

**MARVEL**  
**25<sup>TH</sup>**  
**ANNIVERSARY**

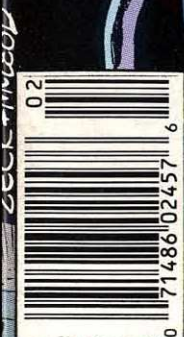


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# the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN

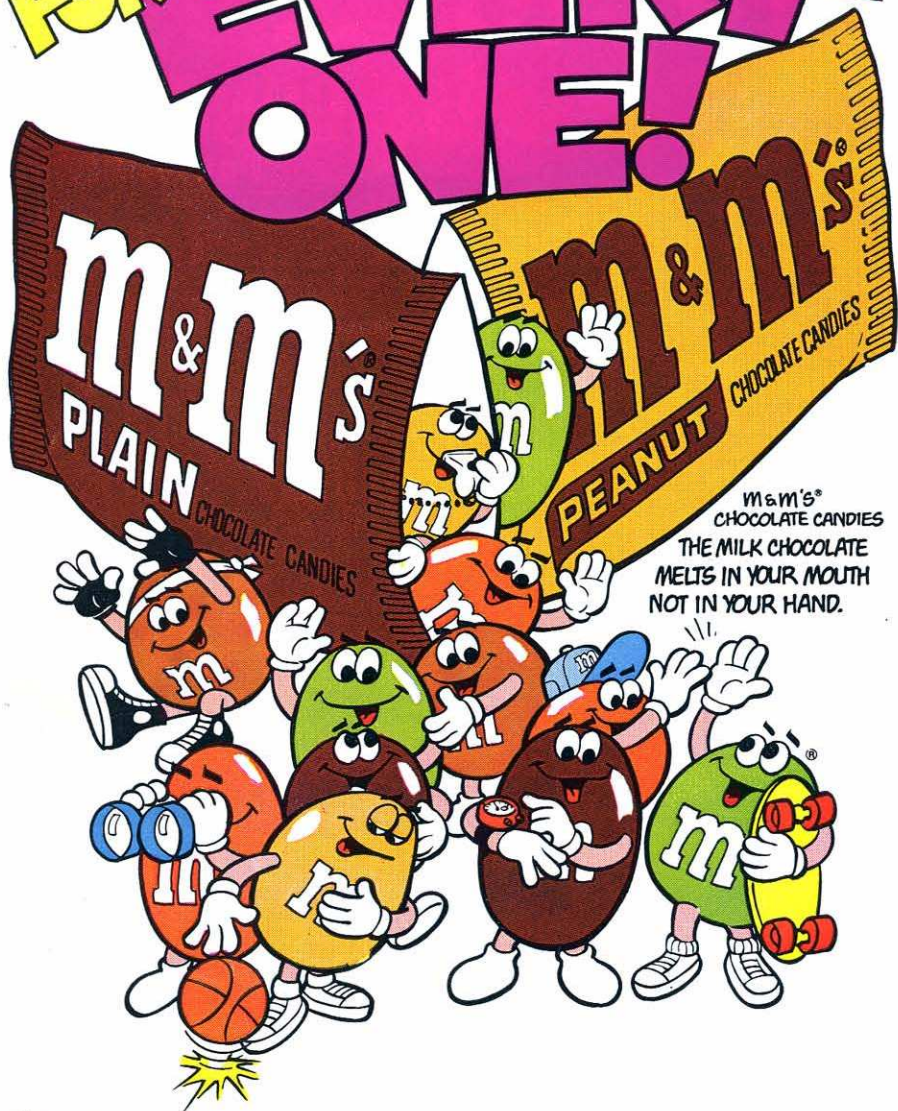
**GANG WAR**  
**PART TWO**



**THE**  
**PUNISHER**  
**GETS**  
**INVOLVED!**



PACKS OF FUN  
FOR EVERY-  
ONE!



M&M's®  
CHOCOLATE CANDIES  
THE MILK CHOCOLATE  
MELTS IN YOUR MOUTH  
NOT IN YOUR HAND.



Stan Lee PRESENTS:



# THE ARRANGER MUST **DIE!**

**T**HERE IS WAR  
IN THE STREETS  
OF NEW YORK  
CITY!

**A DESPERATE  
POWER STRUGGLE  
WAGED BY THE  
MEMBERS OF  
NEW YORK'S  
CRIMINAL  
UNDERWORLD!**

**THIS MAN IS A  
CENTRAL FIGURE  
IN THIS WAR!**

**HIS NAME IS  
HAMMERHEAD!**

**HE'S COME TO  
DEAL IN BLOOD!**



**TOM  
DEFALCO**  
PLOT

**JIM  
OWSLEY**  
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**ALAN  
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YOU'RE THE ROSE, LEADER OF YOUR OWN CRIME SYNDICATE AND LONG-TIME PAIN-IN-THE-NECK TO THE KINGPIN!

THE KINGPIN, WHOM WE ALL KNOW, TOOK A POWDER SOME WEEKS AGO, TRIGGERIN' THIS WAR FOR CONTROL OF THIS BERG'S ACTION!

WAY I SEE IT, PAL, WE GOT SOME BUSINESS PROSPECTS HERE!

