



the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN™

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GROUP

12¢ **65**
IND. OCT



ESCAPE! IMPOSSIBLE!

THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN!™

"THE IMPOSSIBLE ESCAPE!"

LAST ISH, WE SAW SPIDEY INJURED DURING HIS EPIC BATTLE WITH THE MURDEROUS VULTURE! NOW, WITH THE WINGED MENACE GONE, OUR WEBSPINNER LIES HELPLESS--AS THE HOSTILE CROWD PRESSES EVER CLOSER--



How
LUCKY
CAN WE
BE--?

BESTOWED UPON A FORTUNATE FANDOM BY:
STAN (THE MAN) LEE and JOHN (RING-A-DING) ROMITA
ARTISTICALLY AIDED BY JIM (MADMAN) MOONEY
WITH LETTERING BY ARTIE SIMEK

AND NOW,
IT'S
**SPIDEY
TIME**!!

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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?



"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 \$105 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 SKY'S THE LIMIT!

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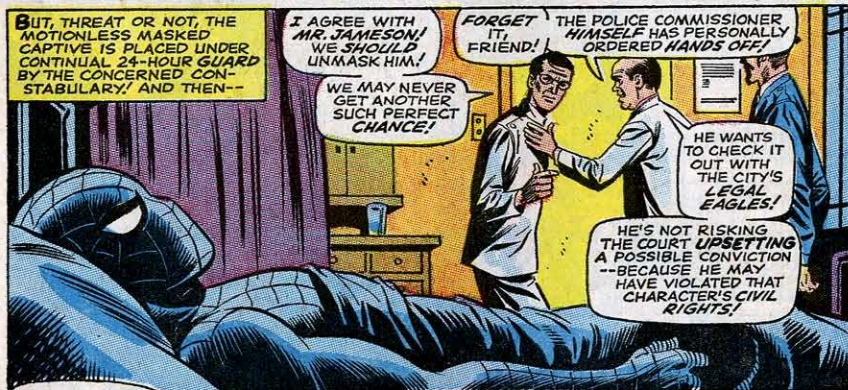
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City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Occupation _____ Employed by _____ Working Hours _____ A.M. to _____ P.M.

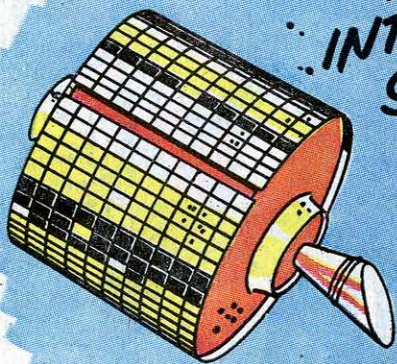
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Pete Duncan is fictional. His story is a composite from the files of I.C.S.







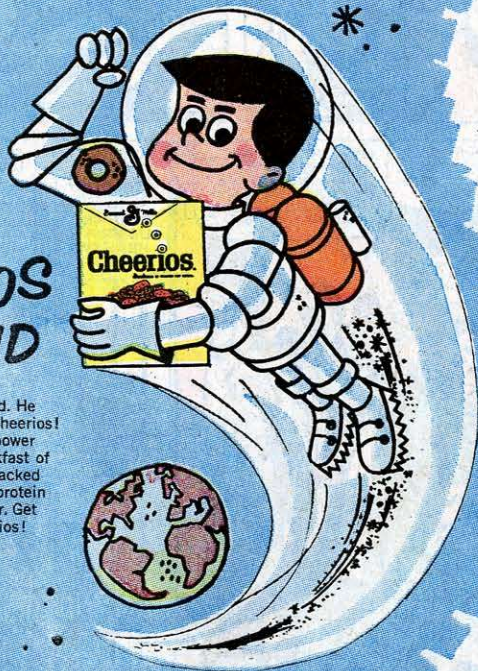


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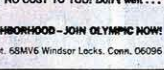
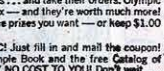
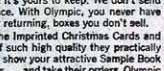
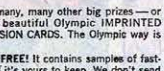
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STATE _____ ZIP _____



A HANDFUL
OF CONS--
TRYING A
BREAKOUT!

