

SPIDER-MAN

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AUTHORITY

the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN

IN THE
BLAZE
OF
BATTLE!



THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN!™

IN THE BLAZE OF BATTLE!

AS WE SAW LAST ISH, JUST AS SPIDEY WAS ABOUT TO TRAP THE DEADLY LIZARD, HE WAS INTERRUPTED BY THE HUMAN TORCH, WHO UNWITTINGLY RUINED OUR HERO'S PLAN! AND NOW, LET'S GIRD FOR ACTION...

MAYBE YOU CAN STOP OL' WEBHEAD, MISTER...

BUT YOU'RE NO MATCH FOR JOHNNY STORM!

DON'T DO IT, TORCH! WAIT! YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND...

PRODUCED BY...
STAN LEE, AUTHOR... **JOHN BUSCEMA**, INNOVATOR
JIM MOONEY, ADAPTOR... **SAM ROSEN**, LETTERER

AND...
JOHN ROMITA,
CONSULTANT EMERITUS
IN RESIDENCE.

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CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE

BASEBALL FANS ARE CRAZY

about this true-to-life BASEBALL GAME

• PITCHING • HITTING • FIELDING
• RUNNING • MANAGING

Easy to play, real thrilling, exciting baseball with STRAT-O-MATIC. 400 big league players perform according to their actual abilities and your managerial decisions.

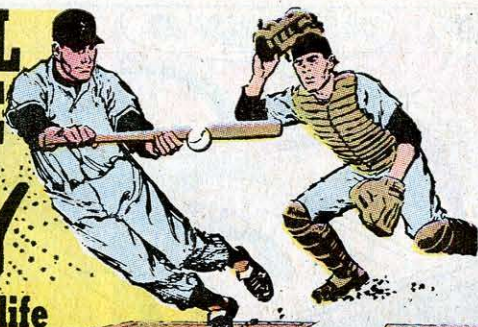
You, the manager, not only decide line-ups, insert pinch-hitters, pinch-runners, and relief pitchers, play your infield "in or deep," and make defensive changes at any time, but also call for the sacrifice, steal, hit-and-run, and squeeze play. All strategy moves are possible with STRAT-O-MATIC.

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**If you like baseball, you'll
love to play STRAT-O-MATIC**

Get the entire story. Mail coupon for a colorful FREE BROCHURE containing complete information and FREE SAMPLES today! Offer limited. Don't delay. Write today while supply lasts!



FANS RAVE

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

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

Just like real baseball. It is fun to play.

—G. V., Cincinnati, O.
As close to realism as one can get and therefore far more superior to other competing baseball games. —F. T., Manila, P.I.

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

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

—C. H., Lanett, Ala.
The best baseball game. It is realistic and yet not too difficult to play.

—P. M., Port Huron, Mich.
Thank you for creating such an exciting yet realistic game and putting a shine to what might have been a boring summer.

—N. S., Los Angeles, Calif.
Boys are waiting in line to play the game!

—A. H., Chicago, Ill.
It has given me more pleasure than any other game.

—S. E., Rossville, Ind.
The most exciting and fun game ever.

—L. S., Boston, Mass.
It is so stupendous, words can't explain.

—J. R., Brooklyn, N. Y.
Best on the market.

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

—S. C., Temple City, Calif.

STRAT-O-MATIC GAME CO., Inc., Box 541, Great Neck, N. Y. 11020

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BUT, THE THIN LEDGE UPON WHICH HE STANDS SUDDENLY CRUMBLES FROM THE FORCE OF HIS BLOW...



CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE

THE LATEST AND GREATEST GOODIES FROM MANIACAL MARVEL!

ITEM: Here's big news for all members of the good ol' Merry Marvel Marching Society... and for those of you who intend to join. Remember years ago, when we started the MMS? We promised we wouldn't just swear you in and forget about you. Then what happened? We forgot about you! Now, we didn't really... but what DID happen is... our mags became so much more popular than we ever dreamed they would, and we became so much busier than we ever expected to, that we just never had the time to do all the things we had hoped to do with our swingin' little club. But, we've managed to change all that now! And the change is so important, that we're gonna give it a paragraph all to itself... just like this —

ITEM: We had the greatest stroke of luck the other day. We met a fanatical Marvelite who also happens to be a most talented California executive. He's so impressed with our mags, and our club membership roster, that he made us a fantastic offer, which we've just accepted. From now on, the MMS will be incorporated into a fabulous parent organization named MARVELMANIA INTERNATIONAL! Because of this great new development, there'll be an entire new company, independent of your Bullpen, working around the clock to make your club exactly what you want it to be. So watch for the exciting announcements about Marvelmania International in our mags, and remember... you won't be watching alone. We're as anxious to see what's coming next as you are!

