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**SPECIAL  
EDITION**

**X-MEN PRIMER  
PART ONE**



## Table of Contents

Ruthie-chan's Corner	3
A Few Changes	3
X-men Primer	4
Why the changes	13
SFFAMOC!	13
Where be Con Listings?	14
Guidelines, etc..	14



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### ART:

Eric Glasgow: cover (dude)  
Ruth R. Davidson: cover (x-men symbol)  
Usagi: 3, 12  
Sarah E. Glasgow: pg. 2

*X-men is the property of Marvel Comics.*

**www.SFFAMOC.net  
is live!**

# Ruthie-chan's [Editor's] Corner

I was laying awake in bed, thinking about all the things I need to do and wondering how in hells bells am I going to get The MANGAVERSE out by the end of the month? I didn't want the August issue to come out in September, and I didn't want to come up with a sub par zine, again. I feel like I could have done much better with a few of the previous issues. I, then and there, came to the conclusion that I would have to write everyone an apology letter saying that there wasn't going to be an August issue. I figured it's better to skip a month and have a better zine than to quickly write stuff up and have it suck hard core. Soon after that decision was made, I fell asleep.

The following day, I arose from my grave, and after morning necessities, I stumbled over to my little corner where my desk and computer are placed. First thing, I download my email. Lo' and Behold! Priscilla Johnson sent me an email saying, here's Part One of the X-men Article! I thought, HUZZAH! I don't have to skip August!

Priscilla, you are my hero, the timing was perfect; and thank you for writing it, you've done a superb job and I can't wait for the next installment.

## A Few Changes

Another thing I have been thinking long and hard about, is what I allow to be printed.

I will no longer accept serialized comics unless they are short and I receive the entire story. The whole one page an issue just doesn't work. If you want to do something regular, then you need to find your own web space and put up a page a week. That works much better.

The only time I will accept one page at a time is when it's not a story, but a four or six or whatever panel comic with a punch line.

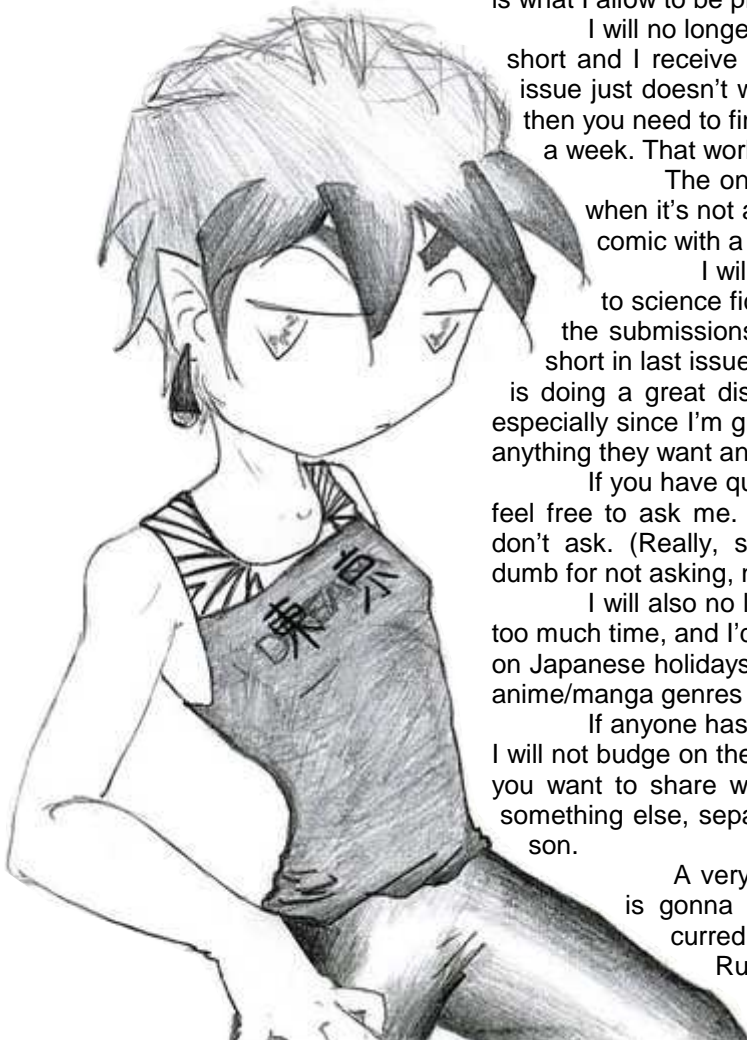
I will no longer print anything that's not related to science fiction and/or fantasy. While I liked some of the submissions I received that weren't SF/F based (the short in last issue about the cat comes to mind) I feel that it is doing a great disservice to this zine to make exceptions, especially since I'm giving people the idea that they can submit anything they want and I'll print it.

If you have questions on what classifies as SF/F please feel free to ask me. The only stupid question is the one you don't ask. (Really, sometimes that just means you're being dumb for not asking, not that the question itself is dumb.)

I will also no longer be printing the con-lists. It takes up too much time, and I'd rather use that time to do some research on Japanese holidays, culture and beliefs to help you enjoy the anime/manga genres more. Page 14 has con-list websites.

If anyone has a problem with these changes talk to me. I will not budge on them, but, if you have a complete comic that you want to share with people and it's not SF/F, we can do something else, separate from this zine. I am not without reason.

A very minor change is that the Editor's Corner is gonna be called Ruthie-chan's Corner. It's occurred to me that some people don't know that Ruthie-chan is my handle. It's caused slight confusion a bit ago.



Contd. pg. 13

# THE X-MEN PRIMER

BY PRISCILLA JOHNSON

## BEHIND THE SCENES

The X-Men--"The Strangest Super-Heroes of All". It debuted in 1963. At the time, radiation was a popular, catchall explanation for mutation, and the acquisition of super-powers. Science fiction of the mid-1940s on used this device all the time. "X-Men" was created by **Stan Lee** and **Jack "King" Kirby**.

