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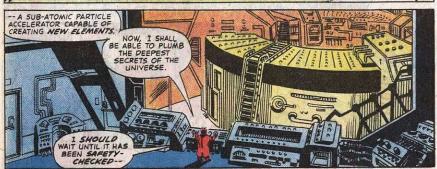










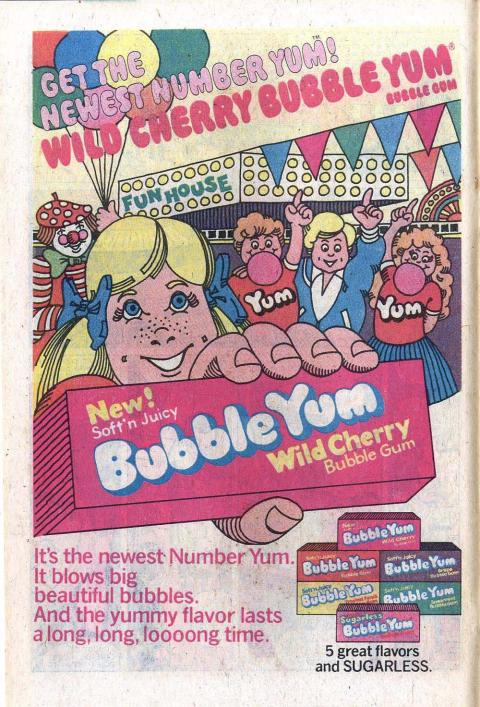








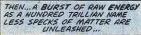














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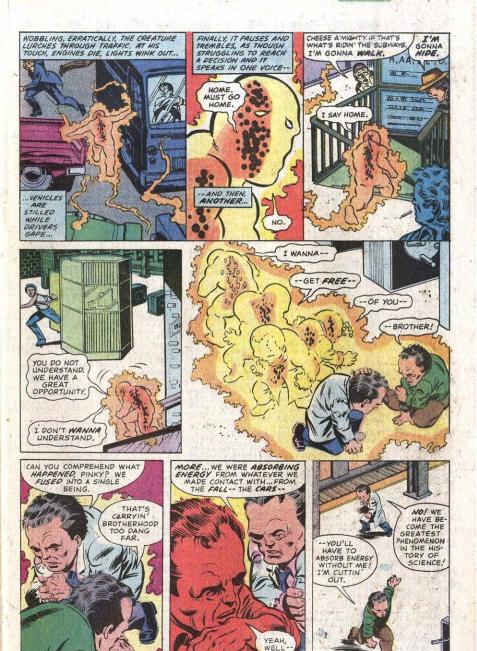












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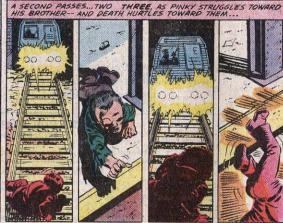










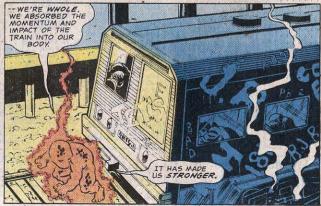


























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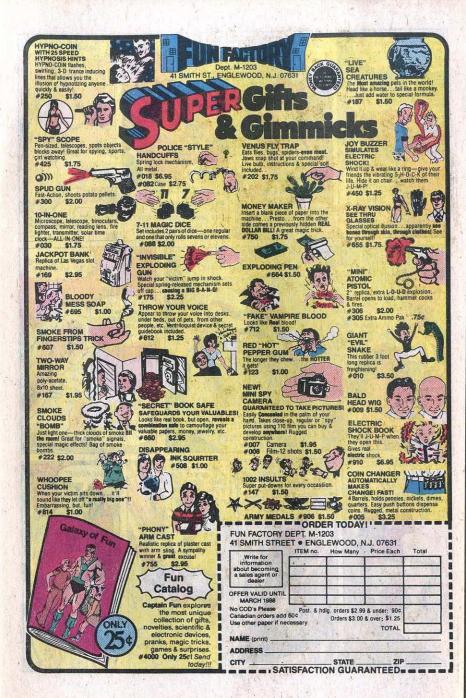
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pages, special features and more sheer excitement than you can wiggle, a web at. And while we're waiting, gearing up for all those setta goodles, we've' created a great new contest for you, with some dandy, dazzling, dynamite prizes (see below)! It's a way, to give you, our frends: a little something back for your patience and loyally, and (we hobe) it'll be fun to boot! Naturally, everyone can't win, but just for kicks, starting in September, we're going to print the name and address of every single entrant! So go to it, gang II in the immortal words of living Forbush. "He who entereth not, ain't likely to winneth!"

