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HINTS OF HILARIOUS HI-JINX AND HOMOGENEOUS HAPPENINGS HAPPILY HARVESTED FOR HEROES LIKE YOU!

ITEM! Remember when we asked you to send us some one-liners beginning with "Life is-"? Well, we never knew there were so many philosophers amongst Marveldom Assembled. We were swamped with 'em. And now, just to get us off to a nutty start, here are a few typical samples of the zillions we received: "Life is a four-letter word!" "Life is when you're not dead!" "Life is tragedy for those who feel, and comedy for those who think!" "Life is a cosmic joke - and death, the punchline!" "Life is outside of Marvel Comics!" How about that? Our thanks to Tom King, Greg Sturgeon, Tom Lane, D. Brewer, and Raymond Vanover for the aboveand to all you other geniuses whose entries made our reading a little more pleasant these past few months.

ITEM! Here's the latest scoop on some of our momentously mixed-up artist change-overs. GIL (SUGAR-LIPS) KANE has been doing such a great job on SPIDER-MAN that JAZZY JOHNNY RO-MITA, who's been anxious for a changeof-pace, has eagerly turned the ol' Web-Swinger's reins over to garrulous Gil. But, don't think you've seen the last of Ring-A-Ding! Johnny is about to start pencilling none other than CAPTAIN AMERICA AND THE FALCON, effective with the current ish. (After all, since Spidey himself is the guest star, why not?) As for GENE (THE DEAN) COLAN, we've a brand new project lined up for him - another 50¢ mag labelled M, for the mature reader; and we'll tell you more about it as soon as he finishes the first yarn. But, while we're waiting, Genial Gene will soon be lending his magical touch to the DR. DOOM series now running in ASTONISHING TALES. And, if you're wondering about WONDROUS WALLY WOOD, here's another bombshell: You'll find his awesome artistry appearing in the new, sensational KULL THE CONQUEROR, on sale this very minute! Also, before we forget, HONEST JOHN SEVERIN has just returned to the fold, teaming up with ROSS (BOSS) ANDRU to bring you one of the most electrifying SUB-MARINER mags of all. And, if you think we'll forget to tell you that LONESOME GEORGE TUSKA is once more responsible for the amazin' artwork on IRON MAN-you're right-we almost forgot! There's lots more, but let's save it so we'll have something to toss atcha next month.

ITEM! Got time for some name-dropping again? Okay, let's go! If anyone claims that comic-mags aren't like show biz, don't tell it to STAN and ROY. Our twoswashbucklin' scripters have been having a ball lately. Stan, in addition to his screenplay writing, is currently working on a new long-play album with ICARUS. the barnstormin' bombshell British group. And most of you probably saw him on TO TELL THE TRUTH recently, as the panel tried to guess the real Stan Lee. Of course, that was before he cut two tapes for CBC (the CANADIAN BROADCASTING CO.), as well as filming a TV appearance on the same network-just after spending two hilarious hours on NYC radio station WMCA's ALEX BENNETT show, where our leader knocked 'em dead by reading a few pages of Spider-Man to the world outside! As for Rollickin' Roy, he was on the famous JOE FRANKLIN radio stanza, reminiscing about the past (which isn't easy to do when you're still on the sunny side of thirty!)-and then, before the applause had a chance to fade, he hied himself thither to CARDOZA COL-LEGE at Long Island's STONYBROOK U., where he spent his time fielding students' questions on everything from the relative strength of Thor and the Hulk, to the relevance and role of comicbooks in today's troubled world. (And, off the record, Roy tells us that, if he had to make a choice, he prefers the former!) Anyway, judging by all the lecture requests and talk-show invites that are continually bombarding ye benevolent Bullpen, it seems that our bewildering brand of Marvel madness is still as habit-forming as ever-and that's just the way we want it!