I AGREED TO SEE YOU, HAMMERHEAD, OUT OF RESPECT TO YOU AS A FELLOW BUSINESSMAN. OUR VARIOUS INTERESTS HAVEN'T CONFLICTED BEFORE, AND I DON'T SEE THEM DOING SO IN THE FUTURE...

...DESPITE THE OBVIOUS COMPLICATIONS BROUGHT ON BY YOUR WAR!

IT AIN'T JUST MY WAR, PAL! JUST CAUSE YOU'RE SITTING IT OUT DON'T MAKE THIS MESS MY RESPONSIBILITY!



NO, PALLY, AS LONG AS THIS WAR CONTINUES, WE'RE ALL IN DANGER! THERE'S LEAD FLYIN' ALL OVER THE PLACE!

I WON'T EVEN MENTION HOW BADLY THIS FIGHT'S GRIPPIN' BUSINESS!



YOU DO UNDERSTAND BUSINESS, DON'TCHA?

WHAT IS YOUR POINT, HAMMERHEAD?

THE WAY TO END THIS WAR IS FOR THE GANGS TO ALL HAVE ONE BOSS! A STRONG ARM CAN UNITE THE GANGS AND SEW THIS MESS UP SO WE CAN ALL PUT THE HARDWARE AWAY AND GET BACK TO BUSINESS!

AND THIS LEADER WOULD BE--?



ME!

I'M THE MOST QUALIFIED! I GOT THE MOST EXPERIENCE, THE MOST CASH, AND THE MOST MUSCLE! I CAN MAKE IT HAPPEN, PALLY!

I'LL MAKE YOU MY SECOND-IN-COMMAND!



IN SPITE OF YOUR NEUTRALITY YOU'RE GONNA COME UNDER FIRE SOONER OR LATER! YOU'RE GONNA HAVE TO CHOOSE SIDES!

YOU'RE SMART, YOU'RE YOUNG... YOU GOT A GOOD RACKET HERE! I CAN USE A GUY LIKE YOU!

I'M FLATTERED BY YOUR INTEREST, HAMMERHEAD. I'LL CONSIDER IT.







MEANWHILE, ON THE LOWER EAST SIDE, A BRAWL IS IN FULL SWING AT A VIDEO PARLOR THAT IS IN ACTUALITY A FRONT FOR THE ROSE'S GAMBLING DEN!



THE BLUE BOYS HAVE INVADDED-- UNPROVOKED! IT IS AN ACT OF AGRSSION DESIGNED TO DRAW THE RECALCITRANT ROSE INTO THE MOB WAR!



BOTH FACTIONS ARE IN FOR A SURPRISE.



HUH--?!



SPIDER-MAN!! HEADS UP, CHUCKLES...



KRESH... SPIDEY'S COMIN' THROUGH!



CAN'T YOU GUYS READ?!

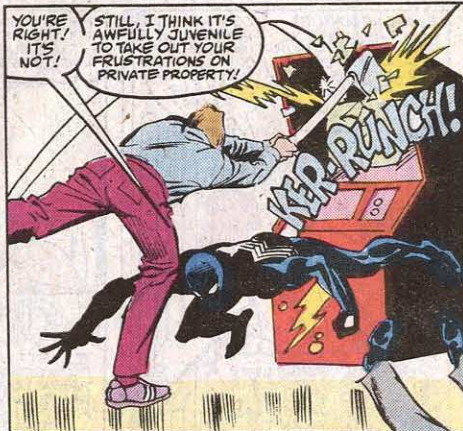
THE SIGN SAYS, "PLAY AT YOUR OWN RISK!"



THAT MEANS YOU CAN'T GET MAD IF YOU LOSE YOUR QUARTER!

I KNOW, YOU'RE THINKING "IT'S NOT HIS MONEY."

WAP



YOU'RE RIGHT! IT'S NOT!

STILL, I THINK IT'S AWFULLY JUVENILE TO TAKE OUT YOUR FRUSTRATIONS ON PRIVATE PROPERTY!

KER-RUNCH!



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AS FOR YOU "BLUE BOYS" I THINK YOUR CHOICE IS CLEAR...

...EITHER DITCH THE SILLY MASKS OR STOP BUYING YOUR SUITS FROM DEPARTMENT STORES!

I--

WHOA!



SPIDER-SENSE BUZZING LIKE MAD! BUT, I'D SPOTTED THE BLUE BOYS GUNS-- WHAT ELSE COULDN'T I?

HOW DID HE MOVE SO FAST?!



KR-KOW!



THOSE MEN... SHOT... FROM ACROSS THE STREET!

BUT... WHO COULDN'T... WHO WOULDVE...



NUTS! THE GANG WAR REALLY STINKS SO MANY DIFFERENT GANGS POPPING OFF ROUNDS AT EACH OTHER...

...AND OF COURSE, BOY GENIUS THAT I AM, I DECIDE TO JUMP RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE OF IT ALL!

WAIT-- WHO'S THAT UP ON THE ROOF--?



THAT... LUNATIC... IS WALKIN' AROUND LOOSE AGAIN?!

-- THE PUNISHER!!



FOR CRYING OUT LOUD, CAN'T SOMEBODY LOCK HIM UP IN SOME HAPPY HOME FOR GOOD?!

HE'S A HOMICIDAL LOONEY-TUNE! THE GUY RUNS AROUND AND SHOOTS ANYONE HE THINKS IS A CRIMINAL!