ITEM: Guess who's just returned to the fold? None other than ol' GIL (Sugar) KANE, who's teamed up with Rascally ROY and Dapper DAN ADKINS on the greatest CAPTAIN MARVEL epic of all time! (Well, since yesterday, anyway). You'll be thrilled to a brand-new Mar-Vell starting this month, and you'll have only yourself to blame if you miss it. Not only is Gil's artistry a joy to behold, but it just happens to feature CAPTAIN AMERICA, RICK JONES, and more surprises than you can count. We kid thee not!

ITEM: Speaking of awesome artistry, let's welcome Slamm'n SAMMY GRAINGER to the hallowed halls of Marvel. You've already applauded his inimitable inking on various X-MEN and SHIELD strips, but starting now, he's lending his talents to the power-packed penciling of Our Pal SAL BUSCEMA to carry the mighty AVENGERS to even greater pinnacles of glory! And if you wonder how we'll manage it, what with Sal living in Virginia and the Slammer nestled 'way down in North Carolina, we can only say — it won't be easy! (Don't be surprised if you hear 'em shout "Avengers Assemble, y'all!" from now on!)

ITEM: Hey, did we tell you about Adorable ARTIE SIMEK? Or, perhaps you've already caught him on the nighttime Alan Burke show, where (cross our heart) he played the harmonica and spoons! Sly ol' STAN can't wait to ask him how the heck he manages to tune his spoon!

ITEM: Suddenly, the fabulous FANTASTIC FOUR have become the talk of Marveldom! First, everyone flipped over the way we playfully parodied the theme of TV's "The Prisoner" some months back — and now, the FF's adventures on the planet of the Skrulls — with overtones of every vin-

STAN'S SOAPBOX

This is it, gang! An announcement so momentous that it's taken us months to get up the nerve to make it! Starting as soon as possible, we're abandoning our policy of continued stories! Yep, that means we'll try to make every Marvel masterwork complete in each issue! Our mail has been running 50-50 for and against, and since we personally preferred the continued yarns, we kept them going. But, we finally decided that the other 50% of Marveldom should have equal rights, and it's always exciting to make a change. It's gonna make our job much tougher — we'll have to shorten our plots — perhaps tone down our sub-plots, and tighten our pacing. But it's the least we can do for our rollickin' readers, and it'll be fun to see how it works out. A few current tales may take another ish or two to wrap up, and occasionally we may HAVE to present a two-parter — but, by and large, we've given up our continued stories till further notice! Now for the love of Odin, write as soon as you can and tell us how you feel about it. If we're making another bonehead mistake, next month's column may be written by Irving Forbush!

Excelsior!

Smiley

tage gangster movie you've ever seen—are knocking fandom out of its collective tree! Take a bow, LEE and KIRBY — we don't know how you do it — 'specially considering the fact that your Galactus episode in the current THOR is probably the absolute high point in imaginative illustrated fantasy!

THE MIGHTY MARVEL CHECKLIST
Marvelous Mags On Sale Right Now!

CHAMBER OF DARKNESS #1: Hang on! These are the strangest, scariest, spookiest stories yet!

SILVER SURFER #8: The Surfer actually battles a ghost! Guest-starring Mephisto!

FANTASTIC FOUR #91: See the mighty Thing, enslaved on the planet of the Skrulls!

SPIDER-MAN #77: Spidey and the Human Torch in action together — plus the Lizard!

AVENGERS #68: Our awesome assemblers take on Ultron-6 — while the whole world gasps!

AVENGERS KING-SIZE SPECIAL #3: The immortal saga in which Cap joined the team — plus more, more, MORE!

THOR #168: The mighty Thunder God and gigantic Galactus — face to face at last!

CAPTAIN AMERICA #118: The Falcon fights his first battle — side by side with Cap!

X-MEN #60: The name of our macabre villain is Lykos — and boy, has he got a secret!

DAREDEVIL #56: A masterpiece of mood and mystery, as DD masters the creature called — Death's-Head!

HULK #120: The green-skinned giant takes on the U.S. army — with Maximus at his back!

HULK KING-SIZE SPECIAL #2: Hulk's origin retold! Plus, his first encounter with — the Leader!

IRON MAN #18: It's new vs. old — as Shellhead fights to the death with — himself!

SUB-MARINER #18: Namor and Triton — together again — against the sinister Stalker from space!

CAPTAIN MARVEL #17: Guest-starring Captain America! The most shocking saga of all!

SGT. FURY #70: Blazing into action with the Howlers — here come the Missouri Marauders!

CAPT. SAVAGE #16: "War is Hell... on Ice!" The Raiders—as you've never seen them before!

MARVEL'S GREATEST COMICS #23 (Formerly Collector's Item Classics): The F.F. — Doc Strange — and Iron Man! 'Nuff said!

RAWHIDE KID #72: The Kid fights alone — against the blazing six-guns of Mystery Valley!

MILLIE THE MODEL #175: CHILI #6: and **MAD ABOUT MILLIE #3:** Gals, gags, and goofy goings-on!

