

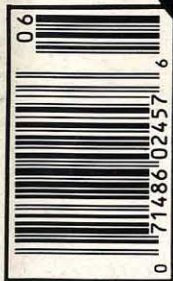
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the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN

IN THIS ISSUE:
**SILVER
SABLE™
IS BACK!**





GI JOE

A REAL AMERICAN HERO®

NOW, YOU CAN BE THE NEXT JOE!

YOU can be a Real American Hero and get a G.I. Joe action figure of YOU plus your own personalized file card.

Just fill out the enlistment form below and we'll develop your own top-secret file card.

1. You make-up your own special G.I. Joe code name.

(Use up to 20 letters).

2. You would most characterize yourself as: (check one)

- ☐ A leader. You're always in control of any situation and inspire confidence.
☐ A corpsman. You're the backbone of any group; quiet, efficient, powerful.
☐ A loner. You value getting the job done over all else.

3. You're at your best: (check one)

- ☐ In high-stress situations. Suddenly, you become all nerve-endings and tensed muscle.
☐ When endurance is called for. You are endlessly strong, endlessly patient.
☐ When faced with a difficult decision. Your logical mind loves a challenge.
☐ In the heat of action. You have a supremely high energy level.

4. G.I. Joe Team members consider you to be: (check one)

- ☐ A good friend to all, always there when someone needs a hand.
☐ The type of man who inspires respect.
☐ An offbeat combination of military skill and artistic talent.
☐ A maverick: No one can keep up with you for long.

5. Service Branch (check one)

- ☐ Army ☐ Navy ☐ Air Force ☐ Marines ☐ Coast Guard

6. Primary Military Specialty (check one)

- ☐ Infantry ☐ Intelligence ☐ Communications
☐ Medic ☐ Artillery ☐ Jungle Warfare
☐ Airborne ☐ Armor ☐ Special Forces
☐ Pilot ☐ S.E.A.L. ☐ Martial Arts

7. Secondary Specialty (check one)

- ☐ Computers ☐ Counter-Espionage
☐ Drill Instructor ☐ Radar
☐ Rifle Instructor ☐ Electronics
☐ Laser Weapons ☐ Machinist
☐ Combat Engineer ☐ Frogman
☐ Gunners Mate

8. Weapons Expert (check two)

- ☐ M-16 ☐ XM1R-3A Laser ☐ M-60
☐ XM-76 Grenade Rifle ☐ M-1911AT
☐ Launcher ☐ U21 ☐ Auto Pistol
☐ M-2 Browning ☐ M-7 ☐ M-32 Pulverizer
☐ Cal. Heavy Flamethrower ☐ Expert all NATO
☐ Machine Gun ☐ Reflex Crossbow ☐ & Warsaw Pact
☐ LAW Rocket ☐ M-11 ☐ Small Arms
☐ System ☐ Submachine Gun

9. Martial Arts Expert (check two)

- ☐ Tai Kwan Do ☐ Jujitsu ☐ Karate
☐ Kung-Fu ☐ Zen Sword ☐ Throwing Stars

10. Schooling/Training (check three)

- ☐ Airborne School ☐ Jungle Warfare
☐ Recondo School ☐ Desert Training
☐ Special Forces School ☐ S.E.A.L. School
☐ Ranger School ☐ Military Intelligence School
☐ Flight Warrant Officers ☐ Emergency Medicine School

To become a part of the G.I. Joe Team, just fill in your enlistment information and complete the order form below!

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Important: This offer is good only until Dec. 31, 1988 or while supplies last. Offer good only in the United States, except where prohibited by law. Allow 6-8 weeks for delivery.

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PARENT'S NAME

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COME ON, MEN! THE
WILD PACK HAS TAKEN
EVERYTHING THAT'S BEEN
THROWN AT US, AND THERE'S
ONLY ONE CORRIDOR
TO GO!

THIS MISSION
IS A *PIECE*
O' CAKE!

WRONG.

THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN® Vol. 1, No. 301, June, 1988. (ISSN 0274-5232) Published by MARVEL COMICS, A NEW WORLD COMPANY, James E. Galton, President, Stan Lee, Publisher, Michael Hobson, Group Vice-President, Milton Schiffman, Vice-President, Production. OFFICE OF PUBLICATION: 387 PARK AVENUE SOUTH, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10016. SECOND CLASS POSTAGE PAID AT NEW YORK, NY AND AT ADDITIONAL MAILING OFFICES. Published monthly. Copyright © 1988 by Marvel Entertainment Group, Inc. All rights reserved. Price \$1.00 per copy in the U.S. and \$1.25 in Canada. Subscription rate \$9.00 for 12 issues. Canada and Foreign, \$11.00. Printed in the U.S.A. No similarity between any of the names, characters, persons, and/or institutions in this magazine with those of any living or dead person or institution is intended, and any such similarity which may exist is purely coincidental. This periodical may not be sold except by authorized dealers and is sold subject to the conditions that it shall not be sold or distributed with any part of its cover or markings removed, nor in a mutilated condition. THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN (including all prominent characters featured in the issue), and the distinctive likenesses thereof, are trademarks of the MARVEL ENTERTAINMENT GROUP, INC. POSTMASTER: SEND ADDRESS CHANGES TO SUBSCRIPTION DEPARTMENT, 387 PARK AVENUE SOUTH, 9TH FLOOR, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10016.



SCENE: MANHATTAN.

WHICH MEANS,
MR. CRUZ,
THAT WE'VE
SUCCEEDED!

