

SPIDER-MAN

15¢ 82
MAR

the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN

APPROVED
BY THE
COMICS
CODE
AUTHORITY



MARVEL
COMICS
GROUP



AND THEN CAME
ELECTRO!

**I put 2 full inches on my arms—
3 inches on my chest and trimmed
4 inches off my waist
in just 7 weeks...**

thanks to the Joe Weider
Musclebuilding Course!—

WHY NOT YOU?

SAYS MOVIE AND T.V. STAR,
ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER,
"Mr. Universe" winner. He
believes you, too, can easily
duplicate his musclebuilding
success with the Weider Course.

Why only the Joe Weider "MR. AMERICA"
muscle-building course can **MUSCLE YOU UP —
SHAPE YOU UP—TOUGHEN YOU UP—FAST** in just
7 short weeks—and in the privacy of your own home.

It makes no difference whether you're fat, skinny, scraggy or flabby, young
or not-so-young—whether you're an office worker, laborer, executive or school-
boy—the WEIDER SYSTEM will pack 4 inches on your chest, 3 inches on each
arm—give you football-player shoulders, muscularize your waistline, sock your
legs with strength and speed—and "powerize" your entire body—IN JUST 7
SHORT WEEKS—OR LESS!

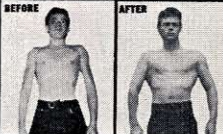
Only the WEIDER SYSTEM can do this for you because it is based on scientific
principle—and proven by the hundreds of thousands of Champions it has
developed since 1938. Practically every Mr. America, Mr. Universe and other
"perfect man" title winners used the WEIDER SYSTEM to build their muscle-
stud bodies.

NO OTHER MUSCLE-BUILDING SYSTEM ON EARTH CAN MATCH THIS
FABULOUS RECORD OF ACHIEVEMENT—AND NOW THAT SAME SURE-FIRE SYSTEM
IS ENTIRELY WITHIN YOUR REACH!

Just rush in free coupon and I will send you proof that you too can own a
new "Wildcat Take-Charge" body in just 7 short weeks—It's free, while the
supply lasts!

HERE'S LIVING PROOF HOW FAST MY COURSE WORKS!

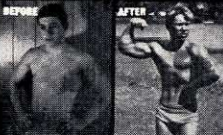
... IN ONLY 14 DAYS



HE GAINS 16 POUNDS
BEFORE: Walter Lane, Jr. was
weak and "under-nourished"
looking—ashamed to be seen
anywhere in public.
AFTER: Walter used Weider
methods and in just 14 days
put on 16 pounds, 2 1/4" on his
arms and 2 1/4" on his chest!

**IT CAN HAPPEN
TO YOU, TOO!**

... IN ONLY 30 DAYS



HE GAINS 25 LBS.
BEFORE: Paul Carmody weighed a
skinny 135 lbs. with
"toothpick" arms and a shallow
chest. He longed to be big
and strong.
AFTER: Paul put himself under
Weider methods and gained 25
muscular lbs. in 30 days,
adding 1 1/2" to his arms,
5" to his chest!

WHY NOT YOU?

FREE!
**BIG
MUSCLE-
BUILDING
BOOK!**

MAIL THIS COUPON TO ME TO-
DAY AND I'LL RUSH YOU MY
NEW BIG 34-PAGE ILLUSTRATED
BOOK—FREE! It's jam-packed
with proof that you can become
an athletic, virile, "Take-Charge" He-
Man in just 7 WEEKS—OR LESS! It's
loaded with photos, tips, suggestions
that will help make your fondest muscle-
building dreams come true—just as
it did for Arnold Schwarzenegger and
over 2,000,000 other successful stu-
dents! SEND FOR IT NOW—IT'S ABSO-
LUTELY FREE!

JOE WEIDER

Is your Personal Trainer!
He has trained almost
every "Mr. America", "Mr.
Universe", "Mr. Canada",
perfect men title winners
since 1938—and over
2,000,000 successful
pupils the world over!

No other instructor in history can come
close to this fantastic record!



MAIL THIS COUPON FOR FREE BOOK

JOE WEIDER

Dept. 83-20 A
531 - 32nd Street
Union City, New Jersey 07087

Dear Joe: Okay, sock it to me! Rush me
your Free musclebuilding information and
Free "Muscle Up" book that I can use
right away to build a handsome new "Take-
Charge" body—in just 7 short weeks—in
the privacy of my own home. I'm enclosing
25c to cover mailing and handling costs.
I'm under no further obligation.

NAME (please print clearly) AGE

ADDRESS

CITY STATE ZIP

**YOU'RE UNDER NO OBLIGATION
— NOTHING TO BUY!**

THE STRONGEST, MOST VIRILE AND ADMIRABLE MEN ARE BUILT BY THE WEIDER SYSTEM—FAST!

THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN!

AND THEN CAME ELECTRO!

WEARY AND DEJECTED, A BROODING YOUTH SITS MOTIONLESS IN THE SILENCE OF HIS ROOM... SADLY RELIVING THE PAST...NERVOUSLY DREADING THE FUTURE...

I CAN'T KEEP ROOMING WITH HARRY OSBORN WHILE HE PAYS MOST OF THE RENT. AND YET, WHAT ELSE CAN I DO?

HOW LONG WILL IT BE BEFORE CAPT. STACY AND JOE ROBERTSON GUESS MY SECRET IDENTITY?

ONE SMALL MISTAKE...ONE CARELESS SLIP... AND J. JONAH JAMESON WILL EXPOSE ME TO THE ENTIRE WORLD.

IS IT FAIR TO EXPECT GWEN STACY TO LOVE ME... WHEN I CAN'T BRING MYSELF TO TELL HER WHO I REALLY AM?

HOW CAN I EVER PAY OFF ALL OF OUR DEBTS?

