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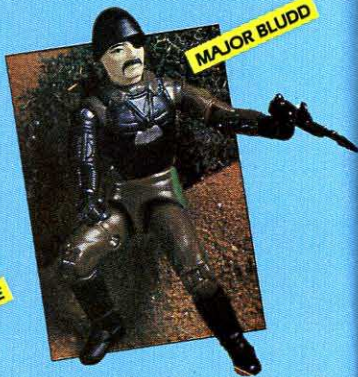
BAZOOKA



THE FRIDGE



MAJOR BLUDD



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STAN LEE PRESENTS: THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN®

THE PROWLER HAILS FROM NEW YORK, EAST COAST BORN AND RAISED

WHILE THE BLACK FOX IS A CAT BURGLAR OF DECIDEDLY EUROPEAN ORIGINS.

SO WHAT ARE THEY BOTH DOING IN LOS ANGELES, FIGHTING OVER A JEWELLED CHALICE THAT DATES BACK TO THE DAYS OF SPANISH EXPLORATION? GOOD QUESTION. AND HERE'S A BETTER ONE:

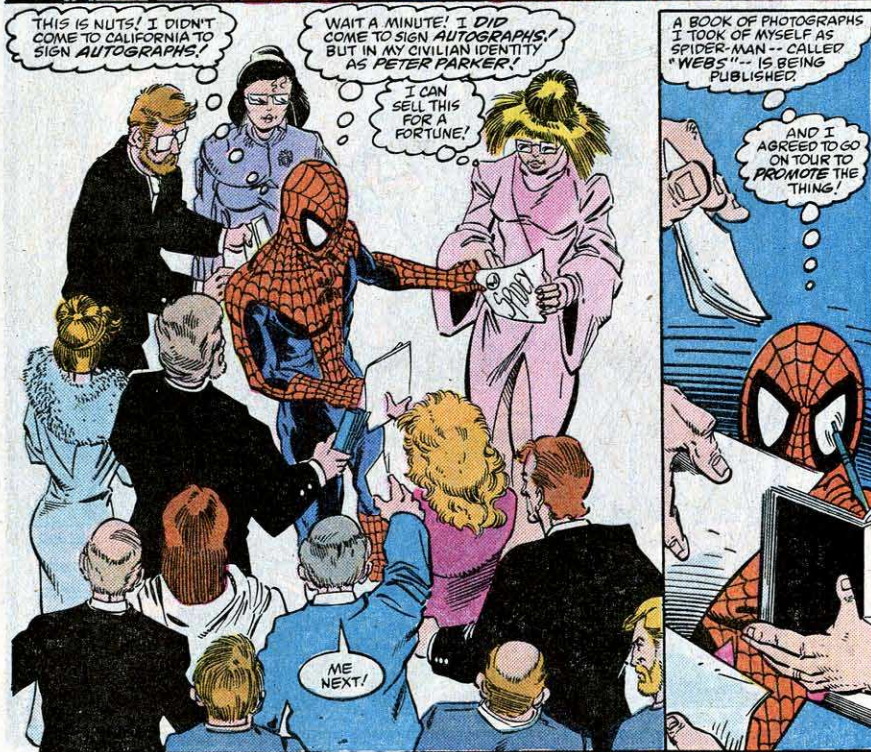
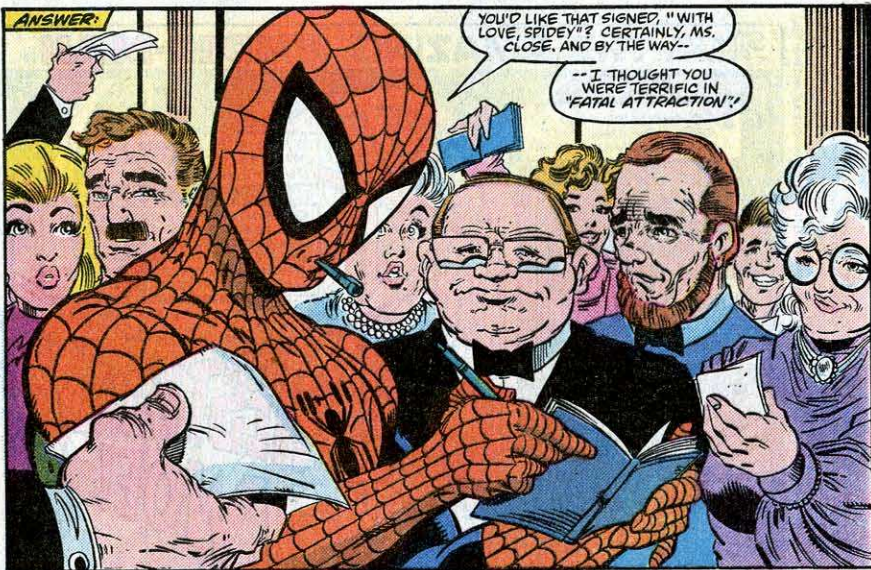
WHAT THE HECK IS SPIDER-MAN DOING DURING ALL THIS?!

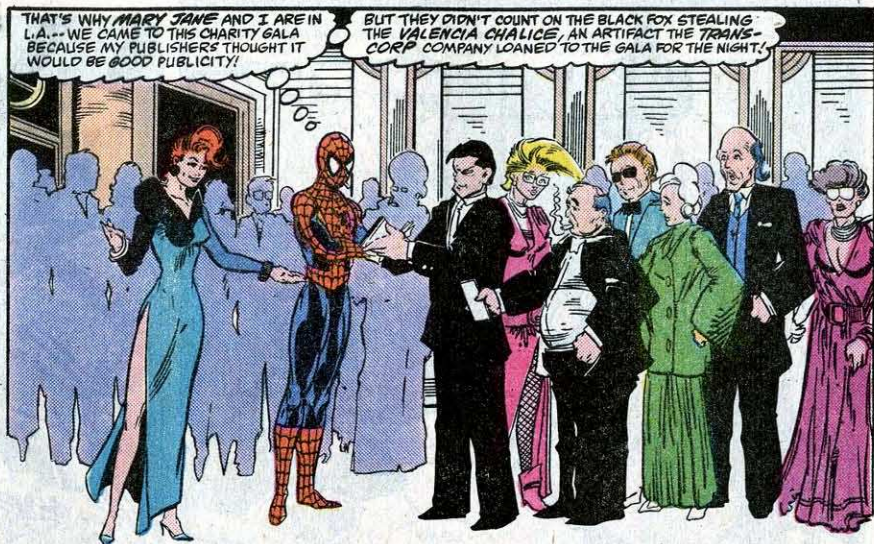
WESTWARD WOE!

