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SCRIPT: STAN LEE+GERRY CONWAY • ART: JOHN ROMITA, JIM MOONEY+T, MORTELLARO LETTERING: SAM ROSEN+ARTIE SIMEK • COLORNG: STAN G. • EPITOR. ROY THOMAS

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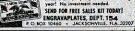


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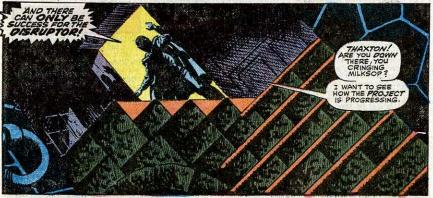
















MARVEL BULLPEN BULLETINS . MARVEL BULLPEN BULLETINS . MARVEL BULLPEN BULLETINS

AWSOME ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR YOU TO CONJURE WITH, PONDER OVER—AND YAWN AT!

STAN LEE'S SOAPBOX

Those of you who've been with us since the early days of Marvel have probably lost track of how many times I've hammered home the point that, unlike cigarettes, our comics are really good for you. Well, I've recently received a letter from Stephen Nazzaro at the University of Massachusetts that really lays it on the line, so take it away, Steve—

Dear Stan: Here at the University of Massachusetts, I'm co-chairperson of the Northern Educational Service Coordinating Committee. One year ago we wrote to you requesting some subscriptions to Marvel Comics for use in our tutoring program. Your comics have proven an overwhelming success as tutoring tools to each of over 300 tutors here and to all those enrolled in the program - numbering close to 1,000. Our tutors unanimously reported that when Marvel Comics were used with substandard readers or those with specific reading difficulties, their ability to pronounce syllables and understand word meanings increased greatly. But most importantly, reading your comics instilled a willingness to read in some of the more stubborn ones that was never before present! For many, this was the first time in their lives that they actually enjoyed reading. Very few of the materials in our office that were designed expressly to assist those with reading problems were as effective as Marvel Comics, or received such consistently positive endorsements. Hopefully, publicizing the ways we use Marvel Comics in our tutoring program will expose others to their potential value as learning tools.

Sincerely, Stephen C. Nazzaro, Co-chairperson

Of course, this doesn't mean that reading our munificent mags will turn you into a genius overnight. It could take as long as a week!

Excelsion



ITEM! You know how we're always saying that we like to level with you whenever humanly possible? And how we've been telling you that we've been hardpressed to meet all our much-dreaded deadlines since the decision was made to add a bunch of new titles to the madcap Marvel line? Well, recently, neoeditor ROY THOMAS decided that there was one (and probably only one) way to meet the problem - and that is, by doing at least one extra, fill-in issue of virtually each and every one of our monthly mags (and maybe a few of our bimonthlies, too, just to be on the safe side)! Still, rather than just toss them at you at random and let you think we're playing musical chairs with our artists simply for the heck of it, he and STAN decided to announce the whole policy more or less in advance. That way, you won't be thrown for a loss when you see a surprise guest-artist penciling your favorite strip sometime in the next few months—and besides, now you and the rest of Marveldom Assembled can have a ball trying to guess exactly who will do the inventory story in this or that mag.

Just a helpful hint or two: Occasionally the fill-in ish will be done by one of the stellar artists of our monthly lineup. More often, naturally, it'll be done by someone whose work you've glimpsed hither and yon but who doesn't do a regular feature for us. (And this includes a few all-time comix greats whose work you probably haven't thrilled to in a good long while!) Also, whenever possible, we intend to keep the same writer and inker on that issue, so that our farfamed Marvel continuity won't be shot to heck! Okay, we've had our say, believer! Now, just trust us when we swear we're not really doing this because we wanna send any of you frenetic ones off the deep end! 'Nuff said!

ITEMI Oh, and just to get things rolling: In case you haven't already guessed, that "extra" tale or twain of everybody's favorite SPIDER-MAN is the current reworking by Jazzy JOHNNY ROMITA and Merry GERRY CONWAY of the epic which originally appeared in the SPIDEY SPECTACULAR—albeit in wildly different form... while ROSS ANDRU has teamed up with Rascally ROY and Joltin' JOE SINNOTT to help Big JOHN BUSCEMA get ahead on the FANTASTIC FOUR! There's another shock or two furking around this month, too—but we'll let you seek those out for yourself!

