

MARVEL®

A SCOTT ADAMS/MARVEL COMICS LIMITED SERIES

QUEST PROBE™

FEATURING

SPIDER-MAN®

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CAN. \$1.00

2

JAN

IS THIS ONE
OF MYSTERIO'S
ILLUSIONS--

--OR AM I
SEEING TWO
OF HIM?



Stan Lee
PRESENTS:

QUESTPROBE!

Original concept by SCOTT ADAMS & JOHN BYRNE

FEATURING:
THE
AMAZING

SPIDER-MAN IN:

MYSTERIO TIMES TWO!

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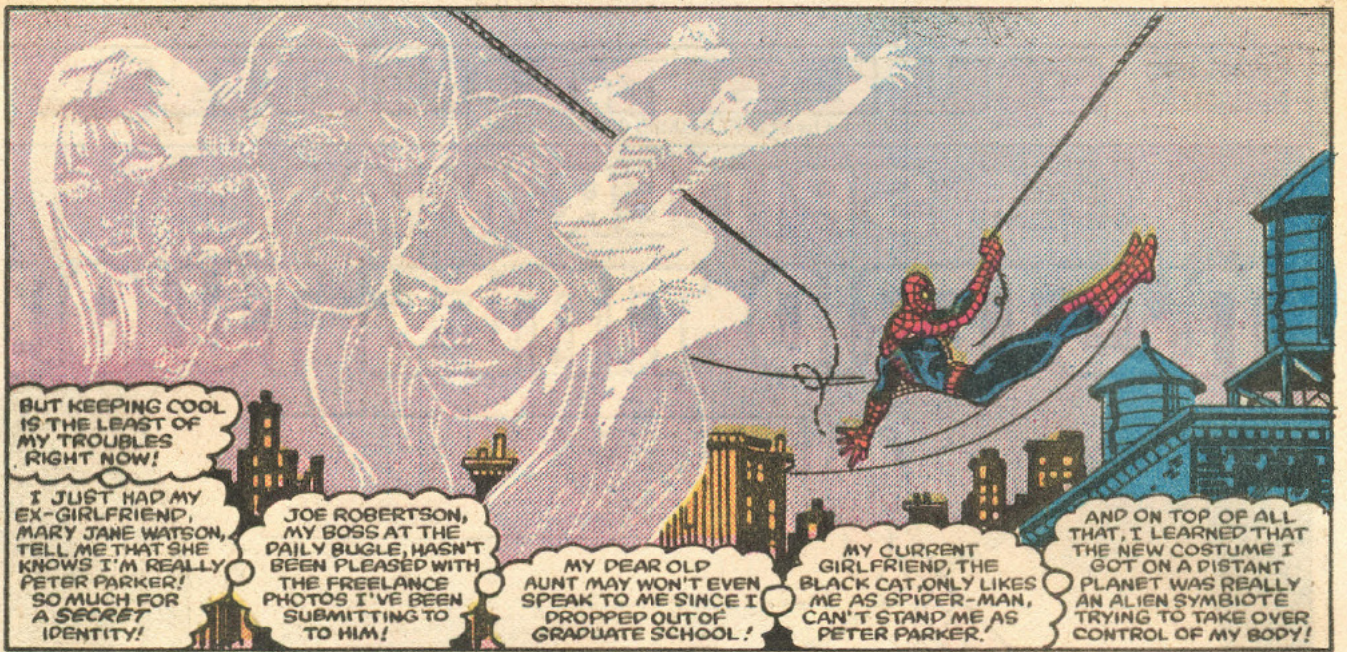
INKED BY:
JIM MOONEY
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GEORGE ROUSSOS
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JIM SHOOTER

IT'S A SULTRY LATE SUMMER'S
EVENING LIKE MANY OTHERS
IN NEW YORK CITY... THE AIR
IS HOT AND DANK, POLLUTION
HANGS OVER THE STREETS LIKE
A SHROUD, AND THE SPECTACULAR
SPIDER-MAN HAS GOT MORE
THAN HIS SHARE OF PROBLEMS!

I THOUGHT TAKING
A BRISK SWING AROUND
TOWN WOULD HELP ME COOL
DOWN, BUT IT'S JUST AS
HOT UP HERE AS IT IS
ON THE GROUND!

ISN'T THERE SOME
SORT OF RULE THAT
GLAMOROUS SUPER-TYPES
LIKE ME OUGHT TO BE
ABLE TO AFFORD AN
AIR CONDITIONER?

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BUT KEEPING COOL IS THE LEAST OF MY TROUBLES RIGHT NOW!

I JUST HAD MY EX-GIRLFRIEND, MARY JANE WATSON, TELL ME THAT SHE KNOWS I'M REALLY PETER PARKER! SO MUCH FOR A SECRET IDENTITY!

JOE ROBERTSON, MY BOSS AT THE DAILY BUGLE, HASN'T BEEN PLEASED WITH THE FREELANCE PHOTOS I'VE BEEN SUBMITTING TO HIM!

MY DEAR OLD AUNT MAY WON'T EVEN SPEAK TO ME SINCE I DROPPED OUT OF GRADUATE SCHOOL!

MY CURRENT GIRLFRIEND, THE BLACK CAT, ONLY LIKES ME AS SPIDER-MAN, CAN'T STAND ME AS PETER PARKER.

AND ON TOP OF ALL THAT, I LEARNED THAT THE NEW COSTUME I GOT ON A PISTANT PLANET WAS REALLY AN ALIEN SYMBIOTE TRYING TO TAKE OVER CONTROL OF MY BODY!



WELL, AT LEAST I ENDED THAT THREAT BY DITCHING THOSE OTHER-WORLDFLY THREADS! NO ONE'S LIABLE TO MISS THEM.

HEY! LOOK! IT'S SPIDER-MAN!

HEY! MY ADORING PUBLIC...

HI, KIDS!

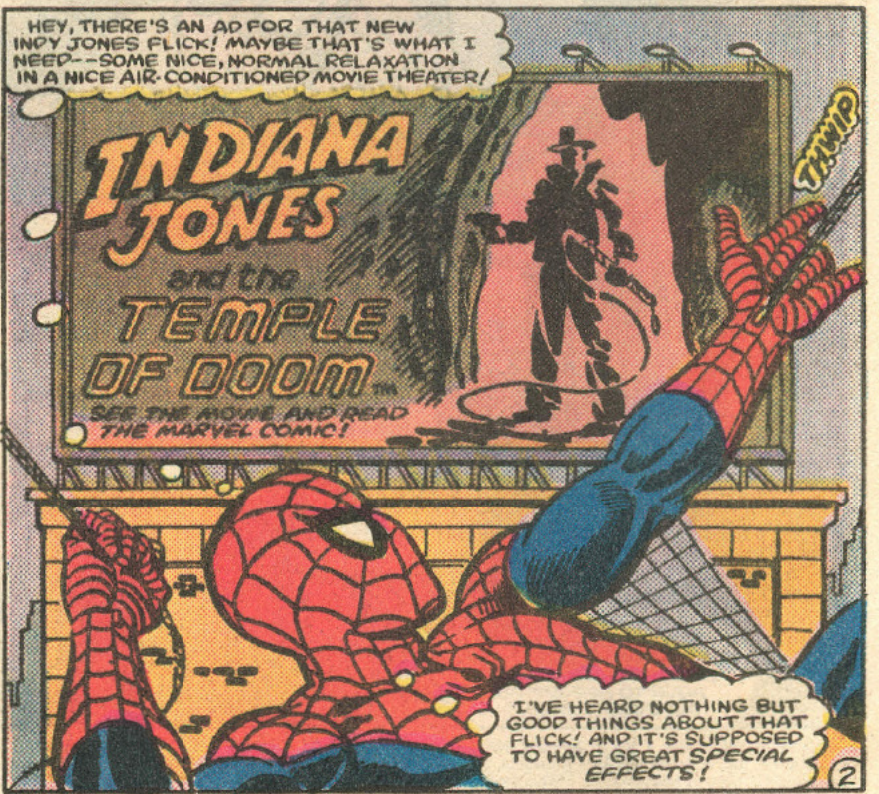


HEY, MAN, WHAT HAPPENED TO YOUR BLACK COSTUME? IT WAS A SNAP!

YEAH, THIS OLD ONE IS A DRAG! Y' OUGHTTA BURN IT!

SHEESH! EVERYBODY'S A CRITIC!

C'MON, EDDIE, YOU GONNA HOLD ONTO THAT SPALDEEN ALL NIGHT?



HEY, THERE'S AN AD FOR THAT NEW INCY JONES FLICK! MAYBE THAT'S WHAT I NEED--SOME NICE, NORMAL RELAXATION IN A NICE AIR-CONDITIONED MOVIE THEATER!

INDIANA JONES
and the
TEMPLE OF DOOM
SEE THE MOVIE AND READ THE MARVEL COMIC!

I'VE HEARD NOTHING BUT GOOD THINGS ABOUT THAT FLICK! AND IT'S SUPPOSED TO HAVE GREAT SPECIAL EFFECTS!

MEANWHILE, SOMEWHERE UPSTATE...

SPECIAL EFFECTS! THAT'S THE ANSWER!

VERY SOON NOW I'LL MAKE USE OF MY SKILLS AT CREATING SPECIAL EFFECTS AND ESCAPE FROM THIS ACCURSED PRISON!

THEN SPIDER-MAN WILL PAY FOR HAVING PUT ME HERE--

--PAY WITH HIS VERY LIFE!

WHILE STILL FURTHER AWAY...

...IN A QUADRANT OF THE UNIVERSE COUNTLESS LIGHT YEARS FROM OUR EARTH--

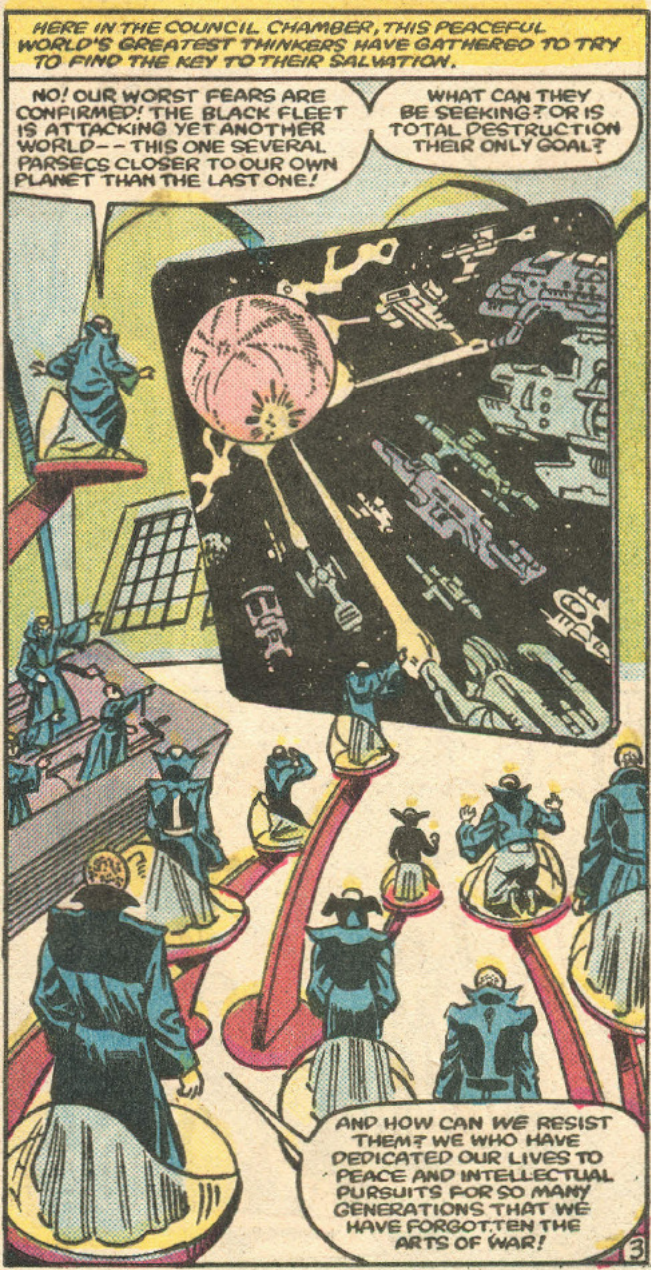
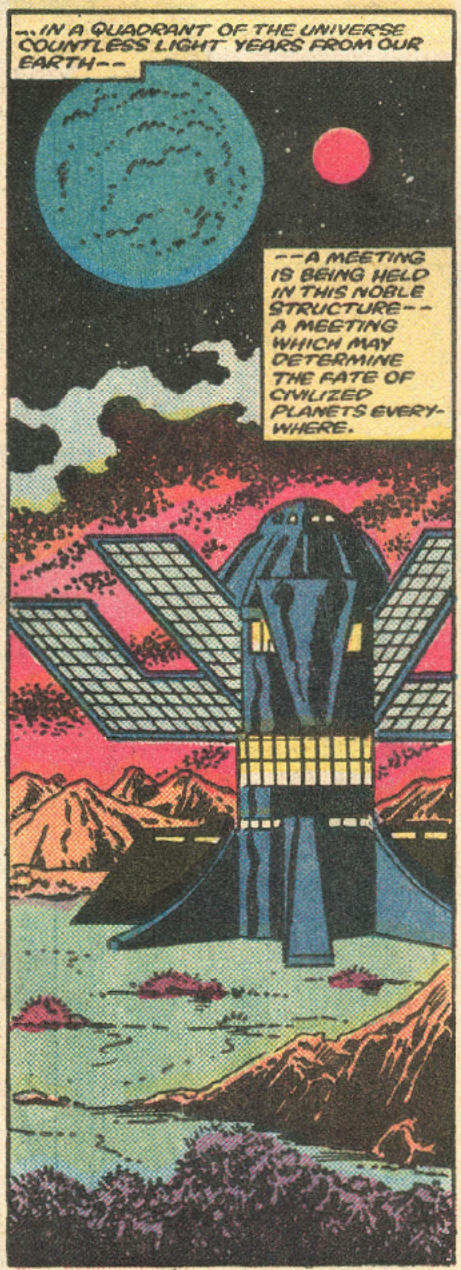
HERE IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, THIS PEACEFUL WORLD'S GREATEST THINKERS HAVE GATHERED TO TRY TO FIND THE KEY TO THEIR SALVATION.

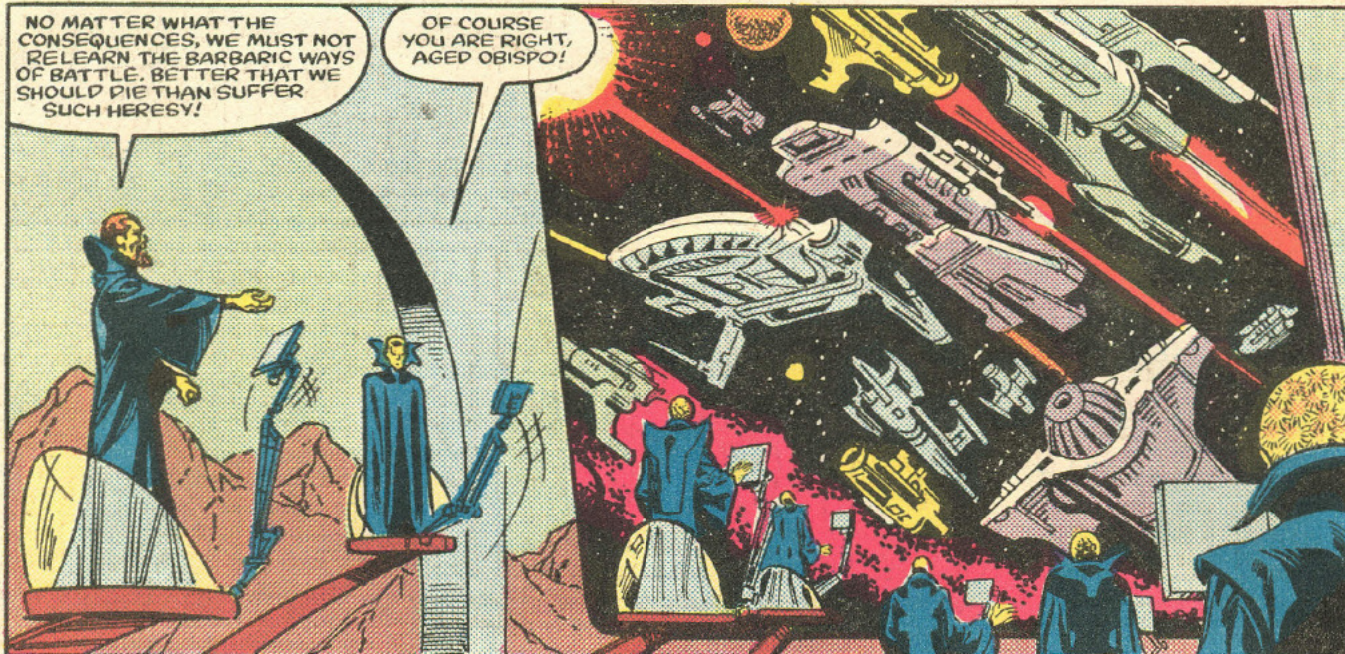
NO! OUR WORST FEARS ARE CONFIRMED! THE BLACK FLEET IS ATTACKING YET ANOTHER WORLD-- THIS ONE SEVERAL PARSECS CLOSER TO OUR OWN PLANET THAN THE LAST ONE!

