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the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN

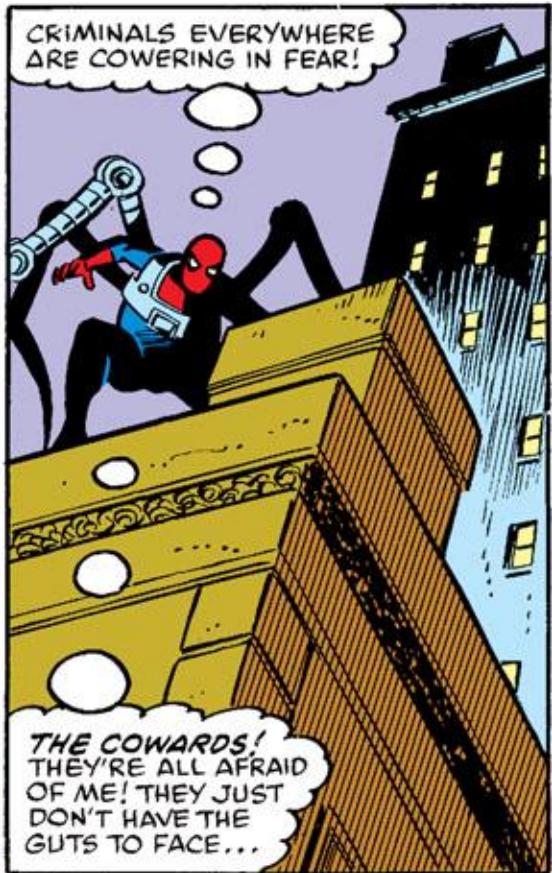
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HEADS UP,
SPIDEY!

THERE'S A NEW
WEB-HEAD
IN TOWN!

F/R



THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-KID!

STAN LEE PRESENTS:
TOM DEFALCO -- WRITER
RON FRENZ -- PENCILER
BRETT BREEDING É
JOHN BEATTY -- INKERS
JOE ROSEN -- LETTERER
BOB SHAREN -- COLORIST
DANNY FINGEROTH -- EDITOR
JIM SHOOTER -- EDITOR IN CHIEF



I CAN'T WAIT UNTIL I RUN INTO SPIDER-MAN HIMSELF! I'M SURE I CAN CONVINCE HIM TO LET ME BE HIS PARTNER!

I JUST HOPE HE REMEMBERS ME...

"THE LAST TIME WE MET I WAS JUST PLAIN, OLD OLLIE OSNICK--A DUMB KID WHO RAN A SUPER VILLAIN FAN CLUB!"

"MY IDOL WAS DOCTOR OCTOPUS. I USED TO SPEND ALL MY FREE TIME READING ABOUT HIM. I EVEN DESIGNED A SET OF TENTACLES THAT REALLY WORKED!"

* SEE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #72 -- DANNY.

"I WANTED TO BE A CRIMINAL GENIUS JUST LIKE DOC OCK, SO I BEGAN MY OWN ONE-MAN CRIME WAVE! I BROKE INTO A VARIETY STORE AND RIPPED OFF SOME COMIC BOOKS. THEN, I HEADED FOR THE LARGEST TOY STORE IN TOWN..."

"THAT'S WHERE SPIDER-MAN FOUND ME! IN THE DARKENED STORE HE THOUGHT I WAS THE REAL DOCTOR OCTOPUS. HE CHASED ME AROUND UNTIL WE BOTH ENDED UP IN THE STORE'S GIANT SWIMMING POOL DISPLAY."

"LUCKILY, HE SAVED ME BEFORE I COULD DROWN!"

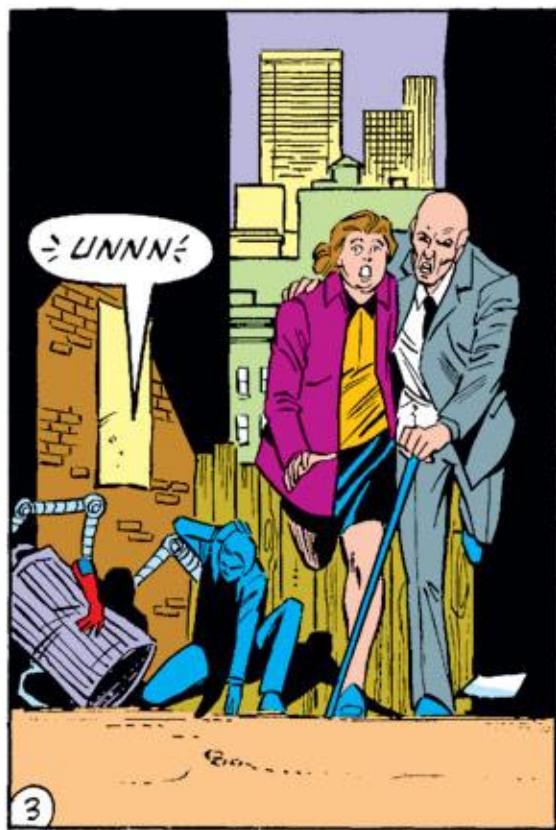
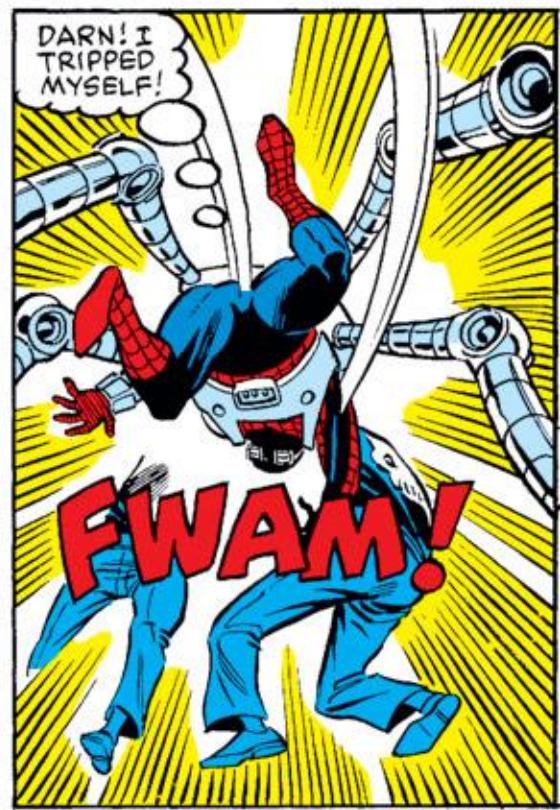
FACE IT, KID! AS A SUPER VILLAIN, YOU'RE A *BUST*!

