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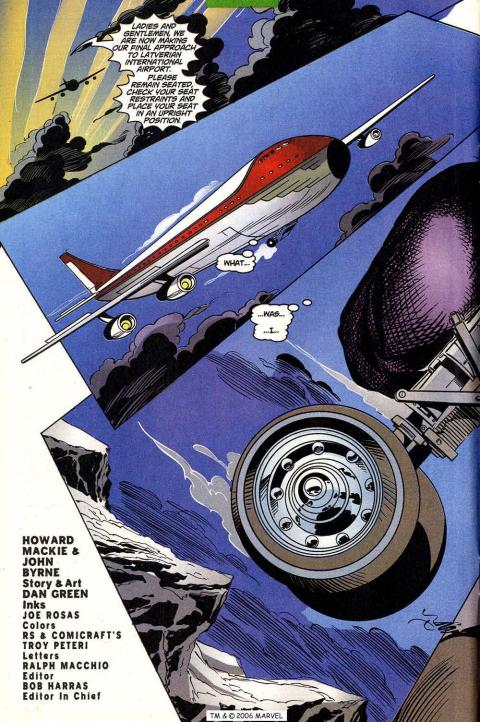
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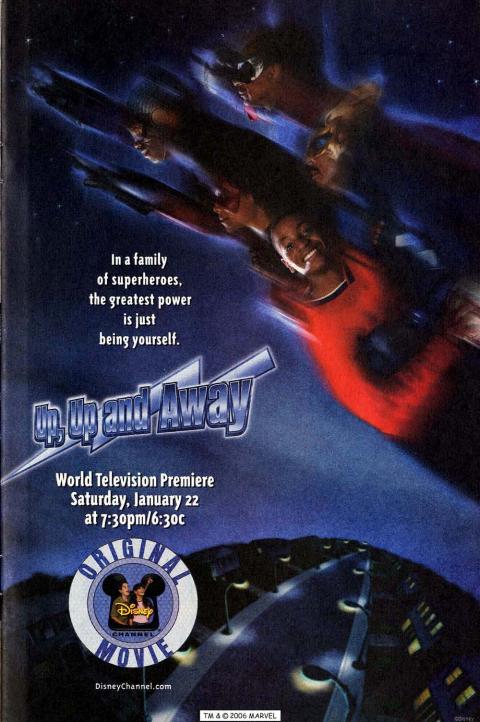
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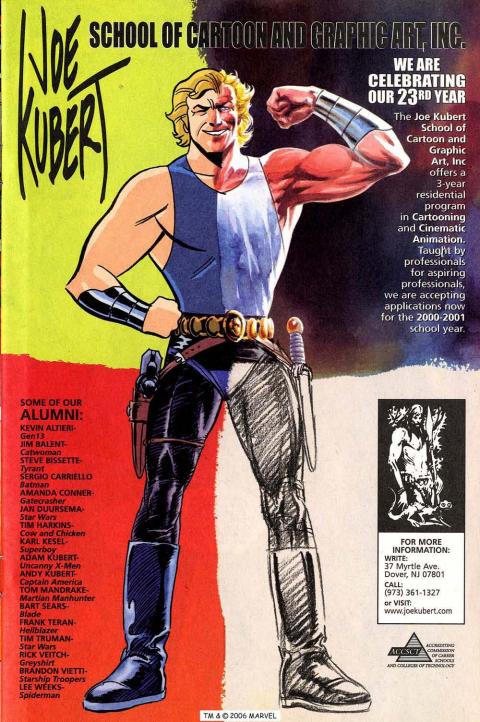


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BULLPEN BULLETIN

CAPTAIN AMERICA

Will Captain America prevail against the awesome evil of the Hate Monger?! Can Nick Fury and Falcon tip the scales for the forces of good? Sharon Carter. captured in the Savage Land? By DAN JURGENS and ANDY KUBERT!

CAPTAIN MARVEL

Trading punches with the green goliath is bad enough, but when the man-eating Wendigo makes his appearance, Captain Marvel thinks about getting into a new line of work... that is, if he lives that long! By PETER DAVID and CHRISCROSS!

INCREDIBLE HULK

Banner must undertake a journey into his own psyche in an attempt to reunite the various fractured shards of his personality! And in this case, that means facing different versions of the Hulk... including new incarnations you've never seen before! By PAUL JENKINS and RON GARNEY & MIKE MCKONE!

PETER PARKER: SPIDER-MAN

Spider-Man, under siege in a Stryfe-ruled Latveria, decides the only way to get real answers is to invade Castle Doom itself! Now it's an unhinged wall-crawler vs. the marshalled forces of Doom's stronghold! By HOWARD MACKIE and JOHN ROMITA JR.!

THOR

First Thor and Loki face off in a showdown that will determine the fate of the Odinson's alter ego, Jake Olson! Next Thanos and Mangog follow the Map of All-Ending to the planet Rigel, where they decimate the Colonizers and their Recorders! By DAN JURGENS and JERRY ORDWAY & LADRONN!

