

MARVEL
PG 421

AUSTEN

GARNEY

MORALES

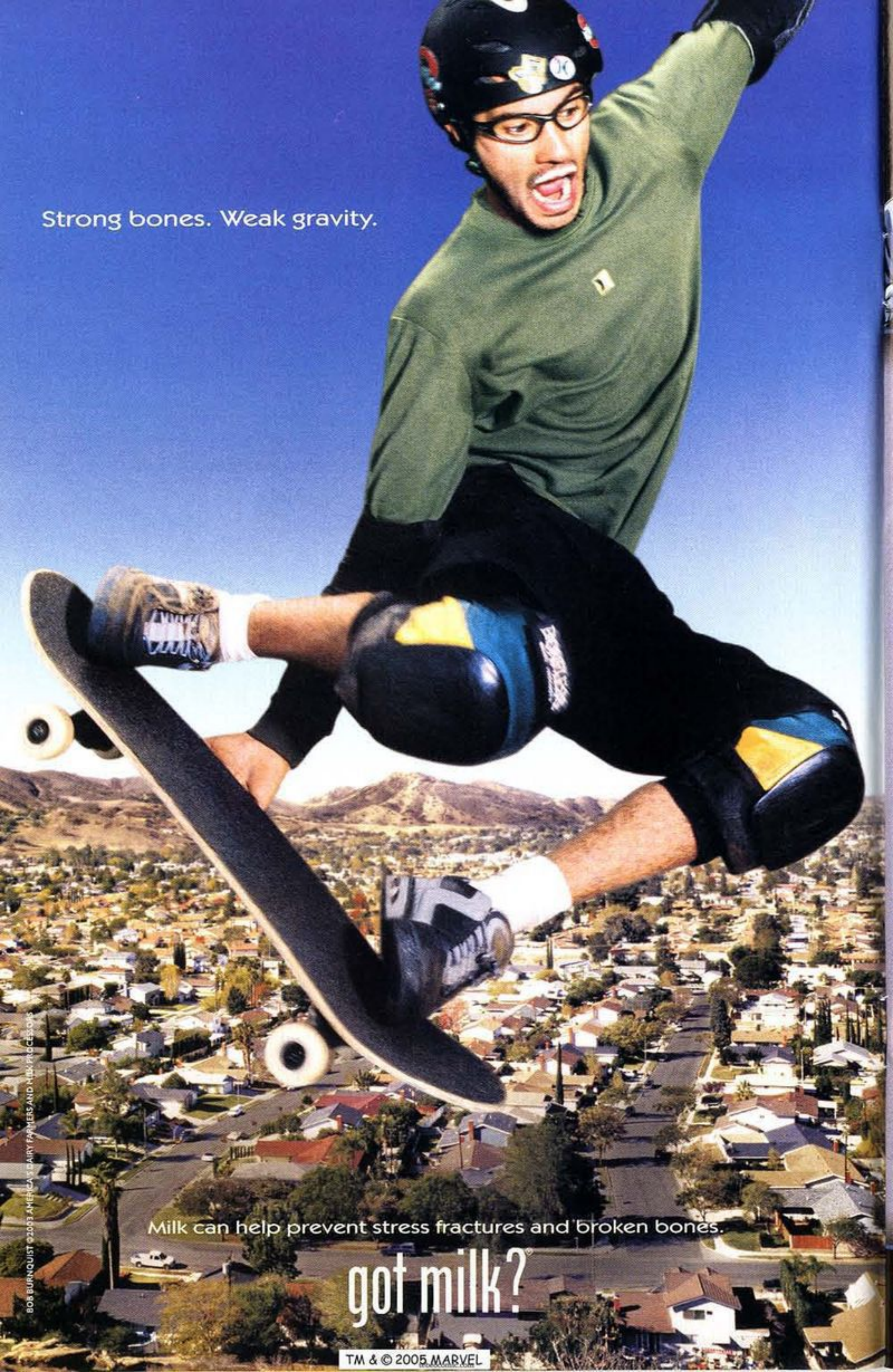
X-MEN[®]

UNCANNY

**RULES OF
ENGAGEMENT**
1 of 2



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A full-page advertisement featuring a skateboarder in mid-air. The skateboarder is wearing a green long-sleeved shirt, black shorts, a black helmet with stickers, and glasses. He is wearing blue and yellow knee pads and white socks with sneakers. His right arm is raised high, and his left leg is bent. The skateboard is tilted, showing its underside. The background is a clear blue sky above a suburban neighborhood with houses and trees, and hills in the distance.

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got milk?

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Change is coming. A new breed of man has emerged. They are the Children of the Atom. Homo Superior. Individuals gifted with strange and fantastic abilities simply by virtue of their genetic makeup.

Stan Lee presents...

UNCANNY X-MEN

RULES OF ENGAGEMENT Part 1 of 2

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PREVIOUSLY



ARCHANGEL
Warren Worthington III
Flight



HUSK
Paige Guthrie
Skin Manipulation



HAVOK
Alex Summers
Solar-Generated Plasma Blasts



ANNIE GHAZIKHANIAN
School Nurse



CARTER GHAZIKHANIAN
Annie's son
Untapped Mental Ability



POLARIS
Lorna Dane
Magnetic Control



JUGGERNAUT
Cain Marko
Super-strength, Invulnerability



NIGHTCRAWLER
Kurt Wagner
Teleportation



SQUIDBOY
Samuel Pare
Underwater Breathing



ICEMAN
Bobby Drake
Sub-Thermal Control

Things have slowed down considerably in the aftermath of the X-Men's battle with the Dominant Species. But along with downtime comes the opportunity to question the events of the past few weeks.


