

SPIDER-
MAN

MARVEL® COMICS GROUP

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the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN®

MY DEADLIEST
ENEMIES--COMING
THRU THE VERY
WALLS AT ME!

AM I
GOING
MAD?

INDEED YOU
ARE, MY BOY--
AND ONLY
**DOCTOR
FAUSTUS**
CAN SAVE
YOU!!

While attending a demonstration in radiology, student PETER PARKER was bitten by a spider which had accidentally been exposed to RADIOACTIVE RAYS. Through a miracle of science, Peter soon found that he had GAINED the insect's powers...and had, in effect, become a human spider...

Stan Lee
PRESENTS: THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN™

LEN WEIN * ROSS ANDRU * GIACOIA & ESPOSITO * GLYNIS WEIN, COLORIST
WRITER/EDITOR ILLUSTRATOR EMBELLISHERS JOE ROSEN, LETTERER



FAUSTUS, EH?

YOU'RE THE GUY
WHO TRIED TO
BLACKMAIL NEW
YORK WITH A
PLANE FULL OF
THUGS A WHILE
BACK!

BUT I
THOUGHT
YOU WERE
DEAD!

SO DOES THE
REST OF THE
WORLD, MY WALL-
CRAWLING
FRIEND--

--BUT EVEN AS
I SEEMINGLY
PLUNGED TO MY
DOOM, AFTER
MY ABORTIVE
BATTLE WITH
THE CURSED
**CAPTAIN
AMERICA***...

...I STRIPPED OFF
MY JACKET, AND
PULLED THE RIPCORD
OF THE WAFER-THIN
PARACHUTE I HAD
BEEN WEARING
UNDERNEATH--

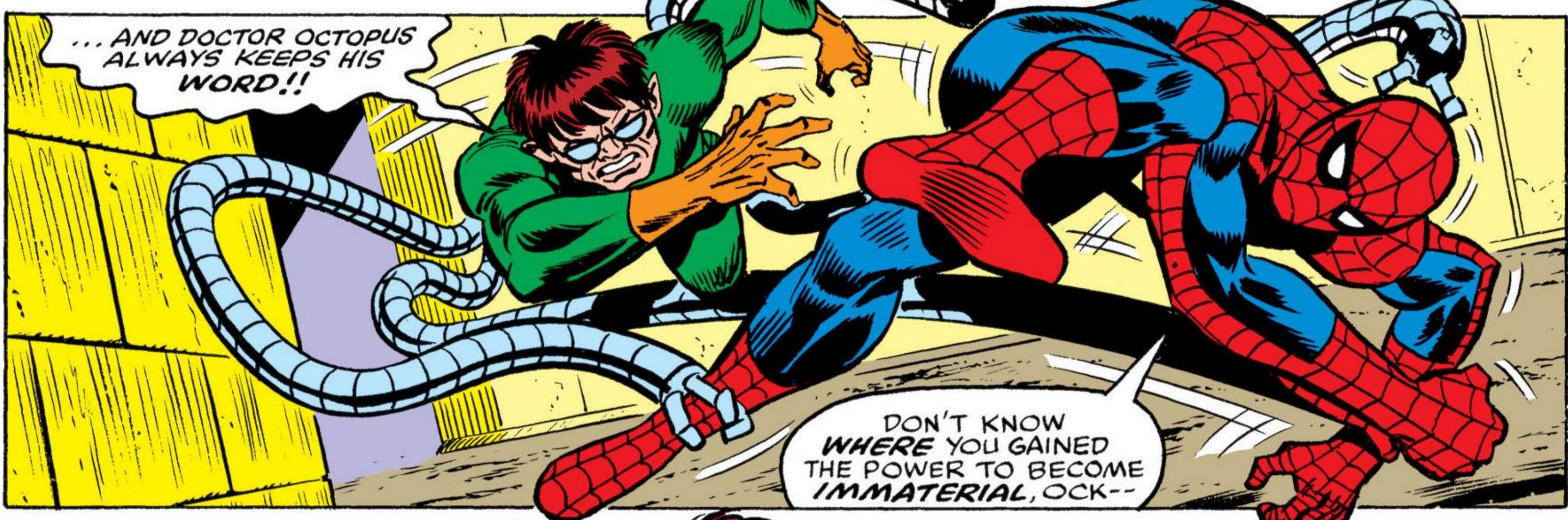
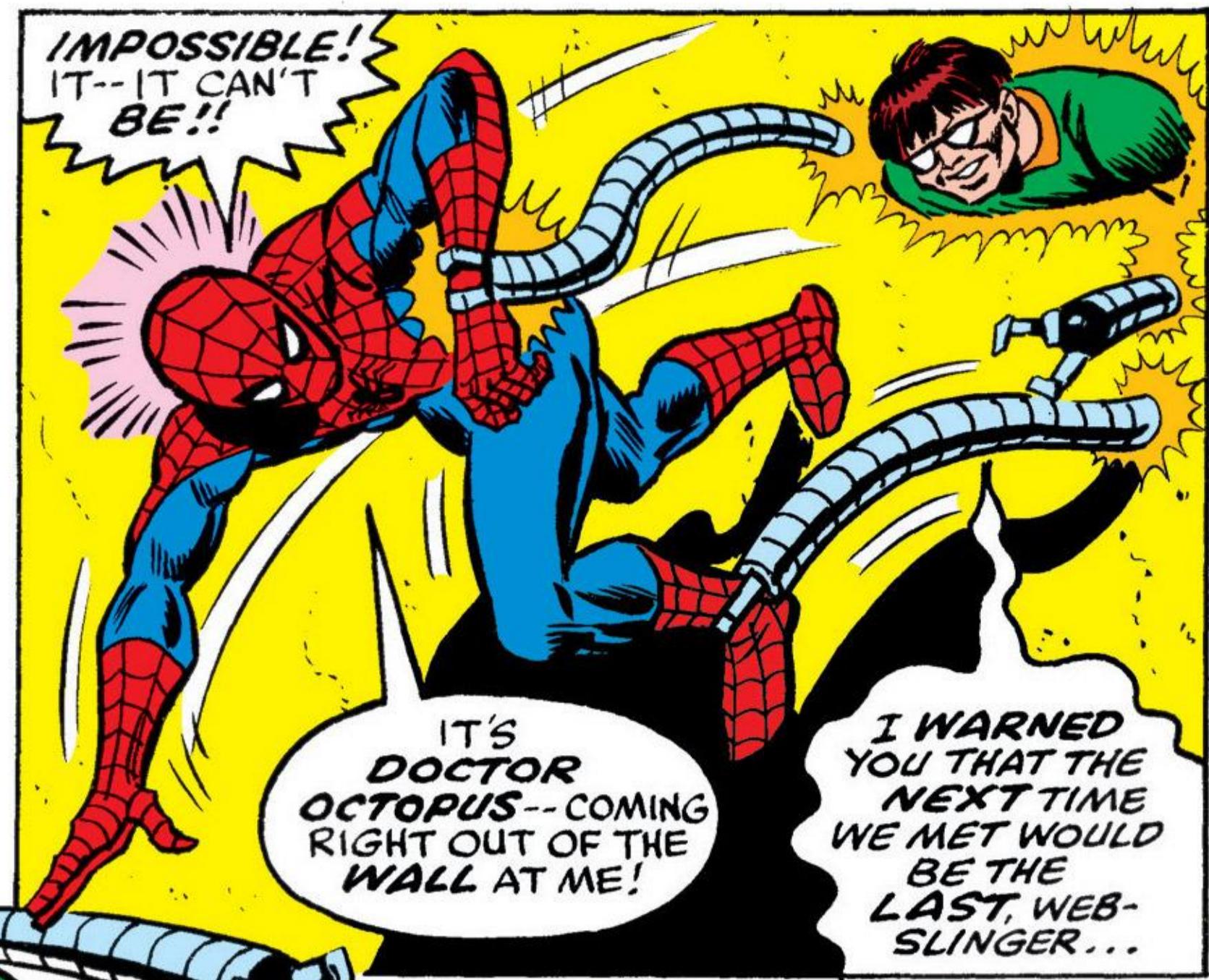
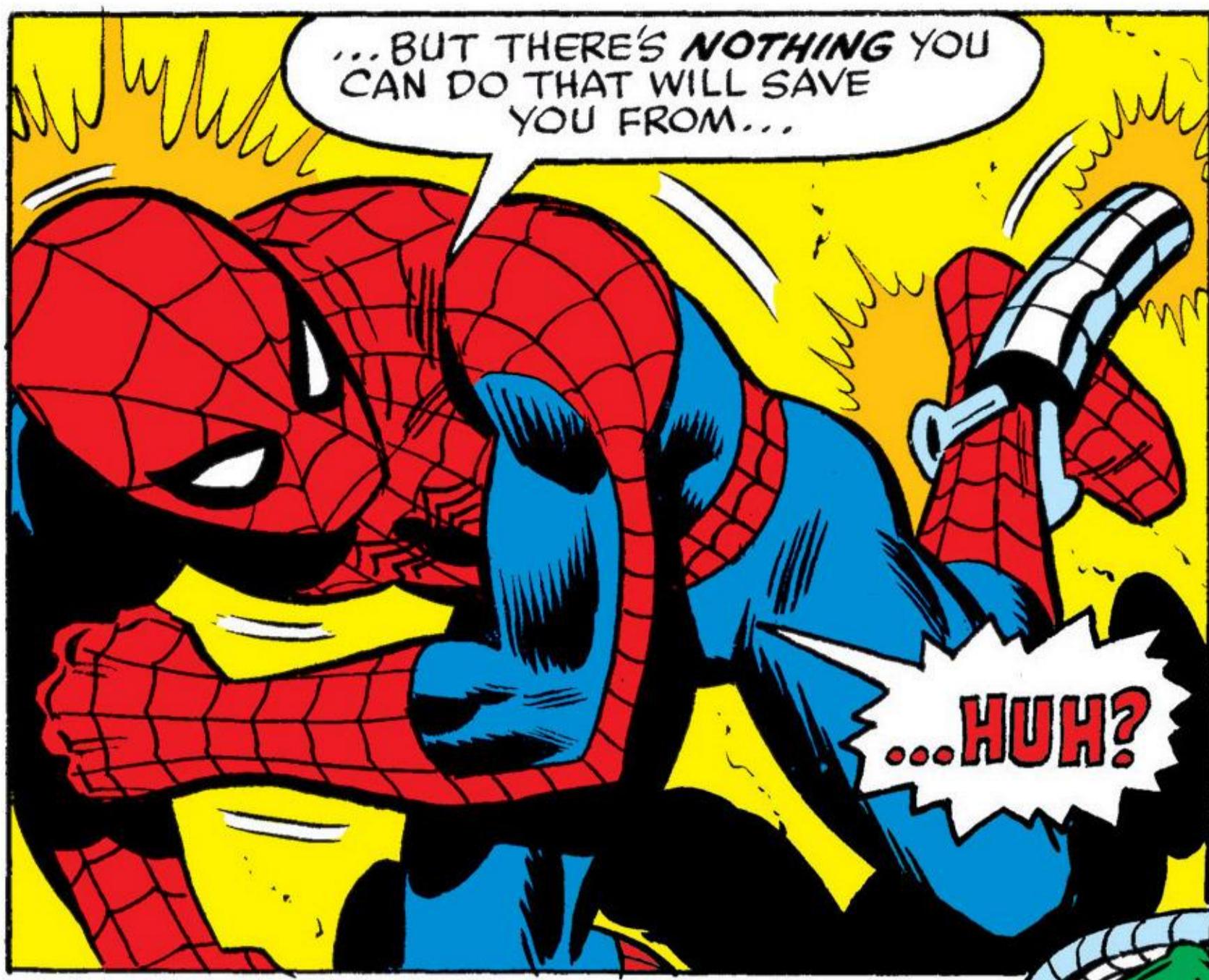
...EVEN THOUGH
I HAVE BUT **ONE**
WEAKNESS: AN
ALMOST OVER-
WHELMING FEAR
OF HEIGHTS!!

--A PARACHUTE WHOSE
EXISTENCE I HAD NOT
REVEALED TO MY
CRIMINAL COLLEAGUES,
LEST THEY SENSE ANY
WEAKNESS IN ME....

