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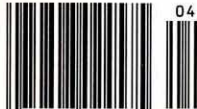
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THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN



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BYRNE

HANNA




RECESS
 Disney's

ch Disney's one Saturday Morning
 on ABC to find secret toon-twisted
 messages only you can decode!

"oon-in" Feb. 20, 27
 & March 6.

Now Saturday
 is ever



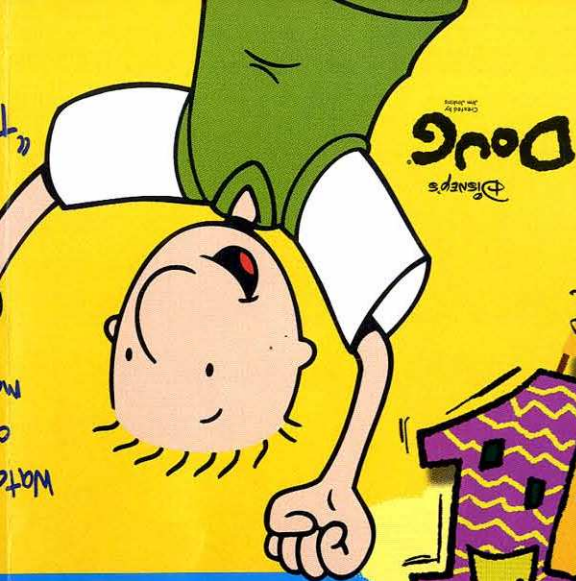

PEPPERMAN
 Disney's

MouseWorks is coming to
 Disney's one Saturday Morning-March 15th.

MOUSE
 WORKS
 Disney's

*Free Toon-Twister available in specially-marked packages of POST® Cereals
 and OSCAR MAYER® LUNCHABLES® Fun Pack Lunch Combinations.

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Disney's

Saturday MorningSM

abc

You only get one Saturday morning.

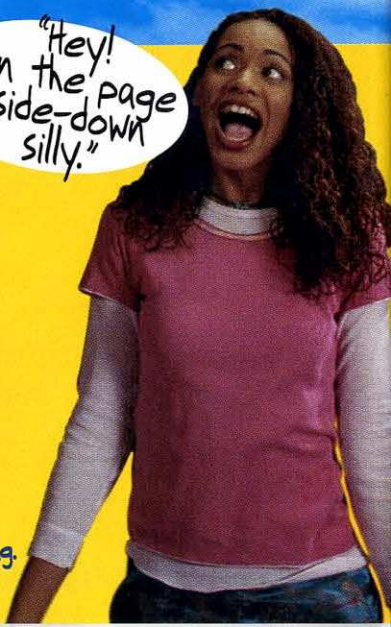
morning
n more twisted.

Check these specially-marked packages for your free Toon-Twister, and other cool Disney's One Saturday Morning stuff.*

"Hey! Turn the page upside-down silly."



ch all the twisted fun on Disney's One Saturday Morning.



His Wife Is Dead His Friends Are Gone
All He Has Left Is His
Rage



The Hulk

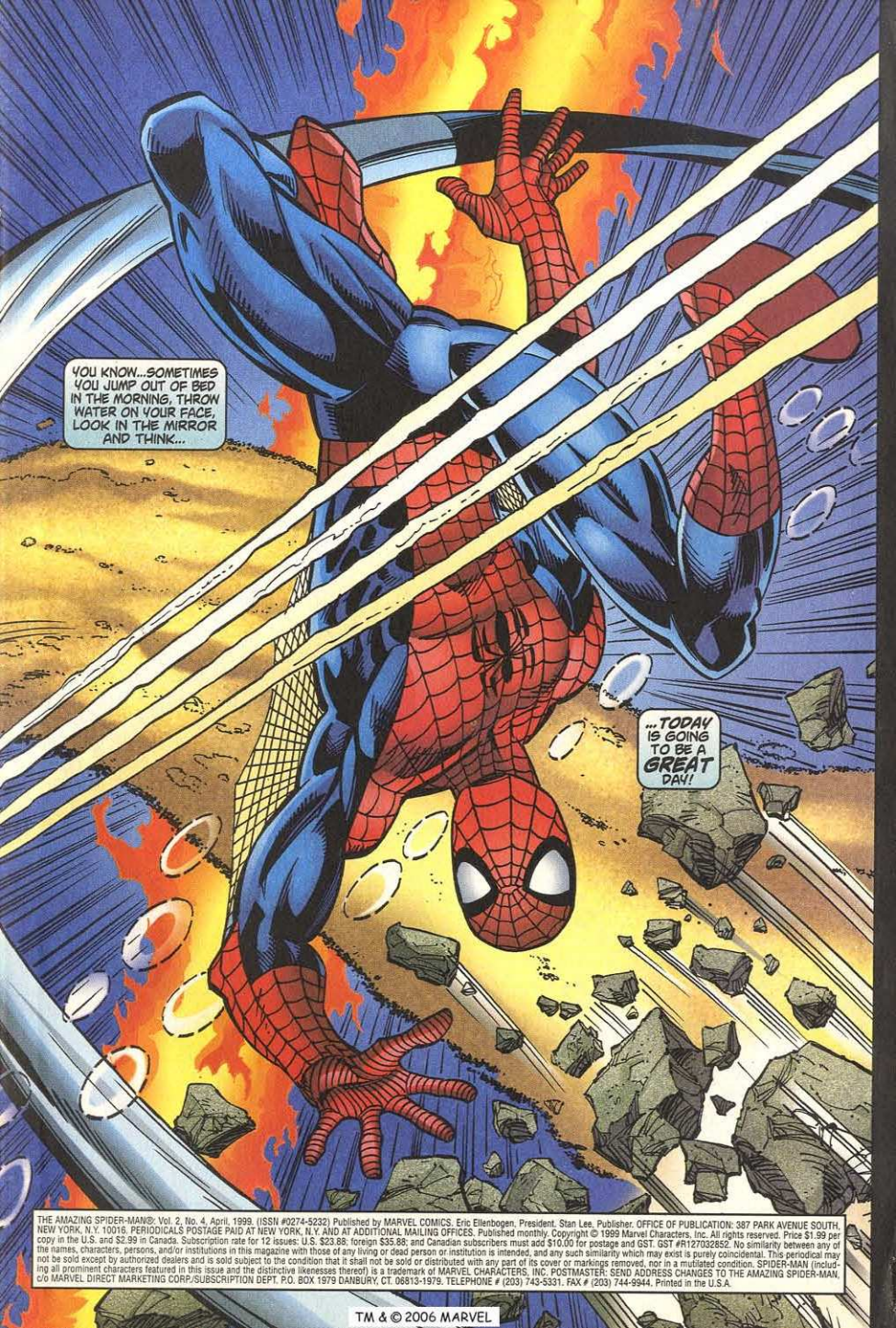
A Bold Look At One Man's War With His Inner Monster
By John Byrne, Ron Garney And Dan Green.