Archangel must deal with his newly developed secondary mutation—his blood apparently has the ability to heal. Not only did he rescue Husk from two near death experiences in their battle with the werewolves, but he also saved Juggernaut from serious injuries as well.

Juggernaut finds himself in the strange position of not only being a hero for the first time, but of also being accepted and even looked up to by some of the school's children, including Carter and Sammy.

Alex Summers — a.k.a. Havok — has emerged from his coma with the help of Professor Xavier and Carter, the young mutant son of Annie, the school's new nurse. Annie developed a crush on Alex while he was in a coma, but it looks as though her infatuation may be put on hold now that Alex's old girlfriend Lorna Dane — a.k.a. Polaris — has returned to the mansion. Lorna's demeanor has changed in the months since Alex has been gone — being witness to the deaths of nearly 16 million mutants on Genosha has taken a serious toll on her — but it appears as though she still has feelings for him.

And on top of all this, Nightcrawler has removed himself from the position of priest within the Catholic church, while Husk has fallen for her knight in shining armor, Archangel.

With the team in emotional disarray, it looks as though Professor Xavier will have his hands full today...



A lot has happened in the time you've been gone, Alex --

-- a relatively new phenomenon called *secondary mutation* which has affected --

-- among others --

-- Hank and Emma Frost -- who's living here at the mansion now, by the way --

-- and then the *second tower* fell, killing a few thousand, most of them rescue workers --

-- *Peter* sacrificed his life so that every mutant might live --

-- called itself *Cassandra Nova*, who was responsible for the near destruction of the Shi'Ar empire --

