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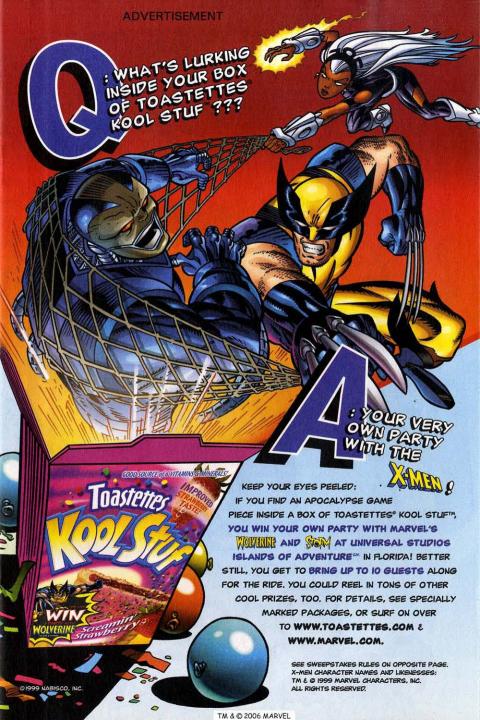
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IN HIS LIFE PRIOR
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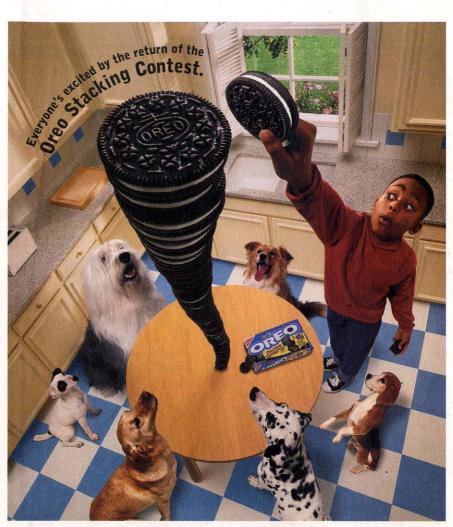
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PRIZES. Grand Prizer (2, 1 per age group): U.S. Series EE Savings Bond worth \$20,000 at maturity, a 1-year supply of Dreo cookies (52 packages): 3-day/2-night trip for 2 to Calgary, Alberta, Canada, on dates selected by Sporsor between December 1, 1999 and March 1, 2000 to appear in a Sportice Deliveries Describer 1, 1999 and March 1, 2000 to goper in a wind-on-rise on Disripar Home, (Sharsh Re Mice. That 19 Show. "His command of unartity count her transportation between major commencial Challegy areast and facel 2, original standards between transportation (Southern Country Charles 1, 2014 to 18 April 2014 and 19 April 2014 to 16 Instantion (Southern Country Charles 19 April 2014 to 16 Instantion (Southern Charles 19 April 2014 to 16 Instantion (Southern Charles 19 April 2014 to 16 Instantion In the "Nitronal Stanking Finish." The correlate of invariety couche in transportation between major commercial approx massers wherein readeries and Classics, ground transport the proper properties of the section of the properties of Southern Charles (Southern Charles) 2 Southern (Southern Charles) 3 Southern (Southern Charles) 3 Southern (Southern Charles) 4 Southern (Southern Charles) 5 So hotel. 2 might* landard hotel accommodation (ducke conquent), 20 Eulergodeus passes for 2 gas, 2 with 10 Eulergodeus passes for 2 gas forfelded, with an atternate Finalst selected, For Grand Pitze, winner is solely repossible for obtaining any necessary travel coursents; and, walk-on the is subject to availability and other neutricions. No prite transfer, ho prize substitution or crash equivalent of prize succept at one description of Sponsor due to prize unevailability for any reason, and only them for prize of companishe value. Prizes may be warred to prannishegia quantian on winner's behalf. All taxes on prizes are the sole responsibility of winners.

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ILLPEN BULLETIN

A-NEXT Returning from their most recent battle with **#12** three less members, the team is confronted by an all-new super-team that has only one desire: to crush the surviving Avengers! All the events from the first 12 issues lead to this lethal last issue! By TOM DEFALCO and RON FRENZ!

CAPTAIN AMERICA

Klaw. master of sound, is out to destroy the world's supply of vibranium-by means of a sonic cancer that will destroy the nation of Wakanda! Plus: The conclusion to the Sqt. Furv vs. Baron Blood back-up tale that's fully painted by Vince Evans! By MARK WAID and ANDY KUBERT!

