

SPIDER-MAN

15¢ 84  
MAY



MARVEL  
COMICS  
GROUP

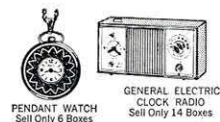
# the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN

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BY THE  
COMICS  
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## THE KINGPIN STRIKES BACK!





# Famous name PRIZES OR CASH... from FREE SALES KIT

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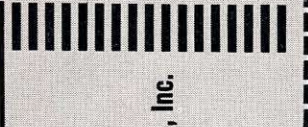


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OLYMPIC SALES CLUB, INC., Dept. 70MV2 Windsor Locks, Conn. 06096



**THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN!**

# THE KINGPIN STRIKES BACK!

By  
**Stan LEE,**  
AUTHOR  
**John ROMITA,**  
**John BUSCEMA,**  
**Jim MOONEY**  
ILLUSTRATORS  
and  
**SAM ROSEN**  
LETTERER.



IT'S A GOOD THING  
I DIDN'T CAPTURE  
THE SCHEMER WHEN  
LAST WE FOUGHT...  
THERE WASN'T ANY  
REWARD FOR HIM  
THEN!

BUT NOW...  
MAN, COULD I  
EVER USE THAT  
FIVE THOUSAND  
BUCKS!

170-2

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THE JUDGES SAY WE CAN'T RACE OUR RADIO-CONTROLLED CAR WITH-OUT A DRIVER. NO TIME TO FIND A DRIVER. THE RACE STARTS IN 3 MINUTES.



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YEAH THE OLDEST ONE, THE FELLOW WEARING THE LEES.



ME? SURE, I'LL DO IT.



YOU JUST SIT HERE IN THE CAR. WE'LL DRIVE IT AND STEER IT BY REMOTE CONTROL.

ON THE 10<sup>TH</sup> LAP - TROUBLE!!

JIM. JIM. WE'RE LOSING CONTROL. YOU'LL HAVE TO REALLY DRIVE!



I'VE NEVER DRIVEN A REAL CAR. BUT I KNOW A FEW TRICKS FROM MY MODEL CAR RACING.



THE WINNER! JIM DRISCOLL.



THEY THOUGHT YOU'RE OLDER THAN I AM, JIM, BUT WE'RE THE SAME AGE.

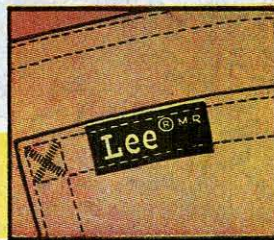


YOU STILL WEAR KID CLOTHES, BOB

I'M WEARING LEE LEENS LIKE THE HIGH SCHOOL GUYS.

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**Lee Leens®**  
the grown-up pants











I'D BETTER KNOCK IT OFF FOR A WHILE!

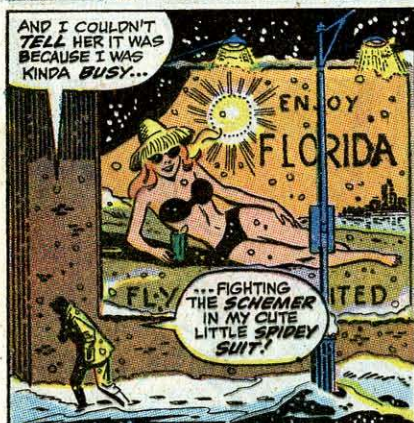
I'D MAKE A FUNKY LOOKING SPIDER-MAN SWINGIN' AROUND WITH FROSTBITE!



I WONDER IF IT'S STILL EARLY ENOUGH TO DROP IN ON GWENDY!



LAST TIME I SAW HER, SHE WAS ANGRY 'CAUSE I DIDN'T COME TO VISIT HER AT THE HOSPITAL!



AND I COULDN'T TELL HER IT WAS BECAUSE I WAS KINDA BUSY...

...FIGHTING THE SCHEMER IN MY CUTE LITTLE SPIDEY SUIT!



IF ONLY I COULD TELL HER MY SECRET! IT WOULD MAKE THINGS...SO MUCH EASIER!

BUT... HOW CAN I BE SURE... HOW SHE'D TAKE IT?

WHAT IF MY CONFESSION ...MADE ME LOSE HER?

I...COULDN'T BEAR IT!



PETER! WHAT BRINGS YOU OUT ...AT THIS HOUR?

MUST BE LATER THAN I THOUGHT!

I JUST COULDN'T SLEEP, CAPTAIN STACY...

HAD TO SEE HOW GWEN WAS FEELING!



OH... LOOKS LIKE YOU COULDN'T SLEEP EITHER, HONEY!

