

SPECIAL ISSUE



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AUTHORITY

the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN



PHOTO: MICHAEL BURTON



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 arachnid's powers...and had, in effect, become a human spider...

Stan Lee PRESENTS: **THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN.**

DAYBREAK AT NEWARK INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT. IT HAS BEEN MANY YEARS SINCE THE PATCO AIR CONTROLLERS WERE DISMISSED. THOSE NEW EMPLOYEES, WHO HURRIEDLY REPLACED THE FORMER, WERE TRAINED TO ANTICIPATE EVERY SORT OF CONTINGENCY IN THE AIR...

... WELL,
ALMOST EVERY
SORT!

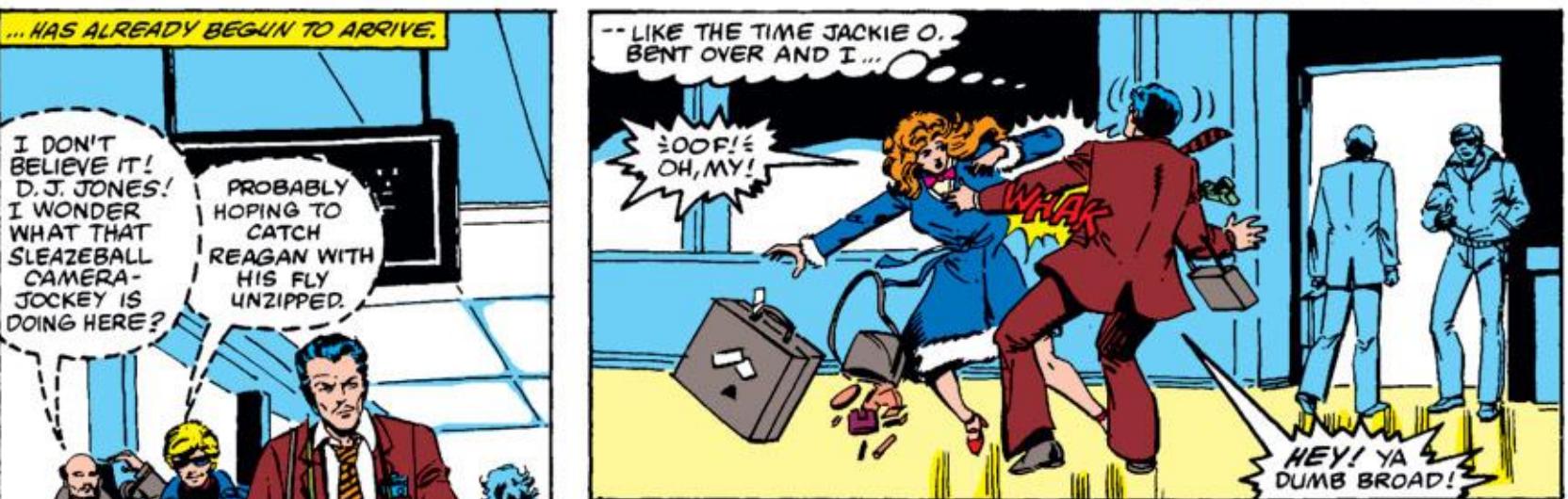
ROGER, FLIGHT 571.
WE TRACK A TWA DC-9
IN YOUR THREE O'CLOCK
POSITION AND A...
SPIDER-MAN?!

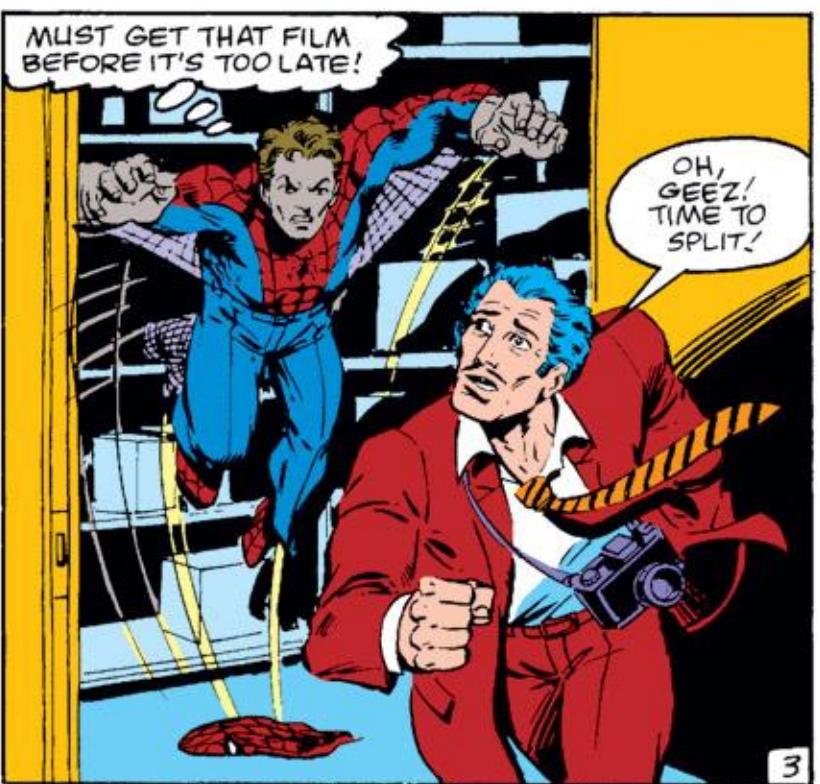
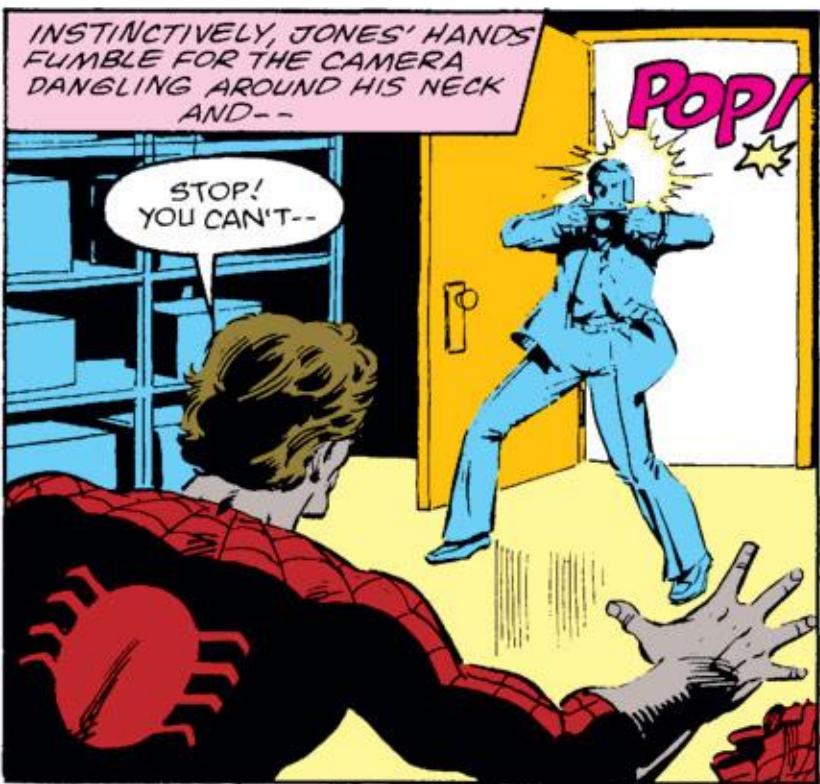
FLY THE
FRIENDLY SKIES
OF
AIR-RACHNI!

