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COMICS
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the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN

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BY THE
COMICS
CODE
AUTHORITY

**THE
VULTURE'S
BACK---
AND
SPIDEY'S
GOT 'IM!**





Don Bolander, M.A., University of Chicago; B.S., Northwestern University; Director of Career Institute; authority on adult education

Shamed by Your English?

You can soon speak and write like a college graduate if you let me help you for 15 minutes a day.

If you've ever been shamed by a mistake in English, maybe I can save you from years of disappointment.

I have met countless numbers of intelligent men and women who are being held back in their jobs and social lives, often without knowing it, because they cannot express themselves fully and easily.

WHAT ABOUT YOU?

If people are not impressed by the way you speak and write—and if you're honest enough with yourself to admit it—you have already taken the first big step to success.

HERE'S WHAT TO DO

You can master good English *without going back to school*. Over the years I have helped thousands of men and women *right in their own homes*.

I can help you, too, if you will give 15 minutes a day to the C. I. Method. My answers to the following questions explain why you need a command of good English and how easily you can *do something about getting ahead*.

Question: *What is so important about my ability to speak and write?*

Answer: People judge you by the way you speak and write, both in business and in social life.

Question: *What does a "command of good English" mean?*

Answer: It means you can express yourself clearly and easily without fear of embarrassment or making mistakes.

Question: *Are there other advantages to be gained by acquiring a command of good English?*

Answer: Yes! Words are actually "tools of thought." The more you learn about words and how to use them to form and express your ideas, the better your thinking becomes.

Question: *Wouldn't I have to go back to school for a command of good English?*

Answer: No, not any more. You can gain the ability to speak and write like a college graduate right in your own home in only 15 minutes each day.

Question: *How do I know your method works?*

Answer: There are thousands of letters in my files, testimonials from people in all walks of life who have used the proved Career Institute Method to achieve amazing results. If you send in the coupon below, I will share some of these letters with you.

Question: *How can I find out more about the Career Institute Method?*

Answer: I will gladly mail a free 32-page booklet to you. Just send a postcard or fill out and mail the coupon.

DON BOLANDER, Dept. 212 B

Career Institute, 555 E. Lange Street, Mundelein, Ill. 60060

Please mail me a free copy of your 32-page booklet, "How to Gain a Command of Good English."

Name

Street

City State Zip Code

THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN!

"THE WINGS OF THE VULTURE!"

NOW THAT MY PETER PARKER PUPS ARE SAFELY STASHED AWAY, IT'S WEB-SWINGIN' TIME AGAIN!

IF KRAVEN, THE HUNTER IS STILL IN THE CITY, I'VE GOT TO KEEP SEARCHING TILL I FIND HIM!

CAN'T LET THAT TIN-HORN TARZAN GO THROUGH LIFE THINKING HE'S BEATEN ME! * EVEN A STARKY-BOY SPIDER-MAN HAS HIS PRIDE!

BUT, IF THIS COLD SPELL DOESN'T BREAK UP SOON, I'M LIABLE TO BE THE ONLY WEB-CRAWLER IN TOWN WEARING A MUFLER... AND MITTENS!

THESE LONG-UNDERWEAR RAGS ARE GREAT FOR THE SUPER-HERO IMAGE... BUT A FELLA CAN FREEZE TO DEATH IN WEATHER LIKE THIS!

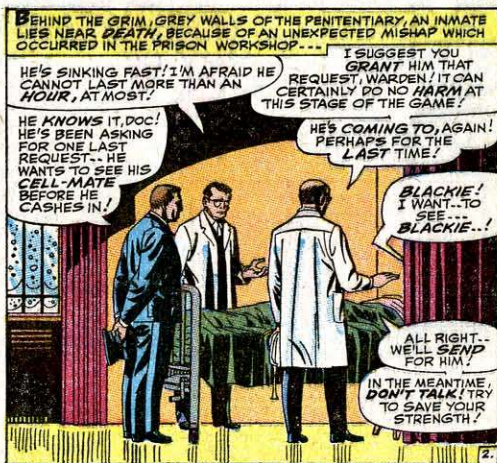
AND, AS IF THE COLD ISN'T BAD ENOUGH, THE HEAVY SNOWFALL IS MUFFLING MY SPIDEY SENSE, MAKING IT TOUGHER THAN EVER TO LATCH ONTO KRAVEN!

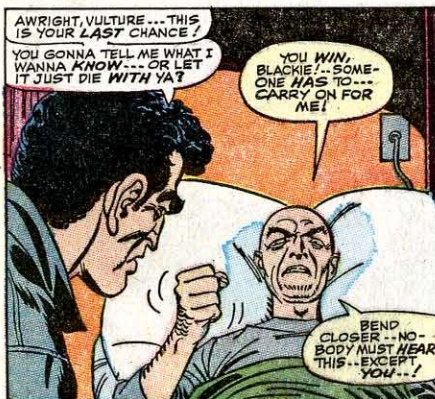
BUT, I CAN'T QUIT NOW! I'VE GOT A FEELING THAT THE DEADLIEST FIGHT OF MY LIFE WILL SOON BE COMING UP!

