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**CHAOS IN
KANSAS!**

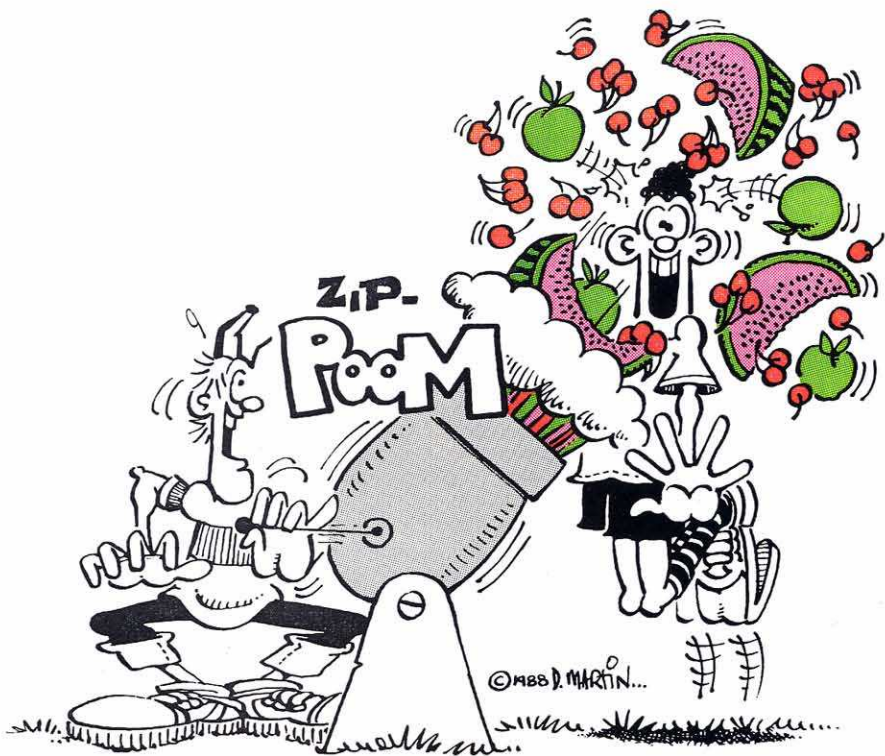
NO ONE WILL
STOP ME FROM
HAVING MY
REVENGE!

NO
ONE!



McFARLANE
ILLUSTRATIONS

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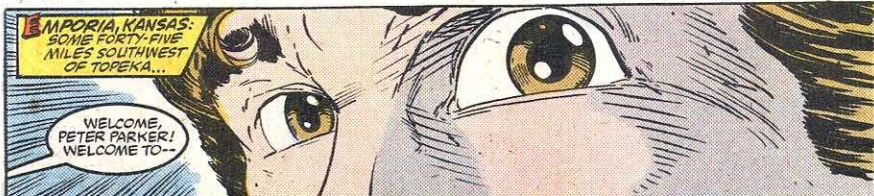


Fred tried to show Stan the
refreshing fruit flavor in
Jolly Rancher® Stix by using props.



Fruit Tastin' Candy

Stan Lee
PRESENTS: **THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN®**



(MID) AMERICAN GOTHIC!

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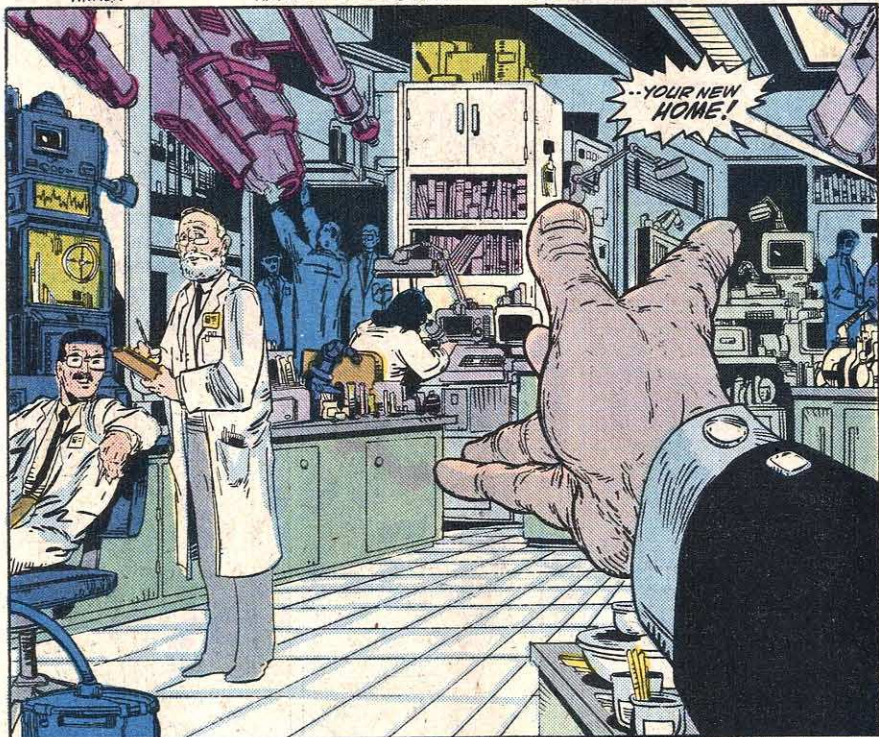
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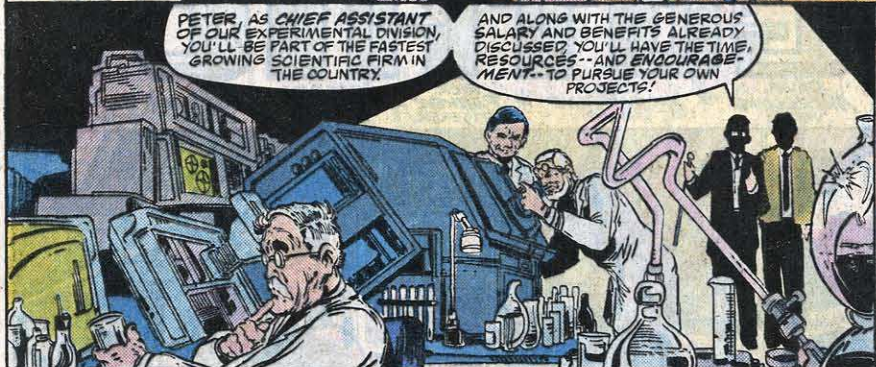


I THINK YOU'LL FIND ON-LINE RESEARCH TO BE EVERYTHING I SAID IT WAS, MY BOY.

