



THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE
OF MARVELDOWN ASSEMBLED

NO. 7 FALL, 1974

INSIDE: ACTUAL PHOTOS OF THE BULLPEN (WOW!)

WHATEVER WINNERS THERE BE -OR- "WHEN IRVING COMMANDS"



Okay, comics congregation, this is Tony Isabella comin' at ya with the erudite editorial you've been waiting for. In short, mon amia, this is where your Minister of InFOoMation reveals the epic results of our **First Annual Irving Forbush Awards For Excellence**. And that's not all! We've also got the names of the fate-selected FOoMers who have picked up some fantastic prizes in our Irv Awards sweepstakes and the names of the crafty connoisseurs who won issue #5's **Mighty Marvel Cover Contest**. So, without further ado, here's the Irvings...

Favorite Comic:

- | | |
|-------------------|------------------|
| 1. SPIDER-MAN | 2. John Buscema |
| 2. Avengers | 3. Rich Buckler |
| 3. Fantastic Four | 4. Frank Brunner |
| 4. Conan | |

Favorite Cover:

1. CAPTAIN MARVEL #29
2. Conan #24
3. Spider-Man #122
4. King-Size Conan Special #1

Favorite Star:

1. SPIDER-MAN
2. Captain America
3. Conan
4. The Thing

Favorite Supporting Character:

1. J. JONAH JAMESON
2. Mary Jane Watson
3. The Falcon
4. Rick Jones

Favorite Villain:

1. DOCTOR DOOM
2. The Green Goblin
3. Thanos
4. Galactus

Favorite Writer:

1. GERRY CONWAY
2. Steve Englehart
3. Roy Thomas
4. Stan Lee

Favorite Penciller:

1. JIM STARLIN

Favorite Inker:

1. JOE SINNOTT
2. Tom Palmer
3. Vince Colletta
4. Frank Giacoia

Favorite Letterer:

1. ARTIE SIMEK
2. John Costanza
3. Tom Orzechowski
4. Dave Hunt

Favorite Colorist:

1. GLYNIS WEIN
2. Petra Goldberg
3. Linda Lessmann
4. George Roussos
Dave Hunt—tie

Favorite Color Story:

1. THE GREEN GOBLIN'S LAST STAND (Spider-Man #122)
2. The Night Gwen Stacy Died (Spider-Man #121)
3. Metamorphosis (Captain Marvel #29)
4. To the Death (Avengers #118)

Favorite Black-and-White Story:

1. RED NAILS (Savage Tales #2)
2. That Dracula May Live Again

STAN LEE/Publisher
ROY THOMAS/Editor-in-Chief
TONY ISABELLA/Editor

BARBARA ALTMAN/Design
LEN GROW/Production
MARIE SEVERIN/The Soul of All Goodness
JOHN ROMITA/Likewise, I'm Sure
SOL BRODSKY/Prime Mover

SCOTT EDELMAN
MARK EVANIER
ED HANNIGAN
JIM SALICRUP
DUFFY VOHLAND
Contributing Editors

STANLEY ARRON/Typography

John Buscema
Sal Buscema
John Byrne
Chris Claremont
Dave Cockrum
Bob Cosgrove
Marty Grief
David Kraft
Don McGregor
Bruce Mittleman
Patsy
Mike Ploog
Roger Stern
Don & Maggie Thompson
Irene Vartanoff
Len Wein
Marv Wolfman
Michele Wolfman/GOOD FOLKS TRUE

IRVING FORBUSH/Inspiration

- (Dracula Lives #2)
3. Birthright (Monsters Unleashed #3)
4. Castle of the Undead (Dracula Lives #3)

Favorite Humor Feature:

1. KUNG FOOEY (Crazy #1)
2. The History of Moosekind (Crazy #1 on)

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Okay, you win!

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3. The Upside Adventure
(Crazy #1)
4. Shafted
(Crazy #4)

Favorite Text Feature:

1. A PROBABLE OUTLINE OF CONAN'S CAREER
(Savage Tales #2)
2. I Was Once a Gentle Man
(Dracula Lives #2)
3. Lone Star Fictioneer
(Savage Tales #2)
4. The Vampire: His Kith and Kin
(Vampire Tales #1-5)

Team-Up With Spider-Man:

1. THE SILVER SURFER
2. The Falcon
3. Luke Cage
4. Iron Fist

Team-Up With Human Torch:

1. THE SILVER SURFER
2. Sub-Mariner
3. The Vision
4. Ghost Rider

Team-Up With the Thing:

1. LUKE CAGE
2. The Silver Surfer
3. Spider-Man
4. The Vision

Most Requested For New Series:

1. THE SILVER SURFER
2. The Vision
3. The X-Men
4. Mantis

Most Requested For Foom Article:

1. CAPTAIN AMERICA
2. The Silver Surfer
3. Stan Lee
4. The Vision

Most Requested For Poster:

1. SPIDER-MAN
2. Conan
3. Doctor Strange
4. Fantastic Four

Okay, now that we have these wondrous winners, what (you may ask) are we going to do with them? Well, for starters, FOOM MAGAZINE #8 will be a special "Irving Awards" issue with features and frivolity on all of our triumphant terrors.

For finishers... and then some:

We're going to do something about every single one of the winners and honorable mentions in the final six categories of the Irvings. Any you'll be able to spot the decisions you made for us in a totally unique way. The covers of the issues featuring your decisions (and the advertisement for the posters) will bear the legend "FOOM AWARD CHOICE" or words to that effect. We haven't worked out all the details as of this writing, but here's a few goodies we can lay on you.

THE SILVER SURFER will be reappearing in **Fantastic Four #155-157** and **Giant-Size Spider-Man #7**. And we're looking into the prospect of starring him frequently in the FF's mag.

THE FALCON will star in **Marvel Team-Up #30** and **IRON FIST** will be Spidey's guest in issue #31 of that mag.

THE X-MEN are getting their own magazine, a quarterly giant-size comic to be drawn by Dave Cockrum.

CAPTAIN AMERICA will be the featured character of **Foam Magazine #9**.

We'll keep you posted on the appearances of the rest of these Irving Award choices, troops. In the meantime, here's the winners of our Irving sweepstakes:

Steven Brandes of Gillette, New Jersey, is the winner of the cover of **Foom Magazine #5**. The four John Byrne/Duffy Vohland art extravaganzas are going to **Rich Fleischbour** of Elizabeth, Pennsylvania; **K.E. Carlin** of Tk. Pk., Maryland; **M.M. Aldrich** of Anna Maria, Florida; and **Robert Gillan** of Parma, Ohio (just a jump away from my native Cleveland). Congratulations, tigers. Enjoy your pulse-pounding prizes.

