

SPIDER-MAN

MARVEL COMICS GROUP

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SCORPION--
YOU CAN'T--!

CAN'T I
WEB-HEAD?
JUST WATCH
ME!

ONE SECOND
MORE--AND THE
OLD LADY
DIES!

**WHEN STRIKES
THE SCORPION!**

IMPOSSIBLE?

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Brian Eastman

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FOR
THE
SUPER

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AFTER

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Add 2 or 3 inches to your arms, 4 or 5 inches to your chest — your rewards will be in direct proportion to your effort and accomplishments — nobody sets a limit to your success.

In the time it takes to complete this 12 lesson course, we can guarantee you a muscular foundation fantastic enough to be developed to your fullest potential!!! You can go far beyond mere "improvement" with the Advanced Training Techniques included in this course. We can give you the firm, rippling, muscular body of a physique star!!! Send in for our FREE COLORFUL BROCHURES TODAY (fantastic information about our course — loaded with unbelievable photographs). You won't regret it!!!

**INSTANTLY -
YOUR MUSCLES
WILL BEGIN
TO GROW!**

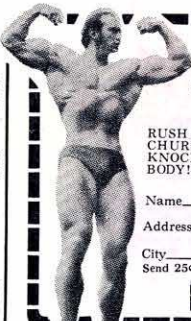
BEFORE

BE GREAT - BE SOMEBODY SPECIAL!

Improve your health, self-confidence and your outlook on life as you become more muscular. Regardless of your age, height or present build, we'll help you build a fabulous body. Thousands of people have taken this course with fantastic results — why not you? Whatever you look like today, we can improve on it. We guarantee it!!!

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- ☐ **SHOULDERS** — Get rid of those puny shoulders! Instead, fill your shirts with bulging muscles!
- ☐ **LEGS** — Put some muscle on those spindly legs! Muscular legs will give you extra power like you've never dreamed possible!
- ☐ **ABDOMEN** — Trim and hard — that's the way your abs should look. Get rid of your pot-belly. Improve your digestion, and get that washboard waist—all when you develop those abdominal muscles!



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AT THE HIDDEN HEADQUARTERS OF--

THE MAN: A RATHER BIZARRE
ARCH-CRIMINAL COMMONLY
CALLED-- THE JACKAL.

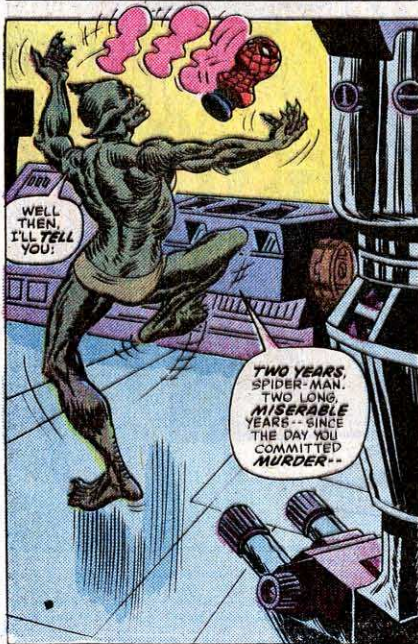
DO YOU
KNOW HOW
LONG I'VE WAITED
FOR THIS
OPPORTUNITY
WALL-CRAWLER?
HAVE YOU ANY
IDEA--



WHAT?
NO IDEA
AT ALL?

--HOW LONG I'VE
WATCHED YOU,
HOW LONG I'VE
BEEN **PLANNING**,
BIDDING MY TIME--

--TILL **PRECISELY**
THIS MOMENT, WHEN
I COULD BEGIN YOUR
DESTRUCTION?



WELL,
THEN,
I'LL
TELL
YOU.

