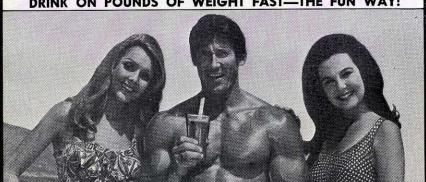


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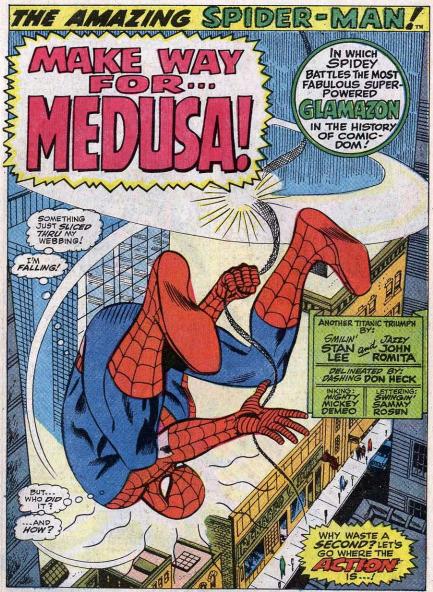
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CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE



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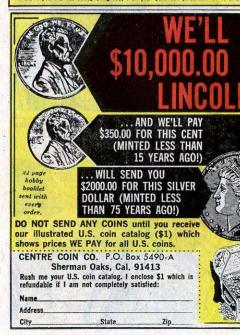
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ITEM! Well, we did it! In the space of a few short months, we've given the HULK, CAPTAIN AMERICA, IRON MAN, SUB-MAR-INER, SHIELD, and DR. STRANGE their own feature-length magazines - and each and every one is on sale MONTHLY. But, if you expect us to give you a chance to catch your breath, forget it! Here come the latest developments in Marvel's march to a nervous breakdown

ITEM! From now on, MARVEL SUPERHE-ROES, our big, brawny 25¢ bi-monthly block-buster, will feature a different superhero star each ish. And, if your letters are as enthusiastic as we expect them to be. we'll eventually award a complete monthly mag to our costumed cavorters! The first sensational superstar to be so featured - on sale right now - is none other than the miraculous MEDUSA, the gorgeous long-haired siren of the incomparable INHUMANS! Drawn by Genial Gene Colan, we promise you the fantasy thrill of the month, replete with dazzling guest stars and a zillion surprises! And that's only the beginning-!

ITEM! One of our greatest new mags is such a howlin' success that we're gonna print it every two months from now on in a king-sized 25¢ edition! The first of these new special-size editions goes on sale next month — but, till then, see if you can guess which title it is! ALSO — we're introducing a second 25-center next month, but it'll be a brand-new title! (A favorite super-hero guest star of yours, but he's never had his own mag before!) There, that'll give you something to think about while you're counting your no-prizes!

ITEM! We're just throwing this little tidbit in for kicks. Didja know that MILLIE THE MODEL, the mag we always kid about and poke fun at, has become one of the bestselling titles on our world-famous list? It's a fact! The only explanation we can think of is that there must be more frantic ones than we ever suspected who like nutty stories about a gorgeous blonde model, featuring the corniest gags of Smiley can write! And how about the RAWHIDE KID? We had almost forgotten that we still publish our last remaining wild-'n-wooly Western until we saw Merry Marty Goodman reading the sales reports with a big grin, and we realized that every "They went thataway" fan in the world must be buying out all the copies! So, thanks to all you literature-lovers for proving once again that the more we know, the less we know!

