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STINGS  
BUT ONCE!

BUT IN  
HIS CASE--  
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IS  
PLENTY!



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GWEN STACY  
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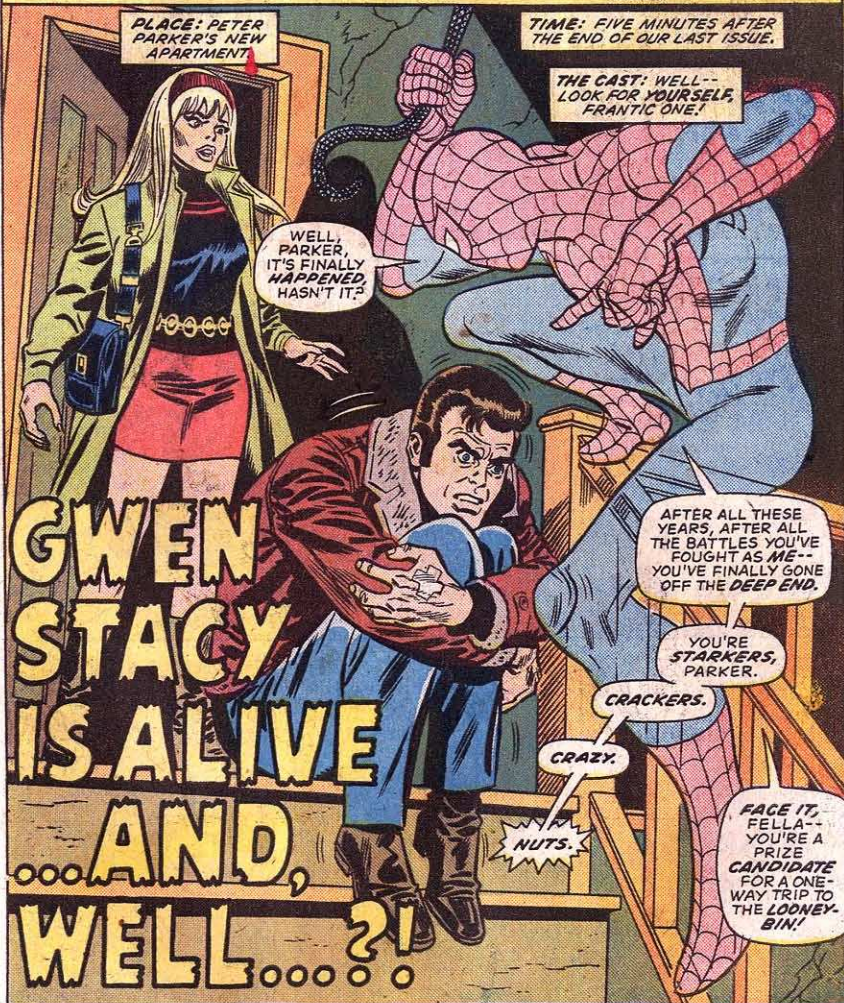
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\*AS TOLD IN THOSE EPIC ISSUES, SPIDER-MAN #121 & 122.--LEN.





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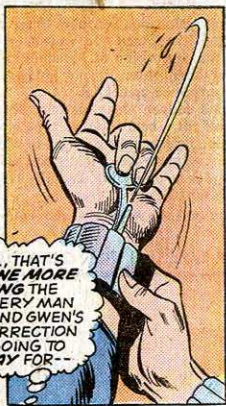
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--AND THE DELICATE STRUCTURE OF HIS EMOTIONS COMES TUMBLING DOWN--

--AND ALL AT ONCE, HE CEASES TO CARE.

SO, WHILE OUR WORLD-WEARY PROTAGONIST JOURNEYS CROSS-TOWN TO THE HOSPITAL WHERE HIS AUNT MAY IS KEPT IN INTENSIVE CARE, WE'LL TAKE OUR LEAVE, AND LOOK ELSEWHERE FOR OUR ENTERTAINMENT--



SPECIFICALLY, WE'LL LOOK HERE: A FEDERAL PENITENTIARY IN NEW JERSEY, WHERE A CERTAIN INMATE IS IN THE PROCESS OF BEING PROCESSED OUT.



TAKE A CLOSE LOOK, READER. YOU MIGHT RECOGNIZE THE MAN...

FOR WE HAVE, AFTER ALL, SEEN HIM BEFORE...

