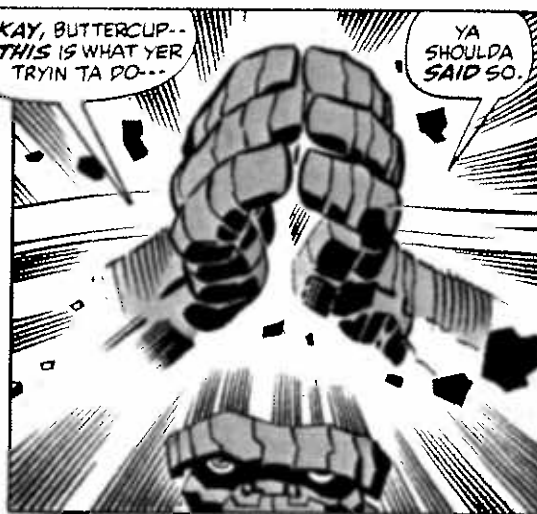
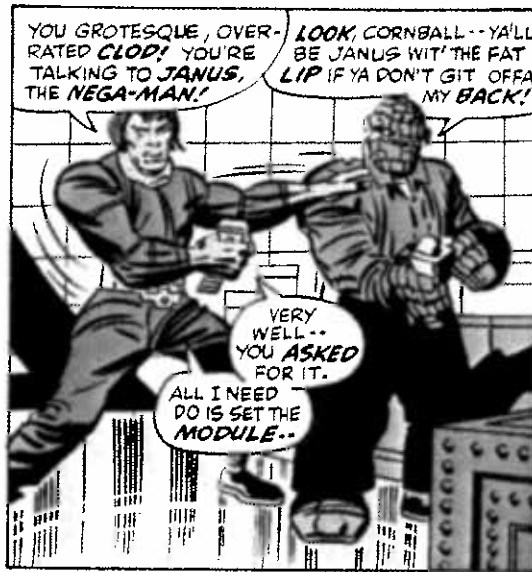
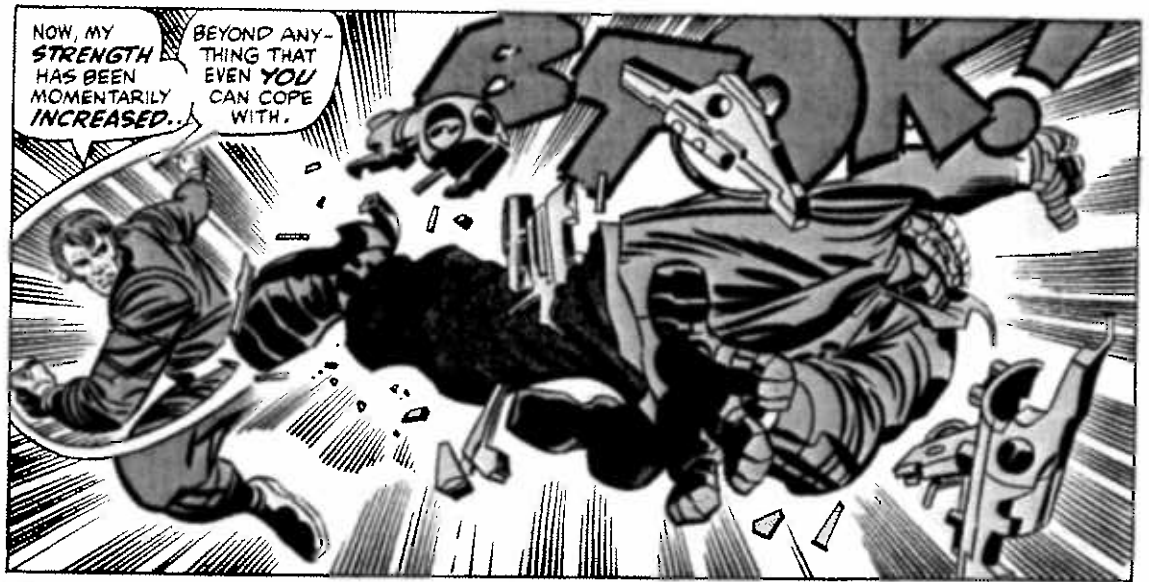


NOTE: IF NONE OF THIS MAKES SENSE TO YOU, DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT. ONLY MIXED-UP MARVEL WOULD ATTEMPT TO SHOW FLASHBACK SCENES FROM A STORY WE'VE NEVER PRINTED BEFORE!...SINCERE STAN.





NOW, MY STRENGTH HAS BEEN MOMENTARILY INCREASED.

BEYOND ANYTHING THAT EVEN YOU CAN COPE WITH.

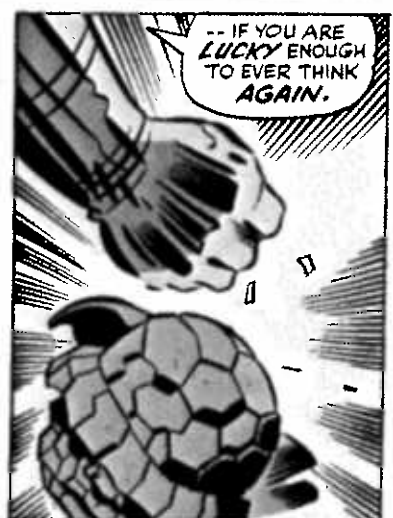
BACK!



YOU THOUGHT I WAS MERELY A SIMPLE ECCENTRIC.



BUT NOW... YOU WILL THINK DIFFERENTLY.



-- IF YOU ARE LUCKY ENOUGH TO EVER THINK AGAIN.



BEN, I'M SORRY I'M LATE. I WAS... HEY!

WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?

SO... THE HUMAN TORCH WAS SUPPOSED TO MEET HIS BESTIAL FRIEND HERE, EH?