Stan Lee had written in several genres. In the late 50's, he wrote nearly every book in Timely Comics. He created the flawed superhero in an attempt to outdo DC.

Kirby wasn't just an artist; he was an incredible Idea Man. He created several books for DC and most of the main characters for the Marvel books. He could write stories, too. Seeing this, Lee dropped the full-script custom. Instead, writer and artist would discuss a story (or Lee would type a plot outline) the artist would go off and draw it and then Lee or his brother would supply the words." (1)

At first, the proto-Marvel company (it was called Timely then) put out Westerns and monster books. But sales were dropping so Kirby and Lee came up with "The Fantastic Four": a team of explorers with strange powers. The FF wasn't perfect: they were vulnerable and their stories could be serious. It attracted an older audience than DC Comics did. Lee and Kirby eschewed formula and did new exciting ideas.

## PART ONE: ENTER CHARLES X!

Professor **Charles Xavier's** parents worked on the Manhattan Project. The higher radiation level they were exposed to changed their genes, which they passed on to their son.

Charles Xavier's family was wealthy. Things might have been idyllic--except that his father died, and his mother married another nuclear scientist, **Dr. Kurt Marko**. Dr. Marko had a son by a former marriage, **Cain**. Cain was the opposite of Charles in every way--a large, heavily built boy with no interest in abstract things. This disappointed his father, and Cain transferred his rage to Charles. He bullied his new stepbrother unmercifully.

Charles' unusual powers emerged early, but he learned to master them. He has telepathy--the ability to send his thoughts to one or a whole crowd, mind control of one or more people, as well as that of astral projection. He also had a lively intellectual curiosity. He entered college when he was 16. He holds a bachelor's degree in biology, has a master's in Genetics and Biophysics, and holds Ph.Ds in both anthropology and psychiatry. All this learning came in handy for the role he was to play.

To earn his many degrees, Xavier traveled far and wide, from New York's Bard College, to Oxford University in England, where he met **Moira McTaggart**,\* a fellow science student. They fell in love. They planned to be married, but then Xavier was drafted and sent to Asia. He discovered that his stepbrother Cain was in the same unit he was. Charles was there when Cain found a magical ruby in the ruined temple of Cyttorak—which transformed him into the Juggernaut. The Juggernaut then left Asia, a brand new super-villain.

Charles still hadn't recovered from Moira's breaking off the engagement. After leaving the army, he traveled to Cairo, where he had his wallet stolen by a little white-haired pickpocket. Xavier ran after her, using his mental powers to keep track of her. (Years later, that little thief would become vitally important to the X-Men. More on her later.)

There was something different about her. Xavier froze her in her tracks with a mild force bolt. He perceived her hidden mutant talent, began to investigate—and was hit by a mental force bolt filled with intensely negative energy. It knocked him out.

When he came to, the pickpocket was gone. Xavier sensed that the bolt came from a saloon close by. He puts his psi-shields up and goes into the saloon. Quickly he probes everyone in the bar, but none are mutants. Then the saloon owner arrives.

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(1)The Comic Book Heroes, "The Marvel Age of Comics," page 72.

He is an older, corpulent man named in dark glasses. He and Xavier speak telepathically. The other mutant is **Amahl Farouk**, who runs the Thieves' Quarter here in Cairo. Farouk is the **Shadow King**. "I felt his thoughts. It was like swimming in a sea of maggots" (2).

Farouk asks him to join his criminal enterprise. Xavier refuses. Farouk has a contemptuous view of non-mutants—they're there to be used as one sees fit. He's very Nietzschean in his outlook.

Charles disagrees. He believes that mutant powers obligated their owner to use them responsibly and for the good of all. He challenges young Xavier to a duel on the astral plane. There, one's weapons are limited only by one's imagination. Xavier fights him and wins.

This inspired Xavier to begin his dream of mutants and humans living in harmony.

In Israel, he visits an old friend of his, **Dr. Daniel Shomron**, a psychiatrist who specializes in Holocaust survivor cases. Xavier has worked with Dr. Shomron before, in a MASH unit. Xavier helped Dr. Shomron with the worst mental cases, and impressed the other as "the best instinctive psychologist I'd ever seen." (3)

Dr. Shomron introduces Xavier to a volunteer working at the hospital named **Magnus**. He even has some numbers tattooed on his arm. Xavier notes that Magnus' mind can't be read. He has natural psi shielding as good as Xavier's. He wonders if Magnus is a mutant, too.

Magnus tells him that he grew up in Auschwitz. Of all his family, only he survived.

Dr. Shomron introduces him to a patient named Gabrielle Haller. A victim of the brutality of the Dachau concentration camp, she retreated into a state of catatonic schizophrenia. Dr. Shomron asks Xavier to help her.

Xavier enters her mind, finds a symbolic wall defended by monsters. After dealing with them and Gabrielle's horrific real life memories, he sees something bizarre. The Nazi commander turns her into gold.

With that, the spell is broken. (Unfortunately, there's a malign observer just outside of Gabrielle's hospital room. On seeing her wake, he rushes off to his leader with the news.)

With the help of both Xavier and Magnus, Gabrielle adjusts to life in Israel. The three friends travel the country seeing the sights.

During their travels, Xavier discusses his ideas on "human evolution mutation." But Magnus differs with him on things. He discounted Xavier's idealism. "If mutants exist, humanity will fear them and out of that fear try to destroy them." (4) He also thought that dominating H. sapiens was the only way for H. superior to survive.

Suddenly, Hydra (a.k.a. the Nazis) attacks the hospital and kidnap Gabrielle. The hospital guards return fire. Before Charles unbelieving eyes, one of the Hydra transport planes explodes without cause, embraced by an aura of light. He sees Magnus up on the hospital roof, glowing with that same light. Yes, Magnus is a mutant.

The hospital guards captured a prisoner, who refuses to talk. But Xavier simply reads his mind to find out where Hydra took Gaby.