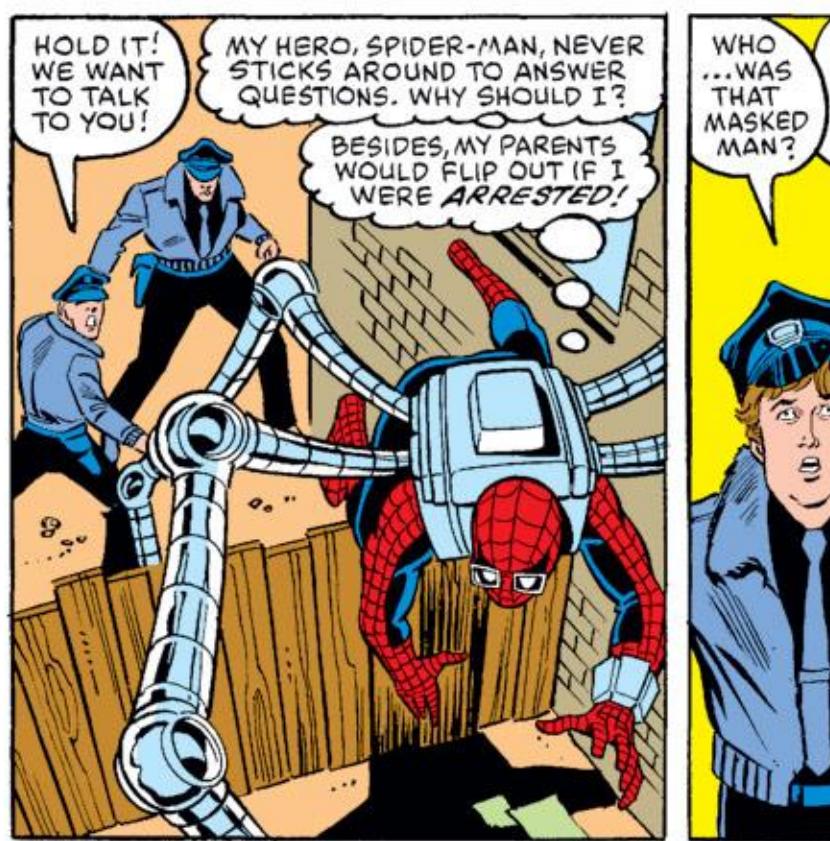
"HE WAS RIGHT, OF COURSE! I WAS ALWAYS DESTINED TO BE A SUPER HERO!"

"I TRIED TO SYNTHESIZE MY OWN WEB-FLUID, BUT WHEN THAT DIDN'T WORK, I SETTLED FOR MODIFYING MY OCTOPUS TENTACLES INTO SPIDERLIKE ARMS..."

EEEEE

UH-OH! SOUNDS LIKE SOMEONE'S IN TROUBLE!

