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"PERCEPTIONS" PART 3 OF 5

SPIDER-MAN®



MFARLANE

50
YEARS



WOLVERINE,
WENDIGO!,
AND THE
WEB-HEAD!

THOSE FRAGGIN'
IDIOTS. WHY'D
THEY TRY AND KILL
SOMETHING WHEN
THEY DON'T HAVE
ALL THE ANSWERS?

A FEW DEAD KIDS AND
ALL SENSE OF REASONING
DISAPPEARS. GUESS
HUMANS JUST NEED
TO PIN THIS ON
SOMETHING.

BUT TO GO AFTER THE
WENDIGO, THAT'S
INSANITY. CREATURE'LL
SHRED 'EM APART
BEFORE THEY BLINK.

BUT CONSIDERING WHAT
THEY'VE DONE TO THE
OTHER ANIMALS, IT'S
THEIR OWN PROBLEM.

YEAH, AND I JUST HAPPEN
TO BE RUNNING IN THE RIGHT
DIRECTION BY COINCIDENCE.

CURSE MY
CONSCIENCE.

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PERCEPTIONS

3

PART TODD McFARLANE... PENCILER/WRITER TODD AND FRIENDS... INKERS
RICK PARKER....LETTERER GREGORY WRIGHT... COLORIST
JIM SALICRUP.....EDITOR

TOM DEFALCO...EDITOR IN CHIEF

FIVE HUNDRED METERS AWAY,
A NIGHTMARE IS OCCURRING.
LED BY THE TOWN TRACKER, SIX
MEN ATTEMPTED TO HUNT AND
ELIMINATE A CREATURE THAT
HAS BEEN KILLING THEIR
CHILDREN.

BEFORE THEY COULD GET A
JUMP, NERVES GOT THE BETTER
PART OF ONE OF THE POSSE.

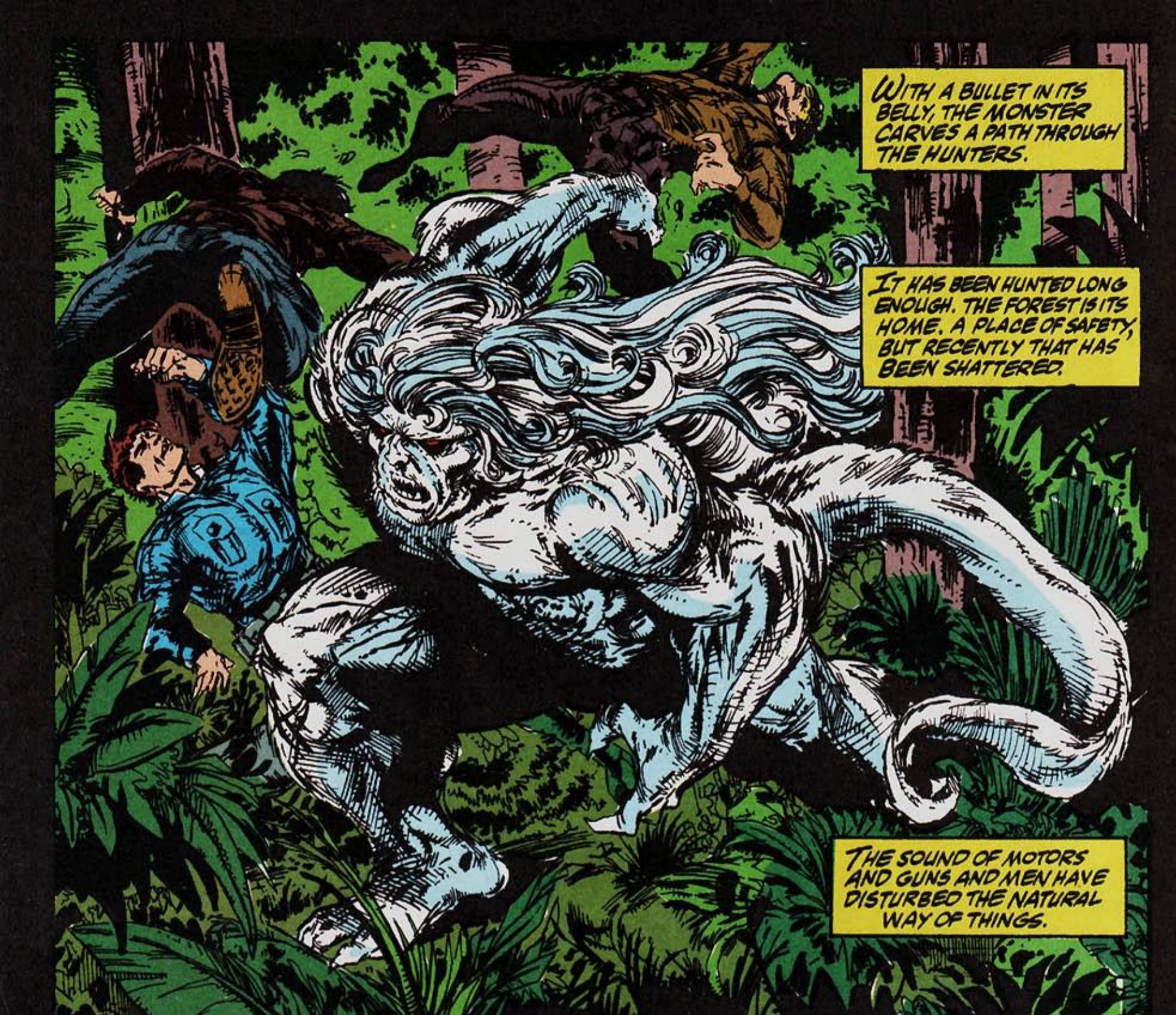
A SHOT WAS
FIRED.

LIKE ANY ANIMAL BACKED
INTO A CORNER, THIS WENDIGO
MEANS TO DEFEND ITSELF.

TO THE DEATH.

THESE MEN HAD NO IDEA WHAT THIS
CREATURE WAS, OR EVEN IF IT TRULY
EXISTS, BUT THE ATTEMPT TO
PROTECT THEIR OWN SPECIES MAY
VERY WELL BE THE LAST THING
THEY DO.





WITH A BULLET IN ITS BELLY, THE MONSTER CARVES A PATH THROUGH THE HUNTERS.

IT HAS BEEN HUNTED LONG ENOUGH. THE FOREST IS ITS HOME. A PLACE OF SAFETY, BUT RECENTLY THAT HAS BEEN SHATTERED.

THE SOUND OF MOTORS AND GUNS AND MEN HAVE DISTURBED THE NATURAL WAY OF THINGS.

THE FOREST CREATURES HAVE DEALT WITH ENOUGH.

WENDIGO WILL BRING ABOUT ITS OWN SENSE OF ORDER.

THE POSSE IS SMART ENOUGH TO LEAVE THE RULER OF THIS JUNGLE ALONE.

THEY CAN'T PAY
ME ENOUGH...
NO WAY
AM I GONNA
DIE FOR SOME
GODFORSAKEN
MONSTER.

WE'VE GOTTA
TELL THE
INSPECTOR.

HEY,
WHERE'S
EDDIE?