Moving right along to issue #5's Mighty Marvel Cover Contest, the winner was **Russell Condello** of Rochester, N.Y. Even though he doubted his entry would ever be read, Russell managed to discern a few of the correct reasons why we chose the sketch that eventually became the cover of **GIANT-SIZE AVENGERS #1** over the other sketches presented in that issue. To wit: that it prominently displayed on it our most popular Avengers, that all of our assemblers were posed in action stances, and that the layout did not distract at all from the stars of the book. Your prize (the original cover) is on the way, Russell, along with a bonus... the original coloring used to prepare the color separations (and thereafter, the plates) for the cover. A tip of the battle-helmet to you, Russell, as well as the runners-up in this contest: **Brad Cahoon** of McBean, Georgia; **Tom Fish** of Paint Lick, Kentucky; and **Dave Weeks, Jr.** of Binghamton, New York. A hearty Yah-hoo to all of you.

May Odin smile on you.

Now read the rest of this magazine, ya flea-bitten goldbricks of a membership! That's an order!

—Tony Isabella



FOOM INTERVIEW: JARVIS

(Part Two)



by roger stern

(In our last issue, FOOM presented the first part of a landmark interview with Jarvis, the man who for the past eleven years has been the sole servant of the mighty Avengers. In that first segment, Mr. Jarvis gave his recollections of the Avengers' earliest meetings, told of the changing aspects of the Avengers, and commented upon their abilities to function over periods of such change. Our interview now continues.)

FOOM: Jarvis, we know that your official title is that of butler to the Avengers. However, since you are the Avengers' only domestic, we're a bit curious as to just what that job entails, tails.

Jarvis: Well, I am, of course, officially in charge of the mansion's maintenance. However, that occupies very little of my time, thanks to Mr. Stark's foresight. His townhouse, you see, is

equipped with a unique air conditioning/filtration system that renders the building nearly dust-free. Most furnishings, carpets, and the like are made from special synthetic substances that make for easy cleaning. Of course, the live-in Avengers arrange their own quarters as they see fit and handle their own cleaning, though I sometimes step in with an assist when members are occupied with some weighty mission. All told, I should say that cleaning rarely takes more than a few hours of my time every month. That would vary, of course. Oh, and that doesn't include cleaning in the kitchen and pantry! I'm very fastidious about conditions there! I've often spent an entire afternoon just polishing the silver.

F: What about major repairs?

J: Most major repair work is handled by a crew



from Stark Industries or by the Avengers themselves, although we have on occasion made use of a bonded construction firm. The Avengers' line of work being what it is, I'm afraid we've gone through a few walls in our time.

F: What is your insurance coverage like?

J: Well, the mansion did have a special policy with Lloyds of London. However, after the Hulk first rampaged through it, even Lloyds had second thoughts. Eventually the policy was dissolved through mutual agreement. Property loss and damage is now covered for solely by Stark Industries. I hear that Mr. Stark gets an unbelievable tax write-off from it! But we're getting away from the subject again, aren't we?

F: Uh, yes. We'd like to know more about your duties other than the maintenance...

J: ...which takes very little time...

F: ...as you said...

J: Yes! Well, you might say I am a special liaison between the Avengers and the outside world. If the Avengers wish to make a public announcement, I am usually the one who contacts the media. I make arrangements for press conferences, I handle most of the Avengers' mail, and I keep solicitors away from the door. I also greet dignitaries and announce those visitors who allow themselves to be announced?

F: How many visitors won't allow themselves to be announced?

J: Too many!

F: That sounds like quite a job in itself!

J: Oh, not really. You see, my main job is seeing to the dietary needs of the Avengers. I keep my pantry well-stocked, and I'm ready for anything from a light afternoon tea to dinner for twenty at just a few minutes notice.

F: You handle it all yourself?

J: I do. There was one occasion...Mr & Mrs Pym's wedding...that I arranged for a caterer. The results were somewhat less than desirable! *(The caterers were the Circus of Crime in disguise—Tony.)* I've handled all the cooking ever since.

F: Are you faced with a large banquet very often?

J: *(Laughs)* Oh, no! Fortunately not! As a matter of fact, the Avengers' rigorous life style usually demands something fast and light. Indeed, Mr. Pym has developed a high-protein compound that's kept on hand for use by the Avengers whenever they're in the midst of important work. It is fairly tasty. Still, I'm glad they don't adhere to it as a regular diet. The Avengers are all hearty eaters, and they just aren't satisfied with synthetic foodstuffs. In fact, I keep several special items on hand.

F: Such as?

J: Oh, everyone has their favorites! Thor is fond of mead. That's rather hard to come by, but I have managed to find a few brands of ale and stout that seem to please him. Miss Wanda has a weakness for crepes suzette. And ever since Mantis has been among us, I've kept a number of macrobiotic dishes on hand. You see, the Avengers are like a second family to me. I like to see that they are well fed!

F: Well, Jarvis, we know that you've faithfully served the Avengers since their beginning. But isn't it true that you once betrayed them to to the Masters of Evil?

J: Oh, dear. I was afraid you might mention that!

F: We don't mean to cause you any embarrassment. If you'd rather....

J: Oh, no! I suppose I'd better talk about it. It has bothered me quite a bit from time to time, but talking is the only release. Secrecy can be a frightful burden! You see, it all began with my mother's illness. She had been unwell for some time, and an operation was really the only answer. Unfortunately, the operation was a terribly expensive one! Quite beyond my means, I'm afraid! So, I began to consider ways of raising the funds. I tried several of the finer banks, but I was always turned down. Butling for the Avengers is considered a high-risk profession, you see. Several of the bankers were most understanding, but somehow none of them could see fit to bend the rules. It was then that I received a message that purported to be from an old acquaintance. It said that I might find a solution to my problem if I made a certain contact. Well, I made it all right. But the individual who was waiting for me was the Crimson Cow...the one who later revealed himself to be Ultron-5. As I stood before him, he explained that the money I needed would be mine. All I had to do was turn over the plans to the Avengers' security system. At first I was aghast! But as the Cow spoke I saw that I could accept the blackguard's money and let him plan his traps. I would inform the Avengers then, and they would put him to flight. But, I was weak. I foolishly got myself into a situation where I could be captured. I was actually manipulated into posing as the Crimson Cow! Had it not been for the intervention of the Black Knight, I hate to think what might have happened!

F: Why didn't you warn the Avengers in advance?

J: I...I'm not sure. And that bothers me. That should have been the first thing on my mind! In fact, I probably should have approached Mr. Stark about financing my mother's operation, but I didn't. Too proud, I guess. No, instead I was secretive. I hid and plotted, I deceived my employers. Even now I am shocked at my own

depravity! It was as though I had a mental block of some sort, a block to keep me from warning them. Mr. Pym has told me that he feels Ultron exercised some sort of control over me, but I can't accept that. He was merely being kind. No, it was my own weakness that led me to betray the Avengers...and yet they forgave me! Surely I shall always be in their debt.

(INTERVIEWER'S NOTE: Upon reading a transcript of this interview, Professor Pym reaffirmed his contention that Jarvis' apparent betrayal was more the product of Ultron's hypnotic talents than due to any weakness in Jarvis' character. Citing past experiences of both himself and the synthezoid Vision, Pym stated that anyone under severe emotional strain...such as Jarvis undoubtedly was... would have been easily mesmerized by the robot.)

