

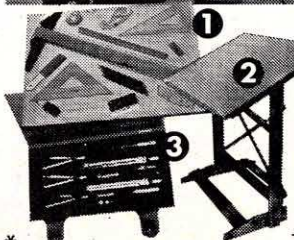
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the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN

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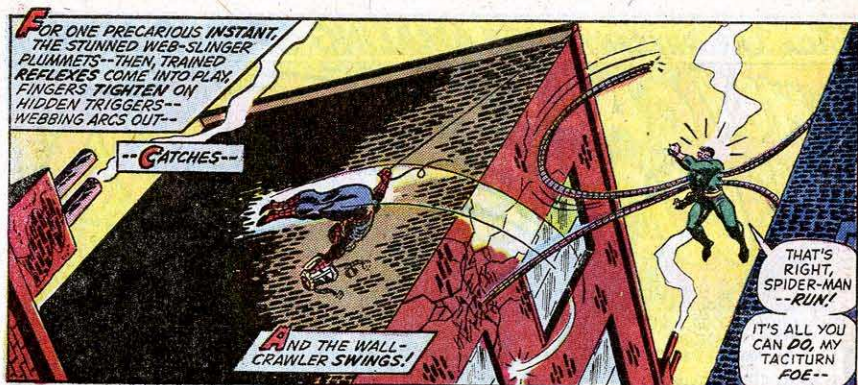
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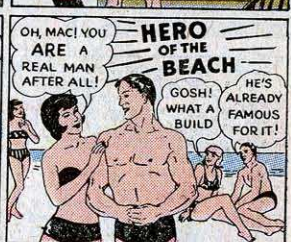
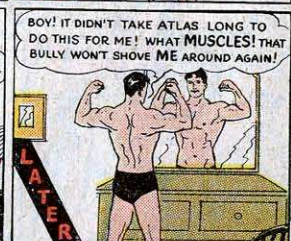


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PULSATING PRONOUNCEMENTS AND PERTINENT PROPAGANDA FROM THE PUNDITS WHO PLAY FOR FUN!

ITEM! No STAN LEE'S SOAPBOX this month, pilgrim! Turns out ol' Smiley feels he just about talked himself out last time around, with an awesome epistle which took up the length and breadth of the whole Bullpen page! Instead, our peerless new Publisher and erstwhile Editorial Director would prefer that we clue you in about some of the nifty new artists, writers, and phantasmagorical features we've got lined up for you this month and in the sun-splashed days to come! Ready? Then away we go....

ITEM! Biggest bombshell of all is the first fantastic issue of a comic-mag called DOC SAVAGE, THE MAN OF BRONZE! Unless you've been hiding in the wilds of Borneo, you recognize that name instantly as belonging to the old-time pulp-magazine hero who's been more popular than ever these past few years, as the super-star of a series of Bantam paperbacks—more than sixty to date, and still going strong. And now, mighty Marvel will be chronicling some of his greatest adventures in comic form! Doc's first ish was scripted by our spanking-new Editor ROY THOMAS, and drawn by the wildly-acclaimed team of ROSS (Boss) ANDRU and Long JOHN SEVERIN—and we've got a hunch that this is gonna be one of the biggies, right up there with rapturously-received newcomers like HERO FOR HIRE, DRACULA, WEREWOLF BY NIGHT, and WAR-LOCK! So get in on the ground floor with DOC SAVAGE, hear—and no getting off till we reach the 86th floor! (And, an artful aside to forestall about a zillion letters—yep, we've got THE SHADOW lined up for the weeks to come, also—so put away that crystal ball and start saving up your shekels, perspicacious one!)

ITEM! We've got some other fabulous firsts lined up for you this time, as well—but we'll let you read about them in the Checklist section! Meanwhile, just to prove we really mean it when we say that Marvel is on the move again, we've been busy digging up some talented new artists and writers to boggle your mind! Want a ferinstance or three? Well, try Far-Out FRANK BRUNNER, who teamed up with (ahem!) oldtimer BARRY SMITH on a recent Dr. Strange mini-saga, and who's slated for other things to boot!

