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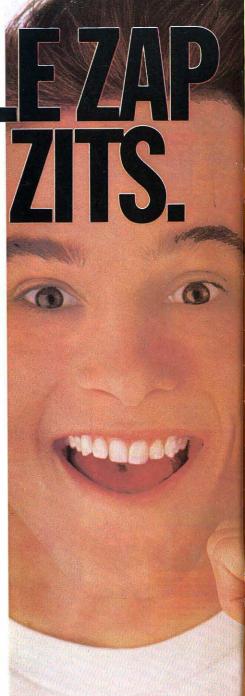
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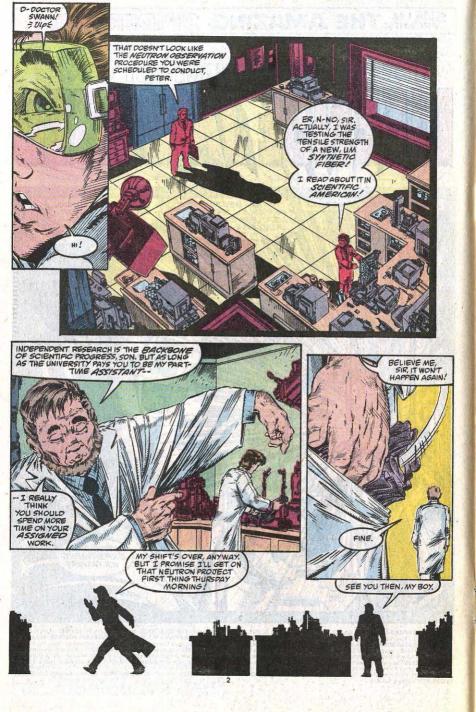
#### STON LOS: THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN.

PAVID MICHELINE TODD MCFARLANE RICK PARKER BOB SHAREN/GREGORY WRIGHT JIM SALICRUP TOM DEFALCO
WRITER ARTIST LETTERER COLORISTS EDITOR EDITOR IN CHIEF

# TIBASASSIN NATION PLOT ONE



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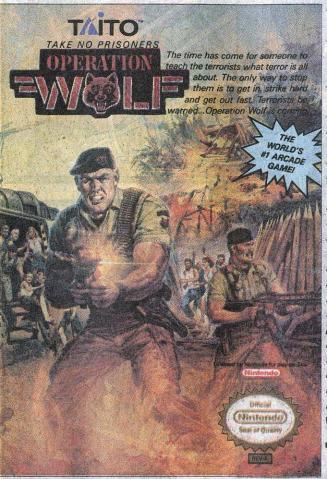
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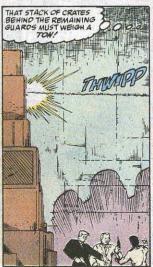
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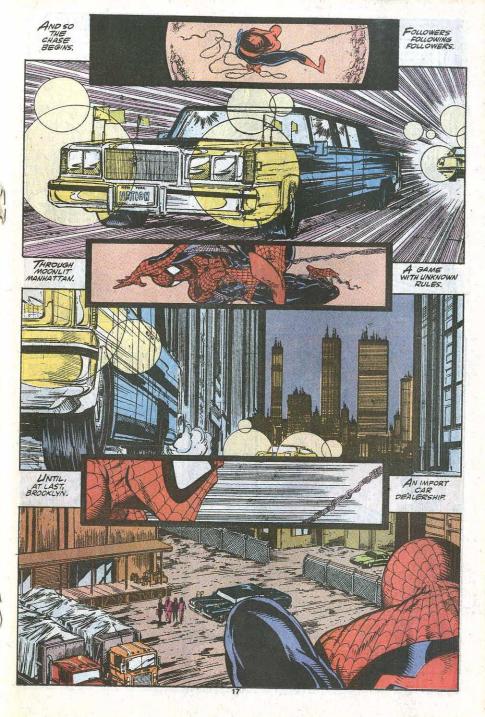