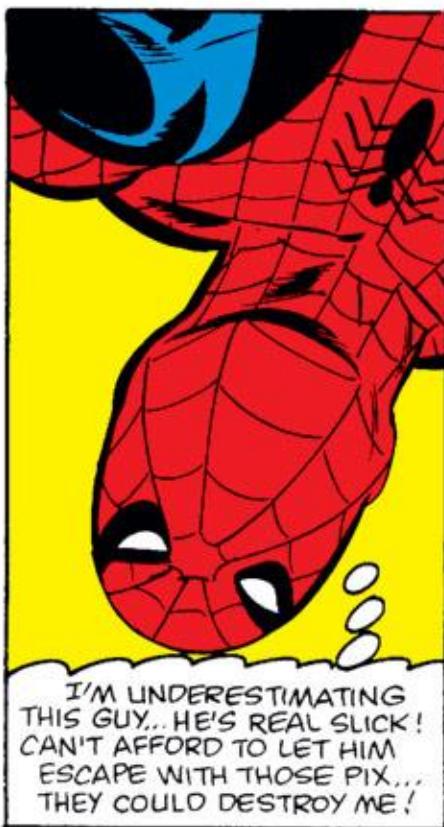
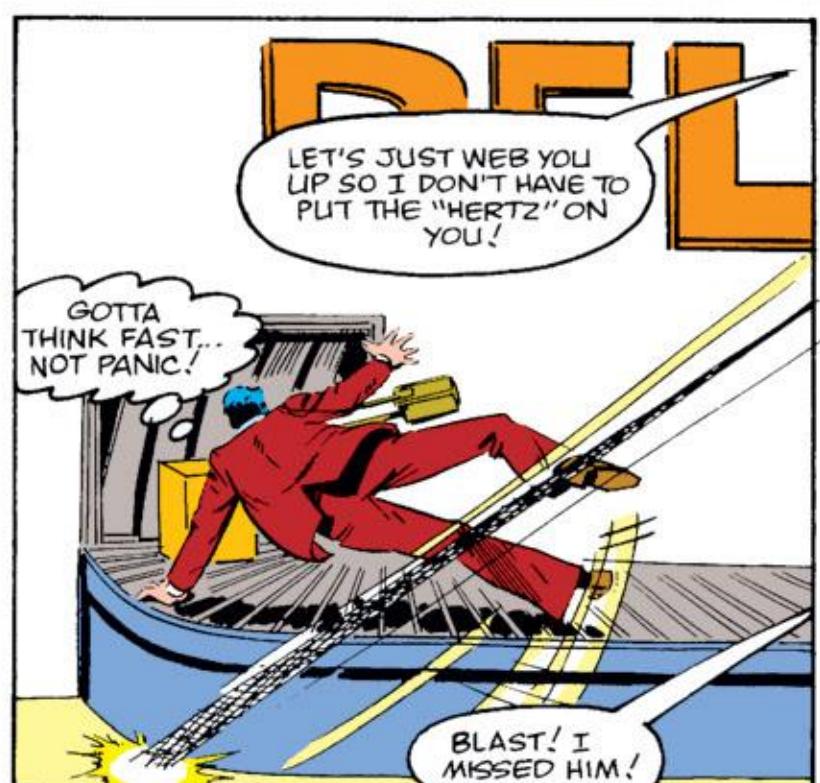
THWIP

