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**THE SENSATIONAL**

# SPIDER-MAN

**SEPT  
#31**

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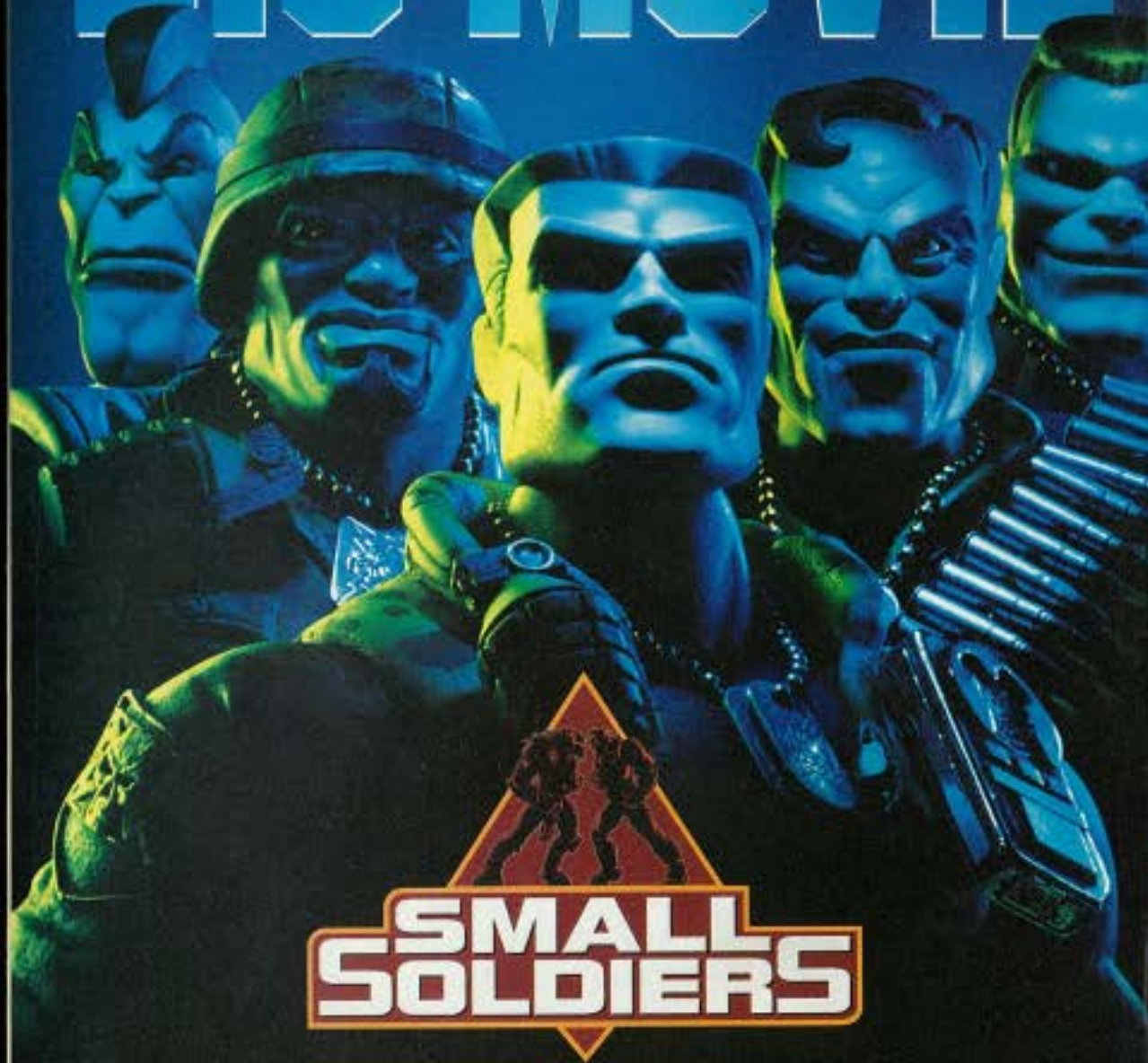
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RHINO!**



