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A MAJOR TURNING
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OPTIONS!

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A Cracker Jack story

SCOTTIE, THE SCORE IS TIED, TIME HAS RUN OUT, BUT YOU'VE GOT TWO FOUL SHOTS. SHOW 'EM YOUR STUFF.

GOSH, I'LL TRY COACH.

GULP... HERE GOES.

OH NO... I MISSED.

ONE MORE CHANCE SCOTTIE, YOU CAN DO IT--

YOU'RE A CRACKER JACK!

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

YEA, SCOTTIE!

WE'RE THE CHAMPS!

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OPTIONS!

LOOKS LIKE YOU'VE
BEEN KEEPING BUSY
WHILE I WAS GONE,
TIGER!

PETER PARKER HAS
NO DOUBT HAD
WORSE MOMENTS
IN HIS LIFE...

... BOTH IN HIS
CIVILIAN IDENTITY
AND AS ...
**THE AMAZING
SPIDER-MAN**

BUT, RIGHT NOW,
NO MOMENT
SEEMS WORSE
THAN THIS ONE!

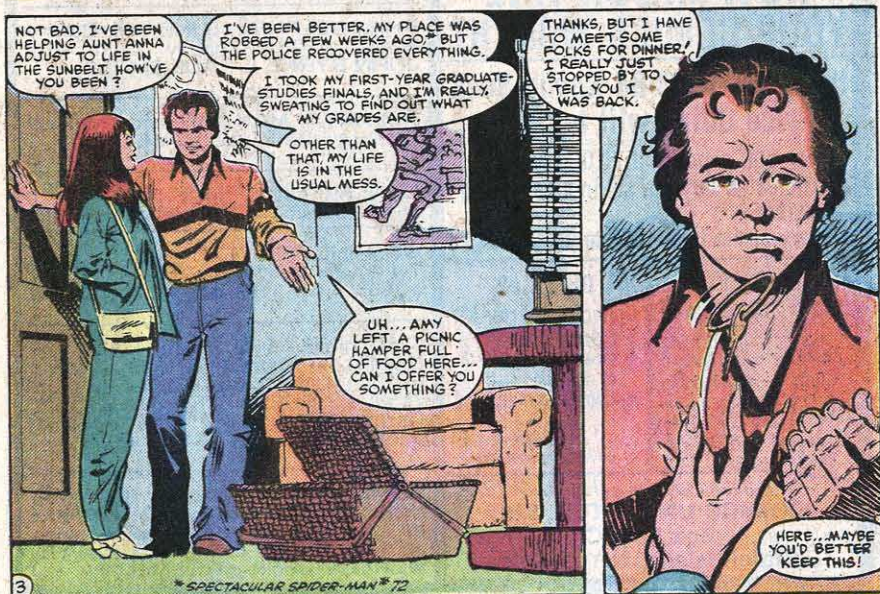
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PARKER? WHAT'S GOING ON?
I THOUGHT WE WERE GOING TO
SETTLE EVERYTHING WITH AMY!

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YOU REALLY LOVE HER, GO AFTER HER AND
TELL HER!







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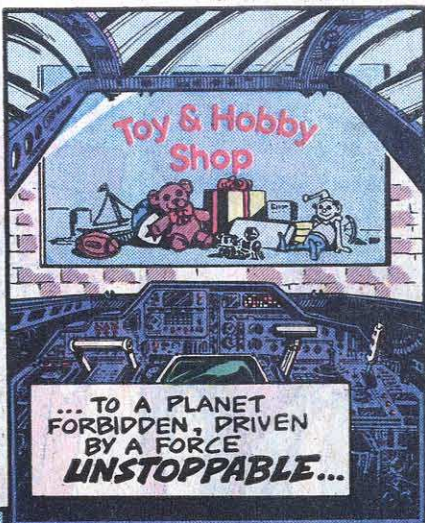
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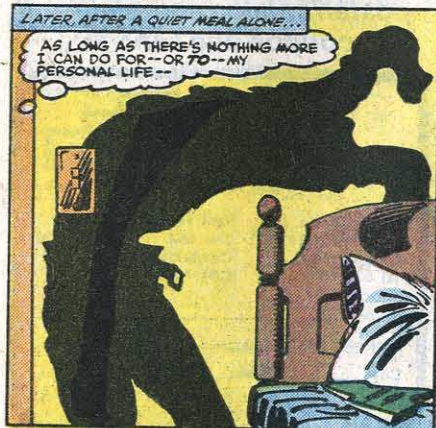
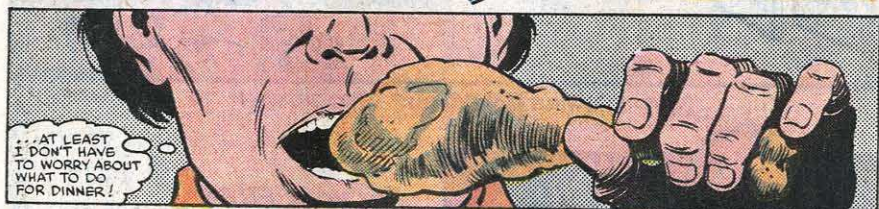
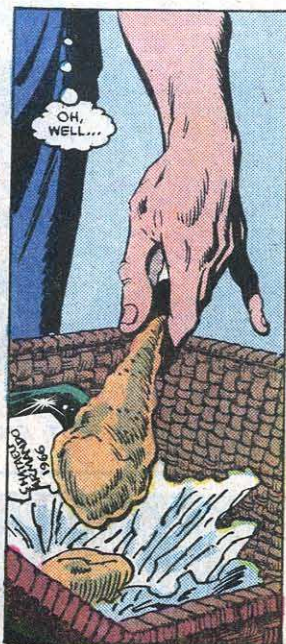
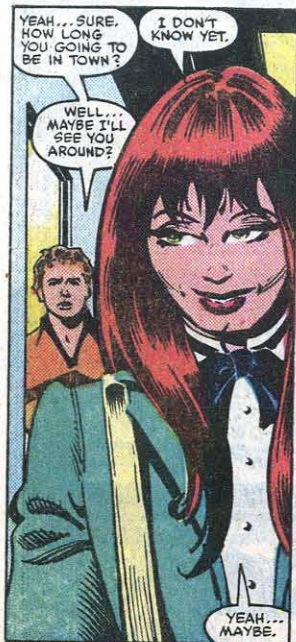
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THEN, THE GLOVES
AND MASK ARE
PULLED INTO
PLACE... AND
ONCE AGAIN,
PETER PARKER
BECOMES THE
SPECTACULAR
SPIDER-MAN!