ITEM! And now, the BIG one! The announcement you've been waiting for! Our precedent-shattering 35¢ SPIDER-MAN Spectacular is now on sale! It features the longest single super-hero thriller ever pub lished in a comics-mag - an actual FIFTY-TWO PAGE mystery-action epic! PLUS - a feature-length ORIGIN OF SPIDER-MAN. completely rewritten and redrawn for this landmark issue! Every wondrous word is from the enchanted pen of our light-hearted leader, Stan the Man - while Jazzy Johnny Romita ramrodded the 52-pager's artwork, aided by our newest Bullpen great - Jim (Madman) Mooney! As for the Origin of Spidey, wait'll you see how Larrupin' Larry Lieber breathed new life into that now-classic chronicle. But, the best part of it is the mag itself. Although in comic-book format, it ISN'T a comic-book! It's a real, glitzy, status-drenched, slick-paper publication! You'll have to look for it amongst the so-called "better" magazines at your newsstand - and we promise you this - it'll be worth the trouble! And now, a word of advice - after you've bought it, don't trade it, lend it, or lose it! It's destined to become a highly-prized collectors' item the minute it's all sold out - which'll be 'most any second now! So don't just stand there, pilgrim - GET IT! You know how we hate to see a grown man cry!

STAN'S SOAPBOX!

Now that the news is out about our jumbo-sized Spidey mag, everybody's been asking what'll happen to our webslinger's regular 12¢ bestseller! The nothing! It's still being published each and every month, the same as always. The new 35¢ thriller is an ADDITIONAL mag, not a replacement! And, while we're on the subject, I've gotta tell you this. There have been very few individual mags which I've personally recommended to you - (mostly because I think they're ALL kinda good) - but this time I'm going way out on a limb. If you buy no other Marvel mag this month, I urge you to latch onto the new SPIDER-MAN Spectacular! It's far more than just another gimmick-it represents an entirely new concept in superhero presentation! It represents possibly Marvel's finest achievement to date - and it contains a mind-staggering hint of things yet to come! This month will go down in history as the month of another new Marmilestone - and you'll be a part of it! But now, it's time to cut out fore you think we're trying to sell you something! Pax et justitia!

THE MIGHTY MARVEL CHECKLIST

Marvel-ous Mags On Sale Right Now!

THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN Spectacular #1: This is it! Possibly the greatest superhero mag Marvel has ever produced. Featuring a 52-page shocker entitled "Lo, This Monster!", plus the "Origin of Spidey". A bargain at twice the price - but not for

NOT BRAND ECHH #8: Run for the hills, gang - he's back! None other than feeble Forbush-Man has returned, to tackle almost every superhero in sight! It's the whackiest, wildest adventure into hysteria you've ever howled at! And wait'll you see who poor Forbie has to fight!

FANTASTIC FOUR #76: Searching for the Silver Surfer, the fabulous FF take the most incredible journey ever recorded knowing that every second brings the world closer to its doom - at the hands of Galactus!

MARVEL SUPER-HEROES #15, Starring MEDUSA!: Having whetted your appetite for the lady with the living hair in SPIDER-MAN, we now present the exciting Inhuman in her own full-length thriller! She, and Gene the Dean's artwork, have never been wilder!

AVENGERS #53: Our ever-lovin' assem-blers — the extraordinary X-Men — even the baneful Brotherhood of Evil Mutants! And wait'll you dig who finally ends up the howlin' hero in our mind-boggling climax! Sheeshl

X-MEN #45: This ish is the lead-in to AVENGERS #53 - but what a lead-in! You'll see Cyclops battling it out with the one and only Quicksilver - while the lives of his fellow X-Men hang in the balance!

DAREDEVIL #41: It had to happen! You are about to witness "The Death of Mike Murdock!" But, what happens to Matt Murdock? And how does Daredevil battle the Exterminator and his Unholy Three? Well, why not see for yourself?

MIGHTY THOR #153: If you've been wondering what happened to Dr. Don Blake, this is the yarn for you. But maybe we shouldn't tell you that Loki finally has the upper hand!

CAPTAIN AMERICA #103: It's like a nightmare! The girl Cap loves, a prisoner of the deadly Red Skull! And, when he finally saves her, our hero has signed his own

INCREDIBLE HULK #105: They call our power-packed villain the Missing Link and, when you see how he tears into ol' Green Skin, you'll see why the Incredible One wishes he had stayed missing! It's a

IRON MAN #3: Who said we'd forgotten all about Shelihead's pal, Happy Hogan? Not your brain-bustin' Bullpen! But, along with Hap, we've also brought back his evil alter ego . . . the awesomely powerful Freak! Hooo boy!