TWO YEARS,
SPIDER-MAN.
TWO LONG,
MISERABLE
YEARS-- SINCE
THE DAY YOU
COMMITTED
MURDER--

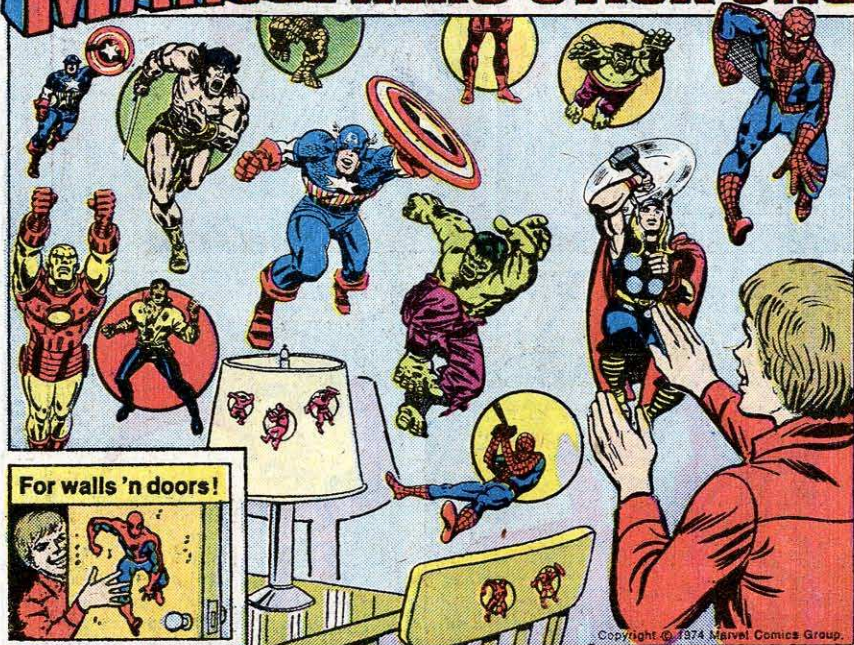


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DAY
THE
JACKAL
WAS
BORN!



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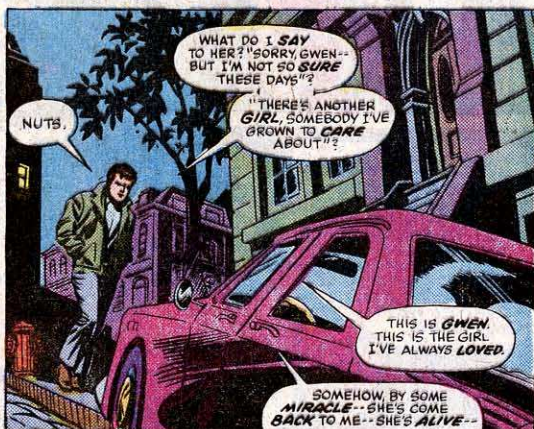
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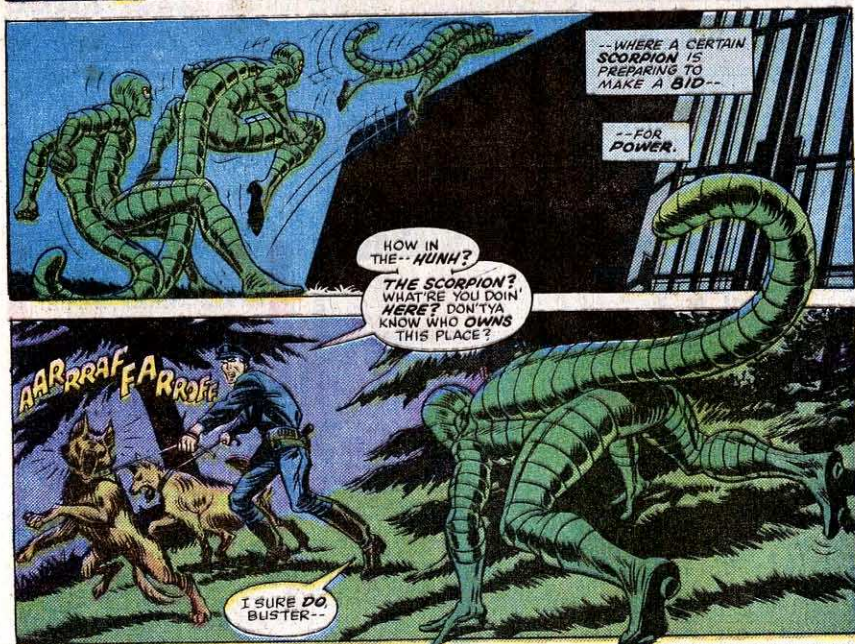
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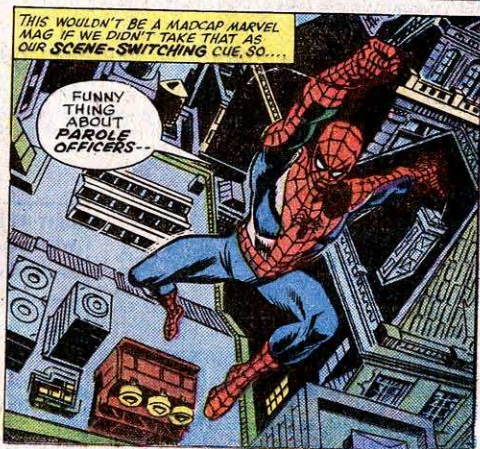
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MENTION
IT, OFFICER--



