

MARVEL®  
COMICS

THE PUNISHER®

STALKS...

# SPIDER-MAN®



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APPROVED  
BY THE  
COMICS  
CODE  
CARTOON  
AUTHORITY

THERE'S ONE  
GOOD  
SPIDER-MAN...



AVENGERS®  
ASSEMBLE!

A 30TH  
ANNIVERSARY

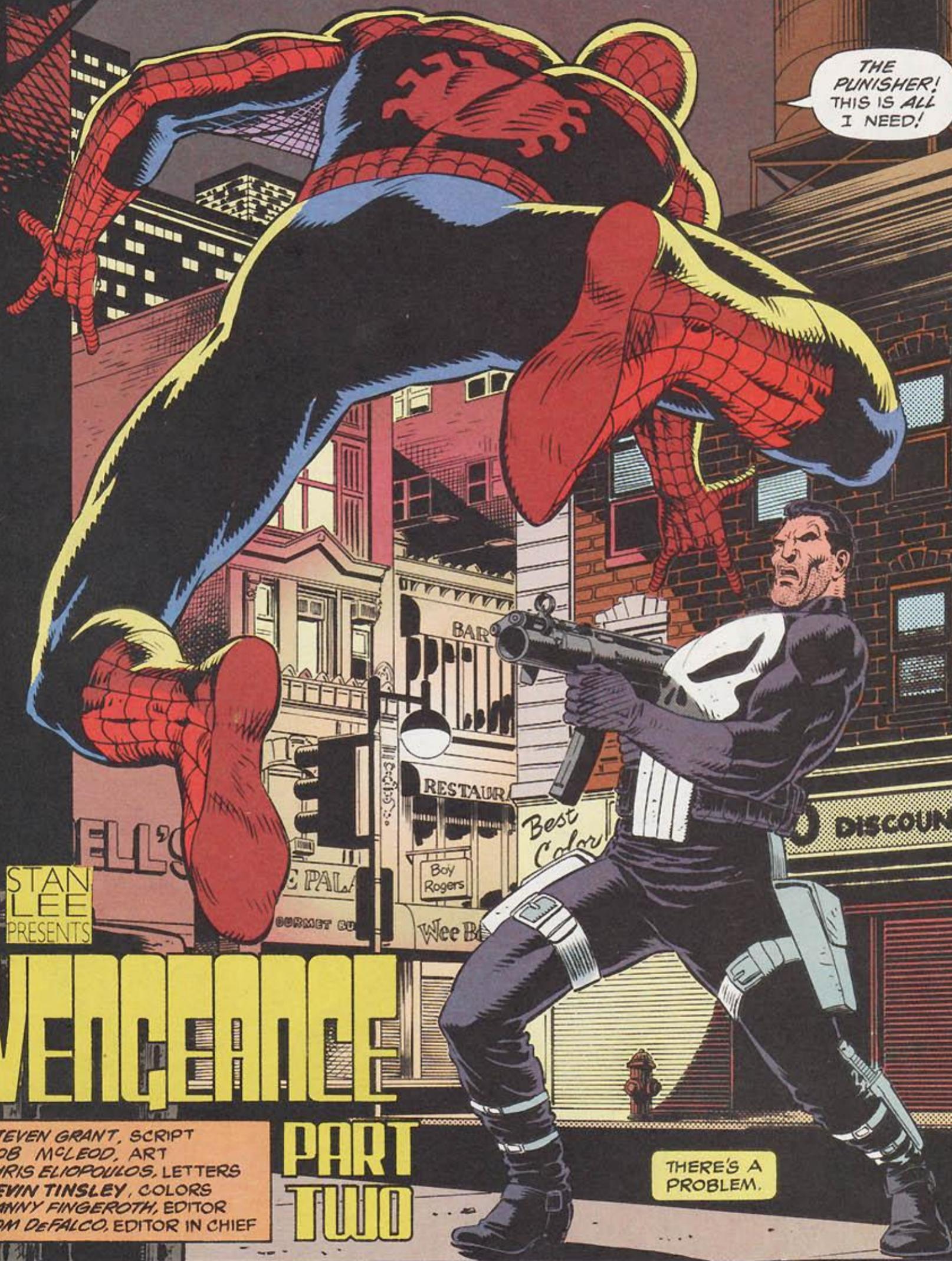
30 YEARS  
1963-1993

CASTLE'S GONNA  
DO 'EM BOTH  
...JUST TO  
BE SURE!

A MURDERER RUNS LOOSE, DISGUISED AS SPIDER-MAN.

HIS CRIMINAL ALLIES ARE REMOVED. I'VE FACED HIS POWER AND SURVIVED. I CAN REMOVE THE MAN.

THE PUNISHER! THIS IS ALL I NEED!



STEVEN GRANT, SCRIPT  
BOB MCLEOD, ART  
CHRIS ELIOPoulos, LETTERS  
KEVIN TINSLEY, COLORS  
DANNY FINGEROTH, EDITOR  
TOM DEFALCO, EDITOR IN CHIEF

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THIS IS THE  
REAL SPIDER-  
MAN.

MAYBE YOU'RE  
FORGETTING, BUT  
YOU'RE A WANTED  
CRIMINAL, PAL.

WAIT,  
HE SAYS.

WHY  
SHOULD  
I?

