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MARVEL® COMICS GROUP

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the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN®

TM

FINAL
CURTAIN!



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®**

NOW PLAYING

THE RENOWNED MISTER STAN LEE, ESQ. IMPRESSARIO AND PURVEYOR OF PHANTASMAGORICAL DELIGHTS -- IN ASSOCIATION WITH MESSRS. DENNY O'NEIL AND JAMES MOONEY; RACONTEOURS P. MARCOS, GRAPHIQUE/TECHNICIAN JIM NOVAK, CALLIGRAPHER BEN SEAN, PURVEYOR OF COLOUR PROUDLY PRESENTS

THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN

(HIS WONDROUS FEATS HAVE ASTONISHED MULTITUDES)

IN A MOST SERIOUS CONTEST OF STRENGTH WITH

MESMERO

(FORMERLY A WELL-REGARDED X-MEN NEMESIS)



THE PRESENT PROGRAMME SHOWN UNDER THE TITLE:

MESMERO'S REVENGE!

A PLEASING SERIES OF THRILLS IS PROMISED TO THE PUBLIC!

'NUFF SAID!

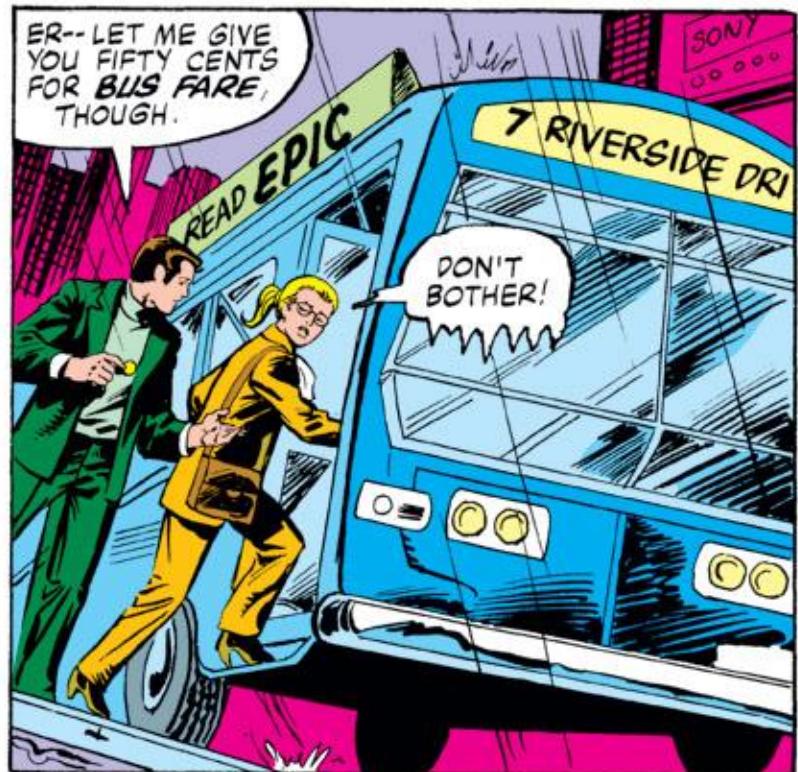
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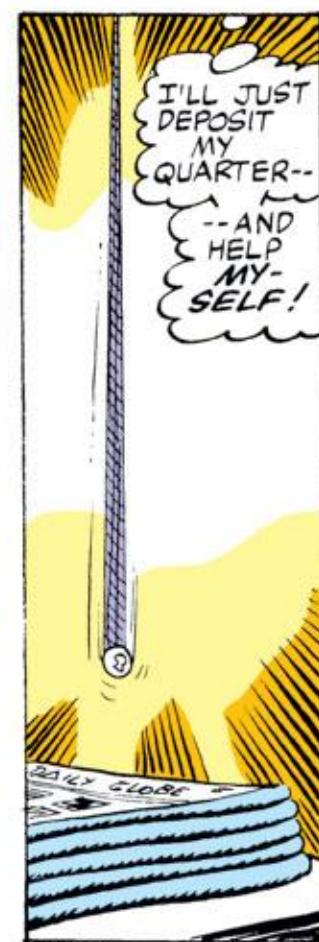
SIX HUNDRED PAIRS OF EYES IN THIS BROADWAY THEATER ARE FIXED ON THE STAGE -- AND THE SORRY SPECTACLE OCCURRING THERE...

