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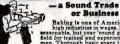
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WELCOME TO THE WONDERFUL WORLD OF MARVEL MADNESS!

ing for! The inside info about our two latest and greatest 25¢ Specials, which are on sale right now. Taking them in alphabetical order, we present the fabulous FAN-TASTIC FOUR SPECIAL which features not one, but two-that's right, TWO-original, never-before-published titanic thrillers, led off by a movie-length saga entitled "Dioff by a movie-length saga entitled "Di-vided We Fall," starring the F.F., the Black Panther, and the indomitable Inhumans! You'll also gasp in amazement at our second far-out feature which presents for the first time, starring in his own strip-the Silver Surfer! And you'll never guess who the unmentionable villain is! As if that's not enough, you'll frivolously fondle a whole kaboodle of pin-up pages and other assorted goodles!—But what about Spidey? Ah, we thought you'd never ask! Our SPIDER-MAN SPECIAL for this year brings you a double-length, all-new, all-original action bombshell featuring the block-busting battle you've all been clamoring forthe world's favorite wall-crawler vs.-you guessed it-the Human Torch!! There are also two unexpected guest villains whose identities you'll never figure out-until it's too late! And, for an extra kick, virtually the entire unforgettable chiller-diller takes place in glamorous, goofy Hollywood! And wait'll you see the panicky pages of Spidey Extras, taking you behind the scenes of our web-slingin' wonder's life for an intiour web-slingin' wonder's life for an inti-mate glimpse of Peter Parker, his pad, and mate gimpse of Peter Parker, nis pad, and his pals—as you've never seen 'em before! Yessir, we kid thee not! FANTASTIC FOUR SPECIAL #5, and SPIDER-MAN SPECIAL #4—both on sale today! If you don't buy another mag this month, these two you must not miss!

ITEM: Just in case some of you Faithful Ones weren't paying attention last ish, we thought we'd remind you once more about the sensational Fantastic Four and Spider-Man half-hour shows heading your way this fall, as well as the fabulous Fantastic Four Special coming up on ABC-TV in Septemberl Watch your paper's TV listings for he exact time and date ... 'cause it's not to be missed! And how about those new, giltzy, mixed-up Marvel Items hitting the market every day! If your dealer doesn't have a full supply—show your MMNS card, face front twice, and organize a read-int till he gets with it! That!'l show 'imi!

ITEMI Remember a few months back when we printed a letter from a fan suggesting that we give all True Believers various ranks and titles in the nobility of Marveldom? Well, the idea seems to have really caught fire out there amongst you tigers! We received countless letters, pro and con. First, we'll print the most typical of the anti-Marvel-ranks letters.

Dear Stan,

Let's get something straight. You are not MEO (Marvel's Earthbound Odlin); your artists are not DDP'S (Definitely Dizzy Doodlers); and your letter-served by the straight of t

al Marvelites had achieved ultimate status in the eyes of the Bullpen long ago. Do we have to add an atmosphere of cheap, commercial competitiveness to the Marvel Comics Group? Robert, Lax, 25 Audubon Drive Chestribt Hill, Mass. 02167

--Bob's got a good point there, and he presented it most convincingly. However, while many other frantic ones expressed the same opinion, by far the vast majority of letters were in favor of the idea of ranks and titles for Marveldom, Here's an example of what we mean-

Dear Stan

The idea of various ranks of Marvelites is terrifiel Why didn't I think of it? However, there should be a fine for being an MMMS memors a fact of being an MMMS memors and suggest K.F. (Keeper of the Faith) which would come between R.F.O. (Real Frantic One) and Q.N.S. (Quite 'Nuff Saveson')

K.F. Wayne Nehwadowich 8549 Nostrand Ave., Bklyn. 11229

—Actually. Wayne went on to mention many more ranks, but we figure that except gave you the idea, So, what are we gonna do about it? Well, for one thing, we're going to boil down the seemingly we're going to boil down the seemingly we're going to boil down the seemingly gested list of titles which we've had suggested is to the well of the work of the well of the well of the well of the well of the work of the well of the w

fore we're through, we'll be well on our way to total oblivion!

IFEM: Here's an announcement we never expected to make! We're gonna recommend that you take a peek at—of all things—the latest ish of MILLIE THE MODEL!

We've changed the mag around completely—new type of artwork and stories—and Honest to Aunt May, it's really kinds funcy. Even if MILLIE isn't your own cup of tea, we have a hunch your sister or gal friend (would)a believe your cousin?) might just get a boot out of it!

