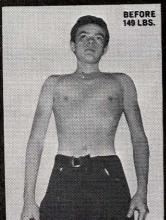


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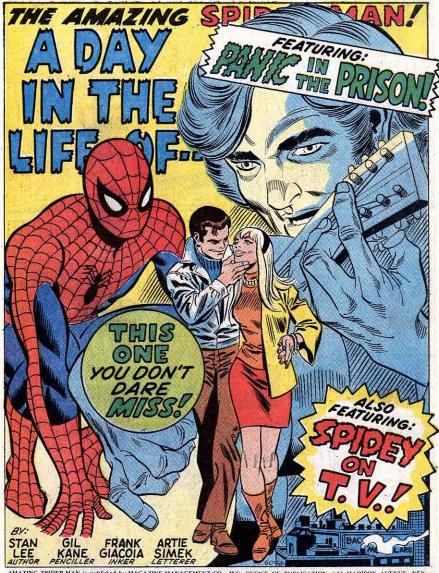
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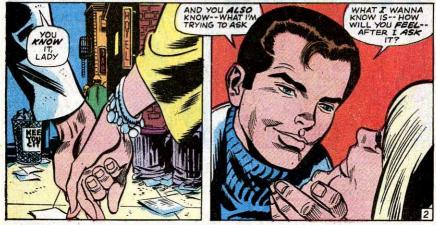
























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EVERYTHING YOU'VE ALWAYS WANTED TO KNOW ABOUT THE BULLPEN, BUT WERE AFRAID TO ASK!

ITEM! Okay, here it is-your first offi-cial notice! So don't say that we didn't alert you. The great, long-awaited 100th issue of SPIDER-MAN will soon be on sale! We've been preparing for it for months-planning a story which will be truly different; truly worthy of celebrating the 100th anniversary of the world's most popular, most sensational, and most relevant superhero. We're not trumpeting this extraordinary event just to rake in an extra few pennies, honest! (Although we've never been known to complain about making money!) It's just that we know you'll never forgive us if we let you miss this landmark edition. 'Nuff said!

ITEM! Speaking of landmark editions, here's one for the books: The current HULK thriller, now on sale, is based on TOM WOLFE'S brilliant. best-seller "Radical Chic," and Tom himself actually appears in the yarn. He said he's always wanted to be a Marvel superhero—and nobody says them there kinda things lightly around the ol' Bullpen! To call this issue "off-beat" would be like saying that Raquel Welch isn't too bad looking!

ITEM! Here's some more good news for the Marvel-minded millions! RECKLESS REED CRANDALL, one of comicdom's all-time greats (remember his breath-taking illustrations in the old-time E.C. mags?) is planning to return from his hibernation out west and rejoins his long-time-no-see buddies here at the Bullpen! We can't wait till you see what this cat can do with a pen and ink. (His first assignment may be in one of our M-rated mags—SAVAGE TALES or DRACULA—so make a note, Mature Open!)

ITEM! While talking about Reed, we just remembered another, equally exciting item for you. AMIABLE AL WILLIAMSON, another widely-heralded E.C. alumnus, will be forsaking his newspaper and book illustration long enough to also help us usher in the Marvel Age of Awesome Artistry! We just spoke to Al the other day and decided he's been away from us too long—so keep the faith, Forbush-Lover—and watch for the new excitement that's hurtling your way!

'ITEM! Hey, gang, have pity on us, huh? Just 'cause our mixed-up mags are big on campus, and SMILIN' STAN is the darlin' of the literary lecture circuit, that: doesn't mean we've got the time to help you with your term papers, treatises, or doctoral theses! We seem to receive a couple of dozen letters each week from Marvel-oriented students who tell us they're doing a term paper, or some such, about the Marvel Mystique-and would we send them all the info we can about our organization, our modus operandi, our future plans and projections, and a detailed analysis of our collective philosophy! Well, we're flattered as all

get-out that anyone would care-and it breaks our hearts to have to disappoint any of you-but we hardly have the time for coffee breaks, let alone being able to engage in the kind of correspondence that such requests would necessitate! So have a heart, hero-please don't ask us to collaborate with you on your school reports. Anyway, think how we'd feel if we did-and you flunked! ITEM! Here's a real sentimental scoop! Two of our top talents just happen to be brother and sister. We're referring, of course, to HONEST JOHN SEVERIN and his sweet 'n saucy kid sis, our own MIRTHFUL MARIE SEVERIN, Well, it seems that Johnny is moving his wife and six little Severins out to Colorado, where men are men (and the taxes are lower!) We won't mention the name of the city, because we don't want our crafty competitors to try'n track him down. Anyway, before leaving New York, Johnny and Marie have collaborated on a strip-something they've wanted to do for years. It's none other than the sensational second issue of our newest hit publication, KULL THE CONQUER-OR! When you feast your baby-blues on the results of the Severin team-up, we've a hunch you're gonna holler for more. (But not too loud, hear? We'll be listening-we promise!)