"I'M ALWAYS HAPPY TO HELP THE POLICE."

SO MUCH FOR
FINDING THE
STOLEN MONEY.

NOW HOW
DO I FIND
THE
SCORPION?

AFTER PONDERING SAID QUESTION FOR ALMOST AN HOUR, OUR ERSTWHILE HERO MOMENTARILY ABANDONS HIS SEARCH TO VISIT A CERTAIN ELDERLY RELATIVE STAYING IN A MIDTOWN HOSPITAL... THE IMMORTAL OLD WOMAN KNOWN AS AUNT MAY...



YOU SHOULDN'T
CONCERN YOURSELF
ABOUT ME, PETER.
DEAR, THE DOCTOR
SAYS I'LL BE
FINE.

IT WAS SIMPLY
THE SHOCK OF
SEENING GWEN
AGAIN--AFTER
THOSE RUMORS
OF HER
DEATH--

THEY WEREN'T
RUMORS,
AUNT MAY--



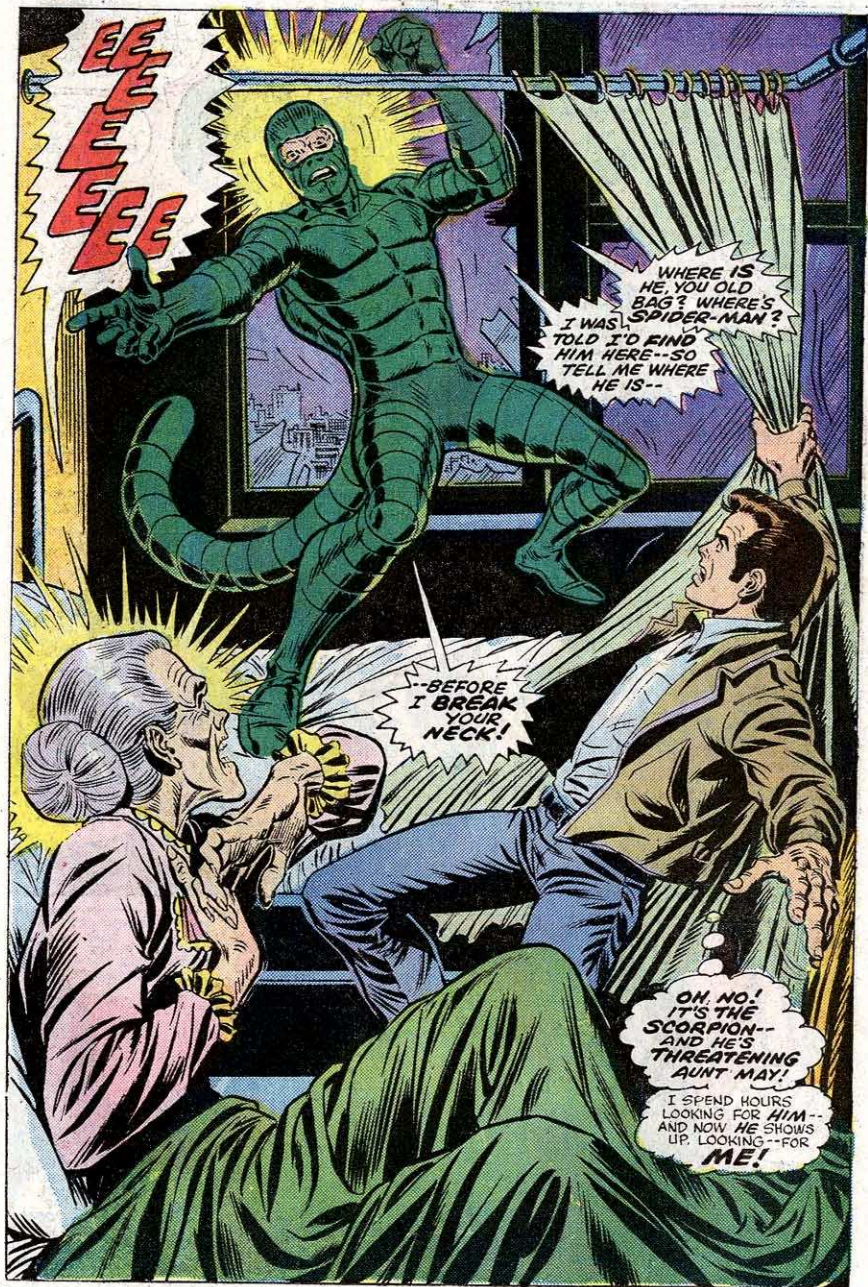
--BUT HOW CAN I
EXPLAIN THAT,
WHEN I DON'T
QUITE BELIEVE
IT MYSELF?

BECAUSE SHE
CAN'T ACCEPT WHAT
SHE SAW. AUNT
MAY HAS CREATED
A FANTASY--

--IN WHICH
GWEN HASN'T
RETURNED
