



the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN™

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12¢ 64
IND. SEPT



**THE
VULTURE'S
PREY!**

THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN!

"THE VULTURE'S PREY"

**THE
VULTURE STILL
LIVES!!**

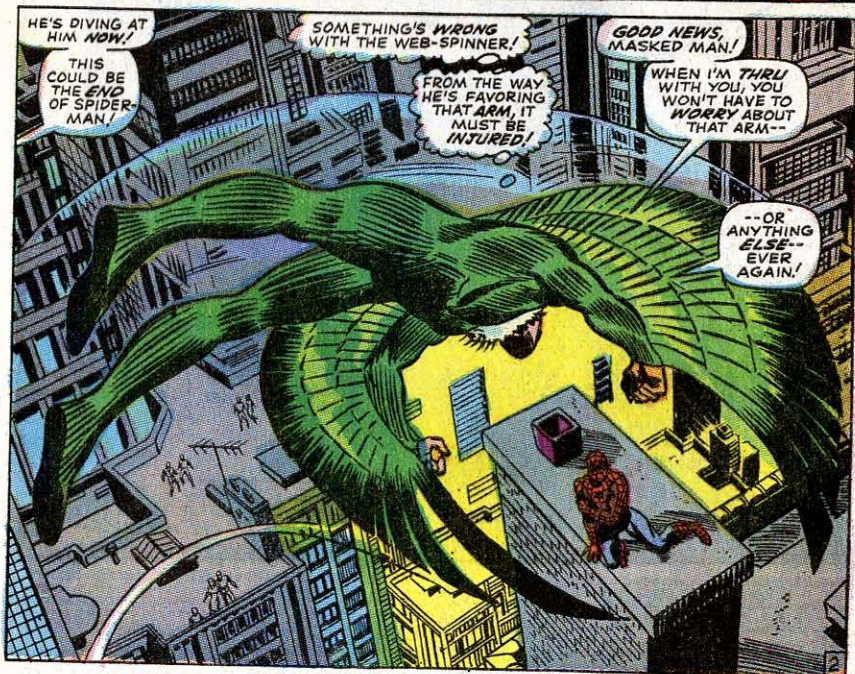
LAST ISH WE LEARNED THAT THE DEADLY, AIRBORNE ARCH-ENEMY HAD SURVIVED, LO, THESE MANY MONTHS! WE SAW HIM EFFORTLESSLY DEFEAT HIS OUTCLASSED NAME SAKE! AND NOW, THE MYSTERIOUS, WINGED MENACE SWOOPS DOWN FOR THE KILL--TOWARDS AN INJURED, STARTLED SPIDER-MAN--!

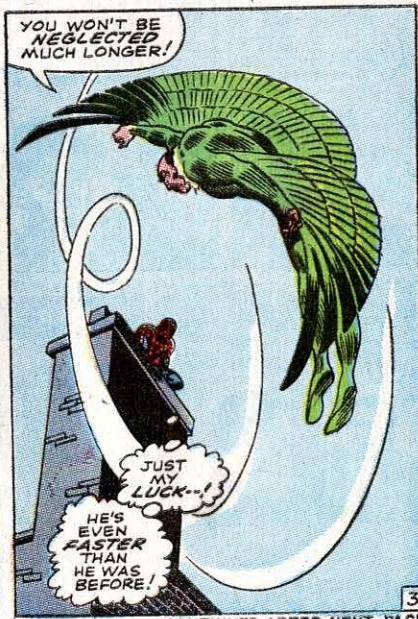


A NEW HIGH IN
MARVEL MAGNIFICENCE
PRODUCED AND PRESENTED
BY STAN LEE
JOHN ROMITA
and
DAZZLIN' DONNIE HECK
EMBELLISHMENT BY
MICKEY DEMEO
LETTERING BY
ARTIE SIMEK

**BETTER TIGHTEN YOUR
TAIL-FEATHERS, CHARLIE,
'CAUSE WE'RE OFF--**

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CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE

PETE DUNCAN—"DROPOUT"

"WHEN I TURNED 16, I WANTED TO REALLY START LIVING..."

FREE AT LAST!

NO MORE SCHOOL FOR ME. MY NEW JOB PAYS \$60 A WEEK... AND I'M BUYING A CAR WITH MY OWN MONEY!



"A REAL BALL—FOR 6 MONTHS, THEN..."

BUSINESS IS BAD, PETE. WE'VE GOT TO LAY YOU OFF.

BUT HOW WILL I KEEP UP PAYMENTS ON MY CAR?



"I DRIFTED FROM JOB TO JOB, AND ALWAYS THE SAME STORY..."

I HATE TO LET A GOOD MAN GO, PETE. DO YOU KNOW ANY BUSINESS MATH?

WHAT CAN I SAY? I QUIT SCHOOL BEFORE WE STUDIED BUSINESS MATH!



"A YEAR AFTER QUITTING SCHOOL, I WAS OUT OF A JOB, FOR THE THIRD TIME."

PETE! YOU LOOKING FOR A JOB HERE, TOO?

BOB SHOLL! YEAH! I FIGURE I'VE GOT THE EXPERIENCE!



"BUT BOB'S DIPLOMA HELPED HIM CATCH THE JOB I WANTED."

MY OLD CLASSMATES NOT ONLY GET THE BETTER JOBS... THEY'RE PAID MORE MONEY TO START.



"I FINALLY GOT A JOB. \$60 A WEEK... BUT I HAD TO SELL MY CAR!"