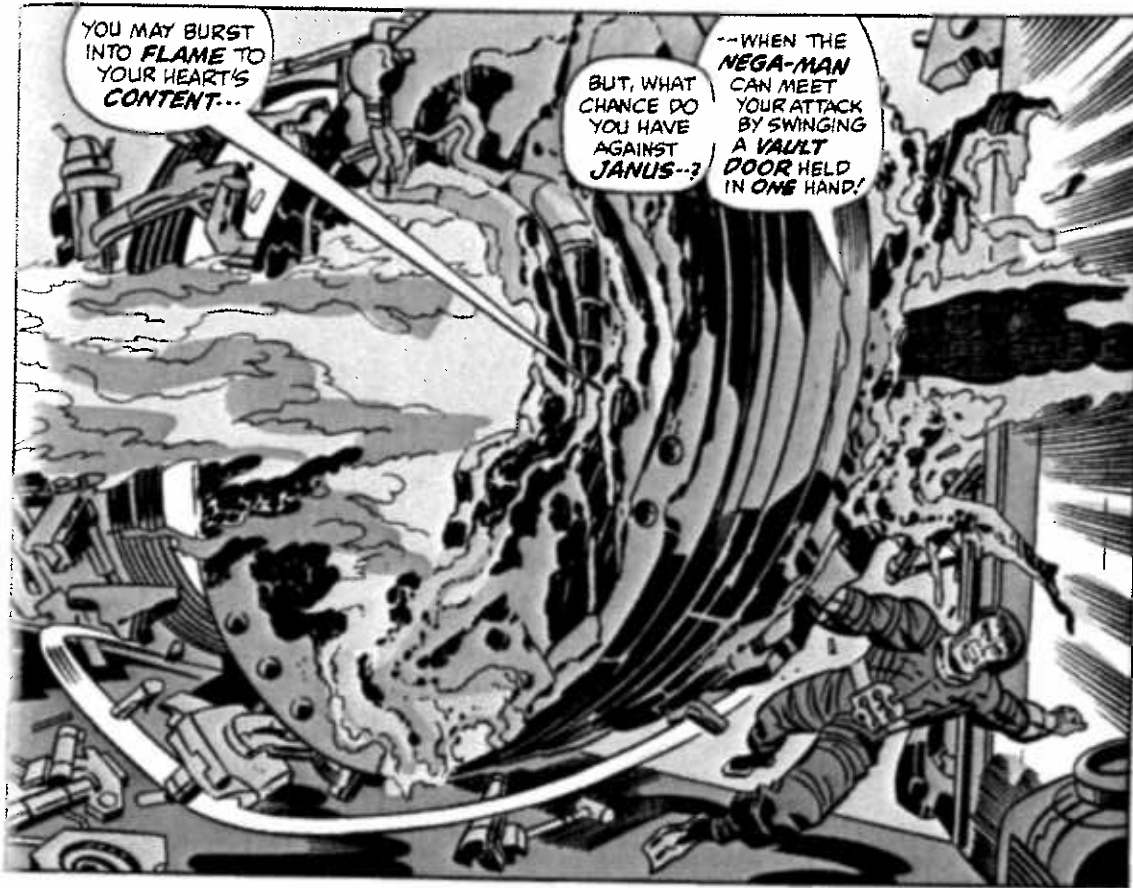
A PITY THE NEGA-MAN MUST FORCE YOU TO CHANGE YOUR PLANS.



NEGA-MAN?

LOOK, I DUNNO HOW YOU FLOORED THE THING... BUT NOBODY DOES THAT TO A MEMBER OF THE FANTASTIC FOUR!

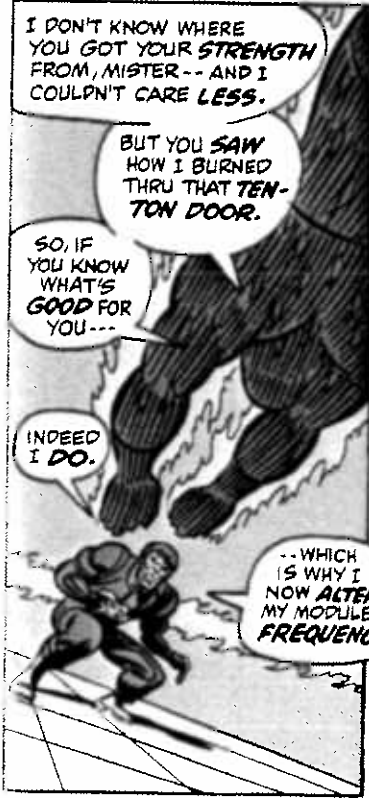
FLAME ON!



YOU MAY BURST INTO **FLAME** TO YOUR HEART'S **CONTENT**...

BUT, WHAT CHANCE DO YOU HAVE AGAINST **JANUS**--?

--WHEN THE **NEGA-MAN** CAN MEET YOUR ATTACK BY SWINGING A **VAULT DOOR** HELD IN **ONE HAND!**



I DON'T KNOW WHERE YOU GOT YOUR **STRENGTH** FROM, MISTER-- AND I COULDN'T CARE **LESS**.

BUT YOU **SAW** HOW I BURNED THRU THAT **TEN-TON DOOR**.

SO, IF YOU KNOW WHAT'S **GOOD** FOR YOU---

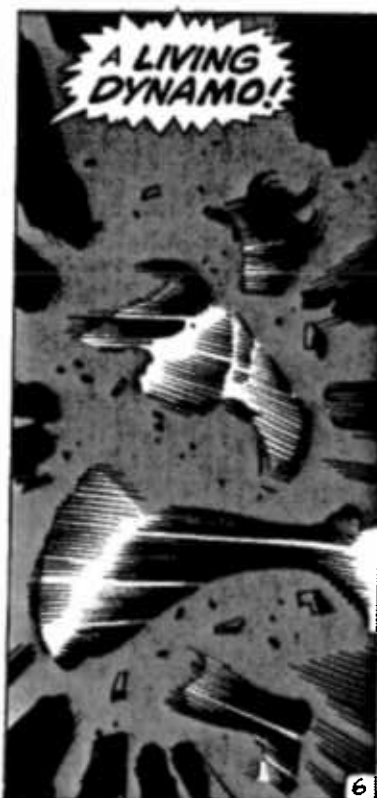
INDEED I **DO**.

--WHICH IS WHY I NOW **ALTER** MY MODULE'S **FREQUENCY**.

