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# the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN

**FEMALE TROUBLE!**

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INTRODUCING...  
**THE FEMME FATALES!**



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# MISSION: IMPOSSIBLE™



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Ultra® dares you to defy the impossible. But if you accept, be forewarned. You and your trio of Impossible Mission Force agents will infiltrate a six level maze of unthinkable danger. A fortress of international evil designed to sap every ounce of your brains and brawn. At each turn you must fend off snipers and fire bomb maniacs. Elude spy cameras and robot sentries. Escape from countless enemies in hot pursuit. All in your desperate search for booby-trapped clues, secret ID cards and life-saving switches.

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BITTEN BY A RADIOACTIVE SPIDER, STUDENT PETER PARKER GAINED THE PROPORTIONATE STRENGTH AND ABILITY OF AN ARACHNID! ARMED WITH HIS WONDROUS WEB-SHOOTERS, THE RELUCTANT SUPER HERO STRUGGLES WITH SINISTER SUPER-VILLAINS, MAKING ENDS MEET, AND MAINTAINING SOME SEMBLANCE OF A NORMAL LIFE!

Stan Lee  
PRESENTS:

**THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN®**

# THE HERO SUBTRACTOR



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WRITER \* LARSEN \*  
PENCILER

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MIKE MACHLAN &  
FRIENDS  
INKERS

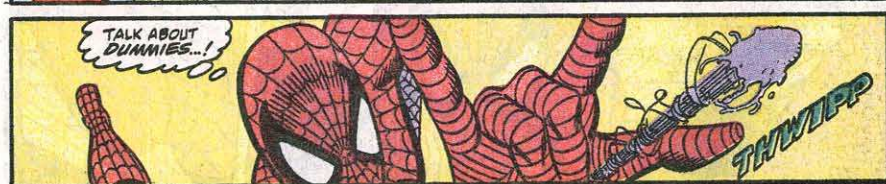
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PARKER \*  
LETTERER

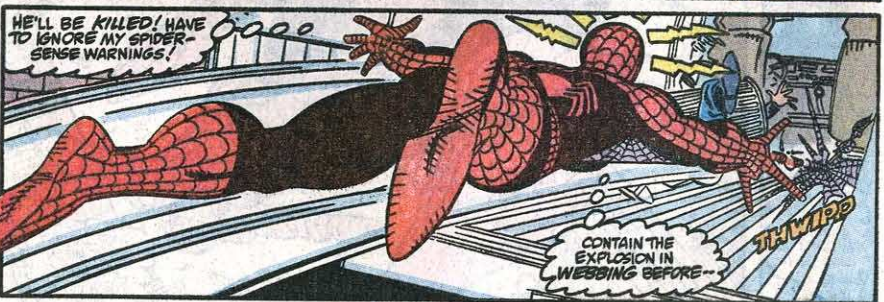
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SHAREN &  
NEL  
YOMTOV  
COLORISTS

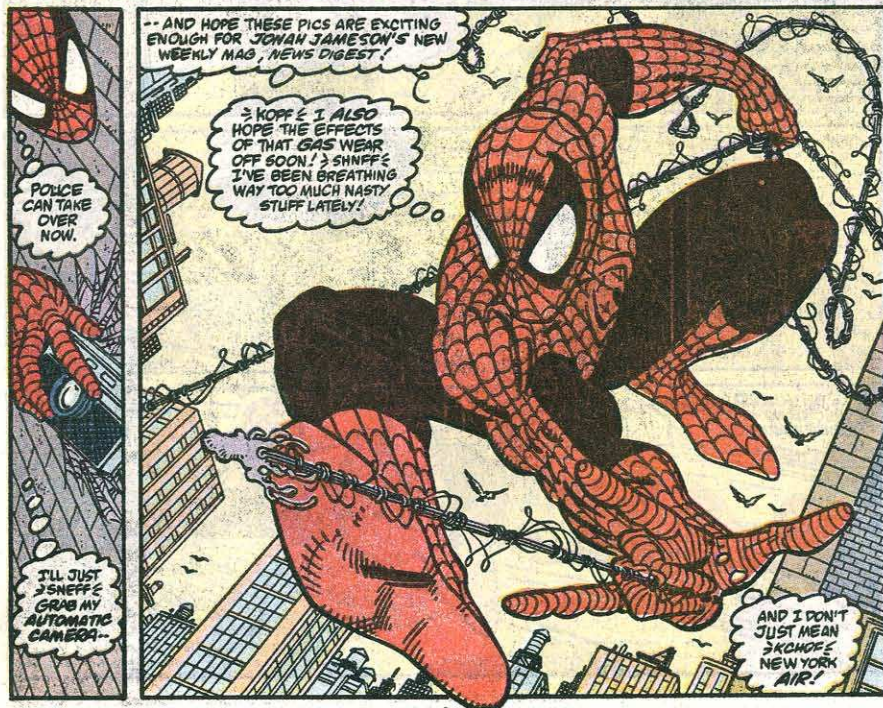
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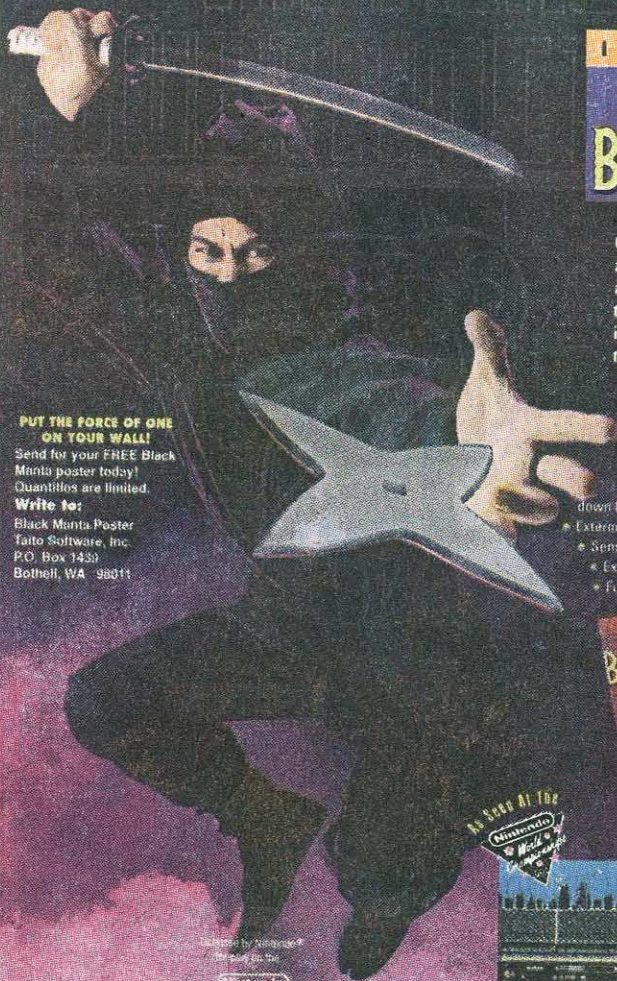
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Nintendo Power, March/April 1990

