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APPROVED
BY THE
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the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN®



TM
BACK OFF,
SPIDER-MAN!
YOU CAN'T
BEAT--



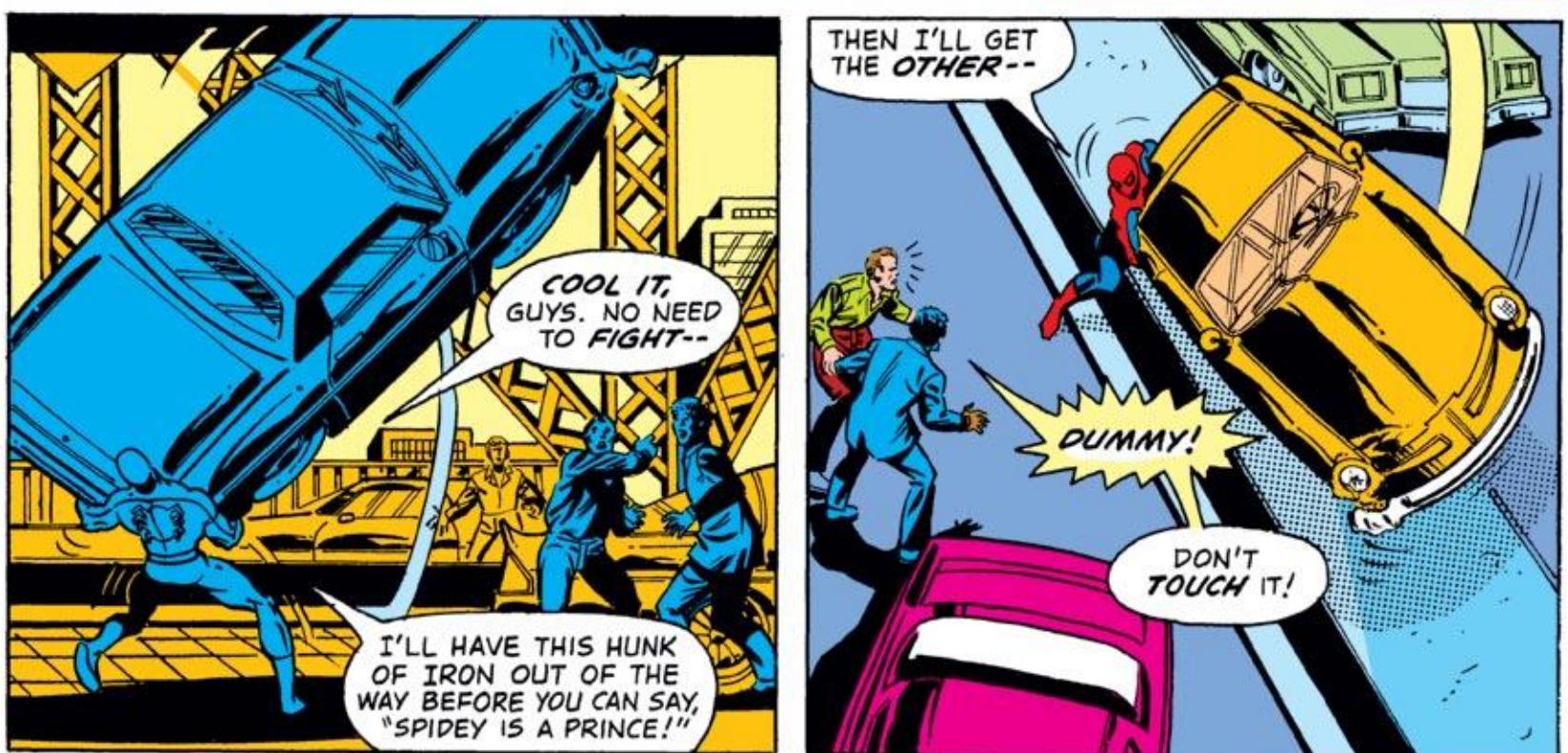
"FUSION"
THE TWIN
TERROR!

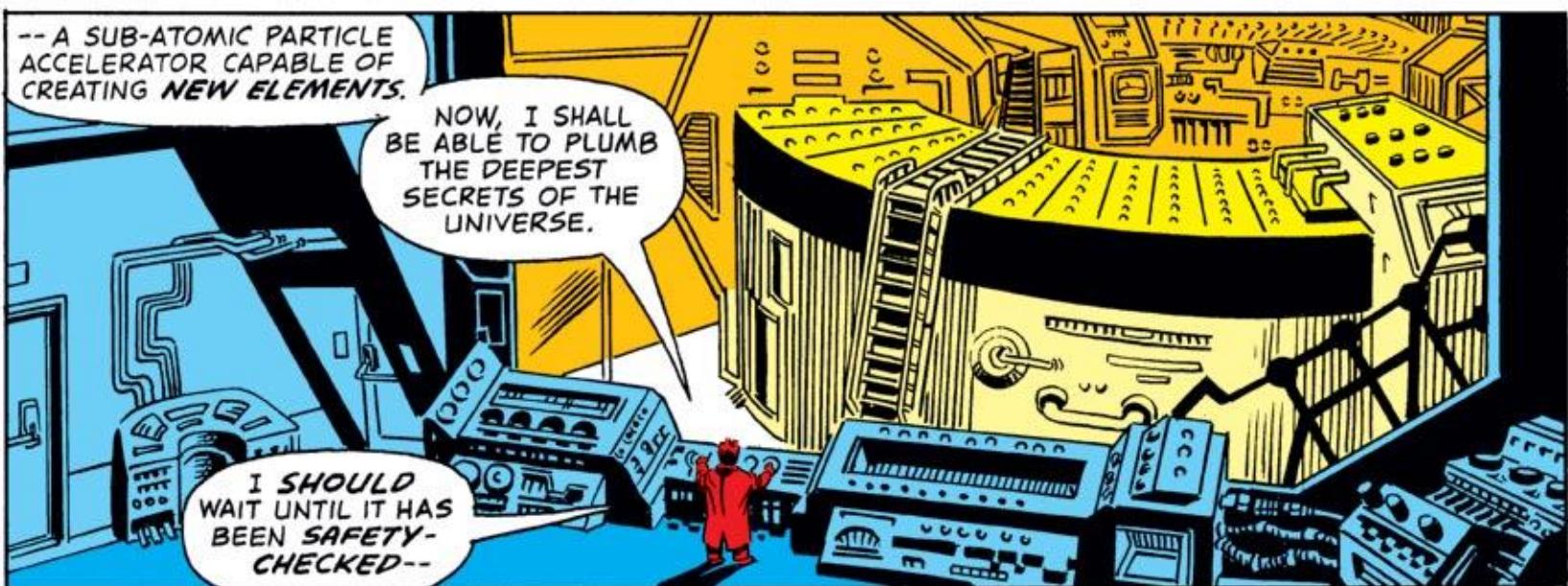
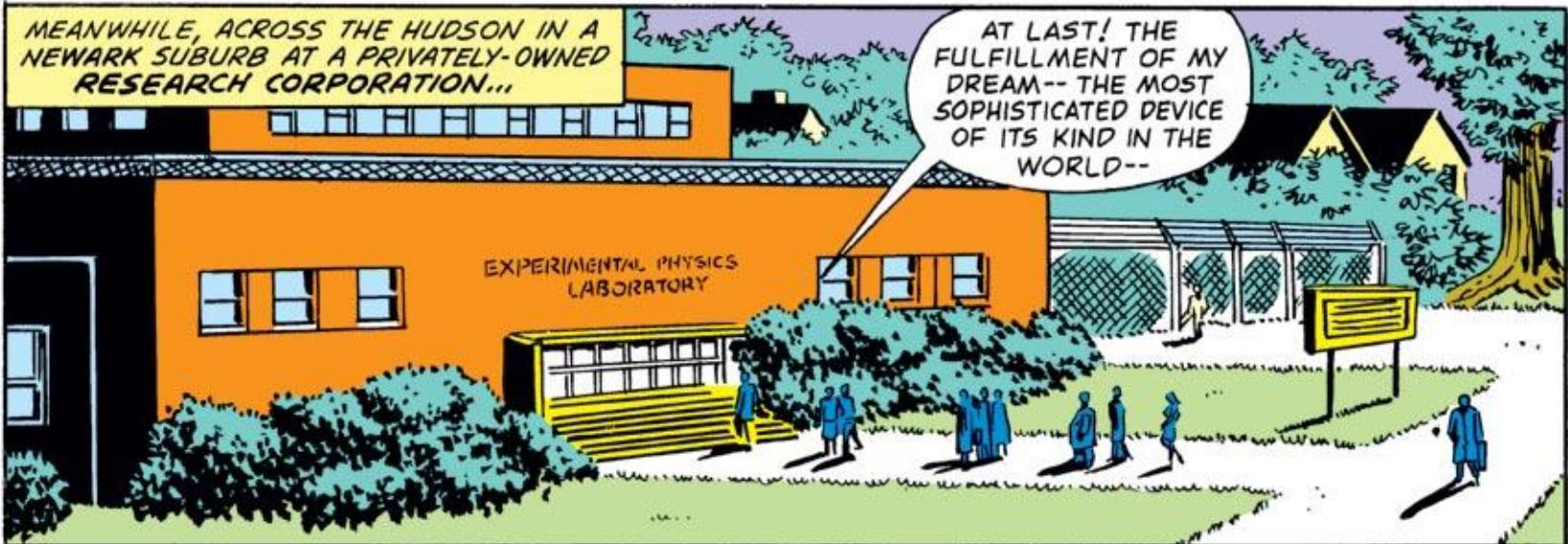
STAN LEE PRESENTS: THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN®

*SPECIAL THANKS TO JIM SHOOTER AND MARK GRUENWALD FOR PLOTTING--
AND TO THE FANS AT MAPLECON II IN OTTAWA FOR CREATING...
FUSION!



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MEANWHILE,
AT THE
DAILY
GLOBE...



MY NICE GUY ROUTINE AT THE BRIDGE GOT ME HASSLED -- AND MADE ME LATE FOR THE MOST IMPORTANT EDITORIAL MEETING OF THE YEAR.



SHORTLY, BELOW...