OUR LOVE STORY #1: There won't be a dry eye in town! If you're a lover, baby — here's where it's at!

AND, STILL ON SALE—

TOWER OF SHADOWS #1: Maddening mystery by Lee, Steranko, Buscema, Craig! Lik wow!

DR. STRANGE #182: The master of magic faces Nightmare — Eternity — and Juggernaut!

SHIELD #14: Nick Fury must face the combined might of Hydra and Shado! But how?

MARVEL SUPER-HEROES #22: A complete Lee-Kirby X-Men, plus a full-length Daredevil!

MARVEL TALES #22: Spider-Man vs. the Green Goblin! Not to mention Thor — and the Torch!

MY LOVE #1: For everyone who loves to look at groovy chicks — and who doesn't?

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THE HOUSE
OF IDEAS, AS
MIGHTY
MARVEL
MOVES
AHEAD!**



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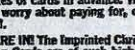
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ADDRESS _____

CITY _____

STATE _____ ZIP _____

AT THAT MOMENT, IN A MIDTOWN HOTEL ROOM...

...WE INTERRUPT THIS BROADCAST TO ANNOUNCE THAT SPIDER-MAN AND THE LIZARD HAVE BEEN OBSERVED BATTLING AMONG THE ROOFTOPS NORTH OF THE GRAMERCY PARK AREA

IT'S JUST BEEN REPORTED THAT THE HUMAN TORCH HAS ALSO JOINED THE ATTACK UPON THE LIZARD...

OH NO! NOW SPIDER-MAN WON'T BE ABLE TO SAVE YOUR FATHER... EVEN IF HE TRIES!

GOSH, MOM... WHY WOULD THE TORCH WANT TO HURT DAD?

DON'T YOU SEE, DEAR... HE DOESN'T KNOW!

NOBODY... EXCEPT SPIDER-MAN AND OURSELVES... KNOWS THAT THE LIZARD IS REALLY DR. CURT CONNORS!



HE MAY TRY TO KILL... MY OWN FATHER! THEN... THE TORCH MAY TRY TO KILL HIM!

HE'S LEAVING... RUNNING AWAY TO HIDE HIS TEARS!

--EXCEPT PRAY THAT SPIDER-MAN WON'T FAIL US!

IT'S JUST AS WELL! THERE'S NOTHING HE CAN DO... NOTHING ANYONE CAN DO...



I CAN'T STAY UP THERE... IN THE ROOM WITH MOM... WHILE DAD MAY NEED ME!

MAYBE... IF I FIND HIM... THERE'LL BE SOMETHING I CAN DO!

I DON'T CARE IF HE IS THE LIZARD... I DON'T CARE ABOUT ANYTHING... EXCEPT... HE'S MY FATHER! HE'S MY FATHER!



BUT, EVEN AS THE ANGUISHED YOUTH DESPERATELY RACES THRU THE STREETS...

HOW ABOUT THAT?

AFTER THE WEB-SLINGER BREAKS HIS FALL...

...THE LIZARD KEEPS BELTING HIM... WHILE HE CAN'T FIGHT BACK!

MAYBE SPIDER-MAN'S TOO CHICKEN TO GIVE YOU WHAT YOU'RE ASKING FOR...

...BUT ME, I'M GONNA...

UNNNH!!

FOOL! HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN THE LIZARD'S GREAT AGILITY?



I'VE SEEN MY SHARE OF COLD-HEARTED KILLERS...

...BUT YOU TOP 'EM ALL, SNAKE EYES!





HE BROKE HIS FALL...CATCHING ONTO THAT LEDGE AGAIN!

BUT WHAT DO I DO NOW?

IF HE ISN'T STOPPED...EITHER THE TORCH OR I...OR SOMEONE WILL BE KILLED!



AND YET...WITH HIS UNCANNY SUPER-STRENGTH...HOW DO I STOP HIM...WITHOUT HARMING DR. CONNORS?

THINK...
THINK...
BEFORE YOUR TIME RUNS OUT!



THE TORCH IS AFTER ME AGAIN!

BUT I CAN BEAT HIM TO THE WATERFRONT!

ONCE I REACH THE RIVER...THE BATTLE WILL BE MINE!

WATER IS A LIZARD'S NATURAL ELEMENT!

SPASH



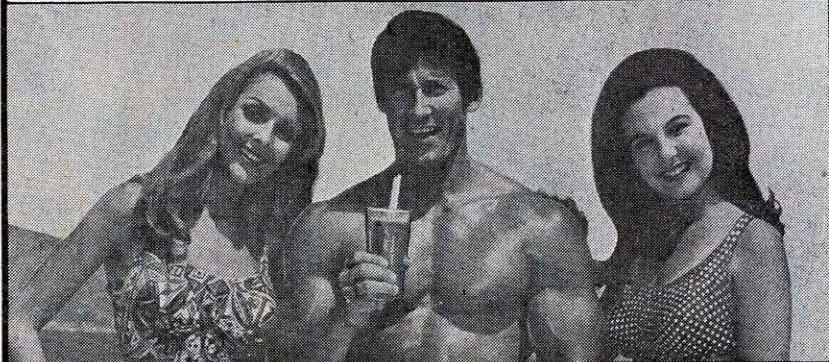
SECONDS LATER...