WHAT CAN THEY BE SEEKING? OR IS TOTAL DESTRUCTION THEIR ONLY GOAL?

--A MEETING IS BEING HELD IN THIS NOBLE STRUCTURE-- A MEETING WHICH MAY DETERMINE THE FATE OF CIVILIZED PLANETS EVERYWHERE.

AND HOW CAN WE RESIST THEM? WE WHO HAVE DEDICATED OUR LIVES TO PEACE AND INTELLECTUAL PURSUITS FOR SO MANY GENERATIONS THAT WE HAVE FORGOTTEN THE ARTS OF WAR!





NO MATTER WHAT THE CONSEQUENCES, WE MUST NOT RELEARN THE BARBARIC WAYS OF BATTLE. BETTER THAT WE SHOULD DIE THAN SUFFER SUCH HERESY!

OF COURSE YOU ARE RIGHT, AGED OBISPO!



A YE! ONLY ONE AMONG US DARED SUGGEST THAT RESISTANCE WAS THE NOBLER COURSE -- THE PHILOSOPHER, DURGAN!

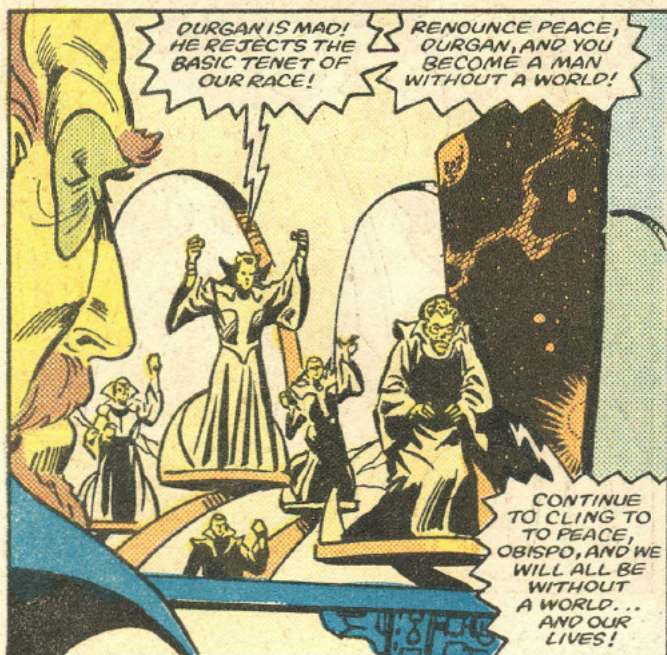
INDEED, OUR MONITORS CAPTURED HIS VERY WORDS AND ACTIONS. PAY HEED TO YOUR VISI-SCREENS, AND LEARN HOW LOW A MAN MAY SINK!



NO! CALL ME HERETIC IF YOU WILL, BUT I SAY TO YOU--



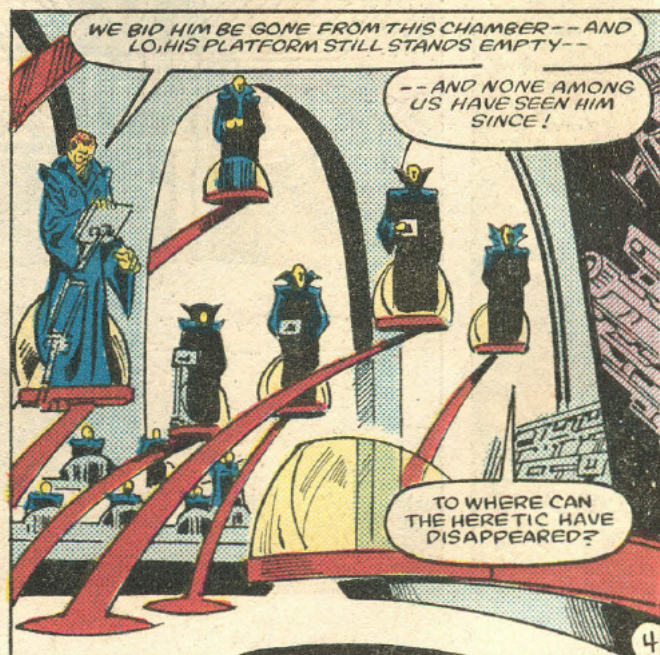
-- THAT THOUGH OUR HISTORY AND OUR MORALITY MILITATES AGAINST OUR FIGHTING BACK, IT IS A GREATER SIN TO DIE WITHOUT RESISTING!



DURGAN IS MAD! HE REJECTS THE BASIC TENET OF OUR RACE!

RENOUNCE PEACE, DURGAN, AND YOU BECOME A MAN WITHOUT A WORLD!

CONTINUE TO CLING TO PEACE, OBISPO, AND WE WILL ALL BE WITHOUT A WORLD... AND OUR LIVES!



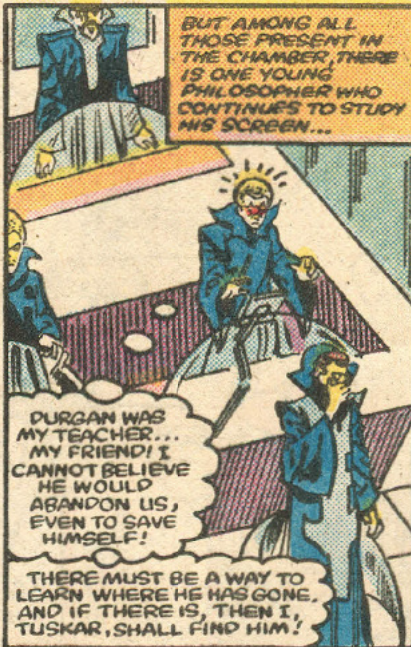
WE BID HIM BE GONE FROM THIS CHAMBER-- AND LO, HIS PLATFORM STILL STANDS EMPTY--

-- AND NONE AMONG US HAVE SEEN HIM SINCE!

TO WHERE CAN THE HERETIC HAVE DISAPPEARED?



IT MATTERS NOT! WE HAVE MATTERS OF FAR GREATER CONCERN TO WHICH WE MUST ATTEND! LET US PUT OUR VISI-SCREENS AWAY AND PREPARE OURSELVES TO FACE INEVITABLE END!



BUT AMONG ALL THOSE PRESENT IN THE CHAMBER, THERE IS ONE YOUNG PHILOSOPHER WHO CONTINUES TO STUDY HIS SCREEN...

DURGAN WAS MY TEACHER... MY FRIEND! I CANNOT BELIEVE HE WOULD ABANDON US, EVEN TO SAVE HIMSELF!

THERE MUST BE A WAY TO LEARN WHERE HE HAS GONE, AND IF THERE IS, THEN I, TUSKAR, SHALL FIND HIM!



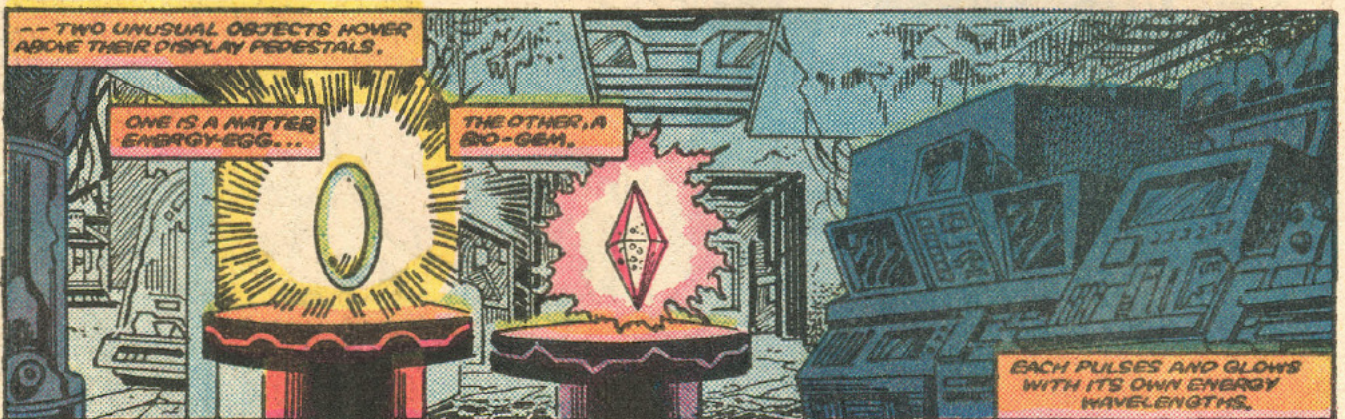
PERHAPS IF I PATCH MY VISI-SCREEN INTO THE MAIN COMPUTER DATA BANKS, HMM, CURIOUS, THERE SEEMS TO BE SOME SORT OF INTERFERENCE-- A DRAIN ON OUR PLANETARY COMPUTER HOOK-UP!

IT'S NOTHING MAJOR, AND WITH EVERYONE ELSE'S ATTENTION FOCUSED ON THE THREAT OF THE BLACK FLEET, NO ONE BUT MYSELF SEEMS TO HAVE NOTICED IT!



THIS MAY BEAR LOOKING INTO! I'LL BEGIN A CHECK ON THE SOURCE OF THE DRAIN AT ONCE!

WHILE A SHORT DISTANCE AWAY, IN AN ANCIENT MUSEUM THAT IS ALL BUT FORGOTTEN AMID THE MORE MODERN SPLENDORS OF THE PLANET--

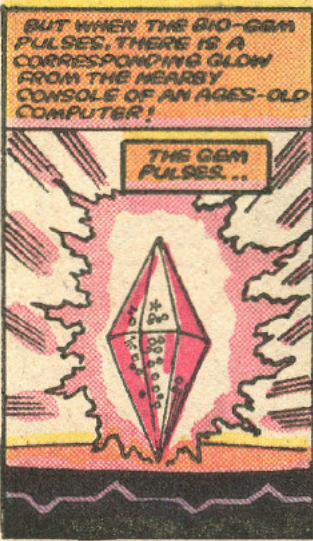


-- TWO UNUSUAL OBJECTS HOVER ABOVE THEIR DISPLAY PEDESTALS.

ONE IS A MATTER ENERGY-EGG...

THE OTHER, A BIO-GEM.

EACH PULSES AND GLOWS WITH ITS OWN ENERGY WAVELENGTHS.



BUT WHEN THE BIO-GEM PULSES, THERE IS A CORRESPONDING GLOW FROM THE NEARBY CONSOLE OF AN AGES-OLD COMPUTER!

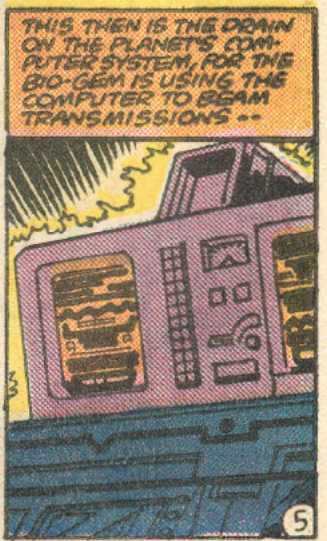
THE GEM PULSES...



THE COMPUTER GLOWS...



...AND A PATTERN EMERGES. IT BECOMES CLEAR THAT THE GEM IS MANIPULATING THE COMPUTER'S FUNCTIONS.



THIS THEN IS THE DRAIN ON THE PLANET'S COMPUTER SYSTEM, FOR THE BIO-GEM IS USING THE COMPUTER TO BEAM TRANSMISSIONS --

THE FIRST OF THESE TRANSMISSIONS TRAVELS THROUGH THE DISTANCE—REDUCING WARPS OF HYPER-SPACE—

-- TO THE VERY PLANET BEING ATTACKED BY THE BLACKFLEET!

ANOTHER PLANET CONQUERED!

HAAH! THIS ONE GAVE US EVEN LESS OF A FIGHT THAN THE LAST!

ENOUGH TALK! OUR GOAL LIES OVER THIS WAY, IN THE TOWN PLAZA!

OUR INSTRUMENTS WERE CORRECT! THERE IS YET ANOTHER FRAGMENT OF THE LEGENDARY BIO-GEM!

YES! BUT PROCEED WITH EXTREME CARE! AS ALWAYS, THE GEM IS GUARDED BY A NATTER ENERGY-EGG!

WHATEVER ANCIENT RACE MANAGED TO FRAGMENT THE BIO-GEM WAS UNABLE TO DESTROY IT COMPLETELY!

FEARING THE GEM'S POWER, THEY FOUND A WAY TO ENTRAP IT BY USING THE EGGS-- NATURAL NEMESSES TO THE GEM.

WHenever a gem tries to break free of the entrapment, the egg explodes, destroying itself and the gem!

BUT WE HAVE FOUND A WAY TO NEUTRALIZE THE ENERGY-EGGS! AND MORE IMPORTANT--

-- WE HAVE FOUND A WAY TO ENSLAVE THE BIO-GEMS-- JUST AS WE ENSLAVE THIS ONE IN A BIO-MATTER HARNESS.

IN TIME, WHEN WE HAVE CAPTURED ALL THE EXISTING FRAGMENTS OF THE GEM, WE WILL REUNITE THEM-- AND WITH ALL THEIR POWER OURS TO COMMAND--

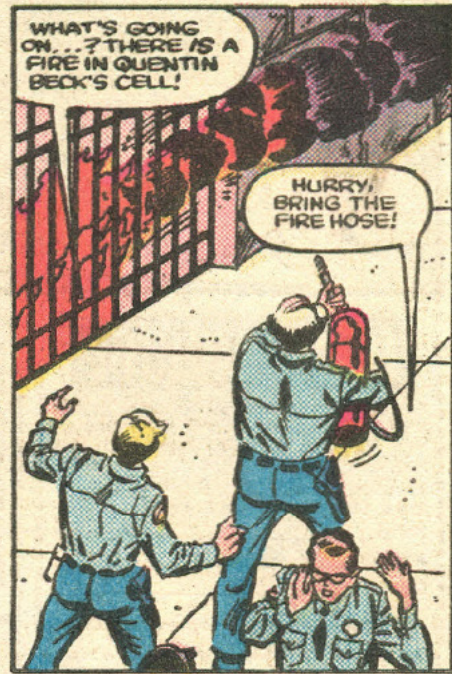


NOW, BEFORE ANY OF THE GUARDS CAN SHOW UP I'LL PUT ON THIS "PRE-BURNED" SHIRT I PREPARED--



AND APPLY THIS "BURNED SKIN" MASK I MADE FROM A MIXTURE OF CORNSTARCH AND FOOD COLORING!

MAKESHIFT, AND CERTAINLY NOT UP TO MY USUAL STANDARDS-- BUT IT SHOULD SUFFICE!



WHAT'S GOING ON...? THERE IS A FIRE IN QUENTIN BECK'S CELL!

HURRY, BRING THE FIRE HOSE!