I... HAD A LOT OF THINKING TO DO, PETER!

SOUNDS LIKE SHE STILL HASN'T QUITE FORGIVEN ME!

I WAS TRYING TO MAKE UP MY MIND... ABOUT US!







# THE MIGHTY MARVEL CHECKLIST

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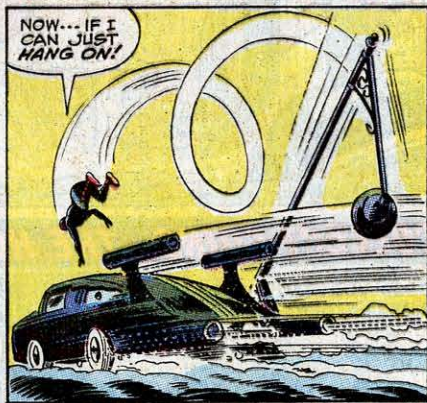
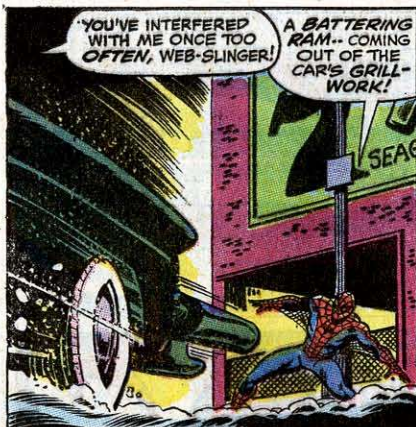
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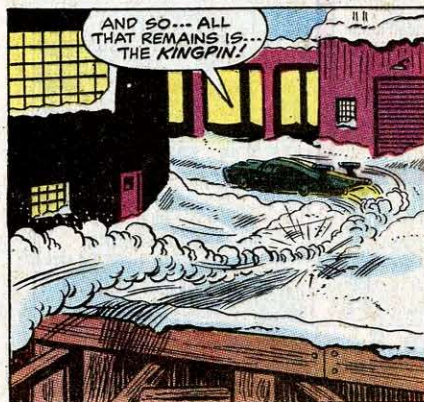
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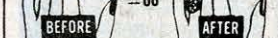
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POWER  
OF HIS  
BLOW...!

IF I HADN'T FENDED IT OFF...  
WITH MY FOREARM... IT  
MIGHT BEEN BYE-BYE  
SPIDEY!



THE SCHEMER CAN  
WAIT... BUT YOU...  
YOU'VE HAD IT COMING  
FOR YEARS!

I'M IN NO HURRY,  
TUBS... IF THE  
SCHEMER COMES  
FIRST...



YOU'LL NEVER  
MOCK ME  
AGAIN!

**THUD!**

DON'T  
COUNT ON IT,  
BUTTERBALL!

THIS TIME I WAS  
READY FOR YOU!



WHICH IS MORE  
THAN YOU ARE...  
RIGHT NOW!



I'VE NEVER HATED  
ANYONE... THE WAY  
I HATE YOU...!!

HE'S GRABBING  
THE CARPET...  
LOOSENING IT...  
WITH HIS BARE  
HANDS...



OH  
NO!

HE YANKED IT... LIKE YOU'D  
YANK A CLOTH RIGHT OFF  
A TABLE...

EVERYTHING'S  
TUMBLING...  
CAN'T KEEP MY  
BALANCE!



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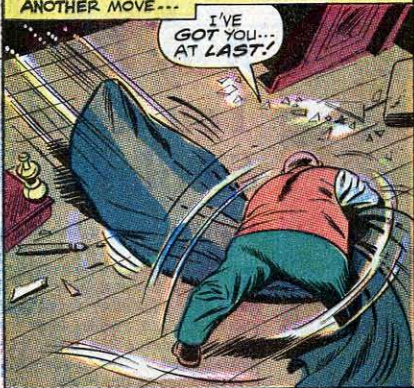
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KNOW SOMETHING? YOU MAKE A LOUSY PROPHET!

ZOK!

WITH THAT FIVE THOUSAND DOLLAR REWARD FOR THE SCHEMER... NOTHING'S BEATING ME NOW!



BUT... WHERE IS HE? THERE'S NO SIGN OF HIM!

HE'S GONE! THE SCHEMER GOT AWAY!



AT THAT VERY MOMENT, THE KINGPIN ALSO SUDDENLY REALIZES...

VANESSA! VANESSA! SHE ISN'T HERE!

SHE... AND THE SCHEMER... BOTH ARE GONE!



WHAT IF... THAT WAS HIS PLAN?