ITEM! Hey, how about a salute to Marvel's unsung heroes-the plucky paintpushers who color our lively little epics thru rain, and storm, and spring fever! Dean of our cosmic coloring staff is none other than STAN GOLDBERG, who also draws MILLIE THE MODEL whenever we're not looking. Next we have MARVELOUS MIMI GOLD, who specializes in THE HULK, CONAN, and DARE-DEVIL. (The coloring, that is!) NEFARI-OUS NEAL ADAMS colors his own IN-HUMANS, just as TERRIFIC TOM PALMER applies the tintinnabulatin' tints to the DAREDEVIL sagas which he inks. SAUCY SHARON COHEN, as all Marveldom knows, is the one who lends many-hued sparkle to IRON MAN, SGT. FURY, and the RAWHIDE KID. Then, whenever we're in a jam (like alwayst)—MERRY MARIE SEVERIN, PLUCKY PAUL REINMAN and BIG BILL EVERETT are always there to lend us a hand. Now that we've exposed these sterling stalwarts to the public gaze, you know who to write to when you wanna complain about the color of Bruce Banner's trousers, or some other equally world-shattering matter! (We'll do anything to pass the buck!)

STAN LEE'S SOAPBOX

Lately, more and more people have been discussing the relevancy of comics. Whenever the conversation arises, comic-books are inevitably compared to movies, plays, and TV shows, and those of us involved in the scripting of a comic are usually asked how our efforts compare to the creation of a scenario for stage, screen, or television. Since there's so much interest in the subject, I'd like to attempt to illuminate it a bit. though my premise may surprise you. Actually, writing a viable comicbook story is probably more difficult than writing a script for any other medium! Why? Well, think about it a bit. Though the comic-book script requires the same attention to characterization, the same realistic dialogue, and the same dramatic literary structure as any other type of scenario, only the comic-book writer must contend with the torturous limitation of space! Only the comic book scripter must capsulize, in a few brief dialogue balloons, the same premise that an author in any other medium may take page after page to expand upon. Yet, the comicbook writer, limited to a few words per dialogue balloon, must give his reader the same reading satisfaction, mental stimulation, and cultural fulfillment as any other practitioner of the literary arts. And so far we've only discussed the scriptwriting - we haven't even touched upon the inimitable artwork. An analysis of some of the important facets of comic-book illustration will follow in a future soapbox - as soon as we can figure out what they are.

Onward!





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THE SPIDER'S WEB

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Dear Stan,

It seems that your competitors have come up with a winner, and a format which is popular. As a result, you have begun to use that basic format, with many differences, of course. The big point is that more and more your heroes are fighting the ills of society, rather than super-powered clods with whom few can identify, if at all. Not that a super-clod is bad now and then, but these are usually slug-fests which are better reserved for the bubble-gum brigade. You have specialized the areas which certain characters go into. Spider-Mon, Daredevil, and Cap are now working to help the oppressed younger generation and the ills caused by the oppressing older one. They deal with robbery, murder, and a host of others-except one, DRUGS.

Without a doubt, drugs are an important part of the corruption of the youth, as well as the old. With headlines screaming of 2-day-old children showing withdrawal signs because their mothers were addicts, don't you think that this is an important topic to

Thus far, I have yet to see a story dealing with drugs. Many of us deal either directly or indirectly with drugs almost daily. My particular high school is overrun with the problem-it's no longer a problem of smoking-it's what they're smoking! In three minutes I can get almost anything: heroin, hash, grass-name it, you've got it! Robbery around my area is almost unheard of-but someone busted for possession of narcotics happens weekly. Something must be done-literature has been written, but it's adulf literature-too complex to read. Comics are the perfect medium through which messages about this problem can be conveyed. I know it is tough to work with, but it certainly is important enough to give it a good try! Mary Jane is not addictive physically at the start, but it can lead to psychological addiction to harder stuff later on. Heroin is terminal! Kids die at 12 because they ODed with speed. Maybe this is the only way to reach the kids-by telling them the facts in comics they read!

Consider it, men. If it saves one kid out of 10, that's something. Marvel has taken the lead in so many things in the pasttake the initiative now.

RIGHT ON, BROTHERS

Evan Katten, 719 Kenmare Road Bala-Cynwyd, Penn. 19004

We figured that this was a particularly appropriate ish to print your letter in, Evan, as you must evidently realize after the past twenty pages. This ish certainly is a landmark for Marvel because of the subject matter.

We in the Bullpen feel, as you do, that the problem of drug abuse could not continue to be ignored. And so we HAD to deal with it, regardless of the repercussions from those who are not aware of the importance and scope of the drug problem in this country. We will continue to follow our conscience-are all of you with us?