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LETTERS
GREGORY WRIGHT
COLOR
JIM SALICRUP
EDITOR
TOM D'FALCO
EDITOR IN CHIEF

*** SEE SALICRUP'S SECTION FOR EXPLANATION! --J.S.**

THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN - Vol. 1, No. 305, Late September, 1988. (ISSN 0275-5825). Published by MARVEL COMICS, A NEW WORLD COMPANY, James E. Gunn, President, Stan Lee, Publisher, Michael Hudson, Group Vice President, Milton Schallman, Vice President, Production. OFFICE OF PUBLICATION: MARVEL COMICS, 1230 AVENUE OF THE STARS, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10020. SECOND CLASS POSTAGE PAID AT NEW YORK, NY AND AT ADDITIONAL MAILING OFFICES. Published monthly except through June, July and August. Copyright © 1988 by Marvel Entertainment Group, Inc. All rights reserved. These characters, names and likenesses are registered trademarks of Marvel Entertainment Group, Inc. No part of this publication may be reproduced without written permission from Marvel Entertainment Group, Inc. This periodical may not be sold except by authorized retailers and it is sold subject to the condition that it is not to be resold, loaned, rented or otherwise distributed for profit. All other trademarks appearing herein are the property of their respective owners. Characters featured in this 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, 8TH FLOOR, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10018.





WHILE IN A DISPLAY ROOM ELSEWHERE WITHIN THE COMPLEX...

I'M TAKIN' THAT CHALICE, MAN! EVEN IF I HAVE TO GO THROUGH YOU FIRST!

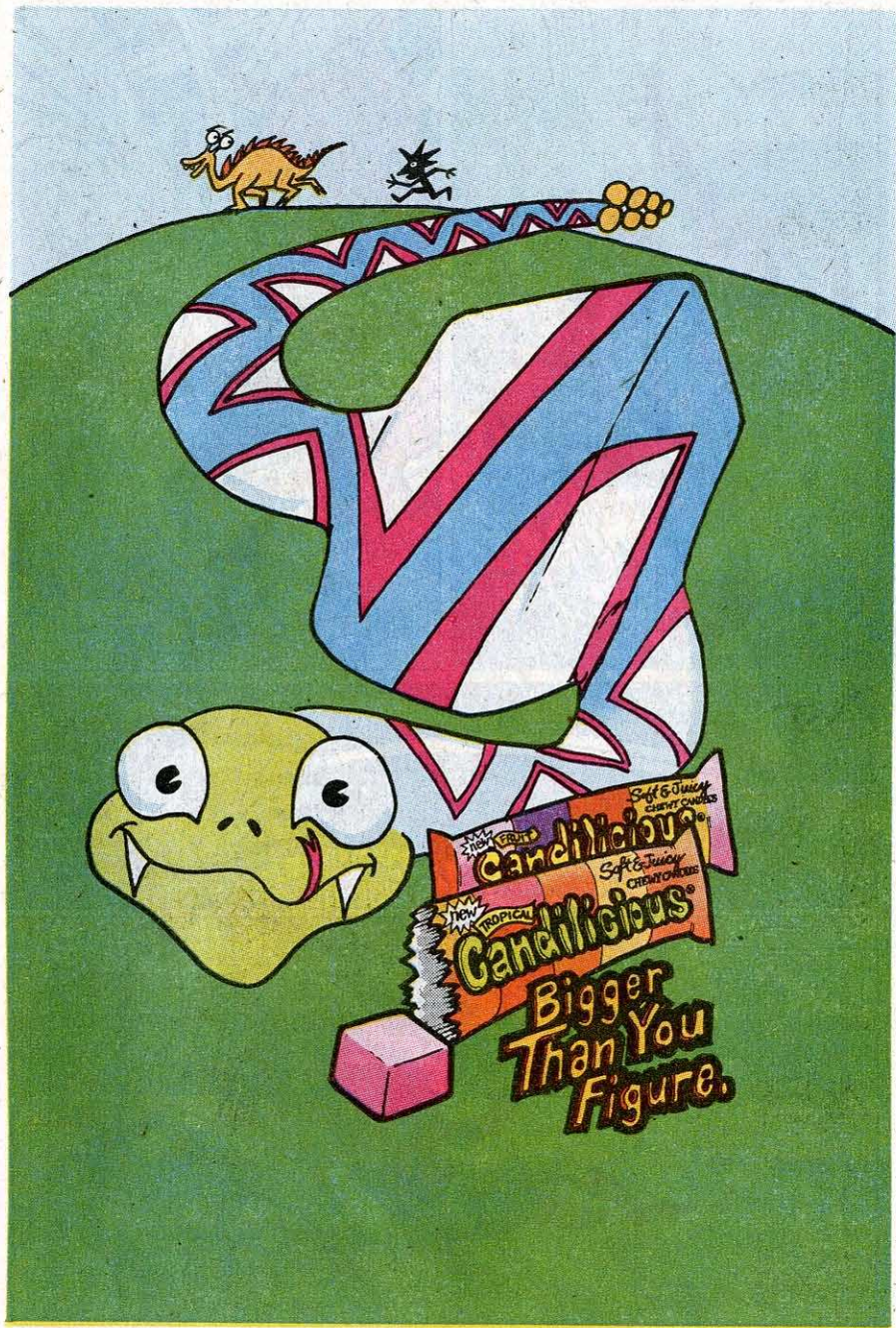
SIR, THE BLACK FOX IS NOTHING, IF NOT PRACTICAL! PLEASE--

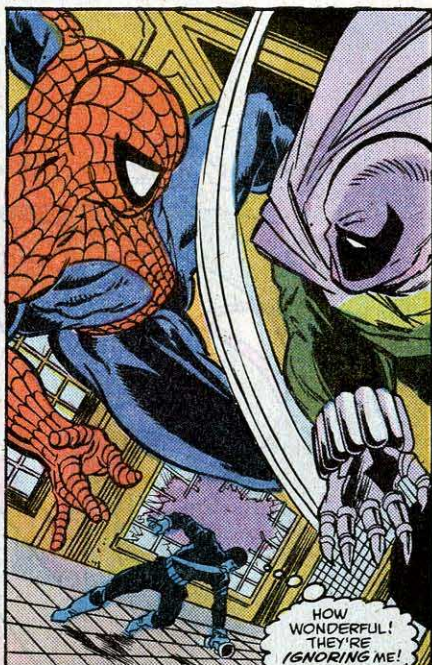
--BE MY GUEST!

