



**MARVEL
COMICS
GROUP**

12¢ **42**
IND. JULY

THE AVENGERS

APPROVED
BY THE
COMICS
CODE
AUTHORITY

TM

**"The PLAN"
AND THE
POWER!"**



AND, IN THIS
CORNER:
HERCULES
VS. THE DEADLY,
DYNAMIC
DRAGON MAN!



THROW YOUR VOICE



Throw your voice into trunks, 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 25c



MAGIC CARDS

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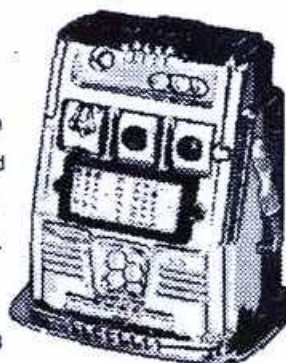
SURPRISE PACKAGE



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 50c

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REDUCE ANY ASSAILANT TO CRINGING HELPLESSNESS IN SECONDS

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No. 224

\$1.00



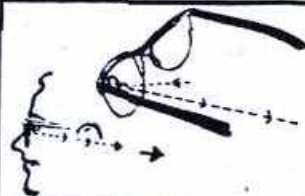
Boomerang

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 75c



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 20c



SEE BEHIND GLASSES

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

TREASURE CHEST OF FUN

EXHAUST WHISTLE



CRAZY NOISE CAR GAG

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. F192 50c

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 victim's face? It's harmless. No. 612 15c



ONION GUM

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

MINIATURE SECRET CAMERA

Precision camera so small, it fits in cigarette pack. Weighs 2 1/2 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 98c



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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 50c

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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

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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 25c

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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. Kindly add 15c for postage and handling to all orders.

THE MIGHTY AVENGERS!

"THE PLAN... AND THE POWER!"

SELDOM HAVE THINGS LOOKED DARKER FOR THE MIGHTY AVENGERS! GOLIATH AND THE WASP ARE CAPTIVES OF DIABLO --CAPTAIN AMERICA'S WHEREABOUTS ARE UNKNOWN--AND, BACK IN THEIR MAGNIFICENT MIDTOWN MANSION...BUT, LET'S HEAR HAWKEYE TELL IT IN HIS OWN INIMITABLE WAY--!

I'VE HAD IT WITH THIS FREE-LOADIN' FOLK-HERO, PIETRO! WHILE WE TRY TO MAP OUT A BATTLE-PLAN, HE SITS AROUND CALMLY GULPIN' DOWN OUR GROCERIES!

HERCULES IS OUR GUEST, MY FRIEND! HE HAS NO OBLIGATIONS TOWARDS HANK AND JAN, AS WE DO!

STILL, MY BROTHER, HAWKEYE IS PARTLY RIGHT! SURELY, EVEN AN EXILED OLYMPIAN MUST HAVE FEELINGS!

THOU SPEAKEST TRULY, FAIR WANDA! VERILY, NO MORTAL SHALL BRAVE GREATER PERIL TO RESCUE GOLIATH THAN SHALL THE SON OF ZEUS!

YET, AGAINST THAT HOUR, I DO FIND THESE EARTHLY GRAPES MOST PLEASANT! THEIR TASTE IS NOT UNLIKE THAT OF DIVINE AMBROSIA!

STAN LEE
EDITS AND
OTHERWISE EMBELLISHES:

A ROY THOMAS--
JOHN BUSCEMA
CLIMACTIC CULMINATION OF
COOPERATIVE CREATIVITY!

INKED BY: LETTERED BY:
GEORGE BELL ART SIMEK

AVENGER-
ASSEMBLERS
FIRST CLASS!

DON'T BE FOOLED BY THIS RELATIVELY QUIET SPLASH PANEL, TIGER--THERE'S ACTION A-PLenty INSIDE! BUT, DON'T TAKE OUR WORD FOR IT--SEE FOR YOURSELF!

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YOU MAY BE GREAT SHAKES UP IN OLYMPUS, WHISKERS --BUT, WHEN IT COMES TO BEIN' A MAN, YOU'VE STILL GOT A LOT TO LEARN!

I KNOW NOT WHY THOU DOST BAIT ME, THOU BELLCLOSE BOWMAN! BUT, STAND THEE WARNED--

THE PATIENCE OF HERCULES IS NOT AS LIMITLESS AS HIS STRENGTH!

STOP! STOP IT, BOTH OF YOU!

TWO AVENGERS--AND PERHAPS THE ENTIRE WORLD--ARE MENACED BY DIABLO AND THE MONSTROUS DRAGON MAN THAT HE CONTROLS!

WE MUST LEARN WHAT DIABLO'S PLAN IS--AND, WE CAN'T DO THAT IF WE QUARREL AMONG OURSELVES!

OKAY, SO I'VE GOT A BIG MOUTH! IT JUST BUGS ME TO SEE HIM TAKIN' THE WHOLE THING SO CALM, THAT'S ALL!

WE MUST NOT JUDGE HERCULES BY OUR OWN STANDARDS, HAWKEYE! NOW, COME--WHY DO YOU BOTH NOT APOLOGIZE--?

'TIS BENEATH THE DIGNITY THAT BEFITS A GOD TO ACCEPT OR PROFFER APOLOGIES, DAMSEL!

THE SON OF ZEUS SHALL CONSIDER THE MATTER FORGOTTEN! I CAN DO NO MORE FOR MAN OR IMMORTAL!

THEN, IT IS SETTLED! I AM NO LONGER NEEDED HERE!

YET, HOW MUCH LONGER CAN WANDA AND I HOLD TOGETHER THE TUMULTUOUS HERCULES--AND HAWKEYE, WHO GRIEVES FOR THE TREACHEROUS BLACK WIDOW?

IF ONLY WE COULD CONTACT THE FANTASTIC FOUR--TO LEARN THE EXACT LOCATION OF DIABLO'S FORMER CASTLE IN TRANSYLVANIA!

BUT, WHEN I CALLED THEM BEFORE, A RECORDED MESSAGE TOLD ME THEY WERE ON VACATION!*

*SOME VACATION! THEY WERE ALMOST DESTROYED BY THE SENTRY SINISTER, IN F.F.#64! --SARCASTIC STAN.

I MUST REACH THEM! FOR, THEY WERE THE FIRST TO BATTLE THE DREAD DRAGON MAN!

PERHAPS THEY HAVE RETURNED BY NOW...

THIS IS QUICKSILVER, OF THE AVENGERS--CALLING MR. FANTASTIC!

THE TRANSCEIVER IS BEING ACTIVATED! SOMEONE IS RESPONDING--!

MOMENTS LATER, PIETRO HEARS THE VOICE OF THE LEADER OF THE MOST FAMOUS FIGHTING TEAM OF ALL...

SO, HENRY PYM TOOK MY ADVICE--AND GAINED CUSTODY OF THE DORMANT DRAGON MAN!

BUT NOW, YOU SAY DIABLO HAS REVIVED HIM--AND YOU NEED HELP IN FINDING THE TWO OF THEM?

SHEESH! HOW COULD ANYBODY LOSE THAT OVERGROWN GOONY-BIRD?

QUIET, BEN! THIS IS SERIOUS!

REMEMBER, DIABLO IS THE SUPREME ALCHEMIST--A CENTURIES-OLD MADMAN BENT ON WORLD CONQUEST! AND, IF HE'S REGAINED HIS HOLD ON DRAGON MAN--

AWRIGHT, AWREADY! YA DON'T HAVETA DRAW ME A ROAD MAP, STRETCHO!

HOWEVER, THAT IS JUST WHAT WE NEED, RICHARDS--A VERBAL MAP OF WHERE DIABLO'S ORIGINAL STRONGHOLD WAS LOCATED!

FOR, WE BELIEVE HE MAY HAVE RETURNED THERE--AND WE MEAN TO PURSUE HIM!

YOU'VE GOT 'EM, MISTER! ONE SET OF COORDINATES--COMING UP!

AT THIS POINT, FRANTIC ONE, WE'LL SPARE YOU THE BORING DETAILS OF LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE (AND, INCIDENTALLY, AVOID GETTING A NASTY NOTE FROM THE TRANSYLVANIA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE)--AND SKIP TO...

ARE YOU READY TO DEPART, MY SISTER?

YES! BUT, WHAT OF HERCULES?

WHO NEEDS 'IM? IF HE WANTS TO STAY HERE AND DAYDREAM ABOUT DAYS OF YORE, I SAY LET 'IM!

HERCULES CHOOSES TO IGNORE THINE ILL-HUMORED JIBES, MORTAL!

YET, I HAVE PLEDGED MY HELP TO A FRIEND OF THOR--AND, MY WORD IS E'ER MY BOND!

I SHALL ACCOMPANY THEE!

THUS, WITHIN MINUTES...

I DO NOT UNDERSTAND, PIETRO, WHY THE FANTASTIC FOUR DO NOT JOIN IN THE SEARCH FOR THEIR OLD FOS!

