

SPIDER-MAN

15¢ 87  
AUG

# the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN

APPROVED  
BY THE  
COMICS  
CODE  
AUTHORITY



MARVEL  
COMICS  
GROUP

I-- HAD TO  
TELL YOU!  
CAN'T KEEP  
IT A  
**SECRET**  
ANYMORE!

SPIDER-MAN'S  
CAREER IS  
**OVER!**

-- I'M THE  
ONLY ONE WHO  
COULD **KNOW**  
THAT! BECAUSE...  
**I AM**  
**SPIDER-MAN!**

IF YOU  
ONLY READ  
**ONE** MAG  
THIS MONTH--

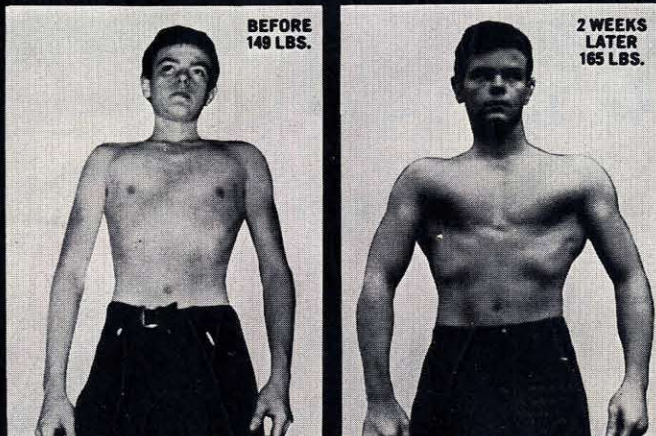
**IT  
MUST  
BE  
THIS  
ONE!**



## UNMASKED AT LAST!

Another JOE WEIDER breakthrough:

# THE END OF THE SKINNY BODY.



## GAINS UP TO 16 POUNDS IN 14 DAYS—

• adds 2 1/4" to each arm, 2 1/4" to his chest!

Walter Leno of Burlington, Vt. reported these fantastic gains in 14 days! Gains 16 pounds, added 2 1/4" to each arm, 2 1/4" to his chest, 1 1/4" to each leg. See what a fresher, more exciting fun-going body he now has—thanks to Crash Weight Formula #7. He says, "All I did was follow the plan and drink a few small glasses of delicious Crash Weight Formula #7—and the improvement I made in just 14 days was beyond my wildest dreams!" Shouldn't this happen to you?

### Nobody likes a bag of bones

Flesh out your bones. Fill out your narrow, shallow chest. Your skinny arms. And spindly legs. Here's a totally new breed of nutritional "wildcat" drink that's guaranteed to put an end to your muscle-starved, hungry-looking body. Joe Weider's Crash-Weight Formula #7 is a new scientifically-blended milkshake-flavored drink that lets you drink on as much as up to 14 pounds in 14 days the easy, the delicious, the relaxed way. Just drink 4 zesty glasses of Crash-Weight natural organic with your regular meals and take in up to 3500 extra calories a day. (It's the calories that count when you want to put on some handsome weight!) And Crash-Weight does all the work for you. Piling on the pounds and the weight as the days go by. Check the plan you want in the coupon.

Guaranteed to put weight on you and create a new—fresher—more exciting fun-going you or money back!

### The Do-It-Yourself 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 with heavy-as-lead foods. Now you can. It's as simple as drinking a delicious milkshake.



### FREE:

Weight-Gaining and Muscle-Building Course. This 48-page illustrated Guide sent FREE with each Crash-Weight Formula #7 Kit. Crammed with step-by-step instructions in muscle-building and weight-gaining basics. Filled with all the latest ideas and how to adapt them for your own personal, fun-going weight gains!



### Fill in this Gain-A-Pound-A-Day-or-Your-Money-Back Guarantee Coupon

JOE WEIDER, Dept. 83-70K10  
 (West of the Rockies)  
 531-32nd St., Union City, N.J. 07087  
 Weider Distributors, Inc.  
 Box 1647  
 Santa Monica, Calif. 90406

Dear Joe:

I want to put an end to my skinny body and have everyone compliment me on my athletic appearance and muscular gains. Rush me the "pound-a-day" Crash-Weight Formula #7 package I have checked below.

Check Plan & Flavor Desired:

☐ 7-Day Supply...\$ 7.50 ☐ Chocolate  
☐ 14-Day Supply...\$14.98 ☐ Vanilla  
 If it doesn't work, I want my money back. OK?

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ AGE \_\_\_\_\_  
 ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
 CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_  
 Canadian orders filled in Canada—no duty to pay.

JOIN THE WEIGHT GAINABLES! DRINK ON NEW POUNDS—FAST! SAFELY!

SERVICEMEN: TO SPEED YOUR ORDER, U. S. Regulations require that shipments to servicemen be prepaid — Please add indicated amount as required by your APO or FPO address.