THE AMAZING  
**SPIDER-MAN**

IN THE



# FREE THE CAP'N MYSTERY



**FLASH!**

A FINAL EDITION OF THE DAILY BUGLE BEARS BAD BREAK-FAST NEWS...

☐ DAILY ☒ BUGLE

**CAP'N CRUNCH CAPTURED BY SOGMASTER!**

FATE OF CRUNCH POWER UNCERTAIN

**SOGGIES MAY RULE!**

WHILE SOMEWHERE  
IN SOGLAND...



YUK! NO SOLID EVIDENCE HERE... BUT I SUSPECT THE CAP'N'S NEARBY.

MEANWHILE, ON A HILLSLOP...



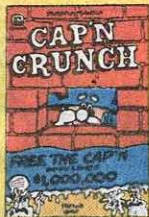
YIKES!

IT'S SPIDER-MAN, SOGMASTER!



HE, HE, HE... HE WON'T BE BUGGING US FOR LONG!

OH NO! WILL SPIDEY FREE THE CAP'N BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE??? HE MIGHT... AND YOU CAN HELP HIM DURING THE "FREE THE CAP'N" SWEEPSTAKES! BOXES OF CAP'N CRUNCH CEREAL HAVE EXCITING GAMES, CLUES AND SECRET PHONE NUMBERS TO TELL YOU HOW. IF YOU DO FREE THE CAP'N, YOU COULD BE ONE OF THE 10,000 WINNERS TO SHARE \$1,000,000.



HE, HE, HE... MY GIANT FLY SPLOTTER WILL FINISH THAT PEST!



HMM... MY SPIDER-SENSE TELLS ME I BETTER FIND CAP'N CRUNCH AND SPIN ON OUTTA HERE FAST... OR BREAKFAST'LL BE DOOMED... AND I'LL BE SOGGED!

No purchase necessary. For full rules and free rescue kit, write to: FREE THE CAP'N RESCUE KIT, P.O. Box 3079, Syosset, New York 11775. Sweepstakes expires February 14, 1987.

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THIS GANG WAR MUST DRAW GUYS LIKE HIM FROM THE WOODWORK!

HE WENT AFTER THE KINGPIN A WHILE AGO--!

\*SEE THE PUNISHER LIMITED SERIES, -- JIM.



I WONDER IF HE HAS ANYTHING TO DO WITH KINGY'S DISAPPEARANCE?

AND, IF SO, WONDER IF I SHOULD THANK HIM OR PUNCH HIS LIGHTS OUT?!

EITHER WAY, BETTER NOT LOSE HAPPY BOY. HE NEEDS TO BE LOCKED AWAY FOR HIS OWN GOOD... ESPECIALLY WITH ALL THESE MOBSTERS ON THE STREET!

THE GUYS LIKE A FAT LADY IN A PIZZA SHOP!

AND HE DIDN'T REALLY EXPECT THAT GAS GRENADE TO STOP ME!



HEY, PUNISHER--! WAIT UP!

SPIDER-MAN! THIS ISN'T YOUR WAR!

IT'S WAY PAST YOUR NAP TIME!

TRUE, BUT YOU KNOW HOW I JUST LOVE TO BUTT IN ON A GOOD PARTY!

BY THE WAY, BIG GUY--



--IT EVER OCCUR TO YOU THAT YOUR TRIGGER-HAPPY ROUTINE BRINGS YOU DOWN TO THE SAME LEVEL AS THE CROOKS YOU HATE SO MUCH?

ISN'T THAT JUST A TAD HYPOCRITICAL ...?



NO MORE SO THAN YOUR OPTING TO CHASE ME WHILE THOSE MEN BACK AT THE ARCADE BLEED TO DEATH!

I DON'T PRETEND TO UNDERSTAND YOUR MOTIVES, SPIDER-MAN, BUT IT STRIKES ME AS RATHER HYPOCRITICAL OF YOU TO ONLY SAVE THE PEOPLE YOU WANT TO SAVE!



HE'S RIGHT! I FORGOT ALL ABOUT THOSE GUYS HE SHOT! THEY'RE CROOKS, BUT IF I LET THEM DIE, I'M NO BETTER THAN THEY ARE!

DON'T GO AWAY, CHUCKLES! A LITTLE WEBBING OUGHTTA CONVINCE YOU TO STICK AROUND UNTIL I GET BACK--!

THWIPP!

THE FOOL MEANS WELL!

SOMEONE THAT POWERFUL AND THAT NAIVE IS A DANGER TO SOCIETY AND HIMSELF! SPIDER-MAN CAN'T POSSIBLY REALIZE NOW, EVERY TIME HE PUTS ON THAT MASK...



...HE PROTECTS THIS CITY'S CRIMINAL ELEMENT FROM THEIR OWN INBRED SYSTEM OF SELECTIVE ELIMINATION! INSTEAD OF LETTING THEM KILL EACH OTHER, HE TIES THEM UP AND DELIVERS THEM TO THE POLICE, WHO DELIVERS THEM TO THE COURTS... WHO PUT THEM BACK ON THE STREET. WELL, I AM THE ANSWER TO THAT PROBLEM, AND, MY YOUNG FRIEND NOTWITHSTANDING...



"I'M GOING TO CARRY OUT MY MISSION."

BUT FIRST I MUST BREAK FREE OF HIS INFERNAL WEBBING!



