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the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN®

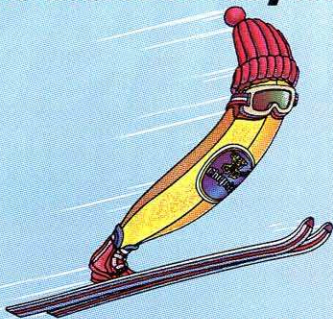
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pollard
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Stan Lee
PRESENTS:

THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN®

MARY WOLFGAN | KEITH POLLARD | JIM MOONEY | JOHN COSTANZA | BEN SEAN | JIM SHOOTER
scripts/edits | illustrators | letterer | colorist | consulting editor

ONE FOR THOSE LONG GONE!

PETER PARKER RETURNS
HOME ONLY TO FIND...

WHAT IN THE WORLD?
THE PUNISHER??

THAT'S
RIGHT,
PARKER--
YOU KNOW
WHO I
AM--

--AND FINALLY, I
KNOW WHO YOU
ARE!

I'VE
LEARNED
YOUR
SECRET!



LF657

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--OR COOPED UP IN A CLASSROOM AS TEACHER-STUDENT PETER PARKER.



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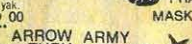
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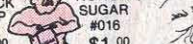
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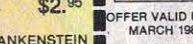
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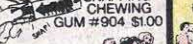
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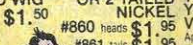
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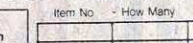
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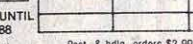
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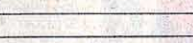
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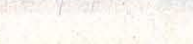
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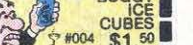
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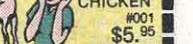
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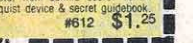
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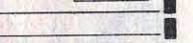
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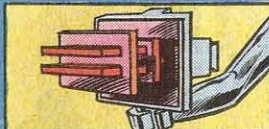
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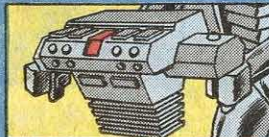


ROM™

**HAS COME...EVIL IS ON
THE RUN!**



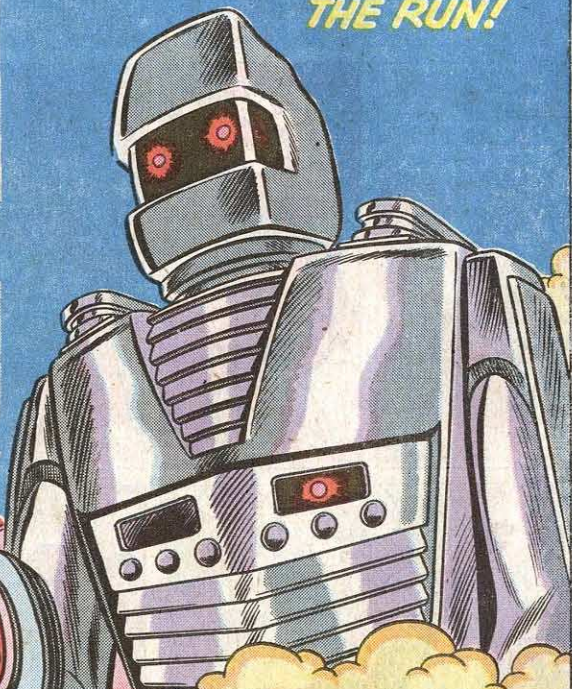
ROM'S ENERGY ANALYZER LIGHTS
UP BRIGHT RED AND MAKES
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PRETEND IT ALLOWS ROM TO SEE
IF CREATURES ARE GOOD OR EVIL.



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LIGENT BEING IN THE UNIVERSE.



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NOT INCLUDED). YOU CAN PRETEND HE HAS COME
FROM A GALAXY FAR AWAY TO SHARE HEROIC
ADVENTURES WITH YOU.

ROM THE SPACEKNIGHT

**PARKER
BROTHERS**



MOMENTS LATER, ON THE STREET
OUTSIDE THE BLOLE BUILDING...





