

SPIDER-MAN

MARVEL® COMICS GROUP

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# the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN

IF THE  
**LIZARD**  
DOESN'T GET  
YOU, INSECT--

THEN  
**STEGRON**  
WILL!!!



IT'S A HOLIDAY HOLOCAUST! WE CALL IT...  
THE WAR  
OF THE **REPTILE-MEN!**  
--AND SPIDEY IS CAUGHT IN THE MIDDLE!

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

LEN WEIN WRITER/EDITOR ROSS ANDRU ILLUSTRATOR MIKE ESPOSITO INKER GLYNIS WEIN: COLORIST  
JOE ROSEN: LETTERER

# WAR OF THE REPTILE-MEN!



MAN, SOME CHRISTMAS, *THIS* IS GONNA BE! THE THREAT OF *STEGRON THE DINOSAUR MAN* IS HANGING OVER THE CITY LIKE A BAD CASE OF *SMOG*--

--AND IT LOOKS LIKE IT'S UP TO *YOURS TRULY* TO STOP HIM!

WHY AREN'T THE *AVENGERS* EVER HOME WHEN YOU *NEED* THEM?

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AH WELL, I GUESS SOME OF US ARE JUST LUCKIER THAN OTHERS--

--WHICH IS WHY I'M PAYING THIS LITTLE CALL ON DR. CURTIS CONNORS!



VINCENT STEGRON USED TO BE THE DOC'S LAB ASSISTANT, SO IF ANYONE CAN HELP ME NAB THAT DINOSAUR MAN, IT'S... HUH?



MY SPIDER-SENSE--TINGLING TO BEAT THE BAND!

THERE'S SOMETHING WRONG IN CONNORS' APARTMENT-- BUT WHAT?



CURSE YOU, WALL-CRAWLER-- WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?

THE LIZARD?!!?

CRIPES! THAT'S THE ONE THING I NEVER CONSIDERED!



FOOL! YOU DON'T STAND A CHANCE OF DEFEATING ME!

SWELL-- THAT'S ALL I NEEDED!

LIZZY IS THE ONE VILLAIN I CAN NEVER USE MY FULL POWER AGAINST--



--BECAUSE WHATEVER HAPPENS TO HIM ALSO HAPPENS TO CURT CONNORS!

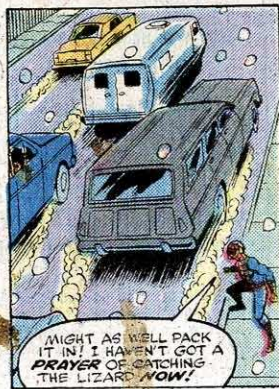
GOT TO USE MY WEBBING TO BREAK OUR FALL BEFORE...



OH NO! WHO'S THE BRIGHT-EYED IDIOT WHO PUT THIS STUPID SWING UNDER US?

KRRIPPI!!







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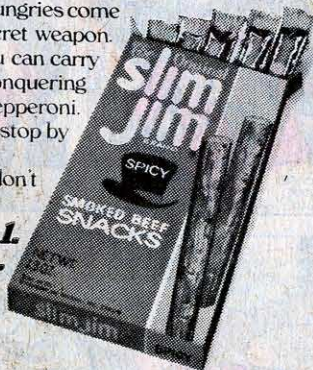
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YES...OF COURSE...  
**FORGIVE ME, I'LL  
DO MY BEST.**

WE... WE HAD  
JUST RETURNED  
FROM **CHRIST-  
MAS SHOPPING**.  
BILLY AND I  
WHEN THERE  
WAS THIS  
**KNOCK AT  
THE DOOR.**

THIS MON-  
STROUS **CREATURE--**  
THIS **STEGRON--**  
CAME BURSTING INTO  
THE ROOM, TOSSED  
CURTIS AND ME **ASIDE--**  
AND THEN **KIDNAPPED**  
OUR SON!