I QUIT SCHOOL TO MAKE \$60 A WEEK! I HAVEN'T HAD A RAISE IN TWO YEARS!



"THEN, AT LAST, MY LUCK SEEMED TO TURN..."

HELEN, YOU'RE THE BEST THING THAT'S HAPPENED TO ME IN YEARS!



"HELEN AND I WERE MARRIED. A YEAR LATER, OUR FIRST CHILD WAS BORN. WE COULDN'T HAVE BEEN HAPPIER UNTIL... ONE DAY AT THE PLANT..."

HEARD THE NEWS, PETE? THEY'RE GOING TO START LAYING OFF MEN NEXT WEEK!



"WITH A WIFE AND FAMILY TO CONSIDER, I COULD NO LONGER AFFORD TO BE LAID OFF..."

WHAT'RE YOU DOING, PETE?

CLIPPING AN I.C.S. COUPON, HELEN. I CAN EARN MY I.C.S. DIPLOMA IN MY SPARE TIME!



"AT LAST! THE BIG DAY..."

MY I.C.S. HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA! GOOD-BYE LAYOFFS! NOBODY CAN STOP ME NOW!

I'M SO PROUD OF YOU, PETE!



"WHAT A DIFFERENCE THAT I.C.S. DIPLOMA MADE AT MY NEXT JOB INTERVIEW..."

THE JOB'S YOURS, PETE, STARTING AT \$15 A WEEK... AND IT'S A JOB WITH A FUTURE!

GREAT! WAIT'LL I TELL HELEN!



MY NEXT STEP IS TO TAKE SOME I.C.S. COLLEGE-LEVEL ENGINEERING COURSES—THE SKYS THE LIMIT!

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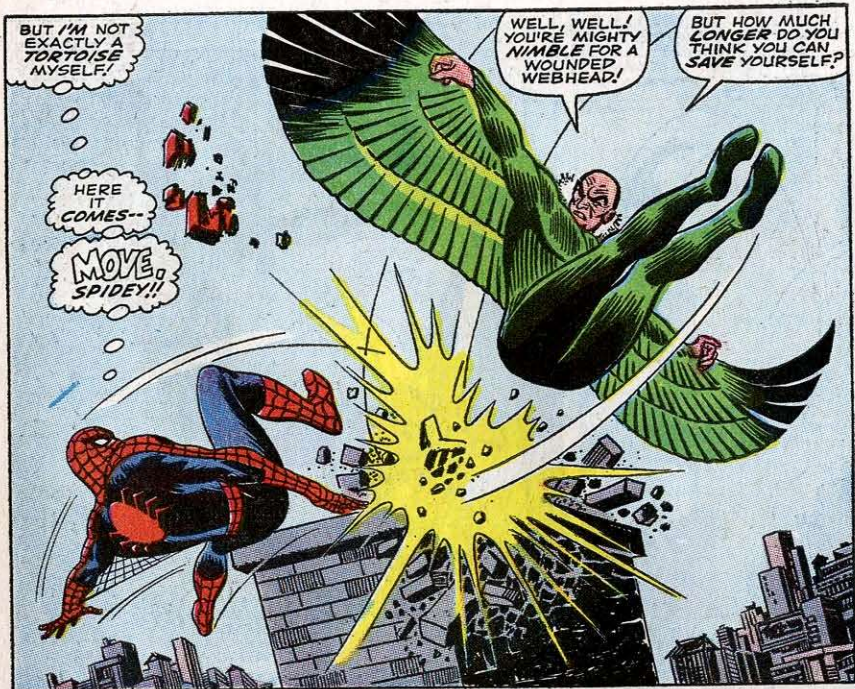
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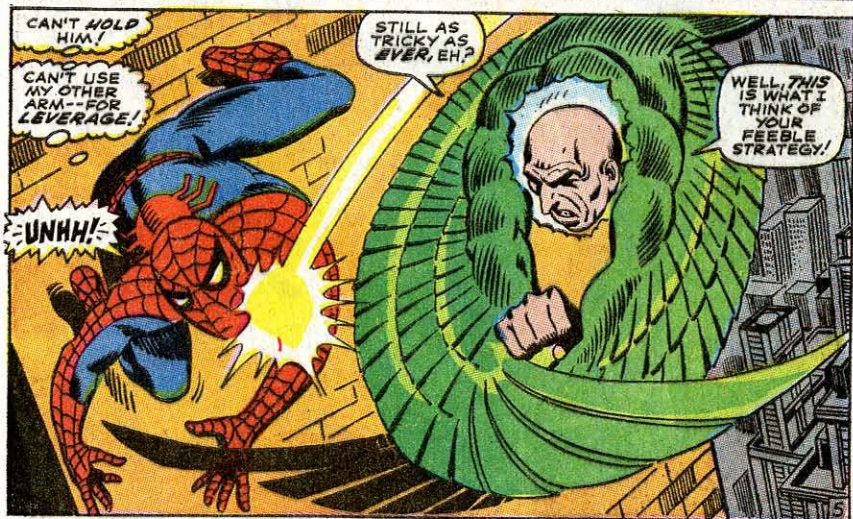
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Pete Duncan is fictional. His story is a composite from the files of I.C.S.







HAVE TO
STRIKE
BACK--
SOMEHOW--
WITH MY
LEFT HAND!

IF I CAN JUST
HOLD HIM OFF--
A WHILE
LONGER--!

SLAT!

WHAT A
SHOT!
THESE
PIX'LL
MAKE
HISTORY!



THE FORCE OF
MY SWINGS--
ALMOST MADE
ME TOPPLE
OFF THE WALL!

