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COMICS
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AUTHORITY

the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN®



Stan Lee presents

"THE FURY OF X-FACTOR!"

6:30 A.M.: ARRESTED AND IMPRISONED FOR THE CRIMES OF THE HOBGOBLIN, FLASH THOMPSON BECAME AN UNWILLING PARTICIPANT IN A JAILBREAK ONLY HOURS AGO, AND NOW...

MS. BANKS, IS IT TRUE THAT YOU WERE CONFERRING WITH YOUR CLIENT, FLASH THOMPSON, LAST NIGHT IN HIS CELL WHEN THE JAILBREAK OCCURRED?

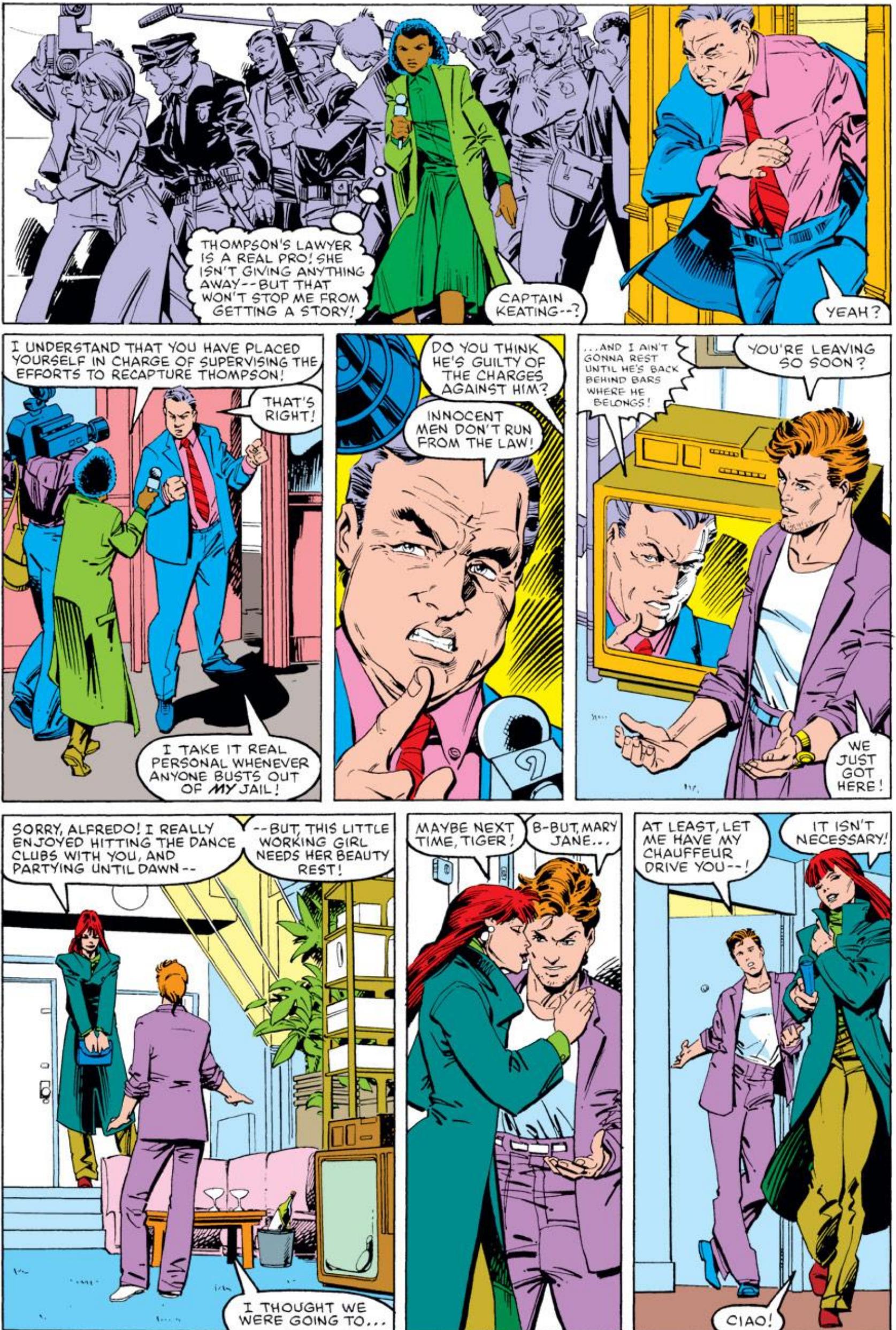
NO COMMENT!

HOW MANY MEN HELPED HIM ESCAPE?

DOESN'T THIS CONCLUSIVELY PROVE THAT THOMPSON IS THE HOBGOBLIN?

NO COMMENT!

STAN LEE PRESENTS:
TOM DEFALCO WRITER
RICK LEONARDI PENCILER
BOB LAYTON INKER
JOE ROSEN LETTERER
NEL YOMTOV COLORIST
JIM OWSLEY EDITOR
JIM SHOOTER EDITOR IN CHIEF



I MIGHT HAVE ENJOYED SPENDING A BIT MORE TIME WITH ALFREDO IF IT HADN'T BEEN FOR THAT EARLY MORNING NEWS BULLETIN!

PETER PARKER MUST BE FRANTIC! HE'S KNOWN FLASH SO MUCH LONGER THAN I HAVE!

TAXI--!

A DOWNTOWN CAB RIDE BRINGS MARY JANE WATSON TO 410 CHELSEA STREET, AND THEN...

I JUST HOPE PETEY'S IN HIS APARTMENT!

SINCE HE IS SECRETLY SPIDER-MAN, LOOKING FOR FLASH COULD PRESENT A REAL DILEMMA TO HIM!

I'M SURE HE REALLY WANTS TO HELP HIS FRIEND -- BUT PETER COULD BE IN BIG DANGER IF FLASH THOMPSON REALLY IS THE HOBGOBLIN!

NO ANSWER! GUESS I'LL HAVE TO USE THE SPARE KEY HIS LANDLADY GAVE ME WHEN I RECENTLY HELPED REDECORATE HIS APARTMENT!*

PETER--? YOU HOME?

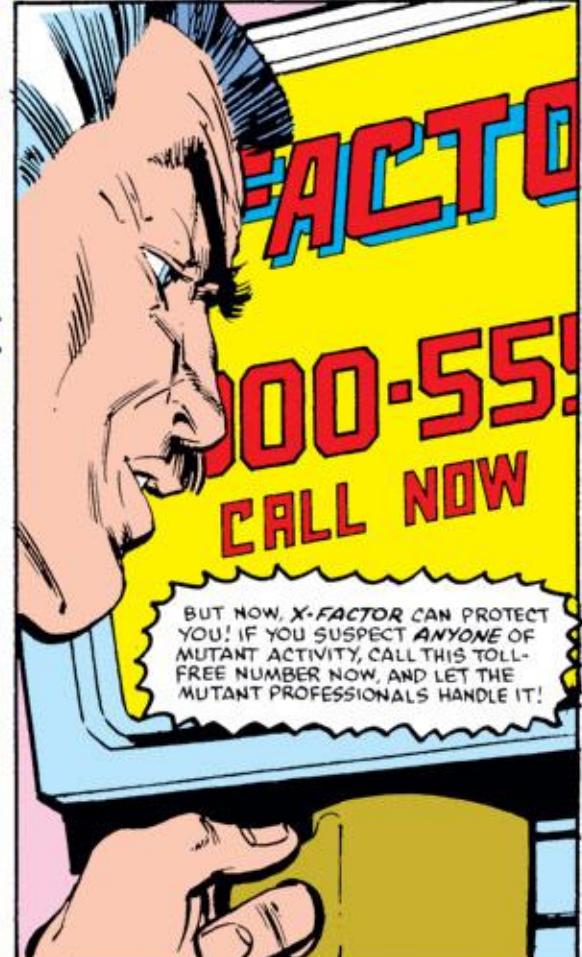
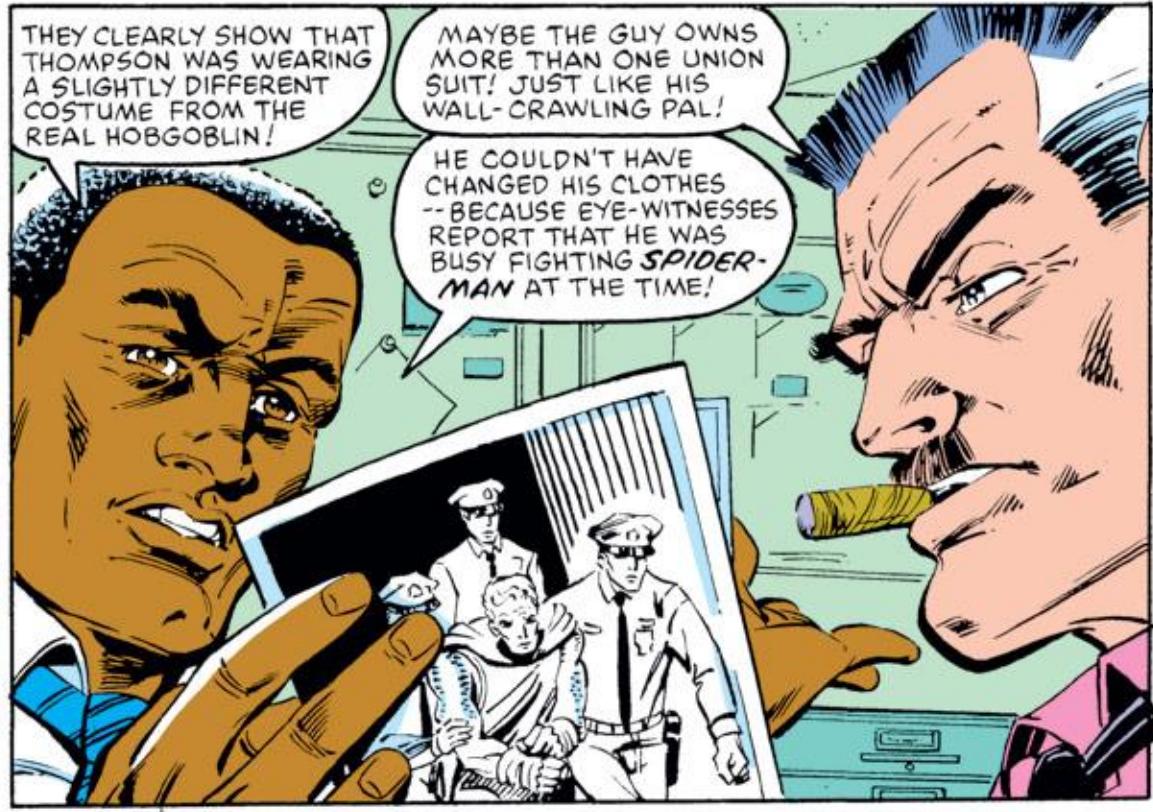
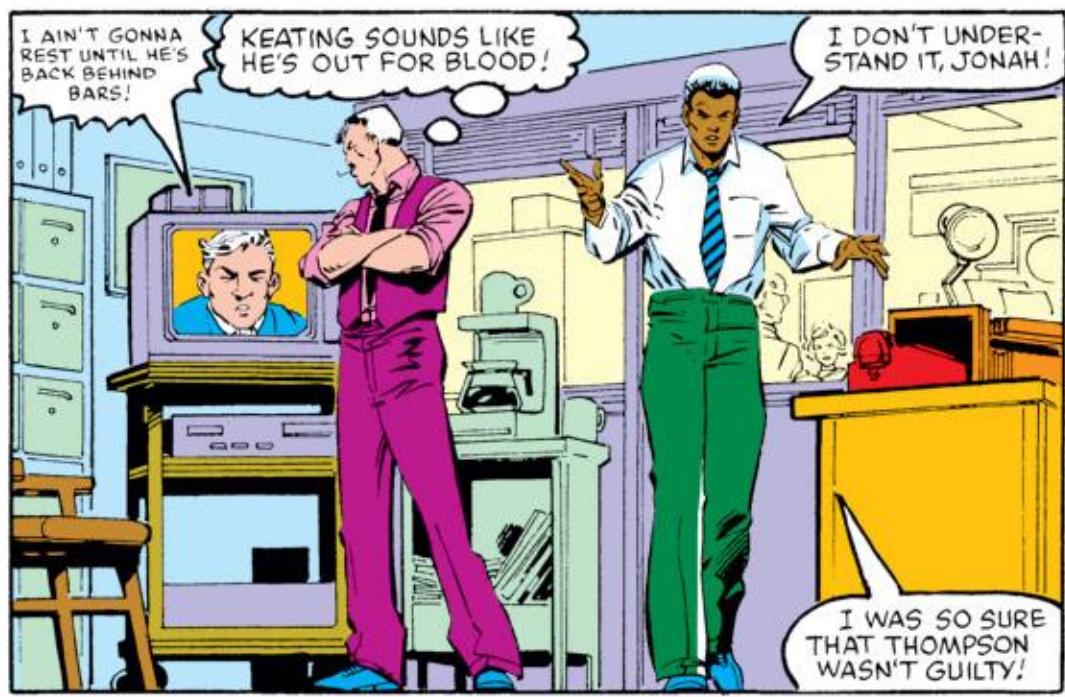
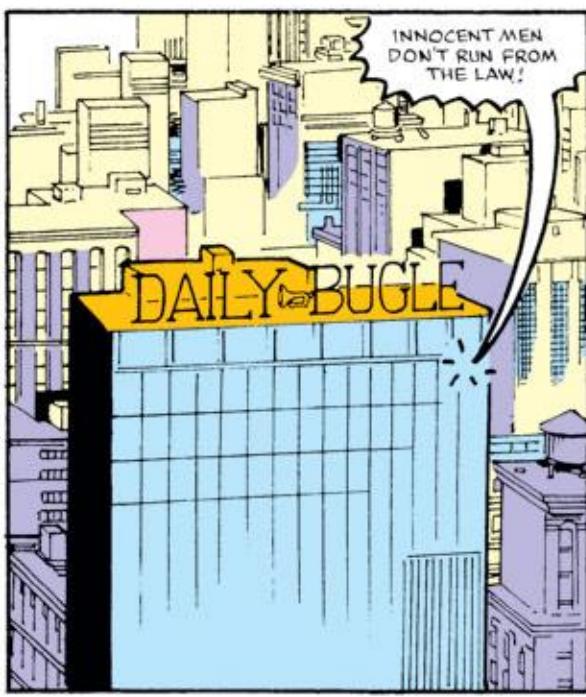
*SEE WEB OF SPIDER-MAN #15 -- OWZ!