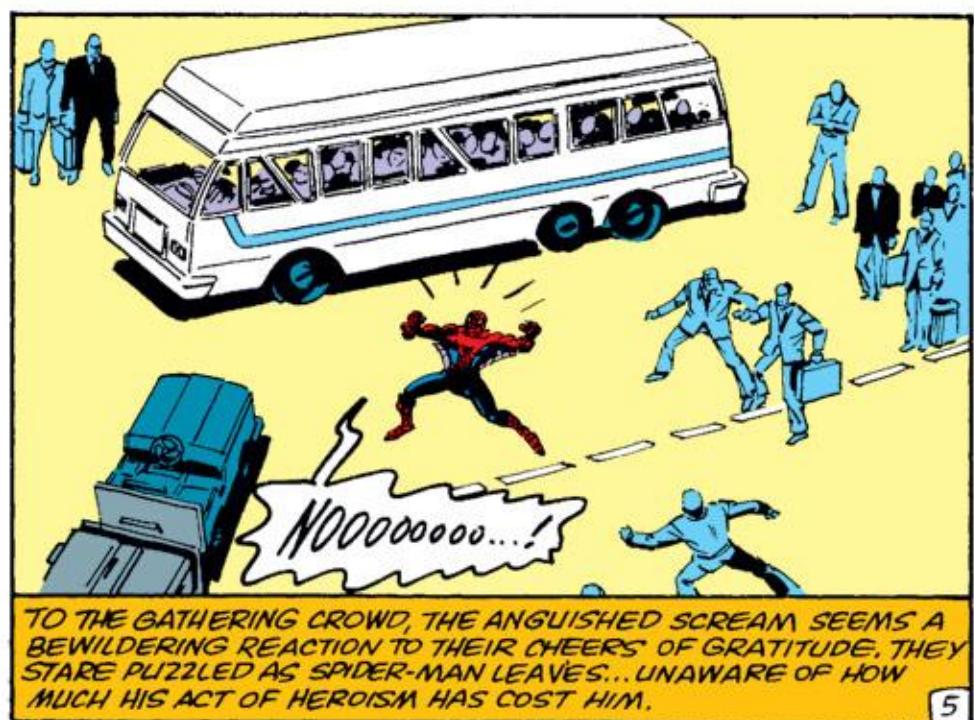
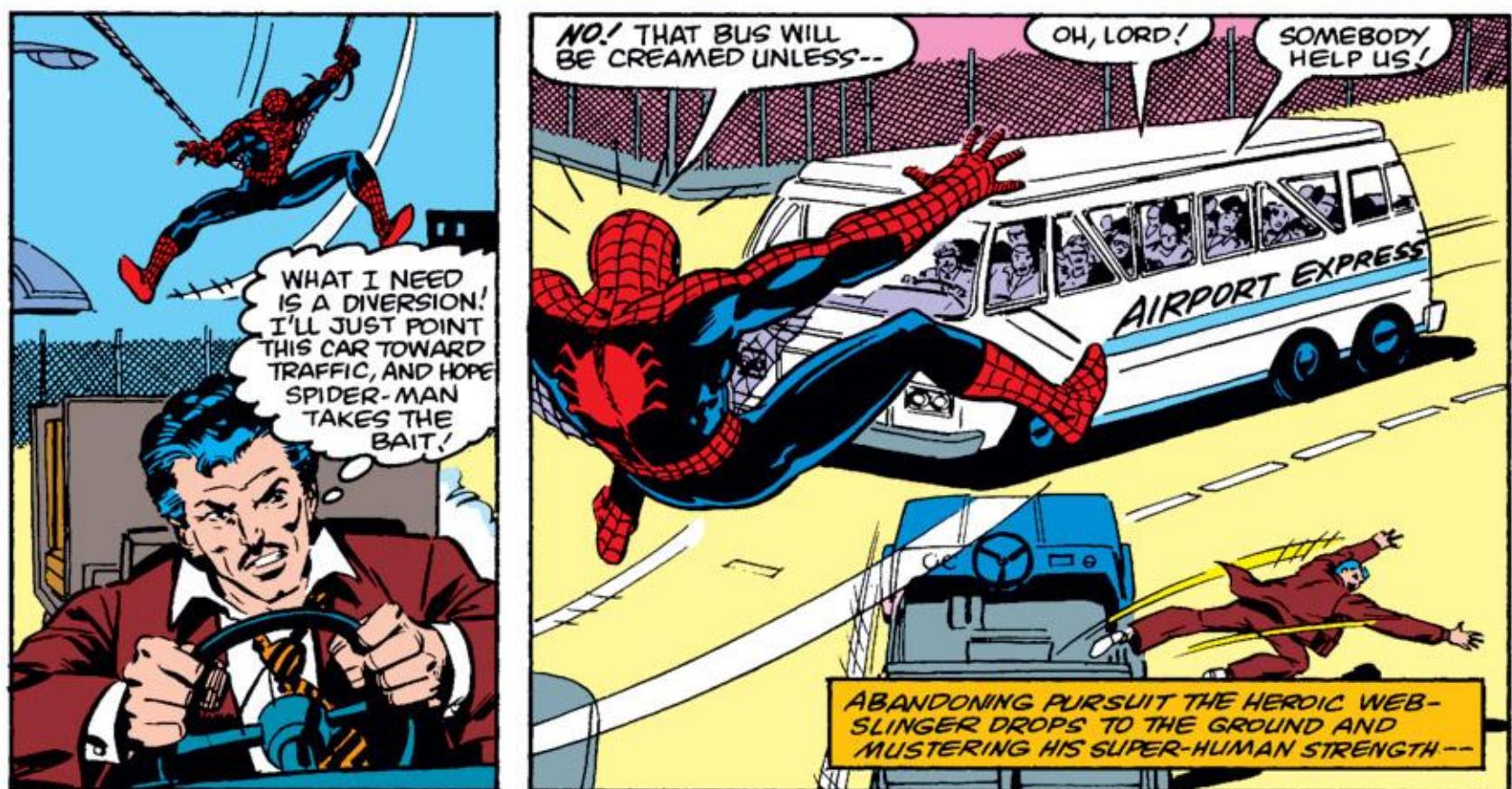
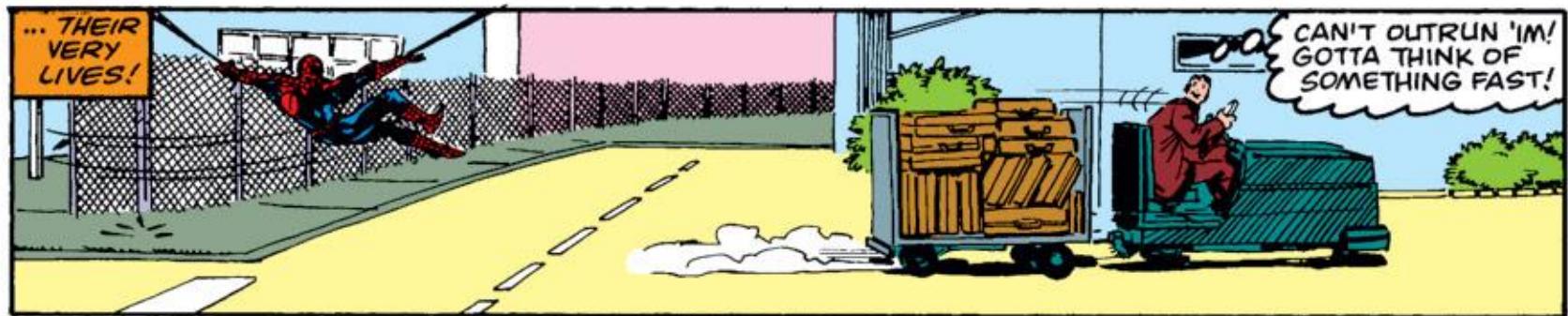
**TRADE
SECRET**