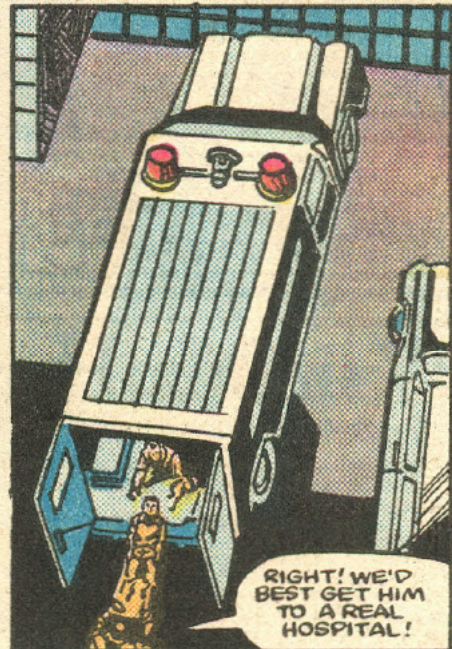
THERE, THAT SEEMS TO BE CONTROLLING IT! CAN YOU SEE BECK?

YEAH-- AND HE DOESN'T LOOK GOOD!

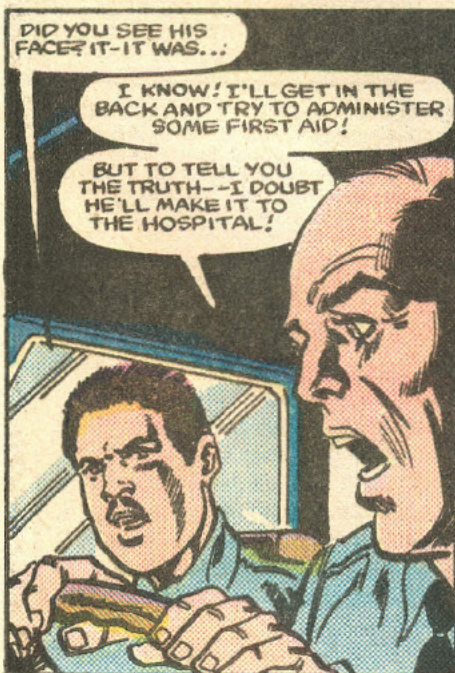


C'MON, WE'D BETTER HUSTLE HIM ON DOWN TO THE MOTOR POOL! HIS BURNS LOOK FAR TOO SERIOUS TO BE TREATED AT THE PRISON INFIRMARY!

OOHHH!



RIGHT! WE'D BEST GET HIM TO A REAL HOSPITAL!



DID YOU SEE HIS FACE? IT-IT WAS...

I KNOW! I'LL GET IN THE BACK AND TRY TO ADMINISTER SOME FIRST AID!

BUT TO TELL YOU THE TRUTH--I DOUBT HE'LL MAKE IT TO THE HOSPITAL!



YOU COULDN'T BE MORE RIGHT! HOW THOUGHTFUL OF YOU TO KEEP TWO TANKS OF ANESTHETIC GAS HANDY FOR ME!

ENJOY YOUR NAP, BOYS!



NEXT STOP... THE DAILY BUGLE!

AND SOMETIME LATER, AT THE MIDTOWN MANHATTAN LOCATION OF THE DAILY BUGLE...

DAILY BUGLE



AH, HERE I AM AT LAST!
ALL THAT WEB-SWINGING WASN'T COOLING ME OFF ANY, SO I GUESS MY NEXT BEST BET IS TO TRY TO HIT JOE ROBERTSON UP FOR SOME COLD CASH INSTEAD!

GOOD THING I HAD A SET OF PETER PARKER OUDS STASHED ON THE ROOF OF THE BUILDING.



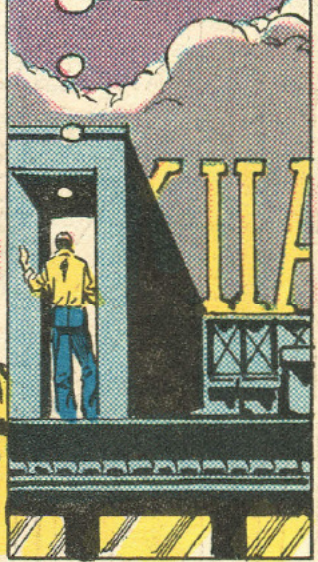
I DID MANAGE TO GET SOME SHOTS OF THE BATTLE THE BLACK CAT AND I HAD WITH CLOAK AND DAGGER, SILVERMANE, THE ANSWER, AND THE KINGPIN.*

MAYBE I CAN SELL JOE SOME OF THEM!



* AS SEEN IN PETER PARKER #'S 94-96--80B.

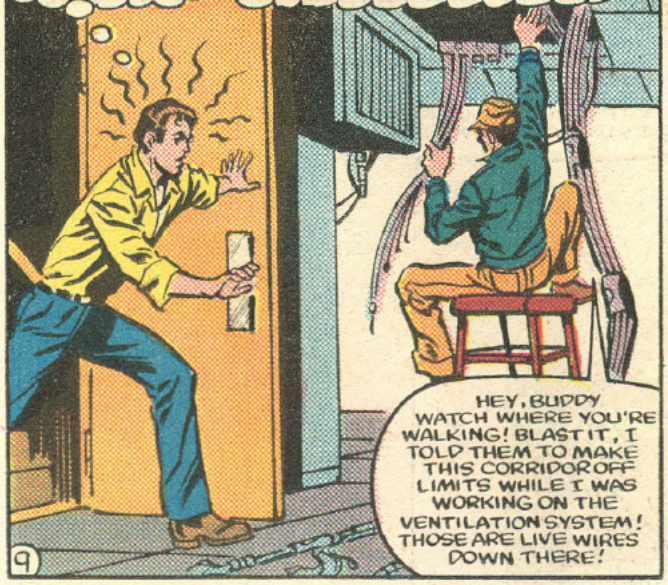
JOE TOLD ME HE WASN'T INTERESTED IN SHOTS OF JUST SPIEY ANYMORE, BUT THERE SHOULD BE ENOUGH OF THOSE OTHER COSTUMED CHARACTERS TO SATISFY EVEN MY DEMANDING EDITOR IN CHIEF!



I HOPE THERE'S ENOUGH TIME TO GET THEM DEVELOPED FOR THE MORNING EDITION!
-- I'LL JUST TAKE THE OLD STAIRWAY DOWN FROM THE ROOF --

--AND WIND UP IN THE NEWSROO-- HEY!

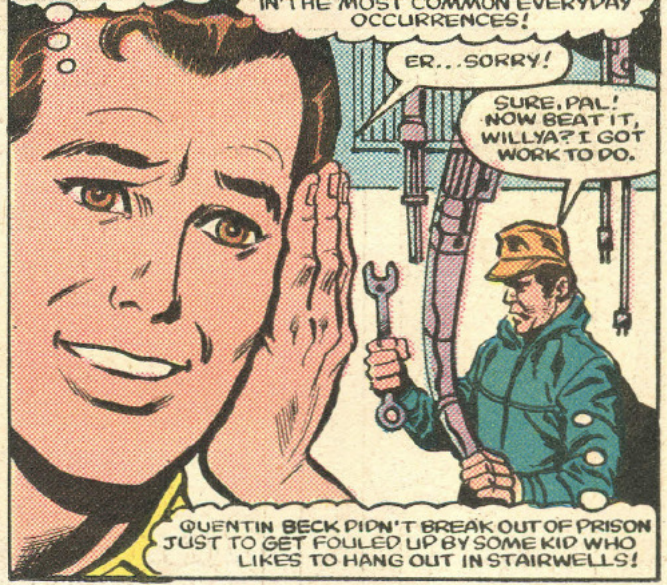
MY SPIDER-SENSE IS BUZZING! WARNING ME OF DANGER! IS THAT WORKMAN A MENACE, OR...



HEY, BUDDY WATCH WHERE YOU'RE WALKING! BLAST IT, I TOLD THEM TO MAKE THIS CORRIDOR OFF LIMITS WHILE I WAS WORKING ON THE VENTILATION SYSTEM! THOSE ARE LIVE WIRES DOWN THERE!

SO THAT'S WHY MY SPIEY-SENSE WENT OFF!

GEEZ, PARKER, WHAT A JERK! YOU'VE BEEN A SUPER HERO FOR TOO LONG-- SEEING MENACES IN THE MOST COMMON EVERYDAY OCCURRENCES!



ER... SORRY!

SURE, PAL! NOW BEAT IT, WILL YA? I GOT WORK TO DO.

QUENTIN BECK DIDN'T BREAK OUT OF PRISON JUST TO GET FOULED UP BY SOME KID WHO LIKES TO HANG OUT IN STAIRWELLS!



SHORTLY...
NOT BAD, PETER.
WE CAN USE SOME
OF THESE SHOTS.

YOU STILL NEED TO
WORK ON YOUR TECHNICAL
PROFICIENCY.

I KNOW, JOE. I'M PLANNING
TO TAKE SOME PHOTOGRAPHY
COURSES SOON, I JUST HAVE
TO WORK OUT THE TIME AND
THE FINANCIAL END...



NOW WHAT'S THAT
RACKET ABOUT?

POW!
CRASH!

JOE! Y-YOU'D
BETTER COME
HERE! SOMEONE
WANTS TO SEE THE
MAN IN CHARGE!



WAIT HERE,
PETER! I'LL BE
RIGHT BACK!

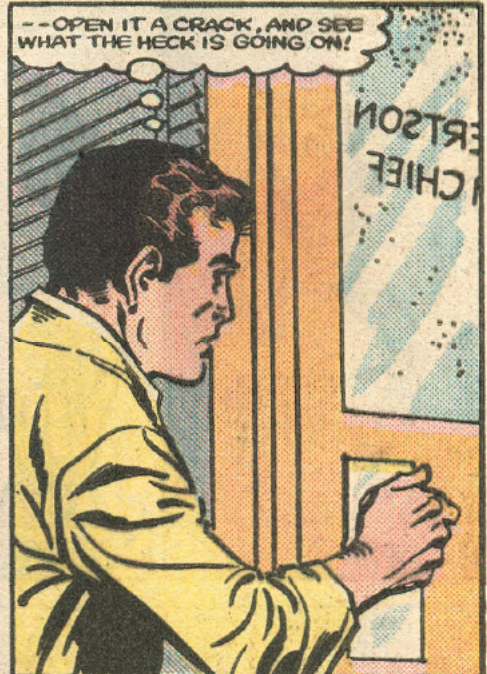
BUT--!

MY SPIDER-SENSE
IS BUZZING AGAIN!
THERE'S SOME
SORT OF MENACE
OUT THERE!

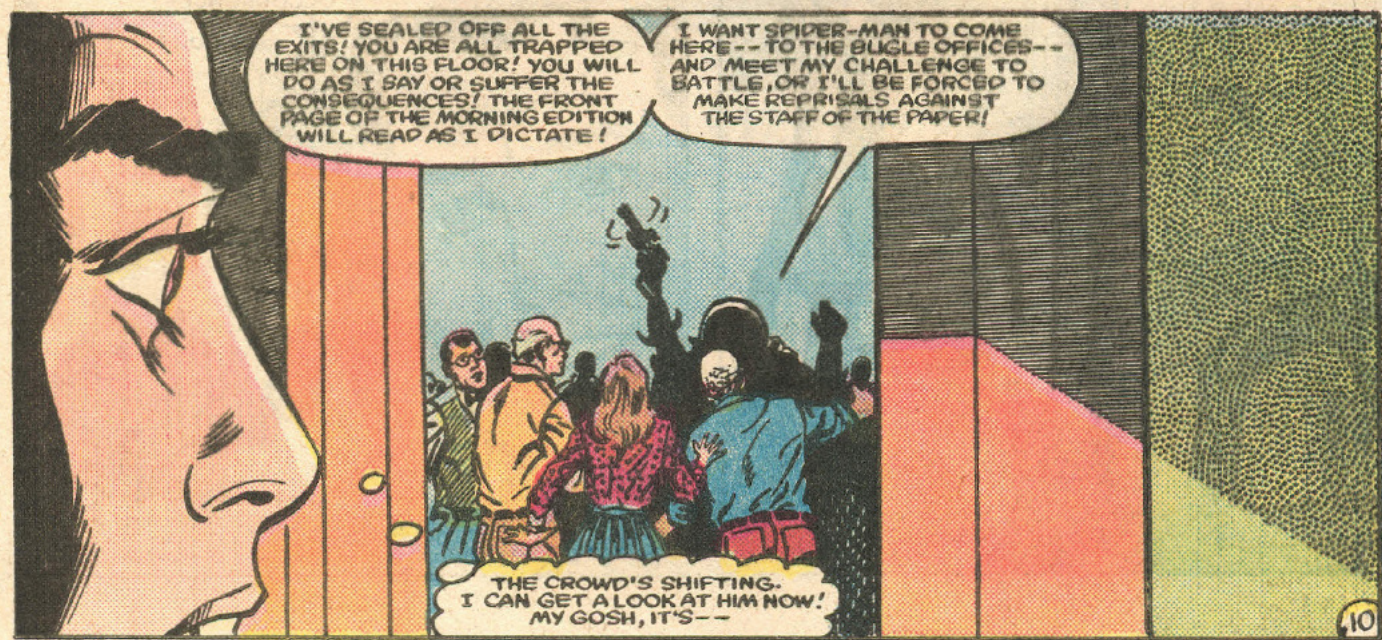


BUT I COULDN'T TELL JOE
NOT TO GO OUT! WHAT WOULD
I HAVE SAID -- THAT I HAD A
PREMONITION THAT THERE
WAS DANGER OUT THERE?

I'LL JUST
LEAP OVER TO
THE DOOR--



-- OPEN IT A CRACK, AND SEE
WHAT THE HECK IS GOING ON!



I'VE SEALED OFF ALL THE
EXITS! YOU ARE ALL TRAPPED
HERE ON THIS FLOOR! YOU WILL
DO AS I SAY OR SUFFER THE
CONSEQUENCES! THE FRONT
PAGE OF THE MORNING EDITION
WILL READ AS I DICTATE!

I WANT SPIDER-MAN TO COME
HERE -- TO THE BUGLE OFFICES --
AND MEET MY CHALLENGE TO
BATTLE, OR I'LL BE FORCED TO
MAKE REPRISALS AGAINST
THE STAFF OF THE PAPER!

THE CROWD'S SHIFTING.
I CAN GET A LOOK AT HIM NOW!
MY GOSH, IT'S --



"--MYSTERIO!"

I'VE SUFFERED TOO MANY INDIGNITIES AT THE WEB-SLINGER'S HANDS TO LIVE WITH! LET HIM MEET ME ONE LAST TIME IN A FIGHT TO THE FINISH!

NO ONE MAKES A FOOL OF MYSTERIO AND LIVES!



IF OUR PUBLISHER, J. JONAH JAMESON, HEARS WE LET THIS NUTCASE REWRITE OUR FRONT PAGE FOR US WE MAY NOT HAVE LONG TO LIVE EITHER!

I KNOW WHAT YOU MEAN! I'D ALMOST RATHER FACE THIS GUY THAN JONAH IN A BAD MOOD!



NOW JUST TAKE IT EASY MISTER... ER... MYSTERIO! I'M THE EDITOR HERE AND I ASSURE YOU WE'LL COOPERATE! JUST STAY CALM SO NO ONE GETS HURT!



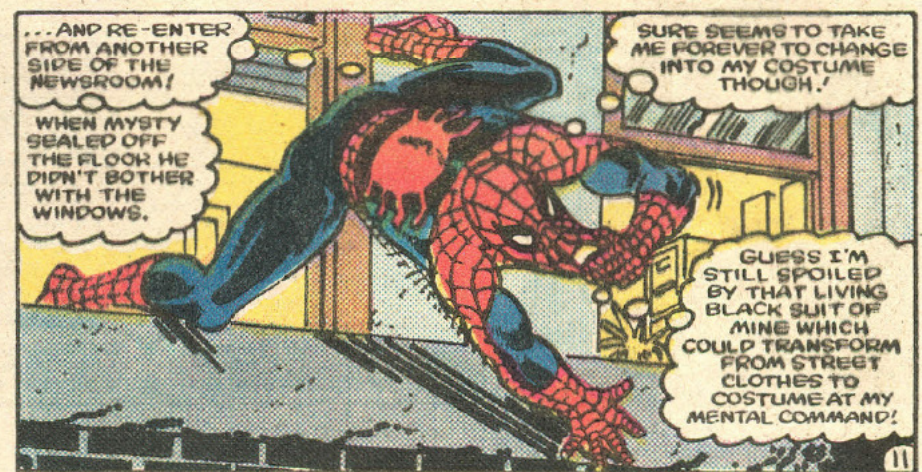
I HAVE NO WISH TO HARM ANYONE EXCEPT THAT CURSED ARACHNID! NOW PROCEED TO CHANGE THE FRONT PAGE AT ONCE!