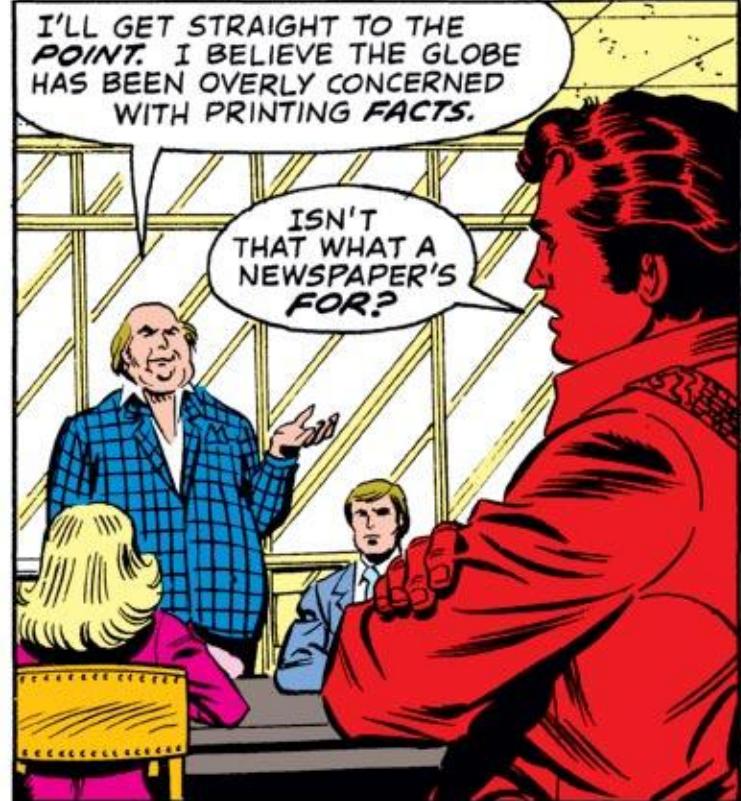
NO SIR,
MISTER
BUSHKIN.



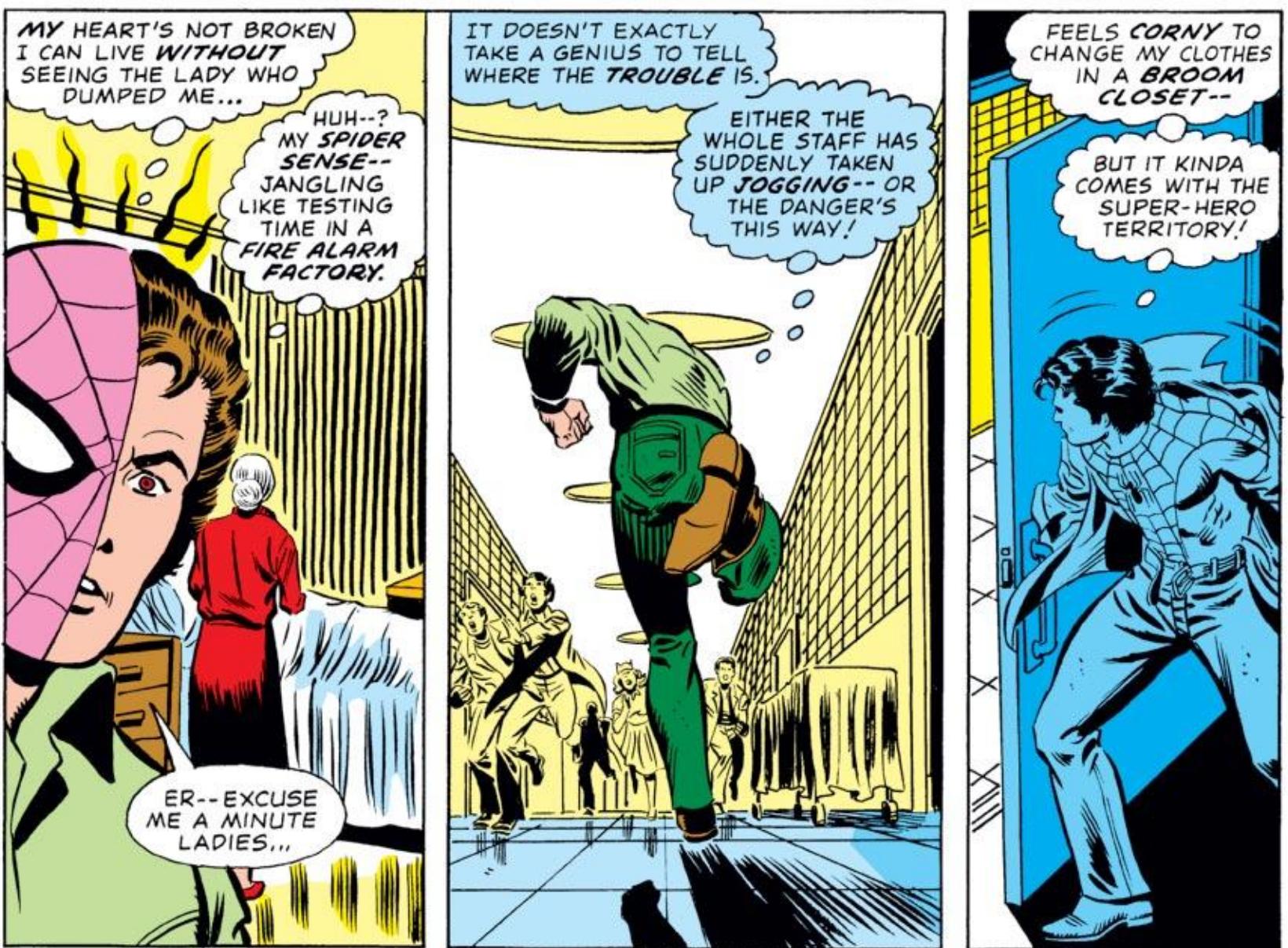
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, I'D LIKE TO INTRODUCE THE GLOBE'S NEW CIRCULATION MANAGER-- DIRECT FROM THE LOS ANGELES COURIER--

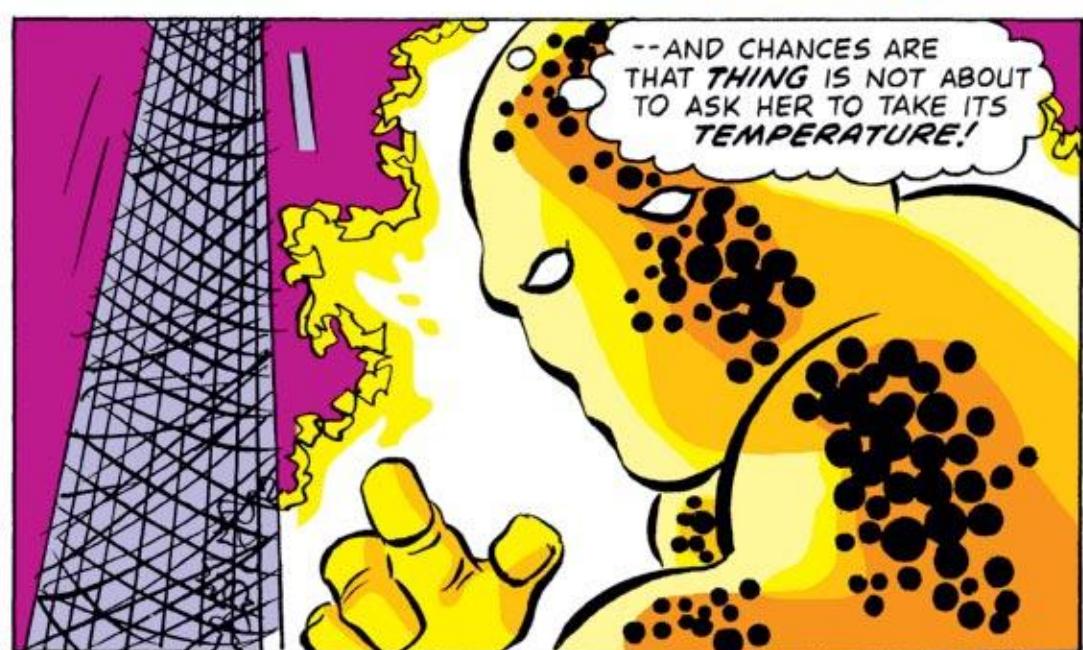


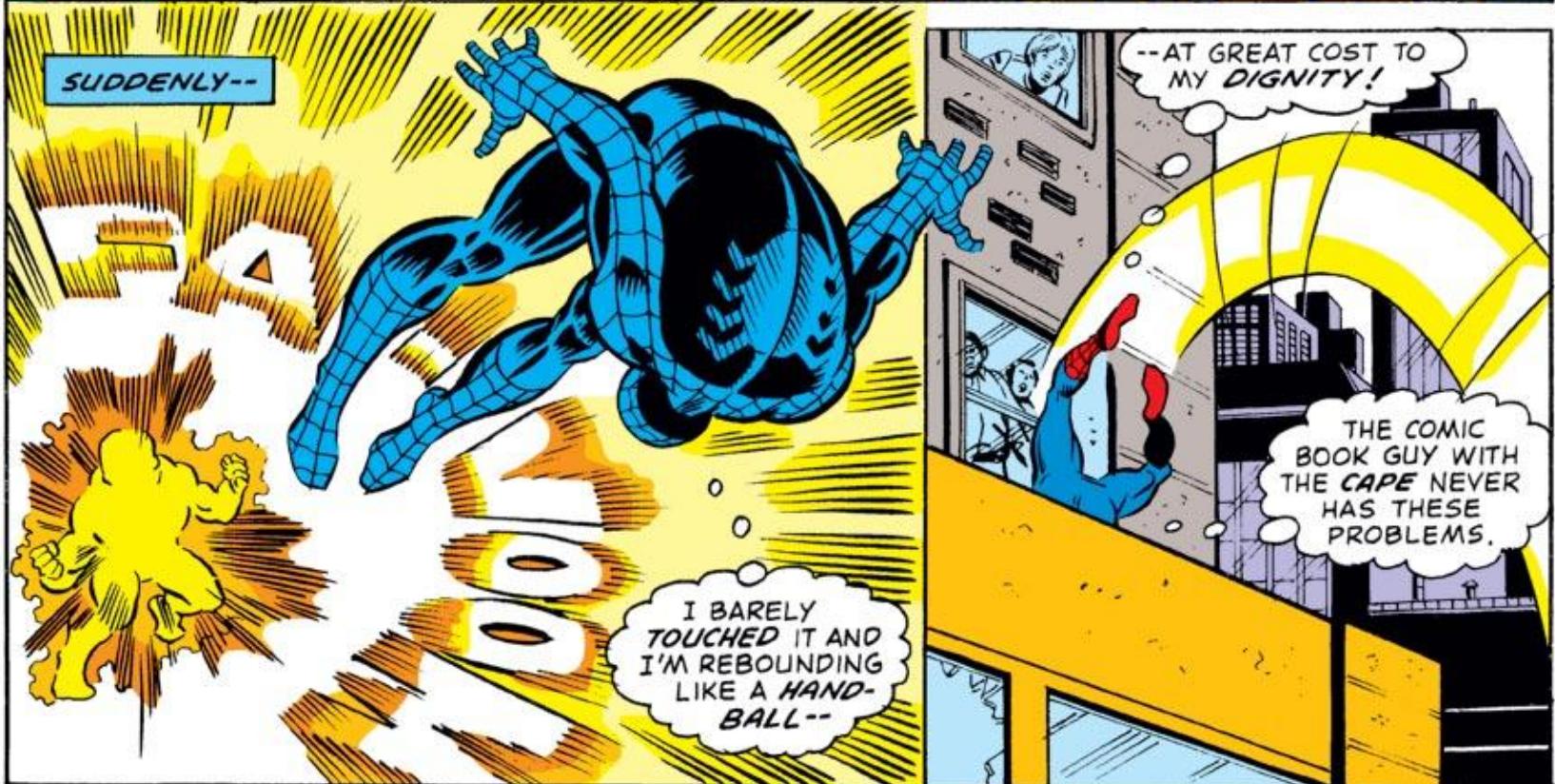
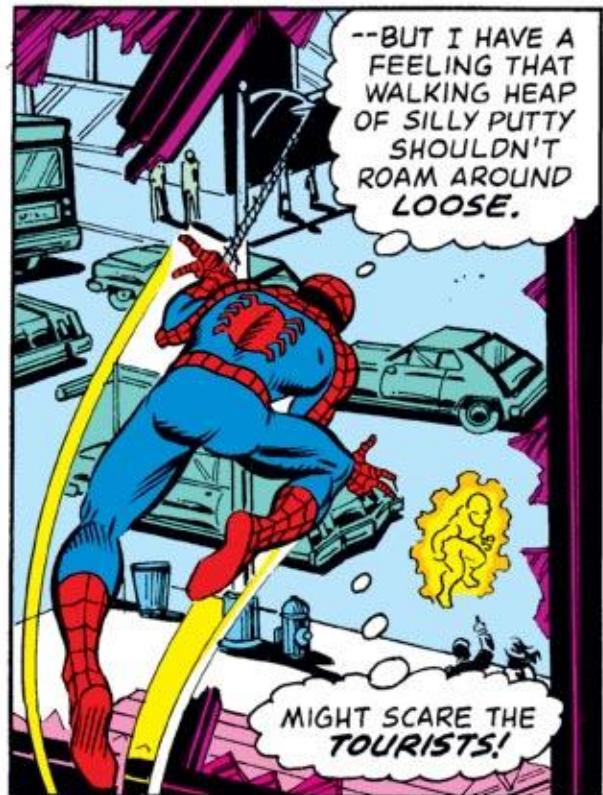
I'LL GET STRAIGHT TO THE POINT. I BELIEVE THE GLOBE HAS BEEN OVERLY CONCERNED WITH PRINTING FACTS.