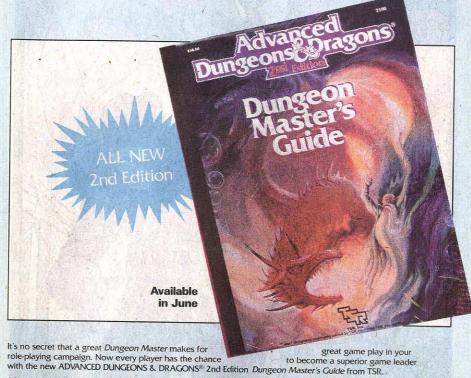








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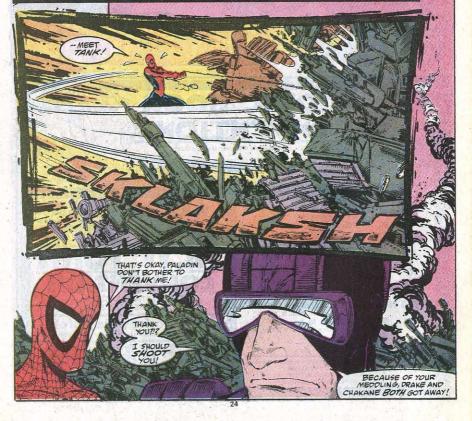
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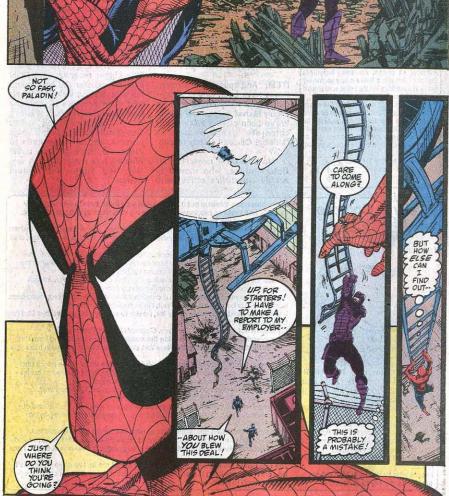
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Stan's Soapbox

Hi, True Believers! The time hath come for a little soul-searching as we tackle a subject that concerns us all

Years ago, some peole looked down their noses at those who created or read comic books. Comics were thought of in the same light as we think of fast foods today. They were perceived as light entertainment with no real nourishment.

Even today, I'll occasionally hear someone give comics a bad rap, usually someone who hasn't read them in years. Well, in case you encounter the same type of comments, here's a little something you can

run past-your critic...

What are comics? They're stories, told in words and pictures. Are some not as well-written as others? Perhaps. There are also novels, plays and movies which aren't as well-written as others. But are some comic books written with great skill and integrity? Of course. Are some beautifully illustrated? Just take a look! Are they worthwhile? Bet on it! Since when has the written word coupled with illustration not been worthwhile?

Now, here's the clincher. Let's say Michaelangelo and Shakespeare are alive today and collaborate on a comic book. People would fight for a copy, right? Obviously, there's nothing wrong with telling a story using script and illustration. Just as with any other art form, everything depends on doing it well

At Marvel, we try to do it well. Excelsion



"Just in time! I couldn't have taken another panel of this unrequited love buil!"

> --Rumbo POWER PACHYDERMS #1

ITEM: We Marvelites just can't sit still! Case in point: just last month in this space we told you about our brand-spanking-new Editorial Administration Pool members. Well, Mystical Marie Javins has gone and gotten promoted since then! Yup, the upwardly mobile Ms. J is now Marvelous Margaret Clark's assistant editor! Congrats, Marie!

Filling the void is Delightful Dawn Heermance, who will serve as secretary to Magnanimous Mark Gruenwald and Adventurous Archie Goodwin, Welcome, Dawn!

ITEM: And speaking of mobility, things have been kind of crazy-okay, especially crazy--here at Mighty Marvel the past few weeks. We've been playing that madcap corporate game known as "Musical Offices"! Ready to play, kids?

Margaret Clark moved to Carl Potts's office, who moved to Archie Goodwin's office, who

moved to Sid Jacobson's office. who moved to Don Perlin's office. found himself and his artcorrecting Raiders way off in the southwest corner of the 10th floor. next to John Romita Sr., who switched offices with Bobbie Chase! Whew!