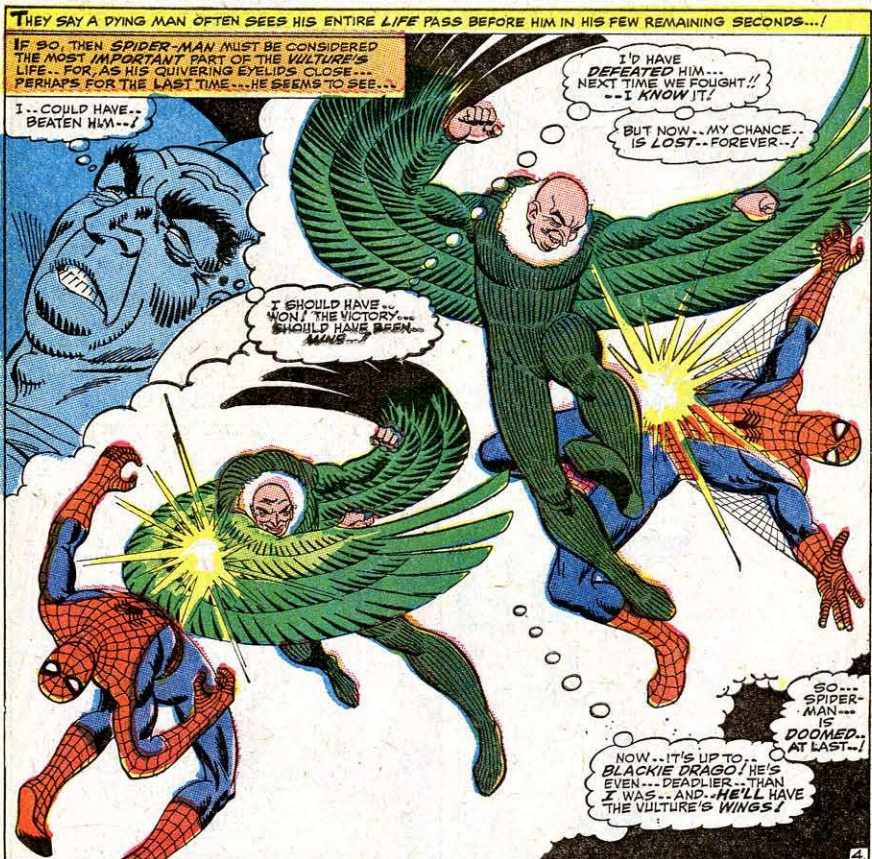
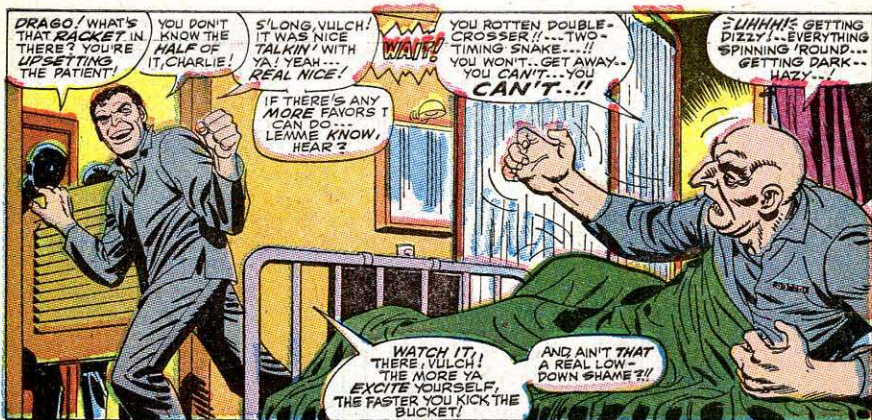
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AIRBORNE THRILLS BY:
SMILIN' JAZZY
**STAN and JOHNNY
LEE and ROMITA**
LEARNEDLY LETTERED BY:
WHAMMY SAMMY ROSEN

* IF YOU DIDN'T READ ALL ABOUT IT LAST ISH, WE'RE BEGINNING TO LOSE PATIENCE WITH YOU! ...STERN STAN!

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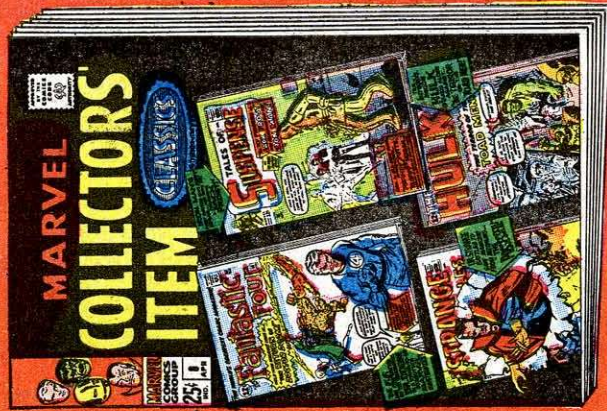






CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE

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Fires Rockets and Torpedoes

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?

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?

WOULD YOU BELIEVE
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?

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AND A TOOTSIE ROLL
?

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?

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LIKES ME
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than the samples shown? **NO?**
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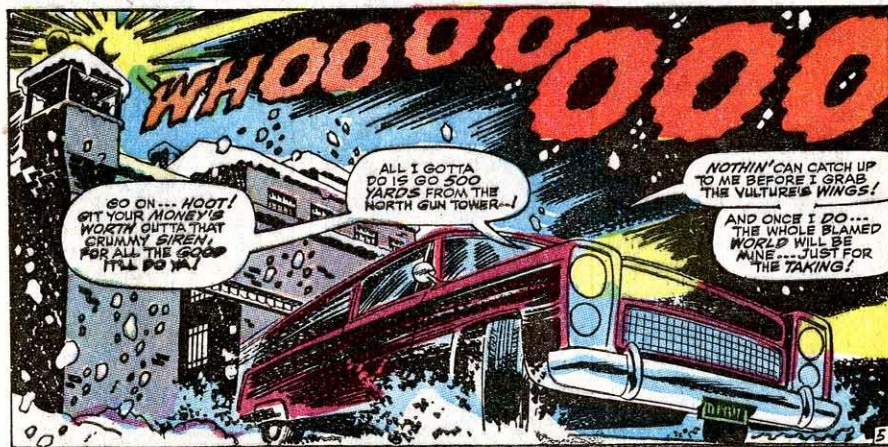
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AND SO, LATER THAT DAY, OUR SOMEWHAT SICKLY SUPER-HERO TAKES HIS EASE IN FRONT OF HUMANITY'S ALL-PURPOSE PACIFIER, AS HE HEARS...

...BEFORE BRINGING THIS NEWS PROGRAM TO A CLOSE, WE PRESENT AN EDITORIAL BY OUR SPONSOR, THE EMINENT PUBLISHER OF THE DAILY BUGLE... MR. J. JONAH JAMESON!



ONCE AGAIN, EVENTS OF THE PAST WEEK HAVE PROVEN THAT SPIDER-MAN IS A DANGEROUS, DEADLY MENACE TO OUR FAIR CITY!

I MIGHT HAVE KNOWN IT! THE SAME OLD TIRED WHEEZE ALL OVER AGAIN!