INDEED, WANDA REED RICHARDS OFFERED ME THEIR AID...

...BUT, DIABLO HOLDS TWO AVENGERS--AND, IT IS BY AVENGERS THAT THEY SHOULD BE RESCUED!

Y'KNOW, WHITEY, SOMETIMES I THINK YOU'RE NOT AS SQUARE AS YOU SOUND!

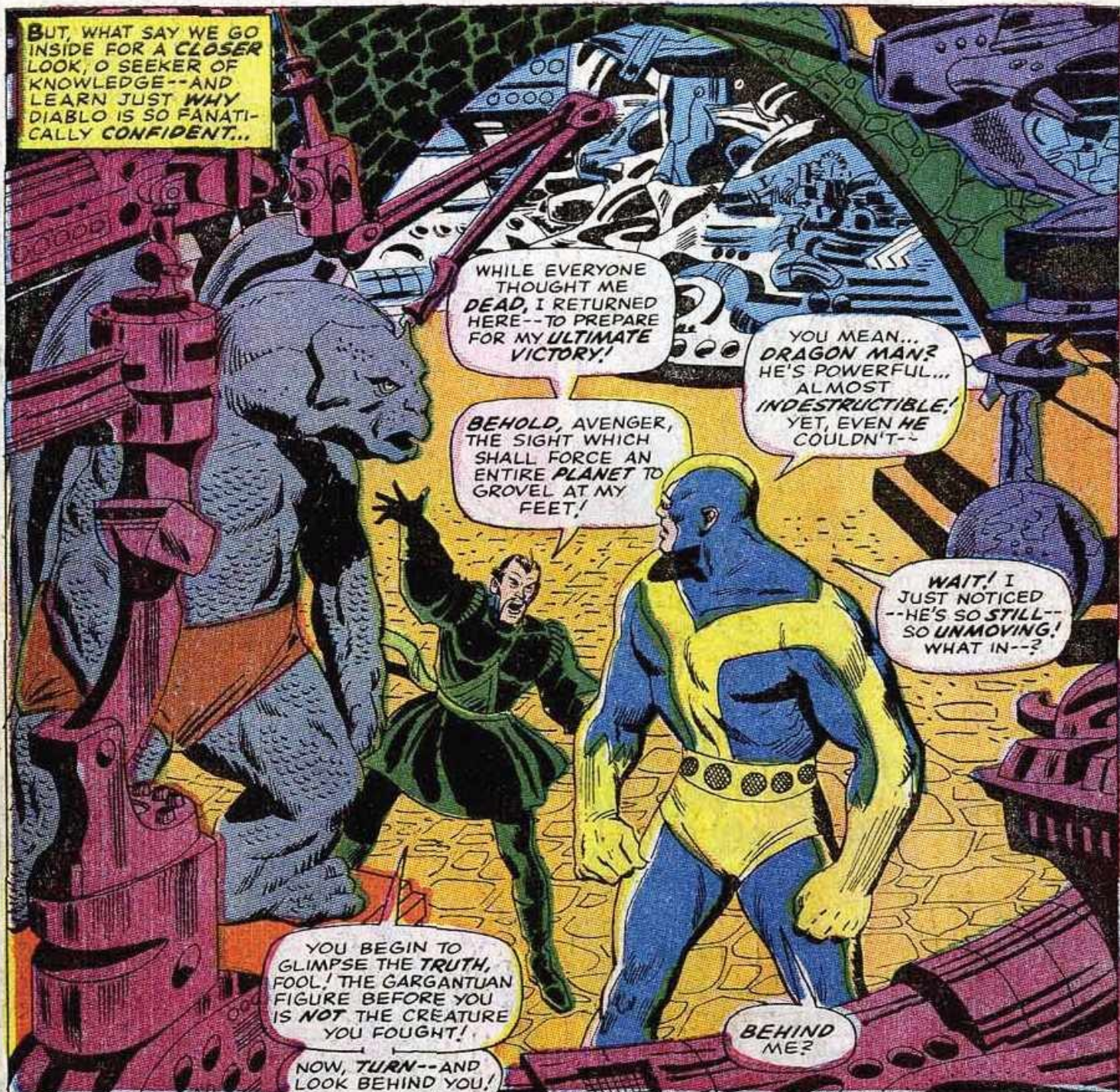
AND NOW, WE MUST SHIFT OUR ATTENTION TO A CERTAIN MOUNTAINTOP IN TRANSYLVANIA...

AH, GOLIATH... I SEE YOU HAVE AWAKENED!

WELCOME! WELCOME TO THE REBUILT CASTLE OF DIABLO--DESTINED MASTER OF THE EARTH!

*REBUILT, MAY WE ADD, BY THE TRANSYLVANIAN CASTLE CONSTRUCTION UNION, LOCAL NO. 829!---STAN, THE WORKING MAN'S FRIEND.

BUT, WHAT SAY WE GO
INSIDE FOR A CLOSER
LOOK, O SEEKER OF
KNOWLEDGE--AND
LEARN JUST WHY
DIABLO IS SO FANATI-
CALLY CONFIDENT...



WHILE EVERYONE
THOUGHT ME
DEAD, I RETURNED
HERE--TO PREPARE
FOR MY ULTIMATE
VICTORY!

YOU MEAN...
DRAGON MAN?
HE'S POWERFUL...
ALMOST
INDESTRUCTIBLE!
YET, EVEN HE
COULDN'T--

BEHOLD, AVENGER,
THE SIGHT WHICH
SHALL FORCE AN
ENTIRE PLANET TO
GROVEL AT MY
FEET!

WAIT! I
JUST NOTICED
--HE'S SO STILL--
SO UNMOVING!
WHAT IN--?

YOU BEGIN TO
GLIMPSE THE TRUTH,
FOOL! THE GARGANTUAN
FIGURE BEFORE YOU
IS NOT THE CREATURE
YOU FOUGHT!

NOW, TURN--AND
LOOK BEHIND YOU!

BEHIND
ME?

THEN, AS THE SLIGHTLY GROGGY GIANT WHIRLS,
HE SEES...

YES, GOLIATH--I HAVE READIED
A VIRTUAL ARMY OF DRAGON
MEN--EACH EQUAL TO THE
FIRST IN ALL WAYS BUT ONE!

THEY DO NOT LIVE--
BECAUSE MY MYSTIC
LIFE-GIVING POTIONS
WERE LOST IN A
WHIRLPOOL!*

WORKING ALONE, IT WOULD
HAVE TAKEN ME MONTHS
TO HAVE REPLENISHED MY
SUPPLY OF THOSE POTIONS!

THE GREATEST
BIO-CHEMIST
ON EARTH--
HENRY PYM!!

BUT, NOT NOW--
FOR, I HAVE
GAINED A MOST
VALUABLE
ASSISTANT--



*OBVIOUSLY, HE'S
REFERRING TO THE
CATACLYSMIC CLIMAX
OF F.F.# 35!
STOOL-PIGEON STAN.

CONTINUED AFTER THE NEXT PAGE

ON SALE NOW!

WHO SAYS A COMIC BOOK HAS TO BE GOOD??

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WHO SAYS A COMIC BOOK IS
NOT BRAND
ECHH
IT'S
ABSURD!
IT'S
INSANE!
IT'S..

IT'S
ABSURD!

**IT'S
INSANE!**

IT'S...

**FORBUSH
MAN!**

**WOTTA
REVOLTIN'
DEVELOPMENT!**

**MARVEL
COMICS
GROUP**

128
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**MARVEL
UNLEASHED
IT AT
LAST!**

**THE
COMIC
MAGAZINE
FOR
NON-BELIEVERS
WHO HATE
COMIC
MAGAZINES!**

"ABSOLUTELY THE FUNNIEST,
MOST SATIRICAL HUMOR I
EVER READ OR WROTE!"
- STAN LEE

"FUNNY, THAT'S JUST WHAT I WAS GONNA SAY!"
-ROY THOMAS

IT'S A RIP-ROARIN' RIOT... I
ALMOST SMILED ONCE OR TWICE
- GARY FRIEDRICH

"THEY SAID IT COULDN'T BE DONE
--- SO WE DIDN'T DO IT
SOL BRODSKY

NUFF SAID!

HARRY, WE CANNOT SHIP ORDERS
FROM THESE COUNTRIES

WHAT? ME--HELP YOU? RUN THAT THRU ONE MORE TIME! MISTER--AFTER THEY SCRAPE YOU UP!

STOP YOU BLUNDERING CLOD! UNHAND ME AT ONCE--

--OR YOU'LL NEVER SEE JANET VAN DYNE AGAIN!!

JAN?

WHERE IS SHE, DIABLO? TALK, BEFORE I--

GO AHEAD, GOLIATH, DO TO ME WHAT YOU WILL!

BUT, REMEMBER-- THE DEATH OF YOUR BELOVED WASP SHALL THEN BE YOUR OWN DOING--AND WILL HAUNT YOU UNTIL YOU DIE!

