



MARVEL
COMICS
GROUP

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THE AVENGERS

APPROVED
BY THE
COMICS
CODE
AUTHORITY



THE RED GUARDIAN!

HERE
HE IS...



DESTINED
TO BE THE MOST
TALKED ABOUT
SUPER-VILLAIN OF THE
YEAR!
(AND WAIT'LL YOU LEARN
HIS STARTLING
SECRET IDENTITY!)

THROW YOUR VOICE



Throw your voice into tricks, behind doors, everywhere. Instrument fits in your mouth and out of sight. Fool teacher, friends and family. Free book on "How to Become a Ventriloquist." No. 137 — 25¢

MAGIC CARDS

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SURPRISE PACKAGE



Are you willing to take a chance? We won't tell you what you get, but because you're willing to gamble, we'll give you more than your money's worth. No. 678 — Only 50¢

JACK POT BANK

A Dime-operating Jack Pot Bank that works just like the one armed bandit in Las Vegas. Just deposit the dime and spin the handle. Reels spin and look like the real stuff. Dimes are removable. This game should not be used for gambling purposes, only for fun. No. 2060 — 1.98



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KETSUGO
ONLY \$1.00



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REDUCE ANY ASSAILANT TO CRINGING HELPLESSNESS IN SECONDS

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Boomerang

Here's something new in target throwing. In case you miss, it comes right back to you, and bingo! you're all set to "fire" again. More fun than a "barrel of monkeys." No. 141 — 75¢



ATOMIC SMOKE BOMB

Just light one and watch the column of thick, white smoke rise to the ceiling, mushrooming into a dense cloud, just like an A Bomb. No. 971 — 20¢



SEE BEHIND GLASSES

A specially treated pair of sun-glasses with secret mirrors that enable you to see behind you without anyone knowing you're watching. Really comes in handy at times. No. 30 — 75¢

TREASURE CHEST OF FUN

EXHAUST WHISTLE

Just slip it into the exhaust pipe of your friend's car... then watch him when he starts the engine! The howls and noises will make him think the motor's about to blow up or fall apart—while you roar with laughter. No. F193 — 50¢

WORMS

Drop these seemingly innocent pellets into a glass of water and magically a worm will appear. Can you imagine the look of horror on your victims face? It's harmless. No. 612 — 15¢



ONION GUM

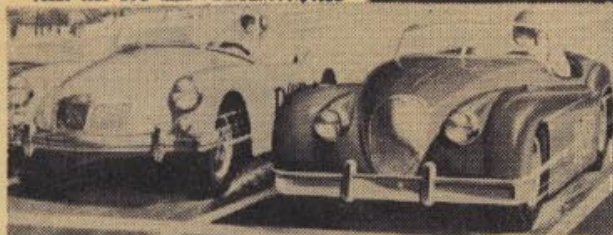
Yes—Looks like real chewing gum but tastes like... like... ONIONS! Its too funny! 12 slices to a pack. No. 281 — 20¢

MINIATURE SECRET CAMERA

Precision camera so small, it fits in cigarette pack. Weighs 2½ ounces and takes 10 pictures per roll. Precision ground lens and time expose shutter. Can be hidden anywhere. Complete with free roll of film. No. 788 — \$1.00
6 Rolls Film 98¢

COMPLETE, POWERED DRAG-RACING KIT

This complete drag-racing course includes two sports cars over 5 inches long—an MGA Mark II and a Jaguar XK140—a starting gate, guide lines to keep the cars on course, and STOP bumpers for the finish line. Decals and racing numbers are also included, plus easy-to-follow instructions for building these exciting dragsters. Item No. 973 — \$1.00



WHOOPEE CUSHION

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The most popular joke novelty in years! Wind up and wear it like a ring. When you shake hands, it almost raises the victim off his feet with a "shocking sensation." Absolutely harmless. No. 239 — Only 50¢

X-RAY SPECS

An Hilarious Optical Illusion \$1.00

Scientific optical principle really works. Imagine—you put on the "X-Ray" Specs and hold your hand in front of you. You seem to be able to look right through the flesh and see the bones underneath. Look at your friend. Is that really his body you "see" under his clothes? Loads of laughs and fun at parties. No. FL7 — \$1.00



Pen Size—Clips On Your Pocket—6-Power Magnifier. This exciting new 6-power wide field magnifier is cleverly concealed in a pen-sized pocket scope that lets you "peek" to your hearts content. So handy for Sporting Events, Counter-spying and Girl Watching. Also contains a 30-power full microscope to thrill any naturalist. Not a toy, but a real instrument. Full money back guarantee if not delighted. Item No. F59 — \$1.98

Secret Spy Scope



TRICK BLACK SOAP

Ordinary looking piece of soap. Victim washes face and gets blacker and blacker. When he gets a look in the mirror, he'll be shocked. Harmless. No. 575 — Only 25¢

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☐ Send C.O.D. I will pay postman on delivery plus C.O.D. and shipping charges.

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N.Y. State residents please add 2% sales tax.

Sorry, we cannot ship orders for less than \$1.00

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THE MIGHTY AVENGERS!

"COLOR HIM... THE RED GUARDIAN!"

THE IMPOSSIBLE HAS OCCURRED!
FOR THE 48 HOURS THAT HAVE
ELAPSED SINCE THE DEFEAT OF
DIABLO, PEACE AND QUIET
HAVE REIGNED SUPREME AT
AVENGERS MANSION! THEN, JUST
AS CAP AND HAWKEYE RETURN
FROM A NOCTURNAL
EXCURSION--

HEADS UP,
MY FELLOW
AVENGERS!

STAN LEE
ELATEDLY EDITS AND EXTOLS A
ROY THOMAS-JOHN BUSCEMA
POWERHOUSE PIECE de RESISTANCE!

INKED BY GEORGE BELL
LETTERED BY JERRY MANN

(AND, IF YOU CAN THINK OF A
BETTER PLACE ON THIS PAGE
TO PRINT OUR CAVORTIN'
CREDITS, CONSIDER
YOURSELF NO-PRIZED!)

WHAT IN--?
THAT COMET-FAST
CREEP GRABBED THE
BOW RIGHT OUTTA
MY HANDS! I'LL--

I SHALL HANG
UP THESE HEAVY
WEAPONS FOR
YOU, IF YOU
DON'T MIND!

HOLD IT, HAWKEYE!
DON'T YOU SEE WHAT'S
HAPPENED?

QUICKSILVER
HAS LEARNED
HOW TO FLY!

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AND, AS THE SHIELD AND BOW, ARE SWIFTLY PUT AWAY...

HOW DID YOU GAIN THIS NEW POWER, MY BROTHER?

ALLOW ME TO EXPLAIN, WANDA!

BUT FIRST, I MUST WREST THE ATTENTION OF HERCULES FROM HIS PRECIOUS ILIAD!

EH? I LIKE THIS NOT, FLEET ONE--!

UH OH! PIETRO'S PLAYING WITH FIRE!



AN OLYMPIAN GOD ISN'T GOING TO CARE MUCH FOR BEING BAITED BY A MERE MORTAL!

I'D BETTER SEE IF I CAN QUENCH PIETRO'S EXUBERANCE--BEFORE HERCULES BEATS ME TO IT!

REIN UP, SON! THIS IS CAPTAIN AMERICA TALKING!

AS ALWAYS, I SHALL HONOR YOUR WISHES, STEVE ROGERS--

--AFTER I DEMONSTRATE HOW EASILY I CAN NOW ELUDE YOU!

MISSED!!

NOT ONLY CAN HE FLY-- HE'S ALSO FASTER THAN HE USED TO BE!

BUT, I'LL BE READY FOR HIM ON THE NEXT PASS--AND IT'LL BE A DIFFERENT STORY!

SWOOOSH!

HOWEVER, THERE IS DESTINED TO BE NO SECOND PASS, FOR ...

I FEAR I MUST APOLOGIZE, AVENGERS!

IN MY ELATION, I FORGOT THAT OTHERS MIGHT RESENT BEING BUFFETED ABOUT!

YEAH? C'MERE AND LET ME REMIND YOU, WHITEY!

SIMMER DOWN, PARTNER! YOU'VE BEEN KNOWN TO ACT A BIT JUVENILE YOURSELF!

JUVENILE? YES--I SUPPOSE I WAS!

YET, IF YOU HAD BEEN I A FEW MINUTES AGO, TESTING YOUR VELOCITY AGAINST THAT OF A HURTLING BULLET--!

Y'KNOW, TWINKLE-TOES--I LIKED YOU BETTER WHEN YOU WERE THE SILENT SAM TYPE!

SUDDENLY, I FOUND THAT-- BY VIBRATING MY LEGS AT TOP SPEED-- I COULD FLY FOR SHORT DISTANCES!

I SUPPOSE I AM SOMEWHAT EXCITED! STILL, YOU MUST UNDERSTAND!

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DON'T MIND MY BOW-SLINGING **BUDDY**, PIETRO! HE'S NOT NEARLY AS CANTANKEROUS AS HE **SOUNDS!**

NOW, EVERYBODY ASSEMBLE IN THE **MEETING ROOM!** HAWKEYE AND I HAVE SOMETHING TO...

YOU PRESUME **TOO FAR**, CAPTAIN AMERICA!

HUH?

WHAT'S EATING YOU, HERCULES?

SEEK NOT TO PERPLEX ME WITH THINE OVERBLOWN **VERNACULAR!**

I WOULD KNOW WHY I--THE **SON OF ZEUS**--SHOULD CRINGE AT THE WORDS OF SUCH AS **THEE!**

I'VE BEEN HALF EXPECTING THIS!

