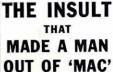


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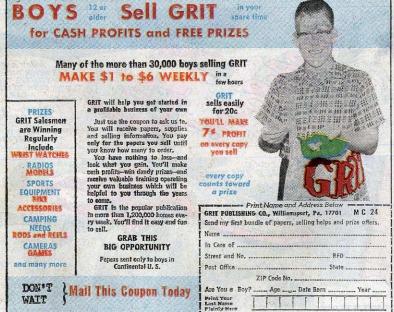
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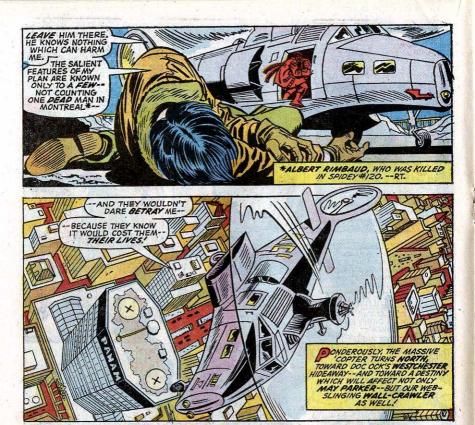






































"SPIDERS WER

THE MARVEL COMICS GROUP, MINTH FLOOR 575 MADISON AV., NEW YORK, N. Y. 100

Dear Stan, Gerry, and all, This is the first time I have ever been stirred to write a letter to you guys, although I have been an on-and-off Marvelite for years. But now that sometimes status is over. You have really done me in! I am now a full-fledged Marvel addict, and what has done it to me is the recent change in Spider-Man's life. I've read a lot of comic books, but none have ever had the impact on me of SPIDEY #121-122.

A comic book can be many things. It can be a flight into absolute fantasy, a diversion from daily existence, a humorous interlude, an educational tool-any of a number of things. But you have brought to SPIDEY something which, although it often includes those factors, has that Ettle bit more which takes a rag and turns it into art, into literature. You have added that incredible spark of reality, the continuity of existence through change, that makes life the paradox that it is SPIDER-MAN is no longer just another comic book. It is a continuing work of art which bursts with brilliance

Today, when I saw SPIDEY #125 in the store. I felt a rush of emotion through me. I was downright excited! I had to buy it. I had to take it ague excused: I nad to buy it I had to take it home and slowly, panel by panel, completely digest it. And I was far from disappointed! The closing scene, with Spidey wasking away from Jameson, beaves me itching to find out what of Jonah is gonna put in the headlines of his next same of the Brade Packana h. headlines of his next issue of the Bugle. Perhaps he has seen another side of Spider-Man? But I'm not going to guess. I'll fust wait until the next time I see those words. THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN, teasing me from the comic rack. And then, I'll happily return to the habit that has taken hold of me. And I'll enjoy the heck out of it!

Thank you for bringing Spider-Man to life. Christopher Clow

3223 Manning Ave. Cincinnati, Ohio 45211

And (sob) thank you (wheez), Chris, for (gulp) raising a (wuhhg) lump in our throats (gasp) the size of a softball!

Excelsior, sir! And we only hope we can live up to the praise you've lavished upon us.

Dear Gerry & Company

I'm glad to see in SPIDEY #125 that the Web

But I can't help but feel that #124 & #125 are ust stepping stones between epics.

It's gonna take some doing, Mr. Conway, to top the last mind-warping six months of SPIDER-MAN, but keep up the good scripting, and I'm

sure I'll not be disappointed. One thing, however, I think Gil Kane, Johnny Romita, and Tony Mortellaro should stay together as the artistic team. I don't mean to detract from Ross Andru's endeavor in SPIDER-MAN #125. but for so long now, I've felt like I've been getting twice as much action per panel when G.K., J.R., and T.M. try to contain themselves in their work Mr. Andru is a good artist, as is evident in the MARVEL TEAM-UP mag featuring Web-Head and the Werewolf, and I'm looking forward to more of his panels. But do me a favor, guys, huh? Please don't break up again what's probably one of the best, if not the best, teams in Marveldom, or possibly all of comies. Thanks.

