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the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN



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"BUT THE CAT CAME BACK..."

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IN UPSTATE NEW YORK LIKES
TO CALL ITSELF A MENTAL
HEALTH CARE FACILITY.

IN EARLIER, LESS ENLIGHTENED
TIMES, IT WOULD HAVE BEEN
CALLED AN ASYLUM... A PLACE
FOR SOCIETY TO LOCK AWAY
ITS MADMEN.

ALAS... SOMETIMES,
IT MUST STILL SERVE
THAT PURPOSE!

IT... IT'S
SPIDER-
MAN!!

NO! HE'S
UP THERE...
LAUGHING BECAUSE
I FAILED! I WAS
THE FOOLKILLER,
AND HE STOPPED
ME FROM KILLING
THE GREATEST
FOOL OF ALL...
MYSELF!

YOU'RE
IMAGINING THINGS,
MR. SALINGER.
THERE'S NO ONE
HERE BUT US! COME
ON... LET'S GET
IN OUT OF THE
STORM!

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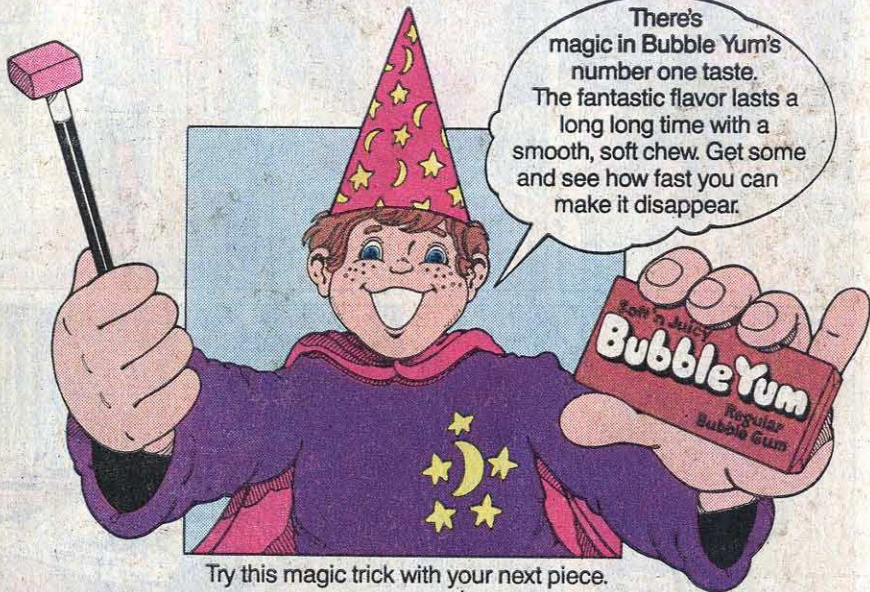
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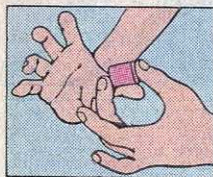
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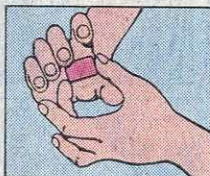
The magic in gum is Bubble Yum.[®]



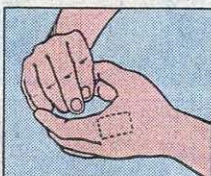
Try this magic trick with your next piece.



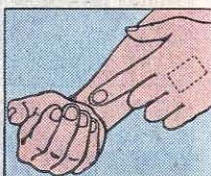
Hold the Bubble Yum between the thumb and middle finger of your left hand.



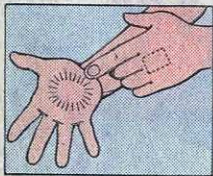
Pretend to grab it with your right hand while you really drop it into the palm of your left hand.



Keep the fingers of your right hand loose as if they had the gum.



Point with the left hand while you secretly hold the gum in your palm.



Say "Presto chango!" and open your right hand to show that the Bubble Yum has magically disappeared.



Then you can make the Bubble Yum disappear the easy way—and try the number one taste.





LET'S GO BACK
TO OUR ROOM
AND SLIP INTO
SOMETHING LEEES
COMFORTABLE!

SLAM



HOURS LATER...

GOOD MORNING,
MISS HARDY!
AND HOW ARE
WE THIS
MORNING?

>NNNNH-
UU-NN!
<



I BEG YOUR
PARDON? ARE
YOU COMING
DOWN WITH
A...COLD?

WHAT ON
EARTH?!

>NNNNH-
UGH-
HH-NN!
<



>NNUUG?<

I AM
A FAT
SLOB!



NEW YORK
CITY, THE
NEXT NIGHT...

BOY, AM I
GLAD THAT THIS
DAY IS OVER!
THE ONLY THING
THAT SAVED IT
FROM BEING A
TOTAL WASTE
WAS THE FALCON
BUYING ME LUNCH!
STILL, AFTER THE
HAND I GAVE HIM
STOPPING HIS
OLD PLAYMATE,
STONEFACE*--

--IT WAS
THE LEAST
HE COULD
DO!