CONTEST OF CHAMPIONS II

The Human Torch faces off against the brandnew Spider-Woman! Atlas, of Thunderbolt fame, takes on Storm! Plus: Iron Man is trapped in the bowels of the alien's arena ship-where he uncovers the fate of the heroes that lose their battles! By CHRIS CLAREMONT and OSCAR JIMENEZ!

DEATHLOK

S.H.I.E.L.D.'s black-ops team closes in on Deathlok, while young Billy Bailey sneaks across state lines to retrieve his original, cyborg form! Only one man stands between the destruction of the world's ultimate military machine and the life of an innocent boy—and his name is Nick Fury! By JOE CASEY and LEONARDO MANCO!

GALACTUS THE DEVOURER

The new herald known as Red Shift arrives on Earth! All must fear the arrival of Galactus, the Devourer Of Worlds! What is the secret reason for the existence of Galactus? Why was Norrin Radd chosen and changed into the Silver Surfer? And what is the Surfer's ultimate purpose? By LOUISE SIMONSON and JON J MUTH!

GAMBIT

He tried in vain to hide the sins of his past from the tried in vain to hide the sins of his past from the tried in vain to hide the sins of his past from the tried in vain to hide the sins of his past from the tried in vain to hide the sins of his past from the tried in vain to hide the sins of his past from the tried in vain to hide the sins of his past from the tried in vain to hide the sins of his past from the tried in vain to hide the sins of his past from the tried in vain to hide the sins of his past from the tried in vain to hide the sins of his past from the tried in vain to hide the sins of his past from the tried in vain to hide the sins of his past from the tried in vain to hide the sins of his past from the tried in vain to hide the sins of hide the sins of his past from the tried in vain to hide the sins of his past from the tried in vain to hide the sins of his past from the tried in th allowed himself to be left in the frozen wasteland of Antarctica. He should have died... but something saved him! Now, the mystery is revealed—and prices must be paid! By FABIAN NICIEZA and WALTER MCDANIEL!

HULK

With blood on his hands, The Hulk is out of control and more dangerous than ever before! And when the green goliath hides out in the Florida Everglades he realizes that he isn't safe anywhere. Something is there—something sentient and deadly! By JOHN BYRNE and RON GARNEY!

PETER PARKER: SPIDER-MAN

The awful telephone calls continue-driving Mary Jane away from home! And then, just when things couldn't get worse, Eddie Brock walks back into the Parkers' life-and that means the fiendish foe named Venom can't be far behind! Or is something even more terrifying on the way?! By HOWARD MACKIE and JOHN ROMITA JR.!

THUNDERBOLTS

The explosive final confrontation with Graviton! ***30** The Imperial Forces come looking for Charcoal, the Burning Man! The mystery of the T-Bolts' new HQ deepens! But all of that pales in comparison to: Hawkeye and Moonstone—locking lips?! By KURT BUSIEK and MARK BAGLEY!

X-MAN

The recent breach from the Age of Apocalypse has caused dangerous vibrations in the M'Kraan Crystal, sending its Shi'Ar guardians after the source—who they think is Nate Grey! It's a good thing special guest-stars Cyclops and Phoenix are there to lend a hand! By TERRY KAVANAGH!

X - M E N "THE SHATTERING" PART 2

Has Charles Xavier abandoned the Dream and disbanded the X-Men?! Believe it! Now Scott Summers and Phoenix are left to pick up the pieces-and face a threat that will have a profound effect on the future of mutantkind! By ALAN DAVIS!

Hi, Heroes! I got it! I finally got it! An answer (of sorts) to the great "Tamam Shud" mystery! The No-Prize winning letter is from Peter Noble of Booterstown, Co. Dublin, Ireland. Pete's answer to our baffling query "What does Tamam Shud mean?" isn't a hundred percent accurate, but it's the first one we received that wasn't totally off the wall. So, here it is, unedited, unexpurgated, unadulterated, in its entirety-- and all the way from Ireland!

"Tamam Shud? It's gotta mean 'Nuff Said, doesn't it? 'Nuff Said? Yours in anticipation of a No-Prize."