WHILE WITHIN JOE ROBERTSON'S OFFICE...

WELL, IF MY OLD FOE, QUENTIN BECK, WANTS SPIDER-MAN SO BADLY, WHY MAKE HIM WAIT TILL MORNING WHEN THE PAPER HITS THE STREETS?

IT WOULDN'T DO FOR SPIEY TO COME BOUNDING OUT OF AN OFFICE WHERE JOE LEFT PETER PARKER, SO I'LL JUST SCRAMBLE OUT THE WINDOW...

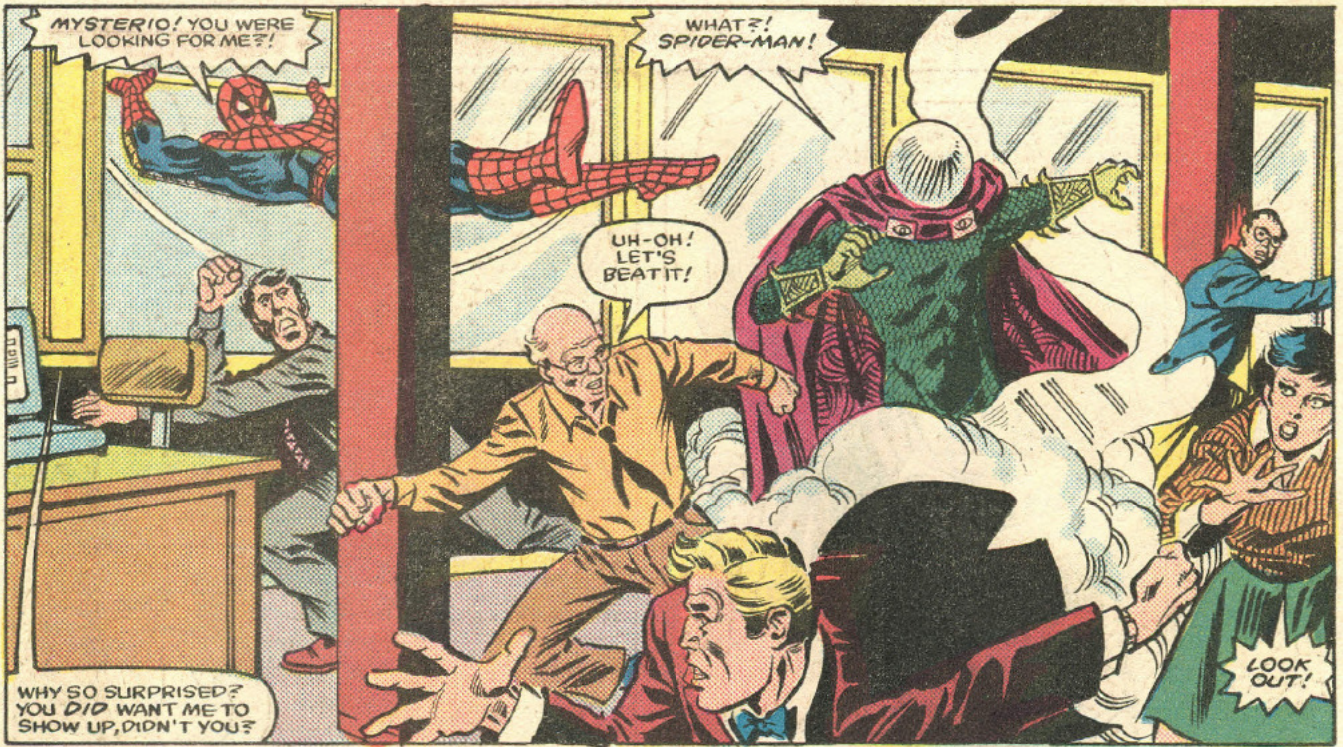


... AND RE-ENTER FROM ANOTHER SIDE OF THE NEWSROOM!

WHEN MYSTY SEALED OFF THE FLOOR HE DIDN'T BOTHER WITH THE WINDOWS.

SURE SEEMS TO TAKE ME FOREVER TO CHANGE INTO MY COSTUME THOUGH!

GUESS I'M STILL SPOILED BY THAT LIVING BLACK SUIT OF MINE WHICH COULD TRANSFORM FROM STREET CLOTHES TO COSTUME AT MY MENTAL COMMAND!



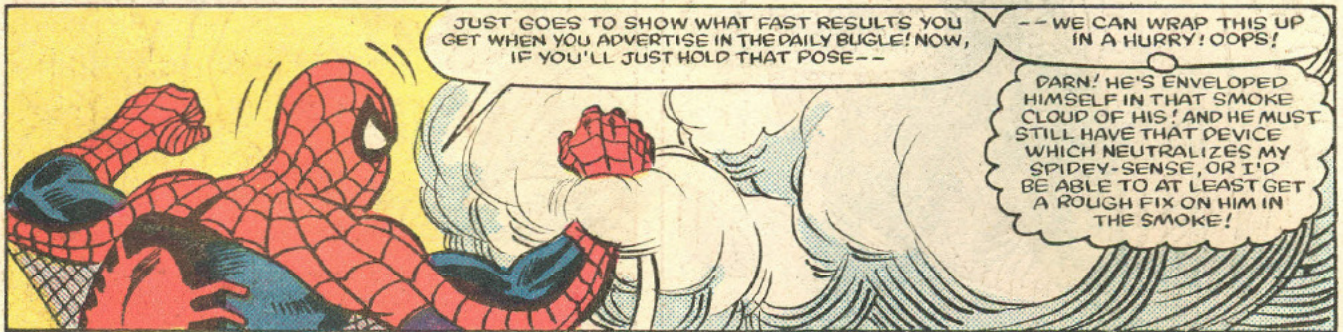
MYSTERIO! YOU WERE LOOKING FOR ME??!

WHAT?!! SPIDER-MAN!

UH-OH! LET'S BEAT IT!

WHY SO SURPRISED? YOU DID WANT ME TO SHOW UP, DIDN'T YOU?

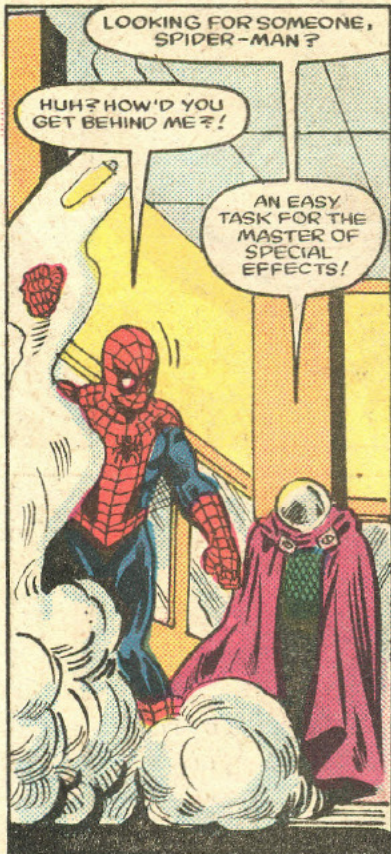
LOOK OUT!



JUST GOES TO SHOW WHAT FAST RESULTS YOU GET WHEN YOU ADVERTISE IN THE DAILY BUGLE! NOW, IF YOU'LL JUST HOLD THAT POSE--

-- WE CAN WRAP THIS UP IN A HURRY! OOPS!

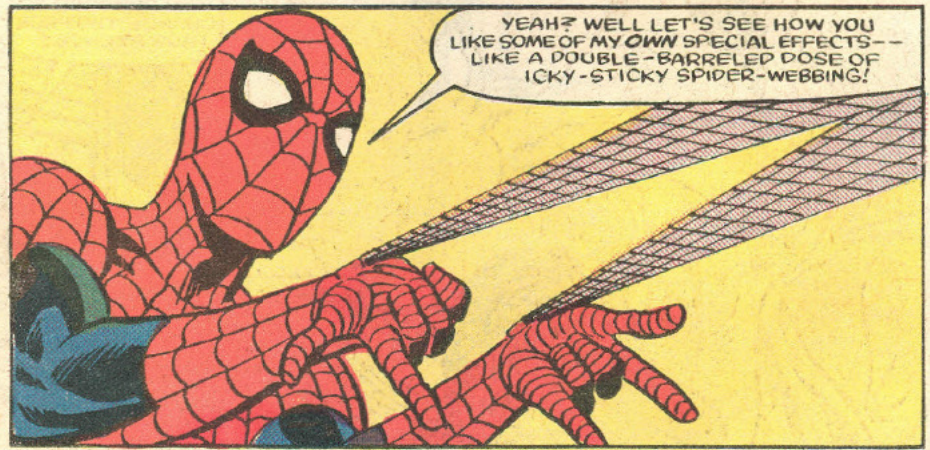
DARN! HE'S ENVELOPED HIMSELF IN THAT SMOKE CLOUD OF HIS! AND HE MUST STILL HAVE THAT DEVICE WHICH NEUTRALIZES MY SPIDEY-SENSE, OR I'D BE ABLE TO AT LEAST GET A ROUGH FIX ON HIM IN THE SMOKE!



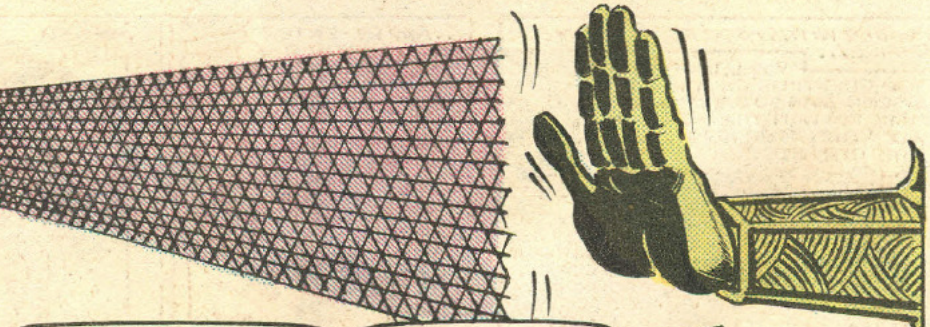
LOOKING FOR SOMEONE, SPIDER-MAN?

HUH? HOW'D YOU GET BEHIND ME?!

AN EASY TASK FOR THE MASTER OF SPECIAL EFFECTS!

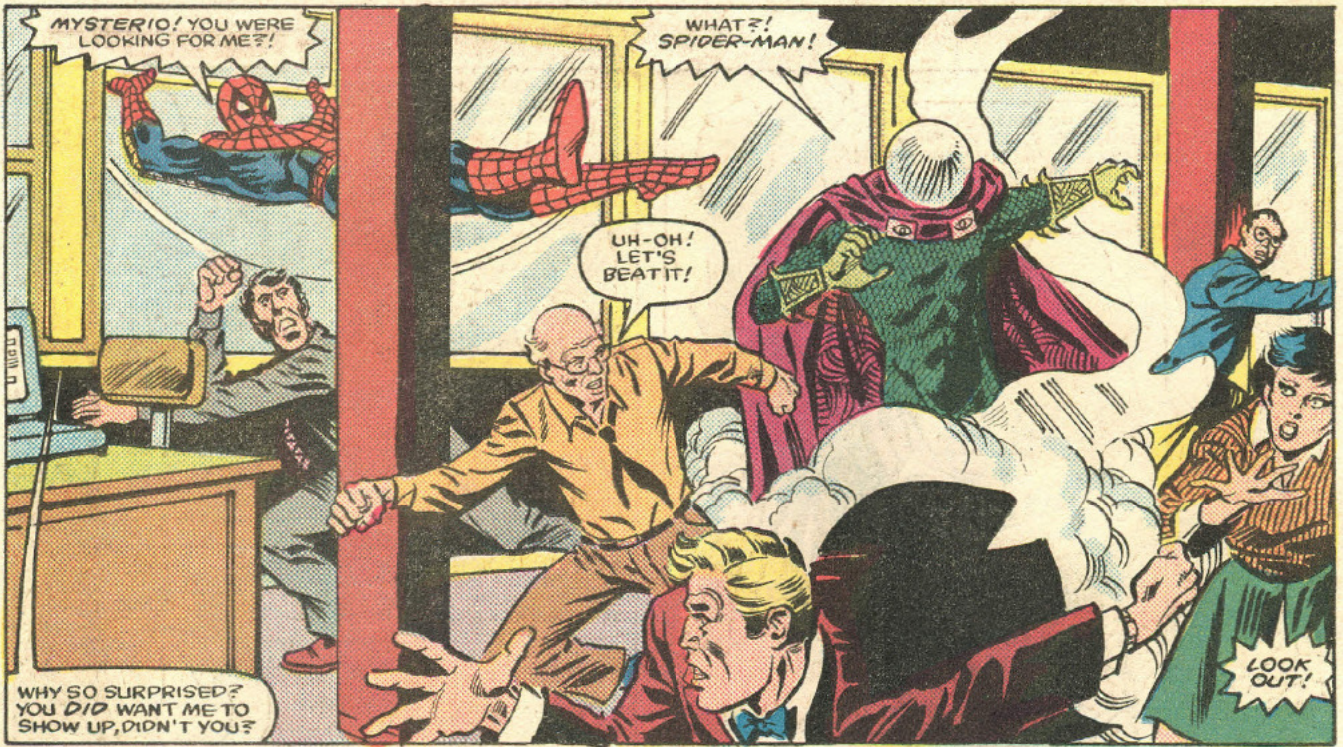


YEAH? WELL LET'S SEE HOW YOU LIKE SOME OF MY OWN SPECIAL EFFECTS-- LIKE A DOUBLE-BARRELED DOSE OF ICKY-STICKY SPIDER-WEBBING!



FOOL! HAVE YOU SOON FORGOTTEN THAT YOUR WEB HOLDS NO TERROR FOR ME!

THE MEREST GESTURE OF MY HAND CAUSES IT TO HALT IN MID-AIR!



