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#16

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SPIDER-MAN

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THE MACABRE
GHOST!**

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BYRNE
GREEN**

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GUEST STAR
FROM A
DISTANT TIME WITH A MISSION
TO BOGGLE THE MIND!**

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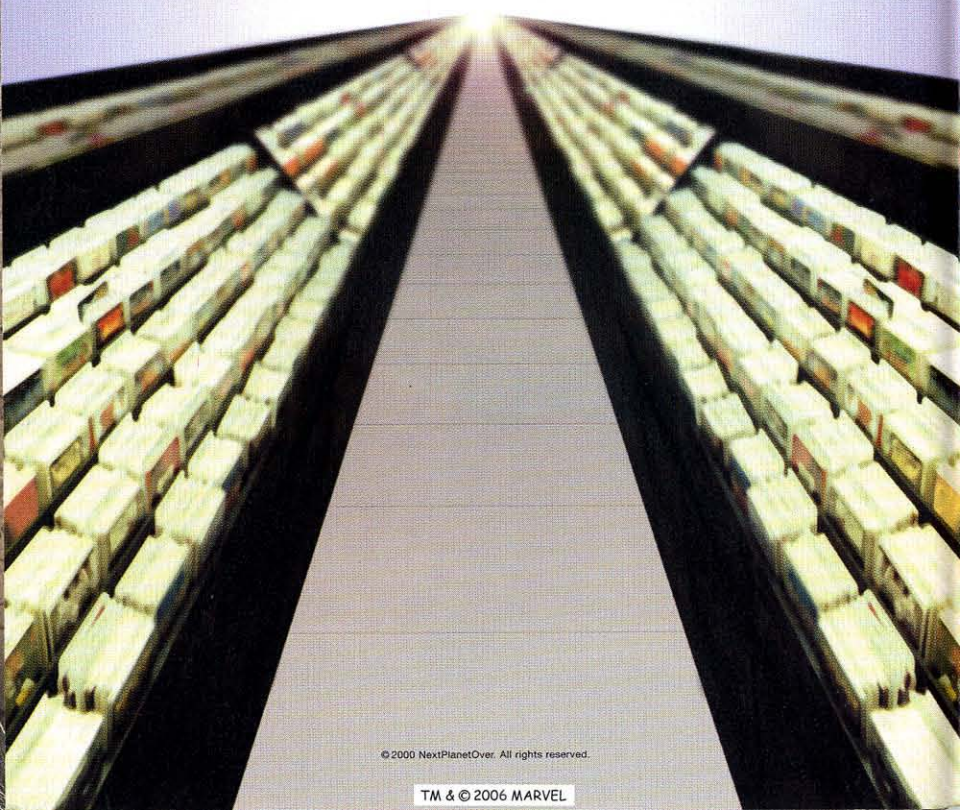
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AT A DEMONSTRATION ON RADIATION, HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT PETER PARKER WAS BITTEN BY AN IRRADIATED SPIDER FROM WHICH HE GAINED THE ARACHNID'S INCREDIBLE ABILITIES. WHEN A BURGLAR KILLED HIS BELOVED UNCLE BEN, A GRIEF-STROCKEN PETER VOWED TO USE HIS GREAT POWERS IN THE SERVICE OF HIS FELLOW MAN, BECAUSE HE LEARNED AN INVALUABLE LESSON: WITH GREAT POWER MUST ALSO COME GREAT RESPONSIBILITY. STAN LEE PRESENTS:

THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN!

JOHN L. BYRNE
HOWARD MACKIE
story and art

DAN GREEN
inks

COMIC-BOOK

NOTE TO SELF...

...DO NOT TRAVEL HALF-WAY AROUND THE WORLD, TO A COUNTRY RUN BY A ROBOTIC VERSION OF AN EVIL TYRANT, WHILE SEARCHING FOR YOUR MISSING WIFE... JUST BECAUSE YOU RECEIVED A PHONE CALL FROM SOMEONE WHO SAYS SHE'S BEING HELD IN SAID TYRANT'S CASTLE!

AND IF YOU DO TRAVEL...

...MAKE SURE YOU'VE GOT A PLAN FOR GETTING BACK!
MAN! I NEED A SHOWER!

RS & COMICRAFT'S TROY PETER letters

JOB ROSAS
colors

RALPH MACCHIO
editor

BOB HARRAS
chief

That just about covers events of the last few months! —Recap'n' Rail.

THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN: Vol. 2, No. 16, April, 2006. ISSN 1057-4320. Published by MARVEL COMICS, a division of MARVEL ENTERPRISES, INC. Peter Capasi, President; Avi Arad, Chief Creative Officer; Stan Lee, Chairman Emeritus. OFFICE OF PUBLICATION: 387 PARK AVENUE SOUTH, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10016. PERIODICALS POSTAGE PAID AT NEW YORK, N.Y. AND AT ADDITIONAL MAILING OFFICES. Published monthly. Copyright © 2006 Marvel Characters, Inc. All rights reserved. Price \$2.25 per copy in the U.S. and \$3.45 in Canada. Subscription rate for 12 issues: U.S. \$27.00; foreign \$39.00; and Canadian subscribers must add \$10.00 for postage and GST. GST #R12702892. 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 likeness 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 1919 DANBURY, CT. 06815-1919. TELEPHONE (410) 744-5331. FAX (410) 744-9544. Printed in the U.S.A.

A comic book panel showing Spider-Man on a rooftop. He is in a crouched position, looking down with a determined expression. The rooftop has a brick parapet and a checkered floor. In the background, there are city buildings and a large, stylized 'X' made of yellow and black blocks. Spider-Man is wearing his classic red and blue suit.

YEAH!
THAT'S
EXACTLY
WHAT I
NEED!

A HOT
SHOWER, A
LONG NAP, SOME
OF AUNT MAY'S
HOME COOKING
AND THEN...

...I CAN
FIGURE OUT
WHAT I SHOULD
DO NEXT TO FIND
MARY JANE.

I REFUSE
TO BELIEVE SHE
DIED IN THAT
RECENT PLANE
CRASH!

WHAT THE
HECK?!

THE
PLACE LOOKS
LIKE A DISASTER
AREA! EVERYTHING'S
ALL PACKED UP
AND...

AUNT
MAY!

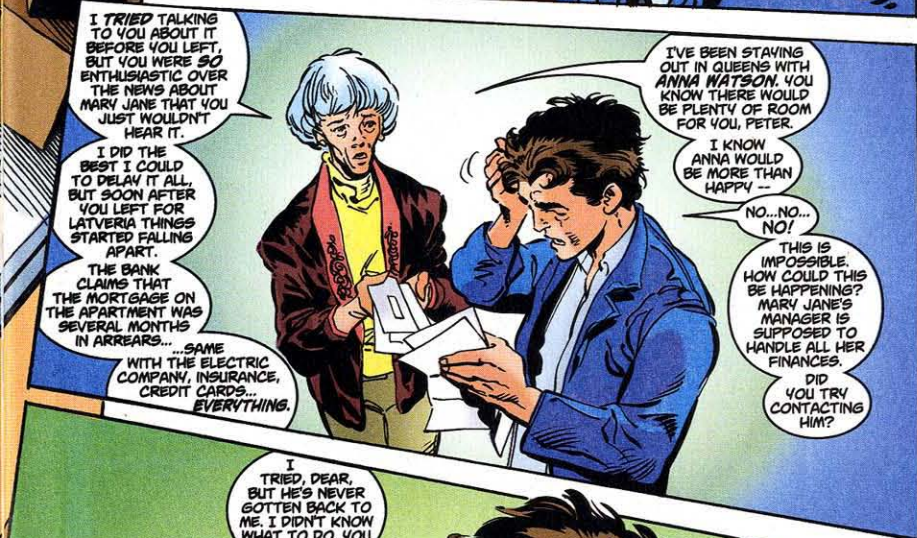




PETER!
I'M
GLAD YOU'RE
BACK!
I WAS
STARTING TO
WORRY SO WHEN
I DIDN'T HEAR
FROM YOU.

