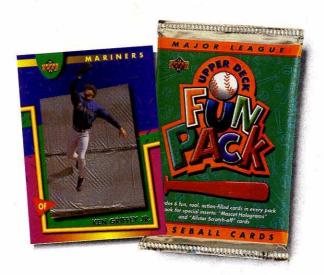


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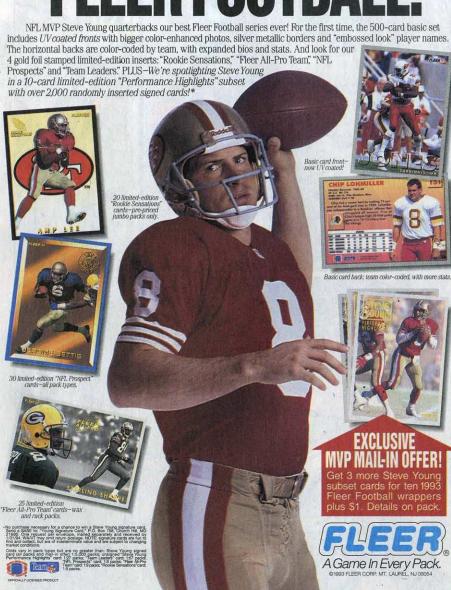


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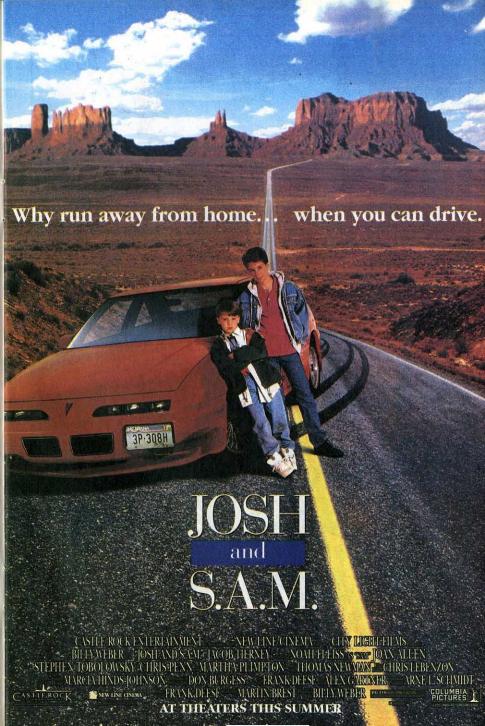




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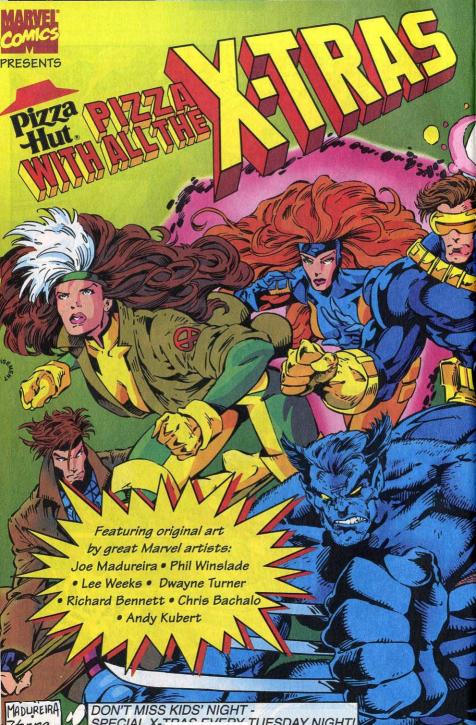




































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STAN'S SOAPBOX

This is one Soapbox I couldn't wait to write! I just have to tell you something I learned about the power of Spidev. No. I'm not talking about his strength or his web-swinging - I'm talking about an even greater power - a power that crosses countries, continents, and oceans! If you haven't yet guessed it, I'm talking about your friendly neighborhood wall-crawler's fame!

It all happened just a few days ago while I was on a trip to Tokyo with Marvel's peerless president, Merry Terry Stewart. We had gone there to start a new Japanese publishing venture in partnership with the world-famous Shoqaku-

kan Production Company.

Now, before going any further, you've got to get this picture. Spider-Man is not published in Japan. There are no Spider-Man comic books, no Spidey cartoons, no Spidey toys or games in the Land of the Rising Sun. Nothing! Nada! Zilch! I can almost hear you asking, "So what's the big deal?" Well, this is it, O impatient one

A survey taken in Tokyo revealed that more than 70% of the Japanese population actually know our wall-crawling wonder! It seems that Spidey's fame has man-aged to leap-frog clear across the Pacific Ocean! You know how it is visitors see our mags in the U.S. and talk about them enthusiastically when they return home. Before you know it, the word spreads like wildfire! In fact, we dressed an actor in a Spider-Man costume and walked through the Tokyo streets with him, just as a gag, to see what would happen. The Japanese people went wild, laughing and cheering as if they'd known him all their lives! It made us realize how truly small the world is becoming and how quickly fame can spread!

