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the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN

SPECIAL
NORMAL-SIZED
250TH ISSUE!



BEHOLD THE FACE
OF DEATH! BEHOLD...
HOBGOBLIN!



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MASTERS OF THE UNIVERSE™



Monogram introduces Talon Fighter™ and Attak Trak™ model kits!

Combat the sinister forces of evil with these two Masters of the Universe Vehicles! Authentically molded in two exciting colors, these hobby kits snap together without glue.

Talon Fighter has tail-feather pistol grip that makes wings flap when you squeeze the trigger! It's equipped with rotating gun turret, twin laser cannons and claw-like landing gear.

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Join He-Man™ and help defend the universe with these incredible fantasy vehicles! Each kit is sold separately.



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STAN LEE PRESENTS THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN IN...

CONFESSIONS!

HE'S BEEN BLASTED, GASED, AND BEATEN BY THE MYSTERIOUS HOBGoblin. AND NOW, BEREFT OF HIS WARNING SPIDER-SENSES, SPIDER-MAN SUDDENLY FINDS HIMSELF SURROUNDED BY AN ANGRY MOB--

-- OF MULTI-MILLIONAIRE BUSINESSMEN!

POSSIBLY THE BEST ISSUE OF SPIDER-MAN EVER! WHAT BETTER WAY TO CELEBRATE OUR 250th ISSUE?!

ROGER STERN JOHN ROMITA JR. & KLAUS JANSON JOE ROSEN C. SCHEELÉ DANNY FINGEROTH JIM SHOOTER
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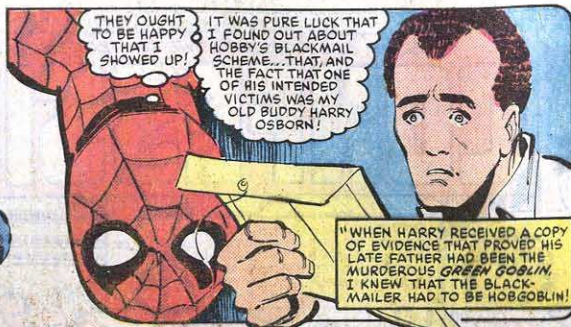
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SHEESH! I TRY TO STOP THE HOBGOBLIN BEFORE HE CAN EXTORT ANY MONEY FROM THESE STUFFED SHIRTS, AND WHAT THANKS DO I GET?



THEY OUGHT TO BE HAPPY THAT I SHOWED UP!

IT WAS PURE LUCK THAT I FOUND OUT ABOUT HOBGOBLIN'S BLACKMAIL SCHEME... THAT AND THE FACT THAT ONE OF HIS INTENDED VICTIMS WAS MY OLD BUDDY HARRY OSBORN!



"WHEN HARRY RECEIVED A COPY OF EVIDENCE THAT PROVED HIS LATE FATHER HAD BEEN THE MURDEROUS GREEN GOBLIN, I KNEW THAT THE BLACKMAILER HAD TO BE HOBGOBLIN!"

"ONLY HE COULD'VE HAD ACCESS TO THE GOBLIN'S OLD JOURNALS, AS PETER PARKER. I CONVINCED HARRY TO LET ME TAG ALONG TO HIS MEETING WITH THE BLACKMAILER AT HIS FATHER'S OLD CLUB."



"BUT I HADN'T SUSPECTED IT WOULD BE A MASS MEETING!"

"EVIDENTLY, HOBGOBLIN HAS SOMETHING ON A DOZEN OR MORE MEMBERS... INCLUDING MY OWN PERSONAL GADFLY, DAILY BUGLE PUBLISHER J. JONAH JAMMSON!"

"I JUST WISH THAT HAD BEEN MY ONLY SURPRISE OF THE DAY! BUT WHEN HOBGOBLIN FINALLY SHOWED HIMSELF AND I BUTTED IN AS SPIDER-MAN, HE HAD A LITTLE GAS-ATTACK PREPARED JUST FOR ME!"



"THE GAS NEUTRALIZED MY DANGER-DETECTING SPIDER-SENSE, AND THEN HE LAID ME OUT GOOD! HE PROBABLY WOULD'VE FINISHED ME OFF--"



"--IF ONE OF THE CLUB MEMBERS HADN'T STOOD UP TO HIM! BOY, I NEVER THOUGHT I'D WIND UP OWING MY LIFE TO THAT MAN... THE KINGPIN!"



"OF COURSE, HE HAD HIS OWN REASONS FOR SAVING MY HIDE!"

YOU'RE HELPING ME? WHY?!

THIS HOBGOBLIN IS A VERY CAPABLE MAN, IN TIME HE MIGHT GROW BOLD ENOUGH TO INTERFERE IN MY OPERATIONS.



I PREFER TO LET YOU APPREHEND HIM. IT'S SIMPLY GOOD BUSINESS.

TALK ABOUT WEIRD...



...THE KINGPIN, ONE OF MY OLDEST ENEMIES, SAVES MY LIFE, AND THESE GUYS, WHO I TRIED TO HELP, WANT MY HEAD!

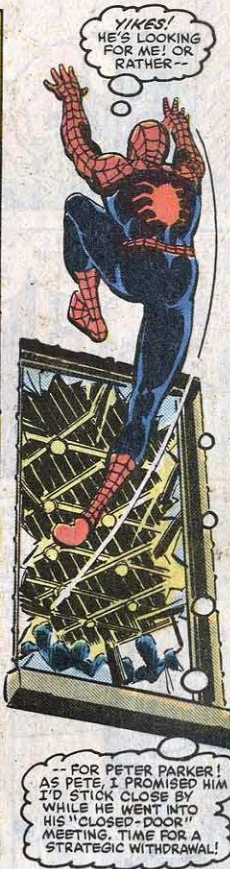
YOU INSUFFERABLE FOOL!

NOW THE HOBGOBLIN WILL PROBABLY DOUBLE HIS DEMANDS UPON US!