F: And certainly they did forgive you...and saw to your mother's operation as well. How is she, by the way?

J: Oh, quite well, thank you! Yes, the operation was 100% effective. Mother is in the best of health. In fact, I daresay she is in better shape than many women half her age.

F: As long as we're on the subject of your family, would you mind if we asked a personal question?

J: Well, I should think that would depend on how personal your question is! (laughs)

F: Well, it's just that our research says you were born and raised in the Bronx. Yet you sound so...

J: So British?

F: Yes.

J: Well, that's not a totally unfamiliar question! You are far from being the first to question my origins! My dominant accent stems from the fact that my parents were British...originally from Walsall to be exact! They emigrated to the United States in the early 20's and settled in the Bronx. I was born shortly afterwards. We were a very strong family circle, which I suppose could account for my retention of the accent. Still, I doubt that I would still have it today if it were not for the war.

F: You're speaking of the Second World War?

J: Yes. When the war broke out in Europe, I kissed Mother good-bye and hopped the first freighter for England. I was only in my early teens, but I was big for my age! So, with the help of some old family friends I was able to work my way into the RAF. I didn't return to the States until the late 40's. Those ten years of work for old John Bull caused my accent to become firmly entrenched.

F: It would seem your past is much more colorful than we suspected!

J: Oh, hardly! I was merely doing what I felt I must do. Everyone has done the same at one time or another...in their own way.

F: Uh, we seem to be straying from the subject

again. Earlier we were talking about the Avengers as a team. Would you say that there is some sort of interdependency that binds the Avengers together?

J: No, I would not. Some might think it odd, but each and every Avenger has always been very much an individual in his or her own right. They have had disagreements and arguments...we spoke of such before...they are a matter of public record. But all of the Avengers share a basic sense of justice...of freedom...and of the underlying dignity of humanity.

F: Yet surely you must admit that humanity has often been anything but grateful! It was just recently that some lunatic fringe group tried to destroy the Vision...and just because he and the Scarlet Witch had publicly revealed their love.

J: Yes, I must admit to a bit of worry over the



Vision and Miss Wanda. Their love was not just any overnight revelation, you know! I could see it growing for months. And that such a hate could rise against it so rapidly! And the epithets they have thrown against the Vision have been so unthinking...so irrational. The Vision is obviously human to anyone who should care enough to investigate!

F: Could you elaborate a little for us, Jarvis?
J: Yes, I suppose I should explain! The Vision is literally a man without a past...and I don't use the term "man" lightly! In my opinion, the Vision is most certainly a human being. Physically he may be a synthetic being, but his mind is human. In fact, it could actually be that his physical state makes him more human than the rest of us. Imagine...in the Vision is the fully functioning mind of a human being...a human

mind functioning much more rationally than most because of the manner of its containment. The Vision is a mind in a body human enough to allow human functioning, and non-human enough to avoid falling prey to petty circumstances.

F: And that makes him more human?

J: More human in an overall sense. To some members of the general public he might seem unreal because he is immune to everyday minor annoyances...to many minor pains and complaints. He requires no sleep. Some would say that this makes him unfeeling. Yet he does feel despite this! He obviously displays emotion...even in his voice!

F: But his voice...

J: Is unearthly? Chilling?

F: Well...yes.

J: Ah, but you only think that because you've never experienced such a voice before! The Vision's speech is the most evenly modulated in existence! Mr. Pym ran a voicegraph on him once and he found patterns that had been until that time unknown. And yet, there is feeling...there is emotion in the Vision's voice. However, you have to know him to recognize it. The nuances in his voice are very, very subtle.

F: Certainly, you would be one in a position to recognize them. Tell us, Jarvis, has the Vision been at all close with anyone at Avengers' Mansion?

J: Other than Miss Wanda, you mean?

F: Yes.

J: Well, I daresay he has been a very good friend to me. After Captain America first left the Avengers, the others were often too busy for conversation. Oh, there was no snobbery intended! It was just that...well...the Avengers were all so young and flighty! Mr. Pym was the only really level-headed Avenger around for a while...and he was always in the midst of some experiment. They were just all very much wrapped up in their own affairs. But when the Vision joined, things changed. As I said before, he has no real need for sleep. He's constantly thinking...and such heavy thought often calls for... nay, demands...conversation. Many is the time he's visited the pantry in the wee small hours. I often keep a late schedule, and so we naturally became good friends. Compare it to two old warhorses who regularly get together for chess. That's perhaps a poor analogy, but it sums up my feelings best. You know, I must admit that I harbored a few doubts about the Vision's humanity when he first became an Avenger. But those discussions in the pantry quickly changed my mind. The Vision is quite a philosopher, you know. But then, that's not surprising when you consider his unique place in society.

F: Do you think that society will ever totally accept the Vision?



J: Ultimately society will have to accept the Vision...or society will fall. To deny him is to deny rational thought. What difference does it make if a man walking the street has an artificial organ or an artificial body? It's the mind that counts. Our laws will undoubtedly recognize that one day. Society will have to follow suit. After all, the Avengers are accepted in society...

F: Are they? It would seem that Quicksilver and the Scarlet Witch have had their problems from time to time.

J: Ummm, yes, you're quite right, I'm afraid. It's that blasted unreasoning fear of the unknown! It's always struck me as odd that in a supposedly advanced world such as ours the public could so readily accept the existence of a Norse deity, and yet deny the humanity of some mutated fellow humans! I can't hope to know what the answer is. Perhaps it's just a case of horrifying semantics. Admittedly the word "mutant" does have a ring of deviance about it. But really we're all mutants when compared to an idealized

norm, aren't we?

F: That still doesn't mean the whole of society is prepared to accept and welcome extreme differences.

J: True, too true! Still I have my hopes. And much of the hope is centered in the Avengers. I firmly believe that groups such as the Avengers, through their existence alone, help the general public increase their tolerance levels. If an android saves your life, you are less likely to hate androids...at least, not all androids. And if a group made of such an odd conglomerate of beings as the Avengers can work for the common good...even insuring the safety of humanity on occasion...well, I'm sure you'll admit that the Avengers help make the little differences bearable.

F: Sort of the old melting-pot concept on an international scale.

J: Perhaps on an even larger scale than that! In the final tally, it just may be that a victory over intolerance...even a partial one...could be the Avengers' greatest contribution to the world.

FOOM PHOTOS



DAVE and ANDREA COCKRUM



GERRY CONWAY



STEVE GERBER

THE 1974 COMIC ART CONVENTION

Every year, on the July 4th weekend, Phil Seuling (long-time comics fan, sometimes comics scripter, former poker pal of a certain rascally Marvelite) tosses a bombastic bash in New York City to which literally thousands of comics fans flock. This year's convention, the biggest yet, ran from July 4th to July 8th, an incredible five days of fun and fantasy. FOOM photographer Bruce Mittleman was on the scene and snapped these candid for your viewing pleasure (or for your dartboard, if we've done anything to irritate you lately). Enjoy them and watch future Marvel Bullpen Bulletins for news on the 1975 gathering!