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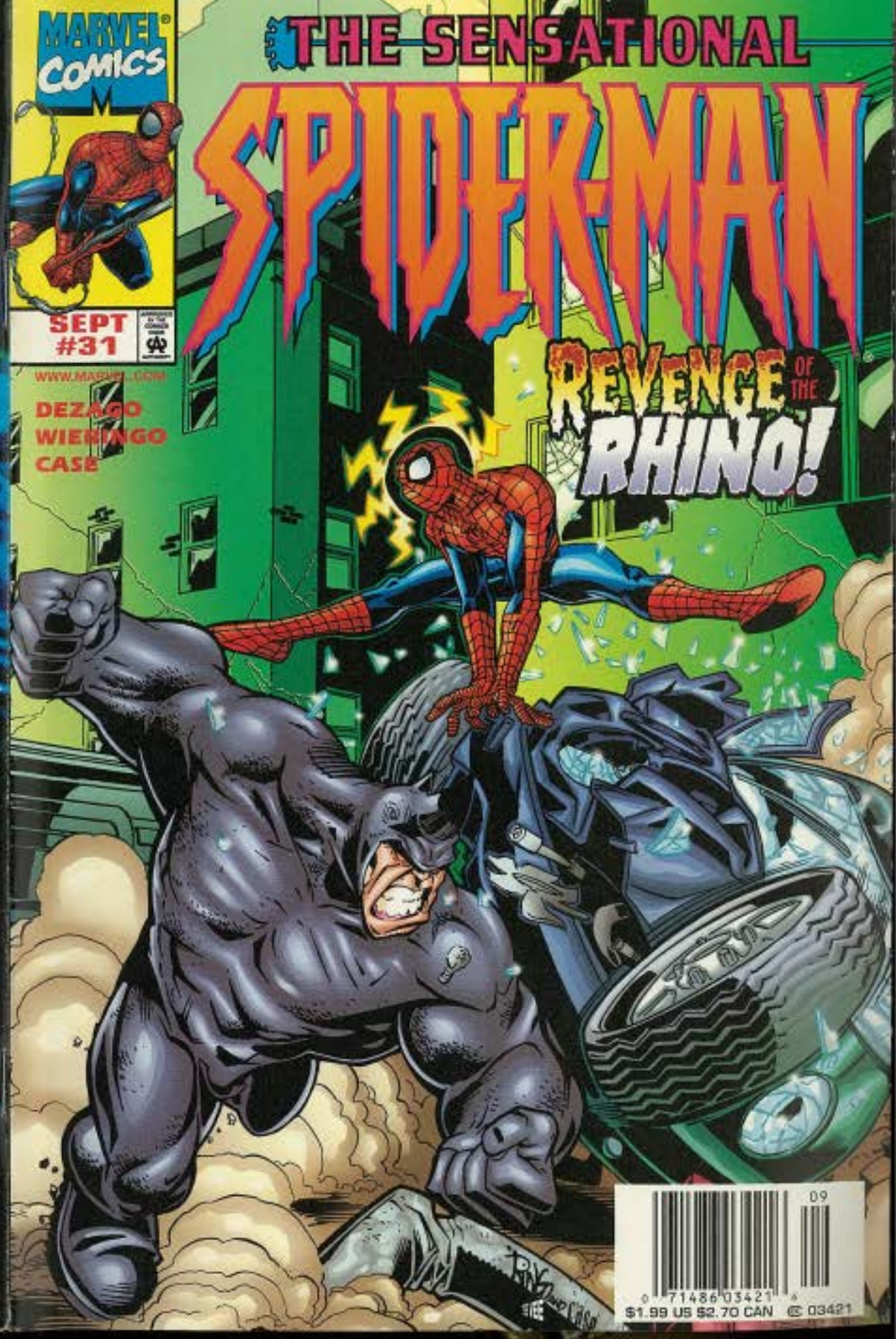
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THE SENSATIONAL

# SPIDER-MAN

## REVENGE OF THE RHINO!

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HEY, IT'S  
THE EVER-  
SENSATIONAL

# SPIDER-MAN!

A true hero at heart, Spider-Man has dedicated his life to preventing injustices against the innocent.



**M** meet Peter Parker, once a brilliant, though meek high school student, orphaned as a child and reared by his doting **Uncle Ben** and **Aunt May**. At a science fair, Peter was bitten by an irradiated spider and gained the proportionate strength, speed, agility and early warning "spider sense" of that arachnid. He used these powers for personal fame and fortune as a masked Spider-Man. But when Peter failed to stop a criminal who later killed his beloved **Uncle Ben**, the youth's costumed identity took on a far deeper significance. He realized that with great power there must also come great responsibility. So Peter Parker became the wall-crawling nemesis of the criminal element; a young man determined to atone for the tragic death of his uncle — **The Amazing Spider-Man!**

## RHINO

He was a small-time hood who was hired by two foreign spies to be the subject of an experiment to create a superhuman assassin. After months of treatments, the criminal was given a fabricated bodysuit that simulated the hide of a rhinoceros. But the now code-named **Rhino** quickly turned on his benefactors and used his awesome abilities to further his own criminal desires. He has been beaten by Spider-Man on numerous occasions.



## ELLEN HIBBERT

A young, African-American police woman who has moved next door to Peter and **Mary Jane** in **Forest Hills** with her daughter, **Hope**.



## HOPE HIBBERT

Ellen Hibbert's adolescent daughter who exhibits a fascination with her new neighbors, the Parkers.



## BILLY WALTERS

A new addition to the **Daily Bugle** newspaper. He is an enthusiastic young photographer who has been paired with Peter Parker.



PREVIOUSLY IN...

# THE SENSATIONAL SPIDER-MAN



**S**pidy and the **Black Cat** defeated the villainous **Arcade** in a tough tussle in **Arcade's** special deathtrap called **Murderworld**.

**A**nd Peter dealt with the **Hope Hibbert** situation, discovering to his immense relief that she did not know he was **Spider-Man**, only that she'd seen **Spider-Man** crawl into Peter's window and wondered if he did Peter any harm.



**B**ut the webspinner's period of calm is brief, because just around the corner the nerve-shattering sounds of a wild animal on the loose is heard. Buildings topple and the citizenry flees because-- the **Rhino's** on a rampage...

# THE SENSATIONAL SPIDER-MAN

PREVIOUSLY IN...

H-HOW!

Oh, please, Arcade — tell me that you haven't even figured it out yet!

