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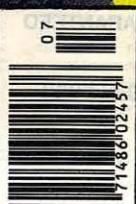
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the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN®

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NEVER
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CROSS
YOUR
PATH!

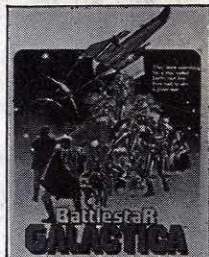


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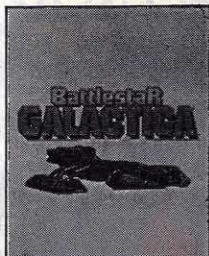
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Stan Lee
PRESENTS: **THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN**®

MARY WOLFMAN / KEITH POLLARD & FRANK GIACIOIA / J. COSTANZA / B. SEAN / JIM SHOOTER
SCRIPT/EDITS ILLUSTRATORS letters colors consultant

WHO IS THIS MYSTERY WOMAN SCURRYING WITH CAT-LIKE GRACE ACROSS A PRECARIOUSLY THIN STRAND OF WIRE? WHY IS SHE HERE, ABOVE POLICE HEADQUARTERS? WHAT IS SHE AFTER? YOU'LL LEARN SOON ENOUGH, SPIDERPHILE, BUT FOR NOW, BE CONTENT WITH THE FOLLOWING WARNING...

**NEVER LET
THE BLACK
CAT
CROSS YOUR
PATH!**

SPIDER-MAN
IS A
KILLER
READ ALL ABOUT
IT IN YOUR
DAILY BUGLE

NO TIME TO
WASTE... EVERY
MOMENT IS
VITAL!

SURE HOPE I'M
READY FOR THIS!
INVADING POLICE
HEADQUARTERS ISN'T
EXACTLY THE SAFEST
WAY TO BEGIN MY
CRIMINAL CAREER!

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BUT IF I WERE INTERESTED IN SAFETY, I'D'VE GONE IN FOR *SEWING* INSTEAD OF STEALING.

BESIDES, I'VE TRAINED FOR THIS MOMENT FOR ALMOST *THIRTY YEARS*. ALL MY SENSES HAVE BEEN HONED TO THEIR FINEST. AS FOR MY GYMNASTICS, I'D PUT NADIA COMANECI TO SHAME.

NO ONE AROUND, THEN I WAS RIGHT... THEY'VE ALL GONE FOR THEIR *COFFEE BREAK*.



I REALLY DIDN'T WANT TO *RISE* MY WAY THROUGH TO THE FILES AND THEN BATTLE MY WAY OUT AGAIN.

I'D JUST AS SOON *AVOID* TROUBLE NOW.

THEY'LL BE *PLENTY* OF THAT IN JUST A LITTLE WHILE.

HMMM, ORDERLY FILES. THE CIVILIAN SECRETARIES KNOW THEIR JOB.



WHEN ALL THIS IS OVER, I OUGHT TO WRITE A COMMENDATION LETTER TO THE COMMISSIONER ON HOW *EASY* IT IS TO FIND WHAT YOU NEED.

UH OH, FOOTSTEPS COMING DOWN THE HALL... MY CLUE TO *LEAVE*!



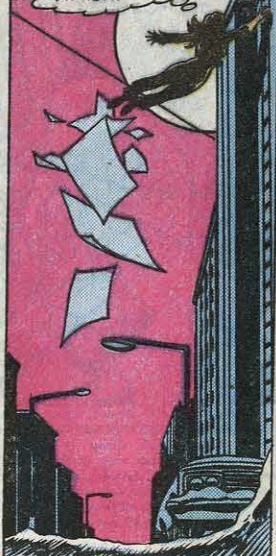
WITH *CANNY* PRECISION, SHE NIMBLY DARTS ACROSS A CITY OF NARROW LEDGES AND DANGEROUS ROOFS UNTIL SHE COMES TO REST ON A FAINTLY WAVING WIND-BLOWN TELEPHONE WIRE...