IT'S FUNNY, I HAVEN'T FELT COMFORTABLE IN THIS PLACE EVER SINCE I FIRST REALIZED THAT PETER WAS SPIDER-MAN!

OH, WELL, NO SIGN OF HIM HERE... UNLESS HE'S IN THE BATHROOM!

PETER!!!

I HATE THE THOUGHT OF HIM OUT RISKING HIS NECK IN THAT STUPID COSTUME, AND I'M ALWAYS AFRAID OF WHAT I MIGHT FIND IN HERE!



SOMETIME LATER, ON
THE LOWER WEST SIDE
OF MANHATTAN, AT
THE CORPORATE
HEADQUARTERS OF
X-FACTOR...

YOU TWO ARE
CRAZY--

--TO THINK YOU CAN TAKE
ON THE THREE OF US!

THAT
REMAINS
TO BE
SEEN!

OH, YEAH? I'M
SURE A FEW
DOZEN ICE BALLS
WILL CONVINCE
YOU!

BAD MOVE,
ICEMAN!

YOU SHOULD
HAVE REALIZED
THAT I WOULD
TELEKINETICALLY
REDIRECT YOUR
ATTACK BACK
AT YOU AND
YOUR TEAM-
MATES!

YIPES!

SHE'S RIGHT, BOBBY!
YOU BARELY HAD TIME
TO WHIP UP AN ICE
SHIELD--

--AND IT'S TAKING ALL
MY SKILL AND SPEED TO
DODGE YOUR STUPID
OVERGROWN SNOWFLAKES!

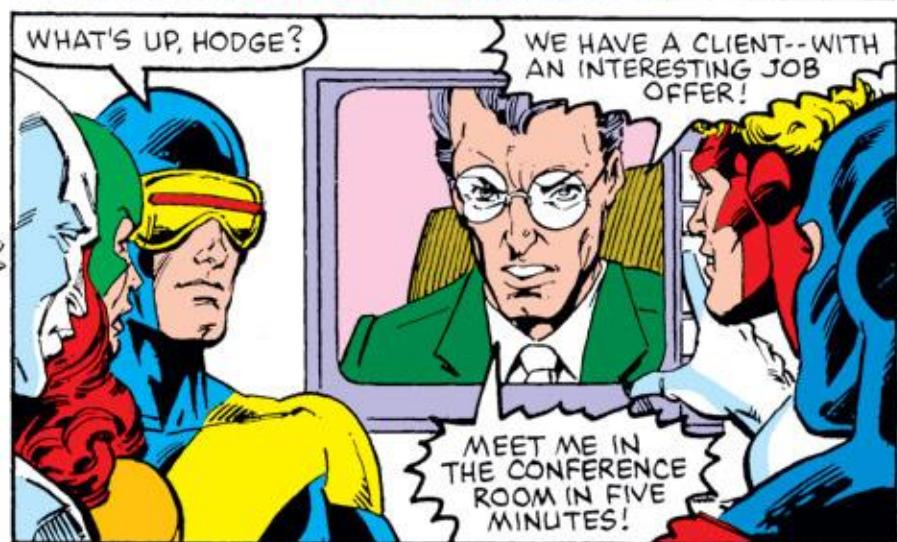
MARVEL GIRL, FORGET
THE ANGEL, AND
CONCENTRATE ON
ICEMAN!

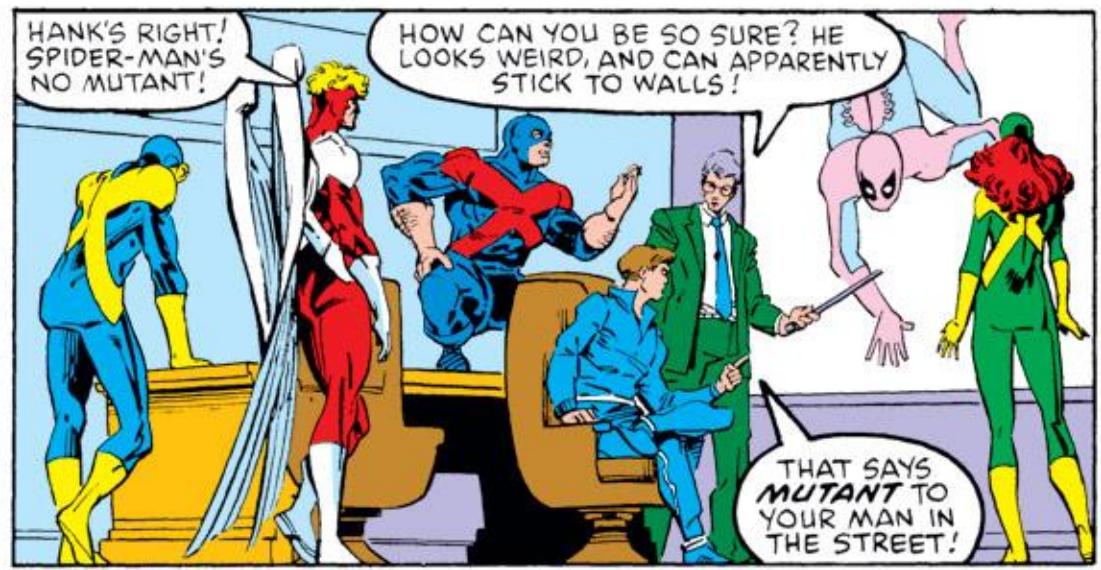
MY ENERGY BEAM
HAS PIERCED HIS
SHIELD!

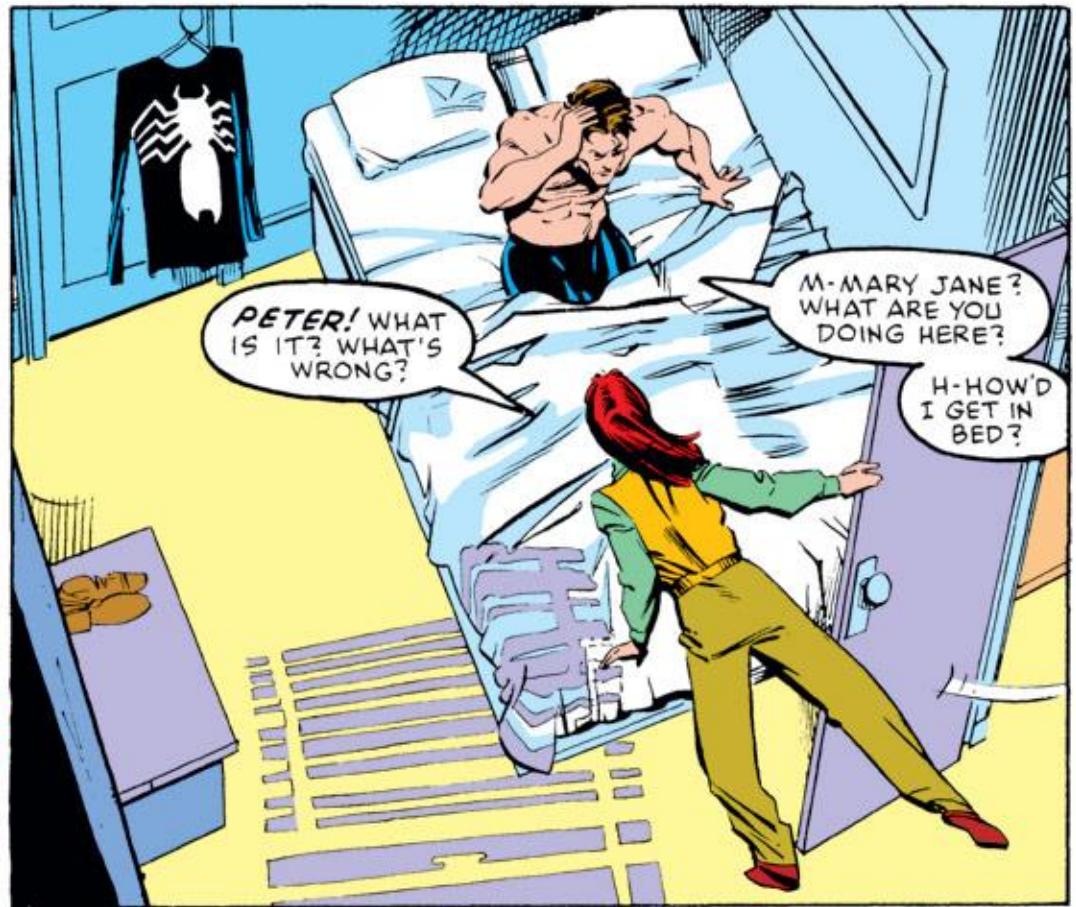
HEY--!