ITEM! (Now, let's keep 'em short and squeeze in as many as space allows.) GENIAL GENE COLAN is teaching a parttime course on comics at a school in his home town in New Jersey! Right on, ol' buddy!---Wa'ch for Marvel's newest title. out soon. It's "RED WOLF." based on the cataclysmic character introduced in AVENGERS #80-but, the time is a hundred years earlier, in the days of the really wild West! Written by GARDNER (FEARLESS) FOX and illustrated by SYD (THE KID) SHORES, it'll knock you outta your saddle.-Incidentally, didia knowthat Syd was one of the earliest CAP-TAIN AMERICA artists during the first Golden Age of Comics? Well, when you see his work on RED WOLF, you'll know why comics are better'n ever!-Regards to LILTIN' LYNN WOLLEY, news-reporting nabob at radio station KNOW in Houston, Texas, where he's been doing his bludgeonin' best to help promote our befuddled brand of Marvel madness. -And, leave us not forget New York's own MIKE TURNER, at WABC-FM, another disc-spinning super-fan who hilariously hosted Our Leader for a long and laugh-filled gab-fest at one of his latenight stanzas .- Finally, did you hear about DOUG KENNEY, editor of the far-out. NATIONAL LAMPOON, coming to see us? He and Stan rapped for hours. and when the confab finally broke up, we're still not sure whether Lampy is gonna do a parody of us-or sue us 'cause we haven't paid for our subscription! But, that's the way it is in Marvel-EXCELSIOR! land

STAN LEE'S SOAPBOX

A couple issues back we discussed a few aspects of comic-book script writing. So, it now seems only fair to vak it up about the artwork that graces our phantasmagoric pages. Have you ever stopped to think how multi-talented a Marvel artist has to be? Not only must he be the equal of any book, magazine, or advertising illustrator, but he must also be a master story-teller, as well, Remember, here at the Bullpen, we work differently than at any other comicbook company. Here, the artist actually collaborates with the writer on the structure of the story. Working from the script-writer's synopsis, the artist himself develops the story pictorially, and only then is the artwork returned to the writer so that he may add the required dialogue and captions. Our illustrators must be masters of dramatic portrayal-of visual characterization-of anatomy, composition, and continued-action layout. Not only must they create a viable, three-dimensional world on paper, but they must then imbue it with life, with excitement, with a sense of belief. And, above all, unlike the so-called "fine artist" who can work at his leisure over a single drawing, the comic-book illustrator must create his panels one after the other, always speeding towards an impending deadline, with one eye ever on the clock and the calendar. producing from one to three pages a day-day after day-in this, the comic-book field-a truly native American form of art which, in a few short decades, has made its influence felt throughout the entire globe. As an editor and writer, I proudly salute the magnificently dedicated. monumentally talented comic-book artists who have made the world a little more thrilling, a little more dramatic, and a lot more colorful for us all.

Onward!





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THE SPIDER'S WEB

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Dear Stan and Co;

Now hear this, Marvel Bullpen! When you set out to make a guy's life miserable you really go all the way. I'm talking about Peter Parker, of course. He goes to London, England to reclaim his lost love; but instead, he gets involved with a kidnapping.

Is this justice? He spends all his time fighting and when the heat of battle is over he fades away leaving Gwen alone. Naturally he doesn't know that she's ready to listen to him and even ready to forgive Spider-Man.

Besides, Peter promised George Stacy that he would look after Gwen. By walking out of Gwen's life forever he also walked out on his promise to a dying man. This is not the Peter Parker I have known all these years. It is time for him to confess all to Gwen; and it's time for her to accept things like the woman she is,

Please give Spider-Man a break. He needs Gwen and she

needs him, Nuff said?

PMM FFF Shirley Gorman, Grande E Box 14 Hereford, Texas 79045

Our hearts are not made of stone, Shirl, as you must know by now. We believe there still is some justice in this world, and now that Gwenny's come back, the two young lovers will have to start coping with some immediate problems. Don't give up the ship, cause the voyage has just begun!

Dear Stan.

I think you're going a bit overboard with Spidey's problems. I really didn't mind his problems, until you really overdid it after Captain Stacy was killed.

Swiftly changeing to the complimentary side, SPIDER-MAN #94 was shockingly good. In looking at the cover I couldn't avoid buying it; I never imagined you would involve Aunt May the way, you did. It seems you improve every year, and I hope you do just as well in 1971.

William Ingersoll, 168 Columbia Ave. Greenville, Pa. 16125

We're planning on it, Pal, so stay tuned-I We figured it was about time we got ol' Aunt May away from the knitting. And to the dismay of some, she came through her ordeal in the best of health, which goes to show the old gal may be more of a slinger than she thought!





