

SPIDER-MAN

12¢

70

IND.

MAR

the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN



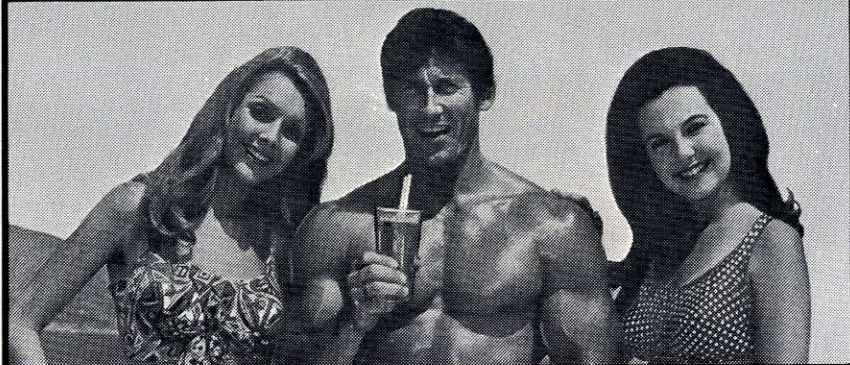
MARVEL
COMICS
GROUP

**SPIDER-MAN
WANTED!**



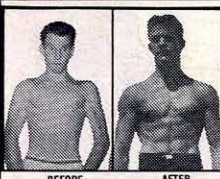
Tired of Being 'SKINNY'?

DRINK ON POUNDS OF WEIGHT FAST—THE FUN WAY!



GAINS OF UP TO A-POUND-A-DAY PROVEN BY THOUSANDS

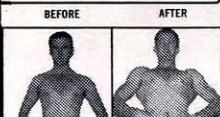
IT'S DELICIOUS! IT'S WILD! The new taste-sensation "CRASH-WEIGHT GAINING PLAN" developed by Joe Weider, "Trainer of Champions", "Architect of Beauty" helps you drink on pounds... UP TO A POUND A DAY easily and enjoyably while you rest... relax... watch TV... sleep. Men, women and children... see measurable gains instantly and say goodbye to your skinny, undesirable string-bean body... NOW!



BEFORE AFTER

HERE'S LIVING PROOF IT WORKS— FAST

Used with amazing results by tens of thousands of men, women and children for more than 7 years! Now, you too can take this guaranteed way to build up your caloric intake for fast and substantial weight gains!



BEFORE AFTER

GAINS 18 LBS. IN 14 DAYS!

The "before" photo shows how Larry Chamel looked without the added weight he needed so badly. The "after" photo shows Larry 14 days after he started the Crash-Weight Plan and gained 18 pounds. He writes: "What more could a guy ask for? All I did was add 4 glasses of Crash Weight Formula #7 to my regular meals, follow Joe Weider's Plan and I gained a tremendous 18 pounds in two weeks!"

SHOULDN'T THIS HAPPEN TO YOU?

GAINS 14 LBS. IN 14 DAYS!

James Parker of Ft. Worth, Texas writes: "It's Fantastic—I went from 158 to 172 pounds in 14 days. Gained 14 pounds in 14 days and added 2 inches to my chest. I'm more than satisfied!"

SHOULDN'T THIS HAPPEN TO YOU?

DO-IT-YOUR-SELF

GAIN-A- POUND- A-DAY KIT!



This is a 1-day supply of Crash-Weight, chock full of weight-gaining nutrients that can smash the weight-gaining barrier!

You want to gain a pound a day? Half a pound a day? Maybe you just want to add a few pounds here and there? You want it easily... enjoyably... without stuffing yourself and counting calories?

NOW YOU CAN

It's simply wild... AND IT WORKS!

You too can follow this amazing Crash-Weight Formula #7 Plan and drink on as much as a pound a day... Skinny people are undesirable... they look sickly. Say goodbye to your string-bean looks with this sensational new plan—NOW!

No more bloating yourself with rich, heavy foods to force-feed calories into your system. Drink 4 delicious glasses of natural-organic Crash-Weight Formula #7 daily in addition to your regular meals. Follow Crash Weight Plan as directed in the free booklet and you can drink on (in delicious, milk-shake tasting form) mixed with usual household food ingredients, up to 3500 calories along with your regular caloric intake. Then, take it easy... while you relax, snooze or watch TV... this calorie-packed weight-training drink and the Formula #7 Plan does all the work, piling on weight for you.

MONEY BACK GUARANTEE COUPON

JOE WEIDER Dept. 83-29K4
531-32nd Street
Union City, N.J. 07087

Dear Joe:

I want to join the WEIGHT-GAINABLES. Enclosed find \$..... for your Crash Weight Formula #7 Plan which I have checked below. I understand your Money Back Guarantee applies only if I order my Plan through this coupon!

Check one of the Plans below:

☐ 7-Day Supply of Crash Weight

☐ 14-Day Supply of Crash Weight \$ 7.50

☐ 14-Day Supply of Crash Weight \$14.98

Check flavor desired:

☐ Chocolate

☐ Vanilla

NAME..... AGE.....

ADDRESS.....

CITY..... STATE..... ZIP.....

(Please print clearly)

IT'S NEW!
IT'S HERE!

JOIN THE WEIGHT GAINABLES! DRINK ON POUNDS-FAST! SAFELY!

THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN!

THE BUGLE SPIDER-MAN WANTED!

THE WEATHER
Sunny, mild today. Fair, cloudy
midnight. Tomorrow:
Temp. range: 70-80.

**MAKES OFF WITH
PRICELESS CLAY
TABLET AS POLICE
APPREHEND HIS
PARTNER, THE
KINGPIN!**

I'VE GOT TO
GET OUT OF HERE!
I'VE GOT TO CATCH
THE WEB
SLINGER!

THE
TABLET IS
MINE! NO
ONE ELSE
CAN HAVE
IT!

NO MATTER
WHERE HE HIDES
UP... I'LL FIND
HIM... AND
DESTROY HIM!

FANTASTICALLY
FABRICATED BY:
STAN (THE MAN) LEE,
AUTHOR!
JOHN (RING-A-DING) ROMITA,
INNOVATOR!
JIM (MAD-MAN) MOONEY,
ILLUSTRATOR!
SAM (ROSY) ROSEN,
LETTERER!

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SAVE YOUR BREATH, KINGPIN! YOUR DESTROYING DAYS ARE OVER!

SOON AS WE CAN GET A **PRISON SUIT** BIG ENOUGH TO FIT YOU, YOU'LL JUST BE A **NUMBER** AROUND HERE!