"DID THAT CHICKEN GET A
HEAD START ALREADY? HE
BETTER NOT HAVE TAKEN
THE WAGON."

WEN-DI-GO

G-GO AHEAD
AND KILL ME. SEE
IF IT TAKES YOU AS
LONG TO SLAUGHTER
A MAN, INSTEAD OF
CHILDREN.

THE CREATURE
JUST STARES.



FINALLY, IT RAISES ITS ARM
FOR THE DEATH BLOW.

AT THAT MOMENT, EDDIE IS
GRIPPED BY FEAR. IN THE BACK
OF HIS MIND HE THINKS THAT
THIS IS WHAT THE CHILDREN
WENT THROUGH, TOO.

SUDDENLY...

... LIKE SOME WILD BANSHEE,
WOLVERINE STRIKES.

BROKEN GLASS BEING
DRAGGED ACROSS SHEET
METAL BEST DESCRIBES
THE SOUND HE MAKES.

WHETHER IT IS FOR
BRAVADO OR INSTINCTIVE,
THE NOISE ACCOMPLISHES
ITS PURPOSE.

TO DISTRACT.

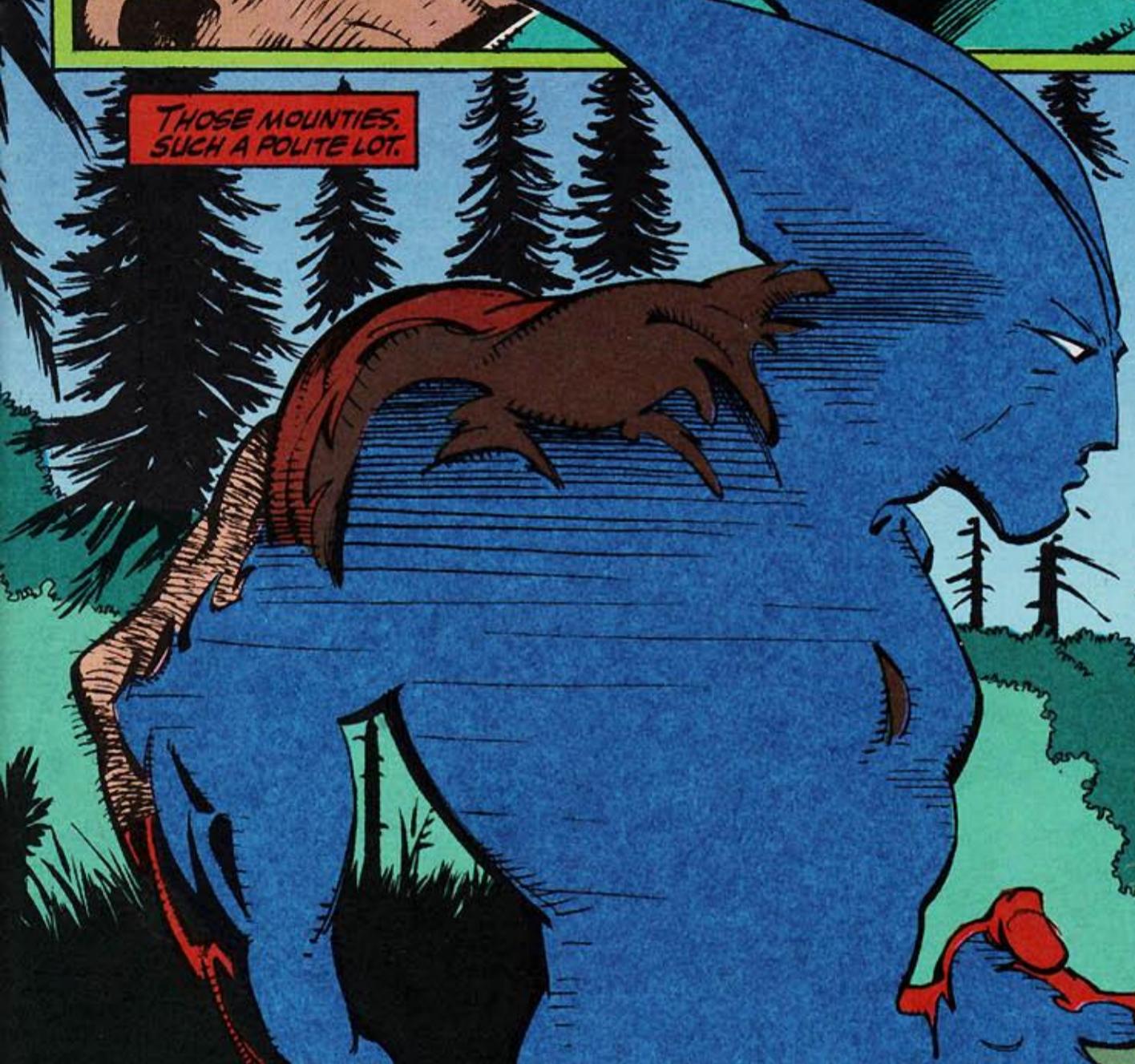
AND TO
SAVE.

KEEP YOUR
HEAD DOWN,
BUB!



I'M GONNA STATE THE OBVIOUS HERE. I THINK YOU SHOULD LEAVE-- NOW!

UH, YES, SIR, RIGHT AWAY, SIR.



THOSE MOUNTIES, SUCH A POLITE LOT.

WON'T POP MY CLAWS, THIS WHOLE SITUATION AIN'T WENDIGO'S FAULT.

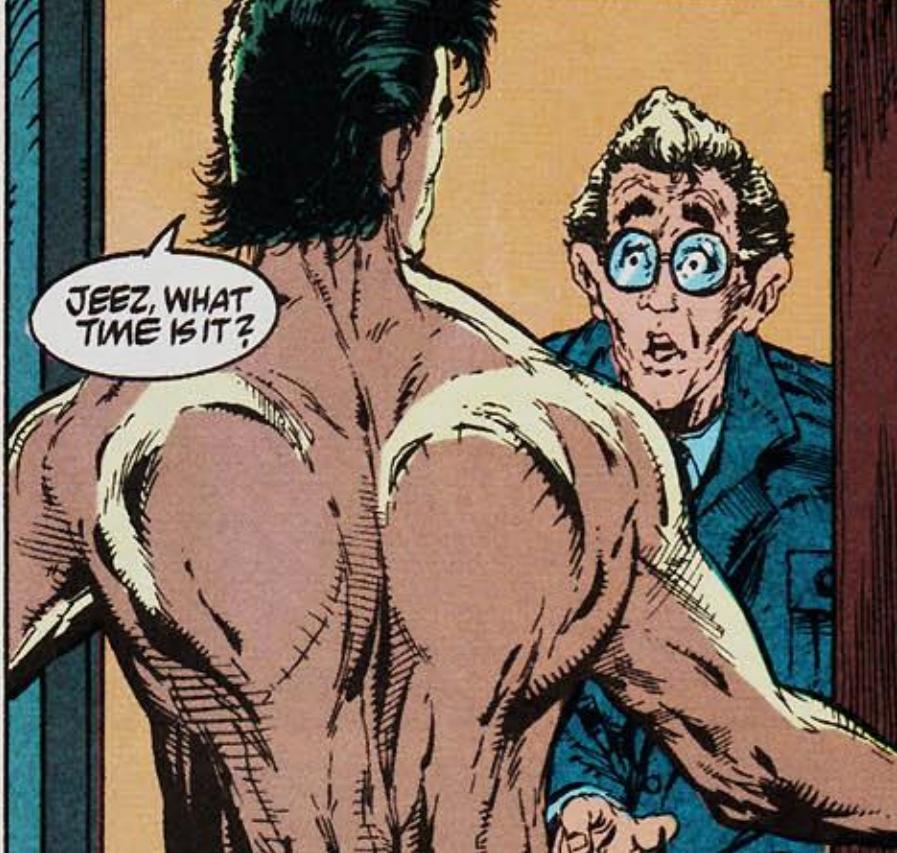


I'LL JUST KEEP ON THE DEFENSIVE TILL THE HUNTERS ARE LONG GONE.