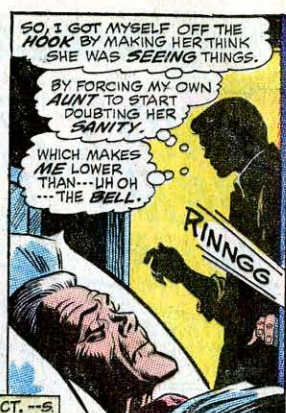
BILL
BILL

SOONER OR LATER, MY DANGEROUS DOUBLE LIFE MAY CAUSE A FATAL SHOCK TO POOR AUNT MAY.

WHAT'S WRONG WITH ME THAT I CAN'T GET ALONG WITH REGULAR GUYS LIKE FLASH THOMPSON?

PRODUCED AND PRESENTED BY:
STAN LEE
JOHN ROMITA
JIM MOONEY
LETTERING: SAM ROSEN

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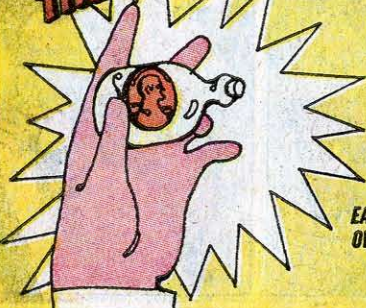




CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE

Conversation Piece...Collector's Item...Puzzle

THE AMAZING PENNY IN-A BOTTLE



2 for \$1

1 1968-S Cent...
1 1969-S Cent



Reminds You Of The Classic
Ship-In-A-Bottle

EACH IN ITS
OWN LITTLE
BOTTLE

HOW DID THE PENNIES GET INSIDE??? HOW DID THEY FIT???

How can something so big fit into something so small?

The bottles are *real*. No seams. No false bottoms. Solid glass! Yet there they are... the pennies are inside and can't get out?

WHAT'S THE SECRET? HOW DID THEY EVER GET IN? CAN YOU FIGURE IT OUT? CAN YOUR FRIENDS SOLVE THE MYSTERY?

A Fascinating Puzzle...Defies All the Rules... Can Your Eyes Be Playing Tricks on You???

ABOUT THE COINS IN THE BOTTLES

"ig" tells you the coin was made in the San Francisco mint. The mint mark appears under the date on the "heads" side. This was the first "S" side since 1955. A true collector's item!

Coins made from the original Lincoln engraving became worn and lost detail. The 1969 cent restores Mr. Lincoln to his original likeness. Hair detail is sharper, garment folds clearer. Everything has been spruced up!



The 1909 cent minted in San Francisco bears the designer's initials-VDB (Victor D. Brenner). Only 480,000 were minted. Some sell for close to \$200. Is there one in your bank?

DID YOU KNOW THESE LINCOLN CENT FACTS???

The Lincoln Cent has enjoyed the longest run of any U.S. coin. Introduced in 1909, the 100th Anniversary of Lincoln's birth.

After 50 years the design of the reverse was changed. From two ears of wheat to the Lincoln Memorial. Designer: Frank Gasparro.



More Lincoln Cents have been minted than the number of people in the world!



In 1943-45 pennies were grey. They were made of zinc coated steel during the war. And in 1944-45 they were made of melted down ammunition cases.

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CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE

THE NIGHTY MARVEL CHECKLIST

Marvel-ous Mags On Sale Right Now!

FANTASTIC FOUR #96: The Mad Thinker is back—more powerful than ever, and aided by his Androids of Death! 'Nuff said!

SPIDER-MAN #82: This is a special ish, in more ways than one! Starring the eerie menace of—Electro! And wait till you see the art!

SILVER SURFER #13: A doomsday bomb, about to destroy the earth! The Surfer, alone on an isle of death! It's drama beyond compare!

AVENGERS #73: The Black Panther battles alone—against the sinister Sons of the Serpent! An instant classic!

THOR #173: All of you could ask for—and more! Ulik unleashed! The Ringmaster and his Circus of Crime! And action! Action! Action!

CAPTAIN AMERICA #123: Can a female defeat Cap? Don't answer till you meet Suprema, deadliest of the species!

X-MEN #65: The return of the most unexpected mutant of all!

Plus—a battle royal against—the Star Spawn!

DAREDEVIL #61: The leering, lethal Jester—the cunning Cobra—the unstoppable Mr. Hyde! And all they want is—DD's death!

HULK #125: The Absorbing Man is back—and ol' Green-Skin's got him! Or—is it the other way around? The answer'll rock ya!

IRON MAN #23: There's never been a hired assassin like—the Mercenary! If you like duel—to—the death thrills, this one's for you!

SUB-MARINER #23: At last! The warlord Krang strikes back! Plus—the menace of Orka, the Human Killer Whale!

SGR. FURY #75: We call it "The Deserter!"—and you'll call it one of the greatest war-mags of all time! We kid you not!

TOWER OF SHADOWS #4: Marvel at its most macabre—with three of the most far-out fantasies of all! Watch out for falling bats!

MARVEL TALES #25: The web-spinner—the thunder god—and the battling, blazing fireball! Together again in one mag—and terrific!

MARVEL SUPER-HEROES #25: The Man Without Fear—and the Mutants Without Peer—in other words, DD and the X-Men... and a green-skinned surprise!

AND, OF COURSE—

MY LOVE #4—WHERE MONSTERS DWELL #2—RINGO KID #2—KID COLT OUTLAW #143—MILLIE THE MODEL #180—CHILI #11—MAD ABOUT MILLIE #9—HOMER THE HAPPY GHOST #3—AND PETER THE LITTLE PEST #3!

and, STILL ON SALE—

CHAMBER OF DARKNESS #3: The night is dark—the moon is full—and mysterious Moon's back with three of its spookiest tales yet!