PUT ME  
**DOWN,**  
YOU BIG  
**CREEP!**

NOT  
UNTIL YOUR  
FATHER HASSS  
**DONE ASSS** I  
HAVE COMMANDED  
HIM, **WHELP!**

"THE DINOSAUR MAN THREATENED  
TO **KILL BILLY** UNLESS CURTIS AGREED  
TO **FINISH** SOME SORT OF **EXPERI-  
MENT** FOR HIM WITHIN 48 HOURS!"

"THERE WAS NOTHING  
FOR CURTIS TO DO  
BUT **OBEY!** HE  
LOOKED HIMSELF  
AWAY IN HIS LAB--  
DID THE **BEST**  
THAT HE COULD..."

"...BUT THE  
**EFFORT--THE**  
UNIMAGINABLE  
**STRAIN--** WERE  
JUST **TOO MUCH**  
FOR HIM TO  
**ENDURE!**

"SOMEHOW, THAT TERRIBLE **CHEMICAL REACTION** WAS  
TRIGGERED WITHIN HIM ONCE MORE--AND MY DARLING  
HUSBAND BECAME THE DREADFUL **LIZARD!**"

"ALL OF WHICH SHOULD SERVE AS A  
REASONABLE **SUMMATION** OF  
LAST ISSUE'S DOINGS. --LEN.

IT'S ALL SO **INSANE,**  
SPIDER-MAN-- TWO  
**MONSTERS** WHO WERE  
ONCE **MEN** PURSUING  
ONE ANOTHER ACROSS  
THE CITY--

--WITH MY  
POOR **BILLY**  
CAUGHT RIGHT  
IN THE  
**MIDDLE!**

DEAR LORD,  
WHAT'S GOING  
TO **HAPPEN**  
TO MY SON?

ABSOLUTELY  
**NOTHING**  
--MRS. CONNORS--  
I **PROMISE** YOU THAT!

I'LL GET YOUR **BOY--**  
AND YOUR **HUSBAND--**  
BACK TO YOU **SAFE**  
AND **SOUND!**

I OWE DOC  
CONNOR **THAT**  
MUCH-- AND A  
WHOLE LOT  
**MORE!**

CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE





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AND WHILE SPIDEY PROCEEDS TO PUTTER AROUND THE GOOD DOCTOR'S LAB, WE'D BEST LOOK IN ON TWO OTHER MEMBERS OF OUR EVER-EXPANDING CAST--

--AS THEIR PATHS CROSS IN THE PARKING LOT OF EMPIRE STATE UNIVERSITY!

JONAH?



JONAH, HOLD ON A MINUTE! I'M RIGHT BEHIND YOU!

APPARENTLY, HE CAN'T HEAR ME OVER THE HOWL OF THE WIND--

--OR ELSE HE'S SO PREOCCUPIED, HE'S NOT EVEN LISTENING--

--AND KNOWING J. JONAH JAMESON, I'D OPT FOR THE LATTER!



AH--SO THERE YOU ARE, DR. MADISON. I'VE--AH--BEEN WAITING.

I'M SURE IT HASN'T BEEN LONG.



FOR THIS, MARLA MY DEAR--I'VE BEEN WAITING MOST OF MY LIFE!

WELL, I'M GLAD YOU DIDN'T HOLD YOUR BREATH!



AND WHILE WE'RE AT IT, I'LL THANK YOU NOT TO SMOKE THOSE AWFUL CIGARS IN MY PRESENCE!

IT'S A TRULY FILTHY HABIT!



MARLA--DON'T! THAT'S A FIVE DOLLAR NAVANA!

YOU MEAN--IT WAS!



LISTEN, LADY--WHEN WE GOT INTO THIS TOGETHER, I DIDN'T EXPECT YOU TO START PLAYING NURSEMAID!

YOU'RE JUST LUCKY I COULD SALVAGE WHAT YOU LEFT OF THIS CIGAR!

