

SPIDER-MAN

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the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN



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AND THE PUNISHER
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Stan Lee
PRESENTS: **THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN™**

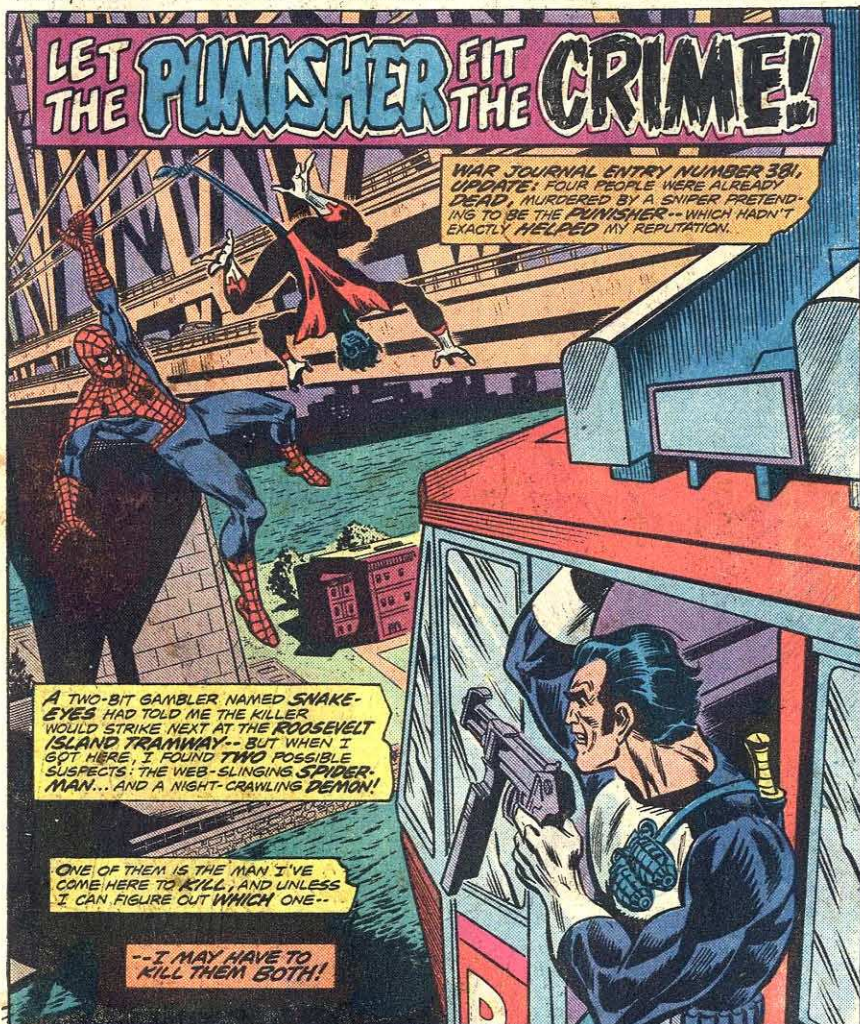
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LETTERER



LET THE PUNISHER FIT THE CRIME!

WAR JOURNAL ENTRY NUMBER 381,
UPDATE: FOUR PEOPLE WERE ALREADY
DEAD, MURDERED BY A SNIPER PRETEND-
ING TO BE THE PUNISHER-- WHICH HADN'T
EXACTLY HELPED MY REPUTATION.

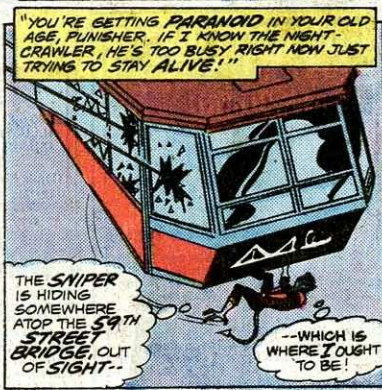
A TWO-BIT GAMBLER NAMED SNAKE-
EYES HAD TOLD ME THE KILLER
WOULD STRIKE NEXT AT THE ROOSEVELT
ISLAND TRAMWAY-- BUT WHEN I
GOT HERE, I FOUND TWO POSSIBLE
SUSPECTS: THE WEB-SLINGING SPIDER-
MAN... AND A NIGHT-CRAWLING DEMON!

