

APPROVED  
BY THE  
COMICS  
CODE  
AUTHORITY

SPIDER-  
MAN

15¢ 91  
DEC



# the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN

TO  
SMASH  
THE  
SPIDER!

FIRST IT  
WAS JAMESON--  
THEN GWEN---  
AND NOW---

I'VE NO  
PLACE TO TURN!  
THE WHOLE  
CITY'S AGAINST  
ME!

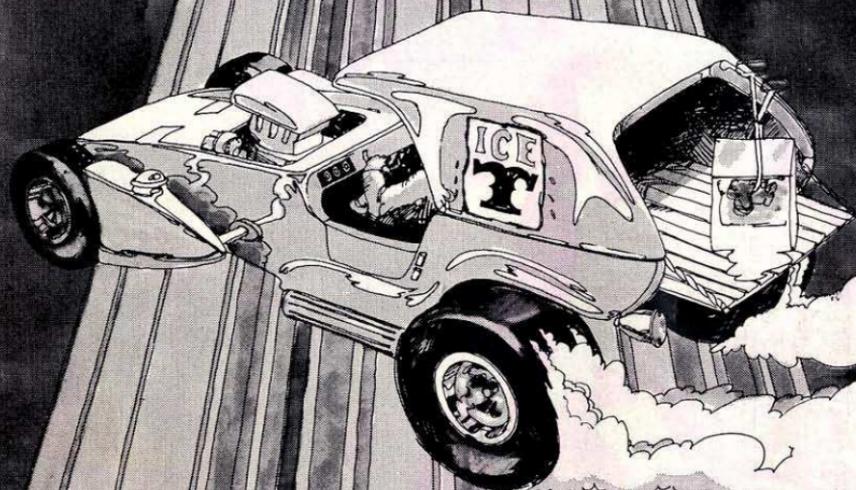
MARVEL  
COMICS  
GROUP



THE MAN  
CALLED  
BULLIT!  
FEATURING THE  
MURDEROUS MENACE OF--

# IT'S ANOTHER

# CHEVY TRUCK



# FROM MONOGRAM

It's Monogram's Ice "T"™

A model "T" Ford Ice Truck in 1/24 scale by West Coast designer, Tom Daniel.

With a raked and chopped hood.

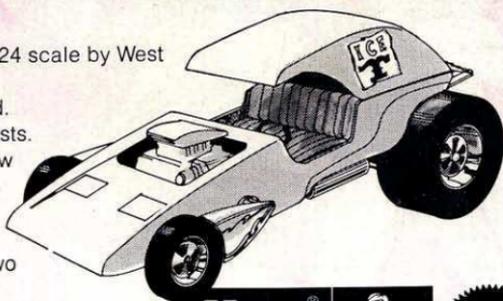
Twin streamlined chrome exhausts.

And a deep dished hood to show off the super Chevy mill.

Plus a custom interior built especially for haulin' ice. It even comes with antique ice tongs and two ice blocks (non-melting).

Get the Monogram Ice "T" model kit at your hobby shop.

It's really cool.



**Monogram**

quality hobby kits



# THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN!

## TO SMASH THE SPIDER!

---AND SO WE RETURN **GEORGE STACY** TO THE EARTH WHICH IS MOTHER OF US ALL.

ASHES TO ASHES---  
DUST TO DUST  
---AMEN.

CAPT. GEORGE STACY MET HIS DEATH LAST ISSUE WHILE SAVING THE LIFE OF A CHILD WHO HAD BEEN IMPERILED BY THE BATTLE BETWEEN SPIDER-MAN AND DR. OCTOPUS!

.....  
DUE TO A WEIRD QUIRK OF FATE, IT SEEMED TO THOSE WHO WITNESSED THE TRAGIC EVENT THAT THE **BLAME** FOR CAPT. STACY'S DEATH BELONGED TO --- **SPIDER-MAN!**

AND NOW, OUR **NEWEST** CHAPTER IN THE TANGLED LIFE OF THE MYSTERIOUS **WEB-SPINNER** BEGINS --- AS **ANOTHER LIFE** IS ENDED --- **FOREVER---**



STORY: STAN LEE || PENCILLING: GIL KANE || INKING: JOHN ROMITA || LETTERING: SAM ROSEN

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FINALLY, THE ORDEAL IS OVER, AND...

GWEN IS ALL ALONE NOW... EXCEPT FOR... ME.

IF NOT FOR SPIDER-MAN-- MY FATHER WOULD STILL BE ALIVE.



OH GOD-- GOD! WHAT WOULD HAPPEN IF SHE EVER FOUND OUT-- THAT I'M SPIDER-MAN?



THERE WAS A TIME WHEN I THOUGHT I MIGHT SOMEDAY REVEAL MY SECRET IDENTITY TO HER.

BUT, THAT WAS BEFORE... THIS NIGHTMARE HAPPENED!



STACY WAS ALWAYS A LITTLE BIT TOO LIBERAL TO SUIT ME... BUT HE WAS A FINE MAN, ROBBIE... A GOOD MAN.

AND HE LEFT THIS WORLD THE WAY HE WOULD HAVE WANTED TO..



... GIVING UP HIS LIFE... TO SAVE ANOTHER!



EVEN HIS POLITICAL ENEMIES -- LIKE SAM BULLIT OVER THERE -- CAME TO PAY THEIR LAST RESPECTS.

STACY'S DEATH WILL HELP MY CAMPAIGN, CARTER!

... AND I KNOW HOW TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF IT!



I'LL SEE YOU LATER, ROBERTSON.

I'M GOING HOME TO WORK NOW.

