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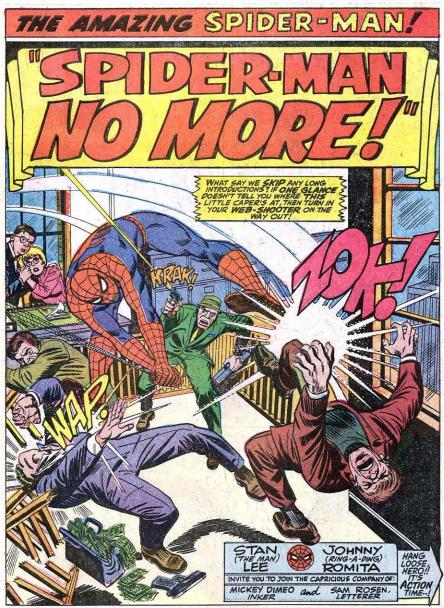
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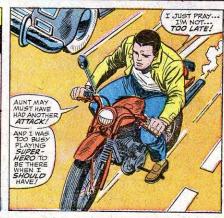
















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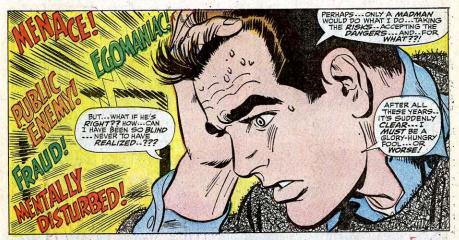


















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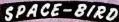
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# MORE MIXED-UP MADNESS FROM MARVEL'S MIGHTY MASTERS OF MYSTICISM. MAGNIFICENCE. AND MISINFORMATION!

ITEM: Even though all the details aren't in yet, this one is too hot to keep under wraps any longer! It's what you've all been demanding-a full half-hour TV show for each of Marvel's top two mags: The fabulous FANTASTIC FOUR, and the AMAZING SPI-DER-MAN! And dig this — both shows will be phantasmagorically presented over the ABC network, in full animation and colossal color! Yep, you heard it right! The F.F. starring in their own spectacular show and Spidey starring in his own tintinnabulating thriller - both coming your way this fall!! Watch this page for more exciting info in the ishes to come-we'll fill you in on who's producing 'em, what type of stories will be used, the exact date and time, etc. But, in the meanwhile, who SAYS this isn't the Marvel Age of World Take-Overl

ITEM: We've just gotta tell you this! The whole batty Bullpen is bustin' with pride over the way our mags are being received overseas in the United Kingdom! Affable Al Wallace, talented editor of Odhams Press, publishers of SMASH, WHAM, and POW, three of England's most famous and best-selling weekly comics mags, jetted in from London recently just to wrap-up a deal with Marvel whereby world-famous Odhams will become our showcase in the United Kingdom, featuring all the best of our super-hero epics! (And. as every True Believer knows, we've only got the best — there isn't any worstly So, a swingin' salute to our pal Al and all our block-bustin' British 'boosters! Glad to have you aboard, guys!

ITEM: This one's really gonna knock you outta your tree! You know all the zillions of no-prizes we've been tossing around for years? Well, since a no-prize is really just that—a no prize—many of our time-honored winners have asked how they can prove to posterity that they've ever actually won one! Therefore, from now on, every winner of what has become the most coveted non-award in history will receive a little something to prove he's really won! What is it? You'll find out, tiger—soon as you win one!

ITEM: Remember the ruggedly realistic artwork of Jolly JOHN SEVERIN when he il'ustrated some of the earlier Agent of Shield strips? Well, Johnny's returning to the fold once, more, after having finally seen the light! Can you guess which strip he'll soon be doing? No, it won't be Shield this time-Jaunty JIM STERANKO is doing such a magnificent job writing and drawing the saga of Nick Fury's friendly little followers that we just can't bear the thought of switching him to another strip. However, we do have a mag which has been drawn by the same Marvel master for a few years now, and ol' Sev will soon be taking it over, since Darlin' DICK AYERS seems to have an unexpected hit on his hands with the surprise sensation of the year-none other than the mysterious GHOST RIDER! Also, didja notice that Groovy GARY FRIEDRICH is now writing SGT, FURY AND HIS HOWL-ING WHATCHAMACALLEMS, having re-placed Rascally ROY THOMAS, who's become almost as busy as our leader late'v.