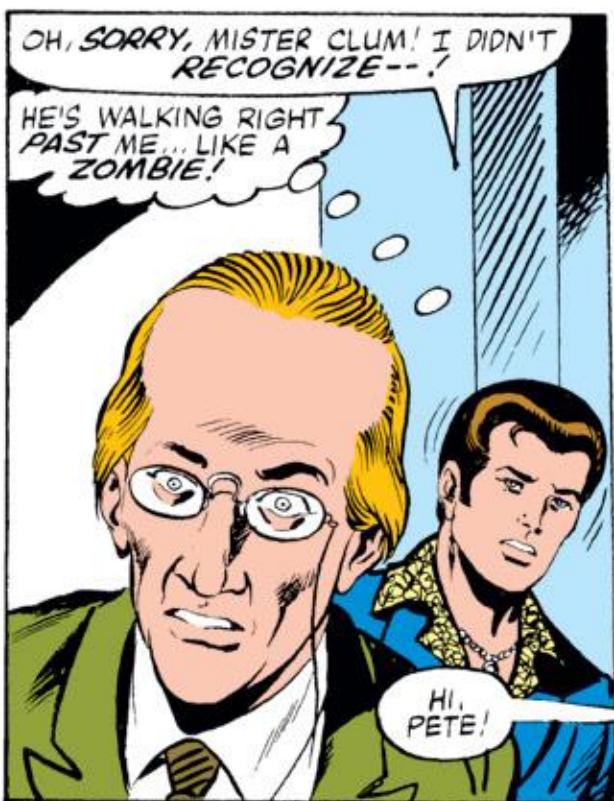












SHORTLY...



AT THAT MOMENT, AT THE OFFICES OF THE DAILY BUGLE--

OKAY, FOLKS, LET'S SEE WHAT WE'VE GOT!



WE NEED A FRONT-PAGE LEAD!
MATT, YOUR DEPARTMENT HOT?

COLDER'IN A MOTHER-IN-LAW'S KISS, ROBBIE!



I SUPPOSE
YOU GENTLEMEN
CALL THIS A
NEWSPAPER?

JONAH! WE THOUGHT YOU WERE STILL IN THE HOSPITAL!

YOU THOUGHT WRONG,
ROBERTSON! NO PUNK
LIKE JONAS HARROW
CAN KEEP J. JONAH
JAMESON OUT OF
THE ACTION!*



NOW... TO BUSINESS!
I FEARED THE WORST
--AND I WAS RIGHT!
IN MY ABSENCE, THE
BUGLE HAS BECOME
A NAMBY-PAMBY
RAG--

--NOT FIT
TO WRAP
FISH IN...
OLD
FISH!