AH--I SEEM TO HAVE HIT A RESPONSIVE CHORD! YOUR GRIP LOOSENS--YOU FALTER--!

JUST ANSWER MY QUESTION! WHAT HAVE YOU DONE TO HER?

PUT ME DOWN, FOOL, AND I SHALL SHOW YOU--ON MY VIEW-SCREEN!

AND, A FEW MOMENTS LATER, A STARTLED GOLIATH SUDDENLY SEES--

JAN-- BOUND IN A CAVE!

AND, SHE'S BEING MENACED BY DRAGON MAN--THE REAL ONE!

YOU ARE CORRECT ON TWO OUT OF THREE, MY FRIEND! SHE IS MERELY BEING GUARDED BY DRAGON MAN--FOR THE PRESENT!

BUT, UNLESS HE RECEIVES A SPECIAL SIGNAL FROM ME AT REGULAR INTERVALS-- HE IS ORDERED TO DESTROY HER!

NOW DO YOU AGREE TO SERVE ME? SPEAK!

I'VE GOT NO CHOICE! YOU'VE GOT ME OVER A BARREL--AND YOU KNOW IT!

OKAY, DIABLO--YOU JUST BOUGHT YOURSELF ONE OVER-SIZED BIO-CHEMIST--BUT, ON ONE CONDITION--

NO, PYM! THERE WILL BE NO CONDITIONS!

THE LOVELY WASP REMAINS AS SHE IS--UNTIL I DECREE OTHERWISE!

YOU HAVE WASTED ENOUGH TIME WITH YOUR EMPTY THREATS YOU WILL SET TO WORK ON MY POTIONS WITHOUT DELAY!

'TIS DIABLO WHO COMMANDS YOU, BRUTE!

HOWEVER, EVEN AS GOLIATH RELUCTANTLY COMPLIES--WE TURN OUR RAPT ATTENTION TO A VEHICLE ZOOMING HIGH ABOVE THE CARPATHIANS...

WELL, LADY? WADDA YOU SEE ON THAT OPTI-SCANNER GIZMO?

AN IMAGE IS FORMING NOW--IT'S STILL VAGUE...

WAIT! THERE'S THE WASP!

IS IT PICKIN' UP A FOCUS ON HANK AND JAN--OR AINT IT?

BUT, WHAT BE YON LUMBERING BEAST BESIDE HER?

IT'S--DRAGON MAN! HE SEEMS TO BE STANDING GUARD OVER JAN!

IF WHISKERS BACK THERE HAD ANSWERED HANK'S SOS WITH THE REST OF US*, HE WOULDN'T HAVETA ASK NUTTY QUESTIONS!

PLEASE, HAWKEYE! THERE IS NO TIME FOR BITTER RECRIMINATIONS!

THEIR LOCATION MUST BE DIRECTLY BELOW US!

*HERCULES STAYED AT HOME LAST YR, REMEMBER? -- GUESS WHO.

NEXT, AFTER A LIGHTNING-FAST CONSULTATION IS HELD ON BOARD THE AERO-CAR...

THEN, IT'S AGREED? ONE OF US TACKLES THAT ECONOMY-SIZE SPARROW--

--WHILE THE OTHERS KEEP SEARCHIN' FOR HANK AND DIABLO!

AWE! AND THE SON OF ZEUS CLAIMS THE DRAGON MAN--FOR HIMSELF!

I WONDERED WHEN YOU'D START PULLIN' YOUR WEIGHT, HERKY!

CONGRATS! ONE TITANIC TUSSE--COMIN' UP!

THUS, SCANT SECONDS LATER...

I WONDER--SHOULD WE LET A NON-AVenger TAKE SUCH A DEADLY RISK?

WHO CAN REFUSE HERCULES, MY SISTER?

BESIDES, ONLY HIS RAW POWER MIGHT PREVAIL AGAINST THE ANDROID!

THEN, THE LION OF OLYMPUS DROPS ONTO A JUTTING, WIND-SWEPT CRAG--AND THE SLEEK CRAFT ABOVE SPEEDS OFF...

IN SOOTH, I CARE BUT LITTLE FOR THE GLORY OF CLOSING IN COMBAT WITH THE ONE YCLEPT DRAGON MAN!

THE BATTLE-CROWN OF HERCULES DOTH ALREADY PROCLAIM VICTORIES BEYOND COUNTING!

YET, MY HEART IS STIRRED BY PANGS OF PITY--FOR THE LOVELY WASP!

FOR, OF ALL THE AVENGERS, 'TIS SHE WHO HATH MOST BEFRIENDED ME!

BUT NOW, I MUST NEEDS FIND HER--AND HER CYCLOPEAN CAPTOR!

HAH! I SPY AN OPENING IN THE ROCKS YONDER!

TRULY, I DO SUSPECT THAT THE MOMENT OF TRUTH IS NOW AT HAND!

BUT, REGRETFULLY, WE MUST POSTPONE THAT FATEFUL MOMENT--FOR, A REMARKABLY SHORT DISTANCE AWAY...

THAT CASTLE--IT'S NOT LISTED ON OUR NEWEST CHARTS!

AND, ONLY A WORKER OF MIRACLES COULD HAVE BUILT SUCH A MASSIVE STRUCTURE OVERNIGHT!

PERSONALLY, ANYBODY WHO COULD BRING DRAGON MAN TO LIFE IS A MIRACLE-WORKER FIRST CLASS IN OL' HAWKEYE'S BOOK!

HEY--DIG ME! I'M STARTIN' TO SOUND LIKE DIABLO'S PRESS AGENT!

JUST THE SAME, ANYBODY WANNA BET THAT HIS BUTLER IS A DEAD-RINGER FOR BORIS KARLOFF?

THE FOLLOWING MICROSECOND...

YEEESH!-- LOOKS LIKE SOMEBODY DOESN'T WANT ME TO COLLECT!

WHOEVER HE IS, HE MUST NOT KNOW ABOUT MY LOW BOILIN' POINT!

COME TO THINK OF IT, HALF THE CRUMBS WE FIGHT ACT LIKE THEY NEVER HEARD OF ME!

COULD BE I'M THE ONE THAT NEEDS A PRESS AGENT--OR ELSE A GIMMICK!

MAYBE I SHOULD PAINT ALL MY ARROWS ONE COLOR, OR SOMETHIN'!

OH, WELL...



BY THE WAY, I FORGOT TO TELL YA--

THAT GRENADE ARROW IS SUPPOSED TO TO BLAST OPEN THE DOOR!

WADDAYA KNOW! IT COLLAPSED LIKE MATCHSTICKS!

THEY JUST DON'T BUILD HAUNTED CASTLES LIKE THEY USETA!

MUST YOU TREAT EVERYTHING LIGHTLY--EVEN SO VITAL A MISSION AS THIS?

LISTEN, LADY--NOBODY ACCUSES HAWKEYE OF NOT TAKIN' HIS AVENGIN' SERIOUSLY!

AND, NO ONE DID, MY FRIEND!

HURRY, BOTH OF YOU! I CAN RUN NO MORE SLOWLY!

MOVING SWIFTLY, THE TRIO REACH
THEIR ENEMY'S INNER SANCTUM--
ONLY TO FACE A MOST UNEXPECTED
ROADBLOCK!

HOLD IT, AVENGERS!
THIS IS AS FAR AS
YOU GO!

ANYBODY
WHO
THREATENS
DIABLO--HAS
TO TANGLE
WITH GOLIATH
FIRST!

HAVE YOU POPPED
YOUR EVER-LOVIN'
CORK, MAN-MOUNTAIN?

GANGWAY--'CAUSE
WE'RE COMIN' THRU!

PIETRO--HANK PROTECTS
OUR FOE! IT CAN ONLY BE
BECAUSE JAN IS BEING
HELD HOSTAGE!

AND, WE DARE NOT
SHOUT TO HIM OF
HERCULES' MISSION
--FOR FEAR THAT
DIABLO MAY CAUSE
ITS FAILURE!

PERHAPS I CAN GET
PAST GOLIATH--AND
CAPTURE DIABLO!

HOWEVER...

MAYBE I
CAN'T
MATCH
YOUR
SPEED,
PIETRO...

BUT, I'VE BEEN AN
AVENGER LONG
ENOUGH TO OUTGUESS
YOU--AND BLOCK YOU!

UUMMMFF!

AS FOR YOU, EAGLE-EYES--
YOU NEED A LITTLE REMINDER
OF MY POWER!

MISSED! BUT, I
THINK YOU GET THE
GENERAL IDEA!

HE'S PULLIN'
HIS PUNCHES
--I KNOW IT!
BUT, HE STILL
MEANS
BUSINESS!

NOW GET THIS--
AND GET IT GOOD!
I'M NOT LETTING
ANYTHING
HAPPEN TO
JAN--NO
MATTER
WHAT!

SO, CLEAR
OUT OF
HERE WHILE
YOU STILL
CAN--OR
I'M TEARIN'
INTO YOU!