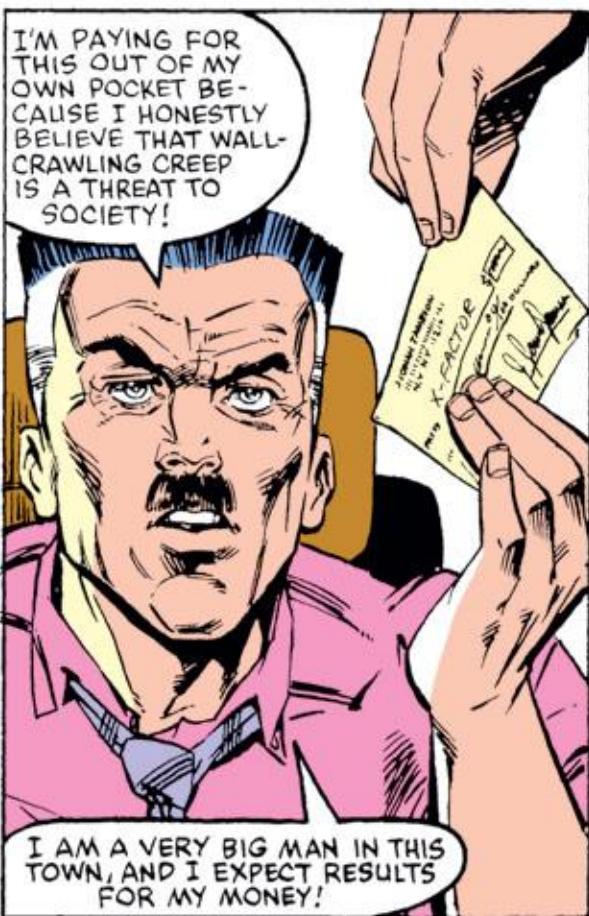
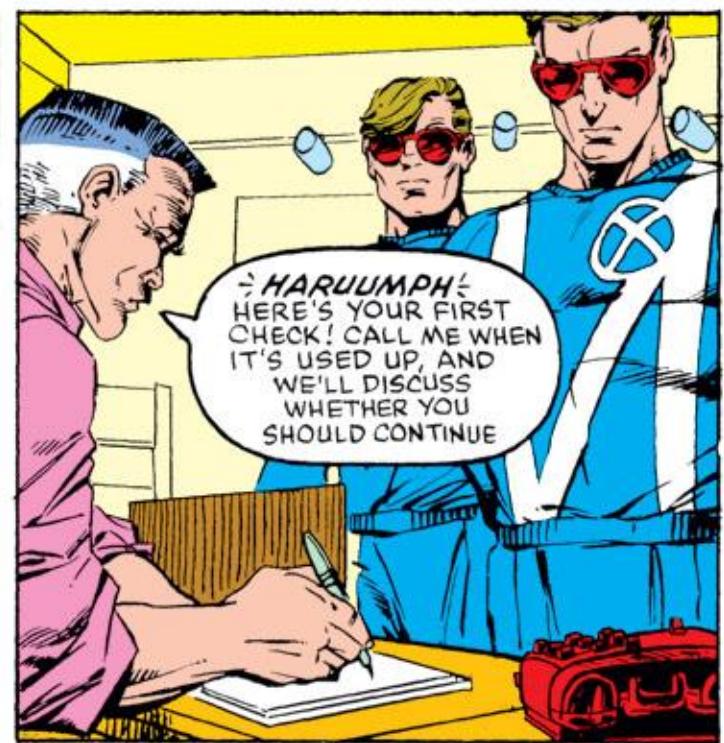
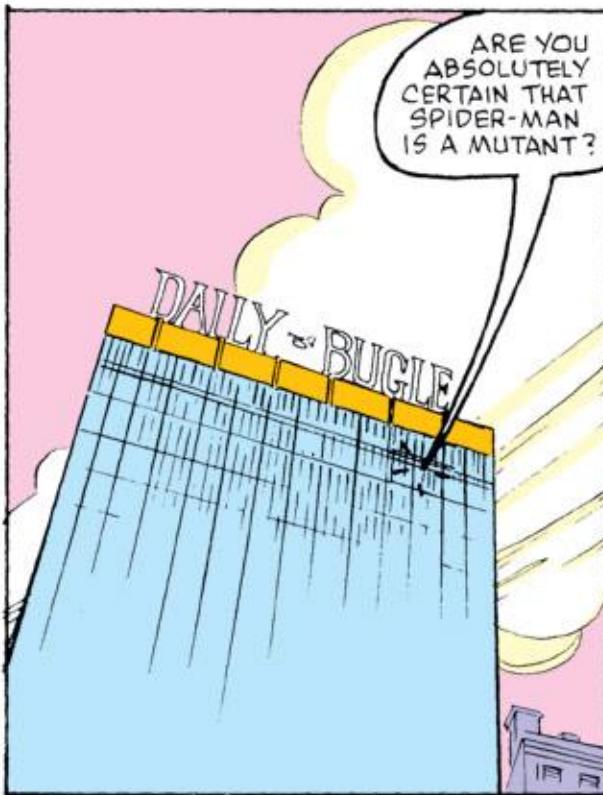
TWO AGAINST ONE ISN'T
VERY FAIR! = UGNNE

YOU CAN'T CRY
FOUL IN A REAL
FIGHT, BOBBY!









IF X-FACTOR COMES THROUGH FOR ME,
THE CITY WILL FINALLY BE SAFE FROM
SPIDER-MAN! IF NOT, I CAN EXPOSE
THEM AS FRAUDS!

EITHER WAY, THE **BUGLE** AND
NOW MAGAZINE ARE GUARANTEED
SOME PRETTY JUICY HEADLINES!

I KNOW
THAT SMILE,
JONAH! YOU
INTEND TO
MOUNT A
CAMPAIGN
AGAINST THESE
PEOPLE EVEN
IF THEY DO
SUCCEED!

OF COURSE! IN ITS OWN
WAY, X-FACTOR IS AS
MUCH A MENACE TO
SOCIETY AS THE
WEB-SWINGER!

THEY'RE VULTURES WHO
ARE FUELING THE COUN-
TRY'S ANTI-MUTANT PARA-
NOIA FOR THEIR OWN
PROFIT!

MAYBE SO, BUT I
DON'T LIKE THE WAY
YOU SET THEM UP!

WHY SHOULD
I CARE IF JONAH
WANTS TO CRUCIFY
X-FACTOR?

I HATE EVERYTHING THEY STAND
FOR! THEY HUNT MUTANTS THE
WAY OTHERS USED TO HUNT
BLACKS...AND JEWS!

BUT, THE BUGLE MUST
ACT RESPONSIBLY!
WE'RE A NEWSPAPER--
NOT A SMEAR SHEET!

BETTY, HAVE YOU MANAGED
TO GET **SHARON BANKS**
ON THE PHONE?

I TRIED HER OFFICE, BUT
SHE ISN'T TAKING ANY
CALLS FROM THE PRESS!

DO YOU MIND IF I ASK WHY
YOU'VE BEEN TRYING TO
REACH FLASH THOMPSON'S
LAWYER?

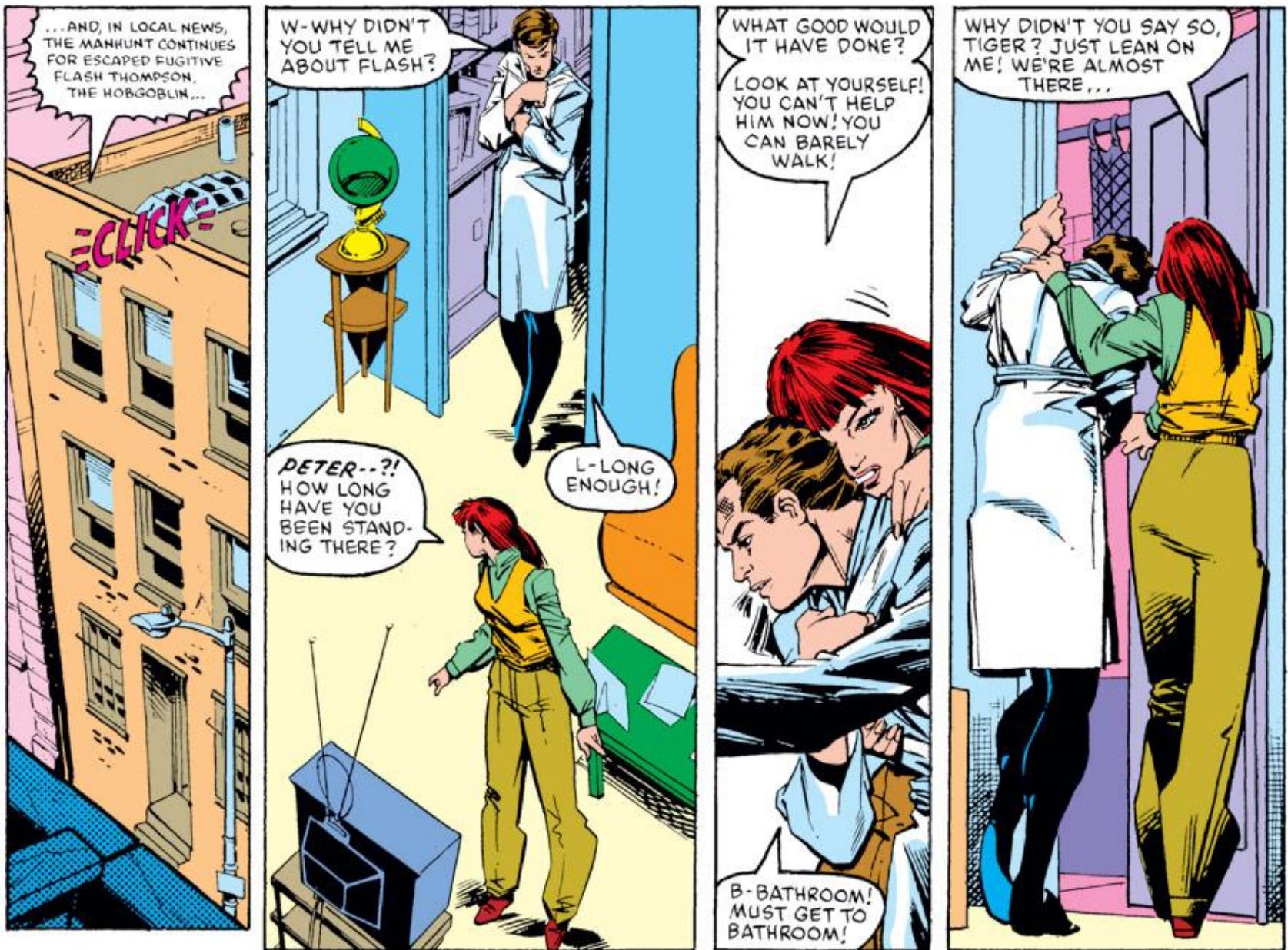
DON'T GET YOUR HOPES UP, BUT THERE'S
A CHANCE -- **A CHANCE** -- I MAY HAVE
SOME INFORMATION WHICH CAN HELP
HER DEFEND HIM!