AS MY HEAD OF
SECURITY, DON'T
YOU AGREE?

NOT NECESSARILY, MR. PRUETT.
THE WILD PACK IS GOOD, BUT SOME
TERRORISTS COULD BE BETTER!

HMPH!

MS. SABLE,
PLEASE--!

I RESPECT YOUR OPINION,
FRANK--YOU'RE THE BEST
AT WHAT YOU DO. BUT I'VE
ADVERTISED THE PRUETT
BUILDING AS BEING THE
SAFEST BUSINESS
LOCALE IN NEW YORK.

HIRING THE WILD PACK FROM
SILVER SABLE INTERNATIONAL
WAS FINE TO A POINT, SIR. BUT I'D
FEEL MUCH MORE CONFIDENT
IF SECURITY MEASURES WERE
TRIED BY THE BEST--SILVER
SABLE HERSELF!

SORRY,
MR. CRUZ.
THAT'S NOT
MY LINE.

SECURITY IS
WHAT I'M SELLING--
AND WHAT MY CLIENTS ARE
BUYING. IS THERE ANY
BETTER WAY OF TESTING
INTRUSION DETERRENTS?

THE PRUETT BUILDING:
NEW AND UNINTENDED,
UNDERGOING THE
FINAL PREPARATIONS FOR
COMMERCIAL OCCUPATION.

I'M SURE MY DEPARTMENT COULD AUTHORIZE A BONUS OF, SAY... \$50,000?

I... I...

I HATE THIS.

THE WILD PACK WAS ORIGINALLY FORMED TO HUNT DOWN NAZI WAR CRIMINALS--

--BUT WHEN I TURNED THE PACK INTO INTERNATIONAL BOUNTY HUNTERS, TOGETHER WE BECAME THE CORNERSTONE FOR THE ECONOMY OF MY HOME COUNTRY, SYMKARIA!

THE ONLY REASON I ACCEPTED THIS LOWLY JOB WAS BECAUSE OUR RECENT SUCCESS RATE HAS BEEN LESS THAN IMPRESSIVE. * I THOUGHT IT A PRACTICAL WAY TO BOLSTER OUR REPUTATION, AND SYMKARIA'S TREASURY!

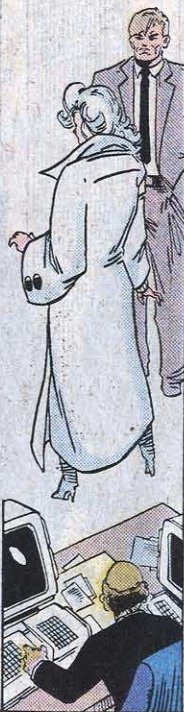
BUT FOR MYSELF TO PARTICIPATE IN SUCH A COMMON VENTURE...

ALL RIGHT-- \$100,000!

PRIDE MUST BE PRICKLY, TO HURT SO WHEN SWALLOWED.

I WILL TAKE THE CONTRACT.

* IN AMAZING
265 AND # 281,
SPECTACULAR
128--J.S.



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- 7 STAMFORD, CT. - Stamford Howard Johnson, Exit 6 off I-95.
- 14 WAYNE, N.J. - Totowa Holiday Inn, Rte. 46 West just 1/4 mile from Exit 55A off Rte. 80, two miles east of Willowbrook Mall.
- 20 PLAINVIEW, N.Y. - Howard Johnson Plaza-Hotel, 150 Sunnyside Blvd., Exit 46 off Long Isl. Expressway.
- 21 MANHATTAN, N.Y. - Roosevelt Hotel, 46th St. and Madison Ave.
- 28 PHILADELPHIA, PA. - City Line Holiday Inn, City Ave. at Exit 33 off Schuylkill Exp.

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GOOD MOVE!

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SOLENNLY, SILVER SABLE DEPARTS,
HER DECISION MADE.

WHILE ON THE UPPER WEST SIDE, OTHER
MINDS SEEM SOMEWHAT LESS RESOLUTE...

ON SECOND
THOUGHT--

-- I THINK THAT ONE WOULD
LOOK BETTER OVER-- NO, THE
COLOR'S WRONG FOR-- MAYBE
IN THE CORNER WHERE-- BUT
THEN IT WOULD CLASH WITH--
HOW ABOUT OVER--

Y'KNOW,
MARY JANE, I'VE BEEN
WONDERING HOW I COULD
MAKE MORE MONEY THAN
BY TAKING PICTURES FOR
THE DAILY BUGLE.



HOW DOES "PETER
PARKER, FURNITURE
MOVER OF THE STARS"
SOUND?

SILLY.

-- DARN! I
WILL HAVE
TO FINISH
LATER. I HAVE
A MAGAZINE
COVER TO
POSE FOR IN
AN HOUR!

GUESS
I'D BETTER
HEAD OUT,
TOO.

I WANT TO CHECK ON AN ADVANCED
PHOTOGRAPHY COURSE AT THE
UNIVERSITY.

IN YOUR
SPIDER-
MAN
COSTUME?
EXPECTING
TROUBLE
FROM THE
SYNCHRONIZED
SWIMMING
TEAM?



I KNOW,
LET'S TRY THE
COUCH BESIDE--



GOT A
LITTLE ERRAND
TO RUN FIRST.