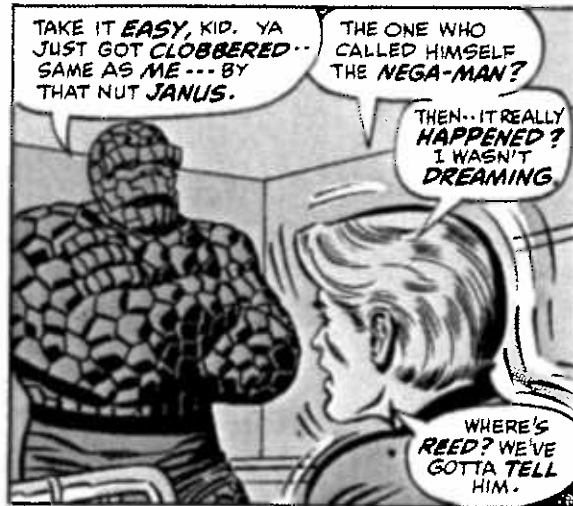


-- CONVERTING IT TO **ELECTRICAL VOLTAGE**.

IN SHORT, I'VE NOW BECOME--



A LIVING DYNAMO!





RICHARDS!
THANK HEAVEN
I REACHED
YOU.

IT'S JANUS.
DO YOU
REMEMBER
ME?

YES, YES.
OF COURSE
I DO.

I NEED HELP
--DESPERATELY.



I'M LIVING IN
MIDVALE,
OFF ROUTE
22.

THE ADDRESS
--45 ELM ROAD.

GET HERE
AT ONCE! YOU
MUSTN'T FAIL
ME.

WHAT IS
IT, JANUS?
WHAT'S THE
PROBLEM?

DANGER!
A TERRIBLE
DANGER!



I DON'T GIT IT! A FEW
HOURS AGO HE WUZ
CLOBBERIN' EVERY-
ONE HE SAW.

NOW, HE SUDDENLY
SOUNDS LIKE A
TREMBLIN' MISTER
NICE!

IT'S GOTTA
BE SOME
KINDA TRAP

REED--
HOW DO YOU
KNOW
HIM?



YEARS AGO-- WE TOOK THE SAME
SCIENCE COURSE IN COLLEGE.

BUT HE BECAME OBSESSED
WITH TRYING TO FIND A NEW
SOURCE OF ENERGY--

WAIT!
LOOK AT THE
SCREEN! SOME-
THING'S WRONG!

SOME-
THINGS IN
THE ROOM
WITH HIM.

SOMETHING
HE'S SCARED
OF.



NO! NO!
STAY BACK--
KEEP AWAY
FROM ME!

I-- I WOULDN'T
HAVE BETRAYED
YOU-- I SWEAR
IT!

YOU MUST
BELIEVE ME.
KEEP BACK--
BACK--



LOOK
OUT!

THE
BLASTED
SCREEN
BLEW!



IT AIN'T **POSSIBLE!** NOTHIN' THAT HAPPENS IN **MIDVALE** CAN BUST OUR **VIZI-PHONE** 'WAY OVER **HERE!**

NOTHING -- EXCEPT A POSSIBLE **NEW SOURCE OF ENERGY**-- MORE **POWERFUL** THAN ANY OTHER **FORCE ON EARTH!**

THAT MUST BE WHAT HE MEANT -- WHEN HE REFERRED TO HIS **NEGATIVE POWER!**

THEN THAT'S WHY JANUS CALLED HIMSELF -- THE **NEGA-MAN!**

BUT, I STILL DON'T UNDERSTAND --

WHO -- OR WHAT -- WAS HE AFRAID OF?



REED! I HEARD AN **EXPLOSION**. WHAT HAPPENED?

THAT'S WHAT WE HAVE TO **FIND OUT**, DARLING.

A TRIP? TO **WHERE?**

YOU AND ARE TAKING A **LITTLE TRIP**.



MIDVALE-- TO TACKLE THE MYSTERY OF THE **NEGA-MAN!**

I'LL CLUE YOU IN AS WE GO **ALONG**

YOU LOOK SO **GRIM**, DEAR. IS IT ANYTHING **SERIOUS?**



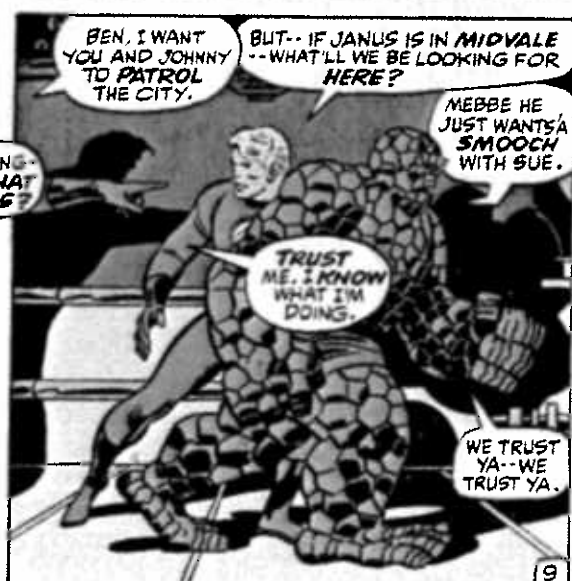
IF IT'S WHAT I **SUSPECT**-- THE WHOLE **HUMAN RACE** MAY BE IN **DANGER!**

BUT NO SENSE **WORRYING** TILL WE KNOW FOR **SURE**. CAN YOU **LEAVE** RIGHT NOW?

OF **COURSE**-- IF YOU WANT ME TO.

HEY, **STRING-BEAN**-- WHAT ABOUT **US?**

I'M ONLY TAKING **SUE**.



BEN, I WANT YOU AND **JOHNNY** TO **PATROL** THE CITY.

BUT-- IF **JANUS** IS IN **MIDVALE**-- WHAT'LL WE BE **LOOKING FOR** **HERE?**

MEBBE HE JUST WANTS A **SMOOCH** WITH **SUE**.

TRUST ME, I KNOW WHAT I'M **DOING**.

WE **TRUST** YA-- WE **TRUST** YA.



HE CAN'T FOOL ME. THERE'S STILL A LOT HE AIN'T TOLD US.

FUNNY--I ALSO HAD THE FEELING THAT HE'S HOLDING SOMETHING BACK.

BUT WHAT CAN IT BE?



THE WHOLE THING'S LIKE A JIG-SAW PUZZLE... WITH LOTS OF MISSING PIECES.