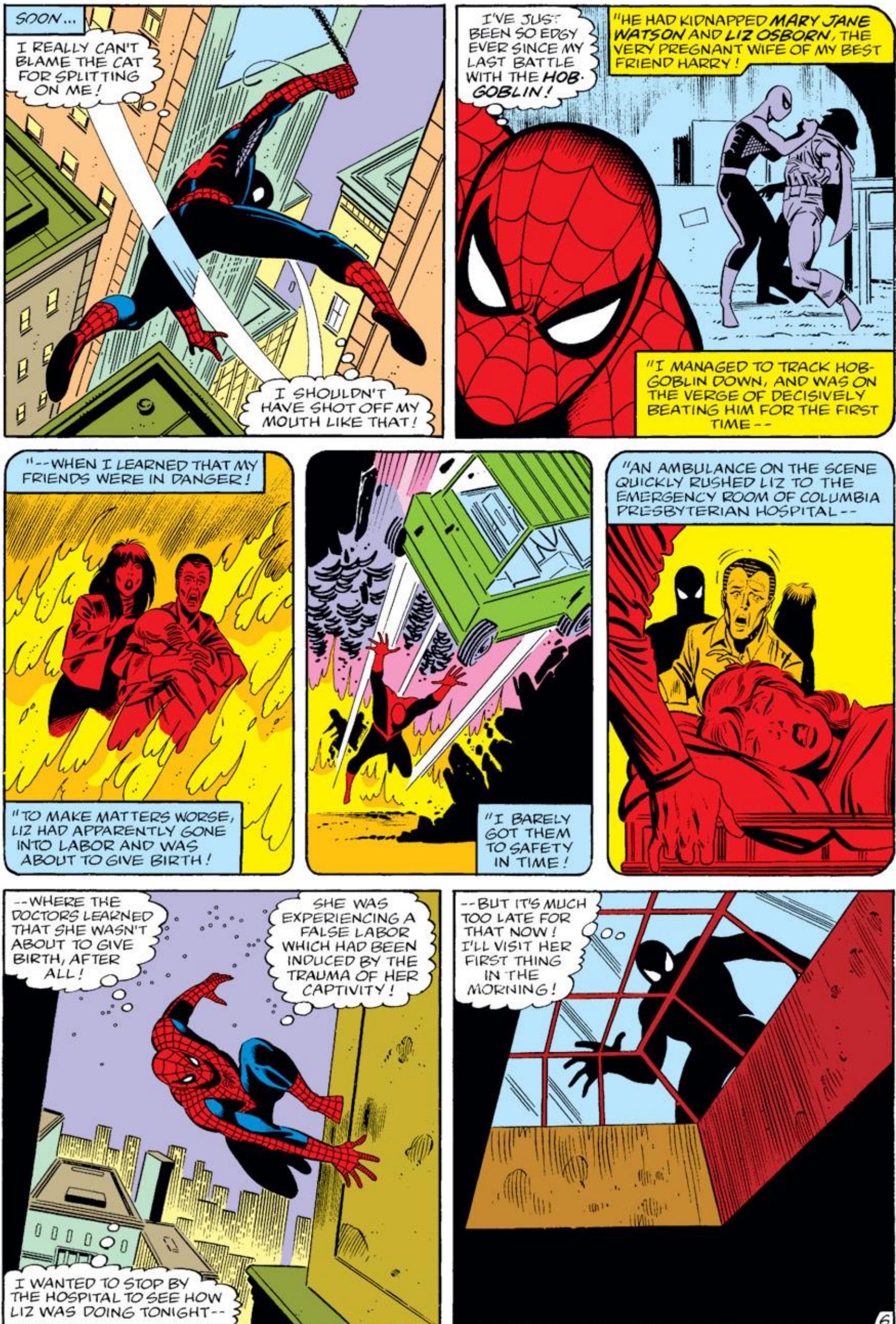


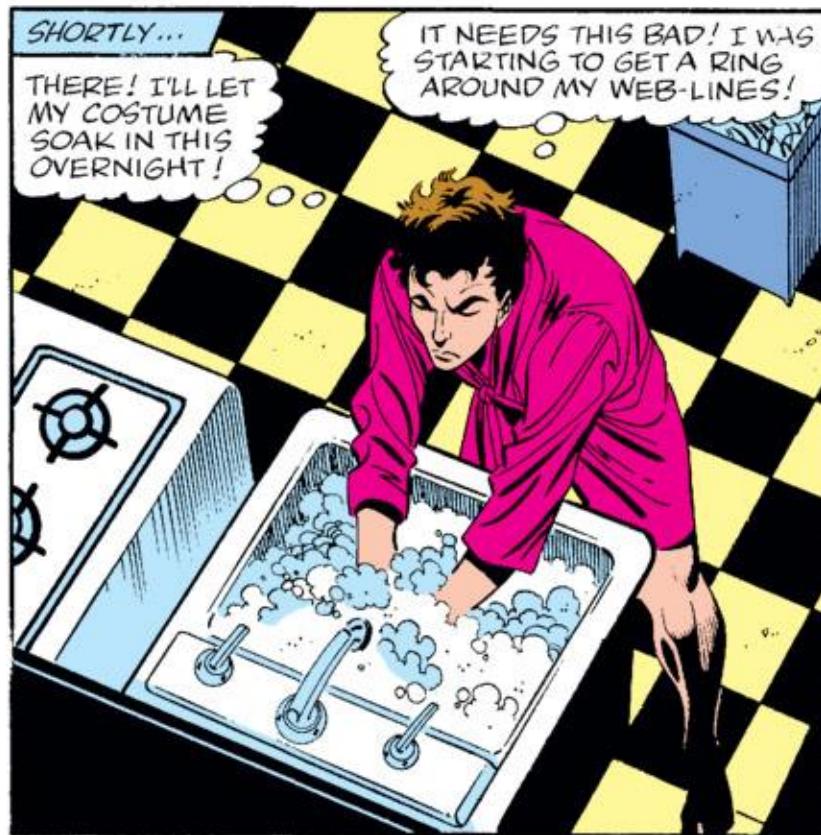


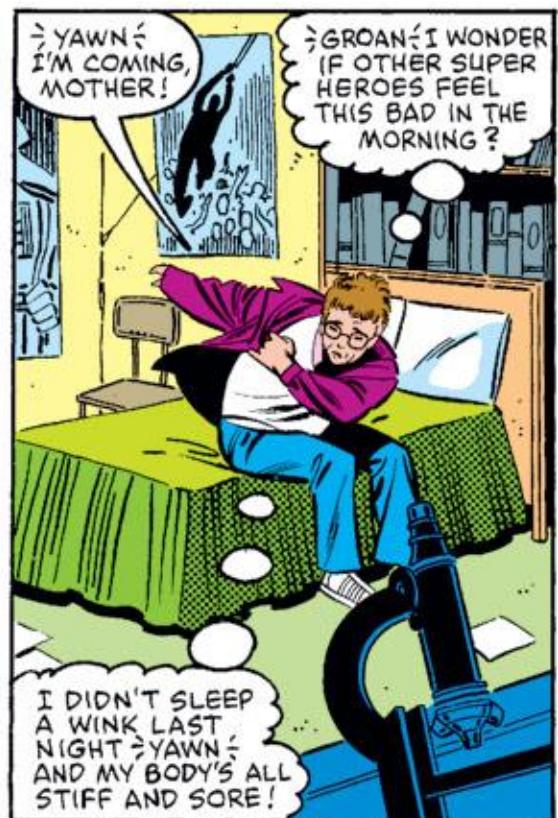
MEANWHILE, NOT FAR AWAY, SPIDER-MAN AND THE BLACK CAT RACE THROUGH THE NIGHT--

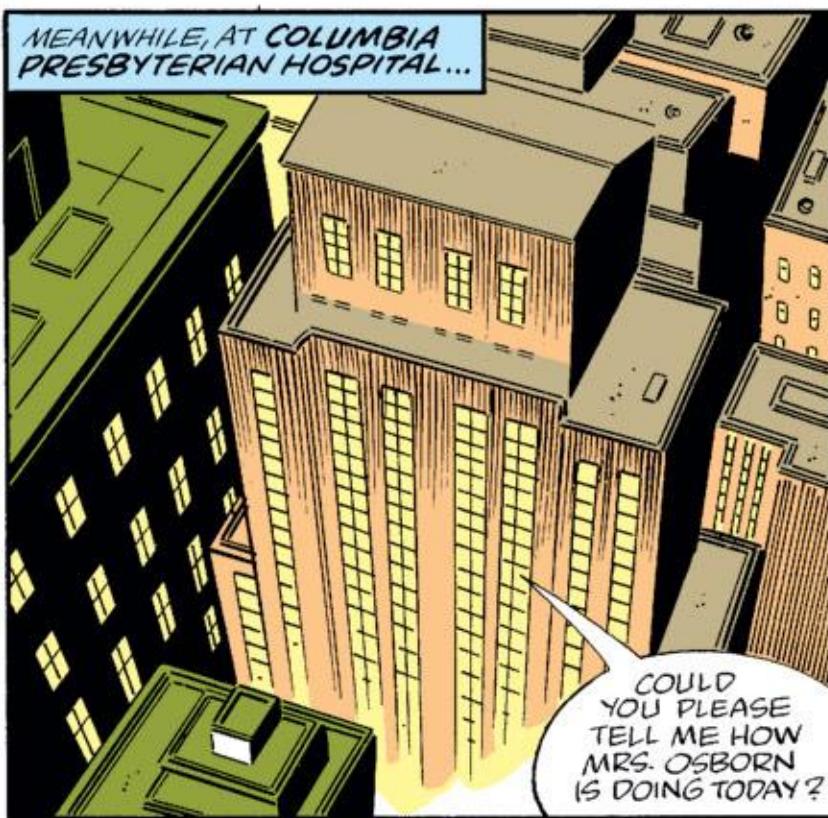
--AFTER A RATHER UNSUCCESSFUL ASSAULT ON THE HEADQUARTERS OF THE KINGPIN OF CRIME! *