HAVE YOU
EATEN? I CAN
PROBABLY WHIP
SOMETHING UP FOR
YOU. I DON'T THINK THE
ENTIRE KITCHEN IS
ENTIRELY PACKED
YET...

AUNT
MAY, WHAT
IS GOING ON
HERE? WHY DOES
IT LOOK LIKE
WE'RE MOVING
OUT?



I TRIED TALKING
TO YOU ABOUT IT
BEFORE YOU LEFT,
BUT YOU WERE SO
ENTHUSIASTIC OVER
THE NEWS ABOUT
MARY JANE THAT YOU
JUST WOULDN'T
HEAR IT.

I DID THE
BEST I COULD
TO DELAY IT ALL,
BUT SOON AFTER
YOU LEFT FOR
LATVERIA THINGS
STARTED FALLING
APART.

THE BANK
CLAIMS THAT
THE MORTGAGE ON
THE APARTMENT WAS
SEVERAL MONTHS
IN ARREARS...

...SAME
WITH THE ELECTRIC
COMPANY, INSURANCE,
CREDIT CARDS...
EVERYTHING.

I'VE BEEN STAYING
OUT IN QUEENS WITH
ANNA WATSON. YOU
KNOW THERE WOULD
BE PLENTY OF ROOM
FOR YOU, PETER.

I KNOW
ANNA WOULD
BE MORE THAN
HAPPY --

NO...NO...
NO!

THIS IS
IMPOSSIBLE.
HOW COULD THIS
BE HAPPENING?
MARY JANE'S
MANAGER IS
SUPPOSED TO
HANDLE ALL HER
FINANCES.

DID
YOU TRY
CONTACTING
HIM?



I
TRIED, DEAR,
BUT HE'S NEVER
GOTTEN BACK TO
ME. I DIDN'T KNOW
WHAT TO DO. YOU
WERE GONE
AND --

DON'T
WORRY, AUNT
MAY. MJ WAS TAKING
CARE OF US. IT'S HER
MODELING MONEY THAT
GOT US THIS FIFTH
AVENUE PENTHOUSE.
I'LL STRAIGHTEN
THIS OUT.

OVER THE NEXT
SEVERAL HOURS...

THIS
CAN'T BE
HAPPENING!

MARY JANE
WAS ONE OF THE
COUNTRY'S TOP
SUPERMODELS.
SHE TOLD
ME THAT THE
MONEY WAS JUST
ROLLING IN.

AND LIKE
A DOPE, I NEVER
CHECKED UP ON
ANYTHING.
HOW
COULD HER
MANAGER JUST HAVE
DISAPPEARED...

...AND
CLEANED OUT
ALL OF HER
ACCOUNTS?!

ALL
WE'VE GOT
LEFT IS
DEBT!
THIS
CAN'T BE
HAPPENING.

IT
JUST
CAN'T.

**AT THIS INSTANT,
YOU ARE HURLING
THROUGH THE UNIVERSE.**

**YOU DON'T NEED A SHOE THAT KEEPS UP.
YOU NEED ONE THAT KEEPS SCORE.**

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it can measure
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A SHORT TIME LATER, AT THE TRICORP RESEARCH CORP. FACILITIES...

HERE, SOME OF THE BEST AND THE BRIGHTEST SCIENTIFIC MINDS OF OUR GENERATION ARE DRAWN TO LEAD THIS NATION INTO THE THIRD MILLENNIUM...

...AND TO MAKE A PROFIT, WHILE DOING SO.

AMIDST THE FLURRY OF ACTIVITY WHICH, TO THOSE WORKING AT TRICORP, IS KNOWN AS WEDNESDAY...

...COMES A MOST UNLIKELY VISITOR.

HER NAME IS CASSANDRA LOCKE.

SHE IS A TIME TRAVELING HISTORIAN AND LIBRARIAN FROM A FAR DISTANT PERIOD. *

* See the new MARVEL: LOST GENERATIONS book for full details --- Plug-happy Ralf.



HEY! STOP!

WHAT? HOW COULD THEY KNOW --?

COME PLAY IN THE SENSATIONAL WORLD OF

BACKWARDIA

Where's
the Cap'n?

BACKWARDIA IS ONE PLACE
THE CAP'N HAS VISITED
ON HIS ADVENTURE. HOLD
THIS PAGE UP TO A MIRROR
TO FIND A SECRET MESSAGE!

WHERE

BACKWARD
BURGERS

ROADWAY

42ND STREET

NOW!

PIZZA
PARLOR

HE

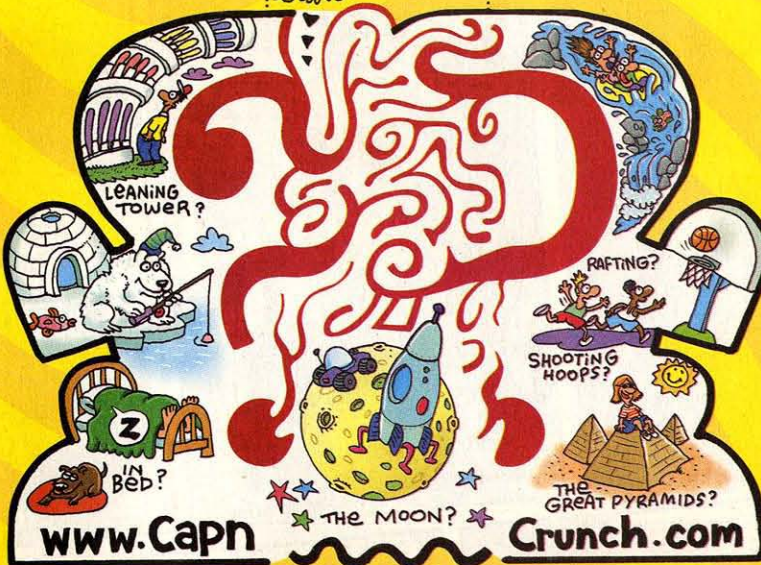
12



A ▶ Fold Together ◀ B

Where's the Cap'n?

Start



Find him and win part of the
\$1,000,000 Prize!

Cap'n Crunch[®] is missing, and if you can find him you could become one of 10,000 lucky winners to split a \$1 Million prize. To enter, look for scrambled clues on specially marked boxes of Cap'n Crunch[®]. Then, use the decoder/entry form found inside to unscramble the clues and send in your entry.