ONE OF THEM IS THE MAN I'VE
COME HERE TO KILL, AND UNLESS
I CAN FIGURE OUT WHICH ONE--

--I MAY HAVE TO
KILL THEM BOTH!

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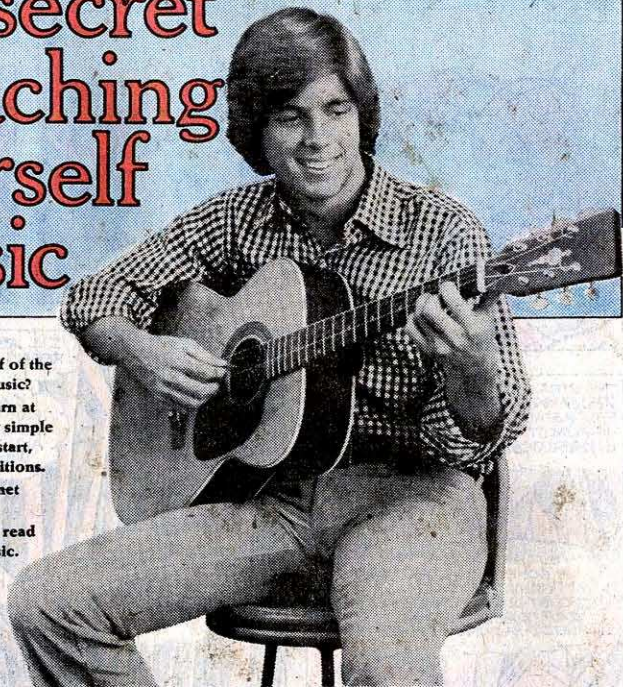
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THANK YOU
FOR NAILING
ME TO THE
BULLSEYE,
OL' BUDDY!

JUST KEEP YOUR
HEAD DOWN, WALL-
CRAWLER--AND YOU
WON'T LOSE IT!



HEY--THE
SHOOTING'S
STOPPED!

AND I SEE
YOU'VE BOTH
COME THRU
THE BARRAGE
IN ONE PIECE!

YOU! GET
IN HERE, FORK-
TAIL! I HAVE A FEW
QUESTIONS TO ASK
YOU ABOUT...



WHAT--?? H-HE
DISAPPEARED!

UH-HUH
SURE IS
DISCON-
CERTING,
AIN'T IT?

BAM!



THE STRAIN OF
TELEPORTING
THIS DISTANCE
IS ALMOST
UNBEARABLE--

-- BUT AFTER ALL
I'VE GONE THRU TO PROTECT
MY ANONYMITY TONIGHT, *
I JUST COULDN'T RISK BEING
CAPTURED BY THAT
PISTOL-FACKING PUNISHER!

* DISPLAYED IN ALL
ITS DRAMATIC DETAIL
LAST ISH. -- LEN



I'LL REST HERE UNTIL I
REGAIN MY STRENGTH,
AND THEN...

LIEBER GOTT!
THERE IS THE ASSASSIN,
MAKING GOOD HIS ESCAPE--
AND I AM STILL FAR TOO
WEAK TO PURSUE HIM!

I CAN ONLY
HOPE THAT SPIDER-
MAN OR THE
PUNISHER HAVE
SPOTTED HIM AS
WELL!



UNFORTUNATELY...

WELL, I'M GLAD
WE CLEARED
THE AIR ABOUT
THAT LITTLE
MISUNDER-
STANDING--

-- BUT IF I
DIDN'T KILL THOSE
FOUR PEOPLE, AND
YOU DIDN'T KILL
THEM, AND NIGHT-
CRAWLER DIDN'T
DO IT--WHO DID?

