



**MARVEL**  
**COMICS**  
**GROUP**

**12¢** **39**  
IND. APR

# THE AVENGERS

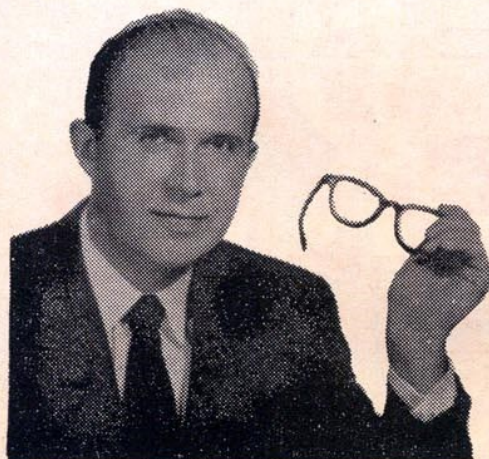
APPROVED  
BY THE  
COMICS  
CODE  
AUTHORITY



**"THE  
TORMENT  
AND THE  
TRIUMPH!"**

**FEATURING:**  
**THE MAD THINKER'S  
TRIUMVIRATE  
OF TERROR!**





Don Bolander, M.A., University of Chicago; B.S., Northwestern University; Director of Career Institute; authority on adult education

# Shamed by Your English?

*You can soon speak and write like a college graduate if you let me help you for 15 minutes a day.*

If you've ever been shamed by a mistake in English, maybe I can save you from years of disappointment.

I have met countless numbers of intelligent men and women who are being held back in their jobs and social lives, often without knowing it, because they cannot express themselves fully and easily.

## WHAT ABOUT YOU?

If people are not impressed by the way you speak and write—and if you're honest enough with yourself to admit it—you have already taken the first big step to success.

## HERE'S WHAT TO DO

You can master good English *without going back to school*. Over the years I have helped thousands of men and women *right in their own homes*.

I can help you, too, if you will give 15 minutes a day to the C.I. Method. My answers to the following questions explain why you need a command of good English and how easily you can *do something* about getting ahead.

**Question:** *What is so important about my ability to speak and write?*

**Answer:** People judge you by the way you speak and write, both in business and in social life.

**Question:** *What does a "command of good English" mean?*

**Answer:** It means you can express yourself clearly and easily without fear of embarrassment or making mistakes.

**Question:** *Are there other advantages to be gained by acquiring a command of good English?*

**Answer:** Yes! Words are actually "tools of thought." The more you learn about words and how to use them to form and express your ideas, the better your *thinking* becomes.

**Question:** *Wouldn't I have to go back to school for a command of good English?*

**Answer:** No, not any more. You can gain the ability to speak and write like a college graduate right in your own home in only 15 minutes each day.

**Question:** *How do I know your method works?*

**Answer:** There are thousands of letters in my files, testimonials from people in all walks of life who have used the proved Career Institute Method to achieve amazing results. If you send in the coupon below, I will share some of these letters with you.

**Question:** *How can I find out more about the Career Institute Method?*

**Answer:** I will gladly mail a free 32-page booklet to you. Just send a postcard or fill out and mail the coupon.

**DON BOLANDER, Dept. 212 B**

**Career Institute, 555 E. Lange Street, Mundelein, Ill. 60060**

Please mail me a free copy of your 32-page booklet, "How to Gain a Command of Good English."

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Street \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_



# THE MIGHTY AVENGERS!

## "THE TORMENT... AND THE TRIUMPH!"

SOME THINGS YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE TO LEARN ABOUT FROM A NEWSPAPER! THUS, AS THE MIGHTY AVENGERS PASS BY A NEWSSTAND AFTER A BENEFIT IN NEARBY CENTRAL PARK, THEY...AND ESPECIALLY AN INCREDULOUS HAWKEYE...ARE STARTLED TO BEHOLD BANNER HEADLINES PROCLAIMING--

THE PAPER SAYS THAT NATASHA STOLE A BUNCH OF TOP-SECRET ATOMIC PLANS--THEN DISAPPEARED! SHE MUST INTEND TO TURN THEM OVER TO AMERICA'S ENEMIES!

IT CAN'T BE TRUE! AND YET... WHY ELSE WOULD SHE HAVE TAKEN THEM? WHY? WHY?

THE BLACK WIDOW--A TRAITOR? IT ISN'T POSSIBLE!

SHE TOLD US THAT SHE WAS LEAVING AMERICA--BUT, WE NEVER IMAGINED THAT SHE MIGHT PLAN TO BETRAY IT!

BLACK WIDOW A TRAITOR?

WE'LL DISCUSS THE MATTER WHEN WE GET BACK TO AVENGERS HQ! THEN--HAWKEYE, WAIT! WHERE ARE YOU GOING?

WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE? I JUST WANNA BE ALONE FOR A WHILE! GOTTA THINK THINGS OUT...

I'LL BE ALONG LATER... MAYBE...

**VOTE**  
THE MARVEL TICKET!  
STAN LEE EDITOR  
ROY THOMAS WRITER  
DON HECK ARTIST  
GEORGE BELL INKER  
ART SIMK LETTERER  
IRV FORBUSH DOG-CATCHER  
A CHOICE, NOT AN ECHH-O!

BULLPEN BULLETIN  
TO BEFUDDLED BROWERS:

WITHIN THESE POWER-  
PACKED PAGES LURK...

THE  
**MAD THINKER**  
AND  
HIS  
**TRIUMPHATE OF TERROR!**

(THAT'S JUST IN CASE YOU THINK YOU PICKED UP A COPY OF BLEEDING-HEART ROMANCES BY MISTAKE! READ ON, TIGER--!)



THEN, AS THE FORM OF THE DOWNCAST ARCHER VANISHES AROUND A CORNER, A CRIMSON-GLOVED HAND RETRIEVES HIS FALLEN TABLOID...



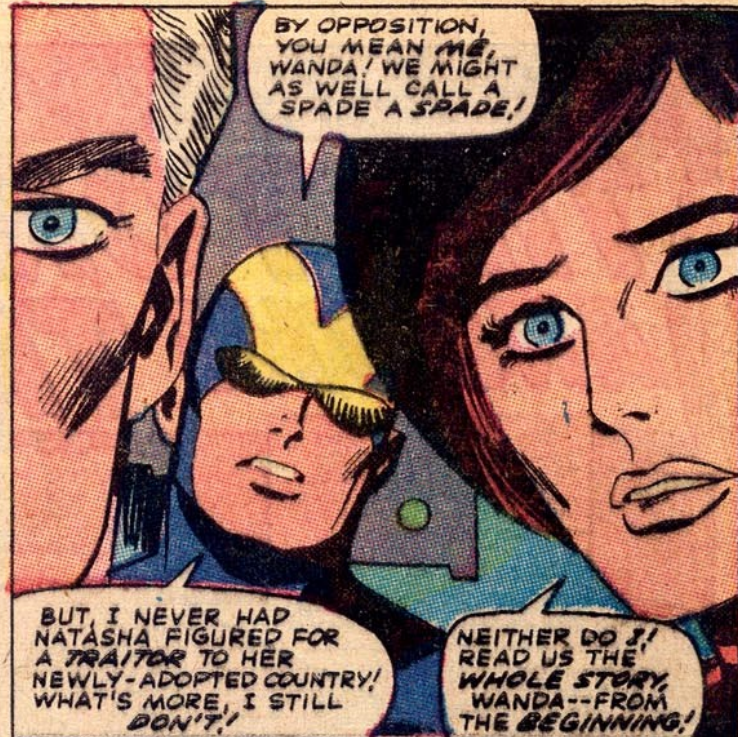
THE ENTIRE ACCOUNT IS BEYOND BELIEF! ONLY DAYS AGO, SHE WISHED TO BECOME AN AVENGER!

TRUE, MY BROTHER...

**DAILY FLA**

**BLACK WIDOW A TRAITOR**

BUT REMEMBER, THERE WAS SOME OPPOSITION TO LETTING HER JOIN!



BY OPPOSITION, YOU MEAN ME, WANDA! WE MIGHT AS WELL CALL A SPADE A SPADE!

BUT, I NEVER HAD NATASHA FIGURED FOR A TRAITOR TO HER NEWLY-ADOPTED COUNTRY! WHAT'S MORE, I STILL DON'T!

NEITHER DO I! READ US THE WHOLE STORY, WANDA--FROM THE BEGINNING!

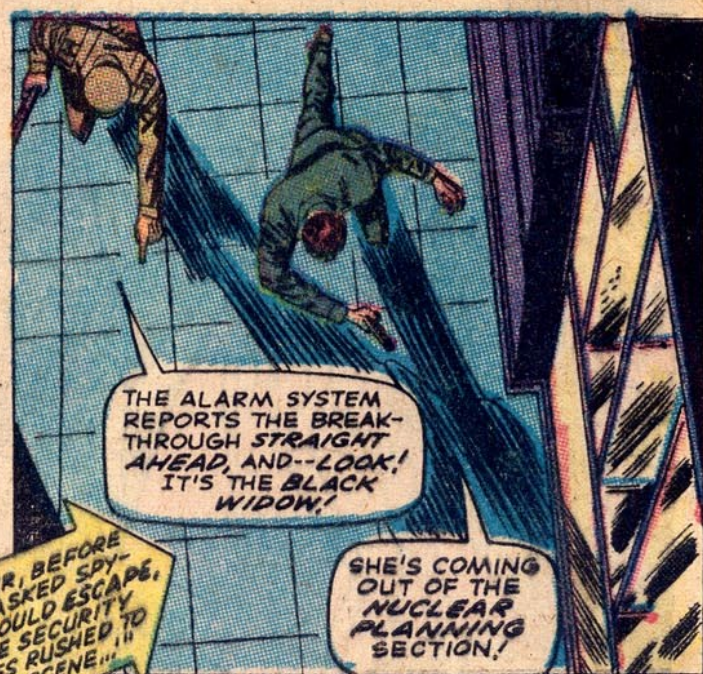


WHO GOES THERE? HALT, OR--UNNNNN!!

**ZASP!**

I HALT FOR NO ONE!

"VERY WELL, JAN! A FEW HOURS AGO, A DEFENSE INSTALLATION IN ARIZONA WAS THE VICTIM OF A ONE-WOMAN ATTACK... IN THE PERSON OF THE NOTORIOUS BLACK WIDOW..."



THE ALARM SYSTEM REPORTS THE BREAK-THROUGH STRAIGHT AHEAD, AND--LOOK! IT'S THE BLACK WIDOW!

SHE'S COMING OUT OF THE NUCLEAR PLANNING SECTION!



THAT MUST MEAN-- SHE'S STOLEN THE BLUEPRINTS FOR THE NAVY'S A-SUB! USE YOUR RIFLE, MAN--SCARE HER DOWN!

I'M TRYIN', SIR! I'M HITTIN' ALL AROUND HER-- BUT, SHE WON'T SCARE!

**KRAK!**

THEN, WE'VE GOT NO CHOICE! JUST WOUND HER IF POSSIBLE-- BUT STOP HER!



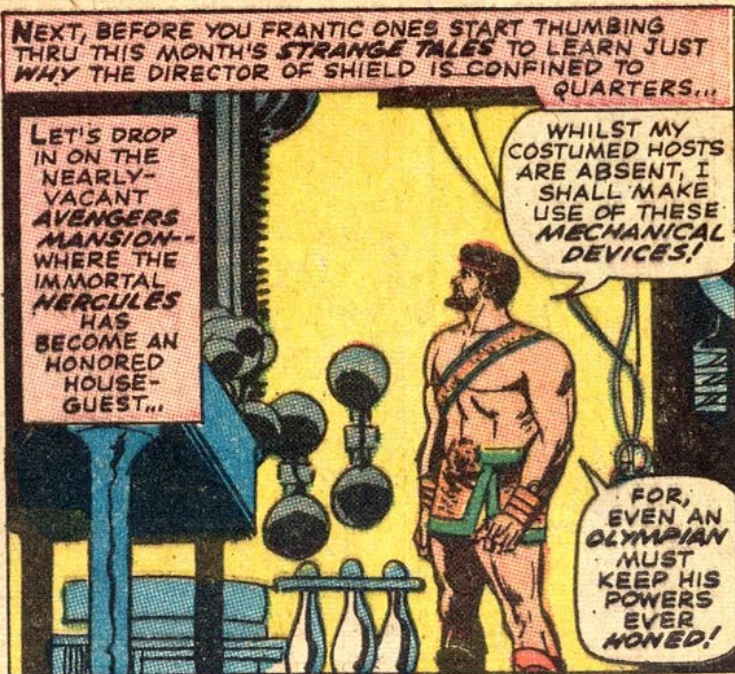
FOOLS! DID YOU THINK TO CAPTURE ONE WHO CAN RACE ALONG THE SHEEREST WALLS?

**PTING! PTING!**

THEY ARE CRACK SHOTS! I AM FORTUNATE THAT MY FLEXIBLE SUCTION SHOES ALLOW ME TO ELUDE THEM!

NOW TO ROUND THIS BUILDING-- AND FADE INTO THE DARKNESS!







BUT SUDDENLY, HERCULES' RHETORICAL REVERIE IS RUDELY INTERRUPTED...



THEN, HAVING PREVIOUSLY FAMILIARIZED HIMSELF WITH SUCH EVERYDAY PHENOMENA AS DOORBELLS, THE LION OF OLYMPUS GOES TO THE BACK ENTRANCE, WHERE...



AND NOW, FOR THE MOMENT, IT IS TIME TO LEAVE OUR EARTHBOUND DEMI-GOD...