YOU WERE A MODEL PRISONER, GARGAN. IF YOU DON'T MIND--

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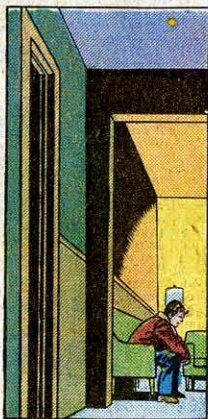
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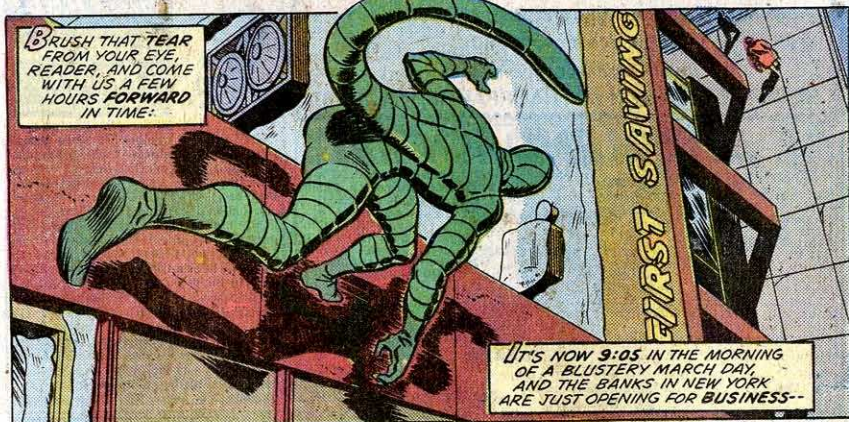
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SOMETHING TELLS US WE'RE GOING TO HAVE TROUBLE WITH THAT MAN.

AS FOR PETER PARKER, HE'S ALREADY GOT TROUBLE ENOUGH--

NO, GWEN-- DON'T FALL--

--A FACT WHICH IS APPARENT WHEN WE TAKE A LOOK WITHIN THE CLOUDED WORLD OF PETER'S NIGHTMARE:

"NOT AGAIN! PLEASE, GOD-- DON'T LET HER FALL AGAIN! I CAN'T STOP HER-- MY WEB-BING WON'T REACH THAT FAR!

"SHE'S GOING TO BE KILLED!"

"YOU! IT'S YOUR DOING, GOBLIN! YOU KILLED GWEN STACY-- YOU KNOCKED HER OFF THE BRIDGE!

"YOU'LL SUFFER FOR THAT GOBLIN! I KNOW WHO YOU ARE-- I KNOW YOU'RE NORMAN OSBORN!"

"GWEN, OH, GWEN-- EVERYTHING'S SO CONFUSED. FIRST NORMAN OSBORN WAS THE GREEN GOBLIN, THEN HE DIED-- AND NOW HARRY BLAMES ME-- AND HARRY'S GONE CRAZY!

"WHO? HARRY? MY BEST FRIEND?"

"--DEAD?"

"BUT-- YOU'RE NOT DEAD! I CAN SEE YOU IN MY APARTMENT!"

"THEN-- WHO IS DEAD? WHO--?"

"AUNT MAY!"

"BUT-- YOU CAN'T HEAR ME, CAN YOU? HOW CAN YOU HEAR ME, WHEN YOU'RE--

"NOT YOU! NOT YOUUUUUUU--"









AN HOUR CREEPS BY, THEN TWO. NOON LOOMS IN THE NEAR DISTANCE, AND THOUGH HE'S FORGED THE LENGTH OF SNOW-COVERED MANHATTAN, OUR HERO HASN'T UNCOVERED A CLUE AS TO THE SCORPION'S WHEREABOUTS...

IN FACT, HE'S ABOUT READY TO GIVE UP--!

I'LL KEEP WITH IT FIFTEEN MORE MINUTES-- THEN I'M HEADING BACK TO THE HOSPITAL.

IF SOMETHING DOESN'T HAPPEN SOON: I'M THROUGH.



ACTUALLY, SOMETHING DOES INDEED "HAPPEN SOON"--

-- BUT IT DOESN'T HAPPEN HERE, IT HAPPENS IN THE PAGES OF MARVEL TEAM-UP #33, STILL ON SALE.

