



fans & fandom

may be mistaken...
 main villains planned for the book...
 (Mi-Chen-Po, come to mind.)
 In this issue, The Dover Demon said Marc is going to kill Elvis. As
 seen in the series, The Dover Demon's words can be interpreted in
 different ways... So Elvis may not die. This got me thinking. To my
 understanding, this is not a magical, nor super-natural book. I'm all for big
 characters dying in comics because it makes me care even more about
 characters who are still alive. So is "dead" dead in this book or do I need
 get prepared for dead characters returning from the grave, as is so often
 the case in comics?
 3. If you kill Elvis, can you please kill Lt. Drake too?
 4. Is Autumn so hot because she's a red-head or is it because she's
 such a bad-ass?
 Mad props to you and Riley for making one of my favorite books every
 month!
 Thanks for your time,
 Lee Salemi

1. There are plenty of bad guys, but our three main villains are Mi-Chen-Po, Colonel Dachshund, and Nadine. A case could be made for Springheel Jack though. You'll see why...
2. Dead is dead. Although sometimes dead is dead except for your skin.
3. Maybe.
4. It's the tats.

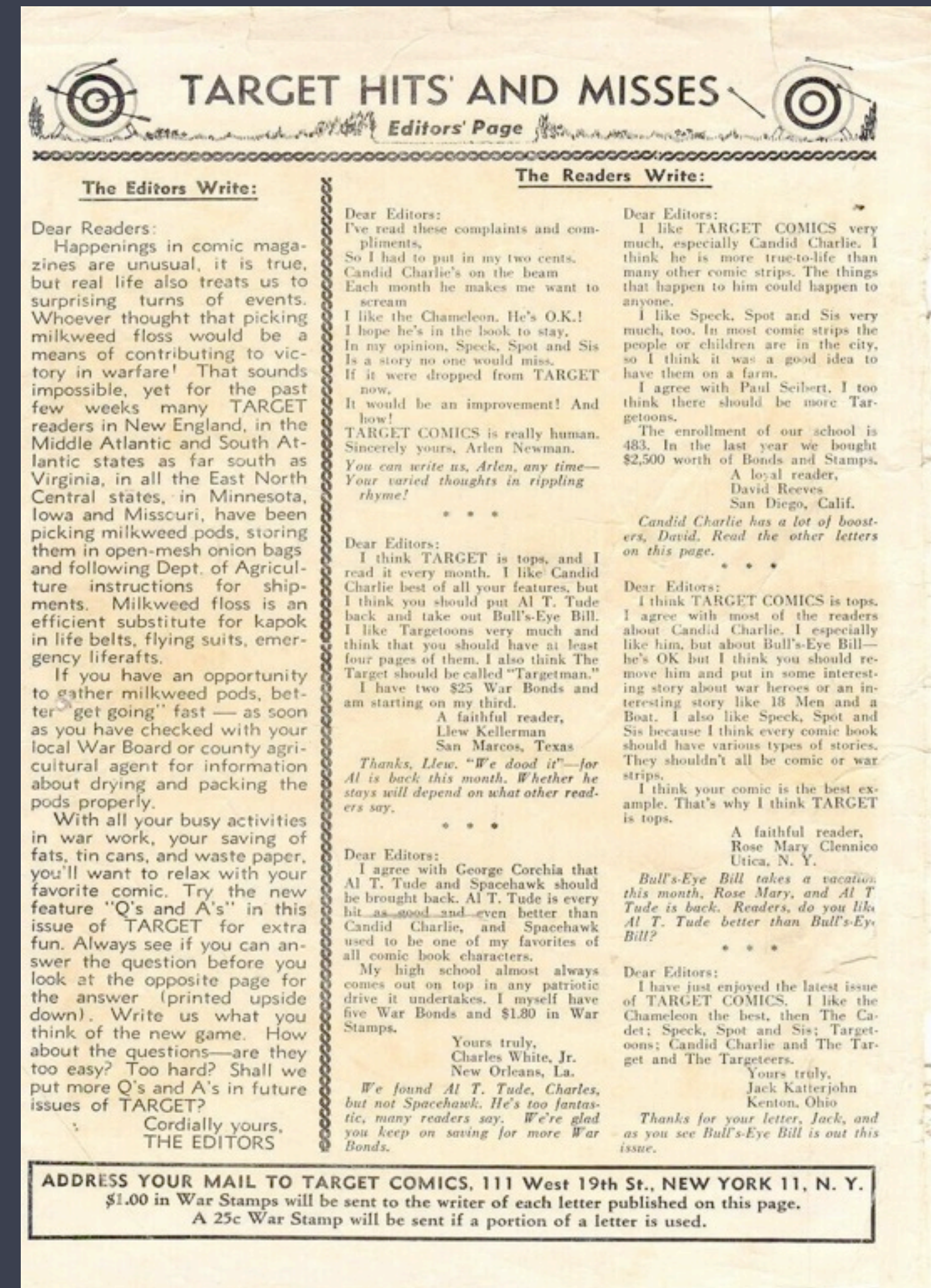
Mr. Grecian,
 I picked up the first *Proof* trade at the St. Paul comic book convention
 this fall. Honestly, I mostly bought it because I had 10 bucks left in my
 wallet, and you seemed like a pretty nice guy when I spoke with you, and
 nobody was at your table at that moment. And I walked away kind of
 with my 10 dollars, thinking that I already was into a monstrous
 character, and his name was Hellboy.
 (I'm not a Hellboy fan, but *Proof* isn't *Hellboy*, it's its own awesome
 thing.) And now I have a signed