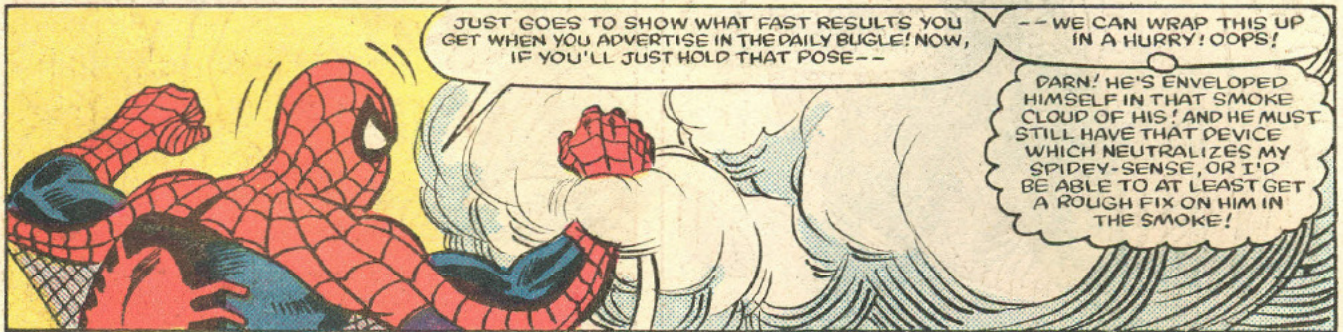
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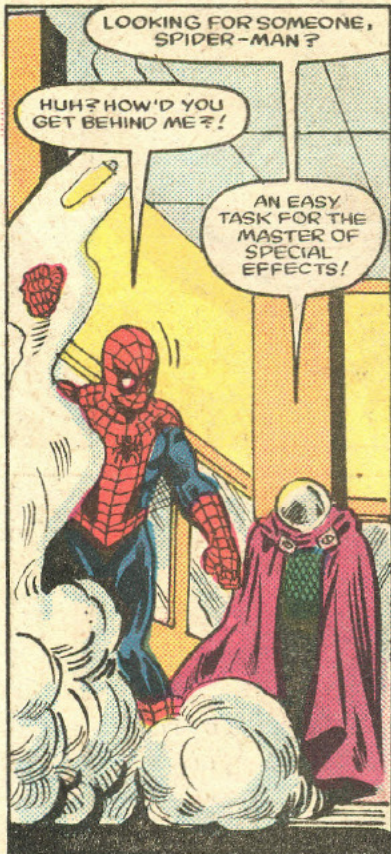
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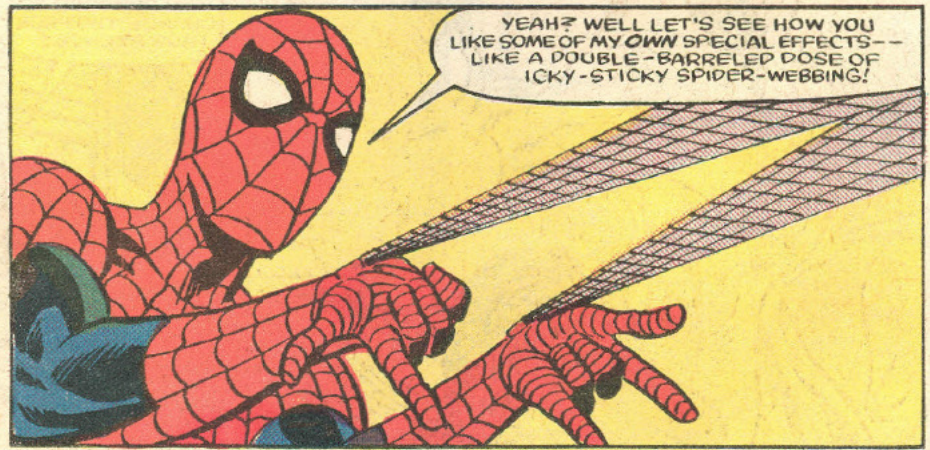
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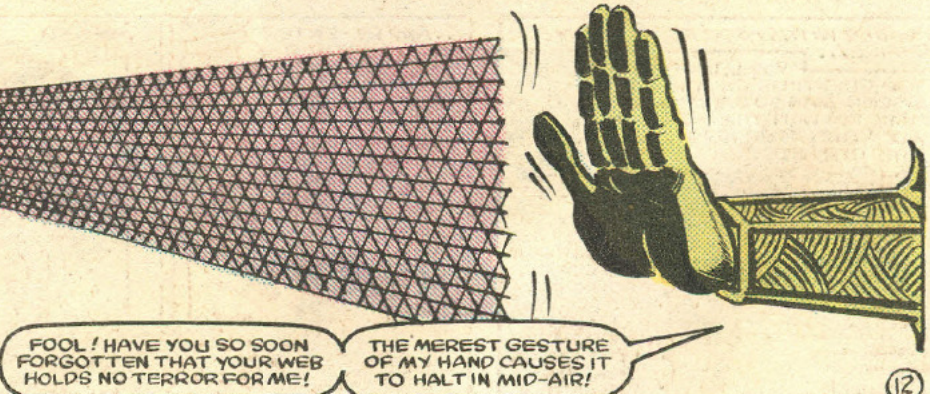
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FOOL! HAVE YOU SOON FORGOTTEN THAT YOUR WEB HOLDS NO TERROR FOR ME!

THE MEREST GESTURE OF MY HAND CAUSES IT TO HALT IN MID-AIR!

SPARE ME THE THEATRICS, MYSTY! YOU KNOW AS WELL AS I DO THAT YOUR GLOVES RELEASE A FINE MIST OF ACID THAT CAN DISSOLVE MY WEB-FLUID!

VERY WELL, IF YOU AREN'T IMPRESSED WITH THAT TRICK, PERHAPS YOU'LL ENJOY THE EFFECTS OF MY HALLUCINOGENIC GAS BOMB!

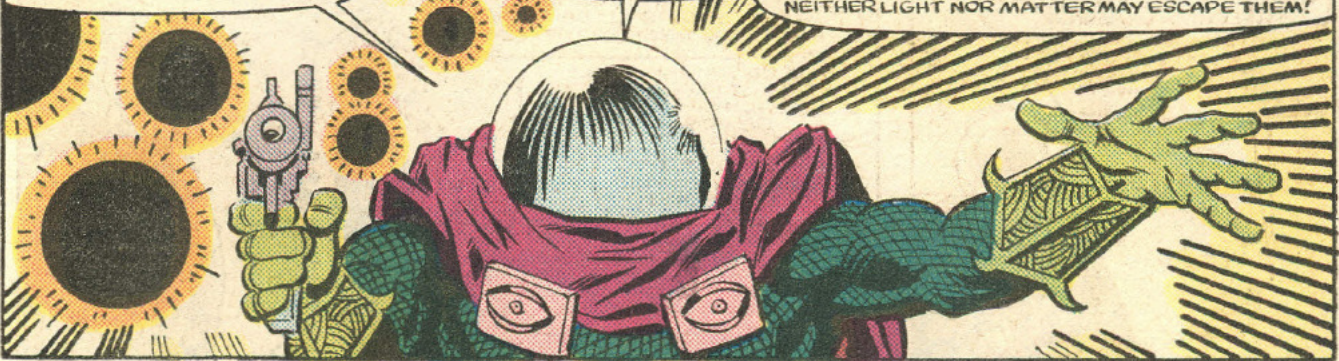


GOTTA HIT ME FIRST! DON'T YOU HAVE ANY NEW GIMMICKS?

I THOUGHT YOU WOULD FIND MY ORIGINAL ARSENAL TROUBLE ENOUGH, BUT IF YOU SEEK EVEN MORE DEADLY CHALLENGES--

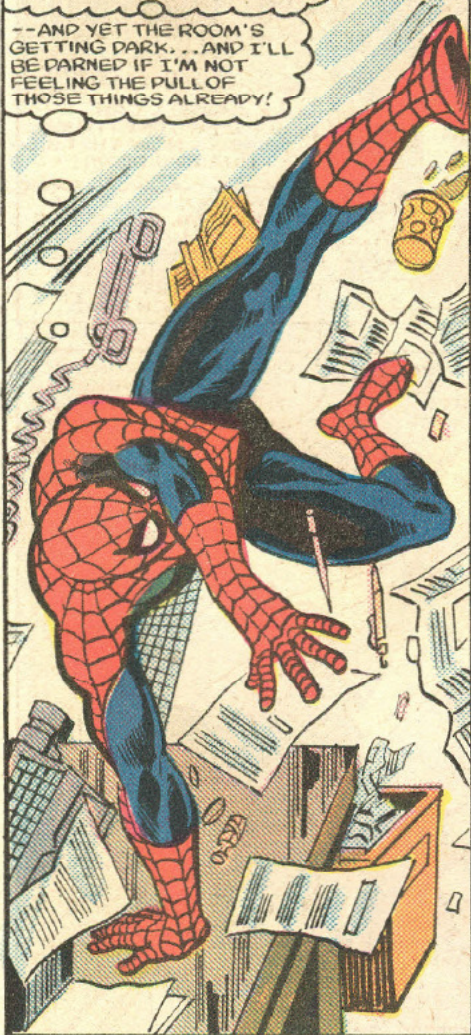
--SEE HOW YOU FARE AGAINST THESE BLACK HOLES!

JUST LIKE THE BLACK HOLES WHICH FORM IN OUTER SPACE WHEN WHITE DWARF STARS COLLAPSE IN UPON THEMSELVES-- THESE SMALLER EDITIONS OF MINE CREATE A GRAVITY FIELD SO DENSE THAT NEITHER LIGHT NOR MATTER MAY ESCAPE THEM!



IT'S IMPOSSIBLE! THERE'S NO WAY MYSTY COULD HAVE HARNESSSED SUCH FORCES--

--AND YET THE ROOM'S GETTING DARK... AND I'LL BE DARNED IF I'M NOT FEELING THE PULL OF THOSE THINGS ALREADY!



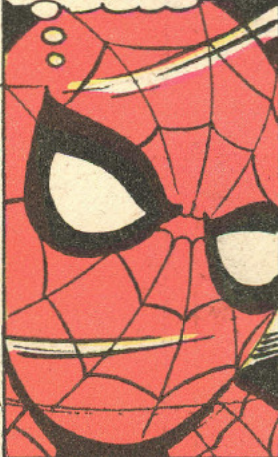
GOTTA GET AWAY FROM THEM BEFORE I'M SUCKED RIGHT INSIDE ONE!

HA! WHERE ARE YOUR WORDS OF BRAVADO NOW, SPIDER-MAN?!



IT-IT'S ALL I CAN DO TO KEEP FROM BEING PULLED RIGHT OFF THE WALL!

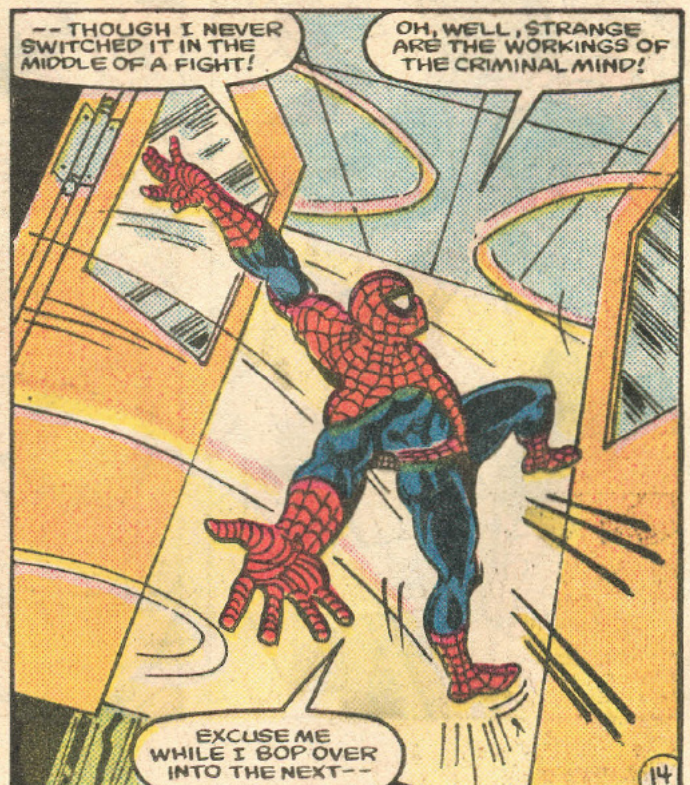
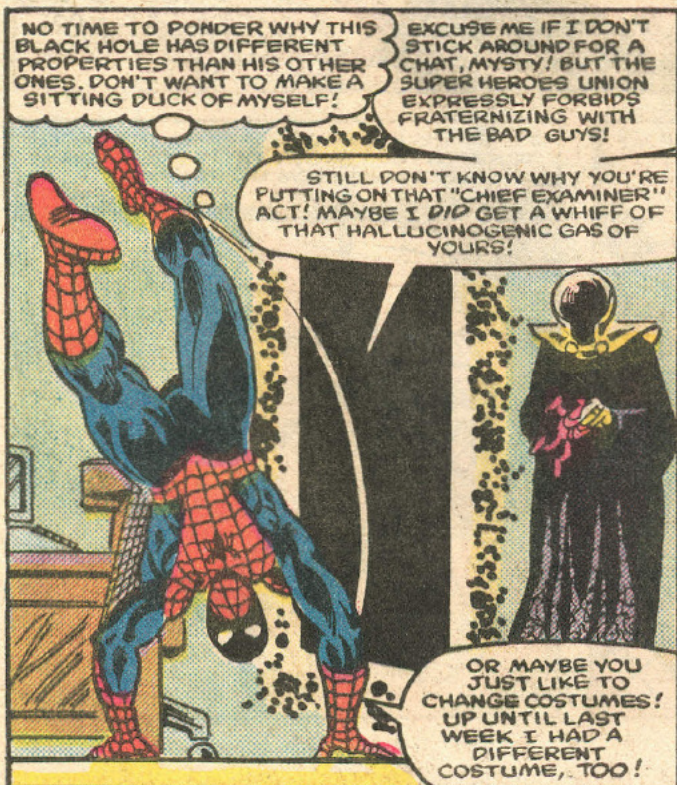
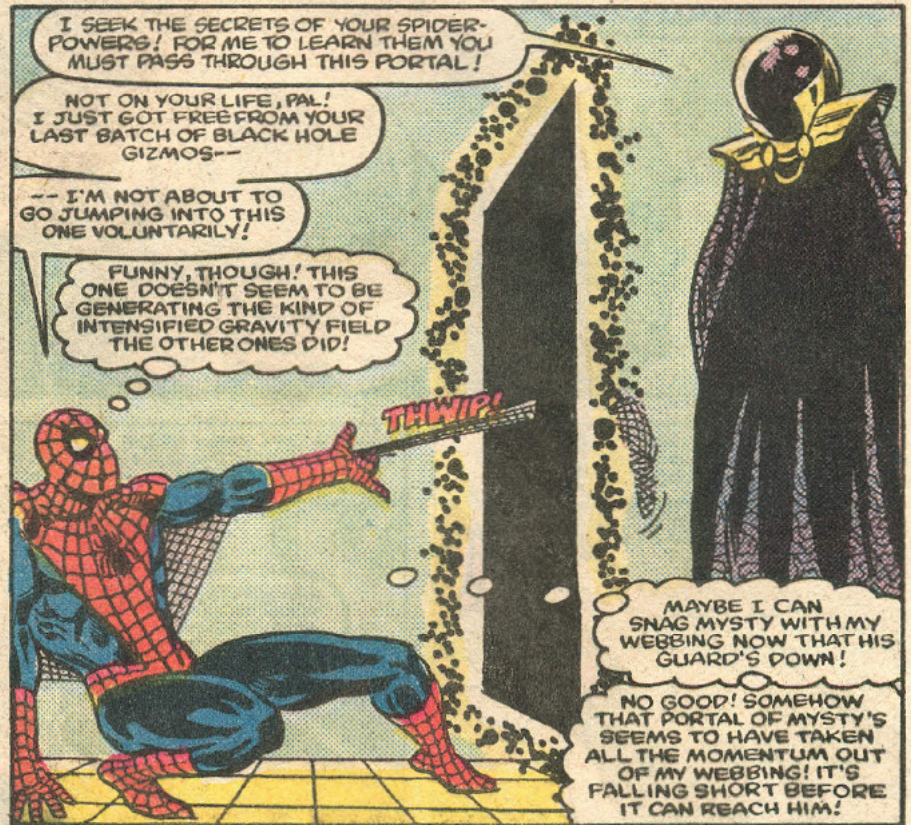
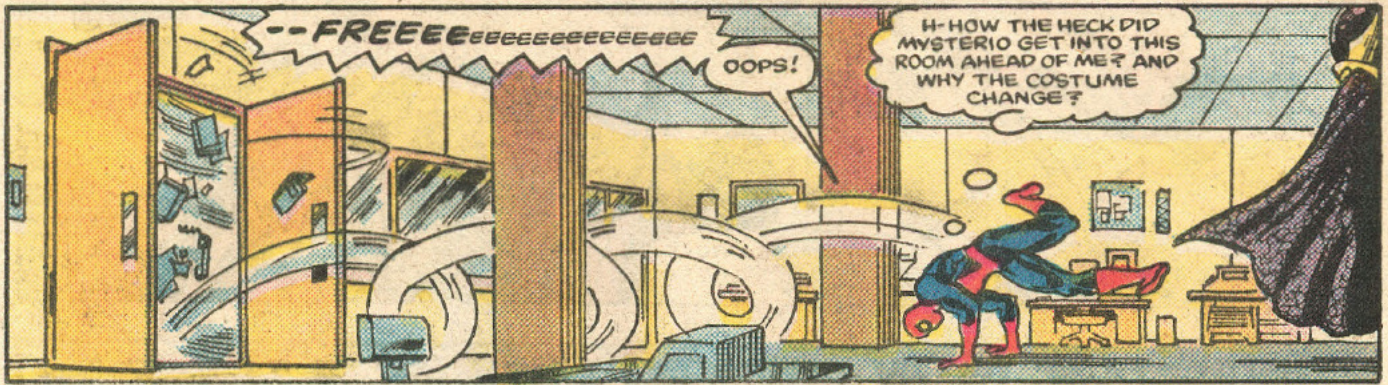
IF IT WEREN'T FOR MY SPIDER-LIKE ABILITY TO CLING TO ANY SURFACE, I'D BE A SPIDER-FRICASSEE RIGHT NOW!