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THOSE CHEMICALS THE  
HOBGOBLIN SPRAYED IN  
MY FACE A FEW DAYS AGO\*  
HOPE PREVENT ME FROM  
EVER TAKING COCAINE--  
A STUPID HABIT I HADN'T  
PLANNED ON DEVELOPING  
ANYWAY. SNIFF



BUT THE RADIOACTIVE  
SPIDER BITE THAT  
GAVE ME MY POWERS  
ALTERED MY BLOOD,  
AND I'M WORRIED THAT  
CHEMICAL AGENTS COULD  
HAVE EFFECTS ON ME  
THAT THEY WOULDN'T  
HAVE ON SOMEONE  
ELSE!



\* IN AMAZING SPIDER-MAN  
# 338, -- JIM



HAVEN'T FELT  
ANYTHING STRANGE  
YET, BUT...

...AH, WELL.  
SNIFFLE  
I'M HOME.



JUST ME,  
MARY JANE!

HOPE WE'VE GOT  
SOME "VISINE"



I LOOK LIKE I STAYED  
UP ALL NIGHT CRAMMING  
FOR FINALS!

SNIFFS  
MAKE  
THAT ALL  
WEEK!



FINISHED YOUR  
SHOWER,  
PETER?

SHOWER?

AUNT  
MAY WANTS  
TO SEE YOU!

OH



I THOUGHT YOU SAID AUNT  
MAY WAS VISITING, M.J.  
WHAT'S MADONNA  
DOING HERE?

OH, PETER!  
YOU'RE--

# How Columbus Discovered Honey Nut Cheerios

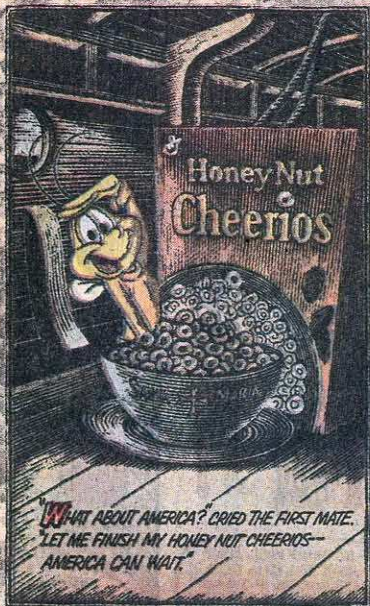
IN FOURTEEN HUNDRED AND NINETY-TWO, COLUMBUS SAILED THE OCEAN BLUE, SEEKING A ROUTE TO FAR-WAY LANDS. UNTIL A CERTAIN BEE CHANGED ALL OF HIS PLANS.



THE BEE CAME UP TO COLUMBUS, THE STORY GOES, OFFERING HIM A TASTE OF HONEY NUT CHEERIOS. "GOLDEN HONEY AND CRUNCHY NUTS SOUND YUMMY," ASKED THE BEE. COLUMBUS DECLARED, "HONEY AND NUTS? WOW, WHAT A GREAT TASTE DISCOVERY!"



THE HONEY AND NUT TASTE WAS SUCH A DELICIOUS DISTRACTION, HE SAILED ROUND AND ROUND IN NO CERTAIN DIRECTION.



"WHAT ABOUT AMERICA?" CRIED THE FIRST MATE. "LET ME FINISH MY HONEY NUT CHEERIOS—AMERICA CAN WAIT."



NONETHELESS, LATER  
ON, AFTER A BEDRUMMED  
EVENING OF HIGH CULTURE...

OKAY,  
SOURPUSS,  
WHAT'S THE  
MATTER?

JEALOUS  
OF THAT  
CUTE TENOR?

CAN'T GET  
THAT CHEMICAL  
SPRAY OFF MY  
MIND, M.J.

IT MIGHT  
HAVE NO  
EFFECT AT  
ALL-- BUT  
WHAT IF IT  
DOES--?

THEN FIND  
OUT, ONE  
WAY OR  
ANOTHER!  
SO IT'LL STOP  
EATING  
AT YOU!

BIOLOGY ISN'T  
MY SPECIALTY,  
SWEETHEART,  
BUT... YOU'RE  
RIGHT.

I'VE GOT TO  
DO SOME-  
THINGS.

THE QUESTION  
OF "WHAT"  
FOLLOWS THE  
YOUNG MAN  
TO THE NEXT  
DAY, AND TO--

YOU'RE A  
RESEARCH  
ASSISTANT  
AT EMPIRE  
STATE  
UNIVERSITY--  
CAN'T YOU  
RUN SOME  
EXPERI-  
MENTS?

"NEWS  
DIGEST,"  
STILL SEEMS  
STRANGE  
COMING HERE  
INSTEAD OF  
THE DAILY  
BUGLE TO  
LOOK FOR  
J. JONAH  
JAMBERSON!

AUNT MAY  
IS MORE  
DEPENDENT  
THAN EVER  
ON MY STAYING  
HEALTHY.



YES, MR. JAMESON. IF MY NEW INVENTION CAN ANALYZE HIS POWERS AS I HOPE, IMMENSE GOOD COULD BE DONE FOR HUMANITY! AND SINCE YOUR PUBLICATIONS HAVE PRINTED SO MANY PICTURES OF THE GENTLEMAN--!





THIS COMPLICATES MATTERS. NOW I'LL HAVE TO FIND SOME OTHER WAY TO--

Spideet? NO!



I HEAR YOU'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR ME!

WHA--?



B-BUT, HOW DID YOU--?!