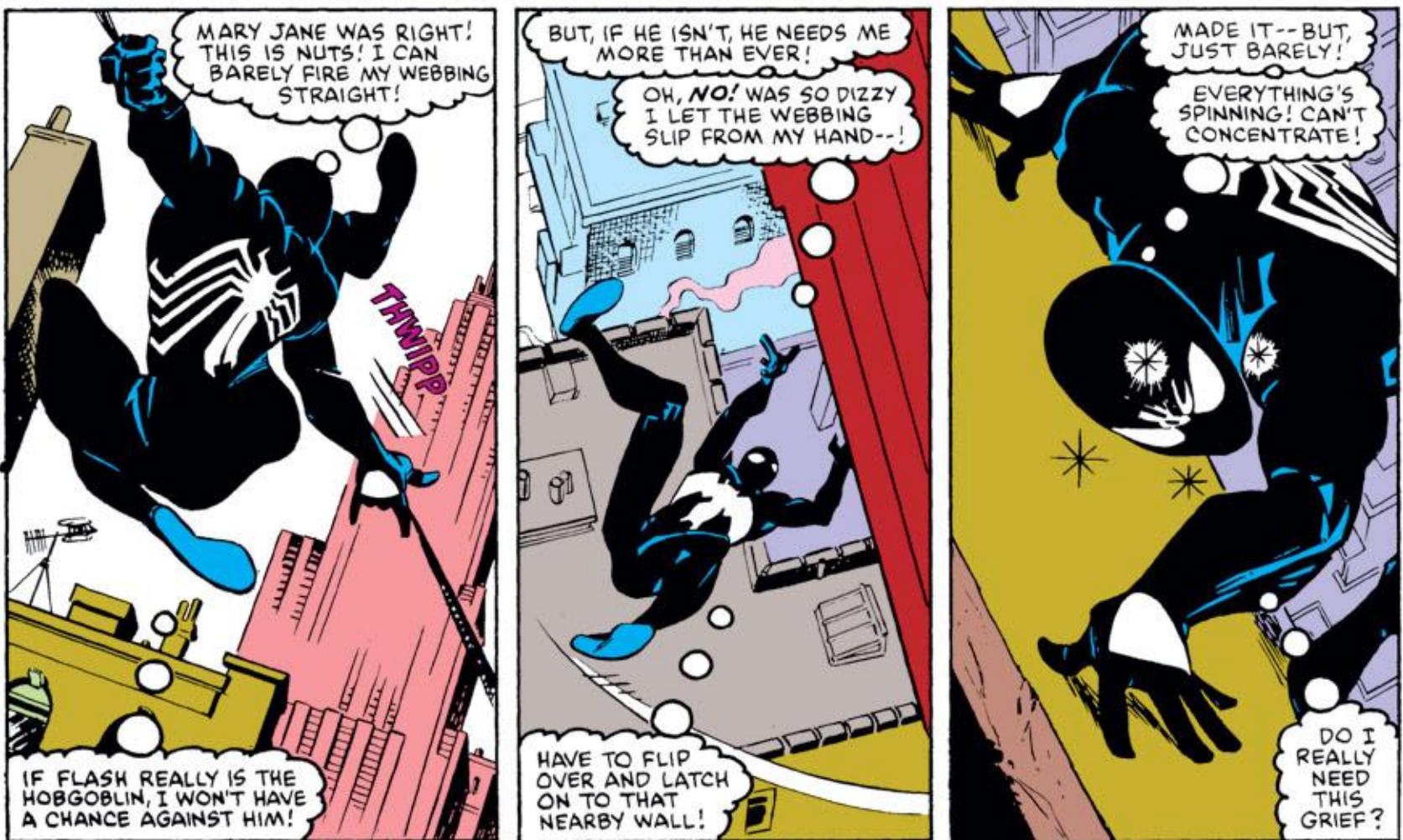
NOT GOOD! I LOVE NED, BUT I JUST
CAN'T SEEM TO MAKE HIM HAPPY!

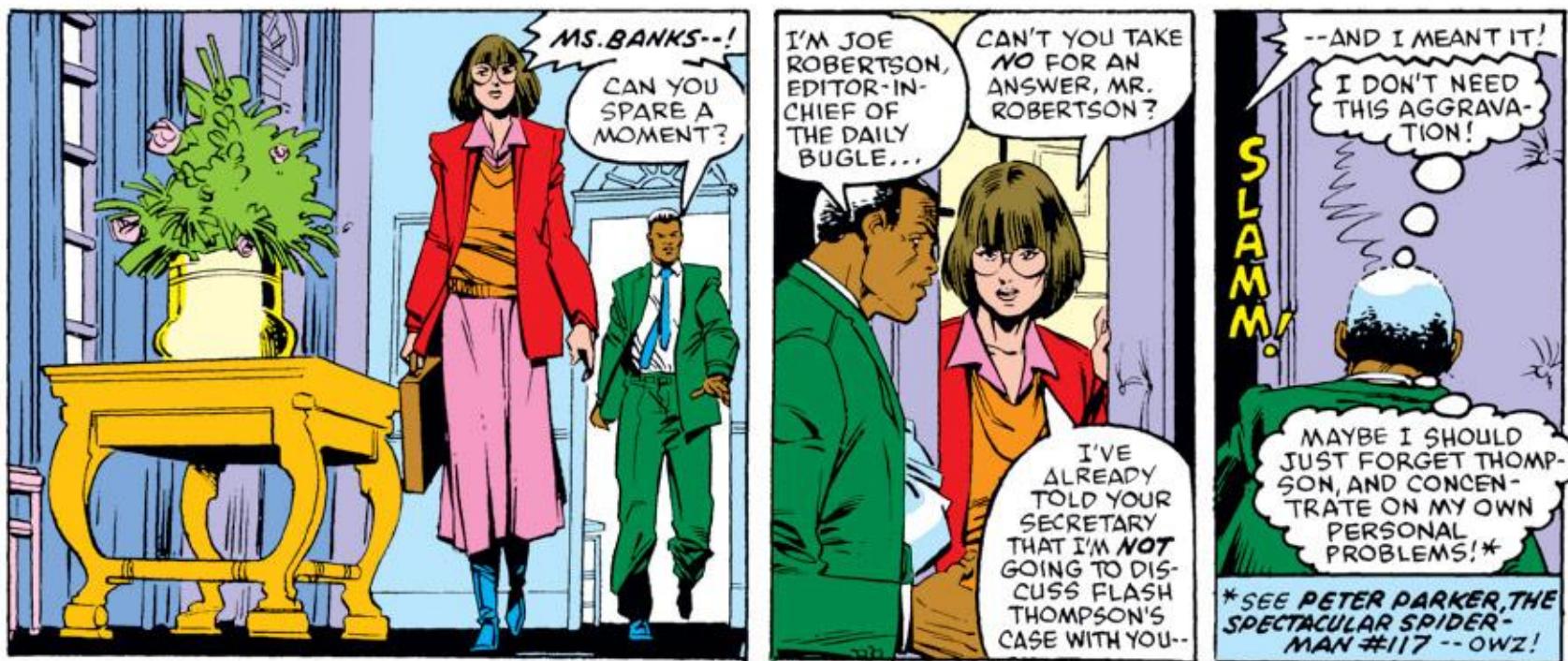
TELL ME, ROBBIE, HAVE
YOU EVER HOPE THAT
SOMETHING WOULD
WORK OUT -- BUT,
DEEP DOWN, YOU
KNEW YOU COULDN'T
LET IT?

LOOK, BETTY, I
KNOW THAT YOU
AND THOMPSON
GO BACK A WAYS,
AND THAT YOU
CARE FOR HIM!

ROBERTSON
IN-CHIEF







EVEN AS AN IRATE JOE ROBERTSON
EXITS SHARON BANKS'S LAW OFFICES,
A STARTLING FIGURE SOARS HIGH
ABOVE THE MANHATTAN SKYLINE...

IT WOULD BE A REAL
LAUGH IF SOMEONE
SPOTTED ME UP HERE,
AND REPORTED ME
TO X-FACTOR!

NO SIGN OF SPIDER-MAN
YET! I HOPE THE OTHERS
ARE--

-- HAVING BETTER
LUCK!!

I WONDER
HOW THE WEB-
SWINGER'S
GOING TO REACT
WHEN HE LEARNS
THAT X-FACTOR'S
BEEN HIRED TO
GET HIM?

HOW SHOULD WE
APPROACH HIM--
AS MUTANTS,
OR AS THE
MUTANT
HUNTERS?!!