Then of course there's Roisterous RALPH REESE, who helped us launch our new JOURNEY INTO MYSTERY mag, now on sale; the Irreverent BILLY GRAHAM, who's polishing the pencils on the latest Luke Cage landmark; Mad-cap MIKE TRIMPE, who's been helping brother HERBIE splash India ink on the latest Ant-Man extravaganzas—and this doesn't even count "Duke" WAYNE BORING, one of comicdom's potent pioneers, whose recent Captain Marvel return marks his first (but hopefully not his last) outing for the House of Ideas! Nope, we're not putting the ROMITAS and the BUSCEMAS and the rest of the Bullpen out to pasture—far from it! Rather, we plan to combine the best of the "old" with the best of the "new"—as miraculous Marvel picks up steamroller speed on its breakout path to greatness! You come too....

ITEM! You've probably noticed the name GEORGE ALEC EFFINGER popping up on a tale or two of late, and wondered who (or what) he is! Well, he's an old crony and colleague of none other than Merry GERRY CONWAY—and he's a talented fantasy author in his own right! If you don't believe us, just fall by your local bookstore, which should now be displaying George's first hardbound s-f novel, which has the unlikely title *What Entropy Means to Me*. (And if you think the title is way-out, wait'll you read the book itself!) Okay, G.A.—that's plug enough for one issue! Welcome aboard—but the first time you miss a deadline, we're gonna tell the whole wide world how you got the nickname "Piglet"! 'Nuff said!

ITEM! And, if the rest of you wanna know what else STAN, ROY, and the Bullpen Gang have in store for you—sneak a peek at the snappy subliminal-type messages we've sprinkled around the various mags this month! Getting there is half the fun, Flame-Keeper! Peace!

BEWARE THE CLAWS OF...
THE CAT!
COMING SOON FROM MARVEL—WHO ELSE?

THE MIGHTY MARVEL CHECKLIST

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SPIDER-MAN #113: Doc Ock is back! Plus—everybody's favorite wall-crawler, trapped in the middle of the biggest Gang War this side of "The Godfather"!

INCREDIBLE HULK #156: It's Hulk vs. Hulk—to the death! But one of our green-skinned goliaths has the brain of—Bruce Banner! An instant smash!

JOURNEY INTO MYSTERY #1: Marvel's newest voyage into the World of the Weird! And with titles like "Dig Me No Grave!"—"House!"—"More Than Blood!"—how can any ghostly-tales aficionado go wrong?

THE GUNHAWKS #1: Reno Smith and Dick Cassidy—black man and white man, pitted against every owlhoot gun in the wild and woolly West!

CONAN THE BARBARIAN #19: Barry Smith returns as artist of the most widely-heralded comic-mag of all! And the story ain't bad, either!

FEAR #10: In his own series at last! The macabre Man-Thing—perhaps the most monstrous "hero" ever! Script by Conway—art by Gray Morrow!

