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OVER THIRTY EXTRA PIECES OF NEW KIRBY ART

SPECIAL THEME ISSUES:

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VOLUME ONE COLLECTOR



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COLLECTOR
CELEBRATING THE LIFE AND CAREER OF *THE KING!*



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THE COLLECTED JACK KIRBY COLLECTOR, VOLUME ONE

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DESIGN & LAYOUT BY JOHN & PAMELA MORROW PROOFREADING BY RICHARD HOWELL COVER COLOR BY TOM ZIUKO
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This volume reprints issues #1-9 of *The Jack Kirby Collector*, plus new material
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First printing • Printed in Canada

DEDICATED TO:

* My beautiful, charming, and wonderfully tolerant
wife Pam. Without you, *The Jack Kirby Collector* –
and all of the other meaningful things in my life –
wouldn't mean a thing.

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Front cover inks: Mike Royer
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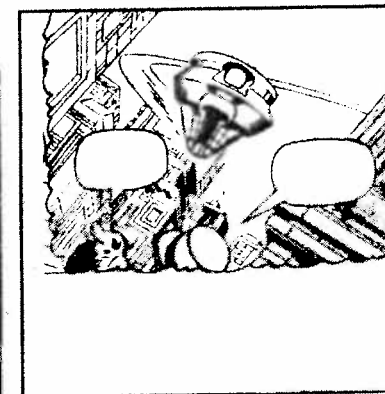
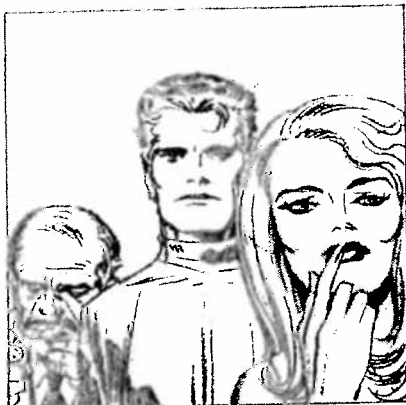
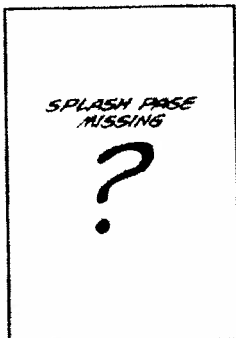
FANTASTIC FOUR #108: JACK'S WAY

by John Morrow

Fantastic Four #108 has quite a history behind it. It was originally meant to be #102, but supposedly someone at Marvel felt it wasn't dialogueable. So Marvel ran the art for #103 in #102, and put this art on the shelf for a few months. Then they chopped Jack's originals up, rearranged panels, added some John Buscema filler art, changed the ending, sent the whole thing to Joe Sinnott to ink, and published it (not so coincidentally) the same month Jack's *New Gods* #1 came out at DC. The end result was a real mess that didn't make much sense.