Gary should do a great job on Furry's fanatics, having listened to so many war yarns of the property of the state of the solid property of the state of the state

#### STAN'S SOAPBOX!

While we're waiting for your letters telling what you'd like us to editorialize about, we thought you'd get a charge out of this note which we just received:

Dear Bullpen: Enough! I have sat idle too long! I have watched the MMMS turn into disorganized chaos. (And that's the worst kind!) As a solution. I suggest we have some officers. By buying his first Marvel mag, a fan is automatically entitled to the rank of RFO (Real Frantic One), His first published letter elevates him to ONS (Quite 'Nuff Sayer). A no-prize raises him to TB (True Believer). Each additional no-prize raises one level: From JHC (Junior Howling Commando) to RH (Resident Hulk) to AAT (Associate Assistant Thing) and finally to the penultimate, the utmost status a fan can attain: MM (Marvelite Maximus)! Naturally, the artists all have the rank of DDD (Definitely Dizzy Doodlers), the editorial assistants are IPR (Illiterate Proof-Readers), art associates are VOD (Victims of Doodlers), the letters are IWP (Indefatigable Word Placers), and Stan himself is at the summit - MEO (Marvel's Earthbound Odin). Each person would use his title at the start of his name—as I've done. (Signed—) RFO Mark Evanier, 10418 Tennessee Ave., Los Angeles,

Y'know something, gang—we kinda dig Mark's idea. Let us know how it hits you and maybe we can really get the thing rolling! Fair 'nuff?

THE WRAP,UP: Looks as though we were more long-winded than usual this ish-which means we've like run out of the space needed to give you additional scoop about this summer's coming Khmg-Size Specials! But, don't despair, durintless one

... just hoard your next six two-bit pieces try not to squander them on luxuries like food and clothing—and we'll clue you in on our Specials next ish! Till then, hang loose, heroes—the good times are just beginning! ("Nuff said!) THE MIGHTY MARVEL CHECKLIST Marvel-ous Mags On Sale Right Now!

FANTASTIC FOUR #64: Once again, the fabulous FF introduces a titanic threat that ushers in a strange, alien danger, giving us a hint of the maddening menace to come, as we meet—the Sentry!

AVENGERS #41: So you don't think there's any malevolent menace that'd stand a chance against the Avengers, now that Hercules is around? Well, don't look now-but here comes ... Dragon Man!

X-MEN #33: Either the Juggernaut or the awesome Outcast could give our merry mutants the battle of their lives—so what're they gonna do when they face both at the same time?

DAREDEVIL #29: It's finally happened! In full view of the most dangerous gang of thugs in the city, DD is actually unmasked! It's for those who like their action fast and furious!

THOR #141: We could have called this one "The Mobster and the Monster!" but we didn't! We called it "The Wrath of Replicus!" instead—and you'll never forget the rampaging reason why!

STRANGE TALES #158: The story is called "Final Encounter"—but does that mean the destruction of Hydra—or of Nick Fury? Meanwhile, Doc Strange has his own hands full with the Living Tribunal!

SUSPENSE #91: A new invention! A new villain! A new surprise! All that, and Iron Man, too! As for Cap—see the end of his bludgeoning battle with the Red Skull in "The Last Defeat!"

ASTONISH #93: Namor faces a suboceanic showdown with IT, the Silent Onel But, we shall say no more—we need say no more about the Hulk, except to say—he battles the Silver Surfer!

SGT. FURY #43: You'll come out of your bag when Fury's frenetic fighters hit the burning sands of Africa-and run smackdab into the newest super-weapon in the arsenal of Rommel, the Desert Fox!

