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PART TWO OF SIX



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the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN

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AND
**SILVER
SABLE**
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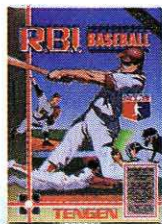
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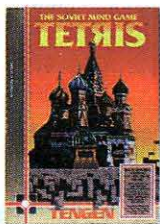
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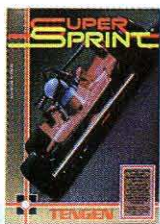
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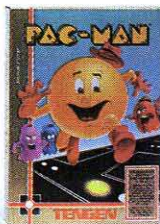
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*LAST
ISSUE--35.





I WOULD'VE
MOVED!

SILVER SABLE DIDN'T
ANTICIPATE SO MUCH
RESISTANCE WHEN SHE
SENT US HERE! 3 UNF

HER INTELLIGENCE
NETWORK DID FIND
THAT THIS SHIPPING
COMPANY IS OWNED
BY THE LIFE FOUNDATION,
BUT WHO COULD GUESS
THEY'D GUARD THEIR
SECRETS SO
ZEALOUSLY?

MORE
GUARDS! AN
ARMY OF
THEM!



IF ONLY I COULD
3 UNF BUY US SOME
TIME--!

YOU
WANT
TIME?



YOU GOT IT!

FLIK



THAT SLOWED 'EM DOWN A BIT! YOU GET THE INFO WE NEED FROM THE OFFICE, PALADIN!

I'LL KEEP OUR WELCOMING COMMITTEE ENTERTAINED IF THEY GET PAST THE OVERTURNED FREIGHT CAR!

FILES ARE ON COMPUTER DISCS! NOT MY FORTÉ! WHICH TO TAKE?

AH!

OOCHÉ

OWÉ

ICKÉ

YIPÉ

-GLPF-

WHEN IN DOUBT, TAKE EVERYTHING!

MY, MY, BUY OUR WEBBING AT A DISCOUNT HOUSE, DO WE?

MAKE IT MYSELF, CHEAPER THAT WAY, WHAT NEXT?

FOR ME, I TURN OUR PRIZE OVER AND COLLECT MY BONUS! AS FOR YOU--

--I SUGGEST YOU CALL SILVER AT THE SYMKARIAN EMBASSY TOMORROW.

IF YOU CAN BORROW A QUARTER.

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AMAZING, HE
ACTUALLY RISKS HIS
LIFE FOR FREE! IT
TAKES ALL KINDS...

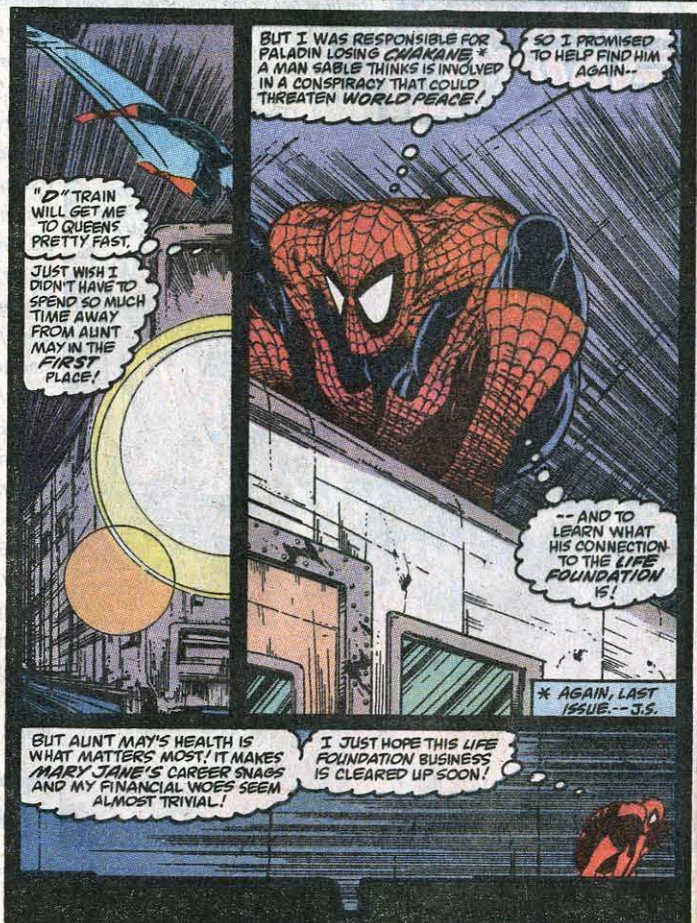
DISGUSTING, HE ACTUALLY
CHARGES FOR HELPING
PEOPLE! TAKES ALL KINDS,
I GUESS....!



HE WASN'T
FAR WRONG
WITH THAT
QUARTER
CRACK,
THOUGH.

"D" TRAIN
WILL GET ME
TO QUEENS
PRETTY FAST.

JUST WISH I
DIDN'T HAVE TO
SPEND SO MUCH
TIME AWAY
FROM AUNT
MAY IN THE
FIRST PLACE!



BUT I WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR
PALADIN LOSING CHAKANE *
A MAN SABLE THINKS IS INVOLVED
IN A CONSPIRACY THAT COULD
THREATEN WORLD PEACE!

SO I PROMISED
TO HELP FIND HIM
AGAIN--

-- AND TO
LEARN WHAT
HIS CONNECTION
TO THE LIFE
FOUNDATION
IS!