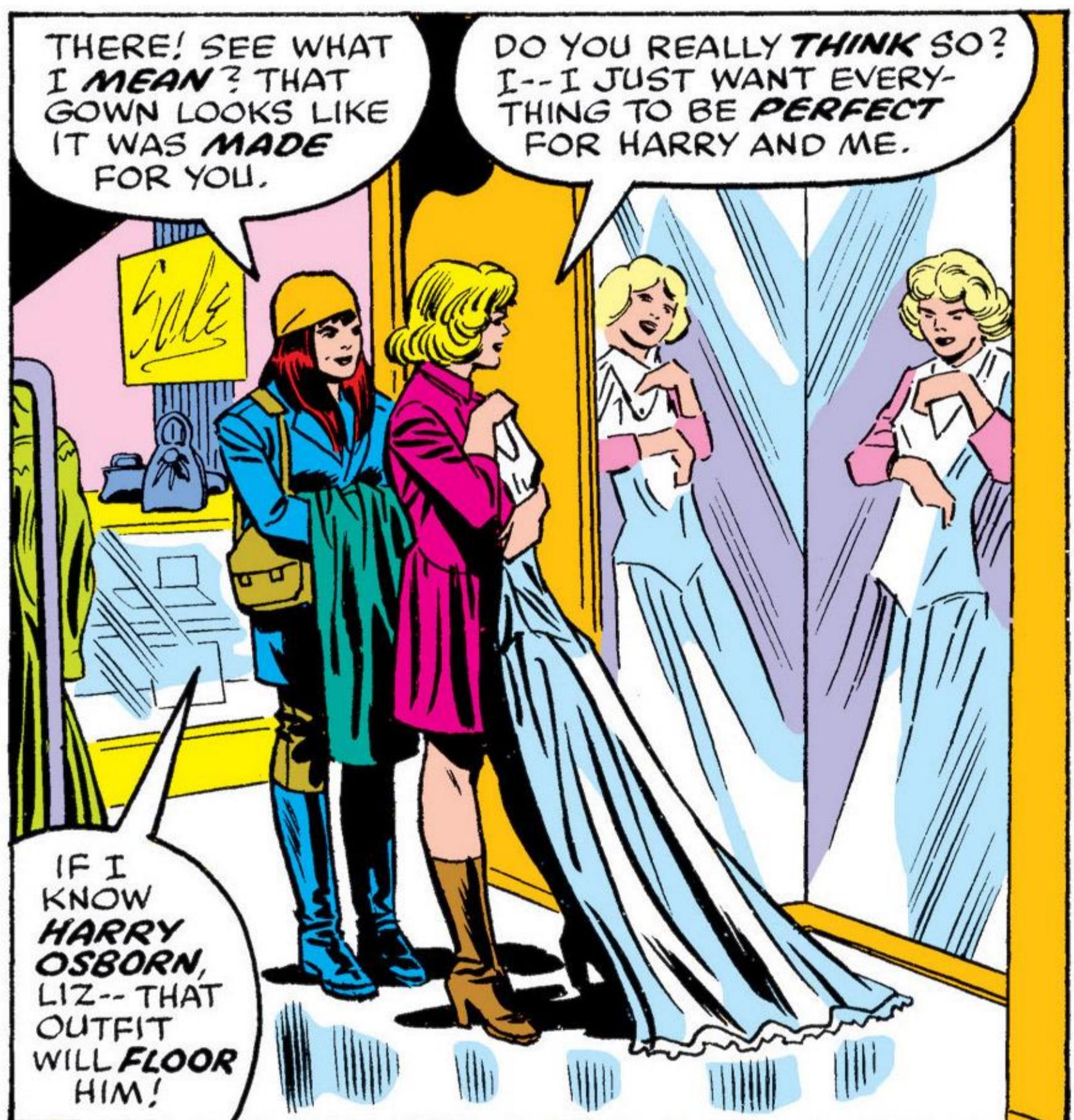
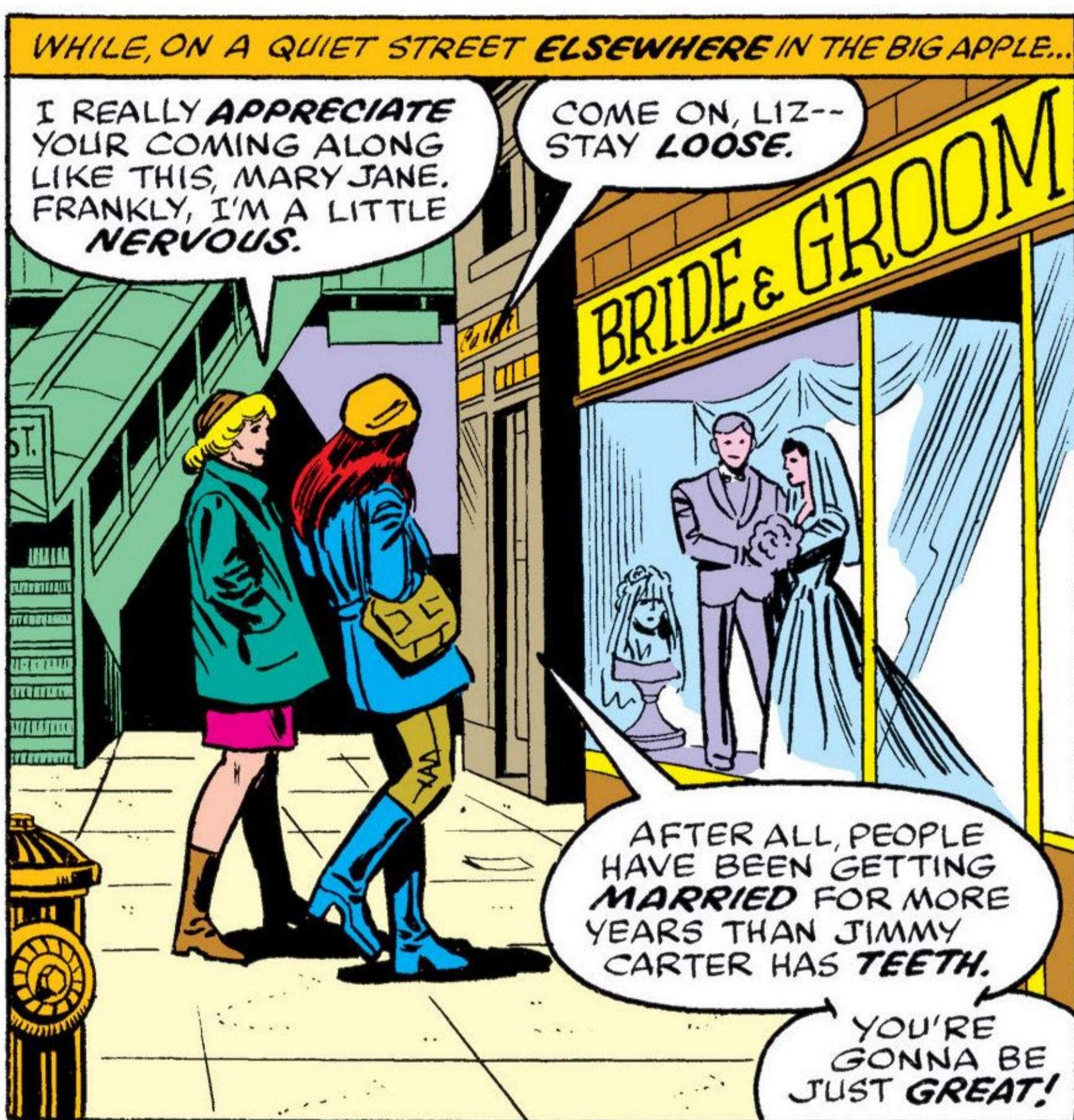
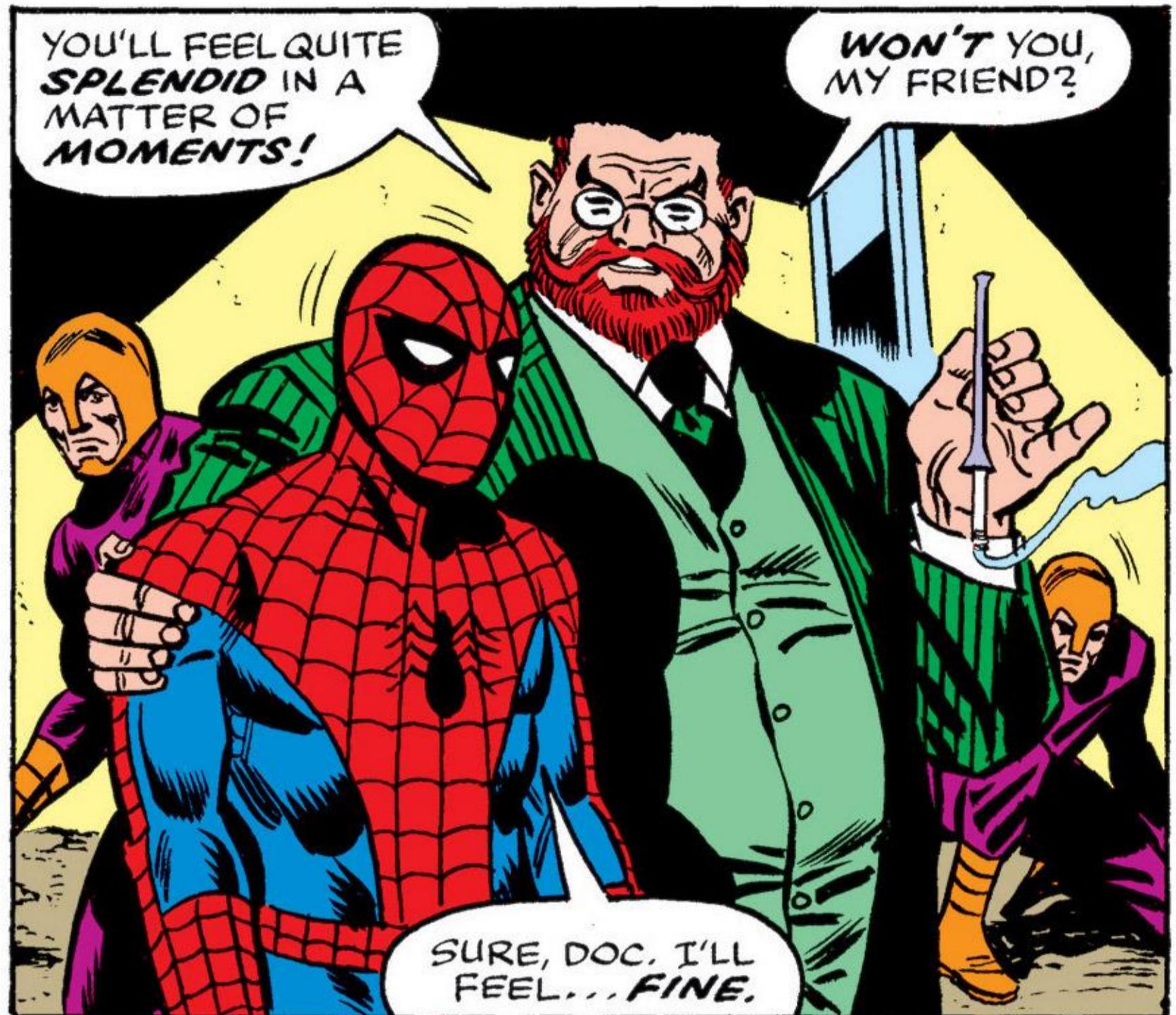
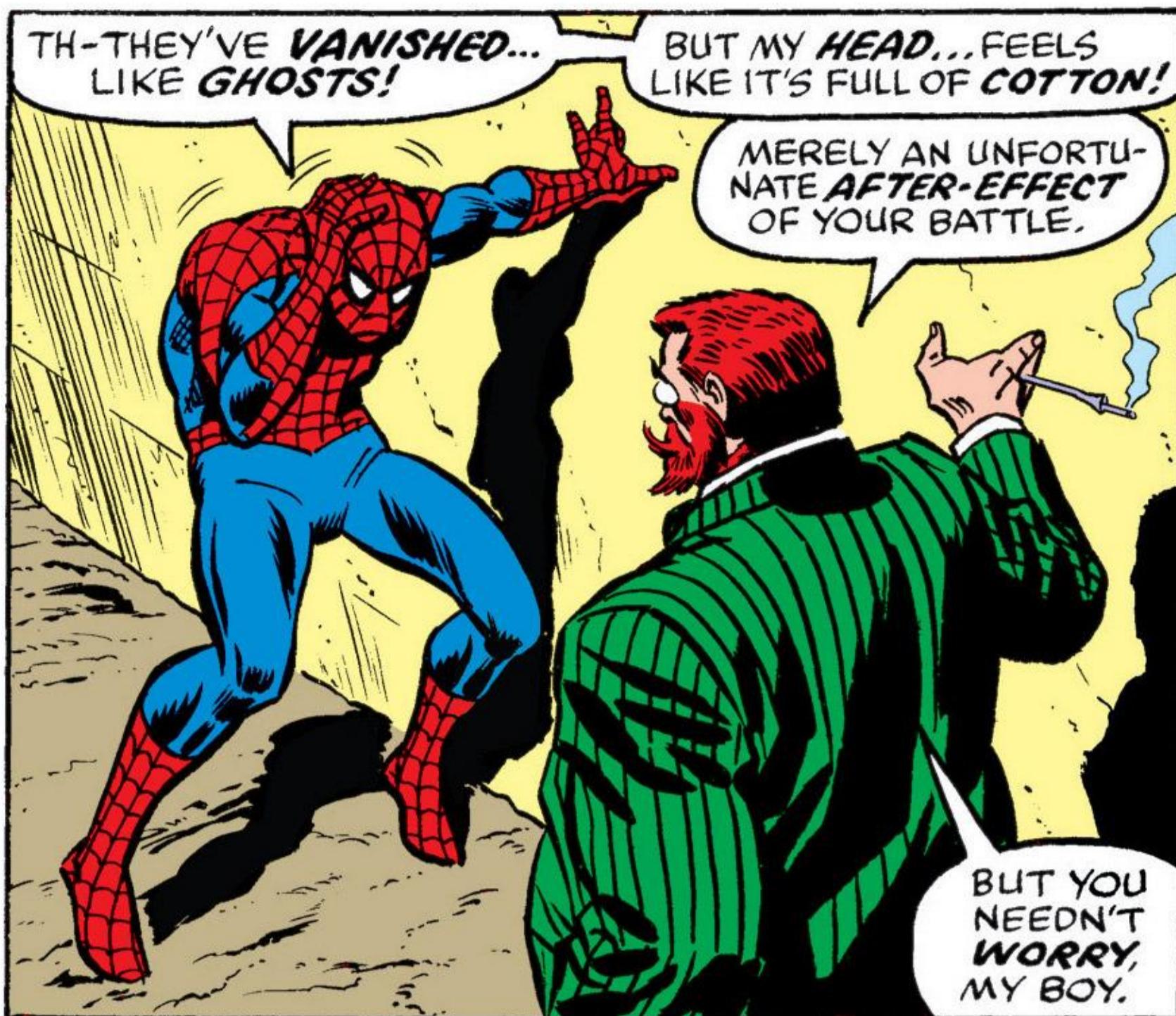
*AS DETAILED BACK IN ISSUE
#192 OF CAP'S OWN
MAGNIFICENT MAG. -- LEN.

