

# ADVANCED IRON<sup>14</sup>

APRIL FOOLS ISSUE!



ed

Stephane 3/95

# AI

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

## **Tony Stark Looses His Mustache!**

*In the most startling turn of events ever to occur in the pages of Iron Man, Tony Stark decides to shave off his mustache! An official announcement was made by Marvel on Wednesday saying that they thought the move would attract more women to the book. When I talked to Len about the motivation behind this decision he said "I don't know. . .it seemed like a good idea at the time". Fans aren't so sure. A large group of Iron Fans was seen picketing the Marvel offices. Their leader is proposing a shave-out and several members were arrested for accosting Nel Yomtov with shaving cream. In later comments, Mr. Yomtov stated that the mustache decision is final but that a beard is under consideration.*

## **The High Price of ADVANCED IRON - Part 2**

Thousands of fans responded to the remarks about the cost of Advanced Iron. After sifting through all these inputs the consensus seems to be that AI should be printed on actual Iron. The format will be the same familiar 8.5 x 11 and all your regulars will still be included. The cost of engraving and mailing will be \$1,456.32 per issue (foreign orders please add \$600 for shipping). I'm accepting payment in check or gold bullion.

IMPORTANT NOTICE: Len Kaminski will be leaving Iron Man as of issue #318. Creative differences were sighted. This is very bad news to have to print in this April Fool issue, but I thought you should know ASAP. There will be an interview in CBG and possibly one in Wizard as well. I'm certainly not happy about this development and I'm worried about the cause.

EDITORIAL NOTE: Jason, Mike and Allen really came through for this issue. In fact Jason had some last minute corrections that he **faxed** out to me! He apologizes for the quality of the faxed pages in his Iron Mania column, but he's a perfectionist about the content of his column.

### **IRON FAN ON-LINE**

Join other Iron Fans on-line.

Here's some addresses to get started:

Iron Fan: [IRONFAN@AOL.COM](mailto:IRONFAN@AOL.COM).

Len Kaminski: [74130.3464@compuserve.com](mailto:74130.3464@compuserve.com)

Jason Stephens: [jstephen@lib.drury.edu](mailto:jstephen@lib.drury.edu)

Allen Bujak: [Shellhead@AOL.COM](mailto:Shellhead@AOL.COM)

## **ABOUT THE COVER [S]:**

Bethany and Tony are ready for a night on the town. Tony's finally shaved that pesky mustache and he used Stark Enterprises new line of shaving equipment to do it. Yes Stark is a name you can trust for a smooth clean shave even on a mustache that's as tough as Iron. It'll make you feel like a million!

Jason tells me that the picture was originally drawn in front of a SUNrise -- possibly indicating the dawning of a new era sans mustache, but the reds and oranges overwhelmed the picture. I agree with Jason that the blues are much more complementary here. It's a perfect setting for my favorite couple (what do you think of Jason's Bethany?)

# STARK REMARKS

by Mike Kalibabky & Allen Del Caro

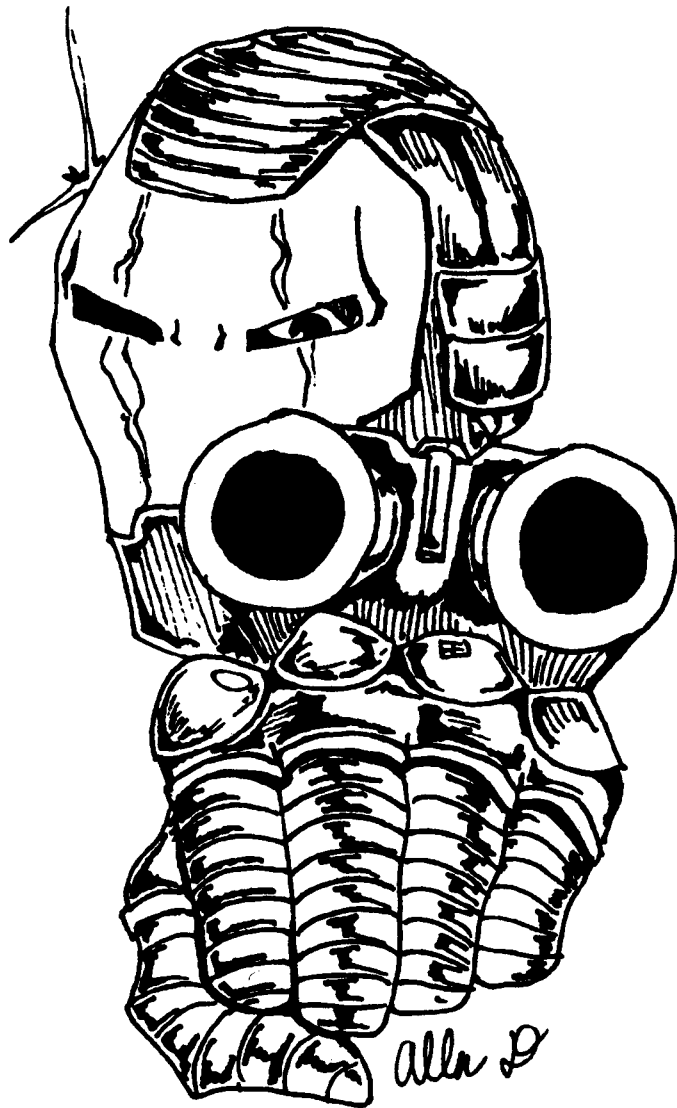
April 1995

"If you were a thousand times bigger than you are, nothing would stop me now! Nothing!"  
- Iron Man to Titanium Man, *Tales of Suspense* #83

I must be losing it. I'm here in Chisholm writing this while listening to the greatest hits of KC and the Sunshine Band. Hey, with the price of CDs these days, \$6.99 for KC & Co. was a funky (more like disco) bargain—and, mindless peppy music, to me, is somewhat inspirational. Nope, I don't type any faster, but I do move around more in my chair while I clack away on the ol' keyboard. (Shake, shake, shake your booty...")

(And just what the *hell* is one's "booty"?)

Now to business. First of all, lemme say that the illustrations included in with this month's SR are, in my opinion, some of Al Del Caro's best. Al moved away last fall to pursue a career in graphic arts and has finally settled into a new work & home routine. Needless to say, he's been really cranking out the Iron Man illos. Great stuff, Al. And



thanks, man.

Al's "Iron Man Meltdown" illustration really brought back memories—I can actually recall quite a few *Iron Man* covers where the IM armor is actually melting—in some cases *streaming*—off of Tony Stark's body! Like, wouldn't that hurt?

The first Iron Man meltdown cover occurred on *Tales of Suspense* #47. The classic gold "clunk" armor lost an arm, the left one, at the hands of, who else?, the Melter.

Other meltdown covers include (and I know I've missed some): *IM* #'s 28, 41, 48, 52, 57 (thanks, Bill), 72, and 92. Anyone who can add to the list or who has a comment on Iron Man meltdowns, please drop me a line.

I still can't figure out how Tony Stark can move around in his armor without wearing the helmet. Duhhh, aren't most of the armor's systems thought-controlled, albeit subconsciously? To me, it would be like cutting off your head and then expecting your body to walk around by its own self-direction. The head controls everything! So wouldn't the helmet, which receives its commands from the wearer's head, govern the armor's actions?

I finally caught the Iron Man "Ultimo" episode on the *Marvel Action Hour*. Other than a severely pencil-necked Wanda chanting, "Sha-la-la-la-la," to locate Ultimo's soft spot, I enjoyed the episode more than most.

So okay, I picked up an additional Toy Biz MAH standard armor Iron Man figurine, and attempted to armor it up

with the additional push-in attachments.

