

ADVANCED IRONS

APRIL





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Iron Fan, 10341 Lenin Court #1, Cupertino, CA 95014.

Welcome to the April issue of *Advanced Iron*. You not gonna believe what's coming down the road for Iron Man in the next few months. But first things first. This issue's cover, by Jason Stephens, is a reflection on Iron Man's current troubles (pun intended). It was actually drawn before the Thunderstrike reflection cover that came out on Iron Man #305. Tony really looks like he's pissed, but the Hulk is just the start of his troubles. Tony's in for some tough times ahead. And without his right hand man Rhodey, it'll be up to Ms. Arbogast to bail him out. Don't believe me? Check out the advanced illustration by Kevin Hopgood!

STARK KORNERS

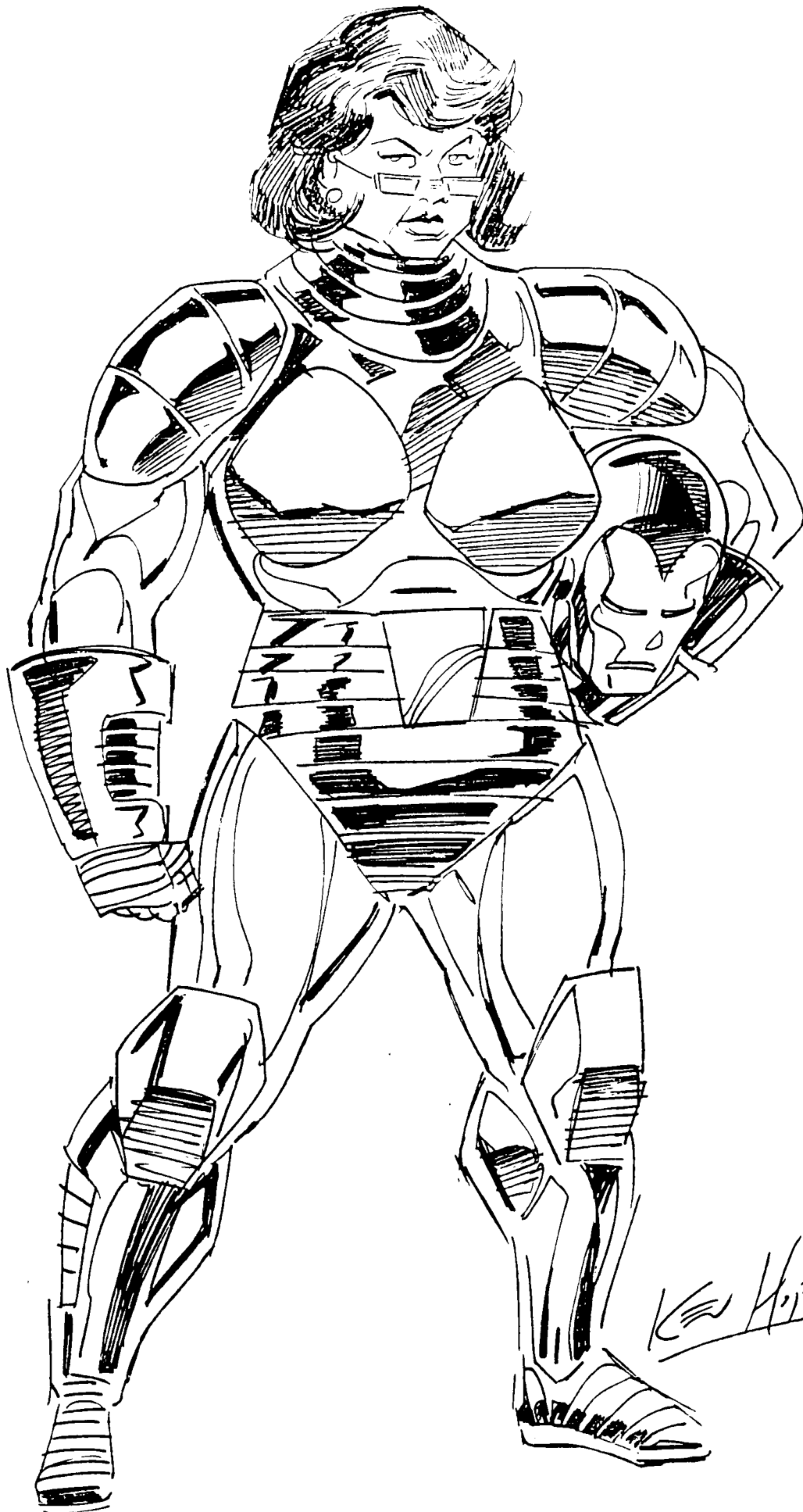
Len Kaminski (Kaminski's Korner) and Mike Kalibabky (Stark Remarks) are pretty busy this month, but fortunately Nel Yomtov has been generous enough to provide us with the latest happenings in Iron Man's universe:

