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MARVEL® COMICS GROUP



TM
FEATURING
THE MOST
SAVAGE
SUPER-
VILLAIN
OF ALL!

The AMAZING SPIDER-MAN®



HELP PICK THE
PLAYERS FOR

The Cracker Jack Old-Timers Baseball Classic



I SAY
ERNIE
BANKS.

NOPE!
BROOKS ROBINSON
WAS THE BEST
INFILDER.

SAYS WHO?

WHAT ABOUT
HANK AARON?

HE
PLAYED
OUTFIELD,
SILLY.

SO? WE GET TO
PICK 'EM FOR ALL
THE POSITIONS.

PICK
WHAT?

THE PLAYERS FOR THE
CRACKER JACK OLD-TIMERS
BASEBALL CLASSIC.

AND
I SAY HANK
AARON WAS THE BEST.

Y' COULD
BE RIGHT,
KID.

WOW!!!

YOU ARE
HANK
AARON!

SMACK

YOU CAN SEE SOME OF THE GREATEST
BASEBALL PLAYERS OF ALL TIME IN ACTION.
IN JULY, THEY'LL BE TAKING THE
FIELD IN THE CRACKER JACK OLD-
TIMERS BASEBALL CLASSIC. AND
CRACKER JACK, THE GREATEST
SNACK OF ALL TIME, WANTS YOU
TO HELP PICK THE STARTING LINE-UPS.

HERE'S HOW:

CHOOSE ONE PLAYER FOR EACH POSITION
IN EACH LEAGUE AND WRITE IN THEIR NAMES
ON THE BALLOT. ALL MAJOR LEAGUE PLAYERS WHO
HAVE BEEN RETIRED FROM PLAYING BASEBALL
FOR AT LEAST ONE YEAR ARE ELIGIBLE. MAIL
EACH BALLOT SEPARATELY TO:
CRACKER JACK OLD-TIMERS BASEBALL CLASSIC,
P.O. BOX 8075, CLINTON, IOWA 52736.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON SOME OF THE
GREAT OLD-TIMERS, PICK UP OUR FREE
PLAYER GUIDE AT THE CRACKER JACK DISPLAY
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OFFICIAL BALLOT FOR THE CRACKER JACK® OLD-TIMERS BASEBALL CLASSIC

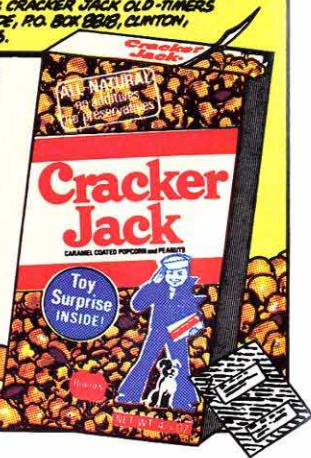
American League

National League

1st B. _____	1st B. _____
2nd B. _____	2nd B. _____
SS. _____	SS. _____
3rd B. _____	3rd B. _____
Outf. _____	Outf. _____
Outf. _____	Outf. _____
Outf. _____	Outf. _____
P. _____	P. _____
C. _____	C. _____

Mail each ballot separately to: Cracker Jack Old-Timers Baseball Classic,
P.O. Box 8075, Clinton, Iowa 52736.

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HYDE... IN PLAIN SIGHT!

I DON'T BELIEVE THIS!
I GO TO ALL THE TROUBLE
OF FINALLY CAPTURING THE
COBRA, AND WHAT HAPPENS?

HIS EX-PARTNER,
MR. HYDE, SHOWS UP
WITH BLOOD IN HIS
EYES... NEARLY SMASHES
US WITH A CHUNK OF
BUILDING... AND CAUSES
ME TO TWIST MY ANKLE
IN THE BARGAIN!*

I CAN'T WIN!

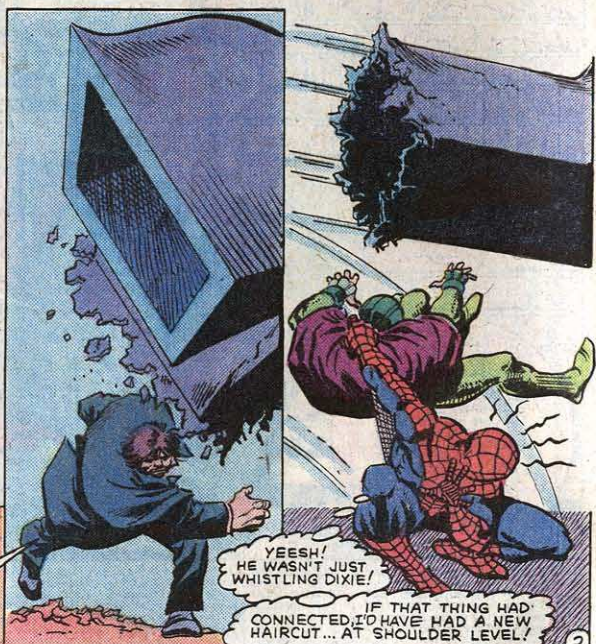
I DON'T LIKE
TO REPEAT
MYSELF,
SPIDER-MAN!

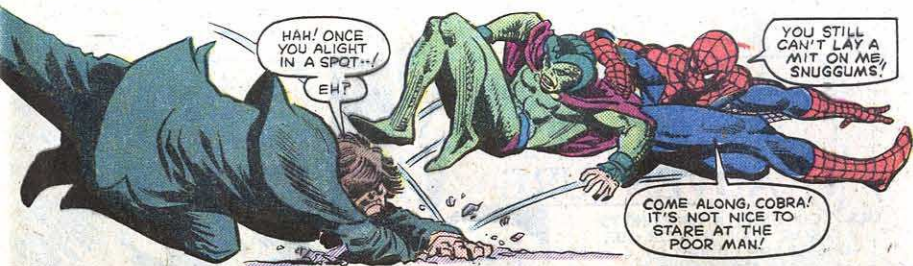
GIVE ME THE
COBRA, OR I'LL
REMOVE HIM FROM
YOUR DEAD BODY...