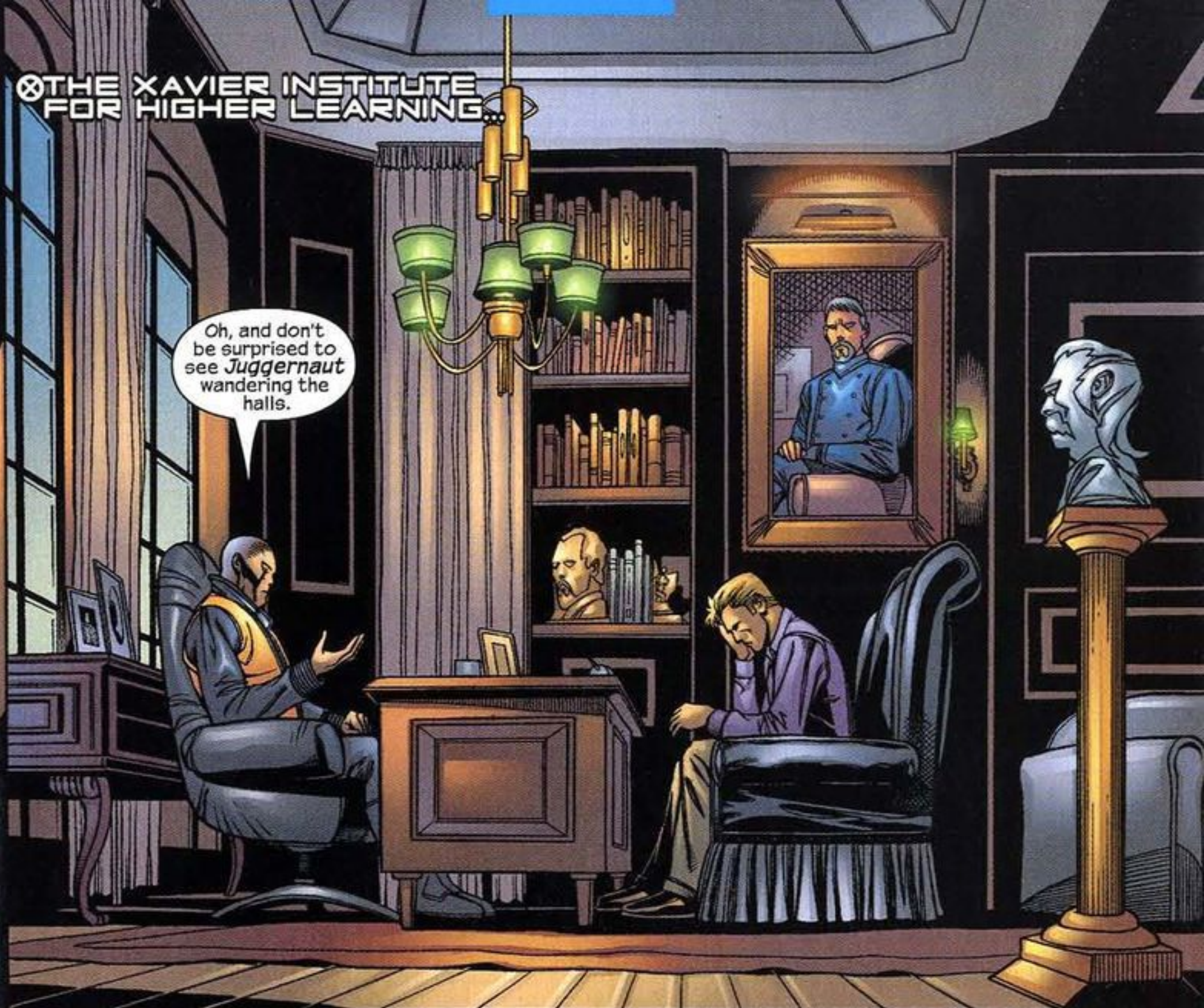
-- and very nearly *all of us* --

-- *Genosha* was completely destroyed by Sentinels, sixteen million mutants dying within minutes --

-- including *Magneto*.

THE XAVIER INSTITUTE
FOR HIGHER LEARNING...

Oh, and don't
be surprised to
see *Juggernaut*
wandering the
halls.



If you want,
Annie, you can go in
to see Professor X
ahead of me.

I'm
in no
rush.

Thanks,
Kurt.

He wants to
talk about Carter ...
but I should really tell
him what happened
between *Lorna* and me
in the infirmary before
all the *rumors*
start.

How ya
gonna beat
me if ya can't
even *reach*
my thumb,
Carter?

I can
do it,
Cain!



We're all looking forward to having you two back home at the school again, Lorna.

Alex has a scar, but otherwise he's as good as new.



I'm sorry, people.

There's kind of a line, here, waiting to see Professor Xavier.



The line doesn't apply to *us*, Florence Nightingale.

It's all right, Annie.

Xavier summoned us --

-- mentally --

-- to come in first and welcome Alex home.



Your job is finished now, Annie.



Alex doesn't need you to look after him anymore.



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Hi,
Lorna.
How are
you?

How
am I?



Is that
all you have
to say?

Well,
I'm not
sure --
-- I mean
the last time
we --



Mmm.



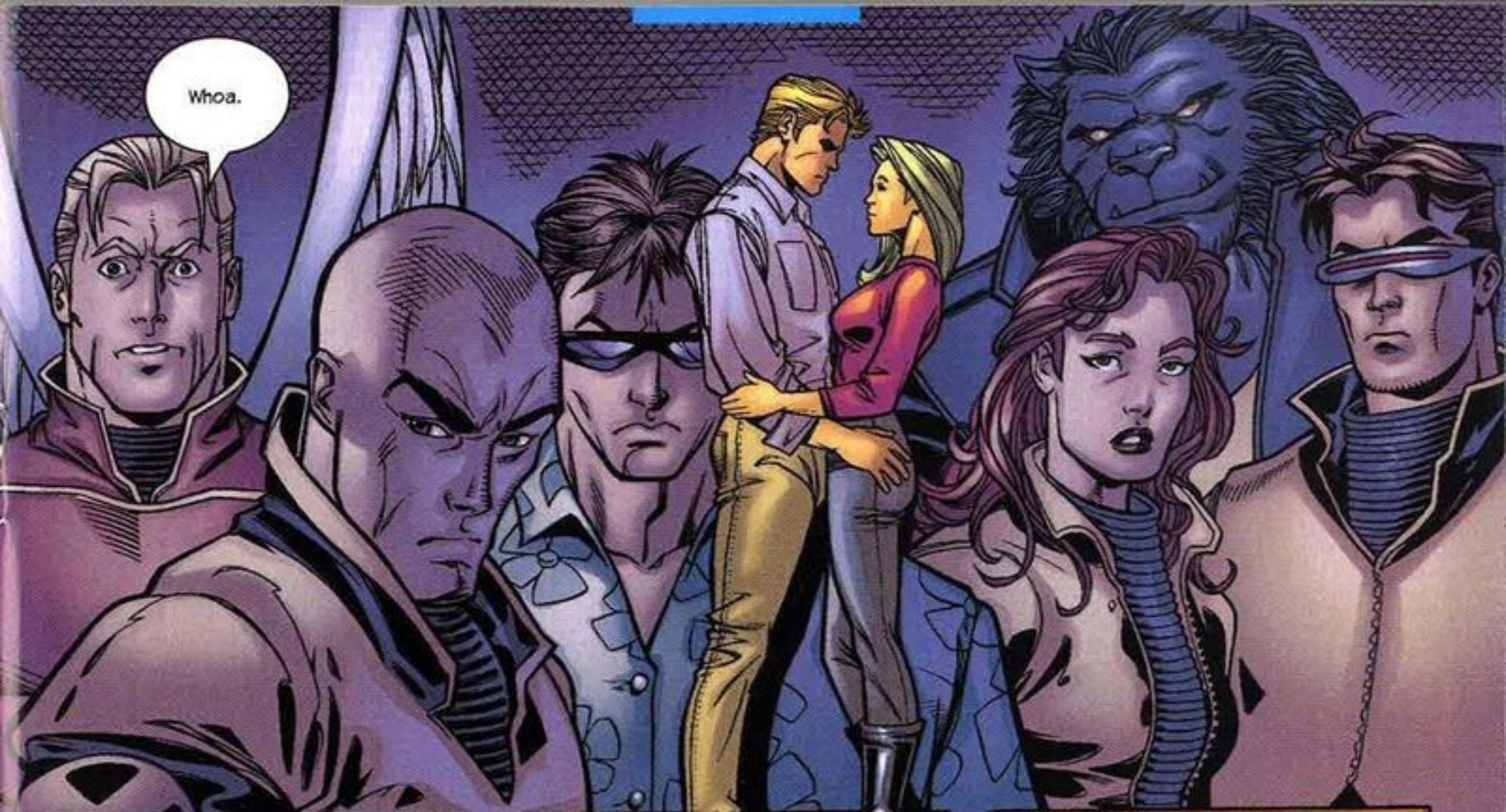
Scott!

