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the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN

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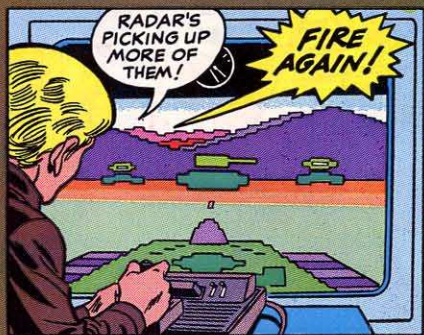
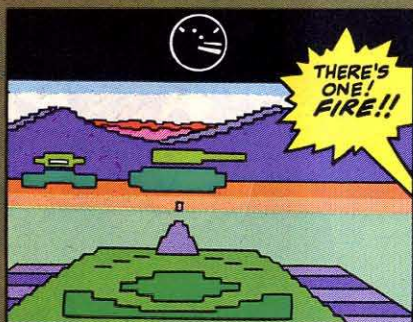
IN THIS ISSUE MEET:
"THE KID WHO
COLLECTS SPIDER-MAN"

ATARI®
PRESENTS

BATTLEZONE



**INSIDE
THE
BATTLEZONE
CARTRIDGE...**



BATTLEZONE

ATARI

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Sears Video Arcade Systems, and the ATARI 5200™ SuperSystem.

STAN LEE PRESENTS
AND HE STRIKES LIKE A
THUNDERBALL



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...EVEN PEOPLE LIKE THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN!

HE HAD COME TO THIS REMOTE SECTION OF LONG ISLAND IN SEARCH OF A CRIMINAL GANG--



--WHICH HE SUSPECTED WAS BEING LED BY HIS MYSTERIOUS ENEMY, THE HOBGOBLIN.

BUT IN FINDING THE GANG, HE DISCOVERED THAT THEIR LEADER WAS ACTUALLY THUNDERBALL!



DIVING FOR THE BUSHES WAS THE WISEST MOVE YOU'VE MADE, SPIDER-MAN!

IF YOU KNOW WHAT'S GOOD FOR YOU, YOU WON'T BOTHER ME FURTHER. YOU HAVEN'T A CHANCE AGAINST ME--MY POWER COMES FROM THE QUEEN OF THE ASGARDIAN NORNS!



ASGARDIAN NORNS??? DO YOU BELIEVE THAT?

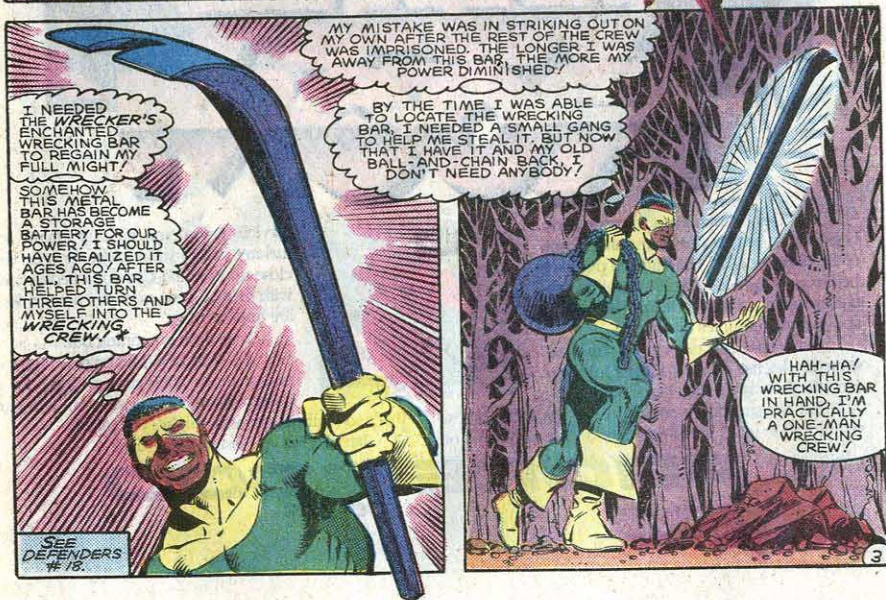
UHUUH!

NOPE! ME NEITHER--

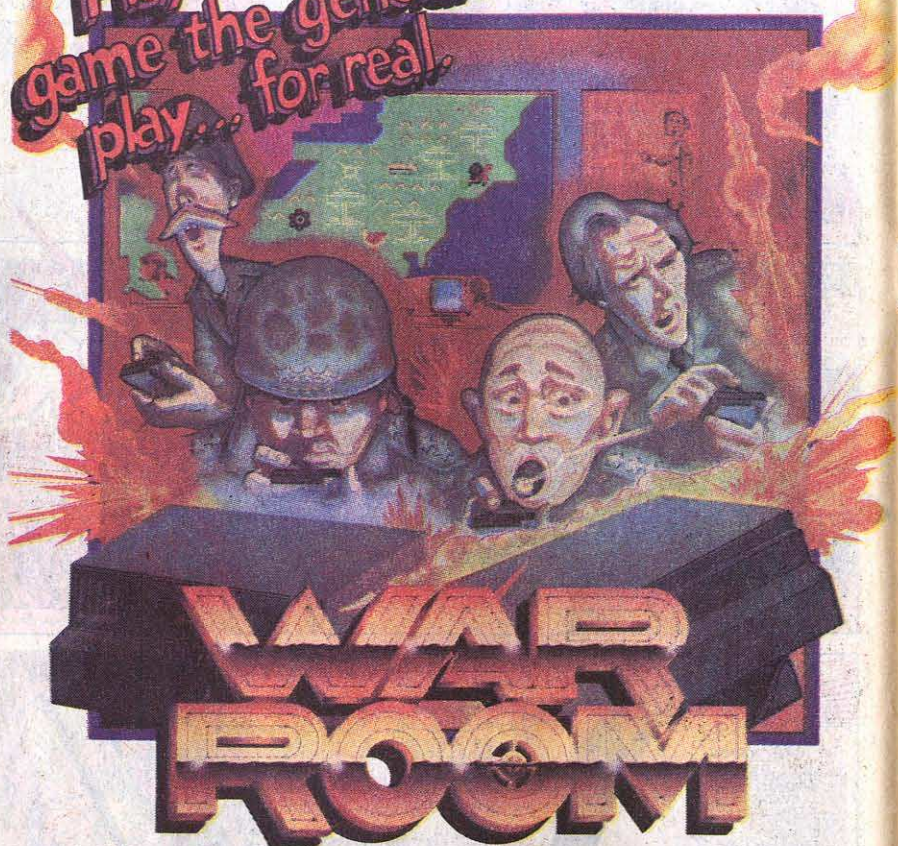
"--BUT SOMETHING'S SUDDENLY MADE THAT BOSS OF YOURS STRONG ENOUGH TO FIGHT IN THE HULK'S WEIGHT CLASS!"



HE REALLY MADE MINCEMEAT OF HIS OLD CLOTHING AUTO SHOP HE WAS USING AS A BASE...NOT TO MENTION WHAT HE DID TO HIS BAND OF FLUNKIES!



Play the
game the generals
play... for real.



Feel the goose bumps on your neck begin to rise as you take your seat in front of the video monitor. The situation pictured before your eyes is critical. Actual enemy nuclear attack on your most important cities and natural resources has begun.

