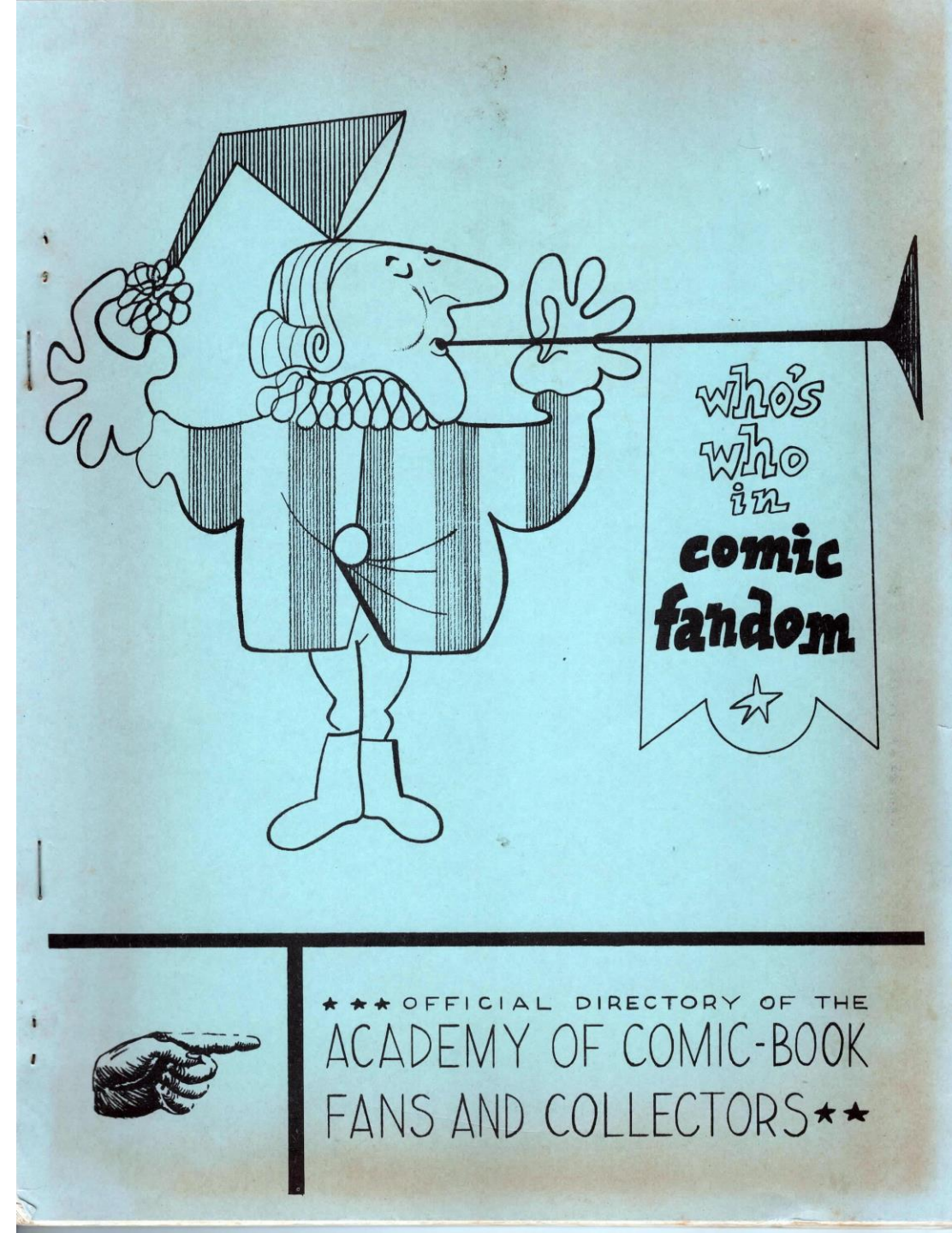


Who IS Who in Comic Fandom?

Chris Wildrick
Associate Professor
School of Art
Syracuse University



The Who's Who of Comic Fandom was edited by Larry Lattanzi but largely compiled by Jerry Bails.

Lattanzi was involved in fandom and underground comics but little information is available about him. He compiled and typed the directory.

Jerry Bails has been called the “forefather of organized comic book fandom” (Tom Brevoort) and “one of fandom's most articulate critics” (Fantastic Four 22). He earned a BS in Physics, an MA in Math, and a Ph.D. in Natural Science from the University of Missouri-Kansas City. He was a tenured professor at Wayne State University, starting there in 1960.

In addition to the *Who's Who in Comic Fandom*, Bails worked on several other fan publications, *Alter Ego* magazine, edited or helped write several comics-oriented books, and founded CAPA-alpha, a comics amateur press association. His *On the Drawing Board* newsheet is considered one of the first ways fans could find out what comics were coming out in the near future, and which creators worked on them. He often worked with Roy Thomas, a fan who eventually became Editor-in-Chief at Marvel. He called the study of comics “panelology” and was key in differentiating comics fandom from sci-fi fandom. He worked to archive older comics on microfilm, authored several indexes of comics companies’ output, and led a crowd-sourced initiative to apply the correct creator credits for early comics. This information led to him publishing this data online in what was essentially the first comic wiki; it is still available almost 20 years after his death at www.bailsprojects.com.

The *Who's Who* was published by the Academy of Comic-Book Fans and Collectors, which Bails co-founded. The Academy ran the Alley Awards as a first attempt to create an industry-wide award for the field.

Bails regularly mentored fans who aspired to be comics creators and would stop by his house and was said to live his life according to the morals of his beloved *All-Star Comics*.

Contents of *Who's Who in Comic Fandom*, 1964

- An explanation of the code for the directory entries
- The board members of the Academy of Comic-Book Fans and Collectors
- The directory of fans and their information
- Fans whose addresses had changed
- Comic dealers and their information
- A list of current "Amazines" (zines)
- The Alley Awards

The Supplement:

- A chronology of fandom
- A chronology of comics
- A supplement to the directory
- The current Board
- A further supplement to the directory, but now with less information
- More late additions to the list of active fans
- A list of people "lost to fandom" who were seemingly inactive
- More Amazines
- The Academy's Charter
- A history of the Academy

The *Who's Who* is actually somewhat confusingly organized and labeled.

There is no clear reason why the Supplement is packaged with the main part of the issue. The Supplement has a table of contents and copyright information but the main section does not.

People's names are listed in several sets of lists with little to differentiate one list from another and it is not clear why they have different kinds of information. The main directory doesn't have a title. The editor, Larry Lattanzi, refers to himself as "I" but never actually lists his name anywhere.

EDITOR'S PREFACE *****

I would like to clear up a few points regarding the preparation of this WHO'S WHO. As some of you may have noted in MASQUERADER #5, I said that Fred Bronson was going together with me on this project. Since then, Fred has been having a bit of trouble with his ditto machine. I didn't want to add to his troubles, so I asked Jerry Bails to handle the duplicating for me. Recognizing the need for Academy support for this project, Jerry consented to help me in the name of the Academy. I organized the directory, typed the masters, and sent them to Jerry. He handled all the duplicating, after proof-reading for me. He also helped me a lot in planning the directory by publishing the WHO'S WHO Questionnaire in THE COMIC READER.

I know some fans will be quick to find fault with this directory, and I will be the first to admit that it is not as complete as I would have liked it to be. The reason for this is simple. Many fans failed to get their questionnaires in on time. I hope we can get a much better return next time around.

Well, that's all I have to say except that I hope this WHO'S WHO proves to be a real asset to you.

Following is the code of abbreviations that will be used throughout the directory. One must realize that no system can accomplish everything; however, I believe this code is fairly satisfactory.

//THE CODE//

The data for each fan (unless otherwise noted) is separated into 13 items as follows:

- (1) First comes the fan's name followed by a pair of slant lines "/" to indicate the next datum.
- (2) The next item is the fan's age, as of 1963.
- (3) The next item gives the fan's marital status: 'M' for married, and 'S' for single. When inviting a fan to visit, married fans often like to invite the spouse along.
- (4) The fourth item gives the fan's occupation when he filled out that part of the questionnaire. A question mark '?' is used when this information was not supplied.

(The Code is continued on the next page.)

THE CODE

(5) Fan's address. An asterisk (*) indicates a recent change of address and refers the reader to the address given at the end of the listings.

(6) Zip code when supplied.

(7) Phone number with all letters converted to numbers. For example: AM-3-5195 becomes 2635195.

(8) Fan's primary status, whether General Fan, Collector, Dealer, or Pro in the comics field.

(9) Principal type of contribution to fanzines, i.e. whether he contributes as a Faneditor, Fanwriter, or Fanartist. Naturally, many fans qualify in more than one of these categories.

(10) Types of comics the fan collects. The following abbreviations are used:

Hero - Adventure & costumed hero	Det - Detective & Mystery
Sff - Science Fiction & Fantasy	Adap- Adaptations from other media
West - Western	Sat - Satire
War - War (what else?)	Jun - Jungle
Love - (Another obvious one)	Hor - Horror
Fun - Humorous (animated)	Rep - Newspaper Reprints

(11) Periods of comics material collected. Numbers stand for periods according to the key: 1 for 1933-40; 2 for 1940-45; 3 for 1945-50; 4 for 1950-55; 5 for 1955-60; 6 for 1960-present. A listed number indicates a good collection for that period. An underlined number indicates an extensive collection for the period. No number for a period indicates an insignificant collection for the period.

(12) This item indicates the nature of the fan's pre-1955 comics collection by publishing group (i.e. DC, EC, Marvel, etc.) If a comic publishing group is listed, this indicates a good pre-1955 collection of that group. Underlining once again means that the collection is extensive in that area. Small and scattered collections are not indicated. The abbreviations used for the various publishing groups are:

DC-National, includes AA	Ziff-Ziff-Davis	Priz-Prize/Feature
EC-Entertaining Comics	Ace- Ace	Hill-Hillman
Mar-Marvel/Timely/Atlas	Str-Street & Smith	Prem-Premium
ML-ML/Archie	Qual-Quality	Avon-Avon
Dell-Dell/Western	Har-Harvey/Family	Dyn-Dynamic
Fox-Fox/Charlton	Col-Columbia	St-St. John
EC-Electra House	Cent-Centaur	ME-Magazine Ent.
Lav-Lavett	Ken-Ken Crossen	Pop-Popular
Lev-Lev Gleason	Ned-Nedor/Better	Sup-Super

(The last page of this Code appears on the next page.)

THE CODE

(13) Other types of items, besides comics, collected by the fan. The abbreviations are:

Fanz-Fanzines, Comic	Film-Movie films
Orig-Original art	Tape-Tapes of radio, movie soundtracks
For-Foreign comics	Hum-Humor mags: MAD, SICK, etc.
Info-Info on pros	SFF-Science Fiction & Fantasy prozines and/or fanzines
Data-Data on comics	Mons-Monster pro- &/or fanzines
Books-Books & Articles on Comics	Spor-Sports magazines
BLB-Big Little Books	UFO-Material on Unidentified Flying Objects (Flying Saucers)
News-Newspaper strips	Pho-Photos of comics, pros, fans, etc.
Misc-Pop-up books, coloring books, etc.	Star-Movie & TV pro- &/or fanzines
ERB-Edgar R. Burroughs material	Pulp-Pulps, pocketbooks, etc.
	Post-Movie stills, posters, etc.