HMMM... *HMMM*. PERFECT, JUST PERFECT.

I'D SAY TONIGHT'S LITTLE EXERCISE WAS WELL WORTH IT.



NOW TO GO HOME FOR THE NIGHT, HAVE A GOOD SLEEP, AND GET READY FOR TOMORROW'S ACTION.



A DAY PASSES RATHER UNEVENTFULLY, BUT THEN, WHEN EVENING COMES...

THERE HE IS, *STEALING TIRES*!

WHAT A WASTE OF THOSE MARVELOUS *MUSCLES*.



WELL, IF I HAVE ANYTHING TO SAY ABOUT IT, HE WON'T BE WASTING THEM MUCH LONGER.



THE TWO WORK IN SILENCE FOR ANOTHER MOMENT, AND THEN...



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1 stick of grape
3 sticks of orange
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gum

Check:

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lots of
different big,
juicy, fun bubbles.

Find:
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2 cherry bubbles
5 lemon bubbles
2 bubble gum
bubbles

Check:



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Fruit Stripe Fun



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HAH! THOSE INEFFECTUAL GUARDS ARE ALL DOLLS OR BLIND OR BOTH!



NOT ONE OF THEM SPOTTED ME--NOT ONE WILL KNOW I WAS EVEN HERE.



ALL THEIR MUCH-VAUNTED SECURITY, ALL THEIR INTRICATE PLANS TO KEEP OUT SABOTEURS MEANT NOTHING TO ME.



OH, I WOULDN'T SAY THAT.



IT IS NOW DAY, SO LET US VISIT A CERTAIN MAY PARKER AT THE RESTWELL NURSING HOME...



I MAY EVEN ENTER THAT SHUFFLE BOARD CONTEST NEXT WEEK.



OH, YOU MEAN THAT NICE MR. WILLIAMS? I THINK HE LIKES ME.

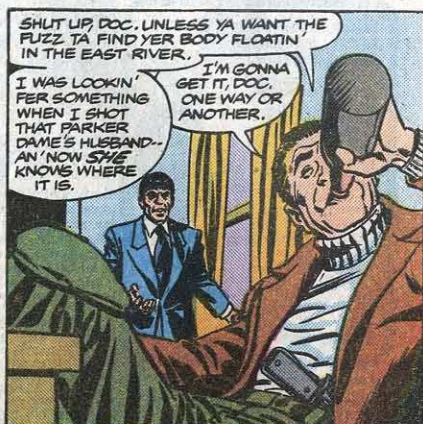
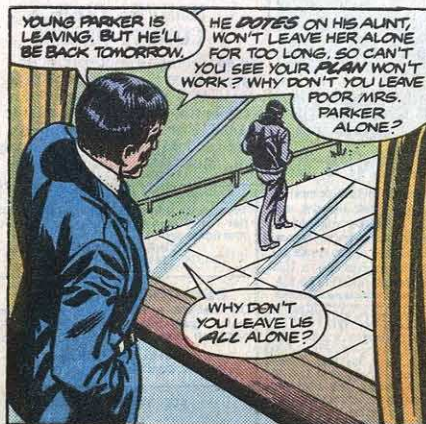


AUNT MAY, I'VE GOT TO GO NOW. BUT I'LL BE BACK. PLEASE TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF.



I JUST WORRY WHETHER YOU'RE DRESSING WARM ENOUGH. THERE IS A FLY GOING AROUND, YOU KNOW.

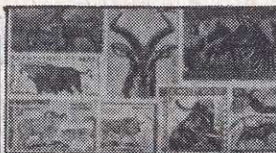




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Pete Rose BATTING PRACTICE

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HEY PETE!
WHAT'S THE
SECRET?
HOW DID YOU
GET TO BE
SUCH A
GREAT BATTER?

PRACTICE BOBBY.
PRACTICE IS THE
KEY TO MY
SUCCESS IN
BASEBALL.