'COURSE, WENDIE DOESN'T KNOW I'M BEING SO CHARITABLE. THIS'LL MAKE THINGS A BIT MORE CHALLENGING.



C'MON, PETER,
WAKE UP. WE'VE
GOT A STORY. SOME
COPS ARE BACK IN
TOWN. SAID THEY MET
THE BIGFOOT.



JEEZ, WHAT
TIME IS IT?

WHO CARES?
WE'RE ONTO SOME-
THING BIG HERE. IT'LL
TAKE TWENTY MINUTES
JUST TO DRIVE TO HOPE.
SO HURRY IT UP.

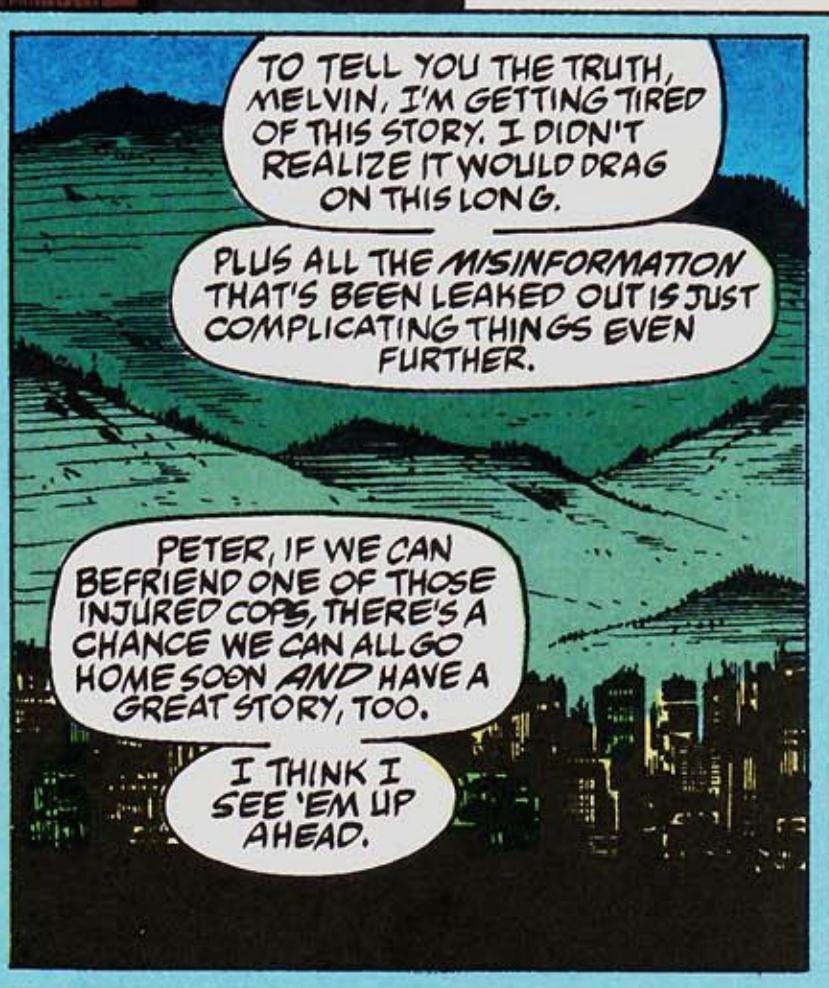
PLUS WE KNOW
WHAT SIDE OF THE
MOUNTAIN HE'S ON.

THE THING DOESN'T
HAVE A CHANCE. SAY,
I DIDN'T KNOW THEY
MADE FELIX BOXER
SHORTS.



MELVIN, I'LL SEE IF I
CAN'T FIND YOU A CLEAN
PAIR. C'MON IN AND SIT
DOWN. I'LL BE READY
IN A MINUTE.

THAT MELVIN,
WHAT A
JERK.



TO TELL YOU THE TRUTH,
MELVIN, I'M GETTING TIRED
OF THIS STORY. I DIDN'T
REALIZE IT WOULD DRAG
ON THIS LONG.

PLUS ALL THE MISINFORMATION
THAT'S BEEN LEAKED OUT IS JUST
COMPLICATING THINGS EVEN
FURTHER.

PETER, IF WE CAN
BEFRIEND ONE OF THOSE
INJURED COPS, THERE'S A
CHANCE WE CAN ALL GO
HOME SOON AND HAVE A
GREAT STORY, TOO.

I THINK I
SEE 'EM UP
AHEAD.

LOVELY.

WENDIGO'S EXERTING HIMSELF TOO MUCH. HE CAN'T AFFORD TO LOSE MORE BLOOD. BULLET MUST HAVE HIT AN ARTERY.

SO IF HE DOESN'T STOP FIGHTING, HE'S GONNA BE IN SERIOUS TROUBLE.

NOT THAT I'M ENJOYING THIS.

AW, NO! NOT AGAIN.

C'MON, WOLVIE, DO BOTH OF US A FAVOR AND END THIS.

THEN GET INTO TOWN AND FIND AN ALLY. LET 'EM KNOW WHAT I'VE FOUND OUT HERE.

EVERYONE'S ON A WILD GOOSE CHASE.



