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convince you that you too can easily toughen up and put yourself in this exciting, dramatic Muscle Beach setting, return it for a full refund? Fair? My "007" TWISTER is Tough—Durable— Elegant, made of chromed-steel tubing with easy to hold rubber grippers. As you take it in your hands, the very first twist of its shiny coils will make every muscle in your body
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his zo-rage BUOK—to help you Muscle Up to a bigger, better, more "cut-up" body! Contains 15 ex-citing courses with over 200 photos of the Champs in muscle building action! A \$5 value—it's yours FREE— just for ordering the "007" TWISTER! Get your copy NOW!



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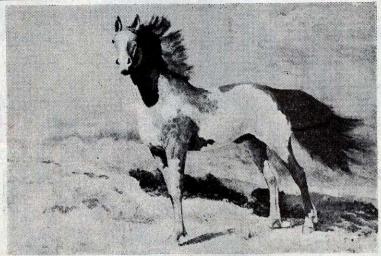
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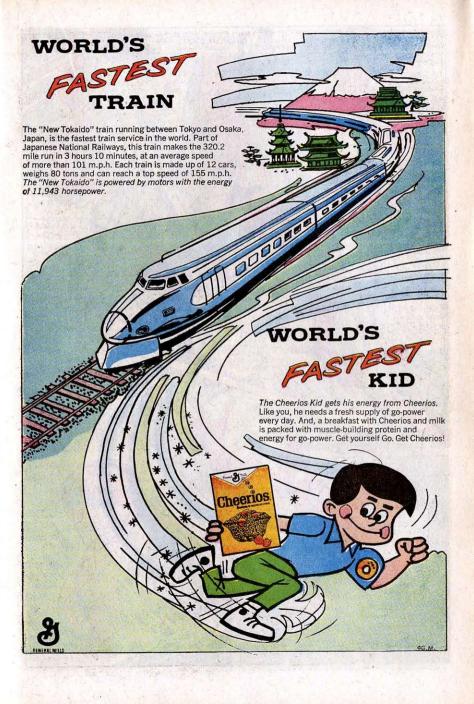








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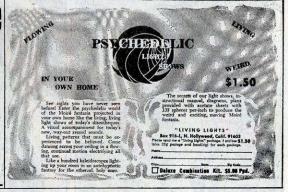
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A PLETHORA OF PRONOUNCEMENTS UP FOR GRABS

ITEM: This we've gotta tell.you! The world-famous Society for Comic Art Research and Preservation, the largest group of comic-book fans in the nation, recently completed their annual International Convention of Comic Art, at New York's famed Statler-Hilton Hotel. As the dyed-in-the-wool buffs among you know, comic-fans give annual awards similar to the movie industry's Oscars, and TV's Emmies. Well, we're still reeling from the results of this year's awards – awards in which mighty Marvel captured the top spot in just about every single major category. And now, without any further ado, we proudly present the results of one of your blushin' Bullpen's greatest triumphs—(results that are so flattering, you'd almost guess that Irving Forbush cast the only votest)

BEST MAGS:

Best Adventure Comic (Single Character): SPIDER-MAN
Best Adventure Comic (Groups): FANTASTIC FOUR

Best Western Comic: (A) GHOST RIDER, (B) RAWHIDE KID, (C) KID COLT,

Best War Comic SGT, FURY AND HIS HOWLING COMMANDOS

Best Costumed Hero Humor: NOT BRAND ECHH!
Best All-Reprint: FANTASY MASTERPIECES (Now Marvel

SUPER-HEROES)

Best Combination New and Reprint: MARVEL SUPER-HEROES

Best Regular Short Feature: (A) TALES OF ASGARD, (B) THE INHUMANS NOTE: One category in this division in which we won no award was: Best Juvenile Humor; In fact, since it was "Juvenile" humor, we're proud

to say we didn't even receive a nomination!

BEST PROFESSIONAL WORK:

Best Editor: STAN (The Man) LEE

Best Writer: Smilin' STAN, again! (The second consecutive year in which our leader has won both top professional awards!)