* AGAIN, LAST
ISSUE-- J.S.

BUT AUNT MAY'S HEALTH IS
WHAT MATTERS MOST! IT MAKES
MARY JANE'S CAREER SNAGS
AND MY FINANCIAL WOES SEEM
ALMOST TRIVIAL!

I JUST HOPE THIS LIFE
FOUNDATION BUSINESS
IS CLEARED UP SOON!

I'M EVEN
SCRIMPING ON
SUBWAY
FARE
THESE DAYS!

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HOWEVER, LATER THAT
DAY AT LIFE FOUNDATION
HEADQUARTERS...

THIS REPORT
IS RATHER
DISTURBING.

THE CONFRONTATION AT THE TRAIN
YARD COULD MEAN THAT OUR CURRENT
OPERATION HAS BEEN COMPROMISED!

IT WAS, AFTER ALL,
SPIDER-MAN WHO
HELPED DESTROY THE
SURVIVAL CONDOS
WE WERE MARKETING
SOME TIME AGO. *

*ISSUE #299 THIS TIME:- J.S.

MAYBE WE SHOULD CUT
OUR LOSSES AND ABORT
THE PROJECT, MR. DRAKE.

I THINK NOT.
NOT IF WE CAN
MANIPULATE
CURRENT
CIRCUMSTANCES
INTO WORKING
FOR US.

METHODS
THAT MIGHT
BENEFIT FROM
A BIT OF FIELD
TESTING.

OUR RESEARCH DEPARTMENT HAS COME UP
WITH SOME NEW METHODS FOR DEFENSE
AGAINST HOSTILE FACTIONS.

MR. PULLMAN, PLEASE
CONTACT THE NEW
INSTALLATION.

TELL THEM TO SEE
THAT **THE**
PROTECTORS
ARE MADE READY!

QUEENS...



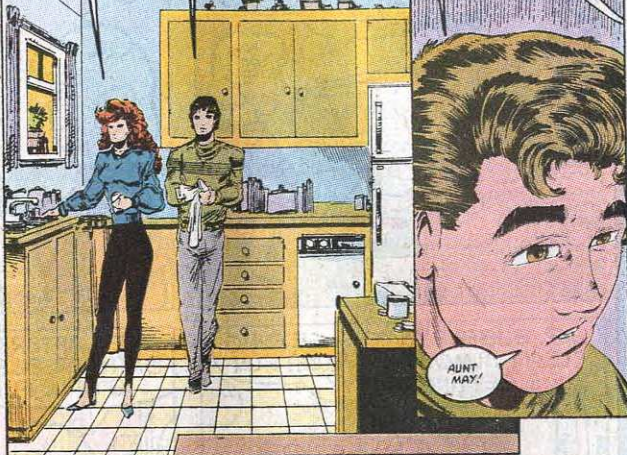
SHE'LL TELL US WHEN SHE'S READY.

I KNOW, BUT I JUST CAN'T STOP THINKING ABOUT HER! IT'S EVEN STARTING TO AFFECT MY WORK AS SPIDER-MAN!

AUNT MAY IS MY ANCHOR. BESIDES YOU, SHE'S THE ONLY FAMILY I'VE GOT!

I WANT TO HELP HER, TO COMFORT HER.

MY, AREN'T YOU YOUNGSTERS INDUSTRIOUS!



I'M SORRY, M.J. SHE NEEDS ME!

AUNT MAY, WE KNOW ABOUT YOUR... HEART PROBLEM.

(PETER!)

AND, AFTER THE STORY IS TOLD...

I SHOULD BE ANGRY AT YOUR EAVESDROPPING, EVEN IF IT WAS UNINTENTIONAL. BUT YOUR CONCERN IS SO TOUCHING.

ALTHOUGH, IT TURNS OUT, SOMEWHAT MISPLACED.

YOU SEE, IT ISN'T MY HEART THAT'S DISEASED.

IT'S NATHAN'S.

NATHAN LUBENSKY?!

NATHAN AND I ARE VERY CLOSE-- WE'RE EVEN CONSIDERING BECOMING ENGAGED AGAIN-- AND THE DOCTOR WAS TOLD TO GIVE ANY DIAGNOSES TO ME IF NATHAN WASN'T AVAILABLE.



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I WANT YOU CHILDREN TO KNOW YOU *ALWAYS* HAVE A HOME HERE, BUT I'D ALSO LIKE TO MAKE NATHAN'S LAST DAYS AS PEACEFUL AS POSSIBLE, SO...

...I'M CONSIDERING PHASING-OUT MY BOARDING OPERATIONS.

I HOPE YOU UNDERSTAND.

OF COURSE WE DO.

I FEEL GUILTY, I'M SORRY FOR NATHAN... BUT I'M SO GLAD IT'S NOT AUNT MAY!

THAT EVENING.

IT'S STRANGE, I RESISTED MOVING BACK WITH AUNT MAY, AND NOW I'M SAD ABOUT LEAVING.

I'M EVEN GOING TO A "CATTLE CALL" NEXT WEEK, TRYING OUT FOR A SMALL PART IN A SOAP OPERA.

I HAD SOME DRAMA LESSONS IN SCHOOL, AND SINCE THIS WORLD-CLASS MODEL CAN'T GET ANY MODELING WORK--

-I GUESS A JOB'S A JOB!

