

MARVEL
COMICS

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THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN®

SEPT
#426



DeFALCO
SKROCE
LAROSA

**SPIDEY FACES HIS
DEADLIEST FOE,
WHO IS...**

**ARMED AND
DANGEROUS!**



TM & © 2006 MARVEL

HEY, IT'S
THE EVER-
AMAZING

SPIDER-MAN!

A true hero at heart, Spider-Man has dedicated his life to preventing injustices against the innocent.



Meet Peter Parker, once a brilliant, though meek, high school student, orphaned as a child and reared by his doting Uncle Ben and Aunt May. At a science fair, Peter was bitten by an irradiated spider and gained the proportionate strength, speed, agility and early warning "spider sense" of that arachnid. He used these powers for personal fame and fortune as a masked Spider-Man. But when Peter failed to stop a criminal who later killed his beloved Uncle Ben, the youth's costumed identity took on a far deeper significance. He realized that with great power there must also come great responsibility. So Peter Parker became the wall-crawling nemesis of the criminal element, a young man determined to atone for the tragic death of his uncle — The Amazing Spider-Man!

MARY JANE WATSON-PARKER

The wife of Peter Parker/Spider-Man, and his closest confidant. She has currently returned to Empire State University as a student majoring in psychology.



THE ROSE

A criminal mastermind whose face is hidden behind a mask, thus, his identity is a secret from all. The Rose's chief goal is the consolidation of New York's underworld behind him and the elimination of Spider-Man as a threat to his power.



DELILAH

The Rose's primary enforcer, she is a super-powered woman who has been set on the trail of Spider-Man several times, though she has failed to destroy him.



PAUL STACY

The brilliant, arrogant cousin of Peter Parker's late girlfriend, Gwen Stacy. He has recently moved to New York with his sister Jill and father Arthur, and attends E.S.U. as both a student and tutor.



ALISON MONGRAIN

A woman in the employ of Norman Osborn, the Green Goblin, who recently aided him in the death or abduction of the Parkers' infant.



THE HAND

A secretive cult of Asian assassins who worship a master called "The Beast." Due to arcane rituals they perform, the Hand has been able to revive the dead. Their most implacable in America has been the scarlet swash-buckler—Daredevil.



DOCTOR OCTOPUS

Otto Octavius was a researcher in atomic physics who had designed and built a chest harness with four artificial arms attached that allowed him to manipulate radioactive substances from a distance. A freak accident bonded the harness to his skin and affected his mind which then turned toward criminal enterprise. Doctor Octopus is one of the web-spinner's earliest enemies who has been thwarted time and again by Spider-Man.



STUNNER

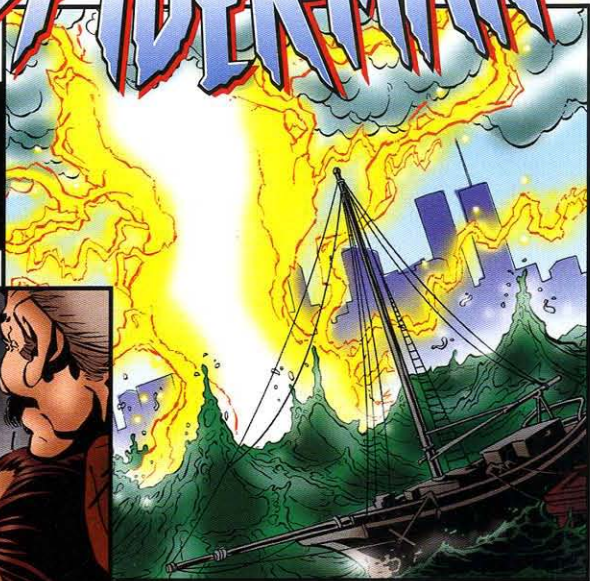
A virtual reality construct possessing super-human strength and endurance. She was the lover of Otto Octavius just before his death. Stunner has taken in the hatred of Spider-Man felt by Octavius.



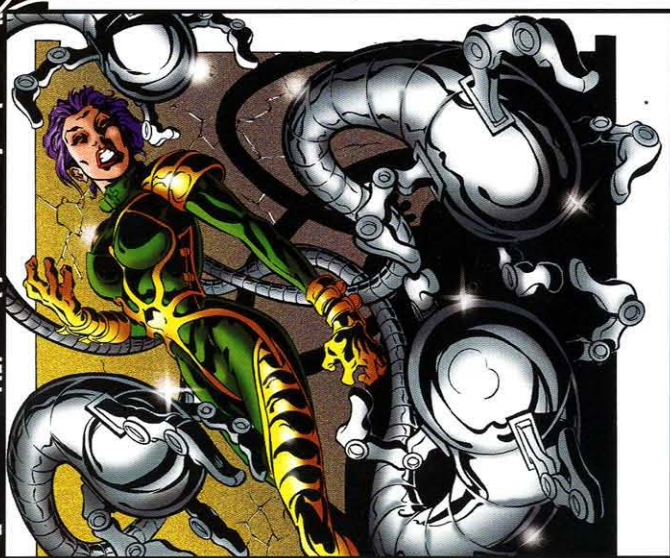
PREVIOUSLY IN

THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN

Last time, Spider-Man battled Electro across New York until the electrical menace plunged into the East River and disappeared.



Elsewhere, a strange cult of assassins called the Hand had removed the body of another of Spider-Man's greatest enemies--Doctor Octopus--from its grave in a Brooklyn cemetery.



When this was reported on the news, Carolyn Trainer, who had taken the good doctor's place--Lady Octopus--vowed to go in search of the grave robbers and exact revenge.



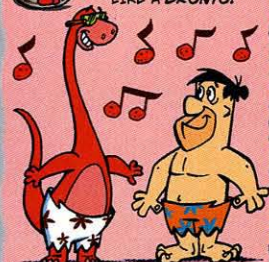
NEW BRONTO BRIGHT™

Post Fruity PEBBLES®

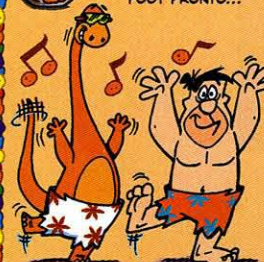
COLORS SO LOUD, YOU CAN DANCE TO 'EM!



HERE'S HOW TO
BOOGIE
LIKE A BRONTO!



WAVE YOUR ARMS
AND RAISE YOUR RIGHT
FOOT PRONTO...



POINT YOUR FINGERS
TO THE GROUND, SHAKE
YOUR OTHER FOOT AND
TURN AROUND!



WIGGLE YOUR TAIL
FOR FRUITY TASTE...



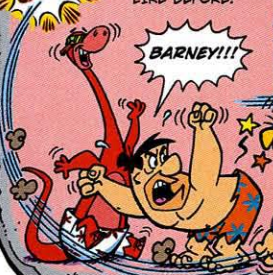
AND DO A
FANCY
WALK-IN-PLACE!



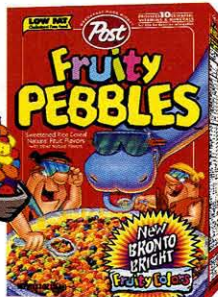
BEND OVER FAST AND
TOUCH
THE
FLOOR—



GRAB YOUR BEST
FRIEND'S PEBBLES
LIKE BEFORE!



I THINK YOUR PEBBLES ARE
BRIGHTER THAN YOU ARE, FRED!
HEE HEE!



DR. OTTO OCTAVIUS

PARKER...P!

CAN
YOU HEAR ME,
PETER?

I'M
COMING
BACK!

BACK
FROM THE
DEAD!



KLTPZYXME

TOM DEPALCO
WRITER

STEVE SKROCE
PENCILER

BUD LAROSA
INKER

STAN LEE PRESENTS:

ONLY THE **EVIL** RETURN!



S-SOME-
THING WRONG,
PETER?

J-JUST
A BAD DREAM,
MARY JANE.

RICHARD STARRINGO
& **CONICRAFT/KS**
LETTERS

RALPH MACCHIO
EDITOR

BOB HARRAS
CHIEF



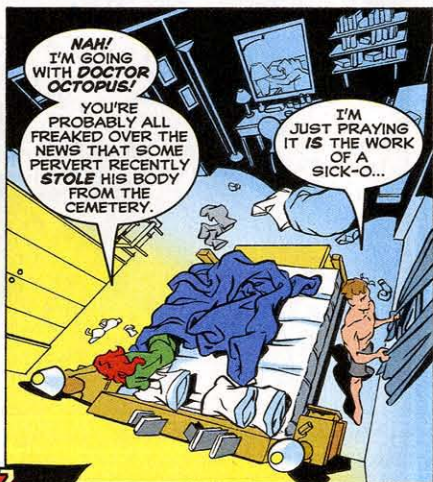
I... I'M REAL Y
SORRY I
DISTURBED
YOU.

GO
BACK TO
SLEEP!

LET ME GUESS WHO'S
BEEN BUGGING YOU
LATELY...

...YOU
FINALLY CAUGHT
UP WITH ELECTRO, SO
THAT LEAVES... THE
CHAMELEON?

JACK
O'LANTERN?