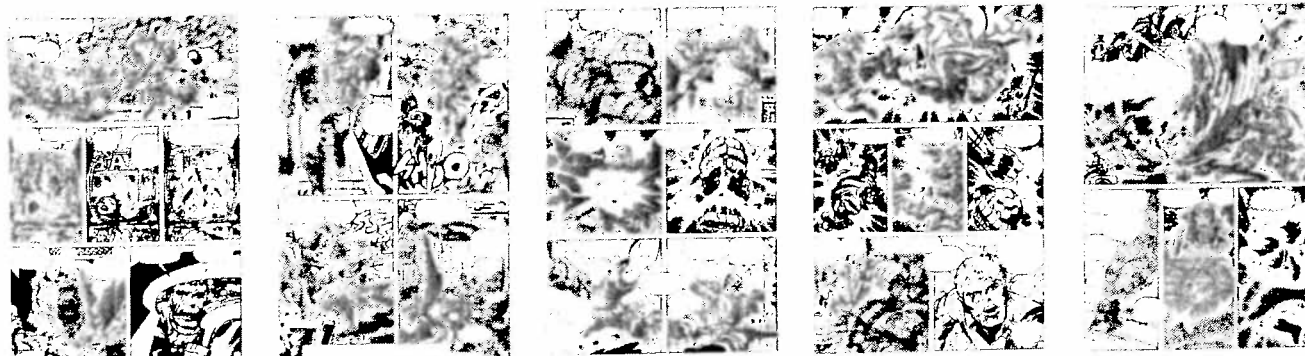
But just how bad was Jack's original story? Judge for yourself. Presented here is our attempt to put the story back into its original form, using the Kirby art that didn't make the cut. Mitch Itkowitz came across many of the discarded pencils in the Marvel files a few years ago, and had them returned to Jack. A few panels are still missing (most notably the splash page), and you'll see those indicated by question marks. Since Jack's original story and the published version had major differences, we deleted the published dialogue and page numbers to avoid confusion. In quotes (" ") accompanying the pencil panels are Jack's original margin notes for Stan Lee to dialogue by (these are numbered to coincide with the panel numbers). With just the few margin notes here to accompany Jack's powerful art, it's easy enough to get an idea of the

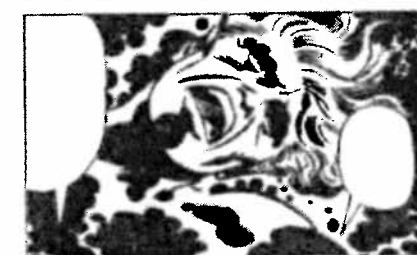
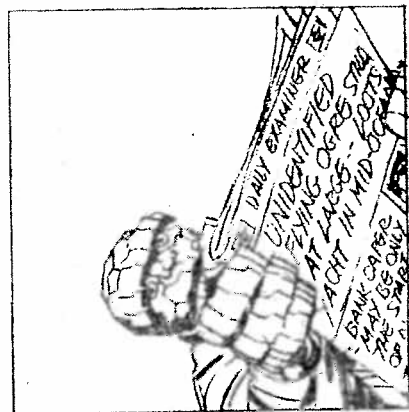
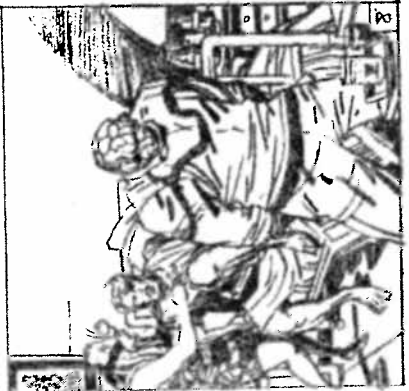
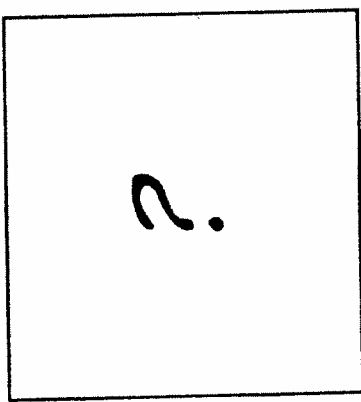
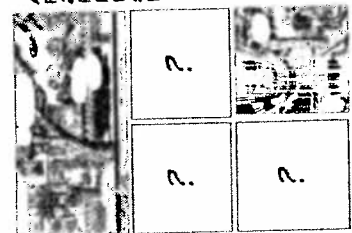
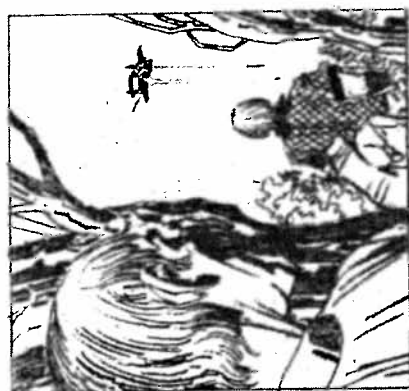
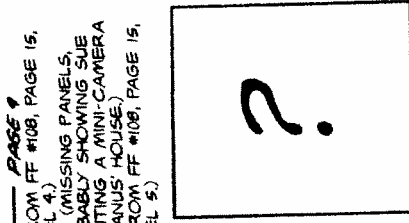
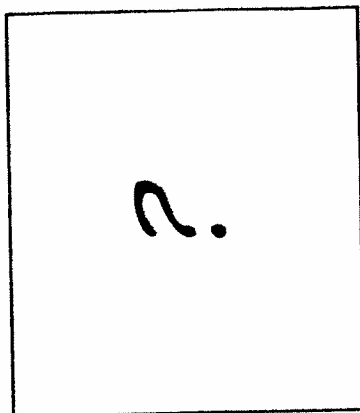
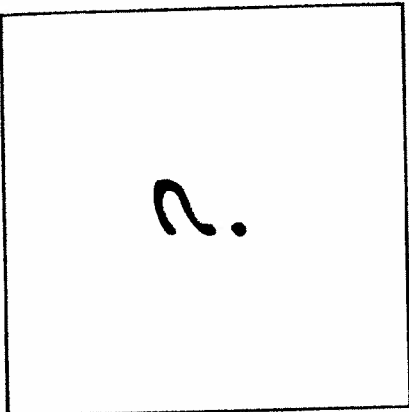
(continued on page 38)



