

ADVANCED IRON



AI

Advanced Iron #8 was published by Bill Egan for the fans of Iron Man, IRON MAN, WAR MACHINE, and all distinctive likenesses and/or related characters are ©1994 Marvel Entertainment Group. All likenesses of other Marvel characters are ©1994 by Marvel Entertainment Group. You can contact any fan artist or writer by writing to Iron Fan, 10341 Teala Court #1, Cupertino, CA 95014.

Lucky for you, I've just gotten back from a 3 week vacation and still have a little jet lag. That means I'll be brief and let Mike, Jason and Marvel do what they're best at.

Mike's got some interesting words from his latest letter to Len Kaminski. If you're interested in writing to Len yourself just let me know. He's a pretty busy guy -- but he did mention that he'd be happy to hear from all of you. And when you do get a response, please send a copy in so that we can share it with the rest of the fans. Guardsman DiPasquale will share his response from Len in Iron Fan #6 coming out as soon as I can get it together.

Jason's fantastic cover has inspired some comics locally. He writes: *"The drawing with Stark in the huge martini stands as my first truly successful drawing of a comic book theme that is wide open to artistic interpretation, (just listen to me. . . I think all of this liberal arts training down at college is rubbing off on me). From my friends here, I've heard things like,*

"Tony who always thinks he is so big, is now reduced to an insignificant size when compared to the menacing looking armor holding him."

"He's being controlled by his past and his creations."

"The blank eyes in the helmet show that no one is inside." (You have to really think on this last comment to come up with some underlying meaning).

Anyway, these are just some of the comments and interpretations that I've gotten.

Jason's cover is not his only contribution to his issue -- he's stepping up to take a bigger role in things. He's very enthusiastic and wants to share his insights with the rest of the fans. His appeal to all of you follows Stark Remarks.



MARVEL AGE #140

Supposedly the last issue of Marvel Age, this issue contains everything you ever wanted to know about the Marvel Action hour. The article features information about revamped characters, voice actors, and animators. It also includes several pictures showing characters, costumes, labs and the Mandarin's sky saucer. Near the end of the article, there's a list of show dates and times for several of the major cities in the US. Finally, the issue is topped off by the August calendar, which depicts Iron Man decking the Hulk!!

MARVEL MASTERPIECES II #3 of 3

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.

An All Kaminski Edition!

“Stark Remarks” hosts a revealing Q & A session, “10 for Len,” with *Iron Man*, *WAR Machine*, and *Ghost Rider 2099* scribe Len Kaminski...

❶ Is there an Iron Man or WAR Machine video game for Super NES or Sega Genesis in the works or at least on the drawing board?

LK—I don't know of any IRON MAN or WAR MACHINE video games in the works, although with the cartoon coming out later this year, I wouldn't be surprised to see an IM game happen.