FROM THE DEAD,
BUT SHE NEVER
REALLY DIED!

MAYBE I
SHOULD--HUNH?

PETER! THAT NOISE
FROM BEYOND THE
CURTAIN! WHAT--?



WHERE IS
HE, YOU OLD
BAG? WHERE'S
SPIDER-MAN?
I WAS
TOLD I'D FIND
HIM HERE--SO
TELL ME WHERE
HE IS--

--BEFORE
I BREAK
YOUR
NECK!

OH, NO!
IT'S THE
SCORPION--
AND HE'S
THREATENING
AUNT MAY!

I SPEND HOURS
LOOKING FOR HIM--
AND NOW HE SHOWS
UP, LOOKING--FOR
ME!



SHADUP KID-- YOU BOTHER ME!

OKAY, SWEETHEART: GIVE!

EITHER YOU TELL ME WHERE I FIND SPIDER-MAN, OR I'LL MAKE YOU A BRAND NEW SET OF DENTURES--THE HARD WAY!

PLEASE I-- I DON'T KNOW-- OH DEAR-- OH, GOODNESS--



SHADUP AND TALK, YA OLD FOOL.

YOU'VE GOT FIVE SECONDS BEFORE I--

BLAST! SHE'S FAINTED!

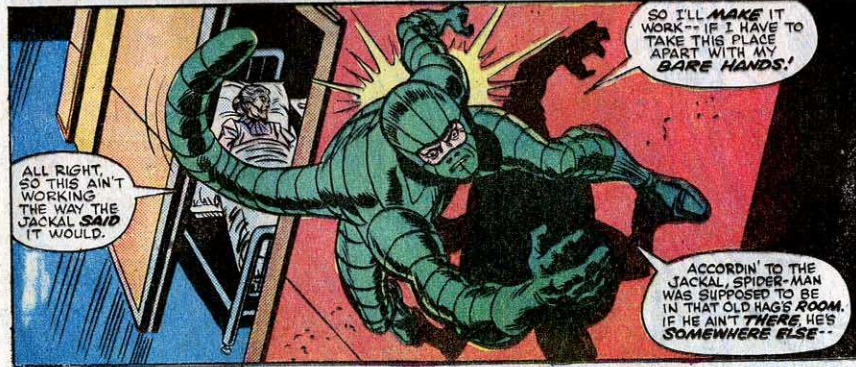
WHAT'LL I-- EH?



