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# FRONT LINE™

A MARVEL COMICS® EVENT

# CIVIL WAR™

JENKINS

LUCAS

BACHS

MOLINAR

**RATED T+**



\$2.99 US \$3.75 CAN

DIRECT EDITION

TIMES SQUARE,  
NEW YORK CITY

OUTSIDE  
OUR WINDOWS,  
WORLDS  
COLLIDED.

CRASH.  
BOOM.  
BANG.

THEN SILENCE.

WE WAITED FOR THE  
DUST TO SETTLE.

WE VENTURED  
OUT OF HIDING.

YOU  
STUPID,  
SELFSH  
IDIOTS.

WHAT  
HAVE  
YOU  
DONE?



# EMBEDDED

PART  
ELEVEN

PAUL  
JENKINS  
WRITER

RAMON  
BACHS  
PENCILER

JOHN  
LUCAS  
INKER

LARRY  
MOLINAR  
COLORIST

VC'S RANDY  
GENTILE  
LETTERER

MOLLY LAZER &  
ALBREY SITTERSON  
ASSISTANT EDITORS

TOM  
BREVOORT  
EDITOR

JOE  
QUESADA  
EXECUTIVE CHIEF

DAN  
BUCKLEY  
PUBLISHER

AND ONLY THEN  
DID THE FALLOUT  
REALLY BEGIN.





THIS WAS THE DAY AMERICA--THE REST OF THE WORLD, EVEN-- AWOKE TO A NEW REALITY: THINGS WERE GOING TO BE DIFFERENT-- THEY HAD TO BE.

BECAUSE IF WE CONTINUED THIS WAY, THERE WAS GOING TO BE NOTHING LEFT FOR THE HEROES TO PROTECT.



MINUTES AFTER THE CEASE-FIRE, WORD CAME DOWN THAT CAPTAIN AMERICA HAD SURRENDERED. THE BIG SUNS WENT SILENT, AND HALF OF THE PEOPLE IN COSTUMES MELTED INTO THE NIGHT.

HISTORY WOULD TELL US WE DODGED A BULLET THAT DAY.



WE WERE TOO BUSY PUTTING OUT FIRES TO NOTICE.



WHEN ALL WAS SAID AND DONE, THE FINAL TOLL WAS AS LUDICROUS AS IT WAS DEVASTATING: FIFTY-THREE KILLED... ONLY SIX OF THEM SUPER-POWERED.

IT WAS THE DAWN OF A NEW AGE. ONLY TIME WOULD TELL IF IT WAS GOING TO BE WORTH GETTING OUT OF BED FOR.



WITHIN HOURS, THE DAMAGE CONTROL BEGAN, AND IT WASN'T NEARLY ENOUGH, QUICKLY ENOUGH.

IF THE HEROES HAD WORKED THIS HARD TO REPAIR THINGS IN THE FIRST PLACE, THE WORLD WOULD ALREADY HAVE BEEN A BETTER PLACE.



AMERICA'S PROBLEMS CAME INTO FOCUS, NO LONGER SHROUDED BY THE FOG OF WAR. OPINIONS WERE SHARPLY DIVIDED.



WE CLEARED THE DEBRIS, LONGING FOR THE GOOD OLD DAYS.

AND NATURALLY, WE BEGAN TO ASK, "WHEN WERE THOSE, EXACTLY?"



MAYBE THESE WERE THE "GOOD OLD DAYS."

THE RAFT RYKER'S ISLAND MAXIMUM SECURITY INSTALLATION.



YOU'RE LEAVING THE ALTERNATIVE?

HEY, YOU LEFT THE BUGLE! WHY SHOULD YOU HAVE ALL THE FUN?

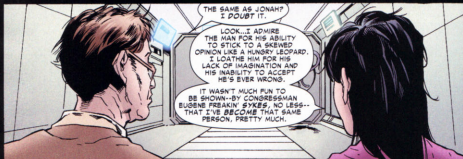
BUT WHY, SALLY?

SAME REASON AS YOU, PRETTY MUCH.



I DON'T UNDERSTAND. I THOUGHT YOU WERE HAPPY THERE.

