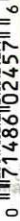




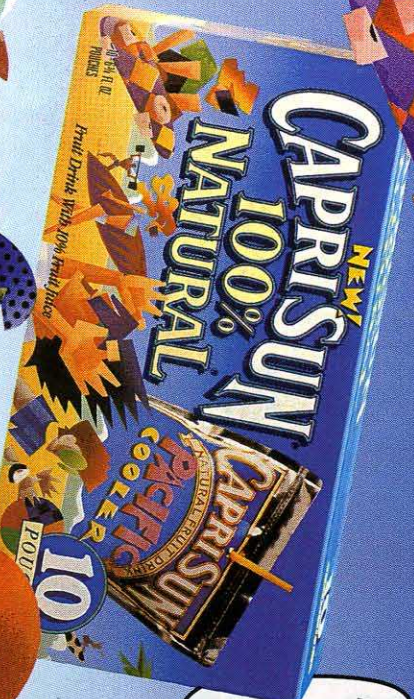
AUTHORITY

(YEP, IT'S WHO YOU THINK IT IS.)



HEY DUDES!
IT'S NEW, IT'S COOL!

A NEW FRUIT DRINK
WITH PACIFIC COOL
AND CALIFORNIA
STYLE



BITTEN BY A RADIOACTIVE SPIDER, STUDENT PETER PARKER GAINED THE PROPORTIONATE STRENGTH AND AGILITY 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®**

MAN OF STEAL!

THIS IS THE BLACK FOX, ONE OF EUROPE'S MOST NOTORIOUS JEWEL THIEVES. BUT TONIGHT HE'S AFTER A PRICE MOST NEW YORKERS WOULD CONSIDER FAR MORE PRECIOUS:

AN APARTMENT!



DAVID
MICHELINIE
WRITER

ERIK
LARSEN
PENCILER

RANDY
EMBERLIN
INKER

RICK
PARKER
LETTERER

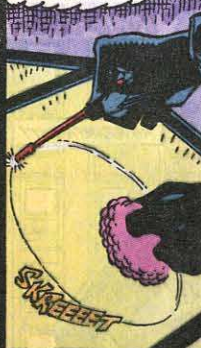
BOB
SHAREN
COLORIST

DANNY
FINGEROTH
EDITOR

TOM
DEFALCO
EDITOR IN CHIEF

THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN® Vol. 1, No. 349, July, 1991. (ISSN # 0274-5232) Published by MARVEL COMICS, Terry Stewart, President, Stan Lee, Publisher, Michael Hobson, Group Vice President, Publishing, OFFICE OF PUBLICATION: 387 PARK AVENUE SOUTH, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10016. SECOND CLASS POSTAGE PAID AT NEW YORK, NY AND AT ADDITIONAL MAILING OFFICES. Published monthly. Copyright © 1991 by Marvel Entertainment Group, Inc. All rights reserved. Price \$1.00 per copy in the U.S. and \$1.25 in Canada. Subscription rate for 12 issues: \$12.00 U.S.; \$17.00 Canada; and \$24.00 foreign. No similarity between any of the names, characters, persons, and/or institutions in this magazine with those of any living or dead person or institution is intended, and any such similarity which may exist is purely coincidental. This periodical may not be sold except by authorized dealers and is sold subject to the condition that it shall not be sold or distributed with any part of its cover or markings removed, nor in a mutilated condition. THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN (including all prominent characters featured in the issue and the distinctive likenesses thereof) is a trademark of MARVEL ENTERTAINMENT GROUP, INC. POSTMASTER: SEND ADDRESS CHANGES TO: THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN, c/o MARVEL COMICS, 9TH FLOOR, 387 PARK AVENUE SOUTH, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10016. Printed in the U.S.A.

ALL I NEED DO IS
REMOVE A SINGLE
PANE--



-- INFUSE A SPECIALIZED
MIST OF MY OWN CON-
COCTION INTO THE ROOM
BELOW--



--AND
VOILA!



ROBERT CHALMERS'S
SECURITY RELIES HEAVILY
ON MOTION DETECTORS
AND INFRARED TRIP
BEAMS!

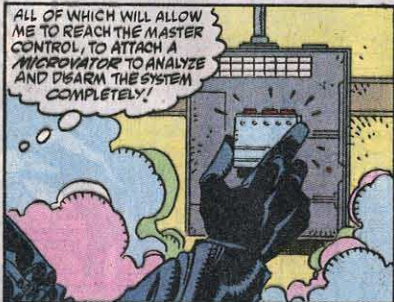


BUT THE
PETROLEUM
BASE OF THE
MIST WILL MASK
MOVEMENTS--

-- WHILE ITS
IRIDESCENT CHEMICALS
WILL MAKE "INVISIBLE"
BEAMS OBVIOUS EVEN
TO MY AGING EYES!



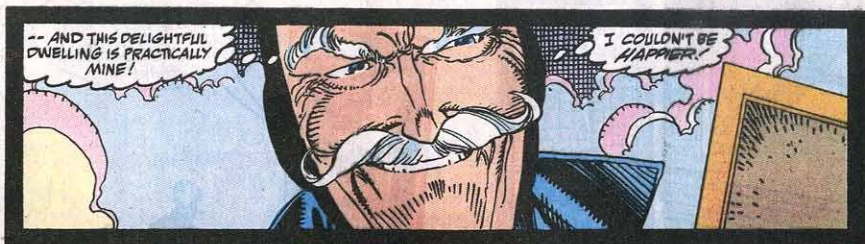
ALL OF WHICH WILL ALLOW
ME TO REACH THE MASTER
CONTROL, TO ATTACH A
MICROVATOR TO ANALYZE
AND DEARM THE SYSTEM
COMPLETELY!



... NOW, ONE FINAL TOUCH--



-- A SUPERB
LIKENESS,
I MUST SAY--





MY, WHAT A FINE LIKENESS.