CAPT. SAVAGE #18: It's action time—as Simon Savage blasts his way out of a death camp in the war-torn Pacific!

MARVEL'S GREATEST COMICS #25: The F.F.—fighting side by side with the Sub-Mariner! Not to mention Iron Man and Doc Strange! Plus **OUR LOVE STORY #3—RAW-HIDE KID #74**—and maybe another mag or two even we can't remember!

Whew!

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FOR KIDS FROM 6 TO 60

4 FOR \$1
ONLY



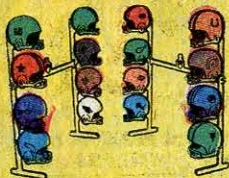
Now, to commemorate the 50th anniversary of Professional Football, we offer these beautiful miniature toy helmets—exact duplicates of all the National Football League team colors and insignias. Imagine the surprise and delight as you build your own special collection of all your favorite PRO FOOTBALL TEAMS. You will be thrilled when you yourself put on the teams' insignias and stripes you receive with the helmets. These miniature PRO FOOTBALL HELMETS are complete in every detail, even down to the tiny detachable faceguards. They are a football fan's ideal, a collector's delight, and a treasured toy in the family for years and years to come.

START YOUR COLLECTION NOW

Hours and Hours of Fun and Excitement for the Whole Family. ASSEMBLE THEM... SHOW THEM... EVEN TRADE THEM. Be among the first to start this exciting collection. Make your child the hero of the neighborhood with this 50th Anniversary Gridiron Classic. These little helmets are available in sets of four for only \$1.00 as listed below.

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SPECIAL BONUS OFFER!
ALL 16 HELMETS ONLY \$3.00
PLUS 2 FREE DISPLAY GOAL POSTS
WITH OFFICIAL N.F.L. EMBLEMS



Yes, if you wish to purchase all 16 HELMETS at one time, you will save \$1.00 on the purchase price, and in addition, receive 2 goal posts complete with N.F.L. insignia. These goal posts are specially designed to display all 16 little helmets.

ALSO AVAILABLE: ALL 10 OFFICIAL A.F.L. HELMETS PLUS GOAL POST FOR ONLY \$2.

Set A

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Washington Redskins
Philadelphia Eagles

Set C

Green Bay Packers
Minnesota Vikings
Chicago Bears
Detroit Lions

Set B

Cleveland Browns
Pittsburgh Steelers
New Orleans Saints
St. Louis Cardinals

Set D

Baltimore Colts
Los Angeles Rams
San Francisco 49ers
Atlanta Falcons

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Pro-Football Merchandising, Inc. Dept. F-501

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Union City, N. J. 07087

Gentlemen:

Please send me the following HELMET SETS:

- ☐ Set A \$1.00 plus 25¢ post. & hdlg. ☐ Set C \$1.00 plus 25¢ post. & hdlg.
☐ Set B \$1.00 plus 25¢ post. & hdlg. ☐ Set D \$1.00 plus 25¢ post. & hdlg.
☐ All 16 N.F.L. HELMETS \$3.00 postpaid. Plus 2 FREE GOAL POSTS
☐ All 10 A.F.L. HELMETS \$2.00 postpaid. Plus 1 FREE GOAL POST
 I enclose cash; check or money order. Sorry, no C.O.D.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____

Zip _____



FOR THOSE OF YOU NEW
TO THE ANNALS OF SPIDER-
DOM, ELECTRO FIRST GAINED
HIS UNCANNY POWER...



...WHEN MAX DILLON,
AN ORDINARY LINEMAN,
WAS STRUCK BY LIGHTNING
WHILE REPAIRING SOME HIGH-
TENSION ELECTRIC WIRES...

DUE TO A ONE-IN-A-
BILLION SET OF CONDITIONS,
THE ACCIDENT GAVE HIM TOTAL
MASTERY OVER THE POWER
OF ELECTRICITY...



...MASTERY
ENOUGH TO DEFEAT
OUR HERO DURING THEIR
FIRST EPIC BATTLE...
IN ISH #9.

IT WAS ONLY DUE TO
ELECTRO'S OWN OVER-
CONFIDENCE THAT
SPIDEY WAS FINALLY
ABLE TO TURN
DEFEAT INTO
VICTORY...



LATER, THE WEB-SPINNER
SCORED ONCE AGAIN BY
GROUNDING HIMSELF WITH
A WIRE WHICH HE HASTILY
ATTACHED TO HIS LEG. *



* IN THE SPIDER-MAN
ANNUAL #1, REMEMBER?
... STAN.

THE NEXT TIME WE MEET,
ELECTRO ISN'T GONNA MAKE
ANY MISTAKES. NEXT TIME
I'LL ...UH OH...

MY BLASTED PAROLE
OFFICER'S WAITIN'
FOR ME.

HELLO,
DILLON.



YOU NEVER
FORGET,
DO YA?

JUST WANTED TO TELL YOU
THAT I HEARD ABOUT YOUR
HEROISM AT THE TV
STUDIO.

IT'S A GOOD BEGINNING,
DILLON. KEEP UP THE GOOD
WORK... AND I'LL SEE YOU
NEXT MONTH.

YEAH.. YEAH..
SURE. YOU DO
THAT, MISTER.



SMUG
PUNK. I'D
LIKE TO WIPE
THAT SMILE
OFF HIS FACE.

BUT I GOTTA PLAY IT COOL...TILL THE TIME COMES.

WHEN I'M READY TO GO BACK INTO ACTION...AS **ELECTRO** AGAIN...**NOBODY'S** GONNA PUSH ME AROUND. **NOBODY!**



THIS IS **J. JONAH JAMESON**, WITH THE DAILY BUGLE'S TV EDITORIAL FOR TONIGHT...



