



宇宙漫画

October 2005

Vol. 2 No. 5

ハッピーハ

HAPPY HALLOWEEN!

ロウイーン

INSIDE:
X-MEN PRIMER
PART TWO
&
LIFE CHANGES
&
OTHER STUFF



ART:

All art in this by Usagi

X-men is the property of Marvel Comics.

Page bar from:

*<http://www.novareinna.com/festive/world.html>
Public domain image page 3*

Submission Guidelines

First, you must join N3F, a science fiction and fantasy club founded in 1941, as this zine is run in affiliation with them. Joining up only takes a few minutes at www.n3f.org.

After that you can send me submissions.

I accept just about any and all SF/F fannish material pertaining to anime, manga, & comics (or comic book movies, etc..). Some ideas are (but not limited to): art, fan art, flash fan fiction (about 1000 words) comics (original shorts or one-shots), con-reports, reviews, letters of comment, etc., etc..

Please send only copies of your work!

If you're not sure what formats I accept please ask me first (unexpected attachments will be deleted). Paper copies are accepted if legible.

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

If you have any questions (re: this zine, N3F or SFFAMOC) email me at ruthiechan@xarph.net

Table of Contents

<i>Ruthie-chan's Corner</i> <i>Google and other musings</i>	3
<i>X-men Primer Part Two!</i>	4
<i>November 26th, 2005</i> <i>LIFE CHANGES!</i>	12
<i>Horrible Halloween Har-hars</i>	12
<i>Fun with Japanese</i>	13
<i>A Non-Review</i> <i>Anime</i>	14
<i>Letters of Comment</i>	14
<i>Credits, Guidelines, etc..</i>	2

**The MANGAVERSE News and Fan-talk, Vol. 2 No. 5
The Official Organ of The MANGAVERSE Bureau affiliated with
the National Fantasy Fan Federation (N3F.org).**

This issue was completed on 10/31/05, Ruth R. Davidson; ruthiechan@xarph.net, your editor/bureau head. Please send your submissions and questions to her. ***All opinions herein are those of the writers and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the Bureau Head, members of The MANGAVERSE, or N3F, except where so noted.***

SUBMISSION DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT ISSUE IS DECEMBER 1, 2005.

This zine is published bi-monthly, February, April, June, August, October, and December (usually).

You must be a member of N3F to submit material specific for this fanzine.

However, anyone can participate at www.SFFAMOC.net

**ALL MATERIAL IN THIS ISSUE WAS CONTRIBUTED FOR ONE-TIME USE ONLY AND THE
COPYRIGHT BELONGS TO THE CONTRIBUTOR.**

Reproduction in any media, including the internet or email attachments, of any portion of this publication is prohibited without official permission of the current Bureau Head or the individual contributor.

© 2005 The MANGAVERSE

Find us online at www.mangaverse.org or www.sffamoc.net

Ruthie-chan's Corner

Jennett's LoC got me doing more thinking about me and fandom. Before I found local fandom it never occurred to me to do anything outside of N3F. The MANGAVERSE is also my first fanzine, and I made some mistakes as editor of it because I was so excited that people were actually interested in contributing that I would accept literally anything for publication. That was an innocent neofannish mistake. I'm sure I'm not the only neofan (new fan or newbie) to make such less than stellar decisions. Of course, since I had set a standard, it was difficult to get out of it. I knew my error within the first few issues, but I couldn't find a way to fix it in a kindly fashion. My mother, another neofan, suggested that I talk to my contributors individually about it, and that was fabulous advice. Everyone was cool about it the changes and even supported it! Huzzah!

As a neofan I still have a lot to learn, but hey, I've got the rest of my life to be in the fannish scene and life is one big learning process. I'm all for bettering my fanac (fan activity) yo.

So, I was doing a bunch of google searches for sci fi in anime. I wish I had found the Anime Colony on the SCIFI.com sooner, as I found this sad message there: "As part of our ongoing effort to streamline our Web site, the Anime section is no longer hosted on SCIFI.COM. We regret any inconvenience, and invite you to check out our new HOME PAGE and see the new SCIFI.COM." I hope I can find where they went. . .

It's been a frustrating search since so many sites and groups are either lousy or dead. I did find a few (literally):

a: <http://www.revolutionsf.com/>

Chock full of reviews in all sorts of media, and other spiffy news and things.

b: <http://www.scifislacker.com/>

A resource filled with all sorts of links to other SFF related sites, including those in the anime scene.

c: <http://www.animenewsnetwork.com/>

Anime specific news and info, though not necessarily SFF related

If you've seen the movie "the Chronicles of Riddick" you may be interested in this the following website: <http://www.darkfurydvd.com/sci-fi-anime.html>. I discovered it while doing my google searches. I didn't even know there was an anime movie about Riddick! Here's some of what the site had to say about it: "*Vin Diesel stars as the voice of his now famous character Riddick in this incredible sci fi anime starring our new anti hero. The story bridges the incredible stories of Pitch Black and The Chronicles of Riddick. You can learn more about this sci fi anime and buy the Chronicles of Riddick Dark Fury DVD at: www.darkfurydvd.com.*"

Then there's the best site of all, an inside look on life in Japan from an American's perspective. It's a series of editorials called *I am a Japanese School Teacher*. It's written by a black man named Azrael. On the front page it says: "*In August 2003 I moved to Kyoto, Japan as a part of the JET program. I am an assistant language teacher in three Jr. High schools. The experience has been...interesting to say the least. Interesting enough to warrant it's own editorial. However, there isn't*

Contd. pg. 15





X-MEN PRIMER

PART 2

BEYOND THE PANELS

Marvel president Arthur Landau thought that an international team of super-heroes would work, since that would appeal to major foreign markets. This idea was taken up by writer Roy Thomas and was passed to Editor-in-Chief **Len Wein**. Wein talked artist **Dave Cockrum** into working with him on this. Cockrum was the former “**Legion of Super-Heroes**” superstar artist. Before he came, the Legion’s costumes and machines all looked like they were stuck in the late 50’s. He redesigned both, giving the 30th century a dramatically exotic look. His art style was strongly influenced by **Russ Manning**, who worked on the **Tarzan Family** books for DC and did “**Magnus, Robot Fighter**” over at Gold Key.