LET'S SEE...
DO I HAVE
EVERYTHING?



OH, YEAH!
MUSTN'T
FORGET
THIS LITTLE
DEVIL--



-- IT'S THE ONLY CLUE I HAVE
TO THE IDENTITY OF THE NEW-
EST MEMBER OF THE SPIDER-
MAN HIT PARADE...



... AND I DO
MEAN "HIT"!!



INTO THE EARLY EVENING SKIES BOUNDS THIS
MOST AMAZING OF ALL COSTUMED ADVENTURERS--

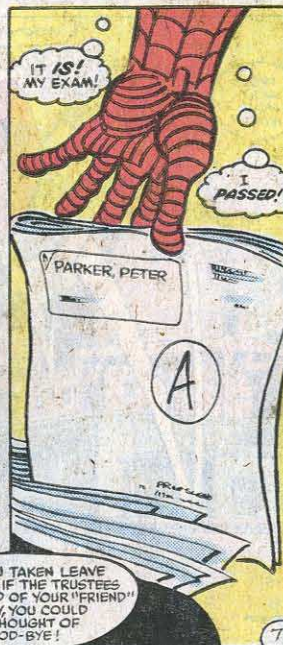


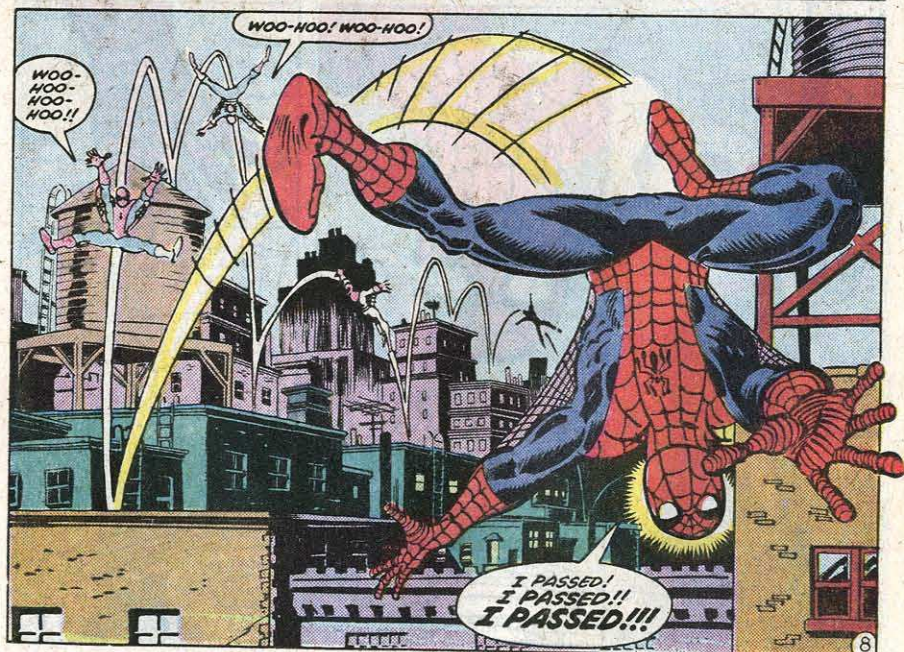
-- SWINGING
SOUTH
ACROSS THE
ROOFTOPS OF
MANHATTAN
ON A SLENDER
STRAND OF
WEBBING...

SOUTH TO THE GREEN-
WICH VILLAGE CAMPUS OF
EMPIRE STATE UNIVERSITY!









MEANWHILE, IN A MIDTOWN MANHATTAN COFFEE SHOP...

I MAY BE A LITTLE THICK SOMETIMES, AMY, BUT IT DIDN'T TAKE A GENIUS TO KNOW YOU WERE PLAYING UP TO PARKER JUST TO GET UNDER MY SKIN. RIGHT?

UH-HUH... JUST LIKE YOU DID BY SEEING SHEILA, AND ALMA, AND--WHAT WAS HER NAME?--BINKY?

YEAH... LOOKS LIKE WE'VE REALLY GOT EACH OTHER'S NUMBER. I HAVE MORE TO ANSWER FOR, PROBABLY. YOU KNOW, I KEPT HOPING I'D MAKE YOU MAD ENOUGH TO DO SOMETHING.