MARVELOUS MARVEL MINI-ITEMS! Hev! Anybody out there dig the Irreverent BILLY GRAHAM (Luke Cage's mighty mentor) when he M.C.'d a comedy show recently in Greenwich Village's famous Village Gate night club? If not - well. better luck next time! . We've already mentioned ROSS (Boss) ANDRU, but just wait'll you dig the first art-job he did as regular artist of SHANNA THE SHE-DEVIL! . Also, we're dead certain most of you haven't forgotten Rollin' CHIC STONE, who inked some of Marvel's greatest triumphs during the sizzling 60's! And now you'll be seeing more of his awesome artistry on RED WOLF and other sensational strips! Welcome back, Chickie-Baby! . You oughtta see the pile of mail we get each day congratulating us for snagging WILD BILL EVERETT once more to handle the feature he created lo, these many moons ago - none other than SUB-MARINER. what else? Now if we can just get him to make a deadline or two! . What a month this has been!! No sooner did Rascally ROY THOMAS stagger back from his West-Coast vacation (during which he was a major guest, along with California-born MIKE FRIEDRICH, at the gala SAN DIEGO COMICS CONVEN-TION), than Stainless STEVE ENGLE-HART departed for that same golden state - and we just heard a rumor that GERRY CONWAY'S packing his bags for L.A., to boot! Sheesh! Now if somebody would just stick around long enough to write a comic-mag or two! . Here's a final teaser: In the next month or three, we've got two zingy new features to unleash upon you in already-established titles. We don't want to over-excite anybody, so we'll just whisper that their names are THONGOR OF LOST LEMURIA and WAR OF THE WORLDS! There! Does that start anybody's adrenalin pumping away? Yeah . . . we kinda thought so.

See ya.

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of all! Plus a dazzlingly 'dynamic cover by Jim Steranke! Far-out—and fabulous! Plus this compendium of instant classics: SPIDER-MAN #117 (The Smasher strikes back—and how!) — AVENGERS #108 — THOR #208 (Introducing — the 4-D Man!) — HJULK #150 — CAPTAIN AMER-ICA & THE FALCON #158—IRON MAN #55 (The Day of the Destroyer!) — DAREDEVIL #96 — SUB-MARINER #58 — ASTONISHING TALES #16 (Ka-Zar battles — in the heart of a hostile city!) — HERO FOR HIRE #6 — CONAN THE BARBARIAN #23 (Even the Cimmerian is no match for — Red Sonja!) — THE DEFENDERS #4 — WARLOCK #4

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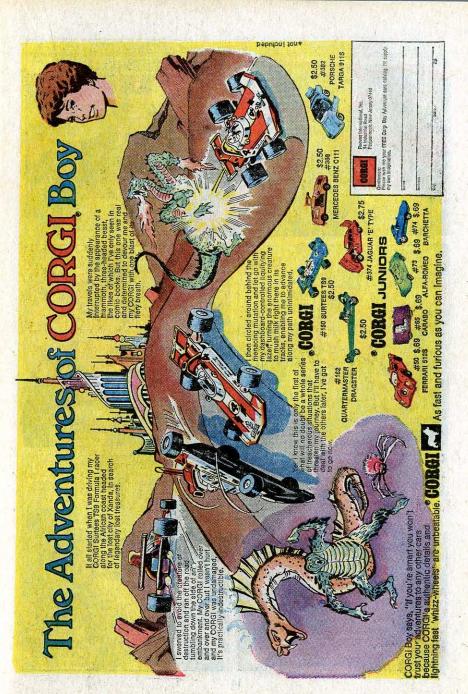


























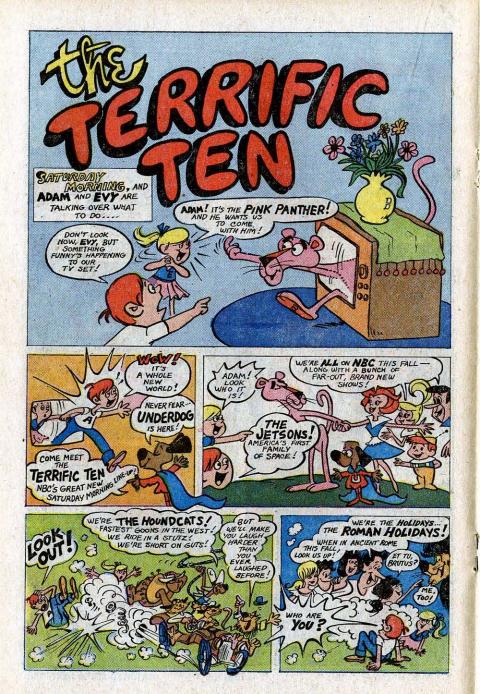






























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THE SPIDER'S WEB

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Dear Stan, Roy and others:

First, I would like to say that Marvel comics have be-come the most important thing in my life. I can never get enough of them. Quite often I find myself raging at members of my family because some of the drugstores haven't gotten shipments in as soon as they were supposed to. I often send away for Marvels, because I am so fed up with the drugstores I could commit suicide, I've finally decided to get subscriptions, and that should solve all my temper problems.