BONK!

STUPID PUNK.

MUST THINK HE'S A HERO OR SOMETHIN'.



ALL RIGHT, SO THIS AIN'T WORKING THE WAY THE JACKAL SAID IT WOULD.

SO I'LL MAKE IT WORK-- IF I HAVE TO TAKE THIS PLACE APART WITH MY BARE HANDS!

ACCORDIN' TO THE JACKAL, SPIDER-MAN WAS SUPPOSED TO BE IN THAT OLD HAG'S ROOM. IF HE AIN'T THERE, HE'S SOMEWHERE ELSE--



THE SPIDER'S WEB

SEND YOUR LETTERS TO:

THE MARVEL COMICS GROUP, SIXTH FLOOR 575 MADISON AV., NEW YORK, N. Y. 10022

Dear Marvel,

The Jackal is Jasper Sitwell.

Richard J. Rockman
744 West Diamond Avenue
Hazleton, PA 18201

Uh, where were we? Oh yeah, just about to open this month's episode of "The Spider's Web" with a captivating letter sure to provoke discussion on this page in the months to come...that's where we were.

Dear Gerry,

After reading SPIDER-MAN #143, an interesting thought occurred to me. Is Petey Spider-Man because he didn't stop that thief in the TV building and in effect caused Uncle Ben's death, or is Petey Spider-Man because he enjoys it?

I'm serious.

I noticed on page 7, Spidey "webs it" to college. Can't he use public transportation? Peter Parker's motivation for being a superhero has blurred over the years as he's matured. Please redefine it.

The more I ponder this question, the more I think the Parker/Spider-Man relationship is sado-masochistic. I'm still serious. Peter is almost flunking out of college, his girlfriend has died, his apartment was blown up, his entire life has been messed up in more ways than one by his alter-ego, yet he continues to be a super hero.

Yes, I know that in this world, "With great power there must also come—great Responsibility" but is there no limit??

Who is Peter Parker?

Who is Spider-Man?

And, most important, why are they the same person?

Ken Wolf
(no address given)

FLASH!!

This just came in over the wire! Mary Jane doesn't know what color Pete's eyes are (or else Gerry doesn't). In issue #141, page 11, panel 1: "Hello there, Brown Eyes." In #143, page 17, panel 4: "What's funny, Blue-Eyes?" Pete's eyes were blue in #142 but who knows what color they were in #141. He seemed to have them closed all through the story. I don't blame you Pete, I wouldn't have wanted to be seen in that story either.

Lon Wilfe
(no address given)

Certainly, Lon, you know of our widely-acclaimed proclivity toward the magnificently generous dispensation of those much-coveted little items, No-Prizes (namely, we hoard the non-existent things like jealous misers).

And here we were about to bestow one upon you—and ya didn't include yer return address. Now what kinda way is that to treat yer befuddled bullpen? Looks like you win—and lose! Better luck next time, Lon.

Dear Marvel,

Issue #143 contained an interesting letters page. I agree with Dan Gubbin that your storylines should highlight Peter Parker's spider-powers. Also, like Dan, I enjoy reading about Peter Parker's personal life and the interplay of the supporting characters. In conjunction with this last point, I vote that Peter Parker remain in college, because it provides such an available and adaptable background situation in which the sub-plots in SPIDER-MAN can take place. I won't be disappointed, however, if you have Peter Parker graduate as long as you maintain the interaction between Peter Parker and the supporting characters.