I GUESS YOU DID.

I'VE NEVER BEEN THAT GOOD WITH WORDS, AMY. I WAS... WELL... AFRAID I'D SCARE YOU OFF IF I CAME OUT AND TOLD YOU HOW... HOW MUCH I LOVE YOU.

PRETTY STUPID, HUH?

I'D SAY WE'VE BOTH BEEN PRETTY STUPID, LANCE.



ELSEWHERE...

THINGS LOOK SWEET! THINGS LOOK GREAT! GONNA HAVE THE WHOLE WORLD ON A PLATE!

I WISH I'D GOTTEN A PICTURE OF SLOAN AS I KISSED HIM! THE EXPRESSION ON HIS FACE WAS PRICELESS!



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HEE-HEE-HEE!
I HAVEN'T
FELT SO JOLLY
SINCE THE TIME
J. JONAH JAMESON
SAT DOWN ON
HIS CIGAR!



IT'S SUCH A RELIEF TO
KNOW THAT I ACED THAT
FINAL! WITH THE NOSE-
DIVE MY STUDIES HAD
TAKEN, THAT GRADE REAL-
LY SAVED MY SKIN!



SECOND YEAR...
YEAH. FROM
WHAT I HEAR,
IT'S EVEN MORE
RUGGED THAN
THE FIRST.

I'LL HAVE TO PICK A
TOPIC FOR MY DIS-
SERTATION... AND DO
A LOT MORE RESEARCH.
I'VE SEEN SOME GUYS
WHO'VE PRACTICALLY
LIVED IN THE LAB
THEIR SECOND YEAR.

HECK, DOC CONNORS
STILL SEES MORE OF
THE LAB THAN HE DOES
OF HIS WIFE AND KID!



IN FACT, IT SHOULD RAISE MY GRADE-
POINT AVERAGE ENOUGH FOR ME TO
STAY IN THE GRADUATE PROGRAM
AND
AVOID
ACADEMIC
PROBATION!

SECOND
YEAR
STUDIES,
HERE I
COME!



ALL THAT LAB TIME COULD
SERIOUSLY CUT INTO
SPIDER-MAN'S CAREER!

...POLICE
ARE STILL
TRYING TO
REASON WITH
A GROUP OF
ARMED
MEN...

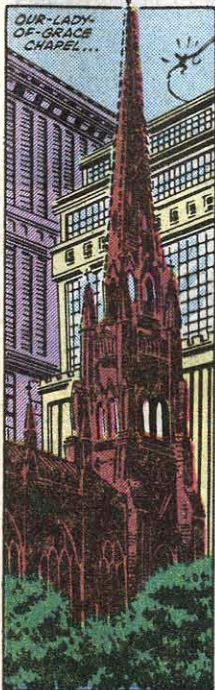
EH?
NOW
WHAT?

...WHO HAVE
SEIZED THE OUR-
LADY-OF-GRACE
CHAPEL. IT IS STILL
UNKNOWN HOW MANY
ARE INVOLVED IN
THE TAKEOVER--





-- BUT THEY ARE BELIEVED
TO BE HOLDING AT LEAST TWO
DOZEN WORSHIPPERS HOSTAGE!



OUR-LADY-
OF-GRACE
CHAPEL...



THE POLICE HAVE THE
LITTLE CHURCH SURROUND-
ED, BUT THEY DARE NOT
MAKE ANY FURTHER
MOVES, FOR FEAR OF
HARMING THE HOSTAGES.

BUT THERE
IS ONE MAN
WHO CAN
MOVE...



... ONE MAN
WHO CAN GO
-- SWIFTLY--
SILENTLY--
WHERE NO
ONE ELSE
POSSIBLY
COULD...



... ONE
MAN WHO
DARES!



INSIDE...

WELL, CAPTAIN?
WE ARE GROWING
IMPATIENT... WHAT
IS YOUR ANSWER?

I... I DON'T HAVE
THE AUTHORITY TO
APPROVE ANY DEMANDS
SUCH AS YOURS!

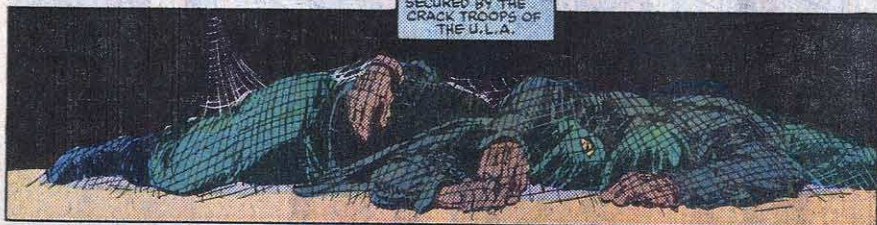


THEN YOU HAD BETTER FIND SOME-
ONE WHO DOES, CAPTAIN! THE UNIVERS-
AL LIBERATION ARMY WILL ACCEPT
NOTHING LESS THAN TOTAL COMPLIANCE!

AGAIN,
I MUST
CAUTION
YOU...



"ALL POINTS OF ACCESS TO THE CHAPEL HAVE BEEN SECURED BY THE CRACK TROOPS OF THE U.L.A."



"WE ARE PREPARED TO SACRIFICE OURSELVES TO THE LAST MAN..."





... OURSELVES, AND
EVERYONE ELSE!