PAGE 2
 1. "EVEN ANCIENTS PONDERED PROBLEM THAT STILL PLAGUES MAN TODAY." 2. "THIS RADIATION TEST WILL PROVE DATE CONCLUSIVELY." 3. "THE RAYS REACT." 4. "THIS INTENSITY METER PLACES STATUE AT 4000 B.C." 5. "THAT FIERCE FACE-- THANK GOODNESS WE'VE PROGRESSED TODAY." 6. (FROM FF #108, PAGE 1. PANEL WAS CROPPED WHEN PUBLISHED.)

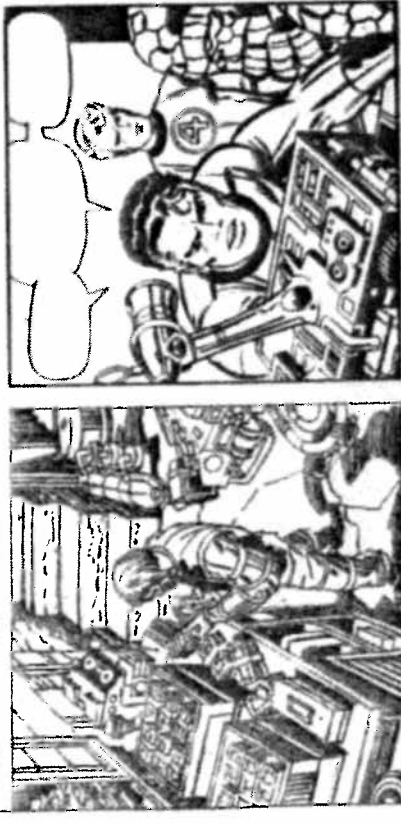
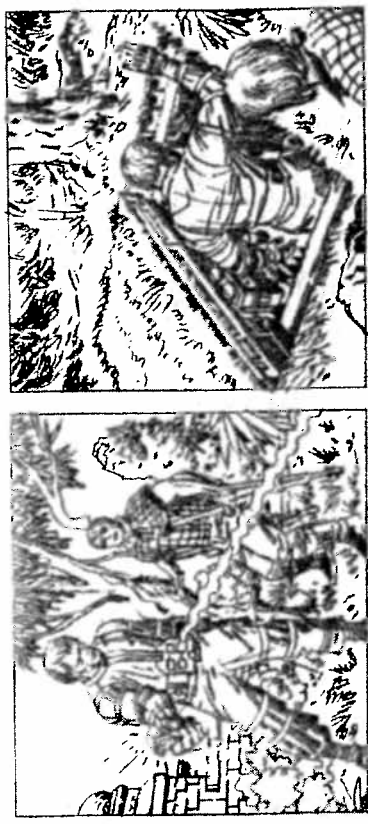
PAGES 3-7
 (AS PUBLISHED IN FF #108, PAGES 2-6.)