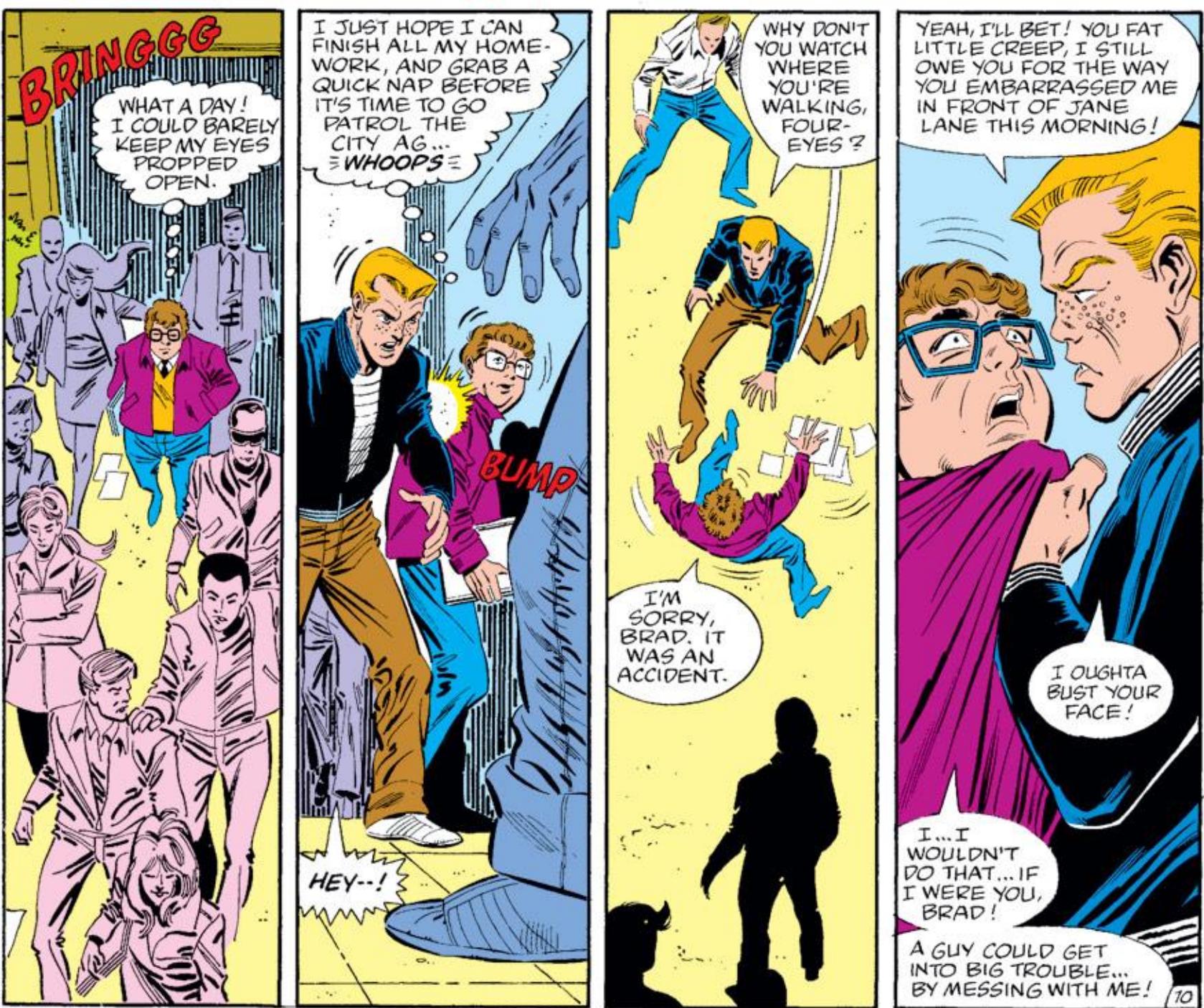


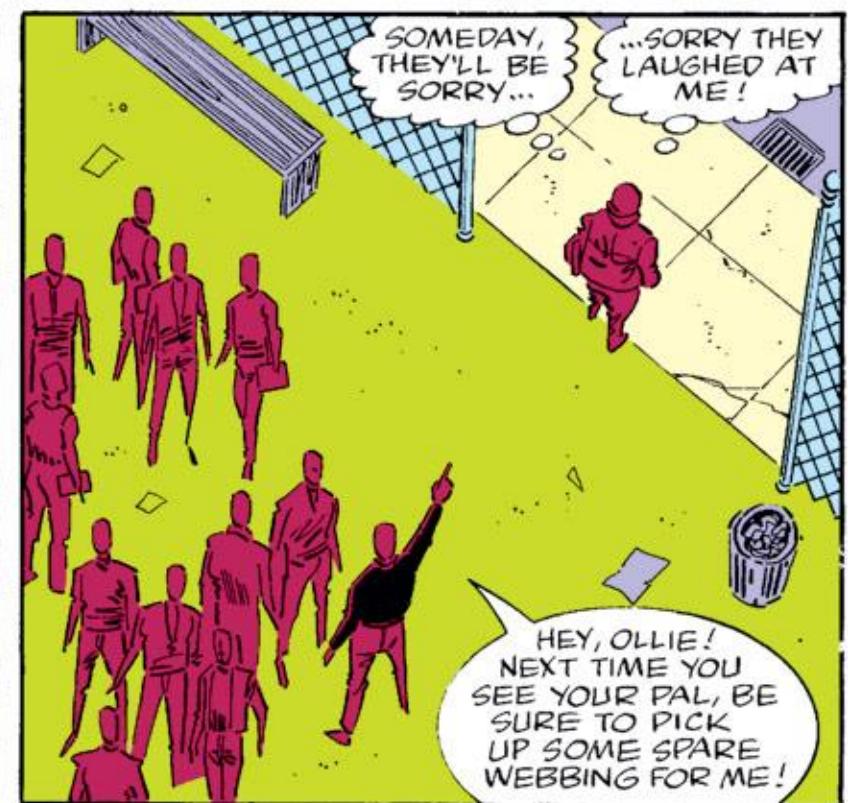












SOME TIME LATER, AT COLUMBIA PRESBYTERIAN...

HMM! FROM THE BORED EXPRESSIONS ON YOUR FACES, I GATHER THAT THE BLESSED EVENT IS RUNNING LATE--

--AND IT REALLY WASN'T NECESSARY FOR ME TO COME HERE DIRECTLY FROM WORK!

'AFRAID NOT, MARY JANE! LIZ IS STILL IN LABOR!

THAT GIRL ALWAYS DID LIKE TO DRAG THINGS OUT!

I'LL KEEP THE DADDY-TO-BE COMPANY, PETER, IF YOU'D LIKE TO STEP OUT FOR AWHILE!

HARRY--?

GO AHEAD, PETE! I'M FINE HERE.

MOMENTS LATER...

BIA PR

I'M REAL GLAD MARY JANE SHOWED UP! YOU CAN ONLY COUNT SO MANY WAITING ROOM FLOOR TILES BEFORE PERMANENT BRAIN DAMAGE SETS IN!

--HEAD FOR HOME!!

HORRIBLE! JUST THE THOUGHT THAT HARRY AND LIZ COULD LOSE THEIR BABY--!

--AND IT'S MY RESPONSIBILITY TO STOP HIM BEFORE HE CAN HURT ANYONE ELSE!