MAYBE
SO, DOC...

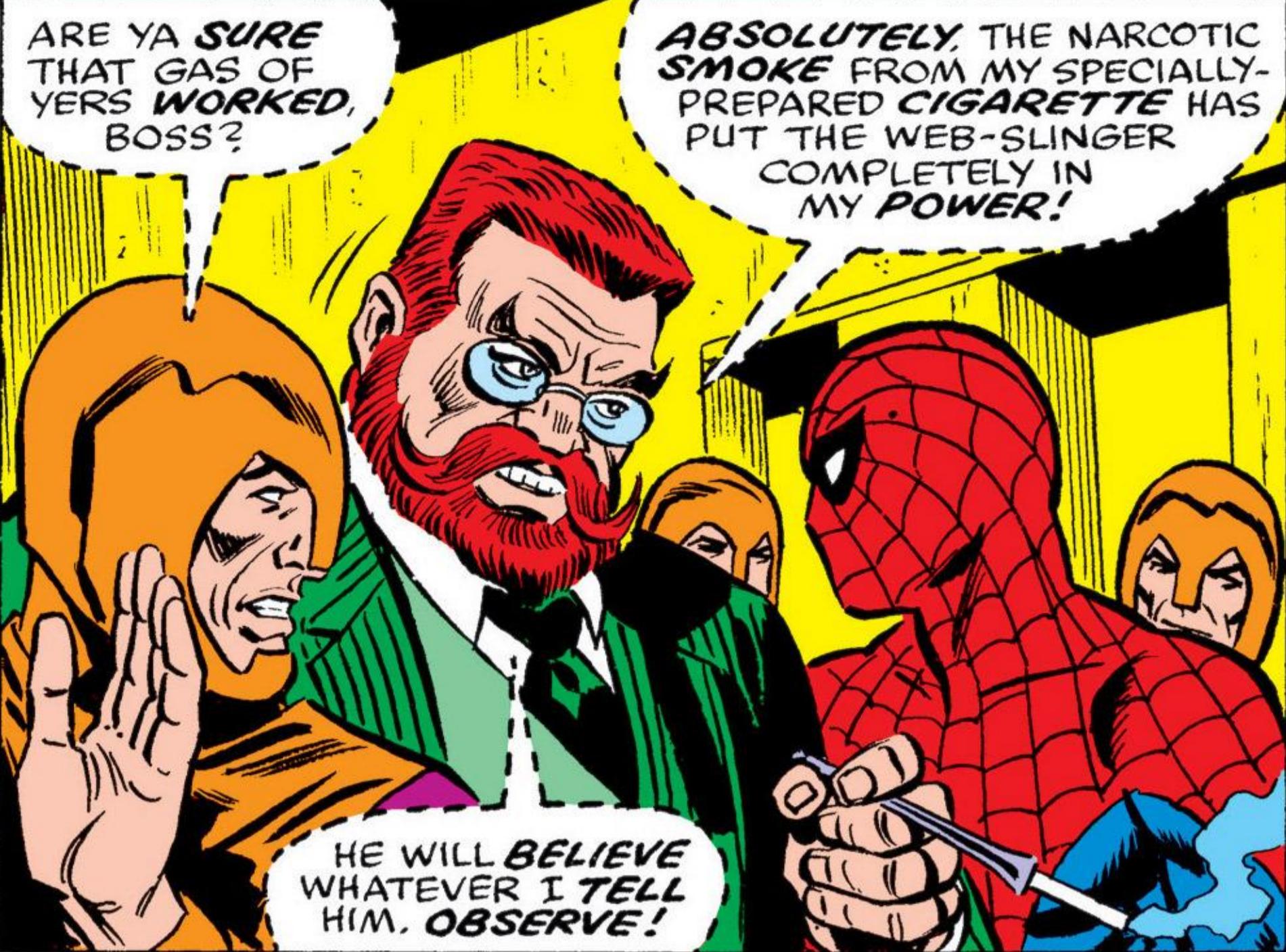
IRONIC, IS IT
NOT--THAT MY
OWN FEAR SHOULD
SAVE ME?







AND, BACK IN THE ABANDONED SUBWAY TUNNEL...



MY FRIEND, I WOULD LIKE TO INTRODUCE THE OTHER--AH--SPECIAL AGENTS WHO WILL BE WORKING WITH US!



I AM MOST PLEASED YOU DECIDED TO AID US, SPIDER-MAN--

--FOR, THIS LASER-CANNON SHALL SOON PIERCE THE WALL THAT SEPARATES US FROM THE ENEMY'S SECRET LABORATORY...

...AND THEN THE FATE OF OUR WORLD SHALL BE IN YOUR HANDS!

I ONLY HOPE I DON'T DROP IT, DOC.

IT'S COMING, BOSS--NOT MUCH FARTHER!

THERE! IT'S FINISHED! WE'VE BURST THRU-- WITHOUT TRIPPING ANY OF THE HIDDEN SECURITY ALARMS!

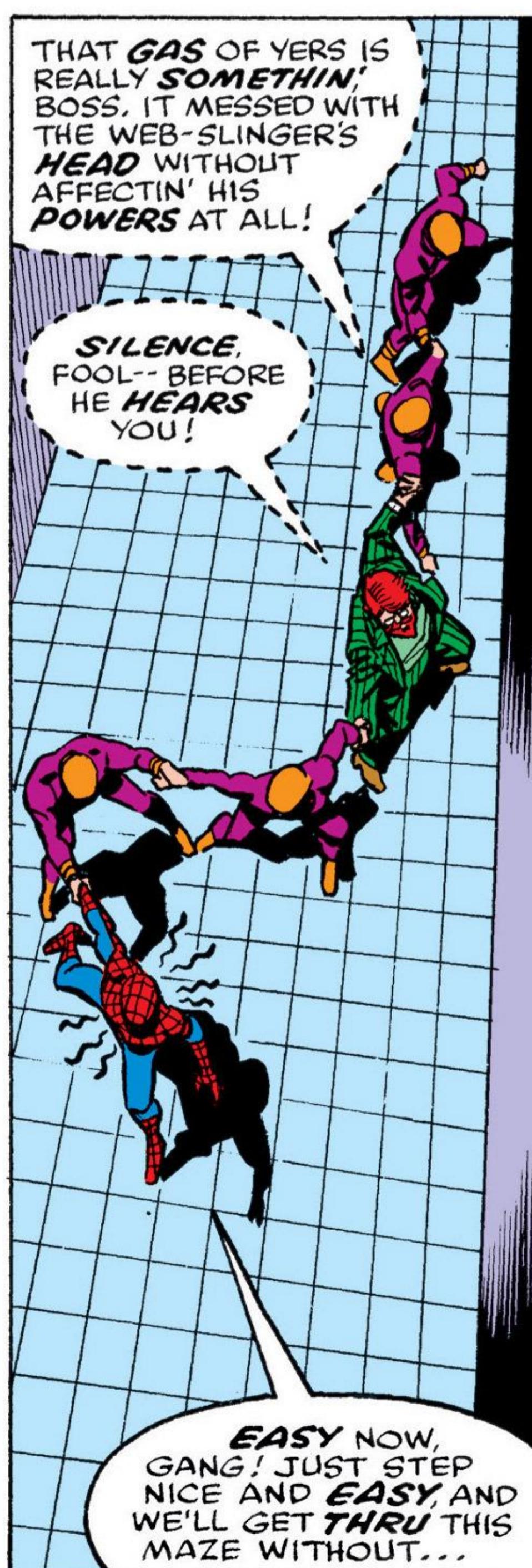
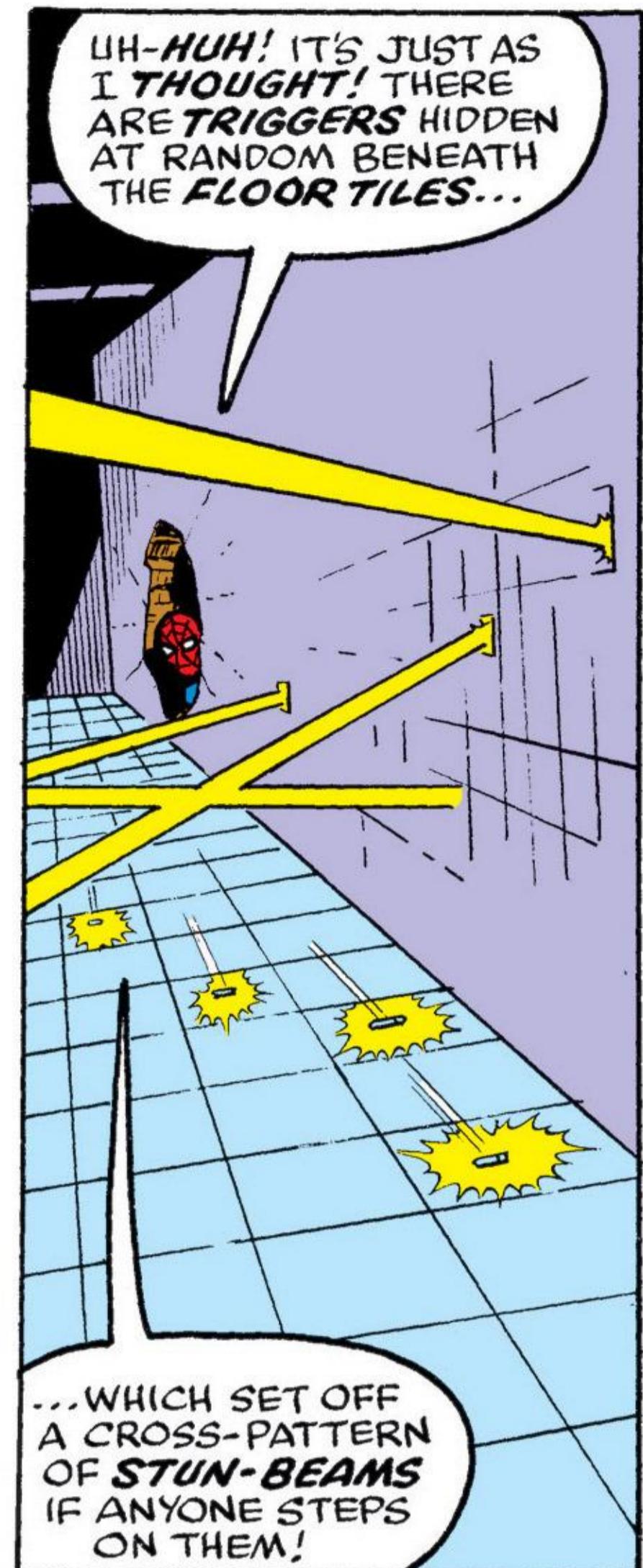
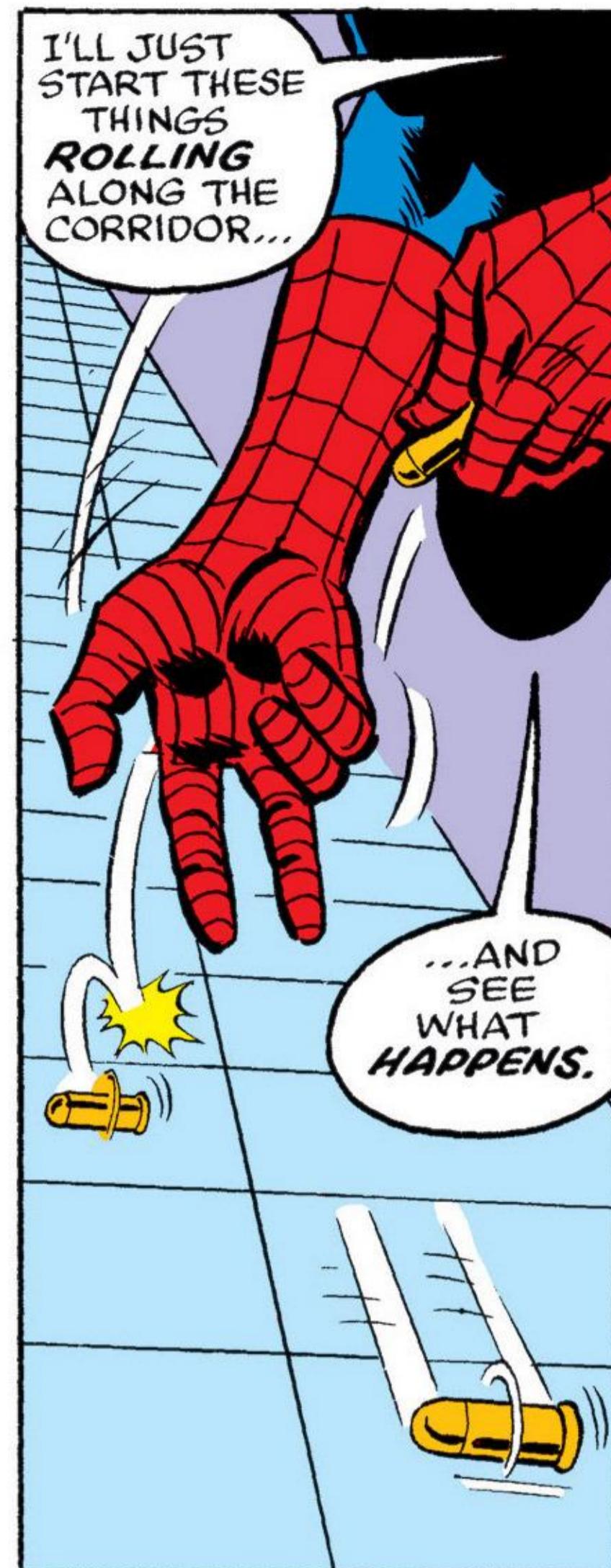
THEN THE NEXT STEP IS UP TO YOU, MY WALL-CRAWLING ALLY!