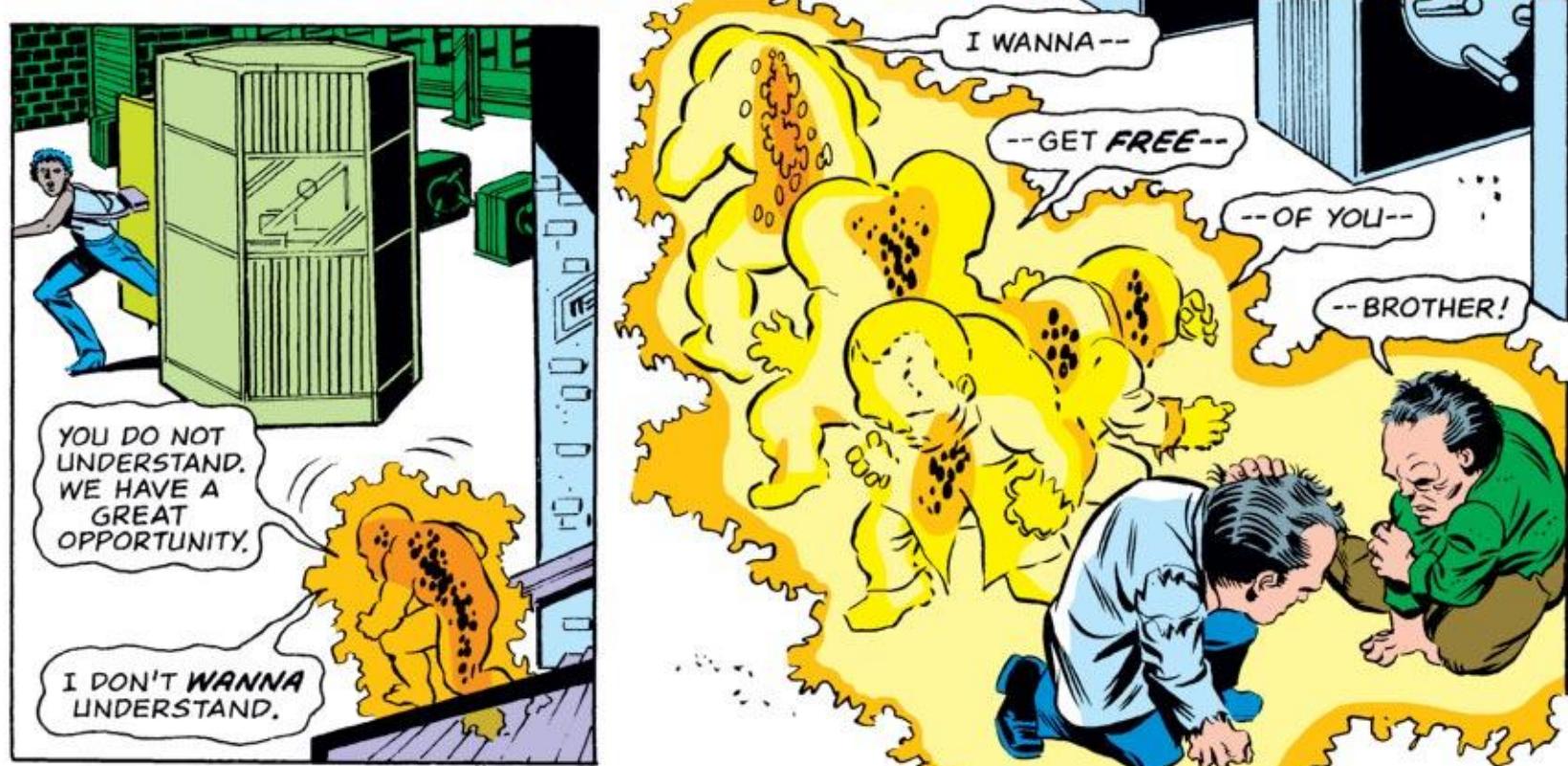
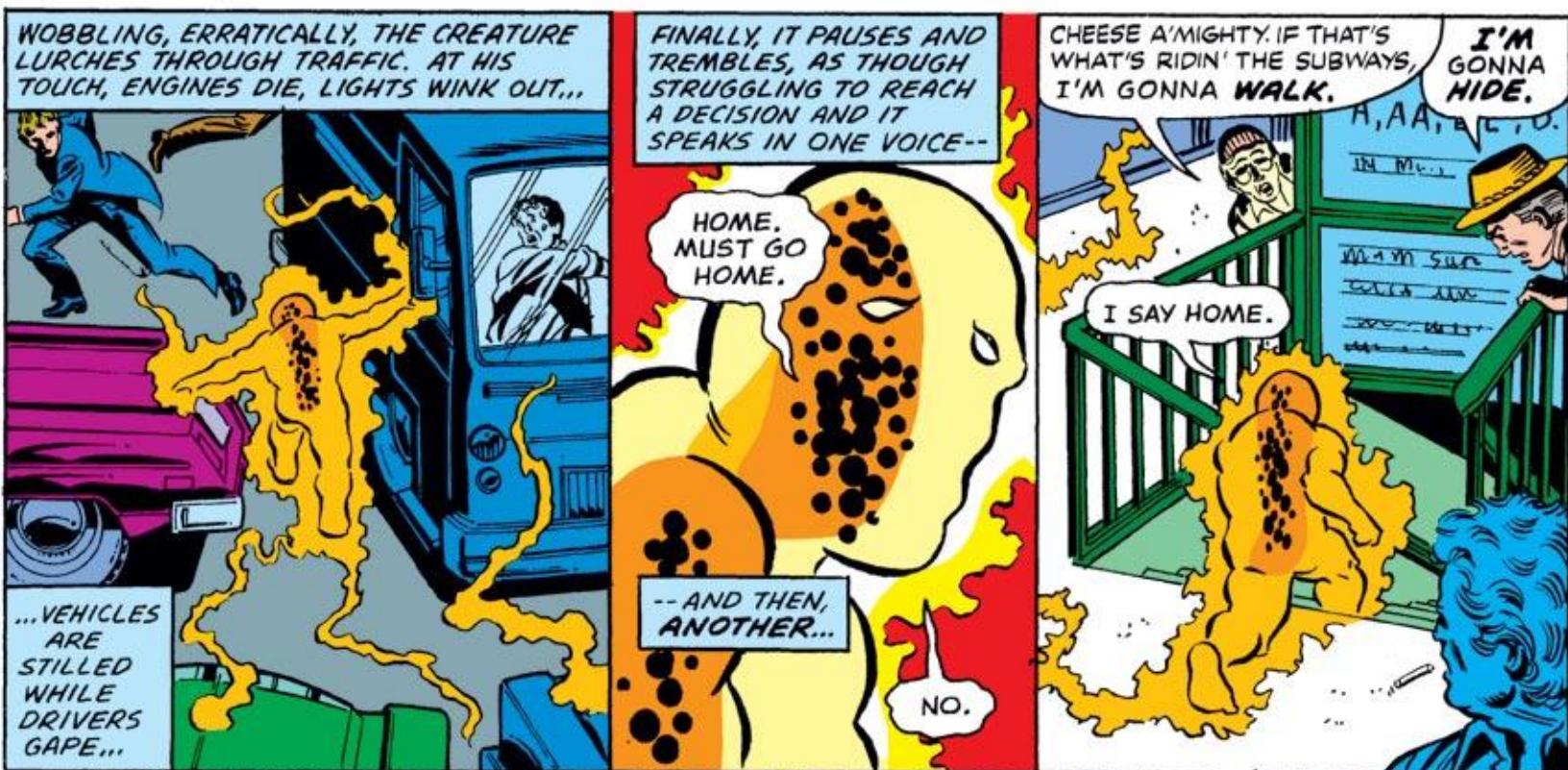