	APD or FPO	N.Y. or S.F.
CRASH-WEIGHT (7-Day)	.80	\$1.75
CRASH-WEIGHT (14-Day)	1.10	2.75



**THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN!** TM

# UNMASKED AT LAST!

AS WE SAW  
LAST ISSUE,  
SPIDER-MAN HAS  
BEEN SLOWLY GROWING  
WEAKER! FINALLY, A  
DESPERATE PETER PARKER  
PUTS A DROP OF HIS OWN  
BLOOD UNDER A MICRO-  
SCOPE, TO SEE IF IT CAN  
BE FINALLY LOSING  
ITS AMAZING RADIO-  
ACTIVE POWER...

IF THE  
SLIDE SHOWS  
A LOSS OF  
RADIATION  
IN MY BLOOD...

--IT  
MEANS THE  
TIME HAS  
COME! I'LL  
BE SPIDER-MAN  
NO LONGER!

WRITTEN BY:  
**STAN LEE**  
ILLUSTRATED BY:  
**JOHN ROMITA**  
and  
**JIM MOONEY**  
LETTERED BY:  
**SAM ROSEN**

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**SKIN SURFACE DISFIGURED BY PIMPLES? BLACKHEADS? FRECKLES?**



# Blemishes Fade As Skin Clears

**AMAZING NEW SKIN CREAM SO POWERFUL  
IT STARTS HELPING TO CLEAR EPIDERMIS  
THE INSTANT APPLIED!**

**Works with Nature Replacing Epidermis Marked by  
Surface Pimples and Blackheads with a New  
Fresh, Clearer, Softer, Smoother Complexion!**

It takes POWER to dry up pimples... to loosen blackheads... to fade freckles... to clear away blemished epidermis (skin surface). So why mess around with watery lotions, weak medicated make-ups... smelly salves and greasy ointments when it's **FAYD SKIN CREAM** that you need. Fayd contains a powerful clearing and skin whitening discovery that works strong and fast on the externally caused pimples, blackheads, blemishes, marks, freckles and spots that blot and dot the top skin layer. In 7 days Fayd may make your complexion so much more clear, fair and blemish free you want to jump for happiness. Fayd makes the skin softer, smoother and more glowing with the fresh new look of youth. And occasional use of Fayd helps keep your skin looking more lovely everyday to your pride and joy.

## JUST TRY FOR 7 NIGHTS

**DIRECTIONS**  
For Using  
**FAYD**

**FOLLOW  
EASY DIRECTIONS**

Read booklet and do exactly  
as it says. It's easy... and so  
rewarding!

**SPREAD ON  
THIN FILM**

Just apply over face, neck or  
affected area for 7 nights...

**WORKS  
WHILE YOU SLEEP**

Then see amazing, clear  
results or return for your  
money back!



## SEND FOR YOUR DEMONSTRATION TODAY

If the pimple cream you are using works too slow, don't wait but send for Fayd Skin Cream. Let this actual home demonstration show you what Fayd is... how it works fast... and why so many boys, girls, men and women use it, for outbreaks... for freckles... for lightening, brightening and clearing the skin. Fayd acts on both oily skin areas around the nose and also on dry skin areas. It refines enlarged pores. Helps stop many new blemishes before they start. So take advantage of this amazing home demonstration offer. Mail the coupon today.

## MAIL THIS NO-RISK COUPON

Fayd, called by many "nature's clear skin cream", is pure white and won't stain pillows. Delightful, easy, it has no medicated odor, washes off completely, leaves skin feeling so new that make-up looks far more natural... if you need make-up at all! For your trial and approval we offer the full size 3 oz. jar Fayd for only \$3.00 full price postpaid. Use the entire supply and then if you aren't satisfied, simply return the empty jar for your money back. Accept this test at our risk offer. Clip the coupon, and mail today.

## IMPORTANT

If the coupon has already been clipped, send order with your name and address. Ask for Fayd's \$3.00 Trial Offer. Mail to Fleetwood Co., Dept. D 87, 427 W. Randolph St., Chicago, Illinois 60606.

**THE FLEETWOOD CO. Dept. D-87  
427 W. Randolph St.  
Chicago, Illinois 60606**

Send the 3 oz. jar of FAYD SKIN CREAM as checked below. As advertised, you guarantee I can return the empty jar at any time and you will refund my purchase price.

- ☐ \$3.00 enclosed. Send postage paid.  
☐ Enclosed is \$1.00 deposit. Send C.O.D. for balance of \$2.00 plus postage.