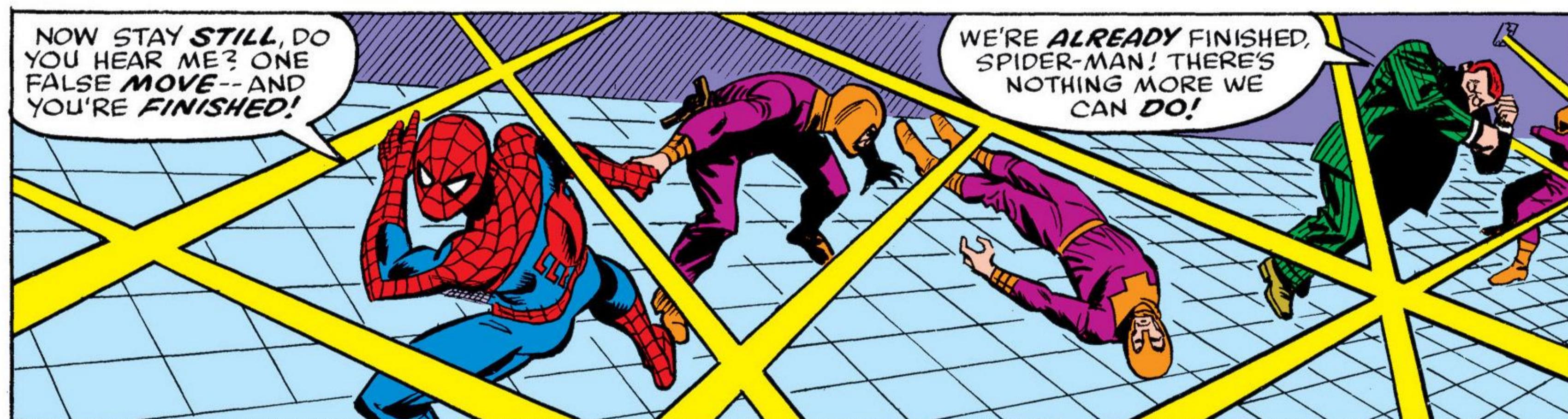
JUST NAME IT, DOC.

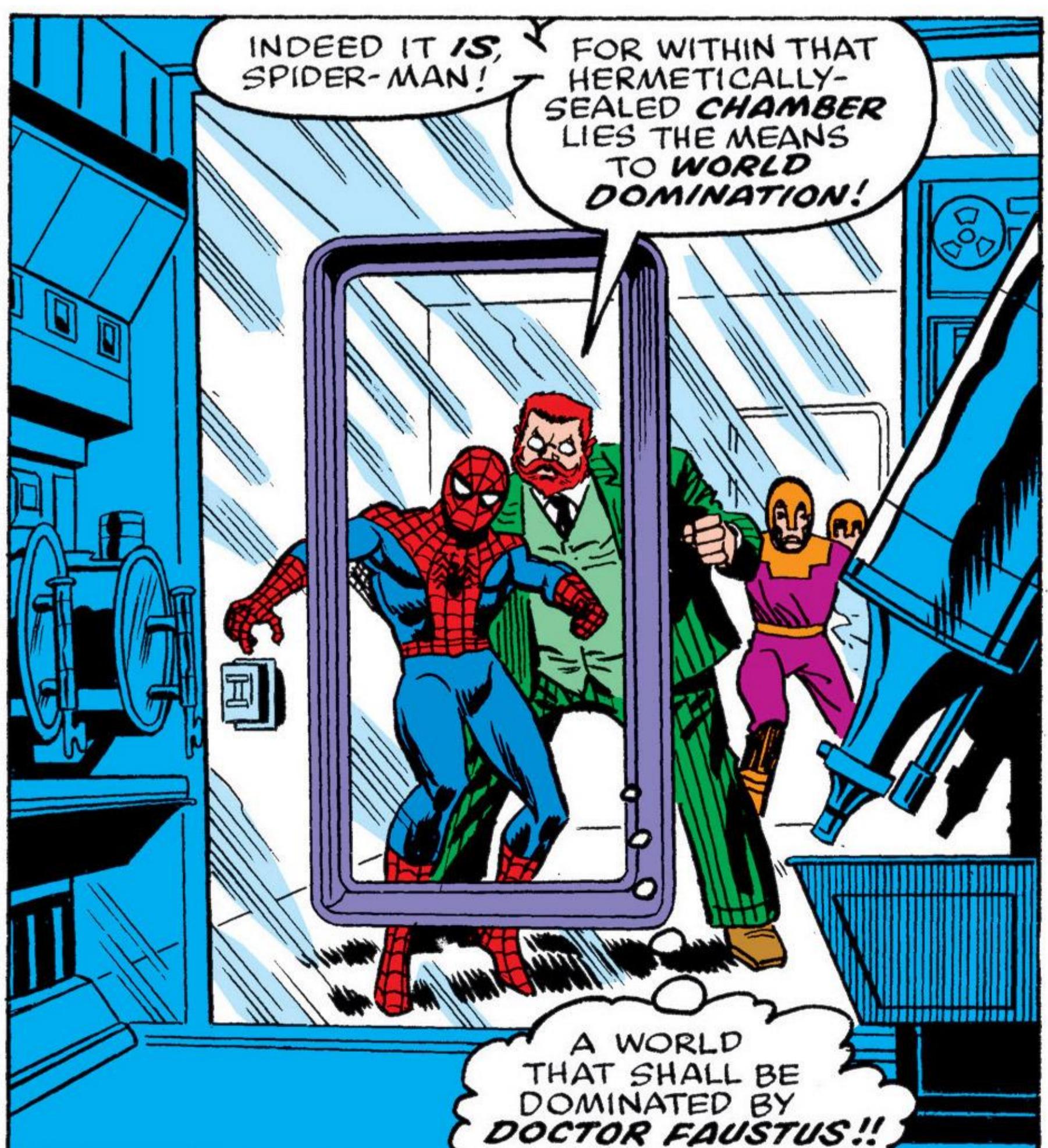
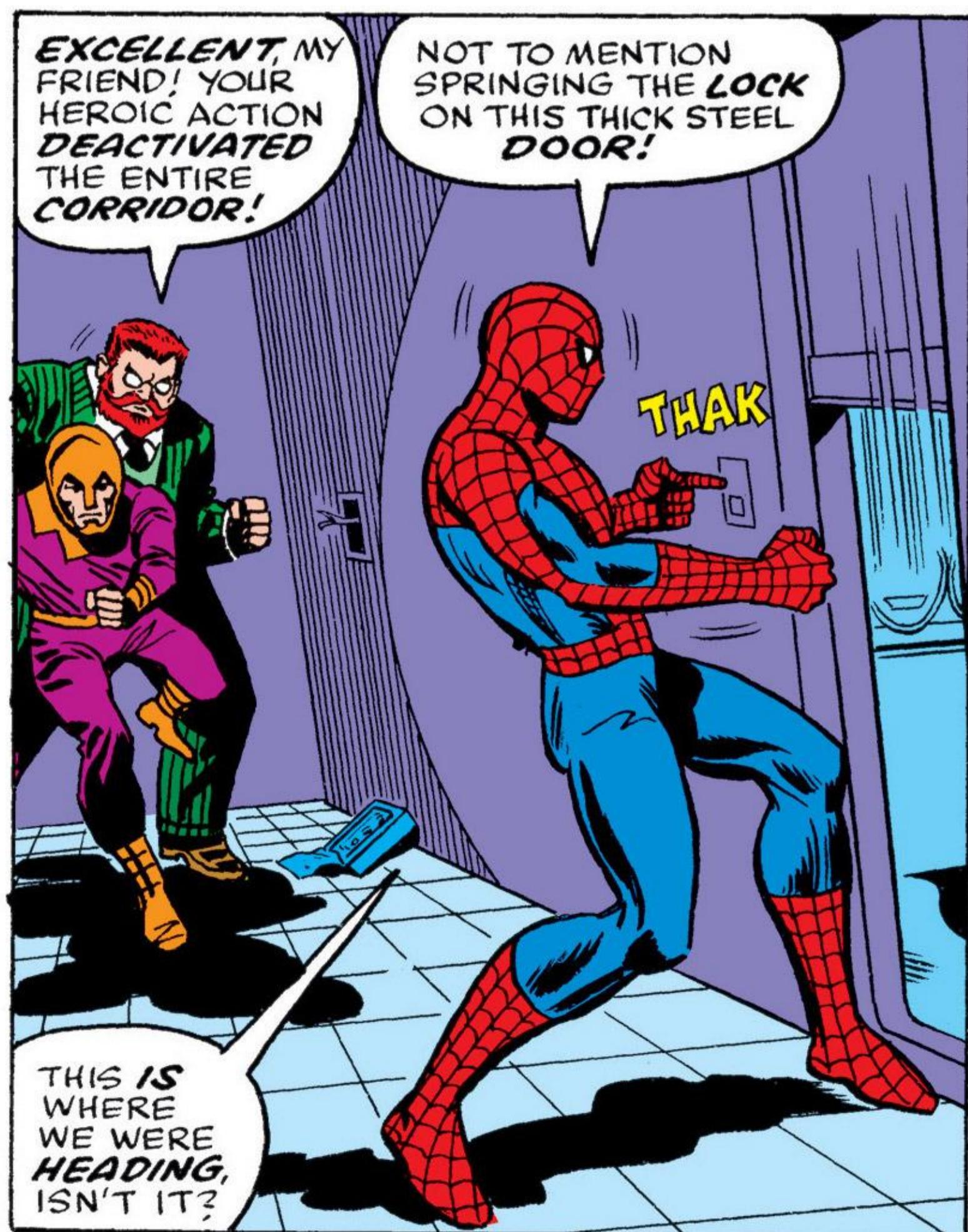
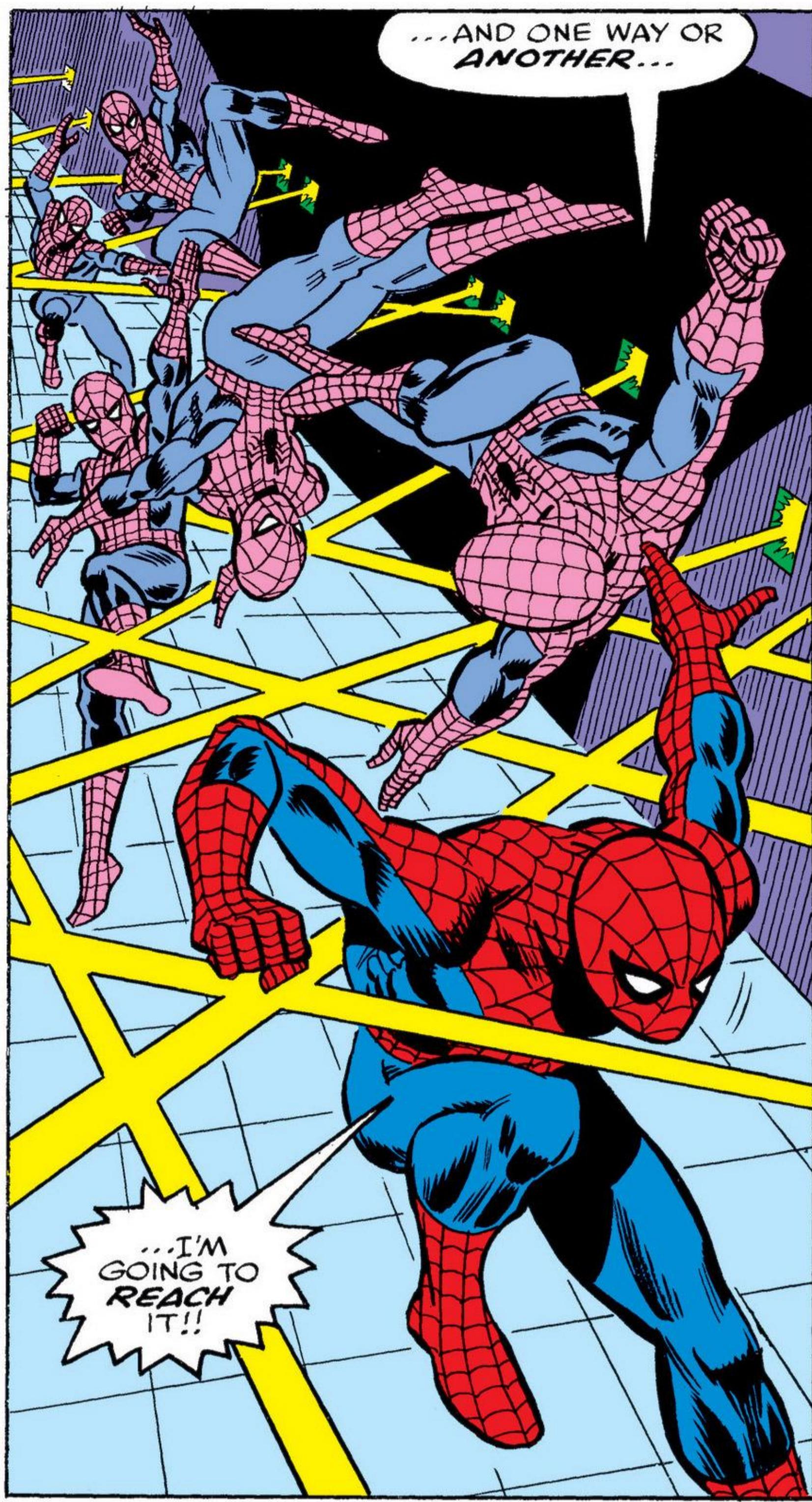
SIMPLY LEAD THE WAY, MY FRIEND, THE CORRIDOR THAT AWAITS US IS FRAUGHT WITH UNKNOWN PERILS!