MARTIN JACOBY IS NOT ONE TO EXAGGERATE!

IT'S TERRIFIC, MR. JACOBY--

-- BUT AS FOR BEING "HOME," I HAVEN'T ACCEPTED YOUR JOB OFFER YET!



PETER, AS CHIEF ASSISTANT OF OUR EXPERIMENTAL DIVISION, YOU'LL BE PART OF THE FASTEST GROWING SCIENTIFIC FIRM IN THE COUNTRY.

AND ALONG WITH THE GENEROUS SALARY AND BENEFITS ALREADY DISCUSSED, YOU'LL HAVE THE TIME, RESOURCES-- AND ENCOURAGEMENT-- TO PURSUE YOUR OWN PROJECTS!

IT SOUNDS WONDERFUL, JUST WHAT I'VE HOPED FOR EVER SINCE JUNIOR HIGH! BUT I CAN'T HELP WONDERING... WHY ME?

YOUR ACADEMIC RECORDS ARE EXEMPLARY, PETER, BUT WHAT TILTED THE DECISION IN YOUR FAVOR--

-- WAS A PERSONAL RECOMMENDATION FROM DR. CURT CONNORS?

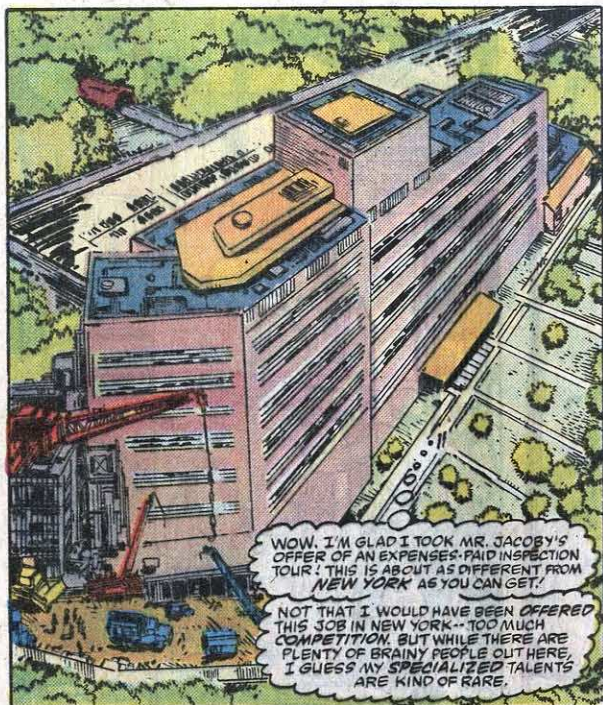
AS SPIDER-MAN, I'VE FOUGHT DR. CONNORS'S ALTER EGO--THE LIZARD-- ALMOST TO THE DEATH!

TALK ABOUT IRONY...

LET'S HAVE A LOOK AT THE GROUNDS, SHALL WE?

SURE.

NOW CURT'S ABOUT TO HELP MAKE A DREAM COME TRUE!



WOW, I'M GLAD I TOOK MR. JACOBY'S OFFER OF AN EXPENSE-PAID INSPECTION TOUR! THIS IS ABOUT AS DIFFERENT FROM NEW YORK AS YOU CAN GET!

NOT THAT I WOULD HAVE BEEN OFFERED THIS JOB IN NEW YORK--TOO MUCH COMPETITION. BUT WHILE THERE ARE PLENTY OF BRAINY PEOPLE OUT HERE, I GUESS MY SPECIALIZED TALENTS ARE KIND OF RARE.

AS YOU CAN SEE, WE MAY BE A YOUNG COMPANY BUT WE'RE ALREADY EXPANDING.

AND THE NEW WING WILL BE YOUR PROVINCE. AFTER YOU'VE DECIDED TO JOIN--

BLAST IT, CASSADY--



--THOSE MACHINES ARE JARRING MY DELICATE EXPERIMENTS!

I'VE TOLD MY CREW TO GO EASY, DR. NERO--

--BUT THERE'S NO WAY TO PUT UP A BUILDING WITHOUT SOME DISRUPTION!

THEN FIND A WAY--OR I'LL HAVE YOU FIRED!

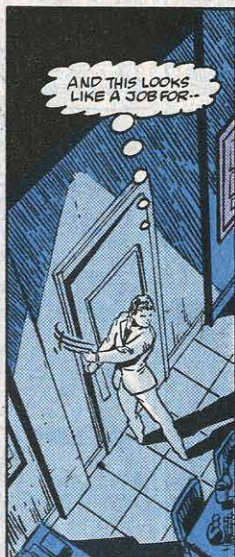
FIRE THIS, YOU--!



I APOLOGIZE, PETER. **WES CASSADY** IS THE BEST CONSTRUCTION BOSS IN THE STATE, BUT EVEN HE CAN'T HANDLE **ROYCE NERO**.