AND
THEY'VE
GOT
GEORGE
STACY
AS A
HOSTAGE!

NINE TIMES OUT OF TEN
I COULD HANDLE A CAPER
LIKE THIS WITH MY EYES
SHUT--

--BUT
NOW--??!

STOP
SQUIRMIN!
MISTER--
OR WE'LL
STOP YA
PERMANENT!



I'M RECOVERED
FROM MY FALL
NOW--BUT MY
HEAD'S STILL
GROGGY--



IF I TRY TO FREE
MR. STACY AND FOUL
IT UP--IT COULD
COST HIM HIS LIFE!

THEN THERE'S
MY SHOULDER!
--WHAT IF IT
ACTS UP
AGAIN?



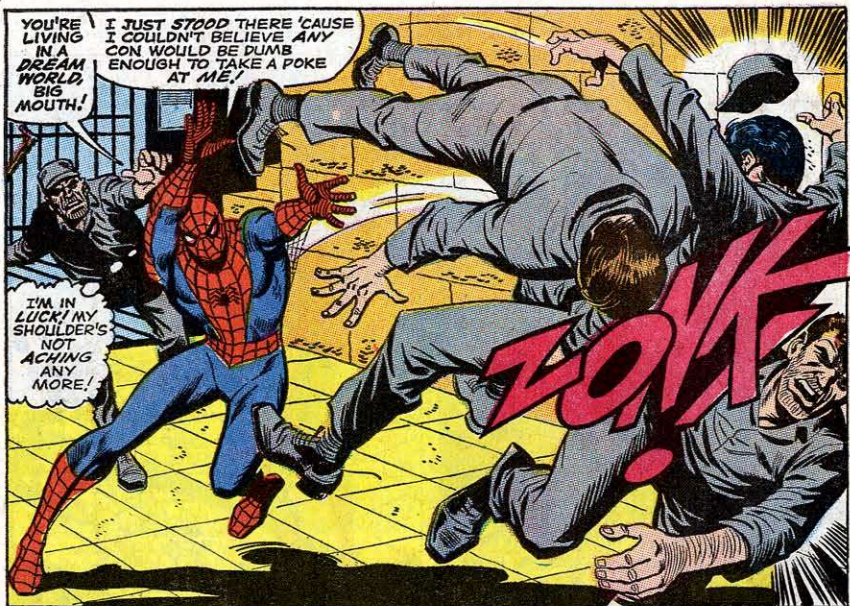
DO I DARE RISK
IT--WITH THE LIFE
OF GWEN'S DAD AT
STAKE--NOT TO
MENTION MY OWN?



WHAT'S THE MATTER
WITH ME? I'VE GOT
TO RISK IT! I HAVEN'T
ANY CHOICE!

I ONCE SWORE
NEVER TO TURN
MY BACK ON
ANYONE AGAIN--
AND I'M NOT
STARTING NOW!





CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE

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about this true-to-life
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FOR FREE
Sample Offer!**



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

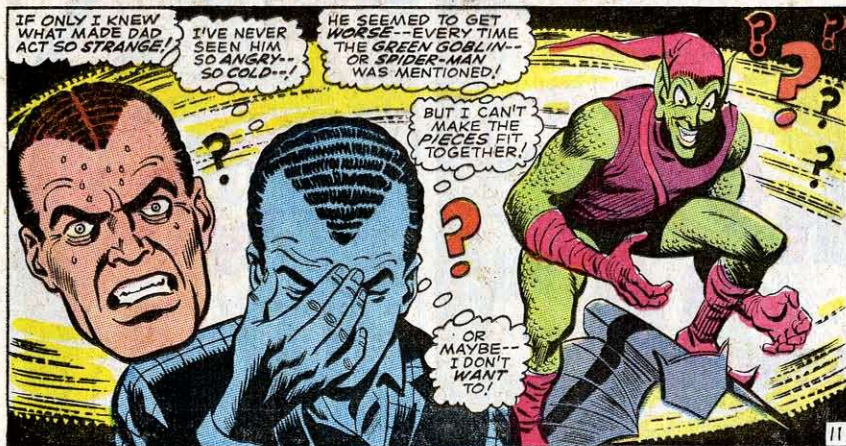
Has given me more enjoyment than I have ever had from any one thing in my entire life. It's worth its weight in gold. As I love baseball, this game gives me something enjoyable to do during the off seasons as well as during the season. —*S. C., Temple City, Calif.*