Now I would like to comment about the low rank of Marveldom known as RFO. I think it should be changed to RLO (real lazy one). Three mags a month is tiddly-winks for anyone who is devoted to MARVEL. I myself

buy 13 to 15 mags a month, SO THERE!!!

Matthew Carp, 4625 Maryland Avenue St. Louis, Mo. 63108

Where, Matt, where??

Oh, well, wherever... thanks for your unabashedly enthusiastic note. A few more proselytizers like yourself and the world will be at our feet! (Actually, we'd be satisfied if they'd all just buy 13 to 15 mags a month.)

And, by the way, here's something weird. Our new editorial assistant, Steve Gerber, was born and bred in ol' St. Louie, and when he saw your letter, he smiled knowingly and whispered, "Pssst — tell him to try the drugstore at the corner of Millibrook and Big Bend, in the shopping center behind the pizza parlor." Howzat for service! (Anyway, it beats yelling at your family . . .)

Dear Stan, Roy, Gerry, and John,

After ten years of just buying, reading, and collecting your magazines, I have decided to toss in my two bits' worth in regard to your finest effort: SPIDER-MAN.

In those ten years, the development of Spidey has been greatly enhanced by your present artist — John Romita. In issue #113,I almost keeled over when someone by the name of J. Michael Reaves tells me that Romita can't draw Spidey! Look again, J.M.! Count that as one vote for Romita over anyone.

Conway's scripting is great. Issue #113 had a very good script. (In case you haven't figured this out yet -

issue #113 was superb.)

However, not everything is quite so rosy. Assuming that we (Marvel's readership) want as close to realism as possible, I vote that Peter tell Robby Robertson, or some equally qualified person, his secret identity. If I were Spidey, I would tell the person that I could trust 100%. So would anybody. The only reason Peter hasn't before is supposedly because of Aunt May. It's the logical thing to do, and I think Peter should do it.

Now I realize that this could hurt the "problem" bit you have going for Spidey. He's still got problems, but now he won't have to bear the burden all alone. Is that what you are saying? Of course it is! Here is the solution, guys! Peter will just use Robby as a counselor; not as someone who will tell him how to do things, but rather someone who will advise him on critical decisions.

Until my collection is sold

Michael Harrah, 4117 N.W. 31st Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73112

Gee, Mike, even if you do sell your collection, that doesn't mean ya have to stop reading the new issues!!

Anyway, John and Gerry thank you for the good words. Both of those guys are heaping copious amounts of blood, sweat, and soul into their work on the strip. And, frankly, we in the Bullpen can't help thinking it shows

On the matter of Pete revealing his secret, though... well, it's not in the stars just yet. However, we can virtually guarantee that some of the other developments in store for Spidey will truly move and shake you. In other words, web-friend, stay tuned!

Dear Stan & Rov:

Gerry Conway may just be the best thing that could happen to Spider-Man! Oh, Spidey's been developing for years, but for all too long, potential character- and plot revelations just hung there, proposed by artist/ writer, but not clearly pursued. Joltin' Gerry has the ability to give Spider-Man a definite sense of direction! (He's already done it with DD - taking dozens of issues of uncertain plot threads and forming the most dynamic super-hero duo today!) What's more, Gerry's strong supporting characters are perfect for Spidey!

In just this issue (#113), Gerry has: Reintroduced Betty & Ned! (Say, did they ever get married?);

Taken time out for character vignettes (Robertson's family; Gwen & Harry's concern for Peter);

Given Peter his most realistic weakness yet; an ulcer! (This also revives the theme of the forces of nature conspiring against our hero - instead of his own stupidity. Keep it up!)

Shown an uncanny sense for detail with Spidey's substitute costume mask! Of course it wouldn't have his super-plastic one-way eye pieces, just holes for the

eyes!! Brilliant!

With Roy limiting his scripting to just a few titles, it looks like Mr. Conway is fast becoming Marvel's busiest scripter. I just hope you keep Gerry on SPIDER-MAN for a long time — he has a sense of continuing subplots and action which is essential to a character like Peter!

Wally Podrazik, 2714 S. Hillock Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60608

Wally, the collective response of Marveldom Assembled to Gerry's scripting of the wall-crawler has been excellent. Even the Merry One himself didn't expect such enthusiasm, walking into the strip as he did on the heels of a certain Smilin' Guru. But Gerry's hit his stride now — and considering that the guy is well over six feet tall, you can expect him to take major steps to keep Spidey swingin'!

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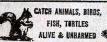
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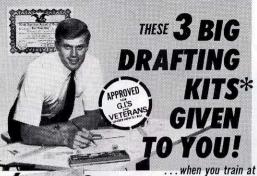
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