WE'VE JUST LEARNED THAT **SPIDER-MAN** WILL BE A GUEST ON THE MIDNIGHT TALK SHOW...

ON BEHALF OF THE **DECENT** ELEMENT IN THIS CITY...OR WHAT'S LEFT OF IT...MY NEWSPAPER PROTESTS THIS OUTRAGE!



WE MUST NOT ALLOW A **LAWFLESS, MASKED CRIMINAL** TO BE GLAMORIZED AND PUBLICIZED ON FAMILY TV.

THAT PUBLIC ENEMY MUST BE **JAILED**...NOT **HAILED!**



YOU TELL 'EM, FLAT-HEAD.

HEY...WAIT A MINUTE. THIS MAY BE THE **CHANCE** **ELECTRO'S** BEEN WAITIN' FOR.



I'M BETTIN' THAT CREEP **JAMESON**'LL PAY A **BUNDLE** TO ANYONE WHO **UNMASKS** THE WEB-SPINNER RIGHT ON TV... WITH EVERYONE **WATCHIN'!**



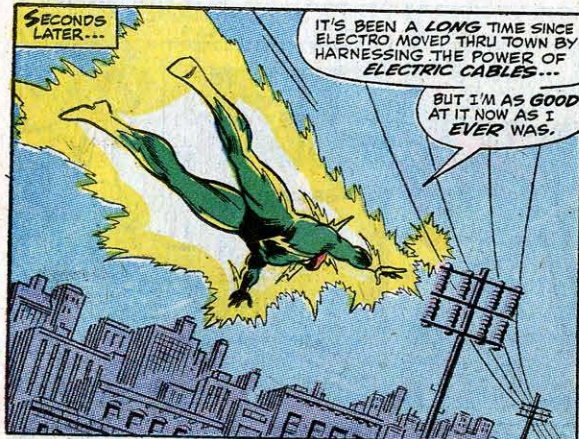
AND THE GUY WHO **DOES** IT WON'T EVEN BE BREAKIN' THE **LAW.**

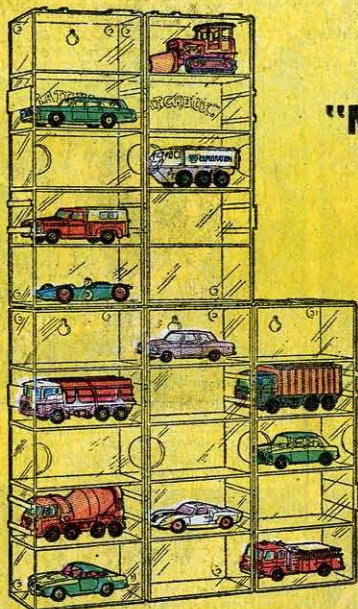


IT'LL BE TWO BIRDS WITH **ONE BOLT.**



I'LL BE **PAID** FOR GETTIN' MY REVENGE ON **SPIDER-MAN.**





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

Name

Are You a Boy? Age Date Born Year

In Care of

Street and No. R. F. D.

Post Office State

Zip Code No.

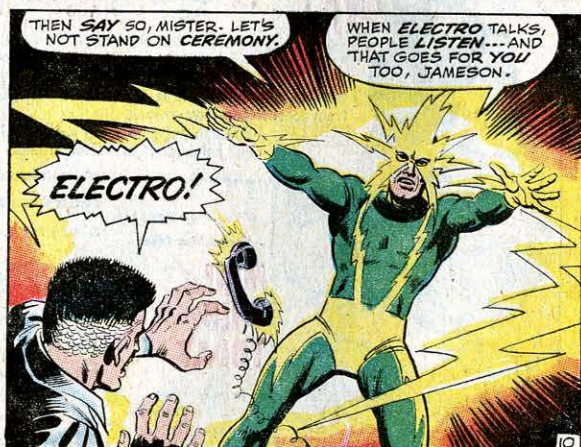
Print Your Last Name Plainly Here

If You Are a Boy 12
Years Old or Older

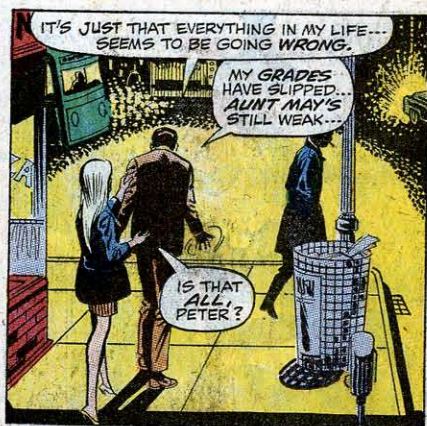
**MAIL
THIS
TODAY**

In an Envelope
Papers sent only
to boys in
Continental U.S.











AND SO, A FEW FRANTIC MINUTES LATER...



LET 'EM GAPE. THERE'S NO LAW AGAINST A GUY COVERING HIS HEAD UP.

AND THE MACHINE'S SPINNING TOO FAST FOR THEM TO RECOGNIZE MY COSTUME.

THEY'LL PROBABLY END UP FIGURING IT'S SOME NUTTY SCHOOL INITIATION.



FINALLY, AT THE STUDIO ITSELF, THE CAPACITY CROWD AWAITS SPIDEY'S APPEARANCE WITH BREATHLESS ANTICIPATION. ESPECIALLY ONE GRINNING GUEST...

GLAD WE GOT HERE EARLY. WOULDN'T WANNA MISS A MINUTE OF THIS.

NEVER KNEW YOU WERE SUCH A TV FAN, JAMESON.

ME? I'M A CULTURE-LOVER FROM 'WAY BACK.



AND NOW... HERE'S MARVINNNN...



SPIDER-MAN ISN'T HERE YET. WHAT DO YOU SUGGEST WE DO?