Plus, these wondrous winners—

THOR #204 (Mephisto returns!) —
AVENGERS #104 — CAPT. AMERICA &
THE FALCON #154 — HERO FOR HIRE
#3 (with the man called Mac!) — DARE-
DEVIL #92 — SUB-MARINER #54 —
IRON MAN #51 — JUNGLE ACTION #1
(a sleeper!) — ASTONISHING TALES #14
(Ka-Zar goes to town!) — WARLOCK #2
— DOC SAVAGE #1 (remember it?) —
DEFENDERS #2 (co-starring the Silver Surfer!) — SPOOF #2 — MARVEL
SPOTLIGHT #6 (The Ghost Rider lives—or does he?) — COMBAT KELLY #3 —
and enough other assorted condiments
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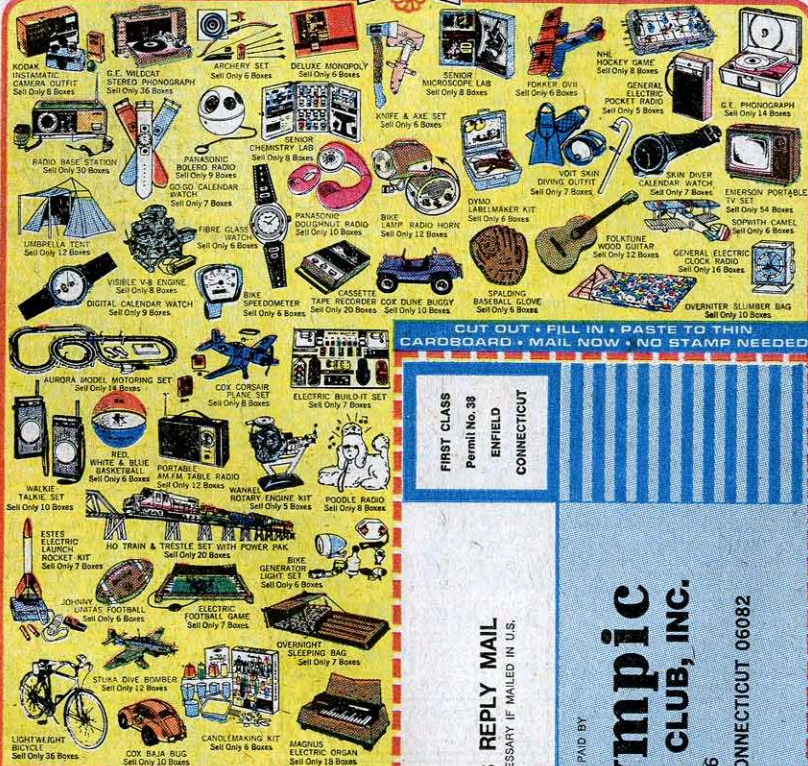


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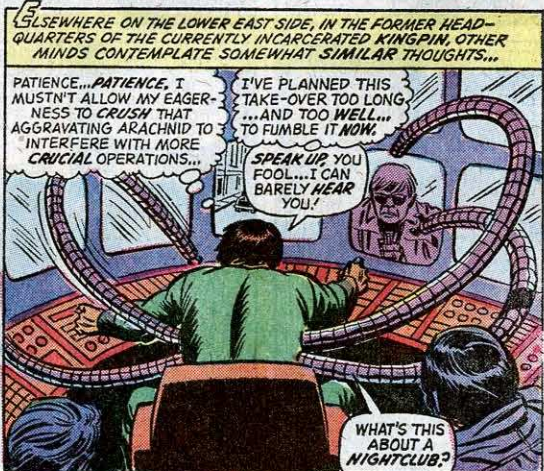
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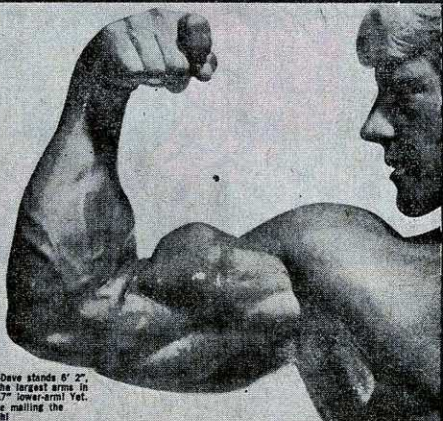


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...WHERE, DIZZILY, HE TRIES TO STRAIGHTEN, ONLY DISTANTLY AWARE OF THE VOICES MUTTERING IN THE ADJOINING ROOM...

ALMOST, HE GAINS CONTROL OF HIMSELF...



...AND THEN THE AGONY KNIFING THROUGH HIS MIDDLE BECOMES TOO GREAT...

...AND PETER PARKER... PASSES OUT!



IN HIS DREAMS, WHEN THEY COME, ARE TORTURED... NIGHTMARES BORN OUT OF FEVER AND FEAR, AND A ROOTED CONCERN FOR THE OLD WOMAN - HE CALLS AUNT MAY...