WAIT,

WHILE I MIGHT  
BE INCLINED TO  
GIVE SOME GUYS  
THE BENEFIT OF  
THE DOUBT--

--I'VE SEEN YOU  
KILL PEOPLE.  
OKAY, MAYBE THEY  
WEREN'T THE  
NICEST PEOPLE--

--BUT CONSIDER  
YOUR CAREER  
OVER!

HAVE  
IT YOUR  
WAY.

BLAM!  
BLAM!  
BLAM!

HEY,  
WATCH  
IT!

SPIDER-SENSE--  
DANGER--

YOU COULD  
HIT SOMEONE  
WITH THOSE  
THINGS!

STAY  
AWAY AND  
IT WON'T  
BE AN  
ISSUE.

NOW  
WHAT?  
AND THAT'S  
THE END OF  
SPIDER-MAN.  
DEAD AND  
BURIED.

AFTER ALL MY  
HUMILIATIONS, TO  
HAVE IT OVER  
WITH SO QUICKLY--

THE WALL--  
BLOWING APART--  
NO TIME--

--IT WAS  
WORTH  
IT!

AND I NEEDED  
NO HELP, NO  
MIGHT BUT MY  
OWN EXPLOSIVE  
POWER--NO!

IT'S NOT  
POSSIBLE!

THEY  
LIVE!  
POWER! USED  
MINE UP\*--NEED  
MORE--TO DESTROY  
THEM.

THE NIGHT ERUPTS  
IN PAIN, BUT I CAN  
MOVE. NO INJURIES.

SPIDER-MAN'S  
UNDER THE  
RUBBLE.

\*LAST ISSUE.  
--DANNY

IT SHIFTS AND BULGES WHERE HE SHOVES.

HIS IMPOSTOR IS GONE.

I'LL FIND HIM. I ASK, PEOPLE TALK. SOMEONE KNOWS WHERE HE IS. WHO HE IS.

SPIDER-MAN I CAN DEAL WITH LATER. I DON'T NEED A POINTLESS FIGHT. I MAY NEED HIM.

IN THIS GAME, NEVER OVERLOOK A RESOURCE.

NUTS! ONLY THE FAIREST TINGLING FROM MY SPIDER-SENSE. THERE'S NO THREAT HERE ANYMORE.

HECK, IF EVERYONE ELSE IS TAKING THEIR BASEBALLS AND GOING HOME--

--WHAT'S GOOD  
ENOUGH FOR THEM  
IS GOOD ENOUGH  
FOR ME.



--BUT AS MUCH AS  
I'D LOVE TO TRACK  
THEM DOWN, I'M NO  
DETECTIVE.

THE WAY THAT FAKE  
SPIDEY WAS RUNNING,  
HE WON'T SHOW HIS  
FACE AGAIN UNTIL  
GROUNDHOG'S DAY,  
ANYWAY.



MAN, SHE JUST  
MAKES ME WANT  
TO SCOOP HER UP  
AND-- BUT I  
BETTER LET HER  
SLEEP.

IT'S THE LEAST I  
CAN DO, HER BEING  
SO SUPPORTIVE OF  
MY DOUBLE LIFE  
AND ALL.



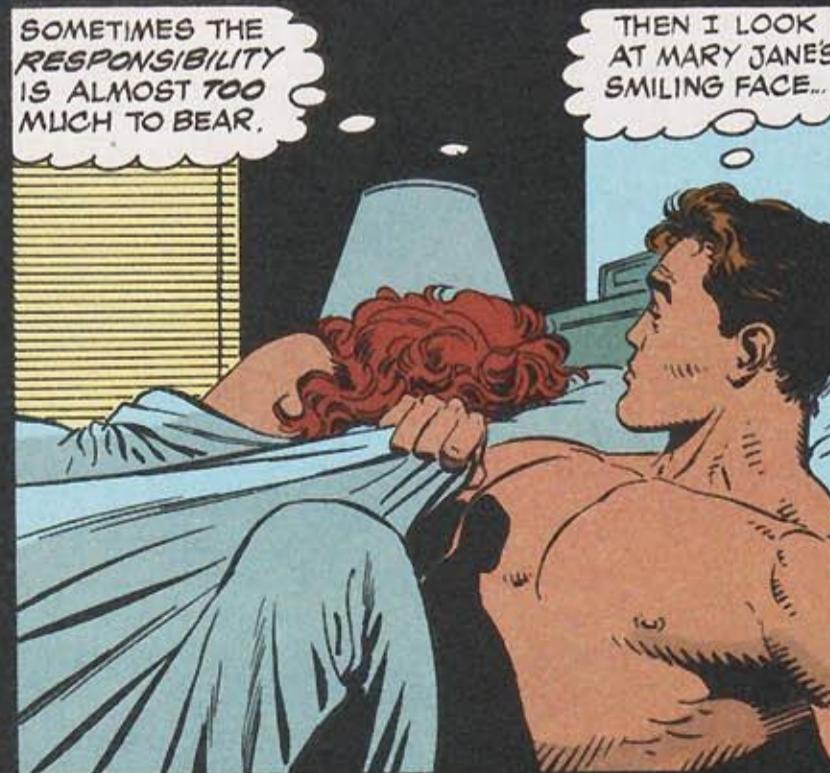
THERE ARE TIMES I  
ALMOST WISH SHE'D  
MAKE ME CHOOSE  
BETWEEN HER AND  
SPIDER-MAN.

WHEN CREEPS LIKE THE  
PUNISHER GET AWAY--  
WHEN I THINK OF THE  
PEOPLE DEAD BECAUSE  
I COULDN'T STOP  
HIM--



SOMETIMES THE  
RESPONSIBILITY  
IS ALMOST TOO  
MUCH TO BEAR.

