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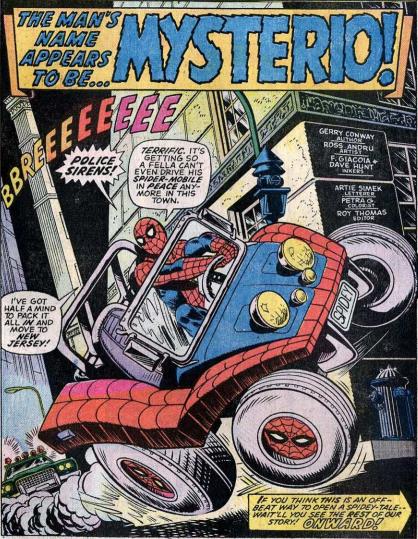
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THE SPIDER'S WEB

SEND YOUR LETTERS TO:

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Dear Gerry and Ross:

"Madness Means...the Mindworm!" was a very strange kind of Spidey story, indeed; my feelings on it are kind of mixed, but I think it suffered from being a one-issue tale...possibly more could have been done, not only plotwise, but in developing the Mindworm's character, motives and ability somewhat, had you taken a couple issues. Still, Gerry's smooth writing abilities made it flow nicely, and I must confess that, while I've never really cared all that much for Ross Andru as the artist, he seems to be developing a "look" for Spider-man that is as distinctive zaits own way as Ditko's and Pomita's were.

Perhaps it's his penchant for crowding so many small panels on a page that bothers me—or is that Gerry's fault? Anyway, the comic has been picking up ever since that tridiculous issue when Parker had six arms; please don't ever do anything like that again to ruin the careful credibility of the series. As for the question of whether or not Petey should graduate, I say certainly, of course, naturally; is there one valid reason why not? No, there isn't.

And the next issue blurb: "See Peter's new apartment..." do you realize the absurdity of that, or was it intentional?

T. Gortel Tyger, GA Dear Stan and all concerned:

First off, I want you to stand back and take a long hard look at your recent comics. Your artist and writers jump from book to book. Many of your newer artists are terrible. Your scripts are just plain sloppy. Why, I remember when Stan and Jack created masterpiece after masterpiece, month after month. I also remember when the Thing wasn't beaten by every creep who came along; I remember when Mr. Fantastic had supreme confidence, and not a million hang-ups like Peter Parker. Your comics seemed to have a personal touch, they were a labor of love—the stories were twenty pages long and there weren't ade every other page. But don't think I'd criticize without offering any explanation.

I know exactly why your comics aren't up to par. The simple reason is your constant expansion. You've gotten too big for your proverbial britches. You just can't keep coming out with new magazines, one after the other. You must draw

a line sometime and somewhere.

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deny that our expansion has caused various problems here and there, which we regret as much—or quite possibly more—than you do. Yet our concern is no longer with producing more titles, per se, but rather with improving and upgrading those we already have—although we never want to get so locked into things that there isn't room to try something new.

We further suggest that, as Marvel has evolved over the years, so too have our readers' tastes matured, to the extent that were we suddenly to attempt doing our books in the style of an early-sixties comic, the reaction would very likely be severly critical. After all, look what happened to IT, THE LIVING COLOSSUS.

As for the number of story-pages, the ever-increasing price, etc., we have no more control over inflation than the grocer, the motorcycle salesman, or the paperback publisher—paper and other costs have gone outta sight in recent years, and it scares us as much as you. Really.

Finally, Steven, had Peter Parker, Mr. Fantastic, and others not continued to evolve as characters, we think you'd like it far less; after all, Marvel's strong point has always

been the fact that our characters have lives of their own And human life is a continually-changing process, which is what we attempt to reflect in our stories.

Okay, we've done our best-we've leveled with you.

Dear Bullpen,

Hoo boy! Hoo boy! Have you ever made a mistake. In Spidey #130, page 23, panel 3, you have a footnote reading "back in #213, natch." Now, to my knowledge, there never has been, and will not be for some time, a Spidey #213. As I live in Australia this letter will take time to reach you, but I hope no one else claims my no-prize.

Until Spidey and Smokey the Bear team up to fight a wild horde of marauding kangaroos with machine guns, Make Mine Marvel!

Bryan Grivell 13/1 Hearn Place Carnaryon, WA, Australia

You mean to tell us it takes so long for our mags to reach Australia that you haven't gotten #213 yet? (Aw heck, we're only kidding—what if we told you that we did it on purpose, just to see if anyone was looking?) Anyway, your No Prize is on the way, Bryan, and in the meantime, Gerry wants you to watch for our next issue, in which spidey and Smokey the Bear team up to fight a wild horde of marauding kangaroos with machine guns.

Wild, huh?