About time
you got up off
your lazy
butt.

Alex, my
boy, I would
have never
believed ...









Lorna,
I --

CONGRATULATIONS!

Lord knows we've
all been wondering when
you two would finally
tie the knot!



Hank,
I --



Come on,
Carter.

We'll see
the Professor
another
time.

Kurt, would
you mind telling
the Professor I
had to leave?



⊗ **LATER...**

Bobby, are you all
right? I know you
and Lorna were an
item once --



I'm fine,
Warren, just
fine.

Stop
asking me
already.



Whattya say
we grab some
lunch?

It's a *babe-fest*
down at The Robin this
time of day.

Well ... thanks,
Bobby, but I'm
having lunch with
Paige, and
we --

Paige?!

Please
tell me you're
not dating that
twelve-year-old,
Warren!

She's
older than
twelve,
Bobby.

And no,
we're not
dating ...

We just
have a lot in
common, and
we --

-- you
know --

Hey, don't
get me *wrong*,
bud. I think you've
been out of the
saddle *too long*
as it is --

-- and if you've
got a taste for
cheerleaders...
well, that's okay
by me.

But be home by
ten, young man,
and remember --

-- "Sixteen'll
get you twenty."

Cha-Ching!



⊗MEANWHILE...

Cain, Kurt --
I'm sorry to
keep you both
waiting.

As you can
imagine, it's
been a little
hectic around
here today.

I get
that.

No worries,
Professor.



Is it possible
I could talk to
you both at
the *same*
time?



Uh, well, I think
I need some
privacy for what
I need to talk to
you about.

But I only
need a few
minutes.

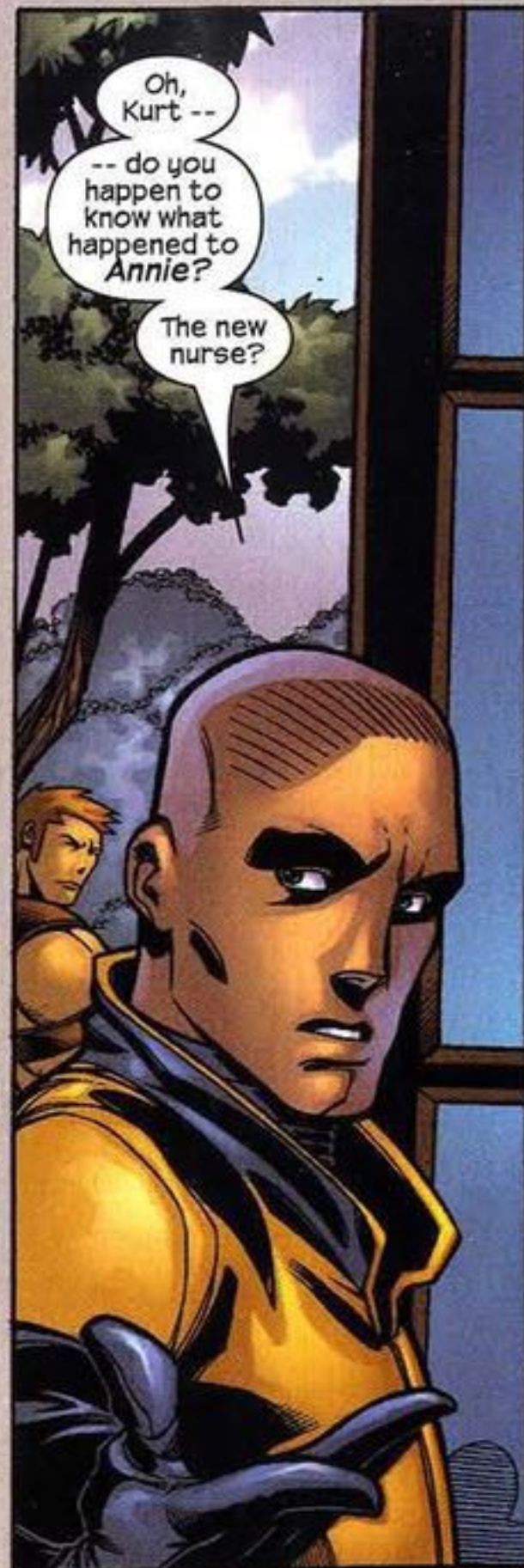


I can wait
outside ...

Nah,
nah, you stay,
'Crawler.

I need to
get out of
this office,
anyway.