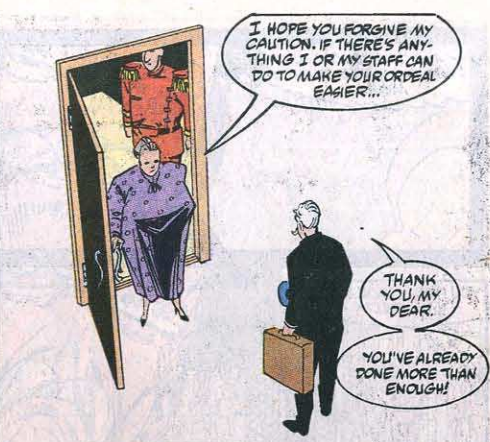
AND HERE'S THE WILL, RIGHT WHERE YOU THOUGHT.

RIGHT WHERE I PLANTED IT!



EVERYTHING APPEARS TO BE IN ORDER.

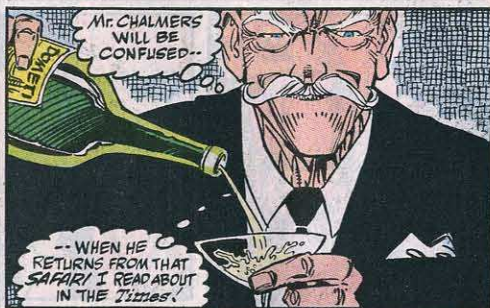
THANKS TO THE BEST FORGER IN LONDON!



I HOPE YOU FORGIVE MY CAUTION. IF THERE'S ANYTHING I OR MY STAFF CAN DO TO MAKE YOUR ORDEAL EASIER...

THANK YOU, MY DEAR.

YOU'VE ALREADY DONE MORE THAN ENOUGH!



MR. CHALMERS WILL BE CONFUSED--

-- WHEN HE RETURNS FROM THAT SAFARI I READ ABOUT IN THE TIMES.



BUT ENOUGH BACK-PATTING! NOW THAT I'VE PROVIDED MYSELF WITH COMFORTABLE QUARTERS, I'D BEST SET TO--



-- THE REAL REASON I CAME TO NEW YORK!

RECRUIT YOUR OWN TEAM OF SPECIAL FORCES.



TEN-HUT! G.I. Joe®
Special Forces
Trading Cards
are now ready
for inspection.

Two hundred
cards in all. The
front of each one
blazing with color and
action, the back filled
with top-secret infor-



mation. Start your own
collection with your
favorite G.I. Joe and
Cobra characters, or
collect and trade
them by categories
like Rank & File,
Patrols, Original Joe
Team, Battle Gear and
even Special Missions.
Enlist now! Be the very

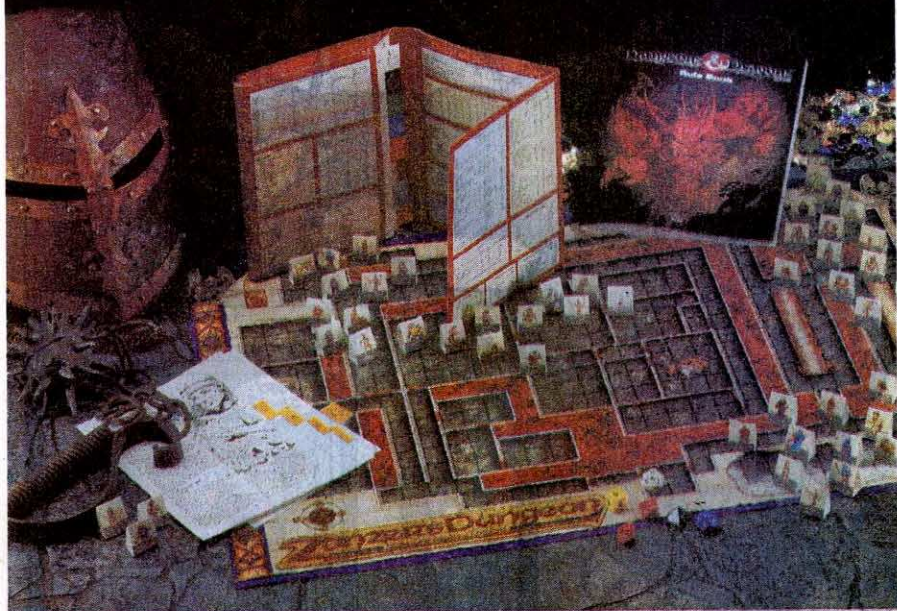
first one on your block
to join ranks with the
premier edition of the
G.I. Joe Special Forces
Trading Cards.

They blow ordinary
trading cards away.

GI JOE
A REAL AMERICAN HERO®



You're in for the Time of Your Life!



The world's toughest adventure game is the DUNGEONS & DRAGONS game! New this summer.

Dungeons & Dragons® GAME

Perilous Journeys and Heroic Adventures...



is Alias of the Azure Bonds!

Her medieval world is filled with courageous warriors, wizards, and elves. And the more heroes (like you), the better—because the new DUNGEONS & DRAGONS® game is filled

vern, and mysterious dungeons!

Once inside, you'll discover incredible magic, fame, and treasure. . . But beware, the chambers are also filled with horrible monsters. And here is your ultimate challenge: can you beat the dragons and escape unharmed?

If so, join millions of other players in this great adventure, and play the new DUNGEONS & DRAGONS game. It is fun to learn and easy to play! Unlike any game you've ever played, it takes you on heroic adventures where you rely on your imagination and teamwork

Fun from the moment you open the box, the game is filled with maps, adventure cards, dice, heroes, and a huge dungeon filled with monsters. So call some friends over—and start your adventure today!

The new DUNGEONS & DRAGONS game is for two or more players. You can find it at Toys R Us, Waldenbooks, B. Dalton, and hobby stores everywhere!

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NUTS. HAPPENED SO FAST, I DIDN'T
GET A CHANCE TO SET UP MY
AUTOMATIC CAMERA!

LEAST I'VE GOT A PHOTO ASSIGNMENT
FOR THE DAILY BUGLE LINED UP

--BUT
THRILLS
DON'T
PAY THE
BILLS!--

I'M SUPPOSED TO
SHOOT THE UNVEILING
OF THE TRASK DIAMOND.
IT MAY NOT BE EXCITING--

BUT
BEFORE
THE PHOTO
SHOOT,
A QUICK
STOP...