WE ARE TRUSTING YOU TO LEAD US SAFELY PAST THEM!

NO SOONER SAID THAN DONE!







AND ON THAT NOTE, WE TAKE LEAVE OF THE ENTHRALLED WEB-SLINGER FOR THE MOMENT--AND TURN OUR ATTENTION TO A RESIDENTIAL AREA OF FOREST HILLS...

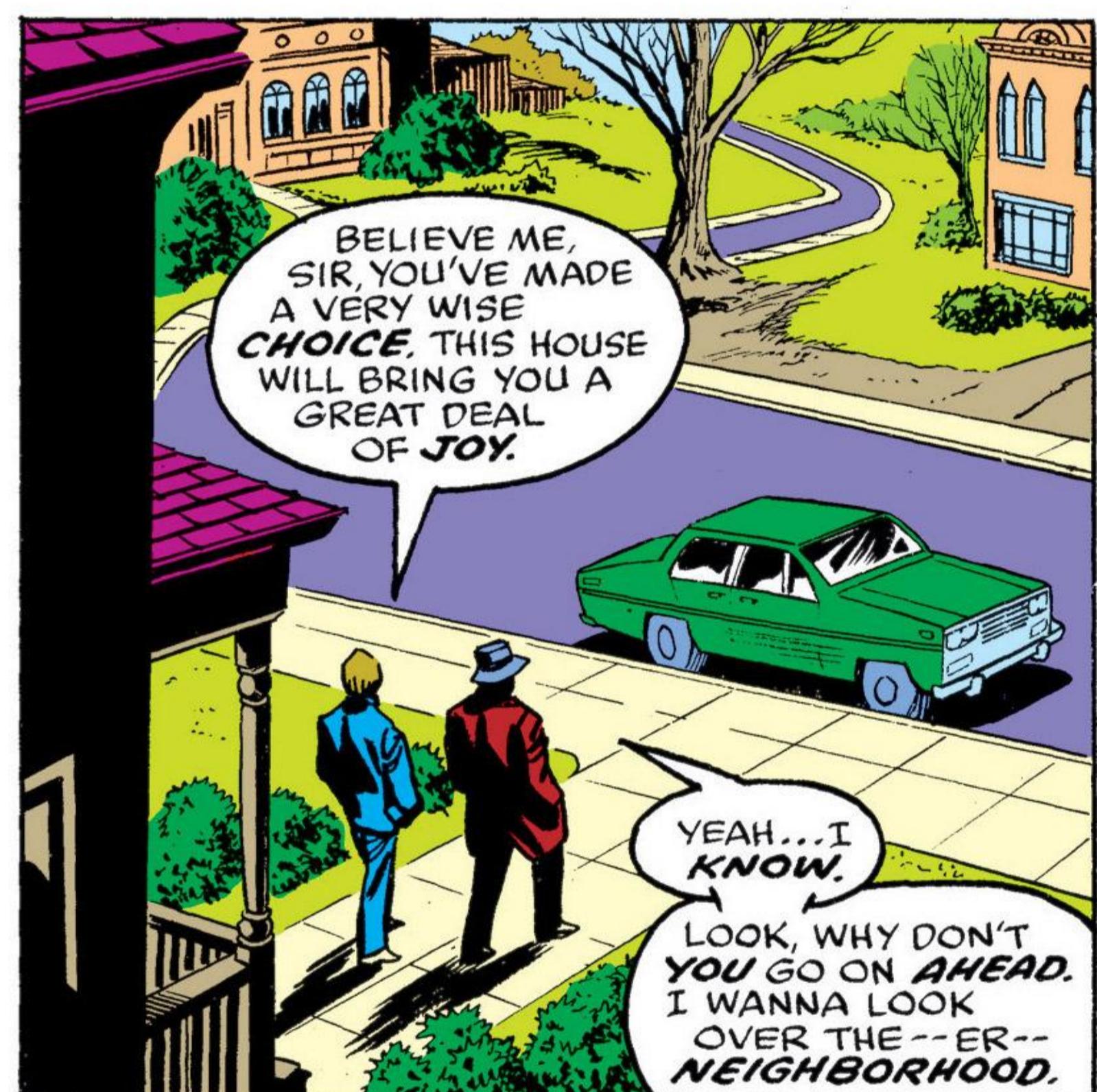


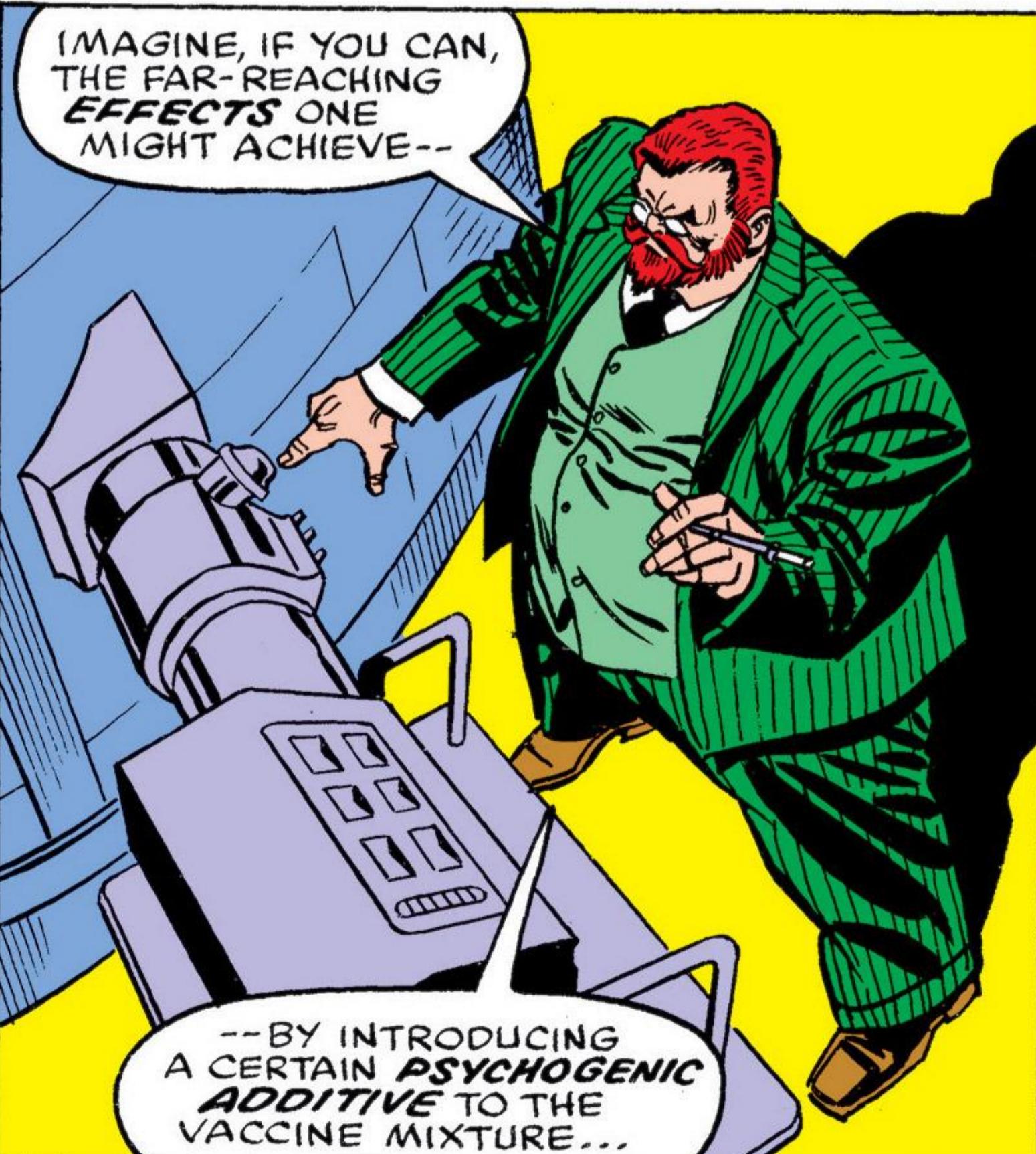
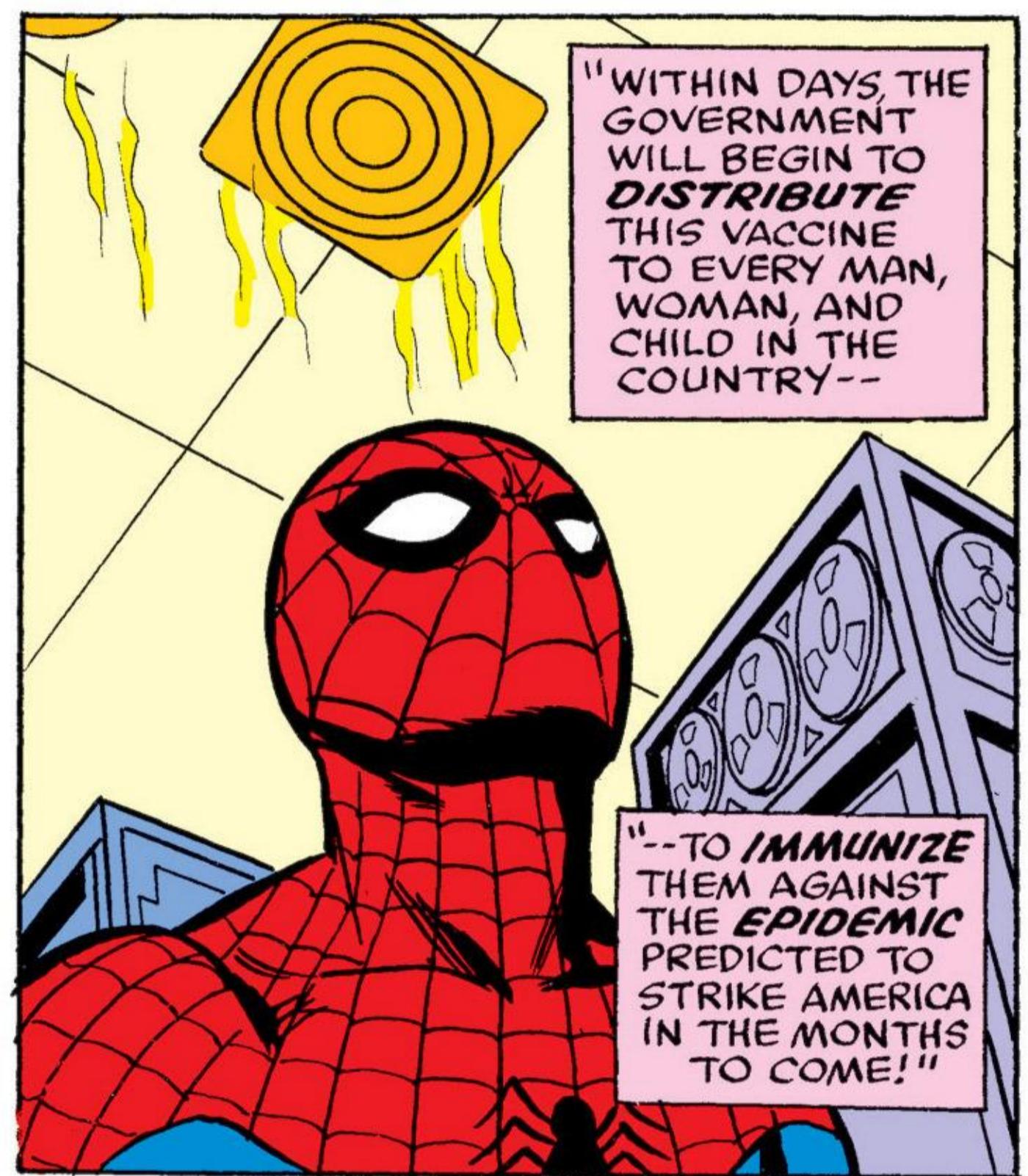
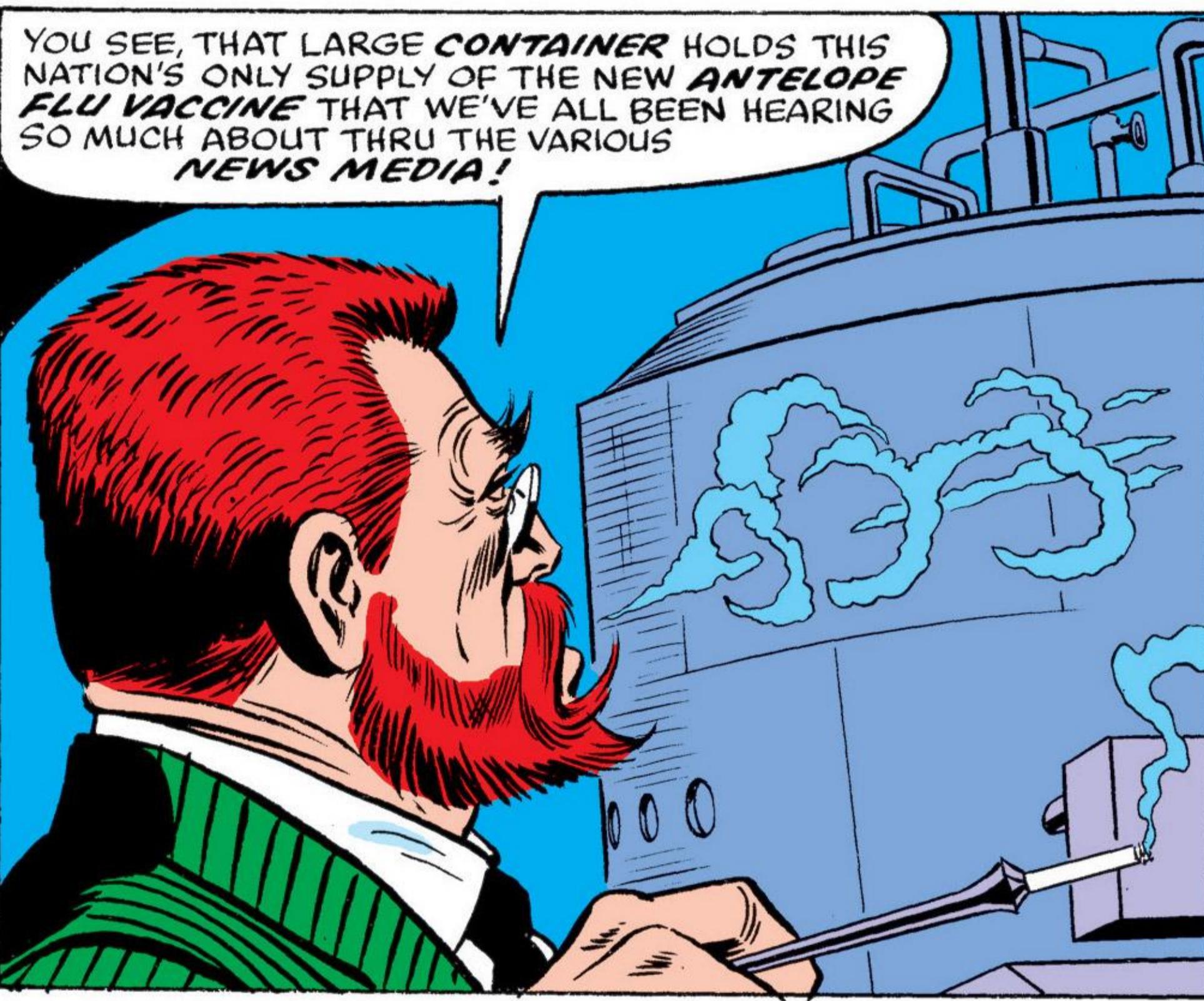
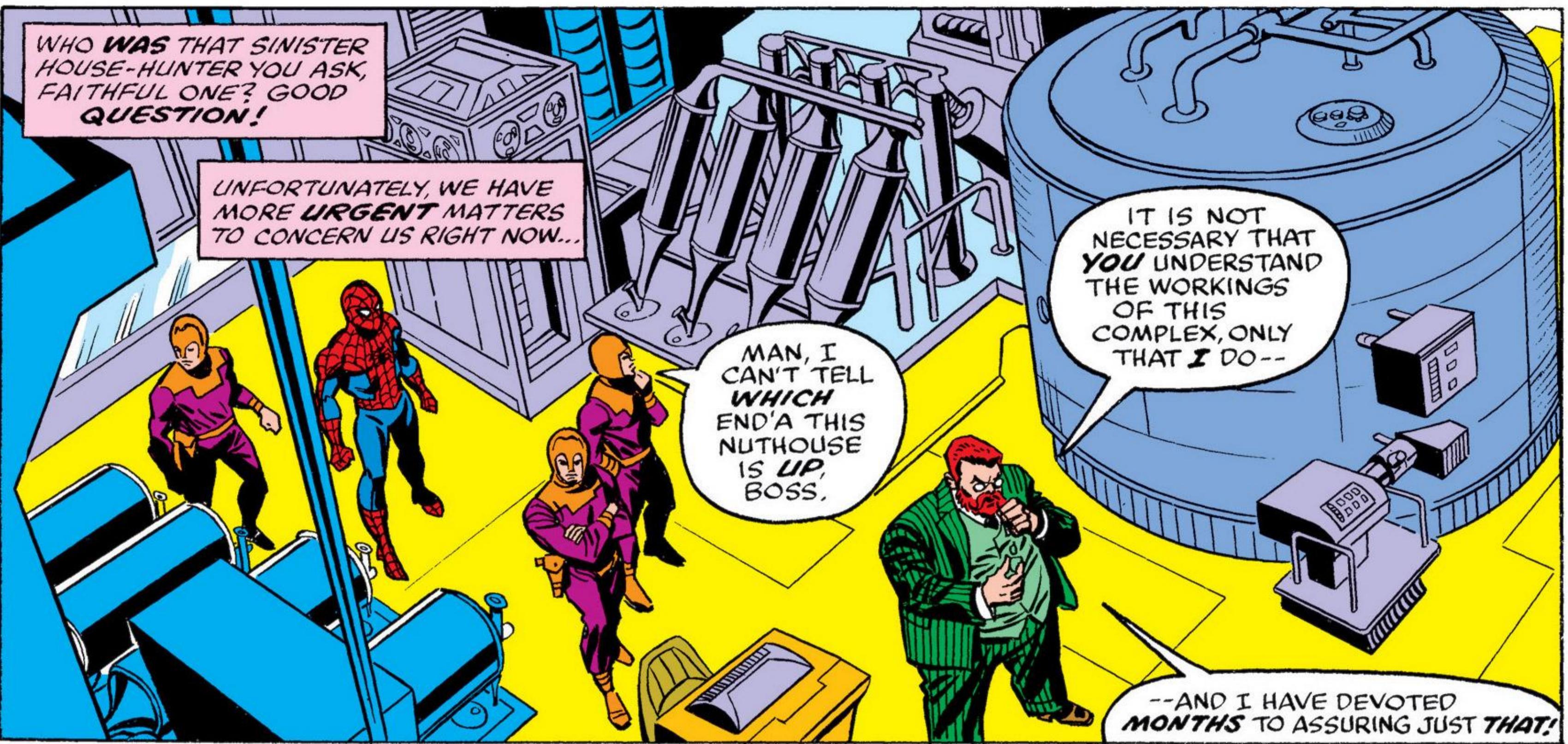
I HATE TO USE THE CLICHE--BUT A LITTLE OLD LADY AND HER FAMILY USED TO LIVE HERE. PARKER, I THINK THEIR NAME WAS.