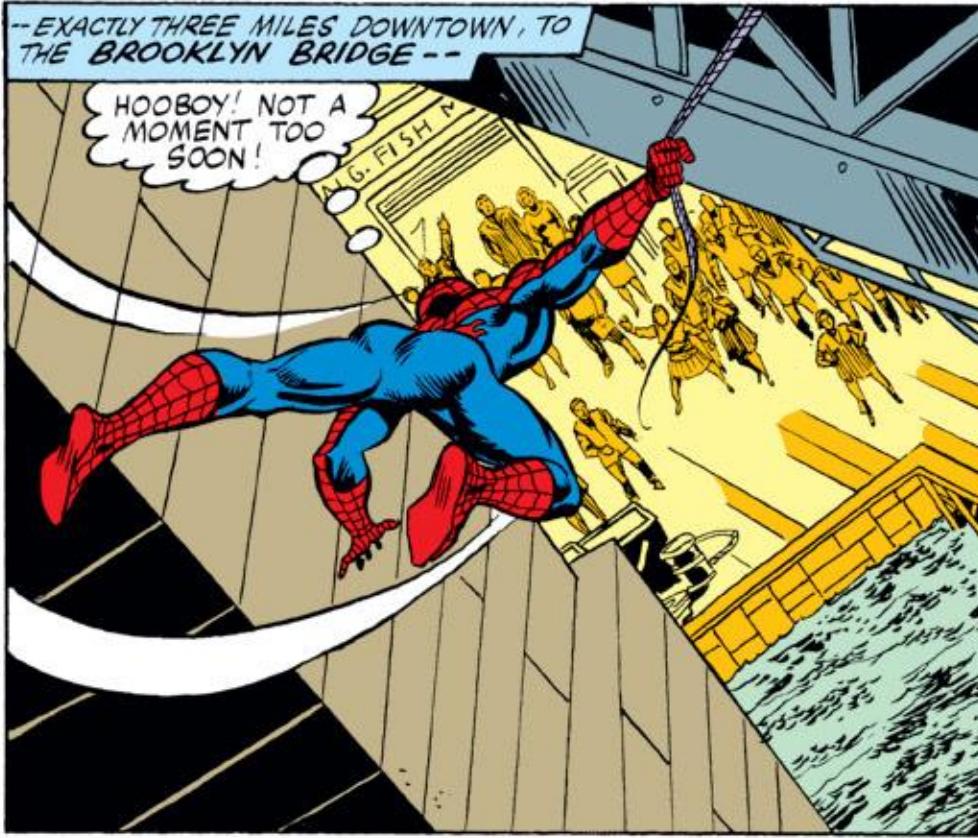
TO YOUR DESKS
YOU BLITHERING
INCOMPETENTS!
I'M TAKING
OVER!

HALLELUJAH!
WE'RE BACK
TO
NORMAL!



REGRETFULLY, WE MUST LEAVE THIS
TOUCHING REUNION AND TRAVEL--

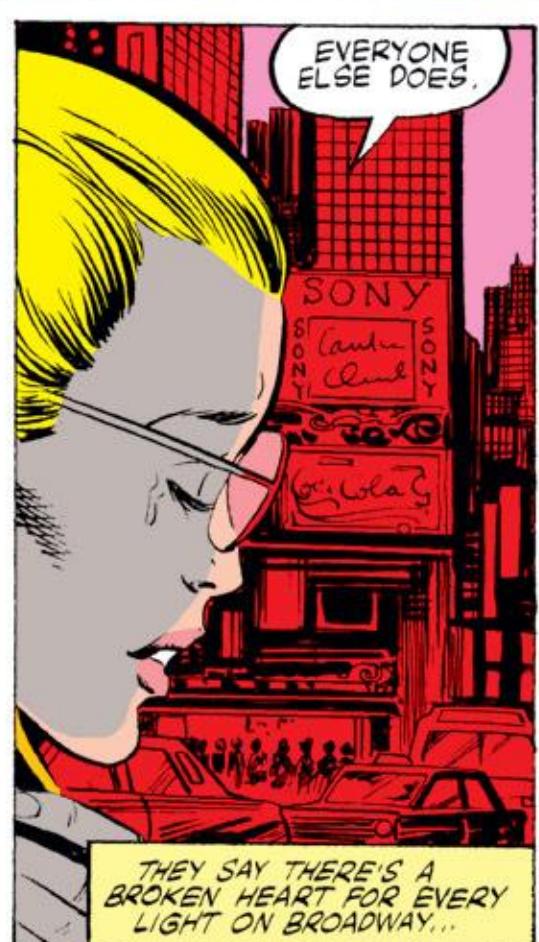
*THE MATTER
WAS SETTLED
LAST ISSUE.
--JUDICIOUS AL.