"...HOME."

MARY
JANE?

HOW
COME
YOU'RE
HOME?

I
BELIEVE
THE
TECHNICAL
TERM IS--



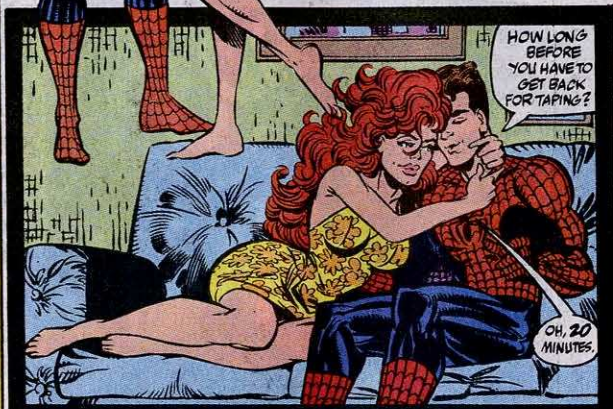
--"SURPRISE!"



YOU HAVEN'T SAID ANYTHING, BUT I KNOW I'VE BEEN A LITTLE NEGLECTFUL LATELY, ESPECIALLY AFTER ALL YOU WENT THROUGH WITH VENOM ON THAT ISLAND!*

SO I TOLD THE FOLKS AT THE T.V. STUDIO I WAS HAVING LUNCH AT HOME-- WITH YOU.

* IN ISSUE 347. -- Denny



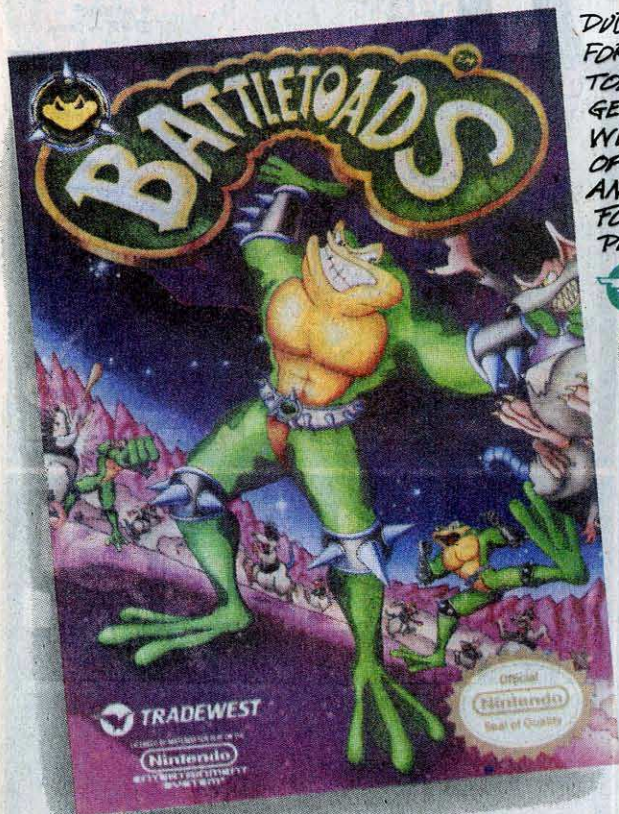
HOW LONG BEFORE YOU HAVE TO GET BACK FOR TAPING?

OH, 20 MINUTES.



MAYBE 30...

COMPARED
TO BATTLETOADS,
TURTLES SEEM
LIKE POND SCUM.



DUDE, IF YOU'RE READY
FOR A GAME THAT
TOADALLY KICKS BUTT,
GET BATTLETOADS.
WITH 12 LEADIN' LEVELS
OF FIERCE FIGHTING
AND RADICAL RACING,
FOR ONE OR TWO
PLAYERS.

 TRADEWEST



KENNEDY AIRPORT.

AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL.

WE
CLEAR,
SID?

ALL RUNWAYS
OPEN. MAN, I
HATE THESE
PRIORITY
LANDINGS...

TRAFFIC'S
GONNA BE
STACKED UP
FOR HOURS!
I TELL YA--

...ROYALTY
CAN BE A
REAL PAIN!

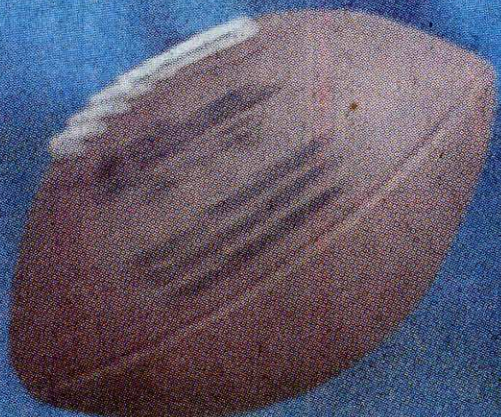
SIDNEY, YOU HAVE
NO IDEA...!

WHILE IN
MIDTOWN...

AN EXQUISITE
COLLECTION,
MR. uh, "CHAL-
MERS" IS IT
THIS TIME?



KICK OFF 1991 WITH SCORE!



THE MOST FUN YOU CAN HAVE WITH FOOTBALL CARDS

Introducing the super series of the year... Score's sizzling 1991 Football Card Collection.

Is it action-filled? Yes! Colorful? Of course! And it's loaded with exciting new subsets, including the totally unique "Dream Team," featuring football's finest players, close-up and personal.

So get them while you still can. Remember you can't win if you don't Score.

SPECIAL SCORE® GLOSSY SET OFFER

NFL™ FOOTBALL YOUNG SUPERSTARS™

40 top NFL™ young players are featured in this exclusive glossy SCORE set with full color photography on each side. Each set comes in its own colorful display box.

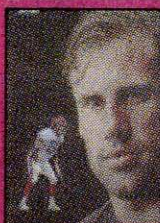
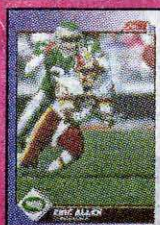
To order, send this coupon and five 1991 SCORE Football wrappers, a check or money order for \$6.00 payable to Major League Marketing along with your name and address on a 3" x 5" card and mail to: NFL™ Young Superstars™ Offer, Major League Marketing, 25 Ford Road, Westport, CT 06880. Connecticut residents add 8% sales tax. Sets will be ready for shipment in September 1991. Offer good while supply lasts.

