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"PERCEPTIONS" PART 4 OF 5

SPIDER-MAN®

WHILE

WOLVERINE
OPERATES ON
WENDIGO™

—SPIDEY TAKES ON THE
PRESS AND THE LAW!



McFARLANE
S WK

Day ten.



It finally happened.
Someone else has seen
Wendigo. As a matter
of fact, six people
saw it.

There were officers in the bush. Hunting
down this savage baby-killer, when the
monster attacked them. Two are in
the hospital with injuries; the others
are shaken emotionally.

I understand their fear. To face
something eye to eye that you
don't believe exists is disturbing.
It blows all of your previous
assessments of life to smithereens.

If a creature like this can
roam the forest undetected
for who knows how many
years--then what else
could exist?

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PERCEPTION

What other horrors could be lurking just outside our windows without us ever knowing?

The blood, fur and flesh wedged into the grill of my now-crushed car said it was.

So, even though the attack upon the R.C.M.P. is a horrible reality, their sighting now makes me feel like I'm not totally alone.

The weight off my conscience will now allow me to sleep, with some sort of peace, for the first time in ten days.

But now we do know. From my selfish perspective that's good. Ever since that first night when I ran into the Wendigo with my car, I've wondered if it was actually real.

As for the R.C.M.P. officers, luckily they were armed. Maybe that's why the creature chose the children.

They were innocent.
Harmless.

Easy prey.

GOOD! SHE'S
IN HER ROOM.

STORY & PENCILS
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RICK MAGYAR
McFARLANE

RICK PARKER
Letters
GREG WRIGHT
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TOM DEFALCO
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One officer reported that they found the creature almost instantly with local tracker LUKE THORPE leading the way.

When the monster viciously attacked, the mounties shot back. They say the "Sasquatch" was hit but were unable to determine the extent of the wounds.

Does this mean that we may have seen the last of it?

KNOCK
KNOCK



MS. BROOKS,
IT'S ME, PETER
PARKER.

SHE'S NOT GOING TO LIKE THIS. HECK, FROM WHAT WOLVERINE TOLD ME --I DON'T LIKE THIS.



PETER!
COME ON IN.
AND PLEASE
CALL ME
ANNA.

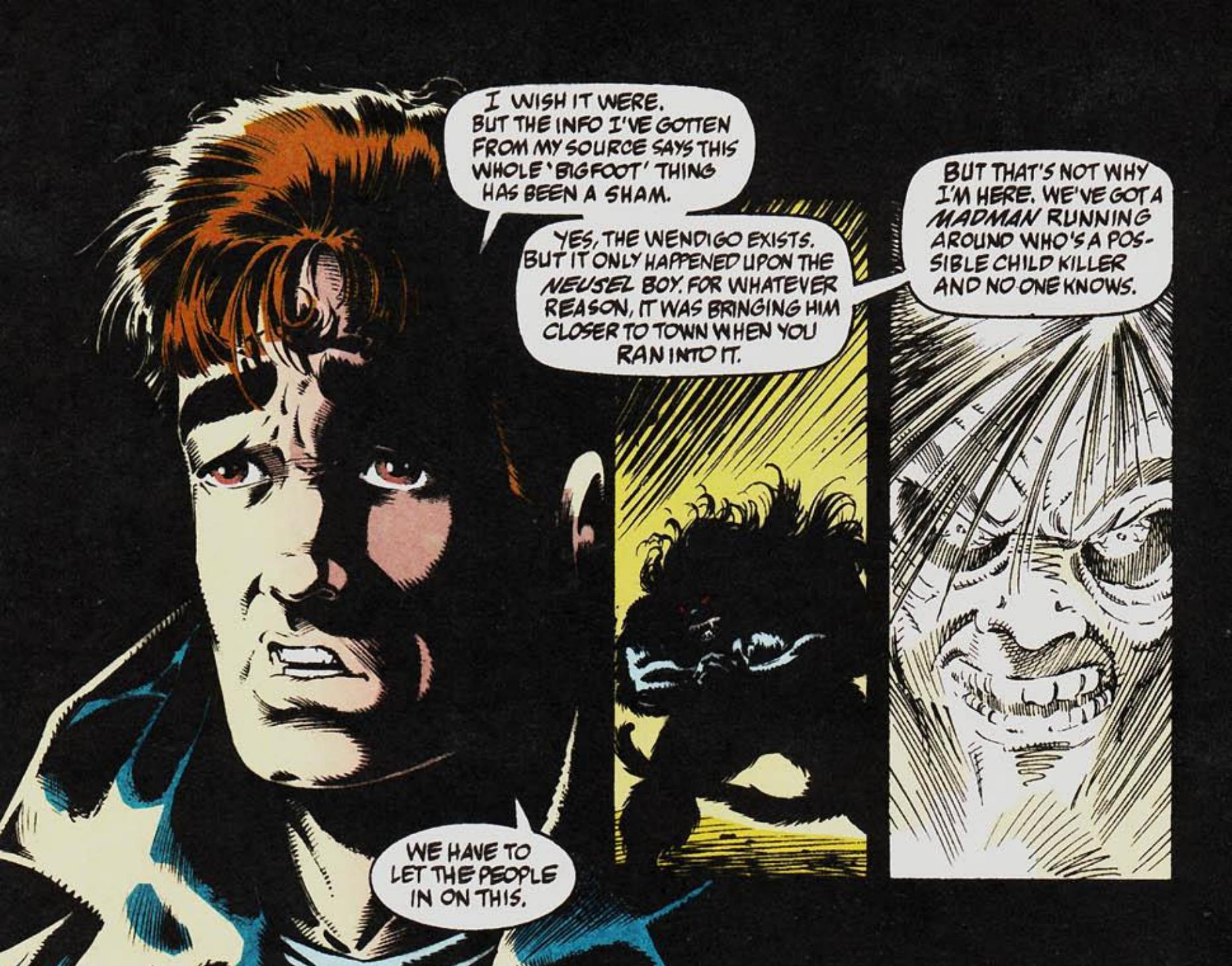
I WAS JUST WRITING
MY COLUMN FOR TOMORROW.
I'M SURE YOU HEARD ABOUT
THE ATTACK. SO WHAT DO
YOU THINK?

THAT'S WHY I'M
HERE, ANNA. I'VE
BEEN GIVEN SOME IN-
FORMATION THAT
STRONGLY SUGGESTS
THAT SOMEONE IN
TOWN KILLED
THOSE TWO
BOYS.