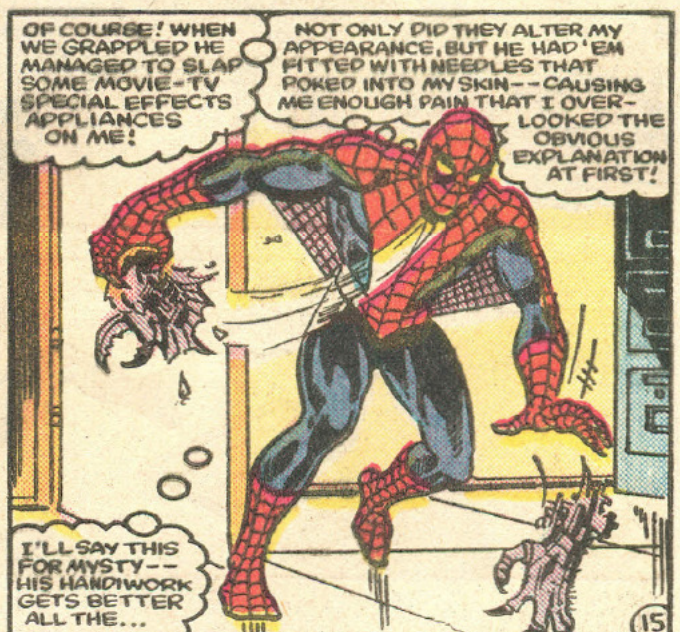
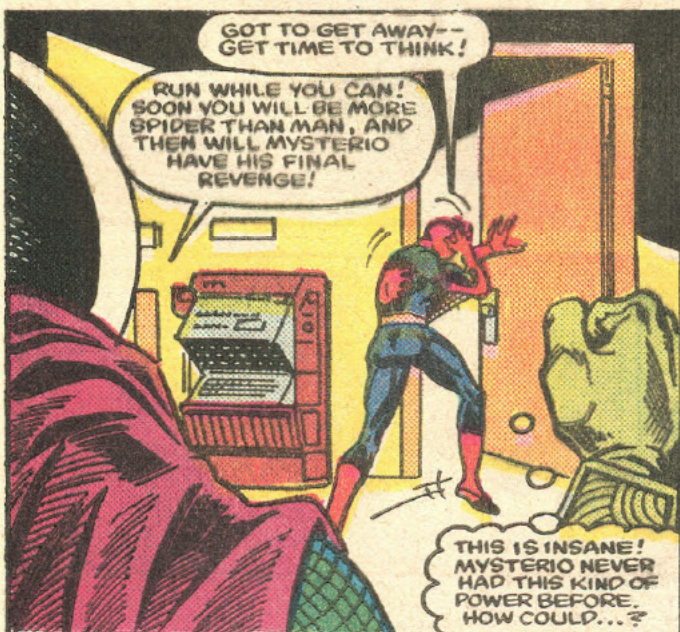
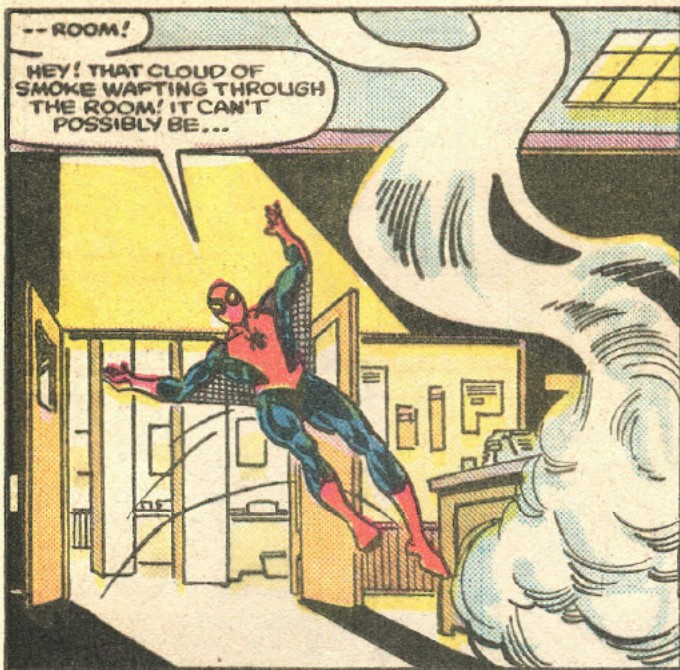


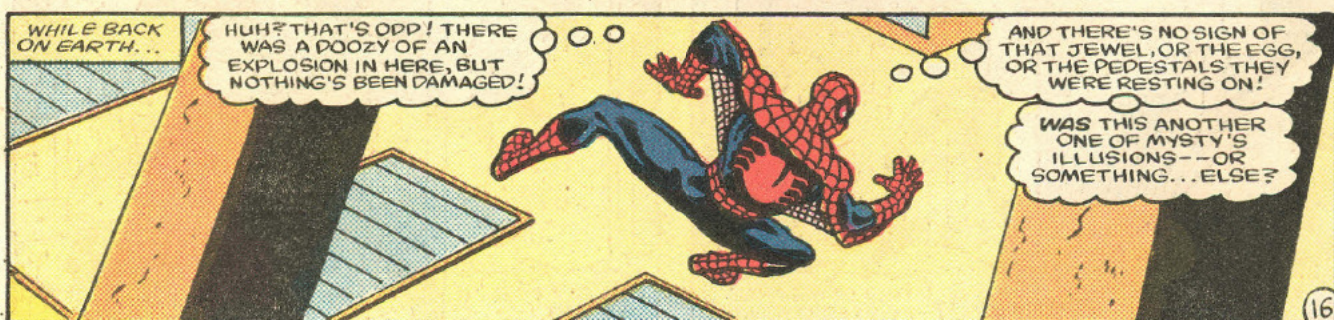
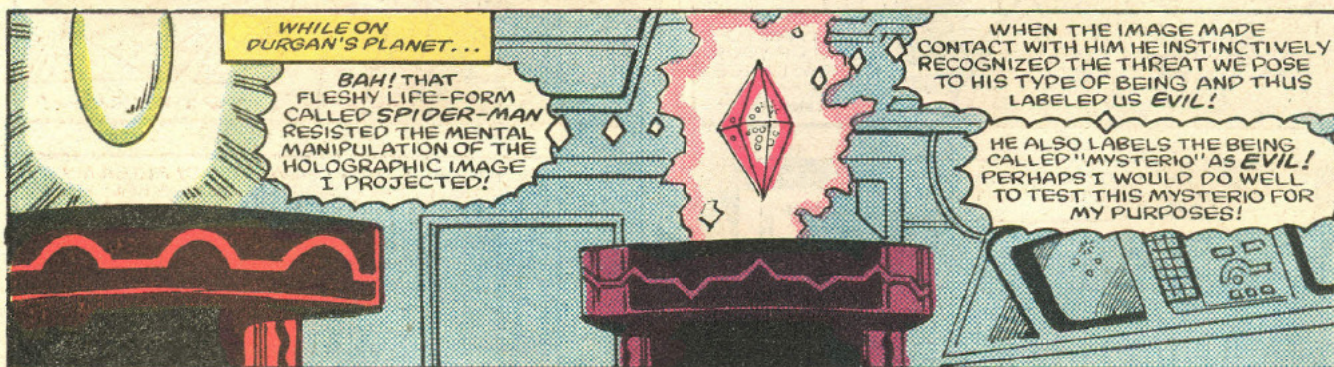
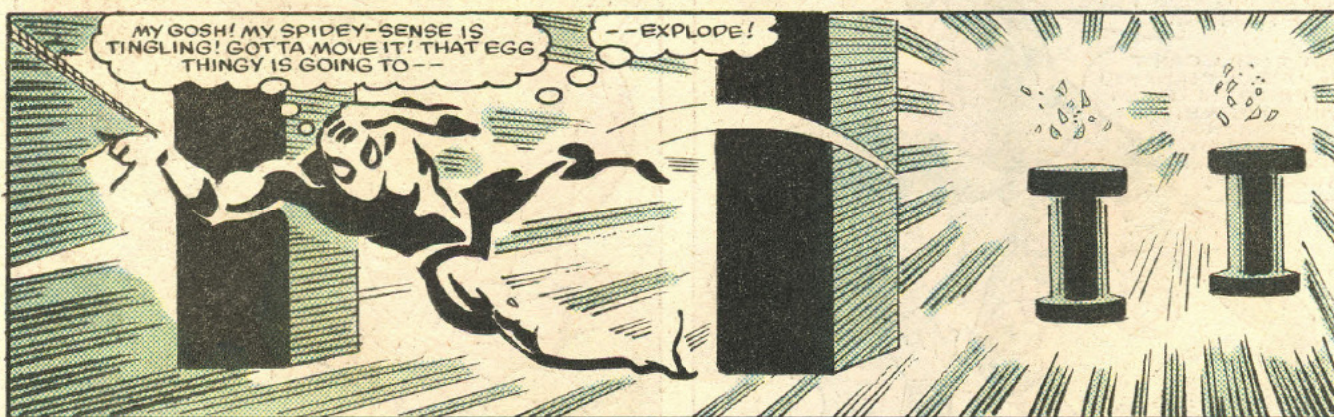
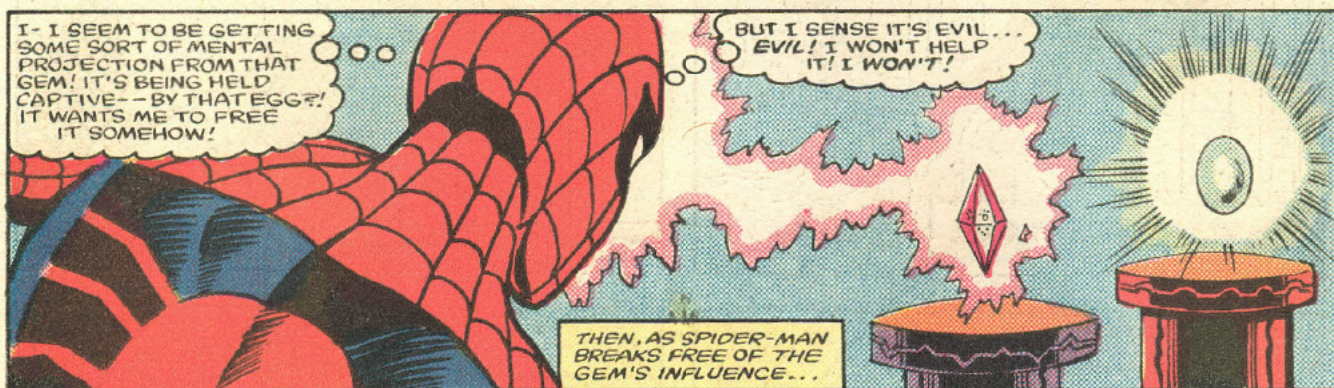
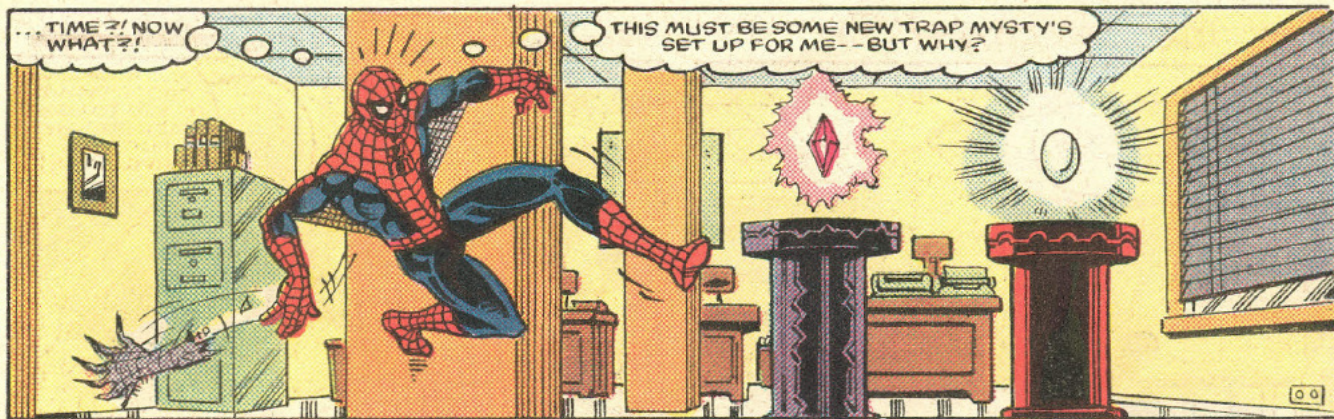
IT'S TAKING EVERY OUNCE OF MY STRENGTH TO RESIST! GOTTA GET THIS DOOR OPEN-- GET AWAY FROM THOSE HOLES!

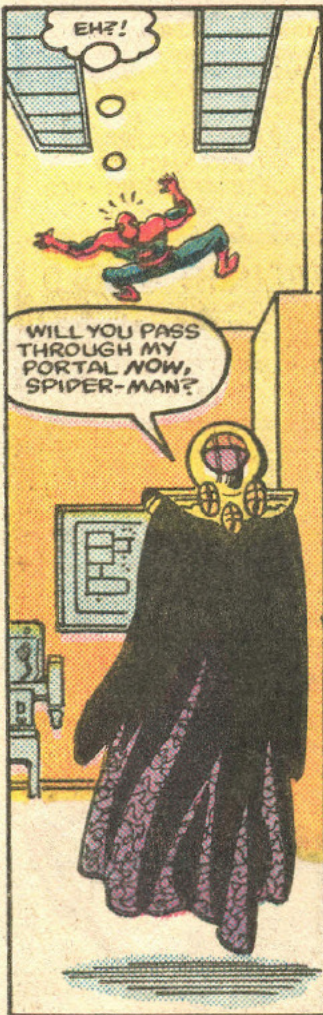


GOTTA BREAK--



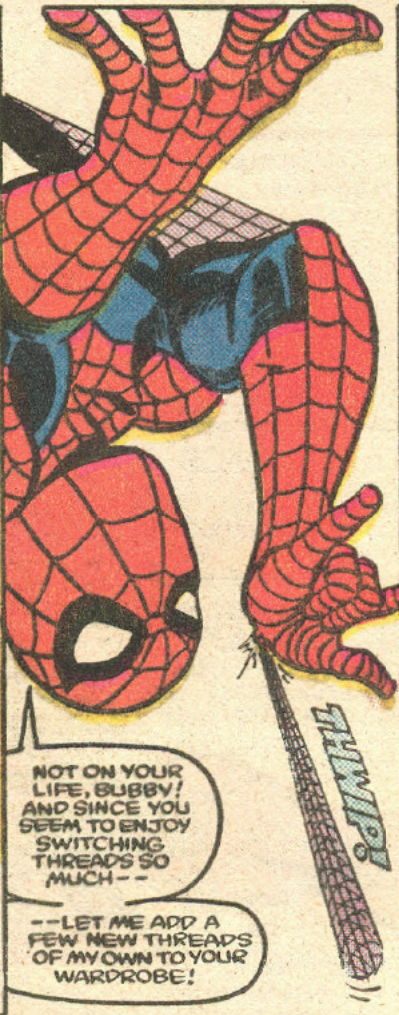






EH?!

WILL YOU PASS THROUGH MY PORTAL NOW, SPIDER-MAN?