The hole in IM's gut wasn't deep enough to accommodate the pin on the back of the belt, so the damn belt keeps falling off. I tried to make the hole deeper with an awl, but the plastic the figurine is made of is too tough to penetrate.

The metallic plastic shoulder pieces on my figurine were somewhat discolored—they looked sun-faded.

All the other attachments seemed to push in just fine, except the stupid missile-thing falls out of the respective gauntlet cannon unless the attached arm is elevated.

At least, with the help of the oversized "overshoes," the figurine stands up and stays up!

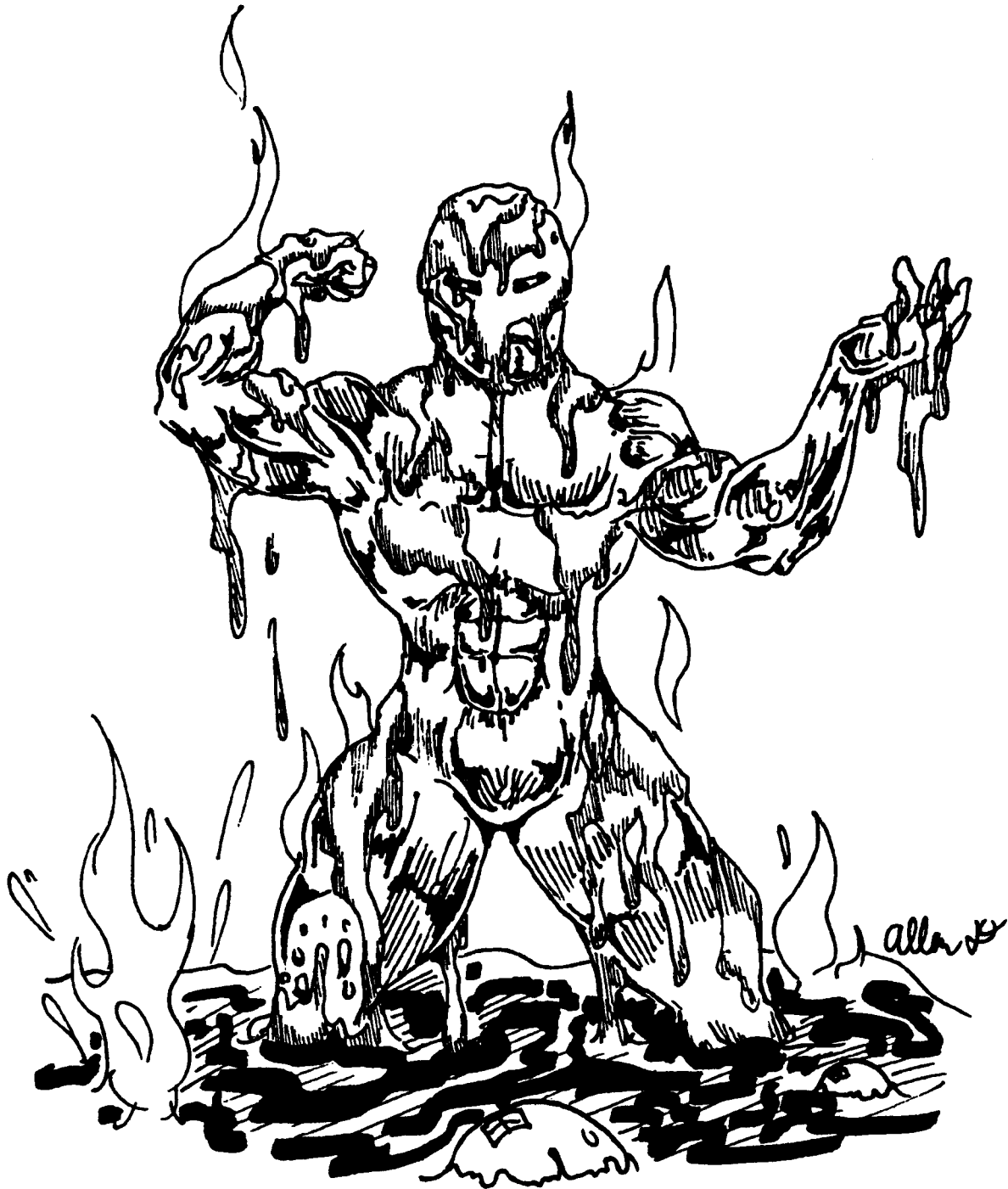
The April 1995 issue of *Wizard* magazine contains a profile and photo of artist Mark D. Bright, who drew the classic "Armor Wars" issues of Iron Man. The 39-year-old Mark mentions in the piece that his favorite work was the *Green Lantern* "Emerald Dawn" mini-series for DC. On a personal note, he is slowly persuading all of his friends to call him "Doc," since his first two initials are M. D. I always wondered about that whenever I saw "Doc' Bright" in the credits of a comic he had pencilled. Mr. Bright, my all-time favorite IM artist, is a New Jersey native and resident. He is currently the regular artist for Milestone Media's *Icon*. In addition, Mark has also done a few issues of *Hardware*. Bright's last Iron Man-related work appeared in last summer's *Iron Man Annual* #15. He banged out the cover

illustration and the 14-page Kaminski-penned story "Wargame."

If you haven't picked up a copy of *IM Annual #15*, please do so. In addition to the Kaminski/Bright tale, it

contains a killer Controller story by Len and a fifteen question Tony Stark interview with *Playmates* magazine.

In my study I have hanging the



framed Page #5 of the original artwork from *Iron Man* #225, in which Tony Stark discovers that some of his technology is integrated within Force's armor. This page was pencilled by Mark Bright and inked and signed by Bob Layton. I love it. It's a real rush to own an original.

Oh yeah, does anyone remember that the original "Armor Wars" storyline was actually entitled "Stark Wars"?

And speaking of Green Lantern, a la "Emerald Dawn," both IM and GL (Hal Jordan, the original, and new kid Kyle) use thought-controlled systems, although IM's is thought-controlled via computers, while GL's uses a willpower-driven interface to his ring. Interesting stuff. Meanwhile, the main villain in *GL* #61 is KALIBAK! Shouldn't I be getting a royalty or something for the hey-close-enough use of my name?

Don't ya just hate it when you're bagging & backerboarding your comics and a piece of tape gets stuck to your book? \*&@^%\$#!

The third *MAH Iron Man* toy assortment from Toy Biz, slated for release this month (yeah, right), will include: Arctic Armor Iron Man, Hulk Buster Iron Man, Tony Stark with Iron Man Armor (OH, NO! Not another pot-bellied stove arrangement, I hope!), Century, Dreadknight, U.S. Agent, Titanium Man, Fin Fang Foom, Silver Dragon ("Yin"?), and Gold Dragon ("Yang"?).

Anyone besides me been reading *DC's Fate*, co-written by Len Kaminski?

Try it and get back to me with a comment or two.

The two Iron Man cards from the on-coming *Marvel Metal* cards show the IM helmet sans the yellow gridlines.

In this month's *Advance Comics* I didn't see a blurb for *Marvel Action Hour: Iron Man* or *MAH:FF* for May 1995. I guess those books are "choke" cancelled? If so, then my **April 1995 Swift Kick in the Arse Award** goes to everyone who didn't support these fine comics! You shameful minions know who you are... And you ain't, as Elvis used to say, no friends of mine.