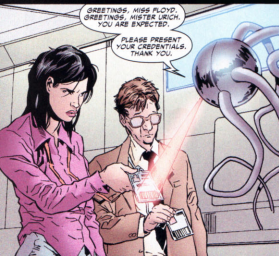
YEAH, WELL... IGNORANCE IS BLISS. AS MUCH AS THE ALTERNATIVE PURPORTS TO BE A BASTION OF FREE SPEECH, I'VE COME TO REALIZE IT'S THE SAME ANIMAL AS JAMESON IN A DIFFERENT SKIN.



THE SAME AS JONAH? I DOUBT IT.

LOOK...I ADMIRE THE MAN FOR HIS ABILITY TO STICK TO A SKewed OPINION LIKE A HUNGRY LEOPARD. I LOATHE HIM FOR HIS LACK OF IMAGINATION AND HIS INABILITY TO ACCEPT HE'S EVER WRONG.

IT WASN'T MUCH FUN TO BE SHOWN--BY CONGRESSMAN EUGENE FREAKIN' SYKES, NO LESS-- THAT I'VE BECOME THAT SAME PERSON, PRETTY MUCH.

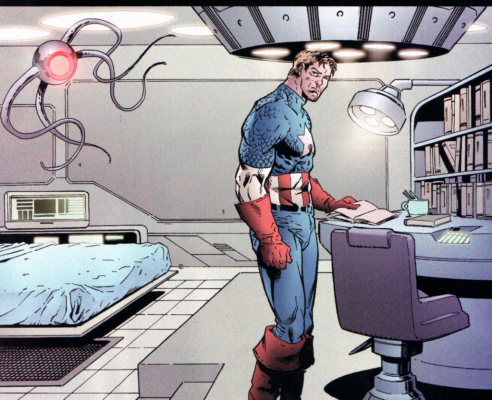


GREETINGS, MISS FLOYD. GREETINGS, MISTER URICH. YOU ARE EXPECTED.

PLEASE PRESENT YOUR CREDENTIALS. THANK YOU.



I NEED A CHANGE, BEN. I DON'T WANT TO BE A ONE-TRICK PONY WITH A ONE-TRACK MIND.



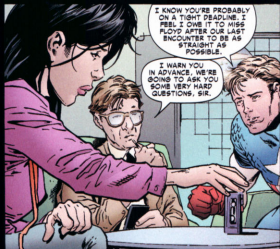


HELLO, BEN...SALLY...I WISH I COULD SAY IT WAS A PLEASURE TO SEE YOU, BUT CONSIDERING THE CIRCUMSTANCES--

DAN-- THIS PLACE IS SIX TIMES THE SIZE OF MY APARTMENT. I GOTTA GET ME SOME SUPER-POWERS MY SET ARRESTED.



PLEASE...COME IN AND SIT DOWN. I UNDERSTAND YOU'VE BEEN GIVEN PERMISSION BY THE AUTHORITIES TO LET ME EXPRESS MY SIDE OF WHAT'S HAPPENED.



I KNOW YOU'RE PROBABLY ON A TIGHT DEADLINE. I FEEL I OWE IT TO MISS FLOYD AFTER OUR LAST ENCOUNTER TO BE AS STRAIGHT AS POSSIBLE.

I WARN YOU IN ADVANCE, WE'RE GOING TO ASK YOU SOME VERY HARD QUESTIONS, SIR.



I HAVE EVERY INTENTION OF ANSWERING AS HONESTLY AND CANDIDLY AS I POSSIBLY CAN. CAN I ASK WHAT ANGLE YOU'RE TAKING?

A COMPARISON OF THE TWO SIDES OF THE REGISTRATION DEBATE, AS DESCRIBED BY REGISTERED AND UNREGISTERED HEROES. AFTER YOU, WE GO TO INTERVIEW TONY STARK.



I HAVEN'T HAD MUCH OF A CHANCE TO SPEAK TO TONY.

WHEN YOU SEE HIM, I'D LIKE YOU TO TELL HIM HOW SORRY I AM FOR ALL THIS.





WHY DON'T YOU TELL HIM YOURSELF, SIR? THIS IS YOUR OPPORTUNITY TO EXPLAIN YOUR ACTIONS TO THE AMERICAN PEOPLE.

HOPEFULLY, YOU'LL ASK THE SAME QUESTIONS OF THE REGISTRATION ACT SUPPORTERS. I ASKED THEM TO COME TO THE TABLE EARLIER. THEY DREW A LINE IN THE SAND.