WHAT IF... HE'S TAKEN HER?!!







# MIGHTY MARVEL'S ON THE MOVE AGAIN!

## AND WHEN WE SAY WE'RE ON THE MOVE AGAIN, WE'RE NOT JUST GARGLIN' HAMFAT, PEOPLE! HERE'S WHY—

**ITEM!** Let's start with the results of organized fandom's biggest popularity poll. The tallies of the 1969 Alley Awards are finally in, and it's almost embarrassing the way mighty Marvel copped most of the main honors. We figured you'd wanna share some of the excitement with us, so here's a brief recap of the way the voting went: **BEST COMICS MAG:** THE FANTASTIC FOUR and SPIDER-MAN ran away with the two top honors, each getting more than twice the votes of its nearest rival. **BEST WAR TITLE:** SGT. FURY (and his Whatchamacallums), winning by almost two-to-one. **BEST EDITOR:** Our own STAN LEE (for the umpteenth time). **BEST WRITER:** You guessed it — STAN THE MAN again — and the biggest kick of all is the fact that RASCALLY ROY THOMAS was voted second choice in this category, showing how fandom's farflung frantic ones feel about our opulent opuses. **BEST PENCIL ARTIST** was JAUNTY JIM STERANKO, on the strength of the fabulous style and sophistication he has brought to so many Marvel strips — followed by last year's landslide winner, JOLLY JACK KIRBY, our own living legend, who's always the most potent threat in any comic art poll. **BEST INK-ER:** Who else but Marvel's JOLTY JOEY SINNOTT? We'll tell ya who else — WONDROUS WALLY WOOD grabbed second place — and you'll find W.W.'s artwork gracing our phantasmagoric pages once again. Well, we could go on and on, but you get the idea. Incidentally, if it sounds like we're bragging, you're right! But we're not bragging about us — it's YOU we're boasting about. After all, Marvel's titanic triumphs are nothing more than magnificent monuments to your own good taste!

**ITEM!** Now let's talk about new developments. BASHFUL BARRY SMITH'S returning to the States from merrie olde England to work on a new top-secret project for us. We can't spell it out just yet, but we've a hunch you're gonna call it mildly sensational!

**ITEM!** We're bringing out two new mags which will go on sale about May of this year. They're sure to remind you of some of Marvel's greatest experiments of the past, although they'll be done in the

### STAN'S SOAPBOX

Okay, students — it's lesson time again. So many of you have been asking how long it takes to produce one of our cataclysmic comics that I decided to take the easy way out and answer all of you at once — as a public service — and mainly 'cause I can't think of anything else to write about. As you know, we turn out an average of twenty merry masterworks a month, which boils down to about one complete book every working day. Naturally, that doesn't mean we write, draw, letter, and color a complete mag in a single day — even Irving Forbush couldn't do it. But, the work is done on a glorified, nervous-breakdown-inducing, production-line basis. We start a new title every day and take about a month till it reaches completion. If any one book is late, or if any writer or artist or anyone connected with the mag's production misses his deadline, it sets the whole kaboodle back like a set of falling dominos. Now then, if you completely understand any of this, drop us a line and explain it to me. And, whilst wallowing in our usual sea of confusion, I'll start preparing next month's Soapbox, which'll deal with the time it takes for the writer to do his writing, the letterer to do his lettering, and the artist to do his artisting. Then, when we're all done, this avalanche of erudite information is guaranteed to do you as much good as it does us. In other words —

Excelsior!

*Stan Lee*

latest, greatest dynamite styles of today, by none other than KIRBY, ROMITA, KANE, and HECK! And if that's not enough to whet your appetite —

**ITEM!** We've inaugurated a new policy of guest-star appearances in our superhero spectaculars. Perhaps you've already noticed more and more guest appearances, such as the Human Torch being featured in the current SILVER SURFER #15, or the Sub-Mariner/Iron Man slugfest in Shellhead's latest ish! And that's only the beginning of a whole magilla of ideas and surprises we've got in store for lucky you, in the months to come!

**ITEM!** Well, we did it again. Here's the first paragraph of a letter poor

Smiley just received from SHEL FELDNER of the drama dept. at the Univ. of California, Santa Cruz: "Oh Stan! What a terrible man you are! I have with great difficulty restrained an army of students from the University of California at SANTA CRUZ from marching on your office with burning pine knots and a hemp necktie. Why do they hunger for confrontation? Because you called their beloved Alma Mater the U. of Cal. at VERA CRUZ!" Luckily, Stan read on before abandoning all hope, and saw: " — I might mention that the Marvel Era continues at Santa Cruz. I am using your magazines for tryout material in the latest show I'm directing — they're really good for stimulating students." Many thanks, Shelly boy! For an endorsement like that, maybe it's worth making a bonehead blunder or two!