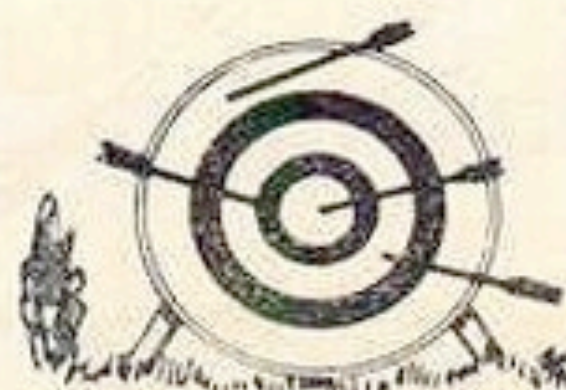
lawyer on *Bones* that...
 best characters on that show. I am...
 her and Elvis. Though I am kinda sad that the...
 Elvis is gonna be over. It was a most interesting dynamic and...
 very well. Proof gets a date... go, bigfoot! Elvis needs to keep a close eye
 on Marc cause it's foretold he's gonna kill Elvis. Well hopefully that won't
 really happen and Marc... (which I'll get to in a minute) will
 become exposed and...
 (What is he anyway?) He's fun and...
 epilogue... This is the only place I have a complaint... All right, the
 tiger you just hit the jackpot." Please this ain't Spidey. It just came across
 as super-duper cheesy and not an homage to a fave character. Be
 yourselves, it works much better. I also really enjoyed that little story in
 Leander's office. That was cute.
 Ok, well thats it for me for now. Thanks.
 Steven Leitman
 Cincinnati Ohio

I'm definitely myself. Who else would I wanna be? The story was
 called "Homage" and I thought it would be fun, since the issue was
 chock-full of inside jokes, to bookend things with two famous comic
 book homages. I'm happy with the way they turned out and hope
 they didn't spoil things for you too much.

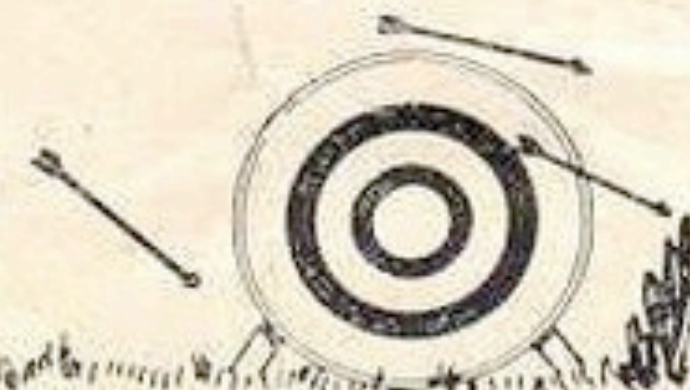
So I've been thinking about this for a while now and I honestly have to
 thank Alex, Riley, Kelly and whoever else is involved with the book.
 Honestly, a book like *Proof* proves exactly how the comic book industry
 isn't just about superheroes. How you can tell really any kind of story in this
 medium and it shines through with *Proof*.
 John isn't your typical main character and the book can do everything
 from action to horror and fits it into a real-world setting in fun ways. Sure,
 there is no magic in the *Proof* world, but there certainly is magic in the way
 the stories are told. Whether it's Riley's amazing pencils, evolving more
 and more as time goes on, or Alex's very human characters, the book is
 fun to read every month.
 I've read the book over a year ago without a certain
 with, but I'm glad I can be a p... monthly. But her...