SUB-MARINER #3: Namor and the titanic Triton — chained together as unwilling al-lies! The pernicious Plant Man! The walking monstrosity they call the Leviathanl Put them all together, and they spell action!

MARVEL'S SPACE-BORN SUPERHERO! CAPTAIN MARVEL #3: It's a fight to the finish between Mar-Vell and the startlingly sinister Super Skrull! What's more, we tossed in a minor nuclear holocaust or two - just to keep things hopping!

NICK FURY, AGENT OF SHIELD #2: On an incredible island - amid danger such as mortal man has never witnessed - the redoubtable leader of Shield must defeat the monsters who defied evolution . . . or

DR. STRANGE #170: For years, you've demanded it! And now, it's here — the return of the reprehensible Nightmare, in the mystically magnificent tale we couldn't resist calling - "To Dream . . . Perchance to Die!

SGT. FURY #55: Pam Hawley lives does she? With those wondrous words ringing in your shell-shocked ears, you are destined to share with our hard-bitten Howler ramrod one of the most startling war-mag sagas of all!

CAPT. SAVAGE #3: Still on sale lucky! Savage and his Japanese enemy must combine forces to battle for survival on the island fortress of Hydra! A gutsand-glory epic you won't forget!

MARVEL COLLECTORS' ITEM CLASSICS #15: The FF, Iron Man, Doctor Strange, and the Hulk — all in one incredible issue! Just goes to prove that only Marvel has the mags you never get tired of - Marvel after Marvel!

MARVEL TALES #15: Spidey - Thor - the Human Torch - and Marvel Boy! Four of the best reasons yet for signing up for the duration of the Marvel Age of Comics! (And, it may just last forever!)

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**SPIDER'S WEB

END YOUR LETTERS TO:

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

Dear Stan and John,

Just a quick comment on SPIDEY #59 - great! And a question, if you don't mind. With all the groovy goodies you've introduced over the past couple of years, it's surprising to me that you haven't come out with what would have to be one of the most sought-offer items of all time
— some Bullpen photos! No True Believer would dare be
without them — that is, if he could get them in the first
place! Honest Irv would probably even rob his piggy bank just to get his greedy fingers on some pictures of you madmen. So, what do you say, gang? It's your big chance to do a real favor for Marveldom Assembled — and help me fill my scrapbook! Jimmy Goodkind, Richards Lane Hewlitt, L. I., N. Y.

You must be a mindreader, Jimmy boy, 'cause we've got just what you're after! You'll find a coupon on one of the mail order pages in this very ish for a pulsatin' photo of Smiley himself! Then, if that's not enough to turn you off, there'll be even more to follow! So, don't say we didn't warn you, wondrous one!



Dear Stan and John,

I've put up with all the slanders to Mr. Romita ever since he took over the artistic chores of Spidey way back in issue #39, but frankly, I've had it! John Romita makes Spidey's previous artist appear as never having been able to draw. Not only does John draw gorgeous femmes and handsome guys, he makes a fight scene come alive. It should also be mentioned that background was never accentuated until his arrival at the helm. I've noticed that the content of SPIDER-MAN has vastly improved since Jazzy Johnny began drawing the strip. I'm no grammar doctorate, but it appears that vocabulary and structure have reached the heights of FF, as well as plot development. So, let's have three cheers and a bundle of no-prizes for Jazzy John Romita, truly an artist of comic art!

Alan Meerow, 3195 Decatur Ave. Bronx, N. Y. 10467

You talked us into it, All We couldn't agree more that Spidey has risen to progressively greater heights from month to month under the pulsating pen of ol' Ring-A-Ding Romital But, please—try not to lay it on too thick! If you do, one'a these days he's gonna get his fill of cheers and start demanding that we pay him!