Best Pencil Artist: JACK (King) KIRBY

Best Inker: Joltin' JOE SINNOTT

CHARACTER POPULARITY POLL:

Best Costumed Hero: SPIDEY

Best Non-Super-Powered Character: Ol' NICK FURY,

Best Super-Powered Group: (A) FANTASTIC FOUR, (B) AVENGERS

Best Supporting Character: (A) J. JONAH JAMESON, (B) FOGGY NELSON, (C) JASPER SITWELL

Best Supporting Female: (A) MARY JANE WATSON, (B) GWEN STACY

Best Villain: (A) DR. DCOM (A runaway favorite with over 50% of the total vote!), (B) RED SKULL, (C) YELLOW CLAW

Well, that's it — probably the greatest landslide for any single company in any communications medium in all of history! So, to the countless members of the Society who voted, toiled, and gave selflessly of their time and efforts to make the Convention the success it was, our heartfelt thanks and deep appreciation. And, to our various competitors who had to content themselves with the bulk of the also-ran awards, better luck next year. Competition such as this is healthy for everybody, and will force us all to keep on our toes so that, in the long run, it is YOU, the reader, who is the real victor — and isn't that the way it should be?

THE MIGHTY MARVEL CHECKLIST Marvelous Mags On Sale Right Now!

SILVER SURFER #3: Introducing the newest, most powerful villain of all—Mephistos, the Lord of the Lower Depths!

NOT BRAND ECHH #11: Spidey-Man

Sunk-Mariner ... plus the nuttiest parody of King Kong you ever laid eyes on! A smash!

FANTASTIC FOUR #81: Here it is! The first actual change in the fabulous FF line-up! Don't miss "The Replacement!"

AVENGERS ±58: A new life for the Black Panther — while the quest for the Vision's human identity leads to deadly disaster! X-MEN ±50: This is all we've gotta tell you — jaunty Jim Steranko did the awsome art for this once-in-al-lifetime ish! DAREDEVIL #46: DD finally realizes what

the Jester's been up to! And, when our sightless swashbuckler gets mad — WOW!

MIGHTY THOR =158: One of Marvel's most daring experiments — the old and the new, skillfully intertwined! So be it!
CAPTAIN AMERICA =108: Armed with the most way-out weapons of the year, the vengeful Trapster strikes at last!

INCREDIBLE HULK #110; Guest-starring Ka-Zarl Introducing the uncanny Umbul Featuring the death of Brice Banner! It's dynamite!

IRON MAN =8: If you thought the Gladiator was dangerous before—wait If you see him close in on of Shellhead this time!

SUB-MARINER =8: It's action — action — action —as Namor battles the fighting mad Thing! With a climax that'll rock ya!

CAPTAIN MARVEL =8: From out of nowhere appears a rampaging unstoppable killer robot! Its mission — destroy Walt Lawson!

NICK FURY, AGENT OF SHIELD =7: Are the other members of SHIELD Nick Fury's greatest friends—or his sworn murderers? Wait and see!

DR. STRANGE #175: From the sunless world beneath our very feet come the mystic, merciless Sons of Satannisht Hoodhead

SGT. FURY. #56: Dum Dum gets court martialed ... and no battle-mag buff has to know more than that! It's a shocker!
CAPTAIN SAYAGE #8: To Simon Sayage's leather-tough Raiders, the mission's just a dry run - but it may end in ... death!

STAN'S SOAPBOX

Let's lay it right on the line. Bigotry and racism are among the deadliest social ills plaguing the world today. But, unlike a team of costumed supervillains, they can't be halted with a punch in the snoot, or a zap from a ray gun. The only way to destroy them is to expose them - to reveal them for the insidious evils they really are. The bigot is an unreasoning hater - one who hates blindly, fanatically, indis-criminately, If his hang-up is black men, he hates ALL black men. If a redhead once offended him, he hates ALL redheads. If some foreigner beat him to a job, he's down on ALL foreigners. He hates people he's never seen - people he's never known - with equal intensity - with equal venom. Now, we're not trying to say it's unreasonable for one human being to bug another. But, although anyone has the right to dislike another individual, it's totally irrational, patently insane to condemn an entire race - to despise an entire nation - to vilify an entire religion. Sooner or later, we must learn to judge each other on our own merits. Sooner or later, if man is ever to be worthy of his destiny, we must fill our hearts with tolerance. For then, and only then, will we be truly worthy of the concept that man was created in the image of God - a God who calls us ALL - His children,

Pax et Justitia,

MARVEL COLLECTORS' ITEM CLASSICS #18: Still the greatest Bullpen bargain of all! It's spearheaded by the FF..., so how can ya lose?

