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SCOTTIE

A Cracker Jack story

OKAY, SCOTTIE! THE SCORE IS TIED, BASES LOADED, AND TWO OUTS! GET IN THERE AND SHOW 'EM WHAT YOU'RE MADE OF.

COACH
I'LL DO MY BEST, COACH.

STRIKE ONE!

GULP! WHAT IF I STRIKE OUT???

STRIKE TWO!

YOU CAN DO IT, SCOTTIE!

YOU'RE A CRACKER JACK.

zoom!

WHAP!

WHEN YOU'RE REALLY GOOD- THEY CALL YOU CRACKER JACK

YOU DID IT, SCOTTIE.

WE WON THE PLAYOFFS!

WHAT A CRACKER JACK!

CRACK HOME RUN

Crunchy caramel-coated popcorn and peanuts and a secret toy surprise!

Cracker Jack
BRAND
CANDIED POPCORN AND PEANUTS

Toy Surprise INSIDE

(BORDEN)



STAN LEE PRESENTS A TRIP DOWN THE DARK ALLEY OF THE MIND WITH SPIDER-MAN!

FOOLS... LIKE US!

NEW YORK'S BOWERY IS NOT A NICE PLACE TO BE AT ANY TIME. IN THE WEE HOURS BEFORE DAWN, IT'S PARTICULARLY BAD!

TRUST ME, LOU--ONCE WE PUT THE KIBOSH ON THIS GUY, OUR REPS WILL BE MADE!

SHIK-KLIK

IN THE DAILY BUGLE
A JAMESON EDITORIAL
MENACE!

I STILL THINK I SHOULD HAVE MY HEAD EXAMINED FOR LETTING YOU TALK ME INTO THIS!

WILL YOU PUT THAT GUN AWAY? THIS ISN'T "THE GANGSTER CHRONICLES!" YOU'RE GOING TO GET US KILLED!

ROGER STERN JOHN ROMITA JR. & BOB WIACEK
WRITER ARTISTS

JOE ROSEN - LETTERER TOM DEFALCO - EDITOR
GLYNIS WEIN - COLORIST JIM SHOOTER - CHIEF

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I TRIED TO WARN HIM! FROM THE VERY START, I TOLD HIM IT WAS CRAZY TO CHECK OUT A CASE WE WEREN'T ASSIGNED TO!

BUT HE NEVER LISTENED! "WE'LL INVESTIGATE IN OUR SPARE TIME" HE SAID. "SOLVE A COUPLE OF THESE NUT CASES, AND WE'LL BE THE CHIEF'S FAIR-HAired BOYS!"

POOR SAM!
HIS INITIATIVE
COST HIM HIS
LIFE--

--AND
IF I DON'T
GET OUT
OF HERE,
IT'LL COST
ME *MINE*!

WHUNGH!

THAT LAST BLAST
KNOCKED ME OFF
MY FEET! THERE'S
NOWHERE TO RUN
NOW! I'LL HAVE
TO --!

YAAAH!

FOR SEVERAL
AGONIZING MINUTES,
THE FEDERAL MAN
WEEPS, CRADLING
WHAT WAS ONCE
HIS LEFT HAND...

...FEELING AS
THOUGH HE'S
ALL ALONE IN
THE WORLD!

UNFORTUNATELY
HE'S NOT!

MRRROW!

I BELIEVE
YOU WERE
LOOKING
FOR ME...

...FOOL!

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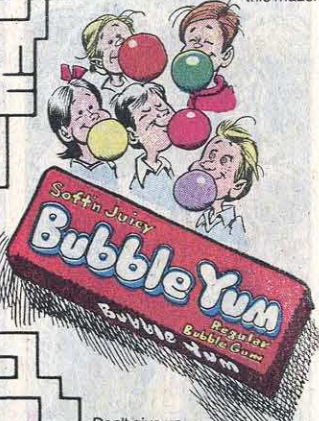


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LATER THAT DAY, JUST BLOCKS AWAY AT THE GREENWICH VILLAGE CAMPUS OF EMPIRE STATE UNIVERSITY--

--TEACHING ASSISTANT PETER PARKER IS GETTING LESS THAN A SATISFACTORY RESPONSE FROM A LECTURE HALL FULL OF FRESHMEN--



I GUESS I WON'T GET AN ANSWER TODAY! GO ON... GET OUT OF HERE!

BUT REMEMBER, THERE'S A TEST COMING UP IN TWO WEEKS! AND THIS TIME IT WON'T BE MULTIPLE CHOICE!

AS ONE, THE CLASS SHUFFLES TO ITS FEET, MOVING INEXORABLY THROUGH THE BIG, DOUBLE DOORS.



ONLY ONE BRAVE SOUL DARES TO BUCK THE FLOW...



...ENGLISH LIT MAJOR GREG SALINGER!

YO! HEY, PARKER!



HI, GREG--I THOUGHT I'D MISSED YOU IN CLASS!

YEAH...AND I'M SORRY. I REALLY AM! BUT I WAS KEPT WARMING A CHAIR IN THE ADMISSIONS OFFICE AGAIN!

DID THEY FIND THE MISSING PAPERWORK ON YOUR SCHOLARSHIP GRANT?

NO! EVIDENTLY, THE SEARCH IS TIED UP IN RED TAPE IN THE REGISTRAR'S OFFICE!

UH-OH! I HEAR A LOT OF STUDENTS HAVE BEEN HAVING TROUBLE THERE--AND THE DEAN OF STUDENT PERSONNEL IS FURIOUS!

I WISH HE'D GOTTEN INVOLVED SOONER! MY TUITION BILL IS COMING DUE!

IF THINGS GET MUCH WORSE, THERE'LL BE SOME STUDENTS TAKING MATTERS INTO THEIR OWN HANDS!

THE HOURS PASS QUICKLY, AND LONG AFTER SUNDOWN...

YAWN: SUPERVISING EVENING LABS IS FOR THE BIRDS, BUT WITH THE FLACK I'VE BEEN GETTING FROM DR. SLOAN OVER MY CHRONIC TARDINESS, I DON'T DARE COMPLAIN!