CAN'T
KEEP MY
BALANCE
WHILE
FIGHTING--
WITH ONLY
ONE ARM!

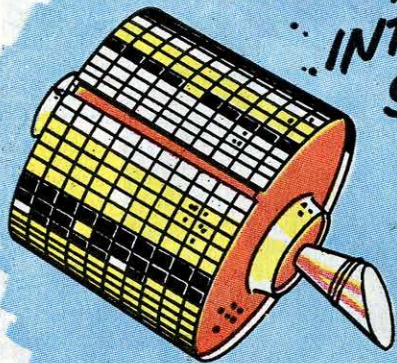
UH OH!
HERE HE
COMES
AGAIN--!



WITH EACH
PASSING
MINUTE, YOUR
DEFENSE
GROWS
WEAKER!

NOW
THERE'S
NO WAY
YOU CAN
SAVE
YOURSELF!

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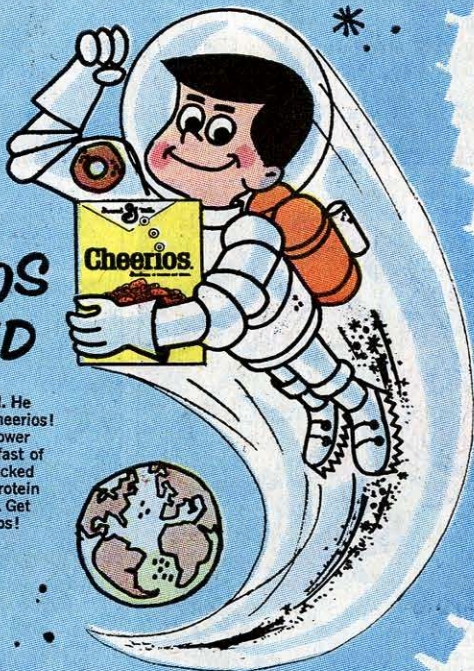


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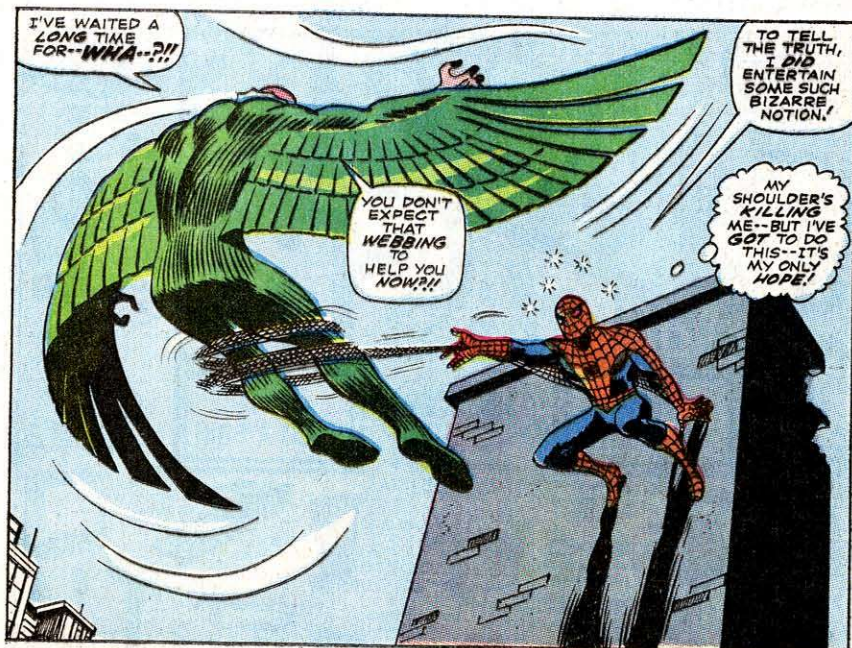
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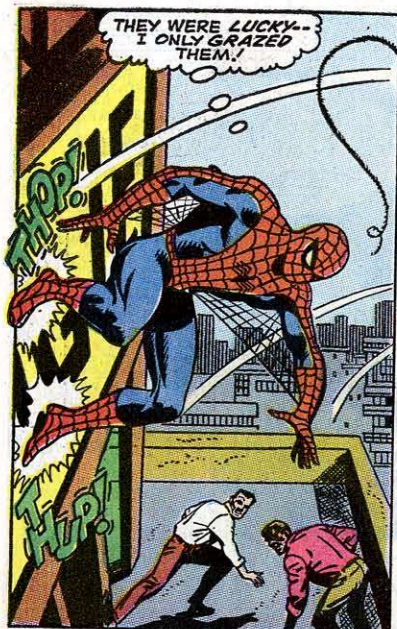
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CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE

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love to play STRAT-O-MATIC**

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FANS RAVE

Here are just a few of the hundreds of letters we receive every week, from baseball fans aged 8 to 80, from coast to coast!

STRAT-O-MATIC BASEBALL is the best baseball game I ever have had. Kids swamp over the back porch to play this game! Boy, it is a lot of fun! Thank you for making such a wonderful game. —P. C., Attleboro, Mass.

Just like real baseball. It is fun to play.

—G. V., Cincinnati, O.

As close to realism as one can get and therefore far more superior to other competing baseball games.

—F. T., Manila, P.I.

Although it's fantastically realistic, it's also very simple to play. —A. F., Los Angeles, Calif.

I'm one hundred percent satisfied with it. The game provides hours of fun for me and my friends. It's very realistic, and true to life.

—C. H., Lanett, Ala.