ITEM: Speaking of funny mags, the new ish of NOT BRAND ECHH is finally sporting the period of the pe

STAN'S SOAPBOX!

Many of you unsum heroes have written to ask how we really feel about our own mags. You've required whether we aske them sarefusly, asked the mags a patently pointers just treat fem as a patently pointers just treat fem aske them serously, asked them serously, asked them serously full the patently of the patently of

THE MIGHTY MARVEL CHECKLIST

Marvel-ous Mags On Sale Right Now!

NOT BRAND ECHH #4: This is the nuttlest one of all! See what happens to three of our greatest and gooflest super-harces when the VILLAINS win! Funny? Don't ask!

FANTASTIC FOUR #68: The most truly important FF sags of the season. An old villain returns—and a deadly new peril will change the life of the Thing!

AVENGERS #45: Can the mighty Avengers withstand the attack of the sinister Super-Adaptoid—now that he has the added powers of Thor, Hercules, and Iron Man? You'll see—and how!

X-MEN #37: Possibly the most dramatic trial of all—as the uncanny X-Men face a jury of their greatest mutant foes, presided over by the malevolent master of Factor Threel Hoo-boyl

DAREDEVIL #33: Remember the bludgeoning Beetle-with the metal wings and armored body? Well, he's the one DD tangles with this time, and it's action all the way!

THOR #145: What's this? A Thunder God abandoned on earth—stripped of his powers—and tricked into helping the last group of villains you expected to see? It's a blast!

SUSPENSE #95: Iron Man battles the grotesque Grey Gargoyle as a new character enters his life! And Captain America faces his most startling decision!

ASTONISH #97: Namor fights for his very life to escape from the fantastic fortress known as Skull Island—while the Hulk finds himself menaced by the power of the Living Lightning!

STRANGE TALES #162: Can even Nick Fury escape from the clutches of the Yellow Claw-and can Doc Strange defeat Mordo before the Living Tribunal destroys earth? This one you have to see for yourself-we're afraid to look!

SGT, FURY #47: What begins as a liitin' leave in London erupts into an inferno of action as the Howlers fight to stop an impending Nazi invazion of Britain! It's a battle-scarred bombshell!

MARYEL COLLECTORS' ITEM CLASSICS #11: This ish we're really gonna sock it to ya, baby! Cause, after thrilling to some of the greatest FF, Iron Man, Doc Strange, and Hulk sagas ever printed, you just have to wind up hangin' loose!

FANTASY MASTERPIECES #11: The best of three dynamic decades! Cap and Torchy from the 40's—Subby and a truly different super-hero from the 50's—and a far-out fantasy tale for good measure!

MARVEL TALES #11: The first classic team-up (or was it a battle royal?) of Spidey and DD-plus Thor, Waspie, and the ever-torpid Torch! More majest... milestones on the Marvel Road to Greatness!



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mics emolip, second floor, 625 madison ave., New York, N. Y. 10022

Dear Stan and John

There I was standing in my favorite drug store waiting for the latest Spidey to come in. It came five minutes later I picked up my copy, paid for it, and ran all the way home I read it very slowly so I wouldn't miss anything Then it happened on page 17, panel 4 it said that Spidey got his powers in a lab accident I thought he got Spirity got its powers in a ray accident 1 thought he got his powers by hemp bitten by a radioactive spider Try to get out of that one! If you can I'll send you a ten-transis-tored no-prize Well, until next time, nuff said, pissy-Lenny Ackerman, \$107 W. Arthur Chicago Ill 60645

We oughtta send you a no-prize just for giving us a criticism we can finally wiggle out of, I en. Sure Petey was bitten by a radioactive spider! But, it happened in the lab, didn't it? And it wasn't supposed to happen. That makes it an accident, doesn't it? An acci dem in the lab - ergo: a lab accident! Ahhb, life cap he beautiful!

Dear Stan and John Congratulations! It's got to be a Marvel first - or at least the first time in a long time. The action in issue #50 took over a week of time to be developed! Usually, between the beginning and end of your stories, no more than a day or even a few hours' time elapses, making the continuity of a several-magazine development a little hard to believe I don't mind this, in fact, I don't object to any-thing you guys have done, but such a large passage of time in one issue is a much appreciated break in your routine. By the way, all the fuss that some readers are making about the many changes in Peter's continually developing character is not to be listened to I enjoy the way he is developing because that's reality But don't leave him the way he is too long Every stage in his personality development should naturally lead to the next One plot development t would like to see is Patch's becoming Spidey's undercover man Picture this Patch is working with Spidey but Spidey doesn't know that Patch is Fos well, and Foswell doesn't know that Spider Man is Parker' One final question why must every sentence or phrase you turn out end with either a "!" "?" "?!" "!?" "!!" or a "

