



MARVEL
COMICS
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THE AVENGERS

APPROVED
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COMICS
CODE
AUTHORITY

"THE
LIVING
LASER!"



INTRODUCING:

ONE OF THE MOST
DEADLY SUPER-FOES
IN THE ANNALS OF
MARVELDOM!

THE MIGHTY AVENGERS!

"THE LIVING LASER!"

HAH! NO BANK VAULT IS SAFE FROM THE POWER OF THE LIVING LASER! MY IRRESISTIBLE BEAM CUTS THRU THE STRONGEST STEEL LIKE A HOT KNIFE THRU BUTTER!

I'VE TRIPPED THE ALARM! BUT, THAT'S NO CONCERN OF MINE! I'LL BE GONE BEFORE THE POLICE ARRIVE!

SEE THE MAN IN THE STRANGE COSTUME! HE IS A BAD MAN! HE IS ROBBING A BANK! HE IS CALLED THE LASER! HE IS CALLED THE LASER! CAN YOU TELL WHY HE IS CALLED THE LASER? LET US READ THE STORY AND SEE WHAT HAPPENS TO THE WICKED LASER!

SPECIAL NOTE FROM YOUR RED-FACED BULLPEN:
LAST ISH, WE ANNOUNCED A DRAMATIC CHANGE IN GOLIATH THIS MONTH--BUT ACTUALLY, THIS YARN SERVES TO THRILLINGLY SET THE STAGE FOR HIS BIG CHANGE NEXT ISH! FORGIVE US, FRANTIC ONE!--SHAMEFACED STAN.

SPELLBINDING STORY:
SMILIN' STAN LEE

AWE-INSPIRING ARTWORK:
DASHIN' DONNIE HECK

LOTS OF LITTLE LETTERING:
ADORABLE ARTIE SIMEK

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**SURROUND THE
BLOCK! COVER ALL
THE ENTRANCES!**

THANK! THEY QUICKLY

CLANNINGGGGG

LUCKY WE WERE CRUISE BY!

WH IN HE

LUCKY WE
WERE
CRUISING BY!
NOBODY GOT
PAST US YET!

WHOEVER'S
IN THERE--
HE WON'T
GET
AWAY!

THERE'S NO
WAY OUT--
EXCEPT PAST
US!

THIS IS THE POLICE! COME OUT WITH YOUR HANDS UP! WE KNOW YOU'RE IN THERE! YOU HAVEN'T A CHANCE!

NO ANSWER! WE'LL
GIVE 'EM ANOTHER
THIRTY SECONDS--

--AND THEN,
WE'LL **BREAK**
IN!

LET
GO.

GRAB YOUR
GUNS! THEY
MAY BE
ARMED!

**EMPTY! BUT--I
DON'T GET IT!
THEY'VE GOT TO
BE HERE! THEY
COULDN'T HAVE
ESCAPED!**

**KEEP LOOKING!
THEY MAY BE
HIDING SOMEWHERE!**

WE KNOW
SOMETHING
TRIGGERED
THAT ALARM

OVER HERE!
QUICK! I FOUND
THE ANSWER!

THAT'S THE
SARGE! HE'S
ON TO
SOMETHING!

YOU CAN PUT
THOSE GUNS
AWAY! LOOKS
LIKE WE
MISSED THE
BOAT!

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WHOEVER PULLED THIS JOB GOT AWAY CLEAN AS A WHISTLE--THRU THERE!

BUT--HOW'D HE MAKE A HOLE LIKE THAT--IN A STEEL-BEAMED CEILING??

MIGHT AS WELL ASK HOW HE CUT THRU THE VAULT! THE DOOR'S TWELVE INCHES THICK!



THEY STILL DON'T SUSPECT WHO I AM--OR WHAT MY POWER IS!

BUT, THEY'LL KNOW SOON ENOUGH! THE WHOLE WORLD WILL KNOW, WHEN THE RIGHT TIME COMES!

I'LL TOSS THIS PACKET OF BONDS BACK DOWN TO THEM! IT MEANS NOTHING TO ME!

I MERELY WANTED TO PROVE MY POWER! AND, I SUCCEEDED!



AND, SPEAKING OF SUCCESS, THE MIGHTY AVENGERS ARE ENJOYING THE FRUITS OF THEIRS (SUCCESS, THAT IS!)--

NOW THAT THE SERPENTS* ARE POLISHED OFF, WE CAN ALL TAKE A LITTLE BREATHER!

WHAT'LL YOU BE DOING WITH YOURSELF, GOLIATH?

IT'S BACK TO THE LAB FOR ME, CAP!

I'VE STILL GOT TO WORK ON MY SIZE-REDUCTION PROJECT!

AND HOW ABOUT YOU, JAN?

WHILE BLUE-EYES DOES THE MAD SCIENTIST BIT, I'LL CATCH UP ON SOME SHOPPING!

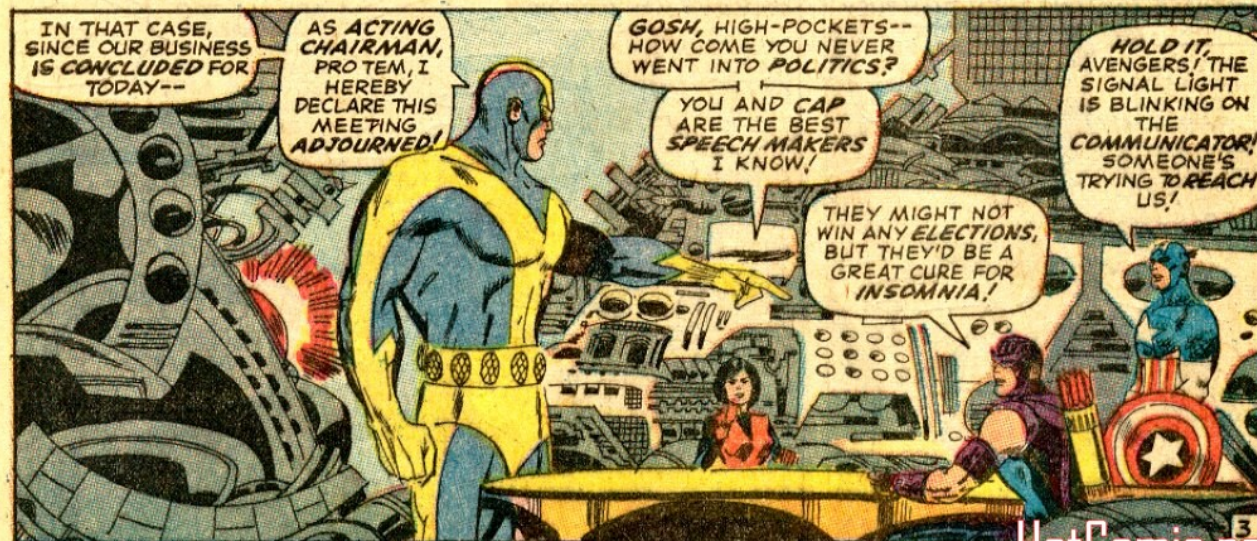
*SERPENT-POLISHING TIME WAS LAST ISH, IN CASE IT SLIPPED YOUR MIND!-- STUDIOUS STAN.



YOU LOOK PRETTY CHEERFUL, HAWKEYE! THERE MUST BE A FEMALE IN YOUR FUTURE!

THERE SURE WILL BE, IF I CAN HELP IT!

I'M NOT LETTIN' NATASHA GET AWAY FROM ME AGAIN!



IN THAT CASE, SINCE OUR BUSINESS IS CONCLUDED FOR TODAY--

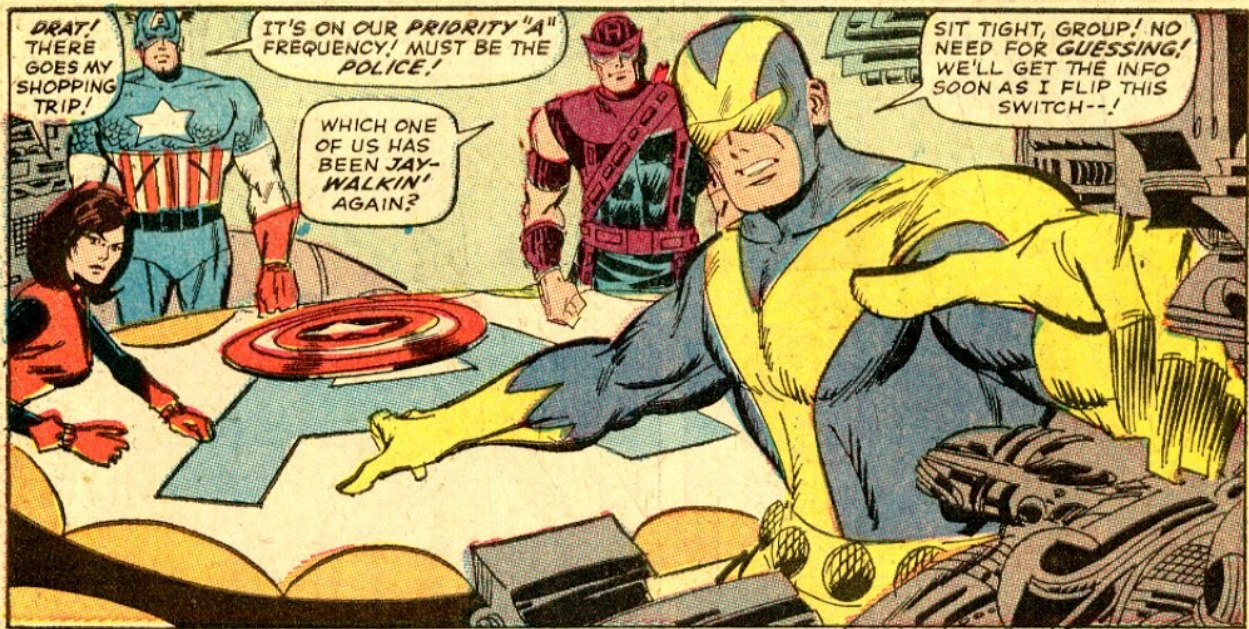
AS ACTING CHAIRMAN, PRO TEM, I HEREBY DECLARE THIS MEETING ADJOURNED!