BELOW IS A PARTIAL LIST OF PLAYERS:

EMMITT SMITH ANDRE WARR HAWWOOD JEFFRIES MARK CARRARA

SCORE®

THE OFFICIAL CARD OF THE 1990s™





AN, BUT RAYMOND TRASK
KNOWS WHAT HE HAS! AMONG
OTHER THINGS: THE SPRAWLING
HIGH-RISE LIVING/SHOPPING
COMPLEX CALLED TRASK
CENTER. WHERE, THE
NEXT DAY...

REST
EASY,
FOLKS--

...THE TRASK
DIAMOND
WILL BE MAKING
ITS DEBUT
SHORTLY!

WHAT EGO!
I HAVEN'T SEEN
THE LIKE IN ALL
MY YEARS AS
FINANCIAL
REPORTER FOR
THE BUGLE!

I KNOW, KIM. HE
BUYS THE FAMOUS
"STAR OF ZAIRE,"
AND THEN RENAMES
IT AFTER HIMSELF!

WORSE, HE'S GOING TO
LOWER IT FROM THE
"HEAVENS"; THEN LEAVE
IT ON VIEW AS A PUBLICITY
GIMMICK!

IN A STATE-
OF-THE-ART
THEFT-PROOF
DISPLAY CASE,
NO LESS!



MUST BE GETTING TOO
OLD & SNIFFLE TO BE
CRAWLING AROUND IN
COLD, DANK AIRSHAFTS!

ESPECIALLY
WHEN I HAD TO
TARRY TO NEGATE
SENSOR TRAPS!



"HOPEFULLY, THEY'RE NOT
READY FOR ONE OF MY GAS
BLASTERS!"



NOW, PRETTY
COME TO ME!

AND WE'LL
FIND OUT--

"IF THESE
"ACCESSORIES"
ARE WORTH THE
FENCE
MONEY I
SPENT ON
THEM."



MOMENTS
LATER...



COURTESY OF RAYMOND
TRASK!
FOR ALL THE
WORLD TO--

DOM PONTACOS



...see?

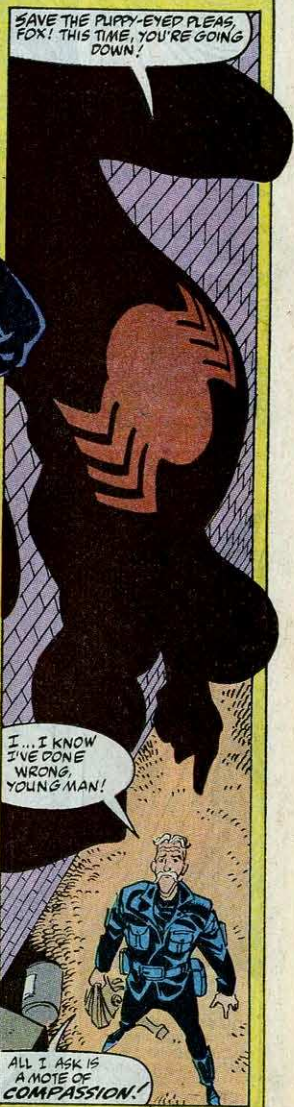
I-IT'S
GONE!

CALL THIS IN
TO THE BUGLE,
KIM! I'LL TRY
TO GET SOME
DETAILS!





BUT TO QUOTE A CERTAIN 'WALL-CRAWLER':
"WANNA BET"?



THIS WAS TO BE MY FINAL EFFORT--AND IT WILL BE, NO MATTER THE OUTCOME!

I'LL RETURN THE DIAMOND, GLADLY!

ALL RIGHT!

GIVE ME THE JEWEL.

AND GET OUT OF TOWN.

I MERELY ASK MY FUTURE IN RETURN! I'M OLD! CAGED IN A CELL, I'D WITHER AWAY! DIE SLOWLY OF DISEASE, DESICCATION! A SAD SHELL OF WHAT I ONCE--

SIR, YOU ARE A SAINT! A PARAGON OF KINDNESS!



-- HE'S TAKING A SPIDER-TRACER WITH HIM!

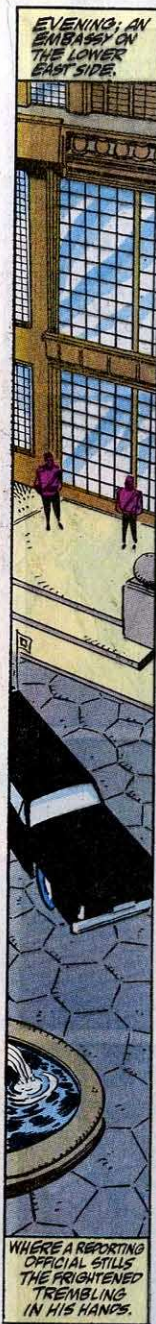
SOON... I DON'T KNOW HOW TO THANK YOU FOR RETURNING THE TRASK DIAMOND, SPIDER-MAN!



-- A WORTHLESS PIECE OF GLASS!

=sighs

THERE ARE TIMES I'M GLAD I WEAR A MASK...





Bust Out of the Ordinary!

Tear into action with the new **MARVEL SUPER HEROES™ Basic Set!** Join **CAPTAIN AMERICA™**, the **THING™**, and the **HULK™** in cleaning up underworld crime. If you're brave enough to take on creeps like the **SCORPION™** or **Dr. OCTOPUS™**, then this game's for you.

This new game is fun and challenging—and the rules are written by **SPIDER-MAN™** himself. And the game shows you how to make your hero

perform all of the daring feats from your favorite comic... making the comic stories come to life!

This game includes a rule book, campaign book (with 80 heroes and criminals), maps, 72 character cards, dice, and more!

If you never tried a role-playing game, this one's for you! For two or more players, ages 12 to adult. Find it at hobby and

book stores everywhere.

MARVEL SUPER HEROES



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1991. All Rights Reserved.