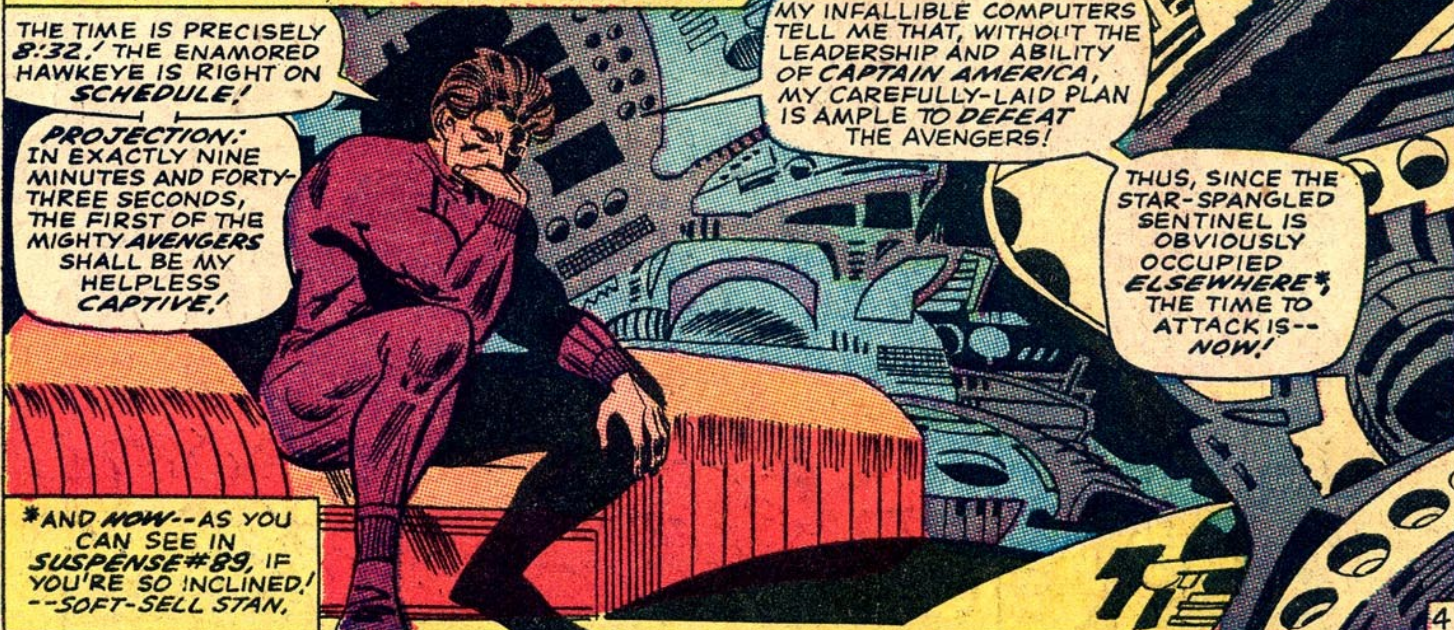
WELL, WADDAYA KNOW! I'M BACK WHERE I HUNG OUT BEFORE I GOT THE NUTTY IDEA I WAS CUT OUT TO BE A SUPER-HERO!



WHY NOT? I AINT DOIN' ANYBODY ANY GOOD WHILE I'M MOPIN' AROUND!



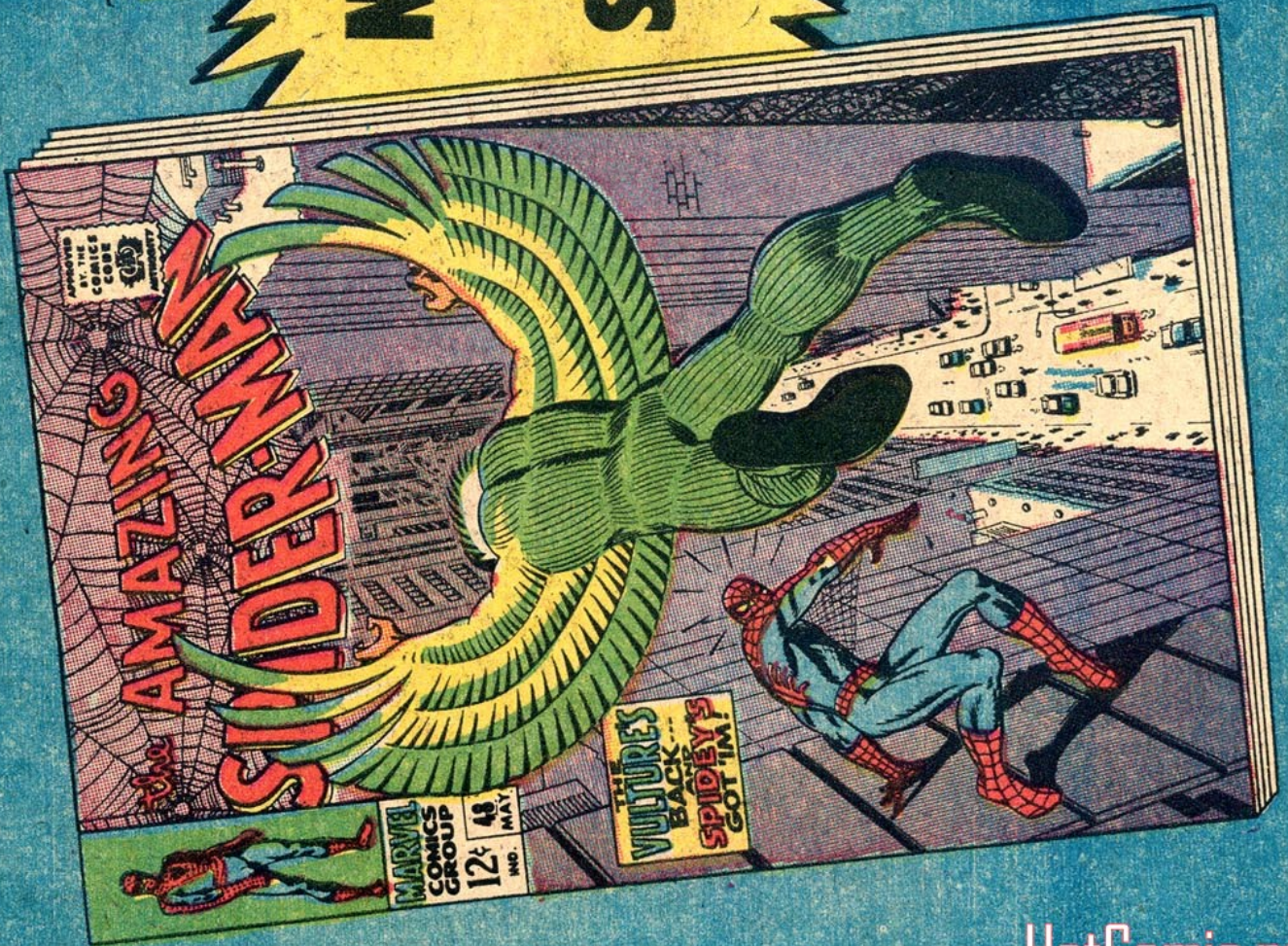
BUT, THE LOVELORN ARCHER CAN HARDLY BE BLAMED FOR NOT KNOWING THAT, IN A GADGET-STUDDED CHAMBER IN AN ALL-BUT-FORGOTTEN SUBWAY TUNNEL, HIS EVERY ACTION IS BEING SCRUTINIZED...ANALYZED...BY AN AWESOME THINKER WHOM THE WORLD TERMS MAD!



\*AND NOW--AS YOU CAN SEE IN SUSPENSE #89, IF YOU'RE SO INCLINED! --SOFT-SELL STAN,



MORE TRIUMPHS FOR MARVEL...!



NOW  
ON  
SALE



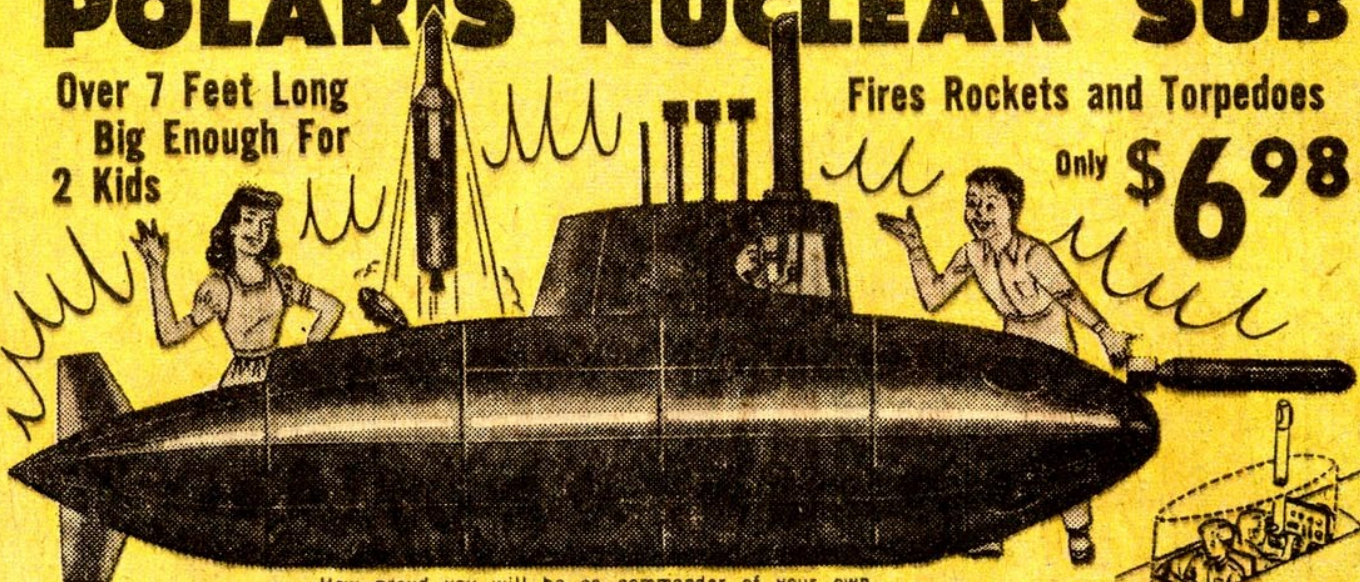


# POLARIS NUCLEAR SUB

Over 7 Feet Long  
Big Enough For  
2 Kids

Fires Rockets and Torpedoes

Only \$6<sup>98</sup>



## FEATURES

- Over 7 feet long
- Seats 2 kids
- Controls that work
- Rockets that fire
- Real periscope
- Firing torpedoes
- Electrically lit instrument panel

How proud you will be as commander of your own POLARIS SUB — the most powerful weapon in the world! What hours of imaginative play and fun as you and your friends dive, surface, maneuver, watch the enemy through the periscope and fire your nuclear missiles and torpedoes! What thrills as you play at hunting sunken treasures in pirate waters and exploring the strange and mysterious bottom of the deep ocean floor!

## HOURS AND HOURS OF ADVENTURE

Sturdily constructed of 200 lb. test fibreboard. Comes complete with easy assembly instructions. Costs only \$6.98 for this giant of fun, adventure and science. (Because of the POLARIS SUB's giant size we must ask for 75c shipping charges.)

## MONEY BACK GUARANTEE

Order today and we will rush your POLARIS NUCLEAR SUB to you. Use it for 10 full days. If you don't think it is the greatest ever—the best toy you ever had—just send it back for full purchase price refund.

## 10 DAY FREE TRIAL

HONOR HOUSE PROD. CO. DEPT. 77PS28  
LYNBROOK, NEW YORK

Rush me my POLARIS NUCLEAR SUB. I can use it for 10 days and if I am not delighted return it for full purchase price refund.

☐ SEND IT PREPAID. I enclose \$6.98 plus 75c to help cover shipping charges.

☐ SEND IT C.O.D. I enclose \$1 good-will deposit and I will pay postman \$5.98 on delivery plus C.O.D. postage.

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CITY \_\_\_\_\_

ZONE \_\_\_\_\_

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N.Y. State residents please add 14¢ sales tax.

# Would You BELIEVE..

that "Would You Believe"  
**GAG CARDS**  
will make you a Star  
of Stage, Screen & Tv? **NO?**

Would you believe they're the  
World's Funniest Cards to Flash  
on Friends and Relatives, at Work,  
at Gatherings — a card for every  
Happening, every Occasion.

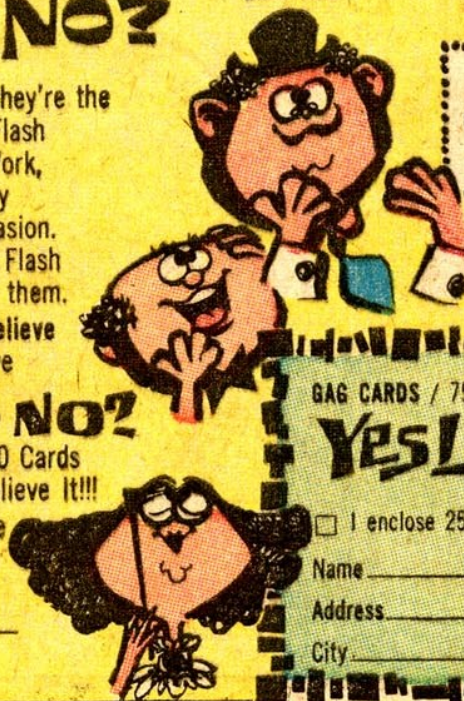
No one can top you when you Flash  
a "Would You Believe" Card on them.

Would You Believe  
that for \$1,000 you can have  
100 cards as Funny or Funnier  
then the samples shown? **NO?**

Would You Believe 100 Cards  
for only \$1? — You Better Believe It!!!

Be the First to be in on the  
"Would You Believe" Craze.

Flash them on your Friends,  
Stump your Family —  
Everyone will Roar!!!



one side of card

other side of card

WOULD YOU BELIEVE  
MY FLYING SAUCER  
IS PARKED OUTSIDE  
?

WOULD YOU BELIEVE  
A TRICYCLE  
?

WOULD YOU BELIEVE  
I CAN LIFT 7,000 LBS.  
?

WOULD YOU BELIEVE  
2 LOLLIPOPS,  
AND A TOOTSIE ROLL  
?

WOULD YOU BELIEVE  
MILLIONS OF PEOPLE  
ADORE ME  
?

WOULD YOU BELIEVE  
MY MOTHER KIND OF  
LIKES ME  
?

GAG CARDS / 7551 Melrose Ave., Dept. 4249 Hollywood, Calif. 90048

**YES!** I Believe It! Rush my sets of 100 "Would You Believe"  
Gag Cards at \$1 per set. I enclose \$\_\_\_\_\_

☐ Cash ☐ Check ☐ Money Order

☐ I enclose 25c extra for Special Rush Handling. No C.O.D.'s

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_

Zip \_\_\_\_\_



WHEN THOSE COSTUMED CLOWNS FALL, I SHALL ADD MANY INVENTIONS OF ANTHONY STARK TO MY COMPUTERIZED ARSENAL! AND, FALL THEY MUST!

IN THE PAST, I HAVE FAILED BECAUSE I NEGLECTED TO CONSIDER THE X-FACTOR... THE SO-CALLED HUMAN ELEMENT!

BUT THIS TIME, MY ENTIRE MASTER PLAN IS BASED ON MY OPPONENTS' VERY HUMANITY!