AUNT MAY WHO DISAPPEARED TWO SHORT DAYS AGO, HURT AND CONFUSED...

AUNT MAY, NAIVE AND IMPRACTICAL... WHO EVEN NOW MIGHT BE DYING, ALONE...

...ALONE... WHILE PETER PARKER PLAYS AT BEING THE HEROIC SPIDER-MAN!



NO, AUNT MAY-- NO!

WON'T--LET IT BE THAT WAY--WON'T LET IT HAPPEN--



PROMISE YOU-- PROMISE YOU--

--I'LL FIND YOU--NO MATTER WHAT--I'LL-- FIND--YOU--

PETER, WAKE UP-- PLEASE, PETER--



--YOU'VE BEEN HAVING A NIGHTMARE-- AND IT'S OVER, NOW.

WHEN WE HEARD YOU MOANING, HARRY AND I REALIZED YOU WERE BACK--

ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?

GWENDY... YOU...?



I'VE BEEN WAITING HOURS FOR YOU, PETER... I WAS SO WORRIED ABOUT YOU, AND--

OH! HARRY... YOU DID GET A DOCTOR...!

I LOOKED IN PETE'S PHONE DIRECTORY, AND--

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THE BEST-
DRESSED
HERO LIST,
PETEY,
OLD BOY...

LOOKS LIKE
THOR'LL
TAKE IT
AGAIN.



BUT WHAT AM I COMPLAINING
ABOUT? ASIDE FROM THE SMALL
MATTER OF **BREATHING**, THIS
MASK IS AS GOOD AS MY OLD
ONE--

--AMAZING
WHAT THEY CAN
DO WITH
CELLOPHANE
THESE DAYS--!

WITH MY
LUCK, I'LL
PROBABLY
BREAK
OUT IN A
RASH--

RASH,
HECK--
I'LL GET
HIVES.



SAY--WAIT ONE
MINUTE! THAT
ADDRESS NED
GAVE ME--

IT'S DOWN
ON **NINTH**
STREET--

--ONLY A **BLOCK**
FROM WHERE I
BUSTED UP
THAT GANG
BATTLE--BEFORE
MY LITTLE
RUN-IN WITH
DOCK OCK--!



MAYBE IT'S JUST
A **COINCIDENCE**--
AND MAYBE I'M
JUST A TOUCH
PARANOID--

--BUT COULD THERE
BE SOME SORT OF
CONNECTION BETWEEN
AUNT MAY, AND--?

NAH.
STILL--
IT IS
STRANGE--

UUMPHH--!
THOSE
CRAMPS--
THEY'RE
BACK!

GOTTA REST A
MOMENT--LET MY
MUSCLES **LOOSEN UP**,
BEFORE THEY TIE
THEMSELVES IN
KNOTS--!



OHHHHHHH...
WOW.

NOW MY
HEAD'S
STARTED
SPINNING...

MAYBE I **SHOULD**
HAVE GOTTEN SOME
SLEEP, AFTER ALL...

...JUST A
LITTLE...
FOUR,
MAYBE
FIVE
YEARS...

WAIT...I'M
NOT JUST
FEELING
FAINT...
SOMETHING
ELSE...MY
SPIDER-SENSE,
WARNING ME...



THE SPIDER'S WEB

SEND YOUR LETTERS TO:

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

Let's see now... in **SPIDEY #105**, Stan Lee took back the scripting chores from Roy Thomas, and in #106, John Romita took over the art from Gil Kane, giving everybody the chance to do some comparisons — and did they ever take the chance! In #109, we printed a few of the impassioned outpourings of reader preferences — and now we present some outpourings on the outpourings. Take it away, gents...

Gentlemen:

A thousand and one thanks for returning **SPIDER-MAN** to its normal heights of greatness. Issues 105 through 108 have erased most of the damage caused by your mad Thomas-Kane experiment. #109 was another classic. Although issue 109 was deserving of much praise, congratulatory remarks are not the primary basis behind this letter. Readers of **SPIDER-MAN** have come to expect classics with Stan Lee and Johnny Romita at the helm. Some of the recently printed letters, however, have been surprising enough to warrant special attention.