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_  
State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_





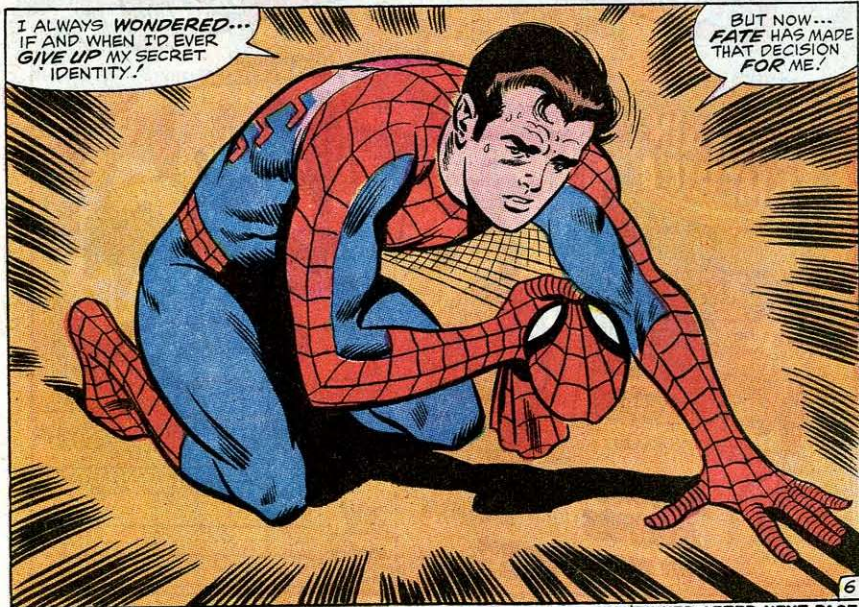








I ALWAYS *WONDERED...*  
IF AND WHEN I'D EVER  
*GIVE UP* MY SECRET  
IDENTITY!



6  
CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE



## THE MIGHTY MARVEL CHECKLIST

Marvel-ous Mags On Sale Right Now!

**FANTASTIC FOUR #100:** The sensational 100th-anniversary ish you've been waiting for—with more super-villains than any mag, at any time, anywhere!

**SPIDER-MAN #86:** A startled Spidey faces a foe whose powers resemble his own! She's the new, beautiful, breath-taking Black Widow!

**SILVER SURFER #17:** How can the Surfer defeat Nick Fury and all the fighting forces of Shield—before unholly Mephisto triumphs at last?

**AVENGERS #77:** For hire—the mighty Avengers! The day you thought would never come! Plus—a sinister new mystery villain!

**THOR #177:** Our great wrap-up issue! See Asgard saved from destruction! See the rescue of Odin! See the battle between Thor and giant Surtur!

**CAPTAIN AMERICA #127:** If Cap has turned traitor—those who love him most must destroy him! And wait! You see the deadly, super-powerful X-4!

**DAREDEVIL #65:** They call him Brother Brimstone—but don't laugh at him—and don't turn your back on him! Plus—a new life for Karen Page!

**HULK #129:** Our green-skinned goliath fights for his life against the unstoppable, revenge-crazed Glob! It's the rematch you've been waiting for!

**CAPTAIN MARVEL #21:** It had to happen! Mar-Vell takes on the incredible Hulk at last—in the middle of a riot-torn campus!

**IRON MAN #27:** A story ripped from today's screaming headlines! How does Iron Man defeat the new kind of menace they call—the Firebrand?

**SUB-MARINER #27:** If Namor dares battle the mysterious Commander Kraken, both Dorma and Diane Arliss may die! And yet—battle he must!

**SGT. FURY #79:** The hard-hitting Howlers tackle a whole castle full of crack Nazi troops—high atop snow-capped Bavarian peaks!

**TOWER OF SHADOWS #6:** Wally Wood returns—with a swashbuckling, spooktacular to set you on your ear! Plus two more eleventh-hour epics!

**MARVEL SUPER-HEROES #27:** Daredevil—the Hulk—the X-Men! With all these super-doers in the same mag—anything can happen!

**MARVEL TALES #27:** The two greatest youthquakes of all—Spidey and the torrid Torch! Plus the mighty Thor, just to close the generation gap!

### AND, OF COURSE—

**WHERE MONSTERS DWELL #4—RAWHIDE KID #78—RINGO KID #4—KID COLT OUTLAW #147—MILLIE THE MODEL #184—MAD ABOUT MILLIE #13—L'L KIDS #1—HOMER THE HAPPY GHOST #5—MY LOVE #6—CHILLI #15.**

### AND, STILL ON SALE—

**CHAMBER OF DARKNESS #5:** Another King Kirby masterpiece! Plus two more macabre tales destined to set moon-gazing back twenty years!

**MARVEL'S GREATEST COMICS #27:** What can you say about a mag featuring the F.F.—Doc Strange—and Iron Man—except grrrrreat!

Not to mention MIGHTY MARVEL WESTERN #9—OUR LOVE STORY #5—and maybe another mag or two even we've lost track of!

# EXCITING NEW CLUB MARVELMANIA INTERNATIONAL JUMBO POSTERS DECALS

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# Yes... Now YOU Manage All Major League Teams!