I MADE IT...NOBODY WILL EVER STOP THE LIZARD NOW!

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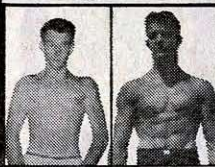
Tired of Being 'SKINNY'?

DRINK ON POUNDS OF WEIGHT FAST—THE FUN WAY!



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

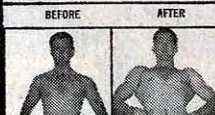
IT'S DELICIOUS! IT'S WILD! The new taste-sensation "CRASH-WEIGHT GAINING PLAN" developed by Joe Weider, "Trainer of Champions", "Architect of Beauty" helps you drink on pounds...UP TO A POUND A DAY easily and enjoyably while you rest...relax...watch TV...sleep. Men, women and children...see measurable 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 Chamiel 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...they look sickly. Say goodbye to your string-bean looks with this sensational new plan—NOW! No more blasting 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

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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 #7 Plan \$ 7.50

☐ 14-Day Supply of Crash Weight #7 Plan \$14.98

Check flavor desired: ☐ Chocolate

☐ Vanilla

NAME _____ AGE _____

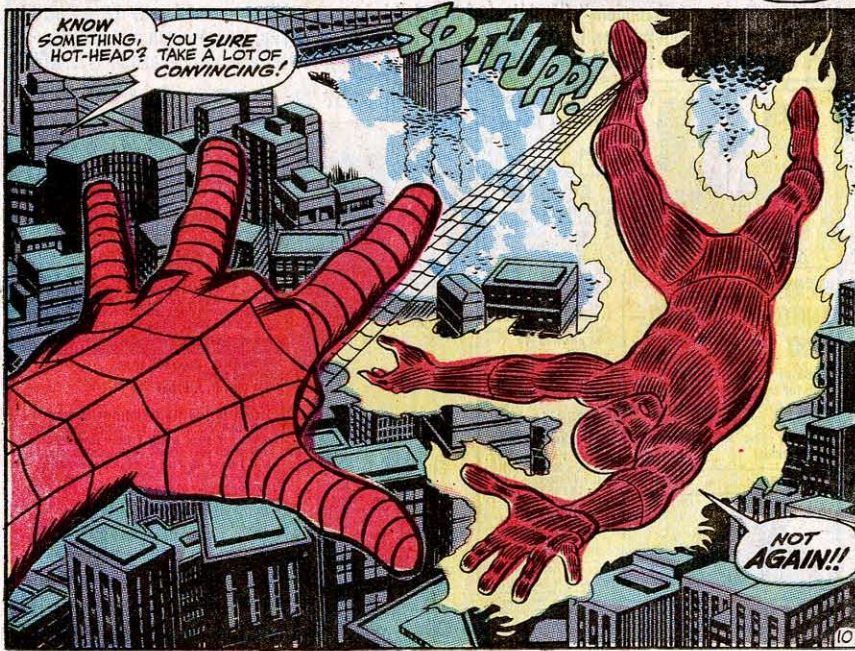
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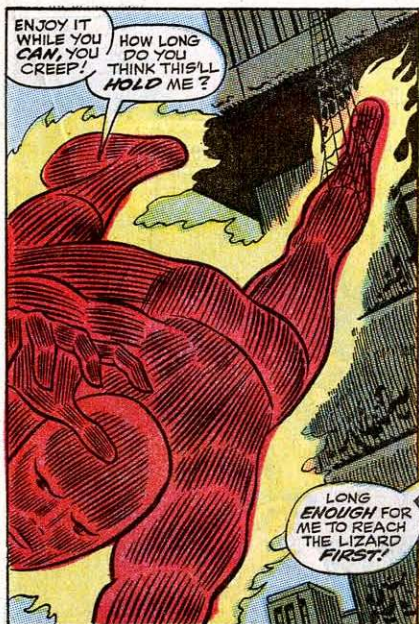
CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

(Please print clearly)

IT'S NEW!
IT'S HERE!

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







WOW! LOOKS
LIKE I GOT
HERE JUST IN
TIME!

SO THAT'S THE GUY THAT
SPIDER-MAN WANTS TO GO
EASY ON, HUH?

DROP
THAT MAST,
LIZARD! FUN-
TIME'S OVER
FOR TODAY!



HEY! I
DIDN'T MEAN
DROP IT ON
ME!

CAN'T TAKE
ANY MORE
CHANCES
WITH HIM! HE'S
DEADLIER THAN
I THOUGHT!