1. NO PURCHASE NECESSARY. Open to legal U.S. and Canadian residents. Sweepstakes begins on January 1, 2000, see rules below for end date. Winners will be selected in a random drawing on or about May 22, 2000. 2. HOW TO ENTER: There are two ways to enter the Where's the Cap'n? Sweepstakes: a) Find the Cap'n: by following the clues printed on specially-marked packages of Cap'n Crunch Cereal (Original, Crunch Berries, Oatmeal Crunch, Peanut Butter Crunch) in the U.S. or Canada. A decoder can be found inside specially-marked packages of Cap'n Crunch Cereal. Entries must be mailed to: Where's the Cap'n? Sweepstakes, P.O. Box 2229, Maple Plain, MN 55553-2229. Entries must be postmarked by April 10, 2000 and received by April 10, 2000. Limit one entry per envelope. No copies/facsimiles or mechanical reproductions of entries will be accepted. b) To enter without purchase: You may request a free decoder and stopwatch by sending a self-addressed, stamped envelope to: Where's the Cap'n? Sweepstakes, Please Request, P.O. Box 2227, Maple Plain, MN 55553-2227. VT and WA residents may omit return postage. Requests must be postmarked by April 10, 2000 and received by April 20, 2000. Mail-in entries will receive a decoder and a copy of the "Where's the Cap'n?" storybook in order to solve the clues and determine which one of the four possible "places" the entrant believes the Cap'n can be found along with a copy of the complete Official Rules. Upon making this determination, entrants must fill out the Official Entry Form found on the decoder. Entries must be mailed to: Where's the Cap'n? Sweepstakes, P.O. Box 2228, Maple Plain, MN 55553-2228. All mail-in entries must be postmarked by May 8, 2000 and received by May 18, 2000. Limit one entry per envelope. No copies/facsimiles or mechanical reproductions of mail-in entries will be accepted. 3. Prizes: (10,000) Grand Prizes: U.S. \$100 cash. Approximate Retail Value (ARV): U.S. \$100 each. Total ARV of all prizes: U.S. \$1,000,000. No substitution allowed except at the discretion of the Sponsor or as provided herein. Prizes are not transferable prior to award. Limit one prize per household. Odds of winning a prize depend on number of eligible entries received. Canadian winners must correctly answer a mathematical self-testing question before the prize will be awarded. 4. The Sponsor is not responsible for lost, late, illegible, incomplete, misdirected, mislabeled, or postage due mail/entries/requests. Entries become property of Sponsor and will not be returned. Winners will be selected in a random drawing on or about May 22, 2000, from among all entries received which correctly identify the "place" where the Cap'n was located while he was "missing". The drawing will be conducted by Gage Marketing Group, an independent judging organization, whose decisions on all matters with respect to the promotion will be final. Winners will be notified by phone within 14 days of notification. Failure to comply with this condition will result in forfeiture of prize and an alternate winner will be selected. If prize is won by a minor, it will be awarded to the minor's name to one parent or legal guardian, who must sign all required documents. Signed entries prohibited by accepting prize. Winner consents to the use of his/her name, photo and/or likeness for advertising and promotional purposes, without limitation and without additional compensation. By accepting prize, winner agrees to release The Quaker Oats Company, Gage Marketing Group, and their respective affiliates, subsidiaries and agents, including without limitation, their advertising and promotion agencies, and the judging organization and each of their respective directors, employees and officers from any and all liability, loss, or damage of any kind arising from, or in connection with, the awarding, receipt, possession, use or misuse of any prize. By participating, entrants agree to abide by and be bound by the Official Rules and the judging decisions. Game materials are automatically void if they are reproduced, mislabeled, forged, altered or tampered with in any way. If they are obtained outside authorized legitimate channels, or if they contain printing, production, typographical, mechanical or other errors, liability for game materials containing printing or other errors is limited to replacement with other game materials while supplies last. With respect to residents of the province of Quebec, Canada and to entries originating within the province of Quebec, any litigation respecting the conduct and awarding of a prize in this publicly contest may be submitted to the Régie des arbitrés, des clauses de des jeux, S. 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21st-Ends
March 1st,
2000



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Jack Kirby!**
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**BWONG
BWONG
BWONG**

INTRUDER
ALERT.

ALL
SECURITY
TEAMS
SEAL DOWN
FACILITY.

REPEAT...
WE HAVE AN
UNAUTHORIZED
INTRUDER ON THE
PREMISES.

OH,
BOY...

...NOW
I'M IN
TROUBLE!

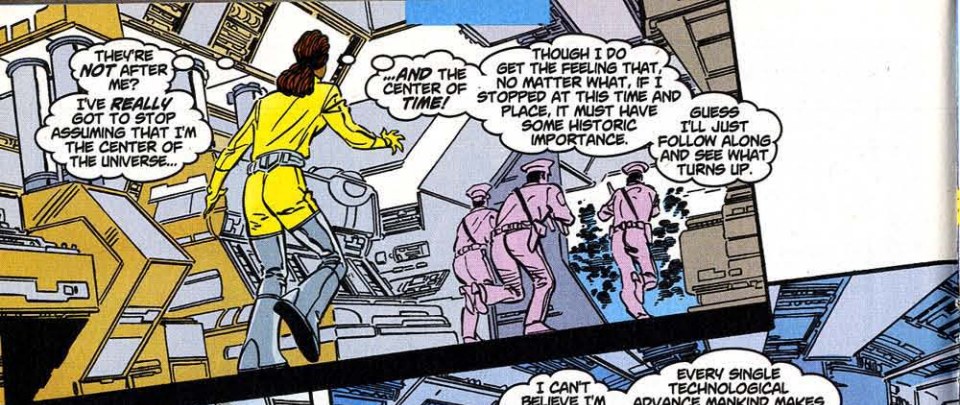


I CAN'T BE
CAPTURED. NOT
NOW.

NOT
BEFORE I'VE
COMPLETED MY
MISSION.







THEY'RE NOT AFTER ME?
I'VE REALLY GOT TO STOP ASSUMING THAT I'M THE CENTER OF THE UNIVERSE...

...AND THE CENTER OF TIME!

THOUGH I DO GET THE FEELING THAT, NO MATTER WHAT, IF I STOPPED AT THIS TIME AND PLACE, IT MUST HAVE SOME HISTORIC IMPORTANCE.

GUESS I'LL JUST FOLLOW ALONG AND SEE WHAT TURNS UP.



WHOA!
THIS IS IT!



I CAN'T BELIEVE I'M HERE FOR THE MOMENT OF ITS CREATION.

EVERY SINGLE TECHNOLOGICAL ADVANCE MANKIND MAKES FROM THIS DAY FORWARD IS BASED ON THE WORK BEING DONE IN THIS ROOM TODAY.

AND I'M HERE TO WITNESS IT.
COOL.



THAT'S THE MAN HIMSELF... TWAKI!
HE DOESN'T SEEM TOO IN CONTROL OF THE SITUATION. WONDER WHY? CAN'T BE A GOOD THING.

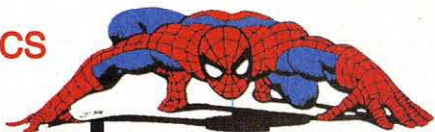


WHOA! THE GHOST!

WAIT...I'M CONFUSED. IS THIS BEFORE TWAKI... THAT ADAPTED HIS TECHNOLOGY TO -- OH, BOY.

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The Whole Galaxy

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WHAT
THE --?