STAN LEE
PRESENTS:
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SCRIPTER
JOHN ROMITA, JR.
PENCILER
JIM MOONEY
INKER
DIANA ALBERS
LETTERER
BOB SHAREN
COLORIST
TOM DEFALCO
EDITOR
JIM SHOOTER
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

*LAST ISSUE! YOU REALLY
SHOULD HAVE BEEN HERE!

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SAREN HAS BEEN HURT! WE MUST ACT QUICKLY!!



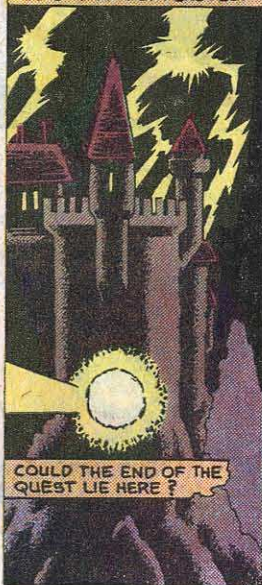
THIS MAGIC SCROLL MAY PROVIDE US WITH AN ESCAPE!

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THE SPELL CARRIES OUR HEROES

...TO AN ANCIENT CASTLE!



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AT THAT MOMENT, IN A POLICE STATION JUST A FEW BLOCKS AWAY--

--DAILY BUGLE REPORTER NED LEEDS AND DR. MARLA MADISON--HIS PUBLISHER'S SOMEWHAT SPECIAL INVESTIGATOR--AWAIT SPIDER-MAN'S ARRIVAL...

...UNAWARE OF HIS CURRENT PREDICAMENT.

I CAN'T UNDERSTAND WHAT'S KEEPING HIM.

MAYBE HE'S NOT COMING.

MAYBE HE LIED. MAYBE HE AND THE COBRA STRUCK SOME SORT OF BARGAIN.

DOCTOR, THE MAN PROBABLY SAVED OUR LIVES!

YES... BUT HE'S AN OUTLAW! WHAT DO WE REALLY KNOW ABOUT HIM?

HEY, LEEDS, AM I TOO LATE?

WHEN ROBBIE GOT YOUR CALL ABOUT THE COBRA BEING CAPTURED, HE TOLD ME TO HUSTLE MY TAIL DOWN HERE TO SNAP SOME PIX.

I THINK MY CAB DRIVER BROKE EVERY LAW IN THE BOOK!

YOU CAN RELAX, LANCE! NOTHING'S HAPPENED...YET.

AFTER A BRIEF EXPLANATION...

AND SO, MR. BANNON, WE'RE STILL WAITING!

CALL ME LANCE, DOC.

HEY, YOU GUYS SURE THIS IS THE RIGHT PLACE? MAYBE SPIDER-MAN HEADED FOR A DIFFERENT--

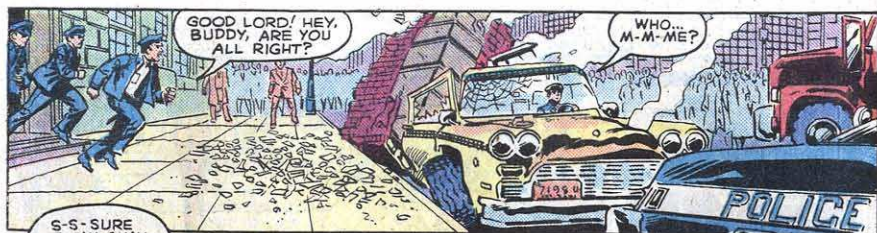
BOOM!

--PRECINCT?

SOUNDED LIKE A TON OF BRICKS FELL!

DOCTOR, YOU'D BETTER STAY IN HERE!

DON'T WORRY! I'M NOT BUDGING!



RADIO FOR THE SPECIAL WEAPONS TASK FORCE! WE NEED BIG HELP IN A HURRY!

YES, SIR!

THE REST OF YOU HELP ME KEEP THESE CROWDS BACK!

C'MON, LANCE, I THINK WE CAN GET TO THE ROOFTOPS THROUGH ONE OF THESE BUILDINGS!

I'M WITH YOU, MAN, LEAD ON!

AND, ON THOSE ROOFTOPS...

LET ME GO!

OH, SHUT UP!

COBRA'S A BIGGER PAIN THAN MY ANKLE! I HAVE HALF A MIND TO... HEY! WHY NOT?

THIS IS YOUR FINAL WARNING, SPIDER-MAN! GIVE ME THE COBRA OR--!

SAY NO MORE HANDSOME! YOU WANT COBRA?

YOU CAN HAVE HIM!

WHAT ARE YOU--? NOOOO!!

HAH! YOU'VE FINALLY COME TO YOUR SENSES! A PITY THAT...

...EH? WHAT'S THIS?

SPLOOT

YOU COATED THE BACK OF HIS HELMET WITH YOUR INFERNAL WEB-BING! I'M STUCK TIGHT TO HIM!

YOU THINK YOU CAN HOBBLE ME THIS WAY? **BAH!!**

FIGURE THAT OUT BY YOURSELF, OR DID YOU HAVE HELP?

I WAS STUCK WITH COBRA LONG ENOUGH... NOW, IT'S YOUR TURN!

WOW! WHAT A GREAT VANTAGE POINT FOR PHOTOS!



WHEW! HE BACKHANDED THAT CHIMNEY LIKE IT WAS MADE OF BALSA WOOD.

MAYBE I CAN PUT IT TO GOOD USE!