CHARTER MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD OF THE ACADEMY OF COMIC-BOOK FANS AND COLLECTORS (1964)

Edwin M. Aprill Jr.	Don Glut	John Wright*
Jeremy Barry*	Oven Hannifan	Bruce Polz
Berry Bauman	Jim Harmon	Jim Pobst
David Bibby	Ron Haydock	Dennis Richard
E. Nelson Bridwell	Kenneth Heineman	Jim Rossow
(Asst. Ed. Superman)	Claude Held	John Ryan*
Fred Bronson	Larry Herndon	Buddy Saunders
Bernard Subia	Glen Johnson	Lawell L. Simpson
Robert Mutsaers	Howard Keltner	Jerry Sorel
Bill Casters	Ronald Kettle	Bill Spicer
Dele Christman	Albert Knefeld*	Don Swartz
Thomas Christofes	Richard Kyle	Dennis Tannev
Charles Cram	Edward Lehmann	Bill Thalling
Sol Davidson	Charles Lichtman	Roy Thomas
George Detrow	Gordon B. Love	Donald Thompson*
Richard Durrell	John McGehee*	Margaret Thompson*
Tom Fagan	Tom McGehee*	Arthur Tripp
Alvin Dick	Michael Martin	Michael Tunney
Donald Foote	Dick Memorich	Michael Vosburg
Don Ross	Raymond Miller	Elliot Wagner
Ronald Bradkin	Drury S. Moroz	Richard Weinroff
Andrew Frankol	Paul Moslander	Richard West
Rudy Frank*	Chuck Moss	Bill White
Paul Gambaccini	Frank Nuessel	Thomas L. Wilson
Margaret Galignani	George Pacinda	Larry Lattanzi*
Dian Girard	Mickey Parise	Frederick Norwood*
		Jerry G. Bails, Secretary

(*Additions to the list published in THE COMIC READER #21.)
Headquarters for all general Academy business during 1964:
Jerry G. Bails, 22529 Karam Ct., Warren, Michigan 48091, U.S.A.

The code for interpreting the Directory's information on each fan

A sample Directory page

ALDERSON, DANIEL JOHN //21//S//College student//6720 Day St.,
Tujunga, California//91042//352-2153//Collector//Fanwrit//
Hero, Sff, Hor, Def, Adap, Sat//5,6//none significant//Fanz, Data,
Book, BL3, News, ERB, Hum, SFF, Mons//

ALMAZ, ALEX//37//S//Artist//4528 South Paulina St., Chicago,
Ill.//60609//254-1383//Collector//none//Hero, Sff, Adap//2,5,6//
EC, Faw, Qual//BLB, Tape, SFF

APRILL, EDWIN M.//35//M//Teacher//5272 W. Liberty Rd., (rest of
adress unknown)//48105//663-4347//Collector//none//Sff, Hor,
Adap//2,3,4//EC, Del, Fic, Lev, Har//Fanz, Orig, Info, Del, Book, BL3,
News, Misc, ERB, Tape//

ANTOLICK, GEORGE JR.//16//S//Student//522 Washington Ave.,
Charlottesville, Pa.//15022//483-8687//Collector//none//Hero, Sff,
West, War, Hor, Def//3,4,5,6//DC, Mar, Fic, Str, Qual//Fanz, Info,
Data, Book, News, ERB, Pulp, Hum, Sff, Mons//

BAILS, JERRY G.//30//M//College teacher//22529 Karam Court,
Warren, Michigan//48091//754-6144//Collector//Faned, Fanwrit,
Fanz//Hero//1,2,3,4,5,6//DC, Mar, Faw//Fanz, Orig, For, Info,
Data, Book, Tape//

BAKER, SCOTT//14//S//Student//311 E. Boyd Dr., Baton Rouge, La.//
70808//344-7409//Collector//none//Hero, Sff, War, Hor, Def, Adap//
2,6//Mar, Col//Fanz, Data, Post, SFF, Mons//

BARRY, JEREMY ALEXANDER//25//S//Grad. Student//2287 27th Ave.,
San Francisco, Calif.//94116//566-9164//Collector//none//Hero,
Sff//none significant//none significant//Fanz, For, Info, Data,
Book, ERB, Pulp, SFF, Mons//

BARTELS, KEN//11//S//Student//209 W. Southington Ave., Worthing-
ton, Ohio//71885-1169//Collector//Faned, Fanwrit//Hero, Sff,
West, War, Hor, Def//2,3,6//DC, Mar, MLJ, Del, Fox, Ace, Dyn//Fanz,
For, Info, Data, Book, SFF//

BEAUDET, LEOPOLD//17//S//Student//R.C.A.F. Station, Moisie, P. Que.,
Canada//none//Collector//none//Hero, Sff, Hor, Def//5,6//none
significant//Fanz, SFF//

BERMAN, LEONARD//14//S//Student//123 Gifford Ave., Jersey City 4,
New Jersey//07304//433-8775//Collector//none//Hero, Sff//5,6//
none significant//Fanz, SFF, Mons//

BIBBY, DAVID//14//S//Student//40 Hillside Ave., Verona, New Jersey
//07044//239-5542//Collector//Fanwrit//2,3,5,6//EC, Mar, Faw,
Qual//Fanz, Data//

BLECKLEY, THOMAS COLE//15//S//Student//545 Simons Ave., Summer-
ville, S.C.//29483//873-8492//Collector//Fanwrit//Hero, Sff, West,
Def, Adap//5,6//none significant//Fanz, Pulp, Hum, SFF//

BORGAS, JOSEPH//24//S//Ceramics Engineer//54 Barrickto St.,
Trenton, New Jersey//08611//695-0019//Collector//Fanwrit//Hero, Sff//
2,3,5//DC, Faw, Lev//Fanz, Data, Book//

BRIDWELL, EDWARD NELSON//32//S//Writer//1013 N. Quapah, Okla-
homa City, Okla.//73107//942-3340//Collector//Fanwrit, Fan-
art//Hero, Sff, War, Hor, Def, Adap, Sat//3,4,5,6//DC, EC, Del,
Faw//News, ERB, Pulp, SFF, Mons//

BRONSON, FRED//14//S//Student//11620 Port Rd., Culver City,
Calif.//90230//398-7017//Collector//Faned, Fanwrit//Hero,
Sff//4,5,6//DC, Mar//Fanz, Orig, For, Data, Hum, SFF, Mons//

BROWN, LARRY//15//S//506 Handy Dr., Bay City, Mich.//48707//
684-1211//Collector//none//Hero, Sff//5,6//none significant//
Fanz, Orig, Data, SFF//

BROWNING, Kenneth//14//S//Student//2914 Rust Ave., Texas City,
Texas//77590//945-7556//Collector//Faned, Fanart//Hero, West,
Jun//6//DC, Del, Faw, Qual//Fanz, News, Hum, Mons//

BRYNJOLFSSON, PER//21//S//Assistant//Tavlekaersvej 146, Hvid-
ovre, Copenhagen, Denmark//none//78-3809//Collector//none//
all types//4,5,6//Del//For, News, Pulp, Hum, SFF, Mons//

BUBNIS, BERNARD//17//S//Student//65 Walnut Ave., E. Farming-
dale, Long Island, New York//11735//249-7358//Fan//Faned, Fan-
writ, Fanart//Hero//2,3,4,5,6//DC, EC, MLJ, Qual, Har, Priz//
Orig, News, Pulp, Post, SFF//

BUTTS, ROBERT E.//16//S//Student//719 Pierce St., South Bend,
Indiana//46616//232-6505//Collector//Faned, Fanwrit//Hero,
Sff//5,6//none significant//Fanz, Orig, Book, ERB, SFF, Misc//

BYRNE, JOSEPH RICHARD//20//S//Serviceman//2867 Senek Rd.,
Roslyn, Pa.//19001//659-9341//Collector//none//Hero, Sff//
4,5,6//DC, Del//Fanz, Data, Book, SFF//

CADWUS, EDDIE//15//S//Student//24 Second St., New Providence,
New Jersey//07033//277-4357//Collector//none//Hero, Sff//1,2,3,4,
5,6//DC//Film//

CASEY, COREEN E.//17//S//College Student//R.R. #1, Crystal
Acres, Sandwich, Ill.//60548//786-3181//Collector//none//
Hero, Sff, Del//5,6//none significant//ERB, SFF//

CASTOR, PHIL//29//S//Manager of Car Wash//room 307, Bur-
bank Hotel, Burbank, California//91502//845-7891//Collect-
or//none//Hero, Sff, Hor//2,5,6//DC//Fanz, For, Info, Data,
SFF//

CHRISTIAN, DALE//23//S//Armed Service//4575 12th Ave. N.,
St. Petersburg, Florida//33713//345-2243//Collector//
Fanwrit//Hero, Sff, Del//3,4,5,6//DC, Del, Faw, Qual, Har//
Fanz, Info, BL3, Mons//

CHRISTOFES, THOMAS//32//M//Chemist//111 Brunner St., Hummel-
town, Pa.//17036//566-8563//Fan// Since Tom considers him-
self a general fan, none of the other info was listed by
him.

Russ Manning: noted as only the pro (*Magnus Robot Fighter*); had been working since '53

MANNING, RUSS //34//M//Comic book artist&writer//Star Rt. Box 746,
Orange, Calif. //92666//649-2532//Pro//Fanwrit//Hero, Sff, West, A-
dap//1, 6//EC, Dell, Har//Fanz, Orig, For, Data, Info, Book, 3LB, News,
ER3, SFF//

(Ed. note: Russ was the only Pro who responded to the
data sheets in TCR. Thanks, Russ; and I wish more Pros
would follow your example.)

William Pearson: publisher, editor, artist, writer, professional by '66 (witzend)

PEARSON, WILLIAM E. //25//S//Unproved creator//4516 East Glen-
rosa Ave., Phoenix, Arizona//85018//945-2808//Collector//Faned//
Hero, Sff, Hor, Adap, Sat//3, 4, 5, 6//DC, EC, Mar, Dell, Fox, Fic, Faw, Lev,
Ace, Str, Qual, Har, Priz, Prem//Fanz, Orig, Book, News, ER3, Pulp, Post,
Hum, SFF, Mons//

Mike Friedrich: writer, publisher, comic con organizer, professional by '67 (*Star*Reach*); extensive letterhack

SFF, MONS, PRO, SWORD & SORCERY.
MIKE FRIEDRICH, b49; S; Student; 2769148; Fanwriter
Collect: Hero//2, 3, 5, 6//DC//Fanz, Data.

Phil Seuling: comic con organizer, instigated direct distribution, professional by '68

PHIL SEULING, b34; M; H.S. English teacher; HI94181; Dealer, Fanwriter
Handle: All types, periods, & publishers//Collect: Orig, For,
Data, Books, BLB, News, Misc.

