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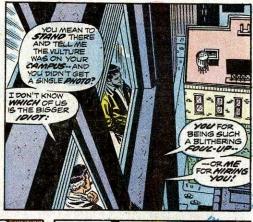






















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™SPIDERS WEB

Bravo on SPIDER-MAN #123. The story was a throwback to earlier days in many instances. The man in the shadows who took the Goblin's uniform is reminiscent of the Crime-Master in SPIDEY #26 and 27.

I have two theories on who this current mystery man may be. First, I think he could actually be the Crime-Master, who hasn't been seen in a very long time and probably has a strong motive for revenge. He was also very close to the Goblin and even seemed aware of his identity. Of course, the Crime-Master was shot and is presumed dead. but we all saw what happened to the Vulture.

Actually, my real choice as "the man in the shadows." is Harry Osborn. Harry was in a very emotional state and it is reasonable to assume he could have a strong hatred for Spider-Man if he knew of his dad's demise. That would explain his taking the costume off his father. In #123, Harry wouldn't even talk to Peter, so he may have gone crazy, as was suspected in #121. If this is the case, we can expect to see him carry on as the Green Goblin.

lim Lilliefors 13914 Marianna Dr. Rockville, Md. 20853

While we admit that Harry's taking on the role of the Green Goblin at some time in the future is a distinct possibility, Iim, we also caution you that it ain't wise to "expect" much of anything in this magazine, anymore! Remember, just a few months back, the expectation of most of Marveldom was that Pete would marry Gwen and sire a litter of Spider-Babies!

By the way, friend - glad you enjoyed #123. And we're happy to report that you were far, far from alone in that regard.

Dear Marvel,

Wow! THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN's writers are getting amazinger by the issue. SPIDEY #123 was great. It was almost perfect, I did find one mistake, though. Page three, panel 4, Pete thinks: "If I hadn't removed the Goblin's costume, this would all be over." But on page eleven, he says "I should be wondering who took the Green Goblin costume off Osborn's body." I think you me a no-prize for spotting this boo-boo.

Dominick Glespen 820 McDonald Ave. Brooklyn, N.Y. 11218

You think absolutely right, Dom. And we owe a similar non-award to Alan Friedenthal of Bayside, N.Y., who also picked up on that particular error. We goofed, and we admit it.

Dear Mr. Conway, Mr. Kane, Mr. Romita, A few complaints and compliments on SPIDER-MAN #123

This was one fine issue, a nice follow-up to the remarkable issues 121 & 122, but I feel there are a few small things to be worked out.

I'm pleased to see Jameson is getting a little personality. J.J.J. is definitely on most people's love-to-hate" list, and it's much more fun to hate someone with a little character (and J.J. has very little character). I hate to see him forced into positions where he seems cowardly, though. It annot be. Cowards do not survive in the press.

Artwork is fine, so far as actual drawing. Artwork, though, has several facets, one being layout. Kane or Romita, I truly couldn't say which, but one of them, proves he is a Secret Master with panel three of page fifteen. The only way an everyday-type person such as I might achieve that angle of vision would be to bend backward out a window or over the ledge, a ridiculous way to look at things - and dangerous. The reader's subconscious tries to tug him back up out of this yoga position, and the reader. without realizing it, gets the feeling of being there

by way of his most potent emotion And, finally, closing, I would like to express the opinion that, although Norman Osborn is dead, we'll see the Goblin again. (Page 19: I have seen that face of madness before.)

Cecil Hutto Co. A. 709 M.P. RN A.P.O., N.Y. 09757

So have we. It was the exact expression we saw on Gil Kane's face as he bent backward out of one of our ninth-story windows to get reference for the very panel you mentioned - and suddenly saw a window washer's bucket of goo hurling downward at him! But Gil isn't the man in the shadows. (Actually, we think the window washer is. But what do we know?

Dear Gerry and Roy,

Well, here it is, the proverbial first letter after

10-15 years of comic reading. It took my affiliation with a drug crisis agency to bring it about.

In issue #121, you have an admittedly disturbed Spidey calling L.S.D. "mindsoap". Ignoring the pros and cons of drug use, Parker's training in chemistry should allow him a more objective view of any chemical.

Next, you have a doctor prescribing Thorazine to clam Harry down. If Harry had gotten his drugs from a trianed chemist, or if the doctor had analyzed the drug, this might have been an acceptable practice. But Thorazine can actually potentiate (increase the effects of) certain hallucinogenic drugs, and it is (in our opinion) generally bad practice to treat drug use with another drug.

Lastly, you have an again concerned (to say the least) Spider Man wanting to whisk Gwen to a hospital so she can get a sedative.

The point is that no drug is good or bad apart from how it is used by people. The sedatives can be even more dangerous than the hallueinogens, and they cannot be given an aura of respectability in a mag as influential as Spidey's, Using drugs to solve problems, even under a doctor's care, is not

Till J.J.J. switches from tobacco to you-knowwhat. Make Mine Marvel!

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To which we can only add, Shef - thanks for one of the most lucid, thought-provoking letters we've received in some time.