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is on another page!





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# THE SPIDER'S WEB

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Dear Stan and John,

After reading SPIDER-MAN #80, something kept bugging me about it! I finally discovered what it was: your solitary footnote. By now, after half a million Marvelites have written to you, you probably realize that you should have forgotten all about sticking one in.

You see, the story was excellent, save for one solitary panel. How could Spidey recall The Chameleon looking the way he did in the story when, the last time they fought, ol' False-Face wore a mask with openings for his eyes?

As for the footnote, you stated that Pete last fought Chameleon in ish #2. WRONG! Searching through my vast collection of Marvel mags, I found that the only stories that appeared in SPIDER-MAN #2 were "The Uncanny Threat of the Terrible Tinkerer!" and the first appearance of the Vulture! Issue #1, however, is another story! It has as its second story "Spider-Man vs. The Chameleon!" Don't feel bad, you only missed it by one ish, right? WRONG! Spidey met The Chameleon at least twice after #1. The second time was in SPIDER-MAN #5, August, 1964, reprinted in MARVEL TALES #10. At the end of said story, after the crime-team of Kraven, the Hunter, and ol' multi-face had been deported to South America, they swore to return someday to get revenge! And if memory serves, they did! After that defeat, they went their separate ways, Kraven later joining the Sinister Six and Chameleon returning in SPIDER-MAN #80!

Need I say more? If ever you begin to think of yourselves as infallible, just refer to this letter!

Robert Kowalski, 3872 Garvin Street  
Detroit, Mich. 48212

Believe us, Bob, any idea that Stan and John ever had that they were infallible went out the window with the very first issue of SPIDEY that they labored over together. As a matter of fact, if only one lone panel and only one solitary footnote were fouled up in ish #80, they may well start looking upon that as one of the most nearly perfect mags they ever put out!

At least you cleared up one little point for us. We were kinda wondering if anybody still read those frantic footnotes which we toss into virtually each and every story. Well, so much for that mystery of the Marvel Age of Comics!

Dear Stan and John,

When P.P. switches to Spidey on a roof, he wraps his street duds in webbing and stashes them under a ledge or something. How come the webbing doesn't evaporate and let his clothes fall to the street below?

Mike Conrad, Route #1, Box 549-C  
Durango, Colorado 81301

As we seem to remember writing somewhere, the sticking power of Spidey's wondrous webbing last for several hours—depending upon the amount of it employed, no doubt. And so, our ol' wall-crawler can generally count on getting back to it soon enough to stop it from toppling streetward. Still, we'd be less than our usual Honest-Abe selves if we didn't say that your little missive has started our little heads a' buzzing with pulsatin' plot ideas—and that something along those lines might happen one of these days! (And then again, it might not! How's that for keeping you on your toes, believer?)

Dear Stan and John,

When SPIDER-MAN first came out, in his secret identity he was a quiet, timid person. Then, in issue #39 (I think) the introduction of a new artist gave that quiet timid person a completely new outlook on life, and he has never been the same. Peter Parker then became a very popular person, not the square that we once knew. Now, although Peter Parker is by no means quiet or timid, he seems to be in the same position he was before Johnny Romita took over as artist. In other words, because of the rapid changing of the times, Peter has once again become a square.

I realize that it might be difficult to have his hair grow out as a fan suggested earlier, but there are many ways, such as changing his style of clothes, his style of speech, and other similar things in order to update him a bit. Stan, when you first came out with SPIDER-MAN, you wanted to put out a magazine with a character that high school and college students could identify with, a magazine that would not be read by members of the bubble gum brigade. In order to maintain an older audience, you must constantly change Peter Parker, as well as your other characters.

Dirk Burhans, 161 Grosvenor St.  
Athens, Ohio 45701

Don't we know it, Dirk! And we think that your point concerning Peter Parker becoming a square just by standing still is a well-taken one. Our only question now is, should we leave him a square peg in a round world—or "update" him as you suggest? Decisions, decisions—and each one of them designed to offend as many rapturous readers as it makes happy! (Hmmm... whatever happened to that career in higher mathematics we once considered 'way back in high school? Oh yeah... we gave it up when Bob Kowalski informed us, earlier on this page, that we couldn't even count to two without getting our toes crossed!)



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**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,

SPIDEY #80 was a pretty good issue. I enjoyed the Buscema-Mooney team very much. But where is John Romita? Why isn't he drawing anything except covers?