Members of the
Fan Directory
who later become
professionals

Roy Thomas: writer and editor, professional by '68 (*Avengers*), letterhack to *Green Lantern* 1, *Flash* 116, *Fantastic Four* 5, 15, & 22

THOMAS, ROY // 22 // S // H.S. Teacher // Box 208, Arnold, Mo. // 63010 //
? // Fan // Fanwrit, Fanart // Hero, Sat // 6 // none signif // Orig, For //

Len Wein: writer and editor, professional by '68 (*Giant-Size X-Men*)

WEIN, LEN // 15 // S // Student // 118 Blue Spruce Rd., Levittown, N.Y.
11756 // : // 735-4317 // Collector // Faned, Fanwrit, Fanart //
Hero, Sff, West, Det // 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 // DC, Mar, Har, Priz // Fanz, Orig,
News //

Marvin Wolfman: writer and editor, professional by '68 (*Tomb of Dracula*)

WOLFMAN, MARVIN // 17 // S // Student // 142-18 59th Ave., Flushing 55,
N.Y. // 11355 // 445-3283 // Collector // Fanwrit, Fanart // Hero, Sff //
4, 5, 6 // none signif // SFF //

Donald Thompson: writer and editor, professional by '70 (*All in Color for a Dime*)

THOMPSON, DONALD A. // 27 // M // Newspaper reporter // 29 College
Place, Oberlin, Ohio // 44074 // 775-0925 // Collector // Faned, Fan-
writ // Hero, Sff, West, War, Hor, Fun, Det, Adap, Sat // 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
// EC, Dell, Lev, Qual, Har, Hill // Fanz, Orig, For, Info, Data, Book,
3LB, News, ERB, PBIP, Hum, SFF, Mons //

Members of the
Fan Directory
who later become
professionals

Douglas Moench: writer, professional by '70 (*Moon Knight*); wrote letters to *Amazing Spider-Man* 17, *Avengers* 51, *Captain America* 102, *Silver Surfer* 14

DOUGLAS MOENCH, b48;S;Student;JL83266;General fan
Collect:Hero,Sff,Hor//4,5,6//Lev,Ace//Fanz,For,Books,News,
ERB,Mons.

Steve Gerber: writer, professional by '72 (*Howard the Duck*); wrote letters to *Fantastic Four* 19, *Amazing Spider-Man* 26, *Captain America* 118

GERBER,STEVE//16//S//Student//7014 Roberts Court,St.Louis
30,XXXXXXMISSOURI//63130//725-8241//Collector//
Faned,Fanwrit//Hero,Sff//2,3,6//DC,Mar,Faw//Info,Fanz,Data,
Tape//

Mike Vosburg: artist, professional as of '72 (*Tales from the Crypt*)

VOSBURG,MIKE//16//S//Student,librarian//3040 Avalon,Pontiac,
Mich.//48057//Collector//Faned,Fanwrit,Fanart//Hero,War//
6//none signif//Fanz,Orig,Info,Data,News//

Allen Milgrom: artist, writer, and editor, professional by '72 (*Marvel Fanfare*)

ALLEN MILGROM, b50;S;Paperboy;LI53908;General fan
Collect:Hero//4,5,6//--//Fanz.

Jim Starlin: artist and writer, professional by '72 (*Captain Marvel* and *Thanos*)

JIM STARLIN, b48;S;Student;LI32461;Fanartist
Collect:Hero,War//2,3,4,5,6//DC,Mar,MLJ,Dell,Faw,ME//Fanz,
Data,SFF,Mons.

Members of the
Fan Directory
who later become
professionals

David Cockrum: comic artist, professional by '72 (X-Men); wrote letters to every Marvel book every month including letters in *Fantastic Four* 22 and 36, *Amazing Spider-Man* 12, *Atom* 1. Met his wife through his letter to *Fantastic Four* 34.

COCKRUM DAVE Braiden Hall 283, Fort Collins, Colo.

David Gibbons: artist, professional by '76 (Watchmen)

DAVID GIBBONS, b49;S;Student;--;Fanartist (English)
Collect:Hero,Sff,War,Hor//5,6//Classic(Eng. reprints)//
For,News,Mons,Weekly English Comics.
LAWRENCE GIBSON, b47;S;Student;VF74827;General Fan

Steve Perrin: Game designer and founding member of the Society for Creative Anachronism, professional by '76 (*Runequest*)

STEVE PERRIN, b46;S;College student;--;Faneditor
Collect:Fun//6//Dell/--.

Mark Gruenwald: writer and editor, professional by '78 (*Quasar*)

GRUENWALD MARK 606 No. Sawyer St., Oshkosh, Wisc.

Steve Grant: writer, professional by '80 (*Punisher*)

STEVE GRANT, b49;S;Student;PA10662;General fan
Collect:Hero,Sff,War,Sat//6/--//Fanz,Orig,For,Info,Data,
Books,BLB,News,Post,Pho.

Margaret Thompson: editor as of '83 (*Comic Buyer's Guide*)

THOMPSON,MARGARET CURTIS//20//M//College student,housewife
//same as above//____//____//Collector//Faned,Fanwrit,Fanart
//Hero,Sff,West,War,Fun,Hor,Det,Adap,Sat//2,3,4,5,6//____//
____//

Members of the
Fan Directory
who later become
professionals

ACADEMY OF COMIC-BOOK *FANS AND COLLECTORS*

THE SECRETARY REPORTS: THE RESULTS OF THE 1963 ALLEY AWARDS POLL

1. Best Editor of a Comics Group: STAN LEE
Honorable Mentions: Julius Schwartz
2. Best Script Writer: STAN LEE
Honorable Mentions: Gardner Fox
3. Best Artist: CARMINE INFANTINO
Second Place: Murphy Anderson
Third Place: Jack Kirby
Honorable Mentions: Russ Manning, and Joe Kubert
- BEST COMIC BOOKS OF THE YEAR
4. Adventure-Hero: SPIDERMAN (31 % of the votes)
Second Place: FANTASTIC FOUR (30%)
Third Place: JUSTICE LEAGUE OF AMERICA
5. General Fantasy: STRANGE ADVENTURES (47%)
Second Place: STRANGE SPORTS STORIES (BRAVE AND BOLD)
Third Place: TWILIGHT ZONE
6. Mundane Fiction: SGT. FURY AND HIS HOWLING COMMANDOS (60%)
Second Place: OUR JURY AT WAR
Third Place: TWO-JUN KID
7. Humorous: JINGLE SCORGE (36%)
Second Place: ARCHIE
Third Place: PEANUTS

Favorite Short Stories

- 1st: "The Human Torch Meets Captain America"
STRANGE TALES #114
- 2nd: "World War on Earth and Rann" (Adam Strange)
MYSTERY IN SPACE #92
- 3rd: "The Amazing Theft of the I.O. Gang" (Stanman)
MYSTERY IN SPACE #97

Favorite Annuals

- 1st: FANTASTIC FOUR ANNUAL #1 (65%)
- 2nd: FLASH ANNUAL #1 (27%)

Favorite Novels

- 1st: "Crises on Earth: I and II" (JLA with the Justice Society)
JUSTICE LEAGUE OF AMERICA #21 & 22
- 2nd: "Sub-Mariner Versus the Human Race" (Fantastic Four)
FANTASTIC FOUR ANNUAL #1

Top Ten Heroes

1. Spiderman
2. Hawkman
3. Flash
4. Magnus
5. Adam Strange

Top Ten Groups

1. Fantastic Four
2. Justice Society
3. Avengers
4. Justice League
5. X-Men

Top Ten Supporting Characters

1. The Thing
2. Elongated Man
3. Hawkgirl
4. Cyclops
5. Alanna of Nanagar

Top Ten Villains

1. Sub-Mariner
2. Dr. Doom
3. Vandal Savage
4. Capt. Cold
5. Sanjman

6. Green Lantern
7. Human Torch
8. Thor
9. Dr. Solar
10. Atom
6. Atomic Knights
7. Iron Patriot
8. Sgt. Fury's Howling Commandos
9. Metal Men
10. Sea Devils
6. Angel
7. J. Jonah Jameson
8. Kila Flaco
9. Wasp
10. Leda Clare
6. Mirror Master
7. Vulture
8. Kelpin & Tied
9. Doctor Doom
10. Dr. Light

15. Strips Favored for Revival (with number of votes received)

- | | | |
|-----------------|----------------------|-------------------|
| Dr. Fate 214 | Star Spangled Kid 39 | Shining Knight 15 |
| Shield 150 | Top 35 | Frankenstein 14 |
| Sandman 122 | Vigilante 32 | White-Die |
| Mz. Justice 94 | Ghost Rider 31 | Dr. Mid-None 13 |
| Flash Gordon 92 | Crimbuster 31 | Black Canary 5 |
| Green Hornet 84 | Black Terror 21 | Bulletman 4 |
| Buck Rogers 56 | The Face 20 | Shadow 4 |
| Spirit 44 | The Owl 19 | Hourman 4 |
| Destroyer 44 | Arrows 18 | |

AMATEUR DIVISION. Rating Scale: 1.00 (poor) to 5.00 (excellent)

16. Articles and Columns Devoted to Comics
- 4.31 "Minute Movies" (Cl-4) Hal Lynch & Varnell Correll
- 4.10 "Sparky Waits and the Big Snake" (KEL-10) Richard Kyle
- 3.89 "Point of View" (HMO-2) Rick Weingroff
- 3.81 "The JL -- Overcrossed?" (AE-5) J. J. Frost
- 3.85 "The Donnybrook Boys" (MAG-4) Ed Lehmann

17. Illustrated Strips

- 4.22 The Eclipses (AE-5) Drury Moroz & Ronn Foss
- 3.75 Changeling (SSO-1 & 2) Buddy Saunders
- 3.68 Astroace (MAG-4 & 5) Bill White
- 3.52 The Lion (LMO) Bill White
- 3.39 The Demon (H-1, 2 & 6) Buddy Saunders

18. Fiction Appearing in Comic Fanzines

- 3.97 The Black Panther (KOW-2) John Wright
- 3.86 "Newsies of Bvill" (JED-2) Victor Baron
- 3.50 The Defender (SSO-1) Larry Herndon
- 3.45 Powerman (SSO-2) Howard Keltner
- 3.00 Union Jack (KOW-2) John Wright

19. Single Illustrations Appearing in Comic Fanzines

- 4.28 Cover of STAR-STUDDED COMICS #2, Buddy Saunders
- 4.23 Cover of ALTER EGO #5, Ronn Foss
- 4.10 Cover of LMO #1, Bill White
- 3.95 Cover of MACKERADGE #5, White/Foss/Green
- 3.92 Cover of STAR-STUDDED COMICS #1, Howard Keltner

20. Fan Projects

- 4.50 Authoritative Index to DC Comics, Keltner & Baile
- 4.12 ROCKET'S BLAST SPECIAL #1, G. B. Love & Raymond Miller
- 4.08 The 1962 Alley Awards Poll, Baile/Foss/Lehmann
- 4.04 The Academy Charter, Jerry Baile
- 4.01 The Complete BC Checklist, Fred von Bernowicz

AMATEUR DIVISIONS (Cont'd.)

