



**MARVEL
COMICS**

THE RETURN OF THE SINISTER SIX

PART FIVE OF

The **AMAZING SPIDER-MAN**

**AT LAST
BATTLE ROYAL!**

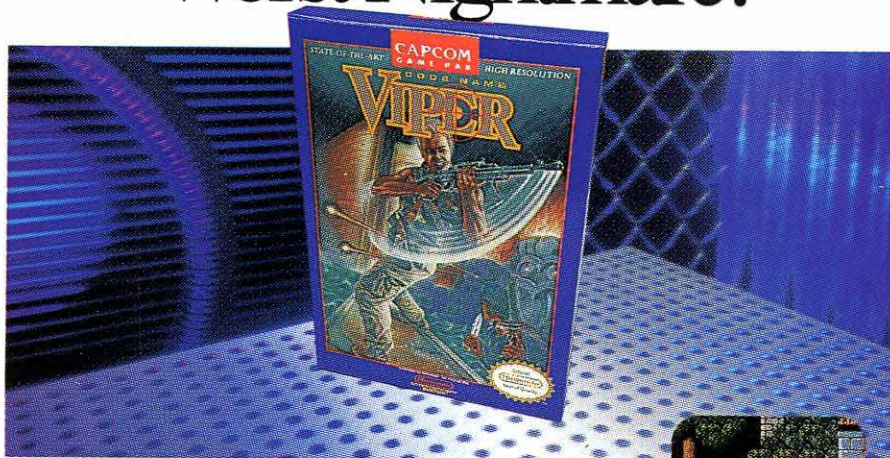
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**NOW ON SALE
TWICE A MONTH!**



Code Name: Viper You're The Drug Lord's Worst Nightmare!



Your commander has instructed you to destroy a powerful drug cartel in South America, free innocent hostages, and bring in the murderous Drug Lord. No Sweat, Right?

Within minutes of landing in the South American Jungle, you've infiltrated the drug cartel's bases. Dodging bullets, you stumble into a hidden door to find better firearms and ammo. Hostages, too. Things are lookin' up!

You must now locate your fellow agent and collect the explosives you'll need to finish your mission--and the murderous Drug Lord.

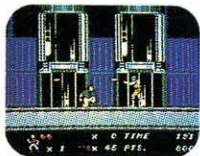
- **Power Jumping:** A great skill when you need to dodge bullets or mount sneak attacks.

- **Hidden Doors:** Behind them, find hostages, additional weapons and ammunition.

- **Secret Communique:** As you advance through the 8 levels, you'll uncover the message--and the dreaded Drug Lord.

- **Bombs:** Handed off by a fellow agent, use these to escape to a more challenging level.

- **Spectacular Graphics:** Sensational graphics make South America's dangers come alive!

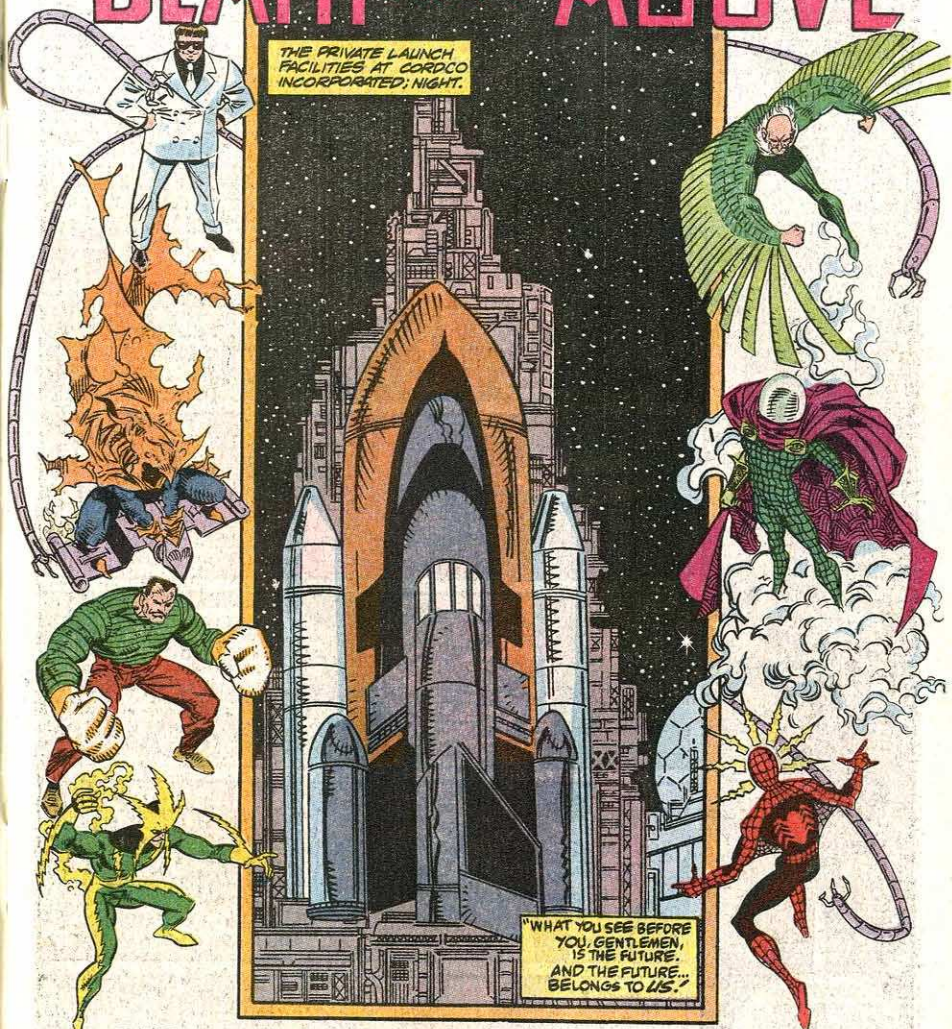


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Stan Lee PRESENTS: THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN®