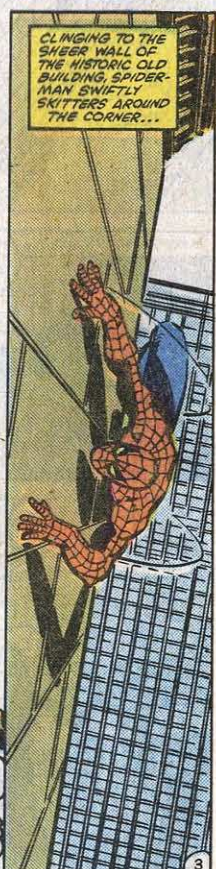
"WILL YA LOOK AT THAT... I WOULD HAVE THOUGHT THAT JAMESON WOULD BE GETTING THE TAR AND FEATHERS READY FOR ME BY NOW, BUT HE AND HARRY SEEM TO BE THE ONLY ONES WHO DON'T WANT TO PLAY ME ALIVE!"

"JJJ KEEPS LOOKING AWAY AS IF HE'S ASHAMED TO FACE ME OR SOMETHING. AND HARRY KEEPS LOOKING AROUND FOR...FOR..."



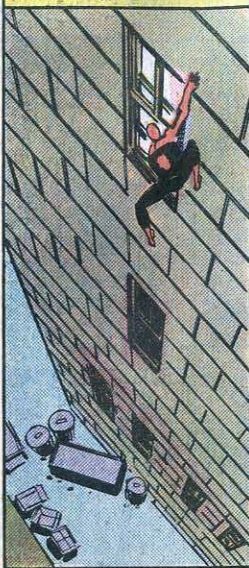
YIKES! HE'S LOOKING FOR ME! OR RATHER--

FOR PETER PARKER! AS PETE, I PROMISED HIM I'D STICK CLOSE BY WHILE HE WENT INTO HIS "CLOSED-DOOR" MEETING. TIME FOR A STRATEGIC WITHDRAWAL!



CLINGING TO THE SHEER WALL OF THE HISTORIC OLD BUILDING, SPIDER-MAN SWIFTLY SKITTERS AROUND THE CORNER...

...SURREPTITIOUSLY RE-ENTERING
THE CLUB VIA A LITTLE-USED
ROOM--



--TO ASSUME ONCE AGAIN HIS PRIVATE IDENTITY.



AH, GOOD! MY CIVVIES ARE
RIGHT WHERE I LEFT 'EM.
WHEN I STILL FEEL A
LITTLE WOZZY AFTER THAT
POUNDING HOBGOBLIN
GAVE ME!



I'D BETTER SHAKE THAT
FEELING AND FAST! I HAVE
TO GET BACK DOWNSTAIRS
AND ASSURE HARRY THAT
I HAVEN'T ABANDONED
HIM!

MERE MOMENTS LATER...



HARRY: HERE I AM! LOOKS
LIKE I MISSED OUT ON THE
EXCITEMENT! SORRY, BUT
NATURE CALLED AND--!

OH, MR. JAMESON
...HI! I'M AFRAID
I DON'T HAVE MY
CAMERA WITH
ME OR--!



THAT'S... JUST AS WELL,
PARKER. I HARDLY NEED
PICTURES TO REMIND ME
WHAT HAPPENED HERE
TODAY.

HUH?

HARRY, WHAT'S
GOING ON HERE?

I CAN'T BELIEVE THAT
JAMESON'S JUST GOING
TO WALK OUT OF HERE...
SURELY NOT BEFORE
THE POLICE GET
HERE!



I DON'T THINK ANY-
ONE WILL BE CALLING
THE POLICE, PETE...

YOU WON'T BELIEVE WHAT LITTLE BILLY MILLER SAW IN THE DARK.



At first, I couldn't believe it. I saw serpents, vampires and scorpions. Even a panther. They were all glowing an eerie green in the dark. Almost as if they came from another planet. Finally, it all came back to me.

The specially customized decals I had put on my Magic Glo Racers™ during the day were slowly becoming phosphorescent by night.

But it wasn't until it got real dark, that the

secrets of my Magic Glo Racers™ came alive. "Banshee" screamed across the panel of a ghostly Firebird. "Panther" growled a warning on the hood of a ghoulish Camaro. When the scorpion appeared, my brother ran out of the room.

No matter which of the six Magic Glo Racers you build, you won't believe your eyes. (And by the way, if you see my brother, tell him it's okay to come home.)



Magic Glo Racers™ **Revell**

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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