DID YOU AND YOUR SUPPORTERS STEP OVER THAT LINE, SIR? HOW MUCH OF YOUR DECISION TO GO TO WAR WAS MADE AFTER CAREFUL STUDY, AND HOW MUCH BECAUSE OF PRIDE?

PRIDE WAS NEVER INVOLVED. I BELIEVE WHAT I DID WAS RIGHT. IF YOU KNOW ME AT ALL, YOU'LL KNOW I'M A SIMPLE MAN AT HEART.



I BELIEVE IN THE FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS ACCORDED US BY OUR CONSTITUTION, BEN. I BELIEVE WE HAVE A RIGHT TO BEAR ARMS, A RIGHT TO DEFEND AND A RIGHT TO CHOOSE.

I HAVE SWORN AN OATH TO DEFEND AMERICA FROM EXTERNAL FORCES, AND FROM WITHIN, IF THAT MEANS STANDING AGAINST MY OWN GOVERNMENT, REJECTING A BOGUS LAW PASSED BY MY OWN SUPERIORS, THEN I SUPPOSE THAT'S WHAT IT MEANS.

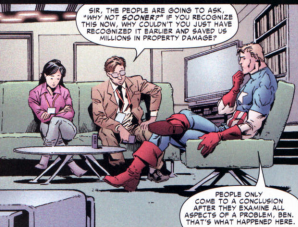


I NOW REALIZE THAT WHILE MY INTENTIONS WERE CORRECT AND HONORABLE, I COULD AS EASILY HAVE COME TO THE TABLE AS TONY STARK OR REED RICHARDS.

I SAW THE POSSIBILITY OF A REGISTRATION ACT AS A BASIC VIOLATION OF OUR RIGHTS AS AMERICANS.



FOR THAT, I WISH TO APOLOGIZE TO THE COUNTRY I LOVE.



SIR, THE PEOPLE ARE GOING TO ASK, "WHY NOT SOONER?" IF YOU RECOGNIZE THIS NOW, WHY COULDN'T YOU JUST HAVE RECOGNIZED IT EARLIER AND SAVED US MILLIONS IN PROPERTY DAMAGE?

PEOPLE ONLY COME TO A CONCLUSION AFTER THEY EXAMINE ALL ASPECTS OF A PROBLEM, BEN. THAT'S WHAT HAPPENED HERE.



THEY SURE DO, BUT MOST PEOPLE DON'T HAVE THE MEANS TO EXPLORE THE PROS AND CONS OF AN ARGUMENT BY TEARING A CITY IN HALF.

I DID WHAT I THOUGHT WAS RIGHT FOR AMERICA!



LET ME ASK YOU SOMETHING, SIR: DO YOU KNOW WHAT MYSPACE IS?



I'M NOT SURE I UNDERSTAND THE RELEVANCE OF THAT QUESTION, SALLY--

NO, YOU JUST DON'T UNDERSTAND THE QUESTION, SIR. I'M TRYING TO ILLUSTRATE A POINT HERE, SO BEAR WITH ME.

DO YOU KNOW WHO WON THE LAST WORLD SERIES, OR WHO WAS THE LAST AMERICAN IDOL?



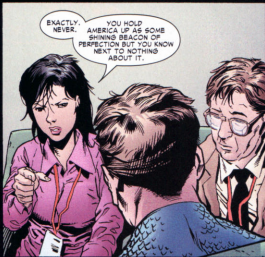
WHEN WAS THE LAST TIME YOU ACTUALLY ATTENDED A NASCAR RACE? WHEN WAS THE LAST TIME YOU WATCHED THE SIMPSONS OR LOGGED ONTO YOUTUBE TO WATCH A STUPID VIDEO?

ANSWER?



EXACTLY. NEVER.

YOU HOLD AMERICA UP AS SOME SHINING BEACON OF PERFECTION BUT YOU KNOW NEXT TO NOTHING ABOUT IT.





MISS FLOYD, YOU'RE BEING SIMPLISTIC--

YEAH, BUT WHEN DANGER REARS ITS UGLY HEAD YOU DON'T HAVE TO HIDE IN A SUBWAY LIKE THE REST OF US. DO YOU? WE DON'T HAVE THE POWER TO BE AS COMPLICATED AS YOU.