DEATH FROM ABOVE



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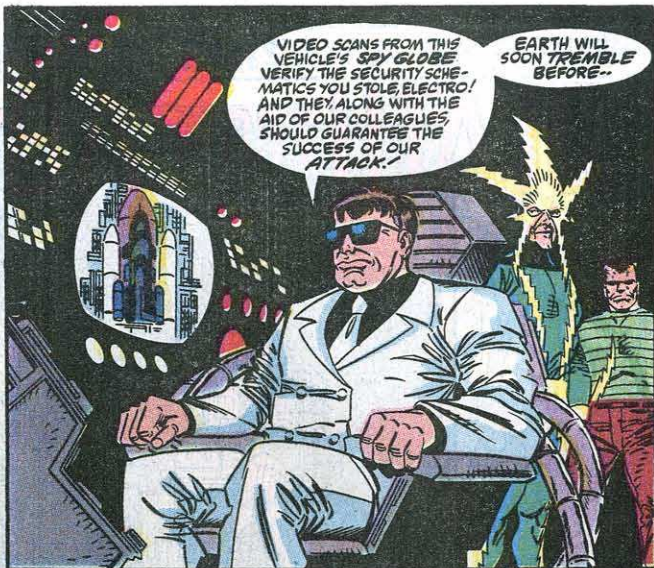
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"CORDCO WON'T
KNOW WHAT HIT
THEM! EVEN AS
THEY ARE
CURRENTLY
OBLIVIOUS--"



VIDEO SCANS FROM THIS
VEHICLE'S SPY GLOBE
VERIFY THE SECURITY SCHE-
MATICS YOU STOLE, ELECTRO!
AND THEY, ALONG WITH THE
AID OF OUR COLLEAGUES,
SHOULD GUARANTEE THE
SUCCESS OF OUR
ATTACK!

EARTH WILL
SOON TREMBLE
BEFORE--



--THE SINISTER
SIX!

I DUNNO,
DOCTOR
OCTOPUS...

...IF WE REALLY HAFTA
MAKE GOOD OUR THREATS,
MILLIONS COULD DIE!
I DON'T THINK--



I'M WORRIED
ABOUT THE
WHINER, OCK.

HIS
MISPLACED
MORALITY
COULD MEAN
TROUBLE!



REST ASSURED,
MY FRIEND, I'VE
CONSIDERED ALL
CONTINGENCIES.

TAK

WHILE ON THE LANDBOUND
SIDE OF THE CORDCO
COMPLEX...

MY, THIS IS
CERTAINLY
YAWN
EXCITING!

BEEN HANGING
AROUND ALL NIGHT,
EVER SINCE ELECTRO
COPPED CORDCO'S
SECURITY FILE!

AND SANDMAN
WILL HELP US,
ONE WAY...

...OR ANOTHER!


PSSSHH

WHARRR

HE'S BEEN
WORKING WITH
DR. OCTOPUS
AND SO HAS THE
VULTURE!
SOMETHING
BIG IS IN
THE WORKS!




BUT I DON'T KNOW
WHAT, AND I CAN'T
CAMP OUT HERE FOR-
EVER; I'VE GOT A LIFE
TO LEAD! BESIDES--



-- I HAVE TO COME
BACK TOMORROW ANY-
WAY. I NEED TO BE
HERE FOR THE ROCKET
LAUNCH.

THEY'RE GOING
TO ORBIT A SATELLITE
THAT'S PART OF AN
EXPERIMENT FOR
EMPIRE STATE
UNIVERSITY. A
PROJECT--

THWIP



-- I'M INVOLVED WITH AS
PETER PARKER, THE
SATELLITE'S GOING TO SPRAY
A HARMLESS DYE INTO THE
UPPER ATMOSPHERE, ENABLING
INSTRUMENTS ON BOARD TO
DETECT AND PLOT LEY
LINES.

LEY LINES ARE
STREAMS OF NATURAL
MAGNETIC FORCE.
THIS STUDY COULD
HELP US TAP THEM,
TO EASE FUTURE
ENERGY CRISES!

NEVER BEFORE HAS A FORCE OF ONE BEEN SO POWERFUL!

INTRODUCING

WRATH OF THE BLACK MANTA

Crime and kidnapping have put a death grip on New York, Tokyo and Rio. A solitary figure strives to squelch the misguided dealings of a bunch of underhanded terrorists bent on kidnapping innocent kids. Only the Black Manta possesses the powers that can save them.

PUT THE FORCE OF ONE ON YOUR WALL!

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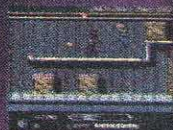
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- Gather clues that allow you to track down the evil drug lord
- Execute a mission of terror
- Incredible color graphics
- Exciting soundtrack
- Fabulously challenging



Action!
Adventure!
Mystery!
Intrigue!



Rated 4 out of 5 for graphics and sound, challenge and theme on the Power Player Meter!

Nintendo Power, March/April 1992

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THE ONLY NAME IN TOWN

Official Game of the
Nintendo
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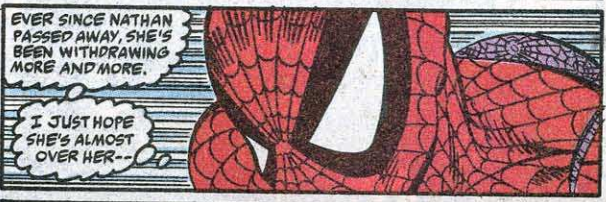
BUT THAT'S
TOMORROW.

