

MARVEL

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TM
APPROVED
BY THE
COMICS
CODE
AUTHORITY

the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN

CONTINUES IN THIS ISSUE!
SECRET WARS II



THE GOOD NEWS IS THE BEYONDER HAS
TURNED THIS SKYSCRAPER INTO SOLID GOLD.

THE BAD NEWS IS THE KINGPIN
WANTS HIS CUT. DON'T MISS:

**"THIS GOLD
IS MINE!"**



THE WAR CONTINUES...

It's all-out combat with **THE AVENGERS** and
ALPHA FLIGHT... and romance with **THE DAZZLER**.

SECRET WARS™ II

#4



And the epic saga continues in:

ROM
SPACEKNIGHT

ROM
#72

**Alpha
Flight**

ALPHA FLIGHT
#28

DAZZLER

DAZZLER
#40

THE AVENGERS

THE AVENGERS
#261

You won't want to miss a single issue!



NEW YORK CITY,
6:30 AM...

WHU...WHAT'S
GOING ON?
WHY WON'T
YOU LET ME
PASS?

CAN'T DO THAT,
SIR! WE'VE BEEN
ORDERED TO SEAL
OFF THIS ENTIRE
AREA!

IT'S CLOSED
TO ALL
CIVILIANS!

"THIS GOLD
IS MINE!"

MOVE AWAY
FROM THAT TARP!
NOW!!

WHY WON'T
THEY TELL
US WHAT'S
HAPPENING
BACK THERE?

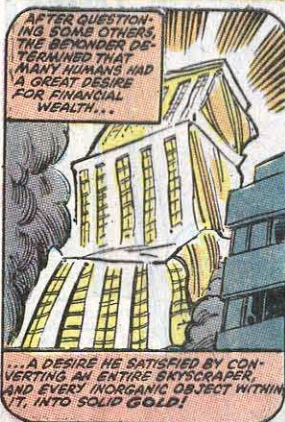
IT'S GOTTA
BE SOMETHING
BIG FOR THEM
TO CORDON
OFF PARK
AVENUE!

AN ACTION-
PACKED THRILLER
PRODUCED BY
TOM DEFalco--
WRITER
RON FRENTZ--
PENCILER
JOSEF RUBINSTEIN--
FINISHED ART
JOE ROSEN--
LETTERER
BOB SHAREN--
COLORIST
JIM OWSLEY--
EDITOR
JIM SHOOTER--
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

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SWINGING HIGH ABOVE THE SLOWLY FILLING STREETS, THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN HEARS THE RUMORS BIRTHING--







...EVACUATED AN AREA FIVE CITY BLOCKS IN WIDTH-- THAT EXTENDS FROM LEXINGTON AVENUE TO THE HUDSON RIVER!



WHILE THERE HAS BEEN NO OFFICIAL STATEMENT AS TO THE TRUE NATURE OF THE DISASTER, THE AUTHORITIES HAVE ASSURED US THAT THE PUBLIC IS IN NO DANGER...

THAT'S WHAT YOU THINK, BUDDY!

IF ANYONE EVEN SUSPECTED THAT THAT MUCH GOLD EXISTED, IT WOULD MEAN THE TOTAL COLLAPSE OF THE WORLD'S ECONOMY!



I DON'T KNOW WHAT TERRIFIES ME MORE-- THE POSSIBILITY OF A GLOBAL DEPRESSION--OR THE FEAR THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES MAY BE TIED IN WITH THE KINGPIN OF CRIME?!

WAS ANDERSON ACTING ALONE --OR WAS HE ORDERED TO TURN THAT GOLD OVER TO THE KINGPIN?

HOW FAR UP THE LADDER DOES THE CORRUPTION GO?



DO I EVEN HAVE THE RIGHT TO KEEP THIS SORT OF THING A SECRET?!

AND YET, THINK OF THE PANIC IT WOULD CAUSE!



ENOUGH! I'M MUCH TOO WASTED TO THINK STRAIGHT!

I'VE GOTTA HIT THE SHEETS, AND I DON'T WANT TO BE DISTURBED!



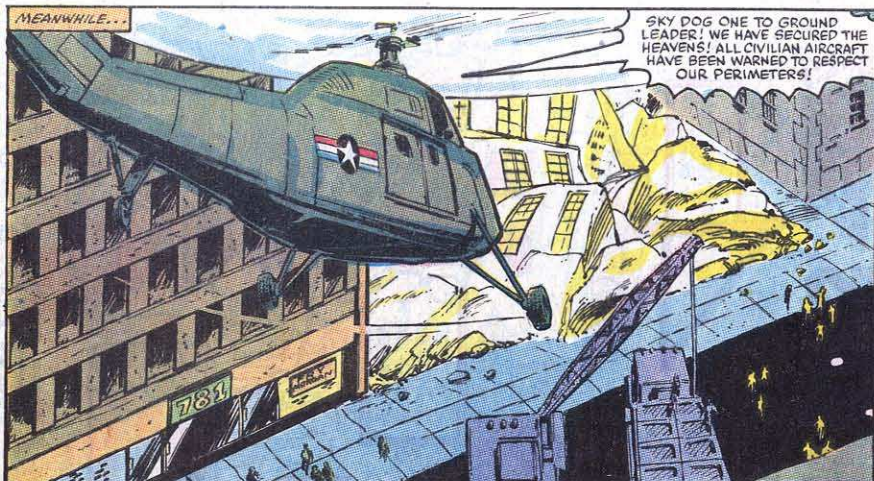
I'LL THINK ABOUT THIS... TOMORROW...

FIND YOUR WAY TO THE NEWTONS[®] TREASURE CHEST!!