I CAN'T VERY WELL TELL HIM THAT SO MUCH OF MY TIME IS SPENT BEING SPIDER-MAN! WHAT AN EXCUSE THAT WOULD BE--



"SORRY, SIR, BETWEEN SEARCHING FOR THE VULTURE, BATTLING GOLDBUG, AND HELPING STOP LIGHTMASTER-- I'VE BEEN VERY BUSY!"

*AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #224, SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #62 & MARVEL TEAM-UP #113, RESPECTIVELY.

WHOA-HO! THERE GOES THE OLD SPIDER-SENSE TINGLE AGAIN! NOW WHAT?

EH? I DON'T BELIEVE IT!



BUT WITH THE DANGER SIGNAL I'M PICKING UP, THIS FELLA HAS TO BE UP TO NO GOOD!

METHINKS I SHOULD CHECK THIS OUT! AFTER ALL, I'M DUE A FEW CHUCKLES!



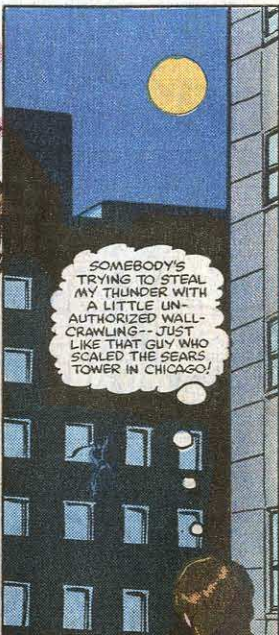
AND BESIDES, THE LOCAL WALL-CRAWLERS UNION HAS VERY STRICT ENTRANCE REQUIREMENTS!

HECK, I HAD TO BE BITTEN BY A RADIOACTIVE SPIDER TO JOIN!



AND, AS PETER CHANGES TO MORE COLORFUL ATTIRE--

SOMEBODY'S TRYING TO STEAL MY THUNDER WITH A LITTLE UN-AUTHORIZED WALL-CRAWLING-- JUST LIKE THAT GUY WHO SCALED THE SEARS TOWER IN CHICAGO!



--ON AN UPPER FLOOR OF THE ADMINISTRATION BUILDING, REGISTRAR HARVEY McNAMARA IS PUTTING IN A LITTLE FORCED OVERTIME...

I HATE THIS BLASTED PAPERWORK! IF THE DEAN WASN'T BREATHING DOWN MY NECK, I'D LET IT WAIT ANOTHER MONTH!





IF THEY'D JUST GIVE ME THE EXTRA SECRETARIES I REQUESTED THIS STUFF WOULDN'T PILE UP!

YOUR TIME IS UP, MCNAMARA!
WHO?



DON'T TELL ME YOU WEREN'T EXPECTING THE FOOLKILLER!

HUH? I-I WASN'T EXPECTING ANYONE!

DIDN'T YOU GET MY CARD IN THE MAIL?

W-WHAT CARD?



BLAST THE POSTAL SERVICE! YOU SHOULD HAVE RECEIVED IT YESTERDAY! WELL, NO MATTER...

YOU'VE BEEN A FOOL FOR TOO LONG, MCNAMARA! THIS IS YOUR FINISH!



BUT...

HI THERE! AM I LATE FOR THE PARTY?

YOU'LL HAVE TO EXCUSE ME! IT TOOK MY CHAUFFEUR FOREVER TO FIND A PARKING SPACE FOR THE LIMO!



SPIDER-MAN!

YE-E-E-S? HAVE WE BEEN INTRODUCED?

NOW I'LL NEVER GET THOSE PAPERS PROCESSED! I THINK I'LL BE SAFE FROM THOSE MANIACS BACK HERE--



--BUT... MY POOR DESK!

THAT'S SOME POP-GUN YOU HAVE THERE, PAL-- DOESN'T MAKE A PEEP! THE NEIGHBORS WILL BE SO HAPPY... THEY HATE NOISE!

YOU'VE MADE A SERIOUS ERROR, SPIDER-MAN! THIS ISN'T YOUR FIGHT! IF YOU INTERFERE WITH MY MISSION, I'LL BLAST YOU!

OH, REALLY? YOU'LL HAVE TO BE A LOT FASTER THAN--



YOWATCH!!
I HATE THESE
LOW CEILINGS--
THERE'S NO
ROOM TO
MANEUVER!

A PERFECT
ONE-POINT
LANDING...
RIGHT ON
MY WRIST!

-- THAT.

ME AND MY BIG
MOUTH! I MAY BE
TOO FAST FOR HIM,
BUT THE CEILING
ISN'T! THERE GOES
MY FOOTING!



OH, FINE! BLUE-
BOYS BLASTER
SET OFF THE
SPRINKLERS, AS
WELL. I'LL PROBABLY
GET A COLD ON
TOP OF EVERY-
THING ELSE!



I'LL SETTLE
WITH YOU
LATER,
MCNAWARA!

AS FOR YOU, SPIDER-MAN--
DON'T CROSS THE FOOLKILLER
AGAIN!

LIVE A POEM,
OR DIE A
FOOL!

LEAPING INTO SPACE, FOOLKILLER
DEPLOYS HIS SPECIALLY DESIGNED SASH,
TURNING IT MOMENTARILY INTO A
MAKESHIFT PARA-GLIDER--



--TO WAFT HIM GENTLY TO THE
SIDEWALK BELOW!



I MUST GET
AWAY QUICKLY!
I'M NOT PREPARED
TO TACKLE SOMEONE
OF SPIDER-MAN'S
POWER...YET!

WHILE... WHAT ARE YOU WAITING
FOR?! STOP THAT MANIA!



HE RUINED
MY PAPERWORK!
HE WRECKED MY
OFFICE! HE... HE
CALLED ME A
FOOL!

NOT TO MENTION THAT
HE TRIED TO KILL YOU, EH?

BUT, AS THE WEARY SPIDER-MAN GETS TO HIS FEET, THE FOOL-KILLER IS ALREADY BLOCKS AWAY!

MUST FORMULATE A PLAN OF ESCAPE!

I'M MAKING GOOD TIME, BUT IT MAY NOT BE GOOD ENOUGH... NOT IF SPIDER-MAN IS AS FAST AS I'VE HEARD!

AND, INDEED, HE IS!

WELL, THAT'S ACCOMMODATING OF THE FOOLKILLER! HE'S RUNNING RIGHT UP THE AVENUE IN PLAIN SIGHT! WHAT A JERK!