THIS IS MY CHANCE TO TURN PUBLIC OPINION AGAINST SPIDER-MAN LIKE IT'S NEVER BEEN TURNED BEFORE!

I'LL MAKE THAT COLD-BLOODED WALL-CRAWLER THE MOST HATED HUMAN BEING ON EARTH!



THIS PROVES I WAS RIGHT! I WAS ALWAYS RIGHT!

NOBODY SHOULD BE ABLE TO SLINK AROUND TOWN, MASKED AND COSTUMED, TAKING THE LAW INTO HIS OWN HANDS!

AND EVEN AS JONAH JAMESON PREPARES TO WRITE HIS NEXT EDITORIAL, ANOTHER CAR ALSO WENDS ITS WAY THRU THE CITY TRAFFIC...



WHAT CAN I DO? WHAT CAN I SAY TO COMFORT HER?

HOW CAN I EVER AGAIN LOOK AT HER-- TOUCH HER --WITHOUT BEING TORTURED BY PANGS OF GUILT?

BECAUSE, DEEP IN MY HEART, I'LL ALWAYS WONDER...

--IF NOT FOR SPIDER-MAN, WOULDN'T CAPT. STACY STILL BE ALIVE?



AND YET-- KNOWING THAT I WAS SPIDER-MAN--



THE GIRL WHO WILL ALWAYS MEAN EVERYTHING-- TO ME.



I WAS A FOOL, PETE. I SEE IT NOW.

-- HIS DYING WISH WAS THAT I LOOK AFTER GWEN-- THE GIRL WHO MEANS EVERYTHING TO BOTH OF US.

WHY, GWEN? WHAT DO YOU MEAN?



I DIDN'T REALIZE HOW OLD MY DAD WAS-- AND HOW TRUSTING.

I DIDN'T TRY TO WARN HIM AGAINST SPIDER-MAN... WHILE THERE STILL WAS TIME.

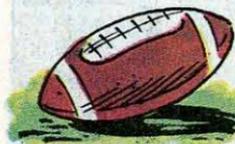


GWEN, DARLING... NO! YOU CAN'T BLAME YOURSELF. YOU MUSTN'T!

SPIDER-MAN! SPIDER-MAN! I'LL HATE HIM FOREVER!

WHETHER HE MEANT TO OR NOT-- HE KILLED MY FATHER! HE KILLED MY FATHER!

**JIM DRISCOLL**  
IN  
**"Danger on the Field"**



**JIM IS AT THE HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL GAME.**

WOW! BIG JOE CAN REALLY PASS!

HE SCORED AGAIN!

**SUPPENLY... DANGER**

SAY, WHAT'S THAT?

THAT LITTLE GIRL WANDERED ONTO THE FIELD. SHE'LL GET HURT.

**JIM SPRINGS INTO ACTION.**

I'D BETTER GET HER OUT OF THE WAY!

HE'S SAVED CHRISSEY! SHE'S BIG JOE'S SISTER

LATER

THAT SURE WAS A HEROIC FEAT, JIM. BIG JOE WANTS TO THANK YOU HIMSELF.

IN THE LOCKER ROOM.

THANKS FOR SAVING MY SISTER, JIM. THAT WAS A BRAVE THING YOU DID.

SAY YOU NOT ONLY ACT GROWN-UP, YOU DRESS THAT WAY, TOO. YOU'RE WEARING LEE LEENS, THE PANTS THAT I WEAR!

ALL THE HIGH SCHOOL AND COLLEGE GUYS WEAR LEENS

THEY LOOK GREAT, AND THEY FIT GREAT.

BOYS! ARE YOU READY TO LOOK AS OLD AS YOU FEEL? MOVE UP TO LEE LEENS, THE PANTS WORN BY THE HIGH SCHOOL AND COLLEGE GUYS. GREAT-LOOKING! GREAT-FITTING!

**LEE LEENS®... THEY'RE NOT KID STUFF.**



BUT, GWEN, YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND. HE-- HE--

IT'S NO USE. WHAT CAN I SAY? THERE JUST AREN'T ANY WORDS.



PETER, I-- I'M NOT GOING TO WASTE TIME CRYING. I'M GOING TO WORK--

--TO DO WHAT I CAN TO RID THE CITY OF MENACES LIKE-- SPIDER-MAN!

HOW, GWEN? WHAT DO YOU MEAN?



IN THE COMING ELECTION-- ONE OF THE CANDIDATES, SAM BULLITT, IS RUNNING ON A LAW AND ORDER TICKET!

HE USED TO BE A COP-- JUST LIKE DAD. THEY KNEW EACH OTHER IN THE PAST.

--I'M GOING TO VOLUNTEER TO HELP HIS CAMPAIGN.



AND SO, THE VERY NEXT DAY--

PERHAPS IT TAKES A HARD MAN LIKE SAM BULLITT TO BRING SOMEONE LIKE SPIDER-MAN TO JUSTICE!



AND IF IT DOES, I'M ALL FOR HIM.

MAY I HELP YOU, YOUNG LADY?

WHAT AN OFFICE! I DIDN'T REALIZE HE WAS SO SUCCESSFUL!



I'D LIKE TO SEE MR. BULLITT, PLEASE.

I'M CAPTAIN STACY'S DAUGHTER, GWENDOLYN.



WHAT CAN THIS BE?



STACY'S DAUGHTER TO SEE THE BIG MAN?

SURE, SEND HER RIGHT IN!





I WANT TO VOLUNTEER TO HELP YOU-- IN YOUR CAMPAIGN FOR D.A.

BECAUSE -- I WANT YOU TO-- BRING SPIDER-MAN TO JUSTICE!

I SEE!