Of course, the upshot of the whole thing is that Spidey and many of our other Marvel super heroes will soon be published in Japan where it's expected that they'll be as big a hit as they are elsewhere around the world. But they won't be hitting those far distant shores as strangers. No way! Instead, thanks to Spidey's amazing fame, they'll be greeted like old friends who just happen to have

been away too long! Excelsior!

☐ ALPHA FLIGHT #125: INFINITY

hia 2099

☐ DARKHOLD #13: Enter the

Blaze of glory!

GROO TPB: FESTIVAL: The

stivities are just beginning!

CRUSADE crossover!

Missing Link! (No, not the guy from he Mod Squad!)

GHOST RIDER #42: Shot down in a

Stan Lee

his summer, there are more comics out than ever before In fact, the last time we saw this many comics in one place, Bob Hope was putting on a USO show! There are so many new universes starting up, the Watchers are putting in for overtime.

If you're like us, you're probably buying lots of comics this summer and possibly even reading some of them! But there have got to be other things to do with comics besides just reading and collecting them. That's the puzzle that's been burning in our brains lately. For the answer, we decided to go right to the experts; and who knows more about comics than comic book characters?

Here now we present the views of our own super heroes on this megachallenging question: what do you do with your comics, besides reading and collecting them?

The Incredible Hulk said, "I used to like to smash them, but I regret that now. If I hadn't smashed my old comic collection, I'd be a rich man today

Super-model Mary Jane Watson-Parker said, "You asked the right gal, pal! I wrap 'em in tin foil, and use 'em to reflect the sun on my bodacious bod while I'm tanning on the roof!"

The Human Torch said, "I like to sell 'em for huge profit! Every comic in my collection is a 'hot' issue!"

Gambit, of the X-Men said, "I like to charge 'zem up, 'zen pass 'zem on to Wolverine! He gets a big bang out of

Daredevil's arch-foe, Bullseye said, "I like to fold my comics into deadly weapons, then kill people with them! Hey, in my hands, anything is a weapon!"

ledusa of the Inhumans said, "I like to roll them up and use them to discipline my dog, Lockjaw, with them! Sometimes I do the same thing to my husband, Black Bolt!

The Blob said, "I eat them! They make a great between meal snack! Some may find it odd that I eat paper, but I'm a mutant, and I'll eat anything! How do you think I got this fat?

The Thing said, "I use 'em to light my great big stinky cigars, just like Tom DeFalco does!"

The Destroyer from the Infinity Watch said, "Me use comical books to learn how to count up to 2099! Let's see ... that's one ... two ... 2099!"



The Kingpin said, "I don't have any comic books, but if I did, I'd sell them to get money for food! I'm a little down on my luck right now. All I need is some spare change

The Punisher said, "I hang them from a tree and use them for target practice. particularly like shooting at mutant

books!" Captain America said, "I like to give them to the orphans down at the hospi-

John Blaze said, "I like to roll them up and stick them between the spokes of my bike! They make a really cool sound when I'm chasing down some demon or weirdo!

Conan the Barbarian said, "I cover my body with them and use them for a blanket! Crom, but those nights in Cimmeria can chill a warrior's bones!" Finally, we have Aunt May, who said,

"What do you think I do with them? I'm an old lady! I throw them away, of

Thanks, Aunt May! It's nice to know that some things never change!

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- family!

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- CRUSADE cros ☐ SLEEPWALKER #29: It's a
- injohtmare when Sleepy turns evill

 WILD THING #7: We have to hype new artist Bryan Hitch! (Okay, so we're Hitch-hyping!)

 WOLVERINE #74: Saga of the
- sentient Sentinel!

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SPIDER'S WEB

% MARVEL COMICS GROUP 387 Park Avenue South New York, New York 10016

DANNY FINGEROTH FDITOR MIKE LACKEY ASSISTANT EDITOR

HEY, SPIDER-MANIACSII

With all the excitement in the industry and at Marvel these past months, my head's been spinning. So many titles, so many stories, so many characters. And through it all, you folks have been loyal to the Spider-line, for

which we all are eternally grateful.

But hey-who are "we" anyway?

Well, the writers and artists I think you know. Their work speaks for itself (which never stopped us from hyping it anyway). But the editorial "we" - well, that's a little trickier. So, even though we're supposed to be the invisible gremlins that make everyone else's work magically get to you, I'm going to open the curtain for a minute.

Y'see, here at Marvel, there's always been an Editor in Chief. As we grew, the Chief had "line editors" who oversaw the specific goings-on of specific titles. So that while one person could never humanly edit all our many titles, the Chief picked people he trusted to put them out, who would consult him only about general directions and major status quo changes. And that was fine for guite a while.