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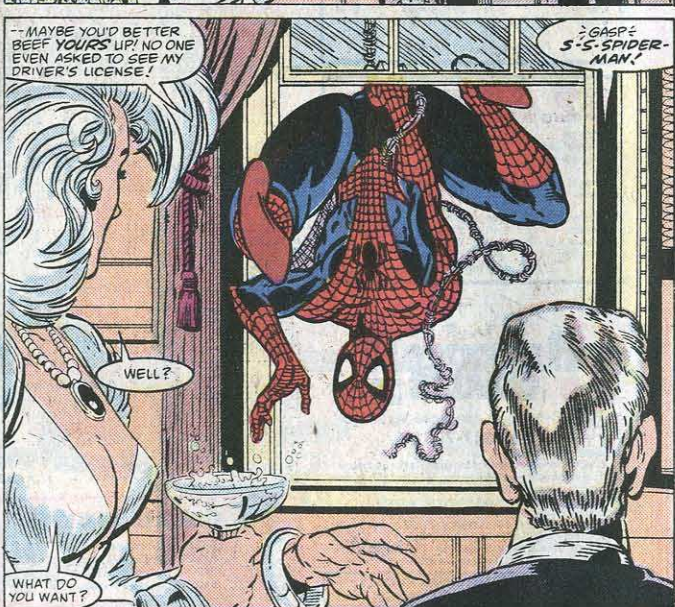
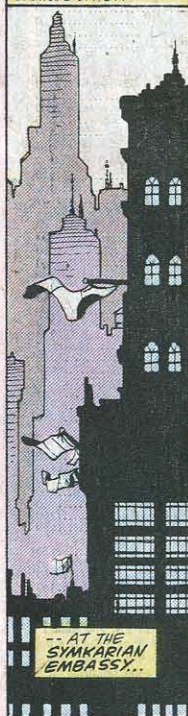
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WHILE AT THE BEDFORD TOWERS...

I'D LIKE TO SEE PETER PARKER, MY GOOD MAN. WOULD YOU BE SO KIND AS TO RING HIS FLAT?

SORRY, SIR. MRS. PARKER'S NOT IN.

BUT IF IT'S ANY HELP, I BELIEVE I HEARD HIS WIFE WISHIN' HIM GOOD LUCK AT--

"...EMPIRE STATE UNIVERSITY!"

THIS PLACE STILL FEELS LIKE HOME.

I CAN'T DENY I MISS THE ACADEMIC LIFE, BUT I GUESS I'LL HAVE TO KEEP MISSING IT--REGISTRATION FOR THAT PHOTO COURSE I WANTED WAS FULL!

MAYBE I COULD AUDIT THE COURSE, GET THE KNOWLEDGE IF NOT THE CREDI--

PETER!

DR. SLOAN!
HI!

I SAW YOU PASSING BY AND WONDERED IF YOU COULD HELP ME OUT. MY PHYSICS CLASS IS HAVING TROUBLE GRASPING OHMIC RESISTANCE, AND SINCE YOU WERE ALWAYS SO EFFECTIVE AS A STUDENT TEACHER...

BUT, DR. SLOAN, I-- I'M RUSTY! I COULDN'T--!

HE COULD.

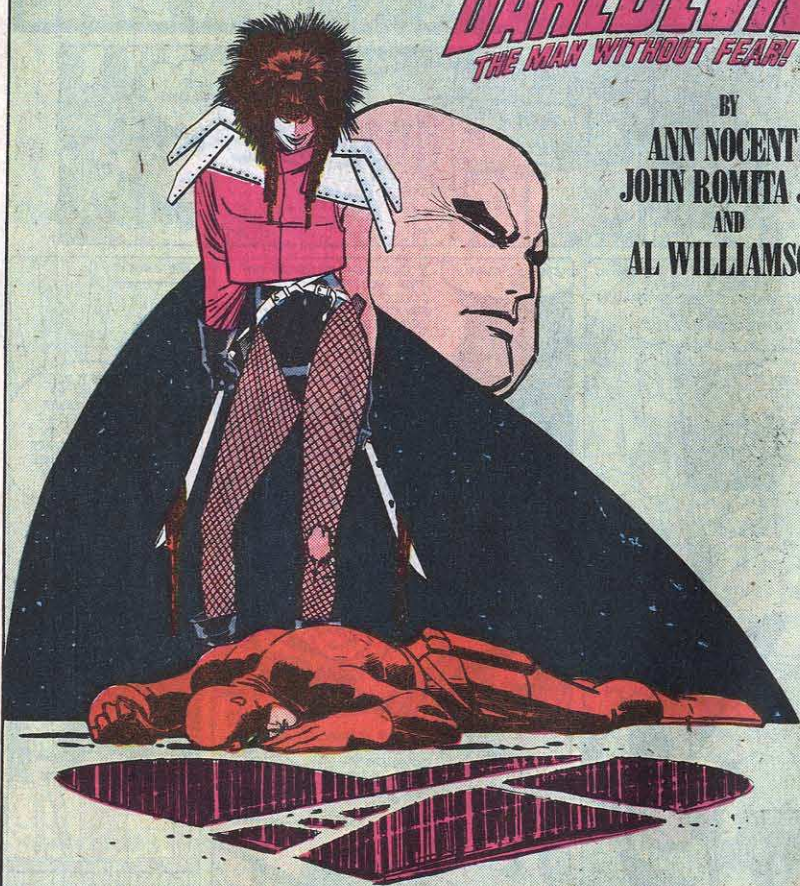
FIRST, YOU HAVE TO UNDERSTAND THAT ELECTRONS ARE ALWAYS ON THE MOVE--SORT OF LIKE PEE-WEE HERMAN AFTER A MEXICAN DINNER!

$i = \frac{E}{R}$

**SHE HAS TO KILL HIM ...
SHE LOVES HIM.**

DAREDEVIL
THE MAN WITHOUT FEAR!

