

the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN®

Van Lente Kison Ketcham Cox



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DIRECT EDITION

the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN[®]



MAYOR JONAH



What began as a related gangster-related to a full-fledged organizations



J. Jonah Jameson's mayor, my Aunt got married to his dad (so we're family now!), and I slept with my roommate, sparking World War Three (seriously - she chained up our fridge). And yet - these are the least of my problems.

Mary Jane Watson, the woman I was a hop, skip and web-sling away from I-three-wedd-ing, is back in town. We haven't spoken much since she moved to LA, and then BAM! Right there, at the end of my Aunt's wedding, who's catching the bouquet? MJ. Sheesh.

Time to re-focus. I've been picking up freelance work for Front Line, but it's just barely covering the rent. I've got an in at City Hall now as a secretary.

And my Spider-Sense is getting nervous - Doctor Octopus tentacle'd his way back into town. With that new Vulture a few weeks back and my scuffle with Hammerhead...maybe this is the start of a trend. Something's brewing on the horizon, I can feel it...

FRED VAN LENTE BARRY
Writer KITSON

RICK
KETCHAM
and
BARRY
KITSON
inks

AM JEROMY
COX
Colorist

VC's JOE
CARAMAGNA
Letterer

ADI
GRANOV
Cover

MIKE
McKONE
Variant Cover

TOM
BRENNAN
Dog Walker

STEPHEN
WACKER
Dog

TOM
BREVOORT
Exec. Editor

JOE
QUESADA
Editor in Chief

DAN
BUCKLEY
Publisher

ALAN
FINE
Executive
Producer

GALE,
GUGGENHEIM,
KELLY, SLOTT,
VAN LENTE, WAID
& WELLS
Web-heads

To find MARVEL COMICS at a local comic and hobby shop, go to www.comicshoplocator.com or call 1-888-COMICBOOK.



NOVEMBER 1997: AN EMPLOYEE OF A COMPANY OWNED BY OSAMA BIN LADEN WALKS INTO THE U.S. EMBASSY IN NAIROBI AND TELLS AUTHORITIES AL QAEDA IS GOING TO BLOW UP THE BUILDING.

NO ACTION IS TAKEN.

AUGUST 7, 1998: AL QAEDA BLOWS UP THE U.S. EMBASSY IN NAIROBI. 213 KILLED, MORE THAN 4,000 INJURED.



FEBRUARY 2001: AN ARIZONA FLIGHT SCHOOL REPORTS A SUSPICIOUS STUDENT, HANI HANJOUR, TO THE F.A.A. THEY BELIEVE HE MIGHT BE A TERRORIST.

NO ACTION IS TAKEN.

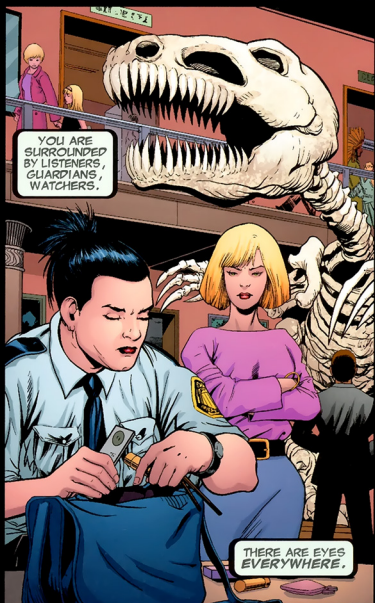
SEPTEMBER 11, 2001: 9/11 TERRORIST ATTACKS. NEARLY 3,000 KILLED, MORE THAN 6,291 INJURED. HANJOUR PILOTS THE PLANE INTO THE PENTAGON.



OCTOBER 2008: THE U.S. WARNS INDIA TWICE ABOUT AN IMMINENT MARITIME ATTACK ON THE TAJ MAHAL HOTEL AND OTHER MAJOR LANDMARKS.

NO ACTION IS TAKEN.

