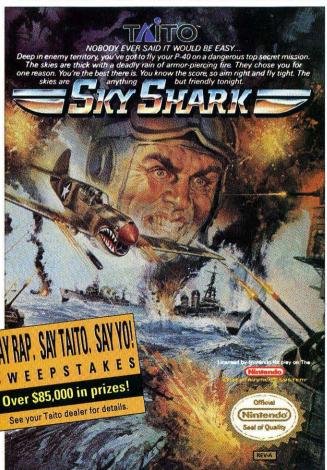


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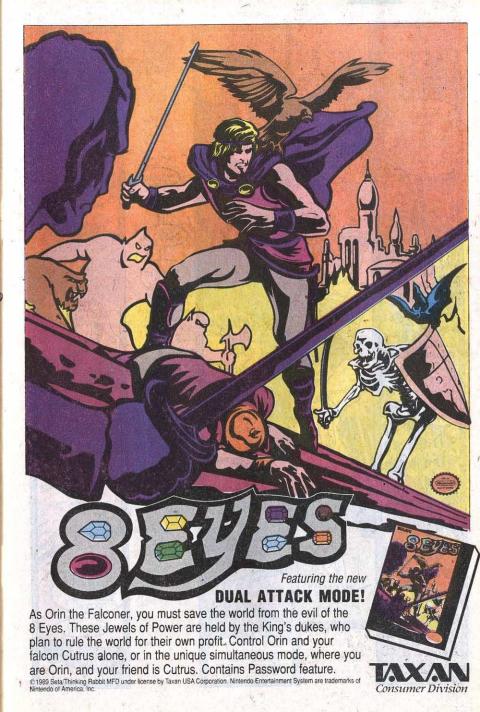
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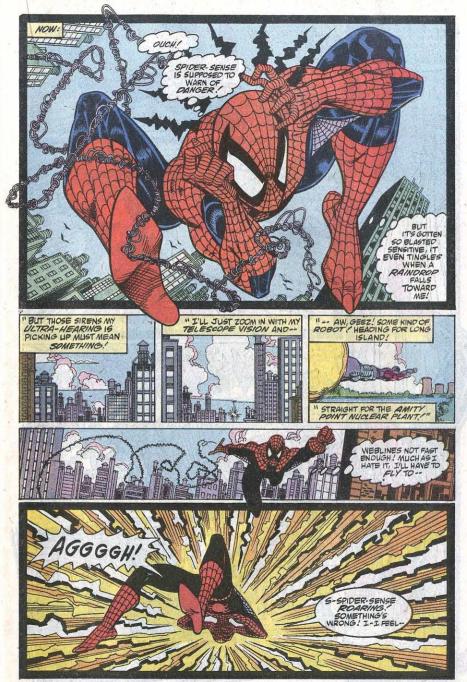


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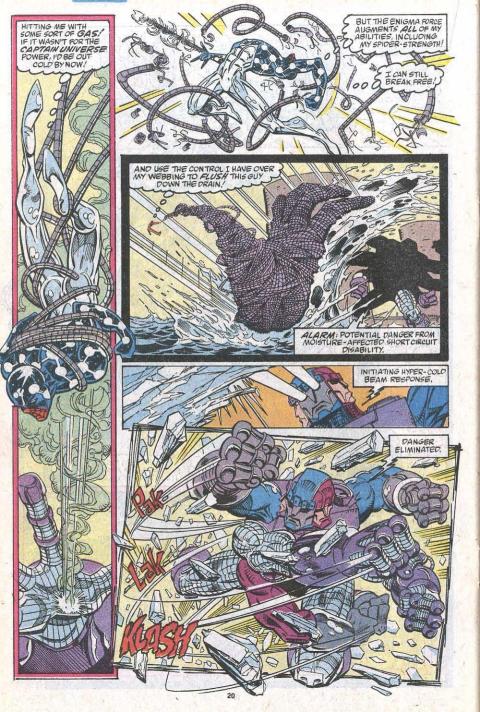