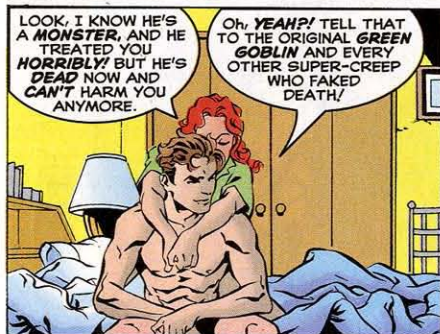
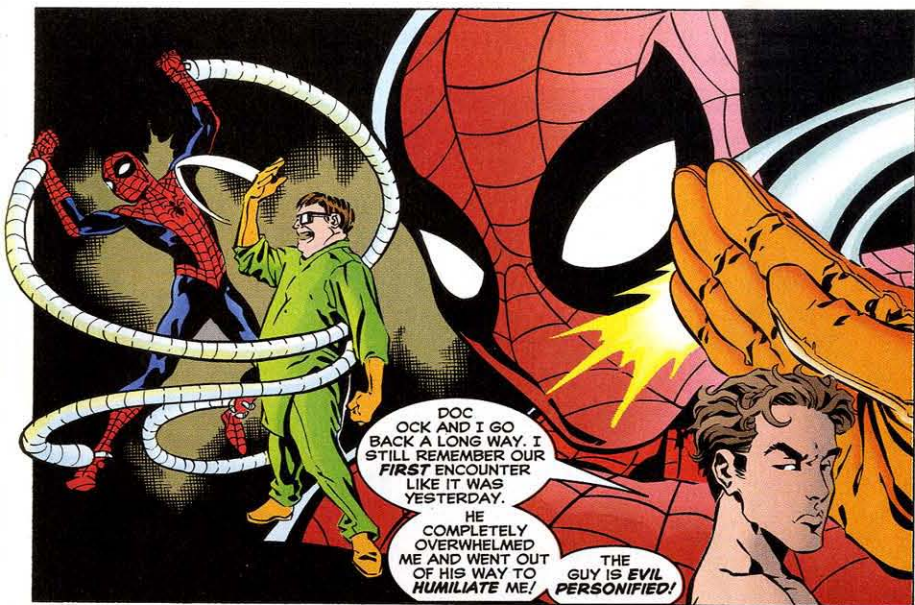


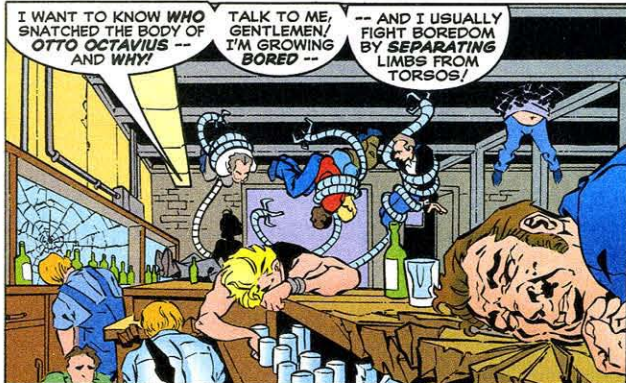
NAH!
I'M GOING
WITH **DOCTOR**
OCTOPUS!

YOU'RE
PROBABLY ALL
FREAKED OVER THE
NEWS THAT SOME
PERVERT RECENTLY
STOLE HIS BODY
FROM THE
CEMETERY.

I'M
JUST PRAYING
IT IS THE WORK
OF A
SICK-O...







I WANT TO KNOW WHO
SNATCHED THE BODY OF
OTTO OCTAVIUS --
AND WHY!

TALK TO ME,
GENTLEMEN!
I'M GROWING
BORED --

-- AND I USUALLY
FIGHT BOREDOM
BY SEPARATING
LIMBS FROM
TORSOS!



C-COME TO
THINK OF IT,
LADY...

...I
MIGHT'VE HEARD
A RUMOR OR TWO!



W-WHAT'S
IT WORTH
T'YAP?

E-EVEN A STOOLIE'S
GOT T'EARN HIS
LIVIN'!

NOT
NECESSARILY!
YOU DON'T NEED
TO EARN --

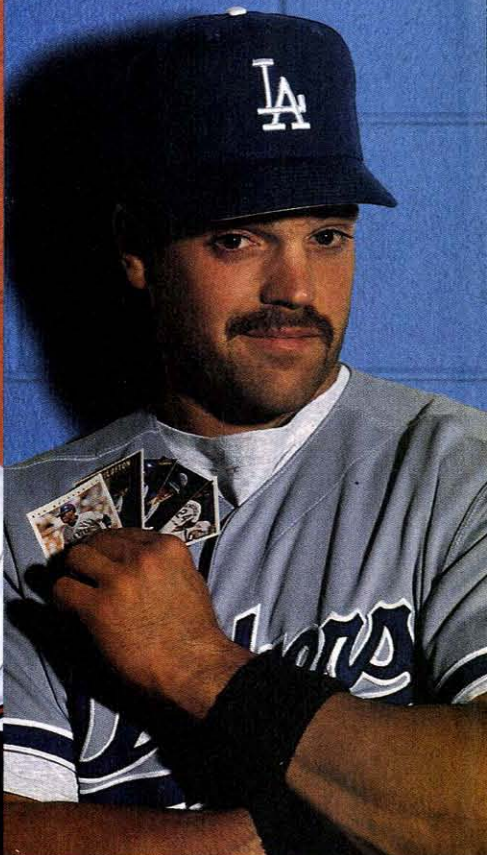
-- WHAT
YOU WON'T
DO!

NOW
THEN, YOU WERE
SAYING --P!

"I feel better knowing
Mike has my stolen base
stats-so he can see
he's not the only catcher
I've embarrassed."



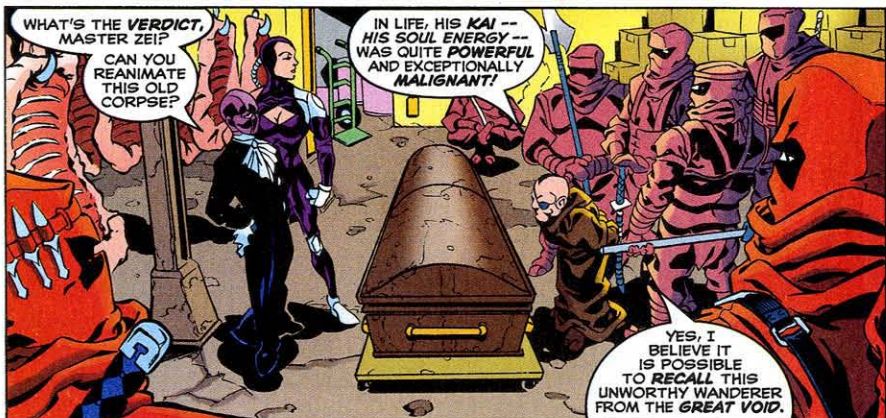
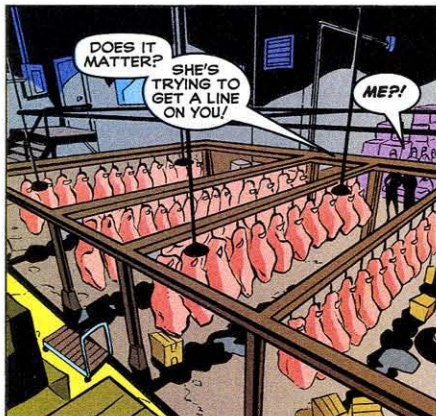
"Keep reading, Kenny.
It'll give you something
to do in the dugout
after I've gunned you down."



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1. NO PURCHASE NECESSARY. For a copy of complete official rules (by which all participants are bound) and to receive a free game message, send a self-addressed, stamped (#10) envelope to: Oscar Mayer "Nogglevision" Requests, P.O. Box 4640, Blair, NE 68009-4640. Residents of WA and VT only need not affix postage to return envelopes. Limit one request per outer mailing envelope. Requests must be received by 3/5/98. Game ends 4/2/98. 2. TWO WAYS TO WIN - COLLECT AND WIN. Look inside specially marked packages of Oscar Mayer Lunchables Fun Packs for the official game message. Four different Collect and Win game messages are available, each showing one of the following letters: "N," "I," "C," "K." If your game message is one of the Collect and Win letters, carefully cut out the game message and save it to try to collect all 4 Collect and Win game messages. If you succeed in collecting 1 of each of the 4 different Collect and Win game messages, you have won a Grand Prize (subject to verification). To claim a prize, see Rule #3. 3. TO CLAIM A PRIZE: Mail your entire original official game message(s) in a hand-addressed, stamped (#10) envelope along with a plain piece of 3" x 5" paper on which you have hand printed your complete name, address, zip code, (optional) daytime and evening telephone numbers, and mail it in a hand-addressed, stamped (#10) envelope to: Oscar Mayer "Nogglevision" Second Chance, P.O. Box 4611, Blair, NE 68009-4611. Limit one entry per envelope. No mechanically reproduced entries permitted. Second Chance Entries must be received by 4/2/98 to be eligible. A Second Chance Drawing to award any unclaimed First or Second prizes will be conducted on or about 4/9/98 from among all eligible entries received. Odds of winning in the Second Chance Drawing will depend upon the number of eligible Second Chance entries received and the number of unclaimed prizes. 4. PRIZES, APPROXIMATE RETAIL VALUES AND APPROX. ODDS OF WINNING. INSTANTLY UNCLAIMED GRAND PRIZES WILL NOT BE AWARDED. A: 1,500 prizes with a maximum total approximate retail value of \$59,500, are available to be won as follows: (i) Grand Prizes - 7 day/night trip for a family of 4 to the Nickelodeon Studios in Orlando, FL, including round-trip coach air transportation from major airport nearest winner's home, hotel accommodations (2-bedroom suite), a V.I.P. tour of Nickelodeon Studios, admission tickets to Universal Studios Florida and rental car (\$5,400 ea.), 1,750,000; (500) First Prizes - A Tiger Rugrats Toy Tag electronics game (\$25 ea.), 1,750,000; (1,000) Second Prizes - A Tiger Rugrats hand-held electronic game (\$20 ea.), 1,37,800. B: GENERAL RULES. Game open only to U.S. residents, 17 years of age and younger, as of 4/2/98. Void where prohibited. Items included in the Back to School Supply Kit are recommended for children three years of age and older. See specially marked packages of Lunchables Fun Packs for complete offer details. Offer expires 1/31/98, and/or while supplies last. Void where prohibited. Items included in the Back to School Supply Kit are recommended for children three years of age and older.



