

SPIDER-MAN

MARVEL COMICS GROUP™

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# the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN



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\*Complete details on Olympic's Monthly Cash Prize Contest will be sent with your Free Sales Kit. JOIN NOW! MAIL POSTCARD TODAY!

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# THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN!

ENTER!

## DR. STRANGE!

YOU THINK YOU'VE GOT PROBLEMS, CYCLOP? LET'S TUNE IN ON PETER PARKER'S--

LAST ISH, PETE LEARNED THAT FLASH THOMPSON WAS CAPTURED BY ASIAN MONKS BECAUSE THEY BLAMED HIM FOR THE DEATH OF THEIR HIGH PRIEST AND THE DESTRUCTION OF THEIR TEMPLE IN VIETNAM!

IN HIS GUISE AS THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN, OUR HERO LEARNED THAT FLASH WAS INNOCENT! HE ACTUALLY WAS TRYING TO SAVE THE TEMPLE AND THE PRIEST! BUT A FAT LOT OF GOOD THAT'S GONNA DO HIM NOW, BECAUSE--

WHILE BRINGING STACY GORGEOUS GWEN VET, PETER TO VISIT THE LUCKLESS YET, PETE SAW FLASH BEING ATTACKED AND ABDUCTED BY VENGEFUL FANATICS! PETE WAS UNABLE TO CHANGE INTO SPIDER-MAN GARB, PETE LEAPT INTO ACTION IN HIS PETER PARKER IDENTITY, TRUSTING TO THE DARKNESS TO CONCEAL HIS FEATURES!

BUT, THOUGH HE BATTLED VALIANTLY, THE AMAZING YOUTH WAS INABLE TO PREVENT FLASH'S CAPTURE, AND COULDN'T FOLLOW THE CAPTORS WITHOUT REVEALING HIS TRUE IDENTITY TO THE GIRL HE LOVES!

AND NOW THAT YOU'VE FINISHED THE LONGEST SUMMARY OF RECORD, LET'S GET ON WITH IT, TEAM!

I CAN'T GO AFTER FLASH! I CAN'T! NOT WHILE GWENDY IS WATCHING!

I CAN'T LET HER LEARN THAT I'M REALLY SPIDER-MAN! NOT NOW!

IF ONLY GWEN AND THE K.P.'S HADN'T FOUND ME SO SOON!

BUT AT LEAST I PLANTED MY SPIDEY TRACER ON THE GIANT WHO CARRIED OFF FLASH!

P.S.: YOU'RE SOON GONNA MEET THE SURPRISE STAR YOU'VE BEEN WAITING FOR!

SCRIPT: STAN LEE

ART: JOHN ROMITA

LETTERING: ART SIMEK

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JUST A FEW SECONDS LATER--

LISTEN! WHAT'S THAT COMOTION IN THE WASHROOM?

IT SOUNDS LIKE A FIGHT! SOMETHING MUST BE HAPPENING TO PARKER!

MAYBE ONE OF THOSE KILLERS STAYED BEHIND! IF THEY KNOW THAT PETER IS FLASH'S FRIEND--!

LET'S GET IN THERE! WE HAVE TO HELP HIM!

NO! LOOK-- LOOK! OUT THE WINDOW--

IT'S SPIDER-MAN! HE'S MAKING OFF WITH PARKER!

OH MY GOD! NOT AGAIN! NOT AGAIN!\*

RELAX! I'M NOT GONNA HURT THIS CLOWN!

I JUST WANNA ASK 'M A FEW QUESTIONS!

\*YOU GUESSED IT! THIS ISN'T THE FIRST TIME SPIDEY'S PULLED THIS STUNT!  
-- SLY STAN.

IT'S A GOOD THING MY VOICE GETS MUFFLED, AND UNRECOGNIZABLE UNDER MY MASK!

WATCH IT! DON'T DROP HIM!