- ▶ Section of a comic book where reader letters (to the publisher or the editor) appear - letter columns, letter pages, letters to the editor, letters of comment
- ▶ *Target Comics* #6, published by Novelty Press in 1940
- ▶ The first DC comic to include a letters column was *Real Fact Comics* #3 (July 1946)
- ▶ Early letter columns tended to be fan letters from younger readers - simplistic questions (where Superman put his Clark Kent clothes when he was in costume)





TARGET HITS' AND MISSES



Editors' Page

The Editors Write:

Dear Readers:

Happenings in comic magazines are unusual, it is true, but real life also treats us to surprising turns of events. Whoever thought that picking milkweed floss would be a means of contributing to victory in warfare! That sounds impossible, yet for the past few weeks many TARGET readers in New England, in the Middle Atlantic and South Atlantic states as far south as Virginia, in all the East North Central states, in Minnesota,

Dear Editors:

I've read these complaints and compliments,

So I had to put in my two cents.

Candid Charlie's on the beam

Each month he makes me want to scream

I like the Chameleon. He's O.K.!

I hope he's in the book to stay.

In my opinion, Speck, Spot and Sis
Is a story no one would miss.

If it were dropped from TARGET now,

It would be an improvement! And how!

TARGET COMICS is really human.

Sincerely yours, Arlen Newman.

You can write us, Arlen, any time—

Your varied thoughts in rippling rhyme!

The Readers Write:

Dear Editors:

I like TARGET COMICS very much, especially Candid Charlie. I think he is more true-to-life than many other comic strips. The things that happen to him could happen to anyone.

I like Speck, Spot and Sis very much, too. In most comic strips the people or children are in the city, so I think it was a good idea to have them on a farm.

I agree with Paul Seibert. I too think there should be more Targetoons.

The enrollment of our school is 483. In the last year we bought \$2,500 worth of Bonds and Stamps.

A loyal reader,
David Reeves
San Diego, Calif.

WHO SPEAKS FOR THE SURFER?

c/o MARVEL COMICS GROUP, 625 MADISON AVE. N.Y., N.Y. 10022

Dear Stan and John,
SILVER SURFER #4 was another great issue. However, I felt that John's artwork slipped a little as compared to past issues. Perhaps it could have been because of the inking, which was good, though. The story, "The Good, the Bad, and the Uncanny" was excellent, but Loki was used for too much while Thor was left out to a large degree. The Silver Surfer in Asgard was astounding! John illustrated the scenes beautifully, and he drew all the characters with authority. I hope that the Surfer will confront Galactus again soon. If and when they do meet, have the Surfer get his freedom to roam the galaxies once more. This would give you a vast new field for some stories with a different turn of events. Only the Silver Surfer has the power and excitement—and already you have taken this important asset away from him. I hope you will change this soon, because the Surfer without being able to roam the endless spaceways is like Spider-Man without his spider-powers. Well, I hope you get the message. Also, Howard Purcell has brought new heights of glory to the "Tales of the Watcher" series, and the Watcher stories are always interesting with their strange and surprising endings. I hope you will continue to turn out such fine literary and artistic achievements that are hailed so highly by all Marvelites. Bill Labrie, Box 246
Athabasca, Alberta, Canada

So do we, Bill, so do we. We think you're in a minority in your opinion about the inking of Surfy's sagas, though—'cause personally, we feel that Big John's little sibling is the most! What says Marvelom Assembled?

Dear Stan and Jack,
One thing really bugs me about the Watcher. You portray him as a noble entity, yet twice he has broken his eternal promise (#48 through #50, and #72). So, like a true Marvelite, I have come forth to salvage, not slaughter, you. Who is to say whether a bit of "interference" can be termed as interference or much needed guidance? Admittedly, l'homme doesn't look like much right now, but with the Watcher's subtle guidance, who can say that man won't illuminate the universe with greatness instead of mushroom clouds? It's a little improbable right now, but it is possible and that's what makes it interesting. Touche.
Todd Buchts, 113 Hiawatha Trail
Liverpool, N.Y. 13088

Merci, Monsieur Buchts . . . or, since you claim we've turned the wondrous Watcher into an Indian giver of promises, perhaps we should say "Mercy!"

Dear Stan and John,
SILVER SURFER #4 was sensational! The story was groovy and the artwork was spectacular! John is truly one of your best artists. Another thing I liked about this ish was Sal Buscema's inking. It was great. Have Sal do John's inking instead of Joe Sinnott. When I saw the title of SS #4, I almost went hysterical. "The Good, the Bad, and the Uncanny"—I expected to see Clint Eastwood chewin' on his stogie somewhere. What are you going to call the next ish? "For a Fistful of Earthlings?"
Brien Hoard, 2356 N. Nelson St.
Arlington, Va. 22207

Nope! Actually, we're gonna call the next ish "Hang 'Em Loose!" 'Nuff said?

