



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

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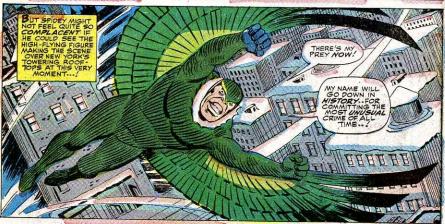


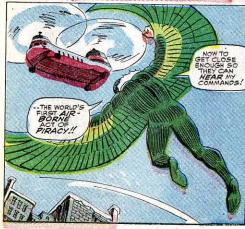




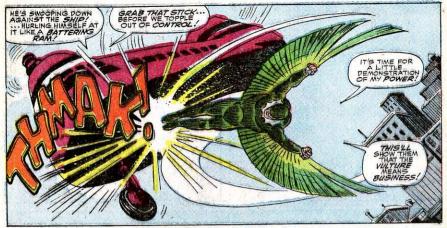




















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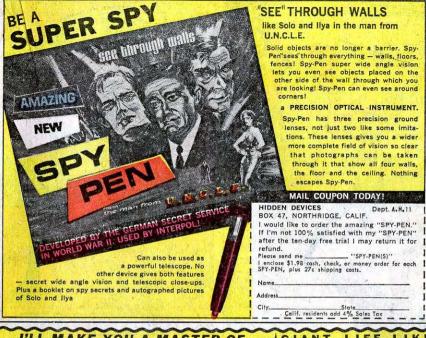












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# DAZZLING DATA, DIZZY DISPATCHES, AND DANGEROUS DECLARATIONS OF RATHER DUBIOUS DISTINCTION!

ITEM: As though we don't have enough mags to publish now, all you madcap MMMS'ers have already received the first great issue of our newest and our most exclusive publication - THE MERRY MARVEL MESSENGER-mailed free of charge to all loyal, card-carrying members of the nuttiest fan club in history! And now, another daring development: We've finally changed the membership kit that all MMMS'ers receive as soon as we've cajoled them out of their hard-earned initiation fee! We've added goofier goodies than ever, lust to prove that Marvel's always on the move! (We don't know where we're going, but we're on the way!) And, in our usual blundering, big-hearted manner, we're not forgetting you former members, either! Any of you who'd like to latch onto our newest kit will be able to do so at a reduced ratein fact, we'll offer it absolutely at cost to those who are already followers in the footsteps of Forbush! But now 'tis time for other titanic tidbits-so, ever onward!

ITEM: This is what you've been waiting for! (We hope!) The first official scoop on our king-sized SPECIALS for this summer! We're gonna have a half-dozen super-deluxe bombshells once more-but you'll find a couple of surprises among them. The first two titles will be MILLIE THE MODEL (which we toss in each year for your sisters and gal friends), and SGT. FURY AND HIS WHATCHAMACALLEMS. A month later. we'll follow up with (and these are the surprises!) DAREDEVIL and THE AVENGERS! Then, while you're still reelin', THE FAN-TASTIC FOUR and SPIDER-MAN will boot you outta your tree! We're omitting THOR you dotta your tree: we're diniting indik this year because he'll be featured in THE AVENGERS, and that gives us a chance to launch the king-sized DAREDEVIL! Now, here's the next bit of exciting news - each mag will feature all-or nearly all-original material-much more than last year's Specials, or the year before! We're gonna fill 'em up with feature pages, pin-ups, and everything else you've been clamoring for! However, one important word of caution: Remember how difficult our Specials were to find on last summer's crowded news-stands? Well, this time play it safe - tell your newsdealer right now to reserve the titles you want-to put them away for you as soon as he receives 'em. You'll be glad you did, tiger!

ITEM: It looks like we did it again! Another king-sized goof! Remember las' is haven we omitted the Marvel Checklist? We thought we'd wait to learn if anyone missed it. But, we never even got a chance to wait for your mail! The men at the printing plant — the gang in the mail-room — the messengers from the corner lunchroom—and everyone else who happened to be within earshot, all set up a how! that could be heard clear over to Brand Echh! It seems that we had merely tossed away one of their favorite features! So, if everyone else feels that way about it, we figure you do, too! Ergo, if you'll glance at the side of this page, you'll see the o! Checklist back again, and our eager-beaver editorial staff more red-faced than ever!