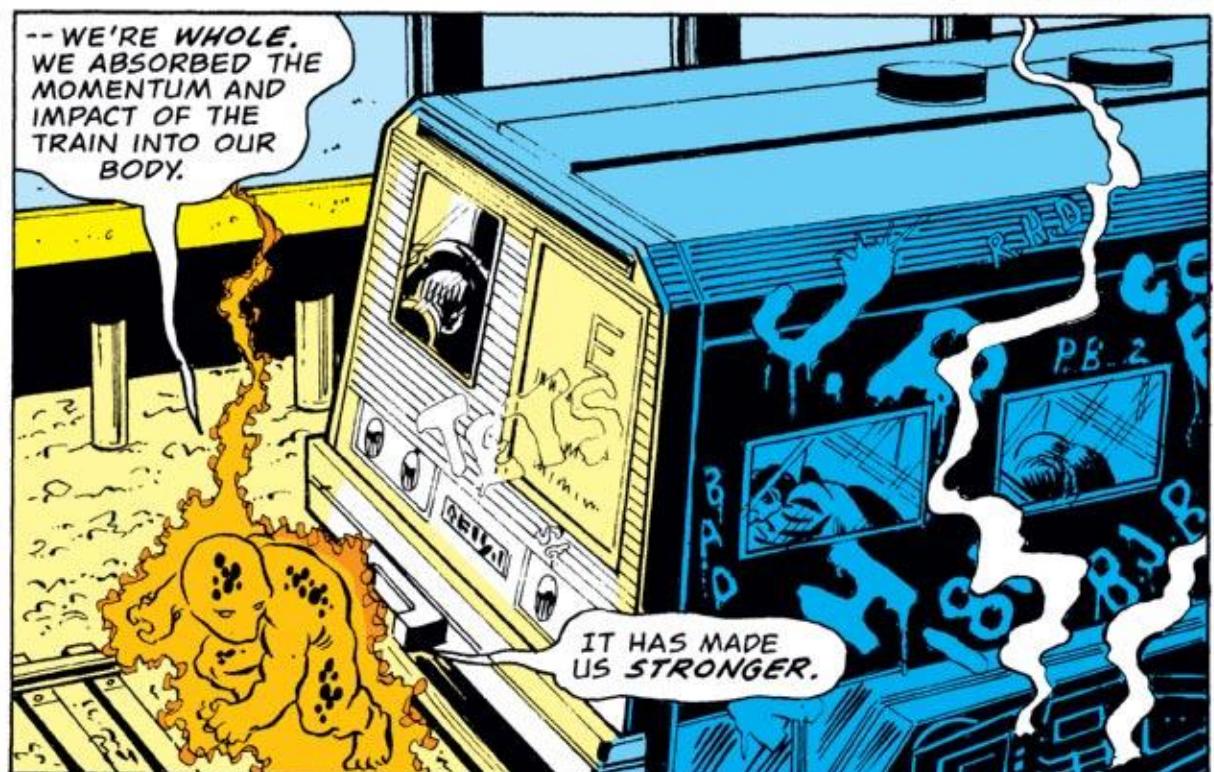
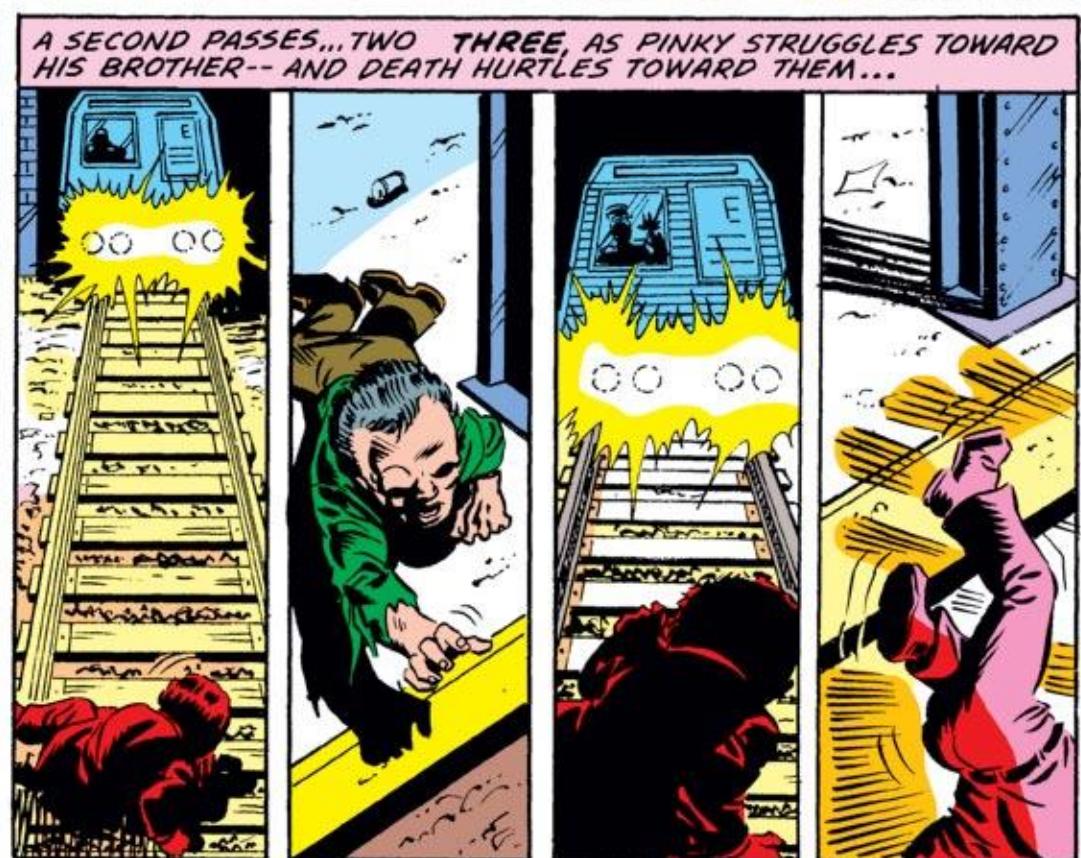


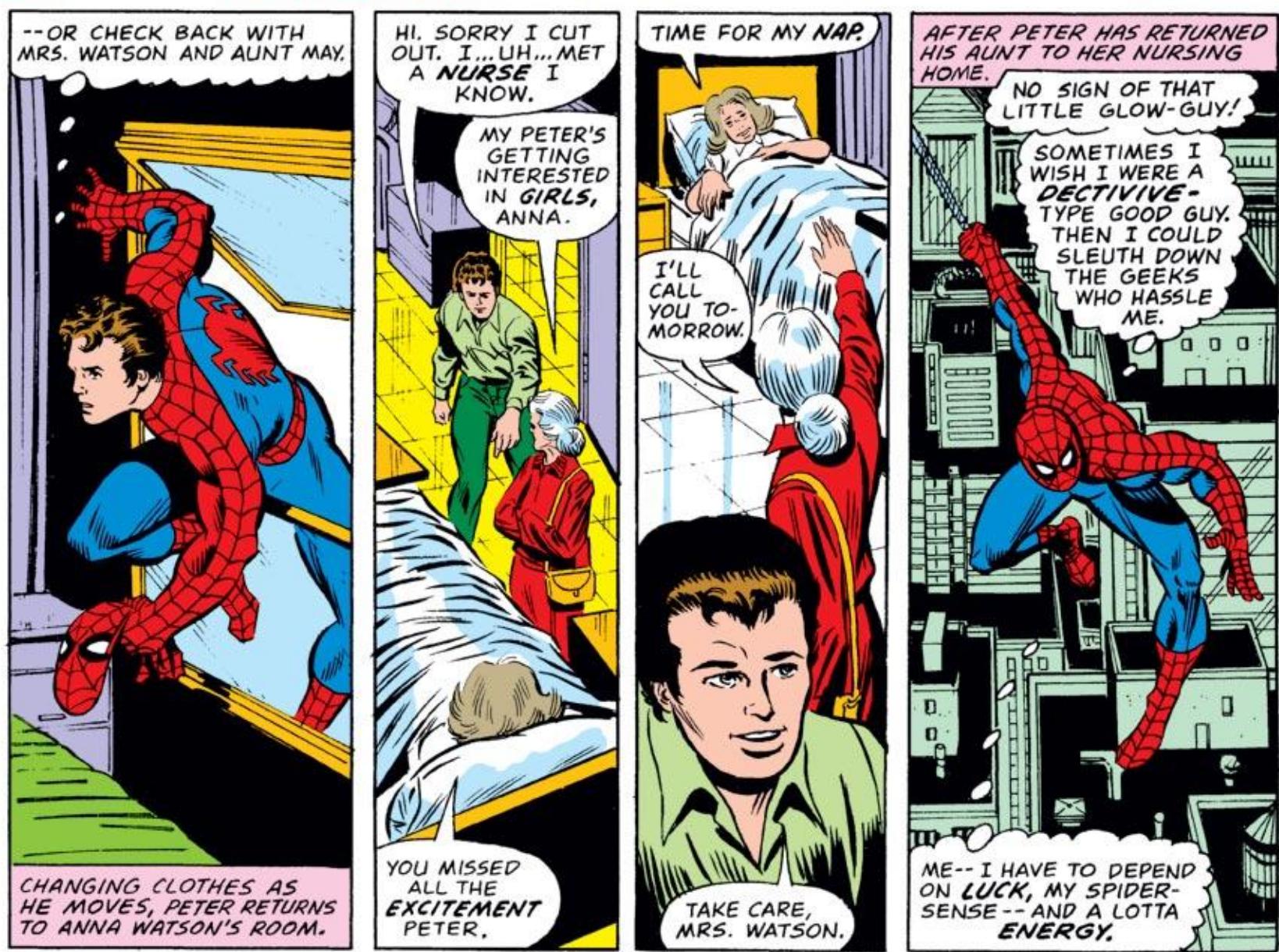
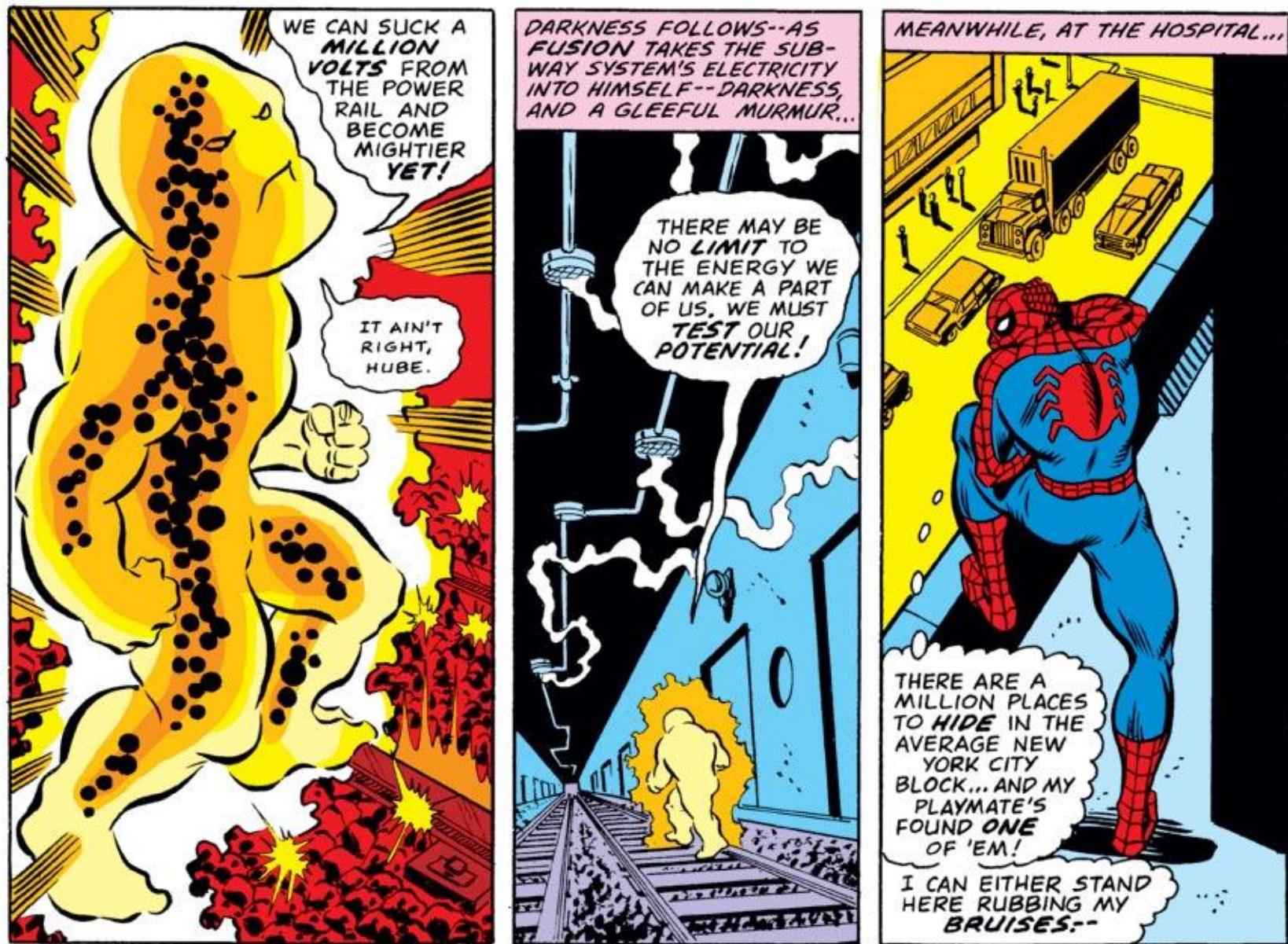