SINCE YOU'RE THE DAUGHTER OF THE FAMOUS CAPT. STACY, YOUR ENDORSEMENT WILL MEAN A LOT-- EVEN THOUGH YOUR LATE FATHER AND I HAD DIFFERENT VIEWS ON CRIME-FIGHTING.

SAM BULLIT NEVER HAD ANY TIME FOR LIBERALS, OR BLEEDING HEARTS, OR BIG-TALKIN', LONG-HAIRED DO-GOODERS.

LAW AND ORDER, THAT MY TICKET! THAT'S WHAT SAM BULLIT STANDS FOR!



I NEVER HEARD MY FATHER SPEAK THAT WAY, BUT MAYBE THAT'S WHY-- THAT'S WHY--

YOUR FATHER WAS A FINE MAN, GWENDOLYN --THE FINEST. BUT HE WAS TOO SOFT-- TOO CHARITABLE-- AND THAT WAS HIS UNDOING!



SOCIETY TODAY IS AT WAR, DO YOU HEAR?

WE'RE AT WAR WITH THE LEFT-WING ANARCHISTS WHO ARE TRYING TO DESTROY THIS GREAT, PROUD NATION OF OURS!



WE NEED STRENGTH-- STRENGTH TO PUNISH THOSE WHO MOCK THE LAW!

I WILL USE SUCH STRENGTH TO BRING SPIDER-MAN AND OTHERS LIKE HIM-- TO JUSTICE.

I WILL NOT BETRAY YOUR TRUST.



NOW GO HOME, MY DEAR, AND REMEMBER-- YOUR FATHER DID NOT DIE IN VAIN.

THANK YOU, MR. BULLIT. YOU'VE BEEN VERY KIND.



THERE, GWENDOLYNE-- IT WAS NOTHING.



IT WAS-- NOTHING-- AT ALL.

**THE MIGHTY MARVEL CHECKLIST**  
Marvelous Mags On Sale Right Now!

**FANTASTIC FOUR #106:** Does the Thing become human at last? Is the FF about to break up? And can anything save them from—the Monster in the Streets?

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**DAREDEVIL #70:** Ripped from today's screaming headlines — and tomorrow's frightening peril! The Eliminator! — the most dangerous menace of all!

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**SPECIAL MARVEL EDITION #1:** Some of Thor's mightiest adventures — together for the first time under one double-stapled roof! Can you dig it?

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**MARVEL TALES #29:** This is it! Spidey's most famous battle with the Green Goblin — alias: Happy Hogan! Plus one of DD's most far-out forays! Talk about bargains!

**THE X-MEN #67:** Make way for the Juggernaut — perhaps the most powerful, dangerous mutant alive! A battle royal — and we did it all for you!

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AND, OF COURSE —

**OUTLAW KID #3 — RAWHIDE KID #82 — OUR LOVE STORY #8 — HARVEY #2 — MILLIE THE MODEL #187.**

AND, STILL ON SALE —

**AMAZING ADVENTURES #3:** The embattled Inhumans — besieged by the power of the many-ringed Mandarin! Plus — the Black Widow in action! Like wow!

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SPIDER-MAN



HULK



IRON MAN

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6"

TALL!



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each with its OWN BASE

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CAPTAIN AMERICA



THOR



DAREDEVIL

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P.O.B. 718, CULVER CITY, CALIF. 90230

I ENCLOSE \$1.50 plus 50¢ POSTAGE FOR ONE SUPER-HERO MODEL SET OR \$2.50 PLUS 50¢ POSTAGE FOR TWO SETS. PLEASE RUSH MY ORDER.

SET A
  SET B

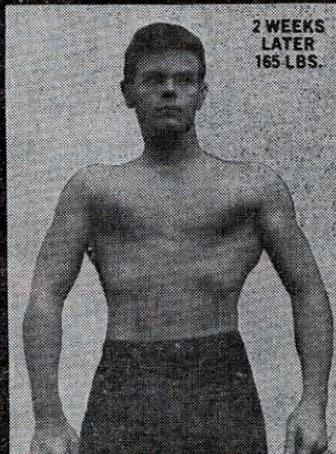
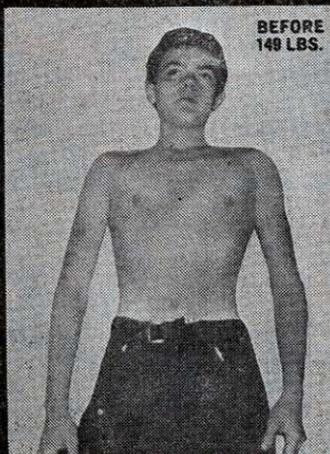
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Another **JOE WEIDER** breakthrough:

# 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 1/2" 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 2 day supply of **Crash Weight**, check full of weight-gaining nutrients that can smash the weight-gaining barrier! You want to gain a pound a day? Want 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 gain!