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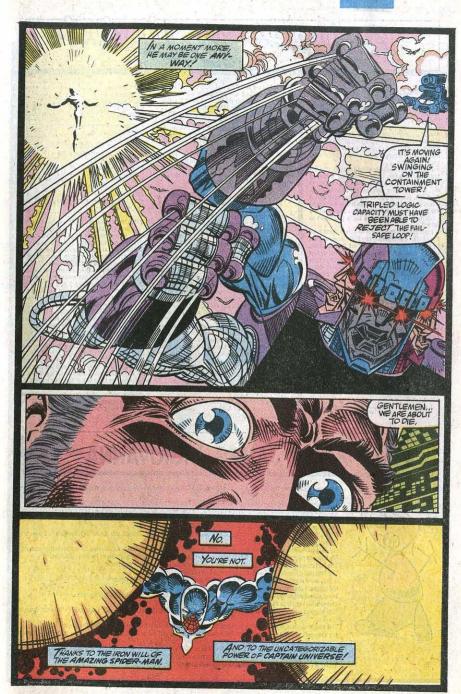
BUT WHAT THE FORCES THAT CAUSED THE PROTOTYPES TO MERGE HAVE DONE TO THE ROBOTS! LOGIC BOARDS IS ANYONE'S QUESS!

ALL WE CAN DO NOW ...









# mllasins nllpan

# Stan's Sounbox

I'm writing these imperishable words exactly twenty-four hours after returning from the Chicago ComicCon at which I was a special guest. (I suspect they dub you "Special Guest" when they don't quite know what to malke of you, but why split hairs?) My purpose in bringing this momentous matter to the attention of Marveldom Assembled is a simple one, I want to compliment you! Here's why .

inasmuch as you're reading this mag, you are undoubtedly a fan. If not necessarily a Marvel fan, then certainly a comic book fan (though to me, of course, the phrases are synonymous). As a fair, you are part of a unique, very select group of individuals. This was brought home to me so clearly at the Chicago Con and the many other such gatherings I've been privileged to attend

Having been to all sorts of conventions over the years, I can honestly say that those devoted to comic books seem to attract the smartest, most concerned, most aware and most caring fans of all. If any of the few remaining people who still denigrate comics and comic book readers could attend such Cons, I'm sure they'd

quickly lose their unfounded prejudice.
Talking with countiess Chicago fans, I couldn't help but be impressed by their knowledge, not only of comics in particular, but of art and threature in general. As the talk turned to the philosophical and sociological aspects of vari-ous stones and concepts, I realized that there is a great common denominator linking lovers of comic books, science fiction, art, theater and all forms of the media. That common denominator is comprised of a healthy imagination, an awaress of the world about us and a love of adventure

Each minute I spend in the comic book world, e prouder I become of the work I do and the people I do it for. Comics are greater than everand so are you fans! Just thought you'd like to

Expelsion



ITEM: Did we mention that DC's softball team clobbered us 8-2 this past summer? Sheesh, you'd think having the blockbuster motion picture of the year would be enough for 'em ... but, noooo! Seriously, we're almost as excited as they are about the success of the Batman movie. Anything that's good for one comic book company is good for all of comics! (But wait'il next year!)

ITEM: Speaking of blockbuster motion pictures, we've recently held our very own Marvel Film Festival! It was held September 22nd in the Bullpen and it featured films by many a Marvel

Staffer. The complete schedule included:
"Microwaye" by Rob Tokar
"Flesh-Eating Mothers" by Harry Eisenstein
"The Freelancer" by Mike Heisler &

Steve Buccellato "Ameroth" by Evan Skolnick
"Possession" by Gregory Wright
"Living Lifestyles" by Mark