NO...IT'S SOMEONE ELSE...PROBABLY SOME MISSE-GOTTEN *SOT* WHO--NO, NOT A DRUNK...HE'S BLOODED...LIKE HE'S BEEN ATTACKED--



I RECOGNIZE HIM--HE'S GREASY RALPH ROBBINS, A SMALL-TIME STRONG-ARM CREEP FROM PHILLY!



HELLO THERE, PUNK... ONE OF YOUR VICTIMS DECIDE TO HIT BACK?

S-SPIDER-MAN? I...I WAS ATTACKED... BY THE PUNISHER.

WHATTAYA KNOW--PUNNY HAS SOME TASTE AFTER ALL.



HEY, I'M TELLIN' THE TRUTH, MAN... HE SLAMMED ME FOR SOME INFO THEN TOOK OFF. I DIDN'T DO NOTHIN'.



SURE, RALPHY-BOY...YOU'RE BORN-INNOCENT...A TRUE WIDE-EYED HICK FROM ALLEYBAMA!

REMINDE ME TO START FEELING SORRY FOR YOU--ONCE I STOP LAUGHING!



NOW ISN'T THAT INTERESTING... THE PUNISHER IS AFTER ROBBINS, AND THAT PROBABLY MEANS ROBBINS WORKS FOR JACOBI...



AH, THERE'S THE PUNISHER'S WAR-WAGON NOW!

SOMETHING TELLS THIS LITTLE SPIDER THAT I BETTER GET IN ON THE ACTION BEFORE THERE'S A STRING OF BLOODED *BODIES* LEFT IN THAT MADMAN'S WAKE.

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"... THEN THE FILTH BOUND ME TO A RAFT AND SET ME ADrift."



"I WAS BARELY CONSCIOUS AS I FLOATED AWAY FROM HIM... BUT I SAW THAT SICK, DERIVATED, LEECH PRODDING ON HIS FACE--HE KNEW I WOULD BE DRIVEN MAD LONG BEFORE I ACTUALLY DIED."

"FIVE HOURS LATER I WAS SCREAMING. TWO HOURS MORE, I WAS NEAR DELIRIOUS..."



"I WAS SICK, TORN APART, I DIDN'T KNOW... COULDN'T KNOW THAT A SMALL, LITTLE BODY HAD SWIM BESIDE MY RAFT..."

"... OR THAT THE BOY HAD CUT MY ROPES..."



"OR THAT HE NEARLY DROWNED TRYING TO SAVE ME... THIS SKINNY KID NAMED MEHEMET."



"I HAD NEVER SEEN THAT KID BEFORE, YET HE SAT WITH ME FOR DAYS, WORKING WITH ME, COMFORTING ME, HELPING ME GET MY FEET OUT WHILE THE DRUGS FLOWED THROUGH MY SYSTEM."



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THE SPIDER'S WEB

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MARV WOLFGAN
EDITOR
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ASSISTANT EDITOR

It's catch up time. What with the extra-length stories in recent issues crowding out our letters pages, we have been falling a bit behind on our mail. And so, this time around we'd like to cover two issues, SPIDER-MAN #196's offbeat "Requiem," featuring our web-weaver's reaction to his Aunt May's apparent demise, and #197's "Kingpin's Midnight Massacre," featuring a knock-down, drag-out battle with that massive master of mayhem, the Kingpin...

Good people.

There have been many traumatic experiences that have had a profound effect on Peter Parker's psyche. But none more devastating than the death of Aunt May. I don't know what spurred you to do it, but I applaud. Aunt May could not physically take any more "near misses" with death. She had better be dead for good, you guys, or there will be hell to pay!

Assuming she is indeed dead, I would like to see the following done: the funeral arrangements made, the funeral held, and Peter's realization that at last he is on his own. Bring in some of Peter's relatives (he must have some left) for the funeral, and give us some realism this once untouched by intruding super-villains or some such. Thanks for listening, and special thanks for being.

Tom Field
Augusta, ME 04330

Our pleasure, Tom. Being comes quite easy to your bashful bullpenners. Sorry you were as fooled by Mysterio's illusions as ol' Peter was, but at least you were in excellent company. Why, here's another...

Dear Marv, Al, Jim, and Frank.