Dear Stan and John,
Enough of this silence! I have suppressed my desire to write quite long enough. Last week I bought the December issue of the SILVER SURFER. My emotions are impossible to express, but I shall endeavor to do so. To say that I wish to speak on the behalf of the Silver Surfer would be a difficult task. This man embodies and personifies everything a man could hope or strive for. Just as modern man becomes discouraged at the many obstacles he is confronted with, likewise, Norrin Radd as the Silver Surfer has many confrontations taxing his physical and mental strength, but his resolve and determination sustain him an example many could follow. The expressions etched on Norrin's countenance as he fights to surpass his obstacles are those of an "Everyman". Even now, I am overwhelmed with this small and yet monumental task of describing and defining him. May Marvelom have a long and prosperous life!
Rochell Porter, 457 Ash N.E.
Albuquerque, N.M. 87106

And we definitely will, Rochell, if the liltin' letters we've been getting on our first few issues of SILVER SURFER are any indication! To tell the truth, we just noticed that virtually all of the missives on this page consist of praise—whether qualified or unqualified. And, honestly, it's not because the letters page is rigged—but because we received almost nothing but laudatory mail on our space-surfing friend. But, we hereby promise not to rest on our laurels—but to strive harder and ever harder to make each and every ish a literary landmark to remember! As Surfy's buddy Thor would put it—"So be it!"

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 ROLLICKIN' RANKS.

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

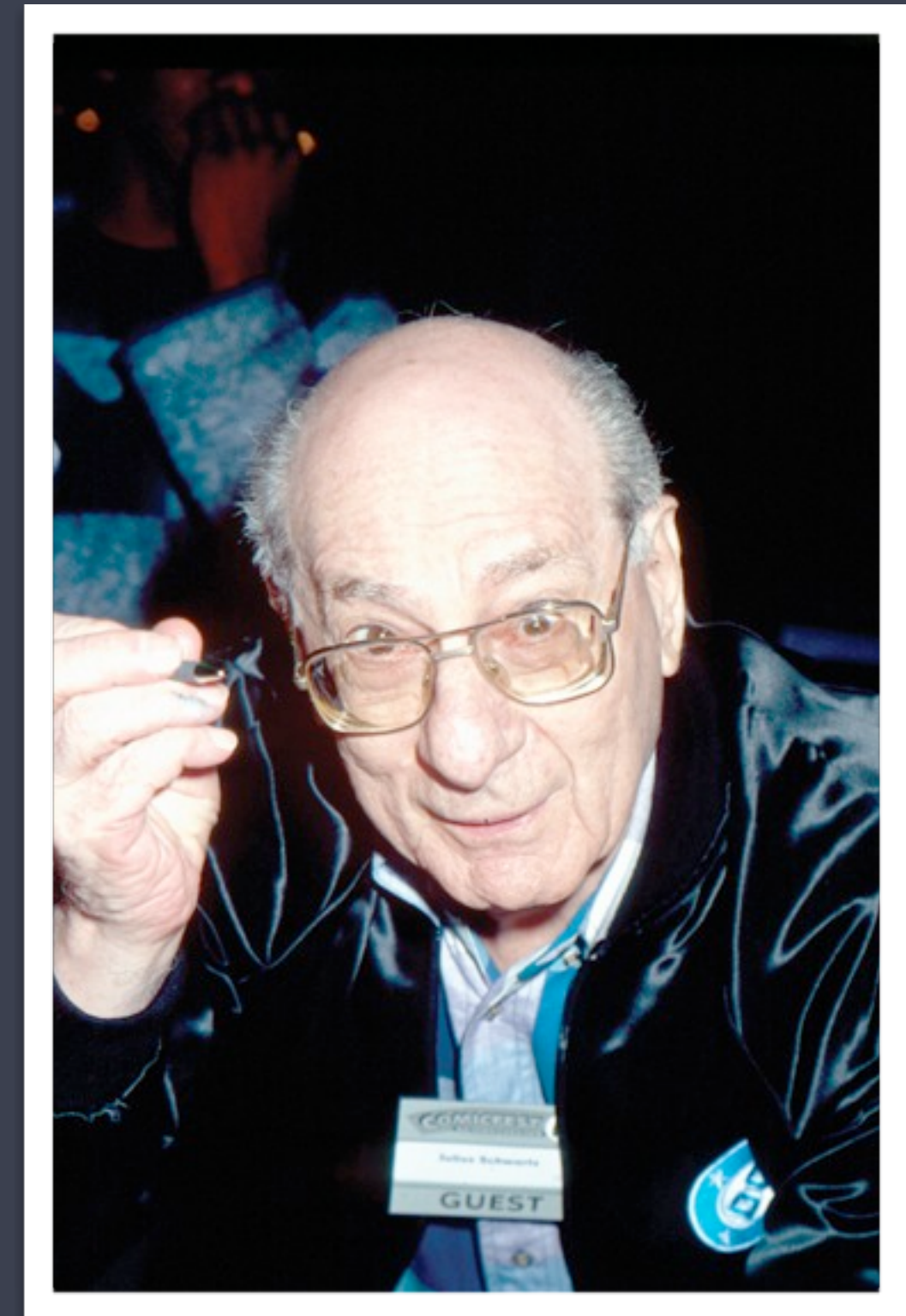
F.F.F. (FEARLESS FRONT FACER)—AN HONORARY TITLE BESTOWED FOR DEVOTION TO MARVEL ABOVE AND BEYOND THE CALL OF DUTY.