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But the situation worsens. As you're attempting to rebuild your cities and keep production of goods and



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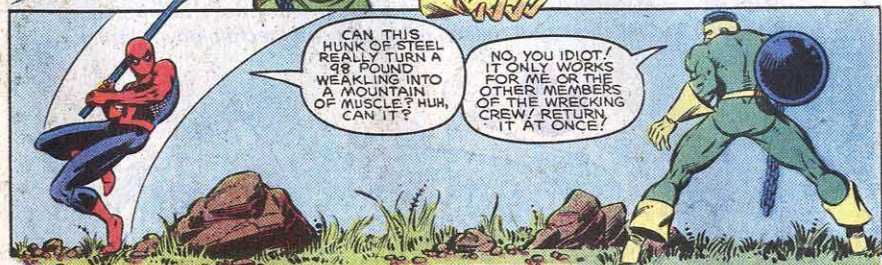
that's so realistic, generals might even play it.

Isn't it time you tested your skills?

PROBE 2000 series

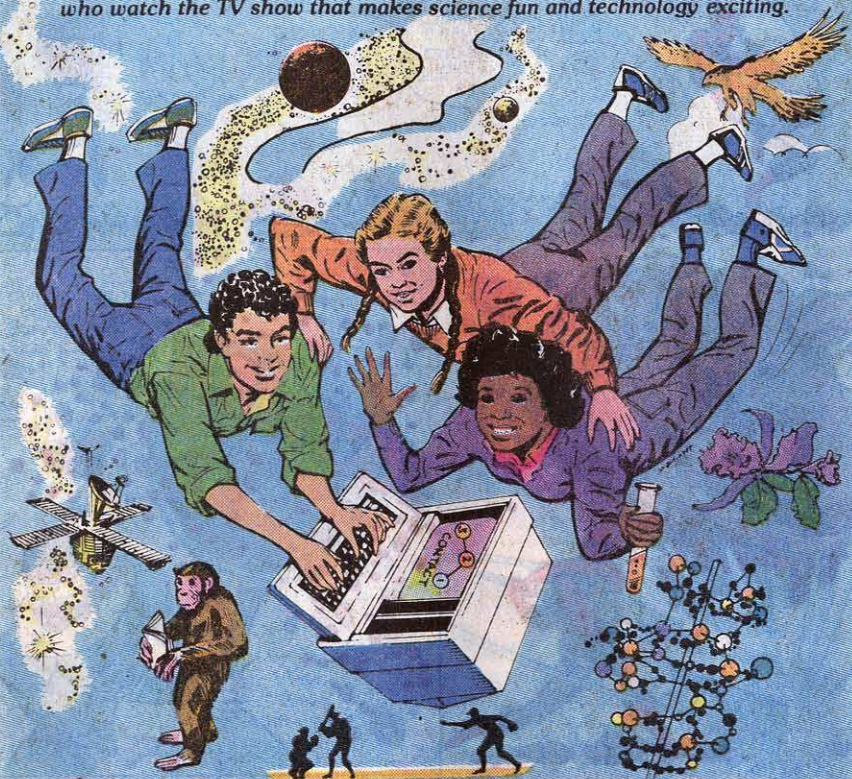
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YOU'RE RIGHT ABOUT ONE THING, DOC--THIS BAR DOESN'T MAKE ME FEEL A BIT STRONGER!

THAK

STILL MAKES A HECKUVA TIGER THOUGH!

WHUNG

GEEZ, HE MUST BE MADE OUT OF THE SAME STUFF AS THE WRECKING BAR. I MANAGED TO KNOCK HIM TO HIS KNEES, BUT ONLY BECAUSE I GOT HIM OFF-BALANCE.

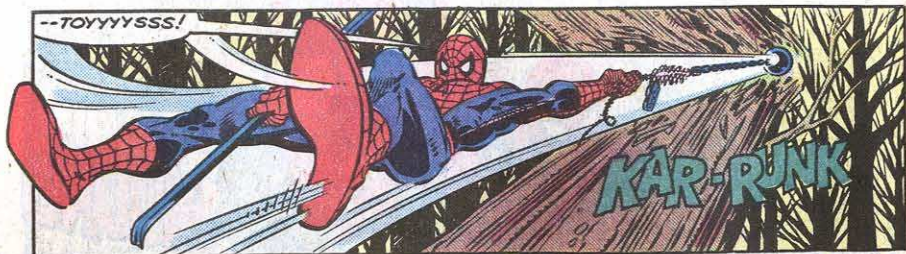
MAYBE HE WAS SERIOUS ABOUT THAT ASGARDIAN HOOEY!

YOU HAVE MADE A MOST GRIEVOUS ERROR IN ANNOYING ME! NOW YOU SHALL HAVE TO FACE THE CONSEQUENCES!

THAT WAS A STUPID THING TO DO, T-BALL! NOW I HAVE BOTH OF YOUR--

WHIZZZZ

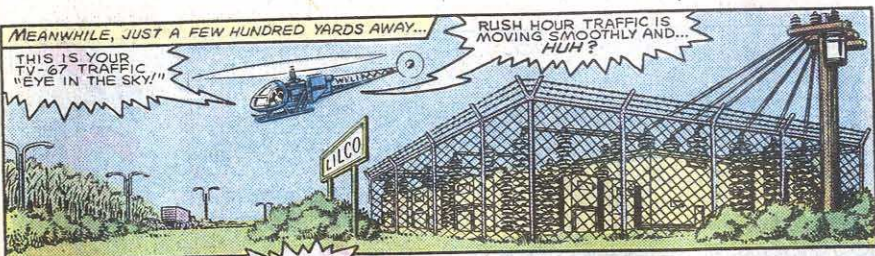
THWIP



MEANWHILE, JUST A FEW HUNDRED YARDS AWAY...

RUSH HOUR TRAFFIC IS
MOVING SMOOTHLY AND...
HUH?

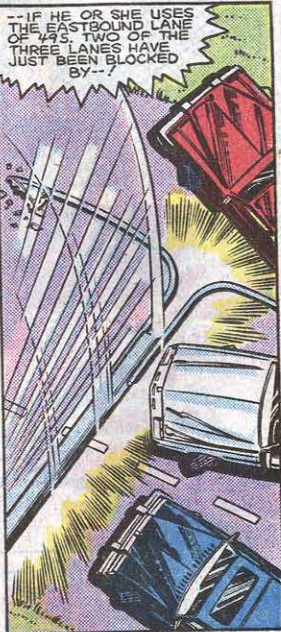
THIS IS YOUR
TV-67 TRAFFIC
"EYE IN THE SKY!"



WHAT
THE
DEVIL IS
THAT?!

UH... LOOKS LIKE
YOU CAN EXPECT
YOUR SPOUSE TO
BE DELAYED--

--IF HE OR SHE USES
THE EASTBOUND LANE
OF 495, TWO OF THE
THREE LANES HAVE
JUST BEEN BLOCKED
BY--

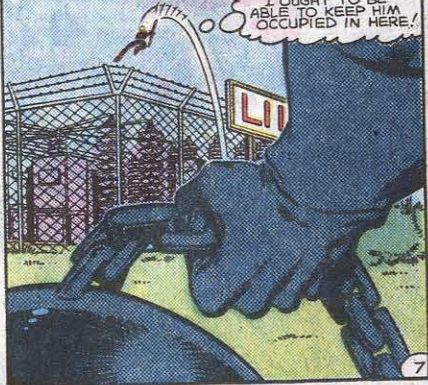


I DON'T BELIEVE THIS,
BUT--



I HAVE TO DRAW
LAUGHING BOY AWAY FROM THE
FREEWAY BEFORE HE STARTS
COMMITTING MAYHEM! AH-HAH!

I OUGHT TO BE
ABLE TO KEEP HIM
OCCUPIED IN HERE!!