Dear Stan and John,

In your latest issue the Spider's Web was more interesting than the story itself. At last — over a page of good, inter-esting letters! Although the issue is building up to possibilities of good future installments, this ish wasn't up to par for SPIDER-MAN, I like the way the ish was "produced" by Stan and Johnny, but the art was pencilled by Don Heck. Twould seem that, perhaps, John will be taken off Spidey, and that you're just easing him out. Anyway, how come almost all the letters end with "Till blankety-blank-blank, I'll be your fan" or one of the Marvel catch phrases, such as "hang loose" or something equally as bad. I'm sure many of your readers do not like these phrases — perhaps a poll is in order. Robert Gluckson, 10347 Monte Mar Dr.

Los Angeles, Cal.

Not really, Bobby, babyl You see, we've already de-cided that perhaps we've been hanging a bit too loose where our liltin' letters pages are concerned — so, where our littin' letters pages are concerned—so, henceforth, we're gonna try playing things a little straighter with our agonizing answers—and see what you think of it! Now, as for Jazzy Johnny giving up Spidey, all we can say is there's about as much chance of that as there is of the Strawberry Alarm Clock doing an album of Bach! Right now, he's doing layouts for both the monthly mag and the 35¢ SPIDEY SPECTACU-LAR! Dashin' Donnie finishes the pencils for the regular mag — and Jim Mooney does the same on the SPEC-TACULAR! And, now that all that's been cleared up, all we have left to say is... Phew! Thank heavens the coffee wagon is on the wayl

Dear Stan and John,

Okay, already! Here we have a poor superhero, Spider-Man by name, who has lasted 58 issues of fighting a losing battle against the people of New York, yet managing to come out on top nine-tenths of the time. One question: how does he do it? Oh, I know that the imagination of Stan is infinite (as has been proven many, many times), but still, it seems ridiculous for this guy to keep plugging away at something he can never win. You've heard this a hundred sometiming he can here! with to be tealed this continues before, but give the guy a break! Now Pete has the best apportunity he's had in years to make something out of his social life, but as soon as I finished this ish's story and turned to the letters page, I read the following: "Next - in which Spidey vindicates himself . . . but LOSES THE GIRL HE LOVES!" Boy, what I mean, you really sock it to him! Anybody with half a mind would turn in his costume at the neighborhood Salvation Army and give up crimefighting for life. I don't want to sound like the Lonely Hearts Club, but I would like to let you in on a few things, namely

— Pete's social life is getting more unreal and unbelievable each ish! It's time for a change, and at long last, I believe you guys should pull Spidey out of the rut he's been in for so many years and give him just a little bit of status! Special note to Pete: Lissen, you idiot — if you don't care too much for Mary Jane, send her down this way, all expenses paid. Buddy, you don't know when you've got a good thing!

Mark Lamberti, 11830 Hampstead Ln.

Dallas, Texas 75230

Oh, yes he does, Mark — but we're not about to let him do anything with it! We're all too hung up on M. J. our-selves to let Parker keep her all to himself! As for his social life otherwise, all we can say is to each his own but we are considering sending in his application for a lifetime membership in Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band!

Dear Stan and John, When I finished SPIDER-MAN #59 I leapt up shouting maxima cum laude! Then I espled the small block on the right side of the last panel. Filled with apprehensions, I flipped to the customary page for a glimpse of things to come and found the worst of my premonitions realized. I must confess that I succumbed to a paroxysm of rage and despair. Once I had emerged from the throes of my tantrum and was again able to control my shaking hands, I took pen in hand and jotted out this plaintive missive. I write without emotion. I will present cold, bare fact. First, nobody always loses. Our wall-crawling wonder first lost Betty Brant, and now Gwen! I can see it now . . . "I hate you Spider-Man! I hate you!" — with fists and tears and the whole bit. Second, it's unconstitutional to prevent an individual from attaining personal happiness. I'm sure that you, as red-white-and-blue Americans, would want to know this. Third, consider the effect on our harried hero. Peer with me into the thoughts of a worried web-slinger: "She loves me, but she hates me. In fact, everybody I know loves me and hates me. Except Jolly Jonah, and he hates everybody." Leading a double life filled with the double dilemmas of perpetually winning yet perpetually losing would drive anyone to suicide. Fourth, how about me? I hate born losers, but I love Spidey. It leads to a conflict in my personality. It could set me off my trolley. Would you want to be responsible for the world's loss of a promising young man with a bright future and the poverty caused by my head-shrinker's bill? In spite of this, I still think the mag is great. Therefore, by the beard of the imperial Odin, and the non-existent luck of Irving Forbush, make a small change for a true believer . . . (and) a chronic malcontent.