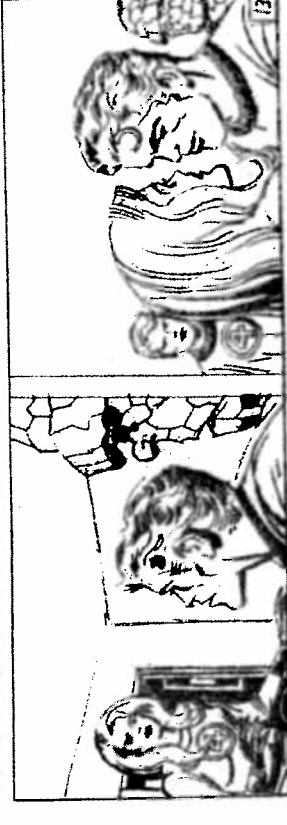
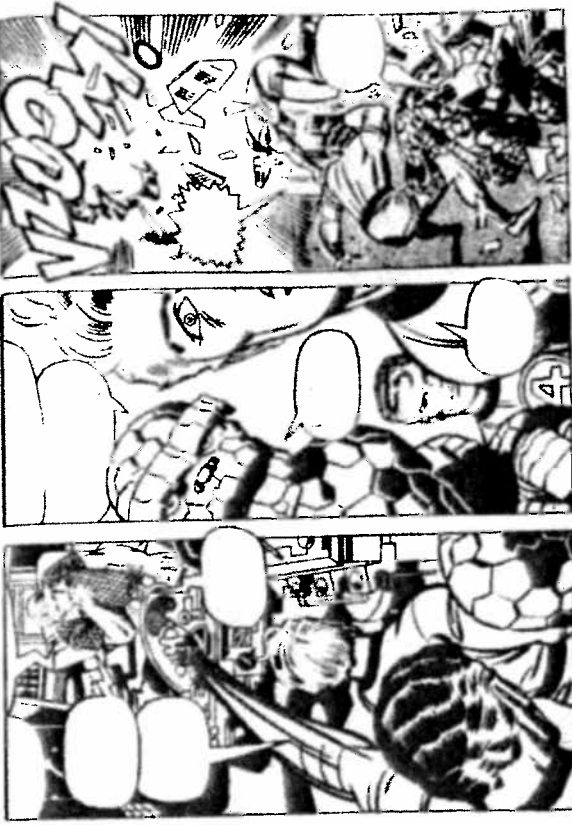


PAGE 10
 1-2. (MISSING PANELS, PROBABLY SHOWING SUE PLANTING A MINI-CAMERA IN JANUS HOUSE.) 3. "REED IS AMAZED AT MILDNESS OF PROF, WHO IS COMPLETE OPPOSITE OF BEN'S DESCRIPTION." 4. (MISSING PANEL) 5. "MEANWHILE, THE PROF'S EVIL BROTHER HAS BEEN WATCHING--HE SAYS RICHARDS MUST BE FLABBERGASTED." 6. "PROF SAYS--WHY DID YOU HAVE TO COME AFTER ALL THESE YEARS?" "BECAUSE YOU'RE A PERFECT COVER BROTHER..."

PAGE 8
 1-3. (FROM FF #108, PAGE 7, PANELS 1-3) 4. "BEN SAYS WE BLEW IT--THE GUY GOT AWAY WITH A MILLION BUCKS." 5. (MISSING PANEL) 6. "YEAR--HE'S NOW NUMBER ONE ON THE TEN MOST WANTED FELONS!" 7. "WE CAN'T STAY HERE! LET'S GET HIM..." "REED SAYS COOL IT--HE'S FOLLOWING A LEAD."