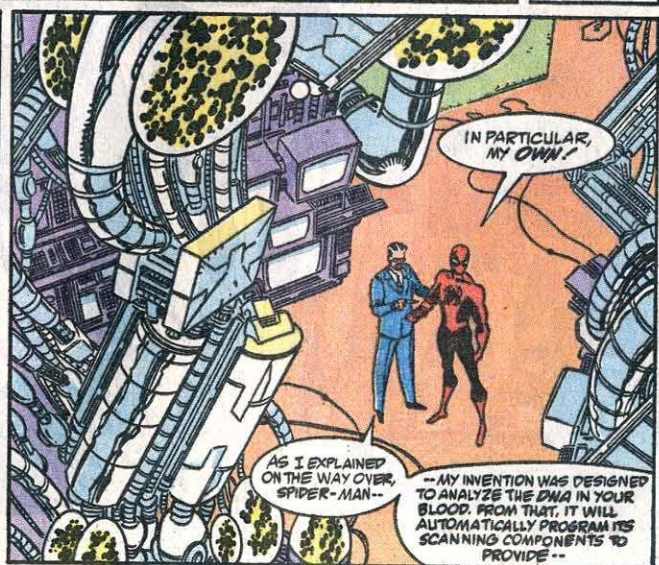


C'MON, DOC, YOU EVER HEAR OF A GRAPEVINE WITHOUT A FEW SPIDERS ON IT? LET'S--



"--GO!"

OUCH! IS THIS REALLY NECESSARY? HATE THE SIGHT OF BLOOD!



IN PARTICULAR, MY OWN!

AS I EXPLAINED ON THE WAY OVER, SPIDER-MAN--

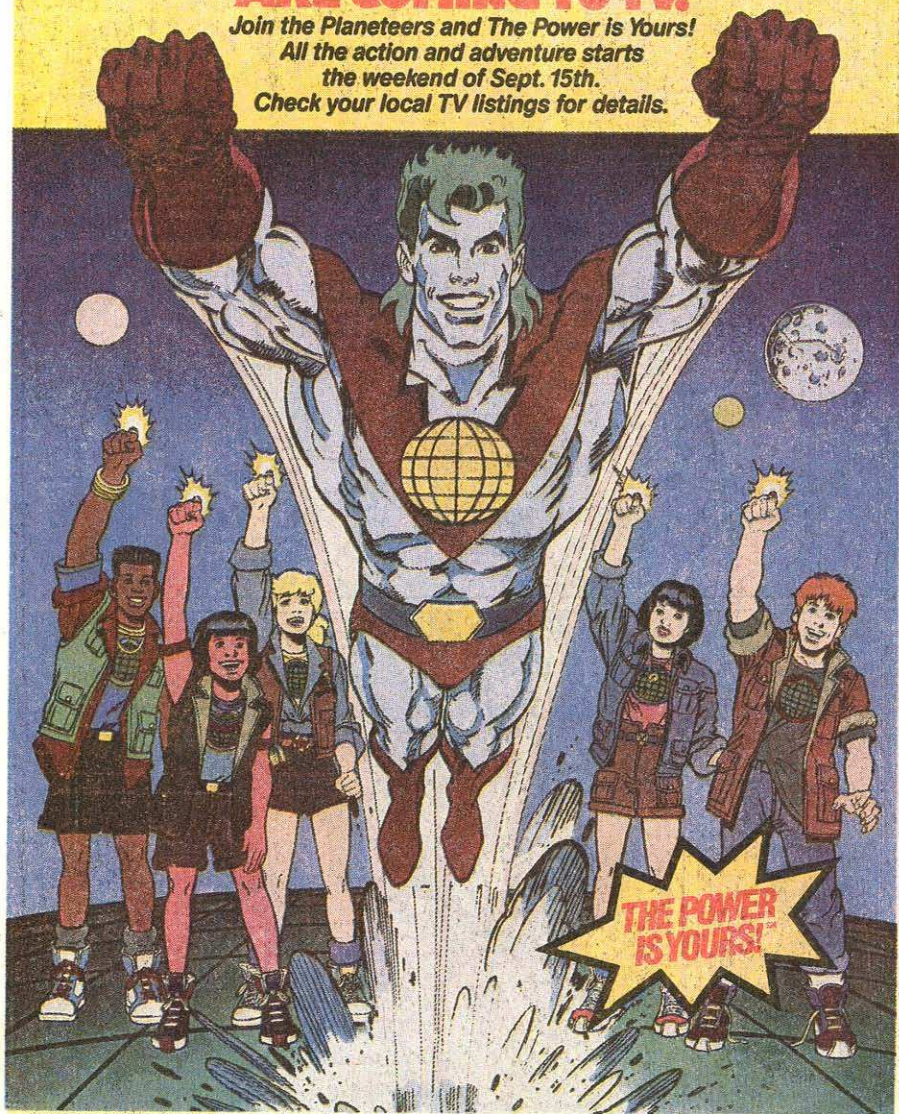
--MY INVENTION WAS DESIGNED TO ANALYZE THE DNA IN YOUR BLOOD. FROM THAT, IT WILL AUTOMATICALLY PROGRAM ITS SCANNING COMPONENTS TO PROVIDE--

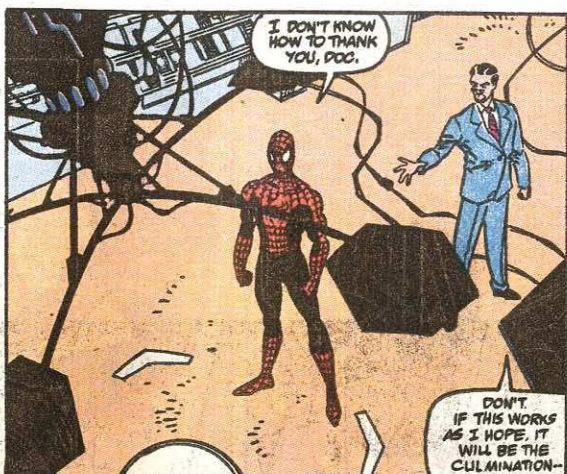
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THE NEXT MORNING:  
JOHN F. KENNEDY  
AIRPORT, QUEENS...

THE AMBASSADOR'S PLANE  
IS LANDING, SPIDER-MAN!  
SHOULDN'T YOU, *ET*, STRAIGHTEN  
YOUR MASK OR SOMETHING?