FOR, I HAVE FED MY COMPUTERS ALL AVAILABLE DATA CONCERNING THE AVENGERS-- FROM THE ABSENCE OF CAPTAIN AMERICA, TO THE WELL-PUBLICIZED TREASON OF HAWKEYE'S BELOVED BLACK WIDOW!

AND, ON THAT BASIS, ALL MY COMPUTERS HAVE ARRIVED AT THE SAME CONCLUSION...

PROJECTION: AT EXACTLY 10:13PM, EASTERN STANDARD TIME--THE FIVE REMAINING AVENGERS... SHALL DIE!

MEANWHILE, IN A DARKENED ALLEY ON THE LOWER EAST SIDE...

I KNOW A FENCE THAT HAS A SET-UP A COUPLE'A BLOCKS FROM HERE!

AT LEAST, HE USED TO...

WITH MY CRUMMY LUCK, HE'S PROBABLY GOT HIMSELF LOCKED UP BEFORE I CAN GET TO 'IM! I--

WHAT'S THAT? OH NO!

HELP... HELP...

NUTS! OF ALL THE SOUNDS I DIDN'T WANNA HEAR...

PLEASE... HELP ME...

THE CRY'S COMIN' FROM THAT WAREHOUSE! AND, THERE'S NO SENSE IN TRYIN' TO IGNORE IT...

I GUESS THIS AVENGIN' THING GETS IN YOUR BLOOD AFTER A WHILE!

SECONDS LATER, HAWKEYE DEMOLISHES A LONG-RUSTED PADLOCK! (AND THE TIME, FOR YOU CLOCK-WATCHERS, IS 8:39!)

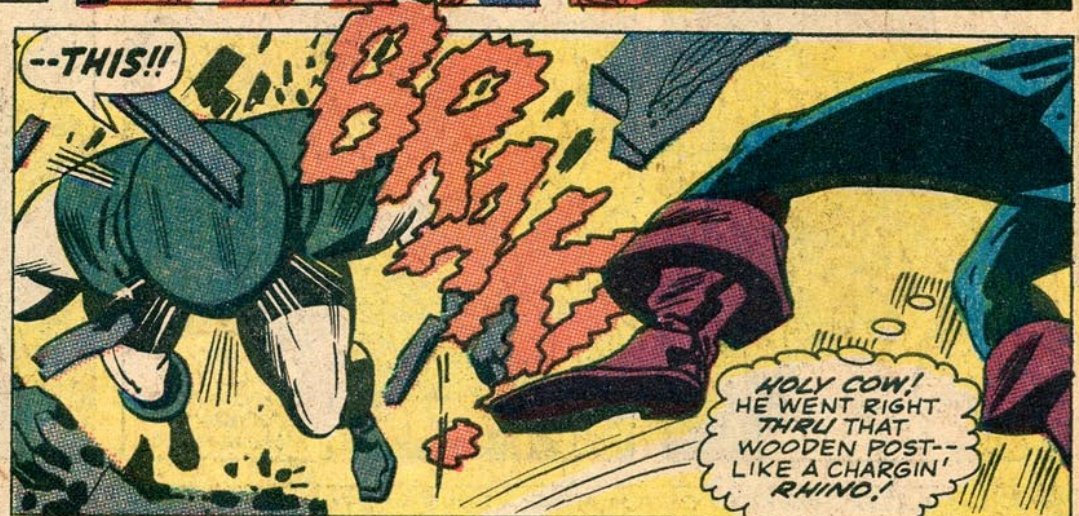
IT LOOKS EMPTY! I DON'T SEE ANYTHING MORE MENACIN' THAN A BUNCH'A COBWEBS!

NOBODY KNEW I'D BE PASSIN' BY THIS PLACE-- NOT EVEN ME! SO, IT AINT LIKELY TO BE A TRAP!

STILL, IF I DIDN'T KNOW BETTER, I'D SAY I JUST WALKED INTO THE PERFECT SETTIN' FOR A FIRST-CLASS AMBUSH!

SLAM!









OH WELL--IF THAT IRON-HATTED NUT WANTS TO PLAY **BEAT-THE-CLOCK**, THAT'S HIS BUSINESS!

AND--THOUGH I'M NOT SURE JUST WHY--**CAPTURIN'** HIM SEEMS TO BE **MINE!**



HERE, PAL-- TRY A SAMPLE OF MY NEW, IMPROVED, STRONGER-THAN DIRT **SIREN ARROW!**

HOPE YOU BROUGHT ALONG YOUR **EAR MUFFS!**



BUT, EVEN AS THE ELECTRONICALLY-ACTIVATED SHAFT BEGINS TO **CIRCLE** ITS HUMAN TARGET...

**EEEEEEEE**

YOU'LL NEVER STOP ME WITH A WEAPON LIKE THAT, YOU BLUSTERING BOWMAN--!

NOT AS LONG AS I CAN RIP THIS INCH-THICK **BOARD** FROM THE FLOOR!



AFTER ALL, YOUR PRECIOUS NEW ARROW **STOPS** VIBRATING WHEN ITS IMBEDDED IN **WOOD!**

WELL, I'LL **BE--!**

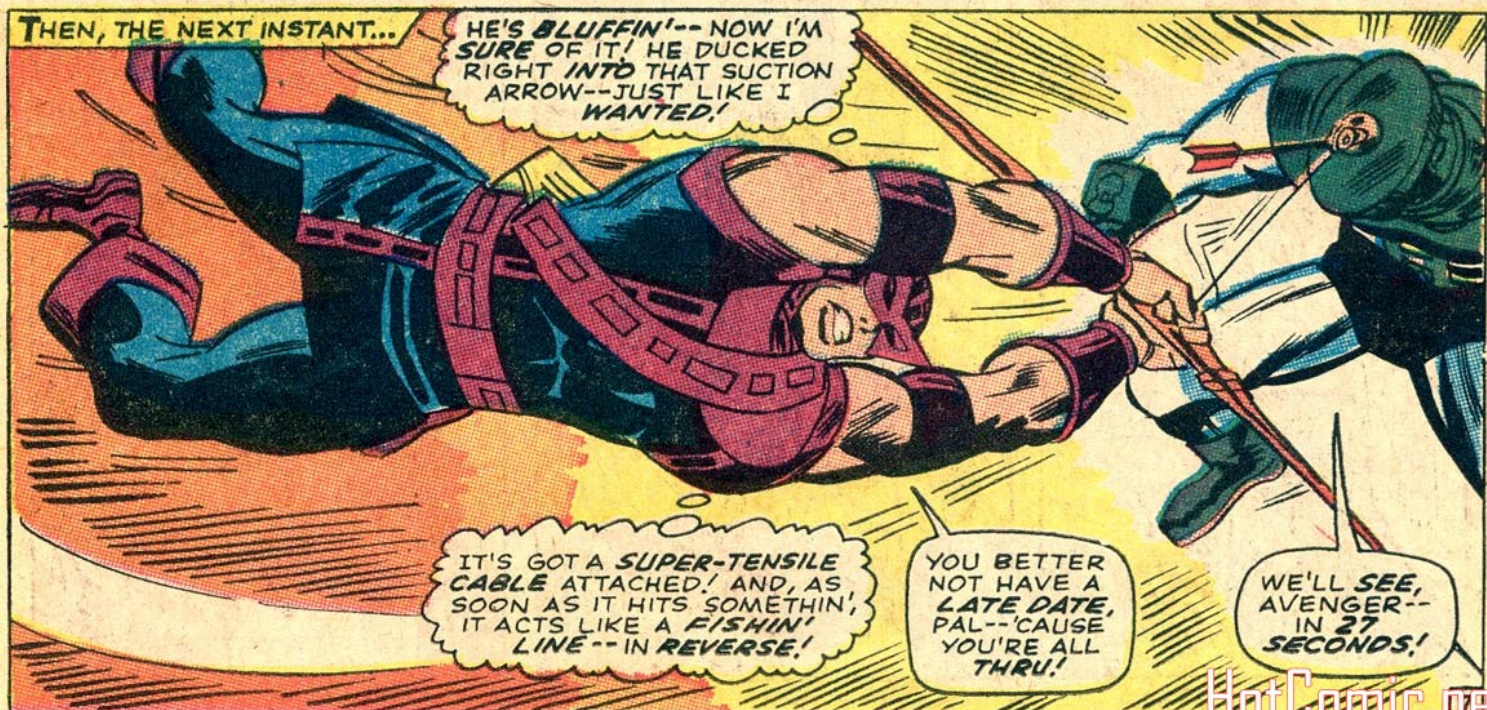


I DON'T **GET** IT! HE KNEW THAT ARROW'S **WEAKNESS**--LIKE HE COULD READ MY **MIND!**

IF YOU'RE SO **SMART**, ANVIL-HEAD, I GUESS YOU KNOW WHAT **THIS** LITTLE BABY'S GONNA DO TO YOU!

YOUR BRASHNESS WON'T LAST LONG, ARCHER!

FOR, IT JUST SO HAPPENS--I **DO** KNOW!



THEN, THE NEXT INSTANT...

HE'S **BLUFFIN'**-- NOW I'M SURE OF IT! HE DUCKED RIGHT INTO THAT SUCTION ARROW--JUST LIKE I WANTED!

IT'S GOT A **SUPER-TENSILE** CABLE ATTACHED! AND, AS SOON AS IT HITS SOMETHIN', IT ACTS LIKE A **FISHIN' LINE**--IN REVERSE!

YOU BETTER NOT HAVE A **LATE DATE**, PAL--'CAUSE YOU'RE ALL **THRU!**

WE'LL SEE, AVENGER--IN **27 SECONDS!**









**LOOK, FELLOWS!**  
 You Can Win Your Choice of  
 Neat Prizes **FREE** Regularly  
**PLUS** AS MUCH AS \$100 to \$500 CASH  
**EVERY WEEK!**

## If You're a Boy 12 Years Old or Older, You Can Be a Happy, Prosperous GRIT Salesman

Join over 30,000 boys who win dandy **FREE** Prizes and make as much as \$1.00 to \$5.00 and even more, selling **GRIT** to friends, neighbors, relatives and others, every week. Everyone is eager to buy **GRIT** from you at only 15¢ a copy, because it contains World News, Sports, Women's Features, Children's Page, Popular Comics, Games, Puzzles, Exciting Fiction.

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We'll send you **GRIT** right away, by mail, along with many valuable selling helps. You pay **ONLY** for the copies you sell until you know how many to order. Like 30,000 other boys, 12 or older, you'll find selling **GRIT** is easy, fun—and profitable!

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If coupon is already torn out, print your name, address, age and date of birth and mail it to:

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 Williamsport, Penna. 17701

**GRIT PUBLISHING CO.,**  
 Williamsport, Pa., 17701

PLEASE PRINT

Dept. MC 47

Send my first bundle of papers, selling helps and prize offers.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Are You a Boy? \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_ Date Born \_\_\_\_\_ Year \_\_\_\_\_

In Care of \_\_\_\_\_

Street and No. \_\_\_\_\_ R.F.D. \_\_\_\_\_

Post Office \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_

Zip Code No. \_\_\_\_\_

Print Your  
 Last Name  
 Plainly Here

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--



AND, THE CAUSE OF ALL THIS FRENETIC CONFUSION IS--  
AW, HOW'D YA EVER GUESS, FRANTIC ONE?

HE GAVE HIS NAME  
AS POWERS--AND I  
RELIEVE  
IT!

WHAT A GROOVY  
HUNK OF MALE!

THOUGH THY WORDS BE  
STRANGE, DAMSELS, THY  
TONE IS ONE OF  
FRIENDSHIP!

COULDST THOU TELL ME  
IF SOME EARTHLY SUS-  
TENANCE MAY BE  
OBTAINED HEREIN?

IS HE  
FOR  
REAL?

NEVER  
MIND  
THAT!  
SHOW HIM  
TO A  
TABLE--  
BEFORE  
WE WAKE  
UP!

RARELY HAVE I BEEN  
TREATED MORE  
REGALLY--OR TO A  
MORE AMBROSIAL  
REPAST!

MINE EXILE DOTH  
BECOME EASIER TO  
ENDURE BY THE  
MOMENT!

YOU MEAN YOU'RE IN  
EXILE, BIG BOY? TELL ME  
THE COUNTRY THAT LET  
YOU GO--AND I'LL NEVER  
GO NEAR THE PLACE!

VERILY FEMALE,  
THOU SPEAKEST  
MORE TRULY  
THAN THOU  
DOST SUSPECT!

WHILE, IN A COMPUTER-STUDED SUBTERRANEAN  
CHAMBER...

SO--HAMMERHEAD  
REPORTS THE  
CAPTURE OF THE ONE  
CALLED HAWKEYE!

THAT LEAVES BUT  
FOUR AVENGERS  
BETWEEN MYSELF  
AND THE PRICELESS  
INVENTIONS OF  
ANTHONY  
STARK...

...AND, EVEN NOW, EVENTS ARE OCCURRING WHICH  
SHALL CUT THAT NUMBER IN HALF...

LOOK! IT'S OUR  
S.O.S. SYSTEM--  
RECORDING A CALL  
FROM HERE IN  
MANHATTAN!

**BLIP!  
BLIP!**

IT MUST  
BE FROM  
HAWKEYE!  
HE'S BEEN  
GONE FOR  
HOURS!

CONDITION BLUE--  
THAT MEANS DANGER!  
WE'VE ALL GOT TO  
REACH HIM AT ONCE!

HOLD ON, JAN! YOU FORGET  
--CONDITION BLUE ISN'T  
QUITE A FULL ALERT!  
ONLY TWO MEMBERS ARE  
TO ANSWER SUCH A SIGNAL!

YOU AND I WILL GO--  
THAT'LL LEAVE WANDA  
AND PIETRO IN CASE WE  
GET A MESSAGE FROM  
CAP!

FINE--  
BUT,  
DON'T  
HESITATE TO CON-  
TACT US, IF  
NECESSARY!

WILL DO,  
WANDA! C'MON,  
HONEY--LET'S  
DUST OFF OUR  
SKY-CYCLES!

THUS, SCANT SECONDS LATER, THE COLORFULLY-  
CLAD PAIR ROCKET ACROSS THE WORLD'S MOST  
FABULOUS SKYLINE...

JAN, I KNOW THAT  
WE'RE SUPPOSED TO  
ECONOMIZE A BIT  
THESE DAYS, BUT WAS  
IT REALLY NECESSARY  
FOR US TO CROWD ONTO  
THE SAME CYCLE?