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WHAT GOOD'S THAT GONNA DO? WE CAN'T GET UP THAT HIGH!

YOU DON'T HAVE TO--!



I'LL FIND US AN ESCAPE ROUTE IN THE YARD OUTSIDE--

WHILE YOU GET PAST THE GUARDS DOWN THERE BY HOLDING STACY IN FRONT OF YOU!



I THINK I KNOW WHAT I'VE GOT TO DO--

BUT, WHETHER I CAN PULL IT OFF OR NOT IS ANOTHER MATTER!



THE ONLY WAY TO REALLY SQUASH THEIR BREAKOUT-- AND FREE CAPTAIN STACY-- IS TO PICK THEM OFF, ONE AT A TIME!

AND MY BEST CHANCE OF GETTING AWAY WITH IT IS--TO WORK IN THE DARK!

WHICH MEANS I'VE GOT TO MAKE IT TO THE MASTER FUSE BOX!



--WHILE THE CONS WASTE TIME GETTING THRU THE LOCKED INFIRMARY GATE!

OPEN UP 'N LET US OUT OR STACY GETS IT--HERE AND NOW!

WE CAN'T RISK THE CAPTAIN'S LIFE!

WE'VE GOT TO DO AS THEY SAY!

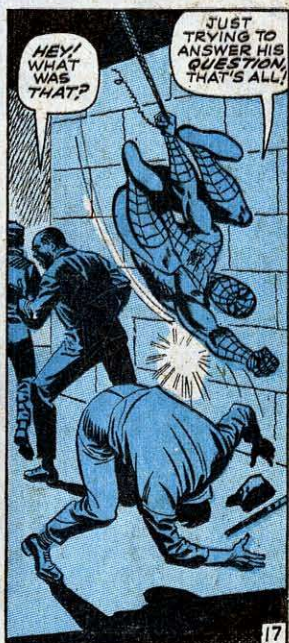
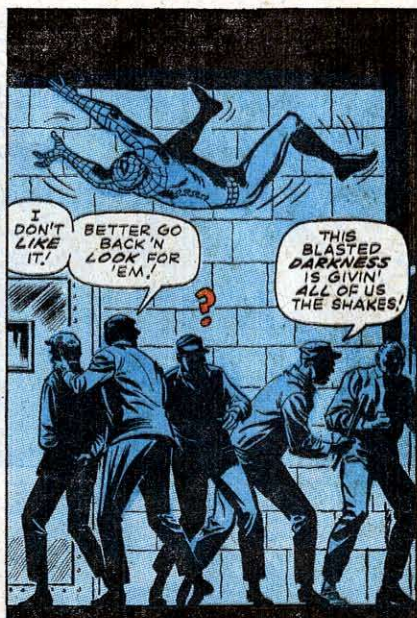
THEY'LL NEVER GET AWAY WITH IT, ANYHOW!