I'LL EVEN HAVE TIME TO SET UP MY AUTOMATIC CAMERA FOR SOME LONG-DISTANCE SHOTS BEFORE I...

"...DROP IN ON HIM!"

HEADS UP, F.K.! I HOPE YOU DON'T MIND A LITTLE COMPANY!

NOT AT ALL, SIR!

BUT I'M AFRAID YOU'LL HAVE TO KEEP YOURSELF AMUSED!

WHAT THE--?! HE BLASTED A HOLE IN THE PAVEMENT AND DOVE IN! BUT WHAT GOOD COULD THAT--?!

OH, NO! DON'T TELL ME--!

VRRRM

RATS! HE LANDED RIGHT ON THE BACK OF AN EXPRESS SUBWAY TRAIN! EITHER THAT GUY HAS A CHARMED LIFE, OR HE'S MEMORIZED THE SCHEDULES!

ALL I HAVE IS A ROLL OF WASTED FILM!

OR IS IT WASTED?

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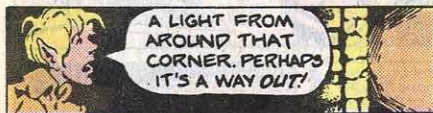
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SEVERAL MINUTES LATER, AT A LONG-TERM PARKING LOT ON THE CITY'S WEST SIDE--



-- A DARK FIGURE EMERGES FROM THE SHADOWS OF AN ADJACENT ALLEYWAY--



--AND SILENTLY SLIPS BETWEEN THE PARKED CARS, MAKING HIS WAY TO THE SIDE DOOR OF AN ORDINARY-LOOKING SEMI-TRAILER TRUCK.



BUT THE INTERIOR OF THE TRAILER RIG IS ANYTHING BUT ORDINARY!



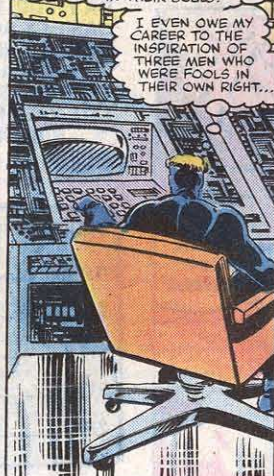
TIME TO "UNTHREAD THE RUDE EYE OF REBELLION, AND WELCOME HOME DISCARDED FAITH," AS THE BARD WOULD PUT IT.

AH, SOMETIMES I WONDER IF MY MISSION TO RID THE WORLD OF FOOLS IS REALLY VALID ANY MORE!



AFTER ALL, I DO UTILIZE THESE COMPUTER SYSTEMS WHICH WERE CHIEFLY DESIGNED BY FOOLS... FOOLS WITHOUT A BIT OF POETRY IN THEIR SOULS!

I EVEN OWE MY CAREER TO THE INSPIRATION OF THREE MEN WHO WERE FOOLS IN THEIR OWN RIGHT...



RORY, RICHARD
2127689594

EVERBEST, ROSS G.
6669201947



SALLIS, THEODORE
3145330066

...RICHARD RORY...
EVERBEST, THE FIRST
FOOLKILLER...AND INDIRECTLY,
EVEN SALLIS-- THE POOR FOOL
WHO BECAME A MISSEAPEN
MAN-THING.

WERE IT NOT FOR THE MAN-THING SAVING RORY FROM MY PREDECESSOR,* I MIGHT NEVER HAVE BECOME THE FOOKILLER!

*MAN-THING VOL. #1, #4.

HOW IRONIC THAT RICHARD'S SALVATION FROM ONE FOOKILLER SHOULD ENABLE HIM TO INSPIRE ANOTHER! NO, IT'S MORE THAN IRONIC... IT'S POETIC.

THE ONLY THING REALLY WRONG WITH THE FIRST FOOKILLER'S CRUSADE WAS HIS CONFUSED VIEW OF MORALITY THAT EQUATED SINNERS WITH FOOLS!

HIS ERRONEOUS IDEAS MADE HIM A FOOL HIMSELF! BUT I SAW THE RIGHTNESS OF HIS CAUSE... AND I KNEW THE TRUE DEFINITION OF A FOOL!

FOOL... ONE TOTALLY BEREF OF A POETIC NATURE!

"IT WOULD NEVER HAVE OCCURRED TO ME TO DECLARE WAR ON FOOLS, HAD I NOT MET RICHARD RORY IN PRISON LIKE MYSELF. HE HAD BEEN UNJUSTLY JAILED!

"I HATED THAT PLACE! I TRIED TO TELL THEM THAT I WAS INNOCENT, BUT THE FOOLS WOULDN'T LISTEN! SOMEDAY THEY WILL PAY FOR THAT!

"STILL, RICHARD ALMOST MADE THE PLACE BEARABLE WITH HIS STORIES OF THE MAN-THING... AND THE INSPIRING TALE OF THE FOOKILLER!

"AH, THE FOOKILLER!

"FROM THE MOMENT RICHARD TOLD ME ABOUT HIM, I KNEW THAT I MUST ASSUME HIS MISSION! THE IDEA BURNED AT ME... NIGHT AND DAY!

"UPON MY RELEASE I LIBERATED THE FOOKILLER'S EQUIPMENT AND THREW MYSELF INTO A PERIOD OF INTENSIVE TRAINING!

"I LATER TRACKED RICHARD TO NEW YORK, TO THANK HIM FOR THE INSPIRATION HE'D GIVEN ME.

"HERE, I FOUND AN ABUNDANCE OF FOOLS! WITHIN HOURS OF MY ARRIVAL I SAVED THE MYSTERY MAN OMEGA FROM THE PATHETIC BLOCKBUSTER.*

"BUT SOON, I TURNED MY ATTENTIONS TO BIGGER GAME...