TONY ISABELLA and SATANA (*Angelique Trouvere*)



JIM STERANKO



LEN WEIN



My Son...
**THE
SUPER-HERO**



I WONDER WHAT THE AVERAGE MAN IS
DOING TONITE ?

He's back again! Foom's favorite momma's boy...



YOU WIN
SOME !!!
YOU LOSE
SOME.



OH GAWD! ANOTHER JAYWALKING ARREST!

DEPARTMENT OF INFOOMATION



Welcome once more to the mighty world of Marvel! We were going to have an introduction right here explaining how Marvel is the best-selling comic book company in the world, about how Marvel's staff is growing at an unbelievable rate, and about how Marvel publishes more titles than any other company. But we figure that if you're reading this magazine, you already know about the wonder of Marvel magic, so we won't bore you with the facts. Just read on!

With a tip of the hat and a wave of the hand we must bid a fond farewell to the editorial guidance of Rascally Roy Thomas, who has decided that after all these years, what he *really* wants to do is write. His creative thirst unslaked by the writing of his myriad *COMAN* stories, Roy has decided to step down from his position of Editor-in-Chief in order to pursue his favorite task in comics—scripting. We're not sure exactly which series the Rascally One will be taking over the writing chores of yet— but you can be sure that, whatever it is, there'll be a huge dose of Thomas magic added!

To fill the vacuum left by the editorial loss of the Rascally One, we've commandeered the best of the Marvel crop. Marvelous Marv Wolfman has assumed the post of coordinating editor for the black and whites, while Lilting Len Wein has taken the same job for the color books. It may seem to you like we can make these changes with ease, but it really took a lot of cogitation on Stan's part before he was able to choose the right person for the right job. We wish both Len and Marv the best of luck, and hope that they carry on in Marvel's best traditions!

For those of you who love scarfing down these and the other news items as listed in our various mags, we've got a surprise— we've added more! Every issue of each of our large-sized black and white magazines features a Bullpen Page just chock-full of tid-bits of gossip— for those of you who love to be on top of the news!

You just can't keep a good LeMond down! Most of you have already seen the pulse-pounding

premiere issue of *PHOTO NEWS FEATURES*— the first issue of which featured a close-up look at the monster of the century— Adolph Hitler! So get ready for our second glimpse at the past; but don't be surprised to see that this time around it's devoted to one of the great American heroes of all time— F.D.R.!

Your welcome reception to the *PLANET OF THE APES* has been so overwhelming that we've decided to take a chance and make it monthly! You may be wondering— "Can Marvel handle it?" Well, face it, tigers, when you've got the greatest Bullpen of artists, writers and editors ever assembled by any comic company, it's *easy* to do the impossible!

And now for a look at the latest batch of our giant-sized books...

In the pages of *GIANT-SIZE DRACULA #4* you'll be thrilled to "Let It Bleed," courtesy of David Anthony Kraft and Don Heck (with an able assist from an as-yet unknown inker). A bizarre series of circumstances will draw the Count to Devils Lake, North Dakota, to battle— *what?* We can't give away the ending, but just let us assure *you* that Dracula may be facing the one threat to his reign as Prince of Darkness that'll really give him a run for his blood-money! (And don't be surprised if you spot a Dave Kraft running through the streets of North Dakota— 'cause that's his home town— even if this terror tome *is* dated in the 1930's.)

The artist/writer team of Len Wein and Pich Buckler will be bringing you the only super-villain

who is a crowd scene in himself. Maxro the Multiple Man will be exploding in the pages of *GIANT-SIZE FANTASTIC FOUR*. But just 'cause our villain's always multiplying, it doesn't mean that the number of issues on the stands will— so be sure to rush and get a copy of the latest issue before they're all snatched up.

GIANT-SIZE MAN-THING #3 features "The Blood of Kings," brought to you by the swampy pens and pencils of John Buscema and Steve Gerber. But it doesn't stop there— we've got more! Howard the Duck lives! Be sure to read the seven page backup feature by Steve Gerber and Frank Brunner! But watch out for the future— 'cause we're making Howard a regular feature in the book!

For all of you who've been clamoring for a return to the good old days, Spider-man will team up with Doc Savage in the pages of *GIANT-SIZE SPIDER-MAN #3*. Written by Gerry Conway, drawn by Ross Andru, our two heroes face the "Secret From Beyond Time."

The Rascally One will be scripting an issue of *GIANT-SIZE AVENGERS* over a plot by Steve Englehart. Watch for a step forward in characterization as Dave Cockrum and our sterling scripters present more secrets behind Mantis and the Vision. And watch out for Imortus!

Steve Gerber and Jim Starlin team up in the pages of *GIANT-SIZE DEFENDERS* as our titanic team become pawns at the hands of the Grandmaster! Guest-starring Daredevil, this one is sure to be a winner! (We're tempted to make a chess-related pun here, but we'll restrain ourselves.)

Doug Moench and artists Don Perlin and Sal Trapani take us back to Transylvania for a visit to "Castle Curse," in the pages of *GIANT-SIZE WEREWOLF #3*, in order to glimpse more of Jack Russell's strange history. There's a shock surprise ending to this one, so you'll just have to pick it up for yourself. *Nyah!* The following issue features "When the Moon Dripped Blood," a horror story by Doug in the Lovecraftian vein, plus a twenty-five page story in which the Werewolf meets Morbius. This issue is all new, effendi, so don't miss it!

(And let us not forget that *GIANT-SIZE CONAN*, features Conan in "The Haunter of the Pit," by Thomas, Kane, and Sutton. It's gonna be a great issue! Thomas promises!)

Now that we've gotten our news stories out of the way, let's head on to our capsule comments on the rest of our marvelous mag...

ADVENTURE INTO FEAR: Doug Moench, Frank Robbins and Frank Giacoia serve up a tale of life and love, as Morbius, the Living Vampire, asks the



question, "And What Of A Vampire's Blood?" Next comes "A Stillborn Genesis" which will end the six-part epic started by Steve Gerber these many months ago. Look forward to the future, as a new surprise penciller makes his debut.

AMAZING ADVENTURES: Written by Don McGregor and pencilled, inked and colored by Craig Russell, "The Death-Merchant of Chicago," begins to reveal the secrets behind Killraven's strange psychic powers. All you fans of Don's fantastic females will be glad to see the origin of Volcana Ash—but watch out—'cause she burns like crazy! (Don't blame me. I didn't write this thing—**MARV WOLFMAN**) Next we witness "The Day The Monuments Shattered," which Don tells us will be very experimental in style, and most probably the hardest comic story he's ever attempted! This will end the Death/Birth series to leave us open for the theme of the following: an all-origin issue! Find out the truth behind Hawk and Grok!