ONCE UPON A TIME --
AS CORNY AS IT MAY
SOUND -- SHE COULD
LITERALLY BEND STEEL
IN HER BARE HANDS.



SHE COULD BENCHPRESS
A BUICK WITH EASE --

-- AND SHATTER
CONCRETE WITH-
OUT EFFORT.



BUT NOW, SHE CAN
BARELY FIND THE
STRENGTH TO DRAG
HERSELF OUT OF BED
IN THE MORNING --

-- TO FACE THE
DRUDGERY OF
ANOTHER DAY --



-- AND TO TOIL AT A
BORING JOB WHICH,
IRONICALLY, CATERES
TO THE FANTASIES
OF OTHERS!

ALL IN ALL, LIFE
HAS NOT SMILED
AT ANGELINA
BRANCALE...



BUT HER LUCK'S
ABOUT TO CHANGE!

ANGELINA! I
NEED YOU --!

D-DOCTOR
TRAINER --
CAROLYN?

W-WHY ARE
YOU WEARING MY
DARLING OTTO'S
METAL LIMBS
AGAIN?



I'M PREPARING FOR
HIS RETURN, BUT I
NEED YOUR
HELP ...

...THE
TIME HAS
COME FOR
STUNNER
TO LIVE
AGAIN.

AT THAT VERY MOMENT, IN A LECTURE HALL AT EMPIRE STATE UNIVERSITY...

I SEE YOU GIVING ME THE HAIRY EYEBALL, PAUL STACY.

BAD ENOUGH YOU'RE AN OBNOXIOUS WASTE, BUT I RECENTLY LEARNED YOU'RE ALSO A MUTANT-HATING MEMBER OF THE FRIENDS OF HUMANITY.

I DON'T NEED A STIFF LIKE YOU IN MY LIFE, STACY, AND SO...

...I SQUOOSH YOU!

TOO BAD IT'S ONLY A TEMPORARY SOLUTION! YOU'LL BE BACK --

-- PRACTICALLY EVERY ENEMY I'VE EVER FOUGHT HAS RETURNED AT SOME TIME OR ANOTHER!

IT DOESN'T MATTER HOW THOROUGHLY I TRASH THEM, THEY ALWAYS FIND A WAY TO COME BACK!

MARY JANE THINKS I'M ONLY BEING PARANOID...

...BUT IF A GUY LIKE **NORMAN OSBORN**, THE ORIGINAL **GREEN GOBLIN**, CAN FOOL EVERYONE INTO THINKING HE'S BEEN DEAD FOR YEARS --

THE GUY PLANNED FOR EVERYTHING!

-- WHY CAN'T A CRIMINAL GENIUS LIKE **DOCTOR OCTOPUS**?

EVEN IF HE IS DEAD, I WOULDN'T BE ALL THAT SURPRISED IF HE SOMEHOW FOUND A WAY TO PULL A **Dr. FRANKENSTEIN**, AND --

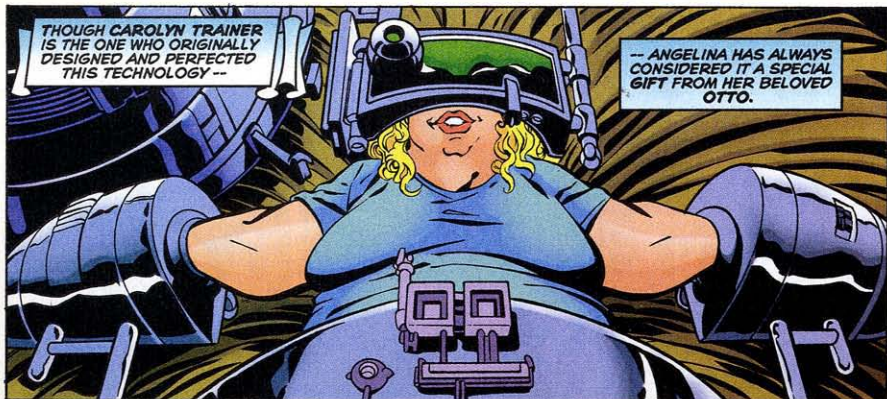
WHOA!

I KNOW IT'S CRAZY...

...AND YET...

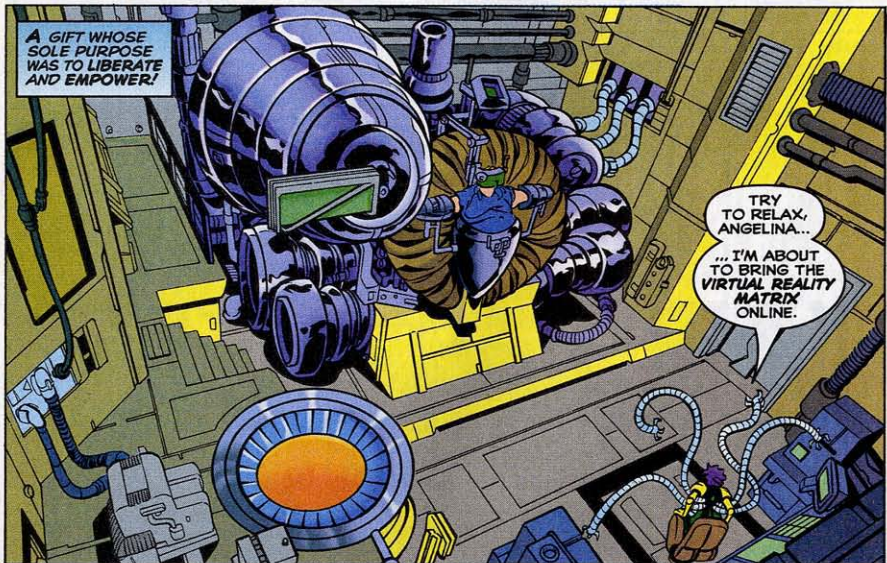
WHAT IF THIS PROCESS REALLY EXISTS?

LOOKS LIKE I FINALLY REACHED **PARKER**! THIS MORNING'S LECTURE SEEMS TO HAVE ELECTRIFIED HIM!



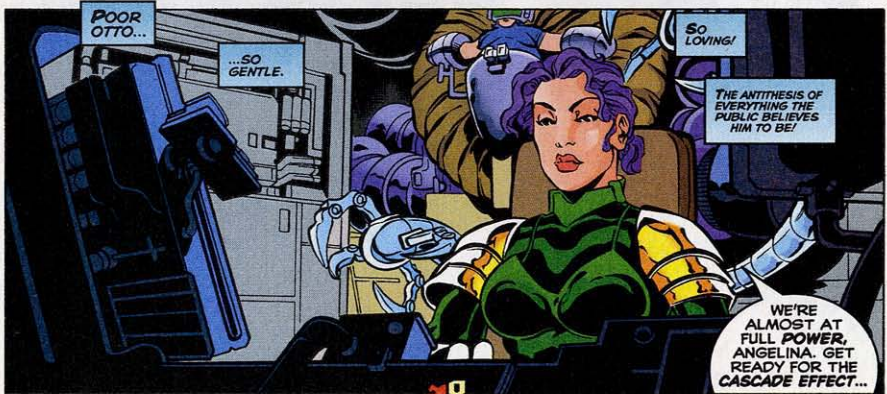
THOUGH CAROLYN TRAINER IS THE ONE WHO ORIGINALLY DESIGNED AND PERFECTED THIS TECHNOLOGY --

-- ANGELINA HAS ALWAYS CONSIDERED IT A SPECIAL GIFT FROM HER BELOVED OTTO.



A GIFT WHOSE SOLE PURPOSE WAS TO LIBERATE AND EMPOWER!

TRY TO RELAX, ANGELINA...
... I'M ABOUT TO BRING THE VIRTUAL REALITY MATRIX ONLINE.



POOR OTTO...

...SO GENTLE.

SO LOVING!