IT--IT'S MY FAULT! IF I HADN'T INSISTED THAT PETER STAY HERE-- IF I HAD LET HIM GO--

DROPPING THAT HUNK OF ROLLED-UP WEBBING WOULDN'T HURT ANYTHING--

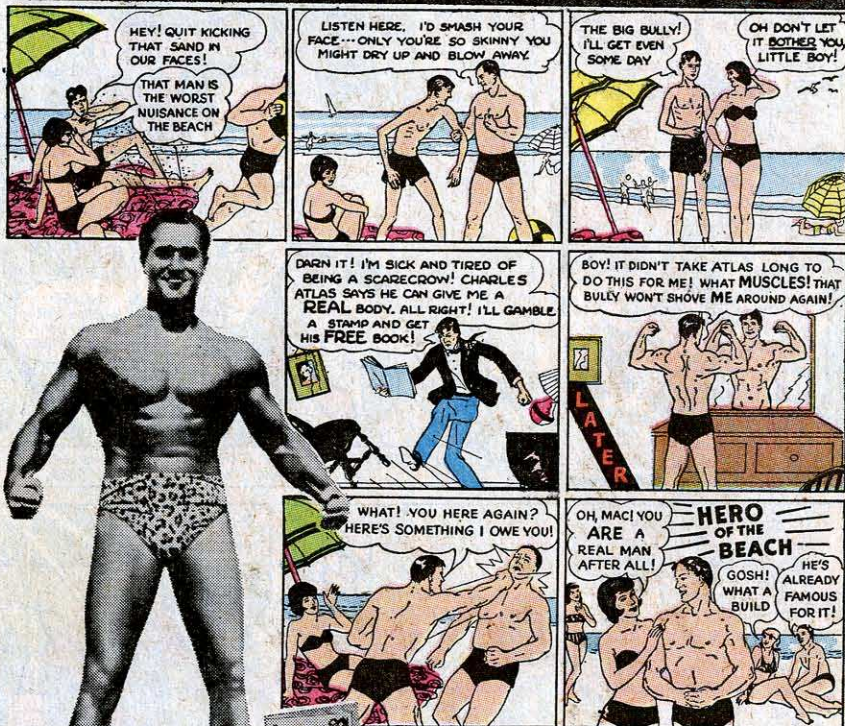
-- BUT I'M NOT ABOUT TO TELL THAT TO THEM!

NOW, ALL I'VE GOT TO DO IS FIND FLASH!

YEAH, THAT'S ALL!



# THE INSULT THAT MADE A MAN OUT OF "MAC"



## Let Me PROVE I Can Make YOU A NEW MAN!

ARE you "fed up" with seeing the huskies walk off with the best of everything? Sick and tired of being soft, frail, skinny or flabby — only HALF ALIVE? I know just how you feel. Because I myself was once a puny 97-pound "runt." And I was so ashamed of my scrawny frame that I dreaded being seen in a swim suit.

### The Secret of How I Got My Build

Then I discovered a wonderful way to develop my body fast. It worked wonders for me — changed me from the scrawny "runt" I was at 17, into "The World's Most Perfectly Developed Man." And I can build up YOUR body the very same natural way — without weights, springs or pulleys. Only 15 minutes a day of pleasant practice — in the privacy of your room.

My "Dynamic-Tension" method has already helped thousands of other fellows become real he-men in double-

quick time. Let it help YOU. Not next month or next year — but RIGHT NOW!

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If you're like I was, you want a powerful, muscular, well-proportioned build you can be proud of any time, anywhere. You want the "Greek-God" type of physique that women rave about at the beach — the kind that makes other fellows green with envy.

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CHARLES ATLAS, Dept. 60D,  
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- (Check as many as you like)
- |  |  |
|--|--|
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| <input type="checkbox"/> Ironhard Stomach Muscles    | <input type="checkbox"/> More Magnetic Personality             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Tighter Legs                | <input type="checkbox"/> More Weight—Solid—in the Right Places |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Slimmer Waist and Legs      |  |

I enclose 10c. Please send me a copy of your famous book showing how "Dynamic-Tension" can make me a new man. 32 Pages, crammed with photographs, answers to vital health questions, and valuable advice. This does not obligate me in any way.

Print Name.....Age.....

Address.....

City & State.....Zip.....

In England: Charles Atlas, 51 Poland St., London, W.1







OH NO! SOMETHING'S HAPPENING! SOMETHING'S WRONG!

THE SENSATION'S SO STRONG, I--I CAN HARDLY BEAR IT!

IT'S--NEVER HAPPENED-- TO ME BEFORE!



DO NOT BE ALARMED! I WAS FORCED TO RESORT TO SO EXTREME AN EXPEDIENT IN ORDER TO CONTACT YOU!

A VOICE! JUST A FEW FEET AWAY!

BUT--BUT THERE'S NO ONE THERE!



I AM HERE! BUT WHILE IN MY ASTRAL FORM, I AM INVISIBLE TO YOUR EYES!