THEN I LOOK  
AT MARY JANE'S  
SMILING FACE...



FACE IT, PARKER.  
YOU'RE IN LOVE.  
LIFE IS GOOD.

SLEEP IS GOOD.  
SLEEP, GLORIOUS  
SLEEP...





OKAY, OKAY... BRING ON THE HOT COFFEE!  
DIET COLA! MENTHO-LATED SHAVE CREAM!  
ANYTHING TO GET ME UP...

-- I CAN DO LOTS BETTER THAN THAT!

BELIEVE IT,  
HUSBAND--



WHAT A  
DISASTER!

THIS IS JUST ONE  
MORE DEBIT ON YOUR  
BALANCE SHEET, WALL-  
CRAWLER--ONE MORE  
NAIL IN THE COFFIN OF  
MY VENGEANCE!

I WANT YOU  
DESTROYED!

ALL MY PLANNING...  
MY CHEMICALLY INDUCED  
MIGHT... MY BLASTERS...  
AND I WAS LUCKY TO  
ESCAPE WITH MY SKIN!

YOU DESTROYED  
ME-- TOOK FROM  
ME EVERYTHING  
I LOVE.

AND I  
WANT THIS  
STINKING  
**MASK**  
OFF!

WHAT?

IT CAME RIGHT  
OFF... BUT SPIDER-  
MAN... HE GLUED IT  
TO MY FACE...

HE WAS  
PLAYING WITH  
ME! AGAIN!

NO MORE TRICKERY-- I  
SEE THAT NOW! ONLY  
SUPERIOR SPEED AND  
STRENGTH WILL BRING  
SPIDER-MAN TO HIS  
KNEES!

AND I'LL BE  
SPIDER-MAN'S  
SUPERIOR-- NO  
MATTER WHAT  
THE PRICE!

MORNING. THE  
DAILY BUGLE.

SPIDER-MAN'S  
BACKYARD.

IT CAN'T BE  
HELPED.

ARE WE  
BORING YOU,  
MR. PARKER?

THE PHOTO STAFF  
APPRECIATES YOUR  
DILIGENCE --

-- BUT ATTENTION  
WOULD BE NICE,  
TOO.

WORK, HUH? THAT  
WHAT YOU CALL  
YOUR WILD WIFE  
THESE DAYS?

KEEP TICKING  
OFF VICTOR PEI,  
OKAY?

LANCE...

YOUR DEBBY?!  
SHE'S NEVER GIVEN  
YOU THE TIME OF...

YOW!

NO, I MEAN IT. THE MORE YOU IRRITATE  
THE ASSISTANT PHOTO EDITOR, THE  
MORE ASSIGNMENTS HE GIVES ME.

HEY! WHO'S THE  
HUNK MUSCLING  
IN ON MY DEBBY?

THE BUGLE'S MORGUE  
IS ALWAYS OPEN TO  
VISITING JOURNALISTS,  
MR. FORT.

MORGUE

IF YOU NEED  
ANY MORE  
HELP... SAY,  
AFTER WORK...

YOU WERE  
SAYING--?

THE STORY'S HERE,  
IN BLACK AND  
WHITE.



HE'S GOT  
GUTS, I'LL  
GIVE HIM  
THAT.

HALF THE  
POLICE IN THE  
WORLD ARE  
AFTER HIM--  
AND TWICE AS  
MANY BAD  
GUYS--AND HE'S  
MR. COOL.

CAN'T RISK A  
FIGHT WITH HIM--  
NOT IN THIS  
CROWD.