THANKS...

I WILL!

NOT IN THIS LIFETIME, PROWLER!







**IT'S HIGH NOON.
YOU'RE ALONE.
YOU'RE QUICK
OR YOU'RE DEAD.**

It's a bad day at Hicksville. In Gun.Smoke, you're lightnin' quick, gun-totin' Billy Bob. Come home to find your peaceful mining town overrun by no-good varmints. So you'd best be gettin' to work.

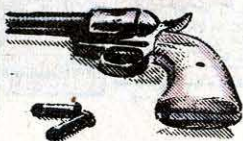
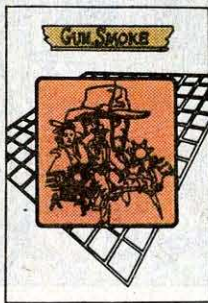
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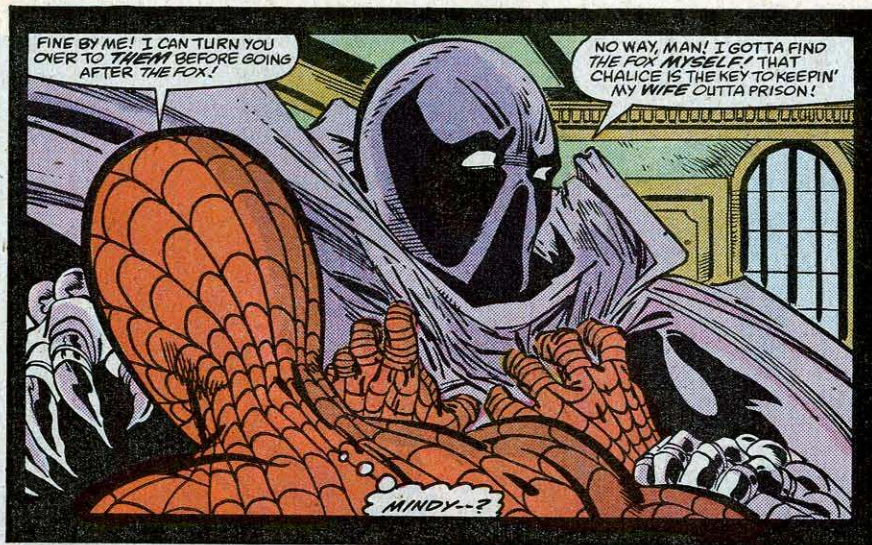
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SYSTEM™



FINE BY ME! I CAN TURN YOU OVER TO *THEM* BEFORE GOING AFTER *THE FOX*!

NO WAY, MAN! I GOTTA FIND *THE FOX MYSELF*! THAT CHALICE IS THE KEY TO KEEPIN' MY WIFE OUTTA PRISON!

MINDY--?

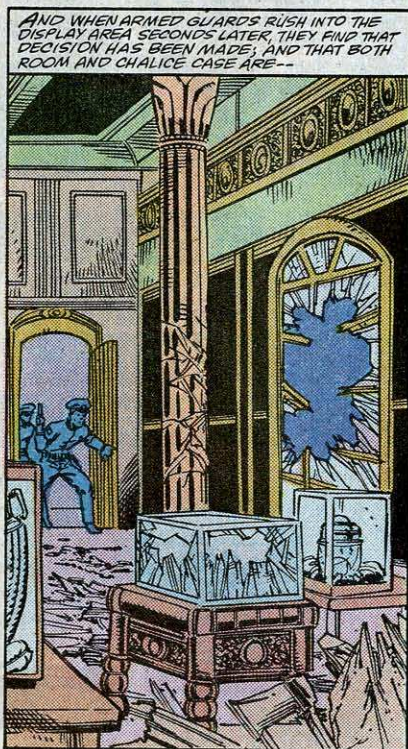


YA GOTTA TRUST ME! YA CAN'T LET *TRANSCORP* PULL THIS OFF!

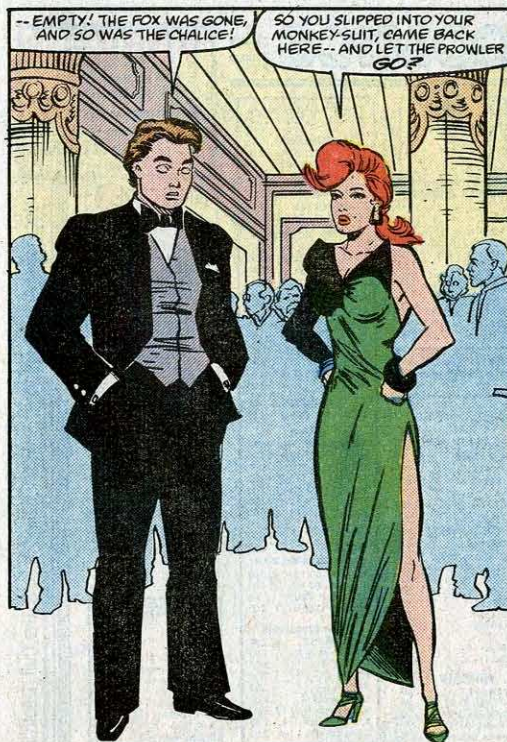
I'M AT THE *ALGONQUIN HOTEL*! MEET ME HERE TOMORROW MORNIN' AN' I'LL EXPLAIN EVERYTHING!

HOBIE BROWN'S NOT REALLY A CRIMINAL-- AND HE'S ALWAYS BEEN STRAIGHT WITH ME BEFORE!

HAVE TO MAKE A TOUGH DECISION-- FAST!