SO, I SUGGEST YOU DO WHATEVER YOU MUST
TO SEE THAT OUR DEMANDS ARE MET!



I WILL REPEAT THEM ONE
LAST TIME! FIRST... THE U.L.A.
CADRE LEADERS WHO WERE
CAPTURED LAST MONTH...
MUST BE RELEASED FROM
PRISON AND BROUGHT
HERE!



SECOND,
YOU WILL
SUPPLY US
WITH ARMORED
VEHICLES
FOR TRAN-
SPORTATION
TO YOUR JFK
INTERNATIONAL
AIRPORT...



... WHERE
THIRD, A FULLY-
FUELED 747 WILL
BE MADE AVAIL-
ABLE TO US!



-- FOR SAFE
PASSAGE OUT
OF THIS
DECADENT
COUNTRY!



WE WILL TAKE THE PRIEST
AND THE NUNS WITH US TO
INSURE YOUR COOPERATION.
IS THAT CLEAR?



LATER, IN THE DARKROOM OF NEW YORK'S LEADING DAILY...

MOST OF THE SHOTS ARE TOO DARK, BUT THE ONE OF ME BOPPING THE LEADER OF THE TERRORISTS CAME OUT NICE AND CLEAR!

BOY, IF I ONLY HAD MORE TIME TO DEVOTE TO MY PHOTOGRAPHY... I BET I COULD BE AS GOOD AS BANNON! MAYBE BETTER!

HERE, DANNY-- I GOT A SHOT OF THAT U.L.A. MESS. THE VOUCHER'S INSIDE.

YEAH? THANKS, PETE-O!

THE OL' CITY ROOM NEVER QUIETS DOWN FOR A MOMENT. I GUESS THAT'S TO BE EXPECTED IN THIS TOWN.

THERE'S BEN URICH... WORKING LATE AGAIN!

... WHEN, ALL OF A SUDDEN, THE D.A.'S OFFICE FINDS SOME NEW EVIDENCE AND LAUNCHES A VERY PUBLIC PROBE! NOW I HAVE TO RUSH MY STUFF INTO PRINT BEFORE IT BECOMES YESTERDAY'S NEWS!

@*%*%*
WORD PROCESSORS!

WELL... TAKE IT EASY!

YEAH, YOU, TOO.

I MISS MY OLD SMITH-CORONA... STICKING KEYS AND ALL!

YEEH! I WONDER WHO GOES THROUGH MORE CUPS OF COFFEE... URICH OR DOC CONNORS?

HI, BEN! HOW'S IT GOING?
IT'S NOT, PARKER! I'VE BEEN WORKING ON THIS REAL ESTATE FRAUD STORY FOR WEEKS... IT WAS COMING ALONG JUST PERFECTLY...

BOB
SMITH
595-7633
Re: MURDER

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SUDDENLY, THE WALLS
SEEM WAY TOO CLOSE
IN HERE. I NEED SOME
AIR...
...LOTS OF AIR!



THIS IS MORE LIKE IT!
I THINK I'D GO BONKERS
IF I COULDN'T ZIP
AROUND TOWN
LIKE THIS...

...WITH THE WIND WHIP-
PING PAST, AND NEW YORK
STRETCHING OUT ALL
AROUND! THERE'S NOTHING
LIKE IT!

AS LONG AS I'M OUT AND ABOUT,
I THINK I'LL HEAD NORTH--



"--TO COLUMBIA
PRESBYTERIAN!
I HAVEN'T DROPPED
BY THE HOSPITAL TO
CHECK ON THE BLACK
CAT IN AT LEAST
24 HOURS!"



KNOCK-KNOCK! ANYBODY HOME?

HI, LOVER!
COME ON IN!

DON'T MIND IF I
DO! YOU'RE LOOK-
ING GOOD TONIGHT,
FELICIA!



I HAD A GOOD DAY.
THE PAIN IS GONE
...WELL, MOST OF
IT... AND THEY'VE
OUT BACK ON MY
MEDICATION, SO
I'M NOT AS
GROGGY.

BUT I'M STARTING TO
GO A LITTLE STIR CRAZY
IN HERE! I WANT TO GET
UP AND DO SOME-
THING!