Dave Markus, 207 N. 39th St. Belleville, Ill. 62223

We'll see, Dave—but we won't let you back us out on a limb at this stage of the game! So, while you bite your nails and wait to see how things turn out, why not indulge in a little serious literature to ease the tensions like the latest issue of NOT BRAND ECHH? And we'll hope you don't object to our sneaky little plug!



Dear Stan and John,

I simply had to write to you guys knowing the dilemma you're in. Since Spidey's first issue came out many years ago, you poor guys have been plagued with one big problem - webbing! Fans have sent in numerous letters concerning the artificial webbing that Spidey uses. They ask how come his webbing doesn't stick to him. That's easyl It's common knowledge out here that some types of spiders secrete a fluid that keeps the eight-legged arachnid from getting his eight legs all tangled up. So, as we all know, Marvel A with Pete's brain, he could easily duplicate this fluid as he blast offi

did with his webbing. Then after each washing, he could soak his Spider-Man duds in this fluid. Till J. Jonah Jameson shaves off his moustache, make mine Marvell

Mike Duffy, Rt. #6, Box 333-T Sumter, S. C. 29150

After coming up with a scientific solution to a sticky situation like that, we'll make yours ours even longer, Mike! And just wait'll we tell Jazzy Johnny he can leave the lab now and get back to the drawing board! Hooo



Dear Stan and John,

I just finished SPIDER-MAN #59. The story was pretty good, and I think Jazzy John did a good job on the artwork. Now to get to the main point of my letter - please, I beg of you, don't let Peter lose Gwen. Poor Spidey's had a hard enough time already. First, he lost Uncle Ben in AMAZING FANTASY #15, then Aunt May always getting sick such as in issue #32, and then losing Betty Brant in issue #34. Please at least let him find some happiness with Gwen.

Don Gembala, 8584 Avery Rd. Bricksville, Ohio 44141

We wish we could, Don — but the ways of love are really no more predictable than the outcome of a superhero vs supervillain bout! But, don't give up hope yet! Although Gorgeous Gwen isn't exactly the president of Petey-O's fan club at the moment — she's still a woman, which means she just could change her mind! Espe-cially if a certain ravishing redhead starts moving in on Mr. P.I

Dear Stan and John,

Issue #58 was fab, groovy, gear, and all that wonderful stuff. I just didn't think that Johnny could draw so well. I just about fainted when I saw page 11, panel 1, not to mention page 15, panel 3. Every panel was suitable for framing. I wish that you could bring back more robots. I am also enjoying the way you are presenting your magazines for this year. For a great surprise I wish you could bring back many of your old villains. Many other heroes are fighting old villains, so why can't Spidey? I enjoyed such tops as Molten Man, the New Vulture, Sandman, Electro, the Enforcer, and the Living Brain. How about it?

Greg Boles, Broad St. Rural Hall, N. C. 27045

No sooner said than done, Greg, buddy! We've found the best policy has always been to mix up our new brain-blastin' baddies with the oldies-but-goodies from ish to ish - and we're not about to change now! In the months just ahead, you'll be seeing most of your all-time favorites — as well as some of the most far-out fanatical fiends ever to premiere in the pulsating pages of a comic magazinel So, stay with us, pilgrim — the Marvel Age of vociferous villains is just starting to



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