I knew Dr. Rinehart was the original Mysterio (though I didn't connect the name from SPIDER-MAN #24 at first) and I knew he was trying to get Peter Parker from visiting the nursing home. So I thought last issue's telegram announcing Aunt May's death was phony, a ruse by Mysterio and the burglar to get rid of her nephew Peter. So when I bought SPIDER-MAN #196 and learned that she really is dead, I couldn't quite believe it. I don't know if you planned for readers to think as I did, but since it seemed so ungratifying to us as well as Peter, you've pulled off a masterstroke in hero-identification.

"Requiem" is the biggest thing to happen in this comic since Gwen Stacy died. Aunt May's role in the book wasn't as big as in the early issues, but still the effect of her death on the web-swinging hero of the book will certainly be as important a development on Spidey's life as Uncle Ben's death. It seems like Spidey will blame himself in part for her death since he should have realized who Rinehart was before. This guilt, as well as vengeance on Mysterio and the Burglar, will serve to remotive Spider-Man as nothing else possibly could. That's what I think you have planned for the 200th issue — the redefinition of who Spider-Man is, and why.

Matt Kaufman
Urbana, IL 61801

In a way, Matt, that's what Marv attempted in S-M #200 — though not at all in the manner you expected. The vengeance/guilt motif which triggered Spider-Man's early crimefighting career has matured into a realization of his responsibility to humankind. To return to his earlier motivation would be... well, a bit retrogressive. Anyway, we were quite surprised that you figured out the Mysterio/Rinehart connection and still thought May Parker's death was legit. The handful of others who caught on that the Master of Illusions was in on the caper concluded as the next correspondent did...

Dear Marv,

You might have many other Spider-fanatics believing Aunt May is dead, but I'm afraid I've unravelled your mystery. When Rinehart was introduced I really didn't pay much attention to him, or at least not until Peter Parker did. After finishing #196, I scrambled through my back issues of SPIDER-MAN until I reached issue #24 where my suspicions were confirmed. Ludwig Rinehart is an alias of the original Mysterio. But wait, wasn't the original Mysterio dead, replaced by a second in issue #141? Well, anyone who could fake the death of another, could easily fake his own death. Therefore, I have evidence to support my original conclusion that Aunt May is not dead.

Tony Sprague
Morro Bay, CA 93442

Good show, Tony. But as we said, there were a number of you out there who copied onto the Mysterio connection before it was foreshadowed in #197. In interests of fairness, we'll mention you other super-sleuths: Brett Bobbley of Glen Head, NY; Adam White of Nashville, TN; Jim Robinson of Castle Rock, CO; Mark Yalch of Pittsburgh, PA; Ron Drabkin of Los Angeles, CA; and Steve Mann of Lynchburg, VA. Congratulations all!

Dear Marv,

Lately, THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN has been wonderful. Marv Wolfman has successfully conditioned his writing to fit the book's well-established style. Marv handled Peter Parker's reaction to the apparent death of his aunt very well. I feel it was one of the most important moments in the Marvel Age of Comics. Not only does it seemingly mark the last appearance of one of Marv's oldest supporting characters, but it shows the maturity and growth of Peter Parker as a human being. For once, he doesn't go through the entire comic blaming himself. He learns what most mature people learn — that certain circumstances are inevitable, and one must learn to accept that which cannot be changed. Thanks for giving us insights into life.

Barry Baroza
Honolulu, HI 96826

Well, Barry, it's our opinion that even though it turned out that May Parker did not really die, the grief that Peter went through anyway did indeed strengthen his character by showing him that he was strong enough to cope with the inevitable. When Aunt May actually does pass away, Peter will have already had the experience of mourning for her, and it will make the grief more bearable. Now for a few letters about SPIDER-MAN #197...

Dear Marv,

AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #197 was a winner. This battle between the web-slinger and the Kingpin was definitely better than any other that has gone before. You could almost sense that something rare was going to occur by the tale's conclusion since the circumstances of the clash were so special. Spidey was not at his best, what with a broken arm, and a good reason for not wanting to fight K.P. in the first place. Kingpin, on the other hand, was at peak form and had but one objective: to kill Spider-Man to end his criminal career with a bang. From this, we could conclude that the Kingpin had a good chance of winning this final fight, though probably not realizing his deadly goal. Thus the tale's finish was a logical one, consistent with Spidey's track record of not being able to win all his fights. Onward to #200!