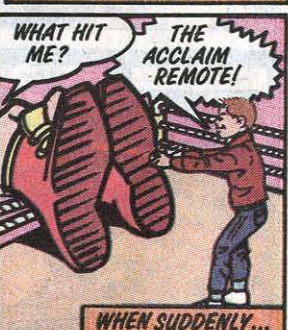
WE'LL HAVE TO LOWER OUR STANDARDS TO FIND A PLACE QUICKLY, BUT I'M GETTING USED TO THAT.

BUT SPEAKING OF NEW DIGGS, WE'RE SUPPOSED TO HELP HARRY AND LIZ OSBORN MOVE INTO THEIR NEW LOFT TOMORROW, REMEMBER?

UH-HUH.

SIGH - AT LEAST SOMEONE'S GOT A PLACE TO BE!

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SPECIFICALLY, A FOUR-STORY LOFT BUILDING IN SOHO-- SOUTH OF HOUSTON STREET-- IN LOWER MANHATTAN. WHERE, THE NEXT DAY...

HAVE COURAGE, FOLKS. I PICKED THE SECOND FLOOR JUST SO WE WOULDN'T HAVE TO CARRY STUFF UP TOO MANY STAIRS!

LINIMENT READY? THEN...

LET'S GET TO IT!

THE NEXT HOURS ARE NOT FUN. BUT AT LAST, THEY ARE OVER...

THANKS, GUYS! WE COULDN'T HAVE DONE IT WITHOUT YOU!

WHEW! I'M POOPED!

WELL, I WOULD BE IF NOT FOR MY SPIDER-POWERS!

JUST REMEMBER, HARRY, YOU PROMISED TO HELP US WHEN WE MOVE!

HEY THAT GIVES ME A GREAT IDEA!

WHY DON'T YOU MOVE HERE? THE UPPER LEVELS ARE VACANT, AND YOU COULD TAKE THE TOP LOFT!

AFTER HEMMING AND HAWING--AND WORRYING ABOUT HOW TO COME AND GO AS SPIDER-MAN--PETER AGREES TO HAVE A LOOK.

HEY, THERE'S A SKYLIGHT IN THE BATHROOM! FABULOUS!

PETER, YOU'RE WEIRD.

THERE'S ACRES OF ROOM, HON, AND THE LOCATION'S TERRIFIC!

OKAY, SOLD. BUT WE *INSIST* ON PAYING THE SAME RENT YOU'D CHARGE ANYONE ELSE.

SURE! LESS THE 25% FRIENDSHIP DEDUCTION, OF COURSE!

LET'S GO DOWNSTAIRS AND CELEBRATE, NEIGHBORS!

AND...

TOO BAD PETER HAD TO GO MAKE A PHONE CALL. HE'LL MISS "SECRET HOSPITAL"! YOU EVER WATCH IT, MJ?

WATCH IT? IF THINGS GO WELL, I'M GOING TO BE ON IT!

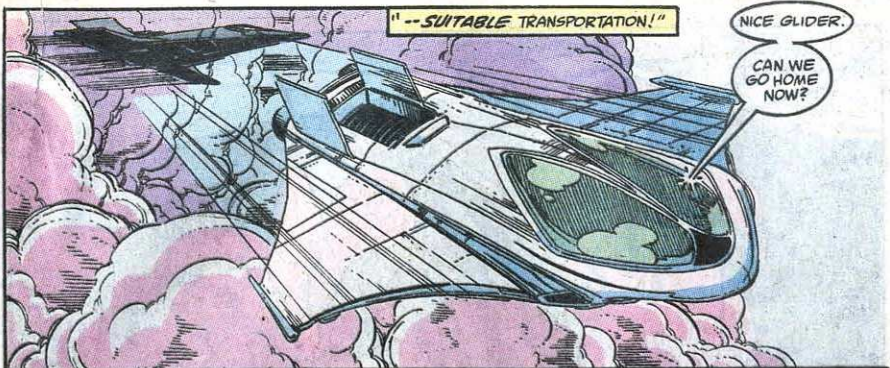
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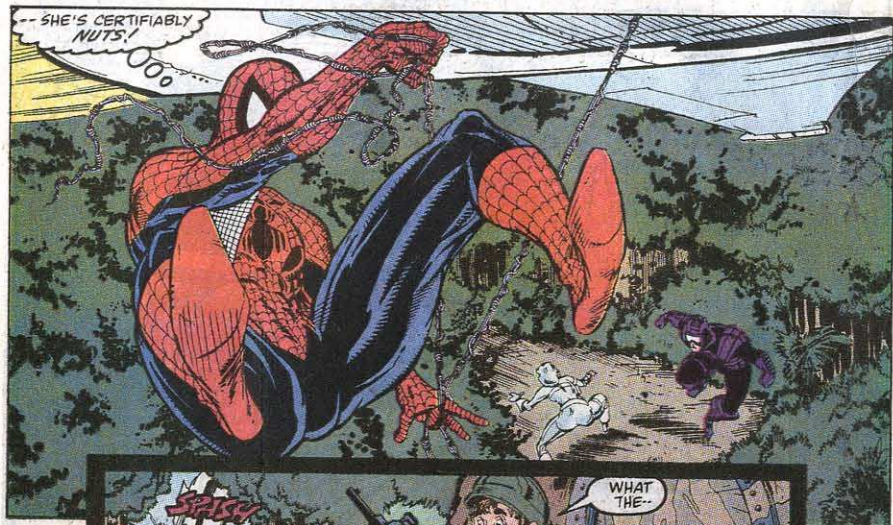
SABLE? THIS IS SPIDER-MAN.