AND NOW YOU
CAN LEARN TO BE
A WINNER WITH
PETE ROSE
BATTING
PRACTICE!

JUST TWIST
IT IN...

PULL THE ADJUSTABLE
SUPER-STRETCH CORD...

AND PITCH! HIGH, LOW, FAST OR SLOW!

INCLUDES GROUND ANCHOR, AUTOGRAPHED
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WHACK!

BASE HIT!

AND NO MORE LOST BALLS!

SEE BOBBY, WITH ENOUGH PRACTICE
YOU COULD BE SETTING
RECORDS JUST LIKE ME!

LEARN TO PLAY
LIKE THE PROS
WITH

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and sporting goods
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Turco

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MEANWHILE, AT THE OFFICES OF THE DAILY GLOBE...

C'MON, BETTY! LET'S HAVE THIS OUT.

WHAT'S PARKER GOT THAT I HAVEN'T?



EXCUSE ME, BETTY. I'M GOING UP TO SEE JAMESON. HOLD ALL MY CALLS.

AS JOE ROBERTSON LEAVES...

WELL? YOU'RE MY WIFE. YOU OWE ME AN EXPLANATION! I CAME BACK FROM AN ASSIGNMENT AND YOU'RE GONE!

THAT WAS THE PROBLEM, NED. YOU WERE ALWAYS ON ASSIGNMENT... SOMEWHERE. PETER WAS WITH ME WHEN I NEEDED HIM.



NED, I WANT MY HUSBAND AT HOME, NOT COVERING A STORY WHO KNOWS WHERE

JONAH, MAY I SPEAK WITH YOU?

SURE, SURE, SURE, C'MON IN, ROBERTSON. WHAT'S UP?



I WANT TO SHOW YOU TODAY'S GLOBE!

WHAT COULD THAT RAG HAVE THAT WOULD INTEREST ME?

WHAT? THE TORCH AND SPIDER-MAN-- TOGETHER?? WHO TOOK THAT PHOTO? WHY DON'T WE HAVE ONE?

READ THE CREDIT, JONAH!

FL. D. GLOBE SPIDER-MAN AND HUMAN TORCH FOIL MONOCLE



"PETER PARKER, CHIEF PHOTOGRAPHER!" WHAT? THAT MISERABLE LITTLE TURNCOAT! THAT FILTHY GOOD-FOR-NOTHING TRAITOR!

I TEACH HIM EVERYTHING HE KNOWS AND WHAT DOES HE DO? HE RUNS OUT ON ME!

YOU FIRED HIM. DON'T YOU REMEMBER?

OF COURSE I REMEMBER, AND IF HE WERE HERE NOW I'D FIRE HIM AGAIN.



ROBERTSON, I NEVER WANT TO HEAR HIS NAME SPOKEN IN THIS OFFICE! YOU UNDERSTAND THAT?

GET OUT NOW, LEAVE ME ALONE!



I JUST MIGHT DO THAT ONE DAY, JONAH.

PARKER! ROBERTSON! WHY DO I ALWAYS HAVE TROUBLES ALL AROUND ME?

MAYBE IT'S BECAUSE YOU'RE SO IRRESISTIBLE!



WHAT? YOU?!

HOW DARE YOU COME HERE, YOU STINKING MURDERER? GET OUT! GET OUT!

NOT UNTIL WE TALK, JAMESON. JUST THE TWO OF US.





A QUICK CHANGE TO PETER PARKER, AND SOON AFTERWARDS, IN THE OFFICES OF THE DAILY GLOBE...

HEY!!
CHECK OUT
THESE MARVEL-OLIS
T-SHIRTS, 'CAUSE...

IT'S T-SHIRT TIME



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ARE 50% COTTON
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IT'S **INSIDERS** vs **OUTSIDER** WHEN
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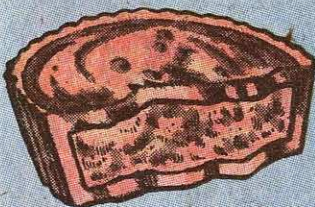
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PARKER!