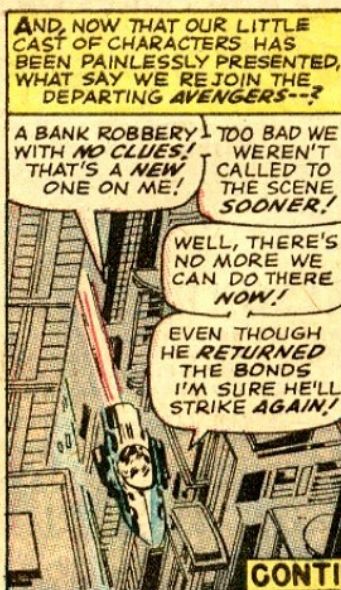
GOSH, HIGH-POCKETS--HOW COME YOU NEVER WENT INTO POLITICS?

YOU AND CAP ARE THE BEST SPEECH MAKERS I KNOW!

THEY MIGHT NOT WIN ANY ELECTIONS, BUT THEY'D BE A GREAT CURE FOR INSOMNIA!

HOLD IT, AVENGERS! THE SIGNAL LIGHT IS BLINKING ON THE COMMUNICATOR! SOMEONE'S TRYING TO REACH US!





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AND, SPEAKING OF ARTHUR PARKS, THIS MAY BE AS GOOD A TIME AS ANY TO LEARN A BIT MORE ABOUT THAT SOMEWHAT SINGULAR STALWART--AND, WHAT BETTER WAY THAN BY PROBING HIS OWN INNERMOST THOUGHTS--

IT DOESN'T SEEM POSSIBLE!

WHEN LUCY BROKE OFF WITH ME, I THOUGHT MY LIFE HAD ENDED!

*ALTHOUGH WIRE-TAPPING IS ILLEGAL IN CERTAIN AREAS, FORTUNATELY FOR COMICDOM, MIND-TAPPING IS STILL PERMISSIBLE WHEN NECESSARY! --SOCIOLOGICAL STAN.

I WAS READY TO DO ANYTHING TO PROVE I WAS BETTER THAN THAT BANKER'S SON SHE DECIDED TO MARRY!



AND NOW--AFTER JUST ONE FLEETING GLIMPSE OF THE WASP--LUCY MEANS NOTHING TO ME!

I NEVER BELIEVED IN LOVE AT FIRST SIGHT BEFORE--UNTIL TODAY!



BUT--WHAT DO I DO NOW? SHE'S THE PARTNER OF THE MOST POWERFUL AVENGER OF ALL!



BUT, THAT DOESN'T HAVE TO STOP ME!

MY OWN NEW-FOUND POWER HAS BEEN ABLE TO GET ME ALL THE MONEY I CAN EVER NEED, AND, IT'S GIVEN ME SOMETHING FAR GREATER THAN MERE WEALTH--



IT'S GIVEN ME A WEAPON--ONE STRONG ENOUGH TO DEFEAT THE AVENGERS THEMSELVES, IF THEY SHOULD EVER DARE OPPOSE ME!

I HAD ORIGINALLY STUMBLED UPON MY DISCOVERY WHILE DOING PURE RESEARCH--A DISCOVERY ALLOWING ME TO HARNESS ONE OF THE MOST AWESOME SOURCES OF ENERGY ON EARTH!

BUT, NOW, I'M THRU WITH RESEARCH! MY DISCOVERY WILL BE USED TO SERVE NO ONE BUT MYSELF!



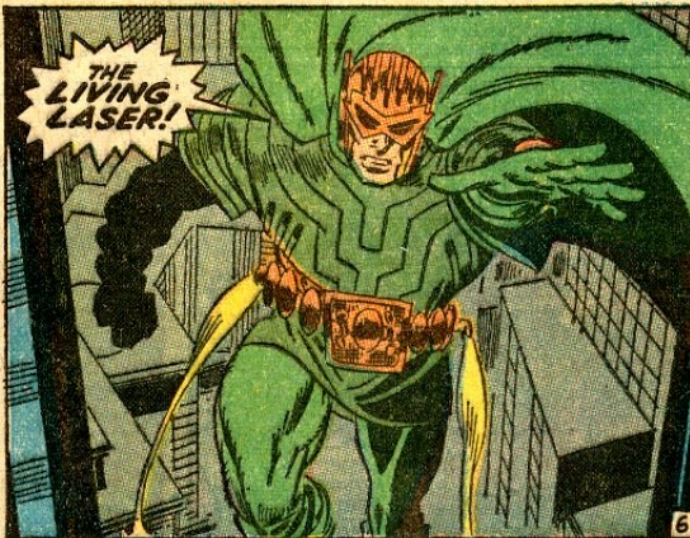
AND, THERE'S NO TIME LIKE THE PRESENT!

IF ANYONE CAN WIN THE WONDERFUL WASP AWAY FROM GOLIATH, ONLY ONE MAN CAN DO IT! AND I'M THAT MAN!

FOR, NO ONE CAN MATCH THE POWER OF--



THE LIVING LASER!



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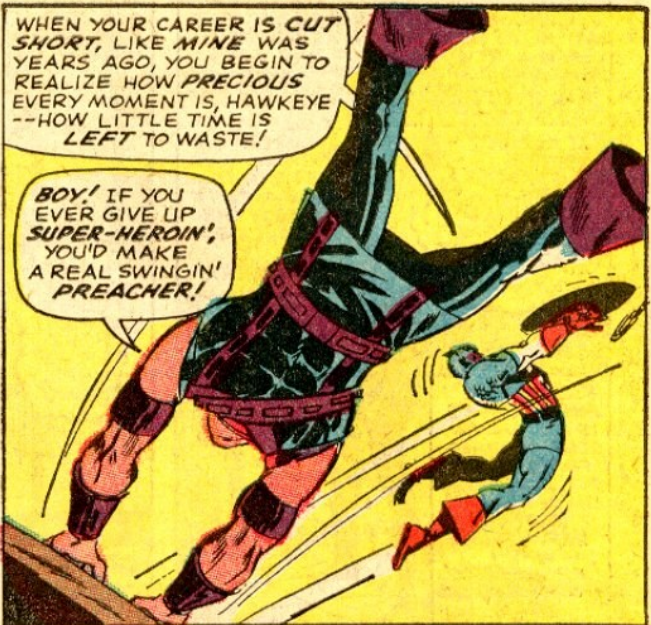


OKAY, NOW THAT MIND-TAPPING TIME IS OVER, LET'S RETURN TO AVENGERS' HQ--

WE MIGHT AS WELL RESUME TRAINING WHILE WE'RE WAITING FOR OUR NEXT CALL TO ACTION!

A LITTLE EXERCISE WILL DO US ALL SOME GOOD!

CAN'T YOU EAGER BEAVERS EVER JUST WASTE TIME, LIKE ANY-ONE ELSE?



WHEN YOUR CAREER IS CUT SHORT, LIKE MINE WAS YEARS AGO, YOU BEGIN TO REALIZE HOW PRECIOUS EVERY MOMENT IS, HAWKEYE --HOW LITTLE TIME IS LEFT TO WASTE!

BOY! IF YOU EVER GIVE UP SUPER-HEROIN', YOU'D MAKE A REAL SWINGIN' PREACHER!



BUT, Y'KNOW SOMETHIN', WING-HEAD? EVEN THOUGH YOU'RE THE WORLD'S BIGGEST CORNBALL, I WOULDN'T SWAP YA FOR ANY OTHER PARTNER IN CAPTIVITY!

NATURALLY! NO ONE ELSE COULD TAKE A GALOOT LIKE YOU!

CAREFUL! YOU'LL GIVE ME A SWELLED HEAD!



GOOD WORK, CAP! YOU'RE MAKING A REAL GYMNAST OUT OF HIM!

WHAT'S THE BIG DEAL? CAP KNOWS I AINT EXACTLY GRAN'MA MOSES!

LTAP!



THEN, A HALF-HOUR LATER--AFTER THE HIGH-POWERED WORKOUT--

WE'LL HAVE TO GET SOME HEAVIER BAR-BELLS FOR YOU, HANK! YOU'VE BEEN LIFTING THEM LIKE THEY'RE TOOTHPICKS!

BACK TO THE LAB, CAP!

I STILL WANT TO WORK ON MY SIZE-REDUCTION FORMULA!

COMING, JAN?

WHERE ARE YOU GOING NOW, BIG FELLA?

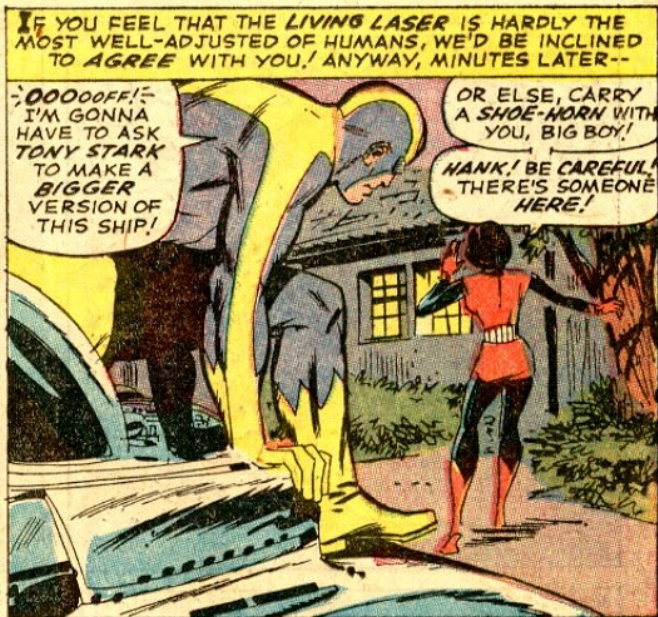
RIGHT WITH YOU, HAND-SOME!



I'M IN LUCK! GOLIATH AND THE WASP JUST LEFT BY THEMSELVES!

SO, I WON'T HAVE THE OTHER TWO AVENGERS TO CONTENT WITH...!