Editor-in-Chief

#### OFFICIAL RULES

- We're actually running three contests, onefor readers 10 years old and under, one for readers 11 to 14 years old, and one for readers 15 years old and older. To enter, find the question for your age group, below, and on any plain piece of paper, type or legibly print your answer. Mail your entry to the address listed under the question for your age group. Be sure to write your name, so city, state and ap code on your sentry.
- You can enter as often as you like, but each entry must be accompanied by a Marvel Comics proof-of-purchase stamp which can be found elsewhere on this page. All entries must be received by August 15, 1980 to be elioible.
- All answers entered must be the work of the entrant himself (no fair getting help from your Philosophy Prof). Any resident of the United States can enter, except employees of the Marvel Comics Group and their immediate families, employees of affiliated companies and their immediate families, and employees of Marden-Kane, Inc., and their immediate families
  - Entries will be judged according to originality, aptness of thought, sincerity, and neatness. Winners will be selected by Marden-Kane, Inc., an independent judging tirm. Their decisions are final. All prizes will be awarded, and winners will be notified by mail. Taxes are the sole responsibility of the prize winners. No prize substitutions permitted.
- All entries become the sole property of the Marvel Comics Group.
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## THE SPIDER'S WEB

CO MARVEL COMICS GROUP 575 Madison Avenue New York, New York 10022

ALLEN MILGROM FOITOR MARY JO DUFFY ASSISTANT EDITOR

Dear People,

SPIDER MAN #203 was indeed a classic. Having the Dazzler appear as a guest-star was a great idea... especially so soon after her appearance in the uncanny X-MEN!

Another great touch was the opening scene in which Spider-Man thought that the ball of light chasing the Dazzler was Will-O'-the-Wisp! Anyway, the story and the art were sensational. I'll definitely be looking forward to Dazzler's appearance in this month's FANTASTIC FOUR, as well!

Gary Peiffer Jr. RD 4

Dover, PA 17315

Dear Guys.

Okay, everybody makes mistakes.
The Dazzier is your mistake. A disco singer/heroine?

But don't worry, it could have been worse... I can be forgiving. In fact, I'll give you a chance to atone for your wrongs. All you have to do is make the upcoming Black Cat story good. No, Make it great! And, please, make it romantic! Good heavens, don't you people know a good thing when you create it? Peter Parker needs a decent, loving girl, and Felicia Hardy is made to order. I don't know if the Black Cat should learn Spider-Man's identity, or anything that drastic, but do something... please! Liam Pleven

1160 Fifth Avenue New York, NY 10029

Well, I'm not sure how you took the ending of our latest Black Cat opus, Liam... but you have to admit it was romantic! I'll agree that Felicia Hardy is certainly a loving girl, but her scruples and her mental state don't exactly

qualify her for the "decent" category.

But if it's a romance you want to see, I'd like to direct your eyes to the pages of our sister magazine, the SPECTAC-ULAR SPIDER MAN. If you hurry, you just might get in on the ground-floor of an interesting development in the love-life of Peter Parker.

Re: AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #203

Nice cover, fellas! There was just one thing wrong with it... it wasn't signed! C'mon, don't be bashful... who drew it? Louis Fetters **RR #1** 

Plainfield, IN 46168

The art on the cover of issue #203 was by our own Jim Mooney, Lou, from a sketch by Frank Miller. Thanks for asking... we liked it, too.

Alas, the great Marvel Age of Comics is no longer with us. Marvel comics have lost the one thing that separated them from their competitors - realism. What made Spider-Man the revolutionary hero he was back in 1963 when Lee and Ditko created him? The answer is realism. Here was a super hero who actually had personal problems, who had doubts about himself - just as we all do.

I think the first signs that Spider-Man was losing some of the magic that made him great occurred with the death of Gwen Stacy. Readers saw Pete through high school, his first love, his college days... they grew up with him. Then, along came Gwen Stacy. Gradually, their relationship grew to a point at which the readers knew would logically lead to the marriage of Pete and Gwen. Of course, we all know what happened in that now infamous issue #121. Rather than dealing with the next logical step in Pete's life, you killed Gwen. This was easier than dealing with the more subtle if more subdued concept of a married super hero. What a cop out. From then on, relationships with characters could be ended simply by killing off one of the characters. Instead of employing the revolutionary fervor started with Spider-Man's first memorable issue, and allowing Pete to move on to a new stage in his life, Marvel avoided the change by ending Gwen's life.

A recent case in point concerns the Spider-Man newspaper strip. At first, the current strip really instrigued me. I had often wondered what would happen if a superhero turned his powers to the athletic fields. It would have been nice if Pete had shown the jocks on his college team how to really play football. Any "realistic" person with the powers of Spider-Man would be able to rewrite the record books. Just using a fraction of his power, Pete could play pro ball for a couple of years and thereby solve at least half of his personal problems. Then, Pete could devote the rest of his life to the fight against crime. Now that would be a revolu-tionary story! Kenneth E. Leeper tionary story! RD #4, Box 342

Lewiston, PA 17044

Revolutionary, indeed, Ken... but would it be right for Spider-Man? Would Peter Parker be the kind of guy who would get off on showing the jocks how it's done... or would he have to be wearing his mask to pull it off? You see, Ken, realism is not always as you perceive it. I think most of us will agree that Parker is a fairly neurotic guy. He tends to restrict his showing-off to when he's in costume.

