



Forum: HM General Chit Chat

Topic: A mission for all of you comic book readers out there!

Subject: A mission for all of you comic book readers out there!

Posted by: archmorton

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Hello, my name is archmorton. Lady_Heromorph from ComicSpace told me about this site, and I figured it'd be a good place to check out.

I need your help, but before I can ask it, I think you should the backstory behind what I'm trying to do.

In 1987, the Spider-Man balloon made it's first appearance in the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade. The balloon was created thanks to the talent and efforts of Manford Bass, a specialist in crafting large-size inflatables, and John Romita Sr., famed comic artist who has been recognized as one of the premiere Spidey artists. The balloon was a staple of the parade for many years until the late 1990s when it vanished, seemingly without any explanation.

However, after meeting with John Romita Jr. at a comic book convention in NYC, I learned that the reason for the balloon's disappearance was tied into the bankruptcy incident that Marvel faced in the mid-90s, not because it caused an accident (which it did not), as many people have believed to be the reason. While Marvel was saved from bankruptcy after being bought out, the Spidey balloon was one of the things that didn't make the transition with the company. With no backing, the balloon was removed from the parade lineup. Needless to say, the parade has not been the same without the wall-crawler.

For years, this has bothered me, and recently, I have decided to do something about it. Last year, I started a campaign to bring the Spider-Man back into the parade, or, as a back-up plan, have a Marvel Comics-themed float in the parade. I have been spreading the word around as best as I can, and both options have gotten a lot of support. I have even received assistance from such major names in the comic industry such as comic artists Frank Cho and Leinil Yu, Marvel editor Andy Schmidt, and most recently, Matthew Atherton, aka Feedback, the winner of Who Wants to Be a Superhero Season 1.

Over time, I have also come to realize that this is not simply an effort to get a balloon back into a parade. This also serves, in a way, to give the comic book industry a little more public recognition. After all, with a character like Spider-Man being seen by so many individuals, it might encourage more people to read comic books. So if you are a comic book fan who wishes to see comics gain more recognition, it is my strongest recommendation that you show your support as soon as possible.

If you are interested, you can sign up at the following link:

<http://www.petitiononline.com/mrvl2099>

Also, I have set up a letter-writing campaign, as well as a flier, to supplement my existing efforts, which can be found at: <http://www.comicspace.com/spiderlegion>

If you enjoy reading comics, if you are an aficionado for all things Marvel, or if you are just a fan of a

certain friendly neighborhood wall-crawler, then I insist that you SIGN UP TODAY!!!