FOR PROOF OF THE HARM WHICH THAT WEB-CRAWLING PUBLIC ENEMY CAN CAUSE, CONSIDER THE CASE OF KRAVEN, THE HUNTER...

HARM?! I DARN WELL SAVED THE LIFE OF HARRY'S FATHER! *



*IT WAS ALL SPELLED OUT LAST NIGHT, RIGHT? YOU KNOW IT... SMILE!

IF SPIDER-MAN HAD NOT INTERFERED, THE POLICE WOULD HAVE CAPTURED KRAVEN BY NOW...



INSTEAD, ANOTHER DANGEROUS KILLER NOW ROAMS OUR STREETS, THANKS TO THAT SCURRILOUS, SINISTER SUPER-HEEL!

THANK YOU, MR. JAMESON, FOR ANOTHER CANDID COMMENTARY IN YOUR FAMOUS, FEARLESS, OUTSPOKEN MANNER...

THAT DOES IT! IF I EVER LISTEN TO THAT OLD WINDBAG AGAIN, I'LL... SAY, WAIT! WHAT'S THIS?



A JAIL-BREAK?!

...MOMENTS AFTER BLACKIE DRAGO MADE GOOD HIS ESCAPE, A MAN WEARING THE VULTURE'S WINGS WAS SEEN FLYING ABOVE THE AREA...



OH, NO!

IT'S NOT ENOUGH THAT KRAVEN IS STILL AT LARGE...!

NOW, THERE'S A NEW VULTURE MAKING THE SCENE... AND HE'S PROBABLY A LOT YOUNGER AND STRONGER THAN THE OLD ONE!

AND NATURALLY, IT ALL HAS TO HAPPEN WHEN I FEEL LIKE A REFUGEE FROM AN OXYGEN TENT!



IF YOU SEE THIS MAN, YOU ARE URGED TO CALL OUR SPECIAL POLICE NUMBER...

OH, MY ACHIN' HEAD!

WONDER IF I SHOULD CALL THE DOCTOR?

BUT, LEST WE GET TOO MEDICINAL ABOUT THE WHOLE THING, LET'S SWITCH OUR SCENE ONCE AGAIN...

THIS NEW HELMET I'M WHIPPIN' UP OUGHTTA GIVE MY HEAD SOME EXTRA PROTECTION... AND ALSO, IT'LL MAKE ME LOOK SCARIER THAN EVER... ...WHICH IS A REAL BIG PLUS IN MY LINE OF WORK!



HEY! I'LL BET I COULD FIT A SMALL SHORT WAVE RECEIVER IN, HERE, ALSO!

CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE

THEN...A SHORT TIME LATER...

THAT'S IT!
I'M AS
READY AS
I'LL EVER
BE!

NOW, ALL I NEED
IS A FINAL SHAKE-
DOWN FLIGHT...
TO PRACTICE
MANEUVERING
IN THE AIR!



IT GETS EASIER
EACH TIME I DO IT!

THAT OLD
VULTURE WAS
A LIVIN' GENIUS!!
THESE WINGS OF
HIS ARE LIKE
MAGIC!

BUT, IMAGINE
THAT WHIMPERIN' FOOL
THINKING I'D WASTE
TIME TRYING TO GET
REVENGE ON SPIDER-
MAN FOR HIM!



I GOT
PLANS OF
MY OWN...
AND THEY
SURE DON'T
INCLUDE ANY
CRUMMY
SUPER-
HEROES...

UNLESS
ONE OF EM'S
DUMB ENOUGH
TO TRY TO TACKLE...
THE NEW
VULTURE!

MAN, THIS IS
THE GREATEST!

BLACKIE DRAGO
IS GONNA MAKE
THE OLD VULTURE
LOOK LIKE A TWO-
BIT PIKER!

IT'S GETTIN'
SO THAT I CAN
DO WHATEVER I
WANT TO...
WITHOUT EVEN
THINKIN' ABOUT
IT!



AND NOW,
THERE'S A
WHOLE CITY
WAITIN' DOWN
BELOW... JUST
RIPE TO BE
LOOTED!

SO, LOOK
OUT, WORLD...
HERE COMES
THE VULTURE!







NO! I CAN'T CHICKEN OUT AT A TIME LIKE THIS!

I'VE FOUGHT THE VULTURE BEFORE... I KNOW HIS STYLE!

EVEN IF THIS IS A NEW JOKER WEARING THOSE CRUMMY WINGS, IT'S STILL SPIDER-MAN'S JOB!

WHATEVER ELSE I MAY BE, I'M NO QUITTER!

BESIDES, A LITTLE WEB-SWINGING MAY MAKE ME FEEL BETTER! IT COULD BE A TONIC TO A FELLA LIKE ME!

I CAN'T LET A COMMON COLD PUT ME OUT OF ACTION...

...OTHERWISE, NEXT TIME AROUND, I'M LIABLE TO CRY UNCLE! IF I DEVELOP SOME DANDRUFF... OR A CASE OF CHAPPED LIPS!

I MIGHT EVEN BECOME THE ONLY SUPER-HERO IN TOWN WHO WON'T FIGHT BECAUSE HE'S GOT ACNE!

IF ONLY I COULD JUST STOP SHIVERING!



ACCORDING TO THE NEWS BULLETINS, THAT FLYING FREAK HASN'T EVEN BEEN BOTHERING TO HIDE!

SO, WITH A LITTLE LUCK, IT SHOULDN'T TAKE ME TOO LONG TO TRACK HIM DOWN!

ANYWAY, I'VE GOT TO KEEP MOVING... UNLESS I WANNA FREEZE OUT HERE!

SAY... I THINK I'M ACTUALLY BEGINNING TO FEEL A LITTLE BETTER!

UNLESS IT'S JUST THAT I'M GETTING NUMB FROM THE COLD!



AND, AS OUR SOLILOQUIZING STALWART MAKES THE ROOFTOP SCENE...