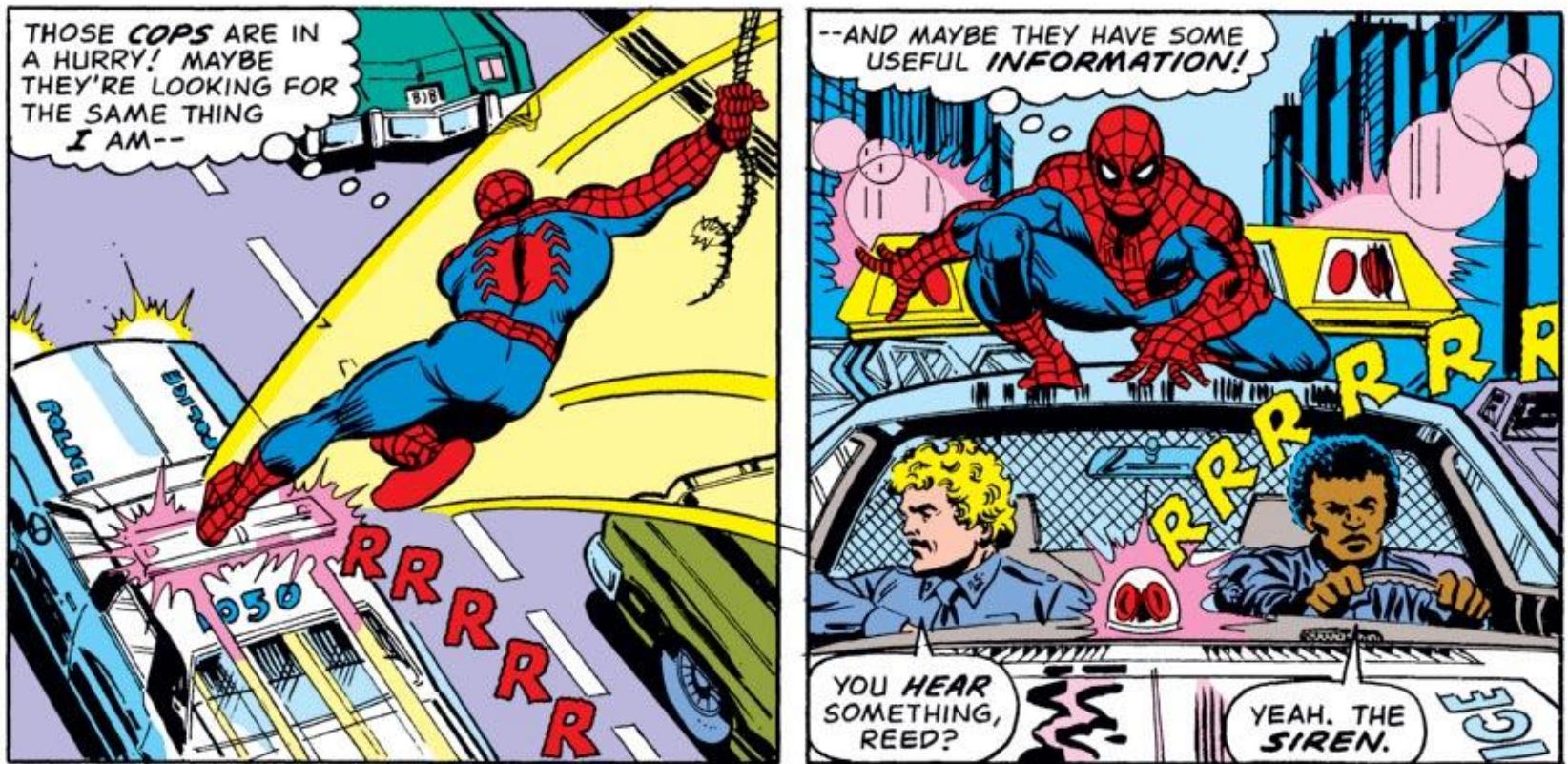


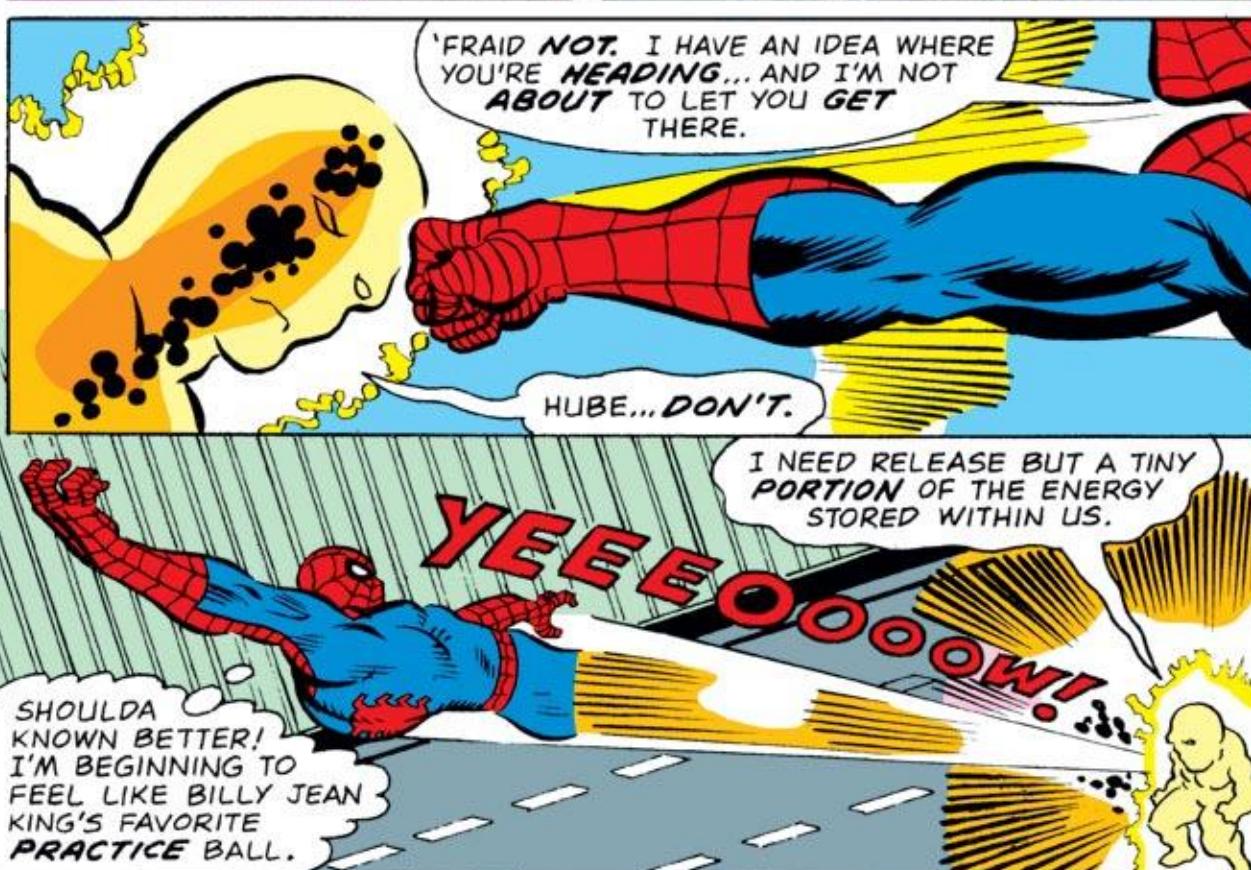
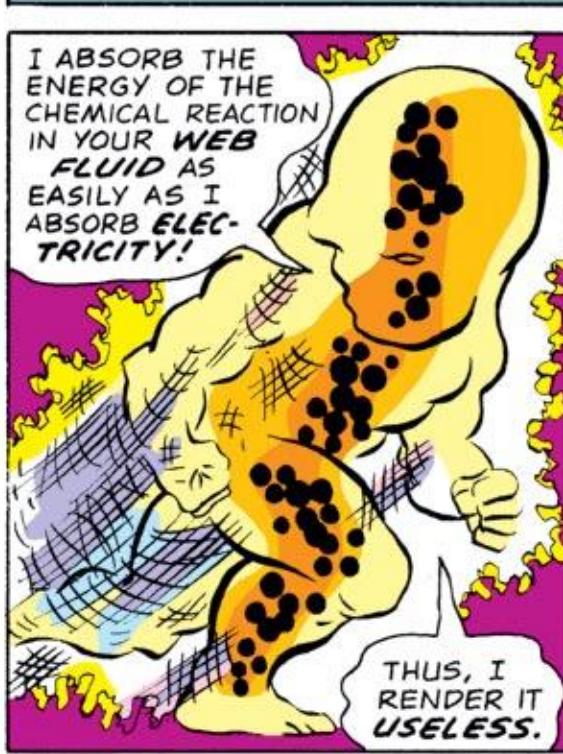
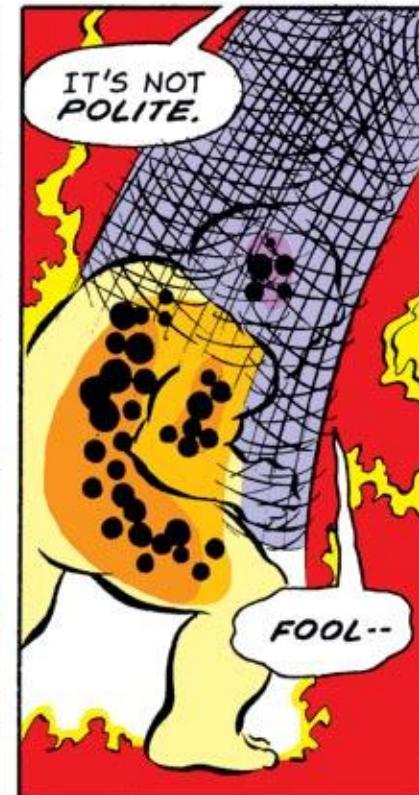