ASTRAL FORM?! THAT CAN ONLY MEAN--



OF COURSE! AND NOW, YOU MUST FOLLOW ME!



**I put 2 full inches on my arms—  
3 inches on my chest and trimmed  
4 inches off my waist  
in just 7 weeks...**

thanks to the Joe Weider  
Musclebuilding Course!—

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supply lasts!

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BEFORE: Walter Leno, Jr. was  
weak and "under-nourished"  
looking—admitted to be seen  
anywhere in public.

AFTER: Walter used Weider  
methods and in just 14 days  
put on 16 pounds: 2½" on his  
arms and 2½" on his chest!

**IT CAN HAPPEN  
TO YOU, TOO!**

#### IN ONLY 30 DAYS



**HE GAINS 25 LBS**  
BEFORE: Paul Carmody weighed  
a skinny 135 lbs with  
"toothpick" arms and a shallow  
chest. He longed to be big  
and strong.

AFTER: Paul put himself under  
Weider methods and gained 25  
muscular lbs. in 30 days,  
adding 1½" to his arms  
5" to his chest!

**WHY NOT YOU?**

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MUSCLE-  
BUILDING  
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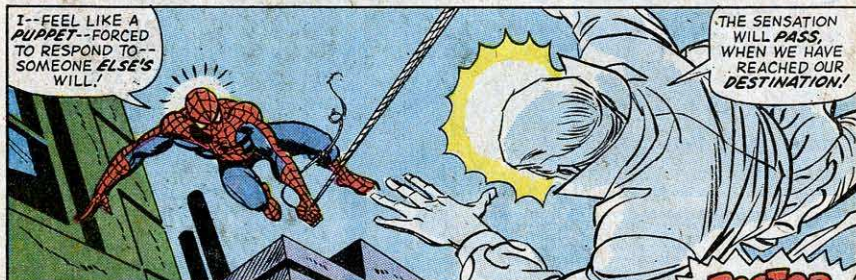
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in  
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THE TIME FOR  
WORDS IS  
**ENDED!**

TO HIS CELL  
WITH HIM--  
UNTIL THE TIME  
OF THE  
**HOLY HOUR!**

THEN YOU WILL  
DIE--THAT OUR  
**MASTER**  
MAY LIVE!



I **DIDN'T** KILL  
HIM! I **DIDN'T**!  
I **DIDN'T**--

THE IMAGE  
IS **FADING**!  
THE SOUNDS  
ARE  
GROWING  
**WEAKER!**

YOU HAVE SEEN **ENOUGH!** YOU HAVE  
**HEARD ENOUGH!**



THEIR PRIEST NOW  
SLEEPS THE  
**ENDLESS SLEEP**--  
AND THEY TRULY  
BELIEVE ONLY THE  
DEATH OF YOUR  
**FRIEND** CAN  
MYSTICALLY GIVE  
HIM **LIFE**  
**RENEWED!**

THUS,  
WE MUST  
**HASTEN**--  
FOR THE  
**HOLY HOUR**  
DRAWS  
NEAR!

I DON'T KNOW  
HOW YOU  
**LEARNED** ABOUT  
THIS--BUT IT  
DOESN'T  
**MATTER NOW!**

ALL YOU MUST  
**TELL** ME IS--  
WHERE DO I  
**FIND** THEM?

**NO!** I SHALL  
DO **MORE**  
THAN THAT--

**MORE?**  
WHAT  
DO YOU  
**MEAN?**





BY THE  
SEVEN  
RINGS  
OF  
RAGGADORR--

SINCE I HAVE  
DONNED MY CLOAK  
OF LEVITATION--

WE SHALL  
JOURNEY  
NOW  
TOGETHER!

**M**EANWHILE, IN A HIDDEN,  
CLOSELY-GUARDED SANCTUARY,  
IN ANOTHER PART OF TOWN--

MAYBE IT'S  
ONLY--  
RIGHT--THAT  
I GIVE UP  
MY LIFE!

MAYBE--  
SOMEONE HAS  
TO DIE--TO  
MAKE UP--FOR  
ALL WE'VE DONE  
TO THEM!

WE DIDN'T MEAN IT!  
WE NEVER MEAN IT!  
BUT WHAT GOOD DOES  
THAT DO WHEN--

THE  
DOOR!  
IT'S  
OPENING!

CAN IT  
BE--SO  
SOON?



SHA  
SHAN!

















WELL, IT DOESN'T  
MATTER NOW! IT'S  
TOO LATE! SHE--  
HEARD YOU!