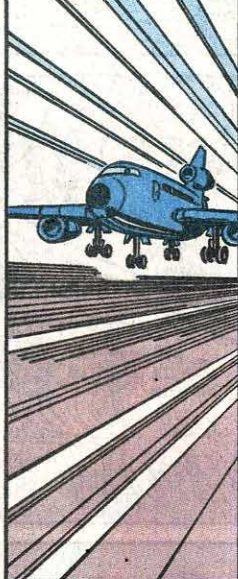
UH, SURE,  
MR. MAYOR.

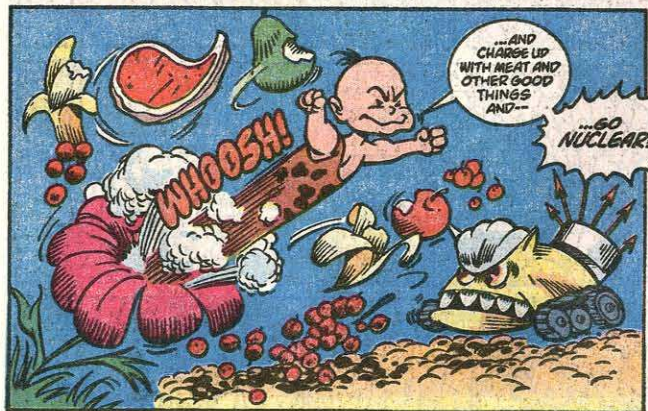
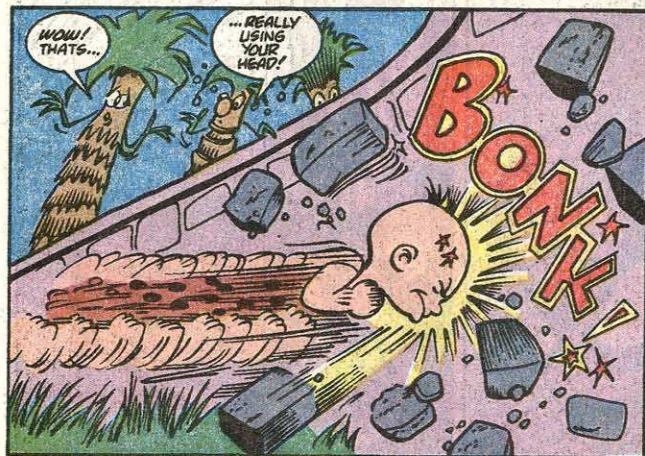
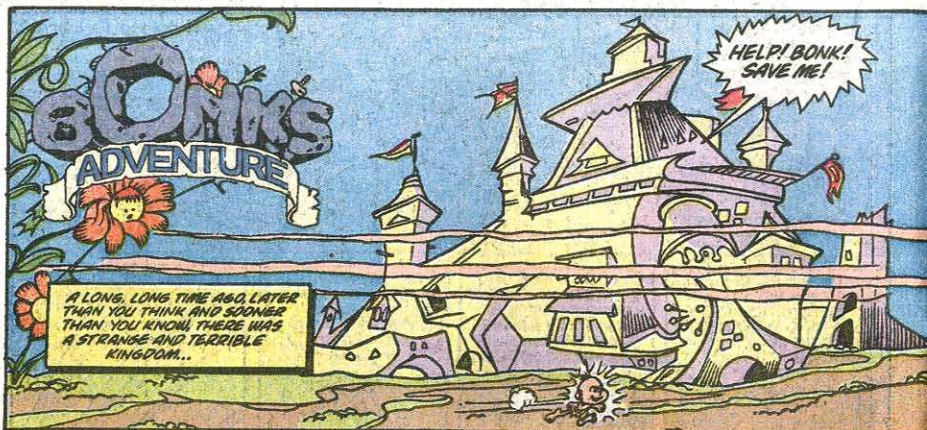
SIGHT: THE REPRESENTATIVE  
FROM A NEWLY-FREED  
BALTO COUNTRY COMES  
FOR A VISIT, REQUESTS TO  
MEET ONE OF NEW YORK'S  
"COSTUMED PEOPLE'S  
HEROES"...

TALK ABOUT IRONY! MY  
APPEARANCE HAS BEEN  
NEWS FOR DAYS! AND  
THOUGH I'M HAVING  
TROUBLE SELLING MY  
OWN SPIDER-MAN PICS...

...THE ONES *THOSE*  
GUYS ARE TAKING  
WILL BE ON EVERY  
FRONT PAGE IN THE  
COUNTRY!

"AH, WELL, HERE COMES THE  
AMBASSADOR'S PLANE."







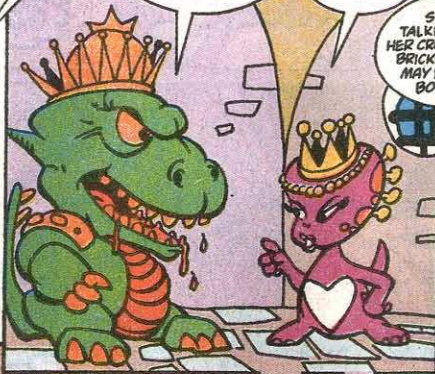
I WOULDN'T WANT TO BE IN KING DROOL'S SHOES ONCE BONK BONKS HIS WAY TO HIM.

BONK... HA! THAT CRUDE CAVE BOY WILL NEVER MAKE HIS WAY HERE... I'VE SEEN TO IT! YOU'RE MINE, PRINCESS!

YOU MUST BE JOKING! NOTHING CAN STOP BONK!

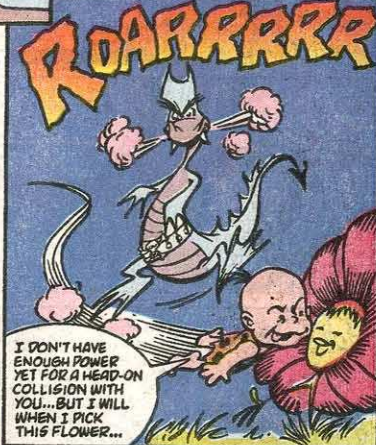
SHE'S NOT TALKING THROUGH HER CROWN, EITHER! BRICKS AND STONES MAY BREAK MY BONES...

--BUT NOT WHEN I BONK 'EM WITH MY HEAD!



I'M COUNTING THE PAY KING DROOL GAVE ME TO STOP YOU! I'M WORKING FOR HIM NOW!

BONK, OVER HERE!



I DON'T HAVE ENOUGH POWER YET FOR A HEAD-ON COLLISION WITH YOU... BUT I WILL WHEN I PICK THIS FLOWER...