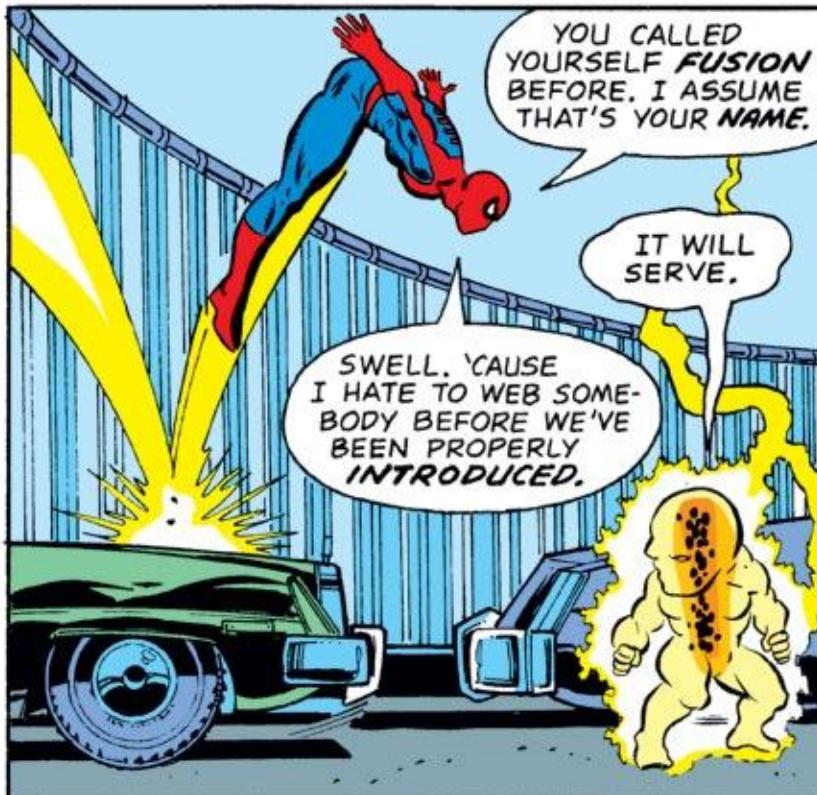


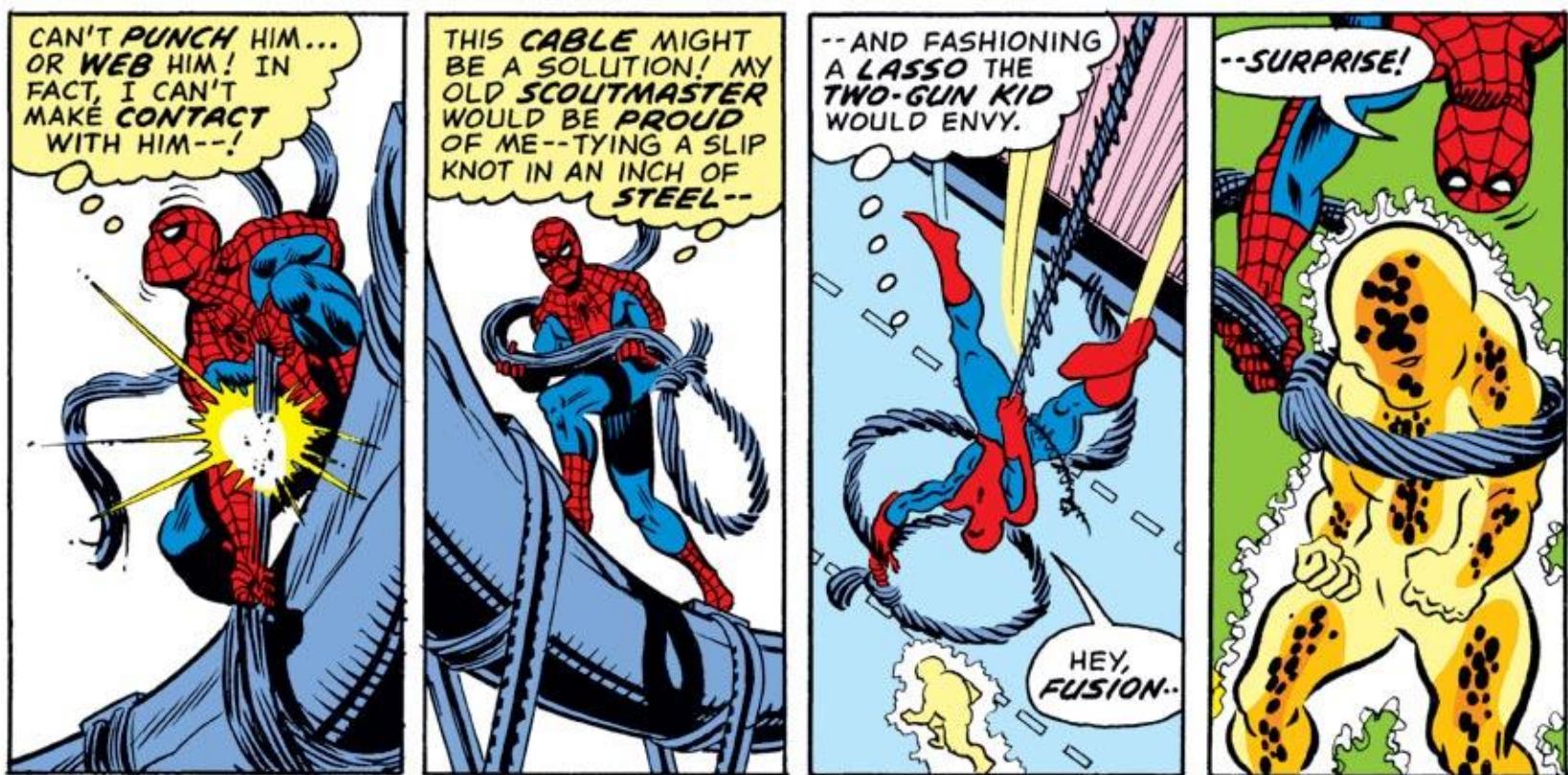
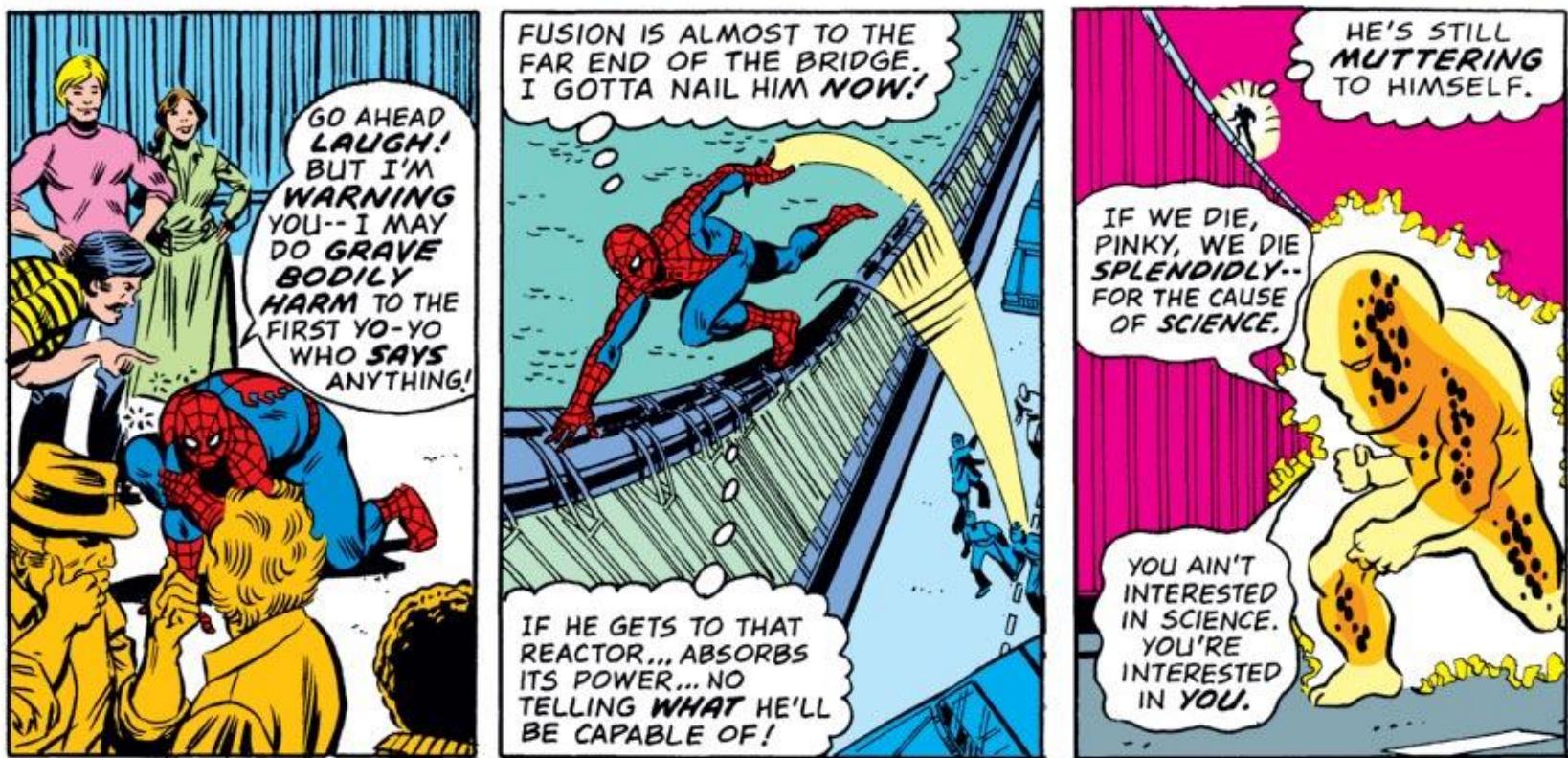