THROUGH THE AEGIS OF THE FAMED MARVEL TIME PARADOX, WE'LL RETURN TO OUR HERO AFTER THE EVENTS PORTRAYED IN THAT ISSUE -- TO FIND HIM EXHAUSTED, AND NO CLOSER TO LOCATING THE SCORPION THAN BEFORE -- HE THINKS:



I COULD KICK MYSELF. NIGHTHAWK OFFERS ME A CHANCE AT AN HONEST FRIENDSHIP--

-- AND I THROW IT BACK IN HIS FACE!\*

IT MAKES ME WONDER IF I LIKE BEING DISLIKED-- AND THAT'S A CAN OF PEAS I'D RATHER NOT OPEN!



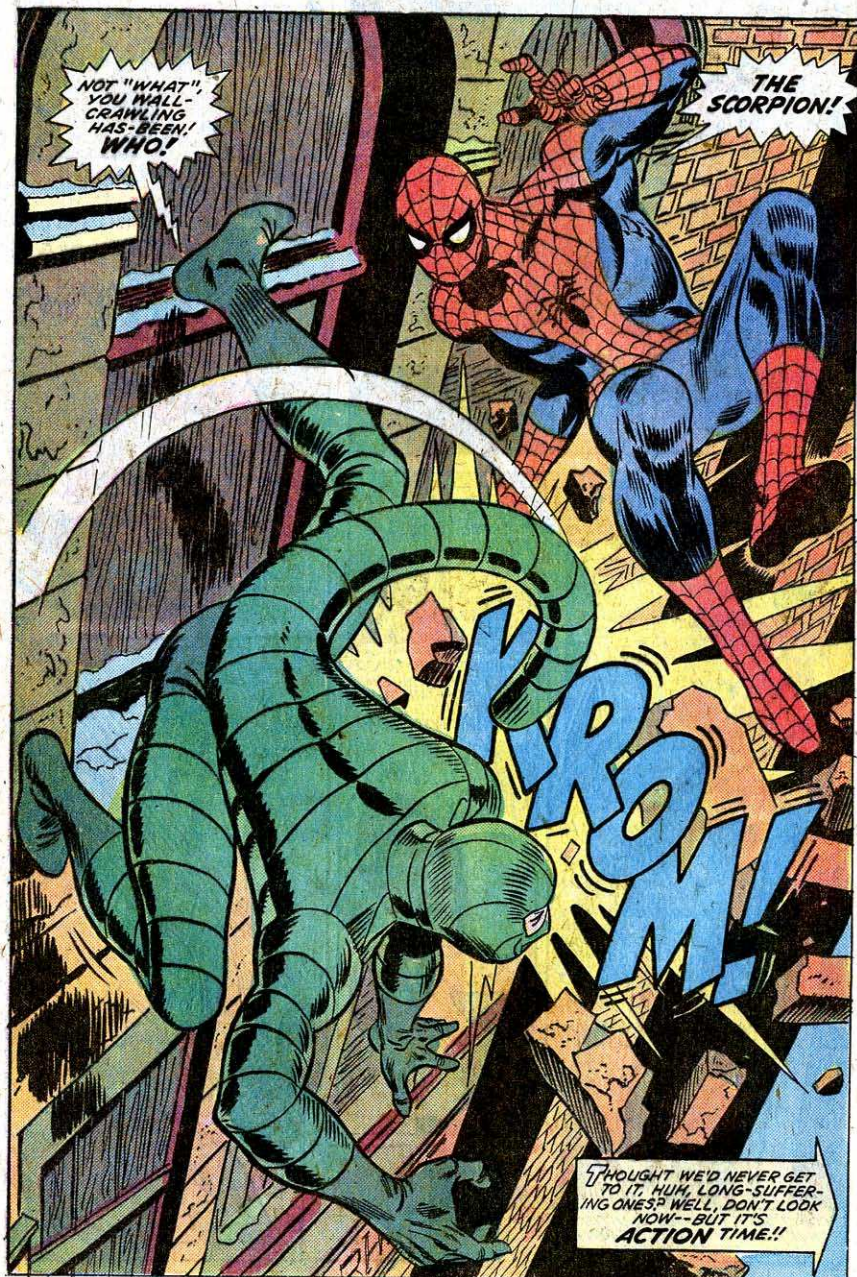
WITH MY LUCK, I'LL DECIDE-- HUH?