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

**JOE WEIDER**, Dept. 83-110K10  
 531-32nd St., Union City, N.J. 07087

Offet at the Publisher's  
 Weider Distributors, Inc.  
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 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 \_\_\_\_\_

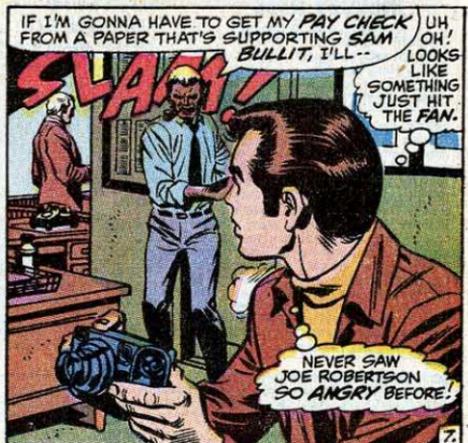
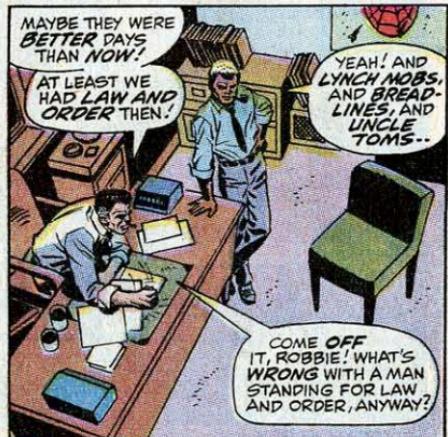
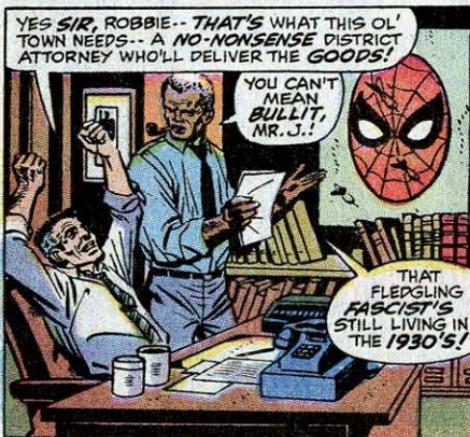
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Canadian orders filled in Canada—no duty to pay.

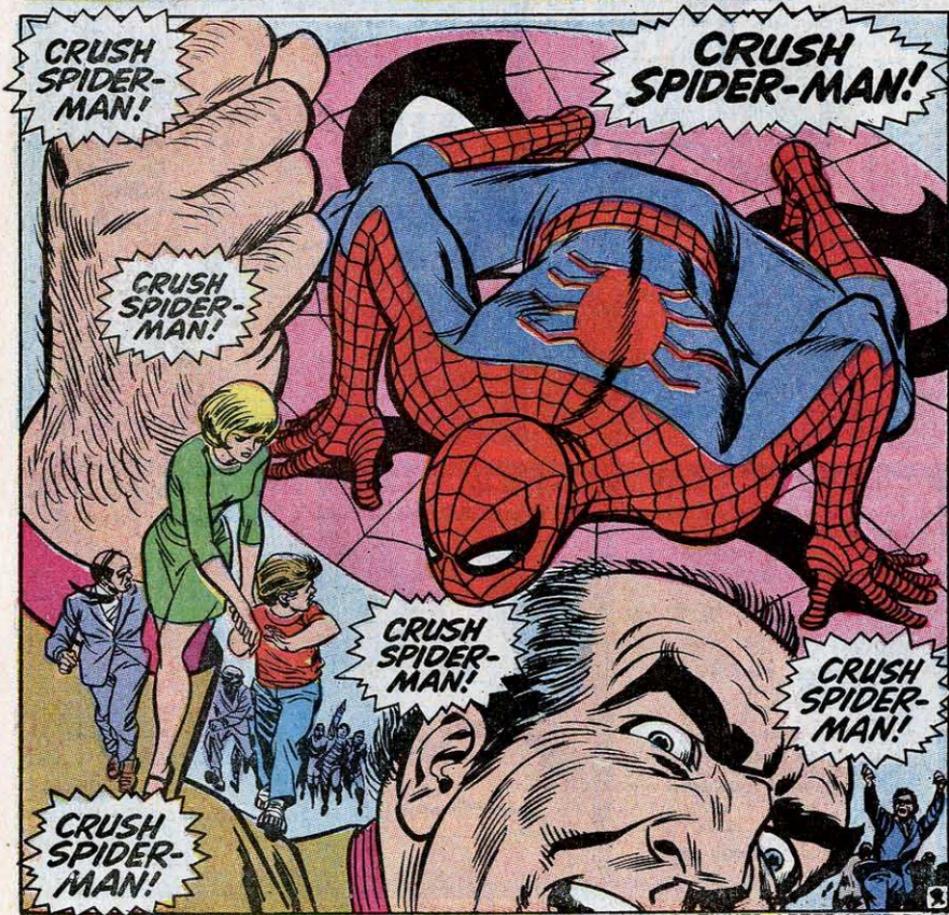
**JOIN THE WEIGHT GAINABLES! DRINK ON NEW POUNDS—FAST! SAFELY!**

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

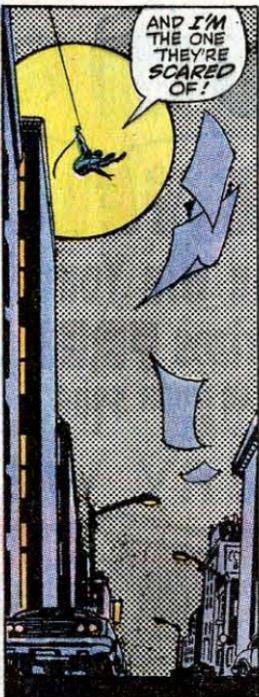






CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE







WOW!  
LOOK AT  
THAT!

EVEN THE COPS ARE WALKING  
THEIR BEATS IN PAIRS NOW!



A LOT OF GOOD THAT WOULD  
DO THEM... IF I WAS REALLY  
AS BAD AS THEY THINK!



OR-- HAVE I SPENT  
A LIFETIME KIDDING  
MYSELF?

HOW DO I KNOW  
I'M NOT  
THAT  
BAD?



THE LAW IS  
HUNTING  
FOR ME!

THE WHOLE  
CITY FEARS  
ME!

AND EVEN  
GWEN  
HATES  
ME!



