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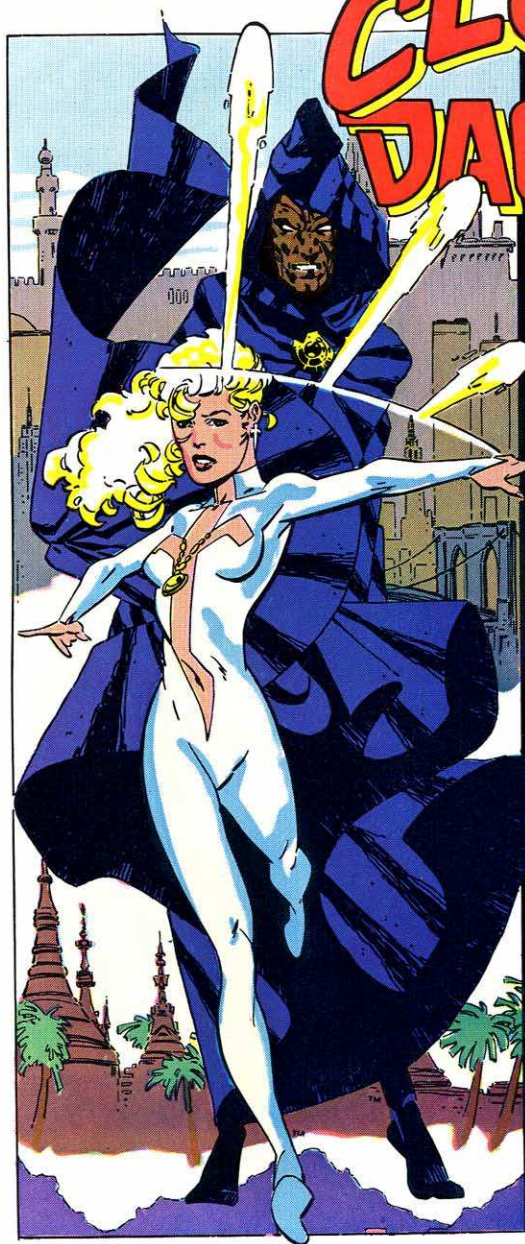
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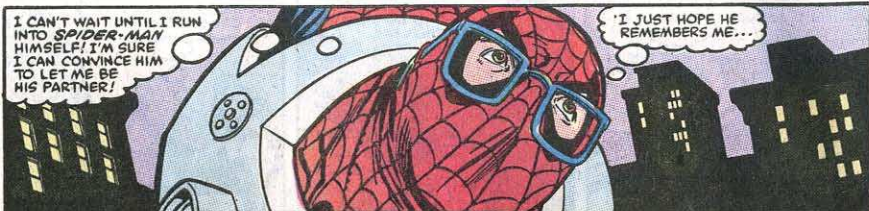
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I CAN'T WAIT UNTIL I RUN INTO SPIDER-MAN HIMSELF! I'M SURE I CAN CONVINCE HIM TO LET ME BE HIS PARTNER!

I JUST HOPE HE REMEMBERS ME...

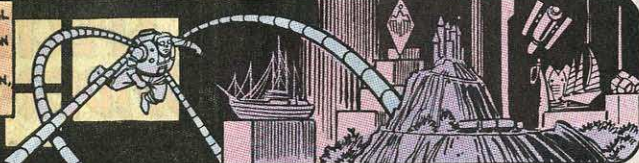
"THE LAST TIME WE MET I WAS JUST PLAIN, OLD OLLIE OSNICK--A DUMB KID WHO RAN A SUPER VILLAIN FAN CLUB!"

"MY IDOL WAS DOCTOR OCTOPUS. I USED TO SPEND ALL MY FREE TIME READING ABOUT HIM. I EVEN DESIGNED A SET OF TENTACLES THAT REALLY WORKED!"

SEE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #72--DANNY



"I WANTED TO BE A CRIMINAL GENIUS JUST LIKE DOC OCK, SO I BEGAN MY OWN ONE-MAN CRIME WAVE! I BROKE INTO A VARIETY STORE AND RIPPED OFF SOME COMIC BOOKS. THEN, I HEADED FOR THE LARGEST TOY STORE IN TOWN..."