HEY!

THAT SPOTLIGHT SUDDENLY
WINKED ON FROM OUT OF NO-
WHERE! IT CAN'T BE OF ANY
DANGER TO ME, OR MY SPIDER-
SENSE WOULD HAVE GIVEN
ME A WARNING TINGLE.

WHAT'S THE
SCOOP?

*SEE MARVEL TEAM-UP #114.



WELL,
WELL,
WELL!

FAITH AN' BEGORRAH, IF IT ISN'T CAPTAIN
JEAN DEWOLFF... THE FINEST O' NEW YORK'S
FINEST! WHAT CAN I BE DOIN' FOR YE, MISSIE?

YOU CAN START
BY CANNING THE
LOUSY ACCENT,
SPIDER-MAN!

I'VE BEEN LOOKING
ALL OVER FOR YOU!
AN OLD "FRIEND"
OF YOURS BROKE
OUT OF MITCHELL
STATE LAST NIGHT...
FELICIA HARDY!

FELICIA... THE
BLACK CAT?!

UH-HUH!



IT APPEARS
SHE WASN'T
AS CRAZY AS
WE THOUGHT.
SHE PULLED
A REAL FAST
ONE ON THE
DOCTORS
UP THERE.

THEY DIDN'T
EVEN KNOW
SHE WAS
GONE UNTIL
THIS MORNING!

WHAT?! BUT I
THOUGHT... THAT IS,
SHE... AH, I MEAN...



... THANKS,
YEAH, THANKS,
CAPTAIN!

I'LL KEEP
MY EYES
PEELED
FOR HER.

I FIGURED
YOU'D WANT
TO KNOW.



WANT TO KNOW? OH, YEAH...
I WANT TO KNOW PLENTY!

THE BLACK CAT HAD
ME CONVINCED SHE
WAS EMOTIONALLY
UNBALANCED...

... AND
ALMOST
PSYCHOTI-
CALLY IN
LOVE WITH
ME!



I WONDER HOW
MUCH OF THAT
WAS AN ACT?

I'M AFRAID TO
FIND OUT. I LIKE
THE CAT, IF
ONLY SHE WASN'T
A BURGLAR!



WHAT A WORLD! THERE'S
A LADY OUT THERE WHO
MAY--OR MAY NOT-- BE
WILD ABOUT ME, THE ONLY
WAY TO FIND OUT IS TO
TRACK HER DOWN...

... BUT IF
I FIND
HER, NO
MATTER
WHAT THE
ANSWER,
I'LL HAVE
TO TURN
HER IN!

MIDTOWN
MANHATTAN,
ONE WEEK
LATER...

--SAVE FOR ONE IN THE HAND OF A CERTAIN UNINVITED
GUEST!



BEAUTIFUL! AN ORIGINAL
EHRENREICH, AND IT'S
MINE-- ALL MINE! MMM!

I'M LUCKY I GOT
HERE SO EARLY!
IN ANOTHER WEEK--



--MR. BRADSHAW
WOULD HAVE HAD
THE REST OF HIS
ART ACQUISITIONS
UNCRATED AND ON
THE WALLS!



AND THEN I WOULD NEVER HAVE
BEEN ABLE TO DECIDE WHICH
PIECE TO... LIBERATE!

I MUST GIVE
BRADSHAW CREDIT FOR
SOME INTELLIGENCE, THOUGH...



...HIDING HIS ART ROOM
BEHIND THE BOOKCASES
WAS INSPIRED!

IF I HADN'T COME ACROSS
THE ORIGINAL FLOORPLANS
TO THIS PLACE, I MIGHT
NEVER HAVE FOUND IT!



BUT THE WORLD'S BEST SAFE-
GUARDS CAN'T STOP WALTER
HARDY'S LITTLE GIRL!

OF COURSE DADDY WOULD
HAVE EVADED THESE ELECTRIC-
EYE BEAMS A BIT DIFFERENTLY--

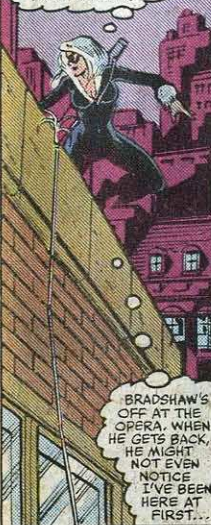


--BUT I'M SURE THAT
THEY WOULDN'T HAVE
GIVEN HIM ANY TROUBLE.
AFTER ALL, HE WAS THE
WORLD'S GREATEST
CAT BURGLAR IN
HIS DAY!

AS I
AM IN
MINE!

NO LIGHTS
BORN IN THE
PENTHOUSE
APARTMENT
HIGH ATOP THE
TUMMINELLO
TOWERS--

THERE'S JUST ONE PROBLEM
WITH THIS PROFESSION...
THERE'S NOT ENOUGH
RECOGNITION!



BRADSHAW'S
OFF AT THE
OPERA. WHEN
HE GETS BACK,
HE MIGHT
NOT EVEN
NOTICE
I'VE BEEN
HERE AT
FIRST...