NOT THE
WENDIGO.

WHAT?
THAT'S
ABSURD!



I WISH IT WERE.
BUT THE INFO I'VE GOTTEN
FROM MY SOURCE SAYS THIS
WHOLE 'BIGFOOT' THING
HAS BEEN A SHAM.

YES, THE WENDIGO EXISTS.
BUT IT ONLY HAPPENED UPON THE
NEUSEL BOY. FOR WHATEVER
REASON, IT WAS BRINGING HIM
CLOSER TO TOWN WHEN YOU
RAN INTO IT.

BUT THAT'S NOT WHY
I'M HERE. WE'VE GOT A
MADMAN RUNNING
AROUND WHO'S A POS-
SIBLE CHILD KILLER
AND NO ONE KNOWS.

WE HAVE TO
LET THE PEOPLE
IN ON THIS.



THIS IS CRAZY! YOU COME STORMING
IN HERE TO TELL ME THAT THE WENDIGO
WHO WAS CRATING AROUND A POOR
DEAD CHILD AND WHO ATTACKED
THE MOUNTIES IS INNOCENT?

GIVE
ME A
BREAK!

I'VE BEEN BUST-
ING MY BUTT ON THIS
STORY, COVERING
EVERY ANGLE. SO FAR
NOTHING POINTS TO
HUMANS.

I DON'T KNOW
WHY YOU'D DO THIS,
PETER, BUT I
EXPECTED BETTER
FROM YOU. I
THOUGHT YOU WERE
DIFFERENT THAN
THE OTHER 'SHARK'
REPORTERS!
WHAT WOULD
POSSESS YOU TO
DO THIS?

BECAUSE IT'S THE
TRUTH!

LISTEN, ANNA, I HATE THIS AS MUCH AS YOU DO. BECAUSE THE SICK THING IS, I WOULDN'T HAVE BEEN SENT HERE IF THIS WAS ONLY A MURDER.

ROUTINE MURDERS DON'T SELL PAPERS.

I'M NOT HERE TO WRECK YOUR STORY. AT THIS POINT I WISH IT WERE TRUE. BUT THE EVIDENCE I HAVE SAYS OTHERWISE.

YOU CAN'T SAY?!

THAT DOES IT! YOU TAKE YOUR SO-CALLED FACTS AND YOU SHOVE 'EM. I'M WRITING THE STORY OF MY LIFE AND I DON'T HAVE TIME TO DEAL WITH PROFESSIONAL JEALOUSY!

NOW GET OUT OF HERE!

BEFORE I GO, YOU ASK YOURSELF A FEW QUESTIONS, SINCE YOU SEEM TO HAVE ALL THE ANSWERS--

--WHY DID ONE BOY HAVE ON CLOTHING AND THE OTHER DIDN'T? WENDIGO WOULDN'T CHANGE HIS HABITS.

AND WHY HAVE THE FORENSIC REPORTS BEEN DELAYED? EXCEPT FOR A FEW FACTS THAT WERE LEAKED TO HELP FUEL THE FIRES OF CONFUSION.

IF YOU'RE INTERESTED I'VE GOT PLENTY MORE UNANSWERED QUESTIONS.

YOU KNOW WHERE YOU CAN REACH ME.

SLAM

WHAT EVIDENCE!? SHOW ME. AND JUST WHO IS YOUR SOURCE?

I CAN'T SAY RIGHT NOW.

I'M SORRY YOU FEEL THAT WAY. NOW IT'S ME WHO WOULD HAVE EXPECTED BETTER.

SOMEWHERE IN THE DEEP FOREST AN INNOCENT VICTIM STRUGGLES TO MAINTAIN CONSCIOUSNESS.

IT FEELS A BURNING PAIN DEEP IN ITS BELLY, ALTHOUGH IT CAN'T RATIONALIZE WHY ITS THERE.

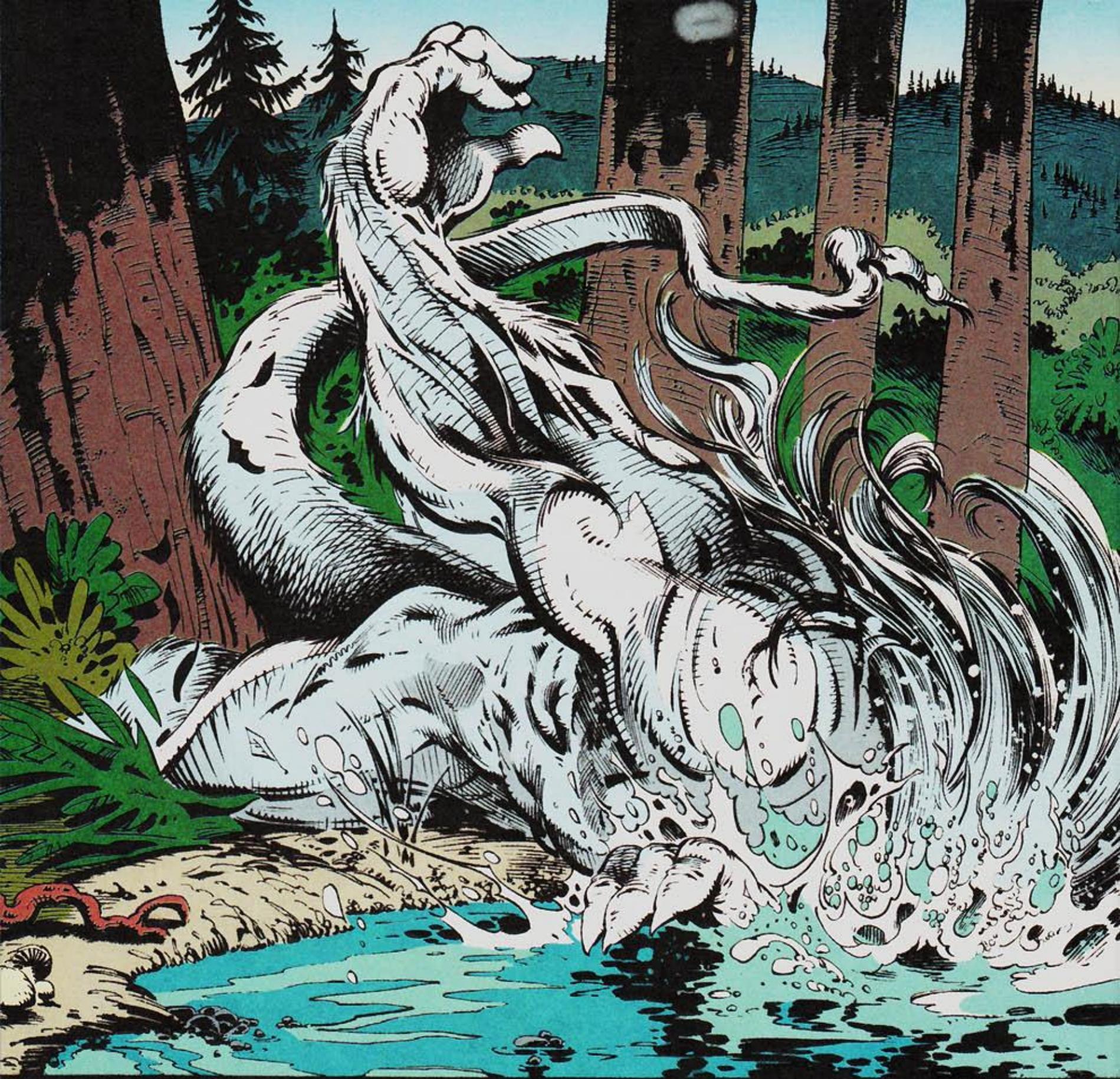
THE WORD BULLETS HAS NO MEANING.