AND WHEN ARMED GUARDS RUSH INTO THE DISPLAY AREA SECONDS LATER, THEY FIND THAT DECISION HAS BEEN MADE, AND THAT BOTH ROOM AND CHALICE CASE ARE--







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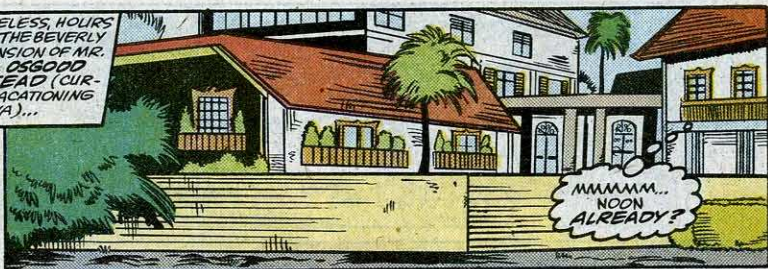


**Ask for
 Penny**

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

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

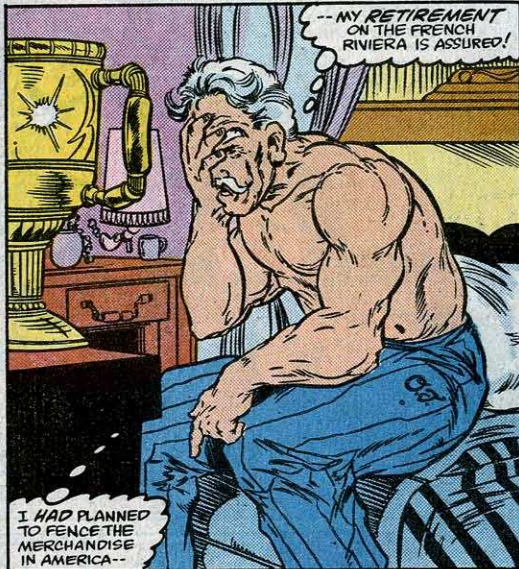
NEVERTHELESS, HOURS LATER AT THE BEVERLY HILLS MANSION OF MR. AND MRS. OSGOOD HEMPSTEAD (CURRENTLY VACATIONING IN GENEVA)...



CAPERS LIKE THIS NEVER USED TO TIRE ME SO, BUT AT LEAST WITH THE PROFITS FROM THE VALENCIA CHALICE--



-- MY RETIREMENT ON THE FRENCH RIVIERA IS ASSURED!



-- BUT I HADN'T COUNTED ON SPIDER-MAN OR THAT OTHER MANIAQ! I'LL HAVE TO SETTLE FOR A LOWER RATE ON THE EUROPEAN MARKET.



I SHOULD HAVE NO TROUBLE BOOKING QUICK PASSAGE ON A FREIGHTER, WITHOUT ANNOYING CUSTOMS RITUALS, BUT I WILL MISS THESE LOVELY ACCOMMODATIONS. HMM, PERHAPS I'LL TAKE ALONG A MOMENTO OF MY STAY, YES...



... SURELY MRS. HEMPSTEAD DIDN'T TAKE ALL OF HER JEWELRY AU SUISSE!

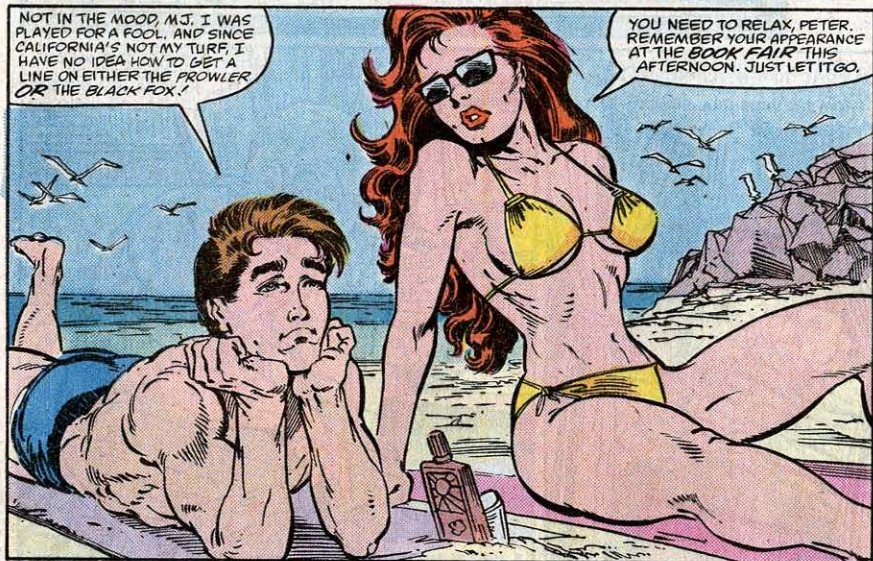


WHILE
AT THE
SEA
PRINCE
HOTEL
IN
LAGUNA
BEACH...



NOT IN THE MOOD, M.J. I WAS
PLAYED FOR A FOOL. AND SINCE
CALIFORNIA'S NOT MY TURF, I
HAVE NO IDEA HOW TO GET A
LINE ON EITHER THE PROWLER
OR THE BLACK FOX!

YOU NEED TO RELAX, PETER.
REMEMBER YOUR APPEARANCE
AT THE BOOK FAIR THIS
AFTERNOON. JUST LET IT GO.

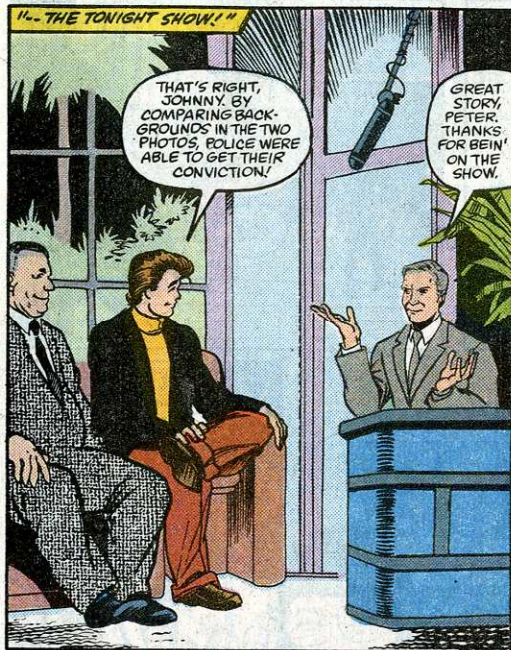


YOU CAN'T
SOLVE THE
WORLD'S
PROBLEMS.

YOU'RE WELCOME.