If you think that sounds confusing, True Believer, you're right! In fact, if we had a nickel for every time someone went to the wrong office around here, we could probably afford to send out

our comics for free!

ITEM: The Marvel family got a little bigger recently, as MOON KNIGHT penciler Sal Velluto and his wife Sharon welcomed their first child into this big, brassy world; Alexander Mario Velluto was born March 28. Congratulations to the new parents, and a hearty hello to Alexander, the lucky little devil! After all, how many kids can say, "My dad works for Marvel Comics"?



Assistant Editor on: CONAN THE BARBARIAN, CONAN THE KING, PUNISHER WAR JOURNAL, THE 'NAM, THE IOB, and TRANSFORMERS

Marvel freelance credits (past): Editina the SPEEDBALL letters page (collect them all!), typing numerous PUNISHER WAR JOURNAL scripts for Carl Potts.

Marvel freelance credits (present): Can I get back to you on this one? My place of birth is: Providence, Rhade Island.

People who knew me in high school thought I was: My brother Jody.

My hobbles are: Working out (I bench press way more than bullpenner Harry Candelario), jogging, playing with Domino my cat, reading all kinds of novels, and drawing all the time.

My pet peeves are: People with maids (till I get one), compressed air cans when manned by Dwight Coye, all the extra furniture that Don packs in our office, and Lynda Evans's hair

My favorite performers are: Torn Hanks, Glenn Close, Bette Midler, 'Jane' the Monitor, Tracy Ullman, the entire cast of Lost in Space, my brother Perry as the entire cast of Lost in Space, and of course Lindsay Wagner.

The last good books I read were: I Was a Teenage Couch Potato by Steven Scott Wilson, and Do-It-Yourself Home Repairs by John Steinmetz.

'The last good movie I saw was: In a crowded theater, with a butter-soaked floor, and some guy behind me passed out, I think he was diabetic.

If they were making a movie of my life, I'd like to see my part played by: Me! I've been studying the part for years.

My oddest habit is: Days of Our Lives, General Hospital, Dynasty...

My greatest accomplishment outside the comics field is: Graduating from the Swedish Institute and passing the New York state boards for a license in massage

The reason I got into comics was: Something about re-shaping the minds and ideas of our nation's youth to ensure future prosperity. (And I wanted to bump Jim DiGiovanna's™ Pro File off the Bullpen Bulletins page!)

The biggest influences on my work include: Klaus Janson, George Perez, Christopher Ivy, Tom DeFalco, Don Daley, and my dad.

The single work of which I am most proud is: My lovely wife Catherine and our two children. Anthony (2) and Elizabeth (1)...(Just seeing if you were paying attention.)

My greatest unfulfilled ambition in the comics field is: Going to be fulfilled. The worst part of my job is: Always missing lunch with Chris I., Chris A., and Mindy. When nobody's looking I like to: Talk in sign language, but no one seems to hear

The one thing I really want the world to know about me is: I've always believed you can have anything in life as long as you want it badly enough and work hard enough to get it.



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QUITE SIMPLY, SPIDER-MAN, INTELLIGENCE OPERATIVES AT SYLVER SABLE INTERNATIONAL HAVE UNCOVERED HINTS OF A COMSPIRACY AGAINST MY NATIVE COUNTRY, SYMKARIA. CHAKANE, AN AGENT OF A FOREIGN GOVERNMENT, IS SOMEHOW INVOLVED.