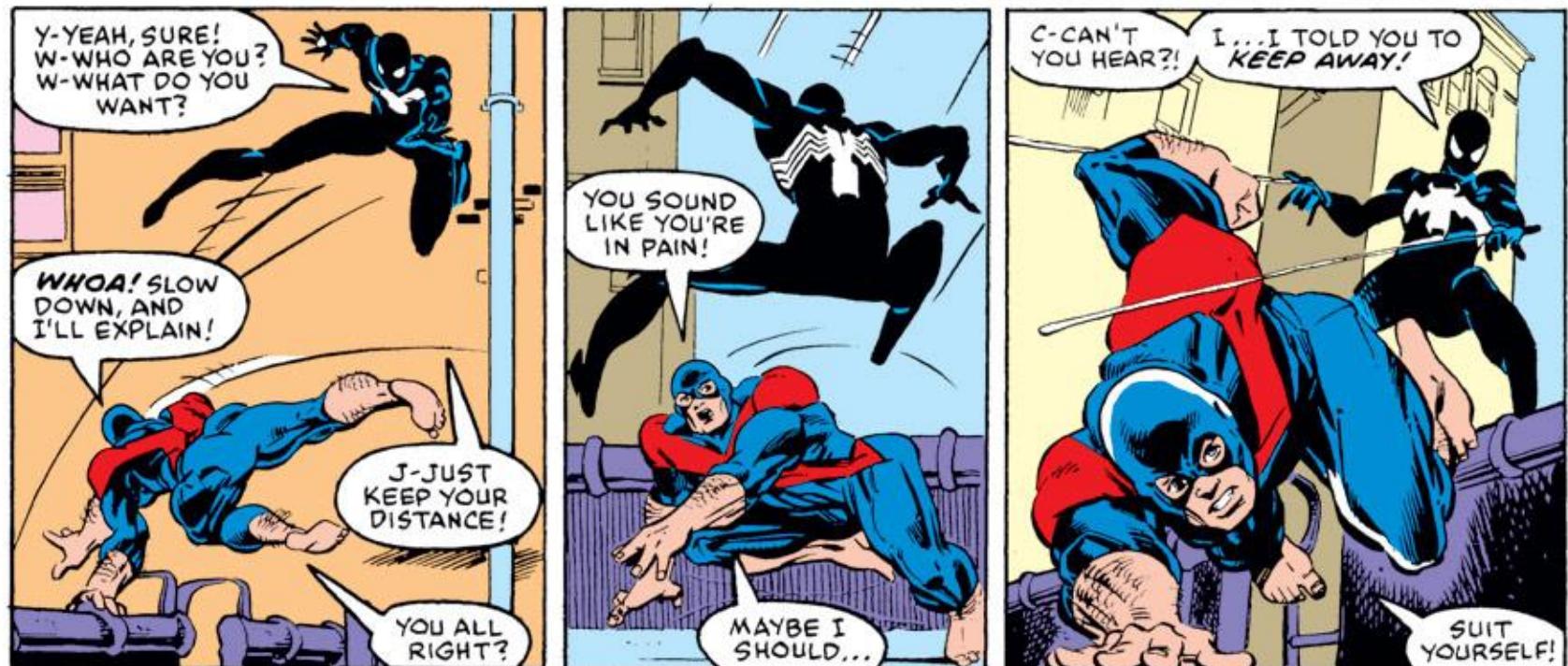
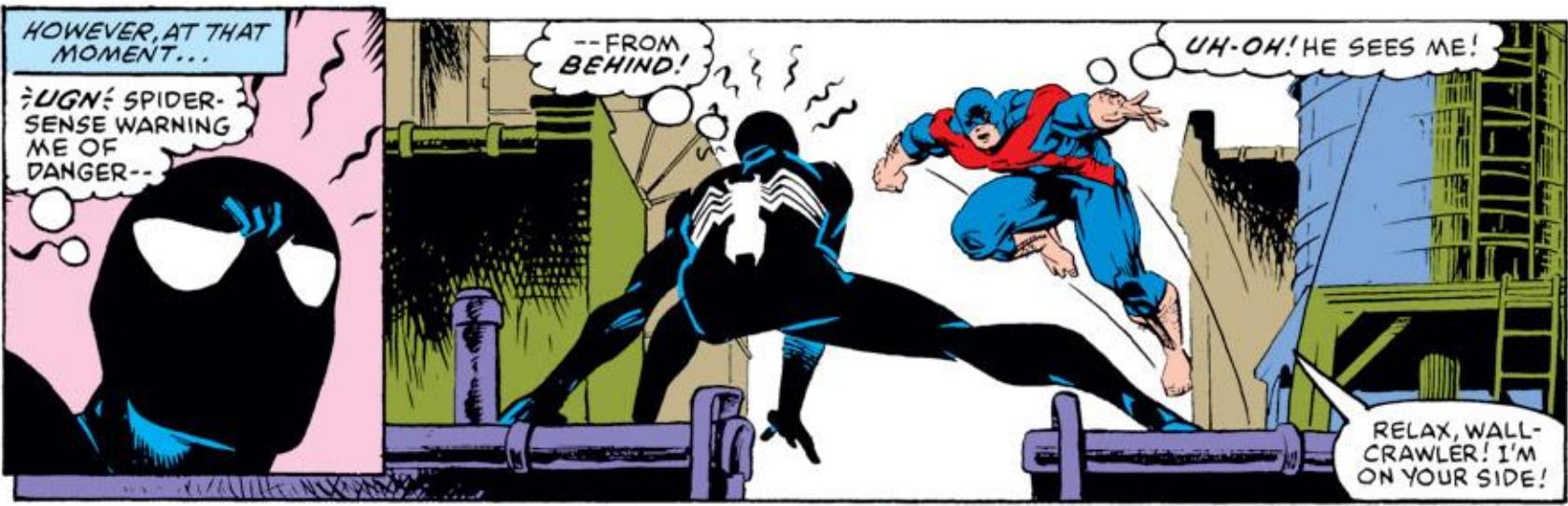
WELL, WELL,
LOOKS LIKE
I'LL GET TO
ASK HIM THAT
QUESTION IN
PERSON!

BETTER CONTACT
THE OTHERS--!

THE BEAST HAS
SPOTTED OUR
TARGET!

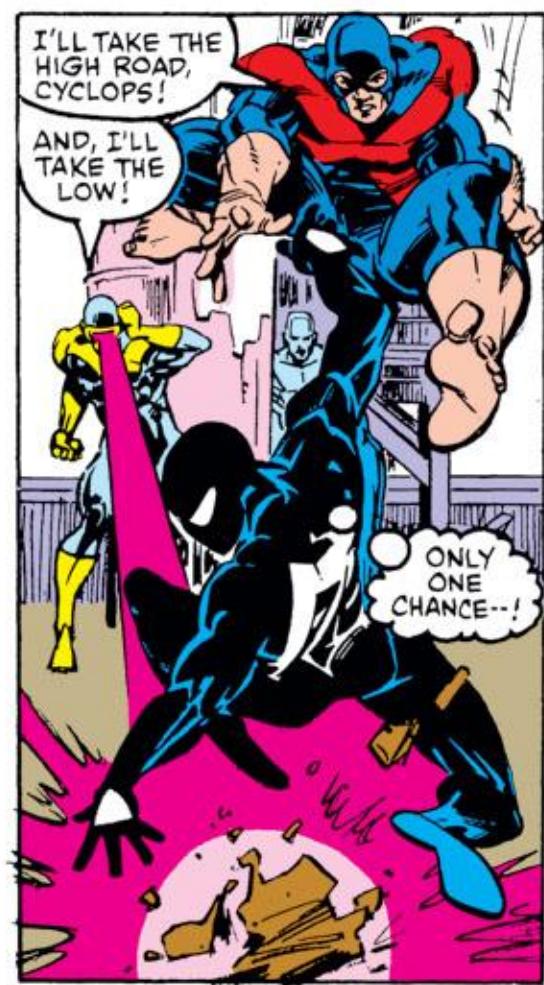
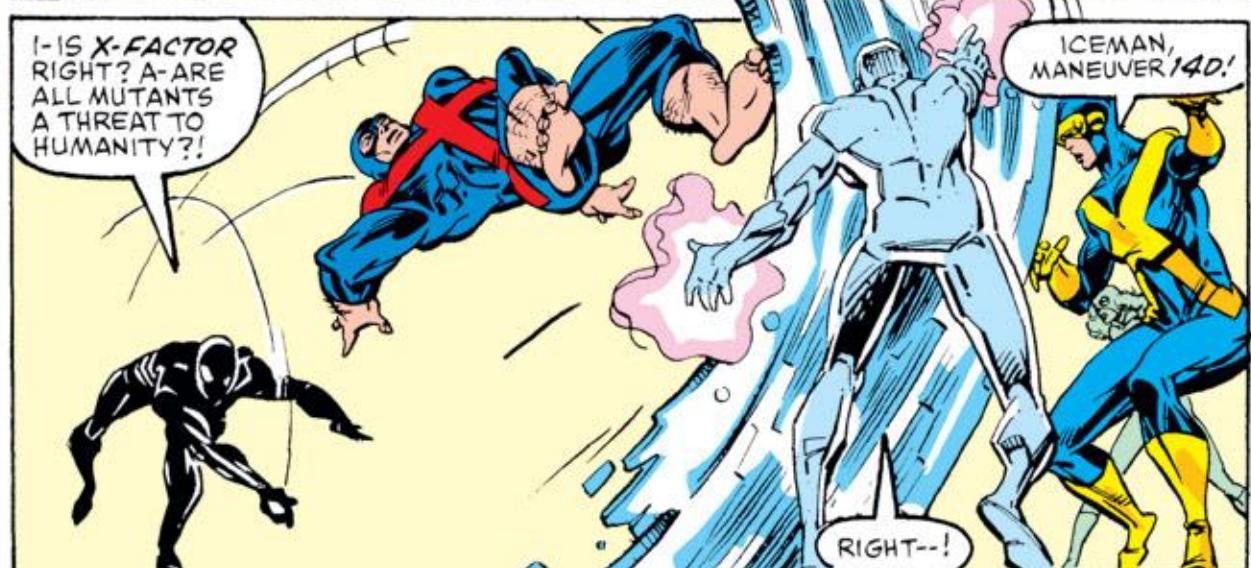
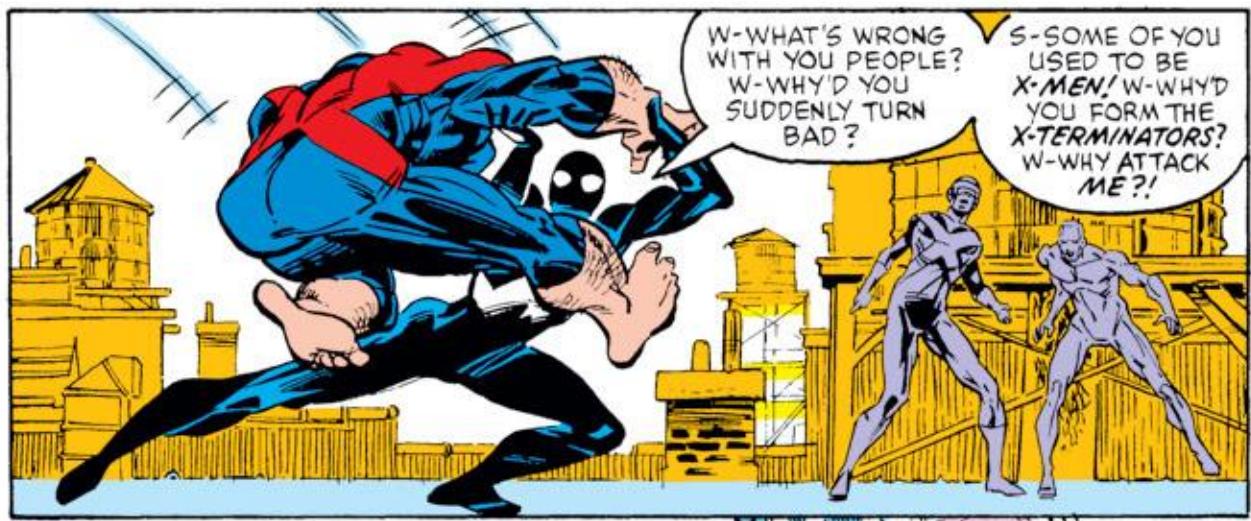
BUT, I THINK
WE'D BETTER SLIP
OFF THESE X-FACTOR
JUMPSUITS IF WE DON'T
WANT THE PUBLIC TO
REALIZE THAT WE'RE
FRATERNIZING WITH
THE ENEMY!

