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the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN

APPROVED
BY THE
COMICS
CODE
AUTHORITY

ON
WINGS
OF
DEATH!



IT'S TRUE! IT'S TRUE!
AUNT MAY
AT THE MERCY OF
THE BLOODTHIRSTY
BEETLE!

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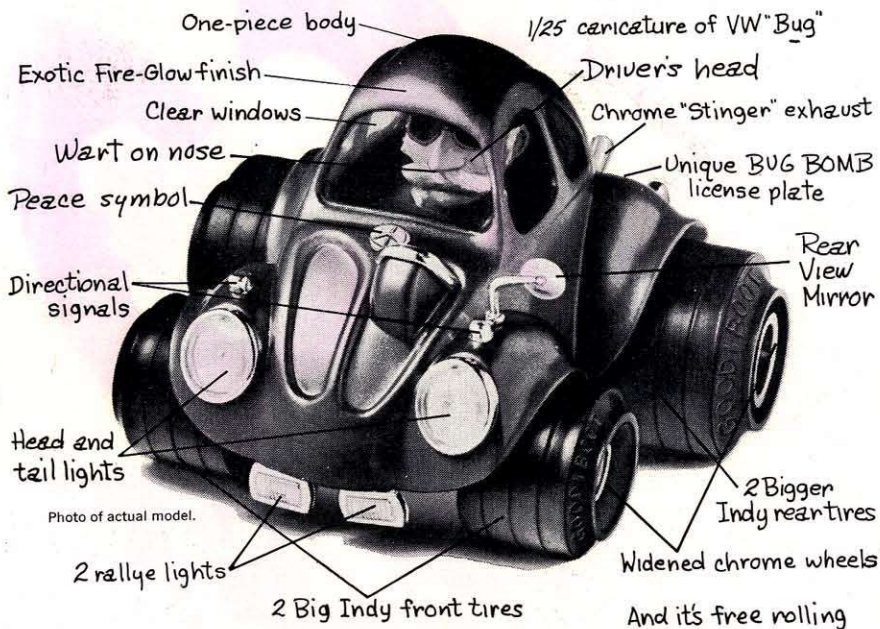
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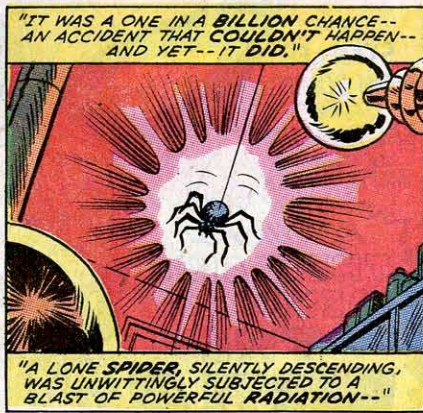
I STILL
CAN'T
BELIEVE
IT, BUT
IT'S TRUE.
IT'S
REALLY
TRUE--

GWEN
IS GONE!
SHE'S LEFT
ME. I--
I'VE LOST
HER
FOREVER.

AND
ONCE AGAIN,
I'VE ONLY
GOT
SPIDER-MAN
TO BLAME.

IS THIS THE START
--OR IS IT THE
FINISH FOR
SPIDER-MAN?
ONLY TIME--AND
THE PAGES THAT
FOLLOW--CAN
TELL US--

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"EVEN WALKING HOME, I COULDN'T SHAKE THE ODD, UNFAMILIAR SENSATION WHICH TINGLED THRU MY BODY. THEN, AS A COUPLE OF LOCAL CREEPS TRIED TO PICK A FIGHT WITH ME--"



CAN'T BECOME A PUNCHING BAG.

I'VE GOT TO FIGHT BACK-- SOMEHOW.

BTOK!

HEY--



TAKE OFF, MAN. NOBODY CAN PUNCH LIKE THAT!

I--SNAPPED A LAMP-POST-- WITH MY BARE FIST!

BUT HOW? HOW?



"I WAS SO SHAKEN BY WHAT HAPPENED, THAT I DIDN'T HEAR AN APPROACHING CAR AS I STEPPED OFF THE CURB -- UNTIL--"



BUT--HOW DID I JUMP SO HIGH?