Name _____
Address _____
City _____ Zip _____ State _____



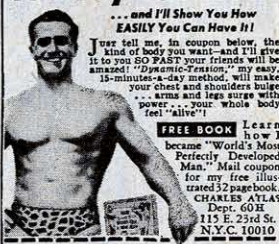




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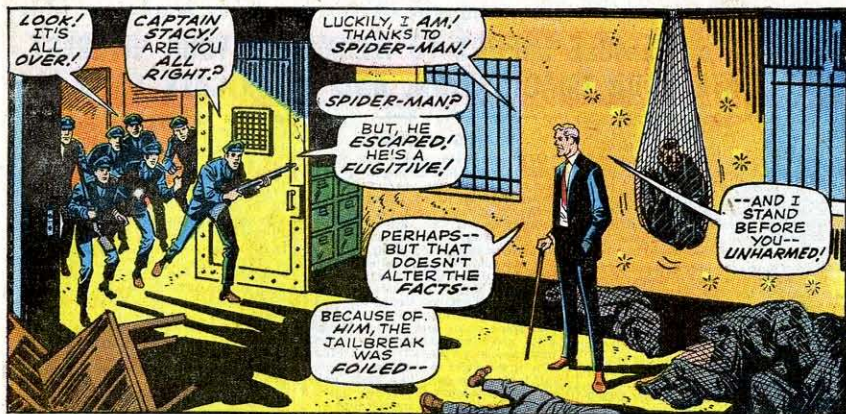
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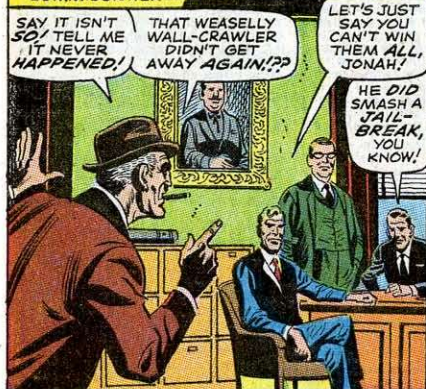
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MINUTES LATER, AT THE OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY COMMISSIONER--



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

ITEMS OF INCREDIBLE IMPORT TO ILLUMINATE YOUR INTEREST, INVIGORATE YOUR IMAGINATION, AND INTOXICATE YOUR ID!

ITEM! Hey, didja see the great plug we got in a recent issue of TV GUIDE? If not, don't despair! It went like this: "Marvel has become champ of the comic-book game — 50,000,000 books a year, with a high number of them selling to college kids." — There was lots more, but you might think we're bragging! So, we'll just end with a tinnitubulation. "Thank" to the guys 'n gals at the Guide... 'cause you know how modest we are!

ITEM! Be sure to keep your eyes peeled for the tremendous new team of Genial GENE COLAN and Tender TOM PALMER as they join forces to illustrate DR. STRANGE. If ever a penciller and inker were born for each other! They're dynamite! And the same goes for Gentle JOHNNY CRAIG whom, in a moment of sheer inspiration, we've assigned to ink the power-packed penciling of Lonesome GEORGE TUSKA on IRON MAN! And, when DR. DOOM finally stars in his own strip, wait'll you see who the artists are! Yep, the artists are always been crawling with talent, but right about now we're threatening to burst at the seams! So, just keep watching, wondrous one!

ITEM! When we got a letter like this, we can't just toss it away. So, here's where we share it with you: "Dear Stan: Any Marvel maniacs would like to write a G.I. over here can address ANY LONELY SOLDIER c/o USO, APO SAN FRANCISCO 96243. — Sincerely, Sgt. Mike Steiner RA12620949." 'Nuff said!

ITEM! In case you've been wondering, Q! SPIDEY and the ever-lovin' FANTASTIC FOUR are still causing a riot among the ratings on nationwide TV — to say nothing of SUBBY, THOR, GREEN SKIN, CAP and SHELL-HEAD! And, if the flood of toys and games produced for us by LOUIS MARX, OHIO ART, WESTERN PUBLISHING, and KENNER TOYS, just to name a few, doesn't send our younger Believers into orbit, we'll never visit Yancy Street again! — And by the way, just a reminder to check our merchandising page for those fabulous far-out plastic pillows of Thor and Spidey — and to latch onto the latest, greatest ish of Marvel's glitzy gag mag — GROOVY. = 3!

ITEM! Wanna know the name of our newest writer? He's none other than Artful ARNOLD DRAKE, the lovable king-size leprechaun who combines his own unique dramatic quality with a fabulous flair for biting satire and crafty characterization! Arnie is certain to make his mark in the hallowed halls of Marvel — if we can keep him away from those endless movies he so dearly loves to write! Welcome aboard, A. D. — it figures to be a rollickin' ride all the way!