AND WHY?



THOSE ARE QUESTIONS
WE'LL HAVE TO
ANSWER AS WE
GO ALONG, MY
FRIEND.

YOU'VE EARNED YOUR-
SELF A PLACE
IN THIS OPERATION
IF YOU WANT IT,
WEBHEAD.

"WE"?

TRY
KEEPING
ME AWAY.

WAR JOURNAL ENTRY NUMBER 392: THE TRAMCAR WAS A TOTAL LOSS-- A BULLET-RIDDLED RELIC THAT, MINUTES BEFORE, HAD BEEN THE BIG APPLE'S PROUDEST NEW TOURIST TRAP.

SOME PEOPLE WOULD BE VERY LEARY ABOUT TAKING THE TRAMWAY FOR THE NEXT FEW DAYS. OTHERS WOULD FLOCK TO IT IN CURIOUS DRIVES.

NEW YORK CITY IS A SUMMER CIRCUS.

I'D LEFT THE WAR-WAGON SITTING IN THE VERY SHADOW OF THE TRAMWAY TERMINAL ON ROOSEVELT ISLAND PROPER.

IT WAS STILL WAITING PATIENTLY WHEN SPIDER-MAN AND I ARRIVED.

DON'T KNOW WHY THIS BATTERED VAN IS SO IMPORTANT TO YOU, PAL.

BY NOW, THIS AREA MUST BE SWARMING WITH POLICE! GETTING PAST THEM IN THIS BUGGY IS GONNA BE JUST THIS SIDE OF IMPOSSIBLE!

I KNOW EXACTLY HOW DIFFICULT IT'S LIKELY TO BE, WALL-CRAWLER--

--BUT I'VE LEARNED TO SURVIVE ON THE BATTLEFIELD BY ONLY CROSSING ONE BRIDGE AT A TIME!



NOT AS MUCH A PROBLEM AS YOU MIGHT THINK, WEB-SLINGER! THIS BABY IS ESPECIALLY REINFORCED!

IT WOULD TAKE A MULTI-TON TANK TO STOP US-- AND MAYBE NOT EVEN THAT!

I'LL TAKE YOUR WORD FOR IT, FELLA!

I TRIGGERED THE SPECIAL SMOKE-SCREENS AND ELUDED MY PURSUERS AS SPIDER-MAN AND I FORMULATED OUR BATTLE PLAN.

THEN THE WEB-SLINGER TOOK HIS LEAVE.

SEE YOU TOMORROW, CHUM. TRY NOT TO GET KILLED BEFORE THEN.

WAR JOURNAL ENTRY NUMBER 392-- CONCLUSION: SPIDER-MAN DIDN'T REALLY SMILE AT HIS LITTLE JOKE. NEITHER DID I.

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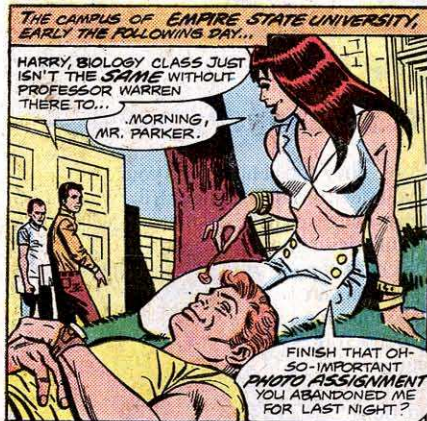
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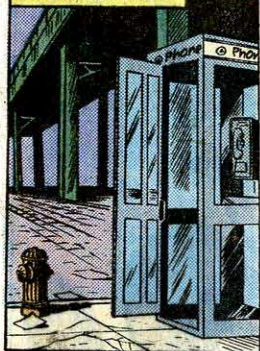
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AND ON THAT ODLY-QMIN-
OUS NOTE, LET'S JUMP
AHEAD TWELVE HOURS, AND
FOCUS OUR ATTENTION ON A
CERTAIN GARBAGE-STRENN
CORNER ON MANHATTAN'S
UPPER WEST SIDE--



--AS A SLIGHTLY-
BATTERED TELE-
PHONE CHIMES
FORTH ITS MELAN-
CHOLY MATING
CALL--



--AND OUR
STARTLING
SAGA PRE-
PARES TO
SHIFT INTO
HIGH GEAR!