...UNLESS I
LEAVE HIM A
LITTLE HINT!



DINGA-
DINGA-
DINGA-
DINGA

KRESH

--AND LANDING ON CAT FEET!



MMM! A PERFECT FOUR-
POINT LANDING! AND
THERE'S JUST WHAT I
NEED TO MAKE MY ESCAPE
IN STYLE!

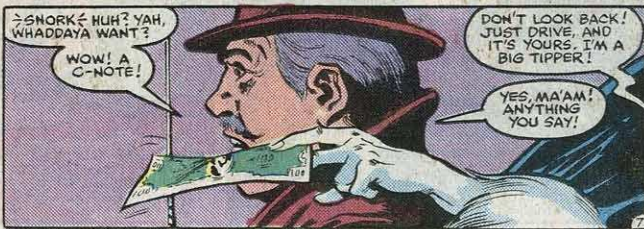
WITH A
THROATY
CHUCKLE,
THE BLACK
CAT RAPPELS
DOWN THE
SIDE OF THE
BUILDING,
DROPPING
SIXTY
STORIES
IN MERE
SECONDS--



A HORSE-DRAWN
CARRIAGE!

OH, DRIVER!
DRIVER?

HEY,
YOU!

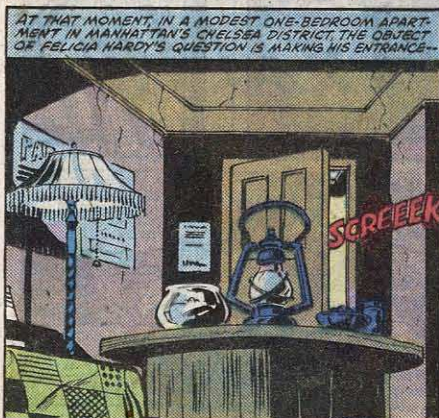


SNORK? HUH? YAH,
WHADDAYA WANT?

WOW! A
C-NOTE!

DON'T LOOK BACK!
JUST DRIVE, AND
IT'S YOURS. I'M A
BIG TIPPER!

YES, MA'AM!
ANYTHING
YOU SAY!



CONTRARY TO POPULAR BELIEF, THERE ARE SOME ADVANTAGES TO LIVING IN NEW YORK CITY!

FOR INSTANCE, THERE ARE CERTAIN BUSINESS ESTABLISHMENTS WHICH NEVER CLOSE...

THERE'S NOTHING LIKE RELAXING WITH A QUARTER POUNDER AND A SHAKE, WHILE YOU WATCH YOUR SHORTS GO THROUGH THE SPIN CYCLE!



I'M LUCKY I FOUND THIS OLD SHIRT AND JEANS IN THE BACK OF MY CLOSET.

I'D FEEL AWFULLY SELF-CONSCIOUS SITTING HERE IN MY SPIDER-SUIT! I DON'T NEED TO ATTRACT ATTENTION!



OR DO I? WOW! WHERE'S SHE BEEN ALL MY LIFE?

H-HELLO THERE!

NICE NIGHT ISN'T IT? UH...FOR THIS TIME OF YEAR, I MEAN.

I'M PETER PARKER! I...LIVE JUST DOWN THE BLOCK! I'M A...

...GRAD STUDENT... AT EMPIRE STATE!

WELL...NICE TALKING TO YOU! HEH!



GIVE IT UP, PARKER--YOU'RE GOING DOWN FOR THE THIRD TIME!

BOY, IF THERE WAS EVER ANYONE WHO DIDN'T WANT TO BE TALKED TO--I AW, I GUESS I HARDLY LOOK LIKE ANYONE'S DREAM DATE TONIGHT!



BUT IF PETER PARKER FEELS A BIT DOWN, HE IS HARDLY ALONE IN HIS DEPRESSION THIS NIGHT...

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JUST YOU AND ME...HUH, BABE?



GREAT! NOW I'M TALKING TO PAINTINGS! OH, SNAP OUT OF IT, KID! YOU'RE LONELY...SO WHAT? LOTS OF REMEDIES FOR LONELINESS, RIGHT?

I COULD GO TO A MOVIE, BUT THERE'S NOTHING I WANT TO SEE! SIGH! I MIGHT AS WELL GO DO MY LAUNDRY!



FIRST, THOUGH, I'D BETTER PULL THE OLD WIG INTO PLACE! CAN'T HAVE THE NEIGHBORS FINDING OUT WHO I REALLY AM!



THIS GOWN WILL HAVE TO GO, TOO! I'D BETTER CHANGE INTO SOMETHING MORE CONVENTIONAL FOR A TRIP TO--



"--THE LAUNDRY ROOM!"

THANK HEAVENS FOR JUMBO-SIZE FRONT-LOADERS! I'LL BE ABLE TO DO ALL MY DANTIES AT ONCE!

LOOKS LIKE I PICKED A GOOD TIME TO DO THIS...



...A VERY GOOD TIME!

HELLO THERE!