PAGE 11
 1. 'I'VE BEEN AWAY PERFECTING MEGA-POWER NOW--I'LL GAIN MONEY-POWER.' 2. 'YOU WON'T TALK, THE TOWN WON'T TALK--OR ITS CURTAINS!' 3. 'STICK WITH ME, WITH MEGA-POWER--I MAY EVEN HELP YOU WALK AGAIN!' 4. 'RIGHT NOW, I'M GOING TO BE BUSY IN LAB. RICHARDS DIDN'T GO AWAY WITHOUT BUGGING THE HOUSE.' 5. 'I'VE GOT INSTRUMENTS TO TRACE HIS BUGS AND DESTROY THEM NOW LEAVE ME.' 6. 'YES--MY PLANS DON'T STOP HERE--I'LL EMPTY THAT WHOLE CITY OF ITS MONEY.' 7. (FROM FF #108, PAGE 7, PANEL 6.)

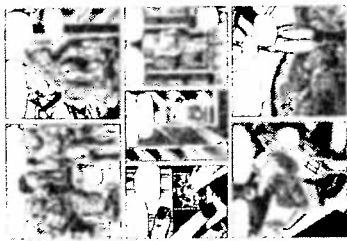


PAGE 12 & 13
 (THIS PAGE WOULD'VE BEEN SPLIT INTO TWO HALF PAGES, WITH ADS RUNNING UNDER THEM--A PRACTICE THAT GOT A 20-PAGE STORY OUT OF ONLY 19 PAGES OF ART.)
 1-2. (FROM FF #108, PAGE 8, PANEL 2 AND 3) 3. (FROM FF #108, PAGE 8, PANEL 6.) 4. (FROM FF #108, PAGE 9, PANEL 1) 5. 'WHAT HAPPENED?' 'BEN SAYS--REED'S MINI-CAMERA BLEW UP IN OUR FACES--THAT'S WHAT!' 6. 'THAT WAS NO MALFUNCTION--THAT WAS MEGA-POWER. LISTEN SUE--I HAVE A NUTTY IDEA--'

(continued from page 35)

story he set out to tell originally.

Some of the later pages were renumbered more than once, making reassembly a difficult task (apparently, the hatchet job went through several revisions). One thing that helped immensely in



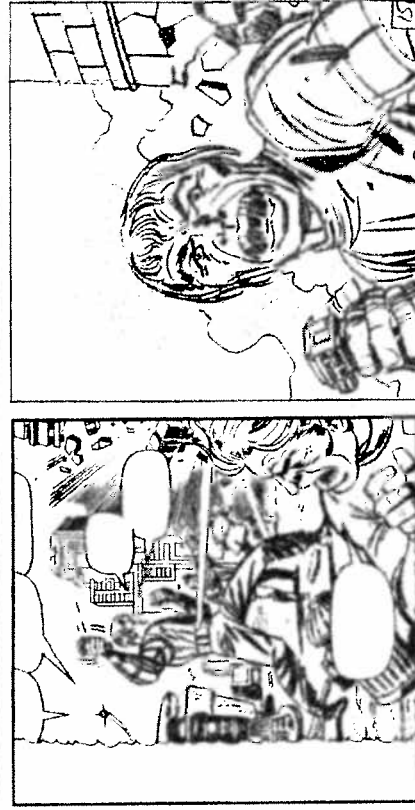
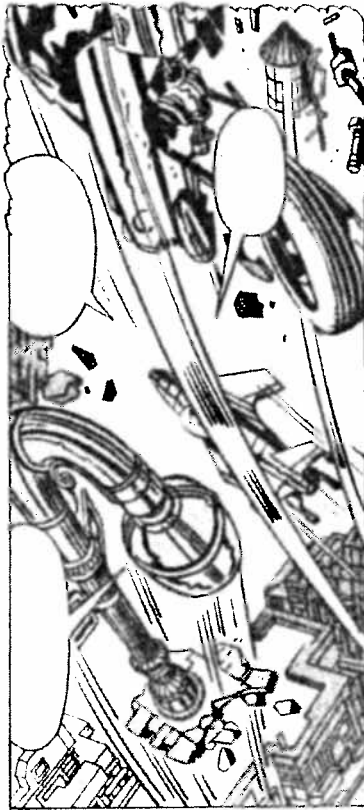
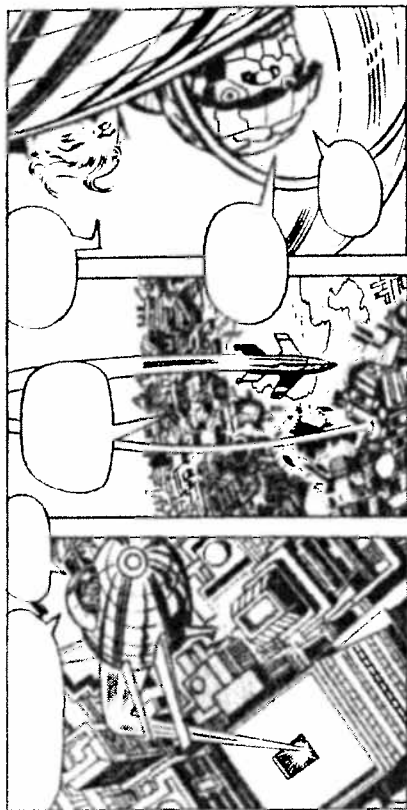
PAGE 10
(AS PUBLISHED IN FF #108; PAGE 10.)