NERO IS BRILLIANT, NEW TO THE PRIVATE SECTOR AFTER 20 YEARS OF GOVERNMENT SERVICE. BUT I'M AFRAID HE'S A BIT--





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PRESENTS

LANE MASTODON

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INFOCOMICS

HI, I'M **LANE MASTODON**, ALL-AROUND HERO. BUT MORE ON THAT LATER... I'M HERE TO TELL YOU ABOUT **INFOCOMICS**!

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HMM... I WONDER WHAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN TO THAT **BRAVE WATERBEAST**...

I WAS GOING TO TELL YOU HOW I **BECAME A HERO**--BUT I'M **BUSY** NOW! YOU'LL JUST HAVE TO GET THE **LANE MASTODON INFOCOMIC** TO FIND OUT!

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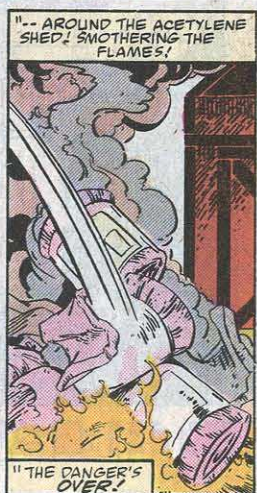
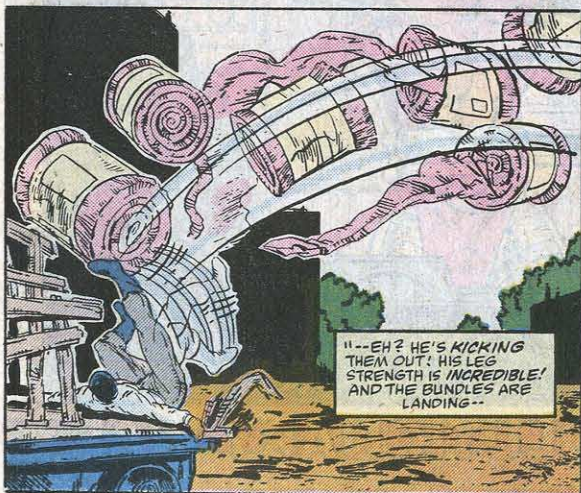
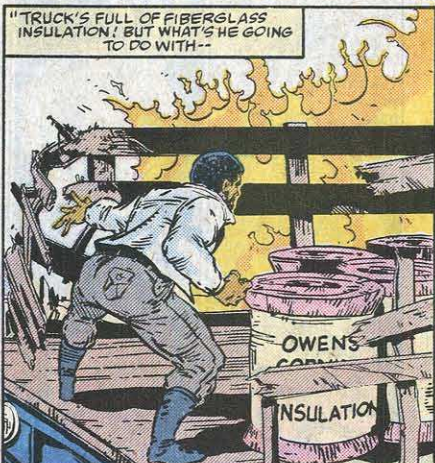
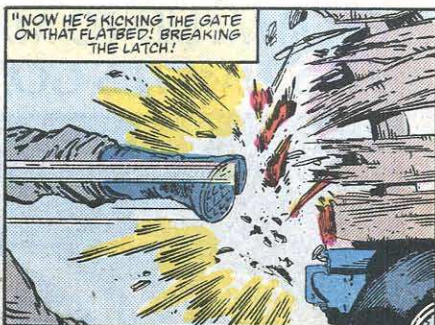
**FROM MUD TO MAN TO MADNESS ...
THIS TIME IT'S GONE TOO FAR.**

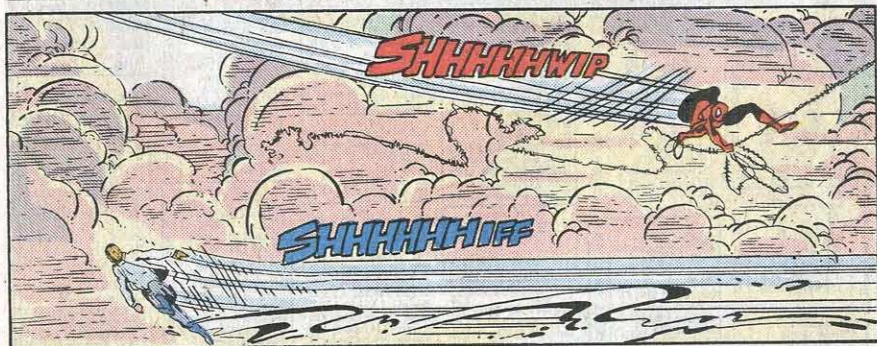


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AND, SOON AFTER, ONCE PROFESSIONAL FIREFIGHTERS HAVE THE SITUATION WELL IN HAND...

I HOPE YOU UNDERSTAND THAT THIS WAS AN ISOLATED INCIDENT, PETER.

OF COURSE, MR. JACOBY. ACCIDENTS CAN HAPPEN ANYWHERE.



ACCIDENTS, YES-- BUT PEOPLE WITH SUPER POWERS?

I JUST HOPE WES CASSADY IS THE ONLY SURPRISE I RUN INTO ON THIS TRIP!

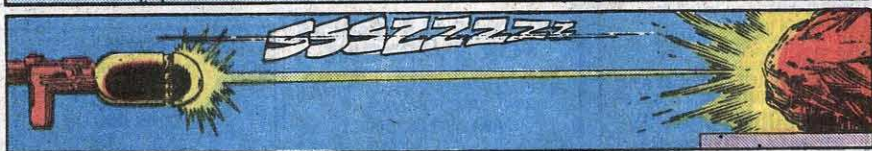
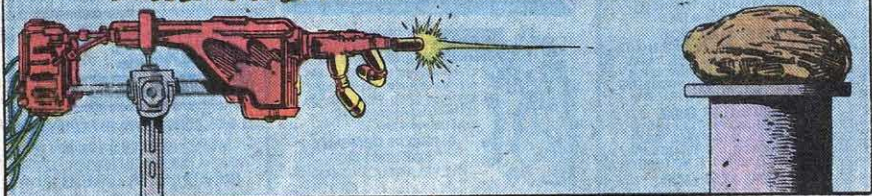


HOWEVER, IN THE NEARBY LAB OF
DR. ROYCE NERO...