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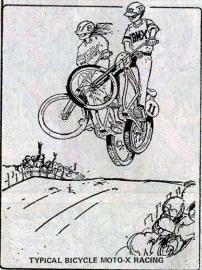
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STAN LEE'S SOAPBOX

Notice anything different about your latest Marvel mags? Notice more space devoted to the Bullpen Bulletins? How about the larger Letters Pages - and the fact that we have fewer titles on sale than a few months ago? Yea verily, listen to the voice of Marveldom Assembled - to the cry of far-flung Foomdom - all shouting why? Why? WHY? And, since Vou asked -

During this past year, as most of you have noticed, the spreading fame and growth of Marvel have been almost unbelievable. We've outsold every other comic-book publisher in America, and throughout the world! But the more titles we gave you, the more you kept demanding. And the more you asked for, the more we tried to give you. Until, just a short time ago, we realized we had to stop and catch our breath. For, in our never-ending effort to satisfy the greatest, most loval legion of fans anyone ever had, we were in danger of sacrificing quality for quantity and we're just not about to do that!

We also suspected that we were making it kind's tough for those of you who were short of cash (and who isn't?) to keep up with our profusion of proliferating titles. Even though Marvel's majestic mags are vital necessities to every True Believer. we wouldn't want you to give up such frivolous luxuries as food or housing in order to keep up with us. In other words we decided to make it easier on your wallet, at the same time as we make it easier for us to polish and perfect every gleaming jewel in the Marvel crown of creativity!

And that's the reason you won't have to BEWARE THE CLAWS OF THE CAT for a while, and NIGHT NURSE has broken her appointment. Yep, we've reluctantly given vacations to a few of our secondary characters in order to devote more time and effort to our world-famous line of scintillatin' superstars! So fret ye not, O Seeker of the Truth - all thy favorites are alive and Well in Marvelland, whilst our sensational 75¢ thrillers also still await thee at thy local vendor, and culture doth reign supreme!

But, take warning! We're gonna spend lots more time rapping with you from now on, both here and on our liltin' Letters Pages. You can expect to be bombarded with all kinds of messages, memos, and multi-faceted madness from Yours Truly, from Rescally Roy, and from the rest of your blushin' Bullpenners as we go zoomin' along to oblivion! Yea, mark ye well these momentous words we've only one objective, one everconstant goal - to jam as much fun and excitement as possible within these imperishable pages - and to share it all with you! for

Excelsior!

ITEM! Don't ask us-we'll tell you! The reason why our latest giant-sized 75¢ magazines (not to mention our CRAZY neo-title) have been switched to quarterly publication is in line with what Smiley was mentioning above: we want to keep up the quality of these mags while we're waiting to gauge the full, unfettered reaction of Marveldom Assembled. That's why SAVAGE TALES and CRAZY are on sale this month instead of last, as originally planned. You'll find 'em both worth the wait, though - what with a 37-page Conan classic illustrated by BARRY SMITH in the former, and the humor of ART BUCHWALD, KELLY FREAS, BOB ("Myron Moose") FOSTER et al. in the latter! But don't worry, those of you with money to burn - they'll both be on bimonthly schedules again, just as soon as we can get our heads on straight! (Although, knowing us, that probably gives you plenty of time to start saving your pennies!)

ITEM! Meanwhile, one of the full-color comics we've dropped from our schedule - but only for the next couple of months is the very popular SUPERNATURAL THRILLERS. We've decided to put all our eerie adaptations in our giant-sized mags instead. As for the new feature which SUPERNATURAL THRILLERS will contain when it returns a few short weeks from now - well, let's give it to you in Spider-Man Code:

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ITEM! In just a short month or so, we'll be doing what you frantic ones have requested - namely, turning this page entirely over to the Bullpen Bulletins. with the kind of informal chit-chat and nifty news items you've always dug most! In the meantime, what say we drop the Mighty Marvel Checklist for this month only, and concentrate instead on a few personal tidbits about the Bullpen That Plays for Fun - like so:

MARVEL MINI-ITEMS! Congrats to HERB and LINDA, on the birth of their spanking-new son and prospective future Bullpenner, ALEXANDER SPURLOCK TRIMPE! He's the only thing that's come between Happy Herbie and a HULK deadline in the last umpteen years! . Hey, if you dig the recent spectaculars by JIM STARLIN (on CAPTAIN MARVEL and MASTER OF KUNG FU) as much as we do, then let's have a few kudos also for Amiable AL MILGROM, our latest inking discovery, who's been skillfully applying the pen-and-brush to those power-packed pencil-strokes of Jim's! . In answer to countless queries: Yes, the GLYNIS WEIN who does that sensational coloring in so many Marvel masterworks

these days is indeed the lovely wife of one LEN WEIN. And, so help us, if your next question is "So who's Len Wein...?" . Know what? RICH BUCKLER tells us that his dream for well-nigh a decade as a comic-book fan was to get a chance, one day, to draw the fabulous FANTAS TIC FOLIR title! And he's made it at last! So let the lad know how you like what he's layin' down, okay? Tell 'im Roy sent VOII I

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