## Baseball Fans Have Gone WILD About BE A MANAGER!

"I have had the game for three years and enjoy playing it."

- D.G., Illinois

"We have set up a four-team league around my house, where we have just completed a forty game schedule."

- G.H., New York

"The game has been the best I have ever played. It has made my dream come true. I know 100 people who have it."

- A.S., Texas

"BE A MANAGER is definitely the most enjoyable, accurate baseball game ever manufactured. Some friends of mine played it with me and I bought one."

- R.F., New Jersey

**YOU Decide On the Line-Ups ... YOU Plot the Strategy, Control the Pitching, Batting, Running, YOU Decide How You Want Your Outfield Played, Tell Your Men When To Hit, Run, Steal. Yes - Now YOU Manage the Big Leagues!**

Imagine the excitement of a World Series playoff and you'll get just the slightest idea of the THRILL of playing BE A MANAGER! You'll be caught up in baseball as never before, because YOU are the manager! You have real control over all 400 big league players - who actually bat, field, run, pitch according to their playing abilities.

### HITTING, FIELDING, RUNNING AS IN REAL LIFE!

With YOU planning strategy, deciding on pinch-hitters, ordering defensive moves - you've still got to be crafty, because every man on your team plays exactly according to his real life quality. He makes errors you've got to watch out for. He may go into a sudden slump and you've got to get him out. He may rush into a red-hot hitting streak you've got to take advantage of; he may become a hero - at the wrong time!

### KNOW 400 PLAYERS!

Yes, you'll get to know 400 real life players - on all 20 big league teams - better than anybody in your neighborhood! Because as a MANAGER you've got all the statistics at your fingertips - every man's hits, runs, stolen bases, batting record, etc. With this exciting real knowledge, it is possible for YOU, the manager, to

achieve thrilling victories even with a weak team.

### GET THE BIG STORY!

Remember: it's always YOUR skill, knowledge, foresight and courage that wins games. Now...BE A MANAGER! Find out all the facts about this greatest of all games - the original, official game...plus you get THREE FREE GIFTS when you mail the coupon. Do it today!

◆ BE A MANAGER, Dept. MV40  
PO Box 98, Springfield Gardens Stn., Jamaica N.Y. 11413

◆ I want to know all about BE A MANAGER; please send me all the exciting details plus THREE FREE GIFTS... (1) Player Card (2) 7 All-Time Baseball Oddities (3) Proposed Roster for 1970 Big League Teams. I enclose 10¢ to cover postage and handling.

◆ NAME

◆ ADDRESS

◆ CITY, STATE, ZIP



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**7 FEET TALL**

**In Authentic Colors With GLOW in the DARK EYES**

**ONLY \$1.00**

**TEN DAY FREE TRIAL**

Just imagine your friends shock when they walk into your room and see the "Monster" reaching out - bigger than life-Frankenstein, the original man-made monster, that creation of evil genius that terrorized the world. A giant 7 feet tall, his eyes glow eerily as his hand reaches out - as awful and sinister as the wildest nightmare. Yes - Frankenstein is 7 feet tall, in authentic colors on durable polyethylene, and so lifelike you'll probably find yourself talking to him. Won't you be surprised if he answers? Comes complete with eyes that glow even in the pitch dark for a special thrilling chill.

Boney the Skeleton. And then there is Boney - stark scary with nothing left but his bare bones. A 7 foot monster out of the grave - his bones white, his eyes staring - even glowing in the dark.

**Money Back Guarantee.** Just send \$1.00 plus 25¢ to cover postage and handling for each monster you want. Your money back if not satisfactorily horrified.



Honor House, Dept. 77MF06  
Lynbrook, N.Y. 11563

Rush me my 7 foot tall glow in the dark monsters. Send me ☐ Frankenstein ☐ Boney the Skeleton

I enclose \$1 plus 25¢ for postage and handling for each. If I don't get shivers of delight, I can return my purchase within 10 days and you will refund the full purchase price.