THERE! ALL CONNECTED! THE
EXO-FRAME SHOULD FIT OVER MY
RIGHT ARM, THE CONTROL GRID ON
MY LEFT! THEN BOTH WILL BE
LINKED TO A POWER GENERATOR
BACKPACK! NOW--



WHHMMMM



FFASH



I'M ALMOST
READY...!



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TIRED AND PUZZLED PETER PARKER RETURNS TO HIS COMPANY-PROVIDED MOTEL ROOM. HE HAS MUCH TO THINK ABOUT.

WHILE SOME 1500 MILES EAST, IN NEW YORK CITY...

--AT THE SYMKARIAN EMBASSY...

SILVER? THE WILD PACK HAS RETURNED FROM ITS MISSION.



JUST ONE? BUT I SENT SIX!

I'M THE ONLY ONE...WHO CAN STILL WALK...M-M-S. SABLE! WE...

...WE FOUND HIM!



FRANZ KRAUS??

YES. BUT HIS ORGANIZATION... IS BIGGER... & MORE DANGEROUS... THAN WE EVER IMAGINED!



* SEE LAST ISSUE...J.S.

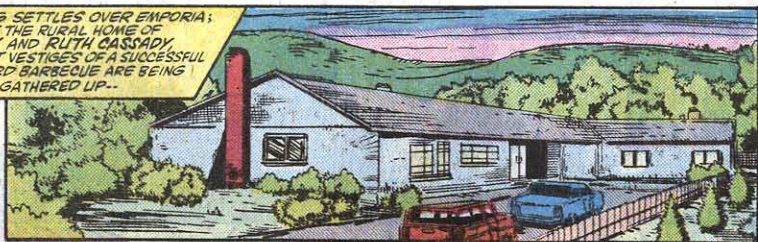
--A SPECIAL OPERATIVE!

!K-KOFF!

DISMISSED



EVENING SETTLES OVER EMPORIA;
WHILE AT THE RURAL HOME OF
WESLEY AND RUTH CASSADY,
THE LAST VESTIGES OF A SUCCESSFUL
BACKYARD BARBECUE ARE BEING
GATHERED UP...



-- AS A SPIRITED GAME OF CATCH
COMES TO AN ABRUPT END--



YOU BOYS HEAD ON IN WITH
YOUR MOM. I'LL BE RIGHT
WITH--



--YOU!



THAT'S THE STORY I
CAME TO HEAR!

YEAH, I WAS KIND OF WONDERIN'
WHAT YOU WERE DOIN' IN THIS NECK
OF THE WOODS.

THWIP!



ACTUALLY, I HADN'T PLANNED ON BEING SEEN!
I JUST CAME TO SNOOP AROUND! IF I MOVE HERE,
AND THERE ARE OTHER SUPER-TYPES IN THE
AREA, I'LL NEED TO KNOW THE SCORE! BUT
NOW, CASSADY PROBABLY WON'T TELL ME
ANYTHING!

COME ON, THEN,
LET'S GO TO THE
GARAGE--FORE MY
KIDS SEE YOU!

YOU...YOU'RE
GOING TO
EXPLAIN?

THIS HAS BEEN
CHURNIN' INSIDE ME
FOR A LONG TIME. I
NEED TO TELL SOME-
ONE. AND I FIGURE YOU,
OF ALL PEOPLE, MIGHT
UNDERSTAND.

BUT SO
HELP ME, IF
YOU
LAUGH--!

HEY, YOU'RE
TALKING TO
SOMEONE
WHO CRIED
AT A ROBIN
WILLIAMS
CONCERT
LAST MONTH!

YEAH.
FOR
MYSAKE!



ALL RIGHT,
THEN, IT'S
LIKE THIS...

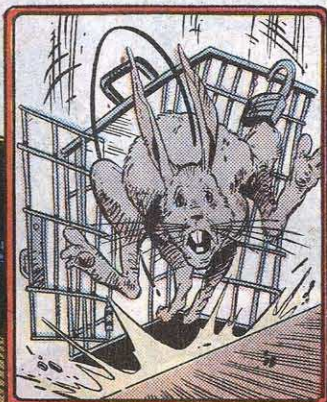
... I WAS FOREMAN WHEN THE ORIGINAL ON-LINE BUILDINGS WERE PUT UP TOWARDS THE END. THEY STARTED TRANSFERRING LAB ANIMALS FROM ONGOING EXPERIMENTS AT ANOTHER SITE. BUT A CRATE SLIPPED, BROKE --

-- AND A JACK RABBIT GOT LOOSE. JACKS ARE FAST, AGILE, CAN TURN ON A DIME. IT WAS JUST LUCK THAT I WAS IN THE RIGHT SPOT TO GRAB THAT ONE.