MY FIRST OBJECTIVE MUST BE TO CONVINCE HER THAT THE LIVING LASER IS THE MOST POWERFUL OF ALL!

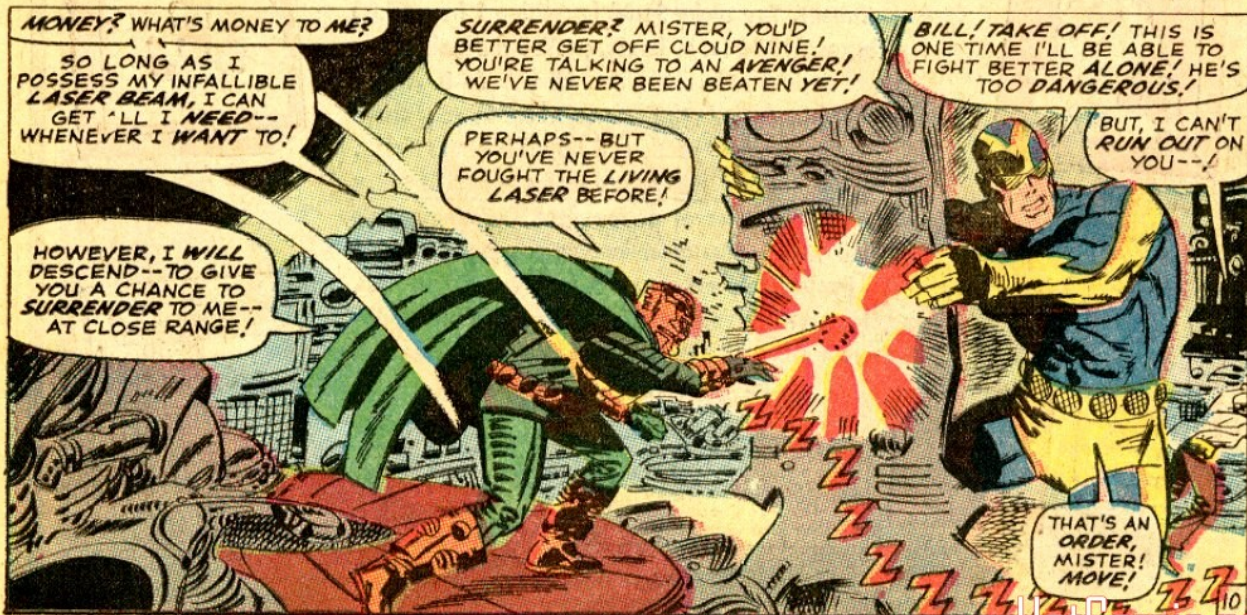
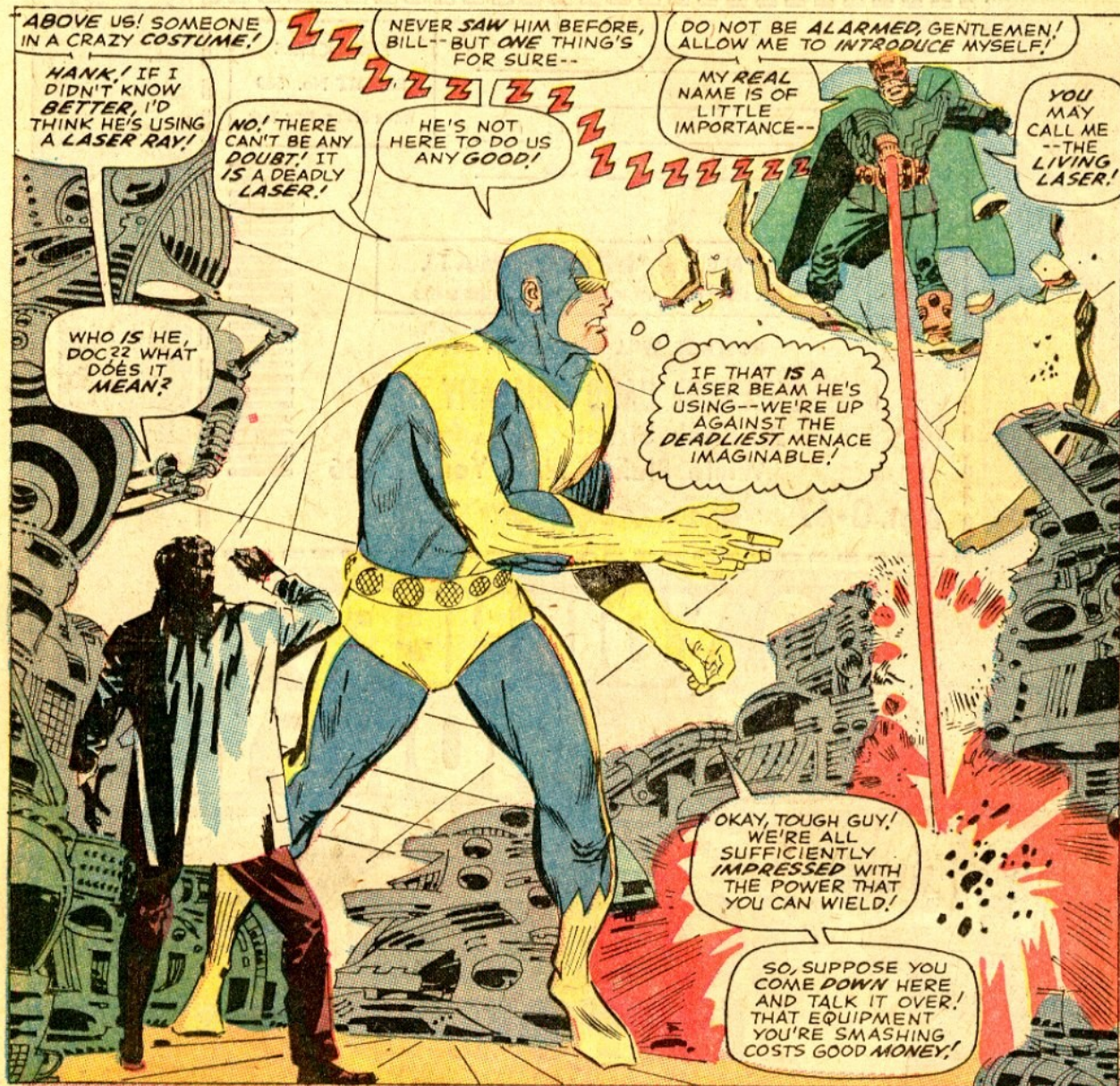




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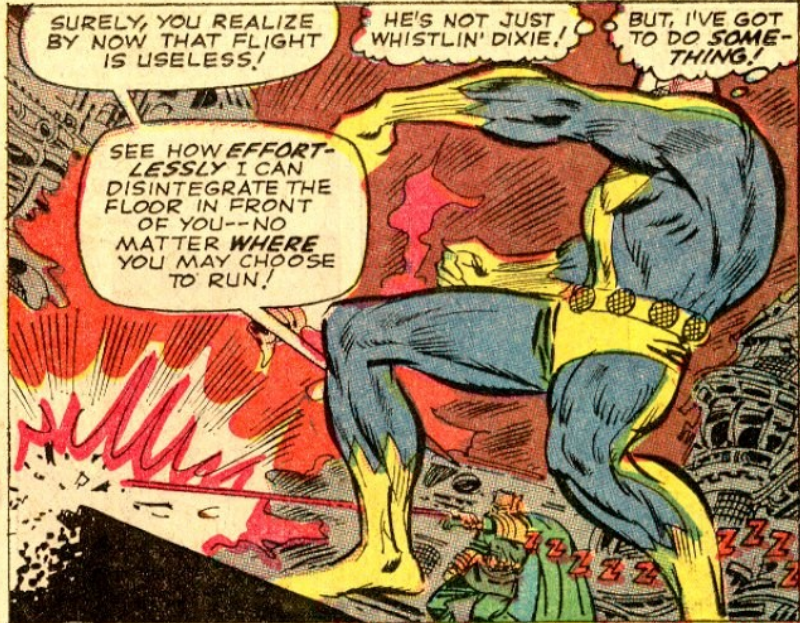
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THAT WAS CONSIDERATE OF YOU, GOLIATH!

OR, COULD IT BE THAT YOU WANTED NO WITNESS TO YOUR IMPENDING DEFEAT??



SURELY, YOU REALIZE BY NOW THAT FLIGHT IS USELESS!

HE'S NOT JUST WHISTLIN' DIXIE!

BUT, I'VE GOT TO DO SOMETHING!

SEE HOW EFFORTLESSLY I CAN DISINTEGRATE THE FLOOR IN FRONT OF YOU--NO MATTER WHERE YOU MAY CHOOSE TO RUN!



THE MIGHTY GOLIATH! HAH! HOW EASILY I THWART YOU AT EVERY TURN!

I ADMIRE YOUR EFFORTS--HOWEVER BUMBLING--TO SEIZE SOME WEAPON TO HURL AT ME... BUT, NOTICE HOW I CAN ELIMINATE ANYTHING BEFORE YOU CAN TOUCH IT!

WEAPON MY FOOT! I'VE SOMETHING ELSE IN MIND!