ANYWAY, SPIDER-MAN'S YOUR **PARTNER**, ISN'T HE? SO WHY THE **GRIPE**?

HE RAN OFF AND LEFT ME... THAT'S THE **GRIPE**!

WAIT'LL I GET MY **HANDS** ON HIM!!

I **FORGOT!** I'VE **CONVINCED** EVERYONE THAT THE **WALL-CRAWLER** HELPED ME **STEAL** THE **TABLET!**

MUSTN'T GIVE THEM CAUSE FOR **DOUBT!**



HAH! LOOK AT 'IM... THE GREAT, BIG **KINGPIN!**

THOUGHT YA WERE A **BIG MAN**, HUH... PUTTIN' ME DOWN JUST 'CAUSE I MENTIONED YER **WIFE!** *

YOU **INSIGNIFICANT WORM!** I COULD HAVE GROUND YOU INTO THE **DUST** HAD I WANTED TO!

HEY! **SHUDDUP**, YA FOOL! IF HE EVER **ESCAPES...**!

*IT HAPPENED LAST ISH, FORGETFUL ONE!... **STAN.**



ESCAPE? OF COURSE I'LL **ESCAPE!**

AND THEN, JUST **IMAGINE** YOURSELVES... **HELPLESS** IN THE KING-PIN'S **GRIP!**

HOW COME YOU'RE NO LONGER **LAUGHING!**



HE WUZ ONLY **KIDDIN'**, KINGPIN... **HONEST!** YOU KNOW HOW SOME GUYS ARE ALWAYS SHOOTIN' OFF THEIR **MOUTHS!**

SPARE ME YOUR COWARDLY **WHIMPERING!** I HAVE **THINKING** TO DO!

I HAVE TO WORK THE **BAR** LOOSE... WITHOUT ANYONE **NOTICING!**



I'LL ACT AS THOUGH I'M **GRIPPING** THEM IN **FRUSTRATED RAGE!**

AND, ALL THE WHILE, I'LL BE **SLOWLY TWISTING...AND TURNING THEM!**

MEANWHILE,
WHAT OF OUR
WONDERFUL,
THOUGH WOE-
BEGONE WEB-
SPINNER-?



FOR ONCE
I THOUGHT EVERY-
THING HAD TURNED
OUT A-OKAY!

I HAD HELPED
CATCH THE KING-
PIN... AND SAVED
THE TABLET,
WHICH I WANTED
TO RETURN TO
THE EXHIBITION
HALL!

BUT THAT
FAT FOUL-UP
CONVINCED THE
POLICE THAT I'M
IN LEAGUE
WITH HIM...

AND,
SINCE THEY KNOW
MY POWER, THEY
HAVE ORDERS TO
SHOOT ME ON
SIGHT!

SO NOTHING'S
WORKED OUT RIGHT!
POOR RANDY, AND
THE OTHER KIDS WHO
LED THE CAMPUS
PROTEST, ENDED
UP GETTING BOOKED...

NOW, FROM THE
LOOKS OF THINGS,
I'LL NEVER HAVE A
CHANCE TO RETURN
THIS CRUMMY
TABLET!

AND EVEN THEY
WERE SUSPECTED
OF HAVING SOME
ULTRIOR
MOTIVES!

TWAMP!



BUT FROM
NOW ON, THINGS'LL
BE PLENTY
DIFFERENT!

I'M SICK'N TIRED
OF BEING A
FRIENDLY,
NEIGHBOR-
HOOD FALL
GUY!



CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE



SECRETS of Teaching Yourself MUSIC



Here's How Others Learned to Play This Fast, Easy Way!

EXCITED - DELIGHTED - "I'm so excited, thrilled and delighted with this magnificent Course that it's difficult to 'go slowly.' Instructions are easily understood. And I enjoy the fact that I can practice and study at my own time and speed."

Clara J. Napolesen
Trenton, N.J.

PLAYS FOLK MUSIC - "I have finished college, and my ability to play the guitar really paid off there, especially since folk music has become so popular. I have played both as lead guitarist and accompanist guitarist."

Dwight Bullard
Concord, Ark.

FRIENDS ARE ASTONISHED - "Ever since I signed up for the Piano Course, I have been reaping happiness. My friends are astonished and my family happy. I will never forget all the fun I've had."

Linda Kuris
Alvirville, Pa.

You can learn any instrument In your home... In spare time

TEACH yourself music? Yes, you can - and you'll be amazed how easy it is! Piano, guitar, accordion, saxophone - any popular instrument - you can teach yourself to play it *right away*. It's all possible thanks to the remarkable home-study Course offered to you now by the famous U.S. School of Music.

You Learn Quickly, Easily

This superb Course shows you how to play your favorite music *by note*. You read and play actual sheet music. There are no "gimmicks" at all. And the incredible thing is that you learn so *quickly and easily*.

The secret of this rapid success is in the Course's unique, proven method of instruction. Simple, easy-to-understand instructions tell you what to do. Then, wonderfully clear pictures show you just how to do it. These lessons are so well-developed and effective, you actually *teach yourself*! It's so easy that even children can learn. And you don't need any special talent, or previous experience, or even special knowledge of music!

From the very first lesson you start playing actual tunes from sheet music. As you progress, you'll be playing more and more advanced pieces. Before you know it, you'll be playing your favorite music as though you've known how all your life!

Convenient and Economical

You'll also be delighted to discover how *convenient and economical* this wonderful Course is. You learn at

home, in your spare time. You go as fast or as slowly as you wish. There's no expensive private teacher to pay. You get valuable sheet music at no extra cost. And you learn for just pennies a day!

Start Enjoying a New Way of Life

Just imagine yourself playing your favorite instrument, and playing it *well*. What a thrill and sense of accomplishment you'll feel as you skillfully and confidently play popular hits... classical pieces... folk and country music... dance tunes - any kind of music you like! You'll enjoy a wonderful escape from the tensions and problems of everyday life. You'll win *new friends and new popularity*. Best of all, you'll have that warm, deep-down sense of satisfaction and self-fulfillment that comes with going ahead and really doing something you've always wanted to do!

MAIL COUPON TODAY

Don't go on missing the pleasures that playing music can bring into your life. Mail the coupon below right now for our **FREE** booklet that tells you all about the Course and shows you how *fast and easy* this unique instruction really is. We'll also send you a **FREE** Piano "Notefinder." No obligation. Just mail the coupon **TODAY** to:

U.S. SCHOOL OF MUSIC, Studio A1472,
Port Washington, N.Y.
11050, Estab. 1898.
Licensed by the New York State Education Department.