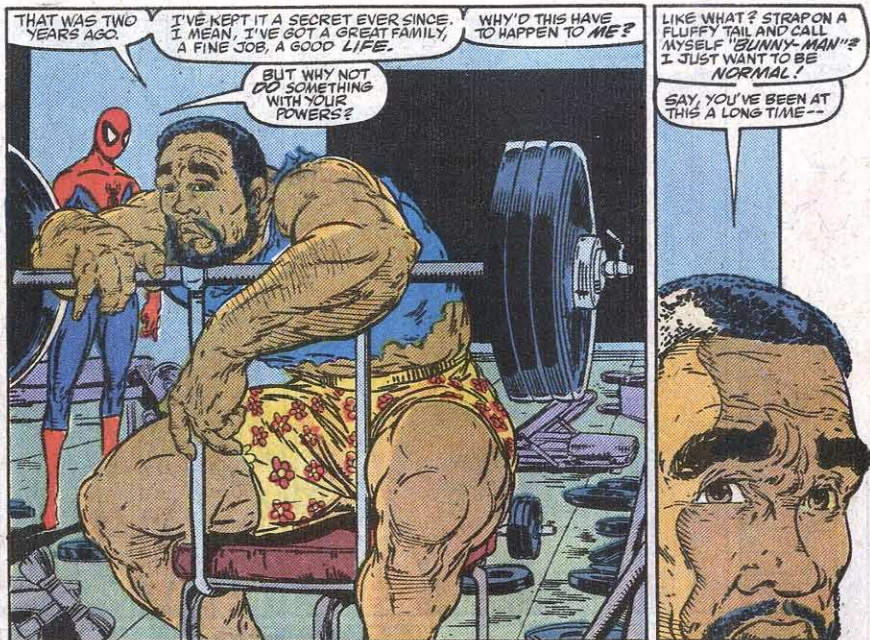
I'VEPT THE SUCKER BIT ME! I HEARD LATER IT DIED OF RADIATION POISONING. I FIGURED THAT WAS WHY I HAD A FEVER FOR THE NEXT THREE DAYS. BUT WHEN THE FEVER BROKE--

-- THE STRENGTH OF MY LEGS HAD INCREASED A HUNDRED TIMES!

I COULD RUN, JUMP, KICK LIKE A... WELL... A HUGE JACK RABBIT!



I COULD ALSO FEEL WHEN A HUNTER'S EYES WERE ON ME, WHICH IS HOW I WAS ABLE TO PICK YOU' UP.



THAT WAS TWO YEARS AGO.

I'VE KEPT IT A SECRET EVER SINCE. I MEAN, I'VE GOT A GREAT FAMILY, A FINE JOB, A GOOD LIFE.

WHY'D THIS HAVE TO HAPPEN TO ME?

BUT WHY NOT DO SOMETHING WITH YOUR POWERS?

LIKE WHAT? STRAPON A FLUFFY TAIL AND CALL MYSELF 'BUNNY-MAN'? I JUST WANT TO BE NORMAL!

SAY, YOU'VE BEEN AT THIS A LONG TIME--

--ANYTHING YOU CAN DO TO HELP ME?

I...I'M SORRY. I WISH I COULD.

YEAH, WELL, IT'S HELPED A BIT TO GET THIS OFF MY CHEST. YOU WON'T TELL ANYONE, WILL YOU?

HE DIDN'T EVEN ASK WHAT I WAS DOING IN KANSAS. MAYBE HE THINKS I'M EMBARRASSED BY MY POWERS, TOO? I GUESS I'VE COPEd WITH MY SITUATION PRETTY WELL--

COUNT ON IT.

--CONSIDERING HOW MUCH TROUBLE WES IS HAVING WITH HIS!

AND, ON THE
TOPIC OF
HAVING
TROUBLE:
AT THAT
MOMENT IN
BROOKLYN...

NUTS!
DID IT
AGAIN!

WENT AN' LOCKED MY
RENTED ROOM WITH THE
KEY INSIDE!

AH, WELL, LEAST NO
ONE'S AROUND. AN'
SOMETIMES THERE
ARE ADVANTAGES
TO SECRETLY BEIN'..

--THE SAND-
MAN!

♪

NOW TO--HUH?
MY LANDLADY,
MRS. CASADA!

KLIK

YOU HAVE A
VISITOR,
SYLVESTER!
I'M SENDING
HER UP!

A VISITOR?
BUT WHO--

--SILVER
SABLE!

GOOD
EVENING,
MR. BAKER.
I HAVE...

...A
PROPOSITION
TO MAKE
YOU!

WILLIAM BAKER--A.K.A. "SYLVESTER
MAANN"--LISTENS INTENTLY.

WHILE SOMEWHAT NORTHWARD, AT THE BEDFORD TOWERS IN MANHATTAN, MARY JANE WATSON-PARKER LISTENS WITH A SMILE--

-- AND THEN REPLIES WITH ONE...

YOU'RE SOUNDING SPRY, TIGER!

NOT FOOLING AROUND WITH THOSE CORN-FED COUNTRY GIRLS, ARE YOU?

C'MON, MJ, I'M A MARRIED MAN! I ONLY HAVE EYES-- ETCETERA-- FOR YOU!

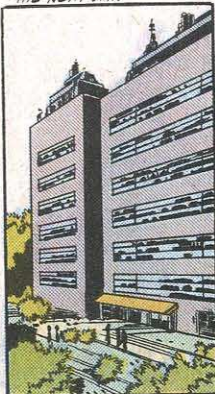
I JUST WANTED TO TELL YOU THE JOB IS TERRIFIC! EXACTLY WHAT I'D HOPED! CAN'T GO INTO DETAILS NOW-- DON'T WANT TO RUN UP THE COMPANY'S PHONE BILL--

OH, O-O-KAY PETER. UM, TAKE CARE NOW. 'BYE.

DARN. I WAS AFRAID OF THIS...

-- BUT I'LL TELL YOU EVERYTHING WHEN I GET HOME IN A COUPLE OF DAYS!

BUT THOUGH STORM CLOUDS SEEM TO GATHER OVER THE UPPER WEST SIDE, A BRIGHT SUN SHINES WARMLY OVER ON-LINE RESEARCH THE NEXT DAY.



--AH, I'M FORGETTING MY MANNERS!

PLEASE, DOCTOR, COME IN!

THANKS--



COLLECTING DUES, JACOBY!