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

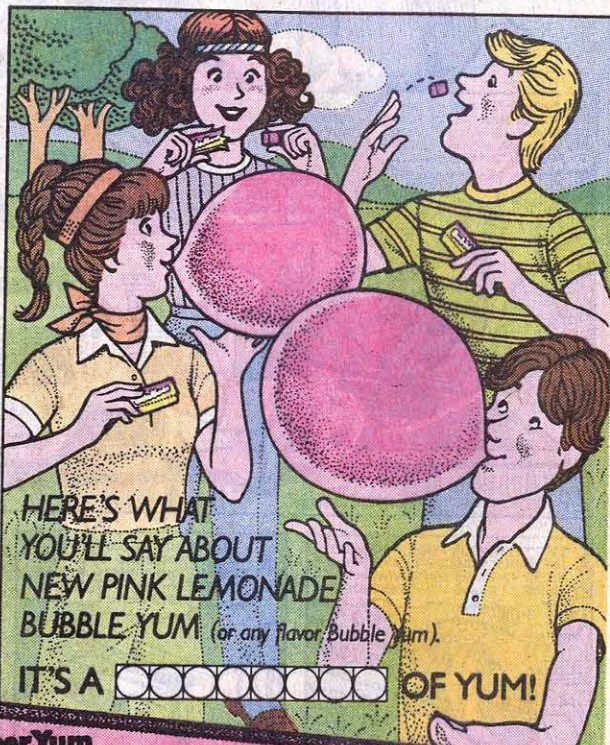
NIPK

--	--	--	--	--

LUBBESB

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

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



© Nabisco Brands, Inc. 1983

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



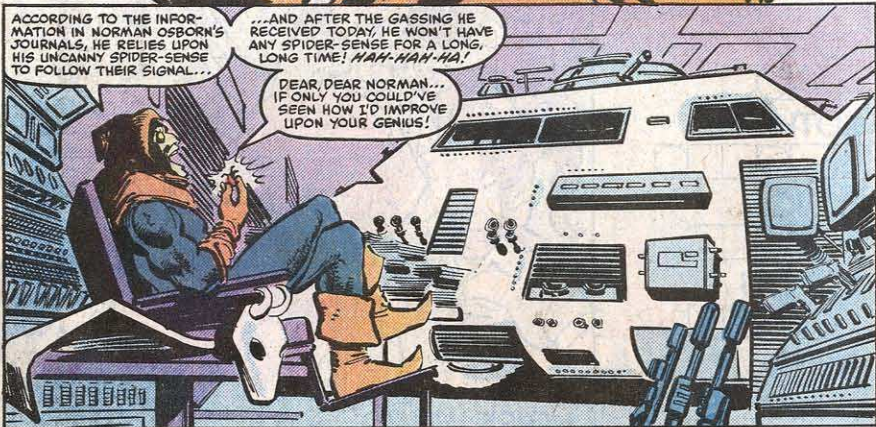
ONE OF SPIDER-MAN'S SELF-ADHERING MICROELECTRONIC TRACER BUGS, IF I'M NOT MISTAKEN!

HOW NICE OF HIM TO GIVE ME ONE! BUT THEN, HE WON'T BE NEEDING THEM ANY MORE!

ACCORDING TO THE INFORMATION IN NORMAN OSBORN'S JOURNALS, HE RELIES UPON HIS UNCANNY SPIDER-SENSE TO FOLLOW THEIR SIGNAL...

...AND AFTER THE GASSING HE RECEIVED TODAY, HE WON'T HAVE ANY SPIDER-SENSE FOR A LONG, LONG TIME! HAH-HAH-HA!

DEAR, DEAR NORMAN... IF ONLY YOU COULD'VE SEEN HOW I'D IMPROVE UPON YOUR GENIUS!



BUT THEN, YOUR POOR, MAD MIND PROBABLY WOULDN'T HAVE RECOGNIZED THEM AS IMPROVEMENTS. SURELY IT WAS YOUR PSYCHOSIS--



--THAT KEPT YOU FROM USING THE DISCOVERIES IN THESE PAPERS AS EFFECTIVELY AS I. AFTER ALL, IT WAS AMID THESE PAGES THAT I FOUND THE FORMULAE FOR INCREASING MY STRENGTH AND USED IT TO MAKE MYSELF EVEN STRONGER THAN YOU HAD BEEN--

--PERHAPS AS STRONG AS SPIDER-MAN--

--AND FOR THE IMPROVED NERVE-DEADENING GAS THAT ROBBED THE MASKED MAN OF HIS EXTRA-SENSORY WARNING SYSTEM.



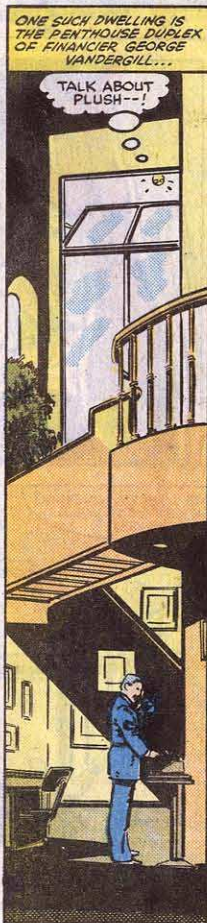
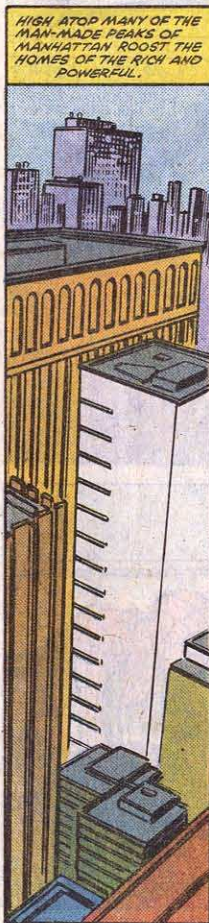
INTERESTING... THE FINAL ENTRY TELLS OF A PLAN OSBORN HAD TO USE THAT GAS AS A TOOL TO EXPOSE SPIDER-MAN'S IDENTITY.*

*SEE ASM #39-40.

I WONDER IF HE SUCCEEDED IN LEARNING THAT SECRET BEFORE HE DIED? WOULD THAT THERE WERE A WAY OF FINDING OUT! THE SECRET OF SPIDER-MAN WOULD BE WORTH MORE THAN ALL OF OSBORN'S OTHER SECRETS COMBINED!









WELL, IF YOU THINK I'M JUST GOING TO STAND STILL FOR YOUR BARGING INTO MY HOME--!

EASY, MR.V! ALL I WANT IS A LITTLE INFORMATION. REMEMBER OUR OTHER LITTLE PLAYMATE, THE HOBGOBLIN? WELL, I'D LIKE TO PUT HIM AWAY FOR A NICE, LONG TIME...

...AND I THINK YOU MIGHT BE ABLE TO HELP ME! LIKE...MAYBE YOU NOTICED SOMETHING ABOUT HIM THAT REMINDED YOU OF SOMEBODY YOU KNOW.

OR MAYBE THE SWORD HE'S HOLDING OVER YOUR HEAD IS A CLUE TO HIS IDENTITY. PLEASE, IF YOU COULD TELL ME SOMETHING...ANYTHING...I MIGHT BE ABLE TO TRACK HIM DOWN.