HERCULES IS FAR TOO **PROUD** TO TAKE ORDERS FROM ANY MORTAL--LET ALONE ONE WITH NO **SUPER-POWERS!**

AS A MATTER OF FACT, I WASN'T EVEN TALKING TO YOU, MISTER, SINCE YOU'RE NOT TRULY AN **AVENGER!**

BUT, AS LONG AS YOU **ASKED--**

HAVE AT THEE, STAR-CLAD SWAIN!

WHEN NEXT THOU DOST AWAKEN, THOU SHALT HAVE LEARNED A LESSON MOST **MEMORABLE!**

AND I THOUGHT I WAS HOT-HEADED! THAT BEWHISKERED WONDER DOESN'T RESPECT ANYBODY--UNTIL HE'S HAD A GO AT HIM!

WHAT CHANCE DOES CAP HAVE AGAINST A **GOD?**

I'LL GRAB MY **BOW**, AND STAND BY TO GIVE HIM A **HAND!**

YET, WITHIN A MATTER OF ACTION-STUPID MOMENTS, CAPTAIN AMERICA PROVES THAT HE **NEEDS** NO HELP...

SORRY, HERK--BUT YOU TELEGRAPHED THAT LUNGE A **MILE!**

LET'S **SEE** NOW--I SEEM TO RECALL THAT YOU WERE GONNA **TEACH** ME SOMETHING...

AND, BY ZEUS, I **SHALL--**IF THOU WILT BUT **STAND AND FIGHT!**

CAN SUCH **AGILITY** BE POSSIBLE?

HE'S **RIGHT!** MY ONE HOPE IS TO KEEP **DODGING!** WHEN THAT FAILS--I'VE HAD IT!

THWAK!

THE NEXT INSTANT, WITH NO PRIOR WARNING...

HOLD, MORTAL! THOU HAST
PROVEN THY **COURAGE**—
THINE INESTIMABLE SKILL!

FROM THIS DAY FORTH, THE
PRINCE OF POWER SHALL
CALL THEE... **FRIEND!**

THAT'S
FINE BY ME,
HERCULES!

I'D RATHER HAVE
YOU WITH ME THAN
AGAINST ME!

WH--? THE DOORBELL!!!

NOK!
NOK!

OF ALL THE CRUMMY TIMES FOR THIS
PLACE TO BECOME THE CROSSROADS
OF THE NATION!

WHAT'S **YOUR** PROBLEM, PAL?
NEED CHANGE FOR A **PARKIN'**
METER?

ER, ALLOW ME TO
INTRODUCE MYSELF!
I AM EBENEZER WALLABY
--ATTORNEY AT LAW!

I HAVE SOME
BUSINESS WITH
MISS JANET
VAN DYNE!
IS SHE--?

CAUTION
DO NOT PASS
BEYOND THIS POINT

SHE MIGHT
BE! C'MON IN
WHILE WE SEND
UP A **SMOKE**
SIGNAL!

THANK YOU,
MR.--ER,
HAWKEYE,
I PRESUME!

AND, WHEN JAN AND HANK COME FROM THE LAB SECTION...

THUS, MISS VAN DYNE, HAVING
PASSED YOUR **23RD** BIRTHDAY,
THE FULL SUM OF YOUR
FATHER'S INHERITANCE
IS NOW YOURS!

I, ER, PRESUME YOU'LL
WISH TO INVEST IT IN
LONG-TERM
BONDS!

DID HE
SAY--YOUR
BIRTHDAY?

YIPES!
WE WERE SO BUSY
WITH **DRAGON**
MAN, I FORGOT!

IT WAS THE
DAY
BEFORE
YESTERDAY!

BUT, WHAT'S THE **DIFFERENCE?**
AFTER ALL THIS TIME OF LIVING
ON A PALTRY \$25,000 A YEAR--
I'M RICH--RICH!!

QUICK,
MR. WALLABY!
--HOW MUCH
AM I
WORTH?

WELL, ER, **OFFHAND**,
I SHOULD SAY ABOUT
THREE MILL--ER--

MERCIFUL
HEAVENS!
YOU--YOU'VE
SHRUNK--
AND GROWN
TINY WINGS!!

HANK, YOU BIG WONDERFUL
MAN-MOUNTAIN! DO YOU KNOW
WHAT THIS MEANS?

I DO!
YOU'LL BE
HARDER TO
MANAGE
THAN EVER!

HONESTLY, HENRY PYM,
SOMETIMES I THINK--
SAY, WHAT HAPPENED TO
MR. WALLABY?

HE LEFT RATHER
HURRIEDLY, JAN--
PROBABLY TO INVEST
IN THOSE **BONDS**
HE MENTIONED!

BONDS BE
HANGED! I'M GOING
TO TAKE THAT MONEY
AND LIVE--BUT
DEFINITELY!

THEN, ABRUPTLY, THE MOOD IS CHANGED, AS...

BY MY
BEARD!
WHERE TO HATH
HAWKEYE
DEPARTED?

I WAS AFRAID OF THIS! HE MUST HAVE GONE
TO FOLLOW A LEAD TO THE **BLACK WIDOW'S**
WHEREABOUTS THAT WE LEARNED TONIGHT!

THAT'S WHAT I WANTED
TO DISCUSS AT THE
MEETING--BUT HE'S
JUMPED THE
GUN!

WILL HE EVER **FORGIVE**
HIMSELF FOR NOT **TRUSTING**
NATASHA--FOR LOSING
FAITH IN THE ONE HE **LOVES?**

CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE

ANOTHER MARVEL MASTERPIECE



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NOW!

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about this true-to-life
BASEBALL GAME

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Easy to play, real thrilling, exciting baseball with STRAT-O-MATIC. 400 big league players perform according to their actual abilities and your managerial decisions.

You, the manager, not only decide line-ups, insert pinch-hitters, pinch-runners, and relief pitchers, play your infield "in or deep," and make defensive changes at any time, but also call for the sacrifice, steal, hit-and-run, and squeeze-play. All strategy moves are possible with STRAT-O-MATIC.

You have real control over all 400 major league players — who actually hit, pitch, field, and run according to their baseball abilities.

Each player has truly individual qualities. He slumps and goes into hot streaks, performs heroics and commits errors. With STRAT-O-MATIC all qualities of a ballplayer are realistic.

**If you like baseball, you'll
love to play STRAT-O-MATIC**

Get the entire story. Mail coupon for a colorful **FREE BROCHURE** containing complete information and **FREE SAMPLES** today! Offer limited. Don't delay. Write today while supply lasts!



FANS RAVE

Here are just a few of the hundreds of letters we receive every week, from baseball fans aged 8 to 80, from coast to coast!

STRAT-O-MATIC BASEBALL is the best baseball game I ever have had. Kids swamp over the back porch to play this game! Boy, it is a lot of fun! Thank you for making such a wonderful game. —P. C., Attleboro, Mass.
Just like real baseball. It is fun to play.

—G. V., Cincinnati, O.
As close to realism as one can get and therefore far more superior to other competing baseball games.
—F. T., Manila, P.I.

Although it's fantastically realistic, it's also very simple to play. —A. F., Los Angeles, Calif.

I'm one hundred percent satisfied with it. The game provides hours of fun for me and my friends. It's very realistic, and true to life.

—C. H., Lanett, Ala.
The best baseball game. It is realistic and yet not too difficult to play.

—P. M., Port Huron, Mich.
Thank you for creating such an exciting yet realistic game and putting a shine to what might have been a boring summer.

—N. S., Los Angeles, Calif.
Boys are waiting in line to play the game!

—A. H., Chicago, Ill.
It has given me more pleasure than any other game.

—S. E., Rossville, Ind.
The most exciting and fun game ever.

—L. S., Boston, Mass.
It is so stupendous, words can't explain.

—J. R., Brooklyn, N. Y.
Best on the market. —J. E., Miami, Fla.

Has given me more enjoyment than I have ever had from any one thing in my entire life. It's worth its weight in gold. As I love baseball, this game gives me something enjoyable to do during the off seasons as well as during the season.

—S. C., Temple City, Calif.

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FOR AN ANSWER TO WANDA'S QUERY, LET US OBSERVE HAWKEYE SHORTLY THEREAFTER, ON THE LOWER EAST SIDE...



I HOPE THE OTHERS WON'T MIND MY CUTTING OUT ON 'EM LIKE THAT...

BUT, THERE ARE SOME THINGS A MAN'S GOTTA DO ALONE!

EVEN MY BOW AND ARROW WON'T HELP ME ON THIS CAPER!

MOMENTS LATER, THE DISGUISED ARCHER ENTERS A CHEAP, SLEAZY BAR--WHICH SEEMS TO TORMENT HIM WITH MEMORIES OF HIS OWN DAYS OUTSIDE THE LAW...



I GUESS CAP WOULD SAY IT'S **IRONIC**--THAT ALL THE TIME I WAS **HATIN' NATASHA**, SHE WAS REALLY WORKIN' FOR **SHIELD**!

NOW, SHE'S A PRISONER SOMEWHERE IN **ASIA**--AND IF THIS **CONTACT** WE MADE CAN'T TELL ME WHERE SHE IS, I'LL PROBABLY NEVER SEE HER AGAIN!

FOR LONG, ANXIOUS MOMENTS, HAWKEYE SCANS THE UNKEMPT CLIENTELE OF THE SALOON, LOOKING FOR A CERTAIN FACE! THEN...



'SCUSE ME, FELLA--I'M LOOKIN' FOR A GUY CALLED **BRUISER**! KNOW HIM?

YER TALKIN' AT HIM, MISTER! I'M THE ONE THAT CALLED YOU AT THAT **UNLISTED NUMBER**!

BUT FIRST, LET'S SEE THE COLOR OF THE **DOUGH** YOU OFFERED!