MY SPIDER-SENSE-- TINGLING! WHAT--?

\*CONFUSED? WE TOLD YOU TIME HAS PASSED. CHECK OUT MARVEL TEAM-UP #33, IF YOU'RE CURIOUS.-- LEN.









## THE SPIDERS WEB

SEND YOUR LETTERS TO:  
THE MARVEL COMICS GROUP, 309 N. FIFTH AVENUE, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10013

### Spidey chronicles:

I opened #142 and there it was, the Spidermobile, in full color: I hate it. Fortunately, it did not play a part in the story itself, and for that I'm thankful. Please, Gerry, leave it right where it is—corroding into nothingness on the bottom of the Hudson River.

The nice touch in Spidey is knowing that he's human. Pete's sore, bandaged hands contributed nicely to that end. However, even this can be carried a step too far, as witness the last panel on page six; it robs the realism, not so much because of what happens, but rather because of the way it's drawn—cartoonishly. Despite his sojourn of 10 these many months on SPIDER-MAN, Ross Andru still doesn't belong here.

It was also nice to see a bit different characterization on JJJ this time around, instead of solely the usual ranting and raving. The MAN-WOLF series has also been showing us some different sides of JJJ's personality—altogether, Jolly Jonah's one of Marvel's most interesting supporting characters. Keep him that way.

Y'know, now that I look at it, I think the problem is that there're too many black areas in this comic. For instance, the crosshatching on "Mysterio" is so thick that you almost can't see the green color applied over it. Remember—this is a *color* comic, not a black-and-white or a newspaper strip.

And that last page teaser with JJJ has got me *hooked*. I don't know what's coming down, but I sure intend to find out! Nice work, Gerry.

Phillip Grant  
455 Cascade Drive  
Lebanon, OR 97355

Interesting that you should bring up the MAN-WOLF series, Phil, since from time-to-time we like to mention here that JJJ's son—John Jameson—is the star of that aforementioned feature, and there are some very wild things going on in that book; *try it*. End of plug.

And *muchas gracias* for the run-down on SPIDEY #142. Gerry's beaming, Ross is smarting, and Joe Rosen wants to know why you didn't compliment him on his lettering!

Dear Marvel,

I never thought that you'd really hit home. In regard to Philip J. Atterberry's letter in #142, I wholeheartedly agree with him. I really wonder if you intend to change your covers for the better? Yes, Marvel, I am buying your comics IN SPITE OF YOUR COVERS! A cover should be a cover, not just another page.

Why not limit the word balloons to ZERO! Do you remember NICK FURY, AGENT OF SHIELD #1, X-MEN #50, and CAPTAIN AMERICA #'s 111-112 just to name a few? Did you find those covers lacking because there were no word balloons? I doubt very much that when decision time comes every month at the newsstands, *word balloons* will sway a reader to buy your comics.

And you do have a tendency to clutter, rather than drawing simplistic yet eye-catching covers. A cover should be as complex as the subject demands! One important point

that I learned at the Manhattan School of Music as a theory student is, "The most important tool a great composer and arranger can use is SIMPLICITY!" I would say the same goes for ART.

MARVEL, I love you, but you're sure makin' it difficult. Until next time, Make Mine Marvel (believe it or not!).

Ed Marchese  
RR 1 Box 678-A  
Hamburg, NJ 07419

Okay, Ed, we'll give you the same answer Lively Len Wein gave us when we asked him about those covers without word balloons: "Yeah, and look what *happened* to SHIELD and the X-MEN not long after!"

Meaning: Sales fell off drastically. Not that we're necessarily pontificating that it was because we didn't put word balloons on the covers—but ya never know. Anyway, we asked for your opinions, and we're glad you gave 'em to us.

How else are we to know if we're doing right or wrong?

### Marveldom Central:

It's just plain high time Peter Parker realized he doesn't need that ol' sheepskin to be a webflinger member of the human race; fact is, he doesn't even need it to make a decent living. With all his *Bugle* photo credits—you tell me—wouldn't a career in free lance photography make a lot of sense?

If nothing else, it might get him out of the Big Apple a little more frequently and that alone might do wonders for his mental health. But more than that, taking pix, even news pix, is, if not more fun, certainly more creative than reading textbooks, writing papers, and taking exams.

Oh yeah—and how 'bout letting Petey grow his hair a little bit? You know giving him a little more sex appeal? Making him a little less straight looking?