WHAT'S UP?

LOTS. MEET US AT THE 34TH STREET HELIPAD.

WE'RE TAKING A CHOPPER TO NEW JERSEY, WHERE WE CAN SWITCH TO MORE--





ANYONE EVER TELL YOU
YOU'D MAKE A GREAT
DRILL SERGEANT?

QUIET! THERE'S
A GRATE AHEAD!
MAYBE WE CAN
SEE--

--GOOD
LORD!

SHOPS,
RESTAURANTS,
EVEN A
THEATER!
ALL IN VARIOUS
STAGES OF
CONSTRUCTION!

LET'S GET
DOWN THERE!

LAST TIME THEY WERE BUILDING
ESCAPE CONDOS FOR UPSCALE
SURVIVALISTS, BUT WHAT'S
THIS?

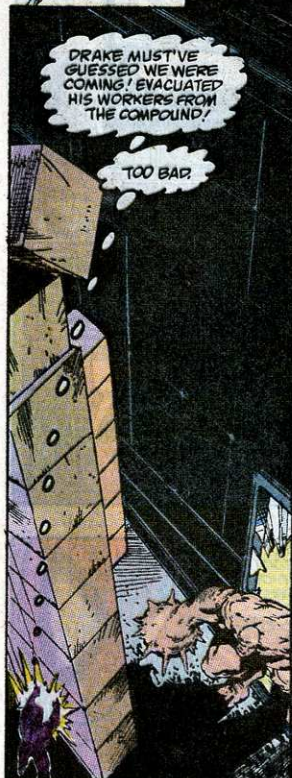
A MALL
FOR MOLES?

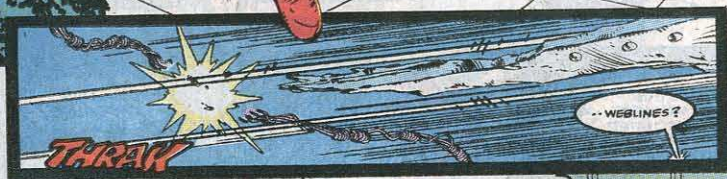
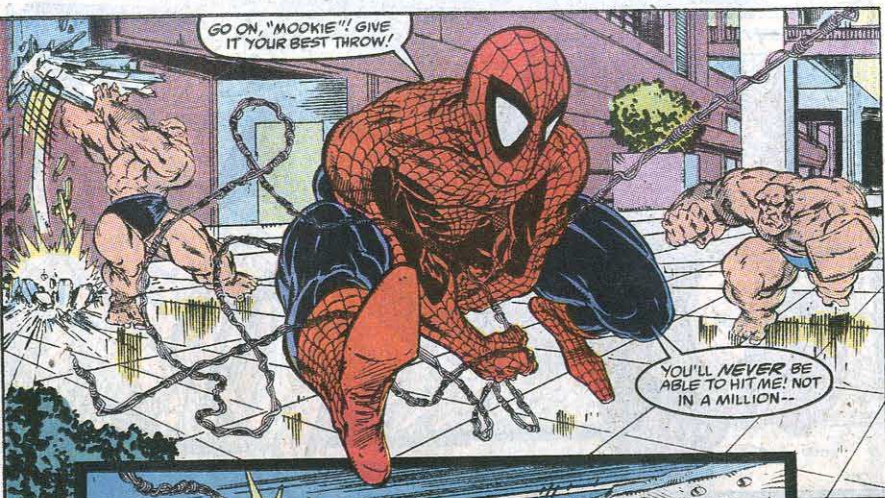
IT'S
MUCH MORE
THAN THAT,
SPIDER-MAN!

YOUR PREVIOUS INTERFERENCE
COST US CUSTOMERS, SO WE'RE NOW
TARGETING AN UNTAPPED MARKET:
YUPPIES! THAT'S WHY WE DESIGNED
THESE NEW ACCOMMODATIONS AS
WE DID!

TO INDUCE YOUNG
MODERNS TO SPEND
CONSIDERABLE SUMS TO REMAIN
SAFE-- AND COMFORTABLE--
WHEN HUMAN ROT FINALLY
CAUSES SOCIETY TO COLLAPSE!







OOOO, WH-WHERE--CONTROL ROOM? SWITCHES LABELED "TEMPERATURE," "DEW POINT"--! THOSE GUYS MUST BE ABLE TO REGULATE THE WEATHER IN HERE!

NO TIME TO FIGURE IT OUT! GOTTA PUSH BUTTONS AND HOPE I DO SOMETHING RIGHT!

WRONG! I CREATED A BLIZZARD!

GUESS I WON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT BEING MASHED BY THOSE PROTECTORS ANY-MORE!

I'LL FREEZE TO DEATH BEFORE THEY CAN FIND ME!



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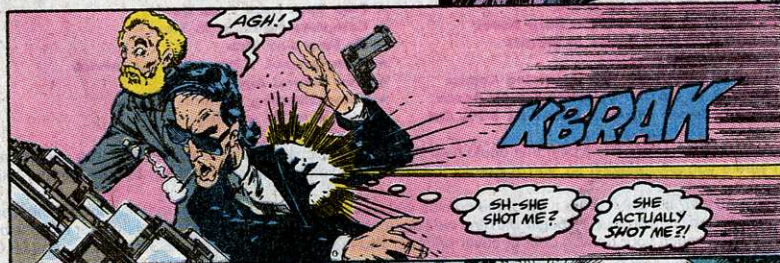
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ODD. I DON'T
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WOMAN
ANYWHERE.





