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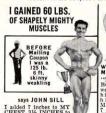
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# EARTH-SHATTERING ESSAYS, ELOQUENT EPITHETS, AND EXAGGERATED ENDORSEMENTS WHICH YOU CAN EASILY LIVE WITHOUT!

ITEM: The response to Gentleman Gene Colan's amazing artwork on DAREDEVIL was so wildly enthusiastic that we've decided to let him continue drawing D.D.'s thrillers! This will give Jazzy Johnny Romita more time to concentrate on your friendly neighborhood SPIDER-MAN, and to take a breather once in a while after drawing all those crrrrrazy webs! Mean-while, to make things easier for Gene, we've assigned the Sub-Mariner strip in this month's ASTONISH to a new builpen luminary—and we'll be on pins and needles waiting for your opinion. There—if that Isn't enough to confuse everybody, then we've goofed again!

ITEM: It looks as though Marvel really IS taking over the world! Those of you in the New York area have probably already noticed the way Channel 9 (WOR-TV) is blanketing the metropolitan zone with the Marvel message – splashing the news of our swingin' TV shows on everything from subway posters to milk cartons! (Grade A cartons only, we hope!) We assume that a zillion other stations thruout the free world, where the Marvel madness is about to be unleashed on the home screen, are doing likewise! But, if you find that YOUR local channel isn't marching along with us, do your duty, tiger—tell 'em they won't get a no-prize!

ITEM: Our six star-studded 25¢ Specials are probably all sold out by now, but we thought we'd mention 'em again anyway, in case you wanns try to prove us liars! For those of you who've been living in a well for the past few months, the titles are: FANTASTIC FOUR SPECIAL, SPIDER-MAN SPECIAL, THOR SPECIAL, MARVEL SUPER-HEROES SPECIAL, SGT. FURY SPECIAL, and (ulp!) MILLIE THE MODEL SPECIAL, and still find one on sale anywhere, give yourself two extra points—and, if you hay it, go to the head of the classi

ITEM: Smilin' Stan is so delighted with the way Wild Bill Everett has been drawing Dr. Strange (in STRANGE TALES, natch), that the old hambo couldn't resist writing the newest mystical masterpiece himself. Also, for the benefit of the Johnny-Come-Latelies among you, we've included a riot-ous resume of much that has gone before, to bring you up to date. So, if you wanns see how wild a yarn can be, latch onto the start of Doc's newest adventure into necromancy—like right now, hear?

ITEM: It's time for you to meet some of our behind-the-scenes big-wigs who, though rarely mentioned in our cavortin' credits, are as much a part of the Marvel mythos as Irving Forbush himself! Now pay attention—a quiz may follow! At the top of our hectic heap sits the king-of-the-hill, Merry Marty Goodman, publisher, and peerless purveyor of profound policy, pulsating plaudits, and palpable pay-checks! When he speaks, we listen! When he frowns, we tremble! When he smiles, we know that somewhere one of you has bought another Marvel mag! And, buried beneath a mountaivel mag! And, buried beneath a mountaivel mag! And, buried beneath a mountaivel mag! And, buried beneath a mager. You should see him fly into a frenzy—hurl himself into a fit of sheen hysteria—

whenever he learns of some deprived dealer who may not have received our Marvel mags on time! Wait, whom have we here? Who sits thus spinning records, watching TV, fondling plastic super-hero models, inspecting sweat-shirts and bub-ble gum cards with equal aplomb? 'Tis none other than Cheerful Chip Goodman, master of Marvel merchandising, who daringly dispenses our goodies to all the aes-thetic areas beyond the printed page! But, how remiss we would be if we failed to salute Admirable Arthur Jeffrey, keeper of our MMMS files, guardian of our club coupons, and defender of the faith! And what of Nifty Nancy Murphy? Shall we ever for-get her soulful self-sacrifice in the face of our daily Marvel subscription list snafus? Or Delicious Doris Siegler, the most welcome sight in all of Marveldom, for it is she, our benevolent bookkeeper, who doth dole out our salaries each week! So, let us pause for a moment in silent, somber homage as we ponder the grave and momentous import of that which hath been revealed



ITEM: Judging by your mountain of mail, we've been made painfully aware that most of you true believers have expected a battle between Subbie and ol' Green Skin in the recent ishes of ASTONISH. It would have been easy for us to accom-plish. We did toy with the idea. But then we decided against it - simply because it was such an obvious development. You know us-we'd rather do things the oddball way. We got a boot out of the idea of two super-powered cats being in the same area, at the same time, and NOT running into each other. It seemed to fit the usual mixed-up Marvel mold, as we saw it. However-now that we know how much you'd like Namor to tangle with our Jolly Green Giblet, we promise you this - sooner or later, somewhere, somehow, we'll DO it! But, in the meantime, send us your suggestions as to the proper artist for such an epic. Should it be Gentleman Gene? Wild Bill? Should we lasso Jolly Jack away from Asgard for a while? Or have you any other ideas? Thus do we await the thun-derous voice of Marveldom! Thus do we command thee, in tones most stentorian -FACE FRONT, frantic one! The best is yet to bel