DISCOVER FRUIT CHEWY NEWTONS COOKIES.

MEANWHILE...



SKY DOG ONE TO GROUND LEADER! WE HAVE SECURED THE HEAVENS! ALL CIVILIAN AIRCRAFT HAVE BEEN WARNED TO RESPECT OUR PERIMETERS!



CONTINUE YOUR PATROL, SKY DOG! AND PAY SPECIAL ATTENTION TO THE ROOFTOPS...



...WE DON'T WANT ANY OUTSIDERS EYEBALLING THIS OPERATION!

ANDERSON! MY TEAM HAS FINISHED DEPLOYING THE HEAVY DUTY LASERS!



WE'VE ALREADY BEGUN TO CUT THE BUILDING APART!

GOOD! WE'VE GOT TO GET RID OF ALL THIS GOLD BEFORE WORD OF ITS EXISTENCE LEAKS OUT!

WHAT HAPPENED TO THE UNAUTHORIZED PERSONNEL WHO SAW IT?



WITH THE EXCEPTION OF SPIDER-MAN, THEY'VE ALL BEEN ROUNDED UP AND MOVED TO A SPECIAL DEBRIEFING CENTER.

BY THE TIME OUR EXPERTS ARE FINISHED WITH THEM, THEY WON'T KNOW WHAT THEY SAW!

I DON'T LIKE THE SOUND OF THAT, SIR.



I DON'T CARE WHAT YOU LIKE, SERGEANT. MY AUTHORITY COMES FROM THE PRESIDENT HIMSELF!

IF YOU HAVE A PROBLEM, TAKE IT UP WITH HIM.

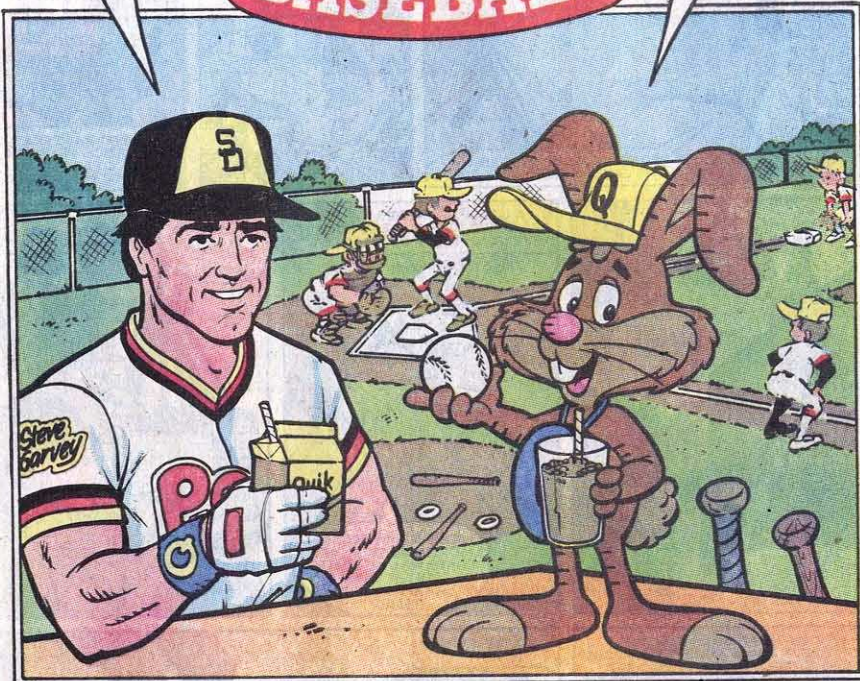
What
could be
better than
Nestlé Quik
and Base-
ball?

FREE

Steve Garvey

BASEBALL

Nestlé Quik
and a **FREE**
Baseball!!



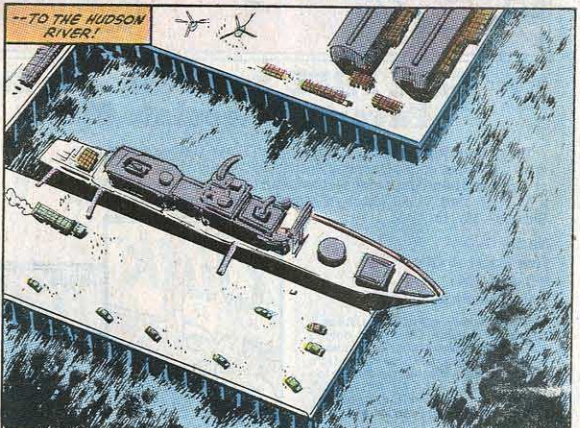
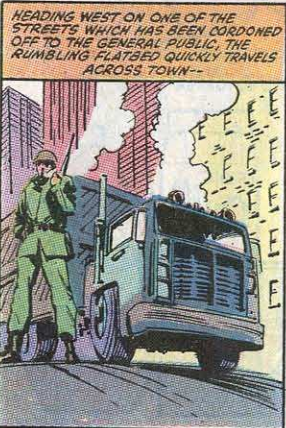
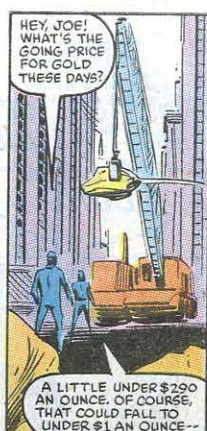
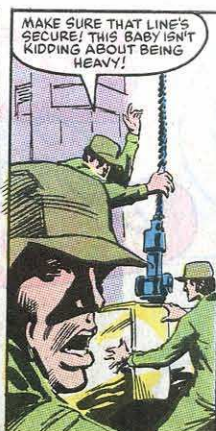
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PUT A MOVE
ON, MEN!