AND, STILL ON SALE - (IF YOU'RE LUCKY!)

THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #2: Now printed in full, glorious color! Starring Spidey, vs. the mysterious Green Goblin!

MARVEL TALES #17: Starring the mighty Thor, the Human Torch, and the ever-lovin' Spidey. Only 'cause we love ya!

PLUS, THESE PANDEMONIOUS, POWER-PACKED ONCE-A-YEAR SPECIALS:

FANTASTIC FOUR SPECIAL #6: Our heroes are trapped in the Negative Zone, while Reed Richards becomes — a father!

SPIDER-MAN SPECIAL #5: Peter Parker finally learns the shocking truth about the parents he has never known!

AVENGERS SPECIAL #2: The new Avengers battle to a finish with the original Avengers — in a world they never madel

HULK SPECIAL #1: All you could ask for! The strongest living creature of all finally tackles — the Inhumans!

TALES OF ASGARD #1: It just has to be the most beautiful mag of all! You'll wish you could frame each and every page!



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THE 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,

Vernon West (whose letter appears in SPIDER-MAN #64) thinks Spidey has more problems than the ordinary teenager. Not surprising, since he isn't an ordinary teenager. Mr. West also thinks that teenagers with that many problems are non-existent. I have dozens more problems than Spidey. As for taking Spidey's problems away and letting him "live as a natural teenager should", who wants to read a comic about a natural teenager? Mr. West also augrantees that you'll sell twice as many mags as you are at present. Maybe so, but I wouldn't be one of the buyers. On the subject of your covers: they're superb. I don't see what Mr. Nievwendaal has against non-realistic covers; they are much nicer than realistic ones. Proof? SPIDER-MAN #50, FF nos. 72, 74, 75, SHIELD nos. 1, 3 and so on. The only really beautiful cover I've ever found that is realistic is THOR #145.

Mike Nave, 1711 Virginia Joplin, Mo. 64801



Dear Stan and John,

In a letter printed in SPIDER-MAN #64, Herman Niew-wendaal complained that your covers were "missing details. ... Not small unimportant details like forgetting to put the webbing under Spidey's arms, but big, very important details", like f'rinstance buildings, skies, and people. You replied that the cover for issue #64 contained all three of these, with action to boot.

I hastily checked the cover to verify your statement. Yup, all there — action, sky, buildings people . . . but . . . you for-

got the webbing under Spidey's arms.

But let us not quibble. I think the stories, art and covers of SPIDER-MAN are great. Johnny Romita's Vulture-eye views of New York City are about the most breath-taking in comicdom, equalling even the super-psychedelic scrawlings of Jim Steranko, Keep up the superlative work, and remember, for best results, store your webbing in a warm, moist place. Stephen Voorhies, RFO, QNS, KOF

184 Wash. St., Wesleyan University Middletown, Connecticut



Good morning, Mr. Lee,

This man is Spider-Man, currently living in an apartment in New York City with his friend, Harry Osborn, and posing as Peter Parker, science major in college. He has a terrible inferiority complex and is feared and disliked by too many people. Your mission, should you decide to accept it, is to remove his inferiority complex and make him well-liked by remove its intertority complex and index into wei-tiked by everyone. Should you or any of your I.M. (Impossible Marvel) force be unable to complete this job, I will disavow any knowledge of your actions . . . This letter will self-destruct as soon as you tear it up. Good luck, Stan!

Michael Russo, 2 Doone Drive
Syosset, N.Y. 11791

Dear Stan and John, Let's face it, pidey is the best comic mag in the history of the world. You guys at the Bullpen should take that once-true title "World's Greatest Comic Magazine" from the FF and put it on the top of every cover of the Amazing SPIDER-MAN. After all, Spidey is the greatest comic magazine the world has. There is only one thing the matter with the mag, and that is the grease in Peter Parker's hair. Let him grow it like every other kid. Grease went out about 60 issues ago. Gord Wright, 44 Bowerbank Dr. Willowdale, Ont., Canada

KNOW YE THESE, THE HALLOWED RANKS OF MARVELDOM:

R.F.O (REAL FRANTIC ONE)-A BUYER OF AT LEAST 3 MARVEL MAGS A MONTH.