MAYBE WE CAN REPLACE HIM... WITH THE BEATLES.

OH, I SEE. ANOTHER INSECT'S NAME.

THAT'S RATHER DROLL, I SUPPOSE.







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CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

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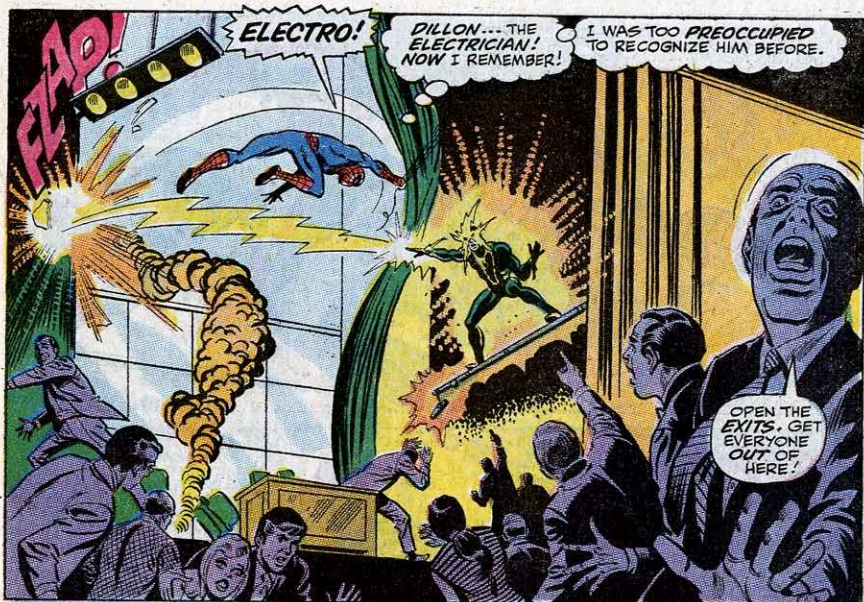
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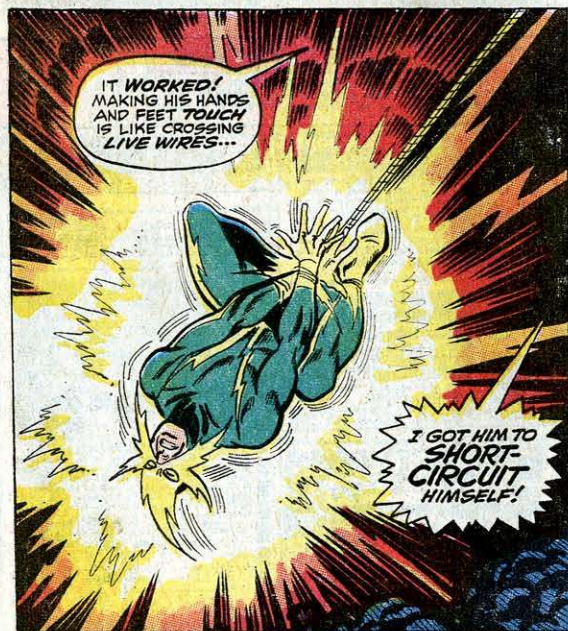
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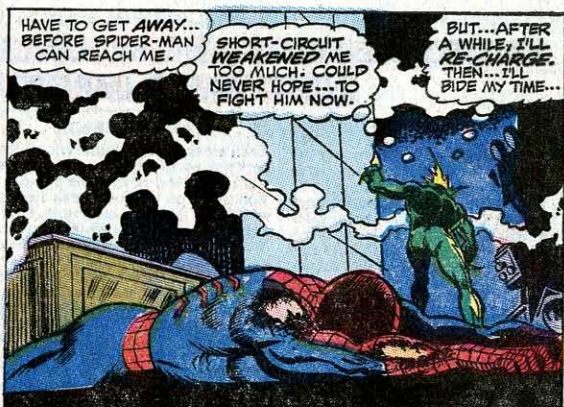
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INCREDIBLE ITEMS AND INCONCEIVABLE INFO OF INESTIMABLE IMPORTANCE!

ITEM! The biggest news of the month is the fact that JAZZY JOHNNY ROMITA will be penciling SPIDER-MAN once more. But, we've still another surprise in store for all you Spideyphiles—Stan and Johnny have decided to go back to the Web-Swinger's original style of story picturization, and also to put more emphasis on Peter Parker's private life, as so many of you have requested. So, whatever you do, don't dare miss SPIDER-MAN #82, now on sale. It marks the beginning of still another plateau of greatness for the most realistic, most respected, most razzle-dazzle superhero the world has ever known! And we've been giving you the soft-sell, 'cause you know how we hate to brag!

ITEM! Remember ol' JERRY SIEGEL, one of comicdom's top-name pioneers who basked in our Bullpen before heading for a more leisurely life on the West Coast? Well, just thought you'd like to know that his daughter recently won a scholarship to UCLA. Our congrats to a grand guy and his groovy girl-child.

ITEM! We've finally made up our minds! After all these years, we're gonna see if we can do it! It'll probably set the comics-mag world back on its collective ear, but nothing'll stop us! It's such an earth-shattering decision, that we hardly know how to tell you! It's like the end of an era! It'll shatter the traditions of Marveldom to their very foundation! But, do it we must, and do it we shall! So, hold onto your hats, 'cause here's the bit! Starting sooner or later, in some ish or other, we're gonna try using PERIODS instead of those furloughing EXCLAMATION POINTS with which we've been ending every sentence since comics began! It'll take a while before you'll notice the change, because we print our mags so many months in advance, but watch for it—if you can stand the shock! Will it lessen your reading pleasure? Will it toss you off-balance? Will you think you picked up the wrong mag? Will anyone give a hoot? Only time will tell! Only Marvel would care! Only the Thing has four-fingered hands!

