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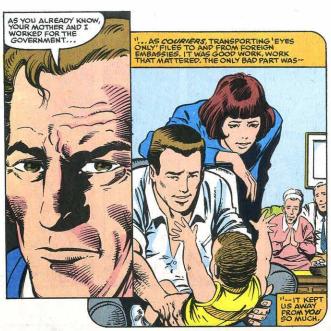












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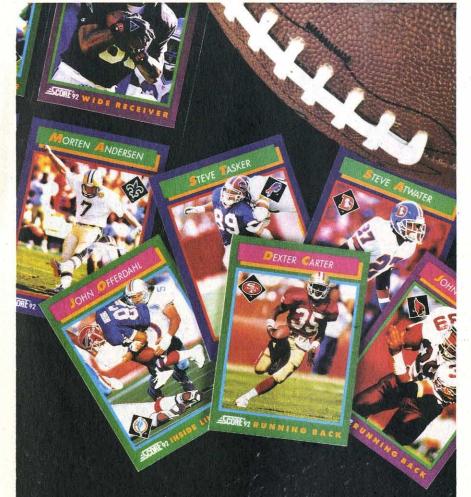








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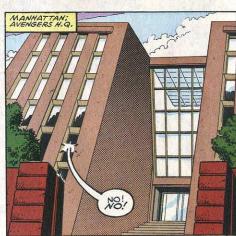














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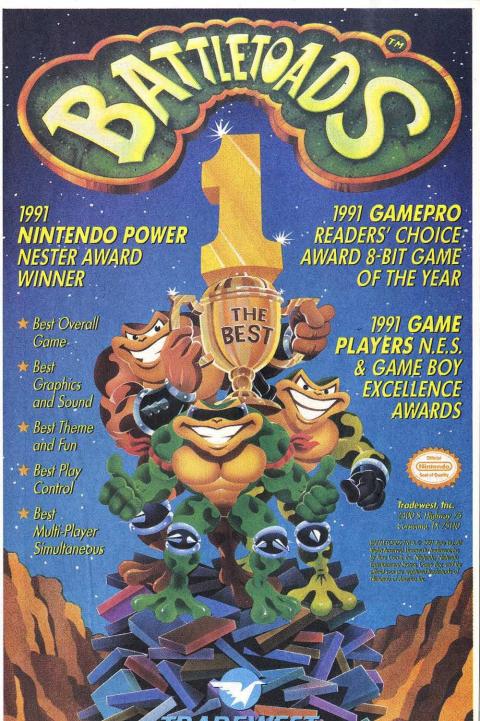


















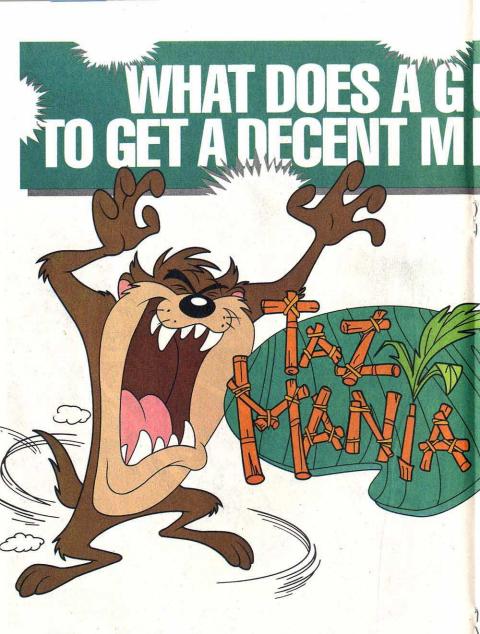












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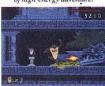




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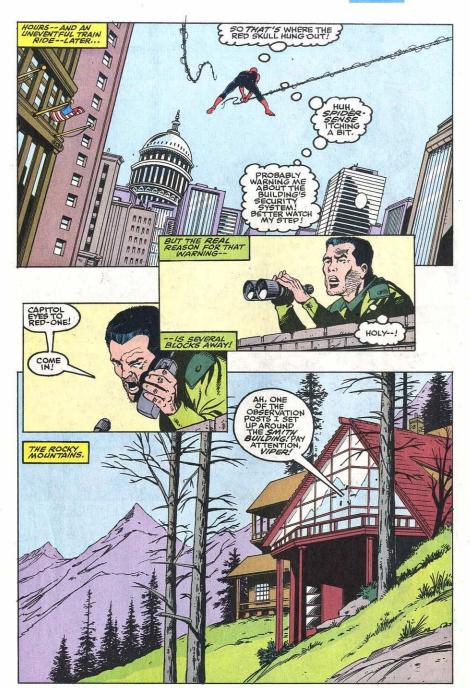
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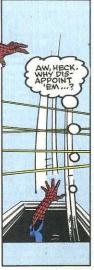


























STAN'S SOAPBOX

Hi, Heroes!