"THAT'S WHERE SPIDER-MAN FOUND ME! IN THE DARKENED STORE HE THOUGHT I WAS THE REAL DOCTOR OCTOPUS. HE CHASED ME AROUND UNTIL WE BOTH ENDED UP IN THE STORE'S GIANT SWIMMING POOL DISPLAY."



"LUCKILY, HE SAVED ME BEFORE I COULD DROWN!"

FACE IT, KID! AS A SUPER VILLAIN, YOU'RE A BUST!



"HE WAS RIGHT, OF COURSE! I WAS ALWAYS DESTINED TO BE A SUPER HERO!"

"I TRIED TO SYNTHESIZE MY OWN WEB-FLUID, BUT WHEN THAT DIDN'T WORK, I SETTLED FOR MODIFYING MY OCTOPUS TENTACLES INTO SPIDERLIKE ARMS..."



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WOULD BE SO
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--AFTER A RATHER UNSUCCESSFUL ASSAULT ON THE HEADQUARTERS OF THE KINGPIN OF CRIME! *

* SEE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #99 FOR DETAILS -- DANNY

CHEER UP, LOVER! THE NIGHT WASN'T A TOTAL WASTE!



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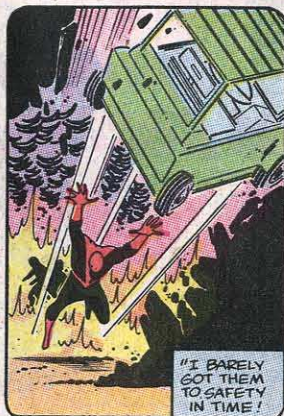
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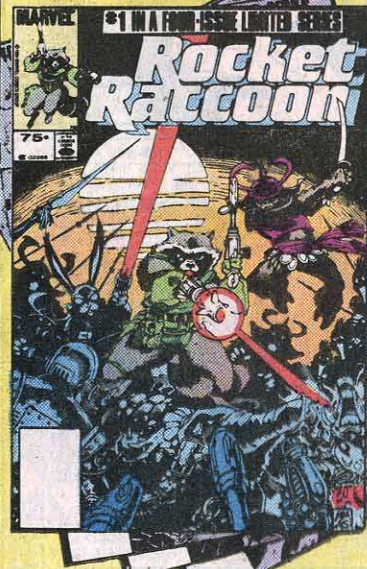
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IS DOING TODAY?

I'M SORRY, BUT I'M NOT PERMITTED
TO RELEASE THAT KIND OF INFOR-
MATION. YOU'LL HAVE TO SPEAK
TO HER DOCTOR.

SHALL I TRY
TO PAGE HIM
FOR YOU?

THAT WON'T BE
NECESSARY.



I SEE HER
HUSBAND NOW.

HOW ARE YOU
HOLDING UP,
HARRY?

ANY WORD
ON LIZ
AND THE
BABY?

N-NOT YET, PETER.
THE DOCTOR'S IN
WITH HER NOW.



THERE
SEEM TO BE...
COMPLICATIONS.

WHAT KIND OF
COMPLICATIONS?

MR. OSBORN!
MAY I SPEAK
WITH YOU?



YOUR WIFE APPEARS
TO HAVE FINALLY
GONE INTO LABOR.

WILL
LIZ... AND
THE BABY...
BE ALL
RIGHT?

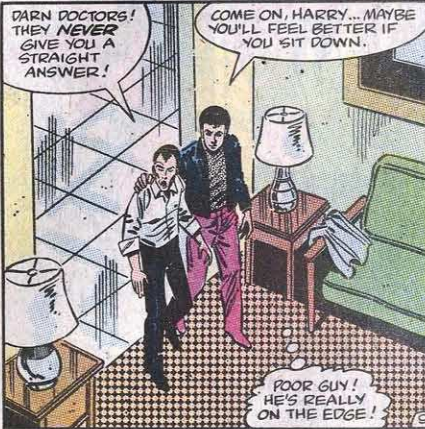
WE'LL DO OUR BEST FOR THEM.
AS YOU KNOW, MRS. OSBORN WAS
SUFFERING FROM SEVERE TRAUMA
WHEN SHE WAS FIRST
ADMITTED.