AFTER THE PARKER WOMAN'S HUSBAND DIED, THIS PLACE WAS JUST TOO LARGE FOR HER--SO SHE AND HER NEPHEW FINALLY MOVED OUT.

SHE STILL OWNS THE HOUSE, BUT SHE'S EMPOWERED MY AGENCY TO RENT IT, PROVIDES HER WITH A LITTLE PENSION, YOU UNDERSTAND.

UH-HUH.



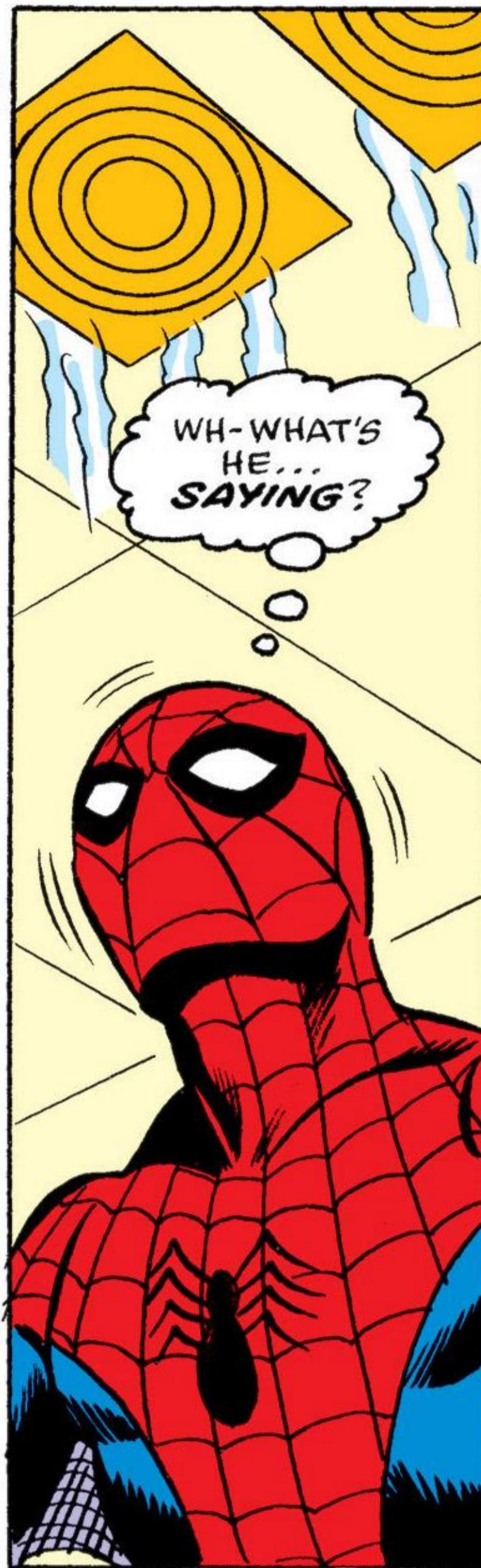


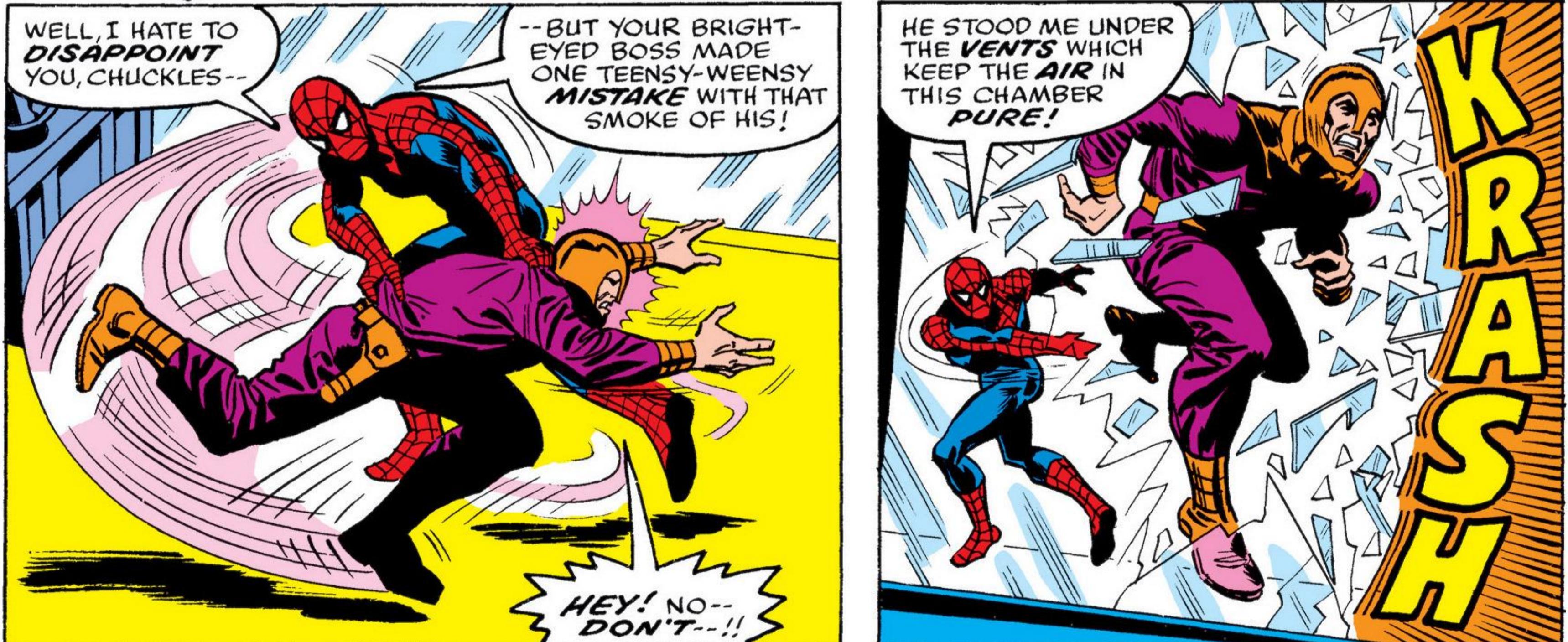
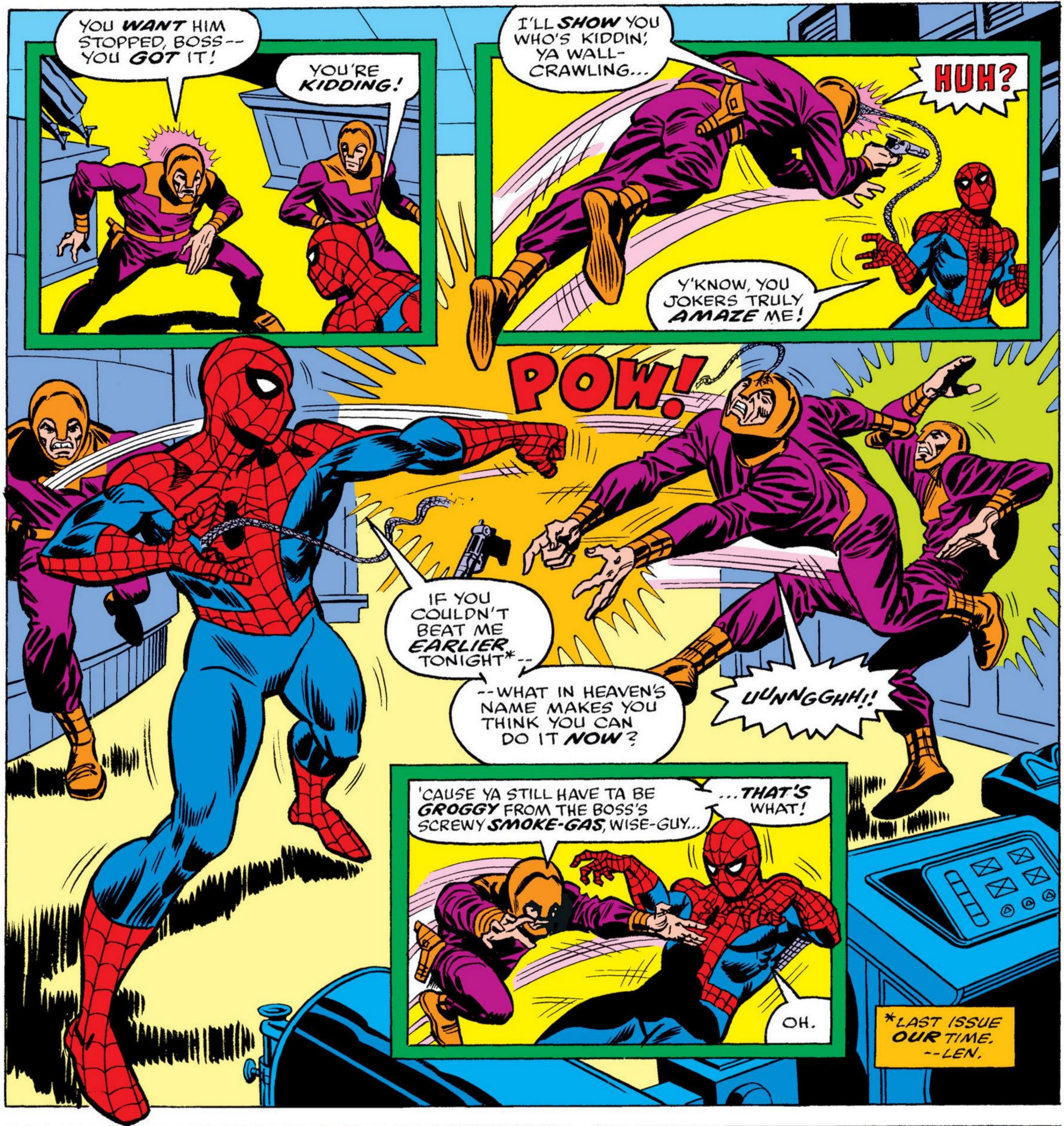
SOON, THE MILLIONS OF PEOPLE THAT ARE **INJECTED** WITH THE ALTERED FLU VACCINE WILL BECOME SUSCEPTIBLE TO MY HYPNOTIC CONTROL!