The main reason I'm writing is to tell you that one of your answers on the Spidey letters page is wrong! The letter from Cpl. Bozarth asks why Peter Parker doesn't wear his oversized glasses anymore. You answer "... he must have discovered that his spider powers had improved his vision ..."

Looking back into SPIDEY #8 (page 2, panel 6) Peter Parker says after Flash and knocked off and broken his glasses, "I've had it! I'm through pretending to be a pantywaist to conceal my real identity! I don't need those specs anyway!"

There you have it! Peace.

Tim Seidler, 987 Springfield Dr.  
Walnut Creek, Cal. 94598

The way we see it, Tim, your answer and ours aren't really at variance at all! By the time Peter Parker broke his goggles in that famous story, he must have discovered that his spider powers had indeed improved his vision 100%. Obviously, though, he must have needed them at an earlier date—how many high-school Harrys do you know who wear old-fashioned specs to impress the gals? Or have things changed that much since the "good ol' days"?



Dear Stan, John and Jim,

You guys have used so many famous poems, titles, clichés, and the like for titles of your own great epics that it has actually become hard for me to remember the original lines. The December issue of SPIDER-MAN was a typical example. "To Prowl No More" sounds strangely Shakespearean, and I believe it comes from *Hamlet*, but exactly how it should be escapes me.

Now, just to get even for lousing up my mind, I have a quote for you from Franklin Pierce Adams, "To a Vers Librist!"

O bards of rhyme and metre  
free,  
My gratitude goes out to ye  
For all your deathless lines—  
ahem!  
Let's see now ... What is one of  
them?

Bring back Hobie Brown in a future issue.

Glen Quasny  
West Covina, California

We may just do that, Glen—but we're not making any promises in that direction just now.

As for the source of that "To Prowl No More!" line, why, Smiley thought he made it up all by his lonesome—but we wouldn't be surprised if a few hundred bibliophiles among Marveldom Assembled dropped him a line to inform him differently!



Dear Stan and John,

SPIDER-MAN #80 was great, one of your best! Still, I have one small complaint.

On page 8 the Chameleon is holding a paper and looking at the headline which reads, "CAPT. JOHN STACY TO HEAD SECURITY GUARD AT MUSEUM ART EXHIBIT." Of course, everybody knows that Gwen's father is really George Stacy.

Now I'm going to get you off the hook. The newspaper editor, probably J.J.J., knowing that Capt. Stacy's name is John George (or George John) Stacy, printed the shortest name to save space!

B.W. Hiatt, Rt. 1, Box 582  
Mount Airy, N.C. 27030

We'll buy that explanation, B.W.—and send on nifty no-prize winging its wandering way to you for getting us off the hook. (To tell the truth, though, we did have another way out of the hole we dug ourselves. Namely, we planned to blame the whole thing on Snarlin' Sammy Rosen!)

Dear Stan and John,

What do you mean by saying that Spidey's battling it out with the FF for the world title?

Sir, he IS the world's greatest comics magazine!!!

Oh, oh ... is that a flare gun I hear???

PMM, Neil Maloney, 11 Hunt Street  
Guildford, 2161 N.S.W., Australia

Nope, Neil—it's just the gentle voice of the Thing, softly murmuring "It's Clobberin' Time!" as he stomps his way towards Down Under to straighten you out on a few things. And by the way, before you get the idea that there's a frenetic feud going on between Spidey and the F.F., just remember that we publish both of those tintinnabulating titles—so no matter which one wins, Stan and the crew (not to mention merry Marty Goodman) come out on top!

Dear Stan and John,

Since Richard Parker (Peter's father) was killed while on active duty working for the U.S. Government (and even if this information was withheld from the general public, the highest echelon of U.S. Intelligence had to know about it), Peter Parker is DRAFT EXEMPT because he is a sole surviving son.

Skeptics may see SPIDEY ANNUAL #5.

Bruce Long, 762 Via Altamira #43  
Montebello, Cal. 90640

Interesting point you've brought up there, Bruce lad. To tell the truth, though, we're not sure that "highest echelon" which you mention as knowing about Richard Parker's fatal mission necessarily included Pete's ever-lovin' draft board! And, dodging the whole issue in our customary cowardly way—it is there anybody out there (mayhap a spokesman for U.S. Intelligence?) who can give us the inside scoop? Fact is, we're so eager for info on this point that we'll probably end up taking the word of anybody this side of the Red-Skull! So don't let us down, hear?



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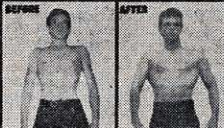
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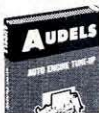


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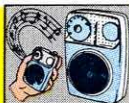
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