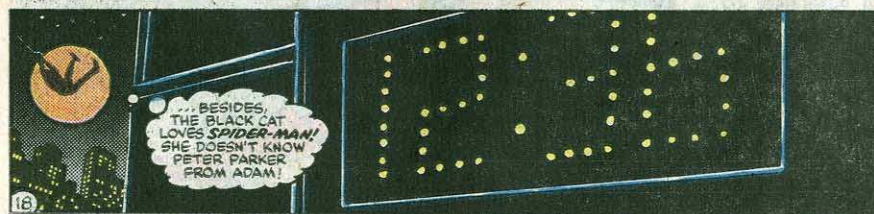
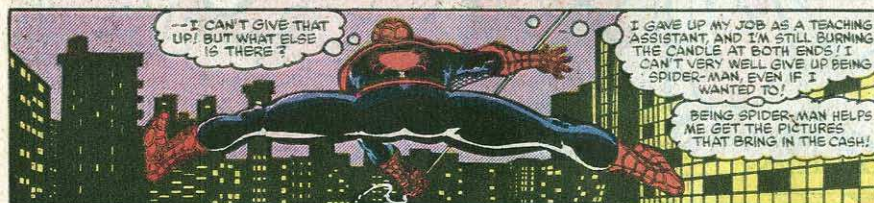
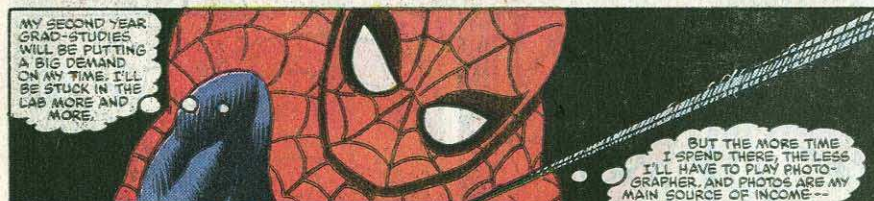
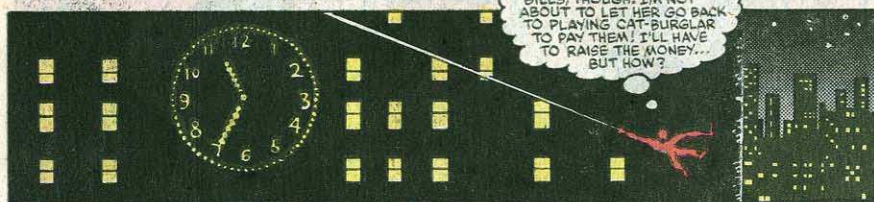
I KNOW THE FEELING.
BUT DON'T BE IN SUCH
A BIG HURRY; YOU WERE
SERIOUSLY INJURED!

YOU DON'T
WANT TO GO
SPLITTING
YOUR
STITCHES
DO YOU?

NO... I
GUESS NOT.

*SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #76.





NAW, I COULDN'T GIVE UP
BEING SPIDER-MAN ANY
MORE THAN I COULD
GIVE UP BREATHING!

SO WHAT
DO I DO?

IF I COULD
GET THE HOSPITAL
TO HOLD OFF
ON THE BILL
FOR A WHILE...
IF I CUT OUT
EVERYTHING
ELSE--

--AND REALLY
APPLIED MYSELF,
I'LL BET I COULD
EARN MY DOCTOR-
ATE IN A YEAR!

YEAH, BUT
THEN WHAT?
A DOCTORATE
--EVEN IN MY
FIELD--IS NO
GUARANTEE
OF A JOB!

EVEN
IF I GOT
A JOB,
WOULD IT
BRING IN
ENOUGH
MONEY--FAST
ENOUGH--TO
HANDLE
ALL THE
BILLS?

I STILL HAVE
AUNT MAY TO
THINK ABOUT
TOO, AFTER ALL!
AND RENT
AND FOOD--!

WHAT
AM I
GOING
TO DO?!



THE ESU CAMPUS,
7:50 AM...

AT THIS HOUR, THE ONLY PEOPLE UP AND AROUND ARE
FRESHMEN WITH
EARLY MORNING
CLASSES--

--AND THE TERMINALLY STUDIOUS...
SUCH AS GRADUATE STUDENT
ROGER HOCHBERG!

IN THE PAST ELEVEN YEARS, HE'S
READ THOUSANDS OF BOOKS, RUN
INTO COUNTLESS MAIL BOXES, AND
HAD SEVERAL SURPRISES.

THIS IS ONE OF HIS MORNINGS FOR
SURPRISES.

EVER SINCE JUNIOR HIGH
SCHOOL, ROGER HAS ARISEN
AT SIX O'CLOCK IN THE MORN-
ING AND WALKED TO SCHOOL
...USUALLY WITH HIS NOSE
IN A BOOK.



I'VE NEVER SEEN
YOU HERE THIS
EARLY BEFORE.

UH-HUH...WELL...I WAS UP
ALL NIGHT...COULDN'T SLEEP.
I HAD TOO MUCH ON MY MIND...
TOO MUCH TO DECIDE.

HERE'S A COPY OF
THE NOTES I'VE KEPT.
YOU'LL HAVE TO FIND
YOURSELF A NEW
LAB PARTNER.

A NEW--?
WHY?

BUT I FINALLY
CAME TO A
DECISION.



....BULLPEN BULLETINS....

IF YOU KNEW SUSHI...

The Bullpen is as quiet as Davey Jones' Locker. Why? Because the whole crew is out to lunch. Before anyone says that we've all been "out to lunch" for years, allow me to point out that this is a special occasion — Morrie Kuramoto, paste-up and production ace, has led virtually everyone in the Bullpen off to his favorite Japanese restaurant in search of sushi and sashimi. Sashimi, if you don't know, is raw fish — a popular item in Japan. I hear, Honorable Morrie-san swears by it, and hey, the stuff must be good for you judging from Morrie, who's the picture of health. I couldn't go along to the sushi party because, being Editor in Chief, I've got to stay here and finish this Bullpen Bulletins' column. It's late!

Besides... raw fish? Bleh!

A FEW MORE WORDS...

...about Morrie. Around the Bullpen Morrie is known affectionately as "the Ancient One" — probably because he was old when Confucius was a baby. It is said that he taught Cuneiform lettering to Hammurabi, and pasted up the Dead Sea Scrolls. I'm not sure that those claims are true, but I do know that Morrie taught me most of what I know about comics production work, and that he's one of the best, most respected behind-the-scenes people in comics.

But raw fish??

TEN CON MEN... AND A CON LADY!