TO BONK HIM, I'LL NEED ANOTHER FLOWER FOR TWICE THE POWER!

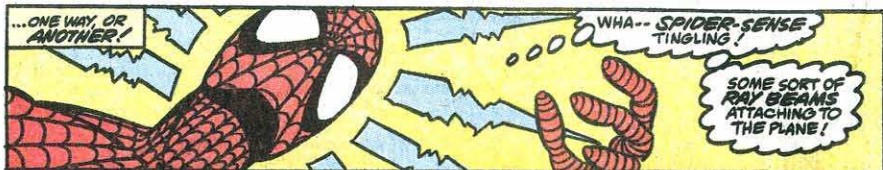


OOOPS! A VENUS BONKTRAP! I'M STUCK!

I'M DOOMED... UNLESS YOU SAVE BONK SO HE CAN RESCUE ME... IN THE ALL-NEW--TURBO-GRAPH K18 BONK'S ADVENTURE

TURBO 16 GRAPH

BONKS ADVENTURE



...ONE WAY, OR ANOTHER!

WHA-- SPIDER-SENSE TINGLING!

SOME SORT OF RAY BEAMS ATTACHING TO THE PLANE!



"PULLING IT FORWARD! TOWARDS THE REVIEWING STAND!"

"PEOPLE WILL BE CRUSHED!"



HAVE TO LOCK THE FRONT WHEELS WITH A MASS OF WEBBING!

THWIP



THEN GET THE AMBASSADOR OUT OF IMMEDIATE DANGER!

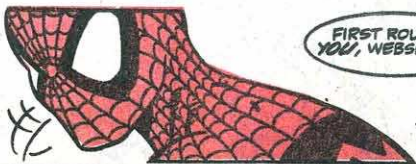
AND JUST HOPE MY WEBS ARE STRONGER THAN THAT--



"SUPPORT POST!"

CHIRPY

~ whew! ~



FIRST ROUND TO YOU, WEBSLINGER!

WHO...?!

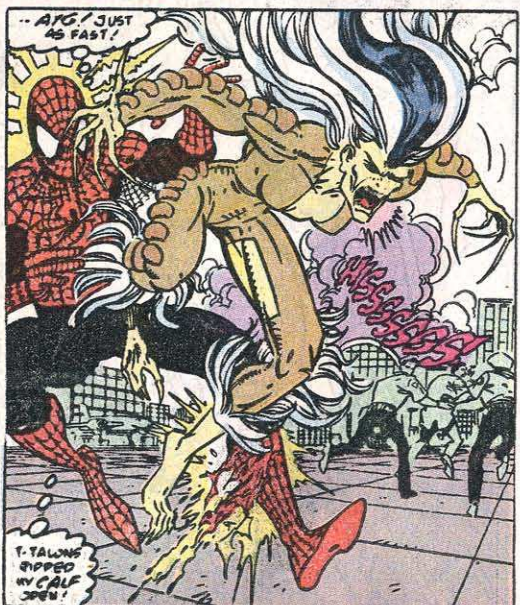
I'M MINDBLAST MY TRACTOR BEAMS DID THE JOB ON THAT JET!

AND YOU'VE MET US BEFORE, REMEMBER? \*WHPLASH--

-- AND MY PERAL FRIEND, BLOODLUST!

WHILE I'M KNOCKOUT, LEADER OF THE FEMALE FATALES, WHICH MEANS THESE LADIES DO WHAT I SAY! FOR EXAMPLE, BLOODLUST!

\* IN MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS #49. -- J.S.