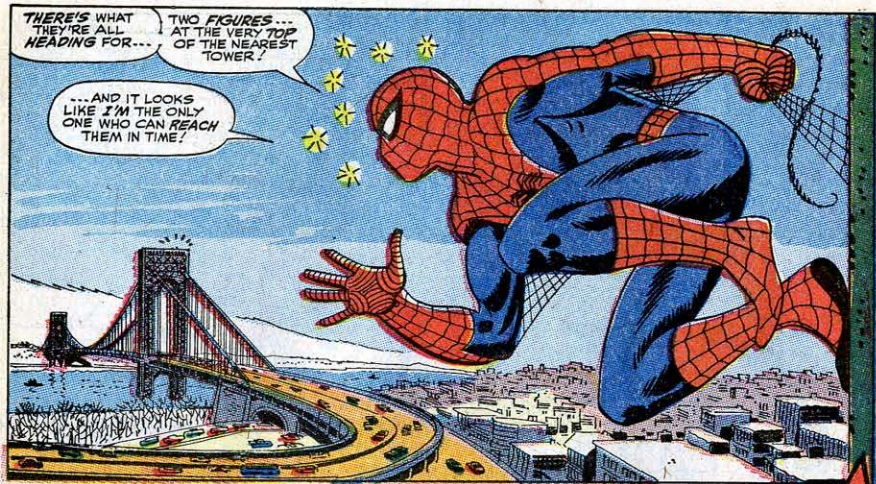
THE VULTURE!

I THOUGHT I HAD SEEN SOMETHING HOVERING OUTSIDE THE WINDOW BEFORE...

HOLD IT! NO! YOU'VE GONE FAR ENOUGH!

THOSE NEGOTIABLE BONDS YOU STUFFED IN THAT BRIEFCASE ARE JUST WHAT WEED TO ROUND OUT MY COLLECTION!





CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE

BE A SUPER SPY

see through walls

AMAZING

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You don't have to attend either my 2 schools where I train the pros and turn them into KARATE experts. No, I can show you how to practice KARATE in the privacy of your own home with only a few minutes of practice a day. I have jam-packed all I know about KARATE into "SUPER KARATE"—practically illustrated and clearly explained.

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NAME _____
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CITY _____ ZONE _____ STATE _____
☐ I understand that by studying KARATE, I am morally bound and obligated to never use my knowledge of KARATE as an aggressor (only to defend myself) and will never abuse it.



I GUESS IT TAKES MORE THAN A COLD TO STOP ME?

THE VULTURE'S IN A TAILSPIN... HEADING FOR THE DRINK... WHICH IS JUST WHAT I WANTED!



BUT, JUST IN CASE HE RETURNS AGAIN...

...I'D BETTER LOWER HIS ERS... WHILE VICTIM TO SAFETY?

SPIDER-MAN... HOW CAN I REPAY YOU...?

WELL, YOU COULD LEND ME A KLEENEX!



FUNNY... I DIDN'T HEAR HIM SPLASH!

AND THAT MEANS MY JOB ISN'T FINISHED YET... NO MATTER HOW BLECHHH I FEEL!

UH-OH! I'M BEGINNING TO TINGLE! HEADS UP, PARKER!



WOW! GOOD OL' SPIDEY SENSE!

IF I HADN'T LUNGED BACK WHEN I DID, HE'D HAVE WHOPPED ME FROM MY PERCH!

THWIPP!

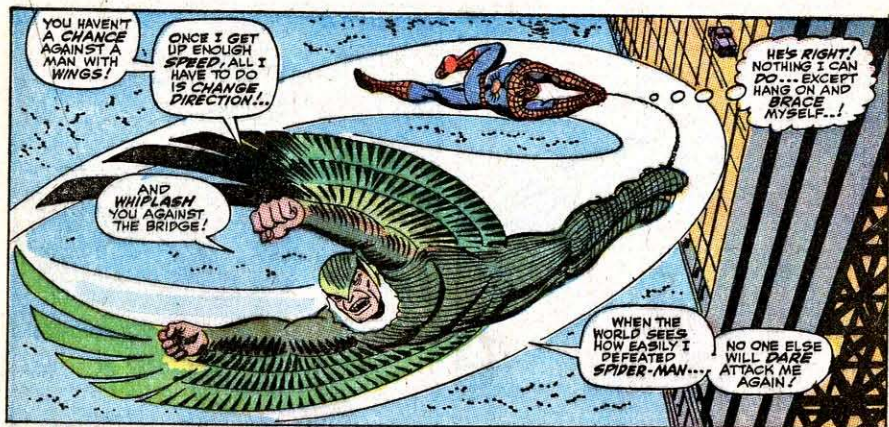
YOU WERE A FOOL TO BUTT IN, SPIDER-MAN!

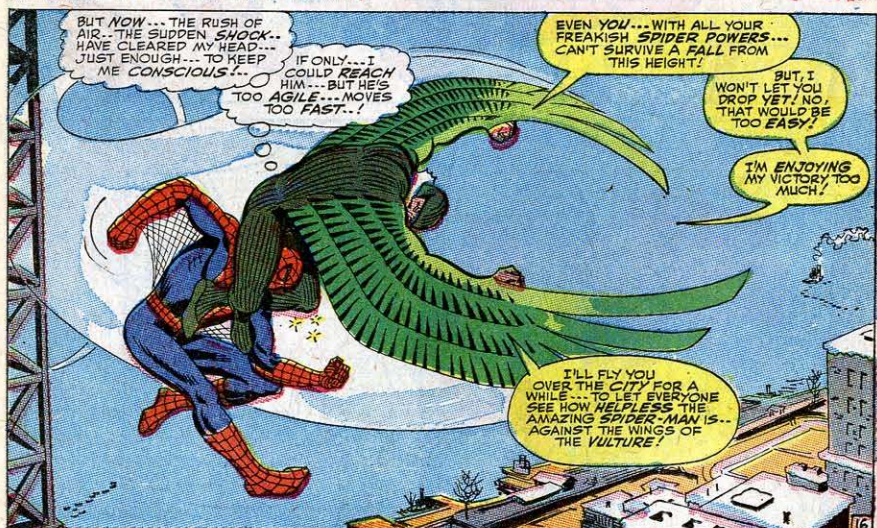
NOW I'LL FINISH WHERE THE ORIGINAL VULTURE LEFT OFF!