I'VE DONE ALL I CAN FOR THESE GUYS... CAN'T RISK MOVING THEM UNTIL SOME PROFESSIONAL MEDIC TYPES ARRIVE!

SO, I'VE DECIDED TO TAKE AN ACTIVE ROLE IN THIS GANG WAR BUSINESS TO NOT STAND IDLY BY WHILE INNOCENTS ARE HURT OR KILLED IN THE CROSSFIRE!



IF I'D WALKED AWAY FROM THIS THE PUNISHER WOULD'VE TAKEN ALL OF THESE GUYS OUT! THAT WOULD'VE MEANT NINE FEWER GUN-TOTING CREEPS ON THE STREETS!

I CAN'T WAIT TILL THIS GANG WAR IS ALL OVER AND I'VE CLEARED FLASH THOMPSON OF BEING THE HOBGOBLIN!

THEN I CAN RETIRE AND GO BACK TO BEING JUST PETER PARKER!

COPS ARE HERE-- I WONDER IF THEY'RE GOING TO SHOOT AT ME OR JUST YELL? EVER SINCE CAPTAIN KEATING TOOK OVER-- SINCE POOR JEAN DEWOLFF DIED...

Woop! Woop! Woop! Woop!



"...MY RELATIONSHIP WITH THE NYPD HAS GONE FROM BAD TO WORSE!"

BACK OFF, WEB-SLINGER!

KEATING'S GIVEN US ORDERS TO LOCK YOU UP IF YOU GET IN OUR WAY!





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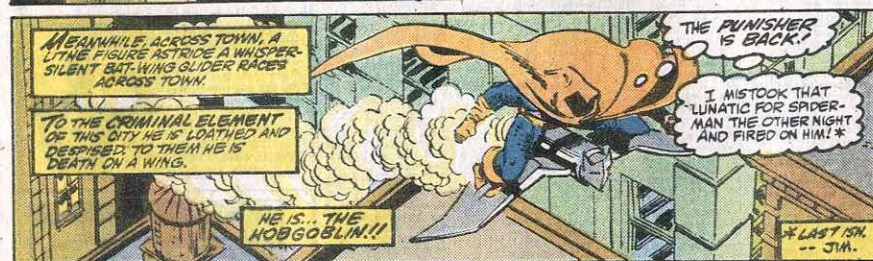
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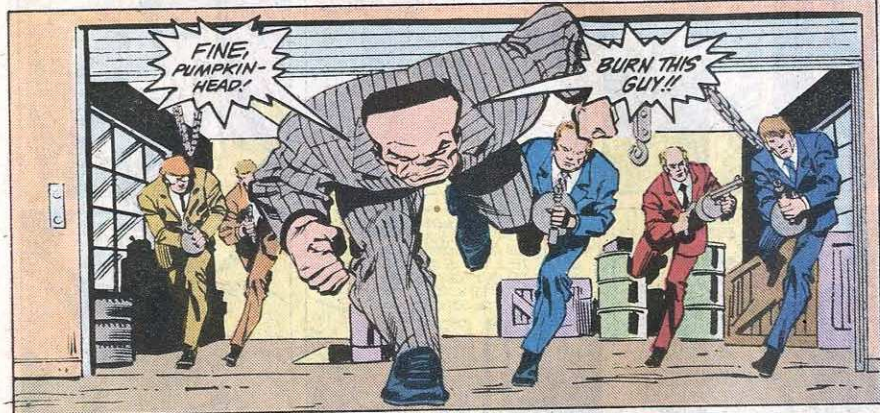
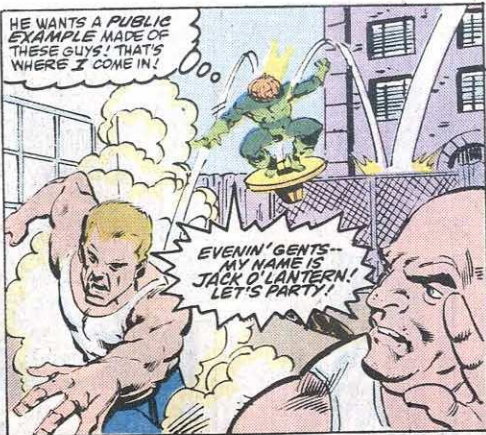


STILL LATER, AT A JUNKYARD USED BY THE UNDERWORLD TO PROCESS STOLEN CARS...



THAT'S THE JOINT MY EMPLOYER, THE ARRANGER, WANTS ME TO HIT! IT SEEMS THE GANG OPERATING THIS PLACE HAS STOPPED PAYING THE KINGPIN'S MONTHLY CUT!

HE WANTS A PUBLIC EXAMPLE MADE OF THESE GUYS! THAT'S WHERE I COME IN!



COME BACK AND FIGHT LIKE A MAN, YA FREAK!









YOUNG MR. FISK HAS AN APPOINTMENT WITH ME, GENTLEMEN.

FOR NOW, THIS MEETING IS ADJOURNED.



**MOMENTARILY...**  
RICHARD, YOUR MOTHER IS STILL QUITE ILL. YOUR FATHER LEFT STRICT INSTRUCTIONS REGARDING HER CARE, AS IT IS I'M AT RISK FOR ALLOWING THIS VISIT.