Mark Wurzbacher  
Town Terrace Apts #7  
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What would "The Spider's Web" be without at least one letter on the Petey-in-college controversy? And, more importantly, what would it be without an *end*? Too long, no doubt. So here we are, at the customary conclusion of this month's liltin' letters column, askin' y'all to be back here in four weeks for more of the same.

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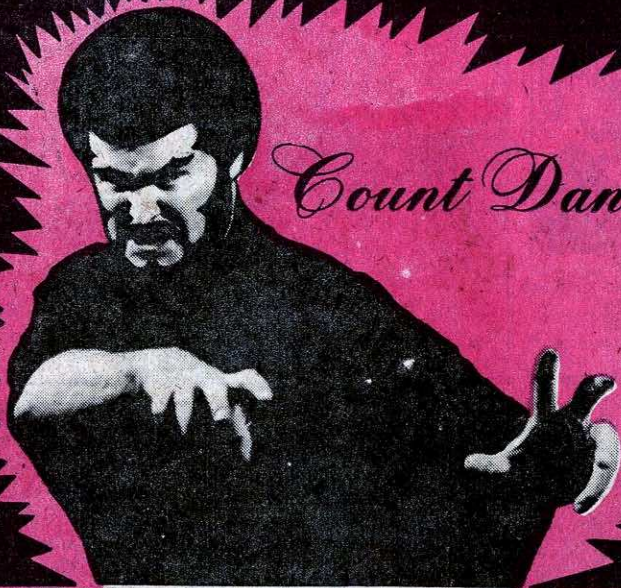
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YOU THOUGHT  
YOU COULD  
HIDE FROM  
ME FOREVER.  
DIDN'T  
YOU?

AND THAT  
IF I FOUND  
YOU--YOUR  
WEBBING  
WOULD  
PROTECT  
YOU!



BUT YOU  
WERE  
WRONG.  
SPIDER-  
MAN!

I CAN HEAR  
YOU  
BREATHING  
BEHIND  
YOUR MASK  
--AND THAT'S  
ALL I NEED,  
CREEP!

I'VE GOT YOU  
NOW!



YOU'VE GOT ME? AREN'T  
YOU REVERSING THINGS,  
SCORPION?

WHILE YOU'RE *BUSY*  
PRYING OFF MY WEBBING--



--I'VE  
GOT  
YOU!

NO!



I SPENT  
ALL DAY  
HUNTING  
FOR YOU--

--JUST AS I  
SPENT THE  
PAST TWO  
YEARS  
DREAMING OF  
MY REVENGE!



IT MIGHT'VE  
BEEN CAPTAIN  
AMERICA  
WHO PUT ME  
IN JAIL THIS  
LAST TIME--

--BUT IT WAS  
YOU WHO FIRST  
GAVE ME GRIEF--

--AND IT'S  
YOU I'M  
GONNA  
DESTROY!

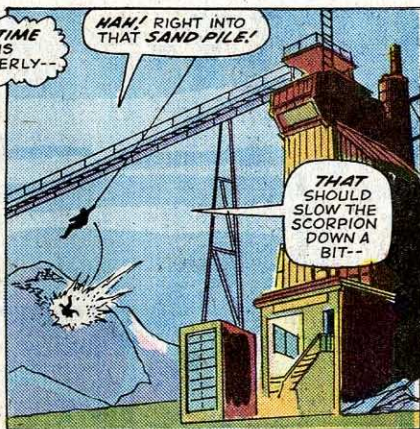


UHHHH!  
CAN'T TAKE  
MUCH MORE  
OF THIS--!

I'VE GOT TO  
DROP HIM--  
GET MY  
HEAD  
CLEARED--!

\*C.A.#152  
--LEN.