OH IT'S YOU, LEEDS. I DON'T FEEL LIKE TALKING.

WELL, I DO-- ABOUT BETTY!

I WON'T LET YOU TAKE HER FROM ME, PARKER. I WANT HER.



SO TAKE HER... JUST DON'T BOTHER ME WITH THE GORY DETAILS. GOT THAT?

OOOF!



MOROSE, THE TROUBLED YOUTH HEADS FOR THE CAMPUS OF EMPIRE STATE UNIVERSITY, WHERE...

WELL, WELL, THE PRODIGAL SON RETURNS. WHERE V'E YOU BEEN, MISTER?

DON'T BUG ME, FLASH. I'VE BEEN BUSY!



TOO BUSY TO ATTEND THE GAST PARTY YOUR FRIENDS PREPARED FOR YOU?

HEY, NOBODY TOLD ME ABOUT IT. I DIDN'T MEAN TO SNUB YOU. YOU GET OFF MY CASE, HUH?

C'MON, PETER, WHAT WERE YOU DOING?

CAN'T REVEAL THAT I WAS UP TO MY NECK IN TROUBLE AS SPIDEY.*



*SPIDER-MAN #192...M.W.

SEEMS TO BE A LOT YOU'RE NOT TALKING ABOUT, MISTER.

FLASH IS RIGHT, PETE. WE'RE SUPPOSED TO BE YOUR FRIENDS. YOU CAN TELL US WHAT'S BUGGING YOU.

FRIENDS? THEN WHY THE CROSS EXAMINATION?

LISTEN, YOU TWO HAVE YOUR OWN LIVES. STAY OUTTA MINE. GOT THAT?

YEAH, PETE-- I GOT IT.



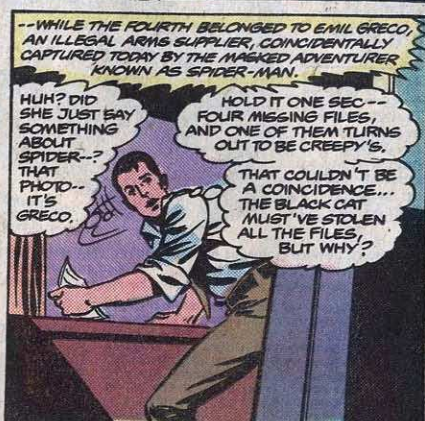
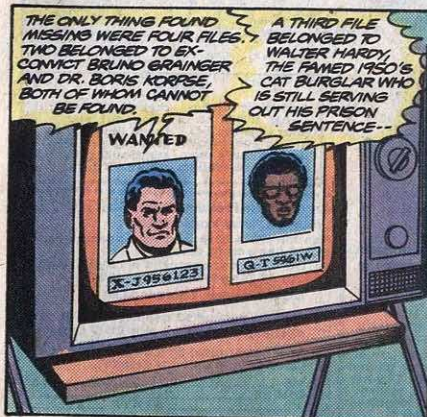
YOU THINK WE WERE TOO HARD ON HIM, FLASH? MAYBE SOMETHING IS WRONG.

I DON'T KNOW WITH PARKER. NEVER DID UNDERSTAND HIM.

ONE DAY HE'S A GREAT GUY, THE NEXT AN ICEBURG!

AW, C'MON, HARRY-- FORGET HIM. WE'VE GOT A CLASS!





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I DON'T HAVETA BE MR. WIZARD TO GUESS WHERE THE BLACK CAT'S GONNA STRIKE NEXT.

WALTER HARDY, CAT BURGLAR... WHAT COULD MY FELINE FEMME FATALE WANT WITH HIM?

FROM WHAT THAT T.V. REPORTER SAID, HARDY'S TERMINALLY ILL--

HOW DOES A SICK MAN FIT INTO THE BLACK CAT'S PLANS?

AH HA... "DIS MUST BE DE PLACE!"

HARDY'S CELL SHOULD BE RIGHT BELOW ME.