21. Outstanding Fan Artists

- 4.19 Ronn Foss
- 4.17 Bill White
- 4.10 Larry Ivie
- 3.92 Richard Green
- 3.92 Buddy Saunders

22. Outstanding Fan Writers

- 4.40 Jerry Baile
- 4.22 Howard Keltner
- 4.13 John Wright
- 3.89 Ed Lehmann
- 3.83 Rick Weingroff

23. Comic Magazines Appearing Before Nov. 1, 1963 (except those listed under category 20)

RANK TITLE (EDITOR) RATING/NUMBER OF VOTES CAST

1. The Comic Reader #15-20 (Jerry Baile) 4.53/216
2. Alter Ego #5 (Ronn Foss) 4.44/237
3. Star-Studded Comics #1-2 (Keltner/Herndon/Saunders) 4.42/143
4. Kowalski Illustrated #7-9 (Bill White) 4.31/100
5. TALK with Bernie Kripstein (John Serson) 4.20/20
6. Lingo #1 (Bill White) 4.20/93
7. The Comiccollector #2-11 (Ronn Foss) 4.18/92
8. Comic Art #4 (Don Thompson) 4.17/56
9. The Kowalski #2 (John Wright) 4.14/84
10. Masquerader #3-5 (Michael Vashburg) 4.11/136
11. Rocket's Blast Special #1-2 (G. B. Love) 4.10/192
12. Rocket's Blast #1-23 (G. B. Love) 3.91/165
13. Comic World #2-3 (Robert Jennings) 3.85/140
14. Hero #1-2 (Larry Herndon) 3.84/93
15. Satyr Comics #14 (Bill Pearson) 3.69/55
16. Detailer's Companion (Ronn Foss) 3.67/50
17. Jodel Comics #1-3 (Al Kuhfeld) 3.63/19
18. Super-Hero #2 (Michael Toney) 3.60/87
19. Jodel Comics #1-6 (G. B. Love) 3.56/86
20. Fighting Hero Comics #1-6 (G. B. Love) 3.50/64
21. Heroes' Hangout #14 (Paul Leslie) 3.01/82
22. The Comic World News #1-4 (John Butts) 2.90/31
23. Fan to Fan #2 (John Butts) 2.89/67
24. American Fan Comics #1 (Bernie Buhdi) 2.86/66
25. Countdown #2 (Liz Koscow) 2.71/65
26. Fantasy Hero #1 (Bill Dwyer) 2.69/49
27. Headline #2 (Steve Carter) 2.57/27
28. Aurora #1-3 (Jan Wain) 2.48/43
29. Laidon #1 (Jerry Rudolph) 2.27/15
30. Coal-Kage #1 (Ron Warner) 2.12/40
31. Mark Warner 2.04/69
32. Popular Demands #1 (Steve Griffin) 1.90/28
33. Mask and Cape #1 (Margaret Goughan) 1.62/13
34. Comic News of the Future #1-2 (Donald Schank) 1.62/13
35. Searchlight News Desk #1-2 (Mark Warner)

WRITE-IN CATEGORIES

24. Strips That Should Be Improved (with per cent of votes)

- | | |
|-----------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Justice League 15% | 7. Blackhawk 3.7% |
| 2. Superman 15% | 8. Aquaman 2.9% |
| 3. Batman 12% | 9. Atom 2.6% |
| 4. Green Lantern 11% | 10. Tarzan 2.3% |
| 5. Wonder Woman 7.5% | 11. Metal Men 2.3% |
| 6. The Fly 4.5% | 12. G.I. Joe 1.9% |

25. Cross-overs of DC Heroes Wanted for BRAVE AND BOLD

- | | |
|---------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. Hawkman-Flash | 9. Superman-Flash |
| 2. Hawkman-Green Lantern | 10. Flash-Adam Strange |
| 3. Atom-Green Lantern | 11. Hawkman-Adam Strange |
| 4. Hawkman-Doom | 12. Old & New Green Lanterns |
| 5. Superman-Green Lantern | 13. Hawkman-Elongated Man |
| 6. Atom-Flash | 14. Atom-Adam Strange |
| 7. Junior JLA | 15. Atom-Flash |
| 8. Superman-Wonder Woman | 16. JLA-JSA |

26. Artist Preferred on Sea Devils

1. Joe Kubert (70% of the votes)
2. Foss Andrus and Mike Esposito
3. Irv Novick

27. Artist Preferred on the Justice League of America

1. Murphy Anderson (32% of the votes)
2. Carmine Infantino (31% of the votes)
3. Joe Kubert (11% of the votes)

28. Comics Displaying the Best Interior Color-work

1. MYSTERY TV SPACE (22% of the votes)
2. FLASH (10% of the votes)
3. MAGNUS
4. ATOM
5. FANTASTIC FOUR

IMPORTANT NOTICE TO ALL AMAZINE PUBLISHERS: Amazingos to be considered in next year's Alley Awards Poll should reach the Academy Secretary and other members of the Nominating Committee (the Executive Board of the Academy) by November 1, 1964, which is the final deadline for ALL entries in the AMATEUR DIVISION. Secretary will be microfilmed, and hence can be returned to the publisher if requested.

Send all comments on this year's ALLEY AWARDS POLL to:

Jerry Baile, Secretary
Academy of Comic-Book
Fans and Collectors
22209 Karan Court,
Warren, Michigan 48091

The Alley Awards

Highlights include:

Best Editor: Stan Lee

Best Writer: Stan Lee

Best Artist: Carmine Infantino

Best Colors: Mystery in Space

Best "Adventure-Hero" Comic: Amazing Spider-Man

Favorite Short Story: "The Human Torch Meets

Captain America," Strange Tales 114

Top Hero: Spider-Man

Top Group: Fantastic Four

Top Supporting Character: The Thing

Top Villain: Sub-Mariner

Strip Favored for Revival: Dr. Fate

Outstanding Fan Artist: Ronn Foss

Outstanding Fan Writer: Jerry Baile

Top Comic Amazine: The Comic Reader

Strip That Should Be Improved: Justice League

Desired Crossover for The Brave & The Bold: Hawkman-Flash

Primary Missions of the *Who's Who*:

- Provided a way for fans to contact each other
- Alley Awards, to call attention to excellence
- Essays, to provide information

The Academy as a whole also:

- Advocated for fair practices
- Supported organizing comic cons

A comparison with contemporary Fan Forums, using Comic Vine as an example:

- Provide a way for fans to contact each other
- Fan polls and reviews, to call attention to excellence
- Essays, to provide opinion
- Wiki, to provide information
- Fan art, fan fiction, role-playing games, and battle debates to engage in direct fan activities

The image shows the interior of the Lincoln Memorial. A long, symmetrical corridor is formed by a series of tall, fluted Doric columns. The walls are a vibrant red, and the ceiling is a coffered wooden structure with painted panels. On the left wall, a series of white marble busts of American presidents are displayed. The floor is made of light-colored tiles with a decorative geometric pattern. A yellow rectangular box is superimposed over the left side of the image, containing the text "TM Maple".

TM Maple

Uncle Elvis Orten



The issues I have letters in



KNOW YE THESE, THE HALLOWED RANKS OF MARVELDOM:

R.F.O. (REAL FRANTIC ONE)—A BUYER OF AT LEAST 3 MARVEL MAGS A MONTH.

T.T.B. (TITANIC TRUE BELIEVER)—A DIVINELY-INSPIRED 'NO-PRIZE' WINNER.

Q.N.S. (QUITE 'NUFF SAYER)—A FORTUNATE FRANTIC ONE WHO'S HAD A LETTER PRINTED.

K.O.F. (KEEPER OF THE FLAME)—ONE WHO RECRUITS A NEWCOMER TO MARVEL'S ROLICKIN' RANKS.

P.M.M. (PERMANENT MARVELITE MAXIMUS)—ANYONE POSSESSING ALL FOUR OF THE OTHER TITLES.

F.F.F. (FEARLESS FRONT FACER)—AN HONORARY TITLE BESTOWED FOR DEVOTION TO MARVEL ABOVE AND BEYOND THE CALL OF DUTY.

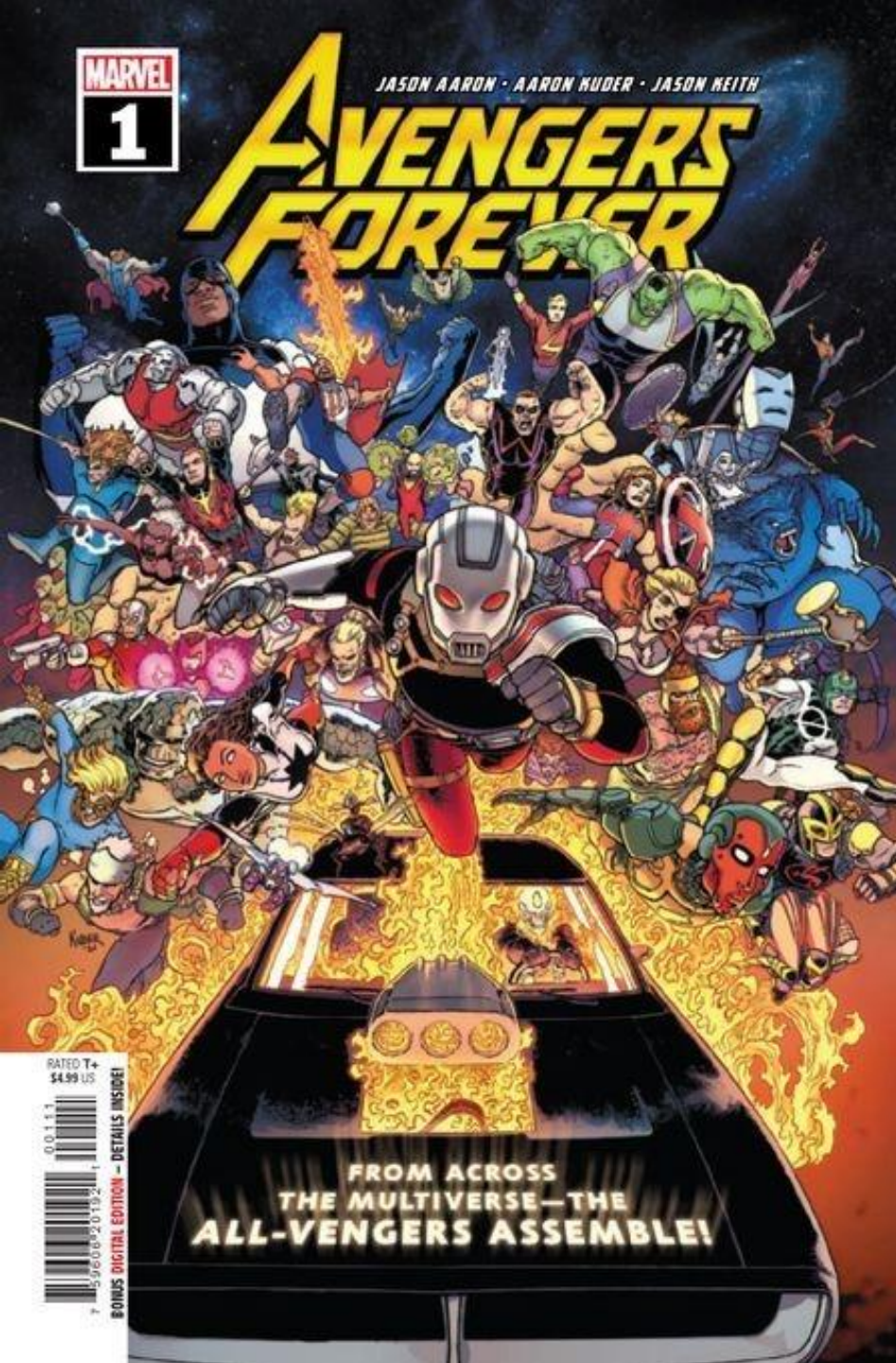


MARVEL COMICS
135 West 50th Street
New York, NY 10020

CONGRATULATIONS!

THIS ENVELOPE
CONTAINS A GENUINE
MARVEL COMICS
NO-PRIZE
WHICH YOU HAVE
JUST WON!