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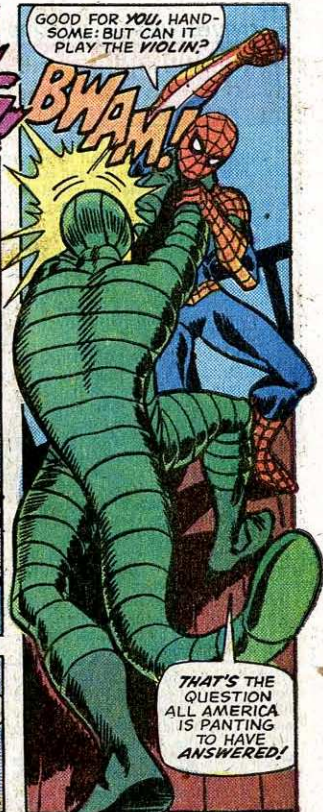








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## STAN LEE'S SOAPBOX

This is it! The recognition we've all been waiting for! You've read movie reviews, book reviews, record reviews, right? Well, now at last, the nation's top literary critics have begun reviewing comics—or, at least, a book about Marvel Comics! I know you're as anxious to read their verdict as I was, so without any further ado, here's the first batch of notices for the **ORIGINS OF MARVEL COMICS**—

Ray Bradbury, in the **LOS ANGELES TIMES**: "Stan Lee's new volume is the very stuff for you. It is, as he puts it, 'a pictorial tonic to relieve the awesome affliction that threatens us all: the endlessly spreading virus of too much reality in a world that is losing its heroes.' Stan's book is to me a better light bulb. Frivolous? Perhaps. Frightening? Sometimes. With hidden meanings. Stan Lee's comics are better than Lichtenstein can ever hope to be!" **THE DAILY ENTERPRISE-SUN**: "Comicbook heroes are making a comeback. Nowhere is that comeback put together so attractively as in this winner by Stan Lee. It's the best of the comic collections." **SAN**

**FRANCISCO EXAMINER**: "The name Stan Lee is known to millions of comic-book fans all over the world. Marvel Comics sell in dozens of countries at a rate of 75 million a year." **PLAYBOY**: "Very much fun. People have written graduate papers on just such themes, and for them—and all other true believers—we're heading for the newsstand." **CUE**: "These are fairy tales for older people. They are fun, like Vonnegut and Tolkien. The last place where you can recapture the fantasy—the wonder—" **BOOK-OF-THE-MONTH CLUB NEWS**: "A snappy new book. One of the good things about Lee's **ORIGINS** is that for each hero discussed he reproduces the subject's first adventure story along with a more recent episode." **WOMAN'S WEAR DAILY**: "Lee—might almost be a movie director using the storyboard approach." **FAMILY WEEKLY**: "Stan Lee is in 'big time' publishing." **THE PITT NEWS**: "This work—is integral to the development of each of the fictional characters created by Marvel. It is a genealogy, a bible. The greatest criticism of the book is that it is not enough." **BERGEN COUNTY RECORD**: "ORIGINS holds

one's interest—Lee's writing is as colorful as the book's reprints of historic back issues. What also holds the reader is its recounting of the feeling that went into the creation of the superheroes." **THE RUTGERS DAILY TARGUM**: "The one you've been waiting for. The one book you can't afford to miss!" **PHILADELPHIA BULLETIN**: "Stan Lee, guiding genius of 'Marvelmania' in comic books, has included some gloriously marvel-maniacal comics in this sampler. Even adults, especially gallery-goers, should enjoy the artistry of Marvel Comics books; far and away the leaders in their field." **CHICAGO NEWS**: "True believers, step right up!"

And that's only a sample of the hundreds that are pouring in! Who says comics aren't an idea whose time has come? Who says your blushin' Bullpen hasn't achieved the year's most stupendous literary breakthrough? Who says this isn't the Marvel Age of Comics? And before some wiseguy shouts "I says!", I'm cuttin' out— it's time to take a troll to tea!

Excelsior!

*Stan*

**ITEM!** What's that, Tigers? You say you've been silently scanning those lifting letters pages you've become so avidly addicted to while reading our titanic titles to these many Marvelous years, and you've yet to find the startling new **MARVEL VALUE STAMPS** we've been promising to toss at ya for the past few months? Well, don't fret. Fearless Ones, your eagle eyes aren't failing you—it's just that the ever-unpredictable inmates of your batty Marvel Bullpen have decided to go all out as usual in their quest to provide the most royally rapturous recreation possible for True Believers everywhere. When the now-legendary **SECOND SERIES** of MVStamps finally assaults your wide-open orbs in just a few short weeks, they will stun you, they will shock you, they will leave you utterly speechless—in for all your years as madcap Marvelites, you will never in your memory have seen the like of what we have in store for you! And remember, even though the concept is so daringly different, you'll still be able to treat yourself to the same glamorous goodies and more when all one hundred startling stamps are at last in your pulse-pounding possession! Truth to tell, we wouldn't do all this if we didn't love ya!