HIDING IS FUTILE, SPIDER-MAN! EACH MOMENT THAT PASSES ONLY MAKES THINGS WORSE FOR YOU!

UH-HUH! IF I LET YOU GET YOUR HANDS ON ME / BUT I'M A HECKUVA LOT MORE EVASIVE THAN THAT CHAIN-LINK FENCE!



TALK IS CHEAP, BIG GUY! LIKE I SAID, FIRST YOU HAVE TO CATCH ME!



VERY WELL! I'LL JUST DRIVE YOU OUT OF HIDING!



BUT THEN... THAT TV WAS ON THE LEVEL! HE'S RIPPING UP THE SUBSTATION!

BREAK OUT THE RIOT GUNS!



THIS IS THE POLICE! HALT OR--!

HE'S NOT STOPPING! TRY TO WING 'IM!



THUNDERBALL DOES NOT EVEN BOTHER TO ANSWER THE OFFICERS. HE MERELY SWINGS HIS GREAT BALL-AND-CHAIN ABOUT... DEFLECTING EVERYTHING FIRED AT HIM!

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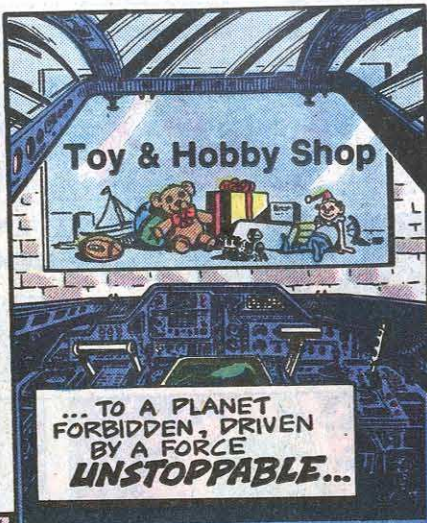




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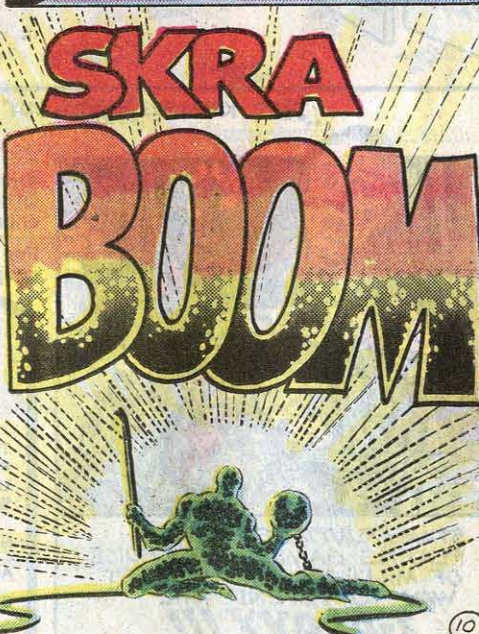
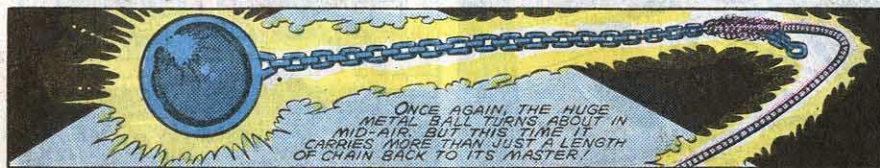
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THE GROUNDS OF THE SUBSTATION LIGHT UP LIKE THE SUN, AS THE POWER OF THUNDERBALL BECOMES PART OF THE LONG ISLAND ELECTRICAL GRID!



GEEZ.

AND THEN, ONCE THE CABLES MELT DOWN, THE CIRCUIT BREAKERS POP, AND THE ONLOOKERS' VISION RETURNS TO NORMAL...

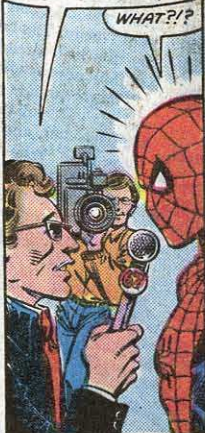
HE'S STILL BREATHIN'! ALL THAT POWER... AN' ALL IT DID WAS KNOCK HIM COLD!

SPIDER-MAN, CAN I HAVE A MINUTE OF YOUR TIME? I'M FROM TV-67!



LOOK, I'M A LITTLE BEAT! IF YOU WANT TO KNOW HOW I DEFEATED THUNDERBALL---

THUNDERBALL SHMUNDERBALL! HOW DOES IT FEEL TO HAVE HELPED CAUSE THE WORST TRAFFIC JAM IN THE HISTORY OF EASTERN LONG ISLAND?



WHAT?!!?

YEAH! COULDN'T YOU HAVE STOPPED THAT BIG GUY BEFORE HE BLOCKED THE EXPRESS-WAY?



I'M GONNA MISS MY LITTLE GIRL'S PIANO RECITAL BECAUSE OF YOU!

GRATITUDE.... THERE'S NOTHING LIKE IT...



...ESPECIALLY AROUND HERE!

BOY, WHAT A DAY! I STILL HAVEN'T FOUND HOBGOBLIN... I DIDN'T TAKE ANY PICTURES TO SELL THE DAILY BUGLE... ALL I DID WAS SAVE THE WORLD AT LARGE FROM THUNDERBALL!



I GUESS THAT'S NOT TOO BAD FOR A DAY'S WORK!



HOME, JAMES!



ADMIT IT... WHO BUT SPIDER-MAN COULD SAVE THE DAY AND RIDE OFF INTO THE SUNSET IN A PICKUP TRUCK? WHAT'S NEXT FOR OUR BOY? READ ON, AND YOU SHALL SEE!

LET'S HOPE IT DID MORE THAN THAT! WHEN HE COMES, HE SHOULD BE NORMAL AGAIN! AND HE'LL STAY THAT WAY--

IF YOU CAN PUT HIS TOYS SOMEPLACE WHERE HE CAN'T GET AT THEM!



THE KID WHO COLLECTS SPIDER-MAN!

CONOVER'S
CORNER
by JACOB CONOVER



Timothy Harrison is one of those special young men. He's sharp, bright, likable, and nine years old... going on thirty-five. You know the kind I mean. You talk to him for five minutes, and you get the odd feeling that he's already been around the track a few times, despite his youthful appearance.

Tim (he prefers not to be called Timmy) is like a lot of other kids his age. He's seen all the Star Wars movies about a dozen times each. He's a big Mets fan, and he enjoys whatever noise that's passing for music these days. What makes Tim different from most of his classmates, though, is that he has a hobby of which J. Jonah Jameson, this paper's esteemed publisher, would certainly not approve.

Tim collects Spider-Man.

He has a huge old trunk filled with Spider-Man memorabilia. There

TIM?
PSST! HEY,
TIM! YOU
AWAKE?

S-SPIDER-
MAN! GOLLY,
I DON'T KNOW!
I SURE HOPE
I AM!

I HOPE YOU
ARE TOO! I'VE
BEEN WANTING
TO MEET YOU!





OKAY, EASY DOES
DOES IT... DON'T
WANT TO SPILL
YOU OUT ON
THE FLOOR!

THAT... THAT WAS GREAT!
THAT WAS GREATER THAN
GREAT! BUT HOW COME--?

HOW COME
I CAME TO
SEE YOU?