DON'T BE NAIVE, SPIDER-MAN! I DON'T HAVE ANYTHING TO WORRY ABOUT NOW! HOBGOBLIN DOESN'T HAVE ANY INFORMATION THAT CAN DO ME HARM. I ONLY TOOK PART IN THAT CHARADE THIS AFTERNOON TO FIND OUT WHO WAS INVOLVED!

--GO TALK TO THE OTHERS! THEY'RE WEAK! THEY'LL CRACK IN A MINUTE!

HELLO? VANDERGILL HERE!

YES, SIR, I'M CALLING TO CONFIRM YOUR RESERVATIONS ON FLIGHT 106, NON-STOP TO BIMINI. WILL YOU BE NEEDING A RETURN FLIGHT?



ONCE I FIND HIM, YOU WON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT ANY BLACKMAIL!

AS FOR WHO HE IS, I HAVEN'T A CLUE! NOW GET OUT OF HERE! IF YOU WANT TO FRIGHTEN A CONFESSION OUT OF SOMEBODY--

THANKS FOR NOTHING, MR. EGO!

NO! UH, THAT IS, I'LL BOOK IT WHEN THE TIME COMES.

RRRING



SHORTLY, AT A PALATIAL ESTATE IN THE HAMPTONS...

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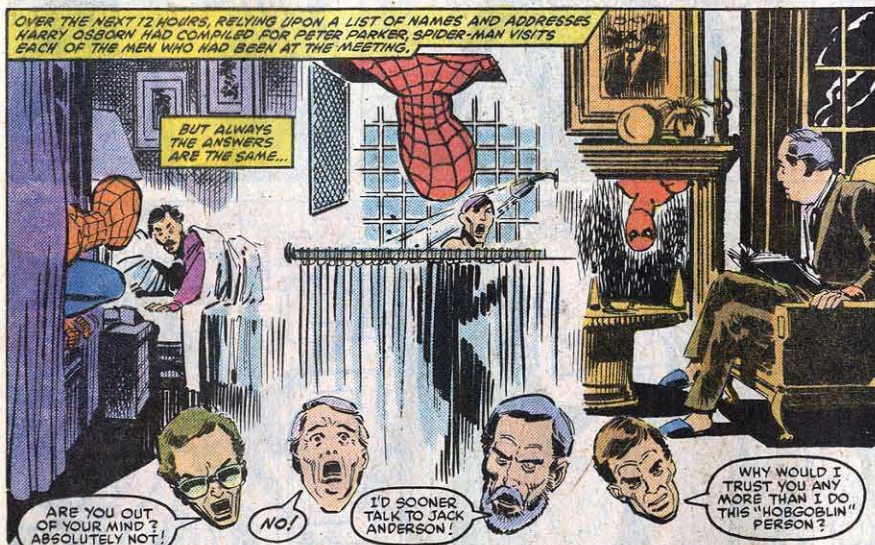
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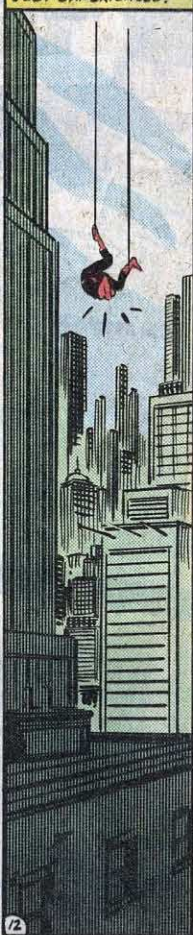


IMAGINE THAT ALL OF YOUR SENSES HAVE BEEN DEADENED... THAT YOU CAN SEE NO LIGHT, THAT EVERY INCH OF SKIN HAS BEEN NUMBED, THAT EVEN THE SOUND OF YOUR OWN HEARTBEAT HAS BEEN DENIED YOU!

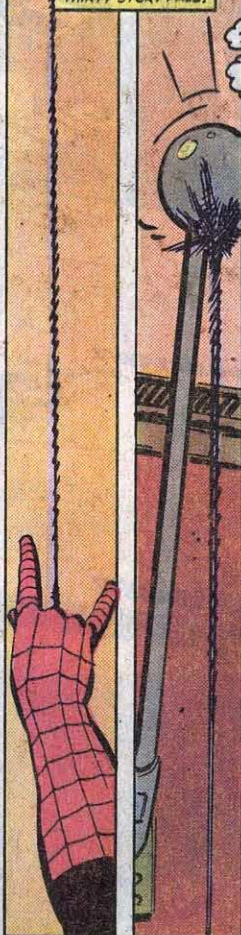


NOW IMAGINE WHAT IT WOULD BE LIKE IF YOUR SENSES SUDDENLY RETURNED, AMPLIFIED A HUNDREDFOLD... JUST AS A BOMB WENT OFF!

IF YOU CAN IMAGINE THAT, THEN YOU MIGHT POSSIBLY HAVE THE SLIGHTEST IDEA OF THE PAIN SPIDER-MAN HAS JUST EXPERIENCED!



ONLY HIS AMAZING REFLEXES AND HIS WEB-SHOOTERS SAVE HIM FROM A THIRTY STORY FALL!



GHAAA!

WHAT... WHAT WAS THAT?!

HAS MY SPIDER-SENSE RETURNED--?

NO... NO, THE OLD FAMILIAR BACK-GROUND BUZZ IS STILL DEADER THAN A DOORNAIL... JUST LIKE I ALMOST WAS.

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I'M NOT SURE HOW HOBGOBLIN'S GAS WORKS, BUT I THINK IT SOMEHOW NUMBS THE CENTRAL NERVOUS SYSTEM... MY SPIDER-SENSE IS STILL THERE, I JUST CAN'T FEEL IT!