Wayne Schesta 1217-B Margaret St. Key West, Fla. 33040

Well. Wayne, for better or worse, Gil. John, nd Tony have been replaced, at least for awhile, by Ross Andru and Frank Giacoia. But. somehow...exchanging one team of Marvel's top talent doesn't exactly strike us as a tragedy. Let us know how you think Ross and Frank are doing, huh?

And as for that new epic you've been hoping for...it's on its way, all right. And it includes some of wildest, weirdest scenes ever portrayed in a comics magazine! And that's all we're gonna say... for now. Except: stand by to throw rice.

(No. Irving, that doesn't mean that Snap, Crackle, and Pop will be guest-starring with Spidey!!)

Dear Stan, Roy, and Gerry

On the credits for Cat Stevens' album, "Teaser and the Firecat", the drums are credited Harvey Burns and one Gerry Conway. Is this the Spidey-writing Conway we all know and love? Do I get my no-prize?

(no name given) 630 Wendt Ave. Rock Springs, Wyo.

Far out.

You sure do, no name given, though we Slinger's finally getting his stuff back together hasten to add that it's not the same Gerry Conway.

Our Conway wouldn't know a snare from a tuba--though, from his spelling, we do suspect at times that he pounds his typewriter keys with drumsticks. Or turkey legs.

Dear Marvel. According to The Comic Reader. SPIDER-MAN #126 will contain the Spider-Mobile.

Groan THUD!

"Hey! Joe just collapsed!"

"What's wrong with him? Should I call a doctor?" No. You'd better call Marsel.

"Why?" Listen closely. He's mumbling something about Spider-Mobile

eretche eretche

J. Brenner 18 West 22nd St. Huntington Sta., N.Y. 11746

Since we used up our ration of LP sounds effects in our answer to the first letter on this page, we'll just say that we hope you know by now, that the ill-starred Spider-Mibile didn't do Spidey any more good than it did you, J. Life is weird, isn't it?

BIG THINGS ARE COMING FROM MARVELS WATCH FOR 'EM ... WUFF SAID!

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CHRISTMAS CHRONICLES AND YULETIDE YUCKS -AND A PARTRIDGE IN A PEAR TREE!

STAN LEE'S SOAPBOX

Well, gang, it's that time of year again — when our thoughts turn to Joyeuse Noel and Auld Acquaintances! So what better time for your friendly neighborhood soapboxer to extend his salubrious Season's Greetings to one and all—and thereby save the price of some cards!

Merry Xmas to our WRITERS! May their tales be ever great! Merry Xmas to our EDITORS! May their deadlines ne'er be late! Merry Xmas to our ARTISTS! May their pencils never bust! Merry Xmas to our INKERS! May their penpoints never rust! Merry Xmas to our COLORISTS! May their hues be ever bright! Merry Xmas to our LETTERERS! May their spelling turn out right! Merry Xmas to our PRINTERS! May their presses never cease! Merry Xmas to our ENGRAVERS! May the unions grant them peace! Merry Xmas to our DISTRIBUTOR! May his sales be ever growing! And to YOU the merriest wish of all -You're the one who keeps us going!

Excelsion



ITEM! Hev-remember how Marvel added all those 20¢ and 75¢ titles in '72 and '73? And how this sometimes forced us to use a big chunk of our Bulletin Page for special announcements of all our new plans and projects? And how a few of you used to take us to task for neglecting all the personal chit-chat and inside gossip that made you feel you really knew the guys and gals who turn out all those Marvel masterworks each month? Well, we'll let you in on a secret: We missed all that personal stuff as much as you did! So, starting now-and without abandoning our search for evernewer horizons to conquer in the name of Marveldom Assembled-we're returning this page to all its former, muchlauded glory, and adding a new Bullpen Bonus Page, to boot! (You'll find it elsewhere in this same ish.) That's right, believer-now, you'll get two full pages of news and views each month (three, if you count our liltin' letters pages)! And, for those of you who are counting: Nope, we haven't dropped any pages of art and story, just a paid ad which took up that space last month-and this in spite of ever-rising printing costs and that depressing paper shortage you've been reading about (often, we might add, in newspapers with fewer pages). So now who says mighty Marvel isn't the Company with a Heart?