HELLO, YOURSELF! YOU'RE NEW TO THE BUILDING, AREN'T YOU? I'M CERTAIN I'VE NEVER SEEN YOUR LOVELY FACE BEFORE!

YES, I MOVED IN LAST WEEK.



WELL, THEN-- WELCOME! I'M JACK ALLEN! WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN HIDING ALL MY LIFE?

HA-HA-HAH! I'M FELICITY HARMON. ARE YOU THIS FORWARD WITH ALL THE WOMEN YOU MEET?

SOMETIMES, I'M A BROKER WITH FARRINGTON INVESTMENTS. THAT TENDS TO KEEP THE AGGRESSIVE JUICES FLOWING!





... SPIDER-MAN?!
WHO'D DATE HIM?!

IRONICALLY ONE MANHATTANITE WHO DOES NOT SEE THE MESSAGE IS PETER PARKER, WHO HAS SPENT THE ENTIRE MORNING HERE, IN THE HALLS OF EMPIRE STATE UNIVERSITY...



THIS IS THE LAST TIME I LET STEVE HOPKINS TALK ME INTO PROCTORING AN EXAM FOR HIM! THERE OUGHT TO BE A LAW AGAINST STARTING TESTS AT 7:30 IN THE MORNING!

NOW I KNOW WHY THE TEACHING ASSISTANTS I HAD WHEN I WAS AN UNDERGRAD WERE ALWAYS SO GROUCHY!



I CAN'T GET OVER IT! MY FIRST SEMESTER AS A T.A. SEEMED TO GO SO WELL, BUT THIS TERM HAS BEEN A NIGHTMARE SO FAR!

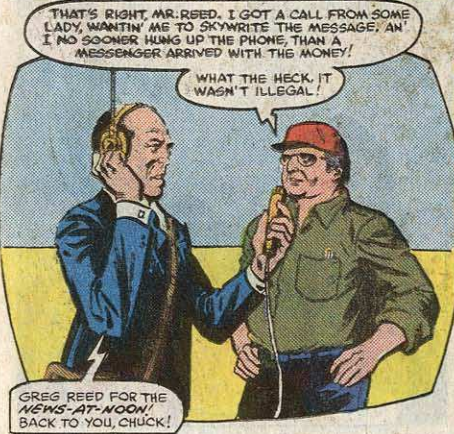
BEING "ALMOST-A-PROFESSOR" IS FOR THE BIRDS! IT TAKES MORE AND MORE TIME AWAY FROM MY STUDIES. I DON'T KNOW HOW MUCH MORE I CAN HANDLE!

MIDTOWN TRAFFIC GROUND TO A HALT AT MIDDAY AS MOTORISTS STOPPED TO LOOK AT A MESSAGE IN THE SKY -- A MESSAGE TO SPIDER-MAN!



SPIDER-MAN?!
MESSAGE IN THE SKY?!

MR. GEORGE MUNDY OF THE ACME SKY-LINES COMPANY ENGINEERED THAT MESSAGE, BUT EVEN HE DOESN'T KNOW WHO SENT IT!



THAT'S RIGHT, MR. REED. I GOT A CALL FROM SOME LADY WANTING ME TO SKYWRITE THE MESSAGE, AND I NO SOONER HUNG UP THE PHONE, THAN A MESSENGER ARRIVED WITH THE MONEY!

WHAT THE HECK, IT WASN'T ILLEGAL!

GREG REED FOR THE NEWS-AT-NOON!
BACK TO YOU, CHUCK!



THAT MESSAGE AGAIN: "SPIDER-MAN, MEET ME AT OUR FIRST DATE SITE... TONIGHT!"

IT'S FROM THE BLACK CAT! IT HAS TO BE! WHAT DOES SHE MEAN "OUR FIRST DATE SITE"?

THAT EVENING, IN ONE OF THE CITY'S SEAMIER NEIGHBORHOODS...

THE MYSTERY IS... WHAT DOES SHE WANT TO SEE ME ABOUT?

UNTIL I FIND OUT, I'D BETTER STICK TO THE SHADOWS, WHERE IT'S SAFER!

WHOOPS. DID I SAY "SAFER"? MY SPIDER-SENSE JUST STARTED BUZZING A WARNING TO BEAT THE BAND!

THERE'S BIG DANGER HERE-- RIGHT OVER HEAD!

THIS ALLEY, OUTSIDE EMIL GRECO'S OLD HIDEAWAY, IS WHERE I HAD MY FIRST RUN-IN WITH THE BLACK CAT!

I'D ALMOST FORGOTTEN-- BUT AT THE TIME, I MADE A JOKE ABOUT IT BEING OUR FIRST DATE. THIS MUST BE WHERE SHE WANTS TO MEET ME.

ONE OF THESE DAYS--

HELLO, SWEETS! I'M GLAD YOU DIDN'T KEEP ME WAITING LONG!

--BUT YOUR FIRE-ESCAPE TRAP DIDN'T SLOW ME DOWN FOR AN INSTANT!

SILLY! I DIDN'T EXPECT IT TO!