The 'Crash & Burn' arc will end with #306 and, unfortunately, that will also mark the end of Kevin Hopgood's work on the book. Kev is moving on to a special computer-enhanced project for Epic, written by Abnett/Lanning, my FORCE WORKS writers. Inker Steve Mitchell also leaves with #306. I'm sorry to see him leave -- they're two of the most decent, honorable & professional guys I've every worked with- Tom Morgan will take over pencil and ink chores with #307 and I'm excited to work with him on IRON MAN.

War Machine hit with lots of hoopla and the initial reaction has been real strong. Kaminski/Benson have really been on top of making War Mach/Rhodey a very different type of hero. It's been particularly gratifying to take a suit of armor and develop a series out of it. By the way, I was the guy that put the KIBOSH on the idea of making the War Mach armor yellow & blue. Len's concept for the armor was fine until his color suggestion of yellow & blue - I always saw it as black (gray) and whit and when Kev was in NY sketching out the roughs for the initial design, I knew the color scheme would be right. By the way, the issues which introduced the armor, the intro of the Masters of Silence and the 'Death' issues were some of my personal favorites.

Iron Man animation is a 'go' for the fall and things are looking good. The producers asked me to lend a hand in fleshing out character bios etc. and I put Kaminski and Benson on the case. There will be some departures from the comic, but none that I find distressing. The series writers seem to grasp the character very nicely and so far nothing goofy has crossed my desk from them. Lots of emphasis on different suits of armor. We'll see War Machine, Spider-Woman, Scarlet Witch, Hawkeye, Century, and Mandarin on the series.

Speaking of Mandarin, watch for a very special Oct./Nov. 6 part x-over involving IM, War Mach, and Force Works. I've designed it to be short and to the point with just my titles being involved. Len blocked out the storyline and we feel the timing is perfect both with the animation and the added focus this will bring to the 2 rookie titles.



A Belated APRIL FOOLS! Mrs. Arbogast is taking over War Machine not Iron Man. (Bwah ha ha - - oops wrong mag). Actually Mrs. Arbogast is not doing anything of the sort. She'll remain in the most important position there is at SE: Tony's secretary.

THINGS TO COME

A lot of my preview information comes from a book called Sales to Astonish which is provided to your local dealer by Marvel.

FORCE WORKS #3 (ships 5 July)

by Dan Abnett & Andy Lanning/ Tom Tenney/ Rey Garcia

The Scatter launch an attack on Earth seeing this vulnerable planet as a perfect feeding ground to sustain their life forms. But you can bet Force Works won't sit still for that. ----->



WAR MACHINE #6 (ships 12 July)

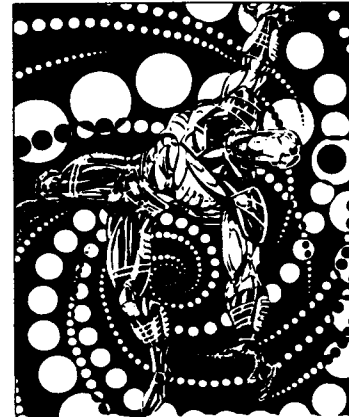
by Len Kaminski / Gabe Gecko/ Pam Ecklund

Rhodey's actions in Imaya got him a lot of media attention which was noticed by a slew of goodwill international organizations -- who will probably seek his services in the future. But his actions also got some unwelcome attention from an organization that doesn't like his style. This organization decides to put a stop to War Machine by sending 'Deathtoll' after WM's Iron hide.

IRON MAN #308 (ships 26 July)

by Len Kaminski / Tom Morgan / Steve Mitchell

Tony, 'mentally empowering' a terminator-like Iron Man robot, wages war against the source of his recent troubles (i.e. the force behind 'Crash & Burn' known as 'Vortex'). Check out Tom Morgan's cover art for this issue: This issue is the second since the departure of Kevin Hoopgood and I'd like to hear what all of you think about the new artist. Write in with your reviews.



MARVEL AGE #140 (ships 19 July)

If you have any questions about Iron Man's role in the upcoming MARVEL ACTION HOUR, this issue promises to answer them.