ONCE WE TIPPED TO THE FACT THAT YOU'D TAGGED US WITH SENSORS, IT WAS CAKE TO TAKE THE CAT'S SENSOR AND PUT IT ON HER ANDROID DUPLICATE!

WHICH, I MIGHT ADD, WILL SUPPLY

**S**pidey and the Black Cat defeated the villainous Arcade in a tough tussle in Arcade's special deathtrap called Murderworld.

**A**nd Peter dealt with the Hope Hibbert situation, discovering to his immense relief that she did not know he was Spider-Man, only that she'd seen Spider-Man crawl into Peter's window and wondered if he did Peter any harm.

HOPE, LOOK — SPIDER-MAN WAS HERE THAT NIGHT TO GIVE ME SOME INFORMATION THAT I NEEDED FOR WORK FOR MY JOB AT THE DAILY BUGLE.

I KNOW THAT HE PROBABLY SEEMED SCARY AND THAT A LOT OF PEOPLE SAY THAT HE'S BAD — BUT I KNOW HIM, AND I KNOW THAT HE'S GOOD!



**B**ut the webspinner's period of calm is brief, because just around the corner the nerve-shattering sounds of a wild animal on the loose is heard. Buildings topple and the citizenry flees because—the Rhino's on a rampage...

NEW YORK CITY — THE BOROUGH OF QUEENS

RARRRRRRRR

— ALL UNITS RESPOND TO THE SCENE, QUEENS BOULEVARD AT —

— IN THE SECTION OF TOWN KNOWN AS JAMAICA —

— S.W.A.T. AND SPECIAL UNITS —

— CODE ALPHA —

RREEEDDDORREEEDOO

— WANT EVERYBODY TO STAND DOWN, RESTON! DO YOU HEAR ME? DO WHAT YOU CAN TO CONTAIN THE SITUATION, BUT I WANT NO SHOW OF FORCE UNTIL I ARRIVE!

R-RIGHT, CHIEF, BUT WHAT'S YOUR ETA...P?

ELLEN...P

ESTIMATED TIME OF ARRIVAL — Radio Roll!

TELL RESTON TO TAKE A STEP TO THE LEFT —

— OR I'M GONNA HIT HIM!

HEY!

RREEEDDOOP

SKREECH



TALK TO ME, RESTON -- WHADDA WE KNOW?

YOU KNOW WHAT I KNOW, CHIEF. THIS RAMPAGE STARTED ABOUT AN HOUR AGO. SEVEN BLOCKS OVER. THROWIN' HIMSELF INTA ANYTHING HE CAN FIND!

**POOOOM!**  
**KRAUNK!**

ARRRAHHRR!

NOT DIRECTED AT ANYBODY -- MOSTLY THINGS -- BUILDINGS, CARS, TRUCKS -- DOIN' A LOTTA PROPERTY DAMAGE! THE JOB PRECINCT IS STILL EVACUATING THE NEIGHBORHOOD, BUT WHO KNOWS WHERE HE'S GOIN'?



HAVE THEY TRIED COMMUNICATING WITH HIM? NEGOTIATORS?

TRIED AND FAILED. HE ACTED LIKE THEY WEREN'T EVEN THERE. JUST KEPT SAYING ONE WORD, OVER AND --



-- JUMPIN' JASPER ON A POGO STICK --!



NOTHING! NOTHING!



STAN LEE PRESENTS:  
**THE SENSATIONAL SPIDER-MAN**  
THE **VS** **RAGING RHINO**

**MORE THAN A FEELIN'**

**TODD DEZAGO**  
Script • Story • Pencils  
**MIKE WIERINGO**  
**RICH CASE** **GREGORY WRIGHT**  
inks Links Colors  
RICHARD STARKINGS & COMICRAFT  
**LIZ AGRAPHOTIS** Letters  
**RALPH MACCHIO** Ringside Seat  
**BOB HARRAS** Throw in the Towel

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MEANWHILE, SEVERAL NEIGHBORHOODS AWAY, IN THE AREA OF QUEENS KNOWN AS FOREST HILLS --

-- YOUNG HOMEOWNERS PETER AND MARY JANE PARKER TEND TO ONE OF THE MANY CHORES THAT COME WITH THAT PRESTIGIOUS TITLE --

I'M TELLIN' YA, MJ -- IT'S LIKE EVERY TIME WE GET SOMETHING FIXED AROUND HERE, SOMETHING ELSE BREAKS --

-- WE'RE SPENDING MORE AND MORE TIME REPAIRING STUFF AND PATCHING THINGS UP --

...I'M BEGINNING TO FEEL LIKE BOB VILA!

MORE LIKE TIM ALLEN... BUT WITH EVERYTHING THAT'S BEEN GOING ON, PETER, IT'S NOT LIKE YOU'RE REALLY HAD THE TIME! BETWEEN SCHOOL, THE DAILY BUGLE, NOT TO MENTION --

THIS ISN'T GONNA BE ANOTHER ONE OF THOSE "YOU'RE SPENDING TOO MUCH TIME AS SPIDER-MAN" CONVERSATIONS, IS IT..?

RUNK

PLAKT

NO, IT ISN'T. BUT SPEAKING OF TIME, I'M GOING TO GIVE JILLY A CALL AND MAKE SURE WE'RE STILL ON FOR TONIGHT... YOU WANT A SHAPPLEP

SURE, HON. THANKS.