- ▶ Letter columns came into their prime in the 1960s, when readers' letters became longer and the discussions more sophisticated
- ▶ Important differences between DC & Marvel letter columns:
 - ▶ **DC** rarely printed the entire letter (much more selective in what they published) - editors referred to readers as "them"
 - ▶ **Marvel** published letters in their entirety - letters were often critical or offered detailed suggestions - editors were inclusive, referring to readers as "us" or "we"



BUILDING FAN COMMUNITY

- ▶ *The Brave and the Bold* #35 (1961)
- ▶ DC Editor Julius Schwartz decided to publish the full name and address of letter writers
- ▶ Created a sense of community among readers - many became pen pals or organized meet ups
- ▶ Precursor to the comic fan community website



READER PARTICIPATION

- ▶ Publishers took advantage of the letter columns to solicit feedback & suggestions from readers
- ▶ Fans were asked to weigh in on a character's uniform changes or submit their own uniform designs - the winning entry actually becoming the character's new costume
- ▶ For team books like *The Avengers* or *Justice League*, fans were asked which characters should become permanent members, team leaders, or kicked off the team

“We don't score hits with every issue. Sometimes a story has flaws or just doesn't come up to snuff. Which is why your letters are so valuable to us in producing these comments. . . . So don't let anybody tell you your letters aren't important, people. They are vital to these magazines.”

Len Wein (*Powerman* #24, April 1975)

LETTERHACKS

- ▶ For many fans, having a letter printed was a badge of honor — especially if it was in one of the more high-profile letters pages
- ▶ Fans whose letters were published regularly became well-known throughout the industry by virtue of their letters - became mini celebrities in their own right
- ▶ A small number of these **Letterhacks** actually parlayed their letter writing success into a career in the industry (Kurt Busiek, Ralph Macchio)



the fan community

BULLPEN BULLETIN

marvel speaks to fans



MARVEL BULLPEN BULLETINS • MARVEL BULLPEN BULLETINS • MARVEL BULLPEN BULLETINS WHO SAYS THIS ISN'T THE MARVEL AGE OF BATTY BULLETINS?

ITEM! By the time you read these imperishable words, our two Saturday morning full-color half-hour cartoon spectaculars, **FANTASTIC FOUR** and **SPIDER-MAN**, should be knockin' 'em dead from border-to-border and coast-to-coast on the far-flung ABC television network! And by the way, even if you don't live in the continental United States, write to your local TV station anyway, asking when Spidey and the FF will be seen in your area. (If you live in Red China, think how that'll shake 'em up!) When the voice of Marveldom Assembled speaks, even the airwaves must quiver in awe! —

ITEM! Speaking of the airwaves, for those of you in the N. Y.-New Jersey listening area, who might have missed our leader's radio interview with Joel Scott over F.M. station WFMU (91.1 megacycles), it was such a smash that it'll be rebroadcast at 9:00 PM, Oct. 16th. So if you get a chance, give a listen, huh? Smiley will be talking about our favorite subject — Marvel mags!