KNOW SOMETHIN', JUNIOR? YA GOT A REAL FLAIR FER THE DRAMATIC.

NOW SHUDDUP'N SIGNAL THE ELEVATOR!



NO KIDDING, BEN-- HOW DID JANUS CHANGE THE WAY HE DID?

AND WHY MUST WE STAY HERE WHEN THE NEGA-MAN'S IN MIDVALE?



WHAT ARE WE ON PATROL HERE FOR?

NOT EVEN JANUS CAN BE IN TWO PLACES AT ONCE.



I WISH HE WUZ-- SO'S I COULD TEAR INTO HIM AGAIN.

HOW COME? YOU DIDN'T DO SO GOOD THE FIRST TIME.

NOBODY LIKES A SMART-MOUTH, KID!



YOU WANT US TO USE THE POGO PLANE?

HECK NO. I JUST GIT MY KICKS OUTTA OPENIN' N SHUTTIN' COCKPIT DOORS.

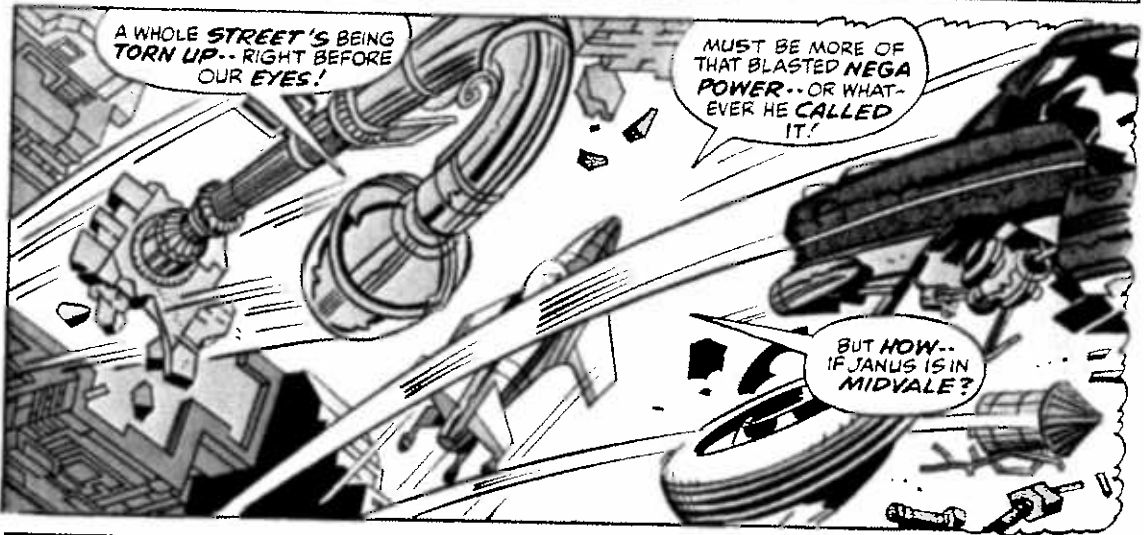
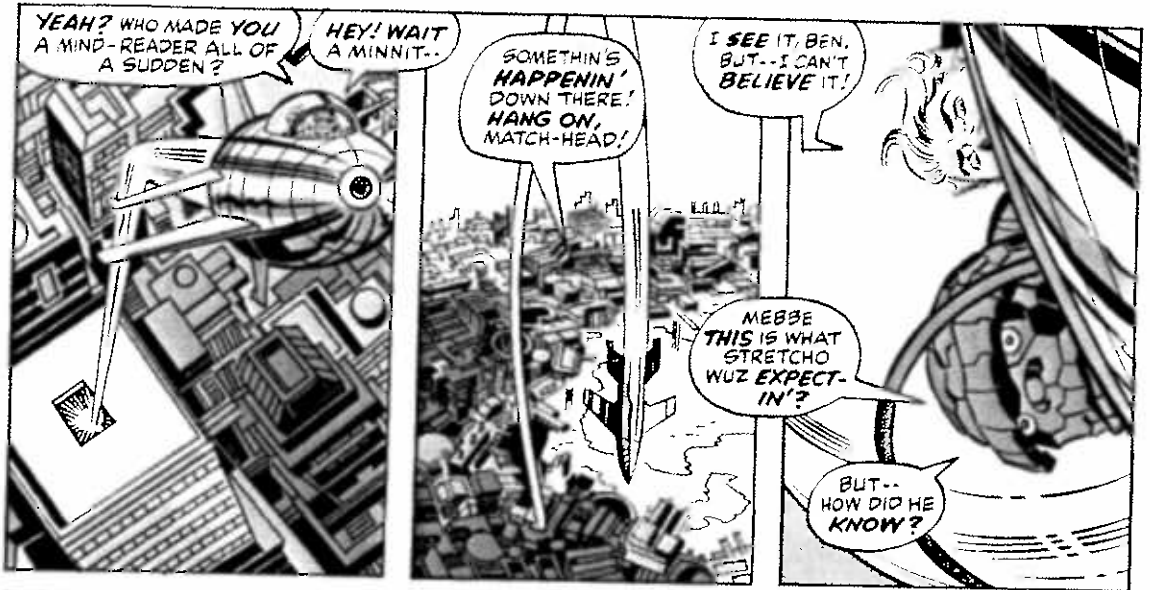
NOW GIT IN 'N GIVE YER JAWS A REST.



MAN! IF WE EVER GIT OUTTA THE SUPERHEROING RACKET-- WOTTA DRAGSTER THIS'D MAKE!

KNOCK IT OFF, BEN.

YOU'RE AS WORRIED AS I AM-- AND YOU KNOW IT.





THINK BACK AGAIN-- BACK TO THAT DAY WHEN YOU LANDED THE POGO PLANE-- AND SAW--

I KEEP TELLIN' YA-- WE KNOW WHAT WE SAW.

IT AIN'T THE KIND OF THING YA CAN EVER FORGET!

BEAR WITH ME, BEN! JUST A LITTLE LONGER--



"DO YOU REMEMBER THE FIRST THING YOU SAW AS YOU APPROACHED GROUND LEVEL? IT WAS A FIGURE-- THE FIGURE OF--"

JANUS! I KNEW IT HADDA BE HIM!

THEN HE LED STRETCHO A WILD GOOSE CHASE!