Ever been to a Comics Convention? In case

you've never borne witness to one of these extravaganzas, they're gatherings of fans, comics dealers and comics professionals organized by comics clubs or independent promoters. They usually take place over a weekend, usually in a hotel or convention center. They feature special presentations, panel discussions, and workshops with professional artists, writers and editors, and they offer fans a chance to meet their favorite creators, meet and talk to each other, and buy (or sell) comics and other goodies at the ever-present dealer's tables.

There are bunches of conventions coming up throughout the spring and summer (Watch the classified ads in the comics for info — most major conventions advertise in our comics as well as in local media) and Marvel Comics folks are going to be attending almost all of them! We'll be meeting you, talking to you, listening to you... and looking at your samples.

Especially at the biggest, snazziest convention of them all — this year's SAN DIEGO COMICS CONVENTION! Not one, not three, but all of the Marvel Comics Editors will be there — Larry Hama, Denny O'Neil, Louise Jones, Tom DeFalco, Mark Gruenwald, Ralph Macchio, Bob Budiansky, Carl Potts and Al Milgrom. I'll be there too, of course, and so will Archie Goodwin, Editorial Director of EPIC Illustrated and the EPIC Comics Line. Yes, the entire Marvel Comics Creative Brain Trust will be there — all of the people in charge of all of Marvel's publications. This is your chance to get at 'em, to show your samples, ask your questions, or

just to shoot the breeze. The San Diego Con is at the San Diego Convention and Performing Arts Center, at 2nd and "C" Streets in downtown San Diego, August 4th through August 7th. For more information write to: Gene Henderson at San Diego Comic Convention, 150 S. James, Orange, California, 92669.

Now there's only one thing worrying me. While all the editors are off in San Diego, back here, the assistant editors will be in charge and all on their own! And while the cat's away...

Uh-oh.

AND NOW, EVEN BIGGER NEWS!

It's as simple as this — there's a terrific new look coming to the covers of Marvel publications! Take a look below!

The new look will be debuting on the comics which go on sale in July. Watch for it!

AND ON THAT NOTE...

So long now, I'm going to order myself a ham and swiss on nym from the deli down on the corner. Raw fish? Baloney!

Stay well,

Shooter
Jim Shooter



THE TYPE BOX

ALPHA FLIGHT #1 — For years you've been seeing hints of Alpha Flight in the pages of the X-MEN and other Marvel mag. And for years you've been demanding that the Canadian mutants get their own mag. Well, here it is at last, and to get things started with a bang, writer-penciler JOHN BYRNE is given you a lovingly-crafted 48-page introduction to their new monthly series. This is the big one.

STAR WARS #74 — Hey, Lucasfilm, what with all the furor over the upcoming Return of the Jedi movie, Super Special and limited series, we hope you haven't forgotten the sensational job JO LUFFY, RON FRENZ and TOM PALMER are doing each and every month on the "regular" STAR WARS title, its star-hopping adventure at its best — and we don't mean maybe! Pick up an issue today, and see for yourselves.

DOCTOR STRANGE #80 — Reliably spectacular ROGER STERN and TERRY AUSTIN are still respectively writing and inking this series regularly, and their titanic talents have been recently joined by the fantastic penciling of DAN (you thought he could only ink) GREEN. This is a book you must check out, especially this month, when Doc and the Scarlet Witch join their powers magical against the vampiric threat of... Dracula! It's a pure-topper.

THE MIGHTY MARVEL CHECKLIST

- ☐ THE THING #2
- ☐ DAREDEVIL #197
- ☐ KA-ZAR #27
- ☐ NEW MUTANTS #8
- ☐ RED SONJA #1 — (Limited Series)
- ☐ AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #243
- ☐ CAPTAIN AMERICA #284
- ☐ THOR #334
- ☐ INDIANA JONES #8
- ☐ U.S. #14
- ☐ DOCTOR STRANGE #80
- ☐ INCREDIBLE HULK #286
- ☐ AVENGERS #234
- ☐ CONAN THE BARBARIAN #148
- ☐ MARVEL TALES #154 — Reprinting Amazing Spider-Man #16 by STAN LEE and STEVE DITKO. "Duel With Daredevil!"
- ☐ X-MEN #172
- ☐ ROM #45
- ☐ POWER MAN/IRON FIST #96
- ☐ G.I. JOE #14
- ☐ FANTASTIC FOUR #257
- ☐ MARVEL TEAM-UP #132 — Spider-Man and Mr. Fantastic!
- ☐ IRON MAN #173
- ☐ PETER PARKER, THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #81

- ☐ DEFENDERS #122
- ☐ STAR WARS #74
- ☐ THE OFFICIAL HANDBOOK OF THE MARVEL UNIVERSE #8
- ☐ ALPHA FLIGHT #1
- ☐ WHAT IF #40 — Featuring Dr. Strange.

MARVEL ANNUALS

- ☐ INCREDIBLE HULK ANNUAL #12

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- ☐ MARVEL AGE #5
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MY ARCH ENEMIES--
THE THIRSTIES!!