SOMETIMES,  
HENRY PYM,  
YOU DISPLAY  
ALL THE  
ROMANTIC  
FEELINGS OF  
A DISH OF  
CLAM  
CHOWDER!

DIDN'T YOU  
EVER HEAR  
OF A BICYCLE  
BUILT FOR  
TWO?



OUR PORTABLE  
TRANCEIVER  
INDICATES THE  
SIGNAL CAME  
FROM DIRECTLY  
BELOW!

I DON'T SEE  
ANYTHING DOWN  
THERE BUT  
AN EXCAVATION  
SITE!

THAT'S WHERE THE  
NEW MAMMOTH  
MOTORS BUILDING  
WILL BE! IT SURE  
DOESN'T LOOK  
MENACING--JUST  
DESERTED!

STILL, WHEN WE  
LAST SAW HIM,  
HAWKEYE WAS  
HARDLY IN A MOOD  
TO PLAY PRACTICAL  
JOKES ON US!

NEXT, DESCENDING  
NOISELESSLY INTO THE  
DARKENED SITE, THE TWO  
AVENGERS MAKE A CLOSER  
EXAMINATION...

BUT, BEFORE ANOTHER WORD CAN BE SPOKEN--OR A MUSCLE MOVED--

THAT STEAM  
SHOVEL--IT'S  
DROPPING  
ENOUGH DIRT  
TO BURY US  
ALIVE!

JUMP OUT OF  
THE WAY, JAN--  
THEN USE YOUR  
SHRINKING  
POWER!

NOT A SOUL!  
NOT EVEN SO  
MUCH AS  
A FRESH  
FOOTPRINT!

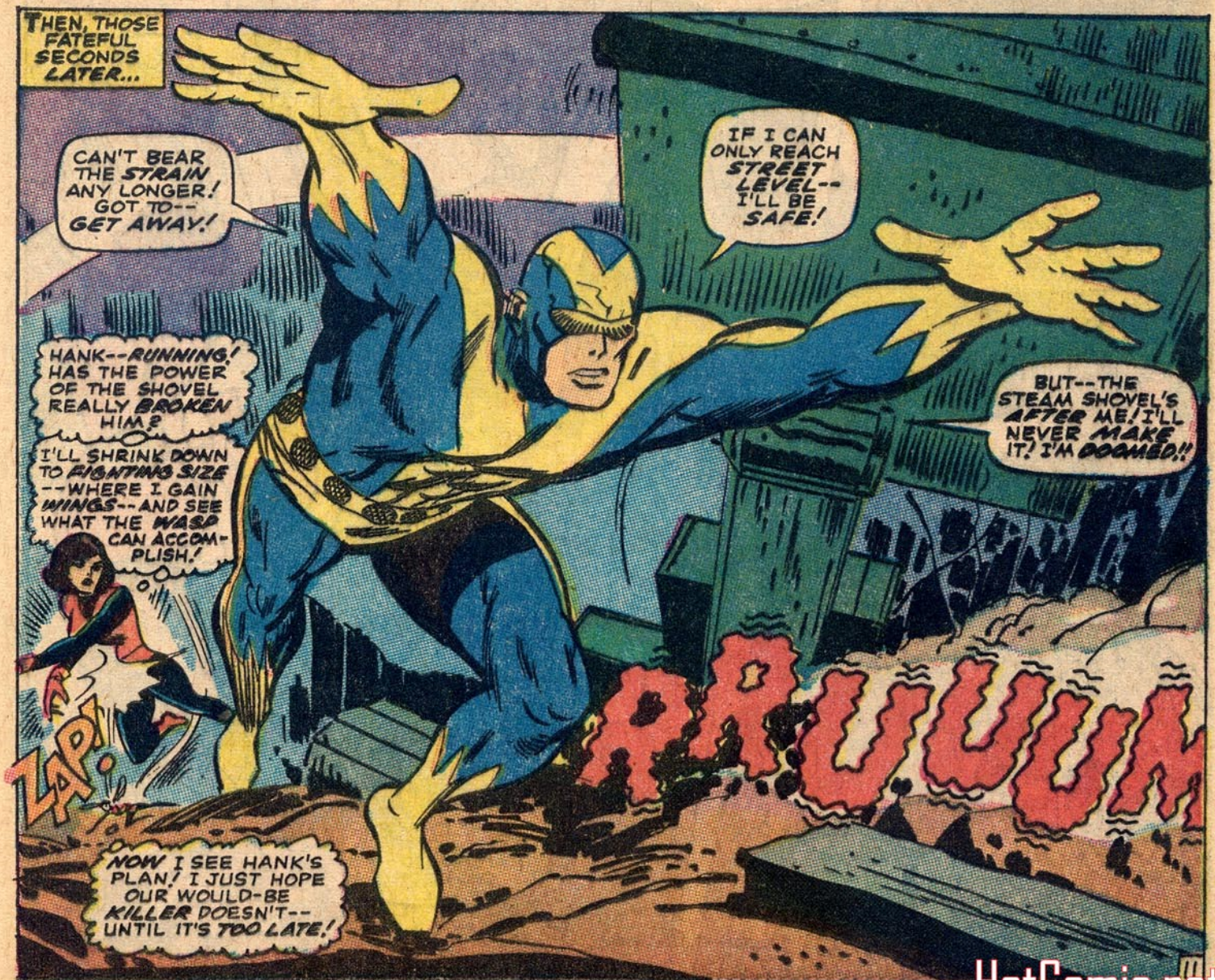
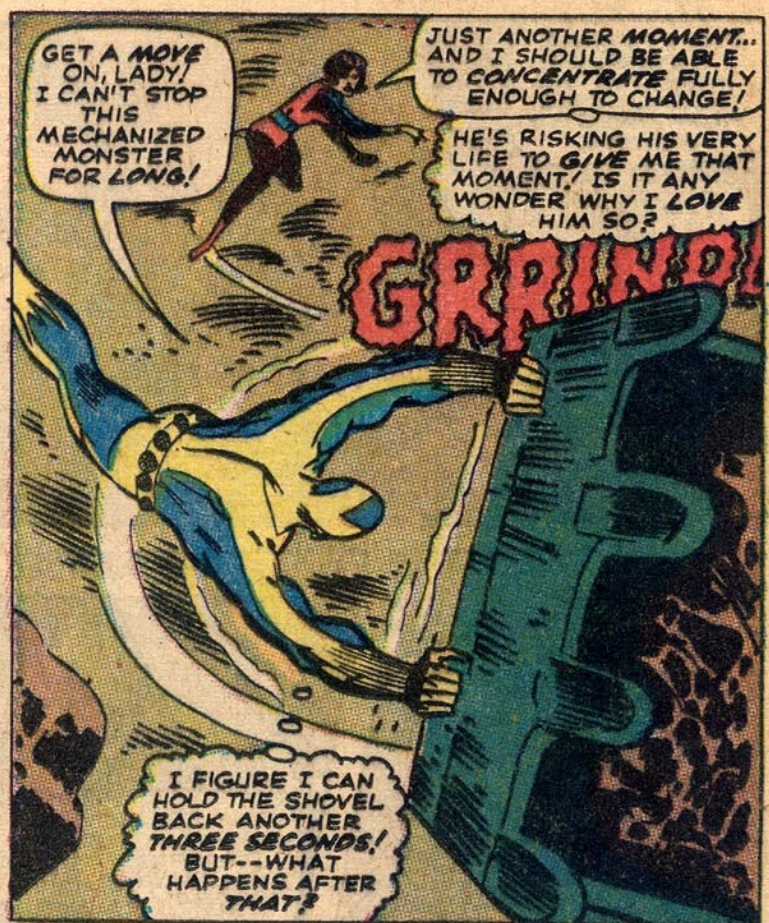
THEN, WHY DON'T  
WE LEAVE? PLACES  
LIKE THIS GIVE ME  
THE CREEPS AT  
NIGHT!

DON'T BE FOOLISH,  
HONEY! YOU'RE A BIG  
GIRL NOW--AT LEAST,  
WHEN YOU AREN'T  
SHRUNK DOWN TO  
WASP-SIZE! JUST--

WAIT!  
THAT  
SOUND--  
RIGHT  
ABOVE  
US! IT  
SOUNDS  
LIKE--

I-- I CAN'T,  
HANK! IT ALL  
HAPPENED--  
SO FAST!!







HOWEVER, AS THE METAL BEHEMOTH GIVES PURSUIT TO THE FLEEING GIANT...



IT'S GOT ME RIGHT WHERE I WANT IT! YET, I'M ONLY GOING TO GET ONE CRACK AT IT-- SO, I'D BETTER MAKE IT GOOD!

IF I FLUB UP-- AND THAT STEEL SCOOP CONNECTS-- THAT'S ALL SHE WROTE!



WELL, HERE'S WHERE I SEE IF A BIO-CHEMIST DID HIS HOMEWORK IN PHYSICS!

THE SLIGHT UPHILL GRADE AT THIS POINT SHOULD GIVE ME JUST ENOUGH LEVERAGE-- I HOPE!

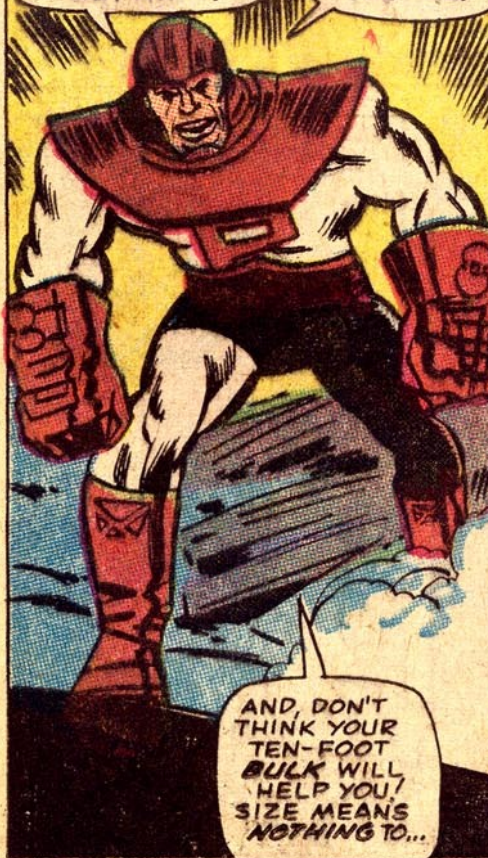
THE NEXT INSTANT, THE RUMBLING STEAM-SHOVEL SEEMS MOMENTARILY TO SWAY-- TO TOTTER BACK AND FORTH--AND...



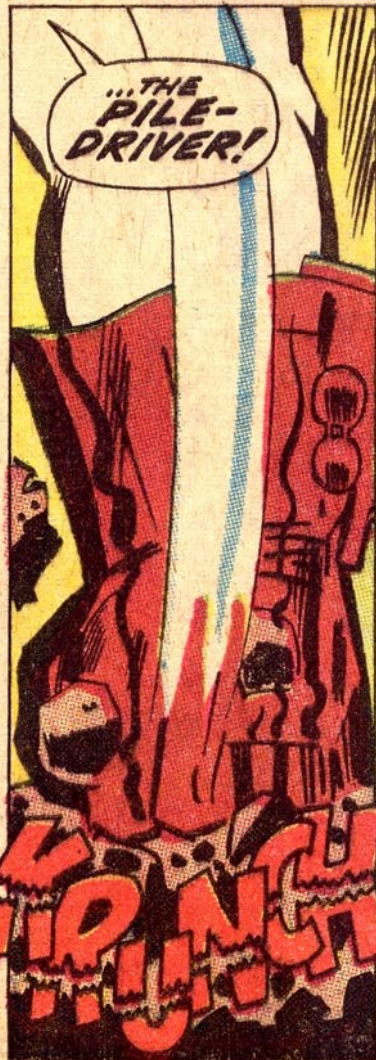
THEN, AS THE SMOKE CLEARS, FROM THE WRECKAGE ARISES... A NEW AND MORE AWESOME MENACE!

I KNEW YOU WERE JUST FAKING COWARDICE TILL THE GIRL COULD GET AWAY!

BUT, SHE'S NOT IMPORTANT TO ME--AND YOU ARE!



AND, DON'T THINK YOUR TEN-FOOT BULK WILL HELP YOU! SIZE MEANS NOTHING TO...



...THE PILE-DRIVER!

CRUNCH!

I'VE HEARD THAT SONG BEFORE, MISTER! WHAT I WANNA KNOW IS...WHERE'S HAWKEYE?

MMMFF! NO GOOD! I WAS TOO SLOW!



THWAK!

HAWKEYE IS OUR PRISONER, YOU ELEPHANTINE OAF--AS YOU SOON SHALL BE!





SO--THIS IS GOLIATH!  
A MAN OF STRAW...FELLED  
BY A SINGLE BLOW!

KNOCKED ME OFF MY  
FEET--! I'M TUMBLING  
INTO SOME SHALLOW  
CONSTRUCTION PIT!

THAT JOKER'S  
STRONGER THAN  
HE LOOKS! AND,  
THOSE OVER-SIZED  
GLOVES OF HIS  
ARE REINFORCED  
WITH METAL!

HANK! TRY TO  
CLIMB BACK UP  
AS FAST AS YOU  
CAN, WHILE I  
KEEP HIM BUSY!

THUS, AS THE SECOND  
EMISSARY OF THE MAD  
THINKER AWAITS HIS  
GIGANTIC FOE'S  
RESURGENCE...

WH--?  
THAT  
STINGING  
SENSATION!  
IT CAN ONLY  
BE...THE  
WASP!

**FWAP!**

THE  
WONDERFUL  
WASP TO  
YOU,  
CHUM!

TOO BAD FOR  
YOU THAT YOUR  
WASP'S STING  
COULDN'T GET  
THRU MY THICK  
COSTUME!

AND, NO  
COSTUME IN  
THE WORLD  
COULD  
PROTECT YOU  
FROM THE  
MIGHTY  
HANDS OF...  
THE PILE-  
DRIVER!

MISSED!

**BRACK!**

BUT  
NOT BY  
MUCH!

WE KNOW YOUR NAME,  
FRIEND! DON'T  
WEAR IT OUT!

THE GIANT--HE  
GOT BACK FASTER  
THAN I  
FIGURED!

YOU  
BETTER  
BELIEVE  
IT,  
CHARLIE!

GIVE HIM  
ONE FOR ME,  
HIGH-POCKETS!  
HE MUSSED MY  
NEW HAIR-DO!