HE AIN'T IN MIDVALE. HE'S RIGHT HERE!

BACK-- ALL OF YOU!

THE NEGA-MAN COMMANDS!

HE CAN LEVEL A BUILDING-- JUST BY USING THAT RAY!



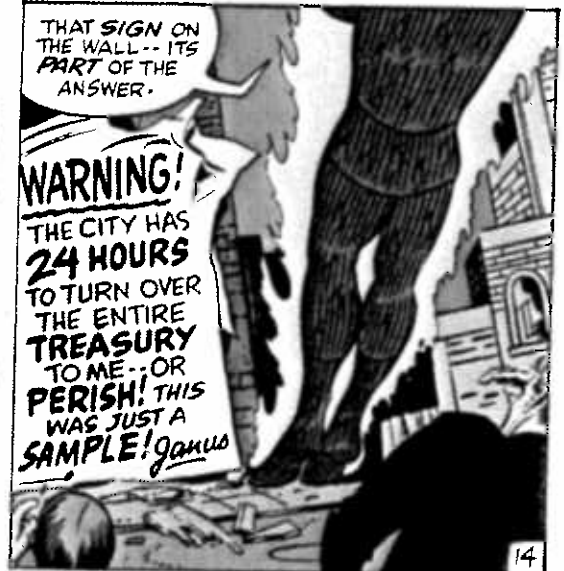
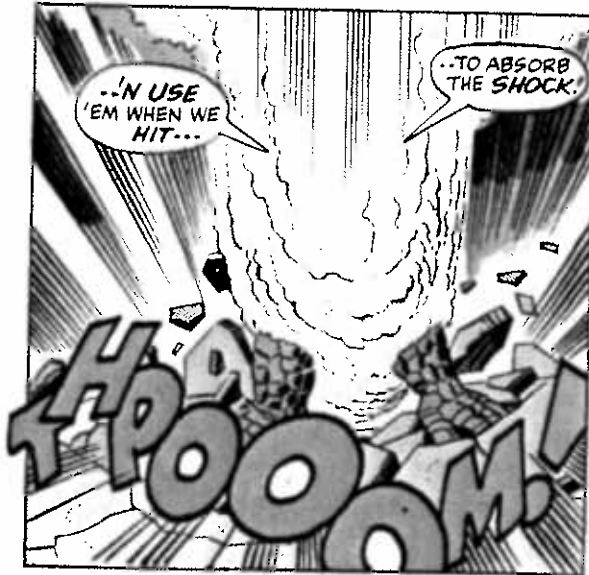
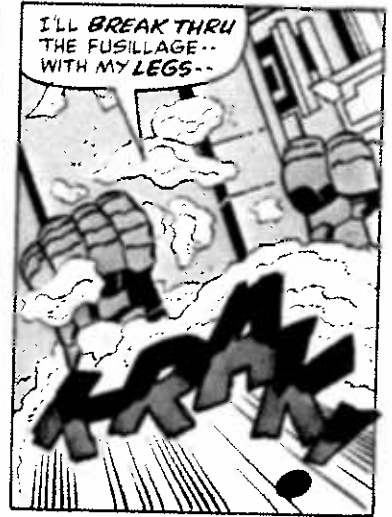
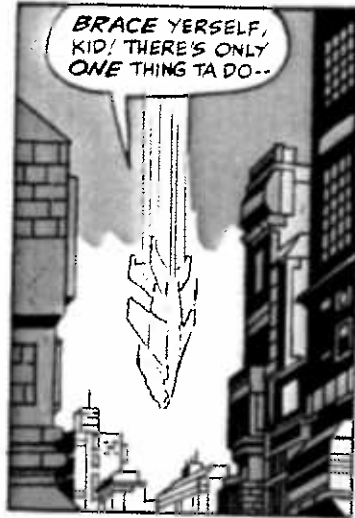
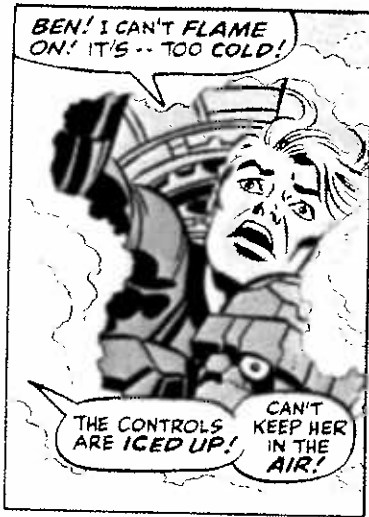
SEND YOUR MAYOR TO ME.

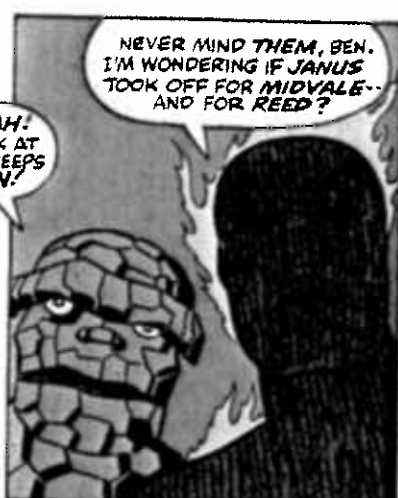
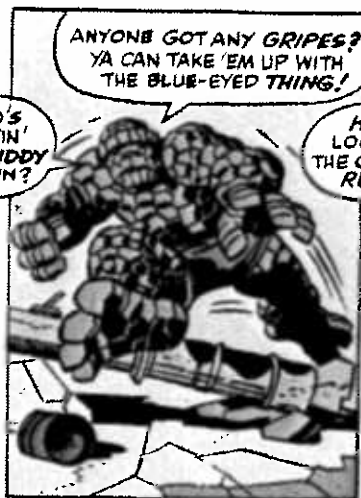
I WILL DICTATE THE TERMS UNDER WHICH HE WILL SURRENDER THE CITY AND ALL IT CONTAINS TO ME!