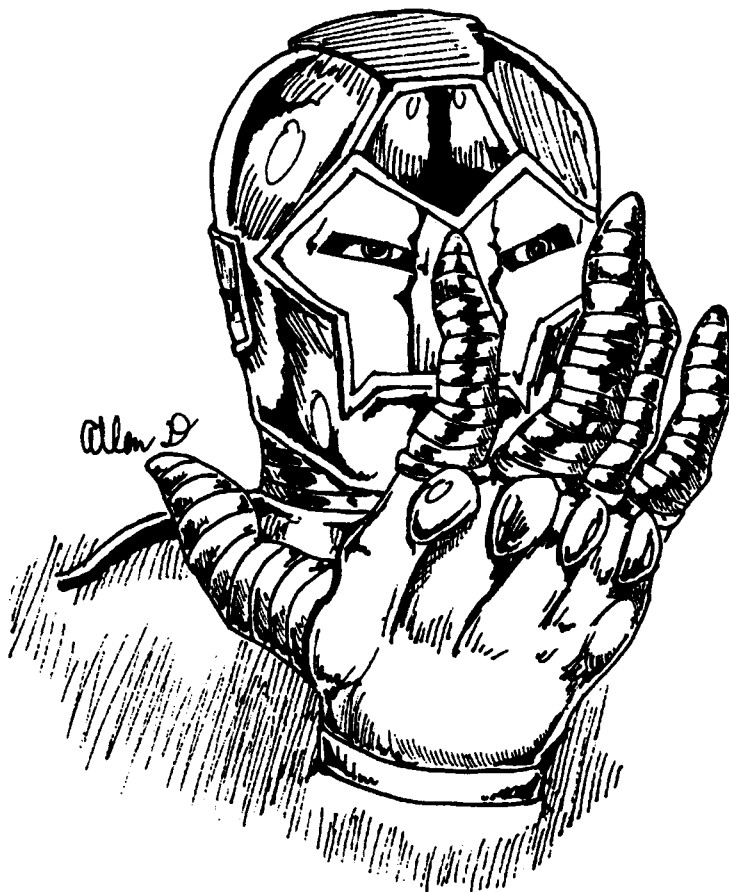
But I did see a listing in *AC* for an Iron Man novel, *Armor Trap*. Due out in May, this \$4.99 256-page Berkley paperback is written by Greg Cox and illustrated by Gabe Gecko. *The Armor Trap*, which sports a foil-embossed cover, is the first in a series of science fiction novels that feature Marvel superheroes! What's it about? This: War Machine saves Tony's arse. Oh, the Iron Man logo on the cover includes the rivets.

So Superman fights Aliens in May! Whoa! Iron Man fought Aliens-like creatures on at least two occasions, *IM* #'s 237 and 294-295. Anything with either Superman or Iron Man in space are always my favorite storylines. I love the feelings of isolation and dread. That's me for ya, I'm not happy unless I'm terrified!

I was gonna say that I also enjoy underwater adventures, but I can't

recall a single Supes UW epic.

Now for a very sad story. I recently received a letter from Heath McKnight, an aspiring filmmaker, in Wellington, Florida. The letter itself was chock full of comments and observations concerning Iron Man, but



advertised. It was a copy of #300, only it was the cartoon IM. I wore it on my birthday (Feb. 2); I work at a movie theater as a projectionist, and I had to pick up a movie from a different theater/company. As it turned out, I got the damn shirt stained with grease when I carried the giant reels the

movie was put on. To quote Homer, 'Doh!'

I grieve for you, man. The entire staff of AI does. But on the bright side, you still have an Iron Man t-shirt! Heath also expressed an interest (a CRAVING, actually) in obtaining more Len Kaminski-generated plot texts for Iron Man. Heath says he uses the plots as models to help structure his own comic book plots. Yep, Mr. McKnight is also a comic book writer.

Yo, Editor Bill, can we get Len to float us some more Iron Man scripts?

Thanks for writing, Heath, and let's see a sample of your stuff—think it could be a one or two page Iron Man teaser?

one paragraph kind of got to me. I'll let Heath tell the tale in his own words...

"Did you guys know you can order an IM t-shirt through Toy Biz? I first saw that you could when I was looking at a Carnage toy. I sent all that money and shipping stuff, expecting the shirt to be (as advertised) the cover of #300. By the way, I sent it in October. It came two months late and wasn't what they

I wonder... Is the IM t-shirt Heath mentioned one of the ones they were selling at Musicland?

If anyone out there can get me one of the Iron Man t-shirts mentioned above in an XL or XXL, DO IT! I'll reimburse you for the shirt, postage, tax, whatever. Please!

I recently dropped a line to *Iron Man* assistant Editor Michael Marts, hoping he would get me in touch with Tom and Mary Morgan for some artists' info on *Iron Man*. A recent promo piece appearing in Marvel Comics mentioned the Morgans and the computerized art techniques they're using on *IM*. I figure we need details, so I wrote to Mr. Marts for help. I really like the weekly blurbs on upcoming Marvels and their creative teams—in some ways this makes up for the Marvel policy that the creative teams' names are to be omitted from the covers of Marvel Comics. The policy: something like, characters sell books, not creative teams. Ah, well...

I've been paying attention more and more to Eliot Brown's *The Iron Manual* of a couple of years back to see if some of the stuff in there pops up in the here-and-now goings-on in *Iron Man*. Case in point, the removal of the mouth opening on the current Iron Man armor and future removal of the eye ports. Sure, Brown didn't mention the mouth opening, but he, as Tony Stark, wrote on Page 1: "I intend to do away with the eye holes altogether—technically speaking I haven't directly looked at anything in years from inside my suits... Needs more study." Now that the mouth opening is gone, will the eye holes go bye-bye too. Len? Help me out on this. Only time will tell how visionary Mr. Brown's *The Iron Manual* actually is. If you can find a copy, BUY IT and then READ IT.

You can witness Len Kaminski's take on the concept of *IM*'s armor helmet

eyeholes and computer-generated vision on Page 2 of *Iron Man* #279, part 13 of "Operation: Galactic Storm," where Tony, clad in his latest deep space armor (MOD X MARK I—as per Eliot Brown), is viewing a large scoreboard display showing the capture of fellow Avengers by the Kree.