Peter Bruno
Brooklyn, NY 11236

And then some, Peter. Several correspondents tried to make a big deal out of Spidey's defeat, claiming that it will be a severe blow to his confidence, not realizing as you did, that it's hardly the first time S-M has lost and probably not the last. Under the circumstances, we think Spidey had bigger things on his mind than losing a tussle because of a bad arm.

Dear Marv,

Re: SPIDER-MAN #197. Analysis: Good story, poor ending. I began to enjoy the issue in question right from the start. It had excitement, interesting developments, and a couple of heart-stopping moments. The fight between the Kingpin and Spidey was particularly enjoyable, and I liked a couple of the moves Spidey pulled during the melee. However, halfway through the book, I thought, "Well, Kingy's going to be one step away from killing Spider-Man when the clock suddenly strikes twelve and... no, that's too obvious." Guess what. That and the fact that some of the dialogue was a bit flat are my only complaints. Keith and Jim turned in an excellent job though Kingy's cranium seemed a bit ill-proportioned at times. I expect next issue's tale with Mysterio will surpass this.

Paul G. Johnson
Patchogue, NY 11772

Well, Paul, maybe the depth of Kingpin's affections for his wife were obvious to you, but quite a few of your fellow readers were surprised that K.P. loved Vanessa so much he'd not finish off his greatest foe if it meant losing her love. You're going to have to take our word for it, though, "cause we're out of room. Till next time!

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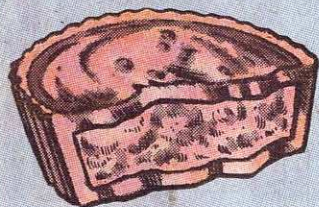
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MEANWHILE...

MR. JACOBI, I WANTED TO SHOW YOU THE NEW GIRL... SHE DID REAL GOOD TODAY.

ALWAYS LOOKING FOR NEW TALENT, CHICK...

MMMMMM... NOT BAD... BUT YOU'RE TOO MUCH OF A LOOKER TO BE WASTED MAKING DELIVERIES.



I'M WILLING TO DO ANYTHING, MR. JACOBI...

I BET YOU ARE, BABE... Y'KNOW, I COULD ~~LOSE~~ A CHICK LIKE YOU HERE WITH ME.



SAY, WE HAVEN'T MET BEFORE, HAVE WE? YOUR FACE IS FAMILIAR.

UHH, I DON'T THINK SO, SIR, ANYWAY, I GOTTA BE GOIN' NOW...



NO... WAIT... I NEVER FORGET A FACE... YEAH... I SAW YOU AT THE COURTHOUSE! YOU WERE THERE WHEN THE BOYS SPRUNG ME, ARGUIN' WITH SOME KID.



YOU WERE WITH THE REPORTERS! YOU'RE A BLASTED SPY!!



* LAST ISSUE, -- MARY.



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MEANWHILE...



BULLPEN BULLETINS

STAN'S SOAPBOX:

Okay, Omniscient Ones, here's the news you've been waiting for! The second sensational, senses-staggering Captain America TV spectacular is in the final stages of production, and you can catch it early in January! We don't know the exact date, but it'll be shown on CBS-TV, two hours prime time, so watch the tv listings, hear? I'm cluing you way in advance 'cause no excuses will be accepted if you miss it! Anyone who blows it will just have to answer to the Red Skull! I've already seen the script, and I can tell you it's gotta be one of the most exciting, adult, suspense-packed super-spectaculars you've ever marvelled at! And wait'll you see the scene where Cap, on his cycle, goes over a mile-high cliff towards certain death, only to suddenly — aw, why give it away? Suffice

it to say, it's the greatest stuntman shot of the year! That's Captain America — all new — all live — prime time — on CBS-TV — early in January! We'll be lookin' for you!