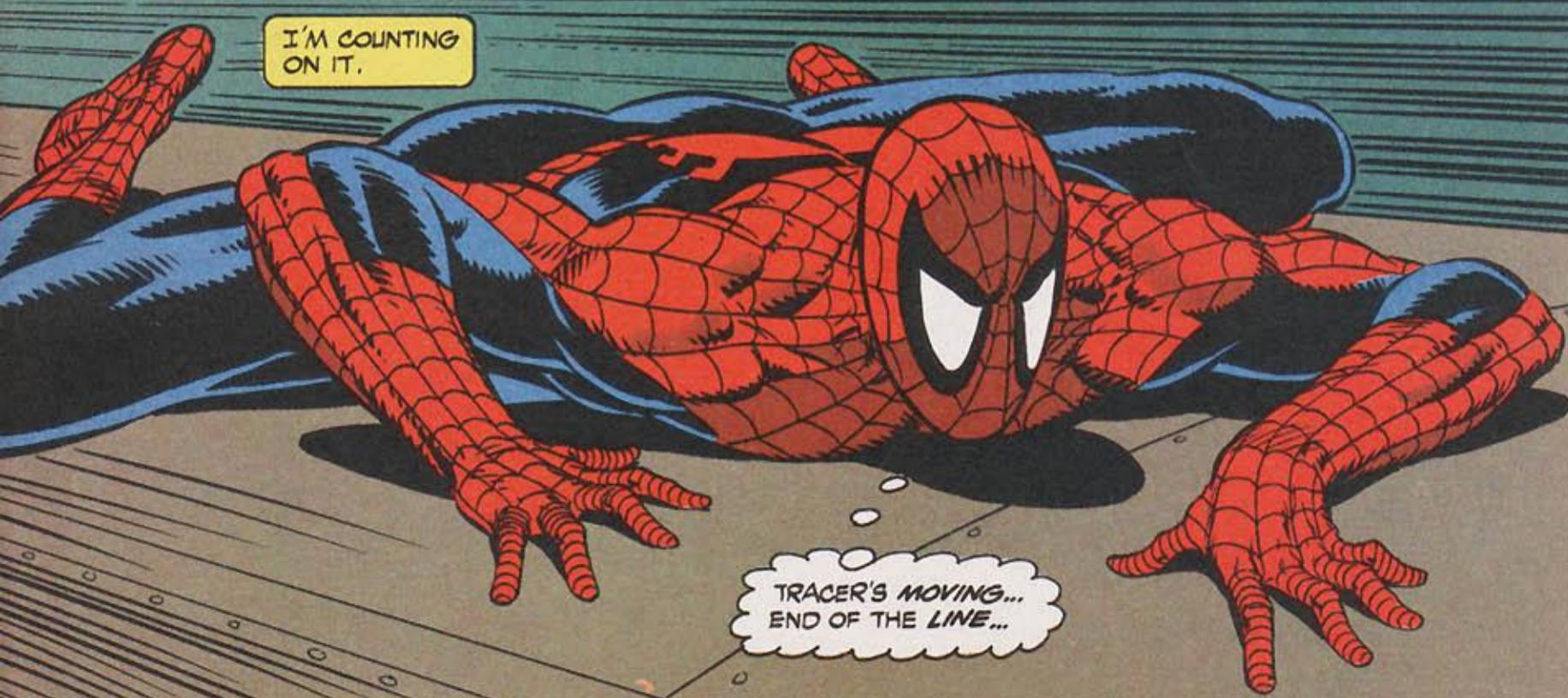
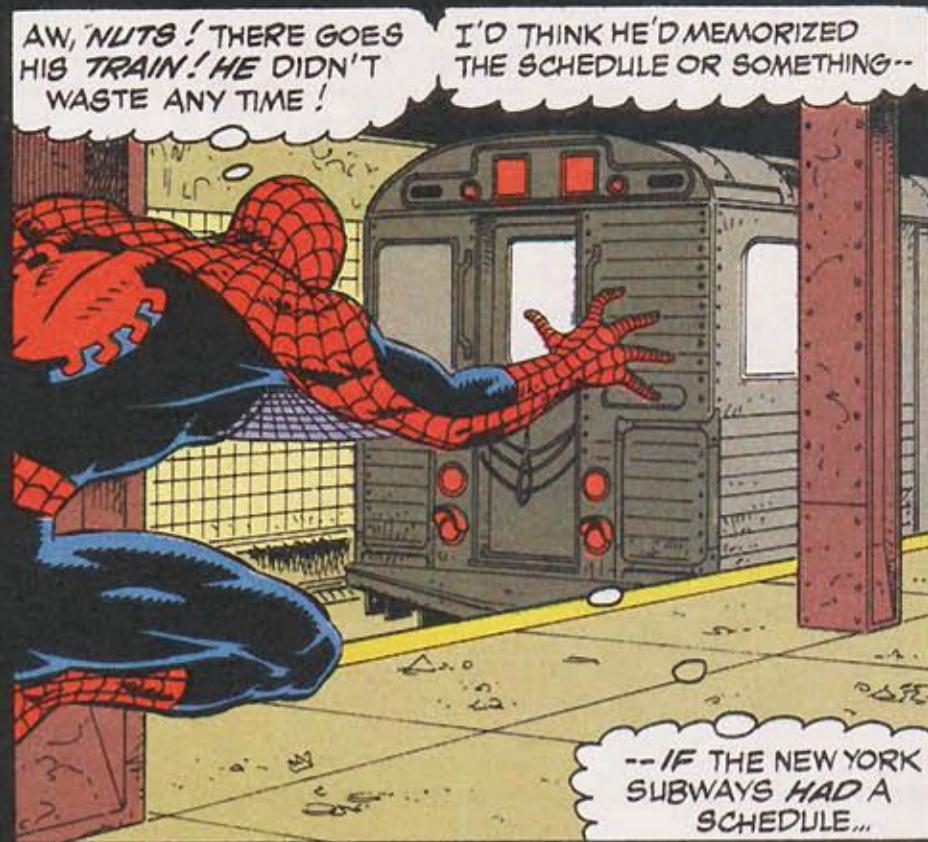
IF HE REACHES  
THE SUBWAY  
HE'S AS GOOD  
AS GONE--





ONE OF THESE DAYS,  
I HAVE TO SEW A  
CHANGE POCKET  
INTO THESE TIGHTS.