Mike Potter Univ of Louisville Box 1108 Louisville Kv. 40208

Why not Mike ???!!!! Obviously your letter was written

before our now-famous "Death Of A Hero" ish went on sale By now you realize it might be kinda difficult to accept your sagacious suggestion. But, there's one thing we should mention in all fairness. When we effect the various character changes in the life of ol' Web-Head, we don't always do it because he's aging and evolving according to the laws of nature and Marvelania. No, sometimes the changes take place simply because we have trouble remembering what type of personality we gave him last ish! (Okay, we're only kidding - we hadds fill this space somehow!)

Dear Stan and John

Enough! I've had it! While reading the letters pages in issue #50. I came across a letter from a fan who is what I call a super-sophisticate - a know-it-all type He calls yon childish in your references to Brand Echh What does be want the 'Wall Street Journal' or the 'Congressional Record'?'2 Stan, you stated vourself some time ago in the Marvel Philosophy that the purpose of Marvel mags is to entertain II everything was straight-forward and serious, the books would lose that certain spice, that "Marvel fla-vor" As for the bit about mentioning former artists, I agree with your policy one hundred per cent. Getting to the part about your never printing criticism, many of your published letters criticize you - although I can't understand where it comes from as I've never heard anyone around here knock Marvel. Now for a few words of praise. Spider-Man gets better with each issue. Sure, there are some mistakes - after all, you're only human. As I sit here I feel proud to be one small insignificant part of you all - very proud indeed! Jack Hogston, 1640 Kenwood Trenton, Mich. 48183

Small, insignificant part indeed! Face it, Jackson you, and the zillions of other True Believers out there in the real world are Marvel! Without you and all your fellow frenzied Forbushers, Marvel would be no more than a fleeting memory, feebly fading into the faint futility of oblivion! The only truly small part of Marveldom is Brand Echb - and that's just the way we like it! (And if anyone knows what in the name of Aunt Petunis we're talking about, we wish you'd clue us in'

Dear Stan and John.
On behalf of the National Audubon Society, I lodge a butte protest in som characterization of Peter Perker.

Now hear this! Please keep all letters no longer than ONE PAGE! Have mercy, mellow ones!

you've created a manic bird frustrater - a manic bird frustrater being one who frustrates birds, For sixty long minutes after ol' Spidev sprays his nutty webbing, the bird population is terrorized. Our little feathered friends get their feet stuck in that crazy webbing. In case you've never been stuck in Spidey's webbing, I can tell you it is exceedingly frustrating. As a matter of fact, we treated 38 pigeons for "fraustrus muchus" after the epic battle between Kraven and Spidey in Central Park. This may seem picayune to you, but, after all, how would you like to fly around in a circle for the rest of your life in fear of losing your sanity upon landing?? It is quite apparent Petey has an inborn hatred of birds. You people had better watch it or you'll have three million bird lovers storming your office. You're not off the hook either, Stan — we're planning Ken Jensen, 3017 W. 97th St. a bird-in at your house! Bloomington, Minn.

Y'know the only thing that bothers us about your madcap missive, Kenny? Somewhere, somehow, someone is gonna read it carelessly and figure you're completely serious. After that, we'll start to get a whole batch of threatening letters from aroused bird-lovers . . . poor, misguided souls who aren't aware that, next to pussywillows, we like birdies best! But that's okay, tiger we know how to handle such problems. - We'll send all the letters to you! — By the way, we really dig the notion of a bird-in . . . although a thing like that can knock you outta your tree! (Ooops!)

Dear Stan and John,

I just finished reading SPIDER-MAN #50. (That line is nothing new to you, but I had to begin my letter somehow.) I did want to tell you that it contained one of the best collections of letters I've read in a long time. I enjoy reading the opinions that I and other readers have in common, namely the fact that our Peter Parker has unfortunately become a hip, swinging member of today's Great Society. I believe that fans are absolutely correct in saying that he isn't the Peter Parker we all once knew. I think his true character is lost in all the modern fads that you put in your mags. I wanted to state this idea before you fell asleep on me - now to my real purpose - defense. My explanation is that no one can live for almost twenty years and have everyone on his back bugging him about how he dresses, how weak he is, how smart he is, what a wallflower he is, and a whole mess of other petty things without suffering a nervous breakdown! Since your mag is realistic in every aspect of life, Pete must be using an avenue of escape - being a partial conformist. But for the sake of us spidophiles the world over, please make a change for the better in our hero, or else he's bound to lose his popularity among your avid, tireless, ever-assisting fans.