NICE OF YOU TO SQUEEZE ME IN, ARRANGER. I MEAN, I DID COME TO SEE MY MOTHER THE OTHER NIGHT.\*

\*LAST ISU -- J.M.

I KNOW YOU, ARRANGER.

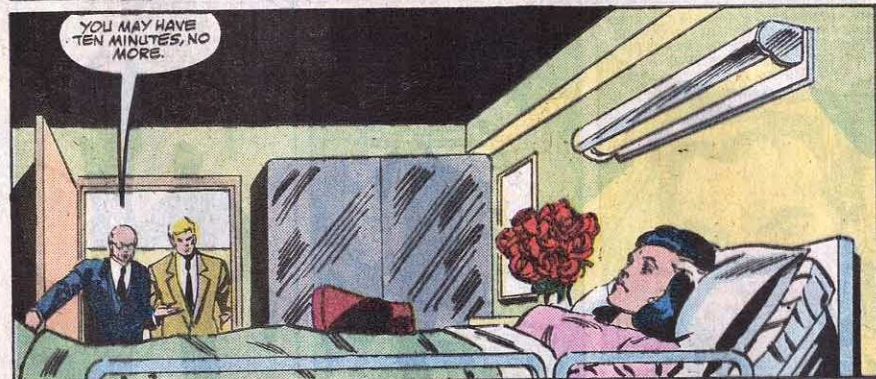


YOU DON'T GO TO THE BATHROOM WITHOUT MY DEAR FATHER'S OKAY.

YOUR GIFT FOR COLORFUL LINGUISTICS IS ENVIABLE.

WHEN YOU CHAT WITH HIM NEXT, BE SURE AND TELL HIM I STILL HATE HIS GUTS.

YOU'RE A PIP YOURSELF, ARRANGER.



YOU MAY HAVE TEN MINUTES, NO MORE.



WHO--WHO ARE YOU...?

IT'S ALL RIGHT, MOTHER... IT'S JUST ME, RICHARD.

YOUR SON.



M... MY SON... I... I... I DON'T KNOW YOU...

I'M AFRAID...

SO AM I, MOTHER. THIS IS A DANGEROUS GAME I'M PLAYING...

...A LOT OF RISK INVOLVED I GET AFRAID SOMETIMES... A LOT OF THINGS.



THEN I REMEMBER I HAVE YOU. YOU HAVE ME. WE HAVE EACH OTHER.

THEN I KNOW EVERYTHING'S GOING TO WORK OUT. EVERYTHING'S GOING TO BE ALL RIGHT.



SOMETIME  
LATER...

NO SIGN OF THE PUN-  
ISHER... NOT THAT I  
REALLY EXPECTED TO  
FIND HIM. GUN-TOTING  
NUT CASES ARE  
USUALLY REAL GOOD  
AT MELTING INTO THE  
WOODWORK!



AT LEAST THE PUNISHER  
SEEMS TO CARE ABOUT THE  
INNOCENTS WHO COULD BE  
HURT DURING HIS LITTLE  
CAMPAIGNS! IT'S THOSE  
RECKLESS MOB IDIOTS  
I'M AFRAID OF!

THE  
KIND OF HUMAN  
FILTH WHO DOESN'T  
EVEN CARE WHO  
GETS HIT IN THE CROSS-  
FIRE! IT'S THOSE GUYS  
WHO'VE MADE ME  
DECIDE TO RIDE  
GANG WAR OUT AS  
SPIDER-MAN...



...DESPITE MY  
DECISION TO HANG UP  
MY TIGHTS FOREVER!  
WELL, IF THERE IS A  
SILVER LINING TO THIS  
MESS, IT'S THAT NO  
ONE WAS KILLED  
IN TODAY'S  
SHOOTOUT...



...AND THAT I'D MANAGED TO HAVE  
MY AUTOMATIC CAMERA CLICKING  
AWAY THE WHOLE TIME! AND, FOR  
THIS STARVING PHOTOGRAPHER,  
THIS ROLL OF FILM MEANS  
ONE THING...



...RENT  
MONEY.

SOON, IN THE DAILY BUGLE'S  
CITY ROOM...

HEY-- KATE! I'VE  
GOT SOME GREAT  
SHOTS OF THAT SHOOT-  
OUT AT THE VIDEO AR-  
CADE THIS MORNING--



WELL, I'LL TAKE  
A LOOK, PETER,  
BUT DON'T HOLD  
YOUR BREATH!



UPI PHOTOS WERE CRAWLING  
ALL OVER THAT SCENE MOMENTS  
AFTER IT BEGAN. I'VE GOT A  
STACK OF SHOTS TO CHOOSE  
FROM AND, CONSIDERING ALL  
THE OTHER FIREFIGHTS  
BREAKING OUT  
NOWADAYS...



...THIS  
ONE REALLY ISN'T  
THAT BIG A DEAL.  
I DON'T UNDERSTAND  
YOU, PARKER. IF YOU'D  
RAN STRAIGHT OVER  
I MIGHT'VE RUN  
YOUR SHOTS.

INSTEAD, YOU  
TOOK YOUR COFFEE  
BREAK, OR  
WHATEVER.



I WAS SEARCHING  
FOR THE PUNISHER--  
BUT HOW DO I  
TELL HER THAT?!

I REALLY  
NEED TO GET  
ONTO ANOTHER  
LINE OF  
WORK...



HEY--  
PETER--!