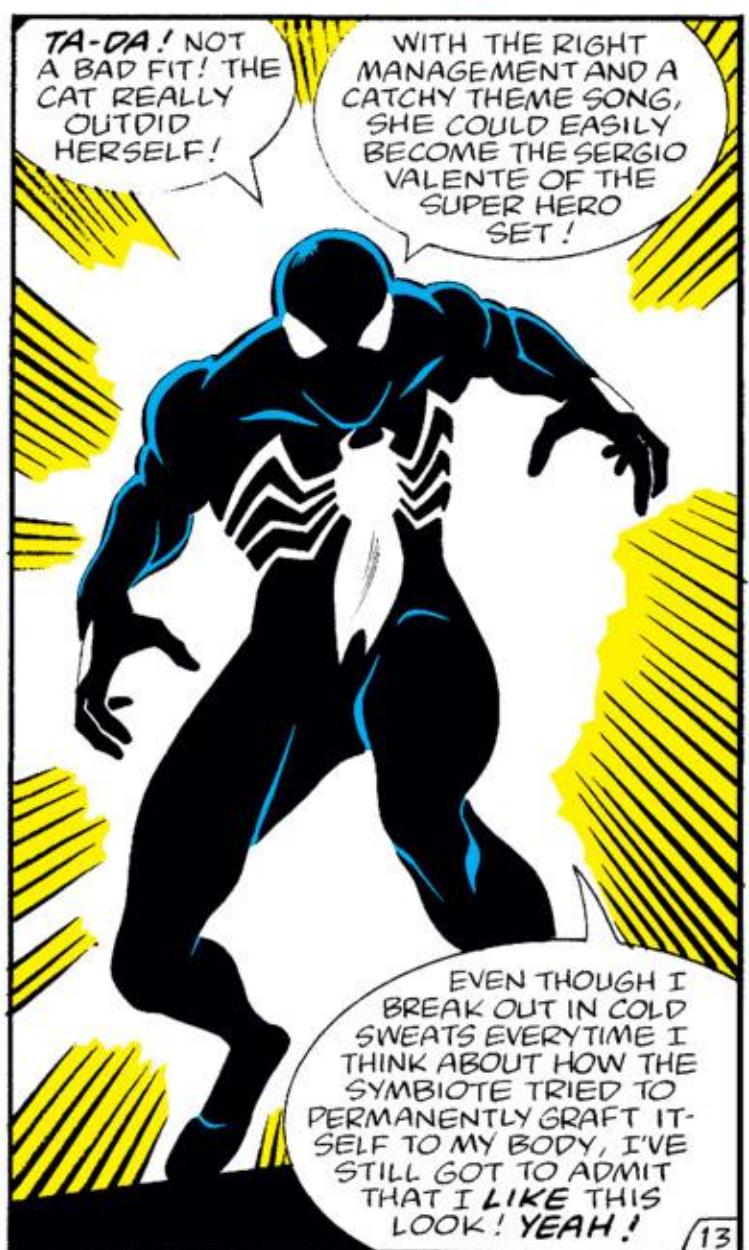
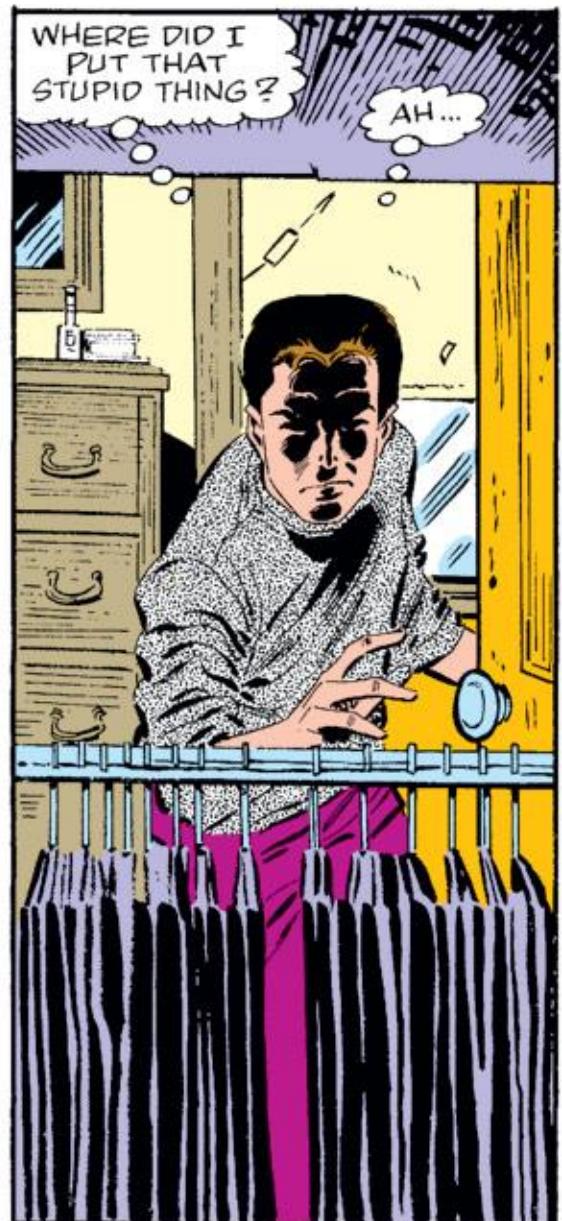
I'LL JUST SWITCH INTO MY COSTUME, SWING AROUND THE CITY AND PRAY THAT MY SPIDER-SENSE CAN DRAW A BEAD ON HIM!

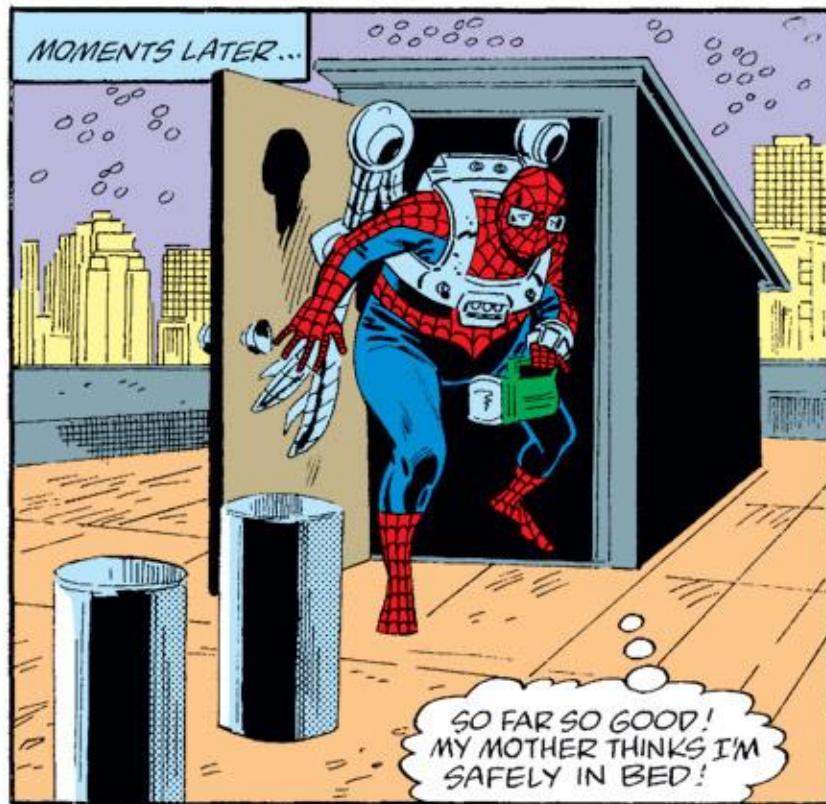
OH, NO!