Los Angeles Post

BIGFOOT ATTACKS ADULTS

CHICAGO GLOBE
MOUNTIES ESCAPE
DEATH

FINAL

DAILY BUGLE



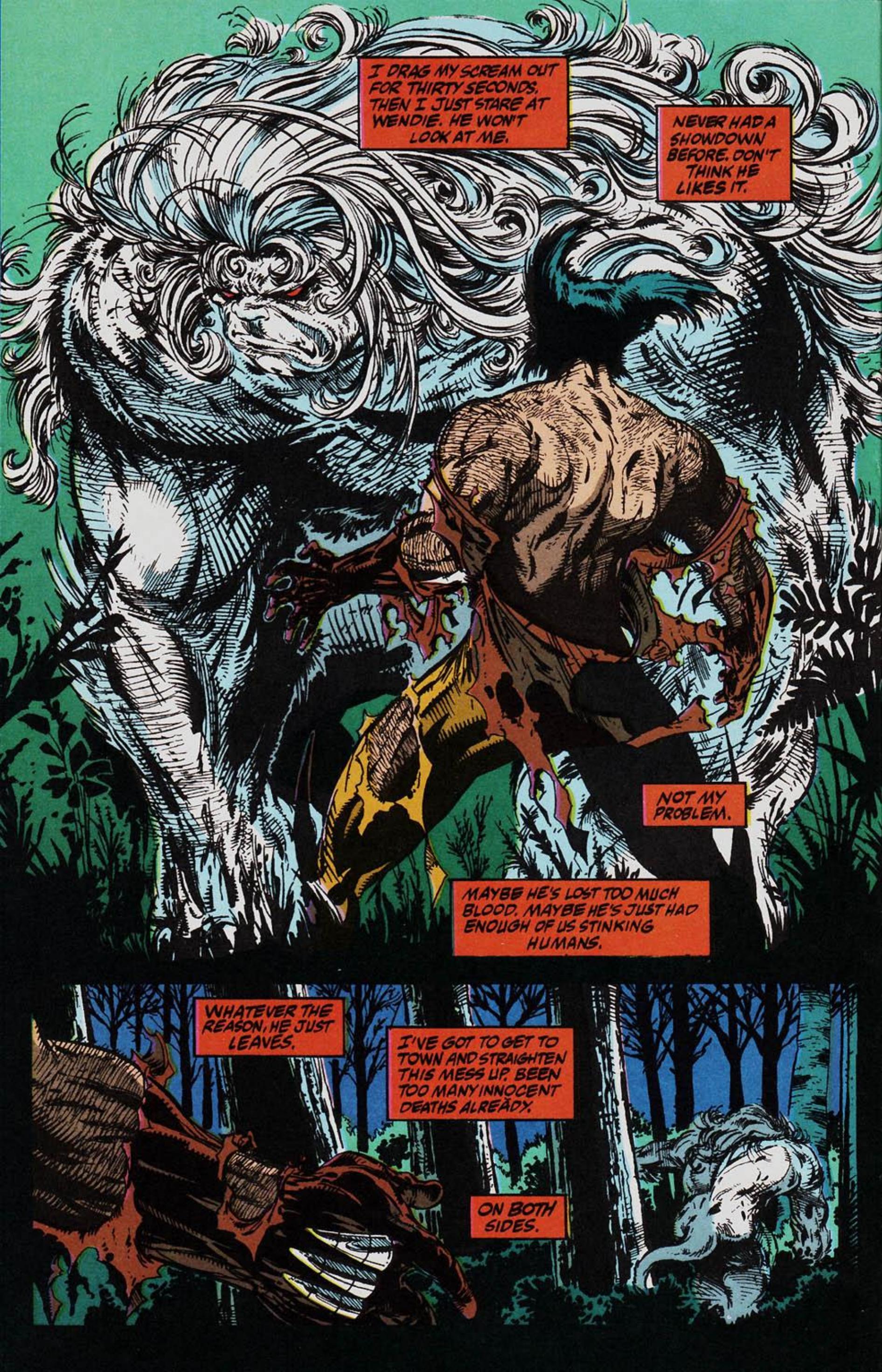
THE PICTURE NEWSPAPER®

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SASQUATCH DINES ON COPS





I DRAG MY SCREAM OUT
FOR THIRTY SECONDS,
THEN I JUST STARE AT
WENDIE. HE WON'T
LOOK AT ME.

NEVER HAD A
SHOWDOWN
BEFORE. DON'T
THINK HE
LIKES IT.

NOT MY
PROBLEM.

MAYBE HE'S LOST TOO MUCH
BLOOD. MAYBE HE'S JUST HAD
ENOUGH OF US STINKING
HUMANS.



WHATEVER THE
REASON, HE JUST
LEAVES.

I'VE GOT TO GET TO
TOWN AND STRAIGHTEN
THIS MESS UP. BEEN
TOO MANY INNOCENT
DEATHS ALREADY.

ON BOTH
SIDES.

MELVIN, I'M HEADING OVER TO THE POLICE STATION. I CAN'T BELIEVE THEY LET THOSE OFFICERS JUST RUN OFF AT THE MOUTH WITHOUT ANY KIND OF DEBRIEFING.

SOUNDS GOOD. I'VE GOT THE ADDRESS OF THE TRACKER WHO TOOK THESE GUYS OUT TO THE MOUNTAIN. MAYBE HE'LL BE USEFUL.

THEN I'M GOING TO FIND MS. BROOKS AND SEE IF SHE HAS ANY LEADS. I'LL CATCH UP WITH YOU TOMORROW BACK AT THE HOTEL.

PETER, SEE IF YOU CAN FIND OUT WHEN THE NEW FORENSIC REPORT WILL BE BACK FROM VANCOUVER.



YO, SPIDEY,
I THINK I COULD
USE A BIT OF YOUR
HELP.

UH?!
WHAT DID
YOU SAY?

YOU HEARD ME, BOY.
I'VE GOT A SLIGHT
PROBLEM WITH THIS
WENDIGO FELLA. I
THINK YOU CAN HELP.

MEET ME A HALF
MILE DUE NORTH OF
TOWN IN A COUPLE OF
HOURS. YOU'LL GET
SOME ANSWERS THEN.

I DISAPPEAR INTO THE NIGHT. BELIEVE
ME, I'M JUST AS SURPRISED WITH HIS
PRESENCE AS HE IS WITH MINE.

TWO HOURS LATER.

I DON'T KNOW WHAT'S GOING ON HERE, BUT IT'S TIME TO FIND OUT!

THAT STRANGER'S VOICE SOUNDED FAMILIAR AND HE DIDN'T SET MY SPIDER-SENSE OFF.