MRS. PARKER!  
I--I DIDN'T KNOW  
YOU WERE HERE!



I WAS WAITING  
FOR PETER! BUT--  
WHAT HAPPENED  
TO HIM? WHAT  
HAPPENED TO MY  
POOR, DEAR BOY?

HE'S NOT  
A BOY!  
HE'S NOT!  
HE'S A  
MAN!



I KNOW HE'S YOUR NEPHEW!  
I KNOW HOW YOU LOVE HIM--  
BECAUSE I LOVE HIM TOO!

BUT IT'S  
PETER PARKER,  
THE MAN  
THAT I LOVE!



WHEN  
WILL YOU  
LET HIM  
GO?  
WHEN  
WILL  
YOU--?

OH! I--I'M SORRY!  
I SHOULDN'T HAVE  
SPOKEN TO YOU  
THAT WAY! I HAVE--  
NO RIGHT!

DON'T--  
DON'T  
SAY IT,  
MY  
CHILD!



YOU HAVE EVERY RIGHT! YOU  
BOTH LOVE EACH OTHER--AND  
THAT GIVES YOU THE RIGHT!

PERHAPS YOU'VE  
SAID SOMETHING  
THAT--THAT SHOULD  
HAVE BEEN SAID  
BEFORE!



PERHAPS--A FOOLISH OLD  
LADY--LONELY, AND  
UNTHINKING--CAN SMOOTHER  
A PERSON--WITH LOVE...



O KAY, SOAP-OPERA FREAKS, YOU'VE HAD YOUR MOMENT! AND  
NOW, BACK TO THE MERRIMENT--

THE TIME  
OF DEATH  
IS NIGH!

IT IS THE  
HOLY HOUR!

BRING FORTH  
THE  
SACRIFICE!

ALL IS  
READY!

15  
CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE



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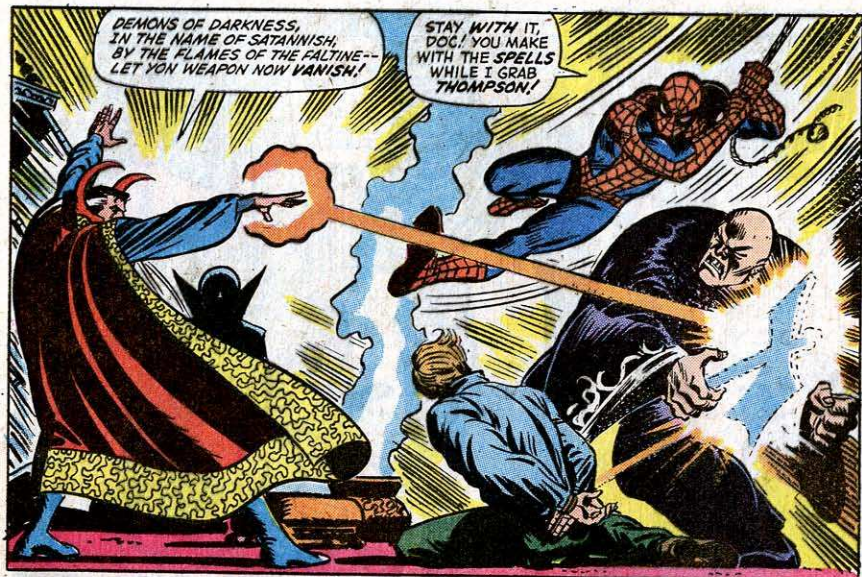