HONEY, IT BEATS ME  
HOW YOU CAN  
WORRY ABOUT HAIR-  
DOS AT A TIME LIKE  
THIS-- BUT, YOU'VE  
GOT IT!



OOOOOFF!

NOW TO DO  
A LITTLE  
SLAMMIN'  
ON MY  
OWN!



**SMASH!**

WAIT! DON'T  
STRIKE ME AGAIN!  
I'LL TELL YOU  
WHAT YOU WANT  
TO KNOW!

MEANTIME,  
MUSCLES  
HERE CAN  
KEEP YAKKIN'  
ABOUT WHAT  
A PUSHOVER  
I AM!

OKAY, PAL--LET'S START  
WITH HOW YOU GOT HOLD  
OF HAWKEYE'S SIGNAL  
RING!



AND,  
KEEP  
THOSE  
FISTS OF  
YOURS  
DOWN--  
OR ELSE!

I DON'T NEED  
TO STRIKE YOU  
WITH MY  
HANDS, FOOL--

NOT WHEN I CAN  
ACCOMPLISH THE SAME  
THING-- LIKE THIS!



**KRAK!**



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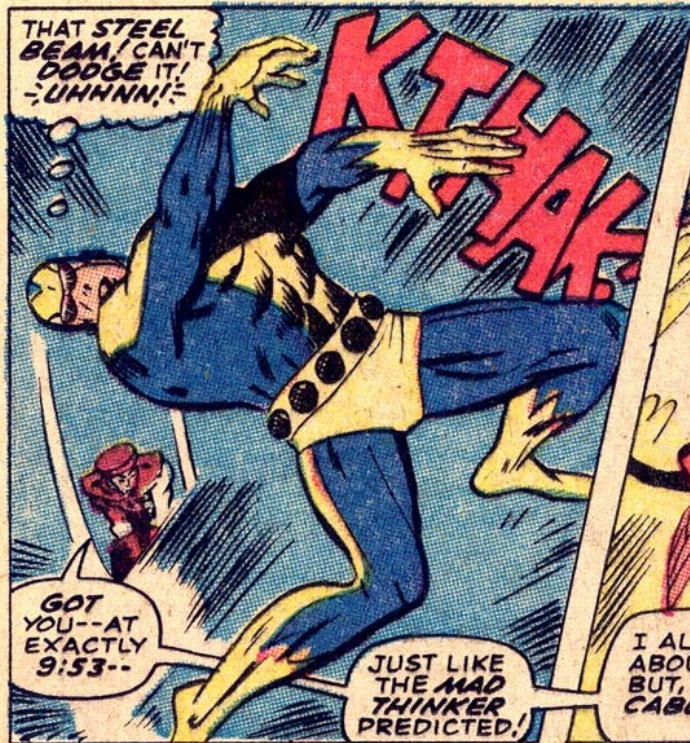
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☐ I understand that by studying KARATE I am morally bound and obligated not to practice KARATE as an aggressor (only to defend myself) and will never abuse it.





THAT STEEL BEAM, I CAN'T DODGE IT! -UHHNN!-

GOT YOU--AT EXACTLY 9:53--

JUST LIKE THE MAD THINKER PREDICTED!

AT THE SAME MOMENT...

**CRASH!**

OHHH...

I ALMOST FORGOT ABOUT THE WASP-- BUT, THAT FLYING CABLE TOOK CARE OF HER!

AND, IN AN OTHERWISE ABANDONED TUNNEL...

EXCELLENT! BOTH CAREFUL PLANNING AND CALCULATED LUCK ARE PAYING OFF PRECISELY AS I INTENDED!

NOW, ONLY TWO AVENGERS STAND BETWEEN ME... AND MY ULTIMATE TRIUMPH!



SOON, NOTHING WILL BAR MY WAY! I SHALL BE A LAW... UNTO THE LAWLESS!

PROJECTION: EVEN THE ACCURSED FANTASTIC FOUR SHALL TREMBLE IN ABJECT FEAR... WHEN THEY LEARN I HAVE EXECUTED THE MIGHTY AVENGERS!

MEANWHILE, BACK AT THE HAPPY ISLANDS...



SING, O Muse, a song of Hercules' tears... Of twelve Olympian labors... over twelve of mortals' years...

The Nemean lion roared, when ARROWS were let loose... But, his strength was no avail against the son of ZEUS!



DON'T QUIT NOW, HANDSOME!



The monster-birds of old did hide the very SUN... The mightiest of heroes did SLAY them, every one!

WHAT A HEAVENLY, MASCULINE VOICE! HE SINGS LIKE HE REALLY LIVED THAT FOLK-ROCK NUMBER!

HE'S A ONE-MAN HAPPENING!

AH, 'TIS DIVINE TO BASK ONCE MORE IN THE ADORATION OF MORTALS! HOW I WISH THE FRIENDS OF THOR WERE HERE BESIDE ME!

DON'T LOOK NOW, O TRUE BELIEVER... BUT, TWO MORE OF THE "FRIENDS OF THOR" MAY BE ABOUT TO SHARE HERCULES' WISH--THOUGH FOR QUITE DIFFERENT REASONS...

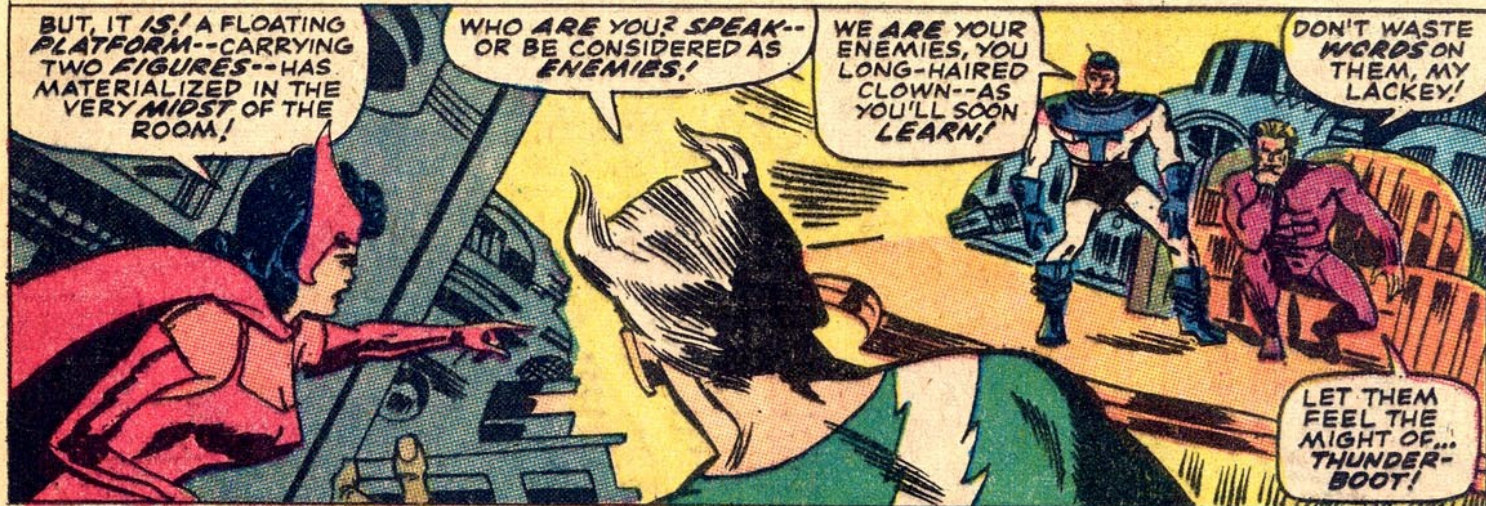


YOUR EYES, MY SISTER! WHAT IS IT THAT YOU SEE?

LOOK BEHIND YOU, PIETRO! IT'S SOME SORT OF FEARFUL APPARITION!

WHAT--? CAN IT BE--?





BUT, IT IS! A FLOATING PLATFORM--CARRYING TWO FIGURES--HAS MATERIALIZED IN THE VERY MIST OF THE ROOM!

WHO ARE YOU? SPEAK--OR BE CONSIDERED AS ENEMIES!

WE ARE YOUR ENEMIES, YOU LONG-HAIRED CLOWN--AS YOU'LL SOON LEARN!

DON'T WASTE WORDS ON THEM, MY LACKEY!

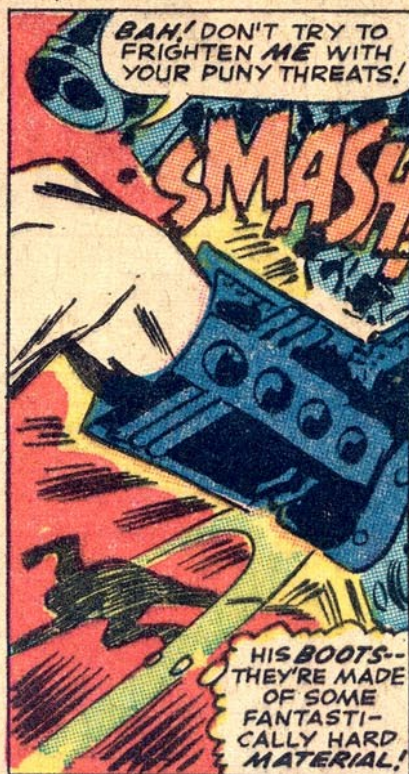
LET THEM FEEL THE MIGHT OF... THUNDER-BOOT!



HURRY, YOU FOOL! MY PLAN CALLS FOR THEM TO FALL WITHIN THIRTY SECONDS!

AND, FALL THEY WILL, THINKER! DON'T WORRY ABOUT THAT!

ON THE CONTRARY, FRIEND-- YOU HAD BETTER WORRY ABOUT IT!



BAH! DON'T TRY TO FRIGHTEN ME WITH YOUR PUNY THREATS!

SMASH!

HIS BOOTS--THEY'RE MADE OF SOME FANTASTICALLY HARD MATERIAL!



YOUR FOOTGEAR MAY BE DANGEROUS, INTRUDER-- BUT THE REST OF YOU SEEMS QUITE VULNERABLE!

OOOF! YOU JUST MADE YOUR FIRST AND LAST MISTAKE, QUICKSILVER...



YOU CAME... TOO CLOSE!

THOOOM!



IT'S... UNCANNY! HE MERELY STAMPED HIS FOOT-- AND THE ENTIRE FLOOR ABOUT HIM VIBRATES!

THE CONCUSSION WOULD FELL A NORMAL PERSON--AND, EVEN I CAN BARELY KEEP MY BALANCE!

I KNEW THAT WOULD SLOW YOU DOWN FOR A SECOND...



AND, THAT SINGLE SECOND IS LONG ENOUGH... FOR THUNDERBOOT!

THOX!

UNHH!



PIETRO--! IF YOU'VE HARMED HIM, YOU SHALL PAY--AND PAY DEARLY!

FIRST, YOU MUST BE RENDERED HELPLESS--BY MY HEX POWER!

YOU'LL NEVER LIVE TO SEE THAT DAY, SCARLET WITCH!





SEE WHAT I MEAN? YOUR SPELL CAUSED THAT MACHINE TO EXPLODE... BUT, I WASN'T STANDING AROUND WAITING!

HE MOVES SO QUICKLY! HIS BOOTS MUST CONTAIN SOME ELEMENT THAT NULLIFIES GRAVITY!



EVEN SO, TO ESCAPE, HE WOULD HAVE HAD TO KNOW EXACTLY WHAT MY HEX WOULD DO--AND THAT IS IMPOSSIBLE!

OR... IS IT?

MY NEXT SPELL WILL BE THE MOST POWERFUL OF ALL! EVEN YOU WILL NOT BE ABLE TO EVADE ITS FURY!



BUT, EVEN AS WANDA SPEAKS...

I HAVE NO INTENTION OF FLEEING, WOMAN...

YOU DID JUST WHAT I EXPECTED--AND, THIS FINAL STOMP WILL FINISH THE LAST OF THE AVENGERS!



THE NEXT INSTANT, TO THE LOVELY MUTANT'S ALARM...

THAT SLAMMING SOUND--IT'S CAUSING SOME SORT OF NEGATIVE REACTION IN MY HEX!

I CAN FEEL ITS POWER FLOWING BACK INTO ME--SOMETHING THAT HAS NEVER HAPPENED BEFORE!

TOO MUCH POWER COURSEING THRU ME--! WHAT WILL IT CAUSE?

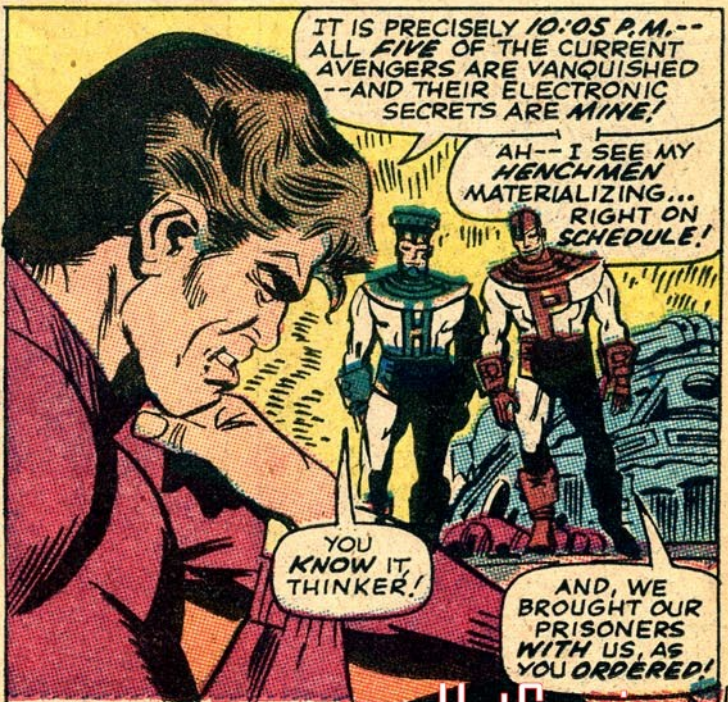


ALMOST INSTANTANEOUSLY, THE SCARLET WITCH HAS HER ANSWER--TO HER FATEFUL REGRET...

THE PSYCHIC BACKLASH--IT SHORT-CIRCUITED A DEVICE BEHIND ME!

OOHHH...

SHE DID NOT KNOW WHAT THE HEX OVERLOAD WOULD CAUSE--BUT WE DID!



IT IS PRECISELY 10:05 P.M.--ALL FIVE OF THE CURRENT AVENGERS ARE VANQUISHED--AND THEIR ELECTRONIC SECRETS ARE MINE!