NOVEMBER 26-29, 2008: TERRORISTS ATTACK THE TAJ AND OTHER TARGETS IN MUMBAI. 173 KILLED, 208 INJURED.



YOU ARE SURROUNDED BY LISTENERS, GUARDIANS, WATCHERS.

THERE ARE EYES EVERYWHERE.

AND ALL
OF THEM ARE
BLIND.

RRRRRIIIIP

WHO--

PLEASE--

I--

YEAH, I
GOT A CALLBACK
FOR THAT
IBSEN REVIVAL
I TOLD YOU
ABOUT.

"THAT
IB-SEN RE-VI-VAL
I TOLD YOU
A-ABOUT."

NO, MA,
IT'S NOT A
MUSICAL, IT'S IBSEN.
"THE MASTER
BUILDER."

"THE MAS-TER
BUILD-ER."

THAT'S--

THAT'S
MY VOICE!

CONVERSATIONS
I HAD ON THE
PHONE!

HOW DID
YOU GET THAT?
YOU TAPING
MY--

MA!
C'MON...YOU
KNOW I DON'T
THINK YOU'RE
STUPID!

"YOU
KNOW I DON'T
THINK YOU'RE
STUPID!"

DON'T...
DON'T START
CRYING!

"DON'T...
DON'T START
CRYING!"

LOOK, I
DON'T...

I DON'T
HAVE ANY MONEY
TO GIVE YOU. I--I
BARELY GOT A POT
TO YOU-KNOW--
WHAT IN!

YOU EVEN
KNOW WHAT I DO
FOR A LIVING? IT'S
SO STUPID AND
MEANINGLESS--

WHY DO
YOU WANT
TO KILL ME,
MAN?

"WHY DO
YOU WANT
TO KILL ME,
MAN?"

I'M
NOTHING! A
NOBODY!

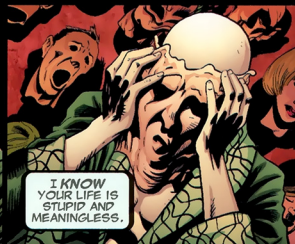
"I'M
NOTHING! A
NOBODY!"

STOP
COPYING
ME!





I KNOW
YOU'RE A
NOBODY,
WALTER.



I KNOW
YOUR LIFE IS
STUPID AND
MEANINGLESS.



KLUNK



CHAAAK



I KNOW YOU'RE
SUCH A PART OF THE
LANDSCAPE THAT
PEOPLE WALK BY
WITHOUT EVER EVEN
NOTICING YOU.

SSHHUUUU



CLANK



THAT'S WHAT
MAKES YOU
PERFECT.

47th Street,
The Diamond District.



YOU KNOW
WHAT'S THE MOST
OVERUSED PHRASE
IN THE SUPER HERO
LEXICON,
SLYDE?

"I THOUGHT
YOU WERE
DEAD!"

CLEARLY
RUMORS OF MY
DEMISE HAVE BEEN
GREATLY
EXAGGERATED,
WALL-CRAWLER!

I'M STILL
FOOTLOOSE
AND FRICTION-
FREE!



PLEASE,
NO LONG-WINDED
EXPLANATION IS
NECESSARY.



PEOPLE GO,
THEY COME
BACK...

...YOU JUST
CAN'T COUNT
ON DEATH
ANYMORE!

I'M WAITING
FOR TAXES
TO GO ANY
SECOND.

KILOOOONG



WAIT, DO YOU MEAN
JALOME BEACHER,
THE ORIGINAL
SLYDE?

YEAH, HE WAS
FOUND SHOT
DEAD, EXECUTION
STYLE...

...AND HIS
COSTUME HAS
BEEN IN N.Y.P.D.
EVIDENCE
STORAGE EVER
SINCE!

POLICE!
YOU'RE UNDER
ARREST!