Okay, Pete. Your "A for Effort" No-Prize will soon be winging its way across the Atlantic via one of our vast fleet of Marvel radar-evading stealth jets. We're able to transfer our pilot from combat duty for this important mission since things have quieted down on the Marvel-DC battle front. However, it's time I told you where I found the words Tamam Shud. They appear at the end of one of my all-time favorite poems. The Rubaiyat of Omar Khayyam." I assume the two words are Persian and, since they appear after the last stanza, I'm betting they mean "The End." That's kind'a like a Persian version of "Nuff Said," right? And so ends another close encounter with literary erudition, and so begins our foray into the unchartered wilderness of your most heartfelt interrogations...

ere's a real sticky one from Dan Lebl of Toronto, Ontario Canada...

"How exactly does Spider-Man control his "sticky" palms and feet? How come he sticks to buildings but doesn't stick to his remote control or spoon?"

It's just the way nature works, Danny, Didja ever watch a fly on the wall? His legs

stick to the wall but, when he wants to fly away, off he goes. In other words, he sticks when he wants to and he doesn't stick when he doesn't want to. And, hev, if a fly can do it, why can't a spider? (How d'ya like how I unglued my way outta that one!)

loyde Allen Grant of Saginaw MI tosses us an unusual one to ponder...

"Although the names of characters in Marvel's books are fictional, do vou ever get someone who writes in and says, "Hey! You used my name!"

Believe it or not, Lloyde, it happens all the time. There's almost no fictional name you can dream up that doesn't belong to some real person somewhere. I've even heard from a few Irving Forbushes over the years. The only name that no one's ever claimed is Dr. Doom. Maybe it's because they're afraid of angering the lethal Lord of Latveria!

So once again we come to the end of another of our explorations into the hearts and minds of Marveldom Assembled. But remember, it doesn't mean a thing if we don't hear from you! So address your heart-rending questions to "Soapbox, Marvel Comics, 387 Park Ave. South, New York NY 10016" and your exotic e-mails to stanzfanz@aol.com. And, while you're impatiently counting the minutes till we meet again, be sure to remember this delightful little dictum: "Naturam expellas furca, tamen usque recurret!'



Stan Lee

Venom and Doom Unleash the Monster Within!

The unholy alliance travel to the Southwest to try and salvage their nefarious plans!

However, what they unwittingly set free may make any success post-mortem! Meanwhile, Spider-Man and Spider-Girl are on the enemies' trail, having a real sweet father/daughter chat along the way!

www.Marvel.com/milk

This week's chat schedule!

July 22 9:30pm **EARTH's** MIGHTIEST CHAT with writer KURT **BUSIEK & editor TOM BREVOORT!**

July 26 8:00pm SPIDER-MAN and THOR Penciler -- JOHN ROMITA, JR.! July 27_8:00pm_The official EARTH X chat with writer -- JIM KRUEGER!

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MATT HICKS ASSISTANT EDITOR

BOB HARRAS

CHIEF

Dear Arachknights,

There were five main talking points in AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #5. Let's take 'em in turn:

1. The art. Envisage the work of these three artistic titans: Mark Bagley, Ross Andru, and John Romita Sr. It would take prodigious skill to combine the best of the above while maintaining a style that was unique and new—but John Byrne proved his mastery of the medium by doing exactly that! This issue was homey and familiar, while being dynamic and exciting at the same time! Byrne hit a comfortable stride this time, lending a confident, self-assured look to one of the eternally preeminent Marvel mass!

2. The new Spider-Woman was a surprise hit. Thanks for not making her a Jubilee rip-off, and also for not playing her solely for laughs like that other Spider-sidekick wannabe, the Frog-Man. Mattie seems far more competent, but Spidey's concern is natural since, as her inspiration, any harm that befalls her will partly be his fault. I like her optimistic innocence. her individualism and her strong attitude; I like her fairly loose links with the Spiderverse, allowing her to leap off in her own unique direction; and I like your plans to explore this direction in a new series. Well doneyou've got me excited one more time!

3. The monsters were great spectacle, and the fight itself was fun to watch. But why exactly were they marauding through Manhattan in the first place? And why so few of them? Was this a mere scouting mission for the Mole Man? Surely he could have found smaller critters and lent 'em the obligatory' big raincoat" so they blended in. (Hey, it worked for Shadrac, didn't it?) And what's to scout for anyway, after all this time? Moley's had enough contact with the surface world to know he'll get his but kicked with anything less than a full-scale invasion force. If this event is explained somewhere, then this emjoyable skirmish will seem less

contrived.