Incidentally, my newest opus, "The Best of the Worst" is going such great guns at bookstores everywhere that I may have to do a sequel, "The Worst of the Best"! Imagine what comes next! "The Biggest of the Small"! "The Hottest of the Cold"! "The Goodest of the Bad"! And you thought I couldn't be serious!

Finally — I've received lots of letters lately asking for my views on religion. While I don't feel I oughta use this funky little forum to air my own opinions about such an extremely personal matter, there is one general, non-denominational viewpoint I'd like to mention.

It's pretty hard for me to believe that the ever unfolding miracle of the universe — the awesome cycle of birth, and life, and death — the myriad mysteries of nature — and the wonders contained in every atom, every molecule, every living cell in every living creature, just happened to occur by chance! I believe that there is some entity, far wiser and far mightier than we. I feel there must be some divine purpose, some unfathomable plan behind the mystic fabric of mortal existence. And I believe that's about as stuffy and pontifical as I ever wanna sound! So, till we meet again, remember those immortal words of Irving Forbush: "Shaddup awredly!"

Excelsior!

Stan

THE MIGHTY MARVEL CHECKLIST!

- ☐ **MARVEL TWO-IN-ONE #61** — The Thing teams with Starhawk of the Guardians of the Galaxy to battle the menace called... *Herl*!
- ☐ **SHOGUN WARRIORS #14** — The final showdown with Doctor Demonius!
- ☐ **SPIDER-WOMAN #24** — The Gamesman returns to trap Spider-Woman in the Doomsday Room!
- ☐ **DAREDEVIL #163** — The Hulk guest-stars! Possibly the greatest battle in Marvel history!
- ☐ **ROM, SPACEKNIGHT #4** — The Spaceknight fights *Firefall*, Champion of the Wraiths!
- ☐ **SPIDEY SUPER STORIES #45** — Spidey faces Dr. Doom and the Silver Surfer!
- ☐ **MARVEL SUPER-HEROES #87** — Re-presenting Hulk #135, The Hulk vs. Kang, guest-starring the Phantom Eagle.
- ☐ **SPIDER-MAN #202** — Spider-Man confronts the Punisher!
- ☐ **CAPTAIN AMERICA #243** — "The Coming of Adonis!"
- ☐ **THOR #293** — Are you ready for this? Thor does battle with... the *Eye of Odin*!
- ☐ **MICRONAUTS #15** — The Fantastic Four guest-star! *Nuff said!*
- ☐ **BATTLESTAR GALACTICA #13** — Adama is freed from the Memory Machine!
- ☐ **MASTER OF KUNG FU #96** — Part IV of "The Return of Fu Manchu!" Shang-Chi takes a ride on a runaway UFO!

- ☐ **INCREDIBLE HULK #245** — The Hulk returns to Gamma Base and disaster follows!
- ☐ **AVENGERS #193** — The Avengers take on *Inferno*, the Creature from the Arc-Furnace, in an epic set in Pittsburgh!
- ☐ **CONAN #108** — Conan faces a fierce cannibal tribe. Barbarian action as you like it!
- ☐ **MARVEL TALES #113** — Re-presenting Amazing Spider-Man #136, The Green Goblin lives again!
- ☐ **X-MEN #131** — Guest-starring the Dazzler! The X-Men take on the Knights of Hellfire in Chicago!
- ☐ **FANTASTIC FOUR #216** — FF vs. Blastar!
- ☐ **MARVEL TEAM-UP #91** — Spider-Man and Ghost Rider! *Nuff Said!*
- ☐ **IRON MAN #132** — Iron Man battles the Hulk! He sure is getting around this month!
- ☐ **PETER PARKER #40** — Spider-Man becomes the Spider-Lizard, Can Curt Connors cure him and save Manhattan?
- ☐ **MARVEL SPOTLIGHT #5** — Introducing the Dragon-Lord!
- ☐ **AMAZING ADVENTURES #4** — Re-presenting X-Men #2, Conclusion of X-Men vs. Vanisher. Plus: The origin of Cyclops continues.
- ☐ **TALES TO ASTONISH #4** — Re-presenting Sub-Mariner #4, Attuma strikes!
- ☐ **STAR WARS #33** — Luke's showdown with Baron Tagge: "Saber Clash!"
- ☐ **GHOST RIDER #42** — Johnny Blaze overcomes his amnesia to find himself up against the Jackal Gang.