SUIT YOURSELF, CHUM! BUT, AS I REMEMBER IT, HE LEFT OFF WITH ME PULVERIZING HIM!

THAT CLOWN'S NO WEAKLING! HE'S HAULING ME OFF AS IF I'M WEIGHTLESS!





CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE

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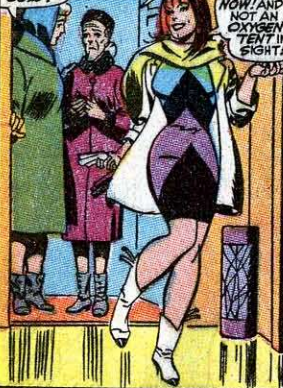
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BUT, WHEN I HEARD THEY SENT HIM HOME FROM SCHOOL, I FELT I SHOULD MAKE CERTAIN!

HERE'S HIS PAD NOW AND NOT AN OXYGEN TENT IN SIGHT!

SURPRISE, HARRY BOY!

WE BROUGHT GOODIES, GIGGLES, AND GOES FOR YOUR GERM-RIDDLED ROOMIE!



MI, M. J.! OH, MRS. PARKER, GEE, PETE DIDN'T COME HOME AFTER CLASS... SO HE MUST HAVE FELT LOTS BETTER!

HE PROBABLY STOPPED AT THE SILVER SPOON FOR A SODA!

HEAR THAT, MAY? I TOLD YOU NOT TO WORRY SO!

THEN YOU DIDN'T HAVE TO CALL THE DOCTOR?

MY, I'M SO RELIEVED!

I KNOW I WORRY TOO MUCH, BUT PETER HAS ALWAYS BEEN SUCH A FRAGILE BOY--!



HEY, THERE, HANDSOME! I JUST HAD AN ECONOMY-SIZED BRAINSTORM!

LET'S DRIVE MRS. P. AND MY EVER-LOVIN' AUNTIE HOME IN YOUR CHARIOT... THEN WE CAN JOIN PETEY-O FOR A COKE, OKE?

BEST OFFER I'VE HAD ALL DAY, M.J.!

YOU ONLY SAID THAT 'CAUSE IT'S TRUE!

AS YOU'VE PROBABLY GUESSED, WE JUST TOSSED IN THAT TITANICALLY TAME TABLEAU FOR THE BENEFIT OF JAZZY JOHNNY, WHO'D RATHER DRAW SLICK CHICKS THAN FLYING FIENDS!



BUT NOW, IT'S FRENZY-TIME AGAIN...

HAH! SO, YOU'VE STOPPED STRUGGLING, HAVE YOU?

I GUESSED YOU'D SOON BE PETRIFIED WITH FEAR!

FEAR, SHMEAR! I'VE GOT TO PLAY POSSUM TILL MY HEAD CLEARS!

THAT FLAGPOLE BELOW! IT MIGHT BE MY ONE CHANCE...!

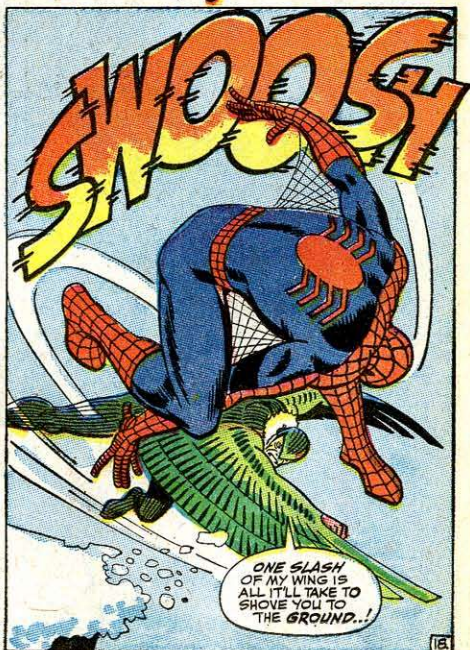
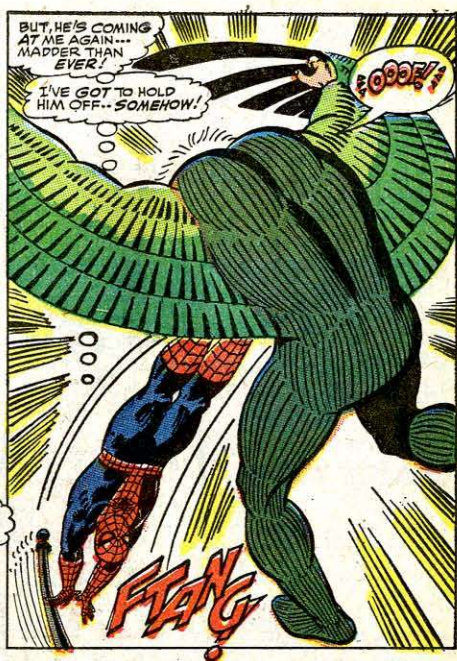


ARE YOU WONDERING WHEN I'LL PROP YOU?

WELL, IN CASE YOU'RE INTERESTED, I'LL... UHH!!

TELL YOU WHAT, VULCH... I'LL END THE SUSPENSE WITH A COUPLE OF KARATE CHOPS!

THOSE HAVE TO DO IT! I'M... TOO WEAK... FOR ANOTHER TRY...!



BUT, ALTHOUGH ON THE VERY VERGE OF UNCONSCIOUSNESS, SPIDEY'S AMAZING REFLEXES TAKE OVER ONCE MORE, AS HIS NEARLY NUMB HANDS DART OUT TOWARDS THE WALL WITHOUT CONSCIOUS THOUGHT...

STILL THINK YOU HAVE A CHANCE FOR SURVIVAL, DO YOU?

YOU'RE PUTTING UP A GOOD FIGHT, MISTER... BUT I'M JUST NOT BUYIN'!

THUD!

WHAT HAPPENED? --OH, I REMEMBER NOW--!

...WAS FALLING... MANAGED TO REACH OUT IN TIME--!

BUT, HE'S ATTACKING AGAIN!

IF I DIDN'T HAVE... THIS FEVER... IF MY HEAD... WASN'T BURNING SO... I COULD TAKE HIM...