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

FANTASY MASTERPIECES #9: The origin of the original Human Torch—exactly as it first appeared! Plus, the Golden Age greatness of Cap and Subby—and three way-out wonder tales!

MARVEL TALES #9: Spidey-Thor-Torchy -and the Wasp! The biggest block-bustin' bargain this side of Honest Irv's Penny Arcadel.

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# THE SPIDER'S WEB

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

Dear Stan and John,

I was going to write the following comments about issue 1 was going to write the rollowing comments about issue 447—"Pete, once the premiere powerhouse of perplexing problems has turned swinger, lover, in-crowder, and winner! You are trying to hide this with petty troubles, but the cold facts remain. Next thing you know he'll be running around with Millie the Model and her crowd! Another thing, how was it that Kraven burst into Flash's farewell thing, now was it that Kraven burst into Flash's tarewell party at night, but his fight outside with Spidey just a few minutes later happens in broad daylight? Such things worry me." These statements, however, might ruin my chances for a no-prize concerning Mr. Lizard's pants, so disregard them. The answer to the Rutgers Marvelites' problem is simple. When Curt Cornors saw he was changing in the discount of the state ing into the Lizard in #44, he ran into that tunnel as everyone will remember. He did this for the purpose of taking his pants off, which people don't do in the middle of Penn Station (or in the middle of Marvel Comics either, for that matter), turning them around, and putting them on again. Then he simply opened the pants zipper, now in back, and let his long green tail flow forth through it. Wouldja believe it?? Ed Payne, P.O. Box 148 Bolton, Miss. 39041

We believe it, we believe it! You know us, Eddie boywe believe anybody who can get us out of a jam! So, thanks much, and consider yourself irrevocably no-prized. Now then—even though you told us to disregard the first part of your masterful missive, we feel duty bound to comment on your catastrophic critique namely, the fact that Kraven burst into the party at —namely, the ract that Kraven ours into the party at night and ended up fighting Spidey minutes later in broad daylight! Wouldja believe that our calamitous colorist, Stan G, was watching "Marvel Superheroes" on TV while coloring the yarn, and simply made the all-too-human error of dipping his blushin' brush into the wrong paint pot? No? Well then, wouldja believe that the dawn came up like thunder? Y'know something? We should'a disregarded your statement at that! Tamam Shud!

Dear Stan and John,

Congratulations on SPIDER-MAN #47. It was fab. It's been a long time since Kraven the Hunter showed up! I dig Kraven's style, and as a matter of fact, jazzy Johnny draws Kraven pretty well. As for Mary Jane, she's getting uglier as Gwen gets prettier every time. For instance, on page 12, panel 1, she probably looks worse than Harry Osborn getting up in the morning!! Also, on page 12, panel 3, it served Flash right for getting the had that coming for a long, long time. I can't thank you enough for the return of Kraven. See you next ish!

Joseph Hastings, 380 Vernon Ave. Brooklyn, N. Y. 11206

We hope so, Joey! But, do us a favor, huh? Don't ever arrange to dig up a blind date for us! If you think M.J. is getting uglier-sheesh!

Dear Stan and John,

Here I was, lying on our living room couch, staring at

the ceiling and trying to get rid of a sinus headache and all the other stuff that gets you off from school, when my dad came in with the mail, In it was SFIDEY #47. All I can say is "WOW!" The whole mag was great. First of all, the cover was great. I really liked the white background with the purple and red lettering. The new trademark in the lett-hand corner really looks neat. Johnny handled the artwork better than ever to say nothing of Stay's great story. Legangially, liked Flesh's give of Stan's great story. I especially liked Flash's goingaway party and the way Kraven busted in on it. I also liked the way Kraven had to hit Spidey with that ray to get him down. The way it came out of his lion vest's eyes. was cool, even though you could have let Kraven scratch Spidey with a horn from his belt. By the way, I'm glad you had three mags advertised on your advertising page instead of just one. Well, the boob tube beckons, so I'll be seeing you! Bruce Baker, 6360 Revere Ave. Cincinnati, Ohio 45233

Hasta la vista, B.B.! Glad you liked our modest little effort in ish #47. ("Modest little effort"! All it took was vacationless days, sleepless nights, endless conferences, consultations, revisions, and near-nervous breakdowns!) But, 'twas well worth it, faithful one, if it brought the slightest smile of approbation to the lips of a True Believer!