I SPENT 20 YEARS WITH THE GOVERNMENT, DEVELOPING RIOT CONTROL EQUIPMENT! BUT I WAS "RETIRED" WHEN THEY DECIDED MY INVENTIONS WERE TOO EXTREME, TOO FATAL!

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WHILE AT THAT MOMENT,
ARRIVING OUTSIDE...

REEEEEEE

THAT'S THE EMERGENCY
ALARM, MR. PARKER! WE'D
BETTER WAIT HERE TILL WE
FIND OUT WHAT'S GOING
ON!

YEAH, THAT'D BE THE
SMART THING! EXPOSING
MY SPIDER-MAN IDENTITY
COULD RAISE LOTS OF
STICKY QUESTIONS!

ON THE OTHER HAND,
ON-LINE DID BRING
ME HERE, AND OFFERED
ME A JOB! AHHHH...

...BLAST!

AAIEEEEE!

STOP WHINING!
IT'S JUST LIQUID SOAP
AND ONION JUICE!
IT SHOULD CAUSE
NO PERMANENT
DAMAGE!

TOO BAD YOU CAN'T SAY
THE SAME FOR WHAT I'M
ABOUT TO DO TO YOU!

WHO--?
SPIDER-MAN?!

B-BUT,
WHAT THE
DEVIL ARE YOU
DOING HERE?

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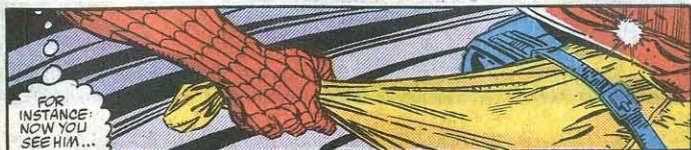
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"--BACK!"

HEY, WHAT'S THIS
GOOP NERO'S
SPLASHIN' ALL
OVER ME?

SOME KIND OF FOAM!
SOLIDIFYING INSTANTLY!
HARDER THAN STEEL!



Bulpen Bulletins

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

"I MUST EITHER SUPPORT A DOOMED REVOLT WHICH WILL RESULT IN THE SLAUGHTER OF MILLIONS OF MY BROTHERS — OR DO NOTHING AND BE BRANDED A TRAITOR TO MY RACE AND TO FREEDOM EVERYWHERE!"

— T'GALLA, THE BLACK PANTHER, BLACK PANTHER #1

ITEM: A hearty welcome back goes to Hardhitting Harry Cancelero of our frenetic photostatic department, who just got back from the U.S. Marine Corps! Harry took seven months off to attend boot camp at Parris Island, South Carolina, and then communications school at 29 Palms, California. He now has a Com Center Man Billet, which means he's learned the basics about the technology and techniques of military communications. The sturdy Mr. C will now spend one weekend a month and two full weeks of every year serving the Marines — the rest of the time he'll be at mighty Marvel, shooting stats, and keeping the junior bullpeners in line! Way to hang tough, Harry!

ITEM: We have several new additions to the ever-changing ranks of the mighty Marvel editorial elite. First, there's A.A. Perry, who's taking David Wolf's place in the Special Projects Department, assisting Craig Anderson. Andrews got a B.A. in Literature and Film from Antioch College and put in a stint here as a college intern prior to his ascension into the rank and file. (Diligent David has moved across the hall to assume the duties of the departing Joanne Spaido as assistant editor to Howard Mackie on the New Universe line.) Then there's Kelly Corvase, who's signed on as an Editorial Assistant, aiding Senior Editorial Secretary Sue Flaxman and inputting almost all of our listing letters pages into the master computer system. Kelly's a graduate of the Swedish Institute and is a part time masseur. He hopes to

someday use those same hands to pencil comics. And last but not least, there's Barbara Arnstein, who's come aboard as Editorial Secretary to Executive Ed Mark Gruenwald. Barbara's led a checkered

career in the print and electronic media, and moonlights as a freelance writer for various New York area newspapers and magazines. Welcome to the creative chaos that is Marvel, people!

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

The most exciting television event of the decade is coming to NBC sometime this May! At last! Due to popular demand **THE INCREDIBLE HULK** (starring Bill Bixby and Lou Fer-



igno) will be returning to the airways in a special two hour movie (proudly produced by those fabulous folks at New World Entertainment!)

And pay attention to this! The movie will also feature **THE MIGHTY THOR!** That's right! Good ol' Goldilocks will be making his very first live-action appearance on network television. Rumor has it that this movie may even help launch a brand-new weekly **THOR** television series if enough people watch it and call their local television stations to rave about it! (Take the hint, will you?)

Needless to say, your ever-batty Bulpen is real excited by the thought of seeing the Mighty Thor battle The Incredible Hulk on national TV. It's bound to be the greatest battle the television world has seen since Leonard took on Hagler, Holmes challenged Tyson and Sledge Hammer lost to Cosby. Miss it not!

Pro File: PAT REDDING

Assistant Editor on: My title is "managing editor," which may be freely interpreted. I work on **THE NAM**, **SEMPER PARIT**, **STEELTOWN ROCKERS**, **CONAN SAGA**, **CONAN THE BARBARIAN**, **CONAN THE KING**, **SAVAGE SWORD OF CONAN**, and the **NAM MAGAZINE**, **A SAILOR'S STORY**, **SHADOW** graphic novel, etc.

Marvel freelance credits (past): As an inker, some Thundercats covers (over Bob Camp); some John Buscema Conan stuff, over June Brigman on Young Astronauts, which never saw print, a Steve Ditko *What If* (stay tuned!) and lots more!

Marvel freelance credits (present): Nothing at present, for Marvel, but I'm open for suggestions (hint, hint).

My hobbies are: Playing guitar in my band, the Thugs, but that's more than just a hobby. The rest of them won't be discussed here.