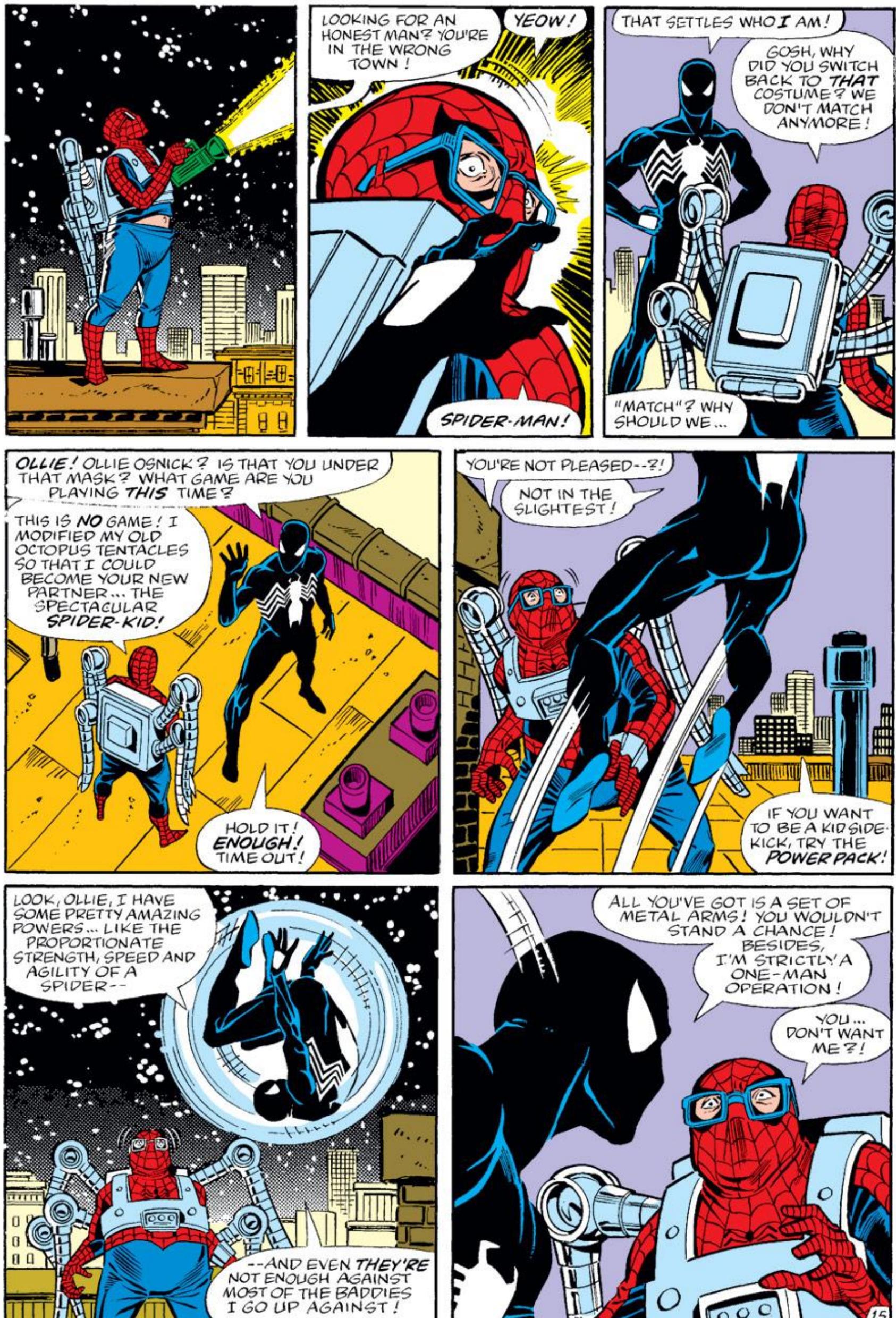
MY COSTUME--!