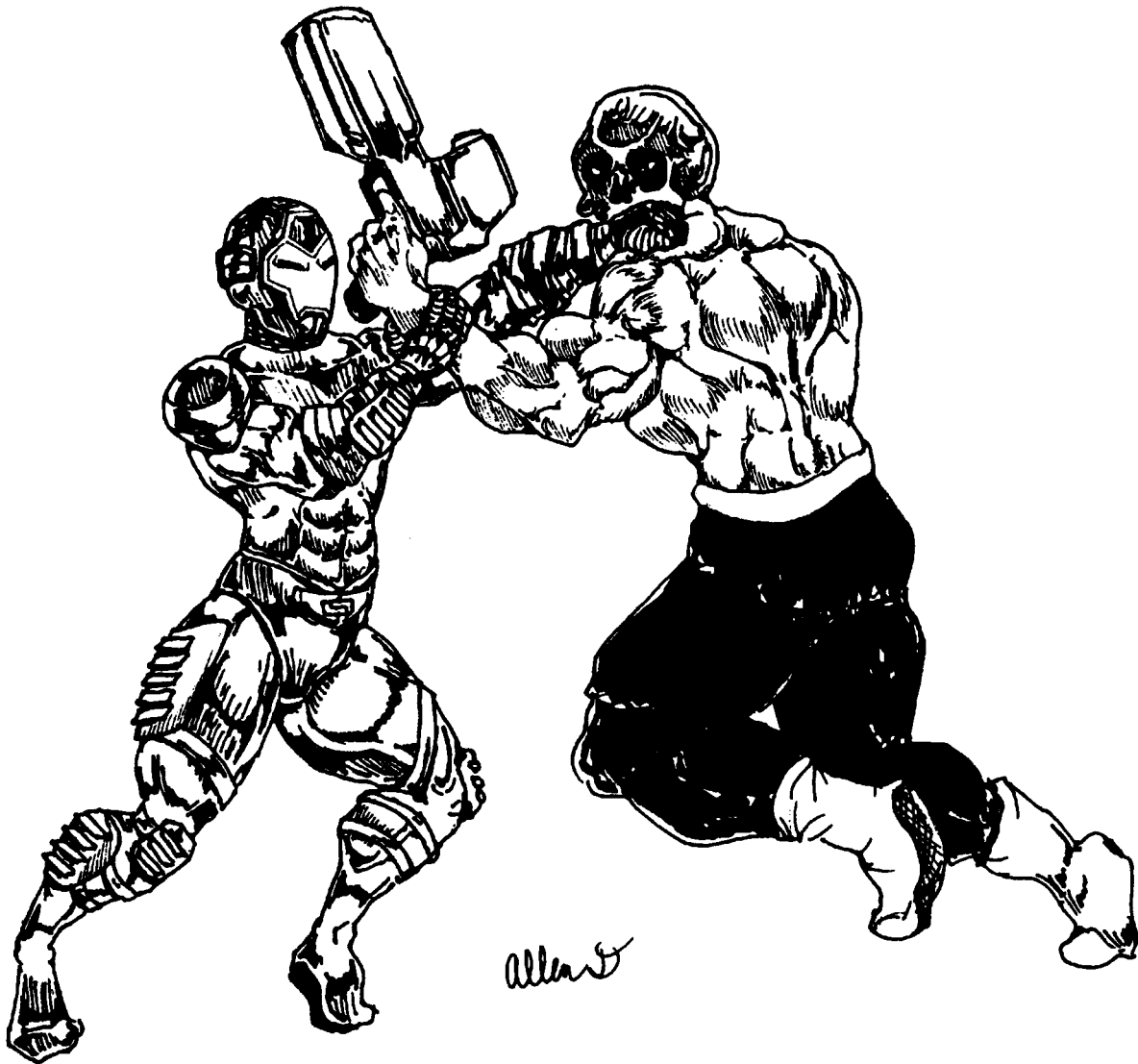
"This is the view from inside the helmet of the suit of sophisticated battle armor worn by Anthony Stark—also known as Iron Man. Information and graphics processed by his powerful onboard computer systems are projected directly onto the retina of his eye..."

Although Tom Morgan's artwork on the cover of *Iron Man* #314 was great, I liked Jason Stephen's alternate cover design to *AI* #11 better.

My prediction of an Iron Man-Prototype Marvel-Malibu crossover is becoming more and more of a possibility! This summer the Avengers will meet UltraForce. So that means if Iron Man were still an Avenger, he and Prototype, a member of UltraForce would meet. Well, at least potentially. Anyhow, hopefully, the Tony Stark-created Cap armor on the back of Captain America will mix it up with Prototype. If Iron Man can't make it to the dance, maybe some of his technology will!

If they ever make an Iron Man movie, I nominate Deion Sanders for the role of Jim Rhodes/War Machine. Why? Deion is cool and cocky, he dresses well, and is a world-class





athlete.

I collect Deion sports cards and I'm up to around 80+. Some smart-arsed kid told me that he had over 200 Deions, excluding doubles. His mother, a co-smart-arse, agreed. I guess it must be true. Like, whose mother would back up a cocky comment such as that? Probably lots of mothers. Some of these sports-minded people are goofy. I gotta get busy and read the latest *Becket* guides. I bet I got more Iron Man cards than him though.

I, however, have an authenticated, signed Deion photo.

In the end, sports stars are worshipped as superheroes. Unfortunately. And I'm hooked on this sports stuff just as much as the next guy or gal.

Hey, why isn't there an Iron Man Starters jacket? Well, I mean besides for the obvious reasons?

So Fox's Hardware wanna-be

*M.A.N.T.I.S.* is no more. Too bad, it had potential. But no viewers. Will VR5, its replacement, fare better?

Yes, I enjoy *Star Trek: Voyager*. I like the holographic doctor more and more. Kind of reminds me Tony Stark's H.O.M.E.R. Cool ship (although I hate the bridge), cool captain, cool comic relief. Some shows are just destined to be winners.

Well, the new Tony Stark-created Cap Armor currently playing over in *Captain America* #439 received a light blue helmet eyeshield. I'm glad (yes, glad enough to use two d's!) the creative folks caught the no-eyeshield SNAFU and fixed it—and only after one issue! But I wrote in about it anyway.

Listen: If things in your favorite comic tick you off, WRITE IN about it. TELL THEM. The way I see it, you have three choices: 1) Shut up and put up with it, 2) Drop the book, 3) WRITE IN.

The original Titanium Man is back in *Iron Man* #'s 315 & 316! Ya-hoo! Tom Morgan's rendition of the classic TM armor brought back fond memories of *Tales of Suspense* #83, where IM & TM squared off in the ol' USA. The classic Stan Lee and Gene Colan opus ended with a defeated TM sinking into the ocean after his ride home to Mother Russia, a Soviet submarine, abandoned its disgraced comrade.

I love the classic cornball TM armor with the glowing LED eyes and mouth. But don't get me wrong—the new-and-improved TM armor that was incinerated along with the Gremlin inside of it was very sleek and pleasing

to the eye. Conversely, the old armor is very cold-war-esque with the chest plate extending past the wearer's crotch, almost like a kilt.

And just for laughs, a mint copy of *Tales of Suspense* #83 is priced at \$34.00 in the April 1995 *Wizard* Price Guide. I know for a fact, however, that *Iron Man Specials* #'s 1 and 2 reprint a number of early IM TOS stories, including TOS #83. These two books are in reality IM Annuals, but it wasn't until #3 that this run of books were officially renamed "annuals." *IM Special* #1 runs about \$20.00 in mint condition, while #2 goes for \$8.00. Together—if you can find them—they're still six bucks cheaper than TOS #83... Still, originals are worth more than reprints. The collector in me made me say that.

Hey! Wouldn't it be COOL if a bunch of us Iron Fans got together at this Summer's San Diego con... I wonder how much a table costs? We could promote AI and meet other IronManiacs. Interesting. Needs more study, as Tony Stark would say.

Please drop me a line any old time. I reply personally to everyone who writes.

Mike Kalibabky  
5325 McNiven Road  
Chisholm, MN 55719

April 5, 1995

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# IRON MANIA

BY JASON STEPHENS

FEATURING DAVE HUBER'S "SHELLHEADISM'S"

It's a new look we've got for ya' this month. I decided that since the "Iron Mania" section was getting pretty large, I needed to cut back on the various styles of typefaces that I was using, so that you know exactly what paragraphs belong to which section of "Iron Mania." I also changed the title font because out of about six people that I asked for opinions on the old one, I was the only one who liked it. I figured that if 86% of the seven of us hated the old style, that the percentage was probably reflected among the Iron Fans as well. It would be kind of silly to ask everyone to write in their opinions on the old style, but if you hate this one and want the old one back, let me know. It's possible that I could also change the looks of the typefaces for each month and go with a certain theme -- like a holiday or special occurrence in the Iron Man books.

So, anything headed with **THIS TYPEFACE** is a part of one of my divisions. Anything headed with **THIS TYPEFACE** is part of Dave Huber's sections. As you know, the first section of "Iron Mania" is always a lengthy article. They will now start carrying titles starting with the next page. Also, I place Dave's section right after the main article and not after the last of my subdivisions because I want to stress that he's a very integral part of "Iron Mania" and deserves much more recognition for his in-depth thoughts and opinions than he would get if his column came after my "Off the Top of My Head," "Other Iron Man Projects," and "Iron Quotes" sections. Especially since most of those sections are either for fun, or merely for alerting Iron Fans of something going on in the Iron Universe and don't provoke too much thought.