Accredited Member National Home Study Council



U.S. SCHOOL OF MUSIC, Studio A1472,
Port Washington, New York 11050

Yes! I want to learn to play the instrument checked below. Please send me, **FREE**, your illustrated booklet "Now You Can Learn To Play Music in Your Own Home" - plus your free Piano "Notefinder." I am under no obligation.

Check the instrument you would like to play (check one only):

- ☐ Piano ☐ Saxophone ☐ Cornet
☐ Guitar ☐ Violin ☐ Clarinet
☐ Accordion ☐ Tenor Saxophone ☐ Ukulele
☐ Organ ☐ Mandolin ☐ Trombone
☐ Steel Guitar ☐ Trumpet

Do you have instrument? ☐ Yes ☐ No State

222

Instruments, if needed, supplied to our students at reduced rates.

Name (Please Print Clearly)

Address

City

ZIP CODE 20860 NO



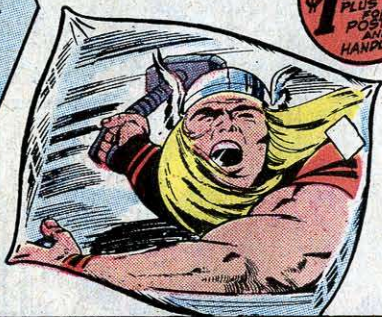




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PLUS 15¢
POSTAGE
AND
HANDLING



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CAN HOLD MORE WEIGHT THAN YOU CAN SHAKE A
FORBUSH AT! YOU CAN BANG 'EM! TOSS 'EM!
EVEN LET 'EM **HANG LOOSE** ON THE WALL!
...EITHER **SPIDER-MAN** OR **THOR**, IN FULL
COLOR YET!

I'D LIKE _____ **SPIDER-MAN PILLOWS.**
I'D LIKE _____ **THOR PILLOWS.**
TOTAL → _____

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MARVEL COMICS GROUP, DEPT. PP
625 MADISON AVE. NYC. N.Y. 10022

NAME _____
ADDRESS _____
CITY _____ STATE _____
ZIP _____

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OR MONEY ORDER ONLY.

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POSTAGE AND HANDLING. WRITE
SIZE IN COUPON BELOW:
YOUTH - MEDIUM-LARGE
ADULT - SMALL-MEDIUM-LARGE



WE'VE ONLY GOT A
LIMITED SUPPLY.
FRANTIC ONES, SO RUSH
YOUR ORDER IN NOW!

The MERRY MARVEL MARCHING SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP KIT!

ALL NEW MEMBERSHIP KIT:
AN OFFICIAL RECORDING
OF M.M.M.S. SONG...
SWINGIN' STICKERS OF
EIGHT MARVEL HEROES
...A NUTTY NEW NOTE
PAD...A MARVEL MINI-
BOOK...A MARVEL
PENCIL...AN M.M.M.S.
CERTIFICATE...YOUR OWN
MEMBERSHIP CARD...
ALL FOR ONLY \$1.00
PRESENT MEMBERS:
SEND US YOUR MEMBER-
SHIP NUMBER AND WE'LL
SEND YOU NEW KIT FOR 75¢

| T-SHIRTS | SIZE | QUANTITY |
|--------------|------|----------|
| CAPT. MARVEL | | |
| SPIDER-MAN | | |
| THE HULK | | |
| THOR | | |

TOTAL

\$

MERRY MARVEL
MARCHING SOCIETY
KIT \$



O KAY, MADMEN...HERE'S MY HARD-
EARNED CASH, WHICH I'M SENDING YOU AT:
M.M.M.S. MARVEL COMICS GROUP DEPT A.J.
625 MADISON AVE. N.Y.C. N.Y. 10022

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____

ZIP _____

PLEASE: SEND NO CASH!
CHECK OR MONEY
ORDER ONLY!

ADD 20¢ EXTRA FOR EACH CANADIAN AND EUROPEAN ORDER! ALLOW 3-4 WEEKS FOR DELIVERY!

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Now you can Finish High School at home

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WITHOUT LOSING A DAY'S PAY

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A diploma means a lot today — in prestige and in cash, and in greater job opportunities—increased job security.

Get the Full Story—FREE

Send for Academy's FREE booklet. It tells you how you can finish high school at home. Low cost, easy terms. You will also receive free a valuable Government booklet with advice for drop-outs, and a self-scoring test of your general knowledge. You may discover you are much closer to completing high school than you imagined. Mail coupon below today. Academy, 425 S. Dearborn, Chicago, Illinois 60605.

ACADEMY FOR HOME STUDY

425 S. Dearborn, Dept. 86-903, Chicago, Illinois 60605

Please rush FREE booklet on how to finish high school at home, also free Government booklet and self-scoring test. No obligation.

Name.....Age.....

Address.....Apt.....

City & State.....No.....County.....

State.....No.....

Accredited Member National Home Study Council



AND, LONG INTO THE NIGHT, AS **SLEEP** ELUDES THE TROUBLED YOUTH...

I AVEN'T EVEN HAD A CHANCE TO LOOK IN ON AUNT MAY...

TO SEE HOW SHE'S FEELING NOW!

AS FOR JOLLY JONAH, HIS PAPER IS MORE ANTI-SPIDEY THAN EVER BEFORE!

AND HOW DO I EXPLAIN MY DISAPPEARANCE TO GWEN?

...OR TO HER DAD...WHO'S SHARPER THAN ANYONE KNOWS!

AND WHAT ABOUT JOE ROBERTSON... RANDY... JOSH... AND THE OTHERS?

NOT TO MENTION THE KINGPIN... WHOM I CAN'T FORGET!

OH, BROTHER! AM I IN GREAT SHAPE!

FINALLY, AS THE FIRST, FAINT, FLICKERING FINGERS OF DAWN BEGIN TO STEAL ACROSS THE AWAKENING CITY...

THE MORE I RISK MY LIFE... THE MORE DEADLY CHANCES I TAKE...

THE LESS GOOD IT SEEMS TO DO!

WITH ALL MY STRENGTH... WITH ALL MY POWERS... WHY CAN'T I EVER MAKE THINGS RIGHT?

AND, A FEW HOURS LATER...

WELL, AT LEAST I ACCOMPLISHED ONE THING...

I STOPPED THE KINGPIN FROM COPPING THE TABLET!

BUT NOW THAT I HAVE IT--

WHAT DO I DO WITH IT?

PETER!!