The New Monthly Series Explodes February 17th



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YOU KNOW...SOMETIMES
YOU JUMP OUT OF BED
IN THE MORNING, THROW
WATER ON YOUR FACE,
LOOK IN THE MIRROR
AND THINK...

...TODAY
IS GOING
TO BE A
GREAT
DAY!

THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN® Vol. 2, No. 4, April, 1998, (ISSN #0274-5232) Published by MARVEL COMICS, Eric Ellenbogen, President, Stan Lee, Publisher, OFFICE OF PUBLICATION: 387 PARK AVENUE SOUTH, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10018. PERIODICALS POSTAGE PAID AT NEW YORK, N.Y. AND AT ADDITIONAL MAILING OFFICES. Published monthly. Copyright © 1998 Marvel Characters, Inc. All rights reserved. Price \$1.99 per copy in the U.S. and \$2.99 in Canada. Subscription rate for 12 issues: U.S. \$23.88; foreign \$35.88; and Canadian subscribers must add \$10.00 for postage and GST. GST #R127032652. 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. SPIDER-MAN (including all prominent characters featured in this issue and the distinctive likenesses thereof) is a trademark of MARVEL CHARACTERS, INC. POSTMASTER: SEND ADDRESS CHANGES TO THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN, c/o MARVEL DIRECT MARKETING CORP./SUBSCRIPTION DEPT., P.O. BOX 1979 DANBURY, CT 06813-1979. TELEPHONE # (203) 743-5331. FAX # (203) 744-6944. Printed in the U.S.A.

STAN
LEE
PRESENTS:

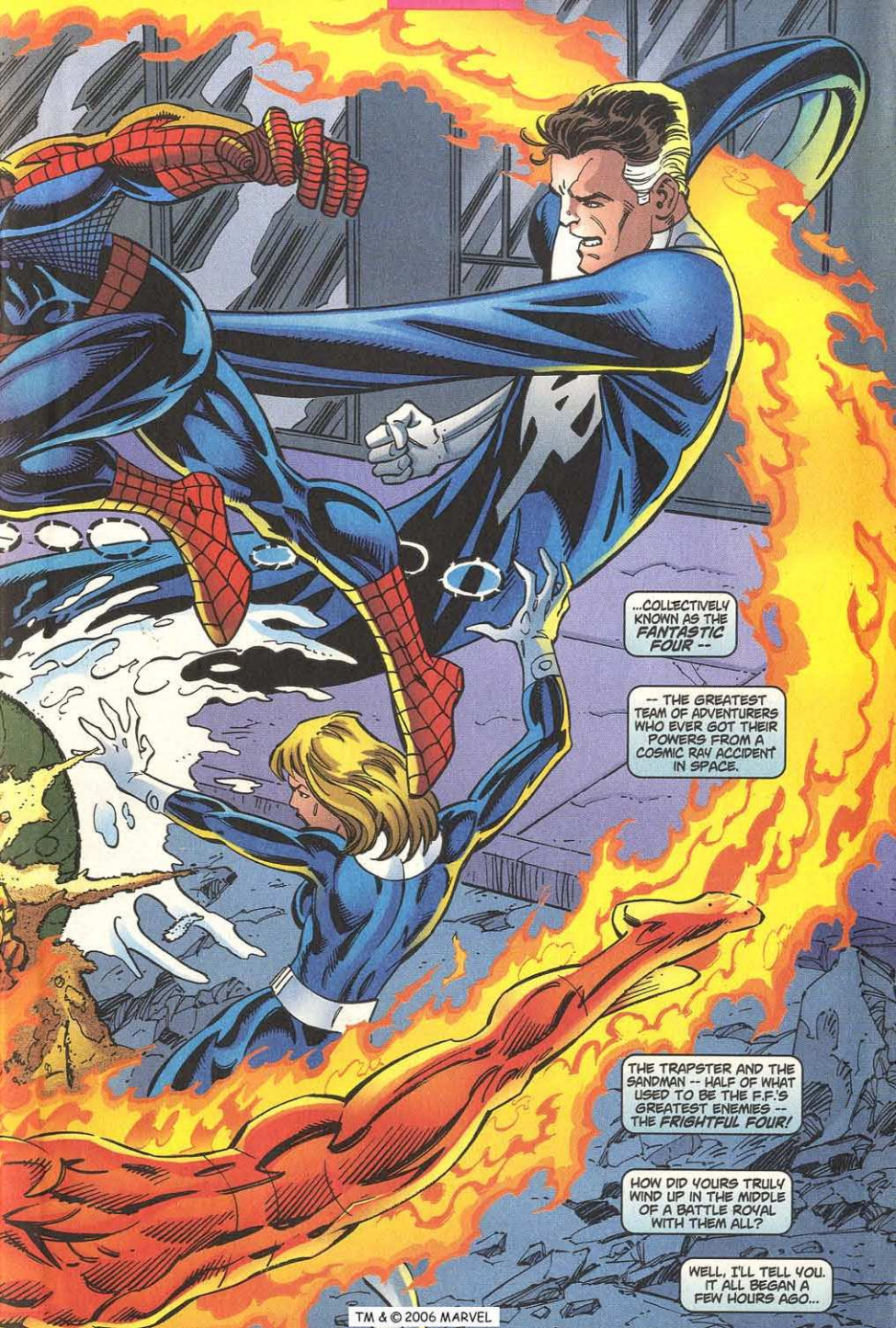
BETRAYALS

HOWARD MACKIE/JOHN BYRNE STORY & ART SCOTT HANNA INKS
GREGORY WRIGHT COLORS/RICHARD STARKINGS & COMICRAFT LETTERS
RALPH MACCHIO EDITOR BOB HARRAS CHIEF

ISN'T IT AMAZING
JUST HOW WRONG
YOU CAN BE?

MISTER FANTASTIC,
THE INVISIBLE WOMAN,
THE THING AND THE
HUMAN TORCH...





...COLLECTIVELY
KNOWN AS THE
**FANTASTIC
FOUR** --

-- THE GREATEST
TEAM OF ADVENTURERS
WHO EVER GOT THEIR
POWERS FROM A
COSMIC RAY ACCIDENT
IN SPACE.