It is totally inconceivable that anyone could find either Thomas' insane scripting (in this instance, Thomas is fine on **CONAN**) or Kane's inferior artwork preferable to the incomparable team of Lee and Romita. Romita's artwork is truly artwork. Romita draws realistically and not with the exaggerated ghastliness so characteristic of many comic book artists. For this he has to be considered a part of the upper echelon of artists in the comic magazine media. In addition, Stan Lee has been almost entirely responsible for making comic magazines a legitimate art form and something more than fantasy for children.

SPIDER-MAN has been Lee's best used vehicle for the promotion of that noble cause. The recent criticism is unjustified. Those readers who still remain loyal to comical comic books, however, are very determined to maintain them and their attack on quality has been vicious. The trend away from those simply drawn, simply written "escapades into the fantastic" should prove that once dominant style is now obsolete and no longer desired by the majority of readers. The fact that two of the pro-Thomas letters were submitted by the same individual serves to illustrate that the supporters of that defunct style are an extremely vocal but minute segment.

The audacity in saying **SPIDER-MAN** is dying when Thomas and Kane had him buried for four forgetful issues of idiocy is indescribable. Thomas brings us vampires while Lee gives us the first comic magazine to deal with drug abuse. To paraphrase — Vampires! My God, Roy, no Vampires and creatures called Gog belong in **CREATURES ON THE LOOSE**, not in a major title with the prestige Lee has built into **SPIDER-MAN**.

Tim Powers' letter summed up the true consensus of opinion held by Spider-Man's real fans. This letter merely restates the facts with the hope that Lee and Romita will be allowed to continue supplying the top quality effort exhibited by **SPIDER-MAN** from debut to 101, from 105 to ?

David & Gary (PMM) Romeo
4228 Fourth, Detroit, Mich. 48201

Marvel:

All right now! I want in on this movement, for such it promises to be... add my typewritten voice to Conger's and Cole's in #109. The name of the hue&cry is get Kane back on **SPIDER-MAN**!

Gil Kane, y'see, combines the optimum points of the strip's two previous artists, Ditko and Romita. Couldn't nobody draw Spider-Man like Ditko, all lean and suppleness whipping around on those web-ropes, slithering up old brownstone tenements, hanging upside-down in shadows with his eyeplates luminous in the alley darkness. Can't nobody draw girls like Romita, and with Gwendolyn and M. J. gracing the pages as things of beauty and joys forever, the finding of an artist who can draw both Spider-Man and womenfolk is one heckuva *rara avis*. Ditko couldn't draw girls. Romita can't draw Spider-Man. Kane can draw both. As well as doing a damn good job on the rush of villains, bystanders, and staple characters. He is infinitely more suited, I feel, for **SPIDER-MAN** than he will be for **CONAN**. He adds that air of late-night, rooftop feeling to the travelling scenes; he draws the Spider-Man like the hybrid he is, scuttling around on the sides of buildings, or battling limber and loose, in contortionist poses. Romita doesn't. You can't put Spider-Man in the same poses, the same stances, as Captain America. It doesn't work.

So, along with just a whole bunch of other people who look upon Kane's short turn at the strip as one of the high points of old suction-sock's career, I urge and exhort you to get him back on **SPIDER-MAN**.

J. Michael Reaves
San Bernardino, Ca.

Dear Stan and John,

To all ye Romita nay-sayers, I say thee FOOEY!!!

Odin
Asgard, New York

Dear Stan and Crew,

Since **SPIDER-MAN #28**, through Ditko, Romita, Mooney, and Kane, the web weaver has consistently been my favorite. Which artists do what strips is a matter of personal preference; of course I have preferences, but be it far from me to dictate them to you. I am such a passive character that your present reprinting of the X-Men has riled me only slightly. Naughty.