4. The evil Spider-Woman. Well, at first glance, her Medusa-esque mane and thigh-high boots do little to separate her from a dozen other throwaway 'bad girls' that have littered the Marvel Universe throughout the '90s. I hope her personality and agenda are better conceived (i.e., give her an unexpected, startling reason for attacking the other Spider-femmes, instead of the lame: "I must be the only person called Spider-Moman" cliché). And be aware that, if she fails to present a potent threat next ish, then her easy defeats of Jessica Drew and Julia Carpenter this time will have greatly diluted both of these heroes. Oh, yeah, and I hope that the evil SW intended to leave her predecessors alive; otherwise her sloppiness is just too mucht oaccept!

5. Finally, the subplots...or lack of them! We need new intrigue for Flash and Betty; for Pete, MJ and Jill; even for Robbie and Jonah; and as for Aunt May—arrgghh! You had her

return from the dead...so she could serve flamin' pancakes every goldarn issue?! Please, do something interesting with her! We're not thick; we can follow several plottlines, people. Stop merely hinting at progress and then leaving things hanging. Cease thy tentative prodding, Howard Mackie: you are the sole Spiderscribe now, so grab your characters and shove em all where you want em to go! Make your imprint, and make it big!

Kevin Barron PMM FFF Driffield, East Yorkshire ENGLAND

Geez, Kev, tell us how you really feel! We're almost as intrigued about your insights into the world of Peter Parker as we are about your use of italics! Sorry. Don't know what came over us. Ahem.

Glad to hear you enjoyed the first chapter of our Spider-Woman saga. How did the rest of it strike you? And the new ongoing? Let us know, bud!

And just for the record, we went back and checked the issues in question, and not once did we actually see May's pancakes aflame.

Dear Spider-people, Re: AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #5

All right! Some folks might question the necessity of yet another Spider-Woman (especially since Jessica and Julia were both great successes) but I think it is something that's long overdue. Jessica and Julia are both great characters (Jessica has the best super heroine costume in comics) but they are both too independent of Spider-Man to be calling themselves Spider-Woman. Mattie's ties to Spider with an inchestronger.
Additionally, her inexperience provides Spidey with the opportunity to train her, which should be a lot of fun to witness. Speaking of which, I've compiled a list of lessons I've learned from Spidey which I think might help Mattie as well...

Everything I Really Needed to Know I Learned from Spider-Man

10. Be flexible.

9. Always trust your instincts.

 If it glows like a radioactive spider, and it bites like a radioactive spider, and it dies like a radioactive spider, it was probably a radioactive spider.

 Sticks and stones can break your bones, but only if they hit you.
 Never wear clothing that comes

with its own webbing.

5. There is no one in the world exact-

There is no one in the world exactly like you, not even your clone.
 Friends come and go, but enemies

accumulate.
3. Don't try to carry the world on your shoulders...leave that to the Hulk.
2. Mess with the best, do time like the

Laugh and the world laughs with you; cry, and you cry a clone.

James Dysart Estacada, OR Thanks, James. Not since "The Ballad of Norman Osborn" have we run something so...offbeat? off-kilter? off-putting?...in a Spidey letters page.

Dear Spider's Web.

I'll let my comments about the new Spider-Woman slide, since I figure May could probably clean this wannabe's clock even on an off-day! And what's with the ponytail? What is the point of a skin-tight outfit if you give your opponent something like that to grab onto? Sheeshi

Page 4: Could this be Martha Franklin? Seems to me she's gained

the ability to fly!

Jessica Drew? Glad to see you haven't forgotten the other females who have used the name Spider-Woman! Julia Carpenter, too? I hope they aren't dead!

I'm surprised someone as bright as MJ hasn't figured out that Peter is back in costume. Lame subplot,

guys!

Last page: Another Spider-Woman? And this one wants the previous users of the name dead? As for her identity, I'd say she is the only member of the Gathering of the Five unaccounted for—Madame Web! By process of elimination, she must have gotten immortality, with a helping of rejuvenation on the side. But it looks like she also got a bit of the madness Osborn got, as well. Who knew the licensing for the name Spider-Woman would be worth so much?

Bob Kowalski Detroit, MI

Who indeed, Bob?

As for the new SW's ponytail, cut her some slack, eh? She's still a kid and she's very concerned about her look! And hey, Bob, no one said liking the new Spider-Woman means you have to give up on May's adventures over in SPIDER-GIRL! Enjoy them both—that's what they're there for!



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