AH--I SEE MY HENCHMEN MATERIALIZING... RIGHT ON SCHEDULE!

YOU KNOW IT, THINKER!

AND, WE BROUGHT OUR PRISONERS WITH US, AS YOU ORDERED!

CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE



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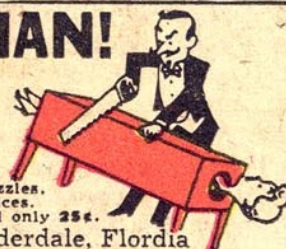
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SINCE MY INFALLIBLE COMPUTERS ALL HAD CORRECTLY PREDICTED MY INEVITABLE VICTORY, I HAVE DECIDED ON THE IDEAL MEANS TO DISPOSE OF OUR UNCONSCIOUS CAPTIVES!

**HAMMER-HEAD! PILE-DRIVER!**  
PLACE THE FOOLS ON THE **ELECTRO-ROD** RECENTLY DONATED BY **TONY STARK!**

NO NEED FOR ALL THE **BIG WORDS, THINKER!** WE KNOW WHAT TO DO!

LISTEN, IN MY BOOK, ANYBODY WHO COULD DESIGN THESE **COSTUMES** FOR US--AND THEN TELL US JUST HOW TO BEAT THE **AVENGERS**--CAN USE ANY WORDS HE WANTS!

WITHIN MINUTES, AN AWESOME **TABLEAU** IS ENACTED...

WELL, THINKER, WHAT'S THE NEXT STEP ON YOUR TIMETABLE?

...AS IF WE COULDN'T GUESS!

MY COMPUTERS CALLED FOR ME TO EXECUTE THE **AVENGERS NOW**... AT 10:13 P.M.!

BUT, I SEE NO NEED FOR **UNDUE HASTE!** I WISH TO **SAVOR THIS GLORIOUS MOMENT OF MOMENTS!**

THEN, AT MY **LEISURE**, I SHALL PRESS A SINGLE SWITCH--AND THE **AVENGERS** SHALL EXIST **NO MORE!**

MEANWHILE, YOU THREE SHALL GATHER THEIR DEVICES FOR TELEPORATION TO MY **HEAD-QUARTERS!**

STILL, I WON'T REST EASY TILL THOSE **JOKERS** ARE **FINISHED!**

WHATEVER YOU SAY, THINKER...

I'M WITH YOU, **BIG-DOME!** LET'S GET IT OVER WITH--!

HEY! LOOK--THE **DOOR!** IT'S **OPENING!**

AND, EVEN AS THE **MAD THINKER** AND HIS COHORTS STARE IN **DISBELIEF**...

**NO! IT IS BEYOND POSSIBILITY!**

MY COMPUTERS DID NOT **PREDICT** THAT ANYONE WOULD ENTER THE MANSION AT THIS POINT!

WHAT UNSEEMLY SIGHT IS **THIS** THAT GREETS MINE EYES?

THE **AVENGERS**--**BOUND!** RELEASE THEM, **BASE VILLAINS**--OR SUFFER THE WRATH OF THE **PRINCE OF POWER!**

BUT, BEFORE EVEN **HERCULES** CAN ACT--AT A SINGLE SYLLABLE FROM THE **MAD THINKER**--

BY MY **BEARD**--!

**WOK!**

**HAM!**

**HAMMERHEAD STUNNED HIM-- BUT, THE INTRUDER HIMSELF GOT IN THE FINAL BLOW!**





WHAT? THOU DAREST CALL HERCULES-- AN INTRUDER??



HERCULES? IF HE SPEAKS TRUE, THEN MY COMPUTED CALCULATIONS ARE USELESS!

THOU SHALT KNOW SOON ENOW THAT THE LION OF OLYMPUS IS NO MERE MYTH!

FOR, THEY DEAL ONLY WITH MEN-- NOT WITH MYTHICAL GODS!

BUT FIRST, I SHALL DIVEST MYSELF OF THESE MORTAL TRAPPINGS!

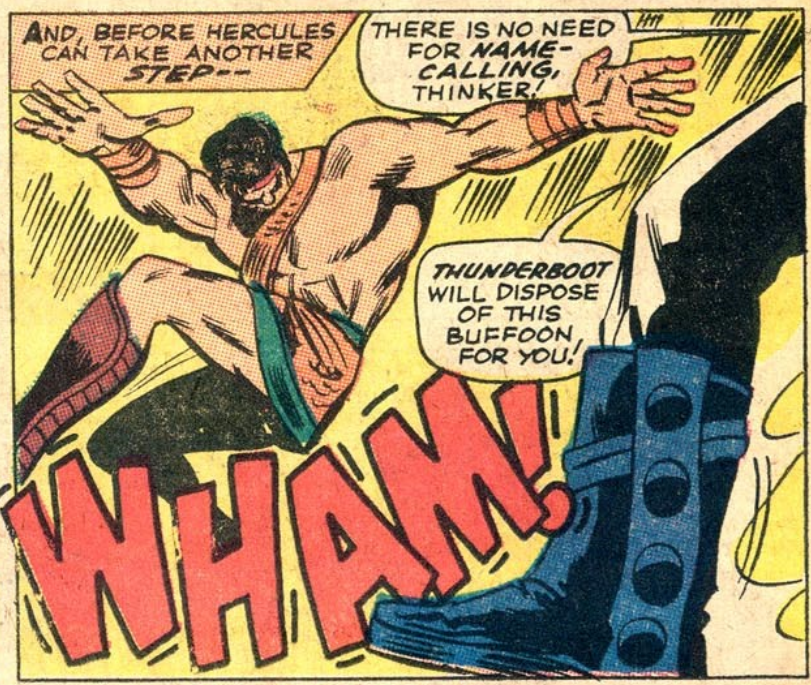


YET, HOLD-- BEFORE I ATTACK THEIR FOES, I MUST MAKE CERTAIN THAT THE AVENGERS ARE TRULY SAFE!

ONE MIGHTY BLOW WILL SMASH YON METAL SHAFT!

HE'S HEADING FOR THE ELECTRO-ROD!

STOP HIM, YOU FOOLS!

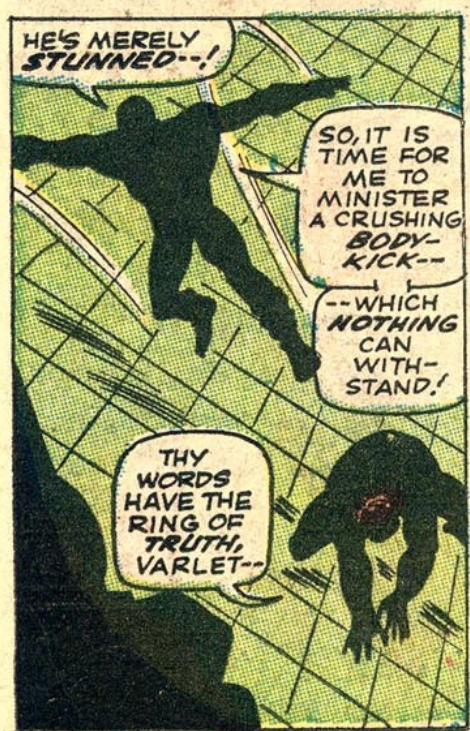


AND, BEFORE HERCULES CAN TAKE ANOTHER STEP--

THERE IS NO NEED FOR NAME-CALLING, THINKER!

THUNDERBOOT WILL DISPOSE OF THIS BUFFOON FOR YOU!

WHAM!



HE'S MERELY STUNNED--!

SO, IT IS TIME FOR ME TO MINISTER A CRUSHING BODY-KICK--  
--WHICH NOTHING CAN WITH-STAND!

THY WORDS HAVE THE RING OF TRUTH, VARLET--



'TIS ALMOST A PITY THAT THY FLYING FEET SHALL NE'ER STRIKE THEIR TARGET!

KRAK!

ARHHH--



PROTECTION: BECAUSE OF UNFORESEEN ELEMENTS, MY PLAN MUST FAIL--UNLESS HERCULES IS DESTROYED WITHIN TWENTY-TWO SECONDS!

PILE-DRIVER! HAMMERHEAD! RENEW YOUR ASSAULT!



YOU DON'T HAVE TO TELL ME TWICE, THINKER!

UNNNH!- THY GLOVES ARE THE COUNTER-PART OF THINE ALLY'S BOOTS!

**KRAK!**

BUT, THY FORMIDABLE FISTS SHALL NOT STRIKE THE SON OF ZEUS A SECOND TIME!

AND NOW, BE ON GUARD, KNAVE!

**THKOW!**

MISSED! AND--I'M WIDE OPEN!

HOWEVER, AT THAT VERY SECOND...

I INTENDED THIS DEVICE FOR QUICK-SILVER--BUT, IT SHALL SERVE ME AGAINST HERCULES, INSTEAD!

**ZZZZZZ**

THE ONE CALLED THE THINKER HATH FIRED YON WEAPON AT ME--AND, MY LIMBS HAVE BECOME AS LEADEN THINGS!

CAN'T HOLD ON TO MY CAPTIVE! HE'S--SLIPPING FREE!

YOU JUST MUFFED YOUR LAST CHANCE, MUSCLE-MAN! NOW IT'S MY TURN AT BAT!

**KOK!**

IT MUST NOT END THUS! THE PRINCE OF POWER CANNOT GO DOWN IN IGNOMINIOUS DEFEAT AT THE HANDS OF A MORTAL!

DON'T TRY TO RAKE IN ALL THE GLORY FOR YOURSELF, PILE-DRIVER!

THIS IS STILL HAMMERHEAD'S FIGHT, ALSO!

**SLAMM!**

UNNNHH!

AND NOW, THUNDERBOOT WILL COMPLETE HIS DOWNFALL--WITH ONE IRRESISTIBLE LUNGE!

HURRY, DOLT! THE FATEFUL TWENTY-TWO SECONDS HAVE ELAPSED--NOW!!

BUT, IN THAT SELFSAME INSTANT...

HOLD IT, THUNDERBOOT! FUN 'N GAMES ARE OVER!

THEN, EVEN AS THE STARTLED THUNDERBOOT STOPS SHORT OF HIS HUMAN TARGET--

GOLIATH IS AWAKE--AND FREE!

MY PLANS--ARE DOOMED!

I'M GLAD TO HEAR YOU SAY THAT, THINKER...

'CAUSE THAT'S ONE PREDICTION I'M GONNA MAKE SURE COMES TRUE!

**BOP!**

HEY, MAN-MOUNTAIN--GET US OUTTA HERE WHILE THEY'RE STILL STANDIN'!

OL' HAWKEYE'S GOT A FEW LICKS COMIN', TOO!

**SOX!**

**WHOO!**





FEAR NOT, IMPETUOUS ONE! THY MOMENT IS FORTH-COMING!

WITH ONE BLOW, I DEMOLISH THY RESTRAINING SHAFT!



NEXT, I SHALL FREE ALL OF THEE--TO EXACT THY VENGEANCE!

EVEN THOR COULD HAVE DONE IT WITH NO MORE EASE!



THEN, AS GOLIATH FIGHTS ALONE, AN AWE-INSPIRING CRY IS SUDDENLY HEARD--

**AVENGERS ASSEMBLE!**

AYE! LET THE HEAVENS RING WITH THE SOUNDS OF BATTLE!

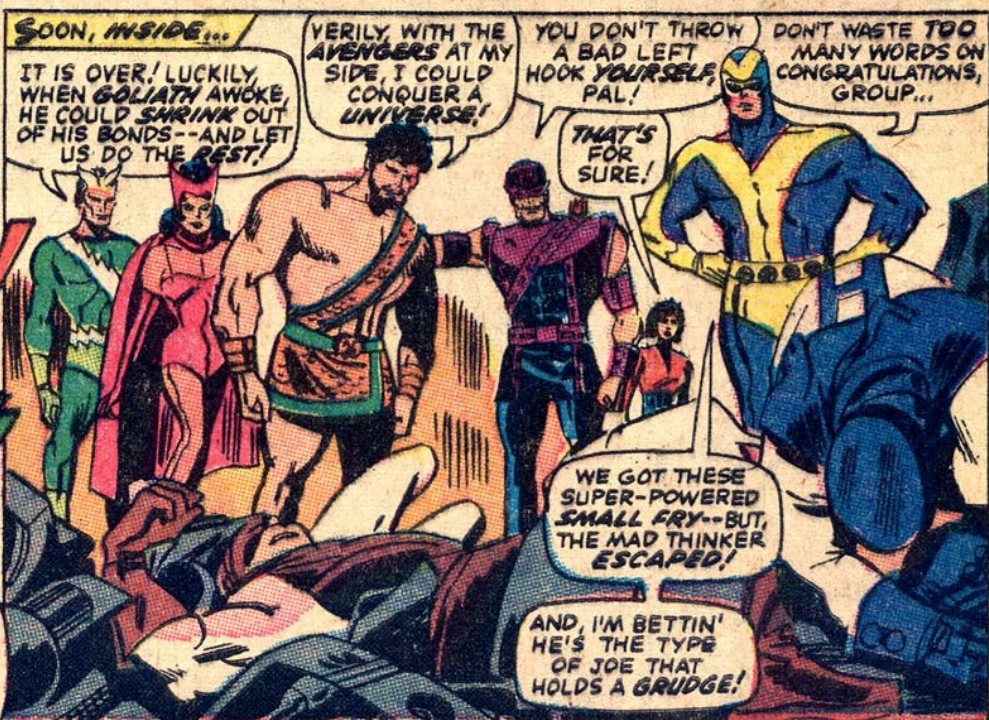


WE'RE ALL OUT OF ROOM, FAITHFUL ONE--SO WE CAN'T SHOW YOU THE ENSUING ONSLAUGHT IN RAPTUROUS DETAIL! BUT, PERHAPS A TYPICAL REACTION BELOW WILL SUFFICE...

THE AVENGERS MANSION--IT SOUNDS LIKE SOMEBODY'S TEARING IT DOWN!

**BAM!**  
**THWOOM!**  
**WRACK!**

THAT'S ALL WE NEED--ANOTHER PARKING LOT!



SOON, INSIDE...

IT IS OVER! LUCKILY, WHEN GOLIATH AWOKES, HE COULD SHRINK OUT OF HIS BONDS--AND LET US DO THE REST!

VERILY, WITH THE AVENGERS AT MY SIDE, I COULD CONQUER A UNIVERSE!

YOU DON'T THROW A BAD LEFT HOOK YOURSELF, PAL!