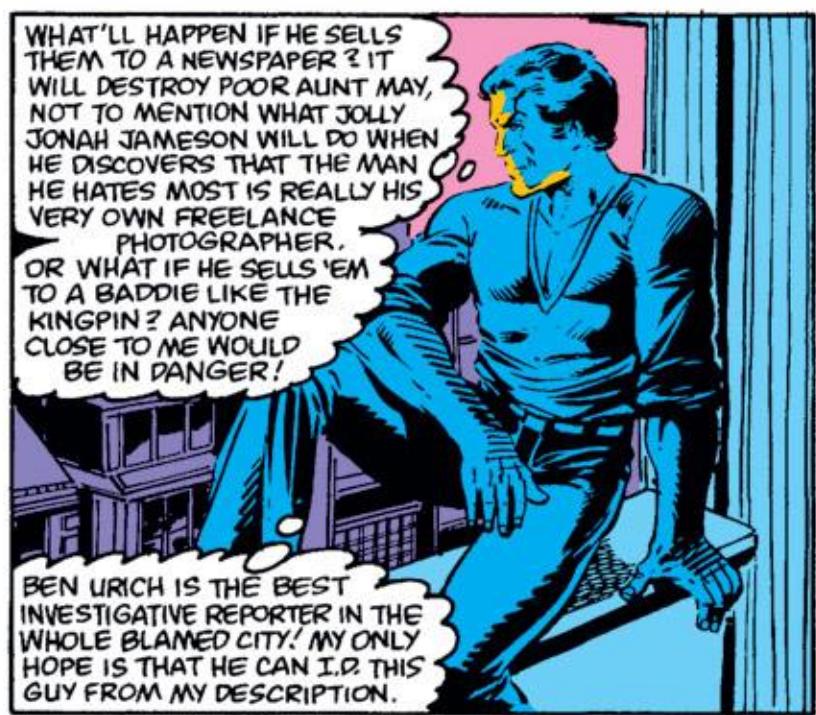
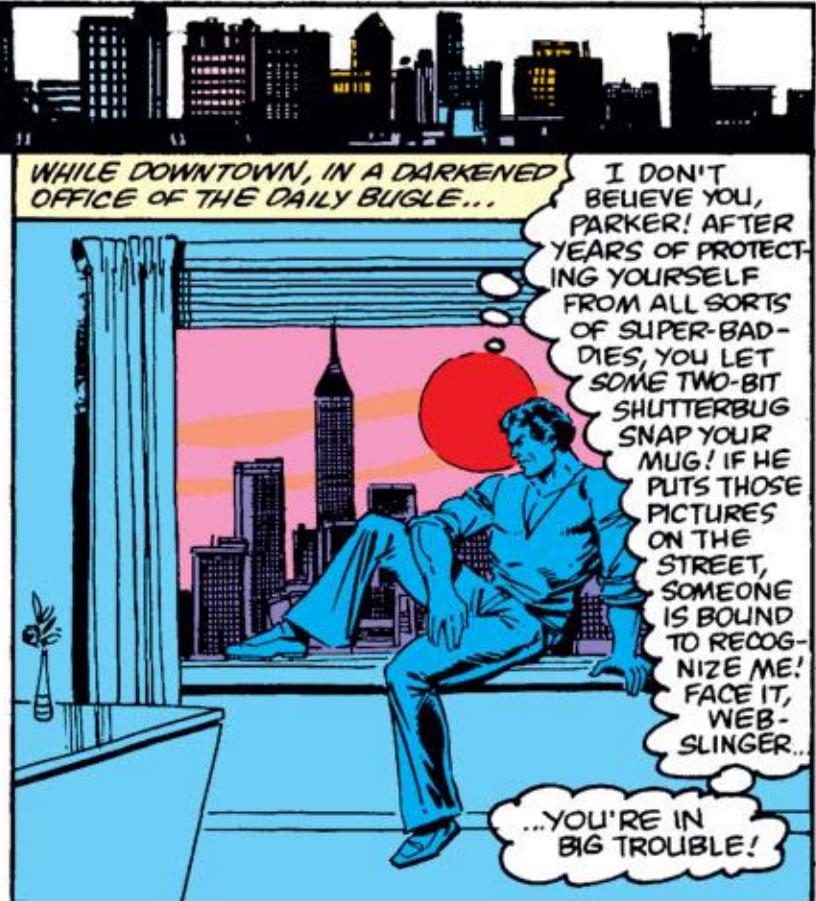
BOB LAYTON
SCRIPT & PENCILS
LAYTON & GARZON
INKS
RICK PARKER
LETTERING
CHRISTIE SCHEELE
COLORING
TOM DEFALCO &
DANNY FINGEROTH
EDITORS
JIM SHOOTER
EDITOR IN CHIEF