ITEM! We received a letter recently that all you face-fronters will get a kick out of. Without any further ado, here 'tis —

Dear Stan,

Remember the controversy when you introduced that pinnacle of imperfection, Irving Forbush? Everyone asked "Who is he?" Now I (with the help of my complete collection of your Marvel masterpieces) have solved the mystery! He's a character who's appeared, in various guises, in many of your earlier mags! For example, he was the owner of the clothing store which was wrecked by the Thing when Irv told him he had no clothes to fit him. (If you've forgotten, see FF #1). To continue, Forbush was the wrestler that Peter Parker first tried his spider powers on. (Take a squint at **AMAZING FANTASY**, #15). He was also the guy who neglected to push the "hold" button when scientist Bruce Banner spotted a young man on the field, in danger of being exposed to gamma rays. (**HULK** #1, natch). He was the private who got a soggy blanket tossed at his face when he tried to inform an irate Sgt. Fury that "Happy Sam" Sawyer wanted to see him. (A bit of nostalgia from SGT.

others? It's called **AMERICA'S BEST TV COMICS**, on sale at all newsstands, or send 25¢ to ABC, Box 20, Detroit, Mich. (—End of commercial!)

ITEM! We just remembered! It's time to announce the second rank of Marveldom. Last ish we gave you the first rank, the title **R.F.O.** (Real Frantic One), to which any Believer is entitled, provided he or she (or it) buys a minimum of 3 Marvel mags each month. And now (Ta ta ta taaa, ta ta!) rank #2: **Q.N.S.** (Quite 'Nuff Sayer), to be used with pride by any heroic one who has had at least one letter published in a Marvel mag. Stay tuned for our next ish when we'll fill you in on the title **T.T.B.**! It's a doozy!

ITEM! And now, before we get to our Soapbox section, just another reminder to the more playful pussycats among you that there's a whole kaboodle of Marvel toys, games, and novelties on sale at a store near you right now. (Unless you're rowing a kayak across the Pacific — in which case, wait'll next month). We're not trying to leave you penniless, but we get so many indignant letters from frenzied ones who berate us for not mentioning various items that are on sale, that we thought we'd wrap the whole thing up in a ball and let you have it all at once, like now! Excelsior!

STAN'S SOAPBOX!

Every so often we like to toss a completely unexpected, bombshell surprise at you. Well, we've got one for you now! We decided to mention it in this space, which is the most widely-read paragraph in all of comicdom, so that none of you will miss it. Just for kicks, yours truly and Genial Gene Colan have created a brand new superhero who we think is destined to become an overnight sensation. His name — **CAPTAIN MARVEL!!** We don't wanna say any more about him now, except to tell you that he's starring in **MARVEL SUPER-HEROES**. It's on sale right now! It's dramatic! It's daring! And it's different! Read it — then drop us a line telling how it grabs you. We're waiting on pins and needles for your reaction. And now, till we meet again, be good!

FANTASTIC FOUR #70: Will the fightin'-mad Thing finally do what no combination of super-villains have ever been able to do — destroy the FF? It's an action-lovers' special — as only Stan and Jack can dish it out!

SPIDER-MAN #56: If Spidey was hated and feared by the public before, what'll happen now — now, when he's actually fighting on the side of a more-deadly-than-ever Doc Ock? Even WE can't be sure Spidey will ever get out of this one!

AVENGERS #47: What's this? Captain America quits the Avengers? Hercules finds an awesome mystery upon fabled Olympus? Quicksilver and the Scarlet Witch are captured after a desperate battle? And we're only charging 12¢? CHEEEE!

X-MEN #39: With the fate of the entire world hanging in the balance, Marvel's mightiest mutants face a final showdown with Factor Three! Plus, the never-before-told "Origin of Cyclops!" This is X-citement unlimited!

DAREDEVIL #35: Even the fabulous FF have never been able to defeat him for good — and now, the Man Without Fear must battle the Trapster alone! But, how do you fight someone when he's already beaten you? It's a shocker!

THOR #147: Now, with the Thunder God's power at its lowest ebb — with his own father turned against him — with the police themselves unable to help — now — NOW — the mighty Thor must face the deadliest threat of all — Lok!!!

SUSPENSE #97: Whiplash! His very name sends shivers down your spine! You'll meet him for the first time in this sensational Iron Man thriller! As for Captain America, he's got a real surprise for you — and for himself as well! All we have to do is mention three words — the Black Panther!

STRANGE TALES #164: You'll gasp in amazement when Doc Strange ventures into a world of nightmares to rescue the beautiful Victoria Bentley! And, as if that isn't enough, Nick Fury finds himself trapped in the lair of the Yellow Claw! This one's gotta shatter your senses!

SGT. FURY #49: The Howlers start the Allies on the long road to victory in the Pacific — as they fight their way across the blood-stained sands of Tarawa! Hooo boy — this is really the big one!