Hydra kidnapped her, because hidden within her mind is the location of tons of gold bars, which are hidden in a mountain. Using their powers (and a couple of Hydra uniforms) Xavier and Magnus rescue Gabrielle. Magnus fights off the Hydra leader, then fires a force bolt through the mountain's roof. First, he magnetically levitates Gabrielle and Xavier through the hole, then the gold bars, and then himself.

Aboveground, Magnus deposits Xavier and Gabrielle on the ground, then flies away with the Nazi gold. That's the last that Xavier will see of Magnus for some time.

Xavier and Gabrielle fall in love, and have an affair. When it ends, Xavier moves on. He does not know that Gabrielle is pregnant with his child.

Later, Xavier encounters **Lucifer**, an alien who was an advance scout for an invading race. During the struggle, Lucifer drops a stone block on Xavier, intending to kill him. Xavier survives, and defeats Lucifer, but his legs are crushed.

Despite this—Xavier begins pursuit of his dream. He sets up the mansion as a boarding school and builds a room for the training of his future students—the Danger Room. Xavier contacted the FBI. Even before Xavier had thought of his sanctuary for mutantkind, the FBI had quietly been monitoring

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(2)Uncanny X-Men # 117, "Psi War," page 16.

(3)Uncanny X-Men #161, "Gold Rush," page 6.

(4)Uncanny X-Men #161, "Gold Rush", page 21.

reports of people with unusual powers nationwide. With the help of the FBI, Xavier tracked down mutants in North America. While he is a full-spectrum telepath, Xavier's powers were limited in range, and Cerebro, that cybernetic force multiplier, hadn't even been thought up yet, much less constructed. (5)

## THE FIRST TEAM: 1963-1974

**Jean Grey** (Marvel Girl) was Xavier's first student. Jean went into a coma after her best friend died in a car accident. After reading her mind, Prof. X learns that she is a telepath. Jean was mind-linked to her friend when she passed away. He helps her deal with those memories, and heals her. Later, he teaches Jean how to develop her latent telekinetic powers. Not only can she levitate her own body, she learns fine control---she can levitate small objects (one or two at a time) she can hold a knife and an apple in midair and peel the apple with the knife---all without touching it. She can do the same thing with a needle and thread. (Much later, **Buffy the Vampire Slayer's** character Willow would demonstrate similar powers. Both girls have red hair.) Later, she learns how to levitate heavy objects with her mind.

**Scott Summers** (Cyclops) The Professor found him in an orphanage, and brings him home to the Institute. Once Scott had had a family. His father, Major Christopher Summers, took his wife and two sons on a trip in a vintage wooden airplane. Unfortunately, their plane was seen by a passing alien spaceship, which was on a mission to collect biological specimens from Earth. The ship shot out a grappling beam. But the plane's wooden body caught fire. Major Summers and his wife strapped little Scott into a parachute. His baby brother, Alex, clung to him as their father pushed them out the door. The last sight Major Christopher saw before he and his wife were teleported away to the spaceship was the canopy of the parachute catch fire.

Scott injured his brain in the fall. Then another evil mutant who called himself Mister Sinister, enters the picture. He scans both of the boys, seeing some interesting genetic potential in them. He sends them to an orphanage that he controls, where he keeps them under surveillance. At night, he tries to turn Scott to the dark side. But the young boy resists him valiantly. Mister Sinister never succeeds in breaking Scott Summers's will to break Scott.

When Scott hits puberty, his mutant powers emerge. Because he suffered damage to the part of his brain that would have controlled his power, he can't control the optic beams that blast forward from his eyes, except by keeping them closed.

These optic beams, despite their color, emit no heat. But they can knock a brick wall down or knock a villain off his feet. On narrow focus, it can display laser precision.

Team leader of the X-Men, Cyclops is a superb tactician. He is a brooding, terse character, but still waters run deep. He was in love with Jean Grey but could never tell her because he feared he'd lose control of his powers.

Cyclops was not one to panic. Always master of the situation, he is a true alpha male. As Wolverine would say, years later, "You know what I admire most about you, Summers? Your icy cold lunacy under pressure."

**Angel**-(Warren Worthington) Son of a rich family, he was the exact opposite of Scott Summers, all smiles and frivolity. But to avoid getting harassed, he was forced to strap his wings to his back, concealing them under his clothes with a harness, which must have been uncomfortable. (This could serve as a metaphor for the hiding of one's secret self, away from mundane reality. Like, Home Depot worker by day, Olympic athlete/musician/aspiring novelist/artist by night.) He was Scott's rival for Jean Grey's affections. Angel had eyesight as good as a bird's.

His grateful family helped fund Xavier's school.

**Beast**---(Henry McCoy) born with outsized hands and feet, the lad was built like an Olympic weightlifter, but exhibited the agility and speed of a seventy pound gymnast. He was super-strong, and had the IQ of a genius. He was prone to colorful alliterations and quotations.

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(5)Though it goes unmentioned, Xavier obviously took in some electronics courses along the way. He's a mutant Leonardo da Vinci. He's the one who invented and then built Cerebro. Cerebro detects mutants by the highly distinctive brainwaves that they emit. Cerebro can also indicate where the mutant is, and what his or her power level is. Cerebro works best with telepaths, although anyone can use it. It can also amplify a telepath's powers. There are also handheld Cerebro devices for the X-Men to use on their missions.

The name “Beast” was an odd choice since the character looks nothing like one. During the first team’s days, he will look a little odd, but still clearly human. This will change later.

Henry was a successful football player in school, but the Professor lured him away with an offer he couldn’t refuse---the chance to be with people like himself.

**Iceman--** (Bobby Drake) The team goof, his alter ego was a human figure out of snow with boots—at first. He would eventually adopt a form of ice. Later, he could gather a large amount of water vapor out of the air, freeze it, and travel on top of the resulting ice slide. Iceman could throw ice-missiles at supervillains or put the freeze on them. He could ice the ground under a foe’s feet, thus causing that foe to lose his balance. He could also make animate ice duplicates of himself.

**Havok** (Alex Summers): Joins the team with #54. His power showed itself early on, when he killed a bully who was harassing him and his foster sister. He repressed this memory, and didn’t know that he was a mutant until his late teens.