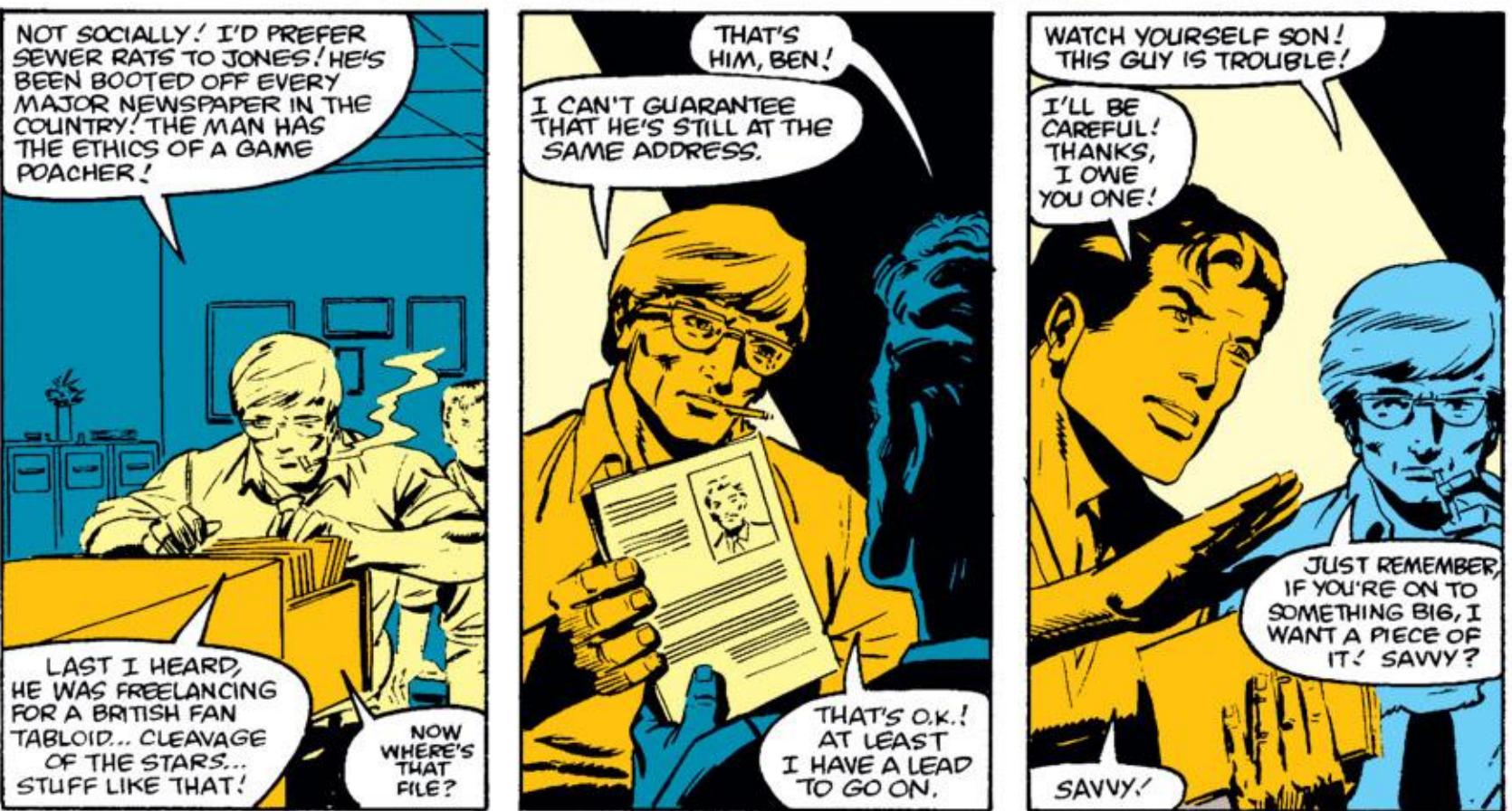




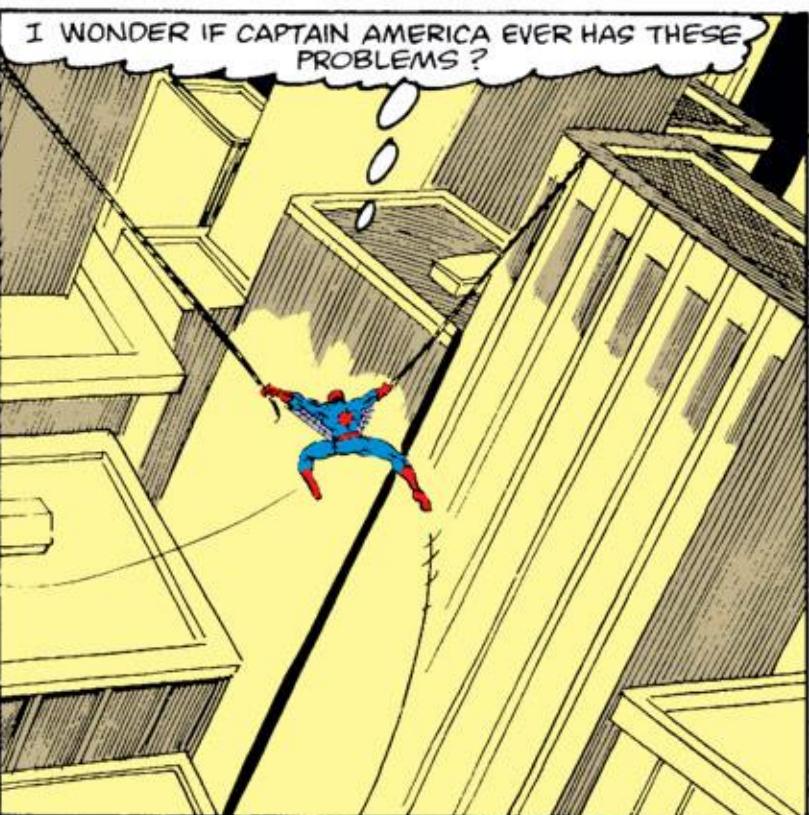












KEYS ARE TURNED IN THE APPROPRIATE LOCKS... THE DOOR CREAKS OPEN WITH ITS USUAL STUBBORNNESS-- BUT JONES' ENTRY IS ANYTHING BUT...