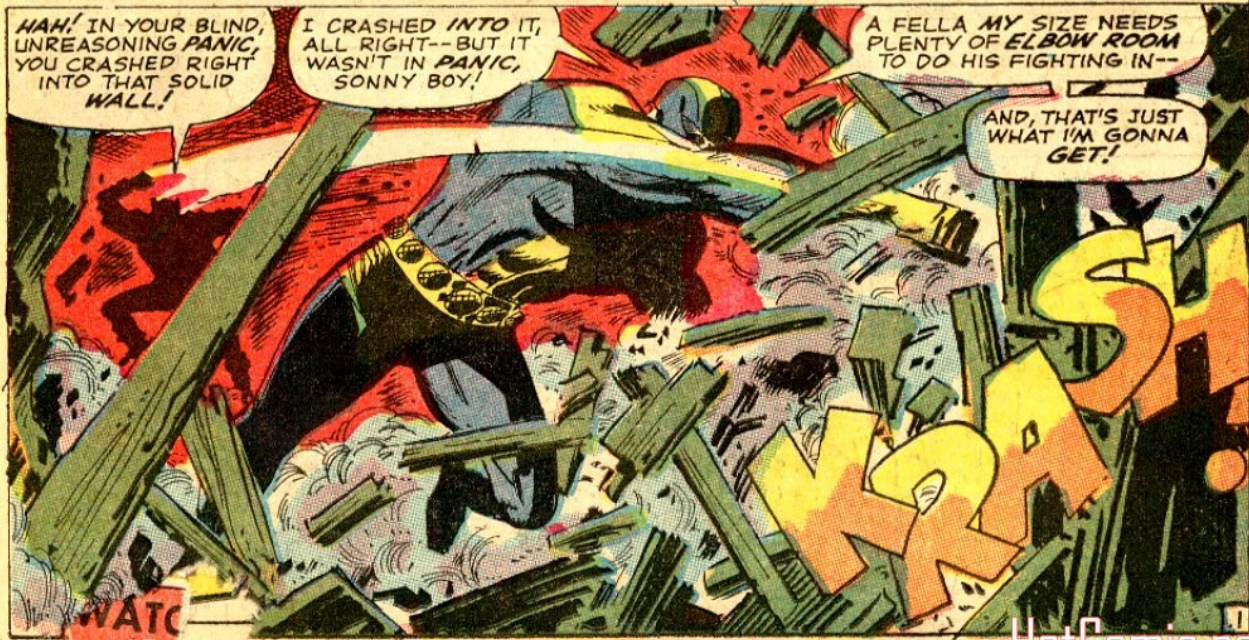


GOOD! BY APPEARING TO BE AT A LOSS FOR WHAT TO DO NEXT, MANAGED TO MAKE IT TO THE SPOT I WANT!

LIKE SO MANY OTHERS, HIS OVER-CONFIDENCE COULD BE HIS UNDOING--

IF I'M LUCKY!

RUN, GOLIATH! RUN--LIKE THE HIGHLY-TOUTED FAILURE YOU REALLY ARE!



HAH! IN YOUR BLIND, UNREASONING PANIC, YOU CRASHED RIGHT INTO THAT SOLID WALL!

I CRASHED INTO IT, ALL RIGHT--BUT IT WASN'T IN PANIC, SONNY BOY!

A FELLA MY SIZE NEEDS PLENTY OF ELBOW ROOM TO DO HIS FIGHTING IN--

AND, THAT'S JUST WHAT I'M GONNA GET!

ELBOW ROOM,
YOU CALL IT!
BUT, YOU'RE
NOT FOOLING
ME!

YOUR
ONLY
OBJECTIVE
IS ESCAPE!

BUT,
THERE IS
NO ESCAPE!
MY LASER
BEAM CAN
REACH
ANYWHERE!

I DON'T KNOW
ABOUT YOUR BEAM,
BUT YOUR VOICE
SURE CAN!

DON'T YOU EVER
GIVE YOUR LUNGS
A REST?

YOU HAVE
HURLED YOUR
LAST BRAZEN
TAUNT AT
ME, GOLIATH!

I SHALL BE
MERCIFUL
TO YOU
NO LONGER!

I THOUGHT YOUR ABJECT
SURRENDER WOULD
SATISFY ME--BUT, THAT
WILL NO LONGER BE
ENOUGH!

NOW, I MUST HAVE
NOTHING LESS THAN
YOUR COMPLETE AND
EVERLASTING
DESTRUCTION!

WHA--?!-- A GIANT
TREE ROOT--BEING
RIPPED FROM OUT
OF THE GROUND--
RIGHT UNDER MY
FEET!

SKRINTCH!

IT'S
GOLIATH!

HE
WASN'T
FLEEING!
HE
TRICKED
ME!

THWUNKKKK!

NOW STAY
PUT, MISTER!

MY INNING
IS COMING
UP!

LIKE A GIANT, LIVING STEAM-
SHOVEL SCOOP, GOLIATH'S
MIGHTY HAND DIGS INTO THE
HARD-PACKED SOIL BELOW,
AND THEN--

FIRST OF ALL,
I'LL STOP YOU
FROM USING
THAT BEAM
OF YOURS--!

AND, THERE'S NO BETTER
WAY TO DO IT THAN BY
HURLING A FEW HUNDRED
POUNDS OF SOIL AT YOUR
EYES!

UNNNHHH!!

WHAT YOU CAN'T
SEE--YOU CAN'T
AIM AT! AND
WHAT YOU CAN'T
AIM AT, YOU
CAN'T HIT!

HAT'S
ORDER,
MISTER!
MISTER!

BUT, WITHIN A MATTER OF SECONDS...

TOO BAD, GOLIATH!
YOUR PLAN WAS
DOOMED TO
FAILURE--

IT ONLY
TOOK ONE
SWEEP OF MY
HAND TO WIPE
MY PROTECTIVE
EYE-LENSES
CLEAN!

AND
NOW--

SO! YOU CHOOSE
TO HIDE FROM
ME, DO YOU?

YOU OVER-
SIZED FOOL!
AS IF ANYONE
AS LARGE AS
YOU COULD
SUCCESSFULLY
CONCEAL HIM-
SELF FOR LONG!

I'LL FIND
YOU, GOLIATH!
AND, WHEN I
DO--YOUR
DEFEAT SHALL
BE TOTAL--
AND IRREVO-
CABLE!

ANYONE EVER
TELL YOU
YOU TALK TOO
MUCH?

YOU SURE
CAN BE
NOISY FOR
SUCH A CORNY-
LOOKIN'
LITTLE
FELLA!

YOU!

THAT'S MORE
LIKE IT! ONE-
WORD
EXPLETIVES
ARE ALWAYS
MORE
DRAMATIC!

NOW BRACE
YOURSELF
--CAUSE
YOU'RE
ABOUT TO
TAKE A
LITTLE
FALL!

NOT HARD ENOUGH
TO REALLY HURT
YOU--BUT,
SUFFICIENT TO
KEEP YOU QUIET
FOR A WHILE!

I MIGHT BE
ABLE TO LIVE
WITH YOUR
LASER BLASTS
--BUT THOSE
CORNBALL
THREATS OF
YOURS WERE
JUST TOO
MUCH!

--UNHHH!--

HANK! ARE YOU
THERE? SAY SOME-
THING! IT'S SO
QUIET! ARE YOU
OKAY--??

BILL! I SHOULD
HAVE FIGURED
YOU WOULDN'T
GO FAR!

I'M RIGHT OVER
HERE, MR. FOSTER!
NOTHING TO WORRY
ABOUT! THE LASER
IS SLEEPING IT
OFF FOR A WHILE!

AND, WITH THAT
UNSTOPPABLE BEAM
OF HIS, IT'S A
LUCKY THING HE IS!

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Y'KNOW, HANK-- IF THIS IS WHAT IT TAKES TO BE THE WORLD'S TOP BIO-CHEMIST, I THINK I'M IN THE WRONG BUSINESS!

BEING A SCIENTIST IS THE MOST FUN THERE IS, BILL! IT'S BEING AN AVENGER ON THE SIDE THAT SOMETIMES GETS A LITTLE STICKY!

ANYWAY, IT'S NEVER TOO LONELY! HERE COMES COMPANY NOW!



WE CAME TO TELL YOU THAT THE POLICE HAVE DEDUCED A LASER BEAM OF SOME SORT MUST HAVE BEEN EMPLOYED IN THAT BANK ROBBERY!

GENTLE- MEN, MEET THE LIVING LASER!

ALTHOUGH A LITTLE OF THE LIFE SEEMS TO HAVE GONE OUT OF HIM AT THE MOMENT!

BUT, IT SEEMS THAT YOU'RE JUST A FEW STEPS AHEAD OF US, MR. PYM!

SAY! IF THIS WAS A COSTUME PARTY, THAT GEEZER WOULD WIN FIRST PRIZE HANDS DOWN!

IF YOU STALWARTS WILL PUT HIM UNDER WRAPS AT HQ, BILL AND I WILL GET ON WITH OUR WORK!



THUS, A FEW MOMENTS LATER--

MY ONLY CHANCE IS TO CONTINUE FEIGNING UNCONSCIOUSNESS!

I'LL SAY ONE THING FOR GOLIATH --WHEN HE TACKLES A BADDIE, HE SURE DOESN'T KID AROUND!

CAN'T FIGURE OUT HOW HE EVER GOT PAST HIS LASER BEAMS --BUT I'M SURE GLAD HE DID!



BETTER BUCKLE UP, CAP! WE'LL BE LANDING IN A COUPLE'A MINUTES!

ALL SET, HAWKEYE!

PERFECT! WHILE THEY CONCENTRATE ON THEIR LANDING ATTITUDE, I'LL HAVE A PERFECT OPPORTUNITY TO TAKE MY LEAVE!



ALL I NEED DO IS CUT A THIN, SILENT CIRCLE THRU THE FLOOR BENEATH ME!

HAWKEYE! WHAT'S THAT SUDDEN HUM??



I DUNNO, CAP! IT SEEMED TO BE COMING FROM-- HEY!

LOOK! OVER THERE! IT'S THE LASER! HE'S FLYIN' AWAY!

WE WERE FOOLS! WE NEVER CONSIDERED THE POSSIBILITY OF HIS HAVING THE POWER OF FLIGHT!

AND--WE CAN'T EVEN GO AFTER HIM! OUR SHIP IS OUT OF CONTROL --DUE TO THE HOLE HE BLASTED THRU THE FLOOR!

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CAN'T STRAIGHTEN HER OUT, TOO MUCH FORCED AIR POURING IN! WE'RE HEADIN' FOR THE **DRINK!**

WE'VE GOT TO DO SOMETHING HAWKEYE! IF WE HIT AT THIS SPEED--IT'S CURTAINS!

WELL, UNLESS YOU KNOW A WAY TO SPROUT WINGS REAL FAST, I'M OPEN TO ANY SUGGESTIONS!

OKAY--HERE'S ONE! LET'S GET THIS CANOPY OPEN--FAST!

A BOW AND ARROW!

DID YOU LOSE YOUR MARBLES, WINGHEAD??

WHAT IN BLAZES IS THERE TO SHOOT AT FROM UP HERE??