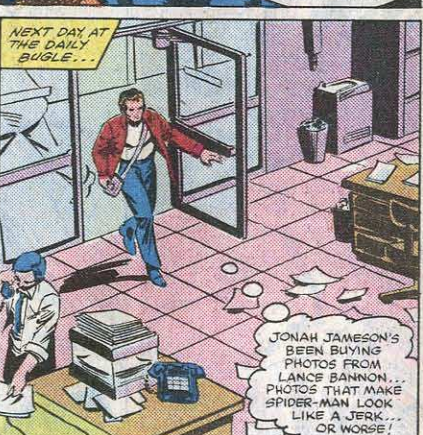
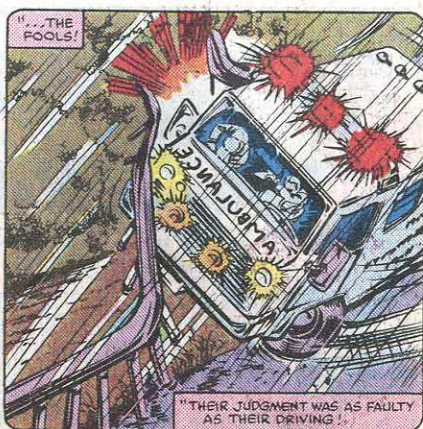
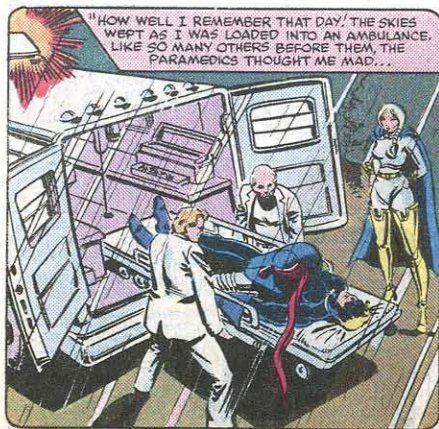
"TO MY DISMAY, I FOUND THAT I HAD MISJUDGED THE DEFENDERS. THEY WERE NOT QUITE AS FOOLISH AS I HAD THOUGHT!

"AND MY ESTIMATES OF THEIR INDIVIDUAL STRENGTHS-- PARTICULARLY THAT OF THE VALKYRIE-- WERE FAR TOO LOW!*

*OMEGA #9!

"...SUCH AS THE HELLCAT, AND HER FELLOW DEFENDERS.

*DEFENDERS #75!





IF THAT'S WHAT HE WANTS, THAT'S WHAT I'LL GIVE HIM. I DON'T LIKE CONTRIBUTING TO MY OWN BAD PUBLICITY, BUT I NEED THE MONEY!

HI, ROBBIE! IS PUBLISHING'S ANSWER TO THE AYATOLLAH HERE?

IF YOU MEAN JONAH, HE'S IN A MEETING WITH THE TRUCKER'S UNION.

I DOUBT THAT HE'LL BE IN A GOOD MOOD WHEN HE COMES OUT, PETER!



WELL, THIS SHOULD BRIGHTEN HIS DAY... A WHOLE ROLL OF FILM SHOWING SPIDER-MAN SCREWING UP!

OH? IF THEY'RE EXCLUSIVES, I CAN PUT THROUGH A VOUCHER FOR YOU!

GREAT! EVEN LANCE BANNON COULDN'T TOP THESE BEAUTS!



PETER, LET THIS OLD CITY EDITOR GIVE YOU SOME ADVICE. BANNON'S ONE OF THE BEST PHOTOGRAPHS TO COME DOWN THE PIKE IN YEARS...

...BUT HE PANDERS TO JONAH'S WORST INSTINCTS. DON'T STOOP TO HIS LEVEL!



I DON'T WANT TO, ROBBIE--BUT SPIDER-MAN DID LET THIS FOOLKILLER GUY GET AWAY!

THE FOOLKILLER, EH?

YOU'VE HEARD OF HIM?



I ONLY KNOW WHAT THE POLICE BLOTTERS HAVE ON HIM. HE'S A MASKED PSYCHOTIC WHO THINKS IT'S HIS DUTY TO WIPE OUT ALL FOOLS!

IN THAT CASE, WE'RE ALL IN TROUBLE! LIKE THE SONG SAYS...



...EVERYBODY PLAYS THE FOOL SOMETIMES!"

©x#1\$@!x!!

PARKER, YOU'D BETTER NOT BE WASTING MY EMPLOYEES' TIME WITH A SOCIAL VISIT! IF YOU HAVE BUSINESS HERE, TAKE CARE OF IT AND GET OUT!



HMMM! IT SEEMS SOME PEOPLE PLAY THE PART MORE OFTEN THAN OTHERS! TAKE CARE, ROBBIE!

"PLAY THE PART?" WHAT'S HE YAMMERING ABOUT, ROBBIE?

OH...NOTHING!

SOON...

THE FOOLKILLER IS MORE DANGEROUS THAN I THOUGHT! AND I LET HIM GET AWAY!

I'LL HAVE TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT THAT! THE LAST THING I NEED IS MORE GUILT ON MY SHOULDERS!

AND SO, FOR THE REST OF THE AFTERNOON, SPIDER-MAN COVERS THE ROOFTOPS OF NEW YORK CITY IN A WILD, UNINHIBITED DISPLAY OF HIS AMAZING SPEED, STRENGTH, AND AGILITY--

--WITH A NET RESULT OF...

NOTHING! I'VE GOTTEN ONE HECK OF A WORKOUT, BUT THERE HASN'T BEEN A SIGN OF THE FOOLKILLER!

MAYBE HE ONLY COMES OUT AT NIGHT! BOY, NOW'S A GREAT TIME TO THINK OF THAT!

SPEAKING OF NIGHT, IT'S GETTING LATE--AND I STILL HAVE TO PREPARE FOR EVENING LAB!

STOPPING OFF AT HIS CHELSEA APARTMENT JUST LONG ENOUGH TO SCOOP UP HIS STREET CLOTHES, SPIDER-MAN HEADS ONCE AGAIN FOR THE S.S.U. CAMPUS--

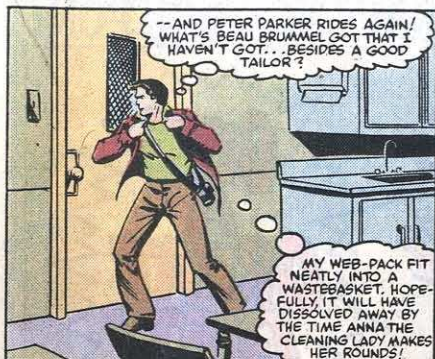
--WHERE...

AH-HA! A DESERTED CLASSROOM!

JUST WHAT I NEED FOR ONE OF MY PATENTED QUICK-CHANGES!