BINGO! WALTER HARDY, I PRESUME?

JUST HAVE A FEW QUESTIONS I WANNA--

SPIDER-MAN? WH-WHAT DO YOU WANT?

UH-OH-- MY SPIDER-SENSES...

DANGER! BEHIND ME!

WELL, WELL, I CERTAINLY DIDN'T EXPECT TO FIND YOU HERE, SPIDEY.

SHUCKS, AND HERE I THOUGHT YOU COULDN'T WAIT FOR OUR NEXT DATE.

ACTUALLY, I CAN'T, LOVE... BUT YOU KNOW WHAT THEY SAY ABOUT BUSINESS BEFORE PLEASURE!!?

BE A DEAR AND SCAMPER OFF.

I REALLY DON'T WANT TO KILL YOU...

...ALTHOUGH I WILL IF YOU GET IN MY WAY.



BULLPEN BULLETINS

—STAN'S SOAPBOX—

Hey, gang, remember me telling you about our top-secret Project X last ish? Well, wouldja believe that it's such a hush-hush mystery that there are even some people in the Bullpen who don't know all about it? Since I previously mentioned that it's a new and different type of mag, the question has arisen, "Is it a comicbook, or have we abandoned the style that's made Marvel a household word?" (Well, in my household, anyway!)

You can set your fears at rest, believer. Project X will definitely be a comicbook type of publication, but totally different from any we've ever done before! I'm hoping we can get our act together in the next couple of weeks so that I can lay it all on you next issue.

In the meantime, it's ceremony time! I hereby award a majestic Marvel medalion with oakleaf cluster to the students and faculty of Philadelphia's Titanic Temple University. While I was making a typical tempestuous speech on campus recently,

Mellow Mike McGrath, a journalist buddy of mine who's one of Temple's more garrulous grads, informed me that this was the fourth time I had inflicted myself upon that awesome altar of academe! Four speeches at the same school! I don't know whether to congratulate them for their superb choice of lecturers, or for being unsurpassed gluttons for punishment! I'd probably wax even more sentimental except that I've gotta rush now—it's time to notify the Guinness Book of Records!

Incidentally, there's another big, wild surprise coming your way this month—and it's really different—really a knockout! It's MARVEL FUN AND GAMES #1, the hottest thing since Johnny Storm's temper tantrums! Imagine, a brain-teaser on every big, exciting page—every one based on our own spectacular superheroes—with no ads; packed cover to cover with puzzles, mazes, games, and every far-out pencil project you can think of—as well as plenty that you

never knew existed! It's another original Marvel first—never been anything like it! MARVEL FUN AND GAMES! Our latest and greatest monthly comicbook sensation! The first collector's-item issue is on sale now! So what're you waiting for? Go, team, go!

Now, 'tis time for me to resume our continuing argument about what to call Project X. I told our bluish' bullpen buddies the title wouldn't be all that important so long as we fill up most of the cover with those drama-fraught words, "Stan Lee Presents"—but I suspect they didn't quite see it that way! Hence, it's back to battle for the nonce. (And if I win a nonce, I hope it won't be too heavy to carry!) I'll bring you a blow-by-blow in my next column so you can learn how it all turns out. Till then, remember—never tackle a bad-tempered turtle; it could land you in the soup!

Excelsior!

Stan

ITEM! *The Comics Event of the Month and Possibly of the Year Dept.*: It's here! The 100th issue of CONAN THE BARBARIAN! It's 34 pages of thrills by Roy Thomas, John Buscema and Ernie Chan! It marks a dramatic turning point in the life of the sullen-eyed Cimmerian! It's sure to be a classic collector's item—and, by Crom, it's only 60¢! If you can't only buy one comicbook this month, this is the one. Get it now!

ITEM! *The Real-Life Human Interest Event of the Month and Possibly of the Year Dept.*: This month, amiable Editor Al Milgrom weds beautiful Judy Lewin, who hails from Al's home town of Detroit. Congratulations and best of luck from the Bullpen, folks!