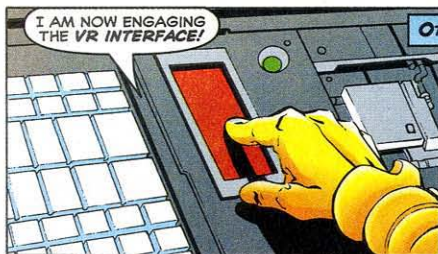
THE ANTITHESIS OF EVERYTHING THE PUBLIC BELIEVES HIM TO BE!

WE'RE ALMOST AT FULL POWER, ANGELINA. GET READY FOR THE CASCADE EFFECT...

**WARNING:
CONSUMPTION OF
THIS TASTY BITE-
SIZED COMBINATION
SNACK MAY CAUSE
SUPER HULK STRENGTH,
ULTRA-HYPER SENSI-
TIZED HEARING AND
SPIDERLIKE
BEHAVIOR.**



Spider-Man, Hulk: TM & © 1997 Marvel Characters, Inc. © Mars Incorporated 1997



OTTO...



ANYTHING





IF OCK'S DEATH WAS A FAKE OUT --

-- WHO WAS BURIED IN HIS PLACE --

-- AND WHY WAS THE BODY STOLEN?



RUMORS OF MY OWN DEATH HAVE OFTEN BEEN WIDELY CIRCULATED --

-- AND YOU CAN'T PICK UP A NEWSPAPER WITHOUT READING AN OBITUARY OR A RETRACTION ABOUT ONE OF THE X-MEN!



EVERY COSTUME JOCK I KNOW HAS BEEN FALSELY REPORTED DEAD AT ONE TIME OR ANOTHER!

IN FACT, I KEEP HOPING -- PRAYING, REALLY -- TO HEAR THAT ALL THE HEROES WHO WERE REPORTED KILLED BY ONSLAUGHT A FEW MONTHS BACK ARE ACTUALLY ALIVE SOMEWHERE!

YEAH...

...FAT CHANCE!



SINCE I HAVEN'T GOT A CLUE ABOUT OCK'S REAL STORY --



-- MY BEST BET IS TO MAKE THE ROUNDS OF MY FAVORITE STOOL PIGEONS, AND --

-- WELL, WELL, WHAT HAVE WE HERE?





APPAREL
PUT IT TOGETHER YOURSELF

PUT IT TOGETHER YOURSELF

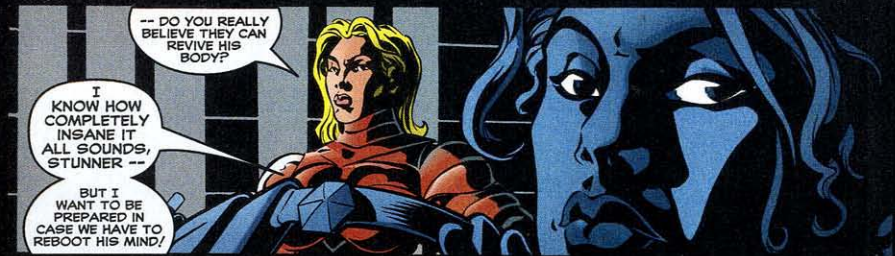
VANS
Since 1966

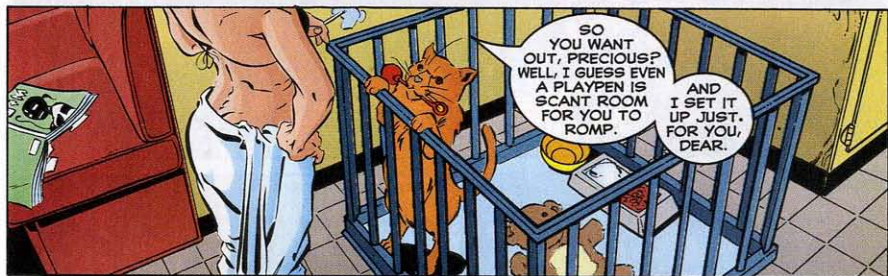
INCLUDES: Backside Polo, Diarco Long sleeve,
Ashrun short, Singelton Long sleeve, Crimp
Short, Boundary Jersey, Pouch Top,
Tooter Short, Duckpin Top, Uni Short,
Winter Crew, Shaman Short, Floyd Jacket

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YOU SURE THIS IS THE PLACE?



MY INFORMANT KNEW BETTER THAN TO LIE --

-- AND A MEAT PACKING COMPANY SEEMS AN APPROPRIATE PLACE TO STORE A BODY.

I GUESS...



Uh... CAROLYN?



I'M SORRY I EVER DOUBTED YOU.

APOLOGY ACCEPTED, STUNNER!



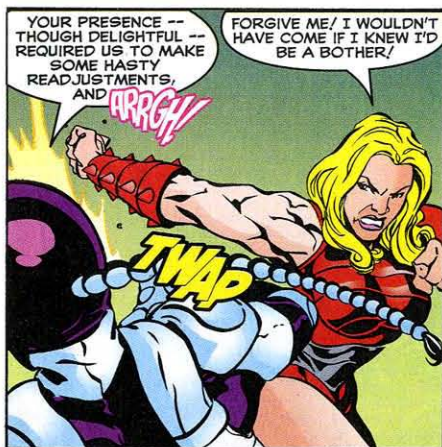
WELCOME TO OUR Funhouse, LADIES!

I'M THE DEADLY Delilah, AND I'LL BE YOUR HOSTESS THIS EVENING!



PLEASE EXCUSE THE Haphazard NATURE OF THIS ASSAULT, BLONDIE.

WE ONLY EXPECTED THE Octopus Lady...



YOUR PRESENCE --
THOUGH DELIGHTFUL --
REQUIRED US TO MAKE
SOME HASTY
READJUSTMENTS,
AND

ARRGH!

FORGIVE ME/ I WOULDN'T
HAVE COME IF I KNEW I'D
BE A BOTHER!



SKIP THE
SNAPPY PATTTER,
STUNNER --

-- AND
CONCENTRATE
ON FINDING
OCTAVIUS!



My! My!
YOUR FRIEND
IS RATHER
PUSHY!

I
SUPPOSE IT'S
ONLY TO BE
EXPECTED!

SPWAK

THE EXTRA LIMBS
ARE A SURE SIGN OF A
CLASSIC OVERACHIEVER!



DON'T BE SO QUICK TO
JUDGE HER, DELILAH! SHE'S
BEEN **STRESSED OUT** EVER
SINCE YOUR STUPID-LOOKING
NINJAS MADE OFF WITH
OUR BELOVED
OTTO!

SHE
DESERVES A
BREAK!

AND
I'LL BE GLAD
TO GIVE HER
One...
WITH THIS VERY
Meat Hook...
JUST AS SOON AS
I'VE DISPOSED OF
YOU!



THWIPP

THWIPP!
DID I
REALLY HEAR
A...
THWIPP!



I'M AFRAID **SO**,
LADIES...

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| <input type="checkbox"/> AVE Avengers | <input type="checkbox"/> IRM Iron Man |
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| <input type="checkbox"/> DDV Daredevil | <input type="checkbox"/> ZAR Ka-Zar |
| <input type="checkbox"/> ELK Elektra | <input type="checkbox"/> SIL Silver Surfer |
| <input type="checkbox"/> FAN Fantastic Four | <input type="checkbox"/> BLT Thunderbolts |
| <input type="checkbox"/> GHR Ghost Rider | <input type="checkbox"/> WHI What If... |
| <input type="checkbox"/> HFH Heroes For Hire NEW | |

Spider-Man

- | | |
|--------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> AMZ Amazing Spider-Man | <input type="checkbox"/> SSM Sensational Spider-Man |
| <input type="checkbox"/> SP1 Spider-Man | <input type="checkbox"/> PPK Spectacular Spider-Man |
| <input type="checkbox"/> VEN Venom | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> VEN (US orders only) | |

The X-Men

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| <input type="checkbox"/> DDP Deadpool | <input type="checkbox"/> FAC X-Factor |
| <input type="checkbox"/> EXC Excalibur | <input type="checkbox"/> XFO X-Force |
| <input type="checkbox"/> GEN Generation X | <input type="checkbox"/> MAN X-Man |
| <input type="checkbox"/> XME Uncanny X-Men | <input type="checkbox"/> MEN X-Men |

Star Trek

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| <input type="checkbox"/> EVS Star Trek: Early Voyages |
| <input type="checkbox"/> DS9 Star Trek: Deep Space Nine |