AND HOW CAN I CLING TO THE SHEER WALL LIKE THIS?



"SPIDER! THAT GAVE ME THE CLUE. I RACED BACK TO MY ROOM--"



"IN THE DAYS THAT FOLLOWED, I DREAMED UP MY WEB-SHOOTER--"



IT WORKS. I CAN SNARE ANY-THING.

AND MY SPIDER POWER GIVES ME SUPERHUMAN AIM AND CONTROL.



"I CAN'T REMEMBER WHAT MADE ME DO IT--BUT, BEFORE LONG, I HAD DESIGNED MYSELF A COSTUME."



CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE

"AND SO, DUE TO THAT STRANGE, AMAZING ACCIDENT OF FATE-- SPIDER-MAN WAS BORN!"



"AT FIRST, IT WAS A REAL KICK TESTING MY POWER ALL OVER TOWN..."

WOW! IF THE GANG COULD SEE PUNY PARKER NOW!



"AS I GAINED MORE AND MORE CONFIDENCE, THERE SEEMED NOTHING I COULDN'T DO--"

HEIGHTS DON'T BOTHER ME.

I COULD SWING LIKE THIS ALL DAY.



"FINALLY, I WAS SIGNED FOR A TV VARIETY SHOW. BUT, AS I SWUNG INTO THE STUDIO--"

STOP HIM! DON'T LET HIM GET AWAY!



ALL YOU HAD TO DO WAS KEEP HIM FROM REACHING THE ELEVATOR.

SORRY, PAL. YOU'RE PAID FOR IT--I'M NOT.

BESIDES, I'VE SOMETHING MORE IMPORTANT TO DO.



"NEEDLESS TO SAY, I WAS A SENSATION."

WHO COULDN'T BE A SMASH WITH POWER LIKE MINE?



"BUT, MINUTES LATER, THE BUBBLE WAS TO BURST--"





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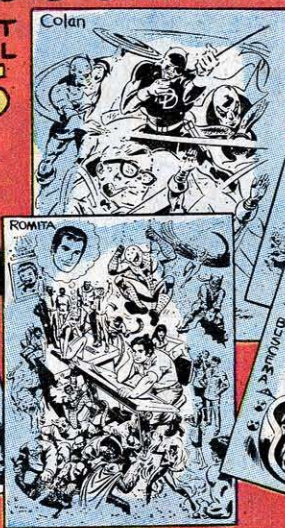
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NOTE: IF YOU CAN NAME ALL OF THESE SWARLIN' SPIDEY-FOES, AND ADD AT LEAST FIVE MORE TO THE LIST, CONSIDER YOURSELF A TRUE S.S.(SPIDOPHILE SUPREME).--STAN.







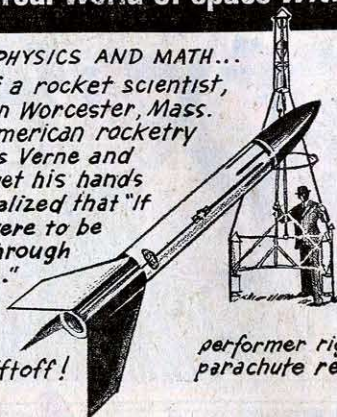
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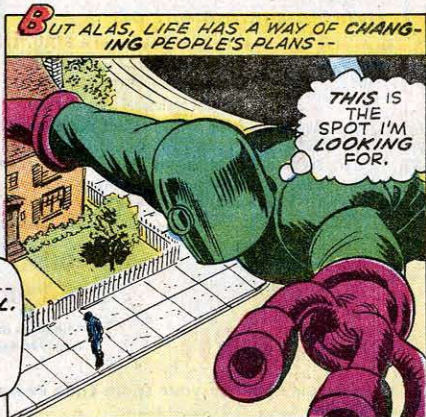
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THE BEETLE!

I DIDN'T EVEN KNOW HE WAS OUT OF JAIL. HE'S NO ONE TO KID AROUND WITH.

YOU SHOULD'NT HAVE TOLD HIM, ANNA. YOU KNOW HOW SENSITIVE PETER IS.

NOW HE'S ALL UPSET.