THIS IS THE LAST
LOAD FOR THIS SHIP,
AND WE'RE RUNNING
A LITTLE BEHIND
SCHEDULE!



WHARF RAT TO
GROUND LEADER!
THE CARGO IS
SAFELY ONBOARD!

IT'S ABOUT
TIME, WHARF
RAT! I JUST
HOPE YOU
CAN GET
THAT SHIP
OFF--



--AND THE
NEXT ONE
DOCKED AND
READY FOR
LOADING
BEFORE
OUR TIME-
TABLE IS
COMPLETELY
BLOWN!

PICK UP THE PACE,
MAN! I DON'T WANT
THIS OPERATION GET-
TING BOGGED DOWN
AT YOUR END! TWO
MORE TRUCKS ARE
ALREADY ON THEIR
WAY!



YOU'D BETTER
RADIO *MC GUIRE*
AIR FORCE
BASE THAT
ANOTHER SHIP
IS ABOUT TO
LEAVE!

I'VE TAKEN
THE LIBERTY
OF DOING THAT,
SIR! THE ESCORT
IS ALREADY...

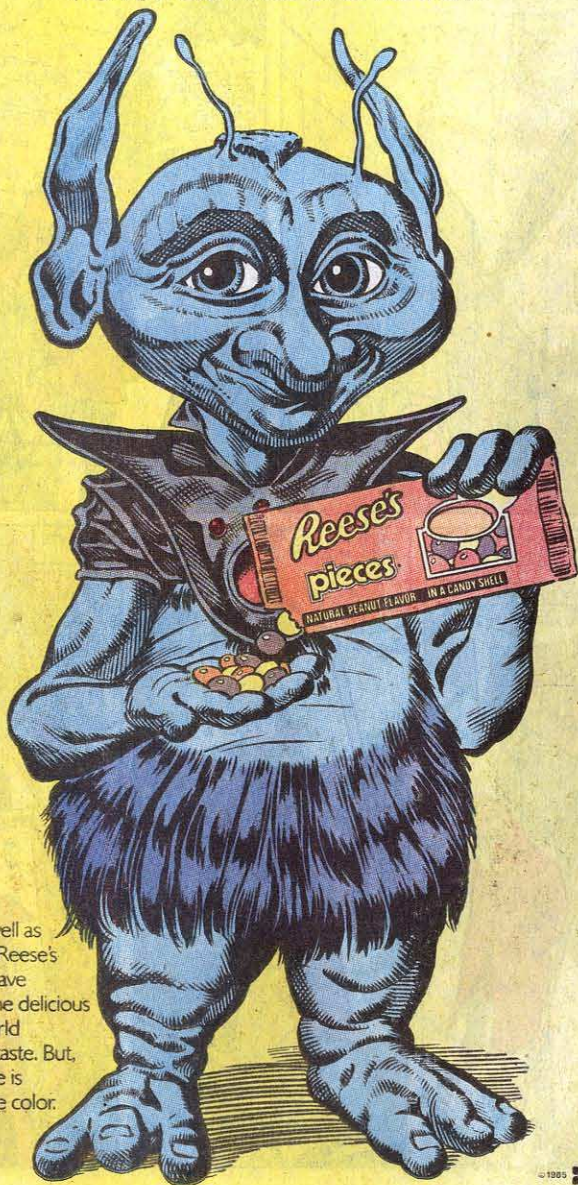


...ON ITS
WAY!!

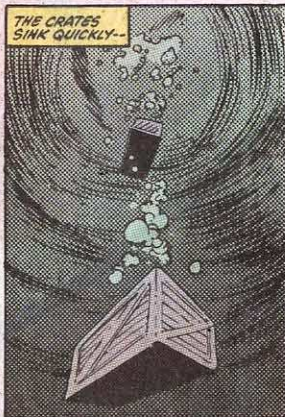
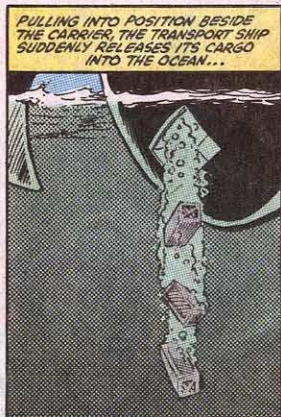
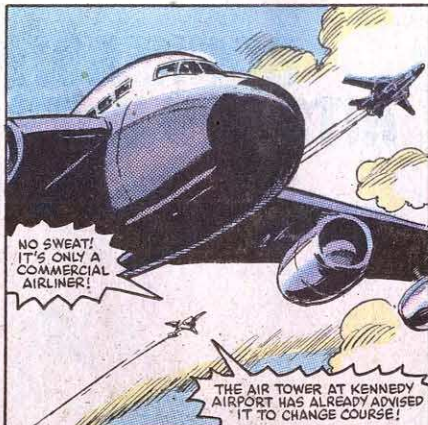
BOOM!