IT DOESN'T FEEL RIGHT, THAT MUCH IT DOES KNOW. SO, INSTINCTIVELY, THE WENDIGO DOES WHAT IT CAN TO HELP ITSELF.

THE FIGHT WITH THE R.C.M.P. AND WOLVERINE HAVE TAKEN THEIR TOLL.

ESPECIALLY WITH GUNSHOT WOUNDS TO EVEN THE ODDS.

THE CREATURE CARES ABOUT NONE OF THIS.





SOMEONE'S
GONNA PAY
DEARLY.

SPIDEY'D
BETTER BE
DOING HIS JOB,
'CAUSE I'M
GETTING TIRED
OF WAITING.

TIME'S RUNNING OUT. I THOUGHT ANNA COULD HELP ME WITH THE OTHER REPORTERS.

LOOKS LIKE I'M ON MY OWN. CAN'T RISK EXPOSING MYSELF RIGHT NOW 'CAUSE THAT WOULD JUST COMPLICATE MATTERS.

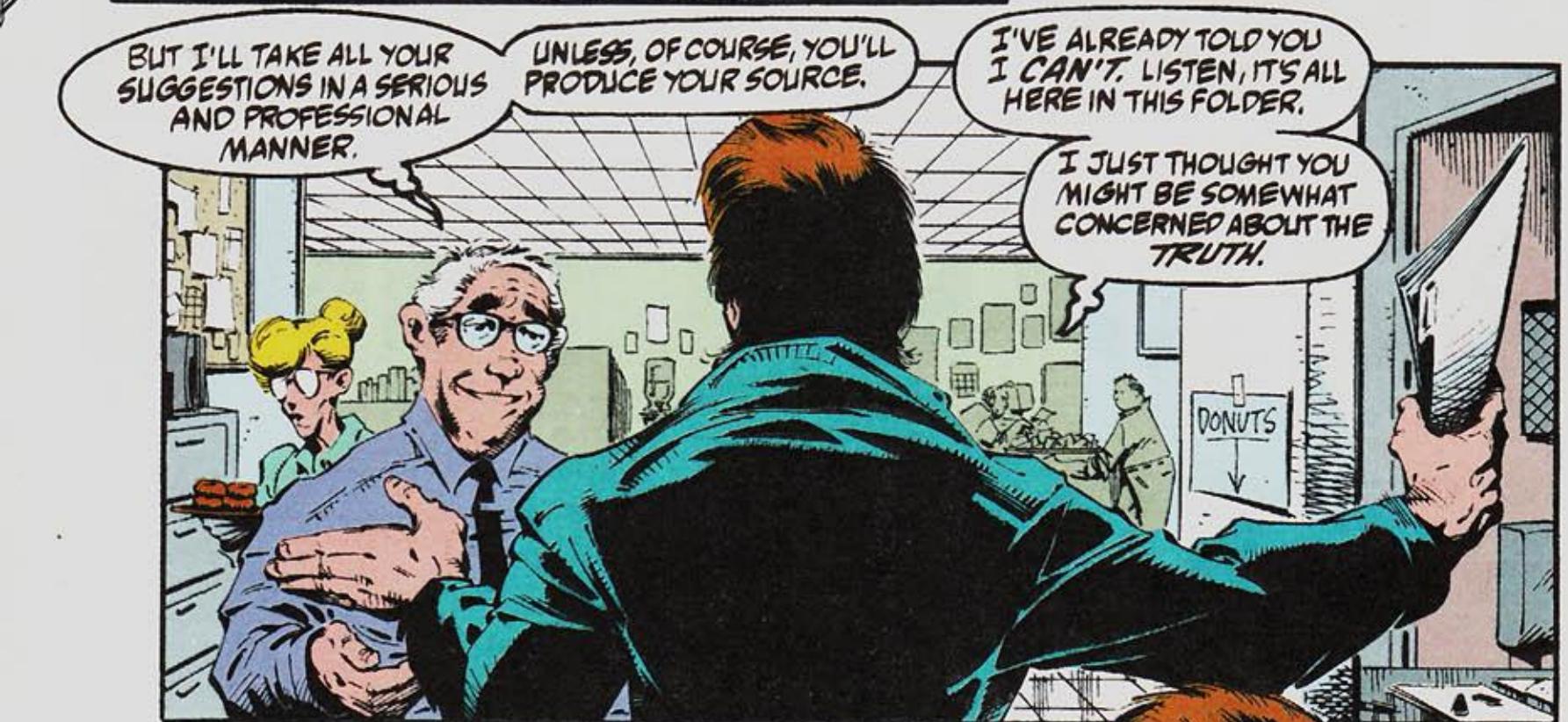
SOOO---

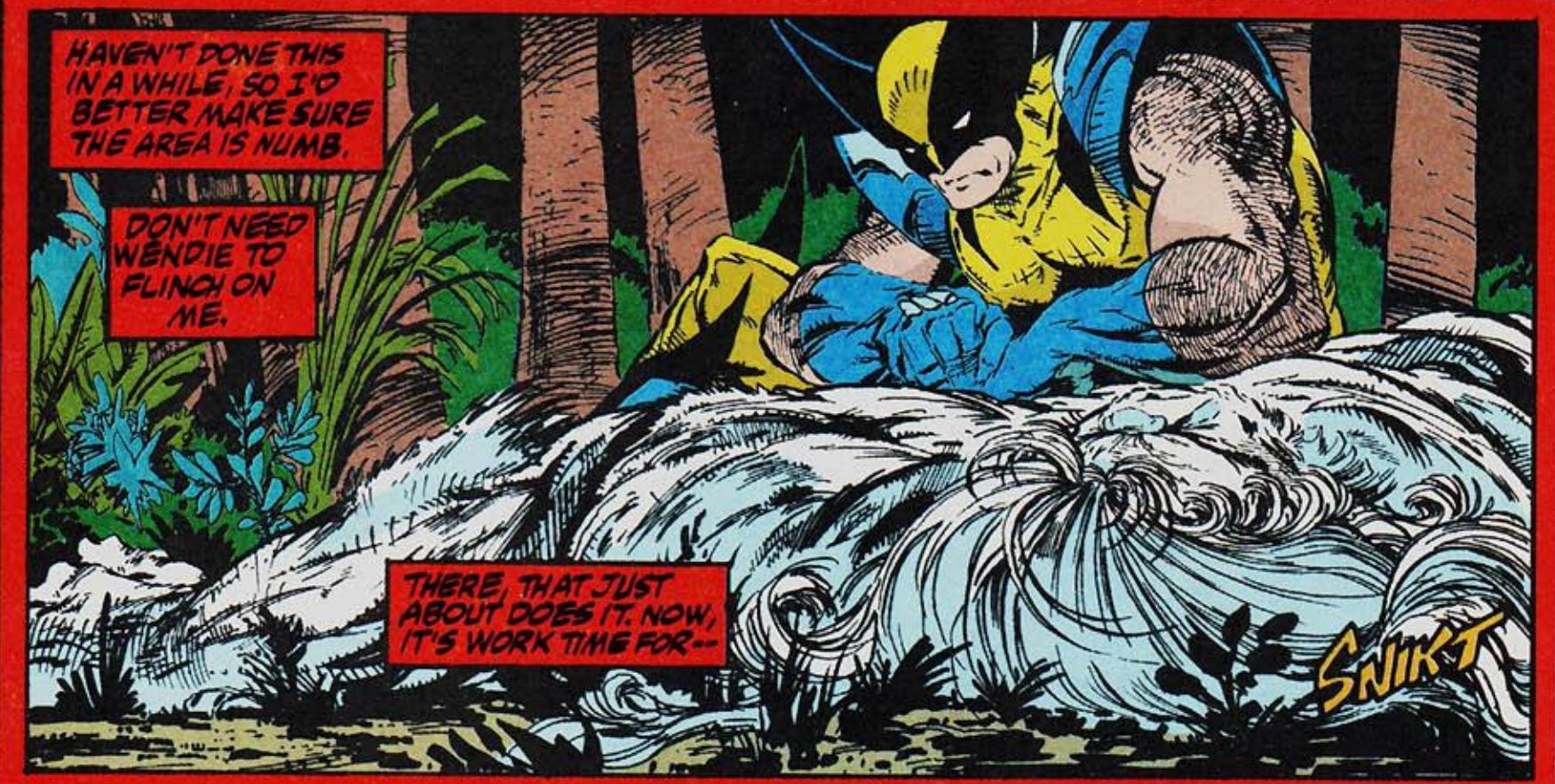
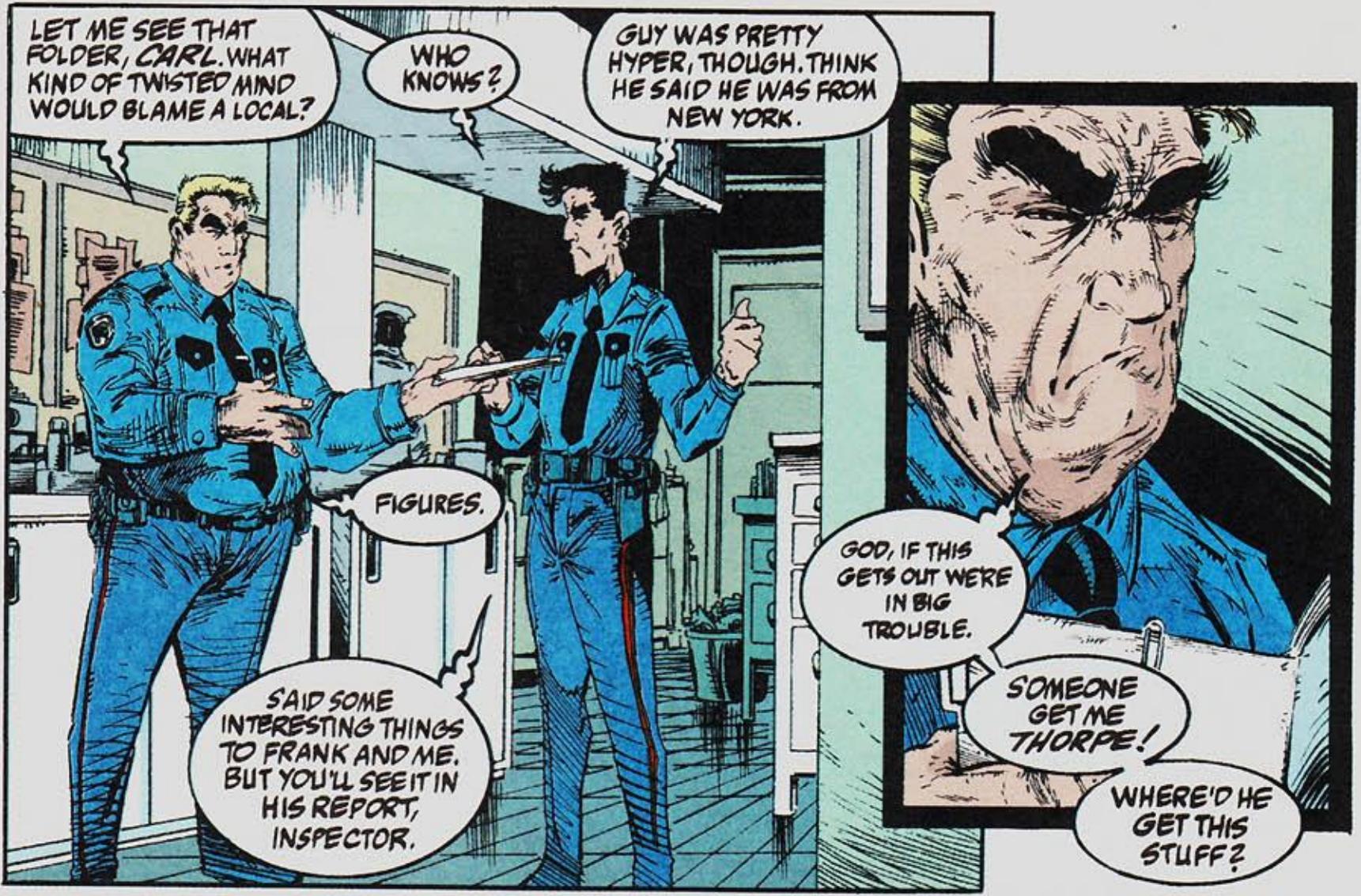
GUESS THE HYPE HAS SWALLOWED HER UP, TOO.