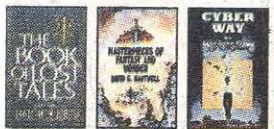




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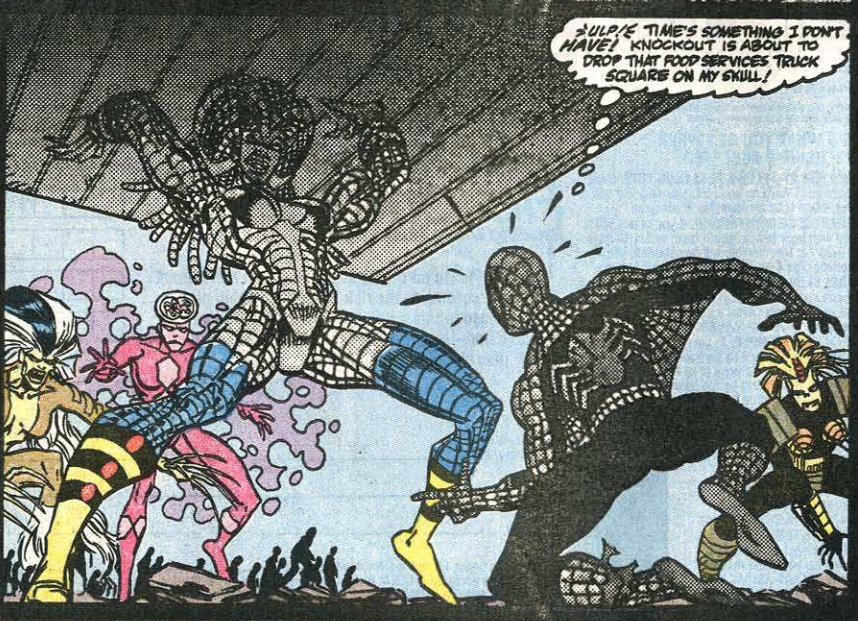
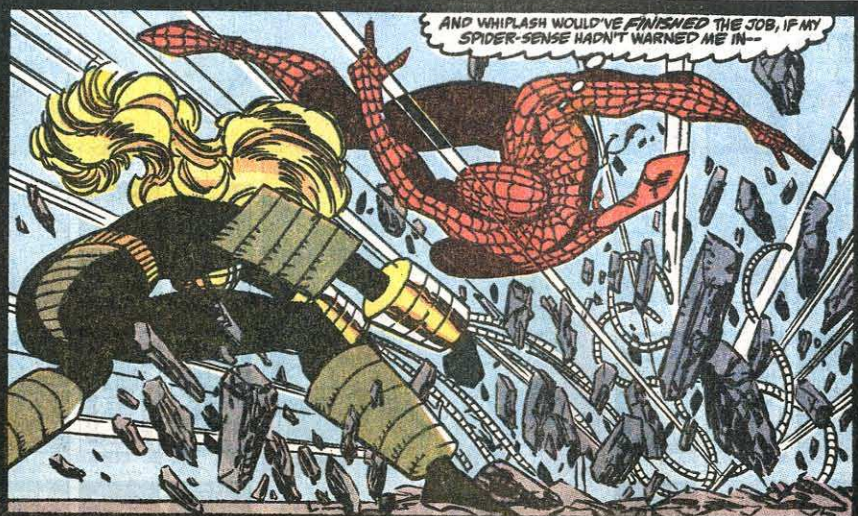
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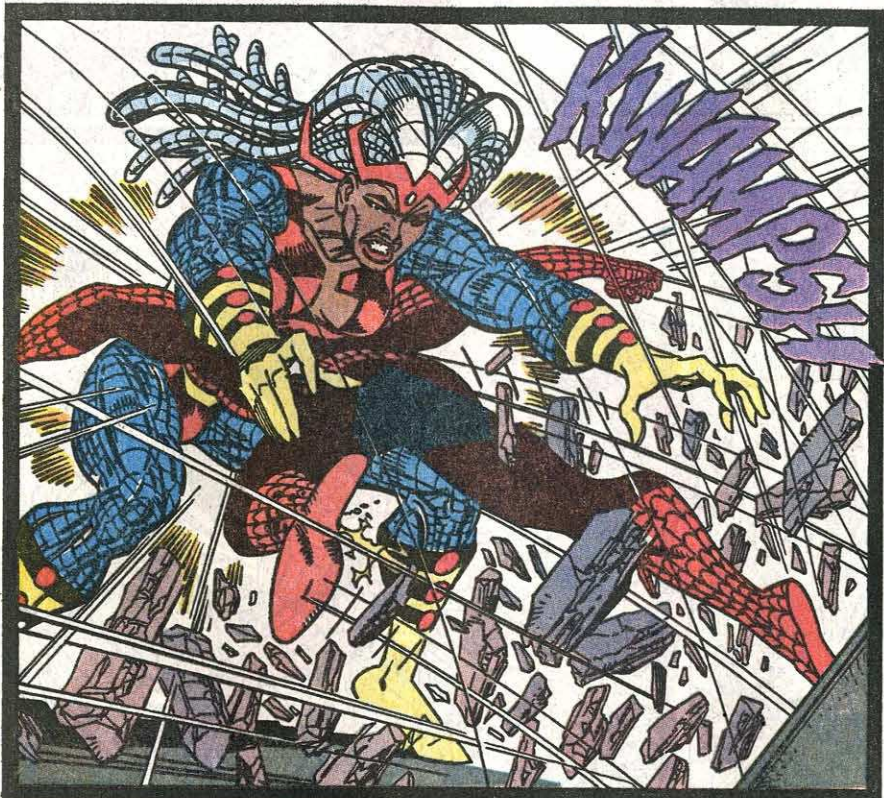
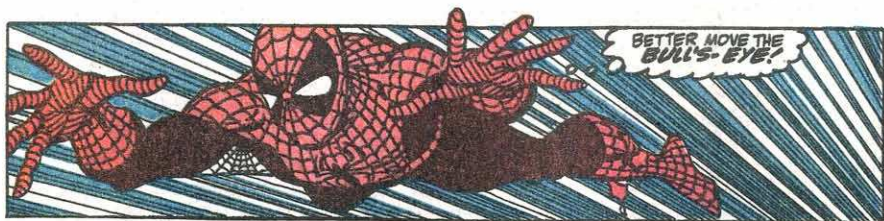
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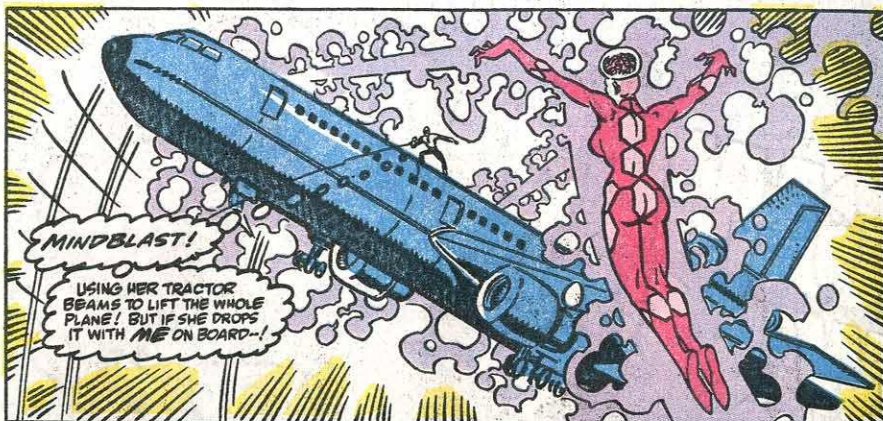

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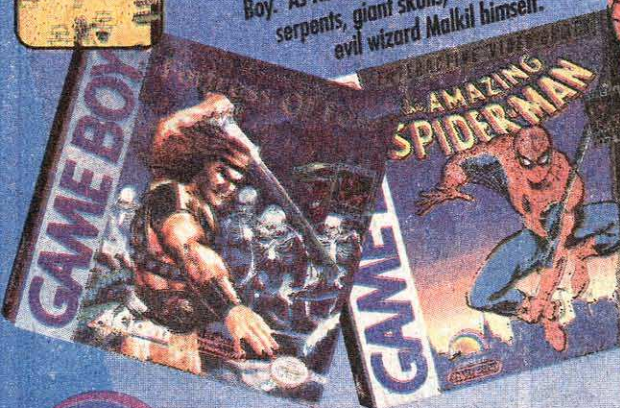




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MINDBLAST GOT ME RIGHT OVER THE WRECK! IF KNOCKOUT LIGHTS THAT FUEL, I'LL BE CAUGHT LIKE A PIG ON A ROTISSERIE!

WHAT'LL HAPPEN TO MARY JANE? TO... AUNT MAY?



"THAT'S WHY I'VE BEEN TENTATIVE! DISTRACTED! I'VE BEEN WORRYING ALL DAY ABOUT WHAT MY DEATH WOULD DO TO THE ONES I LOVE!"