WHAT DOES IT TAKE TO  
SHOW ME WHERE IT'S AT?

--TO  
SHOW ME  
-- SPIDER-  
MAN'S  
HAD IT!



ALL OF A SUDDEN---  
IT'S LIKE MY WHOLE  
WORLD IS BUSTING UP  
ALL AROUND ME!

AND I FEEL  
AS HELPLESS  
AS A BYSTANDER  
-- WATCHING A  
SUMMER STORM  
BREAK OVER  
HIM!



THERE HE IS!  
HE'S THE ONE  
WE WANT!

KEEP  
TAILING HIM  
TILL HE REACHES  
THE CORNER!



HOW CAN YOU BE SURE HE CAN HELP US, BOSS?

EASY! HE'S SNAPPED MORE NEWS PICTURES OF THE WALL-CRAWLER THAN ANYONE!

HE'S GOTTA KNOW A LOT MORE ABOUT HIM THAN HE'S BEEN TELLIN'!



MY SPIDEY-SENSE IS BEGINNING TO TINGLE! SOMEONE'S FOLLOWING ME!

WELL, MORE POWER TO 'EM! WHAT DO I CARE?



OKAY! HE'S GONE FAR ENOUGH!

LET'S TAKE 'IM NOW!

THIS'LL BE A CINCH!

**BOYS! MEN!**

**MY SECRET NEW DYNAFLEX METHOD CAN GIVE YOU POWERFULLY TONED MUSCLES AND PUT FULL STRENGTH IN YOUR MUSCLES . . . MAKE THEM SO STRONG YOU WILL BE PROUD TO SHOW YOUR FRIENDS HOW FULL OF STRENGTH YOU ARE! IN JUST TEN MINUTES A DAY—WITH ABSOLUTELY NO WEIGHTS, NO BAR BELLS, NO FORMAL LONG EXERCISES AT ALL! (MAKES GLADIATOR MUSCLES TO A GLADIATOR JOB)**



"Yes if the girls laugh at you now when you try doing anything that requires strength—toned up muscles—they will be amazed, astonished, with the strength and strong men things you will be able to do after you master the DYNAFLEX METHOD! You will be so proud of the feats of strength you will be able to do, of the increased power in every one of your muscles!" says Mike Marvel, Master of toning and putting strength into muscles!

HERE ARE THE KIND OF TESTIMONIALS YOU WILL WANT TO WRITE AFTER YOU MASTER DYNAFLEX:

"I tried two other muscle toning systems before I tried Dynaflex. It really works and how! I have the strength and muscle tone I always wanted. I can't praise Dynaflex enough."  
 "I never thought you can really tone my muscles and make them so strong, without long periods of exercise, or weight lifting . . . Dynaflex has truly amazed me."  
 "Every summer it seemed to be the same old story—I don't like to admit this but I was pretty much a punk, and maybe even a sissy and everybody at the beach could tell at a glance . . . But now with Mike Marvel Secret New Dynaflex Method that tones BIG MUSCLES INTO POWERHOUSES OF ACTION, I feel LIKE A PANTHER ON THE PROWL . . . I've got plenty of GLADIATOR POWER in my Shoulder, Hips, Arms, Legs and Torso . . . and I feel every inch the DYNAMO OF ACTION PACKED POWER IN EVERY MUSCLE IN MY BODY."

Pal—do yourself a favor . . . Try your muscles and see if they are as strong as you would like them to be . . . Can you lift as much as you really should be able to? Are you ashamed of your muscle strength? Believe it or not, I can increase your muscle tone . . . add strength to your muscles . . . improve your ability to display your new found BIG MUSCLE STRENGTH . . . enough to make you proud so you will beam with delight at how strong you have become, at how easily you perform things that require muscle tone—strength—endurance—that you never thought you had in you!

**HOW DYNAFLEX TONES MUSCLES AND INCREASES THE STRENGTH OF YOUR MUSCLES**

Dynaflex is the Modern Method—almost a miracle way of toning your muscles . . . it takes no tiresome formal exercise—no barbells—no special diets . . . Dynaflex is the amazing discovery of a West German Doctor . . . whose research into the science of Strength found a thrilling new way to tone muscles . . . Build strength through your muscles . . . In ten minutes a day with Dynaflex you "FLEX" each muscle once, in a certain way that is more effective than if you exercised the muscle 20-30 or even 100 times the old fashioned way!

**STRONG MAN SEX APPEAL**

Acquire virile he-man appeal, display feats of strength you will be proud to show what you can do at the beach, in the gym, in sports you enjoy . . . The fellows will stare at your display of strength with envy and jealousy, when they see all the girls crowd around

to watch how strong you have become, how you toned your muscles and filled them full of strength, and if the boys want to know how you did it tell them about the miracle secrets of Dynaflex (Complete instructions in one book only \$1.98). Included Free a chapter on: "SECRETS OF ATTRACTING GIRLS."

**MAIL NO-RISK TRIAL COUPON NOW!**

MIKE MARVEL, Dept P-10 Box 322, Lenox Hill Sta. New York, N.Y. 10021  
 O.K. Mike Marvel, enclosed in my \$1.98. Send me your entire Dynaflex System in one book which includes a chapter on: "SECRETS OF ATTRACTING GIRLS!" I must agree that the Dynaflex method has given me powerfully toned muscles, put full strength in my muscles, made me so strong that I can be proud to show my friends how strong I am.

And it must do this in 10 minutes a day—with nothing else to buy—now or in the future, or I get my \$1.98 back—with no questions asked upon return of the book.