"Day in the Life of an Assistant Editor" by Marie Javins

By popular vote, Gregarious Greg's "Possession" won the covetous "Spidey" award

ITEM: It's that turkey time of year again and that means the Amazing Spider-Man balloon will once again fly over the streets of Manhattan in the annual Macy's Thanksgiving Day Paradel He took a few years, but at long last Spidey is flying in all his comics as well as in real life! What's that? You didn't know your friendly neighborhood Spider-Man could fly? Where have you been? Next you'll tell us that you're unaware of the colossal crossover currently running in virtually every Marvel super hero title.
You know. "Acts of Vengeance," where all sorts of super villains tackle super heroes they never met before . . . ? Ah, c'mon, don't tell us you did know about it. Well here'a a little checklist of all the Acts of Vengeance titles for this month:

The core titles are: AVENGERS WEST COAST #54 CAPTAIN AMERICA #366 AVENGERS SPOTLIGHT #28

QUASAR #6 AVENGERS #313 IRON MAN #252 FANTASTIC FOUR #336 DAMAGE CONTROL II #3

And the crossovers are: DAREDEVIL #276 X-MEN #257 WEB OF SPIDER-MAN #60 AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #328 ALPHA FLIGHT #80 NEW MUTANTS #85 POWER PACK #53 PUNISHER #29 DR. STRANGE #13 MOON KNIGHT #10 SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #160 THOR #413

ITEM: On September 18, Marvel participated for the first time in "New York is Book Country," the big annual street fair that ran from 47th to 57th Street on Fifth Avenue. Not only did we give away over 6,000 comic books to the fabulous folks that stopped by our booth, but none other than Walt and Louise Simonson, Glenn Herdling and Jim Salicrup, Spider-Man and Spider-Woman, and Barbara Slate were there to meet and greet everyone! (And if you didn't know, Walt will soon be writing and drawing the FANTASTIC FOUR, Louise is currently writing X-FACTOR and NEW MUTANTS, Jim and Glenn edit all the Spider-Man titles, and Barbara has created YUPPIES FROM HELL, a new offbeat black and white, one-shot, 48-page comic album, on sale now.) Also on hand were Mark Gruenweld, Doug Murray, Suzanne Gaffney, Evan Skolnick, Sara Tuchinsky, Lou Bank, Donald Hudson, and Dawn Geiger. Famed science-fiction author, Barry Malzberg, even dropped by to say hello and wish us luck with our forthcoming series, OPEN SPACE, which features tales of the future by today's top SF writers and comic artists. Steve Saffel, our humble Promotion Manager, was our ringleader and did a heck of a job-a good time was had by all, and we're really hoping to do it all again

# FL JAMES DIGIOVANNA™



Assistant Editor on: The Spurious Works of Plato, The Collected Post-Marxist Semiotic Social Theory of Jean Baudrillard, G.I. JOE. Nth MAN, HULK, SHE-HULK.

Marvel freelance credits (past): Writer on FANTASTIC FOUR #1, AMAZING FANTASY #15, creator of SPEEDBALL.

Marvel freelance credits (present): As a Trotskyite, I refuse to work for Maoists (until my trust fund dries up)

My place of birth is: Fort Rucker, Alabama and Tupelo, Mississippi.

People who knew me in high school thought I was: A hallucination.

My hobbles are: Taking the cuss words out of Bobble Chase's inter-office memos and converting strangers to the worship of Degrassi Junior High.

My pet peeves are: Foreign dignitaries who refuse to accept our local custom of Jub Jub dancing before the sorbet is served. My favorite performers are: The P.W.T. repertory company, Lach, and Alvin Lucier's Santa Fe shirt collection.

The last good book I read was: Like most comic book editors, I have never read a book. The last good movie I saw was: Housewife by Larry Cohen.

If they were making a movie of my life, I'd like to see my part played by: Vic Tayback

My oddest habit is: Warming the spoon under my arm.

My greatest accomplishment outside the comics field is: Being America's favorite whistling hobo.

The reason I got into comics was: To be closer to Tom DeFalco.

The biggest influences on my work include: Editing: Ezra Pound; Xeroxing: Friedrich Nietzsche; Paste-up: Jacques Derrida

The single work of which Lam most proud is: Standing in for Divine in the final scene of Pink Flamingos.

My greatest unfulfilled ambition in the comics field is: To put out volume after volume of mindless slug-tests and shoot-em-ups . . . oh, never mind.