Havok’s body constantly absorbs ambient cosmic energy. Like Scott, he is a mutant with great powers that he has trouble controlling. At first, he had to wear a containment suit in order to control his powers. His body receives cosmic energy and stores it in his heart **chakra**, which then pulsates dramatically, glowing with concentric rings. Alex channels the power along his arms and out of his hands, to devastating effect. He can destroy an entire mountain at the drop of a hat, which is why in this phase of the X-Men, he is as angst-filled as his brother. (6)

Later, he will develop a finer control over his powers. He will also become a reserve member of the X-Men, along with Lorna. Both will pursue their shared interest in geology.

**Polaris** (Lorna Dane): Joins the team with #49. Lorna Dane has green hair, but is otherwise attractive. Polaris has magnetic powers, but she’s not as powerful as Magneto. She was under Mesmero’s hypnotic domination via Magneto’s orders. Mesmero was a green-skinned mutant with a scanty purple costume. Mesmero had her believing that she was the daughter of Magneto. It would take a Sentinel attack to reveal the truth: that the Magneto that Mesmero worked for was a robot, and that Polaris wasn’t his daughter after all.

Polaris suffered from power fluctuations. Her power weakened. She became a reserve member of the X-Men and took an apartment in Manhattan.

**Mimic** (Calvin Rankin): Debuted in #20. By some, he is considered to be a non-mutant. He can duplicate the powers of any mutant near to him. But spending so much time in the company of the X-Men made their powers a permanent part of his abilities. He had Cyclops’ optic beams, Angel’s wings, Beast’s oversized and dexterous feet and hands.

His father was a scientist. One day, Calvin inhaled a mysterious gas in the lab, which gave him his power to copy the talents and abilities of anyone, whether they were mutant or not. Paul O’Brien has this to say about the Mimic:

“To be honest, when you start introducing characters like the Mimic, it’s probably time to move on. ...The Mimic is a twist on the old “evil twin” gimmick—he’s the X-Men’s evil counterpart, only in one body. And “evil twin” stories are usually a sign that the well is running dry...”(7)

It was the last Stan Lee story. Roy Thomas replaced him with the next issue.

## THE BROTHERHOOD OF EVIL MUTANTS

**Magneto** (Erik Magnus Lehnsherr): Has enormous magnetic powers. He can use them to fly, throw magnetic force bolts, and can sense the presence of metal. His fine control extends to the cellular and molecular range. He can control the flow of blood within an opponent’s body. He is powerful enough to take on the entire X-Men at once. Very few mutants can do that.

He leads the Brotherhood of Evil Mutants. No, really---the Brotherhood of Evil Mutants---a moniker conceived in much more innocent, highly polarized times. He believes that Homo Superior must rule Homo sapiens or perish. Like Prof. X, he wants more than anything to protect mutants from human hatred. And if that means he has to slaughter normal humans to do it, then that’s just what he’ll do.

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(6)The first mention of a chakra was by writer Grant Morrison in “New X-Men,” during the “Phoenix Egg” storyline. A chakra is an energy center in the human body. It plays a part in Hinduism and Chinese medicine. It’s Sanskrit and means “wheel” or “circle.” There’s seven main chakras that run from the spine to the top of the head. Each chakra has a different color, governs a different element like water or fire, and deals with different awarenesses of things.

(7)The X-Axis Website, from a review of Silver Age X-Men #19.

His intellectual curiosity is as great as Charles Xavier's. It leads him to become a genius in the field of esoteric psychotronics, as well as the mutagenic machines he will later build in his base in the Savage Land.

Much later, one of his artificial mutants will turn on him and regress him into an infant. He will then be transferred to the care of Moira McTaggart's Mutant Research Center.

**Scarlet Witch:** (Wanda Maximoff): Has the power to cast a field that changes probabilities of objects and events. Sometimes these manifest as "hex-bolts." She also has magical talent. But she won't find that out for a long time. At the time, she is a naïve and confused person.

She is the blood daughter of Magneto. When Lehnsherr's very pregnant wife Magda found out that he was a mutant, she fled. Magda made her way to Mount Wundagore, which is ruled by the **High Evolutionary**. The birth was a difficult one; she didn't survive long afterward. There she left her babies in care of the High Evolutionary's servant, **Bova**, who is a cow altered into a sentient being. Eventually, gypsies wind up taking care of the twins. They are **Django** and **Marya Maximoff**. Wanda's powers accidentally demolished a house. People watching this were frightened, thinking that she was a witch. Pietro tried his best to defend her. Just then, Magneto happened by and rescued them. He took them to Asteroid M, where they became members of the Brotherhood.

Despite Wanda's strong resemblance to Magda, it doesn't occur to Magneto that the twins are his children.

**Quicksilver** (Pietro Maximoff): He has the power of super-speed, like the Flash. This gives him a superior attitude towards the rest of humanity. He's Wanda's twin brother. He is protective towards her. His powers manifested when he was a teenager. When Django stole food for the family, Pietro and Wanda ran away. Both he and his sister will leave the Brotherhood to become the first villains to reform into heroes.

**Unus the Untouchable** (Angelo Unscione): Has the power to cast a force field that prevents him from being attacked. The X-Men defeated him by building a device that amplified his power to the point where he couldn't touch anything.

Lucifer secretly influenced him and the Blob into wearing X-Men costumes and going out to rob banks. The alien also removed Unus's vulnerability to that power amp device.

Later on, Unus became a member of **Factor Three**.

**Mastermind** (True name unknown; uses Jason Wyngarde as his alias): A thin, saturnine looking man with an unwholesome look about him. He's a telepath. Can project a detailed, third dimensional illusion.

**Blob** (Fred J. Dukes): An unbelievably fat man who started out as a sideshow freak. He can make himself so dense, he cannot be hurt or moved. It is probable that he can also exert a gravitational pull when he increases his density.