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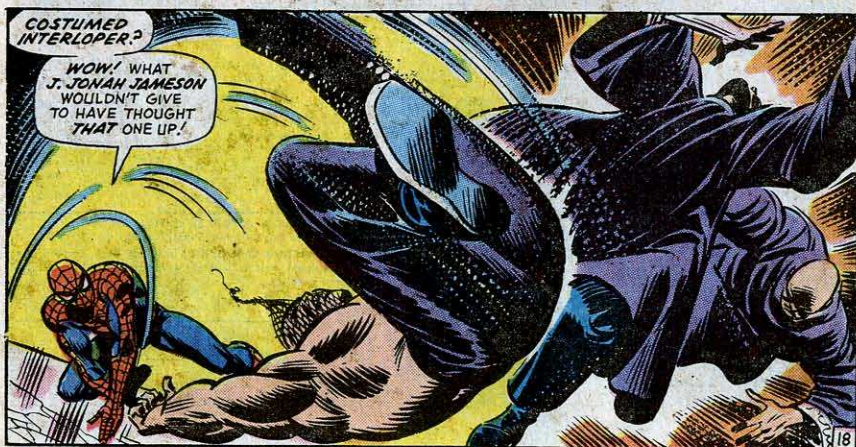
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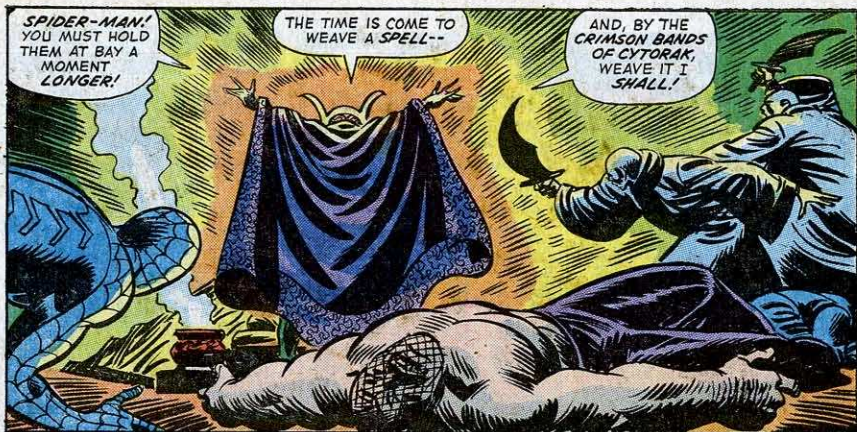
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WHILE *IN THE TRANCE*, HE SENT A SILENT CALL--WHICH I, WITH MY *POWER*, COULD NOT FAIL TO *HEED!*

NOW ALL IS *WELL*, AND MY HEART *EXALTS*--FOR NOT A *LIFE* WAS LOST!

VIOLENCE *BREEDS* VIOLENCE--AND *MURDER* WILL OUT! ONLY IN *PEACE* IS VICTORY WON!

BUT I HAVE SAID *ENOUGH!* THERE IS A TIME TO *STAY*, AND A TIME TO *SPEAK*--

AND A TIME TO SAY--*FAREWELL!*

DO NOT FOLLOW AFTER! MY *CLOAK OF LEVITATION* SHALL TAKE ME SAFELY HENCE!

WOW! THAT'S GOT WEB-SWINGING BEAT ALL HOLLOW!

THE *HOLY MAN* TOLD HIS DISCIPLES I WASN'T TO *BLAME* FOR WHAT HAPPENED--SO I'M IN THE *CLEAR* NOW, SPIDEY!

THANKS TO THAT FAR-OUT *MUMBO-JUMBO MAN*--AND TO *YOU!* I ALWAYS *KNEW* YOU WERE A RIGHT JOE!

WAIT'LL I TELL GROOVY GWENDY ABOUT ALL *THIS!*

GWEN! I HAD ALMOST FORGOTTEN--ABOUT HER AND FLASH!

NOW THAT HE'S A *CIVILIAN* AGAIN, HOW CAN I COMPETE WITH *FLASH?*

--ESPECIALLY WHEN I KNOW--HOW MUCH SHE HATES *SPIDER-MAN!*

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**ITEM:** Here's the scoop of the year! This pungent paragraph is being penned a day before Xmas, 1971. But, by the time you read it, Jan. 5th, '72 will have come and gone. What's the big deal about Jan. 5th? Nothing much, except — that's the date that New York's world-famous Carnegie Hall presents "A MARVEL-OUS EVENING WITH STAN LEE"! Yep, it's for real! On Jan. 5th we're slated to bring the whole bluslin' Bullpen before the footlights in a star-studded show paying homage to our Marvel-ous mixed-up menage of comic and their cavortin' creators! (It's spooky how we're writing about it in the future tense, but it'll be past history by the time you get to read this!) Anyway, by the time we write next issue's Bullpen Bulletin, our super-production at Carnegie Hall will be behind us, so we'll be able to tell you everything that happened — and, knowing us, you can be sure we will! — That is, if we're not busy rehearsing for a command performance at the Palladium by then!

