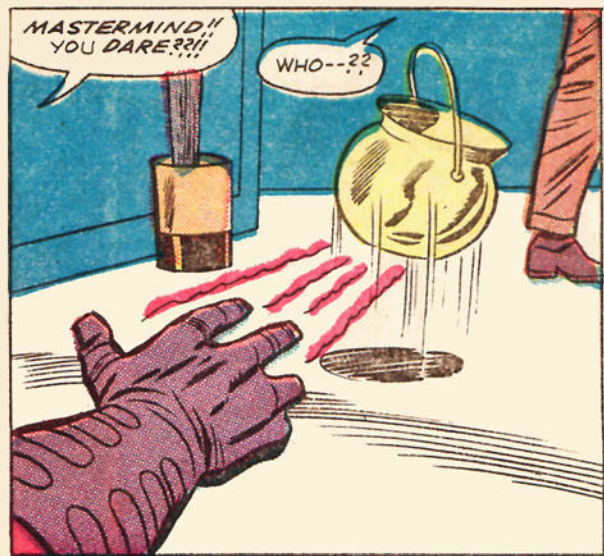
THEN I CAN OFFER YOU TRAVEL! WITH THE SNAP OF A FINGER, WE COULD BE IN EUROPE, ON AN OPEN AIR TERRACE, OVERLOOKING THE RIVIERA, OR THE SWISS ALPS!

ENOUGH! YOU WEARY ME WITH YOUR EMPTY IMAGES! WHEN WILL MAGNETO ARRIVE??



MAGNETO! MAGNETO! AM I ALWAYS TO BE PLAGUED BY THAT NAME?? HE DOESN'T FEEL ABOUT YOU AS I DO! HE HAS NO EMOTIONS--NO HEART--!

STAY BACK! THE VERY SIGHT OF YOU IS REPUGNANT TO ME!



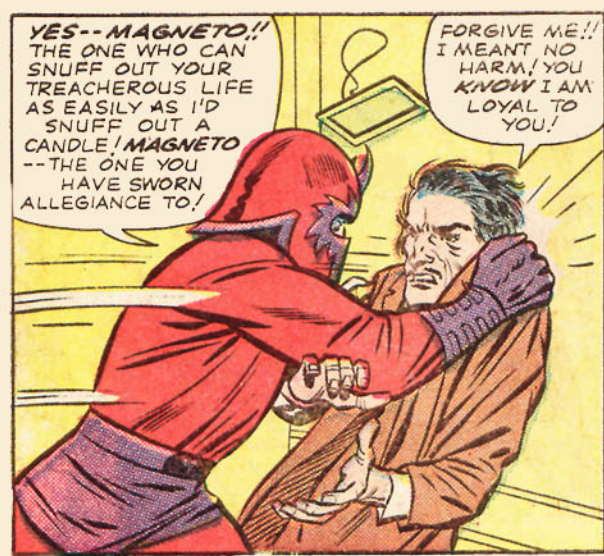
MASTERMIND!! YOU DARE??!!

WHO--??



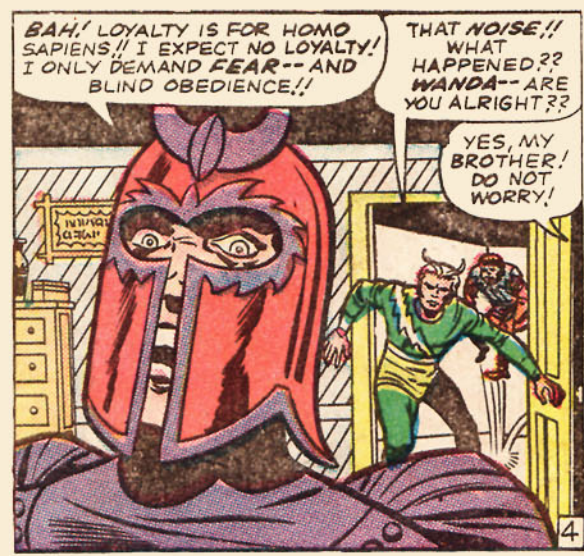
CRASH!!

MAGNETO!!



YES-- MAGNETO!! THE ONE WHO CAN SNUFF OUT YOUR TREACHEROUS LIFE AS EASILY AS I'D SNUFF OUT A CANDLE! MAGNETO --THE ONE YOU HAVE SWORN ALLEGIANCE TO!

FORGIVE ME!! I MEANT NO HARM, YOU KNOW I AM LOYAL TO YOU!



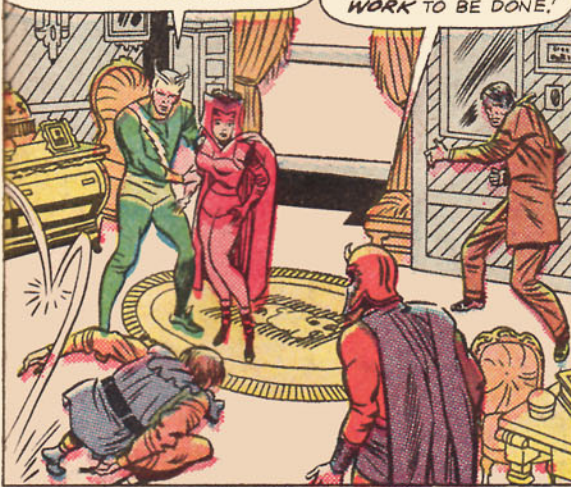
BAH! LOYALTY IS FOR HOMO SAPIENS!! I EXPECT NO LOYALTY! I ONLY DEMAND FEAR-- AND BLIND OBEDIENCE!!

THAT NOISE!! WHAT HAPPENED?? WANDA-- ARE YOU ALRIGHT??

YES, MY BROTHER! DO NOT WORRY!

I SHALL WORRY--AS LONG AS WE MUST SERVE MAGNETO! BUT HEAR THIS, EVIL ONES-- IF ANY HARM EVER COMES TO MY SISTER--YOU SHALL ALL ANSWER TO QUICKSILVER!

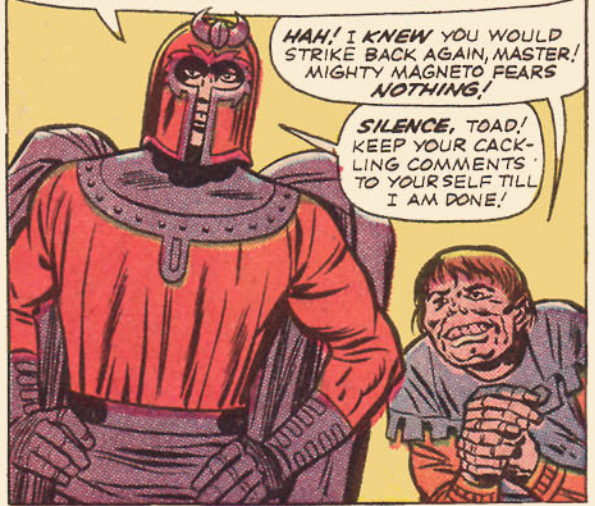
I HAVE PLEDGED THAT NONE SHALL BE HARMED, SO LONG AS YOU OBEY ME IMPLICITLY! AND NOW, ENOUGH OF THIS CHARADE! THERE IS WORK TO BE DONE!



REMEMBER, BEFORE WE CAN FIND A WAY TO CONQUER AND RULE THE INFERIOR HUMANS WHO INHABIT OUR PLANET, WE MUST FIRST DEFEAT THEIR SELF-STYLED PROTECTORS--THE ACCURSED X-MEN! AND I HAVE DEVISED A NEW PLAN TO DESTROY THEM!

HAH! I KNEW YOU WOULD STRIKE BACK AGAIN, MASTER! MIGHTY MAGNETO FEARS NOTHING!

SILENCE, TOAD! KEEP YOUR CACKLING COMMENTS TO YOURSELF TILL I AM DONE!

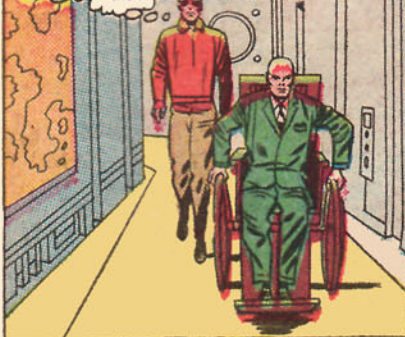


WHILE BACK AT THE X-MEN'S SECRET SCHOOL...

SCOTT, WOULD YOU ACCOMPANY ME TO THE WEST WING?

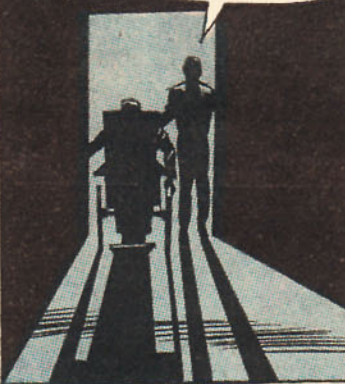
CERTAINLY, SIR!

STRANGE! THIS IS THE ONE SECTION THAT HAD BEEN "OFF-LIMITS" TO US!



I IMAGINE THAT YOU HAVE LONG WONDERED WHAT IS KEPT IN THIS DARKENED, LOCKED SECTION OF THE SCHOOL!

YES SIR! WE HAVE ALL BEEN CURIOUS ABOUT IT FOR MONTHS!



THEN, AFTER THE LIGHTS ARE TURNED ON...

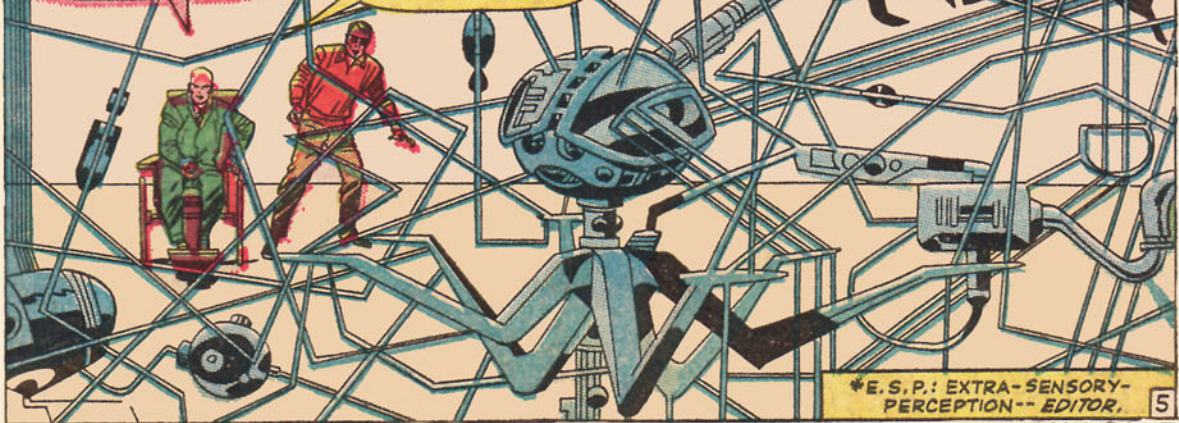
GOSH! WHAT IS ALL THAT??

SOMETHING I'VE BEEN WORKING ON FOR A LONG LONG TIME! YOU ARE THE ONLY OTHER PERSON WHO WILL SHARE MY SECRET!



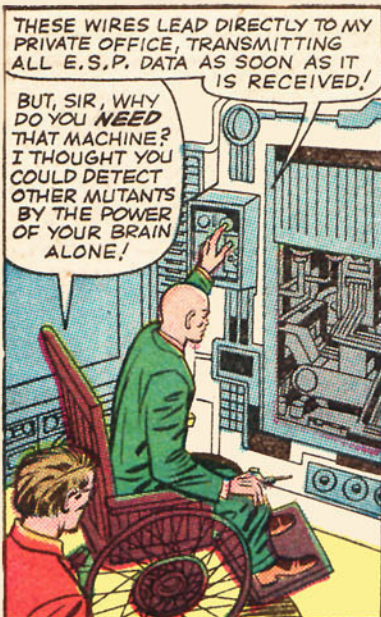
IT IS ACTUALLY A COMPLEX E. S. P.* MACHINE WHICH I CALL CEREBRO, FROM THE LATIN "CEREBRUM" MEANING "THE BRAIN!"

ITS SOLE PURPOSE IS TO AID IN DETECTING NEW MUTANT BRAIN WAVES-- TO HELP US TO LOCATE OTHER MUTANTS-- BOTH GOOD AND EVIL!!



*E. S. P.: EXTRA-SENSORY-PERCEPTION-- EDITOR. 5

CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE



THESE WIRES LEAD DIRECTLY TO MY PRIVATE OFFICE, TRANSMITTING ALL E.S.P. DATA AS SOON AS IT IS RECEIVED!

BUT, SIR, WHY DO YOU NEED THAT MACHINE? I THOUGHT YOU COULD DETECT OTHER MUTANTS BY THE POWER OF YOUR BRAIN ALONE!



TRUE, SCOTT! I PERSONALLY HAVE LITTLE NEED FOR SUCH APPARATI! BUT, WHILE I AM GONE, THE ONE WHO REPLACES ME WILL FIND IT MOST USEFUL!

THE ONE-- WHO REPLACES YOU??