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

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**NUGGETS FROM ALASKA**

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- C. Gold nuggets—\$1
- D. Grab-Bag—\$2
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**SPECIAL!**  
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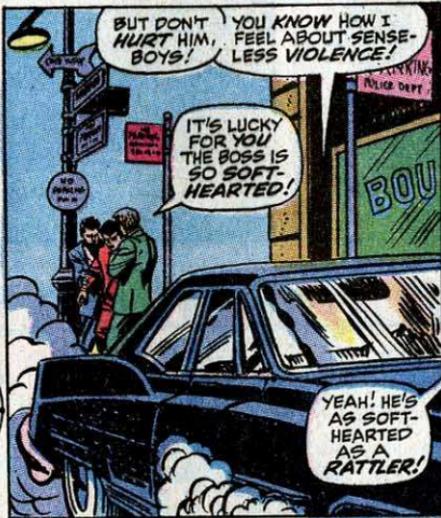
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WE'LL BE LOOKIN' YOU UP AGAIN, PUNK!

AND WHEN WE DO, YOU BETTER HAVE SOME ANSWERS FOR US!

I'LL JUST WAIT-- TILL THEY TURN THE CORNER--!

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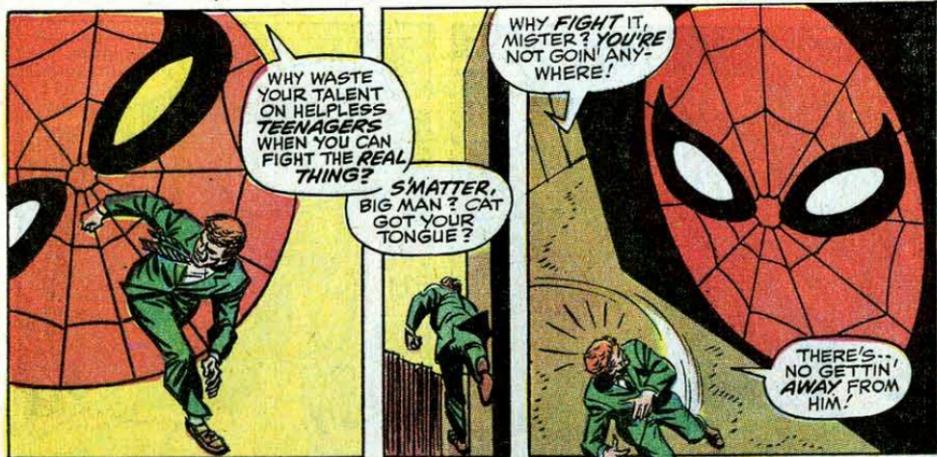
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**THE ATTACK OF ICEMAN!**

20

## A PRIDE OF PRONOUNCEMENTS FOR A FRENZY OF FANS!

Okay, Gang—it's name-dropping time again! So let 'em fall where they may!

**ITEM!** Here are some additional famous names to add to the ever-growing list of Marvel madmen: KEN KOCH, the famous modern-idiom poet on the faculty of Columbia University. (How many of you read the glowing write-up about his endeavors in LIFE last May?) It's always fun to spend time with Ken, talking about Marveldom, motorcycles, and making an end to the war overseas. And how about PETER BASCH, widely acclaimed as one of the world's top photographers? This gifted and glamorous lensman has recently tuned in to the Marvel mystique and taken time out from photographing the world's most famous celebrities to spend a hectic and hilarious afternoon snapping the gang at the Bullpen for a far-out photo feature. So don't be surprised if you see us grinning out at you from the pages of a certain prestigious picture mag—or, more likely, your local Post Office wall!

**ITEM!** How's this for name-dropping? In Princeton University's Firestone Library you can now savor the adventures of HULK, IRON MAN, THOR, SUB-MARINER, etc. etc., according to a recent issue of the Princeton Alumni Weekly. Marvel's little masterpieces even bear their own card catalogue number and the admonition: "Not to be taken from this room!" Now if only we could make the Congressional Record!

**ITEM!** Our belated thanks to SGT. ROGER D. LANDSBERGER, 284th MP Co. in Viet Nam, for sending

us that great newspaper pic of "CAPTAIN AMERICA", one of the mighty V-100 armored vehicles of the 66th Military Police Company in Phu Tai. Other names used on these fantastic fighting machines are THOR, IRON MAN, DAREDEVIL, etc. Now, if only that could make everybody stop fighting and start reading . . . !

**ITEM!** Two of our latest FFF awards (Fearless Front-Facer, of course—Marveldom's highest accolade for meritorious service to the cause, above and beyond the call of duty), have been won by DR. ARTHUR BERGER of San Francisco State College for the monumental textbook he is in the process of completing, on the subject of the Marvel phenomenon. Our second fantastically favored fortunate is famous actor ORSON BEAN for his well-publicized usage of our superhero comic magazines as an aid to learning at his celebrated school in Greenwich Village. On behalf of the Mighty Marvel Awards Committee International, we say thee both: Excelsior!

**ITEM!** BIG JOHN BUSCEMA takes over as regular artist on THOR this month—the mag he was born to illustrate. And many thanks to NEFARIOUS NEAL ADAMS for filling in till now. Don't worry, we won't let N.A. get away—Hey, by the way, did you hear that Neal's been elected Vice-Prez of the newly-formed ACADEMY OF COMIC-BOOK ARTS? Our own STAN LEE was tapped as ACBA's first President, and we'll fill you in on the Acad's progress at frequent intervals—specially when awards-time rolls around!