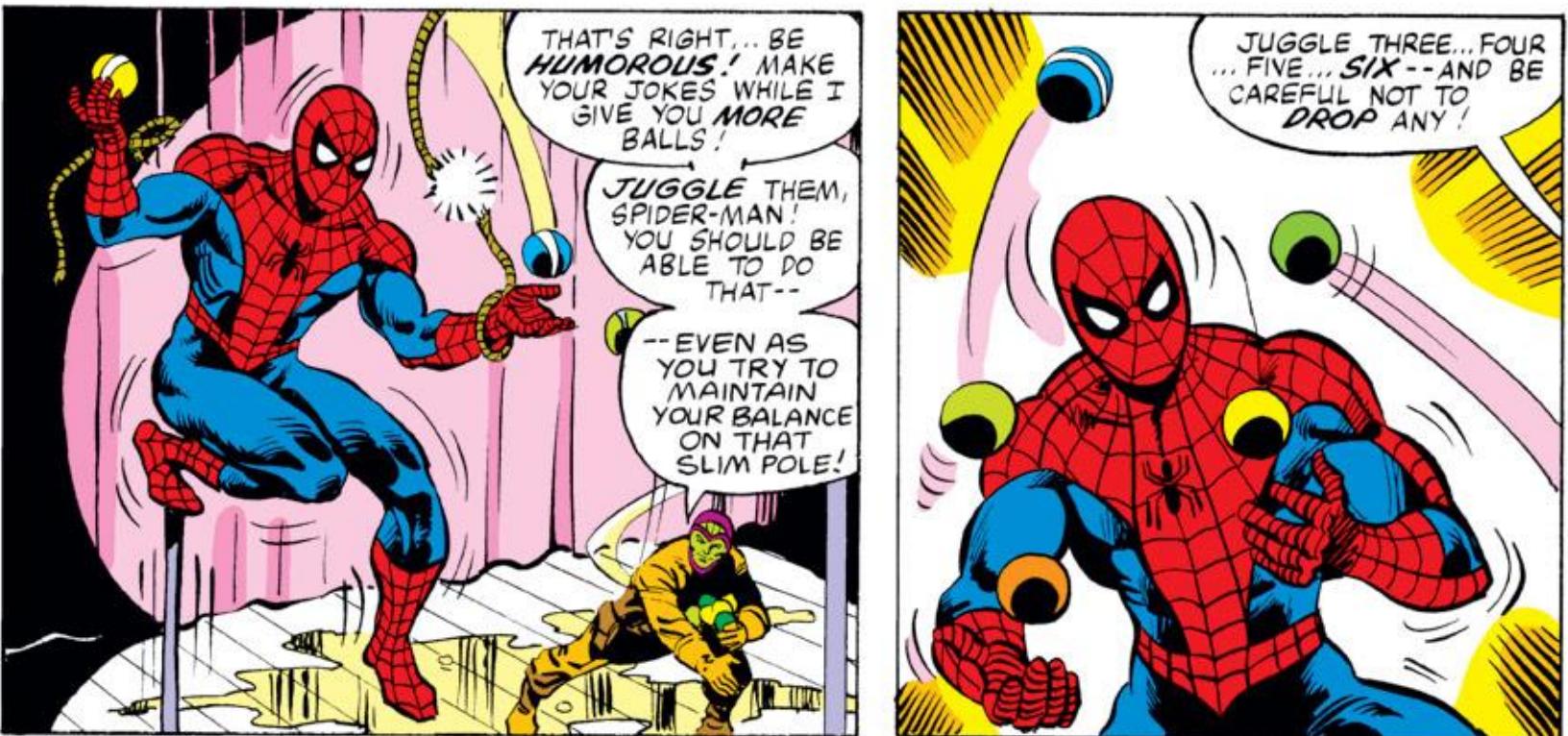