THE BRIDGE! WHAT A DOUBLED-DYED LUNKHEAD I AM!

ONE SUCTION ARROW COMIN' UP, AVENGER!

SUPPOSE YOU TRY THAT BRIDGE TOWER, FOR A STARTER!

NOW--GET YOUR BOW--AND A SUCTION ARROW! MOVE, MAN!

THWANG!

GOOD SHOT, HAWKEYE!

COME OFF IT! WHO COULD MISS SOMETHIN' THAT SIZE?!!

NOW--HANG ONTO THE LINE--AND JUMP! I'LL HOLD ONTO YOU, GO!

KNOW SOMETHIN, CAP? YOU'RE A MIGHTY HANDY JOE TO SWING ALONG WITH!

BOY! I WONDER IF OL' TONY STARK HAS THOSE PLANES OF HIS COVERED BY ENOUGH INSURANCE?

WE'D SURE BE UP THE CREEK IF HE EVER LOST THAT BANKROLL OF HIS!

THE AVENGERS WOULD CONTINUE TO FIGHT EVEN IF THEY WERE PENNILESS, HAWKEYE!

MEBBE SO--BUT WE'D SURE LOOK NUTTY GOIN' INTO ACTION ON ROLLER SKATES!

HOPE YOU'VE GOT SOME CHANGE WITH YOU, CAP!

I JUST REMEMBERED--THIS IS A TOLL BRIDGE!

NO SWEAT, HAWKEYE!

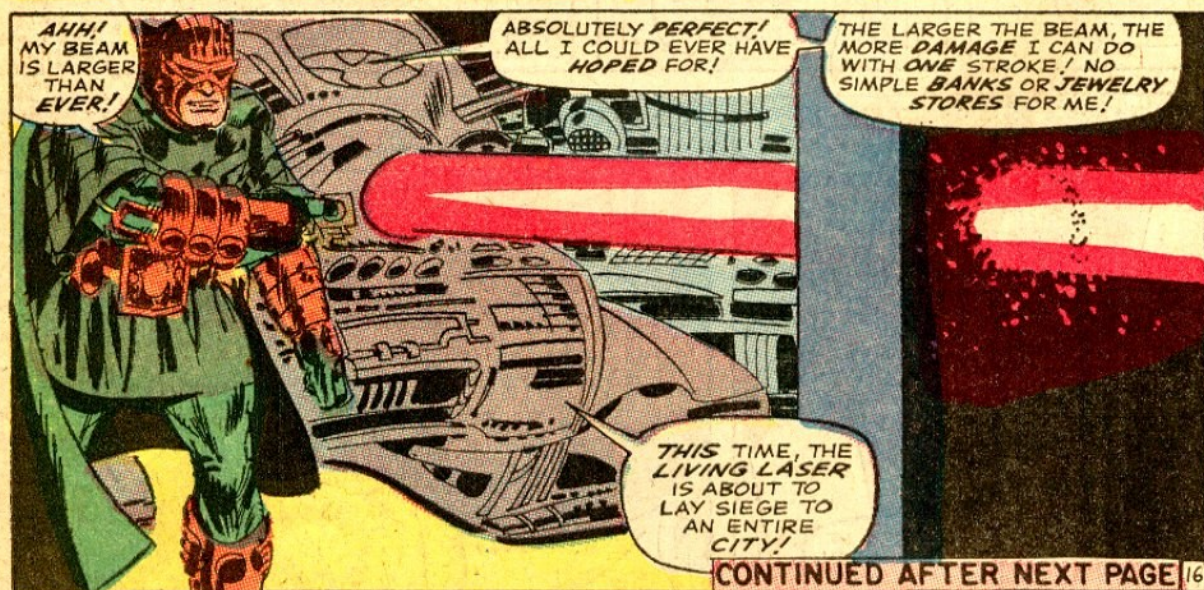
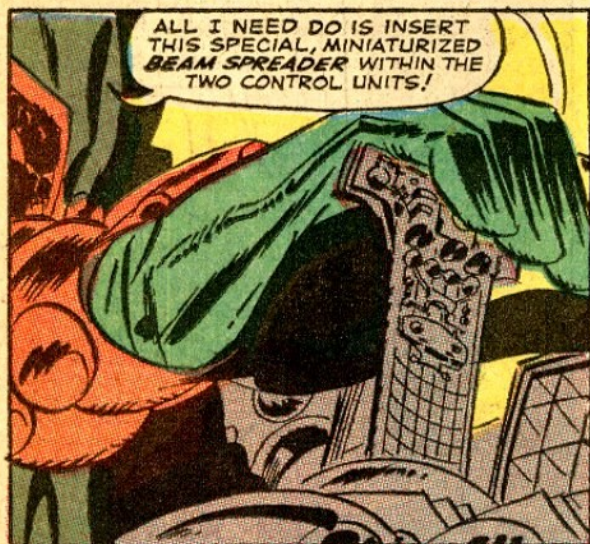
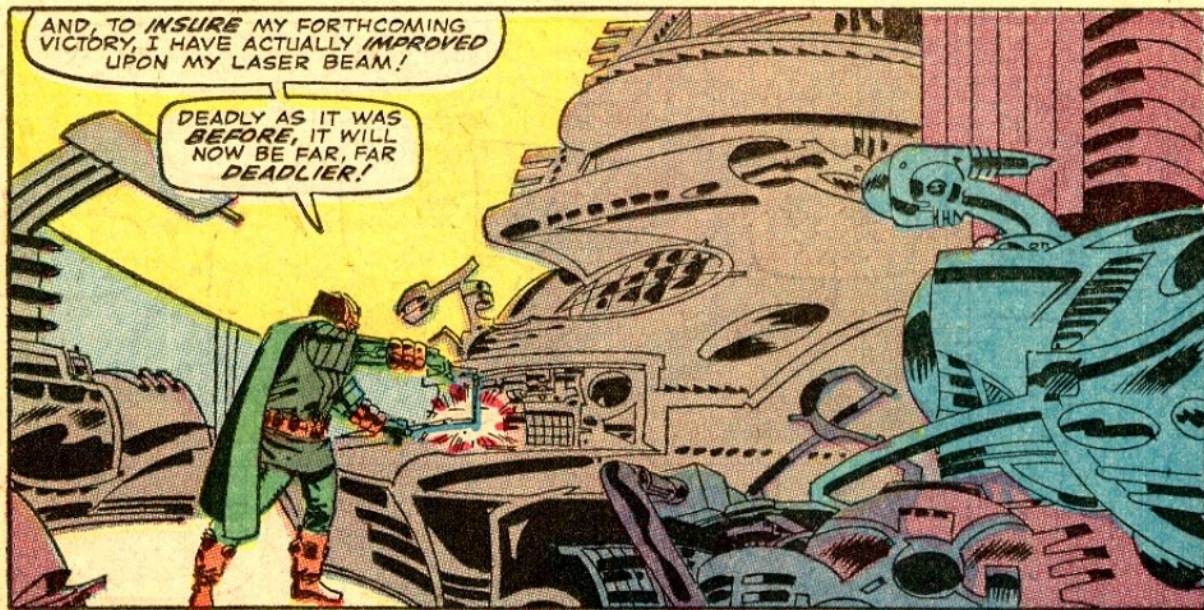
LET'S SEE IF WE CAN HITCH A RIDE BACK TO HQ!

WE'VE STILL GOT A PRISONER TO RECAPTURE!

AND, SPEAKING OF THEIR PRISONER--OR, TO REVERT TO OUR FORMER STYLE: THIS IS AN EX-PRISONER! HE IS ANGRY! IS HE NOT ANGRY? LET US SEE WHY HE IS ANGRY--

I HAD HIM BEATEN--AND THEN TOSSED AWAY MY VICTORY! IT WAS MY OWN FAULT!

NEXT TIME, I'LL BLAST HIM WITH MY LASER FIRST! NO BRAGGING! NO SPARRING!



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AND, SO IT BEGINS! LIKE SOME DEMONIAIC HUMAN DREADNAUGHT, THE **LIVING LASER** ZOOMS THRU THE SPRAWLING CITY, INTENT UPON PROVING HIS POWER IN SUCH AN INCREDIBLE FASHION, THAT NONE WILL DARE OPPOSE HIM IN THE FUTURE--!

THESE **STEEL GIRDERS**--THE LAST REMAINING VESTIGE OF THE BUILDING WHICH ONCE STOOD HERE--

--THE ORNATE, OVER-AGE BUILDING WHICH IS BEING TORN DOWN TO MAKE ROOM FOR A NEW, TOWERING **SKYSCRAPER!**

BUT, IT'S TAKING THEM FAR TOO LONG TO CLEAR THE SITE! PERHAPS THEY'LL APPRECIATE A LITTLE HELP--FROM THE **LIVING LASER!**

A SHORT TIME LATER, DAZED, UNBELIEVING EYES STARE UNCOMPREHENDINGLY AT A TABLEAU WHICH **CANNOT EXIST--** AND YET, WHICH LIES BEFORE THEM, LIKE SOME MAD, IMPOSSIBLE NIGHTMARE--!

IT HAPPENED JUST HOURS AGO! A COSTUMED MAN WAS SEEN FLYING OVER THE SITE--TRAINING SOME SORT OF LETHAL BEAM AT THE GIRDERS!

BUT NOW?? HOW COULD ONE MAN--IN A MATTER OF MINUTES ACCOMPLISH MORE THAN A WHOLE CREW OF DEMOLITION EXPERTS USING **BULLDOZERS** AND **TNT??!**

THEY HADN'T EVEN PLANNED TO REACH THIS STAGE FOR ANOTHER THREE WEEKS!

NEXT, AT A COMMERCIAL AIRPORT ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF TOWN--

ALL THESE OBSOLETE PLANES--SLATED FOR OVERSEAS DELIVERY--WHAT CAN HAVE HAPPENED TO THEM??

THERE'S ONLY ONE ANSWER--THE **LIVING LASER!** HE'S STRUCK AGAIN!

FINALLY, A DRONE VESSEL, SLATED TO BE TOWED TO SEA AS A **TARGET SHIP**, IS SENT TO ITS FINAL REST HOURS, BEFORE ITS SCHEDULED TIME...!