THE TRAPSTER AND THE
SANDMAN -- HALF OF WHAT
USED TO BE THE F.F.'S
GREATEST ENEMIES --
THE FRIGHTFUL FOUR!

HOW DID YOURS TRULY
WIND UP IN THE MIDDLE
OF A BATTLE ROYAL
WITH THEM ALL?

WELL, I'LL TELL YOU.
IT ALL BEGAN A
FEW HOURS AGO...

...I DECIDED IT WAS TIME TO PAY A VISIT TO MY OLD BUDDY THE HUMAN TORCH, AND REED RICHARDS WANTED TO MAKE SURE I WAS WHO I SAID I WAS...

REED! REALLY! I SWEAR IT'S ME!

YOUR FRIENDLY NEIGHBORHOOD SPIDER-MAN!

I SEE THAT NOW, BUT YOU CAN'T BLAME ME FOR WANTING TO MAKE SURE.

WHAT WITH YOUR RECENT MONTHS LONG DISAPPEARANCE --

-- AND YOUR HISTORY OF INVOLVEMENT WITH CLONES, DOPPELGANGERS AND ARTIFICIAL CONSTRUCTS...

...ANYWAY, YOU CAN FEEL FREE TO GET DOWN ANY TIME YOU WANT TO.

SHEESH! THE THINGS A GUY'S GOTTA DO JUST TO GET TOGETHER WITH AN OLD PAL!

THAT'S NOTHING COMPARED TO WHAT HE PUTS US THROUGH FOR OUR ANNUAL PHYSICAL, CHUM! THE PROBES ALONE GIVE ME NIGHTMARES FOR WEEKS!



WELCOME BACK, SPIDER-MAN. YOU HAVE BEEN MISSED.

THANK YOU, MRS. RICHARDS. I APPRECIATE IT!

YOU STILL GIVIN' THE TORCH THAT OLD "ANNUAL PHYSICAL EXAM" ROUTINE, STRETCH?

IT SEEMS TO KEEP HIM HUMBLE, BEN. SORT OF.



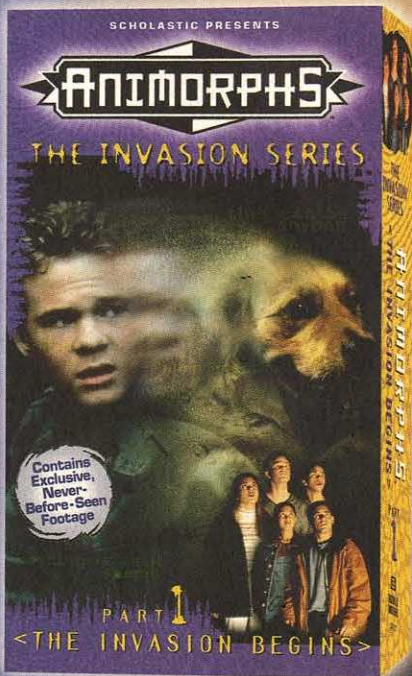
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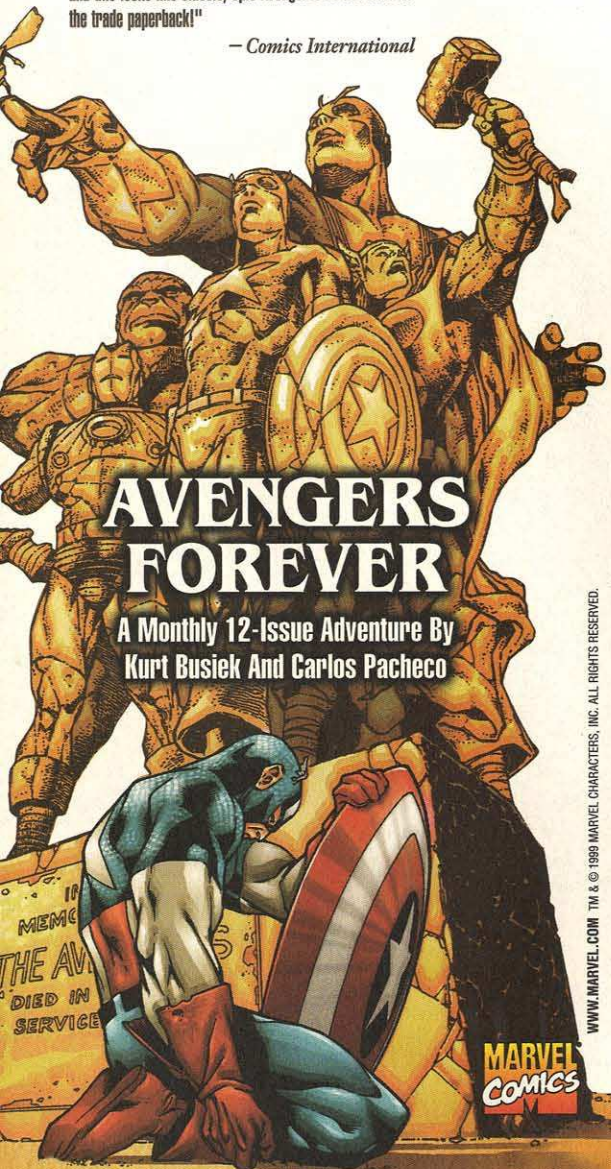
— Comic Shop News

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— Comics International

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ALTERNATE METHOD OF PARTICIPATION. To participate at the same odds of winning without purchase, handprint your name, complete address, date of birth, and daytime/evening phone numbers on a 3" x 5" card. Mail to: "Don't Eat the Winning Oreo" Instant Win Game, P.O. Box 7784, Maple Plain, MN 55553-7784. Requests must be postmarked by April 15, 1999 and received by April 12, 1999. No mechanical reproductions or photocopies of requests will be accepted. Limit one request per envelope; each request must be mailed separately, one game play per request. Only winners will be notified by mail.

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RELEASES. Grand and first prize winners will be required to sign and return an Affidavit of Eligibility, a Liability Release and a Publicity Release (where legal), within 21 days of notification. Winners may also be required to sign any applicable forms required by tax authorities and other documentation. In the event of non-compliance with these requirements, prizes may be forfeited. If prize or prizes notification is returned as undeliverable, prize will be forfeited. Limit 1 prize per individual, family or household. If a prize is won by a minor, the prize may be awarded in the name of the minor's parent or legal guardian, on the minor's behalf. In such case, the parent or legal guardian must sign and return the required documents on the minor's behalf.