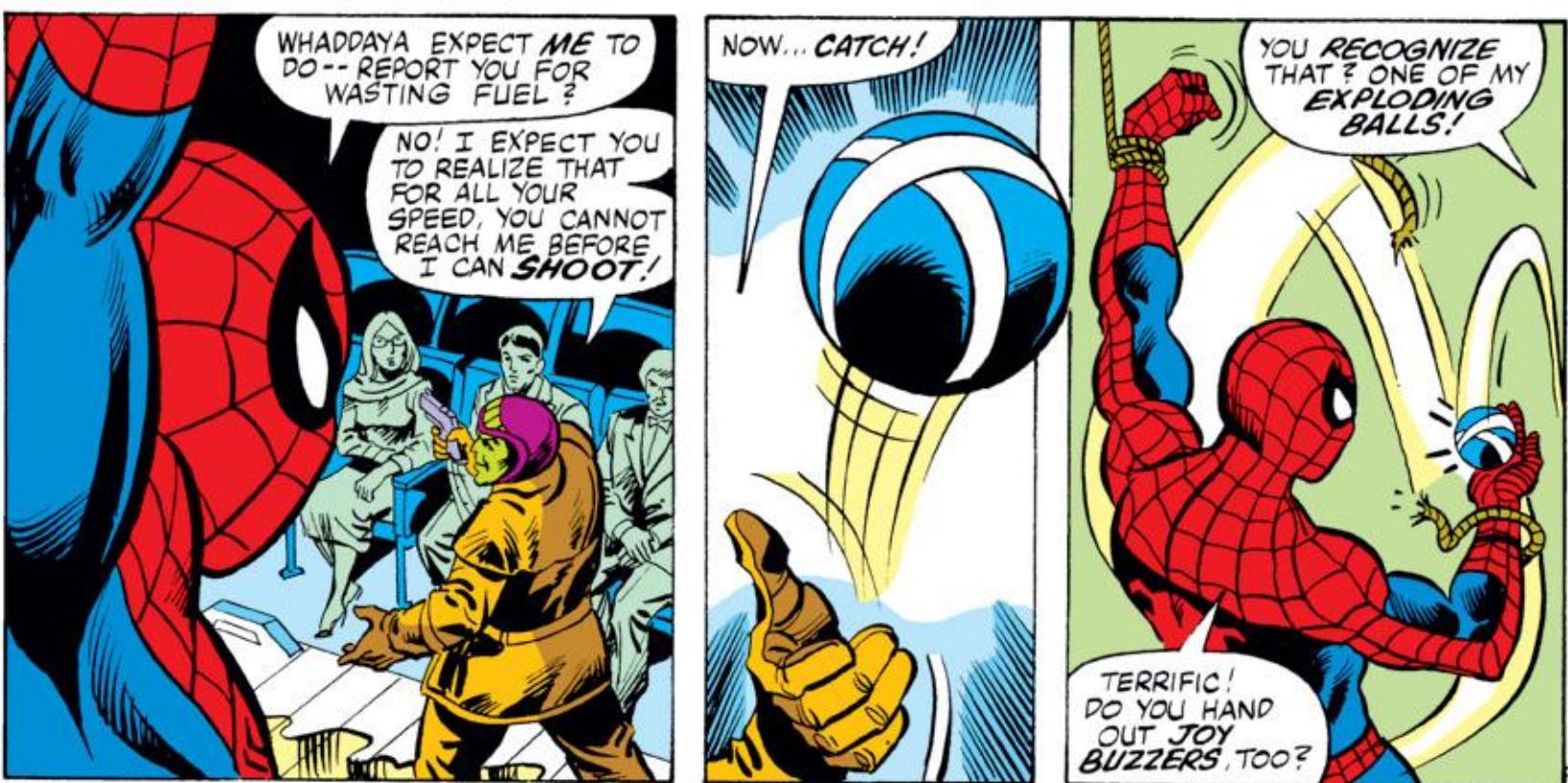