OH, I HAPPENED TO SEE
THAT ARTICLE ABOUT
YOU IN THE *DAILY
BUGLE*, AND I JUST
COULDN'T PASS UP A
CHANCE TO MEET
SUCH A FAITHFUL
FAN!

COULD I
SEE YOUR
COLLECTION?

BOY!
YOU
BET!

Tim collects Spider-Man.

He has a huge old trunk filled with Spider-Man memorabilia. There are eight big scrapbooks overflowing with magazine and newspaper clippings, kinescopes of Spider-Man's rare television appearances, and a handful of souvenirs which can only be called unique. When I paid Tim a visit the other day, he eagerly opened his trunk to answer my typically nosy questions.

"I was real lucky to get some of these clippings," said Tim, flipping through the oldest scrapbook. "I was just a little kid when a lot of these stories were printed. But my grandfather knew a lady who saved old copies of the *Daily Bugle*, and a bunch of other papers, going back a long way. So I was able to get clippings of the earliest stories on Spider-Man that were ever run."

And the Kinescopes?

"They were harder to find," admitted Tim. "Heck, most folks at TV station had practically forgotten that Spider-Man..."

I'VE GOT STUFF
FROM NEWSPAPERS
AND MAGAZINES...
EVEN SOME OLD
FILMS OF WHEN
YOU WERE ON
TV!

LET ME
SEE THAT!

WELL, I'LL
BE! THERE I
AM, DOING MY
ACT ON VARIETY
TIME! THIS
REALLY TAKES
ME BACK!

IF YOU
THINK THAT'S
SOMETHING--



--LOOKIT THIS!

THIS IS THE EARLIEST ARTICLE I COULD FIND ABOUT YOU... MAYBE IT'S EVEN THE FIRST ONE!



JUDGING FROM THE DATE ON THE STORY, IT MAY BE!

SPIDER-MAN... I'VE ALWAYS WONDERED... HOW'D YOU GET YOUR POWERS? WERE YOU BORN WITH 'EM OR--?



NO, I CAME BY MY POWERS PURELY BY ACCIDENT, TIM. BELIEVE IT OR NOT, I GOT THE WAY I AM FROM BEING BITTEN BY A RADIOACTIVE SPIDER!

HUH?



"I KNOW IT SOUNDS CRAZY, BUT IT'S TRUE! I WAS ATTENDING A SCIENCE EXHIBITION, AND A SPIDER WHICH HAD GOTTEN TOO CLOSE TO ONE OF THE EXHIBITS PUT THE BITE ON ME!"

OW!



"I'M JUST LUCKY THAT BITE DIDN'T MAKE ME DEADLY ILL. SOMEHOW, THOUGH, THE IRRADIATED VENOM DID SOMETHING TO MY BODY CHEMISTRY."

"I SOON FOUND THAT I'D BECOME INCREDIBLY FAST... I COULD LEAP GREAT DISTANCES... CLING TO THE SIDES OF BUILDINGS!"



"AND I'D BECOME VERY STRONG!"

I... I CRUSHED THIS STEEL VENT PIPE, AS THOUGH IT WERE PAPER!

UNSCRAMBLE THE FUN AND DISCOVER WHY EVERYONE'S SCRAMBLING FOR NEW PINK LEMONADE BUBBLE YUM.[®]

Here's a game that's as much fun to play as Bubble Yum is to chew! Just unscramble these six mixed-up words. One letter to each square. (Answers below.)

FOST

--	--	--	--	--

SOTHOM

--	--	--	--	--	--	--

IYUJC

--	--	--	--	--

MYMYU

--	--	--	--	--	--

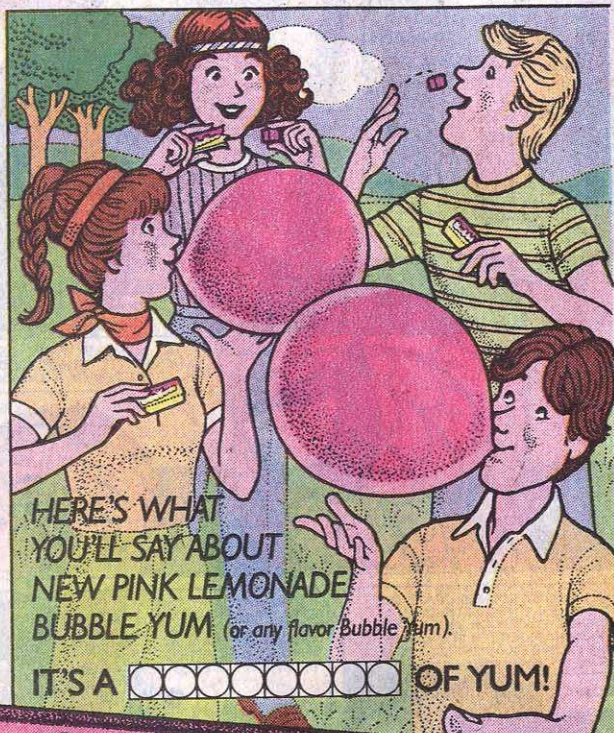
NIPK

--	--	--	--	--

LUBBESB

--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Now unscramble the circled letters to discover the surprise word in this Bubble Yum cartoon.

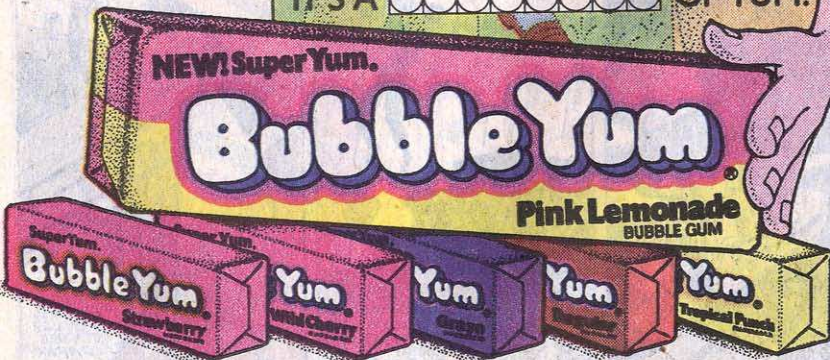


HERE'S WHAT
YOU'LL SAY ABOUT
NEW PINK LEMONADE
BUBBLE YUM (or any flavor Bubble Yum).

IT'S A

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

 OF YUM!



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ANSWERS: SOFT, SMOOTH, JUICY, YUMMY, PINK, BUBBLES. SURPRISE WORD: IT'S A MOUNTAIN OF YUM!



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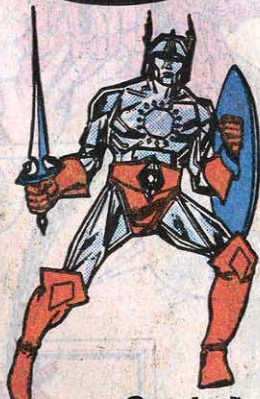
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Lava Warrior



Warbow™
Crystal Warrior



Ogeode™
The good wizard

Collect them all!

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AVAILABLE AT PARTICIPATING



STORES!

"I STARTED OUT TO MAKE MONEY WITH MY POWERS... AND I WASN'T INTERESTED IN MUCH ELSE. ONE DAY, LEAVING A TV STUDIO, I SAW A GUARD CHASING A BURGLAR. I COULD HAVE STOPPED HIM, BUT I DIDN'T. HE GOT AWAY."



"A FEW WEEKS LATER, THE SAME BURGLAR BROKE INTO THE HOME OF... SOME PEOPLE WHO MEANT A LOT TO ME. THE PEOPLE SURPRISED THE BURGLAR, HE PULLED A GUN, AND AN INNOCENT MAN DIED."