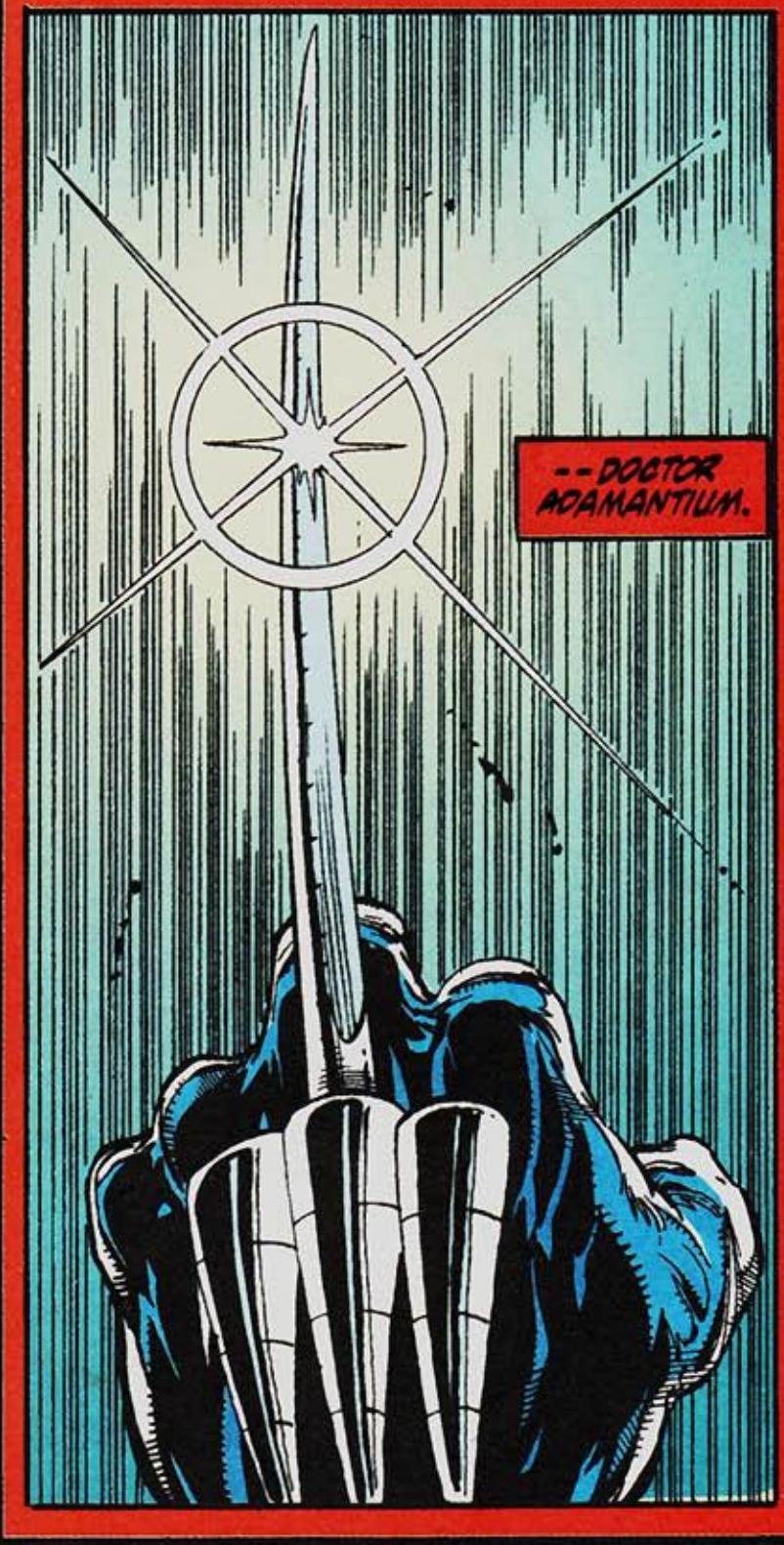
BECAUSE, DEAR SPIDEY, YOU'VE BEEN DOWN THIS PATH TOO MANY TIMES.

-- THE R.C.M.P. IS MY NEXT BET. BUT WHY DO I KNOW THAT THEY'RE NOT GOING TO WELCOME THE NEWS?

OR THE RAMIFICATIONS?







-- DOCTOR ADAMANTIUM.