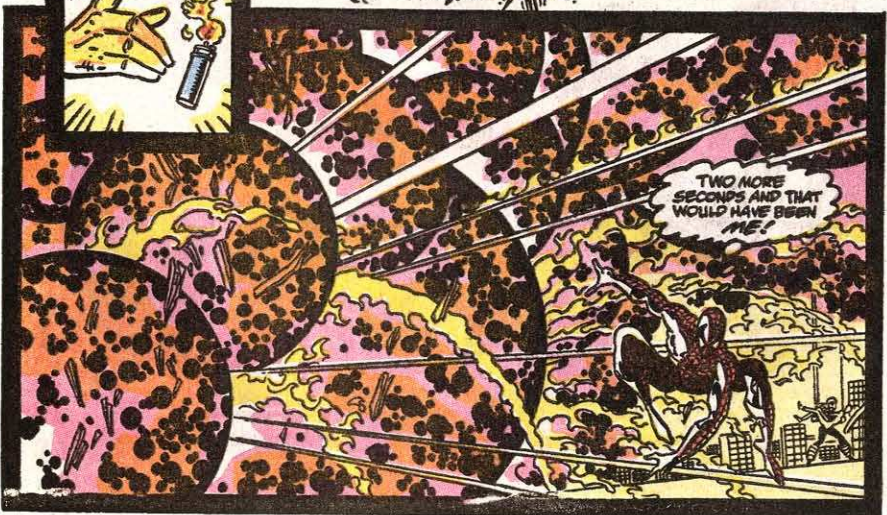


AND UNLESS I ACT FAST, I'M GOING TO FIND OUT!

CAN'T DO ANYTHING ABOUT THOSE TRACTOR BEAMS! BUT MAYBE I CAN DO SOMETHING ABOUT...



"-- THE SENDER!"



# HIGH FIVE

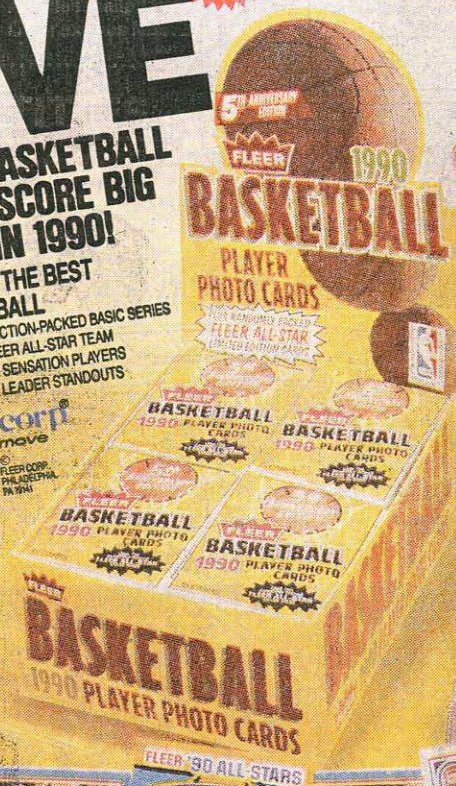
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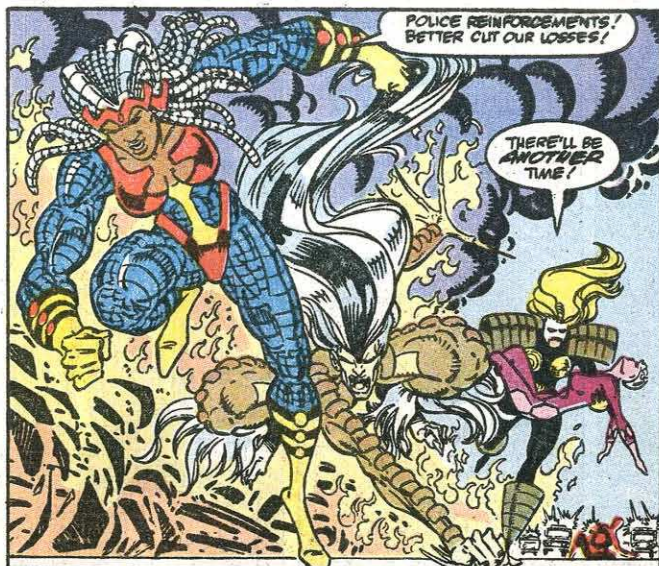
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HE NEEDS HER, IN EVERY NUANCE OF THE WORD AND TO HAVE HER HERE NOW, SHARING HIS FEARS AND MISGIVINGS, MEANS MORE THAN ANY PHRASE THE POETS COULD DREAM.



HE LISTENS TO HER THOUGHTS, HER OFFERINGS. THEY GIVE SHAPE TO THE ILLUSIVE PUZZLE, LEAD LIGHT TO THE SHADOWY GRAY OF POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS.



AND YET, EVEN AS THE HEAVY HOURS OF EVENING PASS IN GENTLE COMMUNION, THEY BOTH KNOW THAT, ULTIMATELY, THE DECISION--

--MUST BE HIS ALONE.



MORNING; DR. TURNER'S LABORATORY.



I'M GLAD YOU'VE RETURNED! I HAVE SOME TESTS--



NO TESTS. JUST TURN THAT MACHINE ON. I'M GOING TO STAND IN ITS BEAM FOR AS LONG AS I CAN TAKE IT!

WHA--? B-BUT, WHY--!?

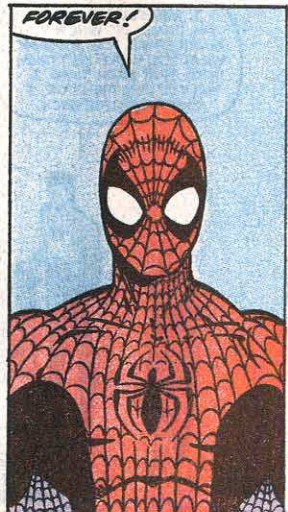
I'M THROUGH BEING SPIDER-MAN, DOC.

I WANT YOU TO USE YOUR MACHINE TO REMOVE MY POWERS.



COMPLETELY!

FOREVER!



# THE SPIDER'S WEB

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

JIM SALICRUP  
ARACHNER  
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 Spider-Writers,

You goofed! You broke one of the super hero unwritten codes. I am referring, of course, to Spider-Man's unethical behavior to private property. On Pages 8, 9, and 11, you have Spider-Man and Styx battling in a man's private garden. No problem. He clearly states, "Look, pal, I happen to be fighting for my life here!"