NO, MR. JAMESON, WHEN WE GOT INTO THIS, YOU EXPECTED ME TO DEVISE A MEANS FOR YOU TO DEFEAT A CERTAIN WALL-CRAWLER--



--AND THAT'S PRECISELY WHAT I'VE DONE!

TAKE A LOOK AT WHAT YOUR HARD-BOARDED MONEY WAS SPENT ON, JONAH!

BEHOLD THE BRAND-NEW SPIDER-SLAYER!!



MARLA, MY DEAR, I TAKE BACK EVERYTHING I WAS THINKING ABOUT YOU!



AND SINCE WE'RE SWITCHING SCENES ANYWAY, WE MAY AS WELL TAKE A QUICK SIDE TRIP TO A CERTAIN FAR ROCKAWAY APARTMENT COMPLEX WE HAVEN'T VISITED IN FAR TOO MANY MONTHS...

FUNNY RUNNING INTO YOU LIKE THIS-- ESPECIALLY NOW THAT I'M WORKING FOR THE **DAILY BUGLE**! YOU'RE JOE ROBERTSON'S SON, AREN'T YOU?

UH-HUH-- BUT I DON'T **WORK** FOR THE BUGLE, MS. GRANT. I JUST DROPPED BY TO SEE MY **DAD** EVERY NOW AND THEN. HOPE I'LL SEE YOU!

BY THE WAY, YOU CAN CALL ME **RANDY**.

TERRIFIC, MY NAME'S **GLORY**. GLAD TO KNOW YA, ACE.

...WELCOME TO THE BACHELOR PAD OF **FLASH THOMPSON** AND **HARRY OSBORN**!

MERRY CHRISTMAS, FLASH!

AND A **HO-HO-HO** TO YOU, RANDY. GLAD YOU AN' **GLORY** COULD MAKE IT!

HANG LOOSE, FLASH. I'LL GET THE PHONE!

RRING! RRING!

THANKS, MARY JANE.

HELLO? WHO...?

OH-- **PETER**! HEY, WHERE ARE YOU, TIGER?

YOU WERE SUPPOSED TO BE HERE AN HOUR AGO.

SORRY RED-- BUT SOMETHING **IMPORTANT** HAS COME UP. AFRAID I CAN'T BE THERE.

WISH THE GANG A **MERRY CHRISTMAS** FOR ME, OKAY?

YEAH-- I'M DISAPPOINTED TOO, M.J. I'LL SEE YA SOON.

WELL, IT LOOKS LIKE THE GHOST OF CHRISTMAS PAST ISN'T **COMING**. GROUP-- BUT PETER TOLD US TO GO AHEAD **WITHOUT** HIM.

SO WHAT'S THIS EARTH-SHATTERING **NEWS** YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO HAVE FOR US, HARRY?

YEAH, PAL. I'M YOUR **ROOM-MATE**, FOR PETE'S SAKE-- AND EVEN I DON'T KNOW WHAT IT IS.

WELL, FLASH-- I'M AFRAID YOU'RE GONNA HAVE TO FIND YOURSELF A **NEW ROOM-MATE** SOON.

YOU SEE, I'VE ASKED THE LOVELY **LIZ ALLEN** HERE TO **MARRY** ME--

AND WOULD YOU BELIEVE I'VE **ACCEPTED**?

WELL... FAR OUT.



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WHILE, IN AN ABANDONED  
STORAGE VAULT BENEATH  
CENTRAL PARK...

YOU JUST WAIT  
TILL MY FATHER  
GETS HERE,  
STEGRON!  
HE'LL...

HE'LL DO  
NOTHING,  
WHELP--

-- NOT IF HE  
WANTS YOU  
BACK ALIVE!

NO, WHELP! ALL YOUR  
FATHER WILL DO WHEN  
HE ARRIVES--

-- I'LL TO  
SSUPPLY ME  
WITH THE MEANSS  
OF MY ULTIMATE  
VICTORY!