DAILY BUGLE

BEETLE STRIKES PUBLIC ALARM

MAP OF

WHY WOULD HE WASTE TIME BREAKING INTO A LAUNDRY--A BIKE SHOP--AND A BAKERY--

--AND NOT EVEN TAKE ANYTHING?

PHOTOGRAPHED AT RECENT HOLDUP BELOW SHOWS LOCATION OF BREAK-INS

BEETLE ATTACKS NUMBERED IN ORDER

LAUNDRY ①

BIKE SHOP ②

BAKERY ③

DRESS SHOP

GROCERY

CANDY STORE

PRICE BAFFLED BY PETER

YOU LOOK TIRED, PETER. WHY DON'T YOU TAKE A NAP WHILE I FIX YOU A NICE CHICKEN STEW?

AND DON'T WORRY ABOUT THE BEETLE, DEAR. HE ONLY ATTACKS STORES--NOT HOUSES.

SHE'LL NEVER STOP THINKING OF ME AS A FRAIL, TIMID MILKSOP.

BUT, MAYBE IT'S JUST AS WELL.

THAT'S A GOOD IDEA, AUNT MAY. I AM KIND OF TIRED.

THE BEETLE'S THE LEAST OF MY WORRIES NOW.

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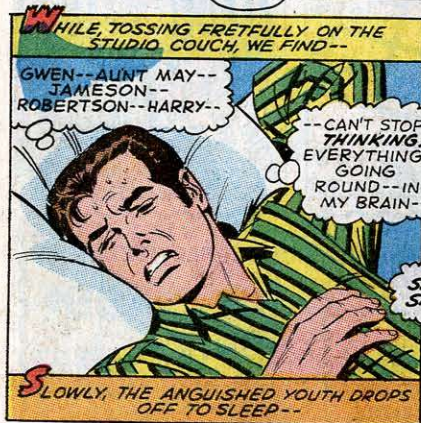
In this book I take you step by step through the fundamentals of KARATE so that you understand, clearly and immediately, the meaning and principles of KARATE. You will know how to use it, or how much to use it.

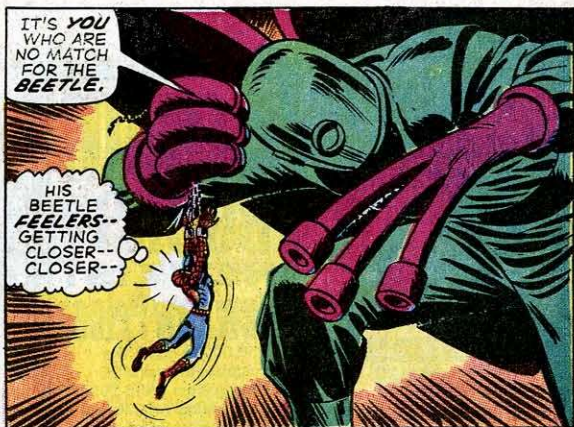
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When you study KARATE techniques, you can cut an aggressor down with a blow to the side of your head. You can tear an attacker from the neck of your shoulder and slam him into the ground. (In fact, I received photo-athletic awards for my karate skills in 1950, 1951, 1952, 1953, 1954, 1955, 1956, 1957, 1958, 1959, 1960, 1961, 1962, 1963, 1964, 1965, 1966, 1967, 1968, 1969, 1970, 1971, 1972, 1973, 1974, 1975, 1976, 1977, 1978, 1979, 1980, 1981, 1982, 1983, 1984, 1985, 1986, 1987, 1988, 1989, 1990, 1991, 1992, 1993, 1994, 1995, 1996, 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025, 2026, 2027, 2028, 2029, 2030, 2031, 2032, 2033, 2034, 2035, 2036, 2037, 2038, 2039, 2040, 2041, 2042, 2043, 2044, 2045, 2046, 2047, 2048, 2049, 2050, 2051, 2052, 2053, 2054, 2055, 2056, 2057, 2058, 2059, 2060, 2061, 2062, 2063, 2064, 2065, 2066, 2067, 2068, 2069, 2070, 2071, 2072, 2073, 2074, 2075, 2076, 2077, 2078, 2079, 2080, 2081, 2082, 2083, 2084, 2085, 2086, 2087, 2088, 2089, 2090, 2091, 2092, 2093, 2094, 2095, 2096, 2097, 2098, 2099, 2100, 2101, 2102, 2103, 2104, 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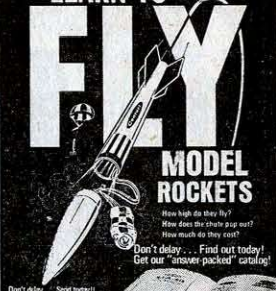
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THWIPP THWIPP