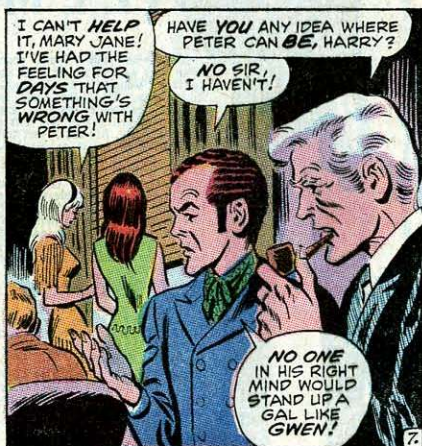
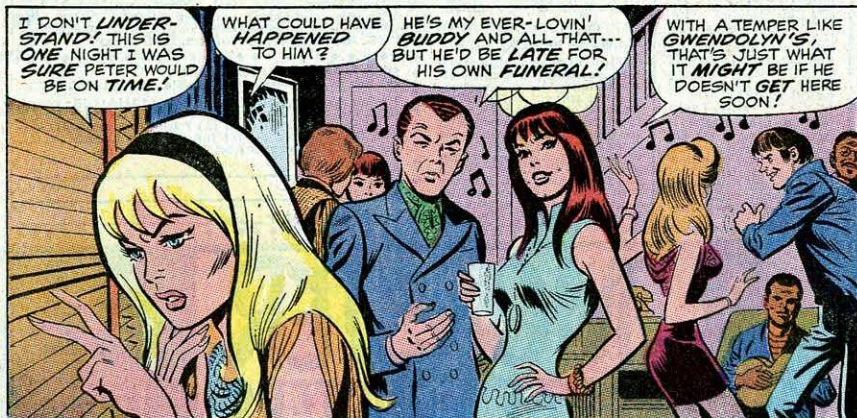
NAME

ADDRESS

CITY  STATE  ZIP

New York State Residents please add 5% sales tax.











I-- HAD TO  
TELL YOU---  
CAN'T KEEP IT  
A SECRET  
ANYMORE---

SPIDER-MAN  
IS FINISHED! HIS  
CAREER IS ENDED  
--FOREVER!

I'M-- THE ONLY  
ONE... WHO COULD  
KNOW THAT!  
BECAUSE... **I'M  
SPIDER-  
MAN!**





**BOYS Here's a Swell Way to  
Make \$1 to \$6 WEEKLY  
in your spare time  
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Boys — 12 or  
older

GRIT sells  
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YOU MAKE

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**Sell GRIT**

"America's  
Greatest  
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Besides getting lots of spending money and winning prizes, selling GRIT gives boys valuable business training which will help them become successful men. Many of today's leaders sold GRIT during their boyhood.

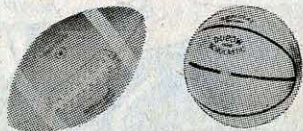
GRIT will help you get started in a profitable business of your own. We will send you papers. You pay ONLY for those you sell until you know how many to order. You will also receive easy-to-understand selling helps. You'll find selling GRIT easy and fun.

**Hurry!**

If you are a boy  
12 or older

**SEND THIS COUPON**

Papers sent only  
to boys in con-  
tinental U.S.A.



Print Name and Address

GRIT PUBLISHING CO., Williamsport, Pa.

Start me in as a GRIT salesman MC60

Name .....

Age ..... Date Born ..... Year .....

In care of .....

Street or R. D. ....

Post Office .....

State ..... Zip .....

Please Print Your Last Name Plainly Below



**THESE 3 BIG  
DRAFTING  
KITS\*  
GIVEN  
TO YOU!**



Earns \$820 Month!

"My first position after completing your course jumped my income from \$350 to \$820 per month." — G. W., Tenn.

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I was promoted from the production line ahead of 4 others and got a good pay raise. — W. A., Wisc.

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today!



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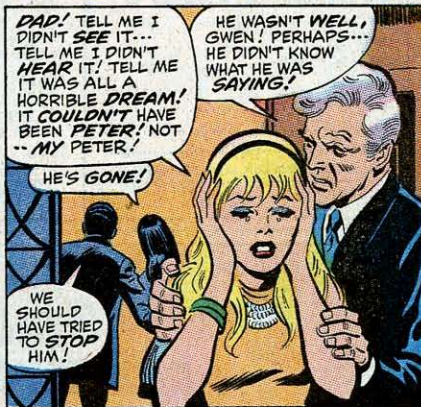
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A home study program in association with Cleveland Engineering Inst.









"... AND WHEN THE MASK WAS TORN AWAY...  
THE FACE BENEATH WAS... **PETER PARKER'S!**"\*

**PARKER!  
B-BUT  
HOW?**

\*IT HAPPENED IN ISH #12! IF  
YOU DON'T BELIEVE US, ASK  
AUNT MAY!  
--- STAN



"BUT OCK SOON REALIZED PETE WAS JUST A  
NERVY IMPOSTOR, AND..."

**GET THAT  
BRAT OUT  
OF HERE!**

**I WANT THE  
REAL SPIDER-  
MAN!**

**THOK!**



"PETE GOT A GOOD BAWLING OUT FOR  
IMPERSONATING THE WEB-SLINGER IN  
ORDER TO GET SOME GOOD NEWS PIX  
OF DOC OCK, AND THAT WAS THE END OF IT!"