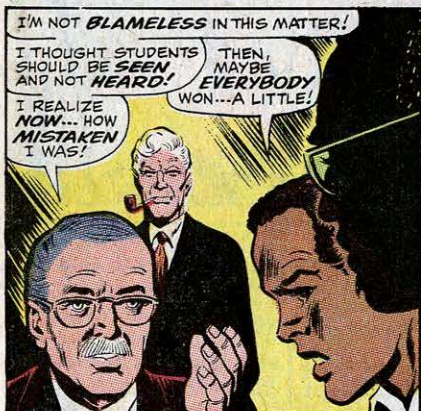
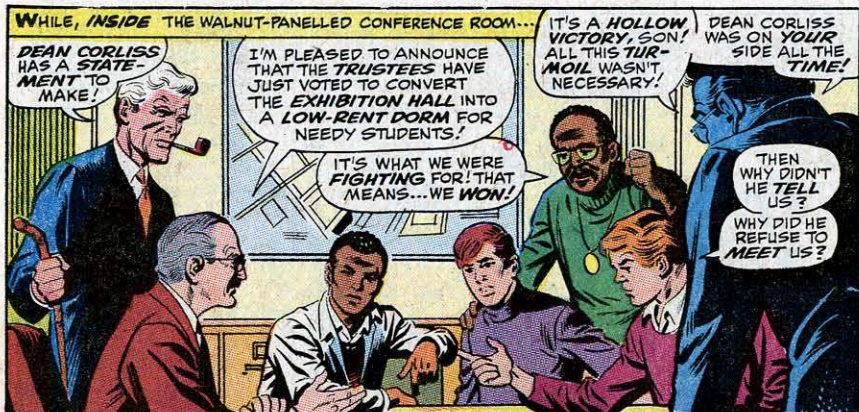
I'VE BEEN LOOKING ALL OVER FOR YOU!

SAY! DID YOU TAKE ZOMBIE PILLS THIS A.M.?

JUST A LITTLE TIRED, GWENDY! I GUESS!

TOO TIRED TO PICK UP A PHONE, MR. PARKER?





BOYS ^{12 or older} Sell GRIT ^{in your spare time} for CASH PROFITS and FREE PRIZES

Many of the more than 30,000 boys selling GRIT

MAKE \$1 to \$5 WEEKLY in a few hours

PRIZES
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5¢ PROFIT**
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a boy
12 or older

Mail This Coupon Today

Print Name and Address Below

GRIT PUBLISHING CO., Williamsport, Pa. 17701 MC2-9

Send my first bundle of papers, selling helps and prize offers.

Name

In Care of

Street and No. RFD

Post Office State

ZIP Code No.

Are You a Boy? ☐ Age Date Born Year

Print Your Last Name Plainly Here

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While they last! Get three scarce Lincoln cents—all more than 40 years old and issued before 1927. Just one set per customer. Now only 10¢.

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New, different, and perfectly legal. Thousands of these unusual memento coins have been sold at 25¢ each. But you can get yours for just 5¢. One to a customer, please.

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Littleton, N. H. 03561

I enclose \$..... for the items checked here:

- ☐ 1. 3 Real Old Lincoln Cents
- ☐ 2. "Kennedy Looks at Lincoln" Penny
- ☐ 3. Uncirculated 19th Century Silver Dollar
- ☐ 4. Coins: Questions & Answers

FREE with my order, please rush me your big Collector's Coin Catalog illustrating U.S. and foreign coins and currency, albums, supplies, etc. PLUS information packed booklet, "How to Collect Coins." Also send fine coin selections on approval returnable without obligation.

Print Name

Address

City

State Zip Code

AND, SINCE STAN AND JOHNNY ARE AS IMPATIENT AS THE KINGPIN, THE RIGHT MOMENT ISN'T VERY LONG IN COMING...

NOW!

HE DID IT! HE'S OUT!



WAIT! YOU... YOU CAN'T GO WITHOUT US!

THINK SO? JUST WATCH AND SEE!



THOOM! THUMP!

LISTEN! WHAT'S THAT NOISE IN THERE?

SOUNDS LIKE A RUNAWAY HIPPO THUNDERING DOWN THE CORRIDOR!

WE'D BETTER CHECK IT OUT!



THOOM! THUMP!

IT'S THE KING-OOF!!

I THANK YOU FOR THE LODGINGS...

BUT I NEVER OVERSTAY MY WELCOME!





NOW, NOTHING MUST STOP ME FROM RETRIEVING THAT **TABLET** FROM THE MASKED **WEB-SPINNER!**

AND ONCE I MAKE IT PAST THE NEXT GATE... **NOTHING SHALL!!**



SECONDS LATER...

NOTIFY THE **GOVERNOR!** SEND OUT AN **ALL-POINTS!**

THE KING-PIN'S ESCAPED!

MEANWHILE, WHAT OF **SPIDEY?** (WE'RE SURE GLAD YOU ASKED!)



I SHOULD HAVE **THOUGHT** OF THIS **LONG AGO!**

THE **TABLET** CAN'T DO ME ANY **GOOD** GETTING **DUSTY** IN MY **CLOSET!**

BUT, IF I CAN LEARN WHAT THE **INSCRIPTION** SAYS...



THERE'S A **FORTUNE** WAITING FOR THE MAN WHO **DECIPHERS** IT!

AND IT MIGHT AS WELL BE **ME!**

OF COURSE I'LL NEED SOME **HELP...**

SO I LOOKED UP THE BIGGEST **AUTHORITY** ON **HIEROGLYPHICS** IN TOWN!

HIS **STUDIO** IS RIGHT **BELOW** ME...!



IF I CAN JUST GET HIM TO...

WAIT!! WHAT'S **THIS?!!**

A **SPOTLIGHT!!** IT'S THE **POLICE!**



I SHOULD HAVE
GUESSED THEY'D
HAVE A STAKE-OUT
FOR ME HERE!

SURROUND
THE
BUILDING!

IF SPIDER-MAN'S
HERE...THE KING-
PIN MAY BE HOLED
UP INSIDE!

THE
KINGPIN!
HE MUST HAVE
ESCAPED
AGAIN!



WHICH MEANS
I'M IN GREATER
DANGER
THAN EVER!

THEY
PROBABLY
THINK I
HELPED
HIM
ESCAPE!



WELL, I'M THRU
WAITING FOR TROUBLE
TO COME TO ME...!

THIS
TIME I DON'T
REST TILL
I FIND THE
KINGPIN!



AND I
KNOW JUST
THE WAY
TO DO
IT!







MISSILE TANK

ONLY \$6⁹⁸

FEATURES

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OVER 6 FEET LONG

LARGE
ENOUGH
FOR TWO KIDS
INSIDE

It's Mobile—Pilot Gunner gets INSIDE—Guns Swivel—Turret Turns.