SEE, I REGRET THE FACT THAT I EVER HAD TO HIDE IN A SUBWAY STATION IN THE FIRST PLACE. YOU PEOPLE SET YOURSELF UP AS SOME KIND OF ARMY, BUT I DON'T REMEMBER VOTING FOR YOU.

IF I'M GONNA PAY FOR AN ARMY THEY'D BETTER BE ANSWERABLE TO ME!



SO WAS IT ALL WORTH IT, SIR? ALL THOSE DEAD AND BURIED...AND WHAT DID YOU ACCOMPLISH, EXACTLY? DID YOU GET TO WORK THE PROBLEM OUT TO YOUR SATISFACTION?

I UNDERSTAND YOU'RE JUST VOICING THE FRUSTRATION OF OTHERS, SALLY, BUT I DID WHAT I THOUGHT WAS RIGHT.

WELL, BULLY FOR YOU. YOU'VE FINALLY REALIZED AMERICA WANTS A REGISTRATION ACT. BUT THE BIG QUESTION ON EVERYONE'S LIPS IS, WHY COULDN'T YOU HAVE REALIZED THAT A FEW WEEKS AGO?



YOUR PROBLEM IS THAT YOU'RE FIGHTING FOR AN IDEAL--IT'S ALL YOU KNOW HOW TO DO. AMERICA IS NO LONGER ABOUT MOM AND APPLE PIE...IT'S ABOUT HIGH CHOLESTEROL AND PARIS HILTON AND SCHEMING YOUR WAY TO THE TOP.

THE COUNTRY I LOVE TREATS ITS CELEBRITIES LIKE ROYALTY AND ITS TEACHERS LIKE DIRT. BUT AT LEAST I WALK ITS STREETS EVERY DAY. AT LEAST I KNOW WHAT IT IS.



YOU'VE BROKEN THAT COUNTRY, CAPTAIN AMERICA.

WHAT ARE YOU GONNA DO TO FIX IT?



WELL, THAT WAS INTERESTING. I THOUGHT WE WERE SUPPOSED TO BE INTERVIEWING CAPTAIN AMERICA, NOT YELLING AT HIM.

I CHANGED MY MIND. NOW IT'S AN OPINION PIECE.



SO MUCH FOR THE "OBJECTIVE REPORTER" SECTION OF OUR PROGRAM--

IT JUST DRIVES ME BONKERS, IS ALL: THE MONEY TO PAY FOR ALL THE DAMAGE COMES OUT OF MY PAYCHECK, SAME AS YOU. IT'D LIKE A REFUND.



LOOK...I KNOW THIS HAS BEEN ROUGH, FOR BOTH OF US...YOU ESPECIALLY. I KNOW YOU'VE BEEN FORCED TO EXAMINE A LOT OF THINGS DIFFERENTLY LATELY, AND YOU'RE REACTING TO THAT.

BUT IN TEN DAYS' TIME WE FACE TONY STARK WITH THIS STORY OF OURS, AND IT'S GOING TO TEAR EVERYTHING IN HALF.



JUST PROMISE ME YOU'LL LET ME DO THE TALKING, OKAY?



She agreed, and over the next couple of days we put the finishing touches on the big, secret story we were never going to tell.

Two out-of-work reporters, sitting on a mountain of dynamite, wrapped around an atomic bomb.

I thanked God a hundred times for my patient, understanding and caffeine-wielding wife.



Sally told me she went out on a second date with Danny Granville from Costume Division, which was nice.

She didn't say whether or not they had a good time.



Three days after the end of the war, the Sentry publicly announced his support of the Registration Act, much to everyone's surprise.

This and other factors led to a thirty-eight percent upswing in recruitment to the Pro-Registration cause.



In the interests of objectivity, Sally and I made sure to stay in touch with those of a dissenting opinion.



We took over an office down on Fifty-Third. And with the help of a small business loan, "frontlines.com" was born.

Nothing big... nothing fancy: enough to keep us in trouble for years to come.



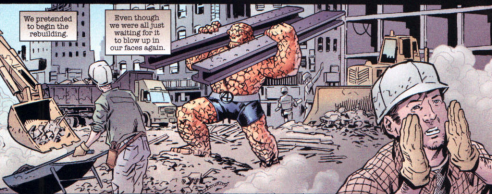
I watched with pride as Sally put her newfound objectivity to the test. Her piece on the Atlantean threat garnered a lot of attention.