YOU'D BETTER BE, PAL! I GOT A LOT RIDIN' ON THIS!

THE ROSE WILL HAVE TO LET THE HIT GO DOWN... IF HE SAYS ANYTHING EVERYBODY'S GONNA KNOW HE WAS IN ON IT FROM THE BEGINNING!



YEAH, HE'S GOTTA SIT BACK AND WATCH ME BLOW THE ARRANGERS' FAT FACE OFF AND THEN, THE ROSE HIMSELF WILL BE NEXT!

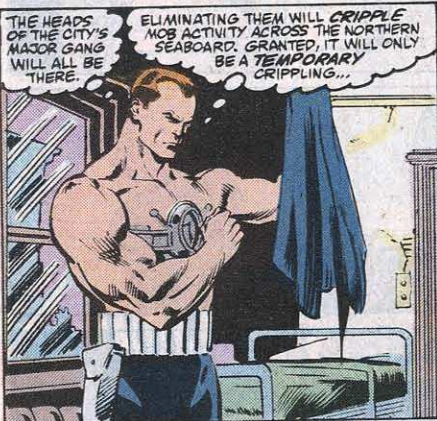
STILL LATER...



MY SOURCES TELL ME THE ARRANGER'S SET HIS BIG MEETING FOR TONIGHT!

THE HEADS OF THE CITY'S MAJOR GANG WILL ALL BE THERE.

ELIMINATING THEM WILL CRIPPLE MOB ACTIVITY ACROSS THE NORTHERN SEABOARD. GRANTED, IT WILL ONLY BE A TEMPORARY CRIPPLING...



... BUT IT WILL BE A LESSON AND EXAMPLE FOR ANYONE WHO DECIDES TO SET UP SHOP IN THE YEARS TO COME!



I HOPE THE WALL-CRAWLER DOESN'T SHOW UP TONIGHT, BUT IF HE DOES...



I'LL JUST HAVE TO TAKE CARE OF HIM, TOO.



AFTER ALL, IN EVERY WAR...



... THERE ARE UNFORTUNATE CASUALTIES.



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### STAR BRAND

Kerr's first battle using the power of the Star Brand ended:

- A. ☐ In downtown Pittsburgh  
B. ☐ In the Laurel Mountains  
C. ☐ On the moon  
D. ☐ At a slag dump

Who claimed two people were missing and one other was dead?

- A. ☐ Colby Shaw  
B. ☐ The Skipper  
C. ☐ The Director  
D. ☐ Emmett Proudhawk

What is Jack's nickname?

- A. ☐ Big John  
B. ☐ Mr. Magnificent  
C. ☐ Mr. Magnifico  
D. ☐ Jack Fury

When Spitfire and the Troubleshooters demanded information from Ken, he answered by:

- A. ☐ Flying away too fast to be seen  
B. ☐ Twisting a wrench into "sculpture"  
C. ☐ Snapping a bolt in half  
D. ☐ Lying

### NIGHTMASK

Where is Dr. Ballard originally from?

- A. ☐ Haiti  
B. ☐ Brooklyn Heights  
C. ☐ Jamaica  
D. ☐ Georgetown

### D.P.7

D.P. stands for:

- A. ☐ Dangerous Persons  
B. ☐ Danger Patrol  
C. ☐ Disaster Potential  
D. ☐ Displaced Paranormals

### SPITFIRE AND THE TROUBLESHOOTERS

What is "Fastball"?

- A. ☐ Jenny's semi  
B. ☐ Tim Ferris' M.A.X. armor  
C. ☐ Terry's favorite drink  
D. ☐ Major Benton's Smith & Wesson

What is Mr. Steel afraid of losing?

- A. ☐ His company  
B. ☐ His life  
C. ☐ His wife  
D. ☐ Control

The Clinic is operated by:

- A. ☐ National Institute for Paranormal Research  
B. ☐ Project: Paranormality  
C. ☐ The Sanctuary Foundation  
D. ☐ Department of Paranormal Activities

What is "Spitfire"?

- A. ☐ Jenny Swensen's childhood nickname  
B. ☐ The M.A.X. armor codename  
C. ☐ Karl Swensen's password into his computer files  
D. ☐ All of the above

### MARK HAZZARD: MERC

In the New York City incident, Mai was delayed because he needed a ...

- A. ☐ Train to stop the truck  
B. ☐ Helicopter to trail the car  
C. ☐ Tank to stop the train  
D. ☐ Truck to stop the bus

### JUSTICE

For which law enforcement agency does Rebecca Chambers work?

- A. ☐ Department of Labor  
B. ☐ Department of Welfare Services  
C. ☐ Department of Justice  
D. ☐ Department of Health, Education and Welfare

### PSI-FORCE

The stolen CIA list had eight names on it. Who claimed that one of those eight was missing and two others were dead?

- A. ☐ Colby Shaw  
B. ☐ The Skipper  
C. ☐ The Director  
D. ☐ Emmett Proudhawk

What type of gun was Hazzard assembling in issue three?

- A. ☐ MG-08  
B. ☐ .45 ACP  
C. ☐ Aug-Sa  
D. ☐ .120 Mauser

What happened to Justice's right hand?

- A. ☐ It grew an extra finger  
B. ☐ He sprained it  
C. ☐ It withered due to exposure to pollutants in the Earth's atmosphere  
D. ☐ He lost it in an encounter with a monster

### KICKERS INC.

What happened to Jack's brother, Steve?