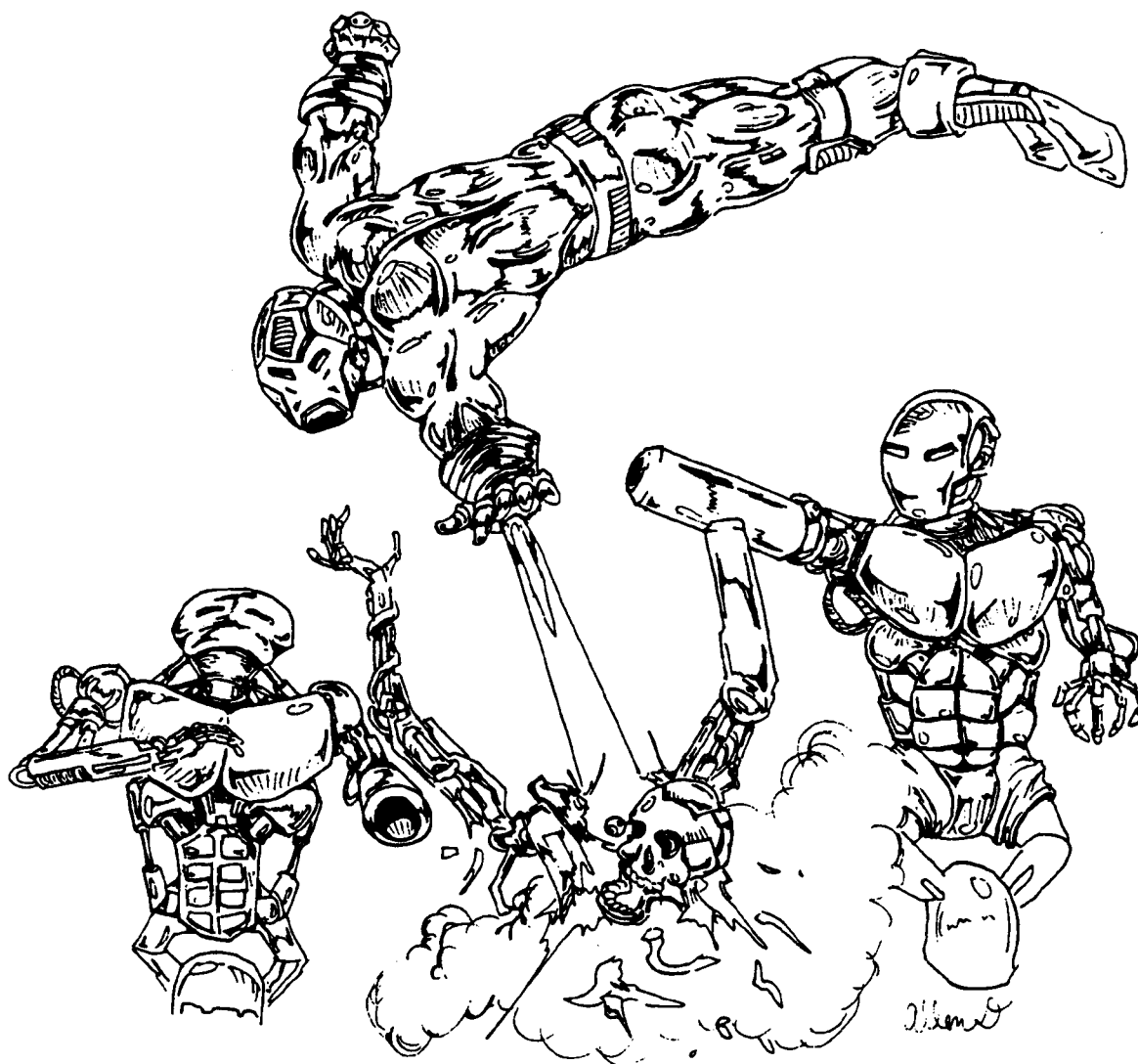
❷ Do you keep tabs on the goings-on of other armored heroes produced by the competition? And do you ever check comic book distributor sales stats to see how the books you write stack up to all the competition out there?

LK—Yeah, I try to keep an eye on the various other armored heroes from other companies, if only so that I don't end up doing something they've already done. I like HARDWARE a lot.

❸ I was happy—yes, happy—to see the WAR Machine armor's weapons systems sustain considerable damage in *WAR Machine* #3. So does this mean that the armor will be receiving a major re-fit in the new future, and, if so, what will it consist of?

LK—No armor re-fit for War Machine in the immediate future, I'm afraid; I tried to talk Nel Yomtov into doing one around #12, following the resolution of Rhodes' “how do I get this thing fixed” subplot, but he's of the opinion that I've gone too nuts with Iron Man redesigns over the past couple years, and doesn't want to do the





same thing with WM. Sorry.

❶ What other Iron Man related projects do you and Scott Benson have cooked up? Please tell us a little about Scott as a cohort and co-writer.

LK—Let's see, Scott and I will continue to co-write WAR MACHINE for the foreseeable future. Scott doesn't have any direct connection to IRON MAN, other than providing me with

good advice on occasion, and the occasional piece like his Stark Enterprises guide in [IM] #300. Scott's a swell guy, he and I've been friends for almost ten years now; we were roommates back when I first moved to NYC, eventually drifted apart when we both got married, and then met up again after we both had gotten divorced, and now we're roommates again, doing the Felix and Oscar thing. Writing-wise, we both

know what the other has in mind for the book so well that frequently neither of us remembers who came up with any particular plot point or line of dialogue. We're a well-oiled machine!

❷ What's this about an Iron Man graphic novel you mentioned in your column in *Advanced Iron* #4? Was the *Werewolf by Night* limited series you were working on ever published?