reassembling this story was the fact that Jack worked on a grid. By simply following his standard FF grid from that period, you can tell if panels were falling in the right place on a given page.

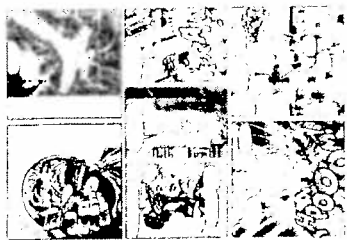
There were some major differences in the two versions. Just what is going on in the introduction on page 2 is unclear (especially without a splash page to get the ball rolling), and maybe this confusion at the opening of the story is the reason Marvel decided it was unusable. Unlike the published version of this story, Jack's version dealt with a force called Mega-Power, not Nega-Power, and had nothing to do with the Negative Zone. And the villain Janus doesn't die in the end (a plot twist that I always thought seemed very un-Kirbylike).

This story didn't break any new ground, but there are some really nice bits that got left on the Bullpen floor; those simple, down-to-earth touches like Reed and Sue's casual clothes on page 2 and the Thing's sweater on page 8, and Sue taking baby Franklin from Crystal on page 2. These seemingly minor details make the FF seem like real people, and were a big part of the sense of family you felt reading the books. The very lack of this type of storytelling detail is one of the reasons the FF has never reached the heights it attained while Jack was on it.

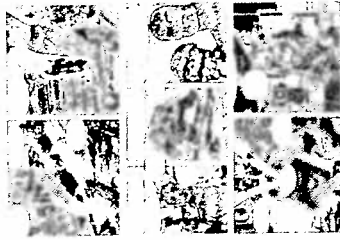
But rather than dwell on the negative, let's simply enjoy this look at one of Jack's final efforts on the FF, as he originally intended it to be seen. ④



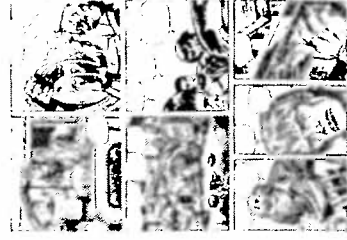
PAGE 15
1-4 (FROM FF #108, PAGE 11, PANEL 1-4) 5. (FROM FF #108, PAGE 12, PANEL 2.) 6. THE SEES PLANE! I CAN'T LEAVE WITHOUT A PARTING SHOT--