The “major foreign market” concept didn’t survive, as the new group lacked members from same. There were but two characters fitting that requirement—a German and a Canadian.

Thomas was a fan of the **Blackhawks**, a multi-national group of airmen who fought crime. He proposed the idea that “two or three of the original X-Men would fly around the globe in a super-aircraft disguised by artificial cloud cover, to search for new mutants. The recruits would include muties from whatever countries Al and Stan deemed advisable.”⁽¹⁾

Often overlooked, Dave Cockrum is one of the greatest character men in comics, next to Jack Kirby. You could almost call X-Men Vol. 2 “The House that Dave Built.” Most of the X-Men originated from Dave Cockrum’s “Binder of Wonders,” as I call it. He always carried a thick binder filled with dozens of fantastic character designs. Len and Dave picked out elements that they liked.

It was Roy Thomas who suggested the idea of the Wolverine to Len Wein. Wein put the Canadian mutant in an issue of “The Incredible Hulk.”

THE NEW TEAM: 1975-1990

WOLVERINE (JAMES LOGAN)

Wolverine was the first definite member to be added to the X-Men. Wolverine is 5’3”, quick-tempered, difficult to work with, and violent. Originally, he was intended to be an actual wolverine that was mutated into a man. Also, Sabertooth was held to be his father, which seems like a good match. They’re both feral, and have the same mutation.

A lot of Wolverine’s past is unknown, since his memories were altered and replaced with new fake ones when he was an unwilling participant in the **Weapon X** program.

His mutation is his healing factor (same as Sabertooth), which means that he heals super-quickly from any injury. It also means that he ages at an unbelievably slow rate. He is over 100 years old. He takes advantage of his healing factor by indulging in smoking and drinking. It’s not like he’s ever going to get lung cancer or cirrhosis of the liver, y’know. His senses are as keen as an animal’s. He fought alongside of Captain America in WWII.

The goal of Canada’s Weapon X program was to develop a super-soldier. The scientists infused his skeleton with adamantium, rendering it unbreakable.

The design of Wolverine’s costume reflects his prickly personality---the two hornlike projections of his cowl, the double projections on his boots, and the triangular stripes on each side of his costume. The stripes are a reference to the tiger---in battle, Wolverine is as dangerous as one. Originally the projections on his cowl were much smaller, but Dave Cockrum redesigned it to be more striking. The yellow and blue color fits right in with the old X-Men color scheme for original costumes. Cyclops’s costume are these colors, but in reverse places—his tights are blue and his trunks are yellow. These two are intended to irritate each other.

Cyclops is a whole foot taller than Wolverine. Having to look up at the Alpha Male of the X-Men doesn’t help matters between them one bit. Later, Colossus will refer to Wolverine as “The Littlest X-Man.”⁽²⁾

(1) Roy Thomas, “X-Men Anniversary Magazine”, page 25.



The operators of the Weapon X program captured Logan one day and infused his skeleton with adamantium. Logan escaped much later, amid much bloodshed and destruction.

A honeymooning couple, James and Heather Hudson, found him in the woods. They took him to their home and helped him into being human again.

He then served as an operative of the Canadian government. His missions took him all over the world.

When Prof. X asked him to join the X-Men, Wolverine accepted. He wanted to get away from a ton of red tape. The Canadians objected, but Wolverine left anyway. Snikt!

A main reason for tension between Cyclops and Wolverine is that the Canadian is attracted to Jean Grey. The other X-Men originated from Dave Cockrum's Binder of Wonders. To wit:

NIGHTCRAWLER (KURT WAGNER)

Dave wanted to put in Vampyre, a gray-skinned blond-haired character with skeletally thin, bat-winged arms and two-fingered hands. Editor Thomas and Len Wein thought that Vampyre was a little too dark and brooding. All three preferred the Nightcrawler sketch.

A fan favorite, Nightcrawler is Cockrum's alter ego, a swashbuckling, happy-go-lucky character. He is gallant and chivalrous.⁽³⁾

Cockrum came up with him when he was in the Navy. When stationed in Guam one night, there was a tremendous typhoon, so noisy that sleep was impossible. "I found myself thinking about this Nightcrawler character, this demon from Hell who had flubbed a mission, and fearing what would happen if he went back, had decided to stay above ground...in the world of humans."⁽⁴⁾

Nightcrawler was born in Germany. An orphan raised by gypsies, he later joined a circus, Der Jahrmarkt. Anyone seeing him perform assumed that he was wearing a mask.

Nightcrawler's body is covered with navy-blue fur like a mole's. He has curly blue hair, pointed ears, three-fingered hands, two-toed feet, and a tail. His eyes are yellow and glow in the dark.

Nightcrawler, like the Beast, has great acrobatic ability. He can teleport anywhere he has a clear picture of. When he teleports, black sulfurous clouds appear and the sound "Bamf!" is heard.

He has a dimensional opening about his body. He travels through this dimension when he teleports. The dimensional opening alters the way that light falls on Kurt. He's in shadow in daylight, and nearly invisible in the dark.

One day he decided to leave the circus, and drew attention from people on the street. They saw that he wasn't wearing a disguise after all, and took him for a demon. Just as Kurt was about to be lynched, Prof. X appeared, stopping the entire crowd dead in their tracks with a mind-bolt. He rescues Kurt and makes the crowd forget about the entire thing.