MARY JANE'S RIGHT, THOUGH... I DO SPEND A LOT OF TIME AS SPIDEY, ESPECIALLY MORE NOW SINCE NORMAN OSBORN'S BEEN CONSTANTLY TURNING UP THE HEAT ON THE OL' WEB-HEAD, I'VE --

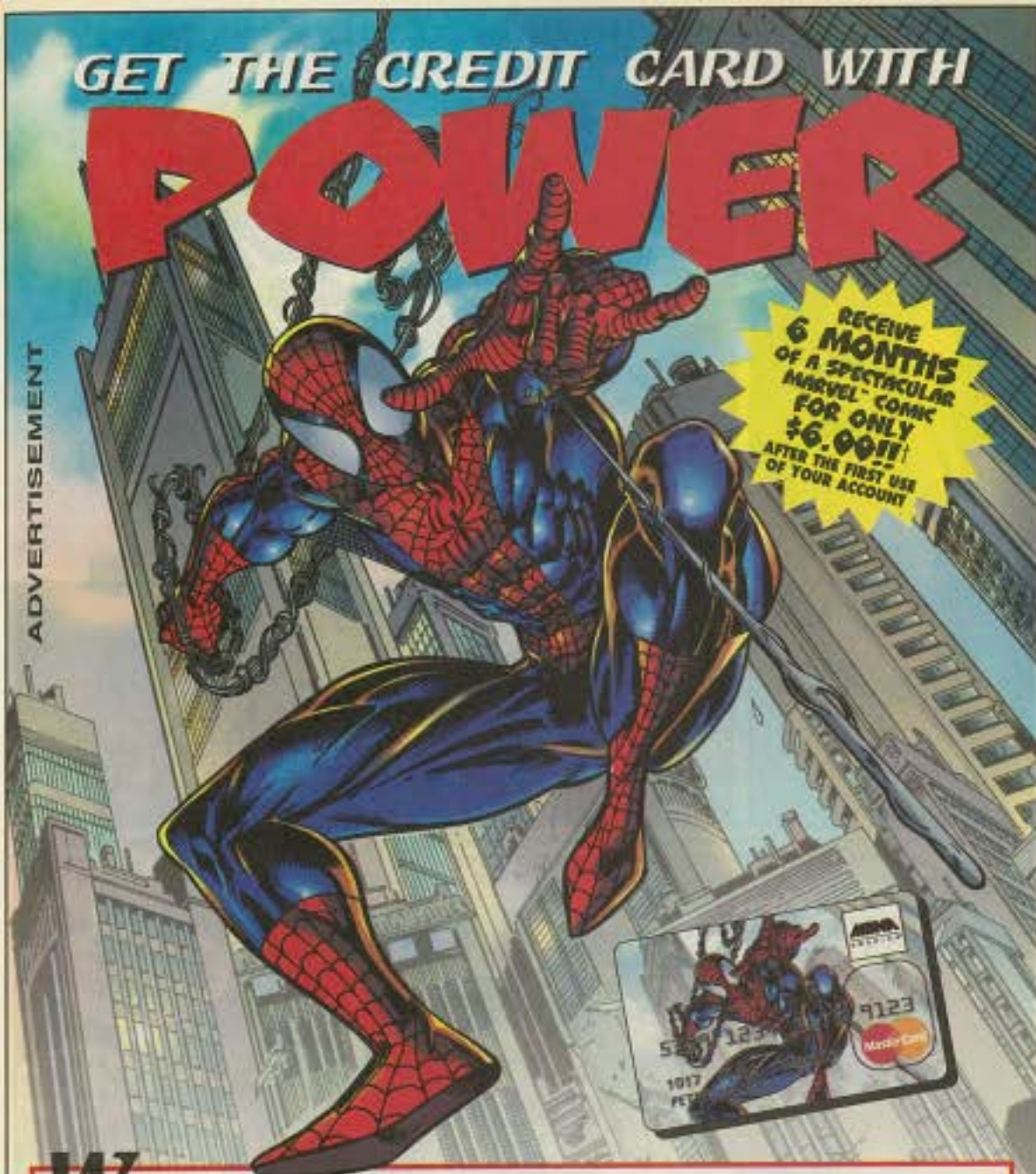
HEY, THAT WAS FAST! WASN'T JILL HOME, OR --

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SO, WHAT WAS IT YOU WANTED TO TALK TO ME ABOUT...?



WELL, UH... IT'S... THAT'S KINDA COMPLICATED TOO --

-- I'VE GOTTA QUIT THE BUGLE...  
...I'M MOVING OUT OF THE CITY...



WHU-WHAT?! -- BUT... WHY?!

DUDE -- IT'S, LIKE, A LOOOONG STORY.



SEE, WHEN I WAS A KID, IT WAS JUST THE 'RENTS AND ME; I DIDN'T HAVE ANY BROTHERS OR SISTERS. MY DAD... WELL...



... MY DAD LEFT WHEN I WAS, LIKE, FOURTEEN. MOM AND I WERE ALL ALONE, AND WE MADE IT, BUT JUST BARELY... SHE...

... MY MOM... SHE NEVER REALLY SAID IT OUT LOUD, BUT... I KNOW SHE ALWAYS KINDA **BLAMED** ME FOR HIS LEAVING...