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-- SPIDER-SENSE!
SOMEONE COMING
THIS WAY! BUT TOO
SMALL TO BE A
PROTECTOR!



PALADIN!
DON'T SHOOT!
IT'S SPIDER-
MAN!

I WAS ALREADY HOLSTERING
MY GUN, WEBSLINGER. MY
GOGGLES CONVERT TO
NIGHT VISION -- WORKS
PRETTY WELL IN SNOW,
TOO!

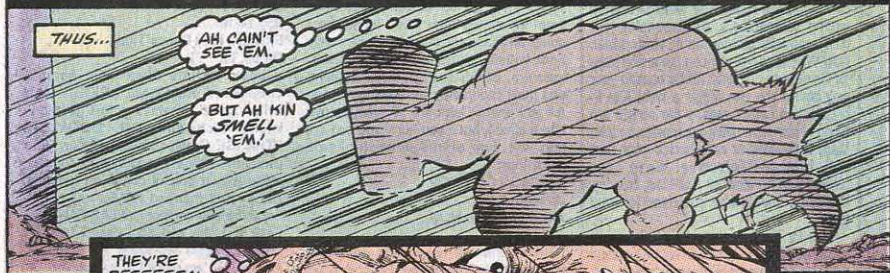
CARE TO
TEAM UP
AGAINST
OUR LAST
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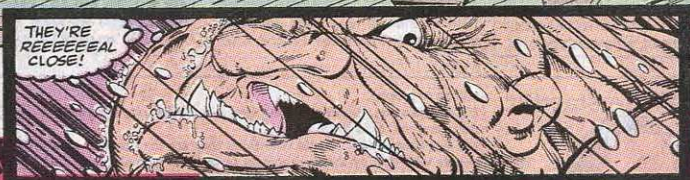
THUS...

AH, CAIN'T
SEE 'EM.

BUT AH KIN
SMELL
'EM.



THEY'RE
REEEEEEAL
CLOSE!



Bullpen Bulletins

Stan's Soapbox

Hi, Heroeal! In answer to countless demands (from my cousin, Calvin Countless), I figured this would be a good time to bring you up to date on Marvel's various movie and TV projects.

Captain America: Even as you read this, the filming is about to start in Europe, and, naturally, Cap's villain will be the over-the-top Red Skull! (For more of the dazzlin' details, don't miss the "Soapbox" page in this month's MARVEL AGE!) **Spider-Man:** Your battlin' Bullpen finally convinced the Hollywood wizards to stop writing screenplay after screenplay that didn't correctly portray the ol' wall-crawler. Now WE'RE gonna work on the movie story for Spidey—so just wait! I'll be coming your way before you can wiggle a web! Also in preparation (which means the scripts are being written right now) are movies for Iron Man, Sub-Mariner and—buckle your seat belt, brother—Wolverine! We're even playing with an idea for Ant-Man, but hey, I've gotta save some surprises for next time!

As for TV, it won't be long before we'll be announcing Daredevil in his own series! And, for the biggest, wildest surprise of all,

Quote of the Month

"Nothing personal, Gail, but I'm going to have to kick your butt!"

—Wendell Vaughn
QUASAR #1

who do you think may be co-starring with the Incredible Hulk in his next made-for-television spectacular? If you guessed the giant-sized, glitzy, glamorous, gorgeous She-Hulk you wouldn't be too far wrong!

Well, that's about it for now. Just didn't want you to think we were all asleep over here at Marvel West—even if we are!

Excelsior!

Stan

ITEM: Hey, boys and girls, what time is it? That's right, it's comic book convention time! That's the time when hotels from coast to coast are taken over by comic book writers, artists, editors, publishers, letterers, colorists, back-issue dealers, and most importantly, fans! It's too late to tell you about Oakland's Wondercon (we had a blast), but if you hurry you can still join the fun at the following gala gatherings:

CHICAGO COMICON
June 30-July 2

Ramada O'Hare Hotel
Rosemont, IL

(Guests include legendary Soapbox-scribe Stan (the Man) Lee, Editor in Chief

and THOR writer Tom (Top Dog) DeFalco, Executive Editor and writer of both CAPTAIN AMERICA and QUASAR Mark (the Remarker) Gruenwald, PUNISHER writer and editor Carl (the Married Guy) Potts, and Mutant editor and S.H.I.E.L.D. scribe Bob (Over 30) Harras.)

For more info (like how much it costs, for example) contact CHICAGO COMICON, c/o Larry Charet, 1219 W. Devon, Chicago, IL 60660; telephone (312) 743-4493.

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July 14-16
Sheraton Park Central Hotel
Dallas, TX

(Guests include Mark (Him Again?) Gruenwald, AMAZING SPIDER-MAN writer David (Rhymes with Pickle-my-knee) Michelinie, DR. DOOM/DR. STRANGE Graphic Novel penciler Mike (Don't even try to pronounce it) Mignola, along with a pair of comic art legends, Harvey Kurtzman and Will Eisner.)

For more info contact DALLAS FANTASY FAIR, P.O. Box 820488, Dallas TX 75382; telephone (214) 349-3369.

And tell 'em Marvel sent you!