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X-MEN #26: A cataclysmic, catastrophic combat, as the world's most unusual fighte-ing team battles the reincarnation of a Mayan godl And, one of the mighty mutants is gravely wounded—by a fellow X-Manl You must not miss it!

DAREDEVIL #22: A super-villain riot! New super-foes! Old super-menaces! A million twists and surprises as the Man Without Fear tries to defeat a foe who can't be beaten! And, talk about action...!

THOR #134: We confidently predict that the stupefying theme of "The People Breeders" will be argued about and remembered as long as literature endures! Only Marvel would dare pit a Thunder God against—well, you'll see!

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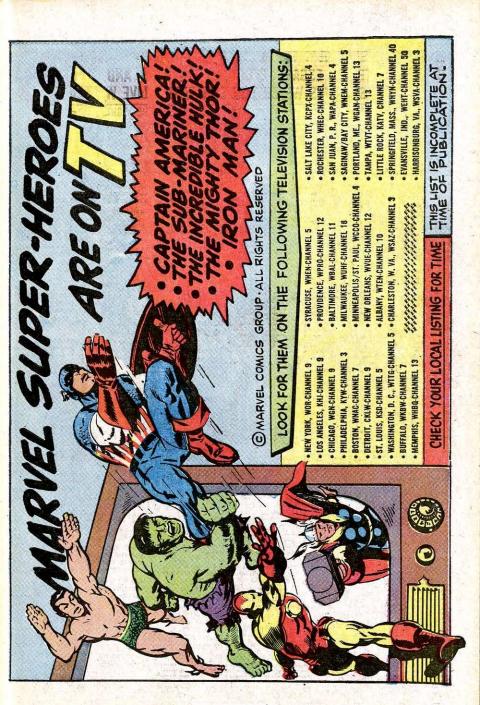


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# School, College or Occupation:

THE MARVEL COMICS GROUP, SECOND FLOOR 625 MADISON AVE., NEW YORK, N.Y. 10022 LETTERS TO:

Dear Stan and John,

Recently, in my English class, we were ordered to write a theme on any subject of our choice. My topic was "The Social Life of a Super Hero", concerning Spider-Man. When the grades came back, I was the proud possessor of a 97, though dark clouds soon came over my golden horizon. My English teacher had written that she wouldn't advocate writing a research paper in college on a subject such as mine. Would you Marvel madmen please set her straight on this matter? Congrats, also, on Spidey's new artist: Jazzy Johnny, He really draws a great Peter Parker. The only criticism I have is that he draws blushing Aunt May too young-looking. The fight Spidey had with the Green Goblin was especially interesting since Spidey fought Gobby as Peter Parker. Chalk up another one for the merry Marvel madmen. Also, we recently added a second English teacher to our chapter of the Spider-Man Fan Club. It was the same English teacher who said I shouldn't write on such a subject in college! Robert Chandler, (Holbrook High School)

2213 Ridgewood Dr., Gastonia, N. C. All we can say in your defense, Bob, is that we have a list of more than 250 colleges and universities ( a list which is growing larger daily) containing chapters of the M.M.M.S.! And, the college ish of ESQUIRE oughtta be on sale about now with all sorts of evidence that Marvelmania is really what's happenin' on campus these days! However, it's very likely that there are some college profs who'd rather you analyze Leacock than Lee-and, just between us, who are we to say they're wrong? (Or: You've just seen another monumental example of Merry Marvel Fence-Straddling in living color!)

Dear Stan and John.

I have never written to you before, but I just couldn't put off telling you what I think about Spidey any longer. His latest adventure, issue #40, was absolutely terrific! The Green Goblin is an extremely interesting and unique villain, but the all-time great in my book is the Scorpion! I can't wait until the day when he clashes with your wild web-spinner again, Please make it soon! When you had to find a new artist, I was a little sorry at first. I thought that Spidey's mag would soon be run into the ground, because no one else would be able to handle the actionpacked muscular fight scenes. Well, I was wrong! John Romita is just as good as his predecessor, and better! He is one illustrator who has the ability to make the characters he draws look more lifelike and human. What's with this new girl you have introduced into Peter's campus life, the blonde, Gwen? One minute she likes him, the next minute she can't stand him. All she can say is, "You just wait, Peter Parker! You just wait!" But she never does anythingl Rich Chidlaw, 3213 E. Mitchell Dr. Phoenix, Ariz.