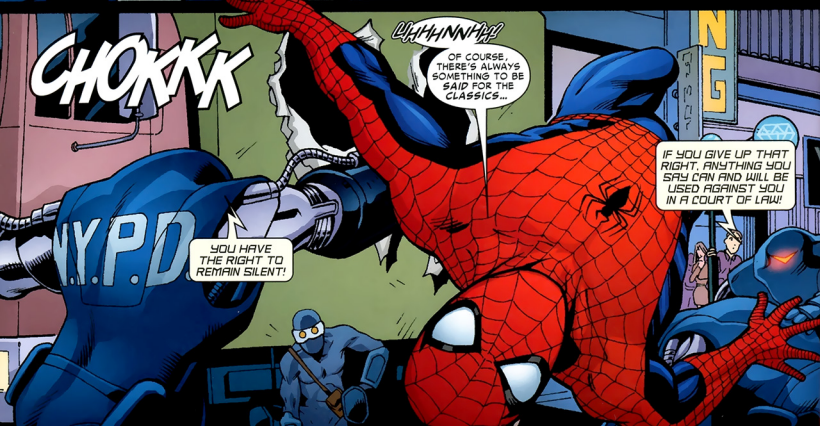
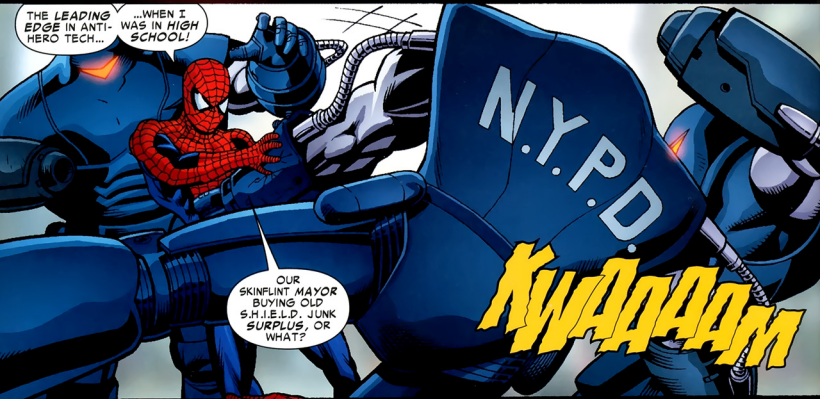
OH, COME ON!!
SERIOUSLY!?!?

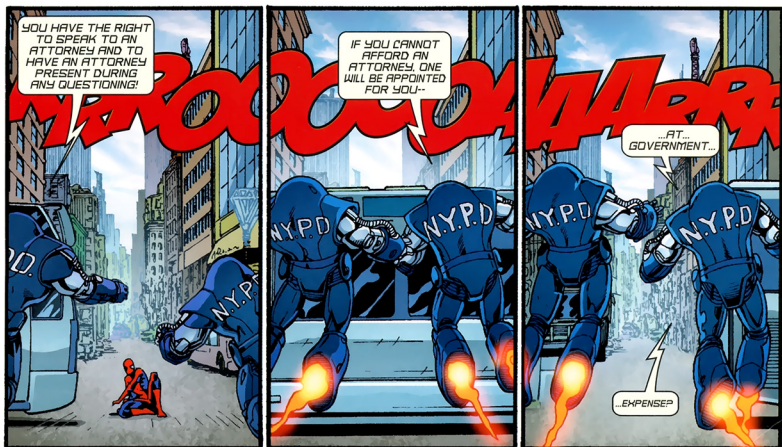


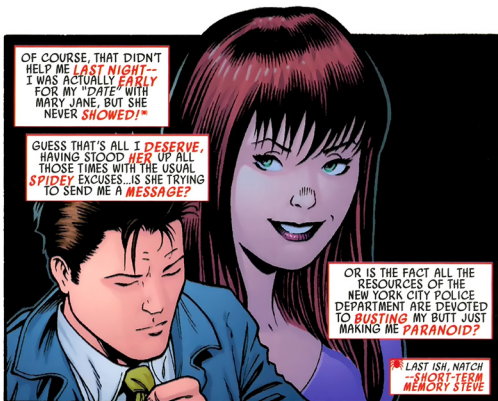
BUWHOOOM

LIKE THIS
CITY DOESN'T
HAVE ENOUGH
REAL CRIME
ALREADY?!