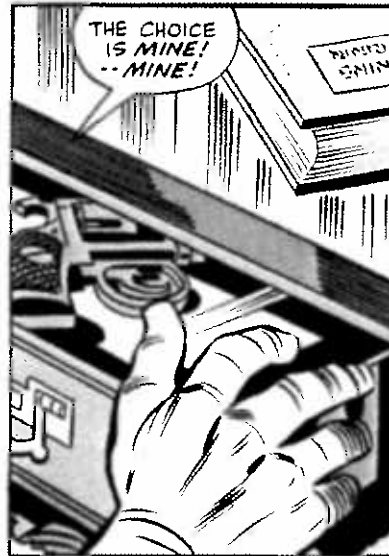
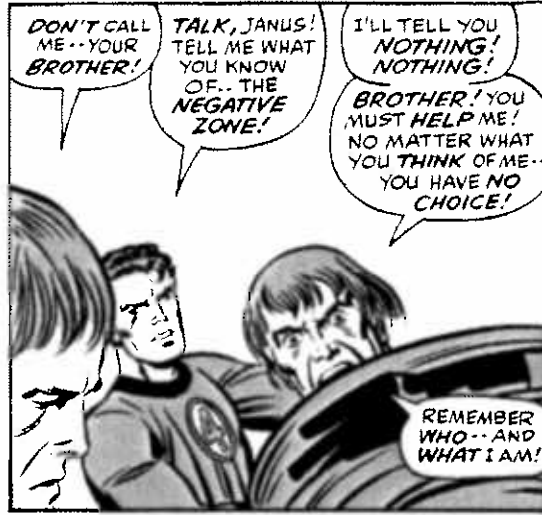
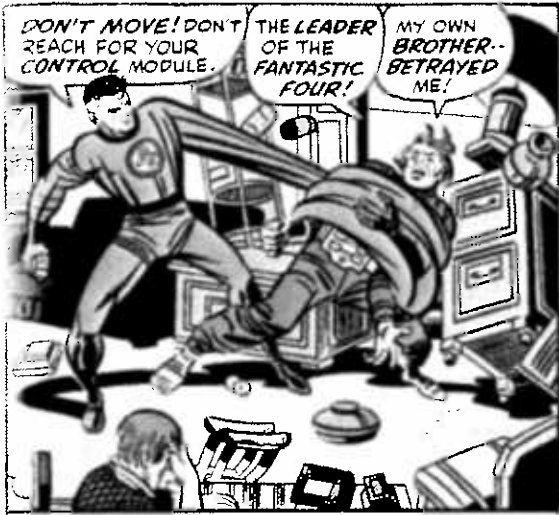
BUT FIRST... I SEE AN AIR-CRAFT DARING! IT'S THE POGO PLANE TO APPROACH ME... OF THE SOON-TO-BE-HUMBLED FANTASTIC FOUR!

ONE NEGA-POWER HAND-BLAST WILL DISPOSE OF IT!











I KNOW... I KNOW... AND IT WILL HAUNT ME-- TO THE GRAVE.

REED! HE KILLED HIM!



NO, SUE! YOU CANNOT KILL WHAT DOESN'T EXIST!

WHAT DO YOU MEAN? WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?

LOOK, DARLING-- LOOK!



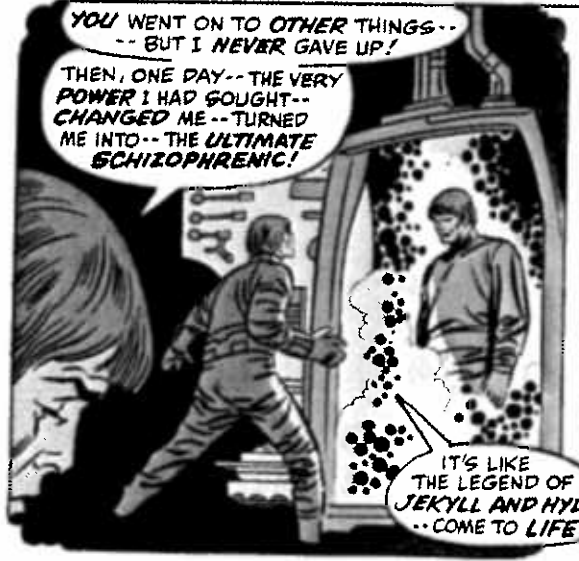
HIS BODY-- IS FADING AWAY-- INTO NOTHINGNESS!

TELL HER, JANUS. OR ELSE I WILL!



I SHOULD HAVE KNOWN I COULDN'T FOOL YOU, RICHARDS. AFTER ALL, I ASKED YOU TO HELP ME WITH MY SEARCH FOR NEGA-POWER-- BACK DURING OUR COLLEGE DAYS--

--EVEN THOUGH YOU CAUTIONED ME AGAINST IT!



YOU WENT ON TO OTHER THINGS-- BUT I NEVER GAVE UP!

THEN, ONE DAY-- THE VERY POWER I HAD SOUGHT-- CHANGED ME-- TURNED ME INTO-- THE ULTIMATE SCHIZOPHRENIC!

IT'S LIKE THE LEGEND OF JEKYLL AND HYDE -- COME TO LIFE!

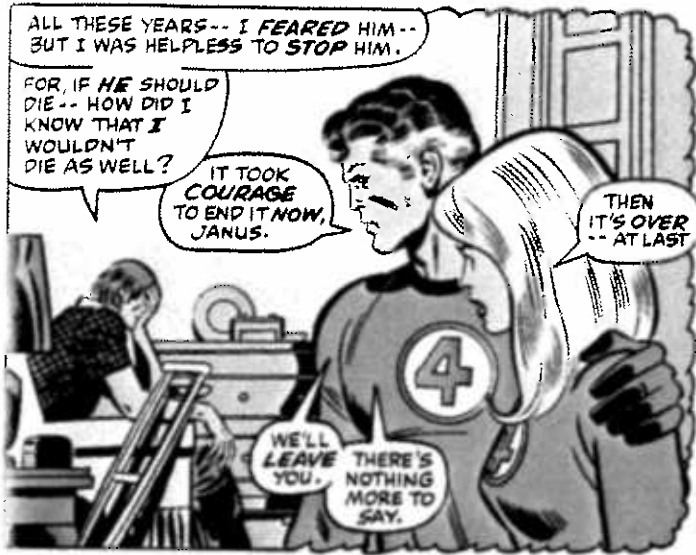


I AM ALL THAT IS EVIL WITHIN YOU, JANUS!

NEGA-POWER HAS GIVEN ME SHAPE-- AND FORM!