OKAY... MASK AND GLOVES ARE TUCKED INTO MY BELT. ALL I HAVE TO DO NOW IS SNAP MY COLLAPSIBLE WEB-SHOOTERS ONTO THE BELT--

--ADD THE LATEST IN PERMANENT PRESS FASHIONS--



NO, IT'S GREG SALINGER! WHAT THE DEVIL? THIS IS THE SECOND TIME HE'S BEEN AROUND WHEN MY SPIDER-SENSE FLARED! *

BUT... IF HE WAS REALLY A THREAT, I SHOULD GET A BUZZ EVERYTIME I SEE HIM... AND I DON'T!



PARKER! MAN, AM I GLAD TO SEE YOU! I'VE BEEN LOOKING ALL OVER FOR YOU!

I'VE BEEN OUT AND ABOUT TODAY... JUST HAVE AN EVENING CLASS TO TEACH!



UH... NO! NOTHING REALLY, GREG! WHAT CAN I DO FOR YOU?

I NEED A FRIENDLY EAR! OF ALL THE PROFS AND T.A.'S I HAVE, YOU'RE THE ONE I TRUST MOST!



LAST WEEK, I MAILED TWO LETTERS... ONE TO SOME PEOPLE IN THE CITY, THE OTHER TO SOMEONE ON CAMPUS! THE CAMPUS LETTER NEVER ARRIVED!

IT SOUNDS TO ME LIKE YOU WERE THE VICTIM OF THE CAMPUS MAILROOM!



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- ☐ POWER MAN
- ☐ PETER PARKER
- ☐ ROM
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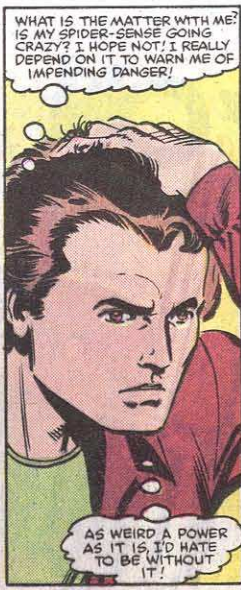
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AT THAT MOMENT, ACROSS CAMPUS IN THE E.S.U. MAILROOM...

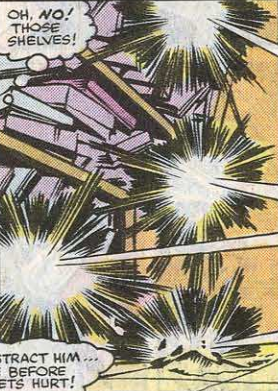


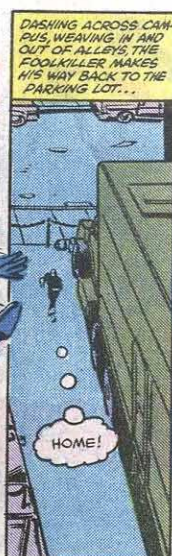


PROPELLED BY THE FORCE OF SPIDER-MAN'S KICK, THE FOOLKILLER BARRELS ACROSS THE CROWDED ROOM--



HE MAY BE RIGHT! WITTY REPARTEE ISN'T GOING TO STOP HIM-- AND THIS PLACE IS SO CRAMMED WITH JUNK THAT THERE'S HARDLY ANY ROOM TO MANEUVER!





YOU DIDN'T REALLY THINK THOSE SHELVES WOULD SLOW ME DOWN, DID YOU?

AND YOU'RE STILL NOT FAST ENOUGH TO ZAP ME WITH YOUR BLASTER!



PERHAPS NOT.



YOW!

HOWEVER, THE SHEER POWER OF THE RAY WAS ENOUGH TO BLOW THE GAS TANK ON THAT CAR BEHIND HIM--TO GIVE ME THE DIVERSION I NEEDED TO ESCAPE THROUGH THIS TRAP DOOR!



SPIDER-MAN WILL RECOVER IN SECONDS!

I MUST FIND A PLACE TO HIDE...



...AND FAST!

DON'T BE A FOOL! LOWER YOUR VOICE, AND I'LL SPARE YOU!

Ulp!

WHATEVER YOU SAY, MISTER. YOU ON THE RUN?



IN A MANNER OF SPEAKING! I'M TRYING TO AVOID A GENTLEMAN CALLED SPIDER-MAN--

--UNTIL SUCH TIME AS I CAN DEVISE A WAY TO KILL HIM!

HUH?

YER KIDDIN', AIN'T YA? I MEAN, I SEEN THAT SPIDER-MAN ONCE! ANYBODY WHO'D GO GUNNIN' FOR HIM WOULD HAVE TO BE A FOOL!



EH?



YOU... YOU'RE RIGHT!



I ALMOST AGREE WITH THE LADY, F.K.-- BUT I CAN'T LET YOU DO THAT!

NO!



DON'T DO THIS TO ME! YOU MUST LET ME KILL MYSELF! I'M A FOOL!



NO, I DON'T THINK SO. YOU'RE NO MORE OF A FOOL THAN ANYONE ELSE.

YOU'RE JUST VERY, VERY MIXED UP!

DON'T SAY THAT! THAT'S WHAT THE ARMY DOCTORS SAID WHEN THEY DISCHARGED ME!



ARMY DOCTORS! SALINGER TOLD ME THAT HE'D BEEN IN THE ARMY!

BUT THEN, I KNOW THIS IS GREG, DON'T I?

I'M NOT CRAZY... I'M A FOOL!

ALL I HAVE TO DO IS TO PULL OFF HIS MASK.

I WANT TO BELIEVE THAT THIS ISN'T GREG, BUT...



THIS ISN'T THE FACE OF A MADMAN! IT'S THE FACE OF A FOOL... A FOOL WHO MUST BE KILLED!

THE ONE TIME I WANTED TO BE WRONG, I HAD TO BE RIGHT!

IT MAKES SENSE NOW! GREG LIKED PETER PARKER SO MUCH THAT WHENEVER HE SAW ME IN CIVVIES, HIS PSYCHOTIC HATE SUBSIDED...



...AND HE TEMPORARILY CEASED TO BE A DANGER THAT MY SPIDER-SENSE COULD DETECT. WELL, HE'S NOT A DANGER ANYMORE.