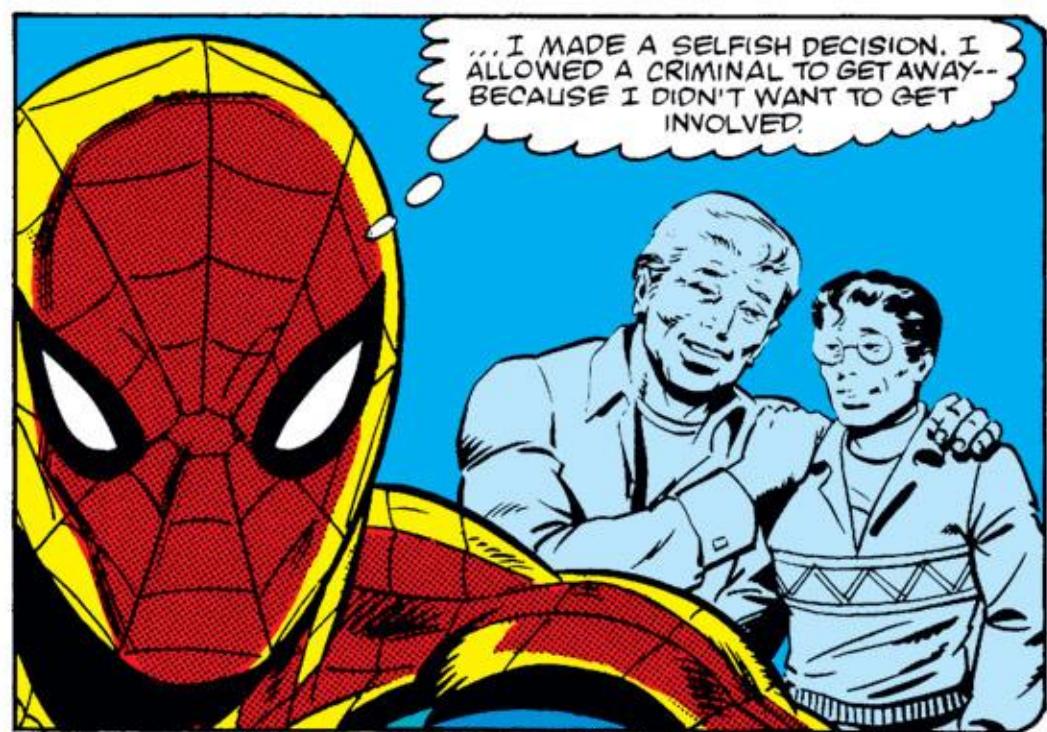
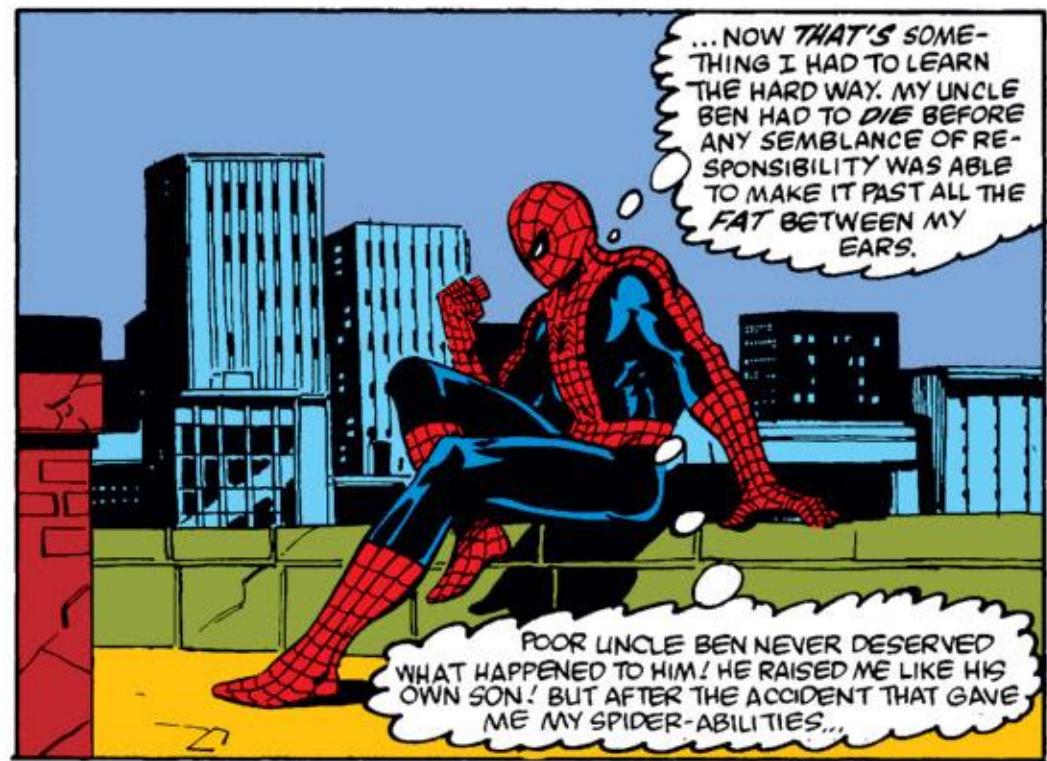












"THAT NIGHT I SWEDE NEVER TO TURN MY BACK ON CRIME AGAIN... SWEDE TO UPHOLD THE GREAT RESPONSIBILITY THAT GREAT POWER BRINGS! I SWEDE TO ALWAYS BE... SPIDER-MAN!"