"Glubgrafutz"

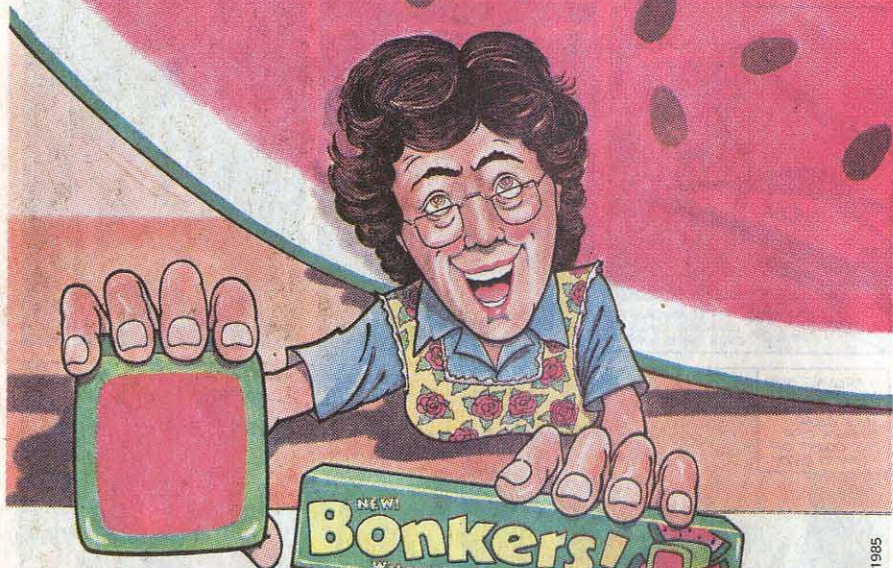
(I SAVE THE ORANGE ONES TILL LAST.)



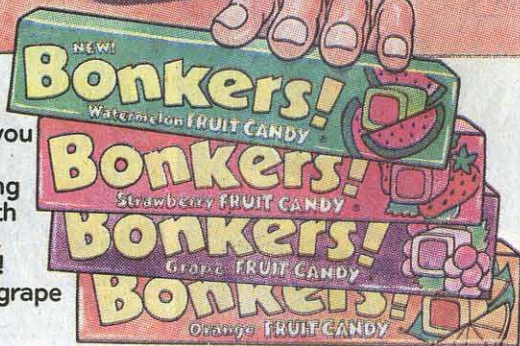
He knows as well as you do that all Reese's Pieces pieces have exactly the same delicious out-of-this-world peanut butter taste. But, you see, orange is his very favorite color. What's yours?



BONKERS!® FRUIT CANDY HITS YOU WITH A NEW FLAVOR. WATERMELON!



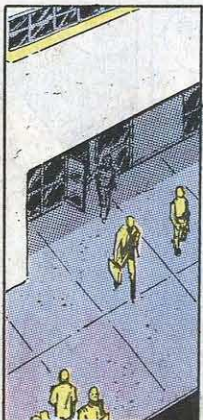
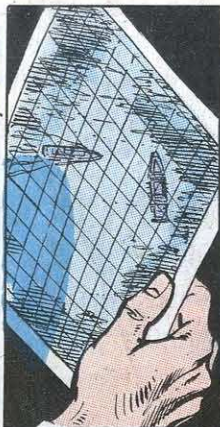
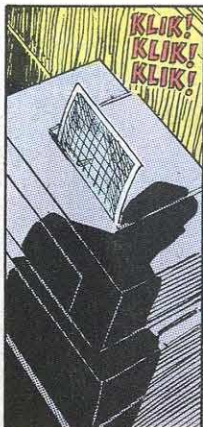
Now Bonkers! bonks you out with watermelon flavor — mouthwatering watermelon candy with an extra fruity middle. Chewy fruity Bonkers! comes in strawberry, grape and orange too.



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MEANWHILE, AT THAT VERY MOMENT, A NORAD SPY SATELLITE PASSES OVERHEAD...

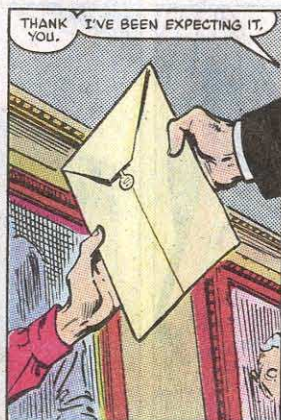
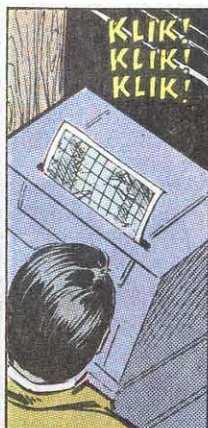


I WASN'T EXPECTING TO SEE YOU TODAY, CONGRESSMAN.

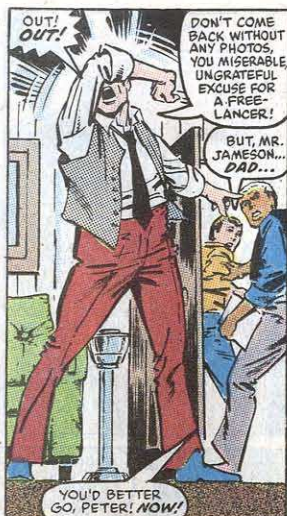
I KNOW, JUDY, BUT SOMETHING CAME UP...
...AND I HAVE TO TRANSMIT PHOTOCOPIES OF SOME DOCUMENTS TO MY NEW YORK OFFICE IMMEDIATELY.

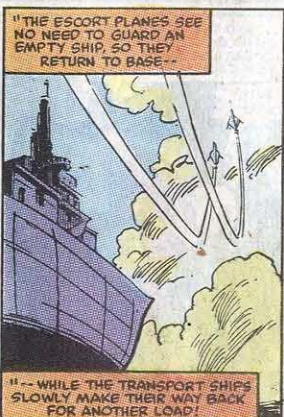
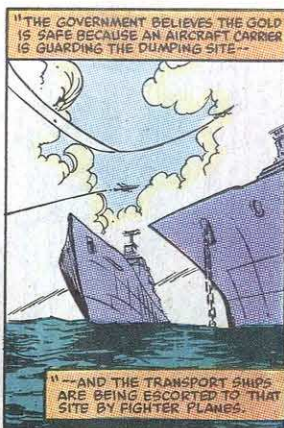
THAT WON'T BE NECESSARY, JUDY.
I'D PREFER TO HANDLE THIS MYSELF.