YOU DISH IT OUT PRETTY GOOD, HYDE... BUT CAN YOU TAKE IT?

JUST MY LUCK... HE CAN!



INCREDIBLE!



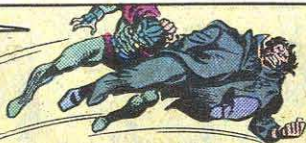
BE CAREFUL GETTING OUT ON THAT LEDGE, LANCE!

AW, DON'T BE AN OLD LADY, LEEDS! YA GOTTA TAKE RISKS TO GET GOOD SHOTS! EVER SEE PARKER'S PHOTOS?

LOUSY COMPOSITION, BUT GREAT ANGLES! YOU CAN BET HE TAKES RISKS!

BUT THESE SHOTS... THEY'RE GONNA MAKE HIS STUFF LOOK SICK!

HYDE...
PLEASE...
HAVE
MERCY!
DON'T--!

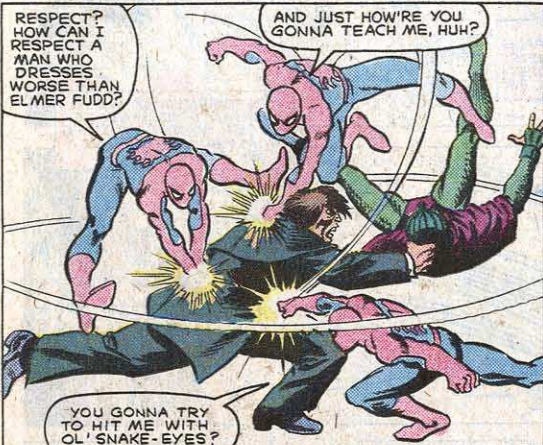


CEASE YOUR
WHINING, COBRA!

NOTHING'S GOING
TO HAPPEN TO YOU
UNTIL I TEACH
SPIDER-MAN TO
RESPECT THE NAME
OF HYDE!

RESPECT?
HOW CAN I
RESPECT A
MAN WHO
DRESSES
WORSE THAN
ELMER FUDD?

AND JUST HOW'RE YOU
GONNA TEACH ME, HUH?



YOU GONNA TRY
TO HIT ME WITH
OL' SNAKE-EYES?

SORRY, BIG
GUY! I'M
WAY TOO
FAST ON MY
FEET FOR
THAT!

EESH! ME
AND MY
BIG MOUTH!
WHY DID I
HAVE TO LAND
ON MY SORE
FOOT?



SWIFT
YOU ARE--

--BUT EVEN YOU
MUST EVENTUALLY
TIRE, WHEREAS,
I AM ALL BUT
TIRELESS!



WOONGA-
WOONGA-
WOONGA

MINE IS
THE POWER
WHICH NEARLY
BESTED THE
MIGHTY THOR!
MINE IS...
AH-HAH!



AS I SAID
BEFORE, WITH
MY POWER, I
CAN TURN ANY
MASS INTO
A WEAPON!
HAH-HA-HA!



**KROONG
NOONG**

IN SECONDS, THE
WATER TOWERS TOPPLE
SENDING THOUSANDS
OF GALLONS OF WATER
ACROSS THE ROOFTOPS!

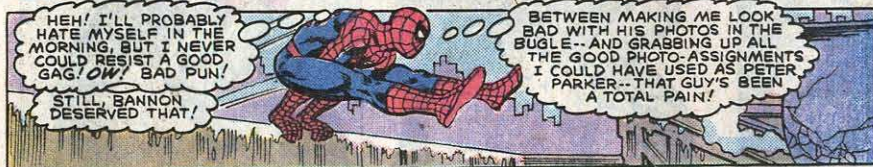
POOOSH

FOREWARNED BY HIS
UNCANNY SPIDER-SENSE,
SPIDER-MAN AVOIDS THE
HAMMERING TORRENT
BY MERE INCHES.

OTHERS
ARE NOT SO
LUCKY!

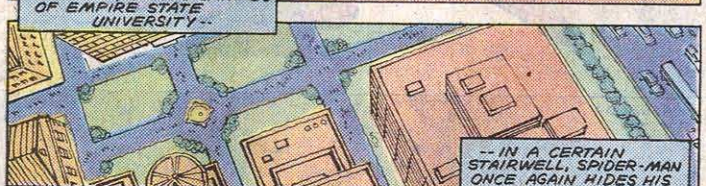
LOOK
OUT!







THE BROJESS BUILDING ON PARK AVENUE, P-PENTHOUSE.



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It's longer
lasting!!!

Super Yum

Bubble Yum

REGULAR Bubble Gum

Wow!
It's the best
tasting ever!!!

It's smoother
and blows great
bubbles!!!

It's more
delicious!!!

Hey, look at
all the great
tasting flavors!!!



-- THAT FIVE O'CLOCK WAS THE DEADLINE FOR CLEARING OUT MY DESK IN THE BIO-PHYSICS OFFICE.



*SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #68.

IT'S REALLY ABOUT TIME. I GAVE UP MY TEACHING ASSISTANT JOB DAYS AGO.

DON'T KNOW WHY I'VE PUT THIS OFF FOR SO LONG.



GEE, WHERE IS EVERYBODY?

DEB? PHIL? STEVE? MARCY?

GUESS THEY ALL CUT OUT EARLY! TOO BAD... I WOULD'VE ENJOYED A LAST FEW LAUGHS WITH THE GANG.



BOY, I'M GOING TO MISS THAT TYPEWRITER. IT'S MUCH BETTER THAN THE ONE I HAVE AT HOME.



LOOK AT THIS MESS! YOU SURE CAN COLLECT A LOT OF JUNK IN... WHAT? A TERM-AND-A-HALF?

YEAH, IT HAS BEEN A TERM-AND-A-HALF SINCE I STARTED WORKING HERE. SURE IS FUNNY, THE WAY TIME SNEAKS BY!