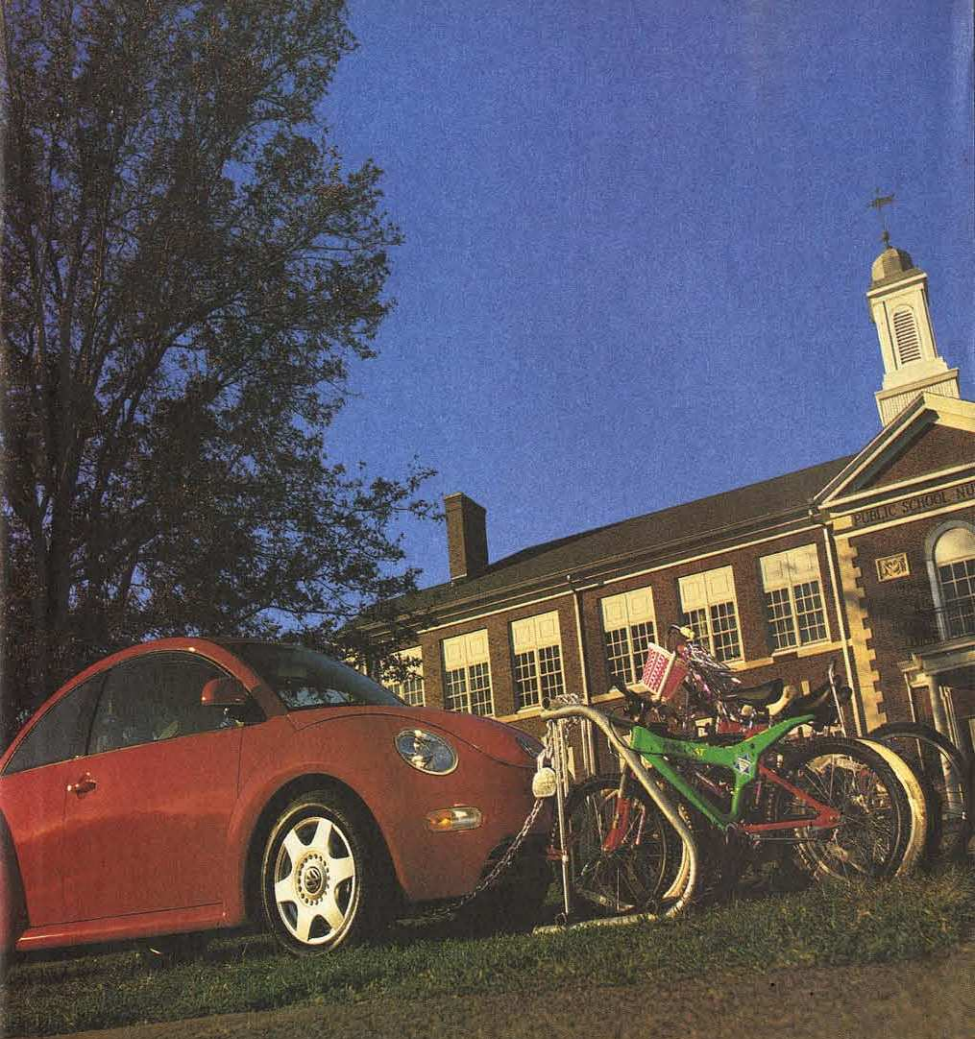
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WINNERS' LIST. For a list of major prize winners, send a self-addressed, stamped envelope by June 15, 1999 to: "Don't Eat the Winning Oreo" Winners' List, P.O. Box 7785, Maple Plain, MN 55553-7785.

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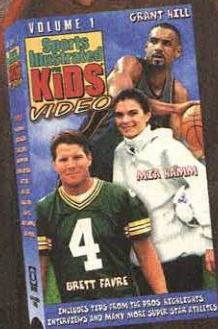
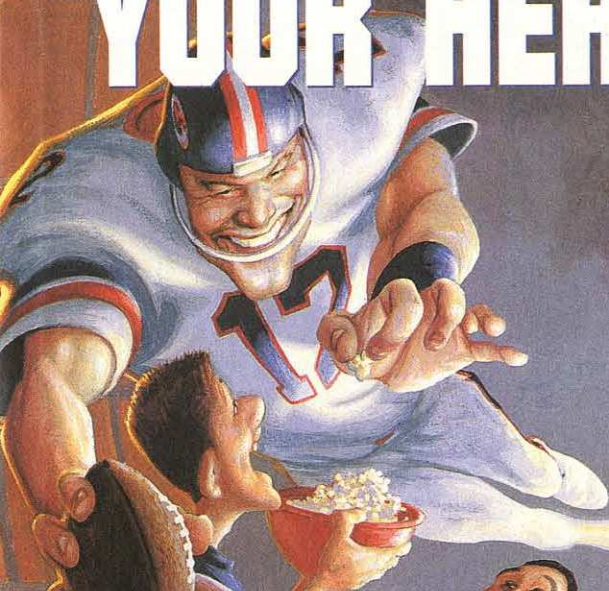
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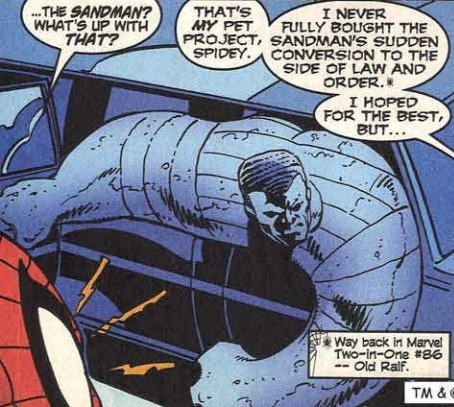


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MEANWHILE...

I DON'T
KNOW, SENATOR
WARD...

...I DON'T
LIKE THE IDEA
OF US STANDIN'
AROUND IN THIS
DARK HOTEL
LOBBY.

IT LEAVES YOU
WAY TOO OPEN FOR
ANY NUT WITH THOUGHTS
OF MAKIN' HIMSELF A NAME BY
OFFIN' ONE OF THE FRONT-
RUNNERS IN THE NEXT
PRESIDENTIAL
RACE!

WHAT DO
YOU THINK
WE SHOULD DO
THEN, MR.
SANDMAN?

WELL, I
KNOW YOUR SUITE
IS UP NEAR THE ROOF,
AND THE ELEVATORS
ARE DOWN,
BUT...

...IF YOU'RE
UP FOR A HIKE...
I SAY WE TAKE
THE STAIRS!

AS LONG
AS YOU'RE WATCHING
MY BACK... I COULD STAND
THE EXERCISE.

THAT'S WHAT I'M
GETTING PAID FOR
SENATOR.
TO
WATCH
YOU REAL
CLOSE.