- A. ☐ He became the coach of the team  
B. ☐ He left New York for a Philadelphia team  
C. ☐ He was killed by the loan sharks  
D. ☐ He was fired

### NEW UNIVERSE SWEEPSTAKES OFFICIAL RULES

1. NO PURCHASE NECESSARY. One complete set of New Universe questions, Official Rules and Entry Form appear on this page. You may also obtain a complete set of New Universe questions and entry form from your favorite comic book store or by printing your name, address, age (if under age 18, indicate parent or legal guardians' name) on a 3" x 5" card and sending it to: New Universe Sweepstakes, 387 Park Avenue South, New York, NY 10016. (Multicolored or illegible cards will be disqualified). One request per envelope. All requests must be received no later than December 1, 1986. Requests will be honored only while supplies last.
2. Winners will be chosen at random only from those entries on which all questions have been answered correctly. Your chance of winning will depend on the total number of entry forms received. On which all questions have been correctly answered.

3. To enter Sweepstakes, completely fill out each entry form. You may enter as often as you like, but each entry must be mailed separately. Entry forms must be postmarked no later than December 31, 1986 and must be received by January 5, 1987.

4. Winners will be announced in the Bulletin Bulletin Page in Marvel Comics and will be notified by mail. A list of winners can be obtained by sending a self-addressed stamped envelope to: Marvel Comics Group—New Universe Sweepstakes, 387 Park Avenue South, NY, NY 10016.

5. Marvel will not be responsible for any tax that may be due on prizes or for lost or stolen entry forms.

6. Void where prohibited.

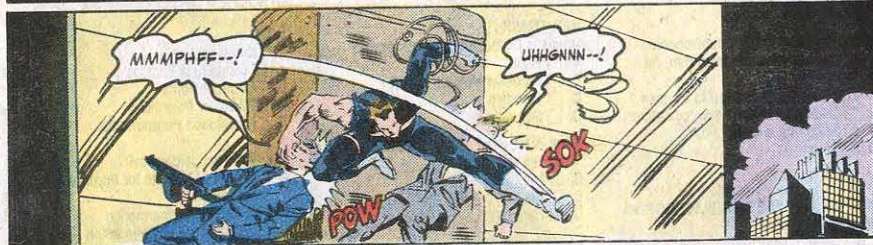
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MIDNIGHT.

GANGLORDS FROM THE CITY'S MAJOR CRIME NETWORKS BEGIN ARRIVING AT THE KINGPIN'S PARK AVENUE OFFICES FOR THEIR CONFERENCE WITH THE ARRANGER!

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# BULLPEN BULLETINS

About ten years ago, a lawyer friend of mine told me that I could sue DC Comics for a million dollars or more. The lawyer, a lady who'd worked in the comics business for many years, had discovered that I'd started writing professionally for DC Comics in 1965 when I was thirteen years old, and had written many dozens of stories for DC's top-selling titles while I was between the ages of thirteen and eighteen. Because I was a *minor*, she said, the legal agreements that I'd signed granting DC ownership of the stories I'd written and the characters I'd created [two of which were featured in their own series] were meaningless. She told me that I owned those stories, and would be entitled to all the income DC had received from licensing them for publication worldwide, or statutory copyright damages, whichever was greater. She said the case was airtight, and urged me to pursue it.

I never even considered it for a moment.

You see, I'd been offered the same deal as everybody else in comics in those days, and, minor or not, I'd understood it perfectly. Moreover, I'd agreed to it *enthusiastically*—thrilled to have the chance to write comics, and very glad to be paid what I was paid, because my family needed that money.

It wouldn't be right to go back on the deal.

Recently, a reporter from Phoenix asked me, "Do you think your comics provide good role models for your younger readers?" That's a pretty standard question, and I

gave it the standard answer—that providing good role models is not our goal. We don't try to preach morals or values—business, we feel, best left to parents and educators. We're *entertainers*. Our business is telling good stories.

He seemed happy with that answer, and the interview moved on. Since then, however, I've given that subject more thought. The fact is that a good story must leave the reader with something more than he started with—a thought, an idea, an insight... What thoughts, ideas and insights were conveyed to me when I was a reader?

The *Amazing Spider-Man* was my favorite title back then. I identified with Peter Parker, because he and his Aunt May had money troubles just like my family did. Often his need was desperate, and he was faced with a choice between doing the self-serving, expedient thing and doing the *right* thing. He wasn't a paragon. Once or twice he slipped. Hey, he was only human. But, you know, I could tell that he learned from his mistakes, and in the end, when it counted, he always chose to do the *right* thing.

My lawyer friend's name came up in conversation the other day, reminding me of my choice not to sue DC. It occurred to me then that Peter Parker wouldn't have done it either.