At first, Kurt was in a self-pitying mood. But, secure with the X-Men, he blossomed. He is a fan of romantic adventure movies. With the help of an image inducer, he can go safely out into public, masquerading as his hero, Errol Flynn.

Nightcrawler was originally intended to be a member of the **Legion of Super-Heroes**. Later, he would become a member of a super-group called "The Outsiders." Ah, but the best-laid plans of artists have to pass an editor. Editor Murray Boltinoff thought that Nightcrawler was too odd-looking. What, for the Legion of Super-Heroes? There's an orange-skinned bald guy with pointed ears who can change his shape into anything, a green guy with blond hair, a blue-skinned girl with the powers of night, a guy who becomes a giant, a gal who can split off a duplicate of herself, a guy who shoots electricity out of his hands at will, a gal who projects realistic illusions with her mind, and an energy being who's imperceptible unless he's in a human-shaped containment suit, for heaven's sake!

Dave left the LSH and DC for Marvel.


Which is really too bad, because "The Outsiders" were an interesting looking group. **Quetzal** had a thick mane of hair and bird-wings on her arms. **Typhoon** was an African-American guy who controlled the weather. **Reflecto** (possibly took on the power of his foe?)

(2) In the X-Men movies, Wolverine is played by 6'2" Hugh Jackman. I think this is a acknowledgement of Wolverine's importance to Marvel—he is a cash cow, appearing in several books at once.

(3) Personally, he's one of my favorite X-Men.

(4) Wizard, June 2004, #152, page 88, "Dark Days."





Power Boy (super-strong?) and **Trio**, who is presumably from the same planet as LSH's **Duo Damsel**. Trio looks pretty much like **Storm**, except that she has an Afro.

Would Nightcrawler have been a mutant of Earthly stock here, too? I wonder. He might have been simply from a world of blue-furred aliens.(5)

STORM (ORORO MUNROE)

Len and Roy thought that an X-Man with weather powers would be a good idea. Two of the characters from Daves's Binder drew the creative team's eye—Quetzal and the Black Cat. By combining the two, taking Typhoon's powers, and making the character female, Storm was created. Cockrum attenuated the cape by increasing its size, making Storm a sort of metaphorical bird when in flight. It seems influenced by the costumes of dancer Loie Fuller, who danced in a swirling skirt of sheer china silk. The silk would describe parabolas about her body, evoking an angel or a flower opening and closing.

Len liked the character design of the Black Cat. She was inspired by Dave Cockrum's cat. Unlike Storm, she had black hair that went up in two peaks, and pointed ears. She could change into a half-cat/half-human form, or into a white cat.

Oro was born in Harlem, New York. Her father, **David Munroe**, was an ambitious photojournalist. He married an African princess, **N'Dare**. N'Dare was from one of the East African tribes, who are different in appearance from the West/Central African tribes from which African Americans are descended. East Africans have slim bodies and relatively thin facial features.

N'Dare was descended from a very long line of people gifted with special abilities. Sometimes these people have eyes and hair of untypical colors.(6) Oro has blue cat eyes and straight white hair.

At six months old, Oro had the coordination of a young girl. Her mental comprehension was greater than that of the usual infant as well.

For the next five years, the photojournalist and his family traveled the Middle East and Africa. Munroe established a reputation as a fine and daring professional. All was going well, but then war broke out near their house in Cairo. Before they could run for the cellar, a fighter jet with a full load of bombs was shot down. It slammed into the top story of their house, and blew up.

Only little Oro survived. (The original art showed N'Dare—whose face looks exactly like Oro's, by the way—as being heavily pregnant. Unfortunately, the possibility that Oro has a little brother or sister was never followed up.)

This event left Oro with intense claustrophobia, the fear of small, closed in spaces. She climbed out of the wreckage and fled to the alleys of Cairo, where she eventually joined a group of child thieves led by an old man named **Achmed al Gibar**. She became the best thief/beggar in the city.

At 12, Oro felt an inner call pulling her south. She left Cairo, and walked 2000 miles to the Serengeti Plain. She was adopted by Ainet, an East African tribeswoman. Mutant powers commonly emerge at puberty, and Oro discovered that her mental state affected the weather around her. She could control the winds, enabling her to fly. Later, she learned how make rain and lightning. One of the pastoralist tribes nearby noticed and asked her to relieve a drought.

Oro also met T'challa, a young Wakandan prince. They became friends. Oro helped Prince T'challa fight off enemies of his tribe. Later, T'challa will become king, and later, the Black Panther. She also meets the first team of X-Men.


One day, Oro received a visit from Prof. X. In the interests of a greater altruism, she accepted his offer, and left Africa with him.

Because of her claustrophobia, Xavier her the entire attic as her room. She filled it with all kinds of plants.

Oro is a real Nature Girl, completely at ease with her body. She is comfortable being naked, as the new X-Men discovered her emerging unclad from the swimming pool one day. She is centered,

(5) In Excalibur #24, the team visits a parallel world of swashbucklers and sky pirates. One of the world's races is a dead ringer for Nightcrawler. And in the mini-series "X-Men: The End" Part One, Kurt married a woman of that race. They have two children.

(6) Once, some of the New Mutants team time-traveled in Ancient Egypt. There they met Storm's ancestor, Ashake, who scanned their minds and saw the image of her future descendant in them. Ashake looks like Storm, except that her long white hair is in crinkly waves.



calm, and supportive of her teammates. She also has a wild, passionate side that, unlike Wolverine, she keeps under tight control. She has to, since she is one with the planet, especially the weather. She and Jean Grey become good friends, sharing secrets and doing things together.