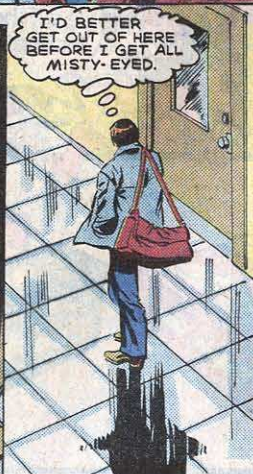
WHY DO I FEEL SO DOWN, ALL OF A SUDDEN?

I KNOW THAT QUITTING THE T.A. PROGRAM WAS THE RIGHT MOVE. I NEVER DID HAVE THE RIGHT TEMPERAMENT FOR TEACHING.



MAYBE IT'S THE FINALITY OF IT ALL, IN MANY WAYS, A CHAPTER OF MY LIFE IS ENDING.

GOODBYE, LITTLE CUBICLE!



I'D BETTER GET OUT OF HERE BEFORE I GET ALL MISTY-EYED.



I STILL HAVE TO FIND COBRA AND HYDE, BEFORE THAT WEBBING I GLUED THEM TOGETHER WITH EVAPORATES.

PETER!

OH... HI, MARCY. WHAT'S UP?

PETER, DO YOU HAVE A MINUTE? THERE'S SOMETHING WE SHOULD TALK ABOUT!



ANY OTHER TIME, I'D SAY YES, MARCY--BUT RIGHT NOW I'M IN A BIT OF A HURRY.

THIS'LL ONLY TAKE A MINUTE! THERE'S SOMETHING IN THE LAB--

SOME OTHER TIME, OKAY?



I SPENT MOST OF THE MORNING IN THE LAB... AND I'M IN NO MOOD FOR SHOP TALK NOW.

PETER, WAIT! YOU DON'T--!



PETER?

HE'S NOWHERE IN SIGHT! I DON'T UNDERSTAND...HOW COULD HE DISAPPEAR SO QUICKLY?

MOMENTS LATER...

BAD NEWS, GANG-- WE LOST OUR GUEST OF HONOR.

I KNEW SOMETHING LIKE THIS WOULD HAPPEN! SURPRISE PARTIES NEVER WORK, MARCY!

STEVE'S RIGHT. WE SHOULD HAVE PLANNED A BETTER WAY TO GET PETE HERE.

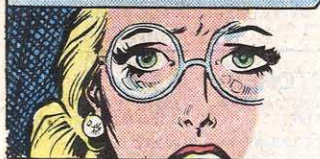


WE WERE WORKING IN HERE THIS MORNING! I SHOULD HAVE ASKED HIM TO COME BACK AROUND THIS TIME, PHIL.

AW, IT'S NOT YOUR FAULT, HOCHBERG!

WELL, NO SENSE LETTING THESE MUNCHIES GO TO WASTE!

OF THE FIVE IN THE ROOM, ONLY DEBRA WHITMAN REMAINS SILENT.



ONLY SHE SUSPECTS WHY PETER MIGHT HAVE RUN OFF--

AND HER SUSPICIONS ARE ALMOST MORE THAN SHE CAN BEAR!

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GENTS! WHO
MAY I--?

WHY IT'S MR.
VOORHEES! WHAT'S
HAPPENED TO HIM?
HE LOOKS AWFUL!

NOTHING
TO BE
ALARMED
ABOUT.

I'M DR. CALVIN
ZABO... AN OLD
FRIEND OF MR.
VOORHEES.

WE HADN'T SEEN
EACH OTHER IN
SOME TIME AND...
WELL, I'M AFRAID
HE JUST HAD TOO
MUCH TO DRINK.



I'LL JUST
PUT HIM TO
BED. HE'LL
BE FINE.

THAT'S ODD. MR.
VOORHEES NEVER
STRUCK ME AS
THE TYPE WHO'D
OVERINDULGE

AN' WHAT'S
HE WEARIN' ON
HIS FEET?



SNAKE-
SKIN
BOOTS?



WELL,
I GUESS
IT TAKES
ALL KINDS!

SHORTLY, AFTER DR. ZABO HAS JIMMIED
THE LOCK OF THE MULTI-LEVELLED PENTHOUSE...



MY! YOU HAVE DONE
WELL FOR YOURSELF
SINCE I LAST SAW YOU!

THOUGH
I DARE SAY THAT
YOU'D HAVE DONE FAR
BETTER WITH THE HELP
OF MY ALTER EGO.



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CERTAINLY NO ONE WOULD HAVE KNOWINGLY SUPPLIED MR. HYDE WITH A CONCENTRATED ACID!



BLAST! IT HAS MORE EFFECT ON MY HAND THAN ON THIS ACCURSED WEBBING!



BUT NO MATTER! I SHALL BE FREE ONE WAY OR ANOTHER!



THIS WEBBING IS MOST IMPRESSIVE... A WORK OF NEAR GENIUS!

I SHALL HAVE TO STUDY IT MORE CLOSELY--



-- AFTER I HAVE MY REVENGE!



OH, MY HEAD!

COMING TO COBRA? GOOD! I WANT YOU CONSCIOUS FOR THIS!

HYDE? WHAT ARE YOU DOING TO ME?

MERELY
RENDERING YOU
INCAPABLE OF
SLITHERING
AWAY FROM ME!

YOU THOUGHT I
WAS DEAD, DIDN'T
YOU, COBRA? YOU
THOUGHT I'D
PERISHED, FIGHTING
CAPTAIN AMERICA!*

IN TRUTH,
I WAS
FROZEN...BADLY
INJURED...BUT
I SURVIVED!
BECAUSE I
KNEW YOU
STILL LIVED!