BY NOW, THE ENTIRE **WORLD** WILL KNOW THE POWER OF THE **LIVING LASER!**

AND SO BEGINS THE **SECOND** PHASE OF MY MASTER PLAN--THE **DESTRUCTION** OF THE MIGHTY **AVENGERS!**

AND, SPEAKING OF THE AVENGERS--IT'S TIME WE WERE RETURNING TO THEM ONCE MORE--

WHAT DO YOU THINK THE **LASER'S** UP TO, HANK? TRYING TO WRECK THE CITY SINGLE-HANDED?

THERE MUST BE MORE TO IT THAN THAT, **BILL!** AND THE **AVENGERS** WILL HAVE TO LEARN THE ANSWER!

IN FACT, **HAWKEYE** AND **CAP** ARE OUT SEARCHING FOR HIM NOW--

AND, THE **WASP** AND I WILL BE OUT JOINING THEM AS SOON AS WE CAN!

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EVEN AS GOLIATH SPEAKS, FLYING OVER THE ROOFTOPS ON A SPEEDY JET-SCOOTER, WE FIND--

WHEN I DO FIND THE LASER, THERE'S ONLY ONE POSSIBLE DEFENSE AGAINST HIS BEAM...

USING A FORMULA WHICH TONY STARK RECOMMENDED, BEFORE HIS TRIP TO WASHINGTON, I COATED MY SHIELD WITH A SPECIAL ALLOY--

IT CAN'T ACTUALLY RESIST THE LASER BEAM FOR LONG, BUT IT CAN SUCCESSFULLY HOLD OFF A SHORT, SUDDEN BURST, BY ILLUMINATORY REFRACTION!

WHILE, ON THE OTHER SIDE OF TOWN, A SECOND JET-SCOOTER AIDS IN THE SEARCH--

WE'D BETTER FIND THE LASER SOON-- OR IT'S GONNA LOOK BAD FOR US!

THE NEWSPAPERS'LL PROBABLY MAKE A BIG DEAL OUT OF THE MIGHTY AVENGERS LETTING HIM SLIP RIGHT THRU THEIR BUMBLIN' FINGERS!

UH-OH! WAIT A MINUTE! WHAT'S THAT-- ON THE BRIDGE?

SOMEONE PEPPERING A BEAM AT THE PASSING CARS!

TOYING WITH 'EM--LIKE HE'S PLAYING A CAT 'N MOUSE GAME!

LOOKS LIKE WE'VE FINALLY FOUND OUR PIGEON!

THE LASER RAY'S COMING FROM ONE OF THOSE BUILDINGS, OFF IN THE DISTANCE! IT WON'T BE HARD TO PIN-POINT IT!

HE'S SURE GOT THE CITY TIED UP IN KNOTS! TRAFFIC IS BACKED UP, AWAY FROM THE BRIDGE, FOR MILES!

WELL, HERE'S WHERE THE AVENGERS DO THEIR PART IN HELPING ROAD CONDITIONS!

OKAY, WINGHEAD-- COFFEE BREAK'S OVER! I FOUND HIM! LET'S GET GOIN'!

I'VE LOCATED THE EXACT WINDOW THE BEAM WAS SHOOTING OUT FROM, HAWKEYE!

WELL, WELL! HIYA, WASPIE! LOOKS LIKE THE GANG'S ALL HERE!

SECONDS LATER...

SEE HIM, HAWKEYE?

SURE THING! THE WASP WAS RIGHT ON THE BUTTON! HE JUST DUCKED INTO THE BASEMENT!

I'VE A HUNCH HE WANTS US TO FIND HIM! NOBODY COULD BE SUCH A CRUMMY HIDER!

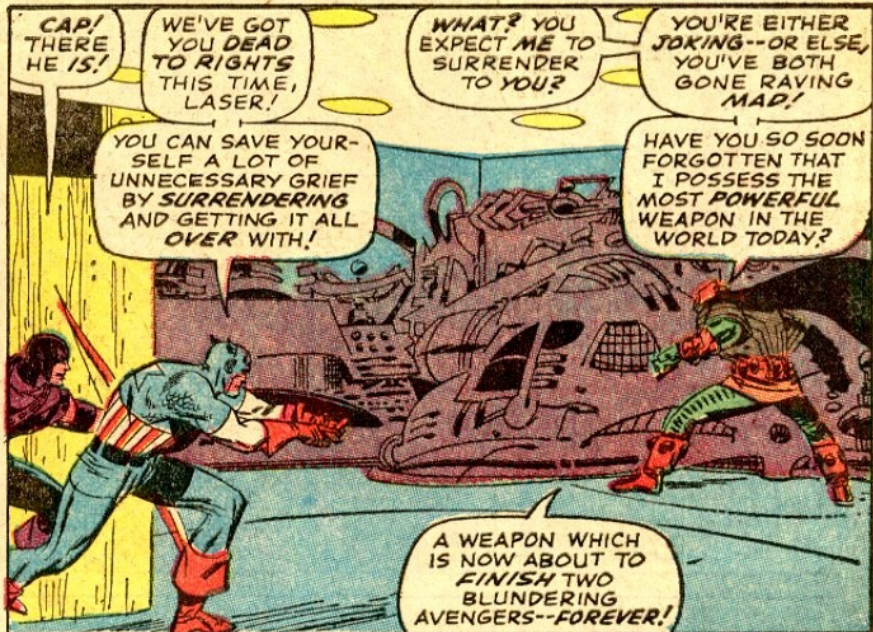
SO, HERE'S WHERE HE GETS HIS WISH! FIND YOURSELF A PARKING METER, CAP--AND LET'S GO--!



LET ME GET DOWN THERE FIRST, PARTNER!

WHAT'S THE DIFF? NO ONE'S KEEPIN' SCORE!

HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN? MY SHIELD MAY WELL BE THE ONLY DEFENSE WE'LL HAVE AGAINST HIM!



CAP! THERE HE IS!

WE'VE GOT YOU DEAD TO RIGHTS THIS TIME, LASER!

YOU CAN SAVE YOURSELF A LOT OF UNNECESSARY GRIEF BY SURRENDERING AND GETTING IT ALL OVER WITH!

WHAT? YOU EXPECT ME TO SURRENDER TO YOU?

YOU'RE EITHER JOKING--OR ELSE, YOU'VE BOTH GONE RAVING MAD!

HAVE YOU SO SOON FORGOTTEN THAT I POSSESS THE MOST POWERFUL WEAPON IN THE WORLD TODAY?

A WEAPON WHICH IS NOW ABOUT TO FINISH TWO BLUNDERING AVENGERS--FOREVER!



NOW, THE FIRST TO FALL WILL BE-- CAPTAIN AMERICA!

-WHA-?!- YOUR SHIELD-- IT'S DEFLECTING MY RAY!

BUT--THAT ISN'T POSSIBLE!

MISTER, THE AVENGERS CAN COME UP WITH A DEFENSE FOR ANY WEAPON EVER MADE!

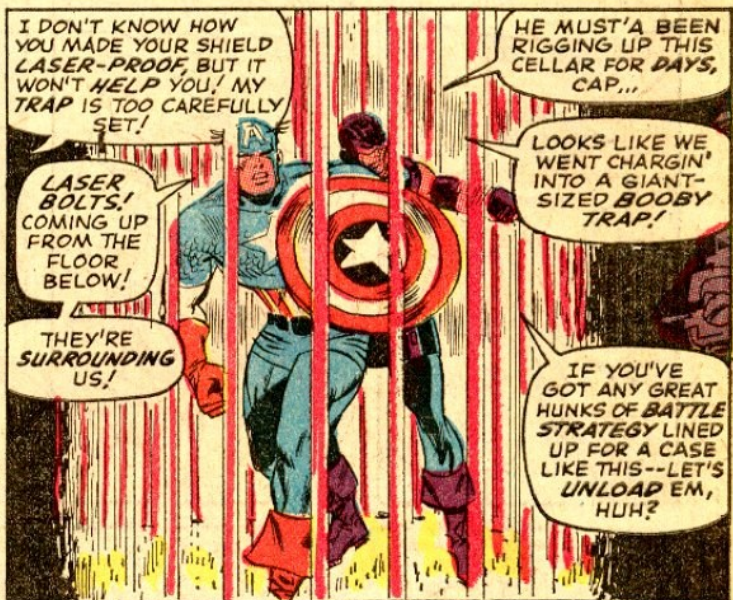
MY SHIELD'S GETTING HOT-- BLISTERINGLY HOT-- HIS RAY WILL BURN THRU IN SECONDS--

BUT, I CAN'T LET HIM REALIZE THAT!

LET ME HAVE A WHACK AT 'IM, CAP!

NOT YET! HE'LL DISINTEGRATE YOUR ARROWS BEFORE THEY CAN REACH HIM!

CAP'S BLUFF IS WORKING! HE'S TURNING OFF HIS LASER BEAM!



I DON'T KNOW HOW YOU MADE YOUR SHIELD LASER-PROOF, BUT IT WON'T HELP YOU! MY TRAP IS TOO CAREFULLY SET!

LASER BOLTS! COMING UP FROM THE FLOOR BELOW!

THEY'RE SURROUNDING US!

HE MUST'A BEEN RIGGING UP THIS CELLAR FOR DAYS, CAP...

LOOKS LIKE WE WENT CHARGIN' INTO A GIANT-SIZED BOOBY TRAP!

IF YOU'VE GOT ANY GREAT HUNKS OF BATTLE STRATEGY LINED UP FOR A CASE LIKE THIS--LET'S UNLOAD EM, HUH?



IT WILL TAKE MORE THAN A SHOPWORN BIT OF BATTLE STRATEGY TO SAVE YOU NOW!

I HAVE PROVEN, AT LAST, THAT THE AVENGERS ARE NOT AS MIGHTY AS YOU CLAIM--

YOU HAVE MERELY BEEN LUCKY IN THE PAST!

BUT, IT WILL TAKE FAR MORE THAN LUCK TO SAVE YOURSELVES FROM THE LIVING LASER!

WHATEVER IT'LL TAKE, SONNY BOY-- WE'VE GOT IT-- IN SPADES!