- ☐ **DEFENDERS #81** — The Original Defenders fight the Unnamed Enemy in the Tunnelworld!
- ☐ **FANTASY MASTERPIECES #4** — Re-presenting Silver Surfer #4, guest-starring Thor, Loki, and the gods of Asgard.
- ☐ **MARVEL'S GREATEST COMICS #86** — Re-presenting Fantastic Four #106, "The Monster's Secret!"
- ☐ **MARVEL SUPER ACTION #17** — Re-presenting Avengers #58, "Even An Android Can Cry!"
- ☐ **THE SAVAGE SHE-HULK #2** — A powerful story! The death of She-Hulk's closest friend.
- ☐ **HULK #19** — Special "Inside-The-Hulk's-Mind" issue. Also reprinting the Hulk classic "Heaven is A Very Small Place."
- ☐ **HOWARD THE DUCK #3** — Special Christmas issue. Howard vs. Santa? Nah, couldn't be. Or could it?
- ☐ **TOMB OF DRACULA #3** — The Lord of Darkness in eerie action, plus photos, features and articles!
- ☐ **SAVAGE SWORD OF CONAN #49** — "Conan the Liberator: Part II." Based on the novel by DeCamp and Carter.
- ☐ **CRAZY #59** — More of the usual weirdness from Marvel's wild and crazy comedy crew!
- ☐ **MARVEL SUPER SPECIAL #15** — This is it! The event that everyone's been waiting for! Stan Lee presents *STAR TREK, The Motion Picture*, adapted in comic form by top Marvel stars: Mary Wollman, Dave Cookrum and Klaus Janson. Don't miss it!

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GOONNA GET AWAY... NOBODY CHASING BEHIND ME... NOBODY WILL KNOW--

MASTERS! WATCH WHERE YOU'RE DRIVING, YOU FOOL-- GET ME OUT OF--

OH, MY GOSH--MR. JACO--

BUT, A MOMENT LATER, ONE AND A HALF TONS OF RAMPAGING STEEL SMASHES HEADLONG INTO TWO HUNDRED AND EIGHTY POUNDS OF FRANTIC FLESH...

WHAMP!

I DON'T BELIEVE IT.

H--HE WAS HIT--

--BY HIS OWN MAN... TRYING TO ESCAPE.

APRIL'S FAINTED... I'D BETTER GET HER TO THE HOSPITAL.

YES, DO SO... I HAVE UNFINISHED BUSINESS HERE ANYWAY.

BUT ONE DAY, SPIDER-MAN, YOU WILL UNDERSTAND THAT GRANTING MERCY TO SCUM IS A TRAGIC MISTAKE!

YEAH, AND THE DAY I DO, I HOPE I HAVE THE SENSE TO RETIRE!

"WAR JOURNAL ENTRY NUMBER 522:

"I HAVE DONE MY DUTY, FULFILLED MY VOW. MEHEMET'S MURDERERS ARE GONE.

BUT SO IS MEHEMET... GONE TO AN ETERNAL REST THAT STILL ELUDES ME.

"FOR HIS DEAR SAKE, I HOPE HIS REST IS ONE OF PEACE.

"FOR ME... EVEN THE BRIGHT, FULL MOON CANNOT LIGHTEN THE ENDLESS DARKNESS OF THE NIGHT.

"WAR JOURNAL ENTRY NUMBER 522, CONCLUDED!"

NEXT ISSUE: BEWITCHED, BOTHERED, AND BE... DAZZLED!

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THE LEAPER!



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MON AMI!

EET MANY SURPRISE
YOU TO LEARN THAT
I DON'T WASTE ALL
MY TIME BATTLING
ZAT STAR-SPANGLED
FOOL CAPTAIN
AMERICA!



DAT
GUY'S
NUTS!

(YOU DON'T
ZINK A
SERIOUS
GUY'S
WOULD DRESS
LIKE ZIS,
DO YOU?)

LEAP!

AND SEEM-FILLED
CAKES ARE JUST NOT
MY CUP OF TEA! SO,
I READ **CRAZY**!