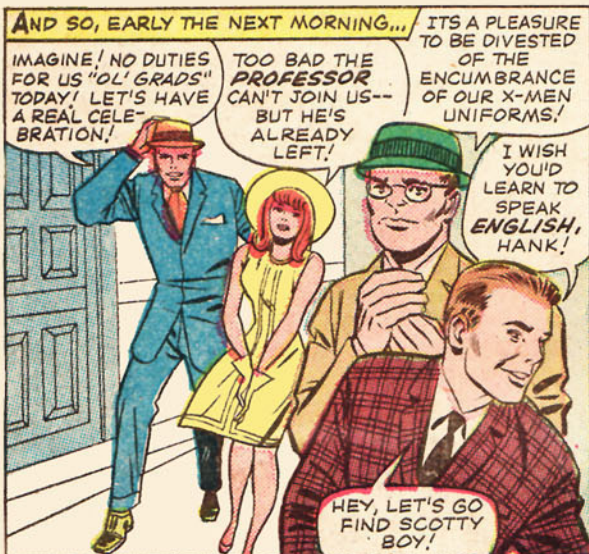


EXACTLY! I HAVE DECIDED THAT YOU, THE X-MAN KNOWN AS CYCLOPS, SHALL BE GROUP LEADER UNTIL I RETURN!

ME?? BUT, SIR-- THE BEAST IS A BETTER SCHOLAR-- WHILE ANGEL IS MORE AGGRESSIVE, AND--

BUT IT IS YOU WHO POSSESSES THE RARE QUALITY OF LEADERSHIP!

MY DECISION STANDS!



AND SO, EARLY THE NEXT MORNING...

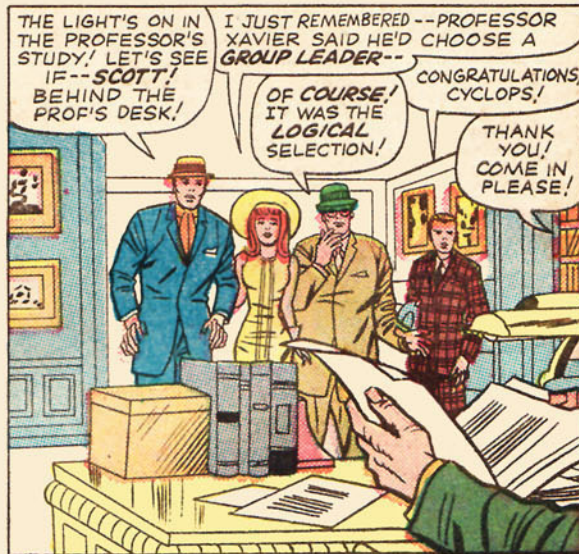
IMAGINE! NO DUTIES FOR US "OL' GRADS" TODAY! LET'S HAVE A REAL CELEBRATION!

TOO BAD THE PROFESSOR CAN'T JOIN US-- BUT HE'S ALREADY LEFT!

IT'S A PLEASURE TO BE DIVESTED OF THE ENCUMBRANCE OF OUR X-MEN UNIFORMS!

I WISH YOU'D LEARN TO SPEAK ENGLISH, HANK!

HEY, LET'S GO FIND SCOTTY BOY!



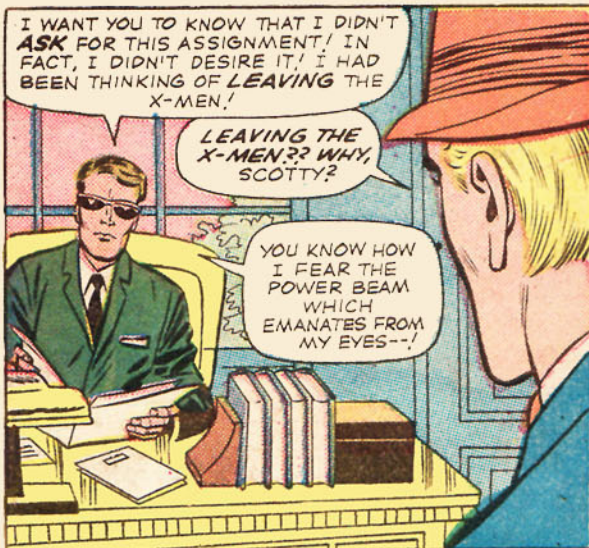
THE LIGHT'S ON IN THE PROFESSOR'S STUDY! LET'S SEE IF-- SCOTT! BEHIND THE PROF'S DESK!

I JUST REMEMBERED -- PROFESSOR XAVIER SAID HE'D CHOOSE A GROUP LEADER--

CONGRATULATIONS, CYCLOPS!

OF COURSE! IT WAS THE LOGICAL SELECTION!

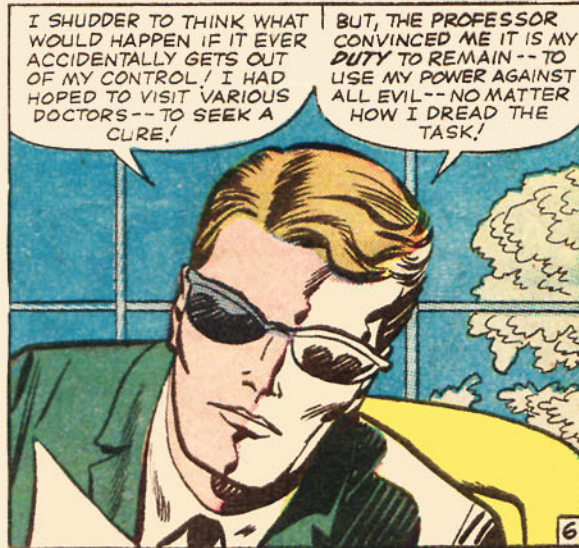
THANK YOU, COME IN PLEASE!



I WANT YOU TO KNOW THAT I DIDN'T ASK FOR THIS ASSIGNMENT! IN FACT, I DIDN'T DESIRE IT! I HAD BEEN THINKING OF LEAVING THE X-MEN!

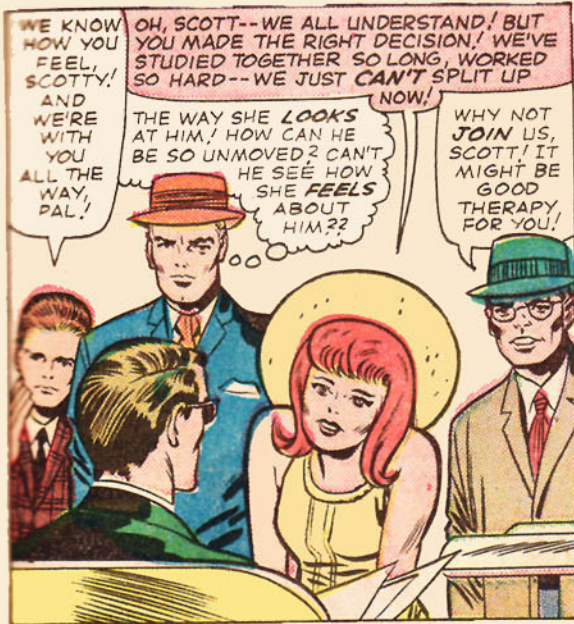
LEAVING THE X-MEN?? WHY, SCOTTY??

YOU KNOW HOW I FEAR THE POWER BEAM WHICH EMANATES FROM MY EYES--!



I SHUDDER TO THINK WHAT WOULD HAPPEN IF IT EVER ACCIDENTALLY GETS OUT OF MY CONTROL! I HAD HOPED TO VISIT VARIOUS DOCTORS-- TO SEEK A CURE!

BUT, THE PROFESSOR CONVINCED ME IT IS MY DUTY TO REMAIN -- TO USE MY POWER AGAINST ALL EVIL-- NO MATTER HOW I DREAD THE TASK!

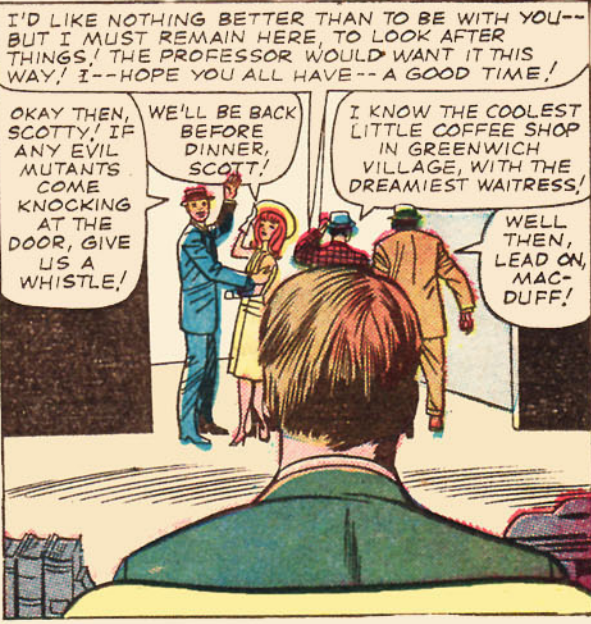


WE KNOW HOW YOU FEEL, SCOTTY! AND WE'RE WITH YOU ALL THE WAY, PAL!

OH, SCOTT--WE ALL UNDERSTAND! BUT YOU MADE THE RIGHT DECISION! WE'VE STUDIED TOGETHER SO LONG, WORKED SO HARD--WE JUST CAN'T SPLIT UP NOW!

THE WAY SHE LOOKS AT HIM! HOW CAN HE BE SO UNMOVED? CAN'T HE SEE HOW SHE FEELS ABOUT HIM??

WHY NOT JOIN US, SCOTT? IT MIGHT BE GOOD THERAPY FOR YOU!



I'D LIKE NOTHING BETTER THAN TO BE WITH YOU-- BUT I MUST REMAIN HERE, TO LOOK AFTER THINGS! THE PROFESSOR WOULD WANT IT THIS WAY! I--HOPE YOU ALL HAVE--A GOOD TIME!

OKAY THEN, SCOTTY! IF ANY EVIL MUTANTS COME KNOCKING AT THE DOOR, GIVE US A WHISTLE!

I KNOW THE COOLEST LITTLE COFFEE SHOP IN GREENWICH VILLAGE, WITH THE DREAMIEST WAITRESS!

WELL, THEN, LEAD ON, MAC-DUFF!



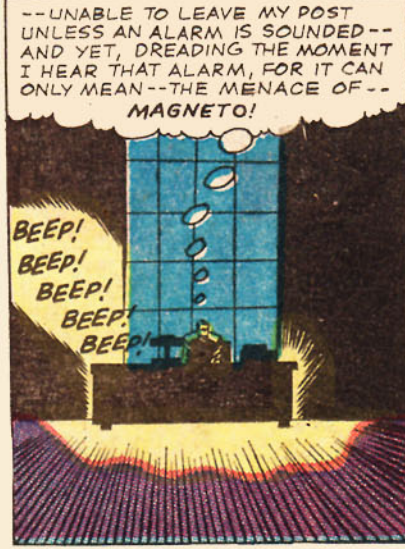
THEY'VE GONE! AND HERE I SIT-- ALONE! NOW, FOR THE FIRST TIME, I CAN REALIZE HOW IT MUST HAVE BEEN FOR THE PROFESSOR, ALL THOSE LONG MONTHS-- ALWAYS APART-- ALWAYS ALONE...



SLOWLY, THOUGHTFULLY, THE X-MAN KNOWN AS CYCLOPS SLIDES THE TOP PANEL OF HIS DESK BACK, REVEALING AN ARRAY OF COMPLEX ELECTRONIC CONTROLS...

NOW TO LISTEN TO THE STEADY DRONE OF CYBERNO'S "VOICE"...

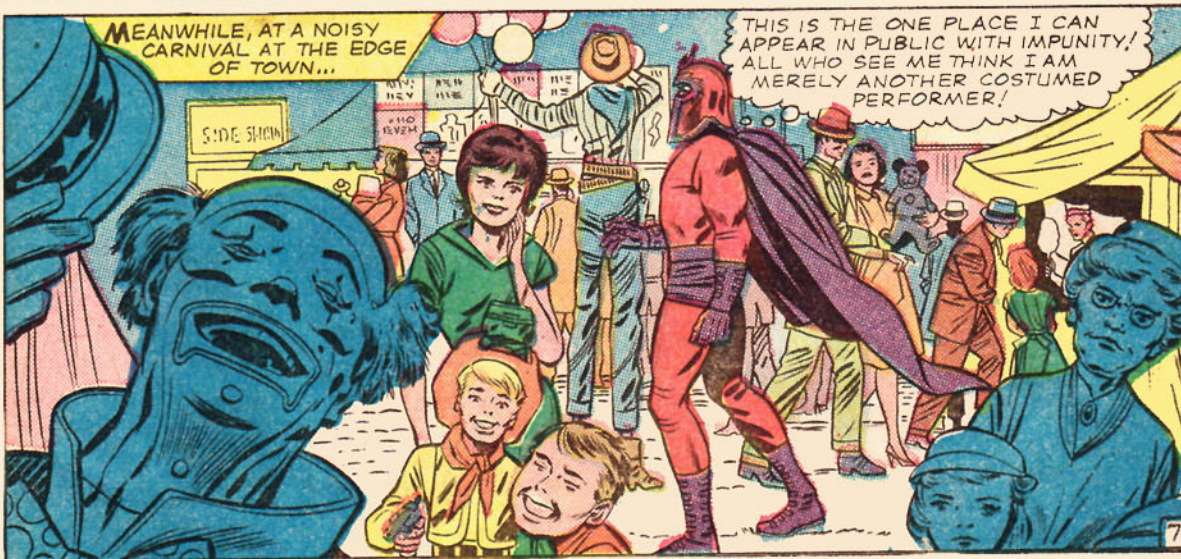
BEEP! BEEP! BEEP! BEEP!