THE MIGHTY MARVEL CHECKLIST

Marvelous Mags On Sale Right Now!

SGT. FURY SPECIAL = 4: Still on sale... if your luck's holding out! To convince you that this one'll be a war-mag classic, we need only tell that the subject is... The Battle of the Bulge! 'Nuff said!

SILVER SURFER = 2: Marvel's newest and most daringly dramatic superhero returns to thrill you again as he battles the startling occupants of a fearsome flying saucer.

FANTASTIC FOUR = 79: Suspense mounts on suspense as the mighty FF face the one foe he cannot fight — or can he? And what about the pregnant Sue Storm? Don't dare miss it!

MARVEL SUPERHEROES = 16: Just as we promised you — a full-length blockbuster of mystery and action, starring the all-new

STAN'S SOAPBOX

This month we're gonna yak about something that has nothing to do with our mags! Over the years we've received a zillion letters asking for a Bullpen's opinion about such diverse subjects as Viet Nam, civil rights, the war on poverty, and the upcoming election. We're fantasmagorically flattered that our opinion would matter to you, but here's the hang-up: there ISN'T any unanimous Bullpen opinion about anything, except possibly mother love and apple pie! Take the election, for example. Some of us are staunch Democrats, and others dyed-in-the-wool Republicans. As for Yours Truly and a few others, we prefer to judge the person, rather than the party line. That's why we seek to avoid editorializing about controversial issues — not because we haven't our opinions, but rather because we share the same diversity of opinion as Americans everywhere. But, we'd like to go on record about one vital issue — we believe that Man has a divine destiny, and an awesome responsibility — the responsibility of treating all who share this wondrous world of ours with tolerance and respect — judging each fellow human on his own merit, regardless of race, creed, or color. That we agree on, and we never rest until it becomes a fact, rather than just a cherished dream!

Excelsior,
Smiley.

Phantom Eagle! Plus, the usual mildly magnificent mish-mash of masked misanthropes!

AVENGERS = 56: He's back — at last. Cap temporarily rejoins the Avengers to journey back into time and learn the true fate of Bucky Barnes! This one's a shocker!

AVENGERS SPECIAL = 2: In answer to an onslaught of requests for more new Avengers battle to the death with the original Avengers... in a world they never made! An all-new, once-a-year wonder!

X-MEN = 47: The beginning of new lives for Cyclops and Marvel Girl — and a senses-shattering new villain called... Computo! It's a double-dose of mutant gaud as only Marvel can sock it to you!

DAREDEVIL = 44: There are many things we could tell you about this sensational ish to send you into orbit! But, the thrilling theme alone should do the trick — DD's wanted for murder!

MIGHTY THOR = 156: Ragnarok — the destruction of the entire universe — is getting closer by the second — and even the Thunder God seems powerless to halt it! This one's a classic in our own time!

CAPTAIN AMERICA = 106: An epic so different, we hardly know how to describe it! It involves a new variety of villains — a new, surprising locale, and a new type of action! Not for the timid!

INCREDIBLE HULK = 108: If you think of Green Skin is in a jam just 'cause Col. Yuri Brevlov's hot on his trail... just wait! The malevolent Mandarin explodes upon the scene! It's dynamite!

HULK SPECIAL = 1: To celebrate his first sizzlin' special, who could possibly battle our jolly juggernaut to a standstill — or worse? How about the ever-new, ever-surprising — Inhumans?

IRON MAN = 6: Talk about cataclysmic comebacks... wait'll you see the rip-roarin' return of the Crusher... and what

it does to Shell-Head! We guarantee it'll blow your mind!

SUB-MARINER = 6: Namor slugs it out with the titanic Tiger Shark for the throne of Atlantis — while Destiny waits in the wings! After this, skin-diving may never be the same!

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.