Imagine your thrill when you get inside this realistic action version of the mighty "General Sherman" Tank and charge forward to adventure. This six foot hunk of equipment is so realistic with its mighty cannon and rocket launchers, swiveling machine gun, simulated treads, and other authentic tank features that it's bound to bring shouts of delight from any young warrior. And when you and a pal get right down into the fully equipped control room and close the cockpit cover—you can bet you are using your tremendous fire power to devastate every imaginary enemy in your path. Sturdily constructed of 200 # test fibreboard for long periods of fun, it's bound to bring more thrills and adventure than you have ever known from a toy. So don't delay! Act now. Only \$6.98. Because of its gigantic size we are forced to ask for an additional 75¢ shipping charges.

10 DAY FREE TRIAL: Order this sensational "General Sherman" Tank on 10 day free trial. If you are not 100% delighted, then your purchase price will be refunded.

MONEY BACK GUARANTEE

HONOR HOUSE PRODUCTS CORP. DEPT. 77 TA 50
LYNBROOK, NEW YORK 11563

Rush me my "General Sherman" Tank. I Can use it for 10 days and if I am not delighted return it for full purchase price refund.

- ☐ Send it Prepaid. I enclose \$6.98 plus 75¢ to help cover shipping charges.
- ☐ Send it C.O.D. I enclose \$1 good-will deposit and I will pay postman \$5.98 on delivery plus C.O.D. postage.

NAME _____
ADDRESS _____
CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

20 COURSE HOME STUDY PROGRAM

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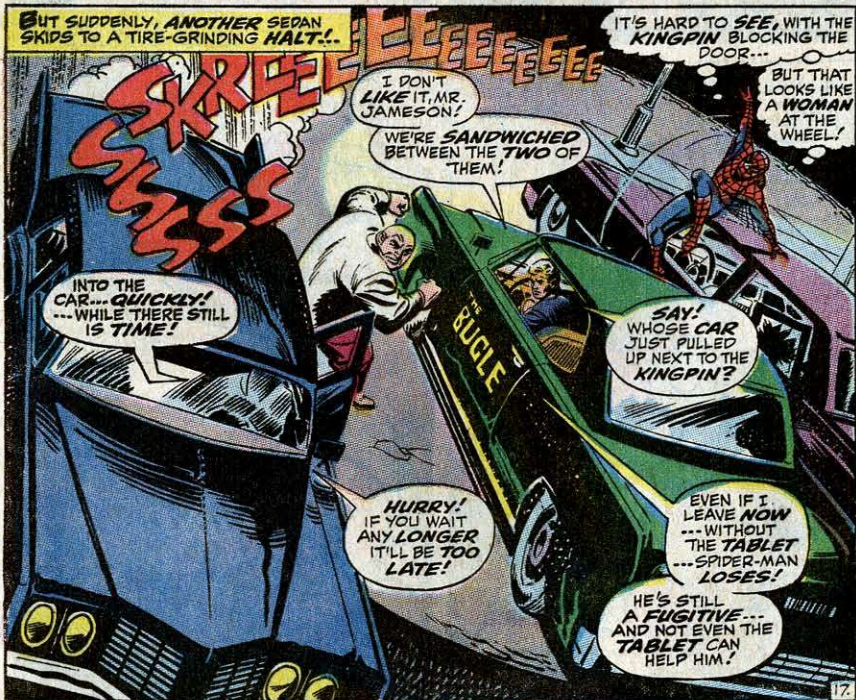
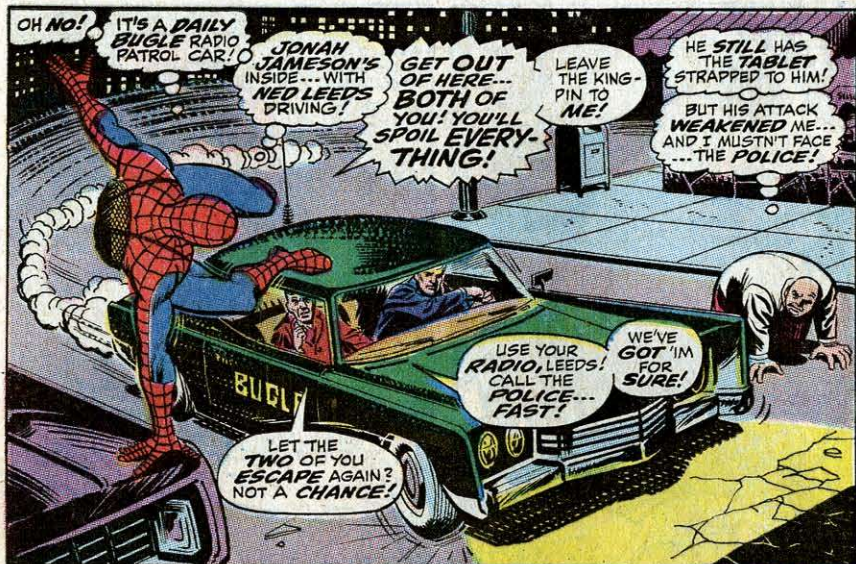
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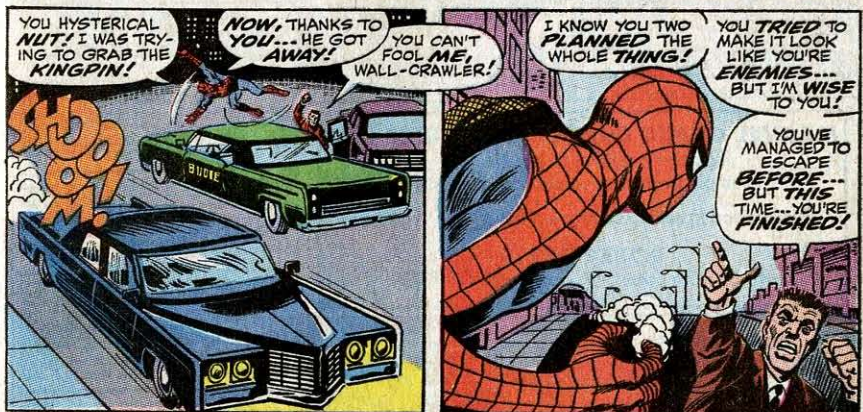
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DIDJA KNOW? The already-classic wedding of Hank and Jan (Goliath and the Wasp) in the AVENGERS last ish was written by RASCALLY ROY while on his own Caribbean honeymoon! Looks like fearless Forbush may be replaced by cuddly Cupid if we don't watch out!