**ITEM!** Speaking of things you flame-keepers are always asking us, this seems like as good a time as any to clue you in as to the exact personnel of Mighty Marvel's editorial staff. STAN's the Editor and Art Director, natch — aided and abetted (whatever that means) by Rascally ROY THOMAS, who basks in the title of Associate Editor. What with all the new Marvel madness we've got planned, though, we've had to line up a handful of stalwarts to help Stan. Roy, and Production Manager JOHN VERPOORTEN keep things moving along, so we've now got a trio of awesome Assistant Editors as well. First, there's Sterling STEVE ENGLEHART, whom you read about last ish; next, there's Merry GERRY CONWAY, who helps out as needed in addition to his scripting chores; and last but not least, there's the newest addition to our harried little staff, Melancholy MIKE FRIEDRICH. Mike's a recent college grad from Santa Clara, California, but don't worry about the Melancholy One being too young... nothing can age a guy like a stint in the batty Bullpen.

**ITEM!** Mike's first task for Marvel, by the way, was to pen a bunch of all-new western epics for our great OUTLAW KID mag. If you wanna see what might've happened to the ever-amazing Spider-Man if he'd been born about a century earlier — well, just pick up O.K. and see what we mean, huh? Artwork's by Darlin' DICK AYERS, who's also been laboring with GARY (No Relation) FRIEDRICH on the sizzling first issue of a new war-mag called COMBAT KELLY AND THE DEADLY DOZEN — now on sale, natch! All right, pilgrim — get everything straight now? Good — 'cause next month we'll add another new title or two to our littin' lineup — and then we'll really start moving!

## STAN LEE'S SOAPBOX

Hey, remember all the immodest expressions we bombarded you with in the early days when Marvel was just a'bornin'? Our first and best-known phrase was, of course, "The Marvel Age of Comics," after which we slyly suggested that you always say "Make Mine Marvel" when ordering anything from a comic-book to an aardvark. Then, before you had a chance to duck, we whumped you with "Marvel's On The Move Again!" A lot of you used to write to us, saying "Okay, okay, we know we're on the move again, but where in the name of Aunt Petunia are we going?" We'd answer that we have a zillion ideas for new mags and new heroes, but we never seemed to have enough time, or a large enough staff to grind 'em out. And we suspect a lot of you thought we were putting you on. But now it's a different ball game! We've been working like mad to corral some of the best new artists and writers to come down the pike — and we've finally swung it! That means we're about to take all those zingy ideas we've been keeping the lid on and bring them to life for you at last! So hang loose, heroes, and watch our smoke! Marvel's set to bust loose now, and that means the wondrous world of fantasy won't ever be the same!

Excelsior!

*Stan*

**ITEM!** Lots of special issues this time, people! Roy and Bashful BARRY SMITH really went all-out on AVENGERS #100, which features every Marvel hero who's ever been an Avenger — and that's a long, long list! • Here's a nostalgic note: Wild BILL EYERETT, who created the SUB-MARINER many moons ago, has both written and drawn the fabulous 50th issue of Namor's own mag, now on sale! • Even ol' Stan got into the act, writing most of the current 200th ish of THOR. Sure, we know the first 82 issues were named JOURNEY INTO MYSTERY and didn't really feature our awesome Thunder God — but an anniversary is an anniversary! • Speaking of which, we hear that Larrupin' LARRY LIEBER has something special planned for the now-on-sale 100th issue of our best-selling RAWHIDE KID mag — but he never got around to telling us what it is! Find out for yourself, troops!

**ITEM!** Due to a last-minute delay or two, our new bombshell LUKE CAGE, HERO FOR HIRE is on sale this time around instead of last month. Get it, hear?

## THE MIGHTY MARVEL CHECKLIST

Now on Sale!

**FANTASTIC FOUR #123:** Galactus! The Silver Surfer! The fabulous F.F.! All cavorting and clashing in perhaps the greatest battle-issue yet! A feast for the mind and eye!

**SPIDER-MAN #109:** Flash Thompson — about to be sacrificed by a secret Death-Cult! Spidey helpless to save him! And then — enter Doctor Strange!

**THOR #200:** The Day of Ragnarok — as you've never seen it before! What can even the gods do — when the end of the universe is at hand?

**AVENGERS #100:** The tale you thought you'd never see! The Avengers attack Olympus — and vice versa! With the biggest batch of superheroes ever!

**HULK #152:** Ol' Greenskin — captured and held for trial! And the lawyer's name is — Matt Murdock! Don't miss — "Who Will Judge the Hulk?"

**CAPT. AMERICA AND THE FALCON #150:** The Stranger strikes from space! But so does the monster known as — Jakar! And earth's caught in the middle!