PARKER!

LATE--AS USUAL!
IF YOU JOIN MY MAYORAL
PHOTO UNIT, YOU'LL HAVE
TO FIX THAT!

I WON'T BE
AS GENTLE AND
UNDERSTANDING
ABOUT YOUR WASTING
THE TAXPAYER'S
MONEY AS YOU
DID MINE!

MAYBE IF YOU
HADN'T CUT HALF
THE BUS ROUTES I
WOULDN'T HAVE HAD
TO WALK FROM CANAL
STREET, YOUR
CHEAPNESS.

GRRRRRR...

ACTUALLY, YOUR HONOR,
IN *SPEAKING* OF THE PHOTO
UNIT...

THE OFFICE OF EMERGENCY
MANAGEMENT JUST WENT LIVE
WITH ITS "SHADOW"
COMMAND CENTER.

ITS LOCATION IS *CLASSIFIED*, AS IT'S
SUPPOSED TO REPLACE ONE POLICE PLAZA
IN THE EVENT OF A MASSIVE TERRORIST
ATTACK...

...BUT THAT SHOULDN'T PREVENT US
FROM TAKING PICTURES OF YOU
INSIDE, LOOKING ALL,
YOU KNOW...

... "ANTI-
TERRORIST-Y"
AND SUCH...

YES! THAT'LL
DRIVE MY NUMBERS
UP! I LOVE IT!

YOU'RE A
GENIUS!

WHO ARE
YOU?

UM...THEODORE HASKELL, SIR?
THE...DEPUTY MAYOR FOR
OPERATIONS?

YOU...RETAINED
ME FROM THE PREVIOUS
ADMINISTRATION...?

YET ANOTHER
BRILLIANT
EXECUTIVE
STRATAGEM
ON MY PART!

MS. GRANT! MAKE THE NECESSARY
ARRANGEMENTS! I SUPPOSE YOU
CAN USE PARKER AS THE
PHOTOGRAPHER.

IF MY FATHER IS
GUILTING ME INTO
HIRING THIS SPONGE,
WE MIGHT AS WELL
WRING SOME SWEAT
OUT OF HIM.

I LOVE IT
WHEN YOU TALK
DIRTY TO ME.

ANYONE CHECKED
JONAH'S CROWN
LATELY TO MAKE
SURE IT'S NOT
TOO *SNUG*?

ALL THAT POWER GOING TO
HIS HEAD IS GOING TO MAKE
IT EXPLODE, À LA
SCANNERS!

OH-HO,
PETER,
YOU'RE
SO...

...NOT
FUNNY!

SHUT
UP.

HEY,
WHAA--

LOOK. I KNOW
YOU GOT USED TO
BEING THE COURT
JESTER OVER AT
THE BUGLE.

WELL, THERE IS
NO MORE BUGLE.
AND THE PRESS
SECRETARY IS IN
CHARGE OF THE
PHOTO UNIT.

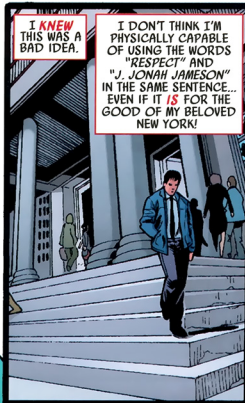
THAT
MEANS YOU
WORK FOR
ME NOW.