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THE ONLY THING I CAN FIGURE IS THAT SOME DANGER... SOME REALLY BIG DANGER FLASHED INTO BEING FOR A SPLIT-SECOND... SOMETHING BIG ENOUGH AND WEIRD ENOUGH--

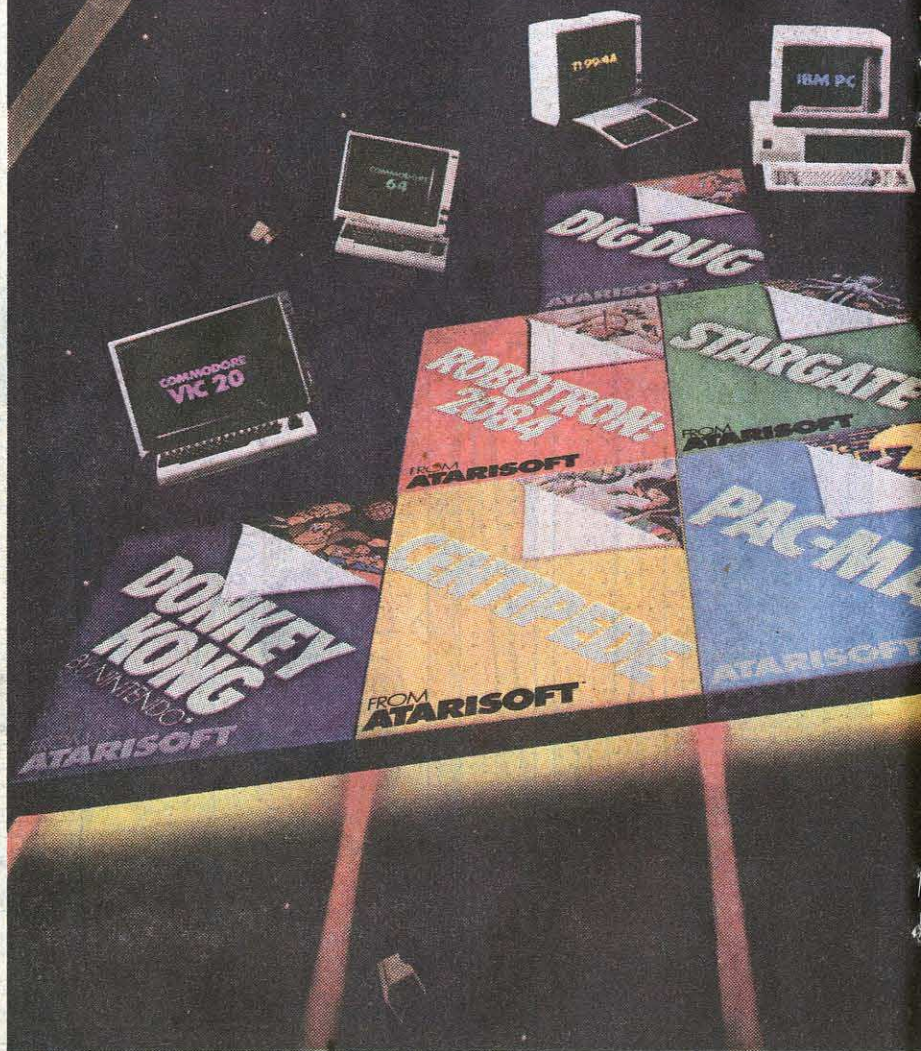
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...

--TO NEARLY TAKE THE TOP OF MY HEAD OFF! BUT WHAT COULD POSSIBLY BE SO HUGE A THREAT THAT I'D STILL FEEL IT THROUGH THE NUMBNESS? AND HOW COULD IT DISAPPEAR SO QUICKLY?!

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ASM 33



MINUTES LATER, THE WORRIED WEB-SLINGER FINALLY ARRIVES AT HIS DESTINATION...



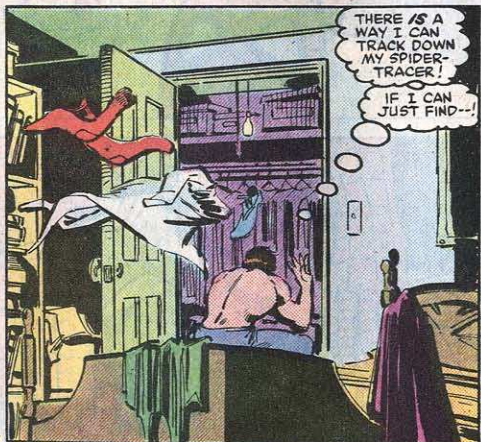
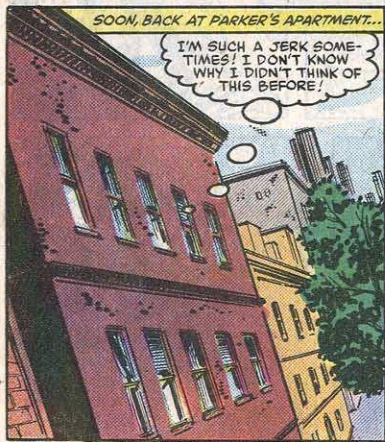
I CREATED THE SCORPION
An Editorial Confession
by
J. JONAH JAMESON

SO THAT'S THE
DIRT HOBGOBLIN
HAD ON YOU!

J. JONAH JAMESON
I met him in the hospital and in the area where
Crimson and the other men were. He was a white man
and he was wearing a white shirt and a white tie.
He was wearing a white shirt and a white tie.
He was wearing a white shirt and a white tie.