ITEM! For years, LAUGHIN' LARRY LIEBER has been the butt of a zillion jokes around here because of his painstaking approach to everything he writes and draws. In fact, MERRY MARIE SEVERIN used to claim it took Larry as long to sharpen his pencil as it took anyone else to draw a couple of pages. Of course, Larry proudly replied that he had the sharpest pencils in the place! Anyway, we've suddenly realized that the Laughing One's RAW.

STAN'S SOAPBOX

Each week brings hundreds of letters asking exactly how we produce our mags. And now, if the competition will promise not to peek, here's where we'll try to clue you in. First, the artist and the writer have a story conference, because, unlike other comic-mag publishers, Marvel believes the artist contributes as much to the story as the writer does. Then, once the plot details have been worked out, the artist goes off by his lonesome and draws the strip in pencil—drawing it any way he pleases, since the script hasn't yet been written. (So far as we know, Marvel is the only company to use this free-and-easy, highly-creative method.—Free plug!) Next, the pencilled drawings are given to the writer, who creates the dialogue balloons, captions, and any other copy needed. After that, a letterer prints all the copy in the correct places (we hope), using a lettering pen dipped in jet black india ink. Finally, the pages go to the inker (embellisher) (or delineator—depending upon how fancy you are), who draws over the pencilled sketches with a brush and/or pen, also using permanent black ink. Now that the pages are drawn and lettered, we make copies of them and one of our swingin' staff of colorists paints these copies so that they can be used as color guides by the engraver when he receives the mag. After the engraver makes the engravings, they're sent to the printer and another Marvel masterwork is lovingly brought to life. Next, the millions of printed copies go to a national distributor who sends them to regional wholesalers who send them to your friendly neighborhood magazine dealer whose tender loving heart goes pity-pat every time you buy one!

Excelsior!

Stan

HIDE KID mag is one of Marvel's steadiest and most dependable selling 15cers—and Western story fans everywhere have been demanding that we publish it monthly. So, shed a tear for poor Larrupin' Larry. Instead of coasting along, doing one mag every two months, and getting his kicks with the pencil sharpener, he's gonna have to leave the ol' corral and ride bent-for-leather to make his deadlines! Can he do it? Will he do it? We'll letcha know, soon as he dries his eyes.

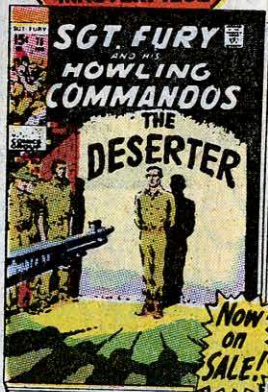
ITEM! Remember a few years back when we told you about FEDERICO FELLINI visiting us at the Bullpen because he was a merry Marvel fan?

Well, who says lightning doesn't strike twice? We've gotta tell you that we have another, equally famous European film director who's equally hung-up on our mixed-up little mags. So say hello to world-renowned ALAIN RESNAIS, the French film genius who gave us such films as HIROSHIMA, MON AMOUR ... LA GUERRE EST FINI ... and LAST YEAR AT MARIENBAD. Alain's a fanatical Marvel booster from 'way back, and he and SMILIN' STAN have shared many pleasant hours rappin' about movies, comic mags, and the arts in general. According to Alain, Marvel Comics are definitely the "in" thing in the arty circles of Europe today—and that kinda talk isn't exactly gonna turn us off!—Just thought you'd like to know the company you're in, Faithful One!

ITEM! Here's a late flash from MARVELMANIA INTERNATIONAL. (That new company we told you about a few ishes back, remember?) All members in good standing of the ol' MMMS are eligible to join M.I. for the courtesy rate of only 50¢, which entitles you to a new membership card, club catalogue, and a copy of the club magazine. Just send your four-bits, for postage and handling, to MARVELMANIA INTERNATIONAL, P.O. Box 718, Culver City, Calif. 90230. (Honest Irving Forbush tried to sneak his own home address in there, but luckily we caught it in time!)

Don't worry, man!
THE MIGHTY MARVEL CHECKLIST
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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, John R., John B., Jim and Sam,

As an avid Spideophile, I couldn't help being moved by Mr. Mark Fromm's superlative idea on the case of Spidey in Viet Nam.

This was one of the best examples of good thinking I've seen in a long while.

As he stated, it opens up an entirely new realm of plot-progression, and it's in the line of editorializing which is so necessary to the production of intellectual reading material of any kind, whether it be comics, satire, or etc.!

And, if there are any True Believers who have written in against this wondrous proposition, I'd like to encourage them to change their opinion with this thought in mind: "A closed mouth gathers no feet." ... err ... that isn't it ... "A stitch in time saves nine." ... noo ... THAT sure isn't it either ... uhh ... Well, you get the idea. Vote yes to proposition "F" (F for Fromm!) 'Nuff said? 'Nuff said!

Dan Barrett, 461 Costa Mesa Street
Costa Mesa, California 92627

It seems to us we've heard that somewhere before, Dan. (As a matter of fact, it seems to us we've even heard our opening sentence before—but why quibble?)

Actually, it would seem from early tabulations of our mail on the subject that the majority of Spidey-fans would prefer to keep our human arachnid principally in our own country—and fancy free of any military duty for the present. And, especially since that happens to coincide with our own sentiments, that's the way he'll doubtless remain for the immediate present. Still, we don't rule out anything in Peter Parker's less-than-immediate future, be in military service, personal tragedy, or a new bout with acne.