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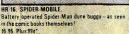
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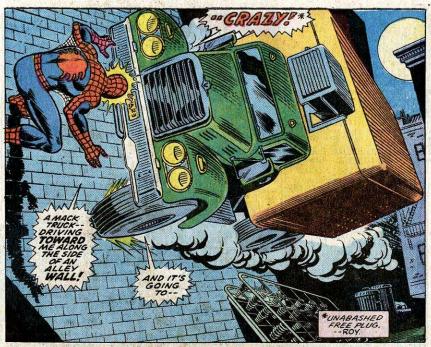


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STAN LEE'S SOAPBOX

Hang in there, hero! We've got a couple of mind-blowin' items for you this month, so let's zero right in. First, how lucky can you be? You'll be seeing more sensational stories than ever from of ROY THOMAS from now on. Yep, the Rascally One has been itching to devote more of his time to writing, and he's finally decided to take the plunge. Hence, from this day forth, our award-winning editor becomes Editor Emeritus, a title he so richly deserves, as I hereby announce (and not without a twinge of envy), that he'll be scripting more Marvel masterworks than ever before. So here's to the youngest titleholder in all of Emeritusdom-long may he reign! Next ish, we'll describe our new editorial lineup in detail, but for now-onward!

It hadda happen! There's another Comics Con a'coming! But not just any other comics-book convention—nope, this time it's a MARVEL Con! That's right—during Easter vacation time your natty Bullpen is putting together one of the most exciting projects of the year for Marveldom Assembled. At a major New York hotel we'll be holding the biggest, brassiest, brain-blastingest Marvel convention of all time! It'll be three full days of fun, fantasy, and fan-heaven as you mingle with the greatest names, in the Marvel galaxy! So, if you're planing a go-away vacation during Easter, we just wanna alert you—New York's where it'll all be happening! More info next month!

One Jast word, gang. I'm really overwhelmed by all the college lecture offers you've been tossing this way. I wish there was time to accept each one, but I want you to know I'm frantically trying to juggle my schedule so I can do as many as possible. I don't know whether all of academia wants to hear about Marvel, or if you're just trying to keep me on the move so I won't have time to write any more Soapboxes! But whatever it is keep those cards and letters comin', folks! And remember, it's time to take a toad to funct!

Excelsion! San

ITEM! Let's roll out the red carpet for Free-wheelin' FRANK ROBBINS. Marve's newest artist and bon yivant! As many of you know, Frank's the artist and writer of the newspaper comic-strip "Johnny Hazard." and is considered by his peers to be one of the finest craftsmen in the business.

Now, after cutting his incisors on a Morbius tate or two in the pages of ADVENTURES INTO FEAR. Frank has stepped in to give our pal SAL BUSCEMA a well-earned rest from the pages of CAPTAIN AMERICA—and to team up with Roy the Boyl on a brand new 50¢ title due to debut early in '75. Its title? THE INVADERS! (Who's going to be in this newest, most exciting supergroup? We'll leave you guessing for a month or so, pilgrim. Suffice it to say that we think the lineup of this littin' legion is going to catch nearly everybody off guard, and that Free-wheelin' Frank will definitely have his hands full!)

ITEM! Speaking of artist switches, it's nostalgia time, as Genial GENE COLAN once more takes over the reins of our DR. STRANGE strip, Remember those caballistic classics of yesteryear? Well, get set to have em all eclipsed by the new team of COLAN, JANSON, and ENGELHART! As for Doc's previous artist, Far-out FRANK BRUNNER, he's keeping busy on one of the most-requested back-up features of all time, Yep, we're talking about none other than HOWARD THE DUCK, who's now appearing regularly in the pages of our quarterly GIANT-SIZE MAN-THING mag (where else?). When you ask for things long enough and loud enough round Marveldom you get 'em! (Okay, okay, we know we know we know we know we know we know we whore you have the silver Surfer?)

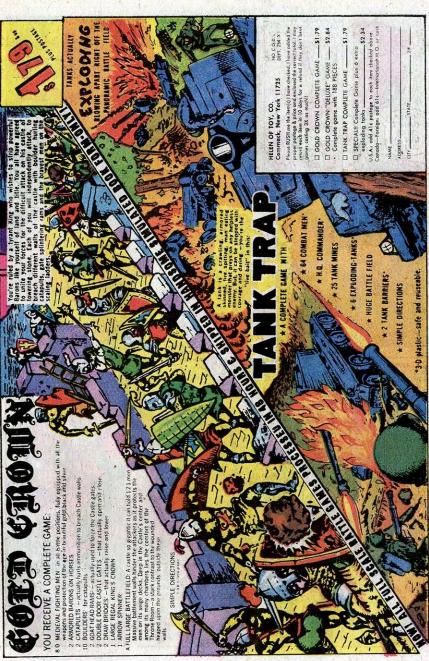
JYEM! In case you haven't noticed, we've added a new 50-center or two as well. Still on sale, hopefully, is our new GIANT-SIZE KID COLT title, which spotlights the wildest new western team-ups ever. And this month sees GIANT-SIZE CHILLERS #1. with art by ALCALA, ALCAZAR, and right on thru the alphabet with Marvel's greatest mystery artists. What's more. December will herald the way-outest new mag of all—

GIANT-SIZE SUPER-VILLAIN TEAM-UP. co-starring (just for starters, mind you). Dr. Doom and the savage Sub-Mariner! How's that for an offithe-wall blockbuster announcement! (Well. if that doesn't hold you, how about this? THE X-MEN are coming back, in brand new tales, in a giantsize mag due to debut just a couple of short months from now! We could've held back on that one, but we wanted to give all you mutantboosters a chance to start saving your radioactive sheckels.)