LK—That **IRON MAN** graphic novel has been shelved indefinitely, now that Marvel is no longer producing graphic novels. It's written, though, and maybe someday it'll see the light of day, possibly in a different format. That **WEREWOLF BY NIGHT** mini-series I was supposed to do is long dead, I'm afraid, thanks to the falling out I had with the Midnight Sons office (which is now the "custodian" of the character) after my absence was requested from **MORBIUS**.

⑥ How much time do you spend researching a book or series before you begin writing it? For example, before you began writing *Iron Man*, how long did you research the book's background and what did you use for resource materials? And to take the question one step further, how did you create the new Ghost Rider 2099 character and book concept with an established 2099 Universe?

LK—There's no simple answer to this one; where **IRON MAN** is concerned, I'd read the book since, ohhhh, #51 or so, and I'd always liked the character. When I first had an opportunity to pitch for taking over the book, I went back and re-read my collection, looking for story possibilities (like bringing back *Ultimo*), and trying to get a grasp of potentials that hadn't really been explored (like the fact that almost nobody had done anything showing us Stark's

childhood). As for **GR 99**, the concept for that largely grew out of my initial desire to not have any connection whatsoever to either the present-day Ghost Rider or any supernatural elements at all. I wanted to develop the idea of future technology filling, in a sense, the void left behind by the absence of mysticism and magic, and the rest kind of just wrote itself.

⑦ How about a Kaminski roster of books you've worked on? Here, I'll lead it



off: *Iron Man*, *WAR Machine*, *Morbius*, *Hellstorm*, *Dr. Strange*, *Slapstick* (a character you and Jim Fry III co-created), DC's *Showcase '94* #6 (an Atom story), *She-Hulk*, *Ghost Rider 2099*, *Werewolf by Night* (see #5 above), *What If?* #'s 55-56 (The Avengers lose Operation: Galactic Storm), recent issues of *Marvel Comics Presents* (a *WAR Machine* series), *Namor* #41 (with *WAR Machine*), and, finally, the 25-page story "Molecular

Psychology" that appeared in the recently released *FF Annual* #27.

LK—Yug. I've done a lot of piece work on various Marvel titles over the years, a lot of which I'd just as soon nobody remembered, like my issue of **TRANSFORMERS**. Of the stuff I can still look at without cringing, there were some **FANTASTIC FOUR ANNUAL** back-ups I did for Ralph Macchio, an *FF* fill in that came in around #351 or so, various **WEREWOLF** stories in **MARVEL**

PRESENTS, a couple of back-ups in *X-MEN* annuals a few years back, and three issues of **AVENGERS**, with the *Avengers vs. the Grim Reaper*.

⑧ Why, in your opinion, doesn't Marvel list the names of a comic's creative team on the book's cover, a la DC?

LK—Marvel doesn't list the creators on the cover of the books for the simple reason that it's official Marvel policy that "the characters are what sell the books, not the creators".

⑨ Will H.O.M.E.R. ever get an issue of *Iron Man* devoted just to him?

LK—I'd love to devote an issue to H.O.M.E.R., we'll have to see if the opportunity presents itself.

⑩ How's Tom Morgan to work with and can you get us an advanced look at the Iron Man "terminator" prior to its scheduled debut in *Iron Man* #308?

LK—So far, Tom Morgan's

been great to work with, and I hope to see him stay on the book for a nice long time. Sorry, I don't have any shots of the "terminator" IM on hand.

And now these additional tidbits from Len....

Len DOES NOT have red hair; instead, it's "dirty blond."

Peter Gross will be illustrating *Ghost Rider 2099* #4. Mark Buckingham will pencil and ink #5. Beginning with issue #6, Kyle Hotz will become the regular artist on the title.

All of the illustrations in this edition of "Stark Remarks" were skillfully rendered by the great Allen Del Caro.

Iron Man, Ghost Rider 2099, and the Incredible Hulk are TM and © Marvel Entertainment Group, 1994.