--UNABLE TO LEAVE MY POST UNLESS AN ALARM IS SOUNDED-- AND YET, DREADING THE MOMENT I HEAR THAT ALARM, FOR IT CAN ONLY MEAN--THE MENACE OF--

MAGNETO!

BEEP! BEEP! BEEP! BEEP!



MEANWHILE, AT A NOISY CARNIVAL AT THE EDGE OF TOWN...

THIS IS THE ONE PLACE I CAN APPEAR IN PUBLIC WITH IMPUNITY! ALL WHO SEE ME THINK I AM MERELY ANOTHER COSTUMED PERFORMER!



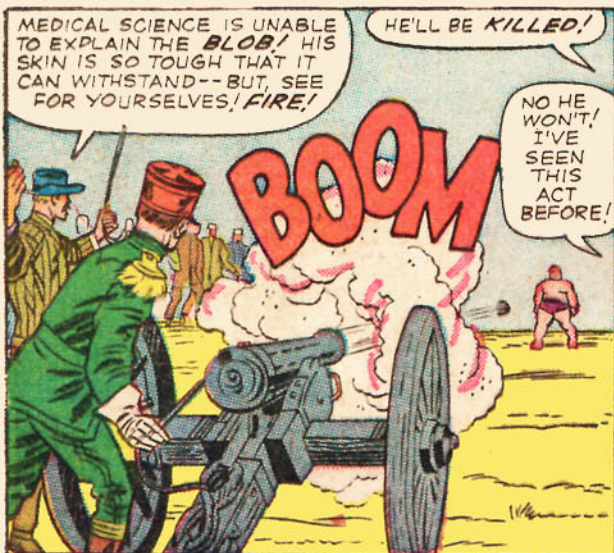
HERE HE IS, FOLKS! THE ONE, THE ONLY, THE UNBELIEVABLE--**BLOB!** STAND BACK NOW-- GIVE HIM ROOM!

HE IS THE ONE I SEEK!



ONCE THE **BLOB** PLANTS HIS FEET ON THE GROUND, **NOTHING** CAN BUDGE HIM! GO AHEAD, JUMBO-- **PULL!**

HE IS PULLING! IF HE PULLS ANY **HARDER**, THAT CABLE WILL **SNAP!!**



MEDICAL SCIENCE IS UNABLE TO EXPLAIN THE **BLOB!** HIS SKIN IS SO TOUGH THAT IT CAN WITHSTAND-- BUT, SEE FOR YOURSELVES! **FIRE!**

HE'LL BE **KILLED!**

BOOM

NO HE WON'T! I'VE SEEN THIS ACT BEFORE!



WHUMP!

SEE? HIS BODY CUSHIONS THE IMPACT LIKE A **LARGE PILLOW!!**



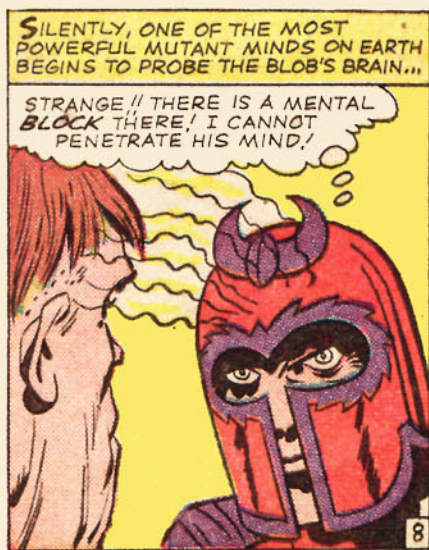
I WAS **RIGHT!** THAT IS NO MERE HUMAN-- HE IS A **MUTANT!!** WHAT A VALUABLE ADDITION HE WILL BE TO MY POWERFUL BAND OF **HOMO SUPERIORS!!**



WITH ONE SUCH AS **HIM** ON OUR SIDE, WE SHALL BE **IMMEASURABLY STRONGER** THAN THE **UNSUSPECTING X-MEN!**

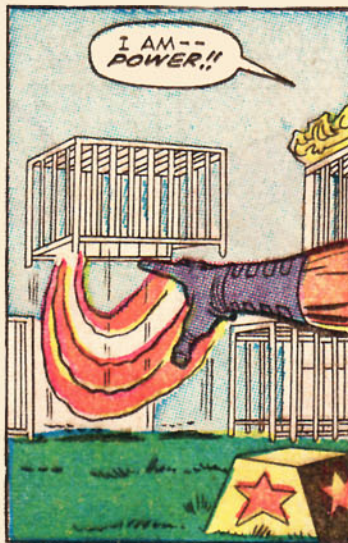
WHAT'S UP, **RUBE?**

BLOB! I DESIRE TO SPEAK WITH YOU!



SILENTLY, ONE OF THE MOST POWERFUL **MUTANT MINDS** ON EARTH BEGINS TO **PROBE THE BLOB'S BRAIN...**

STRANGE!! THERE IS A **MENTAL BLOCK** THERE! I CANNOT **PENETRATE HIS MIND!**



POSSESSED OF A SPEED MANY TIMES GREATER THAN ANY NORMAL HOMO SAPIEN COULD HOPE TO ATTAIN, THE MUTANT QUICKSILVER STARTLES AND CONFUSES THE STUNNED HUMANS!



IT AINT POSSIBLE!
HE'S SO FAST YOU
CAN HARDLY SEE
HIM!

AND THEN...

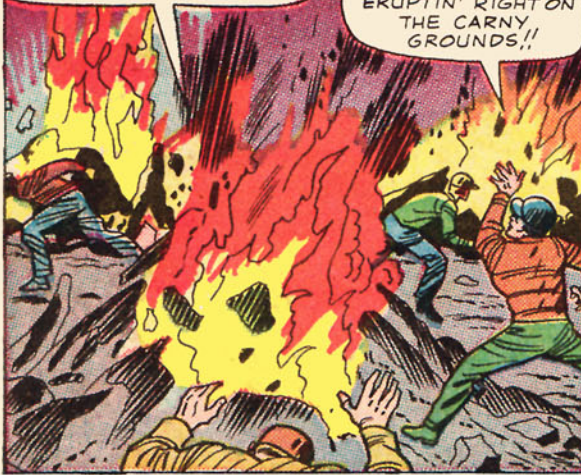
HEY!! LOOK
WHAT
HAPPENED
TO MY
STAKE
DRIVER
!!!

MINE TOO! W-WE
MUST BE DREAMIN'!!



THIS AINT A DREAM!!
IT'S A LIVIN' NIGHTMARE!

OUTTA NOWHERE
--A VOLCANO--
ERUPTIN' RIGHT ON
THE CARNY
GROUNDS!!



SO! YOU CALL MY GREAT
POWERS MERE ILLUSIONS,
DO YOU?? SEE HOW THEY
THROW AN ENTIRE GROUP
OF FIGHTING MEN INTO
SHEER PANIC, MY LOVELY!

BUT YOU CANNOT THROW
THOSE ACCURSED IMAGES
EVERYWHERE AT ONCE!
EVEN NOW SOME
ROUSTABOUTS ARE
APPROACHING FROM
BEHIND THIS WAGON!



THROWN OFF BALANCE BY THE SURPRISE ATTACK,
MASTERMIND MOMENTARILY LOSES CONTROL OF HIS
ILLUSIONS, AND RUNS IN PANIC...

GRAB THOSE TWO! THEY'RE IN LEAGUE WITH
THE OTHERS!

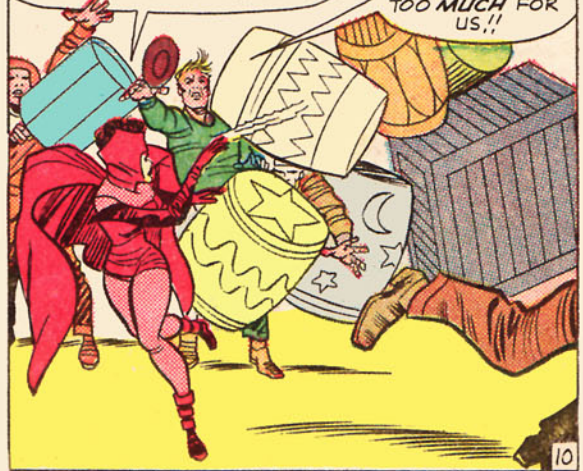


NO! DON'T HURT
US!

QUIET,
YOU
SHAMELESS
COWARD!

MY OWN HEX POWER IS ENOUGH
TO SAVE US! ALL I NEED DO IS
CAUSE CONTINUAL MISHAPS TO
BEFALL OUR ATTACKERS!

HOLD IT UP, YOU
GUYS! DON'T
CHASE 'EM ANY-
MORE! THEY'RE
TOO MUCH FOR
US!!



CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE

MINUTES LATER, MAGNETO AND HIS MUTANTS ARE FINALLY ALONE WITH THE BLOB...

I OFFER YOU A CHANCE TO JOIN MY BAND! YOU CAN BE ONE OF US, TO SHARE OUR TRIUMPH OVER HOMO SAPIENS!

MISTER, I DON'T KNOW WHO YOU ARE, OR WHAT YOU WANT-- BUT I DON'T NEED ANY OF YOU!

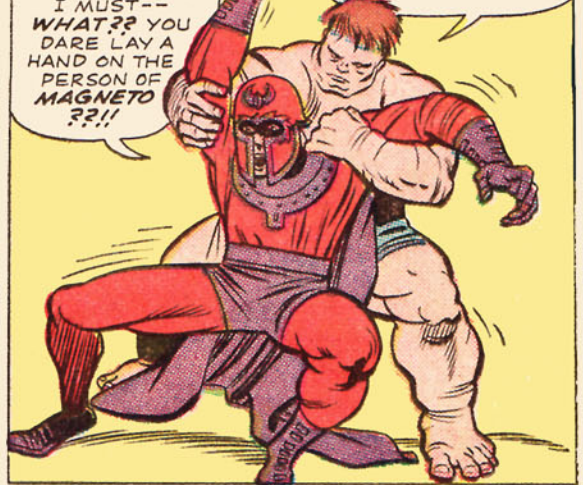
STOP! CONSIDER YOUR WORDS! IF YOU ARE NOT WITH US-- THEN WE MUST TREAT YOU AS AN ENEMY!



I CANNOT LEAVE YOU HERE, ON THE CHANCE THAT THE X-MEN MAY ONE DAY RECRUIT YOU TO JOIN THEM!

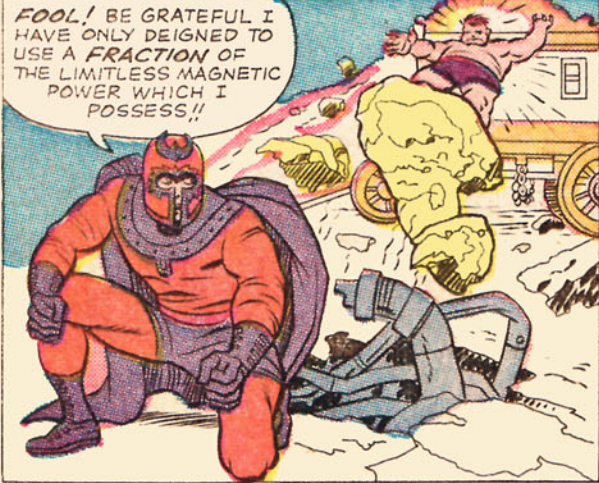
I MUST-- WHAT?? YOU DARE LAY A HAND ON THE PERSON OF MAGNETO??!!

LOOK, RUBE-- I'M GONNA SHOW YOU THAT NOBODY SCARES THE BLOB! NOT EVEN A BUNCH OF BIG-TALKIN' COSTUMED CLOWNS!



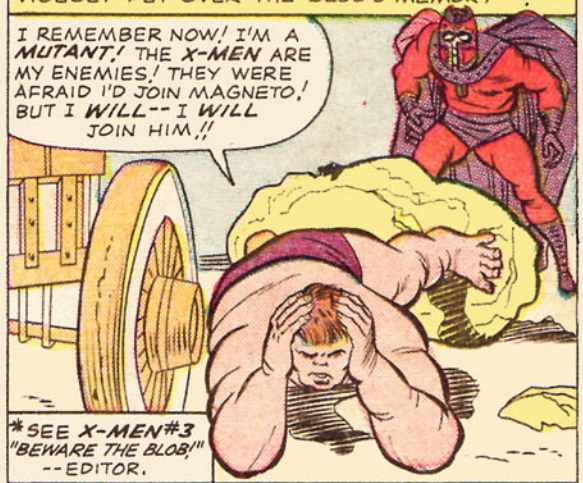
SUDDENLY, AN IRRESISTIBLE MAGNETIC IMPULSE AFFECTS THE UTILITY PIPES DIRECTLY UNDERGROUND, AND THEY SNAP TO THE SURFACE WITH TITANIC FORCE!

FOOL! BE GRATEFUL I HAVE ONLY DEIGNED TO USE A FRACTION OF THE LIMITLESS MAGNETIC POWER WHICH I POSSESS!!