ASTONISHING TALES! Battle on the Statue of Liberty, as **DEATHLOK**, the Demolisher faces "The Fury of the War-Wolf!" This one was written by Rich Buckler with a plotting assist by Doug Moench. Look out for a BIG change in Deathlok's life (or can it be even called that?).

THE AVENGERS: There are plotlines aplenty in the upcoming issues of this magazine, and Steve Englehart, Sal Buscema, and Joe Staton have been hired to take you there. In a story continued in **GIANT-SIZE AVENGERS #3**, the Avengers are trapped in the Caverns of Limbo, and meet Wonder Man, Midnight, Baron Zemo, and Frankenstein. But how, you may be asking, can the Avengers have a run-in with dead super-heros? The answer to that question can only be seen in the pages of **THE AVENGERS #132!** Next, our favorite super-team travels through time to explore the history of the universe to discover the origins of Mantis and her role as the celestial Madonna. PLUS: Moon Dragon! (And don't forget that **THE AVENGERS #132** will be scripted by Roy Thomas over Steve's plot!) And watch out for Wanda's new costume!

CAPTAIN AMERICA: Steve Englehart and Frank Robbins continue leading Captain America as Nomad on his quest for self-realization. With the destruction of the Serpent Squad, a new menace arises to face Cap—or should we say an old menace? Whatever happens, this is sure to be one of the greatest battle scenes in comic literature. Don't forget to pick up issue #183—it's a landmark issue in Captain America's career!

CAPTAIN MARVEL: Due to mighty Marvel mayhem, one issue of **CAPTAIN MARVEL** will be a partial reprint, recapping Cap's origin. The framing device for this story has been written by Steve Englehart and drawn by Al Milgrom, Al Weiss, and a horde of faithful regulars. After this issue, the Captain journeys to the moon and meets—the Watcher!

CONAN: John Buscema and the Crusty Bunkers lead Conan directly to the "Demon of Dark Valley!" Roy Thomas reminds us that reading a book inked by the Crusties is like playing a game. Since almost twenty different artists belong to the semi-organized group, many different styles of inking can be found in a story—even in a single panel.. See if you can tell them all apart!

CREATURES ON THE LOOSE: Another new **MAN-WOLF** scripter in this issue! David Anthony Kraft assumes the writing chores from Tony Isabella, and leads our favorite werewolf (Jack Russell fans, beware) on a chase through the mountains of Georgia which ends up in Tallulah Gorge. With art by George Perez and Klaus Janson, a whole new twist is added, to this series, as new characters join the crew roster with issue #34. (And Dave has threatened to kill the entire editorial staff of **FOOM** if we forget to mention that there will be no more reprints in **CREATURES ON THE LOOSE**—there's now a full eighteen pages of **MAN-WOLF** in each issue! So come on, Davy, call off your hounds!)





DAREDEVIL: Steve Gerber's last issue is # 117, after which Chris Claremont will script an issue from one of Steve's plots. Shanna, the She-Devil gueststars as *DD* fights the Owl, in "MindTap!" After a fill-in issue by Gerry Conway and Don Heck, Tony Isabella will take over the writing chores with Bob Brown back at the helm. In "They're Tearing Down Fogwell's Gym," we get a glimpse at some of Matt Murdock's childhood. *PLUS:* A return of an old villain... in a new form! And watch out for— The Vindicator! (Tony reminds us that we should mention that all HYDRA fans should pick up *DD* #120 which includes Nick Fury and his agents of SHIELD. Don't miss it!)

DEFENDERS: With Luke Cage as guest-star. The Defenders battle the Wrecking Crew in the heart of Harlem for possession of a miniature Gamma-ray Bomb. Written by Chris Claremont from a plot by Len Wein, this Sal Buscema-illustrated tale is entitled "Doomball!" *PLUS:* We will soon learn the ominous secrets behind the Valkyrie, and delve deeply into the background of Nighthawk, courtesy of Steve Gerber!

FANTASTIC FOUR: In a fill-in issue written by Len Wein and Stan Lee and drawn by Bob Brown

and Dick Ayers, the Fantastic Four face "The Man in The Mystery Mask!" Long-time Human Torch fans will remember this villain from an old issue of *STRANGE TALES*, but new readers will enjoy it just the same. Returning with Rich Buckler the next issue is the Silver Surfer in a story entitled, "Battle Royal!" But why is the Surfer trying to kill the Fantastic Four? Only Len Wein knows!

DR. STRANGE: Under Steve Englehart's able hands, Doctor Strange is attacked by Umar. Mothra Nature guest-stars in this Gene Colan pencilled issue, as Clea battles for her life at the center of the earth! *PLUS:* A special guest-villain! And don't forget to "Lift High the Veil of Fears!"

FRANKENSTEIN: Doug Moench and Val Mayerick present Franky in "The Fury of the Night-Creature!" More on Ralph and his father's lab experiments. Meet I. C. O. N. and beware the "Tactics of Death!"

GHOST RIDER: The Hulk co-stars in an issue drawn by fill-in artist Sal Buscema titled "Desolation Run," which also introduces Ghost Rider on a new cycle. Another fill-in artist, Herb Trimpe, follows, bringing back his favorite World War Two flying Ace, the Phantom Eagle. Jim Mooney returns with the issue # 14, bringing with him a new set of characters. *PLUS:* The Trapster! (And let us not forget Tony Isabella, the man who's responsible for scripting these timeless tomes!)

HULK: Bruce Banner must beware, for there is a "Shadow in the Land!" Len Wein continues in his supposedly god-given task of tying up every Marvel loose-end in existence. Hulk battles Kaa, the shadowy creature who you've all avoided for so long in the pages of *WHERE MONSTERS DWELL*. After that you'll learn the mysterious secret that's been plaguing Gleon Talbot— in "Deathknell!" But be careful what you believe— cause Len has so many plot twists up his sleeves that we're thinking of making him wear only T-shirts!

IRON MAN: George Tuska still puts out a story or two, even though he's loaded down with the monthly *PLANET OF THE APES*. Now, that's dedication!

JUNGLE ACTION: The Black Panther comes face to face with "The God Killer!" Co-starring Sombre and Killmonger, this issue has been pencilled by Billy Graham and inked by Craig Russell. *PLUS:* The secret behind the Man-Ape! *NEXT:* The Jungle Lord battles creatures from beyond time as he learns that "There Are Serpents Lurking in Paradise!"

KAZAR: Gerry Conway and John Buscema team up to place the Jungle Lord in one of the greatest predicaments of his lifetime in "Ride The Deadly

Rapids," as Ka-Zar is to be offered in sacrifice to the River-God. Ka-Zar must risk his life as he goes "Down into the Volcano!"

MAN-THING: All natural mystery fans will enjoy "Red Sails at 40,000 Feet," as Man-Thing accidentally enters the Bermuda Triangle and runs into an air-riding pirate ship. Drawn by John Buscema and written by Steve Gerber, this story deals with satyrs and reincarnation. With issue # 14, the artistic reins of the strip slip to Alfredo Alcalá as all fans of Simon Garth from *TALES OF THE ZOMBIE* will be glad to hear.