Dear Stan and John, Marvelmania has been nibbling away at me for about two years now. I finally gave in and have just spent close to \$200.00 to get complete collections of most of your titles. Spider-Man, in my opinion, is your best effort. If we are to believe what the better mags tell us, he has a fantastic influence on the under-25 group. My one complaint is that you have Peter Parker riding around on his bike without the proper threads. I ride a bike myself and there are too many kids on the road with bare feet, shorts, t-shirts, and no helmets—giving bike safety a poor record. (If Gene Colan had been wearing leathers, he wouldn't have those scraped elhows.) Put a helmet on Spidey. If he influences only one rider to wear a helmet and not splatter his noggin all over the road, it'll be well worth it. Nuff said. Speaking of Gene Colan, his art work on Iron Man is magnificent. I usually recommend all Marvel Comics to my art classes to show them how fine comic art can really be. Remember, as Marvel marches on, count me in on the big parade.

Prof. John S. Fawcett (Art Dept., Univ. of Conn.) Upton Rd., Ashford, Star Rt.

Masfield Depot, Conn. 06251

Count you in, Prof? As far as we're concerned, you're the Grand Marshal of the whole swingin' shebang! And, we promise you this—when peerless Pete takes his place in the line of march, he'll be astride his bike all decked out in a protective helmet and all the other acconterments necessary for life, liberty and the pur-suit of a license renewal form! Dear Stan and John,

John Romita does not draw Spider-Man as well as your

previous artist. I know you won't print this because since he left Marvel, you have avoided mentioning his name like the plague. Furthermore, you only print the complimentary letters in your letters pages, and I am getting mighty sick of reading the same old "WOW,-was-that-ever-a-great-ishl" letter all the time. It is a foregone conclusion that Marvel Comics are much better than any other comic publications, but the mere fact that no real criticism appears in your letters pages seems to me suspicious. And on the rare occasion when a letter of criticism does appear, half a dozen irate fans write you calling the author a loon and a traitor. Getting back to John Romita's art, I must say that although he is a good artist, his predecessor was better at illustrating Spidey because his art created a mood unlike any other artist, and Spidey has suffered without this mood. Sure, Mr. Romita draws nice pictures, but they lack that aura of mystery, of drama that they once had. Sure, the stories are as good, Stan, although I'd like to-see more of the mystery cops-androbbers variety, but Spidey is no longer Spidey. John draws prettier girls and handsomer guys, but that's not the point. He doesn't give Spidey that special artistic flavor which made it one of the most complete comic books ever put out. I used to favor Spidey even more than the F.F., but not any more. Spidey is number two now. Well, I guess I've sunk myself as far as getting this printed as you seem so unwilling to print criticism. You keep saying that you never get any, but that's ridiculous-even as good as your mags are. Incidentally, if it'll make you feel any better, your second rate filler, Dr. Strange, is still better than your competition which you childishly refer to as Brand Ecch. Brad Caslor, 317 Laidlaw Blvd. Winnipeg 29, Man., Canada

Brad, ol' buddy, you've just cut us to the quick! You've shocked, staggered, and stunned us! We never expected a True Believer like you to write such a thing! We thought that you — you above all — would be the first to understand . . . the first to realize . . . the first to know that it's spelled ECHH, not ECCH! But, to go from the ridiculous to the inane, we admit that it is our policy never to mention artists who have since departed from the haleyon haunts of Marvel to seek their fortunes elsewhere. Perhaps we're wrong in so doing, but we feel it isn't fair to mention guys who are no longer here in the Bullpen where they can speak for themselves. In fact, that's the reason we don't mention competitive mags by title, either. We enjoy kidding around with the name Brand Echh, which can refer to anyone—but we'd never use the peerless power of our magnificent mags to knock some other hard-working bunch of writers and artists by name. Now, let's all pause to dry our eyes...