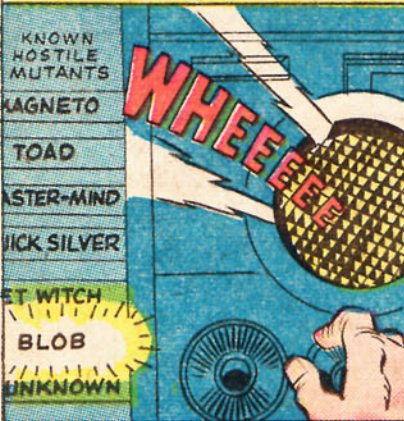
AND THEN, A CAPRICIOUS FATE ENTERS THE PICTURE, AS THE FORCE OF IMPACT JARS LOOSE PART OF THE MENTAL BLOCK WHICH PROFESSOR X HAD PREVIOUSLY PUT OVER THE BLOB'S MEMORY--!*

I REMEMBER NOW! I'M A MUTANT! THE X-MEN ARE MY ENEMIES! THEY WERE AFRAID I'D JOIN MAGNETO! BUT I WILL-- I WILL JOIN HIM!!



*SEE X-MEN#3 "BEWARE THE BLOB!" --EDITOR.

AT THAT VERY INSTANT, AT X-MEN HEADQUARTERS, A SIREN BEGINS TO HOWL LIKE A BANSHEE AS THE NAME OF THE BLOB LIGHTS UP UNDER THE OTHERS ON A MASTER CONTROL PANEL!



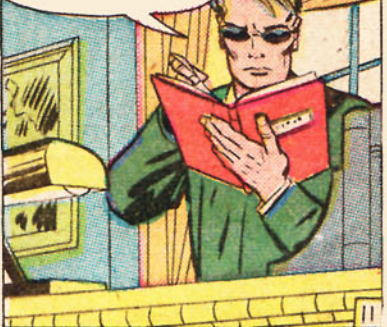
THE SIREN!! THE BLOB'S NAME-- BURSTING INTO LIGHT! IT CAN ONLY MEAN ONE THING--!

HIS MEMORY HAS RETURNED! HE'S JOINED THE EVIL MUTANTS!



THE PROFESSOR IS GONE! IT'S UP TO ME TO TAKE COMMAND! I DARE NOT FAIL!

I'VE GOT TO CONTACT THE OTHERS! I'LL CHECK THEIR DESTINATIONS IN THE SIGN-OUT BOOK! I CAN REACH THE ANGEL THRU HIS CAR RADIO--!



MEANWHILE, AT A GREENWICH VILLAGE COFFEE SHOP, THE BEAST AND ICEMAN ARE ENJOYING A TASTE OF THE BOHEMIAN SIDE OF NEW YORK...

HOW ABOUT THAT JAZZ COMBO, HANK? IT'S SO FAR OUT THAT THEY'LL BE FIRED IF ANYONE CAN UNDERSTAND THE MELODY!

DO YOU LIKE THE ZEN POETRY BERNARD IS READING, BIG BOY?

POETRY? I ASSUMED HE WAS CHECKING A HOUSEWIFE'S SHOPPING LIST ALOUD!

GO, CAT, GO!



HE IS! THAT'S WHAT MAKES HIM A GENIUS!

PERHAPS, BOBBY! BUT AT THE MOMENT, MY MOST VEXING PROBLEM IS THIS PAIR OF TIGHT BROGANS I'M WEARING! THE AGONY IS EXCRUCIATING!

THE TROUBLE WITH YOU, HANK, IS THAT YOU CAN'T UNDERSTAND ANYBODY WHO DOESN'T USE TEN-SYLLABLE WORDS!

TAKE 'EM OFF, NEIGHBOR! IN THIS PLACE NOBODY'LL EVEN NOTICE!

AHHH, WHAT A BLESSED RELIEF!!

ULP! I SPOKE TOO SOON! ARE THOSE REAL, OR IS IT SOME KINDA GAG?

SAY! DIG THAT CRAZZY PAPER-WEIGHT!



DON'T MOVE, STRANGER! I'VE GOT TO MAKE A SKETCH OF THOSE FEET! THEY SHOULD BE IMMORTALIZED ON CANVAS!

WAIT TILL BERNARD SEES THEM! HE'LL WRITE A NEW POEM IMMEDIATELY!

THIS COULD START A WHOLE NEW CULT-WE'LL CALL OURSELVES BAREFOOT BEATS!



HAIL TO THE NEW LEADER! KING OF THE BAREFOOT BEATS!

FREE COFFEE FOR EVERYBODY! THOSE FEET WILL PUT US ON THE MAP!

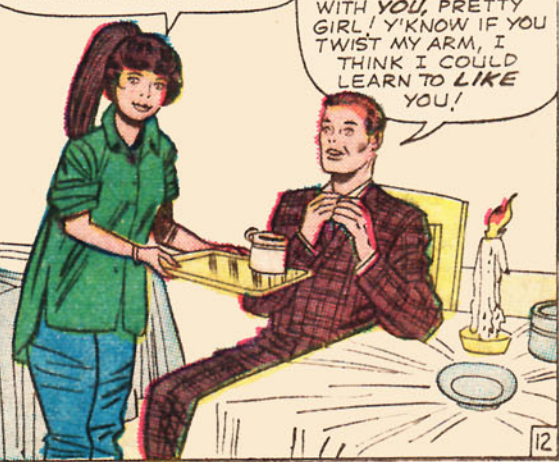
I APPRECIATE THESE ACCOLADES, BUT I THINK YOU'RE ALL TOTALLY BEREFT OF SANITY!

NOT ONLY DOES HE HAVE THE WORLD'S GREATEST FEET, BUT HE TALKS, TOO!



IT LOOKS AS THOUGH YOUR BROAD-SHOULDERED BUDDY HAS MADE A HIT WITH THE CROWD, BOBBY!

THAT'S RIGHT, ZELDA! AND WHILE EVERYONE IS MARCHING AROUND, I'D LIKE A FEW WORDS WITH YOU, PRETTY GIRL! Y'KNOW IF YOU TWIST MY ARM, I THINK I COULD LEARN TO LIKE YOU!





THEN HOW COME I HARDLY EVER SEE YOU IN HERE?

IT'S NOT MY FAULT, ZELDA-- I'M A REAL BUSY GUY!

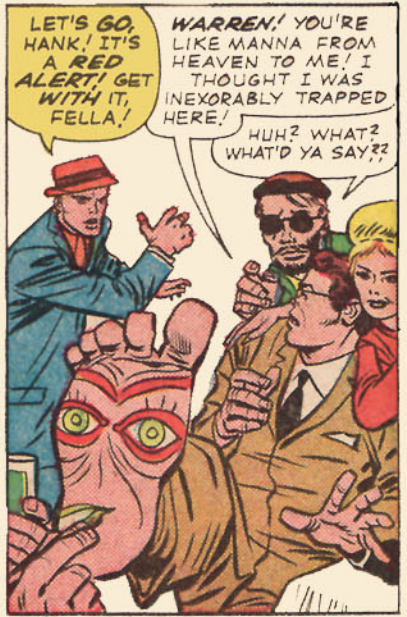
AND YOU'RE GONNA BE A LOT BUSIER, ROMEO! SCOTT WANTS TO SEE US-- ON THE DOUBLE!!



WAIT, BOBBY! WHO'S HE? WHERE ARE YOU GOING? WHO'S SCOTT??

DIDN'T YOU KNOW? HE'S A SUPER-POWERED MUTANT!

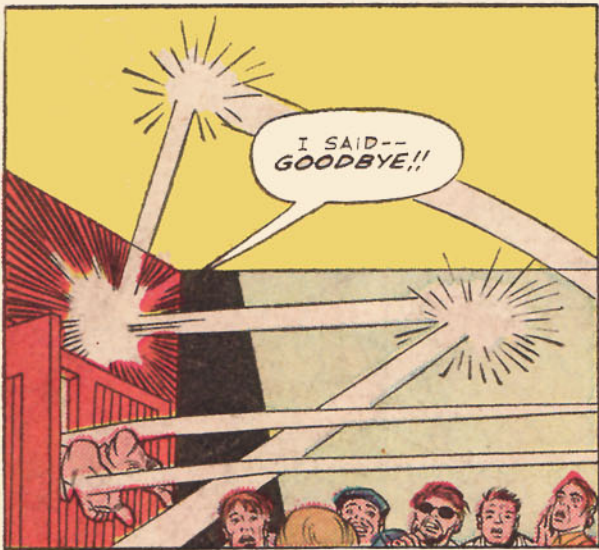
OH WELL, ASK A SILLY QUESTION--!



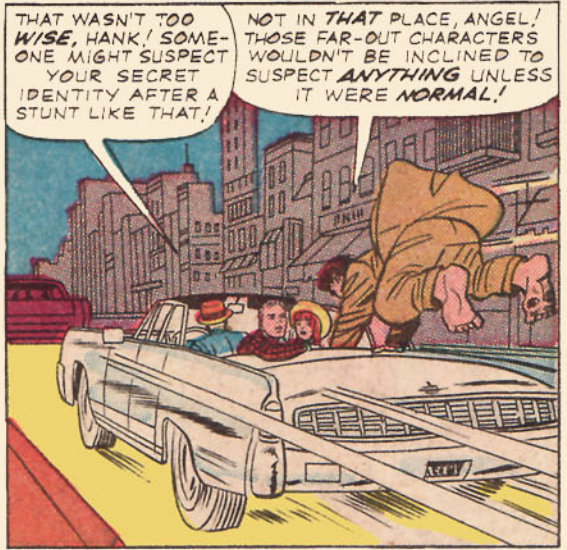
LET'S GO, HANK! IT'S A RED ALERT! GET WITH IT, FELLA!

WARREN! YOU'RE LIKE MANNA FROM HEAVEN TO ME! I THOUGHT I WAS INEXORABLY TRAPPED HERE!

HUH? WHAT? WHAT'D YA SAY??

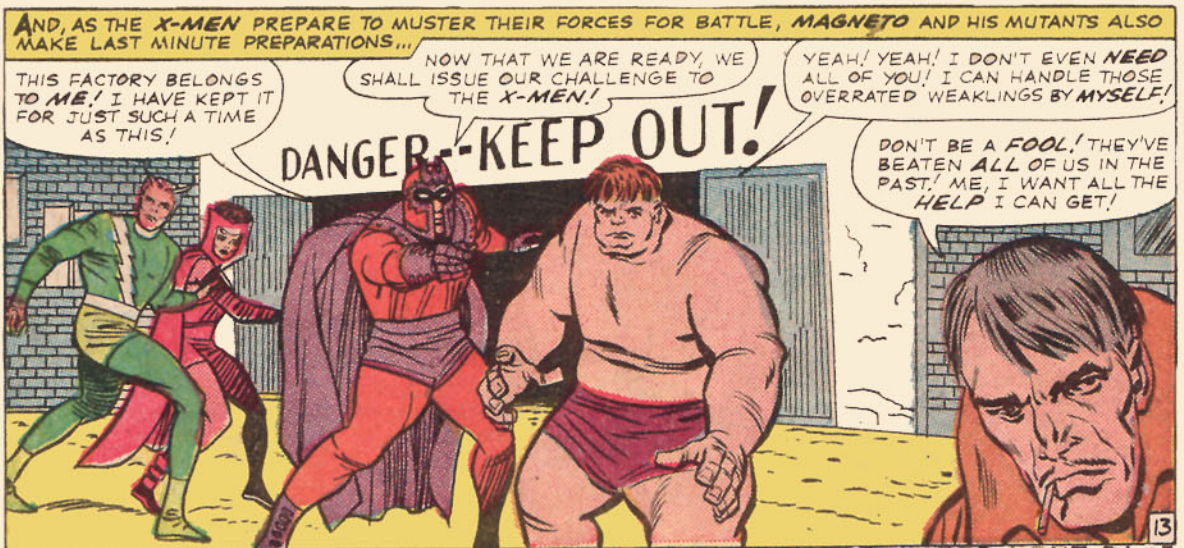


I SAID-- GOODBYE!!



THAT WASN'T TOO WISE, HANK! SOMEONE MIGHT SUSPECT YOUR SECRET IDENTITY AFTER A STUNT LIKE THAT!

NOT IN THAT PLACE, ANGEL! THOSE FAR-OUT CHARACTERS WOULDN'T BE INCLINED TO SUSPECT ANYTHING UNLESS IT WERE NORMAL!



AND, AS THE X-MEN PREPARE TO MUSTER THEIR FORCES FOR BATTLE, MAGNETO AND HIS MUTANTS ALSO MAKE LAST MINUTE PREPARATIONS...

THIS FACTORY BELONGS TO ME! I HAVE KEPT IT FOR JUST SUCH A TIME AS THIS!

NOW THAT WE ARE READY, WE SHALL ISSUE OUR CHALLENGE TO THE X-MEN!

DANGER--KEEP OUT!

YEAH! YEAH! I DON'T EVEN NEED ALL OF YOU! I CAN HANDLE THOSE OVERRATED WEAKLINGS BY MYSELF!

DON'T BE A FOOL! THEY'VE BEATEN ALL OF US IN THE PAST! ME, I WANT ALL THE HELP I CAN GET!

AND, AS THE AMAZING TEEN-AGERS REACH THEIR HEADQUARTERS...