THUNDERBOLTS

The Thunderbolts' mission: Bring in the Beetle even if that means taking on Justin Hammer and his horde of super-villain hirelings! But when the helmet comes off, will it be Mach-1 under the armor... or someone else? By FABIAN NICIEZA and MARK BAGLEY!

WOLVERINE

The world has changed once again! The forces of the High Lord have martyred Mr. Fantastic, the Invisible Woman, the Human Torch and the Thing. But the Fantastic Four are not gone! In the place of the original team, a new foursome has gathered: Spider-Man! The Hulk! Ghost Rider! And Wolverine! By ERIK LARSEN and ROGER CRUZI

X - 5 1

What happens when X-51's robotic systems, corrupted by Sentinel programs, compel him to respond to the X-Men with unbridled violence?! How will Wolverine, Shadowcat, Psylocke, Angel, Jubilee and Nightcrawler deal with the massively enhanced Machine Man?! By KARL BOLLERS and JOE BENNETT!

X - M A N

Having just faced Apocalypse, has X-Man created yet another reality for himself? Waking up in some kind of underground prison, Nate Grey, wearing a power-inhibiting suit, is virtually helpless — but when he befriends his fellow prisoners, he realizes that his worst suspicions may be right! By TERRY KAVANAGH and MIKE MILLERI

i, Heroes! Since our world-famous Soapbox column is based on the ancient, venerated ritual of awarding No-Prizes to those who are deemed worthy, what could be more appropriate than having our very first letter deal with the profound, though perplexing, issue of the time honored No-Prize itself? So, here it is, in all its pristine glory, delivered by the U.S. Mail at the behest of David Sollars of Thompson, OH...

"When, Why and to Whom was the first No-Prize ever given out?"

Ah, David, David... would that my memory was all that good! I know not the date, so sought after by historians everywhere, when the first award was made. Nor can I recall the name of the lucky recipient. However, since No-Prizes were originally given to those who were sharp-eved enough to find an error in a Marvel strip, I'm sure that our first No-Prize Laureate, whose identity is now, alas, lost to history, must have found some sort of misspelling or punctuation error - even though it's probably next to impossible for you to imagine an error in any Marvel masterwork!

ot only does Shahid Haque of Evansville, IN choose to toss a question at me, but he even ventures to tell me what kind of answer he doesn't want me to give.

"I've been wondering — which character in the entire Marvel Universe do you yourself most identify with? And please don't say J. Jonah Jameson!"

Okay, Mr. Haque, I won't say him if you don't want me to - but the fact is, the now unmentionable J. Jonah You-Know-Who actually is the one I would have mentioned. However, since I would never deign to disobey or offend a No-Prize Laureate. I'll settle for another choice. Next to JJJ, I guess I most relate to Willie Lumpkin, 'cause neither of us

has been seen around as much as we used to (For those of you who don't know who Willie Lumpkin is, I suggest you ask some of the older Marvel readers. I'd tell you myself, but that would make it too easy!)

ow! Talk about great memory! Jade Venus of Melbourne, Australia has it all...

"In a past Soapbox, you said you couldn't reveal what Spider-Man's eyepieces are made of. Well, in Amazing Fantasy #15 you did describe his eyepieces as 'clever plastic lenses of the two-way mirror type.' You later said Mysterio's helmet is based on the same principle. He can see out but no one can see in."

Hey, what's the problem, Jade. I originally said I couldn't reveal what Spidey's evenieces were made of, right? Well, I couldn't -'cause I didn't remember! So thanks for reminding me. (How's that for the prize cop-out of the millennium!)

now you should know our mailing Baddress by heart, but for those of you whose memories are as bad as mine, here we go again: stanzfanz@aol.com or Soapbox. Marvel, 317 Park Ave S, New York, NY 10016. So, till next ish, be sure to Think Marvel --'cause if you don't, Professor X will know it and you'd better watch out!

Excelsion



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This week's chat schedule!

01/20 @ 9:30pm ET EARTH'S MIGHTIEST CHAT with writer, Kurt Busiek and editor, Tom Brevoort!

01/24 @ 8pm ET

SPIDER-MAN and THOR penciler --John Romita, Jr.!

AOL Keyword: Marvel

cellation

Refer to Keyword: Marvel > Astral Plane > Chat Schedule for latest schedule.

CHRIS GIARRUSSO

BULLPEN BITS #36

TELL ME WHAT YOU SEE, X-S1. TELL ME WHAT YOU SEE. TELL ME, X-S1, WHAT YOU SEE. X-S1, TELL ME WHAT THE THINGS ARE THAT YOU ARE SEEING...











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"I HAVE LEARNED MORE ABOUT PENCLING IN THIS SHORT TIME-THAN IN THE FIFTEEN YEARS I'VE BEEN TRYING TO BREAK INTO THIS INDUSTRY!" -SANDY CARRUTHERS, CANDA

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MATT

HICKS

ASSISTANT EDITOR

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N. W.