... HE WAS ALWAYS LIKE... DISAPPOINTED IN ME...



ANYWAY, MY MOM'S REAL SICK, AND I'M GONNA MOVE BACK HOME. MAYBE IT'S, LIKE, GUILT OR SOMETHING, BUT I GOTTA GO, I HAFTA TAKE CARE OF HER...

... I LOVE HER, Y'KNOW...?

I DUNNO, MAYBE IT'S JUST TOO MESSED UP FOR ANYBODY TO UNDERSTAND. IT'S JUST... I FEEL LIKE IT'S MY... RESPONSIBILITY... AND --



NO, BILLY -- BELIEVE ME, I UNDERSTAND...  
...PERFECTLY.



GO ANYWAY, I WANTED TO STOP BY AND APOLOGIZE... FOR BUSTIN' ON YA... FOR TREATING YOU THE WAY I DID WHEN YOU HAD OTHER THINGS TO DO.

FOR ACTING LIKE A COMPLETE FOOL WHEN THINGS DIDN'T GO THE WAY I WANTED...

...I JUST WANTED US TO BE BUDS AND, I GUESS SINCE I DON'T REALLY HAVE A LOT OF EXPERIENCE WITH THAT... WELL, I THOUGHT YOU WERE PUTTIN' UP A WALL, KEEPIN' ME OUT...

...SORRY.



MAYBE THE ONLY THING YOU NEED TO LEARN ABOUT FRIENDS, BILLY --



-- IS KNOWING WHEN YOU HAVE THEM!







LISTEN, IT'S NOT LIKE PORT JERVIS IS ACROSS THE COUNTRY OR ANYTHING -- YOU WILL CALL, OR WRITE, RIGHT? AND COME BACK TO VISIT... P AUNT ANNA'S IN MY OLD ROOM, BUT YOU CAN HAVE THE COUCH...

DUDE -- ABSOLUTELY!



Oh, WHOA! WAIT A MINUTE, PETE -- JUST ONE MORE THING...



... AND TO PATCH THINGS UP! I'M GONNA MISS 'EM.



MOMENTS LATER --

HEY! WHERE'D YOU GO WITH MY SNAPPLE?

I SAW YOU OUTSIDE WITH BILLY SO I THOUGHT I'D GIVE YOU GUYS SOME TIME FOR A LITTLE MALE-BONDING...

I KNOW HOW BUMMED YOU WERE ABOUT HOW THINGS HAD TURNED OUT. HOW IS HE?



ACTUALLY... HE'S LEAVING...

HE'S MOVING BACK HOME TO TAKE CARE OF HIS MOTHER. HE STOPPED BY TO TELL ME THAT...



I'M SORRY, TIGER -- I KNOW HOW --

SORRY TO INTERRUPT YOU TWO, BUT, PETER, I THOUGHT YOU MIGHT WANT TO SEE THIS... FOR THE PAPER! IT'S HAPPENING OVER IN JAMAICA. YOU MIGHT WANT TO GET SOME PICTURES!



-- THIS RAMPAGE THAT HAS ALREADY CARVED A SWATH OF DESTRUCTION THROUGH --



WOW! I'D BETTER GO...

... GET MY CAMERA! FOR PICTURES!

YEAH... -- YOUR CAMERA...



A FEW THWIPS OF THE WEB LATER --

IT WAS A REAL PAIN IN THE WEB-SHOOTERS GETTING OVER HERE!

I COULDN'T SNAG A RIDE ON A BUS OR A TRUCK 'CAUSE TRAFFIC IS ALL SNARLED UP! NYPD'S CORDONED OFF 17 CITY BLOCKS!



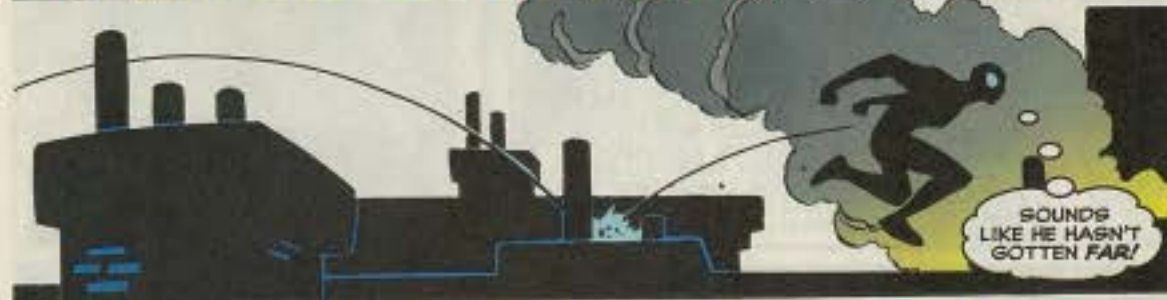
CHANNEL ELEVEN SAID THAT THE BIG GUY WAS DESTROYING EVERYTHING IN SIGHT! NO FATALITIES, BUT THAT PEOPLE HAD BEEN INJURED IN THE --



-- AY CARUMBA!

WHAT COULD MAKE HIM --

TOOM BOOM



SOUNDS LIKE HE HASN'T GOTTEN FAR!



ALTHOUGH I DON'T KNOW WHAT I'M GONNA DO WITH HIM ONCE I FIND HIM --



I MEAN, HOW IS THIS LITTLE SPIDER-MAN SUPPOSED TO THROW DOWN AGAINST SOMETHING LIKE --

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-- THAT?!?