CAPTAIN MARVEL = 6: How can you stop a brain-blasting baddie who possesses all the limitless power of the sun itself? You'll never forget Mar-Vell's astonishing answer!

NICK FURY, AGENT OF SHIELD = 5: Our dauntless director of SHIELD nonchalantly worders... "What Ever Happened To Scorpio?" — only to wish he'd never found out! Steranko strikes again!

DR. STRANGE = 173: This is it! The event you thought would never take place! The dreaded Dormammu finally invades earth, and when Doc Strange tries to stop him — watch out!

SGT. FURY = 58: You won't believe your baby-blues... and neither will the Howlers, when they're confronted by Hitler's Agent of 1,000 Faces! It's blood-and-guts battle action all the way!

CAPTAIN SAVAGE = 6: Only a desperate effort by the Leatherneck Raiders can save Australia from a daring Japanese take-over plot! You dare not miss: "Mission: Destroy The Invisible Enemy!"

MARVEL COLLECTORS' ITEM CLASSICS = 17: The F.F., Iron Man, and Doc Strange — all in one incredible ish that will leave you begging for more! Further proof that Marvel had a better idea first!

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 Forbush asked for a raise!

TALES OF ASGARD = 2: It's true! Just to show that nobody can take mixed-up Marvel for granted, we're sockin' you with a giant-sized Thor-Asgard surprise Special, recreating the greatness and glory of the Thunder God's early days! Face it — it's a must!



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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, Roy, and John,

Spider-Man always has a trace of mystery, power and awe in his stories. The covers are usually dynamic; the villains, pure evil; the plots and art, great. With all of these traits invested in the mag of our wall-crawler, he's bound to be a favorite. However, after a streak of pure gold that began with SPIDEY #50, #62 was a tremendous let-down. Let's look at it step by step. The cover was par; not as great as SPIDERMAN #50, but every one can't be stupendous. The villain served only to set us up for MARVEL SUPER-HEROES starring Medusa (#15, to be exact). The plot was corny with that stupid hair spray idea. The fight was short and not very sweet. However, the art was excellent as usual. John Romita, Marie Severin, Dan Adkins, John Buscema, Jack Kirby, and my favorite Gene Colan are all great artists. Don't ever misplace them, lose them, or throw them away with this letter by mistake! Marvel isn't Marvel without them. Oh — and I can't wait for the Vulture. I also predict the Green Goblin will be back. Bring back the Scorpion, the Lizard, and Sandman. Bring back covers like #50. Bring back stories like #31-33. And tell dishonest Irv to bring back by source of above information and mag numbers, "Marvel's Greatest Achievements!" (Also known as the shortest book in the world).

Richard Swartz, R.R. #1 Box 217
Noblesville, Indiana 46060

We'll tell him, Richard — but knowing Irv, we won't ever see that massive manuscript in print! But you can rest easy that we won't throw away any of our valuable artists — and just to make sure we're putting your letter in a safe deposit box for posterity! Anyhow, we're sorry you weren't captivated by ish #62, but we content ourselves with the fact that you are one of the few who wrote non-rave reviews. And if you think the hair spray plot was corny, you oughta work on Madison Avenue for a while! The ad boys have been after Irving for three weeks to get him to do a bit for Lazy Lounger Long Johns!

Dear Stan and John,

Although I'm not an MMMS member, I just had to write to you fellas about a few things. First off, I've completely flipped over that wonder of wonders, and hero of heroes, Spider-Man! A dozen kisses to him, and to you for having the best comic around. Your stories are always an absolute groove, and the artwork very realistic. Secondly, is there some kind of male monopoly on Spidey or something? I've yet to see a letter from a gal printed. Don't say it's because no girls read Spidey, for my best friend, Laurie Spence, and I both are devoted Spiderman fans, and I'm sure there are other girls who feel the same way, too. Well, what is your answer to this one?

Pat Lintzenich, 57 Oetting Drive
St. Charles, Missouri 63301

You're looking at it, Pattie! And you aren't the first gal to have a letter on the Spidey letters page, altho we've gotta admit there haven't been too many! Anyway,

we'd like to welcome you and friend Laurie to the Ancient Society of Stalwart Supporters of Spider-Man! It is now your solemn responsibility to defend the name and honor of Spidey whenever and wherever they are questioned! So be it!