DON'T WASTE TOO MANY WORDS ON CONGRATULATIONS, GROUP...

THAT'S FOR SURE!

WE GOT THESE SUPER-POWERED SMALL FRY--BUT, THE MAD THINKER ESCAPED!

AND, I'M BETTIN' HE'S THE TYPE OF JOE THAT HOLDS A GRUDGE!



AND, INDEED, BACK IN THE GADGET-LADEN HIDEOUT WHERE HE HAS TELE-PORTED HIMSELF...

I HOPED TO ACHIEVE SUCCESS THIS TIME BY EMPLOYING THE HUMAN ELEMENT--INCLUDING SUPER-VILLAINS INSTEAD OF ANDROIDS!

I COULD NOT KNOW THAT AN IMMORTAL HAD COME TO AVENGERS HQ--BUT, NOW I DO!

PROJECTION: WHEN NEXT WE MEET, NOT EVEN THE MIGHT OF HERCULES SHALL SAVE THE AVENGERS FROM TOTAL DESTRUCTION!

BUT, THAT AWESOME ENCOUNTER WILL HAVE TO WAIT FOR A FUTURE ISH...



MEANWHILE...

WHAT A SUPER-HERO THAT GUY'D MAKE!

YET, HIS THOUGHTS ARE ONLY OF OLYMPUS...AND OF HIS BITTER EXILE!

WE ALWAYS WONDERED WHY THOR SEEMED SO ALOOF...SO DISTANT! AND NOW, AT LAST, PERHAPS WE KNOW!

HOW LONELY IT MUST FEEL TO BE A GOD...DESTINED TO WALK AMONG MERE MORTALS!

NEXT ISH: **THE SUB-MARINER ATTACKS!**

NOTE: OUR LETTERS SECTION APPEARS AFTER NEXT PAGE

HotComic.net







# MARVEL BULLPEN BULLETINS • MARVEL BULLPEN BULLETINS • MARVEL BULLPEN BULLETINS

## A PROFOUND POTPOURRI OF PERPLEXING PRONOUNCEMENTS AND PREPOSTEROUS PHILOSOPHY, ALL PORTENDING PRACTICALLY NOTHING!

**ITEM!** Notice anything different about this page? We decided to omit our "Mighty Marvel Checklist" and see if anyone will miss it! We figure you can easily find out what we're featuring in our other mags by merely looking at the covers, or reading the "coming attractions" panel at the end of each of the letters pages. But, if you feel life isn't worth living without the missing column, let us know, and we'll bring it back for you! Fair 'nuff? Okay, now that that's out of the way —

**ITEM!** Didja hear about our big junket to Hollywood last November? STAN (The Man) LEE and Cheerful CHIP GOODMAN zipped out to the coast to confer with GRANTRAY-LAWRENCE, the studio which produces the MARVEL SUPER-HEROES show. While Chip discussed contracts, credits, and various other cerebral celluloid considerations, our leader had the time of his life poking around behind the scenes and seeing how the mercy Marvel masterpieces are adapted to the screen! It was really a ball — and we still haven't been able to get the sunglasses or beret away from ol' Smiley!

**ITEM!** We need help! You've got to give us the answer to the most burning question of the day! We get a zillion letters a week asking about Honest IRVING FORBUSH, the world's most famous non-entity! Now, our problem is this — would you like to see a picture of Honest Irv — or is it more fun to let him remain an unknown enigma? Your letters alone will give us the earth-shaking answer! (We kind'a hope you'll decide that he should remain a mystery — because if we should ever actually have to dig up a picture of him, then we'll really be in a jam!)

**ITEM!** Here's more agonizing addenda on the blood-curdling Brand Echh controversy! We're constantly receiving letters and phone calls taking us to task for not striking back at one of our largest competitors, due to the fact that their references to us in their own magazines seem to be getting nastier and nastier. (Naturally we have to take our fans' word for this, because we hardly ever read those mags!) Anyway, since we haven't nearly enough space to print all the letters we've received dealing with this monumental matter, we've taken some excerpts from a few and put 'em all together, like this —

"Dear Marvel, when you guys refer to Brand Echh, you mean ALL your competitors. But, there's one outfit which takes it personally. It's a shame they're so self-conscious and pitifully aware of their own shortcomings. But now they've stooped to attacking you personally. They've claimed in their letters columns that you don't write all your own stories — they've ridiculed and parodied your most successful characters — they've taken the name of your company and poked fun at it. They haven't even sense enough to realize they're just hurting themselves, because the readers are clever enough to know that you're just clowning around while they're acting like spoiled, back-biting boors!"

Well, all we can say in answer is — there are many talented guys and gals employed by our various competitors. A good many of them have worked for us in the past, and some may, hopefully, be back working for us again in the future. We have both respect and affection for the hard-working artists and writers throughout this hectic industry of ours, and would never knowingly, by word or deed, wish to put them down. The True Believers amongst you — and that includes all our rabid readers — know full well that we find it hard to take anything too seriously — and we're prone to make OURSELVES the butt of our jokes nine times out of ten. We've gotten a kick out of the funnin' and feudin' with Brand Echh, thinking of it as a good-natured rivalry which you could enjoy sharing with us. However, if we've ruffled any feelings, we're truly sorry. We're really not mad at anybody, except the hambone who said we don't write all our own stories! We almost wish he were right — then maybe we would not have these bags under our eyes from all those sleepless nights hunched over our typewriter! And that, tiger — is that!

**THE WRAP UP!** Let's close with a few personal items about our own Marvel madmen. **ITEM:** We've known Jazzy JOHNNY ROMITA for years, but it wasn't till last week that we found out ol' Ring-A-Ding is a volunteer fireman out on Long Island! **ITEM:** If you think that art and production are Jolly Solly BRODSKY'S only talents, take it from us — don't ever play poker with 'im! Hoo boy! **ITEM:** Didja know that Fearless FRANKIE GIACOIA, who's just about the best inker this side of Da Vinci, is also as good a penciller as you can find? — And one of these days, if we can ever yank the paint brush outta his hand, we'll prove it to you! **ITEM:** If STAN (The Man) LEE and JACK (King) KIRBY happen to meet in the street, they might not recognize each other! The two characters have been so busy lately that they haven't seen each other in weeks. Can you imagine producing sensational strips like theirs by collaborating over the phone? Well, you better believe it! **ITEM:** Bet you didn't know that Wondrous WERNER ROTH worked for the Bullpen over a decade ago, when he did a way-out western hero named The Apache Kid! Anyone remember that far back? **ITEM:** Not only is Darlin' DICK AYERS as talented an artist as you can find, but he never ceases to amaze us with his speed! Slick Dick can pencil a page almost as fast as you can read it — and he can ink it even faster! **ITEM:** One of these days we'll see if we can get GIL (Sugar Lips) KANE to race the Darlin' One in completing a strip, 'cause Garrulous Gil is also a S.D.F.C. (Speed Demon, First Class!) Say! How about a drawing race for charity? Wouldn't THAT be something! **ITEM:** It's a wonder Dazzlin' DON HECK is still talking to us! Wait'll you read THE AVENGERS this month and count how many super-heroes the poor guy hadda draw in that one ish! But, y' know somethin'? He was never greater! (Okay, Donnie — now you owe US a plug!) Well, that's it, literature

lover! We'll be back before you know it with more of the same. (Aww, quit groaning! You only have to read it — we have to WRITE it!) And cheer up, Roy, Flo, Marie, Bill, Larry, Gary, etc. We'll mention you next time! Hang loose, Marvelite—victory's still in sight! 'Nuff said!



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And there are more being added every month, natch!

### Let's meet 26 more M.M.S. members!

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# AVENGERS ASSEMBLE!

SEND YOUR LETTERS TO: THE MARVEL COMICS GROUP, SECOND FLOOR, 625 MADISON AVE., NEW YORK, N. Y. 10022

Dear Stan, Roy, and Don,  
AVENGERS #36 was below the usually high standards of Marvel. The story was far out and the art wasn't so hot either. What was the Black Widow there for?? It's bad enough she's always hanging around the Avengers' headquarters, but now she goes on a mission with them. She isn't an Avenger, so what's she doing there? I'm surprised they let her go along. Please don't let her join the Avengers. While you're at it, get rid of the Scarlet Witch and Quicksilver. The mag was better with four Avengers. Also, there was a mistake on page 18, panel 4! B.W. said that all the Avengers except Captain America have been captured. Then who was that guy the Ultroid was holding on panel 3 of the same page who was dressed in red, white, and blue, with wings coming out of his head?? Issue #36 proved that even the Bullpen has a few bad days.

Dan Slade, 19 Kathy Dr.  
Seymour, Conn.

A few *bad* days, Danny boy? According to much of the multitudinous mail we get, it's all we can do to squeeze in a couple of *good* ones now and then. As to the identity of the star-spangled stranger in AVENGERS #36, we managed to scrounge up a dog-eared copy of that imperishable ish and, sure enough, there he was, in all his gladiatorial glory! Would'ja believe that, seeing our agonized assembler in the hands of the unspeakable Ultroids, ol' Honest Irv himself rushed out, wrapped an American flag around himself, and got captured on purpose so that the real Cap could get away? Anyway, that's the way Dashin' Donnie Heck says it happened, and you won't catch us arguin' with our favorite Avengers artist! (He *has* to be our favorite—he's the only pencil-pusher in the Bullpen that knows who all the current *members* are!)

Dear Stan, Roy, and Don,

Goliath and the Wasp should be booted out of the Avengers. I have reached this conclusion after reading issue #36. Goliath's attitude toward the Black Widow's candidacy for membership in the Avengers bitterly enrages me. As I see it now, the original Avengers are certainly inferior to the team of Hawkeye, Cap, Wanda, and Pietro. Goliath and the Wasp are the weakest Avengers in character. Goliath's feelings that he is superior to the others and his belief that the original Avengers were greater than the new Avengers make him the biggest idiot in Marvel-dom. The Avengers certainly do not need a nut like that! What they do need is a heroine like the Black Widow or a hero like Daredevil. I feel that Wanda and Pietro are the most powerful Avengers, and the present team is simply superb!

Deane Blakeney III, 3301 Cimmaron  
Midland, Tex.

Okay—let's see if we can tabulate your suggestions with Dan Slade's (from the previous letter) and thereby come up with the ideal Avengers roster! We'll toss out Pietro and Wanda for Dan's sake, and get rid of Hank and Jan for yours. Next, when we get a few more of our monthly Down-with-Cap and Dump-Hawkeye

letters, we can drop *them*! Then, when non-member Hercules wanders back to Olympus, we'll just write stories about Sam Rosen and Artie Simek, and change the name of the mag to THE AVENGING LETTERERS! Come to think of it, that sounds like a great idea—thanks a mill, Deane!

Dear Stan, Roy, and Don,

I sincerely hope that you were only kidding when, in #36, you stated that you were going to tone down on the continued yarns in the future. As a member of the MMMS, I feel that I have a right to say that to discontinue the use of continued stories in your mags would be to lower the quality of your present stories to the half-issue and single issue flops that you wrote when Marvel first tried its hand at super-heroes. A story that is two, three, and even four issues long is necessary in developing the characters to the fullest extent and producing the finest in Marvel literature. In recent months, according to the statements of ownership, Brand Echh readers have converted to Marvel in large numbers, and this is due largely, I believe, to your use of longer and finer stories. Don't ruin this very excellent record by discontinuing the long stories. I'd like to close with the following words which have helped me to convert all my non-comic-reading friends into full fledged Marvel addicts—"All other comic books are just plain comics—only Marvel is literature!" 'Nuff said!

David Glish, 1723 So. 32nd St.  
Milwaukee, Wisc.

Fear not, faithful one—we don't plan to abandon continued tales altogether. We're just trying to cut down on the cliff-hanger endings a bit, that's all! But, rest assured you'll still be getting the same peerless plots—the same cognizant character development—the same aesthetically-rewarding artistry—that you've come to expect in this, the Marvel Age of Comics! (We'd say more, but we can't go on till somebody brings Stan a box of Kleenex. You know how hard it is to work with tear-filled eyes!)

Dear Stan, Roy, and Don,

Congratulations on AVENGERS #36—Marvel does it again! Never one to rest on their laurels (whatever they are), you have given us a new super-hero. I am referring, of course, to the "web-head" Captain America that Hawkeye mentions on page 15 and who makes an appearance on page 18 lovingly crushed in the embrace of an Ultroid, whereas the real Captain America has evaded capture. When do we get a formal introduction to this latest ingenious product of our favorite Bullpen? But that's all right—we love you anyway!!

Mr. & Mrs. Keen Hahn, 61 Division St.  
Easthampton, Mass.

Thanks a heap for your much-appreciated assurances, Mr. & Mrs. H.! For a minute there, you had us worried! But, about the capricious confusion of Cap with everybody's favorite wall-crawler, Rascally Roy says he wrote that particular yarn while visiting friends in Missouri, and can't be held responsible for any more



he does while he's away from his beloved Manhattan! And, on that note, our dizzy defense rests—or is it collapses? Oh well . . .

Dear Stan, Roy, and Don,

Being a loyal member of the MMMS, I feel that it is my duty to say that "the old Marvel Bullpen just ain't what it used to be". When I used to open a Marvel I wouldn't see in big letters, "Watch Marvel Super-Heroes on TV!" (And don't think I'm saying this just because I don't get the show in this area.) The main reason for this slump is just this. You aren't spending enough time on your comics. With all these gadgets, contraptions, and doohickies, I don't blame you. Get rid of them! But, just the same, most of your stories still hold the same old Marvel magic. E Pluribus Marvel!

Donald Bray, 900 Minto St.  
Winnipeg 10, Man., Canada

And a jaunty "Nuff said" to you, Donnie! Actually, though, it'd be impossible to convince the *wives* of Strainin' Stan and the hard-working Mr. Heck that their hubbies spend too little time slaving over a hot comic book! (You'd have an even harder time telling Relentless Roy's wife—since the Rascally One is single!) But, the thing that grieved us most about your letter was the statement that certain areas of your fair Dominion are deprived of the Marvel Super-Heroes TV show! We hereby promise to investigate this regrettable lapse in our Good Neighbor Policy at the earliest possible moment! Till then, hang loose, tiger—help is on the way!