TEAR AWAY,
BIG MAN!
I'M TREMBLIN'
IN MY QUIVER!

ALRIGHT,
AVENGERS--YOU
ASKED FOR IT!
AND, I'M GONNA
SEE YOU
GET IT!

YET, EVEN AS HENRY PYM FACES HIS FELLOW
AVENGERS TO SAVE HIS BELOVED WASP--HE
CANNOT KNOW THAT ANOTHER POWERFUL FORM
HAS UNDERTAKEN THE SAME TASK NOT FAR AWAY...

MY PATH DOTHS
TAKE ME BENEATH
THE EARTH--AND
OVER POOLS OF
SEETHING LAVA!

'TIS LIKE
UNTO THE
STYGIAN
DEPTHS
OF FIERY
HADES!

CONTINUED AFTER THE NEXT PAGE

**PROVEN IN THE LABS — PROVEN ON THE ROAD —
PROVEN ON THE INDIANAPOLIS SPEEDWAY
— and finally released to the public!**

Yes, proven at Indianapolis — proven in the same test laboratories used by Ford, General Motors and Chrysler. "Breakthrough" that means... no matter what kind of gas you use... no matter what kind of car you own you can now pile up 100 miles of driving a week, month after month and fill your gas-tank as little as once a month... pile up 100 miles of driving a day all 365 days of the year... and save up to 500 gallons of gas each year!

NOW! 30 DAYS OF DRIVING ON A SINGLE TANK OF GAS!

— even more startling, now save up to \$10 a month, up to 50 gallons of gas each month, without changing a single part on your car!

Laboratory reports... PLUS road tests conducted on Indianapolis proving grounds reveal you may now get as much as 37 miles of driving from each gallon of gas... save up to 50 gallons of gas each month... save up to \$200 on your car each year!

Six months ago, for perhaps the first time in history, the United States Government issued patent protection to an invention that has been classified **ILLEGAL!** Sound strange? Not really here's why: I'm sure you're familiar with the famous gasoline-economy tests run by all the major oil companies. Well, do you know that the remarkable new invention described on this page is actually banned from these tests because it is **TOO EFFECTIVE!** Do you know that because this invention saves so much gasoline... that because it gives so much economy, it is actually **ILLEGAL** for a test-driver to fit one on his car! And do you know that because it boosts gasoline mileage up to 11 more miles per gallon... it has actually been **OUTLAWED** in every recognized cross-country economy run... simply because the officials who conduct these tests were forced to rule that it gives all cars that have it an **UNFAIR ADVANTAGE!** In other words, if you are a person planning on entering one of these cross-country economy runs... then this message is **not for you. YOU JUST WON'T BE ALLOWED TO USE THIS NEW INVENTION—SORRY, BUT IT'S SIMPLY ILLEGAL. BUT** — if you are a person who is not interested in setting any records... who is only interested in getting more miles per gallon than you ever dreamed possible — and doing it the very same way that many of America's leading corporations are doing at this very moment — then what you are about to read is perhaps the most thrilling and exciting news in automotive history.

— TEST DRIVERS REPORT UP TO 11 MORE MILES PER GALLON —
The name of this great new invention is the **G. T. ENERGY CHAMBER**. And there is no better way to describe to you the increased performance and economy it will give you... than to tell you of the "bombshell effect" it had on research scientists and test-drivers, who simply refused to believe their own gasoline gauges when they first tried it out. Look:

CUTS GASOLINE COSTS TO AS LITTLE AS 10 A MILE
1. When the **G. T. ENERGY CHAMBER** was first tested by the same research laboratories used by Ford, General Motors and Chrysler... results were so overwhelming, (a staggering increase of up to

68 per cent) ... It actually lowered gasoline costs to as little as **ONE CENT A MILE.**
2. When tests were made by the world's leading auto rental system with this incredible money saving invention... and then test-run on the road and on such world famous proving grounds as the Indianapolis Speedway... the test-drivers of these vehicles were absolutely amazed to see big 8 cylinder sedans get better gas-mileage than small European economy cars!
3. When large fleet owners and some of the nation's largest taxi fleets tested this great new invention to determine just how much gas it would save them... the results were so dramatic that within 30 days they reported savings of not hundreds... but thousands of gallons of gas the very first month alone!

UP TO 500 MILES OF DRIVING FROM A SINGLE TANK OF GAS
Yes, from test after test... road tests, laboratory tests, tests by some of the world's most famous drivers... come re-

BEST PROOF OF ALL!
World's Leading Rent-A-Car Company Road-Tests Amazing New Invention For 3 Solid Months... Then Orders Fleet Of Cars IMMEDIATELY EQUIPPED!
they report "Savings of up to 54 gallons a month per car"
Yes, from one of the nation's largest automobile fleet owners comes the most dramatic proof of all... A company that spends more money on gasoline in one weekend than the average person spends in a lifetime... they tested this incredible new invention and here is what they found:
BOOSTED GASOLINE MILEAGE A WHOPPING 32% ON ALL CARS TESTED. Wouldn't you like to save up to \$200 a year on your car? For full details read the rest of this page.

ports of cars that drive for hundreds and hundreds of miles ON A SINGLE TANK OF GAS! Reports of test cars from Ford, General Motors, Chrysler that get more miles per gallon today than when they were brand new! Reports of big, luxury sedans that weigh 2½ times more than small European cars... yet get better mileage, better performance and huge dollar savings thanks to this new miracle invention.

IF IT WORKS SUCH MILEAGE-MIRACLES, HOW COME THE CAR MANUFACTURERS HAVEN'T INSTALLED THIS TYPE UNIT IN THEIR CARS? — THE ANSWER IS THAT TWO ALREADY HAVE!

By now you are probably wondering just what is the **G. T. ENERGY CHAMBER**... and how does it work? Well, to make a long story short... if you were to look under the hood of one of those \$20,000 European luxury cars like the Maseratti or the Aston-Martin, you would see sitting in those engines... a special gasoline unit... especially designed to extract more blazing power, more energy from each gallon of gasoline. This remarkable booster-unit is what gives these cars such magnificent performance... such **TOTAL POWER**... such increased engine efficiency. And this is precisely what the **G. T. ENERGY CHAMBER** is designed to do — enable your engine to extract more piston-driving power, more raw, blazing energy and more gasoline economy...



HERE IT IS — IN ACTION — The miracle **G. T. ENERGY CHAMBER**, caught by the eye of ultra high-speed cameras at one of the world's most famous proving grounds. Yes, here on the big viewing console you see dramatic picture-proof of tests conducted by leading automotive authorities at the Indianapolis Speedway... tests that **PROVE** you can now actually take ordinary gasoline... feed it into your engine in a new and different way... trigger it into piston-driving energy... and unleash a blazing source of power for your car. For full documented proof of just how this amazing new discovery can save you up to \$200 in gasoline bills in the next 12 months... read the rest of this page. (Tests performed by official Indianapolis test driver.)

ONLY, instead of costing \$100 to \$150 (like the European booster-units)... the **G. T. ENERGY CHAMBER** costs but a mere fraction. That's because after years of intensive research automotive experts have finally found a way to simplify these booster units... reduce the number of parts in each unit... mass production... slash costs to a mere fraction... and make them available at a price so low it's almost too ridiculous to mention. Why do you realize what this means to you if you are a person who is determined to save yourself up to \$16 a month on your gas bills... up to 50 gallons of gas each month... yes, up to \$200 a year on wasted gasoline.

INSTALLS IN MINUTES — PAYS FOR ITSELF IN AS LITTLE AS 15 DAYS!
It means that no matter what kind of car you now have... no matter how old that car may be... no matter what condition it is in... no matter how many miles you pile on each month... here at last is the automotive discovery you've long dreamed about... and has now come true. Because, from this day on you too can now save up to 500 gallons of gas each and every year. Now you too can drive for weeks and weeks on end without ever stopping at a service station. Now you too can drive across 6 states of the union on just a single tank of gas, blaze a trail from New York to Chicago on just 2 or 3

tankfuls. In other words, perform mileage miracles that only yesterday you thought were impossible. So if you too want to achieve the same wondrous results as America's largest automotive fleet owners, by Indianapolis test-drivers, and by research scientists at the very same testing laboratories used by Ford, Chrysler and General Motors, then take advantage of this special Free-Trial introductory offer. Remember, all you risk is the few minutes it takes to fill out the special reservation coupon below, and you have a lifetime of driving convenience and economy to gain.

THIS OFFER EXPIRES IN 15 DAYS — YOU MUST ACT NOW!
Now the price of the **G. T. ENERGY CHAMBER** on this special introductory offer is not the 15 or 20 dollars you might expect... but only \$5.95. Why, you'll save up to 10 times that amount in gasoline savings in no time at all... not to mention the hundreds of gallons of gasoline and hundreds of dollars in money you save year after year. However, due to the enormous demands of trucking companies, car-rental companies, taxicab fleets and other large users, only a limited number of **G. T. ENERGY CHAMBERS** can possibly be allocated each month for consumer orders. Therefore, all orders must be filled on a first-come, first-served basis. So to take advantage of this limited introductory offer... mail the no-risk coupon today!