I thought to myself, what's the point of a good civil war if not to bring about **change**?



The war, of course, threatened to spill across America's borders.

We steeled ourselves for what many assumed would inevitably come from below the surface of the ocean.



We pretended to begin the rebuilding.

Even though we were all just waiting for it to blow up in our faces again.



The Fifty-State Initiative went into full effect within four days of the end of the war.

The prevailing joke was that there was going to be another civil war because nobody could persuade anyone to be in charge of Rhode Island.



Life in the city returned to a state of normalcy.



We said goodbye to old friends.

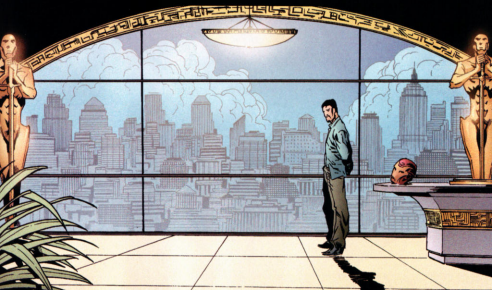


And on Day Ten, Sally and I went forth to blow the whole thing wide open...

YOU NERVOUS?

YEAH, YOU?

TERRIFIED.







I HAVE NOTHING TO HIDE, BEN. YOU'RE WELCOME TO ASK ME ANYTHING.

WELL, JUST REMEMBER YOU SAID THAT, SIR.

IF YOU DON'T MIND, MISTER STARK, I'M GOING TO BEGIN WITH A RECAP.

"SIX HUNDRED AND TWELVE PEOPLE ARE KILLED IN A TRAGEDY AT STAMFORD.

"AS A RESULT, A DUBIOUS PROPOSAL FOR A DUBIOUS LAW RUSHES THROUGH THE HOUSE AND THE SENATE LIKE IT WAS SHOT OUT OF A CANNON. IT PASSES BEFORE ANYONE CAN BLINK.

"THOSE IN VIOLATION OF THE ACT-- AND THERE ARE MANY WHO DON'T EVEN HAVE TIME TO DECIDE HOW TO REACT--ARE SHOVED INTO A SECRET PRISON AT AN UNDETERMINED LOCATION.

"REPORTS SUGGEST CONDITIONS IN THIS GULAG ARE FAR HARSHER THAN CAN POSSIBLY BE JUSTIFIED, ESPECIALLY CONSIDERING ITS INHABITANTS ARE ALL FORMER HEROES, MANY OF WHOM SERVICES TO THEIR COMMUNITIES ARE BEYOND QUESTION.



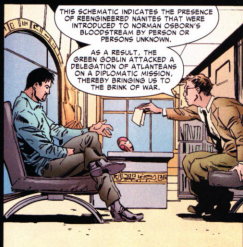
"THE PRO-REGISTRATION LEADERS DECIDE, IN THEIR INFINITE WISDOM, TO ENLIST THE SERVICES OF SOME OF THE WORLD'S MOST VIOLENT CRIMINALS TO HELP TRACK DOWN THEIR FORMER COMRADES AND SEND THEM TO THEIR FATE.

"AS IF THESE LOGIC-DEPYING EVENTS WEREN'T ENOUGH, EVERYONE ACTS SURPRISED WHEN ONE OF THESE LUNATICS GOES ROGUE AND ACCIDENTALLY SPARKS A WAR WITH A FOREIGN NATION."



YOU'D THINK IT COULDN'T GET ANY WORSE.

BUT THEN AGAIN, WE KNOW ABOUT THE TRAITOR IN YOUR ORGANIZATION.





"THE MOST OBVIOUS QUESTION WAS WHY A MAN WITH OSBORN'S PHYSICAL STRENGTH WOULD MAKE HIS WEAPON OF CHOICE AN ORDINARY OLD PISTOL WITH A WARPED BARREL--HARDLY AN EFFECTIVE WEAPON AGAINST AN ATLANTEAN.

"AND HOW DID POLICE OFFICERS MANAGE TO SUBDUCE HIM SO QUICKLY... UNLESS HE WAS ALREADY UNDER CONTROL?"