Speaking for a plethora of Marvel freaks on the banks of the Charles, I exhort you (gentily) to keep Spidey's ageless antagonists comin' back. His "Sinister Six" special issue carried the torch, as did the tingly blend of old and new at the conclusion of #101. Besides, we need the security of recognizing Sly Stan's allusions to previous issues!

(Aaaaaarrghhhhh — you did it again. The opening of #109 continues a Marvel tradition. Almost invariably when Gwen and P.P. seem more close than ever, we the readers are frustrated by Flash Thompson or Hydra or the Kree and Skrulls uniting against Irving Forbush. Shades of Bruce Banner and Namor! Enough... Nobody can touch you guys, but keep on improving (if such a thing were possible!).

Peter Rogers, Pennypacker 27
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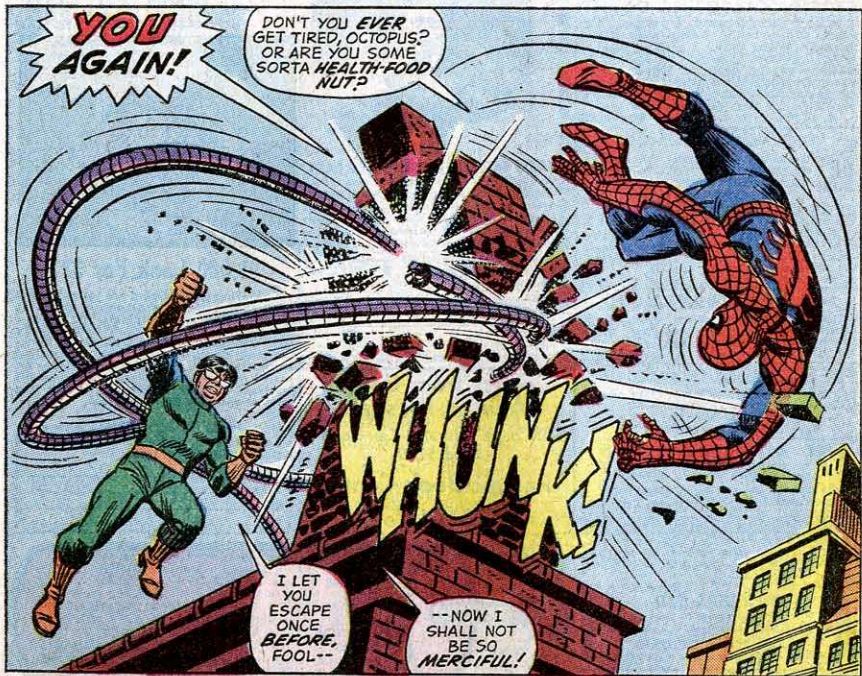
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WHUNK!

I LET YOU ESCAPE ONCE BEFORE, FOOL--

--NOW I SHALL NOT BE SO *MERCIFUL!*



YOU, *MERCIFUL?* ISN'T THAT A BIT LIKE *HUMPHREY* BEING QUIET?

BESIDES--YOU'VE GOT YOUR FACTS A BIT *CONFUSED*, OCKIE--

YOU DIDN'T LET ME GO--

--I GOT!

WORDS, WORDS! I'VE NO MORE PATIENCE FOR *RHETORIC*, CLOWN--



--MY OPERATIONS HERE COME TO *FRUITION*, EVEN AS WE SPEAK--

--MY PRIME *OPPONENT* MOVES STEADILY NEARER THE *TRAP* I'VE SET FOR HIM--

KRAK!

--AND I GROW *WEARY* OF YOUR *CEASELESS INTERRUPTIONS!*





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YEAH, DOC--MAYBE YOU'VE HAD MORE TRAINING, USING THOSE MECHANICAL TENTACLES OF YOURS--

--SOME GUYS ARE BORN FIGHTERS--

--BUT WHEN IT COMES RIGHT DOWN TO IT--

BOK!



--AND EVEN THOUGH THE IDEA OF IT TENDS TO MAKE ME A LITTLE SICK--

--I'VE GOT THE STRANGEST FEELING-- THAT SPIDEY'S ONE OF THOSE GUYS!