A large, dynamic illustration of Spider-Man in his red and blue suit, swinging through the air. He is holding a web in his right hand. The background shows a city at night with a full moon and some clouds.

AGAIN AND AGAIN HE
CROSSES THE NIGHT-
DARK CITYSCAPE--

-- THAT HE DOESN'T
NOTICE THERE
ARE OTHER
PLAYERS IN THE
GAME.

-- FINDING!

SENSES
BARE.

SEEKING.

-- FOCUSING FULL
CONCENTRATION
ON DETECTING THE
Faintest of signals
FROM HIS SPIDER
TRACER.

THAT'S HIM!
IN THE
SPORTS
CAR!

STOLEN,
NO DOUBT!

AND AT
LONG
LAST.

SO DELIGHTED WITH
SUCCESS IS HE--

A DISCREETLY FOLLOWING
LIMOUSINE... WITH
DIPLOMATIC TAGS!

WEAPON X™

Dynamite Cover
Art By Barry
Windsor-Smith
On White

Style # 6104
\$9.95



Silver Surfer's
Team Earth
Cosmic
Environmental
Statement
From Marvel's
Star Surfer
On White

Style # 6105
\$9.95



Ghost Rider
(Logo On Front)
Glow In The Dark
Puff Printed Skull
On Black
(Back View)

Style # 6106
\$10.95

**SPIDEY KNOWS T-SHIRTS****SPIDEY KNOWS SUPER HEROES****SPIDEY KNOWS MUTANTS**

**AND SPIDEY KNOWS YOU CAN'T
GET THESE MARVEL T'S
WITHOUT HIS PICTURE ON
THE HANG TAG & LABEL**

You won't find these great designs in any store. These Marvel T's were created exclusively for Marvel readers and are being offered exclusively through this ad.

We guarantee the quality will knock your socks off! These Marvel T's are 100% Natural earth fiber (aka 100% cotton). The original artwork is reproduced through state-of-the-art silkscreen technology; the results are the hottest T-shirts on the planet!

Money back guarantee: if you are not satisfied with your purchase for any reason, send it back for a prompt refund.

**SPIDEY™ SAYS ORDER NOW!**

Send the following:

- Name, Address, Zipcode, Telephone Number
- Style #, Size (boys s, m, l, or mens s, m, l, xl)
- Price plus \$3.00 shipping & handling (Checks or money order, no COD)
- CA residents please add 6.5% sales tax
- Allow 4 weeks for delivery

To: MRI Corporation
MCRB P.O. Box 2321
Chatsworth, CA 91311

AND EVENTUALLY, AT A DESERTED
BANKRUPT RESORT ON THE NORTH
SHORE OF LONG ISLAND...

CLOSED
UNTIL
FURTHER
NOTICE

RETIREMENT IS BUT
A RANSOM AWAY...!

I READ OF
YOUR SUCCESS IN
THE NEWSPAPERS,
MR. FOX.

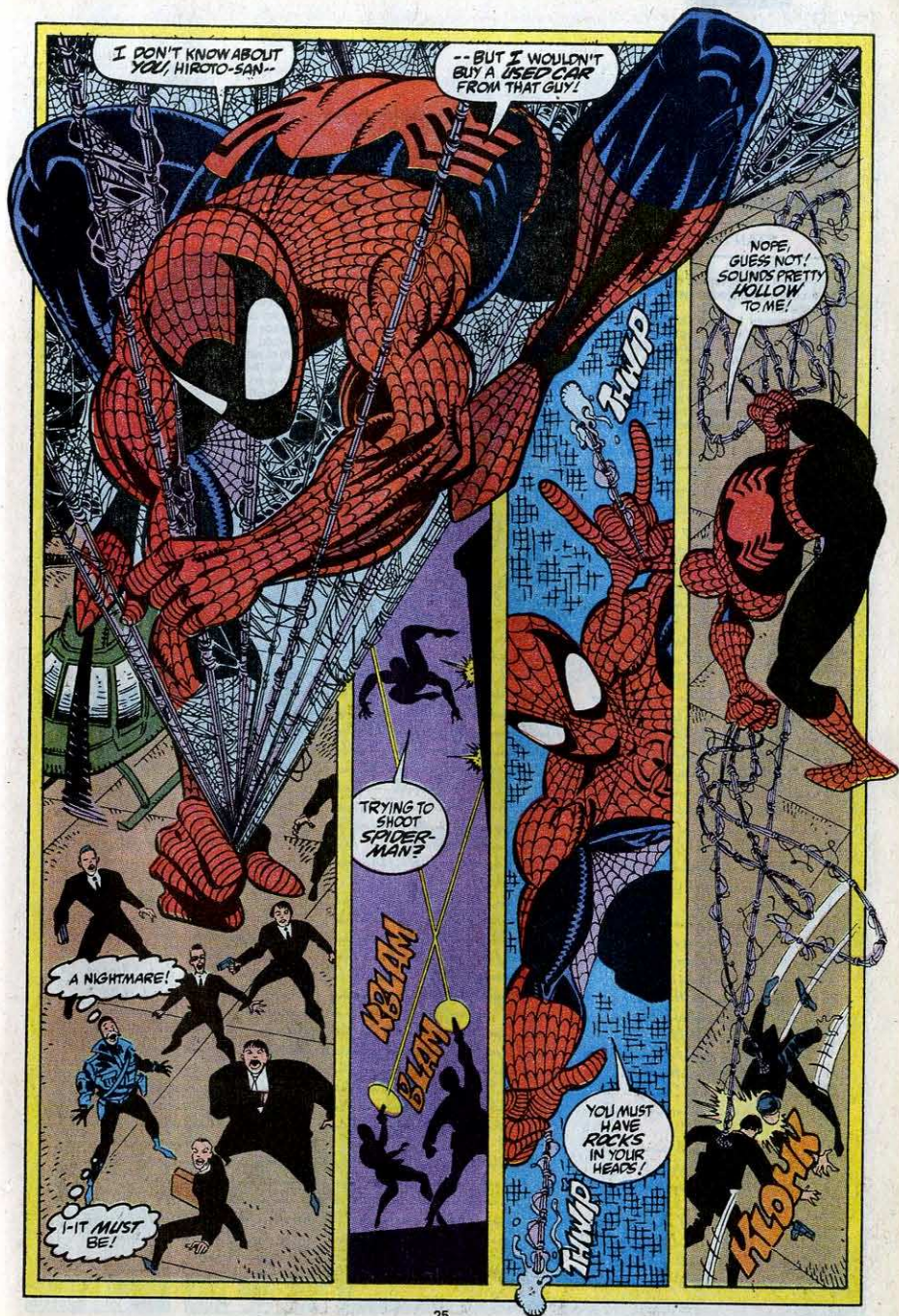
MY EMPLOYER
WAS WISE IN COMMISS-
IONING YOU TO OBTAIN
THE DIAMOND.