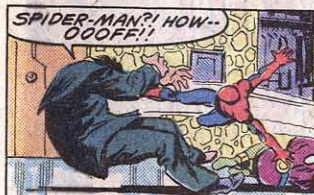
AND I WOULD HAVE
COME BACK FROM THE
DEAD TO HAVE MY
REVENGE ON YOU!

YOU LEFT
ME TO
ROT IN
PRISON!

* CAPTAIN AMERICA # 252.

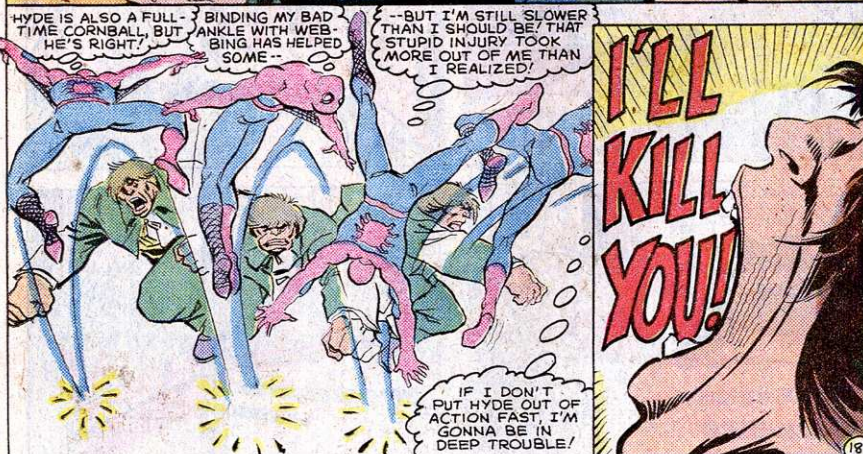
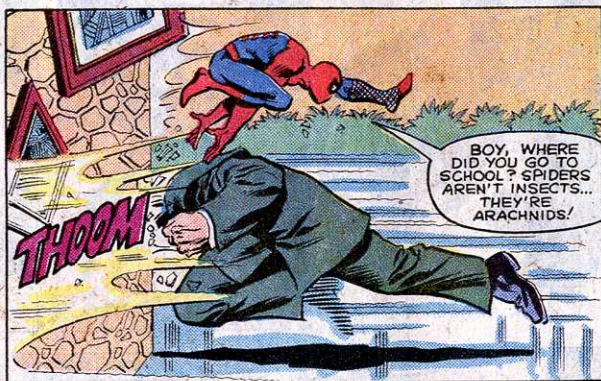


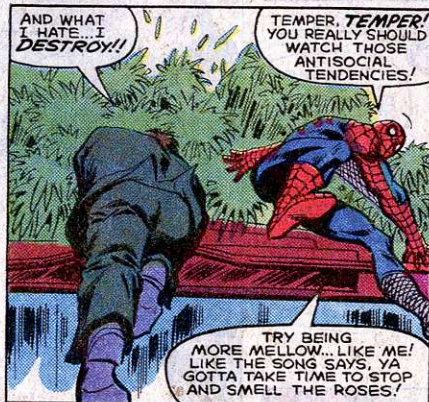
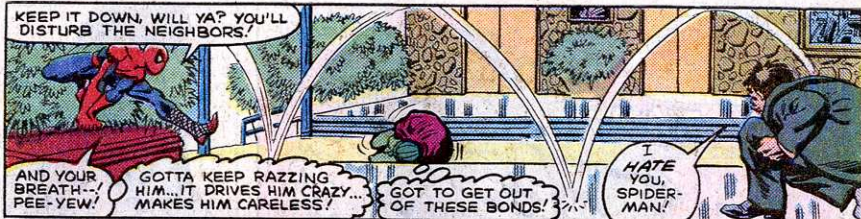
SUDDENLY, FROM ACROSS THE ROOM...



HOW'D I FIND YOU?
SIMPLE...I LOOKED
IN THE YELLOW
PAGES UNDER 'BIG,
DUMB JERKS'!!

ACTUALLY, I SLIPPED A
SPIDER-TRACER UNDER COBRA'S CLOAK
BEFORE I TOSSED HIM TO YOU--BUT WHY
REVEAL A TRADE SECRET LIKE THAT?





EASY THERE, BIG FELLA!
WE DON'T WANT YOU
BLUNDERING INTO TOO
MANY BREAKABLES!
INSURANCE RATES ARE
HIGH ENOUGH AS IT IS!

THWAP

**RAHRN...
RAHRN!**

WHAT'S THAT?
"ROUND" AND
"ROUND"? OKAY,
IF THAT'S WHAT
YOU WANT!

THESE
MANACLES ARE
MAGNETICALLY
BONDED TO MY
COSTUME!

BUT I CAN'T
LET THAT STOP
ME! SOMEHOW,
I HAVE TO GET FREE
BEFORE THESE TWO
MANIACS KILL EACH
OTHER...AND ME!

WELL, HYDSIE, I COULD SAY
THAT THIS HAS BEEN A
SWINGIN' TIME--BUT I'VE
MADE ENOUGH BAD JOKES
FOR ONE DAY! SO...
BON VOYAGE!

KRASH KRASH

KRUSH

THE SPIDER'S WEB

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TOM DeFALCO
EDITOR
LINDA GRANT
ASSISTANT EDITOR



Dear Editor:

I can safely say that AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #227 is one of the better efforts to issue forth from the House of Ideas in the past five or six years. In that time, I've come to expect a certain form and content to the SPIDER-MAN stories, and issue #227's story - "Goin' Straight" - would vie for my vote as a truly classic tale. And, it kept up with the SPIDER-MAN tradition of exciting stories with tricky plot-twists.

