



















I CAN'T BELIEVE HOW MUCH OF ALL THAT HAPPENED THAT DAY I'VE TRIED TO FORGET. I ALMOST DIED THAT DAY. AT AND I WOULD'VE, TOO, IF IT WASN'T FOR AN ITSY BITSY SPIDER, A

BITE AND SOME WEIRD EFFECT THAT THE RADIATION HAD ON ITS AND MINE.









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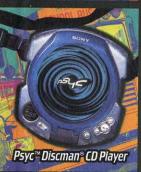






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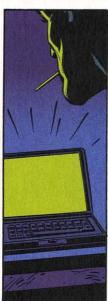












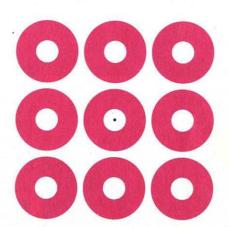






Wanna see what's new with Apple Jacks cereal? Stare hard at this little black dot while you slowly count to 15.

Then stare at the dot below and count to 5.



-

Green 'Jacks.' Cool, huh?
We see what welike.























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BULLPEN BULLETINS

CAPTAIN AMERICA

Captain America journeys to Wakanda, home of the world's largest stockpile of Vibranium (and the Black Panther), just in time to be way-laid by a greatly amplified Klaw! By MARK WAID and ANDY KUBERT!

DEATHLOK

Can little six-year-old Billy Bailey get to Deathlok before the S.H.I.E.L.D. death squad and Nick Fury do?! He better, or else they'll obliterate the ultimate bio-weapon-before Deathlok's true consciousness can be reunited bionic body! By JOE CASEY and with his LEONARDO MANCO!

FANTASTIC FIVE

Not only does our "done-in-one" epic feature a quick recap of the FF's origin and career, but we also introduce the new Fantastic Five when The Human Torch, The Thing, Ms. Fantastic. Psilord and Big Brain battle a mysterious enemy By TOM DEFALCO and PAUL RYAN!

GALACTUS THE DEVOURER

The Devourer of Worlds has gone mad-and Earth's on his menu! The Silver Surfer and Alicia Masters rocket into space to stop Galactus-only to be attacked by the planet eater's latest and deadliest herald: Red Shift! By LOUISE SIMONSON and JOHN BUSCEMAL

HULK

On the trail of the gamma-spawned goliath, the Avengers find themselves caught up in the Hulk and Man-Thing's battle against a force of nature gone mad! But is the true threat this living bio-entity... or the savage Hulk himself?! By JOHN BYRNE and RON GARNEY!

PETER PARKER: SPIDER-MAN

Kidnapping J. Jonah Jameson, Venom takes 10 the panicked publisher and when the web-slinger comes to the rescue, he winds up flat on his back at Jonah's feet! At long last will Spidey get unmasked?! By HOWARD MACKIE and JOHN ROMITA JR. and SCOTT HANNA!

THUNDERBOLTS

Charcoal has been abducted by the Imperial Forces, the mysterious organization responsible for his creation! In order to get him back, the Thunderbolts must infiltrate their enemy's ranks! Plus: The return of Citizen V! By KURT BUSIEK and MARK BAGLEY!

X-MAN

Waking up in the idyllic world of Greyville, ***56** Nate smiles and welcomes another day in his perfect life. So what's the catch? It's all fake people, and the person that dreamed it up is out to steal the X-Man's incredible power for himself! By TERRY KAVANAGH and MIKE MILLER!

X-MEN

With the team disbanded, the various X-Men have ventured into different directions. But while Rogue and Shadowcat seek nothing more than some fun after the grim reality of the Magneto War, they are instead confronted by Sunfire - who's on the hunt for Mystique! By ALAN DAVISI

I can't believe it! I just heard the most shocking report! It seems that someone had actually offered to sell his No-Prize to the highest bidder! I know you'll find that as hard to believe as I did, but all I can say is, no matter how many thousands of dollars he may receive, that ill-gotten gain can never replace the glory and honor that he is so callously forsaking. Still, let us not condemn him too harshly, for truly that troubled soul is more to be pitied than censured!

low, let us turn to happier items. This intriguing query is from Ryan Johnston of Ontario, Canada who's losing sleep wondering.