DIDJA KNOW? Merry MARIE SEVERIN just has to be "Miss Versatile of 1968"! She did such a great job pinch-hitting as Sub-Mariner's penciller when Big JOHN BUSCEMA took a vacation that she ended up as ol' Wet-Head's newest illustrator, to give the big guy more time for the AVENGERS and the sensational SILVER SURFER! Marie's also one of the finest cartoon humorists on the scene today, as evinced by her sidesplitting covers and strips in NOT BRAND ECHH! And, if you could see the sizzling sketches she does of our own Bullpen Bigwigs when they're not locking—like wow! ("There, Marie Hurry isn't all that publicity liss better than the raise you keep clamoring for!"—Sinister Stan)

DIDJA KNOW? Everyone's talking about Bashful BARRY SMITH, the surprising new staffer we just imported from morrie old England! Barry's artwork is just not to be believed! This young, long-haired, titanic-talented Britisher has a style which combines the pulse-pounding power of JACK (King) KIRBY with the off-beat improvisations of Jaunty JIM STERANKO! You've gotta see it to believe it! And see it you will, in X-MEN #53 and an upcoming issue of SHIELD! Let us know which other strips you'd like him to tackle, 'cause we're anxious to see how your opinions compare with ours!

DIDJA KNOW? Darlin' DICK AYERS was getting battle fatigue from an endless diet of SGT. FURY and CAPTAIN SAVAGE, so we decided to give Old Faithful a break. We switched strips between him and Dazzlin' DONNIE HECK—which means Don will be ramroddin' Col. Savage for a spell while Dick sinks his teeth into CAPTAIN MARVEL... and we think all you frantic ones are gonna flip over the unexpected results!

DIDJA KNOW? We've sort of lost count, but in the past few months mighty Marvel has been written up in top newspapers and magazines of Canada, France, England, Italy, Mexico, and almost every other literary-minded nation in the free world. But the most frustrating part about the whole thing is—as in the case of Sweden's Göteborgs-Posten, which has been printing an fabulous series of articles about us—we don't know what half of them say—'cause we haven't the time to translate 'em! Any way, what's the diff—as long as they mention our names!

DIDJA KNOW? (Here's some fast ones for you—) Wondrous WERNER ROTH was one of Marvel's top Western and romance artists, B.X. (Before X-Men). We're still waiting to see him draw a curvy chick kissing a horse while fighting Magog!

GEORGIE (Porgie) KLEIN, our invincible inker, is one of America's top watercolor artists, as is MORRIE (not Morris) KURAMOTO, Jolly Solly's production penpal... When Lovable LINDA FITE gives Stan that mountain of mail to read each day, her laconic little comments, caustically crayoned in the margins, are usually the most hilarious part of the whole whack!... Hey! Guess who's replacing Ravishin' ROBIN GREEN as the latest Bullpen Girl Friday? None other than Joyful JAN THOMAS, the Rascally One's lovely new bride! What a way to prolong a honeymoon!... Notice how habit-forming the

STAN'S SOAPBOX

Okay, students! The subject of today's swingin' seminar will be "Where Do You Nuts Get Your Ideas?" That question is asked of Yours Truly at lectures, interviews, and bull sessions more often than any other. So, let's kick it around for Marvel-dom Assemblies. The point is, ideas are no problem. Here in the Bullpen, we can't talk to each other for five minutes without coming up with a zillion new thoughts and angles. The big hangup is getting the time to develop the ideas... to polish them, and refine them until we feel they'll have maximum impact—until we know they'll be an integral part of the ubiquitous Marvel universe! Everyone has ideas—you, I, the gang in the mail-room—even our competitors, bless 'em. What really counts is what you DO with them. We believe that almost any idea can be worthwhile, if it's presented with integrity, taste, and imagination. For, an idea is like a guitar—it doesn't mean a thing unless you know how to use it!

Excelsior,
Smiley

artwork of Happy HOWARD PURCELL can be? Since he's taken over the Watcher yarn which rounds out our spellbinding SILVER SURFER mag, we wonder how we ever got along without him! Howie still teaches art in his spare time, so poor howie has to think twice before trying to make like an editor! And, by the way, no matter how you slice it, THE SILVER SURFER is probably the biggest smash hit in comic mag publishing since the still-supreme F.F.—just as you knew it would be!

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X-MEN #53: From the Negative Zone comes... Blastar! Our mighty mutants have never been mightier—or more desperate!

DAREDEVIL #49: Is this the end of DD? Will the man without fear really drop out? And what about the mad machine created to kill him?

THOR #161: It finally happens! The Thunder God faces Galactus! The Thunder God battles Galactus! And you'll never forget the awesome outcome!

CAPTAIN AMERICA #111: Cap and Rick recapture the glory of a bygone era—but bring today's most deadly hero! A Lee Steranko triumph!

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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,

I have just finished some research on Spider-Man. I know many people have wondered how strong Spider-Man really is. In issue #32, he lifted a car—a feat which requires the strength of 32 men who could lift 250 lbs. each. In #33, he lifts a massive machine off himself (you must reckon with the fact that he was half-way on the verge of exhaustion). A few days back, I shot a spider on the wall with a nozzle (on full power) connected to our hose. Though I was less than 1 foot away, the blast just knocked the spider down. He promptly got up and began scaling the wall again. Today, setting up a can of "7-Up", I shot at it from 4 feet ('I tried 5, but the spider didn't fall) and the spider fell. The can was from 12 to 20 times heavier than the spider, so multiplying the 4 feet by the 16 (about halfway between 12 and 20) I have come to the conclusion that he is as strong as 64 men. This is not exact, but it is close. If I'm way off, please correct my error.

Scott Hamilton, 2101 Junius
San Angelo, Texas 76901

You want us to correct you if you're wrong Scotty boy? We, who've made every nutty mistake in the book, from coloring Cap red-white-and-purple to forgetting Bruce Banner's first name? Nay, lad—you must be puttin' us on! Right about now, we think the wisest thing we can do is retire quietly to the shadows, and let Spidey's other faithful followers debate the pros and cons of your cataclysmic conclusion.