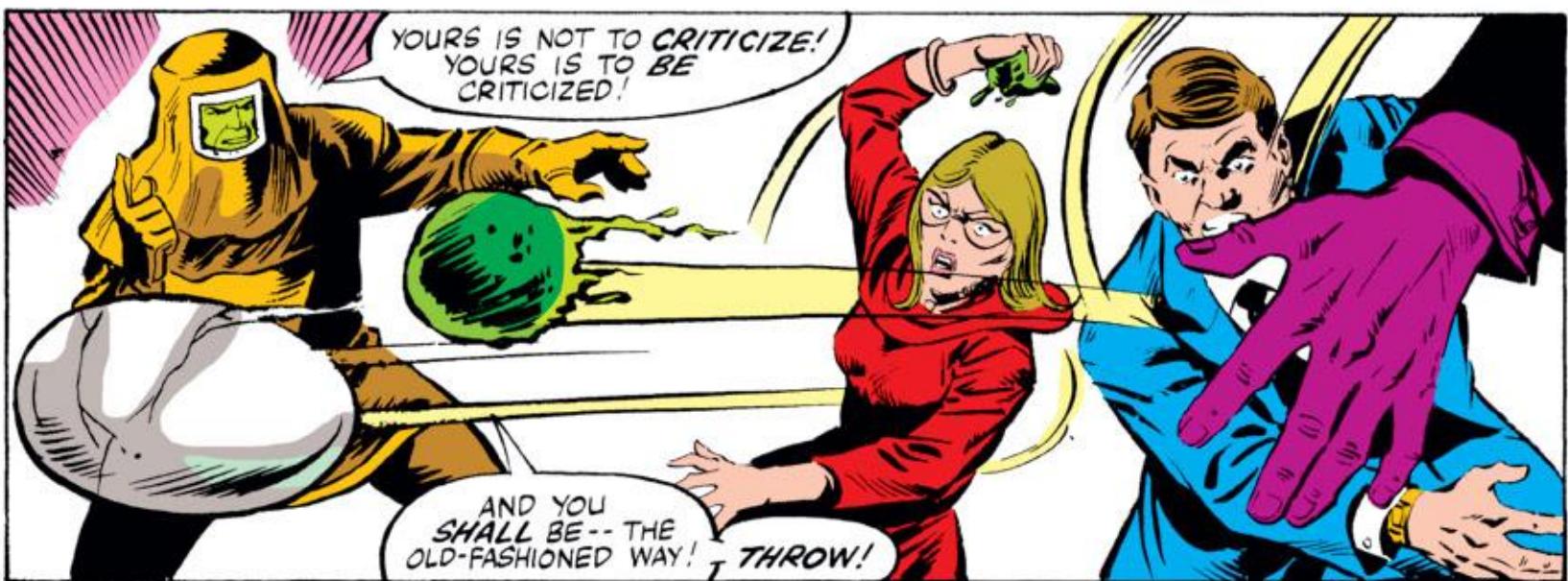


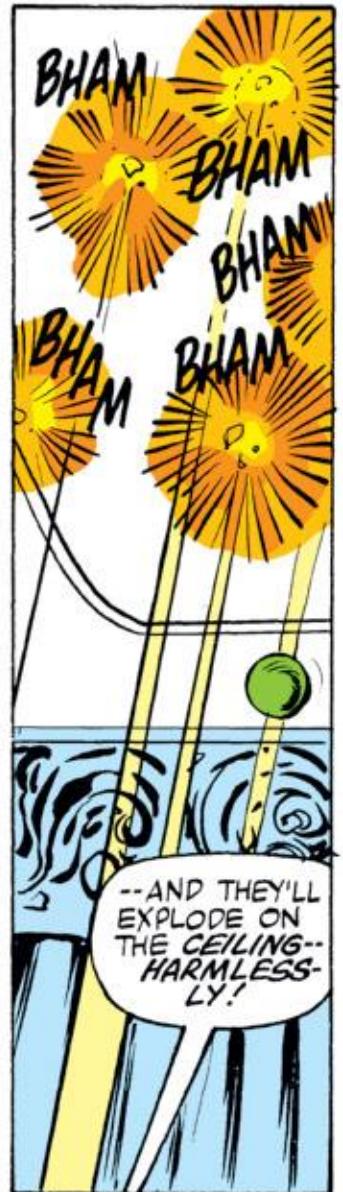














NEXT ISSUE: THE UNLIKELY MENACE SPIDEY HAS EVER FACED... AND POSSIBLY THE DEADLIEST! BE WITH US WHEN THE WEB-SLINGER MEETS FUSION, AND PREPARE YOUR SPINE FOR SOME HEAVY TINGLING!

THE SPIDER'S WEB

c/o MARVEL COMICS GROUP
575 Madison Avenue
New York, New York 10022

ALLEN MILGROM
EDITOR
MARY JO DUFFY
ASSISTANT EDITOR

Dear Marvel,

"The Anatomy of Fan Response" on the letters page of SPIDER-MAN #201 was terrific! You should do the same thing again... but do it for a different Marvel comic every month.

And I have to agree with you 100% on the lack of value of "I want a no-prize!" letters. Be assured that I will not stoop to any such nitpicking anywhere in this letter.

The cover of AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #201 was Romita at his best. It reminded me a lot of John's old covers from the 1960s.

As for Mary Jane Watson: Bring her back! Permanently!

And speaking of bringing characters back, it was nice to see the Punisher again. He's one of your best characters; he has endless possibilities for you guys to work with.

Get rid of April Maye. Not even Jonah Jameson would stand a chance with her. Come to think of it, you should kill off Barney Bushkin, too. I never did trust that fat slob.

That's about it from here. So, until Jonah becomes an official member of the Spider-Man Fan Club, make mine Marvel!

Mark Pollack
Bloomfield, NJ 07003

Marvel-folk:

Everytime I see something with the Punisher in it, I just have to buy it. A.S. #201 was no exception.