About the "Your Responses" section, I've gotten a few concerns that it is too hard to tell where my comments end and the letter writers' begin. Most people don't write me letters in the same format that they would write to "Printed Circuits." Instead, they pass along some personal info. and just hide their remarks for the column somewhere in the letter and I have to pick them out. So, until I get letters formatted like that -- which I don't necessarily want -- I won't be printing them "straight." Plus, I've gotten feedback from Iron Fans that says they like to be involved in a dialogue with me rather than just having a dry response printed after their letter. Because of these positive comments, I will continue to draw writers together, and stick quotes from them in my sentences, almost as if it was an actual conversation between us. Fair enough? To make it easier to tell where *my* comments are, I will use *this nice, italic typeface* like I do in Dave's section. Now that this is all cleared up....

## So, How Old Is Tony Stark Anyway? The Answer Is 26 Or 27?!

"No way!" you might say. "He has to be older than that!" Well, he probably is. I'm just proving this by the ever tricky affair known as the "age of comic book super heroes as determined not by our years and the world which surrounds us, but by the time span chronicled within the pages of the comic books where the adventures and events of said heroes are set down." Say *that* fast!

Let's be **generous** and say that each *Iron Man* comic covers **two** full days in the life of our favorite multi-billionaire, Anthony Stark. Each book comes out once a month, and that makes a total of 24 days in the life of Iron Man for every **year** of our lives. I'm sure the battle with Titanium Man in #315 didn't last an entire month.

Now, **some** books only cover **one** day, or merely a few **hours**; so, saying that each issue accounts for **two** days should make up for those "long time span issues" – because there are many more issues with a few hours or one day covered than there are with entire weeks. Let's go ahead and be a little **more** generous and bump that 24 day total for each year's worth of issues up to a solid month! This means that Tony ages one year for every 12 of our years!

A lot of Tony's age depends on at what age you place him when he inherited his company. If he was ... say ... 24 when he took over his father's company, began work for the military, and became Iron Man, that would seem to fit the established continuity, don't you think? So, when is he too old to wear the armor and engage in the high-stress activity that goes along with it – thus ending the comic? Well, that time has already passed if you take our years into account. Tony would be about 55 years old now! Batman would be what ... 75? But we know that's not how it works, so let's use the aforementioned guidelines. Let's put Iron Man in retirement at age 45? I think Tony would retire a little sooner than most of the other heroes, wanting to devote time to his company, and perhaps a wife. He would want a lot of time left to enjoy himself I believe.

Assuming the year really **was** 1963 for **us** when we first saw him, *Iron Man* isn't due for a cancellation or a permanent new armor wearer until the year 2215!! Sorry "Iron Man 2020" and "Marvel 2099," your concepts have now become moot points and are flying out the window! The Guardians of the Galaxy in the 31st century still works, though.

Marvel and other companies could use an explanation like this to answer all those questions about just how old characters are, but how would they get to chronicle all of the current day technology and political events? Because of this, they usually say, "The ... uh ... Marvel Universe significantly slows the aging process ... uh ... yeah."

Some interesting facts about Iron Man if we accept these guidelines for the length of every comic, and also accept the fact that political events and technology have kept up with our world....

- ♦ If *Iron Man* began in 1963, it is now 1965 - 66 !!! Break out those bell-bottoms!
- ♦ Marvel Universe U.S. Presidents must change every 4 months!
- ♦ For the events and history of Marvel 2099 to possibly occur in **our** 2099 – meaning the passing of the complete lives of Tony Stark **and** Arno Stark, among other things (assuming they die at age 85) – our world saw Iron Man before the year 1367! That's before Columbus, folks! Anyone want to try their hand at drawing the Iron Man of 1367?!
- ♦ Tony Stark was drunk and in an alley delivering a baby in the middle of a horrible blizzard only ... what ... a little over 11 months ago?! (as opposed to 11 years and 2 months ago)

Basically ... just don't worry about it. Have fun. And, of course, fun was the only point of this little essay. So what other dramatic, earth-shattering, and pivotal events in Iron Man history can we reduce to only a few months ago, just for fun? Just take the current issue; subtract the number of the issue you want to put a date on. Take that number and divide by 12. Your answer is how many years ago that issue was for us. Just pretend that those years are months instead.

Anyone want to take the last 100 issues, figure out how much time elapsed, and find an average? Anyone want to figure out the entire history of Iron Man?! If enough people really want to participate in finding out **EXACTLY** how much time has elapsed, send me your names and addresses, and tell me what issues you have. We can break it down into blocks of issues for each of you to figure up, you can send your findings back to me, and I'll put it all together and print it. Anyone want to do it all themselves?! Another thing we would need to take into account are the issues which have unknown amounts of time elapsed between them. These would need good estimates and would have to be marked in a comprehensive list of the books so others know which ones we made guesses on. We need to include the *Tales of Suspense* issues, too. And, since not too many Iron Fans have all the *Tales of Suspense* issues, there might be a **free drawing** in it for whoever's ready and willing to figure up the early issues, and then we can break up the rest for others who are interested. Come on. **It'll be fun!** Admit it! You want to know exactly how many days have passed in Iron Man's history all the way from *Tales of Suspense* #39 to *Iron Man* #316!

# DAVE HUBER'S SHELLHEADISM'S

## FUTURE SHOCK DEPT.

Y'know, I really enjoyed the *Iron Man 2020* trade paperback a little while back. Great story with a great not-so subtle tie-in with the **Tony Stark** era. But I still have questions. For example, why no reference to the *Spider-Man Annual #20*? I mean, there were two pages (at least) of reminders from when Arno got his butt kicked by Machine Man. This was supposed to represent one of the most humiliating moments in that Iron Man's existence, correct? Well, then why not refer to Arno's lousy construction of an illegal nuclear device that devastated an entire city (his wife and child included)? I'm going *batty* trying to figure out the ramifications of that event! Not only was there no mention in *I.M. 2020*, but also no mention in *Machine Man 2020*. As a matter of fact, the only reference I've seen recently is from Mike Kalibabky and Russ Fletcher's fan comic in *Iron Fan #3* (I recently received the back issue). Is there any other mention of Arno Stark's tragic time-machine story from the year 2015 anywhere in the Marvel Universe? If so, would you let me know?

## C'MON ALREADY DEPT.

What exactly can Shellhead take in terms of punishment? The reason for this interrogative is I just picked up *I.M. #315*. Iron Man gets hit on the head by a mere roof and is *groggy* as a result!! C'MON!!! — *That's not in my plot synopsis ... it must have been Morgan's idea to add it in there.* The reason I said a mere roof is just that ... a bunch of rock! I.M. should have been able to shrug that off like so much dandruff. So ... how much pounding can Shellhead withstand?

The answer is, "whatever the writer wants." For example, to supplement my above "C'mon!" example, check out #299. I.M. is laid out by a tanker truck. Granted, it was thrown by Ultimo, but it's *Iron Man* we're talking about!! A momentary stagger should have been it and then back in the game, I say. On the other hand, check out #204: the Silver Centurion armor (which is supposed to be less advanced than the current model) easily withstands an A.I.M. plasma blast measured in the gigajoules of electricity. Furthermore, in #127, I.M. takes on no less than the Blizzard, Whiplash, the Melter, Spymaster, and the Constrictor — and he *mops them up!!!* So what's the deal? I know there are more examples of I.M. either getting his tail kicked too easily or probably taking on a bit too much. So what are they? Let me know!!

One could look at intangibles such as Stark's motivation and attitude, but I don't think that's enough. The latest issue made me laugh at how easily Titanium Man got the best of Tony. Tony said that T.M.'s armor is totally obsolete, yet he gets felled by one of his "obsolete" weapons. Then the roof falls on his head and he can't focus his vision. C'MON ALREADY!!