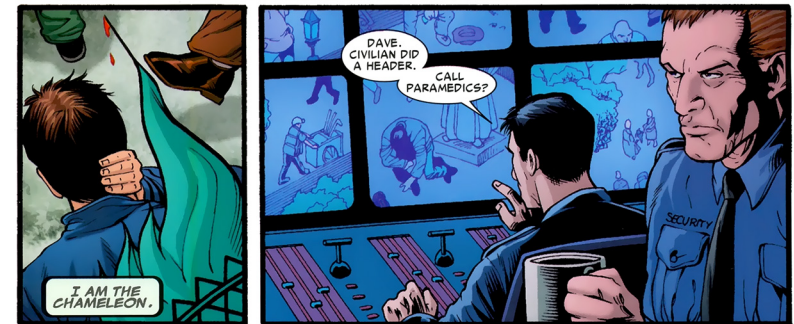
THIS CITY HAS AN UNEMPLOYMENT
RATE CREEPING INTO DOUBLE
DIGITS, A MAJORITY OF HIGH
SCHOOLERS READING AT A
THIRD GRADE LEVEL AND A
HOMELESS POPULATION THAT
COULD SINGLEHANDEDLY TAKE
OVER RHODE ISLAND.

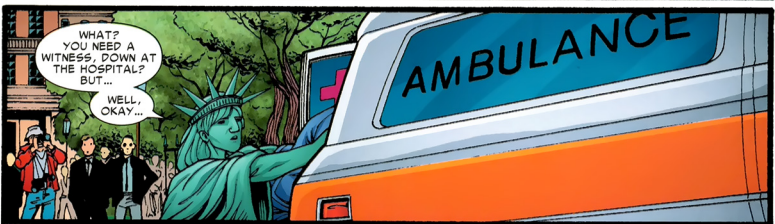
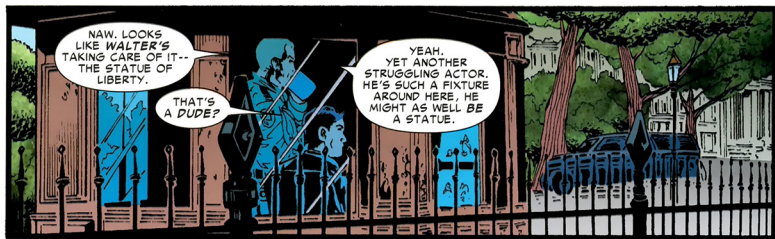
AND YOU MAY NOT LIKE IT--HELL, I
MAY NOT LIKE IT--BUT THE BEST
HOPE THEY GOT IS SITTING IN
THAT CHAIR UP THERE.

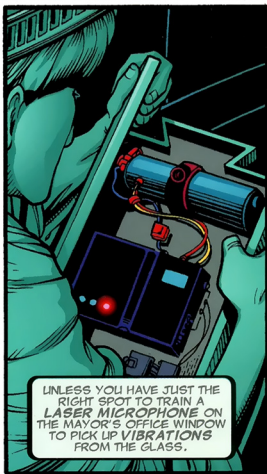
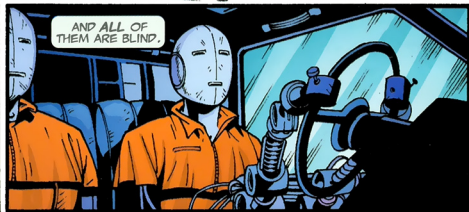
BU-- AND AS LONG
AS IT'S MY JOB
TO MAKE MAYOR
JAMESON LOOK
GOOD--

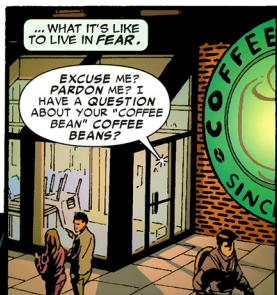
YOU WILL SHOW
HIM
RESPECT.



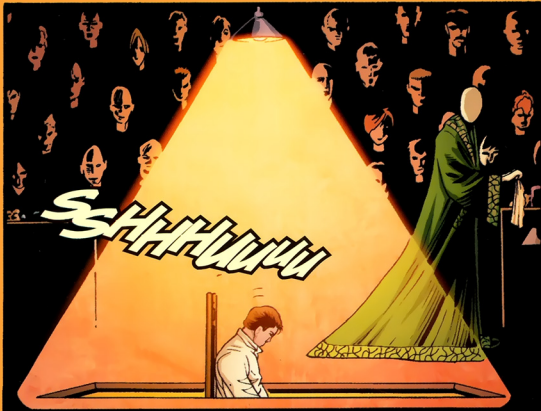
















SURE,
MARY
JANE.