COLOSSUS (PETER OR PIOTR RASPUTIN):

Is from Lake Baikal, Siberia. He was born on a collective farm. He is 6'6", a powerfully built teenager who weighs 250 pounds. When he changes into his other form, that of organic steel, he gets even larger, becoming 7 feet tall and his weight increases to 500 pounds. He also becomes super-strong.

He has a little sister, Ilyana, and he had a brother, Mikhail, who was an astronaut in the Soviet space program.

Good hearted and confident, but naïve about some things, Colossus is a born team player. He also has latent artistic talents. The character design came straight out of Dave's Binder.

THUNDERBIRD 1 (JOHN PROUDSTAR)

Like Colossus, out of Dave's Binder. Born on an Apache reservation in Camp Verde, Arizona. Most of the people there are depressed or angry, their spirits crippled. Not John Proudstar, a mutant with super-speed and strength. Proudstar is a bitter man, angry about how the Apache have been treated by the white man. He has a prickly temper, has a chip on his shoulder, doesn't take orders well, and is overly eager to prove himself. He's willing to take risks that not even Wolverine will do.

SUNFIRE (SHIRO YOSHIDA)

Debuted during the First Team. Gets his powers from the nukes that hit Japan. Can fly and fires power blasts. Is proud and prickly. A Japanese nationalist, his anti-American feelings were intense for a long time. Leaves the new team briefly, then rejoins them, with no explanation given.

Banshee is also recruited by Prof. X for the team.

GIANT SIZE X-MEN # 1

It starts with Cerebro shrieking an alarm. It's detected a new mutant in the South Pacific—one whose power can't be defined. Prof. X wants the X-Men—Cyclops, Marvel Girl, Angel, Polaris, Iceman, and Havok to find the new mutant before anybody else—say, Magneto does. The X-Men head out in a snazzy new strato-jet.⁽⁷⁾

Krakoa is where Cerebro indicated the new mutant is. The X-Men land, look around, and the new mutant envelops them in its power.

Cyclops wakes up back on board the strato-jet. Though his visor is gone, his optical beams aren't active. The jet's autopilot is static. It won't respond to his commands. The plane flies itself back to Westchester, New York, where Cyclops tells his story to Prof. X.

Sunfire decides that he doesn't like the other X-Men, and stays behind.

The others take the strato-jet to Krakoa. On the way, Sunfire changes his mind, flies after the strato-jet, and rejoins them. Strangely, he gives no explanation for his actions.

They land, and Cyclops splits them into pairs to search. Thunderbird and Cyclops don't get on at all. The friction is forestalled by the disappearance of the jet. Cyclops and Thunderbird then look for the missing X-Men, and get attacked by vines.

Storm and Colossus evade an avalanche of boulders. Banshee and Wolverine get attacked by a giant crab. Nightcrawler and Sunfire deal with giant golden birds.⁽⁸⁾

The teams meet back at the landing site. A mysterious temple has appeared out of nowhere. The X-Men break in and find the first team hanging amid a system of parasite tubes. The new team pulls them free. After they exit the temple, it falls to pieces behind them.

The old team revives. Angel tells them that this is a trap. The mutant wanted the rest of the team here. And the mutant they sought... *was the island itself.*

Krakoa was born when an atom bomb was tested nearby. Its life forms, both animals and plants form a collective intelligence. When the first team arrived, it caught them unawares and fed upon

(7) Looks like ol' Charles has connections in the U.S. Defense Department. This X-jet has VTOL—vertical take off and landing jets. Not readily available for the average millionaire.

(8) They look like African crested eagles. Cockrum used them before in an issue of the "Legion of Super-Heroes." Later, this bird design will be used for Jean Grey's Phoenix energy form.



ON THE WRITING

their mutant life force. Its appetite whetted, it released one victim---Cyclops—to get more “food.”

Both X-Teams attack---but to no avail. The Professor breaks in. He has an idea of how to stop this thing. He'll attack it telepathically, while the X-Men combine their powers to fight Krakoa. Storm replenishes Polaris's powers so that Lorna's magnetic energy bolt cuts the island loose from planet Earth and propels it into space. There, Krakoa expires in the cold vacuum.

Len Wein had an assistant editor, Chris Claremont. A young man of some dimension—he once trained to be a historian and political theorist. He worked as an actor, and could also write, at first selling a script to Marvel now and then, then going on to write “Hulk,” “Spider-Man,” “Fantastic Four,” and “Thor.” He and Cockrum shared an interest in Star Trek, the British TV show “The Avengers,” and aircraft and spacecraft, be they Earthly or non-Earthly, as well as in the space program. Science fiction movies like “Star Wars” were influential as well.⁽⁹⁾ He sat in on the planning session for Giant Size X-Men #1. It was he who suggested the solution to Krakoa.

Wein found himself with too many assignments to have time for X-Men, so he gave the writing to Chris Claremont.

THE DOOMSMITH SCENARIO

Magneto isn't the only one who makes artificial mutants. Count Nefaria, a member of the Maggia crime syndicate, escaped from prison. With the use of Maggia scientists, he created the Ani-Men—faster and stronger than his previous group, which consisted of the X-Men's really unimpressive opponents. The Ani-Men also had less choice in the matter—their humanity wouldn't be restored if they disobeyed Count Nefaria.

On Nefaria's orders, the Ani-Men invade Cheyenne Mountain, which is the headquarters of NATO. Nefaria intends to extract a ransom from every country on Earth or he'll launch the thermonuclear missiles that are kept there.

Weeks before this happened,, Cyclops has been training the X-Men in the Danger Room. During the last day, Thunderbird's leg was burned by a laser. Because of this, Cyclops orders him to stay behind. But Thunderbird angrily refuses. Prof. X agrees, saying there's no time for argument—and off the new X-Men go.