IT'S STILL
TOO EARLY TO
JUDGE WHETHER THIS
WILL ADVERSELY AFFECT
THE BIRTHING PROCESS!

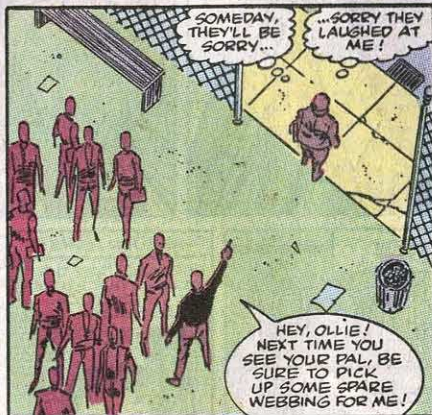
DARN DOCTORS!
THEY NEVER
GIVE YOU A
STRAIGHT
ANSWER!

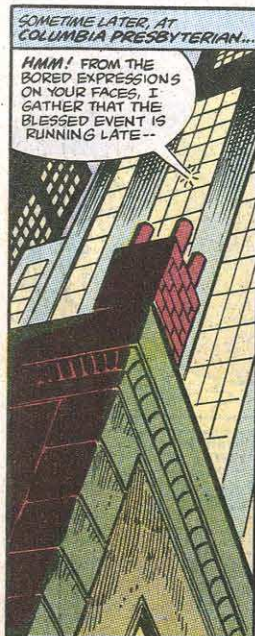
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YOU'LL FEEL BETTER IF
YOU SIT DOWN.



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
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
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
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
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Ask for Edith



She or another CAPTAIN "O" operator is waiting to rush your name, address and ZIP CODE to us.

*PLEASE... operators can take name and address only... CANNOT answer questions.





POWER PACK

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Marvel Comics and the National Committee for
Prevention of Child Abuse

AND the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN®

WITH TIPS ON WAYS TO PREVENT SEXUAL ABUSE

YOUR
BODY
BELONGS
TO YOU,
AND YOU
HAVE A
RIGHT TO
DECIDE HOW
AND WHEN
ANYONE
TOUCHES
YOU!

IF SOMEBODY
TRIES TO TOUCH YOU
IN WAYS THAT DON'T
FEEL GOOD OR SEEM
RIGHT, SAY NO!

YEAH! AND
BE SURE TO
TELL
SOMEBODY,
TOO!

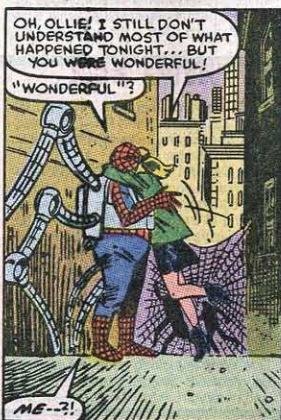
AND, DON'T FORGET, IF
THE FIRST PERSON YOU TELL
DOESN'T BELIEVE YOU, KEEP
TELLING UNTIL YOU FIND
SOMEONE WHO DOES!

AND REMEMBER,
IF THIS HAPPENS, IT'S
NOT YOUR
FAULT!

For a special edition Marvel / NCPA comic
book about sexual abuse prevention, send
\$1.00 (or more if you can afford it - your
donations help defray the costs of NCPA's
public awareness programs) to: Spider-Man
& Power Pack, NCPA, P.O. Box 94283, Dept.
MCG, Chicago, IL 60690.

TM

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Bullpen Bulletins

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

The year Nineteen Hundred and Eighty-Four was the most successful year in Marvel's glorious history — the latest in a string of six record years in succession. Not too bad, huh? It's still the Marvel Age . . . and we're gaining speed! We work hard around here trying to deserve your support . . . and we really appreciate it. Thanks a lot, from all of us.

HOW DO YOU FOLLOW AN ACT LIKE THAT?

I'm so glad you asked. What we've got for 1985 is something to see. For instance, **SECRET WARS II**. That's right — the most successful comics series in a quarter century is going to have a sequel, written by me, penciled by Sal Buscema, and inked by Steve Lialoha. It will be a nine-issue limited series, the first issue of which will be on sale in April. It'll feature every single Marvel hero and the story told in

Secret Wars II will cross over into every single Marvel Universe title! It's going to make history. Watch for it.