NAME
THE TIME
AND THE
PLACE...

...AND
I'LL BE
THERE.

RED-HEADED STRANGER: TENTH OF SEPTEMBER

**FRED
VAN LENTE**
WRITER

**BARRY
KITSON**
PENCILER

**RIK KETCHAM
& BARRY KITSON**
INKERS

**JEREMY
COX**
COLORIST

**VC'S JOE
CARAMAGNA**
LETTERER

**TOM
BRENNAN**
ASST. EDITOR

**STEPHEN
WACKER**
EDITOR

**TOM
BREVOORT**
EXEC. EDITOR

**JOE
QUESADA**
EDITOR IN CHIEF

**DAN
BUCKLEY**
PUBLISHER

**ALAN
FINE**
EXEC. PRODUCER

GALE, GUGGENHEIM, KELLY, SLOTT, VAN LENTE, WAID & WELLS WEB-HEADS

the AMAZING SPIDER-MAIL

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ASST. EDITOR

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ALAN FINE
EXEC. PRODUCER

Greetings, comic readers!

Stephen G. Wacker is in San Diego as of this writing, so I, the man humbly known as Brennan, am tackling your questions and queries this week. I know, it's a big moment for you all. I'm writing this up on a lovely, rainy evening in New York City, so to all you suckers in the palm tree and beach ridden wasteland of San Diego, I say: "HA!" I'm ruining an evening for my lovely ladyfriend Ms. Jennifer Treuting by attending to your questions, so please apologize to her in next week's letters. Say hi to the general comic populous, Jen!

Howdy! As we say at my part-time gig at the Prospect Park Zoo, two-finger touch at all times!

Well, I don't know what that means.

Cuz you never come to the zoo.

What is this, open mic night? Anyway, you all had such lovely, thoughtful and coherent things to say about ASM #600's 104 pages of brand new, never before seen material (take that, Hulk #600!), that I should just stop yammering and get to your letters.

I thought you said you wrote this letter column on Sunday and that's why you couldn't come see me teach at the zoo.

That sounds like something I'd say, yes. On to the mailbox!

Dear Web-heads,

Congrats on Issue 600. I have a lifelong love of Spider-Man. I have an entire room in my house devoted to Spider-Man. It helps to have an understanding wife. I must say that issue 600 was one of the best single issues ever published. Action, romance, bad Parker luck, and a great villain. I couldn't ask for more. Aunt May sure has come a long way from being an old lady in distress, to being a strong leading lady in Peter's life. The new take on Doc Ock is great. Someone who is trying to make up for his past sins, but failing in the end. I can't help to feel sorry for him, and I can't wait to see him again. Here's to the next 600 issues.

Sincerely,
Harlie O'Neal



Dear Spider-Office,

I've been a huge Spider-Man fan since I found a reprint of an old Cobra & Mr. Hyde team-up in a drug store and got hooked. I was 9. I've been reading Amazing ever since. Amazing Spider-Man #600 was everything I love about the character, its history and its future rolled into one giant page-turner. Here's to 600 more great installments!

Ryan Pike
Calgary, Alberta, Canada



Hey there!

Not sure if this is the right medium for spider-mail but I'll give it a try. Cracked open ASM #600 and I gotta say I loved it! First off, a tip of the hat to Mark Waid. "My Brother's Son" knew how to tug at the heart strings, good job Waid! Loved the art throughout the book (and those covers never meant to see the light of day? HILARIOUS!) and Slott powered through all those pages with

an amazing wit that's classic Spidey. "Last Legs" was genius. Maybe it's just me. Anyway, a more important question: Why hasn't Parker been on a real date since the start of BND? Seriously, if readers had to survive the imagery of the pruny two-backed beast, we should be rewarded with SOMETHING. It's not like there's a shortage of characters, between Norah, Carrie and even Michele Gonzales, I'm sure Pete can at least get a short dinner comically interrupted by Shocker. Look forward to answers. Thanks either way. Oh and "Fight at the Museum" made me laugh for a good ten minutes straight. It's nice to see some good parenting" ha!