NOT ON YOUR LIFE, GUBBY! AND SINCE YOU SEEM TO ENJOY SWITCHING THREADS SO MUCH --

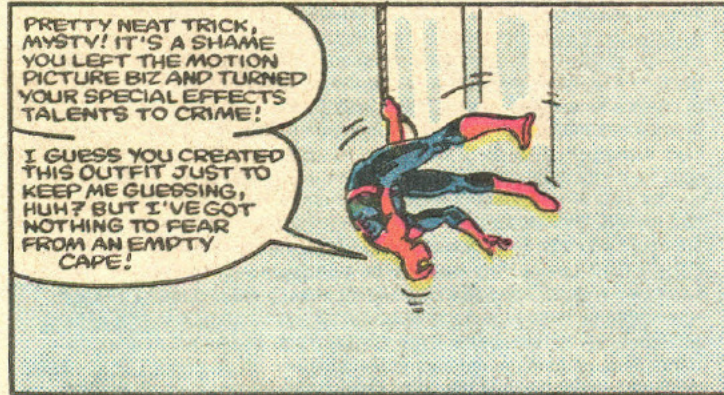
--LET ME ADD A FEW NEW THREADS OF MY OWN TO YOUR WARDROBE!



MAYBE IF I SHOOT BUT A LARGE GLOB OF WEBBING HE WON'T BE ABLE TO DISSOLVE IT ALL, AND -- HEY!

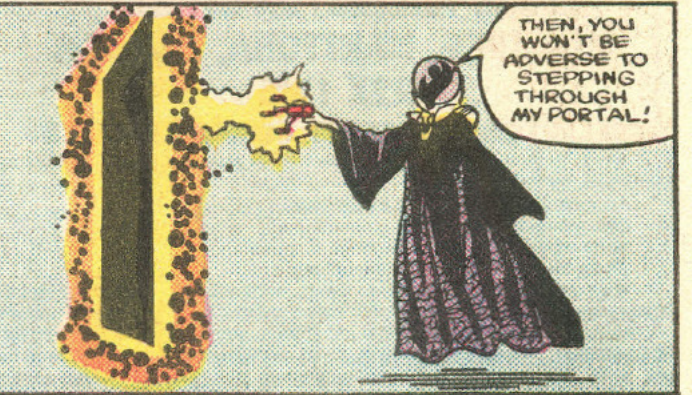


MY WEB CAUGHT HIM SQUARELY -- BUT IT JUST PUSHED HIS CLOAK ASIDE -- AND THERE WAS NOTHING THERE!

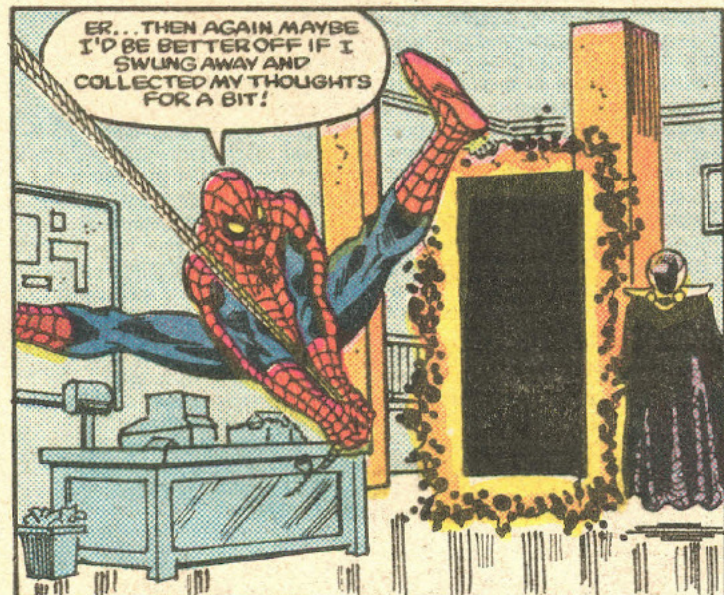


PRETTY NEAT TRICK, MYSTY! IT'S A SHAME YOU LEFT THE MOTION PICTURE BIZ AND TURNED YOUR SPECIAL EFFECTS TALENTS TO CRIME!

I GUESS YOU CREATED THIS OUTFIT JUST TO KEEP ME GUESSING, HUH? BUT I'VE GOT NOTHING TO FEAR FROM AN EMPTY CAPE!



THEN, YOU WON'T BE ADVERSE TO STEPPING THROUGH MY PORTAL!

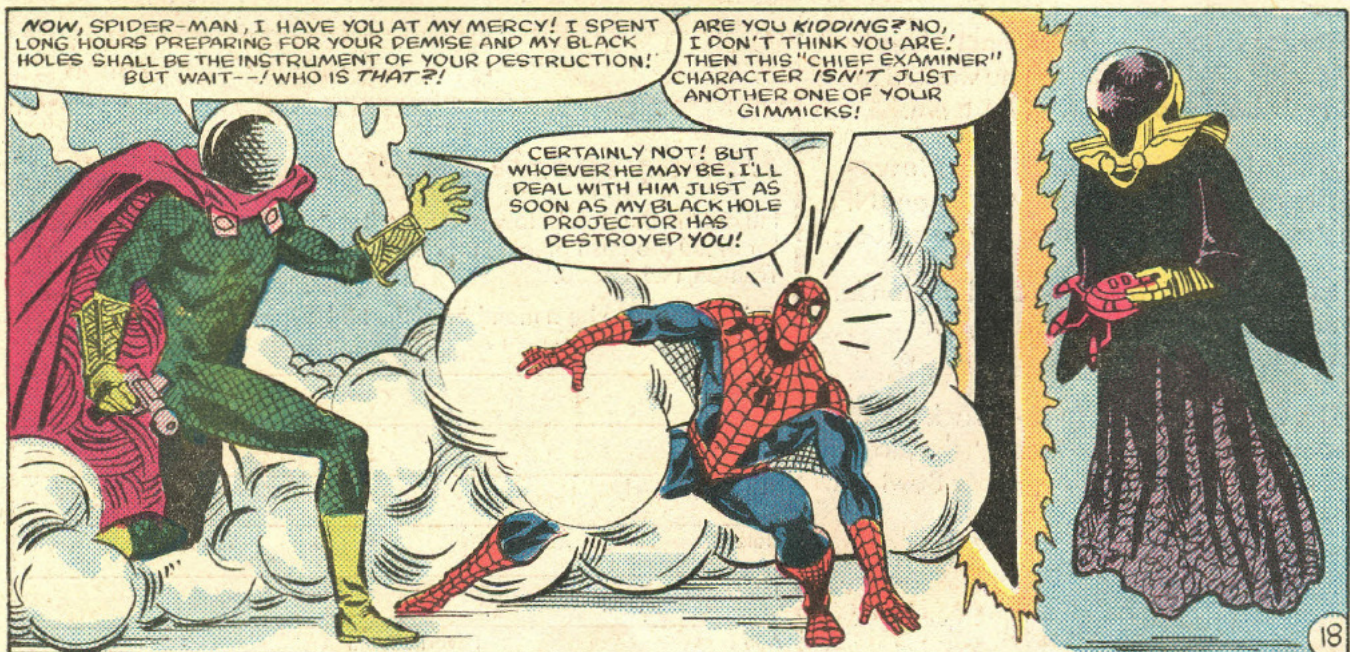
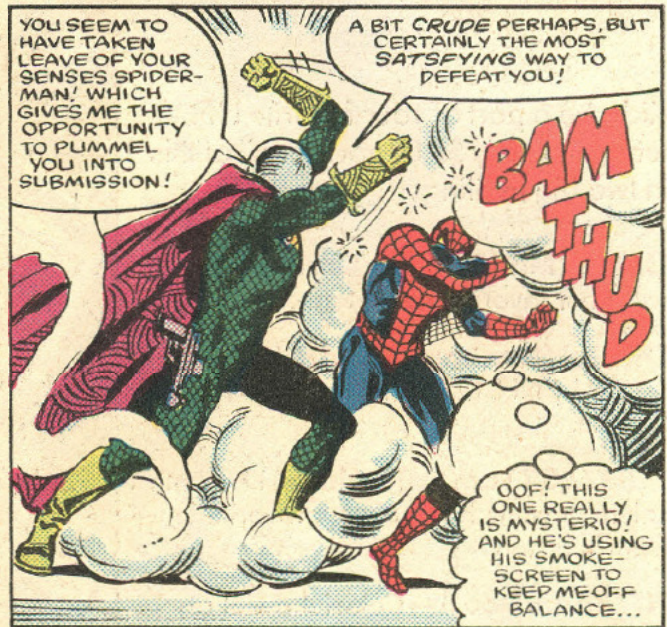
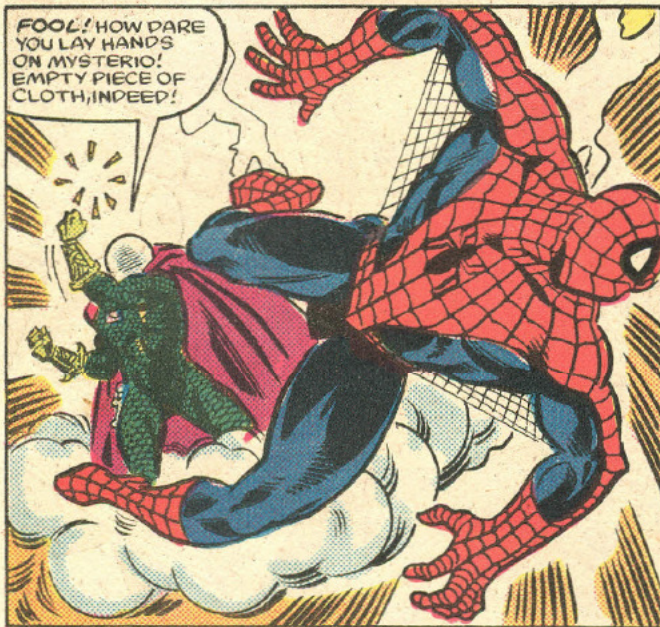


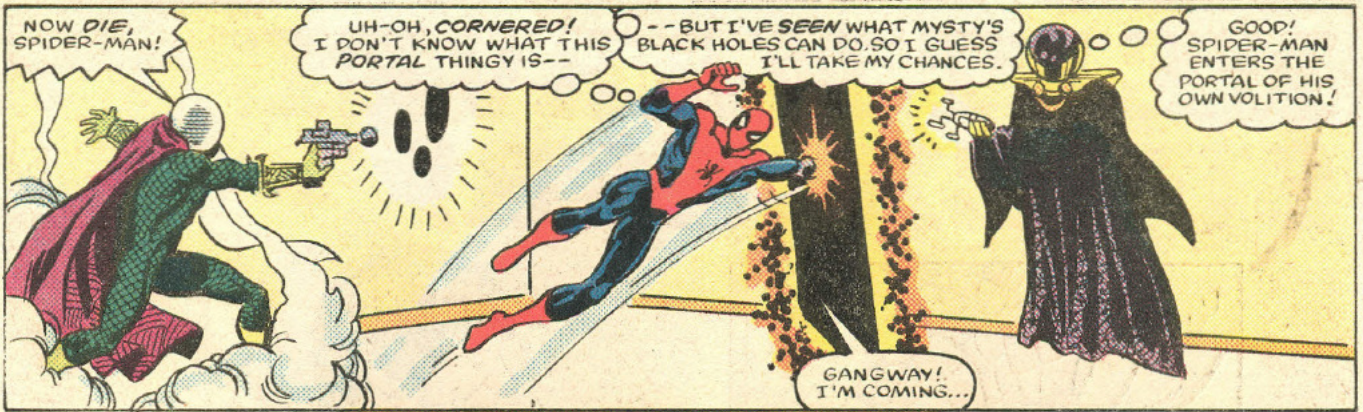
ER... THEN AGAIN MAYBE I'D BE BETTER OFF IF I SWUNG AWAY AND COLLECTED MY THOUGHTS FOR A BIT!



TA-TA, MYSTY, OR CHIEF EXAMINER, OR WHATEVER YOU'RE CALLING YOURSELF!

BOY, AM I GETTING TIRED OF GOING THROUGH DOORWAYS!





NOW DIE, SPIDER-MAN!

UH-OH, CORNERED! I DON'T KNOW WHAT THIS PORTAL THINGY IS--

-- BUT I'VE SEEN WHAT MYSTY'S BLACK HOLES CAN DO. SO I GUESS I'LL TAKE MY CHANCES.

GOOD! SPIDER-MAN ENTERS THE PORTAL OF HIS OWN VOLITION!

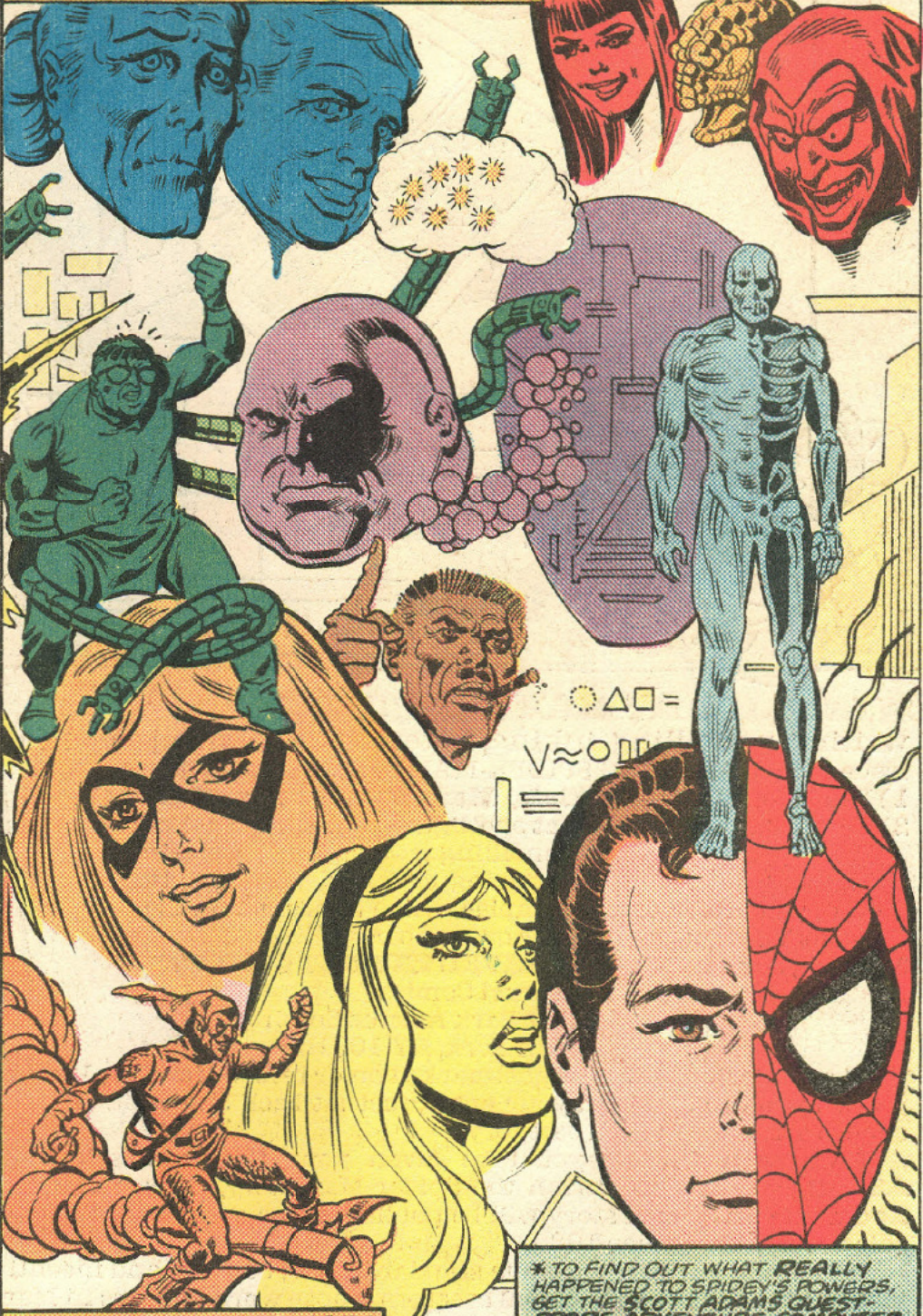
GANGWAY! I'M COMING...



... THROUGH!