**DAREDEVIL #88:** Killgrave, the Purple Man, is back — and DD may never be the same again — even if he lives! Plus — the Black Widow's secret past!

**SUB-MARINER #50:** The scourge of the seas returns to his abandoned Antarctic home — to find it deserted no longer! And then — Prince Byrrah!

**IRON MAN #47:** "Shall Iron Man Live?" That's the dreaded question the golden Avenger must ask himself — as he relives anew his awesome origin!

**ASTONISHING TALES #12:** "Terror in the Everglades!" Perhaps the greatest Ka-Zar saga of all, as the jungle lord comes face to face with — the Man-Thing!

**MARVEL SPOTLIGHT #4:** Our Werewolf By Night — on the Island of the Damned! And if you wanna know why it's damned, just ask the man called Blackgar!

**HERO FOR HIRE #1:** A wee bit late — but well worth the wait! Get in on the ground floor on this one, pilgrim! It's gonna be big!

**COMBAT KELLY AND THE DEADLY DOZEN #1:** The wildest, woolliest gang of G.I.'s this side of the hard-hitting Howlers! To believe it — see it!

**SGT. FURY #99:** Nick Fury's heroes — trapped in the rugged hills of Greece! And for them to live — Europe's greatest patriot must die!

**Not to mention these winners:**

**RAWHIDE KID #100 — OUTLAW KID**

**#10 — MONSTERS ON THE PROWL #1**

**MARVEL TALES #35 — FEAR #8**

**WESTERN KID #4 — MARVEL TRIPLE**

**ACTION #3 — X-MEN #76 — HARVEY**

**#3 — OUR LOVE STORY #17 — L'L**

**KIDS #6 — MILLIE THE MODEL #196**





## THE SPIDERS WEB

SEND YOUR LETTERS TO:  
THE SPIDER WEB GROUP, SECOND FLOOR, 425 MADISON AV., NEW YORK, N.Y. 10017

Something a wee bit different this letters-page, people! We got so many different reactions to Roy Thomas' valiant fill-in job on SPIDER-MAN #101-104 and the return of Smilin' Stan to the writing chores of the world's greatest wall-crawler, that we decided to use this spot to print a rapturous random-sampling of them. Most readers thought our rascally associate editor did a bang-up job — but were likewise glad that Smiley was back and not totally abandoning his comic-scripting for the lustrous laurels of Hollywood! Just because they're a wee bit more interesting than the more moderate views, though, here are a couple of more extreme opinions on both sides — just to show you that the only thing all Marvelites seem to agree on is that there's something good about the ol' Web-Spinner!

Ready? Here goes —

Dear Stan,

Glad to see you back on SPIDER-MAN; Roy Thomas is great with CONAN, but he's not the man to write the wall crawler's exploits. During his brief reign we readers were subjected to Spidey battling a vampire (is it DARK SHADOWS that's got everyone so thrilled with vampires lately?), and a weak re-make of KING KONG, complete with Gwen (in a bathing suit, naturally) as Fay Wray. Wally Conger may think it's time you "had some fun" with Spidey, but I think most of us have come to regard Spider-Man as a real and believable character, and hate to see him in these impossible situations.

At any rate, about #105: a great story, with Spidey at his best — in desperate trouble. The Jameson/Smythe team has always been dangerous, and it looks like they've outdone themselves this time. Also I'm glad to see Harry and Flash back; Peter's problems are as interesting as Spider-Man's, and these two generally figure largely in them. And I like your hints that there may be something wrong with Flash. I've hated him ever since his high school days, and I'd like to see that egotistical narcissist get what's been coming to him for nigh on ten years.

Another thing! I applaud your decision to put Johnny Romita back on SPIDER-MAN. He's always been the only artist capable of catching the web-spinner's world on paper. Gil Kane may be good with other features, but Spidey's artist he is not. When it comes to drawing Peter, Gwen, Jameson, Aunt May, or Spidey's rooftop and alleyway view of New York, only Romita can do it.

So anyway, Stan, congratulations on a fine story. I'm relieved to find that I was wrong in thinking I might never see another one in my favorite comic.

Excelsior is right.  
Tim Powers, 15415 Oakbury Dr.  
La Mirada, Calif. 90638

Okay, Tim — you've had your say. Now, here's another county heard from, as wondrous Wally Conger returns — with a vengeance! To wit:

Fellows,

Okay, you're right. "The Spider's Web" of SPIDER-MAN #105 reports that Gil Kane has been dismissed from his chores on this magazine and will be replaced with the familiar John Romita, and you conclude this by saying, "Stan and John may receive a few brickbats from Jesse Prossie and Wally Conger."