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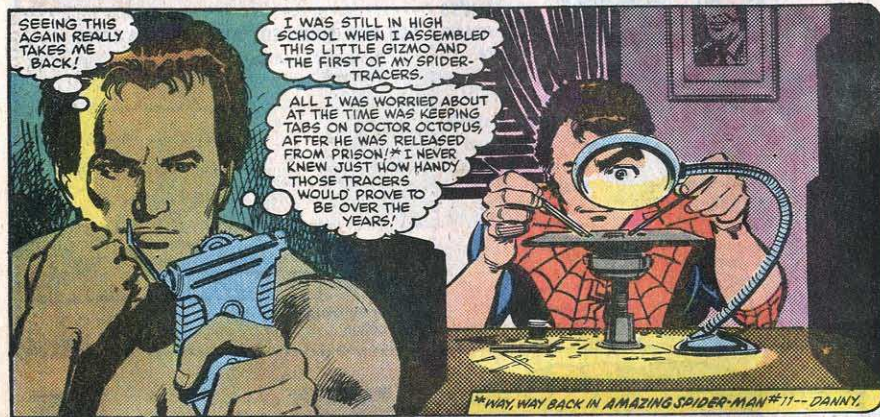
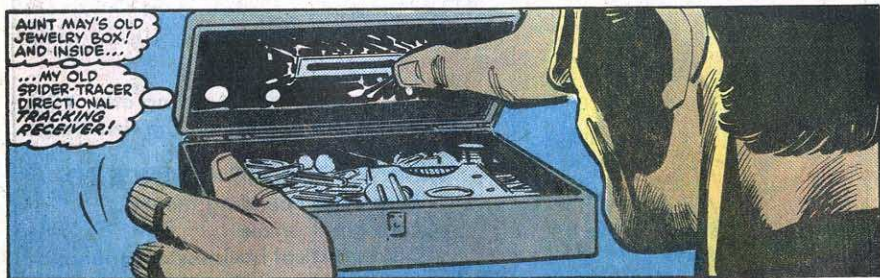
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WAY, WAY BACK IN AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #11-- DANNY.



THE HOBGOBLIN IS NO FOOL, IF HE HASN'T ALREADY FOUND MY TRACER, HE WILL SOON! AND WHEN HE DOES, HE'S BOUND TO MONKEY WITH IT ENOUGH TO MAKE IT INOPERABLE!

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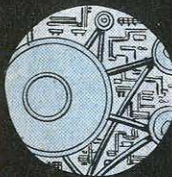
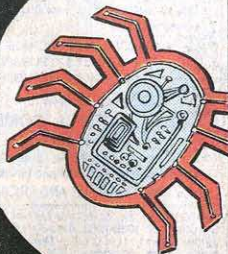
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IN A SQUAT TWO-
STORY BUILDING,
NESTLED IN
THE HEART OF
THE WARE-
HOUSE
DISTRICT--

--THE HOBGOBLIN GLEEFULLY BUSIES HIMSELF,
ANALYZING HIS NEWEST PRIZE.

REMARKABLE!



"THE DESIGN WORK
ON THIS IS BRIL-
LIANT! IF SPIDER-
MAN MADE IT HIM-
SELF, HE MUST BE
NEARLY AS GIFTED
AS NORMAN OSBORN
WAS!"



MAKE THAT
"MORE GIFTED"
BRIGHT EYES!



SPIDER-MAN!

I DON'T
KNOW HOW
YOU FOUND
ME, BUT I
DO KNOW
THIS--

--YOU'LL
NEVER
LEAVE
HERE
ALIVE!!



WAY TO GO, BRIGHT BOY! I THOUGHT MY SPIDER-SIGNAL LAMP MIGHT BE A TEMPTING TARGET!

TOO BAD YOU DIDN'T KNOW IT DETACHES FROM MY BELT!



NOW, WHAT SAY WE RESUME THAT LITTLE GAME WE STARTED THE OTHER DAY?

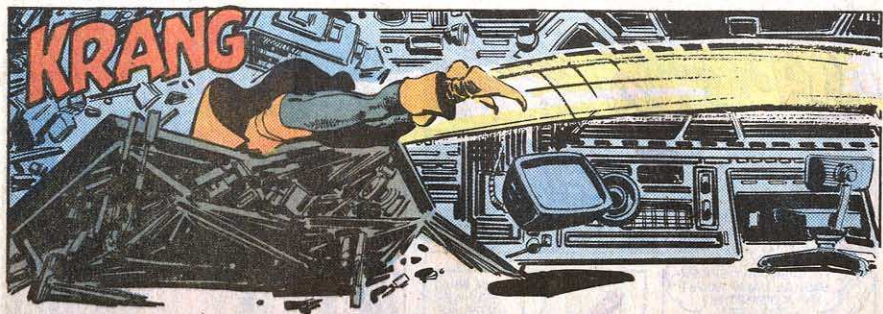


YOU'RE MAD! YOU HAVEN'T A CHANCE WITHOUT YOUR SPIDER-SENSE!



SORRY, PALEFACE! YOU'RE ONLY HALF RIGHT!

MAD I AM! REAL MAD!!





Benzmen Bulletins

SPECIAL

Greetings, faithful ones!

It's the again — two-listed Tom DeFalco, mighty Marvel's very own Executive Editor. My guests today are Mark Gruenwald, Mike Carlin, and Eric R. Brown — those wonderful folks who will be bringing you *THE OFFICIAL HANDBOOK OF THE MARVEL UNIVERSE*. Needless to say, this handbook has been creating quite a stir among fans and pros alike.

TOM: We might as well start at the beginning. Who came up with the idea of doing *The Handbook*?

ELIOT: Things like "Can Spider-Man's webbing conduct electrical impulses?"

MIKE: "How does the Angel fly?"

MARK: "How far can Mr. Fantastic stretch?"

ELIOT: "Can Ben Grimm eat an entire six-foot hero sandwich without belching?"

TOM: Er, yes.

MARK: *The Handbook's* working title was *THE MARVEL SUPER-SPECIFICATIONS HANDBOOK*.

ELIOT: But "specifications" sounds too formal.

MIKE: It made for a bad logo design.

MIKE: Besides, we couldn't find a letterer who knew how to spell it.

MARK: And you know how Jim Shooter reacts every time he hears the word, "super."