I KNOW I COULD!

BUT... I JUST CAN'T GIVE UP NOW!

HOW CAN SPIDER-MAN BE BEATEN... BY A COMMON COLD--?

I NEVER THOUGHT THE END WOULD COME LIKE THIS!

STAY WHERE YOU ARE, SPIDER-MAN...

THIS I'LL ONLY TAKE A SECOND!

HE SHOUTED SOMETHING... BUT... CAN'T HEAR... CAN'T SEE...

EVERYTHING... GOING DARK... CAN'T HANG ON THE WORLD... SPINNING ROUND...



NOTE: OUR LETTERS SECTION APPEARS AFTER NEXT PAGE 122

MARVEL BULLPEN BULLETINS • MARVEL BULLPEN BULLETINS • MARVEL BULLPEN BULLETINS

A PROFOUND POTPOURRI OF PERPLEXING PRONOUNCEMENTS AND PREPOSTEROUS PHILOSOPHY, ALL PORTENDING PRACTICALLY NOTHING!

ITEM! Notice anything different about this page? We decided to omit our "Mighty Marvel Checklist" and see if anyone will miss it! We figure you can easily find out what we're featuring in our other mags by merely looking at the covers, or reading the "coming attractions" panel at the end of each of the letters pages. But, if you feel life isn't worth living without the missing column, let us know, and we'll bring it back for you! Fair 'nuff? Okay, now that that's out of the way —

ITEM! Didja hear about our big junket to Hollywood last November? STAN (The Man) Lee and cheerful CHIP GOODMAN zipped out to the coast to confer with BRITNEY LAWRENCE, the studio which produces the MARVEL SUPER-HEROES show. While Chip discussed contracts, credits, and various other cerebral celluloid considerations, our leader had the time of his life poking around behind the scenes and seeing how the merry Marvel masterpieces are adapted to the screen! It was really a ball — and we still haven't been able to get the sunglasses or beret away from ol' Smiley!

ITEM! We need help! You've got to give us the answer to the most burning question of the day! We get a zillion letters a week asking about Honest IRVING FORBUSH, the world's most famous non-entitled! Now, our problem is this — would you like to see a picture of Honest Irv — or is it more fun to let him remain an unknown enigma? Your letters alone will give us the earth-shaking answer! (We kind'a hope you'll decide that he should remain a mystery — because if we should ever actually have to dig up a picture of him, then we'll really be in a jam!)

ITEM! Here's more agonizing addenda on the blood-curdling Brand Echh controversy! We're constantly receiving letters and phone calls taking us to task for not striking back at one of our largest competitors, due to the fact that their references to us in their own magazines seem to be getting nastier and nastier. (Naturally we have to take our fans' word for this, because we hardly ever read those mags!) Anyway, since we haven't nearly enough space to print all the letters we've received dealing with this monumental matter, we've taken some excerpts from a few and put 'em all together, like this —

"Dear Echh, when you guys refer to Brand Echh, you mean ALL your competitors. But, there's one outfit which takes it personally. It's a shame they're so self-conscious and pitifully aware of their own shortcomings. But now they've stooped to attacking you personally. They've claimed in their letters columns that you don't write all your own stories — they've ridiculed and parodied your most successful characters — they've taken the name of your company and poked fun at it. They haven't even sense enough to realize they're just hurting themselves, because the readers are clever enough to know that you're just clowning around while they're acting like spoiled, back-biting boor!"

Well, all we can say in answer is — there are many talented guys and gals employed by our various competitors. A good many of them have worked for us in the past, and some may, hopefully, be back working for us again in the future. We have both respect and affection for the hard-working artists and writers throughout this hectic industry of ours, and would never knowingly, by word or deed, wish to put them down. The True Believers amongst us — and that includes all our rabid readers — know full well that we find it hard to take anything too seriously — and we're prone to make OURSELVES the butt of our jokes nine times out of ten. We've gotten a kick out of the funnin' and feudin' with Brand Echh, thinking of it as a good-natured rivalry which you could enjoy sharing with us. However, if we've ruffled any feelings, we're truly sorry. We're really not mad at anybody, except the hambone who said we don't write all our own stories! We almost wish he were right — then maybe we would not have these bags under our eyes from all those sleepless nights hunched over our typewriter! And that, tiger — is that!

THE WRAP UP! Let's close with a few personal items about our own Marvel madmen. **ITEM:** We've known Jazzy JOHNNY ROMITA for years, but it wasn't till last week that we found out ol' Ring-a-Ding is a volunteer fireman out on Long Island! **ITEM:** If you think that art and production are Jolly Solly BRODSKY's only talents, take it from us — don't ever play poker with 'im! He's a boy! **ITEM:** Didja know that Fearless FRANKIE GACIOVA, who just about the best inker this side of Da Vinci, is also as good a penciller as you can find? — And one of these days, if we can ever yank the paint brush outta his hand, we'll prove it to you! **ITEM:** If STAN (The Man) LEE and JACK (King) KIRBY happen to meet in the street, they might not recognize each other! The two characters have been so busy lately that they haven't seen each other in weeks. Can you imagine producing sensational strips like theirs by collaborating over the phone? Well, you better believe it! **ITEM:** Bet you didn't know that Wondrous WERNER ROTH worked for the Bullpen over a decade ago, when he did a way-out western hero named The Apache Kid! Anyone remember that far back **ITEM:** Not only is Darlin' DICK AYERS as talented an artist as you can find, but he never ceases to amaze us with his speed! Slick Dick can pencil a page almost as fast as you can read it — and he can ink it even faster! **ITEM:** One of these days we'll see if we can get GIL (Sugar Lips) KANE to "race the Darlin'" One in completing a strip, "cause Garulous Gil is also a S.D.F.C. (Speed Demon, First Class) Say! How about a drawing race for charity? Wouldn't THAT be something! **ITEM:** It's a wonder Dazzlin' DON HECK is still talking to us! Wait'll you read THE AVENGERS this month and count how many super-heroes the poor guy hadda draw in that one ish! But, y' know something? He was never greater! (Okay, Donnie — now you owe US a plug!) Well, that's it, literature

lover! We'll be back before you know it with more of the same. (Aww, quit groaning! You only have to read it — we have to WRITE it!) And cheer up, Roy, Flo, Marie, Bill, Larry, Gary, etc. We'll mention you next time! Hang loose, Marvelite-victory's still in sight! 'Nuff said!