ALL PART
OF WHAT YOU
GET WHEN YOU HIRE
ONE OF THE WILD PACK
AS YOUR OWN PERSONAL
BODYGUARD!

A SHORT TIME
LATER...

PARK AVE

NO! I'M
FINE! I WAS
JUST CONCERNED
FOR YOU AND
AUNT MAY!
I WAS
DOWNTOWN
VISITING SOME OLD
FRIENDS. I FIGURE
IF EVERYTHING GOES
RIGHT... I SHOULD
BE ABLE TO SWING
HOME IN HALF
AN HOUR.



PETER, COULD
YOU DO ME A FAVOR?
AUNT MAY AND I ARE
FINE AND SNUG IN THE
APARTMENT,
BUT --

IT'S SO DARK
DOWN THERE, MARY
JANE. TELL PETER
TO HURRY HOME,
DEAR.



I JUST GOT OFF THE
PHONE WITH JILL. SHE'S
STUCK IN THE LOBBY
OF THE PLAZA.
SHE SOUNDED
REALLY FREAKED.
SOMETHING ABOUT A
CHILDHOOD INCIDENT
AND THE DARK...
SINCE YOU'VE GOT
TO CRUISE RIGHT BY THERE
TO GET HOME... I WAS
HOPING...



I'LL
CHECK ON
HER. SHE'LL
BE FINE.
I
LOVE YOU,
PETER.
I
LOVE YOU
TOO.



EVEN IF I PROVE IT TO YOU BY NOT
TELLING YOU THAT I'VE BECOME SPIDER-
MAN AGAIN, AFTER THE GIRL WHO WAS
IMPERSONATING ME QUIT.

BUT IT'S
NOT EXACTLY LIKE
LYING... IS IT?

A SHORT TIME LATER, JILL STACY SITS AND WAITS NERVOUSLY FOR THE LIGHTS TO COME BACK ON...



SO I AM GLAD TO SEE YOU!

ER... YEAH... I CAN SEE!

I DON'T EVEN GET THAT KIND OF GREETING FROM MY WIFE, M!



OOH! I'M SORRY! IT'S JUST THAT THE DARK...IT'S A THING FROM WHEN I WAS A KID LIVING IN HONG KONG... I JUST GET SO SCARED, AND SEEING A FRIENDLY FACE...ANYWAY, I'M SORRY IF I WAS TOO --

YOU WEREN'T TOO ANYTHING!

I WAS JUST KIDDING AROUND, WE'RE FRIENDS. I'M HERE TO HOLD YOUR HAND...IF YOU NEED IT.

BIG TIME



SO WHY ARE YOU HERE?

OLD FRIEND OF MY DAD'S... GETTING TOGETHER FOR A DRINK... AND NOW THE FRONT DESK WON'T CONNECT ME WITH HIS ROOM BECAUSE OF ALL THE COMPUTERS BEING DOWN.

WELL, LET'S GRAB A SEAT AND WAIT AND SEE IF THE POWER COMES BACK ON.

COOL.





MEANWHILE...

I GOTTA HAND IT TO YOU, SENATOR. I'M IMPRESSED YOU WERE ABLE TO KEEP UP WITH ME ON THOSE STAIRS.

I NEVER WOULD'VE EXPECTED THAT KINDA STAMINA OUTTA A DESK JOCKEYING POLITICIAN.

BUT WE AREN'T ALL WHAT WE APPEAR TO BE, DON'T YOU THINK?

BESIDES, I WASN'T ALWAYS STUCK BEHIND A DESK.

AND SOMETIMES I DO LONG FOR THE DAYS OF MY YOUTH.

OH, WELL...

BUT YOU TELL ME ABOUT YOU, SIR.

HOW DO YOU GO FROM BATTLING WITH THE LIKES OF SPIDER-MAN AND THE FANTASTIC FOUR... YOU WERE PART OF THE FRIGHTFUL FOUR, WEREN'T YOU...

...TO HAVING ENOUGH SECURITY CLEARANCE TO PULL AN ASSIGNMENT LIKE THIS ONE?

DON'T YOU EVER LONG FOR THE BAD OLD DAYS?



ER...NO...I...
AHH--



WHAT THE--?

THE DOOR'S MELTING!
IT'S--

-- I THINK I HEARD A NOISE IN THE APARTMENT.
STAY HERE WHILE I CHECK ON IT.



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un-twist *Disney's Doug, Recess, and Pepper Ann.*