TAKE IT EASY, FELLA! YOU'RE NOT A FOOL... YOU'RE GOING TO BE... OKAY!

WH-WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO WITH ME?



BELIEVE IT OR NOT, I'M GOING TO TRY TO HELP YOU! YOU'VE BEEN UNDER A STRAIN, AND I KNOW A PLACE WHERE YOU CAN GET A NICE LONG REST...

...AWAY FROM FOOLS!

NEXT ISSUE: ROMANCE... INTRIGUE... AND ADVENTURE... HIGHLIGHT THE SPECTACULAR, LONG-AWAITED RETURN OF... **THE BLACK CAT!**

BULLPEN BULLETINS

TIME FOR A NEW IMAGE

All my life I've tried to be a nice guy — you know, being kind to small children, donating spare change to unemployed Vikings, and feeding stray animals — but what has it gotten me? Maligned, that's what! Character-assassinated, that's what! Every time I go to a convention these days some irate reader is bound to walk up to me and say in a low growl, "How dare you take (name of artist) off (pick a book), you low-down, rotten, evil etcetera!" Or, better still, "I hear you were the one who decreed that in X-MEN #137 Phoenix should die — *Murderer!*"

I suppose I could continue to explain that artists generally take themselves off of books usually because they can't keep up with all their assignments. (Why they accept twice as many assignments as Doc Ock could handle in the first place is a mystery!) And I could continue to calmly elucidate the circumstances regarding the demise of Phoenix, but — I've been pushed too far! I've had it! No more Mr. Nice Guy!

"HOWDY POD'NERS," HE HISSSED THROUGH AN EVIL SNEER...

Tough... cruel... ruthless... yeah, that's the new me. I'll let nothing stand in my way and no one defies me as I continue my relentless march toward absolute power! I'll become a Super-Villain, like Doctor Doom... or, a Master of Evil, like Fu Manchu... or, I know! A Corrupt Oil Baron!



"J.S."

Nice hat, huh? I actually bought it to spare my face from cooking in the blazing San Diego sun while I was there attending the San Diego Con this July, but it suits my new image just fine.

All right, enough of this... let's get down to (evil) business...

DO UNTO OTHERS... AND GLOAT!

I've been hearing reports that DAREDEVIL is finally being "discovered" by comics fans across the country. People are beginning to realize what I've known for years — that Frank Miller, who writes and draws the book, is good... real good... too good. Hmm. If this upstart punk Miller gets too popular he may become difficult to control. Maybe I should do something about this Miller guy... maybe get rid of him? No, that's too quick, too painless. Ah! I know! If certain "unimpeachable sources" were to "reveal" that Miller drowns kittens for fun every Friday evening... let's see... a few well-placed bribes ought to accomplish that!

NOW, HOW CAN I MAKE A BUCK OUTTA THIS...?

You may have noticed that last month the price of our regular comics went from 50¢ to 60¢. I'd like to be able to tell you that all that extra dough is going in-

to my pockets — but unfortunately, there really isn't any "extra dough." The increase in price just covers our increase in costs. Too bad. Now that I've become truly evil, I'd really enjoy skimming off some cash and funneling it into my new, secret Swiss Bank Account. I should apologize to you, our loyal reader, but being evil means you never have to say you're sorry.

Maybe I can arrange to have the price raised to 75¢!

GRAFT. FOR FUN AND PROFIT!

Hmm... all I have to do is set up a little system whereby artists and writers have to slip me a little cash under the table in order to get choice assignments and I could turn a tidy profit... but, no, on second thought, Tom DeFalco, *Superstar Editor* of THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN, THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN, MARVEL TEAM-UP, WHAT IF...? and GHOST RIDER is apparently already doing that. I noticed that he has a jar on his desk labelled "Kickbacks" (it couldn't be just for laughs, could it? Nah!). Being that he's one of my most trusted lackeys, I'll leave that business to him. Of course I will muscle in and grab a piece of his take — a big piece — leaving him, say, a generous ten percent. After all, initiative like Tom's should be rewarded!

And maybe I'll send a list of my sizes out to all the staff and freelancers just before Christmas. That way I'll get some nice gifts from them... or else!

WHEN!

This column is so evil even I, J.S., can't stand it. I think we need a change of pace... a little interlude of niceness. I wonder who I can get who's really sweet and nice to take over for a paragraph? Ah! I know!

LOUISE JONES'S CHEERFULLY NICE NEWS!

Last Thursday, when a couple of kids from Long Island visited Marvel's offices, it was real easy to tell which comics has won their hearts — they started quoting long passages of Chris Claremont's X-MEN dialogue. Just wait'll they read #153!

Danny Fingeroth's beloved tangerine plant "Robert," actually threw while Danny was on vacation in California, due to the merciful ministrations of EPCO's Jo Duffy. Unfortunately, Danny's DAZZLER dialogue is later than ever... but it's now got a lot of that mellow California pizzazz.

Gil Kane actually got in pencils for CONAN #130 on time. Must have been inspired by the incredible premiere plot of Bruce Jones. CONAN's new regular scripter.

Production paragon, Ron Zaima and wife, Linda, are expecting their first child some time this week. Congratulations, Ron!

Chris Claremont, Walt Simonson and Terry Austin are hard at work on the X-MEN/TEEN TITANS Marvel/DC team-up. It's gonna be a winner.

And say, Jim, I really like that hat!

Louise
LOUISE

ME AGAIN...

Gee, Louise is such a wonderful lady. So talented, so professional, and such a pleasant, charming, sweetheart of a human being. Reading her paragraph makes me feel really guilty about being evil.

Maybe I should call the whole thing off and just go back to being my regular, old, nice-guy self. Yeah... it's only right.

Besides, Corrupt Cattle Barons tend to get shot...

Hang in there,

Jim Shooter

JIM SHOOTER

P.S. Just to prove that I'm an okay guy, next month, to make nice, I'll print a picture of Louise wearing The Hat!



THE HYPE BOX

Here're a few things we're real excited about this month:

SHE-HULK #25 — The She-Hulk faces the ultimate villain in this collector's item last issue. It's double-sized and double dynamite!

FANTASTIC FOUR #239 — Hey! Have you been watching John Byrne's progress as writer, penciler, and inker on the World's Greatest you-know-what? If you haven't, you should've been! This month, John takes the FF to a town that's scared to death — and introduces the guaranteed most unexpected guest-star of all!