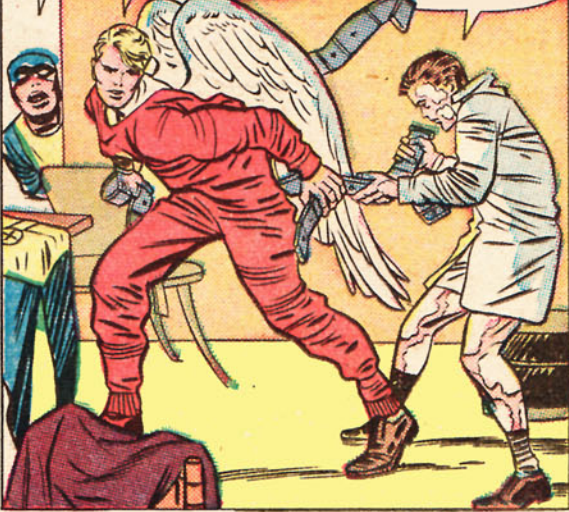
QUICK! THE BLOB HAS HIS MEMORY BACK-- INTO YOUR COSTUMES-- NO TIME FOR TALK NOW! MOVE!

THE BLOB?! HAS HE JOINED FORCES WITH MAGNETO?? ANYTHING CAN HAPPEN NOW!



WHAT'S DETAINING YOU TWO? RELAX, HANK! WE'RE ALMOST READY! MY BLAMED WING STRAPS JUST GOT STUCK!

THERE! THAT DOES IT, ANGEL! NOW STAND BACK, GUYS-- I'M GONNA FREEZE UP FAST!



WHOOOPS! TOO FAST! MY SHIRT, SHOES, AND SOCKS FROZE UP TOO, AND CRACKED CLEAN OFF!!

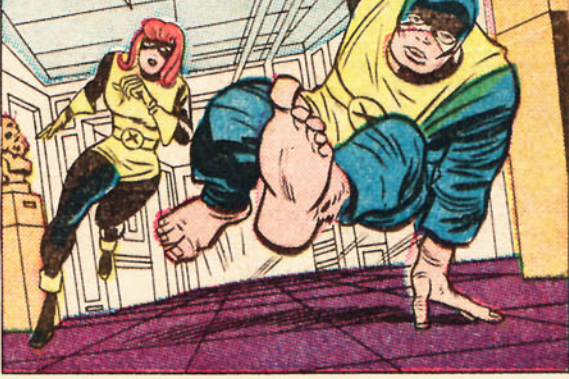
GOSH! AND ZELDA ALWAYS LIKED THAT OL' SHIRT!

COME ON, YOU TWO! LET'S NOT KEEP SCOTT WAITING!



HENRY P. McCOY!! YOU'VE GOT YOUR NERVE RUNNING AHEAD OF ME LIKE THAT! DIDN'T YOU EVER HEAR OF LADIES FIRST??

BUT OF COURSE, JEAN, MY SWEET! IN THE SAME PLACE THAT I HEARD "TIME AND TIDE WAIT FOR NO MAN!"



WELL! IT SEEMS THAT EVEN THE SCHOLARLY BEAST HAS TO BE TAUGHT SOME MANNERS NOW AND THEN!

HMMM! TO PARAPHRASE AN OLD CLICHÉ --NEVER UNDERESTIMATE THE TELEKINETIC POWER OF A WOMAN!



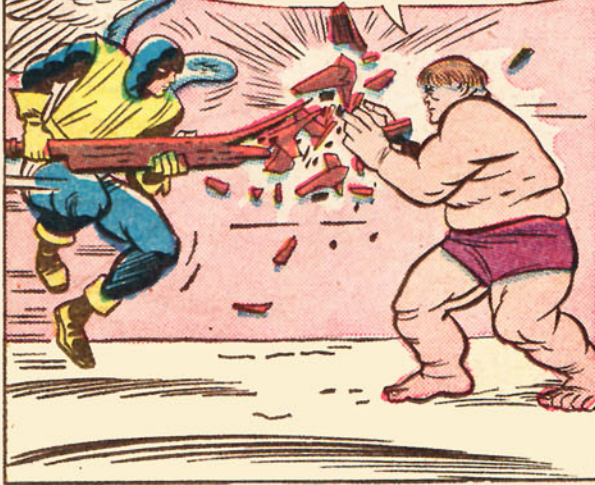
X-MEN!! I INTEND TO PUT THE ENTIRE CITY UNDER MY CONTROL! I CHALLENGE YOU TO STOP ME! YOU CAN FIND ME WAITING AT THE FOLLOWING ADDRESS--

MOVE IT, ALL OF YOU!! MAGNETO'S CONTACTING US! THIS IS IT!!



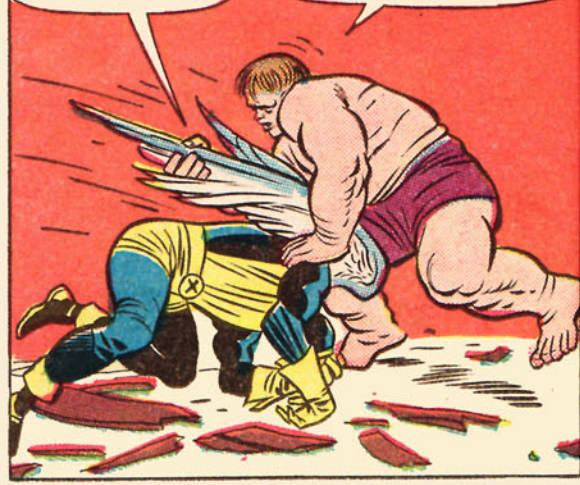
BUT, THE POWERFUL BLADE SNAPS TO SHREDS AT THE FIRST IMPACT AGAINST THE BLOB'S UNCANNY FLESH!!

A LOT OF GOOD THAT PIECE OF TIN WILL DO YOU!! YOU'RE FIGHTING THE BLOB NOW--THE ONE ENEMY YOU CAN'T EVER BEAT!



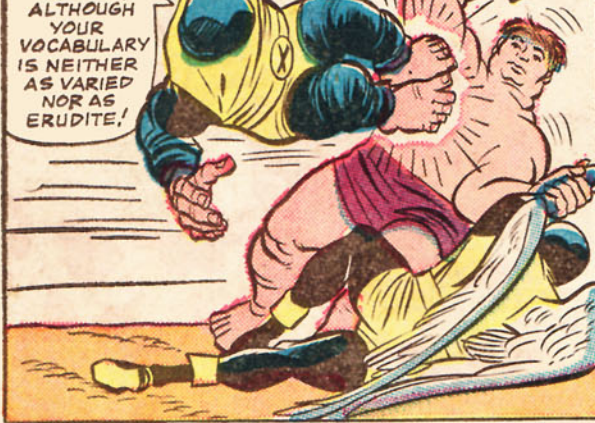
THERE'S NO ONE THE X-MEN CAN'T BEAT, MISTER-- AND DON'T YOU FORGET IT!! WE PROVED THAT ONCE, THE LAST TIME WE MET-- UHH!

SURE-- BUT YOU HAD PROFESSOR'S X'S BRAIN TO HELP YOU! NOW HE ISN'T HERE-- AND ONCE I GET MY HANDS ON SOMETHING, NOTHING CAN PRY THEM LOOSE!



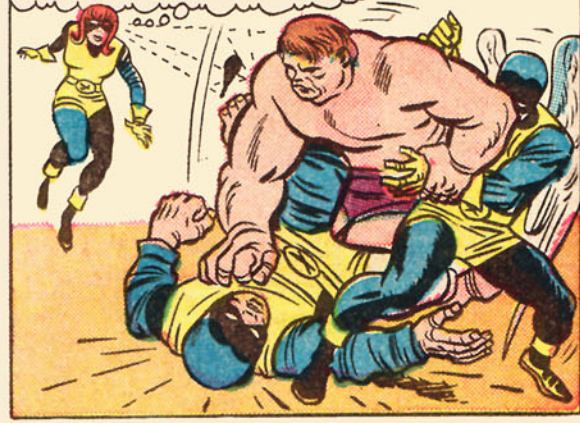
ARE YOU AWARE THAT YOU TALK ALMOST AS MUCH AS I DO, BLOB? ALTHOUGH YOUR VOCABULARY IS NEITHER AS VARIED NOR AS ERUDITE!

WHUP!



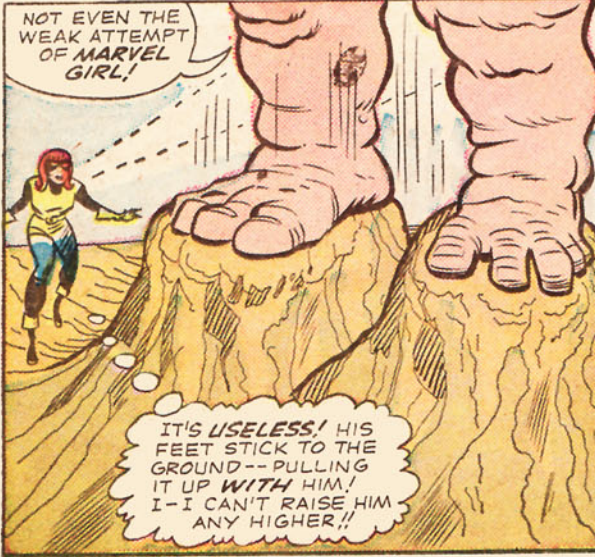
THE BEAST'S ATTACK WOULD HAVE BOWLED OVER A HIPPO, BUT THE BLOB TOOK IT! NOW HE'S GOT THEM BOTH! PERHAPS I CAN MAKE HIM RELEASE THEM BY RAISING HIM TELEKINETICALLY--!

I WARNED YOU --NOTHING CAN BREAK MY GRIP! NOTHING!



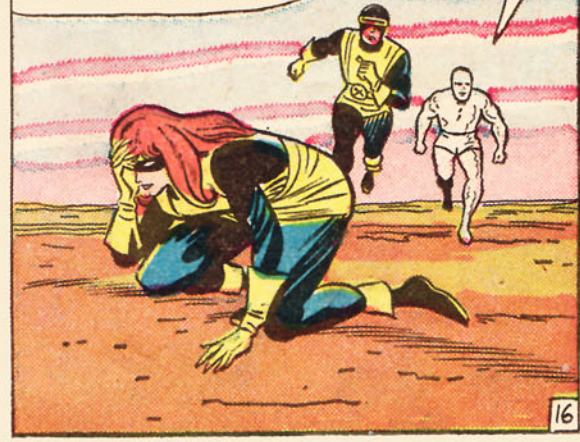
NOT EVEN THE WEAK ATTEMPT OF MARVEL GIRL!

IT'S USELESS! HIS FEET STICK TO THE GROUND-- PULLING IT UP WITH HIM! I-I CAN'T RAISE HIM ANY HIGHER!!



JEAN!! YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE STRAINED YOURSELF AGAINST IMPOSSIBLE ODDS LIKE THAT! LEAVE HIM TO ME NOW!! ONLY MY POWER BEAM CAN BEAT HIM!

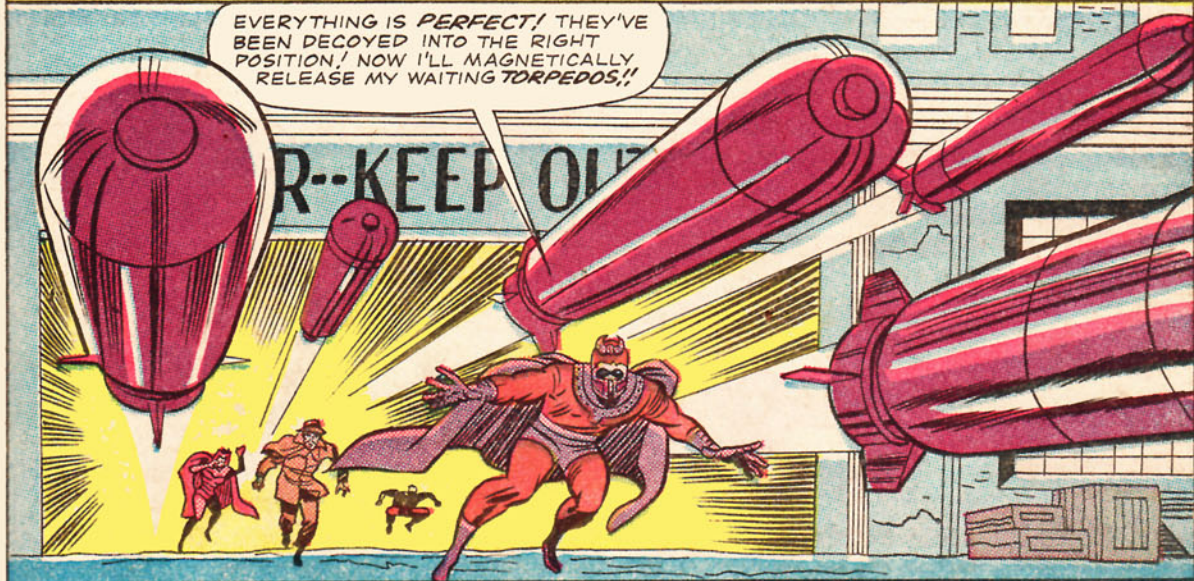
BOY! YOU'VE GOT ONE QUALIFICATION FOR A GROUP LEADER, SCOTTY! YOU'VE SURE GOT CONFIDENCE!



BUT, THE EVIL MAGNETO CHOOSES THAT VERY INSTANT TO LAUNCH HIS PREVIOUSLY-PREPARED ATTACK--!