HANDLE
WITH
CARE



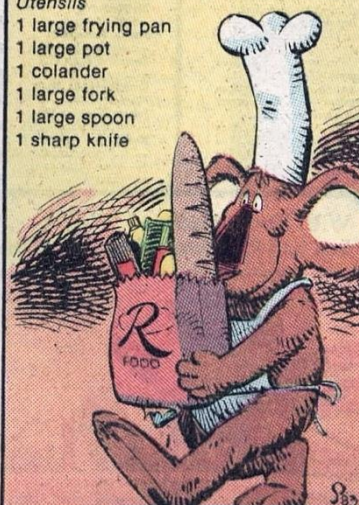
Avengers Forever 1

American Flagg 2
and 7

SPAGHETTI ALPHA CARBONARA
serves 4-5

Ingredients
1/2 lb. bacon
4 tbs vegetable oil (2 for sauce, 2 for spaghetti)
1 tbs butter
4 cloves garlic — peeled and crushed
2/3 cup grated parmesan cheese
3/4 cup heavy cream
salt
1 lb. package spaghetti

Utensils
1 large frying pan
1 large pot
1 colander
1 large fork
1 large spoon
1 sharp knife



Cut bacon into narrow strips about 1/4" wide. Fry 2 lbs. oil, the butter and the crushed garlic into the frying pan. Saute at medium high heat, remove garlic when it turns golden brown and throw the garlic away.

Put bacon into pan with the oil and saute until cooked. Add 1/2 of the heavy cream into pan and simmer 1 minute, or until cream thickens. Remove from heat.

Bring 4 qts. water to boil in large pot, add 2 tbs. salt and 2 tbs. oil. When water boils, add unbroken spaghetti. Wait 30 seconds and stir so *all* spaghetti is immersed.

Cook spaghetti according to instructions, *do not overcook*.

When cooked, drain spaghetti, in colander, *do not rinse*.

Re-heat pan of bacon and cream, adding remaining cream. When hot, add spaghetti and the parmesan cheese and toss thoroughly.

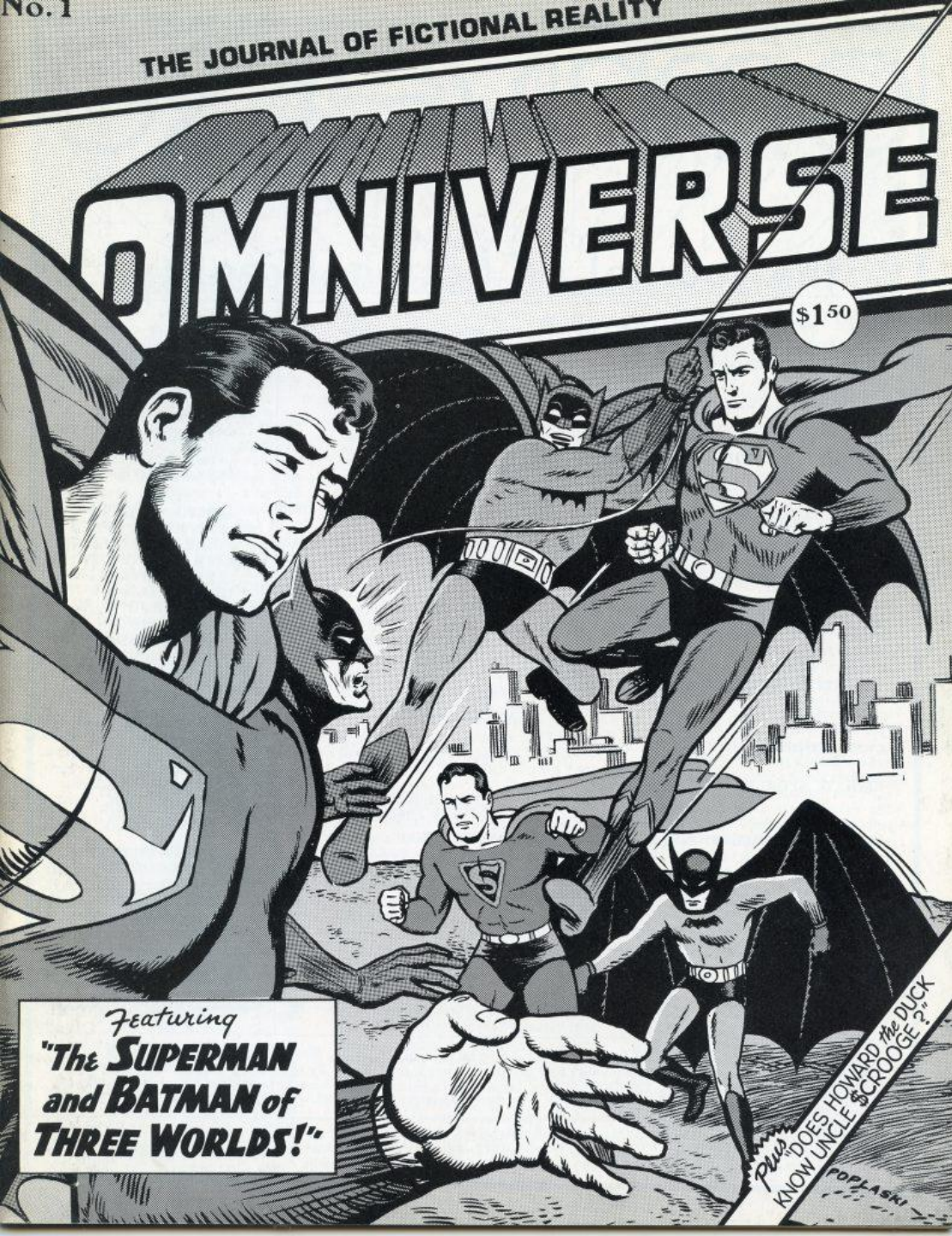
Serve immediately.

Spaghetti Frittata
— serves two —

Ingredients
1 quarter of 1 lb. box of spaghetti, cooked
1 1/2 tablespoons butter for spaghetti
1 1/2 tablespoons butter for frittata
2 tablespoons grated parmesan cheese for spaghetti
2 tablespoons grated parmesan cheese for frittata
4 canned tomatoes, drained and cut-up
1/4 of 8 oz. package mozzarella cheese, diced
2 cooked Italian sausages (boiled for 45 minutes or broiled)
2 eggs
Salt
Pepper
10 inch skillet

1. Combine spaghetti with 1 1/2 tbs. butter and 2 tbs. parmesan cheese, set aside (if spaghetti is cold, first melt butter in pot, then add spaghetti and cheese).
2. Make sure all ingredients are prepared (tomatoes cut up, mozzarella cheese diced and sausages cut into thin slices).
3. Beat the eggs together, then add pepper to taste. Add this mixture to the spaghetti and mix well.
4. Melt the remaining 1 1/2 tbs. butter in skillet and turn heat to medium high. When butter is hot but not brown, add 1/2 the spaghetti; spreading it evenly along bottom of pan.
5. Add the filling ingredients, spreading evenly around the pan remaining parmesan cheese, chopped tomatoes, mozzarella cheese and sausage.
6. Spread remaining spaghetti on top of filling, bringing it out to the edges.
7. Lower heat to medium and cook for 5 minutes. Continue cooking by moving the pan so the flame is between the edge and the center of the pan, enabling the frittata to brown evenly. Rotate about 1/4 of a turn after about 1 minute. Continue in this manner until entire pan has had its turn over the flame.
8. With a spatula, lift the edge of the frittata to see if it is golden brown. Continue cooking until entire bottom is golden.
9. Turn on the broiler and place pan under broiler until the topside of the frittata has formed a light crust.
10. To serve: cut into pie wedges and enjoy immediately.

(This is a great use for leftovers: spaghetti and sausages — prepare the frittata this way first, next time substitute left over meatballs or salami for sausage.)



Mark Gruenwald

Omniverse 1

Fantastic Four 20

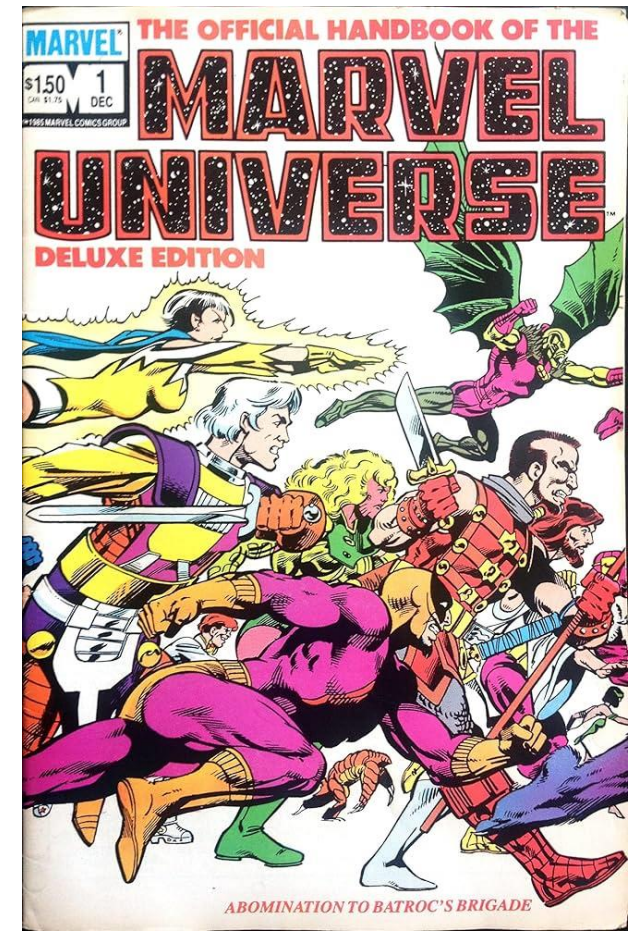
Official Handbook of the Marvel Universe

Dear Stan and Jack,

We are some of the many groups of fans who have a Fantastic Four Fan Club. Each of our members has an F.F. shirt which we made ourselves, and every member of the club is waiting for the FF Annual. We also think that you should keep your pin-up pages because they're perfect for decorating our clubhouse. We just had a poll on the comics and heroes in the F.F. and here's the result: Favorite Cover: "The Return of Dr. Doom"; Favorite Story: "The Mad Thinker and His Awesome Android"; Best Villain: Dr. Doom; Best Pin-up: Picture of the Fantastic Four; Best Member: Human Torch. I suppose that after this there'll be more F.F. polls so we're glad we started it.

Fantastic Four Fan Club
c/o Mark Gruenwald, secretary
605 North Sawyer
Oshkosh, Wisconsin

We hear that some of the Fantastic Four fan clubs are getting so exclusive that even the F.F. have trouble getting in! We want to thank all you fan club members all over the world for your terrific letters and enthusiasm. We genuinely appreciate it.



Cat Yronwode wrote "hundreds" of letters, including to *American Flagg* 3 when already a professional. Earlier, she engaged in a letter-writing experiment to see if bland, positive letters were more likely to be published, as described in *Avengers* 187.

She also created the [Lesser Book of the Vishanti](#), a compendium of Dr. Strange's spells.

Dear First Comics:

American Flagg #1 looks very sharp! Especially nice is the integration of lettering effects and artwork, not an easy thing to accomplish. The "paranoid" political fantasy is right up my alley, too.

Chaykin's art gets more stylized every year, but he never loses his obsession with leather boots and crotch-binding pants and leather jackets, does he?

I have only one complaint: the hot and horny sex scenes had precisely that "mind numbing vulgarity" Chaykin both habitually utilizes and criticizes. Would that he simply criticized and stopped utilizing the theme ...

**Cat Yronwode
Columbia, MO**

Cat, of course, is a respected comics columnist for The Buyer's Guide. She is also an editor at both Eclipse and Kitchen Sink, and probably the world's foremost authority on Will Eisner.

Cat also sends letters of comment on picture postcards; this one arrived on the other side of a The Church of Reflections in Buena Park, California.