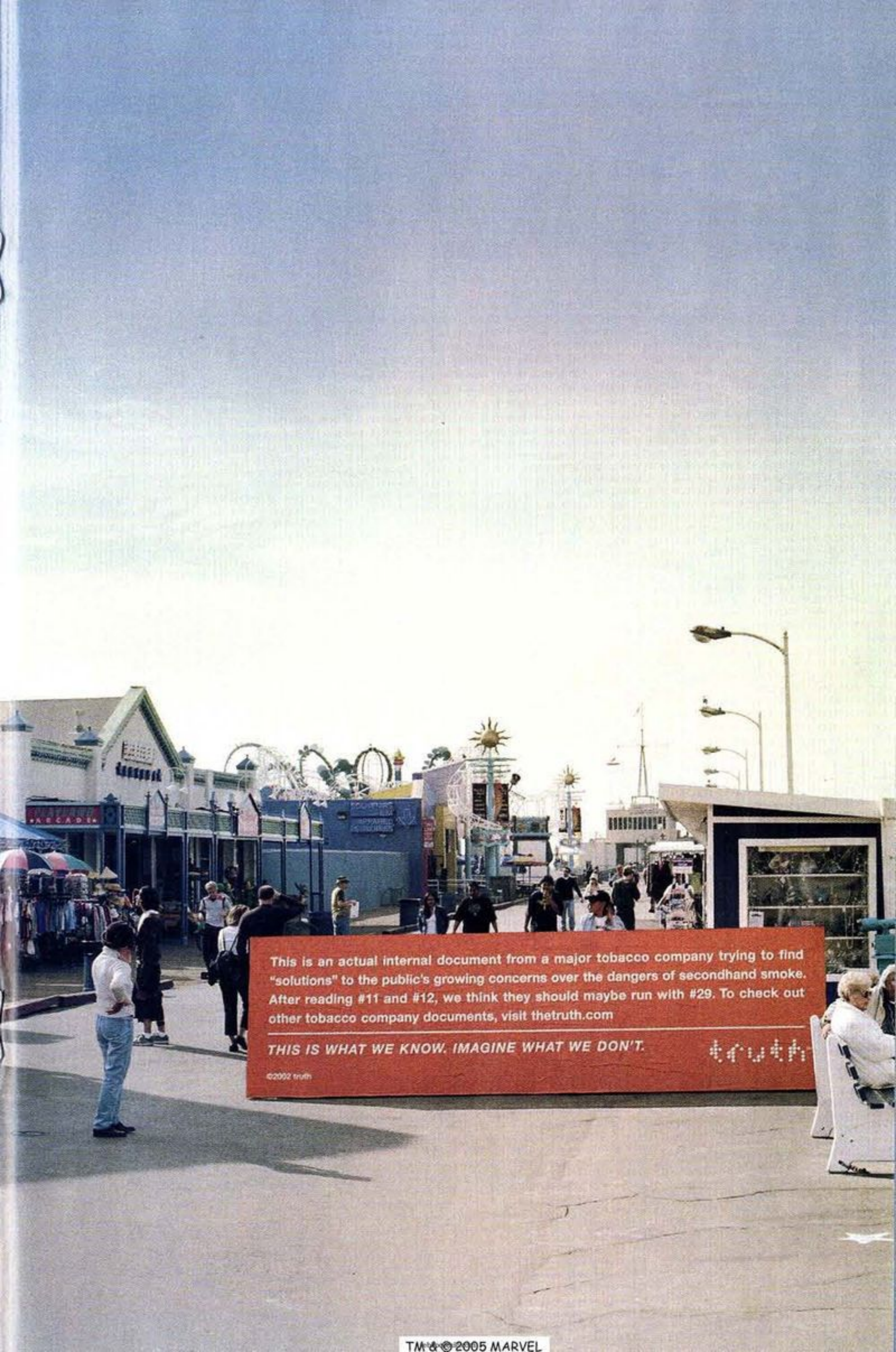
I'm feelin' kinda
claustrophobic.



Wednesday, June 24, 1987
10:00 P.M. Brainstorming Session

Solutions to problem

1. Develop products that reduce nuisance value.
2. Develop products that have beneficial value to non-smokers.
3. Develop a free-standing menthol.
4. Expand number of people prepared to talk about ETS objectively.
5. Create our own expert (like Iacocca).
6. More research -- prove ETS is safe.
7. Challenge publicly the scientific community.
8. Need authoritative spokesperson.
9. Look for costless areas of compromise.
10. Talk with / challenge media leaders.
11. Create a bigger monster (AIDS).
12. Make it hurt (political risk) to take us on.
13. NRA type force for us.
14. Greater effort to accommodate desires of non-smoker.
15. Make non-smokers fearful of consequences of office smoking bans (drug testing, etc.)
16. Communicate with core market.
17. Educate core market to respond.
18. Revisit primary issue.
19. Chill the rhetoric.
20. Courtesy campaign for smokers.
21. Re-examine ETS research to make case stronger.
22. Theatre of the absurd.
23. Segment public to look at perceptions and target messages.
24. Seriously look at TV, print, other media campaigns.
25. Re-examine what we are doing to address symptoms -- taxes, etc.
26. Identify natural allies.
27. Change nomenclature for issue.
28. Develop public information network and network common language.
29. Lie low.
30. Moderation campaign like beer.