MARVEL BULLPEN BULLETINS!

FACE FRONT! Here's a whole kaboodle of news and gossip straight from your bullpen to you!

BIG NEWS! An old favorite of yours, Jolly JOE SINNOTT has rejoined our mighty Marvel team! He'll be inking the F.F. regularly, working on "Agent of Shield," and doing as many other features as we can straddle him with! (Remember his great inking job on F.F. #5? Dyed-in-the-wool Marvelites are still drooling over it!)

Everybody's favorite guessing game these days is trying to figure out the real identity of the "Sub-Mariner's" powerful penciller, ADAM AUSTIN! As most of you have guessed, Adam Austin is only a nom de plume, and one of these days we'll reveal his real name to you—if we don't forget it before then!

Did you know that our bullpen ramrod, Smilin' STAN LEE, also authors MONSTERS UNLIMITED as well as YOU DON'T SAY! Both are slick paper photo-gag magazines, and Stan the Man seems to have the magic touch—both of those humor sensations seem to sell out as fast as our own Marvel masterpieces—and that's savin' something!

CAN YOU GUESS
WHAT'S IN THIS
MYSTERIOUS
MAILING TUBE?



It's our next Marvel
mail order bombshell!
You've been demand-
ing it for months, so

THE MIGHTY MARVEL CHECKLIST

A Line-Up Of Some Of The Marvel-ous Mags
On Sale Right Now!

FANTASTIC FOUR #45: At last! The secret of Medusa's mysterious lost race! More about the grotesque Gorgon! And wait'll you see who the Torch meets!

AVENGERS #22: What happens to a world-famous fighting team after they've suffered their first major defeat? This one is a real shocker!

X-MEN #14: See the human race up in arms against the X-Men, as the supernatural "Sentinels" make their first fantastic appearance!

DAREDEVIL #10: A real collector's item! On a dare, Stan let Wally Wood write this one, and it's the most off-beat mystery in years! Wait'll you see the far-out supervillains and the panicky plot twists! Sure to be talked-about everywhere!

THOR #122: Having battled Thor to a standstill, the Absorbing Man now dares to attack Odin himself! Also, learn the secret of the hooded mystery man!

STRANGE #139: Fury a prisoner of Hydra! Earth menaced by a betatron bomb! And then—a girl steps in! Plus: Dr. Strange's startling battle with Baron Mordol!

SUSPENSE #72: The most unexpected vil-

to Wish List Matrix Stuff MAMP Comic Stuff Boardgame Stuff Google Calendar Class Websites The Digital Tabletop Comics Forum 2009 dhCHI







1P http://jinxworld.com/ JINXWORLD | The Official Site for Brian Michael Bendis

SPIDER-MAN: FALLEN HERO


BRIAN MICHAEL BENDIS

WELCOME TO JINXWORLD
OFFICIAL WEBSITE & MESSAGEBOARD


- CONTACT
- F.A.Q.
- JINXSTORE
- LINKS
- MEDIA
- SCRIPTS




MICHAEL AVON OEMING
Powers, Crossbronx, Mice Templar, Omega Flight, Highlander, Ares & More!




MARK ANDREYKO
Manhunter, Sam & Twitch & Torso collaborator!




ALEX MALEEV
The extraordinary Artist and painter for New Avengers, Daredevil & More!




ADI GRANOV
Artist & Iron Man's chief conceptual designer.




STEVE McNIVEN
The ultimate penciler for Civil War, Spiderman & the Fantastic Four!



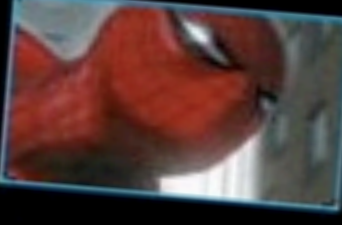
JIM @ MARVEL
Jim @ Marvel gives you all the inside info on all things Marvel.




DAVID MACK
Creator of Kabuki. Artist of Daredevil, Wolverine & White Tiger!




DAVID FINCH
Artist extraordinaire - New Avengers, Moon Knight & More!




GABRIELE DELL'OTTO
Artist/Painter - Annihilation, Secret Wars & More!




MICHAEL LARK
Artist extraordinaire for Daredevil, Batman, & More!



DAVID LARK
Writer of the New Avengers: Initiative, She-Hulk, The Thing & More!