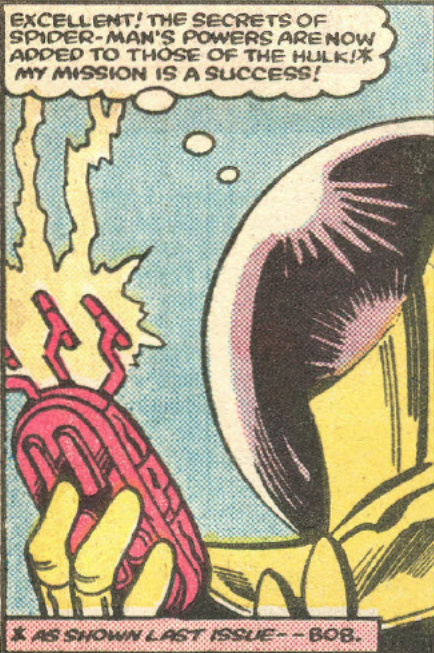
HIS HEADLONG DIVE TO AVOID THE BLACK HOLES SENDS THE WEB-SLINGER PLUNGING INTO THE DARK VOID...

... WHERE HIS BEING IS STRIPPED TO ITS VERY ESSENCE, ALL THAT HE KNOWS-- EVERY EXPERIENCE, EVERY THOUGHT, EVERY SENSATION HE HAS EVER HAD-- IS LAID BARE TO THE PROBING PORTAL.



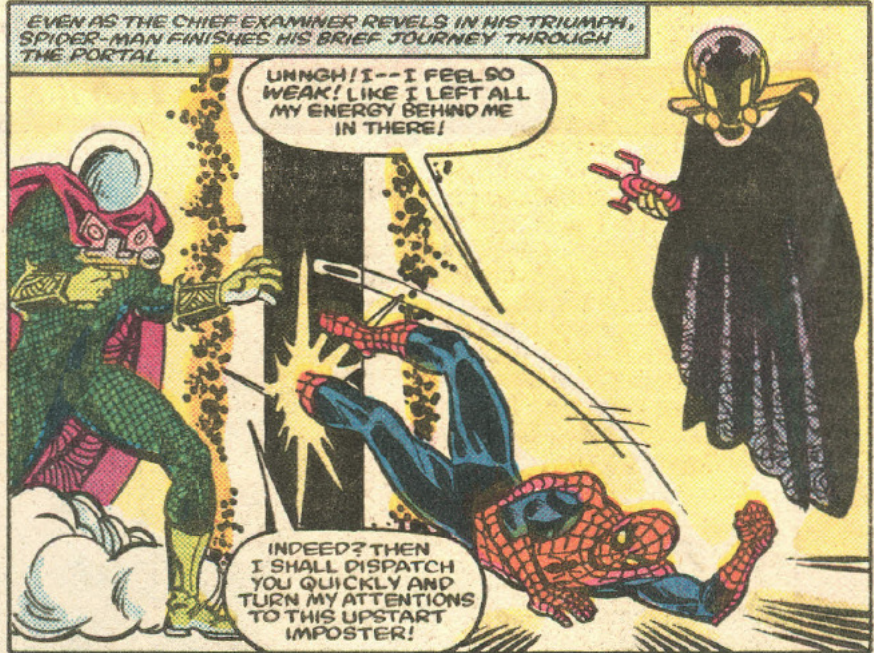
THEN, AS THE EXAMINATION ENDS, SPIDER-MAN FEELS HIS POWER BEING SWIFTLY DRAINED AWAY! *

* TO FIND OUT WHAT REALLY HAPPENED TO SPIDEY'S POWERS, GET THE SCOTT ADAMS QUEST-PROBE ADVENTURE COMPUTER GAME -- MORE DETAILS IN THIS ISSUE'S LETTER COLUMN.



EXCELLENT! THE SECRETS OF SPIDER-MAN'S POWERS ARE NOW ADDED TO THOSE OF THE HULK! MY MISSION IS A SUCCESS!

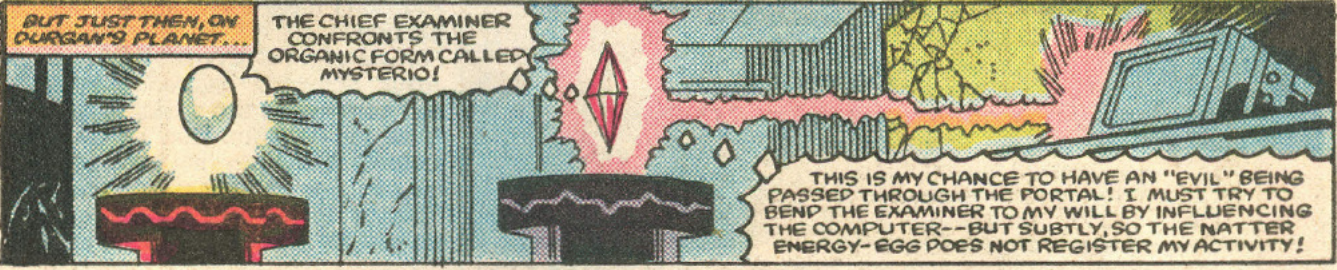
AS SHOWN LAST ISSUE -- BOB.



EVEN AS THE CHIEF EXAMINER REVELS IN HIS TRIUMPH, SPIDER-MAN FINISHES HIS BRIEF JOURNEY THROUGH THE PORTAL...

UNNGH! I-- I FEEL SO WEAK! LIKE I LEFT ALL MY ENERGY BEHIND ME IN THERE!

INDEED? THEN I SHALL DISPATCH YOU QUICKLY AND TURN MY ATTENTIONS TO THIS UPSTART IMPOSTER!



BUT JUST THEN, ON DURGAN'S PLANET...

THE CHIEF EXAMINER CONFRONTS THE ORGANIC FORM CALLED MYSTERIO!

THIS IS MY CHANCE TO HAVE AN "EVIL" BEING PASSED THROUGH THE PORTAL! I MUST TRY TO BEND THE EXAMINER TO MY WILL BY INFLUENCING THE COMPUTER-- BUT SUBTLY, SO THE MATTER ENERGY-EGG DOES NOT REGISTER MY ACTIVITY!



I HAVE THE SECRET OF SPIDER-MAN'S POWER, BUT I-- I NEED MORE! YOU MUST PASS THROUGH THE PORTAL, MYSTERIO!

NOW WHAT?!

NO! KEEP THAT THING AWAY FROM ME!



YOU'LL FIND THAT MYSTERIO IS NOT SO EASY TO CAPTURE!

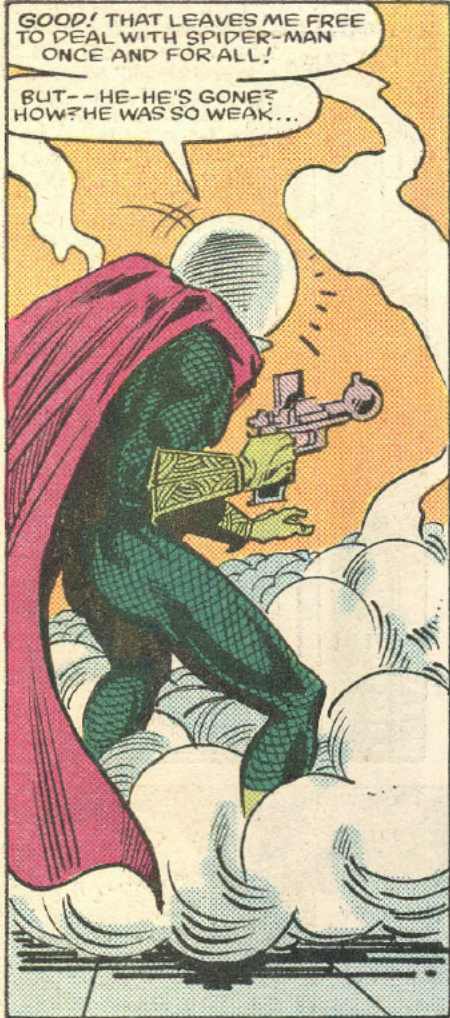
WHEW!-- WHAT A BREAK! I WAS A SITTING DUCK! GUESS THIS PROVES CHIEFY ISN'T ONE OF MYSTERIO'S EFFECTS!



NO! THE COMPUTER IS RESISTING-- REASSERTING CONTROL! AND I DARE NOT INCREASE MY POWER OUTPUT FOR FEAR OF TRIGGERING THE EGG'S EXPLOSION!

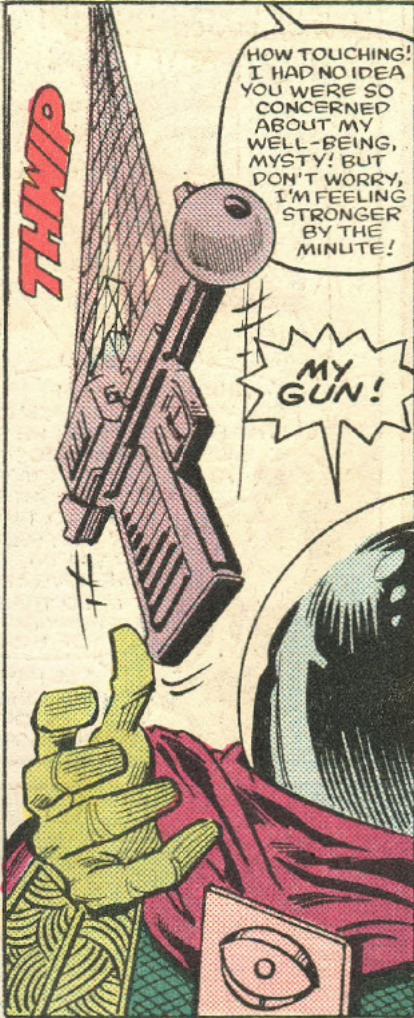


WHAT'S THIS?! THE CHIEF EXAMINER AND HIS ACCURSED PORTAL ARE DISAPPEARING JUST AS I WAS ABOUT TO LAUNCH A COUNTER-ATTACK!



GOOD! THAT LEAVES ME FREE TO DEAL WITH SPIDER-MAN ONCE AND FOR ALL!

BUT-- HE-HE'S GONE? HOW? HE WAS SO WEAK...



THWIP

HOW TOUCHING! I HAD NO IDEA YOU WERE SO CONCERNED ABOUT MY WELL-BEING, MYSTY! BUT DON'T WORRY, I'M FEELING STRONGER BY THE MINUTE!

MY GUN!



THAT MINI-CHASE YOU HAD WITH CHIEFY GAVE ME A BREATHER--

-- NOW SUPPOSE I GIVE YOU A BREATHER BY LETTING SOME FRESH AIR INTO THAT STUFFY OLD HELMET OF YOURS!

CRASH!



IF ONLY I HAD SOMETHING TO FAN AWAY THOSE NASTY FUMES-- AH, THIS CLOAK WILL DO NICELY!

CRUNCH!

KRINCH!

OOPS! SORRY! I SEEM TO HAVE BROKEN YOUR SPIDER-SENSE JAMMERS!

YOU REALLY MUST LEARN TO HIDE THEM SOMEWHERE OTHER THAN THOSE SILLY EYE MEDALLIONS!

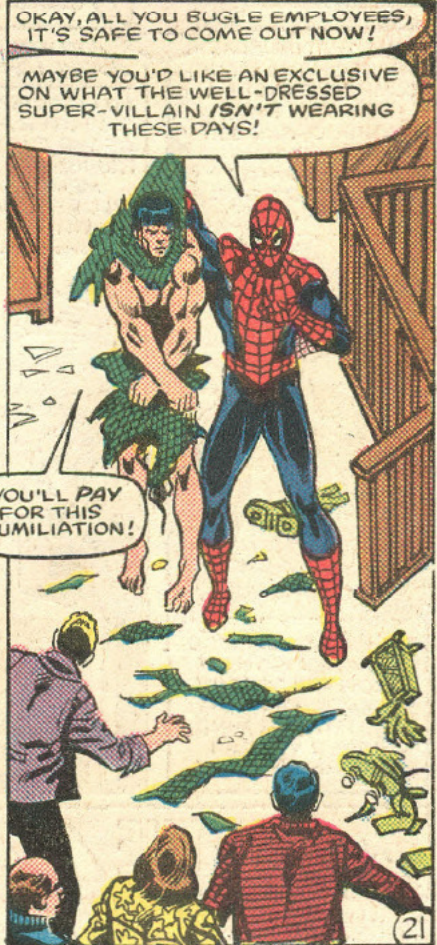


RIP!

SHRED!

MAY AS WELL RELIEVE YOU OF THE REST OF YOUR GIZMOS WHILE I'M AT IT!

ACID-GLOVES, SPRINGY BOOTS... MY, MY-- QUITE AN ARSENAL!



OKAY, ALL YOU BUGLE EMPLOYEES, IT'S SAFE TO COME OUT NOW!

MAYBE YOU'D LIKE AN EXCLUSIVE ON WHAT THE WELL-DRESSED SUPER-VILLAIN *ISN'T* WEARING THESE DAYS!

YOU'LL PAY FOR THIS HUMILIATION!

THANK YOU, SPIDER-MAN!

ANYTIME, MR. ROBERTSON. YOU'VE BEEN A LOT FAIRER TO ME IN YOUR EDITORIALS THAN OL' JONAH JAMESON EVER WAS. CONSIDER THIS MY LITTLE WAY OF PAYING YOU BACK!

BY THE WAY, I THINK YOU'D BETTER HAVE YOUR MAINTENANCE DEPARTMENT COME UP AND DO AN OVERHAUL OF YOUR VENTILATION SYSTEM.

IT SEEMS OUR FRIEND MYSTERIO RIGGED THEM UP WITH A SUPER-POWERED SUCTION DEVICE --

--WHICH IS HOW HE CREATED THE ILLUSION OF THE BLACK HOLES. HE MUST HAVE A RHEOSTAT ATTACHMENT THAT TURNED THE LIGHTS LOWER TOO. THAT'S WHY THEY SEEMED TO DIM WHENEVER HE USED THAT PHONY GUN OF HIS.

I'LL HAVE IT TAKEN CARE OF. THANKS AGAIN.

WELL, I SEEM TO HAVE ANSWERED ALL THE QUESTIONS ABOUT MYSTERIO -- BUT WHAT ABOUT THAT CHIEF EXAMINER CHARACTER? FIRST THAT PORTAL OF HIS WEAKENED ME, THEN HE WENT AFTER MYSTY WHICH GAVE ME A CHANCE TO GET BACK INTO THE FIGHT.

WONDER IF I'LL EVER FIND OUT WHAT HE WAS ALL ABOUT?

I GUESS THIS IS ONE MYSTERY EVEN MORE MYSTERIOUS THAN MYSTERIO!

AND, AS SPIDER-MAN PONDER'S THIS, ON THE WORLD WE'VE COME TO KNOW AS DURGAN'S PLANET...

HMM. THAT UNUSUAL DRAIN ON THE PLANET'S COMPUTER SYSTEM SEEMS TO HAVE STOPPED. AND I'M NO CLOSER TO LEARNING WHAT HAPPENED TO DURGAN.

I'LL HAVE TO DISCUSS THE MATTER WITH MY FELLOW PHILOSOPHY STUDENTS. PERHAPS IF WE PUT OUR MINDS TOGETHER WE CAN SOLVE THIS MYSTERY.

AND WITHIN THE DESERTED MUSEUM ON THAT SAME PLANET...

MY EFFORTS TO INFLUENCE THE COMPUTER AND TAKE CONTROL OF THE CHIEF EXAMINER WERE FRUSTRATED THIS TIME, BUT MY MENTAL MANIPULATION WILL BECOME MORE POWERFUL WITH EACH ATTEMPT.

SOON NOW, MY MASTERY OVER THE COMPUTER WILL BECOME COMPLETE. AND THEN THIS ACCURSED EGG WILL KEEP ME CAPTIVE NO LONGER!

AND WITHIN THE DEPTHS OF THE COMPUTER'S PRINTED CIRCUITS, IN A STRANGE ELECTRICAL NETHERWORLD WHICH EXISTS ONLY IN THE MEMORY BANKS OF THE MACHINE --

-- SOMEONE WAITS. SOMEONE WHO PLANS THE NEXT STEP IN ACQUIRING THE POWERS OF THE MOST POWERFUL BEINGS ON EARTH --

-- SOMEONE WHO WAS ONCE A MAN CALLED DURGAN!

NEXT THE FANTASTIC FOUR!