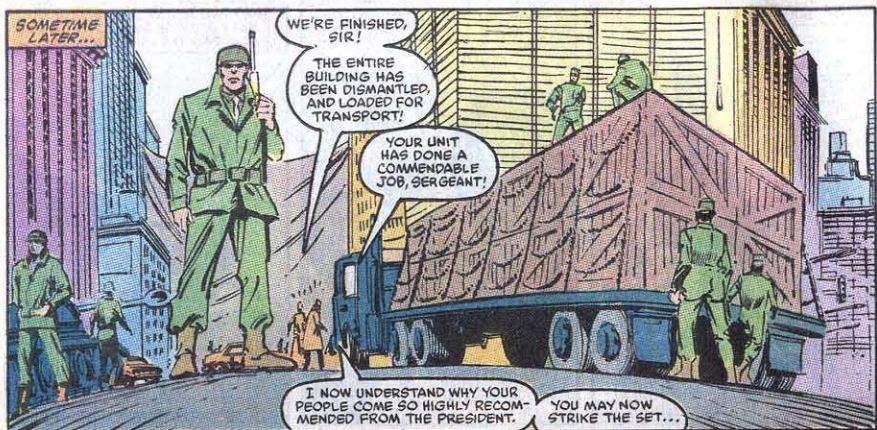
WOULD YOU LIKE ME TO SEND THEM?













THAT'S ODD! I'VE BEEN HERE SINCE THIS OPERATION STARTED, AND I DON'T REMEMBER SEEING ANY OF THESE SAILORS BEFORE!



HEY! ARGYLE SOCKS AND ITALIAN SHOES--?!

WHEN DID THEY BECOME NAVY ISSUE?



EXCUSE ME, SIR, BUT...

GET BACK TO WORK! WE'VE GOT A TIME-TABLE TO MEET!



TAILING ANDERSON IS PROBABLY A WASTE OF MY TIME... BUT I'VE GOT TO KNOW WHY HE GAVE THAT GOLD TO THE KINGPIN!

WAS HE ACTING ALONE--OR UNDER ORDERS?



HHM! ANDERSON APPEARS TO BE PLANNING A LITTLE TRIP FOR HIMSELF!



GUESS I'D BETTER GET MY SEA LEGS READY!

I KNOW HOW HE HATES TO TRAVEL ALONE!



I'D NEVER GET PAST THESE MILITARY TYPES WITHOUT MY TRUSTY OL' SPIDER-SENSE...

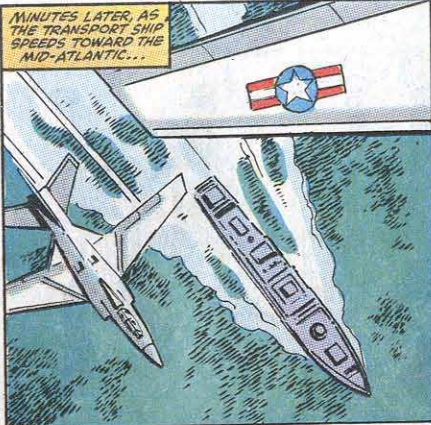


"...IT GIVES ME WARNING TINGLES WHENEVER I'M IN DANGER OF BEING SPOTTED..."



"...SO THAT I CAN USE MY SPIDERLIKE SPEED TO DODGE OUT OF SIGHT!"

MINUTES LATER, AS
THE TRANSPORT SHIP
SPEEDS TOWARD THE
MID-ATLANTIC...



I'M SURPRISED THE
CAPTAIN DIDN'T
WELCOME ME
ABOARD.

I'D BETTER REPORT
TO THE BRIDGE, AND
LET HIM KNOW I'M
HERE!

COME RIGHT IN,
MR. ANDERSON!
WE'VE BEEN
EXPECTING
YOU.

WHAT
THE--?!



NO NEED TO SHOUT! WE HAVE
FULL CONTROL OF THIS SHIP.

PLEASE HOLD STILL
WHILE I SEARCH
YOU. MY TRIGGER
FINGER HAS A
NERVOUS TWITCH.

W-WHO...
ARE YOU?



WHAT
HAVE WE
HERE?

I AM
CALLED THE
ARRANGER.

I ARRANGE THINGS ON THE
BEHALF OF MY EMPLOYER.



YOU'RE CRAZY
IF YOU THINK
YOU CAN HIJACK
THIS SHIP!

THE ESCORT JETS WILL BLOW
IT OUT OF THE WATER IF YOU
ATTEMPT TO CHANGE ITS COURSE!

I HAVE NO
INTENTION OF
CHANGING
COURSE.

I'M MERELY GOING TO
DUMP THE GOLD
EARLIER THAN EXPECTED...
AT A PRE-ARRANGED SPOT...
WHERE MY OWN
DIVERS CAN
SALVAGE IT.

THEN, I SHALL DIS-
POSE OF IT SLOWLY
ON THE OPEN MAR-
KET... OR RANSOM
IT BACK TO THE GOVERNMENT.

THE UNITED STATES
GOVERNMENT
DOESN'T DEAL
WITH CRIMINALS!



I'VE HEARD
DIFFERENTLY.