I WILL USE THAT POWER-- TO DO WHAT YOU WOULD NEVER DARE!

I SHALL BE MASTER OF THE WORLD!



ALL THESE YEARS-- I FEARED HIM-- BUT I WAS HELPLESS TO STOP HIM.

FOR, IF HE SHOULD DIE-- HOW DID I KNOW THAT I WOULDN'T DIE AS WELL?

IT TOOK COURAGE TO END IT NOW, JANUS.

THEN IT'S OVER -- AT LAST

WE'LL LEAVE YOU.

THERE'S NOTHING MORE TO SAY.



"BUT, WE WERE WRONG. IT WASN'T OVER!"

LEFT TO HIMSELF, JANUS COULDN'T STOP EXPERIMENTING. HE USED THE NEGA-POWER TO CURE HIS LEGS-- BUT THAT WASN'T ENOUGH--

EVENTUALLY HE WANTED MORE POWER -- FAR, FAR MORE--



AND THE ONLY PLACE HE COULD GET IT--

THE NEGATIVE ZONE! YA DON'T HAVETA SPELL IT OUT!

THEN THAT EXPLAINS IT!



THAT'S WHY HE BROKE INTO YOUR LAB! THAT'S WHY HE STOLE PAST YOU -- TO FACE THE HORRORS OF THE NEGATIVE ZONE!

FOR ANY OTHER MAN, IT WOULD HAVE BEEN SUICIDE! BUT NOT FOR JANUS!

WHY NOT, BIG BRAIN?



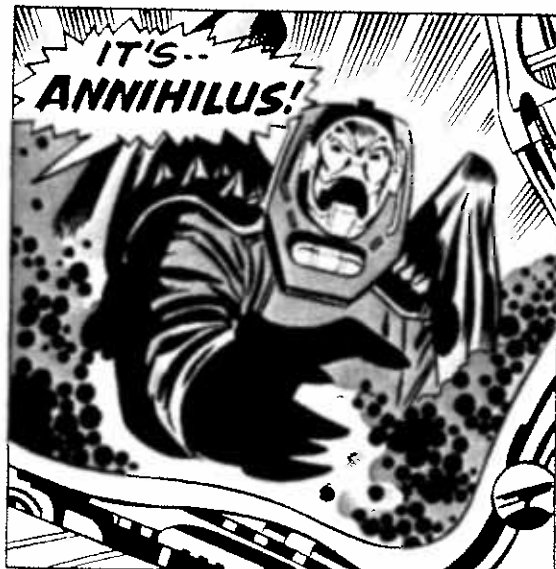
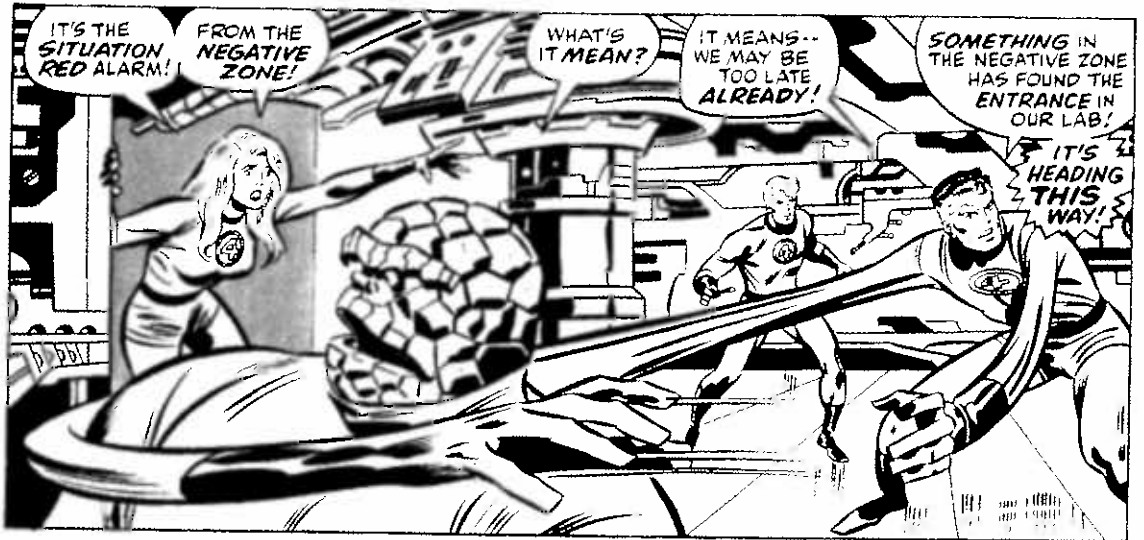
BECAUSE HE ALREADY POSSESSES NEGA-POWER -- ENOUGH TO PROTECT HIM THERE!

IT'S NOT JANUS WHO'S IN DANGER-- IT'S THE WHOLE HUMAN RACE!

WHEN HE RETURNS-- HE'LL BE UNBEATABLE!

AND WHAT IF HE'S FOLLOWED BACK-- BY THE MONSTERS THAT LIVE THERE?

IF THEY EVER MAKE IT INTO THIS DIMENSION-- EVEN WE AIN'T GONNA BE ABLE TA STOP 'EM!



HEAVY IS THE HEAD THAT WEARS THE CROWN

TOR #7

J. Michael Straczynski • Marko Djurdjevic

Variant Cover by Olivier Coipel & Marko Djurdjevic

March 2008

MARVEL

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PORTFOLIO REVIEW

In the wake of *Marvel's* *Complex*, there were *A-Men* and young mutants *Ricko*, *Smolder* and *Dust* are alone and directionless. Until the day *Cyclops* recruits them to hunt the new incarnation of the Brotherhood—and kill them. Exactly who this new Brotherhood is and why *Cyclops* wants them are the mysteries that will shock you joined by a pair of new recruits, the young *A-Men* have a hard truth about the world *post-Complex* sometimes old allies make for deadly enemies.

So, just who made the cut to be in this new team and what do they bring to the table? We sat down with editor *Nick Lowe* to get the low-down on each of the new members, as depicted by series artist *Paulo Pagetta* and hints as to what roles these kids will play!