--I'LL FIND OUT--

THAT WAS PRETTY CUTE, CAT--

--HOW SHE PULLS OFF THESE "TRICKS"

THE FIRE ESCAPE!! IT'S ANOTHER ONE OF HER BAD-LUCK TRICKS... GIMMICKED TO BREAK FREE AND FALL...

...ON ANYONE STUPID ENOUGH TO BE UNDER IT!



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 Tom,

Excellent! AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #222 was excellent!

About the art: The cover was inspired! I loved everything about it — but who drew it? Also, the interior art was among the best I've ever seen in AMAZING.

About the story: It was easily one of the best I've ever read. Yeah, I know I'm coming on a little strong, but I just want you to know that I feel like reading this comic over and over again! It was most entertaining.

Bill Mantlo and Bob Hall make a very good team!

Keep it up!

John Brewer
4779 Wilde Drive
Colorado Springs, CO 80916

Hey, if you like Bill and Bob as a team, Johnny, then look for SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #65 — on sale next month! For within those four-color pages, Mantlo and Hall are at it again!

(By the way, Broadway Bob Hall is also penciling the AVENGERS these days, in case you haven't noticed! He certainly gets around, doesn't he?)

And, as long as we're dishing out the credits, here's a tip of the ol' Spider-beanie to Walt Simonson, who skillfully rendered the speedy cover of issue #222!

Dear Tom DeFalco,

Congratulations on your new position as editor of all the SPIDER-MAN titles. I know that we can expect greater cohesiveness soon. (How long until we can expect a cross-over story in AMAZING SPIDER-MAN, SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN, and MARVEL TEAM-UP?)

When the appropriate point is reached in AMAZING SPIDER-MAN reprints for MARVEL TALES, will you start integrating reprints of SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN stories also?

Good luck on your new assignment. Cohesiveness is one of the reasons I prefer Marvel Comics over those other guys with the green rocks.

Rick S. Jones
11292 West 17B
Argos, IN 46501

Thanks for the congrats, Rick! In fact, thanks to all of the many Spider-philes who sent their best wishes to me! They were most appreciated!

Now, as far as your questions go, Rick... no, any reprinting of SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN yarns in MARVEL TALES is a long, long way off. Why? Because this very month, MARVEL TALES goes back to the beginning, reprinting the classic Lee & Ditko stories of yesterday! (Here's your chance to collect those amazing stories at a reasonably inexpensive price!)

As for an AMAZING/SPECTACULAR/TEAM-UP cross-over... give us time! We may just surprise you!

Dear Tom,

Walt Simonson's cover to AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #222 was a masterstroke. Having the Speed Demon whip up a flashy cyclone which not only uprooted Spider-Man, but also his logo, the Comics Code

seal, the background webbing, the corner symbol, and all the rest was a most innovative idea. This was perhaps the greatest SPIDER-MAN cover since issue #113.

Hey, I thought Bob Hall had given up comics for the stage! I must say that he didn't do a bad job on the ol' Web-slinger. Bob's depiction of Willoughby-Peerless — a real camera store — was great.

I see that Bill remembered Peter Parker's current rivalry with Lance Bannoh. Nice to see that you're already insuring unity among the Spider-titles.

Spider-Man must go through more mental anguish than any other character. Have you ever noticed the suicide rate amongst people who are much younger than Peter Parker, and who have considerably fewer problems than Spider-Man? Perhaps an encounter with someone attempting suicide would put Spider-Man in an interesting position...

Frank Titone
(address withheld
by request)

Perhaps, Frank. The suicide rate for young people is always much too high. In that respect, we'd hope that some folks might take a cue from Peter Parker. After all, his life — as you pointed out — is no bed of roses, but he still gets by.

Life may not always be easy, but it beats the alternative!

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OF
SPIDER-MAN!



Dear Tom,

The postal strike up here is in its sixth week, but a tentative settlement has been reached... so I'm gambling that things will be moving in a few days. Thus, I'm resuming my usual correspondence, and you have the

honor of being the first Marvel Comic on my list.

AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #222 was certainly a flashy item, wasn't it? The cover was delightful, what with the logo and so on being caught up in Speed Demon's wind. (Too bad it didn't sweep the UPC computer symbol out of the lower left-hand corner and off the page!)

Spider-Man's battle with the Speed Demon was interesting, though it tended toward the cuteness which has been too apparent in this title of late. For me, the highlight of the issue was the interplay of Jonah Jameson, and — what's more — Spider-Man's concern for his image. The public image of the costumed adventurer is often glossed over, but it is still important. It serves to either stroke the ego of the hero, or to smooth his path with the public and engender their co-operation (or both!). In Spider-Man's case, comments about his image are usually limited to his bemoaning what a rough break he gets. Here, he actually did something about it... or tried to.

Come to think of it, Peter should have a good idea of what public relations is all about, as he's been connected with the media since his high school days. Why doesn't he mount a campaign to improve his standing with the public? Sure, it would take a lot of time and effort away from being Spider-Man, but it could pay off later in increased ease of operations... not to mention a cheerier outlook on life by Mr. P. Parker.