CAUTIOUS LITTLE DEVIL,
THAT PUNISHER-- BUT I
GUESS I REALLY CAN'T
BLAME HIM.

BATTLING CRIME AND
INJUSTICE IS ONLY
A PASTIME FOR ME.



I DON'T EVEN PRETEND TO
UNDERSTAND WHAT MAKES HIM
TICK-- WHY HE FEELS THIS INSANE
COMPULSION TO MAKE WAR
ON THE UNDERWORLD--

--BUT THEN, WHO
AM I TO THROW
STONES?



IT'S OBVIOUS
HE HAS HIS
REASONS--

--AND FRANKLY,
I'D RATHER HAVE
HIM BESIDE ME--



--THAN
AGAINST
ME!



EVENING,
ACE. HOPE
YOU DON'T
MIND MY
DROPPING IN
THIS WAY.

YOU'RE THIRTY
SECONDS LATE,
WALL-CRAWLER.
NOW LET'S MOVE!



WAR JOURNAL ENTRY
NUMBER 383:

ENGINE COMPANY #35 WAS GOING
DOWN FOR THE THIRD TIME-- BUT
THE RESIDENTS OF THIS EAST SIDE
NEIGHBORHOOD WEREN'T GOING TO
LET IT SINK WITHOUT A FIGHT.

THEY'D ORGANIZED A
BLOCK PARTY TO
HELP RALLY PUBLIC
SUPPORT FOR THEIR
CAUSE.



IT HAD COST A LOT
OF MONEY AND A LOT
OF PAIN FOR ME TO
LEARN THAT THE PSEUDO-
PUNISHER WAS PLANNING
TO STRIKE HERE NEXT.



IF I HAD MY WAY,
IT WOULD BE THE
LAST TIME HE
STRUCK ANYWHERE!



IF I DIDN'T KNOW
BETTER, I'D SWEAR
THE PUNISHER HAD
TAKEN THE EASY
JOB FOR HIMSELF!



OF COURSE, I IMAGINE
I AM MORE QUALIFIED
TO SCOUT AMONG THE
ROOFTOPS, WHILE
HE CHECKS THE
STREETS AND
ALLEYWAYS.

NOW
IF I
ONLY HAD
SOME SMALL
IDEA WHAT
I'M SUPPOSED
TO BE LOOKING
FOR...



YEAH, YOU'D
BETTER TELL
THE BOSS,
TONY...

I DON'T KNOW IF THE
PUNISHER IS HERE OR
NOT, BUT THAT SPIDER-
MAN FREAK IS ALL
OVER THE PLACE!



MAYBE YOU'D BETTER
SEND A FEW OF THE
BOYS OVER HERE
TO HELP...



BENNY, WHAT'S
WRONG?

HEY--
BENNY?

BENNY?





**WAR JOURNAL ENTRY
NUMBER 384:** THE MOOD ON
THE STREET TURNED FROM ONE
OF **SAFETY AND MERRIMENT**
TO ONE OF **STUNNED CONFU-**
SION WITH **UNSETTLING SUDDEN-**
NESS.



THE BRIGHT BRASS BAND
WHICH, MOMENTS BEFORE, HAD
BEEN **LOST** IN MUSICAL
RAPTURE, STOPPED PLAYING
IN **MID-NOTE--**



--AND THE MULLING CROWD
FROZE IN PLACE, LIKE CHAR-
ACTERS **PAINTED** ON CANVAS--



--FOR A STARTLING
NEW ELEMENT HAD
BEEN ADDED TO THE
SCENERY.



PUNISHER? HEY--
PUNISHER!!

ARE YOU
OUT THERE,
MISTER?