THEY CALL HIM THE RHINO AND THAT'S THE ONLY NAME THEY KNOW...

-- SEALING ITSELF AROUND HIM -- MAKING IT STRONGER -- LOCKING HIM FOREVER WITHIN A COCOON OF PROTECTION -- TRANSFORMING HIM INTO A HUMAN TANK!

THERE IS, OF COURSE --

... A TWO BIT, SLOW-WITTED, KNUCKLE-DRAGGING RENT-A-THUG. HE WAS SELECTED, YEARS AGO, BY UNKNOWN PARTIES OF THE CRIMINAL I.L.K. TO UNDERGO A SERIES OF PROCESSES --

-- DESIGNED TO GIVE HIM SUPERHUMAN STRENGTH! DOSED WITH INCREASING LEVELS OF GAMMA RADIATION, HE WAS OUTFITTED WITH AN EXPERIMENTAL BODY ARMOR --

-- AN IMPENETRABLE HIDE, CAPABLE OF WITHSTANDING NEARLY EVERY FORM OF ARTILLERY KNOWN TO MAN! HE SOON DISCOVERED, HOWEVER, THAT THE THICK SKIN HAD BONDED TO HIS OWN --

KRUNK

NOTHING!

-- A DOWNSIDE TO ALL OF THIS...!

THOOOM

TONK



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MAN, THE RHINO'S IN LIKE, THE HULK'S LEAGUE/ SURE I'VE TAKEN HIM DOWN BEFORE -- BUT NOW HE'S RAMPAGING/ HOW'M I GONNA --

!?

THAT WRECKING SLAS...P



...WELL, AT LEAST MAYBE IT'LL GET HIS ATTENTION!

NOTHING.



Ehh?

PARDON ME, SNACKY...



...IS THAT A HORN ON YOUR HEAD, OR ARE YOU JUST MAD TO SEE ME?

SPIDER-MAN...?!



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- PPK Spectacular Spider-Man
- SSM Sensational Spider-Man
- SPI Spider-Man

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- DDP Deadpool
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## ALPHA FLIGHT

**14**  
ALPHA FLIGHT mourns the loss of one of its oldest and dearest members! Plus: the long-awaited first appearance of the mysterious BRASS BISHOP, a character first mentioned way back in AF volume one, ish #2! By STEVEN T. SEAGLE and ASHLEY WOOD!

## AMAZING SPIDER-MAN

**438**  
SPIDEY slugs it out with DAREDEVIL! A sinister new foe named SYNARIO's got Web-Head and Hom-Head at each other's throats! By TOM DeFALCO and JOE BENNETT!

## GENERATION X

**42**  
The WHITE QUEEN and CHAMBER have lost their powers! This is a bad time to be attacked by the inter-dimensional pirate, BIANCA LANIEGE! By LARRY HAMA and TERRY DODSON!

## IRON MAN

**8**  
IRON MAN's secret identity has been revealed to the world! Now an army of assassins, led by WHIPLASH and SPYMASTER, are gunning for TONY STARK! By KURT BUSIEK and SEAN CHEN!

## MARVEL ADVENTURES

**18**  
CAP's been sent to infiltrate a secret base of A.I.M., but watch out, Wing-Head - MOODK's going to send you on the missile ride of your life! By RALPH MACCHIO and ANDY KUHN!

## MARVEL UNIVERSE

**4**  
Before there were the FANTASTIC FOUR, there were DOCTOR DRUID, ZAWADI, and BLOODSTONE - a.k.a. THE MONSTER HUNTERS! They're an intrepid team of adventurers chasing monsters on the prowl! By ROGER STERN and MIKE MANLEY!

## SPIDER-MAN: THE MANGA

**18**  
YU KOMORI investigates the gang that has attacked a young girl! Now they want to squash Yu like a spider! By RYOICHI IKEGAMI!

## UNCANNY X-MEN/FANTASTIC FOUR

**98**  
A scientist has stolen the power of the PSYCHO-MAN, and he's going to use it to turn the FF and the X-MEN against each other! That's psycho, man! By JOE CASEY and PAUL PELLETIER!

## X-FACTOR

**149**  
POLARIS and MADROX THE MULTIPLE MAN officially rejoin the team - just in time for a dramatic development which will change X-FACTOR forever! By HOWARD MACKIE and LEE MODER!

**ITEM!** There's no telling what can happen when you have one of your missives printed in the letters page of a Marvel mag! For Swedish fan ROBERT TOMLINSON, it led to him meeting his bride! This Marvel Love Connection began when Rob had a letter printed in X-MAN #12 a few years back. CARINA JAHN, a Texas X-fan, saw Rob's letter and dropped him a line. Because they lived so far apart, it seemed these two pen pals would never meet face-to-face. Finally, Robert traveled to America and got to meet Carina. It was love at first sight! The happy couple say they have X-Man to thank for bringing them together; as Rob put it, "Without him, we never would have met. I never thought in my wildest dreams that reading comics would lead to meeting the love of my life." Ron and Carina married this past June 20th, and were kind enough to invite the editors of the comic that brought them together: JAYE GARDNER and BOB HARRAS! Bob and Jaye were not able to attend - unfortunately, when you're a comic book editor, the only weddings you have time to attend are those involving super heroes! But they join us in wishing the best to the newlyweds! We just love playing Cupid!