Dear Stan and John,

I finished SPIDER-MAN #68 a few days ago. It just breaks me up to see old P. P. get booted all the time by the "slings and arrows of outrageous fortune". I propose a solution that would retain a tragic element in our hero's life, but shift the emphasis away from poverty, family misfortune, and lack of friendship. Aunt May should be allowed to die, and then Pete should enlist and be sent to Vietnam. His extreme money troubles would then be ended, he would be out of the clutches of Mr. Osborn/Green Goblin, and there would surely be enough somber tension arising at the battlefield for the author to allow him a full quota of human friendship in "exchange". After all, Sgt. Fury had a few human-relations problems! Perhaps Parker could meet and finally prove his worth to Flash Thompson, and I can just see the girls going into ecstasy over letters from their own private war hero. There would also be plenty of room for the Spider-Man half—fighting ordinary criminals in Saigon, Communist rings, and Far East supervillains. For example, just imagine Spidey slugging it out with the Mandarin! Frankly, since you consigned Cap to the spy-and-fantasy world of S.H.I.E.L.D., there has been a gap; comicdom has had no current war hero to rally around. The Marvelophile portion of our troops, among other readers, might get a real boot out of such a change. I understand that Vietnam is a controversial issue, and this is why you are avoiding it. This attitude is, to say the least, out of character. If Marvel had thought like this four years ago, what would have become of the revolution you guys started in the handling of race in comic books?

It should be noted that to put Spidey in action is not to engage in debate or to pass judgment upon all the intricate pros and cons of the war, but simply to entertain the readers. I believe that the editors have some serious thinking to do, and that this issue also deserves to be put to the readers.

Cole Kitchen, 10401 Riverwood Drive
Potomac, Md. 20854

In a sense it already has been, Cole. We've had letters both pro and con on this subject ever since we started setting a few special stories in Vietnam several years ago. (And that's been a while, as anybody who was around for Iron Man's origin can tell ya!) It always seemed to us that our mail was about equally divided between those who loved and those who loathed such epics, so we finally decided to use Vietnam as a locale only if a particular story truly cried out for such a locale. However, we'll be glad to reopen the subject if and when Marvelwood Assembled demands it. What say you, frantic ones—should Spidey don khaki green on occasion? Or do you think it'd clash with his webbing?

Dear Stan and John,

In answer to the letter from Stephen Voorhies (SPIDEY #67), concerning the disappearing act of the web under Spidey's arm, I quote you: "What's the matter with Spidey's now-you-see-it-now-you-don't webbing. . . . Have you ever run into a spider-web 'cause you didn't see it? Well, that's how it is with the Great Arachnid! From certain angles, or in certain light, the webbing isn't visible. THAT'S why you can sometimes even see webbing on one side of Spidey and not on the other side!" (Stan Lee, that's you, ish #57.) And while I'm talking about letters, Buster Phillips has the right idea in ish #67 about Robertson and George Stacy being mainly the ones he could trust most. It seems to me that Doc Bromwell LIKED Peter in ish #33. He even thought that he would make a good teenage idol! Spidey's real fight with Mysterio, life-sized hand-to-hand, was too short. I even have something to say about the SPIDEY ANNUAL #5. The Skull said that Spidey's web was flimsy! He must not have read Annual #1! A 1/2" strand could hold my buddy Ben a prisoner for life. Bring back hoods. . . . of the plain and simple type. Electro, the Enforcers, and Ka-Zar are good for near-future epics.

Jerry Hawkins, 23418 19th Ave.
Bothell, Wash. 98011

As a matter of fact, ol' Ka-Zar was even good for a near-past epic, it seems to us. Still, he may just pop up for a rematch one of these days, now that he's finished his adventure with the incredible, inedible Hulk! And, by the way, you hit the nail smack on the head with your explanation of why the Red Skull said Spidey's web was flimsy. He had, indeed, shamefully neglected to purchase our first awesome annual! Don't worry, though—Captain America intends to send him a copy, as soon as he can put him in prison long enough to figure out his exact mailing address!

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.

Q.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.

P.M.M. (PERMANENT MARVELITE MAXIMUS)—ANYONE POSSESSING ALL FOUR OF THE OTHER TITLES.

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

Dear Stan and John,

I am doing something I never thought I would get the ambition to do... write a letter to a comic book (the creators, rather). After several years of loyalty to another brand of comics, I finally got disgusted with the lack of humanism and swore off comics for several years. I had discovered THE FANTASTIC FOUR, but tired of what seemed to be the other extreme. Then SPIDER-MAN came into my life and I was hooked instantly. Now I must admit that I am in love with Peter Parker, and if I wasn't already engaged I would lock Gwen in a closet and take her place. One long-haired blonde looks pretty much like another. SPIDER-MAN somehow keeps getting better all the time. May I congratulate you on a magazine that is not only a pleasure to read, but a joy to look at as well. Not too long ago it seems that the clothes were out of the Dark Ages and the characters were stereotypes in identifying (and equally old-fashioned) hairdos. Now, everything is refreshingly modern, and the characters seem real. Spidey himself couldn't be improved and any change in his character would almost certainly be detrimental. However, changes in his environment, combined with continuity, are what make this magazine so fine. At first I was offended and discouraged by your habit of carrying the stories out through several issues, but now I know that this is almost vital to achieve the realistic flow of events that take place, and I eagerly run to the store every few days to see if the next issue is out yet. Like any loyal fan, I contemplate Spidey's future. Aunt May can't keep getting weaker and weaker without turning into an anemic vapor. Therefore, I suppose Aunt May will eventually disincorporate and Peter's worries will have to take a new form — hopefully Gwen. It is nice to have a super-hero who is neither an over-played boy nor a stuffy middle-ager. Since Peter is human, I hope he will have an occasional birthday in chronological order. As time passes, it seems only natural that he should marry, especially if Aunt May dies. Peter just doesn't seem like the type who could last long without someone to be close to. But please, I ask you on bended knee not to stick Spidey with a sidekick. Spidey alone against the world — that's what makes him great, and it makes him resourceful and gives him a chance to prove that he can't be kept down. I like the way the various heroes are constantly brought together. One isn't made to feel that since one is reading about Spider-Man (or Capt. America, etc.) that only he can save the world. If the villain defeats one super-hero, it is nice to know that the others are still around for him to contend with. Jan Wayenberg, 1213 S. 5th Ave. Yakima, Wash. 98902

And if the villain defeats all of them, there's still Fearless Forbush to reckon with, eh, pussycat? But anyway, don't worry about Spidey getting stuck with a sidekick. We wouldn't even consider such a thing! After all, that'd spoil the nice surprise we have for you next ish — when Peter Parker acquires a new pet spider! (Just kiddin', Jan... as if you couldn't tell!)

Dear Stan and John,

Every time my friends get a mag, good ol' Spidey then invites us over to read it. Then comes the same old question, "What is Spidey's web formula?" I don't know what to say. This was your idea — please help.