ITEM! There are lots of things happening this month in Marvel Comics, and we humbly advise you to glom onto every single one of our four-color wonders. If you want just a hint of what's in store (as if a word to the wise weren't sufficient) well, check this: in STAR WARS #25 an epic begins with a gripping tale entitled *Siege at Yavin*, by Archie Goodwin, Carmine Infantino and Gene Day. DEFENDERS #73 features the wildest, weirdest new character we've ever seen! His name is *Xhoohx*, and the only way to find out how to pronounce that is to ask scribe Ed Hannigan or buy a copy of the magazine. The secret that goes with that crazy monicker will floor you! Meanwhile, Spider-Man is up to his webbed neck in trouble with a feline female called the *Black Cat*, in THE AMAZING

SPIDER-MAN #194. Believe us, writer-editor Marv Wolfman made sure she's far more than you'd expect. Last, but not least by any means, we in the Bullpen would like to acknowledge what is possibly the outstanding achievement in comics art this month, namely DAREDEVIL #159. The story, by Roger McKenzie, is inspired, the art, by brand-new sensation Frank Miller and long-time star inker Klaus Janson, is superb. Don't pass it up! All of the above are on sale right about now, friends!



ITEM! Soon, very soon, a title will be returning to the Marvel lineup after a hiatus of nearly eight months. It's among the most requested comebacks of all time, in no small part by the Marvel editorial staff! We'll give you a hint—the title in question stars a character whose purpose is to discover his own humanity—or the lack of it! Watch this space!

ITEM! Speaking of Fun Books, the first MIGHTY MARVEL JUMBO FUN BOOK from Simon & Schuster, re-presents Fun Books #1 through #3 in 352 snazzy 8 1/2 x 11 pages. It's \$6.95, complete with a preface by Stan the Man, and it's at better bookstores already.



ITEM! We're happy to report that pulchritudinous production person, Paty, is recovering nicely from the minor wounds accidentally inflicted by her pet hybrid Burmese python, Dum Dum Dugan, during a somewhat too-spirited play-session. And, on that happy note, we bid thee good health, and watch you sneaky snakes till next we meet!

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THERE IS MORE TO THE STRANGE HUMAN CREATURE THAN BRAWN!

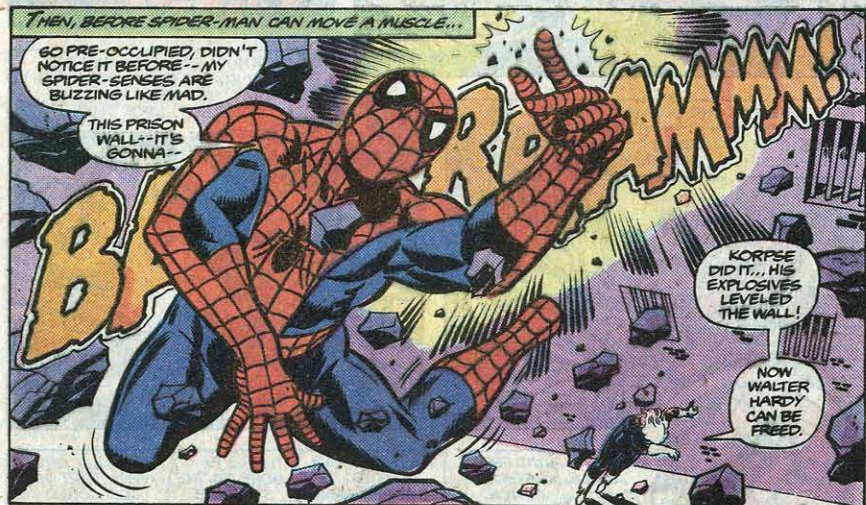
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NEXT ISSUE THE ORIGIN OF THE BLACK CAT! HER DREADED SECRET--REVEALED! ALL THIS AND THE MOST SHOCKING ENDING IN THE MARVEL AGE OF COMICS!