SECONDS LATER--

I DON'T GET IT--

I'VE FOUGHT HIM BEFORE, YET THIS TIME--HE BATTLED WITH SUCH FURY--SUCH HATRED--

HURRY, HURRY, TAKE HIM AWAY.

BUT WHY? WHAT MADE HIM SO VENGEFUL?

I HAD TO FINISH HIM OFF FAST.

HAVE TO MAKE SURE THAT POOR AUNT MAY IS ALL RIGHT.



I TRIED-- NOT TO THINK OF HER-- WHILE I WAS FIGHTING...

OR ELSE--NO TELLING WHAT I'D HAVE DONE-- TO THE BEETLE!



I--I STILL DON'T UNDERSTAND. IT ALL--HAPPENED SO FAST...

THAT MAY BE WHAT SAVED YOU--FROM SHOCK.

AUNT MAY! AUNT MAY!

YOU DIDN'T HAVE TIME--TO ASSESS THE DANGER.



PETER DEAR, I--I HOPE I DIDN'T WORRY YOU.

WORRY ME? OH, AUNT MAY--WHEN WILL YOU EVER THINK OF YOURSELF?

COME ON--I'LL TAKE YOU HOME NOW.



EVEN THOUGH I'LL ALWAYS FEEL GUILTY FOR THE DEATH OF UNCLE BEN--

MAYBE TONIGHT-- IN SOME SMALL WAY-- SPIDER-MAN PAID A PART OF THAT NEVER-ENDING DEBT!

NEXT SPIDER-MAN AT LARGE IN LONDON!

CEREBRAL COMMENTS AND COGENT CRITIQUES, CAPRICIOUSLY CREATED WITH CARE AND CANDOR!

ITEM! It's common knowledge by now that our leader, SMILIN' STAN, entered the comic-book field at the age of seventeen, and became an editor shortly thereafter. (Of course, that was long ago, during the first Golden Age of Comics. Today, the bearded one, still going strong, seems to be our answer to Methuselah!) Anyway, what we're leading up to is — young-at-heart Marvel has always been youth-oriented, and never more so than today. Just look at the evidence, Dubious One. RASCALLY ROY THOMAS, Stan's award-winning associate editor and rollickin' writer-in-residence, after years of Bullpen bondage, is still comfortably under the age of thirty! AMIABLE ALLYN BRODSKY, our erudite editorial aide-de-camp, has yet to reach the ripe old age of twenty-six! The same goes for MARVELOUS MIMI GOLD, JOLLY JIMMY PETTY, and HECTIC HOLLY RESNICOFF — sensational staffers all! And now, a handful of new names for you to take hold of, toy with, and treasure forever. First, meet MERRY GERRY CONWAY, pushin' towards twenty, who's already got a couple of science-fiction paperback sales under his belt and who cut his artistic eyeteeth at Marvel scripting mystery yarns and KAZAR's capers. Gerry will be writing DAREDEVIL and IRON MAN as well, from here on in — and, despite what the competition may say, it isn't true that he still pays half-fare on the subway! And how about LIVELY LENNIE WEIN, BASHFUL BARRY SMITH, RIGHTEOUS RICHIE BUCKLER, and MADCAP MIKE FRIEDRICH — all well under twenty-five, and all appearing in the pandemonium pages of mighty Marvel with ever-increasing frequency! Of course, it's not just because we're hooked on youngsters — sly ol' Stan figures that if ever we get bored with turning out comic-mags, we can always convert to running a nursery!