The Punisher is one of my favorite Marvel characters. I'm not sure exactly why, but I suspect one of the main reasons is that he doesn't have super-powers. He wasn't bitten by a radioactive spider, or bombarded by gamma rays, or tossed through a cosmic ray storm. No, he's just all human muscle and human brains.

Now for my question.

The Punisher was just recently seen in CAPTAIN AMERICA #241, and his last War Journal Entry was Number 510. In SPIDER-MAN #201, his first War Journal Entry was Number 518. What happened to Entry Numbers 511-517? Don't get the wrong idea; I'm not nitpicking. I just want to know where he was at this time.

And, if it helps, I'd like to vote for the Punisher getting his own book — or at least an appearance in MARVEL PREMIERE or MARVEL SPOTLIGHT.

J. Neckermann
Antioch, IL 60002

Hey, it always helps, J.

As for the missing War Journal Entries... well, we just didn't tell you about them. Of course, that's not to say that we never will, but... (Who says this isn't the Marvel Age of Being Sneaky?)

—R.S.

Dear Bullpen:

I can't believe how great the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN is getting. This comic is finally getting back to being as great as it was during the old Stan Lee/Steve Ditko days!

Anyway, getting down to cases, in issue #202, page 10, panel 7, there's a pretty ominous shadow looming over poor Jonah Jameson. I don't know why, but when I saw that panel, I suddenly was struck with the impression that the shadow belonged to none other than Dr. Jonas Harrow! Or, thinking about how ridiculous it sounds, it could even be a revenge-crazed Ned Leeds. Ned could be thinking of taking Jameson to Harrow — or to the Tinkerer — to change Jonah into a creature to destroy Peter Parker and... hey! It could be the Tinkerer or his pal, Toy! Or maybe it's Stan himself!