Dear Spider's Web,
I thought I would address a few issues. First, I've heard some bad-mouthing about the current run of the Sorder Man titles, Resirent, the wife.

plicity that is easy to overlook if you don't study it hard enough. Back in the days of the clone saga, you guys had the epic every month. Theme going strong and a lot of fans (myself included) responded with a negative backlesh. Now you by to keep it simple and still there are complaints. I guess if just goes to show that you can't please all of the people all of the time. I personally like the fact that Spidey is facing new and exciting villains and that plots are being resolved within a few issues for a charge and i think you guys should keep up the good work I also appreciate your efforts to keep things fresh and that you're always thinking of ways to keep the storylines interesting and exciting.

The Blob's recent appearance in AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #11 is a good example. You rarely see him in the Spidey titles and so he's fresh to these pages. Also, individual issues plots continue along quetty and efficiently, not taking away from the continuity of the current subplots. Is that so wrong? I'd say that the only story line that I can do with or without is the whole 'staker' hing with Mary Jane. Until it is resolved, and unless its revealed to be someone or something major, I just can't get excited about it But I do have failth that you guys are taking this somewhere. You at Marvel have provided me with loo many entertaining years of Spidey for me to lose faith in you now.

Tyrone Maxey

Thanks for writing, Tyrone, You're right, there has been a concert-ed effort on the part of this office to tell cleaner, more self-contained stories. like the adorementioned clone event.
Not that we won't trot out the multi-part story when the situation calls for it, but we have tried to rein ourselves in when possible. We're glad it's struck a chord with you.

All I

The appearance of the Biob in AMAZING SPIDER-MAN # 11 was superfluous and added nothing to the story in my opinion, though the way Spidley defeated him was pretly cool and turnly it would have made for a better all-around story if you had continued to focus on Pete and MJ's divergent

have onered even more insignt into the Parkers highly unconventional relation-ship and the story still could have been set up to end with Pete/Spidey resching Mary Jane on the last page. The Spidey/Blob confrontation did not four

room and left that message on the mir-ror in such a short amount of time? Also, how would be know to plant those explosives along her "escape route." In an earlier letter 1 guessed that the "stalk-er," was none other than Norman Osborn; now it seems that I was way off base. In truth, I don't have a clue as to his identity and thank you. Mr. Mackie, for making it such a tantalizing mystery, Good luck, and Make Mine Soulded.

Terence Connors PMM Rochelle Park, NJ

Sorry, but we'll have to agree to disagree with you about the inclusion of the Blob, though. As much as we'd the to have an issue centering com-pletely around only Peter and ML/s relationship, super hero action is what everybody craves! Maybe we could have integrated the subplot into the main story better, but a Marvel mag without some semblance of a slugfest just wouldn't be proper!

was tingre. Pere and MV just don't seem to get breaks anymore, except bad ones. How weird is it to get mobbed by police when you're trying to get to your wife? Maybe Pete should join MJ on some of those photo shoots.

Nor he you, Christopher, But seriously, the Blob "throw-away"? You try tossing around a heavyweight like Fred Dukes and then call him that. Sheesh! Next thing you know, you'll be referring to X-Men continuity as "straightforward"!

Neen Fete Sill It with I did *not* like the fact that the Blob Shipp the bank truck for no readealf with

I did not like the fact that the Blob
was robbling the bank truck for no reason. I understand that he was bored, but
how undramatic is that? I also disliked
the blurb you gu/s dropped on the page
where he pops up I know you are trying
to keep new readers interested (and I
don't think the writing is going to do it
all by itself), but to take all the wonder
out of who this guy is and what he can
do is ekin to popping a child's balloon
and eating his cotton candy!

I also think that John Byrne is
stretching himself too thin and his
Spitdey art is going downlif fast. This
issue looked totally rushed. Falso "boo"
the fact that the cops were using "safety" hillets. I know we live in an age
where we have to shield our children
from violence, but these tame-o safety
bullets take any threat out of the guir,
on, that and real cops have real bullets.
I'm trying really hard to like
Spidey again guys, but you're making it
really hard. I'll always stick with the of
webhead, but I'd like to see more of the
good and much, much less of the bad.
Ronnie Dingman
Louisville. Ky

Well, thanks for your patience.

Ronnie. As Tyrone says above, you can't please all of the people all of the ime, and we're sorry that such a loyal reader as you is on the short end of this one. Hopefully our later efforts will please the says of the says will please you more. Thanks for stick-ing by us, though. It is appreciated.



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TRICORP...UNLESS THE INDUSTRIAL SABOTEUR KNOWN AS THE GHOST PUTS THEM UNDER! PLUS...DID JONAH REALLY PEEK UNDER SPIDEY'S MASK? AND IF HE DID, WHAT'S HE GOING TO DO WITH THE INFO? FOR THE ANSWERS TO THESE AND OTHER QUESTIONS, TUNE IN TO THE NEXT EPISODE OF THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN.

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