**FOOL KID! DON'T EVER  
TRY ANYTHING LIKE THAT  
AGAIN, HEAR?**



**BUT NOW, WHAT THE  
HECK WOULD MAKE  
HIM TRY IT A SECOND  
TIME?**

**WHAT IF... IT WASN'T  
AN ACT THAT FIRST  
TIME? WHAT IF...  
HE REALLY IS  
SPIDER-MAN?**

**BUT WHY  
HIS SUDDEN  
CONFESSION?**



**WOW, GWENDY...  
YOU SURE CAN  
PICK 'EM!**

**HE'S EITHER A  
MASKED MENACE--  
OR A PSYCHO  
CASE! TAKE YOUR  
PICK!**

**SHUT UP! NO MATTER  
WHAT HE IS... WHAT HE'S  
DONE... DON'T YOU DARE  
TALK ABOUT HIM  
LIKE THAT!**

**OKAY, TIGRESS!  
HE'S ALL  
YOURS!**



MEANWHILE-- A FEW BLOCKS AWAY--

IT'S NO USE!  
I CAN'T KEEP STAGGERING AROUND THIS WAY!

I-- I'VE GOT TO FIND OUT...  
WHAT'S WRONG WITH ME! I'VE--  
GOT TO KNOW!



IT MAY BE...  
SOMETHING EVEN MORE  
SERIOUS...  
THAN JUST  
LOSING MY  
SPIDER  
POWERS!



MAYBE-- THE  
RADIO-  
ACTIVITY IN  
MY BLOOD-- HAS  
FATALLY  
AFFECTED ME!

MAYBE I'M  
--ACTUALLY--  
DYING!

CAN'T-- PUT  
IT OFF-- ANY  
LONGER! HAVE  
TO GET  
MEDICAL  
HELP!



I MIGHT  
AS WELL GO  
AS-- SPIDER-  
MAN! IT  
JUST DOESN'T  
MATTER  
ANYMORE!

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STERANKO  
HAS WRITTEN  
THE MOST  
EXCITING  
BOOK EVER!

**HISTORY  
OF THE  
COMICS**

STAN LEE  
says "it's a  
blockbuster!"



The most talked about comic artist of the year has written the most controversial book of the decade! Between its covers lies the most complete and compelling compilation of the life and times of the comic ever published! STERANKO discloses the inside story of the comics from the golden age to the present! Page after page packed with the facts, figures, failures and favorites of the 40's, 50's and 60's! The definitive analysis of comic book history! Kirby, Kubert, Wood, Williamson, Frazetta...all the greats are represented in hundreds of exciting reproductions! IT'S BIG! 80 fantastic pages plus a mind-bending 11" x 17" full color poster size cover by STERANKO starring 50 all-time action heroes! IT'S BOLD! Beginning with the dynamic pulps of the 30's, a galaxy of super-heroes are traced thru 16 profusely illustrated chapters that will make you a comic expert overnight! A super collector's item! HURRY!! SEND TODAY!

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19610





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... AND WE'LL PAY \$350.00 FOR THIS CENT (MINTED LESS THAN 15 YEARS AGO!)

... YOU CAN GET \$300.00 FOR THIS DIME (MINTED LESS THAN 25 YEARS AGO!)



... WILL SEND YOU \$2000.00 FOR THIS SILVER DOLLAR (MINTED LESS THAN 75 YEARS AGO!)



32 page hobby booklet sent with every order.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

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AND I MUST ADMIT... I'M *PRETTY RELIEVED MYSELF*!







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cules saga, guest-starring the mighty Avengers! 'Nuff said? Uh uh! The eagerly-awaited **SGT. FURY** and **IRON MAN** King-Sizers are also now on sale — and they're greater than ever! So go, gang, go!

**ITEM!** Wow! Our own Stan Lee was contacted by one of the world's most famous film-makers to write the screen play for a new big-budget movie based on one of Stan's original stories! Wouldn't it be something if our leader ends up with a Hollywood Oscar to keep his countless comic mag Alley Awards company?

**ITEM!** There's a surprise awaiting you in this month's **THOR**! It's illustrated by ol' Johnny Buscema, who switched off with Jolly Jack this month just for kicks. Meanwhile, the King is making comic book history by drawing **SILVER SURFER** #18, on sale 'most any minute!

**ITEM!** (Just 'cause we have to end with something — and it might as well be an agonizin' admonishment!) We just want to caution you not to send cash when you write for subscriptions. Please send only checks or money orders. (Bottle tops don't count!)

**STAN'S SOAPBOX**

Good news, gang! You'll get a break from all my rapping this month. There's just enough space remaining for me to tell you that there's not enough space remaining for me to tell you anything.

Excelsior!

*Stan Lee*



Don't worry, man!  
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 is on another page!