**ITEM!** TONY STARK is IRON MAN! Every true Marvelite knows that - but now, thanks to a bug planted at STARK SOLUTIONS, so does everyone else in the Marvel Universe! Yes, Shell-Head's secret is out, and now his deadliest foes know exactly where to reach him! Dozens of assassins are gunning for ol' Tony in the pages of IRON MAN #8 - and there's not a suit of Iron Man armor to be found anywhere! KURT BUSIEK, SEAN CHEN, and SEAN PARSONS are the creative crew responsible for spilling the beans! Buy this ish, and find out if loose lips sink super heroes!

**ITEM!** The monsters are coming! But fear not - for where monsters dwell, the mighty Monster Hunters are not far behind! MARVEL UNIVERSE #4 begins an all-new story arc starring two heroes we've seen before: DOCTOR DRUID and BLOODSTONE, joining forces with an all-new character: the Wakandan warrior woman, ZAWADI! Together, the Monster Hunters fight to save the Earth from such beasties as GORGILLA, GROTTU, and GIGANTUS! Regular writer ROGER STERN is joined for this saga by artist MIKE MANLEY, who had a blast bringing all these classic creatures to life! Strap yourself in as we take a trip back to the monstrous age that existed before the Marvel Age began! And the stunning cover features a jam by too many artists to name here, so we'll just mention a few: WALTER SIMONSON, BRUCE TIMM, MICHAEL GOLDEN, JOE QUESADA and JIMMY PALMIOTTI! It's mons-terrific!

**ITEM!** Has your spider-sense been tingling twice as hard as usual? It could be because there are two issues of the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN coming your way this month, starting with issue #438, on sale next week! Yes, that's twice the web-slinging, twice the nefarious scheming of NORMAN OSBORN, twice the stogie-smoking by J. JONAH JAMESON! The action starts with the introduction of our all-new villainess, SYNARIO! She's got some mind-boggling reality-warping powers that she uses to pit SPIDEY against his old pal, DAREDEVIL! TOM DeFALCO, SCOTT KOLINS, and GARY MARTIN are the titanic talents responsible for painting this particular scenario! If you normally find yourself crawling the walls between issues of AMAZING SPIDEY, don't worry - you only have to wait two weeks to see what happens next!

## STAN'S SOAPBOX!

**H** Heroes! Big news! Here's the first winner of our "Ever Wonder?" contest! Andre Boykin of Mobile, AL, gets a fully-equipped, 8-cylinder No-Prize for this thought-provoking bit of lexiconic addendum: "Ever wonder why something dull and uninteresting is called 'insipid' - but something exciting and interesting is never 'spik'?" It's enough to keep you awake nights, right? But let's see what our other No-Prize Laureates have to say...

**P**aul Gillis of Hoffman Est., IL, is truly a man with a sense of history. He asks:

*"How many years have passed in the Marvel Universe? Will there be a history book that will put major events in perspective? What about a timeline?"*

I always thought our mags themselves were the true history of Marvel, but perhaps you're right, Paul. Perhaps a more scholarly approach is needed. Since virtually every middle academic reads this column faithfully, perhaps someone on the staff of Encyclopaedia Britannica will see your plaint and volunteer to do the necessary research.

**H**ere's an unexpected one from Gene Kehoe of Waterloo, IA:

*"With the incredible popularity of super models and the need for more comics for girls, isn't it time to return the one and only Millie the Model, Stan?"*

Hey, she was one of my favorites, Gene - even though she had no super powers! Tell you what - if your letter precipitates an avalanche of mail demanding the return of Millie, we'll bow to the will of Marveldom Assembled. But, till that momentous moment, you can bet she'll remain - just like Irving Forbush - the stuff of which legends are made!

**F**or lack of space, I've abridged a lengthy letter from David Wood of Knoxville, TN:

*"How did Reed and Sue meet? Why did Hawkeye become a spandex soldier in the first place? Etc. etc."*

Hmmm, perhaps we should do a new series telling about our characters' lives before they became super heroes or villains. As usual, your letters will give us the way to go! Whoa! I just realized - I haven't yet answered Mr. Wood! Sue and Reed met while grad student Reed was billeted at her family's boarding house, and Hawkeye - uh-oh, I can't remember! A special freshly minted No-Prize for the first True Believer who sends me the answer. We can't let ol' Dave go away frustrated!

**W**ell, that brings us to the gloomiest part of our meeting - the moment when we have to break away. But, hey, look at the bright side - you can always save these columns and read them over again whenever you feel you're suffering from cultural deprivation. In fact, why not do what so many True Believers do? Memorize them by heart, so that you can impress your friends who'll be green with envy! And for those of you who have neglected to memorize our mailing address - here's another chance from big-hearted Stan: "Stan's Soapbox," c/o BULLPEN BULLETINS, Marvel Comics, 387 Park Ave. South, New York, NY 10016. Or, for the cutting edge computer whizzes amongst you - stanstan2@aol.com



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AAAAHHH!



SRAT

SHRK



I DON'T HAVE THE CHOPS, HuhhP



-Huhh-Huhh-Huhh-

-s-s-s-  
th-th-thankss-



THUNK



ALL THAT RAGE -- ALL THAT DESTRUCTION --!