TRULY THE
GENTLE-
MAN IS
DEMENTED!

I JUST
LOVE ZOSE
PAPER-SOLD
MOVIE'S
PARADES...



THAT FROG
IS FLIPPED!

ZOSE SPLENDIDIOUS
TELEVISION SPOOKS!

MEAT-
HEAD!

ATTYI!

THAT
BOZO'S
BONKERS!



NOT TO MENTION
ZOSE TITILLATING
TAKE-OUTS NUTTY
FINGERES,
ZINT FINGERES,
MADCAP MOMENTS,
CORNBALL CARICONS
AND COLARFUL
COVERS!

SOMEBODY
BOPPED
MY BUICK!

THAT
PERPETRATOR
IS PERTURBED!



SO EEF
YOU'RE LOOKING
FOR TRUE
HAPPINESS...

...OR A WAY
TO RID YOURSELF
OF ZOSE
BOY-BOSS
OF BLUES...

...CRAZY
EES ZEE
KIND OF
HOP FOR YOU!

ZUT
ALONG!

YOU DON'T
HAVE TO
BE DUMB
TO LIKE
CRAZY

--BUT IT
SURE
HELPS!
AT YOUR NEWS-
STAND NOW!

204

P.C.

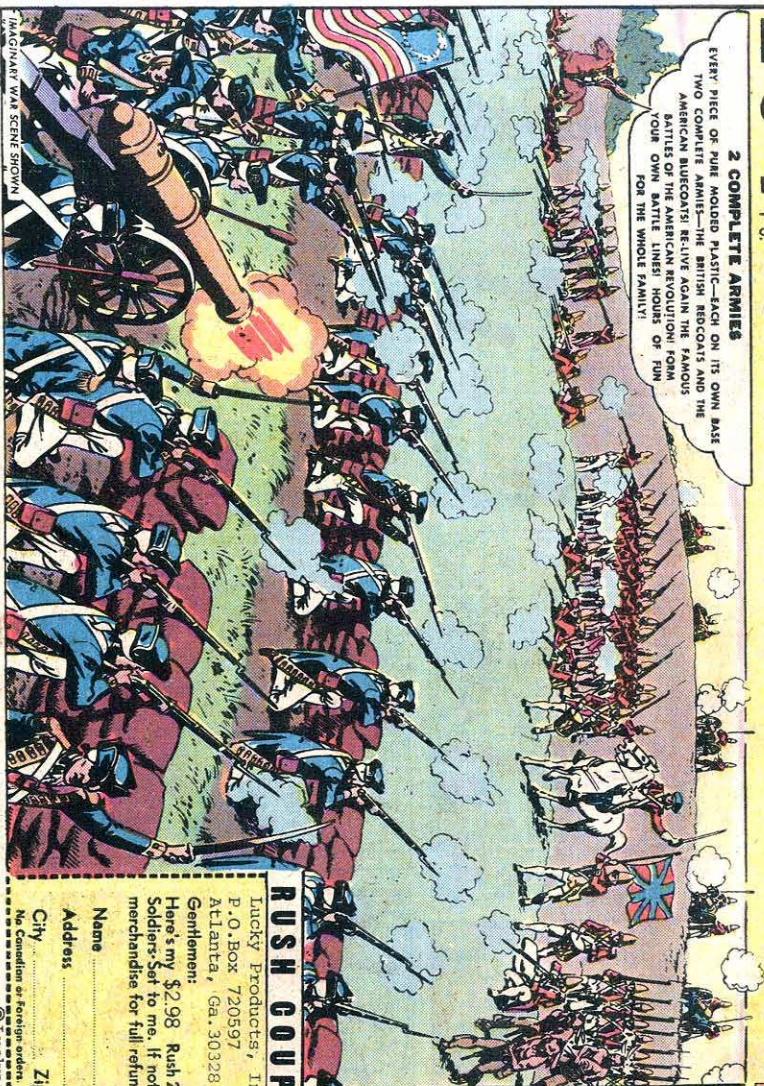
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Screenplay by HAROLD LIVINGSTON Story by RALPH LEECH FOSTER Produced by GENE RODDENBERRY Directed by ROBERT WISE
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