SPIDER-MAN?!

I DID
ARRIVE TOO
SOON!

THIS IS
ALL TOO
CONFUSING.

I WISH
THEY HAD A MORE
ACCURATE AND
RELIABLE METHOD
OF RECORDING
HISTORY BACK
NOW.

I SHOULD
JUST KEEP
MOVING ON,
BUT...

I'VE GOT
TO STICK AROUND
AND SEE HOW THIS
ALL PLAYS OUT.

SO MANY
QUESTIONS REGARDING
THIS TIME PERIOD COULD
BE STRAIGHTENED OUT
BY MY BEING
HERE.

THE
OPPORTUNITY OF
A LIFETIME.





EXCUSE ME, DR. THAKI, BUT I THINK THIS IS NOT THE PLACE FOR YOU RIGHT NOW.

SPIDER-MAN!
MY ASSISTANT... I --

I GOT YOU BOTH.
NOW MAYBE YOU CAN SHUT THIS THING DOWN BEFORE IT COMPLETELY GOES.
EXACTLY WHAT IS IT YOU'RE WORKING ON ANYWAY?

AN ADVANCED FORM OF ENERGY WHICH -- IS FAR TOO COMPLEX AN ENDEAVOR TO EXPLAIN TO THE LAY MIND, SPIDER-MAN.
AND I HAVE NO TIME TO GIVE YOU AN ADVANCED PHYSICS LESSON.



GUESS I SHOULD HAVE BEEN PAYING MORE ATTENTION TO THE STUFF GOING ON HERE AT TRICORP.

WAIT A MINUTE! HOW DID YOU GET IN HERE?
SPIDER-MAN IS THE SABOTEUR!



NO! OVER HERE.
IT'S THE **GHOST!**
HE DID IT!



I'VE GOT HIM!

NO! DON'T SHOOT! YOU'LL --!

DO EXACTLY WHAT I HAD HOPED!

PTOOM



YOUR BULLETS NEVER STOOD A CHANCE OF CONNECTING WITH ONE WHO CAN DEMATERIALIZER HIMSELF AT WILL!

AND NOW YOUR BULLETS WILL STRIKE WHERE I HAD PLANNED.

NO!



WITH THAT COMPUTER BANK TAKEN OFF LINE...
...THIS WHOLE FACILITY IS GOING TO BLOW.

THERE'S GOT TO BE A BACKUP CUT-OFF SWITCH. WHERE IS IT?



THERE! ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE ENERGY FIELD.

OH BOY.

YOU'LL NEVER BE ABLE TO GET TO IT IN TIME, SPIDER-MAN. IT'S HOPELESS.



DOC,
HOPELESS IS
MY MIDDLE NAME
THESE DAYS.
I'LL GET
IT.
SO
I'LL LOSE
A FEW BRAIN
CELLS IN THE
PROCESS.



YOU KNOW... I
THOUGHT THIS WAS
GOING TO BE HARDER
THAN JUST FLIPPING
A SWITCH!

OH
IT IS...
TRUST
ME!

WHO'LL
NOTICE?

BULLPEN BULLETINS

AVAILABLE FEBRUARY 16TH

BISHOP: THE LAST X-MAN

Lurking in the shadows the Clan Hellfire conspires to stop the Chronomancer and restore the world to the simpler place it once was. The key to their plan is Bishop, and they're giving him their help... whether he wants it or not! By JOSEPH HARRIS and GEORGES JEANTY!

#7

CAPTAIN AMERICA

Determined to locate a missing Sharon Carter, Captain America heads into the Savage Land! And what he finds there will amaze you! Plus: The shocking secret of what S.H.I.E.L.D. is hiding in their warehouse! All this, and the villainy of Count Nefario! By DAN JURGENS and ANDY KUBERT!

#28

CAPTAIN MARVEL

Can Moonranger help Captain Marvel master his newfound — and uncontrollable — Cosmic Awareness? And where Moonranger travels, can Drax the Destroyer be far behind? Plus: More problems for Rick Jones and Dario! By PETER DAVID and CHRISROSSI!

#4

DAREDEVIL

One man can put the Kingpin behind bars, but Daredevil find him in a race against the clock? Meanwhile, to defend his own life, Wilson Fisk must take the stand... and reveal secrets from his past! Plus: The new villain called Echo throws DD a beating just for good luck! By DAVID MACK and JOE QUESADA!

#12

INCREDIBLE HULK

The only hope that Bruce Banner has to halt the monstrous ravaging his mindspace is to unite the various components of his shattered psyche! But can any threat bring together the savage Hulk, the gray model, the intelligent version and Banner himself? And before it's all over, a new Hulk — different from all others — will stand revealed! By PAUL JENKINS and RON GARNEY!

#13

MARVEL SELECTS: SPIDER-MAN

Relive the magic with the series that presents classic moments in the life of Spider-Man! This issue reprints AMAZING SPIDER-MAN (Vol. 1) #103, in which Spider-Man, for the life of Gwen Stacy, battles the monstrous Gog in the Savage Land! By ROY THOMAS and GIL KANE!

#4 of 12

PETER PARKER: SPIDER-MAN

Venom hunts the Sinister Six! Picking up on the action in AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #16, Peter Parker must find out if J. Jonah Jameson finally knows his secret identity. But he may not have much time to check in with the Daily Bugle's publisher because Venom has some unfinished business with Jameson! By HOWARD MACKIE and JOHN ROMITA JR.!

#16

THUNDERBOLTS

Hawkeye faces both a turning point and a new Thunderbolt! The only hope the Thunderbolts have of helping their former teammate Abe Jenkins is by bringing down the new Beetle and blackmailing the Commission! But will Hawkeye compromise his morals to save his friend — and will his partners discover that he lied about the Commission's pardon? By FABIAN NICIEZA and MARK BAGLEY!

#37

X-51

Faced with the danger he posed to both man and mutantkind, X-51 has made a noble sacrifice — and battles on in cyberspace! Now the Machine Man must purge the mutant-hating Sentinel programs from his system — or lose himself forever! By KARL BOLLERS and JOE BENNETT!

#9

X-MAN

Trapped on another world, Nate Grey fights to liberate imprisoned aliens from forces the likes of which he's never imagined! By TERRY KAVANAGH and MIKE MILLER!

#62

X-MEN

The Children Of The Atom find their mutant powers stripped away! But where does that leave the X-Men? Wolverine, who has just recovered his adamantium, is dying. A no-longer-icy Bobby Drake and Hank McCoy (sans his blue fur) are trapped in war-torn Genosha — with a suddenly very human Magneto! By ALAN DAVIS and BRET BOOTH!

#99

Hi, Heroes!

I know you're as eager as I to meet all our new No-Prize Laureates, so let's get right to their questions as we dispense our whirlpool of wisdom for a grateful mankind.

I'll bet Rachid Yahya of the Bronx, NY, has been watching a lot of old TV reruns...

"Did you base Spidey's J. Jonah Jameson on Lou Grant from the Mary Tyler Moore show? They're both journalists and are both grumpy but decent inside."

Funny you should mention that, Rachid. Ed Asner is actually a friend of mine. But no, I didn't base JJJ on Ed's Lou Grant portrayal. I actually based him on (sound of trumpets, please!) my own grumpy and grouchy but extremely loveable self.