ITEM! A thousand thanks to those of you who've said you dig our cockamame? Secret Code messages. And here's another clue for you all—concerning a fantastic new feature we'll be unveiling early in '74! Yep, it's in Spider-Man Code, which can only be deciphered by carty carrying members of FOOM (see ad on our Bullpen Bonus Page) or by those with cryptographic skills worthy of the CIA. Anyway, here goes:



Sorry—all we can show you of our future super-star right now is the above tantalizing head-shot. But, if that doesn't whet your appetite for the full-color pin-up we'll be layin' on you come the New Year—then you just got no soul, sahibl

ITEM! Now that the Yuletide Season is upon us, maybe it's time we finally broke down and told you how some of our free-wheeling, high-stepping Bull-penners spent their summer vacations -namely, by going to Comic Art Conventions in just about every major city on the map! First, there was the granddaddy of 'em all, the New York con, where just about everybody who was anybody in the nutty comics biz was in attendance. Next, Rascally ROYTHOMAS slipped his editorial reins for a few days and zipped down to New Orleans' famed French Quarter, where he dropped in on a combined science-fiction and comicbook confab. No sooner did Roy return to his work-bestrewn desk, than Marvelous MARY WOLFMAN dumped the latest issue of CRAZY Magazine in his lap to proofread and scooted off (with his buddy Live-It-Up LEN WEIN) to Toronto, Canada, for a comics-con there. And, somewhere along the line, TONY (The Tiger) ISABELLA was a special guest at a con back in his old stomping-grounds in Cleveland: while Mischievous MIKE FRIEDRICH (along with Nefarious NEAL ADAMS) fell by San Diego's annual comics clambake. Last time we looked, just for good measure, Bashful BARRY SMITH had just been named Guest of Honor at the Detroit Triple Fan Fair, and

was packing his bag for a trip to Motown. Talk about your Busman's Holidays! Oh well—at least now the guys won't beinsulted any more if they hear somebody refer to them as Con Men!

ITEM! Speaking of movin' and groovin'. it seems that everybody is-moving, that is! With all the birds winging it south for the winter, a number of Marvel Bullpenners are heading west and will besending in their sketches and scripts. long-distance from now on. Even as we speak, Stainless STEVE ENGLEHART is trekking, typewriter in hand, to take up residence in San Francisco, as the aforementioned Mike Friedrich did a year or so back. And, when Steve arrives, his swingin' new 'cycle will be there waiting for him, courtesy of Judo JIM STARLIN. who polished off the latest CAPTAIN MARVEL and MASTER OF KUNG FU issues, then did the Westward Ho bit on Steve's new wheels. (With Steve's permission, of course. He'll do anything to keep a good artist happy!) What's more, last we heard, Far-Out FRANK BRUNNER. and Groovy GARY FRIEDRICH (who's been dwelling in his own native Missouri of late) were all set to join the S.F. contingent as well. And the ultimate winner in this game of Musical Moving-Vans is just likely to be you, Marvel-boostercause these forays will doubtless result in renewed enthusiasm and energy being channeled into our opulent opuses. And friend, there's nobody in the comicbook game who throws himself, heart and soul, into his work any more than a Marvel madman-whether you're talking about Bullpen East or Bullpen West! No hype there, effendi-just plain hard

ITEM! By the way, to round out our Sag Francisco Special, we can't resist mentioning that-in answer to a multitude of requests from those of you who'd come to miss Foggy Nelson and the rest of the former DAREDEVIL supporting starswe've shipped The Man Without Fear back to Fun City for a few issues, Meet a crop of old friends-and maybe make a few new super-enemies-by picking up DD #108. (Hmmm . . . do you suppose that ol' Fearless' return to the Big Apple has anything to do with the fact that writer STEVE GERBER and artist BOB BROWN still reside in the New York area? Oh well....)