Here's my brickbat, guys.

Issues 101 through 104 of SPIDER-MAN delightful. The stories were escapades into the fantastic, and I attribute this to Roy Thomas. Not to be disrespectful to Mr. Lee, as I cherished his writing chores on the issues of old, but #105 is dismal and I find myself crying, "Roy! Save us!"

Smythe and his robot were interesting in issue #25, Stan. They were almost tolerable in #58. Now they are boring. They are predictable. They are useless as successful escapes into fantasy, because they are old and

tired and should never be revived. They don't need a rest — they need to be buried.

Laurine White, who comments in this month's "Spider's Web," wants more of Doc Ock, Sandman, the Prowler. But, Laurie honey, the Green Goblin doesn't work anymore, and either do any of the old characters. After 100 issues of Aunt May and Harry Osborn and Flash Thompson, Spidey needs a new backdrop with new characters and new ideas. Let's open the can and throw Mary Jane Watson away.

Thomas looked as if he wanted to do this. Gog was a delight, even the old Kraven was welcome. Morbius — I loved him, and I loved the idea of a superhero burdened with four additional arms.

Now, with the first issue of Lee's return, ROBOTS! My God, Stan, no!

And artwise, Kane was the best of the successors for Steve Ditko. Romita was never satisfactory, and neither were the half-dozen others you tried on the strip. But Gil Kane's lines were perfect: Spidey almost looked like a human spider again.

Romita's coming back. John's good, but not for this magazine. He belongs elsewhere, and Kane belongs here. Thomas belongs here now. Stan, you're really fine, but your method no longer works freshly. It can't.

Thomas! Kane! Return, and perhaps I'll love Spidey all the more. I love him now, so how can I stand silent while he's dying?

Wally Conger, Route 1, Box 450-A  
Arroyo Grande, Calif. 93420

Hi guys,

I picked up SPIDER-MAN #104 as well as F.F. 117 & 118 and AVENGERS 95 & 96. I read SPIDER-MAN first and began to think that I had wasted my money. The F.F. and the AVENGERS were as good as ever, but Spidey just wasn't the same AMAZING Spider-Man I had known for so many years.

Then I picked up issue #105. WOW! It was terrific! Spider-Man battling an old foe. J. Jonah and Smythe teamed up against Spider-Man. AMAZING! Laurie White's letter was the next item to come to my attention. I agree wholeheartedly with her. Bring back some of the wall-crawler's old enemies. I especially would like to see Electro again. Stan should be the permanent scripter, as his stories are superior to even Shakespeare's writing.

Michael Valentine, Alden Hall, 295 Western Ave.  
Albany, NY 12203

Dear Stan and Gil:

The Spider Slayer, in issue 105, was so steeped with nostalgia that I almost expected to see "plotted by Steve Ditko" in the credits. And the magazine was well done — the reintroduction of Flash, the picketing of the Bugle, the spidery personification of Jameson's by-now mechanical hatred of Spider-Man — all the types of things that characterized the magazine at the zenith of the Ditko days. For all its being a story thrice told, I enjoyed it immensely.

Gil Kane is superb artist. He is subtle, dynamic, and only Kirby matches him in the consistent realism and intricacy of his backgrounds. In short, his slightly distorted representation of the universe is perfect for Spider-Man.

And he is leaving the strip.

John Romita is a competent artist, of course, but he is not subtle. Nor is he dynamic. Nor, in all the time he drew Spider-Man in the past, did he produce anything as exciting as Gil Kane's Goblin trilogy, or the Morbius episodes. John Romita, were he to be given a competent writer, would be the perfect artist for a strip like SUB-MARINER. But he just does not draw spiderily. Ditko did. Kane does. And I ask as a fan and a lover of the medium that the latter continue to illustrate Spider-Man.

I fear that it will be awhile before I again appreciate an issue of Spider-Man as much as I did #105.

Juan Cole, Northwestern University,  
1960 Sheridan Rd.  
Evanston, Ill. 60201



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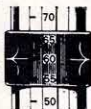
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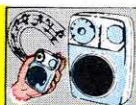
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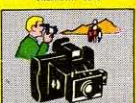
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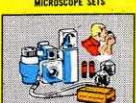
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