Just for once, it was nice to see Spider-Man get mad at Captain DeWolff without having something nasty happen as a result. And it was certainly nice to see someone - Captain DeWolff again - on the NYPD try to help Spider-Man. And, wonder of wonders, Peter Parker actually whizzed through an important term paper, impressing his professor in the bargain. Bravo, Rog!

The Romita Jr./Mooney art was, of course, superb. The action that leapt from this issue was of the same cloth that first made Spider-Man's rep in comics. If John or Jim ever leave, I'll be the fella in front of the office, holding my breath until they return.

All in all, another excellent effort! I remember now why I started reading the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN years ago, and have stayed with the book while others came and went: QUALITY!

Sp/4 J. D. Long
Mediac Box 1314
Ft. Leonard Wood, MO 65473

**At ease, soldier!
And thanks!**

Dear Tom,

If anyone expected Spider-Man and the Black Cat to make a life together, then they weren't very familiar with SPIDER-MAN. All Peter Parker and his flashier-dressed alter ego have ever had is an inordinate amount of bad luck with women. In a way, this wouldn't be the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN if Peter were to have a problem-free relationship. Still, with the atmosphere you've been striving for, maybe a steady relationship of some sort is in order.

And now that you have a steady police person as a supporting character in Captain Jean DeWolff, it seems only natural to develop a counterpart Mafioso. Sam Galvagno seems to be just the type. It's been a long time since Spider-Man had a regular

underworld adversary, someone who isn't a costumed super-villain. Still, when the Kingpin is through dealing with Daredevil...

Mike Sopp
438 West 32nd St.
Erie, PA 16508

The Kingpin has recently been appearing in SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN, Mike. And if the ol' Wall-crawler interferes too much in organized crime, we wouldn't be too surprised to find him throwing more of his weight around!

Editor:

Dang!

I am dreadfully unhappy as regards the fate of the Black Cat. Why did she have to dive off that pier? I rather liked her, and I thought you had a most interesting situation on your hands, what with the Spider-Man/Cat romance starting to bloom.

I don't know why I liked Felicia Hardy so much better than Parker's past girl friends, but I did. Maybe it was because she seemed more complex. Gwen Stacey was sweet and nice, but rather like a bowl of Cream of Rice. Mary Jane Watson had more of the old get-up-and-go, but she was more confused than complex.

Ah well... I don't suppose this cat has nine lives, huh? In any case, it might interest you that after a day as a Cornell grad student and, yes, as a T. A. - there's nothing finer than sitting down with a cup of tea and the latest exploits of my friend, Mr. Parker.

Ann L. Mackay
113 Cook Street
Ithaca, NY 14850

Peter may give up his job as a Teaching Assistant, Ann, but the grad studies roll on... and we're sure he appreciates the thought.

Dear Mr. DeFalco,

While other writers at Marvel may be better known, Roger Stern's current run on AMAZING SPIDER-MAN has convinced me of what I began to suspect during his tenure on CAPTAIN AMERICA. He is Marvel's finest, most consistent writer. The clincher, of course, was AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #226-227. In this truly touching two-parter, he has continued to prove himself the master of characterization and plot development.

Issue #226 was a perfect ten in every way. The laundry room scenes were instant classics. Along with Felicia's skywriting idea, they show his talent for innovation in storytelling. Still, it was the characterization that made these issues special. I particularly liked his handling of Felicia Hardy and Jean DeWolff (hopefully, we'll be seeing more of both). And in issue #227, it was ol' Spider-Man himself who came leaping out of the book in three-dimensional glory! We've long known that Peter Parker was a man of principles, but never have those principles been so expertly shown in the contrasting of characters. Spider-Man's hopeful trust in Felicia, his hurt in being duped by her, the grimness of the battle with the mobsters, and Spider-Man's gritty determination to bring Felicia to justice had me feeling for Spider-Man as much as any classic novel would make me

concerned for its protagonist. The only thing I found a bit too pat was Felicia's return to crime. I would have preferred to see her try to make more of a go of it before succumbing to temptation.

I don't mean to neglect the art in these issues. John Romita Jr. and Jim Mooney have done their usual excellent job. It has been their work, in conjunction with the writing, that has brought this book up to its current high standards. With Rog, John, and Jim on the case, I'm sure it will stay that way!

Michael Brog
Box 76 Gilman
Johns Hopkins University
Baltimore, MD 21218

Whew! Your letter presents me with a dilemma, Mike! If I show it to Rog, I won't be able to convince him that he really doesn't need a raise this year. (Hmmm... maybe if I wear my old sweater with the holes in the elbows, and ply him with sourballs?)

Dear People,

Never before have I seen a normal criminal of Mr. Galvagno's ilk actually realize that his men were no match for Spider-Man in a fair fight, and take the appropriate actions. I believe that Shiner was correct when he predicted that Galvagno will soon become the Kingpin's "fair-haired boy."

Lynn Savage
118 Franklin Street
Bristol, RI 02809

Dear Tom,

The Black Cat had better not be dead or I'll... I'll... I'll scream!

AAAAAAHHHHHHHHHHH!!
Seriously, though, AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #227 was fantastic. Thanks for making me glad I subscribed.

Gregory Kay Diekoff
RR #3 Venado Lakes
Delavan, IL 61734

INTRODUCING... LOVELY LINDA GRANT!

Did I just hear you say, "Who?" Well, then, I guess it's time for us to get better acquainted. I'm the new assistant editor of these pages. That means I get to share an office with Two-Fisted Tom DeFalco - and to remind him when our sourball supply needs to be replenished.

A bit of background: I was born in Yonkers, a suburb of New York City. I've done quite a bit of traveling and finally decided to call "The Big Apple" home. After renting an apartment here with a fearless fifteen pound cat named Sasha, I found a job at Marvel Comics as secretary to the Editor-in-Chief, Jim Shooter.