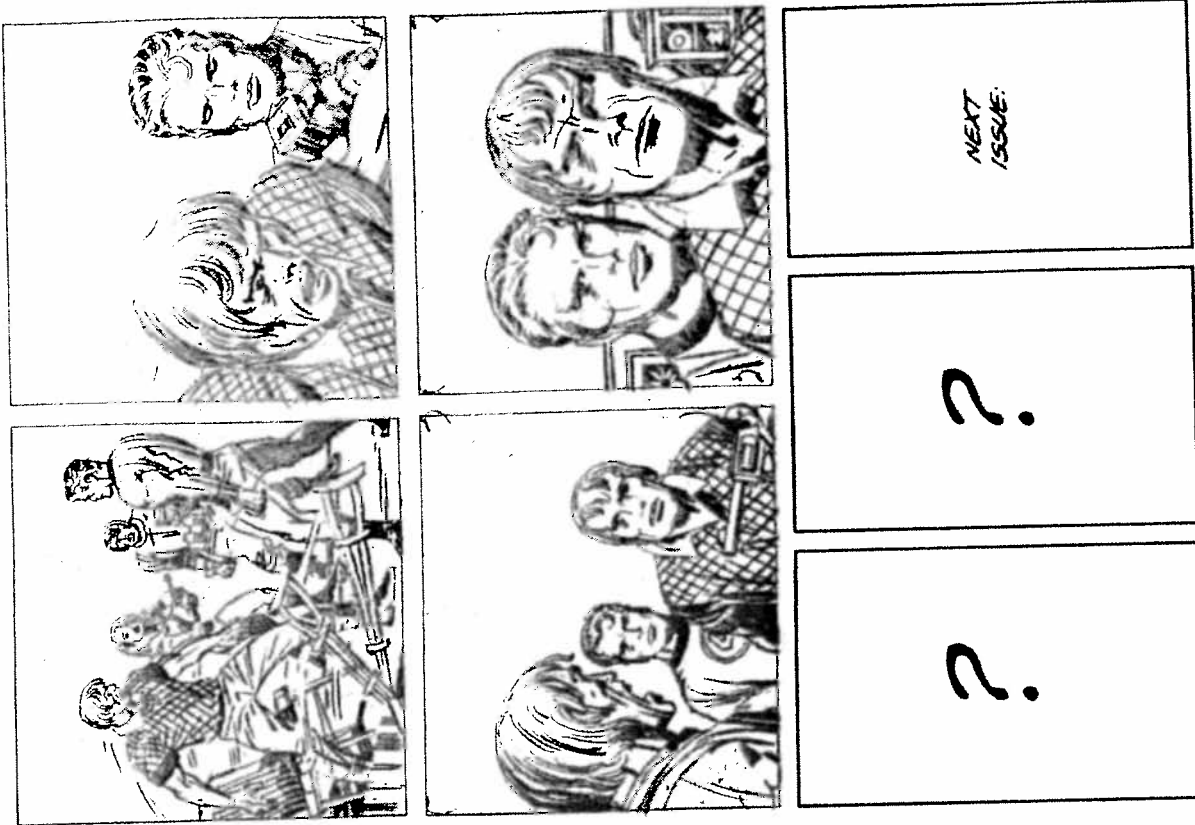
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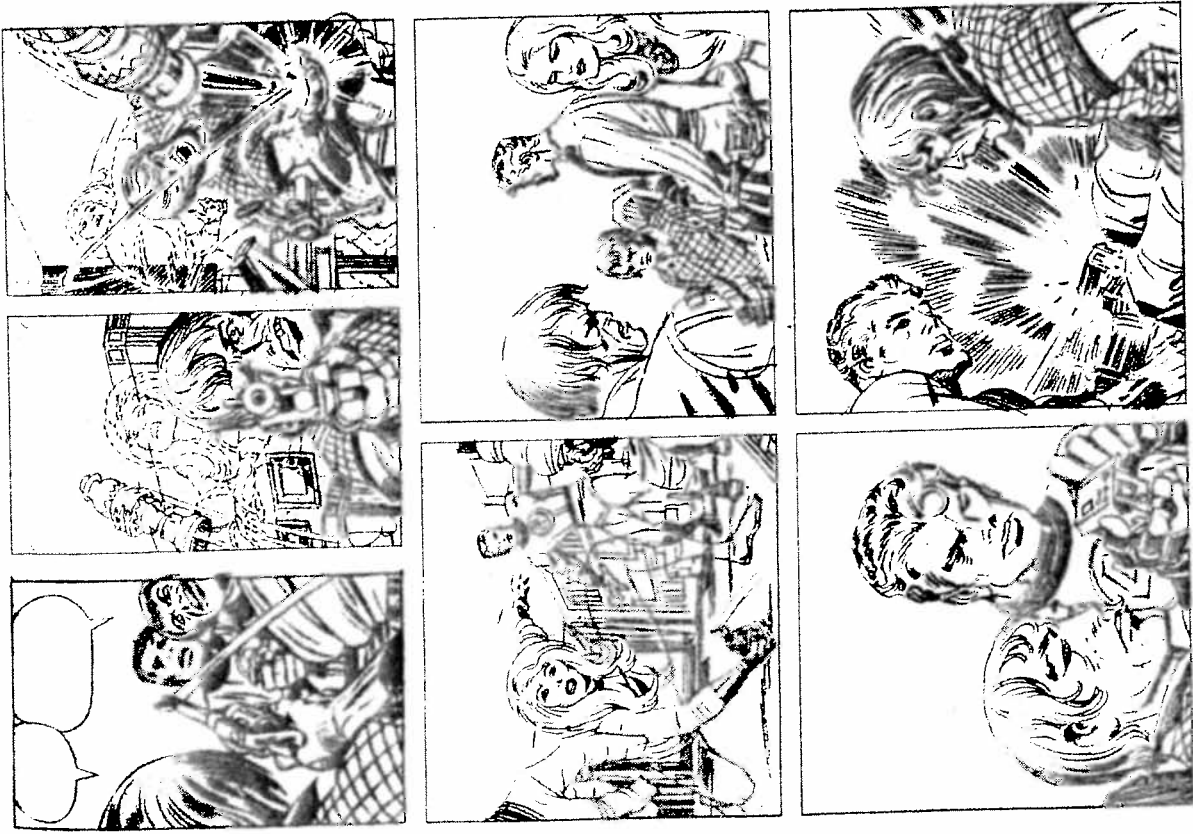
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PAGE 18
1-2 (FROM FF #108, PAGE 16, PANEL 5-6) 3-7 (FROM FF #108, PAGE 17, PANEL 1-5)



PAGE 20
 1. (MARGIN NOTES HAVE BEEN ERASED); 2. WHO CAN TELL WHAT MEGA-POWER CAN DO?; 3. DONT TRUST HIM! GET HIM WHILE YOU CAN! ILL MAKE THE GIRL! (NOTE THE SCALLOPED CORNERS, INDICATING THIS WAS CONSIDERED FOR A FLASHBACK SCENE IN FF #108); 4. (MARGIN NOTES HAVE BEEN ERASED); 5-7. (MISSING PANELS)



PAGE 19
 1. (FROM FF #108, PAGE 17, PANEL 6); 2-3. (NO MARGIN NOTES VISIBLE); 4. SHE GRABS GUN BEFORE TWIN CAN REACH FOR IT.; REED SAYS--USE GUN TO COVER BAD TWIN, SUE!; 5. REED SAYS TO GOOD TWIN--YOU'RE A FOOL YOU KNOW THE CRIMINAL'S PATH IS NO SOLUTION.; 6. (MARGIN NOTES ARE ERASED); 7. REED TOUCHES GOOD TWINS FEET WITH TRIGGER. (THE PAGE NUMBER '19' HAS BEEN ERASED BUT IS VISIBLE)