There are many more nifty things coming of course. Watch the hype box!

AND NOW, CONTINUING MY PROUD TRADITION . . .

Once again, I will not present you with a list of New Year's Resolutions. I, frankly, usually find other people's resolutions cliché and tiresome. I'll bet you do, too.

OH, AND BY THE WAY . . .

If you live near New York, or if you're ever visiting here, be sure to stop and see the **BARKING DOG MUSEUM**. It's small — basically just the storefront window of 46 Grand Street in Manhattan's colorful Soho district — but worth a look. It features the surrealist-inspired, mixed-media assemblages of one Richard Parker, visual artist and . . . strange person. If the name sounds

familiar, it's because Rick also letters some of your favorite Marvel titles — which isn't why I'm plugging his showplace. The fact is, I think Rick's work is *fantastic*. Years from now, when he's garnered the acclaim from the art world that he's sure to get, I'll be proudly pointing out to everyone that I knew it all along!

We were all greatly saddened to learn of the death of Don Newton last August 19. He was an excellent artist and a fine man.

The comics business, and the world, also lost Phil Seuling during 1984. Phil was the comics distributor who virtually singlehandedly created the direct sales distribution system. We all owe him a lot. He was a wonderful man, and we'll miss him.

Best,

Jim Shooter
Jim Shooter
Editor in Chief

STAR COMICS — It's the birth of a whole new line of comics, and you're all invited to celebrate! Join the stars — **PLANET TERRY**, **WALLY THE WIZARD**, **TOP DOG**, **HEATHCLIFF**, **STRAWBERRY SHORTCAKE**, and the **Fraggles of FRAGGLE ROCK** — in the fun-filled first issues of their own comic books! Laughs, adventure, jokes, intrigue — they're all here in each Star Comic! If you want a rollicking good time, don't miss a single Star! On sale now wherever you buy Marvel Comics! **MARVEL SUPER HEROES SECRET WARS #12** — This is it, the dynamic conclusion to the most spectacular war ever presented in the history of comics! You've been witnessing the alliances, seeing the battles, and watching the mystery grow for a full year. Now, at last, you will find out the awesome secret of

HYPE BOX

the Beyonder! Join **JIM SHOOTER**, **MIKE ZECK** and **JOHN BEATTY** in this universe-shaking, double-sized final issue extravaganza!

WEB OF SPIDER-MAN #1 — Spidey's adventures continue in this, his brand-new comic title! Or are his adventures coming to a frightening finish when he faces the threat of his deadly Black Costume? Don't miss "Till Death Do Us Part," by **LOUISE SIMONSON**, **GREG LAROCQUE** and **JIM MOONEY**!

ROM #65 — It's been building up for over five years, and now it's coming to a mind-numbing conclusion! That's right, it's the end of the *Wrath War*, with the Dire Wraiths making an all-out assault on mankind! Standing between them and victory are **Rom**, the **Avengers**, the

Defenders, and the **X-Men**! (But where are the **Fantastic Four**? Find out in **FF #277**!) Story by **BILL MANTLO**! Art by **STEVE DITKO** and **P. CRAIG RUSSELL**!

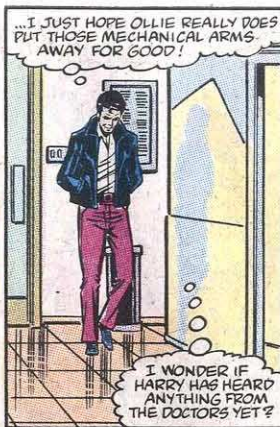
THE OFFICIAL MARVEL INDEX TO THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #1 — This premiere issue gives you the complete lowdown on what happened in the first 29 issues of **THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN**! Included are full-color cover reproductions, complete creator credits and major character appearances for each issue, and a synopsis of every story! Compiler **GEORGE OL-SHEVSKY** brings you a mountain of information in a clear, concise style! And this is only the beginning! No true Spider-Fan can afford to miss this one — look for the **JOHN BYRNE** cover in comics shops everywhere!