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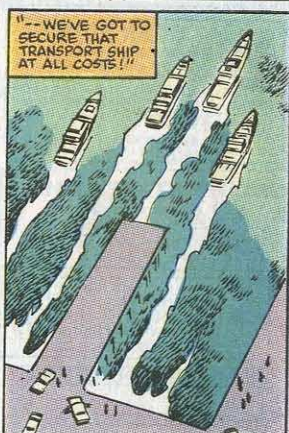
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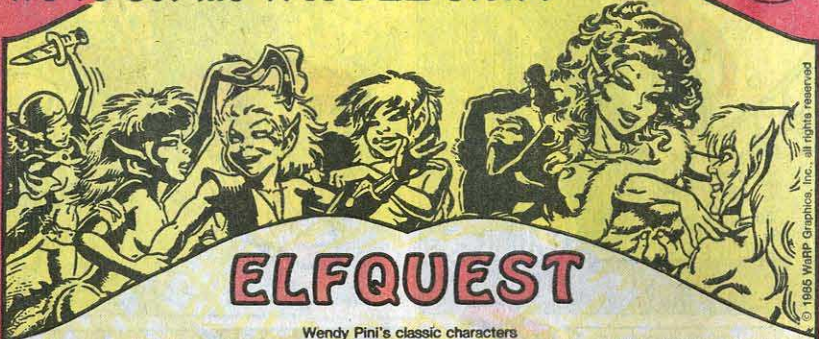






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BULLPEN BULLETINS

Thursday, March 14, Morrie Kuramoto died at age 64. He was a letterer and production man here at Marvel for so long that he was often called "the Ancient One." I was asked to speak at his Memorial Service. This is what I said:

I'm here representing the people Morrie worked with. I'm certainly not the best representative — there were others who knew him longer and better than I, but... I'm the biggest, I guess, so...

I knew Morrie well enough to know that he wouldn't want us to be so sad. As a matter of fact, it's been suggested that this ceremony should have been held at the OTB (Off-Track Betting) office.

I've been hearing other people speak about what a sweetheart Morrie was. Well, I'd like to add to that, that he was a crusty, stubborn,

tough old coot who gave new meaning to the world curmudgeon. He was no pushover. And tough? When we had the transit strike a few years back, he walked to work from Astoria, Queens.

But he was a gentleman, too, in

all senses of the word.

Morrie probably helped more people get started in our business than anyone else. New guys were routinely sent to Morrie for advice. He was a great teacher. He even taught me paste-up and production back in 1969.

Excuse me... I'm having trouble getting through this... but, hey, I cry at weddings on TV.

You know, Morrie wasn't rich, but if wealth were judged by how many people care about you, and how much they care, he would have been a billionaire.

Well, at least Morrie won't be losing any more races... the OTB's are going to miss him...

And so are we.

Jim Shooter
Jim Shooter
Editor in Chief

MORRIE KURAMOTO
(SELF-CARICATURE)



HYPE BOX

SQUADRON SUPREME (Limited Series) #1 — Hyperion! Nighthawk! Princess Power! They form the nucleus of the greatest super-team of their earth! But their world has suffered an unprecedented disaster, and now it teeters on the brink of total anarchy! Civilization's last hope is the Squadron Supreme, but will even their combined super-powers be enough? Find out in this double-sized premiere issue written by MARK GRUENWALD, penciled by BOB HALL and inked by JOHN BEATTY! It's the most incredible 12-issue series you'll read!

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NOCENTI (writer), BILL ANDERSON and WILLIAM PORTACIO (inkers), and introducing the penciling wizardry of ART ADAMS!

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CHECKLIST

- ☐ THE THING #27
- ☐ DAREDEVIL #222
- ☐ NEW MUTANTS #31
- ☐ WEB OF SPIDER-MAN #6 — Secret Wars II cross-over!
- ☐ CLOAK AND DAGGER #1 — Their own regular bi-monthly series at last!
- ☐ GARGOYLE (Limited Series) #4 — The thrilling finale!
- ☐ RAWHIDE KID (Limited Series) #2
- ☐ SQUADRON SUPREME (Limited Series) #1 — See Hype Box!
- ☐ CONAN THE KING #30
- ☐ THE LIFE OF CAPTAIN MARVEL (Limited Series) #2 — Reprinting JIM STARLIN's classic epic!
- ☐ AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #268 — Secret Wars II cross-over!
- ☐ CAPTAIN AMERICA #309
- ☐ POWER PACK #14
- ☐ MICRONAUTS #12
- ☐ ALPHA FLIGHT #26
- ☐ INDIANA JONES #31
- ☐ DAZLER #39
- ☐ LONGSHOT (Limited Series) #1 — See Hype Box!
- ☐ INCREDIBLE HULK #311
- ☐ AVENGERS #259
- ☐ CONAN THE BARBARIAN #174
- ☐ MARVEL TALES #177 — Reprinting "The End of the Green Goblin," by STAN LEE and JOHN ROMITA, from Amazing Spider-Man #40.
- ☐ X-MEN #197

- ☐ ROM #70
- ☐ MOON KNIGHT #3
- ☐ POWER MAN / IRON FIST #119
- ☐ G.I. JOE #39
- ☐ SOLOMON KANE (Limited Series) #1 — See Hype Box!
- ☐ WEB OF SPIDER-MAN ANNUAL #1 — Introducing "Futuremax," by ANN NOCENTI and TONY SALMONS!
- ☐ FANTASTIC FOUR #282 — A Secret Wars II tie-in!
- ☐ IRON MAN #198
- ☐ PETER PARKER, THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #106
- ☐ DEFENDERS #147 — With special guest star, Sergeant Fury!
- ☐ STAR WARS #99
- ☐ THOR #359
- ☐ SECRET WARS II (Limited Series) #3 — The saga of the Beyonder on Earth continues, by SHOOTER / MILGROM / LEALONAI
- ☐ TRANSFORMERS #8
- ☐ THE OFFICIAL MARVEL INDEX TO THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #6 — Find out about everything that happened in Amazing Spider-Man #138-155!
- ☐ DOCTOR WHO #12
- ☐ MARVEL MAGAZINES
- ☐ SAVAGE SWORD OF CONAN #115
- ☐ MARVEL AGE #30
- ☐ MARVEL FANFARE #22 — Iron Man vs. Dr. Octopus, written by MCKENZIE and painted by STEACY!