The best baseball game. It is realistic and yet not too difficult to play.

—P. M., Port Huron, Mich.

Thank you for creating such an exciting yet realistic game and putting a shine to what might have been a boring summer.

—N. S., Los Angeles, Calif.

Boys are waiting in line to play the game!

—A. H., Chicago, Ill.

It has given me more pleasure than any other game.

—S. E., Rossville, Ind.

The most exciting and fun game ever.

—L. S., Boston, Mass.

It is so stupendous, words can't explain.

—J. R., Brooklyn, N. Y.

Best on the market.

—J. E., Miami, Fla.

Has given me more enjoyment than I have ever had from any one thing in my entire life. It's worth its weight in gold. As I love baseball, this game gives me something enjoyable to do during the off seasons as well as during the season.

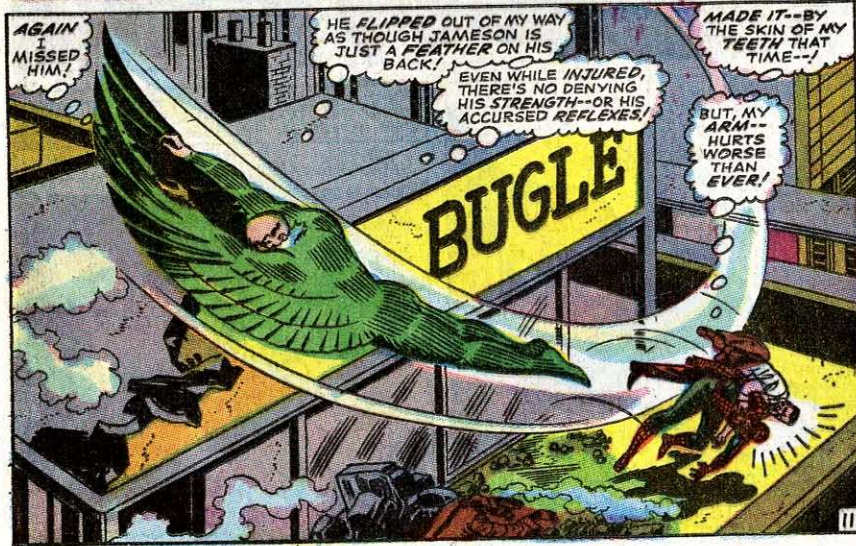
—S. C., Temple City, Calif.

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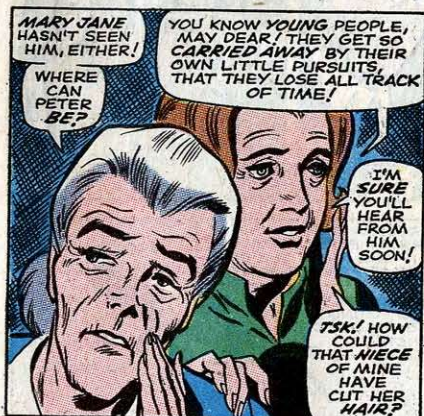
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*AS SUPERBLY SHOWN IN SPIDER-MAN #60!
--STURDY STAN.

I CALLED THE LAD--TO TELL HIM I UNDERSTAND--BUT HE WASN'T HOME!
NOR WAS HIS ROOMMATE, HARRY!

THEY MIGHT BOTH BE WITH HARRY'S FATHER, MR. OSBORN HASN'T BEEN WELL LATELY!

FIRST TELL ME WHAT'S WRONG WITH NORMAN OSBORN, DEAR!

I WONDERED WHY I HADN'T SEEN HIM AT THE CLUB LATELY! IT'S NOTHING SERIOUS, I HOPE!

I DON'T KNOW, DAD! HARRY THINKS IT MIGHT BE A NERVOUS BREAKDOWN--DUE TO OVERWORK! BUT, HE'S BEEN ACTING VERY--OH! LOOK--!

SOMETHING HAPPENING--ATOP THE DAILY BUGLE BUILDING!

BUT TELL ME MORE ABOUT PETER!

LOOK AT THE CROWD! IT MUST BE SERIOUS!

THERE'S BETTY BRANT--AND HER FIANCE, NED LEEDS! THEY BOTH WORK FOR THE BUGLE!

PERHAPS THEY'LL KNOW WHAT'S WRONG!

LOOK! THE VULTURE'S DIVING TOWARDS SPIDER-MAN AGAIN!

BUT WHO ELSE IS UP THERE WITH THEM?

MISS BRANT, DO YOU--OH! NOW I SEE IT!

THAT'S THE VULTURE--SWOOPING TOWARDS THE BUGLE ROOF!

BUT WHY? WHAT IS HE AFTER UP THERE?

IT'S AWFUL! HE'S BEEN BATTLING SPIDER-MAN!

MR. JAMESON RAN UP THERE--WITH JOE ROBERTSON, AND PARKER--TO COVER THE STORY!

PETER? UP THERE NOW? OH--NO!

BUT, IF GORGEOUS GWENDOLYNE IS WORRIED ABOUT PETER NOW--IMAGINE IF SHE KNEW THE REAL IDENTITY OF--SPIDER-MAN!

THE VULTURE'S IN HIS GLORY--HAMMING IT UP FOR THE CROWD BELOW!

BUT THAT DOESN'T MAKE HIM ONE iota LESS DANGEROUS!

THIS TIME HE'S ZEROING IN--FOR THE KILL!

GET OUT OF HERE, MAN! RUN FOR COVER, BELOW!