Dear Stan and John,

Is Spidey a finger yoga expert or something? According to SPIDER-MAN ANNUAL #2 the activator to his web shooter is in the center of his hand, yet every time, unerringly, Spidey hits it with his second finger and keeps all other fingers perfectly straight at the same time (as demonstrated on page 10 panel 3 of ish #77). After many hours of flawless practise I am pleased to announce it still can't be done.

In the ancient grand days of Marvel, finding such unexplainable mistakes as this one, would have warranted me a beautiful pastel pink packaged "No-Prize". But, lo and behold, no more! What is Marvel coming to?

Not to leave you on an unhappy note I would like to compliment the new breed of mags you are turning out. They are all taking a turn to a better phase in writing, artistry, and content. Keep up the great work.

Stan Reynolds, 2847 East Flower,
Phoenix, Arizona 85016

Speaking of said great work, Stan, we might as well theorize right here and now that the peerless Mr. Parker—in addition to having a spider sense, wall-crawling prowess, and roughly the proportionate strength of a ship-shape arachnid—"would appear he is a wee bit double-jointed as well! At least, that's the explanation that occurs to us at the moment. But, if anybody out there in Marveldom has a better idea, let us hear about it, okay?

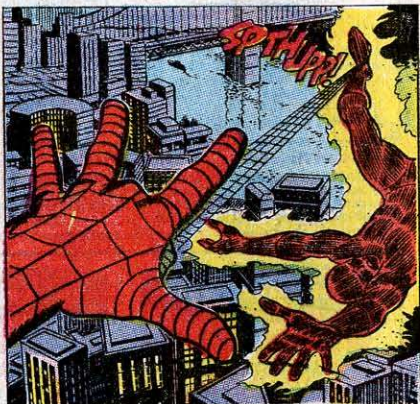
Dear Stan and John,

This letter concerns Peter Parker's appearance and dress. I have read two or three times in your column letters saying, "Let Pete grow long hair." Well, I think there is a difference between being in fashion and being fashionable. The fashion might be long hair one year and then bald the next. I think that being fashionable is being smart and well-groomed.

Peter Parker should be fashionable, not in fashion with long hair. Leave the fashion to the fashion books, not to Peter Parker.

Jay Richardson, 2778 South Marshall
Denver, Colorado

The redoubtable Mr. Parker has never been exactly a fashion plate, has he, J.R.? Still, you forgot to mention one of the most salient reasons of all that Pete remains relatively short-locked. Namely, how would he fit those long, flowing tresses under a skin-tight mask?



Dear Stan, and John,

I have a very powerful radio and the other day I was listening to the Washington, D.C., "Voice of America Breakfast Show". On a segment called "Science Digest", there was a bit of talk of scientists conducting experiments on spiders, because they believe that they have certain immunities to cancer. Now, whether this can be applied to good old Spidey, I'm not sure ... but if anybody comes up to you and says that Peter Parker shouldn't smoke because of the cancer implications—just blow smoke in their face. You're on the right side.

Jeffrey Morgan, 77 Street, Clair Avenue East,
Toronto 7, Ontario

We never doubted it for a minute, Jeff. The only things is, unless that "anybody" you mention happens to catch us puffing away on one of our infrequent cigars—where we are gonna get that smoke to blow in his face, hmnnnn?

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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,

Being one of America's multitudinous Peter Parker fans, I empathize with his problems, and believe I have come up with a possible solution to some of them—karate (or any other type of fighting art). Using his spider speed and agility, while reserving his exceptional strength, Petey could successfully imitate a karate expert.

As to this act solving Peter Parker's problems: At the end of #78, when he is being threatened by the Prowler, Pete could, using 'karate', extricate himself from the situation without playing chicken. Once Petey's prowess became known to his friends, all rumors of his cowardice would be dispelled. The reason Pete never used his skill before was because he hadn't yet attained sufficient confidence in his ability. He can also use karate lessons as an excuse for the evenings he spends swinging around town.

Dan Dlugoski, 3332 Melwood Avenue
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15219

Frankly, Dan, even if Spidey could find the time for those lessons, we've got a hunch that—given the ol' web-spinner's lamentable luck—they'd be bound to backfire. He might find it difficult to use karate as Peter Parker and still hold back enough of his super-powers to avoid really harming some lesser antagonist. Still, we'll admit that anything is possible in Mr P's future. After all, who'd have believed a few short years ago that our wall-crawlin' wallflower would ever have latched onto a motorcycle—let alone a swingin' chick like Gwen Stacy?

Dear Stan,

Okay, I know you deserve an apology. You've proved you can still write a pretty good comic story in SPIDER-MAN #78. I therefore apologize for saying you were slipping. The conversation between Hobie and his girl Mindy was well handled, much better than that between Pete and Gwen in #76. You still show a tendency to the melodramatic in the scene with Flash and Gwen, but at least you kept it short. By the way, is Flash really a name on a birth certificate? I think it is time for you to give him a name, rather than a nickname.

Now, to discuss the new character who calls himself The Prowler. Before I do, though, what is the idea of the dishonest cover? Nowhere does Spidey fight the Prowler, only ordinary Peter Parker does. That isn't fair! Okay, to get to business.

I'm glad you are making the story of the Prowler at least two parts. I was sorry to hear of your decision to cut down to single issue stories, as I don't feel you can get the proper characterization and motivation into so few pages and still have action. I agree with Ronald Gayda that we need to see more of Pete as himself with all his social life. Like, how long has it been since M.J. has been on the scene? I like the size your panels are, so it does create a problem. How about alternating between a mostly Peter Parker issue and a Spider-Man issue. Then fans can skip what they don't like. Of course, most will stick to both action and Pete.

On the whole, I can't decide on the single issue story. So far you've had some that seemed longer and some that should have been longer. I'll have to compare a few more to make a final decision.

Now to get down to the 'business' I talked about before, I don't understand Jameson's sticking up for Hobie like he did. I mean it's out of character for him to show signs of sympathy for anyone. I half way expected him to offer him a job. I'm glad he didn't, though.