I KNOW WHAT I HAVE TO DO. ALL I NEED IS...

A PLAN!

MEANWHILE, IN THE ALLEY BELOW...

STAY BACK!
P-PLEASE DON'T HURT ME!

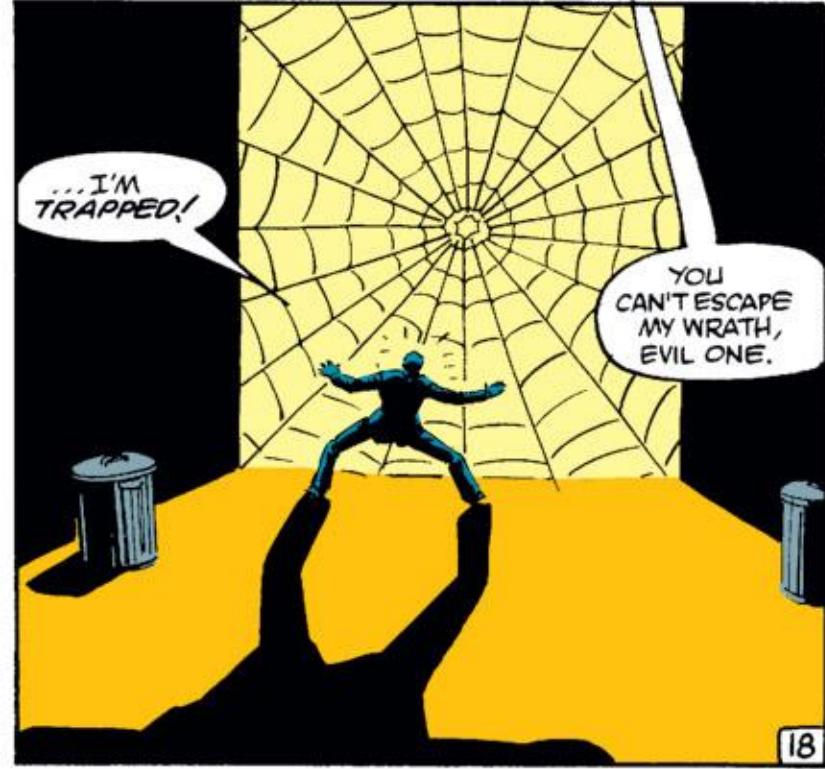
KILL 'IM!

DON'T WORRY,
CHUMP! I GUARANTEE
YA, PRETTY SOON,
YA AIN'T GONNA
FEEL ANYTHING.
RIGHT, BOSS?

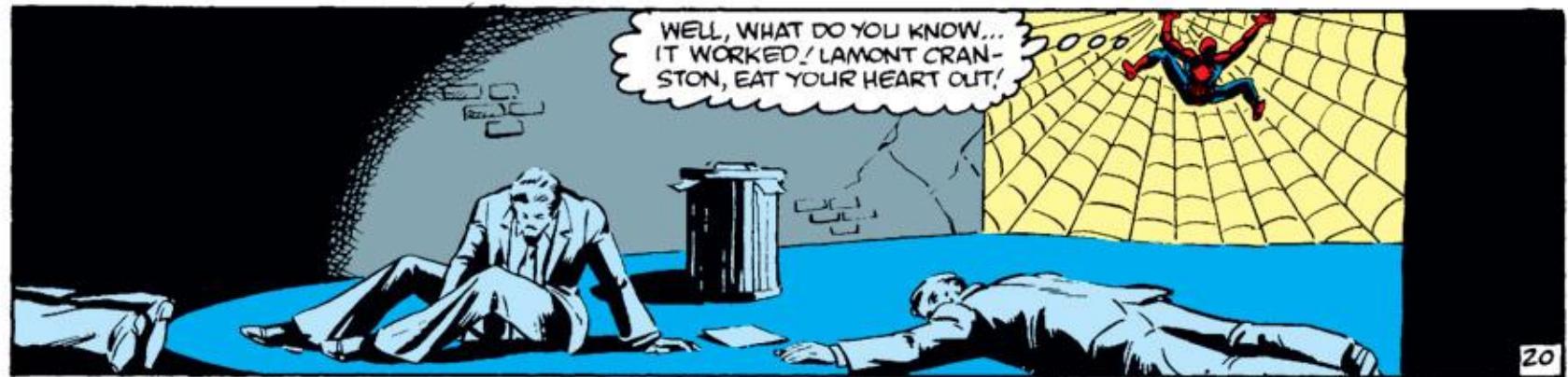
NO! NO
ONE STEALS
SPIDER-MAN'S
INTENDED
PREY!

HOLY CROW.









EPISODE

TWELVE HOURS LATER, ON A BUSY MANHATTAN STREET CORNER...



NEXT ISSUE: AT LAST! DUE TO ABSOLUTELY NO DEMAND WHATSOEVER, MIGHTY MARVEL IS PROUD MODERATELY PLEASED TO PRESENT...

THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-KID!

(PLUS! THE FATE OF HARRY AND LIZ'S BABY! AND, A CERTAIN WEB-SWINGER CHANGES HIS COSTUME AGAIN! BE HERE IN 30 DAYS!)

THE SPIDER'S WEB

% MARVEL COMICS GROUP
387 Park Avenue South
New York, New York 10016

DANNY FINGEROTH
EDITOR
BOB DeNATALE
ASSISTANT EDITOR

Attention correspondents: if you don't want your full address printed, please be sure to tell us so!

Dear Marvel,

AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #255 was fantastic! Ron Frenz and Joseph Rubinstein did a great job on the cover. And the inside of the book was just as good! Keep it up!

Chad Vaughn
P.O. Box 249
Torch, OH

Dear Mr. Fingeroth,

I was completely astounded by the artwork on "Even a Ghost Can Fear the Night" in AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #255. I'm very impressed! Tom DeFalco and Ron Frenz are great, and so is Josef Rubinstein. Keep the new Spider-Man going!