DON'T SWEAT IT! YOU'LL BE TAKEN CARE OF! NOW, ABOUT THE **BLACK WIDOW**--



WAIT A MINUTE, PRETTY BOY! THE DEAL WAS **CASH**--ON THE **BARREL HEAD**!

'SIDES, I JUST DECIDED YOU LOOK LIKE A **COP**--AND THE **BRUISER** DON'T MAKE NO DEALS WITH THE **FUZZ**!

IN FACT, I THINK I'LL JUST LEARN YOU WHAT IT **MEANS** TO MESS AROUND WITH **BRUISER BATES**--!

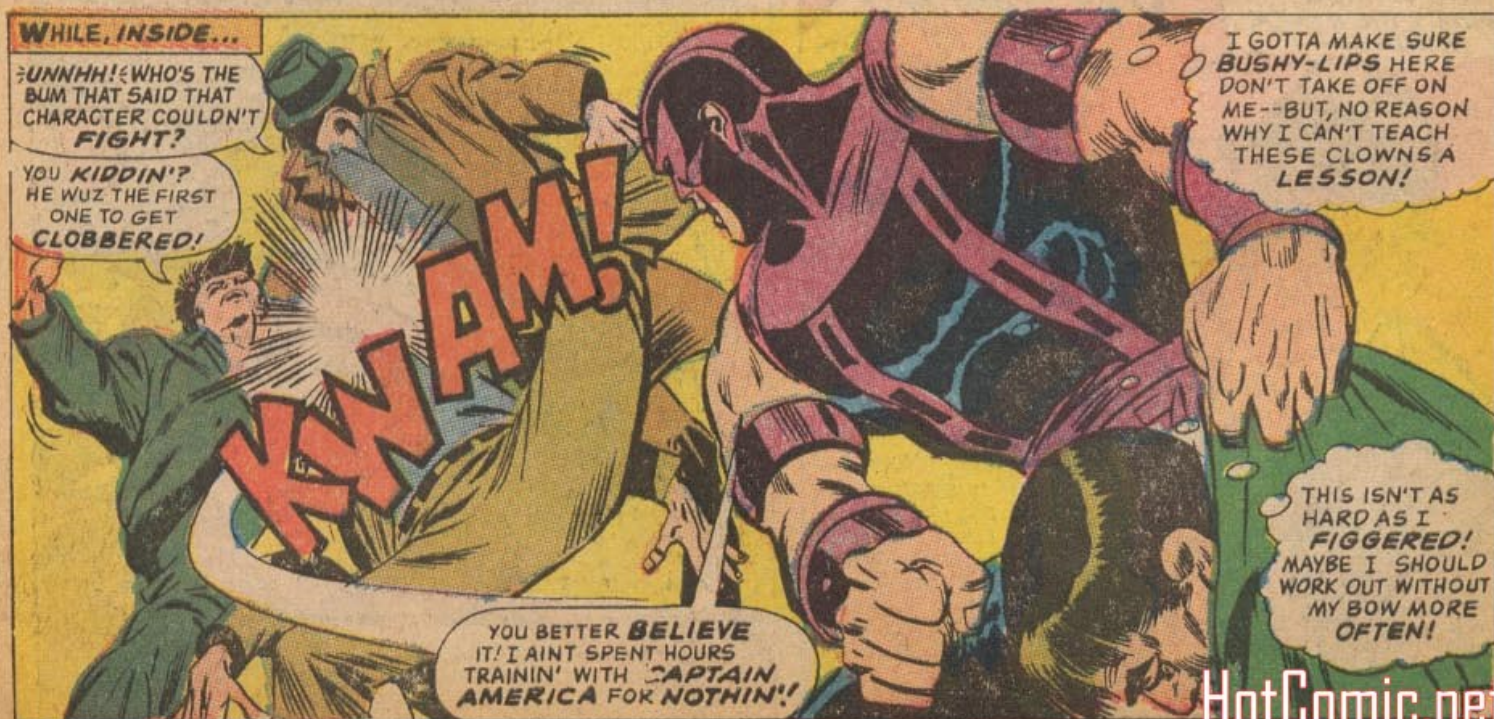
NUTS! HIS FIST FLUNG OPEN MY **BLASTED COAT**!

HEY! YOU AINT NO **BLUECOAT**--YOU'RE ONE'A THEM **AVENGER CRUMBS**!



I GUESS I'LL JUST HAVETA WIND THIS UP ... AS **HAWKEYE**!

LOOK ALIVE, YOU CREEPS! WE WUZ BEIN' **SPIED ON**!



BUT, THE VERY NEXT INSTANT...

AN' MAYBE I
SHOULDN'T!
I DIDN'T SEE THAT
BIG BOHUNK WITH
A CHAIR!

THAT OUGHTTA
FINISH 'IM!

SWAK!

HE SURE--KNOCKED
THE BREATH OUTTA
ME! JUST THE SAME
--THEY BETTER NOT
COUNT ME OUT
TOO SOON!

'CAUSE THEY JUST BELTED
ME INTO THE ALLEY--
WHERE I LEFT MY BOW
AND ARROW!

AND, OL' HAWKEYE
AINT ONE TO LET AN
OMEN LIKE THAT
SLIP BY HIM!

THUS, SCANT MOMENTS LATER, AS THE UNDERWORLD
CHARACTERS RUSH TO THAT VERY SAME WINDOW...

YIPES! LOOK OUT--HE'S
STILL ALIVE AN' KICKIN'!

SWISSH!

UGGNNHH!
YOU'RE
TELLIN'
ME?!

THEN, LIKE ODYSSEUS AGAINST THE ARMY OF SINISTER
SUITORS--LIKE ROBIN HOOD AGAINST THE HORDES OF A
PLUNDERING PRINCE--THE ONE AND ONLY HAWKEYE
MAKES HIS MOVE!

WHOOOSH!

THIS IS
THE KIND'A
ACTION I
WAS BORN
FOR!

I MUST'A BEEN
NUTTY TO THINK
OF FIGHTIN' ANY
OTHER WAY!

AND, AS A FINAL TRIO OF DESPERATE CUTTHROATS
TRIES AN EN MASSE CHARGE...

THWA-KOOWHIZZ

PERSONAL NOTE: WE WERE GONNA LET THIS FIGHT
GO ON FOR ANOTHER COUPLE OF PAGES--TILL WE
LEARNED THAT THEN WE'D HAVE TO BUY A BOW-
HUNTER'S LICENSE! --STINGY STAN.

OKAY, BRUISER--
NOW THAT WE
GOT THE PLACE
ALL TO OUR-
SELVES...

YOU'LL GET YOUR BLOOD
MONEY--BUT, YOU'RE
GONNA SPILL ALL YOU
KNOW ABOUT THE BLACK
WIDOW, OR --

S-SURE, HAWKEYE!
DON'T SLUG ME AGAIN! I
DIDN'T MEAN NO HARM--!

BESIDES, ALL I KNOW IS ABOUT
WHERE THE COMMIES ARE KEEPIN'
HER --HONEST.

SOON, A GRIM HAWKEYE ONCE MORE WALKS OUT INTO THE DARKENED CITY...

I'D TURN THAT CRUMB OVER TO THE F.B.I. -- BUT A BARGAIN'S A BARGAIN!

BESIDES, IT AINT ILLEGAL TO "OVERHEAR" INFO!

THE MAIN THING IS, NOW I KNOW WHERE NATASHA IS -- IF HE WASN'T LYIN'!

DINER

AN' IF HE WAS -- HE BETTER GO INTO HIDIN'!

WHAT'S WITH YOU, HERK? BURNIN' THE MIDNIGHT OIL?

I UNDERSTAND NOT THY PATTERNS OF SPEECH -- BUT, I CANNOT SLEEP! MY HEART DOTHS LONG FOR ADVENTURE!

YEAH? THEN I GOT SOME PLANS THAT MIGHT BE RIGHT UP YOUR ALLEY!

WHERE'ER THEY MAY LEAD, IMPETUOUS ONE -- HERCULES IS PREPARED TO FOLLOW!

THE PRINCE OF POWER WAS NOT MADE FOR IDLE LEISURE!

A FEW MINUTES LATER, WHEN THE AVENGING ARCHER HAS OUTLINED HIS PURPOSE...

... SO, ACCORDIN' TO THIS JOKER, NATASHA WAS BETRAYED BY A GUY INSIDE SHIELD -- WHO THEN DEFECTED TO THE OTHER SIDE!

WE GOTTA GET TO HER, BEFORE -- WHY'RE YOU LOOKIN' AT ME LIKE THAT, WHISKERS?

METHINKS I HAVE EVER MISJUDGED THEE, MORTAL!

THINE OFTEN-BRASH WORDS DO BUT MASK A SOUL TORMENTED BY LOVE!

AND, ON THAT PERCEPTIVE NOTE, LET US SWITCH TO THE POWERFUL PAIR'S ASIAN DESTINATION, WHERE...

IT IS WITH PLEASURE, COMRADE GENERAL, THAT I WELCOME YOU TO MY NATION'S MOST SECRET BASE!

DO NOT SEEK TO STALL ME, COLONEL LING! YOU KNOW WHY I AM HERE!

AYE! YOU WISH TO SEE THE DREAD PSYCHOTRON -- OUR NEW INVENTION THAT WILL SOON BRING THE DECADENT DEMOCRACIES TO THEIR KNEES!

BUT FIRST, I WOULD HAVE YOU MEET THE ONE WHO ACTS AS SENTINEL FOR THAT MIGHTIEST OF WEAPONS --

I WOULD HAVE YOU MEET -- THE **RED GUARDIAN!!**

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TALLER Instantly!