The X-Men thwart Count Nefaria's scheme, but he escapes in a jet. Thunderbird leaps aboard. As the jet ascends, he rips the cockpit open with his bare hands and tears the electronics within to pieces. Banshee and the Prof. (telepathically) try to get him to get out. He refuses, shouting, “I'm a man—a warrior of the Apache—and today I'm going to prove it!”⁽¹⁰⁾

The jet explodes in midair.

Marvel received some heated mail over this. In issue 94#, the letters page featured a letter from an American Indian fan asking why Thunderbird was killed off. The answer:

1) Marvel puts realism in its stories.

2) He was redundant. There was already an obnoxious character---Wolverine—and a super-strong character—Colossus. Two obnoxious characters was two too many—so he had to go.

3) “Because he was the weakest potential in the X-Men—All he really could ever be, was a wise-cracking, insolent younger, not-as-interesting copy of Hawkeye the Marksman in the Avengers---and if you have any questions as to the problems Hawkeye's been having as a character, just look at all the roles he's taken in the past ten years. (as of 1975.) Proudstar deserved a better deal than that, and he could never get it, which is why he had to die...it was better that he die with honor, rather than spend the rest of his comic book life trying to force himself into a persona he wasn't.”⁽¹¹⁾

Moira McTaggart joins the X-Men as their housekeeper/minder. She'll watch over them while Charles goes on vacation. They fight a demon that can't be defeated—it restores itself by drawing life energy from its opponents. Only by destroying the portal that the demon came from can it be destroyed,

(9) X-Men #95, page 19.

(10) Looks to me like both “Westworld” and “The Six Million Dollar Man” were also influential--- as the stories show.

(11) X-Men #97 Letters Page, page 19. Years later, Marvel changed its mind and had John's little brother James share the same mutations as Thunderbird. When he grows up, he joins an X-Men offshoot group and wears the Thunderbird costume. Later he changes his name to Warpath.





which Storm does.

Elsewhere, in a complex within the Adirondacks in New York, a sinister plan is in motion. Dr. Steven Lang is head of Project Armageddon—which will be used to end the conflict between normal humans and mutants forever. Lang intends to kidnap some mutants (guess who they'll be) and exact them to biological examination. "We are the ancient Neanderthals facing the mutant Cro-Magnon!" raves Lang. "It is us or them, kill or be killed—there is no other way!"⁽¹²⁾

CHARACTERS

SHI'AR—rulers of the Andromeda Galaxy. They are humanoids with feathers on their heads instead of hair and vestigial plumes on their forearms. The forearm plumage is from ancient times, when the ancestors of the Shi'Ar had wings and flew. Though oviparous, they're not exactly birds—they also have mammalian characteristics.⁽¹³⁾

The Shi'Ar possess a technology that's far, far advanced than that of Earth's. They are also a warrior race. They have observers posted on Earth monitoring the comings and goings of various alien races.

D'KEN NERAMANI—Emperor of the Shi'Ar empire. He wants ultimate power. When a constellation of nine stars move into a certain configuration, then the gigantic M'kraan Crystal will be available for manipulation. Within the Crystal lies a neutron galaxy.

LILANDRA NERAMANI—Former Grand Admiral of the Shi'Ar Imperial Fleet. Lilandra disliked politics and left the court as soon as she was old enough. She's an explorer, seeking out unknown worlds, and cultures. She prefers "the company of aliens", and is "more at home with strangers than among her own kind."⁽¹⁴⁾

She opposed his plans in council. D'ken slanders her, claiming that she tried to assassinate him and grab the throne. The Imperial Fleet split over this. Civil war ensues, and Lilandra's forces lost. Lilandra is held prisoner on the imperial flagship prior to her ceremonial execution. But one of Lilandra's ships attacks it. Lilandra seizes the opportunity to escape in a small scoutship.

During her flight from captivity, Lilandra's mind makes contact with the mind of another—that of Charles Xavier. She recognizes him as her soulmate, and as a fellow warrior---Xavier has gathered the collective minds of Earth and wielded it as one in order to fight off the Z'nox, a rapacious alien race of would be invaders. The power of that effort has negated the light-years between them.

DAVAN SHAKARI—Imperial agent whom Lilandra exiled to Earth. D'ken contacts him and orders him to stop Lilandra. Disguising himself as Eric the Red, he contacts the Juggernaut and his partner in crime, Black Tom Cassidy. Black Tom is Sean Cassidy's cousin. finds Havok and Polaris, putting them under mind control. They go to the Mutant Research Center on Muir Island. There they find the infantalized Magneto and Shakari restores him to adulthood with Shi'Ar technology.

THE IMPERIAL GUARD—Led by Gladiator and other super-powered individuals, their designs are Cockrum's affectionate acknowledgement of his old group, The Legion of Super-Heroes. Gladiator is an exotic alien version of Superman, though his powers derive from having super-duper psionics instead of being like the Kryptonian's. It is implied that he and Lilandra were once lovers.

CORSAIR—Leader of the Starjammers, his band of aliens oppose D'ken. He's been watching the Nine Stars, too, and readies his crew for action. His real name: Major Christopher Summers, father of Scott and Alex.

D'ken killed Katherine Summers and sent Christopher to a slave prison camp. There he languished until he saw a furred cat-woman trying to escape. He later met the big scaled alien and a cyborg, Ch'od and Raza, respectively.

When his eyes meet the cat-woman's, he recognizes her as his soulmate. Later, when he sees the slavemaster beating the cat-woman, he braves the prison guard's neurolash in order to save her. Together the four escape, and wind up fighting the Shi'Ar Empire. Not being able to pronounce her name, Corsair dubs her Hepzibah.

(12) X-Men #99, page 8.