But when the fight is over and the danger gone, the man is upset that what he considers his family is gone. Spider-Man, instead of trying to console him, just said "manure."

It seems that Venom has more respect for innocents than Spidey. Big mistake! Venom is a villain, respect for others is usually non-existent. Don't get me wrong. I like the fact that Venom does not want to involve anyone in his battle with the wall-crawler. But it's just bad taste to have a villain have more respect for others than the hero.

I enjoy ASM, and I look forward to the next issue. But keep Spidey considerate to property. Isn't that what he's trying to protect?

Michael J. Welsh  
219 East 5th  
Hastings, NE 68901

Sure, Michael, Spidey always tries to protect property—but that is, unless he's trying to protect himself! As for your comment about Venom having more respect for innocents than Spidey, we just have one thing to say—"Manure!"

## Dear Spider's Web,

I have noticed a column of five boxes at the top of all three Spidey titles. It is on the cover and each box has a picture of minor characters from the book. I think this is very tacky and could take away from an otherwise good-looking cover. Why have you been doing this?

Congratulations on ASM #332. Great job! I'm glad Venom is back.

Graham Harrell  
(Address withheld by request)

Those boxes, Graham, are there to allow cover space to characters that don't necessarily warrant full-cover treatment. What do the rest of you think? Should the boxes stay or go?

## Dear Jim and Dan,

It's good to see that somebody other than Todd can draw Venom well. Erik did an excellent job on the character, especially the torn edgings of Venom's eyes. Speaking of eyes, Erik also likes to play with the eyes on Spidey's mask, which allows for more expression. This has been done before (notably by John Byrne and Ed Hannigan) but not as effectively.

Two other points on this issue:

First, the dialogue in the Spidey books (especially this one) is far too cluttered with old plot synopses. I appreciate that you have to introduce characters, motivations, and situations to newer readers, but nobody thinks plot breakdowns like Spidey does. I'd prefer to see the synopsizing done at the beginning of the book, with a small box introducing all the characters etc. to newer readers.

Second, it's an old complaint, but please don't use death to sell comics. "Next issue: Someone dies! Makes me want to... run out and buy a million copies. Or it should. How about, "Next issue: Everybody lives happily ever after!" Sigh, the human condition.

On the future, look at a pattern I've noticed to help shove Venom into the big time of Spidey villains: the Burglar (Uncle Ben), Dr. Octopus (Bennett Brant and Captain Stacy), Green Goblin (Gwen Stacy), Venom (Nathan Lubensky).

And finally, the Sinister Six? Ignoring the fact that most of them hate each other, Kraven's dead and the Sandman's reformed, I count two replacements needed. So the original Sinister Six it won't be.

Still, I'm looking forward to it!

Rei Hirst  
Ruegrove Farm  
Holt Head, Slaitwaite  
Huddersfield, W. Yorks  
HD7 6TY  
England

Wrong on two accounts, Bol. Venom didn't kill Nathan and the Sandman did indeed rejoin the Sinister Six. But thanks for your other comments—we'll work on it!

## Dear Merry Marvel Men,

A venomous return indeed! AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #332 was stupendous! I shall place it in my bookshelf next to Milton's *Paradise Lost*, and Shakespeare's *Sonnets*, and the rest of the classics.

I would not dream of missing an issue featuring Spidey's most vicious nemesis, but this one did transcend my expectation. The artwork blew me away and the battle was vintage Venom vs. Spider-Man. Even though I believe you would never seriously injure the web-slinger, his violent embroilments with Eddie Brock are always scary (to say the least) because I am never one hundred percent sure Spidey will come out unscathed.

However, I am having a hard time swallowing Aunt May's calm reaction toward the broadcast which exposed Peter's "friend" as an escaped convict and sadistic killer. In keeping with the portrayal of her character, I expected nothing less than a swoon (especially after he showed up at her door).

C'mon, people, we're talking about dear, sweet, fragile Aunt May who once passed out at the sight of a Spider-Man dummy in Peter's bed! Forgive me if I sound overly critical, but someone's gotta keep you guys on your toes.

On another note, Jonathon Caesar's return to these pages failed to excite me since I did not particularly enjoy his introduction last year. I hope his obsession with Mary Jane will cease quite soon.

I can't wait until the fight between Venom and Spider-Man resumes since his most recent appearance outside this book (in QUASAR #6) was much too brief for my taste. Thanks for a splendid comic and until Blob stops stuffing his face, Make Mine Marvel!

Ariel Carmona, Jr.  
616½ Harvard Blvd.  
Hollywood, CA 9004

Did you enjoy our resolution to the Jonathon Caesar affair last issue, Ariel? Let's hope so, even though it looks as though someone else has already filled his shoes.

## To whomever cares our there,

I have a question about Venom from issue #332. The alien costume has always been portrayed as a parasite that only takes and never gives.

In the issues of AMAZING SPIDER-MAN when Peter wore the black costume, he felt weak and his body was under its control. In a recent issue of WHAT IF—? the creature grafted itself on three heroes. With each case, the hero was physically drained. Peter's body was degenerated to that of an elderly man. All power was transferred from the Hulk into Banner. A god, Thor, experienced great pain when it tried to graft itself to him.

Why does Brock seem to only benefit from the alien? There are never scenes of it animating Brock's body when he is asleep. Frequently, Brock has said that the alien is the real power behind Venom. I can't understand why it increases when it should be taking strength from him when he isn't fighting it still doesn't make sense. The alien took only a few months to drain all strength from Peter in WHAT IF—? Since Brock isn't naturally super-powered, the creature should have killed him by now. I think.

Issue #332 was a great issue! Keep up the great work. Until MJ leaves Pete for Nick Katzenberg, Make Mine Marvel!

Marc DiPaolo  
332 Kell Avenue  
Staten Island, NY 10314

Always keep one thing in mind, Marc—the stories in WHAT IF—? are alternate realities. The alien costume in the tale you are referring to was explained as a parasite, but the one in this reality is a symbiote (as Reed Richards explained way back in issue #258). A symbiote shares a symbiotic relationship with its host, taking only what it needs and giving something back in return. Also, re-read THE SAGA OF THE ALIEN COSTUME, and you'll be surprised to learn that the alien costume actually fueled Spider-Man with extra strength on numerous occasions. Also remember that Brock understands the nature of his relationship with the symbiote—Spidey never did.

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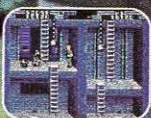
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