But as your demand for more of our books has grown, even the line editors were stretched to the limit to handle their books without going crazy. In response, editor in chief Tom DeFalco came up with the "Group Editor" system about a year and a half ago. Now, there would be the Spider-Man Group, the X-Men Group, the Midnight Sons Group, and the Avengers Group, with others to come later. The idea behind this was that there would be a G.E. who would oversee the direction of a family of books, editing some books on his or her own, with others of the titles being handled either by an Editor and /or and Associate Editor. (What about the Executive Editors whose credits you often see? They help Tom with his chiefly duties, but for the most part they don't edit monthly comics.)

In my case, I became the head of the Spider-Group, still hands-on editing AMAZING SPIDER-MAN, SPIDER-MAN and a few others, while delegating the editing of SPECTACULAR, WEB, and so on to someone else. For a while, Rob Tokar was line editor of a bunch of my family's books. Then, my former assistant Eric Fein was promoted to Associate Editor and he took some over, while Rob--after helping us through Spider-triumphs such as WEB #100. SPEC #200, and Maximum Carnageeventually branched off, leaving his Spider-titles behind but taking with him the NEW WARRIORS and NIGHT THRASHER (which had both been in my group when the G.E. system started) and some books he'd been editing all along, and left the group. Coming in to take up the slack was former EXCALIBUR assistant editor Mark Powers, who was promoted to Associate Editor. (And coming in to take up my slacks was my tallor, but that's another story.) And that's where things stand today.

ered for publication must include your name and address, though we will withhold that information upon reques Now, we editorial types see our

names in print enough (except maybe for my assistant Mike Lackey, the hardest working ex-wrestling writer in the business today), so that's not why I'm listing us now. It's just that, with all the Spidey and Spidey-related comics we're putting out and preparing to put out, as well as the animation, video game, movie and miscellaneous Spider-Projects we're involved in, which also take a lot of time and attention, we sometimes aren't able to put as much of the personal touch in the letter columns as we'd like. For instance, telling you the above, while long-winded and convoluted, is my way of trying to explain to you all the various names you've seen coming and going in the Spider-mags for the past year or so. We couldn't do any of this without you, so we think you have the right to know and be included in the excitement as Marvel continues on the movel

What you should also know is that with all these extra hands working on the books, there's more care and attention given to them editorially than there would have been without the current system in place. And we all do read and comment

on each others' work-as if you could stop us -so that there should be the consistency of character and exciting development of main and sub plots that you've come to expect from Marvel in general and Spidey's books in particular. If we're not performing up to the standards you hold us to—let us know. (As if we could stop you.) If we are doing okay —let us know that, too. You know how insecure we are.

So that's the story around here. Me, Eric, Mark and Mike will all do our best to keep you posted on behind the scenes and upcoming events in the life of Spidey and his creators. We'll always do all we can to keep warranting your continued support.

Thanks for listening. Take care.

Danny Fingeroth **Group Editor**

While we scramble to catch up on all those hot Spider-Issues, here's a sampling of the mail that's been pouring in lately.

Dear Spider-Men,

I've found out that Venom ain't that bad, really. He saved that girl from that really nasty down! I like the idea of Venom becoming a good guy! Keep it up, "Bags!"

> Dexter Ryan G. Monzon 2-A Chicago Tech. University Hills Subdivision Caloocan Metro-Manila, K100

Well, first off, we wouldn't call Venom a "good guy"," Dexter. "Anti-Hero" perhaps. Maybe even "Monster With a Heart of Gold". But definitely NOT a "Good Guy."

Dear Danny & Mike.

Amazing! It has been well over sixteen years since I purchased a copy of AMAZING SPIDER-MAN. After reading David Michelinie's "Murder on Parade" I experienced a sensation of euphoria magnificently sprinkled with nostalgia. All I can say is "Well Donel!"

> Peter J. Koerner 401 Bridge St. Mont Clare, PA, 19453

And we thought that we really liked David's writing! We here at Marvel also feel that some of the most interesting stories blend a sense of nostalgia with the newest, cutting edge dramatic style.

OOPS! DEPT: You may have noticed a tiny caption on the last page of AMAZING #381, referring to a blurb on that issue's cover that simply wasn't there! What happened was, moments before we shipped that issue's cover to the printer, we decided that Mark Bagley's Spidey v. Hulk artwork was just too dam good to cover up, so we deleted it! Unfortunately, In our haste, we forgot about that little dickens on page twenty-three. So here's a big "Sorry!" from the Spider-Group to anyone who drove themselves crazy over that one!

NEXT ISSUE: Orwell Taylor hates the lethal protector, Venom. The super-powerful high-tech Jury was created to destroy Venom. Spidey is indirectly responsible for Venom's existence. Now the Jury wants Spidey. Things just don't get any crazier than this. Plus: The mystery of Peter's parents deepens! Don't miss a second!



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