MARVEL PREMIERE: Tony Isabella and Arvell Jones takes over as a team, and lead *IRON FIST* against the murderous master of kick-fighting, Batroc the Leaper, who many of you may remember from a horde of old Captain America yarns (and who will be appearing in this month's issue of *DEADLY HANDS OF KUNG FU*). This team's premiere issue will feature more villains than Tony Isabella has typing fingers. (On second thought, maybe that's not such a good comparison.) This issues co-starring villains are the Ninja and the Death-Cult, so be prepared for lots of action. **PLUS:** Watch out for the— Living Goddesses!

MARVEL SPOTLIGHT: Steve Gerber and Gene

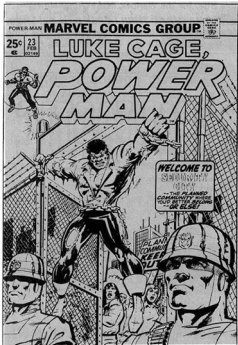
Colan continue leading Damian Hellstrom through the heights of exorcism... but who is being possessed? **PLUS:** A mystical romp through a deck of Tarot Cards... with a death in the offing!

MARVEL TWO-IN-ONE: Steve Gerber and Sal Buscema team up Ben Grimm with the Valkyrie in her continuing quest for her own identity. Dr. Strange has a cameo role as he ties up the loose ends from the previous issue. This story ends in *THE DEFENDERS* #20, so be sure to read this issue first. Future team ups include the Falcon, Iron Fist, and the Silver Surfer.

MASTER OF KUNG FU: In what has got to be one of the most confusing stories of all time. Walt Simonson, Jim Starlin, Al Migrom, and Al Weiss pencilled an issue of *MASTER OF KUNG FU* which Sal Trapani actually had the nerve to be able to ink! Watch for "The Night of the Assassin!" Meet the "Daughter of Darkness," Shang-Chi's half sister!

MONSTERS OF THE MOVIES: Make sure you don't buy this issue under the influence of a full moon— 'cause this time around we're taking a close look at werewolves! Larry Talbot lives!

PLANET OF THE APES: Now Monthly! What more can we say?



POWER MAN: Luke Cage meets the "Planners of Bedlam," as he enters Security City. In a two-part story, he teams up the NEW Goliath to battle the Pingmaster and his Circus of Crime. **PLUS:** The secret of Claire Temple!

SPIDER-MAN: Spidey faces the end of the most terrible journey of his life as he learns the secret of the Jackal **PLUS:** Beware "The Day of The Grizzly!" Be patient, tiger, all things are revealed to he who waits! (And watch for the long-awaited return of Mysterio!) Guess who's the victim of a political kidnapping— JJJ!

SPIDEY SUPER STORIES: For the younger readers in the audience, we present the easy to read adventures of Spider-man as he fights the Ringmaster and his Circus of Crime. **PLUS:** Mysterio, master of magic and mystery!

STRANGE TALES: The Golem is under attack as he faces a "Doomsday for a Demi-God!" This issue was written by Mike Friedrich and pencilled by Tony DeZuniga, and features the premiere of a new inker— Steve Austin! Now before you start making jokes about Six Million Dollar Man, we'll just have to inform you that his inking is *no* joke! Be sure to catch his first appearance on the last issue of this feature so you'll be able to say, "I knew him when!" Watch out for future issues of this title, for the Warlock lives! (Hint! Hint!)

SUPERNATURAL THRILLERS: In a full-length tale we learn the origin of the Asp in, "The Sting of the Asp!" With Val Mayerick inking his own

pencils, Zepher comes to earth, and the Elementals take over Egypt! More magic from Tony "the Tiger" Isabella.

THOR: Rich Buckler takes a much needed vacation, as John Buscema and Dick Giordano perform the art chores on a fill-in issue. And Gerry Conway warns us to watch out for, "The Sky Above, The Pits Below!" **TITLES FOR THE FUTURE:** "A Spectre From the Past," "Lo! The Raging Battle!," "Midgard in Flames!" (The Firelord LIVES!)

TOMB OF DRACULA: Marv Wolfman and Gene Colan (*Who else?*) present "Vengeance Is Mine, Sayeth, the Vampire!" This issue features the complete background of Taj. **PLUS:** In the near future, more entries from Dracula's journal!

WAR IS HELL: John Kowalski continues his life after death activities in "Winter Kill!" Written by Chris Claremont, drawn by Don Perlin, and inked by someone as yet unknown, our semi-dead friend is transmigrated into a Finnish major intent on saving his troops from the onrushing Russian hordes on the mountains and plains of Eastern Finland.

WEREWOLF BY NIGHT: Doug Moench and Don Perlin present "An Eclipse of Evil!" Jack Russell tries to subdue the evil side of his Werewolf nature with a serum which, of course, fails. Mr. Hyde lives again! Topaz returns with "The Amazing Doctor Glitternight!"

That's the news this time around pilgrim. Be here next issue for more of the same useless trivial!



YOU HOLD THE LIVES OF THESE EDITORS IN YOUR HANDS!



That's right, friends. These trembling husks of humanity are the editorial staff of the Marvel Comics Group. They have a small problem: *we can't afford to pay them!* But neither can we allow a team of titanic talents like these to go work for the competition, now can we? The solution: *kill them!*

Only you can save them! Subscribe to one, two, or all of the magazine masterpieces listed in the convenient coupon on this page. We'll even give you 10% off on your total order because you're a full-fledged member of FOOM. If we get enough orders, we'll spare these worthy scions of Marveldom. If not...

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MARVEL AT THE BAT



Publisher **STAN LEE**, flanked by black-and-white editor **MARVIN WOLFGAN** and Crazy writer **STU SCHWARTZBERG**.

Nobody remembers exactly how it started. For years, various members of the Marvel Bullpen had talked about getting together a softball team and challenging our fellow comics publishers. None of our plans ever got past the talking stage.

Then somehow, suddenly and unexpectedly, it all came together for us. It was June, 1974.

Fifteen stalwart Marvelites trudged over to the Sheepsmeadow section of Manhattan's Central Park with a handful of balls, bats, and gloves. The roster read like a who's who of Marveldom: Carla Conway, Gerry Conway, Ed Hannigan, Tony Isabella, David Kraft, Bill Mantlo, Bob McLeod, Phil Rachelson, Jean Thomas, Roy Thomas, Irene Vartanoff, Glynis Wein, Len Wein, Ron Wilson, and Marv Wolfman. With a couple friends of Phil's to even the sides out, the Bullpen picked up sides and played nine innings of... well, it was supposed to resemble softball. We went home feeling dozens of unused muscles in every part of our bodies, and frankly, those muscles resented this unannounced intrusion on their unemployment. We moaned, groaned, and limped around for four days afterward. And, to quote a former, television secret agent, "loving every minute of it."