T.M. Maple
(no street address given)
Toronto, Ontario

The public relations angle is an intriguing one, T.M. — even though it is a bit removed from Parker's usual area of expertise. He is just a freelance photog, after all, albeit one with a certain flair for showmanship. Still, one never knows...

Dear Tom,

I just finished reading AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #222, and I think it was great. The cover illustration was great, as always!

I think you should have more guest-stars in SPIDER-MAN. Speaking of guest-stars, whatever happened to Nova? He hasn't been around in ages.

Ted May
1993 Burlewood
St. Louis, MO 63141

Nova isn't likely to appear anywhere in the future, Ted. In ROM #24, Richard Ryder was stripped of the powers he possessed as Nova, and transported back to his home in Flushing.

Dear Tom,

Whatever you do, keep Bill Mantlo turning out those SPIDER-MAN plots. AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #222 was indescribably great!

Kenny Duncley
795 Grand Blvd.
Westbury, NY 11590

Not to worry, Ken! We have brother Bill chained to his typewriter... and when Al Milgrom isn't shoving ROM, HULK, or MICRONAUTS assignments under his nose, he is hard at work on SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN stories.

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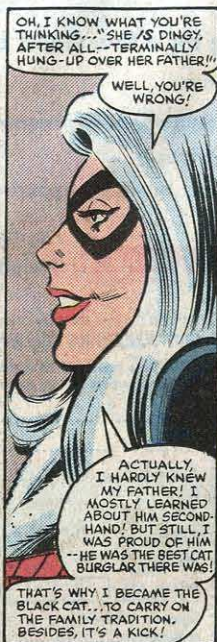
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LET'S CALL A TRUCE AND
SEE WHAT DEVELOPS!

I CAN'T DO THAT,
FELICIA. IF YOU'RE
SERIOUS ABOUT
GOING STRAIGHT,
YOU'LL HAVE TO
TURN YOURSELF
IN!

OH, POOH!

I THOUGHT
YOU MIGHT
SAY THAT,
TOO!

HEY,
WHAT
THE--?!

BYE-BYE,
LOVE!

FELICIA!!

GATHERING HIS WITS, THE STUNNED
SPIDER-MAN LEAPS AFTER THE
BLACK CAT, ONLY TO FIND...

SHE'S
GONE!

I DON'T BELIEVE IT!
SHE COULDN'T POSSIBLY
HAVE LANDED SAFELY
AND GOTTEN AWAY SO
QUICKLY, UNLESS...

...SHE'D
PLANNED SOME
SORT OF ESCAPE
TRICK IN ADVANCE.

THAT'S ONE VERY
CRAFTY LADY!

EH? WHAT'S
THIS ON THE
GROUND?

SORRY,
BUT JAIL
WOULDN'T
LOOK GOOD
ON ME!

Sweets—

Think over my offer—
seriously! I'll be
at Phil Bradshaw's
costume party tomorrow
night at 8, at the Empire
Ballroom! Meet me?

XXX
Black Cat

FELICIA LEFT ME A
PEACE OFFERING! I'LL
BET THAT PAINTING SHE
MENTIONED IS INSIDE
THIS TUBE

A PARTY,
HUH?

SOON, AT A MIDTOWN POLICE
PRECINCT HOUSE...



BRADSHAW? THE GUY WHO'S
HOSTING THE BASH AT THE
EMPIRE BALLROOM?



THIS PARTY IS JUST A
FRONT FOR A MAJOR
UNDERWORLD MEETING!
STAY AWAY FROM IT!



THE NEXT NIGHT, THE EMPIRE BALLROOM IS ALIVE WITH COSTUMED MERRY-MAKERS, MOST OF WHOM ARE UNAWARE OF THE PARTY'S TRUE PURPOSE...



AND SOON, OVER BY THE PUNCHBOWL...









BULLEPEN BULLETINS

AND NOW, THE MOMENT YOU'VE ALL BEEN WAITING FOR...

As promised last month, I'm proud to present a bona fide picture of Louise Jones wearing the dreaded Hat-Ta-da!



"Weezy"

Hi! Well, here I am, just like Jim said I'd be. That's the last time I ever admire one of his hats. Of course, it could have been worse — it could have been that silly crown he likes to wear when he's alone in his office!

In case you're the type who never reads the credits and you don't know who I am, I edit THE X-MEN, KA-ZAR, CONAN, SAVAGE SWORD OF CONAN, and KING CONAN, a fact that Jim neglected to mention last month when he wrote the intro for my Cheerfully Nice News Feature. Tchi! He's forgiven — this time! Oh, and by the way, looks really do call me "Weezy" like it says under the picture.

As long as I'm writing this anyway, I guess I'll take the opportunity to clue you in on some current goings-on down at the office of the Bullepen.

Guess what I get besides great art, fabulous stories and the worst case of Exhausted Editor Syndrome this side of editor Jim Salicrup's office? I get TROUBLE!

Take the X-MEN, for instance. How, you might ask, can the good old X-Men be trouble? Actually, they're fine, so Professor Xavier is currently gathering a whole school full of lively new students demanding their own title. That's trouble! Chris Claremont will write it. Bob McLeod will pencil it. But who'll ink it? When it'll be on sale? And... what's we call it?