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Are you handicapped in your social contacts because of a short appearance... tired of being called shorty? Now, at last you need not suffer this embarrassment any longer with the aid of "LIFTEE", the new amazing HEIGHT INCREASE PADS. Simply slip these invisible pads in any pair of shoes. Now step into them and add 2 inches in height. THE SAME HEIGHT INCREASE AS EXPENSIVE HEIGHT INCREASING SHOES, for a fraction of the cost, to give you new poise and self-confidence—a key to success and romance. No one will suspect that you are wearing them—but what an impressive difference they make! These LIGHTWEIGHT FOAM RUBBER AND CUSHION CORK PADS fit securely without gluing and interchangeable in any shoes. "LIFTEE" is scientifically designed for real walking comfort and an aid to better posture. "LIFTEE" is worn by thousands of smart men and women in all walks of life. Durable and shock absorbing. State man's or woman's shoe size.

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THE LIFTEE COMPANY, DEPT. 426
Box 608, Church Street, New York, N.Y. 10008

Rush my "Liftee" Height Increase Pads in the size checked. I will pay postman on delivery only \$1.98 plus postage. I must be satisfied or I can return the pads within 10 day trial for a full refund.

Check Box — State Shoe Size

☐ Mens Shoe Size _____ ☐ Ladies Shoe Size _____
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SUDDENLY, A JET-BLACK CURTAIN IS FLUNG BACK--TO REVEAL A MASSIVE, YET STRANGELY LITHE FORM...

BEHOLD, COMRADE--
THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC
PRESENTS ITS COUNTER-
PART TO THE ACCURSED
CAPTAIN AMERICA!

THOUGH BORN IN YOUR
COUNTRY, HE IS NOW OUR
FOREMOST DEFENDER
--THE INVINCIBLE
RED
GUARDIAN!!

WHAT
NONSENSE IS
THIS? I SEE BEFORE
ME A MAN IN A GAUDY
COSTUME--NOTHING
MORE!!



AH--YOU WOULD REQUIRE
A DEMONSTRATION OF
OUR HERO'S PROWESS?

IT SHALL BE DONE!
PROVE YOUR WORTH,
LOYAL ONE!

HE SHALL HAVE
HIS PROOF! I
VOW IT!

BAH! I HAVE HEARD
SUCH VOWS BEFORE--
IN POLAND, IN FINLAND
--EVEN IN DEVASTATED
HUNGARY!

IT WILL TAKE MORE
THAN A MERE OATH TO
IMPRESS GENERAL
BRUSHOV!



THE NEXT SECOND...

WHAT DEVILTRY
IS THIS??

FOOL--WHAT HAVE YOU
DONE? COMRADE
GENERAL IS FALLING!

IF HE IS HURT--IT
COULD MEAN WAR
BETWEEN OUR NATIONS!

I AM MERELY
DEMONSTRATING
MY SKILL--BY
HURLING MY MAGNET-
ICALLY-CONTROLLED
BELT EMBLEM!

BUT, DO NOT
FEAR! HE SHALL
NOT BE HARMED!



BY THE DRAGON-GODS OF MY
ANCESTORS! YOU CAUGHT HIM
IN MID-AIR--WITH SPEED GREATER
THAN EVEN I DREAMED!

I HOPED YOU WOULD BE PLEASED,
COLONEL LING!

IF I AM TO ACCOMPLISH MY PURPOSE
--BY DESTROYING CAPTAIN AMERICA
--I MUST SURPASS HIM IN
EVERY WAY!

MY APOLOGIES FOR
SUCH A GRAPHIC DISPLAY,
COMRADE GENERAL!

YOUR APOLOGIES
ARE NEEDLESS--
IF INDEED YOUR
STRENGTH MATCHES
YOUR SWIFTNESS!





THEN, WITHOUT WARNING, OTHER SINISTER FIGURES ENTER THE CHAMBER...

FORWARD, BROTHERS! IT IS OUR DUTY TO KILL THE COSTUMED ONE -- IF WE CAN!

AYE! IF HE CANNOT SURVIVE OUR MOST VIOLENT ATTACK, HE IS NOT WORTHY TO BE CALLED -- THE RED GUARDIAN!

ADVANCE! SHOW HIM NO QUARTER!

BUT, WITHIN SECONDS, IT BECOMES CLEAR THAT THEIR CRIMSON-CLAD PREY NEEDS NO QUARTER...

IS THIS THE BEST THAT CAN BE SENT AGAINST ME -- SIX BLUNDERING DOLTS?

IT IS NOT POSSIBLE!

HE SCATTERS US -- LIKE SHEEP! UNHH!

KWAM!

BOX

AND, HIS BELT BUCKLE -- FLIES THRU THE AIR AS IF BY MAGIC!



HALT! CEASE YOUR FIGHTING! I HAVE WITNESSED ENOUGH!

TRULY, THE RED GUARDIAN IS MORE THAN THE EQUAL OF THE ARROGANT CAPTAIN AMERICA!

I MUST SEE THE TWO OF THEM CLASH -- AT THE EARLIEST OPPORTUNITY!



WHAT? YOU WOULD BRING THAT STAR-STUPPED DOG HERE -- IN THE VERY PLACE WHERE THE PSYCHOTRON IS HIDDEN?

IT MUST NOT BE, COMRADE GENERAL! IT IS TOO DANGEROUS --!

QUIET, COLONEL! DO NOT FORGET THAT YOUR SUPERIORS HAVE ORDERED YOU TO OBEY ME -- IN ALL THINGS!

NOW, I MUST ONLY THINK OF A RUSE -- A WAY TO BRING CAPTAIN AMERICA HERE!

AND, WHEN YOU DO, I SHALL UTTERLY DESTROY HIM!

MEANWHILE, NOT FAR AWAY, AS IF TO PROVE ANEW THAT FATE WORKS IN MYSTERIOUS WAYS...



LOOK!
SOMEBODY UP
THERE MUST
LIKE ME!

I DIDN'T DARE DREAM
THAT 'TASHA WAS STILL
WEARIN' THE HOMING-BEAM
GIZMO. I GAVE HER--BUT,
SHE IS!

AND, IT LED US STRAIGHT TO
HER! WHO SAYS THESE EAST-
WEST ROMANCES CAN'T HAVE
A HAPPY ENDING?

ALAS, MY
FRIEND--OUR
MISSION IS
FAR FROM
COMPLETED!

SHE IS STILL A
PRISONER--
BESET BY
FULL MANY
A FOE!

AND, MINUTES LATER, AS THE DAUNTLESS
PAIR COLORFULLY LEAVE THEIR HOVERING CRAFT...



WE HAVE
REACHED
THE VERY
CENTER OF
THIS
BASE!

YET, 'TIS
PASSING
STRANGE
THAT NO
AIRCRAFT
MENACED
US!

YEAH--BUT I
WON'T COMPLAIN
ABOUT IT IF YOU
DON'T!

STOP THEM--
BUT, DO NOT
FIRE!

ONE OF THEM
IS AN AVENGER!
WHAT A FEAT TO
CAPTURE HIM
ALIVE!

WADDAYA KNOW!
OL' HAWKEYE--
A POTENTIAL
PROPAGANDA VICTORY!

HOWEVER, THE TWO NEWCOMERS PROVE
MUCH EASIER TO HAVE THAN TO HOLD...



BAH! THESE
FUNKY FLEAS
PROVIDE SPARSE
SPORT FOR ME!

HAVE THEY NO
WARRIORS MORE
WORTHY TO FACE
THE PEERLESS
PRINCE OF POWER?

MISTER, I DON'T
GIVE A HANG IF THEY
THROW A BLASTED
PARADE IN OUR
HONOR!

ALL I CARE ABOUT
IS NATASHA--AND
NOTHIN' THIS SIDE OF
DEATH IS GONNA KEEP
ME FROM HER!

NATASHA?
AYE--I DID
ALMOST
FORGET--

SHE IS THE
FEMALE WHOM
THOU DESIREST
TO RESCUE!



'TIS LIKELY THAT SHE
BE IN YON STRUCTURE
--BEYOND THESE
STONY WALLS!

IF SO, BY THE
BAWDY BRAWLS
OF DIONYSUS--
SHE SHALL BE
RESCUED!

BUT, AS HERCULES AND HAWKEYE PLUNGE THRU THE MAMMOTH OPENING...

WE DARE SHOW
THEM MERCY
NO LONGER!

SURRENDER--OR YOU
FORCE US TO KILL YOU!

SINCE THE TIME
OF PROMETHEUS,
MORTALS HAVE EVER
PLAYED WITH
SEARING FIRE!

YET NOW,
BY THE GODS,
I SHALL--

YOU'LL NOTHIN',
MUSCLES! I CAN'T
LET THOSE BULGIN'
BICEPS OF YOURS
STEAL THE WHOLE
SHOW!

THIS ONE
IS ON
HAWKEYE!

--OR, HAD
YOU FORGOT
I WAS
ALONG?

HAH! EVEN THE FAR-DARTING
APOLLO HIMSELF HATH NO
SHAFTS LIKE THINE!

THE SWINE MOCK US--
WHILE AN ARROW BINDS
US LIKE SHEAVES!

WHISSH!

REMIND ME TO OPEN
UP A NOVELTY SHOP
IN OLYMPUS, SOMETIME!

BUT, WE SHALL
STILL PREVAIL--
FOR THE RED
GUARDIAN
COMES!

THE RED
GUARDIAN??
WHAT IN BLUE
BLAZES IS A---?