I CAN'T DO ANYMORE GOOD AROUND HERE, SO I MIGHT AS WELL--

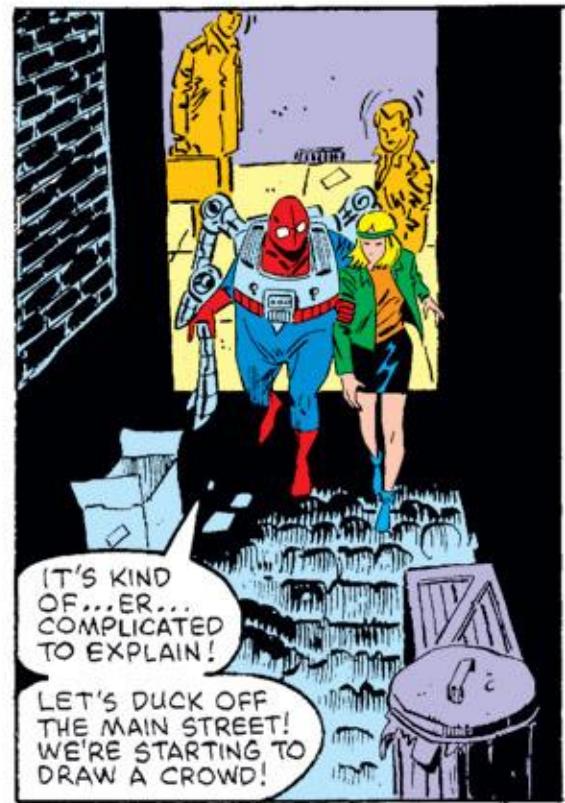
I'VE JUST GOT TO FIND THE HOBGOBLIN! HE'S TO BLAME FOR ALL THEIR MISERY--



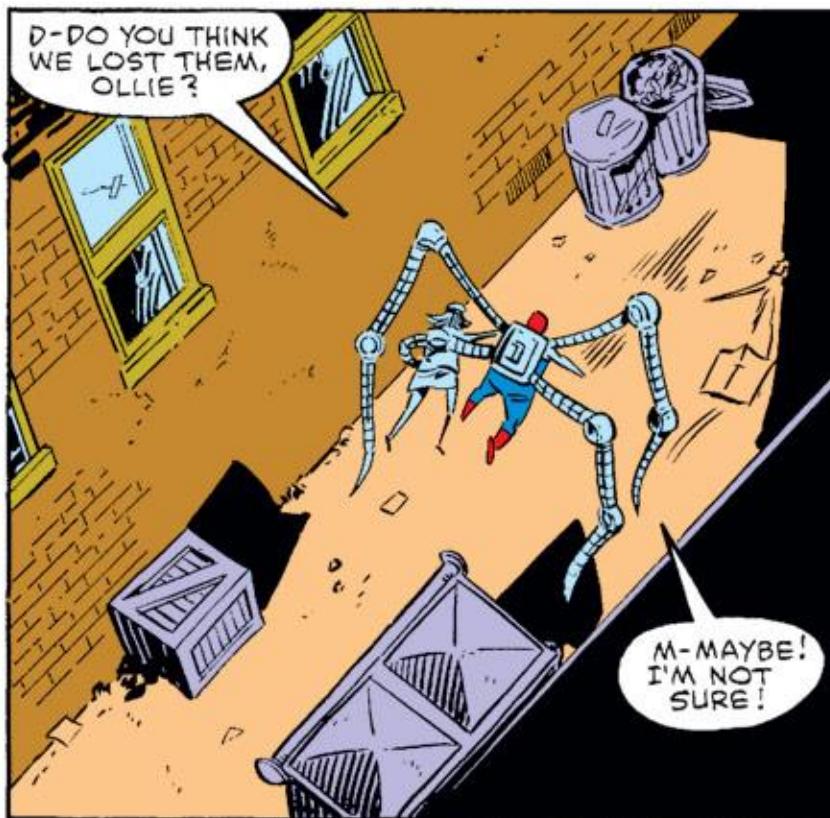


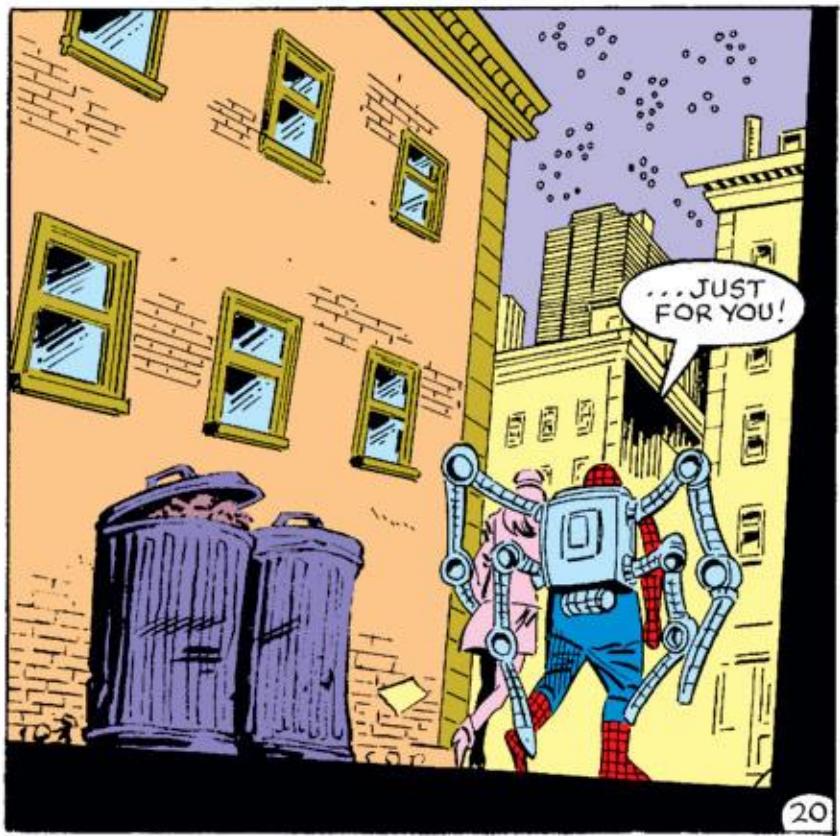




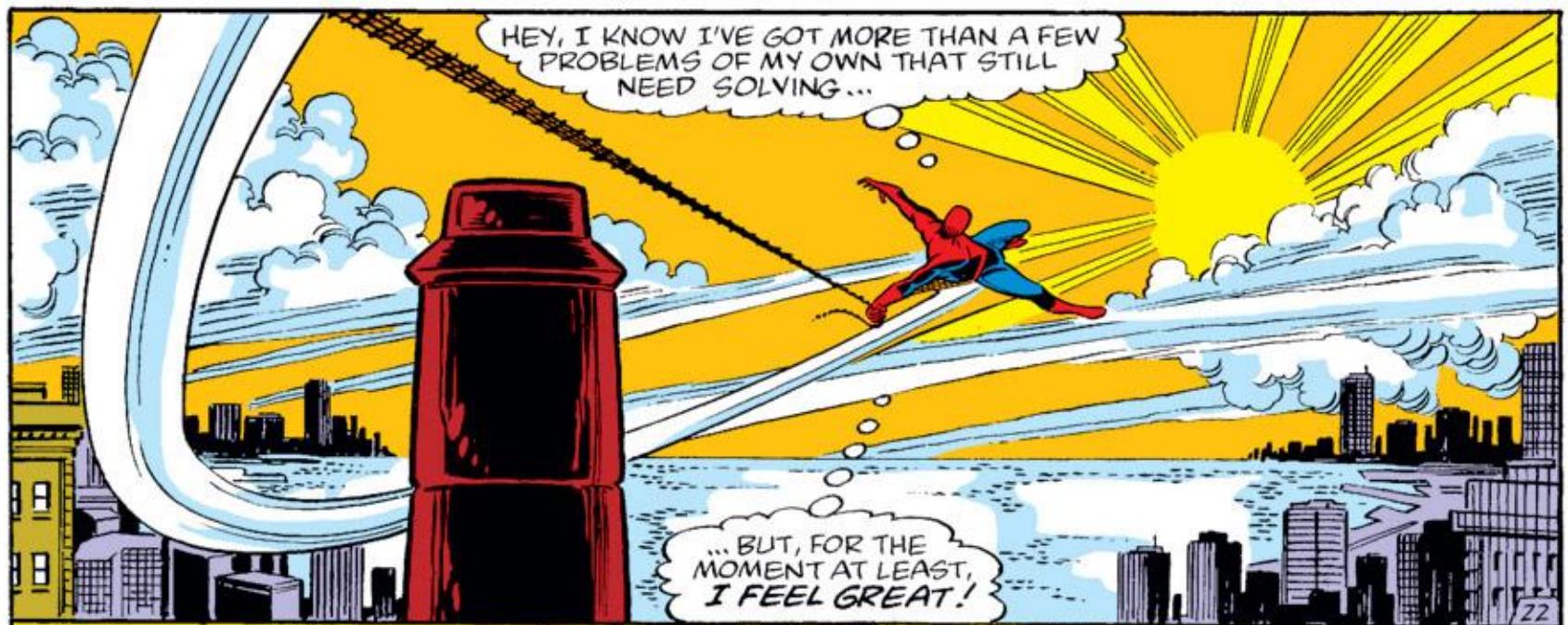
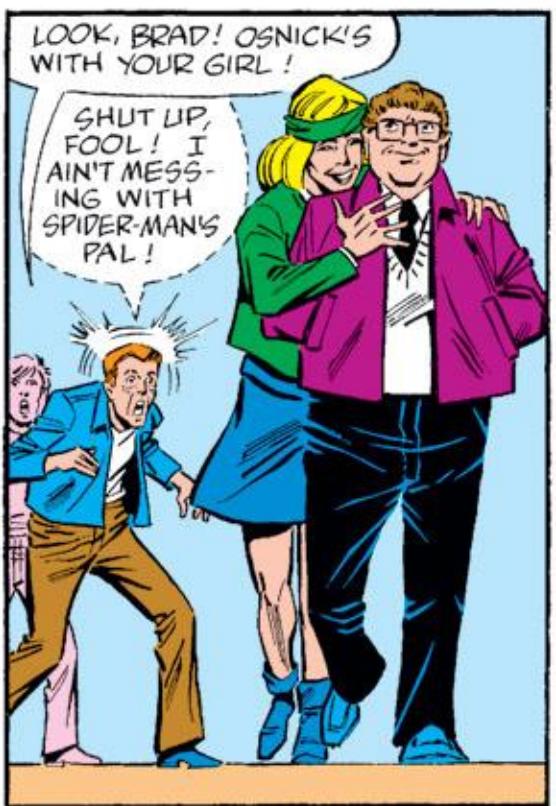












NEXT ISSUE:
SHE'S DARING! SHE'S DIFFERENT!
AND, SHE'S DEADLY! DON'T MISS
THE FIRST APPEARANCE OF...