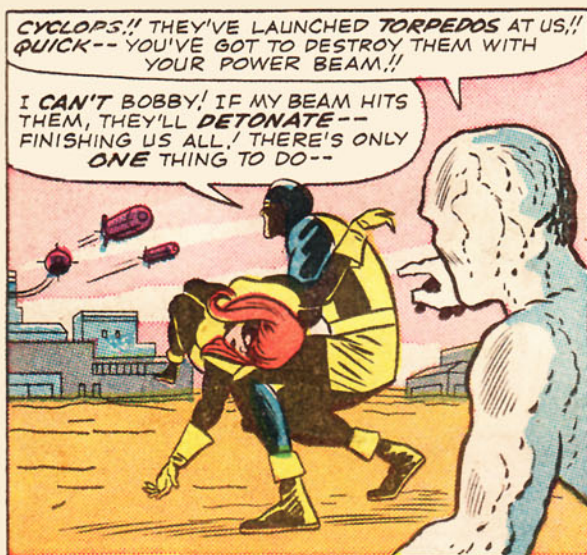
EVERYTHING IS PERFECT! THEY'VE BEEN DECOYED INTO THE RIGHT POSITION! NOW I'LL MAGNETICALLY RELEASE MY WAITING TORPEDOS!!

R--KEEP OUT



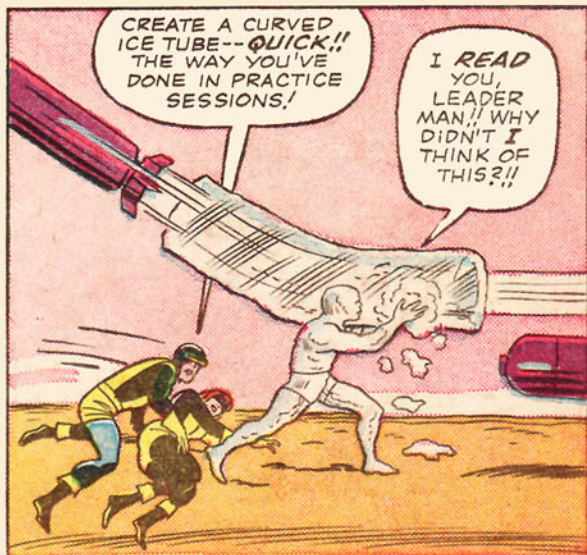
CYCLOPS!! THEY'VE LAUNCHED TORPEDOS AT US!! QUICK-- YOU'VE GOT TO DESTROY THEM WITH YOUR POWER BEAM!!

I CAN'T BOBBY! IF MY BEAM HITS THEM, THEY'LL DETONATE-- FINISHING US ALL! THERE'S ONLY ONE THING TO DO--



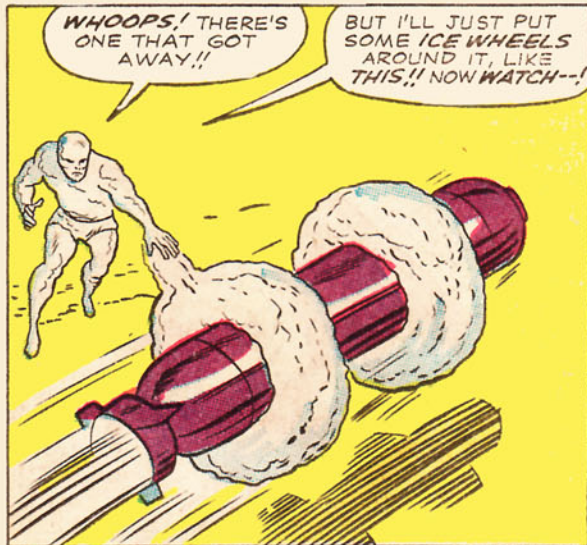
CREATE A CURVED ICE TUBE-- QUICK!! THE WAY YOU'VE DONE IN PRACTICE SESSIONS!

I READ YOU, LEADER MAN!! WHY DIDN'T I THINK OF THIS?!!



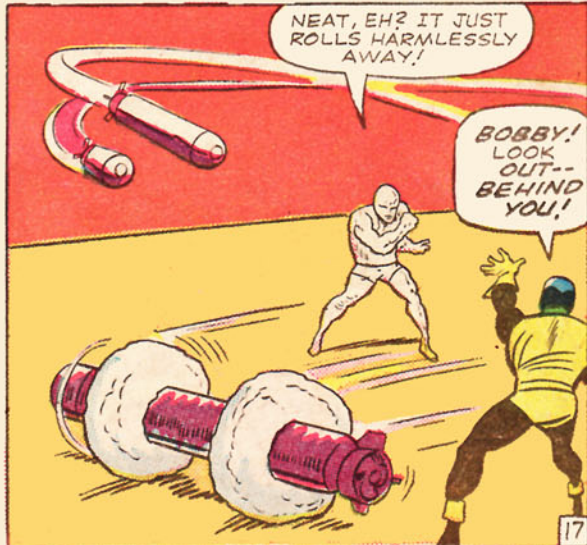
WHOOOPS! THERE'S ONE THAT GOT AWAY!!

BUT I'LL JUST PUT SOME ICE WHEELS AROUND IT, LIKE THIS!! NOW WATCH--!

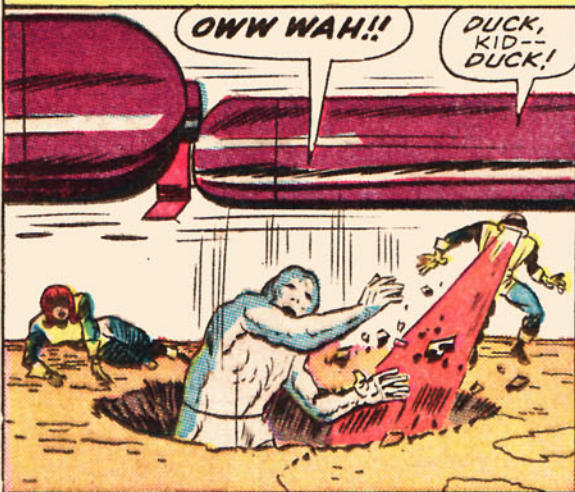


NEAT, EH? IT JUST ROLLS HARMLESSLY AWAY!

BOBBY! LOOK OUT-- BEHIND YOU!

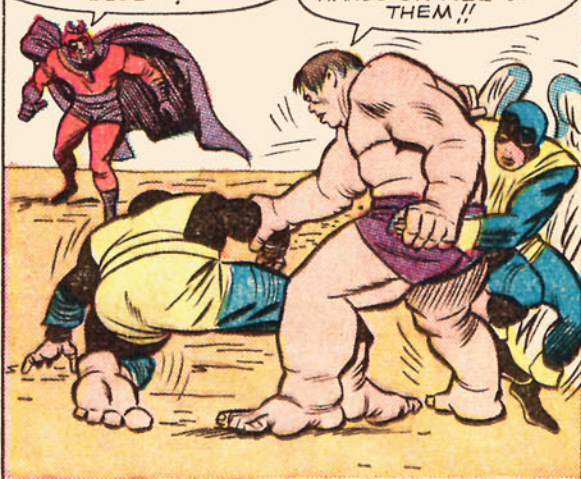


MOVING WITH THE SPEED OF THOUGHT, THE DYNAMIC CYCLOPS BLASTS A HOLE UNDER ICE-MAN'S FEET, DEEP ENOUGH FOR BOBBY TO DROP BELOW THE PATH OF THE DEADLY MISSILES!!

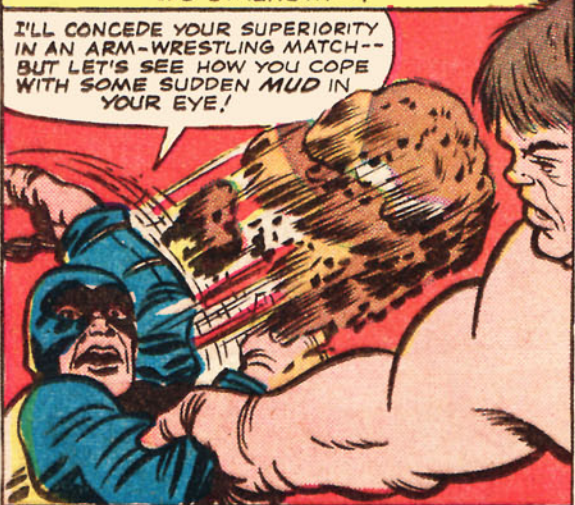


THEY'RE TOO FAST-- TOO CLEVER FOR MY TORPEDOS! BUT, IF I CAN GET THEM WITHIN REACH OF YOU, BLOB--!

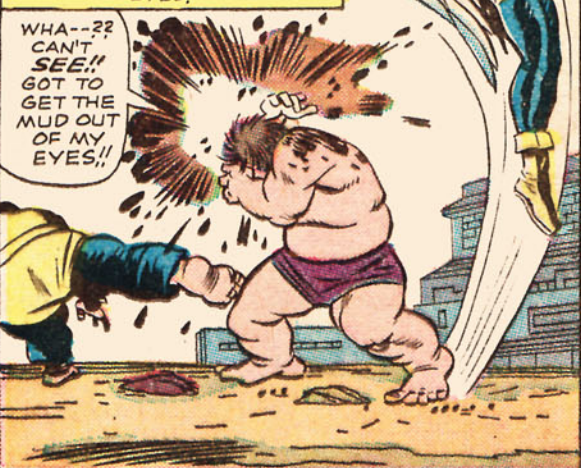
I TOLD YOU I COULD HANDLE THEM! JUST GET THEM OVER TO ME-- LET ME GET MY HANDS ON ALL OF THEM!!



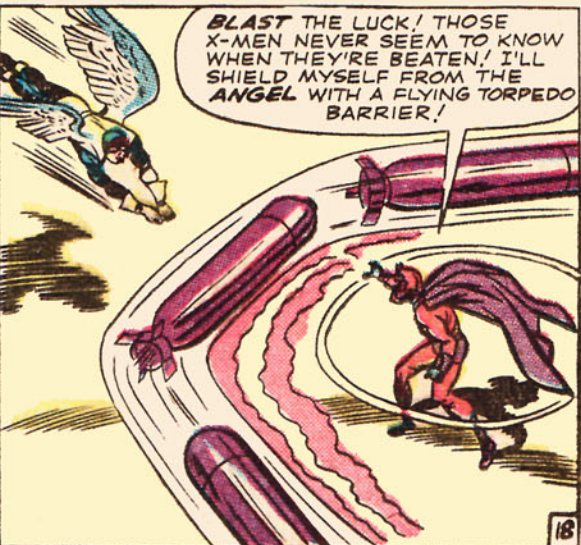
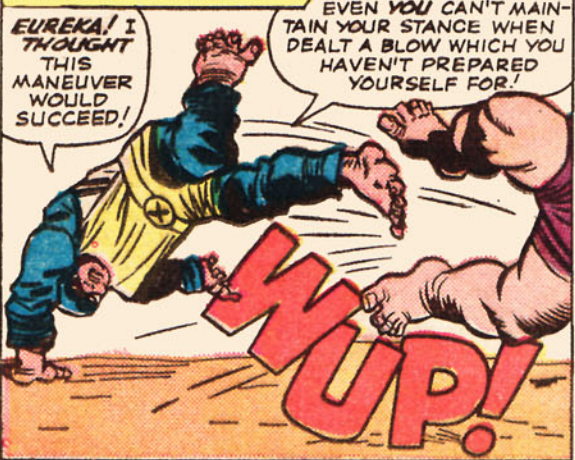
BUT, UNLIKE THE BLOB, THE QUICK-THINKING BEAST HAS HIS WITS TO RELY ON, AS WELL AS HIS STRENGTH--!

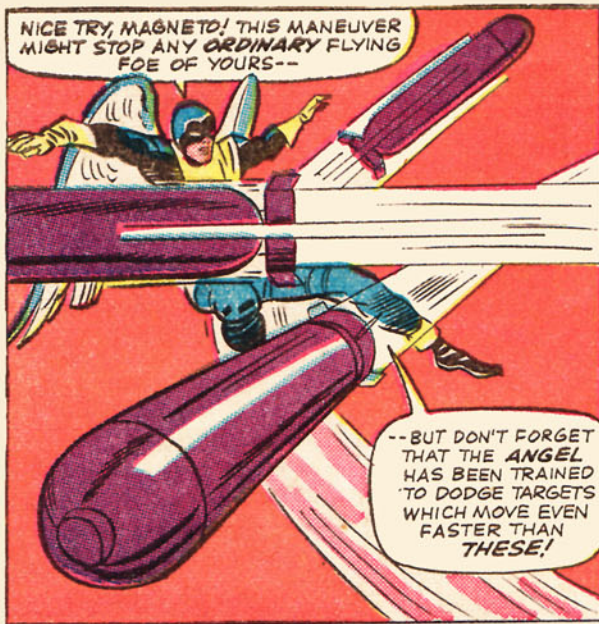


TAKEN UNAWARES, THE SLOWER-WITTED BLOB RELEASES HIS UNBREAKABLE GRIP AS HE FOLLOWS THE NATURAL IMPULSE TO RUB HIS EYES!



BUT, INSTEAD OF RACING OUT OF REACH OF THE BLOB, THE BEAST ONCE MORE MAKES AN UNEXPECTED MOVE, WHILE HIS GARGANTUAN OPPONENT IS STILL OFF-BALANCE--!