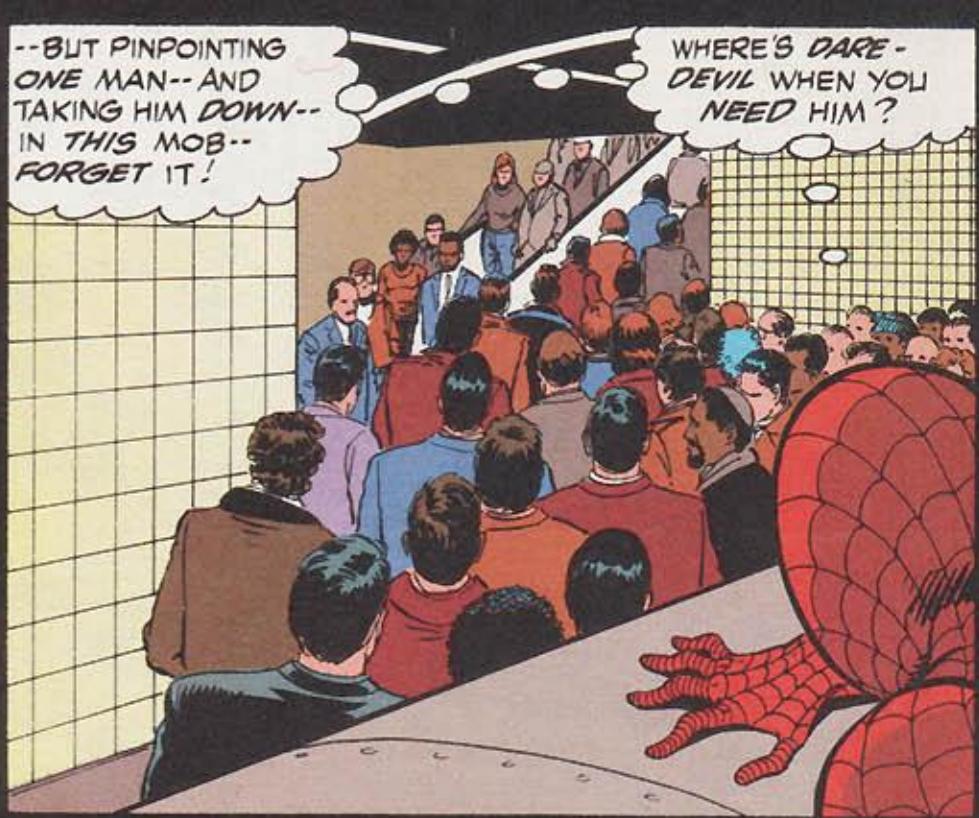
I CAN SEE THE BUGLE  
HEADLINE NOW--  
"SPIDER-MAN TICKETED  
FOR TURNSTILE JUMPING!"



ANOTHER CROWD--  
THAT'S JUST SWELL.

--BUT PINPOINTING  
ONE MAN--AND  
TAKING HIM DOWN--  
IN THIS MOB--  
FORGET IT!

WHERE'S DARE-  
DEVIL WHEN YOU  
NEED HIM?



WHO AM I KIDDING?  
A BRILLIANT STRATE-  
GIST I'M NOT.

THWIP!

BUT MY IDEA OF A  
CUNNING PLAN IS  
ONE THAT DOESN'T  
GET ME KILLED--  
AND WHERE'S THE  
FUN IN THAT?

AN ACE  
PHOTOGR-  
APHER?  
SURE. A  
SCIENTIFIC WIZ?  
I HAVE MY  
DAYS.

IN THE IMMORTAL  
WORDS OF THE BLACK  
CAT--

WHEN IN  
DOUBT--

CORD SLICING  
AIR, WHISTLING.  
HE'S BEHIND  
ME.

THREE.

TWO.

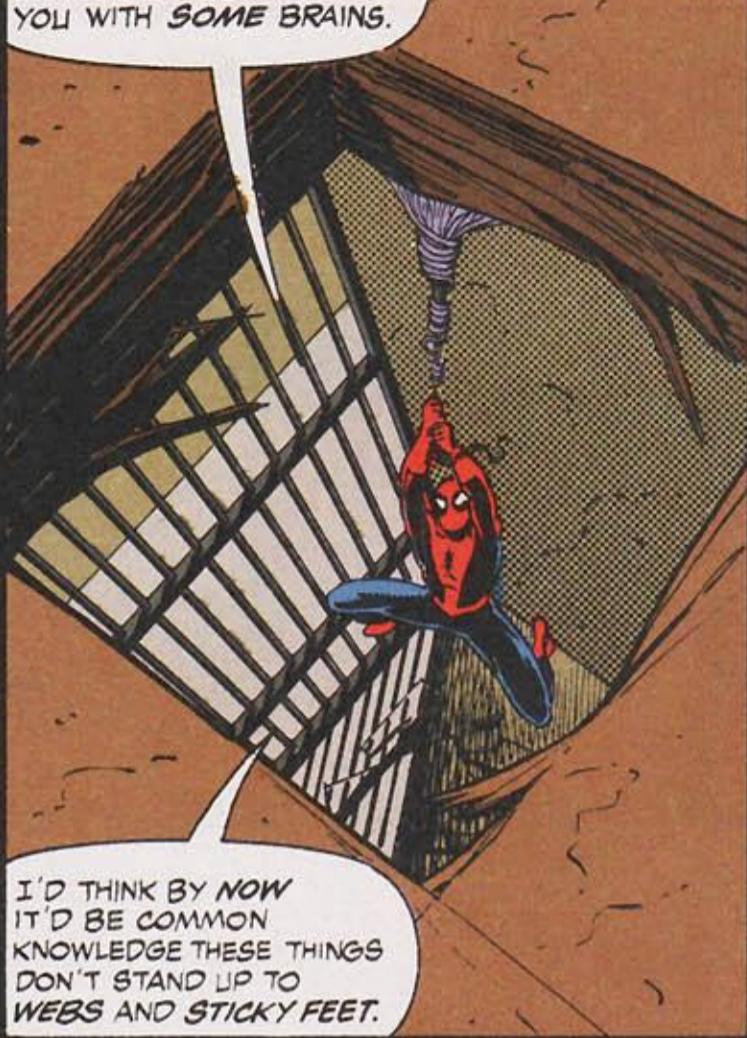
--POUNCE!