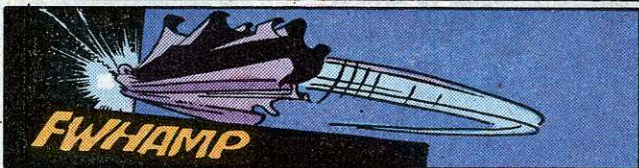
THIS, AT THE TRANSCORP
TOWER IN DOWNTOWN L.A.,
SOMETIME LATER...

THIS IS A
LONGSHOT,
BUT IT'S THE
ONLY SHOT
I CAN
THINK OF!

HOBIE SAID SOMETHING ABOUT
TRANSCORP BEING BEHIND ALL
THIS. SO IF I NOSE AROUND
THEIR HEADQUARTERS,
MAYBE I CAN FIND--

--HOLD IT!
THERE'S
SOMEONE
ELSE ON
THE ROOF!
SOMEONE--

--PROWLING!



I DON'T LIKE BEING
LIED TO, BROWN!

IF
IT WAS...
MARY
JANE?

I - I COULDN'T TAKE
CHANCES, MAN! WE'RE TALKIN'
'BOUT MY WIFE! WHAT
WOULD YOU HAVE DONE?



M-MY WIFE, **MINDY**, GOT A BOOKKEEPIN' JOB AT **TRANSCORP** NEW YORK! BUT WHEN THE COMPANY WAS CAUGHT IN SOME SHADY STOCK DEALS, THEY SET MIN UP AS A **PATSY** WITH ANOTHER SET O' BOOKS!

WE COULDN'T AFFORD A HOTSHOT LAWYER, SO I DID WHAT I COULD ON THE STREETS-- AS THE **PROWLER**. I FOUND THAT THE ONLY COPY O' THE **REAL BOOKS** WAS BEIN' SHIPPED TO THE TRUE HEAD OF **TRANSCORP**-- SOME EUROPEAN DUDE NAMED **HAMMER**.

EVERYTHING WAS PUT ON AN INFORMATION CHIP DISGUISED AS ONE O' THE **JEWELS** ON THE **VALENCIA CHALICE**! SINCE THE CHALICE IS PART OF A GOOD WILL SHIPMENT, NOBODY'D THINK TO SEARCH IT FOR CONTRABAND!

IF I DON'T GET THAT CHIP, AN' PROVE WHAT **REALLY** WENT ON, I'M GONNA BE TALKIN' TO **MINDY** THROUGH **WIRE MESH** FOR THE NEXT 20 YEARS!

YOU HAVE A PLAN?

TROY FISHBURNE IS HEAD O' TRANSCORP WEST. HIS OFFICE IS IN THE PENTHOUSE BELOW.

I FIGURED HE'D BE AS EAGER TO FIND THAT CHALICE AS I AM, SO I TINKERED THIS 'LISTENER' TOGETHER. THOUGHT I'D DO A LITTLE EAVESDROPPIN'.

YOU GONNA STOP ME?

NO-- I'M GOING TO JOIN YOU!





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WHILE AT THE AFORE-
MENTIONED LONG
BEACH DOCKS...

AH, SALT AIR.
ONCE SETTLED ON
THE RIVIERA, I
INTEND TO SPEND
EVERY MORNING
LOUNGING ON
THE--

-- BEACH? OH, DEAR.
I-I'LL JUST BACK
AWAY SLOWLY, AND--

-- BEHIND ME?
DRAT!

CHECK
AND
MATE, EH,
FELLOWS?

TOO
BAD--

-- I DON'T
BELIEVE IN
RULES!

SOONER!

AGH!
C-CAN'T
SEE--!

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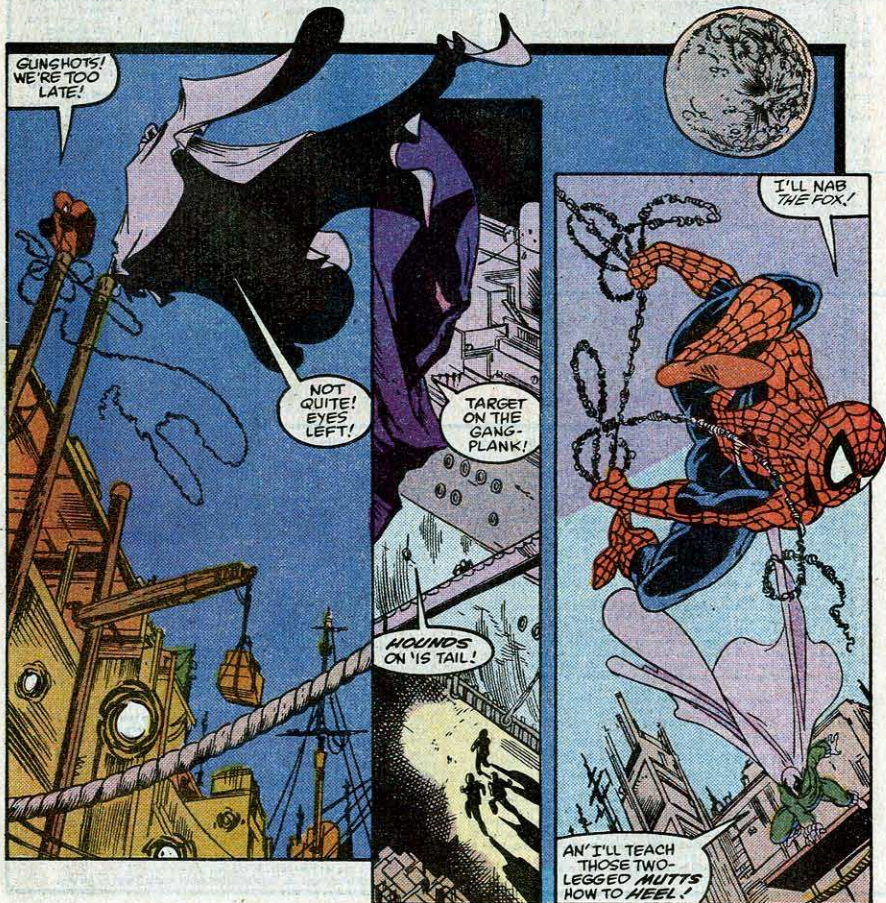


FLASH BLASTER
WILL SLOW THEM,
BUT I NEED A
PLACE TO HIDE!
SOME PLACE
LARGE, PUBLIC,
WHERE I
CAN--

--HEL-LO. THE
QUEEN MARY?
WELL.