Special note: This month, MICRONAUTS joins KA-ZAR and MOON KNIGHT in going to 32 pages of story and features with no ads! Available through subscription and your local comics shop only. Worth the search.



THE MIGHTY MARVEL CHECKLIST!

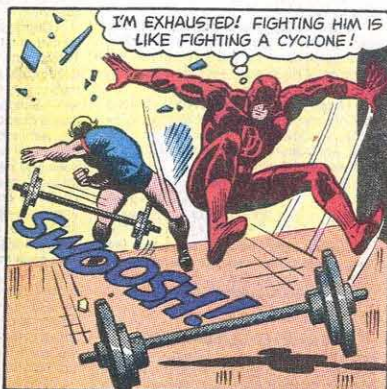
- ☐ MARVEL TWO-IN-ONE #84 - Starring the Thing and Alpha Flight!
- ☐ SPIDER-WOMAN #42
- ☐ STAR TREK #18
- ☐ DAREDEVIL #179
- ☐ DAZZLER #12
- ☐ KA-ZAR #11
- ☐ DENNIS THE MENACE #4
- ☐ AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #225
- ☐ MICRONAUTS #38
- ☐ CAPTAIN AMERICA #286
- ☐ THOR #316
- ☐ MOON KNIGHT #16
- ☐ GHOST RIDER #65
- ☐ SAVAGE SHE-HULK #25
- ☐ DOCTOR STRANGE #51
- ☐ INCREDIBLE HULK #268
- ☐ AVENGERS #216
- ☐ CONAN: THE BARBARIAN #131
- ☐ MARVEL TALES #136 - Starring Spider-Man!
- ☐ X-MEN #154
- ☐ ROM #27
- ☐ POWER MAN/IRON FIST #78
- ☐ FANTASTIC FOUR #239
- ☐ MARVEL TEAM-UP #114 - Starring Spider-Man and the Falcon!
- ☐ IRON MAN #155
- ☐ PETER PARKER, THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #63
- ☐ DEFENDERS #104
- ☐ STAR WARS #56
- ☐ MASTER OF KUNG FU #109
- ☐ WHAT IF #31

MARVEL MAGAZINES

- ☐ CRAZY #82
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- ☐ BIZARRE ADVENTURES #29
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"DAREDEVIL'S[®] LONGEST FIGHT!"

BABY FACE JOHNNY IS THE BIGGEST BRUISER EVER TO HIT MANHATTAN. HE'S DESTINED FOR THE WORLD'S CHAMPIONSHIP FIGHT. FOR THREE HOURS STRAIGHT, HE AND DAREDEVIL HAVE BEEN SLUGGING IT OUT.



I'VE GOT TO STOP HIM. THESE **HOSTESS[®] FRUIT PIES** MIGHT HELP. HE MUST HAVE WORKED UP AN APPETITE BY NOW!



WOW! REAL FRUIT FILLING-- APPLE AND CHERRY. AND A LIGHT, TENDER CRUST. DELICIOUS!



HEY, DAREDEVIL, WHAT WERE WE FIGHTING ABOUT, ANYWAY?

I DON'T KNOW! I JUST ASKED YOU WHAT YOU THINK OF JACK MURDOCK'S RECORD?



"MURDOCK?" I THOUGHT YOU SAID I SMELL OF DIRTY SOCKS. GEE, SORRY, FELLA. BUT THANKS FOR THE **HOSTESS FRUIT PIES!**

DON'T MENTION IT. I NEEDED THE WORKOUT. SORT OF.



THE SPIDER'S WEB

c/o MARVEL COMICS GROUP
575 Madison Avenue
New York, New York 10022

TOM DeFALCO
EDITOR
MARK GRUENWALD
ASSISTANT EDITOR

Dear Marvel,

Once again, you turned out a pretty good issue of the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN... in spite of the fact that the blurb on the cover of issue #221 — "Crisis on Campus" — had appeared once before.

I really didn't care for Ramrod — I'll take the Shocker or the Green Goblin any day — but Denny O'Neil did a fantastic job with the story. And Alan Kupperberg is continuing to impress me with his art.

But whatever happened to John Romita Jr.?

Mark Waldman
9639 Amigo Avenue
Northridge, CA 91324

Jovial John had to sit out a few issues while he drew the double-sized IRON MAN #150, Mark... but he's back now! (And we're glad to have him!)

Dear Marvel,

AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #221 just didn't have the action and excitement that I've grown accustomed to finding in a Spider-mag. The two fights with Ramrod were dull to say the least, and they were also too short.

How about an issue devoted solely to Peter's life, his romances, his friends, Aunt May, and so on... with no super-villains?

At any rate, getting back to "Blues for Lonesome Pinky", I have to say that the madness in the club was carried off nicely, even though the brawl could have been longer.

Travis Askew
3104 Magnolia
Amarillo, TX 79107

Dear Guys:

Re: AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #221.
All Right! I'm glad to see an old villain like Ramrod back. There's just one thing I didn't understand about the story. Why did Ramrod want to kill the patrons of Mickey's? Please clear this up.

All in all, I really enjoyed this issue. The Kupperberg/Mooney combination worked out surprisingly well.

Now, if you could just bring back some old villains like the Shocker, the Goblin, the Vulture...

Erik Johnson
Cedarlawn Road
Irvine, NY 10533

There aren't any plans for a Shocker appearance just yet, Erik, but the Vulture appeared just last issue! And, there just might be some surprising Goblin events on the horizon!

Now, as for your question about Ramrod's motives... If you'll check back to page 23 of that story, you'll see that Ramrod tells Spider-Man that he wanted revenge upon the owner of Mickey's for denying him an audition. Poisoning the beer supply at Mickey's does seem like a rather drastic move, but no one ever accused Ramrod of subtlety!

Dear Tom,

I have been an avid reader of SPIDER-MAN for the last fourteen years and have read every issue to date. I was pretty happy after hearing that Roger Stern will be writing AMAZING SPIDER-MAN, as I enjoyed his SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN material. I'm not sure what your approach to Spider-Man will be, but I feel a few suggestions

can't hurt.