IF I'D STOPPED THAT BURGLAR WHEN I FIRST HAD THE CHANCE--! BUT NO, ALL I CARED ABOUT THEN WAS MYSELF!

AND THAT'S WHY--?



YEAH. THAT'S WHY I STARTED CHASING CROOKS. I CAUGHT THAT BURGLAR, AND I SWORE THAT NO ONE ELSE WAS GOING TO GET HURT IF I COULD HELP IT!

MAYBE YOU SHOULD HAVE PICKED SOMEONE ELSE TO START A SCRAP-BOOK ABOUT, TIM.



GEEZ, DO YA HAVE TO BE SO HARD ON YOURSELF? I KNOW YOU MESSED UP... BUT AT LEAST YOU'VE TRIED TO MAKE UP FOR IT.

I'LL BE MAKING UP FOR IT FOR A LONG, LONG TIME.



HEY, COME ON! I'VE GOT LOTS MORE STUFF TO SHOW YOU!

NEW SHIS



Jet eng. 5-spd.
rem. control
fog. 2-spd.

54714

mms... Just like that!"

And, of course, there are those souvenirs.

"My cousin Al was on a field trip to some museum in the city, when Spider-Man stopped some guys who were trying to steal rare jewels that were on loan from India or somewhere. Al had his camera with him, and he shot a whole set of slides of Spider-Man in action!" Then, Tim dug into the trunk and pulled out a jar holding five flattened .38 slugs. "I dug these out of the sides of a building in Forest Hills, the day after Spider-Man surprised some hold-up men outside of a branch bank! He moved so fast, they never hit him once!" said Tim proudly.

There were other items in the trunk, but I wasn't as interested in them, as I was in the young man who collected them. Tim was obviously quite an admirer of the one who...

I'LL BE--! I ACTUALLY DUG THESE OUT OF THE WALL OF THAT BANK WITH YOUR POCKET KNIFE?

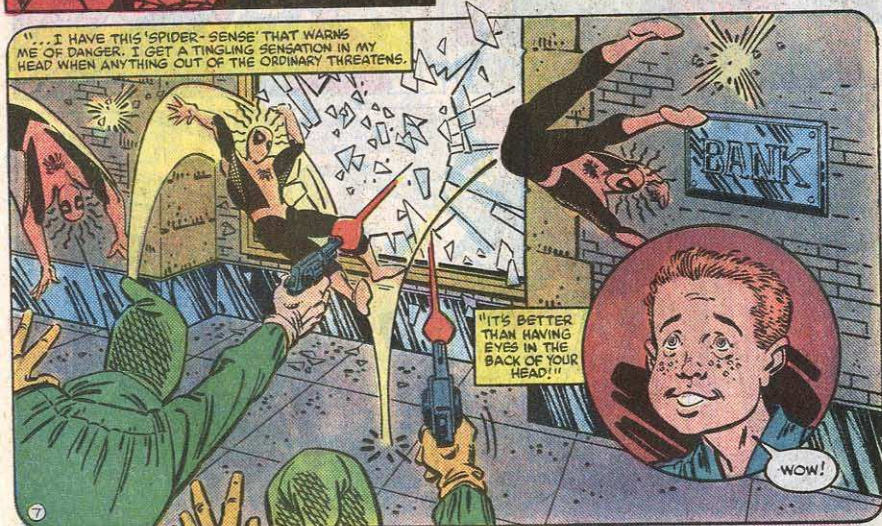


YEAH! I WISH I COULD'VE SEEN YOU DODGE THOSE BULLETS! I'LL NEVER FIGURE OUT HOW YOU DO THAT!

WELL, PART OF IT IS SPEED, OF COURSE, BUT IF YOU CAN KEEP A SECRET...



"... I HAVE THIS 'SPIDER-SENSE' THAT WARNS ME OF DANGER. I GET A TINGLING SENSATION IN MY HEAD WHEN ANYTHING OUT OF THE ORDINARY THREATENS.



"IT'S BETTER THAN HAVING EYES IN THE BACK OF YOUR HEAD!"

WOW!

"Man surprised some hold-up men outside of a branch bank. He fled so fast, they never hit him once!" said Tim proudly. There were other items in the trunk, but I wasn't as interested in them, as I was in the young man who collected them. Tim was obviously quite an admirer of the anonymous, masked man whom our publisher often refers to (under his breath, of course) in terms not suitable for the pages of a family newspaper. Didn't it bother Tim that his hero so seldom received favorable headlines?

"A little," admitted Tim, "but it's given me material for a whole new scrapbook."

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Bulpen Bulletins

Hill I'm not Jim Shooter, but Jim is my boss. I'm Lynn, his assistant. My job is to help Jim. And that means trying to help some of the people who call or come to Jim's office with questions or problems. Editors, writers, artists, movie producers, and other important Big Wheels come here to see Jim. I handle as much as I can for him because he's soooo busy! The most important people I help are you, the Marvel Comics fans out there who write or call with all sorts of serious (and sometimes crazy) questions. That's a huge job, so I have an assistant too! Her name is Margaret Clark, and she's terrific! We're here to help. We can tell you the best way to send in your art and writing submissions or help you find your local comics shop. But, we're real busy, so when you call or write to Jim or us, please be as brief as you can. Please clearly state what you want to know. We will find out and get back to you as soon as we can.

We get a lot of requests to give tours. We get so many requests that we couldn't possibly give a tour to everyone who asks—and since it isn't fair to pick just a few, we don't give any! We are working on doing something about that, because, really, we love giving tours. It's fun meeting other people who are as excited about Marvel Comics as we are (and it's one of the few times that Jim unchains us from our desks). But, until then, I thought I'd give you a quick tour of the Marvel Bulpen.

JACK ABEL'S SHORTS...

Jack Abel's an inker (a great one!) who works in the Bulpen. His "shorts" are about 3 feet wide, made of cardboard. Someone took a great big bite on one side! They are hanging at the front of Jack's drawing table where he often sleeps... err... mm... works. I'm not certain why somebody stuck those shorts on Jack's table, but they sure look funny.

THE SANCTUARY OF THE ANCIENT ONE

Nearby to Jack reclines paste-up man Morrie Kuramoto, who, according to legend, is the oldest Bulpenner. He'll tell you about the healthful properties of onions, garlic and carrot juice—but see this month's Bulpen Bulletins Special, which appears in Marvel's three Direct-Only titles, *Micronauts*, *Moon Knight*, and *Ka-Zar* where Bulpen Manager Danny Crespi gets Morrie to tell all.

And Danny! Danny Crespi is an adorable cutie (maybe the nicest man in the whole world!) who's taken to wearing suspenders. Poor Danny, girls just love snapping suspenders.

RON'S COMMAND CENTER

Ron Zalme is Danny's assistant manager—it's no easy task to run the Bulpen. Besides all the other important stuff he does, Ron's duties include supervising the operation of the Bulpen's toaster (which he's nicknamed "ROM") and storing volleyball equipment. Yep, we sometimes play volleyball in nearby Madison Park at lunchtime!

PARKER'S ALL-NITE LETTERING SERVICE

Nearby to Ron is Rick Parker—ace letterer and all-around hard worker. This man doesn't ever go home! He's always working in the morning when I come in and even if I leave at 10 p.m. he's still there working. If he does go to sleep, I bet he sleeps with his Crowquill pen clenched tightly in his hand.

DESIGNER'S DEN

The Bulpen has a great design and production team. There's Joe Albano, Barry Shapiro and Robbin Brosterman all in a row. They work on the magazines designing layouts and doing paste-ups and after they finish they climb out and dust themselves off.