Dear Stan, John, and Sal,

As SPIDER-MAN goes, issue 94 was a disappointment from the great story line that you had built in the mag's preceding issues. Spidey's origin just wasted valuable space in a forced, crammed story, where the spectacularly built-up Beetle played a secondary role to Peter's too frequent hang-ups.

Personally, Peter needs a change of scene (let's hope Peter's visit to England will give that to him), at least from New York City. When Dare-Devil went to Los Angeles the whole magazine's outlook changed. He didn't have to worry about his secret identity, and unending sup-plats could develop. But Peter is stuck with all his harsh memories in a cold, friendless environment. New York has all of Marvel's characters save for the Black Knight and Sub-Mariner. Peter could go to Europe as an exchange student or decide to fight crime in Atlanta, San Francisco, or Chicago (my choices). But then again he could always bring Aunt May and himself down to Pendleton for a rest. At least no villain has ever heard of it, and you could give the magazine that "ol' hame folk atmosphere". Anywhere else than New York City.

I'm also glad that John is back on the strip. No insult to Gil Kane, the change was nice, but with all the artist mix-ups it's nice to see an artist stay on one strip. Conan is begutiful.

George Ferguson, 203 East Main St. Pendleton, S.C. 29670

We seem to have settled ourselves (for the time being, anyway!), by keeping Gracious Gil on our wall-crawler's art chores. We can assure you that Mr. Kane really digs doing the strip and promises not to let you down.

As you've seen by now, we've tried to make Pete's environ-ment a little less cold and friendless—but hang in there—when Spidey's ready for Pendleton, we'll drop you a line!

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Dear Stan the Lonely Hearts Man:

As I died I told Peter (don't tell anybody, but he's Spider-Man), to love and to protect Gwen. From up here I have been reading the Heavenly edition of SPIDER-MAN. What have you done to their lives? Totally ruined their love and future, not to mention their well-being. So, Godsarn You (forgive me Father), get them back together or eternal damnation in the Lake of Fire for you!

However, I know that the Devil made you do this terrible thing so I'll forgive you if you get them back together! And after all, Peter did promise me he'd look after Gwen and since she is just getting over her shock of losing me (God rest my Soul), don't you think he should find her and cheer her up?

Lastly, I'd like it, if the Heavenly Powers permit, to have Peter as my Spider-in-law. Please?

Capt. George Stacy, as told to: Dean Nakayama, 3472 Kupaa Drive Honolulu, Hawaii 96816

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It seems as if you know people in "high places", Dean! We won't question how you got your information—but you can assure Copt. Stacy, wherever he may be, that Peter and Gwenny will manage to work things oul—somehow! Things look on the up and up, and whether or not bells will be ringing, Peter will look after the Captain's daughter.

Dear Stan and Co.,

Prepare to send an imitation diamond studded, gold plated no-prize. In answer to the question of howSpider-Man's web spiner changes from spray to liquid to line, I have done intensive research. The results were astounding.

On page 113 of SPIDER-MAN COLLECTOR'S ALBUM, it says, "By adjusting the nozzle of his web-shooter in one easy motion, Spidey can eject his web fluid in any one of three ways".

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Clay Ferguson, 6062 Crab Orchard

Houston, Texas 77027

Sure enough, Clay. You have been dubbed a Spidey Historian
Supremel

Dear Stan (and all you other bananas from the Bullpen bunch),

SPIDER-MAN #93 was great (AS USUAL). I'm glad to see The



Prowler back in action. I think that he is one of your best creations since Spidey himself. The Prowler is certainly one of the most believable because he didn't get his powers from radiation (like most comic book super heroes); he created them. The thing that gets me is that he is a villain, but to me he doesn't appear to be evii, just misled.

Gary Chambers, Rt. 1 Box 590 Benton, Ark. 72015

That seems to be the way with many a baddie, Gary, Characters like the Prowler bridge the gap between reality and our super-powered fantasy creations. We're glad you can grok a guy like him, 'cause he's not so darn improbable!





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Each assignment you send to the Famous Artists School gets the attention of an instructor who is himself a working professional artist. He not only draws or paints his suggestions for improvement, but tries to bring out your special touch so you'll have something to show when you're ready to go out into the field.

Will this training help you make money as an artist? It did for Donald Ward who enrolled at FAS when a teenager, and today works in the largest advertising agency in Akron. His portfolio of work was enough to get him a job on a staff of 6 artists.

And Helen Tryk lives in the small town of Cottage Grove, Ore., yet achieves success doing fashion illustration and portraits—all in her own studio.

Do you have art talent worth developing?

For a free talent test that can help you find out, simply
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