Randy Hudson, 14919 180th Ave.

Grand Haven, Mich. 49417

Okay, Randolph, we get the message. Now, all that remains is to learn what the rest of Marveldom thinks. (Our stock answer, as you doubtless know by now, whenever we're completely at a loss - like always!) Incidentally, we seem to recollect that Spidey did have a nervous breakdown a few years back - in some ish or other. Anyone remember which yarn it was?

Dear Stan and John.

Do you want my blood on your hands? I was just sitting here, contemplating suicide if you pacify all the squares who have been writing in to have you go back to the old, corny Peter Parker. Ol' Petey has risen from the depths of squaredom to the heights of hipsville. Since I am a fair-minded teen, I'll give you two choices — either keep Petey a real hipster or turn in your pens, crayons, coloring books, and Bullpen seats on the way out! One last word please don't go back to the old Pete because I'm too young and handsome (well, too young anyway) to die. 'Nuff said! Richard Haendel, 911 N. Klein Oklahoma City, Okla;

Guess that clinches it, Dick! We don't have so many frantic followers that we can afford to lose a live one like you. The only thing is - we weren't aware that Pete has reached the "heights of hipsville", as you so dramatically phrased it. In fact, we kinda felt he's just become a little less cubish! Now we learn we've got a hippie on our hands! And we're so old-fashioned. we thought Thoroughly Modern Millie was an incisive commentary on the current '67 scene! In fact, up till a few minutes ago, we thought hippie was a baby hippopotamus! (That was before we learned that it's a nickname for part of the anatomy!) - Forgive us, lad - it's been a long, hot afternoon!



Dear Stan and John,

SPIDER-MAN #51 was the fulfillment of the promise you made when you first conceived the idea of a spider-powered youth. I can barely express my sheer joy of reading that masterpiece. This was a super-hero as he was meant to be – the superman in the finest Nietzsche tradition. Spider-Man fought a real menace and was at his zenith. This is how a super-hero should be – no mermaids, no space elves, no silly girl companion unworthy of the hero's affection, but what's real and what's good and great. Spider-Man is a man - what we all want to be but can just never make it! He has power, but uses it to fight for what he believes in, not just to satisfy his whims. This is what Nietzsche intended in his superman - the mystery, the power, the force, the greatness, I am opposed to Spider-Man's talking like a hippie. A little slang is fine and effective, but the quantity you have used is not only unnatural, but in a few years . . . for example, read one of difficulties the original Tom Swift stories, paying close attention to the slang. Dated, n'est-ce pas' I close my humble letter with a shy wave to Mary Jane whom I devoutly hope is the lucky girl to get Spider-Man, However, if Cwen has such unparalled luck, could I have a date with Mary Jane, or will Mrs. Watson only let her date local boys?

Dwight Decker, 112 Parrott St. Mt. Vernon, Ohio 43050

We're not sure, D. D., but we'll be glad to put your name on the waiting list. You brought up so many earth-shattering points that we don't know which to comment on first . . . so we'll forget the whole thing. It's just as well - every time we open our collective mouth we put our collective foot in it, anyway!

NEXT ISH: Face it, web-slinger, we really don't have to tell you how great SPIDEY #55 is gonna bel You know us well enough by now to figure that our follow-up yarn just has to be something special after the groundwork we've been laying for these past two ishes! But it's gonna be even more far-out than you expect! Honestly, we'd like to give you a few clues, but we just don't wanna spoil the fun and frenzy that's awaiting you. All we can say is - Spidey will face a sudden, unexpected problem, the like of which he's never faced before! It's a problem which is about to lead to all sorts of new developments and exciting intrigues - and which even the ayrating genius of Stan and Johnny may not be able to solvel Sounds good? Take it from us, heroic one — it's even better than that! Oh, and while you're waiting, be sure to latch onto the thrill-a-minute, spill-a-minute SPIDER-MAN SPECIAL #4, now on sale. We don't want you to be culturally starved for one single minute! And you won't be, if you'll Think Marvell



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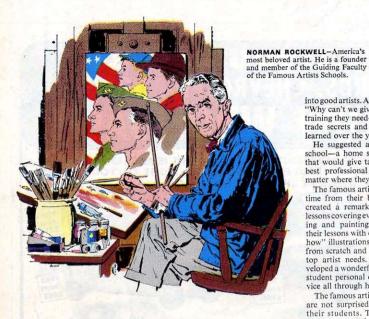
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