ITEM: We've just enough space left to welcome Dandy DAN ADKINS to the blusterin' Bullpen. Dan's the fellow who drew the cover of X-MEN ±31, as well as the Subulariner yarn for ASTONISH ±92. (Run, do not walk—it's now on sale!) If his style reminds you of another former Marvel-man, it's because Dan has worked with him, sometimes anonymously, for quite a while ... but now the dandy one is on his own, and we have a hunch he's headed right for the top of Marvel stardom. We also wanns welcome OGDEN WHITNEY and GEORGE BELL back to the fold and say hello to HERB TRIMPE (pronounced Trimpy), another fabulous fledgling. You'll be seeing the aforementioned stalwarts represented more frequently as time goes by—you lucky devils you!

ITEM: We've received a zillion letters (would)a believe a couple?) asking us to have Our Leader do an editorial on this page each ish, in order to bring the Marvel Message to all True Believers! Hence, in obvious obeisance to thy slightest wishes, O Keepers of the Flame, we hereby inaugurate a forensic new festure, to be known

STAN'S SOAPBOXI

Hang loose, heroes! Now that I've got your ear, I'm not lettin' go! Our first tintinnabulating topic is gonna be: "The Marvel Philosophy." Whenever I get together with any of you frantic ones, the first question posed is us ally "What are you fellas really trying to DO in your mags? What message are you pushin'? Is the whole Marvel series just a big put-on, or are you trying to TELL us something? Are you actually serious about your characters-do you really believe in 'em-? Etc." Well, just between us, we be-lieve in our cavortin' characters a lot more than we believe in some people, we know, and we do have a motive purpose-behind our mags! That purpose is, plain and simple — to enter-tain you! We think we've found the best formula of all—we merely create the type of fanciful yarns that we our-selves enjoy-and, if we like 'em, you oughtta like 'em, too; after all, you're our kinda people! Now then, in the process of providing off-beat entertainment, if we can also do our bit to advance the cause of intellectualism, humanitarianism, and mutual understanding...and to toss a little swingin' satire at you in the process . . . that won't break our collective heart one tiny bit! That's it, pussycat! Thanks for listenin's

THE WRAP-UP: That sinks it for now, francione, But, before we cut out, we wanna remind you to drop Stan a line and tell him what you'd like him to talk about on this page each month. Otherwise, he may not be able to think of a thing to say. (That'll be the day!) So, till we make the scene to gether again, face front, hang loose, and be good to each other. The human vace may not be perfect, but it's the only one we've got! "Muff said!

THE MIGHTY MARVEL CHECKLIST

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SUSPENSE #90: Once again Iron Man has a life-and-death showdown with the only foe who can effortlessly destroy him-but, why do we call it "The Golden Ghost"? And wait'll you see Captain America turn traitor—because of the Red Skull!

ASTONISH #92: The startled Sub-Mariner meets one of his strangest new challenges when he is forced to battle "It, the Silent One"! As for the Hulk, you won't wanna miss the start of a new and terrifying chapter in his life!

SGT. FURY #42: The bombastic Bull Mc-Givency leads your favorite howlin' heroes in one of the most daring raids of the War —while Nick Fury and two other Commandos go AWOL! Why? You'll find out — and how!—in this titanic ish

MARVEL COLLECTORS' ITEM CLASSICS #9: The fabulous F.F.—Iron Man—The Hulk—Dr. Strangel And, as an extra bonus, the origin of the Watcherl No, no, don't thank us, frantic one—just buy a dozen! 'Nuff said'.

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MARVEL TALES #8: Spidey—Thor—the Human Torch—and the wondrously winsome Wasp! All in one magnificent mag—the biggest bargain since Macy's opened its basement! (Hooo boyl)

Let's meet 26 more M.M.M.S. members!