Likewise, marriage was not the logical outcome of Peter's relationship with Gwen Stacy. It was the most obvious outcome, but it was by not means the only

outcome.

'I think that if you take a broad view of the run of SPIDER-MAN, you'll find that there has been change — quite a bit of it! — in Pete's lifestyle, in his personal circumstances, and in his love life. And Pete's life continues to change. But those changes are consistent with his personality. At least, that's what we strive for. If we've fumbled the ball occasionally, we're sorry for that. We'll just have to dig in, and try better next time. 'Nuff said? -- Roger Stern.

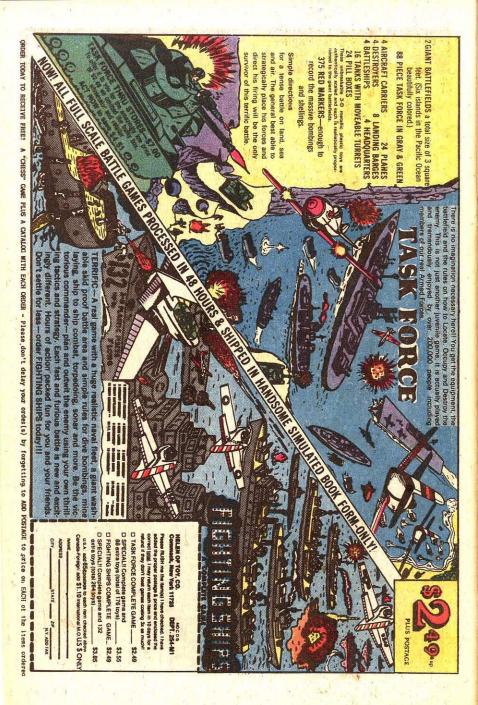
#### STAN'S SOAPBOX

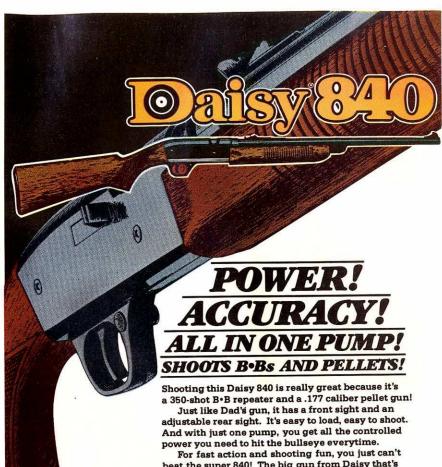
Hey, it's been a long time since I clued you in to what's happening with our Spider-Man newspaper strip! I can picture all of you waking up in the morning, even before your eyes are fully open, before you've had your o.j., mouthing those pregnant, crucial, portentous words, "Gee, what's happening with the Spider-Man newspaper strip?" Well, glad you asked!

In just a few short years, Ol' Spidey has become the biggest, most popular syndicated adventure strip in the world! Wouldja believe it appears in nearly 600 newspapers throughout the globe? (That's at the time of this writing. By the time you read these weighty words, it may be in even more papers!) And it's got the most eclectic readership imaginable. The newspapers get countless requests for reprints from doctors, actors, advertising men, politicians, lawyers, secretaries, athletes - you name it! Just about the only guy our webheaded wall-crawler hasn't yet heard from is Doc Ock - and that's probably because the mails have been so late! As a matter of fact, we did a Sunday page a while ago in which Spidey went to see a doctor and got into a hassle involving all the medical forms he had to fill out. You probably remember it. Well, anyway, the newspapers must have received dozens and dozens of letters from indignant physicians who thought we had treated em unfairly. But, at the same time, they also received even more letters from doctors who were willing to pay any amount for copies of the Sunday page so that they could hang it in their offices! Yep, it may be difficult, but it's never dull! And we don't even have room to tell you about the Hulk strip now, or Conan, or our Marvelous Fun and Games page!

But before signing off, I've gotta mention that the greatest thing about working with the good of Register and Tribune Newspaper Syndicate is the fact that their young, curly-haired, moustachiced, rodeo-riding president, Daring Denny Allen and I have become such close pals. Denny is adventurous enough to have helped make Spidey the most successful strip of its type in the world! So, here's to the amazin' Mr. Allen, wishing you the happiest of birthdays for June 13th and welcoming you to the serried ranks of Marveldom Assembled! (And if that doesn't get me a free newspaper subscription, I give up!) San

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