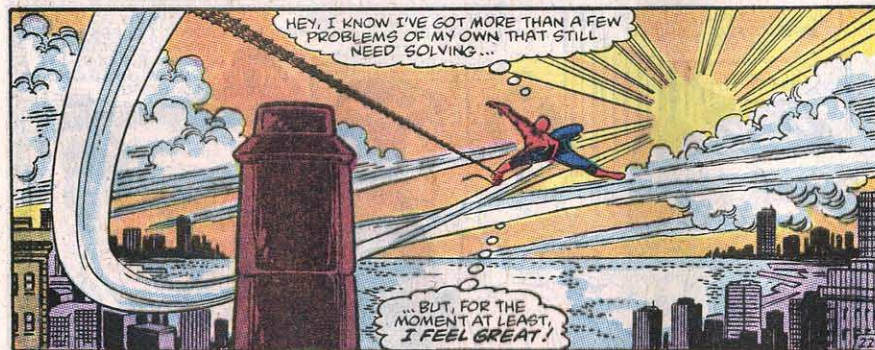
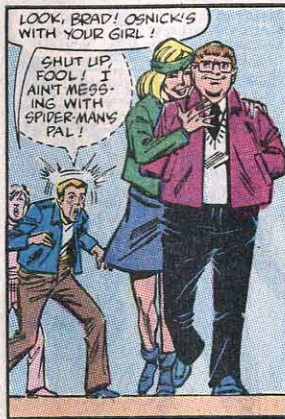
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- STAR COMICS**
- ☐ **PLANET TERRY #1** — Join Terry and his friends as they search the galaxy for Terry's parents!
 - ☐ **FRAGGLE ROCK #1** — The stars of television become the stars of their own comic book! The fun never stops at Fraggie Rock!
 - ☐ **STRAWBERRY SHORTCAKE #1** — Fun and surprises await you with Strawberry Shortcake and her friends! Introducing Strawberry's nemesis, Raisin Cane!
 - ☐ **WALLY THE WIZARD #1** — Wally's finding out that it's not easy being an apprentice wizard — so many things can go wrong!
 - ☐ **TOP DOG #1** — Not only can Top Dog talk, but he also leads a secret life! Find out more in this first issue!
 - ☐ **HEATHCLIFF #1** — That world-famous cat is getting his own comic book, and the laughs are just beginning!
- THE MIGHTY MARVEL CHECKLIST**
- ☐ **THE THING #22**
 - ☐ **DAREDEVIL #217**
 - ☐ **NEW MUTANTS #28**
 - ☐ **WEB OF SPIDER-MAN #1** — A new monthly comic featuring your favorite web-slinger! See Hype Box.
 - ☐ **RED SONJA #8**
 - ☐ **ICEMAN (Limited Series) #3**

- ☐ **BEAUTY AND THE BEAST (Limited Series) #3**
- ☐ **MARVEL SUPER HEROES SECRET WARS (Limited Series) #12** — The end of the war to end all wars! See Hype Box!
- ☐ **AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #263** — Featuring the Amazing Spider-Kid!
- ☐ **CAPTAIN AMERICA #304** — The shattering climax! Don't miss it!
- ☐ **INDIANA JONES #28**
- ☐ **POWER PACK #9**
- ☐ **MICRONAUTS #7**
- ☐ **ALPHA FLIGHT #21**
- ☐ **DR. STRANGE #70**
- ☐ **DUNE (Limited Series) #1** — The Marvel adaptation of the hit science fiction movie, by **RALPH MACCHIO** and **BILL SIENKIEWICZ**.
- ☐ **INCREDIBLE HULK #306**
- ☐ **AVENGERS #254** — "Absolute Vision!" It's absolutely the end!
- ☐ **CONAN THE BARBARIAN #169**
- ☐ **MARVEL TALES #174** — Reprinting "The Moltan Man Regrets . . . I," by **STAN LEE** and **STEVE DITKO**, from *Amazing Spider-Man* #35.
- ☐ **X-MEN #192**
- ☐ **ROM #65** — The issue you've been waiting for! See Hype Box!
- ☐ **POWER MAN / IRON FIST #118**
- ☐ **KULL THE CONQUEROR #9**