That was the start. All told, we played about 25 games this summer. We played in pick-up games against each other. We played whatever publishing outfits were not too embarrassed to take to the field against us. (Though none of our fellow comics publishers ever accepted our challenges.) We even had a game between the under 35-years-old Bullpenners and the over 35-years-old crowd. While the "kids" won, it was only a matter of staying power. The "old-timers" dominated the scoring in the first half of the game. The high point of the afternoon was a grand slam home run by letterer Roger Slifer.

The games generated their own special kind of excite-

ment. We were often joined by friends of Marvel, including folks who worked for other comic companies like DC's Carl Gafford, Seaboard's Steve Mitchell, and Warren's Michelle Brand. They weren't going to let a little thing like company loyalty keep them from enjoying these afternoons on the field.

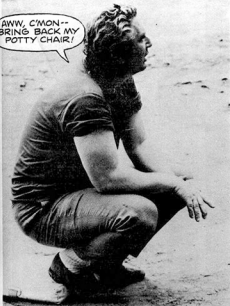
Some stars quickly emerged from the ranks. Herb Trimpe proved to be the best all-around player, but Archie Goodwin, Al Milgrom, and Doug Moench were no slouches either. Stan Lee came to one practice session and, while pitching, proved he could make the ball sit up and say "Mangog." Jack Abel, Mike Esposito, Frank Giacoia, and Vinnie Colletta proved that our stable of inkers were a force to be reckoned with, while Linda Fite, Marcia Gloster, Debbie James, and Annette Kawecki struck their blows for the erroneously-named weaker sex. In all, over fifty editors, writers, artists, and production workers attended. And it was beautiful to behold, pilgrims.

Perhaps the best part of the whole shebang was that no serious injuries resulted as a result of the game. In fact, only two minor injuries resulted. Flo Steinberg injured her foot avoiding a sliding Archie Goodwin while Tony Isabella caught a line drive... right between the eyes! Flo limped off the field triumphantly and was fine the next day. Tony was helped off the field and saved a broken nose because his glasses absorbed the impact.

But battered, bruised, and foot-sore, the Marvel Bullpen did itself proud this summer. And next year, now that we've discovered our strengths and weaknesses, we're gonna take the whole softball world by storm!

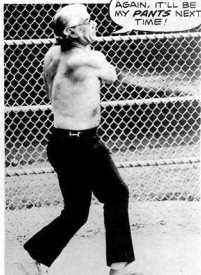
In the meantime, though, we'd like to share with you some photographic memories of those halcyon days, taken by Bruce Mittleman and Michele Wolfman. Enjoy, sports-fans!

AWWW, C'MON--
BRING BACK MY
POTTY CHAIR!



Inker JACK ABEL.

IF WE LOSE
AGAIN, IT'LL BE
MY PANTS NEXT
TIME!



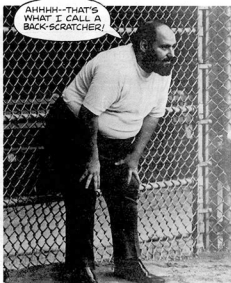
Inker VINNIE COLLETTA.

Production man DANNY CRESPI and colorist GLYNIS WEIN.

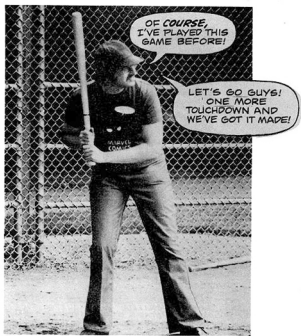
REMEMBER--
NEXT TIME, DON'T
DUCK. MY BELLY
CAN'T TAKE IT!



AHHHH--THAT'S
WHAT I CALL A
BACK-SCRATCHER!



Umpire MARK HANERFELD.



Black-and-white editor MARV WOLFMAN.

On the bench (left to right):
ROY THOMAS, two unknown spectators,
AL MILGROM, MARV WOLFMAN,
MIKE KALUTA, LEN GROW
(behind Kaluta), ROGER SLIFER,
TONY ISABELLA, GLYNIS WEIN.





Writer ROY THOMAS.

Color editor LEN WEIN.



Assistant editor IRENE VARTANOFF



Captivating photo comments
by Smiling Stan Lee himself!

WOW! ALL I
NEED IS ONE
MORE HIT--

--AND I'LL
HAVE MY FIRST
HIT!



Production man MORRIE KURAMOTO.

I DIDN'T MIND
THEM PLAYING
IN CLOSE WHEN
I WAS AT BAT--

--BUT NOW
THEY'RE GOING
OUT FOR COKES!



Artist AL MILGROM.

STU SCHWARTZBERG.

OUR PLAN
IS WORKING!

THE SCORE'S
TWENTY TO ONE
AGAINST US--

WE'RE
WEARING
THEM OUT!



As the baseball season ends, we all look forward to the *next* spotlighted sport our valiant team-members are about to begin organizing—*volleyball!*
See you next year, effendi!

WATCH OUT FOR THE PROOFREADERS!

You'll know them by their "handles", true believer. They're the deadliest bunch ever to wield a correcting pencil. "Cheerful" Chris Claremont, the smiling killer. "Impish" Irene Vartanoff... she'll shoot anybody for a laugh. Dave "the Dude" Kraft, the hit man with a heart... of steel. And now they want you...

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Now we're not sure how many subscriptions it'll take to placate this mob. But don't try to cut corners, ya hear? After all, they've got your address!



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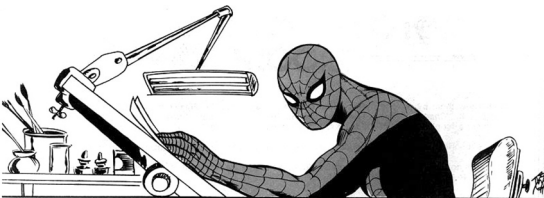
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Okay, all you perhaps future comics craftsmen, here's a FOOM-developed opportunity to see how you would illustrate an honest-to-Galactus Marvel-style plot. We've given you descriptions—the same kind of descriptions we would give one of our artists—for a three-page Spider-Man sequence. Pick one of the pages and draw it as if you were Spidey's newest penciller. Send in the page to the following address: DRAW THIS PAGE, Marvel Comics, 575 Madison Ave., New York, N.Y. 10022.

We'll judge the results on the basis of actual drawing, adherence to important plot details, and imaginativeness of layout. Like our artists, you have a great deal of freedom. You can add panels if it's necessary to your layout, try different angles, maybe even add a few shots of your own. We'll announce the winner in FOOM MAGAZINE #9, so start on your entry today.

The winning entry will receive an original Spider-Man drawing by John Romita and have his pencilled page inked by Spider-Man's incredible inker, Frank Giacoia. The next two runner-ups will also receive original Spidey drawings, by John Romita.

Okay, tiger. Read the plot and then do your thing! Here's wishing you the best of luck.