## STAN LEE'S SOAPBOX

I've often mentioned the hundreds of letters we receive each year asking for our opinion of this nutty, hairy, scary, mixed-up world we live in. Time and again I've attempted to give your Bullpen's viewpoint as best I could, seriously, flippantly, recklessly, cautiously, and perhaps ineffectually. In fact, I tossed in the line: "Life is what happens to you while you're making other plans" on this page last month, figuring it was about as pithy and evasive an epigram as any. Recently, in the magazine section of the N.Y. Times, I spotted another gem in which a Harvard student was quoted as saying: "Life is a Fellini movie." It suddenly occurred to me that it's about time to turn the tables and learn how YOU, our ever-responsive readers, feel about the real-life world outside. So hurry—condense your most profound expression of "what it's all about" into one crisp and canny sentence, and shoot it along to STAN LEE'S SOAPBOX, 635 Madison Avenue, NY 10022. As usual, there'll be no prizes 'cause everyone can't win and we hate any Marvelite ever to be a loser (almost as much as we hate to spend money). However, some of you will have the indescribable thrill of seeing your one-liners printed in future issues, while the others can seek solace in the fact that their submissions were undoubtedly too witty and wise for us to understand! Onward!

*Stan*



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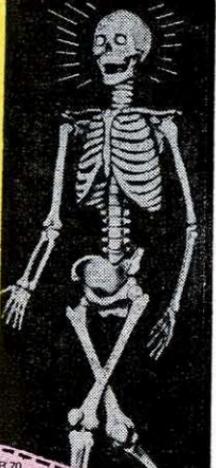
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# THE SPIDER'S WEB

SEND YOUR LETTERS TO:

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

Dear Stan, John and Jim,

I don't believe in beating about the web, so I'll tell you right off that I'm trying for my second no-prize, my Q.N.S., and by virtue of my Q.N.S. (if this should be published) my P.M.M. In issue 87 it would appear that the Prowler has obtained Spidey's wall crawling ability merely by donning his costume! He obviously isn't using his own steel tipped gloves, and Pete is smart enough to realize that if Captain Stacy saw "Spider-Man" hauling himself up a web line at normal human speed instead of skittering lightly up the wall as is his wont, the worthy captain might suspect that somebody ran in a ringer.

Furthermore, while the true identity of Spider-Man has once again been hidden from Gwen, her father, Harry, and Mary Jane, it is my contention that Hobie Brown must come to the conclusion that Peter Parker and Spider-Man are one and the same person. First of all, Captain Stacy indicates to him that somebody is suspected of being Spider-Man: "At the Window! It's... SPIDER-MAN!—The REAL one!" Since Hobie knows that he is not the real Spider-Man, and because Spider-Man required a double, it is a good piece of circumstantial evidence that whoever is suspected of being the wall crawler might, in actuality, be Spider-Man. Now, who might be suspected of being Spidey? Well, Peter Parker apparently has had the web-slinger barge in on him before, but since Hobie is not Spidey, and Spidey had to be elsewhere at this particular time, maybe it is Parker who is suspect. Parker is certainly involved with Spider-Man, because Hobie makes a little speech about pictures and Captain Stacy indicates that this is confirmation of a story that has been in doubt: "Then you and Peter DO have a deal! It involves the PHOTOS he takes of you!"

Moreover, "Spider-Man's" excuse for dropping in is to thank Parker for bringing him his costume. Hobie doesn't know whether or not that's true, but he does know for sure that the civvies-clad Spider-Man brought the costume to him.

Not only that, but for someone on fairly intimate terms with the real Spider-Man, it is funny that Parker wouldn't notice the difference between the voice and speech pattern of the real Spider-Man and an imitation. Parker must be on intimate terms with Spider-Man because they have a business arrangement. Spidey is in the habit of barging in on Parker, and Parker is trusted to bring Spidey his costume.

Speaking of costumes, isn't it funny that Parker is wearing clothing exactly identical to the clothing Spider-Man wore when he and Hobie set up the whole scene, a scene that apparently diverts suspicion of being Spider-Man from Peter Parker?

Hobie Brown must come to realize who his benefactor really is. Anyone intelligent enough to design the equipment of the prowler must realize, sooner or later, that Pete is Spider-Man.

Has Pete at last found someone to confide in? Are the tragic years of isolation over for Spider-Man?

Hey, for all this brain work, I think I deserve a double dipped no-prize.

I also have a suggestion. Not too long ago you said that you were wondering where to put a new version of DOCTOR STRANGE. Why not revive STRANGE TALES and give Nick Fury back his own feature too?

William Fesselmeier, 2129 23rd St.  
Des Moines, Iowa 50310

For the present, Bill, we've decided to use Nick Fury primarily as a supporting character in our other mags—most notably in CAPTAIN AMERICA, of course. And, as for Doc Strange—well, we're still pondering over that one, but you'll be seeing him pop up somewhere before you notice it! (Possibly even before we notice it!)

By the way, your theory with regards to Hobie Brown has set about a zillion wheels in motion in the cognizant craniums of our Spidey-plotting threesome: Stan, John R., and of course penciler Gil Kane. It may just be that Spidey and the peerless Prowler are destined to meet again one day soon—and if they do, Peter Parker had better hope that his pal Hobie hasn't been poring over the SPIDER-MAN letters page recently!



Dear Stan,

As you well know, I am not stupid.

My reconstruction of the recent life of Peter Parker has led me to believe that he has been struggling to keep his dual identity a secret from J. Jonah Jameson, Captain Stacy, Joe Robertson, Gwen, Aunt May, and possibly Harry. In so doing, he has dropped his guard towards other people and virtually told me that he is Spider-Man.

Now that I have acquired this knowledge, it is only fair that I take a more important role in Spidey's career. Covering up his secret identity, like I did that day, is trivial compared to my full capabilities. Remember, in our brief battle I was almost Spidey's equal. True, he hasn't needed a sidekick often, but if you cats don't fit me into more stories, I may do something drastic, like tell jolly J.J. what I've discovered.