... AND FASTER,
TOO!

NEVER SAW ANYONE
DODGE MY FIREBALL
ATTACK WITH SUCH
AN EFFORTLESS
LEAP!

UH OH!
I CAN GUESS
WHAT HE'S
UP TO...

HE'S
HEADING
FOR THE
WATER!



LUCKILY, THE TORCH
HELD OFF HIS HEAT
BLASTS WHEN HE
SAW ME HIT THE
WATER!

NOW TO
FIND THE...
UNNNHH!

HE WAS
PLAYING
POSSUM!
THE HEAT
DIDN'T
AFFECT
HIM!

HERE...IN
THE WATER...
THE ADVANTAGE...
IS HIS!

BUT...
I STILL HAVE
MY **BRAIN!** I
CAN STILL...**OUT-
THINK** HIM!

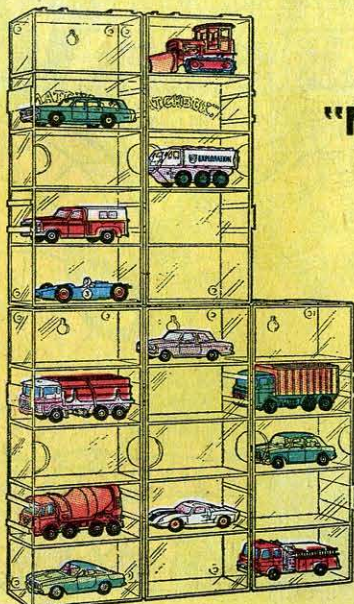
THE **COLLAR** HE
WEARS...IF I CAN
JUST **GRAB** IT...

THERE! NOW...BY PUTTING
ENOUGH **LEVERAGE**...INTO
MY **GRIP**...AND **TWISTING**...

...I CAN CUT OFF
ENOUGH OF HIS AIR
SUPPLY TO **WEAKEN**
HIM...TO HAUL HIM
TO THE **SURFACE!**

BUT...
WHEN I
GET THERE
...WHAT
ABOUT THE
TORCH?





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HE HAS MY DAD!

BUT...WHAT
HAPPENED?
WHY IS HE...SO
STILL?



NO TIME TO
FIDDLE WITH
DOOR LOCKS
NOW!

EVEN IF THIS THREE-INCH THICK
STEEL GIVES ME A SKINNED
KNUCKLE-- IT'LL BE WORTH IT!



NOW!
A PLACE
LIKE THIS
JUST HAS
TO HAVE WHAT
I'M LOOKING
FOR!

THE ONLY
PROBLEM
IS... WHERE
DO I FIND
IT?

SECONDS LATER...

OVER THERE!
THOSE DRUMS OF
CHEMICALS!
THAT'S IT!

THOUGHT
I HEARD FOOT-
STEPS... BACK
ALONG THE
CORRIDOR!

BUT
THEY DIDN'T
SOUND LIKE THE
LIZARD...

SO I'LL
WORRY
ABOUT
THEM
LATER!



HOWEVER, OUR WEARY WEB-SPINNER MIGHT BE MORE INCLINED TO WORRY NOW... IF HE KNEW WHO THE FOOTSTEPS BELONGED TO...



MAYBE THEY BOTH NEED SOME HELP!

I...I THOUGHT I HEARD SOMETHING ...UP ABOVE ME!

MAYBE THERE'S SOMETHING I CAN DO!



SO! HE THOUGHT HIS PUNY WEBBING COULD HOLD THE LIZARD!



YOU...MUST BE... A FRIEND OF HIS!!





CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE

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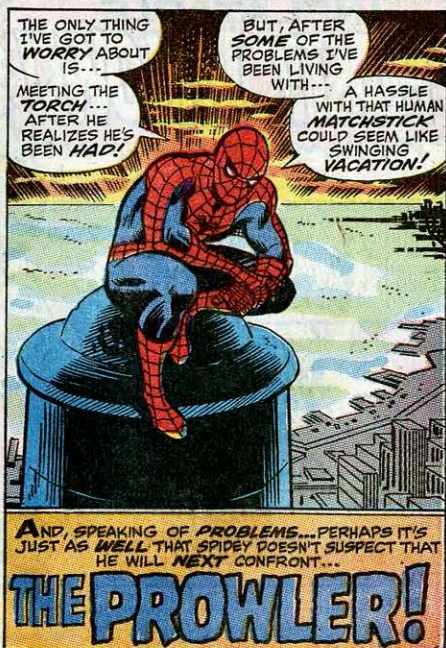
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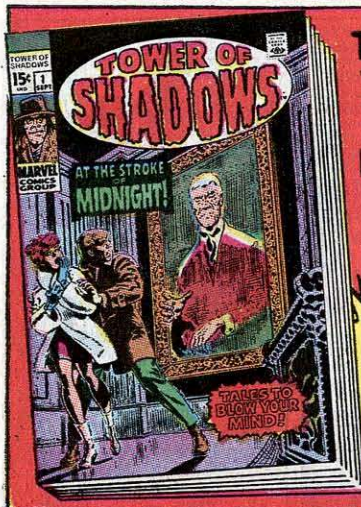
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THE SPIDER'S WEB