The X-Men tested him at the Mansion and invited him to join. But he arrogantly refused. Prof. X then removed his memory of this, and the Blob returned to the sideshow.

Magneto invited him to join the Brotherhood shortly afterward.

## THE SENTINELS

**Dr. Bolivar Trask**, a famous anthropologist, was deeply concerned about mutants. He feared that they would take the rule of the world away from humankind and enslave them. He used his personal fortune to hire a group of engineers who would build the Sentinels, giant robots tasked with protection of humanity from mutants.

Ironically, his son **Larry** was a mutant, too. But his father had him wear a medallion that blocked his powers of precognition. The medallion also rendered him undetectable to the Sentinels.

This first series of Sentinels are 12 feet tall and are voice-activated. They communicate by means of radio waves, but they also speak in audible tones. Their weapons consist of three different rays: a heavy gravity one, a stun ray one, and a disintegration one. They have open-ended programming, improving their tactics with every attack. This series of Sentinels were defeated by jamming the radio waves that they used to communicate with.

The Sentinels were controlled by **Master Mold**, which was around 30 feet in height. Master Mold was an artificial intelligence that had as its first purpose overseeing the building of other Sentinels. Collectively, the Sentinels came to the conclusion that the best way to protect the normals from mutants was to control the world, since mere humans were doing such a poor job of it.



Master Mold wanted Dr. Trask's help in constructing Sentinels that would achieve this purpose, but Trask refused. Dr. Trask died in the struggle against them.

Larry Trask mistakenly blamed the X-Men for his father's death. He built the second version of the Sentinels. They were even larger than the first version, being 22 feet tall. He captured the X-Men. His power-suppressing medallion was removed, and the Sentinels detected that he was a mutant. The Sentinels then decided to govern themselves.

Cyclops tricked the Sentinels. He told them that all mutations came from the Sun. This led the Sentinels en masse to take off in a flight to the Sun, in order to destroy it.

That was the end of this series of Sentinels.

### FACTOR THREE

An organization of powerful mutants bent on world domination. Their headquarters were located in a mountain in Central Europe.

**Mutant Master** (True name unknown): Leader of Factor Three. Masqueraded as a human; his minions didn't know that he was a nonhuman alien, a Sidri. His group derived his name from his observation that there were two factors exerting major influence upon Earth: America and the Soviet Union. His goal was to make his group the third super-power: Factor Three.

**Changeling** (True name unknown): Secondary leader of Factor Three. Changeling had incredible telekinetic powers. He was a mutant metamorph who could take the form of any human. He was a superb actor and vocal mimic. Not only could he change his body, he could alter his clothing as well.

Changeling discovered that Mutant Master who wanted to exterminate not only normal humans, but mutants as well. The Banshee's sonic scream undid the Mutant Master's disguise, exposing him as a green octopus-like alien. The X-Men and Factor Three then united against the creature and attacked it, leading it to kill itself.

He eventually quit Factor Three. A little while later, Changeling learned that he had terminal cancer, so, since he wanted his life to count for something good, went to Prof. X.

Changeling replaced Prof. X when Xavier went into isolation in a psionic-proof room in order to mentally prepare himself to fight off an invading alien race, the Z'nox. Prof. X granted him some telepathic powers to increase the effectiveness of the impersonation.

Changeling sunk himself into the role of Prof. X. When the X-Men fought **Grotesk**, Changeling was killed when an oscillotron machine exploded.

**Vanisher** (Name Unknown): The power of teleportation made it easy for the Vanisher to commit large-scale thefts. He attracted many criminals to him and started an organization.

He stole some sensitive American defense plans and wanted a ransom of ten million dollars. Prof. X was there. He gave the Vanisher amnesia. The Vanisher was captured and the defense plans were returned to the government.

When his memory returned, the Vanisher teleported out of prison and joined Factor Three.

Blob, Unus, and the first Mastermind were also members.

The X-Men go to Factor Three's headquarters, where they prevent the Mutant Master from instigating World War Three between America and the Soviet Union.

Factor Three turned the Banshee into their pawn for a while until the X-Men freed him. The group tried repeatedly to capture Xavier, first using Banshee and their human agent, the Ogre, then Juggernaut as a distraction.

### RECURRING CHARACTERS

**Banshee** (Sean Cassidy): Master of the sonic scream, by means of which he can fly. The intensity of the scream varies. He can make a foe unconscious, or use it like a laser, using the intensely focused sound waves to destroy concrete, rock, steel, etc. He can use it narrowly, or can widen the field of screaming sound coming from his mouth.

He started off as an Interpol agent. When his wife died, his cousin **Black Tom Cassidy** kidnapped the baby girl and took her away. He resigned his job in Interpol and joined the NYPD. There he met a teenage **Emma Frost**, who was using her telepathy to build herself a fortune. He also encountered the **Dark Beast**, who was a ruthless villain version of the X-Men's Beast. The Dark Beast was a refugee from a future timeline where the Earth was destroyed.

Banshee became a puppet of **Factor Three** when its leader discovered his mutant abilities. They strapped a bomb to his head and sent him to fight the X-Men. They freed him, but Factor Three got him under their control again. Again the X-Men freed him.

Since Banshee is a country music fan, he went to live in Nashville.

Life wasn't easy for the X-Men. At the beginning, the group was frequently attacked by angry mobs. The theme of alienation played a part in early X-Men stories. "The very premise of the X-Men series seemed to mirror the feeling of a lot of young people in the country at the time, which was that they were the first generation of post-war kids so different in values from their parents that they felt like mutated versions of their folks who had survived the war, the Depression, etc. Later in the decade, they started calling this phenomena "The Generation Gap." (8)

Ironically, Prof. X views mutants as Homo Superior—"the forerunners of what the human race must become or inevitably become or inevitably become replaced by." (9) He believed that H. sapiens and H. superior must live on the same planet together.

The X-Men fought a plethora of colorful foes: the Vanisher, Unus the Untouchable, the Sub-Mariner, and the Blob. The last two joined Magneto's Brotherhood, but Sub-Mariner left after a short time. (Just imagine the personality clash between him and Magneto--- imperious Prince of Atlantis and monstrously self-righteous Master of Magnetism...)