- ☐ EPIC COMICS
- ☐ DREADSTAR AND COMPANY #3
- ☐ MOONSHADOW #3
- ☐ SWORDS OF THE SWASHBUCKLERS #2
- ☐ GROO THE WANDERER #7
- ☐ BLACK DRAGON #3
- ☐ THE ONE #1 — The story of the ultimate super hero, by RICK VEITCH! See how "The One" came into existence after a near-nuclear holocaust strikes down most of the human race!
- ☐ TIME SPIRITS #5
- ☐ ELFOQUEST #2
- ☐ COYOTE #13
- ☐ EPIC ILLUSTRATED #31 — The conclusion of "Cobalt 60" by BODE and TODD, plus more tales by MUTH, HEMPEL, BYRNE, GOODWIN, and the European sensation, VICTOR DELA FUENTE!
- ☐ STAR COMICS
- ☐ PLANET TERRY #6
- ☐ PETER PARKER, THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #3 — Introducing the Incredible Iron Mouse!
- ☐ WALLY THE WIZARD #6
- ☐ ROYAL ROY #3
- ☐ MUPPET BABIES #3 — Presenting "Kermit and the Eganstalk!"
- ☐ GETALONG GANG #3 — Featuring the monsters of Mystery Mountain!
- ☐ GRAPHIC NOVEL
- ☐ GN #16: THE ALADDIN EFFECT — See Hype Box!



FORGET IT, MAN!
THIS CAPER IS
KAPUT!

BUT MAYBE THE
AUTHORITIES WILL
GO EASIER ON YOU--
IF YOU SAVE THEM
THE EXPENSE OF
HAVING TO DREDGE
UP THAT GOLD!

LATER...

IT'S THE
TRANSPORT
SHIP! SHE'S
LYING DEAD
IN THE
WATER!

PREPARE
TO BOARD
HER!

BE CAREFUL.
MEN!

WE DON'T
KNOW WHAT
WE'LL BE
FACING!

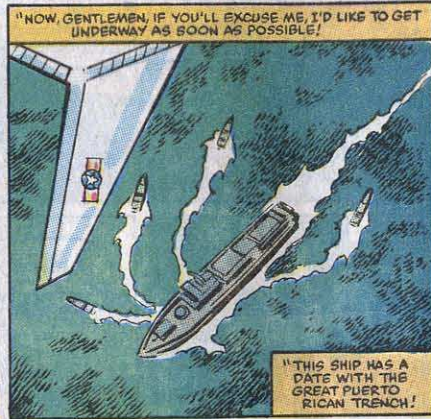
THOSE
AREN'T
OUR
PEOPLE!

WHO
ARE
THEY?

I COULDN'T
GUESS, SIR!

THESE THREADS
ARE EXTREMELY
STICKY, AND THEY
APPEAR TO BE
UNBREAK-
ABLE!

I BELIEVE THOSE
ARE CALLED "WEBS"
...NOT "THREADS"!





YOU MUST NOT MISS NEXT ISSUE.



THE SPIDER'S WEB

JIM OWSLEY
EDITOR
KEITH WILLIAMS
ASSISTANT EDITOR

VIEW FROM THE TENTH FLOOR

One of the first official things I read as editor was a story idea Ann Nocenti submitted to Danny (WEB OF SPIDER-MAN) Fingerhuth. My first read blew me away. I went straight into Ann's office (she's editor of the X-MEN, NEW MUTANTS, MUTANT GRANDMAS FROM OUTER SPACE, I WAS A TEENAGED SPACE-WEREMUTANTHINGBLOB, et. al.), touched past Chris Claremont's ego (it sits in a corner like unto a thing alive), and told her how much I loved her story. Says Nocenti, oh, it's nothing. Hmmm.

Ann and artist extraordinaire Tony Salmons team up this month for the first-ever WEB OF SPIDER-MAN ANNUAL, which sports a fabulous cover painting by Charles Vess. "Future Max" is definitely not to be missed. Trust me, WEB OF SPIDER-MAN ANNUAL #1 is worth the walk to the newsstand.

What? This book? Oh. Almost forgot. Next month Firelord comes to Earth to get a pizza.

— Jim Owsley

P.S.: I'm not kidding.

SEND ALL LETTERS TO:
Marvel Comics Group, 387 Park Avenue South,
New York, N.Y. 10016. Please include your name
and address. We will, however, withhold them
upon request.

Dear Web-Slingers,
AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #264 was great. I loved it! I really enjoyed "Red 9 and Red Tape." Perfect art + great story + super colors = one super comic!!!

By the way, the black costume is better!

Jeff Curry
Peters Creek Rd.
New Concord, OH 43762

Dear SPIDEY Creative Team,
You're all awesome! Issue #264 was the best SPIDER-MAN story I've ever read! I hope you will stay on being the creative team for SPIDER-MAN for a long time!

Ken Jonach
29 Dorset
Short Hills, NJ 07078

Dear World's Best Comics Group,

The cover for issue #264 was great, one of the best! It made me think of the 1960's issues of SPIDER-MAN. Thanks! (The story art was okay, but Ron Frenz is the best for this book!)