TONIGHT--



-- I'VE GOT TO HITCH
A RIDE TO QUEENS,
CHECK ON AUNT
MAY! O.O.

SHE'S TAKING
HER FIANCE'S
DEATH PRETTY
HARD.



EVER SINCE NATHAN
PASSED AWAY, SHE'S
BEEN WITHDRAWING
MORE AND MORE.

I JUST HOPE
SHE'S ALMOST
OVER HER--

"-- MOURNING."



YEP.

ALL SMILES.

BE BREAKING
INTO A
LAMBA
ANY SECOND
NOW!



DARN. O.O.

IF I'M SUCH A
HOTSHOT HERO--

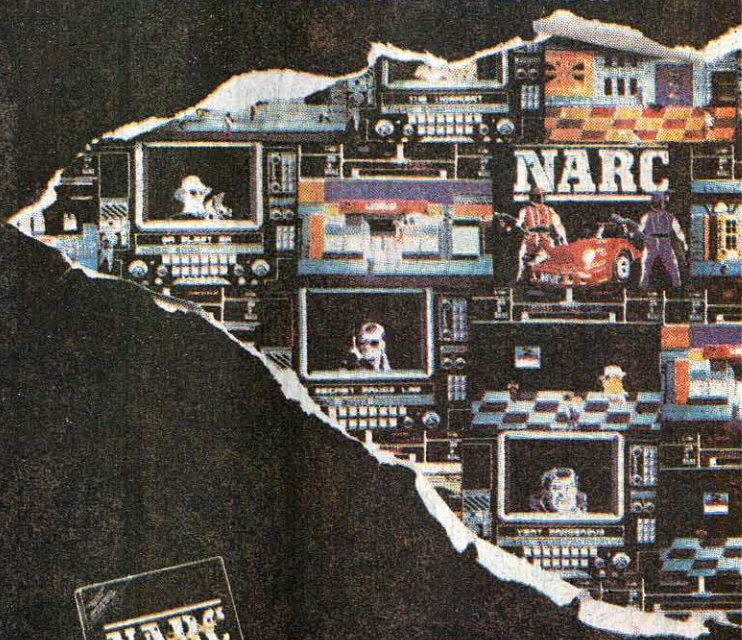


--- HOW COME I
CAN'T EVEN FIX A
BROKEN HEART?

THE ARCADE
THE SIMULACRA
SIMULTANEOUS
2-PLAYER ACTION!

NARC

"NO ONE HAD THE GUTS... UNTIL NOW"



You are Max Force... your mission... bust Mr. Big and
destroy the dreaded criminal empire... seize all
contraband, stolen money, illegal weapons... use
rocket bombs, high-powered machine guns...
apprehend all suspects... protect the innocent and
punish the guilty... stop at nothing!



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Nintendo
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just
say
no

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LATER, AFTER A TROUBLED BUS RIDE TO SOHO...



EH? SPIDER-SENSE! WARNING OF--

NO TIME FOR COSTUMES!

HOPE MARYJANE'S IN A GOOD MOOD. THAT'LL MAKE ONE OF US!

KACHUNK

HAVE TO GET OUT OF SIGHT--

--AND GET UP TO THAT ROOF!

BLAST! DESERTED! NOTHING BUT A GAP WHERE THAT SLAB OF MASONRY CAME FROM! A GAP WHOSE EDGES LOOK--

--CHISELED!



WHILE IN A LOFT SEVERAL BUILDINGS AWAY...



...AND FIVE, AND SIX...

...LEAD LINES COULD BE ESSENTIAL TO SECURING THE NATION'S ENERGY INDEPENDENCE. THAT'S WHY THE FANTASTIC FOUR FULLY SUPPORT EMPIRE STATE UNIVERSITY'S RESEARCH INTO--



AFTER EXPLANATIONS ARE MADE...



NEW JERSEY

BE CAREFUL,
HOBGOBLIN!

HMM, IT'S *THAT*
DANGEROUS?

IT'S CONCENTRATED,
TO BE TIME RELEASED
INTO THE ATMOSPHERE
INSTEAD OF THAT
EXPERIMENTAL DYE--
IF THE WORLD
REFUSES TO MAKE
US ITS MASTERS!

FEH!
ALL THIS
WAITING!

INDEED,
WE MUST BE
EXTREMELY
CAUTIOUS!

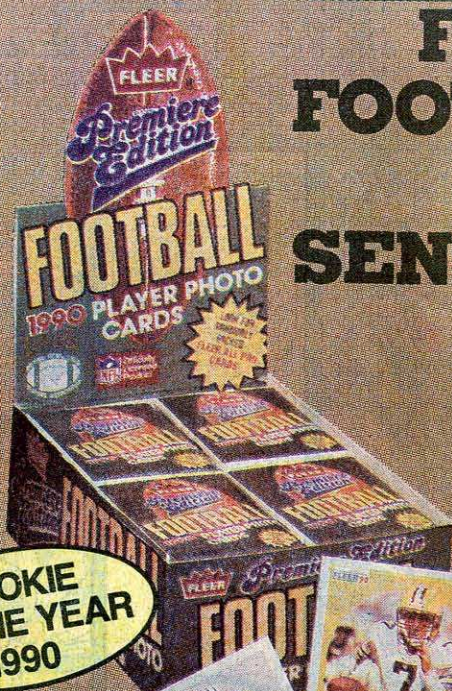
OF COURSE, WE
WOULDN'T WANT
ANYTHING
UNFORTUNATE
TO HAPPEN!