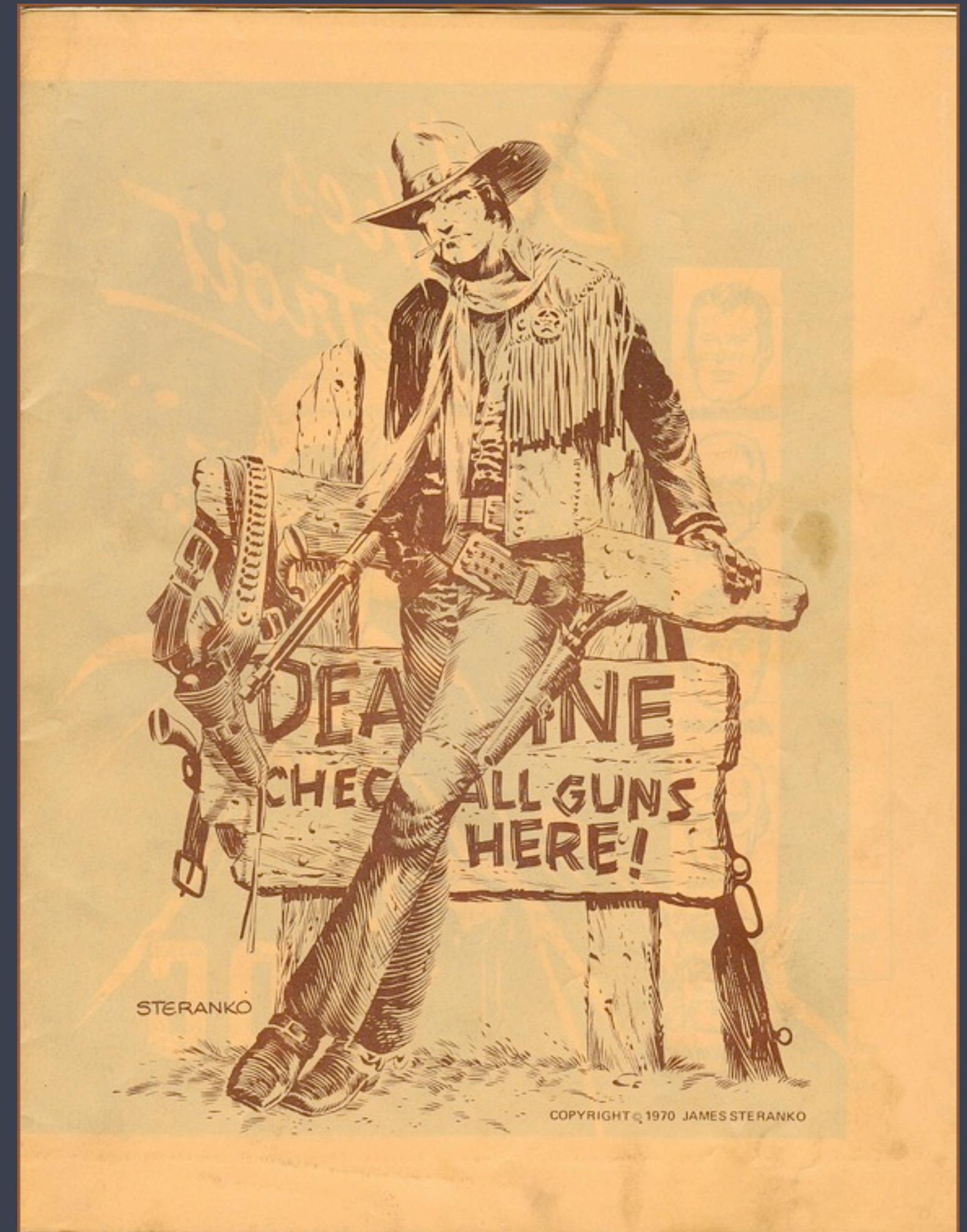
C.B. CEBULSKI
Marvel Editor and writer of Lovers, Spiderman, & More!



POWERS DAY

THE CONVENTION

- ▶ Fan conventions (“cons”) date back to the mid/late 1930s - First World Science Fiction Convention in 1939
- ▶ Informal (non-commercial) comic fan “meet-ups” - often facilitated by letters columns
- ▶ **Detroit Triple-Fan Fair** - first commercial comic book convention (organized by Shelton Dorf in the mid 1960s)
- ▶ Golden State Comic Book Convention - August 1st, 1970 (also organized by Shelton Dorf)
- ▶ Basement of the U.S. Grant Hotel in San Diego - attracted a modest 300 attendees





San Diego Comic-Con

WHY ARE CONVENTIONS IMPORTANT?

(for the development of fandom)

Fan - Creator Interaction



Panels, the New Letters Page





THE LCS

building comic culture, locally



the local comic shop