Pro File:

Renee Witterstaetter



Assistant Editor on: CONAN SAGA, SAVAGE SWORD OF CONAN, SILVER SURFER, WHAT IF...?, WOLVERINE SAGA, and the Kull Graphic Novel

Marvel freelance credits (past): A five-page story in the SILVER SURFER ANNUAL; HULK and NEW MUTANTS letter pages; articles for MARVEL AGE

Marvel freelance credits (present): It's a secret!!!!
My place of birth is: Texarkana—the Texas side, that is! An' do-o-o-n't you forget it!
People who knew me in high school thought I was: An impostor (I lost megatons over one summer, and actually began

talking to people).

My hobbies are: Reading, writing, going to movies, photography, cooking, putting my car in and out of the shop.

My pet peeves are: People who think they are the absolute authority on anything, people who destroy the environment or mistreat animals, people who say I look like Meryl Streep, my car!

My favorite performers are: Katharine Hepburn, Gene Kelly, Jimmy Stewart, Harrison Ford, Sean Connery, Jay Leno, UB40—but only recently.

The last good books I read were: *The Funny Papers* by Tom DeHaven, *Endgame Enigma* by James P. Hogan, and *Tourist Season* by Carl Hausen.

The last good movies I saw were: *The Adventures of Baron Munchausen*, and high-quality rental tapes of *Harold and Maude*, *The Man Who Would Be King*, *The Wind and the Lion*, and *Once Upon a Time in America*.

If they were making a movie of my life, I'd like to see my part played by: Someone with a smaller nose and a better figure.

My oddest habit is: Eating picante sauce with just about everything.

My greatest accomplishment outside the comics field is: My journalistic writing for newspapers in Texas; living 25 years (so far); having Don King tell me I look like Cleopatra.

The reason I got into comics was: Fate! Plus the fact that I fell in love with Peter Parker at a very young age.

The biggest influences on my work include: Mark Twain, Charles Dickens, Dr. Laurence F. McNamee (my Shakespeare teacher and sportswriting partner), my parents, Connie Penny (my high school journalism teacher), old movies, and travelling a lot! (Hint, hint.)

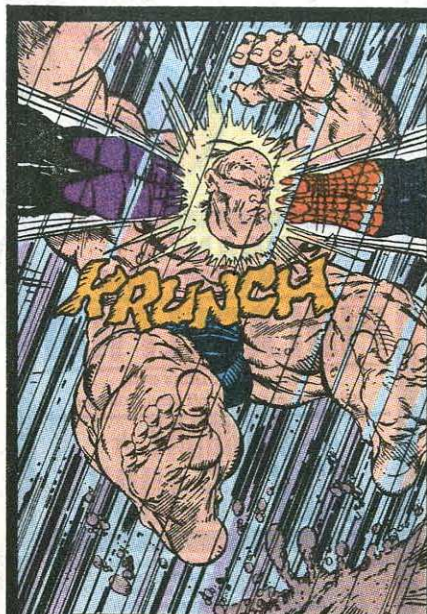
The single work of which I am most proud is: My as-yet-unpublished children's book, *Kerry and the Scary Things*. Getting Mike Zeck to draw my caricature.

My greatest unfulfilled ambition in the comics field is: To someday be Mike Carlin's boss.

The worst part of my job is: Listening to my editor Craig Anderson explain why we need more girls on SAVAGE SWORD OF CONAN covers, and seeing by the higher sales figures that he's right!

When nobody's looking I like to: Steal pens from Glenn Herdling, doodle on my desk calendar.

The one thing I really want the world to know about me is: I'm really not Cleopatra, but sometimes I do dress up like Napoleon Bonaparte.



SHALL WE CHERCHER LA FEMME? I'M RATHER GOOD AT THAT.

I'LL BET.



AND, SOON...

WE'VE GOTTEN ALL WE WILL FROM THIS ONE.

DRUGS? YOU DIDN'T SAY ANYTHING ABOUT USING DRUGS!



I DID WHAT WAS NECESSARY! IF YOU OBJECT TO MY METHODS, I SUGGEST WE DISCUSS IT LATER!

DRAKE'S CRONIES COULD HAVE MORE "PROTECTION"!!

SABLE LEAVES. AS HE FOLLOWS, SPIDER-MAN'S FISTED HANDS TREMBLE AT HIS SIDES...

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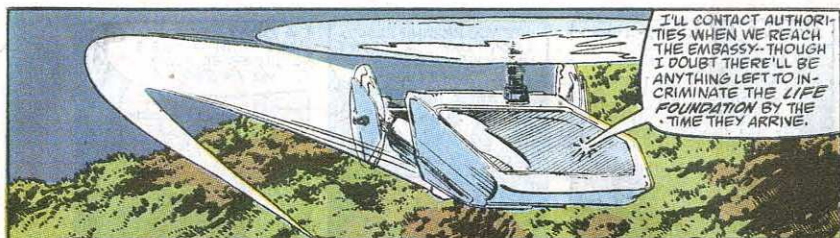
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I'LL CONTACT AUTHORITIES WHEN WE REACH THE EMBASSY. THOUGH I DOUBT THERE'LL BE ANYTHING LEFT TO INCRIMINATE THE LIFE FOUNDATION BY THE TIME THEY ARRIVE.

CHAKANE WAS WELL-TRAINED EVEN WITH CHEMICAL INCENTIVES, HE DIDN'T BREAK COMPLETELY.

BUT I DID LEARN THAT HE WAS ARRANGING FOR ACCOMMODATIONS AT THE FOUNDATION'S FACILITIES, FOR SOMEONE TO BE FLOWN IN FROM SYMKARIA AND HIDDEN AWAY AFTER THE KING'S SILVER JUBILEE CELEBRATION.