Here's a query from Matt Birch of Kingsport, TN to bring out the scientist in us...

"If Captain America's shield is painted red, white and blue, wouldn't the paint peel off when it's blasted or whacked? Maybe Dr. Myron McLean mixed the paint with the vibranium alloy."

Wow, it's great when a No-Prizer actually furnishes the answer along with his question. I can't improve upon your Dr. McLean theory, so you've got it, Bunky!

Now I'll prove I can be brief and to the point as I answer a most difficult and complex question posed to me by Gabriela Steren of Buenos Aires, Argentina...

"Here's a question that's been going 'round my mind for some time. Why is it that the male comicbook characters in your books don't have lips?"

They do! Haven't you noticed they're always talking?

Do you think Bart Leavens of Low Moor, IA secretly desires to be an optometrist?

"Stan, I have a quick question about

STAN'S SOAPBOX

your glasses. Are you near-sighted or far-sighted? On second thought, do you wear them to keep your identity a secret?"

Just between us, Bart, the problem with my eyes is — I've got astigmatism. Living here in Los Angeles, I love being in the sun and it's too much trouble to change from my regular glasses to sun glasses, so I take the lazy way out and just wear the sunglasses all the time. I'm afraid there's not much chance of keeping my identity a secret since my name and my caricature seem to be splashed all over the place! Besides, I like being a celebrity, even if my wife is the only one who thinks I am!

Andrew Vogt of Ft. Collins, CO writes to share a matter of grave concern with us...

"What are Reed Richards and Iron Man doing about Marvel's 'YK2 virus'?" Hey, Andy, after fighting villains like Dr. Doom and Galactus, do you think a measly YK2 virus'll bother our superheroes? They'll let Irving Forbush handle it!

Well, that wraps it for this ish, True Believers! I wish we could visit longer, but I'm probably better off quitting while I'm ahead — there's always the chance that the next batch of questions'll be too tough to handle, even for Stan (the poor man's Professor X) Leel! So till next ish, remember — Buy Marvel! — we've got rent to pay!

Excelsior!

Stan Lee

Stan

Stan's Soapbox
Marvel Comics,
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stan@stan.com

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In a Marvel Chat!

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AOL Keyword: Marvel

This week's chat schedule!

2/16 @ 9pm ET -- Tentative
GAMBIT and BISHOP editor --
MIKE MARTS!

2/17 @ 9:30pm ET
EARTH'S MIGHTIEST CHAT with
writer, KURT BUSIEK and editor,
TOM BREVOORT!

2/21 @ 8pm ET
COMICS LEGEND --
JOHN ROMITA, SR.!

AOL Keyword: Marvel

All chat schedules subject to change/cancellation. Refer to Keyword: Marvel > Astral Plane > Chat Schedule for latest schedule.

BULLPEN BITS #40

HEY, COLOSSUS... DO YOU THINK YOU COULD DRAW A PICTURE OF ME?

CERTAINLY, COMRADE.

OKAY, COOL! BUT DRAW ME A LITTLE TALLER, OKAY?

AND MAYBE NOT SO SCRUFFY LOOKING.

TELL YA WHAT... JUST MAKE ME LOOK AS COOL AS POSSIBLE.

YOU GOT IT, WOLVERINE.

BY CHRIS GIARRUSSO

VERY HANDSOME, YES?





FLEX YOUR MUSCLE!

The Seventh Annual Wizard Fan Awards are upon us, and it's time for you, the comic fans of the world, to determine what's the cream of the crop in the comic world!

Each little box below represents a different category. Each category contains five nominees determined through a "Wizard World: Online" poll.

So what do you do?

- 1) Vote for one and ONLY ONE entry in each category. Multiple votes in any category disqualify the whole ballot. And if you do that, we'll punch you in the back of the head.**
- 2) What happens if you don't like the nominees listed? Feel free to go off the board and write in your own choice in the "write-in" category! It's easy! It's fun! Why, it's democratic and stuff!**
- 3) You don't have to vote in every category if you don't wish, and you only get to vote ONCE! All multiple ballots will be disqualified. That means none of your votes count if you try to cheat! And believe us...we have our ways of finding out.**

**Ready? Then grab
a non-leaky pen
and GO!**

FAVORITE WRITER

- ☐ Kurt Busiek (*Avengers*)
- ☐ Warren Ellis (*The Authority*)
- ☐ Jeph Loeb (*Superman*)
- ☐ Alan Moore (*League of Ext. Gentlemen*)
- ☐ Kevin Smith (*Daredevil*)
- ☐ write-in _____

FAVORITE PENCILER

- ☐ Adam Kubert (*Uncanny X-Men*)
- ☐ Joe Quesada (*Daredevil*)
- ☐ George Pérez (*Avengers*)
- ☐ Michael Turner (*Fathom*)
- ☐ Leinil Francis Yu (*Wolverine*)
- ☐ write-in _____

FAVORITE INKER

- ☐ John Dell (*JLA*)
- ☐ Scott Hanna (*Amazing Spider-Man*)
- ☐ Jimmy Palmiotti (*Daredevil*)
- ☐ Tim Townsend (*Uncanny X-Men*)
- ☐ Al Vey (*Avengers*)
- ☐ write-in _____

FAVORITE PAINTER

- ☐ Brian Bolland (*Invisibles*)
- ☐ Glenn Fabry (*Preacher*)
- ☐ David Mack (*Daredevil*)
- ☐ Glen Orbik (*Batman*)
- ☐ Alex Ross (*Earth X*)
- ☐ write-in _____

FAVORITE COLORIST

- ☐ Brian Haberlin (*Aria*)
- ☐ Richard Isanove (*Daredevil*)
- ☐ Liquid! Graphics (*Uncanny X-Men*)
- ☐ Jonathan D. Smith (*Fathom*)
- ☐ Tom Smith (*Avengers*)
- ☐ write-in _____

FAVORITE LETTERER

- ☐ Todd Klein (*Captain America*)
- ☐ Ken Lopez (*JLA*)
- ☐ Chris Eliopoulos (*Savage Dragon*)
- ☐ Tom Orzechowski (*Spawn*)
- ☐ R. Starkings and Comcraft (*Daredevil*)
- ☐ write-in _____

FAVORITE EDITOR

- ☐ Tom Brevoort (*Avengers*)
- ☐ Dennis O'Neil (*Batman*)
- ☐ Jimmy Palmiotti/Joe Quesada (*Daredevil*)
- ☐ Dan Raspler (*JLA*)
- ☐ David Wohl (*Fathom*)
- ☐ write-in _____

FAVORITE HERO

- ☐ Batman (*Batman*)
- ☐ Daredevil (*Daredevil*)
- ☐ Spawn (*Spawn*)
- ☐ Thor (*Thor*)
- ☐ Wolverine (*Uncanny X-Men*)
- ☐ write-in _____

FAVORITE HEROINE

- ☐ Batgirl (*Batman*)
- ☐ Fathom (*Fathom*)
- ☐ Mina Murray (*League of Ext. Gentlemen*)
- ☐ Spider-Girl (*Spider-Girl*)
- ☐ Witchblade (*Witchblade*)
- ☐ write-in _____