"In Marvel's fantastic movie "Blade" there was a vampire named Deacon Frost. Is he related to Emma Frost. aka The White Queen of Generation X? Inquiring minds must know."

You may rest easy, Ryan. The names are merely coincidental. Y'know, considering the countless characters Marvel has created over the past five decades, it's almost impossible to avoid repeating a name somewhere, somehow. And with sharp-eyed Believers like you in the fold, we know we'll never stray too far.

arl W. Taylor of Los Angeles, CA sure knows what he wants...

"Stan! You've gotta make a CD of those great old 60s animated Marvel Superheroes tapes you've recently released. You can include the Spider-Man theme and jazzy background music, plus the title themes from the other shows and, especially, the famous MMMS recording featuring you, Jack Kirby and the rest of the Marvel Bullpen.

We'd love to do it, Carl, but we're not in the CD biz. Why don't you and all the other culturally advanced music lovers send your request, nay, your demand, to the big record companies? Far as I'm concerned, I'd love to recapture all that wackiness on a CD!

lust room for one shortie from Julian Onyall of London England...

"Which Marvel character do you think has the best name?"

That's something I never thought of before. Well, I'll take a stab at it by answered "The Thing." At the time he was created, it was certainly the most unusual name for a hero. But hey, let's hear from the rest of you. What do you all think? I'll seize any excuse to award additional No-Prizes!

nd, to make sure you have no excuse for not writing, here's our highly acclaimed address once again: Soapbox, Marvel, 387 Park Avenue South, New York, NY 10016. plus our often imitated but never duplicated e-mail address: stanzfanz@aol.com. Much as I'd like to close with a gag or a philosophical thought for you to ponder, I'm still too upset at the idea of someone being willing to part with a No-Prize for mere (ugh!) money! So, till next ish, all I can say offer you is a melancholy but heartfelt.

Excelsion



Stan Lee

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This week's chat schedule!

August 19_9:30pmET_EARTH's MIGHTIEST CHAT with writer KURT **BUSIEK & editor TOM BREVOORT!**

August 16_8:00pmET_COMICS LEGEND -- JOHN ROMITA, SR.!

August 23_8:00pmET_SPIDER-MAN and THOR Penciler -- JOHN ROMITA,

August 24 8:00pmET The official EARTH X chat with writer -- JIM KRUEGER! AOL Keyword: Marvel

All Chat schedules subject to change/cancellation

BULLPEN BITS #14

MY BUDDY, THANOS AND WAS WONDERING IF YOU'D LIKE TO GO TO MOVIE OKAY!









CHRIS GIARRUSSO

WHO ELSE WOULD EVER EXCUSE WANT TO DATE A ME, SKULL. FACED GIRL



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- SPG Spider-Girl

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- AVE Avengers
 - CAM Captain America
- FAN **Fantastic Four** - INC Hulk
- I IRM Iron Man
- DDV Daredevil
- THO Thor
- BLT Thunderbolts

X-MEN

- CAB Cable
- DDP Deadpool GAM **Gambit**
- GEN Generation X
- XME **Uncanny X-Men**
- WOL Wolverine
- XFO X-Force - MAN X-Man
- MEN X-Men

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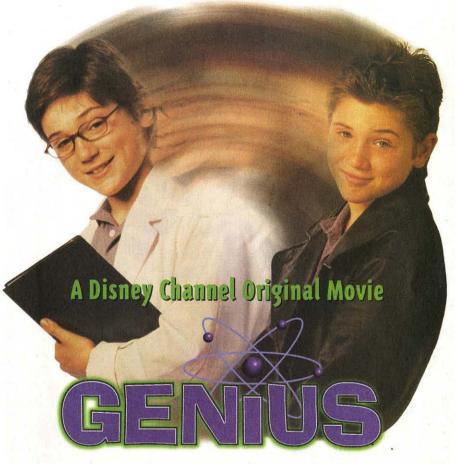






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To fit in, genius Charlie Boyle added another side to himself.