HAVE PATIENCE!
WE NEED THE TIME
BEFORE THAT SATELLITE
LAUNCH TO MAKE SURE
THE POISON IS PROCESSED
CORRECTLY!

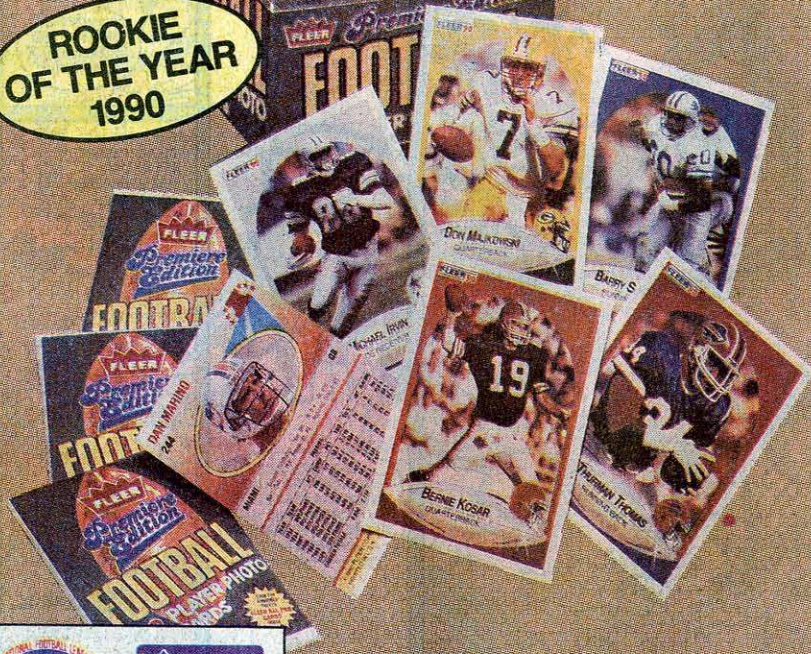
WOULD
WE...?

THE POISON IN
THESE CANISTERS
IS DELICATE--AND
DEADLY!

FLEER... FOOTBALL'S ROOKIE SENSATION!



**ROOKIE
OF THE YEAR
1990**



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- SPECIAL FLEER ALL PRO SERIES
- TOP ROOKIES, SUPERBOWL MVPs
- FULL COLOR, 2 PHOTO DESIGN

THE NEXT MORNING,
AT A CORNER OF
HOUSTON STREET...



HERE
COMES MY
BUS.

I DIDN'T
LIE TO PETER.
NOT REALLY.
I JUST DIDN'T
MENTION THAT
REHEARSAL
ISN'T FOR A
COUPLE OF
HOURS YET.

BUT THAT
CRACKBRAIN
CAESAR HAS
THREATENED
MY FAMILY.

WISH I
COULD GO ALONG,
SWEETHEART,
BUT REHEARSAL
SCHEDULES ARE
UNFORGIVING.

HAVE A
GREAT LAUNCH,
OKAY?



AND I'VE
GOT TO DO
SOMETHING!



OUI, MADAME? MAY WE
BE OF SERVICE?

WELL, UM,
YOU SEE--

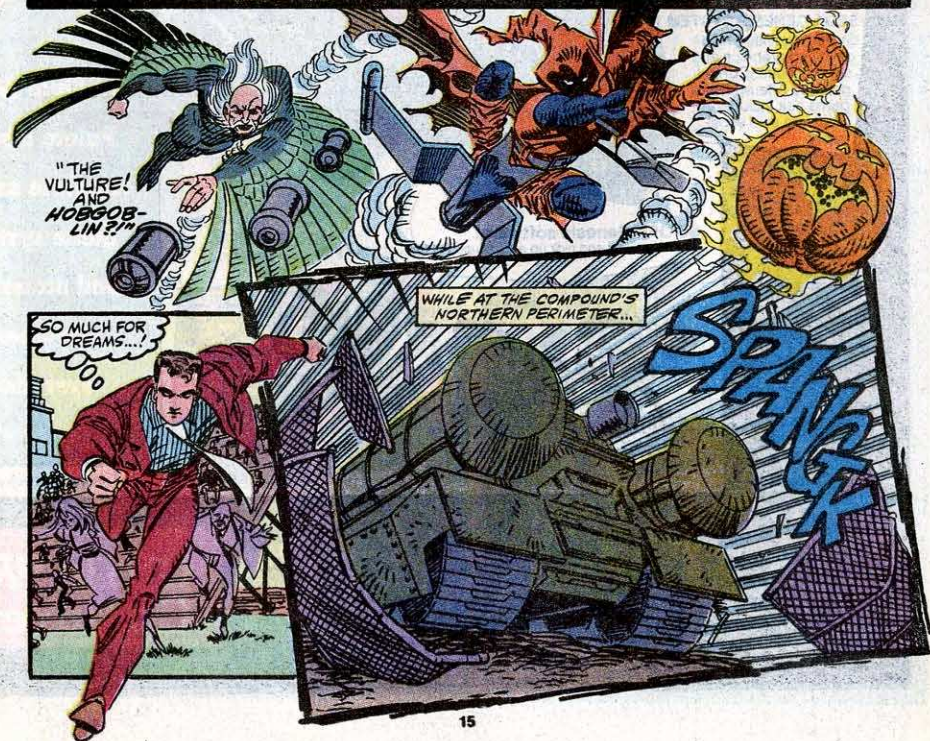
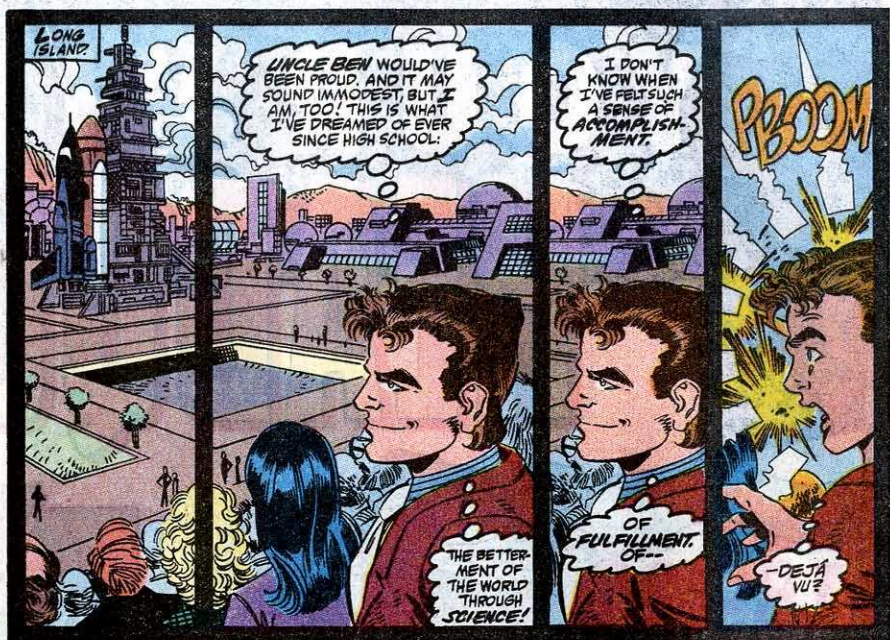