Dear Avengers,

Like the man said, this is an odd-but-not-inappropriate place to send a letter about the State Of Letters Pages. Roger Stern's answer, sincere and forthright though it was, missed one very important point. The people who *select* which letters are to be printed are, not unreasonably, a little self-serving. They work hard, writing stories, and if they don't feel like running critical responses, even intelligent and logical ones, there is no Higher Power that can force them to do so. I am one of those people who writes a response to almost every comic book I read. Obviously, I don't read comics which displease me (although any particular issue may be a bomb), so my comments tend towards praise rather than blame. However, I *have* noticed that out of all the hundreds of letters I have written, even discounting the short, tossed-off notes which were not intended to see print, the vast majority of my letters which have been published are of the "paens of praise" variety. Being something of a cynic at heart, I once decided to manipulate the odds and I sent a huge batch of letters, every one of which was fatuous with compliments, none of which had any *real* thought behind it. I was not too amazed to find that most of these missives saw print. The experiment was a success, but the results bored me—I would rather write honest criticism in the knowledge that even if it is never viewed by the public, it *may* influence the course of the comic books I love or, even better, it may supply a gentle reminder to some isolated, garret-dwelling comics writer that someone out there cares. And that someone is me.

Cat Yronwode
Route 1, Box 287
Willow Springs, MD 65793

Of course, Cat, there's always the possibility that your experimental letters were the *only* ones received by those comics that month. But then again, maybe they weren't. Hmmm. Nevertheless, David says to tell you that he appreciated your letter—it helped to make his garret a little brighter. . .

Jo Duffy writing in to
Ms Marvel 11 as she
transitioned into being
an editor

MS. PRINTS
% MARVEL COMICS GROUP, 575 MADISON AVE. N.Y.C. 10022

Dear Chris,

I never thought I'd have reason to write this, but as of MS. MARVEL's #6-8, I really love Ms. Marvel. Frankly, that's saying a lot; my initial reaction to the book was pretty much what the general public's was ("Oh, lord, no! Another ready-made feminist. This character was born to fail.") and the first few issues did everything to confirm those suspicions. Since you've taken over, however, you've undone most of the conceptual harm and opened up dozens of intriguing possibilities, doing so credibly and in a remarkably brief time.

Okay, so the uniform doesn't thrill me. It doesn't thrill any of us and I guess you've heard that one to death. It does serve as an instant reminder of her Kree-ness and plenty of good characters have survived ugly costumes. I don't think your fighting fury will lose too much sleep if she makes Blackwell's Ten Worst-Dressed List—she'll be in pretty good company if she does.

Well, anyway, on to the stories. "Woman" magazine provides all kinds of great possibilities for characterization. Women aren't the same as men—even people who claim that they ideally *should* be are kidding themselves if they believe that, and deny centuries of training and cultural conditioning. And those differences can make for a whole new set of characters in comics, more individual than the ones we've seen lately because of their originality. Up until now, comics females have been primarily token, and as a result have had to represent types instead of individuals. Placing Carol in an environment with many women in it, she's freed from the pressure of having to be "Everywoman". She doesn't have to be Ms. Admirable or a heartless flirt or the classic airhead. She can just be Carol, and if there are airheads, backbiters, or even NASA astronauts in the story around her, each woman or girl can be a person instead of a type. The pressure is off.

"Just Carol" is pretty terrific, by the way. As secret identities go, she seems to have it all: an exciting job, glamorous, intelligence, and a very together lifestyle and sense of self. For someone who's supposed to be superior, Ms. Marvel has a way to go. Strength and courage she has in abundance, part of her heritage as a *male* Kree warrior. But her nature also incorporates certain elements that Captain Marvel himself (the source of those elements) had to abandon as self-destructive before he could attain cosmic awareness. Those elements are the worst of the classic macho, hostility, bloodlust, aggression and, ultimately, loneliness. (Comes with the package) But I can't object to Ms. M as she stands now because the possibilities these two women suggest are endless. They have much to learn from one another—Carol the woman could borrow the strength of Ms. Marvel the hero; Ms. Marvel could learn a lot about people and peace from Carol. I hope a fusion, with an amalgam of some of the elements (bad as well as good) of both is somewhere in the future. Unhappily (and of course unintentionally), the two-separate-women gig bears a resemblance to Rick Jones in the Negative Zone.

Tracy Burke looks like a good addition to the storyline. Spider-Man's supporting cast shouldn't dominate the background quite so much. Also, Ann Nichols is right about Mike Barnett; he *is* decorative and I hope you keep him around. But for Heaven's sake, keep Gianelli around, too. He's very sexy, even on paper, and that's bound to attract Carol, just as his self-assured swagger is bound to spark some conflict. Conflict is interesting, particularly between two attractive people.

Anyway, I want to give what you've done and will be doing with MS. MARVEL my heartiest vote of confidence.

Jo Duffy
editorial no-(wo)man's land—
between Macchio and Hannigan.

2 Thanks and then some, Jo (and congratulations—if that's really the word for it—on becoming the latest inmate in the Marvel Madhouse; from premiere letterhack to assistant editor, all in one lifetime! So who says America isn't still the land of opportunity?!) We're glad you've liked what's *been* happening in MS. MARVEL—especially as your sentiments echo those of most of the letters we've been receiving lately. Lord knows how, but we seem to be heading in the right direction. And we sure aim to keep it that way.

Ralph Macchio in *Deadly Hands of Kung Fu* 22 before becoming assistant editor in issue 26

Dear Archie and John,

DEADLY HANDS is such a fine magazine, especially recently, that it's a shame Marvel saw fit to cancel most

of the black-and-white line. I really feel I'm getting my dollar's worth, and that's hard to be saying about anything today.

That was a beautiful Bob Larkin "Iron Fist" cover, far superior to Nick Cardy's catastrophe last issue. And, of course, Jim Starlin's portrayal of his own creation—Shang-Chi—on the inside cover didn't strain the eyes either. I must applaud Archie Goodwin's timely editorial, dealing with the very serious matter of the aerosol spray menace. I'm happy to see somebody taking the initiative and attempting to alert the general public to the awesome danger we may face. I guarantee there will be as many letters commenting on that editorial as there will be on any other section of the book, and it's no wonder. Isn't it ironic that, as Marvel comics fans, we're accustomed to reading about the incredible super-weapons created by all those dastardly villains out to destroy the world, and Marvel's writers are continually wracking their brains to outdo each other in the "end of the world" department, while with the flick of a finger, each of us may be bringing about the Earth's demise just as surely as Fu Manchu ever could! If ever there was a subject which fit more neatly into a magazine devoted to martial arts than the lethal aerosol can, I can't think of it. It makes me feel a wee bit better, knowing that several hundred thousand other people have been given facts on this potential threat.

Chris Claremont started off his "Iron Fist" serial with an intriguing plotline that promises to be most exciting, given the six-month duration of the strip. It was nice to see Danny Rand going to Professor Wing's home with Jade, his new companion, rather than seeing the character wrenched from his color-comic environment without any explanation. Rudy Nebres' art was fine, but I must complain about his fight scenes. Rudy makes them rather difficult to follow due to the overlap of figures, arms, legs, etc., and so it's tough to tell who's been hit and who's doing the hitting. In the future I would like to see him tone his action scenes down a bit with some panel continuity, and not have them wandering all over the page. Aside from this, Rudy is doing some fine work.

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Before reading Dan Hagen's article, "Dragon of the Mind," I had never heard of Mr. Ling Chi or his spectacular martial artistry. Normally, most of what Mr. Chi does in his demonstrations would be considered sheer showmanship; but considering his motivation in performing as he does, I suppose it can be accepted in another light. This was a nice article, and shows you people are on the ball in trying to supply the readers with some of the more offbeat things happening in the world of martial arts.

One of the real high points of the issue was that near treatise on "Karate: A History of the Empty Hand," by Steve Clement. Perhaps the technical, comprehensive nature of the feature might have turned some of the more casual readers off; yet anybody with more than a nominal interest in this deadly art couldn't help but benefit intellectually from this little handbook. Please, more of this kind of feature in the future, detailing the backgrounds and present conditions of any of the myriad unarmed combat styles. Nice job.

When I first heard that Count Dante *did* exist, and that it was really him peering menacingly at the comic-book buying public from the pages of his advertisement, I wondered just how proficient this gentleman really was. Apparently there's little reason to wonder any longer, after scanning "World's Deadliest Fighting Secrets *Not* Revealed" by Val Eads. Val is to be complimented for the objective treatments she gave the "Black Dragons," though it must have been a temptation to really turn this article into a berating diatribe, considering the lack of skill shown by Count Dante's crew. One wonders what would have ensued had the legendary Count, himself, seen fit to dazzle the audience with his mythical death touch. Kidding aside, perhaps he was a good martial artist after all, though his controversial teaching techniques cast doubt on his expertise as an instructor. Considering the final two paragraphs in italics, we'll never really know.

With the writing of "An Ending," featuring the Sons of the Tiger, Bill Mantlo has outdone himself on this series, bringing into blinding focus those forces which hold the Sons together, and those capable of rendering them asunder as a group entity. One of the most interesting

things about the story was the innocuous, almost comical opening, starring Bill and George themselves, which gave one the illusion all is well in Lower Manhattan. But the boom was lowered on page 50, and it was a hard-hitting piece of drama the rest of the way through.

I was impressed with the running dialogue which was kept up between Bob Diamond and Lin Sun during their extended battle. Although in the strictest sense of realism, such chatter would have been impossible given the explosive circumstances, the dramatic license taken by Bill was necessary to prevent the fight from remaining on a strictly physical level. This is the first opportunity we've had to glance at the distant backgrounds of any of the Sons through their eyes, and this certainly solidifies their positions as living, breathing individuals, motivated by diverse demons. It was a powerful piece of writing that gripped the reader without let-up. And George Perez's artwork fit as beautifully with Bill's scripting as fingers in a glove.

For the future, there are a couple of personalities who have made their mark in the fighting world, who the readers might enjoy reading about. One is Marion Bermudez, who is a young woman who has competed in karate against men, and beaten them, as well as in the Golden Gloves. She's young, and quite the tigress from what I've read about her. She is definitely a leader in women's karate today, so she might be a fit subject for any interview. The other person is Master Alan Lee, a kung fu expert who claims to have mastered, to some extent, the more deadly kung fu weapons, such as the poison palm and the iron fist technique. He's well known and respected, and I'm sure an interview with him would prove very interesting.

I really have no complaints with DEADLY HANDS, for the current management seems to have done quite nicely so far. I wish you the best of luck with this book, and the rest of the black-and-white line.

Ralph Macchio
188 Wilson Drive
Cresskill, N.J. 07626

Hey, Ralph, yours is the kind of perceptive in-depth letter that sends the editorial office (Archie and John, and whoever else happens to be hanging around at the time) into paroxysms of delight. Not to mention the respective contributors whose work you discuss. Why, you even managed to soothe Artful Archie's editorial scruples about that self-indulgent but nonetheless serious rap he laid down on spray cans. The more we think about it, the more we realize what an inclusive job you did; there's not even a whole lot for us to comment on, other than to say that we'll see what we can do about picking up on your suggestions for potential subjects for future article/interviews.

Keep kickin' those critiques our way, Ralph!

Wendy Pini

Met her husband, Richard, when he contacted her via the address published in her letter in *Silver Surfer* 5.

Also cosplayed as Red Sonja.



WENDY PINI

Twice winner of the famous Red Sonja look-alike contests, Wendy Pini is the most remarkable combination of talent and beauty I've ever known...

She writes, draws, paints, and acts—and does them all superbly. Wendy co-authored the color comic of RED SONJA #6! She is the writer-illustrator of her own series "Elfquest," published by Power Comics.