Dear Stan and John,

I have come to an interesting conclusion about Spider-Man. He is mentally ill. Follow my line of reasoning. Before Peter Parker became Spider-Man, he was a non-athletic hard-working student. Our society recognizes such a person as a clod, so this type of individual tends to be introverted. Now any person like this who still fights, even under severe stress, as Parker is shown doing in THE SPECTACULAR SPIDEY #1, is asking for it. He wants to feel sorry for himself. This is a very common thing in our society and accounts for a large percentage of doctor's visits. Parker's case is a little more extreme, however. Now picture this disturbed individual getting the powers of a spider. He still has a need for self-pity. This is why he develops every disease in the book, and still goes out to fight villains in his weakened state. This is why he develops amnesia, double vision, etc. which could easily be psychological. This is why he keeps losing girls. This is why he can lose all the time. He wants to. Now this illness on Spiderman's part strengthens the magazine, instead of weakening it. With a hang-up like that, what an interesting character you have! It'll be interesting to watch this case-history proceed. By the way, this is probably the best chance I'll ever have for a no-prize, as the first time I read each issue I am too engrossed to notice errors, so by the time I notice something wrong it's a few months too late. Till Peter Parker becomes the all-American boy, make mine MARVEL!

Dennis Smith, 1220 Paula Drive
Campbell, California 95008

Whatever you say, Denny! We're not sure what it takes to become the all-American boy, anyway — red, white and blue blood? But as for your theory on Peter Parker's mental condition, we have it on good authority that there is not a single superhero who is not at least somewhat hung-up. For that matter, there's no one alive (according to Freud) who isn't neurotic to a degree. But we certainly wouldn't classify Spider-Man as mentally ill! He never loses contact with reality, has next to no paranoid tendencies, and a minimum of phobias. And did you ever consider the possibility that he keeps fighting villains despite adversity because of his sense of justice? Is the desire to aid your fellow man so passé that it has now become a criterion for mental illness? Nay, nay — a thousand times we say these nay! We'll admit it isn't simply a case of a do-gooder doing good. There are many things that keep Spidey on the crime-fighting circuit, like a recognized sense of guilt for his uncle's death (you forgot that one!), but he wants to make up for his early disregard of duty, not get punished for it by being a loser! All things considered, til, Dennis — your no-prize is on the way! You earned it!

KNOW YE THESE, THE HALLOWED RANKS OF MARVELDOM:

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Dear Stan and John,

You guys think you're pretty good don't you? Just because you've got Spidey you guys think you're pretty great. Well, do you want to know what I think? I think you're 100% right! I just got SPIDER-MAN #62 in the mail. All I could say, was wow! What a head of hair! But Medusa's hair was never that long in the F.F. It was only as long as a regular woman's hair. How did it get as long as her whole body? Oh yeah, by the way, if you're going to bring Gobby — namely the Green Goblin — back, please do it soon.

David Perper, 5281 Woodlake Ave.
Woodland Hills, California 91364

No sooner said than done, Dave! The Green Goblin will be back battling Spidey in next month's *Spectacular!* And don't be too surprised if he turns up in the regular 12¢ mag within the next few months, too! Now, as for Mille. Medusa's multilength locks, her hair has the amazing ability to elongate itself to any desired length, depending on how the beautiful Inhuman feels like wearing it! So, you can assume that since her appearance with the FF, she's decided to let her hair down! Anytime she feels like returning to the shorter version, she can do so just as easily as she can extend a single strand in lieu of a helping hand. 'Nuff said!