I GOT YER PARTNER,
PUNISHER--BUT KNOWIN'
YOU, I'M SURE YA CAN
ALREADY **SEE** THAT!



YOU PROB'LY DON'T
REMEMBER ME,
PUNISHER--BUT I
REMEMBER YOU!!

BUT I'M NOT A PUNK
NO MORE, PUNISHER!
THESE DAYS THEY
CALL ME--

JIGSAW!





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AND THAT'S WHEN IT ALL HIT THE FAN!



ALL DAY I'VE FOLLOWED THE PUNISHER, HOPING HE MIGHT LEAD ME TO THE MAN WHO MURDERED MY FRIEND ERIC HOFFMAN!*

*EXPLAINED LAST ISH. --LEN.

WHEN HE AND SPIDER-MAN BEGAN SCOUTING THE NEIGHBORHOOD, I SUBBED ONE OF JIGSAW'S MEN AND PUT ON HIS DISGUISE!*



I THOUGHT I'D PLAY A WAITING GAME UNTIL I WAS CERTAIN OF WHAT I SHOULD DO--

--AND NOW I KNOW!

*CHECK PAGE 15, PANEL 7, IF YOU DON'T BELIEVE US. --LEN AGAIN.



THE TIME HAS COME FOR NIGHTCRAWLER TO JOIN THE FRAY!!

HOLY JUMPIN' JOE! IT'S A--A MONSTER!!

NO, JIGSAW--IT IS YOU WHO ARE THE MONSTER...



...FOR COLDLY THREATENING THE LIVES OF HELPLESS PEOPLE!

WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU MUGS? WHY DON'T YA BLOW THIS FREAK AWAY?



FORGET THAT, CREEP JIGSAW! I'VE SPOTTED THE GUY YOU REALLY WANT!

I'VE FINALLY FOUND THE PUNISHER!!



BUT FINDING ME, PUNK, AND FINISHING ME ARE TWO ENTIRELY DIFFERENT THINGS!

WAR JOURNAL ENTRY NUMBER 385--BATTLE REPORT:

SPAK-AR!



TO AVOID INJURING ANY BYSTANDERS, MY RIFLE WAS LOADED WITH RUBBER BULLETS.

BLIND-UP-AH!



THOSE, AND THE SPECIAL GAS GRENADES I'D CONCOCTED WERE NOT EXACTLY MY REGULAR STYLE--



--BUT THEY WERE STILL EFFECTIVE NONETHELESS.

WHUMP!



JIGSAW'S MEN WERE DOWN, BUT NOT OUT.



THROW THE GUN AWAY, PUNK--

BLIND-UP-AH!

--BEFORE I THROW YOU AWAY!



SPAK-AR!

IT WAS A SITUATION I INTENDED TO RECTIFY!



IT WAS ABOUT THEN THAT SPIDER-MAN REGAINED CONSCIOUSNESS.

EH? THAT'S NIGHTCRAWLER... GETTING CREAMED BY ONE OF THE GREAT UGLIES OF OUR TIME!

I...I DON'T KNOW EXACTLY WHAT'S GOING ON AROUND HERE...



SPINK!

SPANG!

SPING!

...BUT THIS LOOKS LIKE A JOB FOR-- SPIDER-MAN!

GEE--THAT'S NOT A BAD LINE.