I...I HAD NO IDEA! I'M REALLY SORRY! LOOK, MAYBE I CAN MAKE UP FOR IT. LET ME HELP

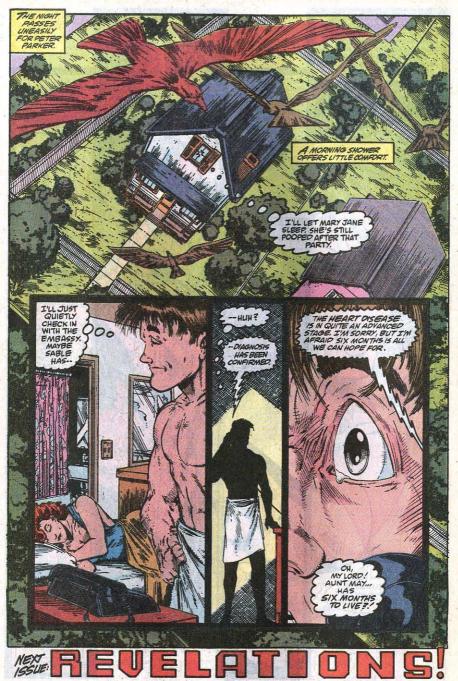
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MEAN

VERY WELL, BUT
WE'LL NEED TIME
TO ASCERTAIN
CHAKANE'S WHEREABOUTS, CONTACT
ME AT THE SYMKARIAN
EMBASSY.

FOR NOW, WHERE SHOULD WE DROP YOU OFF?

"HOW ABOUT PROM A BRIDGE? SPIDER: MAN THINKS, MISERABLY. "OH, ANYWHERE IN QUEENS..." IS WHAT HE SAYS.



#### FUS SPIDER'S W



#### % MARVEL COMICS GROUP 387 Park Avenue South New York, New York 10016

JIM SALICRUP ARACHNERD GLENN HERDLING ASSISTANT EDITOR

Attention correspondents: All letters considered for publication must include your name and address, though we will withhold that information upon requesting the considered for publication must include your name and address, though we will withhold that information upon requesting the considered for publication must include your name and address, though we will withhold that information upon requesting the considered for publication must include your name and address, though we will withhold that information upon requesting the considered for publication must include your name and address.

Dear Spiders.

I was wondering why you call ol' Spidey a "nonmutant super hero." He was bitten by a radioactive spider. That would turn him into a mutant, wouldn't it? How about some guest appearances by mutants like Nightcrawler, Wolverine, or even Colossus? How about Spidey goes up against the Juggernaut? Is it possible?

John "Web-head" Webber (No address on letter)

Anything's possible, John! Spidey's first encounter with the Juggernaut is re-presented in a deluxe edition, which should be on sale right now. As for a rematch, well, we're not sure if either of them is up to it. If you're looking for Spider-Man to team up with your favorite mutants, check out current issues of MARVEL TALES which is now reprinting Spidey's greatest mutant match-ups. Here's more on that "non-mutant" tag...

Dear Jim Salicrup.

I think that most people who read THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN realize that Spider-Man is not a mutant. I realize that Marvel has an abundant number of mutant super heroes, but why do you feel it's necessary. Spider-Man has been an extremely popular character for over 26 years. I'm sure that by now the public knows that Spider-Man is not a mutant.

Michael J. Leon 47 Jean Avenue Hempstead, NY 11550

Oh, really ...?

Dear Spidey crew.

Before I get started, I'd Ilike to say that I really enjoy reading Marvel's Spidey titles. They're great!

Now to the business at hand. On the covers of certain issues of Spidey's comics, these words appear: "The Non-Mutant Super Hero!" The current Marvel definition of the word "mutant" is "one who is born with an "X-factor in his/her genetic make-up, giving that person para-human abilities." I've been mulling this over and have come to the conclusion that this is only partially correct.

The word "mutant" can fit more than those born with a mutated cell that gives them para-human abilities. Webster defines "mutate" as "to change; to alter." Peter Parker's cells were altered when he was bitten by that spider, in effect, becoming a mutant. As did any Marvel character who gained powers that aren't a result of electronic devices (e.g. Mjolnir), or powers derived from magic (e.g. the Wrecking Crew).

Do you accept my proposal and explanation? All in all Marvel has the best comics around, and I'm proud to offer my ideas to your expertise. I hope I've clearly stated my point. So, until the Earth is sucked into a black hole, Make Mine Marvel!

Jaimie Wolz Box 2876 APO, NY 09130

Sure, Jaimie, Spider-Man is a mutate. You won't get any argument from us there. But the biological definition of the term "mutant," even in our own universe, is "an organism born with a change in its chromosomes which is inherently different from either parent." The alteration in Peter's genetic structure was chemical in nature, not biological. That is, it occurred long after he was born.