NO! I'VE GOT TO SEE IT THRU--NO MATTER WHAT!



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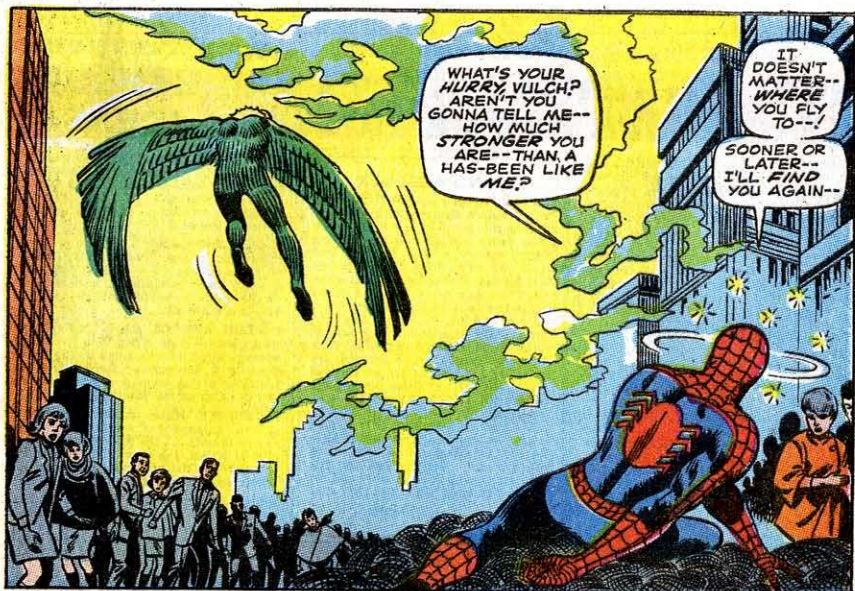
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THE MAN
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NOTE: OUR LETTERS SECTION APPEARS AFTER NEXT PAGE...

MORE HYSTERICAL HOOPLA AND HANGUPS FROM YOUR HOWLIN' HOUSE OF IDEAS!

ITEM! Remember when STAN THE MAN wrote just about every superhero yarn we published during the early days of Marvel? Well, the reason we've been able to expand our output and to bring you more of the mags you've been clamoring for is because we've gradually found other scribes who've been able to capture the mad, modern Marvel mood. The first of these sensational scribes is our now-associate editor, Rascally ROY THOMAS, our poker-playing pundit of the pandemonious plot! Next, we latched onto an old buddy of Roy's, Groovy GARY FRIEDRICH, our swingin', zingin', folk-song-singin' assistant ed. But, not content to rest on our laurels, we were lucky enough to snare Affable ARCHIE GOODWIN, former editor, author, and bluslin' bon vivant, who brings his own scintillatin' style to the majesty of Marvel. And now, just a few months later, we announce with pride that another two stalwarts who've toiled elsewhere for in some many years have finally seen the light and joined the ranks of True Believers here at the batty Bullpen. (We'll introduce 'em in another ish!) So, where once there was just poor, slavin', long-suffering Stan, our leader now has five fabulous, far-out fantasy-writin' friends to help us prove we mean it when we say: "Hang onto your hat, hero — Marvel's taking over the world!" (Or, wouldja believe Yancy Street?)

ITEM! But, with every bit of good news, there is often its exact opposite. And so, with heavy hearts, we announce the departure of one of the Bullpen's most popular pixies — Fabulous FLO STEINBERG who bids us a fond farewell to seek her fortunes in another field of endeavor. Lovely Flo had won the collective hearts of Marveldom Assembled in the years during which she helped to answer the ever-growing mountain of mail which sometimes threatened to engulf us all. Face Front, Flo! The best of luck to you where e'er you go.

ITEM! For those of you who've been vacationing on another planet for the past few months, we're gonna repeat the six swingin' ranks of Marveldom for serious study and transcendental meditation! Now for Odin's sake, memorize 'em carefully, 'cause we're starting to get writers' cramp!

RFO (Real Frantic One): A buyer of at least 3 Marvel mags each month.

QNS (Quite 'Nuff Sayer): A fortunate frantic one who's had a letter printed.

TTB (Titanic True Believer): A divine-inspired no-prize winner.

KOF (Keeper Of The Flame): One who recruits a newcomer to Marvel's rollickin' ranks.

PMM (Permanent Marvelite Maximus): Anyone possessing all four of the other titles.

FFF (Fearless Front Face): An honorary title, bestowed for devotion to Marvel above and beyond the call of duty.

But, even if you're just a lowly F.F.M. (Futile Forbush-Man, natch), take heart, hero — we love you just the same.



STAN'S SOAPBOX

This one's a real surprise! You've seen Hero Trimpe's name listed as "inker" all over the place in our mags. Well, a few weeks ago we saw some of his original drawings and realized that we've had an exciting, top-notch penciller hidden right under our quivering noses! So, not being shy, we asked Happy Herbie what he'd like to draw, and he told us. It seems that Mr. Trimpe is a dyed-in-the-wool fan of World War I airplane dogfights! And, since the rest of your Bullpen are shameless superhero fans, we decided to combine the two. Which is just our long-winded way of telling you not to dare miss MARVEL SUPERHEROES #16, which features one of the most daringly different superheroes of all — The Phantom Eagle! And now, we've gotta cut out — Country Joe and the Fish just arrived to visit us — and we don't wanna keep 'em out of the water too long!

Excelsior,

Smiley

THE MIGHTY MARVEL CHECKLIST

Marvelous Mags On Sale Right Now!