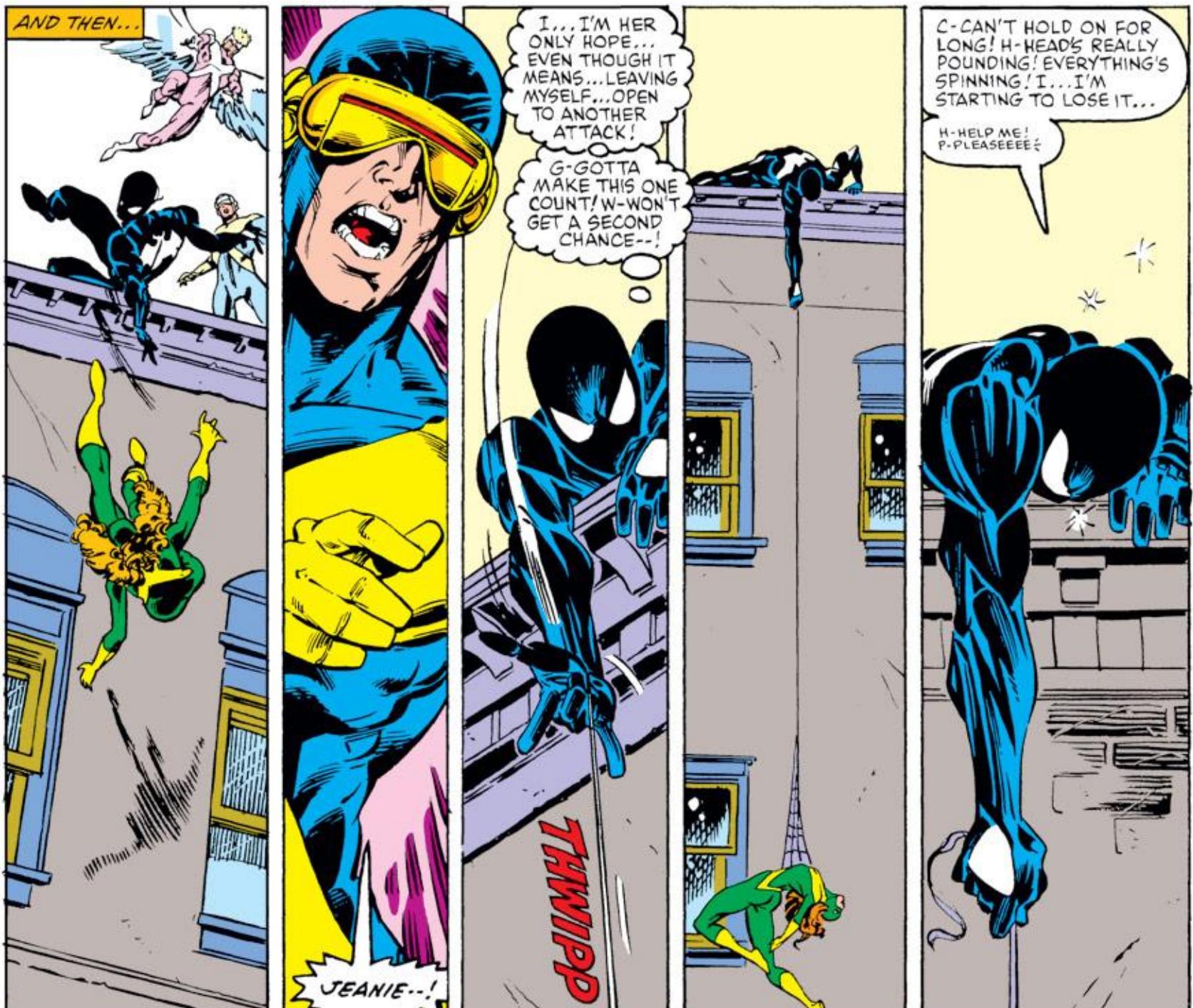
IT'S A
GAMBLE
EITHER
WAY!

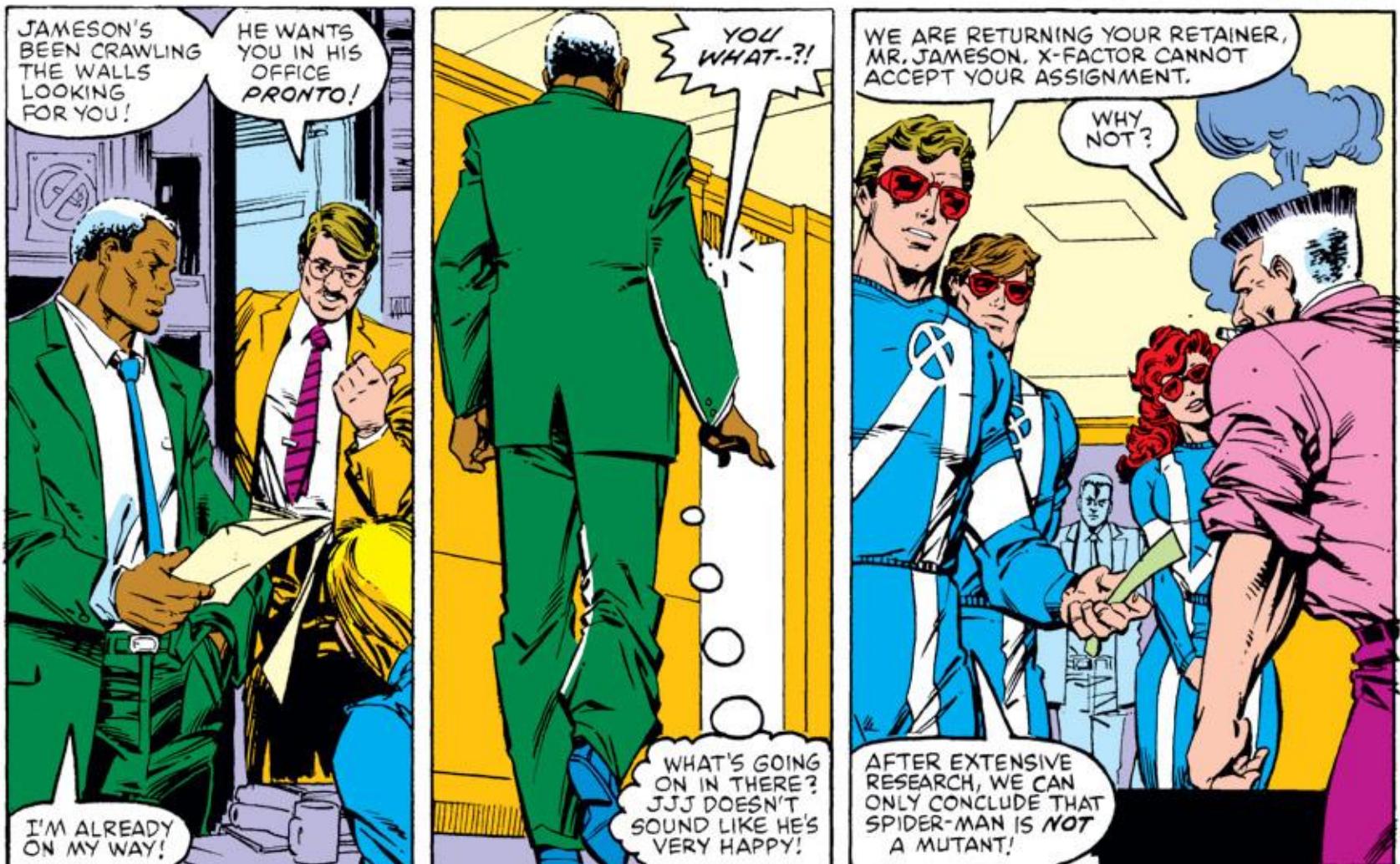
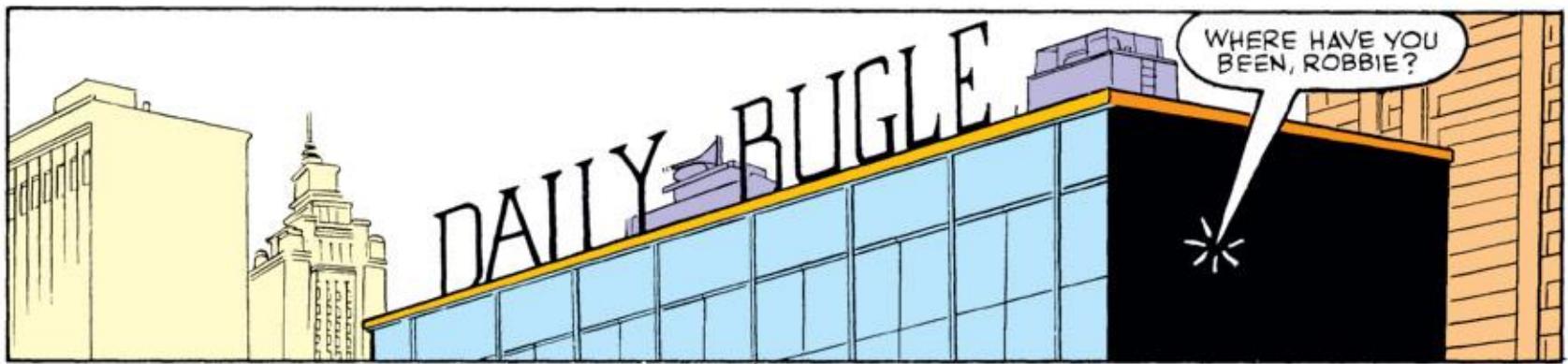