BY
ANN NOCENTI
JOHN ROMITA JR.
AND
AL WILLIAMSON



**INTRODUCING TYPHOID MARY, IN A TRAGIC STORY OF LOVE AND DEATH.
ON SALE NOW FROM MARVEL®**

BUT AS PETER WARMS TO HIS AUDIENCE, AN ICY CHILL SETTLES OVER A MIDTOWN FASHION STUDIO, WHERE...

MARY JANE! DAWLING!

I LOVE WHAT SANDY'S DOING TO YOUR HAIR! IT WAS SO STYLISH WHEN I USED IT FOR A COVER SHOT--

--LAST YEAR!

--"KENNEL QUARTERLY!"

UH... OH...

REALLY, TOPAZ?

GUESS I MUST'VE MISSED THAT ISSUE OF--

BATTLE LINES ARE DRAWN.

WHILE AT E.S.U....

IT FELT GREAT TO DUST OFF THE ACADEMIC GEARS, BUT I'M STILL FEELING UNEASY. SOMETHING'S NAGGING AT ME.

IT'S THOSE GUYS AT THE SYMKARIAN EMBASSY. I DON'T WANT TO HASSLE WITH SABLE ANYMORE, BUT SINCE M. J.'S GOING TO BE WORKING LATE, AND I'VE NOTHING BETTER TO DO--

--I MIGHT AS WELL SATISFY MY CURIOSITY!

"YES, SIR--"

--PETER PARKER WAS HERE, INQUIRING ABOUT A PHOTOGRAPHY COURSE.

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE 212

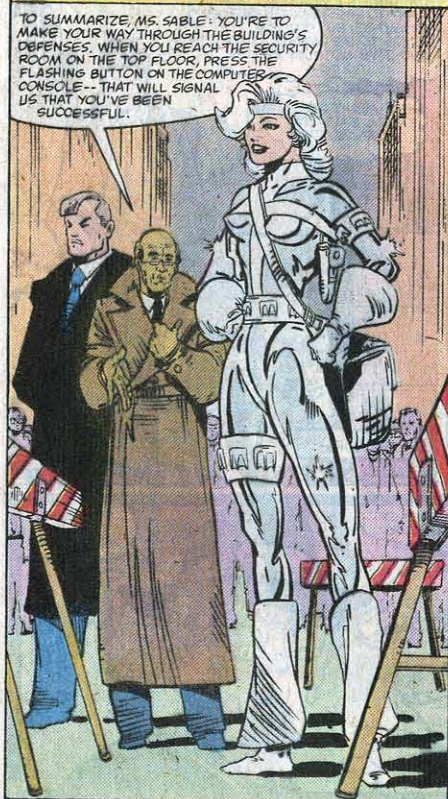
BUT I'M AFRAID HE LEFT A FEW MOMENTS AGO.

OH, DEAR. THEN I MUST HAVE--



EVENING COMES TO THE PRUETT BUILDING-- AS DOES A CAST OF TENSE AND EAGER PLAYERS...

TO SUMMARIZE, MS. SABLE: YOU'RE TO MAKE YOUR WAY THROUGH THE BUILDING'S DEFENSES. WHEN YOU REACH THE SECURITY ROOM ON THE TOP FLOOR, PRESS THE FLASHING BUTTON ON THE COMPUTER CONSOLE-- THAT WILL SIGNAL US THAT YOU'VE BEEN SUCCESSFUL.



I'LL BE MONITORING YOUR PROGRESS FROM THE TECHNICAL VAN.

I UNDERSTAND.



NOTHING, MR. PRUETT.



...AND THE VICTORY!!







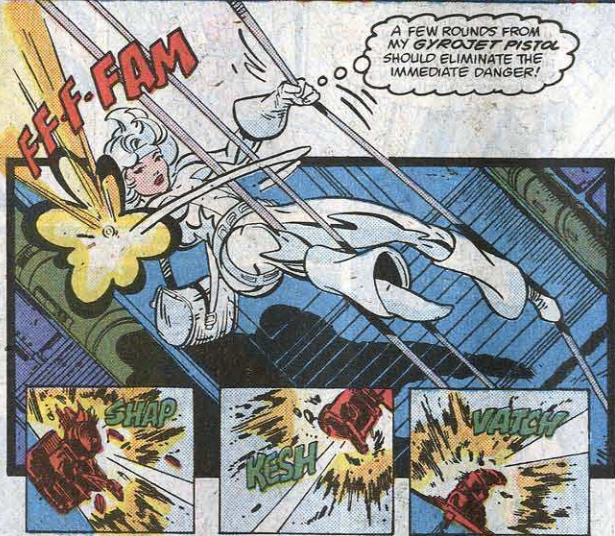
ELEVATORS
ARE PROBABLY
BOOBY-TRAPPED!
BUT MAYBE THE
SHAFTS WON'T
BE-- EH?



MUST BE
PAINT BALLS
LIKE THE WILD
PACK REPORTED!

GUN BARRELS!

SHOOTING
LIQUID-FILLED
PELLETS!

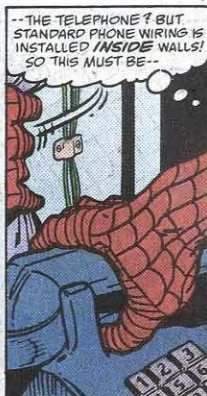


BUT THE OTHER SHAFTS
ARE PROBABLY RIGGED
AS WELL!