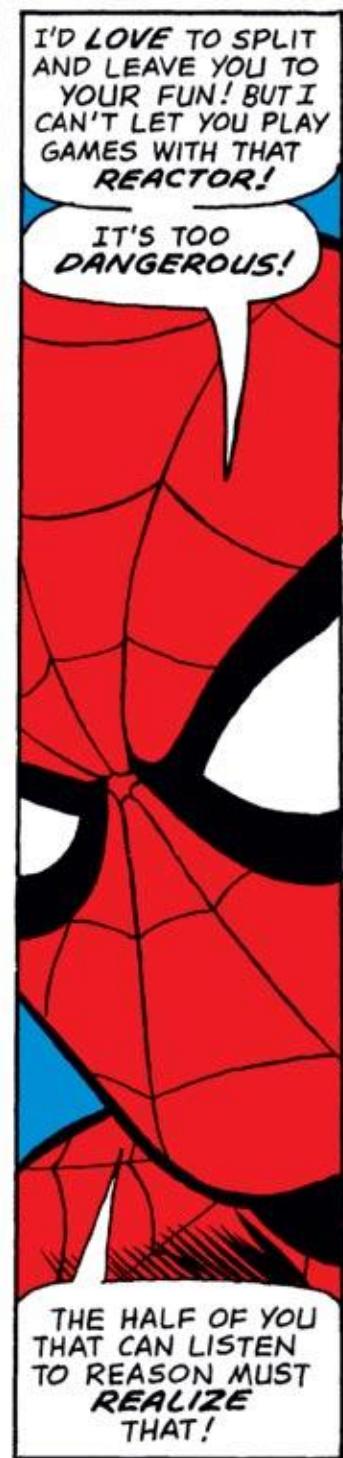
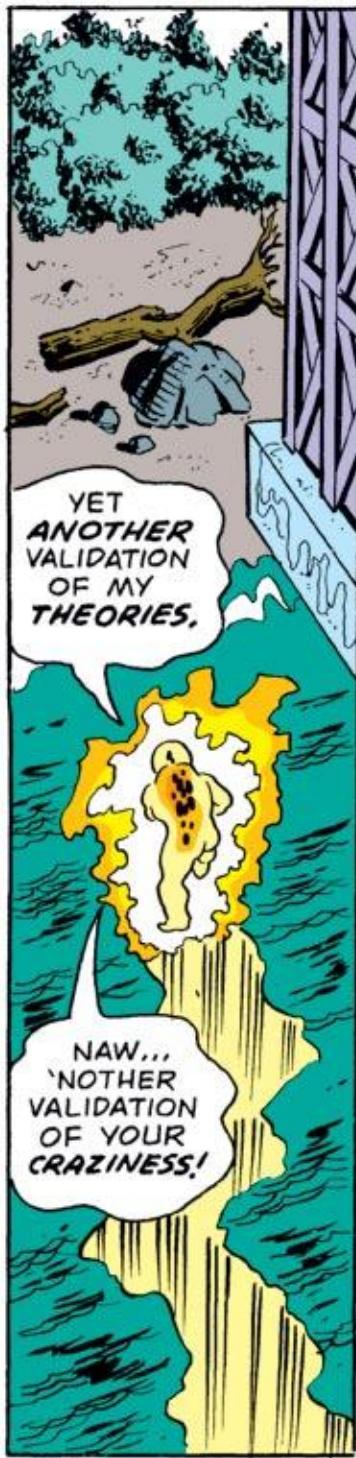
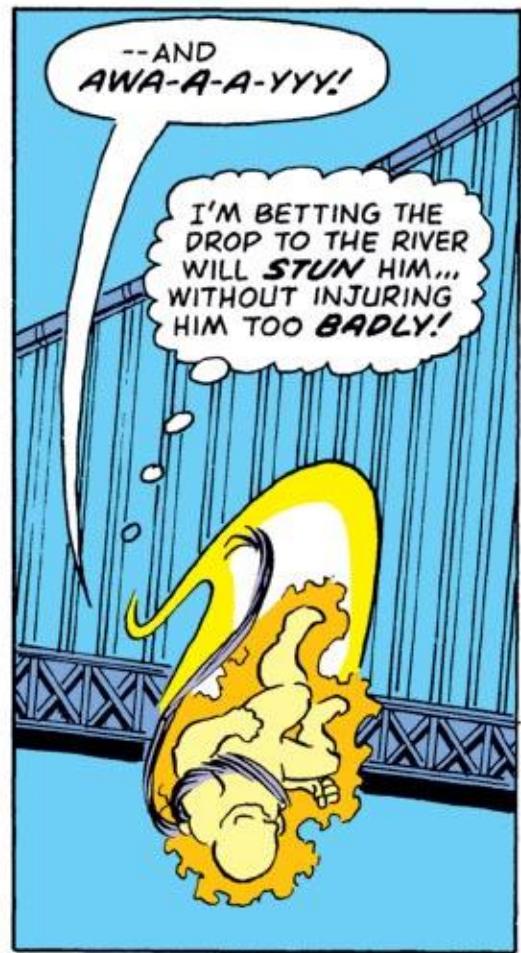


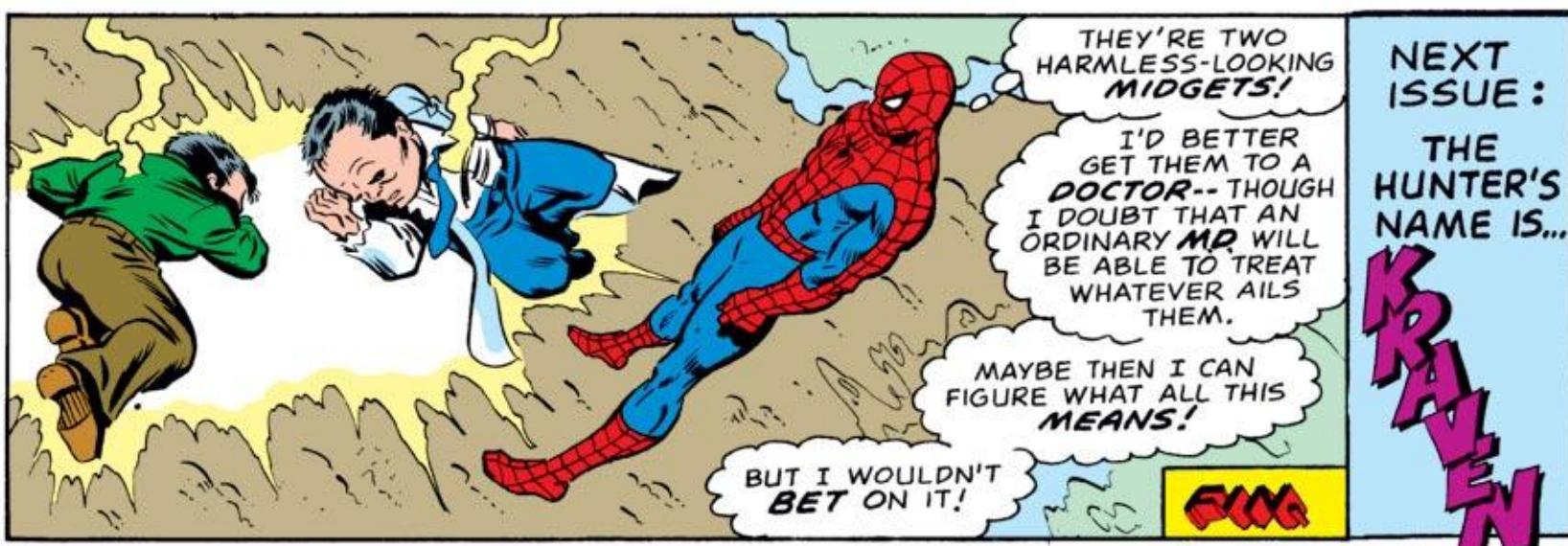
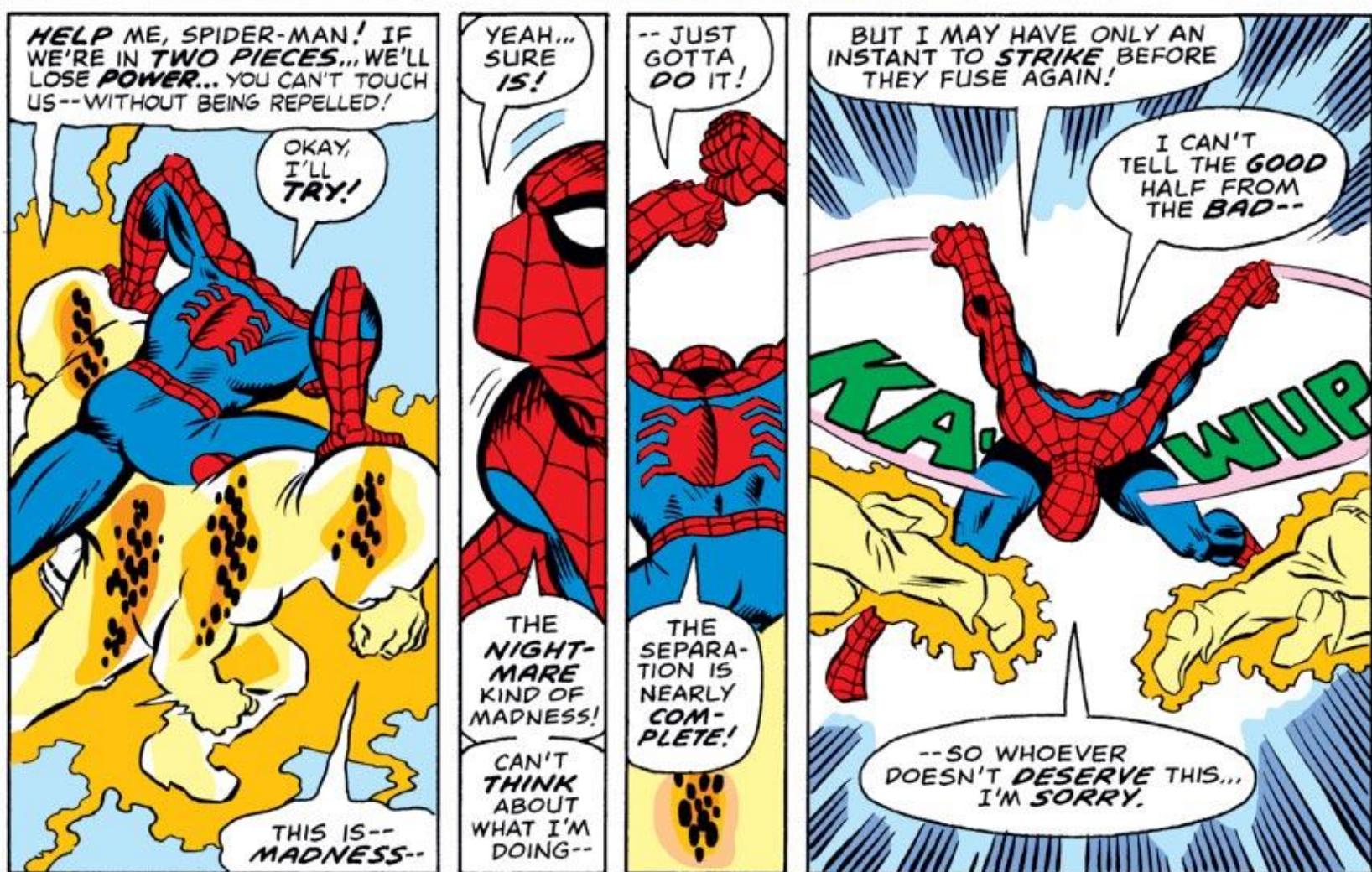