ONE.

WHOA! HEY! NO FAIR! TIME OUT!

YOU'RE NUTS, CASTLE, BUT I ALWAYS CREDITED YOU WITH SOME BRAINS.



I'M GOING  
AFTER YOUR  
DOUBLE.

AND YOU WANT  
TO JOIN FORCES,  
RIGHT?

NORMALLY I WOULD,  
Y'UNDERSTAND, BUT  
YOU, AH, BEING A  
MURDERER AND ALL--

I DON'T NEED  
PARTNERS. STAY OUT  
OF MY WAY.

NO! NOBODY  
DIES!

JUSTICE DOESN'T  
MEAN KILLING  
PEOPLE.

THAT'S GOOD,  
FROM SOMEONE  
WHO BENDS  
STEEL IN HIS  
HANDS.

BUT WHAT  
DO THE REST  
OF US DO?

EVEN WITH HIS  
STRENGTH, THE BARS  
WILL HOLD HIM FOR  
FIFTEEN SECONDS.

FIFTEEN  
SECONDS.

I'M GONE.

WHAT'S  
JUSTICE?

PUBLIC DEFENDER'S OFFICE TO SEE YOU, VICARY. GUY'S NAME IS TOWER.

GET RID OF 'IM.'

A MAN POSING AS SPIDER-MAN THREW YOU OFF THE WORLD TRADE TOWERS. YOU WERE BUSTED IN A DRUG RACKET WITH HIM YEARS AGO.

YOU KNOW HIM. WHERE IS HE?



OR WHAT?! I'M UNDER GUARD. THERE'S COPS CRAWLING ALL OVER THIS HOSPITAL.

COULD WE HAVE A MOMENT, SERGEANT?

HEY! HEY! I SEEN PICTURES OF YOU! YOU'RE THE PUNISHER!

KEEP IT DOWN.

YOU'RE A THREE-TIMER, VICARY.

ANOTHER RAP, YOU'LL BE IN PRISON FOREVER.

WITH ME.



SOME DAYS IT'S  
NOT WORTH GETTING  
OUT OF BED.

IF I'D  
GONE TO  
BED...

FACE IT, PARKER--  
YOU COULD DO WITH  
A NICE LIFESTYLE  
CHANGE.

TAHITI BEACHES,  
SKIING AT  
MONTREAUX... AH,  
THE LIFE...

BUT NOOOO! I  
HAVE TO SPEND  
MY DAYS SCOUR-  
ING SAFE HOUSES,  
FOR NOTHING!

YOU'D THINK SOME-  
WHERE THE PUNISHER  
WOULD LEAVE SOME  
HINT OF WHAT HE'S  
UP TO.

WAIT A,  
MINUTE! WHAT'S  
THAT?!

THWIPP

JEEZ, WHAT A  
DUMMIE I  
CAN BE!

I WATCHED HIM  
DUMP HIS BRIEFCASE  
ON THE ROOF, AND  
IT NEVER EVEN  
OCCURRED TO ME  
TWO HOURS I  
WASTED.

HE'D STRIPPED DOWN TO  
FIGHTING CLOTHES BY THE  
TIME I CAUGHT UP WITH  
HIM-- WHICH MEANS ANY-  
THING HE GOT FROM THE  
BIGLE WOULD PROBABLY  
BE IN HERE...

NAMES AND  
ADDRESSES.  
GREAT. NOW I  
HAVE TO CHECK  
OUT EVERY ONE  
OF THEM.

CAN'T ANYONE  
EVER ANNOTATE  
THESE THINGS?



THIS IS > I'VE TESTED SPIDER-  
IT! IT!  
MAN--TAKEN THE MEASURE  
OF HIS MIGHT--

--AND  
THIS--

--THIS!

THE CULMINATION OF A LIFE'S WORK--  
A SOLUTION BEYOND IMAGINING, IN-  
CREASING MUSCLE MASS--STRENGTH--  
SPEED--TO THE LIMITS OF HUMAN  
TOLERANCE!



LONG  
LIVE--

--THE MASTER  
OF VENGEANCE!



ARRRRR!



FARON.

WHAM

TIME'S  
UP.





# BULLPEN BULLETINS

MARVEL  
COMICS

## MARK'S REMARKS

This is only the third time I've written for this space and already I'm resorting to name-calling. You see, part of my job as Senior Exec Ed is keeping track of the names of Marvel's multitude of characters (over 3000 names at most recent estimate) in order to prevent needless duplication and confusion. So as keeper of the master list, I get to tell our creative people if a given name is "taken" or not. There's sometimes a debate as to what constitutes "taken." For instance, at the time the first female herald of Galactus was named, the kid called Nova was in retirement so the name was technically available. Wouldn't you know, it the original came back and of course was very interested in his name back. The lesson I learned from this is to never count retired characters as permanently abandoning their claims to their names.

Still, since I only began my name coordination back in '88, I inherited years of name duplication, and since that time, a few of our crafty creative folks have also managed to do end runs around the system in order to replicate names already in use.

So what are some of the most popular names in the Marvel Universe, to judge by the number of different characters who have claimed the same name? Well, I combed the list and found 26 names used by three different characters (such as Ape-Man, Atom-Smasher, Blockbuster, Colossus, Goliath, Leviathan, Ox, Pestilence, Stinger, Warlock, and Whizzer), six names used by four different characters (Box, Executioner, Hate-Monger, Mr. Fear, Phoenix, and Smasher), five names used by five different characters (Black Knight, Destroyer, Red Guardian, Scourge, and Sleeper). Finally, there have been at least six or seven guys who wore the costume of Captain America for at least one whole issue.