Steve Klotz, 1684 Watson Ave.
St. Paul, Minn. 55116

Sorry, Steverino, but the formula of Spidey's webbing is a state secret! (Or a county secret, anyhow!) Actually, we'd love to tell ya, but you never can be certain who'll be reading these pages. After all, just the other day, we got a subscription order from a Dr. O. C. Topus... and we're not taking any chances!

Dear Stan and John,

As a faithful merry Marvel Marcher, I have been disconsolate at the aspersions cast upon your handling of Aunt May; in particular, by those who propound that you mercilessly croak the poor dear. My disconsolation, however, has borne fruit in the following idea which I modestly offer to you for the price of two no-prizes. This idea, should you decide to use it, would evoke pity in the May-haters and fear in the May-lovers; i.e., it would take on the tragic proportions of an *Oedipus Rex* or a *Battle of the Baxler Building*. This is it guys: Just as the dear lady is about to shuffle off this mortal coil, enter Doc Ock. He seems to be all heart when he proffers one of his three coeurs (octopi, I do believe, do have three) as a transplant; but fiend that he is; he has had installed in this heart a psycho-cybernetic servo unit which affects the nervous system of the transplantee and makes her an extension of the villainous Ock's ego — in addition to giving her the usual battery of super-powers. Of course her first mission is to vanquish the woe-beset Spidey. I'll leave the rest to you guys, except that a good ending would be for Aunt May to finally kick, leaving Spidey with a fresh motive to continue his career as a crime-combater. Either that, or else have Aunt May take her place as a permanent baddie like Dr. Doom or the Red Skull — you might even have her zap Ock and hoist him with his own petard; I'm kind of tired of seeing his tentacles pop up every other ish. Well, it's about time you guys stopped reading ridiculous letters and started writing ridiculous comics. Face front! Webfully yours...

Ben Broslog, 6013 N. 12th St.
Philadelphia, Pa. 19141

There are those, Philly friend, who say we've been writing ridiculous comics for years! But, who are we to argue with a guy who wants to make Aunt May into a super-villain? Frankly, we think that's the most preposterous idea we've heard yet! But now, if you wanted us to turn her into a super-villainess...



Dear Stan and John,

I would like to point out some reasons for the success of Spider-Man when it comes to originality. First of all, he always has problems like crazy. No other hero, not even in Marvel, has so many problems as he does. Second, there are his powers. They are not so formidable as to be able to take over the world, but they are enough to mop up a gang of thugs or bend iron bars and such-like. Third, he always has a shroud of mystery around him (poetic, eh?), so that nobody knows whether to love him or hate him. Spidey is also the only misfortunate to have a public badgerer, J. Jonah Jameson. If this is not originality, what is?

Jeff Collins, 59 Elmwood Ave.
Valois, Quebec, Canada

We're not sure, Jeff. But Spidey says that if having JJJ on his back is the essence of originality, he kind'a thinks he'd prefer to be a carbon-copy hero instead! Oh well... at least people aren't ignoring him!



THE COMING OF...

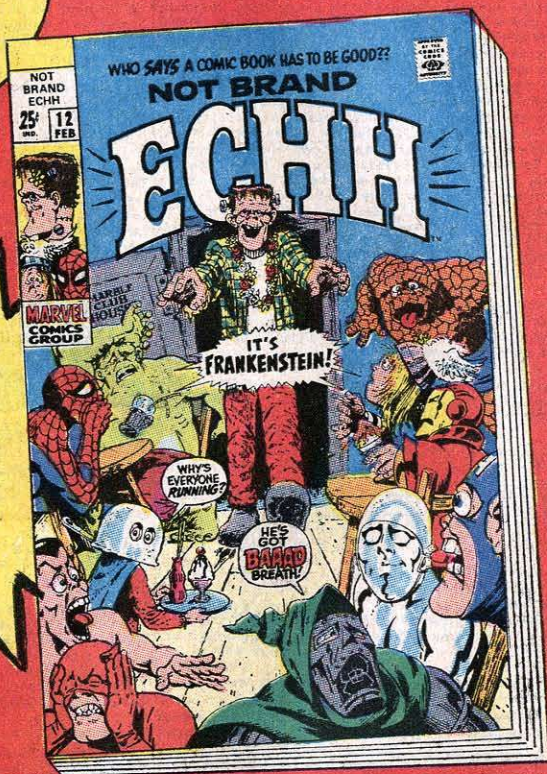
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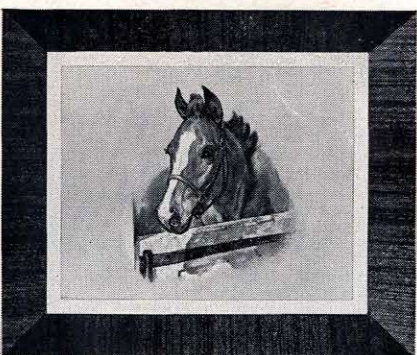
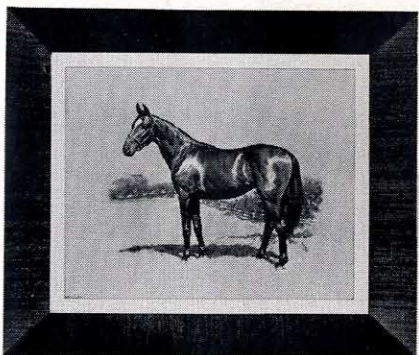
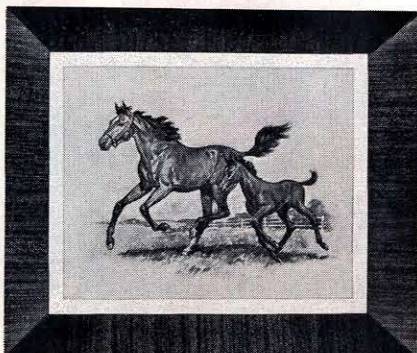
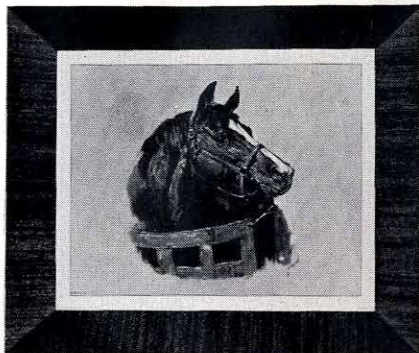
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Carl Kock was an 18-year-old apprentice in a Chicago art studio when he enrolled. Today he prepares ads for such companies as General Motors and Firestone—has won five gold medals.

Howard Sanden of Minneapolis took the Course while still in high school. He is now a successful artist—recently he and his wife traveled through Europe and the Middle East on important art assignments.

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

Kathleen Girona 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 spare time.

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