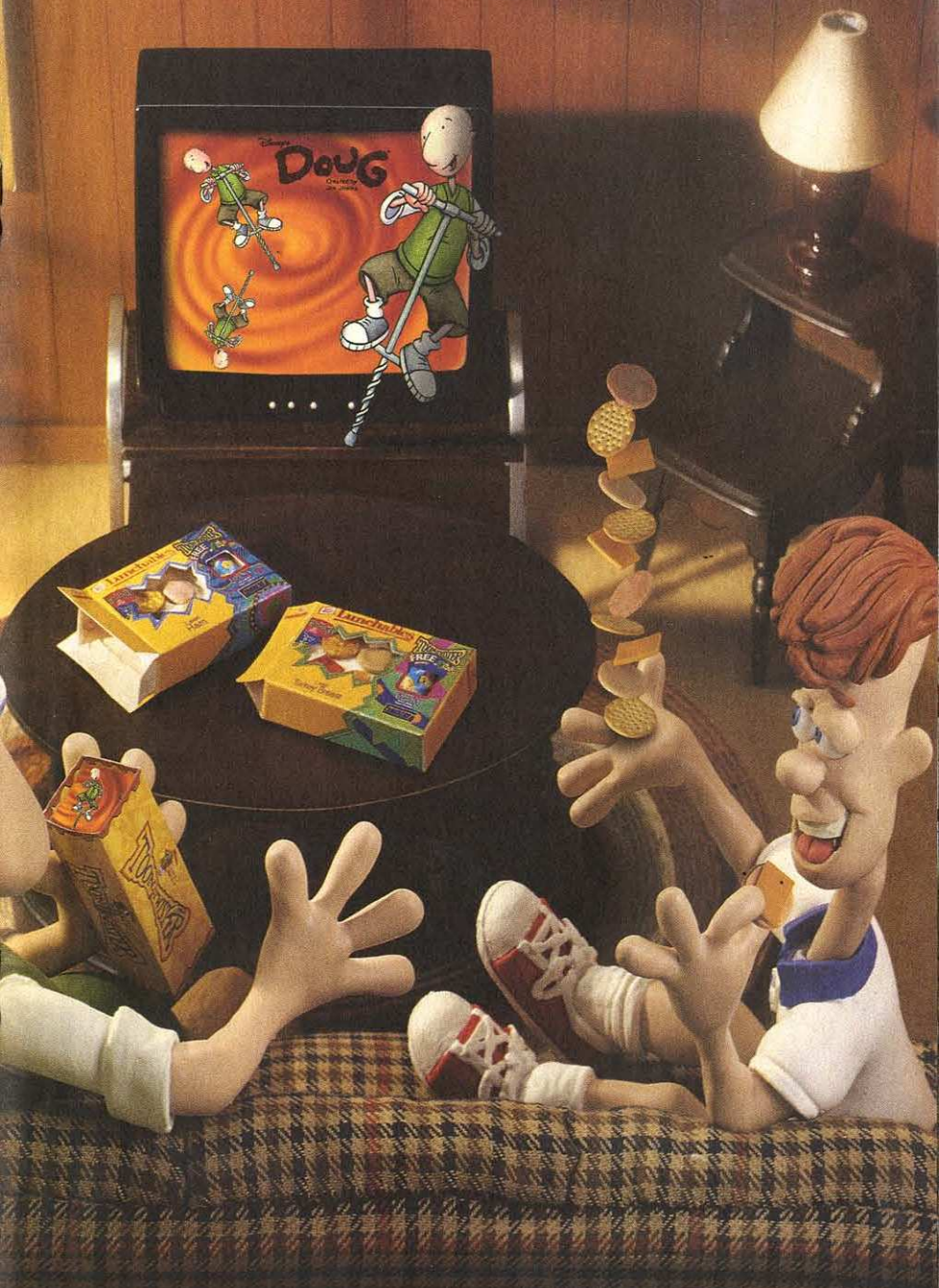
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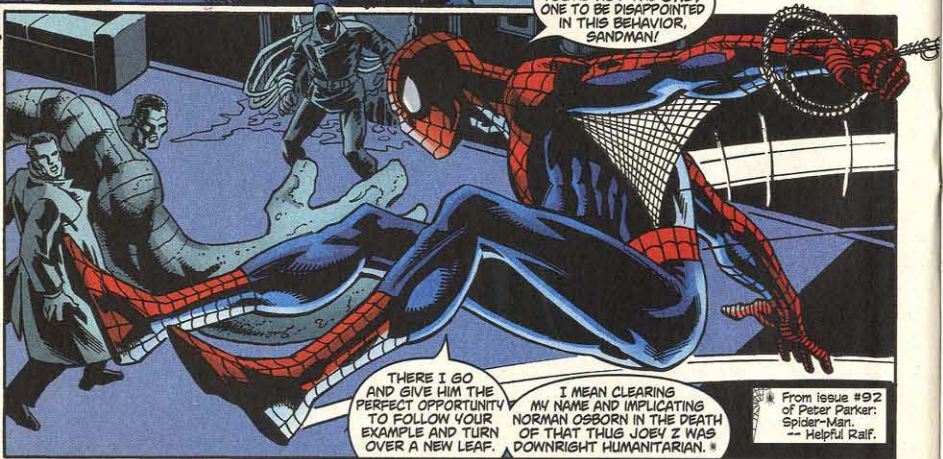
ACTUALLY
IT'S DISSOLVING,
SANDMAN OLD
BUDDY!
DUE
TO A LITTLE
SOLVENT
COURTESY
OF --

**THE
TRAPSTER!**

WHAT ARE YOU
DOING HERE?
I --



YOU'RE NOT THE ONLY
ONE TO BE DISAPPOINTED
IN THIS BEHAVIOR,
SANDMAN!



THERE I GO
AND GIVE HIM THE
PERFECT OPPORTUNITY
TO FOLLOW YOUR
EXAMPLE AND TURN
OVER A NEW LEAF.

I MEAN CLEARING
MY NAME AND IMPLICATING
NORMAN OSBORN IN THE DEATH
OF THAT THUG JOEY Z WAS
DOWNRIGHT HUMANITARIAN. *

* From issue #92
of Peter Parker:
Spider-Man.
-- Helpful Raif.



WELL,
I GOT
OVER
IT!

YOU
SHOULD,
TOO!



I WOULD
HAVE GONE TO
BAT FOR YOU,
TRAPSTER!

I JUST
THOUGHT MAYBE...
JUST MAYBE... YOU
HAD IT IN YOU TO DO
YOUR TIME FOR JOEY
Z'S DEATH -- BUT

NO!



OKAY,
SANDY, YOU HIT
HIM HIGH...

...AND
I'LL HIT HIM
LOW!

RIGHT
BEHIND YOU, WALL-
CRAWLER!
RIGHT...

...BEHIND
YOU!

WOK



OR
SHOULD I
CALL YOU...
... WALL
FALLER?



CAN'T...
BREATHE...



GOTCHA!

...PUNCH
TOOK THE
WIND... OUT
OF... ME!

CAN'T...
GET OFF A...
WEB LINE...
GOING
TO...





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☐ **GEN** Generation X
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YOU MORON!

IT WASN'T SUPPOSED TO HAPPEN LIKE THIS!

I ONLY AGREED TO SET UP THE SENATOR! TO MAKE SURE YOU HAD A CLEAR SHOT!

YOU WEREN'T SUPPOSED TO IMPLICATE ME!

YOU THINK I TRIED GOIN' STRAIGHT -- GOT A PRESIDENTIAL PARDON ONLY TO BLOW IT OVER SOMETHING LIKE THIS?!

MAYBE I HAVE MY OWN AGENDA -- ANY THAT INCLUDES GOIN' BAD ON MY TERMS -- NOT YOURS!

OOOH! SOUNDS MIGHTY IMPRESSIVE! WHAT? MAYBE YOU WERE PLANNING ON TAKING OVER THE WORLD?

TALK ABOUT DELUSIONS OF GRANDEUR!

YOU WEREN'T CUT OUT FOR BEING A GOOD GUY -- FACE IT!

NOW WE'VE GOT A JOB TO DO, WHETHER YOU LIKE THE TIMING OR NOT!

WHEN WE'RE DONE YOU CAN TAKE IT UP WITH THE BOSS!

BOSS! WHAT BOSS? I DON'T HAVE ANY B --

SHUT UP!

WHERE DID HE GO, YOU JERK?

WHAT?

THE SENATOR! HE'S GONE! AND IF WE DON'T FIND HIM...

...WE'RE
BOTH
DEAD!



...I CAN'T
HAVE ANY
WITNESSES.