NINE LIVES HAS THE BLACK CAT!

THE SPIDER'S WEB

c/o MARVEL COMICS GROUP
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MARY WOLFMAN
EDITOR
MARK GRUENWALD
ASSISTANT EDITOR

Dear Stan Lee,

I have uncovered a conspiracy destined to rock Marvel Comics to its very foundations. You see, there are two Marv Wolfmans. The first Marv Wolfman is the one who writes **TOMB OF DRACULA**, who created Domini, Aurora Rabinowitz, who used to write **WEREWOLF BY NIGHT**, who created **SKULL THE SLAYER**, and who I remember as plotting a surprisingly good *Johnny Double* story for DC's *Showcase* comic way back when. You know who I'm talking about.

The second Marv Wolfman is the guy who writes **NOVA** and wrote **MARVEL TWO-IN-ONE**. The guy who took all the fun out of **SPIDER-WOMAN** by giving her human roots. I'm sure you know who I'm talking about.

Ordinarily, this would not be too bad. But now they have taken their vicious conspiracy one step further. They have collaborated on a comic book. To wit: **SPIDER-MAN**. The first Marv is plotting the book, but the second Marv is writing it. Only the first Marv would get me so intrigued by all the things that are happening to Peter Parker's life. Only the second Marv could write such moronic speeches like in #183 when Aunt May is about to have a heart attack and Spidey is more worried about whether or not it's his fault than he is about his Aunt.

I hope the two Marvs don't get too discouraged. They've actually gotten me involved enough to write a letter, something I would never dream of doing if the previous writers were writing this book. I really like what's happening in **SPIDER-MAN**.

Joseph Kary
100 Hillside
Montreal, PO Canada

Joseph, we asked Marvelous Marv about your speculation, and he laughed, saying it was nonsense, that there is only one Marv. He then left to hand the latest issue of **DRACULA** into production. A few minutes later Marv returned (strangely enough, wearing a different pair of pants and shirt) holding the final issue of **NOVA** in his hands, saw your letter and went off raging. We're not quite sure what he said, but there are those in the office who will swear it was something like: "How did he find out? Wait till I get my hands on Marv!"

SHORT COMMENTS DEPT:

Because of space limitations we can't print too many letters this time around, so we thought we'd answer some of the most-frequently received questions:

To *Alan Sissom* and the others who have taken us to task about the new "old" look in our art, and demanding to know why we forced poor Keith Pollard into mimicking Steve Ditko's style: We didn't force Keith. He wanted to draw it in this manner. We simply agreed. And it seems that the vast majority of you Spiderphiles agreed as well. The reaction to all our changes has been fantastic to say the least.

To *Patrick Romano* and the zillion others who angrily wrote in: No, we didn't forget the subplot Lively Len Wein began in **SPIDEY** #170. As you can see, we've brought it back in spades. It's just that Marv wanted to pace that story to end at a certain time, and he didn't want to drag it out too long.

To *Ed Via* and the others who mentioned it: This issue indeed introduces a female antagonist for Spidey to battle. We, too, believe it's been too long in coming. Hope the Black Cat suits your tastes.

And, speaking of our feline femme fatale, we thought you'd be interested in seeing two previous covers that were rejected by the front office both featuring the Black Cat. The first was designed by Marv and drawn by Captivat'n' Carmine Infantino for **SPIDER-WOMAN** #9. B.C. would have been a very different character had she appeared in **Spider-Woman**, but when Smilin' Stan saw the cover, he felt something was missing. And, just before Marv had Carmine redesign the cover, the Marvelous One moved on to other projects, and took the Black Cat along with him.

The second cover was the first one Marv designed with Klobberin' Keith Pollard. Once more, Stan felt there was a better way to handle our villainess' first appearance, and had Amiable Al Milgrom draw the cover you see sporting this very mag.