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Let's meet 28 more M.M.S. members!

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

Dear Stan and John,

For the past month I've been wanting to write to you. John Romita's art work is marvelous. The way he draws Spider-Man is great. Issue #45 featuring the Lizard was superb. Why don't you have Pete date Gwen rather than Mary Jane? I have a couple of criticisms to make. In #45, page 17, panel 7, it said, "I'll bet the lab got wrecked when the Scorpion looked for the same notes. . . ." The Scorpion?? The story is about the Lizard, remember! (I forgive you!) Which no-prize do I get? Thank you for your time, and "nuff said."

Don Fozniak, 40 Mott St.
Trenton, N. J. 08611

Don, boy, one kind of no-prize we can't give you is an *exclusive* one—because just about every True Believer in sight wrote to us about that same bonehead error of ours! As usual, it was the fault of scatterbrain Stan who goes batty trying to keep the Vulture, the Octopus, the Rhino, the Scorpion, the Lizard, and the scores of other villainous villains from our companion mags in their proper niches. But you've gotta admit he's improving. Time was when he couldn't even remember who the hero was! As for Petey dating gorgeous Gwen—he'd like it! She'd like it!—But don't tell Mary Jane!

Dear Stan and John,

SPIDER-MAN #44 was the best yet! The artwork of Spidey's arm in a sling was marvelous. (A compliment to Jazzy John!) I can't wait to see how Spidey defeats the Lizard. Now to the serious part. In all the past letters of the letters pages, I've noticed that usually only fans in college and high school write. I, myself, am in the sixth grade. You write "school, college, or occupation" on the slips for the MMMS. I'm getting an inferiority complex! Your mags are read by younger people, too, you know. You people don't show us much recognition. Now, before your college fans mob me, I'd like to say that I still think you're the greatest, and I'd never trade you in for Brand Echh. So keep up your web spinning until next time.

Robert Curley, 45 Mianus Rd.
Stamford, Conn. 06902

Will do, Bobby! Y'know, we're sorry if we give the impression that we cater only to the collegiate crowd. Actually, we do cater to Marvelites of all ages, just so long as they're genuine Keepers of the Faith! And, while it's true that we've a special spot in our hearts for the cavortin' campus crowd—as well as the G.I.'s—and the newly marrieds—it's also true that any of our younger yahoos who have finally attained the proud pinnacle of Bullpen Inmanship are equally welcome in the universal embrace of Marveldom united! (Or, in the immortal words of Irving Forbush: "Wha'd he say?")

Dear Stan and John,

I am much impressed with your revisions in the new Peter Parker. These changes leave me somewhat afraid that you will change the basic personality of Spider-Man. Don't! The thing that makes him so appealing is the fact

that the story format is so honest. This hero has problems—he is more than a super-hero—he is a human being. What Spider-Man goes through is what any true super-hero would be faced with. Keep Spider-Man honest. Comments on the characters—I like them. Pete is a good figure for the reader to identify with, not too far out, but not out of it. Mary Jane looks like she is going to be pure trouble for Pete. I'm not sure, but I think I see a romantic conflict coming up—Gwen vs. Mary Jane—good idea. Don't change JJJ for anything—the story line needs him. I obtained one of the Spider-Man Lancer Book paperbacks and found it to be great. It's a beautiful way to be introduced to the Web-Head. I am impressed with the style of Romita. There is smoothness and grace in the art. The layout is filled or "crowded", but this is done in such a way as to be natural and well organized. It is realistic as well as artistic. I hope you don't think I'm out of my mind, but have you ever thought of publishing the first forty issues of Spider-Man as a limited edition set? Thank you for your kind attention.

Jon C. Skillman, Technical Co-ordinator, WCDCR-FM
Box 1062, Cedarville College, Cedarville, Ohio

And thank you for your kind thank you! Sure, we'd love to publish the first 40 issues of SPIDEY in a limited edition set, but we're not sure the world is quite ready for it yet! Suppose we play it safe by starting with the first 39 issues? (However, we'll really consider your idea, Jon, as we wait to see what the rest of our Merry Marchers have to say!)

Dear Stan and John,

I thought I'd drop you a line about issues #44 and #45. The art, story, lettering, and inking were superb. It looks like Peter Parker has finally grown up. He's got his cycle, apartment, and more problems. Boy, was I surprised to see the frail, fragile Peter Parker looking like a powerhouse. Spidey is the greatest thing that ever happened to a comic book. Keep up the good work. Now to something else. In #45, a fan asked where Spidey hid his duds in issue #8, before and after his fight with Flash Thompson. I did a little research on page 8, panel 7 and found that Peter said, "I'll bring Flash to the locker room . . ." and then Spider-Man better see what's going on upstairs! Then, a little further research on page 17 showed that Peter wore the costume under his clothes after the fight. Well, till Aunt May can throw the Hulk, make mine Marvel!

Mike Stade, 2347 Morris Ave.
Bronx, N. Y. 10468

Well done, Sherlock Stade! Your no-prize will be dispatched to you at the earliest non-opportunity. No-prizes also to Charles Johnson, Seaford, N. Y., and Lee Harrick, Milwaukee, Wisc., for being the second and third entries received in this, the most momentous contest since JJJ raffled off the Brooklyn Bridge!

Dear Stan and John,

Well, I'm finally using up ink and paper for a nutty reason, but I had to write to tell you of one more person numbered in the countless millions of your feverish

fans all over the world. I've been reading your mags since "before the dawn" when there were no separate editions of your hallowed heroes. I've been behind Spider-Man all the time—I mean, just how great can comics get? If you guys keep outdoing yourselves over and over, what'll happen? But I have seen the light and I have faith. Seriously though, there is one thing I would like to really thank you for. You are true Americans. I'm from Mississippi and there are many prejudiced people down here, but I'd like to let you know that I'm not one of them. I am not a Mississippian, or a rebel, or a Southerner, but an American, and I'll fight and die for my belief that a man is a man, no matter his race, color, creed, or whatever they come up with next. You have backed this up to the hilt, and I don't think you've been congratulated enough for it. So that's why I'm thanking you. It's people like you who just might save this crazy, mixed-up world. You and your mags have my thanks and approval for what it's worth. Well, I'd better stop or I'll have Spidey crying, melting his web with tears, and falling into Forbush's lap. 'Nuff said!