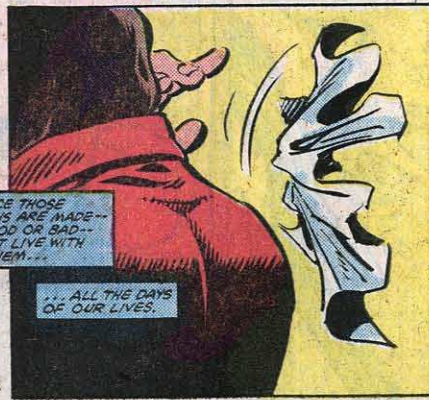
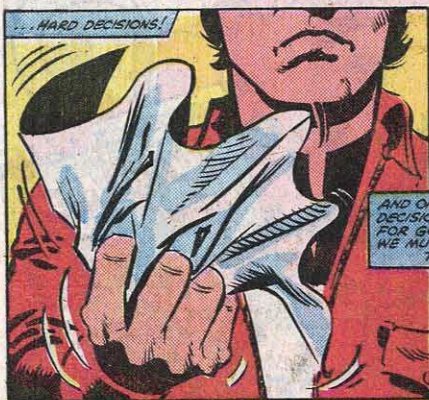
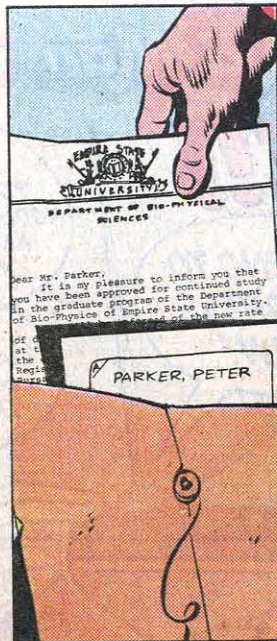
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"OPTIONS!"
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ROGER STERN
ART BY
JOHN ROMITA, JR.
& DAVE SIMONS

LETTERS BY
JOE ROSEN
COLORING BY
BOB SHAREN

EDITED BY
TOM DEFALCO
OVERSEEN BY
JIM SHOOTER

NEXT ISSUE
"ORDEALS!"

THE SPIDER'S WEB

% MARVEL COMICS GROUP
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New York, New York 10016

TOM DeFALCO
EDITOR
ELIOT BROWN
ASSISTANT EDITOR

Mr. DeFalco:

Thank you... both for the superb art and extraordinary plot-line on AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #238.

For so long I have waited for a good revival of the Green Goblin. I didn't want an inane Green Goblin IV or some carbon copy clone. (Everything had gotten really trite with the previous incarnations.)

Now, with the creation of Hobgoblin, you've added a new dimension to the hoped-for revival. You've given us a mysterious stranger who is his own man, with his own tastes... a man who, as he says, "knows how to use power" (unlike Harry Osborn and Bart Hamilton before him).

Revising the Goblin costumes and weapons was the best thing Hobgoblin could have done. There may be some who feel that Hobgoblin is only an echo of the original Green Goblin, but I disagree. I feel that the Hobgoblin will make his mark in the Marvel Universe as a major adversary.

David Patterson
278 Main Street
Melrose, MA 02176

You're far from alone in your assessment of the Hobgoblin, Dave. If the mountain of mail that continues to flow into *The Spider's Web* is any indication - and it usually is - Hobby has made quite a hit with *Marveldom Assembled*.

Dear Tom,

From the striking cover to the last full-page ending, AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #238 was an issue not merely to be read, but to be savored. I never thought you could improve on the Green Goblin, but the Hobgoblin could well become Spider-Man's most powerful foe. The only thing that bothered me in the entire issue was the scene in which Spider-Man was dangling upside-down in the sewer and shining his spider-signal light around. I'll bet you can't tell me why the Spider-insignia on the light was not also upside-down when projected.

Sara Purviance
4431 Aldrich Road
Bellingham, WA 98226

Sure, I can, Sara! The lens of the spider-signal light on Spider-Man's belt has an adjustable lens which can be turned 360-degrees... so that it can project things "right-side-up" even when Spider-Man is upside-down!

Dear Tom,

AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #238 merely confirms my belief that Roger Stern is the best thing to happen to this book in years. While some writers are concerned with making a book cover in their own image, such is not the case with Mr. Stern. He manages to incorporate into these stories the qualities that made SPIDER-MAN great in the first place, while subtly adding his own distinctive style to the magazine. This is apparent with the introduction of Hobgoblin as the newest "heir" to the Green Goblin legacy.

With the original Goblin dead and buried, Spider-Man has to confront an entirely different kind of foe, rather than a vengeance-seeking son or some other person assuming

the old Goblin's identity. And yet, isn't it ironic that the legacy of Norman Osborn continues to haunt Spider-Man?

It was a stroke of genius to obscure the face of the Hobgoblin. It was also nice to see Mary Jane Watson and her aunt back in these pages. Let's see more of them in the future, okay?

The artwork of Romita and Romita was sensational! I loved their work together on this issue and on last summer's SPIDER-MAN ANNUAL. How about occasionally having them team-up some more?

Kevin Vicks
1786 Prospect Place
Brooklyn, NY 11233

Whenever I can, Kevin! Whenever I can!

Dear Tom,

Ever since you assumed the editor's position of AMAZING SPIDER-MAN, the book has really shaped up. Personally, I feel that SPIDER-MAN should be handled by the best talents in the business, because he's one of the best characters in all of comics. And now he is!

Of course, I like the new art team of John Romita Jr. and John Romita Sr. Having the elder Romita sit in as inker was terrific. (Think you could get him to do an occasional solo job?)

Concerning the story... well, I've always liked the Green Goblin, but I could never think of a way to bring him back. The old revivals had become tiresome, so I didn't think there were any new wrinkles. I never thought of a whole new incarnation such as the Hobgoblin - brilliant.