Saturday, August 21 at 7pm/6c

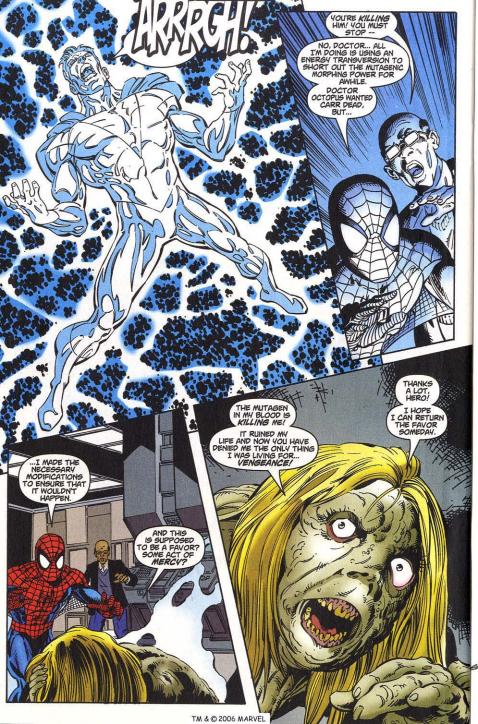
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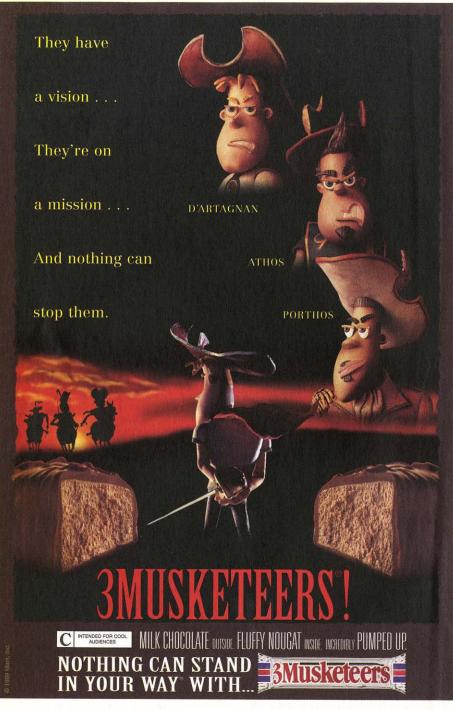


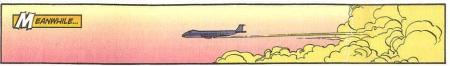


























MATT HICKS

ASSISTANT EDITOR RALPH MACCHIO EDITOR BOB IARRAS CHIEF

AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #6 was another good one, mostly because it gave us that long-awaited rematch between Spidey and his greatest nemesis, Doc Ock. You have no idea how good it was to see the good Doctor back at his scheming best after all the time we had to put up with that ludicrous female knock-off (Otto's last appearance doesn't really count, as he wasn't in control of the situation). And the new, evil (?) Spider-Woman is a great addition to the Spiderverse-can't wait for the new book. So, it looks like she and Ock are going to be keeping a high profile over the next few months, and Ock's got a forthcoming appearance in NOVA. Things are looking up.

The only thing I didn't like about this issue (aside from the fact that Aunt May's still breathing, of course) was the reappearance of Ock's new-old costume from SPIDER-MAN: CHAPTER ONE. Are we now supposed to believe that not only was this Ock's original outfit, but it's also the one he's worn in every appearance since? Please, no more pointless continuity implants like this. They add nothing and detract too much.

Tony Ingram Bromley, ENGLAND

Ouch, Tony! Kicking an old woman like that is definitely bad form. And we thought you Brits were supposed to be refined!

As for the Doc Ock costume controversy (and, no, you weren't the only one to bring it up), feel free to look at it whichever way you want. If you're content to believe that Otto's been wearing different togs all these years, then feel free to. If, however, the idea offends, then just assume he's recently dug out his "original" costume. He certainly wouldn't be the first villain to return to his 'original" look, by any stretch.