Maybe she just likes to keep people waiting, Rich! Anyway, you've probably met madcap Mary Jane by now, and you'll be wanting to know what's with her, too! But, let's just hang around and watch from the sidelines for a while - it's just possible that the blushin' Bullpen has a sudden surprise or two in store!

Dear Stan and John,

SPIDER-MAN #39 was one issue which deserves congratulations. The reasons behind this are as follows-the cover was spectacular. Somehow, the blue to violet color change, as well as the costumes of the Goblin and Spidey as Peter Parker) seemed to strike me in just the right place. Naturally, I grabbed an ish before they all van-ished. The switch-over from the previous art to Johnny Romita was a huge success. Although I'd become accustomed to the former style of portraying Spidey, I nevertheless believe Johnny Romita will lift Spider-Man to new heights of glory. Stan's script was excellent. I especially enjoyed the secret identity gimmick. It must have taken Stan some time to figure out an identity for the Goblinor maybe he was just lucky! I hope you'll continue developing Peter's personal life. Therefore, I think you can all pat yourselves on the back for a job well done.

H. Haslan c/o SFC H. Haslam, Jr. HQS. 3rd Supp. BDE. APO, New York, N. Y. 09154

Someone'll have to do it for us, Harry! According to Brand Echh, our palms are already all calloused from spending all our time patting ourselves on our broad, well-tailored backs! But, we appreciate your admirable accolades, faithful one—and, may your webbing never



Dear Stan and John, I was just reading the letters page of SPIDER-MAN #40. Just between you and me, I also read the storyl It was great. "Spidey Saves the Day" was the best comic I have read since Irving Forbush brushed his teeth. Back to the letters page-one letter made me so mad that I finally broke down and wrote to you. One supposed merry Marvelite wrote that Spidey should use his skill to make a daring rescue of someone trapped in the perils of nature, or get involved in international espionage. Good grief, nol Spidey is at his best while fighting an off-beat foe like the Green Goblin or the Molten Man. Whatever you do, keep the web-spinning mag just like it is. Please? 'Nuff

We wish we could, Bud! It would be a breeze to print the same story, month after month! (Okay-okaydon't get angry—we know what'cha meant!) It's kind of unlikely that we'll ever feature a force of nature as our main villain, because Jazzy Johnny is a real costume buff, and what kind'a costume can you put on a hurricane, f'rinstance? As for an espionage tale — quien sabe? Sooner or later, a swingin' spy threat may pop up which S.H.I.E.L.D. can't handle - and you know what a buttinski Spidey isl

Bud Johnson, P.O. Box 65

Gypsy, W. Va.

Dear Stan and John,

Frantic ones, where have you been all my life? Here I am acquiring a B.A. and an M.M.S. pin practically the same week! Having arrived at the Halls of Marveldom via the Lancer Collectors' Albums of the F.F. and Spidey, via the Lancer Collectors' Albums of the P.P. and Spidey, I'm just in time to bid farewell to King Kirby's Subby and gleefully greet Gallant Gene's, wildly applaud jazzy Johnny's spruced-up Spidey, and dig your fugitive-from Guernica'-type Hulk. Grand and glorious group, you have managed to combine the heroes of our childhoods with real-gone adventures, real-life oxoblems, and real-in humor to produce one of the few oases in the desert of Naturalist and Existentialist literature. Love your person-Naturalist and Existentialist literature. Love your personality development; and the victory over physical handicaps by D.D. and Tony Stark is particularly well portrayed. One small caution—let us not let the problems get the better of the people. Thou wouldst not, for example, perpetuate Pointy-Ears' personality problems by permitting the pulsaries his personality problems. him to pulverize his passionate princess on purely false premises, wouldst thou? Course not! After all, if Tony and Matt and Petey and Bruce and Thor and Johnny and their chicks don't deserve the best, who does? Yet they're up to their ears in painful problems. Let's have some happy outcomes, crowd.

Linda Osborne, 54 Marathon St. Arlington, Mass.

Linda, sweetle - are you implying that everybody's favorite Spider-Man has too many problems? Are you hinting that his life should be more of a bed of roses? Are you suggesting that we transform his harrowing ordeals to halcyon experiences? Do you for one single minute think that such matters are in our puny hands? Fie upon thee, unbeliever! We are but chroniclers of preordained events! And yet, perhaps a sublime Destiny, in her unfathomable wisdom, may heed your plea! Let us follow our future ishes together, pussycat, and learn what wonderment awaits us! (In other words-keep readin', chick! We don't wanna lose ya!)