LOOK HOW EASY IT IS!



All you do is simply attach the **G. T. ENERGY CHAMBER** on your fuel line. Since it is a precision instrument, with a special model for each make car, there are no special adjustments for you to make. They've already been made for you at the factory. You simply screw it into place... and that's all. In fact, it's so easy you need not know a single thing about an engine to install it — and easy picture directions accompany each unit. Total installation time: 5 to 5 minutes. Total savings on gas: up to \$200 a year!

ORDER TODAY — ON FULL MONEY BACK GUARANTEE

AMERICAN AUTOMOTIVE UNITS INC.
550 FIFTH AVENUE, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10036

Dept. 494

Please rush me the sensational **G. T. Energy Chamber** immediately! I understand the price is \$5.95 for which I enclose cash, check or money order. It is understood that I may return the unit anytime for full purchase price refund if I am not fully satisfied.

Make of Car _____ Year _____

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

SPECIAL OFFER: Purchase one for yourself and one for a friend and save even more. Order two **G. T. ENERGY CHAMBERS** for just 10.95 (a savings of \$1.00) same guarantee as above. Make of Second Car _____ Year _____
() C.O.D. orders enclose \$1.00 deposit. Same money back guarantee.

THEN, SUDDENLY, WITH A MATCHLESS FURY
BORN OF ITS MYRIAD ENCOUNTERS WITH
THE HATED HUMAN RACE--THE DRAGON
MAN STRIKES!!

BY THE
DREAD
DARTS OF
APOLLO!

SO ENRAPT
WAS I IN MY
THOUGHTFUL
REVERIE--
THAT I DID
FORGET MY
MISSION!

YET, 'T'WILL TAKE
MORE THAN THE
SWEEP OF A TAIL
TO VANQUISH
HERCULES!

HERCULES--WHO HATH
FELLED THE MANY-HEADED
HYDRA--WHO DID ONCE
DEFEAT DEATH ITSELF IN
FEARSOME COMBAT!

AND NOW,
ONCE MORE,
I FIGHT FOR
THE HIGHEST
STAKES OF
ALL--A
MORTAL
LIFE!

THEREFORE,
HAVE AT
THEE, THOU
BRAINLESS,
BELLIGERENT
BRUTE!

BLOK!

WONDER BEYOND
WONDERS! THE
BEAST IS BUT
STUNNED BY THE
BLOWS OF THE
PEERLESS
PRINCE OF POWER!

TRULY, HE DOTH
AWAKEN WITHIN
ME THE THIRST
FOR THE HEADY
NECTAR OF
BATTLE!

RRRRRR



BUT, 'TIS A STRUGGLE FOR ANOTHER HOUR-- EVEN ANOTHER EON!

FOR, BEHIND HIM, I DO BEHOLD THE FETTERED FORM OF THE WASP-- HER WHOM I HAVE COME TO RESCUE!

TO STRIVE FOR STRIVING'S SAKE, WHILE SHE BE THUS CHAINED, WOULD BESMIRCH MINE HONOR!



THUS, A LIFELESS BOULDER MUST NEEDS END THIS STRUGGLE!

'TIS A PITY THOU CANST NOT SPEAK--ELSE THOU COULDEST HAVE SPARED THYSELF BY ABJECT SURRENDER!



AND, AS WRITHING SWIRLS OF SMOKE AND DUST HIDE THE DRAGON MAN FROM VIEW...

NAUGHT THAT LIVES COULD HAVE SURVIVED SUCH A FEARFUL PUMMELING!

MINE ORDAINED TASK IS FULFILLED! THE WASP IS SAVED!

BUT, ALAS, THE GOOD RIGHT ARM OF HERCULES IS PERHAPS A BIT STRONGER THAN HIS EYESIGHT! FOR, AS HE DISDAINFULLY TURNS HIS BACK...



YOU GUESSED IT, PUSSYCAT!!

KRUN

BY THE ZESTFUL ZITHER OF ZEU-- UNNNHH!

AND, ON THAT ROUSING NOTE, WE NOW MOMENTARILY TAKE OUR LEAVE OF A SOMEWHAT SHAKEN OLYMPIAN--AND SWITCH OUR SCENE TO A CERTAIN BASE IN THE FAR EAST, WHERE...



OHHH--WHAT HAPPENED--?

NOW I REMEMBER! I WAS BOMBARDED BY LIVING NIGHTMARES--AS THE FIRST HUMAN VICTIM OF THE SECRET WEAPON KNOWN AS... THE PSYCHOTRON!

SOMEHOW, COLONEL LING KNEW THAT I WAS ACTING AS A SPY FOR SHIELD! BUT, HOW??



SO, WRETCHED ONE! YOU AWAKEN! THEN HEAR MY WORDS!

TELL ME ALL YOU KNOW OF THE OPERATIONS OF SHIELD--OR BE PLACED ONCE MORE UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF THE DREAD PSYCHOTRON!

NO--YOU WOULDN'T--! IT'S TOO HORRIBLE-- TOO INHUMAN--!!



AH, I SEE YOU EXHIBIT ALL THE REACTIONS WE HAD EXPECTED-- INCLUDING THAT OF STARK, UNREASONING FEAR!

THUS, SURELY YOU WILL COOPERATE WITH US! FOR, A SECOND EXPOSURE TO THE PSYCHOTRON COULD RESULT IN NOTHING FOR YOU BUT-- DEATH!

I--I SHALL, MY COLONEL! LET ME ONLY COLLECT MY THOUGHTS A MOMENT--!

EXCELLENT! I'LL LEAVE YOU FOR A MINUTE, THEN! FOR, YOU KNOW THE PENALTY IF YOU TRY TO FLEE!



BUT, AS SOON AS THE SNEERING OFFICER HAS LEFT THE DARKENED CHAMBER...

HE BELIEVES THAT MY WILL IS BROKEN! GOOD!

NOW, I MUST PUT THE SECOND PART OF NICK FURY'S PLAN INTO OPERATION-- WITHOUT DELAY!

IF I FAIL-- IF I FALL-- THE FREE WORLD MAY WELL FALL WITH ME!



THEN, WITHOUT A SECOND'S HESITATION, THE GIRL WHO WAS ONCE AMERICA'S GREATEST Foe MAKES HER BREAK FOR FREEDOM...

SO FAR, SO GOOD!

COLONEL LING LEFT MY ROOM UNGUARDED-- BECAUSE HE WAS SO CERTAIN OF MY TERROR OF THE PSYCHOTRON!

AND, WELL HE MIGHT BE! ONCE IT IS OPERATIVE OVER LONG DISTANCES, IT WOULD DWARF THE HYDROGEN MISSILE AS A WEAPON OF TOTAL WARFARE!



THEREFORE-- BUT, WAIT!

LOOK! IT'S THE BLACK WIDOW-- SHE RISKS HER LIFE TO ESCAPE!

TWO SOLDIERS-- AND, THEY HAVE SEEN ME!

THEN, LET HER LOSE THAT LIFE!

BUT, BEFORE THE TRIGGER-HAPPY GUARD CAN FIRE--

HERE, FOOL--FEEL THE POWER OF THE BLACK WIDOW'S BITE!

NOTHING MUST INTERFERE WITH MY VITAL MISSION! NOTHING!!

SLAP!

UNNNNNH!!

NEXT, AS THE SECOND UNIFORMED ENEMY AIMS HIS PISTOL...

THERE! NOW, NOTHING BARS MY WAY! THUS--

I SPOKE TOO SOON! HALF A DOZEN MORE GUARDS HAVE HEARD THE STRUGGLE--AND RUSH TOWARDS ME!

CAPTURE HER ALIVE! COLONEL LING HAS COMMANDED US!

SPLAT!

THEN...

OOOF! CAN NO ONE STOP THAT TRAITOROUS SHE-DEVIL?

IT IS NOT I WHO AM THE TRAITOR, BUT COLONEL LING--WHO IS THE ENEMY NOT ONLY OF AMERICA, BUT ALSO OF HIS OWN NATION--OF HUMANITY ITSELF!

TAASKI! ZAP!

SUCH A DREAD CREATION AS THE PSYCHOTRON MUST NOT EXIST!

IT MUST BE-- IT WILL BE-- DESTROYED!!

HOWEVER, THE BEAUTEOUS NATASHA MIGHT BE SOMEWHAT LESS OPTIMISTIC ABOUT THE OUTCOME, IF SHE KNEW THAT, AT THIS PRECISE INSTANT, HER EVERY ACTION IS BEING CAREFULLY MONITORED...

SO, DOCTOR YEN--THIS IS THE END RESULT OF THE LONG YEARS--THE COUNTLESS MILLIONS--WHICH HAVE BEEN GIVEN TO YOUR RESEARCH!