ITEM! Lest you think that grey hairs turn us off, it's only fair to mention that many of Marvelom's all-time greats — who are turning out the finest, most relevant strips of all today — are well on the other side of thirty-five! Want proof? Well, ever hear of these guys —? a fellow named LEE! A ROMITA ring-a-ding! A couple of BUSCEMA brothers! A gent called COLANI! And a few other assorted artistic titans known as SINNOTT, EVERETT, MOONEY, MORTELLARO, HECK, KANE, AYERS, TUSKA, WOOD, SHORES, and SEVERINI! (By that last we mean JOHN S. of course; nobody in the blushin' Bullpen would ever suggest that MIRTHFUL MARIE is anything but ageless!) And while we're at it, let's not forget our "twilight-zone" whiz-kids who've kinda outgrown their beanie caps, though they're still young enough for stickball. In other words, closing in on thirty (from one side or the other), we've got HAPPY HERBIE TRIMPE, STURDY STU SCHWARTZBERG, TERRIFIC TOMMY PALMER, JUMBO JOHNNY

VERPOORTEN, DAPPER DANNY ADKINS, LAUGHIN' LARRY LIEBER, and NEFARIOUS NEAL ADAMS! Yessir, when it comes to talent, you can throw the calendar out the window — at least, so it seems to the ageless wonders at 625 Madison!

ITEM! Wait'll you see the magic that TOM PALMER's inking lends to GENE COLAN's pencil work on this month's CAPTAIN AMERICA! And then, next month, prepare for the most electrifying change-over of all, as WILD BILL EVERETT embellishes Gene's artwork — giving Cap and the fighting Falcon a luster and an excitement such as they've never had before!

ITEM! Just wanna tip our hat in thanks to TITANIC TONY MORTELLARO for the tremendous job he did in pinch-hitting as Production Chief while J. J. VERPOORTEN was on vacation. (No, Irving, J. J. doesn't stand for Jolly Jonah Jameson! It's Jumbo Johnny! Now stand in the corner!) By the way, remember FABULOUS FLO STEINBERG, our gone-but-not-forgotten Gal Friday? Well, ol' J. J. ran into her in Europe, where she too was vacationing, and they both had a blast swapping stories about our mixed-up mags and the madmen who make them tick!

ITEM! Speaking of vacations, who do you think RASCALLY ROY and his lovely JEAN bumped into while sojourning in merrie old England? That's right, none other than CONAN THE BARBARIAN's peerless penciller, BASHFUL BARRY SMITH, who's eagerly counting the days till he embarks for the States as a permanent resident, where we're hoping he'll be able to turn out twice as many action-packed pages of CONAN and other thrillers as ever before! And, did we tell you about the pub Roy visited in Piccadilly Circus? It's called the Duke of Argyll, and it's decorated inside and out with — you guessed it — our own Marvel heroes and villains! Even the ceiling has our high-flying SILVER SURFER gazing soulfully down at you, wistfully dreaming, no doubt, of the glory and grandeur that was!

ITEM! One answer to the question of why JIM STERANKO has been absent from our pages recently is the fact that he's been hard at work writing his monumental HISTORY OF THE COMICS. Stan no sooner read the first copy than he grabbed the phone to congratulate the jaunty one on the cataclysmic job he'd done. (And, since Jim lives in Pennsylvania, and we all know how stingy Smiley is, you can imagine how our leader must have liked it!) Anyway, just to complete the age table we mentioned earlier, Jim is presently just on the shady side of thirty — and we've been wondering whether to congratulate him, sympathize with him, or simply adopt him!

STAN LEE'S SOAPBOX

Every few months (mainly when I can't think of anything else to write), I try to spell out the somewhat elusive, ephemeral Marvel philosophy. Well, just the other day, one of the largest magazine publishers in Japan, who has been presenting our own SPIDER-MAN to a wildly enthusiastic Japanese audience, requested a brief resumé of our philosophy for his readers. It occurred to us that you might enjoy reading this updated version. And so —

"Our Marvel sagas originate in the United States — but, in a true sense, they belong to the world. Our theme is justice, tempered by tolerance, honed by humor, and leavened with love. We support people everywhere — people striving to improve themselves and their lives — people working and praying for a better world, a world without war. Our heroes are your heroes — our villains your villains — our problems your problems, as are our triumphs and defeats. We espouse no cause save the cause of freedom — no philosophy save the brotherhood of man. Our purpose is to entertain — to take the world as it is and show it as it might be — as it could be — and perhaps, as it should be. We hope to please you, excite you, broaden the horizons of your imagination, and appeal to your sense of wonder. And so, we promise you, our friends across the sea, that we will never relax our efforts to provide the very finest stories and artwork — to bring you the most original, most imaginative, and most thought-provoking adventures of all. Though we are separated by a vast ocean, we are linked together by a love of fantasy, by a taste for the unusual, and by the mutual respect that men of good will have for each other no matter what tongue they speak, no matter where they may live. I welcome you to the wonderful world of Marvel — long may we dwell here together!"