I was reading Vance Packard's The Hidden Persuaders for my Advanced Placement English course, like a good girl, and I ran into a few things that I thought might interest you. And I quote:

"... The cigar, in our minds, is a symbol of masculine toughness: it is favored by gangsters and hard-boiled bankers. An ad agency, Young and Rubicam, found in a depth study that

young men feel uneasy smoking cigars, presumably because cigars are such virility symbols that they feel a bit presumptuous trying to smoke them. A study made by a Chicago ad agency (Weiss and Geller) turned up the fact that cigars appeal both to men who are very strong, and to men who are basically weak and small. A cigar helps the little guy feel big . . . "

Of course we must give equal time to the other side of the question. And I further quote:

'In 1956 a University of Illinois professor, Dr. Maury Massler (College of Dentistry), told an Oklahoma convention of dentists that a man who enjoys pulling on a big fat cigar is merely indulging in an adult version of thumb sucking. (Cigarette smokers, he said, are doing the same perhaps to a lesser extent.) However, he took the matter calmly. He said it is a method of relieving the inner tensions that build up. But he did make one interesting distinctions the man who puffs on his cigar is sucking his thumb while the man who chews vigorously on his stogie is a nail biter."

Well, there we have confirmation of things every Marvelite has known for years. J. Jonah Jameson is constantly trying to put over an image of toughness. Not only that, but he's racked with inner tensions (such as his frustration at never being able to win over Spider-Man?).

I await the glorious day when Spidey tells JJJ he's a nailbiter. Jean Laidia, 784 Holmdel Road, Holmdel, New Jersey 07733



Dear Stan, John, and others,

In the Navember general election for the 7th Congressional District seat, guess who was running against Democrat Parren J.

It was-Republican Peter Parker!! And, do you know what? Parker lost by 17,000 votes.

Now, are you ganna give me a no-prize, or am I ganna have to get the Yancy Street Gang to bust a few heads?

Jeffrey Lustman, 7112 Minna Rd. Baltimore, Md. 21207

No violence, Jeff-please! Your no-prize is speeding on its skeptical way to you, but we can't help wondering-if our Pete isn't old enough to vote, how could he be running for office?? (Oh-it's a DIFFERENT one, you say?)

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Dear? People,

Hmmphgbb. This is about as good as I can do to describe my feelings about SPIDER-MAN *93, and this is the fourth attempt to do so—the other three were crumpled up and thrown away.

It seems like a nice solution to get rid of Given; no more identity problems, a chance for new twists in Peter Parker's life, etc.; but it's also purely sadistic!

At least when Betty Brant vanished into the sunset some Marvelites had suggested you get rid of her, but it seemed like everybody liked Gwen Stacy.

Perhaps Pete could go to London and find her? He's found ways to make such long and expensive plane trips before, mostly in the Spidey Annuals. But, alas, somehow my ESP tells me you have no such plans.

Maybe when the Marvel building is buried by letters similar to this one asking for her return, you will change your minds.

To be hones, it would seem strange for Pete not to try to find Gwen and tell her the whole story, when he went to all that trouble in the SPIDER-MAN ANNUAL *5 to find out about his parents. [Something that wouldn't really change his life physically it he did foil.]

If you don't do something about this atrocity, I'm sure you'll make a lot of faithful Spidophiles webbin' mad!

Since this is about all a can think to say, I'll wait, hopefully, to see what happens.

Excelsiwhatchamacallit! (Or has that been said?)

'odd Bake, 15430 Rossini, Detroit, Mich, 48205

As you must know by now, Todd, Pete did make the attempt to reach Gwen and—as always—blew it! But don't lose the faith—if fale means for Pete and Gwen to stay together, not even thousands of miles of waves and wind can keep them apart! (Well, eventually, that is!)

Dear Stan,

Every time I pick up one of your superb mags I look forward to reading not only a great story, but also a well-arranged letters page. It is good to know that our very thoughts and ideas are being read and in some instances answered. A magazine published by Mavrel has nowhere to go except forward to greater horizons and literary frontiers.

Before your hat size increases to a point of no return, I believe it is time to change the subject.