BETTER
TAKE MY
CHANCES IN
THE MAIN
BUILDING!

AT LEAST I
DIDN'T GET ANY
PAINT ON MY
CLOTHES, SO
FAR--

"-- NO HARM DONE!"



I'M INTO THE CENTER OF THE BUILDING--BUT I DON'T LIKE IT. GETTING HERE WAS TOO EASY.

I CAN'T BELIEVE THIS CORRIDOR ISN'T GUARDED SOMEHOW!

AND THIS AEROSOL CAN OF CHEMICAL FOG SHOULD TELL ME IF I'M RIGHT!

JUST AS I THOUGHT! MIST IS REVEALING INVISIBLE LIGHT BEAMS! TOUCHING THEM WOULD UNDOUBTEDLY TRIGGER ALARMS!

THIS IS GOING TO BE TRICKY!

HAVE TO CALL ON ALL OF MY ACROBATIC TRAINING TO--

BLAST!

SHOULD HAVE LEFT THE SATCHEL BACK AT--

--HUH? NO ALARMS? I COULD HAVE SWORN MY SATCHEL CLIPPED ONE OF THOSE BEAMS! BUT I GUESS--

...I WAS JUST LUCKY!

WHEW! ACCORDING TO THESE DOCUMENTS, FRANK CRUZ WAS BORN **FRANZ KRAUS**. HE'S THE SON OF HEINRICH KRAUS-- A NAZI WAR CRIMINAL SABLE AND THE WILD PACK PUT AWAY YEARS AGO!

HEINRICH DIED IN PRISON, AND CRUZ HAS BEEN PLANNING REVENGE EVER SINCE! MANEUVERING, MANIPULATING, GETTING INTO A POSITION TO **STRIKE!**

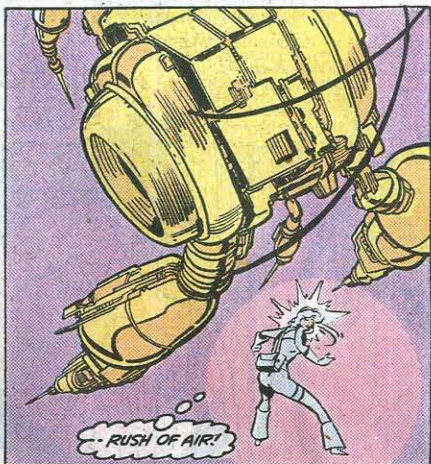
HE'S ALTERED DEFENSE MECHANISMS IN THE PRUETT BUILDING, FILLED PAINT PELLETS WITH **ACID**, CHANGED INFRARED TO **LASERS**, AND MORE! HE DOESN'T JUST WANT SABLE DOWN--





DEAD QUIET.

EXCEPT
FOR--



--RUSH OF AIR!



THE TECHNOLOGY AT
CRUZ'S DISPOSAL IS
IMPRESSIVE! THAT
DRONE MUST BE A
HEAT-SEEKER!

ITS HYDRODERMIC
ARMS MEANT TO
RENDER AN INTRUDER
UNCONSCIOUS!



BUT NOT
THIS
INTRUDER!

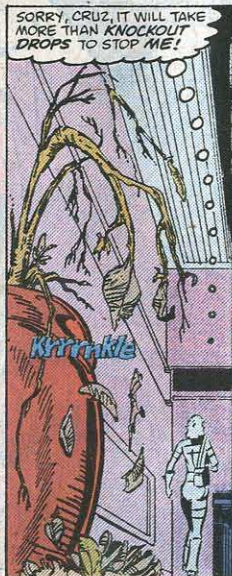


CHISH

SLASH



SMASH



SORRY, CRUZ, IT WILL TAKE
MORE THAN KNOCKOUT
DROPS TO STOP ME!

KRRINKLE



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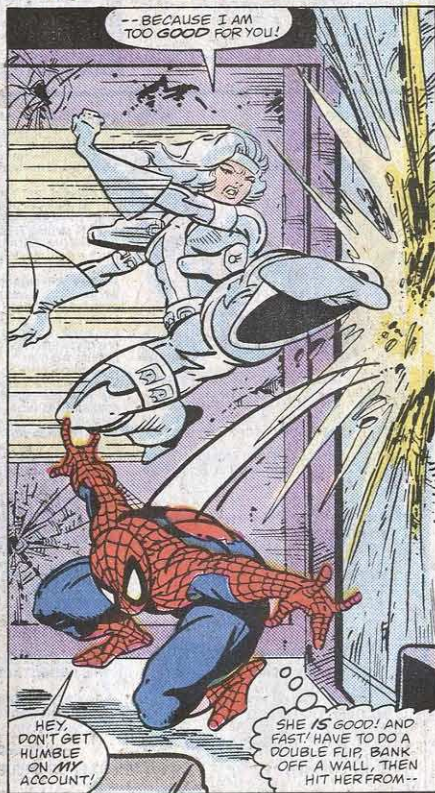
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BULLPEN BULLETINS

ITEM: You wouldn't think that annihilating a major U.S. city would create such a stir...! When word of Pittsburgh's impending destruction in the New Universe's THE PITT Bookshelf Edition leaked out, the Marvel offices were stormed with interested and indignant inquiries from the various media of the doomed city (doomed in the New Universe, anyway). It started with radio station WOPX, and eventually The Pittsburgh Press, the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, Point Park College's The Globe, WTAE radio, and even KDKA television interviewed the various creative parties responsible and ran articles or segments about the tragedy. What the Pittsburgh area media wanted to know was: "Why us?" We tried to explain that the obliteration of America's Most Liveable City was a dramatic outgrowth of the ongoing storyline in STAR BRAND, but they seemed less than satisfied. However, when we pointed out that the three creative types who brainstormed the idea of Pittsburgh's demise, New U editor Howard Mackie, and writers John Byrne and Mark Gruenwald, are "killed" in the very same issue that Pittsburgh is, they were a bit more mollified. Thanks go to Kelly O'Toole of the Greater Pittsburgh Office of Promotion for helping us get our side of the story out, and to the people of the greater Pittsburgh area for being such sports about your fictional nuking.