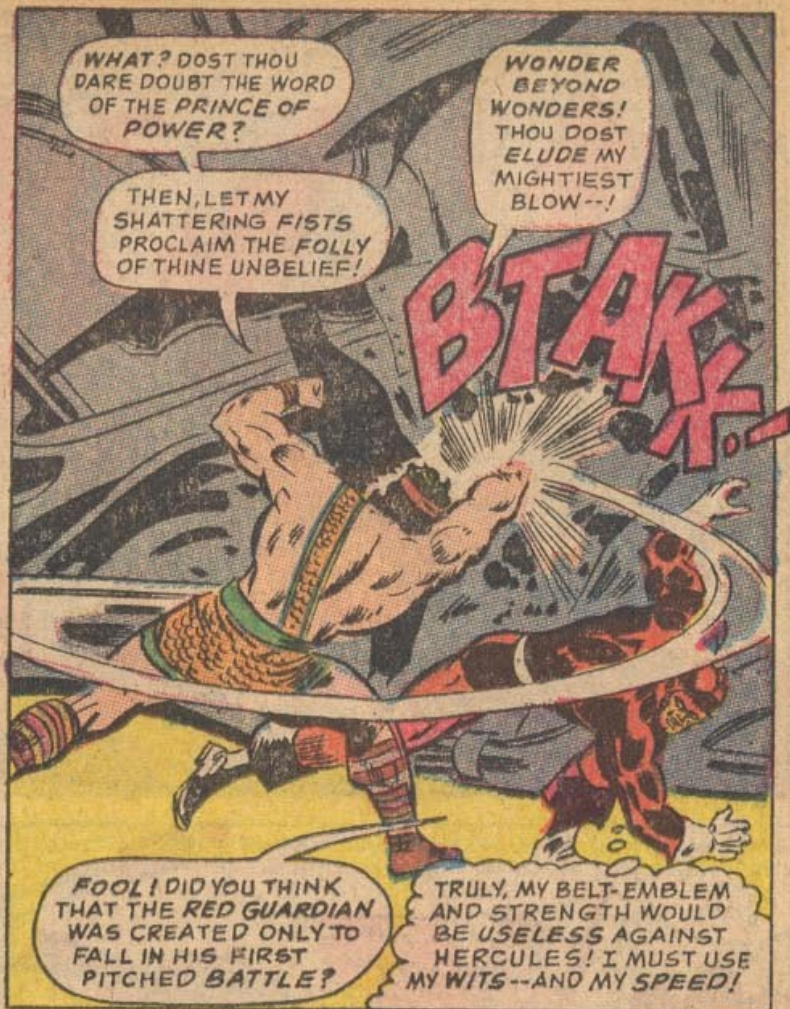
A SOUND
QUESTION,
AVENGER!

WHEN I HAVE DISPOSED
OF YOUR LUMBERING
COMRADE, I SHALL
AWAKEN YOU--TO GIVE
YOU THE DREADED
ANSWER!

SKRAK!

FWOOOSH!

OWW!



CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE



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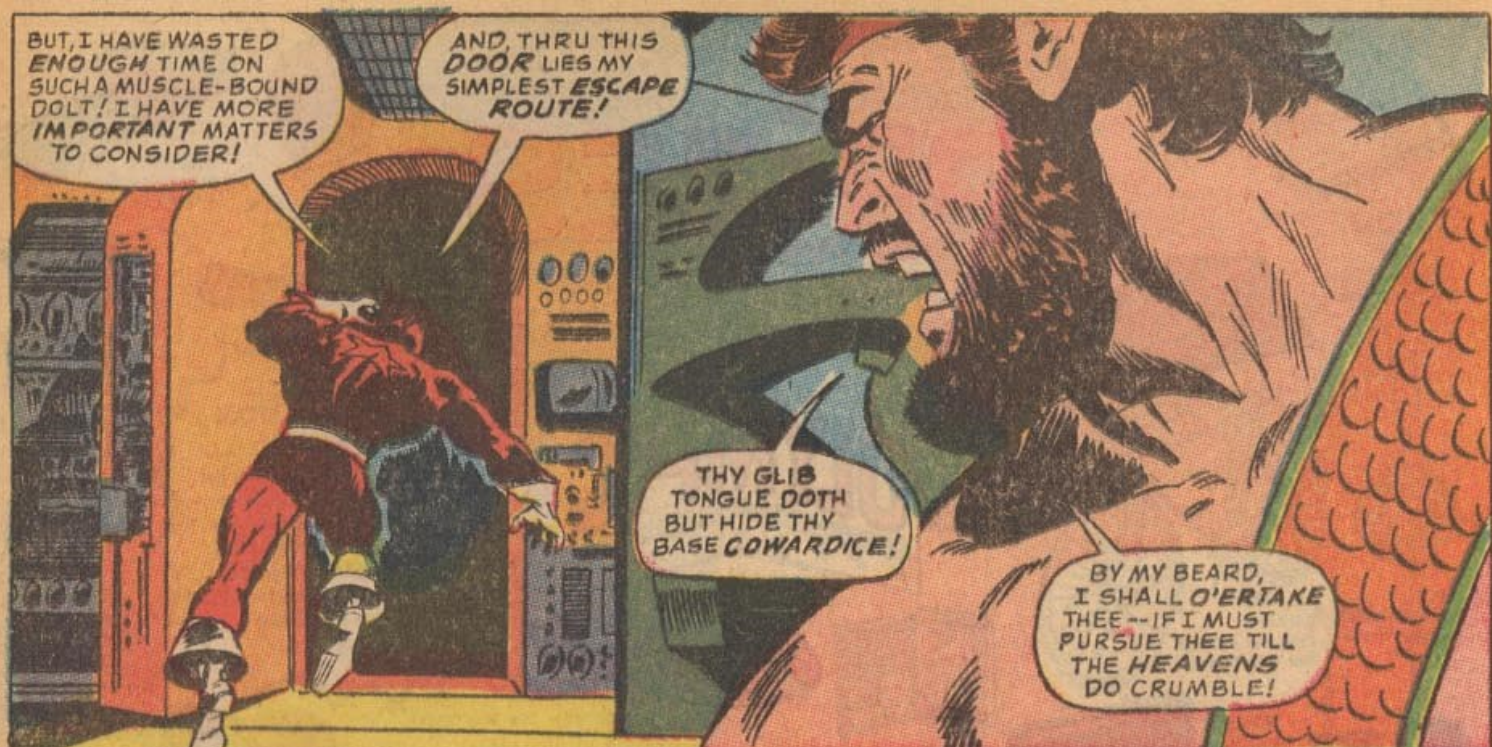
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THEN, AS THE VERY FLOOR BENEATH HIM SEEMS TO TURN TO STONY CRAGS--AS A LONG-FORGOTTEN ROAR ECHOES THRU THE STYGIAN BLACKNESS--HERCULES TURNS TO BEHOLD--

RRRAA
AA
RRGG
GG!

THE
MANY-HEADED
HYDRA!

THAT MOST
FEARSOME
OF ANCIENT BEASTS
--WHOSE HEADS DO
GROW ANEW AS
FAST AS THEY ARE
DESTROYED!*

*SURE, THAT'S WHERE WE GOT THE IDEA
FOR NICK FURY'S PERENNIAL SPARRING-
PARTNERS IN STRANGE TALES! YOU THINK
WE MAKE UP ALL THESE NUTTY NAMES
OURSELVES?-- STRAIGHT-FORWARD STAN.



'TIS BEYOND BELIEF-- BEYOND POSSIBILITY!

DID I NOT KILL YON LOATHSOME DEMON IN EONS PAST?

WHAT I SEE CAN BE BUT AN AP- PARITION-- A PHANTOM --AND NOTHING MORE!!



THE HYDRA HATH GRASPED ME!

SURELY, THIS BE NO MERE GHOST THAT LAYS ITS CLAWS UPON ME-- BUT A CREATURE OF FLESH AND BONE!



AND, WHAT THE PRINCE OF POWER CAN FIGHT-- HE CAN DEFEAT!

FOR, NOTHING THAT LIVES AND BREATHES CAN STAND AGAINST THE MIND-STAGGERING MIGHT OF HERCULES!

BUT, TO THE UTTER ASTONISHMENT OF THE LION OF OLYMPUS...



SUCH A BLOW HATH FELLED TITANS OF OLD-- THE ANDROID CALLED DRAGON MAN --EVEN THE THUNDER GOD HIMSELF!

YET, THE BEAST SCARCELY FELT IT! HOW CAN SUCH A THING BE?*

*ALAS, THIS SEEMS HARDLY THE TIME TO EXPLAIN TO HERCULES THE SUPREME PSYCHEDELIC POWERS OF THE DREAD PSYCHOTRON--WHOSE IMAGES ARE AS REAL AND PALPABLE AS THE MIND OF ITS INTENDED VICTIM--

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BY THE CLOVEN
HOOVES OF PAN!

I AM
HURLED
ABOUT LIKE
THE VERIEST
FEATHER!

BUT, TO BUFFET THE SON OF
ZEUS IS NOT TO DEFEAT HIM...