And KA-ZAR has a new inker — Armando Gil — and a sensational new look! With a new super-villain in #12, a new miniseries in #13, and a new 32-page format every issue, where's the trouble? Fight about at Deadline Time. Sign. That's trouble! There must be an unwritten law saying that such wonderful work can only be completed at 5:00 P.M. on Deadline Day! Oh, well, the only way to cope with it all is to keep thinking cheerful thoughts!

Say, remember last issue's announcement about the production. Paragon Ron Zalme's impending baby? Well, it's an 8 lb. 10 oz. girl named Jessica Lin! That's cheerful!

ME AGAIN...

How the heck did she find out about my crown? Oh, well. Speaking of feeling like a king, I sure felt that way a week or so ago when I returned to my office after a lengthy meeting with Fearless President Jim Galtion and Peerless Publishing Veep Mike Hobson (we discussed our upcoming move to larger quarters) to find a surprise party in honor of my birthday! And what a party! There was a Birthday Cake, naturally, plus food and drink to suit every taste, music, noise and laughter. Would you believe balloons and cheap paper streamers? In the midst of it all, a happy birthday telegram arrived from the Bullepen Crew — and get this, it was delivered by a beautiful young lady clad in naught but an itty-bitty bikini. They call it a Strip-o-gram, I think. Very, um, dramatic. Not only that, the crew presented me with no less than three huge, handmade birthday cards covered with kind words, clever cartoons and signatures. Also (and I'm still in shock over this!) they gave me a truly incredible electronic Seiko watch with an alarm, stopwatch, timer, dual time, calendar and oh, yeah, it tells time, never, dual time, will walk the dog if you ask it. I've too. And I probably will walk the dog if you ask it. I can't become a really fine watch because I can't be more pleased — but, more, I'm just happy to be working with such wonderful, beautiful people. Some of them, especially the freelance creative folks, you know from the credits, but most of the staff people do

their work behind the scenes. Who are these folks? I'm so glad you asked.

The Marvel Comics Staff

Joe Albano, Art/Production
Eliot Brown, Photostat Operator
Robbie Carosella, Photostat Operator
Danny Crespi, Art/Production Supervisor
Tom DeFalco, Editor
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Marion Stensgard, Typesetter
John Tartaglione, Artist
Lance Toombs, Asst. Editor
Andy Yanchuk, Colorist
Ron Zalme, Asst. Art/Production Supervisor

There are many more folks on staff here at Marvel of course — the EPIC crew, the Special Projects folks, the Foreign Licensing crew, the Mailroom gang, and still more, sadly way too many to list here, now. To all of you who made my 30th the happiest of my life, my deepest, sincerest thanks. You're the best!

BACK TO WORK!

A question I'm asked frequently these days is "Are Marvel and DC going to do any more crossovers?" By now you've seen the SUPERMAN SPIDER-MAN TREASURY EDITION and the HULK, BATMAN TREASURY EDITION which went on sale last May and October, respectively. Coming up next year we have two more — X-MEN/TEEN TITANS SUPERSPECIAL and the AVENGERS/JLA SUPERSPECIAL. Dates will be announced as soon as we figure them out.

And now, for something completely different...

ARCHIE GOODWIN'S EPIC NEWSLINE!

According to our dictionary, serendipity is "the gift of finding valuable or agreeable things not sought for." It's not a word that comes up very often in the production of EPIC ILLUSTRATED. The valuable and agreeable in our particular visual odyssey is generally achieved through much seeking and searching, cajoling and coddling, and occasional threats of bodily harm or intense psychic damage. However, the last feature we're producing the promotional drum for in EPIC #10 is serendipitous indeed. *Marade the She-Wolf* was created by X-MEN scribe, Chris Claremont and John Bolton, the talented British artist whose *King Kull* dazzled everyone in BIZARRE ADVENTURES #26, and was designed to be yet another issue-length project for that mag. With every thing completed on *Marade* but the lettering, a scheduling snafu left the feature without a home in BIZARRE ADVENTURES or anywhere else for the near future. Not one to let what he considers among his best work to languish, Chris approached us about running *Marade* in EPIC. Serendipity! John had even done a cover of their female warrior who pits sword against sorcery during the fading days of the Roman Empire. Since EPIC readers have been suggesting a *Batman* cover ever since his full-color story, *The Lieks*, appeared in issue #7, how could we turn it down? When serendipity finally does strike, we go with it all the way.

Archie Goodwin

AND AS THE SUN SINKS IN THE WEST...

Whoops! Out of space already. Oh, well! I'm back in unity. Until then, keep a warm smile, and stick with us. We're just now getting the hang of this business.

Shooter

THE HYPE BOX

FANTASTIC FOUR ROAST #1 — In celebration of the FF's and Marvel's 20th anniversaries, editor JIM SHOOTER and humorist FRED HEMBECK have come up with the perfect tribute to both. Over Fred's layouts, just about every artist at Marvel has had a shot at illustrating the characters they're most identified with, as the FF are guests of honor at a hero-studded banquet where they are "roasted" by their fellow Marvel stars.