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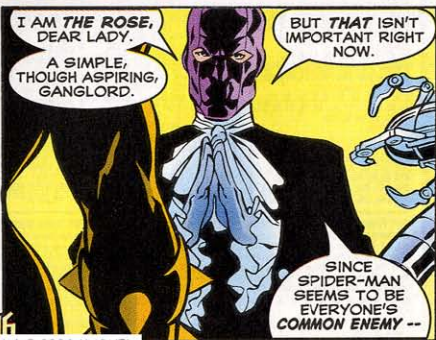
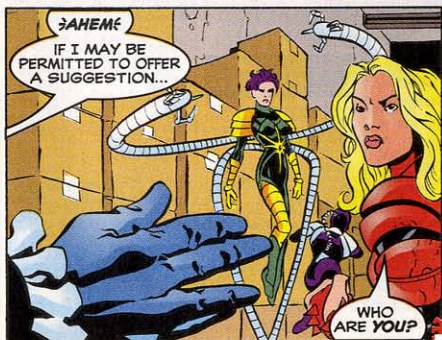
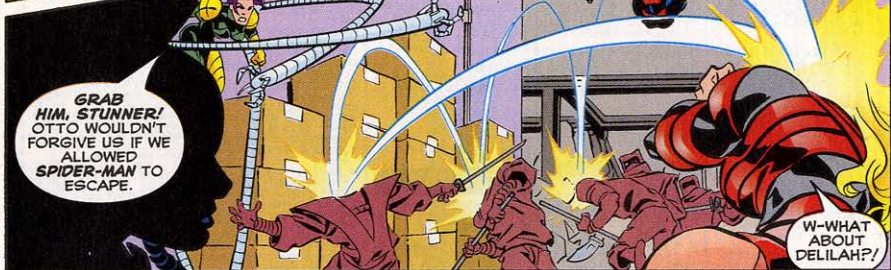
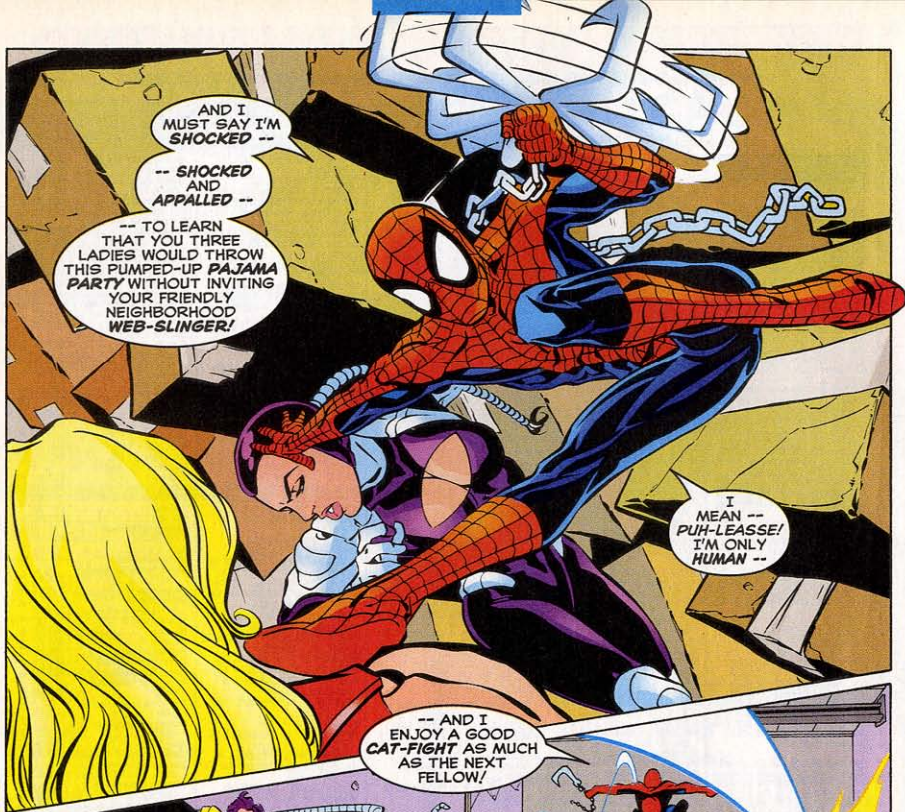
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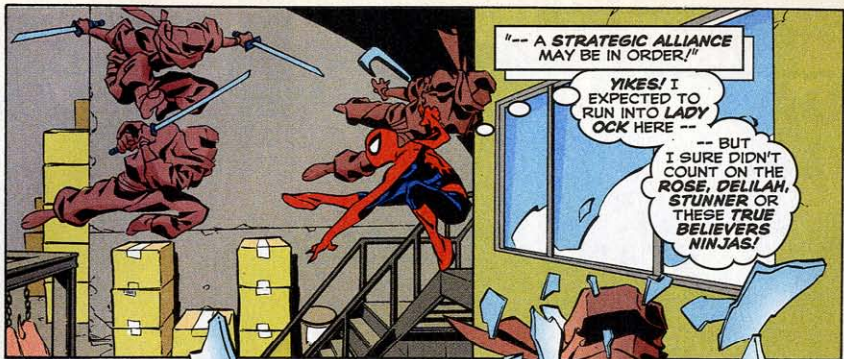
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H77MD9





"-- A STRATEGIC ALLIANCE
MAY BE IN ORDER!"

YIKES! I
EXPECTED TO
RUN INTO LADY
OCK HERE --

-- BUT
I SURE DIDN'T
COUNT ON THE
ROSE, DELILAH,
STUNNER OR
THESE TRUE
BELIEVERS
NINJAS!



A QUICK
SOMERSAULT
INTO THIS BACK
OFFICE MAY GIVE ME
A MOMENTARY
BREATH --

-- AND
ADDITIONAL
ROOM TO
MANEUVER!

HEYYY!
THIS FANCY
RUG GIVES
ME A WILD
IDEA!



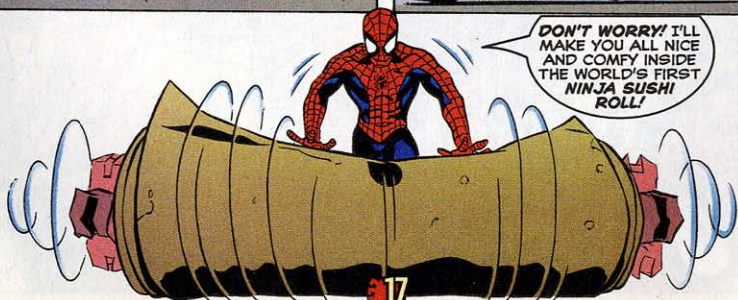
YOU SHALL DIE,
GA/JIN... BUT NOT
IN THE WAY YOU
IMAGINE!

THAT'S
A RELIEF!



I ALWAYS
FIGURED I'D
CHECK OUT WHILE
FIGHTING CLOWNS
LIKE YOU!

OOOPS!
DID I UPSET
YOUR DELICATE
BALANCE?

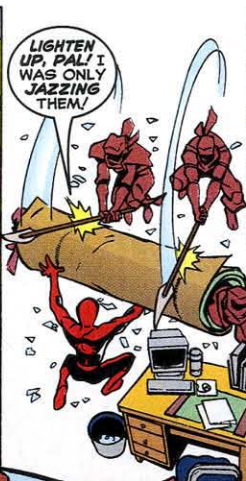


DON'T WORRY! I'LL
MAKE YOU ALL NICE
AND COMFY INSIDE
THE WORLD'S FIRST
NIN-JA SUSHI
ROLL!



ONLY AN **INSOLENT DOG** --

-- **WOULD HUMILIATE OUR WARRIOR BROTHERS IN SUCH A GROTESQUE FASHION!**



LIGHTEN UP, PAL! I WAS ONLY JAZZING THEM!



BESIDES, I MIGHT HAVE EVEN IMPROVED THEIR FIGHTING SKILLS --!



PASTYNAK

CHECK IT OUT! THEY JUST FLATTENED THE TWO OF YOU!



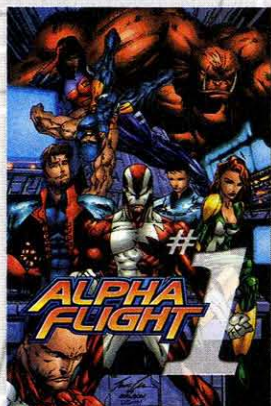
Uh-Oh! SPIDER-SENSE WARNING ME OF AN ATTACK FROM BEHIND!

I COULD EASILY LEAP ASIDE --

-- BUT THAT'S NO FUN!

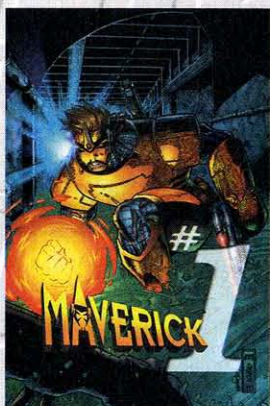


I'M GLAD I REMEMBERED TO HANG MY AUTOMATIC CAMERA FROM THE RAFTERS --



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-- BECAUSE
THE **DAILY BUGLE**
WILL PAY MEGA-
BUCKS FOR THIS
PICTURE!

T-THIS
CANNOT
BE --!



SURRRRE,
IT CAN!

IN CASE YOU DIDN'T KNOW,
STUNTS LIKE THESE ARE
WHY MY FANS CALL
ME THE **AMAZING**
SPIDER-MAN --

-- INSTEAD
OF AVERAGE,
INADEQUATE OR
INEPT!



SPEAKING OF LESSER
ADJECTIVES...

...I KNOW YOU
TRUE BELIEVERS
ARE ALL SUPPOSED TO
BE HIGHLY SKILLED
MERCENARIES --

-- BUT YOU
PEOPLE FIGHT LIKE
YOU'RE ALL ASSIGNED
TO THE **ACCOUNTING**
DEPARTMENT INSTEAD
OF THE **COMBAT**
DIVISION!