**KA-ZAR AND DR. DOOM!**

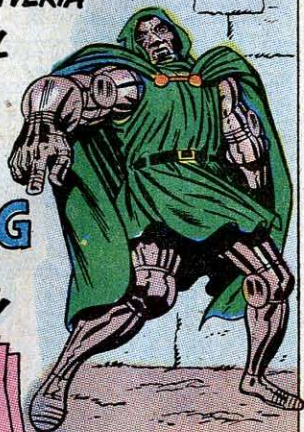
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# THE SPIDER'S WEB

SEND YOUR LETTERS TO:

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

Dear Stan and John,

While never doubting the inherent artistic talent and ability of the Romita/Mooney coterie of Marvel artists, I had failed to notice Mr. Romita's flair for imaginative (perhaps even inspired) execution or presentation of this basic ability for drawing until the current (#83) issue of SPIDER-MAN. While not going so far as to indulge in the avant-garde layouts, experimental (dialogue-less) pacing, and psychedelic eye-slaming techniques of the Steranko/Adams school of artists, Mr. Romita has consistently imbued each page (often each panel) of this month's SPIDER-MAN with some of the most creative and innovative points-of-view and perspectives I have ever noticed in a "straight" comic strip to date. And, since SPIDER-MAN is best suited to this "straight" form of visual narration, Mr. Romita has undeniably produced a near-perfect example of the less flamboyant art style. His choice of angled aerial points-of-view depicting Spider-Man swinging through the air and clinging to the sides of buildings could not have been better conceived or executed. They produced a startling effect upon me; I actually received a genuine sense of height-vertigo from the unbalanced angles I was faced with in these sequences. Coupled with the effectiveness of these aerial POVs was page 14's excellent segment of artistically-complex narration. It is little touches like this (Spider-Man's clever ruse of breaking one window, then crashing through the one opposite while the heavies' attentions were diverted), which inject a boost of that often sadly lacking quality, realism, into the comic strip. A writer's (artist's?) ability to place himself in the fantastic position of a superhero and logically speculate upon what his next actions would be in such an abnormal situation is an enviable one.

The last major point in this abbreviated discussion of Mr. Romita's artwork (I know you hate long letters) concerns the detailed continuity he achieves from one panel to another. Mr. Romita, praise to him, was painfully consistent in his positioning of characters in consecutive panels, regardless of the number of perspective and point-of-view changes contained in each sequence. Far too many comic artists tend to become sloppy where this is concerned, positioning a character to the right side of some object in two consecutive panels even though the first panel is a front view and the second drawn from behind. Of course, this is an overly simplified example and Romita exhibited a number of far more complicated sequences, complete with angle POV changes and perspective-altering close- and long-shots.

Regarding your new innovation of dropping the previous use of unbroken strings of exclamation points, I request that you continue the practice. After reading about the proposed change in a "Bullpen Memo" I honestly didn't expect to notice the difference when it eventually went into effect. However, this first issue of its use demonstrated how effective the change really is. Sentences which actually require the exclamatory designation become emphasized far more when they follow previous "perioded" sentences.

Finally, your "re-innovation" of presenting SPIDER-MAN in its older, more classic style was not as apparent this issue as it was in last month's involved Electro tale. Please follow through with the standard re-set by that issue.

Douglas Moench, 1673 West Pratt Blvd.  
Chicago, Ill. 60626

Stan and John are working on doing just that, Doug, and so

far the overwhelming verdict of Spidophiles the world over seem to be favorable. Some stories, of course, lend themselves more to this type of story-telling than others—but we'll try to see that each and every reader gets his fifteen coppers' worth each time he picks up a Marvel mag.

And by the way, Stan says thanks for your acute appraisal of the continuity art of Johnny Romita—who'll thank you himself when he gets thru blushing. We appreciate your kind words, but we're hardly surprised at them; after all, everybody in the Bullpen has been a fan of jazzy John's work since he first took a crack at Captain America, a decade and a half ago! And from where we sit—it looks like the kid is gonna make it!



Dear Stan and John,

All right! After many futile months of trying to blend just the right amount of action and personal problems to Peter Parker's titanic trials and tribulations, you've finally come up with the winner in SPIDER-MAN #83.

Right, just the right amount of personal problems... unfortunately, I don't dig the problem. Gwen is ticked off at P.P. again. Why? Surely she realizes that Pete in some way saved her life, and if that's not loving her or if that's not caring about her, then God didn't make little green apples, and it don't rain in... well, you guys know what I mean.

Another thing, Stan. It seems to me that the Schemer is another version of the Kingpin, skinnier, but very much alike anyhow.

Speaking of the Kingpin, do me a Hulk-sized favor and get rid of him and his charming wife for a loooong time. It has come to be that I dread picking up each new issue for fear of spotting old basketball head. You have vastly over worked and over used this lukewarm excuse for a master villain.

Oh well, before I over stay my welcome (if I haven't already)...

P.M.J.M. Alan Kupperberg, 254 E. 89 St.  
Brooklyn, N. Y. 11236

We like you, Alan... and Spidey likes you... but we're not too sure about that rather large, bald-headed gentleman who just came thru the door. Oh well, you win some...

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Dear Stan and John,

My comments on SPIDER-MAN #83 will be confined to the letters page, as the story was your usual masterpiece.