THE SPIDER'S WEB

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

ALLEN MILGROM
EDITOR
MARY JO DUFFY
ASSISTANT EDITOR

Dear People,

SPIDER-MAN #203 was indeed a classic. Having the Dazzler appear as a guest-star was a great idea... especially so soon after her appearance in the uncanny X-MEN!

Another great touch was the opening scene in which Spider-Man thought that the ball of light chasing the Dazzler was Will-O'-the-Wisp! Anyway, the story and the art were sensational. I'll definitely be looking forward to Dazzler's appearance in this month's FANTASTIC FOUR, as well!

Gary Peiffer Jr.
RD 4

Dover, PA 17315

Dear Guys,

Okay, everybody makes mistakes.

The Dazzler is your mistake. A disco singer/heroine? Spare me.

But don't worry, it could have been worse... I can be forgiving. In fact, I'll give you a chance to atone for your wrongs. All you have to do is make the upcoming Black Cat story good. No, Make it great! And, please, make it romantic! Good heavens, don't you people know a good thing when you create it? Peter Parker needs a decent, loving girl, and Felicia Hardy is made to order. I don't know if the Black Cat should learn Spider-Man's identity, or anything that drastic, but do something... please!

Liam Pleven
1160 Fifth Avenue
New York, NY 10029

Well, I'm not sure how you took the ending of our latest Black Cat opus, Liam... but you have to admit it was romantic! I'll agree that Felicia Hardy is certainly a loving girl, but her scruples and her mental state don't exactly qualify her for the "decent" category.

But if it's a romance you want to see, I'd like to direct your eyes to the pages of our sister magazine, the SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN. If you hurry, you just might get in on the ground-floor of an interesting development in the love-life of Peter Parker.

—R.S.

Re: AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #203

Nice cover, fellas! There was just one thing wrong with it... it wasn't signed! C'mon, don't be bashful... who drew it?

Louis Fetter
RR #1

Plainfield, IN 46168

The art on the cover of issue #203 was by our own Jim Mooney, Lou, from a sketch by Frank Miller. Thanks for asking... we liked it, too.

—R.S.

Dear Marvel:

Alas, the great Marvel Age of Comics is no longer with us. Marvel comics have lost the one thing that separated them from their competitors — realism. What made Spider-Man the revolutionary hero he was back in 1963 when Lee

and Ditko created him? The answer is realism. Here was a super hero who actually had personal problems, who had doubts about himself — just as we all do.

I think the first signs that Spider-Man was losing some of the magic that made him great occurred with the death of Gwen Stacy. Readers saw Pete through high school, his first love, his college days... they grew up with him. Then, along came Gwen Stacy. Gradually, their relationship grew to a point at which the readers knew would logically lead to the marriage of Pete and Gwen. Of course, we all know what happened in that now infamous issue #121. Rather than dealing with the next logical step in Pete's life, you killed Gwen. This was easier than dealing with the more subtle if more subdued concept of a married super hero. What a cop out. From then on, relationships with characters could be ended simply by killing off one of the characters. Instead of employing the revolutionary fervor started with Spider-Man's first memorable issue, and allowing Pete to move on to a new stage in his life, Marvel avoided the change by ending Gwen's life.

A recent case in point concerns the Spider-Man newspaper strip. At first, the current strip really intrigued me. I had often wondered what would happen if a superhero turned his powers to the athletic fields. It would have been nice if Pete had shown the jocks on his college team how to really play football. Any "realistic" person with the powers of Spider-Man would be able to rewrite the record books. Just using a fraction of his power, Pete could play pro ball for a couple of years and thereby solve at least half of his personal problems. Then, Pete could devote the rest of his life to the fight against crime. Now that would be a revolutionary story!

Kenneth E. Leeper
RD #4, Box 342
Lewiston, PA 17044

Revolutionary, indeed, Ken... but would it be right for Spider-Man? Would Peter Parker be the kind of guy who would get off on showing the jocks how it's done... or would he have to be wearing his mask to pull it off? You see, Ken, realism is not always as you perceive it. I think most of us will agree that Parker is a fairly neurotic guy. He tends to restrict his showing-off to when he's in costume.

Likewise, marriage was not the logical outcome of Peter's relationship with Gwen Stacy. It was the most obvious outcome, but it was by no means the only outcome.

I think that if you take a broad view of the run of SPIDER-MAN, you'll find that there has been change — quite a bit of it! — in Pete's lifestyle, in his personal circumstances, and in his love life. And Pete's life continues to change. But those changes are consistent with his personality. At least, that's what we strive for. If we've fumbled the ball occasionally, we're sorry for that. We'll just have to dig in, and try better next time. 'Nuff said? —Roger Stern.

- MARVEL TWO-IN-ONE #67 — *The Thing* and *Hyperion* square off!
- SHOGUN WARRIORS #20 — Collector's Item last issue! Guest-stars the FFI!
- SPIDER-WOMAN #30 — The Web-Lady battles the Fly!
- STAR TREK #6 — An outer-space murder mystery!
- SPIDEY SUPER STORIES #48 — Easy-to-read Spidey thrillers!
- DAREDEVIL #166 — *The Gladiator!*
- KING CONAN #3 — "Red Moon of Zembabwei!"
- MARVEL SUPER HEROES #91 — (Reprints Hulk #140) Enter: Jarella!
- SPIDER-MAN #208 — Spidey faces the dual menace of... Fusion!
- CAPTAIN AMERICA #249 — Machinesmith's robot army!
- THOR #299 — The mortal Thor falls victim to Hagen's wiles!
- MICRONAUTS #21 — When strikes... the Plantman!
- GHOST RIDER #48 — Wild West vampires! 'Nuff said!
- SHE-HULK #8 — Guest-stars Man-Thing!
- MARVEL FUN AND GAMES #13 — Mazes, puzzles, riddles and general nuttiness!
- MARVEL SUPER ACTION #23 — (Reprints Avengers #62) *The Black Panther* fights alone!

- #s 5 and 47) Magneto's orbiting death-fortress! Plus: Ice-man's origin!
- INCREDIBLE HULK #251 — From the fabulous 50's comes... the *3-D Man!*
- AVENGERS #199 — To save the Earth... Death-duel with Red Ronin!
- CONAN #114 — "The Shadow of the Beast!"
- MARVEL TALES #119 — (Reprints Spidey #142) Show-down with Mysterio!
- MARVEL'S GREATEST #92 — (Reprints FF #112) *The Thing* vs. *The Hulk!*
- X-MEN #137 — The stunning double-length "Fate of the Phoenix!"
- TALES TO ASTONISH #10 — (Reprints Sub-Mariner #10) Captain Barracuda's got the Serpent Crown!
- ROM #10 — ROM vs. the Air Force!
- FANTASY MASTERPIECES #10 — (Reprints Silver Surfer #10 and Strange Tales #180) *The Surfer* & Starlin's *Warlock!* What more could you ask?
- MAN-THING #6 — Rampaging youths stalk the Man-Thing!
- FANTASTIC FOUR #222 — "The Possession of Franklin Richards!"
- TEAM-UP #97 — *Spider-Woman* vs. *The Hulk!*
- IRON MAN #138 — Tony Stark takes on the Maggia!
- PETER PARKER #46 — The coils of the *Cobra!*

- STAR WARS #39 — Beginning... *The Empire Strikes Back!*
- MASTER OF KUNG FU #92 — Combat beneath Chinatown!
- MARVEL SPOTLIGHT #8 — *Captain Marvel* — stranded on the planet of stopped-time!
- BATTLESTAR GALACTICA #19 — Starbuck escapes Scavenger World — but to where!?
- TWO-IN-ONE ANNUAL #5 — *The Thing* and *The Hulk* — together!
- HULK ANNUAL #9 — A team of all-new super-baddies challenges ol' Greenskin!
- MARVEL TREASURY #27 : THE SENSATIONAL SPIDER-MAN — A giant-sized re-presentation of the Wall-Crawler's most electrifying team-ups!

MARVEL MAGAZINES

- CRAZY #65 — The insanity rolls on with Teen-Hulk, Howard the Duck, "The Bleach Hole!", and lots more!
- SAVAGE SWORD OF CONAN #55 — The Cimmerian must wrest his very soul from a sinister sand-demon!
- TOMB OF DRACULA #6 — Dracula in the days of the Civil War! Plus: *Lilith!*
- THE HULK #22 — A crazed scientist plots nuclear war! Also: *Dominic Fortune* with awesome painting by Howard Chaykin!