FAVORITE VILLAIN

- ☐ Lex Luthor (*Superman*)
- ☐ Magneto (*X-Men*)
- ☐ Mystero (*Daredevil*)
- ☐ The Skull (*Earth X*)
- ☐ Ultron (*Avengers*)
- ☐ write-in _____

FAVORITE SUPPORTING CHARACTER

- ☐ Harley Quinn (*Batman*)
- ☐ Edwin Jarvis (*Avengers*)
- ☐ Solomon (*Tom Strong*)
- ☐ Karen Page (*Daredevil*)
- ☐ Spoiler (*Robin*)
- ☐ write-in _____

FAVORITE ONGOING SERIES

- ☐ *Avengers*
- ☐ *Daredevil*
- ☐ *JLA*
- ☐ *Preacher*
- ☐ *Rising Stars*
- ☐ write-in _____

FAVORITE ONE-SHOT OR MINI-SERIES

- ☐ *Batman: Harley Quinn*
- ☐ *Earth X*
- ☐ *Inhumans*
- ☐ *Jay and Silent Bob*
- ☐ *League of Extraordinary Gentlemen*
- ☐ write-in _____

FAVORITE PUBLISHER

- ☐ Dark Horse
- ☐ DC
- ☐ Marvel
- ☐ Todd McFarlane Productions
- ☐ Top Cow Productions
- ☐ write-in _____

FAVORITE COMIC MERCHANDISE

- ☐ Flash ring, DC Direct
- ☐ *Marvel vs. Capcom* video game, Capcom
- ☐ Sandman Key to Hell, DC Direct
- ☐ Sydney Savage action figure, McFarlane Toys
- ☐ Thor statue, Bowen Designs
- ☐ write-in _____

FAVORITE COMIC TV OR MOVIE PROJECT

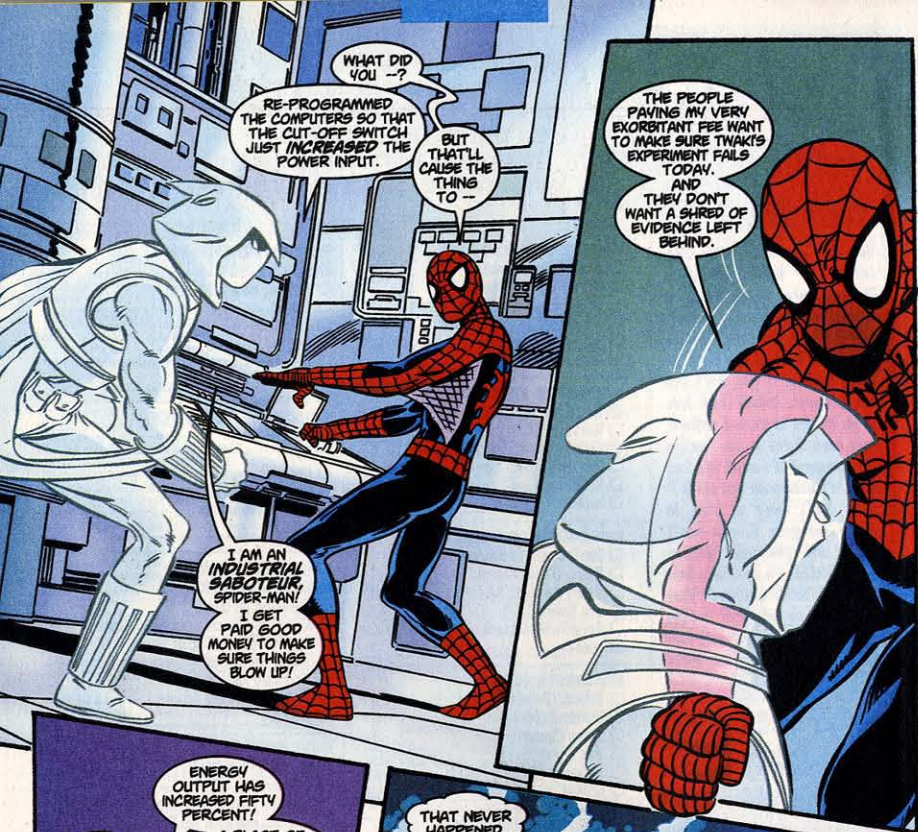
- ☐ "Batman Beyond"
- ☐ "The New Batman/Superman Adventures"
- ☐ "Big Guy and Rusty the Boy Robot"
- ☐ "Mystery Men"
- ☐ "Space Ghost Coast to Coast"
- ☐ write-in _____

COMICS' GREATEST MOMENT—1999

- ☐ Beaten and battered Avengers confront Ultron, *Avengers* #22
- ☐ Death of Karen Page, *Daredevil* #5
- ☐ Public's discovery that Superman's married, *Superman* #152
- ☐ God bites out Jesse Custer's eye, *Preacher* #49
- ☐ Midnighter crashes ship into Gamorra, *Authority* #4
- ☐ Thor defeats the Dark Gods, *Thor* #12
- ☐ write-in _____