IF IT MAKES
YA FEEL ANY
BETTER... I WAS
GONNA VOTE
FOR YA!

DON'T
DO THIS.

IT'S NOT
SUPPOSED
TO HAPPEN
THIS WAY.



SORRY
ABOUT THIS,
SENATOR, BUT NOW
THAT THE TRAPSTER
BLEW MY
COVER...



YEEOW!

WONDERFUL!

NOW
YOU DID
IT!



NOW
I'VE GOT
TO KILL THE
FANTASTIC
FOUR, TOO!

GOOD LUCK
WITH THAT ONE,
YOU CREEP! WE'RE
JUST A LITTLE
TOUGHER'N OUR
TOYS, SANDBAG!



HANG ON,
BEN, YOU AND
I CAN RIDE ON
THE ROOF OF AN
INVISIBLE
FORCE
SLED!

RIGHT
BEHIND YOU,
SUZIE!

JUST GET
ME CLOSE
ENOUGH TO GET
HOLD OF THAT
LYING, NO GOOD,
SACK 'A SAND!





DISSOLVE AWAY!
I JUST NEEDED YOU CLOSE TO THE SANDMAN FOR THIS!

AND HAVE I MENTIONED HOW DISAPPOINTED I AM IN YOUR BEHAVIOR...

...BOTH OF YOU?

HEY! GET YOUR ARMS OUTTA ME, TRAPSTER!

I'M TRYING! BUT THEY'RE STUCK.



COURTESY OF AN INVISIBLE FORCE FIELD BY YOURS TRULY!



NOW LET'S SEE...

AS I REMEMBER, TRAPSTER, YOU KEEP YER ADHESIVE RESERVES ON THIS BACK PACK... RIGHT?

THONK!

HEY! DON'T DO THAT!
I CAN'T CONTROL THE GLUE! I --

Yuck!

THE INVISIBLE WOMAN'S PULLED AWAY THE FORCE FIELD, BUT NOW WE'RE STUCK!

DO SOMETHING PASTE POT PEBRAIN!

WELL I'LL RELEASE SOME ADHESIVE, BUT I CAN'T SWEAR IT WON'T DISSOLVE SOME OF YOU TOO!

I'M GAME, IF --



NEVER MIND!
WE'RE OUTTA HERE!

HEY!
DON'T DO THAT! I HATE FALLING FROM HEIGHTS!



I'VE GOT THEM!



THEY'RE GONE. HOW COULD THEY...?

I HAVE NO IDEA!

THEY'VE GOT TO HAVE HAD AID IN THEIR GET AWAY.

I DOUBT EITHER OF THEM IS CAPABLE OF HAVING PLANNED SUCH AN ASSAULT, OR SUBSEQUENT ESCAPE, ON THEIR OWN. AND I DON'T KNOW WHO MAY HAVE HELPED THEM.

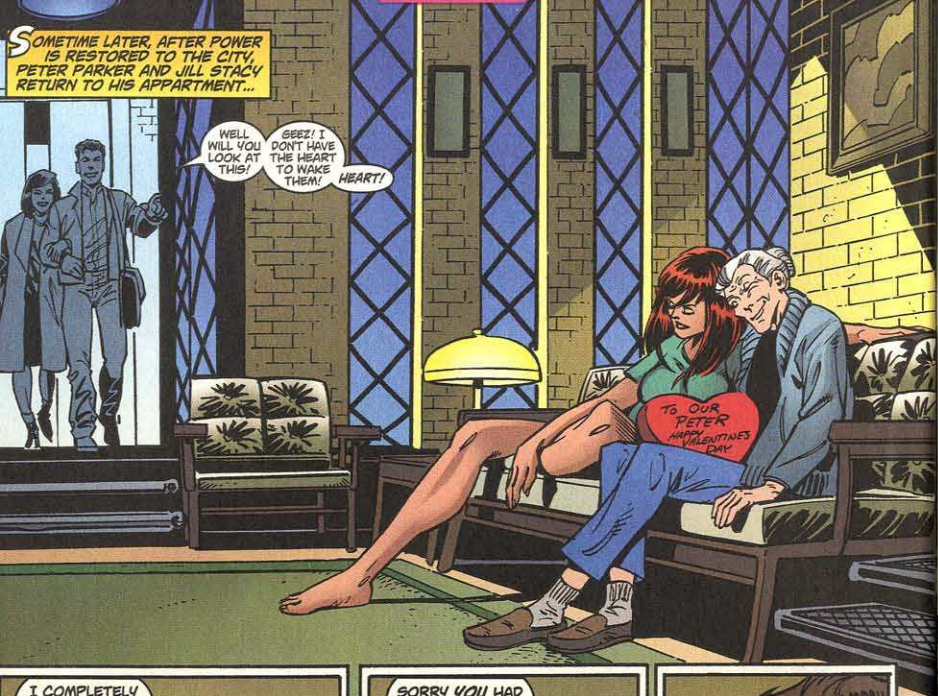
RIGHT NOW, WE'LL HAVE TO TAKE OUR LEAVE TO PREPARE FOR A MIDNIGHT MEETING ATOP OUR OLD SKYSCRAPER HEADQUARTERS -- FOUR FREEDOMS PLAZA. *

WELL, WHEN YA GOTTA GO... BUT THIS WAS FUN, FOLKS. NOW I THINK I'M GONNA GO HOME AND GET ALL THE SAND OUT OF MY SHORTS.



* Check out issues 13-15 of the F.F.'s own mag for details. It's great! -- Super-Fan Ralf.

SOMETIME LATER, AFTER POWER IS RESTORED TO THE CITY, PETER PARKER AND JILL STACY RETURN TO HIS APARTMENT...





A ND...

AND NOW, MY FELLOW CITIZENS, THE CRISIS IS OVER.

EVEN AS I SPEAK TO YOU, GOVERNMENT AGENTS ARE INVESTIGATING EXACTLY HOW A SCENARIO SUCH AS THIS COULD HAVE BEEN ALLOWED TO OCCUR.



I ASSURE YOU THAT, UPON MY RETURN TO WASHINGTON, THERE WILL BE A COMPLETE INVESTIGATION LAUNCHED INTO THIS MATTER.

NOW, IF YOU WILL EXCUSE ME... IT HAS BEEN A LONG DAY FOR ALL OF US.



HELLO.

YOU!

WHAT ARE YOU... INSANE?!

I WAS ALMOST KILLED BY THOSE MADMEN OF YOURS!

THAT WAS NOT PART OF THE DEAL!



YOU INSISTED THAT THE ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT APPEAR AUTHENTIC, MY GOOD SENATOR.