SEND YOUR LETTERS TO:

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

Dear Stan and John,

SPIDER-MAN is consistently a source of comfort to the comic fanatic. Most comic enthusiasts maintain that the comic strip is as much an art form as its competitors: literature, cinema, painting, etc. Stan Lee has echoed that comment in his monthly soap-box. And, SPIDER-MAN consistently is a pertinent social comment, reflecting style and dress of our current fashions, presenting the tone of language in the youth of today. SPIDER-MAN contains the elements of all superior literature. A strong supporting cast creates believability about the central characters. This is one area in which most strips fail. Yet, SPIDER-MAN has all the complex attitudes of a huge metropolis. Scenes shift from newsrooms to police stations or college campuses. Social mores and current conflicts can be examined or commented upon. The popularity of SPIDER-MAN does not merely rest upon his battles with foes as the Shocker.

The acceptance of this strip is that it shows just where it's at. A supporter of the comic strip can present this comic in almost any issue and say that the field of illustration can, indeed, be an art form. He can produce evidence easily. Turn to any page. Witness the continuing characters struggling through their lives in the turmoil of a large city. People reappear as if out of the past. Flash Thompson returns on furlough. This is a maturer version of what youth, wizened in the ways of the world, experienced in despair. The relationship, the family relationship, of Gwen and her father becomes more intricately described with each succeeding issue. New people invade the surroundings of Peter Parker as others seem to fade slowly out. Yet, Peter Parker walks on through the rain, subtly changing, catching colds, seeking for social acceptance and meaning to his life. And this is the magic which makes SPIDER-MAN come to life.

Donald F. McGregor, 43 Wildwood Ave.
Providence, R. I. 02907

Thanks, Don. There isn't much we can add to such plaudits except to murmur our customary "Nuff said!" and walk on thru the rain ourselves! Excelsior!

Dear Stan, and John,

Well, SPIDER-MAN #72 was another sensation! The cover, as usual, was stupendous, and John again drew a great ish. The return of the Shocker was excellent, but you certainly should have kept him around for another issue because we probably won't be seeing him again for two years or so. I also felt that the battle between Spidey and the Shocker could have been a lot better, and even though it was good, it wasn't nearly as great as was when they first confronted each other way back in issue #46. Gwen was really drawn with authority, and I was surprised to see that stupid Flash Thompson. I never did like that guy!

Stan's story was superb (aren't they all?) and speaking of Stan, I saw the article in EYE Magazine. It was terrific! However, I thought that Marvel's human matchstick is called the Torch, not the Flame. (Hmmm.) Incidentally, you in the Bullpen just have to bring back the Scorpion, so do it soon, already. I also hope that you feature the re-return of the grotesque Green Goblin. I felt as though you blew the bit by having the Goblin's memory altered again in the mag of the year, namely SPIDER-MAN SPECTACULAR #2. A probable way out would have been to have the Goblin

just on the verge of seeing again who Spider-Man was, but not doing so. Thus, the Goblin would have an irresistible urge to fight Spidey to satisfy his curiosity of learning of Spidey's identity. This, you'll have to admit, would be a good motive for him to fight Spidey.

Anyway, getting back to issue #72, you sure put Peter in the doghouse again with Gwen, didn't you? Can't you just leave off of the poor boy for a few issues at least, and give him a couple of good breaks? Man, when it comes to having luck, Pete comes a sure last-finisher. Whoops, my web formula is bubbling, so keep up the good work, group.

Bill Labrie, Box 246
Athabasca, Alberta, Canada

We'll do our best, Bill. And you can bet that the Green Goblin will pop up again one of these days — but not until we think that we have just the right situation, just the right plot for him! After all, when a villain has as loyal a group-following as ol' Gobby, he's got to pick his spots carefully!



Dear Stan,

I have a few very old Spideys and most of the very new ones. Could you tell me what happened to J.J.J.'s magazine known as NOW, and what happened to Peter's glasses?

Kim Heitman, Flat 8, 24 Kintail Road
Applecross, Perth, W.A. 6153

To tell the truth, we're not quite sure ourselves about the current status of Jameson's onetime magazine, although we hereby promise to look into the matter.

However, concerning Peter Parker's specs — it seems that the dear lad broke them in one particularly agonizing adventure, and never got around to getting new ones. Probably, although we don't think we ever quite spelled it out, he had discovered that his spider powers had increased his vision, so that he didn't need them any more.

Hmmm... now all we need to blow that little theory to kingdom come is to find out that spiders have lousy eyesight!