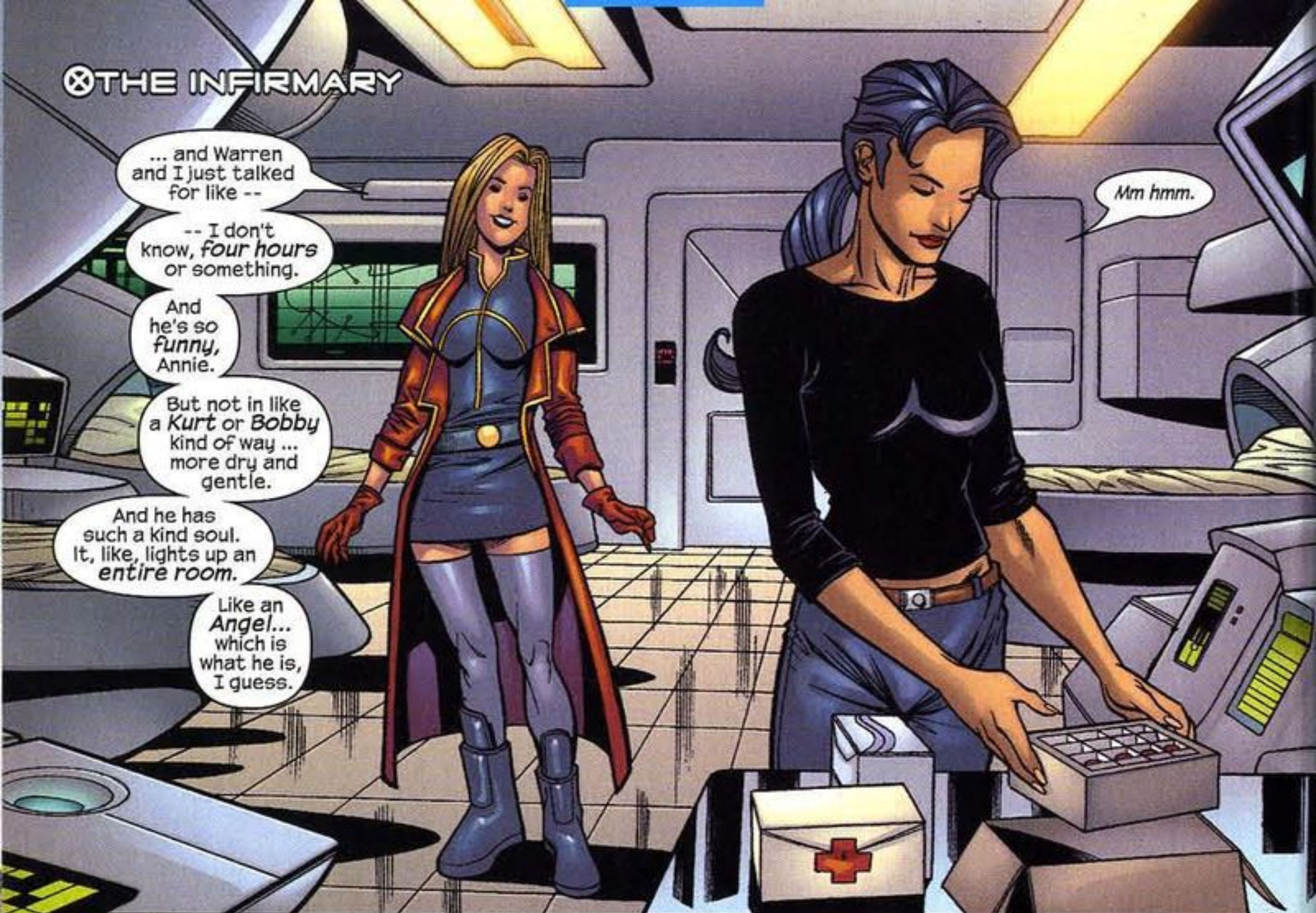
This is an actual internal document from a major tobacco company trying to find "solutions" to the public's growing concerns over the dangers of secondhand smoke. After reading #11 and #12, we think they should maybe run with #29. To check out other tobacco company documents, visit thetruth.com

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⊗ THE INFIRMARY



... and Warren and I just talked for like --

-- I don't know, *four hours* or something.

And he's so *funny*, Annie.

But not in like a *Kurt* or *Bobby* kind of way ... more dry and gentle.

And he has such a kind soul. It, like, lights up an *entire room*.

Like an *Angel*... which is what he is, I guess.

Mm hmm.

And he's been through *so much*, you know?

Apocalypse, losing his wings, losing his girlfriend Betsy ...

... but he's still so *positive* ...

... about life ...

... about people ...

Did he *walk on water* for you, Paige?

No. He never even tried to *kiss* me. But I wanted him to.