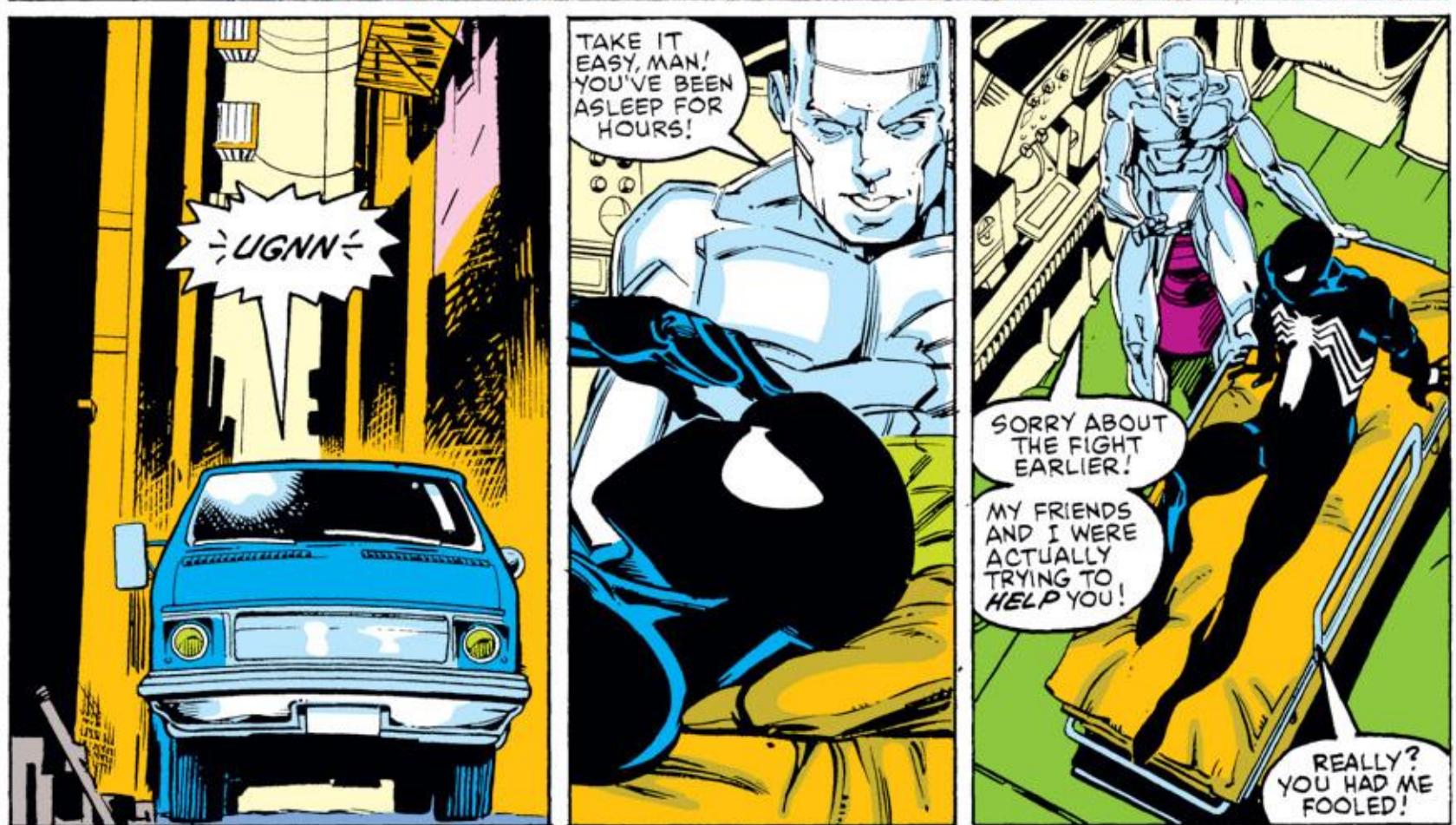
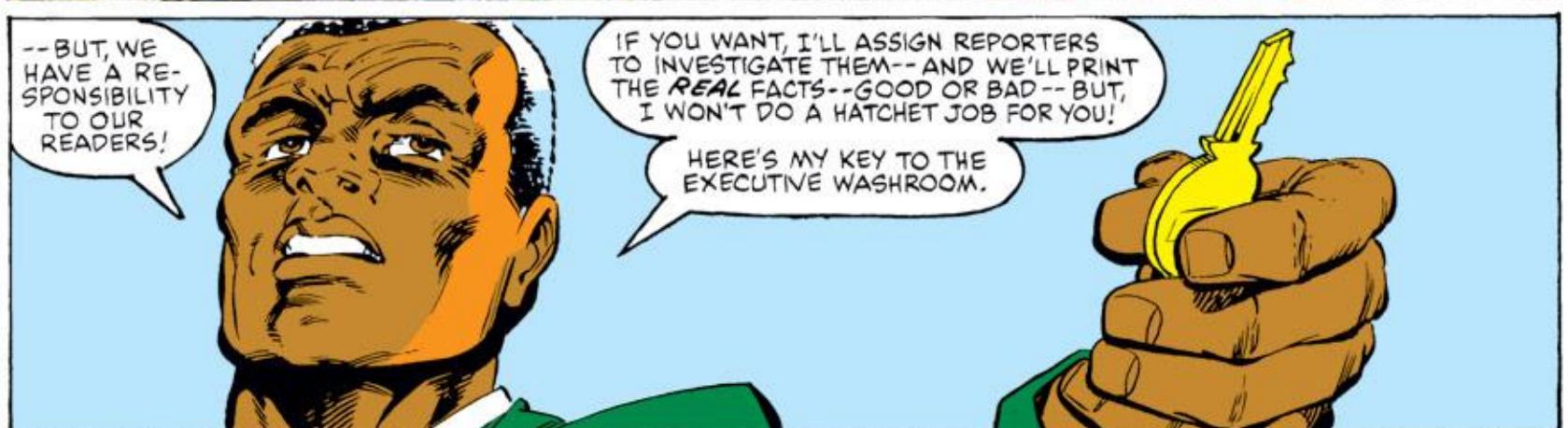
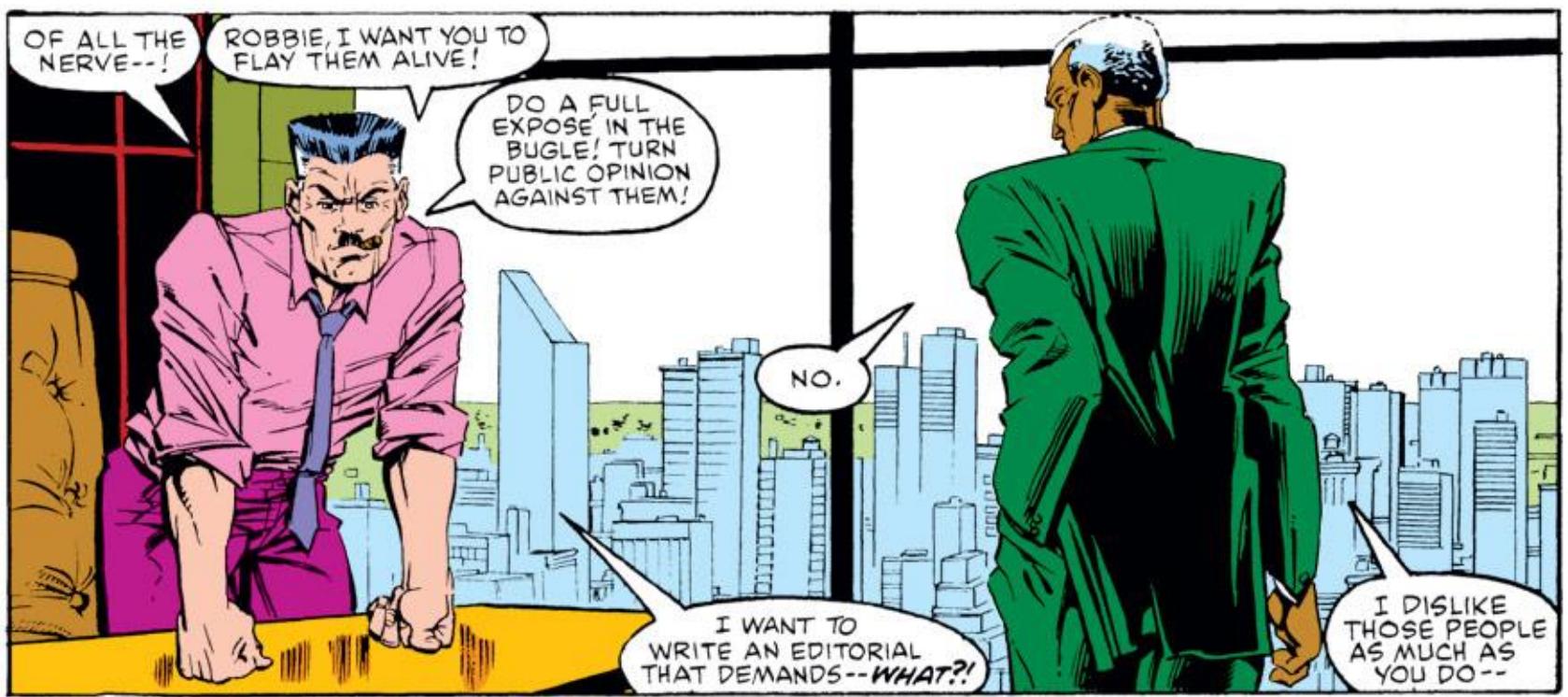