Such things happen often up here. Such concern is taken that many dollars will be spent correcting art or story until they are the best we can possibly do. We don't want to merely publish a cover because it's there. We'll take the time and energy to fix it up, redraw it, and change it until it is right.





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NEW! GIFTS & GIMICKS

MINI SPY CAMERA

Take secret or regular pictures. Precision ground lens. Takes clear close-up or distant pictures. Ten pictures per roll.
#007 \$1.75
#008 20 shots \$1.00



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They'll never suspect this can is labeled "Mixed Nuts" because it never rattles! But when it's opened - UP pops a 30" snake!
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Just drop or squeeze one of these "snappers" for an extra L-O-U-D explosion!
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ATOMIC MINI-PISTOL - LOUDEST BANG!

Fires real blanks! Extra loud explosion! 2" long. Barrel opens to load, hammer cocks & fires when trigger is pulled. Ramrod included!
#306 \$2.00
#305 Ammo-Pak 50c



SNEEZING POWDER

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SPINS FOR DAYS

INVISIBLE POWER
What Makes It Go On and On and On at 2500 r.p.m. with no apparent energy source?
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WHOOPEE CUSHION #814
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ANY 3 FOR \$4.00

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HYPNOTIZER #030
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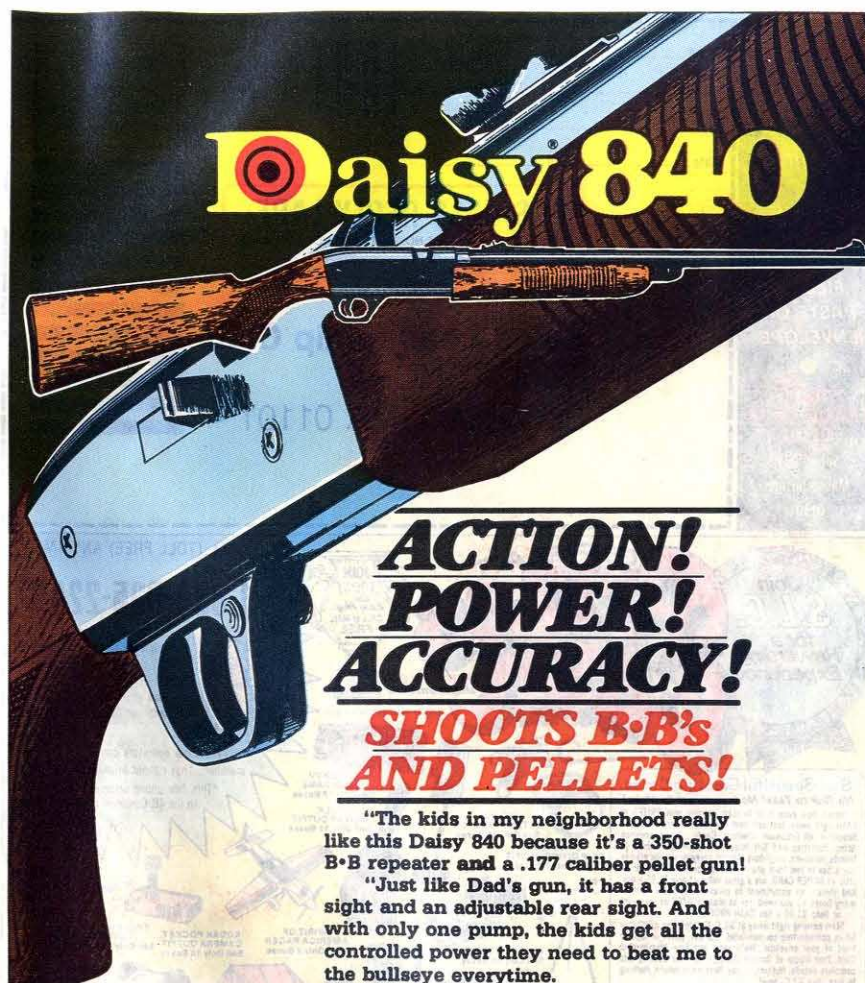
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