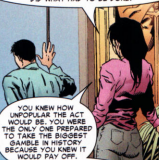
"AFTER THE ATTACK, THE NANITES IN OSBORN'S BLOODSTREAM CONTROLLED HIM COMPLETELY. HE WAS UNABLE TO SPEAK THE TRUTH ABOUT WHAT HE HAD BEEN MADE TO DO.



"WE HAVE IT ON GOOD AUTHORITY THAT MISTER OSBORN WAS LATER RELEASED BACK INTO YOUR CUSTODY, AND HAS BEEN PUT IN CHARGE OF THE THUNDERBOLTS PROGRAM IN COLORADO."

YOU CONTROLLED THE ENTIRE EVENT, MISTER STARK. YOU WEIGHED THE POSSIBILITY OF WAR WITH ATLANTIS AGAINST THE INEVITABILITY OF COSTUMED INDIVIDUALS TEARING THIS COUNTRY APART, AND YOU DID WHAT HAD TO BE DONE.

YOU KNEW THIS WOULD HAPPEN ALL ALONG. YOU SACRIFICED YOUR STATUS AS A FRIEND, COLLEAGUE AND HERO FOR THE GREATER GOOD OF THIS COUNTRY. YOU ALONE UNDERSTOOD THE RAMIFICATIONS OF SUCH A COURSE OF ACTION.



YOU KNEW HOW UNPOPULAR THE ACT WOULD BE. YOU WERE THE ONLY ONE PREPARED TO TAKE THE BIGGEST GAMBLE IN HISTORY BECAUSE YOU KNEW IT WOULD PAY OFF.

THE VERY SUGGESTION THAT WE'RE GOING TO WAR WITH ATLANTIS HAS INCREASED THE NUMBERS OF REGISTERED HEROES BY OVER THIRTY-EIGHT PERCENT IN THE LAST TEN DAYS BECAUSE THEY'RE UNITING AGAINST A COMMON FOE.



AND FOR THAT ACT OF COURAGE I TRULY AND HONESTLY APPLAUD YOU.



GET THE HELL OUT OF MY OFFICE.



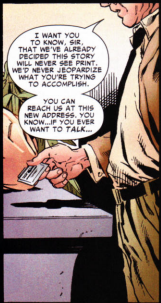
I TOLD YOU, BEN: THE HERO'S TRUE SACRIFICE IS THAT HE CAN NEVER TELL.

THAT'S TEN BUCKS YOU OWE ME.

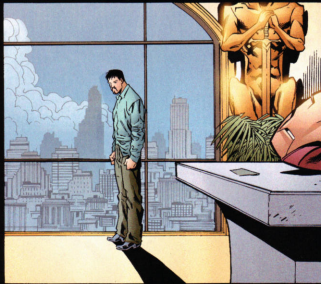


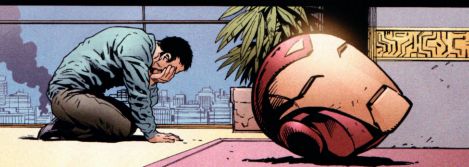
I WANT YOU TO KNOW, SIR, THAT WE'VE ALREADY DECIDED THIS STORY WILL NEVER SEE PRINT. WE'D NEVER JEOPARDIZE WHAT YOU'RE TRYING TO ACCOMPLISH.

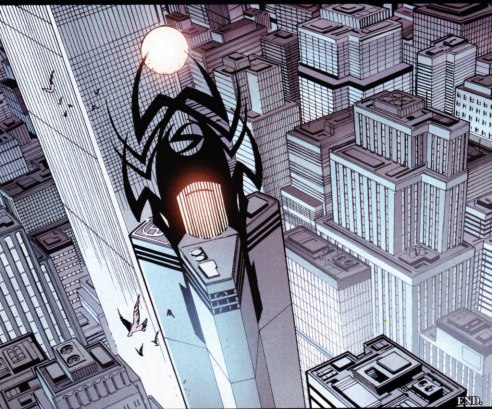
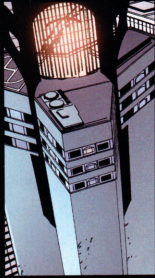
YOU CAN REACH US AT THIS NEW ADDRESS. YOU KNOW...IF YOU EVER WANT TO TALK...



C'MON, BEN...LET'S GIVE THE POOR GUY SOME SPACE. WE'VE WASTED ENOUGH OF HIS TIME FOR ONE DAY.