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I've just finished issue #46 and it was a real neat issue. The bout with the Shocker, a good villain, was excellent. The cover was very well done. The main part of this letter is about the inner Spidey. You ruined him by giving him his own pad. The only reason Spidey continued to remain as Spidey during periods of crisis (notably issues #18 and #19) was because he wanted to escape from the apron strings of Aunt May. As Spidey, he had no home and he could be as adventurous as he wanted to be. But now Spidey has his freedom, Beating villains like the Shocker will take second place to messing around with the gang. Soon the mag can be retitled as the "Many Loves of Peter Parker". Pete's private life will take up all the mag, and once every year, Spidev might be mentioned. In other words, get Peter back to the apron strings of that old nag, Aunt May. On second thought, why not let Pete find his mother, and have her demand that Pete

live with her? Don't worry, I still love ya! Chris Barth, John's Lane Ambler, Pa.

Whew! That's a relief! We wouldn't wanna see the kind of letter you'd write if you hated us, Chris! Anyway, your memorable missive just proves that you can't please everybody. (At least, we can't!) We thought every Spideyphile from Albany to Asgard would be overjoyed that Web-Head finally has his own padand, judging by our mountain of mail, they all were—until we heard from the iconoclast of John's Lane! Anyway, we were wondering what ever happened to Pete's mom ourselves, so maybe we'll dig into that mysterious matter in some future ish. Okay?

Dear Stan and John,

Dear Stan and John.

Issue #46 was really great! The artwork, beyond the shadow of a doubt, is the best I've ever seen in any comic, anywhere. Gwen gets better looking everytime we see her, and the fight scenes—magnificent! As for sound effects, the "Btrock!" on page 4, panel 4,will go down in comic book history! Giving Pete a pad of his own is also a great idea, and the way you solved the problem of Aunt May was yet another example of Mar-

vel's marvelous brand of realism. About the matter of Spidey's aging, I like the idea that each issue spans only a few days in the life of each of your super-heroes. But how are you going to weasel out of this one?—If each ish spans only a few days in the life of your characters, it also spans only a few days in the life of the world. So if Spidey still looks 20 years old, say, 5 years from now, to be consistent, the cars, events, etc. within each story will have to be taken from 1966 even though, by then, it'll be 1971! Anything like the reference (page 9, panel 3) to "the newly constructed Penn Station" would, of course, be out of the question. Let's see you figure this one out!!

Lee A. Ruff, 25 Manor Dr. Newark, N. J. 07106

Aww, gee, Lee! You start off by flattering us unabashedly, and then, when our guard is down — whammo! The only answer we can come up with is that we'll have to take some artistic liberties — even though Pete will age only a few days each month, the world around him will age at its normal rate in relation to our own time. (If only time travel were an accomplished fact today — so we could find a way out of this temporal trap! Oh well—)

Dear Stan and John.

I just got through reading Spidey #46, and wowie! Good ol' Petey finally got his own pad. I'm also glad to see that Spidey got rid of the sling, and his arm is much better. I must commend you on your artwork. It is totally and utterly fantastic. Parker looks much better than he ever did. The fight scenes look berserk and the crowds look crowdier! The only mistake I found was on pages 11 and 12. On page 11, Patch seems to guess Spidey's identity, but on page 12, Spidey finds a way out. He makes a fake Spider-Man out of his webbing and puts his uniform over it. When Peter swung it off Patch was sure there was no connection between Spidev and Parker. The mistake was that Pete didn't put a sling on the fake Spidey. How come I noticed it and Patch didn't?? Peter Zanas, 2954 W. 8th St. Brooklyn, N. Y. 11224

Because you're a mighty Marvelite and Patch is only an ordinary Joe! Also, it was so dark

and shadowy — and Pete swung the phony figure away so fast — that Patch was only able to catch a fleeting glimpse of the departing Spidey. Had Patch been able to see any more clearly, our hero would never have gotten away with his daring deception! (And we hope we can get away with our clusive answer just as successfully!)



Dear Stan and John.