GIANT SILVER SURFER #1 — STAN THE MAN himself is back to script this 48-page, no-ad special treat, which was plotted and penciled by JOHN BYRNE, with inks and colors by TOM PALMER. The Surfer at last breaks free of his earthly exile — and returns to Earth!

MARVEL FANFARE #1 — Comes the way you always dreamed they'd be presented... with no ads, in vivid colors, on slick, high-quality paper. The premiere issue of this publishing landmark will feature a tale of *Spider-Man* and the *Angel* in Kansas, *Savage Land*. It's written by CHRIS CLAREMONT, with pencils and art by MICHAEL GOLDEN (who also did the cover).

EPIC ILLUSTRATED #10 — JOHN BOLTON is back — learned up with CHRIS CLAREMONT to present the debut of *Marade the She-Wolf* Plus: *Worldward* by DOUG MOENCH, JOHN BUSCEMA, MARIE SEVERIN, and STEVE GUTT and much more!

THE MIGHTY MARVEL CHECKLIST

- ☐ KA-ZAR #12 — Written by BRUCE JONES. Pencils by BRENT ANDERSON. Finishes by ARMANDO GIL.
- ☐ MARVEL TWO-IN-ONE #85 — The Thing, Giant Man, and Spider-Woman!
- ☐ GIANT SILVER SURFER #1 — The Surfer's back in an all new tale by STAN LEE, JOHN BYRNE, and TOM PALMER.
- ☐ DAZZLER #13.
- ☐ KING CONAN #9.
- ☐ SPIDEY SUPER STORIES #57 — Gaia last issue!
- ☐ DAREDEVIL #180.
- ☐ DENNIS THE MENACE #6.
- ☐ MICRONAUTS #39.
- ☐ GHOST RIDER #66.
- ☐ MOON KNIGHT #17.
- ☐ THOR #317.
- ☐ AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #226.
- ☐ CAPTAIN AMERICA #267.
- ☐ INCREDIBLE HULK #269.
- ☐ AVENGERS #121.
- ☐ CONAN #132.
- ☐ MARVEL TALES #137 — Reprinting the origin and first appearance of *Spider-Man* by STAN LEE & STEVE DITKO from *Amazing Fantasy* #15!
- ☐ X-MEN #155.
- ☐ POWER MAN/IRON FIST #79.
- ☐ ROM #28.
- ☐ FANTASTIC FOUR #240.
- ☐ MARVEL TEAM-UP #115 — *Spider-Man* and the *Valkyrie* — together!
- ☐ IRON MAN #156.
- ☐ PETER PARKER, THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #64.
- ☐ DEFENDERS #105.
- ☐ STAR WARS #57.
- ☐ MASTER OF KUNG FU #110.
- ☐ FANTASTIC FOUR ROAST #1 — Written and layout out by FRED HEMBECK. Art by — everybody!

MARVEL MAGAZINES

- ☐ CRAZY #83 — *Raiders of the Lost Arch; Teen Hulk; RALPH REESE's ABC Demise; Onofox; Kneads for a love monster*.
- ☐ SAVAGE SWORD OF CONAN #73.
- ☐ MARVEL FANFARE #1 — The latest innovation from the House of Ideas (see Hype Box above for important details).
- ☐ EPIC ILLUSTRATED #10 — The Visual Odyssey continues with contributions by CHRIS CLAREMONT, JOHN BOLTON, JOHN BUSCEMA, MARIE SEVERIN, and more (see Hype Box).

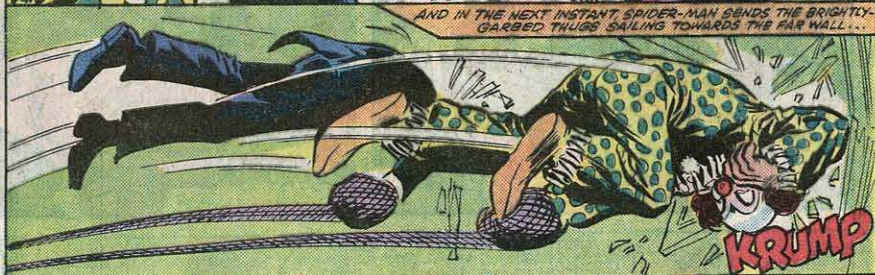
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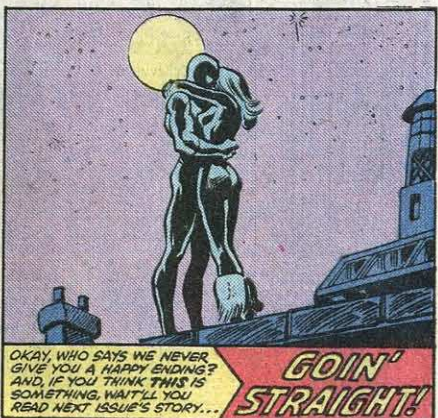
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