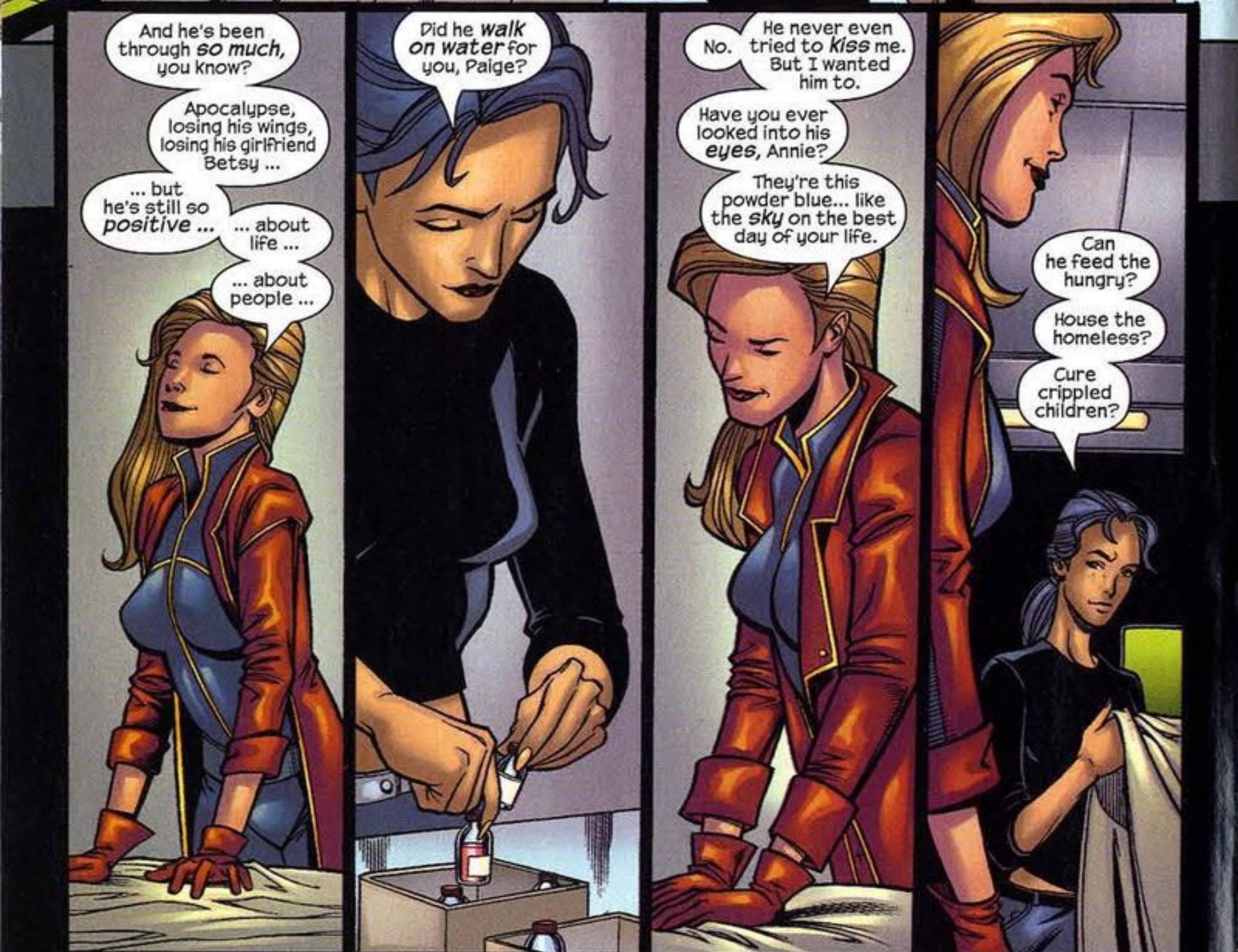
Have you ever looked into his *eyes*, Annie?

They're this powder blue... like the *sky* on the best day of your life.

Can he feed the hungry?

House the homeless?

Cure crippled children?





I don't know.

Probably.



Oh my God!

Did I tell you? I didn't tell you!

He healed me!



He what?



His blood.

It healed me when I was dying.

Dead, actually... I think.

Anyway, his blood mixed with mine and he healed me.

Paige, you're kidding.

He can do that?

Is he sexually active?



Oh, don't be like that. It was romantic.

Mutants can't get AIDS, anyway.



They can't? Why not?



It's because of the X-Gene.

I just *made* that bed, you know.



I know.

Don't be such a *wet blanket*.

I'm in heaven with my Angel, so please don't ruin it.



Or isn't Alex supposed to know?



I mean, I'd be excited for *you* if we were talking like this about Alex.



Talking like *what* about Alex?

⊗ OUTSIDE



If this is too difficult to talk about, Cain, I could just *read your thoughts*.

Stay outta my head, Charlie.

No offense.



"No offense"?

That's something I never thought I'd hear you say to *anyone* ...

... let alone me.

Yeah, well ...



You know, fighting those *wolves* with Logan and Warren and the others ...

... it was kinda fun.



"Fun"?

Hey, don't *psychoanalyze* me or nuthin', all right?

I'm just tryin' ta be *honest* here.