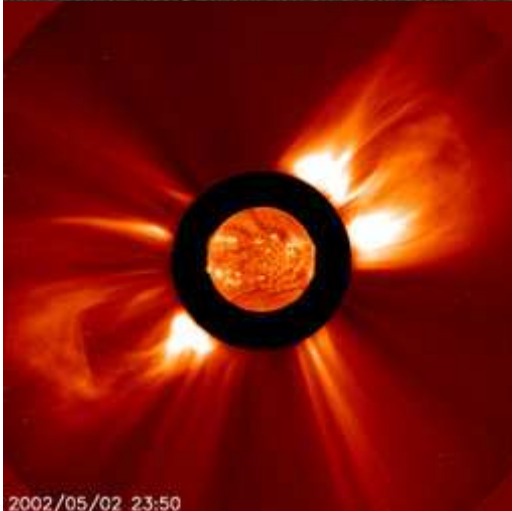
(13) Not as singular as it sounds. Here on Earth, there have been creatures with unusual combinations of traits—the pangolin, a scaled mammal that lays eggs that still exists today, or Thylacoleo, the fossil "marsupial lion" of Australia. It had a short face and enlarged incisors, two in front in each jaw.

(14) Classic X-Men, page 1.





BACK TO THE STORY



The X-Men see Prof X off at the airport. They're all in civilian garb. They separate into two groups. Then Havok and Polaris show up. Jean Grey senses that something's wrong, and Polaris zaps her. The pair want Xavier, even if they have to kill their former teammates to do it. They overcome Scott Summers and run after Xavier's small plane. The team leader orders Peter and Kurt after them. The two change into their alter egos.

Havok stands still, glowing as concentric rings of power flow out from his heart chakra. He's building up cosmic power, aiming at Prof. X's small plane as it taxis off the runway. Only Nightcrawler's tackle of Havok sends his blast wild. The blast demolishes a 747 plane instead. Fortunately, it wasn't being used at the time and was empty.

An armored stranger arrives, wearing a former guise of Scott's—that of Eric the Red, which he wore at a party. He blasts them.

Meanwhile, Storm, carrying an unconscious Jean Grey, flies away seeking a safe place for her. Polaris⁽¹⁵⁾ sees her and flies after her. She throws a magnetic force bolt at Storm, who is briefly dazed, but recovers and sets Jean Grey on a rooftop. Changing into her costume, she then turns to face Polaris.

Cyclops confronts Havok, who's struggling with himself. He's under Eric's mind control, but there's a small part that's trying to break free. Colossus and Nightcrawler battle Eric the Red.

Polaris and Storm are fighting, the green-haired mutant attacking Storm with bolts of lethal intensity. Storm overcomes Polaris with a single massive bolt of lightning. Polaris falls screaming to the asphalt below.

Havok rushes to her, as does Eric the Red. He picks up both mind-controlled X-Men and flies away. In #98, the time is December. The X-Men are in civilian identities, enjoying the holiday season.

Two Sentinels appear. They capture Marvel Girl and try to do the same to Storm, but Storm conjures a localized hurricane up and throws it at the Sentinel. The giant robot is demolished. She then dissipates the hurricane with a wave of her hand. Wow!

At the same time, Prof. X is on a fishing trip with **Dr. Peter Corbeau**, who is head of the UN's **Project Starcore**, an international space station. The Prof. discusses the strange double star system that he keeps seeing in his dream. Dr. Corbeau tells him that there's no such set of stars in the Milky Way Galaxy. Charles wonders if he's going mad...

Just then, a giant Sentinel robot bursts up through the bottom of the boat. Prof. X skrags that one with a concentrated mind bolt, but another Sentinel arrives and captures him. It flies away, leaving poor Dr. Corbeau in the ocean, two hundred miles away from land, amid the broken pieces of his boat.

Other Sentinels capture Banshee and Wolverine as well. The captives end up under Dr. Steven Lang's control. All but Prof. X revive. He's kept unconscious, for obvious reasons. Why capture the X-Men?

Because Marvel Girl, Xavier, and Cyclops are the driving force of the group. The X-Men are the Sentinels's greatest opponents.

Wolverine breaks free from his metal bonds, sending Lang and his flunkies fleeing in terror. Six Sentinels confront them—but something's wrong. These Sentinels succumb way too easily to Marvel telekinetic blasts, Banshee's sonic scream, and Wolverine's claws. Banshee carries the others as his sonic scream lasers its way through everything in its path, including a wall—and then runs into something no one can fight. For Lang's got more than one base. This one is in space near Earth, the former **SHIELD**⁽¹⁶⁾ orbital platform. Budget cuts have forced SHIELD to shut it down, but not all governmental agencies have been equally short-shifted. Project Armageddon is one. The three X-Men float helplessly in the airless vacuum of space, disbelief on their faces.

Other Sentinels rescue the three escapees, while Dr. Corbeau makes his way to the X-Mansion.

(15) Polaris is wearing a new, purple and black costume that's of--one could say, *extraterrestrial* design.





He and Cyclops, after long searching, over computer networks, deduce that the missing X-Men are prisoners on the platform. With Corbeau's help, the remaining X-Men go as astronauts in the Starcore space shuttle to the platform. They all don spacesuits. Unfortunately, Peter has a flashback to the day when his astronaut brother died in a launch fire, and transforms into Colossus, which destroys his space suit.

Unfortunately, solar flares of unprecedented intensity rage across the Sun. "A solar flare is a violent explosion in the Sun's atmosphere with an energy equivalent to tens of millions of hydrogen bombs. The heated plasma is accelerated to speeds close to that of light." The electromagnetic radiation of a solar flare spans all wavelengths, from "long wave radio to the shortest wavelength gamma rays."... "Solar flares release a cascade of high energy particles known as a proton storm.