NICE TRY, MAGNETO! THIS MANEUVER MIGHT STOP ANY ORDINARY FLYING FOE OF YOURS--

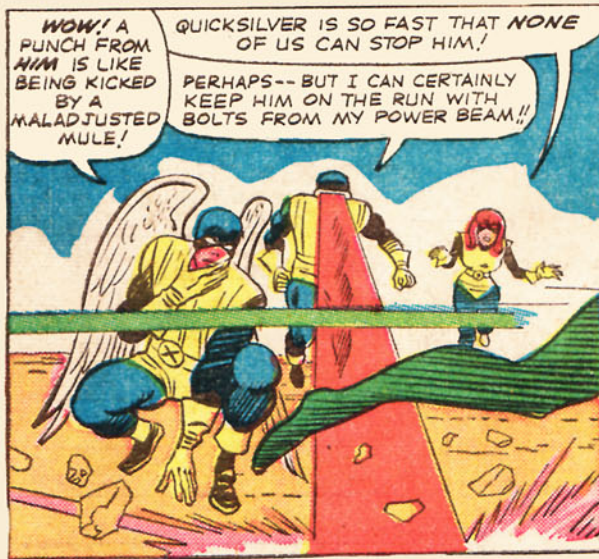
--BUT DON'T FORGET THAT THE ANGEL HAS BEEN TRAINED TO DODGE TARGETS WHICH MOVE EVEN FASTER THAN THESE!



CARELESS FOOL! YOU FLEW TOO LOW!

GET HIM, QUICKSILVER!!

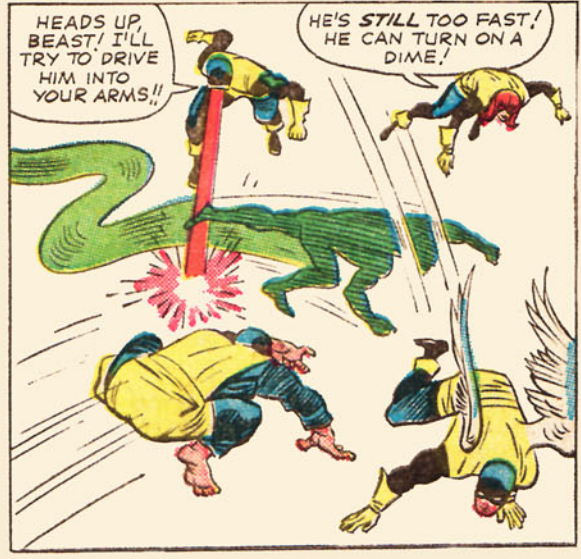
UHHH!



WOW! A PUNCH FROM HIM IS LIKE BEING KICKED BY A MALADJUSTED MULE!

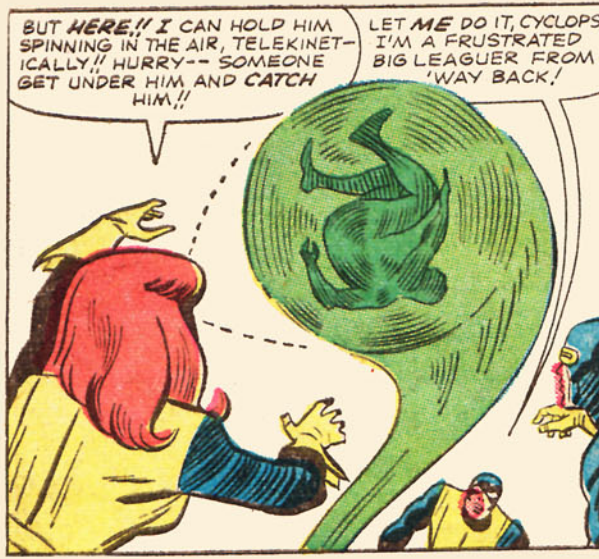
QUICKSILVER IS SO FAST THAT NONE OF US CAN STOP HIM!

PERHAPS-- BUT I CAN CERTAINLY KEEP HIM ON THE RUN WITH BOLTS FROM MY POWER BEAM!!



HEADS UP, BEAST! I'LL TRY TO DRIVE HIM INTO YOUR ARMS!!

HE'S STILL TOO FAST! HE CAN TURN ON A DIME!



BUT HERE!! I CAN HOLD HIM SPINNING IN THE AIR, TELEKINETICALLY!! HURRY-- SOMEONE GET UNDER HIM AND CATCH HIM!!

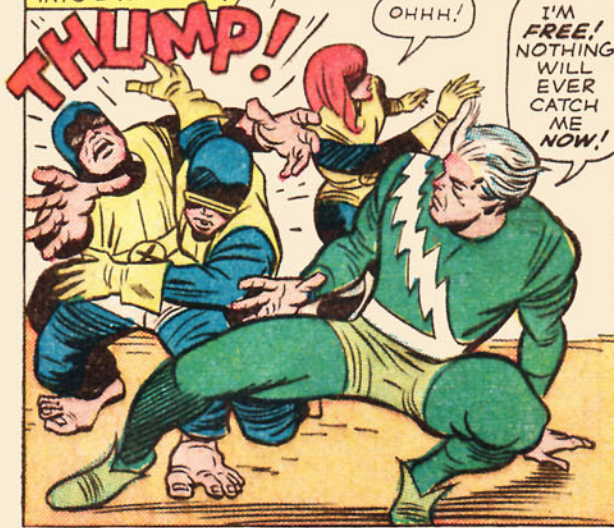
LET ME DO IT, CYCLOPS! I'M A FRUSTRATED BIG LEAGUER FROM 'WAY BACK!



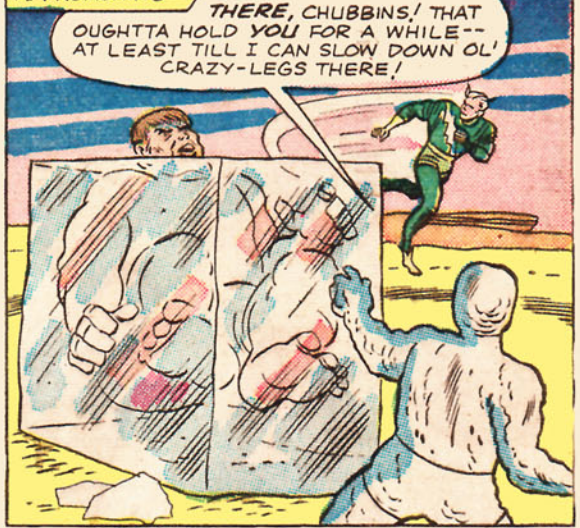
MY BROTHER IS TRAPPED!! I'VE GOT TO FREE HIM WITH MY HEX POWER!

NO, YOU LITTLE FOOL! DON'T DISTRACT THEM! I WANT THEM GATHERED IN ONE GROUP LIKE THAT!!

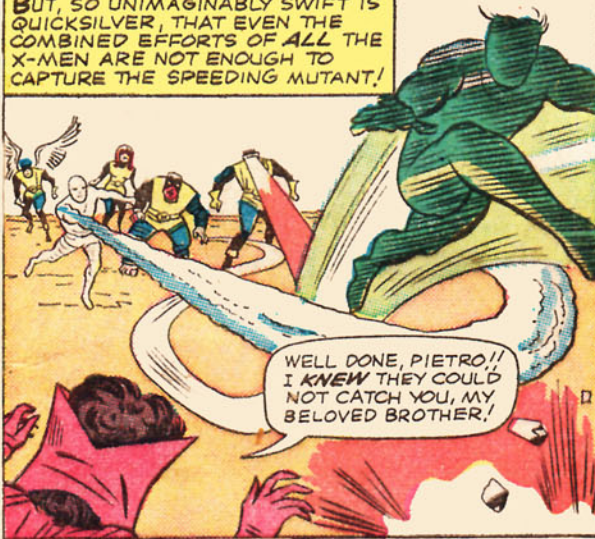
BUT MAGNETO'S COMMAND COMES TOO LATE! HIT WITH THE SCARLET WITCH'S HEX POWER, THE BEAST AND CYCLOPS CANNOT STOP THEMSELVES FROM COLLIDING INTO EACH OTHER!



THEN, THE DARING ICEMAN, TRYING HIS OWN STRATEGY FOR RESTRAINING THE POWERFUL BLOB, SEES THE LIGHTNING-SWIFT QUICKSILVER APPROACHING--



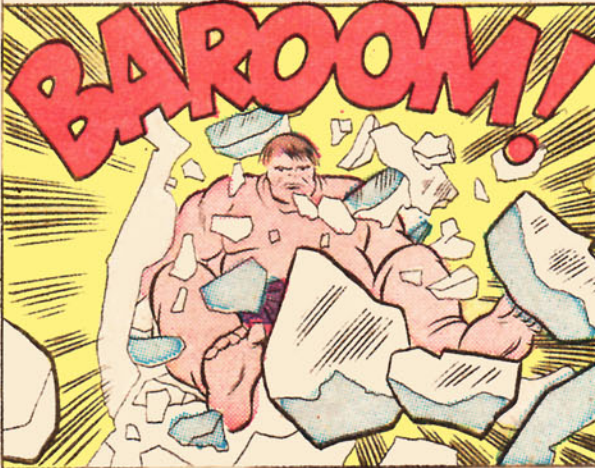
BUT, SO UNIMAGINABLY SWIFT IS QUICKSILVER, THAT EVEN THE COMBINED EFFORTS OF ALL THE X-MEN ARE NOT ENOUGH TO CAPTURE THE SPEEDING MUTANT!



FALL IN BEHIND ME NOW! THE BATTLE LINE IS DRAWN-- WE'RE ALL TOGETHER IN A BODY-- JUST AS MAGNETO'S MUTANTS ARE-- THIS IS IT-- THE FINAL ATTACK!



BUT, BEFORE ANOTHER MOVE CAN BE MADE, THE GARGANTUAN BLOB EXPANDS HIS ENORMOUS BULK UNTIL THE BLOCK OF ICE WHICH CONFINED HIM SHATTERS WITH A DEAFENING ROAR!



YOU HAVE USED EVERY POWER YOU POSSESS AGAINST ME, AND FAILED! NOW, IT'S MY TURN-- BUT WITH THIS ONE DIFFERENCE -- THE BLOB SHALL NOT FAIL!

WAIT! DON'T MAKE ME BLAST YOU WITH MY POWER BEAM! STOP! WE'VE NO REASON TO FIGHT! WHY SHOULD YOU SERVE MAGNETO? HE'S ONLY USING YOU--





AT LAST! THEY'RE ALL IN ONE GROUP! NOW MY TORPEDOS CAN FINISH THEM ALL OFF!

BUT--THE BLOB!! HE'S THERE WITH THEM, TOO!!

THAT'S HIS HARD LUCK! HE'S SERVED HIS PURPOSE!!

NO!! YOU CAN'T! YOU MUSTN'T!

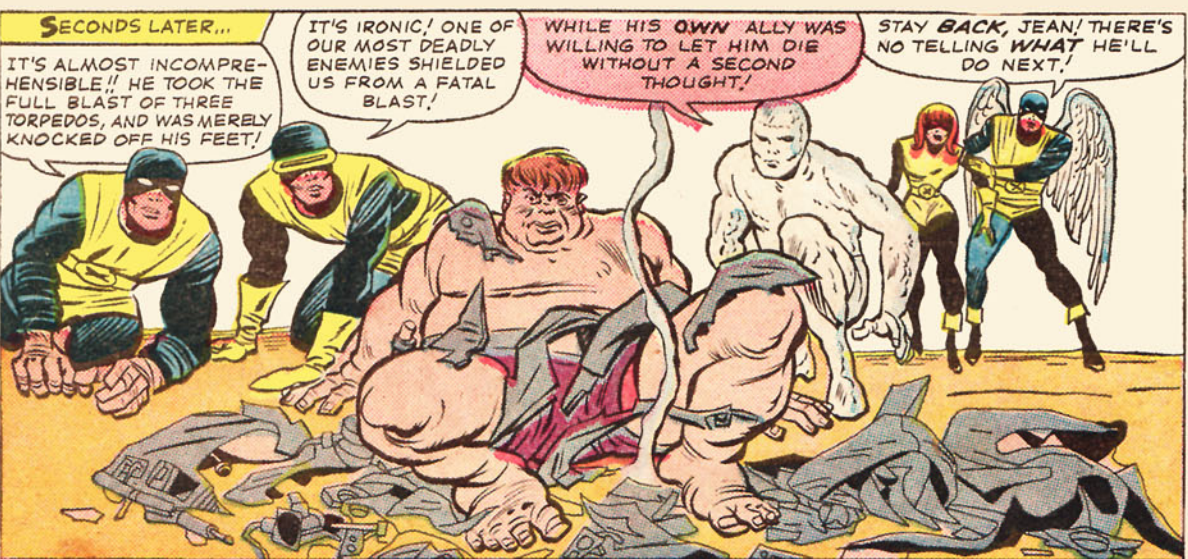


LOOK OUT!

I'LL SHIELD YOU, JEAN!

QUICK--BEHIND THE BLOB--ALL OF YOU!!

MAGNETO!! NO! DON'T STOP!! OHHHH!



SECONDS LATER...

IT'S ALMOST INCOMPREHENSIBLE!! HE TOOK THE FULL BLAST OF THREE TORPEDOS, AND WAS MERELY KNOCKED OFF HIS FEET!

IT'S IRONIC! ONE OF OUR MOST DEADLY ENEMIES SHIELDED US FROM A FATAL BLAST!

WHILE HIS OWN ALLY WAS WILLING TO LET HIM DIE WITHOUT A SECOND THOUGHT!