I WONDER
WHERE THEY'RE
STORING **DOC**
LOCK'S BODY.

LOUIE
THE LIP SAID
I'D FIND IT HERE!

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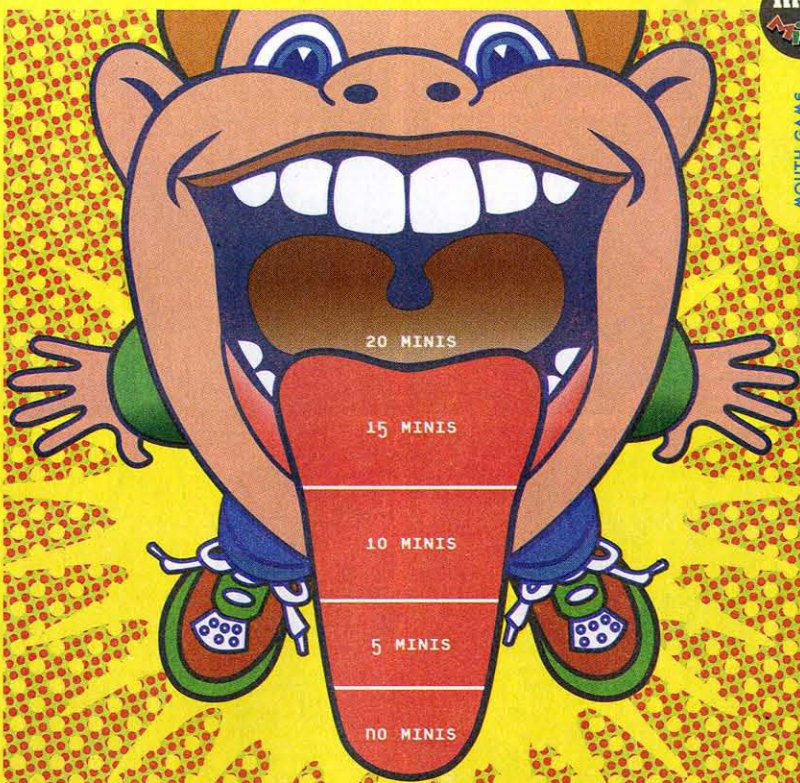


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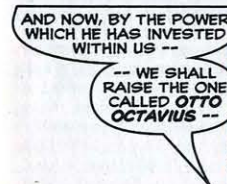
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TONS OF CHOCOLATE CANDY SEARCHING FOR A MOUTH







THE SPIDER'S WEB

MATT HICKS
ASSISTANT
EDITOR

RALPH MACCHIO
EDITOR

BOB HARRAS
CHIEF

Dear Arachknights,

This title is the best in the Spiderverse. And, as I consider Spidey's books the elite of Comicdom, that's high praise indeed! This Black Tarantula epic is shaping up nicely, but I hope all the plot strands and warring factions come together in a climax within the next few months. Don't drag it out too long.

I'm pleased to see some fresh foes appearing, like Delilah, Dragonfly, and Black Tarantula. But how about someone really colorful and original, to rank alongside the likes of Sandman, Electro, Doc Ock and the Goblin? I know, I know...easier said than done! But there hasn't been a truly major league menace introduced since Venom in issue #300.

In the tradition of saving the best for last, the back-up strip was the highlight of issue #421. If Geof Isherwood ever wants to unleash his easel on the lead-strip, be sure to show him to the nearest drawing board! This was excellent embellishment! And the story threw a few interesting hints our way. It seems former star pupil Peter Parker isn't gonna find academia the stroll it used to be. Could it be that MJ's gonna become the studious one, while Pete ventures out into the wide world? Sure, he's good with the ol' test tubes, but I've never really believed he's gonna become a full-time scientist! Nit just doesn't seem natural. He's more of an action person—be it web-slinging, snapping photos or, ah, bringing up babies. (Yes, that's a hint.)

It's good to see some humor and fun return to this series. Maybe Flash could use a booster dose of school life himself to boost his spirits? ESU has certainly brought back Mary Jane's long-lost sparkle. The last time she was this bubbly was before she got married! (Hmmm...)

And the Stacys pop up yet again, eh? You've got something big planned for Jill and Paul, I know that. I also know I'm gonna enjoy sitting back to watch this little plot-line unfold. Hey, with so much

college activity happening, this book could turn into Marvel's own version of "Saved by the Bell"! (Now, *there's* an idea...)

Kevin Barron
43 Mill Falls
Driffield, East Yorkshire
YO25 7AZ
ENGLAND

We may be getting a bit ahead of ourselves here, Kevin, but stick with the story a little longer, we believe that the Black Tarantula just may fulfill your desire for a "major league menace." We've barely even seen him as yet, and it certainly seems as if he's got his hands firmly in many a criminal pie.

As for Peter and his studies, let us not forget that Peter has always been of a studious nature. Before he got powers, in fact, he was anything but an "action person." He may be struggling a little bit at first, but we expect that Petey'll catch up before too long. (Although Paul Stacy sure wouldn't mind if that never happened. What's the deal with that guy, anyway?)

Dear Spider's Web,

I absolutely loved AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #414 and #415 because they were just so jam-packed with action. I loved it when Ben went into the sewer after Delilah and had to jump through the smoke screen, just barely saving Devine and his dad. I thought the artwork on the Sentinels was absolutely fabulous, and I loved it when the new Green Goblin was fighting off that homongous Sentinel. I only started collecting a year ago, and I'm already hooked on all the Spider-Man titles and the Uncanny X-Men. They should have some kind of comics Oscar awards for you guys (and gals) at Marvel.

Before I go, I have a few questions:

1. In issue #414, Jonah came up missing and his office was ransacked; then almost out of thin air, he pops up in issue #415 yet nobody even pays attention to the fact that he was gone in the first place. Where was Jonah during this period, and how

did he get back?

2. In #421, Were Meiko and Karsano both vying for the title of Dragonfly, or was Meiko already the Dragonfly and Karsano trying to be her successor?

3. The Green Goblin is supposed to have a sort of strength serum that brought him back to life after he was impaled by his Glider way back when. So why hasn't the Goblin come back after he was beaten by Spider-Man during "Revelations" and swore he'd be back?

Well, until Mary Jane becomes the Amazing Spider-Woman (you know she'd look better than Cindy Crawford in those tights), Make Mine absolutely, positively Marvel!!

Justin Cole
1068 Manuiwili Road
Kailua, HI 96734

Welcome to comics, Justin; we hope to see your face around here for some time to come. As for your questions:

1. This was dealt with between issues, Justin. Still, mention should have been made of that fact in issue #415, and editor Ralph has been duly chastised for the oversight.

2. Meiko did not earn the title of Dragonfly until after Karsano had been defeated, which is why she is not referred to by that title until her Madam Qwa addresses her as such after the battle.

3. He didn't say he'd be right back, did he, Justin? Sheesh, it's not like he was just going to the corner for a quart of milk or anything. You know that Norman—he likes to plot and scheme for a little while before making his appearance. But we can drop you a little hint as to his next appearance. Without giving too much away, Norman should be popping up in, oh, say, about two weeks in SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN. Oops! We may have said too much!

Dear Spider's Web,
Re: AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #421:



Wow! I'm impressed! Even though I'm still going through Mark Bagley withdrawal, Steve Skroce's art is so, well, amazing!

The Dragonfly story has really got me intrigued. First, this Meiko lady says that she's against this Madam Qwa, then she calls her sensei and asks for redemption. Sheesh!

It seems that Spidey's world is changing all around him. I'm still getting over "Revelations." Still, I knew you guys weren't gonna take away any suspense, even though the clone saga is over. Guess I shouldn't say over. The Stacy family is back. Don't forget, there is a clone on their side of the tracks, too...

We're seeing a lot of new villains coming out lately. Don't get me wrong, they're great, but there are still a lot of other villains I want to see around, too. Here's a few: The Shocker (him especially), Scorpion, the Vulture (the original, old, one), the Looter (I know, we saw him a few months ago in SENSATIONAL, but he's one of my favorites) and the Rhino.

I really miss Ben a lot, but I'm relieved that the question of who the real Spidey is is over. Ben meant a lot to Peter, and I'm going to miss him.

Well, before I start getting too depressed, I better go. So, until Eddie Brock and Cletus Kasady go out for coffee, Make Mine Marvel!

Marshall Drew
227 West Second Street
Clarksdale, MS 38614

As if that guy over in the SENSATIONAL SPIDER-MAN letters pages who keeps screaming for Stegorn appearances wasn't bad enough, in comes *this* character who thinks that one Looter appearance just isn't enough. Just how many Norton Fester fans do you think are out there, anyway?

As for some of your other favorites, we hope you've been on your toes, Marshall. Otherwise you might have missed the appearance of a decidedly aged Vulture in last month's SENSATIONAL issue. You also might have passed by the Rhino in KA-ZAR #5. Hurry up! You may still be able to find a copy! It just went on sale last week. On the other hand, what are the chances that there are any unsold copies of a book wherein the awesome Andy Kubert pencils everyone's top charging churl? Be prepared to pay top dollar! And

the shocker makes his shocking reappearance in an upcoming issue of PETER PARKER, SPIDER-MAN. Don't be late!