ITEM! Oh., and just so you don't think you've gone completely bananas, we thought we'd best clue you in that, due to circumstances beyond our control, the first issue of our new \$1 magazine MARVEL PREVIEW (introducing the long-awaited new feature "Man-Gods From Beyond The Stars") was delayed at the last possible moment, and will be on sale in the next few weeks instead of right now, as we announced last issue. Sorry about that, friends, but we wanted to polish that gem up just right for you.
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You can stay at your present job while your
customer list grows ... then switch to full
time, lining up jobs for your servicemen to do.
ne job a day brings a good starting income.
If you hire two servicemen (full or part time)
while you keep your job, the national price
guide provides you a gross proit of easier to
do than you think. We show you how ...
step by step. That's \$490 for a 35 hour week.
Your gross profit on three servicemen is \$21
per hour. Duraclean dealers find it easy to
gross \$7 per hour on EACH serviceman plus
\$12 an hour on any service they themselves
render. The 24 page illustrated booklet we'l
man you (with nos profit becomes clear net
profit. Your income is limited only by the
number of servicemen you employ.
You can operate from a shop, office, or your
home. Equipment is light and portable.
At the start, you may want to render service
yourself ... or you can start with full or part
time servicemen. This business is easy to learn
and the country of the profit would ways.
We are NOW enlarging this worldwide system of individually-owned service businesses.
If you are reliable, honest and willing to work
when you receive our illustrated booklet.
When you receive our illustrated booklet.
When you receive our illustrated booklet.

you to mail the coupon.

When you receive our illustrated booklet, you will see the way we show you step by step how to quickly get customers . . . and still more customers from their recommendations.

You have 7 superior services that are rendered "on location" in homes, offices, hotels, theaters, clubs, motels and institutions.
These are not ordinary services. You have

the prestige and endorsement of leading furnithe pressige and endorsement of leading furni-ture makers and carpet mills, of Parents' Magazine and McCall's, of Research and Test-ing Laboratories.

Magazine and size can s, or treasure and respective for the first Laboratories are advertising explains superior merits of your services, builds your customer confidence and brings job leads to you. We and a Duraclean dealer will train you and assist you. He'll reveal his successful, proven methods. You have pre-tested newspaper and yellow-page ads, commercials, and

paper and yellow-page aut, consuming a full mailing program.
Stores, upholsterers, insurance adjustors, and decorators refer jobs to our dealers. These year 'round services are in constant demand.

Start Small, Grow Big in this Booming Business

TODAY is the time to reserve a Duraclean dealership, before someone takes your location. It's been said, "Opportunity knocks but once at every man's door." This could be that one rare opportunity in your life. It is surprisingly easy to learn this business. You can decide from the information we will send you whether to apply for a dealership. So, with no obligation whatever, mail the coupon TODAY. Cut it out NOW so you won't forget to mail it.

Mail this coupon TODAY It may put you in business

4-Z10 Duraclean Bldg., Deerfield, III. 6001
With no obligation, mail 24 page illustrated bookl telling how and why I can quickly increase my income and family security while still employed, how you help finance me. No salesman will call.

Name	
Address	
City	
Ct. 4 . 7	



Then one day I was reading a magazine just as you now are and I saw an ad. It intrigued me. It offered me the steadily growing income I had always hoped for. It said I would have

me. discrete the cut-security of twister in the control of the cut-security and personal independence... and that's what I had been wanting.

I was a little skeptical, but I said to myself, "for a postage stamp I can find out." So I mailed the coupon. In a few days. I got a letter with a booklet that gave the whole story. It was the compact may eyes. I souther that it was the control of the co

So, I applied for a Duraclean dealership and I was accepted. I stayed with my job. . ran a few ads . . . sent some mailings . contacted a few stores and told my firends about the superior services I was now equipped to give their control of the superior services. As the business grew, I added servicemen. I found that I didn't have to develop a single idea myself. Every step had been prepared for me and pro-tested. Hundreds of other men had already proven my methods successful. It didn't take long to see that I was making here to four times (yee, S to 4 times) as much per hour in my own business as in my printup the province of the superior services and the superior services and the superior services and the superior services. I had enjoyed all this extra income on top of my salary. Each day, we realized what a serious mistake not mailing that coupon would have been ... and how that little act that seemed so trivial at the time actually changed our lives.