Dear Men of Genius,

Wow, far out! I refer, of course, to your latest Marvel masterwork, the Gorgeously Hairy Medusa #62! Having Spidey as a guest star was a great idea; maybe you should give him his own mag, huh? In all seriousness (would'a believe ¾ serious?), I deem this the greatest issue of Spider-Man ever; it is the best. Jazzy John, though not with the skill of our beloved Forbush, has portrayed what I consider the most beautiful of all Marvel's femmes fatales. In conclusion, I must say that this was a very hairy story. (Hairy: cool, fab, gear, way out — all these adjectives carried to the mth (M for Marvel) degree.

Richard Volbrecht Jr., 792 Peru Road
Groton, New York 13073

We're glad you cleared that up for us, Rich — we didn't know whether to smile or get out the clippers! We're ecstatic that you consider the magnificent Medusa the loveliest of lovelies. John R. has such a crush on her that at this point he wouldn't put up with anything less than accolades of praise for his favorite redhead, even if she did have the gall to upstage Spidey in his own mag! Just like a woman, huh!

Dear Stan and Johnny,

You'll never know how happy I was with SPIDEY #62! I had just about condemned Spidey to the Deteriorating Heroes Haven (run by Forbush, Inc!) His personal problems were shoving good solid action out the window. Sure he fought — but every couple panels he kept thinking about Gwen and Harry and good ol' Auntie May (not too often) and so on! Well, for once you didn't have him cry all through the fight! And speaking about fights, since when does Spidey let himself get pushed around by some dame with long hair? I know he's a gentleman but really — that's going too far! Anyway, I believe I implied that this was to be a congratulatory letter . . . so congrats! Last stop . . . I have a premonition that Spidey is going to let Gwen or Harry his secret identity. Gwen's the most likely prospect, but that might lead to marriage! But in real life that's what Pete would do. After all, you don't have to get them married immediately — say in 20 years or so. Pete will probably stay 19 years old for 20 years anyway. I suggest you have Pete confide in both Gwen and Harry — the former to relieve him of all these problems, the latter for more story excitement!

Mark Squires, 1315 N. 75th Street
Philadelphia, Penn. 19151

More story excitement, Mark?? Sheesh! If things got any more exciting we'd have to start including a year's supply of tranquilizers with each subscription! And waddaya mean "in real life"? What do you think this is . . . hamfat? Boy! After we knock ourselves out tryin' to tell it like it is, you go and throw a clinker like that in the works! Peter loves Gwendolyne, and that's the only reason he hasn't let her in on one of the best-kept secrets of the century! You can bet he'd do it if he could be reasonably certain that the knowledge of his identity wouldn't endanger Gwen! In the meantime, poor Pete is trying to keep his problems down to a minimum! Who are we to mess things up?

Dear Stan,

I think Spider-Man is the best one hero in Marveldom, but how come he doesn't have a partner? You know, like Bucky and Cap, only have it Spider-Man and Spider-Boy. Have Aunt May adopt a poor, lost child and then have Peter take him for a ride on his Honda (or is it a Triumph?) and have a wreck. The blood bank would be desperately low on blood and Peter's the only one with his blood type. So Peter gives him (you'd better name him!) a blood transfusion and the boy gains spider powers! (Surprise!) Then have Harry's dad regain his memory and become the Green Goblin (horror!). Have Spider-Man helpless before the Green Goblin and have Spider-Boy come and save Spidey. Well, you can't say I didn't try. Anyway, I hope (if you try him) his powers would stay. If you did have to remove him, I hope it would be good. Tell Irving hello for me! So till Forbush-man takes over the world (shudder), so long. Asséz dit 'nuff said!

Fred Brown, 1870 Northcrest Drive
Crescent City, California 95531

Pas vraiment, Freddie! Y'see, we think that a young partner would probably mean more trouble for Spidey. The kid would have to tag along on all his dates with Gwen (if they ever get together again) and M.J.! Besides, that would make two people for Aunt May to worry about and fuss over, and we think Pete is enough of an emotional strain on her heart as it is! And if these reasons aren't enough, it seems to us ever-lovin' Bullpen that Spider-Man is, was, and always will be, basically a loner. He operates best under solitary conditions, and we're sure you wouldn't want him to lose even 1% of his effectiveness as a superhero. Right? Right!

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