Dear David.

Just when I thought that Marvel had cornered the market on mutants I picked up the 312th issue of the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN. You can get a trademark-for "Non-Mutant"? I loved it! "THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN, The Non-Mutant Super hero!" Not too many books that Marvel publishes that they can hang that title on.

With Halloween just around the corner the atmosphere was right for a confrontation between the Hobgoblin and the Green Goblin! I like the way in which you handled Harry becoming the Goblin to protect his family and then hanging it up once they were safe.

The Lizard next issue, all right! Bring back all of Spideys best villains. I really love seeing how Todd draws all of those golden oldies!

Of the three regular titles that Spider-Man has on the market this one is at the top of the list. Keep up the "amazing" work!

Charles S. Novinski P.O. Box 1323 Grand Junction, CO 81502

That's one pro-"non-mutant" vote. Now let's hear from a man who feels that Spider-Man should at least rate the title "honorary mutant"...

Dear Editor-Man,

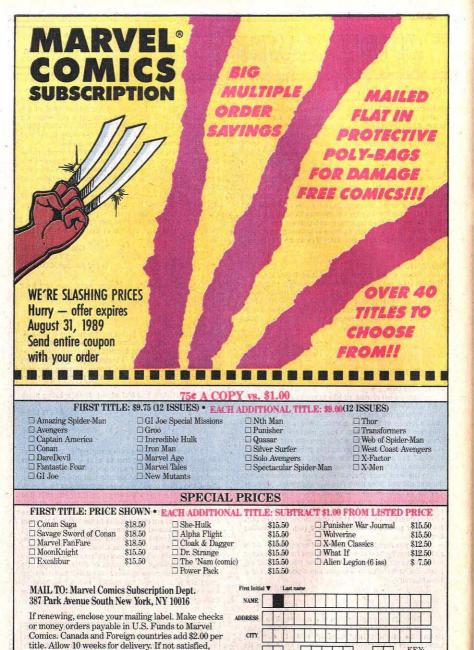
Shhh! Don"t let it get out that Spider-Man is "the non-mutant super hero" (as leaked on the cover of ASM #312); your sales will surely drop! Incidentally, is that trademark on "mutant" or "non-muant"? I suppose you probably don't have too much to worry about, though, crossing over with "Inferno" should make ol' Webhead an honorary mutant at any rate.

To Michelinie and McFarlane: Keep spinning those fantastic webs--er, yarns!

Erik C. Miller Ashton-Aydelotte #155 Bloomington, IN 47406

There's a controversy raging at the Marvel Bullpen right now that has to deal with this mutant issue. It was inspired by our trouble-making editor, Jim Salicrup, who insisted on placing that infamous phrase above the cover logo. We were surprised at how many people disagreed with the idea. Their argument is that any characters who received their powers due to radiation (e.g. Spidey, Daredevil, the Hulk, or the Fantastic Four) are mutants due to the fact that they did not die. The Marvel Dictionary coins the phrase "latent mutant" to describe such a phenomenon. For instance, it has been established that Cloak and Dagger were latent mutants whose powers never would have manifested without the catalyst of certain drugs. So what does that make Spidey? We'd like to hear what you have to say about the matter. In the meantime, to keep our definitions from being all-inclusive, we're calling our webslinger a "non-mutant."

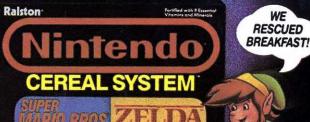
NEXT ISSUE: The "Assassin Nation Plot" continues as Spidey teams up with Paladin and Silver Sable to track down the escaped members of the Life Foundation. Remember, it's on sale in two weeks! Meanwhile, check out SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #154 next week to discover the master plan of the Puma!

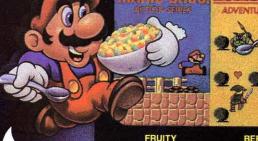


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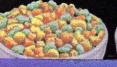




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