AND, EVEN AS THE LASER GLOATS--

GOOD THING THEY TOLD ME TO WAIT BEHIND THE DOOR!

NOTHING CAN KEEP THE WASP OUT SO LONG AS THERE'S A KEYHOLE HANDY!

DON'T LOSE YOUR COOL, TIGERS!

AS SOON AS I CAN FIND THE RIGHT SWITCH, I'LL GET YOU BOTH OUT OF THERE!

WE'VE GOT TO KEEP HIM BUSY, HAWKEYE!

HEY, LASER! BEFORE WE LET YOU HAVE IT, IS YOUR BLUE CROSS ALL PAID UP?

YOU AND CAPTAIN AMERICA ARE WHISTLING IN THE DARK, HAWKEYE AND YOU BOTH KNOW IT!

GOOD! GOOD! IF HAWKEYE CAN JUST HOLD HIS ATTENTION A LITTLE LONGER--!

IF ONLY I UNDERSTOOD THESE THINGS... LIKE A MAN!

I'LL BET GOLIATH WOULD HAVE HAD THIS ALL FIGURED OUT BY NOW!

HEY, LASER! WHATCHA LOOKIN' BACK THERE FOR? WE'RE OVER HERE!

I HEARD SOMETHING-- LIKE THE SOFT FLUTTER OF WINGS!

OF COURSE! IT CAN ONLY BE-- THE WASP!

SOMETHING DRAWING ME BACK-- A TREMENDOUS AIR VACUUM-- I-I CAN'T FIGHT IT!

WHOOSH!

YOU SEE, MY LOVELY CAPTIVE-- THIS TIME I AM PREPARED FOR ANYTHING!

HE CAN'T KEEP ME IN HERE! I'LL SIMPLY ENLARGE TO MY NORMAL SIZE, AND THEN-- OH NO--!

SOME SORT OF KNOCK-OUT GAS POURING IN! --GETTING DROWSY-- CAN'T THINK-- CAN'T STAY AWAKE--!

CAP! HE OUT-SMARTED HER! HE CAUGHT THE WASP!

THERE'S NOTHING WE CAN DO TILL WE FIND A WAY THRU THESE RAYS!

SOMETHING TELLS ME OUR TIME IS KINDA RUNNIN' OUT, PAL!

NOW THAT I HAVE THE WASP MY INTEREST IN YOU IS ENDED!

THEREFORE, WITH ONE FLIP OF THIS SWITCH I'LL CHANGE THE ANGLE OF MY LETHAL LASER RAYS-- BRINGING THEM CLOSER-- AND CLOSER TO YOU--!

FAREWELL, AVENGERS! YOU HAVE JUST FAILED YOUR GREATEST MISSION-- INDEED, YOUR FINAL MISSION!

KRASH!

NOTE: OUR LETTERS SECTION APPEARS AFTER NEXT PAGE...

NEXT ISSUE: VICTORY!

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EARTH-SHATTERING ESSAYS, ELOQUENT EPITHETS, AND EXAGGERATED ENDORSEMENTS WHICH YOU CAN EASILY LIVE WITHOUT!

ITEM: The response to Gentleman Gene Colan's amazing artwork on DAREDEVIL was so wildly enthusiastic that we've decided to let him continue drawing D.D.'s thrillers! This will give Jazzy Johnny Romita more time to concentrate on your friendly neighborhood SPIDER-MAN, and to take a breather once in a while after drawing all those crrrrrazy webs! Meanwhile, to make things easier for Gene, we've assigned the Sub-Mariner strip in this month's ASTONISH to a new bullpen luminary—and we'll be on pins and needles waiting for your opinion. There—if that isn't enough to confuse everybody, then we've goofed again!

ITEM: It looks as though Marvel really IS taking over the world! Those of you in the New York area have probably already noticed the way Channel 9 (WOR-TV) is blanketing the metropolitan zone with the Marvel message—splashing the news of our swingin' TV shows on everything from subway posters to milk cartons! (Grade A cartons only, we hope!) We assume that a zillion other stations throuth the free world, where the Marvel madness is about to be unleashed on the home screen, are doing likewise! But, if you find that YOUR local channel isn't marching along with us, do your duty, tiger—tell 'em they won't get a no-prize!

ITEM: Our six star-studded 25¢ Specials are probably all sold out by now, but we thought we'd mention 'em again anyway, in case you wanna try to prove us liars! For those of you who've been living in a well for the past few months, the titles are: FANTASTIC FOUR SPECIAL, SPIDER-MAN SPECIAL, THOR SPECIAL, MARVEL SUPER-HEROES SPECIAL, SGT. FURY SPECIAL, and (ulp!) MILLIE THE MODEL SPECIAL! If you can still find one on sale anywhere, give yourself two extra points—and, if you buy it, go to the head of the class!

ITEM: Smilin' Stan is so delighted with the way Wild Bill Everett has been drawing Dr. Strange (in STRANGE TALES, natch), that the old hambo couldn't resist writing the newest mystical masterpiece himself. Also, for the benefit of the Johnny-Come-Latelies among you, we've included a riotous resumé of much that has gone before, to bring you up to date. So, if you wanna see how wild a yarn can be, latch onto the start of Doc's newest adventure into necromancy—like right now, hear?

ITEM: It's time for you to meet some of our behind-the-scenes big-wigs who, though rarely mentioned in our cavortin' credits, are as much a part of the Marvel mythos as Irving Forbush himself! Now pay attention—a quiz may follow! At the top of our hectic heap sits the king-of-the-hill, Merry Marty Goodman, publisher, and peerless purveyor of profound policy, pulsating plaudits, and palpable pay-checks! When he speaks, we listen! When he frowns, we tremble! When he smiles, we know that somewhere one of you has bought another Marvel mag! And, buried beneath a mountain of sales figures, we find Jovial Johnny Hayes, our circumventing circulation manager. You should see him fly into a frenzy—hurl himself into a fit of sheer hysteria—

whenever he learns of some deprived dealer who may not have received our Marvel mags on time! Wait, whom have we here? Who sits thus spinning records, watching TV, fondling plastic super-hero models, inspecting sweat-shirts and bubble gum cards with equal aplomb? 'Tis none other than Cheerful Chip Goodman, master of Marvel merchandising, who darily dispenses our goodies to all the aesthetic areas beyond the printed page! But, how remiss we would be if we failed to salute Admirable Arthur Jeffrey, Keeper of our MMMS files, guardian of our club coupons, and defender of the faith! And what of Nifty Nancy Murphy? Shall we ever forget her soulful self-sacrifice in the face of our daily Marvel subscription list snafus? Or Delicious Doris Siegler, the most welcome sight in all of Marveldom, for it is she, our benevolent bookkeeper, who doth dole out our salaries each week! So, let us pause for a moment in silent, somber homage as we ponder the grave and momentous import of that which hath been revealed!



ITEM: Judging by your mountain of mail, we've been made painfully aware that most of you true believers have expected a battle between Subbie and ol' Green Skin in the recent issues of ASTONISH. It would have been easy for us to accomplish. We did toy with the idea. But then we decided against it—simply because it was such an obvious development. You know us—we'd rather do things the oddball way. We got a boot out of the idea of two super-powered cats being in the same area, at the same time, and NOT running into each other. It seemed to fit the usual mixed-up Marvel mold, as we saw it. However—now that we know how much you'd like Namor to tangle with our Jolly Green Gible, we promise you this—sooner or later, somewhere, somehow, we'll DO it! But, in the meantime, send us your suggestions as to the proper artist for such an epic. Should it be Gentleman Gene? Wild Bill? Should we lasso Jolly Jack away from Asgard for a while? Or have you any other ideas? Thus do we await the thunderous voice of Marveldom! Thus do we command thee, in tones most stentorian—FACE FRONT, frantic one! The best is yet to be!

THE MIGHTY MARVEL CHECKLIST

Marvel-ous Mags On Sale Right Now!

FANTASTIC FOUR #57: Doctor Doom returns! The Inhumans get closer to freedom! The Silver Surfer reappears! We're printing thousands of extra copies for this, possibly the greatest single issue of all!

SPIDER-MAN #43: The Origin of the Rhino! More of Mary Jane Watson! One of the most high-powered hand-to-hand battle scenes ever illustrated! 'Nuff said!

X-MEN #26: A cataclysmic, catastrophic combat, as the world's most unusual fighting team battles the reincarnation of a Mayan god! And, one of the mighty mutants is gravely wounded—by a fellow X-Man! You must not miss it!

DAREDEVIL #22: A super-villain riot! New super-foes! Old super-menaces! A million twists and surprises as the Man Without Fear tries to defeat a foe who can't be beaten! And, talk about action—!

THOR #134: We confidently predict that the stupefying theme of "The People Breeders" will be argued about and remembered as long as literature endures! Only Marvel would dare pit a Thunder God against—well, you'll see!

STRANGE TALES #151: Nick Fury is captured by Hydra! The Overkill Horn is about to sound! Smilin' Stan and Wild Bill join forces on Doc Strange! It's a block-buster!

SUSPENSE #84: The most dramatic, unexpected event in the history of Iron Man! This one'll take your breath away! And, wait till you see Cap battle the Super-Adaptoid! It's pure Kirbysque magic!

ASTONISH #86: What will the Sub-Mariner do with Warlord Krang and Lady Dorma dying before his eyes? As for the Hulk, he finally faces a foe he cannot frighten, a menace that even he cannot overcome!

SGT. FURY #36: The hard-hitting Howlers take on a trainload of Nazis in the heart of the towering Alps, as newcomer Eric Koenig must prove himself in battle—against his best friend! A categorically contemporary, controversial classic!

MARVEL COLLECTORS' ITEM CLASSICS #6: The fabulous Fantastic Four! The invincible Iron Man! The dynamic Dr. Strange! The incredible Hulk! Another block-bustin' bargain from your big-hearted bullpen!

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

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New Orleans, La.
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Jack Friedman
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Andrew Bernstein
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Lyon Low
New York, N. Y.

Thomas Brown
Baltimore, Md.
Bill Kirkland
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Mark Eddy
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Woodside, N. Y.
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• THE SUB-MARINER!
• THE INCREDIBLE HULK!
• THE MIGHTY THOR!
• IRON MAN!