ITEM: We're in the midst of preparing a profusely-illustrated "coffee table" book telling the history of Marvel Comics from the 1930s to the present for publication in late '88. Unfortunately, our archives don't contain everything we'd like to include in the book. We're especially interested in locating unpublished covers, uninked, pencilled pages by Marvel artists; preliminary design sketches for Marvel characters; and old photos of the Marvel offices and staff. If you should happen to have such collector's pieces in your collection, we'd like to arrange to copy them so they can be included

in the book. Write us in care of Mark Gruenwald. History will thank you.

ITEM: One of comic fandom's largest-circulation weekly newspapers, The Comics Buyer's Guide, is holding their annual Fan Awards to determine your favorite writer, penciler, inker, colorist, letterer, editor, story, character and a whole slew of other faves. If you would like to make your favorites known, pick up a copy of this month's MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE for the official ballot, or fill out one of your own according to the rules below. Tell them Marvel sent you!

Comics Buyer's Guide Fan Awards for 1987

1. Favorite Editor, 2. Favorite Writer, 3. Favorite Penciller, 4. Favorite Inker, 5. Favorite Colorist, 6. Favorite Letterer, 7. Favorite Cover Artist, 8. Favorite Comic-Book Store, 9. Favorite Comic Book, 10. Favorite Limited Comic-Book Series, 11. Favorite Original Graphic Novel, 12. Favorite Topical Graphic Novel, 13. Favorite Character, 14. Favorite Publication about Comics, and 15. Best Selling Award for Favorite Direct-Sale-Only Title.

Only material cover-dated 1987 is eligible for consideration. Votes for ineligible material will not be counted.

Anyone may copy and circulate this ballot, and any fan may vote only once and vote for no more than one nominee in each category. Ballot-box stuffing will result in the destruction of all ballots involved. You need not vote in all

categories. Comics Buyer's Guide is not eligible for Category 14.

A free copy of Comics Buyer's Guide #716, dated May 13, 1988 (which will carry the results of voting), will be sent to any U.S. voter who does not already have a current or expired subscription to CBG. Votes from other countries will be counted, but we regret that a sample copy cannot be sent unless the vote is accompanied by \$1.50 in U.S. funds to cover costs of handling and shipping to another country.

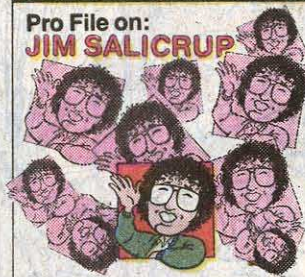
Mail your ballot individually in a single envelope by March 31, 1988, to: Comics Buyer's Guide Fan Awards, 700 East State Street, Iowa, Wisconsin 54901.

Include your Name, Age, Sex, Street, or Box, City, State, and ZIP.

Please type or print your votes and information clearly.

Pro File on:

JIM SALICRUP



Editor on: AMAZING SPIDER-MAN, MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE, MARVEL TALES, SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN, SPIDER-MAN COMICS MAGAZINE, WEB OF SPIDER-MAN, AND WHAT THE—?!, a new humor comic in the tradition of NOT BRAND ECHO.

Marvel freelance credits (past): I wrote SPIDEY SUPER STORIES, the Spider-Man

story in SPIDER-MAN AND THE POWER PACK Child Abuse prevention comic, THE A-TEAM, THE TRANSFORMERS, THE INJUNCTIONS, THE VISIONARIES, KOOL-AID MAN, QUIK BUNNY, and many more that even I won't admit to.

My hobbies are: Non-existent.

The single work of which I am most proud is: THE OFFICIAL MARVEL COMICS TOILET PAPER starring THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN and THE INCREDIBLE HULK. If people didn't like the story they knew what they could do with it.

My pet peeves are: Those people out there whose going around calling others Marvel Zombies! I've even launched a series of editorials in MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE crusading against this epidemic. And I promise each and every one of you that I won't rest until this long national nightmare is over.

My place of birth is: The same as most Marvel Universe characters—Manhattan.

My greatest accomplishment outside the comics field is: Finding an affordable apartment near my place of birth.

My oddest habit is: Waking up at 6:00 AM three times a week to take an aerobics class at a place they laughfully call the "Joy of Movement." If they were making a movie of my life, I'd like

to see my part played by: Jerry Lewis. At least they'd love it in France.

The reason I got into comics was: It's one of the greatest loves of my life.

People who knew me in High School thought I was: The luckiest guy in the world to already be working at Marvel.

My favorite performers are: Ringo Starr, Merv Griffin, Alice Cooper, Buster Poindexter, Leslie, Captain Kangaroo, Jack Benny, Bob Hope, William Powell, Myrna Loy, Carole Lombard, Mariel Hemingway, Brooke Shields, and many, many more.

The last good book I read was: SLAVES OF NEW YORK by Tama Janowitz.

The last good movie I saw was: SNOW WHITE AND THE SEVEN DWARFS.