ITEM! Some of you demanded it! A couple of you deplored it in advance! But we did it anyway! Jack Russel; WEREWOLF BY NIGHT, enters THETOMB OF DRACULA—and the King of Vampires returns the favor in Wolfy's own mag—in this month's issues. But, you probably know that by now anyway, since those two mags (along with a sinister sleeper called THE MAN-THINKS) have become some of Marvel's biggest new hits!

See you next ish, people!







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MARVEL'S MERRY CHRISTMAS PRESENT TO YOU!

You know it, neighbor! In our regular Bulletins section, elsewhere in this issue, we promised you a whole 'nother page of Marvel madness and munificence. And here it is!

From now on, we'll be using this space to herald the latest developments (both personal and professional) in our giant-sized 75¢ line, which is taking comicdom by storm - in our cockeyed CRAZY Magazine, which is gonna give the Humor Establishment a run for its money-in our far-out FOOM Club, which is already one of our biggest smashes ever (but you ain't seen nuthin' yet, folks) - in short, in just about every field of Marvel endeavor that we think would move and shake you!

Meanwhile, for our very first Bullpen Bonus Page:

Remember how, last month, we promised to reveal unto you the Senses-Shattering Secret behind the pic of the Incredible Hulk that appears below? Well, Marvel always keeps its word—when we remember what we said, anyhow.

What it is, friends, is a stamp.

And not just any run-of-the-mill, lick-it-and-stick-it-on-a-postcard stamp, but the fabulous forerunner of a whole herd of-are you ready for this?-

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That's right! From now on, one of these glitzy mini-posters-each featuring a different Marvel star or starlet -will appear in virtually every one of our mixed-up original-material mags-and in many of our collectors'-item reprints, to boot!

Now, we don't want to reveal everything about these way-out stamps right off the bat.

For instance, we'll keep you on pins and needles a few weeks longer about what those nutty numbers mean in the upper corner of each stamp—or why you ought to keep 'em safe and secure, like the family jewels. Just rest assured that it'll be worth your while—and a heaping handful of fun, besides!

Oh, and before you ask - from our earliest mail-samples, it seems that just about everybody on the planet guessed that our perforated-edged portrait was meant to be a stamp of some kind. Inscrutable we'll never be

Anyway, to see if the mag you're now reading contains a stamp to match the one on this page, why not flip over to the letters section! If the mag doesn't have a letters section, then maybe it'll be squirreled away somewhere else in the issue — or maybe this is one of very few mags we haven't got around to yet! (But by next month, just watch our smoke, O frantic follower of foolishness and frivolity!)

Right now, here's our irrepressible, irreplaceable, irremedial checklist-

MIGHTY MARVEL CHECKLIST

FANTASTIC FOUR #144: (The showdown with Doc Doom!) — SPIDER-MAN #130 (Hammerhead's back in town!) — THOR #221 (And so is Hercules! 'Nuff said!) — AVENGERS #121 — INCREDIBLE HULK #173 (An)body out there remember—the Cobalt Mart?) — TOME OF DRACULA #18 — CAPTHE AMERICA #18 — CAPTHE #18 #3 (Gner the Fool-Killer! His name's a bit bizarrebit he's no. laughing matter's a bit bizarrebit he's no. laughing matter in orch vs. the
MARVEL TEAMUP #39 (The Human Torch vs. the
BARBARRIN #350 — SUB-MARINER #39 (with sunPrise camees by Spideyand Doc Stringel) —MARVEL
THO:NO.NE #2 (The Thing and Maron Mary
Bagin, and at each other EMIPS #34 (Pr. Strange.) again, and at each other's throats) — CAPTAIN MAR-YEL #31 — MARYLE PREMIERE #14 (Dr. Strange — at the Dawn of Creation) — CREATURES ON THE LOOSE #28 (Thongor strikes again) — JUNGLE ACTION #9 (The Black Panthert Baron Macabrel ACTION #9 (The Black Panther! Baron Macabre! The Death Regiments!) — SGT. FURY #118 — AMAZ-ING ADVENTURES #23 (The War of the Worlds goes on - in our nation's capital!) - plus maybe a classic two we forgot to mention! Buy 'em anyway, huh? See you next ish, people!



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