In issue #93, Todd Bake contributes the idea of tiny hooks being used for Spidey's wall crawlin'. I do not think this idea has much substantial basis. Since Todd is a believer in scientific reasoning.



let him consider this: It was brought to our attention that Spider-Man possesses tiny, microscopic hooks on his hands and feet, If these hooks are, indeed, microscopic, then it is quite hard to believe that the hooks are able to penetrate the cloth of his glove and able to grip the solid wall of a building. Even if the hooks could penetrate the cloth and grip the wall, it is highly unlikely that the hold would be substantial enough to support Spidey's weight. Now that I've ulterly destroyed a fellow Michigander's thoughts, I think I'll close before this letter runs into two issues.

Ken Compbell, 1300 W. "D" St. Iron Mountain, Mich. 29801

Good thing, too, Ken, 'cause this is one of those moot points we could all argue about for years. Tell you what—let us know when you can PROVE it, Deal?



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In just five weeks, Mr. J. Ullman increased his chest by 5", his biceps by 2", his neck by 1", his thighs by 3", and his calves by 1". Of course, not everyone can expect to attain such dramatic results. But instead of feeling tired and listless, after completing the Telepander Program, Mr. J. Ing the Telepander Program, Mr. J. Ullman felt "in the pink", bursting with strength and vitality. The secret? The amazing TELEPANDER — an exciting new device that helps you gain new strength and vigor in just 5 minutes a day!

ISOMETRICS-ISOTONICS. The shortcut training method of champions

The revolutionary Isometric-Isotonic concept has been endorsed by athcoaches, trainers, physicians and fitness experts around the world, even the President's Council on Physical Fitness! And it has been reported in Reader's Digest, Der Stern, Life Magazine and countless medical and scientific journals. TELEPANDER makes use of this very same Isomet-ric-Isotonic concept. No wonder Wim Ruska, World judo champ, calls TELEPANDER "my secret weapon!" Says: "it keeps me in top condition for every match!"

GUARANTEED RESULTS-in just 14 days!

Whether you're 20, 40, or 60 years old, TELEPANDER can help broaden shoulders, build powerful arm, chest and leg muscles, trim inches off your waist, have you beginning to look and feel stronger in no time!

We guarantee you will see the difference - and be able to verify the results with a tape measure in just 2 weeks or your money back! How can we make such a fabulous guarantee? Because results are based on scientific proof with men just like you.

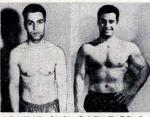
MEN OF ALL AGES SHOW AMAZING RESULTS

UNDER 25 YEARS



Photo of Mr. Jack Seiler Before Starting Telepander Training

25 TO 40 YEARS



Mr. J. Ullman After 35 Days of Telepander Training Chest: 43½" Biceps: 15" Calves: 14½" Thighs:

Men who ride to work, take elevators, and who have not participated in any organized athletics since they left school. Men who are too busy - and too bored - for hours of strenuous "conventional" exercises. Yet in as little as 5 minutes a day, TELEPANDER is making these men more powerful and vigorous.

FREE ILLUSTRATED BOOKLET Shows you how to get back in shape fast!

Mail coupon today for Free 20-page Booklet that shows amazing TELEPANDER short cuts to powerful arms and legs, vise-like grip, broader shoulders, deeper chest. No weights, no barbells or long hard exercise. Step-bystep color photos reveal the dynamic Isometric-Isotonic method acclaimed the world over. (Booklet is free - no obligation to buy thing.)

TELEPANDER helps you to:

Slim waistline bulges . Firm-up flabby muscles = Strengthen arms, legs, back and shoulders - Takes just minutes a day . No need to disrobe . Use at home, office, anywhere = Fast results, easy to use = Good for all ages, fun = Spot develops any muscle group . Eliminates needless repetition = Overall physical fitness benefits . No costly, bulky machines needed.

OVER 40 YEARS





FREE BOOKLET

MARGRACE CORPORATION Dept. 781 250 W. 57th Street New York, N.Y. 10019

Please send me the illustrated Booklet that shows how TELEPANDER builds power-packed muscles in just 5 minutes a day which includes action photographs in full-color. I understand there is no obligation and no salesman will call,

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