The biggest influences on my work include: Stan Lee, Jim Shooter, and Andy Warhol.

My greatest unfulfilled ambition in the comics field is: To make AMAZING SPIDER-MAN the number one best-selling comic in the world.

The worst part of my job is: Finding enough time to do everything I want to do.

When nobody's looking I like to: Plug MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE.

The one thing I really want the world to know about me is: That Glenn Herd and Dwight Jon Zimmerman do all my work.

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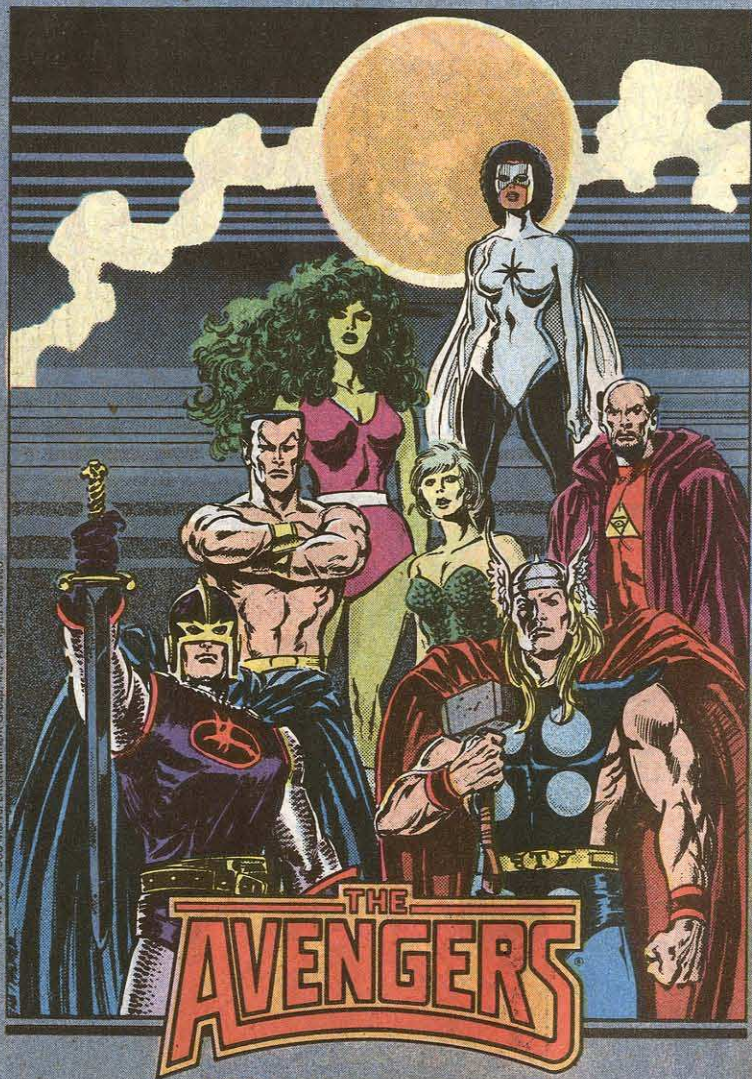
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- ☐ G.I. JOE COMICS MAGAZINE #10
- ☐ CONAN SAGA #13
- ☐ THE OFFICIAL MARVEL COMICS INDEX TO THE AVENGERS #8



THEY WERE EARTH'S MIGHTIEST HEROES.
NOTHING LASTS FOREVER.



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THE END BEGINS. ISSUE #291, BY
WALT SIMONSON, JOHN BUSCEMA AND TOM PALMER.
MONTHLY FROM MARVEL®.





WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOU PLACE A WALL-CRAWLING CITY-SLICKER IN THE MIDST OF AMERICA'S HEARTLAND? FIND OUT IN--

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THE SPIDER'S WEB

MARVEL COMICS GROUP
387 Park Avenue South
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JIM SALICRUP
EDITOR
GLENN HERDLING
ASSISTANT EDITOR

Dear Jim,

Having Kraven narrate the story in AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #292 was, to say the least, a very interesting concept.

Kraven's personal demon was personified in Spider-Man and his symbolic killing of his demon finally brought him peace.

I do have trouble with Kraven's final solution to finding peace and happiness. No, I'm not going to preach but I can already see the letters you'll be getting.

All that aside, if the work done on the next issue is half as good, it will surely be a sell-out.

R. Glen Blystone
RD #1, Box 249
Creekside, PA 15732

You mentioned something about the letters we'd be receiving . . . ?

Dear Sir,

I am writing to let you know how little I think of your company for advocating suicide in your comic books. (THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #294 Nov. 87.)

I cannot understand what kind of people would publish such an article while so many children are indeed killing themselves by suicide. It is one of the major reasons for teenage death in America.

I will never buy another of your books for my children and if I find that they have bought one it will be destroyed. I am also sending copies of this to every friend, church, school district I know of to prevent such destroying literature to be seen by American children.

Pamela M. Holloway
(no address given)

Kraven was a villain and he was insane. We certainly do not advocate the actions of villains, especially insane ones.

Dear Marvel,

This letter is in reference to the recent 6-part Spider-Man saga with Kraven. It has to do with Part V and what it had to say.

First, let me say that I have been a fan of SPIDER-MAN since its inception and I have collected since issue #5. So I have seen many, many adventures that the mighty Spider has gone through.

And when I heard about the 6-part adventure, I was more than a little excited. In fact,

after the first four issues, I thought this was going to be one of the best stories of '87!