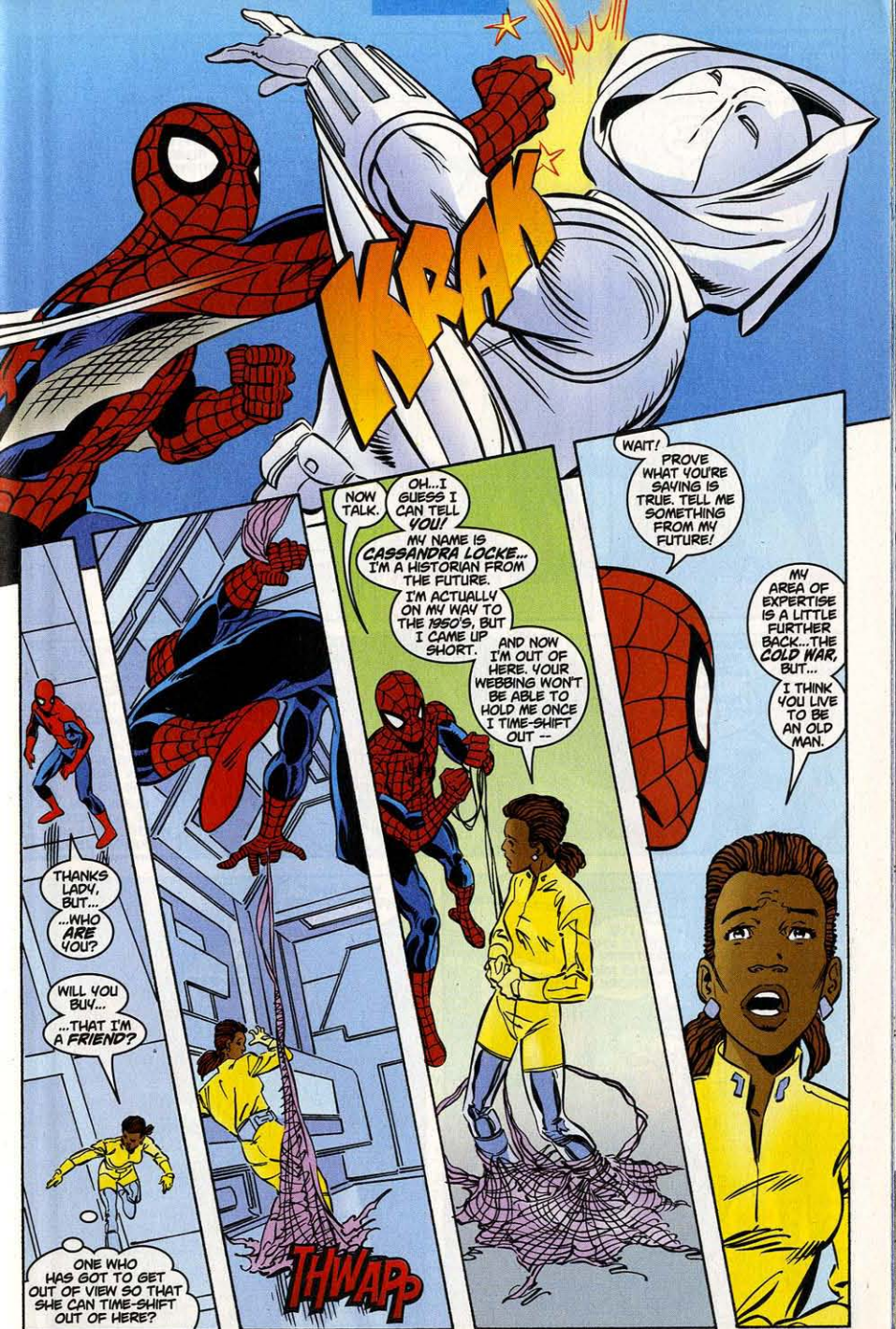
WIZARD

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Deadline is
March 1,
2000!**









KRAK

NOW
TALK.

OH...I
GUESS I
CAN TELL
YOU!

MY NAME IS
CASSANDRA LOCKE...
I'M A HISTORIAN FROM
THE FUTURE.

I'M ACTUALLY
ON MY WAY TO
THE 1950'S, BUT
I CAME UP
SHORT.

AND NOW
I'M OUT OF
HERE. YOUR
WEBBING WON'T
BE ABLE TO
HOLD ME ONCE
I TIME-SHIFT
OUT --

WAIT!

PROVE
WHAT YOU'RE
SAVING IS
TRUE. TELL ME
SOMETHING
FROM MY
FUTURE!

MY
AREA OF
EXPERTISE
IS A LITTLE
FURTHER
BACK...THE
COLD WAR,
BUT...

I THINK
YOU LIVE
TO BE
AN OLD
MAN.

THANKS
LADY,
BUT...
...WHO
ARE
YOU?

WILL YOU
BUY...
...THAT I'M
A FRIEND?

ONE WHO
HAS GOT TO GET
OUT OF VIEW SO THAT
SHE CAN TIME-SHIFT
OUT OF HERE?

THWAPP





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MOST HELPFUL... THEIR POSITIVE
ENCOURAGEMENT AND TIPS ON
IMPROVING MY COMPOSITION HAVE
DONE A WORLD OF GOOD."
-VICTOR J. MILLER, SR, USA

"I WAS REALLY (AND I
MEAN REALLY!) IMPRESSED
AND HAPPY WITH THE QUALITY
OF THE COURSES."
-THOMAS DEROUAULT, FRANCE

"THANKS AGAIN... FOR PROVIDING
A PERSON SUCH AS MYSELF WITH
THE OPPORTUNITY TO LEARN."
-DANIEL BELIC, AUSTRALIA

"I HAVE LEARNED MORE ABOUT
PENCILING IN THIS SHORT TIME-
THAN IN THE FIFTEEN YEARS
I'VE BEEN TRYING TO BREAK
INTO THIS INDUSTRY!"
-SANDY CARRUTHERS, CANADA

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WHAT?
WHY
NOT?

CHANGE
IN EDITORIAL
POLICY.

WHAT
ELSE DO YOU
HAVE?

NOTHING,
BUT...



WAIT A
MINUTE.

A FEW WEEKS BACK...
WHEN VENOM KNOCKED
ME OUT... JONAH WAS
STANDING OVER ME... HE
COULD HAVE... TAKEN
OFF MY MASK...

...DOES HE
KNOW?

Remember? It was in
Peter Parker #10 -- R.M.



YOU
MIGHT WANT TO
TRY YOUR HAND
AT SOMETHING
ELSE, SON.
TIME TO
DIVERSIFY.

DOES HE
KNOW? IS THAT
WHY THE SUDDEN
CHANGE IN
POLICY?



JONAH, IF
YOU COULD LOOK
AT THE SHOTS, I
THINK MAYBE
SPIDER-MAN
WAS INVOLVED
IN -

SORRY,
PETER...

...NOT
TODAY.

THE
WAY HE'S
LOOKING AT
ME.

HE'S
GOT TO
KNOW.
AND HE'S
HOLDING IT
AGAINST ME...
NOT BUYING
ANY OF THE
PHOTOS...
...WHAT AM
I GOING TO
DO NOW?



**THE
END**

Dear Spider's Web,

I just bought the first part of 'Return of the Sinister Six' in AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #12 and it was great. I didn't expect Ward to be in Doctor Octopus' pocket. The rift between MJ and Peter is getting bigger by the moment. If they don't work it out, it could end in divorce or her death by the stalker.

Speaking of the stalker, I think it's Norman Osborn, since death can't stop him and he has the help of the Scorpions. I hope the resolution to the question of Peter and MJ's marriage is death, since it would be harder to deal with, just like Gwen's death. If Peter does get remarried in the future, let it be with a costumed woman instead of a civilian.

I was surprised to see that Venom wanted to join the Six. I think you would go overboard by letting Venom join, since Peter's spider-sense can't detect him. Mysterio has got to be Quentin Beck, since he joined the Six for revenge against Octopus and not for money.

Brett Foerster
sfoerster@kna.to

Thanks for writing, Brett. You're not the only one who has an opinion about whether it's actually Quentin Beck under the fishbowl helmet. Scan the page, you'll see that just everybody is chiming in on that one!

Dear AMAZING SPIDER-MAN crew,

I just wanted to say that I love what's going on in AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #12. The plot is just great! I can't wait to see what's going to happen! However, Mysterio has got me wondering: Is he dead but somehow still alive, somehow existing between the dead and the living? Or is he dead, but just doesn't know it yet? Keep the mystery going; I hope it's a real twisted one by the time it's resolved!

Steve Angelucci
Deptford, NJ
creeper_5@excite.com

Interesting theory, Steve. Mysterio possibly being dead, but his restless soul still wandering around as if he weren't. Could be. It certainly would make for a creepy and disturbing situation, wouldn't it?

Greetings Matt and Ralf,

Re: AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #12.
Rushed. This is the best word to describe this issue, without using undue negativity. First off, too much stuff went on. It took Doc Ock three issues once to summon all six members, and he's Doc Ock. You expect me to believe Sandman can do it in one? Plus, Peter juggles a lot of things this issue: marital problems, super fights, confronts a senator, stops Stacy, more fights, and that doesn't count what else was happening with everyone else. It's just a really poorly written blur.

Now on to the finer points that I did like: Marital problems. Finally, you are developing this. It's nice to see something not go right for Pete for a change. Also, the return of the Sinister Six is

great, but I think it has been poorly executed.