ALL HE WANTED WAS TO FEEL SOMETHING...



WELL, WE ALL WANT THAT...



... DON'T WE..P



SOMETIMES IT'S JUST NICE TO KNOW THAT IT'S OVER...

... THAT YOU DID A GOOD JOB...

... AND THAT IT'S TIME TO GO HOME..!

MANY THANKS TO MIKE AND RICH FOR 18 ISSUES OF SPIDER-FUN! WAIT UP, YOU GUYS -- I'LL BE RIGHT THERE... XD31

# ARACHNOTES

Dear Arachnotes,

I just finished reading SENSATIONAL SPIDER-MAN #26. A few months prior, I was thinking to myself, "What would happen if Hydro-Man and Sandman mixed it up?" You guys obviously read my mind and put my curiosity to rest. These are two of my favorite characters and it was great to see Silver Sable again. I only hope she can get her own comic back someday. And by the way, what's up with her hair? She looks a lot older.

I also enjoyed seeing the "old" Vulture. Please keep him aged and preferably in his old costume. The first Spidey comic I ever read showcased the "classic" Vulture costume, so that'll always be the definitive look as far as I'm concerned.

Billy is really turning out to be an interesting character and I bet most readers feel sympathetic toward him. I hope he grows and changes as the series progresses and that he'll have a big story of his own someday. I'd hate to see him acting exactly the same 50 issues from now.

Speaking of supporting characters, Desiree was an unexpected surprise. I was wondering though, exactly what were she and all the other people who knew Ben Reilly told about his death? Did I miss something, or did he never get a funeral or a burial? Didn't anyone think that the complete absence of a corpse was peculiar? If these issues were addressed in a comic I missed, please clue me in. So, until Hydro-Man dies of dehydration, Make Mine Marvel!

Steve Bentoncello  
1474 Circle Drive #204  
Pontiac, MI 48430

Seems like you did miss a thing or two, Steve, sorry to say. Shirley Washington, owner and proprietor of the Daily Grind, was on hand during the climactic battle between the Green Goblin and Spider-Man. Ben appeared to all passersby to merely have been caught in the crossfire, and his death was witnessed

by all present. And as for Ben Reilly's funeral service, check out the SPIDER-MAN: REVELATIONS trade paperback, which expanded upon the original story from PETER PARKER, SPIDER-MAN #75, wherein Ben met his tragic end.

Dear Arachnotes,

SENSATIONAL SPIDER-MAN #26? Well, the last time Sandman and Hydro-Man met, around AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #218, it led to them becoming trapped together as a huge mud creature in a storyline that was something of an homage to King Kong. It wasn't until MARVEL TWO-IN-ONE #86 that they were finally free of each other in the issue that saw Sandy finally reforming with the help of the Thing. This month's SENSATIONAL showed exactly how far the Sandman has come and how little Hydro-Man has learned from his past mistakes. Hopefully, now that Scott Lobdell has left FANTASTIC FOUR, the appalling decision to revert Sandman to villainy in the Frightful Four has been discarded. Sandman makes for a fascinating character as a hero and I hope Marvel sticks with this interpretation for a long time to come.

Good to see the aged Adrian Toomes back again. Here's hoping that when he reappears he'll be in his classic costume and not some hideous revamped version.

I was sorry to hear of this book's impending demise. The creative team have provided some wonderful light-but-enjoyable Spidey romps over the last few months, and it seems a real shame that we may be losing their take on Spidey in the future. This is most assuredly not the weakest of the Spider-books at all, and I'll be sorry to see it go.

Andy Oliver  
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So will we, Andy. We have all enjoyed Todd Dezago's and Mike Wieringo's upbeat take

on Spidey in these pages, as well as Dan Jurgens' run before that. But alas, along with big changes coming in the future, some things will have to go. Don't fret however; despite rumors to the contrary, when these changes arrive, there will continue to be four Spider-Man books each month. The titles and situations won't be the same, but you'll still have 32 pages of webs and wisecracks to look forward to each week.

## NEXT ISSUE?

IT'S PART ONE OF THE SENSES-SHATTERING "GATHERING OF FIVE" STORYLINE AND, BOY, HAVE WE PACKED A LOT INTO THIS ONE! NORMAN OSBORN HAS UNDERTAKEN A COLLECTION OF FIVE MYSTICAL ARTIFACTS THAT, WHEN BROUGHT TOGETHER, WILL GIVE HIM UNTOLD POWER! OVERRIDE IS DISPATCHED TO STEAL THE FIRST OF THE FIVE...FROM THE TECHNOMANCERS! MEANWHILE, MJ IS CONTACTED BY HER MODELING AGENT, JOE ROBERTSON AND ALISON MONGRAIN ARE ON THE RUN FROM THE SCRIERS, AND WE LEARN MORE ABOUT THE MYSTERIOUS "PACKAGE"! FACE IT, TIGER--YOU JUST HIT THE JACKPOT! WE RECONVENE HERE IN 25 SHORT ONES, WITH MASTER OF CEREMONIES TODD DEZAGO, SERGEANT-AT-ARMS MIKE WIERINGO AND MEMBER-AT-LARGE RICHARD CASE. RALF HAS BEEN BANNED FOR SPEAKING OUT OF TURN.

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