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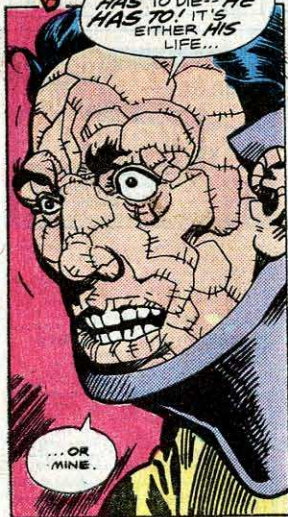
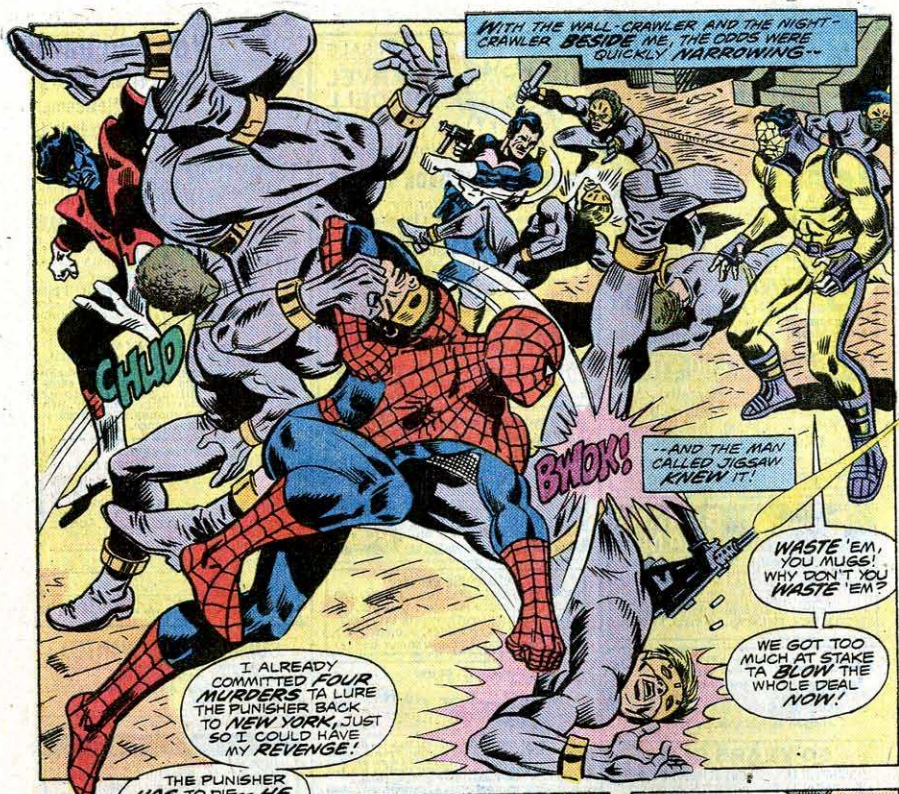
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STAN LEE'S SOAPBOX

I never thought it would happen—but it did! Only a mixed-up outfit like Marvel would have to worry about being too successful! Wouldja believe we've been getting all kinds of mail from True Believers everywhere complaining that our mags are selling out too fast—they seem to be gone by the time Marvel'dom Assembled can reach the newstands! In fact, one really serious new problem is the hoarders who buy all the copies of a new issue as soon as it appears, intending to hold onto the copies and sell them later at a big profit. Some of the letters we receive even blame us for this unfair practice—but honest gang, Marvel has nothing to do with it. We have absolutely no way of controlling what happens to our books as soon as they leave the printing plant. In fact, if we want to pick up a few extra copies of THE ETERNALS, or HOWARD THE DUCK, or any other Marvel master-works, we have as much trouble getting them as you do! The only way to beat the game is to subscribe—that way you're sure of getting every issue you want, and getting it on time, at the right price, and now mailed crisp and flat to keep 'em neat among your Rembrandts and Picassos. But now—on to heavier stuff. You've probably heard about the great new comicbook indexes being produced by our ol' Canadian cawtor, George Olshesky. But unless you've seen 'em for yourself, you can't possibly imagine how really impressive they are. The first one is the Marvel Comics Index of The Amazing Spider-Man, showing every cover printed from issue #1 right up to #151, plus the Giant-Size and Special Issues as well. It tells who wrote, drew, edited, and lettered every story as well as listing the main villain and any other cogent info. Printed on heavy, expensive paper stock with a magnificent cover, this first Index ish sells for \$3.95 and is available at most stores that specialize in comicbooks; or write to G&T Enterprises Ltd., P.O. Box 127, Station "T", Toronto, Ontario, Canada M6B 3Z9 for full details. Try to remember "Generous George" Olshesky, 'cause he and I are working on a brand new project that'll tingle your toenails when you hear about it! But we're keeping it under our beanies for a few more months—after all, you're only human; how much wonderment can you bear in one sweet-talkin' Soapbox?! So, till I collar you again next ish, nous verrons ce que nous verrons!