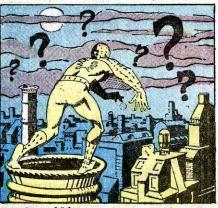
Dear Stan and John, In your letters pages for the past few issues there has been some discussion as to what type of person Spider-Man should grow up to be. Frankly, I was quite shaken up by the idea that he should ever grow up at all. What would you propose to do with him? Get him through college, into the army, and make him another Captain America? Have him make his career as a scientist, and make him another Anthony Stark? Or worse, marry him off to some empty-headed dame who disapproves of his risking his life fighting crime, and henpecks him? No!—No!— No!-No! A zillion times no! Spider-Man must never grow up! Can't you yourself see the reason for his great popularity? Spider-Man is a symbol of teenage youth-our energy, our arrogance, our idealism, our confusion, our harassments, our frustrations, our hidden desires. He is the one super-hero we can really identify with. Apart from that he's nothing special, nothing different, nothing better than the kind of junk that the Camp followers are laughing at. So quick, before it's too late, exercise the rightful prerogative of every comic strip creator since Little Orphan Annietake Spidey back to high school the way you took Captain America back to World War II, and keep him therel There's a new generation of teenagers coming right after us, and they deserve better than to have nobody to represent their generation!

Stephen Bowell, 6000 Columbia Rd. North Olmsted, Ohio

Maybe Charlie Brown will have grown up by then, Steve! Unfortunately, we can't think of a single way to de-age poor Petey and put him back in high schoolalthough, we do feel you've brought up a most interesting point-should we continue to allow Pete to age, until he graduates college and enters full adulthoodor should we sort of stop things at this point? Besides, if Spidey does keep aging, won't we then have to do the

same with all our other characters, such as the Human Torch-and where will it all end? So, a hefty new, batch of no-prizes are all gift-wrapped and waiting for the true believers who will send us the best solutions to this well-nigh insoluble problem ! (And we kid thee not-we really wanna hear from all of you on this matter, 'cause it's got us more stumped than usual!

—And you know how stumped that must be!)



Dear Stan and John, You have finally done it. I refuse to wait any longer. I am mad! I didn't think I'd ever write to your mags, but. I have to. I can't restrain myself. You have gotten rid of the Green Goblin! SPIDEY #39 and #40 were excellent. The fight scenes were great, but now the Goblin is gone, the best villain Spidey ever fought. I would like to see the old standby villains back again, such as the Vulture, Dr. Octopus, and the Sandman. I hope you can come up with another villain like the Green Goblin because stub-born old villains like him are hard to find. The cover on #40 was just great. I'd like to know more about these Specials. Are these the annuals that come out once a year? In closing, I would like to quote an old phrase I picked up from some remote place—"Make Mine Marvel!"

Greg McDuffie, 421 W. Connstoga St. New Holland, Pa.

Say there, Greg-we like the sound of that! It sings, doesn't it? Since our Specials will probably be coming out once a year, it seems reasonable to refer to them as Annuals if the name grabs you! And, if you wanna see more of the Sandman, don't miss the current FAN-TASTIC FOUR which features Sandy—as well as Dr. Doom and a whole mess of additional fun-makers! As for the Green Goblin, he isn't really gone! Let's just say he went to that ol' super-villains' grazing ground, up yonder!

NEXT ISH: We don't do this often, but right now we wanna make a prediction! We predict that our next Spidey saga will be acclaimed as one of the greatest Spider-Man thrillers of all - ranking right alongside the Doc Ock, Vulture, and Green Goblin classics! We are, of course, referring to the re-appearance of the frighteningly fascinating LIZARDI It's jam-packed with fabulous, fast-moving action; macabre mystery; dazzling drama; and spectacular surprises! In fact, no matter how highly we tout it, you'll say we were too modest! So, we earnestly implore you not to miss SPIDER-MAN #44 -'cause we'll be chewing your ear off about it for months to come! Nuff said!



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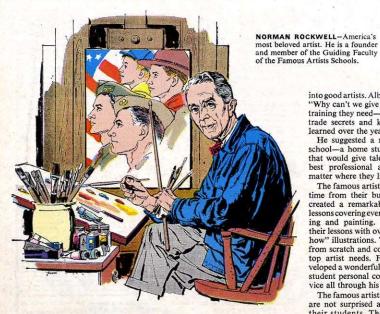
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into good artists. Albert Dorne asked, "Why can't we give these people the training they need—including all the trade secrets and know-how we've learned over the years?"

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