IN ITS VERY FIRST TEST ON A HUMAN BEING, THE PSYCHOTRON FAILS!!

NO-- IT ISN'T POSSIBLE! THERE MUST BE SOME OTHER EXPLANATION FOR HER SWIFT RECOVERY!

WE MUST CAPTURE HER-- AND FIND OUT WHAT WENT WRONG!

FORTUNATELY FOR YOU, MY DEAR DOCTOR, THAT IS STILL A SIMPLE MATTER!

THEN, AT THE MEREST TOUCH OF A NEARBY SWITCH, THE COSTUMED GIRL FINDS HERSELF IN A SEALED CHAMBER-- AS THE LEERING FACE OF THE MURDEROUS COLONEL LING APPEARS ON A VIEW-SCREEN ABOVE HER...

YOU ARE A FOOL, MY DEAR BLACK WIDOW, TO THINK THAT YOU COULD DECEIVE YOUR FORMER ASSOCIATES--

WE, WHO ARE THE TRUE MASTERS OF DECEIT!

AND, HALF A WORLD AWAY, AT THAT SAME MOMENT (GIVE OR TAKE A MICROSECOND)...

I'M WARNING ALL OF YOU FOR THE LAST TIME--

NOTHING GETS THRU THIS CORRIDOR--NOT WHILE GOLIATH IS STILL ALIVE!

I EVADED HIS BLOW-- BUT ONLY BY INCHES!

IN HIS FEAR FOR THE SAFETY OF THE WASP, HE MOVES LIKE A MAN POSSESSED!

SUDDENLY, THE GIANT FORM WHIRLS ABOUT, AND...

UH OH! THOUGHT I COULD SNEAK PAST HIM WHILE HE WENT AFTER PIETRO...

OKAY, HAWKEYE-- YOU'VE HAD IT!

I SHOULD'A USED A BLAST ARROW ON YOU WHILE I HAD A CHANCE, YOU CRUMMY TURNCOAT!

I'M GONNA MAKE YOU EAT THOSE WORDS, LITTLE MAN!

CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE

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HANK--STOP!
YOU MUST
LISTEN--!

I DARE NOT USE
MY NEX POWER
WHILE THEY ARE
SO CLOSE TOGETHER!
ANY CHARGE I
HURL AT GOLIATH--
MIGHT HARM
HAWKEYE
MORE!

IF YOU'RE GONNA TRY TO TALK ME
INTO TURNING AGAINST DIABLO--
FORGET IT!

SURE! IT'S A LOT
EASIER TO TURN
AGAINST YOUR
OLD FRIENDS--
AND THE WORLD!

DON'T,
HAWKEYE!
WE MUST
MAKE GOLIATH
LISTEN TO
REASON!



YOU THINK YOU'RE PROTECTING THE
WASP! YET, EVEN NOW, HERCULES
IS BATTLING DRAGON MAN FOR HER
LIFE!

THEN--AS LONG AS THE
OLYMPIAN HOLDS OUT,
DIABLO HAS NO POWER
TO HURT JAN!

YES! AND, THE PRINCE
OF POWER NEVER TIRES!

SO, WHAT
ARE WE
WAITING
FOR? LET'S
MOVE!



THIS, AS THE
MIGHTY
AVENGERS
ARE
UNITED
ONCE
MORE...

YOU CHANGED SIDES
AWFUL EASY, MAN-
MOUNTAIN! WHAT
GIVES?

I HAD A PLAN OF
MY OWN, AVENGER...

THOUGH IT MIGHT'VE MEANT
JAN'S DEATH--AND MY OWN--I
HAD DECIDED TO SABOTAGE DIABLO'S
SCHEME TO BRING AN ARMY OF
DRAGON MEN TO LIFE!

BUT NOW, THE FAT'S IN THE
FIRE ANYWAY, SO--LOOK!!
IT'S DIABLO--HE'S SEEN US!



I HAVE DONE MUCH
MORE THAN MERELY
SEE YOU, YOU
BLUNDERING
BEHEMOTH!

I HAVE PREPARED FOR
YOU--BY ADJUSTING MY
DYNA-DISK SO THAT IT
CREATES AN INVISIBLE,
IMPENETRABLE BARRIER
BETWEEN US!

HE'S RIGHT!
EVEN MY
GREAT SPEED
WON'T TAKE
ME THRU!

STAND ASIDE,
ALL OF YOU!
ONLY MY
STRENGTH MIGHT
HAVE A CHANCE!

YOU'VE
GOT ONE
TRY, HIGH-
POCKETS...

THEN, O!
HAWKEYE'S
GONNA LET
FLY WITH
HIS HEAVY
ARTILLERY!



UNNNHHH! IT'S NO USE!
EVEN HERCULES
COULDN'T DENT THIS
ENERGY-SHIELD!

JUST THE SAME,
SEEM' IS BELIEVIN'!
LEMMIE LAY A BLAST
ARROW ON IT!

MEANWHILE, WE
CAN BE GLAD THAT
JAN IS PROBABLY
SAFE BY NOW!

HAN! DID YOU
THINK ME
UNAWARE THAT
YOU HAVE SENT
THE PRINCE OF
POWER AFTER HER?

ELECTRONIC SPIES IN
THE CAVE WARNED ME
THE MOMENT HERCULES
SET FOOT IN IT!

I SIGNALLED DRAGON
MAN--SO THAT HE
MIGHT HAVE THE
ADVANTAGE OF
SURPRISE!

FURTHERMORE,
WITH ONE
PULL OF A LEVER,
I CAN EXPLODE
THE CAVE FROM
HERE!

YOU'RE BLUFFING!
THAT WOULD ALSO
DESTROY DRAGON
MAN!



FOOL! DRAGON
MAN CANNOT
BE HARMED BY
AN EXPLOSION!

BUT, YOUR
PRECIOUS WASP
--PERHAPS EVEN
HERCULES--
CAN!!

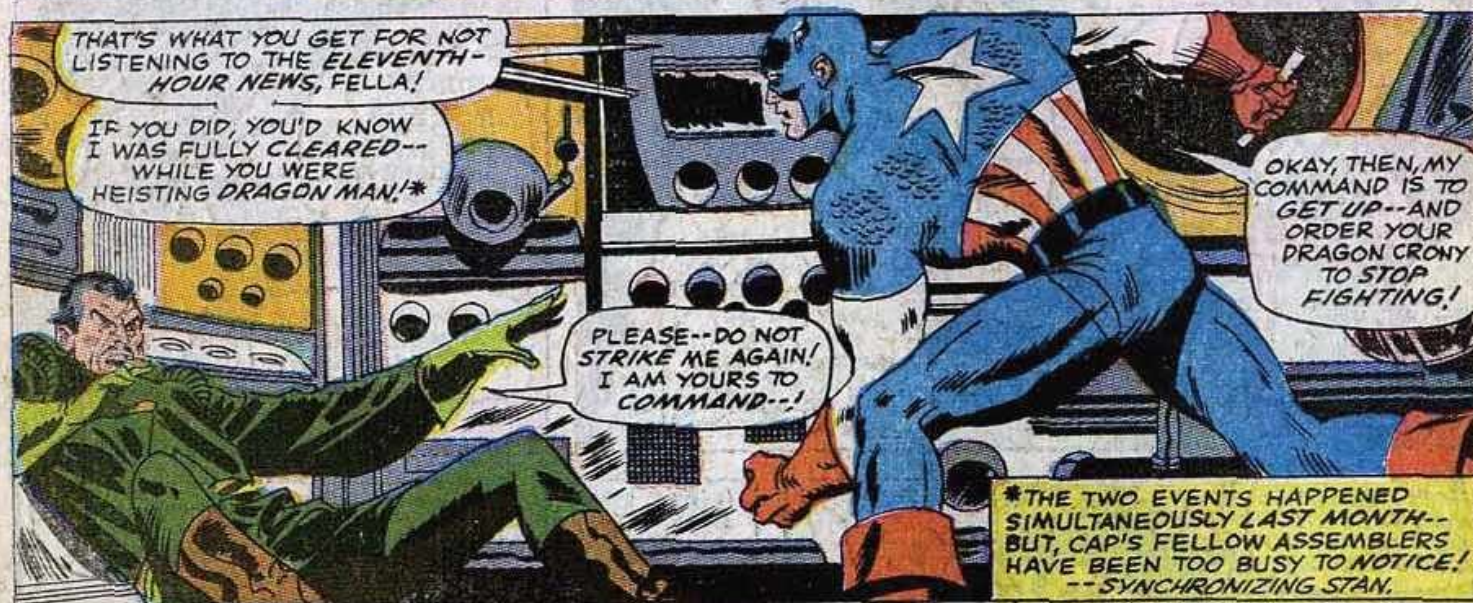
AND NOW,
WATCH IN HELP-
LESSNESS FROM
BEYOND MY
INVISIBLE BARRIER
--AS I SHOW YOU
WHAT IT MEANS
TO DEFEAT...DIABLO!