I COULDN'T PULL OUT THE "VISITOR'S" IDENTITY BUT I WAS ABLE TO LEARN HIS OCCUPATION:

ASSASSIN!

YOU THINK SOMEONE WANTS TO KILL THE KING, THEN HIDE OUT IN AMERICA?



THERE'S A GOOD CHANCE OF IT.

AND SINCE MY COMPANY, SILVER SABLE INTERNATIONAL, IS IN CHARGE OF ROYAL SECURITY, I'LL HAVE TO RETURN TO SYMKARIA AT ONCE.

AND I MAY NEED HELP.



PALADIN?

SORRY, SILVER.
GOT ANOTHER
CONTRACT.

AND A
DATE WITH
A BLONDE.

SPIDER-MAN?

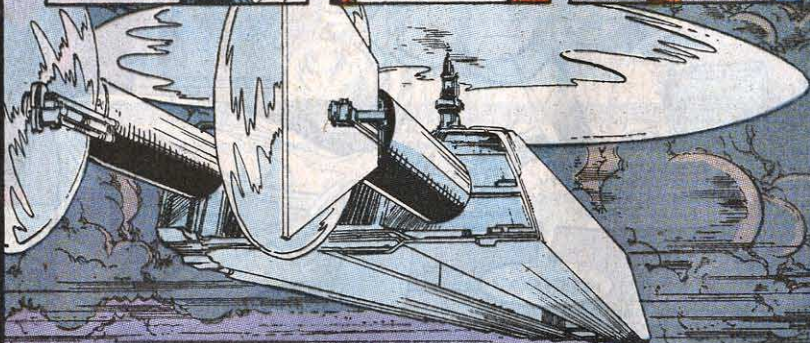


ARE YOU KIDDING? LADY,
I DON'T LIKE YOU, I DON'T
LIKE YOUR MORALS, I
DON'T LIKE--

I'LL PAY A
THOUSAND DOLLARS
A DAY.



A THOU--? A shame
WELL, UH, M-MAYBE I
COULD SPARE A LONG
WEEKEND...!



AS THE GLEEKE COPTER NEARS MANHATTAN, SPIDER-MAN THINKS,
"MY WIFE'S OUT OF WORK, MOVING IS GOING TO BE EXPENSIVE...AND
BESIDES, IF I GO ALONG, MAYBE I CAN TEMPER SILVER'S METHODS!
YEAH! WHILE SHE'S KEEPING THE KING FROM GETTING HURT,
MAYBE I CAN KEEP HER FROM HURTING ANYONE ELSE!"

HE RELAXES, AND IF YOU WERE
TO ACCUSE HIM OF RATIONALIZING,
WHY, HE'D JUST LAUGH.

NERVOUSLY...

NEXT
ISSUE:

TO SYMKARIA!
AND.....

A DEATH IN THE ROYAL FAMILY!

THE SPIDER'S WEB

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

JIM SALICRUP
"ARACHNER"
GLENN HERDLING
ASSISTANT EDITOR

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

Dear Spider-crew,

I liked quite a few things about your "infernal" 313th issue.

First: the cover. Not only is Todd McFarlane's interpretation of the loathsome Lizard savage and ferocious—but he needs a miracle worker of an oral hygienist to boot!

Second: the shark in the Midtown Tunnel and the amazing "Spider-Blimp." These are perhaps the two most original Inferno-related menaces I've seen yet. As they appeared in the same issue as the aforementioned Lizard, I wonder if the "sharks-in-the-tunnel" were inspired by the "alligators-in-the-sewer." And I also wonder what J. Jonah Jameson would make of the "Macy's Menace!"

Third: the lizard-arm growing out of Dr. Connors' shirt in the flashback on page 8. The surprised revulsion seared into Connors' face matches my imagined reaction were I to find a small, inhuman hand growing from my own arm. Yicchi!

Fourth: the Lizard's decision to chew off his "more humane" arm and let another one grow back. Here David Michelinie chillingly portrayed a character so cold (blooded) that his ruthlessness extends to himself.

Fifth: Jonathon Caesar's change of facial expressions from one panel to the next on the last page. His look of hatred while thinking of love and his subsequent expression of simple futility while plotting Mary Jane's downfall should be more than enough to remind anybody that he's a real nut!

Thanks.

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

Then there are those who disliked our "Inferno" tie-ins . . .

Dear Marvel,

Finally, the last infernal "Inferno" crossover for THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN has arrived, now we can get on with the series again. It may seem like the comic reading public is mutant crazy, at least those who read Marvel, but a large segment of us could care less about all those X-groups. I know that if something like "Inferno" happened it would have to involve all New York-based heroes, but couldn't Peter have been out promoting his book, or an assignment for NOW Magazine?

Actually, AMAZING fared better than the other Spider-titles. #311 gave us the return of Mysterio in an imaginative fashion. #312 had the climax to the Hobgoblin-Green Goblin battle. #313 was a good way to have the Lizard return. I hope this isn't the last of him. Also, David wrote less demons into his tales than Gerry Conway did. This allowed him to keep stories more in the Spidey-style he does so well.

David also showed family concerns. There were revealing parallels between one situation involving Peter and his Aunt May along with Mary Jane and her cousin Kristy and the other involving the Connors. When will we see Kristy's parents?