The single work of which I am most proud is: The Thugs backdrop: a prototypical Thug surfing on an iron board on spectacularly rendered waves. It's on black imitation velvet and is satisfyingly garish.

My pet peeves are: People who don't pay attention to things that matter.

My place of birth is: Washington, Dee Dee, our nation's capital.

My greatest accomplishment outside the comics field is: To be decided individually by others.

My oddest habit is: None of your business.

If they were making a movie of my life, I'd like to see my part played by: Since Lee Marvin died, it would definitely have to be Tura Satana. Mark Chiarello says "Jack Elam."

The reason I got into comics was: Larry Hama asked me, and I said "Why not?"

People who knew me in High School thought I was: Never going to be a good golfer.

My favorite performers are: All Elvis impersonators, Tescio Vee, Handsome Dick Manitoba, Bam Bam Bigelow, to name a few.

The last good book I read was: "The Killer Inside Me," by Jim Thompson.

The last good movie I saw was: "Ironweed."

The biggest influences on my work include: As an editor, Larry Hama. As an inker, Wally Wood, Noel Sickles, Mill Caniff, Frank Frazetta, Alex Toth, Michael Golden, Bob Camp.

My greatest unfulfilled ambition in the comics field is: Not to be taken for granted.

The worst part of my job is: That I'm not officially a full-fledged editor.

When nobody's looking I like to: Look at them.

The one thing I really want the world to know about me is: I just talk that way — if I wasn't a champ speller and a competent grammarian with a pragmatic vocabulary, then I wouldn't be editing!





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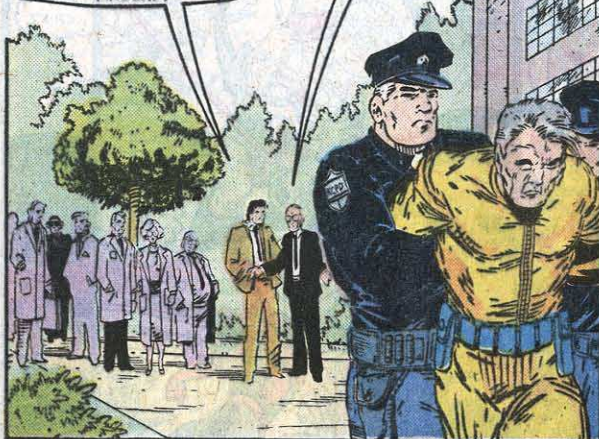
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SOME TIME LATER, AFTER POLICE HAVE TAKEN CHARGE...

BEATS ME, MR. JACOBY. I READ THAT SPIDER-MAN'S BEEN SPOTTED IN ENGLAND AND GERMANY RECENTLY... MAYBE THERE'S A WHOLE SQUAD OF THEM RUNNING AROUND!

I ONLY HOPE THIS HASN'T SOURED YOUR IMPRESSION OF ON-LINE, MY BOY.



NOT AT ALL! I'LL HAVE TO DISCUSS IT WITH MY WIFE, OF COURSE. BUT I THINK YOU CAN COUNT ON ADDING A NEW EMPLOYEE TO THE PAYROLL! JUST AS SOON AS--



"-- I GET BACK TO NEW YORK!"

PETER!

I'M SO GLAD YOU'RE BACK! THE BIG APPLE JUST WASN'T THE SAME WITHOUT YOU!

THEN IT HAD BETTER GET USED TO THE CHANGE!



I WANT TO TAKE THAT JOB, MARY JANE! IT'S EVERYTHING I'D HOPED! WHAT DO YOU SAY?



I... I'VE BEEN THINKING, PETER. A LOT. NEW YORK'S MY HOME. MY FRIENDS ARE HERE. MY CAREER IS, TOO. AND... I DON'T KNOW IF I COULD GIVE ALL THAT UP

EVEN TO MAKE A DREAM COME TRUE.

IN THE STILL AIR, A QUESTION HANGS, AS SHARP AND CLEAR AS IF IT HAD BEEN SPOKEN ALOUD: "WHAT NOW?"



NEXT ISSUE: SANDMAN! SILVER SABLE! AND... THE DECISION!

THE SPIDER'S WEB

MC MARVEL COMICS GROUP
387 Park Avenue South
New York, New York 10016

JIM SALICRUP
EDITOR
GLENN HERDLING
ASSISTANT EDITOR

Dear Web-Heads,

Is #298:
First, the cover. Stupendous. Great. McFarlane is terrific.
Second, the story. Just as good, but one question... If Pete and MJ get the condo, what about the handy-dandy skylight?
Third, the art. Not the same as it used to be. For instance, the changes in Mary-Jane's hairstyle. I can live with it, but she's looked better.
Lastly, the epilogue. Is the mystery man, perhaps, Kraven the Hunter? I guess I've summed it up, and all in all, it's a great issue. But if the mystery man is Kraven, how? Well, gotta go... can't wait for next ish!

Tom Dohman
RR #2, Box 113
West Point, LA 52656

Dear Spiders,

Concerning Spider-Man #298, KRAVEN'S BACK! Can't wait for issue #300.

Dave Pfeil
52 Finger Street
Saugerties, NY 12477

Sorry, Tom and Dave, but as you know by now it wasn't Kraven the Departed. As for the skylight, well, now Spidey has a balcony to make his exists and entrances faster and easier than ever. And speaking of the departed, let's hear what you all had to say about whether the Gwen Stacy clone should rear her pretty face once more in the Spider-Man titles...

Dear Spider-People,

It would really make a lot to me if you would bring back Gwen Stacy II. I've been reading Spider-Man since the day Gwen was introduced. I've always felt she was a great character, and bringing her back would be wonderful.