AH!
HIROTO
HAS ALREADY
ARRIVED!

YOU HAVE THE CASH, MR. HIROTO?
USED, UNMARKED BILLS?

EVERYTHING IS
IN ORDER, MR. FOX.
AFTER ALL...

-- WE ARE BOTH
BUSINESSMEN,
ARE WE NOT?



I DON'T KNOW ABOUT YOU, HIROTO-SAN--

--BUT I WOULDN'T BUY A USED CAR FROM THAT GUY!

NOPE, GUESS NOT! SOUNDS PRETTY MELLOW TO ME!

TRYING TO SHOOT SPIDER-MAN?

A NIGHTMARE!

IT MUST BE!

KBLAM
BLAM

YOU MUST HAVE ROCKS IN YOUR HEADS!

THUMP

KLOCK

MARVEL
COMICS

STAN'S SOAPBOX

Hi, Heroes.

It had to happen! It's one of the most exciting new projects in years! Here's how it started...

Whenever I'm at a ComicCon or any place where there's a gaggle of frantic fans, I'm always asked questions like "What's Todd McFarlane really like?" or "How does Tom DeFalco manage to supervise so many titles?" or "Is it true that Chris Claremont's really a mutant?" etc. It seems that readers can't get enough information about their favorite comicbook people.

Well, since I always aim to please, I

discussed this subject with a few other comicbook freaks and we came up with a dynamite idea...

Anyone who owns a video cassette player will now have a fantastic opportunity to see and learn about the world's most popular comicbook creators! I'm planning to interview most of the top talents in the biz in a series of collector's-item videos, which you'll be able to get at your favorite comicbook shop or video store!

In fact, by the time you read this, the first two videos may already be on sale! We're calling the series "THE COMICBOOK GREATS." Each video will be an in-depth, full-length interview with one of comicdom's top talents. You'll have a rare opportunity to see exactly how your favorite

comicbook greats work while I hit 'em with the questions you yourself might want to ask. And, for once, I'll shut up long enough to let the other guys do most of the talking!

Of course, there's one serious problem! After seeing themselves on these fantastic cassettes, our video stars might give up comics and go into show biz! But we've got an ace in the hole! If Romita heads for Hollywood, we'll teach Schwarzenegger how to draw!

So, till The Punisher buys a Barbie doll—see ya on video!

Excelsior!



It's May, so those young scallawags up at Marvel Comics thought it would be a hoot to have somebody named May write this month's Bullsh!p Barnacles Page. So, purely at random, they selected me, May Parker, beloved aunt of Peter Parker, that well-known photo-journalist. Since making wheelchairs isn't taking up all my time anymore, I accepted the job (although, to be honest, I haven't read a comic book since the Yellow Kid was wearing yellow diapers.)

They told me I could write about whatever struck my fancy, but since it's been some time since I've had my fancy struck, I thought I'd tell you about my trip into the city two months back. I was strolling through Manhattan, looking for that special wool I need to knit some new sweaters, and I saw that nice young Mark Gruenwald, who is Executive Editor of Marvel Comics, and, who, by the way, is one of the most eligible bachelors in the city. Mark was holding a video camera, and was filming something he called the Marvel Tubb Video.

The videos this year, and all the major comics conventions this year, and will feature all your favorite Marvel editors talking about their upcoming projects. But here's the peachy part—this video will feature the Marvel crew in their off hours so you'll get a glimpse of their personal lives. For instance, Mel Yuster will be seen performing with his group, the Glencians, at a jazz club. Carl Potts will be fishing. Jim Salicrup will be seen at Tron film studios, home of Marvel's newest comic book, the JOXIC AVENGER.

As I continued to walk around the city, I saw a bunch of Marvel employees boarding a bus for a big ski trip. Now, I myself haven't skied in years, though, in my day, I was quite a "hamburger," as they say. I also was quite a dancer—I could do a Lindy like nobody's business, and nobody could touch my fox trot.



Why, with my husband, Ben, God rest his soul, I used to do a Charleston that would leave em gasping for air!

Oh, ahem, I seem to have strayed from the topic. Now, where was I? Oh, yes, the Marvel ski trip. It took place in March. About twenty Marvel persons headed up to the Berkshires in West Massachusetts, where they had a sociable, clean, outdoorsy experience together. It seems when four Marvel staff people—Sarra Mossioff, Rob Tolan, Kevin Kobasic, and Kevin Teng—went to the Berkshires in January, they had such a good time, these rascalions decided to go back, and bring their friends with them!

Of course, skiing season is far behind us, and we're now entering into warmer weather, so you know what that means. Yes, it's time to start up a new season of bridge tournaments. I understand we're also entering softball season, so you can be sure the Marvel softball team is breaking out the pigskin and preparing for another big year. Young Evan Stelnick, who last year led Marvel to one of their first winning seasons in years, does not know if he's going to manage the team again. I wouldn't blame him if he didn't. The responsibilities of the position look like they've contributed to his premature hair loss, the poor boy...

What's that? Oh, all right. I've been asked to mention some comic book conventions. Now, myself, I've never been to such a thing, but I do attend a couple of bake-offs every year and I imagine they're much the same, except you can't eat comics. I have a prize-winning cherry colider,

which Anna Watson says is super-scrumptious. Come over sometime, and I'll give you a taste. Anyhow, here's what I'm supposed to tell you about the conventions...