The worst part of my job is: Shaving She-Hulk's legs.
When nobody's looking I like to: Scramble Norad signals and start World War III.

The one thing I really want the world to know about me is: I started Batmania.





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NEXT: MORE ON FELICIA BLACK CAT "HARDY LPLUS: THE PUNISHER JOINS SPIDER MAN ON A DEADLY HUNT IN...

# SPIDER'S WEB

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

JIM SALICRUP ARACHNERD GLENN HERDLING ASSISTANT EDITOR

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

#### SHOULD AUNT MAY MEET HER MAKER?

Dear Marvel

I've always been a fan of Spider-Man; he was introduced to me by my dad. What really made me write was issue #320 of the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN.

Does Aunt May really have to die? The reason for my concern is because my dad died shortly after this issue, and you guys at Marvel printing SPIDER-MAN are the closest memories of my dad from when I was a kid.

Keep up the good work, keep Spidey spinning, and keep doing good for people.

Nate Facio A218 W. Alta Vieta Phoenix, AZ 85041

#### You really jumped the gun, Nate . . .

Dear Spiders.

Why doesn't AMAZING SPIDER-MAN have a two-page letters page? It is the best comic on the face of the earth and I think it deserves a two-pager. And another thing, on the last page of issue #320, it isn't Aunt May they are talking about. I'll put \$100 down that says it is Kristy because in a WEB OF SPIDER-MAN ue the doctor said Kristy had a heart attack. (I won't shake on that bet, thought)

You guys have turned AMAZING into the best comic around. See val

Brian Koschak 2807 4th Ave. Hibbing, MN 55746

A two-page letters page would mean one less story page, Brian. What do the rest of you folks think: Would you prefer two pages of correspondence and one less page of story? Let us know. As for your Kristy theory, Brian well, not quite . . .

The telephone bit at the end of issue #320 is sufficiently vague enough to

suggest that Peter may have jumped the gun in assuming it was Aunt May suffering from heart disease. It could very well be Nathan being discussed. Hopefully, this is the case. With Peter's and MJ's marriage the stronger subplot local point, having Aunt May join Uncle Ben six feet under may lose the impact it could otherwise have.

But if she is to die and stay dead, make Dr. Octopus the pallbearer. With him along, who else do you need?

Sarcasm and sick humor aside, keep up the great work, "Assassin Nation" looks pretty good. The book is better than it's been in years and I hope David and Todd stay on it for a long time to come (with or without Aunt May).

Brian Telander 53 North Chestnut Street New Petty NY 12561

You win the \$64,000 Question, Brian (or in this case, a No-Prize). Nathan is our mystery death-quest.

#### MUTANT CONTROVERSY RAGES ON

Dear Web-Slingers,

According to my biology teacher, there are two types of mutations: somatic and genetic. A genetic mutation is one handed down from the parents' genetic code (i.e. the X-Men, X-Factor, and the New Mutants).

A somatic mutation is caused by an outside stimulus such as radiation,

chemicals or toxins. This is the category Spider-Man fits in, so you really can't call him a "Non-Mutant." He is a somatic mutant.

Chris Barry 5986 Barnes Rd. Brown City, MI 48416

Spidey may be a somatic mutation. Chris, but not necessarily a mutant.

Dear Arachnerd,

Spidey was born when a radioactive spider bit Peter Parker, whose genetic structure was the same as any normal human being. An X-factor would produce a random power, not a specific splicing of man and spider. The result is not a mutant, but a hybrid (1. An animal or plant produced by a male and female of different species, varieties, or breeds. 2. Anything of mixed origin.)

Till Spidev takes a blood test . .

Gregory A. Kiernan 1057 Fort Park Blvd. Lincoln Park, MI 48146

"The Hybrid Hero"? Hmmm.

Dear Weavers o' Tangled Webs,

The letters page of #320 was filled with arguments over the mutant-ness of Spider-Man. I think the important question is about Harry Osborn. Does his hairstyle make him a mutant? Did anyone ever figure out what kind of hair that is? FOOM lives on!