Entomologists,

Ish #421? Very...martially artistic! And a little different in having two separate stories tied so readily together. Meiko is a strong character...perhaps an overdue testament to the Korean female's persona. But characters like this have been appearing in Korean comics for years. Now...Angela's cousin just happens to pop into Spideyville.

We certainly got into the action right away. That and the great humorous verbal quips have always been Spidey's powerful denominator. Madam Qwa is a compelling twirl on the ol' baddie theme. The flashback segment involving her setting up our story very well...and all in the space of only six panels. Good job, Tom. And let's not neglect our shifty jiggle at the end of part one! Our star gal is in the service of the Madam. But Meiko seems way too bright and high-minded to be involving herself with Qwa. Methinks later she's going to turn into one of the good people.

The Skroce and LaRosa work was entertaining to the eye. On the cartoonish side. Unique. Certainly did the job. Whereas Isherwood's efforts were heavier, more serious, and likewise did the job. Tom certainly squeezed in what he could in our eight-page part two. The amazing costume change. The quick intro of Connover, a potential future anti-social type. The compelling Mary Jane, about whom Spidey had made us wonder all ish. The ol' need-to-sell-some-pics-to-pay-those-regular-guy-bills schtick. Quick touch on Jill's brother... Parker's present-day, blonde-headed adversary. We love it. I was waiting for a clone of Harry Osborn to appear from the woodwork of academia.

Qwa wasn't villain enough? You had to shove in the effervescently weird Rose and Delilah, and Tarantula? Man, I'm tired after reading this one...

Andy Herman
702 Wright Ln. #118
Aurora, CO 80045

Thanks for the kind words, Andy. So you believe that Meiko is headed for the side of the angels, eh? Maybe, maybe not. Suffice it to say that the

final chapter about this mysterious young lady has yet to be written.

Dear Marvel,

Re: SPIDER-MAN: HOBGBLIN LIVES!:

I just wanted to let you know that HOBGBLIN LIVES! was the best Spider-Man story I've read in several years. My only problem with it (and this is probably writer Roger Stern's concern) was the battle at the end in which Kingsley was unmasked. It seemed too easy. I mean, they fought each other to a standstill in their other encounters. The battle should have been more drawn out. Regardless, it was still a great read. Why isn't Stern on a regular Spider-book? I know he wrote SPIDER-MAN: DEAD MAN'S HAND, but why not a monthly? I only read AMAZING SPIDER-MAN, but if Stern were to write, say, SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN, I'd definitely pick it up. And so would about 10 other people I know.

Francis Lord
3037 Eastview
Saskatoon, Sask.
S7J 3J1
CANADA

Ten more copies? Quick, someone get Stern on the phone!

But seriously, Francis, we are equally big fans of the esteemed Mr. Stern. Unfortunately, so is everyone else in the comic book field! His plate is so full right now that he had to reluctantly beg off the new hit title HEROES FOR HIRE after plotting just the first issue! But rest assured, Roger can write for us whenever he wants to.

NEXT ISSUE

OKAY, YOU'VE HEARD THE RUMORS, READ THE GOSSIP, NOW IT'S PUTTING UP OR SHUTTING UP TIME: THE RETURN OF DOCTOR OCTOPUS! NO, NOT THE LATTER-DAY, FEMALE VERSION, ALTHOUGH SHE'LL BE PRESENT, ALONG WITH DELILAH AND THE ROSE! THIS MOMENTOUS EVENT WILL BE CELEBRATED WITH A NIFTY DOUBLE-GATEFOLD COVER, FEATURING THE INDISPENSABLE PENCILS OF BOTH JOHN ROMITA JUNIOR AND SENIOR! SO WHAT ARE YOU STILL DOING HERE READING THIS FOR? GO PITCH YOUR TENT OUTSIDE OF BOB'S HOBBIES AND COLLECTIBLES NOW, FOR YOU DARE NOT MISS THIS EPIC OFFERING BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE COLLECTED TALENTS OF TWO-FISTED TOM DEPALCO, SIX-ARMED STEVE SKROCE, UMMM... TWO-LEGGED BUD LAROSA, AND ABLY ASSISTED BY RALF, THE MAN WITH TWO BRAINS (AND NOT A WHIT OF SENSE BETWEEN THEM)!

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*83

EXCALIBUR

PETE WISDOM and NIGHTCRAWLER visit the latter's native land, Germany, in search of the elusive AMANDA SEFTON! Meanwhile, COLOSSUS and MEGGAN know the anguish of being trapped in No Man's Land! By BEN RAAB and PETE WOODS!

*112

PSYLOCKE & ARCHANGEL: CRIMSON DAWN

Those ill-fated lovebirds PSYLOCKE and ARCHANGEL reach the make-or-break point in their relationship — and wouldn't ya know it, that's the moment KURAGARI chooses to attack! By BEN RAAB and SALVADOR LARROCA!

*2 of 4

STRONG GUY REBORN

STRONG GUY leaps out of the pages of X-FACTOR — and out of his coma — to stir up trouble and save the universe with his baeleicious friend, LILA CHENEY! Action-packed fun, with puzzles and games to boot! By TODD DEZAGO and ANDY SMITH!

*1 of 1

WHAT IF?!

GAMBIT discovers the deepest, darkest secret in the Marvel Universe — and decides to share it with the deadly MR. SINISTER! Can ROGUE stop the ragin' Cajun from spilling the beans? Plus, a fun back-up story featuring the FANTASTIC FOUR in the Land of OZ! By IVAN VELEZ, JR., ROB PIOTROWSKI, KLAUS JANSON, and RURIK TYLER!

*100

X-MAN

Traumatized by his recent poisoning, NATE GREY passes out in the park and is discovered by three sexy babes! Some guys have all the luck... or do they? There may be more to these girls than meets the eye — and that's saying a lot! By TERRY KAVANAGH and ROGER CRUZZ!

*30

X-MEN

The PRIME SENTINELS, wielding their latest deadly technology, continue their relentless hunt for ICEMAN and mutant doctor CECILIA REYES! Help may be on the way — an Israeli Mossad agent has fled her homeland to deliver information that could mean the end of BASTION and the hateful OPERATION: ZERO TOLERANCE! By SCOTT LOBDELL and CARLOS PACHECO!

*67

STAR TREK: STARFLEET ACADEMY

On the forbidden world of TALOS IV, OMEGA SQUAD battles rampaging hordes of JEM'HADAR! The only way to stop the primitive warriors is to blow up their stash of energy-supplying drugs! Can PAVA do it alone? By CHRIS COOPER and CHRIS RENAUD!

*10

MARVEL ONLINE (available JULY 16)

SPIDER-MAN CYBERCOMIC

A startling new saga begins! Someone is targeting Osborn Industries for destruction — and SPIDER-MAN thinks that someone may be his greatest enemy, back from the dead! By GLENN GREENBERG, PAT CHAU and MARK BADGER!

*49

ITEM! Marvel interns make good! JASON DURNIN, a junior at New York's Baruch College, and SCOTT KELSON, a SUNY at Albany Junior, recently spoke about the glory of comics and the job opportunities therein to a group of third and fourth-graders at P.S. 88 in Queens! And their good deed made the news! The *Daily News*, to be precise! Jason and Scott's appearance was part of the paper's "New York Knicks Present Master Math" program. The guys talked about their internships, how comics are put together, and how they use math on a daily basis. (Don't we all?) The article ran in 800,000 copies of the May 14 issue of the *News*! Good work, guys! Thanks for helping to spread the good name of Marvel to the uneducated masses! We're proud of you! Now GET BACK TO WORK!

ITEM! WHAT IF? turns 100 next week! And to celebrate this fabulous event, we're giving you a double-sized issue that packs a king-sized wallop! The main story is plotted and drawn by KLAUS JANSON, with scripting by IVAN (GHOST RIDER) VELEZ, JR., and features that star-crossed couple, GAMBIT and ROGUE! It seems that the Louisiana bad boy has stumbled upon the biggest secret in the Marvel Universe — one that could lead to its ultimate destruction! But when it comes to love, the ace-flipping X-Man isn't playing with a full deck! When MR. SINISTER offers a serum that will finally allow Rogue to touch Gambit, as well as a possible cure for the Legacy Virus in exchange for the deadly secret, the ragin' Cajun can't say no! Now, Rogue must reach SINISTER before it's too late — but how can she get Gambit out of the way? We'll give you a hint: it's in her kiss!



Speaking of "out of the way," WHAT IF #100 also features a back-up story by ROB PIOTROWSKI that's pretty much out of this world — what if the FANTASTIC FOUR crash-landed in the LAND OF OZ? We all know the INVISIBLE WOMAN will be Dorothy — but does anyone care to lay bets as to who will take the part of the cowardly lion? This tall tale features art by RURIK TYLER! Don't miss this spectacular issue! It's the coolest WHAT IF? ever — no question about it!

To check out our ever-awesome official Marvel website, for up-to-the-minute news and information on current and upcoming projects, go to the World Wide Web and type in:

www.marvel.com!

And if you're a subscriber to America Online and you want to check out Marvel Online for trivia, creator/artist chats, the Spider-Man CyberComic and lots more, just click on to "Keyword" and type in "Marvel"! If you're not a subscriber to America Online and would like to be, just call 1-800-338-6100!