The Chicago Comiccon is June 28-30. For information, write 1219 West Devon, Chicago, IL 60660 or call (312) 743-4493. Guests will include Chris Claremont, Mark Bagley, Jan DeZulor, and Mark Gruenwald.

The San Diego Comiccon is July 4-7. You may write P.O. Box 128458, San Diego, CA 92112-8458, or call (619) 491-2089, if you wish. Guests include Jim Lee, Chris Claremont, Jack Kirby, Fabian Nicieza, and Paul Ryan.

The Atlanta Comics Expo is July 12-14. Write Box 47696, Atlanta, GA 30362, or call (404) 925-2813 for details, if you're of a mind. Guests include Frank Miller, Al Williamson, Mark Bagley, Wayne Vansant, Ted McKeever, Bob Horras, and Terry Kavanagh.

The Dallas Fantasy Fair is July 19-21. Write P.O. Box 820488, Dallas, TX 75382, or call (214) 330-4303 if you want to know more. Guests include Carl Potts, Mike Rodden, Ron Frenz, and Rob Tolan.

The Atlanta Fantasy Fair is July 26-28. Write 4175 Eliza Ct., Lithonia, GA 30058, or call (404) 985-1230. Guests include Bob Rodden, Mrs. Swirls, Mark Bagley, Renee Witterstaetter, and Marie Jarvis.

My goodness! That took up space. I guess I can stop soon. I hope you enjoyed my Bullsh!p Barnacles Page. I'm glad I had the chance to write for a Marvel Comic, although I admit I know next to nothing about comic books. Marvel publishes those books about that awful Spider-Man, that much I know.

Till next May, this is May Parker leaving you with a funny saying I heard a bobby-sover tell his chum, "If I don't see you in the mattress, I'll see you in the spring!"

MONEY FIRST!



DIAMOND FIRST!

MONEY FIRST!

DIAMOND FIRST!



TASTES GREAT!
LESS FILLING!

?!?

THUMP



SLAM!

OH, NO!
THE UPDRAFT
FROM THE
HELICOPTER--!



MONEY MAN'S
GETTING
AWAY!

THOK

CRASH

AND THE
FOX IS TAKING
OFF IN THE
OPPOSITE
DIRECTION!

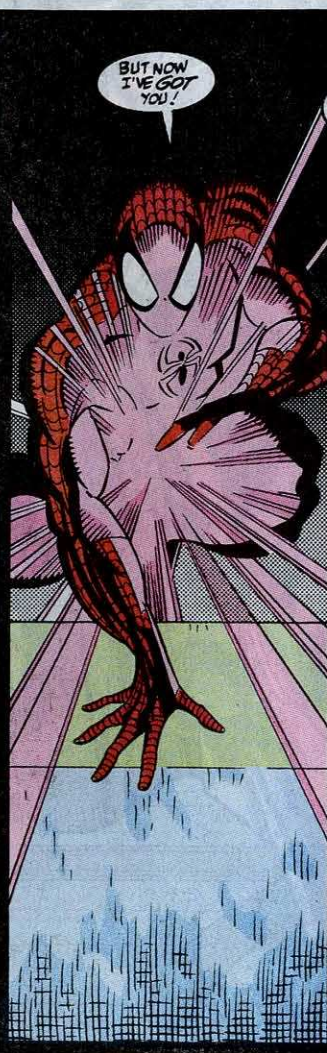


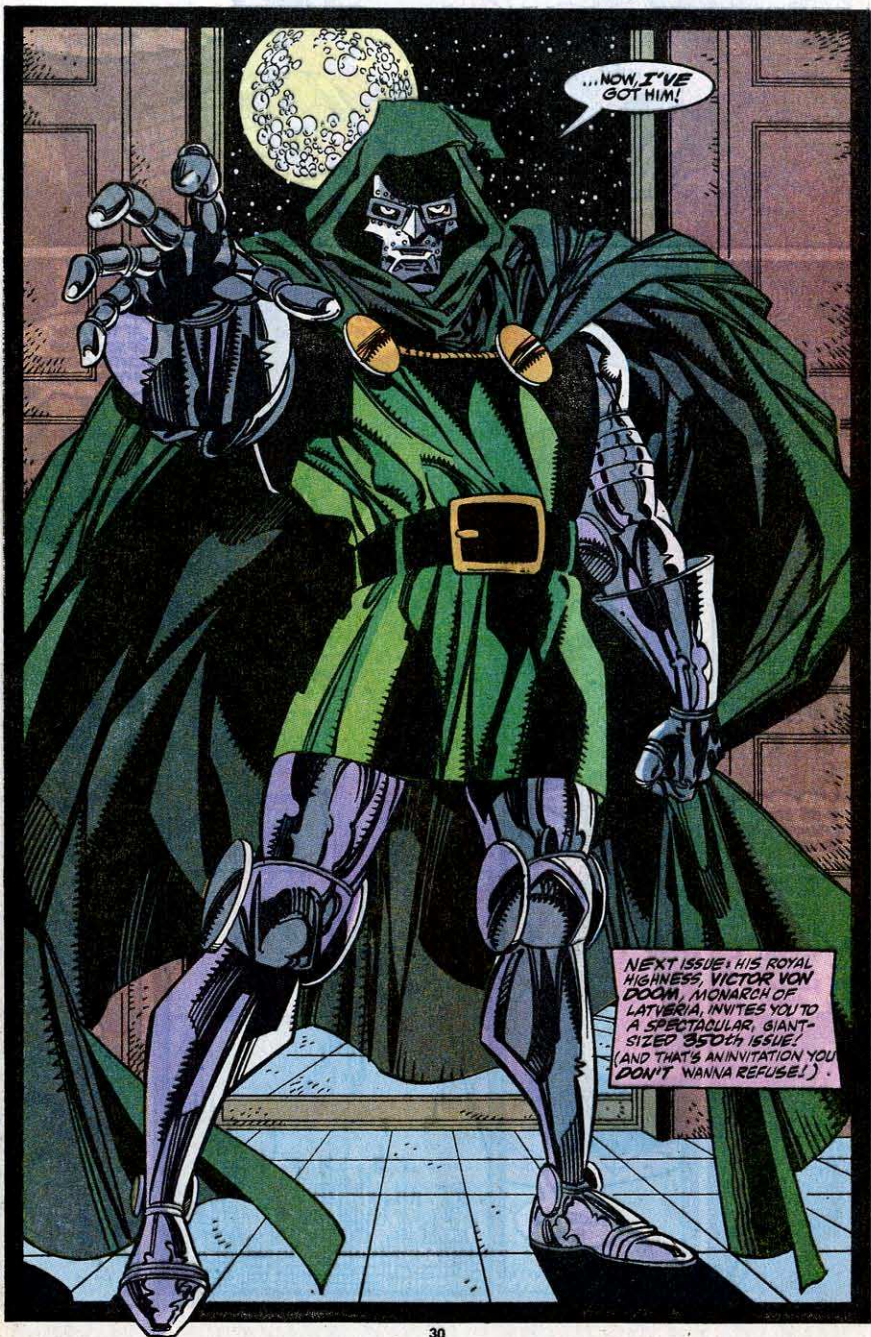
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THE SPIDER'S WEB