--I WAS JUST
LOOKING. BUT, HECK,
SINCE I'M HERE, MAYBE
YOU *COULD* SHOW ME
SOMETHING IN A NICE...
OH...



--.38 SPECIAL?





YOUR VIDEO HEADQUARTERS

OUR SELECTION OF SEGA IS UNBEATABLE!

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System provides high definition graphics and stereo sound. Control pad and Altered Beast game pak included. Software sold separately.



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Deluxe set includes Control Deck, 2 game controllers, Zapper Light Gun and double game pak. Software sold separately.

\$3 OFF Mario Doll!

Come in today and pick up a \$3 coupon at the Service Desk



PRIVATE COPS THINK THEY CAN STOP US! SHALL WE SHOW 'EM THE ERROR OF THEIR WAYS?

WE GOTTA!

SHAMP

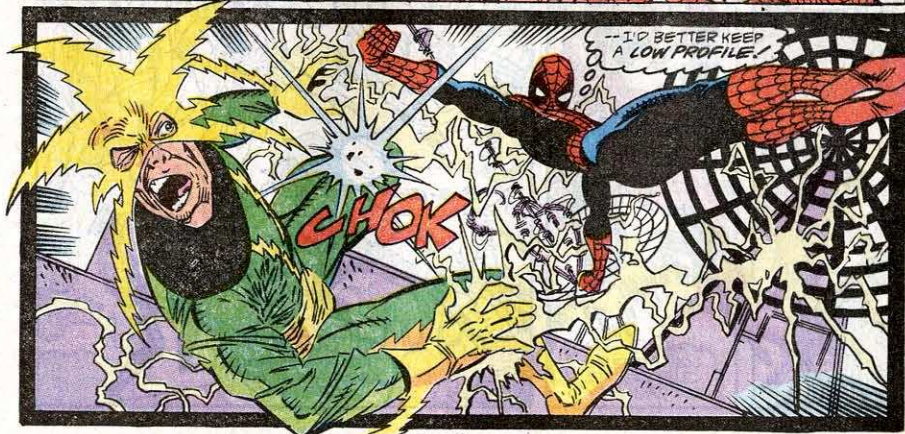
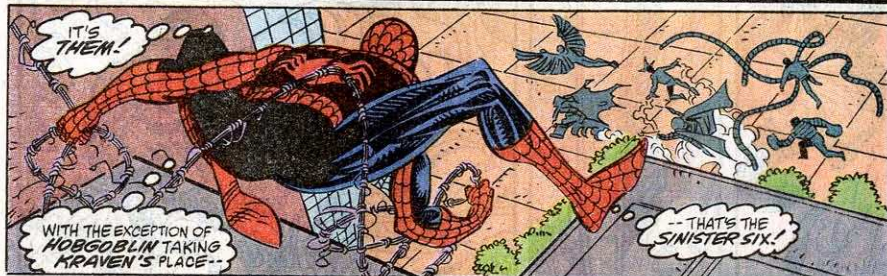
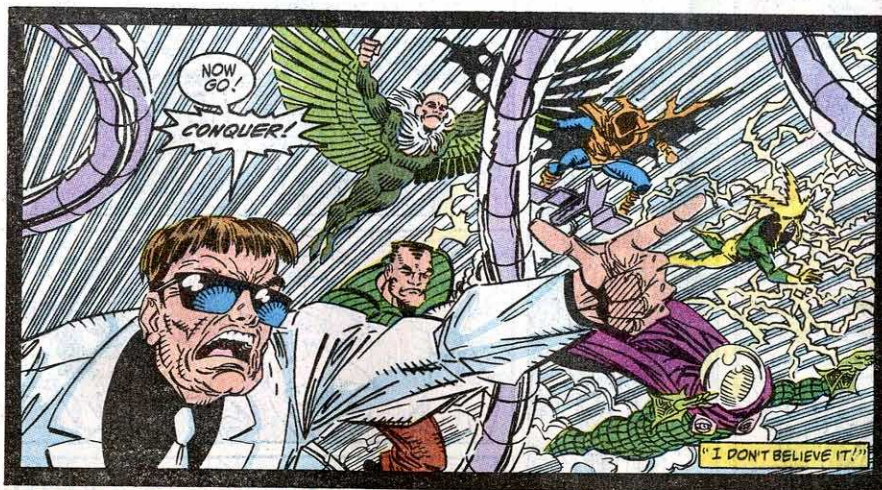
REMEMBER YOUR INSTRUCTIONS!