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 tend to agree with the basic idea expressed by Bennett Marks in his letter printed in SPIDER-MAN #73. Something should be changed with Aunt May. I don't necessarily think having her die would really be the solution, although I must admit that for the five years I have been reading this mag, her constant frailty had been something of a drag. The thing is this—the same basic situation has been continuing unchanged for too long. The other superheroes have made basic changes in the past couple of years, but the only thing that has happened to Peter Parker is that he has graduated from high school, gone to college, and changed a few girl friends—big deal!

I must say that I would kind of miss Aunt May, although I don't think her present character or circumstances is worth many more issues of the same old Peter-Parker-style traumas. On the other hand, just to bump her off, whether from "natural causes" or as part of a super-plot, would deprive the magazine of a major character and the entire comics group of an ongoing octogenarian; something of a rarity, after all.

All right! As she is, she must not discover that her Peter is that awful Spider-Man—she's on the verge of utter collapse, and that would do it. But, it would be food for plot if a few people knew who Spidey is—more and more could find out as the issues roll out until, perhaps, in a year or so, the secret would be out. What to do with May...

Introduce a brilliant young doctor—May could develop a tumor, say, and out of gratitude, Dr. Connors could put Spidey in touch with him. Only he can save Aunt May, but he would have to use a radical new technique he'd been working on but which was not yet perfected or tested. Time is short, Aunt May is wheeled into the Marvel machine, and the switch is thrown.

Next issue, we discover all did not go right. May is alive, but her bodily readings are changed. All of Marvel's assemblies around to witness (what else) the birth of a new super hero, albeit an aged one. The first of the Senior Superheroes! (The Golden Oldie?) How's that strike you, guys?

Dirck L. Van Sickle, 174 Lexington Avenue
New York City, N. Y. 10016

As the biggest put-on since Honest Iv claimed that Stan Lee was only his pseudonym, Dirck!

Getting right down to cases, it would seem that Aunt May is no longer quite on the verge of collapse that she was a few short moons ago—'twould appear that the sunny Florida climate agrees with her! Still, soap-opera senior citizen that she is, who knows but that she may suffer a relapse at any moment!

Just the same, however, it's not really our bag to turn either toddlin' tykes or aging octogenarians (which May isn't, by the way) into superheroes or supervillains! This has been done enough times in the past by our capricious competitors, who seem to find something endlessly amusing in having a costumed character suddenly find himself an infant in arms, a senile bumbler, or possibly some type of invalid or freak. We try to steer away from such vergings on sick humor, except where they are some inimical to other plot developments as to be all but inevitable. Don't get us wrong, pilgrim—we're not accusing anybody of bad taste, because such evil is generally in the eye of the beholder—but you'll have to forgive us if merry Marvel marches to a somewhat different drummer! Okay?

Dear ????

Every time I get one of your new mags, I rush home to zip off a new letter to you. To make a long story short, I just got SPIDEY #73 in the mail, so I just had to congratulate you on your greatest story as of late.

It was tremendous! The color scheming was much better,

(as you've been promising) and the new villain was an unexpected and interesting twist, but, best of all, was the surprise ending. Something in the SPIDER'S WEB alarmed me, though. It was the letter from a Mr. Marks. In it he says: "I envision Peter telling, along with Harry and Gwen, Mary Jane, Flash, Randy, and maybe Joe Robertson, George Stacy, and Curt Connors." I think this is ridiculous! Sure, it would solve a lot of his problems, but what if one of these people was seen with Spidey and was forced to reveal his true identity? Besides this; what if one of them were to let the secret slip? It could be issue #39 and #40 all over again.

Face it, Spideyphiles, even if it did work out, who wants Spidey's hang-ups removed? We all agree that his hang-ups make him the most interesting hero we have ever read about, so why change him? I know he will have to change or he will get old, but why so drastic? Spidey is so great now, that he makes me proud to say, MAKE MINE MARVEL!

Mike FitzGerald, 3502 Arch Street
Orlando, Florida 32808

Have no fear, Mike. Despite our answer to Bob Emmett, below, we obviously have no intention whatever of getting rid of all of Peter Parker's various hang-ups. As you so validly point out, they are a part and parcel of the web-spinner himself.

However, we do like to vary them from time to time, as old situations clear themselves up and new problems arise. This is, after all, what has made Spidey what he is today namely, a nervous wreck!



Dear Stan and John,

Having been a real Spideyphile from way back (would 'ja believe Adult Fantasy #15. I have finally found out what organization you people belong to. Forthwith, consider yourselves members of the S.S.A.S.N.P. This is the Sadistic Society Against Spider-Men Named Peter. Lo and behold the diminishment of the Parker-Brant relationship. Then, to my wondering eyes what should appear, but the Parker-Stacy affair. Well now, how about giving a guy an even break? Never have I witnessed two people so cognizant, yet so blind to one another feelings. Have a heart.