And now the points that disappoint me almost to the point of dropping the book (and I've been reading Spidey since 1979). First, your obvious backpedaling on the Mysterio issue. Not only do you overcompensate for the mistake of resurrecting him, but you turn his "death" in DAREDEVIL into a big joke. It appears you are trying to establish that suicide has long been a Mysterio gag, but alas it has not. You also have him talking in pointless circles that try to be cryptic riddles; they fail. That is why I sincerely hope that it is not Quentin Beck under that bubble. Don't do that. It's better to respect your fellow writers and be creative with your stories than simply undermine good stories that have come before. If you want Mysterio back, it had better be a different guy, as per the creation of the Hobgoblin. This is a big point that will greatly determine the legitimacy of your skills, gentlemen. Do not let us down.

Secondly, Sandman has no motivation to be a villain again, other than that he wants to, seemingly. That is cheap. Why not make his inclination toward crime a struggle, or an addiction that he cannot kick? Why not have someone like Ock manipulate him back into crime like the Wizard did with the Trapster? That is far more interesting to read.

Next, Ock asking Spidey for help? Never. I can never see a circumstance where this would happen. I just don't believe it. It's not in Ock's character. Also, when has Spidey ever entered a room to confront someone through the door? He usually comes in the window. That is just standard Spidey practice, period. For that matter, when was the last time he threatened somebody like he threatened Ward? Again, very out of character. A little more attention to detail, please.

Costumes. Vulture in a suit? Ock with mechanical boots? Electro with no indication of electricity on his suit? If he got knocked out, nobody would know who he was! And what was with Venom's awkward jaw on the last page? It appears to me that the art is getting sloppy.

Speaking of Venom, he joins the Sinister Six for fun? This goes into that category of things I just don't believe for characters that have been clearly established.

This was just a very sloppy effort, gentlemen, and I've probably lost some things out by accident. You continue to disappoint a very big fan of the greatest super hero ever. The best part of this issue lasted three pages and dealt with a guy named Peter Parker who has marital problems. Sorry, guys, but this is reaching for an all-new low in the adventures of Spider-Man. Keep trying.

Ronnie Dingman
Louisville, KY

Sorry we didn't strike a chord with you, Ronnie. You obviously have a number of very heartfelt opinions on this issue. We'll answer as many as we can in the space allotted.

On the Mysterio issue, without say-

ing too much, we can assure you that it was no one's intention to disrespect the work of the other writers in this office. It never has been, and it never will.

Don't like Sandman's sudden reversion to criminal status? We hope you checked out PETER PARKER: SPIDER-MAN #12, which contains a more adequate explanation for Sandy's recent "heel-turn" than you may have seen in these pages.

Hello,

After 10+ years of reading Marvel comics, I had never written a letter before (even during the clone saga!). However, I was happy to see Mysterio in AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #12. I just hope this is the real Mysterio (i.e. Quentin Beck), and not some imitation.

I had looked forward to Kevin Smith's issues of DAREDEVIL, but was really disgusted that he basically repeated the classic "Kraven's Last Hunt" storyline—he took a classic villain, made him insane, and had him commit suicide at the end. While that was a great story with Kraven, it shouldn't have been repeated, especially with another classic Lee/Ditko Spider villain as the victim. It was so predictable.

Frankly, I hope you guys say that the Mysterio in DAREDEVIL wasn't the real deal. There aren't that many of the old Spidey villains around that they can be treated so cavalierly. I hope you do not make the same mistake as DC—eliminating many of their older heroes and villains, but replacing them with new characters. I really can't imagine continuing to purchase Marvel comics if you did that.

Paul Beck
Hourman48@aol.com

Well, Paul, the jury's still out on Quentin Beck. This wouldn't have anything to do with your name, by any chance?

NEXT ISSUE:

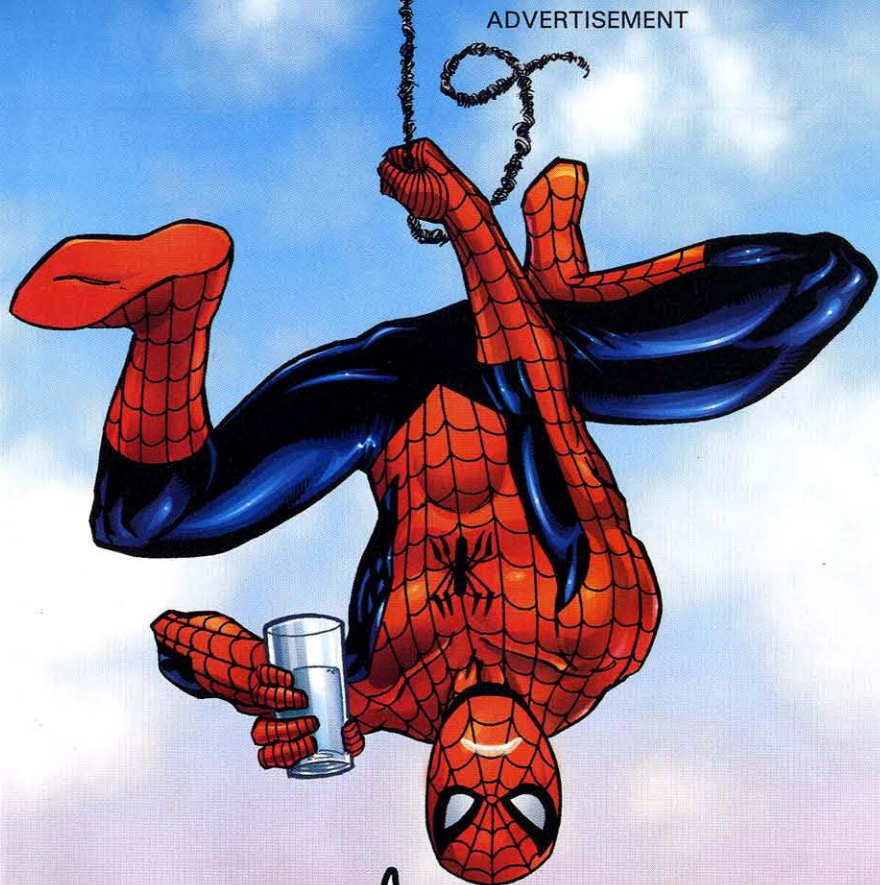
FALLOUT FROM SPIDEY'S
EPIC STRUGGLE WITH THE
SINISTER SIX CONTINUES
AS PETER FINDS HIM-
SELF UP AGAINST
ELECTRO, MYSTERIO AND
VENOM! SPIDEY COULD
BARELY HANDLE THESE
GUYS WHEN HE WASN'T
OVERWHELMED BY GRIEF.
WHAT CHANCE DOES HE
HAVE NOW? FIND OUT IN
FOUR WEEKS FROM
ODDS-MAKERS MACKIE,
BYRNE AND GREEN. ODDS
ARE, YOU'VE GOT MORE
OF A CLUE ABOUT THIS
ISSUE'S CONTENTS THAN
RALF.

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**SPIDER-SENSE
TINGLING!**

WHY? BECAUSE
NOT GETTING ENOUGH **CALCIUM**
CAN BE DANGEROUS! THAT'S WHY
I DRINK **THREE GLASSES** OF MILK A
DAY FOR STRONG BONES. HEY, WHEN
YOU'RE TRADING PUNCHES WITH
DOC OCK, **CALCIUM** IS YOUR
BEST FRIEND.

got milk?

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