### TECHNO DEVOLUTION DEPT.

Whatever happened to the cool graphics showing Iron Man's scanners from the interior (not to mention War Machine's)? There was a plethora of these throughout the early War Machine armor appearances (when Tony was on "ice") and quite a bit during the #290's. So what's up? What got me thinking about it was the *lame* hand-drawn graphic in #314 when I.M. was swimming around inside Cap. We need those classy computer-generated scanner graphics again!! Let's go Len!!

### THE "EYES" HAVE IT DEPT.

The *Iron Manual* had some interesting info. on Shellhead's helmet. The book, written for the most part in the first person from Stark's viewpoint, said that I.M. does not need eye slits anymore due to obvious technological advances: "Technically speaking, I haven't directly looked at anything in years from inside my suits." He said that he elected to keep them due to the need of "an anthropomorphic pair of eyes confronting an enemy. Inspiring fear and all that." So, I.M. has "eyes," but they're just cosmetic I assume? But in #314, pg. 23, panel 2, the eyes seem to be open "outlets" instead of mere "visual sensors." (By the way, this same panel also has that *lame* hand-drawn graphic mentioned earlier!) *Iron Man* #302 seems more consistent with *Iron Manual*: Venom squirts webbing on I.M.'s faceplate and Tony complains that "visual sensors are blocked" so he switches to "ultrasound imaging."

Nevertheless, in #314, even though the eyes appear to be open outlets, that may be just the case ... they appear that way. Then maybe that's the problem. If Shellhead's eyes are actually "sensors," why the three-dimensional illusion (especially from the interior of the helmet)? — *Tom Morgan has been known to do some very unusual things when it comes to drawing Iron Man, and it looks like this is going to be another one of those things. We're certainly used to it, though, having seen many different depictions of the interior of the helmet ... most of which are merely symbolic and not literal. It's one of the very few things with Iron Man that the artist can take full "artistic license" with. Believe me when I say that I've looked for them!*

Glitch note on the *Iron Manual*: on the two pages that showcase Tony's different armors, the classic "Silver Centurion" is anything but. It's colored the same red and gold as all the other armors (excluding the War Machine and the original armor). Thanks to Jason Stephens, I was educated on the red and silver armor's true name! — *The name doesn't come from an issue of Iron Man, but rather the handbook to the Marvel Universe role-playing game, and perhaps a Marvel Comics Presents issue, and/or the Handbook to the Marvel Universe. All I remember is that I've seen it referred to with this name in at least a couple of different places.* The model # for Silver Centurion is Mod VIII Mark I. Hey!! Check out the next model — Mod IX Mark I. It says it's a *sleeker* version of Model VIII?? Certainly doesn't look like it! But then, I'm partial to the Silver Centurion armor. I was sorry to see it go in #231. — *Me, too! Obviously the artist of the aforementioned drawing was looking at the John Romita, Jr. version of Mod IX as a reference when he drew it ... because that armor sure started out sleeker than the red and silver one. Good ol' John Romita, Jr.! Oh well....*

### YOUR OPINION DEPT.

What do **you** think? Let me know some of your ideas or comments at the address below, or you can reach me through Jason's address. Thanks!!

Dave Huber  
3206 Crystal Court  
Wilmington, DE. 19810

### IRON MAN IN THE NEAR FUTURE: EXIT, LEN KAMINSKI

I realize that some aspects of this issue of *Advanced Iron* are humorous, in regards to April Fool's Day, but most of it is not. And this news is most definitely **not humorous, and not a joke**. We were going to wait until next month to break the news so people wouldn't think it was an April Fool's joke. However, this is **Advanced Iron**, and we print the advance news, no matter when it comes in. So, take note....

Unfortunately, due to "creative differences," Len Kaminski will be departing as writer of *Iron Man*. *Iron Man* #318 (on sale the final week of May) is Len's last one. There is no word yet as to who will take up the reigns on the greatest comic in the world, or what the "differences" Len had spell out for Iron Man's future. As soon as we hear it ... you hear it! Some, perhaps all of the advanced plot summaries that we have been printing for issues beyond #318 will most likely be dropped. This includes everything printed on the



inside, front cover of *Advanced Iron #13* (last issue), except for the appearances by the Titanium Man and the Crimson Dynamo, of course.

I doubt there is **one, single** fan out there -- Iron Fan or otherwise -- who is glad to see this happen, or who wished for this to happen. However, this is the bitter reality that Iron Fans must face. Together, we will prepare for the new era -- for better or for worse.

## THE LATEST IRON MAN ISSUE: IRON MAN #316

Still can't talk about #315, because I can't read it yet. #316 hasn't come out yet, either, at the time of this writing. So, there's not much to say. I don't know why Iron Man can't beat the Titanium Man with his own armor, but I'm sure Len has a good explanation. He always does, doesn't he?

## IRON QUOTES (TONY'S LMD MEETS AN OLD GIRLFRIEND)

"How could I tell her that she's not really seeing 'me' now? That I'm **not** holding her? That the 'Tony' that's there with her is a fake -- a remote controlled LMD operated from an S.E. facility on Long Island? I've spent **years** telling myself I didn't want to see her again. And now, when I **do**, I still can't touch her. All I can do is look through the eyes of a machine that can't feel her warmth, smell her hair or see her better than 400-line resolution."

-- *Iron Man Annual #14*  
Len Kaminski

### ***Want Drawings?***

For anyone interested, black and white professional copies printed on glossy, magazine stock paper are available. You can order replicas of the covers to *Advanced Iron #7* (Iron Man carrying the American flag) and up. You can get 8 1/2 x 11 colors or black and whites, or the original size (11 x 17) in black and white or color. **All prices include a protective tube that the drawings will be mailed in, and "priority mail" postage.**

\$5.00 for 8 1/2 x 11 colors -- \$4.00 for 8 1/2 x 11 B&W's  
Each additional 8 1/2 x 11 color is \$1.50 -- Extra B&W's are \$.75  
\$8.00 for 11 x 17 colors -- \$6.00 for 11 x 17 B&W's  
Each additional 11 x 17 color is \$3.00 -- extra B&W's are \$1.00

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

You're all so cool,  
  
JASON STEPHENS

# **OFFICIAL DELAY ANNOUNCEMENT**

Jason Stephen's has been working hard on his version of Iron Man #315, but it's a tough job and he's a perfectionist. He didn't feel that the art was ready to present the collage teaser that he promised last issue, so instead he's offering the black and white cover to this very issue (facing page). In addition, his roommate has an explanation for the possible whereabouts of the artwork that Jason intended for this issue. . . .

. . . if the forces of good can overcome the sinister plot initiated by you know who, then Jason should be able to get an advertisement into an upcoming issue of AI

# **OFFICIAL DELAY ANNOUNCEMENT**





HEY, GUYS! I'M GREG, JASON'S ROOMIE.  
I SWEAR HE PUT THAT AD IN THE MAIL...  
I GUESS SOMETHING HAPPENED TO IT...?  
-SORRY-



# THINGS TO COME

Most of my preview information comes from Marvel's advanced sales magazine "Sales to Astonish." IRON MAN previews *in bold* are from Len Kaminski!

## **FORCE WORKS #14** (ships 13 June)

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

"Guest-starring the Avengers! The Kree who killed Wonder Man are on the loose! Two groups want them for revenge: Force Works & the Skrulls Who will the Earth's Mightiest Heroes side with? The seeds for a major Avengers/Force Works shake-up are planted here!"