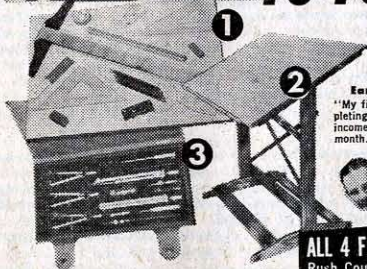
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Stan





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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 others,

Well, after leaving the Marvel fold for more than a year, I picked up issue #90 of SPIDER-MAN, and I guess Spidey still is the same fascinating hero of yore. Issue #90 was fantastic!

During my year's seclusion from the fold, which blew my R.F.O. rating, I studied some biology, so when I picked up issue #90, I began to think about Spidey's origin. Now, I don't know if this ever came up before my interest in Spidey began (issue #31), or after I left the fold, but I'm going to try to give reason behind the one-and-only. As every Spidey fan knows, he gained his powers from a bite of a radioactive spider. Now, the bite of a normal spider isn't much, but this radioactive spider was dying, let us say, from the induced lysis of its cells, including the cells of the poison glands. Radioactivity is a mutagenic and would conceivably affect the chromosomes of the cells. The pieces of the spider inside Peter would include pieces of chromosomes, which could be mutated into an infectious form, like a virus. They would replicate at the expense of the cells of his hand, but might be incorporated into Peter's nuclei. This would give him certain characteristics of a spider.

As a science-fiction fan, I wish to commend you on the logic you show in your mags. True sci-fi stories start with only one scientifically logical deviation from a set norm. In the majority of your stories, you do this very commendably. Issue #90, now, is slightly different. The altered webbing is o.k., but what is the logic behind it? Oh well, life does contain its little incongruities.

I was glad to see Doc Ock in issue #90. I've always felt that he was one of your most logical and deadly villains. So you went and killed another of Peter's friends! What can I add to that? You've branded Spidey as a killer and probably incurred the hostility of Gwen towards Peter's other self. I think I will go back to sci-fi; it's less hectic there (only joking).

Request time: If my little bit on Spidey's origin is to your liking, please show your appreciation. A no-prize brought to me via 17-year cicada would be to my liking. Pretty please?

Bill Castellani, 14900 Rochelle
Detroit, Mich. 48205

You've got it, Bill. But please, no more lines — even joking ones — about going back to the glories of s-f fandom and abandoning the comic-mag field. You know how we worry about things like that.

Dear Stan,

Why, oh why, must SPIDER-MAN be burdened with the guilt of the world? His was not the responsibility; he took it upon himself. Years ago, Peter Parker received the curse of curses — a "gift". The gift-curse of being "different" has struck quite a few lonely individuals. Some have buried their special gift within them, pushed their uniqueness inward to die the withering death of the unused, just so that they could fit an average niche in "normal" society.

A rare few have used their gift freely. Some, feeling their difference has set them apart or outside the human race, find uses solely for their own gain. Others are drawn to unselfishly aid their fellows. Peter Parker is one of these lone — oh, so lonely — persons. His endowment was mainly physical, and he used it generously as best he could — as a strong force against the selfish misfits, the criminals. He attempted to ignore the confused hostility of a "normal" citizenry toward his differentiation, but his very generosity confirmed his lack of apathy. He

cared to remain a part of the human race, and he was affected by ordinary people's views of his abnormality. His self-pride had to be contained (since it was not shared by others), and he felt guilty whenever he used his superior abilities.

Spidey-Man was in no way responsible for the death of George Stacy. Stacy's death was a fateful accident. Gwen Stacy is a brave, intelligent girl. As her sorrow abates, she must surely rest any apportioned blame on Dr. Octopus' evil use of his invention, not on Spidey-Man's attempt to fruitfully use his super-powers.