"SILVER SABLE!"

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 Danny,
RE: Amazing Spider-Man #259 —
EXCELLENT.

Domingos Fonseca
98 Pacific St.
Newark, NJ 07105

Dear Danny,
Mary Jane's story in Spider-Man #259 was what comics should be — dealing with questions that confront young people. Being of Mary Jane and Peter's age group, I know it becomes hard when two people care for each other, but marriage would be very difficult before they have finished their educations. I can't think of a single person of college age that has not dealt with this problem in some way — whether in truth or thinking "what if" about the future. What you did may help a lot of young people to think more closely about their futures realistically. I know it did me.

Thanks very much. This story touched me like nothing has for some time. I'm going to take it easy before I consider marriage.

W. Gregg Stamey, Jr.
21 Hampton Hgts.
Canton, NC 28716

Dear Danny and Bob,

This letter isn't about the newest issue of Spidey... at least, not directly. What it is, is a reminiscence. You see, exactly ten years ago — August of 1974 — I bought my first issue of AMAZING SPIDER-MAN, #138 to be exact. In retrospect, "Madness means... The Mindworm!" has got to be one of the silliest stories you've ever done, but schlocky as the mid-seventies Spidey could be, the basic charm of Peter Parker / Spider-Man was enough to make this my favorite comic.

Gradually, I worked my way back through the SPIDER-MAN issues, discovering John Romita first, then Steve Ditko. Once I unearthed Spidey's real roots in those Ditko stories, the current issues, while still enjoyable, showed just how far astray the new creator's conception of Spider-Man was from the Ditko / Lee version.

Which leads me to the present, and the current team of Tom DeFalco and Ron Frenz. These men know what Spidey is all about, and it shows! Tom's writing has the verve and high-strung emotionality of Stan's classic scripting, and as far as the art goes, Ron just may be doing the best work since Steve left; Peter Parker has dropped the V-shaped back and fashion plate looks and gone back to being a thin, gawky, short-haired Everyman the way God (and Ditko) intended him. By using the past as a springboard for the present, Tom and Ron are doing quite possibly the best Spider-Man work since Ditko left.

The last couple of months, I've been writing LOC's to a few select titles and creators that turned me on to comics ten long years ago. But AMAZING SPIDER-MAN is still my favorite, and Peter / Spidey continues to inspire me. After reading that first issue, I thought, "Someday, I want to write SPIDER-MAN." Of course, I was only ten at the time, and I certainly haven't made much progress toward writing it since then,

but maybe in ten more years...!

Thank you for ten wonderful years. And perhaps, with Tom and Ron building up a good head of steam, the best really is yet to come. Hang in there!

PMM David Allen
469 Weston Hall
University of Illinois
Champaign, IL 61820

And thank you, David, for your heartfelt and articulate letter. We couldn't agree with you more.

Dear Tom, Ron, Danny and Company,

I own every issue of Amazing Spider-Man ever printed, and I consider myself among his most devoted fans. Within the last few years, however, it seemed as if every time a talented writer or artist would come to Spider-Man, they would soon be assigned to another book because Spider-Man sells well no matter what. I thought this trend would continue when John Romita Jr. left in order to work on the X-Men.

I'm happy to say, however, that you couldn't have gotten a better replacement than Ron Frenz. Not since the days of Steve Ditko has Spidey resembled the movement, looks and style of his namesake, the Spider. I have very much enjoyed the first 258 issues of "Amazing," and I, for one, intend to stick around for the next 258 or more.

Brad Damron

349 7th Ave. W.

Huntington, WV 25701

We here at Marvel are every bit as enthused as you are over Ron Frenz' work. His stuff just keeps getting better and better. And if you like his work so far, stick around, because we've got a feeling that Ron's just getting warmed up.

Meanwhile, the debate over what the well-dressed Spider-Man is wearing this year is still raging hot 'n' heavy. Here's a random sampling from the incredible deluge of mail we've been getting:

Dear Webslingers,

Yeah! The original is back! The better is back! I've been reading Spider-Man for years, and when I saw the new costume, I almost cried. But #258 and #259 were spectacular! I never cheered so hard. Thanks a lot, guys!

Brian Palmateer

(No address given)

Capac, MI

Dear Spider-Writers,

My sense of nostalgia for Spidey's old duds lasted about 3.6 seconds. I think his new costume is wild and sexy. Keep up the fantastic work, gang!

T. Selby

1140 Idylberry Rd.

San Rafael, CA 94903

Dear sirs,

I've just read AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #258, and I feel compelled to write in defense of Spidey's new suit. I would like old web-head to work out some sort of deal with the thing and here's why:

1. It's easy to draw.
2. It never runs out of webs.
3. It's easy to draw.
4. Quick change ability.

5. It's easy to draw.

6. Gives Spidey added speed and strength.

7. It's easy to draw.

Obviously, it has benefits for all involved!

Either way, Marvel Comics is tops, and your Spider-Man titles are the very best of all. Keep up the good work!

Mike Kuindersma
Coalition to save
Spidey's new suit.
U of Waterloo
Ontario, Canada

Dear Sirs,

I feel sorry for Spider-Man's new costume. It hasn't done anything wrong. If anything, he's the one to blame. He puts it through its paces, tells it what to do, possibly injures it — isn't it entitled to some relaxation? And after all it's done for him, he tries (in its opinion, anyway) to get rid of it. Right now, I wouldn't blame it if it hurt someone. Poor thing.

Margaret A. Juergensmeyer
401 Hazel Drive
Elgin, IL 60120

Then again...

Hi, folks. I just wanted to take a moment to say goodbye and hello. As those of you who read the Bullpen Bulletins already know, I've decided to take the plunge after so many years on staff here at Marvel and give up my editorial duties to become a full-time writer — exclusively for Marvel, of course. Fear not for the fate of the Spider-Man titles, though. Even as we speak, wonder-kid Jim Owsley, formerly Larry Hama's assistant, is starting to ease his way into the Spidertorial chair. Together with his new assistant, artist Keith Williams, I'm confident that Jim will produce some awesome Spider-stories. Which is where the "hello" part comes in —

— because one of my regular writing assignments will be WEB OF SPIDER-MAN, starting with issue #4! And if you think I'm not excited about it — yeah, I didn't think you thought that! Jim and I have some stuff planned for the mag which is gonna thrill and delight you. Check it out.

And if anybody's wondering what happened to my assistant, Bob DeNatale, during all these goings on, Bob has also decided to forego the nine-to-five crush of Manhattan — for the elysian fields of Brooklyn, where he'll be splitting his time between scribing some tales for ye House of Ideas and beating the meanest set of skins (that's drums to you squares) in the whole blamed borough!

Anyway, my thanks to everyone I've worked with here, and to all you folks who've read the mags I've assisted edited or edited over the years. It's been a blast, and the fun's just barely begun!

Danny Fingeroth