- ☐ **G.I. JOE #34**
 - ☐ **FANTASTIC FOUR #276** — Featuring two separate stories at the same time together! Wow!
 - ☐ **IRON MAN #193** — Guest-starring the West Coast Avengers!
 - ☐ **PETER PARKER, THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #101**
 - ☐ **DEFENDERS #142**
 - ☐ **STAR WARS #84**
 - ☐ **THOR #354**
 - ☐ **KITTY PRYDE AND WOLVERINE (Limited Series) #6**
 - ☐ **2010 (Limited Series) #1** — The space odyssey continues in this official Marvel adaptation of the most eagerly awaited movie sequel of all!
 - ☐ **THE OFFICIAL MARVEL INDEX TO THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #1** — The complete guide to Spidey's spectacular career! See Hype Box.
 - ☐ **DR. WHO #7**
- MARVEL MAGAZINES**
- ☐ **SAVAGE SWORD OF CONAN #110**
 - ☐ **MARVEL AGE #25**
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- ☐ **GROO THE WANDERER #2**
 - ☐ **DREADSTAR #17**
 - ☐ **ALIEN LEGION #6**
 - ☐ **SISTERHOOD OF STEEL #2**
 - ☐ **TIME SPIRITS #3**





NEXT ISSUE:

SHE'S DARING! SHE'S DIFFERENT!
AND, SHE'S DEADLY! DON'T MISS
THE FIRST APPEARANCE OF...

"SILVER SABLE!"

Attention correspondents: If you don't want your full address printed, please be sure to tell us so!

Dear Danny,

RE: Amazing Spider-Man #259 —
EXCELLENT.

Domingos Fonseca
98 Pacific St.
Newark, NJ 07105

but maybe in ten more years...!

Thank you for ten wonderful years. And perhaps, with Tom and Ron building up a good head of steam, the best really is yet to come. Hang in there!

PMM David Allen
469 Weston Hall
University of Illinois
Champaign, IL 61820

And thank you, David, for your heartfelt and articulate letter. We couldn't agree with you more.

Dear Tom, Ron, Danny and Company,

I own every issue of Amazing Spider-Man ever printed, and I consider myself among his most devoted fans. Within the last few years, however, it seemed as if every time a talented writer or artist would come to Spider-Man, they would soon be assigned to another book because Spider-Man sells well no matter what. I thought this trend would continue when John Romita Jr. left in order to work on the X-Men.

I'm happy to say, however, that you couldn't have gotten a better replacement than Ron Frenz. Not since the days of Steve Ditko has Spidey resembled the movement, looks and style of his namesake, the Spider. I have very much enjoyed the first 258 issues of "Amazing," and I, for one, intend to stick around for the next 258 or more.

Brad Damron
349 7th Ave. W.
Huntington, WV 25701

We here at Marvel are every bit as enthused as you are over Ron Frenz' work. His stuff just keeps getting better and better. And if you like his work so far, stick around, because we've got a feeling that Ron's just getting warmed up.

Meanwhile, the debate over what the well-dressed Spider-Man is wearing this year is still raging hot 'n' heavy. Here's a random sampling from the incredible deluge of mail we've been getting:

Dear Webslingers,

Yeah! The original is back! The better is back! I've been reading Spider-Man for years, and when I saw the new costume, I almost cried. But #258 and #259 were spectacular! I never cheered so hard. Thanks a lot, guys!

Brian Palmateer
(No address given)
Capac, MI

Dear Spider-Writers,

My sense of nostalgia for Spidey's old duds lasted about 3.6 seconds. I think his new costume is wild and sexy. Keep up the fantastic work, gang!

T. Selby
1140 Idylberry Rd.
San Rafael, CA 94903

Dear sirs,

I've just read AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #258, and I feel compelled to write in defense of Spidey's new suit. I would like old web-head to work out some sort of deal with the thing and here's why:

1. It's easy to draw.
2. It never runs out of webs.
3. It's easy to draw.
4. Quick change ability.

5. It's easy to draw.

6. Gives Spidey added speed and strength.

7. It's easy to draw.

Obviously, it has benefits for all involved! Either way, Marvel Comics is tops, and your Spider-Man titles are the very best of all. Keep up the good work!