Hobie is a good example of how a person who gets tired of being average can give in to the forces of evil which abound in our world. How is that for melodramatics? Seriously, though, I'm sure you know what I mean.

I like this new development where Peter is almost giving away his secret identity every time he moves. You've made it obvious that someone is going to learn about him soon. As for who discovers his identity first, I'm for Capt. Stacy or Joe Robertson. They could be trusted to keep his secret. At this time Gwen, being too care-free, would blurt it out to anyone who called Peter a coward. I keep waiting for the day Pete realizes that his preoccupation with Gwen is unhealthy and breaks it before he is

hopelessly dependent on her, or is he now?

My feelings about Gwen may not be yours Stan. You probably feel she's sweet and sincere and all she pretends to be. Part of the problem may come from the fact that I'm a woman evaluating a woman and we are harsh judges. Thanks for being my sounding board.

Christine Cassello, 8017 South Muskegon
Chicago, Ill. 60617

And thanks for voicing your views on sundry matters, gal. Since more than half our mail comes from guys, we're doubly appreciative to hear how the other half evaluates both Mr. Parker and his groovy gal acquaintances.

By the way, if we could concentrate mainly on the point you made in your second paragraph, we might mention that it's never our intention to make a truly misleading cover.

We just try to vary the "literal" covers (those which show a scene which actually occurs at some place or other in the ish) with the more "symbolic" ones (which visualize a scene related to the contents, but not showing any specific scene from the book). In fact, we've occasionally revelled in letters from readers who stated that one of their foremost pleasures in buying a Marvel mag is trying to guess, before they open those pulsatin' pages, whether the cover shot is a literal or a symbolic one. And we figure if that's the way some true believer gets his kicks . . . !



Dear Stan,

Since I'm both a Marvel madman and a peaceful revolutionary, you can probably understand why I dig your writing in general, and issues like SPIDER-MAN #78 in particular.

It was really beautiful to see a super-villain with real motivation. Hobie Brown is so typical of my generation and their plight that the whole episode really hit home.

Here we have the youth of the sixties—tattered, bruised, and tired of being shoved around. He is hoping to have a chance to change the society that he sees around him. Hobie and all his counterparts only want to get a chance, and they're not getting it. So, instead of hanging around and waiting for change, Hobie lashes out. He is not out to destroy the establishment, just to get some recognition for a cause that he believes just. What happens now is happening every day. The over-zealous revolutionary force goes corrupt and finds itself steeped in violence. (There isn't much difference between Hobie's attack on the guard and student-police clashes.)

Hobie should have listened to Mindy, for her words ring of truth, "It takes time . . . you're still young!" So, dig it, people! We're not going to change things overnight, and we've got our age, and people like Stan Lee on our side, so bide your time. When you set out to shake up the Establishment, do it peacefully. If you do, your gonna have an easier time of swinging them to our side. Take it from John Lennon, "Give peace a chance."

Marc De Matteis, 1100 Ocean Avenue,
Brooklyn, New York 11230

You know that we blush kind 'a easy, Marc, so all that we're gonna add to that last paragraph is . . . 'Nuff said.

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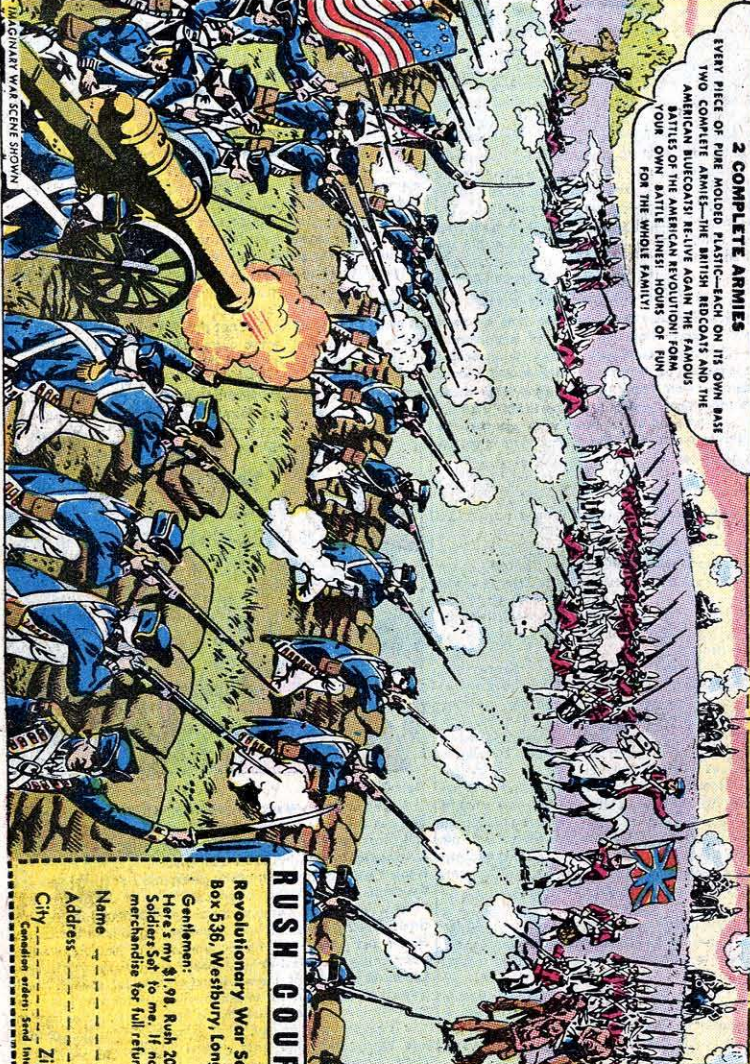
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