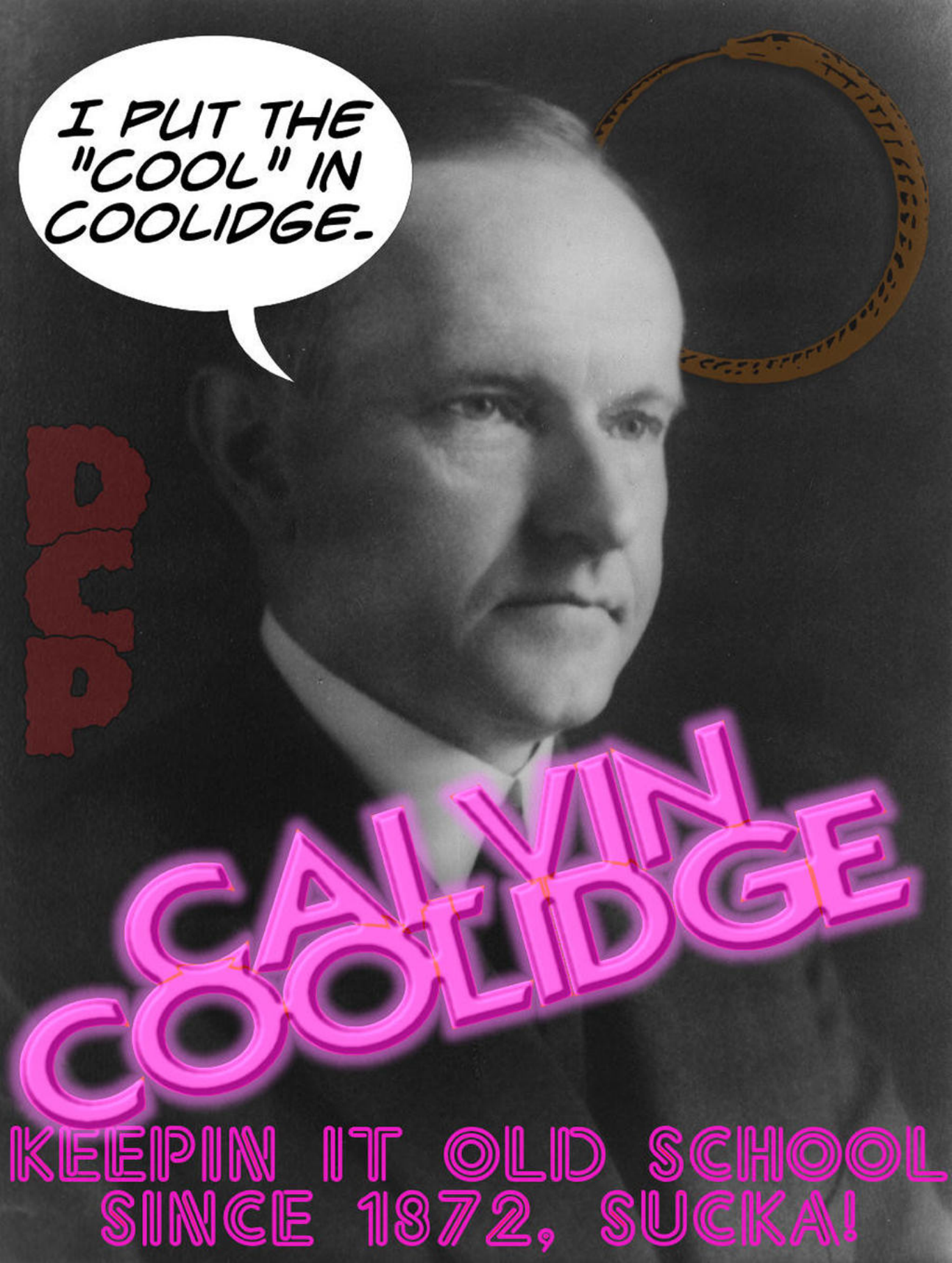






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A black and white portrait of Calvin Coolidge, looking slightly to the right. The image is overlaid with various text and graphics.

I PUT THE  
"COOL" IN  
COOLIDGE.

DEP

CALVIN  
COOLIDGE

KEEPIN IT OLD SCHOOL  
SINCE 1872, SUCKA!