Mike Kulindersma
Coalition to save
Spidey's new suit.
U of Waterloo
Ontario, Canada

Dear Danny,

Mary Jane's story in Spider-Man #259 was what comics should be — dealing with questions that confront young people. Being of Mary Jane and Peter's age group, I know it becomes hard when two people care for each other, but marriage would be very difficult before they have finished their educations. I can't think of a single person of college age that has not dealt with this problem in some way — whether in truth or thinking "what if" about the future. What you did help a lot of young people to think more closely about their futures realistically. I know it did me.

Thanks very much. This story touched me like nothing has for some time. I'm going to take it easy before I consider marriage.

W. Gregg Stamey, Jr.
21 Hampton Hgts.
Canton, NC 28716

Dear Danny and Bob,

This letter isn't about the newest issue of Spidey... at least, not directly. What it is, is a reminiscence. You see, exactly ten years ago — August of 1974 — I bought my first issue of AMAZING SPIDER-MAN, #138 to be exact. In retrospect, "Madness means..." The Mindworm! has got to be one of the silliest stories you've ever done, but schlocky as the mid-seventies Spidey could be, the basic charm of Peter Parker/Spider-Man was enough to make this my favorite comic.

Gradually, I worked my way back through the SPIDER-MAN issues, discovering John Romita first, then Steve Ditko. Once I unearthed Spidey's real roots in those Ditko stories, the current issues, while still enjoyable, showed just how far astray the new creator's conception of Spider-Man was from the Ditko / Lee version.

Which leads me to the present, and the current team of Tom DeFalco and Ron Frenz. These men know what Spidey is all about, and it shows! Tom's writing has the verve and high-strung emotionality of Stan's classic scripting, and as far as the art goes, Ron just may be doing the best work since Steve left; Peter Parker has dropped the V-shaped back and fashion plate looks and gone back to being a thin, gawky, short-haired Everychick the way God (and Ditko) intended him. By using the past as a springboard for the present, Tom and Ron are doing quite possibly the best Spider-Man work since Ditko left.

The last couple of months, I've been writing LOC's to a few select titles and creators that turned me on to comics ten long years ago. But AMAZING SPIDER-MAN is still my favorite, and Peter / Spidey continues to inspire me. After reading that first issue, I thought, "Someday, I want to write SPIDER-MAN." Of course, I was only ten at the time, and I certainly haven't made much progress toward writing it since then,

Dear Sirs,

I feel sorry for Spider-Man's new costume. It hasn't done anything wrong. If anything, he's the one to blame. He puts it through its paces, tells it what to do, possibly injures it — isn't it entitled to some relaxation? And after all it's done for him, he tries (in his opinion, anyway) to get rid of it. Right now, I wouldn't blame it if it hurt someone. Poor thing.

Margaret A. Juergensmeyer
401 Hazel Drive
Elgin, IL 60120

Then again...

Hi, folks. I just wanted to take a moment to say goodbye and hello. As those of you who read the Bullpen Bulletins already know, I've decided to take the plunge after to these many years on staff here at Marvel and give up my editorial duties to become a full-time writer — exclusively for Marvel, of course. Fear not for the fate of the Spider-Man titles, though. Even as we speak, wonder-kid Jim Owsley, formerly Larry Hama's assistant, is starting to ease his way into the Spideitorial chair. Together with his new assistant, artist Keith Williams, I'm confident that Jim will produce some awesome Spider-stories. Which is where the "hello" part comes in —

— because one of my regular writing assignments will be WEB OF SPIDER-MAN, starting with issue #41. And if you think I'm not excited about it — yeah, I didn't think you thought that! Jim and I have some stuff planned for the mag which is gonna thrill and delight you. Check it out.

And if anybody's wondering what happened to my assistant, Bob DeNatale, during all these goings on, Bob has also decided to forego the nine-to-five crush of Manhattan — for the elysian fields of Brooklyn, where he'll be splitting his time between scribbling some tales for ye House of Ideas and beating the meanest set of skins (that's drums to you squares) in the whole blamed borough!

Anyway, my thanks to everyone I've worked with here, and to all you folks who've read the mags I've assistant edited or edited over the years. It's been a blast, and the fun's just barely begun!

Danny Fingeroth

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