One recent Friday afternoon, Tom made two momentous decisions: he quit smoking the smelly cigars he used to torture us with, and he asked me to take over as his new assistant (my predecessor, Mark Gruenwald, had been promoted to full editor). Applauding the demise of Tom's cigars, I accepted his offer. And a new editorial team was born.

Well, I'd like to go on (and possibly discuss the great bratwurst stands of Heidelberg), but there's work to be done...

BULLPEN BULLETINS

I'm sorry to have to begin this month's column with a downer, but...

Some time ago, Marvel Comics produced an issue of Marvel Team-Up featuring Spider-Man and The Not Ready For Prime Time Players, including John Belushi. After the book hit the stands, I received a call from John who was very excited about it. He asked if he could please stop by the office and meet us Bullpeners. Please, he said. No problem. He showed up around closing time, and the whole crew flocked around him. Quickly, he made us all feel like old friends, and apparently he admired our work as much as we admired his. He said he followed our comics and quoted scenes and developments from recent issues to prove it. Likewise, we talked about our favorite stuff on Saturday Night Live, and the whole thing degenerated into clowning around, laughing, and feeling good. John even invited a bunch of us to the opening night party for the cast of *Animal House*. We went and had an unforgettable evening mostly because of the hour or so John spent with us introducing us around to a trainload of our favorite entertainers. What a night.

He's gone now. Even though we really had only a brief personal acquaintance with him, we'll miss him. A lot.

Okay. We're going on with the regular stuff now, because we ought to.

I CAN'T TELL YOU...

How many letters I've gotten expressing concern that I may be pushing myself too hard. Seems I've mentioned in print several times that I've been staying up late writing this column and the Bullpen Special column which appears in *Moon Knight*, *Ka-Zar*, and *Micronauts* (our Direct Sales exclusive titles, available only at comics specialty stores and selected retail outlets). Thanks for your kind concern. In fact, I am feeling a little worn down these days, but it's not from writing, folks, it's from...

CONVENTIONS!

In the last five weeks I've attended conventions in Columbus, Ohio; Tampa, Florida; and Indianapolis, Indiana! I've been spending precious weekends on stage talking into microphones, answering questions, sitting behind display tables, signing autographs, being interviewed on TV and radio, meeting with Marvel artists and writers who were also guests (especially out-of-towners who seldom get into the office), looking over samples shown by folks eager to break into the business and lots more.

At one con — I can't believe it, but I forget which one — I even did a sketch for the amusement of the onlooking crowd, which was inked by star artist Joe Rubenstein. For your amusement, I printed it next column. Not bad, huh? See, with the right inker, (one who redraws virtually the whole picture) I could be a contented!

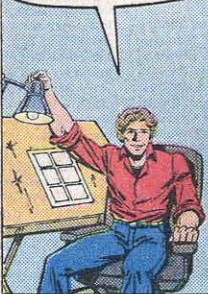
HI! I'M "BABYFACE" BOB LAYTON! I'M A WRITER AND ARTIST! MOST PEOPLE KNOW ME FROM MY STINT AS THE INKER OF *IRON MAN*! I'M HERE BECAUSE, LATELY, ON THIS PAGE, BIG TIM HAS MADE SOME UNFLATTERING COMMENTS ABOUT ME! NO BIG DEAL. WE ARE OLD FRIENDS, AFTER ALL, AND I CAN TAKE A JOKE...



BUT I WANT TO MAKE IT PERFECTLY CLEAR THAT I HAVE NO ASSOCIATION WITH OR INTEREST IN ANY NU-CLEAR TERRORIST CLONE ORGANIZATIONS!



ALSO, EVEN THOUGH I DID ONCE LIVE NEAR THREE MILE ISLAND, I AM DEFINITELY NOT A RADIOACTIVE MUTANT. ALL CLEAR? WELL THEN, GOOD-NIGHT, ALL!



DEAR



Through it all, I had a great time! Like most of the people in comics, I love my work. I could attend conventions and talk about stories, art, the people in the comics, and the people behind the comics till I drop. Which may be soon. Not too soon, I hope. Tomorrow I leave for Bologna, Italy, to represent Marvel Comics at the Bologna Book Fair, a colossal gathering of publishers from all over the world — a convention, more or less. Am I going to enjoy it? You bet! Will I collapse from exhaustion during it? Tune in next month.

MEANWHILE...

I've got a lot of news and stuff to talk about, but it'll keep till next month. In the interests of fairness and at the insistence of the Bob Layton Anti-Defamation & Disparagement Elite Revenge Squad (B.L.A.D.E.R.S.), I have donated the remaining space to Bob Layton. In order that he might reply to alleged allegations made concerning him in this column.

Till next time.

Bob Layton

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MARVEL SUPER SPECIAL #22: BLADE RUNNER — Not since their unforgettable adaptation of *The Empire Strikes Back* has there been an event like GOODWIN, WILLIAMSON, and GARZON's version of this great new adventure film. Together with Marvel stalwart DAN GREEN, they've produced another adaptation that will leave you breathless!