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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 and Don,

The Avengers are not, I repeat, *not*, brainless clods, a motley group, or any other appellations a fan used. The Avengers, in case he hasn't noticed, are an experiment in contemporary literature. They change, they quarrel, but when the chips are down, I wouldn't lay a wager that they couldn't beat the F.F. and X-Men put together. Also, the Avengers are maturing. As they grow older in experience, we notice that Hawkeye doesn't ride Cap so much, and he and Quicksilver are friendlier. As for being a "disgrace to the name Avengers", I say this group, more than the old Avengers, deserves the name. Whatever they might argue about among themselves, they will fight to the end, and would never say, "I'm going to leave the Avengers because I want a vacation!" Though they quibble, they know in their hearts that they are Avengers, and will never cry over a defeat. Their brashness, their youth, and their courage give them a daring which could never be attained by the old Avengers. With Cap at the helm, they have attained new heights of glory against foes such as the Swordsman, one of the best villains ever introduced. So, though the old Avengers may hold a tender place in our hearts, it is the new Avengers, with a new attitude in terms of super-hero teams, that has jumped leaps and bounds to easily pass the old Avengers and reach the glory the old team could never attain. Brian Nelson, 3223 So. 23rd St. Omaha, Nebr. 68108

Brian, ol' buddy, your masterful missive really hit us where we live! Those sterling sentiments should be etched into the side of Mt. Rushmore! Those imperishable phrases shall live forever in the hearts and the minds of Avengerophiles everywhere! We'll be true to your trust, lad! We'll carry high the proud torch of Avengerism no matter what obstacles may lie ahead! And now, if you'll forgive us, we must turn momentarily aside! It isn't fitting for you to see grown men cry!



Dear Stan and Don,

We think the Avengers are tops. Phooey on all the wise-guys who want Cap out of the Avengers and into a Senior Citizens' Home. Please keep him! Issue #30 was drawn terrifically and the story was pretty good, too. Hawkeye has finally cooled off enough to know that he has been so stuffy that he could drown in a drizzle! I'm glad he's come to his senses. His fight with Power Man and Swordsman

was terrific. Incidentally, we don't think Natasha is pretty. I don't know what Hawkeye sees in her—but to each his own! Until the Angel moults and Irving Forbush doesn't face front, we will be fans.

Larry & Mike Wahs & Lee Sarnoff
8840 S.W. 17th St., Miami 55, Fla.

Glad to hear it, guys! As for Natasha, we'll ask Hawkeye what her attraction is! We can't bear the thought of one single Marvelite wallowing in a sea of uncertainty! Although, just between us, we always thought 'Tasha was quite a dish! But then, wadda we know? We flip for Spidey's Aunt May, also!



Dear Stan and Don,

Avengers Disassemble! That might sound like a tall order, but it appears that it's going to be carried out with or without my support. Quicksilver and Scarlet Witch are already fading away via their return to Europe. Goliath is becoming another Thing/Hulk hero with his new height problem. Hawkeye has overtones of a hero from your dying competition. To put the frosting on, you have repeated the pattern which led to the disbanding of the old Avengers. Captain America is not only in the Avengers, but is also involved in his own strip, not to mention his newly-found Shield activities. You have enough good replacements for a team and a half of Avengers—Black Panther, Silver Surfer, the Inhumans, etc. Remember what Iron Man said when he left the Avengers—"I'll never forget the words... 'Avengers Assemble!' I'll never forget what they stood for!" Richard Roesberg, 21 Gainor Ave. Maple Shade, N. J. 08052

Money in the bank, Dick—that's what they stood for! Now don't you worry, tiger—we're not gonna disassemble the Avengers if we can help it! Stay with us for the next twenty or thirty years and you'll see—we'll find the right formula for this mag yet! Honest!

Dear Stan and Don,

I've just read "The Way It Began", in F.F., for the 150th time—and I had to write to say how fantastic it was. The art was unbelievable, much better than the first story. The script was so tremendous that I won't try to describe it. I was looking at my old F.F. issues, and the Sinnott is the

best inker you've ever had. Your mags are getting better all the time, except for the AVENGERS. I hate to say this, but the main reason for this is Captain America. He is the worst single character you have. He killed Zemo, so why can't somebody put Cap out of action? He's not immortal, so the sooner he's put away, the better! You could replace his strip with a strip about the Black Panther, who deserves one. Also, since Thor is probably your best single hero, please let him have a fight with the Thing—and, please, have a winner!

Andrew Durisin, 41 Henry St.
Trenton, N. J.

Whew! Our biggest problem was trying to figure out which mag to print your letter in, Andy! We finally tossed a coin—and the AVENGERS lost! So now we're stuck with the task of making a Captain America-lover out of you! Why is it that everybody who doesn't like ol' Winghead usually hates 'im? But, here's an idea. Since we're prejudiced, we'll let one of our true believers defend Cap for us. Out of the goodness of our burstin' little hearts, we'll print the most impassioned pro-C.A. letter we receive, right here in a future ish! (And we'll bet you can hardly wait!)

Dear Stan and Don,

All AVENGERS issues are good, but I've got to compliment you on issues #28 through #30. They're the best ones yet, especially #30. I was beginning to hate Hawkeye, but now—wow! Hawkeye was great. Defeating Power Man and the Swordsman both was really something. As for Goliath, you are giving him too much publicity. Pull him down a little; he isn't that big a figure on the team. There was a letter in your letters pages that I'd like to comment on. Who does that fan think he is? I say Cap, Hawkeye, Pietro, and Witchy are an okay team. That's another thing on my conscience. I wrote you a really nasty letter a long time ago. I'd like to apologize to you merry madmen. Say, where did you ever dig up the crazy, but great, idea of Marvel cards?!

Randy Caraway, Rt. #3
Roan Mtn., Tenn.

We didn't, Randy! Some fella wrote us a letter and said: "Wouldja believe I wanna print a billion Marvel cards for you?—Well, wouldja believe a million?—Two or three?" Anyway, we accept your apology for your nasty letter. We're always happy to welcome one who has seen the light back into the fold! We don't remember your letter, so it couldn't have been that nasty—or, maybe it's just that we see so many nasty letters that they begin to sound complimentary to us after a while!



Dear Stan and Don,

There is one romance which, though in the background, has stood out over all the others during the past years. Although the two major powers in the world strove to keep them apart, still their love endured and grew. As Lawrence Durrell has written, "The richest love is that which submits to the arbitration of time." I am speaking, of course, of the love between Hawkeye and Natasha. I know you

will never give the Black Widow membership in the Avengers because her powers are too similar to those of another Marvel character. But, please, before another year goes by, bring Hawkeye and Natasha together for good. I have always felt that Hawkeye's love was just as tragic as Tony Stark's love or Matt Murdock's love, but Hawkeye was far more the man for not engaging in the self-pity that they do. It seems like a long time since Reed and Sue got together—give us something else to rejoice over, huh?

Bruce Long, 8362 DeCosta Ave.
Whittier, Calif.

Well, let's see now, Bruce—you can always rejoice over the fact that we just came back from the dentist, and the ol' Bullpen had thirty per cent fewer cavities than Brand Echh! (There's probably a deep, philosophical lesson hidden in there somewhere!) As for the Black Widow and her bombastic boy-friend, we are, alas, unable to chart the course of true love—but things usually turn out for the best in Marvel-land, so have faith, frantic one—we may meetcha at the wedding yet!

Dear Stan and Don,

Occasionally, but rarely, one reads a comic and becomes slowly aware of the fact that more than just a comic is unfolding before his eyes. That was the feeling I used to get when I read the AVENGERS. The Avengers had come to mean the greatest, most powerful, and noblest of all groups. Yes, the legacy they left to the new Avengers was a rich one. When I say "they," I mean the original Avengers, of course. One cannot expect those "youngsters", as Thor called them, to attain the heights reached by their mentors. The book was more than an adventure mag—it was almost a portrayal of life. We all realize that no matter how interesting the New Avengers are, they cannot regain the glory lost to the team when Thor, Iron Man, and Giant-Man left. I think you realized this, because I see the evidence of High-Pocket's recent revival. But one Avenger does not make the team. One Avenger cannot hope that he alone can regain the glory that was there and the grandeur which they held. As the late President Kennedy once said, "The torch has been passed to a new generation..." Unfortunately, the new generation of Avengers cannot hold the torch and cannot even bear the mantle with the help of Giant-Man, or, as you call him, Goliath. Only the return of the original Avengers (after Hulk left) can restore the Avengers to their former heights. But the new ones, except Cap, must leave to prevent overcrowding. Until this error is reconciled, I shall remain undaunted in my effort to make you reconcile it. Until the cry "Avengers Assemble!" again means that somebody had better watch out and not that a tea will be called, I shall not relent. I shall remain steadfast in my effort to have the original Avengers returned to their rightful place.

Richard Katz, 15 Hubbard St.
Ludlow, Mass.

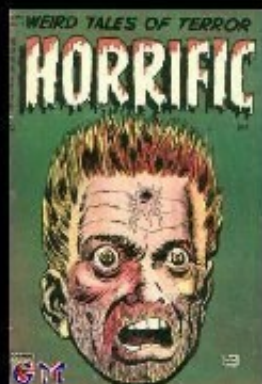
Aww, Dick—we thought this had all been settled months ago! We can't bring all the old Avengers back again—at least, we don't think so. Why not get on some other crusade for a while? Something like: Change Natasha's mask. Or: Make Goliath 25 feet tall! You know—something we can handle! But, tell you what—if ever we can bring the whole gang back again, we'll try 'n do it! Fair enough?

NEXT ISH: Needless to say, we've no intention of letting the big, bad Living Laser get away with all his nasty naughtiness—or naughty nastiness, as the case may be! But, even more than that, you're gonna see another big change occur in the lachrymose life of ol' Goliath—and, we think we can promise you one of the most satisfying sudden surprises in an entire season of super-hero sagas! The whole gang'll be waiting for you, so don't let 'em down, hear! You know how they hate to be late when it's time to assemble! See ya subsequently, super-fan!

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