WITH THE AID OF THE CONTENTS OF THIS VIAL, DOCTOR FAUSTUS WILL COMMAND, FIRST, **AMERICA**-- AND THEN, THE **WORLD!!**

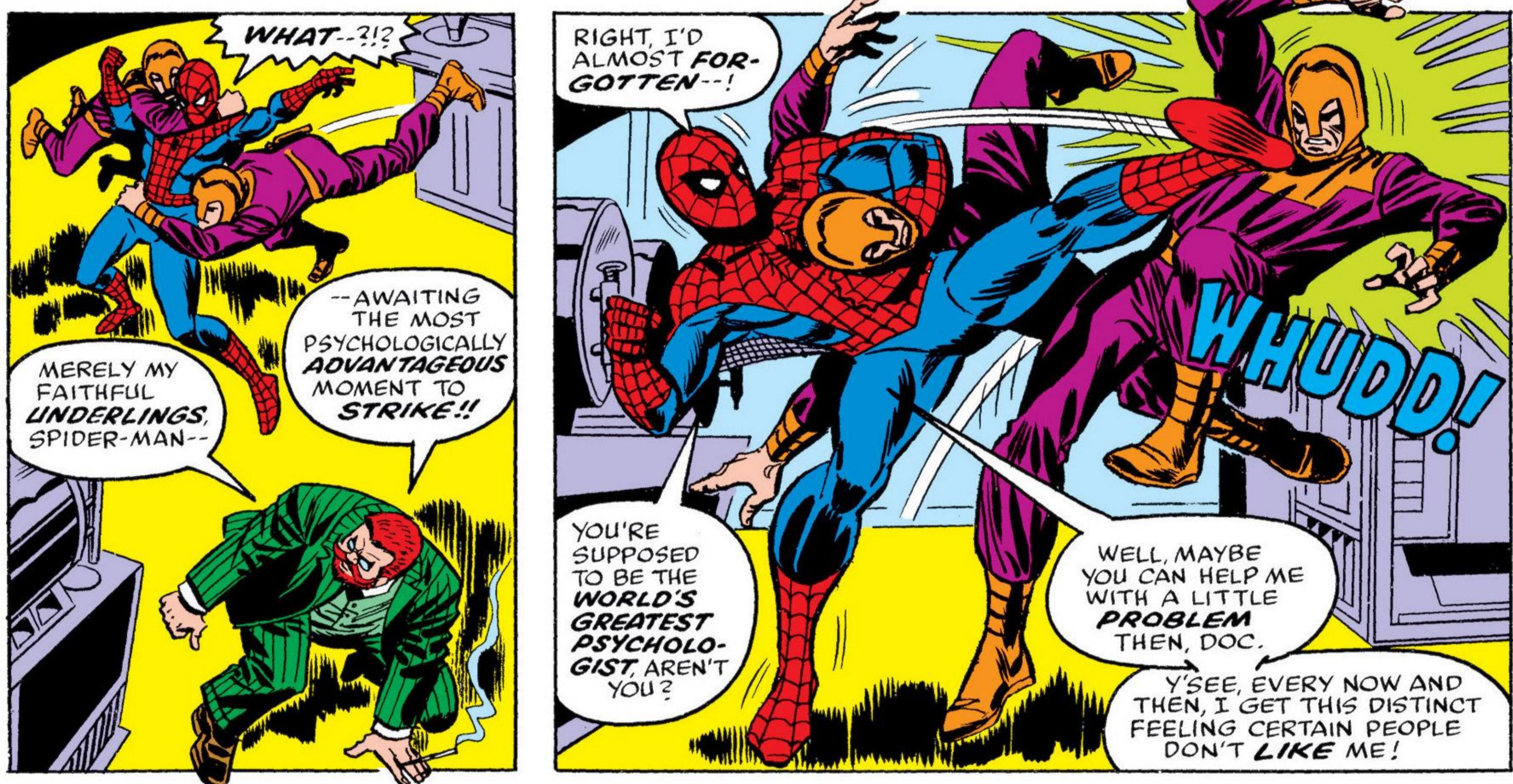
MY HEAD... FINALLY CLEARING OUT THE COBWEBS!

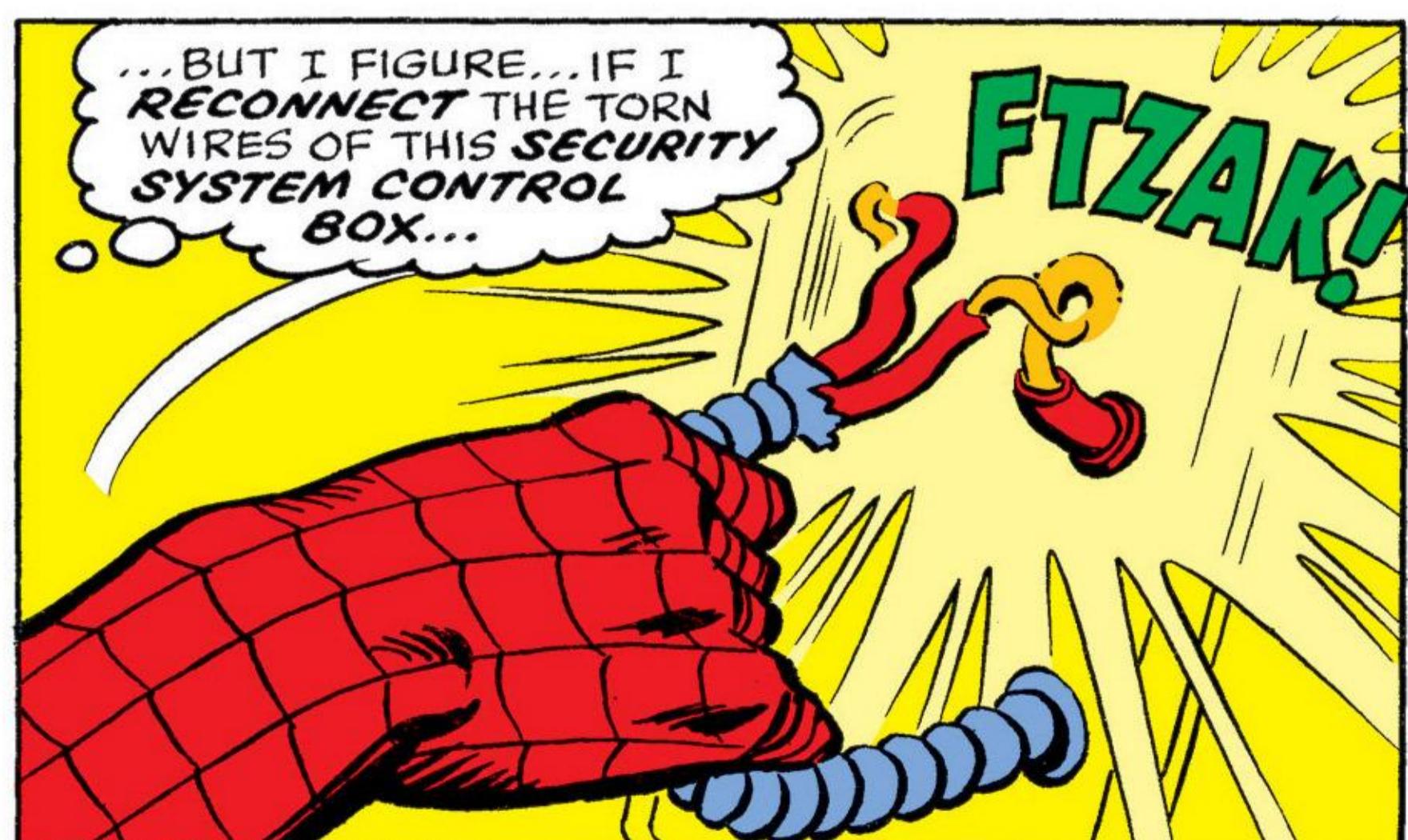
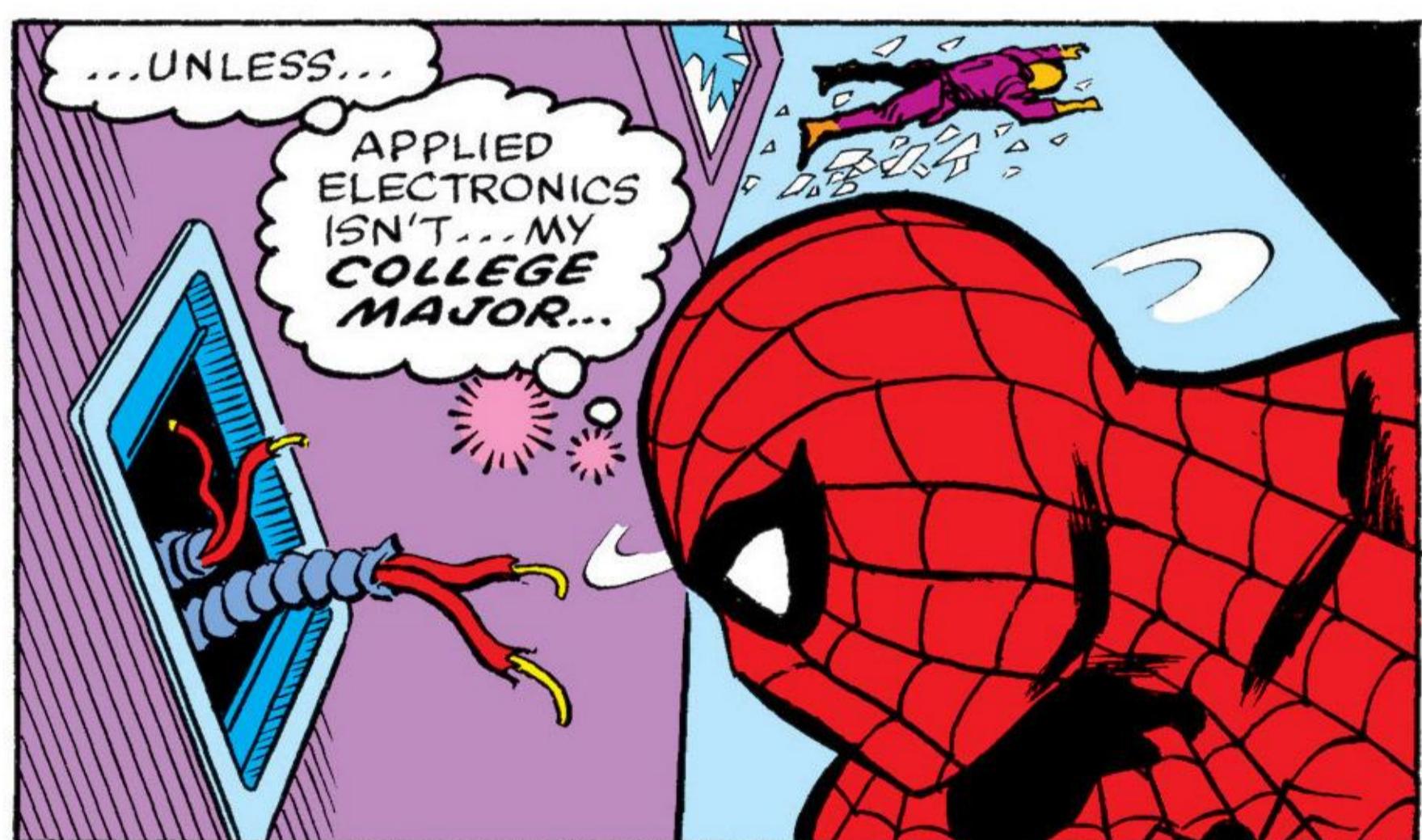
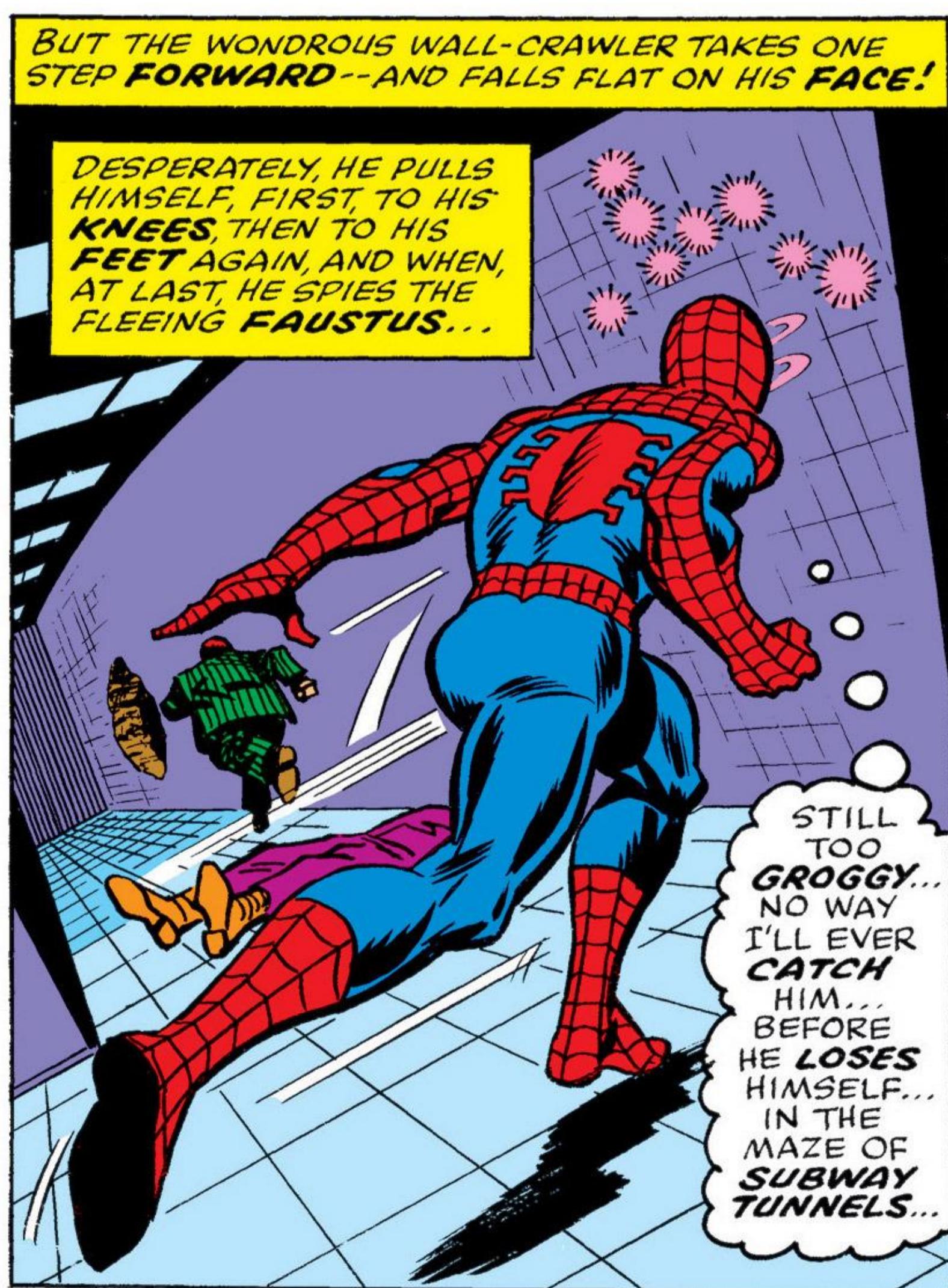
THAT STRANGE-SMELLING SMOKE FROM FAUSTUS'S CIGARETTE MUST'VE **DONE** SOMETHING TO ME!