Things in Nam are depressing enough. I bought another subscription to Spidey in order to periodically brighten the day. It just tears my tonsils out. Doesn't Petey ever kiss girls like the rest of us? I just know that you would let Petey get so far on a date with Gwen and then have something come across where he would have to invent some hambone excuse to leave.

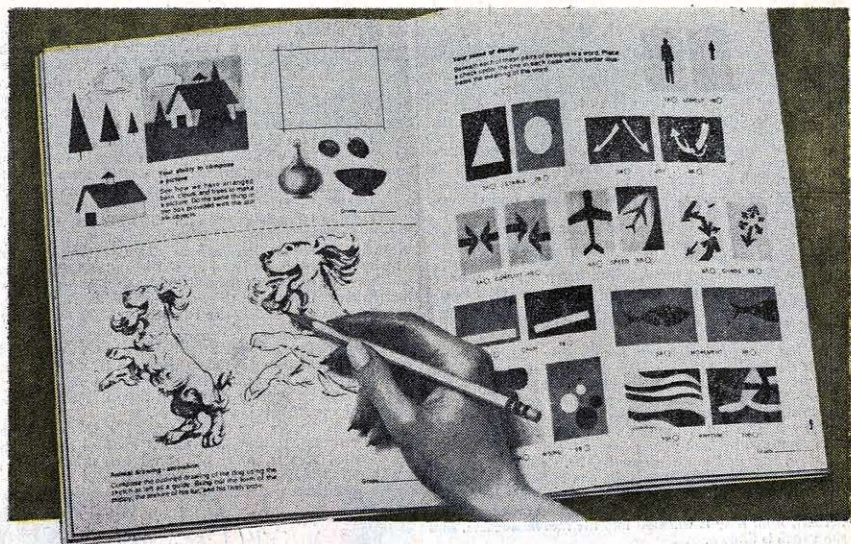
As one of the oldtimers, I'm just asking for a little slack for my favorite Spider-Man. Let's try to disband the S.S.A.S.N.P. in the near future. Erstwhile, I might even shed real tears.

Robert E. Emmett, AG # USS, Okinawa LPH-3
FPO, San Francisco 96601

Sheesh—and here we thought that, of late, we had made Spidey's life a veritable bed of roses, compared to what it used to be! No heart attacks for dear old Aunt May (in fact, no Aunt May, for all practical purposes)—gorgeous Gwenny obviously hung up on our wondrous wall-crawler—even a favorable headline in the Daily Bugle itself!

You want all this—and happiness too for Mr. P.? Maybe one day, Bob, but not just yet—after all, you've gotta start small with these things. If we had poutin' Petey smile for two panels in a row, half our readers wouldn't recognize 'im!

NEXT THE NEWEST SUPER-VILLAIN!



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If you have ever wondered whether you had art talent, here is your chance to find out. The founders of Famous Artists School have put together what many artists and educators consider to be the most revealing test of art ability ever devised. It is offered to you free.

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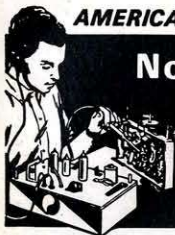
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Album of Popular-Priced Personalized Christmas Cards

Last year some folks made only \$25 to \$50 while others made \$150-\$250-\$500 and more selling our entire line of greeting cards. Many church groups, organizations, schools, lodges, etc. do this year after year.

CUT OUT ENTIRE BUSINESS REPLY ENVELOPE BELOW
FILL IN COUPON-ENVELOPE, FOLD OVER FIRMLY, SEAL (PASTE OR TAPE) AND MAIL TODAY
No Stamp Necessary

Cut along Dotted Line

THIS ENTIRE FOLD-OVER COUPON FORMS A NO-POSTAGE-REQUIRED BUSINESS REPLY ENVELOPE
WALLACE BROWN, Dept. WBV-502

10 Martine Avenue
White Plains, New York 10606

YES, RUSH MY CHRISTMAS SAMPLE KIT

I want to make EXTRA MONEY with the Wallace Brown Greeting Card line. Rush the "Crystal Fantasy" and "Rose Remembrance" Assortments to me on approval, plus FREE album of Name-Imprinted Christmas Cards, FREE 80-Page color catalog of exciting gifts and details of simple money-making plan.

Fill in your name and address below—No stamp necessary

Name _____ (print clearly) Apt. No. _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____
If writing for an organization, give its name here

DO NOT CUT HERE → JUST FOLD OVER, SEAL AND MAIL THIS ENVELOPE—NO STAMP NECESSARY

FIRST CLASS
PERMIT NO. 589
WHITE PLAINS, N.Y.

BUSINESS REPLY MAIL
NO POSTAGE NECESSARY IF MAILED IN U.S.A.

Postage Will Be Paid By

WALLACE BROWN, INC.
10 Martine Avenue
White Plains, N.Y. 10606
Dept. WBV-502