Chris Stencil
(no address given)

Dear Jim,

When I picked up ASM issue #298, I was shocked... the art was fantastic! It's the best Spidey art I've seen in a while. Todd McFarlane is one of the top artists in the field.

By the way, I think I know who the mysterious character at the end of this issue was: SPIDEY'S CLONE! All those pictures of O' Web-Head up on the wall are all the proof I need. It shows that the clone was studying the original to see how he'd changed over the years. Who else would be able to mentally grow the alien costume, like Spidey did?

Jack Sutor
(no address given)

No, not the Spidey-clone. Besides, the issue at hand is the Gwen-clone...

Spider-People,

Regarding your clone poll... NO CLONES!!!

Killing off Gwen Stacy was the second biggest mistake ever made within these pages, topped only by the creation of the ludicrous Stacy clone. Let's keep that part of Spidey's past buried.

Vincent Schmitt
2322 Quail Valley East
Missouri City, TX 77459

Dear David and Jim,

The Venus Butterfly? I guess you keep up to date on episodes of "L.A. LAW." I never thought Peter would be that kinky a hubby. I've never seen MJ look so good! I've been a fan of Todd's since his start in INFINITY INC. and his magic just keeps getting better.

Something's gotta be done about Pete's money problems. Maybe it's time for him to go back to school and become that scientist he's wanted to be since AMAZING FANTASY #15.

By the way, I vote NO on bringing back the Gwen clone. Peter's had enough grief in his life already.

Revenge of the black suit? Hmmmm

Miko Aragona
8955 14th Avenue
Montreal, Quebec
Canada H3T 3M9

Dear Mighty Marvel,

I think you should make Petey drop back into E.S.U. and make him more serious about his science career.

About this Gwen Stacy clone coming back, I could go for it!

Hey, your Thanksgiving float was cool!

Jeremy Mason
9413 Tesoro Street
St. Smith, AR 72903

Yeah, we kinda liked the float too, Jeremy. About Peter going back to school—well, you and Mike must have read our minds! Too bad you both couldn't agree on the Gwen thing.

Dear Marvel,

I wish both Peter and Mary Jane good luck but, as Rick Boney stated in issue #298, I would love to see Peter's reaction to the Gwen Stacy clone returning. It would certainly be a good plot twist.

Just one question—whatever happened to the Chameleon?

Jason Russell
2626 Swayze Street
Ft. Worth, TX 76103

The Chameleon? Oh, he's around. After all, a master of disguises can be just about anywhere or anyone, eh?

Dear Jim,

This is more like it! AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #298 gave us the best art this comic has seen since Ron Frenz. The cover was nothing short of spectacular (or should I say amazing), and Todd McFarlane has a talent for drawing a spidey Spider-Man that can only be equaled nowadays by Rick Leonardi. Even if he can't stick around as the regular artist, please find one soon. This book needs the stability that only a "permanent" creative team can provide.

My confidence in David Michelinie grows with every issue of this comic and IRON MAN. As I reached the last page of this issue, my heart leaped to see... a sub-plot! And one with an interesting mystery villain, no less. My guess is that he's the Chameleon. Anyhow, keep going, guys. You're really bringing this book back around.

David Melz
2952 North Stowell Avenue
Milwaukee, WI 53211

Another Chameleon fan? Hmm.

Don't worry, David. Todd is now the "permanent" artist on AMAZING SPIDER-MAN. So join him, David Michelinie, and the rest of us right here...

Next issue: Silver Sabie recruits Spidey and the Sandman to exact her revenge on Franz Kraus, the Neo-Nazi who tried to kill her last issue.

SALICRUP'S SECTION



This just in:

Dear Jim:

I'm glad you asked: Under absolutely no circumstances should the clone of Gwen Stacy ever return. Unfortunately, Jim, I've noticed that you seldom conduct a readers poll unless plans to carry out the subject in question have already been completed. That being the case, I might as well get right to the point. Gwen-clone was an embarrassment and an insult, both to the readers and to the memory of the real Gwen. Maybe there are a few readers who feel that Gwen-clone would be an interesting plot device for testing Peter and MJ's marriage, but I think the majority of readers, myself included, would be very disappointed if Gwen-clone was dragged out of mothballs.

In the '80s, Spider-Man has reached a superb level of overall quality. Face it, Jim, your audience is more sophisticated and discriminating now than they were during the "Spider-Mobile-and-Gwen-clone" era, and Gwen-clone no longer belongs in a book of this quality.

I can't let this letter go by without saying that the marriage of Mary Jane to Todd McFarlane and Bob McLeod is the real "marriage made in heaven!" Nuff said.

Tim T. Lyman
P.O. Box 532
N. Pembroke, MA 02358

Thanks for the kind words, Tim, but when you accuse me of conducting readers polls only after I've decided what actions to take already, I'm afraid you're dead wrong. (Which is the most painful kind of wrong to be!) Feedback is crucial to editing comics, and I'd have to be a fool to ignore what Marvel's real editors had to say. For example, the reaction to the Clone Controversy has had a strong influence on how we'll be handling the situation. I can't be any more specific, without letting the cat-clone out of the bag, but I think we may have come up with a scheme that may just satisfy, shock, and surprise everyone, even you, Tim! So whatever you do, don't miss this summer's SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN ANNUAL, written by none other than the man who started all this trouble in the first place, Gerry Conway!

Nuff said, for now!

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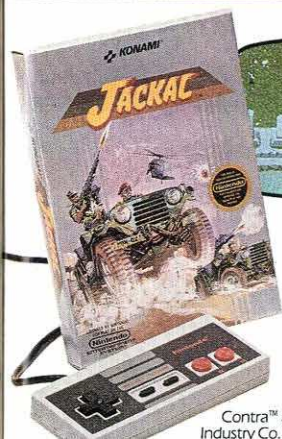
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