Dear Ralf

AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #6 was pretty good issue, and easily made up for the last two months of dull stories and undistinguished villains. Spider-Woman is now very interesting to me. What was she like before Dr. Octopus transformed her? What is Doc Ock's agenda? Now this is the way to write comic books! You should give plots a dose of mystery, but there should be clues that keep the reader interested. This was what I found lacking in the last two months of Spider-Man comics (both AMAZING and PETER PARKER). Subplots are also what this series needed, and the plots with Flash and Mary Jane's mysterious acquaintances (the phone calls and whoever it was outside Flash's door)

A problem with PPSM before the

reboot, however, was that all the plots were out in the open, with no story having dominance over the other. Please remember to have the main story overshadow the subplots.

Another problem I have with the books was Peter finding it easy to lie to Mary Jane. The first page helped, and I suppose the thrill of Spidey's

adventures can overwhelm Peter. Hopefully, this secret will remain,

Peter feeling guilty about breaking his promise. One of the fun things about Spider-Man is the secret identity, and having too many people knowing the truth was a problem with the pre-reboot stories

Still, Aunt May is a character screaming for purpose. So she's rediscovering her life...that's it? I don't have a problem with May returning; I think that Peter needs someone other than Mary Jane to remind him that he's human. However, May hasn't been doing that lately. She needs something important to do in these pages.

Complementing the improved writing was John Byrne's art. It was clean and dynamic. It's just a lot of fun to watch Spidey in action, and John's faces and backgrounds have a good level of detail.

Kevin Riley (Address withheld by request)

Thanks for the e-mail, Kevin. You know, you're actually the first person that seems to be in favor of Peter keeping his super heroing a secret from Mary Jane. Those who've written in-one of whom sounds off below—seem to think it's completely inappropriate for Peter to lie to his wife about this matter. Are there any other pro-deception fans out there. Just curious, but we think it would be interesting to hear the other side of the issue.

Dear Ralf.

While pretty much just a lead-in to the new SPIDER-WOMAN title, this issue had its own strengths upon which I wish to comment.

I have very mixed reactions to Peter finally, and wholly, committing to deceiving his wife, Mary Jane. When two people decide that lies should replace honesty, few good things can result. Of course, MJ's own lies to Peter regarding her anonymous phone caller don't inspire confidence in their relationship, either. My only hope is that, once the truth comes out (and we know it will), it provokes positive growth in their relationship rather than create a melodrama about their potential separation. My personal hope is that, whatever the truth behind the phone calls, it will provide sufficient impetus for Peter to take up the Spider-Man mantle

with MJ's knowledge, approval, and understanding. I'll keep my fingers crossed

Another thing that really caught my eve and which I really appreciated was John Byrne's artistic subtlety on page 20. The water distortion effect while viewing Spider-Man above and below the water was brilliant! It's minutiae such as this that separate John from the pack and I just wanted to let him know how much that attention to detail is appreciated.

Needless to say, I'll be checking out the new SPIDER-WOMAN title. I've been a fan since the original Spider-Woman's early appearance way back in MARVEL TEAM-UP and I'm not about to give up now, especially if Jessica Drew plays even a small role in the new book.

As an aside, I am very grateful that you printed one of my letters in this issue. While I don't write to you in order to get printed, it's always a thrill, nonetheless. Still, I do know the difference between DC's Zero Hour and the "Zero Tolerance" story arc over in the X-Books where JJJ showed his strength of character. Please thank whoever typed my letter into your letters page that their typo gave me a pretty big smile. :)

Scot W. Myers Decatur, GA swmyers@aol.com

Well, you're quite welcome, Scot. We're always pleased when our monumental incompetence results in the amusement of others. It's a trait we learned from

Dear Spider's Web, Re: May Parker's new 'do: Wahoo!

> Lloyde Allen Grant Saginaw, MI

Uh...okay.

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