YOU MUST BE EVER THE HERO IN THE PUBLIC EYE.

WE CAN'T HAVE ANYONE LOOKING TOO CLOSELY INTO THAT BACKGROUND OF YOURS... CAN WE?

LEAVE YOURSELF IN THE WIZARD'S HANDS AND NO ONE WILL LEARN THE TRUTH, MY FRIEND!

NO ONE!

FOR MORE ON SENATOR WARD, AND HIS ALLIANCE WITH THE WIZARD CHECK OUT AMAZING SPIDER-MAN ANNUAL #1 ON SALE IN LATE APRIL!

NEXT ISSUE: SPIDER-WOMEN! THE PLACE IS CRAWLING WITH 'EM!

THE SPIDER'S WEB

Hey, guys.

I just wanted to let you know that I really enjoyed AMAZING SPIDER-MAN Vol. II, #1. I'm glad that you cut down the number of titles and went with one writer. Howard Mackie was a good choice and I hope he stays with Spider-Man for a long time. John Byrne's art was great. I like his stuff wherever it appears, but it seems to look better when it's in a Marvel book. It's like he's at home.

I do have one question. What was the reasoning behind bringing back Aunt May? She had her purpose once upon a time, but now she's just in the way. I mean, no one picks up the latest issue and says, "I hope Aunt May's in this one." How many copies of THE ADVENTURES OF AUNT MAY would you sell? Right now it seems like May's going to be in the center of things and Mary Jane's going to be on the sidelines. It should be the other way around.

Anyway, thanks for listening and keep putting out great comics.

Jeff Stolman
668 East 7th Street
Winona, MN 55987

Don't you think you're being just a bit hard on May, there, Jeff? Sure, she may not be your favorite character, but many are the readers to whom she is an indispensable character in the makeup of the Spider-Man mythos, readers who feel that Aunt May brings a certain humanity to these books that they lacked ever since ASM #400. Agree or disagree, it's a moot point now. She's back. Period.

Dear Ralf,

I can't believe it! This new beginning for Spider-Man is definitely going in the right direction.

Let's just say that I have been a Spider-Man fan for over 17 years, but because of certain story lines and the death of Aunt May, as well as because of other personal reasons, I lost touch and dropped the Spidey books. Well, here I am in a local comic book store for the first time in a few years. I asked the owner what John Byrne was up to these days. He pointed me to the SPIDER-MAN: CHAPTER ONE stories. I couldn't believe it! I have been following John's work since his stint on FANTASTIC FOUR. (Yes, I am one of the faithful 40,000.) It's a dream come true to see him doing Spider-Man. Then I noticed that John Romita, Jr. is drawing a Spider-Man book again. Whoo-hoo! This guy got me started on Spidey when I was 12 years old.

I am a tad upset, however, to

find that Peter Parker is now younger than I am. He was a strong influence on me when I was a kid but I do have to admit that the facelift is a good thing, especially in bringing Aunt May back!

All in all, the new books are fantastic. I love the fact that you are bringing back the cast of characters that made Spider-Man famous in the first place. I mean, a slugfest is all well and good, but if you don't have the foundation behind the story, it tends to be kind of pointless. I care about Robbie, Jonah, Betty and all the rest. They are family.

Keeping the new Spider-Man's identity secret from the readers is very well done. I loved seeing the story from Peter's perspective.

Well, folks, after a long absence, I am back. You have brought in some major talent and I am once again hooked.

Robert Parks
8935 U.S. Highway 16 West
Lot 90
Buffalo, WY 892834

P.S. Years have drifted by since I began reading Spider-Man and I have attained many of my life goals. Yet one little thing remains: I have wanted to see one of my letters printed for 17 years now, guys. What do you say? I even typed it.

Oh, all right. But just this once. What are your going to do now that all of your goals have been achieved?

But seriously, we're glad to hear how much you're enjoying all the books. We couldn't agree with you more about Spidey's supporting cast, undoubtedly one of the strongest in comics.

Dear Arachnights,

The new AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #1 seems to me a wasted opportunity—a disappointing return to something we've all seen before. I guess I'll have to accept Aunt May's seemingly pointless return, but please try to surprise me and do something fresh with her, something which warrants her return from the "dead." And do the same with Jonah—his ranting this ish was boring, predictable. Sure, he's got very strong self-beliefs and he's the most stubborn guy this side of Adamant Hardhead, Ambassador of Blinkered Vision, but he ain't stupid. Shown as three-dimensional, Jonah can be as complex and believable a character as Peter Parker, but 2-D like this, he's just a comic book cliché all by himself. Sort it out. (Maybe a defining Jonah story by J.M. DeMatteis

over in WEBSPINNERS is what's needed, one to which all future writers can refer to when seeking JJJ's myriad models.)

Pete giving up the webs seemed unreasonable to me at first. His dedication to responsibility has always been stronger than anything else in the past—and I reckon that'll prove true again this time...eventually. But it shows the depth of his feelings for both MJ and his returned aunt that he can overcome the guilt he feels for Uncle Ben's death and put their feelings and wishes first for a while.

This new beginning is a chance to inject the Spideverse—still the most beloved corner of Comicon—with new and much-needed excitement. Give us something we've never seen before, while keeping true to the characters and to the Spider-Man concept. March confidently into the next millennium and prove that, while Stan and Steve gave us the perfect groundwork, the new crew can venture into realms undreamt of, and make Spider-Man the undoubted class act in comic shops the world over! Until Uncle Ben, Gwendy and Harry return to life, too, and everyone lives happily ever after, Make Mine Marvel!

Kevin Barron
43 Mill Falls
Driffild, East Yorkshire
YO25 5AZ
ENGLAND

Thanks for the candid observations, Kev. Apparently you're not completely happy with the new status quo, but are willing to accept it. Fair enough. As we move forward with these titles, we can only hope to answer the "call to arms" at the end of your missive with as much poise and purpose as you ask of us.

NEXT ISSUE:

THIS IS THE BEGINNING OF THE EVENT THAT WILL SHAKE FANDOM TO ITS ROOTS: THE DEBUT OF THE ALL-NEW SPIDER-WOMAN! NOT A HOAX! NOT A DREAM! NOT JESSICA DREW OR JULIA CARPENTER! WHO IS THAT MASKED WOMAN? ONLY ONE PLACE TO FIND OUT: HERE, NEXT MONTH. JOIN HOWARD, JOHN AND SCOTT AS THEY BRING YOU MARVEL'S NEWEST SENSATION! RALF WILL BE AROUND AS WELL, BUT ONLY TO SWEEP UP THE CONFETTI.

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