% MARVEL COMICS GROUP

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

In SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #178, on sale in two weeks, begins the six-part "The Child Within," saga by J.M. DeMatteis and Sal Buscema. J.M., of course, wrote the classic "Kraven's Last Hunt," among a zillion other credits, so you know it'll be terrific. And Sal is doing, without doubt, the finest work of his career on it. "Child" features Vermin and the Green Goblin, and explores startling aspects of their -- and Spider-Man's -- pasts. Here's the cover. Don't let yourself miss it.



Chameleon for copyright, Make Mine Marvel!

Chris Sutton
211 Rich Street
Goderich, ON
Canada N7A 1X4

Glad we redeemed ourselves in the last few pages, Chris. Thanks for sticking around. Or course, with David Michelinie's ever-twisting plots, who wouldn't?

Dear Weakling Spidey-People,

I've just finished reading the second installment in your "Powerless" trilogy. It's great to see the Black Cat back in action again, especially the way Larsen draws her. Hubba Hubba! I don't know who that mysterious guy at the hospital was, but this Dr. Turner guy has to be the Chameleon. As for poor Peter's reasoning to drop his powers -- he probably should have thought it through a little more. He can protect his family a lot better with the proportionate strength of a spider than he can with the strength of a freelance photographer. Peter has to realize his powers are a gift and he can't relinquish them the first chance he gets. I mean, did Captain America give up his crime-fighting dream because he was on ice for a few years? Did Simon Williams hang up his uniform just because he died?

Well, I guess I've bored you long enough with my idealistic ways. Here's hoping Spidey mends his costume by the time issue #343 rolls around.

Robert J. Pearson
8906 Five Palms
San Antonio, TX 78242

Score yourself 2 points for guessing the 'good doctor's' true identity, Robert!

Dear Jim, David, Erik, and the band,

I've been reading all the Spider-titles for years, and yet, critical or complimentary, you've never printed a letter from me! So I figured maybe if I finally go for the no-prize you'd take me seriously. Here goes:

Issues #343: On pages 9, 11 & 13, the Black Cat's boots have claws at the toes, yet nowhere else thought the mag is this so, they are just ordinary boots. In fact, I have never seen her boots have claws in any other magazine before. I figured this must be a new feature she recently added to her costume, and that the claws are retractable and that she only releases them when she chooses to. Please rush

that no-prize over, okay?

While I'm talking about issue #343, I loved it, and I've really enjoyed this particular storyline. Peter has so often grappled with the burden and responsibility his powers have bought, and it's about time he realized that he's the same man of character with or without them.

Just one of more point, on Erik's artwork: Erik, you are terrific artist and I love your work, but please treat your female characters with a bit more respect! You draw some truly beautiful faces, definitely the most attractive faces of all the Spider-titles, but nobody in real life would dress the way your women dress unless they were total bimbos (which Mary Jane certainly is NOT!). Women can be glamorous and sexy without being trashy and cheap. Remember, MJ is a high-fashion model; she knows better. Please think about it.

Well, keep up the great work, all of you. Till the Kingpin goes for liposuction, Make Mine Marvel!

Lynne Cassouto
980 East 18th Street
Brooklyn, NY 11230

Wow! When we asked for more replies from our female fans, we didn't know what we were letting ourselves in for! We'll try to be more careful in the future, Lynne. We'd like

to keep hearing from you and other women who enjoy Spidey.

As for the Cat's claws, part of her new powers (which she now has lost) was the ability to sprout claws during moments of extreme anxiety. Remember when she sliced up Sabretooth's face? Cosmetic claws couldn't do that!

And whether you love or hate Erik's work, here's a major announcement: Erik's last issue of AMAZING will be the giant-sized #350 featuring Dr. Doom! What's Erik going to be doing? That's a secret right now, but when you find out, you'll be amazed!

"Who's going to be taking over as ASM penciler?", you ask. Why, none other than NEW WARRIORS' own MARK BAGLEY! You've seen his Spidey before, in WHAT IF #4 and in AMAZING #345, but now that he's getting the regular gig, the Bagman's going all out to make his Spidey super-special.

But before that...

NEXT MONTH: Giant-sized 350th issue! Spider-Man vs. Doc Doom! Erik's last issue! Be here!

Dear Marvel,

Okay, I wrote this letter because AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #343 had so many things I loved and so many things I hated that I got very confused! Bad news first (so the good news will cheer you up): Erik Larsen's artwork. I know it's been over a dozen issues that I've had a chance to form an opinion, but I can't Larsen strings together a couple of great issues and then BOOM -- one like this. Specifically, page 14, last panel; but overall his bodies just don't seem...right.

The second was the ease with which the Black Cat fought all those foes. I mean, what was SCORPION -- one like this. Specifically, page 14, last panel; but overall his bodies just don't seem...right.

But I forgot all that after pages 22-24. Hilarious, all three pages! I almost laughed up a gut when Spidey missed SCORPION! Please, keep this kind of humor coming. It's even funnier when Spider-Man doesn't mean to be funny.

So until the Skrull sue the

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