Marvel did it again! SPIDER-MAN #46 was colossal, stupendous, well-drawn, well-inked, well-lettered-and at least 171/2 other adjectives. The concept of a super-criminal actually being a criminal was completely and refreshingly new. Nothing can compare with the next-step-toreality policy of Spider-Man. And now that the sacred offering to the Supreme Marvel Gods is made, down to business. In the letters section of #46, you promised to televise Spidey. Here at the Air Base, we get Tinhead, Cap, Subby, Hulk, and Thor on our tube, but it's on a kids' show. Now if you aren't just telling fairy tales about Spidey hitting TV in '67, do a good job! Give our favorite Web-Spinner some respect. Also, how about a pinup of Spidey in every other mag for us real hooked fans who just can't stand not seeing him between mags? So, until the day when they start putting Stan Lee's and John Romita's names in history books, make mine Marvel! 'Nuff said!! Gary Whitlock, 1604-A 8th St. Blytheville AFB, Ark., 72315

Our names in the history books? Say, that idea kinda grahs us, Gary! We can see it now! "What was the date when Stan The Man chopped down Branch Echh with his little hatchet and then confessed because he couldn't tell a lie?" And, "On what famous battle site did Jazzy Johnny first proclaim 'Give me less webbing to draw, or give me death!'?" (And how about the fancy punctuation at the end of that sentence!) As for the TV version of ol' Spidey, keep watching our Bullpen Bulletin pages — we suspect you're gonna like what you see, soljah!

Dear Stan and John.

A flash of crisp blue, a searing flare of red, and a singe of black—you guessed it—the Amazing Spider-Man! I would like to compliment Johnny Romita on his artwork in Spidey's mags. His drawings of people are better than I've seen in any other comics. You have said that Spider-Man has the proportionate strength of a spider, so, being curious about the matter, I did a little research on the subject. The spider that bit Peter Parker, turning him into Spider-Man, was most

likely a member of the genus theridium. (Sounds like a rare metal, doesn't it?) These small, acrobatic web-spinners are the spiders that are most commonly found indoors. Taking on the abilities of these spiders, Spider-Man would be able to climb a rope as fast as a man can run. (The same, of course, would go for his web.) Since he was bitten by one of the faster, outdoor spiders, he would only (did I say 'only'??) be able to run 45 miles per hour, meaning that he could complete the 50-yard dash in about 21/2 seconds!! Take some of this spider-speed, add a little bit of the amazing arachnid's balancing activity. toss in a couple of sticky, clinging hands and feet, stir well with some stupendous spider-strength, squirt in a couple of globs of web fluid, and season well with some sensational spider-sense, and what have you got? I don't know, but I sure hope it's friendly!! Ric Mireles, 9791 Orange Anaheim, Calif.

Thanks, Ric! Your research was well-handled, your conclusions well-founded, and your presentation well-done. Also, we got a real charge out of the way you ended your letter—so don't worry about a thing—as long as you're a Keeper of the Faith, Spidey's friendly as they come!

Dear Stan and John,

Since PLAYBOY recently presented an excellent satire of Captain America, and mentioned the Human Torch and the Sub-Mariner in the process, I think it is only fair that you show your appreciation by publishing a center-fold illo of gorgeous Gwen or Mary Jane Watson. (Okay, okay, I know you would drive the human race wild if you did, but I can dream, can't I?)

PFC Bruce Long, RA19889745, C-2-1 Ft. Leonard Wood, Mo. 64573

Gee, Bruce, we're sorry to report that we don't have a single fold-out pic of Gwen or MJ anywhere in the Bullpen. But, tell you what—do you think our frantic ones would enjoy a photo of Jolly Jonah as a baby? We bet he'd cause a real sensation on a bear rug, sucking his thumb, with a little ribbon in his hair! (-Especially if we added that nutty moustache of his, just for kicks!)

NEXT ISH: To put it bluntly, the next Spidey spectacular you are about to gape at is possibly one of the most unusual, most dramatic, most unexpected yarns of the year! You'll be seeing a somewhat far-out new twist --but that's only part of the excitement! The thing that'll really grab you is the momentous decision which Peter Parker has to make! It's the type of thriller that only Marvel could do, should do, or would do! If we tell you any more now, it'll spoil some of the scintillatin' surprises in store for you, so let's just let it go with a reminder to latch onto SPIDER-MAN #50-with half-a-hundred great issues under our belts, we've got one of the most magnificent of all comin' upl Till Aunt May gives up her job as go-go dancer at the Silver Spoon, hang loose, hero-the fun's just beginning!

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Paul Sullivan enrolled at 14. His Famous Artists training helped him work his way through college.

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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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