Dear Stan, Roy, and Don,

I would like to say that AVENGERS #36 was the greatest story ever printed. But I almost had heart failure when I saw the story was continued. I know that in order to print better stories, you must run them through two, possibly three or four issues, but I have some ideas on how you can get the stories into only one or two issues. First, cut down on idle talk. Too many words take up space. Second, cut down on full page illustrations. They also take up too much space. Lastly, cut down on activities at Headquarters. In #36 almost two full pages were spent on fooling around. When are you going to bring back the original Avengers? Compared to them, the new Avengers couldn't whip a wet noodle. Also, kill off Aunt May and have Spidey join the Avengers. Put Quicksilver and Scarlet Witch in the X-Men where they belong. I don't care if you print this or not, just so long as you read it.

Floyd Stillman, 1535 University Ave.  
Bronx, N. Y. 10453

You better believe we read it, Mr. S—your letter, and about a zillion others a day! (You don't think we got this case of eyestrain readin' the *Wall Street Journal*, do you?) Actually, we're already planning some slam-bang spectaculars that'll fill most of your requests—though not the doleful death of Aunt May. Personally, friend Floyd, we wouldn't noice that one around if we were you—not unless you want a visit one of these nights from a mighty unfriendly neighborhood Spider-Man, that is!



Dear Stan, Roy, and Don,

I've got a mildly earth-shaking question that I hope you will answer. In SUSPENSE #83 you told a fan that . . . Cap's swingin' shield doesn't withstand ray guns

and cannon blasts—unless they're itty bitty ray guns and kinda tired cannons!" Would you look at AVENGERS #32, page one where it gets hit with a ray that Goliath said, "has the kick of a Missouri mule! . . ."! Also, on page 3, panel 2, Goliath tries to slug Cap and hits his shield, and Goliath is very slightly strong! Also, on page 17, panel 3, do you see the rays? The rays are being reflected by Cap's shield. In issue #34 his shield stops a laser ray in panel 3, page 19. That ray wasn't so very tired. On the cover of #35, it is shown stopping a laser ray. On top of all this, you say his shield is ". . . just a sheet of iron . . ." And you're contradicting yourselves because in SUSPENSE #86 you said, ". . . then it (the shield) is made virtually invulnerable. . . ." You also said to a fan that it was composed of a special element. Question: just what's with Cap's shield? What is it? What does and doesn't it withstand? The first to answer gets an official autographed red, white, and blue no-prize.

Bill Mooney, 7307 Stanford Ave.  
University City, Mo. 63130

Now you've done it, Bill! Smiley's been charging around the office all day, shouting, "I just gotta win that official autographed red-white-and-blue no-prize! It'll go great with my new violet-purple-and-chartreuse no-drapes!" So, you can expect to learn more about Cap's swingin' shield in the near future—but it's anybody's guess as to whether your answer will come in THE AVENGERS, TALES OF SUSPENSE, or maybe FANTASY MASTERPIECES! The way we work, it'll probably end up as a pin-up page in MILLIE THE MODEL! (We'll do anything to sell an extra Marvel mag, frantic one!)

Dear Stan, Roy, and Don,

I am a soldier over here in Wildflecken, Germany, and have been reading comic books for many, many years. My theory is that you never get too old to enjoy reading them—to quote the old saying, "from 8 to 80". From time to time you have depicted certain scenes in some of your mags that weren't explained, and that is the reason for my first letter to you. I use as my reference AVENGERS #35, page 2, middle panel—Cap's shield was completely destroyed by the laser beams so it would have seemed, and yet on page 10, panel 2, Wham-o! Cap appears complete with his shield again. Now I ask you, where, oh where, did the shield come from?? Nice trick! Does he have a whole closetful of spares? By the way, in an earlier mag, Tony Stark had devised a type of magnetic device on the shield and on Cap's left glove so as to be faster in removing and replacing. What happened to that? Well? I do follow all your mags because of the intrigue and mystery in all your plots. Good luck!

SP5 George E. White, Jr., RA54016023  
144th Ord. Co.

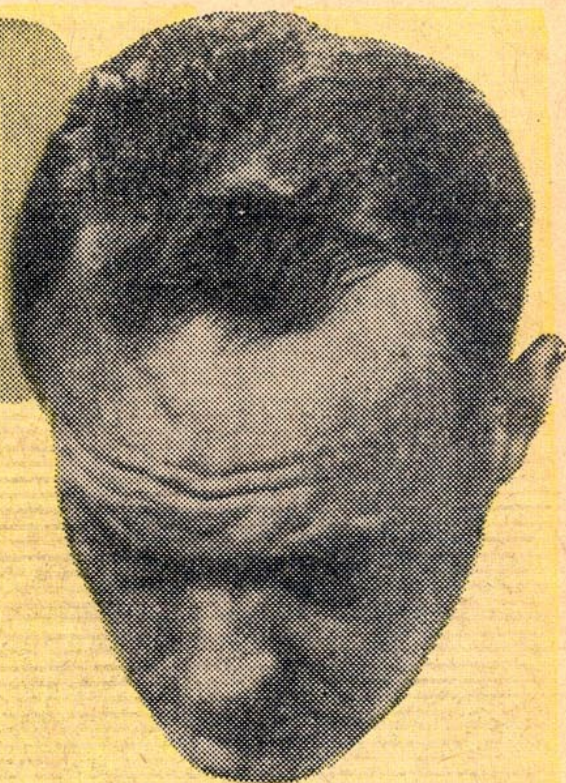
APC, New York, N. Y. 09026

We need it, pal, with sharp-eyed Marvelites the world over waiting to pounce eagerly onto any tiny, insignificant detail we might have missed (like, whether or not Cap's shield can save his life from a laser beam—*hoo boy!*). And so, in our typical cowardly fashion, we'll offer a wide-track, fluid-drive no-prize to the Merry Marcher who does the best job of solving the what-happened-to-Cap's-shield mystery! (Also, if he remembers the ish in which Cap said he *threw away* all of Tony Stark's titanic transistors, we'll throw in a set of no-tires!)

NEXT ISH: As if Dashin' Don Heck doesn't have enough trouble just remembering that Hawkeye's quiver-strap goes over his left shoulder—and that it's the Black Widow who's working for SHIELD, not the Wasp—Stan the Man and Roy the Boy decided to saddle him with the task of drawing everybody's favorite Atlantean monarch, the sensational Sub-Mariner! We think you'll snap your cool when you see Namor tackle the Avengers and the mighty, magniloquent Hercules, with the U.S. Navy tossed in for good measure! And, just in case you're one of the hold-outs who need an extra push to buy a mag, you'll catch a few glimpses of Captain America between missions, too! So, be here next ish, frantic one—AVENGERS #40 is your kind of monumental masterpiece! 'Nuff said!



# Must I Lose My Hair



**T**ODAY about 15,000,000 Americans are bald or getting bald. Yet many of them need not have lost their hair, or continue to lose it. If baldness cannot be cured, at least in many cases it can be prevented. In fact, we have been doing just that for 20 years.

Hair loss is generally progressive. Once it starts, it rarely stops. **It has to be stopped.**

Itchy scalp, dandruff, excessive oiliness or dryness are common symptoms that often lead to hair loss. These are the symptoms of a scalp disorder known to dermatologists as seborrhea. Neglect of these symptoms invites baldness.

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A few treatments and you will see the difference, your friends and family will notice it.

Here is our generous offer to you. It presents an opportunity to you so compelling that we urge you, in fairness to yourself, not to pass it up. We take all the risk. If Ward's Formula does not bring you all the benefits we

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I must admit I didn't have much faith in it, but I hadn't been using Ward's one week before I could see it was helping me. I could feel my hair getting thicker.

*E. K., Cleveland, Ohio*

Out of all the Hair Experts I went to, I've gotten the most help from one bottle of Ward's Formula.

*C. La M., Philadelphia, Pa.*

After using Ward's for only 12 days, my hair has stopped falling out.

*R. W. C., Cicero, Ill.*

I am tickled to death with the results. In just two weeks' time — no dandruff!

*W. T. W., Portola, Cal.*

I feel encouraged to say that the infuriating scalp itch which has bothered me for 5 years is now gone.

*J. M. K., Columbus, Ohio*

Male pattern baldness is the cause of the great majority of cases of baldness and excessive hair loss, for which neither the Ward treatment nor any other treatment is effective.

state, all the results you want, simply return the empty bottle for **double your money back**. You are the sole judge.

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If you are worried about getting bald, if you are seriously interested in preventing it, order Ward's Formula now. You have nothing to lose. You take no risk. If Ward's does not bring you the same results it has brought to so many thousands of other customers, you get **double your money back** on return of empty bottle. What could be fairer?

Hair loss does not stop by itself. It has to be stopped. Take the first step toward stopping it by filling out and mailing the coupon now.

H. H. Ward & Co., Inc., 19 West 44 Street, N. Y. 36, N. Y. © 1966

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skinny  
weakling**



**says JOHN SILL**

I added 7 inches to MY CHEST, 3½ INCHES to EACH ARM. No, Pal, You don't have to be a chicken-chested skinny weakling like I was only a few weeks ago.



**"I LOST 30 LBS.  
of dangerous  
UGLY FAT  
4 inches off my WAIST!"**

**says  
Felipe Mendez**



**Which of these 2  
ME'S is YOU?**

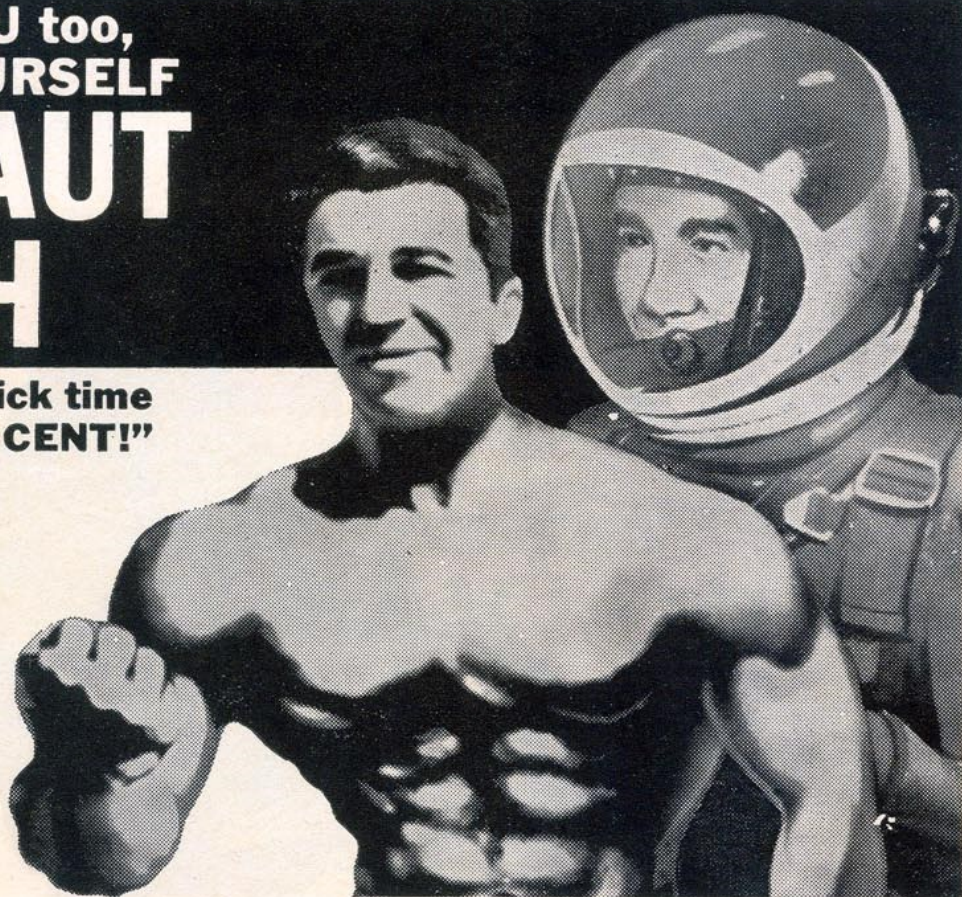
"That 220 lb. FAT-BOY was ME a few weeks ago." Look at him NOW! Gave him MIGHTY MUSCLES, added 7 inches to his CHEST, 3 inches on each arm! No! I don't care how fat and flabby you are. All I want is minutes a day in your home to make you over by the same method.

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Today hundreds of men and women who never thought they could be artists are working at easels and drawing boards, making pictures and getting well paid for it. They all can thank a group of famous artists who have devoted much of their time and talent to helping others find success in art.

### Some of the People the Famous Artists Have Helped

Carl Koch was an 18 year old apprentice in a Chicago art studio when he enrolled. Today he prepares ads for such companies as General Motors and Firestone—has won five gold medals.

Howard Sanden of Minneapolis took the Course while still in high school. He is now a successful artist—last year he and his wife traveled through Europe and the Middle East on important art assignments.

Paul Sullivan enrolled at 14. His Famous Artists training helped him work his way through college.

Stan Bowen, father of three children, was trapped in a dull, low-paying job. By studying with FAS he

became a sought-after illustrator, has opened his own studio.

With Famous Artists training Rosemary Roberts was hired by a top department store as an artist—with a big chance to advance.

Oregon housewife Helen Tryk lives 150 miles from the nearest big city. But she does fashion illustration, has her own studio, runs an art workshop, does portraits.

### A Plan to Help Others

It started over 18 years ago when a group of America's most successful artists—men like Albert Dorne, Norman Rockwell, Jon Whitcomb, Al Parker and Stevan Dohanos—met in New York City. They knew that all over America there were people who liked to draw who could be turned

into good artists. Albert Dorne asked, “Why can't we give these people the training they need—including all the trade secrets and know-how we've learned over the years?”

He suggested a new kind of art school—a home study art school—that would give talented people the best professional art training, no matter where they live.

The famous artists agreed. Taking time from their busy careers, they created a remarkable series of art lessons covering every aspect of drawing and painting. They illustrated their lessons with over 5,000 “here's-how” illustrations. The lessons start from scratch and cover every skill a top artist needs. Finally, they developed a wonderful way to give each student personal correction and advice all through his training.

The famous artists with the School are not surprised at the success of their students. The opportunities open to successful artists today are enormous. The School continually gets calls from all over the country asking for practical well-trained students—not geniuses—who can step into full-time or part-time art jobs. And practical, thorough training is what the School offers.

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To find others with art talent worth developing, the Famous Artists created a 12-page talent test. Thousands paid to take this test, but now the School offers and grades it free. Men and women who do well on the test—or offer other evidence of art talent—may enroll in the School. But there's no obligation. Simply mail the coupon below.

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 I would like to find out whether I have art talent worth developing. Please send me, without obligation, your Famous Artists Talent Test and information about your courses.

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