SPIDER-MAN X "IF THIS BE BATTLE"

PAGE TWO: The Rhino is charging at Spidey's back in a multi-panel sequence. He's getting closer and closer in each shot. Our hero doesn't suspect a thing until the final panel of the sequence when his spider-sense starts tingling. The Rhino is just about on top of him. Spidey backflips over the charging Rhino, who crashes through a brick wall. Suddenly, Spidey is lassooed by an electric lariat from outside the panel. We pull back to see that the Green Goblin (on his flyer) is holding the lariat. Spidey is straining to break free.

PAGE THREE: The Rhino charges from the hole in the wall at a helpless Spider-Man, still caught by the lariat held by the Goblin. Spidey grabs the lariat and pulls down, causing the Goblin to fall from the sky right into the path of the Rhino. The Rhino and the Goblin collide in a shower of electrical energy. Spidey shoots a web and prepares to leave the unconscious villains. As he swings away, he thinks of the villain he goes to battle... Doc Octopus!

PAGE FOUR: Large panel of Doctor Octopus in a secret hideout. He's enraged and lashing out at things with his arms as a pair of captives watch him fearfully. The captives are Betty Brant and Ned Leeds. Doctor Octopus shakes his fist at the pair and tells them he'll get Spidey even if the Goblin and the Rhino failed. A metal door slides open and Doc Octopus exits from the room, using those metal arms like legs.



From deep within the bowels of the Marvel empire, there comes a horrible sound like the gnashing of teeth in the darkness. Some Bullpeners turn and nod at each other. It can only be Tony Isabella going through the dozens of fan artist drawings submitted for this page, agonizing over his inhuman chore: to pick the very finest works from all those excellent illustrations for reproduction in

POOM!

FAN ART GALLERY

DOCTOR STRANGE by Rick V. Livingston
WARRIOR OF MARS by Rick V. Livingston
THE VISION VS. THE MAN-THING by Ernie Stiner

Get in on the fun! Send your drawings to:

FAN ART GALLERY
Marvel Comics
575 Madison Avenue
New York, N.Y. 10022



To celebrate Marvel's exciting new plans for both the X-Men and Mrs. McCoy's little boy Hank, the FOOM Code this issue is the official and absolutely uncensored

CODE OF THE BEAST

DYNE & VANDERKAM



To write or decipher messages in this code, just use the convenient chart above. The numbers corresponding to the letters A through L can be found in negative (white on black) and those corresponding to M through Z can be found in positive (black on white). A message like **MORE FUN THAN A BARREL OF MUTANTS** would be coded to: 9-4-24-16 26-19-20 2-3-13-20 13 6-13-24-24-16-5 4-26 9-19-2-13-20-2-17. Now here's a code message you can decipher...

11-4-9-18-26-22 17-4-26 13 6-24-13-24-24 16-5 4-26 9-19-2-13-20-2-17

Watch upcoming Bulpen Bulletins for more code messages that only FOOM members will be able to decipher!

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Mike Yearick
1700 Beruvine Lane
Winter Park, Florida 32789

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Anthony Scala
1219 Tasker Street
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19148

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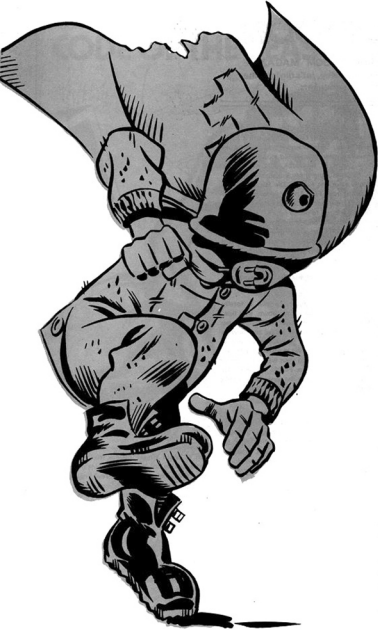
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Brian K. Morris
507 Guy Avenue
Georgetown, Illinois 61846



FOOM salutes your TV efforts on our behalf, Brian. Hey, and if any of you other FOOMers out there have been appearing on television or radio lately, let us know. We'd love to know and share your exploits with the rest of Marveldom Altogether.

Dear Stan,

Lester Bouillier, in FOOM #6, thought of the Silver Surfer only in terms of romance while forgetting that there are some readers who enjoy seeing fight scenes with the Surfer using his "cosmic-power" to battle far-out creatures like Galactus and the Brotherhood of the Badoon. Who can forget the great pages of SUB-MARINER #734-35 in which the Silver Surfer, Hulk, and Subby fought the Avengers?

I admit that, after a while, plain fight scenes get sort of boring, but the Surfer has more than action going for him. I like the way the Surfer was nearly killed by his own pity for Quasimodo (in the story reprinted in GIANT-SIZE DEFENDERS #71). So don't ever change the Surfer's personality.

Face it, the Surfer's got a lot of potential. Finishing him off (as Lester suggests) would be blowing that potential.

Scott Jackson
1206 Sherman Street
Ypsilanti, Michigan 48197

With a single exception, Scott, the dozens of FOOMers who commented on Lester's FOOM Forum piece agreed with you. If anything, Marveldom would like to see the Silver Surfer in his own book once more. And they all agree that the Surfer's appearances should always be handled with the greatest of care. So here's a salute to some of the FOOMers who wrote in on this one: Dave Andrews of Wisconsin, Eric Martinec of New York, Jeff Weiger of Illinois, Thomas Graham of California, and the rest of you heroes who gave so unhesitatingly of your time to comment on this issue.

As long as we're mentioning some of the people who wrote in, we want to thank the following for their thought-provoking, interesting, and sometimes just plain heart-warming letters: Karl Reif of New York, Steve Tolich of New York, Bill Link of New Jersey, Andy Herman of Washington, Peter Mossner of Michigan, Duke Mondragon of Colorado Lin Brunson of Texas, Charles Rutledge of Georgia, John Johnston of Michigan, and S. Yanz of California. Whew! We couldn't list all the keepers of the flame that have written us in the past six months we've been producing FOOM MAGAZINE from the Marvel Bullpen itself. But, rest assured, your marvelous missives are all read, reread, and greatly appreciated.

Our address is:

THE VOICE OF FOOM
Marvel Comics
575 Madison Avenue
New York, N.Y. 10022

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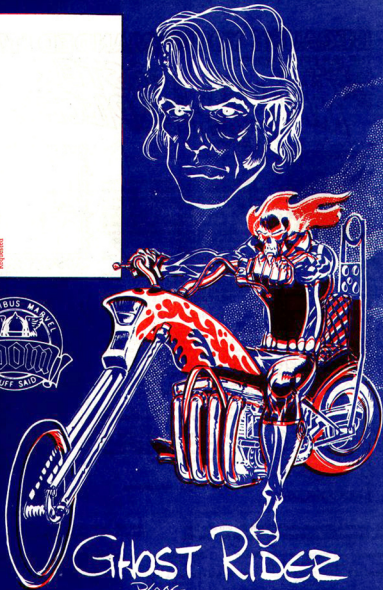
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