ALSO IN THE 'PEN...

...are Paul Becton, who does coloring and referencing, George Roussos, cover colorist, John Tartaglione, who does art corrections, and John Morelli, who's a letterer. They call John M. "Squid" because he worked on a ship one summer. He's very muscular (because he lifts weights) and he looks kinda like the Sub-Mariner!

EDITOR'S ROW

Across from the Bulpen is Editor's Row which is growing ever longer. Each office has a personality unique to each team. There are cartoons on the doors, walls and windows. There's all sorts of weird, crazy and fun things going on all the time. But, there are too many of them for me to tell you all about all of them here—and, besides, you hear more about them than the other Bulpeners.

STAT'S R US!

I mustn't forget Robbie Carosella and Harry Candelario who do the photostats and who are a big part of the Marvel Bulpen. Since every single page of every single Marvel Comics must pass through the stat room, their job is critically important. I try to treat them right! And, Robbie manages the Marvel Softball Team!

OUR 'PEN MOTHER

Who ties it all together? It's our lovely Traffic Manager Virginia Romita. Virginia is the one who encourages the editors to get the creative people to finish their work on time! She also makes sure that all in-house work gets out to the printers. Without Virginia you might have to wait MONTHS between your favorite titles. It's time Virginia gets some fan mail of her own! Thanks, Virginia.

THE THRONE ROOM!

Jim Shooter's office is along Editor's Row, but just a bit away from the Bulpen. He's got a big table for a desk. On his desk is the Bubblegum Machine that Terry Austin, Lea Sapp and I gave him for Christmas. We do our best to keep it filled with jelly beans for Jim, but Chris Claremont and everyone else keep doing their best to empty it! Jim's desk is surrounded by the piles of mail that he gets everyday. You already know that he reads all his mail. He'd love to answer it all, but of course, it just isn't humanly possible! Jim also has a swell comfy chair that swivels. And since he's away now, I'm sitting in his chair swiveling and writing his Bulpen Bulletin. I wonder if anyone will notice?

Take care,

Lynn E. Cohen

Lynn E. Cohen

THE MIGHTY MARVEL CHECKLIST

Watch out this month, true-believers! There's no way we can pick out just one or two books as especially exciting. The assistant editors have been going crazy with their brief thirty days at the helm of Marvel, so all our comics are bound to be... well, unique this month. If you don't want to miss any unheralded magic, charm, or silliness, you'd better buy all our titles! How's that for unabashed hype?

- ☐ THE THING #7
- ☐ DAREDEVIL #202
- ☐ NEW MUTANTS #11
- ☐ DAZZLER #30
- ☐ CONAN THE KING #20
- ☐ RETURN OF THE JEDI #4 (Limited Series)
- ☐ MOON-KNIGHT SPECIAL EDITION #3
- ☐ MARVEL RETREAD FUNNIES #1
- ☐ AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #248
- ☐ CAPTAIN AMERICA #239
- ☐ THOR #339
- ☐ INDIANA JONES #13
- ☐ MOON KNIGHT #35
- ☐ MICRONAUTS #56

- ☐ IRON MAN #178
- ☐ CRYSTAR #5
- ☐ MAGIK (Iliana and Storm Limited Series) #2
- ☐ S.H.I.E.L.D. SPECIAL EDITION #2—Second of two books reprinting STERANKO's stunning S.H.I.E.L.D. stories
- ☐ INCREDIBLE HULK #291
- ☐ AVENGERS #239
- ☐ CONAN THE BARBARIAN #154
- ☐ MARVEL TALES #159—Reprinting Amazing Spider-Man #121 by STAN LEE and STEVE DITKO, "Where Flies the Beetle!"
- ☐ X-MEN #177
- ☐ ROM #50
- ☐ POWER MAN/IRON FIST #101
- ☐ G.I. JOE #19
- ☐ CLOAK & DAGGER #4 (Limited Series)
- ☐ ELEKTRA SAGA #1 (Limited Series)
- ☐ FANTASTIC FOUR #262
- ☐ MARVEL TEAM-UP #137—Aunt May and Franklin Richards
- ☐ ALPHA FLIGHT #6

- ☐ PETER PARKER, THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #86
- ☐ DEFENDERS #127
- ☐ STAR WARS #79
- ☐ JACK OF HEARTS #1 (Limited Series)
- ☐ X-MEN CLASSICS #1 (Limited Series)—More classic reprints from ROY THOMAS and NEAL ADAMS.
- ☐ MICRONAUTS SPECIAL EDITION #2 (Limited Edition)—Re-presenting the original MANTLO GOLDEN sagas.

MARVEL ANNUALS

- ☐ AVENGERS ANNUAL #12—Guest starring the Inhumans.
- ☐ X-MEN ANNUAL #7

MARVEL MAGAZINES

- ☐ SAVAGE SWORD OF CONAN #95
- ☐ MARVEL AGE #10
- ☐ MARVEL FANFARE #12
- ☐ EPIC COMICS
- ☐ EPIC ILLUSTRATED #21
- ☐ DREADSTAR #7