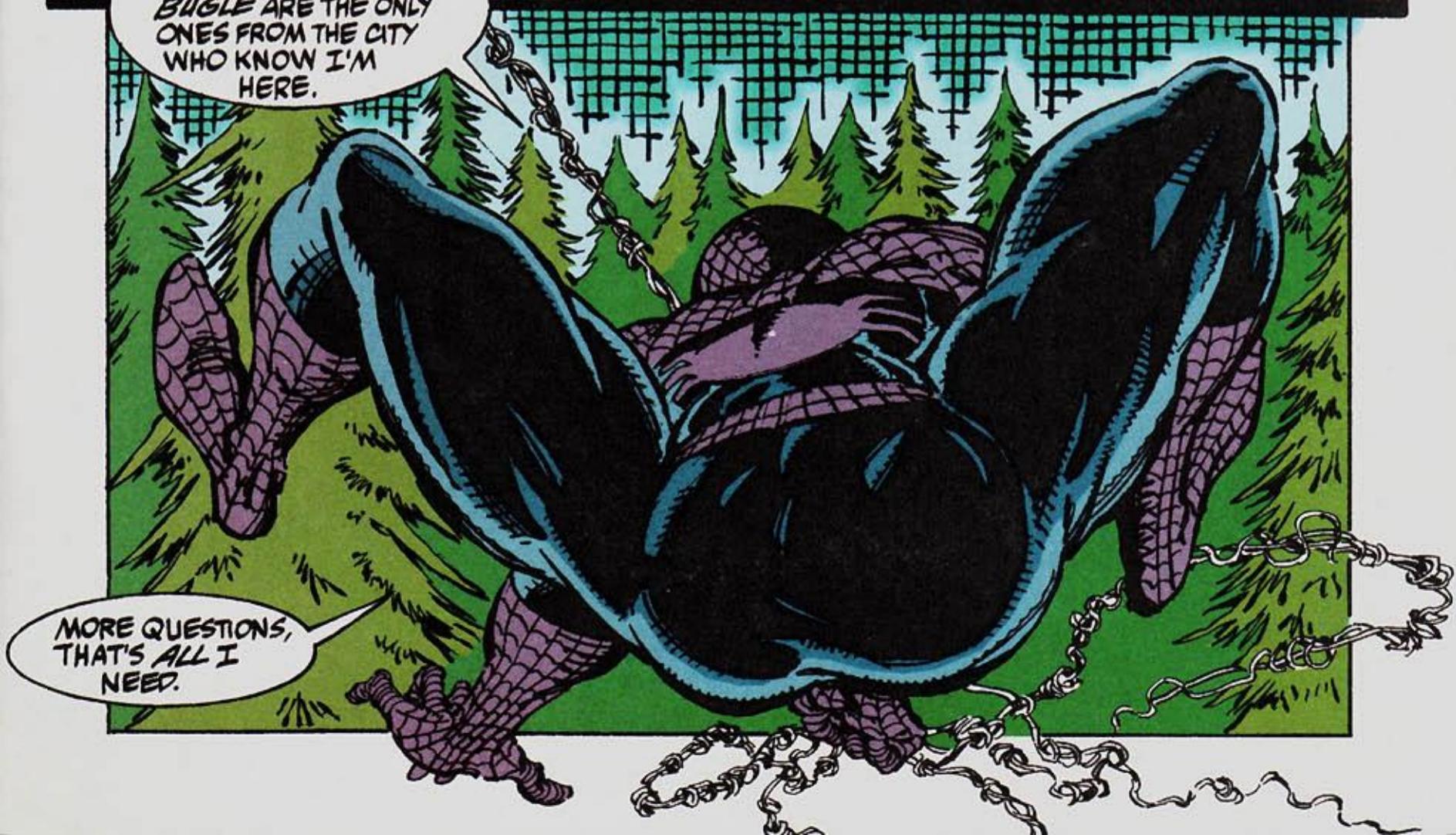
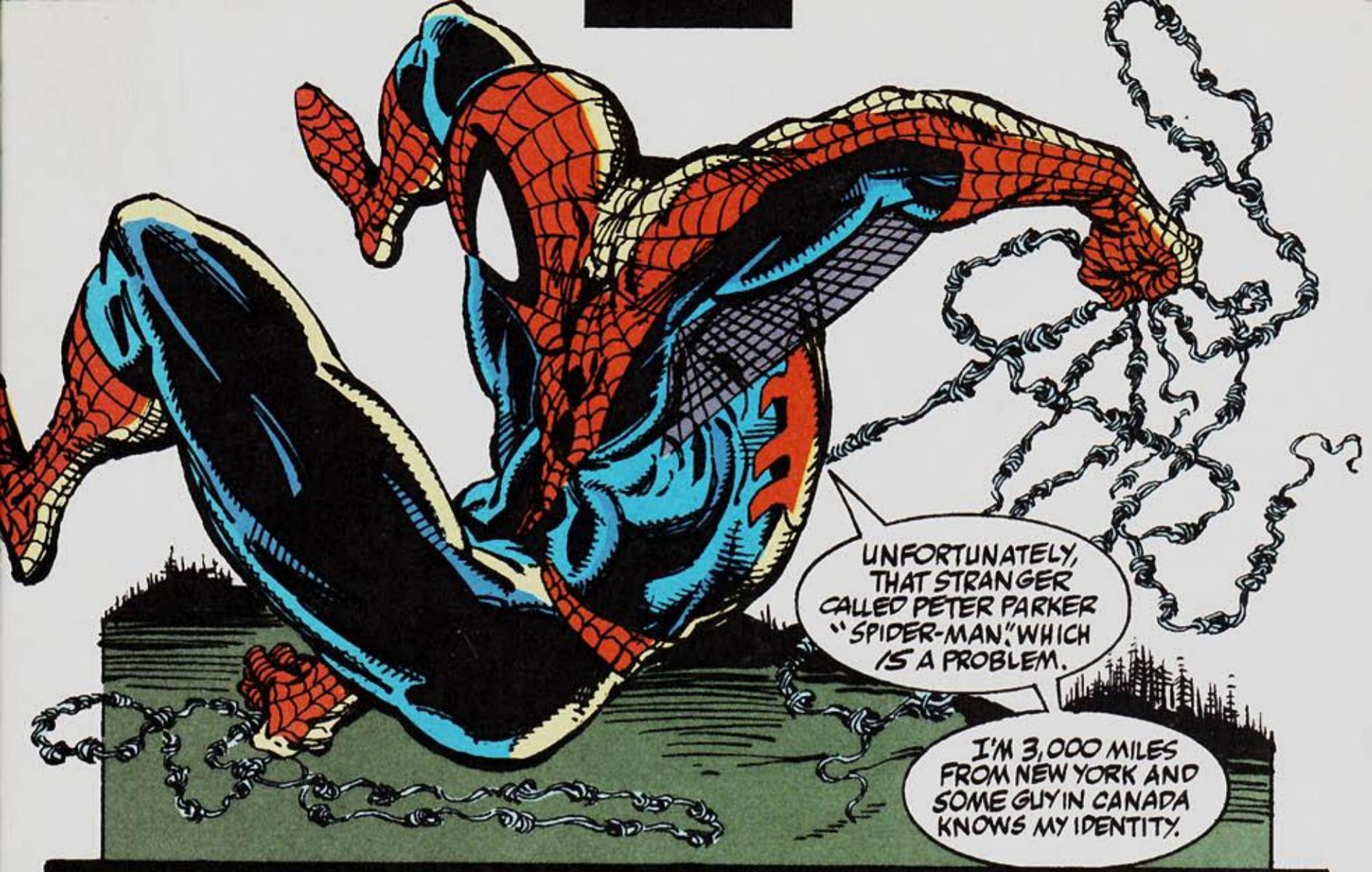
I'LL HAVE TO GO TO THE POLICE STATION TOMORROW MORNING THEN MEET MELVIN TO SEE WHAT HE FOUND OUT.