Dust - "She's one of the most powerful mutants in the world. Her power is so versatile and, frankly, really scary. We've seen her peel the skin off people with her dust. She can get in and out of any building. We're just lucky she's a good guy, or, gal."

"Basically, Cyclops is personally making this the tightest platoon of X-Men ever. He's got big plans for these kids."

"One hint about the Brotherhood — this isn't the first time these characters have been new."



Inkcub - "He's a new character that you'll meet for the first time in #1. He's one to watch. His powers are really cool and there are some really BIG things planned for him."

Wolfcub - "He's going to surprise a lot of people. And tear the heck out of a lot of bad guys with his claws and teeth. He's much tougher than anyone gives him credit for and you'll see him rise to new heights in this book."



Rocksicle - "The funniest character in all the X-Men, by far. We've all known someone like Rocksicle. He's kind of a jerk, but you love him anyway. But in this series he's going to be put through the wringer and you're going to see a lot of new aspects of his personality."



Greymalkin - "He's the big mystery of the first five issues, and that's all you're getting from me about him."



YOUNG X-MEN #1

Marc Guggenheim - Fabrice Piquette

Cover by Terry Dodson

APRIL 2008

LOOK WHO'S TALKING!

AWARD-WINNING COMIC BOOK WRITER MARK MILLAR



MARVEL: You're an awesome guy for the Marvel Universe! It's really nice to have you back. What do you think about the state of the Marvel Universe right now?

MARK MILLAR: In a word? Exciting. It really reminds me of the Marvel Universe I first discovered when I was a little kid. Marvel books always seemed a little more real and frightening than DC books. It wasn't a world where the heroes were quite as comfortable with one another. Even when they met, they were always fighting, whereas the DC guys always seemed like they were going fishing together when they were off-duty. I like the slightly uncomfortable feel of the new Marvel Universe. The idea that it's constantly in flux

MARVEL: The FF plays a huge role in *Civil War*. Will you let them be a little more active? How do you see returning to the team, do you think an exciting possibility of the future's possibilities?

MARK MILLAR: Very much so. *Civil War* was all about pulling something apart. It was always about a line being drawn down the middle of the Marvel Universe. But now my spider-sense tells me that the time is right for reconciliation. This is all about building things up and making people feel good again. It's very much a response to the gloominess of *Civil War*.

MARVEL: You've said that there's a real lesson to Stan Lee & Jack Kirby. How much of their original 1960s comic book influence do you think you have?

MARK MILLAR: It's influenced us enormously in the sense that we're never referring to them even once. Why? Because the lesson we've hopefully learned from the Lee and Kirby run is to do comics our own way. You have to look at the historical context of the first *Fantastic Four*. This was a book that broke all the rules and constantly changed. It was unlike anything else around at the time and we have to try to do something similar. Of course, it needs to feel like *Fantastic Four*, but were Stan and Jack a couple of thirty-somethings now, I feel they would make the book their own by panel 3.

MARVEL: How did you feel about the prospect of Reed and Sue being the central couple? How do you think you'll take it all back to the *Fantastic Four*?

Reed – They call Reed Mister Fantastic because he's the toughest, coolest, best-looking, craziest and smartest superhero in the Marvel Universe. This is something they missed in the movies. I think. But Reed isn't a nerd by any means. He's fought Galactus, for God's sake. I know that's more than one sentence, but I feel passionate about it.

Sue – She's the glue that holds the family together, the powerful link between Reed, Johnny, Franklin and Valeria and the secret power behind the throne (like all wives).

Johnny – He's the rock star of the Marvel Universe.

Ben – The heart of the team.

Doom – Victim of the weird uncle Dad doesn't talk to anymore, the big split in the family.

MARVEL: How does the new *Fantastic Four* fit in with the *Doom* movie? Do you think it's a good idea?

MARK MILLAR: I thought long and hard about using Doom because I didn't want this to be *Fantastic Four*'s greatest hit. That's tempting when you have someone like Bryan Hitch on the book, because you

naturally want to see his Mole Man and Black Bolt and Silver Surfer and so on.

But we both agreed early on that the reason the book hasn't sold as well as it did in its heyday is because the family hasn't been allowed to grow organically.

I think FF has probably had the greatest number of top creators out of any book in history and yet the book has been stuck in the middle of the charts since maybe the early seventies. I considered this a great deal and I really think it's because all those big changes that made it radical happened in those first ten years and since then it's stayed the same size. Any family that hasn't grown in 35 years is going to feel diminished. And so we've tried to throw as many new concepts and characters out there as we can. Doom will be used, but only in a way he hasn't been done before.

MARVEL: There have also been rumors of an original group. Care to talk?

MARK MILLAR: Johnny's out there copping off with all these top birds and Reed's busy with his experiments when they aren't saving the world. But I felt like Sue really needed something to do. She's smart and resourceful and is one of the best-connected people in the world, so I wanted her to get together with Stark International and start a superhuman relief effort to help victims of super-villain crime. This can be big or small and it's a charity she's started up with She-Hulk and Wasp. Mommy's essentially going out to work now.

MARVEL: What about new characters? How's that?

MARK MILLAR: Yeah, she's great fun. It just always struck me that Reed would have had someone prior to Sue, since he's ten years older than she is. Also, Sue's so different from Reed that I felt the girl out there would be much more like he was – a female Reed Richards of sorts, and someone he'd have met at university. As luck would have it, Chris Claremont created exactly such a character and her name is Alysse Moy. Her nickname in our story is Mrs. Fantastic and you'll see why when you read the first issue.

MARVEL: Reed and Sue are a couple. How do you think the new *Fantastic Four* will have worked with the return of *Fantastic Four*?

MARK MILLAR: The same two reasons I wanted him on *Ultimates*. First, he's the best in the business, bar none. He's just the greatest artist of this generation and I can't believe my luck to have him on another project. Secondly, and this is my weird answer, because he brings the same realism to superheroes as John Buscema and the Buscema reprints were my introduction to *Fantastic Four* as a kid. When I think of Reed, it's Buscema's version I see.

MARVEL: What are the chances of a *Blue and Red*?

MARK MILLAR: I love his Baxter Building. If that doesn't sound too good. Together with Paul's colors, it really looks like an actual place I want to live there.

MARVEL: Any more news?

MARK MILLAR: Buy this book. It's fuggin' awesome.

'Nuff Said!

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