GOD BLESS
THE QUEEN!



GUNSHOTS!
WE'RE TOO
LATE!


NOT
QUITE!
EYES
LEFT!

TARGET
ON THE
GANG-
PLANK!

HOUNDS
ON 'IS TAIL!

I'LL NAB
THE FOX!

AN' I'LL TEACH
THOSE TWO-
LEGGED MUTTS
HOW TO HEEL!



'CAUSE MY STEEL CLAWS CAN CUT THROUGH SUPPORT RAILS AS EASY AS THEY DID INTO CONCRETE WALLS!

SLATCH

HUH?!

POSSE'S SCOOTIN' PAST THOSE CONSTRUCTION SCAFFOLDS, AS THAT CHURCH LADY ON TV WOULD SAY--

"-- HOW CONVEEENIENT!"

PRUMBLE

EEYAGH!

SLEEP SWEET, FELLAS!

SHAP SHAP

SHAP

BULLPEN BULLETINS

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

"Let's face it, darlin'! Bein' a mutant superhero is a tough gig! We gotta be at our best even when we're just practicin'!"

—WOOF 'N' REAM!
WHAT THE--?! #2

ITEM: Now it can be revealed! It is with pardonable pride that mighty Marvel announces not one, not two, but three new editors, each of whom has been culled from the rollicking ranks of assistant editorhood. First on the docket we have Beguiling Bobbie Chase, who began her career here at mighty Marvel three years ago in the Special Projects Department as part of the fabled Bob Squad, and most recently has served as assistant editor to Bashful Bob Harris. Bobbie will be walking away with the three G.I. JOE books and THE HULK from her bashful ex-boss, as well as the upcoming STEELTOWN ROCKERS book! (For more on Bobbie, see this month's Pro File.)

Next up we have Terrific Terry Kavanagh, who for the past three years has been quietly muttering away as Animated Ann Nocenti's assistant on the X-books. (Ann, as you may recall, has opted for the freelance life, as has Manic Michael Higgins.) Terry will be overseeing our newest mutant smash hit, EX-CALIBUR, as well as the soon to be released

WOLFPACK and SPEEDBALL monthlies and SUB-MARINER Limited Series. In addition, Terry will be taking on Marvel's first biweekly comic book, MARVEL COMICS PRESENT!

And finally we have Credible Craig Anderson, former Managing Editor in Bankable Bob Budiansky's Special Projects Department, who prior to that served two years as Redoubtable Ralph Macchio's assistant editor in his machiavellian line of books. Craig will retain the MARVEL MASTERWORKS and various INDEX projects he's been editing, and take over the SILVER SURFER, SAVAGE SWORD OF CONAN, CONAN SAGA, and the forthcoming LUKE CAGE revival book!

Welcome to the high-pressure world of big-time editing, you three! Marveldom Assembled anxiously awaits to see the mark you make upon the Marvel Universe. (Next month, if you're lucky, we'll disclose the names of the fortunate few whom our new editors have chosen to assist them!)

ITEM: Some of your favorite Marvel madmen will be hitting the convention trail this summer, letting you, our palpitating public, have a chance to meet them and bend their ears a little (owl).

First up is the Atlanta Fantasy Fair on June 24-26, at the Atlanta Hilton, which will play host to the one and only Stan Lee, Amiable Archie Goodwin, and Madcap Mark Gruenwald, among others. For further information, write to Atlanta Fantasy Fair, 482 Gardner Road, Stockbridge, GA 30281.

A week later is the Chicago Comiccon at the Ramada O'Hare Hotel on July 1-3, which will feature personal appearances by Two-Fisted Tom DeFalco and Terrific Terry Kavanagh. For more information, write Chicago Comiccon, 1219 W. Devon Ave., Chicago, IL 60680. X-MEN fans, take note: One of the highlights of both shows will be a sneak preview of the X-MEN animated cartoon recently spotlighted in MARVEL AGE. See you all there!

HYPE LINE HYPE LINE HYPE LINE HYPE LINE HYPE LINE HYPE LINE

... This is the month of the madness and the mayhem of **The Evolutionary War**, our cross-annual super-saga, begins! On sale now are the first three of our eleven 64-page extravaganzas — **X-FACTOR ANNUAL #3**, **PUNISHER ANNUAL #1** and **SILVER SURFER ANNUAL #1**, each of which boasts a frenetic main feature that can be read all by itself or as part of the ongoing epic, plus a passel of co-features and pinups.

... This summer, some of your favorite titles will be twice as exciting, because you'll be getting them twice a month! That's right, due to popular demand, **AMAZING SPIDER-MAN**, **THE UNCANNY X-MEN** and **G.I. JOE** will be published every two weeks

during the summer months instead of once a month. That means twice as much is going to happen in each of these titles, so you'd better not miss them.

And, speaking of a bi-weekly schedule, we're real proud to announce the publication of **MARVEL COMICS PRESENT** which will feature the greatest, most popular characters in the Marvel Universe and will be on sale every fourteen days! You'll hate yourself forever if you miss the first issue which stars **WOLVERINE**, **SHANG-CHI — THE MASTER OF KUNG FU**, **THE MAN-THING** and the **SILVER SURFER**! Twice a month for twice the fun!

PRO FILE: BOBBIE CHASE

Assistant editor on: SECRET WARS, QUESTPROBE, FANTASTIC FOUR, CAPTAIN AMERICA, THUNDERCATS, TRANSFORMERS, G.I. JOE, G.I. JOE SPECIAL MISSIONS, TALES OF G.I. JOE, G.I. JOE COMICS MAGAZINE, G.I. JOE YEARBOOK (see a trend developing?), THE INCREDIBLE HULK, X-FACTOR, etc., etc. (Editor on: All of the G.I. JOE titles (a surprise!), THE HULK, and soon-to-be STEELTOWN ROCKERS and NTH MAN.)

Marvel freelance credits (past): STAR BRAND ANNUAL #1

Marvel freelance credits (present): Moving very slowly, but I am writing a few things right now.

My hobbies are: Making fun of politicians, eating weird food, working at Marvel, doing crossword puzzles, seeing plays, playing the piano, gardening, drawing, dancing — what is this, an ad for the Personals?

The single work of which I am most proud is: A set I designed for "ROSENKRANTZ AND GUILDENSTERN ARE DEAD," in college.