Adrian Reed
Austin, TX

Dear Folks,

Worry no longer! Here is the final solution to the Peter Parker college graduation dilemma! Probably the most realistic solution (particularly considering the way Pete must be piling up incompletes) is to have him "take a year off." As almost anyone on the college scene can testify, this euphemistic term can describe any time period from an actual year to a half-century! And on a "leave of absence," Pete *could* theoretically—return to school at some late date! Besides, the emotional problems provided by Aunt May's response to Peter's decision in the matter could make for fun plot complications!

Meloney Crawford
16 Caroline Street S
Saratoga Springs, NY 12866

It hadda happen, someone hadda come up with yet another way to confuse us and escalate this dialogue from an essentially two-sided discussion to one with three reasonable solutions. Waddaya say, Spidey-people?

We know what we say, and that's a hearty "cheerio" and we'll see ya back here—later. Meanwhile remember to keep on keepin' on!



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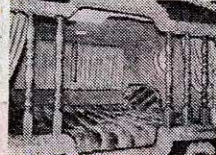
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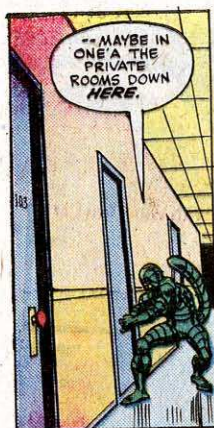


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STAN LEE'S SOAPBOX

Hey, troops, remember the old Classics Comics mags? Remember how everyone loved those comic book versions of the world's greatest stories? Remember what a great help they were with school book reports? Well, ol' Marvel remembers, too. And that's why we're real excited to announce that your bleary-eyed Bullpen has done it again. We're bringing the classics back to life! We're starting a whole new series of 50¢ magazines, a full 48 pages per issue—with no ads! We expect Marvel's new line of classics to be the biggest thing since Aunt May's face lift, so watch for 'em, hear? There'll be more announcements coming your way elsewhere in our mags, so you've no excuse for missing 'em! Meanwhile, I winged my way to Penn State U. a few weeks ago to deliver some culture and erudition in the form of a liltin' lecture, and found the campus plastered with the word "blexcroid." No one would tell me what it meant unless I gave Penn State a plug here in the Soapbox. Well, you know me. I yield to no pressure! I don't have to mention Penn State, I'll bet we have enough Believers out there who'll tell me what blexcroid means without me mentioning Penn State. So there ya are, Penn State—I didn't mention you! Nyahhh! And now, the announcement you've all been waiting for. At least, some of you have been waiting. Well, at any rate, my editor at Simon & Schuster has been waiting. Next ish, here in this column, I'll reveal the long-awaited secret of which Marvel masterworks will be featured in the long-awaited sequel to the ORIGINS OF MARVEL COMICS! No, no, don't get too emotional about it—restrain those tears of joy and gratitude—you should be used to our beneficence by now. Or, as All-Father Odin might say, "The moment of departure hath arrived. Yea, verily, 'tis time to take a troll to lunch!"

Excelsior!

Stan

One, those days have not yet passed! Just this week (that's Marvel Standard Time, O Keeper of the Flame, not to be confused with the week when you finally read these wondrous words), GEORGE PAL, producer of such well-remembered and deeply-cherished Science Fiction films as *The Time Machine* and *War of the Worlds*, dropped by 575 Madison Avenue to let us in on the behind-the-scenes scoop of what many say may be his greatest epic—DOC SAVAGE, MAN OF BRONZE! While he was here, Our Pal George got the chance to feast his eyes upon Big JOHN BUSCEMA's pulse-pounding pencils for the fifty-page extravaganza slated for the first issue of the Bronze Man's brand-new, bombastic black-and-white mag coming your way within weeks. (And just so you don't think our cavortin' color mags are being ignominiously ignored, we'll just casually hint that you should keep a close watch at your local newsstand in the days to come so you won't be one of the unfortunate few to miss picking up our one-shot GIANT-SIZE DOC SAVAGE blockbuster. A word to the wise and all that.) Also, for those of you aching to know more about the man who is about to help make DOC SAVAGE a household word, be sure to catch the intricately in-depth interview with George Pal conducted by Cheerful CHRIS CLAREMONT and Sunny JIM HARMON in the pages of the aforementioned black-and-white blockbuster. 'Tis a pleasure not to be missed!