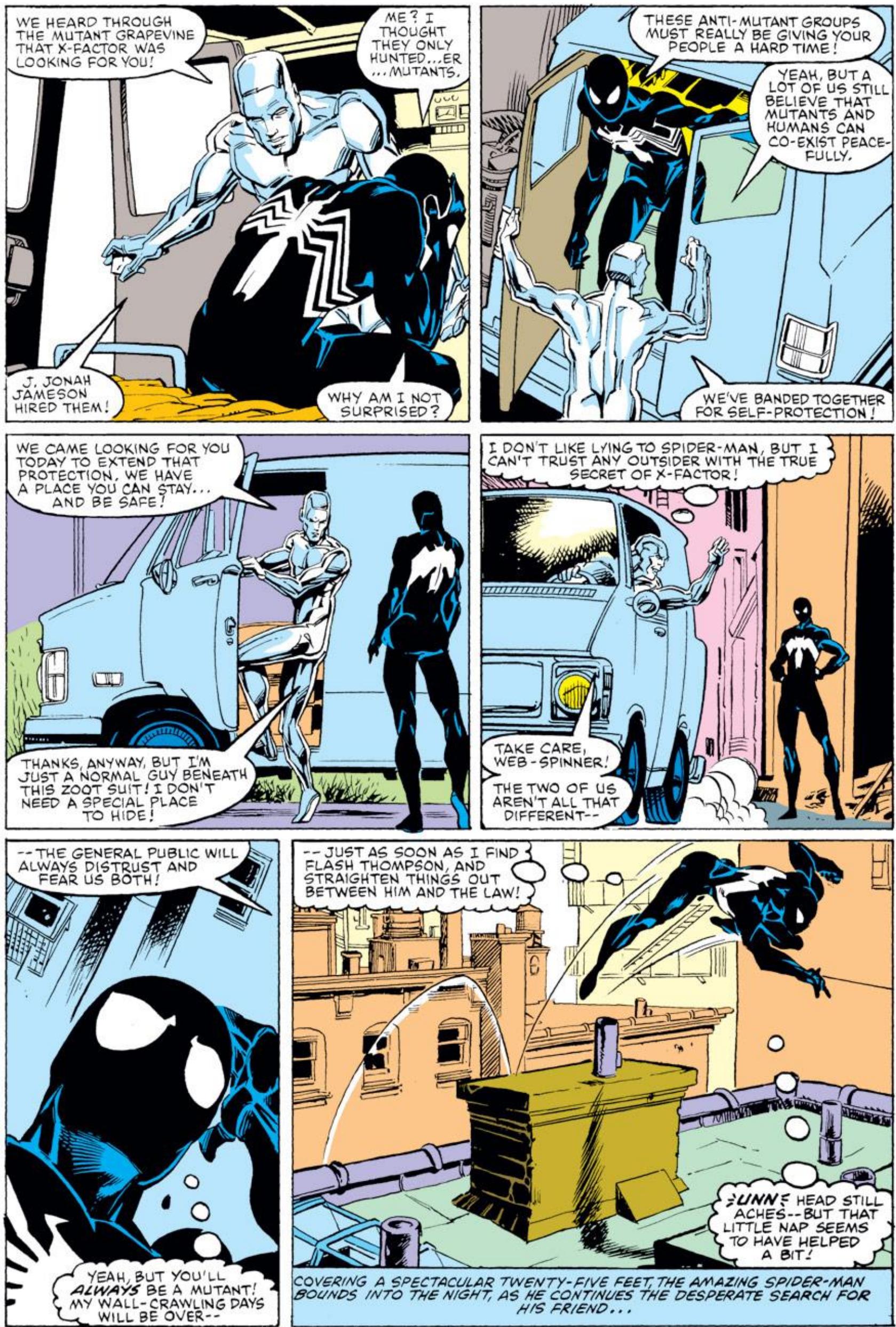


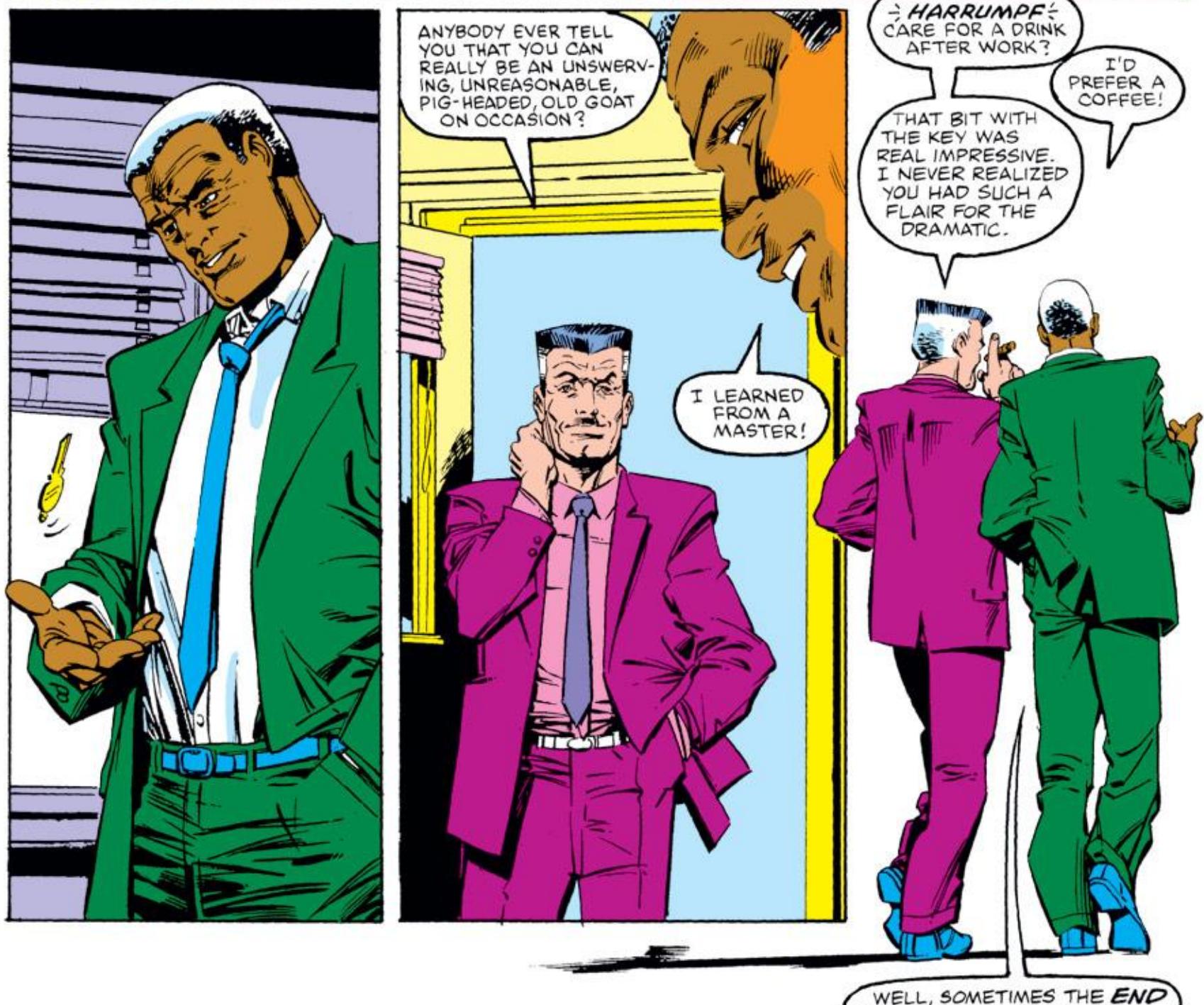














THE SPIDER'S WEB

JAMES C. OWSLEY ADAM BLAUSTEIN
EDITOR ASSOCIATE EDITOR

VIEW FROM THE TENTH FLOOR

The car was defective. A real lemon. Alisha was crushed. This was the greatest trauma in the five-year history of her life. The car, a 1/26 scale model Corvette designed to ride two Barbie dolls over to Ken's place, had a defective part. I couldn't finish assembling it. The tears welled up in my young cousin's eyes.

We arrived at the toy store, a modest place in Nashville's Hundred Oaks shopping mall, and were greeted by Sherry Storie, one of the sales clerks.

"We want a new car."
"Why should I give you one?"
"This one's broken."

"How do I know you didn't break it?"
"Do I look like I play with toy cars?"
"You want me to answer that?"

"Do I get my car or what?"
"We're out of stock. You'll have to get something else."

There's a tug at my jacket. It's Alisha pointing up at a mountain of Barbie Doll 'Vettes piled on top of a high shelf. The kid has radar.

"Okay, I'll exchange it."

It took Sherry ten minutes to fill out the proper paperwork. In that time, Alisha managed to convince me to buy her a new Barbie doll. I went looking for the MARVEL SECRET WARS collection. They were sold out. Our toys sell like our comics. God bless America. Still, I really wanted a Hobgoblin doll. Oh, well.

"Y'all come back, y'hear?"

There's a moral here someplace. I dare you to find it.

—James C. Owsley

P.S. Got a letter from Sherry the other day. She ain't such a bad kid.

HAVE A
NICE DAY



SEND ALL LETTERS TO:
Marvel Comics Group,
387 Park Avenue South,
New York, N.Y. 10016.
Please include your name
and address. We will,
however, withhold them
upon request.

Dear Marveldom,

AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #277 . . . WONDERFUL! Ever since I read DAREDEVIL #227, I have been patiently waiting for Spidey to discover Matt Murdock's plight and lend a hand. Their two personalities complement each other so well. I just love to see them in action together.

Paula Schleis
498 E. Hopocan Ave.
Barberton, Ohio 44203

So do we, Paula!

Spider-guys:

I am a 22 year old, fifth year college senior majoring in applied math and theoretical computers (which is just academic-speak for computer science, but it has a much more impressive effect on the little old ladies on the bus who insist on showing me pictures of their grandchildren). Until last June, I never looked at a comic book. Nay, I scoffed at them. I looked upon them with disgust, disdain, and disapproving stares (some alliteration there, huh?). Mindless trash beneath my notice. Then I read a few while at a friend's house. So I was wrong. I apologize. Creative genius at its best. I am hooked. You guys also helped me give up smoking; instead of having a cigarette between classes, I now read one of your excellent titles. Thanks.

Tom Brendza
1335 S. Broadway
New Philadelphia, OH 44663

Welcome aboard, Tom! Got any other bad habits you'd like cured?

Dear Dudes at Marvel,

Lately you've been making me think that Spider-Man is going insane. If he is, he might as well make something out of it. For instance, in issue #277, he and the Kingpin were alone in the KP's office. Why didn't Spidey waste him? No one could have stopped Spidey from killing him, and it would have been a real boost to the web-swing's confidence.

Danny Amato
11700 Turnstone Drive
W.P.B., FL 33414

Er, Danny, are you absolutely sure that Spidey's the guy who's going insane—

Dear Web-Weavers,

I've noticed that not many of Spidey's true believers are female like me. I don't understand this since Spidey's got a lot of sex appeal.

Kris Brunori
2862 Ocena Pines
Berlin, MD 21811

Do you think he's got enough to make Playgirl Magazine's "Top 50 Most Eligible Bachelors in America" . . . like a certain tall, well-known Editor-In-Chief?

Dear Jim & Adam,

The conversation/confrontation between Spidey and the Kingpin in issue #277 has both characters referring to "Daredevil's" current misfortunes. Insofar as anyone knows, Daredevil has simply dropped out of sight, his alter-ego Matt Murdock has been put through the wringer! Spidey's slip of the tongue (Pg. 7 Panel 7) and the Kingpin's subsequent one (Pg. 8 Panel 1) blatantly exposes both characters' knowledge of Matt Murdock's secret identity and in the process incriminates Kingpin in those events.

I can only assume (No-Prize time!) Spidey failed to notice this because he was still getting over the shock of seeing Matt Murdock's present condition and was relieved to discover that the Kingpin had no knowledge of Spidey's secret identity.

P.J. Mungole
P.O. Box 402
Old Chelsea Station
N.Y.C., N.Y. 10113

Good assumption, P.J.!

Dear Jim,

In a recent letter column, Jim Puga said that Slyde's frictionless substance couldn't stick to his costume. One easy answer to that would be that the substance couldn't be frictionless, since that's physically impossible, although it could come pretty close. Slyde could be exaggerating, or mistaken. But I don't do easy answers. So, in order to be a substance, it must be able to form chemical bonds with itself, at least. Under certain conditions, like in intense heat, it might bond with other substances as well, such as the fibre in Slyde's costume. It could have been galvanized or vulcanized on. Or the substance in liquid form could seep into the costume and set around the fibres. As for Slyde's running and turning corners, his shoes cannot be entirely coated with the substance. There must be a frictionful band around the soles' edges, so he can stop, kick off or turn like a skater. The frictionless areas are probably thicker, so that the frictiony areas don't interfere with sliding. Can you grasp all that?

David Alan Wright
39 Howard St.

New Britain, CT 06051

Yeah, sure, whatever you say, David!

Dear Editor,

In issue #275, Hobgoblin's chest plate was blue. In issue #276, it was red. I think that's because at the precise instant Hobgoblin hit Spider-Man with his computerized barrage, the plate turned red to indicate that its internal energy supply was getting low. That's also why Hobgoblin didn't use the barrage very much during issue #276. He was conserving energy!

Is that explanation worth a No-Prize?

Chris Fahey
5239 Westbrook Drive
Clifton Hts, PA 19018

It sure is, Chris!

Dear Spider-guys:

In issue #277 during Spidey's confrontation with the Kingpin, the Kingpin thinks to himself that he could flood the room with a hundred men within seconds. *Oh, contraire!* As you will recall, a page ago our hero webbed the door shut. This could be disaster if word of this ever got out, right? Wrong! You had an explanation planned all the time. Upon an emergency signal from the Kingpin, his men would come in through the secret emergency exit, thereby surprising whoever or whatever caused the Kingpin's distress, right?

Jason Hangartner
1532 D Avenue N.E.
Cedar Rapids, IA 52402

Er . . . Right you are, Jason!

Dear Editor:

I know who the Rose is. He is the Schemer, the Kingpin's son.

'Nuff said!

Nusrat Hussain
24-C Satellite Town
Rawalkindi
Pakistan

Nuff has a big mouth, Nusrat!

Dear Spider-people,

I have only one question: In issue #277, page 3, panel 1, Peter's phone is on the far left-hand side of his desk, but in panel two, the phone has moved to the right side. I have a possible solution to clear it up: The phone was bought from Doctor Strange, who enchanted it to move to the person who was going to answer it.

Sound okay?

Rober Ahrendt
1666 N. 2nd Ave.
Upland, CA 91786

Robert, have you ever thought of going for professional help?