MARVEL MASTERPIECES II #3 of 3 (ships 26 July)----->

Cover by Julie Bell

This is a comic-size re-presentation of the trading card artwork. Check out Julie Bell's fantastic Iron Man portrait. If you've seen the card, you know that it's even better in color. This one's a must for all true Iron Fan's



Next Month: I hope to have the latest news on the cartoon series and some more answers to your questions to Len Kaminski.

AI OOPS!

Welcome to the first AI correction letter. Even though AI #3 was late, it was hastily put together. The first portion of the THINGS TO COME section was left blank or inaccurate and I left out some important explanations and thank yous. This letter should correct the errors.

THINGS THAT SHOULD HAVE COME

The following are Corrections to AI #3s THINGS TO COME. If an item is not listed it was OK in AI #3.

FORCE WORKS #1 (ships 4 January)

by Dan Abnett & Andy Lanning/ Tom Tenney/ Michael Avon Deming

It's the debut of Tony's new team of heroes with a new style! The new style is that they attempt to prevent disasters and malicious acts from happening rather than confronting them once they appear. Hopefully they won't mistake any one's intentions. I'd hate to be on the other side of a misunderstanding with IRON MAN, SCARLET WITCH, SPIDER-WOMAN, US AGENT, and WONDER MAN. And just who is the new hero on the block, Century? Find out in Force Works #1.

FORCE WORKS ASHCAN (ships 4 January)

by Dan Abnett & Andy Lanning / Tom Tenney / Michael Avon Deming

16 page introduction to FORCE WORKS for only 75c.

FORCE WORKS #2 (ships 1 February)

by Dan Abnett & Andy Lanning / Tom Tenney

"The mystery of Iron Man's new protégé, Century, begins to be revealed! When a deadly team of villains whisks Agent, the Witch, and Spider-Woman to another world. Century and Iron Man go head-to-head with their captors. Century remains an enigma, but some of this super powerful alien's motivations are revealed."

-from Sales to Astonish Feb. 94.

IRON MAN #302 (ships 25 January)

by Len Kaminski / Kev Hopgood/ Steve Mitchell

Venom guest stars in part 2 of Crash & Burn. By now you've seen the end of issue #301 (how is Stark going to get out of that one - and into his armor?) Find out in issue #302.

IRON MAN #303 (ships 22 February)

by Len Kaminski / Kev Hopgood/ Steve Mitchell

Yes it's Venom again (what is it with this guy). Sales to Astonish lists this as part 2 of the 6 part Crash & Burn storyline. I'm almost certain it's part 3, but I've been wrong before.

MORE THINGS TO COME

The following guest-appearance info for the month of March can be found in PREVIEWS.

INCREDIBLE HULK #417

by David, Frank, & C. Smith

IM at Rick's bachelor party??

GUARDIANS OF THE GALAXY #48

by Gallagher, West, & Montano

This issue claims to "reveal the secrets about the War of the Worlds, Tony Stark, and the militant race of aliens he inadvertently spawned."

FORCE WORKS #3

by Dan Abnett & Andy Lanning/ Tom Tenney/ Garcia

The aliens, known as Scatter, launch a new attack. . .on Houston Texas???

IRON WARE INFO

The term "INQUIRE" is a term that PREVIEWS (a comics retailer) uses for rarer items. The intent is that they will provide the price based on the response. It goes without saying that these items may be expensive. If any of you have seen the items (that were listed as "INQUIRE" in AI #3) available in a local store for a fixed price, please send me the info and I'll pass it on. Since we have fans from around the country we may be able to get some good deals for each other!

THANK YOU !!!

Although Marvel has put me on their mailing list and Len has been very generous with scripts and answers to questions, it's still the fan input that counts the most.

Thanks go to Mike Kalibabky for his Stark Remarks. Mike has been very good about getting his columns in WEEKS before AI or Iron Fan are published.

Bart Ney's art is a regular and WELCOME sight in Advanced Iron. He sent me the cover for AI#3 before I even got a chance to see Iron Man #300. So you can see that he's either as quick as he is accurate or he's got some fantastic sources. Bart's SIGHTINGS logo also demonstrates his excellent sense of perspective and proportion.

The cozy Yuletide picture on the back of AI #3 was rendered by Jason Stephens. Normally you won't see color work in Advanced Iron (because of the cost), but this was so seasonal and so well done that I added it in as a (belated) Christmas present to the fans. By the way, Jason also did the cover of AI #2 in color. If you're interested I can send you the color version. The color reproduction cost is \$5.00 for the first copy and \$1.50 for each additional copy.



John Kohn 1992