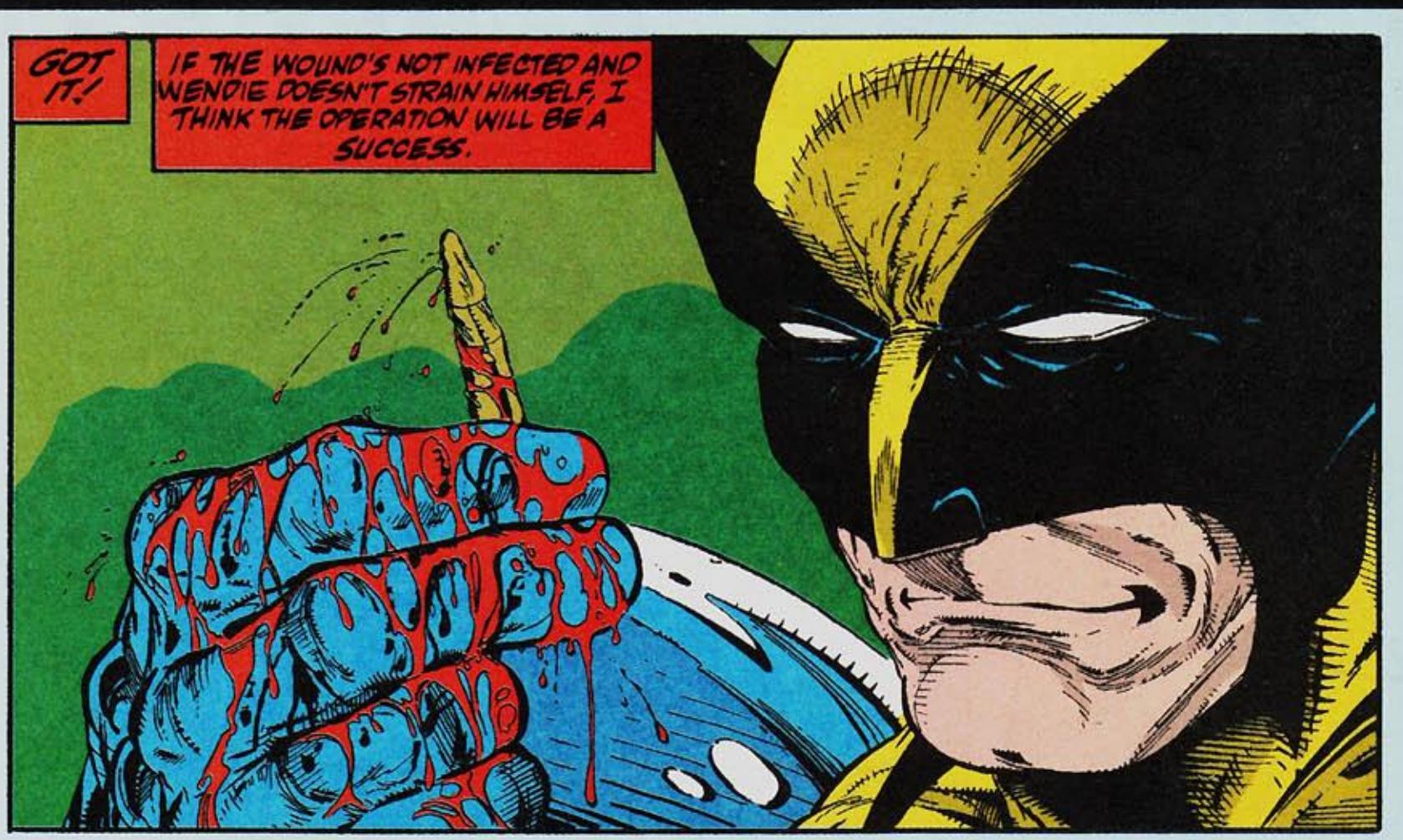


FUNNY, I DON'T GET TO USE THESE CLAWS FOR POSITIVE REASONS THAT OFTEN.

NICE TO KNOW THAT MY VEG-O-MATICS CAN DO MORE THAN SLICE AND DICE.

THOUGH THERE'S SOMETHING TO BE SAID FOR THAT, TOO.

NOW IF I CAN JUST STOP THIS BLEEDING AND--



GOT IT!

IF THE WOUND'S NOT INFECTED AND WENDIE DOESN'T STRAIN HIMSELF, I THINK THE OPERATION WILL BE A SUCCESS.



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YOU CAN'T
BE SERIOUS!
C'MON, PETER!
YOU'RE JUST A
PHOTOGRAPHER.
HOW'D YOU GET
THAT KIND OF
INFORMATION?

IT DOESN'T
MATTER.

ARE YOU KIDDING?
EVERYONE'S ON THE
PATH TO THE LEFT,
BUT YOU SAY THE
ANSWERS ARE ON
THE RIGHT. YOU'D
BETTER BELIEVE
IT MATTERS!

MEL, I WASTED AN
HOUR JUST TRACKING
YOU DOWN. TIME IS
CRUCIAL. YOU'LL GET
ALL YOUR ANSWERS
LATER. THE COPS ARE
USELESS RIGHT NOW
SO WE'VE GOT TO
DO THIS ON OUR
OWN.

C'MON, EVEN IF
THIS WAS TRUE, WE
CAN'T STOP THE
WHEELS OF PARANOIA.
WE'RE IN THIS, WHETHER
WE LIKE IT
OR NOT.

WRONG!

YOU'RE
IN THIS. I'M
JUST A
PHOTOGRAPHER,
REMEMBER?
I CAN MAKE
AN IDIOT OF
MYSELF.

AND BECAUSE
MY CAREER
DOESN'T HINGE
UPON THIS STORY,
I CAN LET THE
ODD PIECE OF
DOUBT ENTER IN.

I'M NOT SAYING
I'VE GOT ALL
THE ANSWERS.

BUT YOU'RE
GOING TO HAVE
TO ACCEPT THAT
NEITHER DO YOU.

I'M NOT ASKING YOU TO GO OUT WITH MY MEN THIS TIME. YOU DO WHATEVER YOU HAVE TO.

BUT UNLESS YOU CAN NAIL THIS CREATURE IN THE NEXT FORTY-EIGHT HOURS? I DON'T NEED YOU.

LIKE THE KILLER MIGHT NOT BE THE MONSTER.

WHAT?! HOW'D YOU KNOW?

JUST A HUNCH, AMONGST OTHER THINGS.

LOOK, THORPE, WE NEED TO GIVE THE PEOPLE SOMETHING... ANYTHING!

THERE ARE RUMORS THAT COULD DEVASTATE THE COMMUNITY AND...

I UNDERSTAND WHAT YOU NEED. YOU'RE NOT CONCERNED ABOUT THIS KILLER. YOU'RE WORRIED ABOUT YOUR NECK THAT'S ABOUT TO BE CHOPPED.

I'LL GET YOUR "BIG FOOT." BUT IT WILL BE ON MY TERMS, ANY WAY! I DON'T CARE ABOUT CATCHING A SACRIFICAL PIG. I JUST WANT THOSE ANNOYING REPORTERS OUTTA MY WOODS.

I'M NOT CONCERNED ABOUT YOUR MOTIVATIONS. IT'S BEEN TEN DAYS.