Dear Stan and John,

Woweel Fellas, you've really done it! SPIDEY #46 is the best issue yet for the "new" Spidey. But, what sayest thou?—the "New" Spider-Man? Well, since I've been collecting Spidey as well as all other Marvels since they've originated, I think I'm qualified to have my opinion brought forth. I feel dreadfully sorry, but 'its true, Spidey has indeed woefully fallen from his once leading throne. What has happened to the "real" Peter Parker, that shy, soft-spoken, sophisticated young man we all once knew and loved? I weep to admit that he no longer rules. No more exists "the greatest guy" in comics history. The

heart-warming stories of yesteryear have fallen like cobwebs long since forgotten, or even never known by the younger generation. You youngsters may think of us as old fogies, but have we not known Peter longer than any of you? You may say, "But times have changed. Spidey has to be a real swinger to keep up with the fads!" Oh, you are not conscious of what you say. If you had known him as we have, if you could only have loved and cherished him as we, then perhaps, perhaps you would understand. But, of course, times have changed. And into the modern world bursts forth a new, and still as famous, webslinger. New story lines flash into existence, new supervillains come forth, and as I have said before, a whole new concept overtakes our hero. No longer is he meek, now he swings! He has a crazy, wild two-wheeler, and, in other words, man, he's the coolest! Spider-Man lives! He still triumphs over all!

Alan Caudle, 702 School St. Corinth, Miss. 38834

Whew! And a special, non-tarnished no-prize to the first deductive devotee who can tell us whether Alan's letter is a knock or a boost! We've read it and re-read it a dozen times, and still can't decide whether he's pro or com—or just testing out a new ball-point pen!

Dear Stan and John,

I thought I had left comic books somewhere in my past, but once again, I find myself reading them. It would surprise (shock!) many people back in the states to learn that so many service men read them. Especially the Marvel Comics Group which is sold in every P.X. I've been in over here. And it always makes us mad to miss an issuel We don't have much time for reading here in Viet Nam although we usually are able to squeeze in enough time to read your Marvels. Spider-Man is, by far, my favorite, although all of your super-heroes are really something. We sure could use them over here, but I guess we'll just have to rely on our own "talents". It may be a coincidence, but we think of ourselves as "junior super-heroes". If you get a chance, send one over here to give us a hand! But, to be serious for a second, thanks a lot for providing a lot of us with some good action-packed reading material. We really enjoy your series. They, like letters from home, help take our minds out of Viet Nam for a while.

Cpl. Leonard R. St. Clair, 2164081 USMC, "I" Co. 3rd Bn., 1st Mar. Div.

FPO, San Francisco, Cal. 96602

In that case, Len, even if they serve no other purpose, we'll still keep turning 'em out to the best of our, agonizin' ability! Unfortunately, we can't actually send any of our costumed characters to the field of battle, but we can always do the next best thing—so watch for the first ish of the complimentary subscription which we're winging your way, with our sincerest best wishes to you and your battle-honed buddies. May you all successfully and safely complete your tour of duty, and soon be able to latch onto your favorite mags merely by walking to the corner newsstand.

NEXT ISH: It will come as a great surprise to practically nobody to learn that Spidey tackles the Kingpin and his murderous mob-with a startling new development or two concerning frantic Freddy Faswell! You're gonna see a lot more action than you bargained for, plus the kind of dramatic story development that other mags can't even try to imitate. And, just a little inside tip to the cognoscente-keep your eye on the king-sized Kingpin-we suspect that he will soon take his place, along with Doc Ock, the Vulture, Kraven, and the late-lamented Green Goblin, as one of Spidey's greatest and most dangerous archfoes! Sa, till Peter Parker picks a peck of pickled peppers, hang loose, pussywillow-we'll meetcha on the pages of SPIDEY #51! Don't keep us waiting too long, hear? It gets mighty stuffy facing front between the covers! 'Nuff webbed!