Do not let Miss Stacy fall prey to the unfeeling, ignorant hostilities of 'normal' people. She is special, too — hers is the gift of love. In the last panel of issue #90, you foreshadowed Peter's feelings of guilt and Gwen's misplaced hatred of Spidey-Man. Such guilt and hatred should not logically exist, and if logic is extant in this messed-up world, you will avoid the obvious duality crisis of your super-anti-hero in love, and turn the plot to higher planes of awareness.

S. Alyn Weidner, Hiram College
Hiram, Ohio 44234

Friend, you may know or feel that Spidey wasn't responsible for Captain Stacy's death — and Stan and John may know it — but what will any of us tell the tormented Peter Parker himself? Or what will Pete tell Gwen — if and when he decides to unburden his soul to the girl he loves?

Time, they say, heals all wounds — and perhaps with time, the sorrow of Spidey-Man will be eased as well.

Dear Stan, Gil, and John,

I find it getting increasingly difficult to resist writing to you after reading the latest issue of SPIDER-MAN. SPIDER-MAN #90 held in its contents the necessary qualifications to make it an excellent Shakespearean play: (1) The antagonist would naturally be the evil Dr. Octopus. (2) The story started out extremely interesting, so as to prevent the reader from making a paper airplane out of the issue. (3) The story continued on smoothly, preventing boredom until the turning point when Spidey-Man decides to do final battle with Dr. Octopus. (4) From this point on, everything reaches a crescendo until the climax when Captain Stacy is killed.

The only variation we see is that this particular story, unlike a play, has two turning points. The second appears in the life of Peter Parker, who is now faced with two major problems: he must live with the guilt he feels for the destruction of his two most trusted friends, Uncle Ben, and Captain Stacy, and he is also now responsible for Gwen, from whom he must keep his secrets.

I ask you—have Shakespearean characters ever been portrayed with as many problems and with such a dismal outlook for the future as our own AMAZING SPIDER-MAN?

Well, do I get a no-prize for my questionable comparison of a typical SPIDER-MAN story to that of a Shakespearean play?

Thomas Czaplinski, P.O. Box 31
Lincoln Park, Michigan 48146

Consider it sent, Tom. By the way, that Shakespeare character you mention sounds like a real winner of a scripter. What comic-mag company does he work for? (And if you tell he's employed by our capricious competitors, ol' Stan may just start worrying!)

KNOW YE THESE, THE HALLOWED RANKS OF MARVELDOM:

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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,

I have only one thing to say to the Marvel Age of Comics, and that is — adios! — unless something is done to rectify the situation you've developed in issue #90 of SPIDER-MAN. Not only have you destroyed one of your most excellent supporting characters (namely — Captain Stacy!), but you've actually revealed an unthinkable Spider-Man committing murder, or at least being an accomplice in a killing. Let me reiterate a little. You have made clear certain points such as: 1) Spider-Man will not now or ever reveal his identity to anyone close like Harry or Gwen. 2) He'll try to be compatible with Gwen, for when he is near her, memories will flood his soul and constantly bring his role in the death of her beloved father to mind. 3) To go beyond these two, you have wrapped two guilt complexes around Peter's neck (which is far more than any man — super-hero or not — can take!). Now you've given yourself only a limited amount of possibilities to escape from this treacherous orifice you dug yourself into. You might have a doctor rush to Captain Stacy's aid and save him at the last probable moment, for the majority of us know that the human body can live for at least three minutes after the heart has stopped pumping and the lungs breathing. Or... you can suddenly open up next issue with a splash panel showing Peter snapping out of a dream (any concepts along this line are logically feasible and may save you the loss of a great number of fans who share my opinionated views).

If this conformity does not come about, then for all I care, you can transmute Spider-Man into a paranoid schizophrenic and have him commit suicide (for by that time I will have discontinued all my purchases of your magazines). I know from a statistical standpoint that losing one fan isn't much of a loss, but I'll follow it up, nonetheless.