BULLETINS

EDITORIAL PROFILE: GLENN GREENBERG

ABLE ASSISTANT EDITOR AND TV SHOW KILLER

HE'S WRITTEN: The SPIDER-MAN CYBERCOMIC for Marvel Online, the SPIDER-MAN: THE OSBORN JOURNAL one-shot, SPIDER-MAN UNLIMITED #17, THE ADVENTURES OF SPIDER-MAN, and issues of THE SILVER SURFER!

HE ASSISTANT EDITS: THUNDERBOLTS, UNTOLD TALES OF SPIDER-MAN, HERCULES AND THE HEART OF CHAOS, VENOM, GHOST RIDER, MARVEL TEAM-UP, and various one-shots and limited series!

WHAT DOES AN ASSISTANT EDITOR DO? All the work!

WHAT DOES AN ASSISTANT EDITOR GET FOR IT? None of the credit!

HOW HE GOT INTO MARVEL: Actually, I'm one of the few editorial people on staff who never did an internship here first! I started by doing letters pages for a couple of the editorial offices, and eventually was brought on staff!

WORST JOB EVER: I was once hired by a temp agency to do office work while in college, so I arrived at work dressed in a suit and tie, only to find myself dragging heavy office furniture from room to room for two days!

HE'S ASSIGNED THE WEAKEST PICKUP LINE KNOWN TO MAN: "Virginia Beach... where is that, Florida?"

HE COOKS: Poorly, but I can make a mean barbecued chicken with spaghetti when I have to!

HE APPRECIATES AND ADMIRES THE TALENTS OF OTHERS: My main influences have been Stan Lee, George Lucas, Steven Spielberg, Howard Stern, Gene Roddenberry, Stephen King, Denny O'Neil, Mark Gruenwald, Roger Stern, Peter David, J.M. DeMatteis, Marv Wolfman, and Bram Stoker!

THE BEST MOVIE HE'S EVER SEEN: *The Empire Strikes Back.*

THE WORST MOVIE HE'S EVER SEEN: A three-way tie between *Crash*, *Highlander 2*, and *Halloween 6!*

HOW HE KILLS TV SHOWS: If I like a television show, it's probably going to get cancelled. The most recent example: *American Gothic!* Luckily, I still have *NYPD Blue!*

IF YOU CALLED HIS MOTHER, SHE'D PROBABLY TELL YOU GLENN IS: Hot-tempered, frequently nice and usually well-meaning!

HE'S TALENTED: My hobbies are playing guitar, reading, goofing off with Ralph Macchio and Mark Bernardo, and slowly but surely driving Tom Brevoort insane!



MARVEL ONLINE CHAT SCHEDULE FOR THIS WEEK:

7/10/97 - Writer KURT BUSIEK and Editor TOM BREVOORT
(THUNDERBOLTS)

9:30 PM - 10:30 PM EST

7/14/97 - KATHY PROBE (Overpower)

9 PM - 10 PM EST

Artist CHRIS BACHALO (GENERATION X)

10 PM - 11 PM EST

7/15/97 - Asst. Editor/Writer GLENN GREENBERG
(SPIDER-MAN CYBERCOMIC)

9 PM - 10 PM EST

Please note that this is a TENTATIVE schedule. Keep checking MARVEL ONLINE for up-to-the-minute information!

STAN'S SOAPBOX!

Hi, Heroes!

Welcome to the culture corner and to the most widely-read column of all (among the Lee family) as we breathlessly meet our lucky No-Prize Laureates!

The first one favored by fate is Russell Lasky of Fort Lee, N.J., who poses this emotion-tinged query:

"I'd like to get my own comics published. I'd also like to work for Marvel. Should I keep doing my own characters or work on established characters like Captain America and Thor?"

Well, Russ, before I can answer in my usual Solomonic manner, we'd have to know how good you are. And this goes for all you misguided maniacs who wanna work in comics! Send samples of your work to Marvel's "Submissions Editor." His answer may change thy life forever!

From East Yorkshire, England, Kevin Barron daringly demands:

"Slip back into fan mode and tell us your three favorite Marvel stories of all time."

That's kinda tough, 'cause, as you've probably suspected, I'm my own biggest fan and love everything I write! However, I'll nominate the Fantastic Four's "This Man, This Monster!," the Silver Surfer's "Parable," and Spider-Man's "The Kid Who Collects Spider-Man." (It's heresy! I didn't even write that one! Rollickin' Roger Stern did!)

Our third No-Prizer, Robert Hobbs of Norwalk, IA, has been losing sleep wondering:

"Will your new line of 'Excelsior Comics' ever see print?"

Alas, those new mags were due a year ago, but my workload on the movies suddenly doubled and I didn't have the time necessary to ensure that Excelsior would be as good as we wanted it to be. And you know Mighty Marvel would never give you less than the absolute best! But don't despair, True Believers - when you least expect it, there shall come -

Excelsior!

Stan Lee

You, too, can be a notorious No-Prize Laureate! Shoot your question - the briefer the better - to

"Stan's Soapbox,"
c/o Marvel Comics
387 Park Avenue South
New York, NY 10016.

The rest is in the lap of the gods!



THE AVENGERS.

IRON MAN.

THE FANTASTIC FOUR.

CAPTAIN AMERICA.

Heroes reborn to a world not their own.
To a history not their own.
And memories not their own.

The background is a deep space scene filled with stars and nebulae. Several dark, winged or bat-like figures are floating in the upper half of the frame. In the center, a large, glowing blue sphere is visible. Inside this sphere, a detailed comic book illustration is shown, depicting a chaotic battle scene with various characters, including mutants and superheroes, in a city setting. The sphere has a bright light source on its left side, creating a lens flare effect.

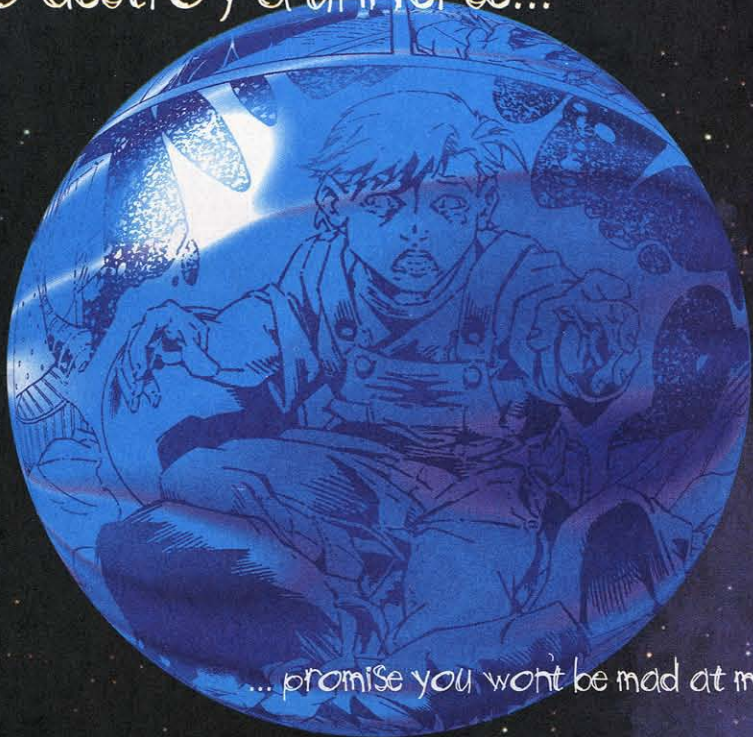
A WORLD WITHOUT SENTINELS.

A WORLD WITHOUT MUTANT ONSLAUGHTS..

A world that up till moments ago
had gone unnoticed.

AND NOW, A WORLD WITHOUT HOPE.

"Mom. Dad. They told me I have
to destroy a universe..."



...promise you won't be mad at me?"

IN OCTOBER

HEROES RETURN

A 4-issue weekly limited series by award-winning writer
Peter David and fan-favorite artist Salvador Larocca.

IN NOVEMBER

Fantastic Four #1 By Scott Lobdell & Alan Davis
Captain America #1 By Mark Waid & Ron Garney

IN DECEMBER

Avengers #1 By Kurt Busiek & George Perez
Iron Man #1 By Kurt Busiek & Sean Chen

MARVEL
COMICS

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Where
have all
the cookies
gone?

Into Hershey's®
Cookies 'n' Creme.

Jammed with cookies.

Crammed with Crunch.



A mouthful of cookies in every bite.™



OUR SKATING WASN'T GOING SO WELL.
 THEN THE CAP'N SHOWED UP WITH
 HIS AWESOME PEANUT BUTTER CRUNCH™
 AND GOT US ROLLING!



PRETEND YOU'RE
 SKATING IN A BOWL OF
 PEANUT BUTTER CRUNCH!



CRUNCH! CRUNCH!



CHECK OUT
 MY SPOON
 DIVE!



IF I FALL,
 I'M GOING
 FACE FIRST!



GOO

LOOKS
 LIKE
 FUN!

YEAH! WE'VE GOT
 TO GET LEGS!!

YOU AND
 THE CAP'N
 MAKE IT
 HAPPEN!!

I LOVE
 THIS STUFF!



SAVE ME
 SOME !!