ITEM! Hey, have you caught the latest masterpiece produced by our own Happy HERB TRIMPE? The Hunking One, anxious to get his talented hands on a war mag ever since the late lamented Phantom Eagle flew his final mission just a few years gone (except, of course, for our way-out World War One Ace's off-beat guest-shot in GHOST RIDER #12, still on sale if you're lucky), leaped at the chance to draw the adventures of John Kowalski, who lives again and dies again in every issue of WAR IS HELL! The only problem that presents is that Cheerful CHRIS CLAREMONT is so awed by Herb's pencilling that he's afraid to cover up any of the art with his captivating captions—and wondrous word balloons! Say—would any of you out there be interested in a war mag without sound effects? We didn't think so.

ITEM! And speaking of superb pencillers who are outrageously enthusiastic about their latest art assignments, how about Buffalo BOB BROWN, Daredevil demon, who has just landed the pencilling chores (Gee, wonder why we keep calling these things we'd do for free "chores"? on MARVEL TWO-

IN-ONE, thus assuming the honor of drawing bashful, blue-eyed Benjamin J. Grimm on a bi-monthly basis. We've never seen anybody enjoy sketching an overgrown pile of lumpy orange rocks more!

ITEM! But before our riotous writers start getting depressed over the fact we haven't devoted a Bullpen Item entirely to them in quite a while, we'd better mention that STEVE (Baby) GERBER, Man-Thing maven, has just taken over the editorial reins of CRAZY magazine from Marvelous MARV WOLFMAN, who also passed Steve two Alka Seltzers and a bottle of aspirin. Good Luck, Steve—you may need it! Marvelous Marv, by the way, will finally put to use all the art training he gained teaching Junior High School, when he takes brush in hand and actually colors the debut issue of his brainchild, SKULL THE SLAYER! On the short side, Dauntless DON MCGREGOR will soon be scripting the adventures of one Luke Cage, POWER MAN! Granted, Don's sure excited about the project, but we still think that big iron chain he's started wearing around his waist will really hamper him when softball season rolls around again. (And just so Cheerful CHRIS WHAT'S-HIS-NAME doesn't get a swelled head from being mentioned so many times this month, we'll just whisper that he's the newest scribe of MARVEL PREMIERE's Martial Arts sensation, IRON FIST! There! If that doesn't get those unruly writers off our backs, we don't know what will!

ITEM! FOOOM lives? FOOOM lives! That's right, Faithful Ones—contrary to raucous rumor, your very own fabulous fan club is still very much alive and well. For a mere \$2.50, you will receive oodles of stunning stick-ons, a magnificent full-color poster, four fantastic issues of FOOOM's far-out fan magazine, and a golden membership card entitling you to all rights and privileges Marveldom can manage!

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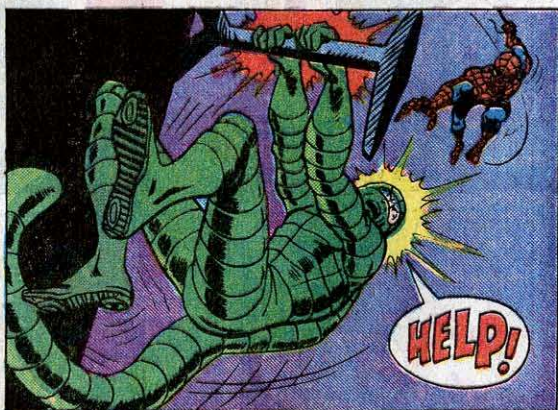




THE CHRYSLER BUILDING? AREN'T GUYS WITH KING KONG FIXATIONS SUPPOSED TO CLIMB THE EMPIRE STATE--?

AH, WELL. EACH TO HIS OWN.

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