Take warning! Today's tantalizing little treatise is gonna be one big, unblushing, unabashed plug! Much as I try not to sully the cultural purity of this prize-winning column (No lie! I awarded myself a no-prize only last week), I can hold back no longer! The time has come to shamelessly huckster one of the greatest projects Marvel has ever offered the pantin' public!

I had no intention of writing about it this

month - but then, I saw some pages! I tell you true, they blew me away! The artwork! The action! The characters! The stories! They represent the peak of superhero excitement! And these are just the first issues! Just imagine what'll happen when we begin to figure out what the heck we're doing!

But none of this humongous hype will mean anything if I don't tell you the name of the mags that have me semi-delirious!

Although, chances are you've already guessed what I'm leading up to in my carefully restrained, low-key way! All of comicdom has been wondering and whispering about Marvel's long-awaited 100-year leap into the next century of superhero sagas the daring new series which spans ten dangerous decades in order to bring us to a breathtakingly new and startling world - a world of the horrible and the heroic, the weird and the wonderful, the violent and the valorous - in short, the totally awesome, mind-staggering world of - MARVEL 2099!

Best of all, the world of one hundred ears from now is still an integral part of the famed Marvel Universe! For, in MARVEL 2099 you'll meet the SPIDER-MAN of the future, the PUNISHER of the future, the DR. DOOM of the future, and the one new character who is destined to take his place among the most dazzling stars in our liter-ary firmament — RAVAGE! Man Without Mercy!

I've seen the artwork! I've read the

scripts! I've shared the excitement racing madly through the Bullpen and I tell you this there has never been a new comicbook project more eagerly awaited or more pas-sionately created! SPIDER-MAN 2099! PUNISHER 2099! DR. DOOM 2099! And they're only the beginning! Yes, MARVEL 2099 may well be the most sensational new series of the next ten decades!

Okay! I warned you that this would be an unadulterated plug! But it wasn't written

just to sell a few extra copies; matter of fact the mags aren't even available yet! It was written to alert you, as one friend to another, when they do go on sale, don't let a sin-gle copy of the MARVEL 2099 series slip away, because this is a golden opportunity, for you and us together, to be in at the start Excelsion

Stan Lee

AKE ME OUT TO THE COMIC BOOK SHOP!" This is a familiar cry that rings out every year at about this time. School's out, the weather is hot, and children of all ages and shoe sizes are looking for new ways to enjoy the new national pastime - comic books! All across the nation, eager readers are keeping their eye firmly on the comic racks, choking up on their wallets, ready to take a swing at a new series, hoping for a home run. Truly it is a joyous time for all.

There was plenty of joy in Marvelville this past April, as the Marvel editorial all-stars took off a few rainy days in April for the warmer climes of California. The line-up looked like this; Stan Lee, who is the Abner Doubleday of Marvel, Manager Tom DeFalco, Benchwarmer Mark Gruenwald, Outfielder Carl Potts, Switch-hitter

Fabian Nicieza, Shortstop Bobbie Chase, and Star Rookie Hildy Mesnik. The Marvel boys 'n girls of summer were in California to round the promotional bases, and actually wound up performing something of a double-header.

They first stepped up to the plate in Oakland where they threw out the first ball at a local comics convention. If the roar of the crowd was any indication, the Marvel madmen scored quite a hit with their "exhibition games." Among other hair-raising heroics, Tom D. performed his famous "popping a balloon by sitting on it" trick, Bobbie Chase juggled unjugglable garments, Mark demonstrated his face's affinity for shaving cream pies, and Fabian caught M&M's in his mouth. A talent scout was heard to remark that "Fabian has a good eye. I'm not crazy about his nose, but the kid has a good eye." The convention featured all these Marvel madmen play-

ing their best game; everyone gave 110%. As one spectator noted at the time, "They really came here to play ... with the possible exception of DeFalco, who may have come just for the promise of free peanuts and crackeriacks!"