"I WANT THAT CREATURE
DEAD BY DAY TWELVE."

"THAT'S HOW YOU CAN HAVE
THE WOODS ALL TO YOURSELF."

WEN-DI-GO

GLAD TO
SEE YOU'RE
FEELING
BETTER.

WHO SAYS
YOU'RE
WIMPY?

NOW BEFORE YOU RIP
MY HEAD OFF, LET ME
TELL YOU WHAT'S UP.

IF WE DON'T SOLVE THIS
LITTLE CASE OF MISTAKEN
IDENTITY SOON, I DON'T
THINK YOUR ODDS OF SUR-
VIVING THE YEAR ARE
VERY GOOD.

HECK, SURVIVING
THE WEEK!

BUT WE DON'T HAVE
CONTROL OVER THAT.
WHAT WE DO HAVE
CONTROL OF IS WHERE
WE GO AND WHEN
WE GO.

SO YOU NEED
TO FOLLOW
MY LEAD.

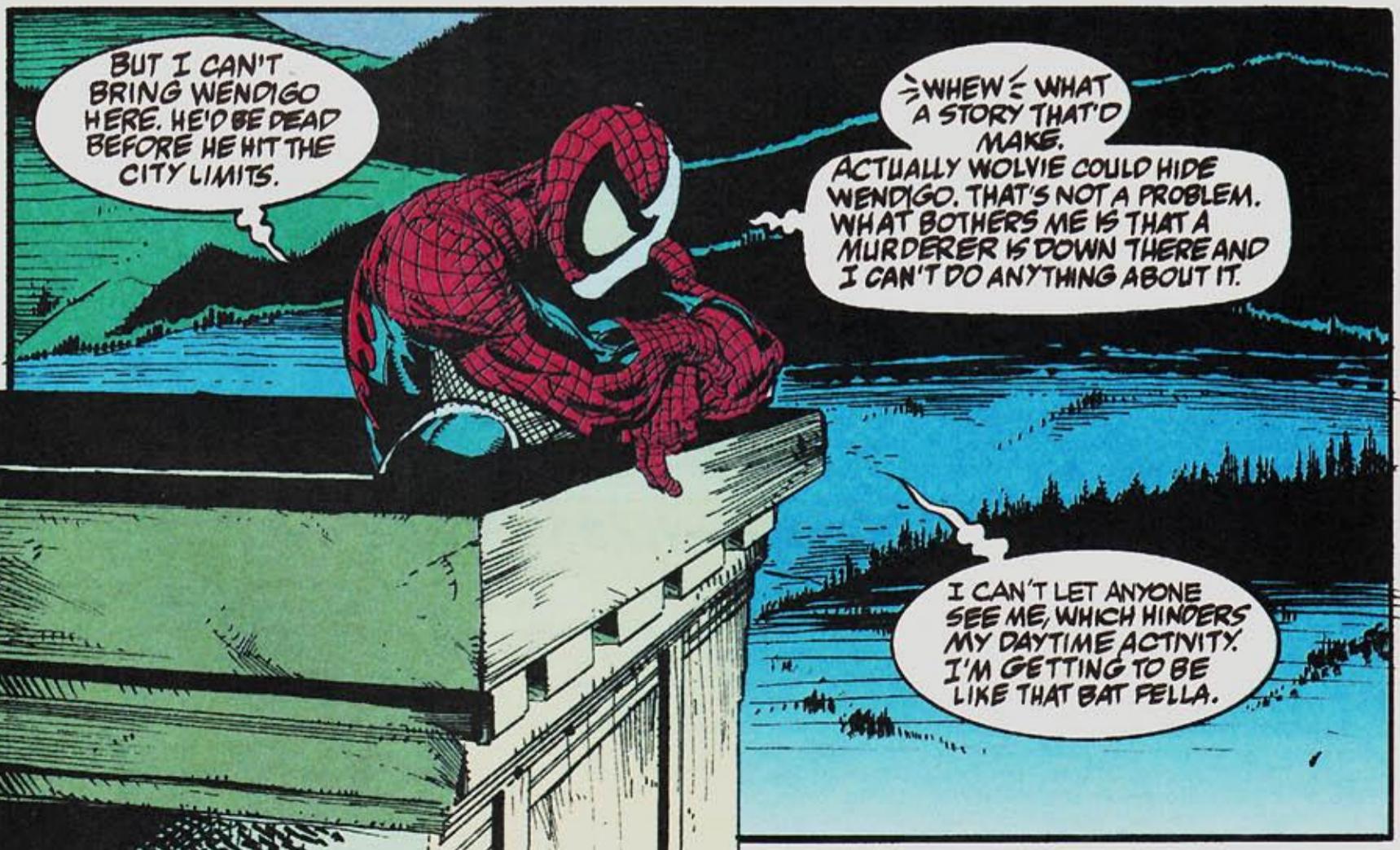
I HAVE TO
FIND ANOTHER
BODY.

THAT'LL BE THE
LAST PIECE OF
EVIDENCE THEY
MIGHT WANT.

I PROMISE
YOU'VE GOT NOTHING
TO LOSE. TRUST
ME.

THOUGH THE CREATURE
CAN'T UNDERSTAND.
IT TRUSTS SOMETHING...

...ITS INSTINCTS.



STAN'S SOAPBOX

Hi, Heroes!

Since the ol' Soapbox is the most widely-read column in all of comicdom, this is the perfect place to make two very special announcements...

Archie Comics has bought both Marvel and DC! That means from now on Wolverine and The Punisher will be dating Betty and Veronica in their spare time. As for Batman, he's hired Jughead, the Boy Wonder, in place of Robin!

Also, the X-Men have accepted the application of The Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles to join their ever-expanding team! But it isn't true that Professor Xavier will be replaced by Splinter. Splinter is merely changing the prof into a turtle!

There's more, but I've run out of room. I've only enough space left to wish you —

HAPPY APRIL FOOL'S DAY!

Excelsior!

(Hey, anyone can go bonkers once in a while!)

ITEM! All Marvel editors have been required to shave their heads by April 30. It seems many of the male Marvel editors are balding, and are very sensitive about this. In an effort to avoid people's feelings being hurt, Marvel Editor In Chief **Tom DeFalco** was the first to take a razor to his own head. Many have commented that Tom's new look makes him look more distinguished, sort of like Sinnead O'Connor. Said Tom, "Since most of our people were losing their hair anyway, it seemed like the only decent thing to do." APRIL FOOL!