My pet peeves are: Ronald Reagan, Television Evangelists, the Moral Majority and other fascist organizations, comic book intellectuals, and T.V. talk show hosts who think they're "controversial."

My place of birth is: Destined to be concealed.

My greatest accomplishment outside the



comics field is: A toss-up, between a play I produced/directed in college, and my rose garden.

My oddest habits are: Reading seed plant catalogues in January, decorating my Christmas tree with G.I. Joe toys, dating a Republican.

If they were making a movie of my life, I'd like to see my part played by: Meryl Streep — she's so good at playing strong yet schizophrenic women. Someday, I plan to be a character in a David Hare play.

The reason I got into comics was: There was no room at the inn.

People who knew me in High School thought I was: High School? Who cares?

My favorite performers are: James Taylor, Howard Jones, Annie Lennox, Arthur Rubinstein, James Galway, Edgar Bergen, Billie Holiday, Cary Grant, and the Flying Walendas.

The last good book I read was: A SEVERED HEAD, by Iris Murdoch.

Some of my favorite movies are: MIDNIGHT, a Claudette Colbert/Don Ameche film which nobody else will admit to having ever seen, and HOPE AND GLORY, which everybody should see.

The biggest influences on my work include: Byron, Mahler, Richard Wagner, Sylvia Plath, Eugene O'Neill, Dory Previn, Thomas Hardy, John Steinbeck, Gregory Wright, Edgar Allan Poe — all those great folks who added dimensions to the field of comedy.

My greatest unfulfilled ambition in the comics field is: To get a cost of living raise. The worst part of my job is: Switching offices every three months.

When nobody's looking I like to: Sing the blues.

The one thing I really want the world to know about me is: I've been saving up my fifteen minutes of fame for 1990.

My one question to comic book readers is: Do you really want to know these things about me?



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Anso
Polaroid
CASIO
MORRIS
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BEND OVER AND KISS YOUR ASPIRATIONS GOOD-BYE, FOX!



AT HIS AGE, JAIL COULD BE DANGEROUS! AND I DO HAVE THE CHALICE!

O-OH... MY MOTHER'S... GRAVE...?

FOX, I SEE YOU AGAIN, I'LL MAIL YOU TO THE FBI... PIECE-BY-PIECE!

SIR, YOU ARE A SAINT.

SIR, I AM A SAPI!

AND
SOON...

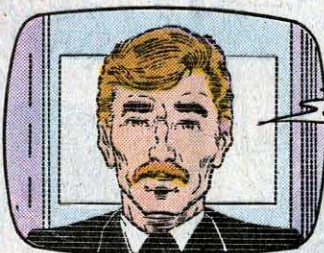
THIS
IS
IT!

THE CHIP
ON THE
BACK OF
THIS
JEWEL
IS THE
KEY TO
MINDY'S
FREEDOM!
THANKS,
SPIDER-
MAN.
THANKS
FOR
TRUSTIN'
ME.

HOBE-

--THE
PLEASURE
WAS
MINE!

MORNING. LOS ANGELES INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT.



MICROCHIP FOUND
IN THE RETURNED VALENCIA
CHALICE INDICATES WIDE-
SPREAD CORRUPTION IN
TRANSCORP'S NEW YORK
BRANCH. IN A RELATED
MATTER, A TRANSCORP
EMPLOYEE JAILED LAST
WEEK, MINDY S. BROWN,
HAS BEEN RELEASED
DUE TO THESE LATEST--

GREAT
NEWS.



UH-HUH. WELL
WORTH THE
QUARTER!
IT'S GOOD TO
KNOW THAT
SOMETIMES
THINGS DO
WORK OUT!



THINGS DID NOT
WORK OUT AT ALL!

THE RUBY I "ACQUIRED"
FROM THE HEMPSTEAD'S SAFE
WILL BARELY COVER MY EX-
PENSES! AH, WELL, AT LEAST
THERE WAS THAT FINAL CON-
FRONTATION WITH SPIDER-
MAN. I MEAN, REALLY!
SWEARING ON MY MOTHER'S
GRAVE NOT TO STEAL
ANY MORE?



MUM WILL GET SUCH A
LAUGH WHEN I TELL
HER...!



LOOK OUT, NEWYORK--HUMBUG'S BACK! (AND SPIDEY SAYS "HI" TO
CLEVELAND!) IT ALL HAPPENS IN JUST TWO WEEKS! BE HERE!

THE SPIDER'S WEB

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JIM SALICRUP
EDITOR
GLENN HERDLING
ASSISTANT EDITOR

SALICRUP'S SECTION



Now that THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN has kicked into twice-a-month gear for the summer things are really moving! In fact all summer long Spidey will be traveling about this great land of ours to promote Peter's book of photos, "WEBB." So don't be surprised if the Webster winds up in your home town before it's all over.

A few issues back, we mentioned that Jim Sanders (There! Spelled his name correctly, at last!) would be inking an issue of AMAZING to help Todd meet his ever-increasing deadlines. Well, this was supposed to be that issue and as you can see it didn't quite work out as planned. Life can be that way sometimes. Jim did get to ink page one and a few assorted heads and figures throughout the issue but the rest of the inking was handled by the newly created Magnificent Seven! To find out exactly who they are and who inked what, here's a handy-dandy page by page guide:

Page 2 — Mark McKenna	Page 17 — Josef Rubinstein
Page 3 — Mark McKenna	Page 18 — Josef Rubinstein
Page 4 — Ken Lopez	Page 19 — Pat Redding
Page 5 — Rodney Ramos	Page 20 — Chris Ivy
Page 6 — Josef Rubinstein	Page 21 — Mark McKenna
Page 7 — Rodney Ramos	Page 22 — Pat Redding
Page 8 — Rodney Ramos	Page 23 — Hector Collazo
Page 9 — Mark McKenna	Page 24 — Mark McKenna
Page 10 — Josef Rubinstein	Page 25 — Pat Redding
Page 11 — Pat Redding	Page 26 — Mark McKenna
Page 12 — Pat Redding	Page 27 — Pat Redding
Page 13 — Pat Redding	Page 28 — Mark McKenna
Page 14 — Pat Redding	Page 29 — Pat Redding
Page 15 — Pat Redding	Page 30 — Mark McKenna
Page 16 — Pat Redding	

I'd like to thank all of the above for services above and beyond the call of duty! You all did a great job!