The Marvelballers carried their winning streak over to George Lucas's special effects company, Industrial Light and Magic, located at a secret location in , California. Although Tom's titans didn't have the home field advantage, they still came through like champions. At ILM, DeFalco's dreadnaughts presented an hour and a half talk about Marvel as part of ILM's guest-lecture series. The speech went over like a grand slam, with the Marvel team committing only a few errors. (Fortunately for all, the speech did not go into extra innings.)



Hot new heavy metal group War Babies also dropped by the bullpen, to witness our hardworking team as we went through spring training. Fans of hard-rockin' music should check out the War Babies new album - these guys may never play the National Anthem at Yankee Stadium, but their

music is ready for the major leagues!

As we complete the seventh inning stretch of this Bullpen page, we are somehow put in the mind of .. baseball. This is probably as good a time as any to check in with the Marvel softball team, the Punishers. This grim and gritty team, whose uniforms feature glow-in-the-dark gatefold holograms, lost their first game against local TV station WNET. Still. the Punishers put up a good fight, much like the fictional Punisher in pursuit of some perpetrators, keeping it competitive at 12-8. Team managers this year are managing editor "Diamond" David Wohl and editor Rob "The Babe" Tokar.

At the time of this writing, the Marvel team was gearing up for the first of three big games against uptown archrivals DC. After the way uptown archrivals DC. After the way we humiliated the DC Batmen last ear, it should be interesting to see what happens when the Batmen

Return. (Sure, they can get multi-million dollar movies made, but can they compete where it really counts - on the softball field?

And, in the field of television, one show which is sure to slide into first place soon is the syndicated Dennis Miller Show. Dennis did some colorful commentary about Marvel Comics of the late sixties on a recent episode of his late night talk-fest. It seems Dennis was a bigtime Marveloid in his bush league days. Thanks for going to bat for us, Dennis! You can be our designated talk show host any

Looks like Mighty Marvel has not struck out with the fans this year. If our winning streak continues, we may make it all the way to the World Series of Comics! So until next time, remember — it ain't over till the Kingpin sings!











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FUESPIDER'S WEB

% MARVEL COMICS GROUP 387 Park Avenue South New York, New York 10016 DANNY FINGEROTH EDITOR ERIC FEIN ASSISTANT EDITOR

Attention correspondents: All letters considered for publication must include your name and address, though we will withhold that information upon request

Hey! If you want to see the original appearance of Spidey's parents, check out MARVEL TALES #'s 264 and 265, on sale now, where it's reprinted (in two parts) in all it's clory!

Dear Amazing Friends,

Wow! I just finished "Carnage, Part I" in AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #381. Great idea! Looks like Spidey is gonna have double trouble with Carnage and Venom. Getting Venom back should be an issue in listelf! And what about the psychological effects on Eddie Brock? Who will he want to kill more, Spidey or Carnage? That is, if he wants to kill Carnage at all. I'll be waiting for the next ish.

John L. Curtis Las Vegas, NV

Dear Spider's Web,

"Carnage" is probably the best storyline to hit this title since Spidey inherited the Captiani Universe powers. As ruthless, powerful, and psychotic as Venom is, Carnage is much worse — and he doesn't have that strange sense of "fair play" that Venom has. In fact, one of the emotional handicage that plague most super-villains apply to him! I can't figure out how Spidey will be able to take him down without calling in some major league help, like the Avengers (both coasts!). Part One made for some great reading, and it was primarily a set-up issue. I can't wait to read the rest of the story!

rest of the story!
Also, Mark Bagley is again to be commended on his wonderful art. Mark could have taken the easy way out by drawing Carnage as a massive, bigger-than-life creature. Instead, he drew him as sleek and compact, about the same size as Spidey himself, and still made him appear menacing!

Congratulations on the success of this story. It's great to see David and Mark working together again! Thanks for listening.

Scott Haan 920 State Street Lafayette, IN 47905

And you'll see them back together starting in issue #358 (the first of the "Invasion of the Spider Slayers" bi-weeklies), Scott. But Mark's taking a well-deserved rest after our awesome thirtieth anniversary issue last month. We think Jerry Bingham is a great replacement for this sensational two-parter. How 'bout you?