Characterization has always been an important factor in the success of this title. Through the years, SPIDER-MAN has introduced quite a few supporting characters, but much to my chagrin, many of these characters seem to have disappeared from these pages over the past two or three years. Do you remember good ol' Harry Osborn, the guy Peter Parker used to room with? It seems to me that if a guy is a close friend through college, that he would at least call once in a while. Nevertheless, Harry hasn't appeared in AMAZING SPIDER-MAN in about two years; or in SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN in three! Do you realize that he's been engaged to Liz Allen since issue #166. Even as time passes in comics, that's a long time! The only engagement I can think of which lasted longer was that of Ned Leeds and Betty Brant... and the last we heard of these two was in issue #199, when we learned that they were planning to split up. So what happened already?

The list of missing characters goes on and on. Remember Mary Jane Watson and her Aunt Anna? How about Glory Grant and Joe Robertson? The last two in particular are especially an enigma. These days, it seems that whenever Pete drops by the Daily Bugle, the only one there is J. Jonah Jameson. Geez, Glory is Jameson's personal secretary, and Joe is the City Editor! It used to be that Pete ran into them all the time... especially Glory! She's his next-door neighbor! Remember?

I realize that since Pete graduated, he picked up some new friends in graduate school, but it doesn't make sense that the change should be so drastic. I go to an out-of-town college myself, and I see old friends much more often than Pete, who stays in the city. This change of characters seems rooted in one of the most disturbing problems connected with a change in writers. New writers seem to feel the need to impress their vision on the character, sometimes to the exclusion of all else. Now, I am not say-

ing that there should be no change, but I don't think that eighteen years of characters should be chopped away in a single stroke just to feature fresh, new characters. The freshness of characters, after all, depends on the quality of writing, and not upon newness. Let's see the return of a few of those characters. A Mary Jane/Betty Brant/Debra Whitman/Peter Parker triangle (quadrangle?) might be interesting. Let Liz and Harry get married. Flash and Harry should be graduating from college soon. How about the return of the Green Goblin? We all know that Bart Hamilton didn't die in that explosion. Or better yet, with all those Goblin caches Norman Osborn had, an all-new anonymous Goblin would be great. Remember how Stan and Steve kept us guessing for two full years before the Goblin's identity was revealed? Ah, those were the days!

I realize this letter is a bit long, but I felt that I had to get a few things off my chest. For a good long time, SPIDER-MAN was the best comic Marvel put out, and I'd like to see it up at the top again.

Oh, one last thing. For the past three years, an important part of Spider-Man's costume has been missing: Please, bring back the webbing which used to appear under Spider-Man's arms.

Lenny Cooper
6233 Sperry Hall
Cornell University
Ithaca, NY 14853

Never fear, Lenny, we have no intention of sweeping Spider-Man's beloved supporting cast under the rug. Joe Robertson appeared both last issue and in this issue. Flash Thompson, Harry Osborn, and Liz Allen will be making a return in an upcoming issue of SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN, and Ned and Betty Leeds are due for an appearance in these pages. Oh yes, you never know when a certain red-head might make a dramatic reappearance.

(By the way, Glory Grant hasn't been Peter's neighbor since she moved out in SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #32.)

NEXT ISSUE:

The Black Cat is back! That's right! Because you demanded it, the Black Cat is back in action... and, boy, is Spider-Man confused! Is she psychotic, or just crazy like a fox? Will she return to a life of crime, or will she go straight? And what role will Spider-Man play in all of this? For the startling answers, don't miss AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #226!

'Nuff said!





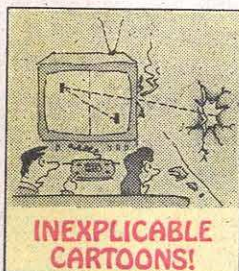
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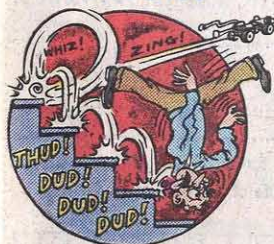
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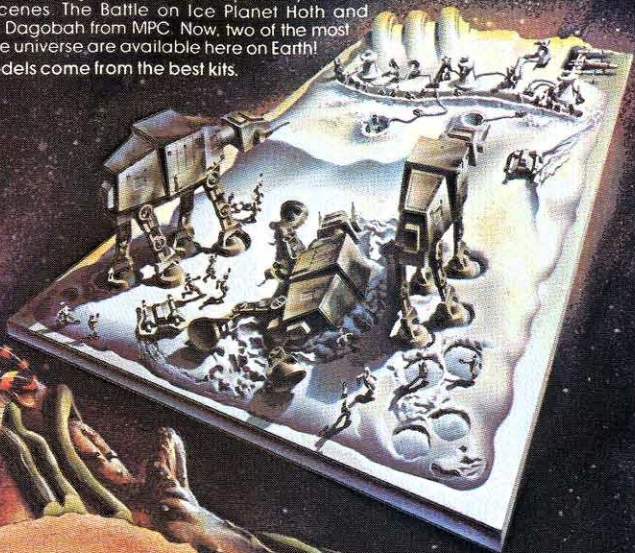
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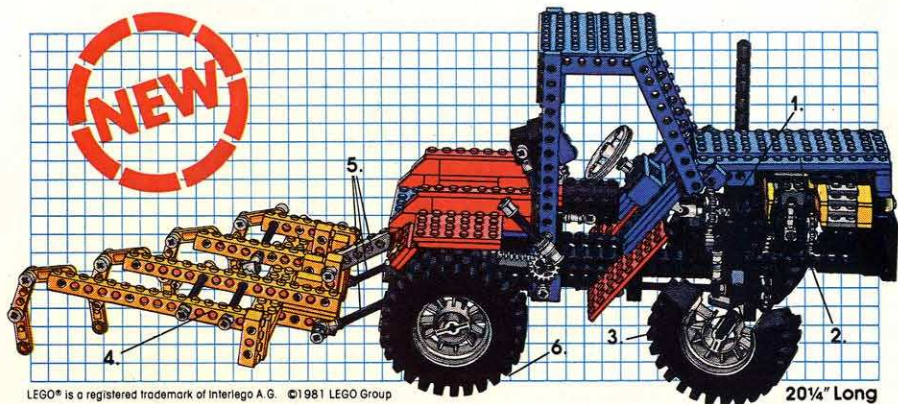
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