THE 35¢ SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #1: Last chance, web-spinners! The great second job goes on sale next month, and there'll be gone forever. We couldn't sleep nights if we thought you'd missed the longest Spider saga ever presented! And oh, that artwork!

NOT BRAND ECHH' #9: This one, too, is on sale for a second month, to make sure that no Flame-Keeper among you misses it. It's got more pages, laughs, and lunacy than ever before. And dig those sizzlin' stuperheroes!

SILVER SURFER #1: Featuring the longest, and possibly the greatest Origin story ever illustrated! There's no doubt about it — the Silver Surfer is certain to equal Spidey himself in popularity! And we should worry — they're both ours!

FANTASTIC FOUR #78: The story fandom has long awaited! Never has the super-powerful Thing faced a grimmer problem — or been forced to make a more desperate decision! It's dynamite! And, wait'll you see who the villain is!



MARVEL SUPER-HEROES #16: Just as we promised you — a full-length blockbuster of mystery and action, starring the all-new Phantom Eagle! Plus, the usual mildly magnificent mish-mash of masked misanthropes!

AVENGERS #55: So you think you learned the full secret of the dread Crimson Cow! last ish? Well don't believe it, pilgrim — till you see the Avengers slug it out to the finish with his malevolent Masters of Evil! Hoo-boy!

X-MEN #47: The spotlight this month is on Iceman and the ever-exciting Beast, as they clash head-on with the mysterious Maha Yogit! And, when you find out who he really is, you'll know why he's a lot more dangerous than he sounds!

DAREDEVIL #43: No, it's not a gag! It's not an (ehhh!) imaginary tale! It's for real! DD finally battles the one and only — Captain America — with no punches pulled! It's the action-hit of the month — a brain-blast!

MIGHTY THOR #155: Truly one of Thor's most epic sagas! Although the Thunder God has battled many foes before, never has any come as close to the destruction of the entire universe as has — Mangoli! This one's a must!

CAPTAIN AMERICA #105: Zowie! Look who's back — none other than the bludgeoning Batroc, accompanied by the Living Laser and the sinister Swordmaster! For fantastic action beyond compare, wait'll you see Cap tackle "Batroc's Brigade"!

INCREDIBLE HULK #107: Our green-skinned golem faces not one, but three deadly threats... the far-eastern counterpart of Shield, the menacing Mandarin — and perhaps the one thing that even his titanic strength can't combat!

IRON MAN #5: Possibly the most unusual transistorized saga of all, as our great golden avenger rockets into the far future, where public enemy number one is none other than... Tony Stark! And wait'll you meet Cerebrus!

SUB-MARINER #5: For all those frantic ones who thought we'd never come up with a non-Atlantean underwater baddie for Namor to fight, we proudly present the one and only Tiger Shark! He's deep-six dynamite!

MARVEL'S SPACE-BORN SUPERHERO! **CAPTAIN MARVEL #5:** Who — or what — is the amazing Metazoid? Don't even try to guess — until you see him come face to face with the spaceman called Mar-Vell in an action-packed, TNT-charged duel to the death! 'Nuff said!

NICK FURY, AGENT OF SHIELD #4: With vengeance in his merciless heart... with super-weapons which beggar description... the evil entity called Scorpio strikes again at Nick Fury, the man he is pledged to destroy! Not for the timid!

DR. STRANGE #172: Dormammu's back — and Doc Strange has got him! Or, is it the other way around? And, besides, there's a Marvelite who'll dare miss Gentleman Gene Colan's great art job on our favorite mystic master?

SGT. FURY #57: It's a mission of mercy, as Fury and his hard-hittin' Howlers plummet into Hitler-land to rescue Jim Morita's captured Nisei Squad from a Nazi POW camp! Need we say more, battle-mag buffs?

CAPTAIN SAVAGE #5: Who but mind-bending Marvel would dare put out a war-mag about... a counterfeiting plot? But, if you think they're in for a milk run — forget it! It's a block-bustin', brain-bogglin' blast!

MARVEL COLLECTORS' ITEM CLASSICS #16: The FF, Iron Man, Dr. Strange, and the Hulk in some of the greatest, never-to-be-forgotten epics from the past! When we call it a collectors' item, we're not just whistlin'! "The Merry Marvel Mazurka!"

MARVEL TALES #16: The Beetle — Tomorrow Man — Plant Man — and the sinister Serpent! Against Spidey, Thor, the torrid Torch, and Marvel Boy, natch! A foursome of the most senses-staggering battles since the Bulge!

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THE SPIDER'S WEB

SEND YOUR LETTERS TO:

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

Dear Stan and John,

Cruel Sadistic! All you ever do is give poor Spidey problems. He's supposed to be a normal everyday teenager, but you show me one teenager that has problems like that? I tell you, you're gonna ruin the best comic book ever sold with all those problems. Especially J. Jonah Jameson. If I were Spidey I'd... by the way, why does Jameson hate Spidey so much? He saved Jameson's son two times! You really get me mad, though, with the problems you give him. Disgusting. Even though I am a true believer there are times I feel like turning to Brand Echh. But I have been a believer too long to be a traitor. Aunt May — "sheesh" — as if Jameson weren't bad enough. Why don't you let Aunt May get better? And then to add more on, Spidey's always getting sick or something. I'd rather lose and have no problems than to win and have problems up to my neck. If that was me, I think that I wouldn't have lasted as long as Spidey has. I'd have had a nervous breakdown. Now, to conclude my tearful letter, a small piece of advice; I guarantee that if you take away some of those problems and let him live as a natural teenager should you'll sell twice as many mags as you're selling now.