To me her most astounding role is that of Red Sonja. It must be seen. It is more than acting It is a stunning combination of dance and drama. At once poised; believable, fierce, and above all it is class.

A word here about Richard Pini, Wendy's husband, and the real wizard behind the wonderful multi-media effects in the shows. That's real magic! Richard, a planetarium director, and Wendy are an inspiring team.



PHOTO BY NICK ARROYO

Dear Stan and John,

I want to say that the SILVER SURFER mags so far have been quite lovely and far surpass the quality of the best efforts of your competitors. The artwork, coloring and plots are thoroughly enthralling. But Stan, my dear, sweet fellow, what bitter streak of melancholia lurks within the folds of thine ever-hallowed noodle? I believe in heroic suffering and all, but this is ridiculous! Do you realize that for all practical purposes your adorable Silver Surfer should have died of a broken heart by now? There was another time that a man so deserving of love was as brutally rejected, but that happened about 2,000 years ago. Surely, Stan, the human race must have learned something about tolerance in the past 20 centuries! In THE SILVER SURFER, more than in any of your other mags—even the Hulk—you portray humanity as being grossly selfish, cowardly, unbelievably cruel and ignorant. Stan, I'm hoping this is not your true opinion of "we, the people", but rather the exaggerated interpretation that the poor, frustrated SS could only naturally have developed by now. If so, this is a clever bit of craftsmanship on your part. But if you actually believe that this is the actual way that humanity would react to such an unusual situation—I suggest you borrow Surfy's board and buzz over to your friendly neighborhood analyst! I realize that everything pertaining to a superhero is on a grand scale; his looks, his environment, even the way people react to him. But please, Stan, don't let Alicia's comforting speeches to the Surfer about the potential goodness of the human race be forgotten. People can be pretty darn nice!

Wendy Fletcher, P.O. Box 516
Gilroy, Calif. 95020

As witnessed by your own well-phrased letter, Wendy! At any rate, the developments of this issue should show you that not *all* human beings look askance at our spaceborn sentinel, and we've certainly not forgotten the wise words of Alicia! We simply let each story, each situation shape itself . . . and if occasionally the human race comes off as less than perfect, we'll just have to let the chips fall where they may—and see if mankind can't do better the next time! Okay, gal?

Kevin Eastman to
Cerebus in 1984.
He included a copy
of *Teenage Mutant
Ninja Turtles 2*.

Frank Miller

The Claws of the Cat 3

Dear Marvel,

Wonderful! At last, a woman character with character. I, for one, am sick of the helpless-female types which have cluttered up comics for so long. While I do think they are necessary and nice to look at, they don't have to be the only kind.

The writing is good; the art, excellent. Keep it up!!

Frank Miller, R.D. #2
Montpelier, Vt. 05602

Up where, Frank?

No, seriously, we're just delirious from the deluge of praise. Like you and Shira Rosan we thought it was about time Marvel had a superheroine who stood on her own two feet (paws?). A lady who could take care of herself and yet still be beautiful. Thus, the Cat! (Not to mention SHANNA THE SHE-DEVIL:)

And Marveldom will never be the same.

In fact, we're not sure it ever was the same!

DAVE AN' DENI SIM
AARDVARK VANHEIM
BOX 1674 STATION "C"
KITCHENER, ONTARIO N2G 4R2
DEAR DAVE AN' DENI,

HOWDY! YES IT'S ME AGAIN! I'M NOT SURE IF YOU REMEMBER ME, FOR I SURE YOU GUYS GET TONS OF MAIL! ANYWAY I'M THE GUY WHO MAILED YOU THE INK AND WATERCOLOR PAINTINGS LAST SUMMER, "FUSITON" LAST FALL (WITH THE HELP OF THE TALENTED PETE LAIRO) AND NOW PETE AND I HAVE TEAMED UP TO BRING YOU; "THE TEENAGE MUTANT NINJA TURTLES"!!

I THOUGHT YOU MIGHT LIKE TO SEE IT, FOR EVER SINCE I SAW/READ "CEREBUS" I'VE ALWAYS WANTED TO USE ANIMALS AS MAIN CHARACTERS. WHAT FUN THEY ARE!!

BOTH PETE AND I HOPE YOU ENJOY READING IT! TAKE CARE AND KEEP UP THE EXCELLENT WORK!!

BEST WISHES,
KEVIN EASTMAN

KEVIN EASTMAN
28 UNION STREET
DOVER, NEW HAMPSHIRE
03820
APRIL 25, 1984

Dear Stan, John, and Jim,

Although I have remained a faithful follower of DD, THOR, and the F.F., some months ago, finding myself bored with the deteriorating plot and artwork, I stopped reading SPIDER-MAN. But this afternoon, on a whim, I bought Spidey #69. You guys have made a faithful follower of me once more! Never since Web-head battled such greats as the Scorpion, Molten Man, and the Looter have I seen such grandeur as was, "Mission: Crush the Kingpin!" With the coming of Jim Mooney, you have injected something in Spidey that he has been lacking for some time — mystery! Jim's artwork, coupled with John's storyboards and our Leader's fantastic scripts, have brought Spidey to life once more! Oh, by the way, Stan — it couldn't hurt to bring back some of the aforementioned baddies. Long Live Marvel!

Marc De Matteis, 1100 Ocean Ave.
Brooklyn, N.Y.

Hooo-boy . . . we'd almost forgotten the lugubrious Looter ourselves, Marc; seems to us he was never one of our more illustrious bad-guys. Still, it might be a challenge to see what the resourceful Mr. Romita could do with that meteor-spawned malcontent . . . and with that little bit of alliterative fence-straddling, we take our leave!

Most amazingly warped and terrifyingly talented Mr. Gerber,

Concerning Defenders #24: Whew! But seriously folks.... Steve, you are bringing to the Defenders the same sharpness and sometimes all too sad (and all-too true) perceptions (knowledge sure can hurt, can't it Steve) that you have been displaying in the MAN-THING book. ("In the Jaws of Death" was sorrowful, moving, touching and still true to the Marvel Spirit (I can't help thinking that if Stan Lee was a young writer coming into his own in the seventies, he would be Steve Gerber. Hmmm...)

You've got awareness, Gerber and you've got one hell of a talent. You've probably also got a terrific case of eye-strain from poring over letter after letter, so I'll just end by saying "Keep it up".... *please* keep it up. And thanks.

I've noticed lately that your world view seems to have become more negative than ever (the current Citrusville book burning episode in MAN-THING being possibly one of the most depressing stories, comix or otherwise, I've come across in a long while). I'm not being Doctor Painglass when I say, have hope Gerber. Beneath the layers of pain, between the unbearable tug of duality, there may very well lie a grain of truth. Real truth. Beyond the jigsaw may be the piece that will put the puzzle together.

Have hope, Gerber—and keep Fighting the Only Fight. The fight to inject a little madness into a world grown all-too sane.

J. Marc De Matteis
1100 Ocean Avenue
Brooklyn, N.Y. 11230

JM DeMatteis

Amazing Spider-Man 73

Defenders 27

Dear Stan and Don,

After receiving and reading my subscription copies of FF #32 and AVENGERS #9, I have finally come to the decision to have both mounted in bronze and set on a pedestal in the center of my living room. Although the F.F. is "The World's Greatest Comic Magazine", I must admit that on this occasion AVENGERS #9 was slightly the better of the two. This is not to say that F.F. wasn't up to par, but rather that the Avengers was—er—breath-taking, shall we say? What a story! It was beyond words; the fast-paced action, solid characterization, and that terrific ending all gave it that extra oomph and catapulted it into the *great* class. Stan, old boy, you can put another notch in your pen for this masterpiece. And that art! I've always liked Don Heck's work but on this occasion he outdid himself. You've just gotta make the Heck-Ayers team the permanent artists on the AVENGERS. A few surplus comments on various tid-bits—you ask which villains you should return. Well, I feel that the only foes the F.F. has worthy of becoming regulars are Namor, Doc Doom, the Hulk and the Red Ghost. A few others, like the Hate Monger and the Molecule Man, were great in their first appearance but still not worthy of returns, as a comeback would destroy the effect of the first tale. Some others like the Thinker, the Puppet Master, the Moleman and Diablo have definitely deserved eternal exile. These four are probably four of the poorest villains you have ever introduced, and it is somewhat ironic that all four should have been presented in F.F., your best mag. While it is true that all four have starred in some great tales, this is due entirely to Stan's marvelous writing skill which can provide good stories even with poor villains. Please, whatever else you do, do not bring back these chaps. Instead, I'd love to see the F.F. fight villains from your other books like the Blob, Doc Ock, Sandman, and the Mandarin.

George R.R. Martin, 36 E. First St.
Bayonne, N.J. 07002

Dear Stan and Jack,

F.F. #17 was greater than great. Even now I sit in awe of it, trying to do the impossible—that is, describe it. It was absolutely stupendous, the ultimate, utmost! I cannot fathom how you could fit so much action into so few pages. It will live forever as one of the greatest F.F. comics ever printed, ergo, as one of the greatest of ALL comics. In what other comic mag could you see things like a hero falling down a manhole, a heroine mistaking a toy inventor for a criminal, and the President of the U.S.A. leaving a conference that may determine the fate of the world to put his daughter to bed. The epic story, spectacular and exciting as it is, is not all that made this mag so great. The letter column was top-notch, too. I nearly died when I saw Paul Gambaccini's letter. You've really made him change his tune; that letter was a far cry from the one printed in F.F. #9. Then there's your cover boast—THE WORLD'S GREATEST COMIC MAGAZINE! Brilliant! You were just about the World's worst mag when you started, but you set yourself an ideal, and, by gumbo, you achieved it! More than achieved it, in fact—why, if you were only half as good as you are now, you'd still be the world's best mag!!!

George R. Martin
35 East First St.
Bayonne, N. J.

George RR Martin

Fantastic Four 20

Avengers 12

Fred Hembeck
Iron Man 109
and 112

Larry Marder
of Beanworld
sent in
similarly
unpublishable
art to New
Mutants 25

printed circuits

1/6 MARVEL COMICS GROUP, 575 MADISON AVE. N.Y.C. 10022

Dear Marvel,

So here I am again reading the glorious life of Iron Man and the crummy life of Tony Stark. There are some really great points made in this issue. For instance: I like the idea of the handsome playboy falling in love with the scarred Madame Masque. And that dream sequence was fabulously fantastic. As for Jasper, well, when I saw the cover I thought I'd finally see him in a S.H.I.E.L.D. uniform, but no dice. I did enjoy the idea of one lone agent holding Iron Man to a deadlock. Just for the sake of realism, I think that with Jasper's deep depression and feelings of failure and loss, he should attempt suicide. (Don't get me wrong, I like Jasper as much as does any other Marvelite. Besides, who says he has to succeed?)

Heh! I know Tony will win out over Midas but, for the first time in IM's history I began to feel that the man within the tin suit was really Tony Stark. Thanks for the Jack of Hearts, and for that strange ending. So, until Iron Man rusts, make... ah, crud! I'm not gonna repeat that corny old line. So I'll just leave with, "aloha!"

Greg Gallant
Box 1071, Tilbury, Ontario
Canada NOP 2L0

Suicide's a bit more extreme than we had in mind, Greg, and, if you managed to read IRON MAN #106, you know by now the resolution of Jasper's depression—and if you caught IRON MAN #107, you know that everything came out in the wash. We just want to say here that we're sorry we didn't have room for our lettercol last ish, due to an expanded storyline (the *real* reason is that Bill just wanted to script one more glorious Carmine Infantino page), but this ish brings us back up to date.