THISS RETRO-GENERATION RAY  
I AM USSING TO CLOTH MY  
LONG-TAILED BROTHERSS WITH  
FLESH ONCE MORE--

-- I'SS BUT A  
TEMPORARY  
MEASSURE AT  
BESSST--

-- BUT THE  
SSSPECIAL FORMULA  
YOUR FATHER I'SS  
PRODUCING AT MY  
COMMAND--

-- WILL ENABLE  
ME TO CLONE A  
VERITABLE DINOSSAUR  
ARMY!!

YOU'RE NUTS MISTER! MY  
DAD WOULD NEVER BETRAY  
THE WHOLE HUMAN RACE  
LIKE THAT!

WHO CAN TRULY  
SSSAY HOW FAR  
A MAN WILL GO  
TO SSSAVE THE  
LIFE OF HIS  
SSON?

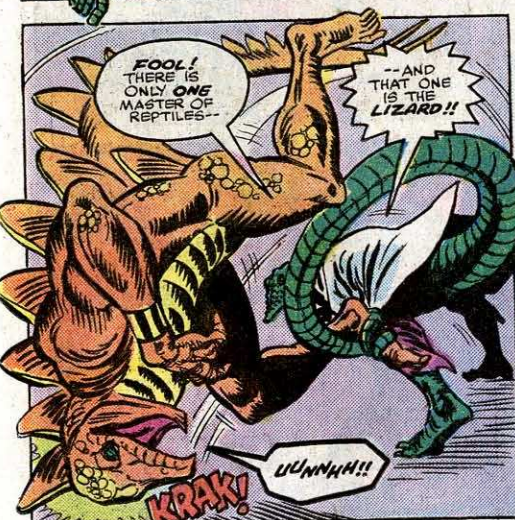
I CAN  
STEGRON!!

HUH?

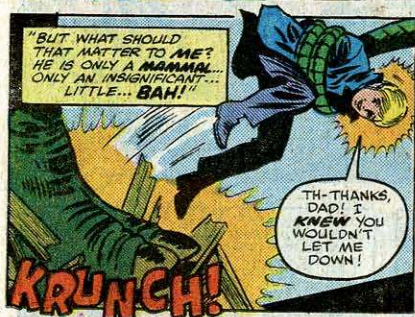
YOU TOOK SOMETHING THAT  
BELONGED TO THE MAMMAL  
CONNORS, DINOSAUR MAN--

-- AND THE LIZARD  
HAS COME TO GET  
IT BACK!!













AND MOMENTS LATER, HIGH ABOVE ONE OF THE SEVERAL ROADWAYS THAT DISSECT CENTRAL PARK...

LEAPIN' LIZARDS!

WELL, NOW I KNOW WHAT HAPPENED TO THOSE DINOSAUR SKELETONS STEGRON STOLE FROM THE MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY!"

THAT GODZILLA GANG WILL TURN THIS PARK INTO A CHARNEL HOUSE--

--UNLESS YOURS TRULY LENDS A HAND--

AND I MEAN THAT LITERALLY!



KRAAM!

\*LAST ISSUE, RIGHT? --LEN.



--IN A HURRY!

THWAK!



"A LITTLE WELL-PLACED WEBBING WILL BLIND THEM TEMPORARILY--

SPAK!

"--WHICH SHOULD PUT THEM INTO A PANIC--



"--AND THE REST CAN TAKE CARE OF ITSELF!"

YOU SHOULD BE SAFE NOW, MA'AM!

THOSE OVERGROWN IGUANAS WILL BE FALLING ALL OVER THEMSELVES FOR A WHILE!



WEEOWEEOWEO

AH-- ENTER NEW YORK'S FINEST--

--AND JUST IN THE NICK OF TIME!



THE POLICE SHOULD BE ABLE TO HANDLE GORGIO AND COMPANY WHILE I TRACK DOWN STEGRON AND THE LIZARD!