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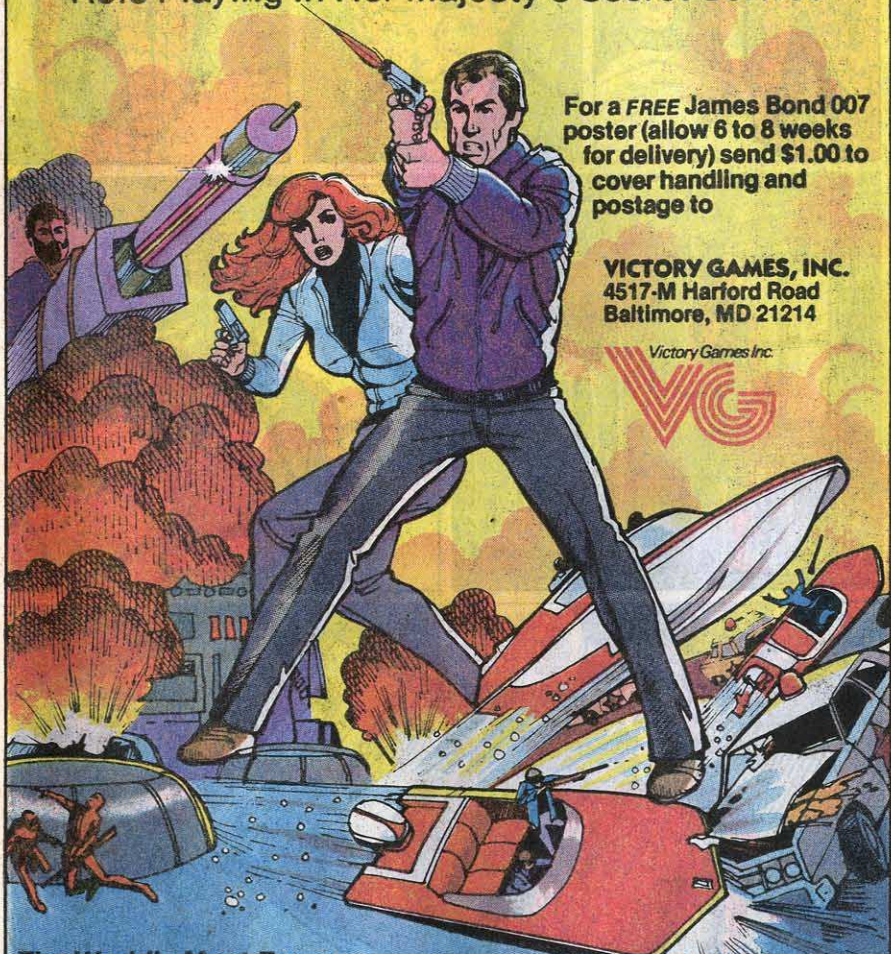
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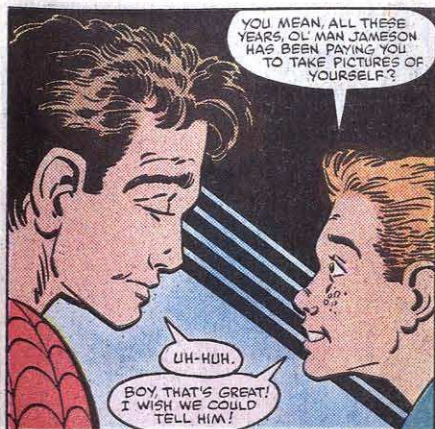
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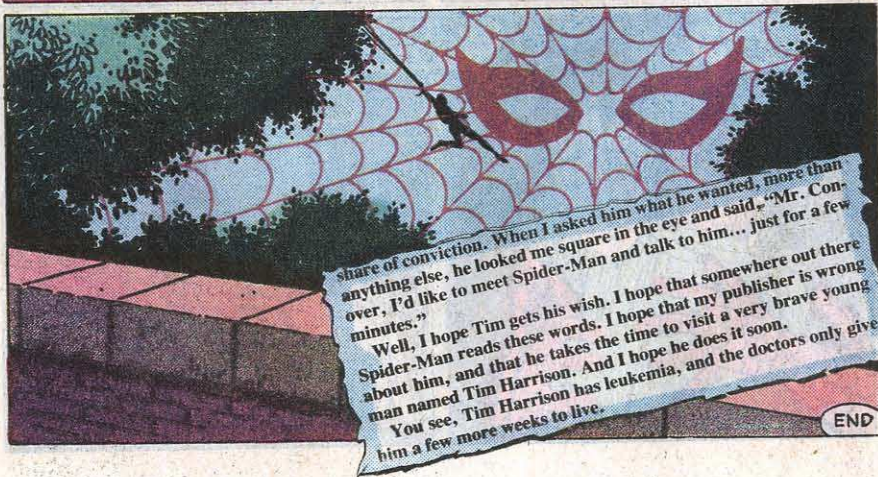
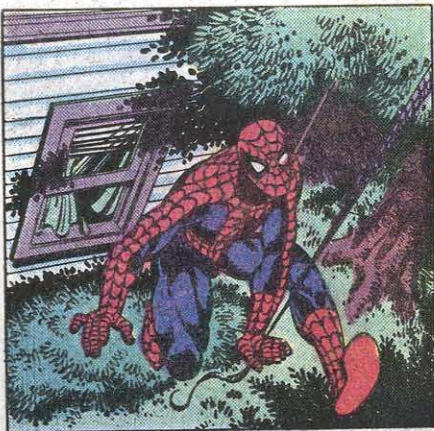


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share of conviction. When I asked him what he wanted, more than anything else, he looked me square in the eye and said, "Mr. Conover, I'd like to meet Spider-Man and talk to him... just for a few minutes."

Well, I hope Tim gets his wish. I hope that somewhere out there Spider-Man reads these words. I hope that my publisher is wrong about him, and that he takes the time to visit a very brave young man named Tim Harrison. And I hope he does it soon.

You see, Tim Harrison has leukemia, and the doctors only give him a few more weeks to live.

END

THE SPIDER'S WEB

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DANNY FINGEROTH
EDITOR
BOB DE NATALE
ASSISTANT EDITOR

BEFORE WE BEGIN

If you've been following the Bullpen Bulletins, you already know that this is Assistant Editor's Month here at Marvel, when all the editors are away at comics conventions and all the assistants are in charge of the titles they work on. For this issue, with Danny Fingerboth away, I'm in charge of AMAZING SPIDER-MAN and I've prevailed upon Roger Stern to deliver not one, but two stories... with two different sets of artists and two decidedly different dramatic tones. I asked Rog and the rest of my creative crews to come up with a pair of special stories that would contrast each other and bring out two distinct yet important facets of the web-slinger's legend. The guys really came through. "Thunderball" is action from beginning to end - real good action I might add. "Kid," on the other hand, is one of the most touching stories I've ever read. I'm glad Rog did it. I needed some heavy drama to balance out the strange goings-on in PETER PARKER and MARVEL TEAM-UP this month. (And if that's not a teaser, I don't know what is!)

And, in case you're wondering just where the credits for this issue's twin triumphs are, why they're right here (this is my month and I can put 'em anywhere I want, so there!):

"AND HE STRIKES LIKE THUNDERBALL"

ROGER STERN, writer
JOHN ROMITA, JR., pencil breakdowns
BRETT BREWSTER, finishes
DIANA ALBERS, letters
BOB SHAREN, colors
BOB DE NATALE, editor
JIM SHOOTER, editor-in-chief

"THE KID WHO COLLECTS SPIDER-MAN"

ROGER STERN, writer
RON FRENZ, pencil breakdowns
TERRY AUSTIN, finishes
JOE ROSEN, letters
CHRISTIE SCHEEL, colors
BOB DE NATALE, editor
JIM SHOOTER, editor-in-chief

Now without further ado is a representative sampling of the mail on an earlier precedent-shattering issue...

Dear Roger, John, Dave, Joe, Bob, Tom and Jim:

AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #243 must have been one of the best or worst issues of this comic... ever. I lean towards the former.

Peter Parker leaves school? Wow. That's really a heavy move. However, it is in keeping with the way in which Peter has been maturing lately.

Thank you all for the last three pages of this issue. I've been collecting this comic for eight years, and those pages were probably the most touching in all the issues I'd read.

Judging from the title of next issue, ASM #244 will be just as good.

John Warren
Charleston, WV 25314

Dear Rog and John,

I can't believe you did it! Peter Parker quit school? Never! He'd come so far and

worked so hard - he'd even passed his first-year exams! I never would have thought Pete could quit after that. He was also elated when he discovered that he'd made that "A". Besides, he's not been going to school just for himself... he's been going for his Aunt May and Uncle Ben. Remember how they'd always dreamed that one day he'd become a great scientist?

Sure, Peter Parker has financial problems, but he's always managed to keep them at bay. Throwing away his studies after having come so far is no answer. Pete has never let his problems get to him like this before, except for those occasions when he's considered giving up his identity as Spider-Man. I just can't see Pete giving up so easily. It seems that his main reason for quitting school is because the second year is more demanding than the first. I don't think Pete would ever give up anything so important as his studies... at least not without first starting his second year and seeing if he could make it.

AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #243 was a good issue... except for one unpleasant action.

John Bush
La Follette, TN 37766

Dear Gang,

I would never have believed that anything could make me like Spider-Man more than I already do. Stories might improve, art might improve, but characterization? Never. How could anyone improve on so well-defined a person as Peter Parker?

Spider-Man, after all, is a real woman's hero: honest, clean, intelligent, caring, romantic... he's even a non-smoker! The clincher was his involvement with photography. So many heroes - although otherwise quite good - are too much the single-minded leaders (i.e. Mr. Fantastic or the Black Panther). His work as a part-time photographer showed how multi-faceted Peter really is.

But to give up graduate school?

That's really heavy. I like it. Even if he eventually returns to school, just to have the option of a life away from academia, of being able to choose his photography over a career in the sciences... well, I'm stunned. Words are too inadequate.