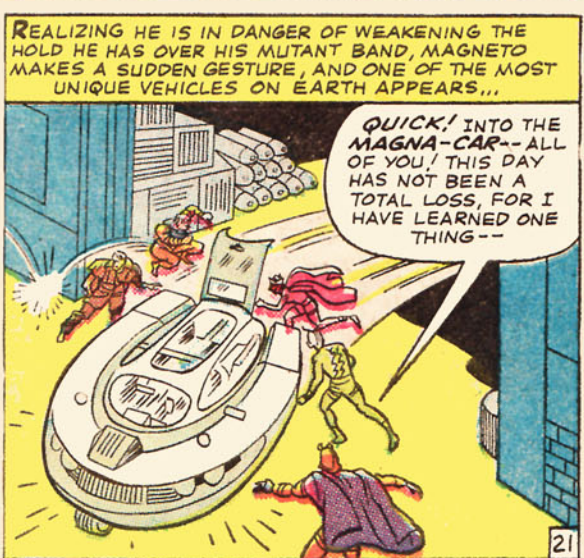
STAY BACK, JEAN! THERE'S NO TELLING WHAT HE'LL DO NEXT!



I HAD EVERYTHING FIGURED PERFECTLY! BUT THE BLOB SPOILED MY PLAN! HE WAS IN THE WAY!! AGAIN I'VE FAILED!!

MAGNETO, I KNOW YOU SAVED MY LIFE ONCE--AND BECAUSE OF THAT, I OWE YOU MY ALLEGIANCE! BUT I CAN'T TAKE ANY MORE OF THIS SENSELESS CARNAGE-- I CAN'T--!

EASY, WANDA! DO NOT LOSE CONTROL! WE SHALL TALK OF THIS LATER!



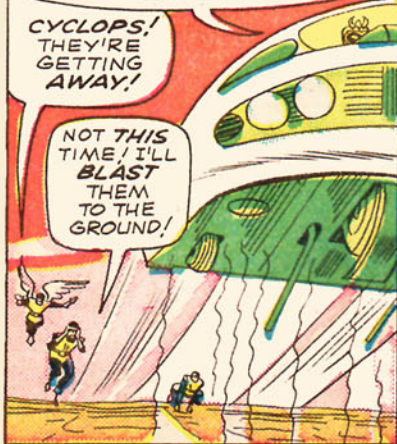
REALIZING HE IS IN DANGER OF WEAKENING THE HOLD HE HAS OVER HIS MUTANT BAND, MAGNETO MAKES A SUDDEN GESTURE, AND ONE OF THE MOST UNIQUE VEHICLES ON EARTH APPEARS...

QUICK! INTO THE MAGNA-CAR-- ALL OF YOU! THIS DAY HAS NOT BEEN A TOTAL LOSS, FOR I HAVE LEARNED ONE THING--

PROFESSOR X WAS NOT WITH THEM TODAY-- NOT EVEN MENTALLY, ELSE I WOULD HAVE SENSED HIS BRAIN WAVES! THAT MEANS THE X-MEN FIGHT ALONE NOW! THEREFORE, I SHALL PLAN MY STRATEGY DIFFERENTLY FOR OUR NEXT BATTLE!

CYCLOPS! THEY'RE GETTING AWAY!

NOT THIS TIME! I'LL BLAST THEM TO THE GROUND!



WAIT! THE SCARLET WITCH-- SHE'S ABOARD ALSO!

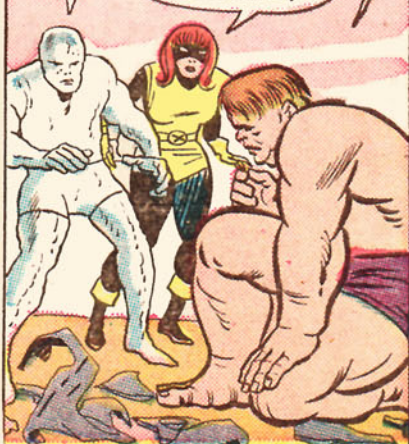
YOU'RE RIGHT! AND HER BROTHER, QUICKSILVER! SOMEHOW, I CAN'T BRING MYSELF TO BELIEVE THAT THEY ARE AS EVIL AS THE OTHERS!



WELL, PUDGY-- IT LOOKS AS IF YOUR PALS RAN OUT ON YOU, EH?

PALS?? THE BLOB HAS NO PALS!! I REALIZE THAT NOW!

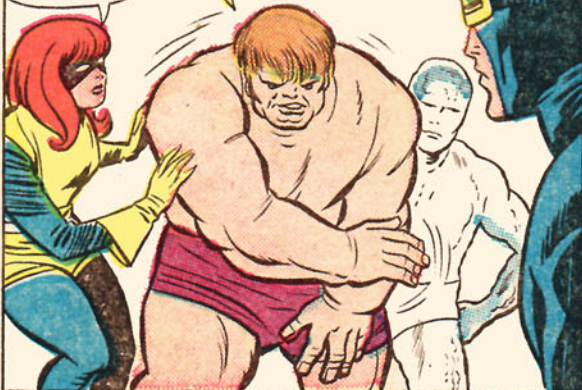
WHY DON'T YOU JOIN US?? WE'VE NO NEED TO BE ENEMIES!



YOU COULD RECEIVE X-MAN TRAINING! AND PERHAPS, IN TIME, IF YOU QUALIFY--

NO! I'M THRU WITH MUTANTS-- THRU WITH FIGHTING OTHER PEOPLE'S FIGHTS! I'LL NEVER TRUST ANYONE AGAIN!

I SEEM TO REMEMBER SOMETHING THE PROFESSOR ONCE SAID-- LONG AGO--



THERE ARE GOOD MUTANTS, AND BAD MUTANTS! AND THERE ARE ALSO SOME WHO HATE BEING MUTANTS -- SOME WHO TURN AWAY FROM THE GREAT RESPONSIBILITY THEIR POWER IMPOSES UPON THEM!

I'VE NO HATE LEFT IN ME! I'M JUST WEARY! I'M GOING BACK-- TO THE ONLY PLACE WHERE I BELONG-- TO THE CARNY! I'VE LIVED A SIDESHOW FREAK --AND THAT'S HOW I'LL DIE!



RIDICULOUS AS IT MAY SEEM, I ALMOST FIND MYSELF PITTING THAT TRAGIC HUMAN BEHEMOTH!

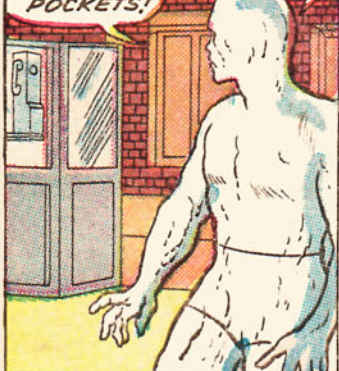
I SURE HOPE HE NEVER CHANGES HIS MIND! I WOULDN'T WANNA HAVE TO FIGHT HIM AGAIN!

SCRATCH ONE WHIRLY-BIRD, X-MEN! THIS WRECKAGE IS BEYOND REPAIR!



WELL, I GUESS WE'LL HAVE TO PHONE FOR A TAXI! UH OH-- I HAVEN'T ANY CHANGE IN MY POCKETS-- IN FACT-- NO POCKETS!

KNOW SOMETHIN'? WE'RE GONNA FEEL LIKE NUTS WALKING HOME THRU THE STREETS LIKE THIS!



HAVE NO FEAR-- ANGEL'S HERE! I'LL FLY AHEAD AND HAIL A TAXI-- FOR US!

WHILE YOU'RE AT IT, BORROW THE FARE! YOUR "GROUP LEADER'S" BROKE!



THE END

AND SO ANOTHER X-MAN ADVENTURE BECOMES HISTORY! BUT, WILL WE SEE MORE OF MAGNETO'S EVIL MUTANTS? WILL WE SEE NEW DANGER AND SURPRISES? WILL WE?? ARE YOU KIDDIN'??! NOW, TO ALL YOU HAPPY HOMO SAPIENS-- SO LONG... TILL NEXT ISH!

Let's visit the **X-MEN**

Please address
your letters to:

THE X-MEN
Third Floor
655 Madison Ave.
New York 21, N. Y.

Dear Stan and Jack,

I have never before written a fan letter to any magazine, comic or otherwise, but I felt impelled to do so now in the interest of one of your best characters. Please do not write out Professor Xavier from your X-Men! He is by far the best character in the series. His performances against the Vanisher and the Blob were outstanding, and I should think would have convinced anyone that he definitely belongs among the X-Men permanently. My husband is no comic magazine reader but he has become a regular reader of the X-Men. He instructs me to warn you that if Professor Xavier is no longer featured, he will never buy the book again. I have been reading comic magazines perhaps as long as they have been in existence as we know them, and yours are really unusual. Their unique appeal, of course, is mainly the marvelous characterizations. The actions and reactions of your heroes are apt, amusing, and convincing. If the opinion of a comparatively elderly reader (I am 33 years old and have never felt apologetic about my interest in comic magazines) is of any value, your Marvel Group of comics is the best literature in its field. With thanks for many entertaining hours—

Mrs. Laura Frankland, White Head
Grand Manan, New Brunswick, Canada

YIPE! No sooner do we send poor Professor X on his merry way than we receive the above letter! Well, take heart, Mr. and Mrs. Frankland—we haven't seen the last of ol' high-forehead! He'll keep popping up again, as most of our characters seem to do, when you least expect him!

Dear Stan and Jack,

Give each X-Man a separate costume. Often the mutants who the X-Men are fighting are more colorful than the X-Men themselves! Another fan told me this and I think he's right. Separate costumes would make the X-Men much more exciting than they already are. Well, keep up the good work. I think that you've really got something here with the X-Men. It's the best mag that you've got at Marvel and the only thing that may be able to beat it is your new mag Daredevil.

Jim Rossow, 906 Beale St.
South Bend, Ind.

It's okay with us, Jimmy—as long as we keep it in the family! (The Marvel family, natch!) As for separate costumes, how do you feel about it out there in Marvel land?

Dear Stan and Jack,

"The Angel is Trapped" was a great story and I was glad to see Cyclops getting in the act more than usual. He's the best of the X-Men mainly because he's more sensible than the others and doesn't seem like a teenager. I don't care too much for most of your teenage heroes, mainly the Torch.

Jerry Phillips, 16714-F So. Yukon Ave.
Torrance, Cal.

Is it because you don't like teen-agers, Jerry? Or because you don't like the way WE portray teen-agers? Anyway, Cyclops thanks you, and the Torch says "Gowan back to Yancy Street!"

Dear Stan and Jack,

Here in Bangkok, Thailand, we get X-Men, Avengers, FF, Spider-Man and other members of the Marvel cast. I can hardly wait to see what happens in the X-Men stories. Keep up the good work, for we here in Thailand appreciate your fine stories!

Frederic Puhan, U.S. Embassy,
165 Rajadamri Rd., Bangkok, Thailand

Much obliged, Fred! And, as for your impatience to see what happens in our yarns, we've heard from other readers that even after you READ them it's usually tough to figure out what in blazes was going on!

Dear Stan and Jack,

The X-Men are great, wonderful and stupendous. They are different from any other comic group. Every time I finish one I feel as though my brain has been drained of all its power! I just sit there in a trance for a while. #5 was the best yet what with Professor X and the final exam. I feel the X-Men will rise to new heights in the Marvel Age of Comics. Everyone is talking about Beatlemania—it should be Marvelmania!

Larry Walters, 3589 N.W. 53rd
Oklahoma City, Okla.

Heck—we always thought it WAS!

Dear Stan and Jack,

The X-Men is my favorite. The cover of the May issue was very striking. The thing that appeals to me most about the X-Men is when they're in costume, training in the Danger Room. I really like that bit. The Brotherhood of Evil Mutants (with the exception of Mastermind) consists of pretty corny characters (and even cornier dialogue) but the way they operate is alright. Anyway, I wish they'd finally get captured once, even if they escape later. By the way, if the Scarlet Witch is scarlet, how come she's always green on the cover? Taking away Iceman's boots, as far as I'm concerned, was a mistake. He looks ridiculous without them. And Hank (Beast) McCoy looks just as ridiculous with those glasses and his hair the way it is. The rest of the X-Men are okay. I'm dying to see Scott (Cyclops) Summers show some affection for Marvel Girl. It kills me the way you guys put off these romances, so how about it? Have Scott take her on a date or something. I sincerely hope that X-Men will continue to be published for a long time. They're probably your most original group.

Rocky Midyett, 1327 West Devers St.
West Covina, Cal.

Sometimes we change a costume's color on the cover just to balance the design a bit, Rocky! As for the X-Men dating, have a heart, pal! Give 'em some PRIVACY!

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS SECTION:

—Before we go any further, we want to know one thing—Have you read our big new Annuals yet? If not, don't waste another minute—they won't remain on sale much longer! As if you didn't know, they are: FANTASTIC FOUR #2—SPIDER-MAN #1—and MARVEL TALES #1—(We won't discuss our MILLIE THE MODEL ANNUAL in this section—sorry!)

—Okay, now down to business! All those in favor of Scotty being Professor X's deputy leader of the X-Men say "Aye." All those opposed write and tell us about it! However, we'll take a guess right now—most of you will say "Aye"! We'll print the result later on.

—Next question—are you getting fed up with seeing so much of Magneto's merry mutants—or do you want lots more? There's a lot of strong feeling on both sides so we're anxious to take a count!

—NEXT ish of X-MEN (which we haven't finished yet at the time of this writing) will contain a few surprises—and we'll try to drag in an unexpected guest star or two! So be sure to be with us—you KNOW how lonely we get!