As you can see, I'm very pleased with what's happening in AMAZING SPIDER-MAN. Could you please just fill me more of Mary Jane Watson into the storyline?

Bryan Good
13268 Wentworth Street
Arlene, CA 91331

Is MJ's appearance this issue enough, Bryan? No? Well, just wait -!

Dear Tom,

AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #238 gave me an eerie feeling of *deja vu*. The plotting, reminiscent of Stan Lee's... the Romita artwork... the Rosen lettering... and the subject matter itself made me feel as if Rod Serling

had popped out of the Twilight Zone and laid issue #39 on me! (Was that Green Goblin masterpiece really 200 months ago? Sheesh!)

The favorite fan game of 1983 will probably be guessing the Hobgoblin's true identity. So, let's play the game! The clues in issue #238 are as follows:

1. The Hobgoblin is Caucasian, appears to be left-handed, and seems to have a physique that would indicate he is a male.
2. He has short hair.
3. He knew enough about the Green Goblin to be impressed with the discovery of the hideout and the equipment.
4. He knew, or knew about, Norman Osborn... at least enough to speculate confidently on his motives and sanity.
5. He is used to exercising power in his everyday life.
6. He has very limited - if any - criminal experience (inferred from his statement: "The compulsion to escape the restraints of society is something I can well understand", emphasis mine).

The last point sounds like a rationalization from someone who has it in for either Spider-Man or Pete, and has convinced himself that the end justifies the means. I think the Hobgoblin is (either I'm going to spoil it for a lot of folks or end up looking like a total yutz)... J. Jonah Jameson.

I admit the evidence is circumstantial, and the conclusion was reached before all the reasoning was done. On the other hand, how often does JJJ just "take the afternoon off"? If only you'd shown Hobgoblin smoking a cigar...

Gary Glover
P.O. Box 143
Mineral Wells, TX 76067

You may be right, Gary. And, on the other hand...

NEXT ISSUE: Having decided to quit school, Peter Parker must face one of the greatest ordeals imaginable. And there's more! Another break-in at the Osborn Company! Lunch with Harry and Liz Osborn. A brief night on the town with Mary Jane Watson. A battle royale in a Manhattan warehouse! T.L.C. with the Black Cat! And a bold new move by the Hobgoblin! There's all this and still more in AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #24... on sale in just thirty days. Miss it at your own risk!

Tom DeFalco



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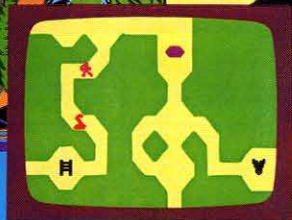
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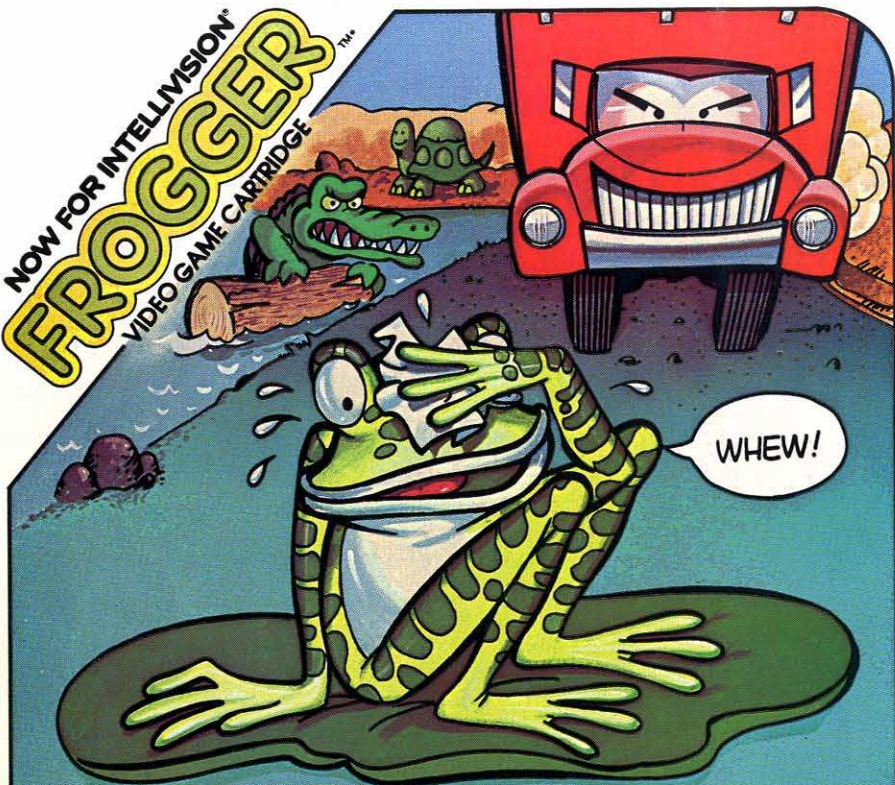
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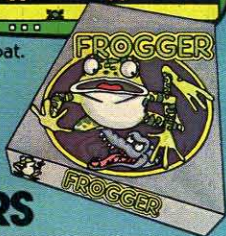
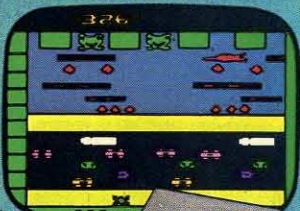
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