In case you're wondering how I found out, Spidey swung toward me carrying his uniform and wearing a web mask, yellow shirt, brown jacket and olive pants. When I arrived wearing his costume, I saw the same shirt, jacket, and pants, plus a face. Besides, Spidey told me to mention that Parker returned his costume, and later Capt. Stacy spoke of a certain Peter taking photos of the web-slinger. From there, it was easy.

Hobie % Julius Collins, 9 Nixon Court  
Brooklyn, N.Y. 11223

**Hoo boy! We no sooner weasel our way thru the above letter by Bill Fesselmeier, than happy Hobie Brown himself drops us a missive saying essentially the same thing! (Though why he had to have you send it, Julius, we're still not quite sure!)**

**No doubt about it—we'll have to work out all these spidery threads in a future issue. So perhaps we should stop perspiring and thank Messrs. Fesselmeier and Collins. Without their assiduous help, we'd have to make up our own swingin' stories!**

## KNOW YE THESE, THE HALLOWED RANKS OF MARVELDOM:

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Dear Stan and John,

I write this letter in response to Stan Reynold's missive printed in issue #82 of SPIDER-MAN. In it, he states that it is physically impossible for Spider-Man to use his second finger in order to operate his web-shooter. In this he is quite correct; he proved it to himself, and so have I. Not even if Parker were double-jointed could he perform such a task. However, to solve this problem, I did some research in past Spider-Man magazines, and I am pleased to announce hope is not gone. Spider-Man operates his web-shooter with his third finger!! In every case I have examined, this is true. Such examples are:

Issue #77, page 10, panel 3, or

Issue #65, page 14, panel 4, or

Issue #60, page 16, panels 6 and 8. In fact, the very issue in

which Stan's letter appears shows even more proof of this. I refer to page 18, panel 11! I feel that perhaps Steve Ditko's artistry (if his name is still uttered around the bull-pen) was slightly off when Annual #1 (not #2) was made. (And besides, it's a lot easier to admit a mistake that long ago rather than all the other 'mistakes' you've made in every single issue from #60 on, perhaps even further back! Fine, one problem down. Now I have a question, before you bestow the no-prize on me.

When Spider-Man shoots out his webbing, he can separate it from the origin, the nozzle. May I inquire as to how? Does his nozzle contain a small blade of some sort which cuts the strand? If so, how does he make it cut when he desires it to be cut? There is only one control button, yet it performs more than one task, it would appear. Perhaps some other well-versed Marvelite can explain how Spider-Man can fit all the functions of a miniature computer brain into a tiny little nozzle, I sure can't.

And now, just a comment on your new style, that of putting a limit to your continued stories, which, I personally feel, made Marvel what it is today. When you had them, a lot of people would say that many parted stories were to make the reader buy more magazines than he might normally buy. This I feel was unfair. After all, you do work for money, and the obvious purpose of any product is to sell. However, the way you wrote your stories, I didn't feel you were cheating me—I felt you were

doing just the opposite—keeping me away from the same drab repeated format of see villain, fight villain, and so on. Please start your three-and four-part stories again, particularly in the FF and Spider-Man books. Marvel just isn't Marvel without it. And that way you can also repair my second gripe—that of reducing panel size. In the early Spider-Man comics you did this, and so much detail was lost. Please don't shrink panels, increase stories.

Just one last unrelated comment: why not put the Inhumans and the Guardians of the Galaxy together in one magazine like you did the Hulk and Sobby?? Well it was just a thought. Hoo-boy, has 'nuff been said already?!!

Evan Katten, 719 Kenmare Rd  
Bala-Cynwyd, Pa. 19004

Maybe by you, Evan, but not by us! We'd truly be remiss if we passed up a chance here to remind you that the Inhumans are currently sharing a mag—if not with the Guardians, then with the somewhat more attractive Black Widow.

Your letter presents us with such problems on the matter of Spidey's webbing that we're going to defer our answer to some future issue of the book itself—and we'll count on you to remind us if we go too long without going into this all-important problem. (Maybe we'll have a bit more time and breathing-space now, because—as you've no doubt noticed—we've crept slowly and silently back into the continued-story bag when the situation seems to warrant it. Maybe you're right, Evan—you and the many others who wrote us to inform us that it was certain elements of our continued stories that made Marvel great. And so, since we always dug them ourselves, we've decided to let nature take its course—and to present either one, two, or multiple-part stories according to the dictates of the individual story, not our own editorial whim.

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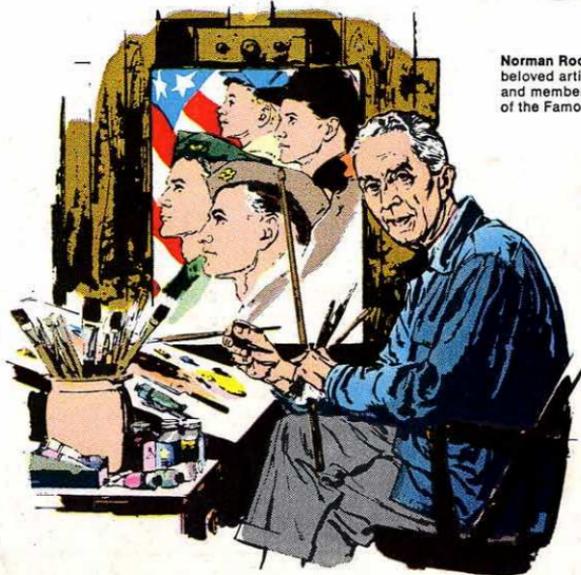
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