With monthly sales came even more villains—the Sentinels, the Mimic, Count Nefaria, the Banshee, Factor Three. Jean Grey designs new costumes for the X-Men, since they graduated. In Africa, they meet a white-haired mutant girl named Ororo, whose rainmaking powers have saved many a tribe from drought. (10) (Yes, this is the same girl who lifted Xavier's wallet years ago in Cairo, now a teenager.)

The X-Men fight Grotesk. He kills Prof. X with an explosion. Agent Duncan ordered the X-Men to disband, and they did, temporarily.

They meet Mesmero, who's running a group of his own. Cyclops infiltrated the green-skinned mutant's group posing as Erik the Red.

## ON THE WRITING AND THE ART

Unfortunately, the stories made little use of the one thing that set the X-men apart from all other Marvel heroes---their alienation from the average person. Normally, Jack "King" Kirby would have a greater contribution of ideas to the stories, but he was stretched pretty thin. Jack was doing three other books for Marvel as well as the majority of the covers. He was the workhorse of the company. Jack did the layouts and Werner Roth finished them. With #18, Roth replaced Kirby completely.

Artist Jim Steranko was there, for just two issues. He designed the new "X-Men" logo that tilted to the left. He would go on to be a seminal influence in comics art. Paul Gulacy, Jim Lee and Michael Golden are just a few of the artists who were influenced by him. He expanded the visual vocabulary of comics. You might say that the Marvel house style and Jim Steranko's style were from two different planets.

Roy Thomas came to Marvel in 1965. He wasn't particularly interested in the X-Men. They had nothing unique about them. They seemed to be just an adolescent form of the Fantastic Four.

Later, it occurred to Roy that the X-Men's constituent elements had more in common with Spider-Man than with the FF. "Cyclops had Peter Parker's teenage angst, the Beast, great agility and strength, Iceman was happy-go-lucky, and the Angel represented the heady freedom the ol' Wall-Crawler felt when he webbed his way above the skyline. And Marvel Girl—well, maybe she was Petey's feminine side...Nor do I suspect that Stan and Jack had anything in mind like subdividing Spider-Man; it just worked out that way." (11)

"X-Men" got a shot in the arm when **Roy Thomas** replaced Lee. The book suffered from low sales. Thomas totally devoted himself to "X-Men," filling the book with informative panels about how every character, good and bad, viewed things. "Roy had a mental and emotional immersion in his

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(8) "The X-MEN Chronicles," page 2, FantaCo, 1981.

(9) Same, page 1.

(10) This is what is known as a "retcon." It's short for "retro-concept"--- It's changing the history of a character or group of characters. John Byrne introduced this retcon in his mini-series "X-Men: The Hidden Years."

(11) "X-Men Anniversary Magazine", Roy Thomas, page 24.

inmaterial that even Jerry Siegel couldn't approximate. For Thomas, and many of the fans who followed him to the business, the stories were of less importance than the *stuff*: the texture, the background details, the "continuity" of old comics to new ones. Thomas started building a part of the Marvel Universe, stringing together different fragments. The background stories that related the origin of the X-Men. His characterization of the X-Men were more impressive than Lee's, since Roy was a former high school teacher. (12)

Thomas stayed for twenty-five issues, then left. The sales sunk again, as the stories lessened in quality. When Thomas returned to the X-Men, he had a new artistic partner---Neal Adams.

Adams had a slick, realistic style that he perfected after a short period of intense study. Adams had worked as a assistant to a senior artist who had a realist style, and he worked at an illustration house where that same type of art was used. The newspaper strip "Ben Casey" really showed off his ability. He replaced Werner Roth on the art.

Fan reaction wasn't entirely welcoming of Neal Adams's art. Chris Claremont, who was a gofer at the time, describes them as "passionately bitter": "Who was this Adams fellow? How dare Marvel replace Roth's clean lines, classic panel layouts and elegant portrayal of Jean Grey with these lanky, over-developed Muscle Beach rejects with too many teeth, crazy page design, and women with Big Hair and "Come Hither" lips?" (13)

Both of them were under 30, and they were full of vim and vigor. Their third story, "The Sentinels Live," showed them at the peak of their powers. Havok and Polaris are attacked by Sentinels. The story highlighted a foundational subtext of persecution. For contrast, the next storyline was set in a jungle where prehistoric animals roamed---saber-teeths and dinosaurs---the Savage Land.

In #54, the Summers brothers re-unite. Alex was adopted shortly after entering the orphanage.

### BACK TO THE STORY

Alex goes to college, and one of his courses is in archeology. His professor, **Dr. Ahmet Abdol**, is a mutant too, who also draws cosmic energy into his body. He senses that Alex's absorption of power somehow restricts his own. Cut Alex off from that energy and Abdol would get the full force of the cosmic rays. He kidnaps Alex, taking him to Egypt, where he has a cult of followers. The cult believes that he is the direct descendant of the Pharaohs. The X-Men follow Abdol to Egypt, but not before Abdol puts Alex in a cave, thus shutting him off from cosmic rays and thus accessing their full power. Abdol, wearing the appropriate period costume, changes into a humongous giant of gray stone.

Since Alex breaks free, this returns the **Living Monolith** to his human form. Alex destroys the cave, thus preventing Abdol from ever using it against him again.

The X-Men return to New York. Alex is suffering from the result of his powers. The X-Men contact one of Prof. X's colleagues, a man named **Dr. Karl Lykos**. Prof. X wanted Lykos to find and train young mutants, so they could be helped and trained in the use of their abilities. But Lykos had another, sinister use for them. He is an energy vampire, feeding off the life force of living beings. When he was in the Savage Land, he was attacked by a mutant pterodactyl, which infected him with this vampirism. Lykos must feed from the living or perish.

Lykos would send his nurse home, hypnotize his patients, hook them up to his energy siphon machine, and drain off their life force.