Is the Marvel Universe fun or what?

Mark Gruenwald

We were passing through Niffleheim the other day, home of the legendary Frost Giants, where we saw Ymir, the most powerful frost giant of them all. Ymir remarked, "Is it cold here, or is it just me?"

Well, it is colder than the cold steel of the Punisher's AK-47 assault rifle out there, which gives you all the more reason to stay indoors and find new ways to entertain yourself. You could do blueprints of the headquarters of your favorite super-team, like Eliot R. Brown does. Or you might want to take up painting. That's what John Welling-

have meaning!"

That they do (and the royalty checks aren't exactly lacking in meaning, either!), as you can see for yourself every Saturday morning on Fox. Fans of retro-classic Marvel animation of the sixties may also want to check out Ted Turner's all-new Cartoon Network, where reruns of the beloved *Fantastic Four* cartoons of the sixties are shown. (That channel also shows reruns of the *Thing* animated series from the early eighties, so we can all thrill to young Benji Grimm joining his rings together and shouting, "Thing rings, do your thing!")

One thing that never changes is Hildy Mesnick's assistant editor, "Professor" James Felder, pestering us to mention his off-duty activities on this page. In November of last year, the proud-piping Professor participated in the annual bagpipe festival held here in Greenwich Village. It was sponsored by Dewar's, and it was held over the course of two nights in October at an ultra-hip club called the Knitting Factory. After those two nights, they might want to be knitting themselves up some earplugs!

Nobody covers their ears when Marvel's book designer, Joe Kaufman, is playing! Joe is a member of a band called Shambas, which can rock the house harder than a Thor/Ulik slug-fest. Shambas plays various clubs around New York, including Street Level, Atlantis, and the Bank. (And no, Professor, they're not looking for a bagpiper!)

To end this column on yet another musical note, we'd like to toot the horn of our very own managing art director, Steve Geiger, who is a member of the rock group, Denaro! Denaro's self-titled debut CD is out in stores now, and it will rock you like one of Storm's hurricanes! The band will be doing a lot of touring in the next few months, so keep your ears open. If the band takes off, Steve & Co. will be making a lot of *dinero*, and winning more awards than Robert DeNiro!

This brings us to the end of another award-winning Bullpen Page. As you can see, our mighty Marveloids tend to be multi-talented, just like writer/actor/country-western singer Sylvester Stallone. So to anyone out there who has an interest in pursuing any creative endeavor, like our stainless staffers, we encourage you wholeheartedly. Just don't let it take away time from your comic book reading!

## THE BULL'S EYE

by Barry Dutter & Rick Parker



ton, ultra-cool PUNISHER ARMORY colorist, did. John was featured in a write-up recently in *American Artist* magazine, which bills itself as "the leading magazine for fine artists" (funny — we always thought that was SAVAGE SWORD OF CONAN!). Several of John's modern masterpieces were featured in the mag, including a chilling self-portrait. John's paintings combine classic techniques with contemporary themes — much like your favorite Marvel Comics, which mix the legendary Stan Lee neo-realism of the sixties, with the post-modern cutting edge of the nineties.

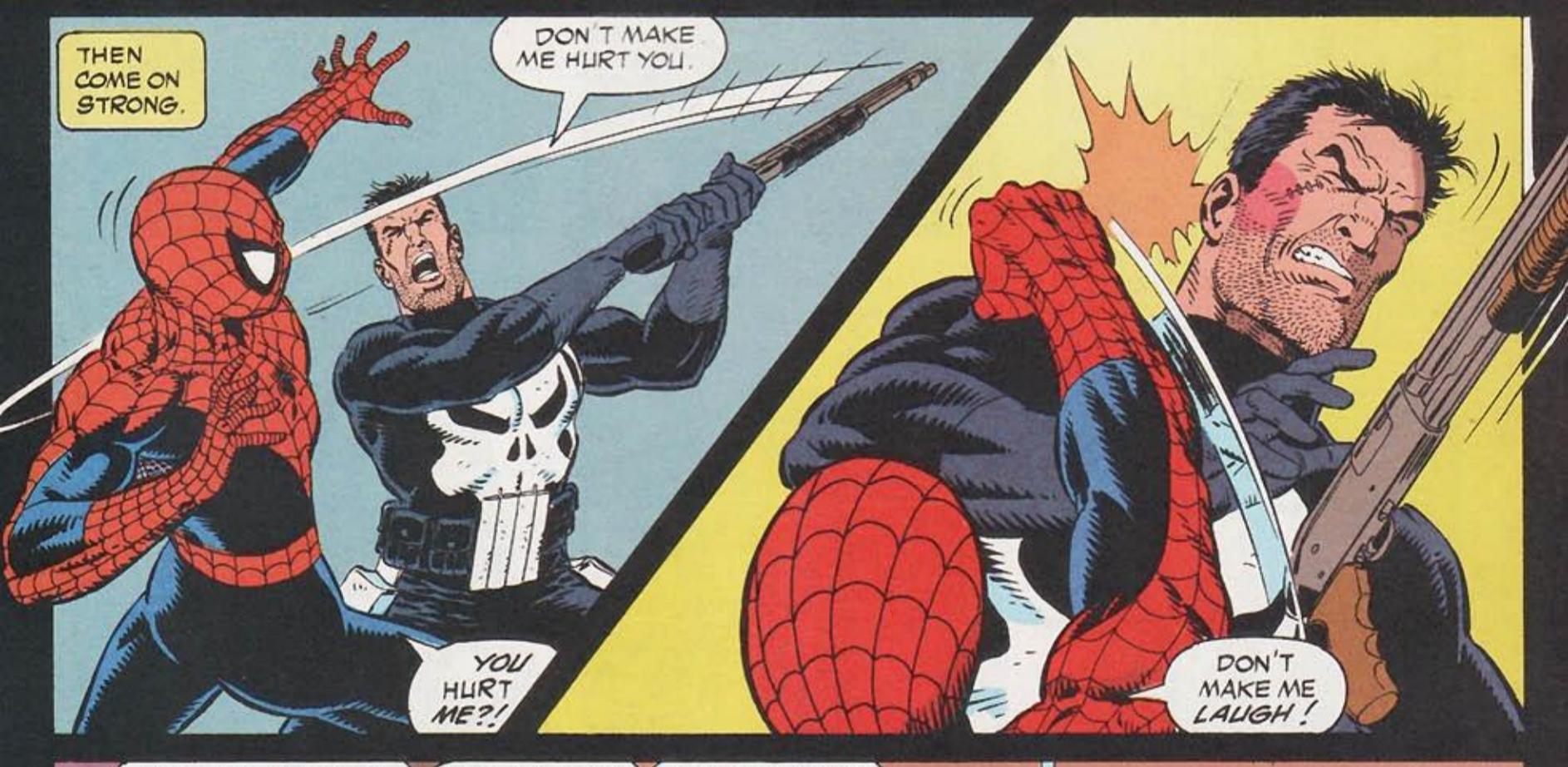
X-MEN editor Bob Harras — whose hobby is attracting media attention — also received some magazine coverage recently. The magazine was *Entertainment Weekly*, where Bob was quizzed about the X-Men TV cartoon show, a possible Wolverine movie for '94, and just why the X-Men are so mega-popular. As Bob put it, "These stories