MIKE: It's awful.

ELIOT: He must have had a very traumatic experience with that word when he was but a mere slip of a boy.

TOM: Never mind that. I want to learn more about *The Handbook*.

MARK: I appropriated the title, "MARVEL UNIVERSE," from Al Milgrom. It was one of the working titles he originally had for *MARVEL FANFARE*.

ELIOT: And, of course, we called it the "Official" handbook because it was produced by Marvel.

MIKE: It doesn't contain any of the same, old, stupid, ridiculous blunders an outsider would make.

ELIOT: No, since we know the Marvel Universe so intimately, we were able to create NEW stupid, ridiculous blunders for our readers.

MARK: Contrary to what you might have read elsewhere, the She-Hulk's height is NOT six hundred and fifty pounds.

TOM: I suppose you intend to correct those errors.

MARK: Sure, we'll be constantly updating *The Handbook*.

MIKE: ... In a new and different format!

MARK: Our readers have been very helpful, pointing out the mistakes in the first twelve issues of *The Handbook*.

ELIOT: Yes, it's so rewarding to receive a few thousand letters each morning ...

MIKE: ... Which tell you what a jerk you are.

TOM: Who decided which characters would be featured in *The Handbook*?

MARK: I did. As the editor of the project, it was my responsibility to decide which characters received a full page entry, which ones got a half page — who made it to the appendix, and who didn't.

MIKE: He deliberately excluded Devil Dinosaur!

ELIOT: The RAT!

MARK: I came up with a master list of characters who were currently active in the Marvel Universe.

MIKE: How did you receive any complaints?

MARK: Thousands!

ELIOT: Hundreds of tens of thousands!

TOM: I think I'm beginning to get the picture.

MARK: The response was so great that we were forced to publish a thirteenth and fourteenth issue of *The Handbook* which featured dead and inactive characters ... *The Marvel Books Of The Dead!*

TOM: If you had given every character in the Marvel Universe his own full page entry, how many issues of *The Handbook* would you need?

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MARK: The response was so great that we were forced to publish a thirteenth and fourteenth issue of *The Handbook* which featured dead and inactive characters ... *The Marvel Books Of The Dead!*

TOM: If you had given every character in the Marvel Universe his own full page entry, how many issues of *The Handbook* would you need?

MARK: At least fifty.

ELIOT: New characters are appearing every day.

MIKE: We'd never finish!

TOM: I know this project took a lot of work.

MARK: Mike, Eliot and I used to have to camp out in this office for two entire weekends out of every month.

ELIOT: I had to stay more often!

MIKE: But Eliot doesn't count ...

MARK: Except up to ten!

ELIOT: One, two, three.

MIKE: Our motto was, "Long hours — no showers!"

MARK: We used to make food runs at two and six o'clock in the morning.

MIKE: Not many sandwich shops are opened at that hour.

MARK: But we found them all!

ELIOT: And I still have the heartburn to prove it!

MARK: We had a team of writers who did most of the actual research work, but the three of us still had to spend long hours rewriting and correcting the entries ...

In addition to working on the other editorial projects we had ... like the monthly issues of *Iron Man*, *Captain America*, *Thor*, and *The Avengers*.

MIKE: After the editorial work was completed on each entry, it still had to be typeset, photostated and pasted-up by Danny Crespi's production department.

ELIOT: And then, came the proofreading.

TOM: Doesn't sound like you guys had much fun.

MARK: Oh, we had our share of fun.

MIKE: We used to compose songs and limericks featuring whichever character we were currently working on.

MARK: "Orka-Dorca-Doo" was my personal favorite.

TOM: "Orka-Dorca-Doo?"

ELIOT: That song used to produce gales of laughter.

MARK: Of course, it sounded a lot funnier at five o'clock in the morning.

MIKE: Most things do.

TOM: Well, now that you have finished your twelve issues run of *The Official Handbook Of The Marvel Universe*, you two have finished *The Marvel Book Of The Dead* ... and your *Marvel Book Of Weapons* ... what do you have planned next?

MARK: Sleep.

ELIOT: A lot of it.

MIKE: Yeah!

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THE EXPLOSION IS FOLLOWED BY FIRE. IN INSTANTS, THICK, ACRID SMOKE FILLS THE MANHATTAN SKIES!



MR. JAMESON?

SIR?

YOU SENT
FOR A
COPYBOY?

EH? OH...YES.
TELL JOE
ROBERTSON
THERE'S SOME
SORT OF FIRE
IN THE WARE-
HOUSE DISTRICT.

HAVE HIM
SEND A
REPORTER
OVER THERE
RIGHT AWAY.



UH...YES,
SIR. IS
THAT ALL?

NO.



TAKE THIS DOWN
TO COMPOSING.

HAVE THEM
SET IT FOR
PAGE ONE!



NEXT ISSUE: **ENDINGS!**
A CONCLUSION.

THE SPIDER'S WEB

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387 Park Avenue South
New York, New York 10016

DANNY FINGEROTH
EDITOR
BOB DENATALE
ASSISTANT EDITOR

Welcome to the 250th issue of the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN... and to the middle chapter of what we think may well be the Spider-trilogy of the 1980s. (Though, of course, we'll always be trying to top it.)

Some of you may be wondering why ASM #250 isn't a double-sized issue. A few of you may even feel disappointed (while others are no doubt relieved that it only costs 60 cents). Well, shucks, we agree that double-sized issues make for a nice way to celebrate special occasions... but the thing that's first and foremost on our minds when we sit down to plot any issue is to make sure we come up with a good story. And in coming up with this latest Spider-Man/Hobgoblin opus, it soon became obvious that a double-sized issue just wouldn't work out here. In fact, we soon saw that there wasn't enough room even in a double-sized issue to hold all of the story... that's how it grew into three issues.

Just thought you'd like to know!
And now, on with our letters page...