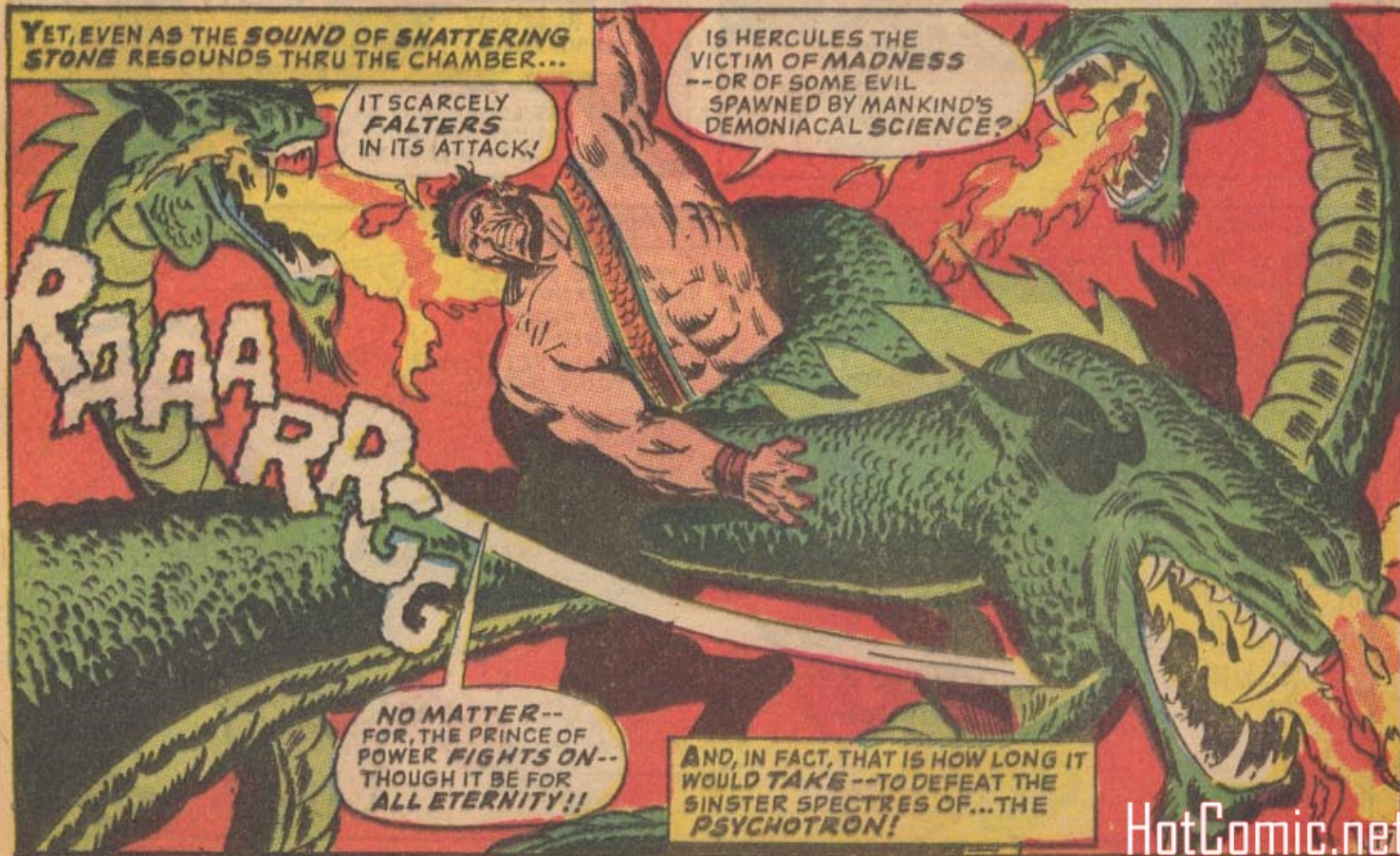


NOW, THOU
BLUDGEONING
BEAST--THOU
CRAVEN EATER
OF CARRION--

FEEL THOU
ANEW THE
THUNDERING
FURY OF--
HERCULES!!



YET, EVEN AS THE SOUND OF SHATTERING
STONE RESOUNDS THRU THE CHAMBER...



IT SCARCELY
FALTERS
IN ITS ATTACK!

IS HERCULES THE
VICTIM OF MADNESS
--OR OF SOME EVIL
SPAWNED BY MANKIND'S
DEMONIACAL SCIENCE?

NO MATTER--
FOR, THE PRINCE OF
POWER FIGHTS ON--
THOUGH IT BE FOR
ALL ETERNITY!!

AND, IN FACT, THAT IS HOW LONG IT
WOULD TAKE--TO DEFEAT THE
SINISTER SPECTRES OF...THE
PSYCHOTRON!

WHILE, SEPARATED FROM THAT FRIGHTENING PHANTASMAGORIA BY A MERE METAL DOOR-- AND YET BY ALL INFINITY ITSELF...

AH--THE ONE CALLED HAWKEYE IS STILL UNCONSCIOUS!

IF CAPTAIN AMERICA HAS NO MORE STAMINA THAN HIS FRIEND, MY FUTURE VICTORY IS ASSURED!

THEN, SUDDENLY--

SONNY, THE ONLY THING YOU'RE ASSURED IS A SWIFT KICK IN THE CHOPS!

SMACK!

WHA--??

NOW THAT I'M ALL THRU PLAYIN' POSSUM--SUPPOSIN' YOU TELL ME WHERE YOU CRUMBS ARE HIDIN' THE BLACK WIDOW!

BLACK WIDOW? WHAT IS THAT INFERNAL, LYING FEMALE TO YOU, AVENGER?

I LOVE HER --IF YOU'VE GOTTA KNOW!

SO, IF YOU KNOW WHERE SHE IS, SPIT IT OUT FAST--WHILE YOU'VE STILL GOT ALL YOUR TEETH!

YOU LOVE HER--LOVE THAT TIRESOME TOOL OF THE DECADENT DEMOCRACIES?

THAT IS THE ULTIMATE, THE SUPREME TEST OF ALL!

OKAY, WISE-GUY --YOU'VE HAD IT!

WE'LL SEE HOW HARD YOU'RE LAUGHIN' WHEN I'M THRU WITH YOU!

BUT, BEFORE THE ENRAGED AVENGER CAN REACH HIS FOE...

WITLESS FOOL! IF YOU HAD NOT LOST YOUR TEMPER--AS I PLANNED--YOU WOULD HAVE RETRIEVED YOUR BOW!

INSTEAD, YOU STUPIDLY CHOSE TO RUSH AT ME--GIVING ME TIME TO USE MY WEAPON!

OHhhh--!!

LONG MINUTES LATER, THE TWICE-FELLED ARCHER AWAKENS--AS A HOSTILE VOICE FILLS HIS STILL-REELING SENSES...

MAKE YOURSELF COMFORTABLE, BOTH OF YOU! SOON, CAPTAIN AMERICA WILL ARRIVE TO KEEP YOU COMPANY!

OH, HAWKEYE-- MY BELOVED! ARE YOU--ALL RIGHT?

I--SEEM TO HEAR NATASHA--JUST LIKE SHE WAS HERE!

BUT, I CAN'T THINK--CAN HARDLY STAND! I--

BE THANKFUL YOU ARE ALIVE, YOU ARROW-WIELDING DOLT!

HAD I INCREASED THE POWER AND SPEED OF MY BELT-EMBLEM, YOU WOULD NEVER HAVE OPENED YOUR EYES AGAIN!

WH--WHO ARE YOU? YOU SEEM SO--FAMILIAR, AND YET...

PERHAPS, BLACK WIDOW, IF I REMOVED THIS CUMBERSOME MASK--!

YOU!

ALL THIS TIME-- ALL THESE YEARS-- I THOUGHT YOU WERE DEAD!

WHY HAVE YOU RETURNED TO PLAGUE ME NOW?

AND, AS HAWKEYE SHAKES OFF THE LAST VESTIGES OF GROGGINESS, HE HEARS...

YOU ARE *HOSTILE*, MY DARLING NATASHA! YET, I REMEMBER WHEN YOU FELT QUITE *OTHERWISE*!

'TASHA--YOU'RE REALLY *HERE*! BUT, THE RED GUARDIAN CALLED YOU *DARLING*!

WHAT IN SAM HILL'S GOING ON?

HAWKEYE--YOU'VE *RECOVERED*! THANK HEAVEN YOU ARE *SAFE*...

OUR GUEST ASKED YOU A QUESTION, MY LOVE! HE DESERVES AN ANSWER, DOES HE *NOT*?

YEAH--LIKE THE MAN SAID, I WANT SOME *ANSWERS*!

OH, MY DARLING--MY DARLING! HOW CAN I EVER HOPE TO *EXPLAIN* TO YOU--

...THAT THE MAN YOU CALL THE *RED GUARDIAN* IS MY--*HUSBAND*!

YOUR... *HUSBAND*?

THEN, I GUESS... YOU DON'T *HAVE* TO WASTE YOUR BREATH *EXPLAINING* ANYTHING TO ME, LADY!

IT COULDN'T MAKE ANY DIFFERENCE...

YOU SPEAK MORE TRUTHFULLY THAN YOU KNOW, BOWMAN!

FOR, SOON, BOTH OF YOU SHALL DIE! YET FIRST, IT IS OUR WISH THAT YOU WITNESS THE DOWN-FALL OF THE GREAT CAPTAIN AMERICA!



YOU'LL NEVER LIVE TO SEE THAT DAY, CREEP!

MAYBE YOU MANAGED TO BEAT ME--BUT, CAP'S THE BEST THERE IS!

PERHAPS HE WAS --WHEN GIVEN HIS POWERS BY THE PRIMITIVE SCIENCE OF 25 YEARS AGO!

THAT DAY IS LONG PAST--AS HE SHALL SOON DISCOVER!

AND, AT THAT VERY SECOND, FATE SEEMS TO BE ALLYING ITSELF TO THE SNEERING RED GUARDIAN, AS...

YOU WERE RIGHT, STEVE! HERCULES ISN'T IN HIS ROOM, EITHER!

STILL, JARVIS SAYS HE WAS HERE WHEN HAWKEYE RETURNED, SO--

--SO, THEY'VE FLOWN THE COOP TOGETHER--AND HEADED FOR THE BAMBOO CURTAIN!

I DIALED OUR SECRET CODE NUMBER ON THE VISI-PROJECTOR --AND OUT POPPED THIS MESSAGE FROM HAWKEYE!