John E. Hughes
P.O. Box 303
Bonnyman, KY 41719

William Johnson, the cover artist on issue #264 was hanging around the Marvel offices one afternoon, watching a team of crack technicians transform a red tractor trailer into a 40 foot tall robot (we have real high ceilings). Johnson, the regular artist on THE TRANSFORMERS (is it you haven't guessed) then bumped into Josef ("Mr. Warmth") Rubinstein in the hall. Their portfolios got all tangled up and, well, kind of exploded. Next thing we knew, there was the cover. It looked nice, so we printed it.

Dear Spider-People,

I really enjoyed issue #264. I love the way Pops Magee makes Spidey clean up his messes, and the social security lady, and that crazy Red 9, and . . . and this is getting out of hand! So I'll just say it was fabulous, stupendous, wonderful . . .

Adam Rossi
173 Silverbirch Dr.
Blue Ridge, VA 24064

Dear Marvel,

Issue #264 was great! Red 9 was wonderful and I hope you use him in future issues. Pops Magee reminds me of my grandfather, a real feisty codger. Spidey was right! — Ratface and Pops do deserve each other! Keep Spidey's black costume!

James R. Strode
5421 Osage
Kansas City, KS 66106

Dear Spider-Men,

AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #264 was a pretty dandy story. It dealt with, for the most part, Peter Parker (as opposed to Spidey) in his civilian I.D. Not bad at all!

As for the creative team, this is the first time I've ever seen Paty's art. I liked it. Very distinctive; she has an original style of drawing. I particularly liked her depiction of Philmont Magee and Doctor Rattaman.

Isn't Craig Anderson the artist who has done work for Marvel in the past? His story writing isn't too shabby, either. You should have him write and draw a story (or maybe a series) someday, just like John Byrne and Walter Simonson. He seems to be almost in their league. Of course, it was just a pleasant, silly little story, but at a comic company where the melodramatic is used just a little too often (at least, in my opinion), we could do with this type of tale more frequently. It does the human soul a bit of good to laugh more often. Some examples of this were Mindy and Wendell on the boat, Philmont Magee in general, and the bit with the computer manager, Mr. Blodgett. I myself have worked for a few blowhards in the past, too.

As for the only aspect of this month's ish that I didn't care about — the Red 9? Are you kidding? How can anybody take such a concept for a super villain seriously? Of course, the whole object wasn't for the kid to be taken

seriously; he just wanted to futz around with his (I guess) idol, Spider-Man. And just because he has red hair . . . I Well, he redeemed himself in the end, and he wasn't really evil in the first place, just macho. Macho enough to have the guts to challenge someone like Spider-Man, for which you either have to have guts or be nuts! Methinks Red 9 had a little of both! Let's see Wallace Jackson again in a future issue, okay?

Evan M. Lanciot
45 Powers Ave.
San Francisco, CA 94110

You've seen Paty's art before, Evan, if you've seen THE OFFICIAL HANDBOOK TO THE MARVEL UNIVERSE. She drew most of the "Alien Races" depicted on the final pages of nearly every issue. (Hey, is this just a sneaky way to plug the forthcoming Revised Deluxe Edition of the Marvel Universe Handbook, heading your way in just a few short months? Could be!)

You might be getting Craig Anderson mixed up with peerless penciler Brent Anderson, whose most recent work for Marvel has appeared in the pages of POWR PACK. Seeing as how Craig's art resembles chicken scratches in sawdust, we'll be happy to keep him behind his typewriter!

Dear Jim,

What I like so much about the SPIDER-MAN comics is that sometimes they can be serious and sometimes they can be light and amusing. A case in point is AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #264. No world in danger, no possible murders, etc. Just a simple story of a foul-up computer and an over-eager teen. Also included was a brand-new character whom I'm sure we'll see again (Pops . . . er, I mean, SIR!!!). Of course, I do like the major serious foes, too, but the odd story like this doesn't hurt. Not bad art, either!

E.J. Balch
10140-87 Ave.
Edmonton, Alberta
Canada T6E 2P2

Spider-Folks,

In SPIDER-MAN #264, the story tried — tried hard — to be the classic SPIDER-MAN story: one with action and pathos. SPIDER-MAN has become famous for this trait, whether it was the death of Gwen Stacy (issues #121-#122) or "The Last Hundred Yards" (issue #153). This issue, though, just didn't make it. There was no pathos, because the character of Philmont Magee had no traits whatsoever that were likeable. Rather than making the point that youngsters no longer respect their elders the way they should (a point that does need to be made), you make the whole thing seem ridiculous. In case you haven't noticed, I'm disappointed.

Daniel Wolpe
415 W. 120 St.
New York, NY 10027

Dear Jim and Keith,

"Red 9 and Red Tape" was a fun issue. I know that you (Jim) are known for your fun sense of humor in your stories and the stories you are connected to. I can see why you like this story. Paty did a fine job as the artist. Her Spider-Man looked really nice. Craig's dialogue was a lot of fun, too!

Beau Smith
#1 Fourth St.
Williamsburg Colony
Barboursville, WV 25504

Dear Webbies,

About issue #264, who is this "Paty" who did the art? Nothing bad, in fact the art was quite excellent, but I must complain about the way Peter was drawn. I think that what has always made him unique is that he wasn't a perfect face under the perfect super hero. He always had a shonky kind of look to him without really making him look ugly. Now he has this super macho haircut! Yech!

The Hobgoblin is Stromm's son! Right?

Andy Secunda
30 Fifth Avenue
New York, NY 10011

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