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AND WHEN THE WEB-SLINGER HAS EXPLAINED...

GOD, WHAT DO WE DO NOW?

DON'T WORRY, DOC. I PROMISED YOUR WIFE THAT I'D BRING BOTH OF YOU BACK SAFELY--

--AND SPIDER-MAN ALWAYS KEEPS HIS WORD!!

YOU STAY HERE, OUT OF HARM'S WAY--

--WHILE I GO FETCH YOUR SON!

OH, I'LL STAY HERE ALL RIGHT, WALL-CRAWLER-- BUT I WON'T JUST TWIDDLE MY THUMBS!

AND ON THAT RATHER MYSTERIOUS NOTE, LET'S FOLLOW SPIDEY OUTSIDE...

WELL, THERE'S STEGRON! OF COURSE, IT'S NOT EXACTLY A PROBLEM TO PICK HIM OUT OF A CROWD!

NO, THE PROBLEM'S GONNA BE GETTING BILLY BACK WITHOUT RISKING THE KID'S NECK!

SSSPIDER-MAN-- AGAIN? WEB-SLINGER, YOU'RE PERSISSISTENT TO THE POINT OF RIDICULOUSSNESSS!

DON'T YOU REALIZE YOU HAVEN'T GOT A PRAYER OF DEFEATING ME OR MY LONG-TAILED BROTHERSSS?

MAYBE NOT, SCALE-SKIN-- BUT I'M SURE GONNA TRY!

SWELL! NOW SPIDER-MAN! WHAT'RE WE GONNA DO, FORBES?

NOT A THING, WILSON!

WE CAN'T RISK SHOOTING WHILE THAT KID IS IN THE LINE OF FIRE!



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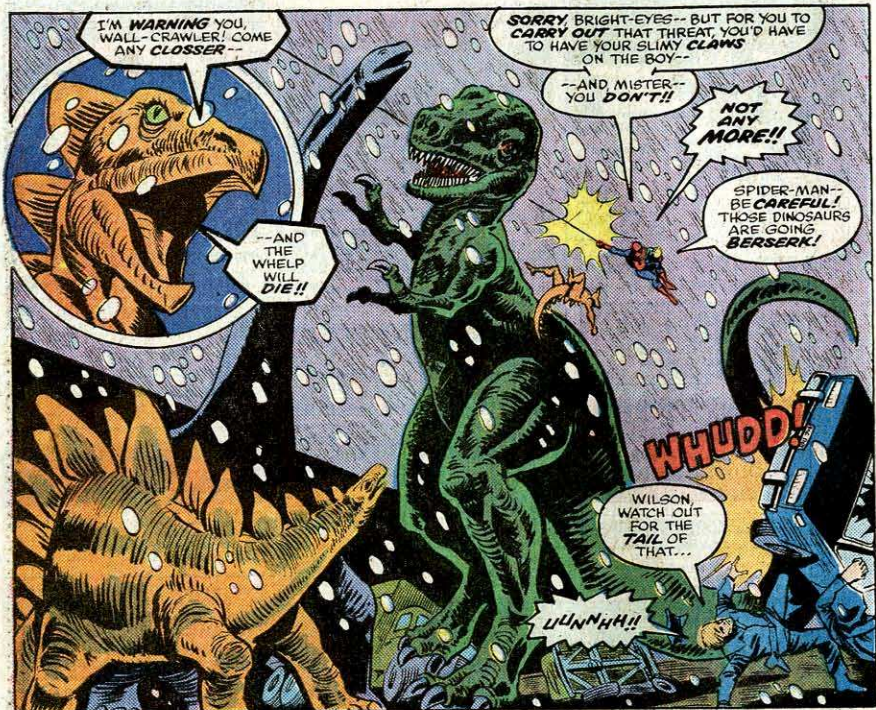
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# WITH WINSOME WAGS, WARPED WRONGDOERS AND A WANDERING WARLOCK!