I'VE ALSO GOT THE FEELING I CAN'T LAST--

MASK MAKES IT HARD TO BREATHE-- GOTTA END THIS WITH ONE PUNCH--



NOW!

CHOCKO!



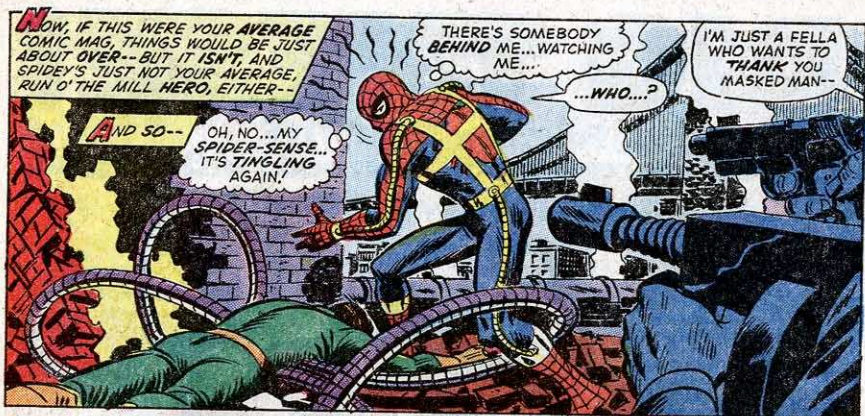
WOW!

I DID IT...I REALLY DID IT. NEVER REALIZED HOW MUCH SOMETHING LIKE THIS COULD MEAN TO ME...

...KNOWING THAT... EVEN SICK... I CAN STILL TAKE A GUY LIKE OCK.

FUNNY THING, TOO...

...THIS HARNESS RAN OUTTA POWER... FIVE MINUTES AGO!



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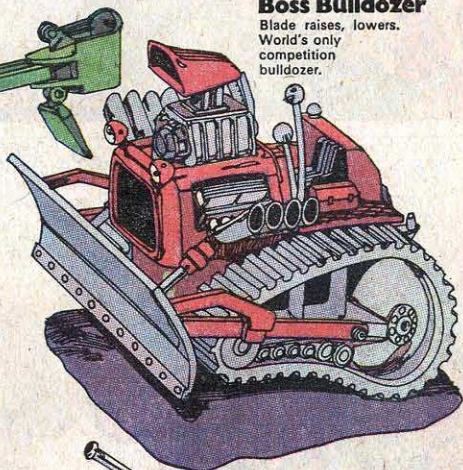
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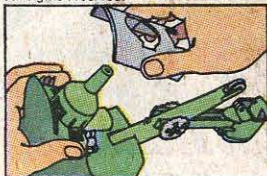


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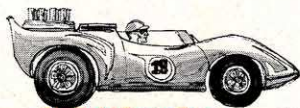
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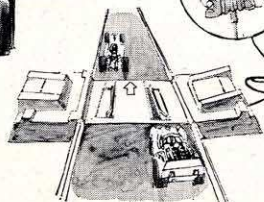
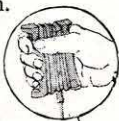
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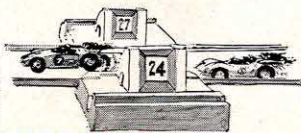
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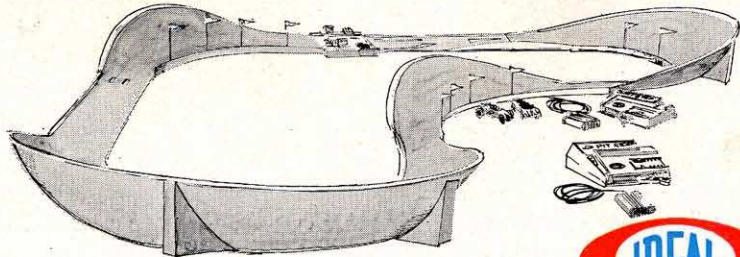
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