Art Kangas, Jr., 4214 Woodbine Ave.
Dayton, Ohio 45420

We hope not, Art — because, after all, Captain Stacy wasn't even in existence as a comic-book character when the Marvel Age of Comics began back in 1961 — and we were rather planning on it's outlasting his demise by some time. In fact, if we can believe our fan- and pan-mail, it's just this life-and-death feeling that makes SPIDER-MAN and our other magazines the sought-after works of popular art which they are. Or are we off-base, and have times and comics-fans changed more than we imagine?

Dear Stan, Gil, and John,

SPIDER-MAN #90 was at the very least an issue which brought out much emotion from its readers. You can talk all you want to about how comic characters are just imaginary, non-existent people, whose lives in the comics are make-believe, and thus, nothing to get upset about. But any true fan who has read comics most of his life, as I have, knows that this is not the case.

Captain Stacy made his first appearance about two and a half years ago, in issue #56, I believe. Ironically, he was then on a committee aiding in the capture of Dr. Octopus, the same criminal who has now been responsible for his death. Any major character who's been around for two and a half years cannot be killed without evoking some sadness from the more sentimental fans among us. Even my younger brother, whose only contact with Spider-Man was MARVEL TALES #1, and who's never even heard of Captain Stacy until now, was saddened by reading the last three pages of the story. My compliments to you, Stan, especially for the last page. Stacy's final words to Peter, and his calling Peter by name, were very fitting to the story. My compliments also go to you, Gil, for although Peter's face was hidden by his mask, I could really see the desperation and anguish he felt at the end of the story.

I have only two pleas to make. First, don't have any bitterness between Gwen and Peter that might separate them. She needs him now more than ever. And second, please, PLEASE don't start a story line that would call Spider-Man a murderer. Any half-wit could see it wasn't his fault that Octopus' arms toppled the chimney! God knows there's been enough fear and distrust of Spider already by Jameson and everyone else to last a lifetime! If you really have killed off a fine man like Captain Stacy, at least have enough respect for him to refrain from using his death as a springboard for the very kind of anti-Spider-Man feelings that he spent the last years of his life fighting! Let the man rest in peace. He deserves at least that much.

Mike McKeegan, 190 Columbia Dr.
Williamsville, N.Y. 14221

And perhaps he shall. But for the present, it would appear that while Captain Stacy himself is beyond pain, beyond heartbreak—the prospects ahead for Spider-Man and Gwen are rather bleak, indeed.

Stan, John, and even "newcomer" Gil Kane shared your feelings over the death of Captain Stacy, incidentally. Seldom in the annals of Marvel was a character written out of a strip with more anguish, more soul-searching on the part of those who wrote and drew the fateful story. Believe us, Mike, nothing about SPIDER-MAN #90 was done light-heartedly or without forethought—and if you happen not to like the way you see things drifting as a result of Stacy's death, all we can do is humbly ask that you keep reading the magazine for a while—and see if our plans for Peter Parker's future finally wind up justifying the direction they have taken.

HAVE WE GOT A CONTINUED STORY FOR YOU!!



IT STARTS WITH A BANG IN

IRON MAN

--AND ENDS WITH A BLAST IN

DAREDEVIL

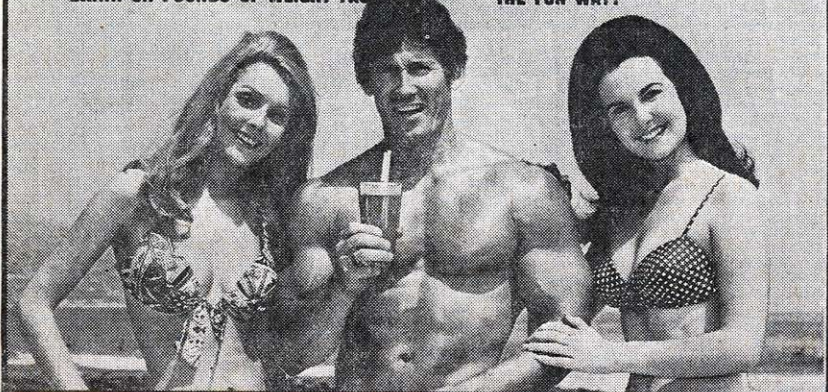
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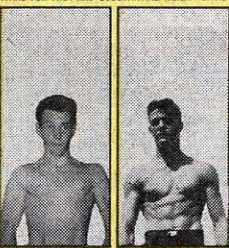
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