> Keith Allison 5109 McIntosh Avenue LaGrange, KY 40031

Dear Web-Heads

I just finished reading the letters page in ASM #320. What's my opinion on the

whole "Non-Mutant Super-Hero" controversy? Boy, some people can't take a joke. Peter Janizz Chicago, IL

'Nuff said

#### WHO'S STRONGER-THE WER-SI INCED OR HIS WERS

In AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #320, Spider-Man snaps his webbing. In previous issues, he's said such a thing was impossible. My solution is that his old webbing stretched instead of breaking when he pulled on it. His new webbing doesn't stretch, it breaks. Do I get a No-Prize? Please say yes!

Dave Sattelberger 2840 Arizona Los Alamos, NM 85744

Dear David

On page 11 Spidey is seen breaking his supposedly stronger webbing. But Spidey, even with his spider-strength, could never break even his old webbing. But never fear, folks! I have an answer to this perplexing problem.

You see, when Peter made his webbing stronger, one of the new ingredients he used caused the webbing to evaporate faster. Thus, after only a few moments of being exposed to the air, the webbing grew weak enough for Spidey to break it. How's that for an explanation? Is it strong enough for a No-Prize?

Steven Petino 124 Shadwell San Antonio, TX 78228

We received a number of letters concerning this incident, but we printed the ones we felt had the best explanations. No-Prizes and kudos to all of you! However, the simplest explanation is that Spidey's new webbing takes longer to completely harden when exposed to the air. Do we get a No-Prize?

#### MORE BEEFCAKE, LESS CHEESECAKE?

Dear Spiderholics,

The art in issue #320 was fabulous. Peter's nose is looking a lot less, how shall I say this, bulbous. For a while, his nose looked like a foreign object planted on his face. Now that his nose no longer resembles a squashed vegetable, Peter is looking like his normal cute self again. In general, Todd's faces are great; he

instills so much personality in them. I just didn't like Peter's nose for a while!

ONE NOTE: How come we only see Mary Jane half-naked all the time? To be fall, shouldn't we get more "interesting" views of Peter?

Just a thought.

Wendy Joy 11050-83 Edmonton, Ablerta Canada T6G-OT7

More interesting? How much more do you want from a guy who parades around in a skin-tight outfit half the time, Wendy?

I know the amazing arachnid is strong, but is he really capable of hoisting a tank above his head like he does on page 20? Seems to me that's a bit more in the Hulk's league (remember Todd's days with of Green/Grayskin?). Speaking of the Hulk, it would really be nice if you guys could manage another crossover with that mag, seeing as how we readers WEB OF SPIDER-MAN pairing. seeing as how we readers were cheated out of McFarlane's art in last year's

Finally, I love the cheesecake rendition of Mary Jane too, but it seems as though Michelinie goes out of his way to write scenes solely for the purpose of showing off McFarlane's provocative pen-and-ink posings. Maybe we could cool it with that for a while, huh?

I'm glad that AMAZING is once more a member of my must-buy list. Whatever you do, don't let the current team go (unless you could somehow manage to find an even better creative combo, which is highly doubtful).

Keep those webs spinning!

Chris Schillig 563 Briarcliff Alliance, OH 44601

We aim to please, Christ Todd's Hulk appeared last ish in his swan-song issue! And Mary Jane didn't appear in anything too revealing, either. If you were reading issue #320 closely, you would have realized that the tank Spidey hoisted was a miniature composed of strong but lightweight metal. As for our creative team, we hope you'll be pleased with the changes we've made as of this issue.

NEXT ISSUE: The web-slinger and the gun-slinger both find them selves stalking the same prey, but as usual, Spider-Man's methods are far different from the *Punlahar's* i First, can the combined might of Spidey and Pums defeat the all-new demonic *Hobgoblin*? Find out in SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #161? Then, in WEB OF SPIDER-MAN #62, it's the return of Liz Osborn's brother (and you know who that is, don't you?)

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