Y'know, Bill M.,

The sad thing is that Tony Stark has always owned a *majority interest* in SI, not a *controlling interest*. Even if we grant that Midas is alive (he's not, you know), there's no way he could take over SI legally.

Nice story. Too bad you can't make it work.

Dennis Mallonee
4085 Nobel Drive
San Diego, CA 92122

Y'know, Dennis... we explained by IRON MAN #107 that Midas *didn't* take over legally but that, by paying loans due and large debts owed by Tony (because he, Midas, had sabotaged the devices which would have made money for SI, thus costing Tony more and more capital and plunging him deeper into debt) he could bite *into* Tony's majority interest. The rest was easy, and explained. He simply threatened and blackmailed the rest of SI's stockholders to acquire their stock as well. Thus Midas did own a majority interest—but, again, not legally. Second—Midas is *not* dead, again as we explain in IM #107. So, while we appreciate your being concerned enough to want to correct what you saw as flaws in our storyline, we just want to point out that that storyline hadn't been completed—with all the pieces in place—until after IM #104, the issue you are commenting on. Got it?

The following missive came in the form of a comic strip, beautifully rendered, but, alas, non-reproducible. So we here quote it verbatim, text without pictures, and thank the author while we most sincerely apologize:

SOME STARK COMMENTS:

Well, Bill, it's been awhile since I wrote. Once, with all your fill-ins and *Sons of the Tiger*, you showed a great deal of promise. Of late, however, I've been disappointed, particularly

with IRON MAN, a book you handled extremely well on fill-in status. But, as a regular—nothing. IRON MAN #100 was embarrassingly mediocre. True, the team of Tuska and Esposito was hardly inspiring, but...

Then came IRON MAN #103, and I loved it. Was it a fluke, or...?

NO! Not so! I just read IRON MAN #104—*Triad*—and, despite Tuska/Esposito, it was the most *memorable* IM tale in literally *years*! I loved it! Not much to criticize, really. Let's just say I heartily approve of all these new ideas you've injected into the book commencing with this series. Hopefully, Iron Man/Madame Masque will be a permanent team. Like DD and Natasha. It's never been done. Keep it going. Don't ruin it, their love affair is fresh, and somehow more mature than most in comics. Stark's honesty with Whitney was extremely refreshing. No Peter Parker/Mary Jane bullfeathers here. The implications of their intimacy was appreciated as well. This was the most realistic love affair in comics in many a moon. Strangely enough, only Howard and Bev compare. But so help me, Mantlo—if this is a DOOMED affair, I'll train my REPULSORS on you!!!

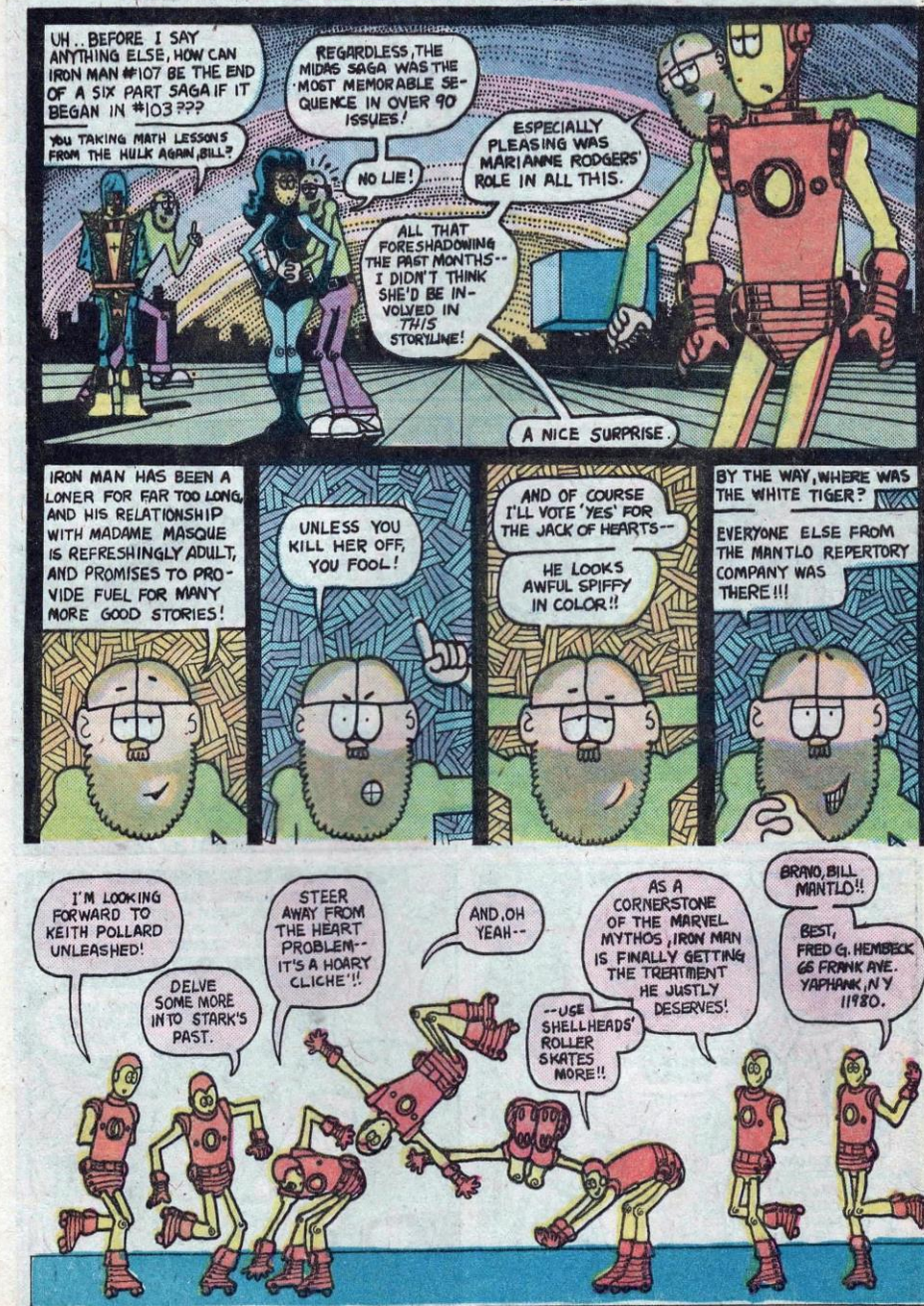
Sitwell acted weird this issue, but doesn't love make us all weird? I never was fond of Jasper, anyway. Madame Masque's another story, though. The two—both wearing masks—can be quite poignant. You can make some nice statements about beauty with this affair, "Skin deep", and all. Glad to see you delving into Stark's past—long overdue.

Don't STOP! Give Stark a *life* beyond Stark International! I'm looking forward to Marianne Rodger's reappearance, as long as it isn't a *love* interest. I also have to add that I like both Midas and his scheme, and would like to see the Jack of Hearts in his own book. He has a lot of potential, and he looks awfully nifty in color.

Fred G. Hembeck
65 Frank Avenue
Yaphank, NY 11980



STILL MORE printed circuits AND NOW, FOR SOMETHING COMPLETELY DIFFERENT...



Dearest BKV and/or Fiona,

First off, I would just like to say that *Saga* started off as required reading in a graphic novel class I took in my sophomore year of college. We just had to read one book, yet here I am having read through the entire series twice and it's the only comic I've actually paid money for. So, this is a shout-out to Dr. D for not so subtly introducing me to this fantastic series. I told him when the next issue came out, I would write into the letters page, so here we go...

Saga is one of those rare pieces of media that comes along every so often that completely changes my life, makes me feel as if I've somehow become a better person for having read it. I can officially say it has dethroned IDW's Transformers comics as my favorite comic of all time. Which, as a lifelong Transformers fan, is no easy feat to accomplish. It served as a major influence on my own writing (aspiring comic writer here, by the way), and on my life as a whole. Even though I only first read it last winter, I already can't imagine my life without *Saga*.

I would especially like to thank you for bringing Petrichor into my life. I am a trans woman living in America, which is not a particularly safe place right now. Petrichor is the first character that I have been able to look at and say, "Wow, she's literally me." She has served as an anchor in the dark for me. Her line to Hazel about not knowing what the future holds but knowing that you are not alone is one that has gotten me through some tough times. When I read each issue aloud (aspiring voice actor here), I read her in my own voice, and when I recently bought a dress that I thought made me kind of look like her, I smiled the most genuine smile I've had in years. Creepy? Maybe. But it goes to show the impact the character has had on me.

So all in all, I just have to say... thank you. I have enjoyed Hazel's journey throughout, and now I cannot wait to see where it goes.

Yours truly,

Mai S.

Address Withheld

Dear To Be Continued,

Thank you, Brian, for your brilliantly twisted mind that crafted a plot so captivating, even after reading it eleven times, I'm still impressed. With each new reading I keep finding new subtleties and hints that I previously missed.

And thank you, Fiona. Your work is a perfect example of Art with a capital "A." Sometimes I find myself lingering on a page, completely absorbed by the visuals you've created, a feeling no art gallery in Paris has ever managed to evoke for me. Each page speaks straight to my heart.

I started reading *Saga* digitally, but quickly realized I needed a physical copy. So, I got two versions: the hardcover editions of Books One to Three that I keep just for the joy of owning them, and a paperback compendium that I've read so much, it's showing some wear. Getting them to Ukraine was quite a challenge and cost me an arm and a leg (not literally, of course), but I've never regretted it for a second.

In times when we've had no electricity and no heat (which, unfortunately, happens more often than not here in Ukraine), your book was a safe harbor that has given me

something much more valuable: hope. Every page shows that despite humanity's many flaws and mistakes, there's still hope for us to become better.

Saga is a true journey of self-discovery and transformation, one that every character has to undertake, whether they want to or not. Just like us in real life.

I never imagined that a world as eccentric as the one you've created could feel so real and relatable.

Dankon!

Vitalii from Ukraine

P.S. Enclosed is my civilian volunteer chevron, a token of Ukraine that I'd love to share with you.



Letters to *Saga* 70

Dear Stan,

CLAWS OF THE CAT #1 proved to me that Marvel is turning into a bunch of radicals. Sure, it was a good story, but it was burdened down by Communistic phrases put out by Women's Lib.

Women belong in the home, not on the picket line calling men "male chauvinist pigs." This country is built on the family institution. A housewife is a major part of that institution.

Women's Lib is a Communist plot to overthrow the

Cincinnatus

Claws of the Cat 3

country by taking out the cornerstone of the family institution.

I remember when Marvel hated Communism and ninety per cent of Marvel's villains were Communists. Now, you are supporting them with these leftist stories.

Yours with dignity,

Cincinnatus

(no address or surname given)

We kinda wish you'd signed your *real* name to this missive, Cincinnatus. After all, it's pretty hard to be dignified while hiding behind an alias.

In any event, Cin, whether you consider the Women's Liberation Movement to be Communist-inspired or not —THE CLAWS OF THE CAT isn't. It is an attempt to portray some of the real injustices and, if you'll pardon us for stealing your root word, indignities suffered by women in the context of a fast-paced action story. It is not propaganda, nor even entirely social-consciousness material. Its prime purpose is *entertainment*. If we can also educate, that's even better.

Finally, there was indeed a time when Marvel portrayed "ad commies" as villains, but with the passage of time and history often comes enlightenment. And while we still believe that the American system, when it's functioning properly, is the best in the world . . . we'd be nothing less than paranoiac to portray everybody else in the world as villains.

And that's altogether 'nuff said!