Next issue, Todd will be back inking his pencils once again! Now on with the ever lovin' Letters Page!

Hey, guys,

Just wanted to drop you a line concerning the return of an old friend, Spidey's red-and-blues. I am 100% in favor of the move, and I'll explain why.

Don't get me wrong. The black and white outfit was a beautiful costume. It was dynamic. It was sleek. It was sexy. BUT IT JUST WASN'T SPIDER-MAN.

Spider-Man, to me, is the slightly naive, slightly clumsy costume designed by a teenage Peter Parker and the brilliance of Steve Ditko. The crudity of design was completely offset by the fluidity and grace of Spider-Man in motion. Glitz wasn't needed at all, and the outfit became secondary as we witnessed the superhuman beauty of Spider-Man webbing across the rooftops.

Spider-Man is, after all, The Hero Who Could be You. Peter Parker, like most of us, was not blessed with a body by Soloflex. He was a skinny little guy who gained great power, and through his negligence in allowing an escaped thief to murder his Uncle Ben, painfully learned great responsibility. It was this human element, this clumsiness and vulnerability, that made Spider-Man the success he is today.

The black and white got away from all that. It just couldn't radiate Peter's humanity the way the traditional costume did. It's fine for any other character, and it works beautifully on Venom. But it never said "Spidey," and I think most people feel the same way.

Congrats to all on rectifying a well-intentioned error. Like Coca-Cola, some things just can't be changed. Thanks for letting me ramble, and here's to another 300.

Bob Kackey
1130 Willow Ave.
Hoboken, NJ 07030

That's pretty much how we feel on this end, Bob. However, not everyone agrees with you. So let's hear the pros and cons in this installment of "The Spider's Web," and then put the issue to rest. And since we're receiving such a phenomenal amount of mail on AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #300, we'll probably carry over into next issue as well...

Dear Amazers

I am writing you specifically concerning AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #300. It was great!

I count myself fortunate to have chanced across it while getting a Slurpee and couldn't believe it — Spidey 25 years old? Nah! Couldn't be. I think the story very well done and exciting, but with a few holes in it.

Many:

On page 31, bottom panel, it says that Venom has "more muscle than Spidey does." But au contraire, Spidey can lift over 9 tons on a good day. Even on Monday, he should be able to beat someone who can only bench about 100 lbs. (page 4, bottom panel, the weight set).

I have the answer, though. The alien/black suit enhances the wearer's strength along with hyping the resistance to harm. And since Eddie Brock was completely taken over by the suit, his already incredible strength was superior to Spidey's.

Also, I found the thought that the suit would reappear and seek revenge on the verge of disbelief. I have WEB OF SPIDER-MAN #1 and thought that the suit had grown quite attached (sorry) to Peter. "Symbiosis is a two-way street," — explanation that the alien got the idea from Brock (page 31) clears that up. I still think the suit should die (nicely, again).

My main concern was a shock to myself. I mean, about the suits. I always liked the red and blue number — that was Spidey! But then you decided to mature his image a little and introduced the black and white suit. I was outraged! I was so mad I spat! But the Peter Parker inside was still good and the story ideas were entertaining enough that I was able to live with it. But now, after I said goodbye to the red suit (although I rejoiced in the newspaper strip and in SPIDER-MAN VS. WOLVERINE where the red suit prevailed), you bring it back! I don't know if my old heart can take it! But, I wasn't as excited about its return as I thought I would be. Strange. But I can live with it. Heck, I'll love it! I know that your stories will be good enough that it won't matter what Spider-Man wears.

Oh, how could I forget. The art!!! I opened the cover and immediately began to notice the exquisite stylings in ink. I went a few pages, enjoying the graphic detail before I figured out who was drawing. I am not one much for appreciating the pics in a mag, but I do like this stuff. It wasn't until on page 11 when I saw Spidey's webbing that I realized I had seen this art before. Recent HULKS! McFarlane of course!

All in all, a fine comic!

Myles S. Hildebrand
Box 457
Niverville, MB R0A 1E0
Canada

Actually, Myles, that was very astute of you to determine that the alien costume enhances the strength of its bearer, especially if you never before read AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #254, which hints at that very possibility. If you missed that issue, don't worry — it will be only one of the stories that we will be reprinting in our trade paperback edition entitled, THE SAGA OF THE ALIEN COSTUME. Watch for it!

Dear Marvel

Sometimes I find it very hard to understand you guys. Why would you ever want to go back to that stupid red and blue costume when you have a sleek, mysterious looking black and white costume to use? I don't understand it. In fact, I was completely taken by surprise when I saw you did it.

I remember my friend coming in saying "I refuse to buy another issue of SPIDER-MAN." This took me by surprise, seeing how SPIDER-MAN is my friend's favorite hero. He started me collecting SPIDER-MAN. I hadn't seen ASM #300 I devastated. The red and blue costume was back. I could see why my friend was mad. However, I thought he was only exaggerating about not buying SPIDER-MAN anymore. Two weeks later though, he passed up the SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN. I guess he really wasn't exaggerating.

All of this makes me wonder just how many people you've ticked off by the costume switch. In fact, I wonder if more people actually liked the black and white costume better. For this reason, I think you should have a poll to find out at this point in time who liked which costume better. My vote is for the black and white costume. I think when all the votes are tallied, you will see that you guys made a large mistake, because I think more people like the black and white costume better.

Richard Masters
4419 5th Street
Baciff, TX 77518

Response has always been 50/50 in regards to the preferred costume, Richard. It just goes to show you that you can't please all of the people all of the time. It really is a shame, though, that your friend, who claims to be a big fan of Spider-Man, cannot look beyond the attire to realize that it's still the same of Spidey lurking beneath the garb.

Next issue: It's the return of the deadly (well, maybe not "deadly") nemesis known as Humbug! He's out for revenge against the administration of Empire State University. But what is Spidey doing on Campus? And who is that villain from Spider-Man's past that finally reappears? Join us and find out!

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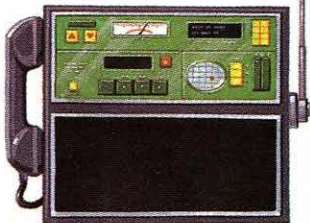


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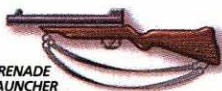
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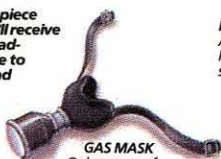
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