Protons can pass through the human body, doing biochemical damage."⁽¹⁷⁾ One observer on the international space station exclaims, "Peter Corbeau is flying straight into the worst solar storm in living memory!"⁽¹⁸⁾

Corbeau asks for sanctuary from the platform. Lang refuses. The mutant detector goes off, so he orders the Sentinels out to meet them. One Sentinel holes Starcore One. Storm is sucked out through it. A Sentinel veers in her direction. Storm wonders if her powers work in space, far from the surface of the Earth. She's within the electromagnetic field of Earth, and the energy field of the Sun with its own EM field and solar particles overlaps it, providing a source of power for her. She discovers that she can use these energy sources to destroy the Sentinel. She then uses the solar wind to fly back to Starcore One.

Corbeau crashes the shuttle into the orbital platform's side, making his own entry. The passengers disembark and are attacked by Sentinels. Again the giant robots are a bunch of pushovers. Lang then introduces them to---the first team of X-Men and Prof. X, who come on like murderous enemies. The new X-Men hold back. Why have their friends turned on them? But there are other anomalies---the Beast is his pre-furred self, and Cyclops's visor is the old, narrow version. Also, the old team acts like they've never seen the new team before, and Prof. X is no longer wheelchair bound. He knocks Wolverine flat on his rear with a roundhouse left.

Assailed by Marvel Girl on one side and Prof. X on another, a dazed Wolverine relies on his senses----and acts accordingly. He attacks Marvel Girl----- Only it isn't Marvel Girl, it's a robot. The others are all robots, too. The new X-Men stop holding back and destroy the deceitful machines. They free the captive X-Men---the real Marvel Girl among them.

Lang attacks them in a flying gunship, but Marvel Girl uses TK on the controls, and it crashes on the big wall screen.

The orbital platforms are damaged, and fire spreads throughout it. Lang's flunkies take this opportunity to escape in all the lifeboats. Unfortunately, Starcore's flight computer was damaged and its hull has a giant hole in it. The pressure suits were destroyed during the Sentinels's attack.

These problems pale in comparison to the solar flare. The flight computer was intended to fly them safely through it, while the passengers stayed safe in a radiation-proof chamber. Dr. Corbeau also points out that nobody can withstand the flare and pilot the craft at the same time.

Jean Grey steps up to the plate, over Scott's objections. She telepathically takes shuttle pilot knowledge from Dr. Corbeau. "My telekinetic powers will screen out the harmful radiation---I'll be all right!"⁽¹⁹⁾

She zaps Cyclops into unconsciousness, and Banshee takes him to the life-cell. The other X-Men object, but Jean is adamant. She seals the hole in the hull telekinetically with some wreckage, then pilots the shuttle out of the platform. Other than the hole, the shuttle is otherwise undamaged.

Unfortunately, the solar flare is more concentrated than Jean Grey thought and the radiation counter bursts into life, going off the scale....

(16) SHIELD—Acronym for "Strategic Hazard Intervention Espionage Logistics Directorate."

(17) Wikipedia, "Solar Flare."

(18) X-Men #99, page 10.

(19) X-Men #100, page 13



END PART TWO!



November 26th, 2005 LIFE CHANGES!

I have been working, and doing that along with being a mom and stuff is HARD! And if that wasn't enough. . . *sigh*

Now, my husband and I are separating. With all these things going on, it seems like I'll never get this done, so unfortunately, I'll have to forgo writing about Obon (I started the research on it but haven't been able to finish it). I am bummed by this but I'll be moving to another state the weekend before Christmas.

I will also be reducing the frequency of the MANGAVERSE to quarterly. I'd rather not, but with all this stuff going on in my life it seems like the best course of action.

This ish was supposed to be the ultimate Halloween ish, but I hope you all enjoy it anyway. *sigh*

Horrible Halloween Har-hars



What do you get when you cross a vampire with a snowman?
Frostbite.

Why don't skeletons ever go out on the town?
Because they don't have any body to go with.

Why did the skeleton refuse to cross the road?
It didn't have any guts.

What type of dogs do vampires like best?
Bloodhounds.

What do birds give out on Halloween night?
Tweets.

Dumb Definitions

Goblin: How you eat the Snickers Bars you got for Halloween

Invisible Man: What a guy becomes when there's housework to be done
Also, see "Mr. Hyde"

Jack O' Lantern: An Irish pumpkin

Witch: See "Mother-In-Law"

Skeleton: Any super model



Fun with Japanese

By Usagi



kanji 【hiragana】 <romanji> English

墓場 【はかば】 <hakaba> (n) graveyard; cemetery

【おはか】 <ohaka> grave

死体 【したい】 <shitai> (n) corpse

吸血鬼 【きゅうけつき】 <kyuuketsuki> (n) vampire; bloodsucker

蝙蝠 【こうもり】 <koumori> (n) bat (animal)

幽霊 【ゆうれい】 <yuurei> (n) ghost; specter; spectre; apparition; phantom

仮面 【かめん】 <kamen> (n) (1) mask; (2) disguise

衣装(P); 衣裳 【いしょう】 <ishou> (n) costume; outfit

魔法 【まほう】 <mahou> (n) magic; witchcraft; sorcery

魔法使い 【まほうつかい】 <mahoutsukai> (n) magician; wizard; sorcerer

呪文 【じゅもん】 <jyumon> (n) spell; charm; incantation

妖精 【ようせい】 <yousei> (n) fairy; sprite; elf

影 【かげ】 <kage> (n) shadow

【ししやのまつり】 <shishya no matsuri> festival of the dead

お盆; 御盆 【おぼん】 <obon> (n) Bon Festival; Lantern Festival

Katagana <romanji> English

マスク <masu ku> (n,vs) mask

ハロウィーン <no ro u i—n> (n) Halloween

ハッピー ハロウィーン <happi —ha rou i—n> happy Halloween

Got questions? Ask Usagi! TwistedUsagi@gmail.com

A Non-Review

By Ruth R. Davidson

Anime "Bleach"



This is a weird, but fun anime. It's about a 15 year old dude named Ichigo Kurosaki, who has the ability to see the dead, as well as Soul Reapers (sometimes translated as Death God), the people from the Soul Society who aid the dead in passing on and destroy the Hollows (creatures who devore souls and turn other souls into Hollows themselves). His hair color is naturally a yellow/orange blond, and he used to get beat up for looking so funny. He also lost his mother to a dreadful accident as a child.