ITEM! Editor **Renée Witterstaetter** promised a new direction for **WHAT THE—?** this year. Said Renée, "WHAT THE—?" will be grimmer and grittier this year. We're trying for a much darker feel for the book." As Renée put it, "A lot of fans were writing

in saying the book was not taking itself seriously enough. They felt the book was just a big joke. Well, not any more!" Renée added that "I want to prove that I thirst for blood, just like **Bobbie Chase** said she does!" APRIL FOOL!

ITEM! Let's all have a big hand for Publisher's Assistant Coordinator **Kevin Tang**, who as we all know, was the big winner last Halloween in the Limbo and Human Snake competitions. Kevin recently took a position in the Sales Department, serving as Assistant to **Skip Dietz**. Also, our old buddy **Dan Slott** (who was last seen filling in as **Ralph Macchio's** assistant) is back, now serving as Marvel's one-man Art Return Department. Congratulations, you guys. Now, pack your bags! You're both fired! Get out of here! APRIL FOOL!

ITEM! The Marvel staff was treated to a surprise visit the other day from funnyman

Bob Hope. Bob says he's always been a big fan of Mighty Marvel, and had always wanted to do a show in the Marvel offices. So much to the delight of everyone, Bob rigged up a makeshift stage and performed an impromptu show. Bob quipped, "I did a show at DC the other week, and I gotta tell you, it was a little strange. They made me use a phone booth for a dressing room!" The



whole Marvel staff was delighted by Bob's visit—it was as if we were watching a USO show, or even one of Bob's NBC specials. APRIL FOOL!

ITEM! Well, we're all pleased as punch about the colossal success of the new **TOXIC AVENGER #1!** It's turning out to be the most successful comic of all time! We've sold over five billion copies, more than one for every man, woman, and child on Earth! Naturally we'll be reprinting **TOXIE #1** in as many formats as possible. We're planning new printings with green, gold, and blue covers, and—here's the part we're really excited about—we'll be printing one issue using actual toxic waste! APRIL FOOL!

ITEM! Editor **Mike Rockwitz** stunned the comic world recently when he announced his retirement from comic book editing. Rockwitz will be opening up a White Castle hamburger restaurant in Queens, New York, where he plans to spend the rest of his days eating as many of those square

little hamburgers as humanly possible. Mike has always loved White Castle, and feels this is the best way to give back to something that's given so much to him. APRIL FOOL!

ITEM! In a surprise development, it was announced recently that **THE PUNISHER IS ACTUALLY A MUTANT!**

This came as a big shock to everyone, until we discovered that his mutant power is the ability to sell lots of comics. Look for our newest title, **X-PUNISHER**, coming soon. APRIL FOOL!



ITEM! You all know that editor **Don Daley** is a big jogging buff, but here's something that may really raise your eyebrows. Don's next race is a three-mile foot race along the bottom of the ocean! When asked how he plans to train for this aquatic event, Don responded, "I'm going to start holding my breath!" APRIL FOOL!

ITEM! **SLEEPWALKER** is a brand-new title debuting this month, and it's a superhero book with an unusual twist. The comic concerns the adventures of a crimefighter who walks around in his sleep, defeating criminals by accidentally bumping into them! APRIL FOOL! Actually **SLEEPWALKER** is about a man whose dreams summon a crimefighting being from another dimension! It's by **Bob Budiansky** and **Bret Blevins**, and it promises to be the sleeper hit of the year! GROAN!

ITEM! Assistant editor **Suzanne Dell'Orto** finally had her name mentioned on the Bulpen Bulletin Page. APRIL FOOL!

ITEM! We've got lots of other first issues going on sale this month, such as the third **DAMAGE CONTROL Limited Series** (this one by Dwayne MacDuffie and Kyle Baker!), **SAMURAI CAT**, and **CAR WARRIORS**! APRIL FOOL! Those titles aren't really coming out! APRIL FOOL! Yes, they are! We were just kidding! APRIL FOOL! But not really! APRIL FOOL! No, but really they are! We really had you going that time. APRIL FOOL! Not! Ha! By now, you're so confused you won't know if they're coming out or not, so you'll just have to keep haunting your comic shop to find out!



HONEST HYPE HONEST HYPE HONEST HYPE

HONEST HYPE BOX

HYPE HONEST HYPE HONEST HYPE

So many companies have been banging on our door wanting to use our characters on their products, you'd think that half the business world was run by Marvel fans. And with all those companies starting to come out with their great Official Marvel Licensed Products (you know, those nifty things like toys, trading cards, PVC figures, gift items, clothes, bedding—hey, take our word for it, the Nineties is going to be the decade for Marvel merchandise) the phones have been

ringing off the hooks and tons of mail have been coming in from frantic fans wanting to know where in the name of Aunt May's wheatcakes can they get all this stuff?

Well, worry no more, pilgrim! Starting on April 1st the Spencer Gifts store chain is launching what we modestly consider to be the most spectacular Marvel merchandise promotion yet! For one month, each of the 440 Spencer Gifts stores nationwide is

going to be jam-packed with Marvel comics, collectibles, merchandise and more! There'll be personal appearances by your favorite Marvel super heroes and villains and... well, we could go on and on, but words can't even begin to describe the fun you'll have seeing for yourself what's inside the Spencer Gifts stores. To find out where the closest Spencer Gifts store is to where you live, call 1-800-762-0419. So check it out—tell 'em Marvel sent you!

I DON'T THINK
I'VE EVER SEEN
A SICK STORY AS THIS.
CAREERS, HEAD-
LINES, PRESTIGE.

MY GOD, ARE WE
MISSING THE POINT?
EVEN WORSE, DO WE
WANT TO GET IT?

ARE SALES GOING TO
DICTATE OUR ETHICS?
SO THERE'S A MURDER.
YAHOO! WE'VE READ
ABOUT THAT BEFORE.

WE WOULDN'T WANT TO
THINK ABOUT THE BOY'S
PARENTS AND FAMILY.

THEY'VE BECOME
A FREAK SHOW.

MARY JANE,
WHERE ARE YOU
WHEN I NEED YOU?!

WELL, TIME TO
MEET WOLVIE. BUT
HE IS NOT GOING TO
BE IMPRESSED
WITH MY EFFORT.

I JUST DON'T
KNOW ANYMORE.

THEN AGAIN,
NEITHER
AM I.



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