MYSTERIO, YOU'LL INCAPACITATE THE GUARDS AT THE LAUNCH SITE--

IF WE GOTTA.

-- WHILE VULTURE AND HOBGOBLIN KEEP ALL THE REST OF THE SECURITY FORCE BUSY! ELECTRO, YOU'RE TO DISRUPT COMMUNICATIONS!

AND SANDMAN WILL ACT AS MY PERSONAL GUARD WHILE I TRANSPORT THE POISON DISPERSION DEVICE!



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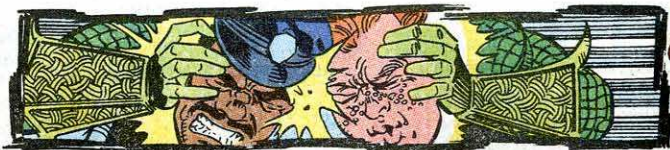
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KH



BONK

SATISFACTORY,
OCTOPUS?

THE ILLUSION CAST
BY YOUR HYDROGENS
WORKED PERFECTLY,
MYSTERIO!

SANDMAN!
KEEP WATCH!

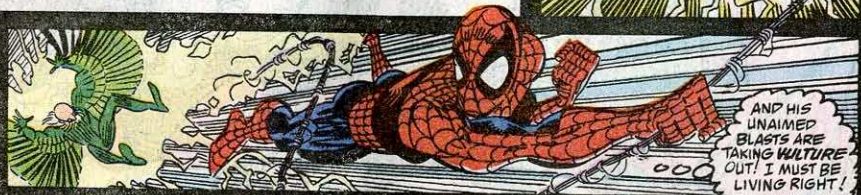
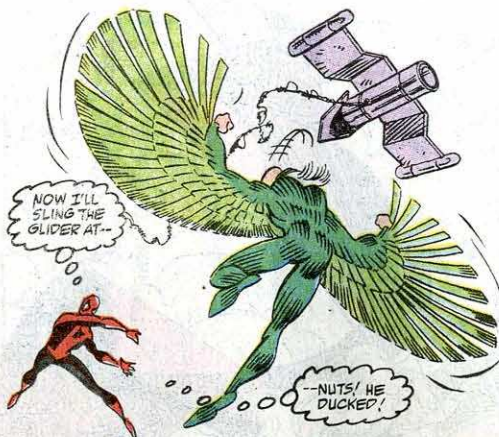
YEAH. SURE.

"BOSS!"

HAVE TO USE THESE GUYS
POWERS AGAINST THEM!

LIKE TAGGING HOBBS'S GLIDER WITH
A WEBLINE, CAUSING IT TO ARC INTO
THE PAVEMENT!

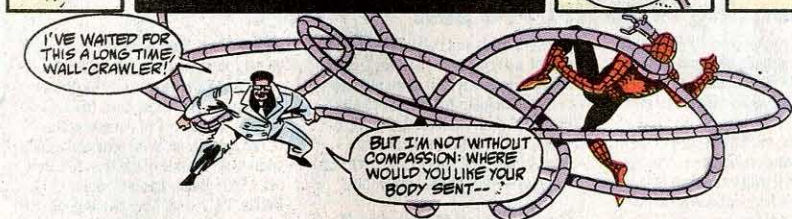
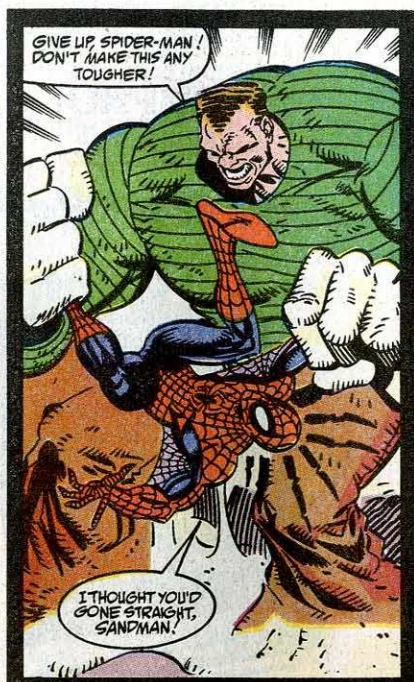
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MYSTERIO!

I SHOULD'VE KNOWN!
HIS CHEMICAL MISTS ACT
LIKE ACID ON MY WEBBING
FORMULA!



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...and Series II

In September, 1990, Series II (yellow packs) will hit the stores with *totally*

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As a special bonus, 10,000 numbered hologram collectibles of the Vince



Lombardi Trophy are randomly inserted into 1990 Pro Set packs.