## **WAR MACHINE #17** (ships 9 May)----->

by Dan Abnett / Sandu Florea w/ cover by Bob Wiacek

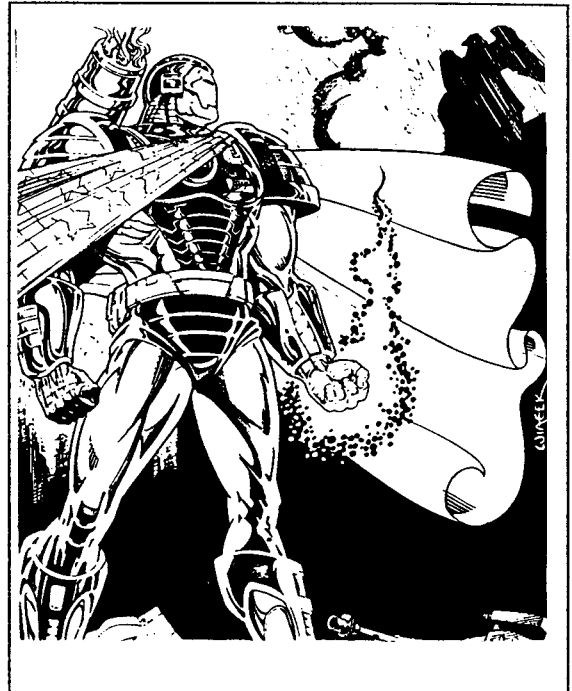
"Will Jim Rhodes kill the man who helped the Nazis win W.W.II? Plus: the storyline that redefines War Machine begins here! Teaser: the origins of this major twist began in SECRET WARS, and the story continues here! This bad boy stars in a weekly cartoon that reaches 1.8 million households--."

## **IRON MAN ???**

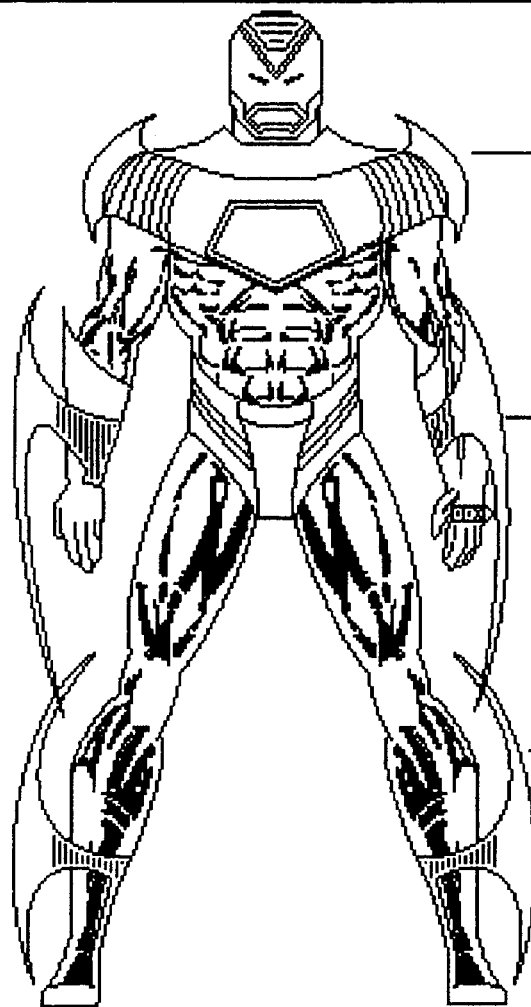
There were no listings this month. I was quite worried about this (especially in light of Len's announcement) until Jason offered this "simple" explanation:

"I believe I can answer your question. IM and FF both ship on the fourth week of every month – you know how the companies divide up every month into four weeks. Anyway, most of these comics arrive on the Thursdays of every month. If you look on the calendar towards the end of the month in question, it's very probable that you'll see that a FIFTH Thursday almost creeps into the month – the last week might end on a Tuesday or Wednesday. If so, look at the rest of the month after this one, you should see five Thursdays for sure this time. Well, Marvel can't call that first Thursday in the month the first week of books, because it hasn't really been a true week yet, and then they would screw up the schedules for the next months. So, rather than having all of their books constantly rotating weeks, Marvel (and every other company) decides to remain consistent and call the first Thursday in these weird months the FIFTH week of the previous month! They just split the fourth week's books in half, send half on the fourth week, and half on the fifth week. This is called a "skip week" by most comic book retailers, and it also allows an extra week for any late comics to try and catch up. If they went ahead and shipped all the fourth week books on the fourth week, then this week really WOULD be a skip week, except for any late ones that arrive. However, it's probably much more cost-effective to group up those late books with some new arrivals, and make a full delivery truck! Not to mention the fact that it looks better than having zero offerings for the week, while all the other companies have a few books! These weird months and skip weeks occur about every three or four months, and we just finished going through the worst of it. The month of January usually has a fifth week, even though February doesn't have five Thursdays. This screws up dates in January and all through February, until they're set right again in March. Why? March usually has four Thursdays, but February may only have three, and March has none to spare. So, they're forced to bump back to January which usually has five Thursdays. The fifth Thurs. in January is the first of February, rather than the FIRST of January being the FIFTH of December! February finishes up its schedule with its remaining three Thursdays, and March is back to normal. So, the trend is actually reversed for Jan. and Feb. That's why I said we just came through the worst of it.

Now, I guess it's time for another skip week. The next "Sales to Astonish" that you get should have TWO IM's and FF's in it! I'm surprised that you don't know all about this complicated mess. It's been occurring like this for as long as comics have had a regular schedule!



## DEATH MACHINE [PROPOSED]

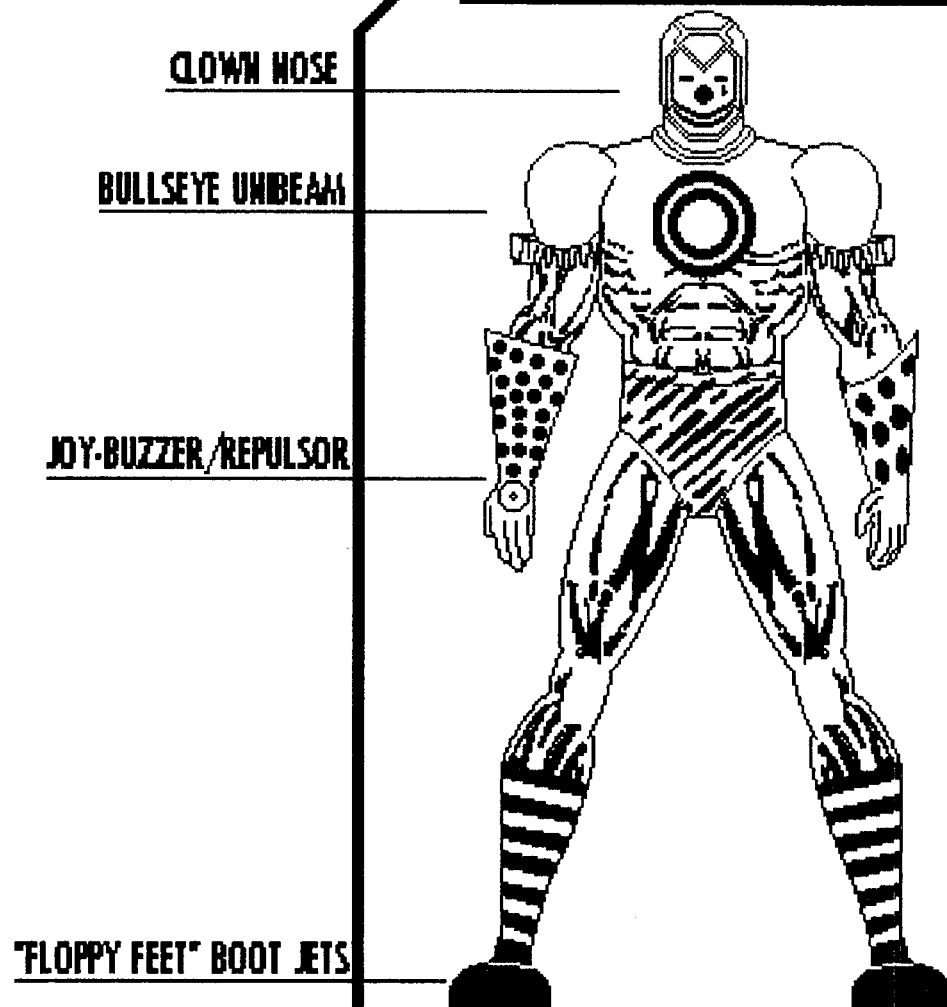


BLADES

BLADES

BLADES

## IRON CLOWN [PROPOSED]



CLOWN NOSE

BULLSEYE UNBEAM

JOY-BUZZER/REPULSOR

"FLOPPY FEET" BOOT JETS

Thank god these are just proposals! No serious consideration should go to the fabrication of either of these designs.....