It is very pleasing to see the things that are happening with Web-head. The continuity that all the writers and artists are developing between all three Spider-titles is very exciting. The Hobgoblin storyline is the best to appear in the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN in over four years. Please, please, PLEASE! Do not make the Black Cat Spider-Man's sidekick or partner. What has always made Spider-Man so special is that he works best by himself. He's a loner and he should stay that way!

I have recently finished reading the entry on Spider-Man in issue #10 of THE OFFICIAL HANDBOOK OF THE MARVEL UNIVERSE, and I thought everything was fine except the listing of his weight. I am a bodybuilder and weight training instructor, and I can tell you that there's just no way that Spider-Man could weigh only 165 pounds. Maybe Peter Parker weighed that much before he became Spider-Man, but having gotten older and stronger, he has to weigh more. For his height and build, he has to weigh at least 200 pounds. Please clear this up.

Russ Smith
Parma, OH

Actually, Pete only weighed about 130 when he was first bitten by that radioactive spider. Russ, And, yes, he has put on some weight over the years, but you have to remember that his muscles aren't like those of a typical person.

Dear Roger and John,

It was in 1971, that I wrote my first letter to Marvel Comics... about Spider-Man, of course. I was eleven years old, and my letter went something like: "Wow, SPIDER-MAN is great!"

Now, twelve years later, I'm writing again to say the same thing.

Roger's handling of Spider-Man's characterization and his solid plotting reminds me of the days when Stan Lee was still writing this book. And John's art—I never let these guys get away! Thanks to the both of you for putting the magic back into the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN.

In parting, just let me say that I think that Lance Bannon is the Hobgoblin. Am I right?

Paul Olivier
Fishkill, NY

Who knows, Paul? Maybe we'll find out next issue. Maybe.

Dear Roger, John, and Tom:

You're all doing a spectacular job on AMAZING SPIDER-MAN. Roger's scripts continue to provide the best storytelling around and, under the expert DeFalco editorial touch, he gives the readers a solid link with all the other Spider-titles. And, of course, John Romita Jr.'s art continues to amaze and delight. If you can continue to provide this high quality of story and art, you'll always have a bestseller.

As for issue #245, the gym bag Jameson was carrying on page eight could be a clue that JJJ is the Hobgoblin. He could have

been toting the costume inside. One question, though... why didn't you ever show Lefty Donovan's face anywhere in the story? Spider-Man saw it, so why hide it from the readers?

Carl Fornaris
Miami, FL

Why not, Carl?

Dear Marvel Folk,

All right, you fiends, enough is enough! As per the examples of his editorial columns in MARVEL AGE magazine, Tom DeFalco is keeping with his own twisted style vis-a-vis the secret of Hobgoblin's identity. But, darn it all, why did he have to corrupt writer Roger Stern?

I mean, it's twisted Tom's style to keep the audience guessing, crying, sobbing, and going absolutely crazy over the mysteries in his books. But now, he's changed poor Roger, as well. Hanging around with Tom was too much for you, eh, Rog?

How did Tom do it? Bribery? Brainwashing? Hypnotism?

Oh, well, it keeps us guessing and pays the local shrink's bills!

You're driving me crazy. Keep it up, I love it!

Logan DeAngelis
New Milford, NJ

That's strange, Logan. Just the other day, Rog was claiming that he was the one who corrupted Tom! And, by the way, you really can't blame Tom for keeping the secrecy lid on Hobgoblin's identity. Tom still doesn't know who Hobgoblin is! Neither do Bob and I... and, yes, it's driving us crazy, too!

Dear People,

It is plain as day that the Hobgoblin is Spider-Man's evil side, separated from his body as a result of a delayed mutation, caused by the bite of that radioactive spider. I mean, who are you trying to kid?

Paul Yelovich
Staten Island, NY

I think the Hobgoblin is Wilbur Day—the Stilt-Man!

Sam Lawvere
Unityville, PA

Hobgoblin is either Ned Leeds or Mysterio. Ferny Ruiz
North Arlington, NJ

I believe that District Attorney Blake Tower is the guilty party.

John Garner
Anaheim, CA

Personally, I think Hobgoblin looks a lot like AVENGERS editor Mark Gruenwald. (Oh, you guys are talking about under the mask!)

NEXT ISSUE: "Endings!"
Nuff said.

Danny Fingeroth

Dear Roger and John,

The new cover format on AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #245 really makes the cover look thousands of times better. And, of course, J.R.'s artwork was brilliant. The story also seemed much better than the previous ones, although the former weren't bad by any means. This one just seemed more cohesive, as Spider-Man really got on the trail of the Hobgoblin, rather than just thinking about it as a sidebar to his romance with the Black Cat. Lefty Donovan obviously wasn't the Hobgoblin, but the ending was unexpected nonetheless. How do I know? We already know that the Hobgoblin's identity won't be revealed until issue #250!

Joe Solitto
Revere, MA

The Hobgoblin's identity will be revealed in issue #250? Who ever said that?

Dear Rog and John,

Boy, you guys really had me going in issue #245! I thought that Spider-Man had the Hobgoblin in his grasp that time!

The story was great and the art was excellent. I'm eagerly awaiting issue #250, but please don't wait until then to give away Hobgoblin's identity.

By the way, is the Hobgoblin a member of the Secret Empire? In CAPTAIN AMERICA #285, when the Porcupine contacted the Secret Empire, the face on the screen looked very much like the Hobgoblin's. Just a guess.

Raymond Riley
Tucson, AZ

Secret Empire, Ray? Gee, beats me! Maybe they just have the same tailor!

Dear Guys,

I am one of the biggest, if not the biggest SPIDER-MAN fan around. I've been with the wall-crawler from the very beginning, sharing with him all of the changes, triumphs, and tragedies.

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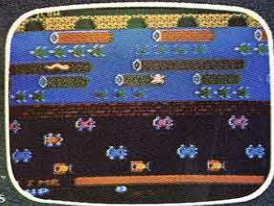
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