HE SAYS THAT, NO MATTER WHAT, WE MUSTN'T FOLLOW HIM!

AND, BLAST HIM, THE SONUVAGUN IS RIGHT!



IF ALL OF US SHOWED UP BEHIND THE CURTAIN, IT MIGHT MEAN AN INTERNATIONAL INCIDENT!

THE ONLY SENSIBLE THING TO DO IS LET HAWKEYE STEW IN HIS OWN JUICE!

OKAY, HANK--YOU KNOW WHAT TO DO!

CHECK! I'LL WARM UP AN AERO-CAR--FOR AN IMMEDIATE RESCUE MISSION!

YOU KNOW IT, BIG MAN!

THOSE CLOWNS ARE GOING TO BE SORRY THEY EVER HEARD OF THE AVENGERS!



AND SO, MOMENTS LATER, A FAMOUS, AWE-INSPIRING CRY RINGS OUT...

AVENGERS ASSEMBLE!



WE'RE BRINGING BACK HAWKEYE --OR WE WON'T BE COMING BACK OURSELVES!

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With KARATE you can disarm and disable two, three and even four attackers. You can apply a simple treasure of your thumb and finger against any one of a dozen vital nerve centers of your opponent and watch his gun or knife fall from his limp hand while he himself sinks to the ground completely helpless and faint.

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ITEM! The time has come! 'Tis the merry month of June, and that means the first two of Marvel's sensational SPECIALS are now on sale! Even as you read these spine-tingling words, the great, action-packed SGT. FURY AND HIS HOWLING COMMANDOS SPECIAL has just hit the newsstands with the shattering impact of a B-52 bomb load! When you realize that it features Nick Fury, in the present, as the full chicken-colonel Director of Shield, reuniting his Howlers for a special mission in Viet Nam, you'll know why we urge you to get your copy TODAY! This one's not gonna be around long! And, in case we forgot to tell you—every story, every feature in this year's king-size sensation is ALL-NEW—ALL-ORIGINAL! Then, just to prove how big-hearted we are, we've also issued a new, queen-sized MILLIE THE MODEL SPECIAL, for your sisters, gal friends, and various other fun-and-fashion buffs! We know you'll be all shook-up to learn that it, too, is on sale now! And, next month, whatever else you do, don't fail to grab the block-bustin' DAREDEVIL SPECIAL and the equally-great AVENGERS SPECIAL! They're both ALL-NEW with ALL-ORIGINAL stories and features—as are the indescribably wonderful FANTASTIC FOUR and SPIDER-MAN SPECIALS which we're bestowing upon you in the following month! Watch these pages for the next two issues to get a more complete rundown on what DD, the AVENGERS, SPIDEY and the ever-lovin' FF will contain—'cause we're the kinda guys who'll TELL you!

ITEM! We just received a letter that may be of interest to all you Believers who like to save your Marvel mags—so we'll pass it along right now—

Dear Stan: I have trouble with pages that come loose from too much handling, and have found a way to correct this. Just open the staples and put a piece of transparent tape on the outside cover and in the exact center of the book. Then close the staples again. It preserves the magazine no matter how many times it's read. No more lost pages!—Sincerely, Bud Cavadini, (Cashton, Wisc. 54619).

Many thanks, Bud ol' boy! But just tell us one thing—is it true you're a manufacturer of transparent tape?

ITEM! Once again the time-differential gap is enough to drive us all batty! Here's why—as we write these deathless phrases, we're just about to send the first ish of our nutty new satire mag BRAND ECHH to the printer. But, by the time you READ this page, ish #2 is already on sale! We won't receive any mail from you about the mag for another couple of months (our time), but you're probably starting to flood us with your capricious criticism already (your time)! Anyway, all we're trying to say is—whatever you do, don't dare miss our newest mag—the book that's been called the biggest gamble Marvel—or anyone else—ever attempted! If it isn't a sell-out, everyone we know (including the REAL Brand Echhs) will be saying "We told you so!" And you KNOW how we hate to fall on our faces! (Especially when Irving Forbush is looking!)

ITEM: Speaking of Honest Irv, your letters have been running about a zillion-to-one in favor of us never showing what he looks like! And we don't mind telling you what a relief that is! After all, how do you present a portrait of a naturally neurotic non-entity? (Sounds like a new idea for a no-prize contest, huh?)

ITEM! Well, looky here! Another letter which you may be interested in—

Dear Stan: You are making a drastic mistake. Not being content to produce the best-written and best-drawn comics in America, you're allowing Marvel to turn into a fad—due to the tons of merchandise bearing your characters which is on sale all over. If this isn't stopped, Marvel may suffer the fate of all other fads—it may rise in a burst of glory and then fade out until, months from now, Marvel is naught but a memory. Your mags are great enough to stand on their own merit without all the other stuff. Please! I was here when The Marvel Age of Comics began, but I don't want to be here when it ends!—PFC Bruce Long, C-2-1, Ft. Leonard Wood, Missouri.

Bruce, buddy—we really appreciate your concern, but we have a feeling the end isn't quite in sight yet. One thing you must have noticed—no matter what novelties and nick-nacks are produced bearing the Marvel imprint—and we think they're all kinda swell—it doesn't in any way affect the stories or artwork in our award-winning mags. For the Merry Ones who enjoy model kits of our characters—or records—or games—or sweatshirts—or coloring books—or almost anything you can name, we've got 'em in abundance. But, for those who are interested solely in the Marvel mags themselves, we're working as hard as ever—and as enthusiastically as ever—to produce the best darned illustrated epics the world has ever seen! Isn't that really all that counts? So long as we can continue turning out the type of thrillers our rollickin' readers enjoy, there's no reason for anyone to become a Marvel dropout! And, the day we start to slip—the day we start giving you less than our best, then we deserve whatever happens! Fair enough?

STAN'S SOAPBOX!

We've said it before—and we've gotta say it again! We love your letters! It's a real kick hearing from you! We're overwhelmingly touched by the interest you show and the time you spend writing to us—but please, PUH-LEESE, make your letters shorter! We wouldn't bother asking you this if not for the fact that we honestly read each and every communication you send us—and the mail gets heavier each month! (Which is great! It shows that you're all hangin' loose!) But, the more mail we get, the less time we get to read it. So, from the bottom of our hearts to the top of our weary little bloodshot eyeballs, we beg you, we beseech you—keep your letters down to just one page or less! The notepaper manufacturers may not like it, but it just may allow us a little time to write a story or two between applying our eye-drops! Okay? Thanks, tiger—we knew you'd understand!

THE MIGHTY MARVEL CHECKLIST

Marvel-ous Mags on Sale Right Now!

BRAND ECHH #2: Nuttier and more exciting than ever! Spidey-Man vs. Gnatman and Rotten! Knock Furlous, Agent of Sheesh, vs. Blunder Agents! Ironed-Man vs. Magnut, Robot-Biter! You've never seen anything like it!

FANTASTIC FOUR #66: Rarely have you thrilled to a more fascinating mystery than the one in store for you now! The Thing's

sightless girl friend captured and brought to the strangest place on earth—for what mind-staggering purpose? A real shocker! **SPIDER-MAN #52:** The unbelievable development in the battle with the Kingpin is too daring, too dramatic, too dazzlingly different to be described in this column! It's called "Death Of A Hero!" and the title's no put-on! It's really gonna rock you!

X-MEN #35: When our magnificent mutants get a guest star, we don't kid around! This one features none other than Spider-Man—battling desperately against the savage fury of the X-Men! It's dynamite!

DAREDEVIL #31: Possibly the most sensational of all DD's adventures! Imagine the Man Without Fear minus his super-senses—forced to battle his most deadly foes while he's actually sightless! It's Daredevil's most fateful moment—and when you see the ending—HOOO BOY!

THOR #143: Get set for sheer magnificence as Balder the Brave and the stunning Sif are pursued to earth by the evil Enchanters—the only arch-foes powerful enough to defy Thor and Odin at the same time! So be it!

STRANGE TALES #160: Nick Fury and his SHIELD stalwarts battle a vociferous new villain during the big black-out of 1965—and with help from Captain America, yet! While, after a disastrous defeat at the hands of Mordo, Dr. Strange and the entire earth face obliteration by the Living Tribunal! Talk about mind-snappers!

SUSPENSE #93: See Iron Man suffer his greatest defeat—at the hands of a giant whose true identity will knock you for a loop! As for Captain America, has he finally invaded the lair of A.I.M. to rescue SHIELD'S loveliest agent—only to lose her forever?

ASTONISH #95: Wait'll you meet the merciless menace from Skull Island as he tackles Sub-Mariner with his invincible super-submariner! But what of the Hulk? How can he face the threat of a deadly madman's alien weapon when he himself is helpless on the lost planet?

SGT. FURY #45: In one of the most off-beat war sagas of all time, the hard-hitting Howlers rescue an important General's son—only to be brought to the brink of disaster by... THE WAR LOVER. 'Nuff Said!

FANTASY MASTERPIECES #10: This is the Golden-Age gas everyone's been demanding—the All-Winners Squad, featuring Captain America, the Human Torch, Sub-Mariner, Miss America, and the Whizzer—in a 43-page action epic destined to become the most talked-about reprint of the decade!

MARVEL TALES #10: Spidey vs. Kraven the Hunter; Thor battling it out with Loki; the Human Torch fighting for his life against the Painter of a Thousand Perils—the most frenzied fight card since the opening of Madison Square Garden! Oh, and just to top it off, your big-hearted Bullpen's tossed in another scintillating story by the wonderfully winsome Waspi!