FIRST, THE
WASP DIES!

THEN, I SHALL DEAL
WITH--/ NO--THAT
HAND! IT CAN'T
BE--!!

CORRECTION,
MISTER! IT
MOST
DEFINITELY
IS!



*THE TWO EVENTS HAPPENED SIMULTANEOUSLY LAST MONTH-- BUT, CAP'S FELLOW ASSEMBLERS HAVE BEEN TOO BUSY TO NOTICE!
-- SYNCHRONIZING STAN.



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YOU FORGET
--THERE'S A
HOMING BEAM
IN ALL OUR
AERO-CARS!

THE ONE
YOURS LED
ME STRAIGHT
HERE!

NOW, LET'S
SEE IF THIS
LITTLE
GADGET
WORKS IN
REVERSE!

GREAT GOING,
CAP! WE SAW
THE WHOLE
FIGHT FROM
BEHIND THIS
BARRIER!

YEAH! BUT,
HOW'D YOU
KNOW
WHERE WE
WERE?

MOMENTS LATER, AS THE FORCE-FIELD DISSIPATES...



STAND ASIDE,

CAP--I'VE GOT TO GET TO A
VIEW-SCREEN AND SEE IF
JAN'S OKAY!

SORRY, AVENGER--
DIABLO'S WILD POT-SHOTS
WRECKED IT!

THEN, I'M HEAD-
ING FOR THAT
CAVE, ALONE
OR--

WE'RE ALL
WITH YA,
BIG MAN!

MEANWHILE, IT'S BEEN SOME TIME SINCE WE LEFT THE MUCH-LIONIZED LION OF OLYMPUS! LET'S SEE HOW HE FARED FROM DRAGON MAN'S SNEAK ATTACK, LO, THESE MANY PAGES AGO, SHALL WE?



THOU HAST SEALED
THY FATE, MUTE
MONSTROSITY!

NOT ZEUS HIM-
SELF WOULD
HAVE DARED TO
STRIKE THE
PRINCE OF
POWER FROM
BEHIND!

THE NEXT INSTANT,
AS IF TO
GRAPHICALLY
UNDERSCORE
THE POINT...



BE THOU
FLESH AND
BLOOD--OR
THE DEMONICAL
CREATION OF
MADDENED
MANKIND--

THOU SHALT
NOT AVAIL
AGAINST A
SCION OF
THE GODS!



SO SPEAKING, THE MIGHTY OLYMPIAN HURLS HIS HUGE ANTAGONIST AGAINST THE CAVERN WALL...



THEN, AS THE TIRELESS ANDROID RETURNS TO THE FRAY...



THE FOLLOWING SECOND, HIS OWN IRRESISTIBLE MOMENTUM AIDED BY THE POUNDING FIST OF HERCULES, DRAGON MAN PLUMMETS INTO THE SEETHING, ALL-BUT-FORGOTTEN LAVA BELOW...



...WHERE HE IS LOST FROM MORTAL--AND IMMORTAL--SIGHT!

SURELY, EVEN SUCH AS HE SHALL NOT SURVIVE YON FIERY TOMB!

YET, I FEEL STRANGELY SORRY FOR HIM! HE WAS ONLY DIABLO'S HELPLESS TOOL!

JANET VAN DYNE! I THANK ZEUS FOR THY SAFETY--BUT HOW--?

THE NOISE OVERCAME THE SEDATIVE I WAS UNDER--AND I SHRANK OUT OF MY CHAINS!

BY THE WAY, SINCE YOU SAVED MY LIFE, YOU CAN CALL ME JAN!

COME! THERE SHALL BE A TIME FOR TALK ANON!

NOW, WE MUST NEEDS JOIN THE OTHERS!

AND, NOW THAT WE'VE FILLED YOU IN ON THE IMMEDIATE PAST--WHAT SAY WE SKIP TO THE PRESENT, AS...



HERCULES--WHAT ARE YOU DOING??

I DO DETECT THE VOICES OF THINE AVENGER FRIENDS BEYOND THIS WALL!

THUS, SINCE NO DOOR BE NEAR AT HAND--

IT'S HERCULES--AND JAN'S WITH HIM!!

WE DIDN'T EVEN HAVE A CHANCE TO GO AFTER THEM!

I KNEW THAT MUSCLE-BOUND HUNK OF LEGEND WOULD COME THRU! I KNEW IT!

KRUNCH!

AH--THE PARTED LOVERS ARE REUNITED!

YOU AND ME BOTH, FRIEND! JAN, HONEY--I WAS SO AFRAID THAT--

'TIS EVER THIS THAT DOTH PLEASE HERCULES BEST!



JUST HOLD ME, YOU BIG GALOOT--AND DON'T SAY ANYTHING!

I FEEL LIKE A FIRST-CLASS LOUSE!

JAN JUST ESCAPED DEATH--AND SUDDENLY, ALL I CAN THINK OF IS NATASHA!

THEN, THE VARYING REVERIES OF THE MOMENT ARE INTERRUPTED...

DON'T FORGET THERE'S STILL THE LITTLE MATTER OF THESE BOGUS DRAGON MEN TO TAKE CARE OF!

IN OTHER WORDS, I'VE RIGGED THIS PLACE TO BLOW UP IN ABOUT 30 SECONDS!



SO, LET'S MOVE 'EM, KIDDIES--FAST!!

SWIFTLY, WITH SCARCELY A WASTED MOTION, THE MIGHTY AVENGERS BOARD THEIR SPEEDY AERO-CAR, AND...



THAT SHE BLOWS! YOU WERE TWO SECONDS SLOW, CAP!

LIKE YOU ALWAYS USED TO SAY, HAWKEYE--MAYBE I'M JUST GETTING OLD!

PARTNER, IF I EVER SAY THAT AGAIN--JUST WASH MY MOUTH OUT WITH SOAP!

THEN, THE UNBEARABLE TENSION OF THE PAST FEW HOURS ENDED, THERE IS A FLEETING MOMENT FOR A LIGHTER MOOD...



OUR RELUCTANT GUEST DOESN'T SEEM TOO HAPPY, HANK!
HE'S PROBABLY THINKING OF WHAT IT'LL BE LIKE TO SPEND SEVERAL CENTURIES IN PRISON!

HERCULES DOETH ECHO THE WASP'S SENTIMENTS!

STILL, IT'S A PITY THE DRAGON MAN COULD NOT BE SAVED FOR SCIENTIFIC STUDY!

THOU SHALT SOON ENOW FORGET SUCH SOMBRE THOUGHTS, BEAUTE-
OUS WANDA...

WELL, IT COULDN'T HAPPEN TO A MORE DESERVING GUY!

THAT IS, IF THOU WILT DINE WITH ME THIS EVENING!

BUT, SUCH RESPITE IS EVER SHORT-LIVED--AND, SOON, AS THE AVENGERS GATHER FOR POST-MORTEM...



WHAT DID YOU JUST SAY, AVENGER? READ THAT DISPATCH AGAIN--SLOW!!

ACCORDING TO THIS, THE BLACK WIDOW IS A PRISONER--BEHIND THE BAMBOO CURTAIN!

HER CAPTORS CLAIM SHE WAS WORKING AS AN AGENT FOR... SHIELD!

IF THAT'S TRUE, WE'VE GOT TO ACT!

WE MUST RESCUE HER--SOME-HOW!

NO! I'M THE GUY WHO LOVES HER--WHO SHOULD'VE BELIEVED IN HER, NO MATTER WHAT!

SO NOW, I'M THE JOE THAT'S GOTTA GET HER OUT OF THERE--OR DIE TRYING!

AND, I'VE GOT TO DO IT--MY WAY!!

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NOTE: OUR LETTERS SECTION APPEARS AFTER NEXT PAGE

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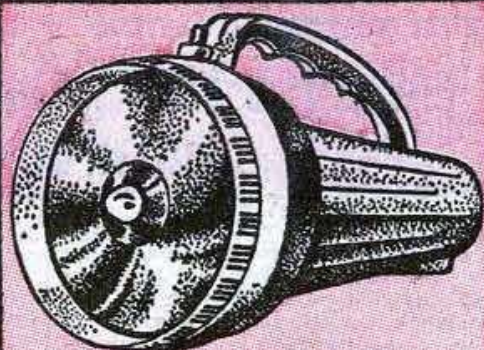
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Dear Stan, Roy, and Don,

I just bought AVENGERS #88. I get real sorry when I find you guys in the Bullpen make a mistake in your marvelous issues, but I like to tell you how you sometimes goof—just for fun! On page 1 of this issue, we find Pietro saying the first lines, then Cap says, "Not if Captain America can help it, Wanda." I didn't know that brothers and sisters can sound so alike, unless Cap has a habit of sticking his fingers in his ears! On page 7, panel 1, an Avenger says, "Iron Man and Thor have sent word that they can't attend this special session." And on page 20, panel 3, Goliath says, "Besides, we know you from Thor, once an Avenger himself." And, last but not least, on page 18, panel 6, the Enchantress thinks, "For it is written that a second exposure to Brimstone..." I've been looking all over the mag and I couldn't find the first exposure of Brimstone! Well, that's all for goofs. But no matter how many goofs you guys make, your mags are still better than any others anytime. So this is one Marvelite who really doesn't care if you guys make goofs or not!