Finally, I really enjoyed the scenes with the Spider-Man float. It was wonderful comic relief, and another one of those touches Marvel uses to make their comics seem more real. The best line of the whole exchange was when Spidey proclaimed, "The guy's eyes were all wrong, anyway . . ." As any observant Spider-reader has noticed, Todd draws Spidey's eyes differently than most Spider-artists have. It was interesting to see him try it the other way.

Stephen Cade
339 12 Avenue N.W.
Calgary, Alberta

Kristy's parents will be making their debut in WEB OF SPIDER-MAN #58, Stephen. That issue will also resolve a number of other dangling plot threads. Watch for it!

Dear David, Todd, and Jim,

When is this "Inferno" crud gonna be over with? Maybe all this "demons and Death" stuff works over in the X-books, but it just doesn't seem to play in SPIDER-MAN (although I did get a kick out of Spidey fighting the blimp).

It really bothers me when crossovers are used only to generate sales for the ongoing promotion. I mean, if Spider-Man was fighting side-by-side with the mutants against the demons, it would be

warranted, but to just show Spidey fighting these demons and giving absolutely no explanation as to their existence really stinks. The least you could do is clue us in on how these gots here and what the S-H is going on. How about a footnote? Huh? A small one?

However, the non-Inferno part of the story wasn't bad at all. My only complaint is that Billy seems to have gotten about six years younger since we last saw him. Even back in the seventies, when the Lizard fought Stegorn, Billy looked about fourteen.

Other than that, it was pretty good, for a Lizard story. After all, there's only so many variations on the old "squirt-the-cure-into-the-Lizard's-mouth" plot. The art was fantastic, as usual. Todd draws one mean Lizard! I especially liked that grin that Liz seemed to have whenever he closed his mouth.

Next issue: Jonathon Caesar seeks revenge? Yawn. What's he gonna do, evict them? Ooooooo. Sounds ominous.

Scott Tipton
2306 McGinley Ave.
Antioch, CA 94509

We didn't want to guest-star mutants during the "Inferno" storyline, Scott, because such a ploy would have left us open to even further accusations of exploitation. We wanted to show how Spidey dealt with the insanity of New York without actually confronting the cause. It seemed more mysterious. The point of our issues was to show a different perspective of the X-MEN storyline. It just wasn't important to know what was going on since Spidey didn't know what was happening either.

Dear Spider Crew,

Issue #313 was yet another enjoyable issue in a very consistent string. Am I noticing a pattern here or is David strutting through a Who's Who of everybody's favorite classic villains? I hope so and I hope we see his and Todd's rendering of the Vulture in the near future.

SPIDER-MAN has remained my favorite title during all of this Inferno business in that it has managed to keep its sense of humor. Spider-Man fighting his oversized counterpart provided a priceless moment. His confrontation with the Lizard was far less enjoyable though. Don't get me wrong, I'm happy to see Curt Connors' alter ego again, it's just that it came and went so fast! I wrote before complaining about the speed with which these great foes come and go but I'll say it again. You don't need to be in such a hurry, this storyline would have been more enthralling stretched over the space of two or three issues.

I also liked seeing Aunt May again and because of your Next Issue hints I have a feeling that Mary Jane and Peter may be staying there before too long. I was confused by this Kristy person, however, as far as I can recall I've never seen her before. She must've made her first appearance within one of the other Spider titles.

The return of Jonathon Caesar is not a welcome event. He made a suitable one-shot villain but I think a return engagement is unwarranted. I hope that this go around he'll be exiting for a much longer period of time.

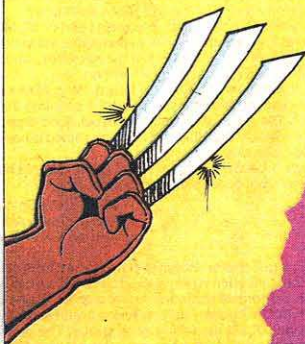
I can't think of anything else to say for this month except that I hope the current creative team stays on this title for a good long time. Other than the breakneck pace, I'm enjoying myself immensely. Keep up the great work and continued success!

Anthony King
P.O. Box 1001
Wolfville, NS
Canada
B0P 1X0

David had to compile all those stories at breakneck pace to cram them all in during the three months of "Inferno," Anthony. We hope you're enjoying our enthralling 6-part "Assassin Nation Plot." It should make up for any hurried stories, but you get to witness the unfolding storyline twice a month!

NEXT ISSUE: Part III of the "Assassin Nation Plot" where Spidey, Paladin, and Silver Sable romp through Symkaria! Be here in just two weeks and be the first on your block to experience Sable's homeland. Also, the "Gang War" comes to a stunning conclusion, as Gloria Grant makes a surprising decision in WEB OF SPIDER-MAN #55.

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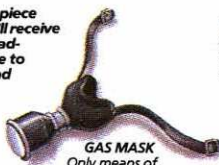
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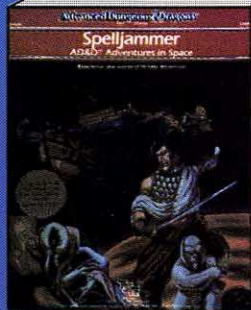


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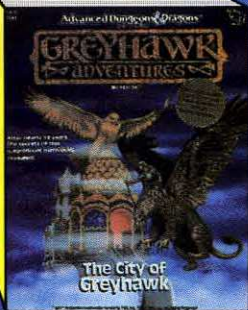
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