AS SYSTEMIC PROBLEMS ONE-WAY HASHING PATTERN RECOGNITION PERSONAL AUDIO UNDERSIZED OVERACHIEVERS MACROPOLITICS BIOLOGICAL LEGACIES STREET SMART MULTIPLE GUESS TESTS FOOD EN

MANAGEMENT BLUE LAWS FRINGE IDEAS DISCRETIONARY INCOME KRYPTON GAS WINDOWS DYSMORPHOPHOBIA GRAPHIC BLANDISHMENTS COUNTERFEIT CUTUKU SIT-COMPICATIONS BUZZWORD

## HYPELINE: ON SALE THIS WEEK

- AVENGERS #361: The alternate Vision continues his Vision-quest!
- CONAN #267: Conan's imprisoned in the dark with a deadly changeling!
- DARK ANGEL #10: The Mys-Tech Board has a list, with the X-Men and Dark Angel at the top of it!
- DOCTOR WHO #196: The Doctor is in ... trouble!
- DOOM 2099 #4: The Tiger Wylde saga concludes, and it's really wild!
- EXCALIBUR #64: Has Rachel become Dark Phoenix?
- G.I. JOE #135: Poly-bagged with a photo trading card! It's a G.I. Joe you've never seen before!
- G.I. JOE AND THE TRANSFORMERS: Reprinting the classic battle of the action figures!
- INCREDIBLE HULK #404: In this corner: the Avengers and the Hulk! In that corner: the Red Skull and the Juggernaut! Place your bets!
- MARVEL AGE #123: Two covers: Spidey/Venom and Thunderstrike! Nobody covers Marvel like MARVEL AGE!
- MARVEL COMICS #126: Wolverine! She-Hulk! Iron Fist! Ghost Rider! And Jerry Mathers as the Beaver!
- MIDNIGHT SONS UNLIMITED #1:
- 64 pages of Morbius, Ghost Rider, and the Midnight Sons Family Singers!
- MORBIUS #8: Morbius has drunken spoiled blood! He should've checked the expiration date!
- PUNISHER #77: Micro is kidnapped! Punny must save his little buddy!
- SHIELD #46: An X-Force tie-in? What is this book, close to cancellation, or what?
- SILVER SURFER/WARLOCK: RESURRECTION #2 of 4: This one is so cosmic, you'll be seeing stars!
- SPIDER-MAN #33: Is Spidey a murderer? Ask the Punisher! (Like he should talk!)
- SUPER SOLDIERS #1: Mortally wounded soldiers come back — and the USAgent isn't happy about it!
- WARLOCK & THE INFINITY WATCH #15: Let sleeping Warlocks lie!
- WHAT IF #48: The answer to the most-asked question of all: What if Daredevil had saved Nuke?
- X-FACTOR #89: The truth about Rahne comes pouring down!
- X-MEN #19: Introducing an all-new villain, Soul Skinner! (No relation to B.F. Skinner, the famed anthropologist!)



WHOEVER  
THIS GUY IS,  
HE DESERVES  
JUSTICE, NOT  
DEATH. NOT  
YOU.



ALL YOU  
LEFT ME WAS  
VENGEANCE--!  
I AM  
VENGEANCE--

--THE  
MASTER OF  
VENGEANCE!

AND, AT LAST,  
VENGEANCE IS  
MINE!

HAVE  
WE  
MET?

TO BE  
CONCLUDED.