# Let's meet 26 more Glenview, III. M.M.M.S. members! Walter J. Foltz Bowle, Md.

George McNatt Pasadena, Texas Mel Gordon Plourtown, Pa. Larry Miller Glenview, III. Walter J. Foltz Bowle, Md. Thomas Gammon Richmond, Va. Bobby Mills Covington, Va. Ronald Leatherman R Louisville, Ky. B Terry Heusinger Buffalo, N. Y. Brain McKay Plymouth, N. H. HWinston Moora Alexandria, Va. G

Richard Florez
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Michael LaFontaine
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Noel Ford
Houston, Texas
Stanley Laughlin
Granite, Ill.

Fred Liberman Burbank, Calif. Steve Carey Helena, Ark. Edward Nelson Winter Haven, Fla. Samuel Morgan Freehold, N. J. Tom Kyle Hazelwoods, Mo. Michael Capozzi E. Boston, Mass. Peter McMahon Woodbury, N. J. William Hedrick St. Paul, Minn. Kenji Fujita New York, N. Y. Alvin W. Jackson Memphis, Tenn. Christopher Hager Lancaster, Pa. David Fluck Rethjehem, Pa.



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weeks ago." Look at
him NOW! Gave
him MI G H Tu
Linches Lo his
CHEST. 3 inches on
each arm! No! 1
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# "We're looking for people who like to draw"

says NORMAN ROCKWELL

Today hundreds of men and women who never thought they could be artists are working at easels and drawing boards, making pictures and getting well paid for it. They all can thank a group of famous artists who have devoted much of their time and talent to helping others find success in art.

#### Some of the People the Famous Artists Have Helped

Carl Koch was an 18 year old apprentice in a Chicago art studio when he enrolled. Today he prepares ads for such companies as General Motors and Firestone—has won five gold medals.

Howard Sanden of Minneapolis took the Course while still in high school. He is now a successful artist—last year he and his wife traveled through Europe and the Middle East on important art assignments.

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

Stan Bowen, father of three children, was trapped in a dull, low-paying job. By studying with FAS he became a sought-after illustrator, has opened his own studio.

With Famous Artists training Rosemary Roberts was hired by a top department store as an artist with a big chance to advance.

Oregon housewife Helen Tryk lives 150 miles from the nearest big city. But she does fashion illustration, has her own studio, runs an art workshop, does portraits.

#### A Plan to Help Others

It started over 18 years ago when a group of America's most successful artists—men like Albert Dorne, Norman Rockwell, Jon Whitcomb, Al Parker and Stevan Dohanos—met in New York City. They knew that all over America there were people who liked to draw who could be turned

#### FOUNDING FACULTY OF FAMOUS ARTISTS SCHOOLS

FAMOUS ARTISTS SCHOOLS
NORMAN ROCKWELL FRED LIDEKENS
JON WHITCOMB BEN STAHL
AL PARKER ROBERT FAWOETT
STEVAN ODHANOS AUSTIN BRIGGS
GEORGE GIUSTI HAROLD VON SCHMIDT
PETER HELCK ALBERT DORNE

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?"

He suggested a new kind of art school—a home study art school—that would give talented people the best professional art training, no matter where they live.

The famous artists agreed. Taking time from their busy careers, they created a remarkable series of art lessons covering every aspect of drawing and painting. They illustrated their lessons with over 5,000 "here'show" illustrations. The lessons start from scratch and cover every skill a top artist needs. Finally, they developed a wonderful way to give each student personal correction and advice all through his training.

The famous artists with the School are not surprised at the success of their students. The opportunities open to successful artists today are enormous. The School continually gets calls from all over the country asking for practical well-trained students—not geniuses—who can step into full-time or part-time art jobs. And practical, thorough training is what the School offers.

#### Famous Artists Talent Test

To find others with art talent worth developing, the Famous Artists created a 12-page talent test. Thousands paid to take this test, but now the School offers and grades it free. Men and women who do well on the test—or offer other evidence of art talent—may enroll in the School. But there's no obligation. Simply mail the coupon below.

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