Jim Shooter  
Editor in Chief

## CHECKLIST

- ☐ DAKOTA NORTH #5
- ☐ DAREDEVIL #239
- ☐ G.I. JOE SPECIAL MISSIONS #3
- ☐ NEW MUTANTS #48—Vs. the Sentinels of the future!
- ☐ STRIKEFORCE: MORTURI #3—Their first mission against the Horde!
- ☐ TRANSFORMERS: THE MOVIE (Limited Series) #3
- ☐ WEB OF SPIDER-MAN #23
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- ☐ CONAN ANNUAL #10
- ☐ ALPHA FLIGHT #43
- ☐ AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #285—With the Punisher and Hogoboin!
- ☐ CAPTAIN AMERICA #326
- ☐ DOCTOR STRANGE #61—Introducing Rintahl!
- ☐ G.I. JOE AND TRANSFORMERS (Limited Series) #2—Cobra and the Deceptions become allies!
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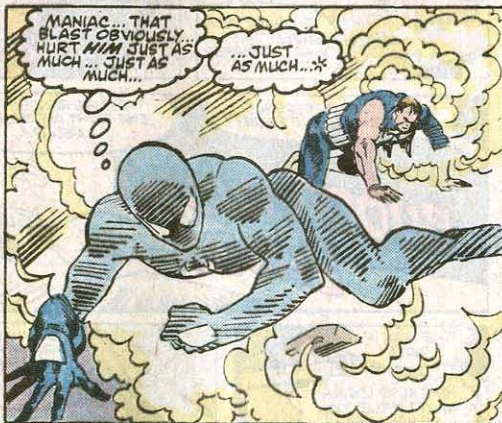
--PUNCH HIMSELF IN THE CHEST...?!

SPIDER-SENSE SCREAMING...



GAS!!

SOME KIND OF... HARNES... UNDER THE PUNISHER'S OUTFIT...



MANIAC... THAT BLAST OBVIOUSLY HURT HIM JUST AS MUCH... JUST AS MUCH...

...JUST AS MUCH...\*



SORRY... I HAD... TO DO THAT... SPIDER-MAN...

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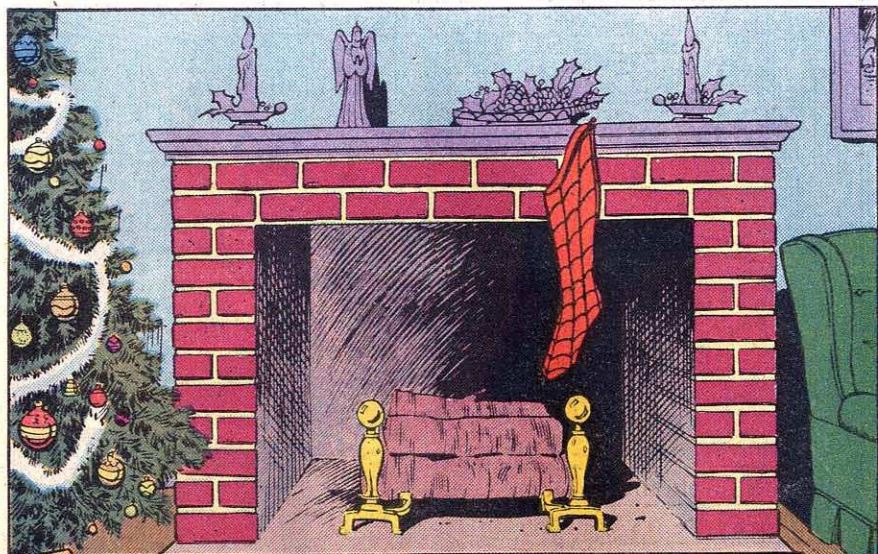
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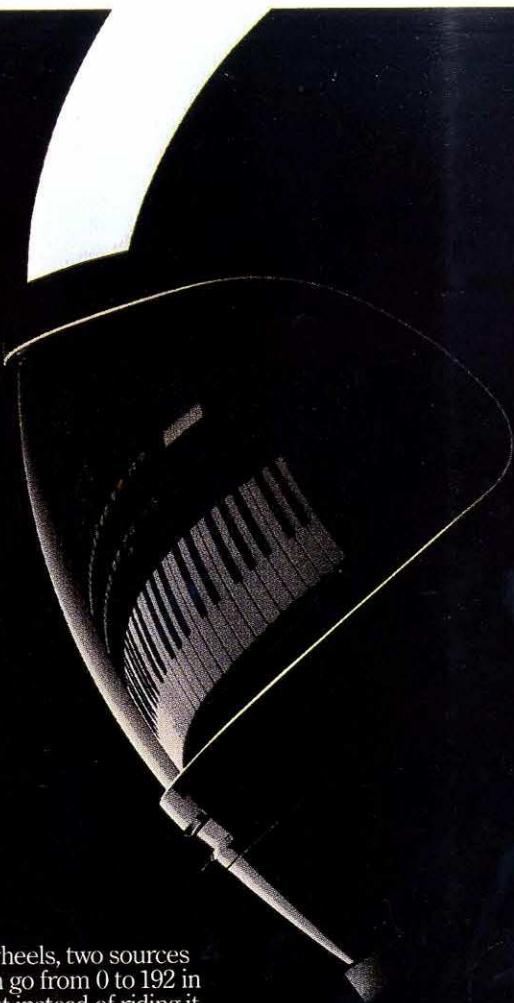
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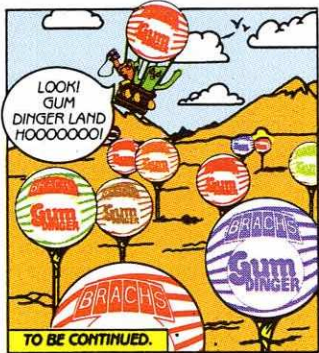
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