SEEING IT FROM THE STEPHENS SIDE

Here it is! This is the first installment of the newest, regular addition to both *Iron Fan* and *Advanced Iron*. My name is **Jason Stephens**, and I'll be providing the commentary for this newest of new columns in our wonderful little fan club. Now you may be thinking, "What on Earth is this psycho artist/writer going to find to talk about that Bill and Mike haven't already covered in every issue?! And if the quality of writing at *Image Comics* by people who are supposed to be drawing is any indication of how well this guy is going to do, what are we in for?!" So, I guess I'll just have to show you my intentions. It is my opinion that the "Stark Remarks" column is a great, and often funny source of Iron Man information. Mike uses it in a way that lets him rattle off thoughts and ideas on Iron Man, and related topics, that just pop into his head. They're short, pithy, and "to the point." Mike Kalibabky does a fantastic job of showing us the "big picture," but I believe that there's a need to expand upon the "Stark Remarks" and "Sightings" columns with some in-depth looks at current Iron Man projects. This section will contain my main topic and the other categories below. In this space, I may talk about how the current writer is doing compared to previous writers, I may compare art styles that we've seen in *Iron Man*, or I might look at Iron Man's place in the Marvel Universe. There's so much that is still left untapped by Iron Fan, and my goal is to tap it! I would also **LOVE** to hear from you. If you can't spare the time to write an entire letter, just send a brief postcard (as opposed to a novel-length postcard). Let me know how I'm doing in the art department, how you like the column, what you would scrap, add, etc. Right now, the only real letters column in Iron Fan is "Captive Audience," and I would like to make this one the next largest source for Iron Fan letters, but I can't do it without you. Most of what is discussed on these pages could very well be spurred on almost totally by you (but only if you write). Also, I'll gladly take suggestions on a better title for this column if anyone out there has some. **Whoever writes in the most, and has the best suggestions, and contributes to the column the most, will get an original 11"x17" drawing from me of any comic book character they want... plus a smaller, colored version!** There, now I've committed myself to more work, so I hope you guys write in (it might take a couple of months to see who writes in the most)!

--- THE ADDRESS---

Jason Stephens
3606 N.E. 78th St.
Kansas City, Mo. 64119

Off The Top Of My Head: "Dr. Doom vs. Iron Man"

As much as I like seeing the return of the Mandarin, Stark's greatest nemesis, I still can't get rid of this intense craving I have for a battle royal between Iron Man and Dr. Doom! Whenever they met in the past, it was usually part of some time continuum screw-up, and they were forced to work together after having only a very minor quarrel. We've waited 30 years to see a no-holds-barred, knock-down, drag-out, gut-wrenching fight between these two armored giants. Why has it not happened? Maybe... possibly... could it be that Iron Man just might lose such a fight... and lose it *bad?! I hope not, but you just can't tell when it involves a serious battle with Dr. Doom! I hear that Len Kaminski has plans for a Dr. Doom storyline, and just needs to get approval from the Fantastic Four editor first. I sure hope it goes through soon... what do you think?*

Iron Man In The Near Future: "Iron Man Cartoon"

If you don't own a copy of Marvel Age #140 (the FINAL issue of that title), and you care about the upcoming Iron Man cartoon in the slightest bit, you must go out and get it now! Inside, it shows artwork, from the cartoon of course, of Tony Stark, the Mandarin's control room on his space ship, Fin Fang Foom, the main Iron Man armor, and Stark's vast, indescribable, totally futuristic armory that must be seen to be believed! ----- This issue gives all of the inside scoop on both halves of the Marvel Action Hour, pictures from both, along with cast information! Robert Hayes (of the movie, *Airplane*) will do the honors of Stark's voice! James Avery (who plays Uncle Phil on *The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air*) performs the deep voice of Rhodey/War Machine! [Voices for the Fantastic Four cartoon include Brian Austin Green as Johnny Storm, and Stan Lee's wife as Miss Forbes] The Iron Man cartoon is also going to have a lot of classical music scores to give it "added muscle."

----- The cartoon will basically stick to the continuity we all know and love. However, the cartoon's directors did change quite a bit in terms of how Stark suits up. His armory is shown as an infinitely deep and infinitely high tube lined with levels upon levels of various armored suits (some, the likes of which we have never seen before). The art for this backdrop is curved, almost as if you're looking at a picture taken with a "fish-eye lens." The viewer is standing in the middle and, because of the "fish-eye" effect, you can see both up and down the armory in the same view! Does this sound confusing? Pick up Marvel Age #140 and it won't be.