Mutant life force energy has a spectacular effect on Lykos. After draining Alex of his life energy, Lykos found himself changing shape. He became a humanoid pterodactyl, and dubs himself "Sauron," after the Tolkien villain. (The word "Lykos" is related to the word "lycanthrope," or werewolf. In this case, Sauron is a were-pterodactyl.)

The X-Men hunt Sauron down. They discover that Sauron's powers of hypnosis are superior to those of his human form. He can make his opponents see the illusion of monsters.

But the X-Men penetrate these illusions and keep fighting. This causes Sauron to use up his stolen life-force, making him revert back to human.

Lykos has two personalities struggling within him. One wants to prey on people and kill anyone who gets in his way. The other knows that killing is wrong. Lykos's better half prevails and he flees to

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(12) The Comic Book Heroes," Gerard Jones and Will Jacobs, "Building A Universe," page 90.

(13) "The X-Men Anniversary Magazine," Chris Claremont, page 40.

Tierra del Fuego, while still in the form of Sauron. Angel gives chase, and the X-Men follow him. Angel gets separated from the rest, and Sauron puts the whammy on him. Angel falls, crashing down through the trees.

He is rescued by a strange man wearing a machine over his back and arms. The stranger takes Angel to his base in the Savage Land. He has mutants there with him, so Angel thought he'd found another Prof. X. Later, he finds out that these mutants were created by his host's machines. His host reveals himself as Magneto, leader and maker of the Neo-Men.

X-Men and Neo-Men fight in the laboratory. Magneto's powers have been weakened, hence his use of artificial mutants as catspaws. The X-men wreck Magneto's laboratory equipment. Magneto tries hurling a chunk of machinery at the X-Men---but his power falters, and the heavy machinery falls on him. Without the machines to sustain their mutations, the Neo-Men revert to normal. The X-Men leave.

The X-Men meet Sunfire. The X-Men are stunned to learn that Prof. X is alive. A mutant named Changeling took his place, while Prof X, Havok and Polaris stopped an alien race, the **Z'nox**, from invading Earth.

The X-Men meet the Hulk. Iceman and Havok fight over Polaris. Hank McCoy leaves the X-Men to work at Brand Corporation. He takes a serum that mutates him further. He grows gray fur all over his body, develops pointed ears, fangs, and claws, and his physical strength and agility is also increased. At first, he could switch between his normal self and his new, furry self. But when he stayed in his new form too long, he couldn't change back.

Beast then goes to join the Avengers. Somewhere along the line, his fur turns blue.

The editors decide that sales aren't good enough to keep producing new stories, so the book goes into reprints from #67-93.

## END PART ONE



This issue reflects these changes, as you can see.

## Why These Changes?

I was talking to Usagi, one of my regular contributors, about these changes, to give her fair warning; and to be sure that she understands it has nothing to do with her, since I adore her work. I have been thinking about these things for a while now, and I didn't do anything sooner because it's hard to go back and say, "Oh gee, sorry folks, I didn't do it right the first time, please forgive me."

What pushed me was a series of little things and I'll tell you about a couple of them that readily come to mind.

I was at a local fannish gathering, and we were actually talking about fandom, and fanzine fans and all that jazz. I was told point blank that Japanese anime and manga have no place in fandom. Why the hell not!? There's oodles of SF/F in these genres. It's like saying that movies and TV don't count since they're not books (I met someone who was like that, last month). I asked why, and I never got a good answer. I've NEVER gotten a good answer to this. It's come up a few times. Some people even think that other comics don't count either. Egads.

A few days ago I asked Bill Burns to add a link to The MANGAVERSE on [www.efanzines.com](http://www.efanzines.com) (a site dedicated to fanzines) and I was told and I quote: "I took a look at Mangaverse, and it's a little outside my (admittedly traditional) definition of SF fanzines, so not really a good fit for hosting on my site." I was surprised, but I shouldn't have been. However, he did also say, and I quote: "If you have a web page that ties together all your issues I'll be happy to link to it, though." He was nice enough to come up with a compromise all on his own, and now there's a link to all the fanzines I've ever created or edited up at [efanzines.com](http://efanzines.com) including The MANGAVERSE. So now it's indirectly linked. I'm happy with this compromise. It's more than I've gotten from other traditional fans.

This incident with Bill, led me to do more thinking. I remember doing a bunch of looking around for anime groups with SF/F as their focus, all to no avail. Nothing active was found. They were all dead in the water. There are anime/manga groups that are very active, but they're not SF/F fans, so the mind set is a bit different.

I also haven't found any other fannish activity dealing with anime/manga; and as far as I know, I am the only fan putting together a fanzine regularly with this focus. I feel that implementing these changes will help increase the credibility of these genres in the fannish world. I seem to be the voice for these genres saying that yes, they belong in SF/F fandom too.

So, all this is what pushed me to finally say, "Gosh darn it, I'm gonna do this right to help make this zine a better zine so it can be a proper anime/manga liaison to the rest of fandom."

## SFFAMOC!

I have created a new interface for The MANGAVERSE to help fandom at large better explore Science Fiction and Fantasy in Anime Manga and Other Comics.

Featured is the ability for anyone to respond to my updates, and to post reviews. Anyone can do this, you don't have to be a Neffer. However, in order to participate specifically in The MANGAVERSE you do have to be a member of N3F. I was toying with the idea of changing that (basically removing The MANGAVERSE's affiliation with N3F), but with the new interface, I do not think that will be necessary.

Of course, there's a link to The MANGAVERSE (which I finally created a banner for btw), other links (including the very fabulous tales from "I Am A Japanese School Teacher"), and nifty stuff.

Where's SFFAMOC?

[www.SFFAMOC.net](http://www.SFFAMOC.net)

Please go check it out and let me know what you think. I need your input to help me know what I am doing right and whether or not there's something I can do better.

You can always get to it via [www.MANGAVERSE.org](http://www.MANGAVERSE.org), or by way of [www.RUTHIECHAN.net](http://www.RUTHIECHAN.net), my personal website.

Enjoy!