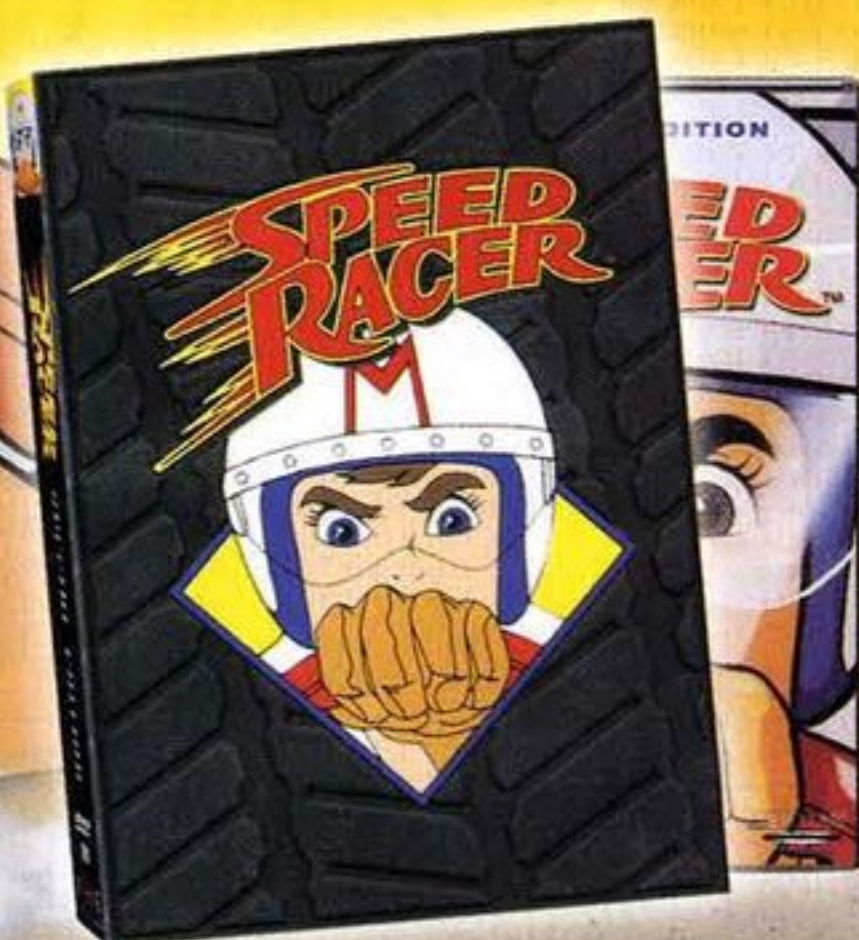
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ARTISAN
HOME ENTERTAINMENT

FHE
ENTERTAINMENT

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And maybe I could *join up* with the X-Men, too, you know.

Be the *muscle*.

If it's not like a "*mutant-only*" thing, or somethin'.

It's not actually a *rule* or anything, no.



You'll have to talk with the *team leaders* about joining, though. I leave those decisions to them.

But I *approve*, absolutely.

You're always welcome in my home.



Great.

That's great. Thanks.

So, who do I talk to, then? About the X-Men thing.

Well, *Scott* leads one unit ...

... and *Kurt* is technically the leader of the second, but he seems to prefer sharing the role with Warren. Talk to Kurt.

Great.

This is really great.

Thanks.



My pleasure, Cain ...

... *believe* me ...

... it's my pleasure.







⊗MEANWHILE...





...and stepping down as leader of the X-Men.

⊗ LATER...

I understand that you need to reacclimate, Alex, but you *just* got back.

Yeah, I know, Scottie ... but it's only for a little while.

We'll be back soon. I promise.

We'll have the wedding here, if that's all right with you, Professor.

Of course, Lorna.

I'd be hurt if you had it anywhere else.

Believe me, Scott... It's not that I want to leave you guys.

It's just that you snore so damn loud, and --

Get in that cab before I *boot* your sorry butt all the way to Bermuda.

It's going to be so beautiful, Alex. I'm so excited!

It should be *you* going to Bermuda with him, Annie, not *that* psycho.

Oh, Paige. They've been together for years.

I'm just a lonely mother who developed a *crush* on a comatose patient.

Who's the *real* psycho here?

Well. I guess this is it.





ALEX!

The plane isn't going to wait for us!

And Kurt's already at the airport!

Coming, dear.

I'll be --

-- right there.



I --



So, Lorna. What should we read on the way to the airport?

I got tragedy-- I got smut.

I even found something with a *monkey-boy* on the cover!

A monkey-boy?

Please. Spare me.



All right, fine. Boring old news it is.



⊗ 2 NIGHTS LATER...

It's just that I used to say those *exact* words when I brought magazines to read to him.

"Tragedy or smut."



BETH GOT BEHIND THE WHEEL STONED
THINKING SHE COULD CONCENTRATE
BETTER. SHE WAS DRIVING DOWN THE

KILLER

MAIN STREET IN TOWN WHEN A WOMAN
WALKED OUT FROM BEHIND A MINIVAN.
BETH SLAMMED RIGHT INTO HER.



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THE ANTI-DRUG.

And on top of that, he knew my *name*.

As soon as he came out of the coma, he started saying "Annie this" and "Annie that" ...

How did he know my *name*?

Maybe he *heard* you, somehow, when he was in the coma.

God, I hope not. I told him some embarrassing stuff.

BAM

By the order of the Prime Minister of Canada and the Governor and Attorney General of the State of New York --

-- you are hereby ordered to relinquish custody of all the children in your care to

ALPHA FLIGHT --

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⊗ TO BE CONTINUED! ⊗

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