MARVEL COLLECTORS' ITEM CLASSICS #10: The frankly fabulous F.F.—our own Jolly Green Giant—the incomparable Iron Man—and the warily wondrous Watcher! Is this any way to print a comic book? You bet it is, tiger!



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

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Dear Stan, Roy, and John,

I've been unsuccessful before in trying to win a no-prize but I'm not giving up. In AVENGERS #39 a fan said that Cap's shield was destroyed by a laser beam and then a few pages later, he had his shield back. You see, it's like this. Back in issue #34 when Cap and Hawkeye went to fight the Living Laser, Cap said he had coated his shield with a special alloy that would resist laser beams. He didn't know whether or not the alloy would resist the beams, so I'm betting that Cap used a spare shield instead of his original one as he didn't want to take the chance of destroying the shield that he carried with him through the 1940's and to greater heights of glory in the Marvel Age of Comics. So he left the original at Avengers HQ and, upon returning there, retrieved it and went to Costa Verde to continue his fight with the Living Laser. Now if you can take it from there, consider yourself no-prized. I want to tell you that the Avengers are tops in my book and I'll continue to read them until Goliath gets afraid of heights.

Alvin Grinage, Jr., 204 Fourth St.
Rankin, Pa. 15104

That may be sooner than you think, Al, the way things have been going lately for the personable Mr. Pym! After his run-in with the Dragon Man—plus a couple of things that we've got planned for him in the near future—he may just decide to become the first Aero-phobic Avenger! And, when he does, you'll be able to say, "I told you so!" Fair 'nuff?



Dear Stan, Roy, and John,

These few words are written in defense of Goliath and the Wasp. In issue #39 you ran 2 letters from 2 fans asking you to get rid of these particular people in the Avengers. One asked to eradicate Wanda and Pietro and the

other asked to remove Jan and Hank. I don't agree with either of them for the simple reason that each of the characters who make up the Avengers has his part to play. The disappearance of any of them would cut down the appeal of this mag tenfold. As a firm supporter and long-time reader of your fabulous mags, permit me to say that you are doing a wonderful job!

Sp/4 William P. Sturdevant, RA 16801173, Co. B,
93rd Sig. Bn., APO, New York, N.Y. 09175

Permission most definitely granted, private! We sort'a plan to keep the Avengers roster as it is for the time being—which means for at least two more issues. After that, it's anybody's guess! But, we promise you this, Bill—you'll know as soon as we do! (In fact, you may even notice it sooner, since we tend to be just a wee bit forgetful!)



Dear Stan, Roy, and John,

AVENGERS #39 will go down in history as one of the greatest mags a Marvelite will or ever has read. I have one complaint, natch. You sort of weakened the Avengers standards when it only took the Pile-Driver, the Mad Thinker, Thunderboot, and Hammerhead to beat the mighty Avengers. Then Hercules by himself really whips the evil quartet and frees the Avengers. I think Pile-Driver was great and would be a good enemy for Iron Man. #39 had so many great parts that I couldn't express, nor even Thor could express, the greatness of it. A lot of your fans complain about the roster of the Avengers. My opinion is that it's great the way it is. The Black Widow doesn't seem to be the type who'd join a group like the Avengers and get a lot of publicity. She seems to be a loner like Spider-Man. My reason for no changes in the roster is that Goliath adds raw strength and zut. Hawkeye puts spice and sort of romance, the Wasp adds the same. Wanda and

hex just does something for the better, and Quicksilver adds awe. Cap put fight and encouragement into the Avengers. I think your yarns are great, and keep them three to four issues long, but don't end them so suspense-filled—it's a month between issues, you know! And please don't print a picture of Irving Forbush—let us use our imaginations. Nuff said! Scott Ruhe, 744 Linden Ave. Johnstown, Pa. 15902

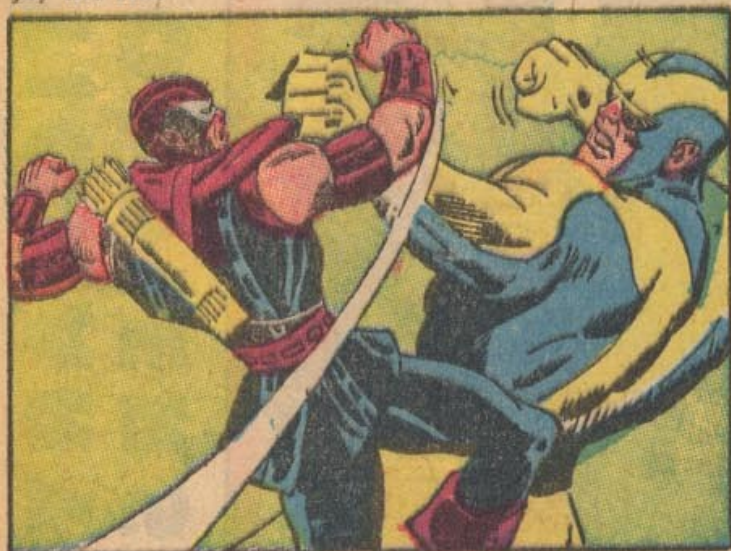
As a matter of fact, Scott, it's beginning to look as if we couldn't print a picture of irrepressible Irv if we wanted to! You've heard of people whose face would break a camera? We tried having Big John Buscema doing a pen-and-ink sketch of the world's most famous nonentity, and—well, let's put it this way: Do you know a nice cheap way to remove permanent ink stains from a new wash'n'wear shirt?

Dear Stan, Roy, and John,

Wow! I thought I was going to give up reading the Avengers for good because of Roy's (formerly, I might add) exaggerated style of writing. Then you had to hit me with issue #39. If Roy Thomas can write this well, the word is—go, go, go! (So go already!)

Nils Osmar, Box 276
Soldatna, Alaska 99669

The Rascally One did go, Nils—straight to our characteristically chaotic file-cabinet, to look up ish #39 and find out just what he started doing right! But, as usual, all our extra copies of that mag were gone. Frankly, we suspect that our cleaning-lady is either a sneak-reader or else an agent for Brand Echh! So, we'll just say welcome back aboard, chum, and we hope you enjoy the ride!



Dear Stan, Roy, and John,

Several days ago I purchased AVENGERS #39. Don's art was fine, as was George Bell's inking. Now for the reason why this issue did not come off too well. "The Torment and the Triumph" moved along quite nicely until page 17. On pages 17 through 20 a battle takes place between the Avengers and the villains. This battle should have lasted through issue #40. Just check panel 4 on page 20. I get sick and tired of the fans that write in and complain about continued stories. Continued stories are better for these reasons: Better plot development—take the new classic example of F.F. #s 44-47. It would be impossible to fit a story of that stature into one issue. A more interesting battle between the heroes and the villains, and more suspense. If you do not want to use all of issue #40 for the Mad Thinker story, you could use part of the mag and use the rest to lead into your next story. (F.F. #48 was a good example of this and so is Thor's series.) Hoorah! This is for the fact that there will be an Avengers Special this year. I hope it features the whole Avengers roster against some evil menace.

Pat Breene, 1 Running Brand Rd.
Rolling Hills, Cal.

Don't worry, Pat—it most certainly does! We managed to toss in everybody who's ever been an Avenger, except for the horrendous Hulk! And even he managed to sneak into a pin-up page, just so nobody'd forget him—as if anybody could! As for your request for more continued stories, you've probably noticed that we've

been leaning a bit in that direction lately, but we plan to let the nature of each particular story determine whether it runs for one, two, or more issues! (We'd elaborate at greater length, pal, but this is the longest serious answer we've written all month, and the strain is kind'a getting to us!)



Dear Stan, Roy, and John,

I can well understand your feelings about the Old vs. New Avengers controversy. I know that the Avengers was founded as a series containing co-operative action by heroes who had made names for themselves in separate series. But your artistic sense rebelled against the discrepancies in continuity that arose, and forced you to abandon the project. But you couldn't create new heroes out of whole cloth because that would have defeated the series' original purpose. So you did the only thing you could, short of abandoning the series entirely, by refilling the ranks with reformed super-villains, and now you have half your audience mad at you. May I suggest a possible approach at a solution—establish an Avengers Special consisting of three parts—"Best of the Old Avengers" reprint, "Best of the New Avengers" reprint, and a first-run story where, once a year, some extraordinary emergency causes the whole group to reunite under the banner of the United Avengers, as they did to debate the admission of Spider-Man. And I think D.D. should be a member of the United Avengers because it should contain everybody except affiliated groups like the F.F. or X-Men, Spider-Man, because his position as a loner is much more effective and unique, and Sub-Mariner and the Hulk, who are not committed to the side of either good or evil. And another thing, don't be so hard on villains like the Living Laser or the Human Top. I can't help feeling sympathy for baddies who commit their crimes because they are madly in love with the Wasp—so am I!

Steve Bowell, Rm. 229, Elder Hall, Northwestern U.
Evanston, Ill.

For that matter, so is half the mighty Marvel Bullpen, Steve! But, you don't see them going around plotting to conquer the earth, do you? At least, we hope you don't—although, to tell the truth, Smilin' Stan did have a funny sort of gleam in his eye this morning! But, we assumed it was just astigmatism!

NEXT ISH: Needless to say, we're gonna find some way to bring together the most natural foes in all Marvel-dom—namely, Captain America and the sensational Red Guardian! But, don't worry about the rest of our astonishing assemblers growing fat and lazy from inactivity, 'cause we've got a hunch they'll be plenty busy battling the thousand-and-one ultra-powerful weapons which protect the sinister Psychotron! And, we suspect that our cataclysmic, catastrophic climax will kind'a grab you, too! (In fact, even the agonizin' ads we've got planned for next ish will knock you out of your bird!) So, check in early, hear—AVENGERS #44 may just be the greatest blockbusterin' mag of all!

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