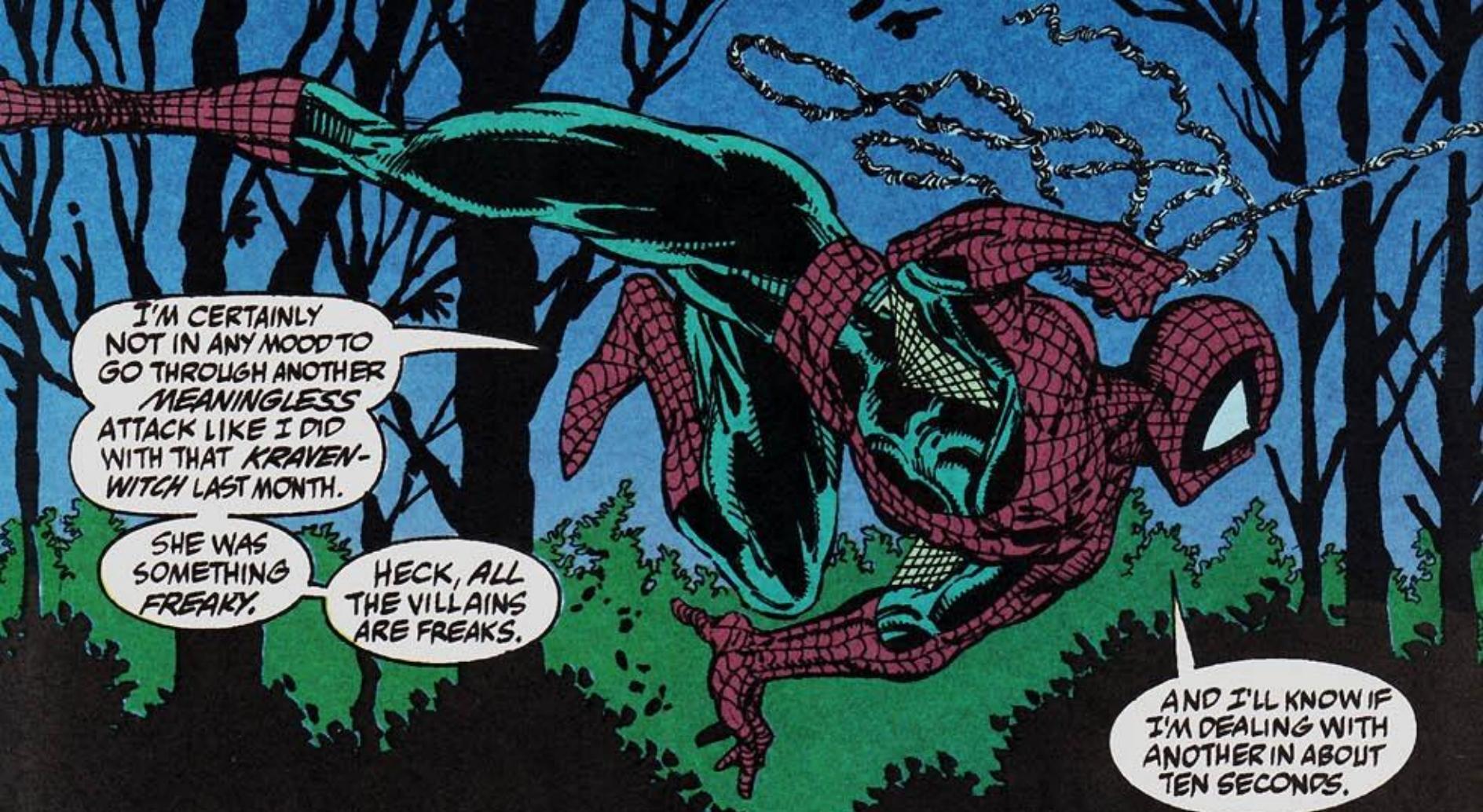
SO I'VE GOT THAT GOING FOR ME.

YA KNOW, PETER, YOU DON'T NEED THESE COMPLICATIONS IN YOUR LIFE. IT'S HARD ENOUGH TRYING TO FIGURE OUT THIS "WENDIGO" MESS WITHOUT WORRYING ABOUT SOME NIGHT-PROWLING STRANGER.

ON THE OTHER HAND, WHAT OTHER GOOD-LOOKING SUPER HERO IS IN TOWN?

SO I'VE GOT THAT GOING FOR ME, TOO.





I'M CERTAINLY NOT IN ANY MOOD TO GO THROUGH ANOTHER MEANINGLESS ATTACK LIKE I DID WITH THAT KRAVEN-WITCH LAST MONTH.

SHE WAS SOMETHING FREAKY.

HECK, ALL THE VILLAINS ARE FREAKS.

AND I'LL KNOW IF I'M DEALING WITH ANOTHER IN ABOUT TEN SECONDS.



THE CLEARING IS JUST BELOW.

MIGHT AS WELL MAKE THIS DRAMATIC.



NEVER FEAR! SPIDEY'S HERE! IN HIS UNDERWEAR!

REAL MATURE,
SCHOOLBOY.

WOLVERINE!!

YOU'D BE FACE
DOWN RIGHT NOW IF
I WERE THE BAD GUY.
YOU DIDN'T KNOW IF I
WAS FRIEND OR FOE.
WHY WOULD YOU GIVE
ME AN EDGE?

THE FOOL
WHO SIGNALS AN
ENEMY, ISN'T LONG
FOR THIS WORLD.

YEAH, YEAH, YEAH!
THANKS FOR THE
LECTURE, POPS. I'LL
HAVE THE CAR HOME
BY ELEVEN.

WHAT'S YOUR
PROBLEM? I'VE
BEEN IN THIS BUSI-
NESS LONGER THAN
YOU. MY SPIDER-
SENSE TOLD ME
YOU WEREN'T
HOSTILE. SO I
THOUGHT I'D
HAVE A LITTLE
FUN.

SPEAKING OF
WHICH, WHY THE
OLD YELLOW AND
BLUE SUIT, YOU GOT
A REUNION TO
ATTEND AFTER?

COUPLER SEAMS CAME LOOSE
ON THE OTHER ONE, SO I WANTED
TO PUT ON SOMETHING THAT RE-
MINDED ME OF A TIME WHEN
I DIDN'T KNOW YOU!

OH! HE MADE A
FUNNY! I THINK
THIS GUY HAS SOME
POTENTIAL.

YOU NEVER
STOP, DO YOU?

NAH! BESIDES, IT
KEEPS ME YOUNG.

SO WHAT BRINGS YOU
HERE? IT CAN'T BE THE
CROWDS OR THE HYPE!

IT'S THE KILLINGS!
THE THOUGHT OF DEAD
ANIMALS, ESPECIALLY DEAD
CHILDREN, SICKENS ME. I'VE
SEEN MY FAIR SHARE OF
SICK SITUATIONS, BUT THIS
ONE'S CONTAGIOUS.

THOSE FRAGGIN'
HUNTERS ARE DETERMINED
TO KILL EVERYTHING UNTIL
THEY GET IT RIGHT. AND,
UNFORTUNATELY, I CAN'T
STOP 'EM ALL.

WHICH IS
WHERE YOU
COME IN.

GREAT!