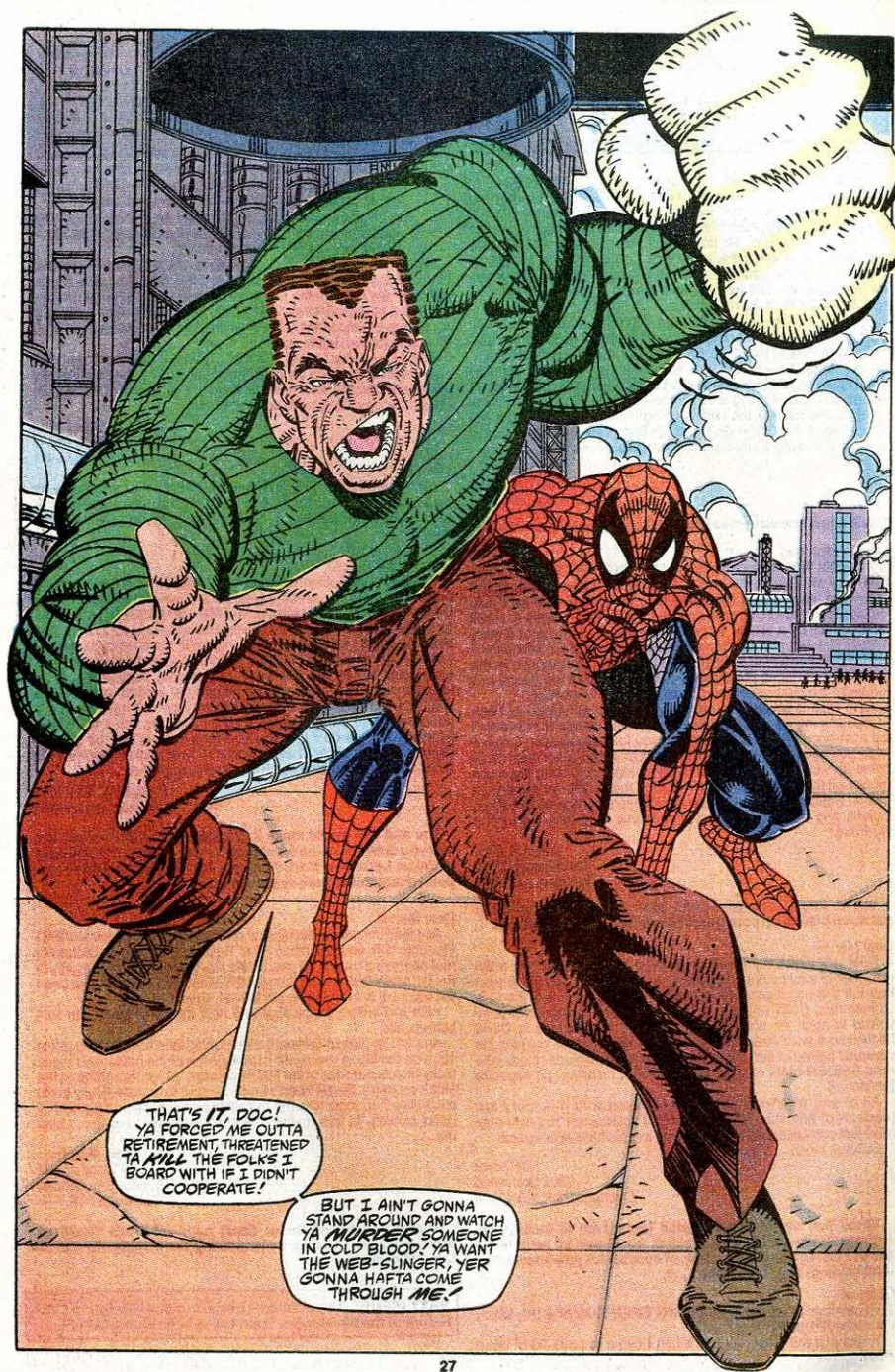
Free Pro Set Card!

To get you started in 1990, we'll send you a *free* Barry Sanders 1990 Pro Set NFL Rookie of the Year card (shown below), *plus* a copy of the new edition of *Pro Set Gazette*. Send your name and address to: Rookie of the Year, NFL Pro Set, 15303 Dallas Parkway, Suite 1300, Dallas, TX, 75248. The offer is good while supplies last...so hurry!

**Buy 'Em.
Keep 'Em.
Trade 'Em.**



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THAT'S IT, DOC!
YA FORCED ME OUTTA
RETIREMENT, THREATENED
TA *KILL* THE FOLKS I
BOARD WITH IF I DIDN'T
COOPERATE!

BUT I AIN'T GONNA
STAND AROUND AND WATCH
YA *MURDER* SOMEONE
IN COLD BLOOD! YA WANT
THE WEB-SLINGER, YER
GONNA HAFTA COME
THROUGH *ME*!

THE SPIDER'S WEB

% MARVEL COMICS GROUP

387 Park Avenue South
New York, New York 10016

JIM SALICRUP
ARACHNERD
DAN CUDDY
ASSISTANT EDITOR

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

Dear Sirs,

AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #331 was one good issue, though I credit the writing a lot more than I do the art. David Michelinie (how do you pronounce that last name?) has come up with some interesting plots, enough to keep readers coming back. I am coming to like Eric Larsen's pencils. At first, when I read issue #324, I said "yeeecch!" And when I learned that Larsen was up to replace McFarlane on the book, I said *double* "yeeecch!" But after a few more issues, I've got to admit that his art is okay. He's not Todd McFarlane, but he's got my vote!

I'd like to comment again on the writing, however. It's clear that Venom is back *again*. Look, he's a great villain; perhaps the best Spider-Man villain since the Green Goblin, but he just appeared a couple of issues ago and now he's back again. There's certainly nothing wrong with bringing a villain back (keeps the heroes busy!) but guard against using a villain too much. It gets harder for the writer to explain how the villain is/is not defeated again. I think this happened to the Green Goblin. Each and every time he was used was more and more anti-climatic than the previous time.

Kenneth Byrd
371 E. 57th Street
Chicago, IL 60637

David's last name rhymes with "pickle my knee," Kenneth.