THE MIGHTY MARVEL CHECKLIST

- ☐ MARVEL TWO-IN-ONE #91 — The Thing and the Sphinx!
- ☐ TEAM AMERICA #4
- ☐ KING CONAN #12
- ☐ DAZZLER #19
- ☐ KA-ZAR #18
- ☐ DENNIS THE MENACE #11
- ☐ DAREDEVIL #186
- ☐ GHOST RIDER #72
- ☐ AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #232 — Including a free copy of the *Marvel Comics Guide to Collecting Comics* (for info on the guide, see below in this list).
- ☐ CAPTAIN AMERICA #273
- ☐ G.I. JOE #3
- ☐ HERCULES (Limited Series) #1 — See Hype Box
- ☐ MOON KNIGHT #23
- ☐ THOR #223
- ☐ MICRONAUTS #45
- ☐ WOLVERINE (Limited Series) #1 — See Hype Box
- ☐ INCREDIBLE HULK #275
- ☐ AVENGERS #223
- ☐ CONAN #138
- ☐ X-MEN #161
- ☐ ROM #34
- ☐ POWER MAN/IRON FIST #85
- ☐ MARVEL TALES #143 — Reprinting *Amazing Spider-Man* #6 by Lee and Ditko.
- ☐ MARVEL GUIDE TO COLLECTING COMICS — A nifty introduction to comics collecting for fun and/or profit.
- ☐ FANTASTIC FOUR #246 — The return of Doctor Doom!
- ☐ MARVEL TEAM-UP #121 — Spider-Man and the Human Torch!
- ☐ IRON MAN #162
- ☐ PETER PARKER, THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #70 — The return of Cloak and Dagger — part III!
- ☐ DEFENDERS #111
- ☐ STAR WARS #63
- ☐ MASTER OF KUNG FU #116

MARVEL MAGAZINES

- ☐ CRAZY #89
- ☐ SAVAGE SWORD OF CONAN #79
- ☐ EPIC ILLUSTRATED #13
- ☐ MARVEL FANFARE #4

MARVEL SUPER SPECIALS

- ☐ #22: BLADE RUNNER — ARCHIE GOODWIN, AL WILLIAMSON and CARLOS GARZON (of *The Empire Strikes Back* fame) adapt the blockbuster movie of the year Cover painting by JIM TERANKO.
- ☐ #23: ANNIE — TOM DEFALCO and WIN MORTIMER bring you the official comics version of the smash hit movie musical!



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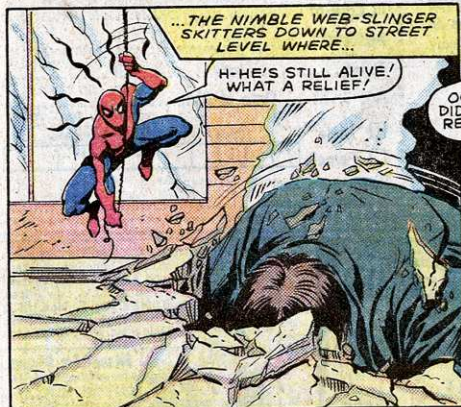
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OH, NO! I-I EXPECTED AT LEAST ONE OF THOSE WALLS TO STOP HIM!

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H-HE'S STILL ALIVE! WHAT A RELIEF!

OOOPS! DID I SAY RELIEF?



YUUU!!

OKAY, HYDE, THIS IS IT! GIVE ME YOUR BEST SHOT AND... AND...



HEY, ALL OF A SUDDEN, I'M GETTING NARY A WARNING BUZZ FROM MY SPIDER-SENSE. THAT MUST MEAN HE'S--



...OUT GOLD ON HIS FEET! WHEW!

NIGHTY-NIGHT, LI'L ANGEL!

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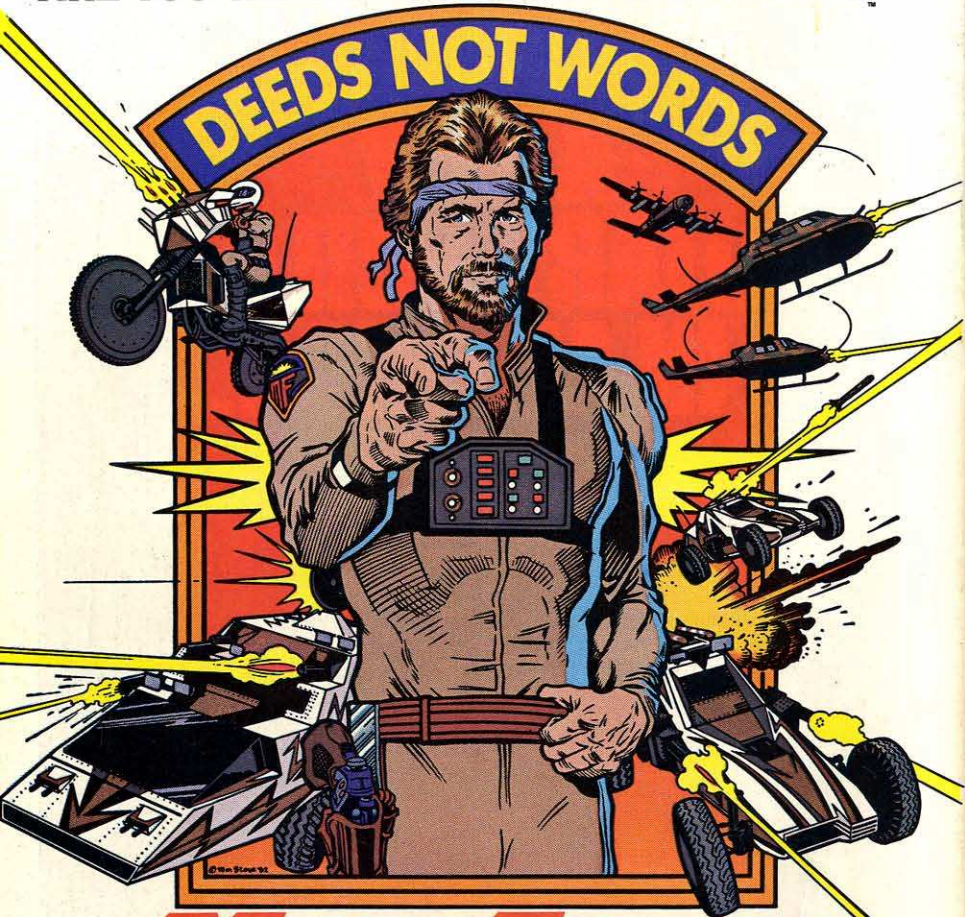
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