Gaspar Masana, 87-10 108th St.
Richmond Hill, N.Y. 11418

But we care, Gaspar, ol' buddy—why else do you think that slave-drivin' Stan makes everybody in the Bullpen wear those "We Try Harder" buttons? Actually, though, the Avengers had heard of Hercules from the mighty Thor, like hulkin' Hank said! Ol' Goldilocks told 'em all about his battles with the Prince of Power at the special executive session reported in SPIDEY SPECIAL #3 last year—and if you don't believe us, just take a look at the minutes of the meeting! Nyaaah! (Hey, waddaya know—we were right on one out of three this time! That's a new record for mixed-up Marvel. Usually, even our mistakes make mistakes!)

Dear Stan, Roy, and Don,

I have a bone to pick with all the fans who don't like Hawkeye. He is probably the most human of all the Avengers. He makes mistakes, sure, but he always swallows his pride and faces up to them like a man. Of the whole team, Hawkeye is the most perceptive, usually the most dramatic, often the one who saves the day, and is hardly ever corny. He is colorful, witty and highly skilled, and is your best hero next to Spidey and Daredevil. Also, without him, there would be no colorful hanger-on for the Avengers. (I'm referring to Natsha.) So let's stop it already with the attacks on Hawkeye!

Charlie Sommer, 2131 Chadbourne Ave.
Madison, Wisc.

So who's started already, Chazz? Certainly not us—we think our argumentative archer is the swingin'est thing

since high-button shoes! Uh oh... Fabulous Flo, our fashion-conscious Gal Friday, just informed us that high-button shoes have been out for years! Funny how you get outta touch with things when you're chained to a typewriter, isn't it? Oh well... if we keep at it long enough, maybe they'll come back—and then we'll be in style again! If we ever have the time to go outside, that is!



Dear Stan, Roy, and Don,

Hercules as a member of the Avengers was certainly not an expected happening, but I am much pleased. But don't you think Hercules and Goliath are a semi-duplication? Scarlet Witch and Hercules will make a good romance. You have always claimed to be realistic besides unpredictable. You have never killed a super-hero before—be realistic! By the time the AVENGERS SPECIAL is published, you will have been writing super-hero mags almost six years. The only death of a Marvel hero that you've mentioned is Bucky's. The time for someone else to make the supreme sacrifice is long overdue. I hope that eventually the Enchantress will return with the Executioner, Power-Man, and the Swordsman. What a titanic struggle! Scarlet Witch could finally completely defeat the Enchantress in the struggle over Hercules. The other three would be able to cause enough trouble for the other Avengers. This would give Goliath ample chance to lose his life while saving the life of Hercules. (Quicksilver and the Wasp would make a good couple.) This would be good as Cap's last battle as an Avenger. When the smoke clears after their titanic epic, the Avengers team emerges as Hawkeye, Hercules, Scarlet Witch, Quicksilver and the Wasp.

Bruce Meyer, 5303 N. Penn. St.
Indianapolis, Ind.

Sounds like a groovy combo to us, hal'wed one! We'll add it to our list of Suggested... *HotComic.net*

Avengers Roster. (That makes just 2,473 entrees this week! Hmmm... they seem to be leveling off!) While we're waiting to see what our ever-assembling stalwarts do with their own particular population problem, we might as well mention that the four bellicose baddies you mention above are all in this year's **AVENGERS SPECIAL**—along with the Mandarin, the Living Laser, and a special guest villain whose name we can't mention—namely because we forgot it! (Far be it from multiloquent Marvel to pass up a chance for a free plug—even if it has to be in our own mags!)

Dear Stan, Roy, and Don,

As usual, **AVENGERS #39** was great. Hammerhead, Piledriver, and Thunderboot were absolutely marvelous. Hercules was fabulous fighting them. It was one of Marvel's greatest mags, except for one thing. I remember a fan saying that Goliath was hogging too much and said the mag might as well be called "The Mighty Goliath". Well, I'm with him. He is taking too much credit. Hercules could have tackled all three of those creeps. Why don't you take Goliath out of the Avengers and bring Thor or Iron Man back in? Either way, you would have a team then. Keep the Avengers the way they are with these few changes. By the way, I expect you to have the rest of your mags as good as this one! Jim Pearson, Rt. #9, Box 220 Excelsior, Minn. 55331

Too bad you had to say that! Until then, we were thinking about making the rest of our mags even better than that one! But, now that we know you don't mind if we taper off... Don't worry, Jimmy—we wouldn't know how! Actually, we keep working just a little bit harder on each successive ish! (Now, if Congress will only get busy and vote for a 30-hour day!)

Dear Stan, Roy, and Don,

While reading **AVENGERS #38** I noticed that Quicksilver is telling Goliath who the Enchantress is. Well, off hand I can think of four times when Goliath fought the Enchantress when he was Giant-Man, so he ought to know who she is. Also, at the end Goliath is telling Hercules that Thor is no longer an Avenger—well, he is. In issue #16 he only went on a leave of absence, so he never really quit. Neither did Iron Man. I think you should have a story with all the Avengers of past and present teaming up against one menace. A mag like this would bring joy to the hearts of all Avengers' fans. Personally I did like the old Avengers, but these amateurs are doing pretty good—a lot better than when they started! Hercules is all right for the Avengers, as long as he only stays for one year. After that he could guest-star every once in a while. I have all the Avengers issues and am very proud of it. They are getting very valuable and I have even had attempts from people to steal them!! Darryl James, R.R. #4 Vernon, B. C., Canada

And, as Honest Irv always says, "Petty larceny is the sincerest form of flattery!" But, to borrow a phrase from the spell-tossing Doc Strange—"May the Hoary Hosts of Hoggoth ever guard thy tempest-tossed treasure trove of **AVENGERS** issues!" There! If that doesn't safeguard 'em, nothing will, Darry, old chum!



Dear Stan, Roy, and Don,

I have a point to discuss with you concerning the most daring, magnificent, stupendous super team of all time—would you believe?—the Avengers! I really dig Jan when

she becomes the Wasp and doesn't put on that silly, outdated, unreasonable facsimile for a cap. Also, I'm glad that you finally brought back Pietro and Wanda. They make the mag much more interesting. I also like the superb, magnificent, and unbeatable appearance by Nick Fury. I wholeheartedly enjoyed the story with Cap gone. Now don't get me wrong, Cap is my favorite character, but it does the group good to be without him every now and then. And when the Wasp and Hawkeye almost quit, well—all I can say is "Wow!" This is **MMMS #29524** signing off. Patrick Janson, 1206 Pontiac Ave. Cranston, R. I. 02920

As if you had to tell us, Pat! We can tell you from **#29523** any day—even blindfolded! And what can we add to your climactic comments about everybody's favorite wonderful wisp of a Wasp—except "Who says this isn't the Marvel Age of stunningly sultry super-heroines!" (Aunt Petunia, that's who!)



Dear Stan, Roy, and Don,

I don't know how to thank you for your great work on **AVENGERS #39**. I waited a whole month for this mag to come out, and when it did, I was very happy to see a new group of super-villains worthy enough to fight the mighty Avengers, Hammerhead, Piledriver, and Thunderboot are great together, and that's the way I'd like to see them appear again really soon. The Prince of Power was up on top of my list of great fighters. It was good to see Cap missing, as it will prove that he doesn't have to be in a story for the Avengers to get out of a mess. Also, bring back more of your old villains more often, and when you do, have them team up together to fight the heroes!

Carlos Pacheco, 1530 Commonwealth Ave. Bronx, N. Y. 10460

And just who do you think we'd team our bizarre baddies against—the Lumville Ladies' Aid? And what do you think the super-heroes union would have to say about—awww, why pick on a regular pussycat like you? Maybe it's because, all day long, Stan's been picking on Roy—and Roy's been picking on Don—and Don's been... well, we think you get the general idea! What we really wanna say is, thanks for the liltin' letter, Tiger—you're our kind'a hero!

NEXT ISH: If you're one of those true believers who claim that the mighty Avengers have reached the absolute pinnacle of power-packed perfection in recent months, wait'll you see our next astonishing epic! There's never been a spectacle to equal the attack of Hawkeye and the redoubtable Hercules on the stronghold of those who guard the Psychotron—not to mention the captive Black Widow! Then, just when victory seems assured—enter *The Red Guardian*! (And, if you can guess the latter's secret identity before we let the cat out of the bag ourselves, you can pick out any no-prize on our newly-stocked no-shelf!) So, be on hand when **AVENGERS #43** explodes on the scene—it might just be the most cataclysmic clash of all!

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