**ITEM!** Everyone here has heard the name **DAMON RUNYON**. He's the scintillating author whose singular view of the screwy city called New York has delighted the hearts of millions everywhere, and birthed such world-renowned productions as "Guys and

Dolls" and "Pocketful of Miracles." A genius, right? So who'd ever have thought that **TONY (The Tiger) ISABELLA**, bare-faced youth from Cleveland, would someday move to Fun City and directly into the penthouse apartment once owned by the illustrious Mr. Runyon himself. We won't say that this startling fact has had any sort of adverse effect on the Tigerish One, but we've noticed a disturbing tendency for names like "Sky Masterson" and "Apple Annie" to pop up in Tony's scripts of late. A subtle influence—or perhaps more? (Wow, what a strange idea—the **GHOST RIDER** scripted by a ghost writer!)

**ITEM!** Hey, hope you're one of the lucky ones who's been latching onto the minor masterpieces Judo **JIM STARLIN** has been turning out every sixty days on the all-new, all-improved **WARLOCK** strip. As far as we can tell, **STRANGE TALES** fanatics everywhere are flipping their collective corks over the spectacular Mr. Starlin's dynamic drawings (not to mention his sizzling scripting and capricious coloring). In fact, the only discouraging words we've heard at all thus far have come from a gregarious grey gargoyle called **The Golem**—and we suspect that he might be just a wee bit prejudiced! Also, let's not forget **Dynamic Dave COCKRUM**, whose fan dream of a lifetime came true when he was chosen to illustrate the equally-all-new, equally-all-improved adventures of the X-cruciatingly X-citing X-MEN, who are currently cawing in their brand-new **GIANT-SIZE** mag!

Who says this ain't the Marvel Age of Sensational Second Chances?

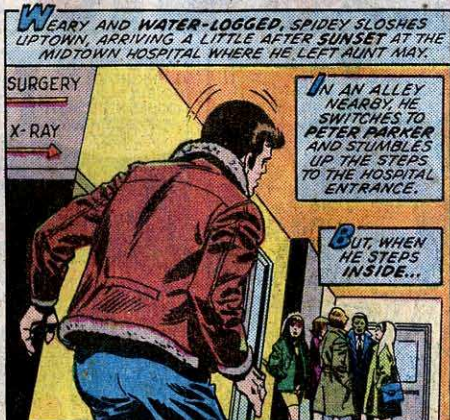
**ITEM!** And just so you don't think we're sitting on our slightly-wilted laurels, we're gonna let you in on a few searing secrets! Listen closely now... we're gonna whisper 'cause we don't want the competition to hear the names of our newest stars! They'll be popping up in their own spanking-new features in the next few months—and we want you to be prepared for 'em! So look out for **BLOODSTONE**—he stalks the shadowed lands WHERE MONSTERS DWELL! And the sinister **SCARECROW** will be waiting for you in the **DEAD OF NIGHT!** The mind-boggling **MODRED** the **MYSTIC** will be battling arcane forces in the back of **GIANT-SIZE WEREWOLF!** And lastly, prepare yourself for the coming of **SKULL THE SLAYER**, a character with a story-line so powerful, we haven't decided where we're gonna present it just yet. Hang in there, Pilgrim—the best is yet to come. (And if you have a few paltry shekels left over, you might want to pick up the first pulse-pounding issue of a little item called **GIANT-SIZE INVADERS!** It features the all-new adventures of **CAPTAIN AMERICA** and **BUCKY**, the savage **SUB-MARINER**, and the Original **HUMAN TORCH** and **TORO**, fighting for freedom in the torrid early days of World War Two! It's a concept so off-beat, you're just gonna have to love it! And on that note, we return you to your regularly-scheduled Marvel mag.



# SPIDER-MAN in THE TRAP







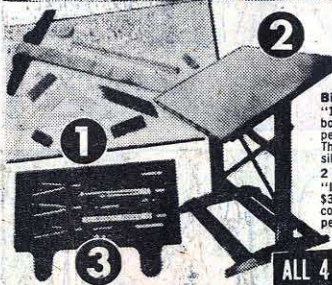






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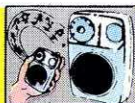
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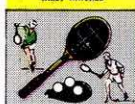
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