Tony will tell his computer (which looks like a huge beam of light in the center of the armory) what he needs on his armor for the mission, and he will be asked to step in the light. A platform will raise him up, level by level, and computer morphing techniques in the cartoon will show various pieces from all of the suits of armor around him attaching themselves to his suit. Finally, "he'll blast off straight into the light and out of a dome at the top of the armory." Sound cool? Well, one thing's for sure, it definitely is... different. I don't know... I might get to like the whole deal. We can rest assured, however, that our precious comic book version won't change a bit. If you're upset by this new way of doing things, just remember the fact that it might get stale having an Iron Man comic, cartoon, and cartoon adaptation that are all exactly the same. At least this way, we Iron Fans won't have to fall into the classic "Spider-Man Fan Syndrome" of having over eight different titles available that all have the potential to be exactly the same, or very close to it. --- By the way, I said that this is the last issue of Marvel Age. It will be replaced with specific, monthly collectors' specials. The first of which is due sometime in August (spotlighting the X-books), and the second is due in September, and spotlights Iron Man and Force Works!!!! Wow! Iron Man is actually getting second place recognition to the X-books?! **Someone capture the moment, I want to live in it forever!!!** ----- Marvel Age #140 also briefly mentions the Iron Man toy line following the cartoon: "The attachment-heavy Shell-head figure is already being touted as a 'Transformer for the new millennium.'" ----- Speaking of the Iron Man cartoon, it looks like the original rumors of the armor having a mouth slit were false! The picture shown (in addition to the Operation: Galactic Storm Space Armor) looks exactly like the current suit, except the shoulder armor pieces are way too cool looking! They have serrated edges, sort of like Daredevil's new armor. That's one detail that I believe the comic *should* steal from the cartoon!

Well, I've said enough. I do hope you enjoy this new column and I hope it has revealed some information you didn't already know. I also hope that I haven't gotten you so hyped up over the cartoon, toy line, and Marvel Age #140 that you've forgotten about my request earlier in this column.... You know, the one about writing in... I believe I mentioned some contest too, if I'm not mistaken.

You're all so cool,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Aaron Stephens". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a long horizontal line extending from the end of the name.

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.

THE REGULAR BOOKS TIE IN WITH THE SIX PART "HANDS OF THE MANDARIN" (HOM) STORYLINE

HOM#1 - FORCE WORKS #6 (ships 4 October)

by Dan Abnett & Andy Lanning/ Dave Taylor/ Rey Garcia

Iron Man and War Machine captured by the Mandarin after their titanic battle last month! Meanwhile, Force Works races to the Orient to face an unknown danger.



HOM #2 - WAR MACHINE #69(ships 11 October) ----->

by Len Kaminski & Scott Benson/ Gabe Gecko/ Pam Ecklund

Force Works' Century, rescues War Machine from the clutches of the Mandarin. Both end up in a Chinese village, reverted back to the 14th century feudal period by the Mandarin, who plans on destroying all technology in the east and taking over completely.

HOM #3 - IRON MAN #311 (ships 25 October)

by Len Kaminski / Tom Morgan

Iron Man and the Mandarin square off. Iron Man unearths the Mandarin's plans to revert China and Hong Kong back to Feudal times, but can he stop him before it's too late.



MARVEL ACTION HOUR FEATURING IRON MAN #2 (ships 18 October) ----->

by Eric Fein / Anthony Williams / John Nyberg

Iron Man battles the Mandarin. While the Mandarin tries to steal Stark International's supply of the rare metal, Xenebrium, someone is trying to destroy Stark's credibility in the world trading market.

MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS #169 (ships 11 October)

by Len Kaminski / Scott Benson / Cary Nord

Len and company chronicle part 1 of "an exclusive look at the past of the deadly Mandarin and his unique present day changes.

MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS #170 (ships 25 October)

by Len Kaminski / Scott Benson / Cary Nord

Len and company chronicle part 2 of a story that promises to help you "discover the Mandarin's brand new powers and his new goals for conquest. Sounds like a perfect companion to the HOM storyline.

OFFICIAL INDEX TO THE AVENGERS (ship 25 October) --->

by Murray Ward/Various artists

with a cover by Darick Robertson and Andrew Pepoy

The ultimate master list of the Avengers! Everything you wanted to know and more on Earth's mightiest heroes -- including 'ol shell head. This issue indexes the contents and credits of Avengers #122-180