Dear Spider-folk,

I thought the return of Venom in AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #331 was very well done, as was the ebony antithesis' death in the preceding issue. David Michelinie is to be commended for Eddie Brock's resurrection; it really grabbed me. In fact, I seem to recall being struck by a similar comeback before... perhaps in a story called "The Autopsy" by Michael Shea. Ring a bell, Mr. Michelinie? Let me give you a hint: an alien nasty takes over this guy's body; the guy dies, but during the autopsy the alien attacks the doctor performing the examination and... well, maybe I was wrong.

All in all, this was a very interesting and well written issue; I was particularly intrigued by the idea of a cocaine standard. However, I did spot one ensy teensy mistake; you forgot to kill the Punisher while you had the chance. The only excuse for this goof that I could come up with was that Marvel Comics was just making too much money off this character to get rid of the macho moron. Otherwise Marvel would have ditched such an unappealing, one-dimensional, violent, and all around unheroic character long ago. Do I get a No-Prize?

Julian A. Gray
181 Skyridge Drive
Anniston, AL 36201

You're lucky that you don't get one of the Punisher's patented pistols up your proboscis for that remark, Juliana.

Dear Marvel,

ASM #331 was my first issue in a long time, and it was a big reminder of why I stopped buying it. I can't believe you [censored] had the unmitigated [censored] to do a story where the U.S. Government (NOT just a "loose cannon" somewhere) is involved in such an *absurd* drug operation! Noted only is David Michelinie a worthless hack, but he has no business pushing his paranoid hatred of our nation's leaders on the multitude of kids who read SPIDER-MAN comics. Preposterous, insulting, propaganda [censored].

All of you who are in any way involved with this story are [censored] and should be ashamed of yourselves! You also may have just convinced me to stop buying any Marvels ever again!

So long, jerks!

Tim Dwyer
7805 Glenwood
Overland Park, KS 66204

Since Tim had the unmitigated [censored] to include his address in his maledictive missive, we should all send him a bar of soap (government issue, of course) for you-know-what. Just kidding, Tim. Tim? Hello...?

Gang—

Remember the cover to AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #112, which threatened, "Spidey Cops Out"?

It was just the reaction I had when I came to page 20 of issue #331.

That's the page where Spidey and the Punisher, after learning of a fiendish government plot, rationalize their way out of exposing it because it might hurt the public "morale." Gimme a break.

Granted, Spidey probably would have had the same trouble using the U.S. Government as he did cashing a check at a bank all those years ago, but there's an obvious alternative.

He's a newspaperman. He could have contacted the Bugle with leads and evidence, either before or after destroying the drugs. Although we would think that after several years of such employment at a so-called "crusading" newspaper, he wouldn't purposely suppress such important news, wouldn't say, in essence, that "what the public doesn't know won't hurt them."

This story doesn't really show that Spidey copped out; it shows your creative team bit off more than it could chew with an overly grandiose plot and then resolved it expediently, without thinking its consequences through. We deserve better.

PMM David Allen
1329 Edwards Ave., Apt. C
Santa Rosa, CA 95401

No, David, you deserve the best! We take your comments, as well as everyone else's, to heart and try our best to meet your high standards. We may not always succeed, but we'll always try.

Dear Spider-People,

The Amazing Spider-Man and the Punisher have always made one superior team, no matter what book or what storyline. But "The Death Standard," in AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #331 will stand out for years to come because of the controversial subject at hand. This storyline could be called a real life "What If" situation because it is not entirely impossible! With all the corruption in the United States over many topics that one such as this drug problem could be another problem that Americans could face. I agree entirely with what the Punisher said, and although it may not have been the honest thing to do, it was the right thing to do. What would the American people do if they found out the secrets that our government may be hiding from us? This is somewhat like the controversy surrounding the airplane crash at Lockerby, Scotland.

Patrick Mac Laughlin
(Address withheld by request)

You and Tim would make interesting pen pals, Patrick. Too bad you didn't have the unmitigated [censored] to include your address. Let's hear from someone who has yet another viewpoint about this issue's resolution...

Dear Marvel,

As I read the name "Buchinsky" on the door (page 17, issue #331) I thought, "Oh, another inside joke." Buchinsky is Charles Bronson's real name and he played characters like the Punisher, especially in the DEATH WISH films. I thought this small detail would have been the extent of the reference, but then I turned the page!

With McFarlane it was Felix, so now it's Betty Boop with Erik Larsen, eh?

And finally, please (please!) stop putting little boxes of the guest stars on the top of the cover. It reminds me of the posters for those tacky disaster movies of the 70s (you know: "Ernest Borgnine as the ship's captain"). Roger Ebert's Box Rule says to "automatically avoid such films," so logic tells me to avoid such comics (but it's such a good comic!). Is this a wise decision? Help me, please... help me...

Kris Gallimore
129 Woodside St
Thunder Bay, Ontario
CANADA P7A 7G4

Rumor has it that Roger Ebert pans all those "featured player" movies because he is actually the illegitimate son of Ernest Borgnine.

NEXT ISSUE: The senses-shattering conclusion to "The Return of the Sinister Six." Don't miss "The Killing Cure!"



YOU DISAPPOINT ME, WILLIAM. STILL, I ANTICIPATED SUCH TREACHERY.

AND, TAKING INSPIRATION FROM A BATTLE YOU ONCE HAD WITH THE HULK--

--I PREPARED FOR IT!

HUH?! B-BODY GETTIN' STIFF! SAND MELTIN'!

I-I'M TURNIN'...

...INTO...

GLASS?!?



BREAK HIM!



BACK OFF, SKIN-TOP! OR GLASS ISN'T THE ONLY THING THAT'S GOING TO BREAK AROUND HERE!

BLAST! CAN'T GO AFTER OCTOPUS!



SPEAKING OF WHOM...

NO ONE WILL AGREE TO INITIATE THE CODED LAUNCH SEQUENCE?

PITY.





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