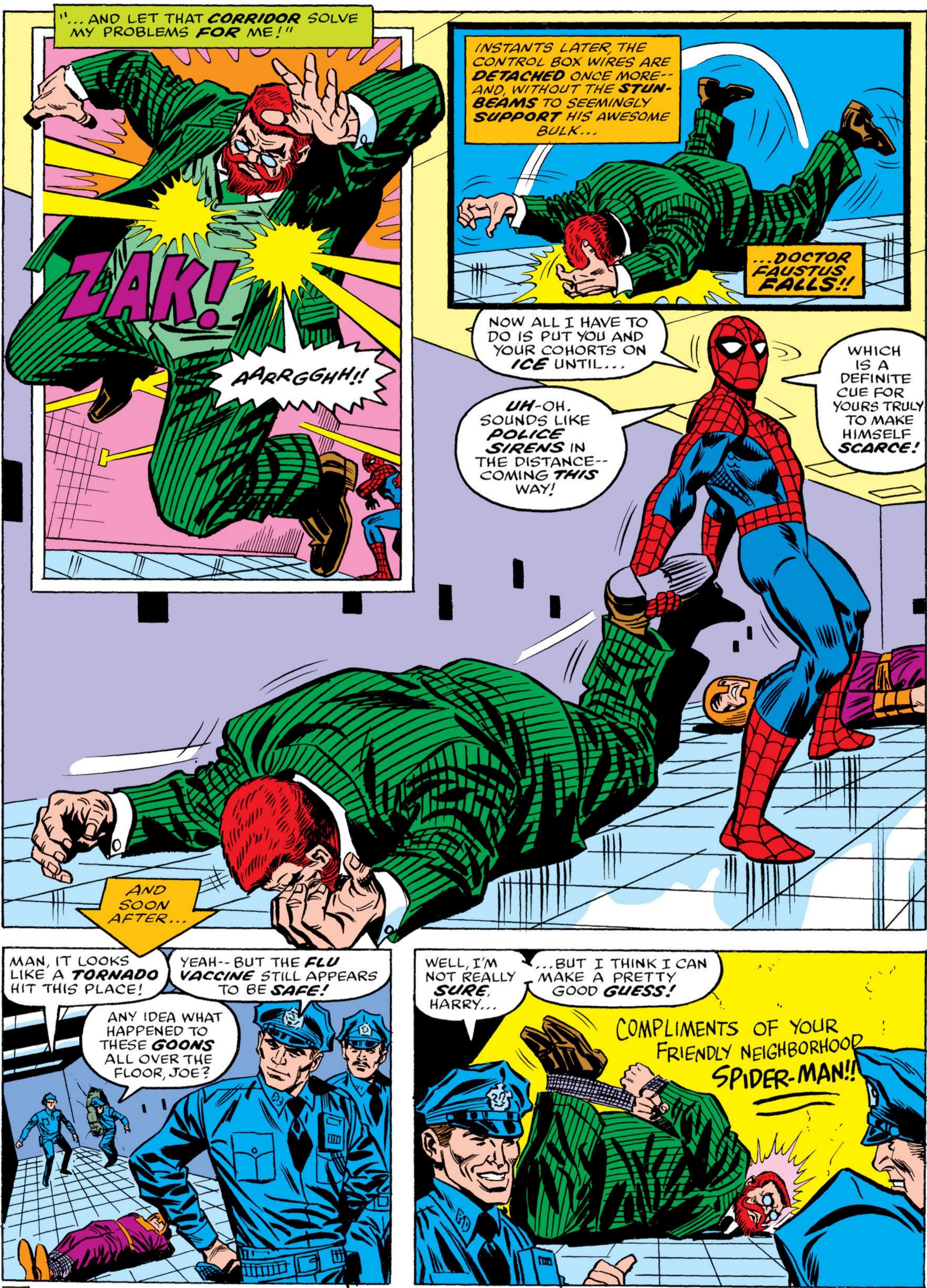






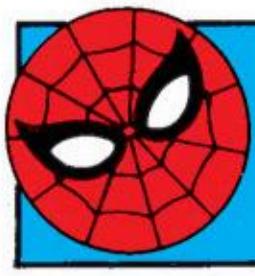






NEXX IT BEGINS IN **NOVA #12** (ON SALE IN JUST A FEW WEEKS) AS SPIDEY MEETS MARVEL'S NEWEST SUPER-STAR-- AND IT CONCLUDES **HERE** NEXT ISSUE AS WEBHEAD AND BULLETHEAD TRY TO SOLVE THE MOST BAFFLING MYSTERY OF ALL! REMEMBER, FIRST IT'S **NOVA #12**, AND THEN BACK HERE FOR...

"PHOTON IS ANOTHER NAME FOR...?" 'NUFF SAID!



THE SPIDER'S WEB

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Dear Marvel,

Anything that might've been wrong with SPIDER-MAN #166 was more than compensated for by the warm, touching "Happy Holidays" ending. This type of homey, compassionate fare—which was once quite common in comics—has been absent for some time, and it was good to get another glimpse of it.

Of course, Len Wein's approach to "War of the Reptile Men" had cinched a favorable reaction from this observer long before that wonderful final-page family scene. Where he might easily have worked the story from the standpoint of the villains, or even Stegron alone, he chose to go about it in a manner capsulized on pages six and seven. Spider-Man, encountering a heartsick Mrs. Connors, promises her that he'll rescue her son and return Dr. Connors to normal. His resolve dominates the rest of the tale; his determination to keep his word to this poor woman becomes more important than the actual defeat of Stegron, the way the chase became more important than the crime in *The French Connection*. The result of all this was a hero whose motivations could be more carefully examined and clearly understood than those of many other Marvel characters. And, isn't that a great deal of what SPIDER-MAN's always been about?

I'm thrilled to learn that Harry Osborn and Liz Allen are going to get married. Even if Peter Parker's gonna be in college for the next 75 years, at least somebody in the supporting cast is moving forward. My only request, and I don't really care if I'm the only one asking for this, is that Harry *not* resort to being the Green Goblin moments before the ceremony is to begin.

Edward B. Via
1648 Dean Road
Roanoke, VA 24018

Actually, Ed, we like to think that all our cavortin' characters keep moving forward to one degree or another, Peter Parker included—and we've got plans along those lines that will be developing over the next few months that are certain to knock Marveldom Assembled out of its collective tree.

Dear Marvel,

There's only one way to describe issue #166 of AMAZING SPIDER-MAN—great! I've been reading SPIDER-MAN now for three-and-a-half years, and this is certainly one of the most entertaining stories yet. With the Lizard and Stegron on the loose in New York, with jolly J. Jonah Jameson and the equally masterful Marla Madison plotting our hero's death, with Harry Osborn and Liz Allen deciding to tie the knot, and with the overall excellence of the issue, I would say that this was a MARVELous Christmas present. But why didn't our hero's spider-sense tingle when he walked by Stegron in the park?

Joe Keenan, Jr.
(No address given)

Truth to tell, Joe, when Lively Len Wein and Rip-roarin' Ross Andru plotted that particular tale, they were taking the definition of the Web-slinger's spider-sense quite literally; specifically, that it warns him only of imminent danger.

Since, as succeeding panels so obviously displayed, Stegron was on his last legs, his strength completely exhausted when Spidey walked past him, our hero wasn't really in danger—was he? Thus, no spine-chilling spider-sense tingle!

Dear Reptile-Men,

Issue #166 was the single best SPIDER-MAN story to hit the stands in years! The writing and the art were far beyond their normal levels. It was downright exciting!

And, Len, lately I think you have been in a rut with old villains and plot complications in SPIDER-MAN. But this time, even though you used two old bad guys, you did it in a fresh and dynamic manner. One specific comment: I really must applaud you for being one of the few writers I can ever recall who remembers the fact that lizards, being cold-blooded, don't operate so well in cold weather.

Raymond Slaten
2059 Krameria
Denver, CO 80207

Coincidentally enough, Ray, that precise point has become somewhat of a bone of contention around your batty Bullpen. Since the publication of a book called "The Hot-blooded Dinosaurs", two rather opinionated camps have sprung up here.

One camp—led by Handy Andy Yanchus, captain of our coloring department, and Dynamic Dave Cockrum, X-MEN illustrator extraordinaire—insist that lizards, dinosaurs among them, were warm-blooded, while traditionalists Lively Len Wein and company maintain that dinosaurs and their ilk were cold-blooded.

And since it was the Lively One who plotted and scripted that particular tale, guess which version was used?

Gee, ain't these behind-the-scenes exposés fascinating?

Dear Marvel,

You made a mistake in AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #166, page 26, panels 1 and 2. In panel 1, the tyrannosaurus hit the police car and knocked the two police officers down. Then, in panel 2, while Spidey was still in the air, he said that "those two cops are still breathing!" The question is: How could he tell they were still breathing? The way I see it, his spider-senses couldn't have told him, because they only warn him of immediate danger. You blew it!

Jeffrey Van Dusen
Route 2, Box B4
Newburg, MO 65550

Sorry, Jeff, but not this time. Y'see, it was really very simple for our hero to know those policemen were still breathing, seeing as how they were still moving as well. One of the drawbacks of the comic book biz is that it is basically a static medium despite the action-packed artwork we try to present to you.

Thus, while it was easy for the Web-head to tell those lawmen were still alive, though not necessarily kicking, it was a wee bit more difficult for us to show you how he knew.



ALL NEW THRILLS BY THE MOST SPECTACULAR SUPER-HEROINE OF ALL--ON SALE MONTHLY!

ON SALE THE FIRST WEEK OF EVERY MONTH!

Ms. MARVEL

NEVER BEFORE HAS A FIGHTING FEMALE CAPTURED THE IMAGINATION OF THE READING PUBLIC SO DRAMATICALLY!