Vernon West, 99 Broadstreet Ave.
Revere, Massachusetts 02151

We might sell more mags, Vern, but we would be selling a lot of fans short. We can't just go in there and do a patch-up job on all Peter Parker's problems! He's a complex character who of necessity has a complex life — and all the frustration and grief he has to go through are as much a part of his development as the good times he has! Spider-Man, like so many colorful greats, lives life on a giant scale. His successes and victories are tremendous, but on the other hand, so are his personal failures. If Peter didn't have Aunt May, and JJJ and Gwen to worry about (among other things!) the Great See-Saw of Life would teeter-totter off balance (How's that for a non-sequitur?)

Dear Stan and John,

I picked up SPIDERMAN #61 today since I wanted to be here early for the introduction of your new 35¢ SPIDER-MAN (just think, 72 pages a month!). As I looked at the cover, I observed that you had set up a rather impossible situation, what with the falling vat of molten whatever and Spider-Man swooping through the air to rescue Gwen Stacy and her father. However, as I read your story it became even more impossible. What is a vat of Marvel-knows-what doing suspended from the ceiling of a research lab filled with electronic equipment? I also observed that the vat is beaker-shaped with a lip to facilitate pouring. Now where in Marveldom are you going to pour this stuff? On the floor?! I beseech you, if you are trying to excite your readers, try to excite them in the great Marvel tradition of soundly based incidents in the lives of your characters. This instance was highly reminiscent of the Brand Echh theme of having menaces drop out of thin air (hoo, boy!).

Sam Cerkerham, Box 82
Beattyville, Kentucky 41311

Not really, Sammy! Y'see, we happen to have a perfectly plausible explanation for that vat of molten Marvel-knows-what. Osborn Laboratories have been working for months on a new plastic coating for automo-

biles which will prevent rusting or chipping of the paint. The beaker-shape is so that a great deal of the fluid can be poured over the car body, which would normally occupy the space held by Capt. Stacy and Gwen in ish #61. Okay? Now, what we can't explain is why in one panel the vat is filled with pink plastic while in the next it's empty! Just think, S.C. — if you'd pointed that out you would've qualified for a no-prize!



Dear Stan and John,

I really don't believe it! I thought you guys at Marvel were supposed to be the world's most original comic book writers. Well, I have reason to believe that statement is wrong! Years ago, long before you did, I thought of creating a superhero named Spiderman. Although the following are insignificant details, my character differed from yours in many ways. He started out as a meek little creature whom I named Harvey Parker. His Uncle Franklin had died, leaving him alone with his Aunt June. While watching a baseball game, (he disliked academic subjects) he was struck on the head by a foul ball. This, in turn, produced a serious effect on his pituitary gland, causing him to sprout six extra arms (hence the name Spiderman). Of course, he was too stupid to devise a way to shoot artificial webbing, he was too frail to sew a costume for himself, and sweated much too profusely under pressure to be able to climb sheer walls. And even though I made him up and controlled his every move, he was defeated before I introduced the villain he was supposed to fight. Believe it or not, nobody enjoyed the comic so I quit publication. But, still unable to give up, I've created four new characters. The constipated matchstick, the gargantuan orange peel, the rubber band, and the now-you-see-me-now-you-don't-girl. What do you think I should name them?

Les Harris, 8206 W. 16th Street
St. Louis Pk, Minn.

Would you believe the Flabbergasted Foursome?? Come on, Les, you can do better than that! Nobody would want to read a mag based on characters like those! What you should concentrate on is a series of fantastic adventures based on the life and loves of the typical American scientist! Suppose he gets caught in a stream of Zeta rays, and is changed into a *charreuse* pygmy named Chunk... now that's what we call a story line!

KNOW YE THESE, THE HALLOWED RANKS OF MARVELDOM:

- (REAL FRANTIC ONE) — A BUYER OF AT LEAST 3 MARVEL MAGS A MONTH.
- (QUITE 'NUFF SAYER) — A FORTUNATE FRANTIC ONE WHO'S HAD A LETTER PRINTED.
- (TITANIC TRUE BELIEVER) — A DIVINELY-INSPIRED 'NO-PRIZE' WINNER.

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(FEARLESS FRONT FAKER) — AN HONORARY TITLE, BESTOWED FOR DEVOTION TO MARVEL ABOVE AND BEYOND THE CALL OF DUTY.

Dear Bullpen,

I was reading one of the letters published in Spidey #61 in which the author stated that the thing that sets you apart from your competitors is realism. As far as your stories go, I totally agree with him. The inside artwork is very realistic also. But your covers! Bulck! They have no realism at all! As a matter of fact, I think they stink! The only thing that's keeping me a Marvelite is your superb stories. It's not the artwork itself that's so bad. The artwork is as great as usual, and getting better all the time. It's just that you're missing details. Not small unimportant details like forgetting to put the webbing under Spidey's arms, but big, very important details. Your new covers don't have anything. Just a drawing of the main characters involved in the story. Look back at some of the covers of issues 25 or 30 copies old. Now those are what I call covers. Back then you could look at a cover and almost tell what the story was going to be about! Then the covers had skies, buildings, people not really as important as main characters. Well, it was just more detailed and realistic. So please, try and see if you can start improving on those covers. I am sure it would make a lot of Marvelites happy. Herman Niewendaal, 3813 Bay Avenue Tampa, Florida 33616

Verily thou hast cut us to the quick, Herman-the-Heartless! 'Cause we thought the covers were getting better all the time, and from the mail we've been receiving we had no reason to think otherwise until your billett-doux dropped into the hopper! Ouch! You sure know how to hurt a Bullpen! We try to make the covers as dramatic and exciting as possible, and this issue's cover does have skies, buildings, and people! If you can't tell that the story's about the Vulture before you reach page one . . . well, we'll pass your complaint along to Fiendish Forbush!