## THE ARMOR FILE

There's really nothing I can say to preface this month's column, so I'll just dive into the story behind them. First of all, never give vague instructions to a computer. I told HOMER I wanted a "darker" suit of armor. Since the War Machine is independent, I need a new high firepower suit. I wanted to go for a darker look for just such a suit. Well, HOMER came up with the "Death Machine" armor. The firepower rating is the same as the regular suit. The only thing is that HOMER really paid attention to the word "darker" (the armor is actually completely jet black -Bill) He thought blades would be a good idea - he originally had a cape but I 86'd that. Still, I didn't think the blades were needed, so I told him to "lighten it up"

HOMER did lighten it up. Frankly I think he figured the blades were creative and I squashed the idea - so he lightened up the armor to "the IRON CLOWN" armor. I have to admit, I thought it was hilarious, although it would never be produced. I'd just love to see Splymaster's face after getting jolted by the joy-buzzer. Or the Mandarin's face at the sight of the smiley face helmet. I'll have to settle in and give HOMER a nice, long talk before next month's column.....

All that aside, I'd like to bring up the idea of an IRON MANUAL-type issue. It was suggested by Heath McKnight to me and I have to admit I've never thought of doing that. I never thought of doing an issue similar to the IRON MANUAL and I never really thought that anyone wanted to see my work in that format. If anyone else likes the idea, drop me a line and tell me some ideas at:

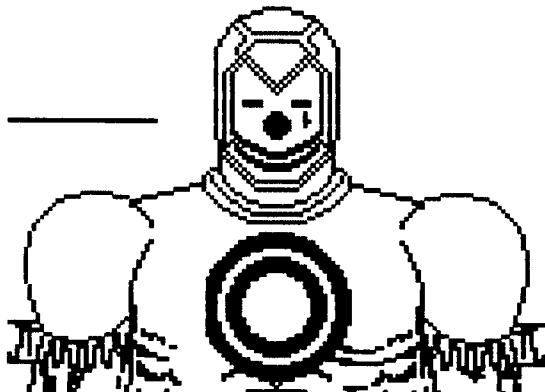
Allen Bujak  
70 Beeson Rd.  
Niles, MI 49120

or at

Shellhead1@aol.com

Let me know what you think and I'll see you next month in the ARMOR FILE.

Red and White  
Color Scheme  
w/ optional  
black tear



# **IRON MAN:**

## **WHY THERE IS NO MOVIE**

By: Heath McKnight

It was around the summer of 1989. I was visiting the Rocky Mountains in Colorado, staying with my grandparents. One day, I went with my Grandma to a small drugstore; I found the latest issue of Comics Scene. It had a great article on Batman: The Movie; I then noticed at the end, they have a list of comics being turned into T.V. shows or movies. I saw that Marvel was planning on doing an Iron Man movie, or introduce the character on a Hulk T.V. movie. That's what started it all.

I followed the story for a few years, do to my passion for movies and Iron Man. I even read an article that some filmmakers wanted to do a movie centering around Tony's alcoholism. Then, in 1990, Marvel began negotiations with Universal Studios to produce the live-action movie. By 1991 (the magazine is published bi-monthly), Universal signed on to do it. Great!! I was so excited, that when I visited Universal Studios, Florida, I expected to see the film in production. (On a tour of one of the sound stages, I learned that the movie was in developmental stages.)

For about the next year, I kept reading the same stuff in Comics Scene: Universal is doing "Iron Man". Stuart Gordon (Robot Jox, "Re-Animator") to direct. Then, around April or May of 1992, I read that Universal dropped the movie. I was quite literally shocked.

I didn't find out what happened to the movie until that summer. I picked up a copy of C.S. with an article on "Batman Returns" (kinda ironic, huh?); on the cover, I read the words, "IRON MAN: The movie? Or not?"

Feeling both happiness (an article about Iron Man -- and his "movie") and sadness, I flipped to page 62 to find out about the abandoned movie.

Stuart Gordon had been wanting to do an Iron Man movie for quite some time. IM has always been his favorite comic book character; he even has an autographed poster of Iron Man (painted by Moebius) on the wall of his office. In the article, he explains that Universal had dumped 300 movie projects to save money, including Iron Man. The reason? They couldn't agree on a screenplay.

The screenplay had Stark suffer a major heart attack when a rival company tries a corporate takeover of Stark Enterprises. The rival is none other than Obidiah Stane. Gordon even explains that Stane is working of an even more powerful villain. Originally, it was to be Dr. Doom, but the rights were sold to another film company. So Gordon "cooked up" his own Doom-like villain; he even called it Dr. Death for a while.



The movie would open up with the new origin (featuring the grey armor), and would move on to the take-over and Stark and IM's victories (the article doesn't go too far into Gordon's plot). One interesting screenplay idea was from writers Danny Bilson and Paul De Meo. The story was that Stark hadn't been Iron Man for ten years and was an alcoholic. When he is suddenly needed again, Stark, age 50, becomes IM once again, complete with a new armor. The writers had to bow out when they became involved with the writing of "The Flash" T.V. series. At one point, even "RoboCop" co-writer Michael Miner was writing his version of the film.

What about the armor? Unlike "The Punisher" and "Captain America" movies, where they didn't wear their costumes, Gordon had planned on Stark wearing the armor often. So, which armor would Gordon have used? He explained that he would have the designers produce a new one. Artist Neal Adams designed a brand new armor; it could be taken out of the briefcase and the briefcase itself would become part of the armor. (The cartoon does this, except that the briefcase IS the armor.) One good thing about the armor is that it keeps getting re-designed, so if a new look were to show up, the fans would not really mind.

Keep in mind that these events transpired from 1989 until 1992 (when it was declared "dead in the water"); it's unknown what Stuart Gordon's current involvement is with the movie. I heard that there are no plans for an Iron Man or War Machine movie. I'll keep you posted on any further developments.

If Bill okays it, I think it would be neat if Iron Fans sent in their own ideas for an "Iron Man" (or even a "War Machine") movie.

#### Iron Man movie facts:

- \* James Cameron, director of "Aliens" and "True Lies" has said that, as a child, he wanted to draw Iron Man when he grew up. (Now that his big-budget "Spider-Man" is in trouble, perhaps he'll do "Iron Man.")
- \* Stuart Gordon was at one time planning on IM's armor to be like the one featured in issues 1-199.
- \* Gordon was involved in Fox's "M.A.N.T.I.S." He may even do a "Dr. Strange" movie.

NOTE: For this article, my references were old issues of Comics Scene, particularly # 28, featuring the "Cross Of Iron" article by Pat Jankiewicz, August, 1992.

WAR MACHINE by Baron Karza (downloaded from AOL)