Ed Faser
Encino, CA 91316

Naw, it couldn't have been Stan, Ed. He was in California at the time.

Seriously, though, you were right the first time! As issue #204 — and this issue, of course, revealed — Jonas Harrow was indeed the shadowy figure. As a matter of fact, you were the first to hazard a guess... and you were correct. But we're willing to bet that not even you suspected Harrow's connection with Jameson's predicament!

—R.S.

Dear Marvel,

I've really been anticipating SPIDER-MAN #202... I really thought ol' Pete was up the creek with the Punisher.

I really loved the story: the Punisher's debt to a former lifesaver, fast-action brawls, a new look into the business of the Daily Globe, and the question of J. Jonah Jameson's

sanity. I enjoyed all of this... except, didn't the Punisher's van dive into the river in issue #201? How did he get another for this issue?

Isn't April Maye going to get a bit suspicious about Spider-Man knowing her name? He called her by name not once, but three times!

Troy Chappell
Red Lion, PA 17356

The Punisher considers his war against crime to be just that, Troy... a WAR. And so, he always keeps back-up equipment handy — including, in this case, an extra Combat Van.

As for April Maye... well, that's a story for another time.
And, speaking of Ms. Maye...

—R.S.

Gentlemen:-

Do me a favor and get rid of April Maye. She is, quite simply, a bleached-out version of Lois Lane; she is a stereotype, and Marvel is fast becoming the last refuge of originality in a world that abounds with copies. Today, we're constantly inundated by the pastel mediocrity of the junk that pours forth from books, television, movies, records, and — yes, — some comicbooks.

Even at this early stage, I have horrendous visions of April Maye (what an awful name!) following Spider-Man around for the next forty years, while spurning an adoring Peter Parker. Yech!!

So, please, do all Spider-Man devotees a favor and dispose of her. She deviates too drastically from the Marvel norm of fascinating and unique characters as romantic interests for your heroes/heroinies.

Kathryn Newman
Kittery, ME 03904

Never fear, Kate! Brother Parker's love life is hardly what you'd call stable. And at this date, we kind of doubt that April Maye is going to be a part of it.

In fact, we even doubt that April Maye is her real name!

—R.S.

Dear Crew,

Well, I've just finished reading "One for Those Long Gone" in AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #202, and I've found a couple of discrepancies that really could have been fixed.

For instance, if the Punisher came to New York to hunt down Jacobi, then why did he spend time on that little escapade with Captain America in CAP #241?

Also, Spider-Man's attitude towards the Punisher seemed to fluctuate a little too much in this story. It varied from "I could care less what the Punisher does to you," (in the confrontation with Ralph Robbins), to "Punisher, you're being inhumane... I've got to stop you" (in the attempted murder of Jacobi). If you re-read CAPTAIN AMERICA #241, you'll notice that Cap keeps the same attitude towards the Punisher — from their first meeting to the very end of the magazine.

One thing I did like about the story, though, was the fact that Spider-Man was fighting the whole time without any aches, pains, sicknesses, weaknesses, or personal problems weighing him down. This was Spider-Man fighting at full power. It was nice to see.

In closing, I'd just like to say that since we've been seeing so much of the Punisher lately, why not give him his own book?

Brad May
8007 Jones Road
Wattsburg, PA 16442

There are no plans in the works for a PUNISHER book just yet, Brad... but the skull-chested fellow is so popular as a guest-star, there's just no telling where he might turn up next.

As to your questions... well, obviously a number of weeks elapsed between CAP #241 and AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #201. The SPIDER-MAN episode involved a different trip to New York.

On the matter of the wall-crawler's changing attitudes... we could claim that physical brutality and murder are two different things, but actually you're right. Spider-Man was a little more on the callous side with Robbins, the "strong-arm creep from Philly," than he should have been. We promise to be more careful in the future. Okay?

—Roger Stern.