But that changed after reading Part V. While the tone of the entire story has been gloomy, I was still surprised and disturbed by the ending. I am not religious by any means and I do not see suicide as a sin, but I do not like the reasoning that was presented for Kraven to blow his mind out.

We live in a society whose teenagers commit suicide every day over stupid reasons like breaking up with their girlfriends or parent trouble, so when I saw you justifying Kraven's suicide by saying that he has achieved everything in life that he wanted and that he no longer had anything more to accomplish, I find the connotation very dangerous, especially since many of your readers are teenagers who are still trying to decide what they want to do with their lives. This story just creates another false image to the sickness that we call suicide.

Suicide is a problem we should be trying to deal with, and educate, not glorify. Suicide, just like the drug problem, is a sickness, and it should not be presented, especially when we can't offer a solution to the problem.

If you had wanted to kill Kraven, let him die the way he lived, fighting wild animals, not by using the one weapon he abhorred throughout his career. Kraven never used a gun, so why now?

I do not believe that suicide can be presented positively, especially in a mainstream comic dealing with today's society.

Peter Pak
847 Yale St. #102
Los Angeles, CA 90012

We wholeheartedly agree with you, Peter. As far as Kraven's suicide goes, well, let's hear from Bill Climer, whose opinion pretty much sums up our own . . .

Dear Crew,

To state the obvious, AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #294, "Thunder," was another excellent piece of work done by J.M. DeMatteis. It was not at all what I expected. I expected a furious Spider-Man (he was) and a whole issue packed with fighting between Pete and Kraven. This is where I was wrong. Kraven had no intention of battling Spider-Man at all. He was so calm it was almost like he knew he couldn't fight Pete and win.

"Thunder" was truly shocking. I really find it hard to believe that Kraven killed himself. I always remember Kraven so sure of himself, so positive. But his mind must have gone haywire. That would account for this whole thing. Pretending to be the "spider" while the real Spidey is drugged beneath the ground. After all, wasn't this his final clutch at victory, his final attempt to win? Yes. And in his eyes he did win. I found myself actually feeling a bit sorry for Kraven at the end of #294. He seemed almost like a weary friend rather than an enemy.

Kraven was a villain we all enjoyed for many years. Now, we'll just have to find another hunter to take his place. Thank you.

Bill Climer
3330 Richmond-La Rue Rd.
La Rue, OH 43332

SALICRUP'S SECTION



Glenn Herdling is a sneaky guy. He thought he could put together this month's letters column, which raised a few very serious questions about AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #294, and then trick me into coming up with a brilliant response in my little column. Well, I can be sneaky too, Mr. Herdling. You see, as a result of the controversial ending to the Kraven saga, J.M. DeMatteis was inspired to write a follow-up tale that will deal with many of the points raised by our concerned correspondents, and I'm sure it will be far more eloquent than anything I could possibly say here. We'll let you know when to expect this story as soon as we work out all the details. But before I move on to other matters I'd just like to say that I simply don't believe that AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #294 advocates suicide. It's about an insane man and his insane actions. Most of you agreed, but we're always willing to listen to other points of view.

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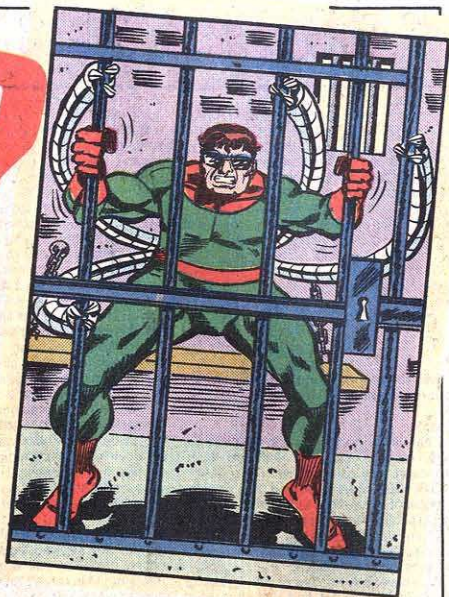
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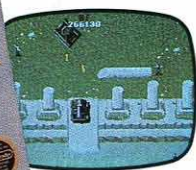
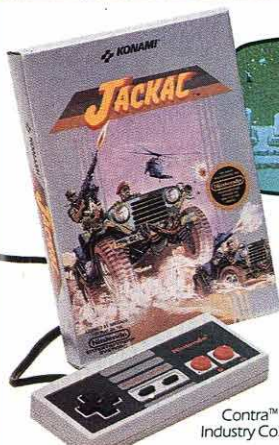
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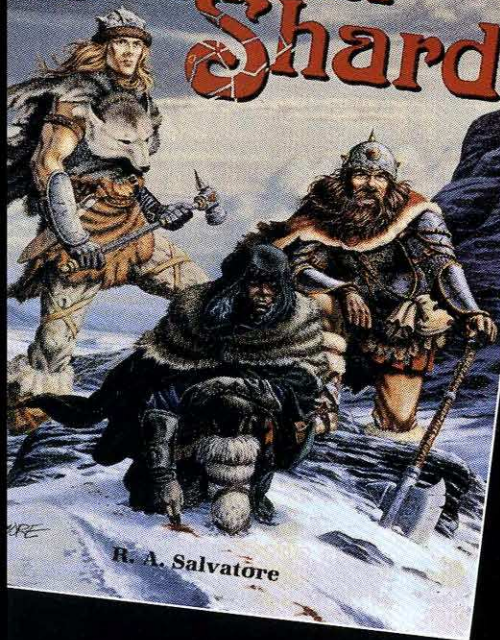


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