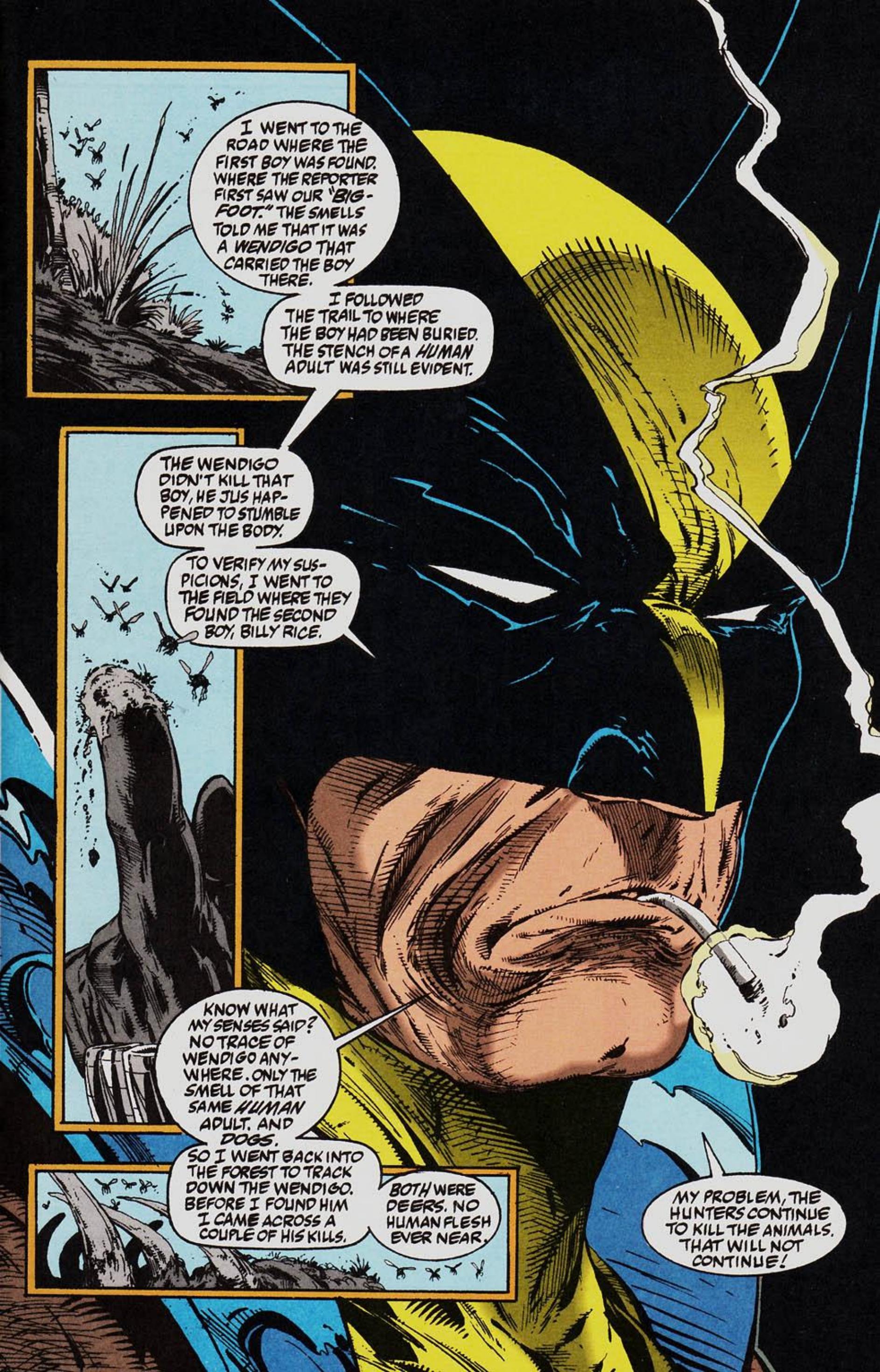
NOW I'M SUPPOSED TO STOP
THE HUNTERS, AND LEST WE
FORGET, THE R.C.M.P., THE EN-
VIRONMENTALISTS, AND THE
REPORTERS.

AH, SHUT UP, KID! I DON'T
WANT YA TO MOW 'EM DOWN.
JUST REMOVE THEIR MOTIVA-
TION. LET THEM KNOW THEIR
TARGET IS IN TOWN. JUST
KEEP 'EM OUT OF THE
FOREST.

FACTS,
BUDDY, I'VE
GOT TO HAVE
SOMETHING
SOLID.

LISTEN, I'VE GOT A
HUNDRED INNOCENT ANIMALS
SLAUGHTERED OUT IN THE FOREST
BY SOME HYPER-ACTIVE WEEENIES.
THEY THINK "BIGFOOT" KILLED
THE BOYS.

I SAY HE
DIDN'T.



I WENT TO THE ROAD WHERE THE FIRST BOY WAS FOUND. WHERE THE REPORTER FIRST SAW OUR "BIG-FOOT." THE SMELLS TOLD ME THAT IT WAS A WENDIGO THAT CARRIED THE BOY THERE.

I FOLLOWED THE TRAIL TO WHERE THE BOY HAD BEEN BURIED. THE STENCH OF A HUMAN ADULT WAS STILL EVIDENT.

THE WENDIGO DIDN'T KILL THAT BOY, HE JUST HAPPENED TO STUMBLE UPON THE BODY.

TO VERIFY MY SUSPICIONS, I WENT TO THE FIELD WHERE THEY FOUND THE SECOND BOY, BILLY RICE.

KNOW WHAT MY SENSES SAID? NO TRACE OF WENDIGO ANYWHERE. ONLY THE SMELL OF THAT SAME HUMAN ADULT. AND DOGS.

SO I WENT BACK INTO THE FOREST TO TRACK DOWN THE WENDIGO. BEFORE I FOUND HIM I CAME ACROSS A COUPLE OF HIS KILLS.

BOTH WERE DEERS. NO HUMAN FLESH EVER NEAR.

MY PROBLEM, THE HUNTERS CONTINUE TO KILL THE ANIMALS. THAT WILL NOT CONTINUE!

LET ME GET THIS STRAIGHT.
YOU'RE TELLING ME THAT THOSE
TWO DEAD BOYS HAVE NOTHING
TO DO WITH WENDIGO.

=Whew=
THAT IS A
PROBLEM.

WE'VE GOT AN
ENTIRE TOWN BELIEVING
THAT A SEVEN-FOOT
MONSTER IS GOING TO
SNATCH THEIR KIDS AND
DRAG 'EM INTO THE
DARK.