Bob Asbrand made an objection to the fact that Hobie Brown hasn't seen his picture in the BUGLE and discovered the secret. Well, now, who said Peter actually sold those pictures? He wanted to help Hobie quit, right? Would he do that by splashing the story of the Prowler's second visit all over the front page? No, our hero may be broke, but he's still our hero. It is a far, far better thing...

About my own letter: I was referring to #78, so you see it was just my overheated imagination that saw Jameson's apoplectic face.

Speaking of overheated imaginations, I apologize. That whole bit with the transfusion etc. . . I was just daydreaming. Hereafter, if I do it again—and I will—consider it the hallucinations of a diseased mind. Actually, I admire your firm stand against side-kicks. I just thought it might give your leading lady something to think about besides your leading man. The days of a guy being a girl's entire life are past—we hope. Besides, I thought you people could handle the idea with taste. Does a person with special powers necessarily have to put on long-johns and corn up the place? Just forget the whole thing, and concentrate on fighting the temptation to use exclamation points!

Tally-ho!

P.M.M. Jean Laidig, 784 Holmdel Rd.  
Holmdel, N. J. 07733

We think we dig what you're trying to say, Jeanie. And by the way, for a glimpse of a fella having trouble with a girl because he isn't her whole life any longer, we hereby invite you to sneak a peak at the current issues of DAREDEVIL. Not that it has anything to do with our wondrous wall-crawler, but what the hey—mighty Marvel publishes more than one mixed-up comic mag, y'know!

(And wouldn't you know—we yielded to the temptation to end the above paragraph with an exclamation point!)

Dear Stan and John,

Something Peter Parker was thinking in SPIDER-MAN #83 has really gotten to me. I can only hope that it was a mistake on your part, and not actually a part of your and his philosophy.

The thought was, "I don't know which is worse . . . or fighting against an enemy you don't even hate."

As I consider the implications of this ill-chosen phrase, I despair. First, it suggests that if we hate an enemy it is all right if we kill him. I think you can see the flaws in that hypothesis. Counter-examples are abundant: Nazis hated Jews, racists hate Negroes, etc.

Also, it suggests that we can't or shouldn't kill an enemy we don't hate. Counter-examples are harder to find, but who hates a disease? And, if I or my loved ones were being anonymously threatened, I could and would kill without hate—for you cannot hate what or who you don't know. Anyway, you see the idea.

What I am trying to say is that hate should not be the prime factor of fighting. If there can be any rational excuse for fighting, it must be love.

Which is why we shouldn't be in Viet Nam. We're not fighting there to defend something we love, but rather to destroy something we hate, i.e., Communism. I hope you understand my point. I would be willing to continue the discussion if anyone is interested.

Don Dewsnap, 4 Eldredge St.  
Newton, Mass. 02158

And I'm sure that someone will, Don—for your reasoning, well-thought-out as it is, is still obviously open to argument. But, for the same reasons as we gave to Todd Bake, elsewhere on this page, we feel it's better for you to be answered by your fellow readers than by one or the other of the members of the Marvel Bullpen. But you can believe that, if anything relevant and vital is said in forthcoming letters, you'll read it here—in a future SPIDER-MAN letters page.



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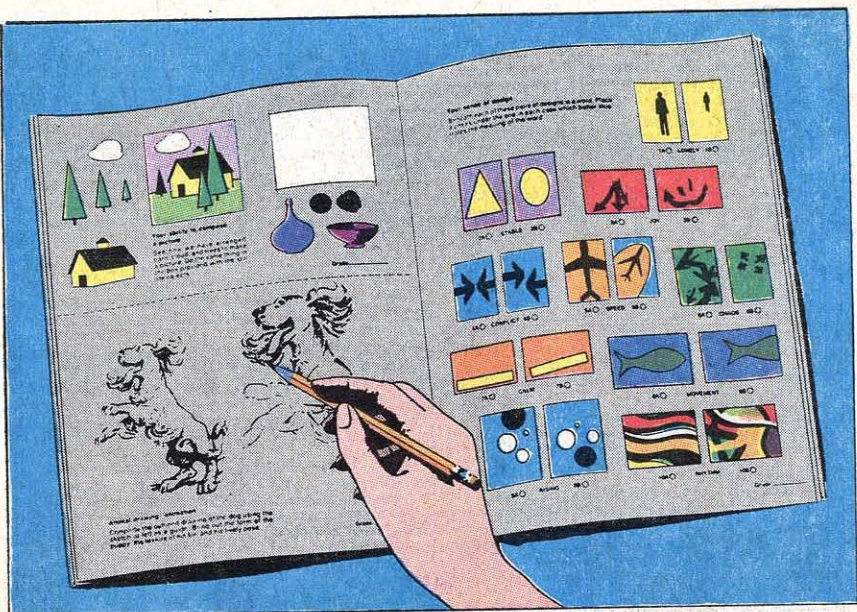
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