Dear Spider-People,

Let me start by saying that I don't read AMAZING SPIDER-MAN on a regular basis. Every once in a while, I pick up an issue just to see what Spidey's up to, and issue #361 really surprised me. The cover caught my eye, and I want to say that Mark Bagley is the best Spider-Artist since John Romital Mark draws the best Spidey I've seen in fifteen years, and I may just stay with this title (at least as long as he does).

At first, I thought Carnage must be just another tool to cash in on the popularity of Venom. His origin is virtually the same, and his powers are pretty much identical. But

there is more to this character than that, and I found myself actually liking him. This is the foe Spider-Man was born to battle, and he reminds me of the original Green Goblin in his fury and hatred of Spider-Man. I liked this issue, and I plan on being around to see what comes of all this.

My advice to Danny Fingeroth is to keep Mark Bagley chained to his desk if he has to! This guy is too good to let go.

> Joe Christiano 35 Coach Drive Waterbury, CT 06708

Not only is Mark chained to his drawing table, Joe, but we've got Venom standing over him just to make sure he gets every detail right!

Gentlemen,

On behalf of the character of Mary Jane Watson-Parker, I applaud you. In issue #361, we see the begining of a storyline which, in my opinion, is long overdue — the resurrection of Spider-man's wife as an interesting character.

Ever since the Parkers' marriage, Mary Jane has become one of the stalest and underused characters in comicdom. What happened to the character's vitality? Her turbulent emotions? Her fashion sense?

I began collecting AMAZING in the early seventies, with the classic run by Conway and Andru, just as this young couple's relationship was blossoming. I watched these two people grow together. ... and apart. .. and inevitably together again. The journey was a bumpy one, yet magical. Why did the magic seem to end with the words "t do"?

For years I've wondered how it feels for MJ to be the wife of a man who spends his nights swinging from the rooftops, placing his life in danger over and over, and juxt being Spider Man. With the exception of an occasional stray comment, the only story of recent year that I recall dealing with this subject is MJ's reaction to her ordeal with Venom and the black suit

What will Spidey's working alongside of more do to her and the relationship? She's already aggravated, irritable, and smoking(l), not that she doesn't have cause. Will this team-up of foes act as a springboard to major happenings between Peter and Mary Jane? I don't know, but I'm interested, and I haven't been able to say that for some time.

By the way, Carnage ain't bad either.

Scott Aubrey 88 Greenmont Ave. Dracut, MA 01826

Wait'll you see the things we have planned with and for Mary Jane! Be on the lookout in all four Spider-titles!

Dear Spidey Crew,

Before I begin writing my comments about AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #361, I want to say that I tremendously enjoy Mark's and Randy's art combined with David's superb writing!

AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #361 was yet another awesome story told by David. Walting another thirty days for the next issue will be like waiting a lifetime.

On page 30, I didn't understand something. When Peter found MJ's cigarettes, her explanation was ridiculous! "To be cool"!! I never thought that MJ had a weak personality and that she would give into peer pressure.

> Yoau Litvin 48/A Kubovi St. Ramat Dania, Jerusalem 96757 Israel

Unfortunately, Yoau, even the most strong-willed people sometimes give in to peer pressure.



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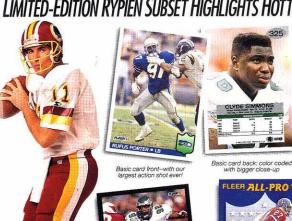
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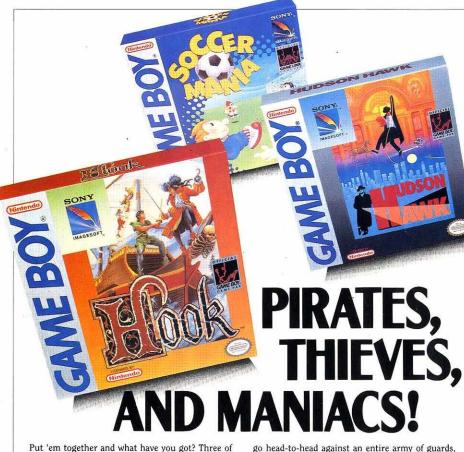


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