Excelsior!

Stan

ITEM! Let's start with something long overdue, namely a warm welcome aboard to hitherto unheralded newcomers to the Bullpen. So say hello to "Kuddly KAREN" DOUGHERTY, demon letterer, "Nuff Said NELSON" YOMTOV, past master at pasting up the titles, balloons, and art we're often rearranging on our mixed-up pages, and "Wandering WARREN" STOROB, who makes the many photostatic copies required of those self-same pages for the production of our books. Another hi to "Lilting LINDA" TAXEL, new assistant to Vice President SOL BRODSKY, and to "Dandy MICHAEL" SANDY, who's stepping in to keep things moving in our Coloring Department. Nice folks all, and worthy additions to the collective craziness that's Merry Marvel.

ITEM! Like previous summer months, August is TREASURY EDITION time. What can we lay on you after last month's awesome, all-original adaptation of 2001: A SPACE ODYSSEY (A few copies of which may still be available for the slowpokes among you, if you stop hesitating and start hurrying to your local magazine rack)? Well, one of our best, actually. It's a return engagement with the FANTASTIC FOUR, and this time around we focus on their most famous confrontations with such fearsome foes as DR. DOOM, SUB-MARINER, and the FRIGHTFUL FOUR. The selections span a decade of "the world's greatest comic magazine" and offer proof—as if it's really needed—why that particular cover blurb is anything but hyperbole. And wait till you see all that history-making artwork in the larger, clearer, eye-popping size! You may just be as proud to own this Treasury as we are to produce it.

ITEM! Speaking of pride, members of the Bullpen softball team have been parading the halls with puffed out chests and cheshire cat grins after a hard earned 7 to 5 triumph over Franklin Watts in our publishers league. Coming on top of a 15 to 14 squeaker with a local area comics fan team, our demons of the diamonds' expectations for the future have never been higher. (Okay, people, now will you get out of the cheering section and back to the drawing board?)

ITEM! One other sports note before we head for the showers. FANTASTIC FOUR and AVENGERS inker extraordinaire, JOE SINNOTT tells us that in the Saugerties NY Athletic Association's teen basketball league, his son MARK's team not only won the championship, but Mark was voted the league's most valuable player as well. Congratulations to you and your teammates, Mark! Naturally, everyone will probably credit such terrific success to sheer talent, ability, and hard work, but we'd like to think that those Marvel t-shirts Mark and company have been sporting had something to do with it!

ITEM! Bruce Lee fans are in for a treat this month. "Joyful JOHN" WARNER and "Reliable RALPH" MACCHIO of our black and white department have come up with a special issue of DEADLY HANDS OF KUNG FU that gives you cover-to-cover coverage of the master martial artist. Highlighting the book will be a comic art adaptation of Lee's life. Written by John, drawn by JOE STATON, and inked by THE TRIBE, this 36 page extravaganza represents an unusual departure in use of the graphic story and could well become a comics milestone. Whether you're into movies, martial arts, or Marvel master-works, this one is worth your while.

ITEM! If you find yourself huffing and puffing a bit after running for some of the titles we've been touting, could be you're in need of one of our special projects being done in collaboration with Simon and Schuster (The book publishing folks who, along with a man named STAN, brought you ORIGINS OF MARVEL AND SON OF ORIGINS). It's called THE MIGHTY MARVEL STRENGTH AND FITNESS BOOK, and if you look around the page, we should have a picture of it for you.



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ITEM! Hey, no more items this time out! Catch you next month, same time, same page.

Stan Lee
PRESENTS:

ARCHIE GOODWIN
Editor

JIM SHOOTER
Associate Editor

ROGER SLIFER, SCOTT EDELMAN, ROGER STERN
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