Tony D. Cartagena
2164 Chatterton Ave.
Bronx, NY 10472

Dear Tom, Ron and Danny,

You know what? I don't care who the Hobgoblin is!! I'm interested in something much more important! It's not hard to figure out why Peter is so tired lately, or why he supposedly slept around the clock in issue #255. Spidey's new costume has been abducting Peter while he's sleeping! The question is, why? And where does it take him? However, I don't think you're planning to keep us in the dark about this for too long. I heard (courtesy of MARVEL AGE) that Reed Richards is going to examine it in issue #258, so we should all learn something then. I know I'll keep reading to see how it turns out!

Larry Dudock
(no address given)

So you think there's something odd about Spidey's costume but you're not sure what, eh, Larry? Well, our next correspondents have some thoughts on that matter . . .

Dear Amazing Spider People,

Once again you have amazed me with another issue of SPIDER-MAN — issue #255! As you promised, Ron Frenz out-did himself on the pencils, and with the colors of Glynis Wein, you could do no wrong. I did, however, find one small problem. On page five, Spidey's suit "slithers" over to its "unsuspecting" target, but nothing ever happens. When Peter wakes up on page eight, he's still wearing his pajamas. Of course, being the nice guy I am, I came up with a couple answers for you guys.

1) The suit, reacting to Spidey's subconscious, crept over to keep him warm for the night, and then crawled back just before he rose the next day.

2) The suit crept over to Peter in order to push his hand back in bed so he would not have a stiff wrist the next morning.

Choose either answer, or make up one of your own!

Gregory Rodney
5016 Gaviota Ave.
Encino, CA 91436

Dear Marvel,

It is apparent from AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #255 that his costume is organic. It is actually a living costume that has been feeding off Peter Parker, sapping his energy like a parasite. This is what made Peter's 21 hours of sleep feel like two. I say this parasite must be terminated with extreme prejudice.

John McNabb
9 Leyden Cres.
Saskatoon, Sask.
Canada S7J 2S3

Dear Marvel,

I must admit that I'm beginning to like Spidey's new costume — especially when it's drawn by the one and only Ron Frenz! In issue #255, Ron's artwork gave me an eerie feeling, something I have never felt after reading a comic.

The Black Fox was terrific! That's another thing about Ron's artwork — he gave the ol' Fox a real sense of fear in his facial structure. The Red Ghost and his Super-Apes were great, too! I haven't seen them in a long time!

One other thing: What's with all these new villains? First, it's the Rose (who's really great!), then the Black Fox (who's equally terrific), and now, scheduled to appear in SPIDER-MAN #256 — Puma! Does this mean anything?

Shaun P. Barry
36 Williston Ave.
Easthampton, MA 01057

What it means, Shaun, is that when you're Spider-Man, you have to be prepared for trouble at any time! And now, since our letters page got squeezed out last time around, here are your reactions to SPIDER-MAN #256 and the Puma!

Dear Fellow Webheads,

I would like to comment on your excellent choice in Ron Frenz as penciler for AMAZING SPIDER-MAN. Although Ron was great on KA-ZAR, STAR WARS and others, it was issue #248's "The Kid Who Collected Spider-Man" which found Ron his rightful place in comicdom. We all cried for more and you gave it to us!

Issue after glorious issue, right through SPIDER-MAN #256, Ron gives us his all! He captures the grace of John Romita Sr. and the awesome linework of Steve Ditko. Ron is just perfect for this book! I sometimes wonder if he isn't Peter Parker!

Here's to you all for good taste!

Jim Calvert
507 E. 18th St.
Owenboro, KY 42301

Dear Danny,

SPIDER-MAN #256 was a grand issue. Ron Frenz has become the greatest artist ever to draw Spidey! He seems to be a combination between Steve Ditko and Sal Buscema. In fact, Ron is so good that he almost made me forget about Spidey's new

costume, but . . . page seven, panel 3, and all of page nine made me realize that the costume works either by taking Pete's energy while he's asleep or by taking him on midnight walks!

As for the new villain, the Puma, it seems like he's some sort of modernized Kraven. I'm sure he's going to be a hero with an antihero image. Anyway, it was a great issue. May Tom DeFalco and Ron Frenz both stay with SPIDER-MAN a looong time!

Y.L. Maeshiro
Matias Romero 411-101
Col. Del Valle
Mexico 03100

Dear AMAZING SPIDER-MAN,

I am impressed with your recent issues. Ron Frenz's artwork is certainly worth every penny! The stories are enjoyable, and they're leaving me with many intriguing questions: Who is this Puma person? Has Spidey met his match? I am awaiting suspensefully for future issues!

Keith Abraham
6406 Stratford Rd.
Chevy Chase, MD 20815

To ease your suspense (or to make it even worse!), Keith, we suggest you read the next letter. It contains an interesting theory about our latest villain, the Puma!

Dear Marvel,

I had been anxiously looking for SPIDER-MAN #256 since last month. Why? The return of the Rose! He's already one of my favorite villains! Now, the Puma is an interesting character. From the conversation between the Rose and him, it's obvious that the Puma is new only in the aspect of this being his first appearance in a Marvel comic. But where have they met before? Since the Rose is a newcomer to the Big Apple, they must have met before his move. Maybe the Rose was in the West (a crimelord in Heartsdale, New Mexico?) and the Puma was his assassin! Maybe?

By the way, Ron Frenz's art is marvelous. And let's not forget the mag's superb colorist, Christie Scheele! The whole team is great!

Chris Mackowski
Main Road
Milford, MN 14461

Dear Danny,

In AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #256, on page seven, panel 9, Peter finds his old costume. That gave me the impression he might use it (and I wouldn't mind seeing him in action in his old threads!). Don't get me wrong — I like his new costume. In fact, I think it's great!

Andy Mieczowski
70 W. Chestnut St.
Wakefield, MA 01880

You certainly had the right impression, Andy! We hope you're enjoying Spidey in action in his original costume!