T.T.B. (TITANIC TRUE BELIEVER)—A DIVINELY-INSPIRED 'NO-PRIZE' WINNER.

O N S (QUITE 'NUFF SAYER)-A FORTUNATE FRANTIC ONE WHO'S HAD A LETTER PRINTED. K.O.F. (KEEPER OF THE FLAME)—ONE WHO RECRUITS A NEWCOMER TO MARVEL'S ROLLICKIN' RANKS.

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F.F.F. (FEARESS FRONT FACER)—AN HONORARY TITLE
BESTOWED FOR DEVOTION TO MARVEL ABOVE
AND BEYOND THE CALL OF DUTY.

Dear Stan and John,

What have you done to M. J.'s hair?!? How could you cut those luscious long locks? What are you trying to do, make half the males in the world become hermits? Since I now believe you know my views on the subject, I will decline to speak on it again. Aside from the one unspeakable fact, SPIDER-MAN #64 was very good. The art was superb, and the story excellent, but your stories are beginning to lack the realism that have made them the "Cream of Comicdom". What is Spidey's web made of anyway? From the views in panels 1 and 4 of page 17, Spidey and the Vulture were between 15 and 20 stories from the ground. Yet, when Spidey falls, a layer of webbing about one foot thick lets him down with a light SSHOOM!, and still leaves him with the strength to crunch a power pack. The only piece of realism in the whole bit was when he fainted at the end. And by the Hoary Hosts of Forbush, don't let him fall all that way just to have his mask removed. So this is a fearful RFO, TTB, and KOFer bidding thee good-bye with a hearty "bring back the Goblin!" Matt Ohmes, Box 905 Perryton, Texas 79070

Dear Stan and John.

This letter is for or about Vernon West. This guy has got to have loose strings in his head. Ist) While speaking of Spidey, V. W. says, "He's supposed to be a normal, everyday teenager . . ." Huh! Man, a genius he (V. W.) ain't! How many normal, everyday teenagers do you know that can jump 3 stories high, lift a couple of tons, and spin a web? Only one! Right! Of course-of' Pete. 2nd) "You're gonna ruin the best comic book ever sold with all those problems." Another great observation, SPIDER-MAN is almost based on those problems. That's what makes SPIDER-MAN the greatest comic sold ... The human factor!! If this part-time Marvelite wants a pinky-dinky hero that doesn't have a problem in the world, let him go full-time to Brand Echh.
3rd) "If I were Spidey, I'd . . . " He couldn't rate a used web
cartridge because of the nervous breakdown he would
have. Sheesh! 4th) "I'd rather lose and have no problems than to win and have problems up to my neck." That statement is about as much Spidey or a true Spidophile as "I need vitamins!" is the Hulk. 5th and final, thank goodness) V.W. says you would sell twice as many mags as you do now if you cut out the problems. Sure! Your sales would probably drop 75%! So leave the problems, and keep Spidey the way he is now. I guess all the above was just my way to tell you at the Bullpen the way I feel about SPIDER-MAN, the greatest comic ever sold. Everyone is entitled to his opinion, so my apologies to Vernon West. Now that all that is over with, I would like you to know that I enjoyed SPIDER-MAN #64 very much and I can hardly wait to see what happens in #65. The cover was really great. The artwork was superb, and strictly MARVELous, as usual, J. R. I was really glad to see Gwen find out that our boy didn't betray Mr. Stacy and her. Please let M. J.'s hair uncurl and grow out. It looks gross the way it is now. So be it! My gruesome, groovy letter comes to an end, and I say, "Let the sun shine on your pencils, and the moon shine on your erasers . . . I think!"

Babby Crais, RFO, KOF, QNS, 455 Croydon Ave.