Russell Zoller, 1720 Father Ryan Ave.
Biloxi, Miss. 39530

Nice hearing from you, Russ. We appreciate your support and echo your sentiments. (And Ned Leeds may write a feature story on Human Rights, based upon your thesis, lad!)

Dear Stan and John,

I love you! I have just recently been awakened to the muchly marvelous Marvel masterpieces and have become something of a Spidey's Campus Collector. My favorite college boy sends me all the old, new, and in-between Spidey issues. I even wrote a Spidey feature for our campus paper. They're a slow bunch here, but sure, and we'll make big-time soon, as far as Marvel's concerned. Enough of that. I love the new Peter Parker, tigers, and so do all Cabrini's Marvel converts, and most everybody, except maybe Irving Forbush. Now I have an urgent request. Really, do you have to make Mary Jane so shallow, so "too hip"? Jazzy Johnny has made her a tribute to comic art, and aside from the fact that I'm a redhead myself, I think she is the epitome of miraculously sensational inexpressible wonders. Please! For Pete's sake, for my sake, and all Marvel fans' sakes, don't turn M.J. into an ink. I refuse to believe a redhead could be so dumb as to pass up a bonus like Petey. For crying out loud, Pete has to get some satisfaction someday! (Sigh!) You know, of course, I'll probably still love all you Marvel masters no matter what you do, since it's all above and beyond the call of duty. I'll still continue to anxiously await the arrival of my next Spidey ish in the mail and turn the town upside down buying your other mags. Well, may Marvel's meteoric Maharajahs of mental motivation march on — Maryellen Flaherty, Grace Hall #31 Cabrini College, Radnor, Pa.

Loved your letter, Maryellen! The fact that you promise to continue buying our mags hit us right where we live—in our wallets! As for M.J., we don't plan to turn her into an ink—honest! We just depict her as we see her, and hope we're giving you an accurate portrayal. But, no matter how her role in Spidey's life turns out, redheads still turn us on, lady—specially carrot-tops like you!

Dear Stan and John,

Congratulations! Issue #45 was so stupendous I won't even try to describe it all at once. First of all, the cover was very original and exciting. The title was great! I really flipped for the credit you gave Irving Forbush. The idea of Spidey's walking on his web was pure genius. The fight itself was very suspenseful, especially when the Lizard broke into Connors' apartment. The Jameson part was hilarious and I almost died of laughter from the panels on page 6. John's artwork was much better, as was the story, because it was during the night. This added to the mystery that Spidey should always have. I liked it because he defeated the Lizard by a new method rather than just punching him like he does most of his enemies. Panel 1, page 19 was typically Marvel. Before you get too swellheaded, I'll tell you the mistake you made. The notes Spidey used to make the serum couldn't be used because he burned them the first time they fought. But still, the mag was the best in a long time. I'd better shut up now before you

shut me up! So long, and don't let the Lizard mangle your web!
Robert Schneider, 3500 Alpine Dr.
Casper, Wyo.

He wouldn't dare, Bob! As for those notes which Spidey burned (and who thought you'd remember?)—are you sure that it wasn't a carbon copy? (We know that's a weak answer, R.S., but we're kinda handicapped right now—we can't find the ish in question to refer to!) Anyway, to prove our hearts are in the right places, we're putting you on our stand-by no-prize shipping list—and, the first time there's an opening, look out!



Dear Stan and John,

How about that! It really takes intestinal fortitude to do the things you do with your plots. As an old science-fiction reader, I have always been interested in the superhero comic books. My interest had lapsed, however, because of the insipidity of both the plots and the characters. Then I encountered Marvel. I enjoyed your publications because they are imaginative and well-drawn, but those are not the chief reasons — alone they are insufficient. Yours are great for the same reasons that Shakespeare was great — your characters are people in the same sense that Falstaff and Hamlet are people. People are human, and you do not fear to show it. Your characters are living, breathing beings, with very human failings, and limitations. Marc Connelly wrote in "Green Pastures" . . . "Even bein' Cawd ain't a bed of roses." This applies, too, to super-heroes. If they have their greater abilities, they also have their greater problems. Perfection is both incomprehensible and boring. The Bard knew, also, that it is in tragedy that Man is greatest, but that comedy exists side by side with tragedy — the sum of the two comprise human existence. This you, too, recognize and demonstrate. You continually show that in tragedy there is triumph, and that no tragedy is completely unrelieved by its anti-thesis. This is the story of Man. It is because you tell this story that you are great. For this reason I, and countless other adults, can read and enjoy your efforts. They are literature, they divert and entertain, they are cognizant of the evil in men, and they are hopeful for the good. I am Man, and as a man, they tell me about myself. I notice that you are being criticized for letting Peter Parker change. Take no notice! People, like nations, are continually changing. They must, or die. Spider-Man lives, and it would be sad to freeze his development. His humanity lies in his ability to change. By removing his flexibility, you would make him a dull stereotype — you would kill him. Anyway, what I've been trying to say is you do good work — keep it up.

William Toivainen, Box 2135, C.M.R.
Pease AFB, N. H.

And you write good letters — keep 'em up! (See? There's no flies on us, Bill!) Stan salutes you! Johnny salutes you! Spidey salutes you! And Mary Jane wants to know if you've got a friend?

HEY, HERE'S A TWIST!

NEXT ISH: Due to the unusually dramatic ending of this month's Spidey-spectacular, we feel that any advance information we could give you about next month's ish might lessen the suspense—so, here's another Mighty Marvel first: For the very first time, we won't tell you a single thing about SPIDER-MAN #49, except this one earth-shattering thought—if it's humanly possible, buy it! We promise you won't be sorry! 'Nuff said!

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says

Felipe Mendez

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