## STAN LEE'S SOAPBOX

Y'know, the biggest problem with writing these Soapboxes is the calendar! What I mean is, here I am writing these wondrous words early in September, but you won't be reading them till sometime in December! You see, it takes us a full three months to get our masterful mags written, drawn, lettered, colored, printed, distributed, and into your greedy, grasping, grateful hands! So, here I sit, sagaciously scratching my pointy little head as I try to think of something to say that will be interesting and newsworthy to you three months hence! But you can now relax. Truth and justice have suddenly triumphed and virtue hath been rewarded! I've just thought of an item that'll warm the very cockles of the heart of Marveldom Assembled! Didja know that we've licensed SPIDER-MAN to Daring Denny Allen, President of the famous Register & Tribune Syndicate, as a newspaper comic strip? Even as your startled eyes peruse this awesome announcement, ol' Spidey is preparing for newspapers all around the world, daily and Sunday! Drawn by Jazzy Johnny Romita, and written by yours truly (who's glad to be back in harness again), our first incredible installment features the ol' webslinger battling Dr. Doom against the background of a United Nations terrorism threat! If Spidey isn't in your favorite newspaper yet, now's the time to phone your local Feature Editor, or drop him a line condemning him for allowing his readers to dwell in a cultural wasteland! And, before turning you loose, we might as well mention two additional new strips which I've foisted upon the hapless newspaper reading public. One is SAYS WHO, a series of contemporary gags, using photos of world-famous celebrities (kinda like our old MONSTER MADNESS mag, remember?). The other is a satirical soap-opera drawn by Fearless Frank Springer and distributed by Titanic Tom Dorsay's ever-loving Los Angeles Times Syndicate, called THE VIRTUE OF VERA VALIANT. When I tell you that readers are already beginning to refer to it as VERA VALIANT, VERA VALIANT, you'll get the whole hysterical idea! So that's it! SPIDER-MAN! SAYS WHO! THE VIRTUE OF VERA VALIANT! All now appearing in some of the greatest newspapers throughout the world! See all the extra work we do, just so we'll have news items for you each month! No—don't bother thanking us. Just remember—wherever you go, whatever you do, whenever you can—keep thinkin' Marvel! And, if that gets a little heavy, we can always fall back upon "Damnant quod non intelligunt!"

Excelsior!

ITEM! What's black and white and green all over? Well, it might be a penguin with terminal grass stains, but the answer we're holding out for is: THE RAMPAGING HULK! Why? Because that's the title of the brand new dollar-size black-and-white magazine featuring the world's favorite greenskinned goliath! Yep, just like CONAN and DOC SAVAGE, the incredible one is going to be coming at you in the kind of no holds barred action that only a novel-length, large format black-and-white mag can provide. And it's all going to happen on a bi-monthly basis, as writer DOUG MOENCH, artists WALT SIMONSON and ALFREDO ALCALA, and editor JOHN WARNER work to bring you some of the most off-beat epics in our emerald-hued hero's career. Look for THE RAMPAGING HULK... on your newsstand now!

ITEM! Contrary to what some residents of suburban New Jersey may think, that wasn't an earthquake that rocked the area a few weeks ago, merely a super surprise party staged in celebration of Genial GENE COLAN's fabulous fiftieth birthday. Thanks to the planning—to say nothing of the cunning—of Gene's charming wife Adrienne, the whole affair was a complete secret to the Genial one right up to the moment he walked into a neighbor's house to be confronted by a veritable horde of well-wishers, including such Bullpen luminaries as Jumbo JOHN VERPOORTEN, MARV and MICHELE WOLFMAN, Mirthful MARIE SEVERIN, and Fabulous FLO STEINBERG. Considering what gossips most of us in the comics field are (if an artist changes brushes in the morning, the whole industry knows it by the afternoon), Adrienne's surprise tactics must rank right up there with D-Day. And we think the effort couldn't have been done on the behalf of a more deserving guy. Besides being one of the best pencilers in the business—Gene's HOWARD THE DUCK and DRACULA are the talk of fans and professionals alike—the softspoken Mr. Colan is about as nice a person as you could ever hope to run into. All of our best to one of our best, Gene!