Mikie Acevedo
Chicago, IL

"Pruny two-backed beast" - oh, you've made my night, Mikie. As far as dates go, don't you worry. Pete's romantic life is going into overdrive, as you saw last month, while an old flame is just around the corner.



Dear Spidey Guys,

I gotta say, the lettering in this book for the past few months has been top-notch! It's much better than the lettering in *Daredevil* and *Thor* (though not quite as good as the lettering in *Uncanny X-Men* and *Captain America*).

Please give kudos to the letterer (Joe-something, is it?), and tell him that based on his great writing work on the "Iron Man & The Armor Wars" limited series (on sale NOW!) I look forward to the day he joins the Spidey Braintrust!

Regards,
Moe Maramagna
not from New Jersey

Thanks for the kind words, Moe. Our letterer is actually a composite name for seven robotic drones who tackle the work, so he can't particularly appreciate your thoughts as he has no soul. The Caramagna 3000 was designed in the late 90s as part of a Department of Defense initiative to feed information to our undercover agents overseas through appropriately placed letters on scattered correspondence. This was discontinued during the change of Presidential administration in 2000-2001, and we bought him surplus on the cheap. We nicknamed him "Joe" around the office to make him feel a bit more human. Also, "Iron Man & The Armor Wars" is a can't miss! Pick it up!



Dear Spider-Man,

I am appalled that you would call this the last letter column in an issue of ASM whose issue number begins with a 5. Let me tell you, sir, that I have faith that this series will one day make it to a starting digit of 5 again. Apparently you don't have the faith that I do in our beloved wall-crawler. Clearly you won't be around due to your lack of faith, but I'll write back to congratulate the team in charge of issue #5000 in about 122 years (assuming you continue to publish 3 per month).

--Steve Clinton

Thanks Steve (and Go Tigers!). Hmm... Spidey #5000, eh? Well if we went by your schedule, it would go on sale in 2131...what kind of stories would we tell? I can see it now... Spider-Man goes toe-to-toe with *Twit-Tor*, the AI sentient being born out of all the Tweets of the early 21st century! As they fight high above the Wacker Memorial Rest Stop in Passaic, NJ,

will Spidey stop *Twit-Tor* from killing Senator Brennan? And what does the BrevBot 2000 have to do with it?! Edited by Ralph Macchio.

Didn't your Senator Brennan pitch get shot down twice?

::sigh:: One last letter and we'll call it a night, from stalwart fan Clint Brady. Take us home, Clint!

Hi Steve,

I just wanted to drop you a short note to say thanks for Spidey #600. I've been around since Amazing #25, back in 1965, and still enjoy reading the comic. I very seldom write to you guys (the last time was to clear up a little history on the Ultimate Nullifier, or some such gadget, in an issue of *Marvel Team Up*), however issue #600 prompted this note. I really don't care what events take place in the book, just as long as you guys entertain me; you did - for the 575th time I might add!

Speaking of history, please tell me you know Buddy Saunders, from the *Amazing Spider-Man* issue 3, letters page. If not Google "the Texas Trio", or ask Tom B. before every comic fan in Texas drops you a nasty note! Also, when addressing Ms Steinberg, remember she will always be "Fabulous Flo" to us old geezers.

See you around issue #1200.

Best,
Clint Brady

Thank you so much for your support over the years, Clint! It was an honor to do the issue and we'd have never gotten that far without the support of the creators and fans that made him the hero we love today. Really, we should thank you, Clint. You're part of the reason we had a chance to work on #600, and it was an honor to do it. Thanks for reading, guys. Wacker's back next week, so until the next time I'm allowed out from under my desk, I'll see y'all at the back issue bins.

--Temerarious Tom

NEXT WEEK:



RED-HEADED DANGER!