## Where Be the Convention Listings?

Gone. I am no longer printing them. No one said to me, "please leave them in" or something to that effect so I'm not going to bother to compile everything and format it (manually) to get it to look all nice and readable. I'd rather spend that time researching Japanese holidays and beliefs to help you better understand Japanese anime and manga.

To see convention listings you can go to the following websites.

*For Anime/Manga:* <http://fansview.com>

*For Other Comics:* <http://www.comicbookconventions.com>

And for good measure

*For science fiction & fantasy:* <http://dactylmanor.org/fanboy>

### Submission Guidelines

**Publishing Schedule:** *The MANGAVERSE* is currently scheduled to be published bi-monthly, February, April, June, August, October, and December.

**Deadlines:** For *The MANGAVERSE* submissions are due on the first day of the publication month. As an example, material intended for the June issue should be submitted to me by June 1st.. *If it doesn't get to me – the Editor – in time, it goes in the next issue.* Watch for updates on this information. I may change the deadline on you. \*wink\*

**What's Published:** *The MANGAVERSE* is the official bi-monthly publication of The MANGAVERSE. Science Fiction and/or Fantasy art, fan art, flash fan fiction (about 1000 words) comics (original serial and one-shots), discussions/articles of your favorite anime/manga/comics (story lines, characters, writers, artists, etc.), con-reports, con-announcements, reviews, letters of comment (comment letters) and any other fannish material related to anime/manga/comics are accepted publishing material.

**Accepted Formats:** Paper copies are always welcome (must be legible) If emailing me attachments, please ask if the format you'd be sending me is acceptable. A few samples of what I can accept are: .doc, .rtf, .txt, .jpg, .png, .pdf, .xls, etc . Unexpected formats will be deleted. I will not accept disks or cds.

**Publishing Formats:** *The MANGAVERSE* is published in .PDF format and sent to you via your email address. Paper printed versions are available upon request and will cost \$6 for one year (6 issues). Please be sure that your N3F membership dues are paid and up to date.

**Not Sure What to Send?** Read the "What's Published" section. What's listed there is what you can send in to me for publishing. Any and all SF/F fannish material pertaining to anime/manga/comics.

**The only thing I will not accept is hentai (pornographic) material.** If you are unsure if something is hentai, please feel free to ask me.

If you have any questions email me at [ruthiechan@xarph.net](mailto:ruthiechan@xarph.net) or snail mail me.

### How to join The MANGAVERSE

Two steps are required when joining The MANGAVERSE.

*Step one: Join The National Fantasy Fan Federation (N3F).*

A membership form is available to you on the last page of this issue and on the web at <http://n3f.org>. The MANGAVERSE is run in affiliation with N3F, a science fiction and fantasy club founded in 1941.

*Step two: email me after you complete step one.*

After you email me, I will then confirm with the N3F secretary that you indeed accomplished step one. This is because depending on when you join it may be a while before you see the official publication of the N3F (which is quarterly), and you could miss out on stuff otherwise.

*Step three: join in the fun!*

After step one and two are completed, feel free to join right on in and submit some anime/manga/comic fannish material to me for publication.

Happy reading! \*big smile\*

# The National Fantasy Fan (N3F) Membership Application

New Member    Reinstatement    Joint Membership    Gift Membership

Name (Please Print): \_\_\_\_\_ Today's Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_  
Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_ Country: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Occupation: \_\_\_\_\_  
Male: \_\_\_\_\_ Female: \_\_\_\_\_ Birthdate (for the Birthday Bureau): \_\_\_\_\_

- |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> APA's                    | <input type="checkbox"/> Comics/Manga     | <input type="checkbox"/> Reading                      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art                      | <input type="checkbox"/> Fanzines         | <input type="checkbox"/> Reviewing                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cartooning               | <input type="checkbox"/> Other:           | <input type="checkbox"/> Round Robins (group letters) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Computers                | <input type="checkbox"/> Editing          | <input type="checkbox"/> Taping                       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conventions              | <input type="checkbox"/> Filksinging      | <input type="checkbox"/> Audio                        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Correspondence (penpals) | <input type="checkbox"/> Games            | <input type="checkbox"/> DVD/Video                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Collecting               | <input type="checkbox"/> Movies/T.V.      | <input type="checkbox"/> Teaching Science Fiction     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Artwork                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Online Activites | <input type="checkbox"/> Writing                      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Books                    | <input type="checkbox"/> Publishing       |   |

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Please check your current SF/F related interests.

- Which would you prefer?:
  - A: *The e-Fan* in .PDF format sent to your VALID email address? \_\_\_\_\_
  - B: *The Fan* printed and mailed to your home address or PO Box? \_\_\_\_\_
- How long have you been interested in Science Fiction and Fantasy?: \_\_\_\_\_
- How long have you been involved in Fandom?: \_\_\_\_\_
- List any other clubs you are or have been a member of: \_\_\_\_\_
- List any conventions you've attended: \_\_\_\_\_
- What Prozines and Fanzines do you read if any?: \_\_\_\_\_
- What is your favorite type of SF/F?: \_\_\_\_\_
- Who are your favorite SF/F Authors: \_\_\_\_\_
- Are you interested in online activities? If yes, what type?: \_\_\_\_\_
- Which (if any) of the following would you be willing to help the Club with?  
 Artwork    Corresponding    Publishing    Recruiting at Conventions    Writing for club publications  
 Organizing Activities    Other(s): \_\_\_\_\_
- Name of Sponsoring Member (if any): \_\_\_\_\_
- How did you hear of us? \_\_\_\_\_

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Dues are \$18 per year (\$22 for Joint Memberships) which includes subscriptions to the club's fanzine as well as other activities and benefits. Make checks or money orders payable to William Center (the treasurer).

All payments must be made in U.S. funds. Mail dues and application to club secretary

Dennis Davis, 25549 Byron St., San Bernadino, CA 92404-6403.

Please allow 8 weeks for your first zine to arrive.

You can also sign up online at [www.n3f.org](http://www.n3f.org)