ITEM! As long as we're dispensing felicitations, let's extend them to Cheerful CHRIS CLAREMONT and Bashful BONNIE WILFORD, and to Impish IRENE VARTANOFF and Sparkling SCOTT EDELMAN on their recent marriages. We may no longer be doing romance comics, but no one can say there's not still plenty of the real thing floating around the bullpen!

ITEM! How about RED SONJA? Not only has she graduated from the pages of MARVEL FEATURE into her own full-fledged title (the second issue of which ought to be winging its way to your comics rack any day now), but the first lady of sword and sorcery now has a song written about her, Working from inspiration provided by writer/editor ROY THOMAS

and Sonja artist FRANK THORNE, MIKE and SAL CAPUTO have fashioned "The Ballad of Red Sonja," which was given a special premiere performance recently at Lily Langtry's, a popular New Jersey nightclub. There was press and TV coverage and a lot of loud applause from local Sonja fans. Plans are now under way to have the song recorded; as soon as there's further word, we'll keep you posted. Gee, wonder if this marks the beginning of a trend? Consider the possibilities: "The Black Panther Boogie" "Minuet for the Mad Thinker" "The Howard Hustle" ... Sort of scares you, doesn't it?

ITEM! December is a big month for followers of MASTER OF KUNG FU! Issue 50 sees the cataclysmic climax of the six part epic adventure Devil-May-Care DOUG MOENCH and Peerless PAUL GULACY have been meticulously building to for over half a year now. Admirers of comics as a form of graphic art have long been complimenting us on this series, and, with pardonable pride, we have to admit they're right. This month's account of Shang Chi's clash with Dr. Fu Manchu fully confirms it. See for yourself. We're sure you won't be sorry.



ITEM! Let's close out this month's session with a glance into the crystal ball for a few hints about what's in store for the future. For those who've been wondering what's happened to WARLOCK and DEATHLOCK since the demise of their own titles, watch up-and-coming issues of MARVEL TEAM-UP, MARVEL TWO-IN-ONE, and MARVEL SPOTLIGHT. Fans of Tolkienesque fantasy should keep their eyes peeled and their thirty cents at the ready for the appearance of "Tyndal's Quest", another item scheduled for SPOTLIGHT. And be sure to read Stan's Soapbox next issue. If all goes well, our fearless leader will be announcing details on one of the most exciting projects we've ever had a chance to bring your way. How's that for a cliff-hanger ending to the column?



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**EPILOGUE: SOME TIME LATER...**



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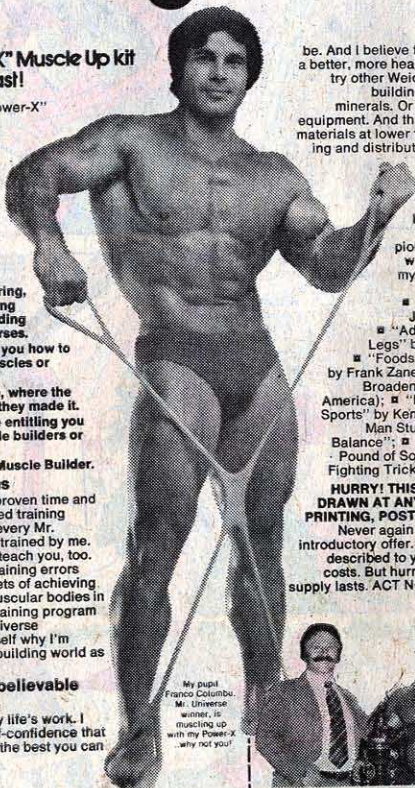
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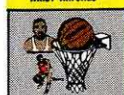
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