Thelma Spivey
Lexington, KY 40508

Dear Rog and John,

Thanks for the very enjoyable AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #243. The developing plots and subplots have been great over the last few issues.

The scene in which Spider-Man defeated the terrorists in the church was particularly inventive. It showed the same kind of creativity, suspense, intrinsic humor, slickness and hand-clapping heroism which is typical of the movies of Steven Spielberg.

And Peter Parker's reaction - as Spider-Man - when he learned that he'd aced his final was totally accurate... including the leaps and bounds, and the kissing of the professor. As a second-year biology major, currently in the midst of summer research, I can really sympathize with Peter Parker.

Earl Morrison
Dalhousie University
Halifax, Nova Scotia

Dear Roger and John,

I recently read in MARVEL AGE magazine that John Romita, Jr. will soon be penciling the X-MEN. Is this a permanent assignment? And, if so, who will be taking his place? Right now, I couldn't imagine someone else drawing AMAZING SPIDER-MAN.

Dan Porlitas
Culver City, CA 90230

Not to worry, Dan. Yes, the X-MEN is a permanent assignment, but it's one which John is assuming in addition to his attention-getting work on SPIDER-MAN. He's just giving up sleeping.

Dear Marvel,

Until a couple of years ago, I moved along on a flowing stream... never really thinking much, never looking at my options, never deciding anything. When I finished junior college, everyone just assumed that I would continue on. I didn't, and that surprised them. I chose not to continue my education, at least not for the present. The decision was not a popular one with my family, but I held out and won. It was never a win-or-lose decision for me - just as it wasn't a win-or-lose option for Peter Parker in SPIDER-MAN #244 - but it was necessary.

Since then, I've had to make other decisions in regard to my personal life. They weren't easy ones either, but I've survived. But now, Peter's landmark decision has made me contemplate another decision that's been staring me in the face. You see, I'm going to have to temporarily give up comics, so I can concentrate on other areas of my life. What with some of the subscriptions I have, this will be a gradual departure, occurring over the next year or so. But you have given me endless hours of entertainment, excitement, wonder and reflection. In case I don't get another chance, I wanted to say thanks... and where better to say it than in one of the titles which first attracted me to this unique medium.

I'll be back, guys. Honest. It may be a while, but I'll be back... and I'll check in on Peter. Count on it.

Chris Hostetter
Akron, PA 17501

Hang tough, Chris. We'll be waiting. You can count on that!

NEXT ISSUE: Hobgoblin, the Kingpin, Harry Osborn, Peter Parker, J. Jonah Jameson, Liz Allen Osborn, Roderick Kingsley, Mary Jane Watson, George Vandergill, Dr. Maria Madison... all caught up in a web of mystery, extortion and "Secrets!" Some will be revealed in AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #249. Be there, and be enlightened!

Psst! Hey! How did I do? How'd I like this issue? Is Danny gonna be proud of me... or am I in a lot of trouble? If you liked this ish - write in quick! If you didn't... keep it to yourself, just this month, okay? Thanks.

Bob DeNatale

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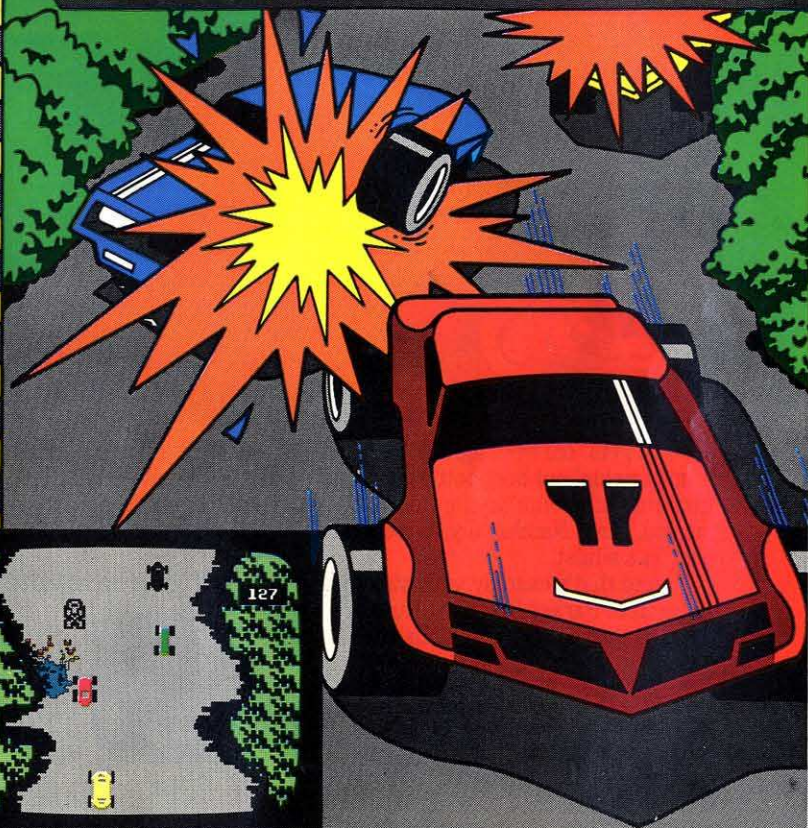
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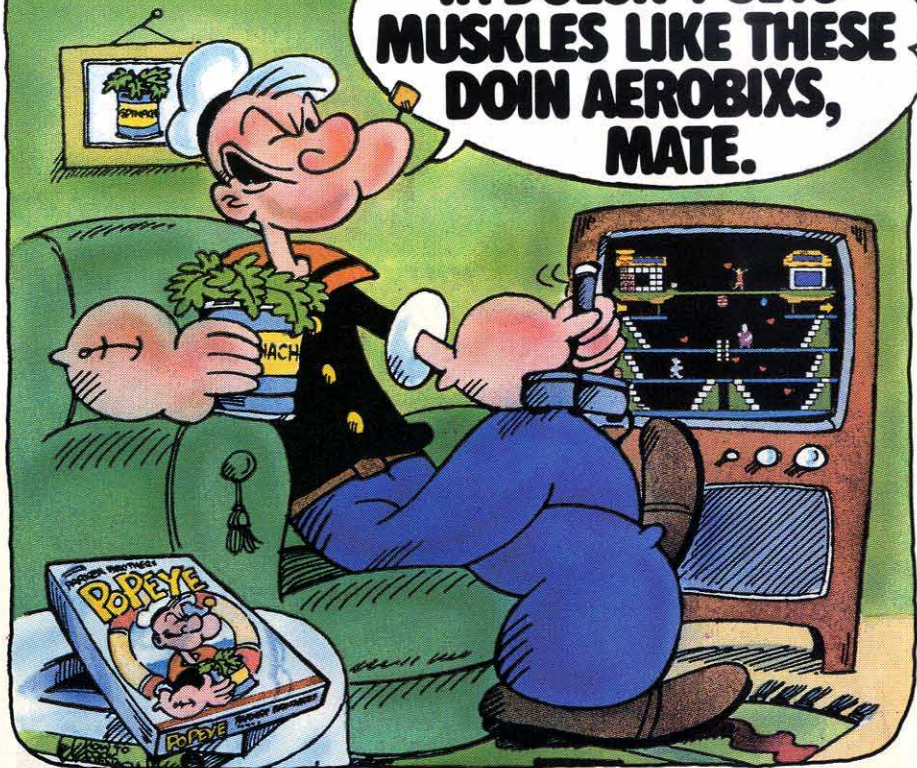
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