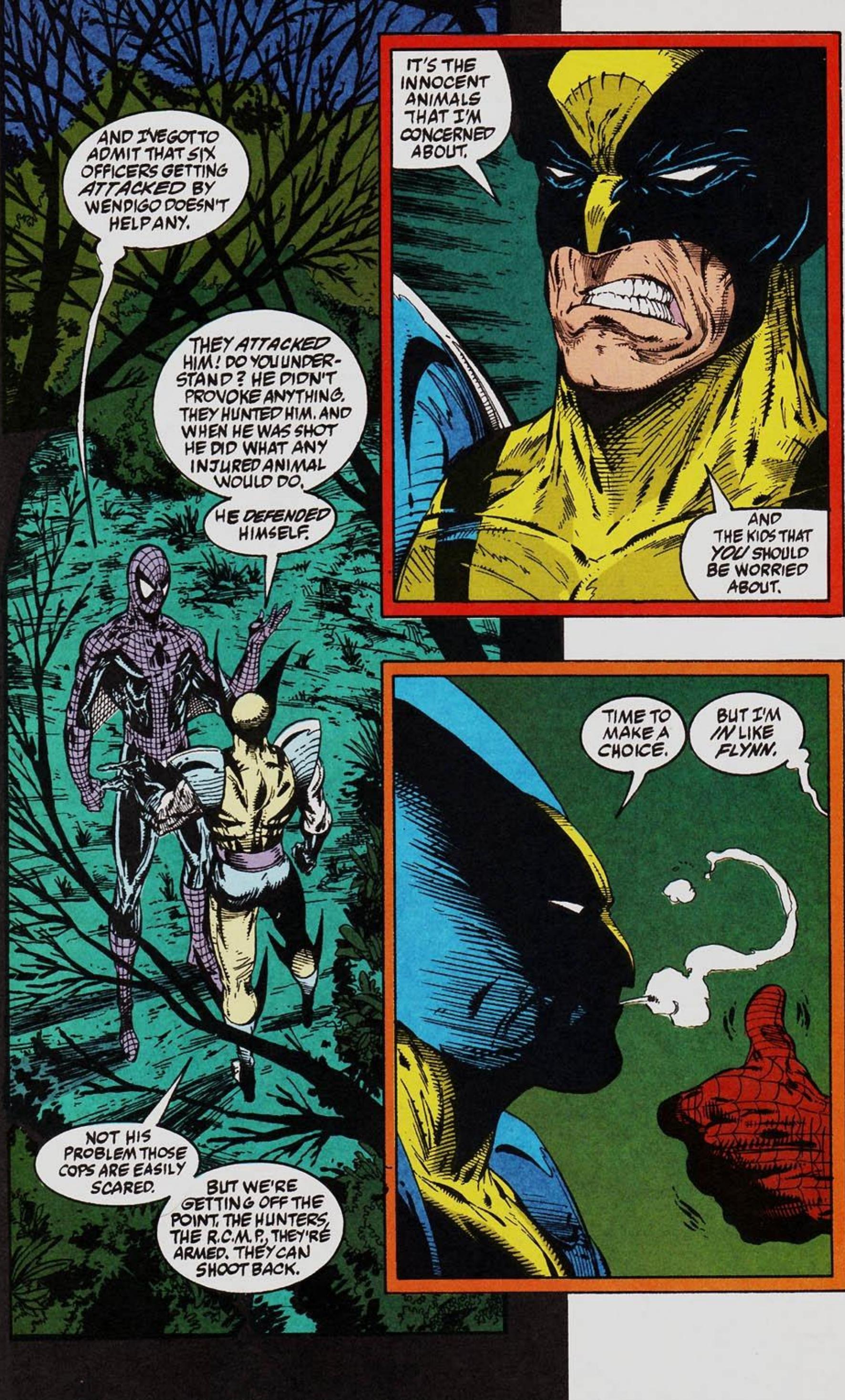
AND WITH THE
MEDIA BLOWING
THIS THING WAY OUT
OF PROPORTION, I
CAN HARDLY
BLAME THEM.

I'LL TELL YOU,
WOLVIE, FROM MY
MEDIA EXPERIENCE,
ONCE THE WHEELS OF
PROPAGANDA HAVE
BEEN SET IN MOTION--

--REALITY BECOMES
A MOOT POINT.

THESE PEOPLE WANT A
BIGFOOT. THEY'LL GET A
BIGFOOT. IT'S THE ONLY WAY
THEY'LL FEEL SAFE AGAIN.

PLUS, ANNA
BROOKS, THE REPORTER
WHO CRACKED THIS
STORY, TELLS ME THAT
SOMEONE IS LEAKING
OUT INFORMATION THAT
JUST ADDS FUEL TO THE
FIRE.



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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 Bullpen 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

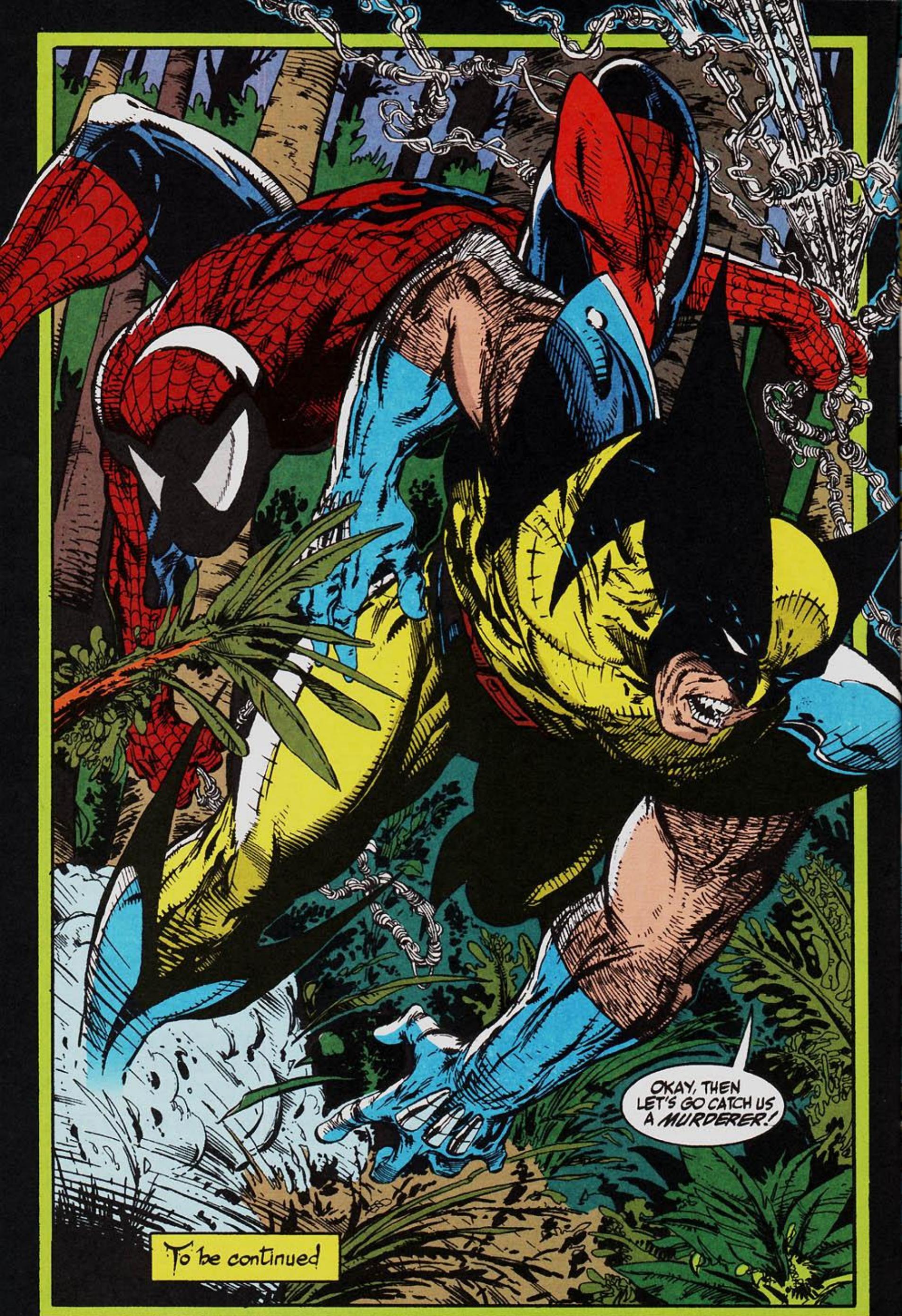
HONEST HYPE HONEST HYPE HONEST HYPE

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!



To be continued