His life changes when he meets Rukia Kuchiki, a Soul Reaper. He sees her when she enters his bedroom hunting for a Hollow. She is shocked by this. During her battle with the Hollow, she becomes severely injured (after doing some hefty damage to the Hollow) and transfers part of her power to Ichigo, but something goes wrong. He ends up absorbing all of her Soul Reaper powers. He destroys the Hollow, but now, he has Rukia's power with no way of giving it back. So he takes on the role of Soul Reaper himself with the help of Rukia. He's a reluctant Soul Reaper, but soon finds the motivation to maintain his Soul Reaper status.

The first few episodes or so are very episodic, but after that, longer plot threads are introduced, as well as other supporting characters, some of which are human who have their inner power awaken. This isn't a must see anime, but I've found it worth my time thus far (I've only seen the first 36 eps).



概字 Comment Letters

Jennett Kaerie

The new MV looks great. I'm glad you've decided to make these changes, since it wasn't really a Sf/f thing. It was more of a "Hey, I like anime and manga" thing. "Let's talk about how cool Rurouni Kenshin is."

The X-Men article is really great, too. I didn't read all of since it's so long, *[you should read all of it. It's a great way to learn about the story without having to find and read all of the comics! —Ruthiechan]* but it's good and I'm glad it's there because it helps remove the focus from Anime and Manga. Not that there's anything wrong with anime and manga, its just that it felt more like a "I like Japanese things" kind of thing instead of a "Hey, SF/F graphic novels are good reads."

[I'm glad you approve of the changes. I was wondering if I was beginning to take myself too seriously, or (heaven forbid) that SFF fandom at large accepting SFF in genres, other than books or on a TV/movie screen, was a lost cause. I've found that the younger generation of fans are more —Ruthiechan]



just one editorial that could cover everything about my experiences here. So I decided to make it into an editorial series. This is the main page - check here for updates.'

Azrael's editorials are amusing eye openers. I had no idea that kids really did poke each other in the arse, I thought it was something silly that was made up for the anime Naruto which is where I first saw such a thing in an anime. Nope, it really happens.

Some editorial titles include "In the Ghetto", "Japanese Kids Say the Darndest Things", "The Kancho Revolution", "Cultural Differences", "What Big Eyes You Have", and many others that will leave you amused, disturbed and sometimes even touched.

And speaking of Naruto, it is now my daughter's favorite anime. She asks to watch it every day, and talks about it. She'll sing (in Japanese) and "dance" to the beginning and end music. She also now copies all the hand symbols for the various jutsu's. It's very cute, however, if she ever tries to do a kancho, I'll be sure to impress upon her the foolishness of such an act.

I went to a Japanese ramen place with the husband, and with Hazel. I got some tasty ramen, Robert a beef bowl and Hazel got some rice. She took her chop sticks, one in each hand, spread her arms, grinned up at the ceiling and said, *ikitakemasu!* This is what the main character, Naruto, say and does before he eats his ramen. Robert and I were both surprised and highly amused.

I know have a job at Vons, which is owned by Safeway. I'm a checker, so I ring everyone's groceries up. We're required to greet the customer, and then at the end of the transaction to tell them what their savings were using the Vons card, and to say "thank you Mister or Miss So & So" with a "pleasant parting comment." The trouble with that is, some last names are difficult to pronounce and there are some where I'll say to the customer, "I'm not even going to try saying your last name." This usually leaves them amused and they'll tell me how to say it .

What does this have to do with anything? Japanese customers of course! There was one couple who were clearly Japanese, I could recognize the language, but I couldn't understand it or speak it back.

BUT, there have been two instances where I've surprised Japanese customers by saying their last name right.

The most recent person was last night (10/29), and her reaction has left a lasting impression on me. Her last name was something like Imanade. When I said it, she looked at me stunned and said, "YES! Very good!" She was so incredibly pleasantly surprised the woman was actually beaming and smiling up at me. I could hardly believe that saying her last name correctly affected her that much.

It made me feel pretty darned good, especially since I've heard stories of some Japanese people making fun of Americans who try to speak their language. Though according to Usagi, many will be pleased that an effort is being made. . . Goes to show that even though there's a lot of conformity in Japan, they're still as varied as in personality as anyone else.

On to other things, there is the possibility that the MANGAVERSE will become a quarterly zine. The reason being, I work now, and it's even more of a challenge to get things done. Ironically, I've got less hours next week. It would have been nice to have less hours last week, because then I could have actually gotten this out on time. If I do decide to go quarterly, it'll likely start next year, unless the Turkey and Christmas season kicks my arse at work. Hopefully it won't be too bad. We'll see.

As a note, I've gotten sick of seeing the same info over and over again on the last two pages. So, the N3F membership form has been removed (anyone interested can just go to www.n3f.org anyway, or email me if they've got questions), and I've written up a condensed version of the Submission Guidelines for newbies. Now only one page has general info, guidelines, art credits, and the table of contents. I think it works out much better that way.