Dear Stan and John,

I just picked up issue #61 of SPIDER-MAN and witnessed the brief career of a promising villain. I refer to Mr. Osborn's adorable lab assistant who was allied to the evil Kingpin. Obviously, this man was a great genius of the first quality, and I was disappointed in his untimely demise. I think you should bring this man back to life and reform him so that he may put his charm and potential to use in aiding mankind, after the example of the Lizard Man. To do otherwise would be a tragic waste. It would also be a shame to leave him with the image of being some kind of refugee from the Funny Farm since he was apparently a "scientist first!"

Laura Winkler, Institute of Living
200 Retreat St.
Hartford, Connecticut 06102

A "scientist first", maybe — but a good guy last! We have racked our reasoning powers trying to find something to substantiate your analysis of Winkler as an adorable, charming genius — but, Laurie baby, we just can't come up with anything! We just know your little old last name can't have a thing to do with it!

Dear Stan and John,

I am sick and tired of seeing letters and hearing people say that you should bring back the Spidey of old. Therefore I am writing this letter in defense of the new and much improved Spider-Man. It all started when John took over the art chores. From that point on Peter began emerging slowly but surely into the handsome and well-oriented young man that he now is. More and more I find myself eagerly awaiting the exploits of Peter Parker even more than his alter ego Spider-Man. The blending of the two personalities together has made Spider-Man the best mag you produce. In the early issues of SPIDER-MAN we saw girls liking Peter more out of pity than anything else. In recent issues, however, girls like Pete for being his lovable self. The quality of girls has also improved. Let's face it. Comparing Liz with Gwen is like comparing the Thing with Sue Richards. Well,

so much for Spidey. I would like to say I'm in favor of your producing more and more mags, although it is quite a strain on the old wallet. Since you are giving everyone else and their brother a whole mag why not let the Inhumans join the crowd. Well, since I've got that off my chest I'll just keep facing front until Aunt Petunia joins the Yancy Street Gang.

Rodney Gloffely, R.R. 1
Accident, Md. 21520

Or until her lovable nephew joins the Junior League, eh Rod? Well, don't worry — you aren't the only front-facer who digs the way Petey's been shaping up lately! And you definitely aren't the only Spideophile pulverized by the pulchritude of Gwen and M.J.! It's kind of hard to arouse too much pity for a guy with a selection like that to choose from — even when the gals give him a hard time! Oh, by the way — Aunt Petunia just sent us a picture postcard — from Yancy Street! What are ya — a witch?

Dear Stan and John,

This is my first letter to a magazine so I ask that you try to overlook my errors. I am 16 years old and have been a Marvel Comic reader for a few years now. Through these years I have read all of your mags, and I like Spider-Man the best. The artwork and lettering are very good. Better than I have seen in Brand Ech! Ich, Ouch, and Glori! Besides this, your stories are also good and your titles superb! But while you may smile at my attempts at flattery I wish to point out a few of your faults. In today's modern society adults are shouting that we teenagers are too young to know about real love, and I am inclined to agree with them in some aspects. So why do you have Peter saying on page 9, panel 2, that he loves Gwen. I agree that she is nice looking, but could it also be an infatuation? He just can't be in love. Creeps! The cat is only about 18 or 19, and from what I gather the babe is only 18! (Come now, Irving). He didn't give Betty or Mary Jane a chance. What makes me come out of my bag every issue is the way J.J.J. is always down-rating Spidey. If I were Spidey I'd go down to that newspaper office and give Jonah a pop up side his bean. The villains in your stories are excellent (Doc Ock, Kingpin, Vulture, and Electro). But they tend to fat mouth it too much. What did they do, attend a Gab-In or something? Can you please tell me what kind of language the kids speak in your book? Such terms as daddio, Petey-o, and big daddy are so square that even the cubes are hiding their corners in shame! Where I come from we don't use those terms. I would like to commend you on the use of Negroes in your mags (I am one). Keep up the good work. The idea of Spidey joining with some group appeals to me. If he were to join some group such as the F.F. he would not get along with them because to me he seems to have an attitude plus the fact that he and the Torch can't stand each other and neither can Ben. The next time Spidey meets the Kingpin (he looks like a reject from some other pen) let Spidey hit him in his fibis gastero! And so until the Male Man gets waris, I bid thee oomgawal!

Elaire Glover, 3434 So. Quincy St.
Chicago, Illinois

And namna ya tunda saa to you, kiddo! Your letter is so chock full of goodies that we don't know where to begin! Well, for starters, Petey could be merely infatuated with Gwen, but don't discount the possibility of love . . . after all, Romeo and Juliet were only teenyboppers themselves when they gained literary immortality! Also, we've gotta admit that sometimes our supposedly swingin' jargon does sound a bit dated, but you've got to realize that at the rate our liltin' lingo changes, we'd be behind the times before the issue we're now writing hit the stands! So we have to keep our vocabulary standard, and hope that all you squee-gy swingers who read SPIDER-MAN will put up with our semi-squareness! Okay? Okay!

NEXT

**ARE YOUR NERVES
STRONG ENOUGH
TO STAND A...**

JAILBREAK?

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