Baton Rouge, La. 70806

Dear Stan and John,

Oh, ugh! I don't know what you did in Spidey #64, but stop it! The lines of the art were plain . . . sort of blurred. The art used to have a real snap to it . . . it's gone now. And as long as I'm criticizing, you must have been crazy to cut Mary Jane's hair. It looks like a clipped porcupine. What's more, the Vulture's ruff also looks ridiculous.

And by the way, what was the nonsense Spidey thought about in No. 63, "I must never trust my secret identity with anyone else." If you ask me, Pete is underestimating the average human. His identity would be safe with Horry

Osborn . . . Joe Robertson . . . Col. John Jameson . . . or George Stacey. Especially George Stacey.

Note: A sentence to remember — Doc Ock saying "It took the Nullifier to do what I alone could never do." Pity Spidey couldn't hear . . . or understand that . . . at the time.

Buster Phillips, 6850 Glen Rock Houston, Texas 77017



Dear Stan and John,

Oh what have you done to one of Marvel's mightiest heroes? I just recently read an issue of The Amazing Ailing Sickly Spider-Man. In it, he fought the villainish Vulture, As usual, our whooping cough here was handicapped by an injured something-or-other which finally got the best of him. Come on now. You're making a cream-puff out of a good super-hero. Sure, it was a good story line to have Spider-Man injured in some way or another and still be able to defeat his foe. But honestly, you're running it into the ground. Every other issue just about you've got him ailing from a cold or an injured arm, or some other ailment. One time you even gave him amnesia! Amnesia was fine, but with all these other ailments it's a wonder he's still alivel know he's supposed to be the hero with all the worries. but making him sick all the time is crazy. Aunt May just pulled through her 9,999,999th stroke and is feeling fine. That's another worry he could do without, for a little while, anyway. Please don't spoil superb artwork and a great character by an over-used story line.

Yours till Marvel falls (which will never be).

Dennis Cockrum, 8348 N. Territorial Rd. Plymouth, Michigan

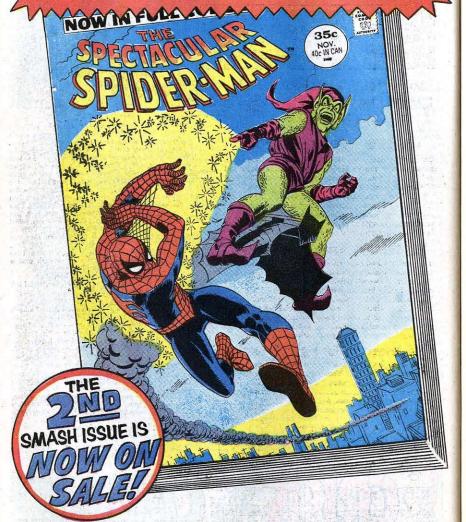
Dear Stan,

The purpose of this letter is to comment on Peter Parker's major problem: worrying. Remember how, in most of the first twelve issues of Spider-Man, the stories would always end with one panel crowded to the hilt with thought balloons listing every worry that Parker had? I never will forget the ending of issue 46 when you-know-who began to warry why he warried so much! Since the trend in Marvel comics back at the beginning was to give the character the same initials (Peter Parker, etc.), why didn't you name Spidey Wilber Wunk, so you could say"worrying W. W.?" The ulcer-ridden panels just don't fit in Spidey's mag anymore. It was a gimmick developed by you, Stan, and S-M's first artist to give us/readers a glimpse at Parker's character. But since Pete turned swinger, that gimmick is no longer needed. It just "slows down" the progression of the plot. Anyway, I'll close in the immortal words of Wicky Smellrod (in-joke for Benton comic collectors), "Woa Nellie Bozo."

> Dennis Moore, 220 3rd St. Benton, Arkansas 72015



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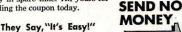
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Paul Sullivan enrolled at 14. His Famous Artists training helped him work his way through college.

Kathleen Gironda of Indiana, Pennsylvania, was an 18-year-old salesgirl in a department store. She still works for a department store, but now it's as an advertising artist and fashion illustrator. With Famous Artists training James Ryan, formerly a clerk, has become an illustrator at Hughes Aircraft—and turns out a steady stream of well-paying free-lance artwork in his soare time.

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